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May 2007
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE 50 YEARS EDITION

The author acknowledges Dryden Librarian Dennis Ragsdale for his help in finding many of the entries in this bibliography and Library Technicians Charito Lopez and Lisa Carbaugh for their help scanning and typing many of the missing abstracts. Also, the author thanks the Dryden Graphics Office; Steve Lighthill, chief, Justine Mack, James Zeitz and Dennis Calaba for the many airplane three-view drawings and cover. The author is especially grateful to the Dryden Technical Publications Office; Camilla McArthur, chief, editorial assistants Lois Williams, Mary Whelan, and Karen Wick, editors Sue Luke and Muriel Khachooni for their patience and persistence in seeing this bibliography through to publication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE SIX DECADES EDITION

The author acknowledges Ronald J. Ray for suggesting this update to the Dryden bibliography and timely inputs, Yvonne Kellogg for her comments and suggestions, the late Dryden Librarian Barbara Rogers for help tracking down missing reports, and to Dee Robinson for typing many entries that could not be downloaded directly. Terri Lyon, thank you for the missing Tech Briefs. Dave Faust, thank you for the DVD cover art and thank you to Mark Pestana for the cover art of this report. Again, this report could not be completed without the outstanding assistance from the Dryden Technical Publications Office, Elizabeth Kissling, chief, Jennifer Kimberly, editor, and Cacie Carrillo, editorial assistant, thank you.
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FOREWORD TO THE 50 YEARS EDITION

The legacy of a research organization is the written history of its findings, whether the results were expected or unexpected, whether the predictions were valid or not.

The search for understanding and the advancement of ideas to technology is often a non-linear path. Ideas beget ideas, and data changes the reference point. Without written evidence of this progress, the map ends. Future explorers may have to retrace and relearn at great time and cost.

I am pleased to have the bibliography of technical publications of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center published for future researchers to have. The first entries in this document deal with transonic and supersonic flight research at the dawn of the high speed aircraft era at Muroc. The latter entries deal with tailless flight, hypersonic flight, and civil transport safety.

The technical publications of the Dryden Flight Research Center are a reflection of the progress made in NASA’s aeronautics research and technology program. They show what teams of people believed could fly or be flown. They document the claims, hopes, and aspirations of designers from across the country. These reports document the real and the imagined, the overlooked, and the unexpected, as Dr. Hugh L. Dryden would say.

I hereby dedicate this annotated bibliography of technical publications of the Dryden Flight Research Center to the memory of Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, scientist, engineer, manager, father, and technical author. His own research provided some of the foundation of the transonic flight exploration which spawned what is now the Dryden Flight Research Center.

I acknowledge the outstanding work of Mr. David Fisher, a research engineer at Dryden, to produce this bibliography.

Kenneth J. Szalai
NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Director 1994–1998
FOREWORD TO THE SIX DECADES EDITION

Rogers Dry Lake hasn’t changed much in the last 60 years and continues to host a wide range of leading edge flight research activities. The past decade has seen a return to hypersonic flight with the record setting Mach 7 and Mach 10 flights of the X-43A, successful flight testing of neural nets integrated into flight control systems, flight testing to understand and mitigate sonic booms, the return of wing warping for aerodynamic control, and an increase in flight activity of uninhabited air vehicles. Dryden researchers have continued to document these accomplishments in presentations and publications.

As I interact with my counterparts in the aerospace industry, academia, and the military, I am continually reminded of their routine usage of Dryden’s technical accomplishments. This bibliography provides a concise, thorough, and easily searchable reference to these accomplishments and helps fulfill the Agency charter to disseminate knowledge regarding advancement of aerospace technologies.

This edition to the bibliography of technical publications of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center brings this useful reference document up to date. In addition, a DVD containing historic video records and electronic links are also included. I thank Mr. David Fisher for the significant effort in producing and then returning to revise this bibliography.

Patrick C. Stoliker
Director for Engineering
Dryden Flight Research Center
October 2006
Six Decades of Flight Research:
An Annotated Bibliography of Technical Publications of
NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, 1946–2006

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ABSTRACT

Titles, authors, report numbers, and abstracts are given for nearly 2900 unclassified and unrestricted technical reports and papers published from September 1946 to December 2006 by the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and its predecessor organizations. These technical reports and papers describe and give the results of 60 years of flight research performed by the NACA and NASA, from the X-1 and other early X-airplanes, to the X-15, Space Shuttle, X-29 Forward Swept Wing, X-31, and X-43 aircraft. Some of the other research airplanes tested were the D-558, phase 1 and 2; M-2, HL-10 and X-24 lifting bodies; Digital Fly-By-Wire and Supercritical Wing F-8; XB-70; YF-12; AFTI F-111 TACT and MAW; F-15 HiDEC; F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle, F-18 Systems Research Aircraft and the NASA Landing Systems Research aircraft. The citations of reports and papers are listed in chronological order, with author and aircraft indices. In addition, in the appendices, citations of 270 contractor reports, more than 200 UCLA Flight System Research Center reports, nearly 200 Tech Briefs, 30 Dryden Historical Publications, and over 30 videotapes are included.

INTRODUCTION

In September of 1946, a small band of engineers and technicians came to Muroc Army Air Field in southern California from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory at Hampton, Virginia. These people were to assist in a supersonic flight research program involving the Bell XS-1 aircraft. The following year, the small group, which became known as the NACA Muroc Flight Test Unit, were key participants in the first known supersonic flight of an airplane on October 14, 1947. In 1949, they became the NACA High-Speed Flight Research Station (HSFRS), a division of the Langley laboratory and during 1950, they published 19 technical reports on various aspects of pioneering flight research. In 1954, the HSFRS became the NACA High-Speed Flight Station and moved from the south base location shared with the Air Force to the present location north of the base flight line. In 1959, after the creation of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), the center was designated NASA Flight Research Center (FRC). On March 26, 1976, the center was redesignated Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), in honor of the American aerospace pioneer, former Director of NACA and the first Deputy Director of NASA. In 1981, the center became a facility as part of Ames Research Center. In 1994, the facility became an independent NASA Center again as the Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center.
This document attempts to capture all the unrestricted reports, papers, journal articles, and Tech Briefs published by authors while they were employed by the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and its predecessor organizations from September 1946 to December 2006. Also included are NASA Contractor Reports that were sponsored by DFRC. Reports from the UCLA Flight Systems Research Center under NASA Dryden Grant NCC2-374 are included in Appendix C. Many of the citations are from NASA Center for Aerospace Information (CASi) Aeronautics and Space Database, the NASA Technical Report Server (NTRS), the Dryden Technical Report Server (DTRS) and the NASA Dryden card catalog, as well as information from the authors that was not included in the databases. The author regrets any documents that may have been inadvertently left out.

Some of the highlights of the six decades of what is now known as the Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center are as follows:

Sept. 30, 1946 Five NACA engineers, headed by Walter Williams, arrive at Muroc Army Air Base, California (now Edwards AFB) by this date from Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory (now NASA Langley Research Center, Virginia), to prepare for X-1 supersonic research flights in a joint NACA-Army Air Forces program. First NACA-NASA presence is established at the Mojave Desert site. (Note: Some sources report the arrival of 13 individuals, but an early chronology shows that 13 were not present at Muroc until December.)

Dec. 9, 1946 Bell pilot Chalmers Goodlin flies the first successful rocket-powered flight of the X-1 (then designated XS-1).

Aug. 20, 1947 D-558-1 sets a world speed record of 640.7 mph.

Sept. 7, 1947 The NACA Muroc Flight Test Unit receives permanent status from Hugh L. Dryden, the NACA Director of Research. The staff now includes 27 people with Walt Williams as Head.

Oct. 14, 1947 X-1 exceeds the speed of sound in history’s first supersonic flight flown by then-Maj. Charles E. Yeager, attaining maximum Mach number of 1.057.

Nov. 25, 1947 Howard C. Lilly is first NACA pilot to fly the jet-powered D-558-1 Skystreak.

Mar. 10, 1948 Herb Hoover becomes first NACA pilot and first civilian to fly supersonic in the X-1.

Nov. 14, 1949 The NACA Muroc unit, with about 100 people, is designated NACA High-Speed Flight Research Station (HSFRS), with Walt Williams remaining as director.
Sept. 25, 1950  John Griffith is first NACA pilot to fly the X-4 aircraft, studying flying qualities of tailless vehicles.

Mar. 4, 1952  Joe Walker is first to fly the variable-swept-wing X-5 to a full 60-degree angle. This concept is used today on F-14, F-111, and B-1 aircraft.

Apr. 9, 1953  The NACA first flight of XF-92A, a delta-wing aircraft used to study the problem of pitching up during maneuvering caused by the delta configuration.

Oct. 14, 1953  Last flight of XF-92A by the NACA. The flight research with this aircraft, the D-588-2 and the X-15, showed the desirability of low horizontal tail surface. That low horizontal tail configuration was later used on such supersonic swept-wing fighters as the F-100 Super Saber and F8U Crusader.

Nov. 20, 1953  The NACA pilot Scott Crossfield, in a rocket-powered D-558-2 Skyrocket, is the first to fly at twice the speed of sound, Mach 2.005.

Jun. 26, 1954  The NACA personnel move from the old south base site to new facilities that make up the original core of today’s Dryden complex. The cost to build the new facilities was $3.8 million. Personnel on this date number more than 200.

Jul. 1, 1954  The NACA HSFRS is redesignated the NACA High-Speed Flight Station.

Aug. 23, 1954  Joe Walker makes the first of 20 NACA research flights in the X-3 “Flying Stiletto” supersonic program.

Aug. 27, 1956  The NACA research pilot Joe Walker makes the first flight by NACA of an F-104A aircraft (the seventh F-104 aircraft off the assembly line).

Sept. 27, 1956  Air Force Capt. Milburn G. Apt flies the X-2 to Mach 3.2 in the first flight of an aircraft beyond 3 times the speed of sound. Unfortunately, he subsequently loses control of the airplane due to inertial coupling, and it crashes, killing him and destroying the vehicle. The NACA never flew the X-2 but did assist the program with advice and data analysis.


Oct. 15, 1958  First of three X-15 rocket research aircraft arrive at NASA High-Speed Flight Station as preparations move ahead for the highly successful NASA-Air Force-Navy program that lasts 10 years to investigate hypersonic flight.

Nov. 7, 1958  John McKay makes last flight in the X-1E, final model flown of the X-1 series. This aircraft is now displayed in front of Dryden headquarters building.
Jun. 8, 1959  First unpowered glide flight of the X-15 is flown, with Scott Crossfield at the controls, is made from NASA’s “003,” B-52 launch aircraft.

Sept. 15, 1959  Paul F. Bikle succeeds Walt Williams as director of NASA High-Speed Flight Station.


Mar. 25, 1960  First NASA X-15 aircraft flight is made, piloted by Joe Walker.

Mar. 7, 1961  First piloted flight above Mach 4 is made; Mach 4.43 is achieved by X-15 flown by USAF Capt. Robert M. White.

Jun. 23, 1961  First piloted flight above Mach 5 is made; Mach 5.27 is achieved by X-15 flown by USAF Capt. Robert M. White.

Nov. 9, 1961  First piloted flight above Mach 6 is made; Mach 6.04 is achieved by X-15 flown by USAF Capt. Robert M. White.

Early 1962  Flight tests begin with the Paraglider Research Vehicle (Parasev). Developed to study ways of returning Gemini and Apollo spacecraft to Earth using a hang-glider-type wing. Pilot is Milt Thompson.

Apr. 5, 1963  M2-F1 lightweight lifting body is towed into the air over Rogers Dry Lake for the first time by a Pontiac convertible tow vehicle with Milt Thompson as pilot. Sets the stage for research with several lifting body designs to study atmospheric reentry of a vehicle like a Space Shuttle.


Mar. 11, 1966  High Temperature Loads Laboratory is formally accepted. With this facility, a complete YF-12 would be heated and loaded to simulate a high-speed flight.

Jul. 12, 1966  First flight of a heavyweight lifting body, the M2-F2, piloted by Milton O. Thompson.

Apr. 25, 1967  First NASA flight of the XB-70A with Air Force Col. Joe Cotton and NASA research pilot Fitz Fulton at the controls. The XB-70 flights investigated the stability and handling qualities of large, delta-wing aircraft flying at high rates of speed.

Oct. 24, 1968  Last X-15 flight, 199th mission, is piloted by NASA pilot Bill Dana. World’s first hypersonic aircraft is most successful research aircraft to date.

Dec. 17, 1968  Last research flight of XB-70 is flown by Fitz Fulton and Air Force Lt. Col. Ted Sturmthal, reaching Mach 2.53. Program produced data on sonic booms, flight dynamics, and handling qualities associated with large supersonic aircraft. Flight is on 65th anniversary of Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

May 9, 1969  HL-10 becomes first lifting body to fly supersonic. John Manke, later to become Dryden site manager, is pilot.

Mar. 5, 1970  First NASA checkout flight of YF-12A, with Fitz Fulton as pilot.

Jun. 2, 1970  First flight of the M2-F3 lifting body is made by Bill Dana.

Oct. 14, 1970  NASA research pilots Tom McMurtry and Hugh Jackson reach a Dryden single-day record of six missions flown, in an F-104B while deployed to obtain data for the “Big Boom” experiments that sought to focus the energy from a sonic boom over a limited area.

Mar. 9, 1971  First flight of supercritical wing flown by NASA pilot Tom McMurtry. Unusual wing profile, tested on a modified F-8, increases flight efficiency and lowers fuel usage. This concept is now used widely on commercial and military aircraft.

Oct. 14, 1971  A Piper PA-30 Twin Commanche becomes testbed to develop remotely piloted aircraft techniques from a ground-based cockpit. This concept leads to successful projects such as three-eighths-scale F-15 spin research vehicle, HiMAT, and Boeing 720 jetliner purposely flown to a controlled crash landing in FAA test of anti-mist fuel additive.

May 25, 1972  First flight of aircraft with all-electric fly-by-wire flight control system, the NASA F-8 Digital Fly-By-Wire research aircraft, with Gary Krier as pilot. This concept is now used in many aircraft, including Space Shutlles.

Aug. 1974  The Boeing 747 shuttle carrier aircraft is used in wake vortex research program to study ways of reducing clear air turbulence trailing behind large aircraft.

Aug. 5, 1975  NASA pilot John Manke lands X-24B lifting body on Edwards runway, showing that a space shuttle-like vehicle can be landed safely on a designated runway after returning from orbit.
Mar. 26, 1976  NASA Flight Research Center is dedicated in honor of the late Hugh L. Dryden. NASA personnel number more than 560.

Aug. 12, 1977  First free-flight of the space shuttle Enterprise from the top of the Boeing 747 shuttle carrier aircraft. Enterprise piloted by Fred Haise and Gordon Fullerton. The 747 SCA was piloted by Fitz Fulton and Tom McMurtry, Vic Horton and Lewis (Skip) Guidry were the flight engineers.

Oct. 26, 1977  Last of 13 captive and free-flight tests with space shuttle prototype Enterprise, proving the shuttle glide and landing characteristics.

Oct. 31, 1979  Last research flight of the NASA YF-12 research program, with Fitz Fulton as pilot and Victor Horton flight test engineer on a YF-12A, one of three YF-12s flown during the program. Nearly 300 research flights explored high-speed, high altitude flight, and yielded information on thermal stress, aerodynamics, high-altitude environment, and propulsion and flight control systems.

Dec. 21, 1979  AD-1 first flight is flown by NASA research pilot Thomas C. McMurtry.

Apr. 14, 1981  Three hundred and twenty thousand people at Edwards watch Columbia, the first orbital space shuttle, land. Dryden VIPs number 20,000, and 300,000 are at the East Shore public viewing site.

Oct. 1, 1981  Dryden is consolidated with Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, to become the Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility. Position of Dryden director is renamed site manager and John Manke is selected for the post. NASA personnel number 491.

Jul. 4, 1982  President Ronald Reagan heads list of 45,000 guests at Dryden watching the fourth space shuttle landing. Crowd of 500,000 watches from East Shore public viewing site.

Sept. 22, 1983  A modified Schweizer SGS1-36 sailplane is flown in controlled, stabilized flight at 72 degrees angle of attack by research pilot Einar Enevoldson.

Oct. 30, 1984  NASA Dryden retires its oldest aircraft, the C-47 that towed the M2-F1 lifting body aloft during that program’s early days and was used to support many other projects.

Dec. 1, 1984  A remotely-piloted Boeing 720 test aircraft used in the joint FAA/NASA Controlled Impact Demonstration erupts in flames as it slides through the impact site on the dry lakebed, demonstrating that, contrary to expectations, an anti-misting fuel additive did not substantially inhibit fuel fires.
Apr. 2, 1985  Steve Ishmael is first NASA pilot to fly the X-29 research aircraft investigating forward-swept wings, composite construction concepts, and integrated flight controls.

Sept. 9, 1985  Data Analysis Facility opens as new home for general computer and associated engineering support and flight data operations.

Jul. 10, 1986  F-111 Mission Adaptive Wing research aircraft flies Mach 1 for the first time, with Rogers Smith part of two-person crew. This program tested the wing with no ailerons, flaps, or slats. Camber changed mechanically in flight based on performance and mission.

Dec. 1, 1987  Groundbreaking held for $16.1 million Integrated Test Facility featuring interdependent systems testing, systems troubleshooting, and rapid pre-and postflight systems checkout on several aircraft simultaneously.

Sept. 18, 1989  Ed Schneider flies the 100th mission in the F-18 High Angle of Attack Research aircraft in Phase 1 of the three-phase program investigating the high angle-of-attack, “alpha,” regime.

Dec. 18, 1989  First self-repairing flight control system demonstrated on the F-15 HiDEC (Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control) aircraft, with Jim Smolka as pilot. System identifies control surface failures or damage then automatically repositions other control surfaces to allow the pilot to continue the mission or land safely.

Feb. 15, 1990  First of three SR-71s arrive at Dryden for a program to investigate a host of disciplines to help development of future high-speed civil and military aircraft. (Three YF-12s, prototypes for a fighter-interceptor version of the SR-71, were flown at Dryden from 1969 to 1979 in an earlier high-speed program.)

Apr. 5, 1990  Pegasus® space booster is successfully air-launched from the NASA B-52 in one of the first successful flights of a commercially developed space launch vehicle placing a payload into earth orbit. The launch was off the California coast, with a NASA-Navy payload placed in a polar orbit 320 miles high.

May 3, 1990  First flight in NASA’s first program to investigate laminar flow control at supersonic speeds. Program uses the only two F-16XL prototypes to investigate passive and active methods of reducing turbulence on wing surfaces at high speeds.

Oct. 25, 1990  Final test in a series of eight using B-52 No. 008 to validate drag chute deployment system for use on space shuttle to improve their landing efficiency. The tests with 008 were on the lakebed and main runway.
Dec. 3, 1990  Position of Dryden site manager redesignated as director in reorganization that strengthens Dryden’s role as a national flight research installation, with Ken Szalai, chief of Dryden’s Research Engineering Division, named to new position. Dryden personnel number 430.

May 15, 1991  Full-scale X-30 structural test component, representing a wing control surface, arrives at Dryden’s Thermostructural Research Laboratory for loads and temperature testing.

Jul. 12, 1991  First flight of F-18 High Alpha (Angle-of-Attack) Research Vehicle (HARV) with thrust vectoring system engaged to enhance control and maneuvering at high angles of attack; 104th flight of the HARV, which arrived at Dryden Oct. 22, 1984, and initially flew a series of missions without thrust vectoring to obtain experience with aerodynamic measurements at high angles of attack and to develop the flight research techniques needed for the measurement.

Aug. 14, 1991  First all-NASA SR-71 flight with research pilots Steve Ishmael and Rogers Smith in the cockpit. It was the first Mach 3 mission flown at Dryden since the final YF-12 flight Oct. 31, 1979.

Sept. 30, 1991  Seven-year X-29 Advanced Technology Demonstrator program ends after 362 research missions with the two forward-swept wing aircraft. No. 1 aircraft was flown 242 times to validate design concepts. X-29 No. 2 was flown 120 times in high-angle-of-attack studies. Joint USAF/NASA program later flies No. 2 in vortex control study.


Dec. 12, 1991  F-18 high-angle-of-attack research aircraft, with pilot Ed Schneider, achieves design point of roughly 70 degrees angle of attack.

Apr. 23, 1992  First flight of an X-31 aircraft from Dryden following relocation of X-31 International Test Organization from Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, in a DOD study of thrust vectoring for air combat at high angles of attack.

May 16, 1992  Maiden landing of the space shuttle Endeavour, built to replace Challenger. Landing is viewed by an estimated 125,000 people, including 2,500 school students.

Jul. 1, 1992  Single-day Dryden record of six missions tied by X-29 No. 2 after the aircraft returns to flight for a 60-flight USAF/NASA study using vortex flow controls.
Integrated Test Facility (ITF) officially opens, giving Dryden a unique capability to carry out interdependent systems testing, systems troubleshooting, and rapid pre-and post-flight systems checks on several aircraft simultaneously.

Flights begin with Dryden’s CV-990 Landing Systems Research Aircraft, equipped with a space shuttle landing gear fixture that later led to increased orbiter cross wind landing limits at the Kennedy Space Center, and aided in the decision to resurface the Kennedy runway.

Judy Janisse Child Development Center is dedicated. The $700,000 facility is named after a former NASA employee, killed in a commercial airline accident, who was instrumental in the development of the center.

NASA SR-71 flies on first science mission, taking a JPL ultraviolet camera to 85,000 feet for night photo studies. Flight was also first SR-71 night mission.

The F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HiDEC) is landed using only engine power to turn, climb, and descend. Gordon Fullerton is pilot on milestone event.

The thrust-vectored X-31 executes a minimum radius 180-degree turn—the “Herbst Maneuver”—while flying at more than 70-degrees angle of attack, well beyond the aerodynamic limits of any other aircraft.

First research flight with Dryden’s F-18 Systems Research Aircraft checks out an electric actuator that monitors and controls one of the aircraft’s ailerons, and becomes a testbed for advanced electric and fiber optics components.

Modified F-15 called ACTIVE—Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles—replaces the HiDEC as Dryden’s integrated systems aircraft. The ACTIVE F-15 features forward canards and will be fitted with thrust-vectoring nozzles to study their use for pitch and yaw control.

Replica of X-15 rocket research aircraft, displayed at the corner of Lilly and Lakeshore Drives, is dedicated.

The space shuttle Columbia, on mission STS-58, lands at 7:06 a.m. (PST), the last planned landing of a shuttle at Edwards. Nearly 35,000 people, including about 5000 Dryden guests, view the event.

The Perseus remotely piloted aircraft flies for the first time in a project to develop technologies to be used to construct and fly unpiloted vehicles on
high-altitude science missions.

Feb. 3, 1994  Final flight of an F-104 at Dryden, a symbolic farewell with NASA 826, is piloted by Tom McMurtry, Chief, Flight Operations Division. First acquired in 1956, 11 F-104s flew at Dryden over a 38-year period as chase and research aircraft. Last research mission with NASA 826 was Jan. 31, 1994. The other remaining F-104, NASA 825, was flown on its last research mission Jan. 24, 1994.


Mar. 18, 1994  Ten thousandth research mission is logged by Dryden’s Western Aeronautical Test Range, a flight with the F-18 HARV. Facility was developed in the 1950s to support the X-15 program.

Jul. 20, 1994  Twenty-fifth anniversary of Apollo 11 features salute to Dryden’s Lunar Landing Research Vehicle (LLRV), used to develop moon-landing training techniques.

Aug. 3, 1994  Sixth and last Pegasus® mission using NASA B-52 No. 008 as the launch vehicle is successful. Future airborne launches to be with an L-1011 owned and operated by Pegasus developer, Orbital Sciences Corp.


Oct. 1, 1994  Dryden assumes full Center status, as NASA’s Center of Excellence in Flight Research. NASA personnel number 465.

May 13, 1995  X-31 completes final research flights, making a total of 555 for the program.

Jun. 11, 1995  The NASA B-52, No. 008, turns 40 years old. Based at Dryden since mid-1959, it is the oldest B-52 still flying.

Aug. 11, 1995  CV-990 Landing Systems Research Aircraft completes study of space shuttle landing gear, with a total of 155 research flights. Final tests subjected orbiter wheels to total failure modes on lakebed surface and concrete runway.

Aug. 29, 1995  Aided by NASA-developed propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) system, an MD-11 makes first-ever, safe landings of an actual transport aircraft using only engine power for control.

Sept. 11, 1995  Pathfinder sets new altitude record for solar-powered aircraft. The remotely controlled, unpiloted prototype attained an altitude 50,500 ft during a nearly
12-hour flight. Solar cells on the top surface of the all-wing aircraft power six electric, propeller-turning motors for propulsion. Pathfinder is part of the NASA Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) Program.

Oct. 13, 1995  First flight of the F-16XL with the active glove installed. The two-seat F-16 XL was piloted by Dana Purifoy, and begins a program researching laminar flow at supersonic speeds using a suction panel that covers 60 percent of the wing chord. Previous studies with the single-seat F-16XL used a glove that covered only 20 percent of the chord.

Nov. 17, 1995  Center Director Ken Szalai renames the Integrated Test Facility as the Walter C. Williams Research Aircraft Integration Facility.

Nov. 30, 1995  Improved software enables an MD-11 to make a final landing at Edwards without the need for the pilot to manipulate the flight controls while using only engine power for control.

Jul. 2, 1996  NASA announces award of X-33 contract to Lockheed Martin Corp. to design, build, and fly a vehicle that will demonstrate advanced technologies to dramatically increase reliability and lower the cost of putting a pound of payload in space. The test vehicle was projected to fly from DFRC in the year 2000.

Sept. 6, 1996  F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) makes final flight in 385-flight research program that investigated improved maneuverability of tactical aircraft at high angles of attack.

Nov. 1, 1996  F-15 ACTIVE research aircraft conducts first thrust vectoring of engine exhaust at speeds approaching Mach 2.

Nov. 24, 1996  First flight of Tu-144LL flying laboratory inaugurates year-long flight test program in support of NASA’s High-Speed Research program.

Nov. 26, 1996  Year-long Supersonic Laminar-Flow Control program concludes with 45th flight on highly modified F-16XL research aircraft. Program proved that laminar—or smooth—airflow could be obtained over a significant portion of an aircraft wing’s chord at speeds of Mach 2 by use of a suction system pulling turbulent boundary-layer air through tiny holes in the wing skin.

Jun. 27, 1997  A YO-3A (NASA tail number 718) transferred to Dryden from the Ames Research Center, beginning a series of aircraft transfers from Ames. It was followed by a C-130B (NASA tail number 707) on Jun. 30, 1997; a Beechcraft 200 Super King Air Oct. 3, 1997; two ER-2’s (706 and 709 respectively) on Nov. 3 and 6, 1997; a DC-8 (717) on Dec. 29, 1997; and a Learjet (705) on
Feb. 9, 1998. The ER-2’s and the DC-8 became a part of a new Airborne Science Branch that was forming at Dryden during the period of the transfers. Except for 707, all of the NAS numbers changed to Dryden’s 800 series; the aircraft kept the last two digits from the Ames numbers.


Jul. 30, 1997. NASA’s first X-38 Advanced Technology Demonstrator for a proposed Crew Return Vehicle from the International Space Station completed its first captive flight beneath B-52 008. Built by Scaled Composites of Mojave, Calif., the X-38 resulted from the cooperation of NASA’s Johnson Space Center and DFRC.

Oct. 31, 1997. A NASA SR-71 completed its first flight as part of the NASA/Rocketdyne/Lockheed Martin Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) to test a one-tenth-scale, half-span model of the engine to be used on the X-33. Developed by a firm now called Boeing North American-Rocketdyne, it does not include a bell-shaped nozzle, making it smaller and lighter than normal rocket engines of comparable thrust.

Nov. 12, 1997. A NASA/Boeing X-36 Tailless Fighter Agility Research Aircraft successfully completed the 31st flight since May 17, 1997—demonstrating the feasibility of future tailless fighters to achieve levels of agility superior to today’s best military fighter aircraft. Two 28-percent-scale, remotely piloted X-36s participated in the program, which featured a tailless configuration to reduce the radar signature of the aircraft.

Dec. 20, 1997. NASA research pilot Mark Stucky flew a QF-106 on the first towed flight behind an Air Force C-141 in the joint Eclipse project with Kelly Space & Technology (KST) to demonstrate a reusable tow launch vehicle concept developed by KST. Kelly hoped to use the data from the tow tests to validate a tow-to-launch procedure for reusable space launch vehicles. Stucky flew six successful tow tests between December 1997 and February 6, 1998.

Feb., 1998. The specially instrumented DC-8 resumed flying its medium-altitude, science-gathering missions in the middle of the month following maintenance and upgrades of its satellite communications system. Already in January, one of Dryden’s ER-2s flew an experiment to collect high-altitude particulate matter. Both aircraft flew a variety of missions over widely scattered geographic regions during the rest of the calendar year to gather data about Earth science, including weather and climate.
Mar. 12, 1998  NASA’s B-52 008 dropped the first X-38 atmospheric test vehicle for the first full test of its parafoil parachute. The parafoil deployed within seconds of the vehicle’s release from an altitude of approximately 23,000 feet. The unpiloted X-38, with a lifting-body shape originally developed for the X-24A project in the early to mid-1970s, descended to a landing on Rogers Dry Lakebed. The X-38 is an 80-percent-scale prototype of a crew return vehicle for the International Space Station.

Mar. 24, 1998  An L-188 Electra aircraft owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, flew near Boulder with an Airborne Coherent LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for Advanced In-flight Measurement on its first flight to test its ability to detect previously invisible forms of clear air turbulence. Coherent Technologies Inc. of Lafayette, Colorado, built the device for the DFRC, which participated in the effort as part of NASA’s Aviation Safety Program, for which the lead center was Langley. Results of the test indicated that the device did successfully detect the clear air turbulence.


Aug. 6, 1998  NASA’s remotely piloted Pathfinder-Plus solar-powered aircraft flew to a record altitude of 80,285 feet above Kaua’i in the Hawaiian Islands following a long ascent.

Oct. 22, 1998  The Pegasus® Hypersonic Experiment, a highly instrumented glove on the Pegasus® booster’s delta wing, gathered more than 90 seconds of hypersonic temperature, pressure, and airflow data after the booster was launched from an Orbital Sciences Corporation L-1011 aircraft.

Nov. 10, 1998  The remotely piloted Centurion aircraft flew for the first time in a series of three low-altitude flights in which its power came from batteries to operate its 14 electronic motors and its electronic systems. The other two flights occurred on Nov. 19 and Dec. 3, with the aircraft reaching 400 feet on the third flight.

Nov. 19, 1998  A NASA ER-2 aircraft based at Dryden set a provisional new world altitude record of 68,700 feet for medium weight aircraft.

Feb. 6, 1999  The X-38 demonstrator for a crew return vehicle completed a successful free flight after release from the B-52 carrier aircraft.

Apr.–May 1999  The Altus II aircraft — developed and built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, of San Diego, CA, for NASA’s ERAST program — conducted nine scientific flights over the Hawaiian island of Kaua’i in support of the
Atmospheric Radiation Measurement studies conducted by Sandia National Laboratories for the Department of Energy. It and a partner Twin Otter aircraft gathered measurements of atmospheric radiation both around cirrus cloud layers and in the clear sky. The two aircraft did an in-flight comparison of the data from their instruments, contributing to an improved understanding of the interacting elements of the global climate system.

Jun. 29, 1999  The prototype test version of the X-34, designed to demonstrate launch-vehicle technologies that will reduce the cost of access to space, made its first captive-carry flight attached to the belly of its newly modified L-1011 carrier aircraft.

Sept. 8, 1999  First flight of the Helios Prototype aircraft, the larger follow-on to Pathfinder, Pathfinder-Plus, and Centurion in the series of high-flying, solar-powered aircraft developed by AeroVironment, Inc., of Monrovia, California, as part of the ERAST program.

Sept. 15, 1999  The final checkout flight by one of the DFRC’s ER-2 aircraft completed a series of tests of the entire radar and telemetry range from Edwards AFB to Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, for the first flights of the X-33.


Mar. 30, 2000  X-38 Vehicle 132 completed its third and final free flight. Launched from Dryden’s B-52, it completed the highest, fastest, and longest X-38 flight to date. It was released at an altitude of 39,000 feet and flew freely for 45 seconds, reaching a speed of over 500 miles per hour before deploying its parachutes for a landing on Rogers Dry Lakebed.

June 11, 2000  45th anniversary of the first flight of NB-52 008, the drop aircraft used for many of the X-15 and lifting body flights. It is both the oldest B-52 still flying, and the one with the least total flight time.

Mar. 14, 2001  First X-40A glide flight at Edwards. The X-40A is a low-speed test vehicle to prove the technology for the orbital X-37. During its first flight, the X-40A vehicle was released from a helicopter and made a 74 second glide, landing on the Edwards AFB runway.

June 2, 2001  X-43A lost on first launch attempt. The X-43A is designed to test a scramjet engine at speeds of Mach 7 or Mach 10.

Aug. 13, 2001  Helios—a long-duration, solar powered unpiloted aircraft — takes off from the island of Kauai and sets a world altitude record of 96,863 feet.

Oct. 23, 2001  Autonomous Formation Flight project completes 22 dual-aircraft flights, showing a fuel savings of up to 20 percent.
Nov. 18, 2001  Dryden provides communications support for NASA/Air Force observations of the Leonid meteor storm.

Dec. 13, 2001  X-38 Vehicle 131R makes the final flight of the program.

Mar. 27, 2002  Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) F-18 rolled out.

May 22, 2002  The X-45A unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV) makes its first flight.

Nov. 15, 2002  AAW F-18 makes its first flight.

June 9, 2003  Altair UAV makes its first flight at Dryden.

Mar. 27, 2004  The X-43A hypersonic technology demonstrator is rocketed by the Pegasus booster to an altitude of 95,000 feet and an airspeed of Mach 6.8 or 5,000 mph. It sets the world airspeed record for an aircraft powered by an air-breathing engine.

Nov. 16, 2004  The X-43A sets a new airspeed record of Mach 9.6 or about 6,800 mph and proves that scramjet propulsion is a viable technology for powering future space-access vehicles and hypersonic aircraft.

Dec. 17, 2004  Having launched advanced flight research vehicles for nearly a half century, the venerable B-52B “mothership” heavy-lift launch aircraft is decommissioned.

Aug. 9, 2005  STS-114 lands at Edwards Air Force Base to complete its 14-day, 5.8 million-mile journey.

More information on the history of Dryden Flight Research Center can be found in the references 1 through 10 on the following page. Many of the references below and other Dryden historical books and monographs are available online in pdf format at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/history/Publications/index.html
REFERENCES


# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>American Astronautical Society, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AASE</td>
<td>Department of Aerophysics and Aerospace Engineering, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles—a NASA Dryden test program</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEDC</td>
<td>Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFB</td>
<td>Air Force Base</td>
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<td>AFFTC</td>
<td>Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFWAL</td>
<td>Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGARD</td>
<td>Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research &amp; Development, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHS</td>
<td>American Helicopter Society, Alexandria, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIAA</td>
<td>American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AICHE</td>
<td>American Institute of Chemical Engineers, New York, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIR</td>
<td>Aerospace Information Report—a military report</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIST</td>
<td>Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARS</td>
<td>American Rocket Society—became AIAA in 1963 with IAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCE</td>
<td>American Society of Civil Engineers, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEE</td>
<td>American Society for Engineering Education, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASME</td>
<td>American Society of Mechanical Engineers, New York, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BuAero</td>
<td>Bureau of Aeronautics, Department of the Navy, 1921–1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAI</td>
<td>Canadian Aeronautical Institute, Ottawa, Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASI</td>
<td>NASA Center for Aerospace and Scientific Information, Hanover, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Conference Proceedings, NASA report</td>
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<td>CR</td>
<td>Contractor Report, NASA report</td>
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<tr>
<td>DGLR</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Luft-und Raumfahrt, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOD</td>
<td>Department of Defense, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<td>DTIC</td>
<td>Defense Technical Information Center, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERAST</td>
<td>Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology program—a NASA Dryden test program</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAA</td>
<td>Federal Aviation Agency / Administration, Washington, D. C.</td>
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<td>FED</td>
<td>Fluids Engineering Division (ASME), New York, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRC</td>
<td>Flight Research Center, NASA facility at Edwards AFB 1959–1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARV</td>
<td>F-18 high alpha research vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>HiDEC</td>
<td>F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSCT</td>
<td>High speed civil transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSFRS</td>
<td>High-Speed Flight Research Station, NASA facility at Edwards AFB 1949-1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAA</td>
<td>International Aerospace Abstracts—a monthly publication of recent international and AIAA Conference information in abstract form, AIAA, New York, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAS</td>
<td>Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, Inc.—became AIAA in 1963 with ARS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICAS</td>
<td>International Council of Aeronautical Sciences, Les Mureaux Cedex, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICASE</td>
<td>Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering, Hampton, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICASSP</td>
<td>International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE</td>
<td>Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, New York, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>IES</td>
<td>Institute of Environmental Sciences, Mount Prospect, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFAC</td>
<td>International Federation of Automatic Control, Uppsala, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISA</td>
<td>Instrument Society of America, Triangle Park, North Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>International Telemetering Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITEA</td>
<td>International Test and Evaluation Association, Fairfax, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITF</td>
<td>Integrated Test Facility, at Dryden since 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUTAM</td>
<td>International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Stuttgart, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPL</td>
<td>Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSASS</td>
<td>Japan Society for Aeronautical and Space Sciences, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLRV</td>
<td>lunar landing research vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACA</td>
<td>National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics—a NASA Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIWC</td>
<td>National Institute of Materials and Chemical Research, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTIS</td>
<td>National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCA</td>
<td>propulsion controlled aircraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAE</td>
<td>Royal Aircraft Establishment, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECON</td>
<td>A CASI database to archive scientific and technical reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECONplus</td>
<td>A CASI database to archive scientific and technical reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLV</td>
<td>Reusable Launch Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>RM</td>
<td>Research Memo, a NACA report</td>
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<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>Reference Publication, NASA Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>Society of Automotive Engineers, Warrendale, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCA</td>
<td>shuttle carrier aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETP</td>
<td>Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Lancaster, California</td>
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SFTE  Society of Flight Test Engineers, Lancaster, California
SIAM  Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
SP    Special Publication, a NASA report
SPIE  The International Society for Optical Engineering, Bellingham, Washington
TM    Technical Memorandum, a NASA report
TN    Technical Note, a NACA or NASA report
TP    Technical Paper, a NACA or NASA report
UAV   Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle
USAF  United States Air Force
USN   United States Navy
USN/NAWC United States Navy/Naval Air Warfare Center
ORDERING INFORMATION

Ordering sources for the different types of materials are given below:
Many of the publications in this bibliography are now available from the world wide web (www). The following applies.
PDF CASI – available from the NASA Center for Aerospace Information (CASI) Aeronautics and Space Database, https://www2.sti.nasa.gov/login/wt/

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<td>AIAA Publications Customer Service: P.O. Box 960, Herndon, VA 20172 Phone: 800/682-2422 or 703/661-1595 Fax: 703/661-1501 E-mail: <a href="mailto:warehouse@aiaa.org">warehouse@aiaa.org</a></td>
<td>AIAA papers and worldwide literature from conferences and periodicals available through AIAA.</td>
<td>A90-12345 90A12345 AIAA paper no. 97-1234</td>
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<td>Report literature having no distribution limitations.</td>
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<td>Pre-1962 reports and papers.</td>
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Flight tests and simulation studies using the throttles of an F-15 airplane for emergency flight control have been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The airplane and the simulation are capable of extended up-and-away flight, using only throttles for flight path control. Initial simulation results showed that runway landings using manual throttles-only control were difficult, but possible with practice. Manual approaches flown in the airplane were much more difficult, indicating a significant discrepancy between flight and simulation. Analysis of flight data and development of improved simulation models that resolve the discrepancy are discussed. An augmented throttle-only control system that controls bank angle and flight path with appropriate feedback parameters has also been developed, evaluated in simulations, and is planned for flight in the F-15.
Wake measurements made in a vertical plane behind a wing-section of a fighter airplane are presented for a range of Mach number up to 0.78. Since evidences of reverse flow were found in a large part of the surveys—possibly because of interference of the rake support—the computed profile-drag coefficients are considered to be only qualitative. The results showed that the large increase in drag coefficient beyond critical Mach number indicated by wind-tunnel tests was also obtained under flight conditions and that the wake width was extended sharply when shock was encountered. The wake extension occurred first at the upper surface since the highest local velocity was obtained on that surface. The large increase in drag coefficient for the wing section tested did not occur until after the critical Mach-number had been exceeded by approximately 0.05. Comparison of the profile-drag measurements with total airplane drag measurements showed that the large increases in drag in both cases started to occur at the same value of Mach number. The results further indicated that wake measurements made in three dimensional-flow after shock had occurred cannot, in general, be interpreted in terms of section profile-drag coefficient because of the existence of the strong lateral flow indicated by tuft behavior in the dead-air region behind the shock.

Results are presented in this report of the air-flow behavior over the wing of an XP-51 airplane including photographs of tuft attached to the wing surface and chordwise pressure distributions. A comparison of tuft studied is made of the flight results with those obtained from wind-tunnel tests. The results indicate that steady flow is obtained over the wing until the critical speed has been exceeded by about 0.04 to 0.05 in Mach numbers. At higher Mach numbers the flow is unsteady and becomes very rough and turbulent over the rear 50 percent of the chord after the limit maximum pressure coefficient has been reached. Observation of surface tufts alone without benefit of prevailing pressure distributions may indicate separated flow before separation actually occurs. Comparisons made of the flight and wind-tunnel data show a similar tuft behavior throughout the Mach number range.

During the acceptance tests of the XS-1 airplane, strain-gage measurements were made of wing and tail loads up to a Mach number of 0.80. The maximum lift and buffet boundaries were also determined. The loads encountered were well within the design loads and showed fairly good agreement with wind-tunnel and calculated data.
force may be attributed to the small size of the elevator and
the high altitude of the flight. (3) The elevator effectiveness
has decreased more than 50 percent in going from a Mach
number of 0.7 to 0.87. There is evidence of further reduction
in elevator effectiveness above a Mach number of 0.87. This
loss in elevator effectiveness has affected the magnitude of
the trim changes as noted by the pilot but the actual trim
changes for the most part have been caused by changes in
the wing-fuselage moment. (4) No aileron buzz or associated
phenomena have been experienced. The airplane becomes
right wing heavy with increasing Mach number up to a Mach
number of 1.10, but can be trimmed with the ailerons.

5. McLaughlin, Milton D.; and Clift, Dorothy C.: Results
Obtained During a Dive Recovery of the Bell XS-1
Airplane to High Lift Coefficients at a Mach Number
Greater Than 1.0. NACA RM L8C23A, April 6, 1948, CASI
ID: 1993008353. PDF DTRS

Measured quantities are presented which were obtained on
the Bell XS-1 airplane with an 8-percent-thick wing and a
6-percent-thick horizontal tail during a dive recovery at a
Mach number greater than 1.0. The data obtained show that it
is possible to obtain fairly high load factors with the airplane
at Mach numbers greater than 1.0 if the stabilizer is used for
longitudinal control. Lift coefficients approaching low-speed
maximum-lift values have been obtained at a Mach number
of 1.1 with no indication that these values are the maximum
obtainable for the airplane. At the Mach number and lift
coefficient reported, there was little or no buffeting.

6. Drake, Hubert M.; McLaughlin, Milton D.; and
Goodman, Harold R.: Results Obtained During Accelerated
Transonic Tests of the Bell XS-1 Airplane in Flights to a
Mach Number of 0.92. NACA RM L8A05A, April 19, 1948,
CASI ID: 19930085320. PDF DTRS

An accelerated flight program using the Bell XS-1 airplane
has been undertaken to explore the transonic-speed range. The
flying was done by an Air Force pilot, and the data reduction
and analysis were made from NACA instrumentation by
NACA personnel. This paper presents the results of tests
obtained up to a Mach number of 0.92 at altitudes around
30,000 feet. The data obtained show that the airplane has
experienced most of the difficulties expected in the transonic
range, but that it can be flown satisfactorily to a Mach number
of at least 0.92 at altitude above 30,000 feet. Longitudinal
trim changes have been experienced but the forces involved
have been small. The elevator effectiveness decreased
about one-half with increase of Mach number from 0.70 to
0.87. Buffeting has been experienced in level flight but it
has been mild and the associated tail loads have been
small. No aileron buzz or other flutter phenomena have
been noted.

7. Williams, Walter C.; Forsyth, Charles M.; and Brown,
Beverly P.: General Handling-Qualities Results Obtained
During Acceptance Flight Tests of the Bell XS-1 Airplane.
NACA RM L8A09, April 19, 1948, CASI ID: 19930085327.
PDF CASI

During the acceptance tests conducted by the Bell Aircraft
Corporation on the Bell XS-1 transonic research airplane,
NACA instruments were installed to measure the stability
and control characteristics and the aerodynamic loads.
Tests were made in gliding flight and in powered flight.
Two Bell XS-1 airplanes were used during the program: one
airplane had wing and tail thicknesses of 10 percent and 8
percent of the chord, respectively, and the other airplane had
wing and tail thicknesses of 8 percent and 6 percent of the
chord, respectively. The results for the stability and control
measurements are presented in this paper.

8. Williams, Walter C.: Limited Measurements of
Static Longitudinal Stability in Flight of Douglas D-558-1
Airplane (BuAero No. 37971). NACA RM L8E14, June 24,
1948, CASI ID: 19930085380. PDF DTRS

During airspeed calibration flights of the D-558-1 airplane
being used by NACA for high-speed-flight research, some
measurements were obtained of the static longitudinal
stability up to a Mach number of 0.85. These data showed that
the airplane possessed positive static longitudinal stability up
to a Mach number of 0.80. A trim change in the nose-down
direction occurred for Mach numbers above 0.82.

9. Beeler, De E.; McLaughlin, Milton D.; and Clift,
Dorothy C.: Measurements of the Chordwise Pressure
Distributions Over the Wing of the XS-1 Research
Airplane in Flight. NACA RM L8G21, August 4, 1948,
CASI ID: 19930085462. PDF CASI
Measurements of the chordwise pressure distribution over the 8-percent-thick wing of the XS-1 research airplane have been made at a section near the midspan of the left wing. Data presented are for a Mach number range of 0.75 to 1.25 at a normal-force coefficient of about 0.33 and for normal-force coefficients up to 0.93 at a Mach number of approximately 1.16. The results show that there is a rearward shift of section center of load with an increase in Mach number due to the rearward movement of shock with a corresponding extension of the region of supersonic flow. The load center moves from about 25 to 51 percent of the chord as the Mach number is increased for 0.75 to 1.25. During the rearward movement of load from the forward to rearward limit position, there is a rapid and large shift of the center of load within these limits for a Mach number range of 0.82 to 0.88. It is expected that large changes in trim, with corresponding large changes in load factor at low altitude, may occur within this Mach number range.

10. Drake, Hubert M.; Goodman, Harold R.; and Hoover, Herbert H.: Preliminary Results of NACA Transonic Flights of the XS-1 Airplane With 10-Percent-Thick Wing and 8-Percent-Thick Horizontal Tail. NACA RM L8129, October 13, 1948, CASI ID: 19930085623. PDF DTRS

Contains results of exploratory flights at altitudes of about 40,000 feet to a maximum Mach number of 1.06. Data are presented showing the longitudinal trim changes, elevator effectiveness in producing acceleration, and rudder effectiveness as a function of Mach number. Data on lateral oscillations are also presented.


Limited data covering extension of the U.S. Air Force transonic-flight tests of the XS-1 airplane are presented. These data show that successful flight to a Mach number of 1.35 has been achieved at altitudes above 40,000 feet. Longitudinal trim changes were experienced to the highest Mach numbers attained, with the wheel forces remaining small and the pilot able to control the airplane with ease. The airplane becomes right-wing heavy above a Mach number of 0.8 but can be trimmed with the aileron. No aileron buzz or flutter phenomena have been encountered. Buffeting has been light, when encountered in the range of Mach number and lift coefficient covered by these data.


This report contains the results of an investigation to determine from linearized theory, which has recently become available, the downwash at supersonic speeds at the tail of the XS-1 airplane and the effect of the downwash on the elevator deflection required for trim. The results are presented in the form of curves showing the variation of downwash angle with angle of attack and elevator deflection required for trim plotted against Mach number. The calculations indicate that increasing up-elevator deflection is required with increasing Mach number (unstable variation) in level flight between Mach numbers of 1.1 and 1.6. A slight reduction in up-elevator deflection occurs between Mach numbers of 1.6 and 2.0. The stabilizer angle has a similar variation, that is, unstable up to a Mach number of about 1.6 and then becoming slightly stable up to a Mach number of 2.0. The reduction of downwash with increasing Mach number is not the main cause of the increase in up-elevator deflection. The main reasons for this trend are that the pitching-moment coefficients due to the wing camber, the wing lift, and the lift of the stabilizer are all in a nose-down direction, and as the Mach number increases, these pitching-moment coefficients apparently decrease less rapidly than the elevator effectiveness.

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NACA instrumentation has been installed in the X-4 airplanes to obtain stability and control data during the Northrop conducted acceptance tests. The results of the first flight of the X-4 number 1 airplane are presented in this report. These data were obtained for a center-of-gravity position of about 22 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord. A maximum indicated airspeed and pressure altitude of 290 miles per hour and 11,000 feet, respectively, were obtained during the flight. Results of the flight indicated that the airplane is slightly unstable, stick fixed, in gear-up, flaps-up configuration for a center-of-gravity position at 21.4 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord. The pilot reported that it was difficult to maintain steady flight in this configuration. There was no indication of a snaking or lateral oscillation for the speed range covered. For gear-down configuration at low lift coefficients with the center of gravity at 22.4 and 21.6 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord the airplane was longitudinally stable; however, at high lift coefficients, it was indicated that the airplane was longitudinally unstable. The rudder effectiveness appeared to be low in the gear-down, low-speed condition. The maximum rate of rudder motion of 25 degrees per second available with the present control system was considered by the pilot to be too slow.
Measurements have been made of the stability characteristics of the D-558-1 airplane in steadily increasing sideslips at various Mach numbers from 0.50 to 0.8 at 10,000 feet altitude and at Mach numbers from 0.50 to 0.84 at 30,000 feet altitude. The results of these tests show that the apparent directional stability of the airplane is high and increases with increasing Mach number and dynamic pressure. The dihedral effect is positive at all speeds, there is little or no change in pitching moment with sideslip, and the cross-wind force is positive.

Measurements have been made of some of the high-speed characteristics of the D-558-1 airplane up to a Mach number of 0.89. The results of these tests showed that the stabilizer incidence drastically affected the longitudinal trim characteristics above a Mach number of 0.80. With a stabilizer incidence of 2.3 degrees, the airplane became nose heavy above a Mach number of 0.8. With a stabilizer incidence of 1.4 degrees, the airplane became tail heavy above a Mach number of 0.83. The airplane also became right-wing heavy above a Mach number of 0.84 and the airplane felt uncertain laterally to the pilot. The longitudinal stability in accelerated flight was positive throughout the speed range from a Mach number of 0.50 to 0.80 and increased above a Mach number of 0.675. The buffet boundary was defined up to a Mach number of 0.84 and was similar to that for the Bell XS-1 airplane with the same wing section, 65-110.

Records were obtained of two landings of the Douglas D-558-1 airplane made during the stability and control investigation. These two records show that the maximum normal-force coefficient used during the landings, 0.95, was considerably below the maximum, 1.2, estimated to be available. The approaches were made at 150 percent of the possible minimum speed, and the actual contacts were at about 115 percent of minimum speed. The rate of descent in the approach was 1200 to 1800 feet per minute at the start of the landing flare.

Abrupt, rudder-fixed aileron rolls have been made with the Bell X-1 airplane having a 10-percent-thick wing in glides to a Mach number of 0.82 at about 30,000 feet pressure altitude. Aileron movements were between one-fourth and one-half of full deflection. These aileron rolls indicate that Mach number has little effect on the aileron effectiveness up to a Mach number of 0.82.

NACA instrumentation has been installed in the X-4 airplanes to obtain stability and control data during the Northrop-conducted acceptance tests. The results of the second flight of the X-4 number 1 airplane are presented in this report. This flight was made with the center of gravity at 22 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord and with the rudder-boost system removed. The results of the flight showed that the longitudinal stability was positive in the clean condition and in the gear-down, flaps-up condition. Records taken during landing approach and in a steady run at 170 miles per hour showed that the lateral oscillation is poorly damped. The pilot reported that the rudder control was adequate.


A small-amplitude, undamped, lateral oscillation has been encountered in flight tests of the X-1 airplane. The oscillation occurs in subsonic and supersonic flight, in maneuvers, and power on and off. The calculations indicate that a change, in the positive direction, of the inclination of the principal axis with respect to the flight path should have a considerable stabilizing effect.


Measurements were made in the transonic speed ranges of the static-pressure position error at a distance of 0.96 chord ahead of the wing tip of both the 8-percent-thick-wing and the 10-percent-thick-wing X-1 airplanes, and at a point 0.6 maximum fuselage diameter ahead of the fuselage nose of the X-1 airplanes.

22. Drake, Hubert M.: Measurements of Aileron Effectiveness of the Bell X-1 Airplane at Mach Numbers Between 0.9 and 1.06. NACA RM L9G19A, August 4, 1949. CASI ID: 19930085948. PDF DTRS

Presents results of flight measurements of aileron effectiveness of the X-1 airplane up to a Mach number of 0.94. The data indicate a 75 percent loss of aileron effectiveness between M = 0.82 and M = 0.94.


NACA instrumentation has been installed in the Northrop X-4 airplane to obtain stability and control data during the Northrop-conducted acceptance tests. The results of the fourth and fifth flights of the Northrop X-4 number 1 airplane are presented in this paper. These data were obtained for a center-of-gravity position of approximately 19.5 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord. The results of this flight showed that the directional stability as measured in steadily increasing sideslips was positive and high and that the effective dihedral was positive. The results also show the airplane to be longitudinally stable, stick fixed, with the center of gravity at 19.5 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord.


This paper presents some data on the dynamic lateral stability characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) airplane. For the airplane in the clean condition, the lateral oscillations are lightly damped. In the landing condition, the airplane performs a constant-amplitude lateral oscillation.


NACA instrumentation has been installed in the Northrop X-4 airplane to obtain stability and control data during the Northrop-conducted acceptance tests. The results of the third flight of the X-4 number 1 airplane are presented in this paper. The results of this flight showed that the directional stability as measured in steadily increasing sideslips was positive and high and that the lateral stability was positive.

Measurements were made, in dives to transonic speeds, of the static-pressure position error at a distance of one chord ahead of the wing tip of the McDonnell XF-88 airplane. The airplane incorporates a wing which is swept back 35° along the 0.25-chord line and utilizes a 65-series airfoil with a 9-percent-thick section perpendicular to the 0.25-chord line. The section in the stream direction is approximately 8 percent thick. Data up to a Mach number of about 0.97 were obtained within an airplane normal-force-coefficient range from about 0.05 to about 0.68. Data at Mach numbers above about 0.97 were obtained within an airplane normal-force-coefficient range from about 0.05 to about 0.38.


Contains results of brief flight measurements of the static longitudinal stability and stalling characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) research airplane.

1950 Technical Publications

28. Matthews, James T.: Results Obtained During Flights 1 to 6 of the Northrop X-4 Airplane (USAF No. 46-677). NACARML9K22, January 12, 1950, CASI ID: 19930086046. PDF CASI

NACA instruments were installed in the Northrop X-4 number 2 airplane (A.F. No. 46-677) to obtain stability and control data during the acceptance tests conducted by the Northrop Company. The results of flights 1 to 6 are presented in this report. These data were obtained for a center-of-gravity position of about 19.5 to 20.0 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord. The data presented include a time history of a complete pull-up, time histories of several level and accelerated flight runs, and the effect of dive-brake extension on the longitudinal and lateral trim. The pilot reports the mechanical trim device to be unsatisfactory for any stick-free or dynamic stability and control analysis because the stick force cannot be trimmed to zero sufficiently well to permit the stick to be released during a maneuver without the airplane performing a divergence. In addition, the trim device is inoperative when more than 8.0 degrees up elevon angle is required for trim. A short-period longitudinal oscillation with relatively poor damping was present, but this oscillation was not objectionable to the pilot. The airplane has a stable variation of longitudinal-control angle with normal-force coefficient for the indicated airspeed ranges of 180 to 300 miles per hour at about 30,000-foot pressure altitude. Extension of the dive brakes up to ±30 degrees has no appreciable effect on the longitudinal trim at indicated airspeeds of 160 miles per hour with landing gear down, and at airspeeds of 300 miles per hour with the landing gear up, at altitudes of 8,500 and 10,000 feet, respectively. A slight tendency to roll to the left was indicated in the landing-gear-down case.


NACA instrumentation has been installed in the X-4 airplanes to obtain stability and control data during the acceptance tests conducted by the Northrop Aircraft Corporation. This report presents data obtained on the stalling characteristics of the airplane in the clean and gear-down configurations. The center of gravity was located at approximately 18 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord during the tests. The results indicated that the airplane was not completely stalled when stall was gradually approached during nominally unaccelerated flight but that it was completely stalled during a more abruptly approached stall in accelerated flight. The stall in accelerated flight was relatively mild, and this was attributed to the nature of the variation of lift with angle of attack for the 0010-64 airfoil section, the plan form of the wing, and to the fact that the initial sideslip at the stall produced (as shown by wind-tunnel tests of a model of the airplane) a more symmetrical stall pattern.

30. Sjoberg, S. A.: Flight Measurements With the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) Research Airplane. Static Lateral and Directional Stability Characteristics as Measured in Sideslips at Mach Numbers Up to 0.87. NACA RM L50C14, May 19, 1950, CASI ID: 19930086174. PDF CASI

Flight measurements were made in sideslips of the static lateral and directional stability characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) research airplane. The directional stability of the airplane was positive in both the clean and landing conditions at all test speeds. About 2 degrees of rudder deflection were required to produce 1 degree of sideslip in both the clean and landing conditions. There was no decrease in the effectiveness of the rudder in producing sideslip up to the highest Mach number reached (0.87).

31. Thompson, Jim Rogers; Roden, William S.; and Eggleston, John M.: Flight Investigation of the Aileron Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-I Airplane (BuAero No. 37972) at Mach Numbers Between 0.6 and 0.89. NACA RM L50D20, May 26, 1950, CASI ID: 19930086309. PDF CASI
Abrupt, rudder-fixed aileron rolls have been made with the Douglas D-558-I airplane (BuAero No. 37972) at Mach numbers between 0.6 and 0.89. Rolls were made at aileron deflections between one-eighth and one-half the maximum available deflection. The results obtained indicate that the aileron effectiveness is independent of Mach number and deflection within the range investigated. Limited information on the lateral trim and handling qualities of the airplane at high Mach numbers is presented.


The results obtained from several recent flights on the Northrop X-4 No. 2 airplane are presented. Information is included on the longitudinal-stability characteristics in straight flight over a Mach number range of 0.38 to about 0.63, the longitudinal-stability characteristics in accelerated flight over a Mach number range of 0.43 to about 0.79, and the short-period longitudinal-oscillation characteristics at Mach numbers of 0.49 and 0.78. It was shown that the stick-fixed and stick-free static longitudinal stability, as measured in straight flight, were positive over the test speed range with the center of gravity located at about 18.0 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord. During the longitudinal-stability tests in accelerated flight an inadvertent pitch-up of the airplane occurred at a Mach number of about 0.79 and a normal-force coefficient of about 0.45 (normal acceleration factor, the ratio of the net aerodynamic force along the airplane Z axis to the weight of the airplane = 5), in which the acceleration built up rapidly to the ratio of the net aerodynamic force along the airplane Z axis to the weight of the airplane = 6.2 (which was in excess of the load factor, 5.2, required for demonstration of the airplane) before recovery could be initiated. A comparison of the experimentally determined elevon angles required for balance and the elevon-angle gradients with values estimated from limited wind-tunnel data showed fairly good agreement. Wind-tunnel data, however, were not available in the region where the pitch-up occurred so that an evaluation in this regard was not possible. The short-period oscillation was lightly damped and did not meet the Air Force requirements for satisfactory handling qualities. The pilot, however, did not object to the low damping characteristics of this airplane for small-amplitude oscillations. Theory predicted the period of the short-period longitudinal oscillation fairly well; however, the damping evaluated from the theory indicated considerably greater damping than was actually measured in flight, especially at the higher Mach numbers.

33. Mayer, John P.; Valentine, George M.; and Mayer, Geraldine C.: Flight Measurements with the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) Research Airplane: Determination of the Aerodynamic Center and Zero-Lift Pitching-Moment Coefficient of the Wing-Fuselage Combination by Means of Tail-Load Measurements in the Mach Number Range From 0.37 to 0.87. NACA RM L50D10, July 11, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086246. PDF CASI

Determination of the aerodynamic center and zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient of the wing-fuselage combination by means of tail-load measurements in the Mach number range from 0.37 to 0.87.

34. Wilmerding, J. V.; Stillwell, W. H.; and Sjoberg, S. A. Flight Measurements with the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) Research Airplane: Lateral Control Characteristics as Measured in Abrupt Aileron Rolls at Mach Numbers Up to 0.86. NACA RM L50E17, July 20, 1950. 93R15435, CASI ID: 19930086145.

Flight measurements were made of the lateral control characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II airplane in abrupt rudder-fixed aileron rolls. In the Mach number range from 0.50 to 0.86 the aileron rolling effectiveness is substantially constant and the rate of change of the maximum wing-tip helix angle with total aileron deflection (rate of change of maximum wing-tip helix angle with total aileron deflection, radians per degree) has a value of 0.0027 radian per degree. Extrapolated data indicate that in this Mach number range full aileron deflection of 30 degrees will produce a maximum wing-tip helix angle pb/2V of about 0.08 radian. As the speed is reduced below a mach number of 0.50 a marked decrease occurs in the maximum value of pb/2V obtainable with a given aileron deflection. This decrease pb/2V occurs because the dihedral effect increases with decrease in speed and the adverse sideslip angles reached in the rolls at low speed are larger. At an indicated airspeed of 150 miles per hour in the landing condition, full aileron deflection will produce a maximum wing-tip helix angle pb/2V of 0.04 radian, which for standard sea-level conditions corresponds to a rolling velocity of 40 degrees per second. In the opinion of the pilots this rolling velocity is sufficiently high for the landing condition with this airplane. It is the opinion of several NACA pilots that the maximum usable rolling velocity is on the order of 2.5 radians per second. In the Mach number range from 0.42 to 0.86 at an altitude of 15,000 feet rolling velocities greater than 2.5 radians per second can be obtained with less than full aileron deflection. The data indicate that in going from high to low lift coefficient the yawing moment due to rolling changes direction. At high lift coefficients the sideslip due to roll is in the same direction as the roll (right roll produces right sideslip), but at low lift coefficients the opposite tendency is present.


A theoretical investigation has been made to determine
the effect on the lateral stability of the Douglas D-558-II airplane of an autopilot sensitive to yawing velocity. The effects of inclination of the gyro spin axis to the flight path and of time lag in the autopilot were also determined. The flight conditions investigated included landing at sea level, approach condition at 12,000 feet, and cruising at 12,000 feet at Mach numbers of 0.80 and 1.2. The results of the investigation indicated that the lateral stability characteristics of the D-558-II airplane for the flight condition discussed should satisfy the Air Force - Navy period-damping criterion when the proposed autopilot is installed. Airplane motions in sideslip subsequent to a disturbance in sideslip are presented for several representative flight conditions in which a time lag in the autopilot of 0.10 second was assumed.


Measurements of the buffet boundary and peak airplane normal force coefficients at Mach numbers up to 0.90.


The low-speed stalling and lift characteristics of the D-558-II airplane were measured in a series of 1-g stalls in four different airplane configurations. With the slats locked closed and the flaps up or down, the airplane was unstable at angles of attack greater than about 9 degrees. With the flaps up this corresponds to a normal-force coefficient of about 0.8 and with the flaps down, about 1.07. Because of this instability, the airplane tended to pitch to high angles of attack; at these high angles of attack, violent rolling and yawing motions sometimes occurred. In one case with the flaps down and the slats locked the airplane went into a spin after pitching up to high angles of attack. The pilots considered the stalling characteristics of the airplane with the slats locked to be very objectionable. No data are presented in this paper on the stalling characteristics in maneuvering flight, but the pilots considered the longitudinal instability particularly objectionable in maneuvering flight. With the slats unlocked and the flaps up or down the airplane was unstable at angles of attack greater than about 23 degrees. Uncontrolled-for rolling and yawing motions due to stalling were present when the airplane was unstable in the high angle-of-attack range. With the slats unlocked and the flaps and landing gear up or down, there was adequate stall warning in the form of buffeting and lateral oscillations of the airplane. With the slats locked, slight buffeting of the airplane occurred at a normal-force coefficient slightly less than the normal-force coefficient at which the airplane became longitudinally unstable. With the flaps up and the slats locked, the highest normal-force coefficient obtained was 1.13 at an angle of attack of about 17.5 degrees. The highest normal-force coefficient obtained with the flaps up and the slats unlocked was 1.46 at an angle of attack of 36 degrees, and in the angle-of-attack range from 23 degrees to 30 degrees the normal-force coefficient had a substantially constant value of 1.32. At the lower angles of attack with the slats locked or unlocked deflecting the flaps produced an increment in normal-force coefficient at a given angle of attack of about 0.26. The highest normal-force coefficient obtained with the flaps down and the slats locked or unlocked was about 1.65. This value was attained at an angle of attack of about 35.5 degrees with the slats locked and at an angle of attack of about 38 degrees with the slats unlocked. However, in the angle-of-attack range from 12 degrees to 32 degrees considerably greater normal-force coefficients were obtained with the slats unlocked than with the slats locked.

38. Carner, H. Arthur; and Knapp, Ronald J.: Flight Measurements of the Pressure Distribution on the Wing of the X-1 Airplane (10-Percent-Thick Wing) Over a Chordwise Station Near the Midspan, in Level Flight at Mach Numbers from 0.79 to 1.00 and in a Pull-Up at a Mach Number of 0.96. NACA RM L50H04, September 12, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086250. PDF CASI

Measurements of the chordwise pressure distribution over the 10-percent-thick wing of the X-1 research airplane have been made at a section near the midspan of the left wing. Data presented are for a Mach number range from 0.79 to 1.00 at a section normal-force coefficient of about 0.32 and for section normal-force coefficients up to 1.00 at a Mach number of approximately 0.96. The results show that the section center of load moves aft from about 32 percent chord at Mach number 0.79 to 40 percent chord at Mach number 0.84, and then forward to 18 percent chord at Mach number 0.89. The section center of load moves aft to 45 percent chord at Mach number 0.95 and then remains approximately constant at Mach numbers up to 1.00. At a section normal-force coefficient of 0.32 a shock exists on the upper surface at the lowest test Mach number of 0.79 and supersonic flow exists over approximately 50 percent of the chord on the upper surface. The first indication of a shock on the lower surface occurs at a Mach number of about 0.84. At Mach numbers above 0.95 the shocks on both surfaces occur near the trailing edge and the pressure distribution over both surfaces is quite similar. An increase in the normal-force coefficient at a Mach number of approximately 0.96 causes a slight increase in the section stability at the higher normal-force coefficients.

Flight at Mach Numbers from 0.79 to 1.00 and in a Pull-Up at Mach Number of 0.96. NACA RM L50H25, September 18, 1950, CASI ID: 19930086333. PDF CASI

Tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics are presented for six spanwise stations on the left wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane. The data were obtained in level flight at Mach numbers from 0.79 to 1.00 and in a pull-up to an airplane normal-force coefficient of 0.91 at a Mach number of approximately 0.96.

40. Drake, Hubert M.; and Carden, John R.: Elevator-Stabilizer Effectiveness and Trim of the X-1 Airplane to a Mach Number of 1.06. NACA RM L50G20, November 1, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086316. PDF CASI

The relative elevator-stabilizer effectiveness of the X-1 has been determined to decrease from a value of 0.25 at a Mach number of 0.78 to a value of 0.05 at a Mach number of 1.0. At supersonic speeds the effectiveness increases. The various stabilizer settings are caused by the variation in effectiveness and the fact that the effectiveness is nonlinear at Mach numbers between 0.94 and 0.97. It was found that, with the elevator fixed at zero, only about 0.5 degrees of stabilizer movement would be required to trim through the Mach number range from 0.78 to 1.02.

41. Knapp, Ronald J.; and Wilken, Gertrude V.: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured on the Wing of the Bell X-1 Airplane in Pull-Ups at Mach Numbers From 0.53 to 0.99. NACA RM L50H28, November 1, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086369. PDF CASI

Tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics are presented for six spanwise stations on the left wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane. The data were obtained in 10 pull-ups at Mach numbers from 0.53 to 0.99.

42. Angle, Ellwyn; and Holleman, Euclid C.: Determination of Longitudinal Stability of the Bell X-1 Airplane From Transient Responses at Mach Numbers Up to 1.12 at Lift Coefficients of 0.3 and 0.6. NACA RM L50106A, November 7, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086430.

A number of free-flight transient responses resulting from small stabilizer movements were obtained during flight tests of the Bell X-1 airplane (8-percent-thick wing and 6-percent thick tail). Responses were analyzed to obtain a measure of the longitudinal stability characteristics of the airplane over the Mach number range from 0.72 to 1.12 at lift coefficients of 0.3 and 0.6. The data presented indicate three significant features: (1) The damping varies greatly with Mach number, maximum damping occurring at Mach numbers of 0.82 and 1.08 and a minimum damping at about 0.93; (2) some uncertainty of damping between Mach numbers of 0.91 to 0.95 appears although good agreement with model tests exists throughout the Mach number range covered; and (3) the static stability of the airplane increases with Mach number to a Mach number of about 0.93 and decreases with further increasing Mach number. Data above a Mach number of 0.90 indicate some lift-coefficient effects. Agreement of the full-scale flight data and model data over the Mach number range is good.

43. Drake, Hubert M.: Effects on the Lateral Oscillation of Fixing the Rudder and Reflexing the Flaps on the Bell X-1 Airplane. NACA RM L50105, December 11, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086424. PDF CASI

Flight tests have been made on the Bell X-1 airplane having the 10-percent-thick wing and the 8-percent-thick tail to evaluate the effects of fixing the rudder and changing the inclination of the principal axes of inertia by reflexing the landing flaps on the snaking which has been encountered over practically the entire range of Mach number and normal-force coefficient. The data were obtained during power-off glides at altitudes between 32,000 and 16,000 feet. The results showed that fixing the rudder reduced the amplitude of snaking, but did not eliminate it at a Mach number of 0.84. It was also found that reflexing the flaps to change the inclination of the principal axis of inertia 1 and 3/4 nose up increased the dynamic lateral stability, but had only a small effect on the snaking oscillation at a Mach number of 0.85.

44. Sadoff, Melvin; and Sisk, Thomas R.: Summary Report of Results Obtained During Demonstration Tests of the Northrop X-4 Airplanes. NACA RM A50l01, December 13, 1950. CASI ID: 19930086420. PDF CASI

Results obtained during the demonstration flight tests of the Northrop X-4 No. 1 and No. 2 airplanes are presented. Information is included on the static and dynamic longitudinal- and lateral-stability characteristics, the stalling characteristics, and the buffet boundary. The data indicated that the airplane was almost neutrally stable in straight flight at low Mach numbers with the center of gravity located at about 21.4 percent of the mean aerodynamic chord for the clean configuration. In accelerated flight over a Mach number range of about 0.44 to 0.84 the airplane was longitudinally stable up to a normal-force coefficient of about 0.4. At higher values of normal-force coefficient and at the higher (approximately Mach 0.8) Mach numbers a longitudinal instability was experienced. The X-4 airplane does not satisfy the Air Force specifications for damping of the short-period longitudinal oscillation. The pilot, however, did not consider the low damping characteristics of the airplane objectionable for small disturbances. An objectionable undamped oscillation about all three axes was experienced, however, at the highest test Mach number of 0.88. Theory predicted the period of the short-period longitudinal oscillation fairly well, while, in general, the theoretical damping indicated a higher degree
of stability than was actually experienced. This discrepancy was traced to a considerable error in the estimation of the rotational damping factor. The directional stability of the X-4 airplane as measured in steady sideslips was high and essentially constant over the speed range covered, while the dihedral effect decreased considerably with an increase in airspeed. The damping of the lateral oscillation does not meet the Air Force requirements for satisfactory handling qualities over the Mach number range covered. The data indicated decreased damping as the flight Mach number was increased above about 0.5, and at high Mach numbers (M>0.8) and at high altitudes the X-4, in common with other transonic research airplanes, experienced a small amplitude undamped lateral oscillation. The dynamic lateral-stability characteristics were estimated fairly well by theory at low Mach numbers and at a pressure altitude of 10,000 feet. At 30,000 feet, however, at Mach numbers above about 0.6, the theory again indicated a higher degree of stability than was actually obtained. For the conditions covered in these tests the stalling characteristics of the X-4 airplane, as measured in stall approaches in straight flight and in an accelerated stall to about 1.6 g, were, in general, satisfactory. Both the stall approaches and the stall were characterized by a roll-off to the right. The X-4 buffet boundary showed a sharp drop-off in the normal-force coefficient for the onset of buffeting as the flight Mach number exceeded 0.8. The boundary was almost identical to that obtained for the D-558-II research airplane at comparable Mach numbers.

45. Keener, Earl R.; and Pierce, Mary: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured in Flight on the Wing of the Douglas D-558-I Airplane for a 1-G Stall, a Speed Run to a Mach Number of 0.90, and a Wind-Up Turn at a Mach Number of 0.86, NACA RM L50J10, December 15, 1950, CASI ID: 19650068445. PDF CASI

Tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics are presented unanalyzed for six spanwise stations on the right wing of the Douglas D-558-I research airplane (BuAero No. 37972). The data were obtained in a 1 g stall at subcritical Mach numbers, in a speed run to a Mach number of 0.90 and in a wind-up turn at a Mach number of 0.86.

46. Mayer, John P.; Valentine, George M.; and Swanson, Beverly J.: Flight Measurements With the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) Research Airplane: Measurements of Wing Loads at Mach Numbers Up to 0.87, NACA RM L50H16, December 26, 1950, CASI ID: 19930086311. PDF CASI

Flight measurements have been made of the aerodynamic wing normal force, bending moment, and pitching moment by means of strain gages on the D-558-II airplane at Mach numbers up to 0.87 and at angles of attack up to 38° for low Mach numbers.

1951 Technical Publications


A rudder bulb was installed on the trailing edge of the rudder of the Bell X-1 airplane having the 8-percent-thick wing and 6-percent-thick tail. Several flights were made to investigate the effects of the bulb on the snaking oscillation at Mach numbers between 0.75 and 1.0. It was found that the rudder bulb had no noticeable effect on the snaking oscillation over the Mach number range tested.


The paper presents the results of flight measurements of the longitudinal stability and control characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane. Data are presented in the speed range from the stalling speed of the airplane up to a maximum Mach number of 0.87.

49. Mayer, John P.; and Valentine, George M.: Flight Measurements With the Douglas D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) Research Airplane: Measurements of the Distribution of the Aerodynamic Load Among the Wing, Fuselage, and Horizontal Tail at Mach Numbers Up to 0.87, NACA RM L50J13, January 19, 1951, CASI ID: 19930086597, 93R15887. PDF CASI

Flight measurements of the aerodynamic wing and tail loads have been made on the Douglas D-558-II airplane from which the distribution of the aerodynamic load among the wing, fuselage, and horizontal tail has been determined at Mach numbers up to 0.87. These measurements indicate that, for normal-force coefficients less than 0.7, the distribution of air load among the airplane components does not change appreciably with Mach number at Mach numbers up to 0.87. The measurements also indicate that, for all flight configurations, the increase in airplane normal-force coefficient above the angle of attack at which the wing reaches its maximum normal-force coefficient is due principally to the contribution of the fuselage to the airplane normal-force coefficient.
50. Keener, Earl R.; Peele, James R.; and Woodbridge, Julia B.: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured in Flight on the Wing of the Douglas D-558-I Airplane Throughout the Normal-Force-Coefficient Range at Mach Numbers of 0.67, 0.74, 0.78, and 0.82. NACA RM L50L12A, January 29, 1951, CASI ID: 19930086504.

Tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics measured in flight are presented for six spanwise stations on the right wing of the D-558-I research airplane (BuAero No. 37972). The data were obtained throughout the normal-force-coefficient range at Mach numbers of 0.67, 0.74, 0.78, and 0.82. This paper supplements similar tabulated data which have been presented in NACA RM L50J10. (see also 45.)

51. Carman, L. Robert; and Carden, John R.: Lift and Drag Coefficients for the Bell X-1 Airplane (8-Percent-Thick Wing) in Power-Off Transonic Flight. NACA RM L51E08, June 1951, CASI ID: 19930086696. PDF CASI

Drag coefficients have been determined by the accelerometer method for the Bell X-1 airplane with 8-percent-thick wing and 6-percent-thick tail in power-off flight over a Mach number range of 0.64 to 1.14 and at lift coefficients from 0.1 to 1.2.


The paper presents flight measurements of the dynamic lateral stability of the D-558-II (BuAero No. 37974) research airplane. Data are presented for a range of calibrated airspeed from 167 miles per hour to 474 miles per hour.

53. Smith, Lawrence A.: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured on the Wing of the Bell X-1 Airplane in an Unaccelerated Stall and in Pull-Ups at Mach Numbers of 0.74, 0.75, 0.94, and 0.97. NACA RM L51B23, June 19, 1951, CASI ID: 19930086564. PDF CASI

Presents tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics measured on the wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane in an unaccelerated stall and in pull-ups at Mach numbers of approximately 0.74, 0.75, 0.94, and 0.97.

54. Sadoff, Melvin; Roden, William S.; and Eggleston, John M.: Flight Investigation of the Longitudinal Stability and Control Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-I Airplane (BuAero No. 37972) at Mach Numbers Up to 0.89. NACA RM L51D18, June 1951, CASI ID: 19930086806. PDF CASI

Results and analysis pertaining to the longitudinal stability and control characteristics of the Douglas D-558-I airplane (BuAero No. 37972) are presented. The results indicated that large and rapid changes in elevator deflection and force were required for balance above a Mach number of 0.84. Analysis indicated that a major part of these changes were due to a loss in elevator effectiveness. A large increase in the apparent stick-fixed stability parameter \( \frac{d \delta}{d C_n} \) was also noted due to a loss in elevator effectiveness combined with an increase in airplane stability.

55. Keener, Earl R.; and Bandish, Rozalia M.: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured in Flight on the Wing of the D-558-I Research Airplane Through a Mach Number Range of 0.80 to 0.89 and Throughout the Normal-Force-Coefficient Range at Mach Numbers of 0.61, 0.70, 0.855, and 0.88. NACA RM L51F12, August 1951, CASI ID: 19930086693. PDF CASI

Presents tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics obtained in flight from pressure distributions over six chordwise rows of orifices on a wing of the Douglas D-558-I research airplane (BuAero No. 37972). It includes data obtained throughout a Mach number range of 0.80 to 0.89 and throughout the normal-force-coefficient range at \( M = 0.61, 0.70, 0.855, \) and 0.88.


Tests were made to determine the effects of wing vortex generators on the handling and buffeting characteristics of the Douglas D-558-I airplane. Measurements of the chordwise...
pressure distribution over one section of the wing, the total-head losses in a portion of the wing wake, the total airplane drag, and the buffeting and handling characteristics were made with the basic configuration and with vortex generators of an arbitrary size, shape, and location installed on the wing.

57. Knapp, Ronald J.: Tabulated Pressure Coefficients and Aerodynamic Characteristics Measured on the Wing of the Bell X-1 Airplane in an Unaccelerated Low-Speed Stall, in Push-Overs at Mach Numbers of 0.83 and 0.99, and in a Pull-Up at a Mach Number of 1.16. NACA RM L51F25, September 1951, CASI ID: 19930086744. PDF CASI

Presents tabulated pressure coefficients and aerodynamic characteristics measured on the wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane in an unaccelerated low-speed stall, in push-overs at Mach numbers of 0.83 and 0.99, and in a pull-up at a Mach number of 1.16.

58. Drake, Hubert M.; Carden, John R.; and Claggett, Harry P.: Analysis of Longitudinal Stability and Trim of the Bell X-1 Airplane at a Lift Coefficient of 0.3 to Mach Numbers Near 1.05. NACA RM L51H01, October 1951, CASI ID: 19930086697. PDF CASI

An analysis has been made of the flight test data obtained with two X-1 airplane having 10-percent-thick wings and an 8-percent-thick tail and 8-percent-thick wings and a 6-percent-thick tail. The variation with Mach number of the rate of change of downwash angle of attack, the static stability, and the airplane trim were obtained at a lift coefficient of 0.3.

59. Sadoff, Melvin; Ankenbruck, Herman O.; and O’Hare, William: Stability and Control Measurements Obtained During USAF-NACA Cooperative Flight-Test Program on the X-4 Airplane (USAF No. 46-677). NACA RM A51H09, October 26, 1951, 93R16101. PDF CASI

Results obtained during the Air Force testing of the Northrop X-4 airplane are presented. Information is included on the stalling characteristics, the static and dynamic longitudinal- and lateral-stability characteristics, and the lateral-control characteristics. The data indicated that the stalling characteristics of the X-4 airplane in straight flight and in accelerated flight at low Mach numbers were satisfactory, but that at Mach numbers above 0.68, the airplane became longitudinally unstable at moderate lift coefficients.


This paper discusses the handling qualities and stability of the X-1, D-558-I, D-558-II, X-4, F-86A, and XF-92 airplanes.


This paper discusses landing experiences with the D-558-I and the X-4 airplanes.


This paper discusses buffeting results from the X-1, D-558-II, X-4, and XF-92A airplanes.

*NACA - Langley Aeronautical Laboratory.

1952 Technical Publications

63. Williams, W. C.; and Crossfield, A. S.: Handling Qualities of High-Speed Airplanes. NACA RM L52A08, January 1952, CASI ID: 19930087005. PDF CASI

Because there have been such drastic changes in the speed range and the configuration of airplanes in the past decade, it becomes necessary to re-examine the requirements for satisfactory handling qualities as proposed by Gilruth in 1940. This paper does not
attempt to describe completely the handling qualities of all the research airplanes but does attempt to describe the objectionable characteristics and those which indicate review of the requirements. The research airplanes discussed are the X-1, D-558-1, D-558-2, X-4, F-86A, and the XF-92A.

Results of Horizontal-Tail Load Measurements of the Bell X-5 Research Airplane. NACA RM L52G14, August 15, 1952. CASI ID: 19930087176. PDF CASI

During the acceptance tests of the X-5 airplane made by Bell Aircraft Corp., measurements of the horizontal tail loads and static stability characteristics were obtained by the NACA High-speed Flight Research Station. The results of the horizontal-tail load measurements are presented in this paper. At Mach numbers of 0.50, 0.56, and 0.85 the trends of the balancing tail-load variation with increasing sweep angle from 20° to 59° were similar, with the largest down tail load occurring at a sweep angle of about 36° for each of these Mach numbers. The largest tail load in a down direction over the entire sweep range occurred at a Mach number of 0.85.

67. Holleman, Euclid C.: Longitudinal Frequency-Response and Stability Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II Airplane as Determined From Transient Response to a Mach Number of 0.96. NACA RM L52E02, September 1952. CASI ID: 19930087016. PDF CASI

By an application of the Fourier transformation to transient-flight data the longitudinal frequency response of the Douglas D-558-II airplane has been determined over a Mach number range of 0.62 to 0.96 at altitudes between 21,000 and 43,000 feet; however, the results have been reduced to airplane stability derivatives which are presented as functions of Mach number.

64. Angle, Ellwyn E.; and Holleman, Euclid C.: Longitudinal Frequency-Response Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-I Airplane as Determined From Experimental Transient-Response Histories to a Mach Number of 0.90. NACA RM L51K28, February 1952. CASI ID: 19930087977. PDF CASI

Transient responses from elevator pulses of the Douglas D-558-I research airplane are analyzed by the Fourier transform to give the longitudinal frequency response of the airplane to a Mach number of 0.90 at altitudes between 30,000 and 37,000 feet.


Preliminary results of 276 maneuvers of all types performed by an F2H-2 jet fighter airplane during normal operational training are presented in time history form and are summarized as plots of load factors and angular accelerations against indicated airspeed.

66. Rogers, John T.; and Dunn, Angel H.: Preliminary

XF-91 Airplane


A flight investigation has been conducted to determine
the aileron effectiveness of the Republic XF-91 airplane. The tests were conducted over a Mach number range from 0.40 to 0.91 at approximate altitudes of 13,000, 24,000, and 32,000 feet.


The Bell X-2 supersonic research airplane is equipped with a skid main landing gear and a nose wheel. Pending completion of the rocket engine, glide flights are being performed to determine low-speed handling qualities of the airplane and the landing characteristics with the ski type landing gear. The present paper presents data obtained during the approach and landing of X-2 airplane on its first flight.


Measurements of transient skin and canopy-glass temperature and stagnation temperature were made on the Douglas D-558-II research airplane up to a Mach number of 1.89 and to an altitude of about 77,000 feet. The maximum temperatures that were obtained for the positions measured were not great enough to cause loss in structural strength.

1953 Technical Publications

71. Knapp, Ronald J.; and Johnson, Wallace E.: Flight Measurements of Pressures on Base and Rear Part of
Fuselage of the Bell X-1 Research Airplane at Transonic Speeds, Including Power Effects. NACA RM L52L01, January 1953, CASI ID: 19930087429. PDF CASI

Flight measurements of the pressure distribution over the base and rear portion of fuselage of the Bell X-1 rocket-propelled airplane at transonic speeds, including power effects, are presented.


Flight measurements of the stability characteristics of the Bell X-5 research airplane were made in steady sideslips at 59 degree sweepback at Mach numbers from 0.62 to 0.97 at altitudes varying from 35,000 to 40,000 feet.


Results obtained during the acceptance tests of the X-5 airplane are presented. Information on the stalling characteristics, static longitudinal stability characteristics, and lateral control characteristics at various sweep angles is included.


Results obtained during flights of the Bell X-5 airplane with 59 degree sweepback are presented showing the variation with Mach number of the normal-force coefficient at the longitudinal reduction in stability. Results are given for a Mach number range of 0.67 to 0.98.

75. Bellman, Donald R.: Lift and Drag Characteristics of the Bell X-5 Research Airplane at 59-Degree Sweepback for Mach Numbers From 0.60 to 1.03. NACA RM L53A09C, February 1953, CASI ID: 19930087480.

Lift and drag coefficients for the 59-degree sweptback configuration of the Bell X-5 airplane were determined from flight tests covering the Mach number range 0.60 to 1.03. A brief comparison is made between the 20-degree and 59-degree sweptback configuration.

76. Ankenbruck, Herman O.; and Dahlen, Theodore E.: Some Measurements of Flying Qualities of a Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane During Flights to Supersonic Speeds. NACA RM L53A06, March 1953, 87H24908. PDF CASI

Results of measurements of lateral and longitudinal flying qualities of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane in flight to a Mach number of 1.87 and an altitude of 67,000 feet are presented.

Preliminary longitudinal-trim and static longitudinal stability measurements were made on the XF-92A delta-wing research airplane from Mach number of 0.18 to 0.97 at altitudes from 11,000 to 40,000 feet.


The results of transonic flight measurements of the longitudinal stability characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II research the wings are presented. The levels of normal-force coefficient at which the stability decreases and pitch-up starts have been determined for both airplane configurations at Mach numbers up to about 0.94.

D-558-II Airplane, Three-View Drawing

79. Dahlen, Theodore E.: Maximum Altitude and Maximum Mach Number Obtained With the Modified Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane During Demonstration Flights. NACA RM L53B24, April 1953, CASI ID: 19930089125. PDF CASi

The maximum values of Mach number and altitude obtained with the Douglas D-558-II all-rocket research airplane and determined by the radar-phototheodolite method are presented in this paper.


Limited measurements have been made of the region in which buffeting has been experienced by the swept-wing Douglas D-558-II research airplane during flights to supersonic Mach numbers. Buffet intensities and frequencies are given.

81. Johnson, H. I.: The Background of Flying or Handling Qualities. Presented to the Flight Test Panel of AGARD, May 1953, 65N88424, CASI ID: 19650076021. PDF CASi

The history of the development of flying qualities is covered briefly. Reasons are given for the existence of the requirements and relationship of the requirements to the classical stability theory is indicated. A selected list of references that are useful in the prediction of flying qualities is given and some of the difficulties that arise in obtaining compliance with the requirements are discussed.


Longitudinal airplane oscillations obtained during U.S. Air Force performance tests of the Convair XF-92A airplane have been analyzed to give limited static stability and damping measurements for a Mach number range of 0.59 to 0.94.

83. Knapp, Ronald J.; and Jordan, Gareth H.: Flight-Determined Pressure Distributions Over the Wing of the Bell X-1 Research Airplane (10-Percent-Thick Wing) at Subsonic and Transonic Speeds. NACA RM L53D20, June 1953, CASI ID: 19930087577. PDF CASi

Aerodynamic section characteristics for various span locations, as determined by pressure distribution measurements in flight to high lift at Mach numbers between 0.30 and 1.19, are presented for the 10-percent-thick wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane.


Hinge moments have been measured on the aileron and elevator of the Bell X-1 airplane having the 10-percent-thick wing and 8-percent-thick tail. The aileron measurements were made by means of strain gages and pressure distributions while the elevator measurements were made by means of the wheel-force strain gases. The elevator hinge-moment characteristics were determined to a Mach number of 1.18 and the aileron hinge moments to a Mach number of 1.13.

85. Drake, Hubert M.; Robinson, Glenn H.; and Kuhl, Albert E.: Loads Experienced in Flights of Two Swept-
Wing Research Airplanes in the Angle-of-Attack Range or Reduced Stability. NACA RM L53D16, June 1953, CASI ID: 19930087569. PDF CASI

Loads imposed upon the Bell X-5 and Douglas D-558-II swept-wing research airplanes during flights in which reductions of longitudinal stability followed attempted moderate-lift maneuvers are discussed. Information regarding horizontal- and vertical-tail loads, wing loads, and normal-force coefficients obtained during the high-angle-of-attack, unstable portions of the flights are presented.


The variation of the intensity of buffeting experienced throughout the operational region of the semitailless Northrop X-4 airplane and the values of maximum and peak normal-force coefficients in the Mach number range from 0.42 to 0.92 have been determined. The results are compared with data obtained with the swept-wing Douglas D-558-II airplane.


The results of transonic flight measurements of the aerodynamic load encountered over a partial-span leading-edge slat on the 35-degrees sweptback wing of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane are presented for the lift range at Mach numbers from 0.45 to 0.98.


Lift and drag results have been obtained from power-off flight tests of the Bell X-1 (10-percent-thick wing) airplane for Mach numbers 0.68 to 1.01. Comparisons of drag are made with 8-percent-thick-wing flight tests and 10-percent-thick wing wind tunnel results.


Flight measurements of aerodynamic tail loads have been made on the Bell X-1 research airplane from which the balancing tail loads, the static-longitudinal stability parameter (dC sub M/dC sub L) WF, wing-fuselage aerodynamic center, and zero-lift wing-fuselage combination pitching moment coefficient have been determined from a Mach number of 0.7 to a Mach number greater than 1.0. A comparison was made of measured tail loads and loads calculated using available wing-tunnel data.

92. Baker, Thomas F.: Some Measurements of Buffeting...
Encountered by a Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane in the Mach Number Range From 0.5 to 0.95. NACA RM L53I17, November 1953, CASI ID: 19930087989. PDF CASI

Measurements of the intensity of buffeting were made with a swept-wing Douglas D-558-II research airplane at subsonic speeds. The variation of buffet intensity with lift, angle of attack, and Mach number is presented. The results are compared with similar measurements made with another Douglas D-558-II airplane at high subsonic and supersonic speeds.


The wing loads (including some wing-to-fuselage load carry over) and some aerodynamic characteristics as determined by pressure-distribution measurements in flight to high lift at Mach numbers from 0.50 to 1.19 for the 10-percent-thick wing of the Bell X-1 research airplane are presented.


Fuselage pressure distributions and integrated normal load on the fuselage of the Bell X-1 research airplane (10-percent-thick wing) in flight during pull-ups to near maximum lift at Mach numbers of about 0.78, 0.85, 0.88, and 1.02 are presented.

1954 Technical Publications


Lift and drag data for the Consolidated Vultee XF-92A delta-wing airplane were obtained for Mach numbers from 0.63 to 0.90. The drag coefficients for a lift coefficient of 0.08 are extended to a Mach number of 1.01.


Data pertaining to buffeting have been measured at supersonic speed and high lift with the Douglas D-558-II airplane. Buffeting was encountered at normal-force coefficients greater than about 0.7 in the Mach number range from 0.96 to 1.27 but at a Mach number of 1.57, a peak normal-force coefficient of 0.80 was attained with no indication of buffeting. Buffet intensities at normal-force coefficients up to 1.5 are given for low supersonic Mach numbers. Sample records of flight in rough air at supersonic speed are included.


Flight tests were performed with the Douglas D-558-II research airplane to investigate the longitudinal stability of the airplane in accelerated flight at supersonic speeds to a Mach number of 1.67. This paper shows the conditions where instability occurs at supersonic speeds.


The results of subsonic and transonic flight measurements of the longitudinal stability characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane for several wing-slat and inboard wing-fence configurations are presented at Mach numbers up to 1.0. The improvement provided by fully extended slats, compared to the stability characteristics of the slats-retracted configuration, is shown; and the effects of inboard wing fences on the stability characteristics with slats fully extended are also discussed. Limited data obtained with slats half extended indicated the similarity of this configuration to the slats-retracted configuration. The effects of a bungee (which improved the stick-free stability characteristics) in alleviating the stability changes apparent to the pilot are also discussed.


A flight investigation of the section and panel characteristics and loads obtained from pressure measurements over a 35-degrees sweptback wing at level-flight lifts has been made through the Mach number range of 0.65 to 1.14. The section pressure distributions at the root, midspan, and tip stations varied from a subsonic type of distribution at a Mach number
of 0.65 to a supersonic type of distribution at Mach numbers above 1.0.


Flight measurements were made of the buffeting characteristics of the Bell X-5 research airplane at 58.7-degrees sweepback in the Mach number range from 0.65 to approximately 1.03 at altitudes from 37,000 to 43,000 feet. Maximum airplane normal-force coefficients were attained for Mach numbers up to 0.96.


A flight investigation has been conducted to determine the effect of variable wing incidence angle on the dynamic lateral stability of the Republic XF-91 airplane. The tests were conducted over a Mach number range of 0.3 to 0.9 at altitudes of 10,000, 20,000, 30,000 and 37,500 feet at wing incidence angles of –2 degrees, 2 degrees, 4 degrees, and 5.65 degrees.

103. Sadoff, Melvin; and Crossfield, A. Scott: A Flight Evaluation of the Stability and Control of the X-4 Swept-Wing Semitailless Airplane. NACA RM H54G16, August 1954, CASI ID: 19930088365. PDF CASI

A flight evaluation of the handling qualities of the swept-wing semitailless X-4 airplane was made. Static and dynamic stability and control investigation covered a speed range from stall to Mach numbers of 0.92. Typical swept-wing instability at moderate lifts was encountered. Unsatisfactory and dangerous self-excited dynamic motions occurred at the high-speed end of the range investigated.

104. Nugent, Jack: Lift and Drag Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane Obtained in Exploratory Flights to a Mach Number of 2.0. NACA RM L54F03, August 4, 1954, 93R17490. PDF CASI

A flight investigation was made of the Douglas D-558-II swept-wing airplane in the slats-retracted configuration. Lift and drag were determined for Mach numbers up to 2.0. The lift-coefficient range extended from below 0.1 to about 0.7.


Wing pressure distribution from dives at transonic speeds for the Convair XF-92A delta-wing airplane are presented. The data were obtained from five chordwise rows of orifices on the left wing throughout the Mach number range of 0.74 to 1.01 at an airplane normal-force coefficient of about 0.09, for which the left deflection was about 2 degrees up.


On the basis of improved longitudinal stability characteristics exhibited in wind-tunnel model tests, the Douglas D-558-II research airplane was modified to include wing at Mach numbers up to about 1.0. The results of subsonic and transonic flight measurements of the longitudinal stability characteristics of the airplane are presented. The levels of normal-force coefficient at which the stick-fixed stability decays and pitch-up starts have been determined through speed range tested as have the variation of the stability parameters $d \delta N/dCnA$, $dF\delta/e/dn$, and $dC\delta N/d(sigma)$ with Mach number. Comparisons of these data with comparable data for the unmodified airplane are also presented.


Flight tests were performed with the Douglas D-558-II research airplane to investigate the longitudinal handling qualities and trim characteristics at transonic and supersonic speeds. This paper describes the changes with Mach number of the lift, maneuvering, and trim characteristics with elevator and stabilizer to a Mach number of about 2.0.

109. Bellman, Donald R.; and Murphy, Edward D.: Lift and Drag Characteristics of the Douglas X-3 Research
Airplane Obtained During Demonstration Flight to a Mach Number of 1.20. NACA RM H54I17, December 1954, CASI ID: 19930088507. PDF CASI

Lift and drag data for the Douglas X-3 airplane were obtained during some of the demonstration flights. The data extend over the Mach number range from 0.82 to 1.20 and for certain constant Mach numbers the lift coefficient range from 0 to 1.0 is covered. A comparison of the flight data with wind-tunnel and rocket-model tests shows that the model tests satisfactorily predict the performance of the airplane.

Flight measurements of the rolling performance of the Republic YF-84F airplane were made at altitudes of 10,000, 25,000, and 40,000 feet. The tests were conducted over a Mach number range from 0.35 to 0.95.

YF-84F Airplane


Elevon hinge-moment measurements were made during flight tests of the Convair XF-92A delta-wing airplane over the Mach number range from 0.70 to 0.95. Hinge moments were measured during longitudinal elevon pulses, aileron rolls, and wind-up turns. Data are presented giving the variation of $C_{(sub) h (sub) delta}$ and $C_{(sub) h (sub) alpha}$ as determined from these tests.


Results of dynamic longitudinal flight test conducted with the XF-92A delta-wing airplane over a Mach number range of 0.42 to 0.94 at an altitude of about 30,000 feet are presented. The data were analyzed by measuring the airplane oscillatory characteristics, by matching the airplane system with an analog computer, and by determining the frequency-response characteristics of the airplane. Wherever possible, stability derivatives were computed and are presented as a function of Mach number.

1955 Technical Publications

The effects of thickening the trailing edges of the elevons on the static longitudinal stability and control, lateral control for the X-4, a swept-wing semitailless airplane, are presented. The results of this study are compared with similar tests for the X-4 with conventional elevon trailing edges.


During flight tests of two high-speed airplane configurations, violent cross-coupled lateral and longitudinal motions were encountered following abrupt rudder-fixed aileron rolls. The speeds involved ranged from a Mach number of 0.7 to 1.05. The motions were characterized by extreme variations in angles of attack and sideslip which resulted in load factors as large as 6.7 g (negative) and 7 g (positive) normal acceleration and 2 g transverse acceleration.


Flight measurement of the aerodynamic wing loads on the D-558-II airplane have been made in the Mach number range from 1.0 to 2.0. Results of measurements of the wing-panel normal-force, bending moment, and pitching-moment coefficients, normal-force-curve slope, lateral center of pressure, and chordwise center of pressure are presented.
for a wing-midsemispan station perpendicular to the 30-degree common-chord line of the 35-degree sweptback wing of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane at Mach numbers from 1.17 to 2.00.


Time histories are presented that illustrate the large motions which have been encountered in flight tests of some of the present-day fighter airplanes. Results of some analog studies are discussed which indicate that variations in certain of the airplane stability derivatives could have an appreciable effect on these undesirable motions.

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In recent years the desire to increase the range and speed of large airplanes has led to sweptback wings of high aspect ratio, thin airfoils, and fuselages of high fineness ratio. The dynamic effects are especially important in the design of automatic control systems because structural modes may introduce instabilities which would not arise with a rigid airplane. It is important for the automatic-control designer to consider the effects of flexibility on control systems.

X-3 Airplane, Three-View Drawing


Preliminary flight-measured chordwise pressure distributions have been obtained at a wing midsemispan station of the Douglas X-3 research airplane through an angle-of-attack range at Mach numbers of 0.61, 0.78, 0.94, and 1.10. The results of the investigation indicate that the maximum section normal-force coefficient increased from about 0.7 at the lower Mach numbers to about 1.2 at a Mach number of 1.10. The pressure distributions at Mach numbers of about 0.61, 0.78, and 0.94 showed good agreement with wind-tunnel results. At Mach numbers of 0.94 and 1.10 leading-edge flap normal-force and hinge-mount coefficients increased with increase in angle of attack throughout the angle-of-attack range tested and resulted in high normal-force and hinge-moment coefficients at the higher angles of attack.


A flight investigation has been made over an altitude and lift range to determine the wing loads of the Bell X-5 research airplane at a sweep angle of 58.7 degrees at subsonic and transonic Mach numbers. The wing loads were nonlinear over the angle-of-attack range from zero to maximum wing lift. The nonlinear trends were more pronounced at angles of attack above the “pitch-up” where there is a reduction in the wing lift and an inboard and forward movement in the center of load. No apparent effects of altitude on the wing loads were evident from the data obtained in these tests.


Measurements were made on the XF-92A delta-wing airplane of buffet-induced fluctuations in normal acceleration at the airplane center of gravity and of fluctuations in wing structural shear load in the Mach number range from 0.6 to 0.96 at altitudes from 25,000 to 38,000 feet. Airplane normal force coefficients in the order of 0.7 were attained at Mach numbers less than 0.9. Buffet frequencies and the variations with Mach number, lift, and angle of attack of buffet intensity are given.

The lateral stability and control characteristics of the Convair XF-92A delta-wing airplane are determined for sideslips, aileron rolls, and rudder pulses. A limited amount of data with wing fences installed at 60 percent of the wing semispan is presented for comparison with the basic airplane configuration.


Flight tests were performed with the Bell X-5 research airplane at 58.7 degrees sweepback to measure the longitudinal stability control characteristics from elevator and stabilizer maneuvers at 40,000 feet and elevator maneuvers at 25,000 feet and 15,000 feet. Results are presented for Mach numbers up to 1.0 and include trim characteristics, apparent stability parameters, relative control effectiveness, stick-force gradient, normal-force-curve slope, and effect of dynamic pressure and engine power. Comparison is made with wind-tunnel data.


Aerodynamic loads were obtained from strain-gage measurements during the NACA flight test program of the XF-92A research airplane. Wing-panel loads were measured during longitudinal pulses and wind-up turns over the Mach number range from 0.43 to 0.95. The wing-panel loads due to elevon deflection and angle of attack were determined for the Mach number range of these tests.


Results are presented of a preliminary analysis of some strain-gage measurements of the loads carried by the wing and horizontal tail of a Boeing B-47A airplane during gradual-turn maneuvers for altitudes varying from 15,000 feet to 35,000 feet and covering a Mach number range from 0.44 to 0.80. The additional air-load center of pressure on the 35° sweptback, high-aspect-ratio, flexible wing of the test airplane exhibited no significant tendency to change appreciably in a spanwise direction because of Mach number throughout the test range. The center of pressure, however, moved forward with increasing Mach number. The distribution of load among the components of the Boeing B-47A airplane followed the pattern which was typical of that found to exist on several airplanes tested previously; that is, the various components carried approximately a constant proportion of the total airplane additional lift throughout the Mach number range covered and the fraction of the wing-fuselage normal-force coefficient carried by the exposed wing was approximately the same magnitude as the ratio of the area of the exposed wing to the area of the total wing.


Results obtained from flights of the manufacturer’s demonstration program and from U.S. Air Force evaluation flights of the Douglas X-3 research airplane are presented. Data evaluation includes static longitudinal directional, and lateral stability and control for Mach numbers up to 1.21 at pressure altitudes from 12,800 feet to 34,000 feet. Comparisons are made with wind-tunnel and rocket-model tests.


A brief discussion is presented of the flight tests of two airplanes which have exhibited strong coupling between their lateral and longitudinal motions. Results are presented which indicate the effect of directional stability and vertical tail size on the tail shear loads encountered in rolling maneuvers.


Flight measurements of the horizontal tail loads on the Bell X-5 research airplane have been made in accelerated maneuvers at Mach numbers from 0.61 to 1.00 at an altitude of 40,000 feet. At this altitude the aerodynamic and balancing tail loads were determined at all normal-force coefficients up to near maximum lift. Comparisons were made with flight and wind-tunnel data obtained at 25,000 feet and 15,000 feet over a limited lift range.

132. Fischel, Jack; and Reisert, Donald: *Effect of Several Wing Modifications on the Low Speed Stalling Characteristics of the Douglas D-558-II Research*
The low-speed stalling and lift characteristics of the Douglas-D-558-II research airplane were measured in a series of 1g stalls performed with several wing modifications designed to alleviate swept-wing instability and pitch-up. The various configurations investigated include the basic wing configurations and two wing-fence configurations in combination with retracted free-floating, or extended slats, and a wing leading-edge chord extension configuration. All configurations were investigated with flaps and landing gear retracted and extended.

**133. Holleman, Euclid C.:** Flight Measurements of the Lateral Response Characteristics of the Convair XF-92A Delta-Wing Airplane. NACA RM H55E26, August 1955, CASI ID: 19930088805. PDF DTRS

Rudder pulse maneuvers were performed with the XF-92A 60 degrees delta-wing airplane at 30,000 feet over a Mach number range of 0.52 to 0.92. Tests were conducted with and without a wing fence. Representative data were analyzed to give airplane stability derivatives and frequency responses.

**135. Drake, Hubert M.; Finch, Thomas W.; and Peele, James R.:** Flight Measurements of Directional Stability to a Mach Number of 1.48 for an Airplane Tested With Three Different Vertical Tail Configurations. NACA RM H55G26, October 1955, CASI ID: 19930088854. PDF DTRS

Directional stability characteristics have been determined from the measured period and damping of a fighter-type airplane over the Mach number range from 0.72 to 1.48 at altitudes of 40,000 feet and 30,000 feet. Three different vertical tails of varying aspect ratio or area, or both, were employed.


A time-history presentation is made of aileron rolls performed by a high-speed delta-wing airplane between Mach numbers of 0.7 and 0.8 including a one-half deflection aileron roll at a Mach number of 0.75 where violent cross-coupled lateral and longitudinal motions were experienced.


Longitudinal and lateral dynamic-response characteristics to elevator and rudder pulse deflections have been measured on the Bell X-5 research airplane at 58.7 degrees sweepback. Flight records were obtained at altitudes of 40,000 feet and 25,000 feet. Period and damping, including nonlinear damping effects, are presented, and comparison is made with U.S. military lateral dynamic stability criteria. Engine gyroscopic coupling effects are discussed, and frequency response calculations are presented.
Vertical-tail loads as obtained from strain-gage measurements during the NACA flight test program of the Convair XF-92A research airplane were measured during rudder pulses rudder-fixed oscillations, and gradually increasing sideslips over the Mach number range from 0.50 to 0.87. The vertical-tail loads resulting from rudder deflection and sideslip angle were determined for the Mach number range of these tests.


The calibrations of four airspeed systems installed in a North American F-86A airplane have been determined in flight at Mach numbers up to 1.04 by the NACA radar-phototheodolite method. The variation of the static-pressure error per unit indicated impact pressure is presented for three systems typical of those currently in use in flight research, a nose boom and two different wing-tip booms, and for the standard service system installed in the airplane. A limited amount of information on the effect of airplane normal-force coefficient on the static-pressure error is included. The results are compared with available theory and with results from wind-tunnel tests of the airspeed heads alone. Of the systems investigated, a nose-boom installation was found to be most suitable for research use at transonic and low supersonic speeds because it provided the greatest sensitivity of the indicated Mach number to a unit change in true Mach number at very high subsonic speeds, and because it was least sensitive to changes in airplane normal-force coefficient. The static-pressure error of the nose-boom system was small and constant above a Mach number of 1.03 after passage of the fuselage bow shock wave over the airspeed head.


Chordwise and spanwise pressure distributions are presented for the left wing of the Convair XF-92A delta-wing airplane at Mach numbers from 0.30 to 0.93. Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord of the wing varied between $22 \times 10^6$ and $49 \times 10^6$. The data cover the lift range from level flight to near-maximum lift. Effects of wing section stall upon the elevon-section loads are included.

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Results of recent research on the handling qualities of airplanes are reviewed. Among the subjects considered are dynamic longitudinal stability, transonic trim changes, pitch-up due to decreasing airspeed, dynamic lateral stability, aileron control, and mechanical characteristics of power control systems.


This paper contains data concerning research equipment and techniques pertaining to measurements of airspeed and altitude, with particular reference to high Mach number and altitude. Computations are presented for errors in determining Mach number for altitudes of 40,000 feet to 140,000 feet. Illustrative examples are included for maximum Mach number and altitude flights of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane.


The rolling behavior of a swept-wing airplane having lateral longitudinal coupling has been determined over a Mach number range of 0.73 to 1.39 at altitudes of 40,000 feet and 30,000 feet with three different vertical tails of varying aspect ratio or area, or both. Increasing the tail area 27 percent and the tail aspect ratio 32 percent greatly improved the rolling behavior. The adverse sideslip during the rolls decreased with increasing speeds to negligible values near Mach numbers of 1.00 to 1.05, then increased in the favorable direction at higher speeds. Stabilizer motion during the rolls greatly affected the rolling behavior.


Horizontal-tail loads were obtained from strain-gage measurements during flight tests of the Douglas X-3 research airplane over a Mach number range of 0.65 to 1.16. The horizontal-tail-panel lift-curve slope was obtained from stabilizer pulses. Balancing-tail loads, downwash, and total airplane pitching moment were obtained from wind-up turns and pull-ups.


An analog study of the roll coupling problem has been made for a representative swept-wing and a tailless delta-wing configuration. The investigation, conducted primarily for subsonic flight conditions, included determination of the effects of wide variations in many of the pertinent aerodynamic derivatives on the motions developed in rolling maneuvers. The influence of large changes in principal axis inclination and mass distribution was also considered.

149. Weil, Joseph; Campbell, George S.; and Diedrich, Margaret S.: An Analysis of Estimated and Experimental Transonic Downwash Characteristics as Affected by Plan Form and Thickness for Wing and Wing-Fuselage Configurations. NACA TN 3628, April 1956. CASI ID: 19930084374. PDF CASI

This paper presents a summary of the effects of changes in wing plan form and thickness ratio on the downwash characteristics of wing and wing-fuselage configurations in the Mach number range between 0.6 and 1.1. Data obtained by the transonic-bump technique at two tail heights have been compared with theoretical estimations made in the subsonic and supersonic Mach number range.


Flight tests were performed with the Bell X-5 research airplane at 58.7 degrees sweepback to measure the lateral handling qualities over a Mach number range up to 0.97 at altitudes of 40,000, 25,000, and 15,000 feet. The dynamic characteristics were influenced by aerodynamic and engine gyroscopic coupling, and the damping was nonlinear at the higher Mach numbers. The positive apparent directional stability and the high apparent effective dihedral increased rapidly at higher Mach numbers. The low aileron effectiveness was adversely affected by the high effective dihedral. Directional divergence and aileron overbalance occurred at high lifts. An abrupt wing-dropping tendency existed and single-degree-of-freedom flutter occurred on the rudder at low supersonic Mach numbers.

151. Wolowicz, Chester H.: Time-Vector-Determined Lateral Derivatives of a Swept-Wing Fighter Type Airplane With Three Different Vertical Tails at Mach Numbers Between 0.70 and 1.48. NACA RM H56C20, June 1956. CASI ID: 19930089144. PDF DTRS

The time-vector method was used to obtain the lateral stability derivatives C (sub) r – C (sub) n of a swept-wing fighter-type airplane. The airplane was tested over a Mach number range of 0.71 to 1.48 at altitudes extending from 30,000 to 43,000 feet to obtain static and dynamic lateral stability characteristics. Four configurations were employed: three different vertical tails and an extended wing. Available wind-tunnel data and theoretical calculations were used for comparison purposes.

152. Fischel, Jack; and Reisert, Donald: Effect of Several Wing Modifications on the Subsonic and Transonic Longitudinal Handling Qualities of the Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane. NACA RM H56C30, June 1956. 93R19515. PDF DTRS
The subsonic and transonic longitudinal handling qualities of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane were measured with several wing modifications designed to alleviate swept-wing instability and pitch-up. Airplane configurations investigated include the basic wing configuration and two wing-fence configurations in combination with retracted, free-floating, or extended slats, and a wing leading-edge chord-extension configuration. Results indicated that the comparative effects of these wing modifications on airplane pitch-up and trim-stability and on the stability parameters $d \Delta_\alpha/dC_N$, $dF_e/da_{\Delta_\alpha}$, and $C_{\Delta_\alpha}$ were essentially negligible. The various modifications had some measurable effect on airplane buffeting characteristics.


Lift and drag coefficients for the 45-degrees sweptback configuration of the Bell X-5 research airplane were determined from flight tests covering the Mach number range from 0.61 to 1.01 and were compared to data obtained with the 59-degree sweptback configuration. Below the drag rise the 45-degree configuration had a zero lift drag coefficient of 0.020 as compared with 0.0175 for the 59-degree configuration. The lift-drag ratio for the 45-degree configuration exceeded that for the 59-degree configuration for a Mach number range from 0.61 to 0.88 with a maximum difference of about 0.7 at a Mach number of 0.82.


The flight lift and drag characteristics of the YF-102 airplane, a 60-degree delta-wing interceptor, were determined for a symmetrical wing configuration and for a configuration with cambered wing and reflexed tips. The Mach number range extended from 0.6 to 1.17 and altitude varied from 25,000 feet to 50,000 feet. The cambered wing configuration experienced a considerable reduction of drag-due-to-lift, resulting in about 0.01 lower drag coefficient at about 0.3 lift coefficient and an increase of about 20 percent in lift-drag ratio. Comparable wind-tunnel data are included.


The accelerometer method has proven to be the most satisfactory method for the flight measurement of total airplane drag during research investigations of high-speed airplanes by the NACA High-Speed Flight Station. The method requires special instrumentation and measuring techniques which are described in detail. Method for separating the flight measured overall drag into drag components and for comparing the flight data with wind-tunnel-model data are presented.


Comparisons of wind-tunnel and flight-measured values of stability and control characteristics are of considerable interest to the designer, since the wind-tunnel method of testing is one of the prime sources upon which estimates of the characteristics of a new configuration are based. In this paper comparisons are made of some of the more important stability and control characteristics of three swept-wing airplanes as measured in flight and in wind tunnels. Wind-tunnel data from high-speed closed-throat tunnels, a slotted-throat transonic tunnel, and a supersonic tunnel are used. The comparisons show that, generally speaking, the wind tunnels predict all trends of characteristics reasonably well. There are, however, differences in exact values of parameters, which could be attributed somewhat to differences in the model caused by the method of support. The small size of the models
Compared to the measurements of flap effectiveness, when nonlinearities in derivatives occur during wind-tunnel tests, additional data should be obtained in the region of the nonlinearities in order to predict more accurately the flight characteristics. Also, nonlinearities in static derivatives must be analyzed on the basis of dynamic motions of the airplane. Aeroelastic corrections must be made to wind-tunnel data for models of airplanes which have thin surfaces and are to be flown at high dynamic pressures. Inlet effects can exert an influence on the characteristics, depending upon air requirements of the engine and location of the inlets.


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158. Weil, Joseph; and Day, Richard E.: Correlation of Flight and Analog Investigations of Roll Coupling. NACA RM H56F08, September 1956. 93R19575. PDF DTRS

A brief review of NACA flight experience relating to the roll-coupling problem is presented. Conditions rated by pilots and intolerable, marginal, and good are discussed and correlated with calculated results. A suggested flight test procedure for roll-coupling investigations and a discussion of several other items of general interest are also presented.

159. Drake, Hubert M.: Flight Experience With Present


The North American X-15 airplane is being designed for speeds and altitudes considerably greater than those presently being encountered by airplanes. This paper explores the status of flight research with the current research airplanes to see what experience and planned research are pertinent to the X-15 project.

X-15 Airplane


Skin and structural temperatures of airplanes in flight at supersonic speeds have been determined by use of thermocouples and temperature resistance gages installed on various research airplanes. Such data have recently been obtained on two research airplanes, the Bell X-2 and the Bell X-1B. The object of this paper is to show some of the actual magnitudes and trends in the structural temperatures that exist in an airplane experiencing the effects of aerodynamic heating.

The attitude-control method selected for the North American X-15 for flight at extremely low and zero dynamic pressures utilizes the reaction forces developed by small-rocket units located on the airplane to produce rolling, pitching, and yawing moments. An investigation of reaction control similar to those selected for the X-15 has shown that unique control problems exist for flight at the low dynamic pressures where this type of control is used. Although the Bell X-1B configuration was utilized for this investigation, a range of variables was covered to determine the significant effects of various factors on flight with reaction controls. It was also of interest to determine fuel requirements for the rocket units. The investigation consisted of analog-computer studies and ground-simulator tests. The significant results of this investigation are discussed in this paper.


An analysis of the vertical-tail loads obtained from strain-gage measurements during a flight investigation of the Douglas X-3 research airplane in the transonic speed range is presented. Data from rudder pulses, gradually increasing sideslips, and rudder-fixed aileron rolls were used to obtain rudder effectiveness and the effective lift-curve slope of the vertical tail. The variation of airplane yawing-moment coefficient with sideslip as determined from the measured vertical-tail loads is also presented.

Keywords: X-3 aircraft; Vertical-Tail loads; Transonic speeds


Wing loads and load distributions were obtained in flight by differential-pressure measurements between the upper and lower surfaces of the left wing of the Douglas X-3 research airplane. The effects of angle of attack and Mach number on the wing characteristics at transonic Mach numbers are shown. The wing has an aspect ratio of 3.09 and a modified 4.5 percent-thick hexagonal section. Data cover the range from near-zero lift to maximum lift, over a Mach number range of 0.71 to 1.15. Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord of the wing varied between 16 x 10 to the 6 power and 26 x 10 to the 6 power.


The longitudinal stability and trim characteristics for the cambered-wing configuration of the Convair YF-102 airplane are determined up to M = 1.18 at altitudes of 25,000, 40,000, and 50,000 feet from level-flight speed runs, stall approaches, wind-up turns, and elevator pulses. Trim data are also included for the symmetrical-wing version. The trim
characteristics are conventional. The static stability more than double between $M = 0.60$ and 1.16 and there is a loss of 50 percent in control effectiveness between $M = 0.90$ and 1.0. No severe pitch-up was exhibited except in cases resulting from speed change in the trim region. A preliminary analysis of the artificial-feel system was made as a result of the poor stick-force characteristics exhibited around 1.5g and 2.0g.

1957 Technical Publications


168. Larson, Terry J.; Stillwell, Wendell H.; and Armistead, Katharine H.: **Static Pressure Error Calibrations for Nose-Boom Airspeed Installation of 17 Airplanes.** NACA RM H57A02, March 1957. CASI ID: 19930089554. PDF DTRS

The lateral stability and control characteristics of the Convair YF-102 delta-wing airplane with cambered-reflexed wings are determined from side-slips, aileron rolls, rudder pulses, trim runs, and wind-up turns. Violent inertial coupling has reciprocal of the cycles to damp to one-half amplitude with encountered on this airplane and a summary of the rolling been and sideslip characteristics is presented. The relation of the $\phi/V_e$ (Military Specification) varies from unsatisfactory to marginally satisfactory. Comparison is shown between the pilot's rating of the rudder pulse maneuvers and the military requirement. A directional divergence that was encountered at high lift coefficient ($\alpha = 20$ degrees) is presented.

NACA High Speed Flight Station Research Aircraft, circa 1957 (clockwise from lower left), Bell X-1A, Douglas D-558-I, Convair XF-92A, Dell X-5, Douglas D-558-II, Northrop X-4 and Douglas X-3 (center)
Static-pressure error calibrations made for nose-boom airspeed installations of 17 airplanes are presented. The calibrations are given in the form of true Mach number against indicated Mach number, Mach number error, and static-pressure error per recorded impact pressure. Static-pressure errors are compared and are shown to be dependent on nose-boom length, fuselage diameter, and nose fineness ratio. Information is presented to provide a useful means for predicting the static-pressure errors for similar airspeed installation. Designation Airplane A, D-558-I; B, F-86A; C, F-86F; D, X-5; E, F-100A; F, XF-92A; G, YF-102; H, X-4; I, F-89; J, F-89; K, X-1; L, X-1; M, X-1A; N, D-558-II; O, D-558-II; P, X-3; and Q, B-47A.

An analysis is presented of vertical-tail loads measured on a swept-wing bomber airplane at altitudes to 35,000 feet and Mach numbers to 0.82. Flight data obtained from rudder-step, rudder-pulse, aileron roll, and steady-sideslip maneuvers were used in the analysis to determine lift-curve slopes, centers of pressure, and wing-fuselage, tail, and airplane static-directional-stability parameters. Results are compared, where possible, with values used in design and with theoretical values. Theoretical values of the lift-curve slopes were in agreement with flight values when fuselage flexibility was considered.

An analysis is presented of vertical-tail loads measured on a swept-wing bomber airplane at altitudes to 35,000 feet and Mach numbers to 0.82. Flight data obtained from rudder-step, rudder-pulse, aileron roll, and steady-sideslip maneuvers were used in the analysis to determine lift-curve slopes, centers of pressure, and wing-fuselage, tail, and airplane static-directional-stability parameters. Results are compared, where possible, with values used in design and with theoretical values. Theoretical values of the lift-curve slopes were in agreement with flight values when fuselage flexibility was considered.


Total-pressure recovery and distortion at the compressor face have been recorded for a twin-side inlet, two-spool turbojet engine combination during turns, sideslips, and speed runs at altitudes between 33,000 and 50,000 feet. In addition, conditions prior to several compressor surges have been recorded. The Mach number range covered extends from about 0.6 to 1.1. The investigation showed that engine surge as experienced is not related to distortion at the compressor face. Mismatching existed for most flight conditions.


Data are presented for the maximum sideslip angles and vertical-tail loads induced on a swept-wing fighter-type airplane as a result of flying through the flow field generated by a similar airplane at low supersonic Mach numbers. These data were obtained during side-by-side passes at various passing rates (5 fps to 50 fps) and interval separation distances. Significant airplane sideslip angles and vertical-tail loads were obtained during close-proximity passes at a passing rate near the natural period of the airplane in yaw.

Skin and structural temperature distributions were obtained during transient supersonic flights of the X-1B and X-1E airplanes at Mach numbers up to approximately 2.0. Extensive temperature measurements were obtained on the X-1B. No critical temperatures were experienced over the range of the test. The measured temperatures were compared with simplified calculations.


Presented in this report is a summary of local and net angle-of-attack wing-panel loads measured in flight on six airplanes. In addition, a comparison of these loads measured in flight with calculations based on simple theory is presented.


Lift and drag measurements were made during a flight investigation with the Douglas D-558-II(145) airplane in the basic and 150-gallon DAC store configurations over a Mach number range from 0.48 to 1.03. The addition of stores increased the drag at all Mach numbers tested. Below the drag rise the increase was of about the same magnitude as the increase in wetted area caused by the addition of the stores. The peak lift-drag ratio was reduced by about 14 percent, and for lift coefficients of 0.2 and 0.4 a reduction in drag-rise Mach number was noted. Little change in lift-curve slope was observed for Mach numbers less than about 0.8.


The flight lift and drag characteristics of a 60 degrees delta wing interceptor airplane incorporating fuselage extension and indentation were determined over the Mach number range from 0.7 to 1.15 and the altitude range from 25,000 to 50,000 feet. Comparison is made with a similar airplane which did not utilize fuselage extension or indentation. The results indicate that the modifications (extension and indentation) reduced the transonic drag coefficient about 50 drag counts (0.0050) at a Mach number of about 1.1. Three sets of comparable low Reynolds number data are included which indicate reductions in transonic drag coefficient ranging from about 0.0025 to 0.0045 at a Mach number of about 1.1.

178. Fischel, Jack; Darville, Robert W.; and Reisert, Donald: Effects of Wing-Mounted External Stores on the Longitudinal and Lateral Handling Qualities of the Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane. NACA RM H57H12, October 1957, CASI ID: 19930090143. PDF CASI

The subsonic and transonic handling qualities of the Douglas D-558-II research airplane were investigated with several configuration of midsemispan external stores in the altitude region between 20,000 and 40,000 feet. The configurations tested consisted of an underslung pylon on each wing, pylons plus simulated DAC (Douglas Aircraft Co.) 1,000-pound bombs, and pylons plus DAC 150-gallon-fuel tanks. Comparisons of the results obtained were made with comparable data from the clean airplane. The trends exhibited in the characteristics measured with each configuration were generally the same as for the clean airplane; however, significant changes in the magnitude of the parameters measured with the pylon-tank configuration were sometimes apparent, particularly at the higher speeds tested.


The X-3 airplane, which has a straight, 4.5-percent-thick wing, was flown to maximum wing lift at Mach numbers from 0.7 to 1.1 at an average altitude of 30,000 feet. Airplane and wing maximum normal-force coefficients and buffeting characteristics were determined. Wing maximum normal-
force coefficients at low supersonic speeds were almost twice the values at subsonic speed (M nearly equal to 0.8). At transonic speeds the buffet boundary abruptly increased, rather than decreased, with Mach number. The buffeting encountered did not constitute either an operational or a structural problem. The effective longitudinal maneuverability limit was defined by maximum wing lift. Limited data at subsonic speeds on the effects on lift and buffeting of deflecting the wing leading edge flaps 7 degrees are included.


In the past ten years the Air Force, Navy, and the NACA, in the research airplane program have obtained considerable experience in flight research at high altitude. The present paper details some of this experience, discusses some of the problems encountered and being investigated, and a quick look into future is taken.


A flight investigation was performed to determine the longitudinal and lateral handling qualities of the Douglas X-3 research airplane in the clean configuration and with wing leading-edge flaps deflected. Static and dynamic stability and control characteristics were determined during trimmed and maneuvering flight at an average altitude of 30,000 feet over a Mach number range from 0.7 to 1.16. Statically and dynamically determined stability and control derivatives are presented, as well as pilot evaluation of the airplane.


The effects of modifying a twin side-inlet duct system have been recorded and analyzed over an altitude range from about 25,000 to 51,000 feet and throughout the transonic region to a Mach number of about 1.2. The modification consisted primarily of redesigning the inlet lip, increasing the cross-sectional area of the inlet and diffuser, and adding a region of duct contraction ahead of the engine. These changes greatly improved the pressure-recovery characteristics and provided a 50-percent reduction in compressor-face distortion (pressure-profile variation).

NACA High Speed Flight Station Century Series Fighter Aircraft, circa 1957 (clockwise from left), Lockheed F-104, McDonnell F-101, Convair F-102, and North American F-100
Aerodynamic problems associated with flight at high Mach numbers and/or low dynamic pressures include reduction or directional stability, poor dynamic stability, low control effectiveness, and aerodynamic heating, and instrumentation problems. These are briefly indicated. Some of the high-altitude investigations on the X-1B aircraft are discussed, including preliminary studies on an analogue computer used as a simulation.


This paper discusses briefly the problems that have been studied by the NACA during the past ten years using research airplanes.


Summarizes results from flight loads investigations conducted primarily for the purpose of confirming wind-tunnel results by comparing full-scale results with comparable wind-tunnel results. Data have been selected from three research aircraft having a wide range of configuration. (X-1, X-5, & XF-92A). Flight loads were determined by use of calibrated strain gauges. Pressure distribution measurements were also made of fuselage & wing of the X-1.


The frequency response of the B-47 to elevator control is presented for ranges of frequencies including the airplane oscillatory short period mode, the wing first-bending mode. Comparisons are made between response measured in flight and those predicted by pseudostatic analysis and by dynamical analysis. In the application of pseudostatic analysis, the importance of mass distribution is emphasized. Selection of dynamic degrees of freedom and the apparent disappearance of modes under forced oscillation is discussed. The frequency response at various points on the airplane is measured and calculated to find optimum locations for automatic control pickups. The points of low response to structural vibrations determined in flight are compared with those predicted by dynamical analysis and those measured in ground vibration tests.


An exploratory flight investigation was conducted to determine the disturbances to an airplane while flying in formation with another airplane at low supersonic speeds. The most significant motions were encountered as a result of flying through the flow field of the lead airplane. Several of these supersonic passes were made using two sweptwing fighter-type airplanes in order to evaluate the gross effects of time to pass through the flow field, lateral distance, and altitude within a Mach number range from 1.2 to 1.3.


Presented are the results of a simulator study of the factors affecting the design of a device, a stick pusher, for preventing a representative supersonic airplane from entering the pitch-
up region. The effects of varying the stick-pusher-activation boundaries, sensing parameters, and magnitude of stick-pusher force on the controllability of the airplane pitch-up were investigated. The possible tactical importance of the loss in available supersonic maneuverability caused by angle-of-attack limiting in turns and zoom maneuvers is also discussed.


Measured loads are shown for several landings of the Douglas X-3 at speeds from about 310 to 420 feet per second. Sinking speeds were between 2 and 5 feet per second. Some loads during taxiing and turning are also shown.


Accelerated longitudinal maneuvers were performed at transonic speeds with a swept-wing fighter-type airplane having several slat-span configurations. The effects of these slat-span configurations on the stability and control characteristics of the airplane are discussed and compared with existing wind-tunnel data.


Although this cursory survey has not indicated any insurmountable operational problems to manned orbital flight regardless of configuration type, the problems of the various satellite configurations do materially affect operations and must be considered early in the design. Safety and survival requirements must be taken into consideration in manned operations and may force considerable deviation from optimum procedures. Although the presence of man in the vehicle requires increased emphasis on reliability and safety, proper use of his abilities can considerably simplify design and increase reliability.


Because of greatly increased need for knowledge of full-scale boundary-layer transition and the difficulty of simulating actual flight conditions, a program has been initiated to provide a better understanding of the boundary-layer flow as it exists in supersonic flight. This paper shows the results obtained in the early flight tests which determined the content of laminar flow that could be obtained with practical wing-surface conditions.

196. Taillon, Norman V.: An Analysis of Surface Pressures and Aerodynamic Load Distribution Over the Swept Wing of the Douglas D-558-II Research Airplane at Mach Numbers From 0.73 to 1.73. NACA RM H58A30, April 1958, CASI ID:19930090061. PDF CASI

The variation of the measured pressures and loads with lift is presented, covering the speed range at airplane normal-force coefficients from about 0 to 0.8. Spanwise load distributions are compared with theory at subsonic and supersonic Mach numbers. The wing is swept back 35 degrees, has a streamwise thickness ratio varying from 8.7 percent at the root to 10.4 percent at the tip, an aspect ratio of 3.57, and 3 degrees incidence.


An analysis is made of the steady-state wing loads measured during a flight investigation conducted on the Boeing B-52 airplane. The investigation covers the speed range of the airplane up to a Mach number of 0.90. The measured loads are analyzed in terms of the effects of Mach number, lift, and dynamic pressure. In addition, the measured loads are compared with predicted loads and the effects of varying some of the structural and aerodynamic properties in the predictions are presented.


Presented are the results of a preliminary flight investigation of noise inside fuselages and in the fuselage boundary layer. The overall noise and frequency spectrum are presented for the B-47A at subsonic speeds. Measurements were made internally at three longitudinal locations and in the fuselage boundary layer at one location. The overall noise level is presented for one internal location of the D-558-II at
subsonic and low supersonic speeds. The relative importance of engine noise and aerodynamic noise due to the boundary layer at various airspeeds and engine operating conditions is discussed for the locations at which measurements were made.


Aerodynamic forces have been measured on an external-store arrangement on the Douglas D-558-II research airplane. Aerodynamic loads on the store-pylon combination and the pylon alone were determined from angle-of-attack and angle-of-sideslip maneuvers over the Mach number range from 0.50 to 1.03. Wing-panel aerodynamic loads have also been determined for the store configuration and the clean-wing configuration. A brief discussion is presented for the measured loads on the fins of the external store.

200. Larson, Terry J.; Thomas, George M.; and Bellman, Donald R.: Induction System Characteristics and Engine Surge Occurrence for Two Fighter-Type Airplanes. NACA RM H58C14, May 1958, 71N70251. PDF DTRS

Total-pressure recovery and distortion at the compressor face are presented as variations of angle of attack and mass-flow ratio for two fighter-type airplanes with similar two-spool turbojet engines, but with dissimilar inlets. One airplane has a normal-shock nose inlet, and the other has two engines and triangular-shaped inlets located in the wing roots. In addition, data are presented for engine surge occurrences of these two airplanes and also for a third single-engine airplane having two semicircular-shaped side inlets.


Results are presented from 20 hours of service operational flying of an instrumented North American F-100A fighter airplane. Air Force pilots at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., performed air-to-air gunnery, simulated air-to-ground attacks, air-combat maneuvering, aerobatics, and transition-type flights to altitudes slightly in excess of 50,000 feet and at Mach numbers up to 1.22. Measurements of pilot control deflections, throttle movement, airplane motions, and tail loads are presented primarily as envelope curves of maximum recorded values. An overall comparison of these results with results from earlier investigations with other airplanes is made. A limited analysis of the factors affecting horizontal- and vertical-tail loads is included.


Some of the operational problems of escape, piloting, orbit selection, flight termination, and range requirements are considered, including the effects of configuration. It is indicated that configuration materially affects operations, that survival considerations may preclude optimum procedures, and that use of the pilot can considerably simplify design and increase reliability.


Reaction controls that command velocity and attitude have been investigated and are compared to controls that command acceleration. Velocity and attitude command systems facilitated the task of orientation and stabilization and minimized the effects of dynamic pressure. The simulation of an entry maneuver by dynamic-pressure buildup showed that successful entry could be made with any of the three systems, but the task was easier with the velocity or the attitude system.


A velocity or attitude command reaction control system would facilitate the task of orientation and stabilization in regions of low dynamic pressure. All the systems were insensitive to lags that might be encountered in practical rocket systems, but at large lags the effectiveness of the proportional acceleration system deteriorates much more rapidly than does the effectiveness of the other control systems. Dynamic pressure complicates the stabilization and orientation problem by aerodynamically coupling yaw and roll, but this complication only serves to emphasize the superiority of the velocity and attitude command systems over the acceleration system. The attitude command system was superior to the velocity command system as a stabilizing device, but the velocity command system was preferred for orientation.

Data were obtained in flight by differential-pressure measurements between the upper and lower surfaces of the wing, covering the range from near-zero lift to maximum lift over the Mach number range of 0.5 to 1.15 with flap undeflected and 0.5 to 0.9 with flap deflected. The unswept wing has an aspect ratio of 3.09, a taper ratio of 0.39, and a modified 4.5-percent-thick hexagonal section. The plain, constant-chord leading-edge flap extends from the wing root to the wing tip. Reynolds number based on the mean aerodynamic chord of the wing varied between 16 X 10 sup 6 and 26 X 10 sup 6. A brief comparison with wind-tunnel results is included.


Chemical sublimation employed for boundary-layer flow visualization on the wings of a supersonic fighter airplane in level flight near a Mach number of 2.0 has shown that laminar flow can be obtained over extensive areas with practical wing surface conditions. Heated temperature resistance gages installed in a Fiberglas “glove” installation on one wing continuously monitored the conditions of the boundary layer. Tests were conducted at speeds from a Mach number of 1.2 to a Mach number of 2.0, at altitudes from 35,000 feet to 56,000 feet. Data obtained at all angles of attack, from near 0 degrees to near 10 degrees have shown that the maximum transition Reynolds number on the upper surface of the wing varies from about 2.5 x 10 to the 6 power at a Mach number of 1.2 to about 4 x 10 to the 6 power at a Mach number of 2.0. On the lower surface, the maximum transition Reynolds number varies from about 2 x 10 to the 6 power at a Mach number of 1.2 to about 8 x 10 to the 6 power at a Mach number of 2.0.


The desire of man to fly at ever increasing speeds and altitudes has resulted in a constantly accelerating performance growth. The technology has advanced at such a rate that future flight vehicles are planned not for small incremental performance increases as in the past, but rather, in multiples of present performance. With these increases in performance it is the problem of the flight test engineer to assure that his methodology is compatible with the vehicle. It is well, then, to take the case of a boost-glide vehicle capable of speed up to that required for orbital flight, examine its characteristics and problems, and outline the approach to the flight test of such a vehicle.


The approach and landing operation of unpowered rocket airplanes has always required considerable pilot concentration but has been completed without undue demands on piloting technique. The X-15 airplane will land in a range of lift-drag ratio l/d markedly lower than previous rocket airplanes have used. This paper presents the results of a flight and analog study of landing to assess the potential difficulty of landing the X-15 at low l/d and to determine whether different techniques would be required in the landing maneuver.

This paper describes the two systems used to provide certain research measurements for the X-15 aircraft. These systems are: (1) a probe and associated system that will be capable of operating throughout the extreme temperature environment encountered on reentry to provide a measure of the angle of attack and sideslip to the pilot, and (2) an instrumented ground range capable of monitoring the flight of the airplane throughout its entire trajectory.


Paper presents the areas of research interest for the most important and urgent problems at the present time. Indications are given of other types of data that will be obtained, as well as possible additional research uses of the X-15. In the course of conducting the flight research for the X-15, the emphasis will change from one area to another problems of new and different significance will result. Those problems that are found to be real will be better understood as a result of the flight investigations and those problems that have been imagined will be replaced with unexpected or overlooked problems.


A flight investigation over a Mach number range from 0.67 to 1.61 was made to determine the longitudinal and lateral stability characteristics of the D-558-II airplane with particular reference to the jet exhaust effects of the rocket engine. Longitudinal stability was not affected because of the high horizontal tail. The rudder-fixed lateral stability was adversely affected in the supersonic region. Rudder-free lateral stability during power-on supersonic yawed flight was better than for rudder-fixed conditions.


An investigation has been made of the use of pilot-controlled jet reaction forces for vehicle attitude control in regions of extremely low dynamic pressure. The effects of various control configurations, control magnitudes, control techniques, dynamic pressure, and aerodynamic stability were investigated. The results of analog computer studies and mechanical simulator tests indicate that control techniques are somewhat different from those used with aerodynamic controls at normal flight speeds and that constant attention to the control task is required. Because of the ease of overcontrolling with large control powers, much lower control power than that required for aerodynamic controls was preferred. Moderate values of effective dihedral produced a noticeable increase in the amount of roll control required to maintain trim at dynamic pressures up to 20 pounds per square foot.

E-2578

Iron Cross Reaction Controls Simulator


A comprehensive discussion of the various factors affecting the determination of stability and control derivatives from flight data is presented based on the experience of the NASA High-Speed Flight Station. Factors relating to test techniques, determination of mass characteristics, instrumentation, and methods of analysis are discussed.

An instrumented North American F-100A fighter airplane was flown by Air Force pilots at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during 20 hours of service operational flying which included air-to-air gunnery, air-to-ground gunnery and bombing, aircraft combat maneuvering, and acrobatic-type maneuvers. During this investigation altitudes up to 50,000 feet and Mach numbers up to 1.22 were realized. In this paper the roll utilization for the various maneuvers performed and the roll utilization at supersonic speeds are analyzed.


This paper presents a brief discussion of the following phases of this project: history, cost, research objectives, protection and escape of the pilot, description of the aircraft, industry participation, flight-test range, role of the pilots, and flight testing.


Presents results of flight surveys of boundary-layer and engine noise levels in an attempt to establish the contribution and relative importance of boundary-layer and engine noise on the noise environment of aircraft in flight. The two airplanes used were the B-47A and the Douglas 558-2.


This paper points out some of the desirable and mandatory area and control requirements for the flight testing of such vehicles up to and including those of orbital velocity with indications of the needs of operational military and air carrier organizations.


Lift and drag measurements were made during a flight investigation of a swept-wing fighter airplane in the basic configuration and in a slats-locked-closed configuration over a Mach number range from about 0.63 to about 1.44. Negligible drag-coefficient difference existed between the basic configuration and the slats-locked-closed configuration over a comparable test range. For the basic configuration at zero lift the supersonic drag-coefficient level was about three times as great as the subsonic drag-coefficient level, which was about 0.01.


A rollover occurred during training operations at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during 20 hours of service operational flying which included air-to-air gunnery, air-to-ground gunnery and bombing, aircraft combat maneuvering, and acrobatic-type maneuvers. During this investigation altitudes up to 50,000 feet and Mach numbers up to 1.22 were realized. In this paper the roll utilization for the various maneuvers performed and the roll utilization at supersonic speeds are analyzed.


Tests were conducted to determine the starting characteristics of a simulated 50,000-pound-thrust rocket engine with a quantity of fuel lying dormant in the main thrust chamber. Ignition was alcohol-water and anhydrous ammonia was used as the residual fuel. The igniter successfully expelled the maximum amount of residual fuel (3 1/2 gal) in 2.9 seconds when the igniter was equipped with a sonic discharge nozzle. When the igniter was equipped with a supersonic exhaust nozzle, a slightly less effective expulsion rate was encountered.

Keywords: Expulsion; Fuels; Liquid propellant; Residual gas; Rocket engines.


This paper presents a brief discussion of the following phases of this project: history, cost, research objectives, protection and escape of the pilot, description of the aircraft, industry participation, flight-test range, role of the pilots, and flight testing.


231. *Funk, Jack; and *Cooney, T. V.: Some Effects of Yaw Damping on Airplane Motions and Vertical-Tail Loads in Turbulent Air. NASA Memo 2-17-59L, March 1959, CASI ID: 19980228407. PDF CASI

Results of analytical and flight studies are presented to indicate the effect of yaw damping on the airplane motions and vertical-tail loads in rough air. The analytical studies indicate a rapid reduction in the airplane motions and the loads on the vertical tail as the damping is increased up to the point of damping the lateral motions to 1/2 amplitude in one cycle. Flight measurements indicate that a yaw damper reduces the loads on the vertical tail due to turbulent air and that the pilot could provide a significant amount of lateral damping.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Keywords: High altitude; High speed; Mach number.


The longitudinal and lateral directional stability and control derivatives have been determined in the trim angle-of-attack range between Mach numbers of 0.88 and 2.08. The static and dynamic lateral directional derivatives were determined by the time-vector method, modified by using yawing velocity as a reference instead of sideslip angle. Generally, the flight data compared favorably with existing published and unpublished wind-tunnel data.


The specific areas investigated include those of the take-off and landing, and relation of these maneuvers to the 1 g stall speed and stalling characteristics. The take-off studies included evaluation of the factors affecting the take-off speed and attitude, including the effects of premature rotation and of overrotation on ground run required. The approach and landing studies pertained to such factors as: desirable lateral-directional damping characteristics; lateral-control requirements; space-positioning limitations during approach under VFR or IFR conditions and requirements for glide-path controls; and evaluation of factors affecting the pilot’s choice of landing speeds. Specific recommendations and some indication of desirable characteristics for the jet transports are advanced to alleviate possible operational difficulties or to improve operational performance in the low-speed range.


Some of the specific areas investigated include: (1) an overall evaluation of longitudinal stability and control characteristics at transonic speeds, with an assessment of pitch-up characteristics, (2) the effect of buffetting on airplane operational speeds and maneuvering, (3) the desirable lateral-directional damping characteristics, (4) the desirable lateral-control characteristics, (5) an assessment of overspeed and speed-spread requirements, including the upset maneuver, and (6) an assessment of techniques and airplane characteristics for rapid descent and slow-down. The results presented include pilot’s evaluation of the various problem areas and specific recommendations for possible improvement of jet-transport operations in the cruising speed range.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Jet aircraft;
Operational problems; Transonic speed; Transport aircraft.


Flight-determined lift and drag data from transonic flights of seven research airplane configurations of widely varying characteristics are presented and compared with wind-tunnel and rocket-model data. The effects of some of the basic configuration differences on the lift and drag characteristics are demonstrated.


This report briefly discusses the aircraft, the pilots working space and environment, the pilots selected for flights, simulator programs, and the monitoring of the pilot's physical condition during flight.

239. Taillon, Norman V.: Flow Characteristics About Two Thin Wings of LowAspect Ratio Determined From Surface Pressure Measurements Obtained in Flight at Mach Numbers from 0.73 to 1.90. NASA Memo 5-1-59H, May 1959. CASI ID: 19980228214. PDF CASI

The effects of Mach number and angle of attack on the flow about the X-3 wing (4.5-percent thickness ratio, aspect ratio 3.09) and the X-1E wing (4-percent thickness ratio, aspect ratio 4.0) as determined from surface pressure measurements are presented. The effect of the flow behavior on the section normal-force and moment coefficients of the two wings is also discussed. The detailed survey of pressures from which the data were selected is available in tabular form from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.


Work by J. F. Naleid has further extended the method of Preston to the case of compressible flow with adverse pressure gradient and zero heat transfer. Tests were performed at M = 2.


The location of transition was measured on a supersonic fighter-type airplane by resistance-thermometer and sublimation techniques. Application of these techniques required the use of only the external surface without disturbing the internal structure. Agreement between the two methods as achieved throughout this program is discussed. Also presented are possible extensions of the program to higher Mach numbers.


A series of landings were performed with a straight-wing fighter airplane to evaluate the effect of low lift-drag ratios on landing. Landings with peak lift-drag ratios as low as 3 were achieved by altering the airplane configuration (extending speed brakes, flaps, and gear and reducing throttle setting).

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Airspeed; Approach; Fighter aircraft; Lift drag ratio.


Results are presented of the effects of ground speed and obstacle width on the vertical and rearward drag ground-reaction forces, the vertical acceleration at the center of gravity of the airplane, the shock-strut displacement, and the dynamic response of the upper mass of the airplane structure. The obstacles were 3.0 inches in height and 1 and 4 feet in width, and the investigation covered a range of ground speeds from 12 to 86 knots.


The change in drag caused by the addition of two sizes of distributed sand-type roughness to the wings and tail surfaces of a delta-wing airplane has been measured at Mach numbers near 0.8 and 1.1. The largest roughness, 0.006-inch mean effective diameter, caused an increase in drag comparable to the increase predicted by the low-speed drag law for a rough plate. The increase in drag caused by the addition of the smallest roughness, 0.002-inch mean effective diameter, was less than half that predicted by the low-speed drag law for a rough plate.

Flight-test data obtained with the X-2 research airplane are presented for the maximum performance flights. An analysis is made of the instability leading to the loss of the airplane.


The primary areas of emphasis in the results of the first flight of the X-15 research airplane are the launch and landing characteristics. The launch characteristics were satisfactory and, in general, were qualitatively predicted by wind-tunnel studies. The landing characteristics were predicted qualitatively by analog and flight program, and the recommended technique of extending the flaps and gear at a minimum altitude appears to be a satisfactory method of landing the X-15 airplane.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Directional stability; Landing; Launching; Low speed.


Horizontal- and vertical-tail loads were measured on a supersonic fighter airplane. Lift-curve slopes, spanwise centers of load, and interference effects are shown for Mach numbers from 0.81 to 2.06 at altitudes from 20,000 to 55,000 feet. Flight results agreed well with wind-tunnel data and theoretical calculations. It was concluded that calculations of a preliminary-design type are adequate for the prediction of loads on tee-tails at small angles of attack and sideslip up to a Mach number of 2.


Pressures were obtained over the wing of the Convair JF-102A airplane at Mach numbers up to 1.19. The wing has aspect and taper ratios of 2.08 and 0.023, respectively, and incorporates two fences, a reflexed tip, and an elevon-control surface. Wing Reynolds number varied between $23 \times 10^{6}$ and $58 \times 10^{6}$. The results are analyzed with regard to the effects of camber on the distribution of leading-edge pressures, on the span-load distribution, and on the flow-separation characteristics. Tabulated data are available upon request from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.


Flight tests of a twin-duct propulsion system performed at a Mach number of about 1.9 have indicated a direct interaction between an asymmetric shock configuration at the inlets and airplane directional motion. The asymmetric shock configuration was produced at reduced mass flows and was aggravated by sideslip angle. Installation of a duct splitter plate at the engine face alleviated, but did not eliminate, the interaction phenomenon.

252. Matranga, Gene J.; and Menard, Joseph A.: Approach and Landing Investigation at Lift-Drag Ratios of 3 to 4 Utilizing a Delta-Wing Interceptor Airplane. NASA TM X-125, October 1959, CASI ID: 1963004018. PDF CASI

A series of landings was performed with a delta-wing interceptor airplane, having an average test wing loading of 35 pounds per square foot, to evaluate the effect of landing at low lift-drag ratios. Landings with peak effective lift-drag ratios as low as 3.75 were achieved by altering the airplane.
configuration. The reduction in lift-drag ratio resulted in an increase in the pertinent flare parameters. The pilot also flew several calculated landing patterns which he reported were easy and comfortable to fly.


One purpose of the first glide first of the X-15 research airplane was to evaluate the effectiveness of the landing-gear system. Some results are presented of the landing-approach characteristics, the impact period, and the runout phase of the landing maneuver.


Contents include a discussion of the pilot’s instrument presentation and control system. The X-15 is used as an example.


This paper reviews briefly some of the early uses of pilot training aids in research investigations. A pertinent flight trajectory of the X-15 research airplane is summarized and the various training aids that have been, and are being, used in preparing the pilot for flying this trajectory are indicated.

257. *Campbell, George S.; and *Weil, Joseph: The Interpretation of Nonlinear Pitching Moments in Relation to the Pitch-Up Problem. NASA TN D-193, December 1959, 89N70901. PDF CASI

Equations are presented for calculating the dynamic behavior of airplanes having arbitrarily nonlinear aerodynamic characteristics. Application of the methods derived is directed toward a study of some of the factors affecting the severity of pitch-up motions encountered by airplanes having regions of reduced stability: pitching-moment shape, control movement, dynamic pressure, airplane moment of inertia, and aerodynamic damping. Brief consideration is also given to the effectiveness of automatic stabilization devices in reducing pitch-up severity.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A fixed-thrust on-off H2O2-rocket reaction-control system was installed in the X-1B research airplane as a means of control at high altitude. The design considerations, fabrication, installation, and ground testing of this system are described. The operational characteristics and some problems associated with system operations are discussed.

Keywords: Engines; Rocket


This paper cites some examples of control problems gained from the experience of the author in flying advanced research and production aircraft at the NACA High-Speed Flight Station.

1960 Technical Publications


The first powered flight of the North American X-15 research airplane was performed on September 17, 1959. A Mach number of 2.1 and an altitude of 52,000 feet were attained. Static and dynamic maneuvers were performed to evaluate the characteristics of the airplane at subsonic and supersonic speeds. Data from these maneuvers as well as from the launch and landing phases are presented, discussed, and compared with predicted values.
Yearly, seasonal, diurnal, and 24-hour variations of temperatures, pressure heights, and winds in the 100-millibar to 2-millibar pressure range from rawinsonde data of four stations along a flight-test range in the southwestern United States are presented. This range, referred to as High Range, extends from Edwards, Calif., to Wendover, Utah, to accommodate flight operations of the X-15 and other high-performance craft. Comparisons of average temperatures and pressure heights are made with those of the U.S. Extension to the ICAO Standard Atmosphere.

Keywords: Atmospheric pressure; Atmospheric temperature; Pressure gradients; Temperature measurement; Test ranges.

A general review of piloting problems concerned with the recovery phase of lifting hypervelocity vehicles is presented. A short discussion is offered pertinent to the maneuvering capabilities and piloting techniques applicable to the initial approach phase of gliders with low lift-drag ratios. The principal emphasis concerns factors affecting the final approach and landing operation of these gliders. The results of general flight studies as well as recent experience obtained in the approach and landing of the X-15 research airplane are reviewed. Finally, a definition of the limits of piloted flared landings is developed.

Aerodynamic loads were obtained from the X-5 airplane, an F-100 with a small vertical tail, F-100 with a large vertical tail, and the X-1E airplane. Effects of sideslip angle, rudder deflection, and Mach number are presented for trim flight at altitudes from 40,000 feet to 70,000 feet and at Mach numbers from 0.70 to 2.08. Comparisons are made with simple theoretical methods of estimating the loads. Also, the total directional stability for each airplane as calculated by use of vertical-tail loads is shown.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Aircraft configurations; Directional stability; Supersonic speed; Tail assemblies.

Electronic equipment figures prominently in X-15 flight and ground systems, but this hypersonic vehicle is an instrument of the pilot, depending on him for control and flight success.

The present state of the art of the piloted flight simulator leaves no major deterrent to the mechanization of required simulators for the design of present or future manned military airplanes. The fixed-base simulator with adequate presentation and controls is completely satisfactory for the investigation of a wide range of airplane problems. However, there are some areas which require some form of motion stimulus. Other areas remain where simulator requirements are not yet resolved, but work is continuing to better define these simulator requirements.
Keywords: Aircraft design; Analog computers; Attack aircraft; Flight simulators; Military aircraft.


Various training aids in the development of the X-15 program are presented. Future flight data obtained in more critical control areas will afford the unique opportunity to assess the true value of these training aids for the X-15 and to establish training requirements for future vehicles.


Time histories of several airplane, engine, and induction-system parameters are presented for maneuvers made at altitude of 26,000 feet, 40,000 feet, and 55,000 feet over a Mach number range of 0.78 to 2.07. A time history of a push-down-turn maneuver at 40,000 feet is also presented. Comparisons of the data were made to show the effects of angle of attack. Mach number, altitude, and duct bypass area on the induction system parameters.

Keywords: Bypasses; Ducts; Flight tests; Intake systems; Mach number.


A general review of piloting problems concerned with the recovery phase of lifting hypervelocity vehicles is presented. A short discussion is offered pertinent to the maneuvering capabilities and piloting techniques applicable to the initial approach phase of gliders with low lift-drag ratios. The principal emphasis concerns factors affecting the final approach and landing operation of these gliders. The results of general flight studies as well as recent experience obtained in the approach and landing of the X-15 research airplane are reviewed. Finally, a definition of the limits of piloted flared landings is developed.

Keywords: Hypersonic aircraft; Lifting bodies; Lifting reentry vehicles; X-15 aircraft.


The lift and drag characteristics of a Boeing KC-135 airplane were determined during maneuvering flight over the Mach number range from 0.70 to 0.85 for the airplane in the clean configuration at an altitude of 26,000 feet. Data were also obtained over the speed range of 130 knots to 160 knots at 9,000 feet for various flap deflections with gear down.


On August 4, 1960 a flight was made with the X-15 airplane to achieve the maximum speed possible with two interim engines. Presented are the details of the techniques utilized to determine the maximum Mach number (3.31 plus or minus 0.04) and speed (2,196 mph plus or minus 35) attained.


A simulator study was made of presentations and control requirements for a manned astrovehicle employed for the interception of artificial satellites during the terminal phase of an orbital rendezvous. Two oscilloscope and one direct-visual-observation presentation and three control modes were investigated. The study was considered in terms of a manned interceptor having a home berth at a manned space station which is in circular orbit 500 miles above the earth. Interceptions were restricted to coplanar conditions.


On August 12, 1960, an X-15 flight was made to achieve
essentially the maximum altitude expected to be possible with the interim rocket engines. Presented are the details of the techniques utilized to determine the maximum geometric altitude of this flight (136,500 ft plus or minus 600).


Brief summary of the research program which led to the X-15 aircraft, and some of the early flight tests. Includes flight regimes, mission, research areas, shock-wave patterns at hypersonic speeds, simulator support, stability derivatives, control effectiveness derivatives, drag characteristics power-off, heat transfer, wing temperature station, wing pressure distribution midspan station, wing loads, maximum speed and altitude, and damping.


Contains a brief resume of four flights leading to, and including, the maximum speed flight of the X-15 with the interim engine, then discusses some of the results to date, and concludes with a summary of the intended flight program with the design XLR-99 engine.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


Performance data are presented for two types of ribbon parachutes. The parachutes were forcibly deployed from an air-launched test vehicle at altitudes from 55,000 feet to 70,000 feet and at Mach numbers between 0.92 and 1.52. Opening shock, steady-state drag performance, and canopyporosity effects are evaluated with respect to Mach number and dynamic pressure.


Results are presented of a flight investigation conducted to survey the flow field generated by airplanes flying at supersonic speeds. The pressure signatures of an F-100, an F-104, and a B-58 airplane, representing widely varying configurations, at distances from 120 to 425 feet from the generating aircraft and at Mach numbers from 1.2 to 1.8 are shown. Calculations made by using Whitham’s method gave good agreement with experimental results. A procedure for calculating the F(y) function used in Whitham’s method is also given.


The control problems associated with piloting multistaged vehicles to orbital conditions were investigated with static and dynamic simulators. A three-axis controller was used for primary control. Presented are design details of the controller, pilot opinions concerning its operation, and other data pertinent to the design and use of a controller of this type.


These drag data provide preliminary means of appraising present methods of extrapolating wind-tunnel drag results to full scale at Mach numbers up to 3. Estimated drag values based on wind-tunnel measurements are included. Freestream Reynolds numbers range from 13.9 x 10 (sup) 6 to 28 x 10 (sup) 6, based on the mean aerodynamic chord.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Airfoil profiles; Mach number; Supersonic drag; Wind tunnel tests.


Some of the capabilities of the human pilot for controlling the Step I Dyna-Soar launch have been assessed by requiring the pilot to control the simulated launch. The piloting task was well within the capability of the human pilot. With only rudimentary presentation, the pilot could control the launch to within acceptable limits of the desired velocity and altitude. As the primary controller of the launch, it is believed that the pilot can add materially to the reliability and flexibility of the launch.


The objectives of the Dyna-Soar project have been stated to
be the development of a piloted, maneuverable, hypersonic glider capable of a controlled landing following reentry from orbital flight. The Step I flight-test objectives of Dyna-Soar are twofold: exploration of the flight regime of the glider and development of satisfactory subsystems and vehicle.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


This paper discusses some of the measurements required in conducting the investigations, the possible general approaches to be taken in obtaining these measurements, and the system planned for the main data acquisition. Finally, the electromagnetic transmission problem is discussed as it directly affects the Dyna-Soar Step I tests.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


The Flight Research Center has conducted fixed-base and centrifuge simulator programs to investigate the capabilities of the pilot in providing control and guidance during launch. For the centrifuge program an attempt was made to minimize the adverse effects of acceleration on the pilot by designing a molded seat and three-axis controller that were functionally independent of acceleration. The effects of staging acceleration environment on the pilot’s performance were determined to 15g, and the control task associated with two-and four-stage vehicle launches were investigated.


The ALSOR program is inclined toward providing current information in a reliable and efficient manner to support the X-15 program.


The autobiography of Scott Crossfield, the first man to fly faster than Mach 2 and first to fly the X-15 rocket plane.

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1961 Technical Publications

292. Reed, Robert D.; and Watts, Joe D.: *Skin and Structural Temperatures Measured on the X-15 Airplane During a Flight to a Mach Number of 3.3*. NASA TM X-468, January 1961, CASI ID: 1963004036. PDF CASI

A survey of skin and structural temperatures was obtained on the X-15 airplane during a flight to a Mach number of 3.3. Fuselage, wing, horizontal-tail, and vertical-tail temperatures are presented to show temperature variations on the external surfaces and temperature differences between the skin and internal structure. The maximum temperature recorded was 440 °F on an unsupported skin area on the lower vertical tail. Temperature differences of 400 °F were recorded between the external skin and internal spar webs on the wing. Local external temperature differences caused by the heat-sink effect of the supporting structure were as great as 220 °F. Temperature indicating paint aided in identifying the location of areas of concentrated heating on the lower surface of the wing.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Fuselages; Heating; High speed; Mach number.


The first 16 air launches of the X-15 airplane demonstrated the feasibility of air launch from an asymmetric position under the wing of the B-52 carrier airplane. Use of the
stability augmentation system markedly reduced the launch transients. Reasonable agreement exists between flight and predicted data.


A peak geometric altitude of 136,500 feet with a minimum dynamic pressure of 10.6 lb/sq. ft. was attained with only the aerodynamic controls available to the pilot for controlling and stabilizing the airplane. Aerodynamic control was adequate throughout the flight, but at minimum dynamic pressure the airplane was lightly damped, which made precise control difficult. Because of the transient nature of the trajectory and the negligible load factors associated with the airplane oscillation, the pilot did not object to the poor dynamic characteristics of the airplane under these conditions and could satisfactory control the airplane along the trajectory. Keywords: Aircraft engines; Controllability; High altitude; X-15 aircraft.


Data are presented for the pretouchdown conditions, the impact period, and the runout phase of the landing for vertical velocities up to 9.5 feet per second and true ground speeds between 145 knots and 238 knots. The dynamic response of the airplane during the impact period is presented in the form of time histories of shock strut force and displacement, main-gear and nose-gear drag forces, upper-mass acceleration, horizontal-tail setting, horizontal-tail load, airplane angle of attack, and pitching velocity. Also included is the variation of the coefficient of friction of the main-gear skid with ground speed during the runout of a typical landing. Keywords: Landing gear; Touchdown; X-15 aircraft.


A general discussion of the role played by various simulators in the development of the X-15 program.


One of the primary purposes of the X-15 program is to obtain full-scale aerodynamic-heating information that can be used to establish the adequacy of current theoretical methods and model tests. In conjunction with this purpose, a special flight was performed which maximized the heating rates and minimized the transient flight conditions. This flight reached a Mach number of 3.1. Results indicated a reasonable agreement between measured heat transfer data and simple theoretical predictions. Boundary-layer-transition data were obtained which pointed out a continuing problem of prediction that should probably be treated with conservatism until more detailed information is obtained.*North American Aviation, Downey, California.


This paper discusses a number of program phases that have been completed, including the contractor’s flight program and the Government research program utilizing an interim-engine configuration giving an indication of its experiences and a description of future program plans.


The design of an attitude-stabilization system for a vehicle experiencing negligible external moments is investigated analytically. A discontinuous control system employing a linear switching function and having a neutral zone and time delays is studied and equations are developed to generalize and optimize the system’s transient and limit-cycle performance. Example systems which can minimize power required, attitude error, and angular-velocity error within a specified period of operation are included.


Presents X-15 panel flutter data and compares with flutter boundary established by wind tunnel tests.

Flight data can be dangerously misleading in the absence of careful interpretation. This report discusses test results pertinent to a variety of typical flight-control problem areas of the current generation of airplanes. The results presented were obtained from flight investigations of many research and operational aircraft at the NASA Flight Research Center over the past 10 years. The report considers basic stability problems such as pitch-up, roll coupling, and marginal directional stability. Development of augmentation systems and control system evaluations are also discussed in some detail. Throughout the report, the importance of coordinating flight and similar results are very much stressed and it is shown that in many areas even the most painstaking interpretation of flight data can lead to possible disaster if flight tests are not adequately supported by simulator studies using realistic stability and control derivatives.


This paper reviews the flight-control simulation experiences of X-15 systems and components. The role of simulators and auxiliary aircraft is discussed, with emphasis on pilot training and the development of flight procedures necessary to obtain the maximum research return on the investment.


A simulator study and limited flight tests were performed to determine the levels of static stability and damping necessary for pilot control of the pitch, roll, and yaw attitudes of a vehicle for a the pilot to control the airplane at conditions that were otherwise uncontrollable. The influence on the controllability limits of the more important aerodynamic coefficients and other factors, such as learning and interruption of the pilot’s display, was also investigated. Information concerning human transfer functions applicable to marginally controllable tasks is presented which should aid in assessing the controllability of any specific configuration.


This paper presents lift, drag, and angle-of-attack data for various approach and landing configurations. The conditions and problems encountered during the approach pattern and the flare to touchdown are discussed. The value of flight simulations of the approach and flare maneuvers is assessed.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Angle of attack; Approach; Descent; Drag ratio.


Base pressure measurements have been made on the fuselage, 10 degrees-wedge vertical fin, and side fairing of the X-15 airplane. Data are presented for Mach numbers between 1.1 and 3.2 for both powered and unpowered flight. Comparisons are made with data for small-scale-model tests, semiempirical estimates, and theory.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Base pressure; Pressure measurement; Pressure ratio; X-15 aircraft.


Discussion of information and experience gained with the X-15 which is applicable to supersonic transport design, and of means by which future data may be provided. Extensive treatment is given to (1) structural heating, including temperature, temperature gradients, and temperature effects on structures; (2) structural dynamics, including a brief resume of flutter experience with the X-15; and (3) augmentation systems, including fundamental problems experienced and the reliability of the system. The air-data-sensing systems employed in the X-15 and the related system-measurement accuracies obtained are covered. The reliability of the subsystems and the maintenance of such items as the environmental control system and the hydraulic system are discussed. Future programs involving fundamental studies requiring specialized instrumentation not presently installed in the X-15 are considered.

By using an experimentally developed human transfer function for the pilot and system-analysis methods, the pilot-airplane lateral instability observed with the X-15 airplane is analyzed. The methods used adequately explain the lateral-control problem and can be used to predict the problem. The calculated area of lateral-control difficulty agreed with that determined on the X-15 piloted flight simulator and with flight data.


This document is a compilation of the papers presented at the Conference on the Progress of the X-15 Project held at the NASA Flight Research Center, Edwards Air Force Base, California, November 20–21, 1961. This conference was held by the Research Airplane Committee of the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to report on the technical status of this research airplane. The papers were presented by members of the staffs of North American Aviation, Inc.; Aeronautical Systems Division, U.S. Air Force; Air Force Flight Test Center; and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.


The results of the preliminary flight heat-transfer studies on the X-15 airplane are presented, together with a discussion of the manner in which the data have been obtained, a comparison of measured and calculated turbulent heat-transfer coefficients, a correlation of the model test results and the flight results for turbulent heat transfer; some information on boundary-layer transition, and a comparison of measured and calculated skin temperatures at several locations on the airplane.


The expected structural temperatures and their effect on the development and design of the X-15 airplane structure have been described in previous conferences, and Banner, Kuhl, and Quinn (paper no. 2) have discussed in detail the many factors affecting the heat input to the structure. The purpose of the present paper is to show the magnitude of structural temperatures measured during the flight program and to describe structural problems that have developed due to structural heating.

*North American Aviation, Inc., Downey, California.


This paper reviews the structural dynamics problems that influenced the design of the structure and discusses the experiences that have been encountered during the flight tests.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Because the landing-gear configuration represents a marked departure from previously used configurations, the present paper has been prepared to report on the landing loads experience of the X-15. A further purpose of this paper is to review the dynamics of landing and to present results of a recent theoretical study of the effects of various parameters on the landing loads.


An attempt has been made in the flight research program to verify some of the force measurements with both pressure and strain-gage measurements. This paper presents a summary of the flight force data obtained to date. The data are compared with the wind-tunnel results and with some of the more familiar theoretical methods and approximations.

Data on the lift and drag characteristics of the X-15 airplane obtained in flight are shown to be in agreement with wind-tunnel-model data for Mach numbers up to 5. Existing theoretical methods are indicated to be adequate for estimating the X-15 minimum drag but underestimated the drag due to lift and overestimated the maximum lift-drag ratio. Two-dimensional theory is shown to be adequate for predicting the base pressures behind surfaces having very blunt trailing edges such as those on the vertical tail of the X-15.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California. **NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The flight-determined derivative characteristics are compared with the predictions from wind-tunnel tests and theory for Mach numbers extending to 5.5 and angles of attack up to 17 degrees. With few exceptions, the predictions were found generally to be in good agreement with the flight data. Areas of deficient stability and control are briefly discussed.


The handling qualities of the X-15 research airplane have been assessed from pilot's opinions, with verification in many cases by data acquired during flights. Areas of interest covered are the launch, climbout, ballistic, reentry, and landing phases of flights made to date.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


The deterioration of lateral directional controllability with roll damper off and the pilot performing a lateral control task is explained. The problem area was defined by fixed-base and airborne simulators and verified by closed-loop analysis in which a human transfer function represents the pilot. A parameter which will predict the problem area for the X-15 airplane is developed. The means considered to alleviate the control problem in the X-15 airplane are also discussed.


The philosophy of the X-15 flight-test program thus far has been to expand the flight envelope to the maximum speed and design altitude as rapidly as practical and simultaneously to obtain as much detailed research data on the hypersonic environment as possible. The envelope expansion program has been performed on an incremental performance basis; that is, each successive flight is designed to go to a slightly higher speed or altitude than the previous flight, thus permitting a reasonable extrapolation of flight-test data from one flight to the next and also building a backlog of pilot experience. The mission planning and operational procedures associated with the program are discussed in this paper. The effect on flight planning of systems reliability, stability limitations, and ranging considerations are also discussed. General piloting techniques and pilot training are mentioned.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


This paper describes the basic damper system currently installed in the X-15, discusses some of the problems encountered during its development and flight testing, and reviews briefly the system reliability.


In-house studies conducted at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1956 convinced the Flight Control Laboratory, Aeronautical Systems Division, of the theoretical feasibility of designing a self-adaptive flight-control system. As the name implies, such a system would automatically adapt itself in order to provide essentially constant damping and frequency of the aircraft in combination with the control system as the vehicle encountered flight conditions of varying aerodynamic control-surface effectiveness. To this end a number of study contracts were awarded in 1957 which soon led to flight-test programs testing adaptive concepts in F-94 airplanes by the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Minneapolis Honeywell Regulator Company. Minneapolis-Honeywell continued this effort with a company funded flight-test program for testing the system in an F-101A airplane.


The purpose of this paper is to discuss the experience that has been obtained through the use of the nulling ball-nose flow direction sensor during flight testing of the airplane.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


XLR99-RM-1 rocket engine, which was developed specifically for the X-15 airplane, is the largest rocket engine designed from the out set for use in a manned vehicle to be completely controlled by the crew. In order to provide the desired safety and controllability required by the X-15 mission, many unique features were included in the design. Delays in the development of the engine required that the initial X-15 flights be made with an interim engine. However, the first flight with the XLR99 was made in November 1960, and the engine has been used in government flight operations since February 1961. Since the first flight, fifteen flights have been made with the XLR99. This paper summarizes the XLR99 operating experience during the flight program.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


The techniques of air-to-ground telemetry have been used in research aircraft testing since the start of the X-I program in 1946. It became apparent during the development of the X-type research aircraft that personnel responsible for aerospace medical support of the pilot were not taking full advantage of the progress in telemetry systems to monitor for medical purposes the pilot and his environment during flight. One of the research objectives of the X-15 program is to obtain the pilot’s physiological response to flight at increased speed and altitude. This objective is accomplished with the pilot wearing a full pressure suit; therefore, this garment and biomedical data acquisition equipment, techniques, and results are discussed in this paper.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


It is the purpose of this paper to describe a comprehensive picture of X-15 operational reliability. The curves and text presented are based on actual parts failure records, flight logs, and the daily repair work sheets. It is therefore not only a picture of the reliability with regard to safety in flight, but also in view of ground preparation time and cost. Repeated system and component failures have resulted in many costly delays.


It is the intent of this paper to be critical of the X-15 because of its deficiencies or problems. It should rather be kept in mind that many compromises had to be accepted in the design of the X-15 to get on the job, and rightly so, because there are some questions which still have not been resolved.


This third X-15 conference has given us an opportunity to review and evaluate, in considerable detail, the progress that has been achieved in the flight research program to date. Figures 1 and 2 have been selected as a summary of the areas thus far explored. Similar results have been discussed in detail in the papers presented. Although it is not possible, in any one or two figures, to show the desired information for all the varied areas of interest in the program, these plots of altitude and angle of attack against velocity do represent two of the many parameters of interest, and the shaded areas demonstrate roughly the progress that has been made. It appears that most of the work originally planned is nearly completed, with perhaps 50 percent of the aerodynamics, structures, heating, and bioastronautics information already obtained.

Lateral, directional, and longitudinal stability and control derivatives are determined from flight tests of the X-15 airplane with the low-power LR11 rocket engine. Approximate relationships are developed for determining the derivatives $C_{n_{\beta}}$, $C_{l_{\beta}}$, and $(C_{n_{r}} - C_{n_{\beta}} - C_{n_{\beta}})$ and for isolating the effects of stability augmentation. Wind-tunnel predictions are compared with the flight-determined derivatives.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Approximation; Flight tests; Stability; Subsonic speed; X-15 aircraft.

The basic damper system currently installed in the airplane is described. Some of the problems encountered during the development and flight testing of the system are discussed, and the reliability of the system is reviewed briefly.

Keywords: Dampers; Stability; Stability augmentation; X-15 aircraft.

The structural dynamic problems anticipated during the design of the X-15 airplane are reviewed briefly, and the actual flight experiences with the airplane are described. The noise environment, acoustic fatigue problems, and panel-flutter experiences are discussed. Where these problems led to structural modifications, the modifications are described.

Keywords: Buffeting; Dynamic response; Dynamic structural analysis; X-15 aircraft.

Panel-flutter data obtained from several different aircraft during supersonic flight are presented and compared with a previously established flutter boundary based on results from wind-tunnel tests. The flight data were obtained for rectangular panels aligned with the flow and for rectangular panels swept at 52 degrees. Some results of a flutter analysis of swept, flat, rectangular panels are presented and used to compare the flight results with the flutter boundary for aligned panels.

A preliminary performance analysis was made to determine the capability of large subsonic and supersonic bombers for air launching manned hypersonic and satellite vehicles. The bombers considered now exist or are being developed in the United States. Four booster configurations were used in the calculations, with a winged vehicle of the Dyna-Soar type as the payload. Comparisons were made on the basis of vacuum specific impulse, burnout velocity, ratio of payload weight to launch-package gross weight, and structural weight.

Keywords: Air launching; Bomber aircraft; Hypersonic vehicles; Manned spacecraft.
Mission-planning methods and techniques used for the X-15 airplane envelope-expansion flight-test program are discussed. Use of the six-degree-of-freedom, ground-based simulator is indicated for prediction of performance, stability and controllability; development of piloting techniques and pilot training; evaluation of, and practice for, all possible emergency conditions; and energy management development. Other pilot-training devices and the role of the ground-monitoring station are also described. Predicted trajectory data and actual flight results are compared. The initial reasons and the final justifications for conducting the X-15 envelope expansion by performance increment are presented.

Keywords: Flight tests; Mission planning; Operational problems; Reliability; Trajectories; X-15 aircraft.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


The aerodynamic-noise environment was measured at one point on the surface of a 24.5 degrees included-angle cone and at three internal positions. The data were obtained in flight for Mach numbers from 0.8 to 2, free-stream dynamic pressures from approximately 200 lb sq ft to 1,000 lb sq ft, and at altitudes of about 26,000 feet and 40,000 feet. The over-all noise levels and spectrum analysis of representative selected data are presented.


A series of subsonic maneuvers was flown with an airplane having a maximum lift-drag ratio of 4.7. No particularly difficult piloting or maneuvering problems were encountered. A reduction of the pilot’s visibility from the cockpit did not appreciably impair his navigation capabilities, but did adversely affect his performance of the escape and landing maneuvers.

Keywords: Flight simulation; Hypersonic gliders; Landing simulation; Launching pads; Pilot performance.


The results of the preliminary flight heat-transfer studies on the X-15 airplane are presented, together with a discussion of the manner in which the data have been obtained, a comparison of measured and calculated turbulent heat-transfer coefficients, a correlation of the model test results and the flight results for turbulent heat transfer, some information on boundary-layer transition, and a comparison of measured and calculated skin temperatures at several locations on the airplane.

343. McKay, James M.; and Kordes, Eldon E.: Landing Loads and Dynamics of the X-15 Airplane. NASA TM X-639, March 1962, 63N12564, 87H26336, #. (see also 313.) PDF CASI

The loads, accelerations, and displacements of the X-15 airplane and landing-gear system measured during landing impact are discussed. The measured quantities are related to the initial touchdown conditions and are compared with data from a theoretical analysis to determine the effects of variations in such parameters as elevator position, skid coefficient of friction, main-gear location, and initial touchdown conditions beyond the range of the experimental data.

Keywords: Acceleration; Displacement; Impact; Landing; Landing gear.


Aerodynamic force data on the components of the X-15 airplane have been obtained by both pressure and strain-gage measurements in flights covering a Mach number range up to 6.04, altitudes up to about 217,000 feet, and angles of attack up to 15 degrees. Comparison of the flight data with wind-tunnel data shows generally good agreement for the flight conditions covered.

Keywords: Aerodynamic forces; Strain gages; X-15 aircraft.


Comparisons are made between the minimum drag characteristics of the full-scale X-15 airplane and wind-tunnel model data and theory extrapolated to flight Reynolds numbers for Mach numbers of 2.5 and 3.0. Similar comparisons are made for drag due to lift and maximum lift-drag ratio for Mach numbers up to about 5. Speed-brake drag and base-drag results are presented up to Mach numbers of 5.5 and 6, respectively.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Drag; Lift; Scale models; Wind tunnel models.

The flight-determined derivative characteristics are compared with the predictions from wind-tunnel tests and theory for Mach numbers extending to 5.5 and angles of attack up to 17 degrees. With few exceptions, the predictions were found generally to be in good agreement with the flight data. Areas of deficient stability and control are briefly discussed.

Keywords: Derivation; In-flight monitoring; Measuring instruments; Stability; X-15 aircraft.


A summary of handling qualities is presented as assessed from pilot opinion and flight data. Segments of the flight profile which were evaluated include the launch, climbout, semiballistic flight, atmosphere entry, and landing. Longitudinal controllability is compared with results from current studies of reentry-type vehicles.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Atmospheric entry; Controllability; Flight characteristics; Launching.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.

348. Petersen, Forrest S.; Rediess, Herman A.; and Weil, Joseph: Lateral-Directional Control of the X-15 Airplane. NASA TM X-726, March 1962, 65N23924, #. (see also 321.) PDF CASI

The deterioration of lateral-directional controllability with roll damper off and the pilot performing a lateral-control task is discussed. The problem area was defined by fixed-base and airborne simulators and verified by closed-loop analysis in which a human transfer function represents the pilot. A parameter which predicts the problem area for the X-15 airplane is developed. The means considered to alleviate the control problem in the X-15 airplane are also discussed.

Keywords: Directional control; Directional stability; Lateral control; Lateral stability; X-15 aircraft.


The handling qualities of a typical hypersonic glider were investigated with a flight simulator at Mach numbers of 0.26, 1.0, 3.5, 8, and 20 over an angle-of-attack range of 0° to 50°. Inasmuch as flight conditions influencing the control of the glider can be expected to change relatively slowly, a five-degree-of-freedom mechanization was used. Pilots assessed the controllability of the glider without augmentation with fixed gain dampers, and with an adaptive control system. The investigation was limited to aerodynamic control.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Damping; Flight control; Flight simulators; Hypersonic gliders.


A survey of maximum structural temperatures measured on the X-15 airplane during speed flights up to a Mach number of 6 is presented. Structural problems caused by local hot spots and discontinuities are described. Structural modifications in the affected areas to eliminate the problems are discussed.

Keywords: Heating; Hypersonic speed; Supersonic speed; X-15 aircraft.

351. Walker, J. A.: The X-15 Program. Presented at The Institute of Aerospace Sciences meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, April 30–May 2, 1962, 62N12923, #. PDF CASI

The high-temperature structural design approach utilized for the X-15 configuration has been successful; no major design deficiencies were encountered nor major modifications required. With but few exceptions, the local thermal problems encountered have not affected primary structural areas. In general, the aerodynamic derivatives extracted from flight-test data have confirmed the estimated derivatives obtained from wind-tunnel evaluations at hypersonic speeds. The aerodynamic flight control system and the simple stability augmentation system of the X-15 airplane have proved to be good technical designs. The airplane can be flown with satisfactory handling qualities through the range of dynamic pressures from about 1,500 lb/sq ft to below 100 lb/sq ft through the range of Mach numbers from 6.0 to subsonic landing conditions. Although only limited flight experience has been gained with the reaction control system, its basic design appears to be completely adequate. This type of system apparently provides an adequate means of attitude control for future space vehicles. Pilot transition from aerodynamic controls to reaction controls has been accomplished without problems.


Some of the safety and survival aspects of the manned lunar-landing mission are examined. The conditions requiring abort to the earth, lunar orbit, and lunar surface are determined.
Some of the possible design requirements to permit abort to lunar orbit or surface are indicated. Lunar orbital and surface survival kits are described, and the stationing of such kits in lunar orbit and at the intended landing site is proposed.


The X-15 project is reviewed from its inception in 1954 through 1961. Some of the more important historical aspects of the program are noted, but major emphasis is placed on the significant research results.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Aeronautics; Experience; Simplification; Stability.


Measured cover stresses are presented for four multiweb beams subjected to static uniform loading and four corresponding beams subjected to transient uniform loading. Elementary beam theory more accurately predicted the bending stresses due to static loading than those due to transient loading. Timoshenko beam theory offered no improvement over elementary theory for the one beam considered. Results for one specimen indicate that dynamic effects on the strength of multiweb beams can be appreciable.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The FRC has completed development and proof tests of two drogue chute systems, one for the Mercury capsule and the second for the B-58 escape capsule. Both programs utilized the F-104A airplane which is capable of launching up to 1500 pounds weight at Mach numbers up to 2 at altitudes between 30,000 and 50,000 feet.


The current interest in utilizing the paraglider concept as a means of effecting a soft landing for the Gemini capsule prompted the Flight Research Center to design and construct a manned paraglider vehicle with which to conduct a limited qualitative research program. The primary objective of the flight test program is to demonstrate the approach, flare and landing capability of a paraglider vehicle with a high wing loading (W/S = 7 psf) and a low L/D (L/D = 2.5).


This paper shows how the environment of actual flight may be used to simulate many phases of manned space exploration. A number of simulations using conventional, modified, and specially built aircraft are discussed in relation to the portion of space flight to which they are generally applicable, that is, the launch, orbital, entry, or the landing approach phase.


The capabilities of the pilot as the controller of an aircraft have been well documented, but relatively few investigators have considered the use of the pilot as the primary controller of a vertical launch vehicle. This role in the launch of a multistage vehicle has received increased interest recently. Figure 1 summarizes the studies in this area made to date. Of necessity, these programs utilized simulators to represent the launch vehicle. Some investigators used a human centrifuge to simulate the acceleration representative of these vehicles.


This paper discusses some of the results obtained from the flight program of the X-15 research airplane that have application to the design philosophy of future glide reentry vehicles. Experiences in the areas of panel flutter, landing dynamics, flight control systems, and aerodynamic and structural heating are described; and some of the problems that have developed are discussed briefly. A bibliography of papers published on the X-15 flight program is included.


This paper reviews the philosophy of the X-15 airplane, describes its concept in operation, and prophesies its future. The X-15 was the first design to require rocket reaction control within its design envelope. The flight and landing of the X-15 are reviewed. Some of the follow-on uses of the X-15 include guidance-instrument experiments. Precise determination of atmospheric density at extreme altitude, measurement of size and quantity of micrometeorites in near space, and determination of the intensity of ultraviolet and infrared rays in near space.


The first compilation of all available data on the unofficial records of the rocket airplanes is presented. The maximum Mach number, true velocity, and the altitude obtained by the X-1-1, D-558-II, X-1A, X-2, and X-15 airplanes are given in tabular form. Also, the physical characteristics of these airplanes are given and include wing spans, wing sweep, launch weight, and landing weight.


X-15 flight and simulator experiences with the manual flight control and stability augmentation system for the period from December 1958 to January 1962 are presented. The flight data extend to a Mach number of 6.04 and an altitude of 217,000 feet, and the simulator data cover the design flight envelope. The characteristics of the manual flight control system and the stability augmentation system are discussed, in conjunction with pilot evaluation, operational problems, modifications, and reliability. Pertinent X-15 flight history is included.

Keywords: Flight control; High altitude; Hypersonic aircraft; Mach number; Stability.

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Five test vehicles were air-launched from an F-104A airplane to investigate some of the operational aspects and the practicability of using the energy input of the airplane as a first-stage booster for sounding rockets. A launch maneuver and launcher system were developed and matched to the airplane's capabilities so that suitable repeatability of launch parameters was attained.

Keywords: Air launching; Aircraft performance; Boosters; F-104 aircraft; Rocket engines; Solid propellant rocket engines; Sounding rockets


The X-15 flight calibration data to define static-pressure position errors are presented for two types of pressure-sensing configurations: a standard NACA pitot-static tube attached to a nose boom, and two manifolded flush static-pressure ports on the ogive nose. The position-error calibrations are presented up to M = 3.31 for the standard nose boom installation and up to M = 4 for the flush static system. Presented also are stagnation-pressure errors sensed by a pitot probe ahead of the canopy. Methods used to determine the position errors are described. The nose-boom configuration is shown to be superior from the standpoint of position error and ease of calibration for the available data range.

Keywords: Airspeed; Altimeters; Angle of attack; Calibrating; Ogives; Position errors; Rawinsondes; Stagnation pressure; Static pressure; Subsonic speed; Supersonic speed; X-15 aircraft

Review of the simulation experience acquired during the design and flight testing of the X-15 research airplane. Discussed are the problems encountered and the use of simulators in their solution, with particular reference to the X-15 fixed-base simulator. Simulator techniques which may be used in the supersonic-transport program, as such a variable-stability airborne simulator, are suggested.


Review of the experience of the NASA Flight Research Center in coping with the problems of component and system checkout and operational flight procedures in an advanced flight research program. The operational evolution of the most troublesome and the most important systems on the North American X-15 is discussed, and operational and research data are presented. Procedures now being utilized and those that will be applied to newer systems are also discussed. The use of a flight simulator to check out several flight systems and to practice normal and emergency operational procedures is assessed. Finally, the flight operational techniques evolved for ground monitoring of flight systems data and flight-trajectory information to provide pilot backup support are described. Evidence is introduced to show how these techniques have facilitated the rapid expansion of the flight envelope and have aided in achievement of research objectives.


Towed and free-flight tests were made with unpowered, manned paragliders to study the performance, stability, and control characteristics of a typical paraglider. The paragliders used had maximum lift-drag ratios greater than 3.5 and wing loadings of approximately 4.0 lb/sq ft. The airspeed range was limited by the rearward center-of-pressure shift at angles of attack above and below trim angle of attack. Performance data obtained from flight tests are presented and compared with analytical results. Center-of-gravity shift, accomplished by tilting the wing relative to the fuselage, was used for control. This method of control was adequate for towed and free flight as well as for flare and landing. The pilot’s evaluation of the vehicle’s handling qualities, and a discussion of development problems are presented.

Keywords: Flight tests; Paragliders; Towed bodies


Review of the important operational problems encountered in the flights of the North American X-15 aircraft. The history of the project is considered, outlining the design development and the flight tests, including aerodynamic configurations, mode of operation, flight program, and performance. Summarized is the operational experience, such as the structural and thermostructural problems, and the rocket engines, auxiliary-power-unit, and the control and guidance systems experience. The piloting aspects of the X-15 mission are described, including the boost, entry, and landing techniques.


The equations-of-motion for the slideout of a vehicle equipped with a tricycle skid-type landing-gear system are presented and reduced to three degrees of freedom. A comparison of the results of numerical calculations for the three-degree-of-freedom slideout of the X-15 research vehicle with flight-test results shows that the theoretical analysis of the slideout can adequately predict the slideout distance, the direction of lateral displacement, and the approximate lateral displacement. A numerical study of the slideout equations indicates that the velocity at which the aerodynamic influence on the vehicle becomes negligible can be predicted.

Keywords: Comparison; Controllability; Equations of motion; Landing gear; Skid landings; Spacecraft; X-15 aircraft


Survey of the operational aspects of the X-15 aircraft development program. Discussed are the major structural problems encountered, such as landing-gear overloading, panel flutter, side-fairing buckling, wing leading-edge skin buckling, windshield heat damage, and internal heat damage. It is shown how the X-15 was made operational for the simplest of tasks and was then built up to the maximum demands in discrete progressive steps. Accidents in the program, and their causes, are examined.

A six-degree-of-freedom analog study was performed to aid in defining handling qualities and trajectory potential for terminal lunar landing. Results showed that, for a maneuvering task in the pitch mode and a random-motion-correction task in the roll and yaw modes, the pilots preferred rate or attitude command with control accelerations of about 10 deg/sec and reasonable artificial damping. Also, to consistently perform successful landings, the pilots generally used thrust-to-weight ratios throttled between a minimum value of 0.8 lunar g and maximum value of 1.8 lunar g.

Keywords: Analog simulation; Controllability; Landing simulation; Lunar landing; Spacecraft trajectories; Trajectories


Structural temperatures on the X-15 airplane were measured continuously during three performance-envelope expansion flights to maximum Mach numbers of approximately 4, 5, and 6. Tabulations of temperature time histories, representing all surfaces and some wing internal structure, are presented for these flights. Methods of predicting surface temperature levels and gradients are described, and the resulting calculations are compared with measured temperatures.

Keywords: Supersonic flight; Surface temperature; Temperature measurement; X-15 aircraft


This paper is limited, however, to the particular area of computer application to research flight planning and system implementation. Two systems are described, one analog and one digital, which support the flight planning and system implementation. Today, because of changing flight test requirements, a relatively sophisticated and complete simulation system is considered necessary to carry on a flight research program.


This paper covers the design, construction, preflight, and initial flight testing of the NASA Flight Research Center’s M-2 lifting-body vehicle. The paper also discusses the concept of lifting-body utilization and the reasons for construction of a lightweight vehicle.


The effects of the X-15 manual flight control and stability augmentation systems on the horizontal-tail load, and the effect of wing-flap position on the wing load during touchdown are investigated. Methods for significantly reducing the maximum total load on the main gear during landings are described. Data from typical X-15 landings and from landings in which modified touchdown techniques were used are presented and compared.

Keywords: Flight control; Horizontal tail surfaces; Loads (forces); Manual control; Stability; Touchdown; X-15 aircraft


This paper discusses the program philosophy, design, flight testing and data-acquisition techniques and presents some of the results obtained from the Paresev and M-2 programs.

Keywords: Flight tests; M-2 lifting body

The supersonic transport will not necessarily be derivative of a previous military airplane, as are the current family of jet transports. Therefore, full-scale test data and operational experience for this vehicle will be limited, and in some areas nonexistent. In an attempt to fill this void, the NASA Flight Research Center has initiated several programs utilizing existing high-performance aircraft to investigate some of the problems predicted in the supersonic-transport operational environment. This paper discusses three of these programs: a minimum-flight-speed investigation utilizing an F5D aircraft, and Air Traffic Control (ATC) compatibility program utilizing an A-5A aircraft, and specific vehicle research on the XB-70 aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Fighter aircraft; Flight simulators; Flight tests; Supersonic aircraft; Supersonic transports

The NASA Flight Research Center has conducted and sponsored studies leading to the design and developments of a general-purpose airborne simulator (GPAS) to support the supersonic-transport program and to perform general research. This paper presents some of the results of these studies. The response feedback, and the model-control concepts for an airborne simulator are discussed and evaluated. The model-following performance of the system designed for the GPAS, and, other results believed generally applicable are also presented.

Keywords: Flight simulators; Flight tests; Simulation; Supersonic transports

Density-height profiles in the stratosphere and mesosphere were obtained from impact-pressure, velocity, and altitude measurements made on six X-15 research airplane flights. A form of the Rayleigh pilot formula was used for density computations. Because of pressure-instrumentation limitations and pressure lag, the maximum altitude for reasonably accurate density determination was considered to be about 65 km. Good agreement was obtained between temperatures calculated from faired density-height profiles of two X-15 flights and temperatures measured by rocketsondes launched near the times of flight from the Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, California.

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The results of flight pressure measurements on the forward fuselage of the X-15 airplane are presented for angles of attack from 0 degrees to 15 degrees and Mach numbers from 0.8 to 6.0. Comparisons of flight and wind-tunnel data showed good agreement, and theoretical calculations predicted flight pressure measurements reasonably well.

Keywords: Fuselages; Hypersonic speed; In-flight monitoring; Measuring instruments; Pressure measurement.

Entries from altitudes greater than 350,000 ft with the X-15 airplane have provided piloting experience and verification of predicted control characteristics and operational techniques. The airplane re-enters as a glider and duplicates several phases in the recovery of higher-performance vehicles, for example, transition from near-zero dynamic pressure to aerodynamic flight, and the terminal-area ranging and landing. During entries, reaction controls have been used to surprisingly high dynamic pressures. Rate command control provided satisfactory control, and hold modes were appreciated by the pilots for secondary control modes. With conservatively planned flights, the pilots have had no problem controlling range to base with contact navigation. Landmarks have been observed from above 300,000 ft and 160 miles range. The
approach and landing of the low-lift-drag-ratio X-15 airplane
has become routine, with relatively small dispersion in
touchdown and slideout distance. The speed brakes have been
an important control for regulation of ranging for landing;
however, the pilots indicated that faster-acting speed brakes
would allow more flexible operation.

Keywords: High pressure; Low pressure; X-15 aircraft.

390. Holleman, E. C.; and Adkins, E. J.: Contributions of
the X-15 Program to Lifting Entry Technology. AIAA Paper
64-17. Presented at the AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting,
New York, New York, January 20–24, 1964, 64N15273. (see
also 388.) PDF AIAA

Aircraft. NASA TM X-51605, also presented at the AIAA
Aerodynamics Testing Conference, Washington, D. C.,
March 9–10, 1964, 65N88557, 65N35225, #. (see also 391.)
PDF CASI

In this paper some of the recent applications of special aircraft
to aerodynamic testing are reviewed and something of the
complementary relationship such testing bears to theory and
to research in ground facilities is indicated. Some of the
primary reasons for flight research are to verify theory, ground
facilities, and design. Encounter new or overlooked problems.
Investigate flight in the true environment. Establish crew-
vehicle integration and requirements. Study the atmosphere,
earth, and space.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft
configurations; Flight simulation; Flight tests; Research
aircraft.

Aircraft. Presented at the AIAA Aerodynamics Testing
Conference, Washington, D.C., March 10, 1964, pp. 78–188,
64N17019. (see also 390.)

393. Quinn, R. D.; and Kuhl, A. E.: Comparison of Flight-
Measured and Calculated Turbulent Heat Transfer on the
X-15 Airplane at Mach Numbers From 2.5 to 6.0 at Low
Angles of Attack. NASA TM X-939, H-332, March 1964,
72N73498.

Turbulent heat-transfer data obtained on the X-15 airplane for
a flight to a Mach number of 6.0 are presented and compared
with calculated values. Calculated boundary-layer thicknesses
and Mach number profiles in the shear layer are also presented.
Comparisons between measured and calculated heat-transfer
coefficients show that the calculated heat-transfer coefficients
are from 30 to 60 percent higher than the measured values
when bluntness effects are included in estimates of the local
Mach number at the edge of the boundary layer.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Hypersonic speed; Pressure
measurement; Turbulent heat transfer; X-15 aircraft.

394. Fischel, Jack; and Toll, Thomas A.: The X-15 Project:
Results and New Research. Aeronautics & Aeronautics,

of Wide-Angle Overlapping Monoculars for Providing
Pilot’s Field of Vision. NASA TN D-2265, April 1964,
64N17753, #. PDF CASI

A qualitative evaluation was made of the effectiveness of
wide-angle, overlapping monoculars as the sole source of
outside visual reference during takeoffs, aerial maneuvers,
visual navigation, and approaches and landings in a light
observation aircraft. The evaluation was made during the
day and at night and in air conditions which varied from no
turbulence to severe turbulence.

Keywords: Flight tests; Lenses; Optics; Vision.

396. Holleman, E. C.: Piloting Performance During the
Boost of the X-15 Airplane to High Altitude. NASA TN
D-2289, April 1964, 64N19002, #. PDF DTRS

During the altitude-buildup program with the X-15 airplane,
flights were made in which the boost-climbout phase was
similar to the launch of the initial stage of multistage vehicles.
The pilot’s performance is analyzed in an attempt to better
define the human pilot’s capability to control the boost phase
of flight. Airplane attitude and overall performance were
controlled by the pilot within the accuracy of the displays
provided. Even though the engine failed to light on the
first attempt on two flights and some of the displays failed
on several other flights, the pilot was able to successfully
complete the flight plans. As a result of physiological factors
or extreme motivation, however, on a few missions the pilots
made corrections they felt were necessary but which resulted
in deviations from the flight plan. The boost acceleration had
no effect on the piloting control task, although two of the
pilots had difficulty shutting down the engine because of the
X-15 throttle location.

Keywords: High altitude; Pilot performance; X-15 aircraft.

397. Gray, W. E., Jr.: NASA Flight Research Center
Handling-Qualities Program on General-Aviation
Aircraft. NASA TM X-56004, April 21, 1964, 65N35235, #. 
PDF CASI

In recent years, the increasing use of civil aircraft in instrument-
weather conditions by pilots who are frequently solo and
who sometimes have minimal experience has given rise to an
operating problem of sufficient importance to warrant study.
The NASA Flight Research Center has, therefore, recently
initiated pertinent handling-qualities research. The purpose
of this paper is to brief the general-aviation industry on the
program objectives, to discuss the general approach that is
being taken toward solving the operating problem, and to
solicit comments from the industry at this early stage in the program.


The four reaction-control-system configurations investigated during the X-15 program include a proportional acceleration command system, on-off proportional rate command and attitude hold systems, and a rate-sensing on-off stability augmentation system. Each of the systems is described briefly, and development problems encountered in hardware design, component compatibility, and systems integration are discussed. The practical aspects of system design and operation are emphasized. Flight experience with each system is also discussed. Flight data showing the results of open-loop and closed-loop control during critical X-15 reentry maneuvers are presented.

Keywords: Compatibility; Control systems design; Reaction control; Systems engineering; Systems integration.


The basic instrumentation philosophy for the X-15 program was dictated primarily by two factors. First, if the X-15 were to successfully fulfill its mission of providing timely research data, it had to be built and instrumented quickly. Second, the instrumentation had to be accurate and reliable. The philosophy adopted was as follows: Onboard recording would be used, selected parameters would be telemetered and displayed to ground monitors in real time, continuous ground radar tracking provided instrumentation system would have to be flexible, maximum use of off-the-shelf instrumentation components and systems.

Keywords: Flight test instruments; X-15 aircraft.

400. Wall, D. E.: A Study of Hypersonic Aircraft. NASA TM X-56001, April 24, 1964, 64N20549, #. (see also 400.) PDF DTRS

A study is being made at the NASA Flight Research Center to determine the gross characteristics of future hypersonic aircraft, without the refinement of configuration optimization. The characteristics defined by this study are to be used as a guide in assessing the need for future hypersonic flight research.

Keywords: Hypersonic aircraft; Hypersonic flight.
Keywords: Aerodynamic noise; Airspeed; Boundary layers; Noise measurement; Scout project.

404. Thompson, M. O.: Aerospace Medical and Bioengineering Considerations in Lifting-Body and Research-Aircraft Operations. NASA TM X-56005, also presented at the 35th Aerospace Medical Association Annual Meeting, Miami Beach, Florida, May 1964, 64N22440, #. PDF CASI

The lifting-body vehicle we have flown at the Flight Research Center is the M-2 rather than the M-1; thus, it is this vehicle I shall discuss. For those who may not be familiar with the M-2 or the lifting-body concept, I shall describe it briefly. As the name implies, a lifting body is a vehicle with a body shape, rather than wings, which generates lift at an angle or attack. The only irregularities or protuberances in the body shape are the surfaces required for aerodynamic control. Figure 1 compares the advantages or the three configurations having reentry capability, that is, the ballistic or semiballistic, the lifting body, and the winged vehicle. The energy footprints or the vehicles, or landing areas available to each, can be estimated. For operational usage, a lifting reentry vehicle appears to be highly desirable because of its versatility for reentry from a number of orbit planes or the capability for recovery at a number of landing sites within the United States.

Keywords: Aerospace medicine; Bioengineering; Flight operations; Hypersonics; Lifting bodies.


This paper describes the unique operating experience obtained during the first 50 government flights with the YLR99 engine installed in the X-15 aircraft, with emphasis on problem areas of the engine and their effects on the X-15 program.

Keywords: LR-99 engine; Rocket engines; X-15 aircraft.


A flight test program was conducted with an F5D airplane to evaluate three techniques for demonstrating the minimum flying speed of a delta-wing aircraft: The Civil Air Regulations stall-speed demonstration, the 1 g demonstration, and the constant-rate-of-climb demonstration. The Civil Air Regulation stall-speed demonstration currently used for civil transport aircraft was found to be inadequate for demonstrating the minimum speed of a delta-wing airplane, because this type of airplane does not have a well-defined stall point near maximum lift coefficient. The 1 g minimum speed, which is based on maintaining a constant 1 g normal acceleration, was difficult to determine precisely, especially when buffeting was present. The constant-rate-of-climb minimum-speed maneuvers, which are based on the ability to maintain a constant rate of climb, were reasonably easy to perform and were unaffected by the aircraft buffet characteristics. The level-flight minimum speed obtained from the constant-rate-of-climb techniques was found to be the most rational minimum speed for a delta-wing aircraft. The applicability of these techniques to other types of aircraft was shown in limited tests on a sweptwing airplane.

Keywords: Aircraft configurations; Delta wings; Flight tests.


In a general discussion of airborne simulation, it is observed that the motion of a specific aircraft cannot be matched completely with an airborne simulator, except at certain specific conditions, if the number of independent control devices for angular and linear motion is less than the number of corresponding degrees of freedom to be stimulated. However, airborne simulators can be valuable research and pilot-training tools through proper choice of the motion parameters to be matched and by tailoring the program to the particular simulator used.


This paper presents pertinent information obtained during the X-15 program and discusses its use by the pilot in performing a variety of atmospheric and near-space flight missions.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Display devices; High altitude; Information; Information systems.


Base pressure measurements were made on the vertical fin, side fairing, fuselage, and wing trailing edge of the X-15. Data are presented between Mach numbers of 0.8 and 6. Power-off and power-on data are included and compared with wind-tunnel measurements and theory.
An exploratory flight program was conducted to investigate the effect of the present Air Traffic Control system on the operation of a simulated supersonic transport in the Los Angeles terminal area. The climb and descent portions of a representative supersonic transport flight profile were flown with an A-5A airplane. In addition, en route problems were explored within the speed and altitude data were obtained, as well as flight-crew opinions and ground-personnel comments.

Keywords: Air traffic control; Flight tests; Supersonic transports; Traffic control.

Flight tests of the X-15 airplane provided data from which longitudinal, lateral, and directional stability and control derivations were determined over a Mach number range from 0.60 to 6.02 and over an angle-of-attack range from -2.7 degrees to 25 degrees. The data were obtained with the lower rudder on and off, speed brakes open and closed, and power on and off. The longitudinal derivatives show the expected trends of increasing levels through the transonic region and diminishing levels as the Mach number increases in the supersonic region. A high level of longitudinal stability is indicated by the flight data.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Angle of attack; Derivation; Directional control; Directional stability.

Entries from altitudes greater than 350,000 ft with the X-15 airplane have provided piloting experience and verification of predicted control characteristics and operational techniques. The airplane re-enters as a glider and duplicates several phases in the recovery of higher-performance vehicles, for example, transition from near-zero dynamic pressure to aerodynamic flight, and the terminal-area ranging and landing. During entries, reaction controls have been used to surprisingly high dynamic pressures. Rate command control provided satisfactory control, and hold modes were appreciated by the pilots for secondary control modes. With conservatively planned flights, the pilots have had no problem controlling range to base with contact navigation. Landmarks have been observed from above 300,000 ft and 160 miles range. The approach and landing of the low-lift-drag-ratio X-15 airplane has become routine, with relatively small dispersion in touchdown and slideout distance. The speed brakes have been an important control for regulation of ranging for landing; however, the pilots indicated that faster-acting speed brakes would allow more flexible operation.

The advantages of simulation have been expounded for years by engineers and pilots. We cannot presently ignore or fail to take advantage of the prediction capability of simulation in the development of a new aircraft or flight vehicle. The question, however, is: How complete must the simulation be to anticipate the many possible problems that could be encountered? This paper describes a few of the problems encountered on X-15 flights that were not anticipated during simulation. Many of these problems were consequences of simulation deficiencies resulting from the omission of complex and costly flight-environment conditions. The X-15 flight experience covers a wide range of environmental conditions from high longitudinal-acceleration boost profiles to low lift-drag ratio landings. This offers a unique opportunity to comment on a number of pertinent points regarding simulation and simulation requirements.
provided to derive the most benefit from the pilot’s unique capabilities.


Current cockpit-display philosophy is discussed in terms of the pilot’s informational requirements. Pilots scan patterns obtained through the use of an eye-position camera and a ground-based simulator are depicted for a conventional display system and for two advanced concepts. Preliminary results of some flight-test and ground-simulation evaluations of advanced concepts, such as totally integrated displays and indirect pilot viewing systems, are discussed.


Density-height profiles in the stratosphere and mesosphere were obtained from measurements of impact pressure, velocity, and altitude on six X-15 research airplane flights. A form of the Rayleigh pilot formula was used for density computations. Because of pressure-instrumentation limitations and pressure lag, the maximum altitude for reasonably accurate density determination was considered to be about 65 km. Temperatures calculated from faired density-height profiles of two X-15 flights agreed well with temperatures measured by rocketsondes launched near the times of flight from the Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, California.

Keywords: Atmospheric density; Mesosphere; Stratosphere; X-15 aircraft.

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Flight-measured pressure distributions are presented for the upper and lower surfaces on the wing and wing-body juncture of the X-15 airplane at angles of attack from 0° to 20° and Mach numbers from 1.2 to 6.0. Aerodynamic loads derived from surface pressure measurements are presented as spanwise load distributions and total exposed wing-panel loads. The results of the investigation indicate that chordwise and spanwise centers of pressure remain fairly constant as Mach number increases. Isolated wing theories (shock expansion and linear) generally underestimated the aerodynamic loads, with the exception of pitching moment. Linear theory (wing in presence of body) gave fair predictions of the experimental lift-curve slopes at the lower angles of attack. The agreement between flight measurements and wind-tunnel results was well within the accuracy of the data.

Keywords: Body-wing configurations; Loads (forces); Mach number; Pressure; Pressure distribution.


X-15 aircraft development concept, flight research, aerodynamic characteristics of supersonic-hypersonic flight, hypersonic structure, flying laboratory, and bibliography. This short study, written about half-way through the highly significant X-15 program, provides much valuable information about the airplane and its flight research from 1959 to 1964.


NASA’s Flight Research Center is conducting a long-range program designed to advance the state of the art in biomedical monitoring. Better knowledge of the physiological parameters used in monitoring the crew is one of major aims of the program. An instrumentation-development phase and a phase involving development of computer techniques for handling medical flight data both contribute to the overall program. The physiological-parameters-research phase and the instrumentation-development phase have yielded significant results after one year of operation.


This paper describes the X-15 reaction control system and discusses the system characteristics, operational experiences, and development problems. Data are presented from X-15 high-altitude flights during which both the manual control and reaction augmentation systems were operated.

Keywords: Altitude; Augmentation; Dynamic pressure; High altitude; Low pressure.


This paper assesses the suitability of the modified ball-nose
system for obtaining Mach number and pressure altitude from pressure measurements at Mach numbers up to 5.3, altitudes up to 130,000 feet, and Reynolds number from 0.1 to $1.6 \times 10^6$ per foot. The results are compared with experimental and theoretical results for spheres.

Keywords: Air data systems; Atmospheric pressure; Flight tests; Flow direction indicators; Gas pressure.


This paper, the third in series on the X-15 surface-pressure distributions, presents flight-measured pressure distributions for the upper and lower vertical stabilizers with the speed brakes opened and closed. Data are shown for Mach numbers from 1 to 6 and angles of attack from 0 degree to 15 degree. Comparisons are made with wind-tunnel data and theory.

Keywords: Brakes (for arresting motion); Pressure distribution; Stabilizers (fluid dynamics); Transonic speed; X-15 aircraft.


This paper summarizes the lateral-directional stability and control characteristics investigated during the flight tests and compares some wind-tunnel data with the flight values. Performance data from the tests are reported.

Keywords: Directional control; Directional stability; Lateral stability; Lifting bodies; Stability.


The low-speed lift and drag characteristics of a manned, lightweight M-2 lifting-body vehicle were determined in unpowered free-flight tests at angles of attack from 0 degrees to 22 degrees (0.38 radian) and at calibrated airspeeds from 61 knots to 113 knots (31.38 to 58.13 meters/second). Flight data are compared with results from full-scale wind-tunnel tests of the same vehicle.

Keywords: Comparison; Drag; Low speed; M-2 lifting body.
extending rearward. A jet engine is mounted vertically in a gimbal ring at the center of the vehicle. The LLRV is instrumented for research purposes. The data obtained are converted to digital form transmitted to a ground tape recorder by means of an 80-channel pulse-code-modulation type (PCM) telemetry system. Each channel can be read every 0.005 second, if desired.

Keywords: Lunar landing; Research vehicles.


Turbulent heat-transfer coefficients and measured local static pressures were obtained in flight on the X-15 upper vertical fin with both a sharp and a blunt leading edge. The data are compared with calculated values. Calculated and measured Mach number profiles in the shear layer are also presented. Heat-transfer coefficients were obtained from measured skin temperatures at free-stream Mach numbers of approximately 4.2 and 5.3 and free-stream Reynolds numbers between 1.8 x 10(6) and 2.5 x 10(6) per foot. Comparisons of measured and calculated heat-transfer coefficients obtained in both a uniform flow field and a nonuniform flow field show that the heat-transfer coefficients calculated by Eckert’s reference-temperature method were from 32 percent to 57 percent higher than the measured values.

Keywords: Flow distribution; Hypersonic flight; Leading edges; Turbulent heat transfer; X-15 aircraft.


This paper briefly reviews the significant activities and present status of the project in order to aid you in properly relating the information presented during this conference to the total X-15 program. A comprehensive bibliography of information related to the X-15 program is included at the end of this paper.


432. Lewis, T. L.; and McLeod, N. J.: Flight Measurements of Boundary Layer Noise on the X-15. NASA SP-90, (see N73-71303 05-99), 1965, pp. 27–33, 73N71306. (see also 451.)

Boundary-layer-noise data measured in flight over a Mach number range from 1.0 to 5.4 and at altitudes from 45,000 feet to 105,000 feet are presented. The data were obtained at four locations on the X-15 (selected to provide varied boundary-layer conditions). The highest recorded noise level was 150 decibels. Boundary-layer parameters were measured at one location and are used to present the noise data in a nondimensional form for comparison with data from flat-plate wind-tunnel studies by other experimenters.


The purpose of this paper is to review the present status of the X-15 landing-gear loads, to discuss the parameters which affect these loads, and to show additional modifications that might be made to improve the landing gear system.


The lateral-directional handling qualities of the X-15 have been extensively surveyed in terms of pilot ratings and vehicle response characteristics throughout the operational envelope of the airplane. Results are reviewed for two vertical-tail configurations as well as for dampers on and off, and significant problem areas are discussed in relation to the basic stability and control parameters and the influence of the pilot’s control. These results are used to assess the validity and limitations of some of the lateral-directional handling-qualities design criteria currently in use. Finally, a new and more generally applicable criterion recently proposed by the NASA Flight Research Center is described and similarly assessed against a broad range of test conditions available with the X-15 vehicles.

435. Holleman, E. C.: Control Experiences of the X-15 Pertinent to Lifting Entry. NASA SP-90, (see N73-71303 05-99), 1965, pp. 61–73, 73N71309. (see also 448.)

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the flight experiences obtained in recovering the X-15 airplanes from high altitude with conventional and adaptive controls, and to place these experiences in proper perspective relative to future lifting
entry programs.


The purpose of this paper is twofold. The first is to present a resume of the experience gained to date in using these two systems, and the second is to discuss a planned guidance research program that will be implemented in the near future on the X-15.


The original X-15-2 airplane has been extensively modified to provide a Mach 8 configuration. The modifications included jettisonable tanks for additional propellants which would provide the increased performance and consequently would provide a realistic environment for the development and evaluation of a hypersonic air-breathing propulsion system. This paper summarizes the development and initial evaluation of the modified airplane.


The use of silicone-based elastomeric ablative material for the advanced X-15-2 thermal protection system is discussed and results of candidate ablator evaluation tests in arc facilities and on X-15 flights at Mach 5 are presented.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The purpose of this paper is twofold: first to review the overall achievements of the X-15 project with proper emphasis on the highlight of the papers presented and second, to indicate future X-15 plans, both the definitely planned and approved programs and several proposals that are not presently approved but are believed to offer the potential of an excellent return on investment.


In summary, the LLRV has made 43 flights totaling 2 1/2 hours of flight time. Two pilots have shared the flying. The first 10 flights checked out the vehicle attitude control system. The next 7 checked out the auto-throttle. The next 17 checked out the total lunar simulation system. The most recent flights have been devoted to the attitude control system and handling quality research. With appropriate LEM control, display, and visibility conditions, the trajectory work will be performed. It is anticipated the program at the Flight Research Center will be completed next summer.

Keywords: Astronaut performance; Conferences; Helicopters; Lunar landing modules; Tables (data).


The basic design concepts, operational experiences (malfunctions, system characteristics, and system improvements), and flight-data measurements of the sensor are discussed and analyzed. The accuracy of the sensor in measuring angle of attack and angle of sideslip is assessed on the basis of an analysis of flight data and comparisons of these data with X-15 flight data determined from vane-type nose-boom installations and X-15 wind-tunnel data. Some practical limitations in the use of the sensor for extreme altitude applications are also considered.

Keywords: Hypersonic flow; Hypersonics; Sensors; X-15 aircraft.


This paper discusses and analyzes the system and component failures that have occurred during the X-15 program. Component performance is expressed in terms of its effect upon the entire operation, that is, as a failure rate per flight. Three representative systems are discussed: the engine system, the auxiliary power system, and the propellant system. Failures of shelf-stock components prior to their installation on the flight vehicles are also examined.

Keywords: Component reliability; Diagrams; Flight tests; Performance tests; X-15 aircraft.

The lightweight M-2 flight test program has demonstrated the capability of a pilot to control lightweight lifting body during approach, flare, and landing. Further investigation is needed, however. Areas that are important, and that are being investigated, include the use of optical landing systems, night and instrument capability, and thrust-augmented flare. A serious effort is required to reduce the complexity of the aerodynamic control system to prevent the lifting reentry vehicle from being seriously compromised in weight.

Keywords: Costs; Flight tests; Lifting bodies; M-2 lifting body; Wind tunnel tests.


A flight program, utilizing a Convair 880 and a Boeing 720 airplane, was conducted in conjunction with wind-tunnel and simulator programs to study problems related to jet-transport upsets and operation in a turbulent environment. During the handling-qualities portion of the program the basic static stability of the airplanes was considered to be satisfactory and the lateral-directional damping was considered to be marginal without damper augmentation. An evaluation of the longitudinal control system indicated that this system can become marginal in effectiveness in the high Mach number and high dynamic-pressure range of the flight envelope. From the upset and recovery phase of the program it was apparent that retrimming the stabilizer and spoiler deployment were valuable tools in effecting a positive recovery; however, if these devices are to be used safely, it appears that a suitable g-meter should be provided in the cockpit because the high control forces in recovery tend to reduce the pilot’s sensitivity to the actual acceleration loads. During the turbulence penetrations the pilot noted that the measured vibrations of 4 to 6 cps in the cockpit considerably disrupted their normal scan pattern and suggested that an improvement should be made in the seat cushion and restraint system. Also it was observed that the indicator needles on the flight instruments were quite stable in the turbulent environment.


This paper describes the NASA noise-survey instrumentation system presently in use at Edwards Air Force Base, California, and presents preliminary noise data from an F-104 airplane. Also presented are noise measurements of the XB-70 and 707-131B airplanes obtained with essentially the same equipment at another location. The difference between measured noise levels for the XB-70 and 707 is illustrated and comparisons of perceived noise levels are made. The

XB-70A Airplane


Although the major NASA research effort is directed toward XB-70-2, which will not enter its flight program until the summer of 1965, a limited amount of information is available from the early flights of the XB-70-1 airplane. Initial take-off and landing performance data have generally substantiated predictions and indicate no unforeseen problems for this class of vehicle. Vertical velocities at impact are of the same order of magnitude as those being experienced by present-day subsonic jets. The XB-70 distances from brake release to lift-off graphically illustrate the advantage of the increased thrust-weight ratio of the supersonic cruise vehicle. The landing loads are well within the design limits up to the highest vertical velocities encountered to date, and recorded data show the response at the pilot station to be somewhat greater than that recorded at the center of gravity. Persistent shaking has been encountered in flight at subsonic speed. The cause of the excitation is not known at present but the oscillation does not appear to be conventional buffetting. The oscillation occurrence drops off appreciably at supersonic speeds and can be correlated with atmospheric turbulence. The stability and control characteristics at subsonic speeds appear satisfactory with stability augmentation on and off. A longitudinal trim discrepancy from predictions has been noted in the transonic region which appears to be decreasing with increasing supersonic speed. The supersonic handling qualities are considered adequate with stability augmentation off; however, sensitive lateral control has resulted in small pilot-induced oscillations.
adequacy of noise predictions is discussed briefly.

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The thermal-buckling behavior of a wide range of flanged, thin-shell leading-edge specimens was investigated. Specimens of varying geometry were subjected to temperature-rise up to 50 degrees F per sec (27.7 degrees per sec) and maximum heating rates up to 19.6 Btu/ft 2-sec (222.4 kW/m2). The specimens investigated were constructed of 2024-T3 aluminum, SAE 4130 steel, or Inconel X-750. Regions of stable structural behavior were established on the basis of leading-edge dimensional and thermal-load parameters. Two types buckling were observed in the flanges of most of the specimens. The results of the experiments provide thermal-buckling information from which a variety of flanged, thin-shell leading-edge geometries may be selected that are free of unstable structural behavior while under the influence of severe thermal loadings.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Leading edges; Thermal buckling; Thin walled shells.


The dynamic response of the X-15 airplane at touchdown is reviewed briefly to show the unusual landing characteristics resulting from the airplane configuration. The effect of sinking speed is discussed, as well as the influence of the horizontal-stabilizer load, wing, lift, and increased landing weight on the landing characteristics. Consideration is given to some factors providing solutions to these problems, such as cutout of the stability augmentation damper at gear contact, pilot manipulation of the stabilizer, the use of a stick pusher at touchdown, and a proposed third skid installed in the unjettisoned portion of the lower ventral fin. Studies to determine the effect on the main-landing-gear loads of relocating the X-15 nose gear are discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Landing loads; Touchdown; X-15 aircraft.


In the program to expand the flight envelope of the X-15 airplane, flights to and entries from altitudes up to 350,000 feet have been accomplished. During these entries, flight-control experience was obtained with four different control-system configurations having varying degrees of complexity. The high steady acceleration and rapidly changing aerodynamic environment did not affect the pilot’s capability to control the entry. All the control systems evaluated were judged by the pilots to be satisfactory for the control of the X-15 entry from the design altitude. Entries have been made that presented more severe control problems than predicted for entries of advanced vehicles at higher velocities.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Altitude; Atmospheric entry; Flight control; High altitude.


Measured local Mach numbers and heat transfer obtained on the lower surface of the X-15 wing and bottom centerline of the fuselage at angles of attack up to 18˚ and on the vertical fin with both a sharp and a blunt leading edge are summarized and compared with calculations using Eckert’s reference-temperature method. Direct measurements of skin friction on the surface of the sharp-leading-edge vertical fin are also presented. It is shown that both the heat-transfer and skin-friction data can be predicted by neglecting the effect of wall temperature in the calculation of the reference temperature by Eckert’s method. Uncertainties in level and trend of Reynolds analogy factor with Mach number are discussed, and a planned flight investigation is described.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Heat transfer; Mach number; Skin friction; X-15 aircraft.


Comparisons have been made between human describing functions measured in flight and on the ground using two different types of ground simulators. AT-33 variable-stability airplane was used for the in-flight measurements. The ground tests were conducted in the T-33 airplane on the ground with simulated instrument flight and also on a general-purpose analog computer in conjunction with a contact analog display. For this study a multiple-degree-of-freedom controlled element was used in a single-loop compensatory tracking task. The input disturbance in each case consisted of the sum of 10 sine waves with a cutoff frequency of 1.5 radians per second. The results of this investigation indicate no significant difference between the average describing functions measured...
in flight and those measured in a fixed-base simulator. However, the variance was found to be considerably higher in the flight data. The system open-loop describing functions measured in the fixed-base simulator agreed well with the results of an investigation by McRuer in which the tracking task was similar, although the controlled-element dynamics were different. The average linear coherence was also close to the values found in this same investigation. Contrary to the results of previous investigations, the linear-correlation functions \( p \) were always equal to 1.


This paper was included in a classified report entitled “Fourth Conference on Progress of the X-15 Research Airplane Program,” Flight Research Center, Oct. 7, 1965. NASA SP-90, 1965 [see chronological numbers 425 through 435]. An appendix has been added to describe the instrumentation, and its frequency response, that was used in obtaining the data.

Keywords: Aerodynamic noise; Boundary layers; Flight conditions; In-flight monitoring; Measuring instruments.


Full-scale power-off flight lift and drag characteristics of the X-15 airplane are summarized for Mach numbers from 0.65 to 6.0 and for free-stream Reynolds numbers from \( 0.2 \times 10^6 \) to \( 2.8 \times 10^6 \) per foot. Comparisons are made between flight results and the wind-tunnel data that most nearly simulate the full-scale flight conditions. The apparent effect of a sting support on the base pressure of an X-15 wind-tunnel model was propagated onto the vertical-fin base at least one sting diameter above and about one-half sting diameter forward of the sting-model intercept at Mach numbers between 2.5 and 3.5. For the X-15, the effect amounts to from 8 to 15 percent of the base drag between these Mach numbers. For some future vehicles and missions, proper accounting of this interference effect may be necessary to adequately predict the full-scale transonic and supersonic performance. Specifically conducted wind-tunnel-model drag studies, when extrapolated to full-scale Reynolds numbers by the \( T' \) (reference temperature) method, accurately predicted the full-scale zero-lift drag minus base drag of the X-15 at Mach numbers of 2.5 and 3.0.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Drag; Drag coefficients; Flight characteristics; Lift drag ratio; Mach number.


An investigation was made to determine the coefficients of friction and the wear characteristics for X-15 landing gear skids of various materials. Data are presented for skids made of 4130 steel, with and without cermet coating, and Inconel X for several lakebed-surface conditions. The mean coefficient of friction on a dry-hard surface was found to be 0.30 for 4130 steel skids, 0.36 for 4130 steel skids with cermet coating, and 0.35 for Inconel X surface was 0.46; for Inconel skids on a damp surface the mean value was 0.25. Flight data are compared with experimental ground-tow test data on natural and simulated lakebed surfaces. Also included is the variation of skid wear with slideout distance.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Cermets; Coefficient of friction; Drag; Landing gear.


An emergency on flight 12 of the XB-70-1 airplane at a Mach number of 2.6 and a pressure altitude of 63,000 feet provided unusual operational, handling qualities, and stability and control data of interest to the supersonic-transport designer. Failure of the wing apex, its ingestion into the right inlet duct, and subsequent damage to the engines produced a steadily deteriorating propulsion situation, which led to resonant vibrations in the relatively flexible fuselage and subsequent stability and control problems in attempting to deal with the vibrations. The results of an analysis of this emergency may be useful in developing adequate operational margins and procedures in the design of the supersonic transport.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Damage; Deceleration; Descent; Emergencies.


Flying qualities of six late-model personal-owner aircraft in visual and instrument flight.


This paper summarizes the high-altitude X-15 flight experience, which culminated in a flight to an altitude of 354,200 feet. Discussed are the basis stability, control, and handling characteristics of the airplane, the cockpit displays, and the operational techniques that enabled it to
be successfully flown to and recovered from high altitudes without special piloting aids other than stability augmentation. Flight experience to moderately high altitude with the airplane equipped with interim rocket engines is discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft performance; Flight control; High altitude; X-15 aircraft.


A survey of lateral-directional handling qualities has been made for the purpose of developing a technique for predicting pilot ratings. This survey was made by obtaining pilot ratings of lateral control on a fixed-base simulator in conjunction with a color contact analog display. The effect of five lateral-directional handling qualities parameters were studied by systematically varying them over a wide range. Forty-five charts comprise the results of this survey. However, these have been condensed into three charts to provide a rapid means for hand computing the pilot ratings. For more accurate predictions a digital computer program was written which incorporated the data from all 45 charts.

Keywords: Controllability; Lateral control; Pilot performance; Predictions; Ratings.


The general purpose airborne simulator is a variable stability and control aircraft with a broad range of capabilities. A model-controlled system is the primary means of simulation, since it offers reduced flight calibration time, ease of programming, and increased accuracy. Flexibility has been emphasized in system design to insure a versatile vehicle. Initial flight tests tend to confirm the advantages of the model-controlled system and the general purpose capabilities of the vehicle. Expected utilization will emphasize supersonic transport and XB-70 applications.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Control stability; Design analysis; Flight simulators; Ground based control.


A method for very rapid application of electrocardiogram electrodes by spraying a conductive mixture is described. The electrodes are also suitable for electroencephalograms. All required equipment and the application procedure are described in detail. The finished electrode is dry and is less than 0.01-inch thick. Electrical and operational factors are not considered.

Keywords: Bioinstrumentation; Drying; Electrocardiography; Electrodes; Electroencephalography.


Research results from analytical, piloted-simulator, and flight studies have made it possible to evaluate the relative significance of cockpit accelerations, stability and control characteristics, and handling qualities in the upset and recovery problems of swept-wing jet transports encountering severe turbulence. Results of simulator tests, conducted on a device capable of reproducing cockpit-acceleration response to thunderstorm turbulence, indicated that cockpit accelerations (including vibration caused by a predominant fuselage bending mode) were distracting to the pilots and impaired their normal instrument-scan pattern. These acceleration effects appeared to be primary contributing factors to several incidents involving marginal and complete loss of control observed during pilot performance of a complex task in the simulator. Results and comments from a number of airline pilots exposed to the simulation demonstrated the training potential of this type of simulator for familiarizing the pilot with the disconcerting accelerations of the aircraft and with handling characteristics beyond the normal operating range. Flight tests conducted in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), indicated that, in simulated upsets, elevator control alone was insufficient for recovery, even at moderate overspeeds. Spoilers and stabilizer proved useful control aids for recovery; however, the use of an accelerometer to monitor acceleration during recovery was considered desirable.

* NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


Preliminary data obtained during the initial flight-envelope expansion of the XB-70 airplanes are presented in the areas of stability and control, general performance, propulsion-system inlet operation, structural thermal response, internal noise, runway noise, and sonic boom.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Flight tests; Performance; Propulsion; Sonic booms; Supersonic transports.
which maintains continuous alignment of the pilot-pressure port with the local flow vector. The quality of the data was further enhanced by applying semiempirical lag corrections to the pressure measurements. The measured density and derived temperature data from the X-15 agree well with rawinsonde data at low altitudes and with Arcas rocketsonde data at higher altitudes.


This paper introduces an analytical concept designed to relieve problems arising from the chordwise temperature gradients by reducing the magnitude of critical compressive stress in a leading edge. The reduction is accomplished by adding an internal column that applies an internal load to the ends of the leading edge. Equations that define the behavior of a pretensioned leading edge are developed and applied to a mathematical model to demonstrate the mechanics of using the concept.

Keywords: Critical loading; High temperature; Leading edges; Stagnation point; Thermal stresses.


This paper presents the results of the program, in which the transport-type aircraft were investigated. A series of stall maneuvers was made with deceleration rates into the stall of 1, 3, and 5 knots per second, with recovery initiated over a range of angle attack. The relative effects of the shape of the pitching-moment curves in the deep-stall region as well as in the initial-stall region were determined in terms of angle-of-attack overshoot and altitude losses during recovery.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Analog computers; Computer programs; Pitching moments; T shape.


This paper describes electrode techniques designed for large-scale flight physiological data collection on a routine basis. Large-scale data collection requires both smaller demands on crew time and less interference with crew comfort than could be achieved by former methods. The resistive components of electrode impedance appears to be related primarily to the extent of skin preparation. For any one method of skin preparation, both resistance and capacitance appear to be primarily a function of electrode area. Motion artifacts are not caused by changes in electrode impedance. Dry electrodes showing a resistive component in excess of 50,000 ohms can
be used to obtain tracings of quality comparable, and in some cases superior to those obtained with larger wet electrodes.


Measured turbulent heat-transfer coefficients, surface static pressures, and Mach number profiles in the shear layer were obtained on the lower forward-fuselage centerline and lower-wing midsemispan of the X-15 airplane. The measured heat-transfer coefficients and Mach number profiles are compared with calculated values. Heat-transfer coefficients were obtained from measured skin temperatures at free-stream Mach numbers from 4.15 to 5.50, angles of attack from 0.9° (0.016 rad) to 19.0° (0.332 rad), and free-stream Reynolds numbers from 1.17 to 2.68 X 10^6 per foot (3.84 to 8.8 x 10^6 per meter). The heat-transfer coefficients measured on the wing at low and high angles of attack and on the fuselage at low angles of attack are compared with values predicted by Eckert’s reference enthalpy method and the theory of van Driest. The comparisons show that the calculated heat-transfer coefficients overestimate the measured data by 18 percent to 50 percent. The measured heat-transfer coefficients obtained on the fuselage at high angles of attack are compared with values predicted by Beckwith and Gallagher’s turbulent swept-cylinder theory. Good agreement is shown. It is further shown that the level of the measured data obtained on the fuselage at low angles of attack and on the wing can be adequately predicted by Eckert’s reference enthalpy method if the effect of wall temperature is neglected.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic coefficients; Aerothermodynamics; Turbulent flow; X-15 aircraft.


472. Thompson, Milton O.; Peterson, Bruce A.; and *Gentry, J. R.: **Manned Lifting-Body Flight Testing.** NASA TM X-59042, also presented at the SETP 10th Symposium, Los Angeles, California, September 1966.

This paper describes the Joint NASA-Air Force lifting-body flight test program and the three research vehicles, the M2-F2, the HL-10 and the SV-5P. These three vehicles are representative of manned maneuverable reentry spacecraft capable of horizontal landing.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


Two research vehicles were delivered to the NASA Flight Research Center in the Spring of 1964. After delivery, several months were devoted to checking systems and installing research instrumentation. During this period, many problems were encountered which required extensive modifications to the vehicle and its systems. Subsequent development flight testing disclosed additional problems and resulted in further modifications. This paper discusses the nature of these problems and the performance of the flight control systems during the early flights.

Keywords: Electronic control; Electronic equipment; Flight control; Lunar landing; Lunar landing modules.


A wide-angle, indirect optical viewing system was qualitatively evaluated in an F-104B aircraft as a means of providing visual reference to the pilot. Safe and acceptable performance using the indirect viewing system was demonstrated for all phases of daytime visual flight. Landings were performed in both the conventional and low lift-drag-ratio configurations. When the horizon was in the field of view, aircraft attitude sensing with the optics was satisfactory about all axes except pitch attitude in climbing flight. This degraded pitch-attitude sensing was due to the poor resolution at the bottom of the field and the lack of view to the sides. A night flight was also performed. The system, in its present form, was considered unacceptable for this use because of large light losses and degraded resolution. It was evident in the study that additional view directly to the side is required for performing circling approaches.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; F-104 aircraft; Flight tests; Jet aircraft; Optics.


The X-15 airplane has been flown more than 150 times in an environment similar to that anticipated for many of the reusable space vehicles being studied. Data are presented on X-15 development and operational costs, turnaround time,
and refurbishment cycles, based upon actual operation of the aircraft. For example, 27 flights were accomplished in 1964 at a total cost of $16,268,000, or an average cost of more than $602,000 per flight. It is believed that information from the X-15 program will be helpful in feasibility studies of the reusable-vehicle concept, inasmuch as the X-15 operation is more directly comparable than any other operational program to the reusable systems being considered.

Keywords: Cost estimates; Costs; Manpower; Reusable spacecraft; Surveys; X-15 aircraft.


A review of existing criteria indicated that the criteria have not kept pace with aircraft development in the areas of dutch roll, adverse yaw, effective dihedral, and allowable trim changes with gear, flaps, and power. This study indicated that criteria should be specified for control-system friction and control-surface float. Furthermore, this program suggests a method of quantitatively evaluating the handling qualities of aircraft by the use of a pilot-workload factor.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft safety; Airspeed; Controllability; General aviation aircraft.


Mass spectrometers, traditionally large and complicated instruments, have been miniaturized and greatly simplified for the National Space Program. This recent development opens new areas to medicine and to space medicine in particular. The principles of operation of mass spectrometers will soon be important to those engaged in physiological research or in medical monitoring. They are discussed in this paper. A summary of flight test data obtained with a small mass spectrometer in a jet aircraft is presented.

*Volt Technical Corporation, NASA Field Team, Edwards, California.


Comparisons have been made between human describing functions measured in flight and on the ground using two different types of ground simulation. AT-33 variable-stability airplane was used for the in-flight measurements. The ground tests were conducted in the T-33 on the ground with simulated instrument flight and also on a general-purpose analog computer in conjunction with a contact analog display. For this study a multiple-degree-of-freedom controlled element was used in a single-loop compensatory tracking task. The input disturbance in each case consisted of the sum of 10 sin waves with a cutoff frequency of 1.5 radians per second.


The preliminary results and developmental problems from flight tests of the XB-70 air-induction system are briefly reviewed. The system is generally satisfactory, is adequately matched to the engine flow requirements, and can be controlled for the various flight ranges. Inlet unstarts at cruise Mach number constitute a new problem for high supersonic aircraft seriously affecting the dynamics of the inlet and airframe.


The ground effects on two aircraft with low-aspect-ratio delta wings, the F5D-l and the XB-70A, were measured in flight tests. In a companion program, both small and full-scale models and several wind tunnels were used to document the ground effects for the F5D-l. These flight tests indicated ground effects were not a problem in landing either of these vehicles. The limited wind-tunnel program indicated that scale effects were not of first-order importance in defining ground effects, and that wind-tunnel tests provide reasonable agreement with the values in flight. A simulation study, using a fixed-cockpit projection-type simulator, performed in conjunction with these studies indicated levels of moment and lift changes which would be unsatisfactory from the pilot’s viewpoint; however, some possible alleviating features were noted.

*Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


This report is the handbook on the determination of stability and control characteristics from flight test. It describes several axis systems, axis transformations, the equations of motions and their limitations, techniques used to determine the mass characteristics of the airplane, the installation and behavior of flight instrumentation, flight test techniques, and the theory and limitations of techniques used to determine the stability and control characteristics from flight data. This
report brings all the factors together in the determination of stability and control and provide a ready reference of pertinent information. It is a greatly expanded version of AGARD 224, Stability-Derivative Determination From Flight Data, by Chester H. Wolowicz and Euclid C. Holleman.

1967 Technical Publications


The landing contact conditions and slideout distances for 135 landings of the X-15 research airplane are discussed. The conditions are similar to those that might be experienced by future lifting-body reentry vehicles or other flight vehicles with low lift-drag ratios. Results are presented in the form of histograms for frequency distributions, and Pearson Type III probability curves for the landing contact conditions of vertical velocity, calibrated airspeed, true ground speed, rolling velocity, roll angle, distance from intended touchdown point, and slideout distance.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Distance; Histograms; Statistical analysis; Touchdown.


A small, commercially available skin-friction gage was flight tested on the X-15 airplane. The Reynolds number range investigated extended from $3.8 \times 10^5$ to $10 \times 10^6$, and local Mach numbers ranged from 0.7 to 4.9. The ratio of wall-to-recovery temperature varied from about 0.4 to 1.4. The gage, its cooling system, and the supporting instrumentation performed well. Turbulent skin-friction values measured in flight for a wide range of wall-to-recovery temperature ratios are similar in level to adiabatic flat-plate and wind tunnel results for corresponding Mach numbers and Reynolds numbers. Thus, for the present tests the influence of wall-to-recovery temperature ratio appears to be less than estimated by turbulent theory.

Keywords: Flight tests; Mach number; Measuring instruments; Reynolds number; Skin friction.


A free-flight lunar-landing research vehicle (LLRV) has undergone an extensive ground and flight-test program at the NASA Flight Research Center. The purpose of the program was to investigate flight control system concepts, operational and testing techniques, vehicle performance, and overall design requirements dictated by a manned lunar-landing task. The various ground and flight tests that were conducted to evaluate the LLRV fly-by-wire control system performance are discussed, along with the ensuing difficulties encountered. Preflight testing techniques, operational procedures, and the reliability experienced with the electronic hardware we also briefly discussed. Nearly 200 flights of the LLRV were accomplished during the flight-test phase of the program. The results from these tests, which show, in particular, the marked difference in piloting technique required for operation in a lunar-gravity field as compared to conventional VTOL operation, are reviewed.


Pilots from the NASA Flight Research Center have flown a free-flying lunar-landing research vehicle, the LLRV, for more than two years and have participated in numerous lunar-landing simulations supporting the Apollo Project in order to be in a position to assess the fidelity of the various simulations. This paper compares results from the simulations considered and conveys pilot impressions of reality achieved with the simulations. Results showed that—in descending order of importance—visual, motion, and audio cues contributed to simulation effectiveness. Control system and handling-qualities results generally agree from one simulation to the next, with control power, rate dead band, and stick sensitivity affecting pilot rating to the greatest degree. However, only the free-flight simulation afforded the pilots a reasonably realistic impression of trajectory conditions. For that reason, the LLRV has been judged the most suitable device for training astronauts to perform the lunar-landing maneuver.


Two pilots were instrumented for electrocardiogram in a T-33 jet aircraft in the course of eleven flights in which pilot horizontal field of view was varied from 360 degrees to 5.7 degrees. Landing error was recorded in terms of distance from the desired touchdown point. A high degree of correlation was found to exist between heart rate and landing error. There was no significant correlation between heart rate and field of view, nor was there significant correlation between field of view and landing error for the fields of view tested. At the 5.7 degree field of view the monocular fields
The feasibility of medical monitoring in combat was demonstrated by instrumenting ten dive-bombing missions from a Navy attack aircraft carrier operating in the Gulf of Tonkin. Nine missions suitable for data analysis were obtained. The results were remarkable primarily for the low heart rates seen on these opposed missions. The overall heart rate for 18 hours of data was 87.6 beats per minute. The heart rates at launch and recovery were substantially higher than the bombing heart rates, in spite of the significant normal acceleration experienced during the bomb runs. The difference between launch or recovery, and bombing was statistically highly significant. Comparisons between the first and the second combat missions of the day for the same pilots on the same day showed heart rate to be substantially lower on the second mission. The difference was statistically significant. The pilots were of an unusually high experience level, and the data presented could not be considered representative for a pilot group of average combat experience, or average carrier operations experience.

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This paper presents structural temperature data from two flights of the X-15 airplane in which extreme aerodynamic-heating conditions were experienced. These flights, shown on the X-15 flight envelope represent the extremes of maximum dynamic pressure and maximum altitude achieved during X-15 flights to date. The temperature data recorded are presented in tabulated form for 103 locations of the airplane.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Dynamic pressure; High altitude; Surface temperature; X-15 aircraft.


Frequency and time domain methods of analyzing human control response while performing compensatory tracking tasks are reviewed. Sample linear model results using these methods are compared and discussed. The inherent requirement of constraining the freedom of the form of the pilot models is also discussed. The constraint in the frequency domain consists of smoothing with respect to frequency; whereas, the constraint for the time domain model is more natural and meaningful in that it consists simply of limiting the memory of the pilot model. The linear models determined by both methods were almost identical.

Keywords: Compensatory tracking; Control simulation; Human performance; Mathematical models; Range (extremes).


This paper deals specifically with the evaluation of the capability of an on-off rate command attitude control system to provide satisfactory control for maneuvering a vehicle in a lunar-gravity environment. Control boundaries, based on pilot ratings, are established from fixed-base simulator studies that define satisfactory valued of rate dead band, controller sensitivity, and angular acceleration. These boundaries are then compared to flight results obtained with the LLRV. Results are presented for both Earth and lunar-oriented operation.

Keywords: Attitude control; Command and control; Flight tests; Lunar landing; Lunar landing modules.


492. Saltzman, Edwin J.; and Hintz, John: Flight Evaluation of Splitter-Plate Effectiveness in Reducing Base Drag at Mach Numbers From 0.65 to 0.90. NASA TM X-1376, May 1967, 67N26558, #. PDF DTRS

An experiment has been conducted to determine the effectiveness of a splitter plate in reducing base drag at subsonic speeds. The test configuration was a “fin-like” shape mounted on the under belly of an F-104 which may be representative of blunt-trailing-edge stabilizing surfaces of future hypersonic aircraft or reentry vehicles. The test chord Reynolds numbers, up to $36.2 \times 10^6$, are believed to be representative of chord Reynolds numbers for the terminal, subsonic phase of a lifting-body reentry. The splitter plate which extended into the wake a distance of 1 base width,
reduced the negative base pressure coefficients between 30 percent and 40 percent. This increment in base pressure coefficient was as large as obtained on a two-dimensional wind-tunnel model at the higher comparable Mach numbers and about 12 percent lower at the lower comparable Mach numbers, even though the flight results represented higher Reynolds numbers and contained outboard end (three-dimensional) effects.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Base flow; Drag reduction; F-104 aircraft; Flight tests.


Several response feedback loops are analyzed to determine their effects on the lateral-directional dynamics of a variable-stability transport aircraft. The response feedback system feeds back response variables such as sideslip angle or roll rate as rudder or aileron commands, or both, thus altering the various transfer functions which describe the dynamic characteristics of the aircraft. The range of the feedback gain for which approximate expressions are valid describing the effect of a particular loop is noted. The root-locus method is used to show the dutch roll, roll, and spiral modes are influenced as a function of feedback gain. Expressions are developed which directly relate feedback gains to some response parameter, such as dutch roll frequency, damping ratio, or roll and spiral mode time constants. The expansion to multiloop systems is discussed, along with limitations of the response feedback system from the standpoint of operating a variable-stability aircraft.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Feedback; Feedback control; LOCi; Loops.


A comparative evaluation was performed on an analog simulator to compare pilot performance when using the operational X-15 instrument panel and a panel incorporating vertical-scale, fixed-index flight instruments. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide experiential evidence to complement pilot opinion concerning the acceptability of the vertical-scale panel for use in the X-15 airplane. This evidence was obtained in the form of a wide variety of performance measures for 16 subjects, for two different representative mission profiles, and over three trials or runs for each profile. The data were subjected to both parametric and nonparametric statistical analysis.

Keywords: Index instrument; Display Panel for the X-15 Airplane.


Landing-contact conditions for 71 landings of the XB-70 airplanes are analyzed. Some of the conditions are similar to those that may be experienced by future supersonic vehicles. Results are presented as frequency histograms and cumulative frequency distributions in terms of probability. The landing-contact parameters examined include vertical velocity; indicated airspeed; angles of roll, pitch, attack, and sideslip; and rolling and pitching velocities.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Angle of attack; B-70 aircraft; Frequencies; Frequency distribution.


A total of 155 landings were made in a T-33A jet aircraft in order to determine the relationship between the pilot’s field of view and his performance of the landing maneuver. The field of view was reduced from unrestricted to a minimum of 0.10 radian (5.7 degrees) horizontal and 0.52 radian (30 degrees) vertical. The pilot’s task was to fly a 180 powered-on pattern and final approach and land the aircraft on a predetermined point on the runway. Also, power-off 360 degrees overhead and straight-in approaches were performed by one of the pilots. The quality of the performance of the power-on task was measured by recording touchdown error. Pilot comments were obtained for all flights.

Keywords: Landing; Pilot performance; T-33 aircraft; Training devices.


Cardiorespiratory functioning in flight was monitored on Naval aviators flying bombing missions against heavily defended targets in North Vietnam. Thirty-one missions suitable for data analysis were obtained. Continuous records of ECG, respiratory rate, acceleration and voice were recorded in flight. Both day and night missions were monitored. The pilots studied were of an unusually high experience level, averaging 1,952 total flying hours and 104 combat missions per man. The overall combat heart rate was 94.9 bpm. Overall bombing heart rate was 112.3 bpm, including day and night
bombing; frequently in bad weather. Overall respiratory rate was 22.9 breaths per minute. In a comparison study on Marine reserve pilots, gravitational stress was determined to be of importance in elevating the bombing heart rate observed in this combat study. The stresses of combat flying, particularly the element of risk, is clearly shown to be ineffectual in evoking cardiovascular response in the group studied.

*Capt., U. S. Marine Corps.


Frequency domain and time domain methods of analysis are reviewed with their regard to their application toward identifying pilot models. The models would subsequently be used to study the stability and performance of a man-machine system in which the human controller performs a compensatory tracking task. Sample linear model results are compared and discussed. The inherent requirement constraining the freedom of the form of the pilot model is also discussed.

Keywords: Analog computers; Linearity; Manual control; Pilots (personnel); Responses.


A theoretical analysis is presented for the landing dynamics of a vehicle equipped with a tricycle landing-gear system. The equations are simplified in order to provide a more convenient yet adequate analysis for most vehicles. The adequacy of the simplified analysis for simulating the landing dynamics and loads of a vehicle is illustrated by comparing results of calculations with flight-test data from the X-15 research airplane. The feasibility of using the modified analysis for investigating off-design landing contingencies is demonstrated by examples of studies performed for the X-15.

Keywords: Dynamic loads; Landing gear; Landing loads; Stress analysis; X-15 aircraft.


The subsonic flight lift and drag characteristics of the M2-F2 lifting-body configuration are presented at angles of attack from -4 degrees to 16 degrees. Flight results are compared with data obtained from full-scale wind-tunnel tests on the flight vehicle and with M2-F1 flight results.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Gliding; Lift drag ratio; Lifting bodies; Subsonic speed.


The philosophies and findings of the research aeroplane programme are in many respects directly applicable to the requirements for the development of successful future high-performance aircraft. One of the lessons could be the importance of an experimental or prototype aircraft as a basic requirement to the successful development of proposed aircraft of the future.


Indirect pilot viewing systems for reentry vehicles and SST, discussing overlapping monoculars and panoramic display.


M2-F2 Lifting Body

ECN-1088
Two types of sensors for monitoring respiration rate in aircraft environments have been developed: a low-pressure pneumotachometer designed to monitor the pilot’s respiration rate in aircraft that have a low-pressure breathing-oxygen supply, and a high-pressure pneumotachometer designed to monitor the pilot’s respiration rate in aircraft with a high-pressure breathing-oxygen supply. For both pneumotachometers, the sensor is placed in series with the oxygen supply line and the pilot’s oxygen line. The sensor detects gas flow that accompanies inspiration.

Keywords: Airborne equipment; Aircraft equipment; Breathing apparatus; High pressure; Low pressure.

*Northrop Corporation, Hawthorne, California.


Measurements of airplane response to clear-air turbulence were obtained during supersonic flights of the XB-70 airplanes to an altitude of 74,000 feet (22,555 meters) over the Western United States. In general, the results for 75,757 miles (121,919 kilometers) of operation above 40,000 feet (12,192 meters) altitude show that turbulence was encountered an average of 7.2 percent of the miles flown between 40,000 feet (12,192 meters) and 65,000 feet (19,812 meters) and an average of 3.3 percent of the miles flown above 65,000 feet (19,812 meters) with less than 1 percent of the turbulent areas exceeding 100 miles (160.93 kilometers) in length. Power-spectral-density estimates of the acceleration response to turbulence show that the structural modes contribute an appreciable amount to the total response.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; B-70 aircraft; Clear air turbulence; Encounters; Flight tests.


Wind-tunnel data were obtained on the local flow field beneath the fuselage of a model of the X-15 airplane approximately 5 to 8 fuselage diameters aft of the model nose from the model surface to the bow shock. Multiple-tube rakes, model surface pressure orifices, and a cone probe were used to survey the flow field. The cone probe was used to obtain Mach numbers in the flow field up to a free-stream Mach number of 6 and to obtain flow angularity up to a Mach number of 8. Test results were obtained at free-stream Mach numbers from 4 to 8 and angles of attack from –3 degrees to 20 degrees and were compared with theory and flight data.

Keywords: Flow distribution; Hypersonic flow; Pressure measurement; Schlieren photography; Shock waves.


The Wright spirometer is a useful gas flowmeter for physiological use, in that it is small and reliable. However, data collected with this device must be reduced manually, and the calibration curve is nonlinear at low flow values. The instrument was modified by fitting the output shaft with a spoked wheel that interrupts the light beam between a low-power light source and a photosensor. This modification provides a digital electrical output that can be computer-reduced, permitting correction of the data for the nonlinearity of the calibration curve. The power drain is 96 milliwatts, which is small enough to be drawn from the battery supplies of most self-contained miniature tape recorders.

Keywords: Calibrating; Computers; Data reduction; Respiratory rate; Spirometers.


This paper considers in some detail the limit-cycle and structural-resonance problems by using nonlinear mathematical models in the analysis of the system stability. The results of the analysis are compared with results obtained from ground flight tests. Limit cycle calculations involved multiple, nonseparable, nonlinear elements which demonstrate the use of describing functions.

Keywords: Feedback control; Flight test vehicles; Resonant vibration; Stabilization; X-15 aircraft.


Human describing functions measured in flight and on simulators, noting difference in variances.


The results of the X-15 research airplane and M-2 lifting body flight programs and various simulation programs
Keywords: Aerodynamics; Approach; Glide landings; Glide paths; Reentry.


Model flight investigations are being conducted at the NASA Flight Research Center to explore various spacecraft terminal-landing concepts. Modern model-airplane equipment and procedures have contributed to many successful flights on radio-controlled experimental gliding parachute models launched from a large radio-controlled launch model. In addition, three flights of a similar large-scale parachute model were made with the aid of a helicopter. Launches took place approximately 1000 feet above the ground with the radio-controlled launch model and 4000 feet above the ground with the helicopter. Studies were made of parawing deployment transients, steering control, and model landing impact. Experiments with parawings in combination with the aerodynamically stable lifting-body payloads revealed potential directional-coupling characteristics at full-scale conditions. Also, approximately 20 tests on advanced variable-geometry free-flight and radio-controlled bodies provided some insight into low-speed stability and control characteristics with conventional wings “stowed” and “extended.” The information obtained was primarily qualitative, based on movies of the flight tests. Control inputs were recorded to provide some quantitative data on parawing turning rates as a function of control input.


Frequency and time-domain methods of analyzing human control response while performing compensatory tracking tasks are reviewed. Sample linear model results using these methods are compared and discussed. The inherent requirement of constraining the freedom of the form of the pilot models is also discussed. The constraint in the frequency domain consists of smoothing with respect to frequency; whereas, the constraint for the time domain model is more natural and meaningful in that it consists simply of limiting the memory of the pilot model. The linear models determined by both methods were almost identical.


About 2-1/2 years ago the Flight Research Center was preparing to analyze human response data for a joint NASA-USAF-Cornell program using a ground based simulator and the variable-stability T-33 airplane. A decision to use expressions of the cross- and power-spectral density functions involving Fourier transforms instead of the cross-and auto-correlation functions led to certain simplifications which raised some questions.


The primary flight control system configuration now being used, an electromechanical-hydraulic combination, has proved to be fairly reliable; however, this system is complex and has several inherent undesirable features and attendant problems. The increasing complexity of flight control systems resulting from the increased performance of future aircraft can be best resolved electrically by a fly-by-wire system. Consideration should be given to the integration and simplification of display parameters to alleviate pilot effort and for the display of new parameters providing essential information for improved flight control by the pilot. When this is accomplished, we can look toward completely automatic control and, possibly, remote control.


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This paper presents results of analyses and discusses the method of selecting maximum memory time and order of the nonlinear model. In addition, there was discussion and results of orthogonal expansion of the weighting functions.
for reasons for data compression and reduced computation.

Keywords: Linear prediction; Mathematical models; Nonlinearity; Operator performance; Pilot performance.


As part of an evaluation of the operational capabilities of lifting entry vehicles, night approaches and landings were performed in fighter aircraft configured to provide a maximum L/D ratio of approximately 3.0. These approaches were performed to a lighted runway and to a dry lake bed illuminated by airborne parachute flares. Approach patterns were 270 degree overhead patterns begun at altitudes of 30,000 to 45,000 ft. Approach pattern control was accomplished by the pilot. Moonlight varied from full moon to no moon. Each night flight was paired with an identical flight flown the preceding afternoon. The approaches are compared with one another and with their daytime counterparts using radar tracking plots and touch-down miss distance as evaluation criteria. Landing-site comparison (runway or lake bed) is by pilot comment. Effects of moonlight on pattern control are discussed. Spot landing miss distances for the entire program are presented as evidence of the feasibility of night landings in lifting entry vehicles.


Determination of the feasibility of using a fluidic-type temperature sensor for measuring total temperature on an aircraft traveling at hypersonic speeds within the atmosphere. Problem areas that do not severely limit the application but do require further study to assess the total effect of each problem in the system operation were revealed. A partial total-temperature time history of X-15 flight 53 (Oct. 3, 1967) up to peak Mach number is shown, together with radar measurements of the X-15 Mach number and altitude, in addition to the data obtained from the shielded thermocouple sensor and the fluidic sensor.

Keywords: Flight tests; Fluid flow; Hypersonic aircraft; Temperature measuring instruments; X-15 aircraft.


A method for installing and fairing static-pressure orifices on the wing surface of a supersonic airplane without penetrating the skin is described. Orifice discs were fixed to pressure tubes which were, in turn, attached to the ferrous skin by welded straps. The assembly was fairied over with a temperature-resistant aerodynamic smoothing compound hand-milled flush with the orifices. Some deviation from the mold line is inherent in the method; however, analytical estimates indicate that the effect on local aerodynamic pressures is negligible for this installation. The smoothing compound has been found to be operationally suitable at a Mach number of 3.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Fairings; Pressure gages; Static pressure; Supersonic aircraft.


A simulator investigation was conducted to evaluate the lateral-directional handling qualities of piloted vehicles. The lateral-directional parameters were chosen to represent a sample of dynamic characteristics typical of reentry-vehicle configurations. The evaluations were made by using a three-degree-of-freedom fixed-base simulator with a pseudo-outside world visual display (contact analog). The investigation showed that the pilots preferred the ratio of the roll transfer function numerator frequency to the dutch roll frequency to be unity, independent of the magnitude of bank angle to sideslip angle ratio. They objected to an excessive amount of sideslip angle excitation with ailerons when the ratio of the roll transfer function numerator frequency to the dutch roll frequency differed from unity, the bank angle to sideslip angle ratio was low, and the yawing moment due to aileron was large.

Keywords: Controllability; Flight simulators; Lateral stability; Lifting reentry vehicles; Roll.


Model flight investigations are being conducted at the NASA Flight Research Center to explore various spacecraft terminal
-landing concepts. Modern model-airplane equipment and procedures have contributed to many successful flights on radio-controlled experimental gliding parachute models launched from a large radio controlled launch model. In addition, three flights of a similar large-scale parachute model were made with the aid of a helicopter. Launches took place approximately 1000 feet above the ground with the radio-controlled launch model and 4000 feet above the ground with the helicopter. Studies were made of parawing deployment transients, steering control, and model landing impact. Experiments with parawings in combination with the aerodynamically stable lifting-body payloads revealed potential directional - coupling characteristics at full-scale conditions. Also, approximately 20 tests on advanced variable-geometry free-flight and radio-controlled bodies provided some insight into low-speed stability and control characteristics with conventional wings “stowed” and “extended.” The information obtained was primarily qualitative, based on movies of the flight tests. Control inputs were recorded to provide some quantitative data on parawing turning rates as a function of control input.


This paper presents measured and predicted noise levels and computed perceived noise levels for the XB-70 airplane during takeoffs, a landing, and a flyby at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The SAE jet-noise prediction method was used to predict noise levels for comparison with measured values.

Keywords: Acoustic measurement; B-70 aircraft; Data reduction; Engine noise; J-93 engine.

526. Carpenter, R.; and Roman, J.: Recording and Signal-Conditioning Techniques and Equipment Used in a 1,000-Flight Biomedical Study. NASA TN D-4487, April 1968, 68N21538, #. PDF CASI

The NASA Flight Research Center recently concluded a biomedical monitoring program involving 1,000 flights in high-performance aircraft by students of the USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School and by NASA aerospace research pilots. To permit accurate and reliable data acquisition of electrocardiogram (ECG), respiration rate, and normal acceleration, it was necessary to design and develop a means of reliably recording and transcribing flight medical data in a format compatible with computer reduction. Signal conditioners and interconnecting harnesses were designed and fabricated, and guidelines were established for the construction of a five-channel analog tape recorder to record these data while the recorder is being carried on the pilot with minimum interference or discomfort. The equipment operated reliably and enabled satisfactory data acquisition of biomedical information both in extended biomedical instrumentation studies and in remote-site medical monitoring.

Keywords: Airborne equipment; Data recording; Flight stress (biology); Physiological effects; Pilot performance.


To collect, process, and analyze FM-recorded biomedical data from 1,000 flights in high-performance aircraft and test vehicles, it was necessary to devise a handling facility that would prepare these data in a standard format for high-speed-computer processing. The handling system designed maintains the very high signal-to-noise radio inherent in the original data-acquisition equipment, provides push-button control for converting the medical information into a standard format for digital processing at either four or eight times faster than the original record speed, and provides an effective number of quality-control checkpoints. The system is described in detail, and system design considerations are discussed in relation to preventing data degradation in both FM handling and digital conversion.

Keywords: Airborne equipment; Analog to digital converters; Data systems; Flight stress (biology); Frequency modulation.


This paper discusses the preliminary results of a study of meteorological features associated with turbulence encountered by the XB-70 airplane at flight levels above 40,000 feet (12,200 meters). Also, three of the larger temperature transients encountered during level flight at high altitudes are described. This study was conducted at the NASA Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, and covers XB-70 airplane flights made between April 1965 and March 1966 over the Western United States.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; B-70 aircraft; Flight; High altitude; Turbulence effects.


530. Wolowicz, C. H.; Strutz, L. W.; Gilyard, G. B.;
Stability and control characteristics of the XB-70-1 airplane were evaluated from data obtained during the early phases of the flight-test program at Mach numbers extending to 2.56 and altitudes to 64,700 feet (19,700 meters). This report summarizes the results of the evaluation and compares the flight-determined derivatives with those obtained from wind-tunnel tests and with estimated effects of aeroelasticity.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Aircraft performance; Flight characteristics; Flight tests; Supersonic aircraft.


A preliminary flight evaluation of handling qualities of the unaugmented XB-70 airplane was made during the initial flight test and envelope-expansion program. The evaluations consisted of pilot ratings and comments on the longitudinal and lateral-directional characteristics. The pilot ratings were compared with several current handling-qualities criteria for transport aircraft to establish the applicability of these criteria to this class of airplane.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Flight characteristics; Flight tests; Lateral control; Longitudinal control.


An evaluation of F-111A airplane number 6 (S/N 63-9771) consisting of 9 pilot-familiarization flights and 14 data-acquisition flights extending to Mach numbers approaching 1.9 at 47,500 feet (14,478 meters) altitude and 1.1 at 10,000 feet (3048 meters) altitude were completed. This preliminary evaluation allowed the assessment of flight-control-system and airplane response characteristics as various wing sweeps over the normal operating envelope of the aircraft with stability augmentation on and off. Augmentation-off flight is considered to be outside the normal flight environment of an operational aircraft and to be an emergency condition.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Boundary value problems; Fighter aircraft; Flight characteristics; Variable sweep wings.


Heat-transfer effects of separated flow were investigated in flight tests of two protuberance configurations on the X-15 airplane. The 0.20-inch forward-and-aft-facing step and the 0.20-inch-amplitude sine-wave oriented at a right angle to the stream direction resulted in local heat-transfer variation of 0.09 to 2.23 and 0.34 to 2.03 times the smooth surface value, respectively.

Keywords: Heat transfer; Separated flow; Skin temperature (biology); Turbulent flow; X-15 aircraft.


The uses, techniques of correlation, and analysis of flight-guidance and air-data sensors that have been flown on the X-15 airplane are examined. Methods by which meteorological balloons and high altitude rocketsondes were used to define the atmospheric envelope around the X-15 airplane are discussed. The application of onboard sensor data, meteorological data, and radar in obtaining altitude, velocity, Mach number, and dynamic pressure is explained.


Sixteen glide flights with the M2-F2 lifting-body research vehicle were analyzed to obtain a measure of some of the static and dynamic stability and control and handling
characteristics for a Mach number range of 0.4 to 0.7. The vehicle was statically and dynamically stable in the regions in which it was predicted to be stable. The upper flap was about twice as effective as the lower flap as a pitch control. The flight stability and control results agreed reasonably well with the wind-tunnel predicted characteristics. The M2-F2 handling qualities with dampers on and rudder-to-aileron interconnect operative were rated satisfactory for the M2-F2 research mission by the four pilots in the program. The predicted unacceptable handling characteristics of the basic vehicle were observed in flight. Various handling-qualities criteria predicted handling that was in general agreement with the actual pilot evaluation for the M2-F2 vehicle. The vehicle has the lift capability and maneuverability for satisfactory approach and landing as a glider at a selected landing site. The approach and landing piloting task was demanding and required detailed preparation and practice for the flight and complete concentration during the maneuver.


Many of the aerodynamic conditions that contribute to the propulsion system problems of aircraft are dynamic and require higher response instrumentation than is generally used for flight-test work. Such problems become increasingly prominent as aircraft advance into the supersonic speed region where the function and control of the inlet and engine become more critical. At the NASA Flight Research Center, the F-111A airplane and the XB-70A airplane, both capable of flying at Mach numbers greater than 2, have been instrumented to measure pressure fluctuations in the propulsion-system airstream at frequencies as high as 200 hertz. This paper presents design and development details of the two instrumentation systems as well as their characteristics as shown by laboratory tests. Temperature effects on the pressure transducers and means for their compensation and correction are discussed. XB-70A flight results for compressor-face pressures are included.


The ability to accurately calculate in-flight propulsion performance is essential to any flight test program which has as its objective the determination of aircraft drag characteristics. The calculation of the engine-inlet performance for the XB-70 is achieved through extensive instrumentation of the inlet duct and engines. The engine net thrust is calculated using the “gas generator method” which was pioneered and developed by the General Electric Company. The purpose of this presentation is to explain how the gas generator method is used to calculate the propulsion performance for the XB-70. The fundamental logic assumptions used in the gas generator method and the instrumentation associated with it will be explained.


Two different types of inertial flight data systems, an analog system and a digital system, have been used during the X-15 program to provide primary flight information for the X-15 pilot. This use has afforded an opportunity to compare the two mechanization concepts in the same operating environment. The two systems, although having basically different computers, use similar inertial measurement units. Equation mechanization is different primarily because of the difference in computers. The development problems on the analog system were considerably more complex than those with the digital system, inasmuch as the analog it could be refined. These development problems ultimately brought about the redesign of analog system and utilization of the digital system.

Keywords: Analog computers; Analog data; Digital navigation; Inertial navigation; X-15 aircraft.

540. Burcham, F. W., Jr.: Wind-Tunnel Calibration of a 40 Deg Conical Pressure Probe at Mach Numbers From 3.5 to 7.4. NASA TN D-4678, July 1968, 68N28801, #. PDF DTRS

A wind-tunnel calibration of a 40° included-angle flow-field cone probe was made over a Mach number range of 3.5 to 7.4. The cone probe was designed and fabricated by the NASA Flight Research Center to obtain flow-field data on the X-15 airplane. Estimated accuracy of the calibration was ±2 percent in Mach number and ±0.2 degree in flow angularity at a Mach number of 7.4. Reynolds number effects were negligible over the test range of 0.65 million to 3.25 million per foot (0.20 million to 1.0 million per meter). A rake designed for flight on the X-15 was used to mount two cone probes. Slightly different calibrations resulted for the two cones because of differences in the cone afterbody configurations.

Keywords: Flow distribution; Mach number; Pressure sensors; Wind tunnel calibration; X-15 aircraft.
Electrocardiograph of an injured human subject is transmitted by RF and telephone links from the ambulance at the emergency scene, to the hospital emergency facilities. This system eliminates delay in the diagnosis of required therapy, thereby enhancing emergency and rescue operations.


A laboratory system for rapid reduction of large amounts of continuously recorded ECG information has been developed. The system consists of a 60-times-real-time playback device which generates one pulse for each cardiac cycle, appropriate signal conditioning and logic circuitry, and a counting and printing system. Practical means for culling out noisy information, at 60 times real time, are provided.

Keywords: Arrhythmia; Electrocardiography; Playbacks; Signal analysis; Waveforms.


Flight-measured impact pressures and local Mach numbers near the surface of the rear-lower-fuselage centerline, wing lower surface, and upper vertical tail of the X-15 airplane are presented and compared with calculated results and wind-tunnel data. In addition, wind-tunnel-derived total pressures in the rear-lower-fuselage flow field are presented. The flight measurements are presented over a free-stream Mach number range of 1 to 5.7 and an angle-of-attack range of 0 degree to 20 degrees. The wind-tunnel measurements cover a Mach number range of 4.0 to 8.0.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Flight tests; Flow distribution; Hypersonic flow; X-15 aircraft.


High altitude atmospheric turbulence has been encountered by the XB-70 airplane during flight tests over the Western United States. The encounters from 36 flights were used to obtain a preliminary assessment of the meteorological features associated with high altitude turbulence. This study used data from an NACA VGH recorder carried on the airplane and from rawinsonde observations made near turbulence encounters at altitudes above 40,000 feet (12,200 meters). These data showed that turbulence of significant intensity at high altitudes is related to wind velocity, vertical and wind shear, and the vertical temperature gradient. These findings are in general agreement with various turbulence-generating disturbances suggested previously in the literature. It is also indicated that the disturbances causing high-altitude turbulence can originate in both the lower atmosphere and the stratosphere.

Keywords: Atmospheric temperature; Atmospheric turbulence; B-70 aircraft; Stratosphere; Wind variations.

545. Saltzman, Edwin J.; Goecke, Sheryll A.; and Penbo, Chris: Base Pressure Measurements on the XB-70 Airplane at Mach Numbers From 0.4 to 3.0. NASA TM X-1612, September 1968, 71N17132, #. PDF DTRS

Full-scale flight base pressure coefficients obtained from the XB-70 propulsion package are compared with predicted values based on a combination of cold jet flow wind tunnel models and data from a two-engine side-by-side jet, full-scale aircraft. At cruise mach numbers the base pressures of the full-scale aircraft were higher than predicted, resulting in a favorable increment of about 2 percent in terms of lift-drag ratio. At low supersonic speeds near a Mach number of 1.2, the negative base pressure coefficients were about three times larger than predicted, which would result in a significant lift-drag-ratio decrement. The investigation showed that the net calculated effect of underestimating the base drag a low supersonic climbout speeds, even though overestimating the base drag at cruise, can seriously reduce the range potential of the aircraft, depending on several operational factor that can influence transonic excess thrust. The trend of this range decrement (with respect to the transonic excess thrust) emphasizes the need for a base drag prediction based on models with a higher degree of similitude throughout the transonic and supersonic range.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic coefficients; B-70 aircraft; Base pressure; Pressure measurement.


This paper presents the formulation of least squares and the Newton-Raphson method. The results are compared and discussed. The work reported was done jointly by the authors and Dr. A. V. Balakrishnan of the University of California at Los Angeles. Example solutions are included that show not only the quality of the fitted solution but also a comparison
of the estimated coefficients with values obtained by other techniques.


The XB-70 flight program has provided an excellent opportunity to study the dynamic response of a large flexible aircraft under full-scale conditions up to a Mach number of 3 at 70,000 feet altitude. The purpose of this paper is to describe some of the research being carried out on the XB-70 in the area of turbulence, turbulence encountered, and airplane response and to present some preliminary results obtained 50 far in the program.


Data are presented on landing-contact conditions for the first 48 landings of the XB-70-1 airplane. Landing weights varied from 419, 800 pounds (190,400 kilograms) to 274,600 pounds (124,600 kilograms). Vertical velocities at touchdown ranged from 5.26 feet/second (1.603 meters/ second) to 1.49 feet/second (0.454 meter/second). Maximum indicated airspeed was 195.0 knots, with a minimum of 167.3 knots.

Keywords: Acceleration (physics); B-70 aircraft; Center of gravity; Landing gear; Landing loads.


Severe structural melting damage due to complex shock impingement and interference effects on local aerodynamic heating was experienced on a flight of the X-15-2 research airplane to a maximum Mach number of 6.7. Measured flight temperature data and observed structural damage resulting from shock impingement and interference heating on the airplane and its ablative coating were analyzed in the light of hypersonic wind-tunnel results. The best approximations of the flight results were made by increasing the undisturbed pylon leading-edge heat-transfer coefficient by a factor of 9 and the undisturbed heat-transfer coefficient in the two interference zones by a factor of 7. The calculated effect of increased heat transfer due to interference in radiation-equilibrium temperature is presented for selected hypersonic cruise conditions.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Aerodynamic interference; Aircraft structures; Damage assessment; Heat transfer.


The lessons from the XB-70A program that have been selected for discussion are only a few of the things that have been learned during the program. These things will certainly apply to the supersonic transport (SST). In some cases they will apply to any large airplane, and in a few cases they will apply to almost any airplane. The XB-70 is a very valuable research airplane; there is no other airplane in the world of similar size that can fly in the same speed environment. Many of its design features were pushing the state of the art; therefore, both positive and negative results were obtained, providing validation or correlation of design prediction techniques. It also provided information on operational factors applicable to a large supersonic aircraft. The program has been expensive in money, time, and personal sacrifice, but if the knowledge gained from the XB-70A test program makes it possible to avoid even one catastrophic SST accident, the program will more than pay for itself.

Keywords: Aircraft design; B-70 aircraft; Controllability; Flight tests; Hydraulic equipment.


Double sideband suppressed carrier FM telemetry system as airborne data recorder, discussing noise, environmental conditions, laboratory and flight tests.

Keywords: Airborne equipment; Double sideband transmission; Frequency modulation; Signal to noise ratios; Telemetry.


Strain gages to measure flight loads in high temperature environment, discussing selection, calibration techniques and performance characteristics.


This paper presents the formulation of least squares, Shinbrot, and Newton-Raphson methods as applied to the problem of determining stability derivatives from flight data. The results are compared and discussed. The work reported was done jointly by the authors and Dr. A. V. Balakrishnan of the University of California at Los Angeles. Example solutions are included that show not only the quality of the fitted solution but also a comparison of the estimated coefficients with values obtained by other methods.


The potential advantages offered by the lifting-body concept for entry and landing prompted the NASA Flight Research Center at Edwards, Calif., to initiate a multiphased flight study to determine the handling qualities and maneuvering required to flare and land this class of vehicles. This paper discusses the background of the program, the objectives, and the results obtained to date.


The launch characteristics of the M2-F2 lifting body after release from the B-52 carrier airplane were studied by using analytical methods and simulators to predict launch safety and to determine the piloting requirements during launch. The predicted launch characteristics and the flight results are compared. Studies were conducted by using a digital-computer program to solve the six degree-of-freedom equations of motion and aerodynamic data obtained in a wind tunnel with the M2-F2 model mounted in proximity to the B-52 model to determine if the M2-F2 and B-52 pylon/adapter would collide. Digital and analog computing equipment was then used to simulate the launch and to assess the vehicle controllability during the launch. The results of these studies indicated that launches could be made at the planned conditions of a Mach number of 0.6 at an altitude of 45,000 feet (13,700 meters) without a collision problem and with acceptable controllability. However, B-52 angle of attack, launch dynamic pressures, and M2-F2 trim settings and damper failures had a significant effect on M2-F2 launch transients. The M2-F2 roll and yaw SAS authorities of ±5° and ±4°, respectively, were determined to give acceptable damping and hardover failure characteristics from simulator studies of launch. Flight launches at 45,000 feet (13,700 meters) altitude, a Mach number of approximately 0.6, and a B-52 angle of attack of approximately 2° presented no severe control problems. The predicted and actual launch transients correlated reasonably well.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Air launching; Aircraft control; Aircraft performance; Aircraft safety.


Subsonic aerodynamic load characteristics are presented for the right vertical tail and the control surfaces on the M2-F2 lifting-body vehicle. The effects of vehicle attitude and control-surface deflection on the vertical-tail loads are determined. Coefficients defining the effects of angle of attack, angle of sideslip, upper-flap deflection, and rudder deflection on flight-measured vertical-tail loads are presented in terms of linear equations. Portions of two maneuver time histories are included to illustrate the magnitude of each of these effects. The effects of angle of attack and control-surface deflection on the flight-measured rudder, upper-flap, and lower flap hinge moments are discussed. The measured loads data are presented in aerodynamic-coefficient form. Large vertical-tail loads were measured during flight tests. Flight-measured control-surface hinge-moment data are compared with wind-tunnel data obtained from full-scale vehicle tests.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic loads; Control surfaces; Flight tests; M2-F2 lifting body.


Measurements have been made of XB-70 engine noise during ground runs. The effect of engine power settings and
engine spacing on the noise spectra during the ground runs is presented. Some of the data obtained during the ground runs were analyzed to determine the amplitude variation, and the effect of averaging time was determined. The SAE method was used to predict the noise levels for various test conditions, and comparisons of predicted and measured spectra are presented. Tests indicate some limitations for the SAE prediction method. During ground operation of the XB-70 airplane, the amplitude variations in the acoustic data during quasi-stable engine thrust indicate that similar variations might occur when flyover noise spectra are being measured. Atmospheric attenuation predictions were greater than the measured attenuation for the high-frequency octave bands at the specific conditions of these tests.

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A technique for computing optimum profiles is developed which differs from the classical gradient method in that a term representing the constraint of satisfying the equations of motion is included in the cost function to be minimized. Although the number of unknown independent functions is increased to include the state variables, the dimensionality of the gradient of the modified cost is greatly reduced, resulting in considerable savings in complexity and time. The unknown control and state variables are expressed in s functional expansion to facilitate solution by means of Newton’s method. The effects of weighting terms and the number of functions on the convergence properties are discussed. Comparisons are made of solutions using the classical gradient method, dynamic programming, and Balakrishnan’s epsilon technique.


Pilot transfer characteristics for three pilots have been measured in flight and in ground-based simulators for a compensatory roll tracking task with small bank-angle disturbances. The forcing function, in each case, consisted of the sum-of-ten-sine-waves with a bandwidth of 15 radians per second. A variable-stability T-33 airplane was used to obtain the flight measurements. Ground-based simulator measurements were obtained with both the T-33 airplane and a general-purpose simulator which used a contact-analog color display. Three different controlled elements were used, two of which were simple single-degree-of-freedom controlled elements that had been studied previously. The third was a multiple-degree-of-freedom element representative of an airplane with good handling qualities and was considered and controlled as a single-degree-of-freedom configuration in roll.

Keywords: Control simulation; Flight simulators; Pilot performance; Roll; Transferring

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Wind-tunnel force and pressure test results of nozzle extensions on the 0.0667-scale X-15-2 model over the free-stream Mach number range from 2.3 to 8.0 at angles of attack from –5 degree to 18 degree and Reynolds numbers of 2.0 × 10 (to the 6th) per foot and 3.4 × 10 (to the 6th) per foot (1.12 × 107 per meter) are presented. The effects of the presence of an aft-mounted ramjet shape and control-surface deflections are shown.

Keywords: Exhaust nozzles; Pressure measurement; Rocket engines; Wind tunnel models; X-15 aircraft


A new technique of determining stability derivatives from flight data is formulated and compared with the simple equations, analog matching, least squares, and Shinbrot methods of analysis. It is shown that the new technique, termed Newton-Raphson, is superior to the others whether flight data or a statistical model is used. Although the new method uses the Newton-Raphson technique, it is also similar to quasilinearization. The Newton-Raphson technique has been developed to enable the use of a priori (wind tunnel) information and to automatically adjust bias terms and initial conditions to compensate for errors. The technique has been successfully applied to the X-15, XB-70, F-111, and HL-10 vehicles and has application to many other system identification problems.

Heat transfer measurements were obtained on the X-15 airplane from two flights under quasi-steady conditions at a freestream Mach number of 5.1 and an angle of attack of 2.0 degrees, and a freestream Mach number of 4.98 and an angle of attack of 16.3 degrees. These measurements were made at corresponding freestream Reynolds numbers of $2.45 \times 10^6$ and $1.31 \times 10^6$ per foot. Experimental heat transfer coefficients derived from temperatures obtained from 200 recording thermocouples on the skin of the airplane are tabulated. Correlations with wind tunnel results show that the wind tunnel data are in fair to good agreement with the flight data obtained on the wing, ventral tail, and vertical tail at low angles of attack but are generally in poor agreement with high angle of attack data and the low angle of attack fuselage data.

Keywords: Flight tests; Heat transfer coefficients; Hypersonic heat transfer; Hypersonic speed; Wind tunnel tests; X-15 aircraft


This paper analyzes the flying-spot scanner television camera used as a video signal generator for visual flight simulation. A description of the technique is included as well as a detailed theoretical analysis of the quality of the video that can be produced. A commercially available flying-spot scanner designed for flight simulation was tested, and its capabilities are presented. Discussion is limited to the television camera; display devices such as monitors are not discussed. The flying-spot scanner was found to be a low-cost device which can simulate all motions of an aircraft except roll. Large excursions at high rates are easily achieved. It is limited to a relatively small field of view, a fixed forward visibility, and simulation of flat terrain. The quality of the video is adequate over a moderate range of altitudes; a very high and very low altitudes result in poor performance. Possible approaches to increasing the useful altitude range are discussed.

Keywords: Flight simulation; Optical scanners; Television cameras; Visual signals


Jet-engine compressor stalls appear to be the result of inlet

flow conditions and the tolerance of the engine to these conditions. To obtain parameters that might permit the relative assessment of the inlet and engine in regard to compressor stall, flight tests were conducted on F-111A number 6 airplane. The left inlet was instrumented with both steady-state and dynamic type pressure sensors, and flights were made at Mach numbers up to 2. Many compressor stalls were encountered as a result of increasing the angle of attack and as a result of operating with the compression-cone position and angle offset from the normal position. The data show a generally low level of duct turbulence and that steady-state distortion is the most prominent cause of the compressor stalls. However, at Mach numbers above 1.8, the excitation of the duct resonant frequency of about 27 hertz could have a significant effect on the engine. At the compressor face, high turbulence levels are associated with areas of low pressure recovery. With increasing angle of attack above a certain baseline, there is a corresponding increase in distortion, but not necessarily in level of turbulence. The maximum static pressure at the compressor face at the time of a compressor stall is primarily dependent on the compressor discharge pressure and is about 13 percent of this pressure.

F-111A Aardvark Airplane


Flights of the M2-F2 lifting body demonstrated that the manual control system and the stability augmentation system met the operational flight control requirements for the test vehicle. The regions of pilot-induced oscillation predicted from ground simulation were encountered in flight. The pilots considered the control system to be adequate for the M2-F2 flight envelope flown. Limit-cycle data obtained during ground tests agreed with flight results. Structural frequencies
of the vehicle control surfaces were never sustained in flight as a result of filtering in the stability augmentation system.

Keywords: Flight control; Lifting bodies; M2-F2 lifting body; Aerodynamic stability; Control surfaces; Supersonic flow control. The fluidic control system was tested in each mode at two flight conditions: cruise at 5000 feet, and cruise at 10,000 feet. Although stability problems were encountered early in the program, stable performance was achieved in each control mode for the flight conditions tested. High reliability was demonstrated, in that there were no failures with fluidic elements themselves. Failures were experienced, however, with the mechanical portion of the mechanical fluidic components.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Flight control; Flight tests; Fluidics; Aircraft stability; Attitude control; Control; Control equipment; Performance tests


A short-eyed-relief optical system, consisting of two monocular periscopes with overlapping fields of view, was mounted in an F-104B airplane to evaluate the feasibility of using this type of indirect viewing system in place of normal vision for performing simulated lifting-body approaches and landings. Three approach techniques were used in the study. Performance was evaluated by measuring touchdown distance from a marked touchdown point and rate of sink and airspeed at touchdown. Results obtained with the optics system were compared with normal-vision results. The ability of the pilots to perform the simulated lifting-body tasks was not noticeably reduced with the optics system. The workload and other pilot acceptance factors, however, indicated that this particular system required improvement in design, even though the pilots could readily adapt to its use.

Keywords: Air navigation; Control simulation; Landing aids; Lifting bodies; Optical measuring instruments; Periscopes; Pilot performance; Visual tasks


Before any data are statistically analyzed, it is always necessary to edit the data to some extent. Furthermore, when large quantities of data are collected, the editing must performed by automatic means. One common task in the editing process is the identification of observations which deviate markedly from the rest of the sample, commonly known outliers. A simple statistical technique for identifying the outliers and the necessary computer program is presented in this report. The program requires as input only the data set, sample size, and preselected levels of significance which outliers are to be identified. It is assumed that the data set is a random sample of size larger than two from a normal population. Two examples are presented to illustrate applications of the
The significant results of the joint NASA/U.S. Air Force lifting-body flight-test program are presented in general terms, based on 16 M2-F2 glide flights, 14 HL-10 flights and wind-tunnel tests of the X-24A flight vehicle. The lifting-body flight-test program has demonstrated that lifting reentry vehicles can be maneuvered to an unpowered landing from initial conditions representing the entry of the terminal area for a reentry vehicle.


Laboratory and flight tests of airborne solid state UHF telemetry transmitter, discussing miniaturized coaxial hardware from RF power conservation viewpoint.


Pilot ratings of lateral-directional handling qualities were collected for a wide range of simplified aircraft characteristics through the use of a simple fixed-base simulator with a color contact analog display. The results of the general survey were obtained with an engineer as the subject and are contained in 45 plots involving five parameters. The survey results show that the handling qualities for the specific simulations used were, in general, optimum. The results of the general survey are used in an empirical method for predicting lateral-directional pilot ratings for most airplane configurations and flight conditions. In another survey, utilizing the same simulation, ratings were obtained from many pilots in order to study the variability in pilot ratings among pilots and the differences in pilot rating that result from changes in mission. The standard deviation of individual pilot ratings ranged from 1.0 at the “good” end of the scale to 2.0 in the middle of the scale. Ratings for specific missions were generally numerically higher (more adverse) than those for the general mission for the same vehicle characteristic.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Graphs (charts); Lateral control; Pilots (personnel); Surveys; Variability


During a flight-test program with the XB-70 airplane, canard, elevon, and wingtip flight load measurements were made in the Mach number range from 0.40 to 3.00. The data are compared with the manufacturer’s rigid and aeroelastic predictions, wind-tunnel airfoil data, or results obtained from flight tests of other applicable aircraft. The magnitudes of the flight loads and the variation of surface loads with angle of attack or surface deflection corresponded generally with predictions. Canard buffeting was experienced at subsonic speeds. The characteristics of this effect are examined on the basis of the results of in-flight tuft studies and the analysis of flight-measured bending-moment data.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Canard configurations; Flight tests; Aerodynamic loads; Buffeting; Elevons; Predictions; Wing tips


The aerodynamic characteristics of lifting body research vehicles tested thus far require stability augmentation systems (SAS) to improve the handling qualities of the vehicles in some areas of the flight envelope. The design goals for such a system are performance, reliability, and ease of testing. Validation of these goals requires realistic test criteria that establish vehicle-SAS performance based on ground tests. This paper describes the design of the SAS for the X-24A vehicle and the ground test techniques that were used for this validation. Test criteria and procedures are established for various ground tests, such as frequency response, limit cycle, and structural resonance. Ground test results are compared with subsequent flight test data obtained in the joint NASA-USAF lifting body flight research program.

*Sperry Rand Corporation, Phoenix, Arizona.


The theory and application of a new performance index, the Model PI, that brings engineering design specifications
into the analytical design process is presented. A parameter optimization design procedure is established that starts with practical engineering specifications and uses the Model PI as a synthesis tool to obtain a satisfactory design. The Model PI represents a new criterion for approximating one dynamical system by another, based on a novel geometrical representation of linear autonomous systems. It is shown to be an effective performance index in designing practical systems and to be substantially more efficient to use than a comparable model-referenced integral squared error performance index. The design procedure is demonstrated by designing a lateral-directional stability augmentation system for the X-15 aircraft.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The effects of breath holding, MI, Valsalva and Mueller’s maneuvers were studied on healthy males during static condition at various postures and during pure axis rotations. The subject was seated inside a hollow spherical simulator (ARTS). Rotation was at the rate of 6 rpm with the axis of rotation through the body. Heart rates, EGG, blood pressures, respiratory rates, voice and TV were monitored via telemetry.

*Systems Research Laboratories, Inc.


A limited flight investigation was conducted to determine the effect of reduced flap deflections on power required and the resulting engine noise for a subsonic jet transport aircraft. Noise levels were measured during level flight at an altitude of 400 feet (122 meters) at approach speeds.
Data were obtained during flybys with flap deflections of 50 degrees and 36 degrees. The maximum overall sound pressure level (OASPL) from flybys with 36 degree of flap deflection averaged 3 decibels (ref. 0.00002 newtons/meter$^2$) lower than for flybys with 50 degree of flap deflection. Buffet intensity was reduced by the use of lower-flap deflections.

Keywords: Engine noise; Jet aircraft; Transport aircraft; Approach; Flaps (control surfaces); Landing

XB-70 AND X-15-2 on Ramp


Full-scale power-on flight lift and drag measurements were made on the X-15-2 airplane just before and just after two large external fuel tanks were ejected. By subtracting the drag of the airplane after the tank ejection from the drag of the airplane before tank ejection, the incremental drag due to the tanks was determined. Analysis of the data showed that the percentage increase of incremental drag due to the tanks was almost equal to the percentage increase in cross-sectional area caused by the tanks. A buildup drag estimate based on free-stream conditions agreed well with the flight data; whereas, the wind tunnel data, although they had the same general trend of the tank drag coefficient with Mach number, were lower than both the estimate and the flight data.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; External stores; X-15 aircraft; Aerodynamic coefficients; Ejection; Fuel tanks; Mach number

X-24A, M2-F3, and HL-10 Lifting Bodies


Reusable lifting entry vehicle flight tests, investigating handling qualities and subsonic-transonic aerodynamics of M2-F2, M2-F3, HL-10 and X-24A.

Keywords: XB-70 airplane; Cockpit environmental data


589. Tang, M. H.; and DeAngelis, V. M.: Fin Loads and Control-Surface Hinge Moments Measured in Full-

Tests were conducted on the full-scale X-24A lifting-body in the 40- by 80-Foot Wind Tunnel at the NASA Ames Research Center. One purpose of the tests was to measure aerodynamic loads on the stabilizing fins and hinge moments on all the control surfaces. The tests were conducted at dynamic pressures of 60, 80, and 100 lb/ft² (2870, 3830, and 4790 N/m²). The effects of variations in rudder deflections, flap deflection, and angles of attack and sideslip were studied. Also, limited tests were performed with a simulated ablative surface on the aerodynamic characteristics. Detailed results of the wind-tunnel tests are given in the form of load coefficients and hinge-moment coefficients. The results are compared with data from tests performed in other wind tunnels on small-scale models.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Control surfaces; Lifting bodies; Wind tunnel stability tests; X-24 aircraft

590. Quinn, Robert D.; and Olinger, Frank V.: Flight-Measured Heat Transfer and Skin Friction at a Mach Number of 5.25 and at Low Wall Temperatures. NASA TM X-1921, H-579, NAS 1.15: X-1921, November 1969, 92N70606, #. PDF DTRS

Turbulent skin friction and heat transfer coefficients were measured simultaneously on a test panel installed on the sharp leading edge upper vertical tail of the X-15 airplane at wall to recovery temperature ratios of 0.218 to 0.333 and at a nominal free stream Reynolds number of 1.54 x 10(exp 6) per foot. The data were obtained from one flight at a nominal free stream Mach number of 5.25. Reynolds analogy factors were derived from skin friction and heat transfer measurements. The measured data are compared with values predicted by various theories.

Keywords: Flight tests; Free flow; Heat transfer coefficients; Hypersonic heat transfer; Hypersonic speed; Skin friction; turbulence; X-15 aircraft

591. Taylor, Lawrence W., Jr.; Smith, Harriet J.; and Iliff, Kenneth W.: Experiences Using Balakrishnan’s Epsilon Technique to Compute Optimum Flight Profiles. Presented at the Fourth NASA Inter-Center Control Systems Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 4–5, 1969. (see also 559, 605.)

A technique for computing optimum profiles is developed which differs from the classical gradient method in that a term representing the constraint of satisfying the equations of motion is included in the cost function to be minimized. Although the number of unknown independent functions is increased to include the state variables, the dimensionally of the gradient of the modified cost is greatly reduced, resulting in considerable savings in complexity and time. The unknown control and state variables are expressed in s functional expansion to facilitate solution by means of Newton’s method. The effects of weighting terms and the number of functions on the convergence properties are discussed. Comparisons are made of solutions using the classical gradient method, dynamic programming, and Balakrishnan’s epsilon technique.

592. Deets, Dwain A.: Optimal Regulator of Conventional Setup Techniques for a Model Following Simulator Control System. Presented at the Fourth NASA Inter-Center Control Systems Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 4–5, 1969. (see also 969.)

This paper compares the optimal regulator technique for determining simulator control system gains with the conventional servo analysis approach. Practical considerations associated with airborne motion simulation using a model-following system provided the basis for comparison. The simulation fidelity specifications selected were important in evaluating the relative advantages of the two methods. Frequency responses for a JetStar aircraft following a roll mode model were calculated digitally to illustrate the various cases. A technique for generating forward loop lead in the optimal regulator model-following problem was developed which increases the flexibility of that approach. In this study it appeared to be the only way in which the optimal regulator method could meet the fidelity specifications.


1970 Technical Publications


Human controllers nonlinear time domain mathematical model for analyzing compensatory tracking task data.

Approaches and landings during the XB-70 program were performed at various approach speeds, glide-slope angles, gross weights, runway offsets, and operational conditions. Representative time histories, pilot comments, and pilot ratings were obtained from these maneuvers. Stability and control data and limited correlations with predictions and handling-qualities criteria were also obtained. The XB-70 flight experience indicated that the height of the cockpit above the runway in combination with nose-high landing attitudes and high approach speeds made the landing task more difficult than that for current subsonic jet transports. Three-degree glide slopes were considered unsatisfactory at the 200-knot indicated airspeed approaches required by the XB-70. The high rate of descent reduced the time available to accomplish the flare and, therefore, increased the possibility of a hard landing. Large changes in lift due to elevator deflection were satisfactory because of the high control effectiveness. Laterally, the aircraft was sensitive to turbulence. Lateral-offset maneuvers simulating breakout from an overcast were not difficult; however, because of the higher approach speeds, excessive runway distances would be covered prior to touchdown and the adverse yaw accompanying aileron deflection was considered excessive. Sidestep maneuvering performance was adequately predicted by a simple technique.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Approach control; B-70 aircraft; Aircraft performance; Controllability; Flight characteristics


The flow field around a pylon-mounted dummy ramjet engine on the X-15-2 airplane was surveyed at Mach numbers from 2.0 to 6.7 in preparation for flight tests of a hydrogen-burning hypersonic ramjet engine. Impact pressures, local Mach number, and flow angularity were determined and compared with wind-tunnel data and theoretical calculations. The wing, camera fairing, and side fairing of the X-15-2 generated shock waves which impinged on the dummy ramjet and pylon. However, a region free of significant shock-wave impingement on the ramjet inlet existed for flight at a free-stream angle of attack of 5 degrees or less for free-stream Mach numbers from 3.0 to 8.0. In flight regions free of shock-wave impingement, impact pressure, local Mach number, and angle of attack generally showed good agreement with wind-tunnel data. Shock-wave locations determined from impact-pressure data and wind-tunnel schlieren photograph data showed good agreement. Strong flow-interference effects occurred at the pylon-fuselage intersection. The separated-flow region and the resulting separation shock wave remained within 10 inches (25.4 centimeters) of the fuselage surface in front of the pylon for all flight conditions. The extent of separated flow was sensitive to angle of attack and extremely sensitive to small deviations from 0 degree in angle of sideslip.

Keywords: Flow distribution; Hypersonic test apparatus; Ramjet engines; X-15 aircraft; Dummies; Flight tests; Mach number; Separated flow; Shock waves


An investigation was conducted with the XB-70 airplane attached to a thrust stand to observe compressor-radiated noise and propulsion-system performance as the inlet throat area was reduced to form an aerodynamically choked flow. The anticipated compressor-noise reduction was not experienced. Tests at constant engine speed settings disclosed only minor noise reductions as a result of choking the inlet. Additional tests were performed with the inlet fixed full open and the engines set at successively higher speeds from 60-percent to 57-percent rpm. These tests disclosed considerable noise reduction (10 decibels) in the compressor-blade passing frequencies at engine settings above 80-percent rpm. Thus, it was concluded that most of the noise reduction expected for the throat-closing tests, which were done at engine settings of 87-percent rpm and higher, had already occurred and that only slight additional suppression could be expected when the throat area was decreased to choke the flow. Choking the flow resulted in thrust losses due to decreased total-pressure recovery and airflow in the inlet. These test results suggest that major noise reduction may be obtained without a full-choked flow and the concurrent propulsion-system performance loss.

Keywords: Compressors; Noise reduction; Population system performance; Aerodynamics; Air flow; Intake systems


A control system designed to damp the structural motion of
flexible airframes was flight tested on the XB-70 airplane, a flexible, low-aspect-ratio supersonic configuration. Even though the system—known as ILAF (Identical Location of Accelerometer and Force)—was an exploratory device and was not developed as an optimum system, the flight tests provided valuable information applicable to aircraft of the supersonic-transport type. This paper reviews the design processes and presents some preliminary results obtained from flight data.


Motion and visual cue influences on pilot performance and opinion in roll motion tasks were investigated in an airborne simulator flight program. Human describing functions were obtained from a compensatory tracking task for three roll damping conditions (low, medium, and high) for each of three simulator configurations (fixed base, IFR; moving base, IFR; and moving base, VFR). In addition, the pilots made handling qualities evaluations of the nine different cases. The gross effects of motion and visual stimuli, as determined by pilot comments and ratings, were compared with the conclusions drawn from compensatory tracking task results. The quantitative results from the tracking task experiment showed definite motion cue influences. However, the handling qualities experiment indicated that motion was not necessary to obtain valid results. It was concluded that the quantitative results from tracking task are not adequate to establish the need for motion in a handling qualities research simulator.


A tracking study conducted at the Flight Research Center on three aircraft has demonstrated that the degradation in tracking precision due solely to buffet intensity is on the order of 5 to 6 mils for buffet intensity levels to 0.2, and it is believed that these trends are generally applicable to other fighter aircraft. Also, the results of this study indicate that only a portion of the buffet-free normal-force coefficient attained with maneuver flaps on the F-104 aircraft may be utilized if tracking precision is to be maintained because of the introduction of wing rock. Finally, it has been demonstrated that certain stability and control or handling-qualities factors can degrade tracking precision to an equal or greater degree than buffet intensity.

A technique for computing optimum profiles is developed which differs from the classical gradient method in that a term representing the constraint of satisfying the equations of motion is included in the cost function to be minimized. Although the number of unknown independent functions is increased to include the state variables, the dimensionality of the gradient of the modified cost is greatly reduced, resulting in considerable savings in complexity and time. The unknown control and state variables are expressed in a functional expansion to facilitate solution by means of Newton’s method. The effects of weighting terms and the number of functions on the convergence properties are discussed. Comparisons are made of solutions using the classical gradient method, dynamic programming, and Balakrishnan’s epsilon technique.


XB-70 handling-qualities flight-test experience is reviewed and its implications for handling qualities criteria are analyzed. Pilot ratings, pilot comments, and flight-determined handling qualities parameters are presented. Results throughout the entire flight envelope are considered, but emphasis is placed on high-speed supersonic cruise and landing approach.


Boundary-layer-profile data were obtained from the smooth undersurface of the A-5A airplane fuselage during the demonstration of sensors for measuring boundary-layer characteristics. The data represent Mach numbers from 0.51 to 1.72, angles of attack up to 7°, and Reynolds numbers up to 74 million. The data are interpreted in terms of local skin friction and momentum thickness, and the velocity profiles from which these data are derived are tabulated. Local transformed friction coefficients obtained from a Clauser type of determination from velocity profiles were close to the incompressible values of Karman-Schoenherr when presented as a function of momentum thickness Reynolds number. Turbulent momentum thickness values were significantly influenced by angle of attack. The flight values of momentum thickness for angles of attack near 6° and 7° were lower than the flat plate values, approaching the level for slender cones. At angles of attack near 0° and 1°, momentum thickness from flight was higher than flat plate values. The aircraft nose boom and the protuberances on the boom are believed to be major reasons for the additional thickness at low angles of attack.

Keywords: Aeronautical engineering; Fuselages; Protuberances; Skin friction; Turbulent boundary layer

**A-5A Vigilante Airplane**


A flight investigation was conducted to define the minimum flying speed for a large, subsonic jet transport by using three techniques: (1) the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 25 demonstration technique; (2) a flight-path 1-g-break technique; and (3) a constant-rate-of-climb technique. The effect of thrust on minimum speed is analyzed. Results indicate that the flight-path 1-g-break technique was the best overall technique. The constant-rate-of-climb technique, or minimum level-flight speed, though highly affected by the deceleration dynamics of the maneuver, was found to be an
acceptable alternate for the 1-g-break technique. The FAR demonstration technique, when analyzed by two current analysis methods, was found to yield the least conservative results. However, if the analysis were based on actual airplane maximum lift capability, the technique would yield acceptable results.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Aerodynamic stalling; Flight tests; Lift; Jet propulsion; Subsonic speed

613. Gallagher, R. J.: Investigation of a Digital Simulation of the XB-70 Inlet and Its Application to Flight-Experienced Free-Stream Boundary-Layer Interaction, can be simulated. The flight inlet turbulence-producing mechanism, namely, and from 14 percent to as high as 31 percent prior to stall. parameter as high as 12 percent were obtained during takeoff and from 0 to 200 hertz during takeoff and immediately prior to a compressor stall at Mach 2.5 and an altitude of 63,100 eet (19,200 meters). Since the statistical assumptions of stationarity, randomness, and normality were found to be nearly as significant as severe turbulence for operation of that type of inlet. Unstart margins for the manually controlled XB-70 inlet in the presence of these disturbances were obtained through use of the simulation program.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; B-70 aircraft; Digital simulation; Engine inlets; Free flow; Inlet pressure


Instrumentation in the left inlet of the XB-70-1 airplane was used to record high-response total- and static-pressure data from 0 to 200 hertz during takeoff and immediately prior to a compressor stall at Mach 2.5 and an altitude of 63,100 eet (19,200 meters). Since the statistical assumptions of stationarity, randomness, and normality were found to be approximately valid for the inlet pressure data, random data-analysis techniques were applied. Values of mean turbulence parameter as high as 12 percent were obtained during takeoff and from 14 percent to as high as 31 percent prior to stall. The flight inlet turbulence-producing mechanism, namely, normal-shock boundary-layer interaction, can be simulated successfully in ground test facilities up to at least 40 hertz as evident in the pressure-wave power spectra; however, higher turbulence values were experienced in flight than in model tests by an engine compressor prior to stall.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Dynamic pressure; Engine inlets; Pressure gradients; Boundary layer stability; Supersonic compressors


A flight program was conducted with an F-111A airplane to determine the dynamic nature of inlet pressure fluctuations which can lead to compressor surge. Twenty-two compressor surges were analyzed, covering the Mach number range to 2.17. Inlet conditions prior to surge were analyzed using statistical techniques and high-response distortion-factor calculations. Combining the steady-state flow distortion patterns obtained from low-response pressure instrumentation with the dynamic sensor data gives a distortion factor that always shows a peak value just prior to the occurrence of surge. This value increases with increasing corrected airflow, opening the sixth-stage bleeds, and nonafterburning engine operation. The limited usefulness of the average turbulence factor for prediction of compressor surge is discussed.


A flight-test program was conducted with a light twin-engine airplane to determine the effect of a parallel yaw damper and aileron-to-rudder interconnect on the flying qualities of this class of aircraft. Both quantitative and qualitative results are presented for several flight tasks and conditions, including flight in turbulence. Airplane handling qualities and ride qualities are summarized. The effect of the yaw damper on the stall and post-stall motions of the test airplane and the motions resulting from sudden engine failure are also discussed.

The design of secondary structures and mechanisms for a reusable space shuttle can produce problems as serious as those involved in designing the primary structure and thermal protection system. Several events involving failure of secondary structures during the X-15 flight program have been selected to illustrate potential problem areas. Similar problems may be expected on future reusable vehicles until additional research provided adequate design information in these areas.


This paper discusses the maintenance activity between X-15 flights and the number and types of repair items which would be related to space shuttle requirements. The increased size and complexity of the shuttle systems will magnify the number of repair items, making the required turnaround time difficult or impossible to achieve unless careful consideration is given to problem prevention and access for system repair and maintainability.


The first part of this paper will discuss a terminal-area guidance technique recently developed by the Air Force Flight Test Center around the F-111A inertial navigation system. The results of flying under instrument flight rules using this guidance scheme will be reported as will the results of ground controlled approaches (GCA) using an NB-52B airplane in an unpowered, low L/D configuration. The latter portion of this paper will discuss a circular approach guidance scheme under development at the NASA Flight Research Center.


Flight tests were made with and without the lower ventral fin, dummy ramjet (including the modified fixed ventral fin), and ablative coating over the entire wetted area. Data were obtained at Mach numbers from 0.5 to 6.7 and free-stream Reynolds numbers from approximately 1.7 × 10^8 to 3.6 × 10^7. Angle of attack ranged from 0 degree to 11 degrees, dynamic pressure from about 300 lb/ft^2 (14,364 N/m^2) to 770 lb/ft^2 (36,868 N/m square), and altitude from approximately 3000 ft (914 m) to 102,000 ft (31,090 m). Supersonic flight results showed an increase in drag coefficient caused by the ablative coating of 0.008 at a lift coefficient of 0 and 0.022 at a lift coefficient of 0.3. At subsonic speeds the average increase in drag coefficient was about 0.013 for lift coefficients of 0.3 and 0.4. The flight incremental increase in drag coefficient due to the ablative coating showed good agreement with compressible predicted values at low lift coefficients. The average incremental increase in drag coefficient caused by the lower ventral fin and dummy ramjet was about 0.010 at subsonic speeds at a lift coefficient of about 0.3. The flight incremental increase in drag coefficient of the lower ventral fin between Mach 3.8 and 4.9 was about 0.006 at a lift coefficient of 0.1 and 0.014 at a lift coefficient of 0.3.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Aerodynamic drag; Subsonic speed; Supersonic speed; X-15 aircraft


An airborne simulator provided a wide range of maximum roll control power (0.05 to 3.5 rad/sec square) and time constants (0.1 to 10 sec) for pilot evaluation and rating. Roll criteria were developed and compared favorably with previously reported criteria. Maximum roll angular acceleration, maximum roll rate, roll time constant, time to bank, and bank-angle change in a given time all appear to be effective roll-criteria parameters. Steady-state roll rates of about 20 deg/sec and
Several tests were conducted on six fast-decay phosphors to measure their characteristics applicable to flying-spot scanners. P-16, P-24, P-36, P-37, and P-SP phosphors are currently available in production cathode-ray tubes; P-X42 is an experimental phosphor. A pulse test measured rise and decay times, and two scanning tests measured frequency responses. Screen noise, burn and aging resistance, and variation of light output as a function of electron beam dwell time were also measured. The frequency responses of P-16, P-37, and P-SP phosphors did not vary during the tests. The frequency response of P-36 phosphor varied with electron beam dwell time, and the frequency response of P-24 phosphor varied with both dwell time and beam current. The bandwidths (frequencies at which the gain is 0.1) were as follows: P-16, 22 megahertz; P-24, 12 megahertz; P-36, 12 megahertz; P-37, 34 megahertz; P-SP, 21 megahertz. The bandwidth of P-X42 phosphor, too high to measure with the equipment used, was estimated to be in excess of 100 megahertz. However, this phosphor produced relatively little light and had a screen that was too noisy to be useful in flying-spot scanners.

Keywords: Frequency response; Phosphors; Scanners; Cathode ray tubes; Light (visible radiation)

629. Anon.: Flight Test Results Pertaining to the Space Shuttlecraf Symposium Papers. NASA TM X-2101, October 1970, 71N10101, #. PDF CASI

This compilation consists of papers presented at the NASA Symposium on Flight Test Results Pertaining to the Space Shuttlecraf, held at the NASA Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif, on June 30, 1970. The symposium was divided into the following sessions: Lifting Body Flight Test Results and Additional Space Shuttle Oriented Studies. Papers were presented by representatives from the NASA Flight Research Center and the U. S. Air Force Flight Test Center. A list of attendees is included.


The purpose of this paper is to present the results from the flight-test program and the correlations of these data with predictions. Evaluations and impressions of the lifting body vehicles’ overall handling qualities will also be presented by several of the pilots in the program. Finally, future plans for the lifting body flight program will be discussed.


In this paper the more important longitudinal and lateral-
directional aerodynamic stability and control derivatives obtained from flight are compared with small- and full-scale wind-tunnel results where applicable. Significant trends and important differences are pointed out, and the implications discussed.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


Handling qualities have always been vitally important to the pilot. Before the current series of lifting body flight tests, there was speculation and concern about how this class of wingless vehicle would handle. The general behavior of the three lifting bodies in flight is described in broad terms in this paper, and some specific examples of behavior that may be of special interest from the pilot’s viewpoint are presented. In addition, comments are offered concerning simulation requirements.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


Flight and wind-tunnel lift and drag data obtained on three lifting body vehicles has been compared. With the exception of the drag-due-to-lift factor, the flight and small-scale wind-tunnel results generally agree; however, it is extremely important that the model contours match the flight vehicle and the flow on the model be carefully observed, because minor separation problems on the model may become severe on the full-scale vehicle in flight. The full-scale wind-tunnel results obtained with the flight vehicle generally predicted higher zero-lift drag coefficients and lower drag-due-to-lift factors than were observed during the flight tests.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


An essential area of research with the unique M2-F2, HL-10, and X-24A lifting body configurations is the assessment of the ability to predict flight loads from wind-tunnel tests. Flight measurements and correlation with predictions are necessary in verifying the structural integrity of existing vehicles and establishing the groundwork for weight savings on future vehicles of similar shapes. As part of the overall lifting body flight investigation at the Flight Research Center, detailed aerodynamic-load studies are being made on each of the three vehicles. This paper presents the preliminary results from these studies.

X-24A Lifting Body, Three-View Drawing


Piloting aspects of the lifting body vehicles are discussed in this paper by two of the pilots assigned to the flight program. Subjects discussed include: approach, landing, and energy management considerations; field of view requirements; stability considerations; and vehicle riding qualities, including the effects of turbulence. Remarks pertinent to the various subject areas are made by each pilot.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


This summary paper will point out results of the lifting body program that have a bearing on the design of a large space shuttle vehicle. The initial program objectives, the primary program results, and the pertinence of these results to the shuttle will be outlined, as will the future direction of the program.


This paper will discuss the application of recent approach and landing studies to the proposed space shuttle. These studies
were conducted basically in two areas: powered approaches with the HL-10 lifting body, and unpowered types of approaches with shuttle-size vehicles, the B-52 and CV-990 airplanes.


The NASA Flight Research Center is reviewing the applicability of flying-qualities experience to the shuttle mission for the purpose of preparing a shuttle flying-qualities specification. This paper is a progress report on this review; the result presented are, of course, preliminary.


This paper sums up the flight test results pertaining to the space shuttlecraft symposium held at the Flight Research Center. Additional remarks by the author discuss future plans to continue work on unpowered approach and landing techniques and the feasibility of a lifting entry.


High temperature thermal null strain gage with sensing unit and electronic control unit to measure mechanical strain in terms of induced thermal strain.


Trauma is widely accepted as an etiologic factor in venous thrombosis and thrombophlebitis of the lower extremities. Because of the frequent participation of military pilots and test pilots in athletic activities, the incidence of venous thrombosis of the extremities may be expected to be significant in this population. This group is likely to fly high performance vehicles and, therefore, likely to use the g-suit. On theoretical grounds, use of the g-suit in the face of recent venous thrombosis in the lower extremities should be hazardous. This problem is considered in this paper.


644. Wilson, E. J.: Installation and Testing of Strain Gages for High-Temperature Aircraft Applications. Presented at the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, Fall Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, October 18–22, 1970, 71A13781, #.


Several guidance and control research programs involving the X-15 and F-104 airplanes are discussed, with the discussion oriented toward airborne digital computer utilization. An analog and a digital systems mechanization are compared, and the performance advantages of the digital system are pointed out. The flexibility of the digital computer as a research tool is indicated, as are advantages of decentralized computers. Application of a general purpose computer to the solution of strapdown system equations was successful in the laboratory in preparation for a flight program. The effects of input-output mechanizations on software complexity are discussed. The utility of a general purpose digital computer is shown by its flexibility in being used for various research tasks. This utility is degraded, however, by the effort required to write programs in machine language for real-time applications.


Deficiencies in established techniques of measuring aircraft thrust in flight led to the application of the gas generator method of calculating engine thrust to the XB-70-1 airplane. A series of tests on a ground static-thrust stand was performed on the airplane to establish at ground static conditions the accuracy of this method, to measure the installed thrust of the YJ93-GE-3 engine, and to determine the effect of instrumentation errors and nonuniform flows at the engine compressor face on the thrust calculation. Tests with an aerodynamically choked inlet, an opened inlet-bypass system, and varying combinations of operating engines were also conducted. Results showed that the accuracy of the gas generator method was ±2 percent for the normal operation of the XB-70-1 airplane at ground static conditions and for the upper 70 percent of the engine’s throttle range. They also showed that the effect of individual instrument errors on the thrust calculation was reduced because of the large number of measurements and that abnormally high inlet flow distortion affects the thrust calculation. When corrected for inlet losses,
the installed thrust of the YJ93-GE-3 engine agreed favorably with the engine manufacturer’s uninstalled estimated thrust for all power settings except those at the low end.

Keywords: XB-70-1 airplane; In-flight thrust; Thrust measurement


Model performance index Π providing criterion for approximating one dynamic flight control system by another based on geometrical representation of linear autonomous systems.


A study, using the four-electrode impedance plethysmograph system, was completed to evaluate simultaneous variations in conduction of upper and lower body segments relative to displacement of blood volume during change in body position. Measurements of cardiac output were compared with simultaneous results by dye dilution methods as a means of ascending the use of impedance technique to determine cardiac output during tilt table studies. Two groups, 48 healthy private pilots and 22 patients with diabetes mellitus, were tested and the results were compared.

*Scott and White Clinic, Temple, Texas.


This paper presents some of the results of subsequent analyses and discusses the method of selecting the maximum memory time and the order of the non-linear model. In addition, some results of orthogonal expansion of the weighting functions for reasons of data compression and reduction computation are presented and discussed.


Balakrishnan’s epsilon technique is used to compute minimum time profiles for the F-104 airplane. This technique differs from the classical gradient method in that a quadratic penalty on the error in satisfying the equations of motion is included in the cost function to be minimized as a means of eliminating the requirement of satisfying the equation of motion. Although the number of unknown independent functions is increased to include the state variables, the evaluation of the gradient of the modified cost is simplified, resulting in considerable computational savings. The unknown control and state variables are approximated by 3 functional expansion with unspecified coefficients which are determined by means of Newton’s Method. Typically 8 to 10 iterations are required for convergence when using the epsilon technique. Comparisons are made of solutions obtained by using this technique and the energy method.


XB-70 engine noise was measured from 90 to 1600 from the airplane heading at a radius of 500 feet (152 meters). Overall sound pressure levels, perceived noise levels, and normalized spectra are presented for jet exhaust velocities up to 3300 feet/second (1006 meters/second), various engine spacings, and various numbers of adjacent engines operating. The direction of propagation of maximum noise levels moved
from 135 degree to 120 degree as either the jet velocity was increased or the number of adjacent engines operating was increased. As the distance between two operating engines became greater, the overall sound pressure level increased as the angle between the microphone position and the exhaust axis decreased. The overall sound pressure level agreed best with the SAE prediction levels at an angle of 120 degree for exhaust velocities between 1500 feet/second (457 meters/second) and 3000 feet/second (914 meters/second). The SAE method adequately estimated the noise spectrum of the XB-70 airplane for subsonic exhaust flow and underestimated the high-frequency spectral levels for supersonic flow. Some shielding of the high frequencies was observed when two or more adjacent engines were operating in supersonic exhaust flow conditions. The noise spectrum shape was independent of jet exhaust velocity for the XB-70 engines with supersonic flow.

Keywords: Acoustic measurement; B-70 aircraft; Engine noise; Exhaust systems; Jet engines; Noise intensity


A vehicle and flight systems dynamic impact laboratory, with appropriate instrumentation, was constructed recently at the NASA Flight Research Center. The purpose of the laboratory is to investigate energy-absorbing characteristics of various flight vehicle configurations and personnel protection and restraint systems during low-energy impacting. The laboratory was designed to permit investigation of a large range of horizontal and vertical impact velocities that would occur in low-level crash situations. It has provided acquisition of dynamic structural data on both vehicle configurations and personnel restraint systems.

Keywords: Drop tests; Impact tests; Safety devices; Human factors engineering; Life support systems; Test facilities

*Northrop Corporation, Field Teams at Flight Research Center, Edwards, California.


Subsonic lift and drag data obtained during the HL-10 lifting body glide flight program are presented for four configurations for angles of attack from 5.0 to 26.0 and Mach numbers from 0.35 to 0.62. These flight data, where applicable, are compared with results from small-scale wind-tunnel tests of an HL-10 model, full-scale wind-tunnel results obtained with the flight vehicle, and flight results for the M2-F2 lifting body. The lift and drag characteristics obtained from the HL-10 flight results showed that a severe flow problem existed on the upper surface of the vehicle during the first flight test. This problem was corrected by modifying the leading edges of the tip fins. The vehicle attained lift-drag ratios as high as 4.0 during the landing flare (performed with the landing gear up), which is approximately 14 percent higher than demonstrated by the M2-F2 vehicle in similar maneuvers.

Keywords: Lifting body; Lift-drag ratio; HL-10 vehicle; Flow separation


XB-70 airplane standardized takeoff data are compared with simple predictions based on aerodynamic and engine estimates. Effects of atmospheric and aircraft variables on takeoff distance are evaluated. Although experimentation with various techniques for aircraft rotation to lift-off attitudes was
limited, the effect of the pilot techniques used are discussed and compared. Predictions of distance from brake release to initiation of rotation as 5 functions of velocity were found to be accurate to approximately 100 feet (30 meters). Because of the significant drag at the high aircraft attitudes required for takeoff, the standardized ground roll distance for a given velocity was increased nominally by 400 feet (120 meters) over the distance which would occur with no increase in drag. Standardized performance during climb from lift-off to a height of 35 feet (10.7 meters) with all engines operating was marginal because of low longitudinal accelerations, resulting from high induced drag at lift-off attitude. Additional work is required to include rotation variables in standardizing test data and in more fully defining the rotation effects on performance from a limited number of takeoff tests.

Keywords: Performance prediction; Supersonic aircraft; Takeoff runs; Aerodynamic drag; Aircraft performance; B-70 aircraft; Delta wings


The X-15 adaptive flight control system is briefly described, and system development and flight-test experiences in the X-15 research airplane are discussed. Airplane handling qualities with the system and system reliability are also discussed.

Keywords: Flight control; Flight tests; Self adaptive control systems; X-15 aircraft; Control stability; Controllability; Reliability engineering; Systems analysis


Acoustic data obtained during ground runs of the XB-70 airplane enabled the attenuation of sound to be determined for ground-to-ground propagation over distances of 500 feet (152 meters) and 1000 feet (305 meters) for one set of atmospheric conditions. The considerable scatter in the experimentally determined attenuations seemed to be associated with variations in the wind parameters. For downwind propagation, reducing the predicted acoustic-attenuation values obtained from the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., APP 866 by 50 percent for octave bands above 1000 hertz resulted in good agreement between the present experimentally determined and predicted values. Previous investigators recommended the modification to the predicted attenuation values and obtained similar results. Some unexplained differences remain between the experimentally determined and modified predicted attenuation values, indicating that additional research is required.


The use of angle-of-attack information for a pilot’s display in a general-aviation airplane was investigated to determine whether this form of information would improve performance and flight safety. An angle-of-attack system consisting of a wing-mounted vane, an electronic computer unit, and a display instrument was installed and flight tested in a typical twin-engine, general-aviation airplane. The flight-test maneuvers were limited to the low-speed flight region where the benefits of angle-of-attack presentation were likely to be greatest. Some of the expected advantages of this parameter, such as visual indication of stall margin and its independence of gross weight and flap position, were realized; however, certain aerodynamic characteristics of the airplane, such as the phugoid and directional-control capability, were found to limit and tend to negate some of the expected advantages. As a result, this use of angle of attack did not show a significant improvement in performance and flight safety.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Display devices; General aviation aircraft; Pilot performance; Aircraft performance; Flight control; Human factors engineering


Before the current series of lifting body flight tests, there was speculation and concern about how this class of wingless vehicle would handle. The general behavior of the three lifting bodies in flight is described in broad terms in this paper, and some specific examples of behavior that may be of special interest from the pilot’s viewpoint are presented.

*USAF, Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


The NASA Flight Research Center investigated two variations of the gas generator method for calculating the net thrust of the afterburning turbofan engines installed in an F-111A airplane. An influence coefficient study and two ground thrust tests were performed. It was found that the gas generator method can be successfully applied to an afterburning turbofan engine. At static conditions with two engines operating, ±2 percent accuracy can be achieved for most power settings using
either the method based primarily on nozzle total pressure and area (PTA) or the method based primarily on nozzle total temperature and weight flow (TTW). For in-flight conditions the influence coefficient results indicated that the accuracy of the TTW method was about ±3 percent, whereas the accuracy of the PTA method was about ±5 percent for a military power setting. With either calculation method, additional errors in calculated thrust of ±2 percent could result from high inlet flow distortion. If accurate thrust values are required, both thrust calculation methods should be used.

Keywords: Afterburning; F-111 aircraft; Gas generators; Thrust measurement; Turbofan engines


As part of a program to document the stability, control, and flying qualities of jet transport airplanes, the lateral handling of a typical jet transport was evaluated during up-and-away and approach flight in the landing configuration. Sidestep maneuvers to a landing were performed with several levels of lateral control power in smooth-air conditions. A roll control power capability of about 15 deg/sec was required for satisfactory lateral control, but 61-meter (200-foot) lateral offsets to the runway could be safely corrected with very low levels of lateral control power, approximately 2 to 5 deg/sec, using altered piloting techniques. The pilot evaluation results were in general agreement with results from other studies.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Jet aircraft; Transport aircraft; Aircraft configurations; Aircraft control; Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; Flight tests


Outboard-fin loads and rudder hinge-moment measurements were obtained from a 1/8-scale model of the M2-F3 lifting body vehicle tested in the Ames Research Center’s 11-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel. The tests were conducted at Mach 0.50 to 1.30. The effects of variations in rudder deflection, upper flap deflection, lower-flap deflection, and angles of attack and sideslip were studied. The left-outboard-fin loads increased with increase in angle of attack, Mach number, rudder deflection, lower-flap deflection, and negative sideslip and decreased with increasing upper-flap deflection. The rudder hinge moment increased with increase in rudder deflection and, generally, with Mach number.

Keywords: Aerial rudders; Aerodynamic loads; M2-F3 lifting body; Wind tunnel stability tests


Pressures measured at six locations on the base of the sharp-leading edge upper vertical fin of the X-15 airplane during the power-off portion of eight flights are compared with previous flight data obtained from a blunt-leading-edge fin, theory, and wind-tunnel data. The flight and wind-tunnel base pressure ratios for the Mach number range from 1.5 to 5.0 are presented as a linearized function of turbulent boundary-layer height and base width by using a Mach-number-dependent factor derived in the study. The resulting curve seems to provide another criterion for determining whether flow is laminar or turbulent. The difference between base pressure and free-stream pressure for any specific Mach number of the study is found to be a linear function of both free-stream pressure and dynamic pressure. Data from the sharp-leading-edge upper vertical fin agree with data from the blunt-leading-edge upper vertical fin. The flight data show the variation in pressure across the base to be negligible.

Keywords: Base pressure; Flight tests; Sharp leading edges; Turbulent flow; X-15 aircraft


This paper presents the XB-70 crew’s subjective evaluation of the turbulence response in comparison with measured accelerations; evaluates the turbulence response of the crew station and other fuselage locations; and examines the crew’s reaction to controlled sinusoidal excitations of the airframe.
A flight-test investigation was conducted to determine the standard-day performance characteristics (excess thrust, fuel flow, and climb potential) at maximum afterburner power for an F-104G airplane. The tests were conducted at Mach numbers from 0.5 to 2.0 and at altitudes from 5000 feet (1524 meters) to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters). The standard-day excess thrust and fuel-flow data obtained from the investigation were used to define a computer model of the performance of the test airplane. In addition, the climb-potential (specific excess power) data obtained from the flight tests were compared with the available predicted climb-potential data. From the comparisons, it was found that the predicted data for the “average” F-104G airplane did not represent the performance of the test airplane as accurately as required for the computation of meaningful flight trajectories. Therefore, to compute meaningful flight trajectories for the test airplane, the flight-derived model should be used.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Computer programs; F-104 aircraft; Mathematical models; Trajectory optimization


Consideration has been given to equipping the scaled prototype shuttle vehicle with a lightweight energy absorbing seat integrated with a crew extraction rocket. Such a system would provide protection for low velocity vehicle impacts and also offer a means of escape during higher velocity conditions. This system has been developed and fabricated at the Flight Research Center (FRC). The energy absorbing seat has been tested in a dynamic impact laboratory with satisfactory results. The escape system has been evaluated by extracting dummies by tractor rockets from a typical cockpit configuration. These tests indicate unsatisfactory performance during high roll rates.


Survey of a research program conducted to define the optimal selection, installation, and calibration criteria for strain gages used in aircraft flight-load measurements in a high-temperature environment caused by aerodynamic heating. Tests have been made to determine apparent strain, hysteresis, gage factor, insulation resistance, and attachment methods. The necessity of an evaluation program to select the optimum strain gage for specific applications, strain-gage-installation procedures, fatigue problems associated with weldable gages, and new strain-measurement concepts are discussed. Data from laboratory tests to determine the performance characteristics of bonded and weldable strain gages for high-temperature applications are presented.


A flight-test investigation was conducted to determine the standard-day performance characteristics (excess thrust, fuel flow, and climb potential) at maximum afterburner power for an F-104G airplane. The tests were conducted at Mach numbers from 0.5 to 2.0 and at altitudes from 5000 feet (1524 meters) to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters). The standard-day excess thrust and fuel-flow data obtained from the investigation were used to define a computer model of the performance of the test airplane. In addition, the climb-potential (specific excess power) data obtained from the flight tests were compared with the available predicted climb-potential data. From the comparisons, it was found that the predicted data for the “average” F-104G airplane did not represent the performance of the test airplane as accurately as required for the computation of meaningful flight trajectories. Therefore, to compute meaningful flight trajectories for the test airplane, the flight-derived model should be used.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Computer programs; F-104 aircraft; Mathematical models; Trajectory optimization


The feasibility of using the gas generator method to calculate the thrust of an afterburning turbopan engine was investigated. The NASA Flight Research Center’s F-111A airplane, powered by TF30 afterburning turbopan engines, was used. Two variations of the gas generator method were utilized, one based primarily on the exhaust nozzle total pressure and area and the other on the nozzle total temperature and weight flow. An influence coefficient study was performed for static and flight conditions. Results showed that the accuracy of the two calculation methods was about equal at static conditions, but for flight conditions the total temperature and weight flow calculation was superior. Two ground thrust stand tests were also performed, and the thrust calculated by using both methods was compared to the measured thrust; results using either method were generally within ±3 percent except at low power settings. High inlet flow distortion caused an additional scatter of as much as ±2 percent.


A turbulence response investigation was conducted with the XB-70 airplane. No special turbulence penetration techniques, speeds, or other restrictions were specified for the investigation, nor were any flights made solely to obtain turbulence data. During 79 flights, turbulence was encountered, and recorded on a VGH recorder. 6.2 percent of the total flight distance at supersonic speeds above an altitude of 12,192 meters (40,000 feet). Geographical locations are given for selected turbulence encounters. For 22 flights the airplane was instrumented to measure true gust velocities and the structural acceleration response to turbulence. The turbulence intensities measured were very low in comparison with those measured at high altitudes in other investigations. Acceleration response spectra, frequency response transfer
functions, and coherence functions were computed from three turbulence encounters at Mach numbers of 0.88, 1.59, and 2.35. Results are compared with calculated studies. Frequencies from the vertical and lateral structural modes, dominant in the airplane acceleration responses, were compared with the natural frequencies of the human body in the vertical and lateral directions.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; B-70 aircraft; Dynamic structural analysis; High altitude


Two prototype traversing boundary-layer pitot probes were demonstrated in flight. A motor-operated screw-driven type of probe was used on two jet aircraft for defining boundary layers at profile edge Mach numbers from 0.2 to 2.2. The other type of traversing probe was motor driven through a Scotch yoke mechanism and was operated on several flights of the X-15 airplane. The highest free-stream Mach number reached during this series of flights was 5.6. The mechanical and electrical features of these probes are described, and photographs and conceptual drawings are included. Problems encountered during the development of the devices are described, and the solutions that were found are explained. Boundary-layer profile data are presented in several forms, and local friction coefficients derived from the profile through a Clauser type of determination are shown.

Keywords: Boundary layer flow; Flight tests; Pitot tubes; Test equipment; Coefficient of friction; Free flow; Probes; Velocity measurement; X-15 aircraft


A statistical technique and the necessary computer program for editing multivariate data are presented. The technique is particularly useful when large quantities of data are collected and the editing must be performed by automatic means. One task in the editing process is the identification of outliers, or observations which deviate markedly from the rest of the sample. A statistical technique, and the related computer program, for identifying the outliers in univariate data was presented in NASA TN D-5275. The current report is a multivariate analog which considers the statistical linear relationship between the variables in identifying the outliers. The program requires as inputs the number of variables, the data set, and the level of significance at which outliers are to be identified. It is assumed that the data are from a multivariate normal population and the sample size is at least two greater than the number of variables. Although the technique has been used primarily in editing biodata, the method is applicable to any multivariate data encountered in engineering and the physical sciences.

Keywords: Abnormalities; Computer programs; Editing routines (computers); Multivariate statistical analysis


Reliable techniques for defining flight values of overall aircraft drag and turbulent skin friction, and the drag associated with local regions of separated flow are reported. Selected results from these studies are presented for several types of aircraft, including the X-15, the XB-70, lifting bodies, and military interceptors. These flight results are compared with predictions derived from windtunnel models or, for friction, with the Karman-Schoenherr relationship. The flight experiments have defined the turbulent skin friction to Reynolds numbers somewhat above 10 to the 8th power, the overall drag of two airplanes, base pressure coefficients for aircraft and for an aft-facing step immersed in a thick boundary layer. A flight application of a splitter plate for reducing base drag is discussed along with examples of the drag associated with afterbody flow separation for shapes having relatively large afterbody closure angles.


During the 16 glide flights of the M2-F2 lifting body vehicle, severe lateral pilot-induced oscillations occurred on three occasions in the low-angle-attack, final-approach, preflare situation. These oscillations were analyzed qualitatively to determine the type and similarity and by a systems analysis to determine the root cause. The analysis was complemented by a piloted simulator study, which verified the results. The systems analysis revealed the presence of a coupled roll-spiral mode which caused the pilots to generate a closed-loop lateral instability in the low-angle-of-attack, preflare flight region. A systems analysis, a piloted simulator study, and flight data showed that the addition of a fixed center fin lessened the pilot-induced-oscillation tendencies in the critical flight region.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; M2-F2 lifting body; Pilot induced oscillation; Aircraft landing; Angle of attack; Stability derivatives; Stable oscillations
Total- and static-pressure data from the left inlet of a prototype F-111A airplane were recorded over a large portion of the aircraft’s operating range during automatically scheduled and manually controlled off-schedule positioning of the two-cone compression spike. These data were used to derive inlet performance parameters which indicated that a relatively wide range in performance may be expected during normal operation of an inlet and control system of the type used in this study. In addition, the data showed that the preset controller schedule produced nearly optimum performance for the installation tested. However, significant performance degradation occurred during offschedule operation. Compressor stalls due to small inlet geometry changes were found to be most likely to occur at high supersonic Mach numbers, and more range in second-cone angle was available before a compressor stall occurred with a blunt-lip cowl than with a sharp lip cowl. Trends of total-pressure recovery and distortion in flight data were similar to trends in both full-scale and 1/6-scale-model data. Total-pressure recovery obtained during automatic operation of the test inlet compared within about 3 percent of 1/6-scale-model data for predicted optimum inlet geometry.

Keywords: Automatic control; F-111 aircraft; Supersonic inlets; Transonic flight; Boundary layer separation; Compressor efficiency; Inlet flow; Pressure recovery
In the validation of the general purpose airborne simulator, certain motion and visual cues could not be duplicated because the airborne simulator could not be independently controlled in six degrees of freedom. According to pilot opinion (NASA TN D-6431), however, the XB-70 airplane at two flight conditions had been simulated satisfactorily. Because of the dependence of simulation results on simulator configuration, two areas were investigated after the validation program was completed. The first was the effect of mismatched cues on observed handling qualities. Experiments which varied lateral acceleration at the pilot’s location and yaw rate, while keeping constant the lateral-directional dynamics displayed on the pilot’s instruments, showed pilot sensitivity to directional motion cues to be different for the simulation of two XB-70 flight conditions. A technique for allowing consecutive evaluations of moving-and fixed-base configurations in flight was used successfully to determine motion cue effects. The second area investigated was the measurement and description of simulation fidelity. In-flight frequency-response measurement of the model-following system were taken to examine model-following fidelity for directly matched variables such as sideslip and roll rate as well as uncontrolled parameters such as lateral acceleration.

Keywords: Flight simulators; Pilot performance; Space perception; B-70 aircraft; Performance tests; Physiological acceleration

Techniques developed to automatically process a large quantity of physiological data obtained during a 1000-flight study are described. To reduce this data reliably, a study program was conducted using physiological data from X-15 flights as a data source for experimenting with signal enhancement and noise elimination techniques. The techniques include an automatic means for counting heart rates, averaging electrocardiogram waveforms, plotting histograms of heart rate versus frequency, and counting respiration rates. These techniques were used to reduce more than 2000 hours of physiological data recorded in flight.

Keywords: Bioinstrumentation; Data reduction; Digital techniques; Flight crews; Analog to digital converters; Automatic theory; Computer programming; Physiological responses; Signal to noise ratios; X-15 aircraft

Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability


The difficulty of achieving adequate inlet performance and stability and avoiding engine compressor stalls at supersonic
speeds has led to the investigation of pressure phenomena in the inlets of several supersonic aircraft. Results of tests with the F-111A airplane are presented showing the inlet steady state and dynamic performance. The inlet total pressure distortion that causes compressor stall is discussed, and the requirement for high response instrumentation is demonstrated. A duct resonance encountered at Mach numbers near 2.0 is analyzed and shown to be due to a normal shock oscillation at the duct fundamental frequency. Another type of resonance, in the engine fan duct, is shown to be a possible cause of reduced engine stall margin in afterburning operation. Plans for a comprehensive inlet study of the YF-12 airplane are discussed including flight tests and full scale, 1/3 scale, and 1/12 scale wind tunnel tests.


Some concepts of an operational program for medical and environmental health are outlined. Medical services of this program are primarily concerned with emergency care, laboratory examinations, advice to private physician with patient permission, medical monitoring activities, and suggestions for treatment or control of the malfunction.

*Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Albuquerque, New Mexico.


The possible advancements in general aviation through the applications of technology during the next decade are discussed in terms of aircraft performance, utility, safety, and public acceptance.


Flight tests to determine the benefits of advanced control systems and displays on the handling qualities of general aviation aircraft, primarily during ILS (Instrument Landing System) approaches in turbulence, have shown that very significant benefits can be achieved. The use of a flight-director display and an attitude-command control system in combination was shown to transform a typical light aircraft into a flying machine that borders on being perfect from a handling-qualities standpoint during ILS approaches in turbulent air. The singular use of either the flight director display or the attitude-command control system provided significant benefits. A rate-command control system was found to provide significantly less benefit than attitude-command control system.

**1972 Technical Publications**


The exploratory flight investigation of the wing vortex wake generated by a representative cross section of current jet transports operating under terminal area conditions has indicated the following results: 1. At holding or landing-approach speeds the average vertical downwash path of the vortex can extend 229 m (750 ft) to 305 m (1000 ft) below the flight level of the generating airplane, at a range of 18.5 km (10 n. mi.). 2. Atmospheric conditions can produce sinusoidal oscillations of 30 m (100 ft) to 61 m (200 ft) about the mean downward path of the vortex. 3. The wake strength and dissipation are predominately influenced by the generating airplane weight and configuration. 4. The strongest wake turbulence was noted when the generating airplane was in the clean configuration. 5. The resulting upsets experienced by the short-haul jet transports, the executive jets, and the general aviation airplanes indicate a need for a more conservative airway-spacing criteria in major airport areas. 6. Finally, a method has been suggested for using the existing test data to assess current airway-spacing procedures or to conduct further investigations.
Research Center, Edwards, Calif, on February 29, 1972. The purpose of the symposium was to present timely information on flight results obtained with the F-8 and T-2C supercritical wing configurations, discuss comparisons with wind-tunnel predictions, and project follow-on flight programs planned for the F-8 and F-111 (TACT) airplanes. Papers were presented by representatives of the NASA Flight Research Center, the NASA Langley Research Center, and North American Rockwell-Columbus Division.


This paper discusses the modifications incorporated in the test airplane and the status of the program. The flight program of the F-8 supercritical wing test-bed airplane has proceeded in an orderly manner, particularly in view of the difficulties of testing in the transonic speed range in either wind tunnels or flight. An attempt has been made to acquire accurate data from precise state-of-the-art instrumentation and test techniques.

693. Pyle, J. S.: Preliminary Lift and Drag Characteristics of the F-8 Supercritical Wing Airplane. NASA SP-301, 1972, (see N77 85474 24-02), pp. 59–70, 77N85479. PDF CASI

This paper reviews the lift and drag results obtained from the first series of flights with the F-8 supercritical wing configuration. To concentrate on the performance of the wing and eliminate extraneous effects of the fuselage and propulsion system, the internal drag and base drag components have been removed from the flight and wind-tunnel data. Although removing these variables provides for the best comparison of the wind-tunnel and flight wing drag, which is the immediate purpose of this paper, it is somewhat unreal for purposes of assessing the ability of a designer to use wind-tunnel results to predict the absolute drag level of a complete airplane.


Pressure measurements were made on the F-8 Supercritical Wing in flight. This paper presents some of these data, compares them with Langley 8-foot wind-tunnel results, and relates the measurements to the drag and and characteristics of the complete configuration.

695. DeAngelis, V. M.; and Banner, R. D.: Buffet Characteristics of the F-8 Supercritical Wing Airplane. NASA SP-301, 1972, (see N77 85474 24-02), pp. 85–96, 77N85481. PDF CASI

Airplane and wing structural response measurements were made to show the buffet characteristics of the F-8 Supercritical Wing Flight Program at transonic speeds. This paper presents some of the preliminary results of that investigation. Wing structural response was used to sense the buffet of the wing, and these data are compared with wind-tunnel-model data and the wing flow characteristics at transonic speeds.


This paper considers both the overall handling characteristics of the test vehicle and the correlation of flight data with wind-tunnel results. It should be pointed out that the basic intent of the program is to validate the wing concept and design approach. An effort was made to achieve acceptable handling qualities; however, time and cost constraints made it impossible to optimize them.


A summary of where we have been and where we think we may be going in supercritical wing proof-of-concept flight testing.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

Techniques for evaluating air breathing propulsion systems in full scale flight are discussed. Examples of flight test techniques being used to measure the performance of turbojet propulsion systems are presented. Included are the determination of jet engine thrust, the study of inlet pressure phenomena, the measurement of exhaust nozzle characteristics, and the use of tufts at supersonic speeds. A flow diagram of a gas generator method of thrust calculation is illustrated.


Specific techniques and procedures for conducting flight tests of lifting body type aircraft are presented. The characteristics of the aircraft in transonic and supersonic flight regions were investigated. The data collection and analysis techniques with which the flight results were analyzed are outlined. Included are analog and digital matching techniques for derivative extractions and a method for extracting lift and drag data. Problems encountered in the flight test program and methods for solving these problems are discussed.


Recent emphasis on air-to-air combat has led the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to intensify research into methods for improving the transonic maneuverability of fighter aircraft. As a part of this effort, the Flight Research Center has been conducting flight programs utilizing various aircraft to determine the factors affecting tracking precision and to investigate ways of improving transonic maneuverability. Fixed-reticle gunsights and cameras have been installed in various aircraft, and closed-loop tracking maneuvers have been performed throughout the transonic Mach range to the maximum load factor capability of each aircraft. Analysis of the gun camera film in conjunction with airplane response parameters from onboard instrumentation has been found to provide excellent means of assessing the overall maneuvering capability of different aircraft and alternate configurations of the same aircraft. A flight technique for evaluating aircraft agility (i.e., combined performance and handling qualities) has grown out of these studies and is proposed for consideration in assisting in the air superiority evaluation task. An agility index is suggested for use with early design data.


Radiant heating experiments were performed in the laboratory on an instrumented multispar wing structure to investigate: (1) how accurately the structural temperatures of a Mach 3 cruise-flight profile could be simulated, (2) what the effects of the heating and heating inaccuracies would be on the responses of strain-gage bridges installed on the structure, and (3) how these responses would affect flight loads measurements. Test temperatures throughout the structure agreed well with temperatures calculated for a Mach 3 profile. In addition, temperatures produced by two identical tests were repeatable to less than ±6 K deg. Thermally induced strain-gage-bridge responses were large enough to be detrimental to a high-speed flight loads program with a goal of establishing aerodynamic loads (exclusive of thermal loads). It was shown that heating simulation can be used effectively for thermal calibration (that is, to provide corrections for a high-temperature environment), and that thermal calibration may not be needed if the simulation data are used to carefully select bridges and load equations.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Flight load recorders; Wing planforms; X-15 aircraft


A modified Newton-Raphson or quasilinearization minimization technique for determining stability derivatives from flight data was developed and compared with simple-equations, analog-matching, least-squares, and Shinbrot methods of analysis. For the data analyzed, the solutions computed by using the estimates obtained from the Newton-Raphson technique fit the data and determined coefficients adequately. A further modification to include a priori information was found to be useful. A model statistically similar to the flight data was analyzed using the same methods (excluding analog matching), and the Newton-Raphson technique was found to yield superior estimates. An approximate Cramer-Rao bound was compared with the error covariance matrix of the model and was found to provide information about the reliability of the individual estimates obtained. The technique was successfully applied to data obtained from a light airplane, a large supersonic airplane, and a lifting body vehicle. It was shown that the reliability of the estimates of a given coefficient obtained from these vehicles depends upon the data analyzed.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; Flight tests; Newton-Raphson method; Mathematical models; Matrices (mathematics); Optimization; Regression analysis

The results are presented of a flight-test program utilizing a CV-990 airplane, flow in low-lift-to-drag-ratio (L/D) configurations, to simulate terminal area operation, approach, and landing of large unpowered vehicles. The results indicate that unpowered approaches and landings are practical with vehicles of the size and performance characteristics of the proposed shuttle vehicle. Low L/D landings provided touchdown dispersion patterns acceptable for operation on runways of reasonable length. The dispersion pattern was reduced when guidance was used during the final approach. High levels of pilot proficiency were not required for acceptable performance.

Keywords: Approach; CV-990 aircraft; Landing; Lift drag ratio; Space shuttles


Flow phenomena of the F-111A air intake system were investigated over a large range of Mach number, altitude, and angle of attack. Boundary-layer variations are shown for the fuselage splitter plate and inlet entrance stations. Inlet performance is shown in terms of pressure recovery, airflow, mass-flow ratio, turbulence factor, distortion factor, and power spectral density. The fuselage boundary layer was found to be not completely removed from the upper portion of the splitter plate at all Mach numbers investigated. Inlet boundary-layer ingestion started at approximately Mach 1.6 near the translating spike and cone. Pressure-recovery distribution at the compressor face showed increasing distortion with increasing angle of attack and increasing Mach number. The time-averaged distortion-factor value approached 1300, which is near the distortion tolerance of the engine at Mach numbers above 2.1.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; F-111 aircraft; Flight tests; Inlet flow; Supersonic speed


The landing contact conditions for the HL-10, M2-F2/F3, and the X-24A lifting body vehicles are analyzed statistically for 81 landings. The landing contact parameters analyzed are true airspeed, peak normal acceleration at the center of gravity, roll angle, and roll velocity. Ground measurement parameters analyzed are lateral and longitudinal distance from intended touchdown, lateral distance from touchdown to full stop, and rollout distance. The results are presented in the form of histograms for frequency distributions and cumulative frequency distribution probability curves with a Pearson Type 3 curve fit for extrapolation purposes.

Keywords: Landing loads; Lifting reentry vehicles; Statistical analysis


The effect of intercepting wing tip vortices generated by large jet transports, including jumbo jets, over separation distances from 1 nautical mile to 15 nautical miles is evaluated on the basis of the response of a vortex probe airplane in the roil mode. The vortex probe test aircraft included a representative general aviation airplane, an executive jet, a fighter, and light and medium weight jet transports. The test conditions and airplane configurations were comparable to those normally used during takeoff, landing, or holding pattern operations. For flight safety the tests were performed at altitudes from 9500 feet to 12,500 feet. In addition to an evaluation of the probe airplane response, a flight test technique is suggested for determining minimum separation distance, using as variable the ratio of vortex-induced roll acceleration to maximum lateral control acceleration and the gross weight of the generating aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft wakes; General aviation aircraft; Transport aircraft; Turbulent wakes; Vortices


An experimental temperature probe package containing a fluidic oscillator temperature probe and a shielded thermocouple temperature probe was tested during several X-15 flights. The X-15 flights provided greatly varying test conditions, including a wide range of rapidly changing total temperatures and Mach numbers which extended from subsonic to hypersonic speeds. Within restricted ranges of free-stream Mach number, free-stream unit weight flow, and local stagnation pressure, both probes yielded ramp outputs of temperature parallel to ramp inputs of free-stream total temperature. Within these ranges both probes were used to determine total temperature in the Mach 6 temperature environment. Because ambient temperature was known, both probes were used to estimate velocity and Mach number.

Keywords: Temperature measuring instruments; Thermocouples; X-15 aircraft; Aircraft equipment; Flight tests; Temperature probes


Flight tests have shown that, by means of improved displays and advanced control systems, it is possible to transform a typical light airplane into a flying machine that borders on being perfect from a handling-qualities standpoint. A flight-director display and an attitude-command control system used in combination transformed a vehicle with poor handling qualities during ILS approaches in turbulent air into a vehicle with extremely good handling qualities. The attitude-command control system also improved the ride qualities of the airplane. A rate-command control system was less beneficial than an attitude-command control system. Although this paper deals primarily with general aviation aircraft, the results presented pertain to other types of aircraft. Short-takeoff-and-landing (STOL) aircraft would be a natural application of the control systems because, as a result of their low speeds, they encounter many of the handling-qualities problems noted on light aircraft. The improved ride qualities should be of interest to all airline operations, and for STOL aircraft in particular, because of their prolonged exposure to low-altitude turbulence.


Some of the effects of horizontal visual restriction on the front cockpit of a T-33 aircraft were studied. These studies are pertinent to the establishment of guidelines that will be used in canopy design for limited visibility situations. Results of the study revealed that runway extension lines are helpful for restricted visibility situations. The superiority of a 300-foot runway over a 200-foot runway was greater than expected from geometric considerations. It was also shown that practice learning has a noticeable effect on performance. Finally, visibility restrictions that force a pilot into shallow glides should be avoided, and the available visibility should be sufficient to provide adequate information so that the pilot can solve the lateral-directional and pitch tasks simultaneously.


Static pressure position error calibrations for a compensated and an uncompensated XB-70 nose boom pitot static probe were obtained in flight. The methods (Pacer, acceleration-deceleration, and total temperature) used to obtain the position errors over a Mach number range from 0.5 to 3.0 and an altitude range from 25,000 feet to 70,000 feet are discussed. The error calibrations are compared with the position error determined from wind tunnel tests, theoretical analysis, and a standard NACA pitot static probe. Factors which influence position errors, such as angle of attack, Reynolds number, probe tip geometry, static orifice location, and probe shape, are discussed. Also included are examples showing how the uncertainties caused by position errors can affect the inlet controls and vertical altitude separation of a supersonic transport.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Pitot tubes; Position errors; Static pressure; Angle of attack; Calibrating; Reynolds number


A FORTRAN program is offered which computes a maximum likelihood estimate of the parameters of any linear, constant coefficient, state space model. For the case considered, the maximum likelihood estimate can be identical to that which minimizes simultaneously the weighted mean square difference between the computed and measured response of a system and the weighted square of the difference between the estimated and a priori parameter values. A modified Newton-Raphson or quasilinearization method is used to perform the minimization which typically requires several iterations. A starting technique is used which insures convergence for any initial values of the unknown parameters. The program and its operation are described in sufficient detail to enable the user to apply the program to his particular problem with a minimum of difficulty.

Keywords: Systems identifications, Maximum-likelihood estimates, Newton-Raphson method, Stability derivatives from flight data


Flight-determined longitudinal and lateral-directional stability and control derivatives are presented for the CV-990 airplane for various combinations of Mach number, altitude, and flap setting throughout the flight envelope up to a Mach number of 0.87. Also presented are the dynamic characteristics of the aircraft calculated from the flight-obtained derivatives and the measured phugoid characteristics. The derivative characteristics were obtained from flight records of longitudinal and lateral-directional transient oscillation maneuvers by using a modified Newton-Raphson digital derivative determination technique. Generally the derivatives exhibited consistent variation with lift coefficient in the low-speed data and with Mach number and altitude in the high-speed data. Many also varied with flap deflection, notably spoiler effectiveness and directional stability.
Keywords: Aerodynamic configurations; Flight envelopes; Stability derivatives; Subsonic speed


The flying qualities of the CV-990 jet transport were evaluated over the normal operating flight envelope and in smooth air to provide baseline data for transport airplanes. Pilot ratings of airplane handling characteristics for specific test conditions and configurations from approach to normal cruise were compared with various flying qualities criteria. In general, the CV-990 flying qualities were evaluated as satisfactory, and the evaluations supported transport flying qualities criteria. The Dutch roll damping was rated more satisfactory than was predicted by the flying qualities criteria. The pilots found rudder coordination for the yaw generated during high roll rates very difficult. They preferred to control with roll and pitch controls and to use the yaw damper to provide the required rudder coordination.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; CV-990 aircraft; Flight tests; Transport aircraft; Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft control; Flight envelopes; Roll; Yaw


Comparison of objective/subjective physiological data between the pilot and the back-seat man during training within the G maneuvering envelope. It appears that the psychological requirements for the pilot to be mentally alert and physiologically adapted to a continually changing environment places additional responsibility on him to the extent the physiological signs monitored are indicative of a high stress condition and are increased by a significant amount over the back-seat man who is, in most instances, riding passively.

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Performance criteria and test techniques are applied to stability augmentation systems (SAS) during ground testing to predict objectionable limit cycles and preclude structural resonance during flight. Factors that give rise to these problems, means of suppressing their effects, trade-offs to be considered, and ground test methods that have been developed are discussed. SAS performance predicted on the basis of these tests is compared with flight data obtained from three lifting body vehicles and the X-15 research airplane. Limit cycle and structural resonance test criteria, based upon ground and flight experience and data, were successfully applied to these vehicles. The criteria used were: The limit cycle amplitude (SAS gain multiplied by peak-to-peak angular rate) shall not exceed 0.5 deg for the highest product of control power and SAS gain that will be used in flight; the maximum in-flight SAS gain should never exceed 50 percent of the value at which a structural resonance can be sustained during ground test.

Keywords: Aircraft stability; Feedback control; Stability derivatives; Stabilization


Representative state-of-the-art analytical procedures and design data for predicting the longitudinal static and dynamic stability and control characteristics of light, propeller-driven airplanes are presented. Procedures for predicting drag characteristics are also included. The procedures are applied to a twin-engine, propeller-driven airplane in the clean configuration from zero lift to stall conditions. The calculated characteristics are compared with wind-tunnel and flight data. Included in the comparisons are level-flight trim characteristics, period and damping of the short-period oscillatory mode, and windup-turn characteristics. All calculations are documented.

Keywords: Aircraft configurations; Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; Fixed wings; Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft performance; Performance predicton


Description of the T-6, a modified HP-14 sailplane, the performance data obtained, and the test techniques, as well as the comparison tests and results obtained for seven other sailplanes. These are the Kestrel, Cirrus, Phoebus C, 16.5-m Diamant, Phoebus A, BG-12, and 1-26. The T-6 is of all-metal construction, has a shoulder-high wing, a retractable gear, simple hinged flaps with no speed brakes or tail parachute, and is of medium aspect ratio and wing loading.

718. Putnam, T. W.; and Lasagna, P. L.: Externally Blown
Flap Impingement Noise. AIAA Paper 72-664, June 1972, 72A35961, #. (see also 737.) PDF AIAA

An investigation of externally blown flap impingement noise was conducted using a full-scale turbofan engine and aircraft wing. The noise produced with a daisy nozzle installed on the engine exhaust system was greater than that produced by a conical nozzle at the same thrust. The daisy nozzle caused the jet velocity to decay about 35 percent at the flap. The presence of the wing next to the conical nozzle increased the noise, as did increasing the flap deflection. Compared with the conical nozzle, the daisy nozzle produced slightly less noise at a flap deflection of 60 deg but produced more noise at the lower flap deflections tested.


The magnitude and frequency of occurrence of aircraft responses and control inputs during 27 flights of the XB-70 airplane were measured. Exceedance curves are presented for the airplane responses and control usage. A technique is presented which makes use of these exceedance curves to establish or verify handling qualities criteria. This technique can provide a means of incorporating current operational experience in handling qualities requirements for future aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft control; B-70 aircraft; Controllability; Statistical analysis; Delta wings; Flight characteristics; Operations research


A flight program was conducted on the F-104 airplane to investigate the effects of moderate deflections of wing leading- and trailing-edge flaps on the buffet characteristics at subsonic and transonic Mach numbers. Selected deflections of the wing leading and trailing-edge flaps, individually and in combination, were used to assess buffet onset, intensity, and frequency; lift curves; and wing-rock characteristics for each configuration. Increased deflection of the trailing-edge flap delayed the buffet onset and buffet intensity rise to a significantly higher airplane normal-force coefficient. Deflection of the leading-edge flap produced some delay in buffet onset and the resulting intensity rise at low subsonic speeds. Increased deflection of the trailing-edge flap provided appreciable lift increments in the angle-of-attack range covered, whereas the leading-edge flap provided lift increments only at high angles-of-attack. The pilots appreciated the increased maneuvering envelope provided by the flaps because of the improved turn capability.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Buffeting; F-104 aircraft; Subsonic speed; Transonic speed


An analysis of an electrohydraulic aircraft control-surface system is made in which the system is modeled as a lumped, two-mass, spring-coupled system controlled by a servo valve. Both linear and nonlinear models are developed, and the effects of hinge-moment loading are included. Transfer functions of the system and approximate literal factors of the transfer functions for several cases are presented. The damping action of dynamic pressure feedback is analyzed. Comparisons of the model responses with results from tests made on a highly resonant rudder control-surface servo indicate the adequacy of the model. The effects of variations in hinge-moment loading are illustrated.

Keywords: Aerodynamic configurations; Aircraft control; Control surfaces; Flight control; Hydraulic equipment; Linear systems; Nonlinear systems; Systems analysis


In preparing this report on the basic research activities included in the flight research programs at this Center, it became apparent that many elements of the multi-disciplinary programs would be reported because of the difficulty of isolating basic research. Furthermore, in reporting the progress during the past year, it was felt that some cognizance and response should be given to the comments and suggestions of the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST) Research Council after the last annual review. Details of the present day flight research programs at the Flight Research Center, including basic research elements, are presented in this review.


This paper discusses the design and initial flight tests of the first digital fly-by-wire system to be flown in an aircraft. The system, which used components from the Apollo guidance system, was installed in an F-8 aircraft. A lunar module guidance computer is the central element in the three-axis,
single-channel, multimode, digital, primary control system. An electrohydraulic triplex system providing unaugmented control of the F-8 aircraft is the only backup to the digital system. Emphasis is placed on the digital system in its role as a control augmentor, a logic processor, and a failure detector. A sampled-data design synthesis example is included to demonstrate the role of various analytical and simulation methods. The use of a digital system to implement conventional control laws was shown to be practical for flight. Logic functions coded as an integral part of the control laws were found to be advantageous. Verification of software required an extensive effort, but confidence in the software was achieved. Initial flight results showed highly successful system operation, although quantization of pilot’s stick and trim were areas of minor concern from the piloting standpoint.


The HL-10 lifting body stability and control derivatives were determined by using an analog-matching technique and compared with derivatives obtained from wind-tunnel results. The flight derivatives were determined as a function of angle of attack for a subsonic configuration at Mach 0.7 and for a transonic configuration at Mach 0.7, 0.9, and 1.2. At an angle of attack of 14 deg, data were obtained for a Mach number range from 0.6 to 1.4. The flight and wind-tunnel derivatives were in general agreement, with the possible exception of the longitudinal and lateral damping derivatives. Some differences were noted between the vehicle dynamic response characteristics calculated from flight-determined derivatives and those predicted by the wind-tunnel results. However, the only difference the pilots noted between the response of the vehicle in flight and the response of a simulator programmed with wind-tunnel-predicted data was that the damping generally was higher in the flight vehicle.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; HL-10 reentry vehicle; Wind tunnel stability tests; Aircraft control; Correlation; Data acquisition; Stability derivatives


The development of a remotely piloted vehicle system consisting of a remote pilot cockpit and a ground-based digital computer coupled to the aircraft through telemetry data links is described. The feedback control laws are implemented in a FORTRAN program. Flight-test experience involving high feedback gain limits for altitude and attitude rate feedback variables, filtering of sampled data, and system operation during intermittent telemetry data link loss is discussed. Comparisons of closed-loop flight tests with analytical calculations, and pilot comments on system operation are included.

F-8 Digital Fly-by-Wire Airplane


Advanced instrumentation and techniques for in-flight measurements of air inlet performance of the XB-70, F-111A, and YF-12 supersonic airplanes were developed and evaluated in flight tests at the NASA Flight Research Center. A compressor face rake with in-flight zeroing capability was flown on the F-111A and found to give excellent steady state as well as high frequency response pressure data. The severe temperature environment of the YF-12 necessitated development of special high temperature transducers. Mounting these transducers to give the required 500-hertz frequency response required some special rake designs. Vibration test requirements necessitated some modifications to the rakes. The transducers and rakes were evaluated in flight tests and were found to function properly. Preliminary data have been obtained from the YF-12 propulsion program
in flights that began in May 1972. One example shows the terminal shock wave effects on cowl surface pressures during bypass and spike motions.


Mach 3 flight data from a YF-12 airplane are analyzed to determine the causes of the significant reduction in dutch roll damping induced by automatic inlet operation. Two stability derivative extraction techniques, the time vector and the modified Newton-Raphson, were applied to the flight data to determine the forces and moments resulting from the variable geometry of the engine inlet. The sideslip angle measurement, which is fed to the inlet for terminal shock stabilization, was found to have a sensor time lag of approximately 0.5 second. These results are then included in a root locus analysis of the overall airframe/propulsion system.

730. Lewis, T. L.; and Dods, J. B., Jr.: Wind Tunnel Measurements of Surface Pressure Fluctuations at Mach Numbers of 1.6, 2.0, and 2.5 Using 12 Different Transducers. NASA TN D-7087, H-700. October 1972. 72N33387, #. PDF DTRS

The turbulent boundary layer on the wall of a 9 by 7 foot wind tunnel was measured with 12 different transducers at Mach numbers of 1.6, 2.0, and 2.5. The results indicated that the wall surface-pressure-fluctuation field was more homogeneous at a Mach number of 2.5 than at Mach numbers of 1.6 or 2.0. A comparison of power-spectral-density data at Mach 2.5 with a summary of similar data (Mach 0.1 to 3.45) showed good agreement. The measurement uncertainty was greatest when frequencies were low and the surface-pressure-fluctuation field was homogeneous. The uncertainty at higher frequencies increased as the surface-pressure-fluctuation field became more inhomogeneous. Since transducer mounting effects and system noise levels were determined not to have contributed appreciably to measurement uncertainties, the result was attributed to an interaction between the surface-pressure-fluctuation field and the transducers. Corcos’ correction for size effects improved the comparison between transducers at the high frequencies, but did not eliminate an apparent size effect at the lower frequencies.

Keywords: Pressure pulses; Supersonic boundary layers; Transducers; Wind tunnel walls; Aerodynamic noise; Dynamic response


An in-flight evaluation of transport roll characteristics in the landing approach was made with a general purpose airborne simulator. The evaluation task consisted of an instrument approach with a visual correction for a (200-foot) lateral offset. Pilot evaluations and ratings were obtained for approaches made at 140 knots and 180 knots indicated airspeed with variations of wheel characteristics, maximum roll rate, and roll time constant.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Aircraft stability; Lateral oscillation; Transport aircraft; Aircraft control; Aircraft performance; Flight simulators; Lateral control


Analytical procedures and design data for predicting the lateral-directional static and dynamic stability and control characteristics of light, twin engine, propeller driven airplanes for propeller-off and power-on conditions are reported. Although the consideration of power effects is limited to twin engine airplanes, the propeller-off considerations are applicable to single engine airplanes as well. The procedures are applied to a twin engine, propeller driven, semi-low-wing airplane in the clean configuration through the linear lift range. The calculated derivative characteristics are compared with wind tunnel and flight data. Included in the calculated characteristics are the spiral mode, roll mode, and dutch roll mode over the speed range of the airplane.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Lateral stability; Light aircraft; Performance prediction


A flight test program to determine the effects of low frequency vibrations on passengers in short haul aircraft is discussed. The objective of the program is to accumulate flight test data on aircraft ride quality in terms of vehicle motion and acceleration and human responses. The subjects discussed are: (1) test procedures, (2) data processing, and (3) the program schedule.

An experimental program was conducted to extend the Tracor Safety Gauge (patent pending) to elevated temperature service. The Safety Gauge is based on a conductive composite device which can be fabricated to function as a fatigue sensor that undergoes an irreversible resistance increase which results from cumulative strain damage. Prototype sensors were developed which appear capable of 1000 deg F operation for short periods of time (approaching one hour); however, bonding difficulties currently limit their use to about 775 deg F. The resistance change of the sensor was generally on the order of 400% or greater as the fatigue life of a titanium alloy (Ti-5Al-2.5Sn) test specimen was approached.

*Tracor, Inc., Austin, Texas.


The results of four current analytical methods for predicting wing vortex strength and decay rate are compared with the results of a flight investigation of the wake characteristics of several large jet transport aircraft. An empirical expression defining the strength and decay rate of wake vortices is developed that best represents most of the flight-test data. However, the expression is not applicable to small aircraft that would be immersed in the vortex wake of large aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft wakes; Vortices; Wing tips; Aerodynamic characteristics; Flight tests; Jet aircraft; Mathematical models; Transport aircraft


An automatic method for determining stability and control derivatives from flight data is presented. The technique, a modification of the Newton-Raphson method for derivative extraction, has a priori provision that makes use of initial estimates of the derivatives and provides a means of checking the validity of the results. Recommendations for applications of the method are included.


Full-scale ground tests of an externally blown flap system were made using the wing of an F-111B airplane and a CF700 engine. Pressure and temperature distributions were determined on the undersurface of the wing, vane, and flap for two engine exhaust nozzles (conical and daisy) at several engine power and engine/wing positions. The tests were made with no airflow over the wing. The leading-edge wing sweep angle was fixed at 26 deg, the angle of incidence between the engine and the wing was fixed at 3 deg, and the tests were conducted with the flap retracted, extended and deflected 35 deg, and extended and deflected 60 deg. The integrated local pressures on the undersurface of the flap produced loads approximately three times as great at the 60 deg flap position as at the 35 deg flap position. With both nozzle configurations, more than 90 percent of the integrated pressure loads were contained within plus or minus 20 percent of the flap span centered around the engine exhaust centerline. The maximum temperature recorded on the flaps was 218 C (424 F) for the conical nozzle and 180 C (356 F) for the daisy nozzle.


The development of STOL technology for application to operational short-haul aircraft is accompanied by the requirement for solving problems in many areas. One of the most obvious problems is STOL aircraft operations in the terminal area. The increased number of terminal operations needed for an economically viable STOL system as compared with the current CTOL system and the incompatibility of STOL and CTOL aircraft speeds are positive indicators of an imminent problem. The high cost of aircraft operations, noise pollution, and poor short-haul service are areas that need improvement. A potential solution to some of the operational problems lies in the capability of making curved landing approaches under both visual and instrument flight conditions.


Tests of the noise produced by the impingement of the jet exhaust on the wing and flap for an externally blown flap system were conducted with a CF700 turbofan engine and an F-111B wing panel. The noise produced with a daisy nozzle installed on the engine was greater than that produced by a conical nozzle at the same thrust. The presence of the wing next to the test nozzles increased the noise, as did increasing the flap deflection angle. Compared with the conical nozzle, the daisy nozzle produced slightly less noise at a flap deflection of 60 deg but produced more noise at the lower flap deflections tested. Tests showed that the single-slotted flap deflected 60 deg, produced less noise than the double-slotted flaps. Also, maintaining the maximum distance between the exit nozzle and flap system resulted in a minor reduction in noise.
Concurrent simulations of powered-lift STOL transport aircraft having either an externally blown flap configuration or an augmentor wing configuration were conducted. The following types of simulators of varying sophistication were used: (1) a simple fixed-base simulation with a simple visual display, (2) a more complex fixed-base simulation using a realistic transport cockpit and a high-quality visual display, and (3) a six-degree-of-freedom motion simulator that had a realistic transport cockpit and a sophisticated visual display. The unaugmented flying qualities determined from these simulations were rated as unacceptable for both the externally blown flap and augmentor wing configurations. The longitudinal, lateral-directional, and single-engine-failure characteristics were rated satisfactory with extensive augmentation, including pitch and roll command systems, flight-path (or speed) augmentation, turn coordination, and effective yaw damping. However, the flare and landing characteristics from any approach glide-path angle in excess of 4 deg were rated as unsatisfactory but acceptable.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

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Full-scale ground tests of an externally blown flap system were made using the wing of an F-111B airplane and a CF700 engine. Pressure and temperature distributions were determined on the undersurface of the wing, vane, and flap for two engine exhaust nozzles (conical and daisy) at several engine power levels and engine/wing positions. The test was made with no airflow over the wing. The wing sweeps angle was fixed at 26 deg; and the angle of incidence between the engine and the wing was fixed at 3 deg; and the flap was in the retracted, deflected 35 deg, and deflected 60 deg positions. The pressure load obtained by integrating the local pressures on the undersurface of the flap, $F_{sub p}$ was approximately three times greater at the 60 deg flap position than at the 35 deg flap position. At the 60 deg flap position, $F_{sub p}$ was between 40 percent and 55 percent of the engine thrust over the measured range of thrust. More than 90 percent of $F_{sub p}$ was contained within plus or minus 20 percent of the flap span centered around the engine exhaust centerline with both nozzle configurations. Maximum temperatures recorded on the flaps were 218 C (424 F) and 180 C (356 F) for the conical and daisy nozzles, respectively.

Keywords CF-700 engine; Externally blown flaps; F-111 aircraft; Pressure distribution; Temperature distribution.


A compressor face rake with an internal valve arrangement to permit nulling was designed, constructed, and tested in the laboratory and in flight at the NASA Flight Research Center. When actuated by the pilot in flight, the nullable rake allowed the transducer zero shifts to be determined and then subsequently removed during data reduction. Design details, the fabrication technique, the principle of operation, brief descriptions of associated digital zero-correction programs and the qualification tests, and test results are included. Sample flight data show that the zero shifts were large and unpredictable but could be measured in flight with the rake. The rake functioned reliably and as expected during 25 hours of operation under flight environmental conditions and temperatures from 230 K (~46 F) to greater than 430 K (314 F). The rake was nulled approximately 1000 times. The inflight zero-shift measurement technique, as well as the


Externally-blown-flap noise research can be summarized by the following remarks: With lower-surface blowing, the sources of the flap noise are beginning to be understood and the noise scaling laws have been established. Further, progress has been made on suppressing the flap interaction noise at the large flap deflections used during landing. Recent small-scale noise tests of configurations using external upper-surface blowing indicate that engine-over-the-wing configurations may be promising.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
rake design, was successful and should be useful in future applications, particularly where accurate measurements of both steady-state and dynamic pressures are required under adverse environmental conditions.

Keywords: Equipment specifications; Inflight monitoring; Jet aircraft; Pressure sensors; Reliability engineering.


An extension of the time vector technique for determining stability and control derivatives from flight data is formulated. The technique provides for explicit determination of derivatives by means of simultaneous analysis of two maneuvers which differ by a dependent control input. The control derivatives for the dependent input are also explicitly determined. This extended technique is preferable to the application of the time vector method to single maneuvers in that no estimates of derivatives are required. An example illustrating the application of the technique is given.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft performance; Flight control; Stability derivatives; Vector analysis.


A technique of defining an accurate performance model of an airplane from limited flight-test data and predicted aerodynamic and propulsion system characteristics is developed. With the modeling technique, flight-test data from level accelerations are used to define a 1g performance model for the entire flight envelope of an F-104G airplane. The performance model is defined in terms of the thrust and drag of the airplane and can be varied with changes in ambient temperature or airplane weight. The model predicts the performance of the airplane within 5 percent of the measured flight-test data. The modeling technique could substantially reduce the time required for performance flight testing and produce a clear definition of the thrust and drag characteristics of an airplane.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft performance; Performance prediction; Propulsion system performance.


Wind-tunnel tests were conducted with three different fixed pressure-measuring hemispherical head sensor configurations which were strut-mounted on a nose boom. The tests were performed at free-stream Mach numbers from 0.2 to 3.6. The boom-angle-of-attack range was –6 to 15 deg, and the angle-of-sideslip range was –6 to 6 deg. The test Reynolds numbers were from 3.28 million to 65.6 million per meter. The results were used to obtain angle-of-attack and angle-of-sideslip calibration curves for the configurations. Signal outputs from the hemispherical head sensor had to be specially processed to obtain accurate real-time angle-of-attack and angle-of-sideslip measurements for pilot displays or aircraft systems. Use of the fixed sensors in flight showed them to be rugged and reliable and suitable for use in a high temperature environment.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Free flight; Sensors; Sideslip; Wind tunnel models.


Measurements of surface-pressure fluctuations were made at two locations on the XB-70 airplane for nine flight-test conditions encompassing a local Mach number range from 0.35 to 2.45. These measurements are presented in the form of estimated power spectral densities, coherence functions, and narrow-band-convection velocities. The estimated power spectral densities compared favorably with wind-tunnel data obtained by other experimenters. The coherence function and convection velocity data supported conclusions by other experimenters that low-frequency surface-pressure fluctuations consist of small-scale turbulence components with low convection velocity.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic loads; B-70 aircraft; Pressure distribution; Pressure measurement.

*Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The low frequency symmetric structural response and damping characteristics of the XB-70 airplane were measured at four flight conditions: heavyweight at a Mach number of 0.87 at an altitude of 7620 meters (25,000 feet); lightweight at a Mach number of 0.86 at an altitude of 7620 meters (25,000 feet); a Mach number of 1.59 at an altitude of 11,918 meters (39,100 feet); and a Mach number of 2.38 and an altitude of
18,898 meters (62,000 feet). The flight data are compared with the response calculated by using early XB-70 design data and with the response calculated with mass, structural, and aerodynamic data updated to reflect as closely as possible the airplane characteristics at three of the flight conditions actually flown.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Dynamic response; Flight tests; Structural stability; Vibration damping.

*North American Rockwell Corp., Los Angeles, California.


This paper reviews NASA’s progress in research directed toward providing the technology necessary for the application of advanced control systems and displays to general aviation aircraft, and its plans for this effort in the future. Flight evaluations of such systems as wing levelers, fluidic autopilots, yaw dampers, and angle of attack displays have been made, and test conditions and major results of some of this work are reported. Potentially valuable systems evaluated thus far are an attitude command control system and a flight-director display. As presently configured, both are prohibitively expensive for us in general aviation, however, and efforts are underway to apply technology to the goal of reducing their cost. Perhaps the most promising development in this area is called separate surface stability augmentation and plans for its implementation and flight testing are described.


The NASA Flight Research Center awarded a contract to Astronautics Corporation of America to develop a low-cost flight director system for general aviation. The system that was designed is expected to cost the consumer less than $3,000, a reduction of nearly 70 percent in the total cost of available systems. The features that permit lower cost be tolerated, the best slaving gains to be used with separate surfaces, and control authority needed for proper operation under direct pilot control, under autopilot control, and in failure situations. On the basis of the results obtained, it has been concluded that separate surface systems are feasible and advantageous for use in general aviation aircraft.

*Astronautics Corporation of America, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.


The purpose of this paper is to describe an investigation of separate surface stability augmentation systems for general aviation aircraft. The program objective were twofold: first, a wind tunnel program to determine control effectiveness of separate surfaces in the presence of main surfaces, and hinge moment feedback from separate surfaces via the main surfaces to the pilot; second, a theoretical study to determine the minimum performance of actuators and sensors that can be tolerated, the best slaving gains to be used with separate surfaces, and control authority needed for proper operation under direct pilot control, under autopilot control, and in failure situations. On the basis of the results obtained, it has been concluded that separate surface systems are feasible and advantageous for use in general aviation aircraft.

*North American Rockwell Corp., Los Angeles, California.


A 0.56-inch thick aft-facing step was located 52.1 feet from the leading edge of the left wing of an XB-70 airplane. A boundary-layer rake at a mirror location on the right wing was used to obtain local flow properties. Reynolds numbers were near 10 to the 8th power, resulting in a relatively thick boundary-layer. The momentum thickness ranged from slightly thinner to slightly thicker than the step height. Surface static pressures forward of the step were obtained for Mach numbers near 0.9, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.4. The data were compared with thin boundary-layer results from flight and wind-tunnel experiments and semiempirical relationships. Significant differences were found between the thick and the thin boundary-layer data.

Keywords: B-70 aircraft; Base pressure; Boundary layer flow; Discontinuity; Flight tests.


The flow field at the left inlet spike tip of a YF-12A airplane was examined using at 26 deg included angle conical flow sensor to obtain measurements at free-stream Mach numbers from 1.6 to 3.0. Local flow angularity, Mach number, impact pressure, and mass flow were determined and compared with free-stream values. Local flow changes occurred at the same time as free-stream changes. The local flow usually approached the spike centerline from the upper outboard side because of spike cant and toe-in. Free-stream Mach number influenced the local flow angularity; as Mach number
increased above 2.2, local angle of attack increased and local sideslip angle decreased. Local Mach number was generally 3 percent less than free-stream Mach number. Impact-pressure ratio and mass flow ratio increased as free-stream Mach number increased above 2.2, indicating a beneficial forebody compression effect. No degradation of the spike tip instrumentation was observed after more than 40 flights in the high-speed thermal environment encountered by the airplane. The sensor is rugged, simple, and sensitive to small flow changes. It can provide accurate inputs necessary to control an inlet.

Keywords: Flow measurement; Impact loads; Inlet flow; Mach number; Supersonic aircraft.


A flight-loads measurement program on the YF-12 aircraft required the mounting of 101 strain-gauge bridges in the fuselage, fuel tanks, control surfaces, and three stations on the left wing. The sensors were to be installed primarily on titanium and were required to operate between −70 and +600 F. Strain gauges with modified Karman filaments and backings of glass-fiber reinforced epoxy resin matrices were selected and were installed with an epoxy adhesive. Attention is given to the calibration, mounting, and performance of the sensors in flight-load measurements.

757. Fisher, D. F.; and Saltzman, E. J.: Local Skin Friction Coefficients and Boundary Layer Profiles Obtained in Flight From the XB-70-1 Airplane at Mach Numbers Up to 2.5. NASA TN D-7220, H-710, June 1973, 73N25276, #.

Boundary-layer and local friction data for Mach numbers up to 2.5 and Reynolds numbers up to 3.6 × 10 to the 8th power were obtained in flight at three locations on the XB-70-1 airplane: the lower forward fuselage centerline (nose), the upper rear fuselage centerline, and the upper surface of the right wing. Local skin friction coefficients were derived at each location by using (1) a skin friction force balance, (2) a Preston probe, and (3) an adaptation of Clauser’s method which derives skin friction from the rake velocity profile. These three techniques provided consistent results that agreed well with the von Karman-Schoenherr relationship for flow conditions that are quasi-two-dimensional. At the lower angles of attack, the nose-boom and flow-direction vanes are believed to have caused the momentum thickness at the nose to be larger than at the higher angles of attack. The boundary-layer data and local skin friction coefficients are tabulated. The wind-tunnel-model surface-pressure distribution ahead of the three locations and the flight surface-pressure distribution ahead of the wing location are included.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic coefficients; B-70 aircraft; Boundary layer flow; Skin friction.


Control-surface hinge-moment measurements obtained in the X-24A lifting body flight-test program are compared with results from wind-tunnel tests. The effects of variations in angle of attack, angle of sideslip, rudder bias, rudder deflection, upper-flap deflection, lower-flap deflection, Mach number, and rocket-engine operation on the control-surface hinge moments are presented. In-flight motion pictures of tufts attached to the inboard side of the right fin and the rudder and upper-flap surfaces are discussed.

Keywords: Aerodynamic forces; Control surfaces; Flight tests; Wind tunnel tests; X-24 aircraft.


Flight tests were conducted with two F-111A airplanes.
to study the effects of steady-state and dynamic pressure phenomena on the propulsion system. Analysis of over 100 engine compressor stalls revealed that the stalls were caused by high levels of instantaneous distortion. In 73 percent of these stalls, the instantaneous circumferential distortion parameter, \( k_{\theta} \), exhibited a peak just prior to stall higher than any previous peak. The \( k_{\theta} \) parameter was a better indicator of stall than the distortion factor, \( k_{d} \), and the maximum-minus-minimum distortion parameter, \( d \), was a poor indicator of stall. Inlet duct resonance occurred in both F-111A airplanes and is believed to have been caused by oscillations of the normal shock wave from an internal to an external position. The inlet performance of the two airplanes was similar in terms of pressure recovery, distortion, and turbulence, and there was good agreement between flight and wind-tunnel data up to a Mach number of approximately 1.8.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Air flow; Aircraft engines; Engine failure; F-111 aircraft.


Preliminary correlations of flight-determined and predicted stability and control characteristics of the XB-70-1 reported in NASA TN D-4578 were subject to uncertainties in several areas which necessitated a review of prediction techniques particularly for the longitudinal characteristics. Reevaluation and updating of the original predictions, including aeroelastic corrections, for six specific flight-test conditions resulted in improved correlations of static pitch stability with flight data. The original predictions for the pitch-damping derivative, on the other hand, showed better correlation with flight data than the updated predictions. It appears that additional study is required in the application of aeroelastic corrections to rigid model wind-tunnel data and the theoretical determination of dynamic derivatives for this class of aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; B-70 aircraft; Data acquisition.


Ground vibration tests were conducted on a YF-12 airplane. To approximate a structural free-free boundary condition during the tests, each of the landing gears was supported on a support system designed to have a low natural frequency. The test equipment and the procedures used for the ground vibration tests are described. The results are presented in the form of frequency response data, measured mode lines, and elastic mode shapes for the wing/body, rudder, and fuselage ventral fin. In the frequency range between 3.4 cps and 28.8 cps, nine symmetrical wing/body modes, six antisymmetrical wing/body modes, two rudder modes, and one ventral fin mode were measured.

Keywords: Airframes; Ground tests; Military aircraft; Reconnaissance aircraft; Structural analysis.


Ground and flight tests were conducted to investigate the problems associated with using a strapdown inertial flight data system. The objectives of this investigation were to develop a three axis inertial attitude reference system, to evaluate a self-alignment technique, and to examine the problem of time-sharing a general purpose computer for the several tasks required of it. The performance of the strapdown platform/computer system that was developed was sufficiently accurate for the tasks attempted. For flights on the order of 45 minutes duration, attitude angle errors of \( \pm 0.035 \) radian (\( \pm 2 \) deg) in all axes were observed. Laboratory tests of the self-alignment technique gave accuracies of \( \pm 0.0075 \) radian in pitch and roll axes and \( \pm 0.0045 \) radian in the yaw axis. Self-alignment flight results were inconsistent, since a stable solution was not obtained on windy days because of aircraft rocking motions.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Attitude indicators; Computer techniques; Performance tests; Strapdown inertial guidance.


Measurements of engine noise generated by an F-111A airplane positioned on a thrustmeasuring platform were made at angles of 0 deg to 160 deg from the aircraft heading. Sound power levels, power spectra, and directivity patterns are presented for jet exit velocities between 260 feet per second and 2400 feet per second. The test results indicate that the total acoustic power was proportional to the eighth power of the core jet velocity for core exhaust velocities greater than 300 meters per second (985 feet per second) and that little or no mixing of the core and fan streams occurred. The maximum sideline noise was most accurately predicted by using the average jet velocity for velocities above 300 meters per second (985 feet per second). The acoustic power spectrum was essentially the same for the single jet flow of afterburner operation and the coaxial flow of the nonafterburning condition. By varying the inlet geometry and cowl position, reductions in the sound pressure level of the blade passing frequency on the order
of 15 decibels to 25 decibels were observed for inlet Mach numbers of 0.8 to 0.9.

Keywords: Aircraft noise; F-111 aircraft; Jet exhaust; Noise intensity; Noise spectra.


Laboratory experiments were performed to study changes in strain-gage bridge load calibrations on a wing structure heated to temperatures of 200 F, 400 F, and 600 F. Data were also obtained to define the experimental repeatability of strain-gage bridge outputs. Experiments were conducted to establish the validity of the superposition of bridge outputs due to thermal and mechanical loads during a heating simulation of Mach 3 flight. The strain-gage bridge outputs due to load cycle at each of the above temperature levels were very repeatable. A number of bridge calibrations were found to change significantly as a function of temperature. The sum of strain-gage bridge outputs due to individually applied thermal and mechanical loads compared well with that due to combined or superimposed loads. The validity of superposition was, therefore, established.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Aerodynamic loads; Aircraft structures; Strain gages; Wings.


Wind-up-turn maneuvers were performed to establish the values of airplane normal force coefficient for buffet onset, wing-rock onset, and buffet loads with various combinations of leading- and trailing-edge flap deflections. Data were gathered at both subsonic and transonic speeds covering a range from Mach 0.64 to Mach 0.92. Buffet onset and buffet loads were obtained from wingtip acceleration and wing-root bending-moment data, and wing-rock onset was obtained from airplane roll rate data. Buffet onset, wing-rock onset, and buffet loads were similarly affected by the various combinations of leading-and training-edge flaps. Subsonically, the 12 deg leading-edge-flap and trailing-edge-flap combination was most effective in delaying buffet onset, wing-rock onset, and equivalent values of buffet loads to a higher value of airplane normal force coefficient. This was the maximum flap deflection investigated. Transonically, however, the optimum leading-edge flap position was generally less than 12 deg.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; Buffeting; F-8 aircraft; Flight tests.


A diamond sized to appear equidimensional when viewed from a 3.6 deg slide slope was painted on the end of a small general aviation airport runway, and a series of flights was made to evaluate its usage as a piloting aid. The pilots could detect and fly reasonably close to the glide slope projected by the diamond. The flight path oscillations that were recorded during approaches using the diamond were not significantly different from the oscillations that were recorded without the diamond; the difference that did exist could be attributed to converging on a known projected glide slope in one case, and flying an unknown, random glide slope in the other. The results indicated that the diamond would be effective as a means of intercepting and controlling a predetermined glide slope. Other advantages of the diamond were positive runway identification and greater aim point visibility. The major disadvantage was a tendency to overconcentrate on the diamond and consequently to neglect cockpit instruments and airport traffic.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Approach control; Flight paths; Flight safety; Visual perception.


The demands of supersonic flight have resulted in propulsion system features that have a significant influence on aircraft flight control. Data from a Mach 3 cruise airplane show that airframe/propulsion system interactions can reduce phugoid and dutch-roll damping, increase vehicle sensitivity to atmospheric disturbances, alter the effective static and dynamic stability of the aircraft, and produce moments as strong as aerodynamic controls. In turn, these effects can lead to large aircraft excursions or high pilot workload, or both, and place increased demands on stability augmentation systems and aerodynamic controls. A need to integrate flight control and propulsion control in advanced vehicles is indicated.


The problem of an airplane being upset by encountering the vortex wake of a large transport on takeoff or landing is currently receiving considerable attention. This paper describes the technique and results of a study to assess the effectiveness of automatic control systems in alleviating
vortex wake upsets. A six-degree-of-freedom nonlinear digital simulation was used for this purpose. The analysis included establishing the disturbance input due to penetrating a vortex wake from an arbitrary position and angle. Simulations were computed for both a general aviation airplane and a commercial jet transport. Dynamic responses were obtained for the penetrating aircraft with no augmentation and with various command augmentation systems. The results of this preliminary study indicate that it is feasible to use an automatic control system to alleviate vortex encounter upsets.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

**Summary of Stability and Control Characteristics of the XB-70 Airplane.** NASA TM X-2933, H-781, October 1973, 73N31958, #. PDF DTRS

The stability and control characteristics of the XB-70 airplane were evaluated for Mach numbers up to 3.0 and altitudes up to 21,300 meters (70,000 feet). The airplane’s inherent longitudinal characteristics proved to be generally satisfactory. In the lateral-directional modes, the airplane was characterized by light wheel forces, low static directional stability beyond approximately 2 deg of sideslip, adverse yaw response to aileron inputs throughout the entire Mach number range, and negative effective dihedral with wingtips full down. At subsonic Mach numbers, with the flight augmentation control system off, the light wheel forces and adverse yaw response to aileron inputs caused the pilots to minimize use of the ailerons. At supersonic Mach numbers, with the augmentation system off, the adverse yaw due to aileron and the negative effective dihedral were conducive to pilot-induced oscillations.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; B-70 aircraft; Flight control.


Flight calibrations of a fixed hemispherical flow angle-of-attack and angle-of-sideslip sensor were made from Mach numbers of 0.5 to 1.8. Maneuvers were performed by an F-104 airplane at selected altitudes to hemispherical sensor with that from a standard angle-of-attack vane. The hemispherical flow-direction sensor measured differential pressure at two angle-of-attack ports and two angle-of-sideslip ports in diametrically opposed positions. Stagnation pressure was measured at a center port. The results of these tests showed that the calibration curves for the hemispherical flow-direction sensor were linear for angles of attack up to 13 deg. The overall uncertainty in determining angle of attack from these curves was plus or minus 0.35 deg or less. A Mach number position error calibration curve was also obtained for the hemispherical flow-direction sensor. The hemispherical flow-direction sensor exhibited a much larger position error than a standard uncompensated pitot-static probe.

Keywords: Aircraft instruments; F-104 aircraft; Flight tests; Flow measurement; Speed indicators.


The low-speed flying qualities of an experimental STOL configuration were evaluated by using a fixed-base six-degree-of-freedom simulation. The configuration had either an externally blown flap (EBF) wing or an augmentor wing (AW). The AW configuration was investigated with two tails, one sized for the AW wing and a larger one sized for the EBF configuration. The emphasis of the study was on the 70-knot approach task. The stability and control characteristics were compared with existing criteria. Several control systems were investigated for the normal four-engine condition and for the engine-out transient condition. Minimum control and stall speeds were determined for both the three- and four-engine operation.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic configurations; Externally blown flaps; Lift augmentation; Short takeoff aircraft.


A flight investigation of a structural mode control system termed identical location of accelerometer and force (ILAF) was conducted on the XB-70-1 airplane. During the first flight tests, the ILAF system encountered localized structural vibration problems requiring a revision of the compensating network. After modification, successful structural mode control that did not adversely affect the rigid body dynamics was demonstrated. The ILAF system was generally more effective in supersonic than subsonic flight, because the conditions for which the system was designed were more nearly satisfied at supersonic speeds. The results of a turbulence encounter at a Mach number of 1.20 and an altitude of 9754 meters indicated that the ILAF system was effective in reducing the vehicle’s response at this flight condition. An analytical study showed that the addition of a small canard to the modal suppression system would greatly improve the automatic control of the higher frequency symmetric modes.

Keywords: Aircraft equipment; Aircraft performance; Aircraft stability; B-70 aircraft; Flight control.

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*North American Rockwell Corp., Los Angeles, California.

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Takeoff and landing performance characteristics and field length requirements were determined analytically for a jet STOL transport configuration with full-span, externally blown, tripleslotted flaps. The configuration had a high wing, high T-tail, and four pod-mounted high-bypass-ratio turbofan engines located under and forward of the wing. One takeoff and three approach and landing flap settings were evaluated. The effects of wing loading, thrust-to-weight ratio, weight, ambient temperature, altitude on takeoff and landing field length requirements are discussed.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft performance; Externally blown flaps; Short takeoff aircraft; Transport aircraft.

A brief study was made to assess the applicability of the Newton-Raphson digital computer program as a routine technique for extracting aerodynamic derivatives from flight tests of lifting body types of vehicles. Lateral-direction flight data from flight tests of the HL-10 lifting body research vehicle were utilized. The results in general, show the computer program to be a reliable and expedient means for extracting derivatives for this class of vehicles as a standard procedure. This result was true even when stability augmentation was used. As a result of the study, a credible set of HL-10 lateral-directional derivatives was obtained from flight data. These derivatives are compared with results from wind-tunnel tests.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Computer programs; HL-10 reentry vehicle; Newton-Raphson method; Research aircraft.

In-flight studies of the overall and local components of drag of many types of aircraft were conducted. The primary goal of these studies was to evaluate wind-tunnel and semiempirical prediction methods. Some evaluations are presented in this paper which may be summarized by the following observations: Wind-tunnel predictions of overall vehicle drag can be accurately extrapolated to flight Reynolds numbers, provided that the base drag is removed and the boattail areas on the vehicle are small. The addition of ablated roughness to lifting body configurations causes larger losses in performance and stability than would be expected from the added friction drag due to the roughness. Successful measurements of skin friction have been made in flight to Mach numbers above 4. A reliable inflatable deceleration device was demonstrated in flight which effectively stabilizes and decelerates a lifting aircraft at supersonic speeds.

The NASA flight research center has developed a prototype data acquisition system which integrates an airborne computer with a high-speed pulse code modulation system. The design of the airborne integrated flight test data system (AIFTDS) is the result of experience with airborne pulse code modulation data systems. The AIFTDS-4000 has proved the premise on which it was designed: that the needs and requirements of data acquisition system users can be integrated to produce a highly flexible system that will be more useful than existing systems.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Data acquisition; Data processing; Data systems; Pulse code modulation.

Airframe/propulsion system interactions can strongly affect the stability and control of supersonic cruise aircraft. These interactions generate forces and moments similar in magnitude to those produced by the aerodynamic controls, and can cause significant changes in vehicle damping and static stability. This, in turn, can lead to large aircraft excursions or high pilot workload, or both. For optimum integration of an airframe and its jet propulsion system, these phenomena may have to be taken into account.

Study of low-time general aviation pilots, who, in a series
of spot landings, were suddenly deprived of binocular vision by patching either eye on the downwind leg of a standard, closed traffic pattern. Data collected during these landings were compared with control data from landings flown with normal vision during the same flight. The sequence of patching and the mix of control and monocular landings were randomized to minimize the effect of learning. No decrease in performance was observed during landings with vision restricted to one eye, in fact, performance improved. This observation is reported at a high level of confidence (p less than 0.001). These findings confirm the previous work of Lewis and Krier and have important implications with regard to aeromedical certification standards.

*System Development Corporation, Edwards, California. **New Mexico University, Albuquerque, New Mexico. ***Lovelace Foundation For Medical Education and Research, Albuquerque, New Mexico.


Flight tests of the propulsion system of a YF-12 airplane were made which included off-schedule inlet operation and deliberately induced unstarts and compressor stalls. The tests showed inlet/engine compatibility to be good through most of the flight envelope. The position of the terminal shock wave could be determined from throat static pressure profiles or from root-mean-square levels of throat static pressure fluctuations. A digital simulation of the control system showed an oscillation of the forward bypass doors to be caused by hysteresis in the bypass door actuator linkages.


A fluidic turbine inlet gas temperature measurement and control system was developed for use on a Pratt & Whitney Aircraft J58 engine. This paper includes the criteria used for material selection, system design, and system performance. It was found that the fluidic temperature sensor had the durability for flight test under the conditions existing in the YF-12 airplane. Due to turbine inlet gas temperature fluctuations, overall enginecontrol system performance cannot be adequately evaluated without a multiple gas sampling system.

*United Aircraft Corp., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division, West Palm Beach, Florida.


An F-104B airplane was modified to investigate the drag and stability characteristics of a ballute decelerator in the wake of an asymmetrical airplane. Decelerator deployments were initiated at a Mach number of 1.3 and an altitude of 15,240 meters (50,000 feet) and terminated when the airplane had decelerated to a Mach number of 0.5. The flight tests indicated that the decelerator had a short inflation time with relatively small opening forces. The drag levels attained with the subject decelerator were less than those obtained with other high-speed decelerators behind a symmetrical tow vehicle. The ballute demonstrated good stability characteristics behind the testbed airplane.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Ballutes; Drag devices; F-104 aircraft; Towed bodies.
body.


A potential solution to some of the operational problems of STOL aircraft operations in the terminal area lies in the capability of making curved landing approaches under both visual and instrument flight conditions. Tests are described which were conducted with a twin-engine, light weight, general aviation aircraft. The advanced control system mode utilized during the curved approaches was an attitude command control system. Four curved patterns were investigated using a steep glide slope: two display configurations, and two flight control modes. When using the flight director display, curved approaches were not significantly different in difficulty and work load than straight approaches.


The objective of the F-8 digital fly-by-wire program is to establish a technology base for the implementation of advanced flight control systems. The central element is the Apollo Lunar Guidance Computer (LGC). This versatile computer ran over 2000 hours in support of fly-by-wire without a failure. Difficulties encountered in the first flights were corrected rapidly and simply by changes in the erasable software memory. Control-configured vehicles offer significant weight-saving possibilities.

* NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.


The problem is dealt with of adaptive control of an aircraft in atmospheric turbulence. The problem is approached by first identifying the unknown coefficients and then applying optimal control theory to the system so determined. The theory developed is general enough to apply to any linear system with unknown coefficients and state noise. The bulk of the development concerns the identification problem and several methods are studied. In particular, what may be called stochastic identification method, taking into account the unknown state noise, is studied. The identification and control theory is first verified on simulated data. It is shown that the methods that accounted for the state noise are adequate where the assumptions hold. The optimal control results agree well with theory in achieving the desired minimization.


A pivoting traversing boundary layer probe was evaluated in flight on an F-104 airplane. The evaluation was performed at free stream Mach numbers from 0.8 to 2.0. The unit is described, and operating problems and their solutions are discussed. Conventional boundary layer profiles containing variations in flow angle within the viscous layer are shown for free stream Mach numbers of 0.8, 1.6, and 2.0. Although the unit was not optimized for size and weight, it successfully measured simultaneously flow angularity, probe height, and pitot pressure through the boundary layer.

Keywords: Atmospheric pressure; Boundary layers; F-104 aircraft; Ionospheric sounding; Pitot tubes.


A flight evaluation was made of the mechanical hydraulic flight control system and the electrohydraulic stability augmentation system installed in the HL-10 lifting body research vehicle. Flight tests performed in the speed range from landing to a Mach number of 1.86 and the altitude range from 697 meters (2300 feet) to 27,550 meters (90,300 feet) were supplemented by ground tests to identify and correct structural resonance and limit-cycle problems. Severe limit-cycle and control sensitivity problems were encountered during the first flight. Stability augmentation system structural resonance electronic filters were modified to correct the limit-cycle problem. Several changes were made to control stick gearing to solve the control sensitivity problem. Satisfactory controllability was achieved by using a nonlinear system. A limit-cycle problem due to hydraulic fluid contamination was encountered during the first powered flight, but the problem did not recur after preflight operations were improved.

Keywords: Flight control; Flight tests; HL-10 reentry vehicle; Hydraulic equipment; Transonic speed.


The longitudinal and lateral-directional handling qualities of the HL-10 lifting body vehicle were evaluated in flight at Mach numbers up to 1.86 and altitudes up to approximately 27,450 meters (90,000 feet). In general, the vehicle’s handling
qualities were considered to be good. Approximately 91 percent of the pilot ratings were 3.5 or better, and 42.4 percent were 2.0. Handling qualities problems were encountered during the first flight due to problems with the control system and vehicle aerodynamics. Modifications of the flight vehicle corrected all deficiencies, and no other significant handling qualities problems were encountered.

Keywords: Aerodynamic configurations; Flight tests; HL-10 reentry vehicle; Lateral control; Longitudinal control.


An analog onboard monitoring system was installed on a YF-12 airplane as the first phase of a program to monitor the engine inlet and portions of the airplane’s electrical and fuel management subsystems in flight. The system provided data which were considered to form a suitable base for diagnostic test logic and decision criteria for the rest of the program. The data were also adequate for the purpose of maintaining the engine inlet and identifying malfunctions within it. The investigation showed that the requirements of an onboard monitoring system should be considered during the original design of the system to be monitored.

Keywords: Aircraft equipment; Analog data; Monitors; Onboard equipment; Systems analysis.

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**Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


The noise of older aircraft can be reduced in two principal ways: retrofitting the aircraft with a quiet propulsion system, and changing the flight operational procedures used in flying the aircraft. The former approach has already proved to be expensive, time consuming, and difficult to implement even though low-noise propulsion system technology exists. The latter method seems to hold promise of being less expensive, time consuming, and easier to implement. One operational technique which might reduce the noise beneath the landing approach path is the decelerating approach. This technique requires intercepting the 3 deg approach path at a relatively high speed with the aircraft in the cruise configuration, then reducing the thrust to idle and allowing the aircraft to decelerate along the 3 deg approach path. As the appropriate airspeed is achieved, the landing flaps and landing gear are deployed for a normal flare and landing. Because the engines, which are the predominant noise source on landing approach, are at idle thrust, a significant reduction in the noise beneath the approach path should be realized.


A digital fly-by-wire flight control system has been installed in an F-8C test airplane and has undergone extensive ground and flight testing as part of an overall program to develop digital fly-by-wire technology. This is the first airplane to fly with a digital fly-by-wire system as its primary means of control and with no mechanical reversion capability. Forty-two test flights were made for a total flight time of 57 hours. Six pilots participated in the evaluation. This paper presents an overview of the digital fly-by-wire program and discusses some of the flight-test results.


Static pressure measurements were made on the aft fuselage of an F-111A airplane to determine local flow characteristics and engine/airframe interaction effects. Data were obtained over the Mach number range from 0.5 to 2.0. Aspiration effects associated with low ejector nozzle expansion ratios reduced the local pressure coefficients particularly on the interfering flow but also extending to the trailing edge of the nacelle. The presence of afterbodies also affected the behavior of the air flowing into and about the ejector nozzle. Pressures about the aft fuselage were improved by an increase in primary nozzle area at a supersonic speed. A comparison of wind-tunnel and flight-test results showed generally good agreement, although there was a large disparity in pressure level about the ejector nozzle. However, the shape of the data curves and the local flow behavior were basically similar.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; F-111 aircraft; Flow characteristics; Flow distortion; Interference drag.


A method for evaluating aircraft takeoff performance from brake release to air-phase height that requires fewer tests than conventionally required is evaluated with data for the XB-70 airplane. The method defines the effects of pilot technique on takeoff performance quantitatively, including the decrease in acceleration from drag due to lift. For a given
takeoff weight and throttle setting, a single takeoff provides enough data to establish a standardizing relationship for the distance from brake release to any point where velocity is appropriate to rotation. The lower rotation rates penalized takeoff performance in terms of ground roll distance; the lowest observed rotation rate required a ground roll distance that was 19 percent longer than the highest. Rotations at the minimum rate also resulted in lift-off velocities that were approximately 5 knots lower than the highest rotation rate at any given liftoff distance.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; B-70 aircraft; Flight tests; Pilot performance; Takeoff.


A box-shaped ground vehicle was used to simulate the aerodynamic drag of delivery vans, trucks, and motor homes. A coast-down method was used to define the drag of this vehicle in a configuration with all square corners and a modified configuration with the four vertical corners rounded. The tests ranged in velocity from 30 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour, and Reynolds numbers ranged from $4.4 \times 1,000,000$ to $1.0 \times 10$ to the 7th power based on vehicle length. The modified configuration showed a reduction in aerodynamic drag of about 40 percent as compared to the square cornered configuration.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Boxes (containers); Corner flow; Drag reduction; Trucks.


The first four flights of a remotely piloted airplane model showed that a flight envelope can be expanded rapidly and that hazardous flight tests can be conducted safely with good results. The flights also showed that aerodynamic data can be obtained quickly and effectively over a wide range of flight conditions, clear and useful impressions of handling and controllability of configurations can be obtained, and present computer and electronic technology provide the capability to close flight control loops on the ground, thus providing a new method of design and flight test for advanced aircraft.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Aircraft performance; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Remotely piloted vehicles.


Technical papers were presented by selected representatives from industry, universities, and various Air Force, Navy, and NASA installations. The topics covered included the newest developments in identification techniques, the most recent flight-test experience, and the projected potential for the near future.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Conferences; Flight tests; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameterization.


Parameter estimation is discussed as it applies to aircraft flight testing, and an overview of the symposium is presented. The evolution of techniques used in flight testing is reviewed briefly, and it is pointed out how the changing character of the aircraft tested and the availability of advanced data systems have promoted this evolution. Recent advances in optimal estimation theory have stimulated widespread interest and activity in parameter estimation. The framework of these advanced techniques is outlined to set the stage for subsequent papers. The session topics are introduced and related to the requirements of flight-test research.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic coefficients; Aeronautical engineering; Flight tests; Parameterization.


A maximum likelihood estimator for a linear system with state and observation noise is developed to determine stability and control derivatives from flight data obtained in the presence of turbulence. The formulation for the longitudinal short-period mode is presented briefly, including a special case that greatly simplifies the problem if the measurement noise on one signal is negligible. The effectiveness and accuracy of the technique are assessed by applying it first to simulated flight data, in which the true parameter values and state noise are known, then to actual flight data obtained in turbulence. The results are compared with data obtained in smooth air and with wind-tunnel data. The complete maximum likelihood estimator, which accounts for both state and observation noise, is shown to give the most accurate estimate of the stability and control derivatives from flight data obtained in turbulence. It is superior to the techniques that ignore state noise and to the simplified method that neglects the measurement noise on the
angle-of-attack signal.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; Angle of attack; Stability derivatives; Turbulence.


During the joint NASA/USAF flight research program with the YF-12 airplane, the Dutch roll damping was found to be much less during automatic inlet operation than during fixed inlet operation at Mach numbers greater than 2.5 and with the yaw stability augmentation system off. It was concluded that the significant reduction in dutch roll damping was due to the forces and moments induced by the variable-geometry features of the inlet. Two stability-derivative extraction techniques were applied to the flight data; the recently developed Newton-Raphson technique and the time vector method. These techniques made it possible to determine the forces and moments generated by spike and bypass door movement.

Keywords: Aircraft stability; Angle of attack; Automatic pilots; Cruising flight; Flight tests.


Satisfactory and optimum flare windows are defined from pilot ratings and comments. Maximum flare normal accelerations, touchdown rates of sink, and total landing maneuver time increments are summarized as a function of approach airspeed margin (with respect to reference airspeed) and flare initiation altitude. The effects of two thrust management techniques are investigated. Comparisons are made with predictions from three analytical models and the results of a simulator study. The approach speed margin was found to have a greater influence on the flare initiation altitude than the absolute airspeed. The optimum airspeed was between the reference airspeed and the maximum airspeed plus 10 knots. The optimum flare initiation altitude range for unrestricted landings was from 11 meters to 20 meters (36 feet to 66 feet), and the landing time in the optimum window was 8 seconds. The duration of the landing maneuver increased with increasing flare initiation altitude and with increasing speed margins on the approach.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Aircraft performance; Glide paths; Jet aircraft; Transport aircraft.


The use of transducers in the measuring channels of flight test instrumentation systems is discussed. Emphasis is placed on transducers with an electrical output. The physical effects used for producing the electrical outputs are defined. Diagrams of the various types of transducers are included to show the operating principles.


The merits of the RPRV (remotely piloted research vehicle) concept are discussed, along with its historical background and development culminating in the 3/8-scale F-15. The use of RPRVs is shown to be especially attractive when testing must be done at low cost, or in quick response to demand, or when hazardous testing must assure the safety of proceeding to manned vehicles.


Interactions between propulsion systems and flight controls have emerged as a major control problem on supersonic cruise aircraft. This paper describes the nature and causes of these interactions and the approaches to predicting and solving the problem. Integration of propulsion and flight control systems appears to be the most promising solution if the interaction effects can be adequately predicted early in the vehicle design. Significant performance, stability, and control improvements may be realized from a cooperative control system.


A digital fly-by-wire flight control system was designed, built, and for the first time flown in an airplane. The system, which uses components from the Apollo guidance system, is installed in an F-8 airplane as the primary control system. A lunar module guidance computer is the central element in the three-axis, single-channel, multimode, digital control system. A triplex electrical analog system which provides unaugmented control of the airplane is the only backup to the digital system. Flight results showed highly successful system operation, although the trim update rate was inadequate for precise trim changes, causing minor concern. The use of a digital system to implement conventional control laws proved to be practical for flight. Logic functions coded as an integral
part of the control laws were found to be advantageous. Although software verification required extensive effort, confidence in the software was achieved.


Flights of a YF-12 airplane were performed over a wide range of operating conditions so that detailed comparisons could be made with data from tests on scale models in NASA ground facilities. Extensive flight instrumentation for inlet performance comparisons provided flight data that also lend insight into supersonic inlet operation during atmospheric turbulence. Pressure and flow direction measurements near the inlet gave results different from conventional accelerometer data normally used for flight determination of turbulence severity. A nonturbulent atmospheric temperature excursion during an xb-70 flight caused inlet duct pressure variations as extreme as those experienced during heavy turbulence on the YF-12 airplane.


A flight-test program was conducted to determine the effect of advanced flight control systems and displays on the handling qualities of a light twin-engined airplane. A flight-director display and an attitude-command control system, used separately and in combination, transformed a vehicle with poor handling qualities during ILS approaches in turbulent air into a vehicle with good handling qualities. The attitude-command control system also improved the ride qualities of the airplane. A rate-command control system made only small improvements to the airplane’s ILS handling qualities in turbulence. Both the rate- and the attitude-command control systems reduced stall warning in the test airplane, increasing the likelihood of inadvertent stalls. The final approach to the point of flare was improved by both the rate- and the attitude-command control systems. However, the small control wheel deflections necessary to flare were unnatural and tended to cause overcontrolling during flare. Airplane handling qualities are summarized for each control-system and display configurations.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Display devices; Flight control; Flight tests; General aviation aircraft.


Two F-111A airplanes were subjected to conditions that caused engine compressor surges and accompanying duct hammershock pressure transients. Flight speed ranged from Mach 0.71 to Mach 2.23, and altitude varied from approximately 3200 meters to 14,500 meters. A wide range of compressor pressure ratios was covered. Stabilized free-stream, engine, and duct conditions were established before each compressor surge. Dynamic pressure instrumentation at the compressor face and in the duct recorded the pressure transients associated with the surges. Hammershock pressures were analyzed with respect to the stabilized conditions preceding the compressor surges. The hammershock transients caused large pressure rises at the compressor face and in the duct. Hammershock pressure ratios at the compressor face were not affected by free-stream Mach number or altitude but were functions of engine variables, such as compressor pressure ratio. The maximum hammershock pressure ratio of approximately 1.83 occurred at a compressor pressure ratio of approximately 21.7.

Keywords: Compressors; Ducted flow; F-111 aircraft; Inlet pressure; Transient pressures.


Flight measurements of aerodynamic noise were made on an AeroCommander airplane with engines off and a JetStar airplane with engines at both idle power and completely shut off. The overall sound level for these airplanes in the landing configuration varied as the sixth power of the aircraft velocity. For the JetStar airplane, the overall sound level decreased as the inverse square of the distance in the lateral direction. The aerodynamic noise was approximately 11 decibels below the FAR Part 36 noise level for the JetStar airplane. The landing gear were a significant contributor to aerodynamic noise for both aircraft. Technology programs, such as fly-by-wire, digital control, and control configured vehicles; important applications of advanced control systems to such vehicles as the space shuttle orbiter, the Lockheed C-5A, and the Boeing 747; advanced and integrated propulsion control systems; and case studies of the benefits of applying active control technology to transport aircraft. Also included are several papers on the design, testing, and reliability of advanced control systems directed primarily toward the technical specialist.

The use of a pitot-static probe to determine wing section drag at speeds from Mach 0.5 to approximately 1.0 was evaluated in flight. The probe unit is described and operational problems are discussed. Typical wake profiles and wing section drag coefficients are presented. The data indicate that the pitot-static probe gave reliable results up to speeds of approximately 1.0.


This document is a compilation of papers prepared for a symposium on advanced control technology sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This symposium focuses national attention on recent advances in control technology and the impact it should have on future transport aircraft. These technical papers present work performed by the Government and industry. The topics covered include recent flight-test results of advanced control.


A fluidic turbine engine gas temperature measurement and control system was developed for use on a Pratt & Whitney Aircraft J58 engine. This paper includes the criteria used for material selection, system design, and system performance. It was found that the fluidic temperature sensor had the durability for flight test under conditions existing in the YF-12 airplane. As a result of turbine inlet gas temperatures fluctuations, overall engine-control system performance cannot be adequately evaluated without a multiple-gas sampling system.

*United Aircraft Corp., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Div., West Palm Beach, Florida.


At high Mach numbers (approximately 3) and altitudes greater than 70,000 feet, the original altitude and Mach hold modes of the YF-12 autopilot produced aircraft excursions that were erratic or divergent or both. Data analysis and simulator studies showed that static pressure port sensitivity to angle of attack had a detrimental effect on the performance of both altitude and Mach hold modes. Good altitude hold performance was obtained when a high-passed pitch rate feedback was added to compensate for angle-of-attack sensitivity and the altitude error and integral altitude gains were reduced. Good Mach hold performance was obtained with the removal of angle-of-attack sensitivity.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


The NASA Flight Research Center undertook a remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) program with a 3/8-scale model of an F-15 aircraft to determine the usefulness of the RPRV testing technique in high-risk flight testing such as spin testing. The results of the first flights of the program are presented. The program has shown that the RPRV technique, including the use of a digital control system, is a viable method for obtaining flight research data. Also presented are some negative aspects that have been learned about the RPRV technique in terms of model size, command frequency, and launch technique.

816. Layton, G. P.: NASA Flight Research Center Scale

F-15 Spin Research Vehicle

ECN-4891
A remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) program was conducted with a 3/8-scale model of an F-15 airplane to determine the usefulness of the RPRV testing technique in high risk flight testing such as spin testing. The results of the first flights of the program are presented. The program has shown that the RPRV technique, including the use of a digital control system, is a viable method for obtaining flight research data. Also presented are some negative aspects that have been learned about the RPRV technique in terms of model size, command frequency, and launch technique.


A maximum likelihood estimator for a linear system with state and observation noise is developed to determine unknown aircraft coefficients from flight data in the presence of turbulence (state noise). The formulation of the algorithm is presented briefly. The linear equations for an aircraft in atmospheric turbulence are defined. The effectiveness and accuracy of the technique are assessed by first applying it to simulated flight data, in which the true parameter values are known, then to actual flight data obtained in turbulence. A complete set of aircraft coefficients is obtained as well as an estimate of the turbulence time history. The validity of the estimated state noise and of the estimated coefficients is tested. The feasibility of using the algorithm for defining an adaptive control law to alleviate the effects of turbulence on the aircraft is discussed.


Airframe/propulsion system interactions can strongly affect the stability and control of supersonic cruise aircraft. These interactions generate forces and moments similar in magnitude to those produced by the aerodynamic controls, and can cause significant changes in vehicle damping and static stability. This in turn can lead to large aircraft excursions or high pilot workload, or both. For optimum integration of an airframe and its jet propulsion system, these phenomena may have to be taken into account.


A portable dynamic pressure generator, how it operates, and a test setup on an airplane are described. The generator is capable of providing a sinusoidal pressure having a peak-to-peak amplitude of 3.5 N/sq cm (5 psi) at frequencies ranging from 100 hertz to 200 hertz. A typical power spectral density plot of data from actual dynamic pressure fluctuation tests within the air inlet of the YF-12 airplane is presented.

Keywords: Aircraft equipment; Engine inlets; Portable equipment; Power spectra; Pressure measurement.


In early flight tests the size and intensity of the wake vortexes generated by aircraft ranging in size from the Learjet to the C-5A and the B-747 were studied to determine the effects of aircraft configuration, weight, and speed. Early problems were related to vortex marking, the measurement of separation distance, and test techniques. Recent tests conducted with B-747 showed that vortexes were alleviated by reducing the deflection of the outboard flaps. It was found that a more rapid dissipation of the vortex system can be obtained through alterations in the span lift distribution.

*Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C.


Advanced instrumentation and techniques for in-flight measurements of air inlet performance of the XB-70, F-111A, and YF-12 supersonic airplanes were developed and evaluated in flight tests at the NASA Flight Research Center. A compressor face rake with in-flight zeroing capability was flown on the F-111A and found to give excellent steady state as well as high frequency response pressure data. The severe temperature environment of the YF-12 necessitated development of special high temperature transducers. Mounting these transducers to give the required 500-hertz frequency response required some special rake designs. Vibration test requirements necessitated some modifications to the rakes. The transducers and rakes were evaluated in flight tests and were found to function properly. Preliminary data have been obtained from the YF-12 propulsion program in flights that began in May 1972. One example shows the terminal shock wave effects on cowl surface pressures during bypass and spike motions.
Sonic booms generated by the X-15 airplane flying at Mach numbers of 3.5 and 4.8 were measured. The experimental results agreed within 12 percent with results obtained from theoretical methods. No unusual phenomena related to overpressure were encountered. Scaled data from the X-15 airplane for Mach 4.8 agreed with data for an SR-71 airplane operating at lower Mach numbers and similar altitudes. The simple technique used to scale the data on the basis of airplane lift was satisfactory for comparing X-15 and SR-71 sonic boom signatures.

Keywords: Aerodynamic noise; Acoustic measurement; Sonic booms; Supersonic speed; X-15 aircraft.

A box-shaped ground vehicle was used to simulate the aerodynamic drag of high volume transports, that is, delivery vans, trucks, or motor homes. The coast-down technique was used to define the drag of the original vehicle, having all square corners, and several modifications of the vehicle. Test velocities ranged up to 65 miles per hour, which provided maximum Reynolds numbers of 1 times 10 to the 7th power based on vehicle length. One combination of modifications produced a reduction in aerodynamic drag of 61 percent as compared with the original square-cornered vehicle.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Ground vehicle; Truck; Automotive; Bluff shape; Aerodynamic drag reduction.

Current practices are evaluated for experimentally determining airplane center of gravity, moments of inertia, and products of inertia. The techniques discussed are applicable to bodies other than airplanes. In pitching- and rolling-moment-of-inertia investigations with the airplane mounted on and pivoted about knife edges, the nonlinear spring moments that occur at large amplitudes of oscillation can be eliminated by using the proper spring configuration. The single-point suspension double-pendulum technique for obtaining yawing moments of inertia, products of inertia, and the inclination of the principal axis provides accurate results from yaw-mode oscillation data, provided that the sway-mode effects are minimized by proper suspension rig design. Rocking-mode effects in the data can be isolated.

Keywords: Aircraft configurations; Center of gravity; Flight characteristics; Moments of inertia; Pitch (inclination).

Procedures for determining the effects of dynamic distortion
on engine stability are analyzed. The test techniques, methods and types of instrumentation, and data processing functions are described. The advantages and limitations of various methods are reported. It is emphasized that ground facility tests are only a simulation of the flight environment, that instrumentation provides only a partial representation of the physical phenomena, and that poorly organized data processing procedures can impede and even distort the final result.


Needed improvements in the maneuvering performance of combat aircraft appear to be possible through the simultaneous application of advances in various disciplines in such a way that they complement one another and magnify the benefits derived. The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) program is being conducted to investigate such multidisciplinary concepts. The program has three phases: preliminary studies, conceptual design studies, and the final design and construction of a test airplane. Work is now in the second phase. The test airplane will be a scaled model flown by a remotely piloted research vehicle technique. This paper outlines the HiMAT program and indicates the types of concepts being considered.


The ability to predict the inlet characteristics of high-speed propulsion systems from wind-tunnel test results is being studied by the NASA Flight Research Center in a flight program on the YF-12 aircraft. The obvious requirement for matching geometry, instrumentation, and test conditions has led to the development of special flight test techniques, hardware, and systems. This paper describes this development, the technical and operational problems encountered and their solutions and the compromises that were found to be necessary.


An automatic support system concept that isolated faults in an existing nonavionics subsystem was flight tested up to a Mach number of 3. The adaptation of the automated support concept to an existing system (the jet engine automatic inlet control system) caused most of the problems one would expect to encounter in other applications. These problems and their solutions are discussed. Criteria for integrating automatic support into the initial design of new subsystems are included in the paper. Cost effectiveness resulted from both the low maintenance of the automated system and the man-hour saving resulting from the real time diagnosis of the monitored subsystem.


Two static-pressure-measuring air data systems that were used on the YF-12 airplane for supersonic flight testing were compared. One system consisted of a nose boom pitot-static probe with two sets of static-pressure orifices designed for static-pressure error compensation, two air data computers, and a photopanel for recording. The other system consisted of an identical nose boom probe and a third set of static-pressure orifices not designed for error compensation, pressure transducers for direct pressure measurements instead of air data computers, and 5 pulse code modulation system for recording. The comparisons showed that the uncompensated static-pressure orifices provided more accurate air data measurements than either set of uncompensated static-pressure sources. Whereas the uncompensated static-pressure source was relatively insensitive to angle of attack, the compensated sources were characterized by a position error at supersonic speeds that increased with angle of attack and Mach number. Pitot-static measurements acquired by using air data computers that incorporate cams for static error compensation provide reference data that are less accurate than similar measurements made by pressure transducers.

Keywords: Air data systems; Data systems; Pressure measurement; Static pressure; YF-12 aircraft.


A remotely augmented vehicle concept for flight testing advanced control systems was developed as an outgrowth of a remotely piloted research vehicle (RPV) program in which control laws are implemented through telemetry uplink and computer which provides the control law computations. Some advantages of this approach are that the cost of one control system facility is spread over a number of RPV programs, and control laws can be changed quickly as required, without changing the flight hardware. The remotely augmented
vehicle concept is described, and flight test results from a subscale F-15 program are discussed. Suggestions of how the concept could lead to more effective testing of RPV control system concepts, and how it is applicable to a military RPV reconnaissance mission are given.

Keywords: Aerial reconnaissance; Aircraft control; Automatic flight control; Flight tests; Remotely piloted vehicles.


Description of the requirements for a comprehensive flight and wind-tunnel propulsion research program to examine the predictability of inlet performance, evaluate the effects of high-frequency pressure phenomena on inlets, and investigate improved control concepts in order to cope with airframe interactions. This program is unique in that it requires precise similarity of the geometry of the flight vehicle and tunnel modes; the test conditions, including local flow at the inlet; and instrumentation. Although few wind-tunnel instrumentation problems exist, many problems emerge during flight tests because of the thermal environment. Mach 3 flight temperatures create unique problems with transducers, connectors, and wires. All must be capable of withstanding continuous 1000 F temperatures, as well as the mechanical stresses imposed by vibration and thermal cycling.

1975 Technical Publications


Flight tests were performed to evaluate the vortex wake characteristics of a Boeing 727 aircraft during conventional and two-segment instrument landing approaches. Smoke generators were used for vortex marking. The vortex was intentionally intercepted by a Lear Jet and a Piper Comanche aircraft. The vortex location during landing approach was measured using a system of phototheodolites. The tests showed that at a given separation distance there are no readily apparent differences in the upsets resulting from deliberate vortex encounters during the two types of approaches. The effect of the aircraft configuration on the extent and severity of the vortices is discussed.
Keywords: Trailing vortices; Vortex wake effects; Wake turbulence; Airway spacing; Aircraft wakes; Two-segment approach

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High altitude turbulence experienced at supersonic speeds is described in terms of gust accelerations measured on the YF-12A airplane. The data were obtained during 90 flights at altitudes above 12.2 kilometers (40,000 feet). Subjective turbulence intensity ratings were obtained from air crew members. The air crew often rated given gust accelerations as being more intense during high altitude supersonic flight than during low altitude subsonic flight. The portion of flight distance in turbulence ranged from 6 percent to 8 percent at altitudes between 12.2 kilometers and 16.8 kilometers (40,000 feet and 55,000 feet) to less than 1 percent at altitudes above 18.3 kilometers (60,000 feet). The amount of turbulence varied with season, increasing by a factor of 3 or more from summer to winter. Given values of gust acceleration were less frequent, on the basis of distance traveled, for supersonic flight of the YF-12A airplane at altitudes above 12.2 kilometers (40,000 feet) than for subsonic flight of a jet passenger airplane at altitudes below 12.2 kilometers (40,000 feet). The median thickness of high altitude turbulence patches was less than 400 meters (1300 feet); the median length was less than 16 kilometers (10 miles). The distribution of the patch dimensions tended to be log normal.


The emergence of highly reliable fly-by-wire flight control systems makes it possible to consider a strong reliance on automatic control systems in the design optimization of future aircraft. This design philosophy has been referred to as the control configured vehicle approach or the application of active control technology. Several studies and flight tests sponsored by the Air Force and NASA have demonstrated the potential benefits of control configured vehicles and active control technology. The present status and trends of active control technology are reviewed and the impact it will have on aircraft designs, design techniques, and the designer is predicted.


Aircraft flight and ground tests and simulator studies were conducted to explore pilot-induced oscillation tendencies. Linear and nonlinear calculations of the integrated flight control system’s characteristics were made to analyze and predict the system’s performance and stability. The investigations showed that the small-amplitude PIO tendency was caused by the interaction of the pilot with a combination of the aircraft’s short-period poles and the structural first bending mode zeros. It was found that the large-amplitude PIo’s were triggered by abrupt corrective control actions by the pilot, which caused the stability augmentation system servo to position and rate limit. The saturation in turn caused additional phase lag, further increasing the tendency of the overall system to sustain a PIO.

Keywords: Fighter aircraft; Longitudinal control; Pilot induced oscillation; Pilot performance; Pitching moments.


A NASA program to develop digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) technology for aircraft applications is discussed. Phase I of the program demonstrated the feasibility of using a digital fly-by-wire system for aircraft control through developing and flight testing a single channel system, which used Apollo hardware, in an F-8C airplane. The objective of Phase II of the program is to establish a technology base for designing practical DFBW systems. It will involve developing and flight testing a triplex digital fly-by-wire system using state-of-the-art airborne computers, system hardware, software, and redundancy concepts. The papers included in this report describe the Phase I system and its development and present results from the flight program. Man-rated flight software and the effects of lightning on digital flight control systems are also discussed.


The feasibility of using digital fly-by-wire systems to control aircraft was demonstrated by developing and flight testing a single channel system, which used Apollo hardware, in an F-8C test airplane. This is the first airplane to fly with a digital fly-by-wire system as its primary means of control and with
no mechanical reversion capability. The development and flight test of a triplex digital fly-by-wire system, which will serve as an experimental prototype for future operational digital fly-by-wire systems, is underway.


To assess the feasibility of a digital fly-by-wire system, the mechanical flight control system of an F-8C airplane was replaced with a digital system and an analog backup system. The Apollo computer was used as the heart of the primary system. This paper discusses the experience gained during the design and development of the system and relates it to active control systems that are anticipated for future civil transport applications.


A redundant three-axis analog control system was designed and developed to back up a digital fly-by-wire control system for an F-8C airplane. Forty-two flights, involving 58 hours of flight time, were flown by six pilots. The mechanization and operational experience with the backup control system, the problems involved in synchronizing it with the primary system, and the reliability of the system are discussed. The backup control system was dissimilar to the primary system, and it provided satisfactory handling through the flight envelope evaluated. Limited flight tests of a variety of control tasks showed that control was also satisfactory when the backup control system was controlled by a minimum-displacement (force) side stick. The operational reliability of the F-8 digital fly-by-wire control system was satisfactory, with no unintentional downmodes to the backup control system in flight. The ground and flight reliability of the system’s components is discussed.


Present practices in lightning protection of aircraft deal primarily with the direct effects of lightning, such as structural damage and ignition of fuel vapors. There is increasing evidence of troublesome electromagnetic effects, however, in aircraft employing solid-state microelectronics in critical navigation, instrumentation and control functions. The potential impact of these indirect effects on critical systems such as digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) flight controls has been studied by several recent research programs, including an experimental study of lightning-induced voltages in the NASA F8 DFBW airplane. The results indicate a need for positive steps to be taken during the design of future fly-by-wire systems to minimize the possibility of hazardous effects from lightning.

* General Electric Research and Development, Schenectady, New York.
** General Motors Corp., Detroit, Michigan.


Flight test results of the F-8 digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) control system are presented and the implications for application to active control technology (ACT) are discussed. The F-8 DFBW system has several of the attributes of proposed ACT systems, so the flight test experience is helpful in assessing the capabilities of those systems. Topics of discussion include the predicted and actual flight performance of the control system, assessments of aircraft flying qualities and other piloting factors, software management and control, and operational experience.


The handling qualities of the F-8 digital fly-by-wire airplane are evaluated by using the Cooper-Harper rating scale. The reasons for the ratings are given, as well as a short description of the flying tasks. It was concluded that the handling qualities of the airplane were good in most situations, although occasional ratings of unsatisfactory were given.

The test probe was designed to measure free-stream Mach number and could be incorporated into a conventional airspeed nose boom installation. Tests were conducted in the Langley 4-by 4-foot supersonic pressure tunnel with an approximate angle of attack test range of −5 deg to 15 deg and an approximate angle of sideslip test range of + or −4 deg. The probe incorporated a variable exit area which permitted internal flow. The internal flow caused the bow shock to be swallowed. Mach number was determined with a small axially movable internal total pressure tube and a series of fixed internal static pressure orifices. Mach number error was at a minimum when the total pressure tube was close to the probe tip. For four of the five tips tested, the Mach number error derived by averaging two static pressures measured at horizontally opposed positions near the probe entrance were least sensitive to angle of attack changes. The same orifices were also used to derive parameters that gave indications of flow direction.

Keywords: Airspeed; Data acquisition; Flight characteristics; Mach number; Wind tunnel tests.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight data were shifted in time by various increments to assess the effects of time shifts on estimates of stability and control derivatives produced by a maximum likelihood estimation method. Derivatives could be extracted from flight data with the maximum likelihood estimation method even if there was a considerable time shift in the data. Time shifts degraded the estimates of the derivatives, but the degradation was in a consistent rather than a random pattern. Time shifts in the control variables caused the most degradation, and the lateral-directional rotary derivatives were affected the most by time shifts in any variable.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Aircraft stability; Data processing; Flight control; Maximum likelihood estimates.


Flyover measurements of the airframe noise of AeroCommander, JetStar, CV-990, and B-747 aircraft are presented. Data are shown for both cruise and landing configurations. Correlations between airframe noise and aircraft parameters are developed and presented. The landing approach airframe noise for the test aircraft was approximately 10 EPNdB below present FAA certification requirements.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The airborne integrated flight test data system (AIFTDS) is described. This system integrates an airborne digital computer with a high-bit-rate pulse code modulation system. Its design was influenced by in-house technical experience with similar modules and by the multiproject environment in which it was expected to operate. The present work describes events leading to the development of the system, reviews factors that influenced the objectives for the system and the resulting design, and describes the elements themselves. Block diagrams supplement the text.


A cost-effective approach to flight testing advanced control concepts with remotely piloted vehicles is described. The approach utilizes a ground based digital computer coupled to the remotely piloted vehicle’s motion sensors and control surface actuators through telemetry links to provide high bandwidth feedback control. The system was applied to the control of an unmanned 3/8-scale model of the F-15 airplane. The model was remotely augmented; that is, the F-15 mechanical and control augmentation flight control systems were simulated by the ground-based computer, rather than being in the vehicle itself. The results of flight tests of the model at high angles of attack are discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Digital command systems; Digital computers; Remote control; Research aircraft.


A flight test investigation of the B-747 vortex wake characteristics was conducted using a T-37B as a probe aircraft. The primary purpose of the program was the validation of the results of B-747 model tests which predicted significant alleviation of the vortex strength when only the inboard flaps were deflected. Measurements of the vortex-induced rolling moments of the probe aircraft showed that the predicted alleviation did occur. The effects of landing
gear extension, increased lift coefficient, idle thrust, and sideslip were investigated, and all had an adverse effect on the alleviated condition as evidenced by increased induced rolling moments of the T-37B probe aircraft. Idle thrust also increased the strength of the B-747 wake vortexes with both inboard and outboard flaps extended.

Keywords: Aircraft wakes; Boeing 747 aircraft; Flight tests; Flow characteristics; Rolling moments.


A digital computer program written in FORTRAN IV for the estimation of aircraft stability and control derivatives is presented. The program uses a maximum likelihood estimation method, and two associated programs for routine, related data handling are also included. The three programs form a package that can be used by relatively inexperienced personnel to process large amounts of data with a minimum of manpower. This package was used to successfully analyze 1500 maneuvers on 20 aircraft, and is designed to be used without modification on as many types of computers as feasible. Program listings and sample check cases are included.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; Computer programs; Flight characteristics; FORTRAN.

854. Montoya, L. C.; and Lux, D. P.: Comparisons of Wing Pressure Distribution From Flight Tests of Flush and External Orifices for Mach Numbers From 0.50 to 0.97. NASA TM X-56032, April 1975, 75N22275, #. PDF DTRS

Wing pressure distributions obtained in flight with flush orifice and external tubing orifice installations for Mach numbers from 0.50 to 0.97 are compared. The procedure used to install the external tubing orifice is discussed. The results indicate that external tubing orifice installations can give useful results.

Keywords: Flight tests; Mach number; Orifices; Pressure distribution; Wings.


A hemispherical head flow direction sensor was tested in a wind tunnel to evaluate its effectiveness for measuring dynamic duct flow direction angles of plus and minus 27 degrees. The tests were conducted at Reynolds numbers of 3.8 million per meter (1.0 million per foot) and 4.92 million per meter (1.5 million per foot) and at Mach numbers from 0.30 to 0.70. The design criteria for the probe are discussed and the wind tunnel results are presented. Three techniques for deriving the flow angles are described.

Keywords: Calibrating; Ducted flow; Flow direction indicators; Flow distribution; Wind tunnel tests.


The application of a maximum likelihood estimator to flight data is discussed and procedures to facilitate routine analysis of a large amount of flight data are proposed. Flight data were used to demonstrate the proposed procedures. Modeling considerations are discussed for the system to be identified, including linear aerodynamics, instrumentation, and data time shifts, and aerodynamic biases for the specific types of maneuvers to be analyzed. Data editing to eliminate common data acquisition problems, and a method of identifying other problems are considered. The need for careful selection of the maneuver or portions of the maneuver to be analyzed is pointed out. Uncertainty levels (analogous to Cramer-Rao bounds) are discussed as a way of recognizing significant new information.


Flight measurements obtained with a TF-8A airplane modified with a supercritical wing are presented for altitudes from 7.6 kilometers (25,000 feet) to 13.7 kilometers (45,000 feet), Mach numbers from 0.6 to 1.2, and Reynolds numbers from 0.8 x 10 to the 7th power to 2.3 x 10 to the 7th power. Flight results for the airplane with and without area-rule fuselage fairings are compared. The techniques used to determine the lift and drag characteristics of the airplane are discussed. Flight data are compared with wind-tunnel model results, where applicable.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; F-8 aircraft; Flight tests; Lift; Supercritical wings.


A method for reliably extracting real zeros of real polynomials using an expanded two-point secant and bisection method is formed into an algorithm for a digital computer, and a computer program based on this algorithm is presented. The results obtained with the program show that the proposed
The results of the NASA F-8 digital fly-by-wire flight test program are presented, along with the implications for active controls applications. The closed loop performance of the digital control system agreed well with the sampled-data system design predictions. The digital fly-by-wire mechanization also met pilot flying qualities requirements. The advantages of mechanizing the control laws in software became apparent during the flight program and were realized without sacrificing overall system reliability. This required strict software management. The F-8 flight test results are shown to be encouraging in light of the requirements that must be met by control systems for flight-critical active controls applications.

Percentage distributions of 423 pilot ratings obtained from 27 flights are used to indicate the general level of handling qualities of the M2-F3 lifting body. Percentage distributions are compared on the basis of longitudinal and lateral-directional handling qualities, control system, control system status, and piloting task. Ratings of longitudinal handling qualities at low speed were slightly better than those for transonic and supersonic speed. The ratings of lateral-directional handling qualities were unaffected by speed and configuration. Specific handling qualities problems are discussed in detail, and comparisons are made with pertinent handling qualities criteria.

A modified maximum likelihood estimation (MMLE) technique which included a provision for including a priori information about unknown parameters was used to determine the aerodynamic derivatives of the Lockheed JetStar airplane. Two hundred sixty-five maneuvers were performed with the JetStar airplane, which was modified to include direct lift controls, to obtain lateral-directional and longitudinal derivatives. Data were obtained at altitudes of 3048 meters, 6096 meters, and 9144 meters (10,000 feet, 20,000 feet, and 30,000 feet) and over an angle of attack range from approximately 3 deg to 13 deg and a Mach number range from 0.25 to 0.75. Side force generators were installed and tested in 87 maneuvers to determine their effectiveness and their effect on the other derivatives. Lateral-directional data for four flight conditions were analyzed without using a priori information to assess the effect of this feature on the results. The MMLE method generally gave consistent (repeatable) estimates of the derivatives, with the exception of the rolling moment due to yaw rate, which showed large variances.

Aerodynamic drag tests were performed on a tractor-trailer combination and a box-shaped ground vehicle using the coast-down method on a smooth, nearly level runway. The tractor-trailer tests included an investigation of drag reduction add-on devices that are commercially available or under development. The box-shaped vehicle was modified by rounding the corners and sealing the undercarriage. The tests ranged in velocity from approximately 35 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour for the tractor-trailer combination and included fuel consumption measurements and one set of measurements of drive shaft torque. This paper presents the results for both vehicles, showing the effects of the various modifications on the aerodynamic drag. The effects of variation in the aerodynamic drag of the tractor-trailer combination on fuel consumption are also presented.

As part of a NASA program to evaluate current methods of predicting the performance of large, supersonic airplanes, the drag of the XB-70 airplane was measured accurately in flight at Mach numbers from 0.75 to 2.5. This paper describes the techniques used to determine engine net thrust and the drag forces charged to the propulsion system that were required for the in-flight drag measurements. The accuracy of the measurements and the application of the measurement techniques are discussed in detail.
techniques to aircraft with different propulsion systems are discussed. Examples of results obtained for the XB-70 airplane are presented.


The current state of knowledge about the propagation of aircraft noise was reviewed. The literature on the subject is surveyed and methods for predicting the most important and best understood propagation effects are presented. Available empirical data are examined and the data’s general validity is assessed. The methods used to determine the loss of acoustic energy due to uniform spherical spreading, absorption in a homogeneous atmosphere, and absorption due to ground cover are presented. A procedure for determining ground induced absorption as a function of elevation angle between source and receiver is recommended. Other factors that affect propagation, such as refraction and scattering due to turbulence, which were found to be less important for predicting the propagation of aircraft noise, are also evaluated.

Keywords: Aircraft noise; Atmospheric scattering; Noise propagation; Turbulence.


Subsonic stability and control derivatives were determined by a modified maximum likelihood estimator from flight data for the longitudinal and lateral-directional modes of the T-37B airplane. Data from two flights, in which 166 stability and control maneuvers were performed, were used in the determination. The configurations investigated were: zero flaps, gear up; half flaps, gear up; full flaps, gear up; and zero flaps, gear down.

Keywords: Aircraft maneuvers; Control stability; Lateral stability; Stability derivatives; T-37 aircraft.


The NASA Flight Research Center is engaged in a program with the YF-12 airplane to study the control of interactions between the airplane and the propulsion system. The existing analog air data computer, autothrottle, autopilot, and inlet control system are to be converted to digital systems by using a general purpose airborne computer and interface unit. First, the existing control laws will be programmed in the digital computer and flight tested. Then new control laws are to be derived from a dynamic propulsion model and a total force and moment aerodynamic model to integrate the systems. These control laws are to be verified in a real time simulation and flight tested.

B-727 Airplane With Wingtip Smoke Generators


A series of flight tests were performed to evaluate the vortex wake characteristics of a Boeing 727 (B727-200) aircraft during conventional and two-segment ILS approaches. Flights of the B727, equipped with smoke generators for vortex marking, were flown wherein its vortex wake was intentionally encountered by a Lear Jet model 23 (LR-23) or a Piper Twin Comanche (PA-30); and its vortex location during landing approach was measured using a system of photo-theodolites. The tests showed that at a given separation distance there were no differences in the upsets resulting from deliberate vortex encounters during the two types of approaches. Timed mappings of the position of the landing configuration vortices showed that they tended to descend approximately 91 meters (300 feet) below the flight path of the B727. The flaps of the B727 have a dominant effect on the character of the trailed wake vortex. The clean wing produces a strong, concentrated vortex. As the flaps are lowered, the vortex system becomes more diffuse. Pilot opinion and roll acceleration data indicate that 4.5 nautical miles would be a minimum separation distance at which roll control could be maintained during parallel encounters of the B727’s landing
configuration wake by small aircraft.


Five business jet airplanes were flown to determine the noise reductions that result from the use of modified approach procedures. The airplanes tested were a Gulfstream 2, JetStar, Hawker Siddeley 125-400, Sabreliner-60 and LearJet-24. Noise measurements were made 3, 5, and 7 nautical miles from the touchdown point. In addition to a standard 3 deg glide slope approach, a 4 deg glide slope approach, a 3 deg glide slope approach in a low-drag configuration, and a two-segment approach were flown. It was found that the 4 deg approach was about 4 EPNdB quieter than the standard 3 deg approach. Noise reductions for the low-drag 3 deg approach varied widely among the airplanes tested, with an average of 8.5 EPNdB on a fleet-weighted basis. The two-segment approach resulted in noise reductions of 7 to 8 EPNdB at 3 and 5 nautical miles from touchdown, but only 3 EPNdB at 7 nautical miles from touchdown when the airplanes were still in level flight prior to glide slope intercept. Pilot ratings showed progressively increasing workload for the 4 deg, low-drag 3 deg, and two-segment approaches.

Keywords: Aerodynamic noise; Approach control; Commercial aircraft; Jet aircraft noise; Noise reduction.


The present study was done aboard a special aircraft able to effect translations through the center of gravity with a minimum of pitch and roll. The aircraft was driven through controlled motions by an on-board analog computer. The input signal was selectively filtered Gaussian noise whose power spectra approximated that of natural turbulence. This input, combined with the maneuvering capabilities of this aircraft, resulted in an extremely realistic simulation of turbulent flight. The test flights also included varying bank angles during turns. Subjects were chosen from among NASA Flight Research Center personnel. They were all volunteers, were given physical examinations, and were queried about their attitudes toward flying before final selection. In profile, they were representative of the general flying public. Data from this study include (1) a basis for comparison with previous commercial flights, that is, motion dominated by vertical acceleration, (2) extension to motion dominated by lateral acceleration, and (3) evaluation of various bank angles.


The YF-12A aircraft, a delta-winged vehicle powered by two jet engines, was utilized in an investigation of the structural dynamic characteristics of a large, flexible, supersonic research vehicle. A large NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) finite-element model was used to compute the ten lowest frequency symmetric and ten lowest frequency antisymmetric modes for the YF-12A aircraft. The results of the analysis were compared with experimental data obtained in a ground vibration test conducted with the completed aircraft. It was found that the finite-element structural model employed provides an adequate prediction of the dynamic behavior of the aircraft structure in the case of basic wing and body modes.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


The X-24B is an air launched, rocket powered research aircraft. A number of its design features constitute a tradeoff between aerodynamics and heating considerations. A vehicle description is given and test program objectives are discussed along with operational procedures and aspects of energy management. Attention is also given to X-24B handling qualities, approach and landing, wind tunnel data and simulation, and proposed X-24C vehicle requirements.

*USAF, Edwards AFB, California.
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Advanced fabrication and joining processes for titanium and composite materials are being investigated by NASA to develop technology for the Supersonic Cruise Aircraft Research (SCAR) Program. With Lockheed-ADP as the prime contractor, full-scale structural panels are being designed and fabricated to replace an existing integrally stiffened shear panel on the upper wing surface of the NASA YF-12 aircraft. The program involves ground testing and Mach 3 flight testing of full-scale structural panels and laboratory testing of representative structural element specimens. Fabrication methods and test results for weldbraze and Rohrbond titanium panels are discussed. The fabrication methods being developed for boron/aluminum, Borsic/aluminum, and graphite/polyimide panels are also presented.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. **Lockheed-California Co., Sunland, California.


A wake traversing probe was used to obtain section drag and wake profile data from the wing of a sailplane. The transducer sensed total pressure defect in the wake as well as freestream total pressure on both sides of the sensing element when the probe moved beyond the wake. Profiles of wake total pressure defects plotted as a function of distance above and below the trailing edge plane were averaged for calculating section drag coefficients for flights at low dynamic pressures.


A maximum likelihood estimator for a linear system with state and observation noise is developed to determine unknown aircraft coefficients from flight data in the presence of turbulence (state noise). The formulation of the algorithm is presented briefly. The linear equations for an aircraft in atmospheric turbulence are defined. The effectiveness and accuracy of the technique are assessed by first applying it to simulated flight data, in which the true parameter values are known, then the actual flight data obtained in turbulence. A complete set of aircraft coefficients is obtained as well as an estimate of the turbulence time history. The validity of the estimated state noise and of the estimated coefficients is tested. The feasibility of using the algorithm for defining an adaptive control law to alleviate the effects of turbulence on the aircraft is discussed.

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A method was developed for establishing a rational choice of the terms to be included in an equation of state with a large number of adjustable coefficients. The methods presented were developed for use in the determination of an equation of state for oxygen and nitrogen. However, a general application of the methods is possible in studies involving the determination of an optimum polynomial equation for fitting a large number of data points. The data considered in the least squares problem are experimental thermodynamic pressure-density-temperature data. Attention is given to a description of stepwise multiple regression and the use of stepwise regression in the determination of an equation of state for oxygen and nitrogen.


A FORTRAN digital computer program which performs the general analysis of linearized control systems is described. State variable techniques are used to analyze continuous, discrete, and sampled data systems. Analysis options include the calculation of system eigenvalues, transfer functions, root loci, root contours, frequency responses, power spectra, and transient responses for open- and closed-loop systems. A flexible data input format allows the user to define systems in a variety of representations. Data may be entered by inputting explicit data matrices or matrices constructed in user written subroutines, by specifying transfer function block diagrams, or by using a combination of these methods.

Keywords: FORTRAN linear analysis program; Continuous and sampled data analysis; Control system analysis


An unpowered, large, dynamically scaled airplane model was test flown by remote pilot to investigate the stability and controllability of the configuration at high angles of attack. The configuration proved to be departure/spin resistant; however, spins were obtained by techniques developed on a flight support simulator. Spin modes at high and medium high angles of attack were identified, and recovery techniques were investigated. A flight support simulation of the airplane model mechanized with low speed wind tunnel data over an angle of attack range of ±90 deg. and an angle of sideslip range of ±40 deg. provided insight into the effects of altitude, stability, aerodynamic damping, and the operation of the augmented flight control system on spins. Aerodynamic derivatives determined from flight maneuvers were used to correlate model controllability with two proposed departure/spin design criteria.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Controllability; Flight tests; Remotely piloted vehicles; Angle of attack; Fighter aircraft; Flight simulation; Spin stabilization


In response to the interest in airplane configuration characteristics at high angles of attack, an unpowered remotely piloted 3/8-scale F-15 airplane model was flight tested. The subsonic stability and control characteristics of this airplane model over an angle of attack range of –20 to 53 deg are documented. The remotely piloted technique for obtaining flight test data was found to provide adequate stability and control derivatives. The remotely piloted technique provided an opportunity to test the aircraft mathematical model in an angle of attack regime not previously examined in flight test. The variation of most of the derivative estimates with angle of attack was found to be consistent, particularly when the data were supplemented by uncertainty levels.

Keywords: F-15 aircraft; Remotely piloted vehicles; Stability derivatives; Aircraft models; Flight tests; Subsonic speed


Flight tests were conducted in a CV-990 jet transport with engines at idle power to investigate aircraft airframe noise. Test results showed that airframe noise was measured for the aircraft in the landing configuration. The results agreed well with the expected variation with the fifth power of velocity. For the aircraft in the clean configuration, it was concluded that airframe noise was measured only at higher airspeeds with engine idle noise present at lower speeds. The data show that landing gear and flaps make a significant contribution to airframe noise.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


An exact method for the nonzero altitude transformation from geocentric to geodetic coordinates is derived. The method is mathematically general and should serve as a primary standard.

Keywords: Geocentric coordinates; Geodetic coordinates; Transformations (mathematics); Altitude; Standards


The YF-12 research program was initiated to establish a technology base for the design of an efficient propulsion system for supersonic cruise aircraft. The major technology areas under investigation in this program are inlet design analysis, propulsion system steady-state performance, propulsion system dynamic performance, inlet and engine control systems, and airframe/propulsion system interactions. The objectives, technical approach, and status of the YF-12 propulsion program are discussed. Also discussed are the results obtained to date by the NASA Ames, Lewis, and Dryden research centers. The expected technical results and
proposed future programs are also given. Propulsion system configurations are shown.

Keywords: Aircraft engines; Engine design; Propulsion system performance; Supersonic aircraft


Longitudinal and lateral-directional estimates of the aerodynamic derivatives of the X-24B research aircraft were obtained from flight by using a modified maximum likelihood estimation method. Data were obtained over a mach number range from 0.35 to 1.72 and over an angle of attack range from 3.5° to 15.7°. Data are presented for a subsonic and transonic configuration. The flight derivatives were generally consistent and documented the aircraft well. The correlation between flight data and the wind-tunnel predictions is presented and discussed.

Keywords: Aerodynamic derivatives; Flight-determined X-24B derivatives; Parameter identification; X-24B research aircraft


A maximum likelihood estimation method was applied to flight data and procedures to facilitate the routine analysis of a large amount of flight data were described. Techniques that can be used to obtain stability and control derivatives from aircraft maneuvers that are less than ideal for this purpose are described. The techniques involve detecting and correcting the effects of dependent or nearly dependent variables, structural vibration, data drift, inadequate instrumentation, and difficulties with the data acquisition system and the mathematical model. The use of uncertainty levels and multiple maneuver analysis also proved to be useful in improving the quality of the estimated coefficients. The procedures used for editing the data and for overall analysis are also discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Data reduction; Flight tests; Maximum likelihood estimates; Stability derivatives


The operating characteristics of a nonlinear envelope-limiting device were investigated at extreme flight conditions by using a real time digital aircraft spin simulation and flight tests of a scale model remotely piloted research vehicle. A digital mechanization of the F-15 control system, including the stall inhibitor, was used in the simulation and in the control system of the scale model. The operational characteristics of the stall inhibitor and the effects of the stall inhibitor on the spin susceptibility of the airplane were investigated.

Keywords: Automatic flight control; Flight simulation; Remotely piloted vehicles; Aerodynamic stalling


A series of flight tests was conducted to evaluate the vortex wake characteristics of a Boeing 727 (B727-200) aircraft during conventional and two-segment ILS approaches. Twelve flights of the B727, which was equipped with smoke generators for vortex marking, were flown and its vortex wake was intentionally encountered by a Lear Jet model 23 (LR-23) and a Piper Twin Comanche (PA-30). Location of the B727 vortex during landing approach was measured using a system of photo-theodolites. The tests showed that at a given separation distance there were no readily apparent differences in the upsets resulting from deliberate vortex position of the landing configuration vortices showed that they tended to descend approximately 91 m (300 ft) below the flight path of the B727. The flaps of the B727 have a dominant effect on the character of the trailed wake vortex. The clean wing produces a strong, concentrated vortex but as the flaps are lowered, the vortex system becomes more diffuse. Pilot opinion and roll
acceleration data indicate that 4.5 nmi would be a minimum separation distance at which roll control of light aircraft (less than 5,670 kg (12,500 lb) could be maintained during parallel encounters of the B727's landing configuration wake. This minimum separation distance is generally in scale with results determined from previous tests of other aircraft using the small roll control criteria.

Keywords: Trailing vortices; Wake turbulence; Aircraft wakes; Vortex wake effects; Airway spacing; Two-segment approach.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


Operational techniques for reducing approach noise from business jet aircraft were evaluated in flight by measuring the noise generated by five such aircraft during modified approaches. Approaches with 4-deg glide slopes were approximately 4.0 EPNdB quieter than approaches with standard 3-deg glide slopes. Noise reductions for low-drag 3-deg approaches varied widely among the airplanes tested; the fleet-weighted reduction was 8.5 EPNdB. Two-segment approaches resulted in noise reductions of 7.0 EPNdB to 8.5 EPNdB 3 nautical miles and 5 nautical miles from touchdown. Pilot workload increased progressively for the 4-deg, low-drag 3-deg, and two-segment approach.


A review is presented of the F-15 Remotely Piloted Research Vehicle (RPRV) project. The F-15 RPRV is air-launched from a B-52 at 50,000 ft. Following launch a series of research maneuvers are performed during an unpowered descent to a recovery altitude. Another RPRV program considered is the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) program. This program is designed to use RPRVs to speed the technology transition from wind tunnel to flight and to reduce the cost of aeronautical experiments. It is pointed out that HiMAT will make extensive use of composite materials.

*USAF, Flight Dynamics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


The results obtained so far with a remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) using a 3/8 scale model of an F-15 airplane, to determine the usefulness of the RPRV testing technique in high risk flight testing, including spin testing, were presented. The program showed that the RPRV technique, including the use of a digital control system, is a practical method for obtaining flight research data. The spin, stability, and control data obtained with the 3/8-scale model also showed that predictions based on wind-tunnel tests were generally reasonable.


This paper compares the NASA organization to the National Football League and the importance to both of training.


The aerodynamic characteristics of the angle of attack vane and the angle of sideslip vane are summarized. The test conditions ranged in free stream Mach number from 0.40 to 2.54, in angle of attack from –2 deg to 22 deg, in angle of sideslip from –2 deg to 12 deg, and in Reynolds number from 590,000 per meter to 1.8 million per meter. The results of the wind tunnel investigation are compared with results obtained with similar vane configurations. Comparisons with a NACA vane configuration are also made. In addition, wind tunnel-derived upwash for the test installation is compared with analytical predictions.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Wind tunnel tests; Wind vanes; Angle of attack; Flight paths; Flow direction indicators; Flow velocity; Mach numbers


Biomedical data were collected during high-G portions of 11–16 test flights. Test pilots monitored revealed increased respiratory rate and volume, decreased tidal volume, and increased heart rate at higher G levels, with one pilot exhibiting various cardiac arrhythmias. Anti-G suit inflation and pressurization lags varied inversely with G-onset rate, and suit pressurization slope was near the design value.

*USAF, School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB,

A maximum likelihood estimation method for obtaining lift and drag characteristics from dynamic flight maneuvers was investigated. This paper describes the method and compares the estimates of lift and drag obtained by using the method with estimates obtained from wind-tunnel tests and from established methods for obtaining estimates from flight data. In general, the lift and drag coefficients extracted from dynamic flight maneuvers by the maximum likelihood estimation technique are in good agreement with the estimates obtained from the wind-tunnel tests and the other methods. When maneuvers that meet the requirements of both flight methods were analyzed, the results of each method were nearly the same. The maximum likelihood estimation technique showed promise in terms of estimating lift and drag characteristics from dynamic flight maneuvers. Further studies should be made to assess the best mathematical model and the most desirable type of dynamic maneuver to get the highest quality results from this technique.


Special functions of an advanced control system were investigated for effects on spin entries and recoveries utilizing a 3/8-scale model of the F-15 airplane as a remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV). Telemetry uplinks and downlinks were used with a ground-based digital computer to mechanize the RPRV control system for spin tests in flight. Results from the model RPRV flight tests and from a real time digital spin simulation were used to evaluate the F-15 stall inhibitor and an automatic spin recovery system developed for the RPRV model.


An adaptive control technique to improve the flying qualities of an aircraft in turbulence was investigated. The approach taken was to obtain maximum likelihood estimates of the unknown coefficients of the aircraft system and then, using these estimates along with the separation principle, to define the stochastic optimal control. The maximum likelihood estimation technique that accounted for the effects of turbulence provided good estimates of the unknown coefficients and of the turbulence. The assessment of the stochastic optimal control based on the maximum likelihood estimates showed that the desired effects were attained for the regulator problem of minimizing pitch angle and the tracking problem of requiring normal acceleration to follow the pilot input.


A digital integrated propulsion control system (IPCS) installed in the left side of an F-111 E aircraft was tested in flight. The F-111 aircraft was selected for the IPCS program because it incorporated a variable geometry inlet and an afterburning turbofan engine and had two engines, one of which could remain in the normal configuration to ensure flight safety. Flight data were compared with results of tests run in an altitude test chamber. The digital system was found to be capable of duplicating the standard engine and inlet control systems. Instabilities such as inlet buzz and afterburner rumble were detected and controlled. The usefulness of an altitude chamber for developing a software and testing hardware was proven. The flexibility of IPCS was demonstrated when an autothrottle, an in-flight thrust calculation, and a coannular noise study capability were added at the end of the flight tests.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A semi-empirical maximum overall sound pressure level (OASPL) airframe noise model was derived. The noise radiated from aircraft wings and flaps was modeled by using the trailing-edge diffracted quadrupole sound theory derived by Ffowcs Williams and Hall. The noise radiated from the landing gear was modeled by using the acoustic dipole sound theory derived by Curle. The model was successfully correlated with maximum OASPL flyover noise measurements obtained at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center for three jet aircraft—the Lockheed JetStar, the Convair 990, and the Boeing 747 aircraft.

*Hersh Acoustical Engineering, Chatsworth, California.
The feasibility of using digital fly by wire systems to control aircraft was demonstrated by developing and flight testing a single channel system, which used Apollo hardware, in an F-8C test airplane. This is the first airplane to fly with a digital fly by wire system as its primary means of control and with no mechanical reversion capability. The development and flight test of a triplex digital fly by wire system, which will serve as an experimental prototype for future operational digital fly by wire systems, are underway.


To assess the feasibility of a digital fly by wire system, the mechanical flight control system of an F-8C airplane was replaced with a digital primary system and an analog backup system. The Apollo computer was used as the heart of the primary system. This paper discusses the experience gained during the design and development of the system and relates it to active control systems that are anticipated for future civil transport applications.


A redundant three axis analog control system was designed and developed to back up a digital fly by wire control system for an F-8C airplane. The mechanization and operational experience with the backup control system, the problems involved in synchronizing it with the primary system, and the reliability of the system are discussed. The backup control system was dissimilar to the primary system, and it provided satisfactory handling through the flight envelope evaluated. Limited flight tests of a variety of control tasks showed that control was also satisfactory when the backup control system was controlled by a minimum displacement (force) side stick. The operational reliability of the F-8 digital fly by wire control system was satisfactory, with no unintentional downmodes to the backup control system in flight. The ground and flight reliability of the system’s components is discussed.


903. Szalai, K. J.: Flight Test Experience With the F-8
**Digital Fly-By-Wire System.** NASA TM X-3409, also presented at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Advanced Control Technology and Its Potential for Future Transport Aircraft, August 1976, pp. 199–252, (see N76-31135 22-01), 76N31144. (see also 843.) PDF CASI (Entire conference proceedings)

Flight test results of the F-8 digital fly by wire control system are presented and the implications for application to active control technology are discussed. The F-8 DFBW system has several of the attributes of proposed ACT systems, so the flight test experience is helpful in assessing the capabilities of those systems. Topics of discussion include the predicted and actual flight performance of the control system, assessments of aircraft flying qualities and other piloting factors, software management and control, and operational experience.


The handling qualities of the F-8 digital fly by wire airplane are evaluated by using the Cooper-Harper rating scale. The reasons for the ratings are given, as well as a short description of the flying tasks. It was concluded that the handling qualities of the airplane were good in most situations, although occasional ratings of unsatisfactory were given.


Typical airframe/propulsion interactions such as Mach/altitude excursions and inlet unstarts are reviewed. The improvements in airplane performance and flight control that can be achieved by improving the interfaces between propulsion and flight control are estimated. A research program to determine the feasibility of integrating propulsion and flight control is described. This program includes analytical studies and YF-12 flight tests.


A panel discussion was held which attempted to make an objective and pragmatic assessment of the standing of active control technology. The discussion focused on the standing of active control technology relative to civil air transport applications, the value as opposed to the cost of the projected benefits, the need for research, development, and demonstration, the role of government and industry in developing the technology, the major obstacles to its implementation, and the probable timing of the full utilization of active control technology in commercial transportation. An edited transcription of the prepared statements of the panel members and the subsequent open discussion between the panel and the audience is presented.


Present practices in lightning protection of aircraft deal primarily with the direct effects of lightning, such as structural damage and ignition of fuel vapors. There is increasing evidence of troublesome electromagnetic effects, however, in aircraft employing solid-state microelectronics in critical navigation, instrumentation and control functions. The potential impact of these indirect effects on critical systems such as digital fly by wire (DFBW) flight controls was studied. The results indicate a need for positive steps to be taken during the design of future fly by wire systems to minimize the possibility of hazardous effects from lightning.

*General Electric, Corporate Research and Development, Schenectady, New York.

**General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Michigan.


A triplex digital fly-by-wire flight control system was developed and then installed in a NASA F-8C aircraft to provide fail-operative, full authority control. Hardware and software redundancy management techniques were designed to detect and identify failures in the system. Control functions typical of those projected for future actively controlled vehicles were implemented. This paper describes the principal design features of the system, the implementation of computer, sensor, and actuator redundancy management, and the ground test results. An automated test program to verify sensor redundancy management software is also described.
A digital integrated propulsion control system (IPCS) was tested on an F-111E airplane. The IPCS provided full authority control of the left inlet and the TF30 afterburning engine. Supersonic test conditions were of primary interest. The operational procedures and maneuvers developed for IPCS evaluation, displays for test monitoring and data acquisition, flight safety, and problems encountered are discussed. The software refinements that made modifications to standard flight test procedures necessary are described. The flexibility of digital control and the ways software was used to overcome hardware deficiencies are discussed. Application of these procedures to a typical IPCS flight is described.

A delayed flap approach procedure was flight tested using the NASA CV-990 airplane to measure and analyze the noise produced beneath the flight path. Three other types of landing approaches were also flight tested to provide a comparison of the noise reduction benefits to the delayed flap approach. The conventional type of approach was used as a baseline to compare the effectiveness of the other approaches. The decelerating approach is a variation of the delayed flap approach. A detailed comparison of the ground perceived noise generated during the approaches is presented. For this comparison, the measured noise data were normalized to compensate for variations in aircraft weight and winds that occurred during the flight tests. The data show that the reduced flap approach offers some noise reduction, while the delayed flap and decelerating approaches offer significant noise reductions over the conventional approach.

A semiempirical maximum overall sound pressure level (OASPL) airframe noise model was derived. Noise radiated from aircraft wings was modeled on the trailing edge diffractions quadrupole sound theory. The acoustic dipole sound theory was used to model noise from the landing gear. The model was correlated with maximum OASPL flyover sound theory.
noise measurements obtained for three jet aircraft. One third octave band sound pressure level flyover data was correlated and interpreted.

Keywords: Aerodynamic noise; Airframes; Mathematical models; Performance prediction; Sound pressure

*Hersh Acoustical Engineering, Westlake Village, California.


Flight research with the YF-12 aircraft indicates that solutions to many handling qualities problems of supersonic cruise are at hand. Airframe/propulsion system interactions in the dutch roll mode can be alleviated by the use of passive filters or additional feedback loops in the propulsion and flight control systems. Mach and altitude excursions due to atmospheric temperature fluctuations can be minimized by the use of a cruise autothrottle. Autopilot instabilities in the altitude hold mode have been traced to angle of attack-sensitive static ports on the compensated nose boom. For the YF-12, the feedback of high-passed pitch rate to the autopilot resolves this problem. Manual flight path control is significantly improved by the use of an inertial rate of climb display in the cockpit.


A joint NASA/university/industry program was conducted to flight evaluate a potentially low cost separate surface implementation of attitude command in a Beech 99 airplane. Saturation of the separate surfaces was the primary cause of many problems during development. Six experienced professional pilots who made simulated instrument flight evaluations experienced improvements in airplane handling qualities in the presence of turbulence and a reduction in pilot workload. For ride quality, quantitative data show that the attitude command control system results in all cases of airplane motion being removed from the uncomfortable ride region.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
**Beech Aircraft Corp., Wichita, Kansas.


The objectives and status of the propulsion program, along with the results acquired in the various technology areas, are discussed. The instrumentation requirements for and experience with flight testing the propulsion systems at high supersonic cruise are reported. Propulsion system performance differences between wind tunnel and flight are given. The effects of high frequency flow fluctuations (transients) on the stability of the propulsion system are described, and shock position control is evaluated.


Digital integrated control systems are studied. Such systems allow minimization of undesirable interactions while maximizing performance at all flight conditions. One such program is the YF-12 cooperative control program. The existing analog air data computer, autothrottle, autopilot, and inlet control systems are converted to digital systems by using a general purpose airborne computer and interface unit. Existing control laws are programmed and tested in flight. Integrated control laws, derived using accurate mathematical models of the airplane and propulsion system in conjunction with modern control techniques, are tested in flight. Analysis indicates that an integrated autothrottle autopilot gives good flight path control and that observers are used to replace failed sensors.


The handling qualities of the YF-12 airplane as observed during NASA research flights over the past five years were reviewed. Aircraft behavior during takeoff, acceleration, climb, cruise, descent, and landing are discussed. Pilot comments on the various flight phases and tasks are presented. Handling qualities parameters such as period, damping, amplitude ratios, roll-yaw coupling, and flight path response sensitivity are compared to existing and proposed handling qualities criteria. The influence of the propulsion systems, stability augmentation, autopilot systems, atmospheric gusts, and temperature changes are also discussed. YF-12 experience correlates well with flying qualities criteria, except for longitudinal short period damping, where existing and proposed criteria appear to be more stringent than necessary.

920. Gillingham, K. K.; and Winter, W. R.: Physiologic and
Some results of recent swept wing investigations are presented, that were undertaken to determine the effects of thickness and thickness distribution, camber and twist, nose-flap deflection, and devices or fixes for improving the wing pitching moment characteristics at high lift coefficients.

*Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Langley Field, Virginia.


The objectives of the NASA Advanced Medium STOL Transport Experiments Program are discussed and several of the NASA experiments currently implemented and conducted on the YC-14 and YC-15 prototype aircraft are described. Emphasis is placed on experiments related to powered lift aerodynamics and acoustics.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


Advanced manufacturing methods for titanium and composite material structures are being developed and evaluated. The focus for the manufacturing effort is the fabrication of full-scale structural panels which replace an existing shear panel on the upper wing surface of the NASA YF-12 aircraft. The program involves design, fabrication, ground testing, and Mach 3 flight service of full-scale structural panels and laboratory testing of representative structural element specimens.

*Lockheed, California Co., Burbank, California.
Weldable strain gages have shown excellent high temperature characteristics for supersonic cruise aircraft application. The spotwelding attachment method, however, has resulted in serious reductions in the fatigue life of titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V) fatigue specimens. The reduction is so severe that the use of weldable strain gages on operational aircraft must be prohibited. The cause of the fatigue problem is thought to be a combination of the microstructure changes in the material caused by spotwelding and the presence of the flange of the stain gage. Brazing, plating, and plasma spraying were investigated as substitutes for spotwelding. The attachment of a flangeless gage by plasma spraying provided the most improvement in the fatigue life of the titanium.

Keywords: Fatigue (materials); Spot welds; Strain gages; Temperature effects; Titanium alloys.

Dynamic design considerations for aerospace vehicles are discussed, taking into account fixed wing aircraft, rotary wing aircraft, and launch, space, and reentry vehicles. It is pointed out that space vehicles have probably had the most significant design problems from the standpoint of structural dynamics, because their large lightweight structures are highly nonlinear. Examples of problems in the case of conventional aircraft include the flutter encountered by high performance military aircraft with external stores. A description is presented of a number of examples which illustrate the direction of present efforts for improving aircraft efficiency. Attention is given to the results of studies on the structural design concepts for the arrow-wing supersonic cruise aircraft configuration and a system study on low-wing-loading, short haul transports.
A triplex digital fly-by-wire flight control system was developed and then installed in a NASA F-8C aircraft to provide fail-operative, full authority control. Hardware and software redundancy management techniques were designed to detect and identify failures in the system. Control functions typical of those projected for future actively controlled vehicles were implemented. The principal design features of the system, the implementation of computer, sensor and actuator redundancy management, and the ground test results are described. An automated test program to verify sensor redundancy management software is also described.

During a 1-week period, each subject was exposed to +Gz levels starting at +2 Gz and increasing by 0.5 Gz increments to a gray-out point. This point was determined by peripheral vision loss with a standard lightbar and by reverse blood flow in the temporal artery. Ultimately, each woman was subjected to three runs at the +3 Gz level for about 55 min long each, separated by 5-min rest periods. Eight subjects with the best tolerance times were selected for 14 days of bedrest in a horizontal position; the other four being ambulatory controls. Tests before bedrest, immediately following, and 5 days later showed that average +Gz tolerance decreased by 67% after bedrest.

Results indicating that unsteady aerodynamic loads derived under the assumption of simple harmonic motions executed by airfoil or wing can be extended to arbitrary motions are summarized. The generalized Theodorsen (1953) function referable to loads due to simple harmonic oscillations of a wing section in incompressible flow, the Laplace inversion integral for unsteady aerodynamic loads, calculations of root loci of aeroelastic loads, and analysis of generalized compressible transient airloads are discussed.
for configurations with and without fuselage area-rule additions, with and without leading-edge vortex generators, and with and without boundary-layer trips on the wing. The wing pressure coefficients are tabulated. Comparisons between the airplane and model data show that higher second velocity peaks occurred on the airplane wing than on the model wing. The differences were attributed to wind tunnel wall interference effects that caused too much rear camber to be designed into the wing. Optimum flow conditions on the outboard wing section occurred at Mach 0.98 at an angle of attack near 4 deg. The measured differences in section drag with and without boundary-layer trips on the wing suggested that a region of laminar flow existed on the outboard wing without trips.

Keywords: Aircraft wakes; F-8 aircraft; Subsonic flow; Supercritical wings; Wind tunnel tests.


The effects of winglets and a simple wing-tip extension on the vectors behind the wing tip of a first generation jet transport wing were investigated in the Langley 8-foot transonic pressure tunnel using a semi-span model. The test was conducted at Mach numbers of 0.30, 0.70, 0.75, 0.78, and 0.80. At a Mach number of 0.30, the configurations were tested with combinations of leading- and trailing-edge flaps.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Pressure and spanwise load distributions on a first-generation jet transport semispan model at high subsonic speeds are presented for the basic wing and for configurations with an upper winglet only, upper and lower winglets, and a simple wing-tip extension. Selected data are discussed to show the general trends and effects of the various configurations.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Pressure and spanwise load distributions on a first-generation jet transport semispan model at a Mach number of 0.30 are given for the basic wing and for configurations with an upper winglet only, upper and lower winglets, and a simple wing-tip extension. To simulate second-segment-climb lift conditions, leading- and/or trailing-edge flaps were added to some configurations.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


For several decades, calibrated strain gages have been used to measure loads on airplanes. The accuracy of the equations used to relate the strain gage measurements to the applied loads has been based primarily on the results of the load calibration. An approach is presented for studying the effect of widely varying load distributions on strain gage load equations. The computational procedure provides a link between the load calibration and the load to be measured in flight. A matrix approach to equation selection is presented, which is based on equation standard error, load distribution, and influence coefficient plots of the strain gage equations, and is applied to a complex, delta-wing structure.

Keywords: Delta wings; Flight load recorders; Load distribution (forces); Matrices (mathematics); Strain gages.


The use of a relatively simple structural model to characterize the load responses of strain gages located on various spars of a delta wing is examined. Strains measured during a laboratory load calibration of a wing structure are compared with calculations obtained from a simplified structural analysis model. Calculated and measured influence coefficient plots that show the shear, bending, and torsion characteristics of typical strain gage bridges are presented. Typical influence coefficient plots are shown for several load equations to illustrate the derivation of the equations from the component strain gage bridges. A relatively simple structural model was found to be effective in predicting the general nature of strain distributions and influence coefficient plots. The analytical processes are shown to be an aid in obtaining a good load calibration. The analytical processes cannot, however, be used in lieu of an actual load calibration of an aircraft wing.

Keywords: Bending; Calibrating; Shear properties; Strain gages; Structural design criteria.
A method of predicting maximum instantaneous distortion developed by Melick, Ybarra, and Bencze was applied to flight data for the YF-12C airplane, which has an axisymmetric, mixed compression inlet. The advantage of using the method is that it requires the use of only a few total pressure measurements. Predictions obtained using the method are compared with distortion values calculated from a much larger number of flight measurements. Agreement was good at the test Mach numbers, which were 1.8, 2.1, 2.5, and 3.0. Changing angle of attack or inlet centerbody position did not significantly affect the accuracy of the predicted values.


Advanced technical features of the electronic integrated propulsion control system (IPCS) and flight evaluation tests of IPCS (F-111E with TF30-P-9 engines as test vehicle) are described. Nine baseline flight tests and 15 IPCS flight tests were conducted. Instrumentation, data acquisition and data processing systems, software maintenance procedures, flight test procedures, flight safety criteria, flight test results, and ground and flight testing of the aircraft system are described. Advantages conferred by IPCS include faster accelerations (both gas generator and afterburner performance), better thrust and flight control, reduced flight idle thrust, reduced engine ground trim, extended service ceiling, automatic stall detection, and stall recovery detection.


There are several practical problems in using current techniques on 5-degree-of-freedom equations to estimate the stability and control derivatives of oblique wing aircraft from flight data. A technique has been developed to estimate these derivatives by separating the analysis of the longitudinal and lateral-directional motion without neglecting cross-coupling effects. This technique was used on flight data from a remotely piloted oblique wing aircraft. The results demonstrated that the relatively simple approach developed was adequate to obtain high quality estimates of the aerodynamic derivatives of such aircraft.

An initial investigation of dynamic flight test analysis techniques indicated that a strict, comprehensive force-moment accounting system would be necessary. An implementation of the longitudinal force-moment accounting system provided excellent results in accounting for small lift/drag and tail deflection changes. Attention is given to gross thrust calculation, instrumentation, maneuvers, and aspects of data correlation. The results of the studies demonstrate that it is possible to generate a lift/drag model which is capable of predicting performance from nearly any maneuver.

*USAF, Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California
A maximum likelihood estimation method for flight test data is described. Flight results based on 3000 maneuvers from 30 aircraft on the effect of resolution and sampling rate on the estimates, on understanding the discrepancies previously observed in the magnitude of the Cramer-Rao bounds, on the scale effects on the derivative estimates obtained from dynamic aircraft flight maneuvers, and on the analysis of lateral-directional maneuvers obtained in turbulence, are presented.


This paper describes the application of generalized unsteady aerodynamic theory to the problem of active flutter control. The controllability of flutter modes is investigated. It is shown that the response of aeroelastic systems is composed of a portion due to a rational transform and a portion due to a nonrational transform. The oscillatory response characteristic of flutter is due to the rational portion, and a theorem is given concerning the construction of a linear, finite-dimensional model of this portion of the system. The resulting rational model is unique and does not require state augmentation. Active flutter control designs using optimal regulator synthesis are presented.

*Stanford University, Stanford, California.


An explicit adaptive control algorithm based on maximum likelihood estimation of parameters has been designed for NASA's DFBW F-8 aircraft. To avoid iterative calculations, the algorithm uses parallel channels of Kalman filters operating at fixed locations in parameter space. This algorithm has been implemented in NASA/DFRC’s Remotely Augmented Vehicle (RAV) facility. Real-time sensor outputs (rate gyro, accelerometer and surface position) are telemetered to a ground computer which sends new gain values to an on-board system. Ground test data and flight records were used to establish design values of noise statistics and to verify the ground-based adaptive software. The software and its performance evaluation based on flight data are described.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


The approach and landing test (ALT) phase of the Space Shuttle program aims at assessing the Orbiter’s subsonic aerodynamic flight and landing characteristics along with the support equipment, ground facilities, and the approximate hardware and software to be used in the terminal phase of orbital missions. The program also evaluates the performance
of the Shuttle carrier aircraft (SCA) as related to the transport of the Orbiter to the launch sites during the stages of Space Shuttle operations. Results are presented for the SCA inert Orbiter flight testing and the program plans up to the completion of the ALT program. Emphasis is placed on testing the airworthiness of the mated B-747 Shuttle carrier aircraft and Orbiter, checkout of the Orbiter systems in captive flight, and launching the Orbiter with and without the tail cone installed. Major program milestones before the first manned orbital flight are summarized in graphic form.


The space shuttle approach and landing test (ALT) program is being conducted in four phases. The first phase, completed in March of 1977, consisted of verifying the airworthiness of the mated B-747 shuttle carrier aircraft and orbiter. The second phase consists of checking the orbiter systems in captive flight. The third phase is to be confined to launching the orbiter with and without the tail cone installed to evaluate the final landing phase of the shuttle operations through the verification of the automatic landing system. The fourth and final phase of the program is to document the mated configuration’s performance relative to the ferry operations to be conducted between the return from the orbiter’s landing sites and launch sites. This paper presents the results of the SCA inert orbiter flight testing and the program plans up to the completion of the ALT program.


The buffet characteristics of the F-8 supercritical wing airplane were investigated. Wing structural response was used to determine the buffet characteristics of the wing and these characteristics are compared with wind tunnel model data and the wing flow characteristics at transonic speeds. The wingtip accelerometer was used to determine the buffet onset boundary and to measure the buffet intensity characteristics of the airplane. The effects of moderate trailing edge flap deflections on the buffet onset boundary are presented. The supercritical wing flow characteristics were determined from wind tunnel and flight static pressure measurements and from a dynamic pressure sensor mounted on the flight test airplane in the vicinity of the shock wave that formed on the upper surface of the wing at transonic speeds. The comparison of the airplane’s structural response data to the supercritical flow characteristics includes the effects of a leading edge vortex generator.

Keywords: Buffeting; F-8 aircraft; Flight tests; Flow characteristics; Supercritical wings.


Full-scale fuel consumption and drag tests were performed on a conventional cab-over-engine tractor-trailer combination and a version of the same vehicle with significant forebody modifications. The modified configuration had greatly increased radii on all front corners and edges of the tractor and a smooth fairing of the modified tractor top and sides extending to the trailer. Concurrent highway testing of the two configurations showed that the modified design used 20% to 24% less fuel than the baseline configuration at 88.5 km/hr (55 mph) with near-calm wind conditions. Coastdown test results showed that the modified configuration reduced the drag coefficient by 0.43 from the baseline value of 1.17 at 88.5 km/hr (55 mph) in calm wind conditions.


Since the Space Shuttle will need to be transported from its place of assembly to the launch site, a method has been developed whereby the Shuttle rides piggyback on a modified Boeing 747, called the Shuttle carrier aircraft (SCA). This paper describes tests of the SCA in its mated configuration. Tests include flutter, found to decrease when fiberglass and wood fairings were added to the base of each supporting
pylon; stability and control, found to be acceptable after damping with control pulses; noise and buffet, found high but acceptable; and climb, in which drag was marked but acceptable with the special rated thrust (SRT) power setting. Simulated launch maneuvers were undertaken at an airspeed of 273 KCAS. Transport of the Shuttle takes place with the Shuttle tail cone on, at a cruise speed of 288 KCAS at an altitude of 22,000 feet.

**Low-Drag Truck**


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center is flight testing a triply redundant digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) control system installed in an F-8 aircraft. The full-time, full-authority system performs three-axis flight control computations, including stability and command augmentation, autopilot functions, failure detection and isolation, and self-test functions. Advanced control law experiments include an active flap mode for ride smoothing and maneuver drag reduction. This paper discusses research being conducted on computer synchronization, fault detection, fault isolation, and recovery from transient faults. The F-8 DFBW system has demonstrated immunity from nuisance fault declarations while quickly identifying truly faulty components.

Space Shuttle Mated to B-747, Three-View Drawing


Flight tests were conducted with the YF-12 airplane to examine the airplane’s longitudinal characteristics at a Mach number of approximately 2.9. Phugoid oscillations as well as short period pulses were analyzed with the variable geometry engine inlets in the fixed and the automatic configurations. Stability and control derivatives for the velocity and altitude degrees of freedom and the standard short period derivatives were obtained. Inlet bypass door position was successfully used to represent the total inlet system, and the effect of the inlets on the velocity and altitude derivatives was determined. The phugoid mode of the basic airplane (fixed inlet configuration) had neutral damping, and the height mode was stable. With the addition of the inlets in the automatic configuration, the phugoid mode was slightly divergent and the height mode was divergent with a time to double amplitude of about 114 seconds. The results of the derivative estimation indicated that the change in the height mode characteristics was primarily the result of the change in the longitudinal force derivative with respect to velocity.

Keywords: Flight tests; Intake systems; Longitudinal control; Oscillations; YF-12 aircraft.

Modern complex structural arrangements have complicated the task of measuring flight loads with calibrated strain gages. This paper examines the use of a relatively simple structural model to characterize the load responses of strain gages located on various spars of a delta wing. Strains measured during a laboratory load calibration of a wing structure are compared with calculations obtained from a simplified NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) model. Calculated and measured influence coefficient plots that show the shear, bending, and torsion characteristics of typical strain-gage bridges are presented. Typical influence coefficient plots are given for several load equations to illustrate the derivation of the equations from the component strain-gage bridges. A relatively simple structural model was found to be effective in predicting the general nature of strain distributions and influence coefficient plots. The analytical processes are shown to be useful in obtaining a good load calibration. The analytical processes cannot, however, be used in lieu of an actual load calibration of an aircraft wing.


A maximum likelihood estimation method for obtaining lift and drag characteristics from dynamic flight maneuvers was investigated. This paper describes the method and compares the estimates of lift and drag obtained using the method with estimates obtained from wind-tunnel tests and from established methods for obtaining estimates from flight data. In general, the lift and drag coefficients extracted from dynamic flight maneuvers by the maximum likelihood estimation technique are in good agreement with the estimates obtained from the wind-tunnel tests and the other methods. When maneuvers that met the requirements of both flight methods were analyzed, the results of each method were nearly the same. The maximum likelihood estimation technique showed promise in terms of estimating lift and drag characteristics from dynamic flight maneuvers. Further studies should be made to assess the best mathematical model and the most desirable type of dynamic maneuver to get the highest quality results from this technique.


The “get-me-down” capability from flight above 50,000 ft for the unencumbering RAF partial pressure clothing for use in F-104 and F-15 aircraft is tested. The equipment assembly tested includes a sleeveless Jerkin pressure vest, a G-suit and an RAF P/Q oronasal mask. The test program consists of six coordinated efforts: laboratory evaluation, orientation/ training of NASA test pilots, quantification of aerodynamic suction effects on cockpit altitude, definition of protective envelope, suit/aircraft integration, and in-flight test and evaluation. It is suggested that the RAF ensemble or equivalent would be the only currently available item that would be acceptable to tactical crews. The Jerkin ensemble appears to meet both the pilot’s physiological and functional requirements.

*USAF, Aerospace Medical Div., Holloman AFB, New Mexico.


Flight test techniques developed for use in a study of wake turbulence and used recently in flight studies of wake minimization methods are discussed. Flow visualization was developed as a technique for qualitatively assessing minimization methods and is required in flight test procedures for making quantitative measurements. The quantitative techniques are the measurement of the upset dynamics of an aircraft encountering the wake and the measurement of the wake velocity profiles. Descriptions of the instrumentation and the data reduction and correlation methods are given.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


Flight tests evaluating the effects of altered span loading, turbulence ingestion, combinations of mass and turbulence ingestion, and combinations of altered span loading turbulence ingestion on trailed wake vortex attenuation were conducted. Span loadings were altered in flight by varying the deflections of the inboard and outboard flaps on a B-747 aircraft. Turbulence ingestion was achieved in flight by mounting splines on a C-54G aircraft. Mass and turbulence ingestion was achieved in flight by varying the thrust on the B-747 aircraft. Combinations of altered span loading and turbulence ingestion were achieved in flight by installing a spoiler on a CV-990 aircraft and by deflecting the existing spoilers on a B-747 aircraft. The characteristics of the attenuated and unattenuated vortexes were determined by probing them with smaller aircraft. Acceptable separation distances for encounters with the attenuated and unattenuated vortexes are presented.

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**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


1978 Technical Publications


This paper considers the stress concentration problems of two types of cracked composite systems: (1) a composite system with a broken fiber (a penny-shaped crack problem), and (2) a composite system with a cracked matrix (an annular crack problem). The cracked composite systems are modeled with triangular and trapezoidal ring finite elements. Using NASTRAN (NASA Structural Analysis) finite element computer program, the stress and deformation fields in the cracked composite systems are calculated. The effect of fiber-matrix material combination on the stress concentrations and on the crack opening displacements is studied.


Balakrishnan’s epsilon technique is used to compute minimum-time profiles for the F-104 airplane. This technique differs from the classical gradient method in that a quadratic penalty on the error in satisfying the equation of motion is included in the cost function to be minimized as a means of eliminating the requirement of satisfying the equations of motion. Although the number of unknown independent functions is increased to include the state variables, the evaluation of the gradient of the cost function is simplified, resulting in considerable computational savings, thereby making it appear feasible to use the epsilon method for real-time application.


Optimal regulator technique was compared for determining simulator control system gains with the conventional servo analysis approach. Practical considerations, associated with airborne motion simulation using a model-following system, provided the basis for comparison. The simulation fidelity specifications selected were important in evaluating the relative advantages of the two methods. Frequency responses for a JetStar aircraft following a roll mode model were calculated digitally to illustrate the various cases. A technique for generating forward loop lead in the optimal regulator model-following problem was developed which increases the flexibility of that approach. It appeared to be the only way in which the optimal regulator method could meet the fidelity specifications.


This paper describes the application of generalized unsteady aerodynamic theory to the problem of active flutter control. The controllability of flutter modes is investigated. It is shown that the response of aeroelastic systems is composed of a portion due to a rational transform and a portion due to a nonrational transform. The oscillatory response characteristic
of flutter is due to the rational portion, and a theorem is given concerning the construction of a linear, finite-dimensional model of this portion of the system. The resulting rational model is unique and does not require state augmentation. Active flutter control designs using optimal regulator synthesis are presented.

* Stanford University, Stanford, California.


An analytical study was conducted to evaluate the relative improvements in aircraft ride qualities that resulted from utilizing several control law configurations that were optimized for pilot handling qualities only. The airplane configuration used was an executive jet transport in the approach configuration. The control law configurations included the basic system, a rate feedback system, three command augmentation systems (rate command, attitude command, and rate command/attitude hold), and a control wheel steering system. Both the longitudinal and lateral directional axes were evaluated. A representative example of each control law configuration was optimized for pilot handling qualities on a fixed base simulator. The root mean square airplane responses to turbulence were calculated, and predictions of ride quality ratings were computed by using three models available in the literature.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Control configured vehicles; Pilot performance; Riding quality; Aircraft configurations; Approach control; Command and control; Flight simulators; Performance prediction


The static longitudinal and lateral directional characteristics of a 0.035 scale model of a first generation jet transport were obtained with and without upper winglets. The data were obtained for take off and landing configurations at a free stream Mach number of 0.30. The results generally indicated that upper winglets had favorable effects on the stability characteristics of the aircraft.

Keywords: Winglets; KC-135A; Stability and control


A standard two-axle truck with a box-shaped cargo compartment was tested to determine whether significant reductions in aerodynamic drag could be obtained by modifying the front of the cargo compartment. The coastdown method was used to determine the total drag of the baseline vehicle, which had a square-cornered cargo box, and of several modified configurations. Test velocities ranged from 56.3 to 94.6 kilometers per hour (35 to 60 miles per hour). At 88.5 kilometers per hour (55 miles per hour), the aerodynamic drag reductions obtained with the modified configurations ranged from 8 to 30 percent.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Drag reduction; Structural design; Trucks


A TF-8A airplane was equipped with a transport type supercritical wing and fuselage fairings to evaluate predicted performance improvements for cruise at transonic speeds. A comparison of aerodynamic derivatives extracted from flight and wind tunnel data showed that static longitudinal stability, effective dihedral, and aileron effectiveness, were higher than predicted. The static directional stability derivative was slower than predicted. The airplane's handling qualities were acceptable with the stability augmentation system on. The unaugmented airplane exhibited some adverse lateral directional characteristics that involved low Dutch roll damping and low roll control power at high angles of attack and roll control power that was greater than satisfactory for transport aircraft at cruise conditions. Longitudinally, the
aircraft exhibited a mild pitchup tendency. Leading edge vortex generators delayed the onset of flow separation, moving the pitchup point to a higher lift coefficient and reducing its severity.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Aircraft control; Flight tests; Supercritical wings; Transonic Speed


A flight program was conducted to develop a landing technique with which a pilot could consistently and safely land a remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) without outside visual reference except through television. Otherwise, instrumentation was standard. Such factors as the selection of video parameters, the pilot’s understanding of the television presentation, the pilot’s ground cockpit environment, and the operational procedures for landing were considered. About 30 landings were necessary for a pilot to become sufficiently familiar and competent with the test aircraft to make powered approaches and landings with outside visual references only through television. When steep approaches and landings were made by remote control, the pilot’s workload was extremely high. The test aircraft was used as a simulator for the F-15 RPRV, and as such was considered to be essential to the success of landing the F-15 RPRV.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; F-15 aircraft; Instrument landing systems; Remotely piloted vehicles; Television systems


A complete set of linear stability and control derivatives of the F-11IA airplane was determined with a modified maximum likelihood estimator. The derivatives were determined at wing sweep angles of 26 deg, 35 deg, and 58 deg. The flight conditions included a Mach number range of 0.63 to 1.43 and an angle of attack range of 2 deg to 15 deg. Maneuvers were performed at normal accelerations from 0.9g to 3.8g during steady turns to assess the aeroelastic effects on the stability and control characteristics. The derivatives generally showed consistent trends and reasonable agreement with the wind tunnel estimates. Significant Mach effects were observed for Mach numbers as low as 0.82. No large effects attributable to aeroelasticity were noted.


This paper compares the exact and approximate theories developed for predicting the traverse diffusivity of dual phase composite systems containing a rectangular lattice of uniform parallel circular cylindrical inclusions. Due to the difficulties in obtaining an explicit exact mathematical expression for the diffusivity of the composite system, approximations or mathematical models are usually introduced in the calculation of the diffusivity of the composite. The two most common approximate theories used in estimating the transverse diffusivity (or conductivity) of the composite systems are described.


An adaptive control technique to improve the flying qualities of an aircraft in turbulence was investigated. The approach taken was to obtain maximum likelihood estimates of the unknown coefficients of the aircraft system and then, using these estimates along with the separation principle, to define the stochastic optimal control. The maximum likelihood estimation technique that accounts for the effects of turbulence provided good estimates of the unknown coefficients and of the turbulence. The assessment of the stochastic optimal control based on the maximum likelihood estimates showed that the desired effects were attained for the regulator problem of minimizing pitch angle and the tracking problem of requiring normal acceleration to follow the pilot input.


An efficient algorithm for selecting the degree of a polynomial that defines a curve that best approximates a data set was presented. This algorithm was applied to both oscillatory and nonoscillatory data without loss of generality.

Keywords: Algorithms; Curve fitting; Polynomials; Approximation; Computer programs; Least square method

981. Gilyard, G. B.; and Smith, J. W.: Results From Flight and Simulator Studies of a Mach 3 Cruise Longitudinal Autopilot. NASA TP-1180, H-940, April 1978, 78N21160, #. PDF DTRS

At Mach numbers of approximately 3.0 and altitudes greater than 21,300 meters, the original altitude and Mach hold modes of the YF-12 autopilot produced aircraft excursions that were erratic or divergent, or both. Flight data analysis and simulator studies showed that the sensitivity of the static pressure port to angle of attack had a detrimental effect on the performance of the altitude and Mach hold modes. Good
altitude hold performance was obtained when a high passed pitch rate feedback was added to compensate for angle of attack sensitivity and the altitude error and integral altitude gains were reduced. Good Mach hold performance was obtained when the angle of attack sensitivity was removed; however, the ride qualities remained poor.

Keywords: Control simulation; Flight tests; Longitudinal control; Mach number; Angle of attack; Attitude control; Automatic pilots; YF-12 aircraft


The concept of utilizing the Space Shuttle Orbiter as an aerodynamic flight research vehicle is discussed. The orbiter’s planned flight frequency and its complex flight control system provide an unprecedented flight research potential. This paper defines the orbiter’s flight environment and applicable baseline systems, their capabilities and limitations, as well as those instrument systems required to augment the baseline capability. These required systems, which are being developed under NASA's Orbiter Experiments Program (OEx) are the Aerodynamic Coefficient Identification Package (ACiP), Shuttle Entry Air Data System (SEADS), and the Shuttle Upper Atmosphere Mass Spectrometer (SUMS). Finally, the need for and capability of launching payloads from the orbiter to extend the research potential beyond the orbiter configuration and/or environment is defined.


The YF-12 airplane was studied to determine the pressure characteristics associated with an aft-facing step in high Reynolds number flow for nominal Mach numbers of 2.20, 2.50, and 2.80. Base pressure coefficients were obtained for three step heights. The surface static pressures ahead of and behind the step were measured for the no-step condition and for each of the step heights. A boundary layer rake was used to determine the local boundary layer conditions. The Reynolds number based on the length of flow ahead of the step was approximately 10 to the 8th power and the ratios of momentum thickness to step height ranged from 0.2 to 1.0. Base pressure coefficients were compared with other available data at similar Mach numbers and at ratios of momentum thickness to step height near 1.0. In addition, the data were compared with base pressure coefficients calculated by a semiempirical prediction method. The base pressure ratios are shown to be a function of Reynolds number based on momentum thickness. Profiles of the surface pressures ahead of and behind the step and the local boundary layer conditions are also presented.

Keywords: Base pressure; Momentum transfer; Reynolds number; Separated flow; YF-12 aircraft

F-111 TACT Airplane


Windup-turn maneuvers were performed to assess the buffet characteristics of the F-111A aircraft and the same aircraft with a supercritical wing, which is referred to as the F-111 transonic aircraft technology (TACT) aircraft. Data were gathered at wing sweep angles of 26, 35, and 58 deg for Mach numbers from 0.60 to 0.95. Wingtip accelerometer data were the primary source of buffet information. The analysis was supported by wing strain-gage and pressure data taken in flight, and by oil-flow photographs taken during tests of a wind tunnel model. In the transonic speed range, the overall buffet characteristics of the aircraft having a supercritical wing are significantly improved over those of the aircraft having a conventional wing.

Keywords: Buffeting; F-111 aircraft; Supercritical wings; Variable sweep wings; Pressure measurement; Schlieren photography; Wind tunnel models

The purpose of this paper is to show that, in limited wind-tunnel tests of a 0.1-scale shuttle model, SEADS, when combined with auxiliary flush static-pressure measurements aft of the nose cap, can provide accurate air data system. The SEADS pressure data are from tests made in NASA Lewis Research Center’s 10- by 10-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel; the auxiliary flush static-pressure data are partly from those tests and partly from tests in the NASA Ames Research Center’s Fourteen-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel.

The Mini-Sniffer is a small unmanned survey aircraft developed by NASA to conduct turbulence and atmospheric pollution measurements from ground level to an altitude of 90,000 ft. Carrying a 25-lb air sampling apparatus, the Mini-Sniffer typically cruises for one hour at 70,000 ft before being remotely piloted back to earth. A hydrazine monopropellant engine powers the craft, while a PCM telemetering system and a radar transponder provide control functions. Development of a high-performance low-Reynolds-number airfoil could make the research craft suitable for a low-altitude terrain-following mission on Mars.
wind tunnel and flight tests to investigate nozzle-airframe flow interactions. The program objective is to compare transonic flight and wind tunnel measurements over a wide Reynolds number range. The paper discusses the progress of the program and the coordination of the wind tunnel and flight tests with regard to program elements, model-airplane differences, instrument locations, and test conditions. The real-time feedback techniques used to obtain steady flight conditions are presented. Available wind tunnel results are presented for the jet effects model showing the influence of the rear-end geometry and test variables on nozzle drag. Available flight results show the effect of the variable inlet ramp angle and angle of attack on fuselage pressures and upper surface boundary layers.

Results are reported from the initial phase of an effort to provide an adequate technical capability to accurately predict the full scale, flight vehicle, nozzle-afterbody performance of future aircraft based on partial scale, wind tunnel testing. The primary emphasis of this initial effort is to assess the current capability and identify the cause of limitations on this capability. A direct comparison of surface pressure data is made between the results from an 0.1-scale model wind tunnel investigation and a full-scale flight test program to evaluate the current subscale testing techniques. These data were acquired at Mach numbers 0.6, 0.8, 0.9, 1.2, and 1.5 on four nozzle configurations at various vehicle pitch attitudes. Support system interference increments were also documented during the wind tunnel investigation. In general, the results presented indicate a good agreement in trend and level of the surface pressures when corrective increments are applied for known effects and surface differences between the two articles under investigation.

*ARO, Inc., Arnold Air Force Station, Tennessee.
**USAF, Aero Propulsion Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


The spectrum analysis (SPA) program is a general purpose digital computer program designed to aid in data analysis. The program does time and frequency domain statistical analyses as well as some preanalysis data preparation. The capabilities of the SPA program include linear trend removal and/or digital filtering of data, plotting and/or listing of both filtered and unfiltered data, time domain statistical characterization of data, and frequency domain statistical characterization of data.

Keywords: Digital filters; Fourier analysis; Frequency analyzers; Spectrum analysis; Time series analysis


The paper discusses dynamic analyses and testing of aerospace vehicles and the application of such analyses and testing to nonaerospace fields. Items covered in the section on dynamic analyses of aerospace vehicles include self-induced and forced oscillatory loads, approaches to dynamic modeling and analysis, nonlinear analyses, and integrated dynamics design and optimization. Items covered in the section on the dynamic testing of aerospace vehicles include integrated test philosophy, test facilities, and ways of improving performance and reducing costs. The nonaerospace applications that are discussed include ground and water transportation, medicine, and nuclear power plants.

*Martin Marietta Aerospace, Bethesda, Maryland.
**General Dynamics Corp., Pomona, California.


An investigation of leading-edge contamination by insects was conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center with a JetStar airplane instrumented to detect transition on the outboard leading-edge flap and equipped with a system to wash the leading edge in flight. The results of airline-type flights with the JetStar indicated that insects can contaminate

YF-17 Airplane


Results are reported from the initial phase of an effort to provide an adequate technical capability to accurately predict the full scale, flight vehicle, nozzle-afterbody performance of future aircraft based on partial scale, wind tunnel testing. The primary emphasis of this initial effort is to assess the current capability and identify the cause of limitations on this capability. A direct comparison of surface pressure data is made between the results from an 0.1-scale model wind tunnel investigation and a full-scale flight test program to evaluate the current subscale testing techniques. These data were acquired at Mach numbers 0.6, 0.8, 0.9, 1.2, and 1.5 on four nozzle configurations at various vehicle pitch attitudes. Support system interference increments were also documented during the wind tunnel investigation. In general, the results presented indicate a good agreement in trend and level of the surface pressures when corrective increments are applied for known effects and surface differences between the two articles under investigation.

*ARO, Inc., Arnold Air Force Station, Tennessee.
**USAF, Aero Propulsion Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
the leading edge during take-off and climbout at large jet airports in the United States. The results also showed that the insects collected on the leading edges at 180 knots did not erode at cruise conditions for a laminar flow control airplane and caused premature transition of the laminar boundary layer. None of the superslick and hydrophobic surfaces tested showed any significant advantages in alleviating the insect contamination problem. While there may be other solutions to the insect contamination problem, the results of these tests with a washer system showed that a continuous water spray while encountering the insects is effective in preventing insect contamination of the leading edges.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


This paper reviews the techniques used to increase data reliability and to minimize certain bias errors during a series of wing profile drag measurements performed in flight on a sailplane airfoil. Unresolved questions concerning errors in the use of total probes in this and other studies are discussed.


Today’s emerging fighter aircraft are maneuvering as well at normal accelerations of 7 to 8 g’s as their predecessors did at 4 to 5 g’s. This improved maneuvering capability has significantly expanded their operating envelope and made the task of evaluating handling qualities more difficult. This paper describes a technique for assessing the precision controllability of highly maneuverable aircraft, a technique that was developed to evaluate the effects of buffet intensity on gunsight tracking capability and found to be a useful tool for the general assessment of fighter aircraft handling qualities. It has also demonstrated its usefulness for evaluating configuration and advanced flight control system refinements. This technique is believed to have application to future aircraft dynamics and pilot-vehicle interface studies.


This paper shows that translational acceleration derivatives, such as pitching moment due to rate of change of angle of attack, can be estimated from flight data with the use of appropriately designed maneuvers. No new development of estimation methodology is necessary to analyze these maneuvers. Flight data from a T-37B airplane were used to verify that rate of change of angle of attack could be estimated from rolling maneuvers.


Papers presented by personnel from the Dryden Flight Research Center, the Lewis Research Center, and the Ames Research Center are presented. Topics cover propulsion system performance, inlet time varying distortion, structures, aircraft controls, propulsion controls, and aerodynamics. The reports were based on analytical studies, laboratory experiments, wind tunnel tests, and extensive flight research with two YF-12 airplanes.


The history of NASA’s interest in supersonic research and the agency’s contribution to the development of the YF-12 aircraft is reviewed as well as the program designed to use that aircraft as a test bed for supersonic cruise research. Topics cover elements of the program, project organization, and major accomplishments.


The use of calibrated strain gages to measure wing loads on the YF-12A airplane is discussed as well as structural configurations relative to the thermal environment and resulting thermal stresses. A thermal calibration of the YF-12A is described to illustrate how contaminating thermal effects can be removed from loads equations. The relationship between ground load calibrations and flight measurements is examined for possible errors, and an analytical approach to accommodate such errors is presented.


Ventral fin loads, expressed as normal force coefficients, bending moment coefficients, and torque coefficients, were measured during flight tests of a YF-12A airplane. Because of the proximity of the ventral fin to the ailerons, the aerodynamic loads presented were the result of both sideslip loads and aileron crossflow loads. Aerodynamic data obtained from strain gage loads instrumentation and some flight pressure measurements are presented for several Mach numbers ranging from 0.70 to 2.00. Selected wind tunnel data and results of linear theoretical aerodynamic calculations are presented for comparison.


The altitude hold mode of the YF-12A airplane was modified to include a high-pass-filtered pitch rate feedback along with optimized inner loop altitude rate proportional and integral gains. An autothrottle control system was also developed to control either Mach number or KEAS at the high-speed flight conditions. Flight tests indicate that, with the modified system, significant improvements are obtained in both altitude and speed control, and the combination of altitude and autothrottle hold modes provides the most stable aircraft platform thus far demonstrated at Mach 3 conditions.


Aircraft parameters and physiological parameters most indicative of crew workload were investigated. Recommendations were used to form the basis for a continuing study in which variations of the interval between heart beats are used as a measure of nonphysical workload. Preliminary results are presented and current efforts in further defining this physiological measure are outlined.


A true gust velocity measuring system designed to alleviate complications resulting from airframe flexibility and from the high-speed, high-temperature environment of supersonic cruise aircraft was evaluated on a YF-12 airplane. The system uses fixed vanes on which airflow direction changes produce differential pressure variations that are measured. Airframe motions, obtained by postflight integration of recorded angular rate and linear acceleration data, are removed from the flow angle data. An example of turbulence data obtained at high-altitude, supersonic flight conditions is presented and compared with previous high-altitude turbulence measurements obtained with subsonic aircraft and with turbulence criteria contained in both military and civil design specifications for supersonic cruise vehicles. Results of these comparisons indicate that the YF-12 turbulence sample is representative of turbulence present in the supersonic cruise environment.


Aft-facing step base pressure flight data were obtained for three step heights for nominal transonic Mach numbers of 0.80, 0.90, and 0.95, and for supersonic Mach numbers of 2.2, 2.5, and 2.8 with a Reynolds number, based on the fuselage length ahead of the step, of about 10 to the 8th power. Surface static pressures were measured ahead of the step, behind the step, and on the step face (base), and a boundary layer rake was used to obtain boundary layer reference conditions. A comparison of the data from the present and previous experiments shows the same trend of increasing base pressure ratio (decreasing drag) with increasing values of momentum thickness to step height ratios. However, the absolute level of these data does not always agree at the supersonic Mach numbers. For momentum thickness to height ratios near 1.0, the differences in the base pressure ratios appear to be primarily a function of Reynolds number based on the momentum thickness. Thus, for Mach numbers above 2.0, the data analyzed show that the base pressure ratio decreases (drag increases) as Reynolds number based on momentum thickness increases for a given momentum thickness and step height.


In-flight measurements of boundary layer and skin friction data were made on YF-12 airplanes for Mach numbers between 2.0 and 3.0. Boattail pressures were also obtained for Mach numbers between 0.7 and 3.0 with Reynolds numbers up to four hundred million. Boundary layer data measured along the lower fuselage centerline indicate local displacement and momentum thicknesses can be much larger than predicted. Skin friction coefficients measured at
two of five lower fuselage stations were significantly less than predicted by flat plate theory. The presence of large differences between measured boattail pressure drag and values calculated by a potential flow solution indicates the presence of vortex effects on the upper boattail surface. At both subsonic and supersonic speeds, pressure drag on the longer of two boattail configurations was equal to or less than the pressure drag on the shorter configuration. At subsonic and transonic speeds, the difference in the drag coefficient was on the order of 0.0008 to 0.0010. In the supersonic cruise range, the difference in the drag coefficient was on the order of 0.002. Boattail drag coefficients are based on wing reference area.

YF-12 Airplane With “Coldwall” Experiment


Skin temperatures, shearing forces, surface static pressures, and boundary layer pitot pressures and total temperatures were measured on a hollow cylinder 3.04 meters long and 0.437 meter in diameter mounted beneath the fuselage of the YF-12A airplane. The data were obtained at a nominal free stream Mach number of 3.0 and at wall-to-recovery temperature ratios of 0.66 to 0.91. The free stream Reynolds number had a minimal value of 4.2 million per meter. Heat transfer coefficients and skin friction coefficients were derived from skin temperature time histories and shear force measurements, respectively. Boundary layer velocity profiles were derived from pitot pressure measurements, and a Reynolds analogy factor of 1.11 was obtained from the measured heat transfer and skin friction data. The skin friction coefficients predicted by the theory of van Driest were in excellent agreement with the measurements. Theoretical heat transfer coefficients, in the form of Stanton numbers calculated by using a modified Reynolds analogy between skin friction and heat transfer, were compared with measured values. The measured velocity profiles were compared to Coles’ incompressible law-of-the-wall profile.


Windup-turn maneuvers were performed to assess the buffet characteristics of the F-111A aircraft and the same aircraft with a supercritical wing, which is referred to as the F-111 transonic aircraft technology (TACT) aircraft. Data were gathered at wing sweep angles of 26 degree, 35 degree, and 58 degree for Mach numbers from 0.60 to 0.95. Wingtip accelerometer data were the primary source of buffet information. The analysis was supported by wing strain-gage and fuselage accelerometer data. Buffet intensity rise boundaries in the form of plots of aircraft normal-force coefficient as a function of Mach number, as well as individual buffet intensity curves at specific Mach numbers, are presented for each aircraft. In the transonic speed range, the overall buffet characteristics of the aircraft having a supercritical wing are significantly improved over those of the aircraft having a conventional wing. At subsonic speeds or at the aft wing sweep position where the supercritical wing is off design, the two aircraft have similar buffet characteristics.


This paper present the results of a study conducted with the F-111 transonic aircraft technology (TACT) airplane to assess the improvement in maneuverability afforded by a supercritical wing when installed on an F-111A aircraft. The study evaluated the aerodynamic performance, maneuver performance, and precision controllability of both the basic F-111A and the F-111 TACT aircraft over the transonic Mach number region at three wing-sweep positions. The aerodynamic performance evaluation showed that the supercritical wing significantly improved the buffet characteristics of the F-111A airplane at high subsonic and transonic Mach numbers. Wing rock was experienced on both aircraft, with the F-111 TACT airplane having the higher onset boundaries. The maneuver performance evaluation showed the F-111 TACT airplane to have higher drag-rise Mach number as well as improved transonic sustained turn.
performance. The supercritical wing did not alter the F-111A airplane’s basic precision controllability. The agility analysis demonstrated that the supercritical wing improved the F-111A airplane’s maneuverability.


There are several practical problems in using current techniques with five degree of freedom equations to estimate the stability and control derivatives of oblique wing aircraft from flight data. A technique was developed to estimate these derivatives by separating the analysis of the longitudinal and lateral directional motion without neglecting cross coupling effects. Although previously applied to symmetrical aircraft, the technique was not expected to be adequate for oblique wing vehicles. The application of the technique to flight data from a remotely piloted oblique wing aircraft is described. The aircraft instrumentation and data processing were reviewed, with particular emphasis on the digital filtering of the data. A complete set of flight determined stability and control derivative estimates is presented and compared with predictions. The results demonstrated that the relatively simple approach developed was adequate to obtain high quality estimates of the aerodynamic derivatives of such aircraft.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft configurations; Degrees of freedom; Stability derivatives; Wings


Concurrent strain gage and pressure transducer measured flight loads on a lifting reentry vehicle are compared and correlated with wind tunnel-predicted loads. Subsonic, transonic, and supersonic aerodynamic loads are presented for the left fin and control surfaces of the X-24B lifting reentry vehicle. Typical left fin pressure distributions are shown. The effects of variations in angle of attack, angle of sideslip, and Mach number on the left fin loads and rudder hinge moments are presented in coefficient form. Also presented are the effects of variations in angle of attack and Mach number on the upper flap, lower flap, and aileron hinge-moment coefficients. The effects of variations in lower flap hinge moments due to changes in lower flap deflection and Mach number are presented in terms of coefficient slopes.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Flight load recorders; Lifting reentry vehicles; Pressure sensors; Strain gages


A flight investigation was conducted to provide a stability and control derivative data base for the F-111 transonic aircraft technology research aircraft. Longitudinal and lateral-directional data were obtained as functions of Mach number, angle of attack, and wing sweep. For selected derivatives, the flight results were correlated with derivatives calculated based on vehicle geometry. The validity of the angle of attack measurement was independently verified at a Mach number of 0.70 for angles of attack between 3 and 10 degrees.

Keywords: Aircraft stability; F-111 aircraft; Stability derivatives; Aircraft design; Angle of attack; Flight tests; Mach number; Supercritical wings; Variable sweep wings


The analysis program was used to investigate several aircraft characteristics. The studies performed included vehicle stability analysis, determination of upwash angle, identification of nonpotential flow, launch dynamics, and wake vortex upset loads. The techniques and are discussed. When possible, computed results are compared with experimental data.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aircraft stability; Computer programs; Aircraft wakes; Body-wing configurations; F-111 aircraft; Vortices


Results are presented for a finite element modal analysis of a centrally cracked rectangular plate made of linearly elastic material. The objective is to assess the effect of crack size on the natural vibration frequencies of the cracked plate. Only the in-plane vibration modes are studied. The results presented are finite-element mesh-size dependent. Namely, shrinking the mesh size, especially in the crack tip region, would change the magnitudes of the natural frequencies, and the trends would be the same as shown in the present note.


A simplified gross thrust computing technique extended to
the F100-PW-100 afterburning turbofan engine is described. The technique uses measured total and static pressures in the engine tailpipe and ambient static pressure to compute gross thrust. Empirically evaluated calibration factors account for three-dimensional effects, the effects of friction and mass transfer, and the effects of simplifying assumptions for solving the equations. Instrumentation requirements and the sensitivity of computed thrust to transducer errors are presented. NASA altitude facility tests on F100 engines (computed thrust versus measured thrust) are presented, and calibration factors obtained on one engine are shown to be applicable to the second engine by comparing the computed gross thrust. It is concluded that this thrust method is potentially suitable for flight test application and engine maintenance on production engines with a minimum amount of instrumentation.

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This paper discusses the application of a maximum likelihood estimator to dynamic flight-test data. The information presented is based on the experience in the past twelve years at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center of estimating stability and control derivatives from over 3,000 maneuvers from 32 aircraft. The overall approach to the analysis of dynamic flight-test data is discussed. Detailed requirements for data and instrumentation are discussed and several examples of the types of problems that may be encountered are presented.


A test structure representing a portion of a hypersonic vehicle was instrumented with strain gages and thermocouples. This test structure was then subjected to laboratory heating representative of supersonic and hypersonic flight conditions. A finite element computer model of this structure was developed using several types of elements with the NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) computer program. Temperature inputs from the test were used to generate predicted model thermal stresses and these were correlated with the test measurements.

Keywords: Computerized simulation; Hypersonic vehicles; NASTRAN; Thermal stresses; Data correlation; Heat transfer; Prediction analysis techniques; Temperature measurement


The propulsion-flight control integration technology (PROFIT) concept to be implemented on a high performance supersonic twin-engine aircraft which will make possible the evaluation of a wide variety of integrated control concepts is discussed. The aircraft’s inlet, engine, and flight control systems are to be integrated with a digital computer. The airplane control hardware is to be modified to provide the necessary capability for control research; software will be used to provide flexibility in the control integration capability. The background for flight and propulsion control system development and probable future trends are described. Examples of integrated control research that have application to future aircraft designs are also presented.


A remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) with active controls designed to develop high maneuverable aircraft technologies (HiMAT) is described. The HiMAT RPRV is the central element in a new method to bring advanced aircraft technologies to a state of readiness. The RPRV is well into the construction phase, with flight test evaluations planned. The closely coupled canard-wing vehicle includes relaxed static stability, direct force control, and a digital active control system. Nonlinearities in the aerodynamics led to unusual demands on the active control systems. For example, the longitudinal static margin is 10-percent negative at low angles of attack, but increases to 30-percent negative at high angles of attack and low Mach numbers. The design procedure followed and experiences encountered as they relate to the active control features are discussed. Emphasis is placed on the aspects most likely to be encountered in the design of a full-scale operational vehicle. In addition, a brief overview of the flight control system features unique to the RPRV operation is presented.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.

1019.*Hartmann, G. L.; *Stein, G.; Szalai, K. J.; Brown, S. R.; and Petersen, K. L.: F-8 Active Control. AGARD AG-234, paper 6, Active Controls in Aircraft Design, November 1978. (see N79-16864 08-08), 79N16870, #.

An advanced flight control research program conducted with a modified F-8C aircraft is described. Key technologies investigated include system redundancy management and active control laws. Two control law packages proposed for flight test are discussed. The first is the control configured vehicle package which incorporates command augmentation, boundary control, ride smoothing, and maneuver flap
functions. The second package is an adaptive control law based on a parallel channel maximum likelihood estimation algorithm. The design, implementation, and flight test experience with both sets of control laws are described.

*Honeywell Inc. Systems and Research Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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**HiMAT RPRV**


Significant effort was spent in estimating unknown aircraft coefficients, such as stability and control derivatives from dynamic flight maneuvers. The techniques used to estimate these coefficients are becoming increasingly complex; however, these techniques make it possible to obtain estimates of coefficients that in the past were nearly impossible to obtain. A survey of the investigations that were undertaken to obtain estimates of coefficients from dynamic flight maneuvers is presented. One method, the maximum likelihood estimation technique, is described briefly and some of the successful applications of the technique are presented. Possible techniques for analyzing responses obtained in the stall/spin regime are discussed. Recent data obtained in the stall/spin flight regime are presented along with a discussion of how some basic results can be obtained with simple analysis techniques.


The experience gained in digital fly-by-wire technology through a flight test program being conducted by the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in an F-8C aircraft is described. The system requirements are outlined, along with the requirements for flight qualification. The system is described, including the hardware components, the aircraft installation, and the system operation. The flight qualification experience is emphasized. The qualification process included the theoretical validation of the basic design, laboratory testing of the hardware and software elements, systems level testing, and flight testing. The most productive testing was performed on an iron bird aircraft, which used the actual electronic and hydraulic hardware and a simulation of the F-8 characteristics to provide the flight environment. The iron bird was used for sensor and system redundancy management testing, failure modes and effects testing, and stress testing in many cases with the pilot in the loop. The flight test program confirmed the quality of the validation process by achieving 50 flights without a known undetected failure and with no false alarms.

Keywords: Digital systems; F-8 aircraft; Flight tests; Fly by wire control; Aircraft hydraulic systems; Computer programs; Electronic equipment; Failure modes; Flight simulation; Hardware; Loops; Stress analysis; Systems analysis

*Charles Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


A Boeing 747 aircraft flew 54 passes at low altitude over ground based sensors. Vortex velocities were measured by a laser Doppler velocimeter, an array of monostatic acoustic sounders, and an array of propeller anemometers. Flow visualization of the wake was achieved using smoke and balloon tracers and was recorded photographically. Data were obtained on vortex velocity fields, vortex decay, and the effects of spoilers and differential flap settings on the dissipation and structure of the vortices.


A flight research program was conducted to investigate the improvements in maneuverability of an F-111A airplane equipped with a supercritical wing. In this configuration the aircraft is known as the F-111 TACT (transonic aircraft technology) airplane. The variable-wing-sweep feature permitted an evaluation of the supercritical wing in many configurations. The primary emphasis was placed on the
transonic Mach number region, which is considered to be the principal air combat arena for fighter aircraft. An agility study was undertaken to assess the maneuverability of the F-111A aircraft with a supercritical wing at both design and off-design conditions. The evaluation included an assessment of aerodynamic and maneuver performance in conjunction with an evaluation of precision controllability during tailchase gunsight tracking tasks.

Keywords: Buffeting; Handling qualities; Energy maneuverability; Gunsight tracking; Supercritical wing; F-111 TACT airplane


The noise of the TF30 afterburning turbofan engine in an F-111 airplane was determined from static (ground) and flyover tests. A survey was made to measure the exhaust temperature and velocity profiles for a range of power settings. Comparisons were made between predicted and measured jet mixing, internal, and shock noise. It was found that the noise produced at static conditions was dominated by jet mixing noise, and was adequately predicted by current methods. The noise produced during flyovers exhibited large contributions from internally generated noise in the forward arc. For flyovers with the engine at nonafterburning power, the internal noise, shock noise, and jet mixing noise were accurately predicted. During flyovers with afterburning power settings, however, additional internal noise believed to be due to the afterburning process was evident; its level was as much as 8 decibels above the nonafterburning internal noise. Power settings that produced exhausts with inverted velocity profiles appeared to be slightly less noisy than power settings of equal thrust that produced uniform exhaust velocity profiles both in flight and in static testing.

Keywords: Afterburning; Engine noise; F-111 aircraft; Noise measurement; Turbofan engines


A comparison is made of the facility performance data for the two engines with an engine performance model, and it provides corrections that can be applied to the model so that it represents the test engines accurately over the flight envelope. Test conditions ranged from Mach numbers of 0.80 to 2.00 and altitudes from 4020 meters to 15,240 meters. Two distortion screens were used to determine the effect of distortion on airflow. Reynolds number effects were also determined. Engine hysteresis is documented, as is an attempt to determine engine degradation. The calibrated engine model had a twice standard deviation accuracy of approximately 1.24 percent for corrected airflow and 2.38 percent for gross thrust.

Keywords: Air flow; Jet thrust; Thrust measurement; Turbofan engines; Comparison; Flow distortion; Hysteresis; Performance tests; Prototypes


Flight data from five aircraft were used to assess the effects of sampling rate and record length reductions on estimates of stability and control derivatives produced by a maximum likelihood estimation method. Derivatives could be extracted from flight data with the maximum likelihood estimation method even if there were considerable reductions in sampling rate and/or record length. Small amplitude pulse maneuvers showed greater degradation of the derivative maneuvers than large amplitude pulse maneuvers when these reductions were made. Reducing the sampling rate was found to be more desirable than reducing the record length as a method of lessening the total computation time required without greatly degrading the quantity of the estimates.

Keywords: Controllability; Estimating; Sampling; Stability derivatives; Aircraft maneuvers; Flight control; Graphics (charts); Maximum likelihood estimates


Results of a compression test of a beaded panel intended for a proposed hypersonic aircraft are presented. The panel was tested to failure at room temperature to determine its buckling characteristics, in particular, to study the buckling caused by pure compression. The boundary conditions of the panel simulated as nearly as possible a wing mounted condition. Strain, out-of-plane deflection, and load data were measured, and elastic buckling strength as well as mode shapes of the panel were determined. Application of the moire technique is described.

*University of California, Berkley, California and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Livermore, California.

**University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

1028. Montoya, L. C.; *Flechner, S. G.; and *Jacobs, P.
Pressure and spanwise load distributions on a first-generation jet transport semispan model at subsonic speeds are presented. The wind tunnel data were measured for the wing with and without an alternate winglet. The results show that the winglet affected outboard wing pressure distributions and increased the spanwise loads near the tip.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight characteristics, controllability, and potential operating problems were investigated in a radio-controlled airplane model in which the wing is so attached to the fuselage that it is free to pivot about a spanwise axis forward of its aerodynamic center and is subject only to aerodynamic pitching moments imposed by lift and drag forces and a control surface. A simple technique of flying the test vehicle in formation with a pickup truck was used to obtain trim data. The test vehicle was flown through a series of maneuvers designed to permit evaluation of certain characteristics by observation. The free-wing free-canard concept was determined to be workable. Stall/spin characteristics were considered to be excellent, and no effect on longitudinal stability was observed when center of gravity changes were made. Several problems were encountered during the early stages of flight testing, such as aerodynamic lockup of the free canard and excessive control sensitivity. Lack of onboard instrumentation precluded any conclusions about gust alleviation or ride qualities.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Body-wing configurations; Canard configurations; Flight tests; Radio control; Wings


A brief overview of the highlights of NASA’s wake vortex minimization program is presented. The significant results of this program are summarized as follows: (1) it is technically feasible to reduce significantly the rolling upset created on a trailing aircraft; (2) the basic principles or methods by which reduction in the vortex strength can be achieved have been identified; and (3) an analytical capability for investigating aircraft vortex wakes has been developed.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An orthotropic sandwich plate containing a part-through crack subjected to in-plane mixed mode tractions is analyzed, and the basic equations for estimating the stress intensity factors k1, k2 and the debonding naiq around the crack are presented.


The facilities, testing techniques, and design methods are described for NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. High temperature strain gage technology, realistic flight hardware fabrication, and structural analysis are discussed. A considerable amount of experimental work on hot structure concepts for hypersonic vehicles was performed; all the work is not complete, and there are still problem areas that need to be resolved.


Two efficient concepts built from curved elements were identified, and a data base for tubular panels was developed. The tubular panel failure modes were understood, and the data base for these panels indicated that their performance can be predicted. The concepts are currently being tested in a realistic builtup structure; 157 room temperature tests and 67 hot tests were made with no structural failures, although all of these tests were not at the design load of the structure.


Three-dimensional boundary layer and wake velocity profiles were measured in flight on the supercritical wing of the F-111 transonic aircraft technology aircraft. These data, along with pressure distributions, were obtained to establish a data base with which data obtained by three-dimensional analytical techniques could be correlated. Only a brief summary of the
An in-flight wing wake section drag investigation was conducted using traversing pitot and static probes. The primary objective was to develop measurement techniques and improve the accuracy of in-flight wing profile drag measurements for low values of dynamic pressure and Reynolds number. Data were obtained on a sailplane for speeds from about 40 knots to 125 knots at chord Reynolds numbers between 1,000,000 and 3,000,000. Tests were conducted with zero flap deflection, deflected flaps, and various degrees of surface roughness, and for smooth and rough atmospheric conditions. Several techniques were used to increase data reliability and to minimize certain bias errors. A discussion of the effects of a total pressure probe in a pressure gradient, and the effects of discrete turbulence levels, on the data presented and other experimental results is also included.

*Soaring Society of America, Santa Monica, California.

### 1979 Technical Publications


The Transonic Aircraft Technology (TACT) research program provided data necessary to verify aerodynamic concepts, such as the supercritical wing, and to gain the confidence required for the application of such technology to advanced high performance aircraft. An F-111A aircraft was employed as the flight test bed to provide full scale data. The data were correlated extensively with predictions based on data obtained from wind tunnel tests. An assessment of the improvement afforded at transonic speeds in drag divergence, maneuvering performance, and airplane handling qualities by the use of the supercritical wing was included in the program. Transonic flight and wind tunnel testing techniques were investigated, and specific research technologies evaluated were also summarized.

Keywords: Aircraft design; F-111 aircraft; Supercritical wings; TACT program; Transonic flight

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**1038.** Rediess, H. A.: Avionics and Controls Research and Technology. NASA CP-2061, January 1979, 79N15898. PDF CASI

The workshop provided a forum for industry and universities to discuss the state-of-the-art, identify the technology needs and opportunities, and describe the role of NASA in avionics and controls research.


Preliminary flight and wind tunnel comparison data are presented for the F-15 inlet/airframe interactions program. Test conditions and instrumentation for both the model and the aircraft are described. Flight and wind tunnel inlet drag data (for a 0-deg angle of attack and Mach numbers of 0.6, 0.9, and 1.2), derived by using nearly identical pressure integration equations, are compared. The effects of a movable cowl, movable ramps, and other system components on pressure flow fields along the airframe are discussed. Excellent agreement between wind tunnel and flight pressure-integrated drag is found at all three Mach numbers. The wind tunnel data show good agreement for pressure-integrated and force-balance-measured inlet drag, except at Mach 0.6. Flight-measured pressure-integrated inlet lift is lower than that measured in the wind tunnel.


An inlet instantaneous distortion study program sponsored by NASA was recently completed using an F-15 fighter aircraft. Peak distortion data from subscale inlet model wind tunnel tests are shown to be representative of full-scale flight test peak distortion. The effects on peak distortion are investigated for engine presence, Reynolds number, scale and frequency content. Data are presented which show that: (1) the effect of engine presence on total pressure recovery, peak distortion, and turbulence is small but favorable, (2) increasing the Reynolds number increases total pressure recovery, decreases peak distortion, and decreases turbulence, and (3) increasing the filter cutoff frequency increases the calculated values of both peak distortion and turbulence.

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**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
The concepts involved in dynamic performance testing represent a philosophy of developing a single, coherent performance model using thrust and drag modeling. It is shown that if all thrust drag interactions, maneuver rates, and instrumentation are taken into consideration, it is possible to generate a lift/drag model which is capable of predicting performance from nearly any maneuver. Although this capability is dependent on the ability to calculate gross thrust adequately, the engines can be calibrated through static thrust runs and the thrust computation procedures verified in flight. The capability of generating a consistent lift/drag model in considerably less time than conventional performance methods is demonstrated.

A general study is made of the effects of structural heating on calibrated-strain-gage load measurements on the wing of a supersonic airplane. The primary emphasis is on temperature-induced effects as they relate to slope changes and thermal shifts of the applied load/strain relationships. These effects are studied by using the YF-12A airplane, a structural computer model, and subsequent analyses. Such topics as the thermal environment of the structure, the variation of load paths at elevated temperature, the thermal response characteristics of load equations, elevated-temperature load-measurement approaches, the thermal calibration of wings, and the correlation of strains are discussed. Ways are suggested to measure loads with calibrated strain gages in the supersonic environment.

The information presented is based on the experience in the past 12 years at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center of estimating stability and control derivatives from over 3500 maneuvers from 32 aircraft. The overall approach to the analysis of dynamic flight test data is outlined. General requirements for data and instrumentation are discussed and several examples of the types of problems that may be encountered are presented.

The real zeros of the transcendental function \( y = ax + be^{cx} \) are characterized, and the results should alleviate the difficulty of determining their existence, location, and number.

A laboratory heating test simulating hypersonic heating was conducted on a heat-sink type structure to provide basic thermal stress measurements. Six NASTRAN models utilizing various combinations of bar, shear panel, membrane, and plate elements were used to develop calculated thermal stresses. Thermal stresses were also calculated using a beam model. For a given temperature distribution there was very little variation in NASTRAN calculated thermal stresses when element types were interchanged for a given grid system. Thermal stresses calculated for the beam model compared similarly to the values obtained for the NASTRAN models. Calculated thermal stresses compared generally well to laboratory measured thermal stresses. A discrepancy of significance occurred between the measured and predicted thermal stresses in the skin areas. A minor anomaly in the laboratory skin heating uniformity resulted in inadequate temperature input data for the structural models.
The noise of the TF30 afterburning turbofan engine in an F-111 airplane was determined from static (ground) and flyover tests. Exhaust temperatures and velocity profiles were measured for a range of power settings. Comparisons were made between predicted and measured jet mixing, internal, and shock noise. It was found that the noise produced at static conditions was dominated by jet mixing noise, and was adequately predicted by current methods. The noise produced during flyovers exhibited large contributions from internally generated noise in the forward arc. For flyovers with the engine at nonafterburning power, the internal noise, shock noise, and jet mixing noise were accurately predicted. During flyovers with afterburning power settings, however, additional internal noise believed to be due to the afterburning process was evident; its level was as much as 8 decibels above the nonafterburning internal noise.


This paper reviews the development of generalized unsteady aerodynamic theory and presents a derivation of the generalized Possion integral equation. Numerical calculations resolve questions concerning subsonic indicial lift functions and demonstrate the generation of Kutta waves at high values of reduced frequency, subsonic Mach number, or both. The use of rational function approximations of unsteady aerodynamic loads in aeroelastic stability calculations is reviewed, and a reformulation of the matrix Pade approximation technique is given. Numerical examples of flutter boundary calculations for a wing which is to be flight tested are given. Finally, a simplified aerodynamic model of transonic flow is used to study the stability of an airfoil exposed to supersonic and subsonic flow regions.


Formulae and the associated graphs are presented for contrasting the effective elastic constants for a superplastically formed/diffusion-bonded (SPF/DB) corrugated sandwich core and a honeycomb sandwich core. The results used in the comparison of the structural properties of the two types of sandwich cores are under conditions of equal sandwich density. It was found that the stiffness in the thickness direction of the optimum SPF/DB corrugated core (i.e., triangular truss core) was lower than that of the honeycomb core, and that the former had higher transverse shear stiffness than the latter.


The results of 46 clear air turbulence (CAT) probing missions conducted with an extensively instrumented B-57B aircraft are summarized. Turbulence samples were obtained under diverse conditions including mountain waves, jet streams, upper level fronts and troughs, and low altitude mechanical and thermal turbulence. CAT was encouraged on 20 flights comprising 77 data runs. In all, approximately 4335 km were flown in light turbulence, 1415 km in moderate turbulence, and 255 km in severe turbulence during the program. The flight planning, operations, and turbulence forecasting aspects conducted with the B-57B aircraft are presented.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A flying qualities evaluation conducted on a preproduction F-15 airplane permitted an assessment to be made of its precision controllability in the high subsonic and low transonic flight regime over the allowable angle of attack range. Precision controllability, or gunsight tracking, studies were conducted in windup turn maneuvers with the gunsight in the caged piper mode and depressed 70 mils.
This evaluation showed the F-15 airplane to experience severe buffet and mild-to-moderate wing rock at the higher angles of attack. It showed the F-15 airplane radial tracking precision to vary from approximately 6 to 20 mils over the load factor range tested. Tracking in the presence of wing rock essentially doubled the radial tracking error generated at the lower angles of attack. The stability augmentation system affected the tracking precision of the F-15 airplane more than it did that of previous aircraft studied.

Keywords: Aircraft maneuvers; Controllability; F-15 aircraft; Guns (ordnance); Tracking (position).


A study was performed to determine the effects of the number and position of total pressure probes on the calculation of five compressor face distortion descriptors. This study used three sets of 320 steady state total pressure measurements that were obtained with a special rotating rake apparatus in wind tunnel tests of a mixed-compression inlet. The inlet was a one third scale model of the inlet on a YF-12 airplane, and it was tested in the wind tunnel at representative flight conditions at Mach numbers above 2.0. The study shows that large errors resulted in the calculation of the distortion descriptors even with a number of probes that were considered adequate in the past. There were errors as large as 30 and ~50 percent in several distortion descriptors for a configuration consisting of eight rakes with five equal-area-weighted probes on each rake.

Keywords: Compressors; Error analysis; Pressure measurement; Surface distortion; Wind tunnel tests.


Over-the-highway fuel consumption and coastdown drag tests were performed on cab-over-engine, van type trailer trucks and modifications of these vehicles incorporating refinements in aerodynamic design. In addition, 1/25-scale models of these configurations, and derivatives of these configurations were tested in a wind tunnel to determine the effects of wind on the magnitude of the benefits that aerodynamic refinements can provide. The results of these tests are presented for a vehicle incorporating major redesign features and for a relatively simple add-on modification. These results include projected fuel savings on the basis of annual savings per vehicle year as well as probable nationwide fuel savings.


This paper discusses the application of a maximum likelihood estimation method in flight test data. The results are based on 11 years’ experience of estimating stability and control derivatives from 3000 maneuvers from 30 aircraft. Flight results are presented from recent studies on understanding the discrepancies previously observed in the magnitude of the Cramer-Rao bounds, on the scale effects on the derivative estimates obtained from dynamic aircraft flight maneuvers, and on the analysis of lateral-directional maneuvers obtained in turbulence.


A partial pressure suit was evaluated during tests in an F-104 and F-15 as a protective garment for emergency descents. The garment is a pressure jerkin and modified anti-g suit combined with an oronasal mask. The garment
can be donned and doffed at the aircraft to minimize thermal buildup. The oronasal mask was favored by the pilots due to its immobility on the face during high g-loading. The garment was chosen to provide optimum dexterity for the pilot, which is not available in a full pressure suit, while protecting the pilot at altitudes up to 18,288 meters, during a cabin decompression, and subsequent aircraft descent. During cabin decompressions in the F-104 and F-15, cabin pressure altitude was measured at various aircraft angles of attack, Mach numbers, and altitudes to determine the effect of the aerodynamic slipstream on the cabin altitude.

Keywords: High altitude; Partial pressure; Pressure suits; Protective clothing; Slipstreams.

*System Development Corp., Edwards, California.


Additional information was added to a growing data base from which estimates of finite element model complexities can be made with respect to thermal stress analysis. The manner in which temperatures were smeared to the finite element grid points was examined from the point of view of the impact on thermal stress calculations. The general comparison of calculated and measured thermal stresses is quite good and there is little doubt that the finite element approach provided by NASATRANS results in correct thermal stress calculations. Discrepancies did exist between measured and calculated values in the skin and the skin/frame junctures. The problems with predicting skin thermal stress were attributed to inadequate temperature inputs to the structural model rather than modeling insufficiencies. The discrepancies occurring at the skin/frame juncture were most likely due to insufficient modeling elements rather than temperature problems.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Airframe materials; Data correlation; Hypersonic heat transfer; Stress measurement.


The technique which relies on afterburner duct pressure measurements and empirical corrections to an ideal one dimensional flow analysis to determine thrust is presented. A comparison of the calculated and facility measured thrust values is reported. The simplified model with the engine manufacturer’s gas generator model are compared. The evaluation was conducted over a range of Mach numbers from 0.80 to 2.00 and at altitudes from 4020 meters to 15,240 meters. The effects of variations in inlet total temperature from standard day conditions were explored.

Engine conditions were varied from those normally scheduled for flight. The technique was found to be accurate to a twice standard deviation of 2.89 percent, with accuracy a strong function of afterburner duct pressure difference.

Key Words: Gross thrust; Engine performance


The remote multiplexer/digitizer unit for the airborne integrated flight test data system was subjected to a flight test environment in order to study its dynamic response and that of its associated instrumentation circuitry during an actual flight test. The shielding schemes and instrumentation used are described and the data obtained are analyzed.

Keywords: Analog to digital converters; Dynamic response; Electronic modules; Flight tests; Multiplexing.


The workshop provided a forum for industry and universities to discuss the state-of-the-art, identify the technology needs and opportunities, and describe the role of NASA in avionics and controls research.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The similitude requirements for the most general test conditions are presented. These similitude requirements are considered in relation to the scaling relationships, test technique, test conditions (including supersonic flow), and test objectives. Particular emphasis is placed on satisfying the various similitude requirements for incompressible and compressible flow conditions. For free flying models tests, the test velocities for incompressible flow are scaled from Froude number similitude requirements and those for compressible flow are scaled from Mach number similitude requirements. The limitations of various test techniques are indicated, with emphasis on the free flying model.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Flight characteristics; Parameterization; Scale models; Similitude law.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) program was conceived to demonstrate advanced technology concepts through scaled-aircraft flight tests using a remotely piloted technique. Closed-loop primary flight control is performed from a ground-based cockpit, utilizing a digital computer and up/down telemetry links. A backup flight control system for emergency operation resides in an onboard computer. The onboard systems are designed to provide fail-operational capabilities and utilize two microcomputers, dual uplink receiver/decoders, and redundant hydraulic actuation and power systems. This paper discusses the design and validation of the primary and backup digital flight control systems as well as the unique pilot and specialized systems interfaces.


The flight test performance of an adaptive control system for the F-8 DFBW aircraft is summarized. The adaptive system is based on explicit identification of surface effectiveness parameters which are used for gain scheduling in a command augmentation system. Performance of this control law under various design parameter variations is presented. These include variations in test signal level, sample rate, and identification channel structure. Flight performance closely matches analysis and simulation predictions from previous references.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


Flow visualization studies were conducted in a diagnostic water tunnel to provide details of the wing, glove, and forebody vortex flow fields of the F-15 aircraft over a range of angles of attack and sideslip. Both the formation and breakdown of the vortex flow as a function of angle of attack and sideslip are detailed for the basic aircraft configuration. Additional tests showed that the wing upper surface vortex flows were sensitive to variations in an inlet mass flow ratio and an inlet cowl cross-sectional shape, were tested in addition to the basic forebody. Asymmetric forebody vortices were observed at zero sideslip and high angles of attack on each forebody. A large nose boom was added to each of the three forebodies, and it was observed that the turbulent wake shed from the boom disrupted the forebody vortices.

*Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.


In order to compare and assess potential improvements, two control systems were modeled; the original first flight or prototype aircraft system, and a modification of the prototype system, which essentially reduced the overall gain for the takeoff and landing phase. In general, the overall system gain reduction of the modified flight control system was sufficient to avoid lateral pilot-induced oscillation tendencies. Lowering the system gain reduced the tendency to rate saturate, which resulted in correspondingly higher critical pilot gains for the same control input.


A rationale is presented for using the square of the wingspan rather than the wing reference area as a basis for nondimensional comparisons of the aerodynamic and performance characteristics of aircraft that differ substantially in planform and loading. Working relationships are developed and illustrated through application to several categories of aircraft covering a range of Mach numbers from 0.60 to 2.00. For each application, direct comparisons of drag polars, lift-to-drag ratios, and maneuverability are shown for both nondimensional systems. The inaccuracies that may arise in the determination of aerodynamic efficiency based on reference area are noted. Span loading is introduced independently in comparing the combined effects of loading and aerodynamic efficiency on overall performance. Performance comparisons are made for the NACA research aircraft, lifting bodies, century-series fighter aircraft, F-111A aircraft with conventional and supercritical wings, and a group of supersonic aircraft including the B-58 and XB-70 bomber aircraft. An idealized configuration is included in each category to serve as a standard for comparing overall efficiency.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamic configurations; Aircraft performance; Research aircraft; Wing span.

The basic problem of how to simply represent a curved web of a spar in a finite element structural model was addressed. The ratio of flat web to curved web axial deformations and longitudinal rotations were calculated using NASTRAN models. Multiplying factors were developed from these calculations for various web thicknesses. These multiplying factors can be applied directly to the area and moment of inertia inputs of the finite element model. This allows the thermal stress relieving configurations of sine wave and circular arc webs to be simply accounted for in finite element structural models.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Contours; NASTRAN; Shapes; Thermal stresses.


A NASTRAN model of a spar was examined to determine the sensitivity of calculated axial thermal stresses and bending stresses to changes in element density of the model. The thermal stresses calculated with three different element densities resulted in drastically differing values. The position of the constraint also significantly affected the value of the calculated thermal stresses. Mechanical stresses calculated from an applied loading were insensitive to element density.

Keywords: Density (mass/volume); Finite element method; NASTRAN; Structural members; Thermal stresses.

1069. Cooper, D. W.; and *James, R.: Shuttle Orbiter Radar Cross-Sectional Analysis. NASA TM-72870, H-1095, October 1979, 80N10276, #. PDF DTRS

Theoretical and model simulation studies on signal to noise levels and shuttle radar cross section are described. Pre-mission system calibrations, system configuration, and postmission system calibration of the tracking radars are described. Conversion of target range, azimuth, and elevation into radar centered east north vertical position coordinates are evaluated. The location of the impinging rf energy with respect to the target vehicles body axis triad is calculated. Cross section correlation between the two radars is presented.

Keywords: Radar cross sections; Radar tracking; Space shuttle orbiters; Space transportation system flights.

*James and Associates, Lancaster, California.


Wind-tunnel tests were performed on a scale model of a cab-over-engine tractor-trailer vehicle and several modifications of the model. Results from two of the model configurations were compared with full-scale drag data obtained from similar configurations during coast-down tests. Reductions in fuel consumption derived from these tests are presented in terms of fuel quantity and dollar savings per vehicle year, based on an annual driving distance of 160,900 km (100,000 mi). The projected savings varied from 13,001 (3435) to 25,848 (6829) liters (gallons) per year which translated to economic savings from $3435 to about $6829 per vehicle year for an operating speed of 88.5 km/h (55 mph) and wind speeds near the national average of 15.3 km/h (9.5 mph). The estimated cumulative fuel savings for the entire U.S. fleet of cab-over-engine tractor, van-type trailer combinations ranged from 4.18 million kl (26.3 million bbl) per year for a low-drag configuration to approximately twice that amount for a more advanced configuration.

*Kansas University, Lawrence, Kansas.


This paper shows that translational acceleration derivatives, such as pitching moment due to rate of change of angle of attack, $C_{m\alpha}$, can be estimated from flight data with the use of appropriately design maneuvers. No new development of estimation methodology is necessary to analyze these maneuvers. Flight data from a T-37B airplane were used to verify that $C_{m\alpha}$ could be estimated from rolling maneuvers.

1072. Steers, L. L.: Flight-Measured Afterbody Pressure Coefficients From an Airplane Having Twin Side-By-Side Jet Engines for Mach Numbers From 0.6 to 1.6. NASA TP-1549, H-1066, November 1979, 80N11035, #. PDF DTRS

Afterbody pressure distribution data were obtained in flight from an airplane having twin side-by-side jet exhausts. The data were obtained in level flight at Mach numbers from 0.60 to 1.60 and at elevated load factors for Mach numbers of 0.60, 0.90, and 1.20. The test altitude varied from 2300 meters (7500 feet) to 15,200 meters (50,000 feet) over a speed range that provided a matrix of constant Mach number and constant unit Reynolds number test conditions. The results of the full-scale flight afterbody pressure distribution program are presented in the form of plotted pressure distributions and tabulated pressure coefficients with Mach number, angle of attack, engine nozzle pressure ratio, and unit Reynolds number as controlled parameters.

Keywords: Afterbodies; Fighter aircraft; In-flight monitoring;
Important aspects of estimating the unknown coefficients of the aircraft equations of motion from dynamic flight data are presented. The primary topic is the application of the maximum likelihood estimation technique. Basic considerations that must be addressed in the estimation of stability and control derivatives from conventional flight maneuvers are discussed. Some complex areas of estimation (such as estimation in the presence of atmospheric turbulence, estimation of acceleration derivatives, and analysis of maneuvers where both kinematic and aerodynamic coupling are present) are also discussed.

Extreme value statistics obtained from normally distributed data are considered. An extreme mean is defined as the mean of p-th probability truncated normal distribution. An unbiased estimate of this extreme mean and its large sample distribution are derived. The distribution of this estimate even for very large samples is found to be nonnormal. Further, as the sample size increases, the variance of the unbiased estimate converges to the Cramer-Rao lower bound. The computer program used to obtain the density and distribution functions of the standardized unbiased estimate, and the confidence intervals of the extreme mean for any data are included for ready application. An example is included to demonstrate the usefulness of extreme mean application.

Keywords: Computer programs; Mean; Normal density functions; Probability distribution functions; Range (extremes).

*System Development Corporation, Edwards, California.

The coefficient of friction was determined for steel skids with and without skegs. The addition of a 1.27 centimeter deep skeg caused the coefficient of friction to increase from an average value of .36 to .53, a 47 percent increase over the flat skid. The addition of a .64 centimeter deep skeg increased the friction coefficient from .36 to .46, a 16 percent increase over the flat skid. Comparisons are made with data for similar test conditions obtained during the X-15 program.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Coefficient of friction; Landing gear; Skid Landings; Steel structures.

Low-speed, static wind-tunnel tests were conducted to explore the effects of fighter fuselage forebody geometry on lateral-directional characteristics at high angles of attack and to provide data for general design procedures. Effects of eight different forebody configurations and several add-on devices (e.g., nose strakes, boundary-layer trip wires, and nose booms) were investigated. Tests showed that forebody design features such as fineness ratio, cross-sectional shape, and add-on devices can have a significant influence on both lateral-directional and longitudinal aerodynamic stability. Several of the forebodies produced both lateral-directional symmetry and strong favorable changes in lateral-directional stability. However, the same results also indicated that such forebody designs can produce significant reductions in longitudinal stability near maximum lift and can significantly change the influence of other configuration variables. The addition of devices to highly tailored forebody designs also can significantly degrade the stability improvements provided by the clean forebody.

Keywords: High angle of attack; Aerodynamics; Forebody effects; Stability and control.

1980 Technical Publications

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Keywords: Aircraft structures; Coefficient of friction; Landing gear; Skid Landings; Steel structures.

Room-temperature loading tests were conducted on a wing structure designed with a beaded panel concept for a Mach 8 hypersonic research airplane. Strain, stress, and deflection data were compared with the results of three finite-element structural analysis computer programs and with design data. The test program data were used to evaluate the structural concept and the methods of analysis used in the design. A force stiffness technique was utilized in conjunction with load conditions which produced various combinations of panel shear and compression loading to determine the failure envelope of the buckling critical beaded panels. The force-stiffness data did not result in any predictions of buckling failure. It was, therefore, concluded that the panels were conservatively designed as a result of design constraints and assumptions of panel eccentricities. The analysis programs calculated strains and stresses competently. Comparisons between calculated and measured structural deflections showed good agreement. The test program offered a positive
demonstration of the beaded panel concept subjected to room-temperature load conditions.

Keywords: Hypersonic aircraft; Load tests; Spot welds; Stress-strain diagrams; Wing panels.


Flyover measurements of the airframe noise produced by the AeroCommander, JetStar, CV-990, and B-747 airplanes are presented for various landing approach configurations. Empirical and semiempirical techniques are presented to correlate the measured airframe noise with airplane design and aerodynamic parameters. Airframe noise for the jet-powered airplanes in the clean configuration (flaps and gear retracted) was found to be adequately represented by a function of airplane weight and the fifth power of airspeed. Results show the airframe noise for all four aircraft in the landing configuration (flaps extended and gear down) also varied with the fifth power of airspeed, but this noise level could not be represented by the addition of a constant to the equation for clean-configuration airframe noise.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Aircraft noise; Airframes; Approach; Noise measurement.


Boundary-layer transition location measurements were made on a 10-deg sharp cone in 23 wind tunnels of the US and Europe and in flight. The data were acquired at subsonic, transonic, and supersonic Mach numbers over a range of unit Reynolds numbers to obtain an improved understanding of wind tunnel flow quality influence. Cone surface microphone measurements showed Tollmien-Schlichting waves present. Transition location defined by pitot probe measurements showed transition Reynolds number to be correlatable to cone surface disturbance amplitude within ±20 percent for the majority of tunnel and flight data.

*ARO, Inc., Arnold Air Force Station, Tennessee.


An aeroacoustic test program was performed with a YF-12 aircraft at aerodynamic data that could determine the cause of inlet noise suppression observed earlier. The first results of the test program are presented here. There was no indication that the flow was close to choking. The data indicated significant reduction in sound pressure level (SPL) across the strut and bypass region at frequencies near the blade passing. Far-field data showed that the maximum sound pressure level near the blade-passing frequency was at zero degrees from the inlet centerline.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


The paper presents the flight-measured nozzle afterbody surface pressures and engine exhaust nozzle pressure-area integrated axial force coefficients on a twin-jet fighter for varying boattail angles. The objective of the tests was to contribute to a full-scale flight data base applicable to the nozzle afterbody drag of advanced tactical fighter concepts. The data were acquired during the NASA F-15 Propulsion/Airframe Interactions Flight Research Program. Nozzle boattail angles from 7.7 deg to 18.1 deg were investigated. Results are presented for cruise angle of attack at Mach numbers from 0.6 to 2.0 at altitudes from 20,000 to 45,000 feet. The data show the nozzle axial force coefficients to be a strong function of nozzle boattail angle and Mach number.


This paper describes a new superplastically formed/diffusion-bonded (SPF/DB) orthogonally corrugated sandwich structure, and presents formulae and the associated plots for evaluating the effective elastic constants for the core of this new sandwich structure. Comparison of structural properties of this new sandwich structure with the conventional honeycomb core sandwich structure was made under the condition of equal sandwich density. It was found that the SPF/DB orthogonally corrugated sandwich core has higher transverse shear stiffness than the conventional honeycomb sandwich core. However, the former has lower stiffness in the sandwich core thickness direction than the latter.

This paper discusses means of assessing the accuracy of maximum likelihood parameter estimates obtained from dynamic flight data. The commonly used analytical predictors of accuracy are compared from both statistical and simplified geometric standpoints. Emphasizing practical considerations, such as modeling error, the accuracy predictions are evaluated with real and simulated data. Improved computations of the Cramer-Rao bound to correct large discrepancies caused by colored noise and modeling error are presented. This corrected Cramer-Rao bound is the best available analytical predictor of accuracy. Engineering judgment, aided by such analytical tools, is the final arbiter of accuracy estimation.

A program was undertaken by NASA to evaluate the accuracy of a method for predicting the aerodynamic characteristics of large supersonic cruise aircraft. This program compared predicted and flight-measured lift, drag, angle of attack, and control surface deflection for the XB-70-1 airplane for 14 flight conditions with a Mach number range from 0.76 to 2.56. The predictions were derived from wind-tunnel test data of a 0.03-scale model of the XB-70-1 airplane fabricated to represent the aeroelastically deformed shape at a 2.5 Mach number cruise condition. Corrections for shape variations at the other Mach numbers were included in the prediction. For most cases, differences between predicted and measured values were within the accuracy of the comparison. However, there were significant differences at transonic Mach numbers. At a Mach number of 1.06 differences were as large as 27 percent in the drag coefficients and 20 deg in the elevator deflections. A brief analysis indicated that a significant part of the difference between drag coefficients was due to the incorrect prediction of the control surface deflection required to trim the airplane.

Results of analytical and experimental studies are summarized for titanium, boron fiber reinforced aluminum matrix composite, Borsic fiber reinforced aluminum matrix composite, and titanium sheathed Borsic fiber reinforced aluminum matrix composite stiffened panels. The results indicate that stiffened panels with continuous joints (i.e., brazed, diffusion bonded or adhesive bonded joints) are more structurally efficient than geometrically similar panels with discrete joints (i.e., spotwelded or bolted joints). In addition, results for various types of fiber reinforced aluminum matrix stiffened panels indicate that titanium sheathed Borsic fiber reinforced aluminum matrix composite panels are the most structurally efficient. Analytical results are also presented for graphite fiber reinforced polyimide matrix composite stiffened panels and superplastically formed and diffusion bonded titanium sandwich panels.

Keywords: Composite; Compression panel; Superplastic forming; Diffusion bonding

Aerospace dynamics, control theory, and stability are discussed. This paper discusses means of assessing the accuracy of maximum likelihood parameter estimates obtained from dynamic flight data. The commonly used analytical predictors of accuracy are compared from both statistical and simplified geometric standpoints. Emphasizing practical considerations, such as modeling error, the accuracy predictions are evaluated with real and simulated data. Improved computations of the Cramer-Rao bound to correct large discrepancies caused by colored noise and modeling error are presented. This corrected Cramer-Rao bound is the best available analytical predictor of accuracy. Engineering judgment, aided by such analytical tools, is the final arbiter of accuracy estimation.

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Analysis of a longitudinal pilot-induced oscillation (PIO) experienced just prior to touchdown on the final flight of the space shuttle’s approach landing tests indicated that the source of the problem was a combination of poor basic handling qualities aggravated by time delays through the digital flight control computer and rate limiting of the elevator actuators due to high pilot gain. A nonlinear PIO suppression (PIOS) filter was designed and developed to alleviate the vehicle’s PIO tendencies by reducing the gain in the command path. From analytical and simulator studies it was shown that the PIOS filter, in an adaptive fashion, can attenuate the PIO tendencies by reducing the gain in the command path.

The basic reference material for gust design criteria are cited. The status of clear air turbulence meteorology (forecasting and detection) is discussed. The directions of further research technology is indicated.

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Formulas and associated graphs for evaluating the effective elastic constants for a superplastically formed/diffusion bonded (SPF/DB) corrugated sandwich core, are presented. A comparison of structural stiffnesses of the sandwich core and a honeycomb core under conditions of equal sandwich core density was made. The stiffness in the thickness direction of the optimum SPF/DB corrugated core (that is, triangular truss core) is lower than that of the honeycomb core, and that the former has higher transverse shear stiffness than the latter.

Keywords: Diffusion welding; Elastic properties; Sandwich structures; Structural stability; Superplasticity.


A flying qualities evaluation conducted on the YF-17 airplane permitted assessment of its precision controllability in the transonic flight regime over the allowable angle of attack range. The precision controllability (tailchase tracking) study was conducted in constant-g and windup turn tracking maneuvers with the command augmentation system (CAS) on, automatic maneuver flaps, and the caged piper gunsight depressed 70 mils. This study showed that the YF-17 airplane tracks essentially as well at 7 g's to 8 g's as earlier fighters did at 4 g's to 5 g's before they encountered wing rock. The pilots considered the YF-17 airplane one of the best tracking airplanes they had flown. Wing rock at the higher angles of attack degraded tracking precision, and lack of control harmony made precision controllability more difficult. The revised automatic maneuver flap schedule incorporated in the airplane at the time of the tests did not appear to be optimum. The largest tracking errors and greatest pilot workload occurred at high normal load factors at low angles of attack. The pilots reported that the high-g maneuvers caused some tunnel vision and that they found it difficult to think clearly after repeated maneuvers.

Keywords: Controllability; F-17 aircraft; Maneuverability; Pilot performance; Tracking (position).

1090. Larson, T. J.; *Flechner, S. G.; and *Siemers, P. M., III: Wind Tunnel Investigation of an All Flush Orifice Air Data System for a Large Subsonic Aircraft. NASA TP-1642, H-1085, May 1980, 80N23304, #. PDF DTRS

The results of a wind tunnel investigation on an all flush orifice air data system for use on a KC-135A aircraft are presented. The investigation was performed to determine the applicability of fixed all flush orifice air data systems that use only aircraft surfaces for orifices on the nose of the model (in a configuration similar to that of the shuttle entry air data system) provided the measurements required for the determination of stagnation pressure, angle of attack, and angle of sideslip. For the measurement of static pressure, additional flush orifices in positions on the sides of the fuselage corresponding to those in a standard pitot-static system were required. An acceptable but less accurate system, consisting of orifices only on the nose of the model, is defined and discussed.

Keywords: Air data systems; C-135 aircraft; Data acquisition; Orifices; Pressure measurement.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Some results for the bivariate normal distribution analysis are presented. Computer programs for conditional normal probabilities, marginal probabilities, as well as joint probabilities for rectangular regions are given: routines for computing fractile points and distribution functions are also presented. Some examples from a closed circuit television experiment are included.

Keywords: Bivariate analysis; Computer programs; Probability distribution functions.

*System Development Corporation, Edwards, California.


The paper concerns the elastic buckling behavior of a newly developed superplastically formed/diffusion-bonded (SPF/DB) orthogonally corrugated core sandwich plate. Uniaxial buckling loads were calculated for this type of sandwich plate with simply supported edges by using orthotropic sandwich plate theory. The buckling behavior of this sandwich plate was then compared with that of an SPF/DB unidirectionally corrugated core sandwich plate under conditions of equal structural density. It was found that the buckling load for the former was considerably higher than that of the latter.


The use of the remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) in
aeronautical research is surveyed. The flight test experience that has been acquired with several types of RPRV’s including those with a pilot in the loop is emphasized. The approaches utilized range from the simplest and least expensive of vehicles, such as the Minisniffer, to the sophisticated highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) RPRV. The advantages and disadvantages of RPRV’s are discussed, as well as safety considerations. The ground rules set early in a program can profoundly affect program cost effectiveness and timeliness.


The United States Army Aviation Engineering Flight Activity conducted a Preliminary Airworthiness Evaluation of the AH-1S helicopter with OGEE tip-shape main rotor blades to determine if any improvement in performance or handling qualities resulted from replacing the K747 blades. Additionally, the acoustics signature of the OGEE blades were measured by the US Army Research and Technology Laboratories (Aeromechanics Lab). Tests were conducted at Edwards Air Force Base (elevation 2302 feet) and Coyote Flats (elevation 9980 feet), California from 1 November 1979 through 8 April 1980. Forty-five test flights were flown for a total of 36.6 productive hours (63.2 total hours). Both hover and level flight performance were degraded by installation of OGEE tip-shape main rotor blades. Low-speed handling qualities were unaffected by the OGEE blades. Other handling qualities tests were not accomplished. Results of acoustics tests will be reported by the laboratories under a separate cover.


A superplasticity formed/diffusion-bonded (SPF/DB) orthogonally corrugated core sandwich structure is discussed and its structural behavior is compared to that of a conventional honeycomb core sandwich structure. The stiffness and buckling characteristics of the two types of sandwich structures are compared under conditions of equal structural density. It is shown that under certain conditions, the SPF/DB orthogonally corrugated core sandwich structure is slightly more efficient than the optimum honeycomb core (square-cell core) sandwich structure. However, under different conditions, this effect can be reversed.


A finite element analysis is presented for the Mode I fracture behavior of cracked plates (stationary crack) made of different nonlinear materials (elastoplastic or elastic locking). The assumed stress-strain behavior of the nonlinear materials was piecewise linear. For each given “stationary” crack size, the corresponding critical remote tensile stress was calculated based on the maximum crack-tip stress failure criterion. It was found that in the log-log plots of the critical remote stress versus critical crack length, the fracture data of the piecewise linear materials obey a “stepwise-linear-inverse-square-root” fracture law. It is also shown how the fracture data of the piecewise linear materials can be fitted by proper piecewise graphical shifting of the classical “inverse-square-root” fracture curve for the linearly elastic materials.


The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle is discussed with emphasis on the advanced composite and metallic structures, digital fly-by-wire controls, and digitally implemented integrated propulsion control systems. Techniques used to qualify the systems for flight are examined. Computation and simulation of the HiMAT system are investigated in relation to Cyber-Varian simulation. The techniques used in flight qualification are complicated by ground based flight critical systems and severe onboard volume constraints imposed by the scale design.


*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight test results obtained with the original Mach hold autopilot designed the YF-12C airplane which uses elevator control and a newly developed Mach hold system having an autothrottle integrated with an altitude hold autopilot system are presented. The autothrottle tests demonstrate good speed control at high Mach numbers and high altitudes while simultaneously maintaining control over altitude and good ride qualities. The autothrottle system was designed to control either Mach number or knots equivalent airspeed
Excellent control of Mach number or KEAS was obtained with the autothrottle system when combined with altitude hold. Ride qualities were significantly better than with the conventional Mach hold system.

Keywords: Airspeed; Automatic pilots; Flight control; Flight tests; Mach number; YF-12 aircraft; Flight simulation; Kinetic energy; Potential energy; Supersonic speed


The flow over a 5 deg problem for the flow over aircraft forebodies. A computational method utilizing the conically symmetric Navier-Stokes equations is used to obtain theoretical flow results which are compared with experimental data from the Ames Research Center 6- by 6-Foot Wind Tunnel and with results from a cone model sting mounted on an F-15 aircraft. The computed results agree well with the wind-tunnel data but less well with the flight data. Modification of the algebraic turbulence model was necessary to reflect an apparent lower turbulence level in flight than was present in the wind tunnel.

*USAF, Flight Dynamics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
**NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The helicopter characteristics with which instrumentation must contend with are discussed. Typical tests that are conducted are outlined. Major aircraft components and systems which may be instrumented are listed and suggestions are made for sensors, locations, and installation. Instrumentation requirements are summarized. A sample instrumentation management technique is also presented.

*National Aerospace Lab., Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
**Army Aviation Research and Development Command, Edwards AFB, California.


The evolution of flight test instrumentation systems during the last decade reflects the radical changes of electronic measuring techniques. Nevertheless the basic principles of measurement methods are essentially unchanged and the sensors for flow and pressure measurements have experienced only slight changes. The fundamentals of flow and pressure measurements are explained from the viewpoint of flight test instrumentation. An overview of modern instrumentation is given with important applications to altitude measurement, vertical and horizontal speed measurement, boundary layer, wake and engine flow measurement. The scope of this manual is to give self consistent information on the different techniques and systems and to give references for a more detailed study of special techniques.

*DFVLR, Goettingen, West Germany.
**National Aerospace Lab., Amsterdam, the Netherlands.


Formulas for evaluating the effective elastic constants for a superplastically formed/diffusion-bonded (SPF/DB) unidirectionally corrugated core sandwich structure like that shown in Fig. 1 are presented. This structure is formed by diffusion bonding three superplastic alloy sheets (two face sheets and one core sheet) in the selected areas and then superplastically expanding the multiple sheet pack inside a die cavity by using gas pressure. Thus, this structure is slightly different from the conventional corrugated-core sandwich structure because the corrugation leg does not have uniform thickness. Because of superplastic expansion, the diagonal segment of the corrugation leg is always thinner than the flat segment (crest or trough) of the corrugation leg, which has a thickness that is nearly the pre-expansion thickness. Thus, the results given by Ref. 2 for a corrugated-core sandwich plate cannot be used in the present structure without considerable modification.


The time-domain equations of motion of elastic airfoil sections forced by control surface motions and gusts were developed for the case of incompressible flow. Extensive use was made of special functions related to the inverse transform of Theodorsen’s function. Approximations for the special cases of zero stream velocity, small time, large and time are given. A numerical solution technique for the solution of the general case is given. Examples of the exact transient response of an airfoil are presented.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aircraft structures; Airfoils; Equations of motion; Flutter; Incompressible flow; Transient response

*University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles,
The use of control system design to enhance high-angle of attack flying qualities and departure/spin resistance has become an accepted and widely used approach for modern fighter aircraft. NASA and the Navy are currently conducting a joint research program to investigate the application of this technology to the F-14. The paper discusses the results of this program within the context of its contributions to advancing high-alpha control system technology. General topics covered include (1) analysis and design tools, (2) control system design approach, and (3) flight test approach and results.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

**References**


NASA is currently conducting flight tests of a remotely piloted subscale advanced fighter configuration as part of the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) program. This paper describes the initial development, user modification, and flight test experience of a back-up control system (BCS) contained within one of two onboard microprocessors. The development of the BCS proceeded in two distinct steps: the initial contractor development of control laws and logic to satisfy BCS design objectives, and user modifications required to satisfy operational requirements. A brief resume of flight qualification procedures and pilot comments is presented.

*Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, San Diego, California.


In this paper, the integration of wind tunnel and flight test procedures are studied for specifying aerodynamic model forms. A procedure is described which employs a stepwise regression method to systematically determine model structures and F-ratio statistics to rank the importance of each aerodynamic coefficient within a given model. Application of this technique and wind tunnel procedures to an oblique-wing aircraft indicate that the aircraft’s measured and estimated response are in good agreement at both small and large wing skew angles.

*Systems Control, Inc., Palo Alto, California.


This paper presents the results of a study of the feasibility of using low order equivalent mathematical models of a highly augmented aircraft, the F-8 digital fly-by-wire (DFBW), for flying qualities research. Increasingly complex models were formulated and evaluated using flight data and maximum likelihood estimation techniques. The aircraft actuator was modeled alone first. Next the equivalent derivatives were used to model the longitudinal unaugmented F-8 DFBW aircraft dynamics. The most complex model incorporated a pure time shift of the pilot input, a first order lag, and the basic longitudinal airframe model. This same model was then implemented for the F-8 DFBW aircraft in a highly augmented mode. Excellent matching of the dynamics resulted for this model, indicating that low order equivalent models which are good representations of the highly augmented F-8 DFBW aircraft can be formulated with these methods.


An in-flight investigation of the effect of pure time delays on low L/D space shuttle type landing tasks was undertaken. The results indicate that the sensitivity of the pilot ratings to changes in pure time delay in pitch is strongly affected by the task and only slightly affected by changes in control system augmentation mode. Low L/D spot landings from a lateral offset were twice as sensitive to pure time delay as normal low L/D landings. For comparison purposes, formation flying was also investigated, and was found to be less sensitive to time delay than the landing tasks.


In this paper, a practical algorithm for parameter estimation with process and measurement noise is formulated and demonstrated. A mathematical model of a highly augmented aircraft is used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the algorithm. Both linear and nonlinear models are considered.
A new formulation is proposed for the problem of parameter estimation of dynamic systems with both process and measurement noise. The formulation gives estimates that are maximum likelihood asymptotically in time. The means used to overcome the difficulties encountered by previous formulations are discussed. It is then shown how the proposed formulation can be efficiently implemented in a computer program. A computer program using the proposed formulation is available in a form suitable for routine application. Examples with simulated and real data are given to illustrate that the program works well.


As part of a program to improve the approach and landing characteristics of the Space Shuttle, the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed an adaptive algorithm that varies the longitudinal stick gearing to reduce the Shuttle’s tendency for pilot-induced oscillation (PIO). This paper describes the algorithm, which is known as the PIO suppresser, and discusses some of the tradeoffs involved in optimizing the system. The results of fixed-base, moving-base, and in-flight simulations of the PIO suppresser are presented.


The unmanned, remotely piloted, unpowered, spin research vehicle was used to evaluate the effects of the nose boom and of a wind tunnel-designed nose strake on the vehicle’s stall/spin characteristics. The flight-determined directional stability derivatives and the attempted spin entries indicated that the vehicle with a nose strake had increased resistance to departure and spin. The acquisition of high quality steady spin data for this vehicle was made possible by the remotely piloted technique. The zero control smooth spin modes were found to be highly repeatable for a given configuration and to vary with forebody configuration. Several spin recovery techniques, including a nose parachute, are also evaluated.


The use of real time simulation in the development and validation of flight software for the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle is described. Four simulations are interfaced with varying amounts of actual flight hardware to produce dynamic system operation.

1114. Larson, T. J.; and *Siemers, P. M., III: Use of Nose Cap and Fuselage Pressure Orifices for Determination of Air Data for Space Shuttle Orbiter Below Supersonic Speeds. NASA TP-1643, H-1096, September 1980, 80N32359, #. PDF DTRS

Wind tunnel pressure measurements were acquired from orifices on a 0.1 scale forebody model of the space shuttle orbiter that were arranged in a preliminary configuration of the shuttle entry air data system (SEADS). Pressures from those and auxiliary orifices were evaluated for their ability to provide air data at subsonic and transonic speeds. The orifices were on the vehicle’s nose cap and on the sides of the forebody forward of the cabin. The investigation covered a Mach number range of 0.25 to 1.40 and an angle of attack range from 4 deg. to 18 deg. An air data system consisting of nose cap and forebody fuselage orifices constitutes a complete and accurate air data system at subsonic and transonic speeds. For Mach numbers less than 0.80 orifices confined to the nose cap can be used as a complete and accurate air data system. Air data systems that use only flush pressure orifices can be used to determine basic air data on other aircraft at subsonic and transonic speeds.

Keywords: Orifice flow; Pressure gradients; Space shuttle orbiters; Subsonic speed: Transonic speed.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Delta wings; Hypersonic flight; Low aspect ratio wings; Strain gages.


Flight experience with both current and advanced redundancy management schemes was gained in recent flight research programs using the F-8 digital fly by wire aircraft. The flight performance of fault detection, isolation, and reconfiguration (FDIR) methods for sensors, computers, and actuators is reviewed. Results of induced failures as well as of actual random failures are discussed. Deficiencies in modeling and
implementation techniques are also discussed. The paper also presents comparison of multisensor tracking in smooth air, in turbulence, during large maneuvers, and during maneuvers typical of those of large commercial transport aircraft. The results of flight tests of an advanced analytic redundancy management algorithm are compared with the performance of a contemporary algorithm in terms of time to detection, false alarms, and missed alarms. The performance of computer redundancy management in both iron bird and flight tests is also presented.

**AD-1 Oblique Wing Airplane**


The oblique wing concept for super- and subsonic transport was assessed by analysis and wind tunnel radio control model and remotely piloted vehicle testing. A one-sixth scale wind tunnel model and a low speed manned oblique wing research airplane (AD-1) were developed. Model wind tunnel test data on dynamic structural response characteristics were used in a simulator to develop the control system. The airplane is of simple design with fiber glass skin, weight of approximately 2100 lbs and speeds of up to 175 knots at altitudes up to 15,000 ft. Flight testing will investigate handling and flying qualities, oblique wing flight control characteristics, aeroelastic wing design and will compare actual with predicted aerodynamic characteristics. Nineteen flights were made at 12,000 to 13,000 feet with speeds of 100-160 knots. Flutter clearance as a function of wing sweep angle is now under investigation.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.*


A user’s manual for the FORTRAN IV computer program MMLE3 is described. It is a maximum likelihood parameter estimation program capable of handling general bilinear dynamic equations of arbitrary order with measurement noise and/or state noise (process noise). The theory and use of the program is described. The basic MMLE3 program is quite general and, therefore, applicable to a wide variety of problems. The basic program can interact with a set of user written program specific routines to simplify the use of the program on specific systems. A set of user routines for the aircraft stability and control derivative estimation problem is provided with the program.

Keywords: Computer programs; Flight tests; FORTRAN; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification.


Skin temperatures, shear forces, surface static pressures, boundary layer pitot pressures, and boundary layer total temperatures were measured on the external surface of a hollow cylinder that was 3.04 meters long and 0.437 meter in diameter and was mounted beneath the fuselage of the YF-12A airplane. The data were obtained at a nominal free stream Mach number of 3.0 (a local Mach number of 2.9) and at wall to recovery temperature ratios of 0.66 to 0.91. The local Reynolds number had a nominal value of 4,300,000 per meter. Heat transfer coefficients and skin friction coefficients were derived from skin temperature time histories and shear force measurements, respectively. In addition, boundary layer velocity profiles were derived from pitot pressure measurements, and a Reynolds analogy factor was obtained from the heat transfer and skin friction measurements. The measured data are compared with several boundary layer prediction methods.

Keywords: Cylindrical bodies; Heat transfer coefficients; Mach number; Static pressure.


A technique which may be useful for selecting strain gages for use in load equations is described. The technique is an adaptation of the previously used T-value method and is applied to a multispar structure. The technique, called the modified T-value method, is used to reduce the number of
strain gages used in a load equation from twelve to two. A parallel reduction is made by calculating relative equation accuracies from three applied load distributions. The equations developed from the modified T-value method proved to be accurate more consistently than the T-value method.

Keywords: Graphs (charts); Load distribution (forces); Regression coefficients; Strain gages; Tables (data).


A Mach 6 flight was simulated in order to examine heating effects on three frame/skin specimens. The specimens included: a titanium truss frame with a lockalloy skin; a stainless steel z-frame with a lockalloy skin; and a titanium z-frame with a lockalloy skin. Thermal stresses and temperature were measured on these specimens for the purpose of examining their efficiency, performance, and integrity. Measured thermal stresses were examined with respect to material yield strengths, buckling criteria, structural weight, and geometric locations. Principal thermal stresses were studied from the standpoint of uniaxial stress assumptions. Measured thermal stresses were compared to predicted values.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Structural analysis; Thermal stresses; Flight simulation; Performance tests; Stainless steel; Temperature measurement; Titanium alloy


A natural laminar flow airfoil has been developed as a part of the aircraft energy efficiency program. A NASA flight program incorporating this airfoil into partial wing gloves on the F-111 TACT airplane was scheduled to start in May, 1980. In support of this research effort, an extensive boundary layer stability analysis of the partial glove has been conducted. The results of that analysis show the expected effects of wing leading-edge sweep angle, Reynolds number, and compressibility on boundary layer stability and transition. These results indicate that it should be possible to attain on the order of 60% laminar flow on the upper surface and 50% laminar flow on the lower surface for sweep angles of at least 20 deg, chord Reynolds numbers of 25 x 10 to the 6th and Mach numbers from 0.81 to 0.85.


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This report highlights the research and technology (R & T) accomplishments of the Dryden Flight Research Center in FY 1980. FY 1980 has been an active and productive year at Dryden, with activities ranging from shuttle tile tests to support the space shuttle program to conducting a wide variety of aeronautics programs. First flights were made on the AD-1, DAST I, F-14 (ARI), and F-111 aircraft with natural laminar flow (NFL) modifications. Dryden has acquired a new VTOL test facility from the Air Force Flight Test Center to support VTOL flight research, and the tilt rotor research aircraft arrived at the Center for flight tests in FY 1981. One of the two control rooms for the new mission control center attained operational status during FY 1980, and the second will be operational by the end of CY 1980 to support shuttle missions. The technical reports, papers, and articles published in FY 1980 are listed at the end of this volume, as is a summary of the R & T flight activities.


The AD-1 airplane was designed as a low cost, low speed manned research tool to evaluate the flying qualities of the oblique wing concept. The airplane is constructed primarily of foam and fiberglass and incorporates simplicity in terms of the onboard systems. There are no hydraulics, the control system is cable and torque tube, and the electrical systems consist of engine driven generators which power the battery for engine start, cockpit gages, trim motors, and the onboard data system. The propulsion systems consist of two Microturbo TRS-18 engines sea level trust rated at 220 pounds. The airplane weighs approximately 2100 pounds and has a performance potential in the range of 200 knots and an altitude of 15,000 feet.

1981 Technical Publications


A simplified gross thrust calculation technique was evaluated in flight tests on an F-15 aircraft using prototype F100-PW-100 engines. The technique relies on afterburner duct pressure measurements and empirical corrections to an ideal one-dimensional analysis to determine thrust. In-flight gross thrust calculated by the simplified method is compared to gross thrust calculated by the engine manufacturer’s gas generator model. The evaluation was conducted at Mach numbers from 0.6 to 1.5 and at altitudes from 6000 meters to
13,700 meters. The flight evaluation shows that the simplified gross thrust method and the gas generator method agreed within plus or minus 3 percent. The discrepancies between the data generally fell within an uncertainty band derived from instrumentation errors and recording system resolution.

Keywords: F-15 aircraft; Gas generators; In-flight monitoring; Jet thrust; Turbofan engines.


The three-dimensional leeward separation about a 5 deg semi-angle cone at an 11 deg angle of attack was investigated in flight, in the wind tunnel, and by numerical computations. The test conditions were Mach numbers of 0.6, 1.5, and 1.8 at Reynolds numbers between 7 and 10 million based on free-stream conditions and a 30-inch wetted length or surface. The surface conditions measured included mean static and fluctuating pressures; skin friction magnitudes and separation line positions were obtained using obstacle blocks. The mean static pressures from flight and wind tunnel were in good agreement. The computed results gave the same distributions, but were slightly more positive in magnitude. The experimentally measured primary and secondary separation line locations compared closely with computed results. There were substantial differences in level and in trend between the surface root-mean-square pressure fluctuations obtained in flight and in the wind tunnel, due, it is thought, to a relatively high acoustic disturbance level in the tunnel compared with the quiescent conditions in flight.

*3-D Flowz, Inc., Moffett Field, California.
**USAF, Moffett Field, California.


Indications of the climatological distribution of wind shear and temperature lapse and inversion rates as observed by rawinsonde measurements over the western United States are recorded. Frequencies of the strongest shear, lapse rates, and inversion layer strengths were observed for a 1 year period of record and were tabulated for the lower troposphere, the upper troposphere, and five altitude intervals in the lower stratosphere. Selected bivariate frequencies were also tabulated. Strong wind shears, lapse rates, and inversion are observed less frequently as altitude increases from 175 millibars to 20 millibars. On a seasonal basis the frequencies were higher in winter than in summer except for minor stratospheric wind reversal in the spring and fall.

Keywords: Clear air turbulence; Climatology; High altitude; Lapse rate; Temperature inversions.


The aeroelastically tailored outer wing and canard of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle are closely examined and a general description of the overall structure of the vehicle is provided. Test data in the form of laboratory measured twist under load and predicted twist from the HiMAT NASTRAN structural design program are compared. The results of this comparison indicate that the measured twist is generally less than the NASTRAN predicted twist. These discrepancies in twist predictions are attributed, at least in part, to the inability of current analytical composite materials programs to provide sufficiently accurate properties of matrix dominated laminates for input into structural programs such as NASTRAN.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aircraft structures; Canard configurations; Composite structures; Structural analysis.


A triplex digital fly by wire flight control system was developed and installed in an F-8C aircraft to provide fail operative, full authority control. Hardware and software redundancy management techniques were designed to detect and identify failures in the system. Control functions typical of those projected for future actively controlled vehicles were implemented.


A supercritical airfoil section was designed with favorable pressure gradients on both the upper and lower surfaces. Wind tunnel tests were conducted in the Langley 8 Foot Transonic Pressure Tunnel. The outer wing panels of the F-111 TACT airplane were modified to incorporate partial span test gloves having the natural laminar, flow profile. Instrumentation was installed to provide surface pressure data as well as to determine transition location and boundary layer characteristics. The flight experiment encompassed 19 flights conducted with and without transition fixed at several locations for wing leading edge sweep angles which varied from 10 to 26 at Mach numbers from 0.80 to 0.85 and
altitudes of 7620 meters and 9144 meters. Preliminary results indicate that a large portion of the test chord experienced laminar flow.

**ECN-11484**

**KC-135 Airplane With Winglets**


Three KC-135 winglet configurations were flight tested for cant/incidence angles of 15 deg/–4 deg, 15 deg/–2 deg, and 0 deg/–4 deg, as well as the basic wing. The flight results for the 15 deg/–4 deg and basic wing configurations confirm the wind tunnel predicted 7% incremental decrease in total drag at cruise conditions. The 15 deg/–4 configuration flight measured wing and winglet pressure distributions, loads, stability and control, flutter, and buffet also correlate well with predicted values. The only unexpected flight results as compared with analytical predictions is a flutter speed decrease for the 0 deg/–4 deg configuration. The 15 deg/–2 deg configuration results show essentially the same incremental drag reduction as the 15 deg/–4 deg configuration; however, the flight loads are approximately 30% higher for the 15 deg/–2 deg configuration. The drag data for the 0 deg/–4 deg configuration show only a flight drag reduction.

1132. Harney, P. F.: **Diversity Techniques for Omnidirectional Telemetry Coverage of the HiMAT Research Vehicle.** NASA TP-1830, H-1133, **March 1981,** 81N20074, #. PDF DTRS

The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) was flight tested and a number of technological advances applicable to future fighter aircraft were demonstrated. The aircraft control system uses airborne and ground-based computers which communicate via uplink and downlink telemetry. Antenna radiation patterns are normally much less than ideal for continuous reception or transmission for all aircraft attitudes. After flight qualification and testing on other aircraft, a frequency diversity concept and an antenna diversity concept were implemented on the HiMAT vehicle to obtain omnidirectional telemetry coverage.

Keywords: Antenna radiation patterns; Command and control; Omnidirectional antennas; Reception diversity; Remotely piloted vehicles.


The FORTRAN 77 computer program SYNC for merging and time synchronizing data is described. The program SYNC reads one or more input files which contain either synchronous data frames or time-tagged data points, which can be compressed. The program decompresses and time synchronizes the data, correcting for any channel time skews. Interpolation and hold last value synchronization algorithms are available. The output from SYNC is a file of time synchronized data frames at any requested sample rate.


The flight experiments for clear air turbulence (CAT) detection and measurement concepts are described. The tests were conducted over the western part of the United States during the winter season of 1979 aboard NASA’s Galileo 2 flying laboratory. A carbon dioxide pulsed Doppler lidar and an infrared radiometer were tested for the remote detection and measurement of CAT. Two microwave radiometers were evaluated for their ability to provide encounter warning and altitude avoidance information.

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.
‡NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
††National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.


A recent NASA application of a remotely-piloted drop model to studies of the high angle-of-attack and spinning characteristics of a fighter configuration has provided an opportunity to evaluate and develop parameter estimation methods for the complex aerodynamic environment associated
with high angles of attack. The paper discusses the overall drop model operation including descriptions of the model, instrumentation, launch and recovery operations, piloting concept, and parameter identification methods used. Static and dynamic stability derivatives were obtained for an angle-of-attack range from –20 deg to 53 deg. The results of the study indicated that the variations of the estimates with angle of attack were consistent for most of the static derivatives, and the effects of configuration modifications to the model (such as nose strakes) were apparent in the static derivative estimates. The dynamic derivatives exhibited greater uncertainty levels than the static derivatives, possibly due to nonlinear aerodynamics, model response characteristics, or additional derivatives.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

L-1011 Airplane With Smokers


Flight tests were conducted to evaluate the magnitude of aerodynamic attenuation of the wake vortices of large transport aircraft that can be achieved through the use of static spoiler deflection and lateral control oscillation. These methods of attenuation were tested on Boeing B-747 and Lockheed L-1011 commercial transport aircraft. Evaluations were made using probe aircraft, photographic and visual observations, and ground based measurements of the vortex velocity profiles. The magnitude of attenuation resulting from static spoiler deflection was evaluated both in and out of ground effect. A remotely piloted QF-86 drone aircraft was used to probe the attenuated vortices in flight in and out of ground effect, and to make landings behind an attenuated B-747 airplane at reduced separation distances.

*FAA, Los Angeles, California.


This paper discusses the use of the Cramer-Rao bound as a means of assessing the accuracy of maximum likelihood parameter estimates obtained from dynamic flight data. Emphasizing practical considerations such as modeling error, the Cramer-Rao bound is evaluated with real and simulated data. Improved computations of the bound to correct large discrepancies caused by colored noise and modeling error are presented. This corrected Cramer-Rao bound is the best available analytical predictor of accuracy.


Some of the problems associated with using military specification MIL-W-5088H as a guideline for wire gage selection are discussed. Examples of proper use of this specification as a criterion for interfacing wire bundles and connectors are provided. The quantitative results of 22 projects that have used the technique known as sneak analysis are reviewed and examples are given.


A performance modeling concept previously applied to an F-104F G and a YF-12C airplane was applied to an F-111A airplane. This application extended the concept to an airplane with variable sweep wings. The performance model adequately matched flight test data for maneuvers flown at different wing sweep angles at maximum afterburning and intermediate power settings. For maneuvers flown at less than intermediate power, including dynamic maneuvers, the performance model was not validated because the method used to correlate model and in-flight power setting was not adequate. Individual dynamic maneuvers were matched successfully by using adjustments unique to each maneuver.

Keywords: Aircraft maneuvers; Aircraft performance; Computerized simulation; Drag; F-111 aircraft.

A typical spar/skin aircraft structure was heated nonuniformly in a laboratory and the resulting temperatures were measured. The heat transfer NASTRAN computer program was used to provide predictions. Calculated temperatures based on a thermal model with conduction, radiation, and convection features compared closely to measured spar temperatures. Results were obtained without the thermal conductivity, specific heat, or emissivity with temperature. All modes of heat transfer (conduction, radiation, and convection) show to affect the magnitude and distribution of structural temperatures.

1141. Carter, A. L.; and Sims, R. L.: Comparison of Theoretical Predictions of Orbiter Airloads With Wind Tunnel and Flight Test Results for a Mach Number of 0.52. NASA TM-81358, May 1981, 81N23066, #.

The measurement and prediction of wing airloads for space shuttle orbiter 101 during approach and landing tests is discussed. Strain gage instrumentation, calibration, and flight data processing are covered along with wind tunnel and simulator results. The generation of theoretical predictions using the FLEXSTAB computer program is described, and the results are compared to experimental measurements.


The overall remotely piloted drop model operation, descriptions, instrumentation, launch and recovery operations, piloting concept, and parameter identification methods are discussed. Static and dynamic stability derivatives were obtained for an angle attack range from ¬20 deg to 53 deg. It is indicated that the variations of the estimates with angle of attack are consistent for most of the static derivatives, and the effects of configuration modifications to the model were apparent in the static derivative estimates.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Factors influencing the accuracy of the forecasts of incidences of clear air turbulence (CAT) are discussed, along with techniques for improved verification. Descriptive ranking terms for the intensity of CAT events, ranging from light to extreme, are developed, and meteorological parameters used for predictions are reviewed, including jetstream core location, vertical and horizontal wind shears, stable layers, tropopause height, trough speed, 500-mb vorticity, surface fronts, pressure centers and cyclogenesis, and wind speeds near mountain ridges. Methods of remote detection of CAT, particularly by using radiometry sensitive to the IR water vapor band, are noted to have had some success in detecting actual CAT events and decreasing false alarms. Statistical aspects of CAT encounter severity are discussed, including the establishment of confidence intervals for thresholds of detection of CATs of varying intensities.


The use of an all-flush-pressure-orifice array as a subsonic air data system was evaluated in flight and wind tunnel tests. Two orifice configurations were investigated. Both used orifices arranged in a cruciform pattern on the airplane nose. One configuration also used orifices on the sides of the fuselage for a source of static pressure. The all-nose-orifice configuration was similar to the shuttle entry air data system (SEADS). The flight data were obtained with a KC-135A airplane. The wind tunnel data were acquired with a 0.035-scale model of the KC-135A airplane. With proper calibration, several orifices on the vertical centerline of the vehicle’s nose were found to be satisfactory for the determination of total pressure and angle of attack. Angle of sideslip could be accurately determined from pressure measurements made on the horizontal centerline of the aircraft. Orifice pairs were also found that provided pressure ratio relationships suitable for the determination of Mach number. The accuracy that can be expected for the air data determined with SEADS during subsonic orbiter flight is indicated.

Keywords: Air data systems; Airspeed; Flight tests; Orifices; Pressure distribution.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The MMLE3 is a maximum likelihood parameter estimation
program capable of handling general bilinear dynamic equations of arbitrary order with measurement noise and/or state noise (process noise). The basic MMLE3 program is quite general and, therefore, applicable to a wide variety of problems. The basic program can interact with a set of user written problem specific routines to simplify the use of the program on specific systems. A set of user routines for the aircraft stability and control derivative estimation problem is provided with the program. The implementation of the program on specific computer systems is discussed. The structure of the program is diagrammed, and the function and operation of individual routines is described. Complete listings and reference maps of the routines are included on microfiche as a supplement. Four test cases are discussed; listings of the input cards and program output for the test cases are included on microfiche as a supplement.

Keywords: Computer programs; Flow charts; FORTRAN; Manuals; Maximum likelihood estimates.


An objective meteorological analysis technique is presented whereby both horizontal and vertical upper air analyses are performed. The process used to interpolate grid-point values from the upper-air station data is the same as for grid points on both an isobaric surface and a vertical cross-sectional plane. The nearby data surrounding each grid point are used in the interpolation by means of an anisotropic weighting scheme, which is described. The interpolation for a grid-point potential temperature is performed isobarically; whereas wind, mixing-ratio, and pressure height values are interpolated from data that lie on the isentropic surface that passes through the grid point. Two versions (A and B) of the technique are evaluated by qualitatively comparing computer analyses with subjective handdrawn analyses. The objective products of version A generally have fair correspondence with the subjective analyses and with the station data, and depicted the structure of the upper fronts, tropopauses, and jet streams fairly well. The version B objective products correspond more closely to the subjective analyses, and show the same strong gradients across the upper front with only minor smoothing.

SRI International Atmospheric Science Center, Menlo Park, California.


Book review of Profilpolaren fur Den Modelflug Wind Kanalmessungen an Profilen im Kristischen Reynoldszaehlenbereich (Polars for Airfoils for Model Airplanes-Wind Tunnel Measurements on Airfoils at Critical Reynolds Numbers) by Dieter Althaus.


Means of assessing the accuracy of maximum likelihood parameter estimates obtained from dynamic flight data are discussed. The most commonly used analytical predictors of accuracy are derived and compared from both statistical and simplified geometrics standpoints. The accuracy predictions are evaluated with real and simulated data, with an emphasis on practical considerations, such as modeling error. Improved computations of the Cramer-Rao bound to correct large discrepancies due to colored noise and modeling error are presented. The corrected Cramer-Rao bound is shown to be the best available analytical predictor of accuracy, and several practical examples of the use of the Cramer-Rao bound are given. Engineering judgment, aided by such analytical tools, is the final arbiter of accuracy estimation.

Keywords: Accuracy; Confidence limits; Data reduction; Mathematical models; Maximum likelihood estimates.


Flight derived longitudinal and lateral-directional stability and control derivatives were compared to wind-tunnel derived values. As a result of these comparisons, boundaries representing the uncertainties that could be expected from wind-tunnel predictions were established. These boundaries provide a useful guide for control system sensitivity studies prior to flight. The primary application for this data was the space shuttle, and as a result the configurations included in the study were those most applicable to the space shuttle. The configurations included conventional delta wing aircraft as well as the X-15 and lifting body vehicles.


The gross thrust of an experimental airplane was determined by each method using the same flight maneuvers and generally the same data parameters. Coefficients determined from thrust stand calibrations for each of the three methods were then extrapolated to cruise flight conditions. The values of total aircraft gross thrust calculated by the three methods for cruise flight conditions agreed within ±3 percent. The disagreement in the values of thrust calculated by the different techniques manifested itself as a bias in the data. There was little scatter
orbiter reentry is presented. Heating levels were higher than
expected. A preliminary analysis of data acquired during the first shuttle
landing, indicating that significant aerodynamic improvements could be
achieved from the direct substitution of a supercritical airfoil on a variable wing sweep multimission airplane model.

Keywords: Flight test; Orbiter reentry; Heating levels.

1152. *Barrett, W. J.; *Rembold, J. P.; Burcham, F. W.; and
81-1501. Presented at the 17th AIAA, SAE, and ASME Joint
Propulsion Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, July
27–29, 1981, 81A40912, #. (see also 1242.) PDF AIAA

The Digital Electronic Engine Control (DEEC) system considered is a relatively low cost digital full authority control system containing selectively redundant components and fault detection logic with capability for accommodating faults to various levels of operational capability. The DEEC digital control system is built around a 16-bit, 1.2 microsecond cycle time, CMOS microprocessor, microcomputer system with approximately 14 K of available memory. Attention is given to the control mode, component bench testing, closed loop bench testing, a failure mode and effects analysis, sea-level engine testing, simulated altitude engine testing, flight testing, the data system, cockpit, and real time display.

*United Technologies Corp., Government Products Div.,
West Palm Beach, Florida.

1153. Anon.: Preliminary Analysis of STS-1 Entry Flight
Data. NASA TM-81363, August 1981, 81N29153, #.

A preliminary analysis of data acquired during the first shuttle
landing is presented. Heating levels were higher than
predicted. Variations in measured versus predicted lift to
drag ratio and trim are discussed, as are plots showing time
histories of control surface and jet activity. The confidence felt
in the stability and control derivatives is only fair. Confidence
in the derivatives extracted for Mach numbers below 3.5 is
especially weak, because these derivatives were affected
by sideslip data contaminated by wind and turbulence,
nonindependent rudder motions, and buffet. The sources of
the data used are described. Recommendations are presented
for changes to the Aerodynamic Data Book, and for planning
future flights.

1154. Ayers, T. G.; and Hallissy, J. B.: Historical Background
and Design Evolution of the Transonic Aircraft Technology
Supercritical Wing. NASA TM-81356, H-1148, August
1981, 81N32116, #. PDF DTRS

Two dimensional wind tunnel test results obtained for
supercritical airfoils indicated that substantial improvements in
aircraft performance at high subsonic speeds could be
achieved by shaping the airfoil to improve the supercritical
flow above the upper surface. Significant increases in the drag
divergence Mach number, the maximum lift coefficient for
buffer onset, and the Mach number for buffet onset at a given
lift coefficient were demonstrated for the supercritical airfoil,
as compared with a NACA 6 series airfoil of comparable
thickness. These trends were corroborated by results from
three dimensional wind tunnel and flight tests. Because these
indicated extensions of the buffet boundaries could provide
significant improvements in the maneuverability of a lighter airplane, an exploratory wind tunnel investigation was
initiated which demonstrated that significant aerodynamic
improvements could be achieved from the direct substitution
of a supercritical airfoil on a variable wing sweep multimission airplane model.

Keywords: Jet thrust; Nozzle thrust coefficients; Thrust
measurement.
was made with specific goals of defining boundaries for the landing task. The results suggest that the center of the corridors between marginal and routine represents a more or less optimal preflare condition for regular operations. Various constraints used to define the boundaries are based largely on qualitative judgments from earlier flight experience with the X-15 and lifting body research aircraft. The results should serve as useful background for expanding and validating landing simulation programs. The analytic approach offers a particular advantage in identifying trends due to the systematic variation of factors such as vehicle weight, load factor, approach speed, and aim point. Limitations such as a constant load factor during the flare and using a fixed gear deployment time interval, can be removed by increasing the flexibility of the computer program. This analytic definition of landing profiles of the orbiter may suggest additional studies, including more configurations or more comparisons of landing profiles within and beyond the corridor boundaries.

Keywords: Glide paths; Horizontal spacecraft landing; Landing simulation; Space shuttle orbiters.


A review of factors influencing installation of aircraft flight test instrumentation is presented. Requirements, including such factors as environment, reliability, maintainability, and system safety are discussed. The assessment of the mission profile is followed by an overview of electrical and mechanical installation factors with emphasis on shock/vibration isolation systems and standardization of the electric wiring installation, two factors often overlooked by instrumentation engineers. A discussion of installation hardware reviews the performance capabilities of wiring, connectors, fuses and circuit breakers, and a guide to proper selections is provided. The discussion of the installation is primarily concerned with the electrical wire routing, shield terminations and grounding. Also included are some examples of installation mistakes that could affect system accuracy. System verification procedures and special considerations such as sneak circuits, pyrotechnics, aircraft antenna patterns, and lightning strikes are discussed.

*National Aerospace Lab., Amsterdam, the Netherlands.


The development and evaluation of a light bar attitude indicator to help maintain proper aircraft attitude during high altitude night flying is described. A standard four-inch ADI was modified to project an artificial horizon across the instrument panel for pitch and roll information. A light bulb was put in the center of the ADI and a thin slit cut on the horizon, resulting in a thin horizontal sheet of light projecting from the instrument. The intensity of the projected beam is such that it can only be seen in a darkened room or at night. The beam on the instrument panel of the T-37 jet trainer is shown, depicting various attitudes. The favorable comments of about 50 pilots who evaluated the instrument are summarized, including recommendations for improving the instrument. Possible uses for the instrument to ease the pilot task are listed. Two potential problems in using the device are the development of pilot complacency and an upright-inverted ambiguity in the instrument.


The NASA early experimental program for parawing and lifting body spacecraft recovery concepts is discussed. Simple hand drawings, in-house construction, and crude drop tests were used in lieu of a thorough stress analysis. The parawing (Parasev) was controlled by manually shifting the center of gravity with respect to the center of pressure; the craft would take off while being towed at 40 KIAS. The M-2 lifting body was originally constructed with a 3/32 in. mahogany skin by a glider manufacturer and employed general aviation aircraft nose and main wheel assemblies. A minimum altitude of 200 ft was found acceptable for release of the parasev, allowing the pilot to adjust for transients incurred at the tow release. A small landing assist rocket was furnished for

Parasev Vehicle
the M-2/F-2 and X-24A lifting bodies to enhance stability, and landings at a maximum lift/drag ratio of 2.8 were successfully completed. The data gained were eventually applied in the development of the Shuttle.


Two highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicles (RPRV’s) are being flight tested at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, to demonstrate and evaluate a number of technological advances applicable to future fighter aircraft. Closed-loop primary flight control is performed from a ground-based cockpit utilizing a digital computer and up/down telemetry links. A backup flight control system for emergency operation resides in one of two onboard computers. Other functions of the onboard computer system are uplink processing, downlink processing, engine control, failure detection, and redundancy management. This paper describes the architecture, functions, and flight qualification of the HiMAT onboard flight computer systems.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


More than 65 technical reports, papers, and articles published by personnel and contractors at the Dryden Flight Research Center are listed. Activities performed for the Offices of Aeronautics and Space Technology, Space and Terrestrial Applications, Space Transportation Systems, and Space Tracking and Data Systems are summarized. Preliminary stability and control derivatives were determined for the shuttle orbiter at hypersonic speeds from the data obtained at reentry. The shuttle tile tests, spin research vehicle nose shapes flight investigations, envelope expansion flights for the Ames tilt rotor research aircraft, and the AD-1 oblique wing programs were completed as well as the KC-135 winglet program.


An aeroelastic analysis of the B-1 aircraft was generated using the FLEXSTAB computer program. Relatively simple aerodynamic and structural models were employed. Theoretical wing and horizontal stabilizer airloads were compared to wind tunnel predictions and flight data measured during quasi-steady pitch maneuvers at Mach numbers of 0.85 and 1.2 with the wing in the 67.5 degree full aft sweep position. The basic objective was to evaluate the usefulness of the FLEXSTAB program for pre-flight airloads analysis of large flexible aircraft. Significant aeroelastic increments were noted between rigid and flexible vehicle results. FLEXSTAB predicted airloads for the outer wing panel were in good agreement with measured data for both rigid airloads and elastic increments. FLEXSTAB results for the horizontal stabilizer were useful for defining general aeroelastic trends, but absolute load levels were not well predicted due to theoretical limitations and difficulties encountered in modeling the complex B-1 configuration. Overall, the FLEXSTAB program is viewed as a useful integrated tool for static aeroelastic analysis in support of flight programs.


A NASA program for evaluation of the handling and flying characteristics of the AD-1 oblique wing aircraft is discussed. The vehicle was flown to compare wind tunnel predictions with aerodynamic data, explore the control system requirements, and obtain a preliminary assessment of the aeroelastic effects. The fiberglass sandwich skin aircraft is designed for 8 g positive and 4 g negative loading at 175 knots, while the wing pivot can withstand 25 g loading. Flight monitoring was accomplished with a 41 channel pulse code modulation system for telemetry and by averaging of pilot ratings. Maneuvering tests are outlined, noting that pilot ratings indicated acceptable handling at up to 50 deg sweep. It is concluded that acceptable flying qualities can be achieved with a 60 deg sweep, and that aeroelastic tailoring can be used to satisfy cruise design technology.


The concept of using foam and fiberglass reinforced plastic to modify airfoils and fairings was applied successfully to high-speed aircraft at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. An on-aircraft installation method was used to modify an F-15 wing glove and wing leading edge and an F-104 flap trailing edge in support of the Shuttle tile load tests. A combination of methods, both an on-aircraft installation and an off-aircraft fabrication for installation on the aircraft, was used to modify a section of an F-111 supercritical wing with
a natural laminar flow airfoil. Techniques, methods, problem areas, and recommendations are presented which indicate that using foam and fiberglass to modify airfoils and fairings on high-speed aircraft is a viable means of quickly developing airfoils and fairings with desired aerodynamic characteristics with little risk to the parent or carrier aircraft.

*Fred Jiran Glider Repairs, Mojave, California.


Comparisons are made of wind-tunnel-model and flight drag data for various configurations representing aircraft from the mid-1940s to the 1970s. Discrepancies between model and flight data such as Reynolds number effects, wall interference, and aeroelastic problems are discussed. Sting support effects and the inability of models to simulate surface deflections for longitudinal trim are also studied. A wind tunnel-to-flight correlation of turbulent friction drag confirms the incompressible Karman-Schoenherr variation of turbulent skin friction with Reynolds number and the T' method for accounting compressibility effects. NASA tested 10 deg cone research indicates that model tests which are affected by tunnel noise may require the lower disturbance level environment available in flight, and it is concluded that new cryogenic facilities will improve the fidelity of model simulations of full-scale flight flow phenomena.


An electro-optical flight deflection measurement system was developed for NASA for use on the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) to provide a means of evaluating the performance of the HiMAT’s aeroelastically tailored composite wing and canard. A description of the flight deflection measurement system is presented from a user’s viewpoint and includes the general method of operation, system capabilities and limitations, method of installation on the HiMAT vehicle, and calibration of targets. Also included is a general description of the HiMAT RPRV and its design goals. Preliminary flight deflection and bending moment data were obtained at Mach 0.8 and were extrapolated to the Mach 0.9 maneuver design condition for comparison to NASTRAN predictions and ground loads test results. The preliminary flight test results tended to agree with the results obtained from the static ground loads tests, that is, that the NASTRAN model overpredicted the streamwise twist of the composite outer wing panel.


A system that provides the test pilot with flight test trajectory guidance is presently evolving at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. In use, this system has resulted in discernible improvements in the ease and accuracy with which pilots have approached and maintained the desired flight test conditions or trajectories. This paper describes the use of the guidance system in several past flight programs at Dryden, including the F-111 TACT program, the F-15 airframe/propulsion system interaction program, the F-15 cone transition and boundary layer experiments, and the Space Shuttle tiles flight test program.


The flight test data requirements at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center increased in complexity, and more advanced instrumentation became necessary to accomplish mission goals. This paper describes the way in which an airborne computer was used to perform real-time calculations on critical flight test parameters during a flight test on a winglet-equipped KC-135A aircraft. With the computer, an airborne flight test engineer can select any sensor for airborne display in several formats, including engineering units. The computer is able to not only calculate values derived from the sensor outputs but also to interact with the data acquisition system. It can change the data cycle format and data rate, and even insert the derived values into the pulse code modulation (PCM) bit stream for recording.


To contribute to the certification of the structural integrity of the Space Shuttle orbiter’s thermal protection system (TPS) before the first Shuttle flight, in-flight aerodynamic load tests of six simulated areas of the orbiter were conducted. The tests were performed on an F-104 and F-15 aircraft. This paper describes the test approach, techniques used, and results. Two areas of the orbiter TPS were redesigned and retested as a result of these tests. No TPS failures due to air-loads occurred
in the areas that were evaluated in the flight tests during the Shuttle’s first flight.

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


The Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology airplane is a 44-scale version of an advanced fighter design. It is remotely piloted from a ground cockpit and is powered by a J85-GE-21 turbojet engine. The engine is electronically controlled by a digital computer onboard the airplane to operate at selected engine operation modes. The HiMAT design and development philosophy emphasized high-risk, low-cost and minimum testing, and also required that no single failure would cause loss of the vehicle. This philosophy generated unique requirements for design, computer simulation methods, specialized test techniques, and support systems which are discussed in this paper.


Improved handling qualities of fighter aircraft at high angles of attack can be provided by various stability and control augmentation techniques. NASA and the U.S. Navy are conducting a joint flight demonstration of these techniques on an F-14 airplane. This paper reports on the flight test experience with a newly designed lateral-directional control system which suppresses such high angle of attack handling qualities problems as roll reversal, wing rock, and directional divergence while simultaneously improving departure/spin resistance. The technique of integrating a piloted simulation into the flight program was used extensively in this program. This technique had not been applied previously to high angle of attack testing and required the development of a valid model to simulate the test airplane at extremely high angles of attack.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Preflight predictions of the structural temperature distributions during entry are compared with data from the initial Shuttle flight. Finite element thermal analysis programming was used to model the heat flow on Shuttle structures and actual gas properties of air were employed in the analyses of aerodynamic heating. Laminar, separated, and turbulent heat fluxes were calculated for varying locations on the craft using velocity-attitude and angle-of-attack projections taken from the nominal STS-1 trajectory. Temperature time histories of the first flight are compared with laminar and turbulent flow assumptions and an unpredicted rapid cooling 1800 sec into entry is credited to inaccurate assumptions of structural heat dissipative properties or flow conditions in that time phase of the flight; additional discrepancies in descriptions of heating of the upper fuselage are attributed to a lack of knowledge of the complex flow patterns existing over that area of the Shuttle body.


Primary stability and control derivative estimates garnered from the first Shuttle entry are reported. The craft was the first vehicle to maneuver over a wide range of hypersonic velocities, yielding data on flight characteristics from previously unexplored regimes. The flight envelope was confined to entry and safe landing, with no additional maneuvers to gain control data. Data for a Mach number range of 25–1.5 and altitudes of 515,000–50,000 ft are provided, and functional ranges of the Shuttle control surfaces and attitude jets are outlined. On-board systems gathered data on aerodynamic coefficient identification, flight condition and Euler angles, and jet chamber pressures. A maximum likelihood estimation program, which contained unknown stability and control derivatives, was used for control; a control input determined the value of the unknown derivatives, and the input and spacecraft response were measured. Longitudinal and lateral directional maneuvers and their derivative estimates are described, noting wind contamination of the sideslip measurements below Mach 3. Further maneuvering and stability tests are projected for subsequent flights.

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


The article presents a summary of the propulsion system tests conducted on a number of aircraft at the NASA Dryden
Flight Research Center. The tests included digital engine control systems, engine-inlet compatibility, inlet-airframe interactions, nozzle-boat tail drag and advanced turboprop acoustics. Among the aircraft evaluated were the F-15, HiMAT, F-14, and the JetStar.


Consideration is given to the design phase of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology program. Design objectives are examined, noting full-scale design and the remotely piloted research vehicle. Attention is given to subsonic, transonic, and supersonic design. Design results are discussed with reference to aerodynamic efficiency, aeroelastic tailoring, and the flight test program.


A flight technique which uses the remotely augmented vehicle (RAV) concept is developed to flight test advanced control law concepts. The design, development and flight test validation of a RAV system mechanized on a digital fly-by-wire aircraft are described, and future applications are discussed. Flight experiments investigate complete inner loop, low sample rate, and adaptive control system mechanisms. The technique, which utilizes a ground-based FORTRAN programmable digital computer and up and down telemetry links is found to provide the flexibility necessary to effectively investigate alternate control law mechanisms in flight.


It is pointed out that realistic three-dimensional renderings of solid objects or surfaces by computers have long been needed. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center will soon publish a report and the computer program on an algorithm that solves for hidden lines. The computer program is written in FORTRAN IV and its size is approximately 35N + 9500 words, where N is the number of elements. A number of pictures are presented which were drawn by a computer using the algorithm.


* Cranfield Institute of Technology, Bedford, U. K.
** National Aerospace Lab., Amsterdam, the Netherlands.


During the final free flight (FF-5) of the shuttle’s approach and landing tests, the vehicle experienced pilot-induced oscillations near touchdown. The light test data showed that pilot inputs to the hand controller reached peak-to-peak amplitudes of 20 deg at a frequency between 3 and 3.5 radians per second. The controller inputs were sufficient to exceed the priority rate limit set in the pitch axis. A nonlinear analytical study was conducted to investigate the combined effects of pilot input, rate limiting, and time delays. The frequency response of the total system is presented parametrically as a function of the three variables. In general, with no dead time, for controller inputs of 5 deg or less, the total system behaves in a linear fashion. For 10 deg of controller input, independent of the delay time, the elevon loop will be rate saturated above a frequency of 4 radians per second.

Keywords: Approach and landing tests (STS); Lateral control; Longitudinal stability; Oscillations; Pilot induced oscillation.


The Dryden Flight Loads Research Facility (NASA) and the associated equipment for simulating the loading and heating of aircraft or their components are described. Particular emphasis is placed on various fail-safe devices which are built into the equipment to minimize the possibility of damage to flight vehicles. The equipment described includes the ground vibration and moment of inertia equipment, the data acquisition system, and the instrumentation available in the facility for measuring load, position, strain, temperature, and acceleration.


A flight test was conducted for preliminary evaluation of an aileron-rudder interconnect (ARI) control system for the F-14A airplane in the landing configuration. Two ARI
configurations were tested in addition to the standard F-14 flight control system. Results of the flight test showed marked improvement in handling qualities when the ARi systems were used. Sideslip due to adverse yaw was considerably reduced, and airplane turn rate was more responsive to pilot lateral control inputs. Pilot comments substantiated the flight data and indicated that the ARi systems were superior to the standard control system in terms of pilot capability to make lateral offset corrections and heading changes on final approach.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An analytical procedure for prediction of the cyclic plasticity effects on both the structural fatigue life to crack initiation and the rate of crack growth is presented. The crack initiation criterion is based on the Coffin-Manson formulae extended for multiaxial stress state and for inclusion of the mean stress effect. This criterion is also applied for the accumulated damage ahead of the existing crack tip which is assumed to be related to the crack growth rate. Three cyclic plasticity models, based on the concept of combination of several yield surfaces, are employed for computing the crack growth rate of a crack plane stress panel under several cyclic loading conditions.

*National Research Council, Washington, D. C.


Advanced turboprop-powered aircraft have the potential to reduce fuel consumption by 15 to 30 percent as compared with an equivalent technology turbofan-powered aircraft. An important obstacle to the use of advanced design propellers is the cabin noise generated at Mach numbers up to .8 and at altitudes up to 35,000 feet. As part of the NASA Aircraft Energy Efficiency Program, the near-field acoustic characteristics on a series of advanced design propellers are investigated. Currently, Dryden Flight Research Center is flight testing a series of propellers on a JetStar airplane. The propellers used in the flight test were previously tested in wind tunnels at the Lewis Research Center. Data are presented showing the narrow band spectra, acoustic wave form, and acoustic contours on the fuselage surface. Additional flights with the SR-3 propeller and other advanced propellers are planned in the future.


Improvements in cruise efficiency on the order of 15 to 40% are obtained by increasing the extent of laminar flow over lifting surfaces. Two methods of achieving laminar flow are being considered, natural laminar flow and laminar flow control. Natural laminar flow (NLF) relies primarily on airfoil shape while laminar flow control involves boundary layer suction or blowing with mechanical devices. The extent of natural laminar flow that could be achieved with consistency in a real flight environment at chord Reynolds numbers in the range of $30 \times 10^6$ power was evaluated. Nineteen flights were conducted on the F-111 TACT airplane having a NLF airfoil glove section. The section consists of a supercritical airfoil providing favorable pressure gradients over extensive portions of the upper and lower surfaces of the wing. Boundary layer measurements were obtained over a range of wing leading edge sweep angles at Mach numbers from 0.80 to 0.85. Data were obtained for natural transition and for a range of forced transition locations over the test airfoil.


A new formulation is proposed for the problem of parameter estimation of dynamic systems with both process and measurement noise. The formulation gives estimates that are maximum likelihood asymptotically in time. The means used to overcome the difficulties encountered by previous formulations are discussed. It is then shown how the
proposed formulation can be efficiently implemented in a computer program. A computer program using the proposed formulation is available in a form suitable for routine application. Examples with simulated and real data are given to illustrate that the program works well.

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A 5 MHZ single-board microprocessor system which incorporates an 8086 CPU and an 8087 Numeric Data Processor is used to implement the control laws for the NASA Drones for Aerodynamic and Structural Testing, Aeroelastic Research Wing II. The control laws program was executed in 7.02 msec, with initialization consuming 2.65 msec and the control law loop 4.38 msec. The software emulator execution times for these two tasks were 36.67 and 61.18, respectively, for a total of 97.68 msec. The space, weight and cost reductions achieved in the present, aircraft control application of this combination of a 16-bit microprocessor with an 80-bit floating point coprocessor may be obtainable in other real time control applications.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

A joint NASA/USAF program was conducted to accomplish the following objectives: (1) evaluate the benefits that could be achieved from the application of winglets to KC-135 aircraft; and (2) determine the ability of wind tunnel tests and analytical analysis to predict winglet characteristics. The program included wind-tunnel development of a test winglet configuration; analytical predictions of the changes to the aircraft resulting from the application of the test winglet; and finally, flight tests of the developed configuration. Pressure distribution, loads, stability and control, buffet, fuel mileage, and flutter data were obtained to fulfill the objectives of the program.

*AFWAL, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


A full-scale winglet flight test on a KC-135 airplane with an upper winglet was conducted. Data were taken at Mach numbers from 0.70 to 0.82 at altitudes from 34,000 feet to 39,000 feet at stabilized flight conditions for wing/winglet configurations of basic wing tip, 15/–4 deg, 15/–2 deg, and 0/–4 deg winglet cant/incidence. An analysis of selected pressure distribution and data showed that with the basic wing tip, the flight and wind tunnel wing pressure distribution data showed good agreement. With winglets installed, the effects on the wing pressure distribution were mainly near the tip. Also, the flight and wind tunnel winglet pressure
distributions had some significant differences primarily due to the oilcanning in flight. However, in general, the agreement was good. For the winglet cant and incidence configuration presented, the incidence had the largest effect on the winglet pressure distributions. The incremental flight wing deflection data showed that the semispan wind tunnel model did a reasonable job of simulating the aeroelastic effects at the wing tip. The flight loads data showed good agreement with predictions at the design point and also substantiated the predicted structural penalty (load increase) of the 15 deg cant/–2 deg incidence winglet configuration.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A KC-135A aircraft equipped with wing tip winglets was flight tested to demonstrate and validate the potential performance gain of the winglet concept as predicted from analytical and wind tunnel data. Flight data were obtained at cruise conditions for Mach numbers of 0.70, 0.75, and 0.80 at a nominal altitude of 36,000 ft. and winglet configurations of 15 deg cant/–4 deg incidence, 0 deg cant/–4 deg incidence, and baseline. For the Mach numbers tested the data show that the addition of winglets did not affect the lifting characteristics of the wing. However, both winglet configurations showed a drag reduction over the baseline configuration, with the best winglet configuration being the 15 deg cant/–4 deg incidence configuration. This drag reduction due to winglets also increased with increasing lift coefficient. It was also shown that a small difference exists between the 15 deg cant/–4 deg incidence flight and wind tunnel predicted data. This difference was attributed to the pillowing of the winglet skins in flight which would decrease the winglet performance.


The evaluation techniques, results and conclusions for the flight flutter testing conducted on a KC-135A airplane configured with and without winglets are discussed. Test results are presented for the critical symmetric and antisymmetric modes for a fuel distribution that consisted of 10,000 pounds in each wing main tank and empty reserve tanks. The results indicated that a lightly damped oscillation was experienced for a winglet configuration of a 0 deg cant and –4 deg incidence. The effects of cant and incidence angle variation on the critical modes are also discussed. Lightly damped oscillations were not encountered for any other winglet cant and incidence angles tested.


Boundary layer transition location measurements were made on a 10 deg sharp cone in 23 wind tunnels in the United States and Europe and in flight. The data were acquired at subsonic, transonic, and supersonic Mach numbers over a range of unit Reynolds numbers in an effort to obtain an improved understanding of the effect of wind tunnel flow quality on transition location. The data indicate that the transition mechanism in both wind tunnels in flight is associated with the formation of Tollmien-Schlichting waves in the laminar boundary layer. However, the location of the end of transition was found to be primarily a function of the noise under the laminar boundary of the cone surface and, within + or –20 percent, independent of Mach number and unit Reynolds number.

*ARO, Inc., Tullahoma, Tennessee.


A user’s guide for the computer program SKETCH is presented. The removal of hidden lines from images of solid objects is a problem in computer graphics which is solved by SKETCH.


The requirements for computer-generated perspective projections of three dimensional objects have escalated. A general solution was developed. The theoretical solution to this problem is presented. The method is very efficient as it minimizes the selection of points and comparison of line segments and hence avoids the devastation of square-law growth.


The obstacle block, developed as an alternative to the Preston tube for indirectly measuring skin friction on smooth surfaces in incompressible flows, is examined as a device for
compressible flows as well. The block, which is congruent with a surface static pressure orifice, has a geometry which is easily specified and thus has a universal calibration. Data from two independent studies are used to establish such a calibration using “wall” variables, valid for Mach numbers up to about 3. Various aspects concerning practical application of the device are examined, such as sensitivity to yaw and the minimum permissible axial spacing between blocks. Several examples showing the utility of the device are given.

*National Aeronautical Establishment, High Speed Aero Laboratory, Ottawa, Canada.
**NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


A new orthogonally corrugated sandwich structure that can be fabricated by using the superplastic forming-diffusion bonding (SPF-DB) process is described. Formulas and the associated plots for evaluating the effective elastic constants and the bending stiffness for the core of this new sandwich structure are presented. The structural properties of this sandwich structure are compared with the conventional honeycomb core sandwich structure under the conditions of equal sandwich density. The SPF-DB orthogonally corrugated sandwich core has higher traverse shear stiffness than the conventional honeycomb sandwich core, but has lower stiffness in the sandwich core-thickness direction.


An in-flight investigation of the effect of pure time delays on low L/D space-shuttle-type landing tasks was undertaken. The results indicate that the sensitivity of the pilot ratings to changes in pure time delay in pitch is strongly affected by the task and only slightly affected by changes in control system augmentation mode. Low L/D spot landings from a lateral offset were twice as sensitive to pure time delay as normal low L/D landings. For comparison purposes, formation flying was also investigated and was found to be less sensitive to time delay than the landing tasks.


A microprocessor-based general purpose ground support equipment for electronic systems was developed. The hardware and software are designed to permit diverse applications in support of aircraft flight systems and simulation facilities. The implementation of the hardware, the structure of the software, describes the application of the system to an ongoing research aircraft project are described.


Generic problems in advanced aircraft with advanced control systems which suffer from control sensitivity, sluggish response, and pilot-induced oscillation tendencies are examined, with a view to improving techniques for eliminating the problems in the design phase. Results of two NASA and NASA/AIAA workshops reached a consensus that flying qualities criteria do not match control system development, control system designers are not relying on past experience in their field, ground-based simulation is relied on too heavily, and communications between flying qualities and control systems engineers need improvement. A summation is offered in that hardware and software have outstripped the pilot’s capacity to use the capabilities which new aircraft offer. The flying qualities data base is stressed to be dynamic, and continually redefining the man/machine relationships.


The noise generated by supersonic-tip-speed propellers is addressed. Models of such propellers were tested for acoustics in the Lewis 8-by-6-foot wind tunnel. One of these propeller models, SR-3, was tested in flight on the JetStar airplane and noise data were obtained. Preliminary comparisons of the maximum blade passing tone variation with helical tip Mach number taken in flight with those taken in the tunnel showed good agreement when corrected to the same test conditions. This indicated that the wind tunnel is a viable location for measuring the noise of these propeller models. Comparisons of the directivities at 0.6 and 0.7 axial Mach number showed reasonable agreement. At 0.75 and 0.8 axial Mach number the tunnel directivity data fell off more towards the front than did the airplane data. A possible explanation for this is boundary layer refraction which could be different in the wind tunnel from that in flight. This may imply that some corrections
should be applied to both the airplane and wind tunnel data at the forward angles. At and aft of the peak noise angle the boundary layer refraction does not appear to be significant and no correction appears necessary.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


*FAA, Los Angeles, California.


The status of the structural development of an integral cryogenic-tankage/hot-fuselage concept for future space transportation systems is reviewed. The concept comprises a honeycomb sandwich structure that serves the combined functions of containing the cryogenic fuel, supporting the vehicle loads, and protecting the spacecraft from entry heating. The inner face sheet is exposed to cryogenic temperature of –423 F during boost; the outer face sheet, which is slotted to reduce thermal stress, is exposed to a maximum temperature of 1400 F during a high altitude, gliding entry. Attention is given to the development of a fabrication process for a Rene' 41 honeycomb sandwich panel with a core density less than 1 percent that is consistent with desirable heat treatment processes for high strength.


The status of the structural development of an integral cryogenic-tankage/hot-fuselage concept for future space transportation systems (STS) is discussed. The concept consists of a honeycomb sandwich structure which serves the combined functions of containment of cryogenic fuel, support of vehicle loads, and thermal protection from an entry heating environment. The inner face sheet is exposed to a cryogenic (LH2) temperature of –423 F during boost; and the outer face sheet, which is slotted to reduce thermal stress, is exposed to a maximum temperature of 1400 F during a high altitude, gliding entry. A fabrication process for a Rene' 41 honeycomb sandwich panel with a core density less than 1 percent was developed which is consistent with desirable heat treatment processes for high strength.


1206. Fisher, D. F.; and *Dougherty, N. S., Jr.: In-Flight Transition Measurement on a 10 Deg Cone at Mach Numbers From 0.5 to 2.0. NASA TP-1971, H-1117, NAS 1.60:1971, June 1982, 82N26227, #. PDF DTRS

Boundary layer transition measurements were made in flight on a 10 deg transition cone tested previously in 23 wind tunnels. The cone was mounted on the nose of an F-15 aircraft and flown at Mach numbers room 0.5 to 2.0 and altitudes from 1500 meters (5000 feet) to 15,000 meters (50,000 feet), overlapping the Mach number/Reynolds number envelope of the wind tunnel tests. Transition was detected using a traversing pitot probe in contact with the surface. Data were obtained near zero cone incidence and adiabatic wall temperature. Transition Reynolds number was found to be a function of Mach number and of the ratio of wall temperature to adiabatic all temperature. Transition Reynolds number also correlated with the disturbance levels as measured by the cone surface microphones under a laminar boundary layer as well as the free-stream impact.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; F-15 aircraft; Flow measurement; In-flight monitoring; Mach number.

*ARO, Inc., Tullahoma, Tennessee.


A simplified gross thrust calculation method was evaluated on its ability to predict the gross thrust of a modified J85-21 engine. The method used tailpipe pressure data and ambient pressure data to predict the gross thrust. The method’s algorithm is based on a one-dimensional analysis of the flow in the afterburner and nozzle. The test results showed that the method was notably accurate over the engine operating
A summary of these results, the simplified gross thrust method and requirements, and the test techniques used are discussed in this paper.


Benefits provided by a full-authority digital engine control are related to improvements in engine efficiency, performance, and operations. An additional benefit is the capability of detecting and accommodating failures in real time and providing engine-health diagnostics. The digital electronic engine control (DEEC), is a full-authority digital engine control developed for the F100-PW-100 turbofan engine. The DEEC has been flight tested on an F-15 aircraft. The flight tests had the objective to evaluate the DEEC hardware and software over the F-15 flight envelope. A description is presented of the results of the flight tests, which consisted of nonaugmented and augmented throttle transients, airstarts, and backup control operations. The aircraft, engine, DEEC system, and data acquisition and reduction system are discussed.

*United Technologies Corp., Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group, West Palm Beach, Florida.


Acoustic data for the advanced-design SR-3 propeller at Mach numbers to 0.8 and helical tip Mach numbers to 1.14 are presented. Several advanced-design propellers, previously tested in wind tunnels at the Lewis Research Center, are being tested in flight at the Dryden Flight Research Facility. The flight-test propellers are mounted on a pylon on the top of the fuselage of a JetStar airplane. Instrumentation provides near-field acoustic data for the SR-3. Acoustic data for the SR-3 propeller at Mach numbers up to 0.8, for propeller helical tip Mach numbers up to 1.14, and comparison of wind tunnel to flight data are included. Flowfield profiles measured in the area adjacent to the propeller are also included.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A better understanding of propulsion system/airframe flow interactions could aid in the reduction of aircraft drag. For this purpose, NASA and the United States Air Force have conducted a series of wind-tunnel and flight tests on the F-15 airplane. This paper presents a correlation of flight test data from tests conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility of the Ames Research Center, with data obtained from wind-tunnel tests. Flights were made at stabilized Mach numbers around 0.6, 0.9, 1.2, and 1.5 with accelerations up to near Mach number 2. Wind-tunnel tests used a 7.5 percent-scale F-15 inlet/airframe model. Flight and wind-tunnel pressure coefficients showed good agreement in most cases. Correlation of interaction effects caused by changes in cowl angle, angle-of-attack, and Mach number are presented.


A new formulation is proposed for the problem of parameter estimation in dynamic systems with both process and measurement noise. The formulation applies to continuous-time state space system models with discrete-time measurements. Previous formulations of this problem encountered several theoretical and practical difficulties which are overcome by the new formulation. The most important element of the new formulation is a reparameterization of the unknown noise covariances. A computer program that implements the new formulation is available.


The Dryden Flight Research Facility has developed a unique research facility for conducting aerodynamic and fluid mechanics experiments in flight. A low aspect ratio fin, referred to as the flight test fixture (FTF), is mounted on the underside of the fuselage of an F-104G aircraft. The F-104/FTF facility is described, and the capabilities are discussed. The capabilities include (1) a large Mach number envelope (0.4 to 2.0), including the region through Mach 1.0; (2) the potential ability to test articles larger than those that can be
tested in wind tunnels; (3) the large chord Reynolds number envelope (greater than 40 million); and (4) the ability to define small increments in friction drag between two test surfaces. Data are presented from experiments that demonstrate some of the capabilities of the FTF, including the shuttle thermal protection system airload tests, instrument development, and base drag studies. Proposed skin friction experiments and instrument evaluation studies are also discussed.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility is conducting flight tests of two remotely piloted, subscale, advanced fighter configurations; the tests are part of the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) project. Closed-loop primary flight control is performed from a ground-based cockpit and digital computer in conjunction with an up/down telemetry link. A significant feature of these vehicles is an on-board, digitally active, backup control system designed to recover the vehicle in the event of a transfer from primary control. Automatic transfers occur upon certain critical ground or airborne system malfunctions. Control modes are provided that enable a ground or airborne controller to guide the vehicle to a safe landing. This paper describes the features, operational development, and flight evaluation of the HiMAT backup flight control system.


The effects of local flow, upwash, and sideslip on angle of attack and sideslip (measured with boom-mounted vanes) were determined for subsonic, transonic, and supersonic flight using a maximum likelihood estimator. The correction terms accounting for these effects were determined using a series of maneuvers flown at a large number of flight conditions in both augmented and unaugmented control modes. The correction terms provide improved angle-of-attack and sideslip values for use in the estimation of stability and control derivatives. In addition to detailing the procedure used to determine these correction terms, this paper discusses various effects, such as those related to Mach number, on the correction terms. The use of maneuvers flown in augmented and unaugmented control modes is also discussed.


It is pointed out that the use of indicial function representation provides a model superior to the aerodynamic derivative model. Specific derivatives can be approximated from the indicial models. The model can also be used to compute equivalent stability and control parameters not usually available from flight data. It is shown that derivatives regarding the angle-of-attack and the side slip angle can be derived directly from the indicial functions without any identifiability problem. Attention is given to the pitch moment coefficient, linear indicial function representation, the identification problem for the pitch moment equation, the identifiability of linear systems, parametric representations of the indicial functions, an identification technique, angle-of-attack and pitch rate dynamics in the pitch plane, multivariate linear models, nonlinear aerodynamic indicial functions, measurement system accuracy, and poststall and spin-entry data from a scaled research vehicle.


An explanation of the parameter estimation method used at the Dryden Flight Research Facility is presented, and an overview is provided of experience related to the employment of this method, taking into account the utilization of this experience in flight tests. According to a definition of the aircraft parameter estimation problem, the system investigated is assumed to be modeled by a set of dynamic equations containing unknown parameters. To determine the values of the unknown parameters, the system is excited by a suitable input, and the input and actual system response are measured. The values of the unknown parameters are then inferred, based on the requirement that the model response to the given input match the actual system response. Examples of parameter estimation in flight test are discussed, giving attention to the F-14 fighter, the HiMAT (high maneuverable aircraft technology) vehicle, and the Space Shuttle.


Flight characteristics associated with an oblique-wing airplane have been studied with limited scope and complexity using the AD-1 research vehicle. The AD-1 is a low-speed, low-cost, manned airplane with an aerodynamically tailored wing that can be pivoted 0 to 60 deg asymmetrically. Results of
the flight tests include aerodynamic parameter extraction, verification of the aeroelastic wing design criteria, trim requirements, stall characteristics, and an evaluation of the handling qualities and basic control system requirements. Some of the unique characteristics of these results that pertain to the oblique-wing design are presented.


Stability and control derivative estimates obtained from the first three Space Shuttle entries are presented. The derivative estimates were obtained using the established modified maximum likelihood estimation program (MMLE3). The method of analysis used by the MMLE3 program is reviewed, the Shuttle configuration and data system are described, and the various types of maneuvers analyzed from the three entries are illustrated. Finally, the paper presents selected derivative results and compares them with predictions. Most of the flight-derived estimates agreed fairly well with predictions, considering the lack of experience in these new flight regimes. The most notable exception was the aerodynamic interference caused by firing the reaction control jets in the atmosphere. The flight results showed this interference to be considerably smaller than predicted.


An investigation of pilot-induced oscillation suppression (PIOS) filters was performed using the USAF/Flight Dynamics Laboratory variable stability NT-33 aircraft, modified and operated by Calspan. This program examined the effects of PIOS filtering on the longitudinal flying qualities of fighter aircraft during the visual approach and landing task. Forty evaluations were flown to test the effects of different PIOS filters. Although detailed analyses were not undertaken, the results indicate that PIOS filtering can improve the flying qualities of an otherwise unacceptable aircraft configuration (Level 3 flying qualities). However, the ability of the filters to suppress pilot-induced oscillations appears to be dependent upon the aircraft configuration characteristics. Further, the data show that the filters can adversely affect landing flying qualities if improperly designed. The data provide an excellent foundation from which detail analyses can be performed.

*Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo, New York.

A new flight test technique using a maneuver autopilot is being applied at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center. The flight test maneuver autopilot (FTMAP) is designed to provide precise, repeatable control of an aircraft during certain prescribed maneuvers so that a large quantity of high quality test data can be obtained with a minimum of flight time. This paper discusses the control algorithms, the flight test application, and the preliminary flight demonstration results of the FTMAP.


Advanced fighter technologies to improve air to air and air to surface weapon delivery and survivability is demonstrated. Real time monitoring of aircraft operation during flight testing is necessary not only for safety considerations but also for preliminary evaluation of flight test results. The complexity of the AFTI/F-16 aircraft requires an extensive capability to accomplish real time data goals; that capability and the resultant product are described. Previously announced in STAR as N83-13095.

The computed results gave the same distributions, but were in reasonably good agreement. The mean static pressures from pressures generated by obstacle blocks to provide skin friction and mean static, as well as recovery surface. The surface conditions measured included those of 1.8 at Reynolds numbers between 7 and 10 million based on a semi-angle cone at an 11 deg incidence was investigated in flight, in the wind tunnel, and by numerical computations. The three-dimensional leeward separation about a 5 deg cone at incidence. The three-dimensional leeward separation about a 5 deg cone at incidence.

A general purpose FORTRAN 77 computer program (THPLOT) for plotting time histories using Calcomp pen plotters is described. The program is designed to read a time history data file and to generate time history plots for selected time intervals and/or selected data channels. The capabilities of the program are described. The card input required to define the plotting operation is described and examples of card input and the resulting plotted output are given. The examples are followed by a description of the printed output, including both normal output and error messages. Lastly, implementation of the program is described. A complete listing of the program with reference maps produced by the CDC FTN 5.0 compiler is included.

The three-dimensional leeward separation about a 5 deg cone at 11 deg incidence was investigated in flight, in the wind tunnel, and by numerical computations. The test conditions were Mach numbers of 0.6, 1.5, and 1.8 at Reynolds numbers between 7 and 10 million based on free-stream conditions and a 76.2 cm (30-in.) length of surface. The surface conditions measured included those of fluctuating pressures and mean static, as well as recovery pressure generated by obstacle blocks to provide skin friction and separation line positions. The mean static pressures from flight and wind tunnel were in reasonably good agreement. The computed results gave the same distributions, but were slightly more positive in magnitude. The experimentally measured primary and secondary separation line locations compared closely with computed results. There were substantial differences in level between the surface root-mean-square pressure fluctuations obtained in flight and in the wind tunnel, due, it is thought, to a relatively high acoustic disturbance level in the tunnel compared with the quiescent conditions in flight.

The Dryden Flight Research Facility has developed a unique research facility for conducting aerodynamic and fluid mechanics experiments in flight. A low aspect ratio fin, referred to as the flight test fixture (FTF), is mounted on the underside of the fuselage of an F-104G aircraft. The F-104G/FTF facility is described, and the capabilities are discussed. The capabilities include (1) a large Mach number envelope (0.4 to 2.0), including the region through Mach 1.0; (2) the potential ability to test articles larger than those that can be tested in wind tunnels; (3) the large chord Reynolds number envelope (greater than 40 million); and (4) the ability to define small increments in friction drag between two test surfaces. Data are presented from experiments that demonstrate some of the capabilities of the FTF, including the shuttle thermal protection system airload tests, instrument development, and base drag studies. Proposed skin friction experiments and instrument evaluation studies are also discussed.

A flight test maneuver autopilot (FTMAP) is currently being flown to increase the quality and quantity of the data obtained in the flight testing of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV). The FTMAP resides in a ground-based digital computer and was designed to perform certain prescribed maneuvers precisely, while maintaining critical flight parameters within close tolerances. The FTMAP operates as a non-flight-critical outer loop controller and augments the vehicle primary flight control system. The inputs to the FTMAP consist of telemetry-downlinked aircraft sensor data. During FTMAP operation, the FTMAP computer replaces normal pilot inputs to the aircraft stick and throttle positions.
The FTMAP maneuvers include straight-and-level flight, level accelerations and decelerations, pushover pullups, and windup turns. The pushover pullups can be executed holding throttle or Mach number fixed. The windup turns can be commanded by either normal acceleration or angle of attack. The operational procedures, control mode configuration, and initial simulation results are discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft maneuvers; Automatic flight control; Automatic pilots; Flight tests; Remotely piloted vehicles.


Advanced fighter technologies to improve air to air and air to surface weapon delivery and survivability is demonstrated. Real time monitoring of aircraft operation during flight testing is necessary not only for safety considerations but also for preliminary evaluation of flight test results. The complexity of the AFTI/F-16 aircraft requires an extensive capability to accomplish real time data goals; that capability and the resultant product are described.


This paper describes the application of the calibrated strain gage load measurement method to the shuttle orbiter. Descriptions of instrumentation and calibration are included, along with comparisons of measured results with wind tunnel and FLEXSTAB analytical predictions.

1229. Fisher, D. F.; and *Dougherty, N. S., Jr.: Flight and Wind-Tunnel Correlation of Boundary-Layer Transition on the AEDC Transition Cone. NASA TM-84902, NAS 1.15:84902, also presented at the AGARD Flight Mechanics Panel Symposium, Cesme, Turkey, October 11–14, 1982, November 1982, 83N14433, #. (see also 1243.) PDF CASI

Transition and fluctuating surface pressure data were acquired on a 10 deg included angle cone, using the same instrumentation and technique over a wide range of Mach and Reynolds numbers in 23 wind tunnels and in flight. Transition was detected with a traversing pitot-pressure probe in contact with the surface. The surface pressure fluctuations were measured with microphones set flush in the cone surface. Good correlation of end of transition Reynolds number RE(T) was obtained between data from the lower disturbance wind tunnels and flight up to a boundary layer edge Mach number, M(edge) = 1.2. Above M(edge) = 1.2, however, this correlation deteriorates, with the flight Re(T) being 25 to 30% higher than the wind tunnel Re(T) at M(edge) = 1.6. The end of transition Reynolds number correlated within ± 20% with the surface pressure fluctuations, according to the equation used. Broad peaks in the power spectral density distributions indicated that Tollmien-Schlichting waves were the probable cause of transition in flight and in some of the wind tunnels.

*Rockwell International Corp., Huntsville, Alabama.


A combination of subscale wind tunnel model tests and full-scale coast down and highway fuel consumption tests have been conducted on baseline and low-drag tractor-trailer configurations. Fuel savings calculated for the low-drag configuration, based on the model drag data or the full-scale drag data, correlate quite well with fuel savings obtained from the over-the-roads tests at highway speeds. Subscale drag test for flow-vane and boattail devices provided drag reductions of about 48 percent and 15 percent, respectively, for bus- or motor-home-type vehicles. Full-scale boattail drag data are also presented.


An electro-optical flight deflection measurement system was developed for NASA for use on the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) to provide a means for evaluating the performance of the HiMAT’s aeroelastically tailored composite wing and canard. A description of the flight deflection measurement system is presented from a user’s viewpoint and includes the general method of operation, system capabilities and limitations, method of installation on the HiMAT vehicle, and calibration of targets. Also included is a general description of the HiMAT RPRV and its design goals. Preliminary flight deflection and bending moment data were obtained at Mach 0.8 and 0.9 and were extrapolated to the Mach 0.9 maneuver design condition for comparison to NASA/RP predictions and ground loads tests results. The preliminary flight test results tended to agree with the results obtained from the static ground loads tests; that is, that the NASA/RP model overpredicted the streamwise twist of the composite outer wing panel.

Surface heating rates and surface temperatures for a space shuttle reentry profile were calculated for two wing cross sections and one fuselage cross section. Heating rates and temperatures at 12 locations on the wing and 6 locations on the fuselage are presented. The heating on the lower wing was most severe, with peak temperatures reaching values of 1240 ºC for turbulent flow and 900 ºC for laminar flow. For the fuselage, the most severe heating occurred on the lower glove surface where peak temperatures of 910 ºC and 700 ºC were calculated for turbulent flow and laminar flow, respectively. Aluminum structural temperatures were calculated using a finite difference thermal analyzer computer program, and the predicted temperatures are compared to measured flight data. Skin temperatures measured on the lower surface of the wing and bay 1 of the upper surface of the wing agreed best with temperatures calculated assuming laminar flow. The measured temperatures at bays two and four on the upper surface of the wing were in quite good agreement with the temperatures calculated assuming separated flow. The measured temperatures on the lower forward spar cap of bay four were in good agreement with values predicted assuming laminar flow.


A structural performance and resizing finite element thermal analysis computer program was used in the reentry heat transfer analysis of the space shuttle. Two typical wing cross sections and a midfuselage cross section were selected for the analysis. The surface heat inputs to the thermal models were obtained from aerodynamic heating analyses, which assumed a purely turbulent boundary layer, a purely laminar boundary layer, separated flow, and transition from laminar to turbulent flow. The effect of internal radiation was found to be quite significant. With the effect of the internal radiation considered, the wing lower skin temperature became about 39 ºC (70 ºF) lower. The results were compared with flight data for space transportation system, trajectory I. The calculated and measured temperatures compared well for the wing if laminar flow was assumed for the lower surface and bay one upper surface and if separated flow was assumed for the upper surfaces of bays other than bay one. For the fuselage, good agreement between the calculated and measured data was obtained if laminar flow was assumed for the bottom surface. The structural temperatures were found to reach their peak values shortly before touchdown. In addition, the finite element solutions were compared with those obtained from the conventional finite difference solutions.


The third phase of a flight evaluation of a digital electronic engine control system in an F-15 has recently been completed. It was found that digital electronic engine control software logic changes and augmentor hardware improvements resulted in significant improvements in engine operation. For intermediate to maximum power throttle transients, an increase in altitude capability of up to 8000 ft was found, and for idle to maximum transients, an increase of up to 4000 ft was found. A nozzle instability noted in earlier flight testing was investigated on a test engine at NASA Lewis Research Center, a digital electronic engine control software logic change was developed and evaluated, and no instability occurred in the Phase 3 flight evaluation. The backup control airstart modification was evaluated, and gave an improvement of airstart capability by reducing the minimum airspeed for successful airstarts by 50 to 75 knots.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


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*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.

1236. Gilyard, G. B.; and Edwards, J. W.: Real-Time Flutter
Analysis of an Active Flutter-Suppression System on a Remotely Piloted Research Aircraft. NASA-TM-84901, NAS 1.15:84901, January 1983, 83N18710, #. (see also 1244.)

Flight flutter-test results of the first aeroelastic research wing (ARW-1) of NASA’s drones for aerodynamic and structural testing program are presented. The flight-test operation and the implementation of the active flutter-suppression system are described as well as the software techniques used to obtain real-time damping estimates and the actual flutter testing procedure. Real-time analysis of fast-frequency aileron excitation sweeps provided reliable damping estimates. The open-loop flutter boundary was well defined at two altitudes; a maximum Mach number of 0.91 was obtained. Both open-loop and closed-loop data were of exceptionally high quality. Although the flutter-suppression system provided augmented damping at speeds below the flutter boundary, an error in the implementation of the system resulted in the system being less stable than predicted. The vehicle encountered system-on flutter shortly after crossing the open-loop flutter boundary on the third flight and was lost. The aircraft was rebuilt. Changes made in real-time test techniques are included. Center, a digital electronic engine control software logic change was developed and evaluated, and no instability occurred in the Phase 3 flight evaluation. The backup control airstart modification was evaluated, and gave an improvement of airstart capability by reducing the minimum airspeed for successful airstarts by 50 to 75 knots.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


Human power applied through a bicycle is perhaps the most efficient means of transport available today. Aerodynamic drag, however, limits the speed possible from the man/bicycle combination. An aerodynamically efficient body enclosing the system can reduce the drag and permit increased speeds. A study was conducted to determine an efficient body design for a high-speed bicycle. Wind tunnel and potential flow studies were conducted to evaluate the drag and lift characteristics of proposed shell designs. A proposed bicycle/shell design is presented.

*General Dynamics Corp., Convair Div., San Diego, California.


Qualification considerations for assuring the safety of a life-critical digital flight control system include four major areas: systems interactions, verification, validation, and configuration control. The AFTI/F-16 design, development, and qualification illustrate these considerations. In this paper, qualification concepts, procedures, and methodologies are discussed and illustrated through specific examples.

*Systems Control Technology, Inc., Edwards, California.

F-16 Airplane, Three-View Drawing


This paper details the development of a flight test maneuver autopilot for a highly maneuverable aircraft. This newly developed flight test technique is being applied at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center. The flight test maneuver autopilot (FTMAP) is designed to increase the quantity and quality of the data obtained in flight test. The vehicle with which it is being used is the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle. This paper describes the HiMAT vehicle systems, maneuver requirements, FTMAP development process, and flight results.

A cooperative advanced digital research experiment (CADRE) was established by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE), in which nonlinear control algorithms developed by the RAE were tested on the F-8C digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) aircraft based at the Dryden Flight Research Facility. In the initial phase of the collaboration, some variable-gain algorithms, referred to collectively as variable integral control to optimize response (VICTOR) algorithms, were flight tested. With VICTOR, various measures available within the control system are used to vary gains and time-constants within the closed loop and thereby enhance the control capability of the system, while reducing the adverse effects of sensor noise on the control surfaces. A review of design procedures for VICTOR and results of preliminary flight tests are presented. The F-8C aircraft is operated in the remotely augmented vehicle (RAV) mode, with the control laws implemented as FORTRAN programs on a ground-based computer. Pilot commands and sensor information are telemetered to the ground, where the data are processed to form surface commands which are then telemetered to the ground, where the data are processed to form surface commands which are then telemetered back to the aircraft. The RAV mode represents a single-string (simplex) system and is therefore vulnerable to a hardover since comparison monitoring is not possible. Hence, extensive error checking is conducted on both the ground and airborne computers to prevent the development of potentially hazardous situations. Experience with the RAV monitoring and validation procedures is described.

*Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, U. K.


Design procedures are reviewed for variable integral control
to optimize response (VICTOR) algorithms and results of preliminary flight tests are presented. The F-8C aircraft is operated in the remotely augmented vehicle (RAV) mode, with the control laws implemented as FORTRAN programs on a ground-based computer. Pilot commands and sensor information are telemetered to the ground, where the data are processed to form surface commands which are then telemetered back to the aircraft. The RAV mode represents a singlestring (simplex) system and is therefore vulnerable to a hardover since comparison monitoring is not possible. Hence, extensive error checking is conducted on both the ground and airborne computers to prevent the development of potentially hazardous situations. Experience with the RAV monitoring and validation procedures is described.

*Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, U. K.


A weldable type strain gage was used to measure low level thermal stress in an elevated temperature environment. Foil strain gages used in a comparative manner reveal that the apparent strain of weldable strain gages is not sufficiently known to acquire accurate low level thermal stress data. Apparent strain data acquired from coupon tests reveals a large scatter in apparent strain characteristics among the weldable strain gages. It is concluded that apparent strain data for individual weldable strain gages must be required prior to installation if valid thermal stress data is to be obtained through the temperature range of room temperature to 755 K (900 F).


Limited flight testing of a laser transit velocimeter provided insight into the problems associated with the use of such instruments for flight research. Although the device tested was not designed for flight application, it had certain features such as fiber optics and low laser power which are attractive in the airborne environment. During these tests, operation of the velocimeter was limited by insufficient concentrations of light-scattering particles and background light interference. Normal operation was observed when these conditions were corrected by utilizing cloud particles and flying at night. A comparison between the laser flow velocity measurements and corresponding pressure measurements is presented and shows a coarse correlation. Statistical bias due to turbulence in the flow is suspected to have affected the laser measurements.


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Government and industry research programs have repeatedly projected substantial benefits for full authority digital engine control systems in terms of improved engine efficiency, performance and operation. A prototype of such a system, the Digital Electronic Engine Control (DEEC) system has been developed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for demonstration on the current F100 turbofan engine and potential application on advanced models of the engine. This system exercises full authority control over all the engine-controlled variables using digital computation electronics and fault accommodation to control and maintain safe engine operational status. A hydromechanical back up control is provided in the event a major malfunction in the DEEC system is encountered. The DEEC System will be flown in an F-15 aircraft at the NASA-Dryden Flight Research Center in 1981. Prior to flight, the engine-control system was thoroughly tested at sea level in Florida, and at the Arnold Engineering and Development Center (AEDC altitude facility in Tennessee. This paper will describe the DEEC system design, subsystem development tests, the ground and simulated altitude system tests, and the planned research flights.

*United Technologies Corp., Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group, West Palm Beach, Florida.


Transition and fluctuating surface pressure data were acquired on a 10 degree included angle cone, using the same instrumentation and technique over a wide range of Mach and Reynolds numbers in 23 wind tunnels and in flight. Transition was detected with a traversing pitot pressure probe in contact with the surface. The surface pressure fluctuations were measured with microphones set flush in the cone surface. Good correlation of end of transition Reynolds number Re (sub T) was obtained between data from the lower disturbance wind tunnels and flight up to a boundary layer edge Mach number, M (sub e) = 1.2. Above M (sub e) = 1.2, however, this correlation deteriorates, with the flight Re (sub T) being 25 to 30% higher than the wind tunnel Re (sub T) at M (sub e) = 1.6. The end of transition Reynolds number correlated within ±20% with the surface pressure fluctuations. Broad peaks in the power spectral density distributions indicated that Tollmien-Schlichting waves were the probable cause of transition in flight and in some of the wind tunnels.

*Rockwell International, Los Angeles, California.

Flight-test results of the first three flights of an aeroelastic research wing are described. The flight flutter-test technique used to obtain real-time damping estimates from fast-frequency sweep data was obtained and the open-loop flutter boundary determined. Nyquist analyses of sweep maneuvers appear to provide additional valuable information about flutter suppression system operation, both in terms of phase-margin estimates and as a means of evaluating maneuver quality. An error in implementing the flutter-suppression system required in a one-half nominal gain configuration, which caused the wing to be unstable at lower Mach numbers than anticipated, and the vehicle experienced closed-loop flutter on its third flight. Real-time flutter-testing procedures were improved.


Experimental creep, temperature, and strain data resulting from a laboratory experiment on a built-up aluminum/titanium structure are presented. The structure and the experiment are described in detail. A heating and loading experiment lasting approximately six hours is conducted on a test structure. Considerable creep strain resulted from compressive stresses in the heated skin. Large residual stresses were found after the experiment was completed. The residual stresses in the substructure frames were large enough to preclude further cycles of creep experiments with this built-up structure because of concern that the frame webs would buckle.


The airstart performance of the F100 engine equipped with a digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system was evaluated in an F-15 airplane. The DEEC system incorporates closed-loop airstart logic for improved capability. Spooldown and jet fuel starter-assisted airstarts were made over a range of airspeeds and altitudes. All jet fuel starter-assisted airstarts were successful, with airstart time varying from 35 to 60 sec. All spooldown airstarts at airspeeds of 200 knots and higher were successful; airstart times ranged from 45 sec at 250 knots to 135 sec at 200 knots. The effects of altitude on airstart success and time were small. The flight results agreed closely with previous altitude facility test results. The DEEC system provided successful airstarts at airspeeds at least 50 knots lower than the standard F100 engine control system.

X-Wing Airplane


Some historical developments of flight testing of unique aircraft configurations by NASA and the military sector are documented. Several test aircraft are outlined including the M2-F1 (which was the first Space Shuttle concept ever demonstrated, and contributed to the present design), the X-15, the Flying Wing, the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle, the Oblique Wing Research Aircraft, and the Space Shuttle Enterprise. Future test aircraft such as the forward swept wing X-29A Advanced Technology Demonstrator Aircraft, and the X-Wing vehicle are also mentioned. It is noted that the logical preliminary to flight testing is flight simulation, and that flight testing itself is the vital final component of the development, and seems to be the most direct approach to aircraft evaluations.


Fuselage, boundary layer, and nozzle pressures were measured in flight for a twin jet fighter over a Mach number range from 0.60 to 2.00 at test altitudes of 6100, 10,700, and 13,700 meters for angles of attack ranging from 0 deg to 7 deg. Test data were analyzed to find the effects of the propulsion system geometry. The flight variables, and flow interference. The aft fuselage flow field was complex and showed the influence of the vertical tail, nacelle contour, and the wing. Changes in the boattail angle of either engine affected upper fuselage and lower fuselage pressure coefficients upstream of the nozzle. Boundary layer profiles at the forward and aft locations on the upper nacelles were relatively insensitive.
to Mach number and altitude. Boundary layer thickness decreased at both stations as angle of attack increased above 4 deg. Nozzle pressure coefficient was influenced by the vertical tail, horizontal tail boom, and nozzle interfairing; the last two tended to separate flow over the top of the nozzle from flow over the bottom of the nozzle. The left nozzle axial force coefficient was most affected by Mach number and left nozzle boattail angle. At Mach 0.90, the nozzle axial force coefficient was 0.0013.

Keywords: Boundary layers; Fighter aircraft; Fuselages; Nozzle flow; Nozzle geometry; Pressure measurement


High speed turboprops offer an attractive candidate for aircraft because of their high propulsive efficiency. However, one of the possible problems associated with these propellers is their high noise level at cruise condition that may create a cabin environment problem. Models of these propellers were tested for acoustics in the 8 by 6-foot wind tunnel and on the Jet Star airplane. Comparisons between the airplane and wind tunnel data for the SR-6 propeller are shown. The comparison of maximum blade passing tone variation with helical tip Mach number between the tunnel and flight data was good when corrected to the same test conditions. Directivity comparisons also showed fairly good agreement. These good comparisons indicate that the wind tunnel is a viable location for measuring the blade passage tone noise of these propellers.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A study has been made of pilot human factors related to stall/spin accidents of supersonic fighter aircraft. The military specifications for flight at high angles of attack are examined. Several pilot human factors problems related to stall/spin are discussed. These problems include (1) unsatisfactory nonvisual warning cues; (2) the inability of the pilot to quickly determine if the aircraft is spinning out of control, or to recognize the type of spin; (3) the inability of the pilot to decide on and implement the correct spin recovery technique; (4) the inability of the pilot to move, caused by high angular rotation; and (5) the tendency of pilots to wait too long in deciding to abandon the irrecoverable aircraft. Psycho-physiological phenomena influencing pilot’s behavior in stall/spin situations include (1) channelization of sensory inputs, (2) limitations in precisely controlling several muscular inputs, (3) inaccurate judgment of elapsed time, and (4) disorientation of vestibulo-ocular inputs. Results are given of pilot responses to all these problems in the F-14A, F-16/AB, and F/A-18A aircraft. The use of departure spin resistance and automatic spin prevention systems incorporated on recent supersonic fighters are discussed. These systems should help to improve the stall/spin accident record with some compromise in maneuverability.

*Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
**Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Because the flight planning for the orbital flight test (OFT) flights of the NASA Space Shuttle required several months, there was very little time to analyze data from one flight before it was necessary to start final planning for the next flight. Real-time and selected immediate postflight data display of the reentry data minimized the postflight computer analysis time required so that the rigid time restraints imposed by the program could be met. This paper describes the methods used to decommutate and provide real-time and immediate postflight data display of selected Space Shuttle reentry data.


The primary objective of the advanced fighter technology integration/F-16 (AFTI/F-16) development program is to demonstrate advanced fighter technologies to improve weapon delivery and aircraft survivability. Instrumentation and data processing for monitoring aircraft operation during flight testing is necessary not only for safety-of-flight considerations but also for rapid evaluation of flight test results. The complexity of the AFTI/F-16 aircraft necessitates an extensive capability to accomplish data goals; this paper describes that capability and the resultant product.

*General Dynamics Corp., Fort Worth, Texas.

Several advanced-design propellers, previously tested in the wind tunnel at the Lewis Research Center, have been tested in flight at the Dryden Flight Research Facility. The flight-test propellers were mounted on a pylon on the top of the fuselage of a JetStar airplane. Acoustic data for the advanced-design SR-2 and SR-3 propellers at Mach numbers to 0.8 and helical-tip Mach numbers to 1.15 are presented; maximum blade-passage frequency sound-pressure levels are also compared.

In an attempt to determine whether clear air turbulence (CAT) which caused a brief, intense turbulence encounter to a jetliner might have been related to gravity waves generated by a line of thunderstorms, local sounding data taken within two hours of the incident have been used as input to a numerical model designed to simulate stratified flow over obstacles. In the model a rigid obstacle at the lower boundary acted as the source of the gravity waves. The model results show a large amplitude of the incident have been used as input to a numerical model designed to simulate stratified flow over obstacles. In the model a rigid obstacle at the lower boundary acted as the source of the gravity waves. The model results show a large amplitude level, in regions where CAT would be expected. Stratification studies have been conducted, varying the height and shape of the obstacle and the input wind profile. The success of the experiment leads to the conclusion that atmospheric gravity waves simulation can be useful in understanding and possibly avoiding CAT.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.


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*University of California, Los Angeles, California.


Flight characteristics associated with oblique wing airplane have been studied with limited scope and complexity using the AD-1 research vehicle. The AD-1 is a low-speed, low-cost, manned airplane with an aeroelastically tailored wing that can be pivoted 0° to 60° asymmetrically. Results of the flight tests include aerodynamic parameter extraction, verification of the aeroelastic wing design criteria, trim requirements, stall characteristics, and an evaluation of the handling qualities and basic control system requirements. Some of the unique characteristics of these results that pertain to the oblique-wing design are presented.


The formulation and flight test results of an algorithm to detect and isolate the first failure of any one of 12 duplex control sensor signals (24 in all) being monitored are reviewed. The technique uses like signal differences for fault detection while relying upon analytic redundancy relationships among unlike quantities to isolate the faulty sensor. The fault isolation logic utilizes the modified sequential probability ratio test, which explicitly accommodates the inevitable, irreducible low frequency errors present in the analytic redundancy residuals. In addition, the algorithm used sensor output selftest, which takes advantage of the duplex sensor structure by immediately removing a hard failed sensor from control calculations and analytic redundancy relationships while awaiting a definitive fault isolation decision via analytic redundancy. This study represents a proof of concept demonstration of a methodology that is applied to duplex or higher flight control sensor configurations and, in addition, can monitor the health of one simplex signal per analytic redundancy relationship.

*Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


An overview is presented of the remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) activities at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility from their beginning to the present. The development of RPRV’s as flight test tools is discussed, and system configuration is presented. Solutions derived from human factors experience related to flight activities and pilot responses have contributed to overall system capability. The
development and use of visual displays, which are a critical feature of successful RPRV flights, are discussed as well as directions for future RPRV efforts.

Keywords: Display devices; Flight tests; Human factors engineering; Remotely piloted vehicles; Training devices


This document discusses the development of the Dryden Flight Research Facility Battery Systems laboratory. This laboratory processes nickel-cadmium and silver-zinc batteries used in the various flight research vehicles flown at the Dryden facility. Described is the evolution of the original manually operated lead-acid battery facility to the present computerized laboratory. Described also are the equipment and present capabilities of the laboratory, which can process both sealed and wet vented cells that range in capacity from 0.5 to 200 A-hr.


The application of a flight test maneuver auto-pilot test technique for collecting aerodynamic and structural flight research data on a highly maneuverable aircraft is described. This newly developed flight test technique was applied at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center on the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle. A primary flight experiment was done to verify the design techniques used to develop the HiMAT aerodynamics and structures. This required the collection of large quantities of high-quality pressure distribution, loads, and deflection data. The effectiveness of the flight test technique is illustrated with a flight test example comparing various pressure distribution measurements.


Digital flight control systems are popular for their flexibility, reliability, and power; however, their use sometimes results in deficient handling qualities, including pilot-induced oscillation (PIO), which can require extensive redesign of the control system. When redesign is not immediately possible, temporary solutions, such as the PIO suppression (PIOS) filter developed for the Space Shuttle, have been proposed. To determine the effectiveness of such PIOS filters on more conventional, high-performance aircraft, three experiments were performed using the NASA F-8 digital fly-by-wire and USAF/Calspan NT-33 variable-stability aircraft. Two types of PIOS filters were evaluated, using high-gain, precision tasks (close formation, probe-and-drogue refueling, and precision touch-and-go landing) with a time delay or a first-order lag added to make the aircraft prone to PIO. Various configurations of the PIOS filter were evaluated in the flight programs, and most of the PIOS filter configurations reduced the occurrence of PIOS and improved the handling qualities of the PIO-prone aircraft. These experiments also confirmed the influence of high-gain tasks and excessive control system time delay in evoking pilot-induced oscillations.


This paper presents the reconstruction of the space shuttle’s wind-relative reentry trajectory for the orbital flights. The technique uses a linearized Kalman filter (LKF) to merge high and low-frequency inertial and wind-relative data to obtain enhanced high-frequency results that closely follow expected mean levels. Two verifications are presented. First, wind trajectories resulting from the reconstruction are compared with analytically predicted values. There is close comparison. Second, the frequency characteristics are investigated using system identification techniques. The stability and control model generated using the LKF trajectory shows good agreement between measured and predicted spacecraft response for both high and low frequencies.


The work reported here addresses the important algorithm issues necessary to achieve a real-time flutter monitoring system; namely, the guidelines for choosing appropriate model forms, reduction of the parameter convergence transient, handling multiple modes, the effect of overparameterization, and estimate accuracy predictions, both online and for experiment design. An approach for efficiently computing continuous-time flutter parameter Cramer-Rao estimate error bounds has been developed. This enables a convincing comparison of theoretical and simulation results, as well as off-line studies in preparation for a flight test. Theoretical predictions, simulation and flight test results from the NASA/Dryden Drones for Aerodynamic and Structural Test (DAST) Program are compared.
The design and operation of the cooperative advanced digital research experiment (CADRE) to develop nonlinear pitch flight control algorithms is described, and the results of an in-flight evaluation using the F-8C digital fly-by-wire (DFBW) research aircraft are presented. The CADRE controller is described, including the initial filter, linear command prefilter, nonlinear command prefilter, and gain scheduling. The variable-integral control-to-optimize response of the controller is considered, and CADRE parameter combinations are addressed. The remotely-augmented-vehicle interface used in the DFBW aircraft experiment is discussed. The distant-tracking and close-formation tracking evaluation tasks for the aircraft are described along with evaluation configurations, and the test results are presented and discussed. The latter indicate that a nonlinear adaptive controller is a feasible control tracking task.

The concept for the DEEC had its origin in the early 1970s. At that time it was recognized that the F100 engine performance, operability, reliability, and cost could be substantially improved by replacing the original mechanical/supervisory electronic control system with a full-authority digital control system. By 1978, the engine manufacturer had designed and initiated the procurement of flight-qualified control system hardware. As a precursor to an integrated controls program, a flight evaluation of the DEEC system on the F-15 aircraft was proposed. Questions regarding the management of the DEEC flight evaluation program are discussed along with the program elements, the technical results of the F-15 evaluation, and the impact of the flight evaluation on after-burning turbofan controls technology and its use in application to military aircraft. The lessons learned through the conduct of the program are discussed.

The primary stability and control derivative estimates obtained from the first Space Shuttle entry are presented in this report. Data range from before entry interface to Mach 1.5. The derivative estimates were obtained using a maximum likelihood estimation program. The results from the first flight are not completely definitive because there were no intentional maneuvers designed for stability and control derivative estimation. The data obtained were adequate to establish the viability of the data system and estimation technique and to show most of the major trends. The flight results largely agreed with predictions, with a few exceptions. The stability and control maneuvers planned for subsequent flights should provide the accuracy and confidence required for the routine operational use of the Shuttle.

Two highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicles (RPRVs) are being flight tested at NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility, Edwards, Calif., to demonstrate and evaluate a number of technological advances applicable to future fighter aircraft. Closed-loop primary flight control is performed from a ground-based cockpit utilizing a digital computer and up/down telemetry links. A backup flight control system for emergency operation resides in one of two onboard computers. Other functions of the onboard computer systems are uplink processing, downlink processing, engine control, failure detection, and redundancy management. This paper describes the architecture, functions, and flight qualification of the HiMAT onboard flight computer systems.

Remote piloting video display development at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA's Ames Research Center is summarized, and the reasons for considering stereo television are presented. Pertinent equipment is described. Limited flight experience is also discussed, along with recommendations for further study.

Keywords: Aircraft equipment; Binocular vision; Display devices; Remotely piloted vehicles; Stereo television; Video
Plots of winds encountered in-flight are presented for a severe turbulence case from JAWS flight 7 (near Denver on the afternoon of July 15, 1982). During the flight the B-57B showed a 30-knot increase in airspeed over a distance of about 426 ft and then a more gradual decrease of 40 to 50 knots over a distance of about 3.2 miles. This suspected outflow feature was associated with downdraft in excess of 20 knots. The horizontal wind direction changed almost 180 deg during the pass through the feature, and the intensity of velocity differences decreased for all three components within the downdraft. Calculated probability density functions for u, v, and w showed a jagged character; and distributions for Delta-u, Delta-v, and Delta-w were distinctly non-Gaussian. Based on skewness and kurtosis values, the data could probably best be modeled by a Pearson type VII (Student's t) distribution.

*NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Systems Dynamics Laboratory, Huntsville, Alabama.

1273. Myers, L. P.; and Burcham, F. W., Jr.: Comparison of Flight Results With Digital Simulation for a Digital Electronic Engine Control in an F-15 Airplane. NASA TM-84903, NAS 1.15.84903, October 1983, 84N14144, #.

Substantial benefits of a full authority digital electronic engine control on an air breathing engine were demonstrated repeatedly in simulation studies, ground engine tests, and engine altitude test facilities. A digital engine electronic control system showed improvements in efficiency, performance, and operation. An additional benefit of full authority digital controls is the capability of detecting and correcting failures and providing engine health diagnostics.

1274. Ismael, S. D.; and McMonagle, D. R.: AFTI/F-16 Flight Test Results and Lessons. NASA TM-84920, NAS 1.15:84920, also presented at the 27th Symposium of the SETP, Beverly Hills, California, September 28–October 1, 1983, October 1983, 84N15159, #. (see also 1273.) PDF

The advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16 aircraft is a highly complex digital flight control system integrated with advanced avionics and cockpit. The use of dissimilar backup modes if the primary system fails requires the designer to trade off system simplicity and capability. The tradeoff is evident in the AFTI/F-16 aircraft with its limited stability and fly by wire digital flight control systems when a generic software failure occurs the backup or normal mode must provide equivalent envelop protection during the transition to degraded flight control. The complexity of systems like the AFTI/F-16 system defines a second design issue, which is divided into two segments: (1) the effect on testing, (2) and the pilot's ability to act correctly in the limited time available for cockpit decisions. The large matrix of states possible with the AFTI/F-16 flight control system illustrates the difficulty of both testing the system and choosing real time pilot actions. The third generic issue is the possible reductions in the user’s reliability expectations where false single channel information can be displayed at the pilot vehicle interface while the redundant set remains functional.

Keywords: Avionics; Control theory; Flight control; Synchronism; Systems engineering.

1275. Ismael, S. D.; and *McMonagle, D. R.: AFTI/F-16 Flight Test Results and Lessons. 1983 Report to the Aerospace Profession; Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh SETP Symposium, Beverly Hills, California, September 28–October 1, 1983, (see A84-16157 05-05), 84A16174. (see also 1293.)

The AFTI/F-16 flight test program is summarized, and several design issues of general interest are addressed. A brief description is given of the test vehicle, its flight control modes, and the flight envelopes in which testing was performed. Flight test results are summarized by addressing benefits experienced in flight control task-tailoring, handling qualities in mission tasks, aircraft structure considerations, digital flight control system performance, and human factors. Finally, several design issues relevant to future fighter aircraft are examined, including degraded flight control, system complexity, simplex information in redundant systems, and single failure propagation in redundant systems.

*USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


The real-time pilot display uplink development at the Dryden Flight Research Facility is described, with a focus on recent F-104 studies. A nose boom gathers data on the Mach number, pressure altitude, and angle of attack. The system provides the pilot with guidance to improve maneuver accuracy and fly more complex trajectories. The uplink presents the pilot with computed differences between a reference flight path and actual flight state conditions, using a downlink to the ground where engineering computations are performed, feedback is transmitted, and corrections are applied. Details of the flight
test trajectories and data from test results are provided for level turns, constant thrust turns, dynamic pressure trajectories, constant radar altitude accelerations and decelerations, and a Reynolds number trajectory. The system has proved capable of reducing pilot workload and saving fuel by decreasing the flight time necessary to obtain specific data.


A study has been made of pilot human factors related to stall/spin accidents of supersonic fighter aircraft. The military specifications for flight at high angles of attack are examined. Several pilot human factors problems related to stall/spin are discussed. These problems include: (1) unsatisfactory nonvisual warning cues; (2) the inability of the pilot to quickly determine if the aircraft is spinning out of control, or to recognize the type of spin; (3) the inability of the pilot to decide on and implement the correct spin recovery technique; (4) the inability of the pilot to move, caused by high angular rotation; and (5) the tendency of pilots to wait too long in deciding to abandon the irrecoverable aircraft. Psycho-physiological phenomena influencing pilot’s behavior in stall/spin situations include: (1) channelization of sensor inputs, (2) limitations in precisely controlling several muscular inputs, (3) inaccurate judgment of elapsed time, and (4) disorientation of vestibulo-ocular inputs. Results are given of pilot responses to all these problems in the F-14A, F-16/AB, and F/A-18A aircraft. The use of departure spin resistance and automatic spin prevention systems incorporated on recent supersonic fighters are discussed. These systems should help to improve the stall/spin accident record with some compromise in maneuverability.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California. **NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A system that provides the test pilot with flight test trajectory guidance is presented. In use, this system has resulted in discernible improvements in the ease and accuracy with which pilots have approached and maintained the desired flight test conditions or trajectories. This paper describes the use of the guidance system in several past flight programs, including the F-111 TACT program, the F-15 airframe propulsion system interaction program, the F-15 cone transition and boundary-layer experiments, and the Space Shuttle tiles flight test program.


A flight test program of a low cost, low speed, manned, oblique wing research airplane was conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility in cooperation with NASA Ames Research Center between 1979 and 1982. When the principal purpose of the test program was completed, which was to demonstrate the flight and handling characteristics of the configuration, particularly in wing-sweep-angle ranges from 45 to 60 deg, a pilot evaluation program was conducted to obtain a qualification evaluation of the flying qualities of an oblique wing aircraft. These results were documented for use in future studies of such aircraft.


Real-time simulations have been essential in the flight-test program of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. The HiMAT project makes extensive use of simulations in design, development, and qualification for flight, pilot training, and flight planning. Four distinct simulations, each with varying amounts of hardware in the loop, were developed for the HiMAT project. The use of simulations has been the key to flight qualification of the HiMAT vehicle. Specifically, they are useful in detecting anomalous behavior of the flight software and hardware at the various stages of development, verification, and validation.


A digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system on an F100 engine in an F-15 airplane was evaluated in flight. Thirty flights were flown in a four-phase program from June 1981 to February 1983. Significant improvements in the operability and performance of the F100 engine were
developed as a result of the flight evaluation: the augmentor envelope was increased by 15,000 ft, the airtstart envelope was improved by 75 knots, and the need to periodically trim the engine was eliminated. The hydromechanical backup control performance was evaluated and was found to be satisfactory. Two system failures were encountered in the test program; both were detected and accommodated successfully. No transfers to the backup control system were required, and no automatic transfers occurred. As a result of the successful DEEC flight evaluation, the DEEC system has entered the full-scale development phase.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility has developed a microprocessor-based, user-programmable, general-purpose aircraft interrogation and display system (AIDS). The hardware and software of this ground-support equipment have been designed to permit diverse applications in support of aircraft digital flight-control systems and simulation facilities. AIDS is often employed to provide engineering-units display of internal digital system parameters during development and qualification testing. Such visibility into the system under test has proved to be a key element in the final qualification testing of aircraft digital flight-control systems. Three first-generation 8-bit units are now in service in support of several research aircraft projects, and user acceptance has been high. A second-generation design, extended AIDS (XAIDS), incorporating multiple 16-bit processors, is now being developed to support the forward swept wing aircraft project (X-29A). This paper outlines the AIDS concept, summarizes AIDS operational experience, and describes the planned XAIDS design and mechanization.


The dispersed sensor processing mesh (DSPM) is part of an experimental system used to pursue a proof of concept for an advanced fault-tolerant communication strategy. The DSPM experiments incorporate sensors and effectors into an ultra-reliable nodal network in which a central bus controller performs algorithms to grow and maintain the network. The experiments demonstrate that DSPM is an achievable communication network that can sustain failures and continue to function properly. The results of the experiment give insights into the unique characteristics of the DSPM network and the network’s capacity to limit physical damage propagation, limit damaged-data propagation, and to survive cyclic communication paths. This paper describes the concept, mechanization, and performance of the DSPM system in a real-time flight-critical environment.


A comprehensive software control and system configuration management process for flight-critical digital control systems of advanced aircraft has been developed and refined to insure efficient flight system development and safe flight operations. Because of the highly complex interactions among the hardware, software, and system elements of state-of-the-art digital flight control system designs, a systems-wide approach to configuration control and management has been used. Specific procedures are implemented to govern discrepancy reporting and reconciliation, software and hardware change control, systems verification and validation testing, and formal documentation requirements. An active and knowledgeable configuration control board reviews and approves all flight system configuration modifications and revalidation tests. This flexible process has proved effective during the development and flight testing of several research aircraft and remotely piloted research vehicles with digital flight control systems that ranged from relatively simple to highly complex, integrated mechanizations.


The project-management system developed for NASA’s participation in the X-29A aircraft development program is characterized from a theoretical perspective, as an example of a system appropriate to advanced, highly integrated technology projects. System-control theory is applied to the analysis of classical project-management techniques and structures, which are found to be of closed-loop multivariable type; and the effects of increasing project complexity and integration are evaluated. The importance of information flow, sampling frequency, information holding, and delays is stressed. The X-29A system is developed in four stages: establishment of overall objectives and requirements, determination of information processes (block diagrams) definition of personnel functional roles and relationships, and development of a detailed work-breakdown structure. The resulting system is shown to require a greater information flow to management than conventional methods. Sample block diagrams are provided.
The Dryden Flight Research Facility has developed a pilot trajectory guidance system that is intended to increase the accuracy of flight-test data and decrease the time required to achieve and maintain desired test conditions, or both. The system usually presented to the pilot computed differences between reference or desired and actual flight state conditions. The pilot then used a cockpit display as an aid to acquire and hold desired test conditions. This paper discusses various flight-test maneuvers and the quality of data obtained using the guidance system. Some comparisons are made between the quality of maneuvers obtained with and without the system. Limited details of the guidance system and algorithms used are included. In general, the guidance system improved the quality of the maneuvers and trajectories flown, as well as allowing trajectories to be flown that would not have been possible without the system. This system has moved from the developmental stage to full operational use in various Dryden research and test aircraft.


NASA Ames Research Center has conducted in-flight airload testing of some advanced thermal protection systems (TPS) at the Dryden Flight Research Center. The two flexible TPS materials tested, felt reusable surface insulation (FRSI) and advanced flexible reusable surface insulation (AFRSI), are currently certified for use on the Shuttle orbiter. The objectives of the flight tests were to evaluate the performance of FRSI and AFRSI at simulated launch airloads and to provide a data base for future advanced TPS flight tests. Five TPS configurations were evaluated in a flow field which was representative of relatively flat areas without secondary flows. The TPS materials were placed on a fin, the Flight Test Fixture (FTF), that is attached to the underside of the fuselage of an F-104 aircraft. This paper describes the test approach and techniques used and presents the results of the advanced TPS flight test. There were no failures noted during post-flight inspections of the TPS materials which were exposed to airloads 40 percent higher than the design launch airloads.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


This paper concerns the transient dynamic analysis of the B-52 aircraft carrying the Space Shuttle solid-rocket booster drop-test vehicle (SRB/DTV). The NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) finite-element computer program was used in the analysis. The B-52 operating conditions considered for analysis were (1) landing and (2) braking on aborted takeoff runs. The transient loads for the B-52 pylon front and rear hooks were calculated. The results can be used to establish the safe maneuver envelopes for the B-52 carrying the SRB/DTV in landings and brakings.


The X-29A aircraft is the first manned, experimental high-performance aircraft to be fabricated and flown in many years. The approach for expanding the X-29 flight envelope and collecting research data is described including the methods for monitoring wing divergence, flutter, and aeroservoelastic coupling of the aerodynamic forces with the structure and the flight-control system. Examples of the type of flight data to be acquired are presented along with types of aircraft maneuvers that will be flown. A brief description of the program management structure is also presented and the program schedule is discussed.

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility embarked upon a project with the United States Army Aviation Engineering Flight Activity (USAAEFA) to develop and test a stall-speed warning system. NASA designed and built an automated stall-speed warning system which presents both airspeed and stall speed to the pilot. The airspeed and stall speed are computed in real time by monitoring the basic aerodynamic parameters (dynamic pressure, horizontal and vertical accelerations, and pressure altitude) and other parameters (elevator and flap positions, engine torques, and fuel flow). In addition, an aural warning at predetermined stall margins is presented to the pilot through a voice synthesizer. Once the system was designed and installed in the aircraft, a flight-test program of less than 20 hr was anticipated to determine the stall-speed software coefficients. These coefficients would then be inserted in the system’s software and then test flown over a period of about 10 hr for the purposes of evaluation.


A digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system on an F100 engine in an F-15 airplane was evaluated in flight. Thirty flights were flown in a four-phase program from June 1981 to February 1983. Significant improvements in the operability and performance of the F100 engine were developed as a result of the flight evaluation: the augmentor envelope was increased by 15,000 ft, the airstart envelope was improved by 75 knots, and the need to periodically trim the engine was eliminated. The hydromechanical backup control system was replaced and was found to be satisfactory. Two system failures were encountered in the test program; both were detected and accommodated successfully. No automatic transfers occurred. As a result of the successful DEEC flight evaluation, the DEEC system has entered the full-scale development phase.


The air-start capability of a secondary engine control (SEC) was tested for a DEEC-equipped F100 engine and installed in an F-15 airplane. Two air-start schedules were tested. The first was referred to as the group I schedule; the second or revised schedule was the group II start schedule. Using the group I start schedule, an airspeed of 300 knots was required to ensure successful 40- and 25-percent SEC-mode air starts. If N2 were less than 40 percent, a stall would occur when the start bleeds closed 40 sec after initiation of the air start. If N2 were lower than the desired 65 percent for air starts at higher altitudes and lower airspeeds. All JSF-assisted air starts were successful.

All JFS-assisted air starts were successful with the group start schedule. For the group II schedule, the time between pressurization and start-bleed closure ranged between 50 and 72 sec depending on altitude. All air starts were successful above 225 knots given a 75-knot reduction in required airspeed for a successful air start. Spooldown air starts of 40 percent were successful at 200 knots at altitudes up to 10,650 m and at 175 knots at altitudes up to 6100 m. Idle rpm was lower than the desired 65 percent for air starts at higher altitudes and lower airspeeds. All JSF-assisted air starts were successful.

Keywords: Air start; Aircraft control; Digital systems; Digital techniques; Engine tests; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests


NASA Ames Research Center has conducted in-flight airloads testing of some advanced thermal protection systems (TPS) at the Dryden Flight Research Center. The two flexible TPS materials tested, felt reusable surface insulation (FRSI) and advanced flexible reusable surface insulation (AFRSI), are currently certified for use on the Shuttle orbiter. The objectives of the flight tests were to evaluate the performance of FRSI and AFRSI at simulated launch airloads and to provide a data base for future advanced TPS flight tests. Five TPS configurations were evaluated in a flow field which was representative of relatively flat areas without secondary flows. The TPS materials were placed on a fin, the Flight Test fixture (FTT), that is attached to the underside of the fuselage of an F-104 aircraft. This paper describes the test approach and techniques used and presents the results of the advanced TPS flight test. There were no failures noted during post-flight inspections of the TPS materials which were exposed to airloads 40 percent higher than the design launch airloads.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; In-flight monitoring; Load tests; Space shuttle orbiters; Thermal protection


The management and control of a representative, highly integrated high-technology project, in the X-29A aircraft flight test project is addressed. The X-29A research aircraft required the development and integration of eight distinct technologies in one aircraft. The project management system
developed for the X-29A flight test program focuses on the dynamic interactions and the intercommunication among components of the system. The insights gained from the new conceptual framework permitted subordination of departments to more functional units of decision making, information processing, and communication networks. These processes were used to develop a project management system for the X-29A around the information flows that minimized the effects inherent in sampled-data systems and exploited the closed-loop multivariable nature of highly integrated projects.

Keywords: Decision making; Management planning; Project management; Control theory; Feedback control; Systems analysis


The B-57B Severe Storms Flight Program gathers data to characterize atmosphere anomalies such as wind shear, turbulence, and microbursts at altitudes up to 1000 feet (300 meters). These data are used to enhance the knowledge of atmospheric processes, to improve aviation safety, to develop systems technology and piloting technique for avoiding hazards and to increase the understanding of the causes of related aircraft accidents. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility B-57B aircraft has participated in several severe storms data collection programs such as the Joint Airport Weather Studies (JAWS) located in Denver, Colorado area, Operation Rough Rider located in the Norman, Oklahoma area with the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and mountain and desert turbulence in the Edwards Air Force Base, California area. Flight data are presented from flights which encountered the wind shear, turbulence and microburst anomalies. These flight results are discussed and some conclusions are made relating to these atmospheric anomalies.

Keywords: Meteorological research aircraft; Storms (meteorology); Weather forecasting; Aircraft accidents; Aircraft safety; Atmospheric turbulence; Data acquisition; Gust loads; Microbursts (meteorology); Wind shear; Wind velocity

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An overview of the experience gained at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility in aircraft parameter estimation is presented and the ways in which this experience is used in flight test are explained. Some of the reasons for the current importance of parameter estimation in most modern aircraft test programs are discussed, and three examples from projects underway at Dryden are used to illustrate how parameter estimation of stability derivatives can be integrated into a flight-test program.


A new formulation is proposed for the problem of parameter estimation in dynamic systems with both process and measurement noise. The formulation applies to continuous-time state space system models with discrete-time measurements. Previous formulations of this problem encountered several theoretical and practical difficulties which are overcome by the new formulation. The most important element of the new formulation is a reparameterization of the unknown noise covariances. A computer program that implements the new formulation is available.

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This paper concerns the transient dynamic analysis of the B-52 aircraft carrying the Space Shuttle solid rocket booster drop test vehicle (SRB/DTV). The NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) finite element computer program was used in the analysis. The B-52 operating conditions considered for analysis were (1) landing and (2) braking on aborted takeoff runs. The transient loads for the B-52 pylon front and rear hooks were calculated. The results can be used to establish the safe maneuver envelopes for the B-52 carrying the SRB/DTV in landings and brakings.

Keywords: B-52 aircraft; Dynamic structural analysis; Preflight analysis; Space shuttle boosters.


Digital flight control systems are popular for their flexibility,
reliability, and power; however, their use sometimes results in deficient handling qualities, including pilot-induced oscillation (PIO), which can require extensive redesign of the control system. When redesign is not immediately possible, temporary solutions, such as the PIO suppression (PiOS) filter developed for the Space Shuttle, have been proposed. To determine the effectiveness of such PiOS filters on more conventional, high-performance aircraft, three experiments were performed using the NASA F-8 digital fly-by-wire and USAF/Calspan NT-33 variable-stability aircraft. Two types of PiOS filters were evaluated, using high-gain, precision tasks (close formation, probe-and-drogue refueling, and precision touch-and-go landing) with a time delay or a first-order lag added to make the aircraft prone to PIO. Various configurations of the PiOS filter were evaluated in the flight programs, and most of the PiOS filter configurations reduced the occurrence of PiOs and improved the handling qualities of the PIO-prone aircraft. These experiments also confirmed the influence of high-gain tasks and excessive control system time delay in evoking pilot-induced oscillations.

Keywords: Adaptive filters; Automatic flight control; Control stability; Digital systems; Fighter aircraft.


The X-29A aircraft is the first manned, experimental high-performance aircraft to be fabricated and flown in many years. The approach for expanding the X-29 flight envelope and collecting research data is described including the methods for monitoring wind divergence, flutter, and aeroservoelastic coupling of the aerodynamic forces with the structure and the flight-control system. Examples of the type of flight data to be acquired are presented along with types of aircraft maneuvers that will be flown. A brief description of the program management structure is also presented and the program schedule is discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Control; Fighter aircraft; Flight; Flight characteristics.


Oil was used to visualize inflight aerodynamic characteristics such as boundary layer transition, shock wave location, regions of separated flow, and surface flow direction. The technique, which is similar to wind tunnel oil-flow testing, involves an oil mixture to test aircraft before takeoff. After takeoff, the airplane climbs immediately to the test altitude and photographs are taken. The developmental experience is summarized, several examples of inflight oil-flow photographs are presented and discussed, and an approach for potential users of the technique is presented.

Keywords: F-111 aircraft; Flight characteristics; Flow distribution; Oils; Photography.


The Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center has developed a pilot trajectory guidance system that increases the accuracy of flight-test data and decreases the time required to achieve and maintain desired test conditions. The system usually presented to the pilot computed differences between reference or desired and actual flight state conditions. The pilot then used a cockpit display as an aid to acquire and hold desired test conditions. This paper discusses various flight-test maneuvers and the quality of data obtained using the guidance system. Some comparisons are made between the quality of maneuvers obtained with and without the system. Limited details of the guidance system and algorithms used are included. In general, the guidance system improved the quality of the maneuvers and trajectories flown, as well as allowing trajectories to be flown that would not have been possible without the system. This system has moved from the developmental stage to full operational use in various Dryden research and test aircraft.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Cockpits; Display devices; Dynamic pressure; Flight tests.


The locally linearized longitudinal and lateral-directional aerodynamic stability and control derivatives for the X-29A aircraft were calculated for altitudes ranging from sea level to 25 deg. Several other parameters were also calculated, including 5 deg aerodynamic force and moment coefficients, control face position, normal acceleration, static margin, and reference angle of attack.
Advanced fighter technologies are evolving into highly complex systems. Flight controls are being integrated with advanced avionics to achieve a total system. The advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16 aircraft is an example of a highly complex digital flight control system integrated with advanced avionics and cockpit. The architecture of these new systems involves several general issues. The use of dissimilar backup modes if the primary system fails requires the designer to tradeoff system simplicity and capability. This tradeoff is evident in the AFTI/F-16 aircraft with its limited stability and fly-by-wire digital flight control systems. In case of a generic software failure, the backup or normal mode must provide equivalent envelope protection during the transition to degraded flight control. The complexity of systems like the AFTI/F-16 system defines a second design issue, which can be divided into two segments: the effect on testing, and the pilot's ability to act correctly in the limited time available for cockpit decisions. The large matrix of states possible with the AFTI/F-16 flight control system illustrates the difficulty of both testing the system and choosing real-time pilot actions.

Keywords: Avionics; Digital systems; Display devices; F-16 aircraft; Flight control.


An overview of the Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) is presented in this paper. The three WATR facilities are discussed, and three WATR elements—mission control centers, communications systems, real-time processing and display systems, and tracking systems—are reviewed. The relationships within the NASA WATR, with respect to the NASA aeronautics program, are also discussed.

Keywords: Communication equipment; Real time operation; Spacecraft tracking; Test facilities; Test ranges.


The recent test program, in which the SR-2 and SR-3 Prop-Fan models were acoustically tested in flight, is described and the results of analysis of noise data acquired are discussed. The trends of noise levels with flight operating parameters are shown. The acoustic benefits of the SR-3 design with swept blades relative to the SR-2 design with straight blades are shown. Noise data measured on the surface of a small-diameter microphone boom mounted above the fuselage and on the surface of the airplane fuselage are compared to show the effects of acoustic propagation through a boundary layer. Noise level estimates made using a theoretically based prediction methodology are compared with measurements.


The simulation requirements for investigation of pilot-induced-oscillation (PIO) characteristics during the landing phase are discussed. Orbiters simulations and F-8 digital fly-by-wire aircraft tests are addressed.

Keywords: Computerized simulation; F-8 aircraft; Oscillations; Pilot induced oscillation; Pilot performance.


Short-term compressive creep tests were conducted on three titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V coupons at three different stress levels at a temperature of 714 K (825 °F). The test data were compared to several creep laws developed from tensile creep tests of available literature. The short-term creep test data did not correlate well with any of the creep laws obtained from available literature. The creep laws themselves did not correlate well with each other. Short-term creep does not appear to be very predictable for titanium alloy Ti-6Al-4V. Aircraft events that result in extreme, but short-term temperature and stress excursions for this alloy should be approached cautiously. Extrapolations of test data and creep laws suggest a convergence toward predictability in the longer-term situation.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Compression tests; Creep tests; Flight tests; High temperature tests.

The development and testing of a stall-speed warning system for the OV-1C was examined. NASA designed and built an automated stall-speed warning system which presents both airspeed and stall speed to the pilot. The airspeed and stall speed are computed in real time by monitoring the basic aerodynamic parameters (dynamic pressure, horizontal and vertical accelerations, and pressure altitude) and other parameters (elevator and flap positions, engine torques, and fuel flow). In addition, an aural warning at predetermined stall margins is presented to the pilot through a voice synthesizer. Once the system was designed and installed in the aircraft, a flight-test program of less than 20 hrs was anticipated to determine the stall-speed software coefficients. These coefficients would then be inserted in the system’s software and then test flown over a period of about 10 hr for the purpose of evaluation.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Aircraft instruments; Airspeed; Avionics; Flight safety.


The measurement performance of a hemispherical flow-angularity probe and a fuselage-mounted pitot-static probe was evaluated at high flow angles as part of a test program on an F-14 airplane. These evaluations were performed using a calibrated pitot-static noseboom equipped with vanes for reference flow direction measurements, and another probe incorporating vanes but mounted on a pod under the fuselage nose. Data are presented for angles of attack up to 63, angles of sideslip from –22 deg to 22 deg, and for Mach numbers from approximately 0.3 to 1.3. During maneuvering flight, the hemispherical flow-angularity probe exhibited flow angle errors that exceeded 2 deg. Pressure measurements with the pitot-static probe resulted in very inaccurate data above a Mach number of 0.87 and exhibited large sensitivities with flow angle.

Keywords: Angle of attack; F-14 aircraft; Flow measurement; Mach number; Sideslip.


The Advanced Fighter Technology Integration (AFTI) F-16 program is investigating the integration of emerging technologies into an advanced fighter aircraft. The three major technologies involved are the triplex digital flight control system; decoupled aircraft flight control; and integration of avionics, pilot displays, and flight control. In addition to investigating improvements in fighter performance, the AFTI/F-16 program provides a look at generic problems facing highly integrated, flight-crucial digital controls. An overview of the AFTI/F-16 systems is followed by a summary of flight test experience and recommendations.


An overview of Dryden superaugmented aircraft flying qualities research is presented. This includes F-8 digital fly by wire flight experiments, orbiter flying qualities, shuttle improvements, AFTI/F-16, flying qualities and control system alternatives, Vertical Motion Simulator Shuttle evaluation and Total in Flight Simulator pitch rate criteria.


The purpose of parameter estimation, a subset of system identification, is to estimate the coefficients (such as stability and control derivatives) of the aircraft differential equations of motion from sampled measured dynamic responses. In the past, the primary reason for estimating stability and control
derivatives from flight tests was to make comparisons with wind tunnel estimates. As aircraft became more complex, and as flight envelopes were expanded to include flight regimes that were not well understood, new requirements for the derivative estimates evolved. For many years, the flight determined derivatives were used in simulations to aid in flight planning and in pilot training. The simulations were particularly important in research flight test programs in which an envelope expansion into new flight regimes was required. Parameter estimation techniques for estimating stability and control derivatives from flight data became more sophisticated to support the flight test programs. As knowledge of these new flight regimes increased, more complex aircraft were flown. Much of this increased complexity was in sophisticated flight control systems. The design and refinement of the control system required higher fidelity simulations than were previously required.


The B-57B Gust Gradient Program is a joint effort of NASA Headquarters, Marshall Space Flight Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility, Langley Research Center, and Ames Research Center. The primary program goal is to measure spanwise variations of turbulent gusts across an airflow. To this end, the NASA B-57B aircraft was equipped with three component gust probes on each wing tip and on the nose. Early results of flights done in conjunction with the Joint Airport Weather Studies (JAWS) project are described.

**Tennessee University, Space Institute, Tullahoma, Tennessee.
†NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight evaluation in an F-15 aircraft by digital electronic engine control (DEEC) was investigated. Topics discussed include: system description, F100 engine tests, effects of inlet distortion on static pressure probe, flight tests, digital electronic engine control fault detection and accommodation flight evaluation, flight evaluation of a hydromechanical backup control, augmentor transient capability of an F100 engine, investigation of nozzle instability, real time in flight thrust calculation, and control technology for future aircraft propulsion systems. It is shown that the DEEC system is a powerful and flexible controller for the F100 engine.


A flight test evaluation of the digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system was conducted. An overview of the flight program is presented. The roles of the participating parties, the system, and the flight program objectives are described. The test program approach is discussed, and the engine performance benefits are summarized. A description of the follow-on programs is included.


Full authority digital electronic engine controls (DEECs) were studied, developed, and ground tested because of projected benefits in operability, improved performance, reduced maintenance, improved reliability, and lower life cycle costs. The issues of operability and improved performance, however, are assessed in a flight test program. The DEEC on a F100 engine in an F-15 aircraft was demonstrated and evaluated. The events leading to the flight test program are chronicled and important management and technical results are identified.


A digital electronic engine control (DEEC) was developed for use on the F100-PW-100 turbofan engine. This control system has full authority control, capable of moving all the controlled variables over their full ranges. The digital computational electronics and fault detection and accommodation logic maintains safe engine operation. A hydromechanical backup control (BUC) is an integral part of the fuel metering unit and provides gas generator control at a reduced performance level in the event of an electronics failure. The DEEC’s features, hardware, and major logic diagrams are described.

Problems encountered in obtaining good engine face pressure data were studied. A single static measurement located upstream of the engine hub in the stream flow was found to provide a pressure signal suitable for engine control. Two identical probes for measuring fan inlet static (PS2) pressure were designed and mounted on the hub of the left F100-PW-100 turbofan engine installed in the F-15 test aircraft for flight evaluation. The probe is used as a static pressure sensor for a digital engine control system.


The digital electronic engine control (DEEC) is a full-authority digital engine control developed for the F100-PW-100 turbofan engine which was flight tested on an F-15 aircraft. The DEEC hardware and software throughout the F-15 flight envelope was evaluated. Real-time data reduction and data display systems were implemented. New test techniques and stronger coordination between the propulsion test engineer and pilot were developed which produced efficient use of test time, reduced pilot work load, and greatly improved quality data. The engine pressure ratio (EPR) control mode is demonstrated. It is found that the nonaugmented throttle transients and engine performance are satisfactory.


The capabilities and performance of various fault detection and accommodation (FDA) schemes in existing and projected engine control systems were investigated. Flight tests of the digital electronic engine control (DEEC) in an F-15 aircraft show discrepancies between flight results and predictions based on simulation and altitude testing. The FDA methodology and logic in the DEEC system, and the results of the flight failures which occurred to date are described.


The digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system installed on an F100 engine in an F-15 aircraft was tested. The DEEC system incorporates a closed-loop air start feature in which the fuel flow is modulated to achieve the desired rate of compressor acceleration. With this logic the DEEC equipped F100 engine can achieve air starts over a larger envelope. The DEEC air start logic, the test program conducted on the F-15, and its results are described.


The backup control (BUC) features, the operation of the BUC system, the BUC control logic, and the BUC flight test results are described. The flight test results include: (1) transfers to the BUC at military and maximum power settings; (2) a military power acceleration showing comparisons between flight and simulation for BUC and primary modes; (3) steady-state idle power showing idle compressor speeds at different flight conditions; and (4) idle-to-military power BUC transients showing where compressor stalls occurred for different ramp rates and idle speeds. All the BUC transfers which occur during the DEEC flight program are initiated by the pilot. Automatic transfers to the BUC do not occur.


The air start capability of a backup control (BUC) was tested for a digital electronic engine control (DEEC) equipped F100 engine, which was installed in an F-15 aircraft. Two air start schedules were tested. Using the group 1 start schedule, based on a 40 sec timer, an air speed of 300 knots was required to ensure successful 40 and 25% BUC mode spooldown airstarts. If core rotor speed (N2) was less than 40% a stall would occur when the start bleed closed, 40 sec after initiation of the air start. All jet fuel starter (JFS) assisted air starts were successful with the group 1 start schedule. For the group 2 schedule, the time between pressurization and start bleed closure ranged between 50 sec and 72 sec. Idle rmps was lower than the desired 65% for air starts at higher altitudes and lower air speeds.

An F100 augmented turbofan engine equipped with digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system was evaluated. The engine was equipped with a specially modified augmentor to provide improved steady state and transient augmentor capability. The combination of the DEEC and the modified augmentor was evaluated in sea level and altitude facility tests and then in four different flight phases in an F-15 aircraft. The augmentor configuration, logic, and test results are presented.


An instability in the nozzle of the F100 engine, equipped with a digital electronic engine control (DEEC), was observed during a flight evaluation on an F-15 aircraft. The instability occurred in the upper left hand corner (ULMC) of the flight envelope during augmentation. The instability was not predicted by stability analysis, closed-loop simulations of the engine, or altitude testing of the engine. The instability caused stalls and augmentor blowouts. The nozzle instability and the altitude testing are described. Linear analysis and nonlinear digital simulation test results are presented. Software modifications on further flight test are discussed.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


Computer algorithms which calculate in-flight engine and aircraft performance real-time are discussed. The first step was completed with the implementation of a real-time thrust calculation program on a digital electronic engine control (DEEC) equipped F100 engine in an F-15 aircraft. The in-flight thrust modifications that allow calculations to be performed in real-time, to compare results to predictions, are presented.

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Real time simulations have been essential in the flight test program of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. The HiMAT project makes extensive use of simulations in design, development, and qualification for flight, pilot training, and flight planning. Four distinct simulations, each with varying amounts of hardware in the loop, were developed for the HiMAT project. The use of simulations in detecting anomalous behavior of the flight software and hardware at the various stages of development, verification, and validation has been the key to flight qualification of the HiMAT vehicle.

Keywords: Computerized simulation; Flight tests; Pilot training; Real time operation; Remotely piloted vehicles.


A Canadian invention, the peripheral vision horizon display (PVHD), shows promise in alleviating vertigo and disorientation in pilots flying under instrument conditions and easing the piloting task when flying in weather or other conditions requiring close attention to aircraft attitude instruments. A diversity of research and applied work was being done to investigate and validate the benefits of the PVHD during the years immediately preceding this conference. Organizers of the conference were able to assemble a group of outstanding presenters representing academic, industrial, and military. The theoretical foundation and applied use of the PVHD are discussed, and results from operational tests are presented.

Keywords: Attitude indicators; Conferences; Display devices; Instrument flight rules; Peripheral vision.


Instrumentation interfacing frequently requires the linking of intelligent systems together, as well as requiring the link itself to be intelligent. The airborne instrumentation computer system (AICS) was developed to address this requirement. Its small size, approximately 254 by 133 by 140 mm (10 by 5 1/4 by 5 1/2 in), standard bus, and modular board configuration give it the ability to solve instrumentation interfacing and computation problems without forcing a redesign of the entire unit. This system has been used on the F-15 aircraft digital electronic engine control (DEEC) and its follow on engine model derivative (EMD) project and in an OV-1C Mohawk aircraft stall speed warning system. The AICS is presently undergoing configuration for use on an F-104 pace aircraft.
and on the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-111 aircraft.

Keywords: Digital systems; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Microprocessors; Warning systems.


New flight test techniques in use at Ames Dryden are reviewed. The use of the pilot in combination with ground and airborne computational capabilities to maximize data return is discussed, including the remotely piloted research vehicle technique for high-risk testing, the remotely augmented vehicle technique for handling qualities research, and use of ground computed flight director information to fly unique profiles such as constant Reynolds number profiles through the transonic flight regime. Techniques used for checkout and design verification of systems-oriented aircraft are discussed, including descriptions of the various simulations, iron bird setups, and vehicle tests. Some newly developed techniques to support the aeronautical research disciplines are discussed, including a new approach to position-error determination, and the use of a large skin friction balance for the measurement of drag caused by various excrescences.

Keywords: Flight tests; Pilot performance; Remotely piloted vehicles; Systems analysis; Systems integration.


A homemade peripheral vision horizon device (PVHD) made from an eight-ball attitude indicator, with a slit cut at the equator of the eight ball, and a light source at its center that was used on a T-37 for several years is discussed. The instrument produced a sharp white line about one-fourth of an inch that extended completely across the cockpit from about the left to the right quarter panels. The line remained parallel to the real horizon during all maneuvers. Its brightness and vertical distance from the horizon were adjustable in flight, as was the lateral center-of-rotation in later flights. Flight demonstrations were done on visual flight rules (VFR) moonless nights and over terrain with few lights. Pilot responses were mostly favorable to enthusiastic, with no negative reactions. Problem areas noted were the upright-inverted ambiguity; one pilot recovered inverted following an unusual attitude exercise and a general deterioration in the naturalness of cueing at bank angles greater than 60 deg or pitch attitudes greater than 30 deg.

Keywords: Attitude indicators; Conferences; Display devices; Instrument flight rules; Peripheral vision.


The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle was evaluated in a joint NASA and Air Force flight test program. The HiMAT vehicle is a remotely piloted research vehicle. Its design incorporates the use of advanced composite materials in the wings, and canards for aeroelastic tailoring. A flight-flutter test program was conducted to clear a sufficient flight envelope to allow for performance, stability and control, and loads testing. Testing was accomplished with and without flight control-surface dampers. Flutter clearance of the vehicle indicated satisfactory damping and damping trends for the structural modes of the HiMAT vehicle. The data presented include frequency and damping plotted as a function of Mach number.

Keywords: Flight characteristics; Flight control; Flight tests; Flutter; Highly maneuverable aircraft.


The utility of a visual display when studying the influence of changes in lateral stick gearing gains on the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) vehicle handling qualities during simulated approaches and landings is investigated. The visual display improved the validity of the simulation and provided improved roll response cues for the HiMAT aircraft landing approach. A range of acceptable constant lateral stick gearing gains is found that provides adequate maneuverability and allows for precision moments.

Keywords: Computerized simulation; Display devices; Flight characteristics; Flight simulation; Highly maneuverable aircraft.


The introduction of electronic fuel control to modern turbine engines has a number of advantages, which are related to an increase in engine performance and to a reduction or elimination of the problems associated with high angle of attack engine operation from the surface to 50,000 feet. If
the appropriate engine display devices are available to the pilot, the fuel control system can provide a great amount of information. Some of the wealth of information available from modern fuel controls are discussed in this paper. The considered electronic engine control systems in their most recent forms are known as the Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) and the Digital Electronic Engine Control (DEEC). Attention is given to some details regarding the control systems, typical engine problems, the solution of problems with the aid of displays, engine displays in normal operation, an example display format, a multipage format, flight strategies, and hardware considerations.

**F-15 HiDEC Aircraft**


A simulation study was conducted to optimize minimum time and fuel consumption paths for an F-15 airplane powered by two F100 Engine Model Derivative (EMD) engines. The benefits of using variable stall margin (uptrim) to increase performance were also determined. This study supports the NASA Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) program. The basis for this comparison was minimum time and fuel used to reach Mach 2 at 13,716 m (45,000 ft) from the initial conditions of Mach 0.15 at 1524 m (5000 ft). Results were also compared to a pilot's estimated minimum time and fuel trajectory determined from the F-15 flight manual and previous experience. The minimum time trajectory took 15 percent less time than the pilot's estimate for the standard EMD engines, while the minimum fuel trajectory used 1 percent less fuel than the pilot's estimate for the minimum fuel trajectory. The F-15 airplane with EMD engines and uptrim, was 23 percent faster than the pilot's estimate. The minimum fuel used was 5 percent less than the estimate.

Keywords: Combustion efficiency; Digital systems; Flight paths; Flight simulation; Fuel consumption.

1338. Myers, L. P.; and Burcham, F. W., Jr.: *Preliminary Flight Test Results of the F100 EMD Engine in an F-15 Airplane.* NASA TM-85902, H-1247, NAS 1.15:85902, also presented at the 20th AIAA, ASME, and SAE Joint Propulsion Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 11–13, 1984, June 1984, 84N24588, #. (see also 1337.) PDF DTRS

A flight evaluation of the F100 Engine Model Derivative (EMD) is conducted. The F100 EMD is an advanced version of the F100 engine that powers the F15 and F16 airplanes. The F100 EMD features a bigger fan, higher temperature turbine, a Digital Electronic Engine Control system (DEEC), and a newly designed 16 segment afterburner, all of which results in a 15 to 20 percent increase in sea level thrust. The flight evaluations consist of investigation of performance (thrust, fuel flow, and airflow) and operability (transient response and airstart) in the F-15 airplane. The performance of the F100 EMD is excellent. Aircraft acceleration time to Mach 2.0 is reduced by 23 percent with two F100 EMD engines. Several anomalies are discovered in the operability evaluations. A software change to the DEEC improved the throttle, and subsequent Cooper Harper ratings of 3 to 4 are obtained. In the extreme upper left hand corner of the flight enveloped, compressor stalls occur when the throttle is retarded to idle power. These stalls are not predicted by altitude facility tests or stability for the compressor.

Keywords: Engine design; Engine tests; Jet engines; Performance tests; Propulsion system configurations.

1339. Myers, L. P.; and Burcham, F. W., Jr.: *Preliminary Flight Test Results of the F100 EMD Engine in an F-15 Airplane.* AIAA Paper 84-1332. Presented at the AIAA, SAE, and ASME, 20th Joint Propulsion Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 11–13, 1984, 84A35176, #. (see also 1336.) PDF AIAA

An assessment is given of results from a 17-flight evaluation of the F100 Engine Model Derivative (EMD) powerplant in an F-15 fighter. The EMD variant of the F100 engine incorporates a larger fan, a higher temperature turbine, an estimate, digital control system, and a 16-segment afterburner. These modifications result in a 15 to 20 percent increase in thrust which is exhibited in the reduction of F-15 acceleration time to Mach 2.0 by 23 percent. The only uncorrected shortcoming of the engine upon completion of the 17-flight test course was the occurrence of compressor stalls at the throttle's idle setting. These stalls had not been predicted by either ground facility tests or compressor stability assessments.


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The Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) program will demonstrate and evaluate the improvements in performance and mission effectiveness that result from integrated engine/airframe control systems. This system is being used on the F-15 airplane. An integrated flightpath management mode and an integrated adaptive engine stall margin mode are implemented into the system. The adaptive stall margin mode is a highly integrated mode in which the airplane flight conditions, the resulting inlet distortion, and the engine stall margin are continuously computed; the excess stall margin is used to uptrim the engine for more thrust. The integrated flightpath management mode optimizes the flightpath and throttle setting to reach a desired flight condition. The increase in thrust and the improvement in airplane performance is discussed.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Computer programs; Engine airframe integration; Flight control; Performance prediction.


The highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) program will demonstrate and evaluate the improvements in performance and mission effectiveness that result from integrated engine/airframe control systems. This system is being used on the F-15 airplane at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. An integrated flightpath management mode and an integrated adaptive engine stall margin mode are being implemented into the system. The adaptive stall margin mode is a highly integrated mode in which the airplane flight conditions, the resulting inlet distortion, and the engine stall margin are continuously computed; the excess stall margin is used to uptrim the engine for more thrust. The integrated flightpath management mode optimizes the flightpath and throttle setting to reach a desired flight condition. The increase in thrust and the improvement in airplane performance is discussed in this paper.


A structural performance and resizing (SPAR) finite element thermal analysis computer program was used in the heat transfer analysis of the space shuttle orbiter that was subjected to reentry aerodynamic heatings. One wing segment of the right wing (WS 240) and the whole left wing were selected for the thermal analysis. Results showed that the predicted thermal protection system (TPS) temperatures were in good agreement with the space transportation system, trajectory 5 (STS-5) flight-measured temperatures. In addition, calculated aluminum structural temperatures were in fairly good agreement with the flight data up to the point of touchdown. Results also showed that the internal free convection had a considerable effect on the change of structural temperatures after touchdown.

Keywords: Buckling; Finite element method; Heat transfer; Reentry effects; Thermal protection.


A structural performance and resizing (SPAR) finite element thermal analysis computer program was used in the heat transfer analysis of the Space Shuttle Orbiter that was subjected to reentry aerodynamic heatings. One wing segment of the right wing (WS 240) and the whole left wing were selected for the thermal analysis. Results showed that the predicted thermal protection system (TPS) temperatures were in good agreement with the space transportation system, trajectory 5 (STS-5) flight-measured temperatures. In addition, calculated aluminum structural temperatures were in fairly good agreement with flight data up to the point of touchdown. Results also showed that the internal free convection has a considerable effect on the change of structural temperatures after touchdown.


This paper presents the status of the structural development of an integral cryogenic-tankage/hot-fuselage concept for future Space Transportation Systems (STS). The concept consists of a honeycomb sandwich structure which serves the combined functions of containment of cryogenic fuel, support of vehicle loads, and thermal protection from an entry heating environment. The inner face sheet is exposed to a cryogenic (LH2) temperature of –423°F during boost; and the outer face sheet, which is slotted to reduce thermal stress, is exposed to a maximum temperature of 1400°F during a high-altitude, gliding entry. A fabrication process for a Ren6 41 honeycomb sandwich panel with a core solidity less than 1% has been developed, which is consistent with desirable heat treatment processes for high strength. Preliminary structural allowable and thermal properties for use in structural system studies have been determined; two 1 x 6 ft panels have been...
tested with combined thermal and mechanical loads; and the effects of slots used to reduce stresses in the outer face sheet on the lower surface of the vehicle have been evaluated in the cryogenic environment associated with containment of LH2 fuel. Based on the work presented in previous system studies and the hardware development described herein, the RenC 41 honeycomb sandwich appears to be a viable structural concept for an integral cryogenic tank/hot-fuselage structure; however, additional in-depth studies, hardware development, and testing are required to verify the concept fully.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A series of airstarts was conducted in an F-15 airplane with two prototype F100 engine model derivative (EMD) engines equipped with digital electronic engine control (DEEC) systems. The airstart envelope and time required for airstarts were defined. The success of an airstart is most heavily dependent on airspeed. Spooldown airstarts at 200 knots and higher were all successful. Spooldown airstart times ranged from 53 sec to 250 knots to 170 sec at 175 knots. Jet fuel starter (JFS) assisted airstarts were conducted at 175 knots at two altitudes, and airstart times were 50 and 60 sec, significantly faster than unassisted airstart. The effect of altitude on airstarts was small. In addition, the airstart characteristics of the two test engines were found to closely resemble each other. The F100 EMD airstart characteristics were very similar to the DEEC equipped F100 engine tested previously. Finally, the time required to spool down from intermediate power compressor rotor speed to a given compressor rotor speed was found to be a strong function of altitude and a weaker function of airspeed.

Keywords: Electronic control; Engine control; F-15 aircraft; Ignition; Turbofan engines.


Instrumentation interfacing frequently requires the linking of intelligent systems together, as well as requiring the link itself to be intelligent. The airborne instrumentation computer system (AICS) was developed to address this requirement. Its small size, approximately 254 by 133 by 140 mm (10 by 5 1/4 by 5 1/2 in), standard bus, and modular board configuration give it the ability to solve instrumentation interfacing and computation problems without forcing a redesign of the entire unit. This system has been used on the F-15 aircraft digital electronic engine control (DEEC) and its follow on engine model derivative (EMD) project and in an OV-1C Mohawk aircraft stall speed warning system. The AICS is presently undergoing configuration for use on an F-104 pace aircraft and on the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-111 aircraft.


A comprehensive software control and system configuration management process for flight-cruicial digital control systems of advanced aircraft has been developed and refined to insure efficient flight system development and safe flight operations. Because of the highly complex interactions among the hardware, software, and system elements of state-of-the-art digital flight control system designs, a systems-wide approach to configuration control and management has been used. Specific procedures are implemented to govern discrepancy reporting and reconciliation, software and hardware change control, systems verification and validation testing, and formal documentation requirements. An active and knowledgeable configuration control board reviews and approves all flight system configuration modifications and revalidation tests. This flexible process has proved effective during the development and flight testing of several research aircraft and remotely piloted research vehicles with digital flight control systems that ranged from relatively simple to highly complex, integrated mechanizations.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Automatic flight control; Computer programs; Configuration management; Software engineering.


A successful manned, low speed, controlled deep stall flight research program was conducted at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. Piloting techniques were established that enabled the pilot to attain and stabilize on an angle of attack in the 30 deg to 72 deg range. A flight determined aerodynamic data base was established for angles of attack as high as 72 deg. Poor lateral directional flying qualities were encountered at angles of attack above 60 deg. Insight into the high angle of attack lateral directional dynamics was gained through a basic root locus analysis.
Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Angle of attack; Data bases; Flight characteristics; Low speed.


Aerodynamic data from NASA Ames Research Center’s 11-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel are plotted for the 1/8-scale X-29A forward-swept wing aircraft model. Eleven configurations were tested to provide supplemental data to investigate single surface failure modes, complex nonlinearities, and model buildup. These data can be used for control system refinements, pilot training, flight planning, and aerodynamic model validation. Data are presented as corrected wind tunnel data without analysis to document results that are being used for the aerodynamic model.

Keywords: Models; Swept forward wings; Transonic wind tunnels; Wind tunnel tests; X-29 aircraft.


A series of airstarts were conducted in an F-15 airplane with two prototype Pratt and Whitney F100 Engine Model Derivative engines equipped with Digital Electronic Engine Control (DEEC) systems. The airstart envelope and the time required for airstarts were defined. Comparisons were made between the original airstart logic, and modified logic which was designed to improve the airstart capability. Spooldown airstarts with the modified logic were more successful at lower altitudes than were those with the original logic. Spooldown airstart times ranged from 33 seconds at 250 knots to 83 seconds at 175 knots. The modified logic improved the airstart time from 31% to 53%, with the most improved times at slower airspeeds. Jet fuel starter (JFS)-assisted airstarts were conducted at 7000 m and airstart times were significantly faster than unassisted airstarts. The effect of altitude on airstart times was small.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft design; Aircraft engines; Digital systems; Electronic control.


The paper describes the development of an eight-node plane rectangular finite dynamic element and presents detailed descriptions of the associated numerical formulation involving the higher order dynamic correction terms pertaining to the related stiffness and inertia matrices. Numerical test results of free vibration analyses are presented in detail for the newly developed eight-node element and also the corresponding four-node element in order to make a clear comparison of the relative efficiencies of the corresponding finite element and dynamic element procedures. Such results indicate a superior pattern of solution convergence of the presently developed dynamic element.


The degree of attitude control provided by current integral-proportional pitch rate command-type control systems, while a prerequisite for flared landing, is insufficient for “Level 1” performance. The pilot requires “surrogate” feedback cues to precisely control flight path in the landing flare. Monotonic stick forces and pilot station vertical acceleration are important cues which can be provided by means of angle-of-attack and pitch rate feedback in order to achieve conventional short period and phugoid characteristics. Integral-proportional pitch rate flight control systems can be upgraded to Level 1 flared landing performance by means of lead/lag and washout prefilters in the command path. Strong pilot station vertical acceleration cues can provide Level 1 flared landing performance even in the absence of monotonic stick forces.

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A simulator evaluation of a remotely piloted research vehicle was conducted at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility to determine the utility of a visual display when studying the influence of changes in the lateral-stick gearing gains during landing approaches. The test vehicle used in this study was a highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) aircraft, which is a 0.44-scale version of an envisioned small, single-seat fighter airplane. Handling qualities ratings and comments obtained from pilots using a simulated visual display of a runway scene and a simulated instrument landing system (ILS) display were compared with the results of actual flight tests. The visual display was found to provide an adequate representation of the test vehicle in a visual landing approach, and it improved the roll
response cues provided to the pilot. The handling qualities ratings and comments for flight and simulation visual landing approaches correlated well. The ILS simulation results showed reduced correlation compared with the flight results for ILS approaches. Handling qualities criteria for remotely piloted research vehicles are also discussed in this paper.


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Keywords: Controllability; Display devices; Flight tests; Landing; Remotely piloted vehicles.


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NASA’s F-8 digital fly-by-wire aircraft has been subjected to stability and control derivative assessments, leading to the proposal of improved control inputs for more efficient control derivative estimation. This will reduce program costs by reducing flight test and data analysis requirements. Inputs were divided into sinusoidal types and cornered types. Those with corners produced the best set of stability and control derivatives for the unaugmented flight control system mode. Small inputs are noted to have provided worse derivatives than larger ones.

Keywords: F-8 aircraft; Flight tests; Fly by wire control; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification.


NASA’s F-8 digital fly-by-wire aircraft has been subjected to stability and control derivative assessments, leading to the proposal of improved control inputs for more efficient control derivative estimation. This will reduce program costs by reducing flight test and data analysis requirements. Inputs were divided into sinusoidal types and cornered types. Those with corners produced the best set of stability and control derivatives for the unaugmented flight control system mode. Small inputs are noted to have provided worse derivatives than larger ones.


A discussion is undertaken concerning the maximum likelihood estimator and the aircraft equations of motion it employs, with attention to the application of the concepts of minimization and estimation to a simple computed aircraft example. Graphic representations are given for the cost functions to help illustrate the minimization process. The basic concepts are then generalized, and estimations obtained from flight data are evaluated. The example considered shows the advantage of low measurement noise, multiple estimates at a given condition, the Cramer-Rao bounds, and the quality of the match between measured and computed data.
A study to measure and compare pilot time delay when using a space shuttle rotational hand controller and a more conventional control stick was conducted at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. The space shuttle controller has a palm pivot in the pitch axis. The more conventional controller used was a general-purpose engineering simulator stick that has a pivot length between that of a typical aircraft center stick and a sidestick. Measurements of the pilot’s effective time delay were obtained through a first-order, closed-loop, compensatory tracking task in pitch. The tasks were implemented through a space shuttle cockpit simulator and a critical task tester device. The study consisted of 450 data runs with four test pilots and one nonpilot, and used three control stick configurations and two system delays. Results showed that the heavier conventional stick had the lowest pilot effective time delays associated with it, whereas the shuttle and light conventional sticks each had similar higher pilot time delay characteristics. It was also determined that each control stick showed an increase in pilot time delay when the total system delay was increased.

During the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) flight test program recently completed at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility, numerous problems were experienced in airspeed calibration. This necessitated the use of state reconstruction techniques to arrive at a position-error calibration. For the HiMAT aircraft, most of the calibration effort was expended on flights in which the air data pressure transducers were not performing accurately. Following discovery of this problem, the air data transducers of both aircraft were wrapped in heater blankets to correct the problem. Additional calibration flights were performed, and from the resulting data a satisfactory position-error calibration was obtained. This calibration and data obtained before installation of the heater blankets were used to develop an alternate calibration method. The alternate approach took advantage of high-quality inertial data that was readily available. A linearized Kalman filter (LKF) was used to reconstruct the aircraft’s wind-relative trajectory; the trajectory was then used to separate transducer measurement errors from the aircraft position error. This calibration method is accurate and inexpensive. The LKF technique has an inherent advantage of requiring that no flight maneuvers be specially designed for airspeed calibrations. It is of particular use when the measurements of the wind-relative quantities are suspected to have transducer-related errors.

Keywords: Calibrating; Flight tests; Flow velocity; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Kalman filters.

The paper is concerned with the development of novel numerical procedures for the solution of static, stability, free vibration and dynamic response analysis of large, complex practical structures. Thus, details of numerical algorithms evolved for dynamic analysis of usual non-rotating and also rotating structures as well as finite dynamic elements are presented in the paper. Furthermore, the article provides some description of a general-purpose computer program STARS specifically developed for efficient analysis of complex practical structures.

The application of an experimental flight test maneuver autopilot test technique for collecting aerodynamic and structural flight research data on a highly maneuverable aircraft is described in this paper. This technique, which was developed to increase the quality and quantity of data obtained during flight test, was applied to the highly
maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle. A primary flight experiment was to verify the design techniques used to develop the HiMAT aerodynamics and structures. This required the performance of maneuvers for collection of large quantities of high-quality pressure distribution, loads, and wing and canard deflection data. Flight data obtained while executing these research maneuvers are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of this new technique.


In 1975 NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility received the No. 2 prototype F-15 aircraft from the USAF to conduct the F-15 Propulsion/Airframe Interactions Program. About the same time, NASA Langley Research Center acquired a 1/12 scale F-15 propulsion model, whose size made it suitable for detailed afterbody/nozzle static pressure distribution studies. Close coordination between Langley and Dryden assured identical orifice locations and nozzle geometries on the model and aircraft. This paper discusses the sequence of the test programs and how retesting the model after completion of the flight tests greatly increased the ability to match hardware and test conditions. The experience gained over the past decade from involvement in the program should prove valuable to any future programs attempting to match wind tunnel and flight test conditions and hardware.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An account is given of the upgrading of a 12-ft-diameter single-channel monopulse tracking system, which had been relegated to slaved backup status at NASA Edwards, to support research flights for Ames Dryden Research Center and for tracking orbital passes of the Space Shuttle and Shuttle landings both at Edwards and at White Sands. The improved system is now a stand-alone telemetry tracking system. A new conical scanning feed (known as Radscan) replaces the single channel monopulse feed in the upgraded system. Where previously the system would not autotrack at elevation angles below 5 degrees, it now automatically acquires the Space Shuttle when it appears on the horizon and autotracks from approximately 2 degrees in elevation to touchdown, and does so virtually unattended.


1366. Szalai, K. J.: Role of Research Aircraft in Technology Development. NASA TM-85913, H-1265, NAS 1.15:85913, also presented at the AIAA, AHS, and ASEE Aircraft Design Systems and Operation Meeting, San Diego, California, October 31–November 2, 1984, 1984, 85N10932, #. (see also 1365.) PDF DTRS

The United States’s aeronautical research program has been rich in the use of research aircraft to explore new flight regimes, develop individual aeronautical concepts, and investigate new vehicle classes and configurations. This paper reviews the NASA supercritical wing, digital fly-by-wire, HiMAT, and AD-1 oblique-wing flight research programs, and draws from these examples general conclusions regarding the role and impact of research aircraft in technology development. The impact of a flight program on spinoff technology is also addressed. The secondary, serendipitous results are often highly significant. Finally, future research aircraft programs are examined for technology trends and expected results.

Keywords: Aerodynamic configurations; Flight tests; Fly by wire control; Research aircraft; Technology assessment.

1367. Szalai, K. J.: Role of Research Aircraft in Technology Development. AIAA Paper 84-2473. Presented at the AIAA, AHS, and ASEE Aircraft Design Systems and Operation Meeting, San Diego, California, October 31–November 2, 1984, 85A16106, #. (see also 1364.) PDF AIAA

NASA supercritical wing technology, and the digital fly-by-wire program are discussed as used on the F-8 research aircraft. Furthermore, the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) program, using a 0.44-scale, 3500 lb jet-powered remotely piloted research aircraft, is analyzed. Highly accurate data on aerodynamic and structural loads and deflection data were obtained from model flight tests. In addition, an oblique-wing technology is discussed through the example of the piloted AD-1 research aircraft, noting the low cost of the experiment. Other topics include: integrated system technology; generic forces of the research aircraft program; and aeronautical technology application trends.

1368. Painter, W. D.; and *Erickson, R. E.: Rotor Systems Research Aircraft Airplane Configuration Flight-Test Results. NASA TM-85911, H-1263, NAS 1.15:85911, also presented at the AIAA, AHS, and ASEE Aircraft Design Systems and Operation Meeting, San Diego, California, October 31–November 2, 1984, October 1984, 85N10034, #. (see also 1374.) PDF DTRS

The rotor systems research aircraft (RSRA) has undergone ground and flight tests, primarily as a compound aircraft. The purpose was to train pilots and to check out and develop the design flight envelope. The preparation and flight test of the RSRA in the airplane, or fixed-wind, configuration are reviewed and the test results are discussed.
Keywords: Aerodynamics; Aerospace technology transfer; Flight tests; Helicopters; Rotor systems research aircraft.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


STARS (Structural Analysis Routines) is primarily an interactive, graphics-oriented, finite-element computer program for analyzing the static, stability, free vibration, and dynamic responses of damped and undamped structures, including rotating systems. The element library consists of one-dimensional (1-D) line elements, two-dimensional (2-D) triangular and quadrilateral shell elements, and three-dimensional (3-D) tetrahedral and hexahedral solid elements. These elements enable the solution of structural problems that include truss, beam, space frame, plate, shell, and solid structures, or any combination thereof. Zero, finite, and interdependent deflection boundary conditions can be implemented by the program. The associated dynamic response analysis capability provides for initial deformation and velocity inputs, whereas the transient excitation may be either forces or accelerations. An effective in-core or out-of-core solution strategy is automatically employed by the program, depending on the size of the problem. Data input may be at random within a data set, and the program offers certain combination of free and fixed formats. Interactive graphics capabilities enable convenient display of nodal deformations, mode shapes, and element stresses.

Keywords: Computer programs; Dynamic structural analysis; Finite element method; FORTRAN; Structural engineering.

Myers, L. P.; and Burcham, F. W., Jr.: Propulsion Control Experience Used in the Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) Program. NASA TM-85914, H-1267, NAS 1.15:85914, also presented at the SAE Aerospace Congress and Exposition, Long Beach, California, October 15–18, 1984, October 1984, 84N33415, #. PDF DTRS

The highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) program will integrate the propulsion and flight control systems on an F-15 airplane at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. Ames-Dryden has conducted several propulsion control programs that have contributed to the HIDEC program. The digital electronic engine control (DEEC) flight evaluation investigated the performance and operability of the F100 engine equipped with a full-authority digital electronic control system. Investigations of nozzle instability, fault detection and accommodation, and augmentor transient capability provided important information for the HIDEC program. The F100 engine model derivative (EMD) was also flown in the F-15 airplane, and airplane performance was significantly improved. A throttle response problem was found and solved with a software fix to the control logic. For the HIDEC program, the F100 EMD engines equipped with DEEC controls will be integrated with the digital flight control system. The control modes to be implemented are an integrated flightpath management mode and an integrated adaptive engine control system mode. The engine control experience that will be used in the HIDEC program is discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft engines; Digital systems; F-15 aircraft; Flight control; Numerical control.


A ground vibration test was conducted on an F-16 airplane loaded on each wing with a 370-gal tank mounted on a standard pylon, a GBU-8 store mounted on a decoupler pylon, and an AIM-9J missile mounted on a wing-tip launcher. The decoupler pylon is a passive wing/store flutter-suppression device. The test was conducted prior to initial flight tests to determine the modal frequencies, mode shapes, and structural damping coefficients. The data presented include frequency response plots, force effect plots, and limited mode shape data.

Sim, A. G.; and Curry, R. E.: Flight-Determined Aerodynamic Derivatives of the AD-1 Oblique-Wing Research Airplane. NASA TP-2222, H-1179, NAS 1.60:2222, October 1984, 87N10871. PDF CASI

The AD-1 is a variable-sweep oblique-wing research airplane that exhibits unconventional stability and control characteristics. In this report, flight-determined and predicted

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stability and control derivatives for the AD-1 airplane are compared. The predictions are based on both wind tunnel and computational results. A final best estimate of derivatives is presented.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Aircraft control; Oblique wings; Research aircraft; Variable sweep wings.

A low-speed flight investigation has provided total force and moment coefficients and aeroelastic effects for the AD-1 oblique-wing research airplane. The results were interpreted and compared with predictions that were based on wind tunnel data. An assessment has been made of the aeroelastic wing bending design criteria. Lateral-directional trim requirements caused by asymmetry were determined. At angles of attack near stall, flow visualization indicated viscous flow separation and spanwise vortex flow. These effects were also apparent in the force and moment data.

Keywords: Aeroelastic research wings; Aircraft design; Flight tests; Oblique wings; Research aircraft.

The shuttle program took on the challenge of providing a manual landing capability for an operational vehicle returning from orbit. Some complex challenges were encountered in developing the longitudinal flying qualities required to land the orbiter manually in an operational environmental. Approach and landing test flights indicated a tendency for pilot-induced oscillation near landing. Changes in the operational procedures reduced the difficulty of the landing task, and an adaptive stick filter was incorporated to reduce the severity of any pilot-induced oscillatory motions. Fixed-base, moving-base, and in-flight simulations were used for the evaluations, and in general, flight simulation was the only reliable means of assessing the low-speed longitudinal flying qualities problems. Overall, the orbiter control system and operational procedures have produced a good capability for routinely performing precise landings in a large, unpowered vehicle with a low lift-to-drag ratio.

Keywords: Active control; Flight characteristics; Flight simulation; Space shuttles; Spacecraft landing.

The X-29 experimental aircraft, which is a technology integration and evaluation platform for such features as static longitudinal instability, swept forward wings and three-surface longitudinal control, offers an opportunity to validate the entire aircraft design process through careful correlation and comparison of flight test results with wind tunnel results and design predictions. Attention is presently given to the design features of the aircraft, which encompass supercritical airfoils, digital flight control, and aeroelastically tailored composite wings, as well as to the flight test program that was formulated to investigate the interactions and relative merits of these design features, in light of data gathered by carefully positioned sensors.

The Rotor Systems Research Aircraft (RSRA) has been undergoing ground and flight tests by Ames Research Center since late 1979, primarily as a compound aircraft. The purpose was to train pilots and to check out and develop the design flight envelope established by the Sikorsky Aircraft Company. This paper reviews the preparation and flight test of the RSRA in the airplane, or fixed-wing, configuration and discusses the results of that test.
Computations of drag polars for a low-speed Wortmann sailplane airfoil are compared with both wind tunnel and flight test results. Excellent correlation was shown to exist between computations and flight results except when separated flow regimes were encountered. Smoothness of the input coordinates to the PROFILE computer program was found to be essential to obtain accurate comparisons of drag polars or transition location to either the flight or wind tunnel flight results.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Airfoils; Computerized simulation; Gliders; Lift.

The design of inlets and nozzles and their interactions with the airplane which may account for a large percentage of the total drag of modern high performance aircraft is discussed. The inlet/airframe interactions program and the flight tests conducted is described. Inlet drag and lift data from a 7.5% wind-tunnel model are compared with data from an F-15 airplane with instrumentation to match the model. Pressure coefficient variations with variable cowl angles, capture ratios, examples of flow interactions and angles of attack are for Mach numbers of 0.6, 0.9, 1.2, and 1.5 are presented.

Keywords: Flight tests; Force distribution; Inlet airframe configurations; Pressure distribution; Wind tunnel tests.

This paper presents the pertinent details of a newly developed solid rectangular hexahedron finite dynamic element, involving the derivation of the higher order stiffness and inertia dynamic correction matrices. Numerical results of a test case are also presented which indicate that adoption of the dynamic elements significantly improves the solution convergence, when compared with the related performance of the corresponding finite elements.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Digital command systems; Flight tests; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Remote control.

The dispersed sensor processing mesh (DSPM) is an experimental, ultra-reliable, fault-tolerant computer communications network that exhibits an organic-like ability to regenerate itself after suffering damage. The regeneration is accomplished by two routines—grow and repair. This paper discusses the DSPM concept for achieving fault tolerance and provides a brief description of the mechanization of both the experiment and the six-node experimental network. The main topic of this paper is the system performance of the growth algorithm contained in the grow routine. The characteristics imbued to DSPM by the growth algorithm are also discussed. Data from an experimental DSPM network and software simulation of larger DSPM-type networks are used to examine the inherent limitation on growth time by the growth algorithm and the relationship of growth time to network size and topology.

Keywords: Communication networks; Computer networks; Digital systems; Fault tolerance; Reliability.

The design methodology used in the HiMAT program and the wind tunnel development activities are discussed. Selected results from the flight test program are presented and the strengths and weaknesses of testing advanced technology vehicles using the RPV concept is examined. The role of simulation on the development of digital flight control systems and in RPVs in particular is emphasized.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Digital command systems; Flight tests; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Remote control.

The history of flight research at the NASA Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center is recounted. The period of emerging supersonic flight technology (1944 to 1959) is reviewed along with the era of flight outside the Earth’s atmosphere (1959 to 1981). Specific projects such as the X-15, Gemini, Apollo, and the space shuttle are addressed. The flight chronologies of various aircraft and spacecraft are given.
The maximum likelihood estimator has been used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. Most of the literature on aircraft estimation concentrates on new developments and applications, assuming familiarity with basic estimation concepts. Some of these basic concepts are presented. The maximum likelihood estimator is briefly discussed and the aircraft equations of motion that the estimator uses. The basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple computed aircraft example. The cost functions are defined and discussed. Graphic representations of the cost functions are given to help illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation from flight data is discussed. Some of the major conclusions for the computed example are also developed for the analysis of flight data.

Keywords: Cost analysis; Equations of motion; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification; Reliability.

The highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) program will demonstrate and evaluate the improvements in performance and mission effectiveness that result from integrating engine-airframe control systems. Currently this is accomplished on the NASA Ames Research Center’s F-15 aircraft. The two control modes used to implement the systems are an integrated flightpath management mode and in integrated adaptive engine control system (ADECS) mode. The ADECS mode is a highly integrated mode in which the airplane flight conditions, the resulting inlet distortion, and the available engine stall margin are continually computed. The excess stall margin is traded for thrust. The predicted increase in engine performance due to the ADECS mode is presented in this report.

Keywords: Aircraft engines; Digital systems; Engine airframe integration; F-15 aircraft; Flight paths.


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An overview of the Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) is presented in this paper. The three WATR facilities are discussed, and three WATR elements—mission control centers, communications systems, real-time processing and display systems, and tracking systems—are reviewed. The relationships within the NASA WATR, with respect to the NASA aeronautics program, are also discussed.


An analysis of the ground effect of a jet transport airplane has been made. Data were obtained from recent flight tests primarily using the constant angle-of-attack approach technique. Reasonable results were obtained for ground-effect pitching moment and lift increments. These were compared with data from other sources, including computations, wind tunnel, and previous flight tests. A recommended ground-effect model was developed from the results. A brief simulator study was conducted to determine the sensitivity of a particular configuration to this ground-effect model and its associated uncertainty.


An analysis of the ground effect of a jet transport airplane has been made. Data were obtained from recent flight tests primarily using the constant angle-of-attack approach technique. Reasonable results were obtained for ground-effect pitching moment and lift increments. These were compared with data from other sources, including computations, wind tunnel, and previous flight test. A recommended ground-effect model was developed from the results. A brief simulator study was conducted to determine the sensitivity of a particular configuration to this ground-effect model and its associated uncertainty.

Keywords: Flight tests; Ground effect (aerodynamics); Jet aircraft; Lift; Transport aircraft.


The problem of estimating parameters of dynamic systems is addressed. The theoretical basis of system identification and parameter estimations is presented in a manner that is complete and rigorous, yet understandable with minimum prerequisites. Emphasis is on maximum likelihood and related knowledge of stochastic processes or functional analysis. No previous background in statistics is assumed. The treatment emphasizes unification of the various areas in estimation theory and practice. For example, the theory of estimation in dynamic systems is treated as a direct outgrowth of the static system theory. Topics covered include: basic concept and definitions, numerical optimization methods; probability; statistical estimators; estimation in static systems; stochastic processes; state estimation in dynamic systems; output error, filter error, and equation error methods of parameter estimation in dynamic systems; and the accuracy of the estimates.
The problem of estimating parameters of dynamic systems is addressed in order to present the theoretical basis of system identification and parameter estimation in a manner that is complete and rigorous, yet understandable with minimal prerequisites. Maximum likelihood and related estimators are highlighted. The approach used requires familiarity with calculus, linear algebra, and probability, but does not require knowledge of stochastic processes or functional analysis. The treatment emphasizes unification of the various areas in estimation in dynamic systems is treated as a direct outgrowth of the static system theory. Topics covered include basic concepts and definitions; numerical optimization methods; probability; statistical estimators; estimation in static systems; stochastic processes; state estimation in dynamic systems; output error, filter error, and equation error methods of parameter estimation in dynamic systems, and the accuracy of the estimates.

Keywords: Maximum likelihood estimates; Optimization; Parameter identification; Probability theory; System identification.

The AD-1 is a low-speed oblique-wing research airplane. This report reviews the vehicle's basic flight characteristics, including many aerodynamic, stability, and control effects that are unique to an oblique-wing configuration. These effects include the change in sideforce with angle of attack, moment changes with angle of attack and load factor, initial stall on the trailing wing, and inertial coupling caused by a roll-pitch cross product of inertia. An assessment of the handling qualities includes pilot ratings and comments. Ratings were generally satisfactory through 30 deg of wing sweep but degraded with increased sweep. A piloted simulation study indicated that a basic rate feedback control system could be used to improve the handling qualities at higher wing sweeps.

Keywords: Aerodynamic configurations; Flight characteristics; Low speed; Oblique wings; Research aircraft.

Impacts of the space shuttle thermal protection system (TPS) tile on the leading edge and the side of the vertical tail of the F-15 aircraft were analyzed under different TPS tile orientations. The TPS tile-breaking tests were conducted to simulate the TPS tile impacts. It was found that the predicted tile impact forces compare fairly well with the tile-breaking forces, and the impact forces exerted on the F-15 aircraft vertical tail were relatively low because a very small fraction of the tile kinetic energy was dissipated in the impact, penetration, and fracture of the tile. It was also found that the oblique impact of the tile on the side of the F-15 aircraft vertical tail was unlikely to dent the tail surface.

Keywords: Computerized simulation; F-15 aircraft; Impact tolerances; Space shuttles; Thermal protection.

The shuttle program took on the challenge of providing a manual landing capability for an operational vehicle returning from orbit. Some complex challenges were encountered in developing the longitudinal flying qualities required to land the orbiter manually in an operational environment. Approach and landing test flights indicated a tendency for pilot-induced oscillation near landing. Changes in the operational procedures reduced the difficulty of the landing task, and an adaptive stick filter was incorporated to reduce the severity of any pilot-induced oscillatory motions. Fixed-base, moving-base, and in-flight simulations were used for the evaluations, and in general, flight simulation has been the only reliable means of assessing the low-speed longitudinal flying qualities problems. Overall, the orbiter control system and operational procedures have produced a good capability for routinely performing precise landings in a large, unpowered vehicle with a low lift-to-drag ratio.

An interesting description was provided of the development of the shuttle flight control systems. Of particular concern was a tendency to excite PIO during the landing phase. Both ground based and in-flight simulation were used to study the problem. It was found that in-flight simulation was the only reliable method to use in the study of PIO. Two of the major contributions to the PIO problem were found to be system time delay and the lack of a clear motion cue at the pilot's location following a pitch up command. The PIO problem was solved by reducing the demands of the piloting task and introducing an adaptive stick gain limiter.
Upper surface oil-flow photographs were obtained at transonic speeds on an F-111 transonic aircraft technology (TACT) aircraft, which had been fitted with a natural laminar-flow airfoil section. The oil-flow photographs were interpreted with regard to shock and boundary-layer characteristics and compared to results obtained from pressure distributions and boundary-layer measurements. Results indicated that flow phenomena (such as shock location and strength) and chord location of boundary-layer characteristics (such as transition location) could be correctly identified from the oil-flow photographs.

Keywords: Boundary layer flow; Flow visualization; In-flight monitoring; Oils; Photography.

Accurate modeling of flexible space structures is an important field that is currently under investigation. Parameter estimation, using methods such as maximum likelihood, is one of the ways that the model can be improved. The maximum likelihood estimator has been used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. Most of the literature on aircraft estimation concentrates on new developments and applications, assuming familiarity with basic estimation concepts. Some of these basic concepts are presented. The maximum likelihood estimator and the aircraft equations of motion that the estimator uses are briefly discussed. The basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple computed aircraft example. The cost functions that are to be minimized during estimation are defined and discussed. Graphic representations of the cost functions are given to help illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation from flight data is discussed. Specific examples of estimation of structural dynamics are included. Some of the major conclusions for the computed example are also developed for the analysis of flight data.
devices allow the left hand to generate vertical translation, direct lift, or pitch-pointing commands that are decoupled from those of the right hand. Attention is given to the control patterns obtained for decoupled normal flight, air-to-air gun engagement decoupled maneuvering, and decoupled air-to-surface bombing run maneuvering.

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The maximum likelihood estimator has been used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. Most of the literature on aircraft estimation concentrates on new developments and applications, assuming familiarity with basic concepts. This paper briefly discusses the maximum likelihood estimator and the aircraft equations of motion that the estimator uses. The current strength and limitations associated with obtaining flight-determined aerodynamic coefficients in extreme flight conditions is assessed. The importance of the careful combining of wind tunnel results (or calculations) and flight results and the thorough evaluation of the mathematical model is emphasized. The basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple computed aircraft example, and the cost functions that are to be minimized during estimation are defined and discussed. Graphic representations of the cost functions are given to help illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation of stability and control derivatives from flight data is discussed.

Keywords: Equations of motion; Flight conditions; Flight control; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification.


The dynamics model and data sources used to perform air-data reconstruction are discussed, as well as the Kalman filter. The need for adaptive determination of the noise statistics of the process is indicated. The filter innovations are presented as a means of developing the adaptive criterion, which is based on the true mean and covariance of the filter innovations. A method for the numerical approximation of the mean and covariance of the filter innovations is presented. The algorithm as developed is applied to air-data reconstruction for the space shuttle, and data obtained from the third landing are presented. To verify the performance of the adaptive algorithm, the reconstruction is also performed using a constant covariance Kalman filter. The results of the reconstructions are compared, and the adaptive algorithm exhibits better performance.

Keywords: Airspeed; Algorithms; Kalman filters; Space shuttles; Wind velocity.


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The flight test technique described uses controlled survey runs to determine horizontal atmospheric pressure variations and systematic altitude errors that result from space positioning measurements. The survey data can be used not only for improved air data calibrations, but also for studies of atmospheric structure and space positioning accuracy performance. The examples presented cover a wide range of radar tracking conditions for both subsonic and supersonic flight to an altitude of 42,000 ft.

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Keywords: Aerial reconnaissance; Altitude; Atmospheric pressure; Errors; Mapping.


The design of a maneuver eigenvalue/eigenvector assignment is examined. The aircraft considered was a high-performance fighter with a command augmentation system engaged in all three axes. Attention is given to difficulties encountered in the generation of the desired eigenvalues and eigenvectors. It is found that this approach demands several iterations to converge to a satisfactory result, and does not appear to easily yield suitable insight for the output feedback design of high-order multivariable systems which will be used at other operating points. It is concluded that this technique could be made more attractive by generating gradients of the eigensystem between flight conditions, and including this information in the single-point design technique.


The fault detection and accommodation (FDA) methodology for digital engine-control systems may range from simple comparisons of redundant parameters to the more complex and sophisticated observer models of the entire engine system. Evaluations of the various FDA schemes are done using analytical methods, simulation, and limited-altitude-facility testing. Flight testing of the FDA logic has been minimal because of the difficulty of inducing realistic faults in flight. A flight program was conducted to evaluate the fault detection and accommodation capability of a digital electronic engine control in an F-15 aircraft. The objective of the flight program was to induce selected faults and evaluate the resulting actions of the digital engine controller. Comparisons were made between the flight results and predictions. Several anomalies were found in flight and during the ground test. Simulation results showed that the inducement of dual pressure failures was not feasible since the FDA logic was not designed to accommodate these types of failures.

Keywords: Engine failure; F-15 aircraft; Failure analysis; Fault detection; Prediction analysis.


The fault detection and accommodation (FDA) methods that can be used for digital engine control systems are presently subjected to a flight test program in the case of the F-15 fighter’s F100 engine electronic controls, inducing selected faults and then evaluating the resulting digital engine control responses. In general, flight test results were found to compare well with both ground tests and predictions. It is noted that the inducement of dual-pressure failures was not feasible, since FDA logic was not designed to accommodate them.

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The adaptive engine control system mode (ADECMS), which is developed and tested on an F-15 aircraft with PW1128 engines using the NASA sponsored highly integrated digital electronic control program, is examined. The operation of the ADECMS mode, as well as the basic control logic, the avionic architecture, and the airframe/engine interface are described. By increasing engine pressure ratio (EPR) additional thrust is obtained at intermediate power and above. To modulate the amount of EPR uptrim and to prevent engine stall, information from the flight control system is used. The performance benefits, anticipated from control integration are shown for a range of flight conditions and power settings. It is found that at higher altitudes, the ADECMS mode can increase thrust as much as 12 percent, which is used for improved acceleration,
improved turn rate, or sustained turn angle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

**United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Group, West Palm Beach, Florida.


Over the past several years the NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base has developed a variety of flight flutter and ground test techniques which have been applied to an assortment of new or modified aerospace research vehicles. This paper presents a summary of these techniques and the experiences gained from these applications. Topics discussed include the roles of ground vibration testing, flight flutter testing, wind tunnel flutter model testing, predictive analyses, and aeroservoelastic considerations. Data are presented for a wide variety of aircraft, including remotely piloted vehicles, modern fighters with relaxed static stability and highly augmented flight control systems, aircraft modified for laminar flow control experiments, a glider modified for deep stall tests, and aircraft with skewed or forward swept wings. The conclusions include a brief discussion of future directions in flight flutter testing at Ames-Dryden.


A controlled impact demonstration (CID) program using a large, four engine, remotely piloted transport airplane was conducted. Closed loop primary flight control was performed from a ground based cockpit and digital computer in conjunction with an up/down telemetry link. Uplink commands were received aboard the airplane and transferred through uplink interface systems to a highly modified Bendix PB-20D autopilot. Both proportional and discrete commands were generated by the ground pilot. Prior to flight tests, extensive simulation was conducted during the development of ground based digital control laws. The control laws included primary control, secondary control, and racetrack and final approach guidance. Extensive ground checks were performed on all remotely piloted systems. However, manned flight tests were the primary method of verification and validation of control law concepts developed from simulation. The design development, and flight testing of control laws and the systems required to accomplish the remotely piloted mission are discussed.


The problem of estimating integro-differential models based on test or simulation data is dealt with. The identification techniques proposed for estimating parameters in models described by differential equations need to be considerably extended to deal with the integral terms. Conditions under which the integral terms may be approximated by algebraic values are discussed. The integro-differential models discussed are related to indicial models proposed by aerodynamicists to describe unsteady flow.

Keywords: Differential equations; Estimates; Mathematical models; Unsteady aerodynamics; Unsteady flow.


Integro-differential equations for unsteady aerodynamic and aeroelastic phenomena are identified by means of several approaches. When the product of the frequency of motion and maximum time delay is much smaller than unity, the integral term can be approximated by a constant; when greater than unity, however, approximation of the integral is not possible. Approximations of integro-differential models are needed to obtain identifiability. While the least-squares method may be used for model determination, the maximum likelihood technique is needed for accurate parameter estimation. High angle of attack and post stall/spin regions appear to have characteristics that can be satisfied by indicial models.


The modern advanced avionics in new high-performance aircraft strains the capability of current technology to safely monitor these systems for flight test prior to their generalized use. New techniques are needed to improve the ability of systems engineers to understand and analyze complex systems in the limited time available during crucial periods of the flight test. The Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA’s Ames Research Center is involved in the design
and implementation of an expert system to provide expertise and knowledge to aid the flight systems engineer. The need for new techniques in monitoring flight systems and the conceptual design of an expert-system flight status monitor is discussed. The status of the current project and its goals are described.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Aircraft reliability; Computer programs; Expert systems; Flight tests.


The present technology used to monitor systems in flight tests is not advanced enough for the modern avionics in high performance aircraft. Research is being conducted at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Facility to design an expert system to monitor test flights. The expert system is to automatically detect any problems in the flight control system (FCS), interpret the problem from the information contained in its knowledge base, inform the systems engineer, and recommend solutions. The data is to be downlinked from the aircraft to the control room. The expert system will lessen the responsibilities of the engineers by providing them with fast, expert advice. Time is the most critical factor in flight testing and the expert system will be able to quickly recognize discrepancies and provide corrections. A demonstration of the expert system, not operating in real time, has already been tested.


A FORTRAN program that provides the user with a powerful and flexible tool for the linearization of aircraft models is discussed. The program LINEAR numerically determines a linear systems model using nonlinear equations of motion and a user-supplied, nonlinear aerodynamic model. The system model determined by LINEAR consists of matrices for both the state and observation equations. The program has been designed to allow easy selection and definition of the state, control, and observation variables to be used in a particular model. Also, included in the report is a comparison of linear and nonlinear models for a high-performance aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Computer programs; Computerized simulation; FORTRAN; Linearization.


This paper discusses a FORTRAN program that provides the user with a powerful and flexible tool for the linearization of aircraft models. The program LINEAR numerically determines a linear systems model using nonlinear equations of motion and a user-supplied, nonlinear aerodynamic model. The system model determined by LINEAR consists of matrices for both the state and observation equations. The program has been designed to allow easy selection and definition of the state, control, and observation variables to be used in a particular model. Also, included in the report is a comparison of linear and nonlinear models for a high-performance aircraft.


The NASA highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) program is structured to conduct flight research into the benefits of integrating an aircraft flight control system with the engine control system. A brief description of the HIDEC system installed on an F-15 aircraft is provided. The adaptive engine control system (ADECs) mode is described in detail, together with simulation results and analyses that show the significant excess thrust improvements achievable with the ADECs mode. It was found that this increased thrust capability is accompanied by reduced fan stall margin and can be realized during flight conditions where engine face distortion is low. The results of analyses and simulations also show that engine thrust response is improved and that fuel consumption can be reduced. Although the performance benefits that accrue because of airframe and engine control integration are being demonstrated on an F-15 aircraft, the principles are applicable to advanced aircraft such as the advanced tactical fighter and advanced tactical aircraft.

Keywords: Control systems design; Digital systems; Electronic control; Engine control; F-15 aircraft.

*Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, West Palm Beach, Florida.

A hot-film constant-temperature anemometer (CTA) system was flight-tested and evaluated as a candidate sensor for determining boundary-layer transition on high-performance aircraft. The hot-film gage withstood an extreme flow environment characterized by shock waves and high dynamic pressures, although sensitivity to the local total temperature with the CTA indicated the need for some form of temperature compensation. A temperature-compensation scheme was developed and two CTAs were modified and flight-tested on the F-104/Flight Test Fixture (FTF) facility at a variety of Mach numbers and altitudes, ranging from 0.4 to 1.8 and 5,000 to 40,000 ft respectively.


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A Schweizer 1-36 sailplane was modified for a controlled, deep-stall flight program. This modification allowed the horizontal stabilizer to pivot as much as 70 deg leading edge down. Ground vibration and flutter testing were accomplished on the sailplane with the horizontal stabilizer in the normal flight and deep-stall flight positions. Test results indicated satisfactory damping levels and trends for the structural modes of the sailplane. The modified sailplane was demonstrated to be free of aerelastic instabilities to 83 KEAS with the horizontal stabilizer in the normal flight position and to 39 KEAS with the horizontal stabilizer in the deep-stall flight position. This flight envelope was adequate for the controlled, deep-stall flight experiments.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stalling; Flight control; Flutter analysis; Gliders; Stabilizers (fluid dynamics).


A controlled impact demonstration (CID) program using a large, four engine, remotely piloted transport airplane was conducted. Closed loop primary flight control was performed from a ground based cockpit and digital computer in conjunction with an up/down telemetry link. Uplink commands were received aboard the airplane and transferred through uplink interface systems to a highly modified Bendix PB-20D autopilot. Both proportional and discrete commands were generated by the ground pilot. Prior to flight tests, extensive simulation was conducted during the development of ground based digital control laws. The control laws included primary control, secondary control, and racetrack and final approach guidance. Extensive ground checks were performed on all remotely piloted systems. However, manned flight tests were the primary method of verification and validation of control law concepts developed from simulation. The design, development, and flight testing of control laws and the systems required to accomplish the remotely piloted mission are discussed.

In an effort to achieve maximum aircraft performance, designers are integrating aircraft systems. The characteristics of aerodynamics, vehicle structure, and propulsion systems are being integrated and controlled through embedded, often flight critical, electronic systems. The qualification needs for such highly integrated aircraft systems are addressed. Based on flight experience with research aircraft, a set of test capabilities is described which allows for complete and efficient qualification of advanced integrated aircraft.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Aircraft performance; Electronic control; Flight tests; Qualifications.


In an effort to achieve maximum aircraft performance, designers are integrating aircraft systems. The characteristics of aerodynamics, vehicle structure, and propulsion systems are being integrated and controlled through embedded, often flight-critical, electronic systems. This paper addresses the qualification needs for such highly integrated aircraft systems. Based on flight experience with research aircraft, a set of test capabilities is described which allows for complete and efficient qualification of advanced integrated aircraft.

Schweizer 1-36 Sailplane


Three frequency-domain handling qualities criteria have been applied to the observed data to correlate the actual pilot ratings assigned to generic transport configurations with stability augmentation during the longitudinal landing task. The criteria are based on closed-loop techniques using pitch attitude, altitude rate at the pilot station, and altitude at the pilot station as dominating control parameters during this task. It is found that most promising results are obtained with altitude control performed by closing an inner loop on pitch attitude and closing an outer loop on altitude.


An autopilot can be used to provide precise control to meet the demanding requirements of flight research maneuvers with high-performance aircraft. The development of control laws within the context of flight test maneuver requirements is discussed. The control laws are developed using eigenystem assignment and command generator tracking. The eigenvalues and eigenvectors are chosen to provide the
necessary handling qualities, while the command generator tracking enables the tracking of a specified state during the maneuver. The effectiveness of the control laws is illustrated by their application to an F-15 aircraft to ensure acceptable aircraft performance during a maneuver.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft maneuvers; Automatic pilots; Control theory; Controllability.

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*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


An in-flight investigation of the effect of pure time delays in pitch and roll was undertaken. The evaluation tasks consisted of low lift-to-drag-ratio landings of various levels of difficulty and formation flying. The results indicate that the effect of time delay is strongly dependent on the task. In the pitch axis, in calm air, spot landings from a lateral offset were most strongly influenced by time delay. In the roll axis, in calm air, formation flying was most strongly influenced by time delay. However, when landings were made in turbulence, flying qualities in pitch were only slightly degraded, whereas in roll they were severely degraded.


Methods for estimating the measurement error or uncertainty of in-flight thrust determination in aircraft employing conventional turbofan/turbojet engines are reviewed. While the term in-flight thrust determination is used synonymously with in-flight thrust measurement, in-flight thrust is not directly measured but is determined or calculated using mathematical modeling relationships between in-flight thrust and various direct measurements of physical quantities. The in-flight thrust determination process incorporates both ground testing and flight testing. The present text is divided into the following categories: measurement uncertainty methodology and in-flight thrust measurement processes.

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A hybrid spar of titanium with an integrally brazed composite, consisting of an aluminum matrix reinforced with boron-carbide-coated fibers, was heated in an oven and the resulting thermal stresses were measured. Uniform heating of the spar in an oven resulted in thermal stresses arising from the effects of dissimilar materials and anisotropy of the metal matrix composite. Thermal stresses were calculated from a finite element structural model using anisotropic material properties deduced from constituent properties and rules of mixtures. Comparisons of calculated thermal stresses with measured thermal stresses on the spar are presented. It was shown that failure to account for anisotropy in the metal matrix composite elements would result in large errors in correlating measured and calculated thermal stresses. It was concluded that very strong material characterization efforts are required to predict accurate thermal stresses in anisotropic composite structures.

Keywords: Finite element method; Longeron; Matrix methods; Thermal stresses; Titanium.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

**Lockheed California Co., Burbank, California.

1434. Ishmael, S. D.; and *Wierzbanowski, T.: X-29 Initial Flight Test Results. Proceedings, Society of Experimental Test Pilots, 29th Symposium, Beverly Hills, California,
It is announced that the X-29 forward-swept-wing (FSW) aircraft has been built, with flight testing under way and proceeding smoothly. The X-29 is a single-seat, single-engine supersonic aircraft that blends an optimized FSW, a close-coupled near-coplanar canard, an F-5A forward fuselage module employing two side-mounted engine inlets, and a new aft fuselage. An F404-GE-400 engine with afterburner provides about 16,000 lb of thrust. The X-29 was designed to be near neutrally stable in the supersonic region to minimize drag; it becomes highly unstable transonically and subsonically, which dictates the use of a computerized fly-by-wire flight control system capable of stabilizing the aircraft. The X-29 advanced technology demonstrator began flight testing on December 14, 1984; by September 26, 1985, its envelope had been expanded to 0.75 Mach, 350 knots estimated airspeed, and 30,000 feet altitude. The aircraft has flown with very few problems and aerodynamic, structural, and control system results have correlated well with predictions. Areas where prediction and performance are not so well correlated are noted.

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A ground vibration test was conducted on a Lockheed JetStar airplane that had been modified for the purpose of conducting laminar flow control experiments. The test was performed prior to initial flight flutter tests. Both sine-dwell and single-point-random excitation methods were used. The data presented include frequency response functions and a comparison of mode frequencies and mode shapes from both methods.


Laser systems for flow visualization in water tunnels (similar to the vapor screen technique used in wind tunnels) can provide two-dimensional cross-sectional views of complex flow fields. This parametric study documents the practical application of the laser-enhanced visualization (LEV) technique to water tunnel testing. Aspects of the study include laser power levels, flow seeding (using fluorescent dyes and embedded particulates), model preparation, and photographic techniques. The results of this study are discussed to provide potential users with basic information to aid in the design and setup of an LEV system.


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The NASTRAN finite element computer program was used in the two-dimensional stress analysis of B-52 carrier aircraft pylon hooks: (1) old rear hook (which failed), (2) new rear hook (improved geometry), (3) new DAST rear hook (derated geometry), and (4) front hook. NASTRAN model meshes were generated by the aid of PATRAN-G computer program. Brittle limit loads for all the four hooks were established. The critical stress level calculated from NASTRAN agrees reasonably well with the values predicted from the fracture mechanics for the failed old rear hook.

Keywords: B-52 aircraft; Fracture mechanics; Hooks; Pylons; Stress analysis.


Current research in the application of expert systems to problems in the flight research environment is discussed. In what is anticipated to be a broad research area, a real-time expert system flight status monitor has been identified as the initial project. This real-time expert system flight status monitor is described in terms of concept, application, development, and schedule.

Keywords: Avionics; Computer programming; Expert systems; Flight control; Flight tests.

1440. Duke, E. L.; and Regenie, V. A.: Description of an

This paper describes an experimental version of an expert system flight status monitor being developed at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center. This experimental expert system flight status monitor (ESSFSM) is supported by a specialized knowledge acquisition tool that provides the user with a powerful and easy-to-use documentation and rule construction tool. The EESFSM is designed to be a testbed for concepts in rules, inference mechanisms, and knowledge structures to be used in a real-time expert system flight status monitor that will monitor the health and status of the flight control system of state-of-the-art, high-performance, research aircraft.

Keywords: Avionics; Control systems design; Expert systems; Flight control; Flight tests.


The calculated value of net thrust of an aircraft powered by a General Electric F404-GE-400 afterburning turbofan engine was evaluated for its sensitivity to various input parameters. The effects of a 1.0-percent change in each input parameter on the calculated value of net thrust with two calculation methods are compared. This paper presents the results of these comparisons and also gives the estimated accuracy of the overall net thrust calculation as determined from the influence coefficients and estimated parameter measurement accuracies.


The maximum likelihood estimator was used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. Most of the literature on aircraft estimation concentrates on new development and applications, assuming familiarity with basic concepts. The maximum likelihood estimator and the aircraft equations of motion that the estimator uses are discussed. The current strength and limitations associated with obtaining flight-determined aerodynamic coefficients in extreme flight conditions are assessed. The importance of the careful combining of wind tunnel results (or calculations) and flight results and the thorough evaluation of the mathematical model is emphasized. The basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple computed aircraft example, and the cost functions that are to be minimized during estimation are defined and discussed. Graphic representations of the cost functions are given to help illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation of stability and control derivatives from flight data is discussed.


The major aspects of processes that may be used for the determination of in-flight thrust are reviewed. Basic definitions are presented as well as analytical and ground-test methods for gathering data and calculating the thrust of the propulsion system during the flight development program of the aircraft. Test analysis examples include a single-exhaust turbofan, an intermediate-cowl turbofan, and a mixed-flow afterburning turbofan. The major aspects of processes that may be used for the determination of in-flight thrust are reviewed. Basic definitions are presented as well as analytical and ground-test methods for gathering data and calculating the thrust of the propulsion system during the flight development program of the aircraft. Test analysis examples include a single-exhaust turbofan, an intermediate-cowl turbofan, and a mixed-flow afterburning turbofan.

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††NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A digital electronic engine control (DEEC) system on an F100 engine in an F-15 airplane was evaluated in flight. Thirty flights were flown in a four-phaye program from June 1981 to February 1983. Significant improvements in the operability and performance of the F100 engine were developed as a result of the flight evaluation: the augmentor envelope was increased by 15,000 ft, the airstart envelope was improved by 75 knots, and the need to trim the engine periodically was eliminated. The hydromechanical backup control performance was evaluated and found to be satisfactory. Two system failures were encountered in the test program; both
were detected and accommodated successfully. No transfers to the backup control system were required, and no automatic transfers occurred. As a result of the successful DEEC flight evaluation, the DEEC system has entered the full-scale development phase.


Advanced design propellers on a JetStar aircraft were tested at NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. A calibration of the flow field at the test location to obtain local Mach number and flow direction was performed. A pitot-static probe and flow direction vane installation was installed and tested at Mach 0.3 to 0.8 and altitudes from 3000 m (10,000 ft) to 9100 m (30,000 ft). Local Mach number and flow direction relationships were obtained and related to their noseboom counterparts. Effects of varying angles of sideslip to +0 or -3 deg. were investigated.

Keywords: Design analysis; Flow distribution; Propellers; Turbojet engines; Wind tunnel tests.


An inlet static pressure (PS2) probe was mounted on the hub of an F100 engine in an F-15 airplane. Flight test results showed that for low distortion conditions, the ratio of engine-face total pressure to static pressure agreed well with previous altitude facility data. Off-schedule operation of the inlet third ramp angle caused increased distortion of the inlet airflow during steady-state flight conditions. Data are shown for inlet third ramp excursions leading to engine stall. The relationships of inlet face total to static pressure ratio as a function of several distortion descriptors are also described.

Keywords: Aircraft engines; Engine failure; F-15 aircraft; Inlet flow; Static pressure.


An investigation was conducted to obtain upper fuselage surface static pressures and boundary layer velocity profiles below the centerline of an advanced design propeller. This investigation documents the upper fuselage velocity flow field in support of the in-flight acoustic tests conducted on a JetStar airplane. Initial results of the boundary layer survey show evidence of an unusual flow disturbance, which is attributed to the two windshield wiper assemblies on the aircraft. The assemblies were removed, eliminating the disturbances from the flow field. This report presents boundary layer velocity profiles at altitudes of 6096 and 9144 m (20,000 and 30,000 ft) and Mach numbers from 0.6 to 0.8, and it investigated the effects of windshield wiper assemblies on these profiles. Because of the unconventional velocity profiles that were obtained with the assemblies mounted, classical boundary layer parameters, such as momentum and displacement thicknesses, are not presented. The effects of flight test variables (Mach number and angles of attack and sideslip) and an advanced design propeller on boundary layer profiles—with the wiper assemblies mounted and removed—are presented.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Boundary layers; Design analysis; Flow distribution; Fuselages.


Anisotropic plate theory is used to calculate the anisotropic stress concentration factors for a composite plate (AS/3501-5 graphite/epoxy composite, single ply or laminated) containing a circular hole. This composite material is used on the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle. It is found that the anisotropic stress concentration factor could be greater or less than 3 (the stress concentration factor for isotropic materials), and that the locations of the maximum tangential stress points could shift with the change of fiber orientation with respect to the loading axis. The effect of hole size on the stress concentration factor is examined using the Point Stress Criterion and the Averaged Stress Criterion. The predicted stress concentration factors based on the two theories compared fairly well with the measured values for the hole size 0.3175 cm (1/8 in). It is also found that through the lamination process, the stress concentration factor could be reduced drastically, indicating an improvement in structural performance.

Keywords: Anisotropic plates; Composite materials; Fiber orientation; Graphite-epoxy composites; Highly maneuverable aircraft.


An autopilot can be used to provide precise control to meet the demanding requirements of flight research maneuvers with high-performance aircraft. This paper presents the development of control laws for a flight test maneuver autopilot for an F-15 aircraft. A linear quadratic regulator approach is used to develop the control laws within the
context of flight test maneuver requirements by treating the
maneuver as a finite time tracking problem with regulation
of state rates. Results are presented to show the effectiveness
of the controller in insuring acceptable aircraft performance
during a maneuver.

Keywords: Control systems design; Control theory; F-15
aircraft; Flight tests; Maneuvers.

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


A water tunnel study examining the influence of fuselage cross section on forebody-wing interactions was carried out in the NASA Ames-Dryden water tunnel for a 55 degree, cropped delta-wing model. The fuselage cross-sections studied included two chines with included chine angles of 7.5 and 90.0 degrees. The third fuselage was circular. Planview and sideview photographs showing the forebody vortices interacting with the main wing vortices by means of injected colored dye are presented for zero and non-zero sideslip angles. It is found that the stronger the forebody vortex, the more energy is imparted to the wing vortex system and, as a consequence, the wing vortex system is more able to resist bursting. In sideslip, however, the chine-shaped configurations showed very large differences in burst locations between the windward and leeward wing panels.

*USAF, Wright Aeronautical Laboratory, Dayton, Ohio.

1986 Technical Publications


The application of analog signal conditioning to flight-tests data acquisition systems is discussed. Emphasis is placed on practical applications of signal conditioning for the most common flight-test data-acquisition systems. A limited amount of theoretical discussion is included to assist the reader in a more complete understanding of the subject matter. Nonspecific signal conditioning, such as amplification, filtering, and multiplexing, is discussed. Signal conditioning for various specific transducers and data terminal devices is also discussed to illustrate signal conditioning that is unique to particular types of transducers. The purpose is to delineate for the reader the various signal-conditioning technique options, together with tradeoff considerations, for commonly encountered flight-test situations.

Keywords: Analog data; Data acquisition; Flight tests; Signal processing; Transducers


An analysis was conducted of the attitude and flightpath angle response of configurations used in the Total In-Flight Simulator (TIFS) pitch-rate command systems program. The results show poor correlation between pilot ratings and attitude response and indicate that attitude was not a major influence in the results. A strong correlation was found to exist, however, between the amount of flightpath angle peak overshoot and the pilot ratings. This correlation is similar to the best correlations that have been obtained in recent closed-loop and time-domain analyses, but has the advantage of greatly simplified implementation and interpretation.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Aircraft maneuvers; Attitude control; Flight paths; Flight simulators


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The drones for aerodynamic and structural testing (DAST) project was designed to control flutter actively at high subsonic speeds. Accurate knowledge of the structural model was critical for the successful design of the control system. A ground vibration test was conducted on the DAST vehicle to determine the structural model characteristics. This report presents and discusses the vibration and test equipment,
the test setup and procedures, and the antisymmetric and symmetric mode shape results. The modal characteristics were subsequently used to update the structural model employed in the control law design process.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aircraft design; DAST program; Drone vehicles; Flutter analysis; Vibration


A new fault-tolerant system software concept employing the primary digital computers as host for the backup software portion has been implemented and flight tested in the F-8 digital fly-by-wire airplane. The system was implemented in such a way that essentially no transients occurred in transferring from primary to backup software. This was accomplished without a significant increase in the complexity of the backup software. The primary digital system was frame synchronized, which provided several advantages in implementing the resident backup software system. Since the time of the flight tests, two other flight vehicle programs have made a commitment to incorporate resident backup software similar in nature to the system described in this paper.

Keywords: Control systems design; Fault tolerance; Flight control; Flight tests; Fly by wire control; Redundancy

* Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Two of the main issues in artificial intelligence today are knowledge acquisition and knowledge representation. The Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA's Ames Research Center is presently involved in the design and implementation of an expert system flight status monitor that will provide expertise and knowledge to aid the flight systems engineer in monitoring today's advanced high-performance aircraft. The flight status monitor can be divided into two sections: the expert system itself and the knowledge acquisition tool. This paper discusses the knowledge acquisition tool, the means it uses to extract knowledge from the domain expert, and how that knowledge is represented for computer use. An actual aircraft system has been codified by this tool with great success. Future real-time use of the expert system has been facilitated by using the knowledge acquisition tool to easily generate a logically consistent and complete knowledge base.


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A brief description of the flight control system of the X-29A forward-swept-wing flight demonstrator is followed by a discussion of the flight test techniques and procedures in the area of flight dynamics and control. These techniques, which evolved during the initial few months of flight testing, are based on integrating flight testing with simulation and analysis on a flight-by-flight basis. A limited amount of flight test results in dynamic stability and handling qualities is also presented.

Keywords: Control systems design; Flight control; Flight tests; Swept forward wings; X-29 aircraft

A brief description of the flight control system of the X-29A forward-swept-wing flight demonstrator is followed by a discussion of the flight test techniques and procedures in the area of flight dynamics and control. These techniques, which evolved during the initial few months of flight testing, are based on integrating flight testing with simulation and analysis on a flight-by-flight basis. A limited amount of flight test results in dynamic stability and handling qualities is also presented.


This paper presents some of the approaches taken by the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of Ames Research Center to satisfy the ever-increasing real-time requirements of research projects such as the F-14, F-15, advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, YAV-8B, and the X-29A. The approaches include the areas of data acquisition, communications (video and audio), real-time processing and display, data communications, and tracking.

Keywords: Cockpits; Fighter aircraft; Flight tests; Real time operation; Research aircraft; Satellite transmission


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The use of automated flight test schemes decrease the aircraft flight testing time and pilot work load while enhancing the data quality. Two major elements involved in developing such an automated technique are maneuver modeling to generate command histories from the maneuver specifications and the synthesis of control systems to track these command histories. This paper describes the maneuver modeling for eight flight test trajectories. The control system synthesis with Kosut’s suboptimal minimum error excitation linear quadratic regulator approach is presented. The closed-loop simulation results are given.


The planned versus the actual results of the controlled impact demonstration of a transport aircraft are discussed. Remote control systems, site selection, manned flight tests, and wreckage distribution are discussed.


A study was conducted at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) to compare pilot effective time delay for the space shuttle rotational hand controller with that for conventional stick controllers. The space shuttle controller has three degrees of freedom and nonlinear gearing. The conventional stick has two degrees of freedom and linear gearing. Two spring constants were used, allowing the conventional stick to be evaluated in both a light and a heavy configuration. Pilot effective time delay was obtained separately for pitch and roll through first-order, closed-loop, compensatory tracking tasks. The tasks were implemented through the space shuttle cockpit simulator and a critical task tester device. A total of 900 data runs were made using four test pilots and one nonpilot (engineer) for two system delays in pitch and roll modes. Results showed that the heavier conventional control stick had the lowest pilot effective time delays. The light conventional control stick had pilot effective time delays similar to those of the shuttle controller. All configurations showed an increase in pilot effective time delay with an increase in total system delay.


Expert system techniques, a major application area of artificial intelligence (AI), are examined in the development of pilot associate to handle aircraft emergency procedures. The term pilot associate is used to describe research involving
expert systems that can assist the pilot in the cockpit. The development of expert systems for the electrical system and flight control system emergency procedures are discussed. A simple, high-level expert system provides the means to choose which knowledge domain is needed. The expert systems were developed on a low-cost, FORTH-based package, using a personal computer.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Avionics; Emergencies; Expert systems; Flight control


The X-29 flight test data are being disseminated to interested industrial and military users as fast as it becomes available. The aircraft is extensively instrumented with accelerometers and pressure sensors and optical sensors for measuring wing deflection. The thoroughness of preflight preparations permitted a rapid advance through initial test checkpoints, which have both confirmed many predictions and revealed several discrepancies. The flight envelope had been expanded to Mach 1.1 and an altitude of 40,000 ft by December 1985. Notably, the X-29 has provided in-flight data which could not be faithfully depicted in a simulator, e.g., flare procedures during landing, and has shown that the stability adjustments, although adequate for controlling the aircraft, are not rapid enough to offer a satisfactory margin of harmony. The tests are now being performed in the transonic regime, where supercritical airfoil and forward swept wing drag reduction become significant factors.


A simulator evaluation of a remotely piloted research vehicle was conducted to determine the utility of a visual display when studying the influence of changes in the lateral-stick gearing gains during landing approaches. The test vehicle used in this study was a highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) aircraft, which is a 0.44-scale version of an envisioned small, single-seat fighter airplane. Handling qualities ratings and comments obtained from pilots using a simulator visual display of a runway scene and a simulator instrument landing system (ILS) display were compared with the results of actual flight tests. The handling qualities ratings and comments for flight and simulator visual landing approaches correlated well. The visual display was found to provide an adequate representation of the test vehicle in a visual landing approach, and it improved the roll response cues provided to the pilot. The ILS simulation results showed reduced correlation compared with the flight results for ILS approaches.


Structural temperatures were measured on a hypersonic wing test structure during a heating test that simulated a Mach 8 thermal environment. Measured data are compared to design calculations and temperature predictions obtained from a finite-difference thermal analysis.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; High temperature environments; Hypersonic speed; Mach numbers; Wings


This volume in the AGARD Flight Test Techniques Series treats stores separation testing from the overall systems standpoint. All aspects of testing are described from the time of identification of a particular aircraft/store requirement through all steps leading to the establishment of a satisfactory employment envelope. Considerable emphasis is placed on the planning and execution of the flight test phase of the stores clearance program, including the definition of a basic structure, and a set of procedures which will maximize the safe and efficient execution of such a program.


The application of analog signal conditioning to flight-test data-acquisition systems is discussed. Emphasis is placed on practical applications of signal conditioning for the most common flight-test data-acquisition systems. A limited amount of theoretical discussion is included to assist the reader in a more complete understanding of the subject matter. Nonspecific signal conditioning, such as amplification, filtering, and multiplexing, is discussed. Signal conditioning for various specific transducers and data terminal devices is also discussed to illustrate signal conditioning that is unique to particular types of transducers. The purpose is to delineate for the reader the various signal-conditioning technique options, together with tradeoff considerations, for commonly encountered flight-test situations.

NASA conducted a multidisciplinary flight research program on the F-15 airplane. The program began in 1976 when two preproduction airplanes were obtained from the U.S. Air Force. Major projects involved stability and control, handling qualities, propulsion, aerodynamics, propulsion controls, and integrated propulsion-flight controls. Several government agencies and aerospace contractors were involved. In excess of 330 flights were flown, and over 85 papers and reports were published. This document describes the overall program, the projects, and the key results. The F-15 was demonstrated to be an excellent flight research vehicle, producing high-quality results.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Propulsion system performance; Research aircraft


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Laminar flow offers the promise of significant fuel savings on future commercial transport aircraft, but laminar flow can be lost while encountering clouds or haze at cruise conditions. To quantify the effect of cloud particles on laminar flow during typical airline operating conditions, and to evaluate candidate cloud particle detection instrument concepts for future laminar flow aircraft, two types of cloud particle detectors are being flown aboard a NASA JetStar aircraft in the Leading Edge Flight Test (LEFT) program. The instrumentation is described, and preliminary results and conclusions are presented.

*aNASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A technique has been developed to compare the open-loop frequency response of a flight test aircraft real time with linear analysis predictions. The result is direct feedback to the flight control systems engineer on the validity of predictions and adds confidence for proceeding with envelope expansion. Further, gain and phase margins can be tracked for trends in a manner similar to the techniques used by structural dynamics engineers in tracking structural modal damping.

*aUSAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


The decoupler pylon is a NASA concept of passive wing-store flutter suppression achieved by providing a low store-pylon pitch frequency. Flight tests where performed on an F-16 airplane carrying on each wing an AIM-9J wingtip missile, a GBU-8 bomb near midspan, and an external fuel tank. Baseline flights with the GBU-8 mounted on a standard pylon established that this configuration is characterized by an antisymmetric limited amplitude flutter oscillation within the operational envelope. The airplane was then flown with the GBU-8 mounted on the decoupler pylon. The decoupler pylon successfully suppressed wing-store flutter throughout the flight envelope. A 37-percent increase in flutter velocity over the standard pylon was demonstrated. Maneuvers with load factors to 4g were performed. Although the static store displacements during maneuvers were not sufficiently large to be of concern, a store pitch alignment system was tested and performed successfully. One GBU-8 was ejected demonstrating that weapon separation from the decoupler pylon is normal. Experience with the present decoupler pylon design indicated that friction in the pivoting mechanism could affect its proper functioning as a flutter suppressor.

*aNASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

1476. Sefic, W. J.; and *Cutler, W.: X-29A Advanced
The present discussion of the X-29A forward swept wing experimental aircraft’s functional flight program and concept evaluation program gives attention to the program management structure for a test team that encompasses NASA, the U.S. Air Force, and the prime contractor for the X-29A. The preflight, flight-functional, envelope-expansion and flight research test objectives of the program are also noted, together with the qualitative characterizations obtained to date for both a limited envelope flight control system and one for an expanded envelope.


The decoupler pylon is a passive wing/store flutter suppression device. It was modified to reduce friction following initial flight tests. A ground vibration test was conducted on an F-16 aircraft loaded on each wing with a one-half-full center bay empty 370-gallon fuel tank mounted on a standard pylon, a GBU-8 store mounted on the decoupler pylon, and an AIM-9J missile mounted on a wingtip launcher. The test was conducted prior to flight tests with the modified pylon to determine modal frequencies, mode shapes, and structural damping coefficients. Data presented include frequency response plots, mode shape plots, and limited force-effect plots.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The mathematical background for combining and connecting linear, multi-input, multi-output subsystem models into an overall system model is provided. Several examples of subsystem configurations are examined in detail. A description of a MATRIX (sub x) command file to aid in the process of combining and connecting these subsystem models is contained.

Keywords: Computer systems design; Format; Linear equations; Matrices (mathematics); Parallel processing (computers)


The transient performance of the F100 engine model derivative (EMD) augmentor was evaluated in an F-15 airplane. The augmentor was a newly designed 16-segment augmentor. It was tested with a segment-1 spray-ring with 90 deg fuel injection, and later with a modified segment-1 spray-ring with centerline fuel injection. With the 90 deg injection, no-lights occurred at high altitudes with airspeeds of 175 knots or less; however, the results were better than when using the standard F100-PW-100 engine. With the centerline fuel injection, all transients were successful to an altitude of 15,500 meters and an airspeed of 150 knots: no failures to light, blowouts, or stalls occurred. For a first flight evaluation, the augmentor transient performance was excellent.

Keywords: F-15 aircraft; Thrust augmentation; Turbofan engines; Afterburning; Flight tests; Fuel injection


An overview of the X-29A functional flight program and concept evaluation program is presented, including some of the unique and different preparations for the first flight. Included are a discussion of the many organizational responsibilities and a description of the program management structure for the test team. Also discussed are preflight ground, flight functional envelope expansion, and flight research test objectives and qualitative results to date for both a limited-envelope flight control system and an expanded-envelope system. The aircraft, including the instrumentation system and measurements, is described. In addition, a discussion is included regarding the use of major support facilities, such as ground and flight simulators, the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range and mission control center, and the Grumman automated telemetry station. An overview of the associated real-time and postflight batch data processing software approaches is presented. The use of hardware-in-the-loop simulation for independent verification and validation and mission planning and practice is discussed. Also included is a description of the flight-readiness review, the airworthiness and flight safety review, work scheduling, technical briefings, and preflight and postflight crew briefings. The configuration control process used on the X-29A program is described, and its relationship to both simulation and aircraft operations is discussed. An X-29A schedule overview is presented with an outline of a proposed follow-on program.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Flight tests; Research
aircraft; Swept forward wings; X-29 aircraft


The buckling characteristics of Rene 41 tubular panels for a hypersonic aircraft wing were investigated. The panels were repeatedly tested for buckling characteristics using a hypersonic wing test structure and a universal tension/compression testing machine. The nondestructive buckling tests were carried out under different combined load conditions and in different temperature environments. The force/stiffness technique was used to determine the buckling loads of the panel. In spite of some data scattering, resulting from large extrapolations of the data fitting curve (because of the termination of applied loads at relatively low percentages of the buckling loads), the overall test data correlate fairly well with theoretically predicted buckling interaction curves. Also, the structural efficiency of the tubular panels was found to be slightly higher than that of beaded panels.

Keywords: Buckling; Rene 41; Stiffness matrix; Sweptback wings; Wing loading; Wing panels


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*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The concept of using a knowledge compiler to transform the knowledge base and inference mechanism of an expert system into a conventional program is presented. The need to accommodate real-time systems requirements in applications such as embedded avionics is outlined. Expert systems and a brief comparison of expert systems and conventional programs are reviewed. Avionics applications of expert systems are discussed before the discussions of applying the proposed concept to example systems using forward and backward chaining.

Keywords: Avionics; Expert systems; Onboard data processing; Real time operation; Artificial intelligence; Computer programming; Computer systems design; Computer systems programs; Software engineering

*PRC Kentron, Edwards, California.


This paper focuses on the work load aspects of the pilot vehicle interface in regard to the new technologies tested during AMAS Phase II. Subjects discussed in this paper include: a wide field-of-view head-up display; automated maneuvering attack system/sensor tracker system; master modes that configure flight controls and mission avionics; a modified helmet mounted sight; improved multifunction display capability; a voice interactive command system; ride qualities during automated weapon delivery; a color moving map; an advanced digital map display; and a g-induced loss-of-consciousness and spatial disorientation autorecovery system.

*General Dynamics Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas.

**USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


The practical application of parameter estimation methodology to the problem of estimating aircraft stability and control derivatives from flight test data is examined. The primary purpose of the document is to present a comprehensive and unified picture of the entire parameter
Interest in oblique-wing aircraft has surfaced periodically since the 1940’s. This concept offers some substantial aerodynamic performance advantages but also has significant aerodynamic and inertial cross-coupling between the aircraft longitudinal and lateral-directional axes. This paper presents a technique for synthesizing a decoupling controller while providing the desired stability augmentation. The proposed synthesis procedure uses the concept of a real model-following control system. Feedforward gains are selected on the assumption that perfect model-following conditions are satisfied. The feedback gains are obtained by using eigensystem assignment, and the aircraft is stabilized by using partial state feedback. The effectiveness of the control laws developed in achieving the desired decoupling is illustrated by application to linearized equations of motion of an oblique-wing aircraft for a given flight condition.

**Keywords:** Aircraft control; Asymmetry; Automatic control; Cross coupling; Decoupling; Feedforward control; Flight control; Lateral control; Longitudinal control; Oblique wings

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.*

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The U.S. Navy and NASA are currently involved in the design and development of an unsymmetric-skew-wing aircraft capable of 65 deg wing sweep and flight at Mach 1.6. A generic skew-wing aircraft model was developed for 45 deg wing skew at a flight condition of Mach 0.70 and 3048 m altitude. At this flight condition the aircraft has a wing flutter mode. An active implementable control law was developed using the linear quadratic Gaussian design technique. A method of modal residualization was used to reduce the order of the controller used for flutter suppression.

**Keywords:** Flight tests; Flutter analysis; Gauss equation; Linear equations; Oblique wings; Quadratic equations; Reduced order filters; Vibration damping; Wing oscillations

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.*

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*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


The Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT) program consisted of design, fabrication of two subscale remotely piloted research vehicles (RPRVs), and flight test. This technical memorandum describes the vehicles and test approach. An overview of the flight test results and comparisons with the design predictions are presented. These comparisons are made on a single-discipline basis, so that aerodynamics, structures, flight controls, and propulsion controls are examined one by one. The interactions between the disciplines are then examined, with the conclusions that the integration of the various technologies contributed to total vehicle performance gains. An assessment is made of the subscale RPRV approach from the standpoint of research data quality and quantity, unmanned effects as compared with manned vehicles, complexity, and cost. It is concluded that the RPRV technique, as adopted in this program, resulted in a more complex and costly vehicle than expected but is reasonable when compared with alternate ways of obtaining comparable results.

Keywords: Fighter aircraft; Flight tests; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Remotely piloted vehicles


The highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDECS) program will demonstrate and evaluate the improvements in performance and mission effectiveness that result from integrated engine-airframe control systems. Performance improvements will result from an adaptive engine stall margin mode, a highly integrated mode that uses the airplane flight conditions and the resulting inlet distortion to continuously compute engine stall margin. When there is excessive stall margin, the engine is uptrimmed for more thrust by increasing engine pressure ratio (EPR). The EPR uptrim logic has been evaluated and implemented into computer simulations. Thrust improvements over 10 percent are predicted for subsonic flight conditions. The EPR uptrim was successfully demonstrated during engine ground tests. Test results verify model predictions at the conditions tested.


The use of special models for trusses, and of fast graphical computational techniques, are discussed to reduce the computation times of intersurface radiation loads and specularly reflected radiation. The conditions under which the One-Dimensional approximation can be used, and the computation of the obstructed view factors for arbitrary surfaces, including the One-Dimensional surface, are considered using both contour and double area integration. The Adaptive Ray Tracing method is found to be very fast for surface configurations and obstruction densities typical of space structures, and it is shown to be best suited to views of J from I which are relatively simple and cover only a few subareas of S.

*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.


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The purpose of NASA’s Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) flight research program is the development of integrated flight propulsion control modes, and the evaluation of their benefits aboard an F-15 test aircraft. HIDEC program phases are discussed, with attention to the Adaptive Engine Control System (ADECS I); this involves the upgrading of PW1128 engines for operation at higher engine pressure ratios and the production of greater thrust. ADECS II will involve the development of a constant thrust mode which will significantly reduce turbine operating temperatures.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


A water tunnel flow visualization test on leading edge vortex flaps was conducted at the flow visualization facility of the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. The purpose of the test was to visually examine the vortex structures caused by various leading edge vortex flaps on the delta wing of an F-106 model. The vortex flaps tested were designed analytically and empirically at the NASA Langley Research Center. The three flap designs were designated as full-span gothic flap, full-span untapered flap, and part-span flap. The test was conducted at a Reynolds number of 76,000/m (25,000/ft). This low Reynolds number was used because of the 0.076-m/s (0.25-ft/s) test section flow speed necessary for high quality flow visualization. However, this low Reynolds number may have influenced the results. Of the three vortex flaps tested, the part-span flap produced what appeared to be the strongest vortex structure over the flap area. The full-span gothic flap provided the next best performance.


The decoupler pylon is a NASA concept of passive wing-store flutter suppression achieved by providing a low store-pylon pitch frequency. Flight tests were performed on an F-16 aircraft carrying on each wing an AIM-9J wingtip missile, a GBU-8 bomb near midspan, and an external fuel tank. Baseline flights with the GBU-8 mounted on a standard pylon established that this configuration is characterized by an antisymmetric limited amplitude flutter oscillation within the operational envelope. The airplane was then flown with the GBU-8 mounted on the decoupler pylon. The decoupler pylon successfully suppressed wing-store flutter throughout the flight envelope. A 37-percent increase in flutter velocity over the standard pylon was demonstrated. Maneuvers with load factors to 4g were performed. Although the static store displacements during maneuvers were not sufficiently large to be of concern, a store pitch alignment system was tested and performed successfully. One GBU-8 was ejected demonstrating that weapon separation from the decoupler pylon is normal. Experience with the present decoupler pylon design indicated that friction in the pivoting mechanism could affect its proper functioning as a flutter suppressor.


The application of parameter estimation to highly unstable aircraft is discussed. Included are a discussion of the problems in applying the output error method to such aircraft and demonstrates that the filter error method eliminates these problems. The paper shows that the maximum likelihood estimator with no process noise does not reduce to the output error method when the system is unstable. It also proposes and demonstrates an ad hoc method that is similar in form to the filter error method, but applicable to nonlinear problems. Flight data from the X-29 forward-swept-wing demonstrator is used to illustrate the problems and methods discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft stability; Error analysis; Flight tests; Systems stability; Maximum likelihood estimates; Nonlinear systems; Parameter identification


This paper discusses the application of parameter estimation to highly unstable aircraft. It includes a discussion of the problems in applying the output error method to such aircraft and demonstrates that the filter error method eliminates these problems. The paper shows that the maximum likelihood estimator with no process noise does not reduce to the output error method when the system is unstable. It also proposes and demonstrates an ad hoc method that is similar in form to the filter error method, but applicable to nonlinear problems. Flight data from the X-29 forward-swept-wing demonstrator is used to illustrate the problems and methods discussed.

The Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center conducted a ground vibration test on a modified U.S. Army U-8F airplane. Modifications included new engines, propellers, and engine-mounted truss assemblies. The ground vibration test was conducted using sine dwell, single-point random, and impact excitations. The test was performed to determine modal frequencies, mode shapes, and structural damping coefficients of the airframe and propeller with full and empty fuel tanks. The data presented include frequency response plots, rigid-body and structural modal frequencies, and mode shapes.

Keywords: Ground tests; Modal response; Research aircraft; Structural vibration; Vibration tests


This report describes the space position data processing system of the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range. The system is installed at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. This operational radar data system (RADATS) provides simultaneous data processing for multiple data inputs and tracking and antenna pointing outputs while performing real-time monitoring, control, and data enhancement functions. Experience in support of the space shuttle and aeronautical flight research missions is described, as well as the automated calibration and configuration functions of the system.

Keywords: Data processing; Flight tests; Geodetic surveys; Space shuttles; Tracking radar; Trajectory measurement

*GMD Systems, Lancaster, California.


The application of the eigensystem synthesis technique to place the closed-loop eigenvalues and shape the closed-loop eigenvectors has not been practical for active flutter suppression, primarily because of the availability of only one control surface (aileron) for flutter suppression. The oblique-wing aircraft, because of its configuration, provides two independent surfaces (left and right ailerons), making the application of eigensystem synthesis practical. This paper presents the application of eigensystem synthesis using output feedback for the design of an active flutter suppression system for an oblique-wing aircraft. The results obtained are compared with those obtained by linear quadratic Gaussian techniques.

Keywords: Ailerons; Eigenvalues; Eigenvectors; Flutter analysis; Oblique wings

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


The variable-skew oblique wing offers a substantial aerodynamic performance advantage for aircraft missions that require both high efficiency in subsonic flight and supersonic dash or cruise. The most obvious characteristic of the oblique-wing concept is the asymmetry associated with wing-skew angle which results in significant aerodynamic and inertial cross-coupling between the aircraft longitudinal and lateral-directional axes. A technique for synthesizing a decoupling controller while providing the desired stability augmentation. The proposed synthesis procedure uses the concept of explicit model following. Linear quadratic optimization techniques are used to design the linear feedback system. The effectiveness of the control laws developed in achieving the desired decoupling is illustrated for a given flight condition by application to linearized equations of motion, and also to the nonlinear equations of six degrees of freedom of motion with nonlinear aerodynamic data.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Aircraft design; Control

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theory; Equations of motion; Flight control; Oblique wings; Skewness

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


A variable-skew oblique wing offers a substantial aerodynamic performance advantage for aircraft missions that require both high efficiency in subsonic flight and supersonic dash or cruise. The most obvious characteristic of the oblique-wing concept is the asymmetry associated with wing-skew angle which results in significant aerodynamic and inertial cross-coupling between the aircraft longitudinal and lateral-directional axes. This paper presents a technique for synthesizing a decoupling controller while providing the desired stability augmentation. The proposed synthesis procedure uses the concept of explicit model following. Linear quadratic optimization techniques are used to design the linear feedback system. The effectiveness of the control laws developed in achieving the desired decoupling is illustrated for a given flight condition by application to linearized equations of motion, and also to the nonlinear equations of six degrees of freedom motion with nonlinear aerodynamic data.

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


Flying qualities problems of modern, full-authority electronic flight control systems are most often related to the introduction of additional time delay in aircraft response to a pilot input. These delays can have a significant effect on the flying qualities of the aircraft. This paper reexamines time delay effects in light of recent flight test experience with aircraft incorporating new technology. Data from the X-29A forward-swept-wing demonstrator, a related preliminary in-flight experiment, and other flight observations are presented. These data suggest that the present MIL-F-8785C allowable-control system time delay specifications are inadequate or, at least, incomplete. Allowable time delay appears to be a function of the shape of the aircraft response following the initial delay. The cockpit feel system is discussed as a dynamic element in the flight control system. Data presented indicate that the time delay associated with a significant low-frequency feel system does not result in the predicted degradation in aircraft flying qualities. The impact of the feel system is discussed from two viewpoints: as a filter in the control system which can alter the initial response shape and, therefore, the allowable time delay, and as a unique dynamic element whose delay contribution can potentially be discounted by special pilot loop closures.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Electronic equipment; Flight characteristics; Flight control; Input; Loops; Man machine systems; Pilot performance; Time lag


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Flight tests were performed on an F-16 airplane carrying on each wing an AIM-9J wingtip missile, a GBU-8 bomb near midspan, and an external fuel tank. Baseline flights with the GBU-8 mounted on a standard pylon established that this configuration is characterized by an antisymmetric limited amplitude flutter oscillation within the operational envelope. The airplane was then flown with GBU-8 mounted on the decoupler pylon. The decoupler pylon is a NASA concept of passive wing-store flutter suppression achieved by
Simulations of the space shuttle orbiter in the landing task were conducted by the NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility using the Ames Research Center vertical motion simulator (VMS) and the total in-flight simulator (TIFS) variable-stability aircraft. Several new control systems designed to improve the orbiter longitudinal response characteristics were investigated. These systems improved the flightpath response by increasing the amount of pitch-rate overshoot. Reduction in the overall time delay was also investigated. During these evaluations, different preferences were noted for the baseline or the new systems depending on the pilot background. The trained astronauts were quite proficient with the baseline system and found the new systems to be less desirable than the baseline. On the other hand, the pilots without extensive flight training with the Orbiter had a strong preference for the new systems. This paper presents the results of the VMS and TIFS simulations. A hypothesis is presented regarding the control strategies of the two pilot groups and how this influenced their control system preferences. Interpretations of these control strategies are made in terms of open-loop aircraft response characteristics as well as pilot-vehicle closed-loop characteristics.

Keywords: Flight control; Flight simulation; Orbital maneuvers; Pilot training; Space flight training; Space shuttles


A strong correlation has been found to exist between flight path angle peak overshoot and pilot ratings for the landing task. The use of flightpath overshoot as a flying quality metric for landing is validated by correlation with four different in-flight simulation programs and a ground simulation study. Configurations tested were primarily medium-weight generic transports. As a result of good correlation with this extensive data base, criterion boundaries are proposed for landing based on the flight path peak overshoot metric.

Keywords: Aircraft landing; Aircraft performance; Flight characteristics; Flight paths; Flight simulation; Pilot performance


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Flight control systems have undergone a revolution since the days of simple mechanical linkages; presently the most advanced systems are full-authority, full-time digital systems controlling unstable aircraft. With the use of advanced control systems, the aerodynamic design can incorporate features that allow greater performance and fuel savings, as can be seen on the new Airbus design and advanced tactical fighter concepts. These advanced aircraft will be and are relying on the flight control system to provide the stability and handling qualities required for safe flight and to allow the pilot to control the aircraft. Various design philosophies have been proposed and followed to investigate system architectures for these advanced flight control systems. One major area of discussion is whether a multichannel digital control system should be synchronous or asynchronous. This paper addressed the flight experience at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA's Ames Research Center with both synchronous and asynchronous digital flight control systems. Four different flight control systems are evaluated against criteria such as software reliability, cost increases, and schedule delays.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Digital command systems; Flight control; Flight safety; Stability; Synchronism; Systems analysis

The wing on the NASA F-111 transonic aircraft technology airplane was modified to provide flexible leading and trailing edge flaps. This wing is known as the mission adaptive wing (MAW) because aerodynamic efficiency can be maintained at all speeds. Unlike a conventional wing, the MAW has no spoilers, external flap hinges, or fairings to break the smooth contour. The leading edge flaps and three-segment trailing edge flaps are controlled by a redundant fly-by-wire control system that features a dual digital primary system architecture providing roll and symmetric commands to the MAW control surfaces. A segregated analog backup system is provided in the event of a primary system failure. This paper discusses the design, development, testing, qualification, and flight test experience of the MAW primary and backup flight control systems.

Keywords: Digital command systems; Digital navigation; Flight control; Flight tests; Fly by wire control; Leading edges; Mission adaptive wings; Supersonic aircraft; Trailing edges; Wings

The wing on the NASA F-111 transonic aircraft technology airplane was modified to provide flexible leading and trailing edge flaps. This wing is known as the mission adaptive wing (MAW) because aerodynamic efficiency can be maintained at all speeds. Unlike a conventional wing, the MAW has no spoilers, external flap hinges, or fairings to break the smooth contour. The leading edge flaps and three-segment trailing edge flaps are controlled by a redundant fly-by-wire control system that features a dual digital primary system architecture providing roll and symmetric commands to the MAW control surfaces. A segregated analog backup system is provided in the event of a primary system failure. This paper discusses the design, development, testing, qualification, and flight test experience of the MAW primary and backup flight control systems.


This paper presents the technique and results of maximum likelihood estimation used to determine lift and drag characteristics of the Space Shuttle Orbiter. Maximum likelihood estimation uses measurable parameters to estimate nonmeasurable parameters. The nonmeasurable parameters for this case are elements of a nonlinear, dynamic model of the orbiter. The estimated parameters are used to evaluate a cost function that computes the differences between the measured and estimated longitudinal parameters. The case presented is a dynamic analysis. This places less restriction on pitching motion and can provide additional information about the orbiter such as lift and drag characteristics at conditions other than trim, instrument biases, and pitching moment characteristics. In addition, an output of the analysis is an estimate of the values for the individual components of lift and drag that contribute to the total lift and drag. The results show that maximum likelihood estimation is a useful tool for analysis of Space Shuttle Orbiter performance and is also applicable to parameter analysis of other types of aircraft.


Real-time flutter prediction including close modes can be effectively estimated from turbulence or on-board excitation with an Extremed Kalman Filter (EKF) approach. A physically based model form enables prediction of the damping rate as well as damping, giving a time to instability estimate with its variance. The approach is recursive and can operate asynchronously to drop data outliers and hence is quite robust. Its speed is reasonable for on-line application but can also be used effectively as an off-line analysis tool for application to any modal testing situation.


An autopilot can be used to provide precise control to meet the demanding requirements of flight research maneuvers with high-performance aircraft. This paper presents the development of control laws within the context of flight test maneuver requirements. The control laws are developed using eigensystem assignment and command-generator tracking. The eigenvalues and eigenvectors are chosen to provide the necessary handling qualities, while the command-generator tracking enables the tracking of a specified state during the maneuver. The effectiveness of the control laws is illustrated by their application to an F-15 aircraft to ensure acceptable aircraft performance during a maneuver.

*Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.


The effect of sideslip on winglet loads and selected wing loads was investigated at high and low subsonic Mach numbers. The investigation was conducted in two separate wind tunnel facilities, using two slightly different 0.035-scale full-span models. Results are presented which indicate that, in general, winglet loads as a result of sideslip are analogous to wing loads caused by angle of attack. The center-of-pressure locations on the winglets are somewhat different than might be expected for an analogous wing. The spanwise center of pressure for a winglet tends to be more inboard than for a wing. The most notable chordwise location is a
forward center-of-pressure location on the winglet at high sideslip angles. The noted differences between a winglet and an analogous wing are the result of the influence of the wing on the winglet.

Keywords: Sideslip; Subsonic speed; Wind tunnel models; Winglets; Angle of attack; Mach number; Pressure distribution; Wing loading


This report presents the development of an experimental flight test maneuver autopilot (FTMAP) for a highly maneuverable aircraft. The essence of this technique is the application of an autopilot to provide precise control during required flight test maneuvers. This newly developed flight test technique is being applied at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. The FTMAP is designed to increase the quantity and quality of data obtained in test flight. The technique was developed and demonstrated on the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) vehicle. This report describes the HiMAT vehicle systems, maneuver requirements, FTMAP development process, and flight results.

Keywords: Automatic control; Automatic pilots; Flight tests; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Aircraft control; Aircraft guidance; Aircraft maneuvers


A testing status report is presented for the X-29 forward-swept-wing experimental aircraft, which integrates such advanced technologies as an aeroelastically tailored composite wing, a thin supercritical airfoil, three-surface pitch control, discrete variable camber, full-authority close-coupled canards, static instability, and digital fly-by-wire flight controls. X-29 flight test results to date raise several issues pertinent to the design of future combat aircraft flight control systems; for example, they bring into question the current MIL-8785C requirements on control system time delays.

*Grumman Corporation, Bethpage, New York.


With the completion of the F-111 test-bed Mission Adaptive Wing (MAW) test program's manual flight control system, emphasis has been shifted to flight testing of MAW automatic control modes. These encompass (1) cruise camber control, (2) maneuver camber control, (3) maneuver load control, and (4) maneuver enhancement and load alleviation control. The aircraft is currently cleared to a 2.5-g maneuvering limit due to generally higher variable-incidence wing pivot loads than had been anticipated, especially at the higher wing-camber settings. Buffet is noted to be somewhat higher than expected at the higher camber settings.

*USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


Background information on the Kalman filter is given first. A discussion of the filter parameters and their a priori determination follows. The discussion points out the need for adaptive determination of the process noise statistics. The filter innovations are presented as a means for developing the adaptive criteria. The criteria center around the estimation of the true mean and covariance of the filter innovations. A method for the numerical approximation of the mean and covariance of a locally stationary random process is presented. The definition of a local stationarity is presented. Local stationarity allows for the separation of the process statistics into a stationary component and a time-varying component. The separation method is discussed. A method for estimating the stationary and time-varying components is presented. As an example of its application to real problems, the algorithm is applied to the problem to the problem of reentry trajectory estimation for the Space Shuttle. Both the adaptive algorithm and the steady-state Kalman filter are applied to the problem. The results of the reconstructions are presented. The adaptive algorithm exhibits superior performance.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.


Structural performance and resizing (SPAR) finite element thermal analysis computer programs was used in the heat transfer analysis of the space shuttle orbiter wing subjected to reentry aerodynamic heating. With sufficient external forced convective cooling near the end of the heating cycle,
the calculated surface temperatures of the thermal protection system (TPS) agree favorable with the flight data for the entire flight profile. However, the effects of this external forced convective cooling on the structural temperatures were found to be negligible. Both free and forced convection elements were introduced to model the internal convection effect of the cool air entering the shuttle interior. The introduction of the internal free convection effect decreased the calculated wing lower skin temperatures by 20°F, 1200 sec after touchdown. If the internal convection is treated as forced convection, the calculated wing lower skin temperatures after touchdown can be reduced to match the flight measured data. By reducing the TPS thicknesses to certain thicknesses to account for the TPS gap heating, the calculated wing lower skin temperatures prior to touchdown can be raised to agree with the flight data perfectly.

Keywords: Forced convection; Free convection; Heating transfer; Space shuttle orbiters; Spacecraft reentry; Spacecraft temperature; Thermal analysis


An extensive bibliography in the field of aircraft parameter estimation has been compiled. This list contains definitive works related to most aircraft parameter estimation approaches. Theoretical studies as well as practical applications are included. Many of these publications are pertinent to subjects peripherally related to parameter estimation, such as aircraft maneuver design or instrumentation considerations.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Flight tests; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification


The Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center is developing a rapid prototyping facility for flight research in flight systems concepts that are based on artificial intelligence (AI). The facility will include real-time high-fidelity aircraft simulators, conventional and symbolic processors, and a high-performance research aircraft specially modified to accept commands from the ground-based AI computers. This facility is being developed as part of the NASA-DARPA automated wingman program. This document discusses the need for flight research and for a national flight research facility for the rapid prototyping of AI-based avionics systems and the NASA response to those needs.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Flight management systems; Prototypes; Research facilities


A cooperative effort has been defined between NASA-Ames/Dryden Flight Research Facility and NASA-Langley Research Center in support of the X-29A Advanced Technology Demonstrator. The effort involves three phases: flight testing, wind-tunnel testing in the National Transonic Facility, and computational support of each experimental phase. These efforts are primarily aimed at understanding the complex flow phenomena and component interactions associated with the X-29A. Each phase of the effort is discussed in detail and initial data comparisons are presented. In summary, the synergistic effects of the complementary phases are identified, which will enhance the understanding of the unique aerodynamics of the X-29A.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) program explored the various and complex interactions of advanced technologies, such as aeroelastic tailoring, close-coupled canard, and relaxed static stability. A 0.44-subscale remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) of a hypothetical fighter airplane was designed and flight-tested to determine the effects of these interactions and to define the design techniques appropriate for advanced fighter technologies. Flexibility and high maneuverability were provided by flight control laws implemented in ground-based computers and telemetered to the vehicle control system during flight tests. The high quality of the flight-measured data and their close correlation with the analytical design modeling proved that the RPRV is a viable and cost-effective tool for developing aerodynamic, structure, and control law requirements for highly maneuverable fighter airplanes of the future.


1529. Smith, R. E.; and Sarrafian, S. K.: Effect of Time

Flying qualities problems of modern, full-authority electronic flight control systems are most often related to the introduction of additional time delay in aircraft response to a pilot input. These delays can have a significant effect on the flying qualities of the aircraft. This paper reexamines time delay effects in light of recent flight test experience with aircraft incorporating new technology. Data from the X-29A forward-swept-wing demonstrator, a related preliminary in-flight experiment, and other flight observations are presented. These data suggest that the present MIL-F-8785C allowable-control system time delay specifications are inadequate or, at least, incomplete. Allowable time delay appears to be a function of the shape of the aircraft response following the initial delay. The cockpit feel system is discussed as a dynamic element in the flight control system. Data presented indicate that the time delay associated with a significant low-frequency feel system does not result in the predicted degradation in aircraft flying qualities. The impact of the feel system is discussed from two viewpoints: as a filter in the control system, which can alter the initial response shape and, therefore, the allowable time delay, and as a unique dynamic element whose delay contribution can potentially be discounted by special pilot loop closures.


An in-flight investigation of the effect of changes in pure time delays in pitch and roll was undertaken. The evaluation tasks consisted of low lift-to-drag-ratio landings of various levels of difficulty and formation flying. The results indicate that the effect of time delay is strongly dependent on the task. In the pitch axis, in calm air, spot landings from a lateral offset were most strongly influenced by time delay. In the roll axis, in calm air, formation flying was most strongly influenced by time delay. However, when landings were made in turbulence, flying qualities in pitch were only slightly degraded, whereas in roll they were severely degraded.


The Space Shuttle program took on the challenge of providing a manual landing capability for an operational vehicle returning from orbit. Some complex challenges were encountered in developing the longitudinal flying qualities required to land the Orbiter manually in an operational environment. Approach and landing test flights indicated a tendency of pilot-induced oscillation near landing. Changes in the operational procedures reduced the difficulty of the landing task, and an adaptive stick filter was incorporated to reduce the severity of any pilot-induced oscillatory motions. Fixed-base, moving-base, and in-flight simulations were used for the evaluations. Overall, the Orbiter control system and operational procedures produced a good capability to perform routinely precise landings with a large, unpowered vehicle that has a low lift-to-drag ratio.


The characteristics of high altitude turbulence and its associated meteorological features are reviewed. Findings based on data from NASA flight research programs with prototype military aircraft, the XB-70 and YF-12A, are emphasized. An example of detailed numerical atmospheric simulations, which may provide greatly increased understanding of these earlier turbulence observations, is presented. Comparisons between observation and numerical simulation should help to delineate the limitations of analysis techniques and improve our understanding of atmospheric processes in the stratosphere.


Water facilities play a fundamental role in the design of air, ground, and marine vehicles by providing a qualitative, and sometimes quantitative, description of complex flow phenomena. Water tunnels, channels, and tow tanks used as flow-diagnostic tools have experienced a renaissance in recent years in response to the increased complexity of designs suitable for advanced technology vehicles. These vehicles are frequently characterized by large regions of steady and unsteady three-dimensional flow separation and ensuing vortical flows. The visualization and interpretation of the complicated fluid motions about isolated vehicle components and complete configurations in a time and cost effective manner in hydrodynamic test facilities is a key element in the development of flow control concepts, and, hence, improved vehicle designs. A historical perspective of the role of water
facilities in the vehicle design process is presented. The application of water facilities to specific aerodynamic and hydrodynamic flow problems is discussed, and the strengths and limitations of these important experimental tools are emphasized.

Keywords: Water tunnels; Aircraft configuration; Flow fields; Vortical flows

*Eidetics International, Inc., Torrance, California.
**Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The effectiveness of a trailing disk, or trapped vortex concept, in reducing the base drag of a large body of revolution was studied from measurements made both in flight and in a wind tunnel. Pressure data obtained for the flight experiment, and both pressure and force balance data were obtained for the wind tunnel experiment. The flight test also included data obtained from a hemispherical base. The experiment demonstrated the significant base drag reduction capability of the trailing disk to Mach 0.93 and to Reynolds numbers up to 80 times greater than for earlier studies. For the trailing disk data from the flight experiment, the maximum decrease in base drag ranged from 0.08 to 0.07 as Mach number increased from 0.70 to 0.93. Aircraft angles of attack ranged from 3.9 to 6.6 deg for the flight data. For the trailing disk data from the wind tunnel experiment, the maximum decrease in base and total drag ranged from 0.08 to 0.05 for the approximately 0 deg angle of attack data as Mach number increased from 0.30 to 0.82.

Keywords: Base pressure; Drag reduction; Flight tests; Trailing edge flaps; Turbulent flow; Wind tunnel tests

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The buckling characteristics of Rene 41 tubular panels installed as wing panels on a hypersonic wing test structure (HWTS) were determined nondestructively through use of a force/stiffness technique. The nondestructive buckling tests were carried out under different combined load conditions and different temperature environments. Two panels were subsequently tested to buckling failure in a universal tension compression testing machine. In spite of some data scattering because of large extrapolations of data points resulting from termination of the test at a somewhat low applied load, the overall test data correlated fairly well with theoretically predicted buckling interaction curves. The structural efficiency of the tubular panels was slightly higher than that of the beaded panels which they replaced.

Keywords: Hypersonic wing test structure; Tubular panels; Nondestructive test; Buckling

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Under the Aircraft Energy Efficiency - Laminar Flow Control Program, there are currently three flight test programs under way to address critical issues concerning laminar flow technology application to commercial transports. The Leading-Edge Flight Test (LEFT) with a JetStar aircraft is a cooperative effort with the Ames/Dryden Flight Research Facility to provide operational experience with candidate leading-edge systems representative of those that might be used on a future transport. In the Variable Sweep Transition Flight Experiment (VSTFE), also a cooperative effort between Langley and Ames/Dryden, basic transition data on an F-14 wing with variable sweep will be obtained to provide a data base for laminar flow wing design. Finally, under contract to the Boeing Company, the acoustic environment on the wing of a 757 aircraft will be measured and the influence of engine noise on laminar flow determined with a natural laminar flow glove on the wing. The status and plans for these programs are reported.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight test and theoretical aerodynamic data were obtained for a flight test fixture mounted on the underside of an F-104G aircraft. The theoretical data were generated using two codes: a two-dimensional transonic code called code H, and a three-dimensional subsonic and supersonic code called wing-body. Pressure distributions generated by the codes for the flight test fixture, as well as compared with the flight-measured data. The two-dimensional code pressure distributions compared well except at the minimum pressure point and the trailing edge. Shock locations compared well except at high transonic speeds. However, the two-dimensional code did not adequately predict the displacement thickness of the flight test fixture. The three-dimensional code pressure
distributions performance compared well except at the trailing edge of the flight test fixture.

Keywords: Computational fluid dynamics; Computer programs; F-104 aircraft; Flight tests; Prediction analysis techniques; Transonic flow

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


A structural analysis and resizing (SPAR) finite-element thermal analysis computer program was used in the heat-transfer analysis of the space shuttle orbiter subjected to reentry aerodynamic heating. Three wing cross sections and one midfuselage cross section were selected for the thermal analysis. The predicted thermal protection system temperatures were found to agree well with flight-measured temperatures. The calculated aluminum structural temperatures also agreed reasonably well with the flight data from reentry to touchdown. The effects of internal radiation and of internal convection were found to be significant. The SPAR finite-element solutions agreed reasonably well with those obtained from the conventional finite-difference method.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Finite element method; Heat transfer coefficients; Reentry shielding; Space shuttle orbiters; Thermal analysis


This document examines the practical application of parameter estimation methodology to the problem of estimating aircraft stability and control derivatives from flight test data. The primary purpose of the document is to present a comprehensive and unified picture of the entire parameter estimation process and its integration into the flight test program. The document concentrates on the output-error method to provide a focus for detailed examination and to allow us to give specific examples of situations that have arisen in our experience. The document first derives the aircraft equations of motion in a form suitable for application to estimation of stability and control derivatives. It then discusses the issues that arise in adapting the equations to the limitations of analysis programs, using a specific program for an example. The document then addresses the roles and issues relating to mass distribution data, preflight predictions, maneuver design, flight scheduling, instrumentation sensors, data acquisition systems, and data processing. Finally, the document discusses evaluation and use of the analysis results.


An exhaust-gas pressure and temperature survey of the General Electric F404-GE-400 turbofan engine was conducted in the altitude test facility of the NASA Lewis Propulsion System Laboratory. Traversals by a survey rake were made across the exhaust-nozzle exit to measure the pitot pressure and total temperature. Tests were performed at Mach 0.87 and a 24,000-ft altitude and at Mach 0.30 and a 30,000-ft altitude with various power settings from intermediate to maximum afterburning. Data yielded smooth pressure and temperature profiles with maximum jet temperatures approximately 1.4 in. inside the nozzle edge and maximum jet temperatures from 1 to 3 in. inside the edge. A low-pressure region located exactly at engine center was noted. The maximum temperature encountered was 3800 R.

Keywords: Exhaust gases; Exhaust nozzles; Pressure measurement; Temperature measurement; Turbofan engines


The paper presents the descriptions of recently developed numerical algorithms that prove to be useful for the solution of the free vibration problem of spinning centrifugal forces in a finite element owing to any specified spin rate is derived in detail. This is followed by a description of an improved eigenproblem solution procedure that proves to be economical for the free vibration analysis of spinning structures. Numerical results are also presented which indicate the efficacy of the currently developed procedures.


An analysis was conducted of the attitude and flight-path-angle response of configurations used in the total inflight simulator pitch rate command systems program. The results showed poor correlation between the pilot ratings and attitude response and indicate that attitude was not a major influence in the results. A strong correlation was found to exist, however, between the amount of flight-path-angle peak
overshoot and the pilot ratings. This correlation is similar to the best correlations that have been obtained in recent closed-loop and time-domain analyses, but has the advantage of greatly simplified implementation and interpretation.

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**1987 Technical Publications**


A pipelined, multiprocessor, general-purpose ground support equipment for digital flight systems has been developed and placed in service at the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. The design is an outgrowth of the earlier aircraft interrogation and display system (AIDS) used in support of several research projects to provide engineering-units display of internal control system parameters during development and qualification testing activities. The new system, incorporating multiple 16-bit processors, is called extended AIDS (XAIDS) and is now supporting the X-29A forward-swept-wing aircraft project. This report describes the design and mechanization of XAIDS and shows the steps whereby a typical user may take advantage of its high throughput and flexible features.

Keywords: Data acquisition; Digital command systems; Display devices; Flight simulation; Flight tests; Interrogation

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**1544.** Hicks, John W.; *Kania, Jan; **Pearce, Robert; and **Mills, Glen: *Challenges in Modeling the X-29A Flight Test Performance.* AIAA Paper 87-0081. Presented at the AIAA 25th Aerospace Sciences Meeting, Reno, Nevada, *January 12–15, 1987*, 87A22402, #. (see also 1541.) [PDF AIAA](https://example.com)

The paper presents the methods, instrumentation, and difficulties associated with drag measurement of the X-29A aircraft. The initial performance objective of the X-29A program emphasized drag polar shapes rather than absolute drag levels. Priorities during the flight envelope expansion restricted the evaluation of aircraft performance. Changes in aircraft configuration, uncertainties in angle-of-attack calibration, and limitations in instrumentation complicated the analysis. Limited engine instrumentation with uncertainties in overall in-flight thrust accuracy made it difficult to obtain reliable values of coefficient of parasite drag. The aircraft was incapable of tracking the automatic camber control trim schedule for optimum wing flaperon deflection during typical dynamic performance maneuvers; this has also complicated the drag polar shape modeling. The X-29A was far enough off the schedule that the developed trim drag correction procedure has proven inadequate. However, good drag polar shapes have been developed throughout the flight envelope. Preliminary flight results have compared well with wind tunnel predictions. A more comprehensive analysis must be done to complete performance models. The detailed flight performance program with a calibrated engine will benefit from the experience gained during this preliminary performance phase.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Drag measurement; Flight tests; Performance prediction; X-29 aircraft

* Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.
** Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Edwards, California.

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**1545.** Hicks, John W.; *Kania, Jan; **Pearce, Robert; and **Mills, Glen: *Challenges in Modeling the X-29A Flight Test Performance.* NASA TM-88282, H-1395, NAS 1.15:88282, also presented at the AIAA 25th Aerospace Sciences Meeting, Reno, Nevada, *January 12–15, 1987*, 87N16820, #. (see also 1542.) [PDF DTRS](https://example.com)

Presented are methods, instrumentation, and difficulties associated with drag measurement of the X-29A aircraft. The initial performance objective of the X-29A program emphasized drag polar shapes rather than absolute drag levels. Priorities during the flight envelope expansion restricted the evaluation of aircraft performance. Changes in aircraft configuration, uncertainties in angle-of-attack calibration, and limitations in instrumentation complicated the analysis. Limited engine instrumentation with uncertainties in overall in-flight thrust accuracy made it difficult to obtain reliable values of coefficient of parasite drag. The aircraft was incapable of tracking the automatic camber control trim schedule for optimum wing flaperon deflection during typical dynamic performance maneuvers; this has also complicated the drag polar shape modeling. The X-29A was far enough off the schedule that the developed trim drag correction procedure has proven inadequate. However, good drag polar shapes have been developed throughout the flight envelope. Preliminary flight results have compared well with wind tunnel predictions. A more comprehensive analysis must be done to complete performance models. The detailed flight performance program with a calibrated engine will benefit from the experience gained during this preliminary performance phase.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Drag measurement; Flight tests; Performance prediction; X-29 aircraft

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dynamic performance maneuvers; this has also complicated the drag polar shape modeling. The X-29A was far enough off the schedule that the developed trim drag correction procedure has proven inadequate. Despite these obstacles, good drag polar shapes have been developed throughout the flight envelope. Preliminary flight results have compared well with wind tunnel predictions. A more comprehensive analysis must be done to complete the performance models.

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The aircraft parameter estimation problem is used to illustrate the utility of parameter estimation, which applies to many engineering and scientific fields. Maximum likelihood estimation has been used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. This paper presents some of the basic concepts of aircraft parameter estimation and briefly surveys the literature in the field. The maximum likelihood estimator is discussed, and the basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple simulated aircraft example. The cost functions that are to be minimized during estimation are defined and discussed. Graphic representations of the cost functions are given to illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation from flight data is discussed. Some of the major conclusions for the simulated examples are also developed for the analysis of flight data from the F-14, highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT), and Space Shuttle vehicles.


This paper presents a technique for comparing, in real time, the flight test time histories for X-29A aircraft with time histories computed from linearized mathematical models. Such a comparison allows the flight test personnel to verify that the aircraft is performing as predicted, to determine regions of nonlinear behavior, and to increase the rate of envelope expansion. The types of mathematical modeling and equipment required, the procedure used, and actual flight test results are discussed.

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The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator is a single-seat, single-engine aircraft with a forward-swept wing. The aircraft incorporates many advanced technologies being considered for this country’s next generation of aircraft. This unusual aircraft configuration, which had never been flown before, required a precise approach to flight envelope expansion. This paper describes the real-time analysis methods and flight test techniques used during the envelope expansion of the X-29A aircraft, including new and innovative techniques that provided for a safe, efficient envelope expansion. The use of integrated test blocks in the expansion program and in the overall flight test approach is discussed.

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Keywords: Aircraft stability; Flight envelope; Flight test instruments; X-29 aircraft; Data processing; Display devices; Dynamic structural analysis; In-flight monitoring; Real time operation; Structural strain


In displaying computer-generated graphics, it is advantageous to have the facility to render any subset of polygons as a silhouette with respect to itself. While the silhouette problem has been addressed before, there has been no completely general solution. In this report, the silhouette problem for calligraphic drawings is solved for the most general case. This solution offers all possible combinations of silhouette and non-silhouette specifications for an arbitrary solid. It allows the flexibility to enhance the clarity of any three-dimensional scene presented in two dimensions.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Display devices; Image enhancement; Image processing; Dimensions; Engineering drawings; Polygons; Scene analysis; Set theory


A computer program written to calculate the static pressure position error of airspeed systems contains five separate methods for determining position error, of which the user may select from one to five at a time. The program uses data from both the test aircraft and the ground-based radar to calculate the error. In addition, some of the methods require rawinsonde data or an atmospheric analysis, or both. The program output lists the corrections to Mach number, altitude, and static pressure that are due to position error. Reference values such as angle of attack, angle of sideslip, indicated Mach number, indicated pressure altitude, stagnation pressure, and total temperature are also listed.

Keywords: Airspeed; Applications programs (computers); Errors; Position (location); Static pressure


The wing on the NASA F-111 transonic aircraft technology (TACT) airplane was modified to provide flexible leading and trailing edge flaps; this modified wing is known as the mission adaptive wing (MAW). A dual digital primary fly-by-wire flight control system was developed with analog backup reversion for redundancy. This report discusses the functions, design, and redundancy management of the flight control system for these flaps.

Keywords: F-111 aircraft; Flaps (control surfaces); Flight control; Mission adaptive wings; Redundancy; Supersonic aircraft


Flight test trajectory control systems are designed to enable the pilot to follow complex trajectories for evaluating an aircraft within its known flight envelope and to explore the boundaries of its capabilities. Previous design approaches were based on linearized aircraft models necessitating a large amount of data storage along with gain schedules. In this paper, the synthesis of nonlinear flight test trajectory controllers for a fixed-wing aircraft is described. This approach uses singular perturbation theory and the recently developed theory of prelinearizing transformations. These controllers do not require gain scheduling for satisfactory operation, can be used in arbitrarily nonlinear maneuvers, and are mechanized
with a direct, noniterative analytic solution.


Preflight thermal stress analysis of the space shuttle orbiter wing skin panel and the thermal protection system (TPS) was performed. The heated skin panel analyzed was rectangular in shape and contained a small square cool region at its center. The wing skin immediately outside the cool region was found to be close to the state of elastic instability in the chordwise direction based on the conservative temperature distribution. The wing skin was found to be quite stable in the spanwise direction. The potential wing skin thermal instability was not severe enough to tear apart the strain isolation pad (SIP) layer. Also, the preflight thermal stress analysis was performed on the TPS tile under the most severe temperature gradient during the simulated reentry heating. The tensile thermal stress induced in the TPS tile was found to be much lower than the tensile strength of the TPS material. The thermal bending of the TPS tile was not severe enough to cause tearing of the SIP layer.

Keywords: Skin (structural member); Stress analysis; Thermal protection; Thermal stability; Thermal stresses; Wing panels


Afterbody and nozzle pressures measured on a 1/12-scale model and in flight on a twin-jet fighter aircraft were compared as Mach number varied from 0.6 to 1.2, Reynolds number from 17.5 million to 302.5 million, and angle of attack from 1 to 7 deg. At Mach 0.6 and 0.8, nozzle pressure coefficient distributions and nozzle axial force coefficients agreed and showed good recompression. At Mach 0.9 and 1.2, flow complexity caused a loss in recompression for both flight and wind tunnel nozzle data. The flight data exhibited less negative values of pressure coefficient and lower axial force coefficients than did the wind tunnel data. Reynolds number effects were noted only at these Mach numbers. Jet temperature and mass flux ratio did not affect the comparisons of nozzle axial flow coefficient. At subsonic speeds, the levels of pressure coefficient distributions on the upper fuselage and lower nacelle surfaces for flight were less negative than those for the model. The model boundary layer thickness at the aft rake station exceeded that for the forward rake station and increased with increasing angle of attack. The flight boundary layer thickness at the aft rake station was less than that for the forward rake station and decreased with increasing angle of attack.

Keywords: Afterbodies; Fighter aircraft; Flight tests; Nozzle thrust coefficients; Transonic speed; Wind tunnel models; Wind tunnel tests


The predicted pitching moment characteristics of the X-29A aircraft are presented for angles of attack from 0 to 20 deg. and Mach numbers of 0.2, 0.6, 0.9, 1.2, and 1.5 for altitudes of sea level, 4572 m (15,000 ft), 9144 m (30,000 ft), and 12,192 m (40,000 ft). These data are for both rigid and flexible aircraft and for the full range of control-surface positions. The characteristics were extracted from a nonlinear, symmetric, flexibilized wind tunnel data base.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Mach number; Pitching moments; Swept forward wings; X-29 aircraft


The highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) program at NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility is a multiphase flight research program to quantify the benefits of promising integrated control systems. McDonnell Aircraft Company is the prime contractor, with United Technologies Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, and Lear Siegler Incorporated as major subcontractors. The NASA F-15A testbed aircraft was modified by the HIDEC program by installing a digital electronic flight control system (DEFCS) and replacing the standard F100 (Arab 3) engines with F100 engine model derivative (EMD) engines equipped with digital electronic engine controls (DEEC), and integrating the DEEC’s and DEFCS. The modified aircraft provides the capability for testing many integrated control modes involving the flight controls, engine controls, and inlet controls. This paper focuses on the first two phases of the HIDEC program, which are the digital flight control system/aerial identification (DEFCS/AMI) phase and the adaptive engine control system (ADECs) phase.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Aircraft engines; Aircraft models; Digital electronics; Engine control; F-15 aircraft; Flight control; Flight tests; Identifying

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Flight tests were performed on an F-14 aircraft to evaluate the use of flush pressure orifices on the nose section for obtaining air data at transonic speeds over a large range of flow angles. This program was part of a flight test and wind tunnel program to assess the accuracies of such systems for general use on aircraft. It also provided data to validate algorithms developed for the shuttle entry air data system designed at NASA Langley. Data were obtained for Mach numbers between 0.60 and 1.60, for angles of attack up to 26.0 deg, and for sideslip angles up to 11.0 deg. With careful calibration, a flush air data system with all flush orifices can provide accurate air data information over a large range of flow angles. Several orifices on the nose cap were found to be suitable for determination of stagnation pressure. Other orifices on the nose section aft of the nose cap were shown to be suitable for determination of static pressure. Pairs of orifices on the nose cap provided the most sensitive measurements for determining angles of attack and sideslip, although orifices located farther aft on the nose section could also be used.

Keywords: Air data systems; Angle of attack; Flow distribution; Orifice flow; Pitot tubes; Stagnation pressure; Transonic speed

An analogy between inelastic strains caused by temperature and those caused by creep is presented in terms of isotropic elasticity. It is shown how the theoretical aspects can be blended with existing finite-element computer programs to exact a piecewise linear solution. The creep effect is determined by using the thermal stress computational approach, if appropriate alterations are made to the thermal expansion of the individual elements. The overall transient solution is achieved by consecutive piecewise linear iterations. The total residual caused by creep is obtained by accumulating creep residues for each iteration and then resubmitting the total residues for each element as an equivalent input. A typical creep law is tested for incremental time convergence. The results indicate that the approach is practical, with a valid indication of the extent of creep after approximately 20 hr of incremental time. The general analogy between body forces and inelastic strain gradients is discussed with respect to how an inelastic problem can be worked as an elastic problem.

Keywords: Computation; Creep analysis; Dynamic structural analysis; Inelastic stress; Linear systems; Residues
An extension of the program STARS (a general-purpose structural analysis program) has been developed; this extension implements a complete aeroviscoelastic analysis capability. Previous capabilities included finite-element modeling as well as statics, buckling, vibration, dynamic response, and flutter analyses. This paper presents a description and the formulation of STARS in its current state along with example dynamic, aeroelastic, and aeroviscoelastic analyses pertaining to the X-29A aircraft. These examples include vibration analysis results as well as flutter analysis results obtained by the conventional k method and the velocity root-contour solution. Finally, selected open-and closed-loop aeroviscoelastic analysis results based on a hybrid formulation are compared to illustrate, using the calculated frequency responses, the interactions of structures, aerodynamics, and flight controls.


At the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base, California, a variety of ground vibration test techniques has been applied to an assortment of new or modified aerospace research vehicles. This paper presents a summary of these techniques and the experience gained from various applications. The role of ground vibration testing in the qualification of new and modified aircraft for flight is discussed. Data are presented for a wide variety of aircraft and component tests, including comparison of sine-dwell, single-input random, and multiple-input random excitation methods on a JetStar airplane.


As part of the NASA F-14 high angle of attack flight test program, a nose mounted hemispherical flow direction sensor was calibrated against a fuselage mounted movable vane flow angle sensor. Significant discrepancies were found to exist in the angle of attack measurements. A two fold approach taken to resolve these discrepancies during subsonic flight is described. First, the sensing integrity of the isolated hemispherical sensor is established by wind tunnel data extending to an angle of attack of 60 deg. Second, two probable causes for the discrepancies, pneumatic lag and upwash, are examined. Methods of identifying and compensating for lag and upwash are presented. The wind tunnel data verify that the isolated hemispherical sensor is sufficiently accurate for static conditions with angles of attack up to 60 deg and angles of sideslip up to 30 deg. Analysis of flight data for two high angle of attack maneuvers establishes that pneumatic lag and upwash are highly correlated with the discrepancies between the hemispherical and vane type sensor measurements.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Flight tests; Flow distribution; Pneumatic probes; Remote sensing; Time lag; Upwash


The characteristics of high altitude turbulence and its associated meteorological features are reviewed. Findings based on data from NASA flight research programs with prototype military aircraft, the XB-70 and YF-12A, are emphasized. An example of detailed numerical atmospheric simulations, which may provide greatly increased understanding of these earlier turbulence observations, is presented. Comparisons between observation and numerical simulation should help to delineate the limitations of analysis techniques and improve our understanding of atmospheric processes in the stratosphere.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; Flight tests; High altitude; Stratosphere; Supersonic cruise aircraft research


The service life of aircraft structural components undergoing random stress cycling was analyzed by the application of fracture mechanics. The initial crack sizes at the critical stress points for the fatigue-crack growth analysis were established through proof load tests. The fatigue-crack growth rates for random stress cycles were calculated using the half-cycle method. A new equation was developed for calculating the number of remaining flights for the structural components. The number of remaining flights predicted by the new equation is much lower than that predicted by the conventional equation.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Cyclic loads; Fatigue life; Predictions; Service life; Structural members

An integrated flight propulsion control mode, the Adaptive Engine Control System (ADECS), has been developed and flight tested on an F-15 aircraft as part of the NASA Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control program. The ADECS system realizes additional engine thrust by increasing the engine pressure ratio (EPR) at intermediate and afterburning power, with the amount of EPR uptrim modulated using a predictor scheme for angle-of-attack and sideslip angle. Substantial improvement in aircraft and engine performance was demonstrated, with a 16 percent rate of climb increase, a 14 percent reduction in time to climb, and a 15 percent reduction in time to accelerate. Significant EPR uptrim capability was found with angles-of-attack up to 20 degrees.

*McDonnell Aircraft Company, St. Louis, Missouri.


Results of the flight demonstration of the adaptive engine control system (ADECS), an integrated flight and propulsion control system, are reported. The ADECS system provides additional engine thrust by increasing engine pressure ratio (EPR) at intermediate and afterburning power, with the amount of EPR uptrim modulated in accordance with the maneuver requirements, flight conditions, and engine information. As a result of EPR uptrimming, engine thrust has increased by as much as 10.5 percent, rate of climb has increased by 10 percent, and the time to climb from 10,000 to 40,000 ft has been reduced by 12.5 percent. Increases in acceleration of 9.3 and 13 percent have been obtained at intermediate and maximum power, respectively. No engine anomalies have been detected for EPR increases up to 12 percent.


Structural performance and resizing (SPAR) finite-element thermal analysis computer program was used in the heat transfer analysis of the Space Shuttle Orbiter wing subjected to reentry aerodynamic heating. With sufficient external forced convective cooling near the end of the heating cycle, the calculated surface temperatures of the thermal protection system (TPS) agree favorably with the flight data for the entire flight profile. However, the effects of this external forced convective cooling on the structural temperatures were found to be negligible. Both free convection and forced convection elements were introduced to model the internal convection effect of the cool air entering the Shuttle interior. The introduction of the internal free convection effect decreased the calculated wing lower skin temperatures by 20° F at most, 1200 sec after touchdown. If the internal convection is treated as forced convection, the calculated wing lower skin temperatures after touchdown can be reduced to match the flight-measured data very closely. By reducing the TPS thicknesses to certain effective thickness to account for the TPS gap heating, the calculated wing lower skin temperatures prior to touchdown can be raised to agree with the flight data perfectly.


The AFTI F-16 Automated Maneuvering Attack System has undergone developmental and demonstration flight testing over a total of 347.3 flying hours in 237 sorties. The emphasis of this phase of the flight test program was on the development of automated guidance and control systems for air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons delivery, using a digital flight control system, dual avionics multiplex buses, an advanced FLIR sensor with laser ranger, integrated flight/fire-control software, advanced cockpit display and controls, and modified core Multinational Stage Improvement Program avionics.

*USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.


Water facilities play a fundamental role in the design of air, ground, and marine vehicles by providing a qualitative, and sometimes quantitative, description of complex flow phenomena. Water tunnels, channels, and tow tanks used as flow-diagnostic tools have experienced a renaissance in recent years in response to the increased complexity of designs suitable for advanced technology vehicles. These vehicles are frequently characterized by large regions of steady and unsteady 3-D flow separation and ensuing vortical flows. The visualization and interpretation of the complicated fluid motions about isolated vehicle components and complete configurations in a time and cost effective manner in hydrodynamic test facilities is a key element in the development of flow control concepts, and, hence, improved vehicle designs. A historical perspective of the role of water facilities in the vehicle design process is presented. The
application of water facilities to specific aerodynamic and hydrodynamic flow problems is discussed, and the strengths and limitations of these important experimental tools are emphasized.

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**Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


At the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base, California, a variety of ground vibration test techniques has been applied to an assortment of new or modified aerospace research vehicles. This paper presents a summary of these techniques and the experience gained from various applications. The role of ground vibration testing in the qualification of new and modified aircraft for flight is discussed. Data are presented for a wide variety of aircraft and component tests, including comparisons of sine-dwell, single-input random, and multiple-input random excitation methods on a JetStar airplane.

Keywords: Certification; Ground tests; Qualifications; Research facilities; Vibration tests


A new fault-tolerant system software concept employing the primary digital computers as host for the backup software portion has been implemented and flight tested in the F-8 digital fly-by-wire airplane. The system was implemented in such a way that essentially no transients occurred in transferring from primary to backup software. This was accomplished without a significant increase in the complexity of the backup software. The primary digital system was frame synchronized, which provided several advantages in implementing the resident backup software system. Since the time of the flight tests, two other flight vehicle programs have made a commitment to incorporate resident backup software similar in nature to the system described here.

*Draper, Charles Stark Lab., Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Initial envelope clearance and subsequent flight testing of a new, fully augmented airplane with an extremely high degree of static instability can place unusual demands on the flight test approach. Previous flight test experience with these kinds of airplanes is very limited or nonexistent. The safe and efficient flight testing may be further complicated by a multiplicity of control effectors that may be present on this class of airplanes. This paper describes some novel flight test and analysis techniques in the flight dynamics and handling qualities area. These techniques were utilized during the initial flight envelope clearance of the X-29A aircraft and were largely responsible for the completion of the flight controls clearance program without any incidents or significant delays.

Keywords: Controllability; Flight characteristics; Flight envelopes; Flight tests; Static stability; X-29 aircraft


Novel flight test and analysis techniques in the flight dynamics and handling qualities area are described. These techniques were utilized at NASA Ames-Dryden during the initial flight envelope clearance of the X-29A aircraft. It is shown that the open-loop frequency response of an aircraft with highly relaxed static stability can be successfully computed on the ground from telemetry data. Postflight closed-loop frequency response data were obtained from pilot-generated frequency sweeps and it is found that the current handling quality requirements for high-maneuverability aircraft are generally applicable to the X-29A.

The effect of element size on the solution accuracies of finite-element heat transfer and thermal stress analyses of space shuttle orbiter was investigated. Several structural performance and resizing (SPAR) thermal models and NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) structural models were set up for the orbiter wing midspan bay 3. The thermal model was found to be the one that determines the limit of finite-element fineness because of the limitation of computational core space required for the radiation view factor calculations. The thermal stresses were found to be extremely sensitive to a slight variation of structural temperature distributions. The minimum degree of element fineness required for the thermal model to yield reasonably accurate solutions was established. The radiation view factor computation time was found to be insignificant compared with the total computer time required for the SPAR transient heat transfer analysis.

Keywords: Finite element method; Heat transfer; Space shuttles; Thermal analysis; Thermal stresses


The value of early flight evaluation of propulsion and propulsion control concepts was demonstrated on the NASA F-15 airplane in programs such as highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC), the F100 engine model derivative (EMD), and digital electronic engine control (DEEC). (In each case, the value of flight demonstration was conclusively demonstrated.) This paper describes these programs, and discusses the results that were not expected, based on ground test or analytical prediction. The role of flight demonstration in facilitating transfer of technology from the laboratory to operational airplanes is discussed.

Keywords: Evaluation; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Propulsion system configurations; Research aircraft


The value of early flight evaluation of propulsion and propulsion control concepts was demonstrated on the NASA F-15 airplane in programs such as highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC), the F100 engine model derivative (EMD), and digital electronic engine control (DEEC). (In each case, the value of flight demonstration was conclusively demonstrated.) This paper describes these programs, and discusses the results that were not expected, based on ground test or analytical prediction. The role of flight demonstration in facilitating transfer of technology from the laboratory to operational airplanes is discussed.

Keywords: Flight characteristics; Flight tests; Swept forward wings; Technology assessment; X-29 aircraft


Several new technologies integrated on the X-29A advanced technology demonstrator are being evaluated for the next generation of fighter aircraft. Some of the most noteworthy ones are the forward-swept wing, digital fly-by-wire flight control system, close-coupled wing-canard configuration, aeroelastically tailored composite wing skins, three-surface pitch control configuration, and a highly unstable airframe. The expansion of the aircraft 1-g and maneuver flight envelopes was recently completed over a two-year period in 84 flights. Overall flight results confirmed the viability of the aircraft design, and good agreement with preflight predictions was obtained. The individual technologies’ operational workability and performance were confirmed. This paper deals with the flight test results and the preliminary evaluation of the X-29A design and technologies. A summary of the primary technical findings in structural static loads, structural dynamic characteristics, flight control system characteristics, aerodynamic stability and control, and aerodynamic performance is presented.

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This report is a user’s manual for version 2.1 of pEst, a FORTRAN 77 computer program for interactive parameter estimation in nonlinear dynamic systems. The pEst program allows the user complete generality in defining the nonlinear equations of motion used in the analysis. The equations of motion are specified by a set of FORTRAN subroutines; a set of routines for a general aircraft model is supplied with the program and is described in the report. The report also briefly discusses the scope of the parameter estimation problem the program addresses. The report gives detailed explanations of the purpose and usage of all available program commands and a description of the computational algorithms used in the program.

Keywords: FORTRAN; Interactive control; Nonlinear systems; Parameter identification; User manuals (computer programs)


An F-14 airplane was modified to become the test bed aircraft for the variable sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE) program. The latter is a laminar flow program designed to measure the effects of wing sweep on boundary layer transition from laminar to turbulent flow. The airplane was modified by adding an upper surface foam-fiberglass glove over a portion of the left wing. Ground vibration and flight flutter testing were accomplished to clear a sufficient flight envelope to conduct the laminar flow experiments. Flight test data indicated satisfactory damping levels and damping trends for the elastic structural modes of the airplane. The data presented include frequency and damping as functions of Mach number.

Keywords: F-14 aircraft; Flutter analysis; Ground tests; Modal response; Research aircraft; Variable sweep wings; Vibration tests


An account is given of flight control system performance results for the X-29A forward-swept wing ‘Advanced Technology Demonstrator’ fighter aircraft, with attention to its software and hardware components’ achievement of the requisite levels of system stability and desirable aircraft handling qualities. The Automatic Camber Control Logic is found to be well integrated with the stability loop of the aircraft. A number of flight test support software programs developed by NASA facilitated monitoring of the X-29A’s stability in real time, and allowed the test team to clear the envelope with confidence.

*Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Aircraft Systems Division, Bethpage, New York.


The practical aspects of planning, conducting, and reporting on developmental airdrop tests made from cargo transport type aircraft are presented. Typical cargo aircraft aerial delivery systems, parachute extraction systems, and special devices and rigging techniques are described in detail. Typical instrumentation systems for obtaining aircraft and parachute systems force data are also described and piloting techniques for various airdrop methods are briefly discussed. A scenario of a typical parachute tow test is used to demonstrate the application of these techniques and the use of challenge and response checklists among the flight crew members. Finally the use of reports is discussed and appendices are included with many useful charts and calculations that are readily applicable in research and development airdrop testing.

1588. Gera, Joseph; and Bosworth, John T.: Dynamic Stability and Handling Qualities Tests on a Highly Augmented, Statically Unstable Airplane. Proceedings, Society of Flight Test Engineers, 18th Annual Symposium, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, September 28–October 2, 1987, (see A88-51450 22-05), 1987, pp. 2-1 to 2-13, 88A51452, #.

This paper describes some novel flight tests and analysis
This paper describes an electro-optical flight-deflection measurement system (FDMS) developed for use on highly-maneuverable-aircraft-technology (HiMAT) RPV flight research program. The FDMS provides in-flight measurements of the aircraft structural deflections and magnetic-tape recordings for automated data processing. The capabilities and limitations, requirements for installation on an aircraft, analytical considerations, and typical flight data acquired from the HiMAT research program are examined. The flight data indicate that the background light is the major obstacle to acquiring high-quality data and that the relationship between the target displacement and the output of the FDMS is nonlinear; however, the nonlinear effects can be minimized with judicious planning of the installation of the FDMS on the aircraft. Excellent flight deflection data were obtained from both the HiMAT and X-29A flight research program with very little data lost as a result of encounters with severe background light.

*Gruuman Aerospace Corporation, Bethpage, New York.


This report documents version 3.1 of the GetData computer program. GetData is a utility program for manipulating files of time history data, i.e., data giving the values of parameters as functions of time. The most fundamental capability of GetData is extracting selected signals and time segments from an input file and writing the selected data to an output file. Other capabilities include converting file formats, merging data from several input files, time skewing, interpolating to common output times, and generating calculated output signals as functions of the input signals. This report also documents the interface standards for the subroutines used by GetData to read and write the time history files. All interface to the data files is through these subroutines, keeping the main body of GetData independent of the precise details of the file formats. Different file formats can be supported by changes restricted to these subroutines. Other computer programs conforming to the interface standards can call the same subroutines to read and write files in compatible formats.

Keywords: Data processing; FORTRAN; User manuals (computer programs); File maintenance; computer programs; Interfaces; Subroutines; Time dependence


A structural performance and resizing (SPAR) finite-element computer program and NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) finite-element computer programs were used in the thermal
stress analysis of the space shuttle orbiter subjected to reentry aerodynamic heating. A SPAR structural model was set up for the entire left wing of the orbiter, and NASTRAN structural models were set up for: (1) a wing segment located at midspan of the orbiter left wing, and (2) a fuselage segment located at midfuselage. The thermal stress distributions in the orbiter structure were obtained and the critical high thermal stress regions were identified. It was found that the thermal stresses induced in the orbiter structure during reentry were relatively low. The thermal stress predictions from the whole wing model were considered to be more accurate than those from the wing segment model because the former accounts for temperature and stress effects throughout the entire wing.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Finite element method; Models; Reentry; Space shuttle orbiters; Thermal stresses


The weight of a hypersonic, airbreathing SSTO vehicle may be more critical than for any previous aerospace craft; an evaluation is accordingly made of the development status and applicability of intermetallic compounds, metal-matrix composites, carbon-carbon composites, ceramics, and ceramic-matrix composites applicable to SSTO craft primary structures. Aerothermal, aerothermoelastic, and acoustic loads are high because the airbreathing SSTO vehicle must follow a high dynamic pressure trajectory in order to achieve the requisite propulsive efficiency. Attention is given to the prospects for integral cryogenic tankage and actively hydrogen-cooled airframe and engine structures.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A distributed data acquisition and control system has been developed for the NASA Flight Loads Research Facility. The DACS II system is composed of seven computer systems and four array processors configured as a main computer system, three satellite computer systems, and 13 analog input/output systems interconnected through three independent data networks. Up to three independent heating and loading tests can be run concurrently on different test articles or the entire system can be used on a single large test such as a full scale hypersonic aircraft. Thermal tests can include up to 512 independent adaptive closed loop control channels. The control system can apply up to 20 MW of heating to a test specimen while simultaneously applying independent mechanical loads. Each thermal control loop is capable of heating a structure at rates of up to 150°F per second over a temperature range of −300 to +250°F. Up to 64 independent mechanical load profiles can be commanded along with thermal control. Up to 1280 analog inputs monitor temperature, load, displacement and strain on the test specimens with real time data displayed on up to 15 terminals as color plots and tabular data displays. System setup and operation is accomplished with interactive menu-driver displays with extensive facilities to assist the users in all phases of system operation.

*Teledyne Controls, Los Angeles, California.


Temperature, thermal stresses, and residual creep stresses were studied by comparing laboratory values measured on a built-up titanium structure with values calculated from finite-element models. Several such models were used to examine the relationship between computational thermal stresses and thermal stresses measured on a built-up structure. Element suitability, element density, and computational temperature discrepancies were studied to determine their impact on measured and calculated thermal stress. The optimum number of elements is established from a balance between element density and suitable safety margins, such that the answer is acceptably safe yet is economical from a computational viewpoint. It is noted that situations exist where relatively small excursions of calculated temperatures from measured values result in far more than proportional increases in thermal stress values. Measured residual stresses due to creep significantly exceeded the values computed by the piecewise linear elastic strain analogy approach. The most important element in the computation is the correct definition of the creep law. Computational methodology advances in predicting residual stresses due to creep require significantly more viscoelastic material characterization.

Keywords: Comparison; Creep properties; Predictions; Structures; Temperature measurement; Thermal stresses; Titanium


Structural temperatures and thermal protection system surface temperatures were measured on the space shuttle during the flight of STS 5. The measured data are compared with values
calculated at wing stations 134, 240, and 328 and at fuselage station 877. The theoretical temperatures were calculated using the structural performance and resizing finite element thermal analysis program. The comparisons show that the calculated temperatures are, generally, in good agreement with the measured data.

Keywords: Flight tests; Space shuttle mission 31-A; Space shuttle orbiters; Surface temperature; Temperature measurement; Thermal analysis


Accuracies of the Southwell method and the force/stiffness (F/S) method are examined when the methods were used in the prediction of buckling loads of hypersonic aircraft wing tubular panels, based on nondestructive buckling test data. Various factors affecting the accuracies of the two methods were discussed. Effects of load cutoff point in the nondestructive buckling tests on the accuracies of the two methods were discussed in detail. For the tubular panels under pure compression, the F/S method was found to give more accurate buckling load predictions than the Southwell method, which excessively overpredicts the buckling load. It was found that the Southwell method required a higher load cutoff point, as compared with the F/S method. In using the F/S method for predicting the buckling load of tubular panels under pure compression, the load cutoff point of approximately 50 percent of the critical load could give reasonably accurate predictions.

Keywords: Buckling; Hypersonic aircraft; Pipes (tubes); Predictions; Wing panels


The X-29A aircraft is a fascinating combination of integrated technologies incorporated into a unique research aircraft. The X-29A program is a multiple agency program with management and other responsibilities divided among NASA, DARPA, the U.S. Air Force, and the Grumman Corporation. An overview of the recently completed X-29A flight research program, objectives achieved, and a discussion of its future is presented. Also discussed are the flight test approach expanding the envelope, typical flight maneuvers performed, X-29A program accomplishments, lessons learned for the Number One aircraft, and future plans with the Number Two aircraft. A schedule for both aircraft is presented. A description of the unique technologies incorporated into the X-29A aircraft is given, along with descriptions of the onboard instrumentation system. The X-29A aircraft research program has proven highly successful. Using high fly rates from a very reliable experimental aircraft, the program has consistently met or exceeded its design and research goals.

Keywords: Flight tests; Research Management; Swept forward wings; X-29 aircraft; Flight envelopes; Instrument packages; Maneuvers; Technology assessment


The X-29A aircraft is a fascinating combination of integrated technologies incorporated into a unique research aircraft. The X-29A program is a multiple agency program with management and other responsibilities divided among NASA, DARPA, the U.S. Air Force, and the Grumman Corporation. An overview of the recently completed X-29A flight research program, objectives achieved, and a discussion of its future is presented. Also discussed are the flight test approach expanding the envelope, typical flight maneuvers performed, X-29A program accomplishments, lessons learned for the Number One aircraft, and future plans with the Number Two aircraft. A schedule for both aircraft is presented. A description of the unique technologies incorporated into the X-29A aircraft is given, along with descriptions of the onboard instrumentation system. The X-29A aircraft research program has proven highly successful. Using high fly rates from a very reliable experimental aircraft, the program has consistently met or exceeded its design and research goals.


The overall objective of the flight tests on the JetStar aircraft was to demonstrate the effectiveness and reliability of laminar flow control under representative flight conditions. One specific objective was to obtain laminar flow on the JetStar leading-edge test articles for the design and off-design conditions. Another specific objective was to obtain operational experience on a Laminar Flow Control (LFC) leading-edge system in a simulated airline service. This included operational experience with cleaning requirements, the effect of clogging, possible foreign object damage, erosion, and the effects of ice particle and cloud encounters. Results are summarized.
Flight transition data applicable to swept wings at high subsonic speeds are needed to make valid assessments of the potential for natural laminar flow or laminar flow control for transports of various sizes at various cruise speeds. NASA initiated the variable sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE) to help establish a boundary layer transition data base for use in laminar flow wing design. The carrier vehicle for this experiment is an F-14, which has variable sweep capability. The variable sweep outer panels of the F-14 were modified with natural laminar flow gloves to provide not only smooth surfaces but also airfoils that can produce a wide range of pressure distributions for which transition location can be determined. The VSTFE program is briefly described and some preliminary glove flight results are presented.

The first JetStar leading edge flight test was made November 30, 1983. The JetStar was flown for more than 3 years. The titanium leading edge test articles today remain in virtually the same condition as they were in on that first flight. No degradation of laminar flow performance has occurred as a result of service. The JetStar simulated airline service flights have demonstrated that effective, practical leading edge systems are available for future commercial transports. Specific conclusions based on the results of the simulated airline service test program are summarized.
The application of the eigensystem synthesis technique to place the closed-loop eigenvalues and shape the closed-loop eigenvectors has not been practical for active flutter suppression, primarily because of the availability of only one control surface (ailerons) for flutter suppression. The oblique-wing aircraft, because of its configuration, provides two independent surfaces (left and right ailerons), making the application of eigensystem synthesis practical. This paper presents the application of eigensystem synthesis using output feedback to design an active flutter suppression system for an oblique-wing aircraft. The results obtained are compared with those obtained by linear quadratic Gaussian techniques.

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Using anisotropic elasticity theory, delamination stresses in a semicircular laminated composite curved bar subjected to end forces and end moments were calculated, and their radial locations determined. A family of design curves was presented, showing variation of the intensity of delamination stresses and their radial locations with different geometry and different degrees of anisotropy of the curved bar. The effect of anisotropy on the location of peak delamination stress was found to be small.

Keywords: Bars; Composite materials; Curved beams; Delaminating; Laminates.


A large piloted vertical motion simulator was used to assess the performance of a preliminary decoupling control law for an early version of the F-8 oblique wing research demonstrator airplane. Evaluations were performed for five discrete flight conditions, ranging from low-altitude subsonic Mach numbers to moderate-altitude supersonic Mach numbers. Asymmetric sideforce as a function of angle of attack was found to be the primary cause of both the lateral acceleration noted in pitch and the tendency to roll into left turns and out of right turns. The flight control system was shown to be effective in generally decoupling the airplane and reducing the lateral acceleration in pitch maneuvers.


A programmable maintenance processor concept applicable to multiprocessing systems has been developed at the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility. This stand-alone-processor is intended to provide support for system and application software testing as well as hardware diagnostics. An initial mechanization has been incorporated into the extended aircraft interrogation and display system (XAIDS) which is multiprocessing general-purpose ground support equipment. The XAIDS maintenance processor has independent terminal and printer interfaces and a dedicated magnetic bubble memory that stores system test sequences entered from the terminal. This report describes the hardware and software embodied in this processor and shows a typical application in the check-out of a new XAIDS.

Keywords: Applications programs (computers); Computer programming; Maintenance; Multiprocessing (computers).

1609. Powers, Sheryll Goecke: Influence of Base Modifications on In-Flight Base Drag in the Presence of Jet Exhaust for Mach Numbers From 0.7 to 1.5. NASA TP-2802, H-1408, NAS 1.60:2802, February 1988, 88N18881, #. PDF DTRS

The use of external modifications in the base region to reduce the base drag of a blunt-base body in the presence of jet engine exhaust was investigated in flight. Base pressure data were obtained for the following configurations: (1) blunt base; (2) blunt base modified with splitter plate; and (3) blunt base modified with two variations of a vented cavity. Reynolds number based on the length of the aircraft ranged from 1.2 to 3.1 x 10 to the 8th. Mach number M ranges were 0.71 less than or = M less than or = 1.51. The data were analyzed using the blunt base for a reference, or baseline condition. For 1.10 less than or = M less than or = 1.51, the reduction in base drag coefficient provided by the vented cavity configuration ranged from 0.07 to 0.05. These increments in base drag coefficient at M = 1.31 and 1.51 result in base drag reductions of 27 and 24 percent, respectively, when compared to the blunt base drag. For M less than 1, the drag increment between the blunt base and the modification is not significant.

Keywords: Base flow; Drag; Flight tests; Jet exhaust; Mach number.

Flow field investigations were conducted at the NASA Ames-Dryden Flow Visualization Facility (water tunnel) to investigate the ground effect produced by the impingement of jets from aircraft nozzles on a ground board in a STOL operation. Effects on the overall flow field with both a stationary and a moving ground board were photographed and compared with similar data found in other references. Nozzle jet impingement angles, nozzle and inlet interaction, side-by-side nozzles, nozzles in tandem, and nozzles and inlets mounted on a flat plate model were investigated. Results show that the wall jet that generates the ground effect is unsteady and the boundary between the ground vortex flow field and the free-stream flow is unsteady. Additionally, the forward projection of the ground vortex flow field with a moving ground board is one-third less than that measured over a fixed ground board. Results also showed that inlets did not alter the ground vortex flow field.

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**Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.

1611. Johnson, J. Blair: Preliminary In-Flight Boundary Layer Transition Measurements on a 45 Deg Swept Wing at Mach Numbers Between 0.9 and 1.8. NASA TM-100412, H-1436, NAS 1.15:100412, March 1988, 88N20598, #.  

A preliminary flight experiment was flown to generate a full-scale supersonic data base to aid the assessment of computational codes, to improve instrumentation for measuring boundary layer transition at supersonic speeds, and to provide preliminary information for the definition of follow-on programs. The experiment was conducted using an F-15 aircraft modified with a small cleanup test section on the right wing. Results are presented for Mach (M) numbers from 0.9 to 1.8 at altitudes from 25,000 to 55,000 ft. At M greater than or = 1.2, transition occurred near or at the leading edge for the clean configuration. The furthest aft that transition was measured was 20 percent chord at M = 0.9 and M = 0.97. No change in transition location was observed after the addition of a notch-bump on the leading edge of the inboard side of the test section which was intended to minimize attachment line transition problems. Some flow visualization was attempted during the flight experiment with both subliming chemicals and liquid crystals. However, difficulties arose from the limited time the test aircraft was able to hold test conditions and the difficulty of positioning the photo chase aircraft during supersonic test points. Therefore, no supersonic transition results were obtained.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Mach number; Swept wings.


The effect of element size on the solution accuracies of finite-element heat transfer and thermal stress analyses of space shuttle orbiter was investigated. Several structural performance and resizing (SPAR) thermal models and NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) structural models were set up for the orbiter wing midspan bay 3. The thermal model was found to be the one that determines the limit of finite-element fineness because of the limitation of computational core space required for the radiation view factor calculations. The thermal stresses were found to be extremely sensitive to a slight variation of structural temperature distributions. The minimum degree of element fineness required for the thermal model to yield reasonably accurate solutions was established. The radiation view factor computation time was found to be insignificant compared with the total computer time required for the SPAR transient heat transfer analysis.


The NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards, California, operates a mixed fleet of research aircraft employing nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries in a variety of flight-critical applications. Dryden’s Battery Systems Laboratory (BSL), a computerized facility for battery maintenance servicing, has developed over two decades into one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the world. Recently a major BSL upgrade was initiated with the goal of modernization to provide flexibility in meeting the needs of future advanced projects. The new facility will be called the Aerospace Energy Systems Laboratory (AESL) and will employ distributed processing linked to a centralized data base. AESL will be both a multistation servicing facility and a research laboratory for the advancement of energy storage system maintenance techniques. This paper describes the baseline requirements for the AESL and the design approach being taken for its mechanization.

Keywords: Aircraft power supplies; Energy storage; Maintenance; Nickel cadmium batteries; Research facilities.

This paper presents the approach taken by the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of the Ames Research Center to develop and utilize mobile systems to satisfy unique real-time research flight test requirements of research projects such as the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, YAV-8B Harrier, F-18 high-alpha research vehicle (HARV), XV-15, and the UH-60 Black Hawk. The approach taken is cost-effective, staff efficient, technologically current, and provides a safe and effective real-time processing and display, postmission processing, research flight test environment to support a highly complex set of real-time requirements including the areas of tracking and data acquisition, communications (audio and video) and command uplink. The development of this capability has been in response to the need for rapid deployment at varied site locations with full real-time computations and display capability. This paper will discuss the requirements, implementation and growth plan for mobile systems development within the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range.

Keywords: Control systems design; Flight tests; Ground support systems; Mobile communication systems; Research facilities.
This paper presents the approach taken by the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of the Ames Research Center (ARC) to develop and utilize mobile systems to satisfy unique real-time research flight test requirements of research projects such as the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, YAV-8B Harrier, F-18 high-alpha research vehicle (HARV), XV-15, and the UH-60 Black Hawk. The approach taken is cost-effective, staff efficient, technologically current, and provides a safe and effective research flight test environment to support a highly complex set of real-time requirements including the areas of tracking and data acquisition, communications (audio and video) and real-time processing and display, postmission processing, and command uplink. The development of this capability has been in response to the need for rapid deployment at varied site locations with full real-time commutation and display capability. This paper will discuss the requirements, implementation and growth plan for mobile systems development within the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Display devices; Flight simulation; Imaging techniques; Motion simulation.

Since 1982, the Western Aeronautical Test Range of the Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility has been separating the data acquisition and processing function required on all telemetry pulse code modulation (PCM) data and the display processing function required in the flight research mission control centers (MCCs). These two functions historically have been done on the same set of super mini computers remote from the MCCs. Removing the display processing function from the realm of the superminis or telemetry-radar acquisition and processing system (TRAPS) and out into the MCCs will allow the research engineers the flexibility to configure their own display processing system to optimize performance during a flight research mission. Meanwhile, the TRAPS will have more time to acquire data. One of the processors chosen is an IBM PC/AT compatible rack-mounted personal computer. This class and type machine will not only allow the transfer of the display processing function into the MCCs, but also allow the research engineers a personalized set of analytic and display tools for use on their own unique sets of data.

Keywords: Compatibility; Display devices; Flight control; Flight tests; IBM computers.
The NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility’s Western Aeronautical Test Range will assign the flight test data display processing function to Mission Control Centers in order to allow research engineers to flexibly configure their own display-processing system to optimize performance during a flight research mission. This will leave the Telemetry Radar Acquisition and Processing System more time to acquire data. One of the processors chosen to handle the display-processing function is an IBM PC/AT-compatible, rack-mounted PC giving engineers a personalized set of analytic and display tools, developed on the basis of off-the-shelf PC/AT-compatible engineering hardware and software items.

**F-104 Airplane With Flight Test Fixture**


NASA conducted in-flight rain damage tests of the Shuttle thermal protection system (TPS). Most of the tests were conducted on an F-104 aircraft at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA’s Ames Research Center, although some tests were conducted by NOAA on a WP-3D aircraft off the eastern coast of southern Florida. The TPS components tested included LI900 and LI2200 tiles, advanced flexible reusable surface insulation, reinforced carbon-carbon, and an advanced tufi tile. The objective of the test was to define the damage threshold of various thermal protection materials during flight through rain. The test hardware, test technique, and results from both F-104 and WP-3D aircraft are described. Results have shown that damage can occur to the Shuttle TPS during flight in rain.

Keywords: Carbon-carbon composites; Rain impact damage; Space shuttles; Thermal protection; Tiles.

*NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas


The Integrated Test Facility (ITF), being built at NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility, will provide new test capabilities for emerging research aircraft. An overview of the ITF and the challenges being addressed by this unique facility are outlined. The current ITF capabilities, being developed with the X-29 Forward Swept Wing Program, are discussed along with future ITF activities.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Flight tests; Ground tests; Research aircraft; Research facilities.


NASA-Ames’ Integrated Test Facility (ITF), when completed, will provide ground test facilities for the safe and efficient testing of advanced research aircraft with fully integrated flight control, propulsion systems, structures, and aerodynamic configurations. Flight test risk will be minimized through the reduction of differences between flight and ground test environments; the latter will involve the interfacing of real-time flight simulation with the actual aircraft through a simulation-interface device. The test process and the collection and management of test data will be automated. Attention is given to preliminary ITF results for the X-29 aircraft.


The Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF) serves as the site for high-risk flight research on many one-of-a-kind test vehicles like the X-29A advanced technology demonstrator, F-16 advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI), AFTI F-111 mission adaptive wing, and F-18 high-alpha research vehicle (HARV). Ames-Dryden is on a section of the historic
Muroc Range. The facility is oriented toward the testing of high-performance aircraft, as shown by its part in the development of the X-series aircraft. Given the cost of research flight tests and the complexity of today’s systems-driven aircraft, an integrated set of ground support experimental facilities is a necessity. In support of the research flight test of highly advanced test beds, the DFRF is developing a network of facilities to expedite the acquisition and distribution of flight research data to the researcher. The network consists of an array of experimental ground-based facilities and systems as nodes and the necessary telecommunications paths to pass research data and information between these facilities. This paper presents the status of the current network, an overview of current developments, and a prospectus on future major enhancements.

Keywords: Flight tests; Ground support systems; Research aircraft; Research facilities; Research management.


The Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF) serves as the site for the conduct of high-risk flight research on many one-of-a-kind test vehicles like the X-29A advanced technology demonstrator, F-16 advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI), AFTI F-111 mission adaptive wing, and F-18 high-alpha research vehicle (HARV). Ames-Dryden is on a section of the historic Muroc Range. The facility is oriented toward the testing of high-performance aircraft, as shown by its part in the development of the X-series aircraft. Given the cost of research flight test and the complexity of today’s systems-driven aircraft, an integrated set of ground support experimental facilities is a necessity. In support of the research flight test of highly advanced test beds, the DFRF is developing a network of facilities to expedite the acquisition and distribution of flight research data to the researcher. This network consists of an array of experimental ground-based facilities and systems as nodes and the necessary telecommunications paths to pass research data and information between these facilities. This paper presents a status of the current network, an overview of current developments, and a prospectus on future major enhancements.

Keywords: Display devices; Flight paths; Mapping; Mission planning; Position indicators.


This paper will outline a new approach taken by the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range to display real-time space positioning data using computer-generated images that produce a graphic representation of an area map integrated with the research flight test aircraft track. This display system supports research flight test requirements of research projects such as the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV), AFTI F-111 mission adaptive wing (MAW), F-15, and X-29A forward-swept wing. This paper will discuss the requirements, system configuration and capability, and future system applications.

Keywords: Applications programs (computers); Computer graphics; Consoles; Control equipment; Flight tests.


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Keywords: Applications programs (computers); Computer graphics; Consoles; Control equipment; Flight tests.


The master graphics interactive console (MAGIC) software package used on the Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of the NASA Ames Research Center is described. MAGIC is a resident real-time research tool available to flight researchers-scientists in the NASA mission control centers of the WATR at the Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards, California. The hardware configuration and capabilities of the real-time software package are also discussed.

Keywords: Applications programs (computers); Computer graphics; Consoles; Control equipment; Flight tests.

1627. Myers, Lawrence P.; and Walsh, Kevin R.: Performance Improvements of an F-15 Airplane With an Integrated
An integrated flight and propulsion control system has been developed and flight demonstrated on the NASA Ames-Dryden F-15 research aircraft. The highly integrated digital control (HIDEC) system provides additional engine thrust by increasing engine pressure ratio (EPR) at intermediate and afterburning power. The amount of EPR uptrim is modulated based on airplane maneuver requirements, flight conditions, and engine information. Engine thrust was increased as much as 10.5 percent at subsonic flight conditions by uptrimming EPR. The additional thrust significantly improved aircraft performance. Rate of climb was increased 14 percent at 40,000 ft and the time to climb from 10,000 to 40,000 ft was reduced 13 percent. A 14 and 24 percent increase in acceleration was obtained at intermediate and maximum power, respectively. The HIDEC logic performed fault free. No engine anomalies were encountered for EPR increases up to 12 percent and for angles of attack and sideslip of 32 and 11 degrees, respectively.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Control systems design; Engine tests; F-15 aircraft; Flight control.

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Keywords: Aircraft performance; Real time operation; Research aircraft; Swept forward wings; Technology assessment.

In the past few years many flight control systems have been implemented as full-authority, full-time digital systems. The digital design has allowed flight control systems to make use of many enhanced elements that are generally considered too complex to implement in an analog system. Examples of these elements are redundant information exchanged between channels to allow for continued operation after multiple failures and multiple variable gain schedules to optimize control of the aircraft throughout its flight envelope and in all flight modes. The introduction of the digital system for flight control also created the problem of obtaining information from the system in an understandable and useful format. This paper presents how the X-29A was dealt with during its operations at NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility. A brief description of the X-29A control system, a discussion of the tools developed to aid in daily operations, and the troubleshooting of the aircraft are included.

Keywords: Digital systems; Failure modes; Flight control; Flight envelopes; X-29 aircraft.

The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator has shown the practicality and advantages of the capability to compute and display, in real time, aeroperformance flight results. This capability includes the calculation of the in-flight measured drag polar, lift curve, and aircraft specific excess power. From these elements many other types of aeroperformance measurements can be computed and analyzed. The technique can be used to give an immediate postmaneuver assessment of data quality and maneuver technique, thus increasing the productivity of a flight program. A key element of this new method was the concurrent development of a real-time in-flight net thrust algorithm, based on the simplified gross thrust method. This net thrust algorithm allows for the direct calculation of total aircraft drag.

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Recently, two aircraft from the Dryden Flight Research Facility were used in the general study of natural laminar flow (NLF). The first, an F-14A aircraft on short-term loan from the Navy, was used to investigate transonic natural laminar flow. The second, an F-15A aircraft on long-term loan from the Air Force, was used to examine supersonic NLF. These tests were follow-on experiments to the NASA F-111 NLF experiment conducted in 1979. Both wings of the F-14A were gloved, in a two-phased experiment, with full-span (upper surface only) airfoil shapes constructed primarily of fiberglass, foam, and resin. A small section of the F-15A right wing was gloved in a similar manner. Each glove incorporated provisions for instrumentation to measure surface pressure distributions. The F-14A gloves also had provisions for instrumentation to measure boundary layer profiles, acoustic environments, and surface pitot pressures. Discussions of the techniques used to construct the gloves and to incorporate the required instrumentation are presented.

Keywords: Aerodynamic coefficients; Airfoils; Gloves; Laminar flow; Wings.


A method of in-flight surface flow visualization similar to wind-tunnel-model oil flows is described for cases where photo-chase planes or onboard photography are not practical. This method, used on an F-18 aircraft in flight at high angles of attack, clearly showed surface flow streamlines in the fuselage forebody. Vortex separation and reattachment lines were identified with this method and documented using postflight photography. Surface flow angles measured at the 90 and 270 degrees meridians show excellent agreement with the wind tunnel data for a pointed tangent ogive with an aspect ratio of 3.5. The separation and reattachment line locations were qualitatively similar to the F-18 wind-tunnel-model oil flows but neither the laminar separation bubble nor the boundary-layer transition on the wind tunnel model were evident in the flight surface flows. The separation and reattachment line locations were in fair agreement with the wind tunnel data for the 3.5 ogive. The elliptical forebody shape of the F-18 caused the primary separation lines to move toward the leeward meridian. Little effect of angle of attack on the separation locations was noted for the range reported.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Boundary layer flow; F-18 aircraft; Flow visualization; Forebodies.
An automated flight test management system (ATMS) and its use to develop a rapid-prototyping flight research facility for artificial intelligence (AI) based flight systems concepts are described. The ATMS provides a flight test engineer with a set of tools that assist in flight planning and simulation. This system will be capable of controlling an aircraft during the flight test by performing closed-loop guidance functions, range management, and maneuver-quality monitoring. The rapid-prototyping flight research facility is being developed at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) to provide early flight assessment of emerging AI technology. The facility is being developed as one element of the aircraft automation program which focuses on the qualification and validation of embedded real-time AI-based systems.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Automatic control; Expert systems; Flight tests; Prototypes.


Presented are some of the critical issues and objectives pertaining to configuration management for the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of Ames Research Center. The primary mission of the WATR is to provide a capability for the conduct of aeronautical research flight test through real-time processing and display, tracking, and communications systems. In providing this capability, the WATR must maintain and enforce a configuration management plan which is independent of, but complimentary to, various research flight test project configuration management systems. A primary WATR objective is the continued development of generic research flight test project support capability, wherein the reliability of WATR support provided to all project users is a constant priority. Therefore, the processing of configuration change requests for specific research flight test project requirements must be evaluated within a perspective that maintains this primary objective.

Keywords: Aircraft configurations; Configuration management; Flight tests; Real time operation; Test facilities.


The Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) at NASA-Ames, whose primary function is the conduct of aeronautical research flight testing through real-time processing and display, tracking, and communications systems. The processing of WATR configuration change requests for specific research flight test projects must be conducted in such a way as to refrain from compromising the reliability of WATR support to all project users. Configuration management’s scope ranges from mission planning to operations monitoring and performance trend analysis.

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This paper is concerned with the development of an efficient eigenproblem solution algorithm and an associated computer program for the economical solution of the free vibration problem of complex practical spinning structural systems. Thus, a detailed description of a newly developed block Lanczos procedure is presented in this paper that employs only real numbers in all relevant computations and also fully exploits sparsity of associated matrices. The procedure is capable of computing multiple roots and proves to be most efficient compared to other existing similar techniques.

*Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California.


This paper discusses and evaluates the test measurement techniques used to determine the laminar-to-turbulent boundary-layer transition location in the F-14 variable-sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE). The main objective of the VSTFE was to determine the effects of wing sweep on the laminar-to-turbulent transition location at conditions representative of transport aircraft. Four methods were used to determine the transition location: (1) a hot-film anemometer system, (2) two boundary-layer rakes, (3) surface pitot tubes, and (4) liquid crystals for flow visualization. Of the four methods, the hot-film anemometer system was the most reliable indicator of transition.

The camber control loop of the X-29A FSW aircraft was designed to furnish the optimum L/D for trimmed, stabilized flight. A marked difference was noted between automatic wing camber control loop behavior in dynamic maneuvers and in stabilized flight conditions, which in turn affected subsonic aerodynamic performance. The degree of drag level increase was a direct function of maneuver rate. Attention is given to the aircraft flight drag polar effects of maneuver dynamics in light of wing camber control loop schedule. The effect of changing camber scheduling to better track the optimum automatic camber control L/D schedule is discussed.


Presented is a mathematical model, derived from the Navier-Stokes equations of momentum and continuity, which may be accurately used to predict the behavior of conventionally mounted pneumatic sensing systems subject to arbitrary pressure inputs. Numerical techniques for solving the general model are developed. Both step and frequency response lab tests were performed. These data are compared with solutions of the mathematical model and show excellent agreement. The procedures used to obtain the lab data are described. In-flight step and frequency response data were obtained. Comparisons with numerical solutions of the math model show good agreement. Procedures used to obtain the lab data are compared. Difficulties encountered with obtaining the flight data are discussed.

Keywords: Attenuation; Error analysis; Pneumatic probes; Predictions; Pressure measurement.


Many parameter identification techniques have been used at the NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base to determine the aeroelastic stability of new and modified research vehicles in flight. This paper presents a summary of each technique used with emphasis on fast Fourier transform methods. Experiences gained from application of these techniques to various flight test programs are discussed. Also presented are data-smoothing techniques used for test data distorted by noise. Data are presented for various aircraft to demonstrate the accuracy of each parameter identification technique discussed.


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Keywords: Flight tests; Flutter analysis; Parameter identification; Research facilities; Test facilities.

The NASA Ames/Dryden Flight Research Facility operates a mixed fleet of research aircraft employing NiCd batteries in a variety of flight-critical applications. Dryden’s Battery Systems Laboratory (BSL), a computerized facility for battery maintenance servicing, has evolved over two decades into one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the world. Recently a major BSL upgrade was initiated with the goal of modernization to provide flexibility in meeting the needs of future advanced projects. The new facility will be called the Aerospace Energy Systems Laboratory (AESL) and will employ distributed processing linked to a centralized data base. AESL will be both a multistation servicing facility and a research laboratory for the advancement of energy storage system maintenance techniques. This paper describes the baseline requirements for the AESL and the design approach being taken for its mechanization.


An airborne temperature-compensated hot-film anemometer system has been designed, fabricated, and used to obtain in-flight airfoil boundary-layer flow transition data by the NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility. Salient features of the anemometer include near constant sensitivity over the full flight envelope, installation without coaxial wiring, low-noise outputs, and self-contained signal conditioning with dynamic and steady-state outputs. The small size, low-power dissipation, and modular design make the anemometer suitable for use in modern high-performance research aircraft. Design of the temperature-compensated hot-film anemometer and its use for flow transition detection on a laminar flow flight research project are described. Also presented are data gathered in flight which is representative of the temperature-compensated hot-film anemometer operation at subsonic, transonic, and supersonic flight conditions.

Keywords: Boundary layer flow; Design analysis; Flight tests; Hot-film anemometers; Supersonic aircraft.


Enhancements to the real-time processing and display systems of the NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range are described. Display processing has been moved out of the telemetry and radar acquisition processing systems super-minicomputers into user/client interactive graphic workstations. Real-time data is provided to the workstations by way of Ethernet. Future enhancement plans include use of fiber optic cable to replace the Ethernet.

Keywords: Augmentation; Data processing; Display devices; Flight tests; Real time operation.


The effectiveness of a trailing disk (the trapped vortex concept) in reducing the blunt base drag of an 8-in diameter body of revolution was studied from measurements made both in flight and in full-scale wind-tunnel tests. The experiment demonstrated the significant base drag reduction capability of the trailing disk to Mach 0.93. The maximum base drag reduction obtained from a cavity tested on the flight body of revolution was not significant. The effectiveness of a splitter plate and a vented-wall cavity in reducing the base drag of a quasi-two-dimensional fuselage closure was studied from base pressure measurements made in flight. The fuselage closure was between the two engines of the F-111 airplane; therefore, the base pressures were in the presence of jet engine exhaust. For Mach numbers from 1.10 to 1.51, significant base drag reduction was provided by the vented-wall cavity configuration. The splitter plate was not considered effective in reducing base drag at any Mach number tested.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Base pressure; Blunt bodies; Drag reduction; Flight tests.


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Two highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted vehicles were flown a total of 26 flights. These subscale vehicles were of advanced aerodynamic configuration with advanced technology concepts such as composite and metallic structures, digital integrated propulsion control, and ground (primary) and airborne (backup) relaxed static stability, digital fly-by-wire control systems. Extensive systems development, checkout, and flight qualification were required to conduct the flight test program. The design maneuver goal was to achieve a sustained 8-g turn at Mach 0.9 at an altitude of 25,000 feet. This goal was achieved, along with the acquisition of high-quality flight data at subsonic and supersonic Mach numbers. Control systems were modified in a variety of ways using the flight-determined aerodynamic characteristics. The HiMAT program was successfully completed with approximately 11 hours of total flight time.

Keywords: Digital systems; Flight control; Flight tests; Highly maneuverable aircraft; Remotely piloted vehicles.


Flight research and testing form a critical link in the aeronautical R and D chain. Brilliant concepts, elegant theories, and even sophisticated ground tests of flight vehicles are not sufficient to prove beyond doubt that an unproven aeronautical concept will actually perform as predicted. Flight research and testing provide the ultimate proof that an idea or concept performs as expected. Ever since the Wright brothers, flight research and testing have been the crucible in which aeronautical concepts have advanced and been proven to the point that engineers and companies have been willing to stake their future to produce and design new aircraft. This is still true today, as shown by the development of the experimental X-30 aerospace plane.

The Dryden Flight Research Center (Ames-Dryden) continues to be involved in a number of flight research programs that require understanding and characterization of the total airplane in all the aeronautical disciplines, for example the X-29. Other programs such as the F-14 variable-sweep transition flight experiment have focused on a single concept or discipline. Ames-Dryden also continues to conduct flight and ground based experiments to improve and expand the ability to test and evaluate advanced aeronautical concepts. A review of significant aeronautical flight research programs and experiments is presented to illustrate both the progress made and the challenges to come.

Keywords: Aeronautical engineering; Aerospace planes; Aircraft design; Flight tests; Research management.


The development of an automated flight test management system (ATMS) as a component of a rapid-prototyping flight research facility for AI-based flight systems concepts is described. The rapid-prototyping facility includes real-time high-fidelity simulators, numeric and symbolic processors, and high-performance research aircraft modified to accept commands for a ground-based remotely augmented vehicle facility. The flight system configuration of the ATMS includes three computers: the TI explorer LX and two GOULD SEL 32/27s.

*Sparta, Inc., Laguna Hills, California.

**PRC Kentron, Inc., Edwards, California.


Accuracies of solutions (structural temperatures and thermal stresses) obtained from different thermal and structural FEMs set up for the Space Shuttle Orbiter (SSO) are compared and discussed. For studying the effect of element size on the solution accuracies of heat-transfer and thermal-stress analyses of the SSO, five SPAR thermal models and five NASA STRAN structural models were set up for wing midspan bay 3. The structural temperature distribution over the wing
skin (lower and upper) surface of one bay was dome shaped and induced more severe thermal stresses in the chordwise direction than in the spanwise direction. The induced thermal stresses were extremely sensitive to slight variation in structural temperature distributions. Both internal convention and internal radiation were found to have equal effects on the SSO.


This paper deals with the application of parameter estimation to highly unstable aircraft. It includes a discussion of the special problems in applying the output error method to such aircraft and demonstrates that the filter error method eliminates these problems. This paper shows that the maximum likelihood estimator with no process noise does not reduce to the output error method when the system is unstable. It also proposes and demonstrates an ad hoc method that is similar in form to the filter error method but applicable to nonlinear problems. Flight data from the X-29 forward-swept-wing demonstrator are used to illustrate the problems and methods discussed.


This paper discusses and evaluates the test measurement techniques used to determine the laminar-to-turbulent boundary layer transition location in the F-14 variable-sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE). The main objective of the VSTFE was to determine the effects of wing sweep on the laminar-to-turbulent transition location at conditions representative of transport aircraft. Four methods were used to determine the transition location: (1) a hot-film anemometer system; (2) two boundary-layer rakes; (3) surface pitot tubes; and (4) liquid crystals for flow visualization. Of the four methods, the hot-film anemometer system was the most reliable indicator of transition.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; F-14 aircraft; Flight tests; Laminar flow; Swept wings.


Flight and mission-critical systems are verified, qualified for flight, and validated using well-known and well-established techniques. These techniques define the validation methodology used for such systems. In order to verify, qualify, and validate knowledge-based systems (KBS’s), the methodology used for conventional systems must be addressed, and the applicability and limitations of that methodology to KBS’s must be identified. The author presents an outline of how this approach to the validation of KBS’s is being developed and used at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Expert systems; Flight management systems; Knowledge representation; Proving.


High-temperature thin-shell leading-edge buckling test data are analyzed using NASA structural analysis (NASTRAN) as a finite element tool for predicting thermal buckling characteristics. Buckling points are predicted for several combinations of edge boundary conditions. The problem of relating the appropriate plate area to the edge stress distribution and the stress gradient is addressed in terms of analysis assumptions. Local plasticity was found to occur on the specimen analyzed, and this tended to simplify the basic problem since it effectively equalized the stress gradient from loaded edge to loaded edge. The initial loading was found to be difficult to select for the buckling analysis because of the transient nature of thermal stress. Multiple initial model loadings are likely required for complicated thermal stress time histories before a pertinent finite element buckling analysis can be achieved. The basic mode shapes determined from experimentation were correctly identified from computation.

Keywords: Leading edges; NASTRAN; Thermal buckling; Thermal stresses; Thin walled shells.


A joint experiment to investigate simulator validation and cue fidelity was conducted by the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and NASA Langley Research Center. The primary objective was to validate the use of a closed-loop pilot-vehicle mathematical model as an analytical tool for optimizing...
the tradeoff between simulator fidelity requirements and simulator cost. The validation process includes comparing model predictions with simulation and flight test results to evaluate various hypotheses for differences in motion and visual cues and information transfer. A group of five pilots flew air-to-air tracking maneuvers in the Langley differential maneuvering simulator and visual motion simulator and in an F-14 aircraft at Ames-Dryden. The simulators used motion and visual cueing devices including a g-seat, a helmet loader, wide field-of-view horizon, and a motion base platform.

Keywords: Cues; Flight simulators; Flight tests; Pilot performance; Proving.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Flight testing the X-29A forward-swept wing aircraft has required development of new flight test techniques to accomplish subcritical extrapolations to the actual structural divergence dynamic pressure of the aircraft. This paper provides current experience related to applying these techniques to flight test data. The measurements required, maneuvers flown, and flight test conditions are described. Supporting analytical predictions for the techniques are described and the results using flight data are compared to these predictions. Use of the results during envelope expansion and the resulting modifications to the techniques are discussed. Some of the analysis challenges that occurred are addressed and some preliminary conclusions and recommendations are made relative to the usefulness of these techniques in the flight test environment.

Keywords: Divergence; Dynamic structural analysis; Flight envelopes; Flight tests; Swept forward wings.


Flight testing the X-29A forward-swept wing aircraft has required development of new flight test techniques to accomplish subcritical extrapolations to the actual structural divergence dynamic pressure of the aircraft. This paper provides current experience related to applying these techniques to analysis of flight data from the forward-swept wing in order to assess the applicability of these techniques to flight test data. The measurements required, maneuvers flown, and flight test conditions are described. Supporting analytical predictions for the techniques are described and the results using flight data are compared to these predictions. Use of the results during envelope expansion and the resulting modifications to the techniques are discussed. Some of the analysis challenges that occurred are addressed and some preliminary conclusions and recommendations are made relative to the usefulness of these techniques in the flight test environment.


A simulation of the longitudinal handling qualities for the approach and landing task was performed on the USAF/AFWAL Total In-Flight Simulator. The basic configuration was a generic transport airplane with static instability. The control laws included proportional plus integral gain loops to produce pitch rate command/attitude hold systems that were evaluated with and without prefilter. Conventional response characteristics were obtained by using pitch rate and angle-of-attack feedback loops. The evaluation task was a conventional visual approach to a flared touchdown at a designated spot on the runway with a lateral offset. Previous analyses of this data base have shown that the use of pitch attitude characteristics alone do not adequately predict the observed results. This paper describes the development of a multiloop criterion based on pitch attitude and altitude in an effort to provide better correlation with the observed data. The focal point of this paper is the development of a technique to define the inner-loop pilot model such that the altitude performance characteristics can be defined by a single metric.


An investigation of feel system and flight control system dynamics on lateral flying qualities was conducted using the variable stability USAF NT-33 aircraft. Experimental variations in feel system natural frequency, force-deflection gradient, control system command architecture type, flight control system filter frequency, and control system delay were made. The experiment data include pilot ratings using the Cooper-Harper (1969) rating scale, pilot comments, and
tracking performance statistic. Three test pilots served as evaluators. The data indicate that as the feel system natural frequency is reduced lateral flying qualities degrade. At the slowest feel system frequency, the closed-loop response becomes nonlinear with a ‘bobweight’ effect apparent in the feel system. Feel system influences were essentially independent of the control system architecture. The flying qualities influence due to the feel system was different than when the identical dynamic system was used as a flight control system element.

*Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo, New York.


This paper describes the techniques developed for a flight test program of a human powered aircraft, the application of these techniques in the winter of 1987/88 and the results of the flight testing. A system of sensors, signal conditioning and data recording equipment was developed and installed in the aircraft. Flight test maneuvers which do not exceed the aircraft’s limited capability were developed and refined in an iterative sequence of test flights. The test procedures were adjusted to yield maximum data quality from the point of view of estimating lateral and longitudinal stability derivatives. Structural flexibility and unsteady aerodynamics are modeled in an ad hoc manner, capturing the effects observed during the test flights. A model with flexibility-extended equations of motion is presented. Results of maneuvers that were flown are compared with the predictions of that model and analyzed. Finally the results of the flight test program are examined critically, especially with respect to future applications, and suggestions are made in order to improve maneuvers for parameter estimation of very flexible aircraft.

*MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Linear analyses are performed to examine the generic aspects of aerospace vehicle longitudinal long-period or trajectory modes of motion. The influence of Mach number, dynamic pressure, thrust-to-drag ratio, and propulsion system thrust laws on the longitudinal trajectory modes is presented in terms of phugoid frequency and damping and height mode stability. The results of these analyses are compared to flying qualities requirements where possible, and potential deficiencies in both the vehicle and the criteria are noted. A preliminary look at possible augmentation schemes to improve potential deficiencies is also presented. Interpretation of the practical consequences of the results is aided by typical time histories. Results indicate that propulsion system characteristics are the dominant influence on the longitudinal long-period flight dynamics of hypersonic aerospace craft. However, straightforward augmentation systems demonstrated the potential to accommodate these influences if the effects are included in the design process. These efforts may be hampered by a lack of design criteria for hypersonic aircraft.


This paper presents the mathematical development and flight test results of an angle of attack estimation system based on inertial navigation system inputs. The estimator uses these inputs to determine the coefficient of lift required at any instant inflight. Angle of attack is then modeled through a regression analysis based on coefficient of lift, altitude and Mach. Overall correlation of the estimator as tested was generally within 0.5 degrees through 17 degrees angle of attack on an F-15 A aircraft. A robustness analysis indicates that the system can be used adequately in maneuvering flight.

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A linear aircraft model for a rigid aircraft of constant mass flying over a flat, nonrotating earth is derived and defined. The derivation makes no assumptions of reference trajectory or vehicle symmetry. The linear system equations are derived and evaluated along a general trajectory and include both aircraft dynamics and observation variables.

Keywords: Aircraft models; Dynamic models; Equations of state; Flight mechanics; Linear systems.

The feasibility of two candidate leading-edge flow laminarization systems applicable to airline service was tested using representative airline operational conditions with respect to air traffic, weather, and airport insect infestation. One of the systems involved a perforated Ti alloy suction surface with about 1 million 0.0025-in. diameter holes drilled by electron beam, as well as a Krueger-type flap that offered protective shielding against insect impingement; the other supplied surface suction through a slotted Ti alloy skin with 27 spanwise slots on the upper and lower surface.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The impact of flight system design for a research-oriented hypersonic vehicle is examined. The design requirements of the vehicle are discussed, including strong onboard processing capability, integrated propulsion and flight controls, and analytic redundancy management. Consideration is given to tradeoffs between synchronization and asynchronization, distributed and centralized architectures, and digital and analog backup systems. A research-oriented hypersonic vehicle structure is proposed which uses nodal network architecture to maximize flight system effectiveness in controlling various tasks.


An interactive FORTRAN program that provides the user with a powerful and flexible tool for the linearization of aircraft aerodynamic models is documented in this report. The program LINEAR numerically determines a linear system model using nonlinear equations of motion and a user-supplied linear or nonlinear aerodynamic model. The nonlinear equations of motion used are six-degree-of-freedom equations with stationary atmosphere and flat, nonrotating earth assumptions. The system model determined by LINEAR consists of matrices for both the state and observation equations. The program has been designed to allow easy selection and definition of the state, control, and observation variables to be used in a particular model.

Keywords: Aircraft design; FORTRAN; Interactive control; Linear systems; Users Manuals (computer programs).


This paper explores low and high speed flow visualization on models of a hypersonic aircraft. The models were derived from the Generic Hypersonic Aerodynamics Model Example (GHAME), developed at NASA-Dryden. The first part of the paper describes low speed flow visualization on this vehicle. This was done in a water tunnel with a three-dimensional model of the vehicle containing dye emitting ports. The model was tested at a range of sideslip angles and angles of attack, vortex formation and shedding were observed and each test point recorded on film and videotape. The second part of the paper investigates the use of free-surface water flow to visualize shock formations off the vehicle. It relies on the mathematical analogy between shock waves in air and free-surface water waves, a phenomena known as the hydraulic analogy. Models representing two-dimensional projections of a hypersonic aircraft were placed in free-surface channel flow. The resulting wave patterns were observed and compared to theoretical predictions. The analogy gave accurate and clear results for lower Mach numbers but began to breakdown at higher Mach numbers. All work was performed at NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility.

*PRC, Inc., Edwards, California

In-flight flow visualization techniques used at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and its predecessor organizations are described. Results from flight tests which visualized surface flows using flow cones, tufts, oil flows, liquid crystals, sublimating chemicals, and emitted fluids have been obtained. Off-surface flow visualization of vortical flow has also been obtained from natural condensation and two methods using smoke generator systems. Recent results from flight tests at NASA Langley Research Center using a propylene glycol smoker and an infrared imager are also included. Results from photo-chase aircraft, onboard and postflight photography are presented.

Keywords: Flight tests; Flow distribution; Flow visualization; In-flight monitoring; Liquid crystals.


EZPLOT is a computer applications program that converts data resident on a file into a plot displayed on the screen of a graphics terminal. This program generates either time history or x-y plots in response to commands entered interactively from a terminal keyboard. Plot parameters consist of a single independent parameter and from one to eight dependent parameters. Various line patterns, symbol shapes, axis scales, text labels, and data modification techniques are available. This user’s manual describes EZPLOT as it is implemented on the Ames Research Center, Dryden Research Facility ELXSI computer using DI-3000 graphics software tools.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Display devices; FORTRAN; Two dimensional models; Users manual (computer programs).


The exhaust jet conditions, in terms of temperature and Mach number, were determined for a nozzle-aft end acoustic study flown on an F-15 aircraft. Jet properties for the F100 EMD engines were calculated using the engine manufacturer’s specification deck. The effects of atmospheric temperature on jet Mach number, M10, were determined. Values of turbine discharge pressure, PT6M, jet Mach number, and jet temperature were calculated as a function of aircraft Mach number, altitude, and power lever angle for the test day conditions. At a typical test point with a Mach number of 0.9, intermediate power setting, and an altitude of 20,000 ft, M10 was equal to 1.63. Flight measured and calculated values of PT6M were compared for intermediate power at altitudes of 15500, 20500, and 31000 ft. It was found that at 31000 ft, there was excellent agreement between both, but for lower altitudes the specification deck overpredicted the flight data. The calculated jet Mach numbers were believed to be accurate to within 2 percent.

Keywords: Engine design; F-15 aircraft; Jet flow; Mach number; Nozzle design.


Structural performance and resizing of the finite-element thermal analysis computer program was used in the reentry heat transfer analysis of the space shuttle orbiter. One midfuselage cross section and one midspan wing segment were selected to study the effects of internal convection and internal radiation on the structural temperatures. The effect of internal convection was found to be more prominent than that of internal radiation in the orbiter thermal analysis. Without these two effects, the calculated structural temperatures at certain stations could be as much as 45 to 90 percent higher than the measured values. By considering internal convection as free convection, the correlation between the predicted and measured structural temperatures could be improved greatly.

Keywords: Air cooling; Convection; Convective heat transfer; Radiative heat transfer; Space shuttle orbiters.


Work at NASA’s Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) has demonstrated the need for increased consideration of psychological factors in the design of computer displays for the WATR mission control center. These factors include color perception, memory load, and cognitive processing abilities. A review of relevant work in the human factors psychology area is provided to demonstrate the need for this awareness. The information provided should be relevant in control room settings where computerized displays are being used.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Display devices; Human factors engineering; Psychological factors; Test ranges.

* South Dakota University, Vermillion, South Dakota.
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*South Dakota University, Vermillion, South Dakota.

The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator flight envelope expansion program and the subsequent flight research phase gave impetus to the development of several innovative real-time analysis and display techniques. These new techniques produced significant improvements in flight test productivity, flight research capabilities, and flight safety. These techniques include real-time measurement and display of in-flight structural loads, dynamic structural mode frequency and damping, flight control system dynamic stability and control response, aeroperformance drag polars, and aircraft specific excess power. Several of these analysis techniques also provided for direct comparisons of flight-measured results with analytical predictions. The aeroperformance technique was made possible by the concurrent development of a new simplified in-flight net thrust computation method. To achieve these levels of on-line flight test analysis, integration of ground and airborne systems was required. The capability of NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility’s Western Aeronautical Test Range was a key factor in enabling implementation of these methods.

Keywords: Display devices; Flight envelopes; Flight tests; Real time operation; X-29 aircraft.

A method is developed that determines the placement of an active control surface for maximum effectiveness in suppressing flutter. No specific control law is required by this method which is based on the aerodynamic energy concept. It is argued that the spanwise placement of the active controls should coincide with the locations where maximum energy per unit span is fed into the system. The method enables one to determine the distribution, over the different surfaces of the aircraft, of the energy input into the system as a result of the unstable fluttering mode. The method is illustrated using three numerical examples.

Keywords: Active control; Aerodynamics; Aeroelasticity; Control surfaces; Flutter analysis.

The NASA Ames Research Center developed an oblique-wing research plane from NASA’s digital fly-by-wire airplane. Oblique-wing airplanes show large cross-coupling in control and dynamic behavior which is not present on conventional symmetric airplanes and must be compensated for to obtain acceptable handling qualities. The large vertical motion simulator at NASA Ames-Moffett was used in the piloted evaluation of a proposed flight control system designed to provide decoupled handling qualities. Five discrete flight conditions were evaluated ranging from low altitude subsonic Mach numbers to moderate altitude supersonic Mach numbers. The flight control system was effective in generally decoupling the airplane. However, all participating pilots objected to the high levels of lateral acceleration encountered in pitch maneuvers. In addition, the pilots were more critical of left turns (in the direction of the trailing wingtip when skewed) than they were of right turns due to the tendency to be rolled into the left turns and out of the right turns. Asymmetric side force as a function of angle of attack was the primary cause of lateral acceleration in pitch. Along with the lateral acceleration in pitch, variation of rolling and yawing moments as functions of angle of attack caused the tendency to roll into left turns and out of right turns.

Keywords: Decoupling; Evaluation; Flight simulation; Flight tests; Oblique wings.

The Dryden Flight Research Center Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and the FAA conducted the controlled impact demonstration (CID) program using
a large, four-engine, remotely piloted jet transport airplane. Closed-loop primary flight was controlled through the existing onboard PB-20D autopilot which had been modified for the CID program. Uplink commands were sent from a ground-based cockpit and digital computer in conjunction with an up-down telemetry link. These uplink commands were received aboard the airplane and transferred through uplink interface systems to the modified PB-20D autopilot. Both proportional and discrete commands were produced by the ground system. Prior to flight tests, extensive simulation was conducted during the development of ground-based digital control laws. The control laws included primary control, secondary control, and racetrack and final approach guidance. Extensive ground checks were performed on all remotely piloted systems; however, piloted flight tests were the primary method and validation of control law concepts developed from simulation. The design, development, and flight testing of control laws and systems required to accomplish the remotely piloted mission are discussed.

Keywords: Flight tests; Impact tests; Jet aircraft; Remote control; Transport aircraft.


Engineers and scientists in the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16 program investigated the integration of emerging technologies into an advanced fighter aircraft. AFTI’s three major technologies included: flight-critical digital control, decoupled aircraft flight control, and integration of avionics, flight control, and pilot displays. In addition to investigating improvements in fighter performance, researchers studied the generic problems confronting the designers of highly integrated flight-critical digital control. An overview is provided of both the advantages and problems of integration digital control systems. Also, an examination of the specification, design, qualification, and flight test lifecycle phase is provided. An overview is given of the fault-tolerant design, multimoded decoupled flight control laws, and integrated avionics design. The approach to qualifying the software and system designs is discussed, and the effects of design choices on system qualification are highlighted.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Control systems design; Digital systems; F-16 aircraft; Flight control.


Flight tests have been conducted using an F-111 aircraft modified with a mission adaptive wing (MAW). The MAW has variable-camber leading and trailing edge surfaces that can change the wing camber in flight, while preserving smooth upper surface contours. This paper contains wing surface pressure measurements obtained during flight tests at Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. Upper and lower surface steady pressure distributions were measured along four streamwise rows of static pressure orifices on the right wing for a leading-edge sweep angle of 26 deg. The airplane, wing, instrumentation, and test conditions are discussed. Steady pressure results are presented for selected wing camber deflections flown at subsonic Mach numbers up to 0.90 and an angle-of-attack range of 5 to 12 deg. The Reynolds number was 26 million, based on the mean aerodynamic chord. The MAW flight data are compared to MAW wind tunnel data, transonic aircraft technology (TACT) flight data, and predicted pressure distributions. The results provide a unique database for a smooth, variable-camber, advanced supercritical wing.

Keywords: Cambered wings; F-111 aircraft; Mission adaptive wings; Pressure distribution; Variability.

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Flight and mission-critical systems are verified, qualified for flight, and validated using well-known and well-established techniques. These techniques define the validation methodology used for such systems. In order to verify, qualify, and validate knowledge-based systems (KBS’s), the methodology used for conventional systems must be addressed, and the applicability and limitations of that methodology to KBS’s must be identified. An outline of how this approach to the validation of KBS’s is being developed and used is presented.


Ground vibration tests were conducted to compare and to investigate the effects of five excitation waveforms and the shaker moving mass (equipment and armature used to attach the shaker to the structure) on the experimental modal characteristics of a 2- by 5-ft aluminum plate using fast Fourier transform techniques. The five types of excitation waveforms
studied were sine dwell, random, impact, sine sweep, and impulsive sine. The results showed that the experimental modal frequencies for all types of excitation were within 3 percent, while the modal damping data exhibited greater scatter. The sets of mode shapes obtained by the five types of excitation were consistent. The results of the shaker moving mass investigation on the 2- by 5-ft aluminum plate showed that modal frequency decreases and modal damping remains relatively constant with an increase in shaker moving mass. The generalized mass of the structure appears to decrease with an increase in shaker moving mass. In addition, it was seen that having a shaker near a node line can reduce some of the effects of the added shaker moving mass on the frequencies and the damping.

Keywords: Aluminum; Excitation; Mass; Motion; Plates.


The Derivation and Definition of a Linear Model program, LINEAR, provides the user with a powerful and flexible tool for the linearization of aircraft aerodynamic models. LINEAR was developed to provide a standard, documented, and verified tool to derive linear models for aircraft stability analysis and control law design. Linear system models define the aircraft system in the neighborhood of an analysis point and are determined by the linearization of the nonlinear equations defining vehicle dynamics and sensors. LINEAR numerically determines a linear system model using nonlinear equations of motion and a user supplied linear or nonlinear aerodynamic model. The nonlinear equations of motion used are six-degree-of-freedom equations with stationary atmosphere and flat, nonrotating earth assumptions. LINEAR is capable of extracting both linearized engine effects, such as net thrust, torque, and gyroscopic effects and including these effects in the linear system model. The point at which this linear model is defined is determined either by completely specifying the state and control variables, or by specifying an analysis point on a trajectory and directing the program to determine the control variables and the remaining state variables. The system model determined by LINEAR consists of matrices for both the state and observation equations. The program has been designed to provide easy selection of state, control, and observation variables to be used in a particular model. Thus, the order of the system model is completely under user control. Further, the program provides the flexibility of allowing alternate formulations of both the state and observation equations. Data describing the aircraft and the test case is input to the program through a terminal or formatted data files. All data can be modified interactively from case to case. The aerodynamic model can be defined in two ways: a set of nondimensional stability and control derivatives for the flight point of interest, or a full non-linear aerodynamic model as used in simulations. LINEAR is written in FORTRAN and has been implemented on a DEC VAX computer operating under VMS with a virtual memory requirement of approximately 296K of 8 bit bytes. Both an interactive and batch version are included. LINEAR was developed in 1988.

1989 Technical Publications


The NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) is one of the world’s most advanced aeronautical research flight test support facilities. A variety of advanced and often unique real-time interactive displays has been developed for use in the mission control centers (MCC) to support research flight and ground testing. These displays consist of applications operating on systems described as real-time interactive graphics super workstations and real-time interactive PC/AT compatible workstations. This paper reviews these two types of workstations and the specific applications operating on each display system. The applications provide examples that demonstrate overall system capability applicable for use in other ground-based real-time research/test facilities.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Display devices; Ground support systems; Real time operation; Test ranges.


In recent years the needs of ground-based researchers to access real-time engineering data in the form of processed information has expanded rapidly. Fortunately, the capacity to deliver that information has also expanded. The development of advanced display systems is essential to the success of a research test activity. Those developed at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR), range from simple alphanumerics to interactive mapping and graphics. These unique display systems are designed not only to meet basic information display requirements of the user, but also to take advantage of techniques for optimizing information display. Future ground-based display systems will rely heavily not only on new technologies, but also on interaction with the human user and the associated productivity with that interaction. The psychological abilities and limitations of the user will become even more important in defining the
Structural excitation is important for both ground vibration and flight flutter testing. The structural responses caused by this excitation are analyzed to determine frequency, damping, and mode shape information. Many excitation waveforms have been used throughout the years. The use of impulsive sine \((\sin \omega t)/\omega t\) as an excitation waveform for ground vibration testing and the advantages of using this waveform for flight flutter testing are discussed. The ground vibration test results of a modified JetStar airplane using impulsive sine as an excitation waveform are compared with the test results of the same airplane using multiple-input random excitation. The results indicated that the structure was sufficiently excited using the impulsive sine waveform. Comparisons of input force spectrums, mode shape plots, and frequency and damping values for the two methods of excitation are presented.

Keywords: C-140 aircraft; Excitation; Flight tests; Flutter analysis; Ground tests.

The advantages of oblique wings have been the subject of numerous theoretical studies, wind tunnel tests, low speed flight models, and finally a low speed manned demonstrator, the AD-1. The specific objectives of the OWRA program are: (1) to establish the necessary technology base required to translate theoretical and experimental results into practical mission oriented designs; (2) to design, fabricate and flight test an oblique wing aircraft throughout a realistic flight envelope, and (3) to develop and validate design and analysis tools for asymmetric aircraft configurations. The preliminary design phase of the project is complete and has resulted in a wing configuration for which construction is ready to be initiated.

The Dryden Flight Research Facility has been a leader in developing simulation as an integral part of flight test research. The history of that effort is reviewed, starting in 1957 and continuing to the present time. The contributions of the major program activities conducted at Dryden during this
Flight research and testing provide the ultimate proof that an idea or concept performs as expected. Ever since the Wright brothers, flight research and testing were the crucible in which aeronautical concepts were advanced and proven to the point that engineers and companies are willing to stake their future to produce and design aircraft. This is still true today, as shown by the development of the experimental X-30 aerospace plane. The Dryden Flight Research Center (Ames-Dryden) continues to be involved in a number of flight research programs that require understanding and characterization of the total airplane in all the aeronautical disciplines, for example the X-29. Other programs such as the F-14 variable-sweep transition flight experiment have focused on a single concept or discipline. Ames-Dryden also continues to conduct flight and ground based experiments to improve and expand the ability to test and evaluate advanced aeronautical concepts. A review of significant aeronautical flight research programs and experiments is presented to illustrate both the progress being made and the challenges to come.

This paper presents a technique for comparing, in real time, the flight-test time histories for X-29A aircraft with time histories computed from linearized mathematical models. Such a comparison allows the flight-test personnel to verify that the aircraft is performing as predicted, to determine regions of nonlinear behavior, and to increase the rate of envelope expansion. The types of mathematical modeling and equipment required, the procedure used, and actual flight-test results are discussed.

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The service life of aircraft structural components undergoing random stress cycling was analyzed by the application of fracture mechanics. The initial crack sizes at the critical stress points for the fatigue crack growth analysis were established through proof load tests. The fatigue crack growth rates for random stress cycles were calculated using the half-cycle method. A new equation was developed for calculating the number of remaining flights for the structural components. The number of remaining flights predicted by the new equation is much lower than that predicted by the conventional equation. This report describes the application of fracture mechanics and the half-cycle method to calculate the number of remaining flights for aircraft structural components.

Summary evaluations of the performance of laminar-flow control (LFC) leading edge test articles on a NASA JetStar aircraft are presented. Statistics, presented for the test articles’ performance in haze and cloud situations, as well as in clear air, show a significant effect of cloud particle concentrations on the extent of laminar flow. The cloud particle environment was monitored by two instruments, a cloud particle spectrometer (Knollenberg probe) and a charging patch. Both instruments are evaluated as diagnostic aids for avoiding laminar-flow detrimental particle concentrations in future LFC aircraft operations. The data base covers 19 flights in the simulated airline service phase of the NASA Leading-Edge Flight-Test (LEFT) Program.

Keywords: Laminar-flow control; Cloud particle instrumentation; Environmental effects on aircraft economy; Simulated airline service

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

Flight research and testing form a critical link in the aeronautical research and development chain. Brilliant concepts, elegant theories, and even sophisticated ground tests of flight vehicles are not sufficient to prove beyond a doubt that an unproven aeronautical concept will actually perform as predicted.
flight testing time and pilot work load while enhancing the data quality. Two major elements involved in developing such an automated technique are maneuver modeling to generate command histories from maneuver specifications, and the synthesis of control systems to track these command histories. This paper describes these two aspects of the automated flight-test scheme for a high-performance fighter aircraft. A suboptimal minimum error excitation linear-quadratic regulator approach is used for maneuver autopilot synthesis. Closed-loop simulation results are given.

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Structural dynamicists avoid aircraft structural flutter through the use of flutter analyses, wind tunnel tests, ground-vibration tests, and flight flutter testing. FEM and unsteady aerodynamics models are often employed in analyses whose results’ accuracies are verified by wind tunnel test results. Ground-vibration testing is used to ascertain an airframe’s resonant modes of vibration and their associated frequencies and damping rates; these data are then compared to the FEM analysis results. Flutter wind tunnel testing serves the same purpose for unsteady aerodynamic analysis as ground vibration testing does for the vibration analysis. Finally, flight flutter testing ensures that no flutter is present at any point in the envelope.


The aerodynamic energy method is used in this paper to synthesize control laws for NASA’s Drone for Aerodynamic and Structural Testing-Aerodynamic Research Wing I (DAST-ARWI) mathematical model. The performance of these control laws in terms of closed-loop flutter dynamic pressure, control surface activity, and robustness is compared against other control laws that appear in the literature and relate to the same model. A control law synthesis technique that makes use of the return difference singular values is developed in this paper. It is based on the aerodynamic energy approach and is shown to yield results superior to those given in the literature and based on optimal control theory. Nyquist plots are presented together with a short discussion regarding the relative merits of the minimum singular value as a measure of robustness, compared with the more traditional measure of robustness involving phase and gain margins.


A method for flight flutter testing is proposed which enables one to determine the flutter dynamic pressure from flights flown far below the flutter dynamic pressure. The method is based on the identification of the coefficients of the equations of motion at low dynamic pressures, followed by the solution of these equations to compute the flutter dynamic pressure. The initial results of simulated data reported in the present work indicate that the method can accurately predict the flutter dynamic pressure, as described. If no insurmountable difficulties arise in the implementation of this method, it may significantly improve the procedures for flight flutter testing.


An inertial energy approach similar to the aerodynamic method for flutter suppression is used to investigate the effects of mass-unbalanced control surfaces on the stability of a closed-loop system. It is demonstrated that a spanwise section for sensor location can be obtained which ensures minimum sensitivity to the mode shapes of the aircraft. Leading-edge control is characterized by a compatibility between inertial stabilization and aerodynamic stabilization that trailing-edge control lacks.


The Rapid Prototyping Facility (RPF) was developed to meet a need for a facility which allows flight systems concepts to be prototyped in a manner which allows for real-time flight test experience with a prototype system. This was focused during the development and demonstration of the expert system flight status monitor (ESFSM). The ESFSM was a prototype system developed on a LISP machine, but lack of a method for progressive testing and problem identification led to an impractical system. The RPF concept was developed, and the ATMS designed to exercise its capabilities. The
ATMS Phase 1 demonstration provided a practical vehicle for testing the RPF, as well as a useful tool. ATMS Phase 2 development continues. A dedicated F-18 is expected to be assigned for facility use in late 1988, with RAV modifications. A knowledge-based autopilot is being developed using the RPF. This is a system which provides elementary autopilot functions and is intended as a vehicle for testing expert system verification and validation methods. An expert system propulsion monitor is being prototyped. This system provides real-time assistance to an engineer monitoring a propulsion system during a flight.

*PRC Systems Services Co., Hampton, Virginia.


All flutter suppression systems require sensors to detect the movement of the lifting surface and to activate a control surface according to a synthesized control law. Most of the work performed to date relates to the development of control laws based on predetermined locations of sensors and control surfaces. These locations of sensors and control surfaces are determined either arbitrarily, or by means of a trial and error procedure. The aerodynamic energy concept indicates that the sensors should be located within the activated strip. Furthermore, the best chordwise location of a sensor activating a T.E. control surface is around the 65 percent chord location. The best chordwise location for a sensor activating a L.E. surface is shown to lie upstream of the wing (around 20 percent upstream of the leading edge), or alternatively, two sensors located along the same chord should be used.


The Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center is being developed as part of the NASA-DARPA automated wingman program. This facility is being developed as part of the NASA-DARPA automated wingman program. This project document discusses the need for flight research and for a national flight research facility for the rapid prototyping of AI-based avionics systems and the NASA response to those needs.

*PRC Systems Services, McLean, Virginia.


The AFTI/F-111 Mission Adaptive Wing (MAW) development is described together with the flight test demonstration program. The program developed a smooth variable camber wing and flight control system capable of adjusting the wing’s airfoil shape in flight in response to pilot input and flight condition, in order to maximize the aerodynamic efficiency in all areas of flight envelope. This paper examines the instrumentation requirements and the systems implemented and presents the results of flight tests. These results demonstrate the practicality, airworthiness, maintainability, and performance benefits of the smooth variable camber wing system.

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A joint activity between the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and the Royal Aerospace Establishment (RAE) on knowledge-based systems has been agreed. Under the agreement, a flight status monitor knowledge base developed at Ames-Dryden has been implemented using the real-time AI (artificial intelligence) toolkit MUSE, which was developed in the UK. Here, the background to the cooperation is described and the details of the flight status monitor and a prototype MUSE implementation are presented. It is noted that the capabilities of the expert-system flight status monitor to monitor data downlinked from the flight test aircraft and to generate information on the state and health of the system for the test engineers provides increased safety during flight testing of new systems. Furthermore, the expert-system flight status monitor provides the systems engineers with ready access to the large amount of information required to describe a complex aircraft system.

**PRC System Services, Edwards, California.

The environmental aspect of elevated temperature and its relationship to the science of strain gage calibrations of aircraft structures are addressed. A section of a wing designed for a high-speed aircraft structure was used to study this problem. This structure was instrumented with strain gages calibrated at both elevated and room temperatures. Load equations derived from a high-temperature load calibration were compared with equations derived from an identical load calibration at room temperature. The implications of the high temperature load calibration were studied from the viewpoint of applicability and necessity. Load equations derived from the room temperature load calibration resulted in generally lower equation standard errors than equations derived from the elevated temperature load calibration. A distributed load was applied to the structure at elevated temperature and strain gage outputs were measured. This applied load was then calculated using equations derived from both the room temperature and elevated temperature calibration data. It was found that no significant differences between the two equation systems existed in terms of computing this applied distributed load, as long as the thermal shifts resulting from thermal stresses could be identified. This identification requires a heating of the structure. Therefore, it is concluded that for this structure, a high temperature load calibration is not required. However, a heating of the structure is required to determine thermal shifts.

Keywords: Aircraft configurations; Aircraft structures; Calibrating; High temperature environments; Load tests.

1709. *Nissim, E.; and Gilyard, Glenn B.: Method for Experimental Determination of Flutter Speed by Parameter Identification. NASA TP-2923, H-1510, NAS 1.60:2923, June 1989, 89N26844, #. (see also 1697.) PDF DTRS

A method for flight flutter testing is proposed which enables one to determine the flutter dynamic pressure from flights flown far below the flutter dynamic pressure. The method is based on the identification of the coefficients of the equations of motion at low dynamic pressures, followed by the solution of these equations to compute the flutter dynamic pressure. The initial results of simulated data reported in the present work indicate that the method can accurately predict the flutter dynamic pressure, as described. If no insurmountable difficulties arise in the implementation of this method, it may significantly improve the procedures for flight flutter testing.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Dynamic pressure; Flight tests; Flutter; Parameter identification.

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A three-node flat shell element with C deg rotation fields has been developed for analysis of arbitrary composite shells. The element may consist of any number of orthotropic layers, each layer having different material properties and angular orientation. The formulation includes coupling between bending and extension, which is essential for analysis of unsymmetric laminates. Shearing deflections are included, since laminated and sandwich construction frequently results in shear stiffness much smaller than bending stiffness. Formulation of the element is straightforward, and calculation of its stiffness matrix is simple and fast. Convergence of solutions with mesh refinement is uniform for both thin and thick shells and is insensitive to element shape, although not as rapid as some other elements that lack one or more capabilities of the newly developed element. An experimental verification of the shall element is reported in the appendix.

Keywords: Computer programs; Laminates; Plates (structural members); Shear properties; Shells (structural forms).

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Flight experiments were conducted on a 30 degree swept wing with a perforated leading edge by systematically varying the location and amount of suction over a range of Mach number and Reynolds number. Suction was varied chordwise ahead of the front spar from either the front or rear direction by sealing spanwise perforated strips. Transition from laminar to turbulent flow was due to leading edge turbulence contamination or crossflow disturbance growth and/or Tollmien-Schlichting disturbance growth, depending on the test configuration, flight condition, and suction location. A state-of-the-art linear stability theory which accounts for body and streamline curvature and compressibility was used to study the boundary layer stability as suction location and magnitude varied. N-factor correlations with transition location were made for various suction configurations.


The study of a one-on-one aircraft pursuit-evasion guidance scheme for high-performance aircraft is discussed. The research objective is to implement a guidance law derived earlier using differential game theory in conjunction with the theory of feedback linearization. Unlike earlier research in this area, the present formulation explicitly recognizes the two-sided nature of the pursuit-evasion scenario. The present research implements the guidance law in a realistic model of a modern high-performance fighter aircraft. Also discussed are the details of the guidance law, implementation in a highly detailed simulation of a high-performance fighter, and numerical results for two engagement geometries. Modifications of the guidance law for onboard implementation is also discussed.

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For many years NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility has employed automation in the servicing of flight critical aircraft batteries. Recently a major upgrade to Dryden’s computerized Battery Systems Laboratory was initiated to incorporate distributed processing and a centralized database. The new facility, called the Aerospace Energy Systems Laboratory (AESL), is being mechanized with iAPX86 and iAPX286 hardware running iRMX86. The hardware configuration and software structure for the AESL are described.

Keywords: Aircraft power supplies; Computer techniques; Distributed processing; Electric batteries; Test facilities.


In-flight flow visualization techniques used at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and its predecessor organizations are described. Results from flight tests which visualized surface flows using flow cones, tufts, oil flows, liquid crystals, sublimating chemicals, and emitted fluids were obtained. Off-surface flow visualization of vortical flow was obtained from natural condensation and two methods using smoke generator systems. Recent results from flight tests at NASA Langley Research Center using a propylene glycol smoker and an infrared imager are also included. Results from photo-chase aircraft, onboard and postflight photography are presented.


As part of the F-18 high-angle-of-attack vehicle program, an AI method has been developed for the real-time monitoring of the propulsion system and for the identification of recovery procedures for the F404 engine. The aim of the development program is to provide enhanced flight safety and to reduce the duties of the propulsion engineers. As telemetry data is received, the results are continually displayed in a number of different color graphical formats. The system makes possible the monitoring of the engine state and the individual parameters. Anomaly information is immediately displayed to the engineer.

*PRC Systems Services, Inc., Edwards, California.


A study has been performed that investigates parameter measurement effects on calculated in-flight thrust for the General Electric F404-GE-400 afterburning turbofan engine which powered the X-29A forward-swept wing research aircraft. Net-thrust uncertainty and influence coefficients were calculated and are presented. Six flight conditions were analyzed at five engine power settings each. Results were obtained using the mass flow-temperature and area-pressure thrust calculation methods, both based on the commonly used gas generator technique. Thrust uncertainty was determined using a common procedure based on the use of measurement uncertainty and influence coefficients. The effects of data nonlinearity on the uncertainty calculation procedure were studied and results are presented. The advantages and disadvantages of using this particular uncertainty procedure are discussed. A brief description of the thrust-calculation technique along with the uncertainty calculation procedure is included.

A composite test specimen in the shape of a semicircular curved bar subjected to bending offers an excellent stress field for studying the open-mode delamination behavior of laminated composite materials. This is because the open-mode delamination nucleates at the midspan of the curved bar. The classical anisotropic elasticity theory was used to construct a ‘multilayer’ theory for the calculations of the stress and deformation fields induced in the multilayered composite semicircular curved bar subjected to end forces and end moments. The radial location and intensity of the open-mode delamination stress were calculated and were compared with the results obtained from the anisotropic continuum theory and from the finite element method. The multilayer theory gave more accurate predictions of the location and the intensity of the open-mode delamination stress than those calculated from the anisotropic continuum theory.


The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator flight envelope expansion program and the subsequent flight research phase gave impetus to the development of several innovative real-time analysis and display techniques. These new techniques produced significant improvements in flight test productivity, flight research capabilities, and flight safety. These techniques include real-time measurement and display of in-flight structural loads, dynamic structural mode frequency and damping, flight control system dynamic stability and control response, aeroperformance drag polars, and aircraft specific excess power. Several of these analysis techniques also provided for direct comparisons of flight-measured results with analytical predictions. The aeroperformance technique was made possible by the concurrent development of a new simplified in-flight net thrust computation method. To achieve these levels of on-line flight test analysis, integration of ground and airborne systems was required. The capability of NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility’s Western Aeronautical Test Range was a key factor to enable implementation of these methods.


A flight experiment was conducted to evaluate a pressure measurement system which uses pneumatic tubing and remotely located electronically scanned pressure transducer modules for in-flight unsteady aerodynamic studies. A parametric study of tubing length and diameter on the attenuation and lag of the measured signals was conducted. The hardware was found to operate satisfactorily at rates of up to 500 samples/sec per port in flight. The signal attenuation and lag due to tubing were shown to increase with tubing length, decrease with tubing diameter, and increase with altitude over the ranges tested. Measurable signal levels were obtained for even the longest tubing length tested, 4 ft, at frequencies up to 100 Hz. This instrumentation system approach provides a practical means of conducting detailed unsteady pressure surveys in flight.

Keywords: Flight tests; Pneumatic equipment; Pressure measurement; Pressure sensors; Unsteady aerodynamics.

**1720.** Hicks, John W.; and Huckabone, Thomas: *Preliminary Flight-Determined Subsonic Lift and Drag Characteristics of the X-29A Forward-Swept-Wing Airplane.* NASA TM-100409, H-1431, NAS 1.15:100409, *August 1989,* 91N29177, #. PDF DTRS

The X-29A subsonic lift and drag characteristics determined, met, or exceeded predictions, particularly with respect to the drag polar shapes. Induced drag levels were as great as 20 percent less than wind tunnel estimates, particularly at coefficients of lift above 0.8. Drag polar shape comparisons with other modern fighter aircraft showed the X-29A to have a better overall aircraft aerodynamic Oswald efficiency factor for the same aspect ratio. Two significant problems arose in the data reduction and analysis process. These included uncertainties in angle of attack upwash calibration and effects of maneuver dynamics on drag levels. The latter problem resulted from significantly improper control surface automatic camber control scheduling. Supersonic drag polar results were not obtained during this phase because of a lack of engine instrumentation to measure afterburner fuel flow.

Keywords: Aerodynamic drag; Flight tests; Lift; Subsonic flow; Swept forward wings.


In order to provide a safe, repeatable, precise, high-gain flying
qualities task a ground deployed system was developed and
tested at the NASA Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight
Research Facility. This system, the adaptable target lighting
array system (ATLAS), is based on the German Aerospace
Research Establishment’s ground attack test equipment
(GRATE). These systems provide a flying-qualities task,
emulating the ground-attack task with ground deployed
lighted targets. These targets light in an unpredictable
sequence and the pilot has to aim the aircraft at whichever
target is lighted. Two flight-test programs were used to assess
the suitability of ATLAS. The first program used the United
States Air Force (USAF) F-33A variable-stability aircraft
to establish that ATLAS provided a task suitable for use in
flying qualities research. A head-up display (HUD) tracking
task was used for comparison. The second program used the
X-29A forward-swept wing aircraft to demonstrate that the
ATLAS task was suitable for assessing the flying qualities of
a specific experimental aircraft. In this program, the ground-
attack task was used for comparison. All pilots who used
ATLAS found it be highly satisfactory and thought it to be
superior to the other tasks used in flying qualities evaluations.
It was recommended that ATLAS become a standard for
flying qualities evaluations.

Keywords: Deployment; Flight characteristics; Flight tests;
Ground tests; Head-up displays.

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†Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Maryland.

1723. *Disbrow, James D.; Duke, Eugene L.; and Ray, Ronald
J.: Preliminary Development of an Intelligent Computer
Assistant for Engine Monitoring. NASA TM-101702,
H-1553, NAS 1.15:101702. (see A89-46910), August 1989.
# (see also 1711.) PDF DTRS

As part of the F-18 high-angle-of-attack vehicle program,
an AI method was developed for the real time monitoring of
the propulsion system and for the identification of recovery
procedures for the F404 engine. The aim of the development
program is to provide enhanced flight safety and to reduce the
duties of the propulsion engineers. As telemetry data is
received, the results are continually displayed in a number of
different color graphical formats. The system makes possible
the monitoring of the engine state and the individual
parameters. Anomaly information is immediately displayed
to the engineer.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Aircraft engines;
Computer graphics; Engine monitoring instruments; Expert
systems.

*PRC Systems Services Co., Edwards, California.

1724. Fisher, D. F.; Curry, R. E.; and Del Frate, J. H.: In-
Flight Flow Visualization Techniques on a Vortex-Lift
Fighter Aircraft. Flow Visualization V. Proceedings of
the 5th International Symposium on Flow Visualization,
August 21–25, 1989, Prague, Czechoslovakia, TA 357.1582,

Two unique methods of in-flight flow visualization have
been used on a F-18 fighter aircraft at NASA Ames Research
Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility. These methods
were used to visualize vortical flow at high angle-of-attack
flight conditions on the aircraft forebody and leading edge
extensions. Surface flow visualization similar to oil flows
in wind tunnels using an emitted fluid technique has been
used to mark surface streamlines and lines of separation. Off-
surface flow visualization using a smoke generator system
and an array of onboard camera have been used to visualize
vortex paths and vortex breakdown points.

1725. Earls, Michael R.; and Sitz, Joel R.: Initial Flight
Qualification and Operational Maintenance of X-29A
Flight Software. AIAA Paper 89-3596. Technical Papers,
presented at the AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control
Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, August 14–16, 1989.
Part 2, (see A89-52526 23-08), pp. 1392–1415, 89A52675,
# (see also 1730.) PDF AIAA

This paper is predominantly a nontechnical discussion of
some significant aspects of the initial flight qualification and
operational maintenance of the flight control system software.
for the X-29A technology demonstrator. Flight qualification and maintenance of complex, embedded flight control system software poses unique problems. The X-29A technology demonstrator aircraft has a digital flight control system which incorporates functions generally considered too complex for analog systems. Organizational responsibilities, software assurance issues, tools, and facilities are discussed.


A method is proposed by which an aeroservoelastic problem is brought to a state-space form with a minimum number of augmented aerodynamic terms. The examples treated in this work relate to NASA’s Drone for Aerodynamic and Structural Testing-Aerodynamic Research Wing 1 (DAST-ARW1) and to the YF-17 fighter model. It is shown that in all cases considered, the method yields a very good accuracy regarding the flutter parameters and the dynamic behavior of the systems, using only two augmented aerodynamic states. The method should prove useful in the design of lower order control laws based on optimal control theory.


The techniques used to improve the pitch-axis handling qualities of the X-29A wing-canard-planform fighter aircraft are reviewed. The aircraft and its FCS are briefly described, and the design method, which works within the existing FCS architecture, is characterized in detail. Consideration is given to the selection of design goals and design variables, the definition and calculation of the cost function, the validation of the mathematical model on the basis of flight-test data, and the validation of the improved design by means of nonlinear simulations. Flight tests of the improved design are shown to verify the simulation results.


An integrated environment for specifying, prototyping, and implementing a self-repairing flight-control (SRFC) strategy is described. At an interactive workstation, the user can select paradigms such as rule-based expert systems, state-transition diagrams, and signal-flow graphs and hierarchically nest them, assign timing and priority attributes, establish blackboard-type communication, and specify concurrent execution on single or multiple processors. High-fidelity nonlinear simulations of aircraft and SRFC systems can be performed off-line, with the possibility of changing SRFC rules, inference strategies, and other heuristics to correct for control deficiencies. Finally, the off-line-generated SRFC can be transformed into highly optimized application-specific real-time C-language code. An application of this environment to the design of aircraft fault detection, isolation, and accommodation algorithms is presented in detail.


A subsonic-to-transonic speed wind tunnel study has been conducted to deepen understanding of the nature and possibilities for control of vortical flows associated with wing leading edge extensions (LEXs) on the F/A-18 aircraft; these vortical phenomena encompass vortex breakdown and vortex interactions with vertical stabilizers. Wind tunnel results were correlated with in-flight flow visualizations as well as handling-qualities trend data from a USN F-18 with LEX fences to improve the vertical tail buffet environment. Attention is given to the sensitivity of the vortex flows to Re and Mach numbers, reduced vertical tail excitation due to the presence of a LEX fence, and the interpretation of off-body flow visualizations.

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**NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


Abstract not available.

1731. Fullerton, C. Gordon; and *Seeley, Tim, Capt.: **Mission Adaptive Wing Final Report.** Presented at the 33rd SETP Symposium, Beverly Hills, California, September 1989.

*USAF, Flight Test Center, Edwards, California
A limited flight experiment was conducted to document the ground-effect characteristics of the X-29A research airplane. This vehicle has an aerodynamic platform which includes a forward-swept wing and close-coupled, variable incidence canard. The flight-test program obtained results for errors in the airdata measurement and for incremental normal force and pitching moment caused by ground effect. Correlations with wind-tunnel and computational analyses were made. The results are discussed with respect to the dynamic nature of the flight measurements, similar data from other configurations, and pilot comments. The ground-effect results are necessary to obtain an accurate interpretation of the vehicle’s landing characteristics. The flight data can also be used in the development of many modern aircraft systems such as autoland and piloted simulations.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Flight tests; Ground effect (aerodynamics); In-flight monitoring; Swept forward wings.

Stress intensity levels at various parts of the NASA B-52 carrier aircraft pylon were examined for the case when the pylon store was the space shuttle solid rocket booster drop test vehicle. Eight critical stress points were selected for the pylon fatigue analysis. Using fracture mechanics and the half-cycle theory (directly or indirectly) for the calculations of fatigue-crack growth, the remaining fatigue life (number of flights left) was estimated for each critical part. It was found that the two rear hooks had relatively short fatigue life and that the front hook had the shortest fatigue life of all the parts analyzed. The rest of the pylon parts were found to be noncritical because of their extremely long fatigue life associated with the low operational stress levels.

Keywords: B-52 aircraft; Crack propagation; Fatigue life; Fracture mechanics; Pylons.

A smoke generator system was developed for in-flight vortex flow studies on the F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV). The development process included conceptual design, a survey of existing systems, component testing, detailed design, fabrication, and functional flight testing. Housed in the forebody of the aircraft, the final system consists of multiple pyrotechnic smoke cartridges which can be fired simultaneously or in sequence. The smoke produced is ducted to desired locations on the aircraft surface. The smoke generator system (SGS) has been used successfully to identify vortex core and core breakdown locations as functions of flight condition. Although developed for a specific vehicle, this concept may be useful for other aerodynamic flight research which requires the visualization of local flows.

Keywords: Flow distribution; Flow visualization; Smoke; Vortex breakdown; Vortices.
moments. The radial location and intensity of the open-mode delamination stress were calculated and were compared with the results obtained from the anisotropic continuum theory and from the finite element method. The multilayer theory gave more accurate predictions of the location and the intensity of the open-mode delamination stress than those calculated from the anisotropic continuum theory.


A discussion is presented of some significant aspects of the initial flight qualification and operational maintenance of the flight control system software for the X-29A technology demonstrator. Flight qualification and maintenance of complex, embedded flight control system software poses unique problems. The X-29A technology demonstrator aircraft has a digital flight control system which incorporates functions generally considered too complex for analog systems. Organizational responsibilities, software assurance issues, tools, and facilities are discussed.

Keywords: Computer programs; File maintenance (computers); Flight control; Program verification (computers); X-29 aircraft.


A study was performed that investigates parameter measurement effects on calculated in-flight thrust for the General Electric F404-GE-400 afterburning turbofan engine which powered the X-29A forward-swept wing research aircraft. Net-thrust uncertainty and influence coefficients were calculated and are presented. Six flight conditions were analyzed at five engine power settings each. Results were obtained using the mass flow-temperature and area-pressure thrust calculation methods, both based on the commonly used gas generator technique. Thrust uncertainty was determined using a common procedure based on the use of measurement uncertainty and influence coefficients. The effects of data nonlinearity on the uncertainty calculation procedure were studied and results are presented. The advantages and disadvantages of using this particular uncertainty procedure are discussed. A brief description of the thrust-calculation technique along with the uncertainty calculation procedure is included.

Keywords: Afterburning; In-flight monitoring; Research aircraft; Thrust measurement; Turbofan engines.


A design technique for handling qualities improvement was developed for the X-29A aircraft. As with any new aircraft, the X-29A control law designers were presented with a relatively high degree of uncertainty in their mathematical models. The presence of uncertainties, and the high level of static instability of the X-29A caused the control law designers to stress stability and robustness over handling qualities. During flight test, the mathematical models of the vehicle were validated or corrected to match the vehicle dynamic behavior. The updated models were then used to fine-tune the control system to provide fighter-like handling characteristics. A design methodology was developed which works within the existing control system architecture to provide improved handling qualities and acceptable stability with a minimum of cost in both implementation as well as software verification and validation.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Control systems design; Controllability; Optimization; X-29A aircraft.


Flight boundary-layer transition experiments were conducted on a 30-degree swept wing with a perforated leading-edge suction panel. The transition location on the panel was changed by systematically varying the location and amount of suction. Transition from laminar to turbulent flow was due to leading-edge turbulence contamination or crossflow disturbance growth and/or Tollmien-Schlichting disturbance growth, depending on flight condition and suction variation. Amplification factor correlations with transition location were made for various suction configurations using a state-of-the-art linear stability theory which accounts for body and streamline curvature and compressibility.

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†PRC Kentron, Inc., Hampton, Virginia.

1740. Fisher, David F.; Del Frate, John H.; and *Richwine,
Surface and off-surface flow visualization techniques have been used to visualize the three-dimensional separated flows on the NASA F-18 high alpha research vehicle at high angles of attack. Results near \( \alpha = 25 \) deg to 26 deg and \( \alpha = 45 \) deg to 49 deg are presented. Both the forebody and leading-edge extension (LEX) vortex cores and breakdown locations were visualized using smoke. Forebody and LEX vortex separation lines on the surface were defined using an emitted-fluid technique. A laminar separation bubble was also detected on the nose cone using the emitted fluid technique and was similar to that observed in the wind-tunnel test, but not as extensive. Regions of attached, separated, and vortical flow were noted on the wing and the leading-edge flap using tufts and flow cones, and compared well with limited wind-tunnel results.

*PRC System Services Co., Edwards, California.


Recently, NASA completed a boundary-layer transition flight test on an F-14 aircraft which has variable-sweep capability. Transition data were acquired for a wide variety of sweep angles, pressure distributions, Mach numbers, and Reynolds numbers. In this paper, the F-14 flight test is briefly described and N-factor correlations with measured transition locations are presented for one of two glooves flown on the F-14 wing in the flight program; a thin foam and fiberglass glove which provided a smooth sailplane finish on the basic F-14, modified NACA 6-series airfoil. For these correlations, an improved linear boundary-layer stability theory was utilized that accounts for compressibility and surface streamline curvature effects for the flow past swept wings.

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atmospheric turbulence for structural excitation; the aircraft displayed no adverse aeroelastic trends within the envelope tested. The data presented in this report include mode shapes from the ground vibration and estimates of frequency and damping as a function of Mach number.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Clearances; F-18 aircraft; Flutter; Wing tips.


The Dryden Flight Research Facility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) is the principal NASA facility for the flight testing and evaluation of new and complex avionics systems. To aid in the interpretation of system health and status data, a knowledge-based flight status monitor was designed. The monitor was designed to use fault indicators from the onboard system which are telemetered to the ground and processed by a rule-based model of the aircraft failure management system to give timely advice and recommendations in the mission control room. One of the important constraints on the flight status monitor is the need to operate in real time, and to pursue this aspect, a joint research activity between NASA Ames-Dryden and the Royal Aerospace Establishment (RAE) on real-time knowledge-based systems was established. Under this agreement, the original LISP knowledge base for the flight status monitor was reimplemented using the intelligent knowledge-based system toolkit, MUSE, which was developed under RAE sponsorship. Details of the flight status monitor and the MUSE implementation are presented.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Avionics; Digital systems; Expert systems; Flight management systems.


Research aircraft have become increasingly dependent on advanced control systems to accomplish program goals. These aircraft are integrating multiple disciplines to improve performance and satisfy research objectives. This integration is being accomplished through electronic control systems. Because of the number of systems involved and the variety of engineering disciplines, systems design methods and information management have become essential to program success. The primary objective of the system design/information tool for aircraft flight control system is to help transfer flight control system design knowledge to the flight test community. By providing all of the design information and covering multiple disciplines in a structured, graphical manner, flight control systems can more easily be understood by the test engineers. This will provide the engineers with the information needed to thoroughly ground test the system and thereby reduce the likelihood of serious design errors surfacing in flight. The secondary objective is to apply structured design techniques to all of the design domains. By using the techniques in the top level system design down through the detailed hardware and software designs, it is hoped that fewer design anomalies will result. The flight test experiences of three highly complex, integrated aircraft programs are reviewed: the X-29 forward-swept wing, the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, and the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) program. Significant operating anomalies and the design errors which cause them, are examined to help identify what functions a system design/information tool should provide to assist designers in avoiding errors.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Aircraft control; Artificial intelligence; Computer systems design; Control systems design.

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Flight test experiences of the X-29 forward-swept wing, the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16, and the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) programs are reviewed. Significant operating anomalies in these programs and the design errors which caused them are examined. The functions which a system design/information tool should provide to assist designers in avoiding errors are identified.

*Draper Laboratory, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The effects on stability of inertial forces arising from
closed-loop activation of mass-unbalanced control surfaces are studied analytically using inertial energy approach, similar to the aerodynamic energy approach used for flutter suppression. The limitations of a single control surface like a leading-edge (LE) control or a trailing-edge (TE) control are demonstrated and compared to the superior combined LE-TE mass unbalanced system. It is shown that a spanwise section for sensor location can be determined which ensures minimum sensitivity to the mode shapes of the aircraft. It is shown that an LE control exhibits compatibility between inertial stabilization and aerodynamic stabilization, and that a TE control lacks such compatibility. The results of the present work should prove valuable, both for the purpose of flutter suppression using mass unbalanced control surfaces, or for the stabilization of structural modes of large space structures by means of inertial forces.

Keywords: Active control; Aerodynamic stability; Aerodynamics; Balance; Control surfaces.

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The aircraft parameter estimation problem is used to illustrate the utility of parameter estimation, which applies to many engineering and scientific fields. Maximum-likelihood estimation has been used to extract stability and control derivatives from flight data for many years. This paper presents some of the basic concepts of aircraft parameter estimation and briefly surveys the literature in the field. The maximum-likelihood estimator is discussed, and the basic concepts of minimization and estimation are examined for a simple simulated aircraft example. The cost functions that are to be minimized during estimation are defined and discussed. Graphical representations of the cost functions are given to illustrate the minimization process. Finally, the basic concepts are generalized, and estimation from flight data is discussed. Some of the major conclusions for the simulated example are also developed for the analysis of flight data from the F-14 and Space Shuttle vehicles.


Structural excitation is important for both ground vibration and flight flutter testing. The structural responses caused by this excitation are analyzed to determine frequency, damping, and mode shape information. Many excitation waveforms have been used throughout the years. The use of impulsive sine (\(\sin \omega t/\omega t\)) as an excitation waveform for ground vibration testing and the advantages of using this waveform for flight flutter testing are discussed. The ground vibration test results of a modified JetStar airplane using impulsive sine as an excitation waveform are compared with the test results of the same airplane using multiple-input random excitation. The results indicated that the structure was sufficiently excited using the impulsive sine waveform. Comparisons of input force spectrums, mode shape plots, and frequency and damping values for the two methods of excitation are presented.


The effects of thin-gage materials on high-temperature strain measurements are discussed. Apparent strain test were performed using facesheet coupons, honeycomb coupons, and the panel with strain gages in an installed condition. The apparent strain results differed in each of the cases. The apparent strain curves from the panel tests are expected to provide the best correlation with analysis, assuming that the thermal strains are insignificant or that the thermal strains derived from the analysis of the apparent strain test performed on the panel can be used to correct the apparent strain curves.


A technique to use an aircraft to measure wind profiles in the altitude range of 1,500 to 18,200 m was demonstrated at NASA Ames-Dryden. This demonstration was initiated to determine if an aircraft could measure wind profiles in support of space shuttle launches. The Jimsphere balloon is currently the device used to measure pre-launch wind profiles for the space shuttle. However, it takes approximately an hour for the Jimsphere to travel through the altitudes of interest. If these wind instruments could be taken with an aircraft closer to launch in a more timely manner and with the same accuracy as a Jimsphere balloon, some uncertainties in the measurements could be removed. The aircraft used for this investigation was an F-104G which is capable of flight above 18,000 m. It had conventional research instrumentation to provide air data and flow angles along with a ring laser gyro inertial navigation system (INS) to provide inertial and Euler
angle data. During the course of 17 flights, wind profiles were measured in 21 climbs and 18 descents. Preliminary comparisons between aircraft measured wind profiles and Jimosphere measured profiles show reasonable agreement (within 3 m/sec). Most large differences between the profiles can usually be explained by large spatial or time differences between the Jimosphere and aircraft measurements, the fact that the aircraft is not in a wings-level attitude, or INS shifts caused by aircraft maneuvering.

Keywords: Flight tests; In-flight monitoring; Spacecraft launching; Weather forecasting; Wind measurement.


The NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility developed a computerized aircraft battery servicing facility called the Aerospace Energy Systems Laboratory (AESL). This system employs distributed processing with communications provided by a 2.4-megabit BITBUS local area network. Customized handlers provide real time status, remote command, and file transfer protocols between a central system running the iRMX-II operating system and ten slave stations running the iRMX-I operating system. The hardware configuration and software components required to implement this BITBUS application are required.

Keywords: Computer programs; Distributed processing; Electric batteries; Local area networks; Multiprocessing (computers).


During some flight programs, researchers have encountered problems in the throttle response characteristics of high-performance aircraft. To study and to help solve these problems, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center’s Dryden Flight Research Facility (Ames-Dryden) conducted a study using a TF-104G airplane modified with a variable-response electronic throttle control system. Ames-Dryden investigated the effects of different variables on engine response and handling qualities. The system provided transport delay, lead and lag filters, second-order lags, command rate and position limits, and variable gain between the pilot’s throttle command and the engine fuel controller. These variables could be tested individually or in combination. Ten research flights were flown to gather data on engine response and to obtain pilot ratings of the various system configurations. The results should provide design criteria for engine-response characteristics. The variable-response throttle components and how they were installed in the TF-104G aircraft are described. How the variable-response throttle was used in flight and some of the results of using this system are discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Controllers; Electronic control; Engine control; Fighter control.


The X-29A research and technology demonstrator aircraft has completed a highly successful multiphase flight test program. The primary research objective was to safely explore, evaluate, and validate a number of aerodynamic, structural, and flight control technologies, all highly integrated into the vehicle design. Most of these advanced technologies, particularly the forward-swept-wing platform, had a major impact on the structural design. Throughout the flight test program, structural loads clearance was an ongoing activity to provide a safe maneuvering envelope sufficient to accomplish the research objectives. An overview is presented of the technologies, flight test approach, key results, and lessons learned from the structural flight loads perspective. The overall design methodology was considered validated, but a number of structural load characteristics were either not adequately predicted or totally unanticipated prior to flight test. While conventional flight testing techniques were adequate to insure flight safety, advanced analysis tools played a key role in understanding some of the structural load characteristics, and in maximizing flight test productivity.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Aircraft structures; Canard configurations; Flight tests; Structural design.

*Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Edwards, California.


As part of a US/UK cooperative aeronautical research program, a joint activity between the Dryden Flight Research Facility of the NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden) and the Royal Aerospace Establishment (RAE) on Knowledge Based Systems was established. Under the agreement, a Flight Status Monitor Knowledge base developed at Ames-Dryden was implemented using the real-time IKBS toolkit, MUSE, 354
which was developed in the UK under RAE sponsorship. The Flight Status Monitor is designed to provide on-line aid to the flight test engineer in the interpretation of system health and status by storing expert knowledge of system behavior in an easily accessible form. The background to the cooperation is described and the details of the Flight Status Monitor, the MUSE implementation are presented.

* Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, England.


Results of test flights of the X-29A which confirmed the viability of the aircraft design and obtained good agreement with preflight predictions are presented. In addition to a forward-swept wing, the features to be evaluated on the X-29 demonstrator were: a digital fly-by-wire flight control, a close-coupled wing-canard configuration, an aerodynamically tailored composite wing skin and a three-surface pitch control configuration. The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator is a single-seat, fighter-type aircraft, best known for its forward-swept wing with a thin supercritical airfoil. The key objectives in developing the technologies incorporated into the X-29A design included establishing new airframe-design freedoms and options, as well as demonstrating that adequate levels of dynamic stability can be achieved by controlling an unstable airframe with a close-coupled canard, symmetric flap, and strake-flap combination. The X-29A aircraft and its related systems performed well and are now in a flight research phase.


Recent advances in aircraft performance and maneuver capability have dramatically complicated the problem of flight control augmentation. With increasing regularity, aircraft system designs require that aerodynamic parameters derived from pneumatic measurements be used as control system feedbacks. These requirements necessitate that pneumatic data be measured with accuracy and fidelity. The emphasis here is on the development of a general numerical model for accurately predicting pneumatic attenuation errors in pressure sensing devices. Once the model was developed and verified, then techniques for inverting the model to provide a compensation algorithm were developed. A mathematical model, derived from the Navier-Stokes equations is used to predict the behavior of pneumatic configurations which are subjected to small but arbitrary inputs. Comparisons of the mathematical model to both lab and flight data indicate that its predictive capability is excellent. Two approaches for inverting the model to provide a compensation algorithm were developed. The first approach relied on the techniques of statistical deconvolution to develop a compensation model. The second technique overcame the difficulty of limited applicability inherent in the first approach by incorporating the dynamic model into the compensation routine using the techniques of Minimum Variance Estimation Theory. The latter algorithm has a broader range of applicability.

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Different finite element models previously set up for thermal analysis of the space shuttle orbiter structure are discussed and their shortcomings identified. Element density criteria are established for the finite element thermal modelings of space shuttle orbiter-type large, hypersonic aircraft structures. These criteria are based on rigorous studies on solution accuracies using different finite element models having different element densities set up for one cell of the orbiter wing. Also, a method for optimization of the transient thermal analysis computer central processing unit (CPU) time is discussed. Based on the newly established element density criteria, the orbiter wing midspan segment was modeled for the examination of thermal analysis solution accuracies and the extent of computation CPU time requirements. The results showed that the distributions of the structural temperatures and the thermal stresses obtained from this wing segment model were satisfactory and the computation CPU time was at the acceptable level. The studies offered the hope that modeling the large, hypersonic aircraft structures using high-density elements for transient thermal analysis is possible if a CPU optimization technique was used.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Finite element method; Hypersonic aircraft; Mathematical models; Thermal analysis; Thermal stresses


A technique of compensating for pneumatic distortion in pressure sensing devices was developed and verified. This compensation allows conventional pressure sensing technology to obtain improved unsteady pressure measurements. Pressure distortion caused by frictional attenuation and pneumatic resonance within the sensing...
system makes obtaining unsteady pressure measurements by conventional sensors difficult. Most distortion occurs within the pneumatic tubing which transmits pressure impulses from the aircraft’s surface to the measurement transducer. To avoid pneumatic distortion, experiment designers mount the pressure sensor at the surface of the aircraft, (called in-situ mounting). In-situ transducers cannot always fit in the available space and sometimes pneumatic tubing must be run from the aircraft’s surface to the pressure transducer. A technique to measure unsteady pressure data using conventional pressure sensing technology was developed. A pneumatic distortion model is reduced to a low-order, state-variable model retaining most of the dynamic characteristics of the full model. The reduced-order model is coupled with results from minimum variance estimation theory to develop an algorithm to compensate for the effects of pneumatic distortion. Both postflight and real-time algorithms are developed and evaluated using simulated and flight data.

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A general numerical technique for obtaining unsteady pressure measurements using conventional pressure sensing technology has been developed. A pneumatic distortion model, based on the Navier-Stokes equations of momentum and continuity, was reduced to a low-order, state-variable model retaining most of the dynamic characteristics of the full model. The reduced-order model is coupled with results from minimum variance estimation theory to develop an algorithm to compensate the effects of pneumatic distortion. Both postflight and real-time algorithms were developed and evaluated using simulated and flight data.

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The research airdata system of an instrumented F-104 aircraft has been calibrated to measure winds aloft in support of the Space Shuttle wind measurement investigation. The F-104 aircraft was equipped with a research pitot-static noseboom with integral angle-of-attack and flank angle-of-attack vanes and a ring-laser-gyro inertial reference unit. Tower fly-bys and radar acceleration-decelerations were used to calibrate Mach number and total temperature. Angle of attack and angle of sideslip were calibrated with a trajectory reconstruction technique using a multiple-state linear Kalman filter. The F-104 aircraft and instrumentation configuration, flight test maneuvers, data corrections, calibration techniques, and resulting calibrations and data repeatability are presented. Recommendations for future airdata systems on aircraft used to measure winds aloft are also given.


The research airdata system of an instrumented F-104 aircraft has been calibrated to measure winds aloft in support of the Space Shuttle wind measurement investigation. The F-104 aircraft was equipped with a research pitot-static noseboom with integral angle-of-attack and flank angle-of-attack vanes and a ring-laser-gyro inertial reference unit. The F-104 aircraft and instrumentation configuration, flight test maneuvers, data corrections, calibration techniques, and resulting calibrations and data repeatability are presented. Recommendations for future airdata systems on aircraft used to measure winds aloft are also given.


A nonintrusive high angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing (Hi-FADS) system was installed and flight-tested on the F-18 high alpha research flight vehicle. The system is a matrix of 25 pressure orifices in concentric circles on the nose of the vehicle. The orifices determine angles of attack and sideslip, Mach number, and pressure altitude. Pressure was transmitted from the orifices to an electronically scanned pressure module by lines of pneumatic tubing. The Hi-FADS system was calibrated and demonstrated using dutch roll flight maneuvers covering large Mach, angle-of-attack,
and sideslip ranges. Reference airdata for system calibration were generated by a minimum variance estimation technique blending measurements from two wingtip airdata booms with inertial velocities, aircraft angular rates and attitudes, precision radar tracking, and meteorological analyses. The pressure orifice calibration was based on identifying empirical adjustments to modified Newtonian flow on a hemisphere. Calibration results are presented. Flight test results used all 25 orifices or used a subset of 9 orifices. Under moderate maneuvering conditions, the Hi-FADS system gave excellent results over the entire subsonic Mach number range up to 55 deg angle of attack. The internal pneumatic frequency response of the system is accurate to beyond 10 Hz. Aerodynamic lags in the aircraft flow field caused some performance degradation during heavy maneuvering.

Keywords: Air data systems; Aircraft design; Aircraft maneuvers; Angle of attack; Flight tests; Subsonic aircraft


A nonintrusive high angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing (Hi-FADS) system was installed and flight-tested on the F-18 high alpha research vehicle. This paper discusses the airdata algorithm development and composite results expressed as airdata parameter estimates and describes the Hi-FADS system hardware, calibration techniques, and algorithm development. An independent empirical verification was performed over a large portion of the subsonic flight envelope. Test points were obtained for Mach numbers from 0.15 to 0.94 and angles of attack from –8.0 to 55.0 deg.
Angles of research from -15.0 to 15.0 deg, and test altitudes ranged from 18,000 to 40,000 ft. The Hi-FADS system gave excellent results over the entire subsonic Mach number range up to 5 deg angle of attack. The internal pneumatic frequency response of the system is accurate to beyond 10Hz.

The multilayer theory of anisotropic elasticity and a finite element method were used to analyze the open-mode delamination stress concentrations in horseshoe and elliptic laminated composite curved bars. Two types of laminations, solid laminations and sandwich laminations, were analyzed. It was found that the open-mode delamination stress concentration could be greatly increased in these two types of curved bars by decreasing their aspect ratios. The open-mode delamination stress concentration generated in the solid laminations was found to be far more severe than that generated in the sandwich laminations. The horseshoe curved bar may be used to determine both the open-mode delamination strength of solidly laminated composites and the open-mode debonding strength of sandwiched laminated composites. However, the elliptic curved bar is only good for determining the open-mode delamination strength of solidly laminated composites.

Keywords: Bars; Delaminating; Finite element method; Sandwich structures; Stress concentration

In-flight flow visualization results of the vortical flow on the forebody and leading-edge extensions (LEX) of an F-18 research aircraft have been presented for angles of attack from 15.8 to 42.5 deg and for sideslip angles up to 7.5 deg. Water tunnel results using a 3-percent scale F-18 model and a variety of wind tunnel results are used for comparison and interpretation of the flight results. The LEX vortex core breakdown point moved forward with increasing angle of attack. For a constant angle of attack, the windward LEX vortex core breakdown moves forward and inboard with sideslip and the leeward vortex core breakdown moves aft and outboard. For a constant angle of attack, the windward location of interaction moved aft with increasing sideslip and the leeward interaction moved forward.


Advances in aircraft control system designs have, with increasing frequency, required that air data be used as flight control feedback. This condition requires that these data be measured with accuracy and high fidelity. Most air data information is provided by pneumatic pressure measuring sensors. Typically unsteady pressure data provided by pneumatic sensing systems are distorted at high frequencies. The distortion is a result of the pressure being transmitted to the pressure sensor through a length of connective tubing. The pressure is distorted by frictional damping and wave reflection. As a result, air data provided all-flush, pneumatically sensed air data systems may not meet the frequency response requirements necessary for flight control augmentation. Both lab and flight test were performed at NASA-Ames to investigate the effects of this high frequency distortion in remotely located pressure measurement systems. Good qualitative agreement between lab and flight data are demonstrated. Results from these tests are used to describe the effects of pneumatic distortion in terms of a simple parametric model.

Keywords: Air data systems; Control systems design; Pipes (tubes); Penumatic probes; Pressure measurement; Signal distortion; Unsteady flow

*Air Force, Wright Aeronautical Labs., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
A water tunnel study examining the influence of canopy shape on canopy and leading edge extension flow patterns was initiated. The F/A-18 single-place canopy model and the TF/A-18 two place canopy model were the study subjects. Plan view and side view photographs showing the flow patterns created by injected colored dye are presented for 0 deg and 5 deg sideslip angles. Photographs taken at angle of attack and sideslip conditions correspond to test departure points found in flight test. Flight experience has shown that the TF/A-18 airplane departs in regions where the F/A-18 aircraft is departure-resistant. The study results provide insight into the differences in flow patterns which may influence the resulting aerodynamics of the TF/A-18 and F/A-18 aircraft. It was found that at 0 deg sideslip, the TF/A-18 model has more downward flow on the sides of the canopy than the F/A-18 model. This could be indicative of flow from the leading edge extension (LEX) vortexes impinging on the sides of the wider TF/A-18 canopy. In addition, the TF/A-18 model has larger areas of asymmetric separated and unsteady flow on the LEXs and fuselage, possibly indicating a lateral and directional destabilizing effect at the conditions studied.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Canopies; F-18 aircraft; Flow distribution; Flow visualization; Fuselages


Achieving laminar flow on the wings of a commercial transport involves difficult problems associated with the wing leading edge. In this program two laminar flow control leading-edge systems were flight tested. One used a perforated titanium-suction surface with approximately 1 million, 0.0025-in.-diam, electron-beam-drilled holes to maintain laminar flow on the wing upper surface to the front spar. This leading edge also had a Krueger-type flap, which served as a protective shield against insect impacts. The second leading edge had suction through a slotted titanium skin with 27 spanwise slots (about 0.004 in. wide) on the upper and lower surfaces to maintain laminar flow on both surfaces to the front spar. Fluid dispensed through some of these slots near the attachment line provided wing-surface wetting to protect against insect impacts. Both leading edges were equipped with anticicing and fluid-purge systems. The NASA Leading Edge Flight Test Program made major progress in the development of practical systems for laminar flow control commercial aircraft. Both the effectiveness and practicality of the candidate laminar-flow, leading-edge systems were proven under representative airline service conditions.


Recent interest in oblique-wing aircraft has focused on the potential aerodynamic performance advantage of a variable-sweep oblique wing over a conventional or symmetric sweep wing. Unfortunately, the resulting asymmetric configuration has significant aerodynamic and inertial cross-coupling between the aircraft longitudinal and lateral-directional axes. Presented here is a decoupling control law synthesis technique that integrates stability augmentation, decoupling, and the direct incorporation of desired handling qualities into an output feedback controller. The proposed design technique uses linear quadratic regulator concepts in the framework of explicit model following. The output feedback strategy used is a suboptimal projection from the state space to the output space. Dynamics are then introduced into the controller to improve steady-state performance and increase system robustness. Closed-loop performance is shown by application of the control laws to the linearized equations of motion and nonlinear simulation of an oblique-wing aircraft.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Control theory; Controllers; Feedback control; Oblique wings; Optimal control; Stability augmentation; Swept wings


A limited flight experiment was conducted to document the ground effect characteristics of the X-29A research aircraft. This vehicle has an aerodynamic platform which includes a forward-swept wing and close-coupled, variable incidence canard. The flight-test program obtained results for errors in the air data measurement and for incremental normal force and pitching moment caused by ground effect. Correlations with wind-tunnel and computational analyses were made. The results are discussed with respect to the dynamic nature of the flight measurements, similar data from other configurations, and pilot comments. The ground effect results are necessary to obtain an accurate interpretation of the vehicle’s landing characteristics. The flight data can also be used in the development of many modern aircraft systems such as autoland and piloted simulation.

1773. *Larson, Terry J.; Moes, Timothy R.; and **Siemers, Paul M., III: Wind-Tunnel Investigation of a Flush Airdata System at Mach Numbers From 0.7 to 1.4. NASA
Flush pressure orifices installed on the nose section of a 1/7 scale model of the F-14 airplane were evaluated for use as a flush airdata system (FADS). Wing-tunnel tests were conducted in the 11- by 11-ft Unitary Wind Tunnel at NASA Ames Research Center. A full-scale FADS of the same configuration was previously tested using an F-14 aircraft at the Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (Ames-Dryden). These tests, which were published, are part of a NASA program to assess accuracies of FADS for use on aircraft. The test program also provides data to validate algorithms for the shuttle entry airdata system developed at the NASA Langley Research Center. The wind-tunnel test Mach numbers were 0.73, 0.90, 1.05, 1.20, and 1.39. Angles of attack were varied in 2 deg increments from -4 deg to 20 deg. Sideslip angles were varied in 4 deg increments from -8 deg to 8 deg. Airdata parameters were evaluated for determination of free-stream values of stagnation pressure, static pressure, angle of attack, angle of sideslip, and Mach number. These parameters are, in most cases, the same as the parameters investigated in the flight test program. The basic FADS wind-tunnel data are presented in tabular form. A discussion of the more accurate parameters is included.

Keywords: Air data systems; Algorithms; Flight tests; Flushing; Wind tunnel tests; Wind tunnels

**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

1775. Kehoe, Michael W.; *Laurie, Edward J.; and Bjarke, Lisa J.: An In-Flight Interaction of the X-29A Canard and Flight Control System. NASA TM-101718, H-1590, NAS 1.15:101718, also presented at the AIAA Dynamics Specialists Meeting, Long Beach, California, April 5–6, 1990, April 1990, 90N25973, #. (see also 1770.) PDF CASI

Many of today’s high performance airplanes use high gain, digital flight control systems. These systems are liable to couple with the aircraft’s structural dynamics and aerodynamics to cause an aeroservoelastic interaction. These interactions can be stable or unstable depending upon damping and phase relationships within the system. The details of an aeroservoelastic interaction experienced in flight by the X-29A forward-swept wing airplane. A 26.5-Hz canard pitch mode response was aliased by the digital sampling rate in the canard position feedback loop of the flight control system, resulting in a 13.5-Hz signal being commanded to the longitudinal control surfaces. The amplitude of this commanded signal increased as the wear of the canard seals increased, as the feedback path gains were increased, and as the canard aerodynamic loading decreased. The resultant control surface deflections were of sufficient amplitude to excite the structure. The flight data presented shows the effect of each component (structural dynamics, aerodynamics, and flight control system) for this aeroservoelastic interaction.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; Canard configurations; Dynamic response; Dynamic structural analysis; Flight control; X-29 aircraft

*Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Bethpage, New York.


This paper presents the details of an aeroservoelastic interaction experienced in flight by the X-29A forward-swept-wing aircraft. A 26.5-Hz canard pitch-mode response was aliased by the digital sampling rate in the canard-position feedback loop of the flight-control system, resulting in a 13.5-Hz signal being commanded to the longitudinal control surfaces. The amplitude of this commanded signal increased as the wear of the canard seals increased, as the feedback path gains were increased, and as the canard aerodynamic loading decreased. The resultant control-surface deflections were of sufficient amplitude to excite the structure. The flight data presented shows the effect of each component (structural dynamics, aerodynamics, and flight-control system) for this aeroservoelastic interaction.
When analyzing the performance of an aircraft, certain simplifying assumptions, which decrease the complexity of the problem, can often be made. The degree of accuracy required in the solution may determine the extent to which these simplifying assumptions are incorporated. A complex model may yield more accurate results if it describes the real situation more thoroughly. However, a complex model usually involves more computation time, makes the analysis more difficult, and often requires more information to do the analysis. Therefore, to choose the simplifying assumptions intelligently, it is important to know what effects the assumptions may have on the calculated performance of a vehicle. Several simplifying assumptions are examined, the effects of simplified models to those of the more complex ones are compared, and conclusions are drawn about the impact of these assumptions on flight envelope generation and optimal trajectory calculation. Models which affect an aircraft are analyzed, but the implications of simplifying the model of the aircraft itself are not studied. The examples are atmospheric models, gravitational models, different models for equations of motion, and constraint conditions.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Atmospheric models; Computation; Estimating; Simplification; Trajectories; Trajectory optimization

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Battle damage causing loss of control capability can compromise mission objectives and even result in aircraft loss. The Self Repairing Flight Control System (SRFCS) flight development program directly addresses this issue with a flight control system design that measures the damage and immediately refines the control system commands to preserve mission potential. The system diagnostics process detects in flight the type of faults that are difficult to isolate post flight, and thus cause excessive ground maintenance time and cost. The control systems of fighter aircraft have the control power and surface displacement to maneuver the aircraft in a very large flight envelope with a wide variation in airspeed and g maneuvering conditions, with surplus force capacity available from each control surface. Digital flight control processors are designed to include built-in status of the control system components, as well as sensor information on aircraft control maneuver commands and response. In the event of failure or loss of a control surface, the SRFCS utilizes this capability to reconfigure control commands to the remaining control surfaces, thus preserving maneuvering response. Correct post-flight repair is the key to low maintainability support costs and high aircraft mission readiness. The SRFCS utilizes the large data base available with digital flight control systems to diagnose faults. Built-in-test data and sensor data are used as inputs to an Onboard Expert System process to accurately identify failed components for post-flight maintenance action. This diagnostic technique has the advantage of functioning during flight, and so is especially useful in identifying intermittent faults that are present only during maneuver g loads or high hydraulic flow requirements. A flight system was developed to test the reconfiguration and onboard maintenance diagnostics concepts on a NASA F-15 fighter aircraft.

*McDonnell-Douglas Astronautics Co., St. Louis, Missouri.
**Wright Research Development Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


NASA is conducting a focused technology program, known as the High-Angle-of-Attack Technology Program, to accelerate the development of flight-validated technology applicable to the design of fighters with superior stall and post-stall characteristics and agility. A carefully integrated effort is underway combining wind tunnel testing, analytical predictions, piloted simulation, and full-scale flight research. A modified F-18 aircraft has been extensively instrumented for use as the NASA High-Angle-of-Attack Research Vehicle used for flight verification of new methods and concepts. This program stresses the importance of providing improved aircraft control capabilities both by powered control (such as thrust-vectoring) and by innovative aerodynamic control concepts. The program is accomplishing extensive coordinated ground and flight testing to assess and improve available experimental and analytical methods and to develop new concepts for enhanced aerodynamics and for effective control, guidance, and cockpit displays essential for effective pilot utilization of the increased agility provided.

*NASA Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia.

This paper describes the techniques developed for a flight test program of a human powered aircraft, the application of these techniques, and the results of the flight testing. A system of sensors, signal conditioning, and data recording equipment was developed and installed on the aircraft. Flight test maneuvers that do not exceed the aircraft’s limited capability were developed and refined in an iterative sequence of test flights. The test procedures were adjusted to yield maximum data quality from the point of view of estimating lateral and longitudinal stability derivatives. Structural flexibility and unsteady aerodynamics are modeled in an ad hoc manner capturing the effects observed during the test flights. A model with flexibility extended equations of motion is presented. Results of maneuvers that were flown are compared with the predictions of that model and analyzed. Finally the results of the flight test program are examined critically, especially with respect to future applications, and suggestions are made in order to improve maneuvers for parameter estimation of very flexible aircraft.

* MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Facility (Ames-Dryden), operates a diverse fleet of research aircraft which are heavily instrumented to provide both real time data for in-flight monitoring and recorded data for postflight analysis. Ames-Dryden’s existing automated calibration (AUTOCAL) laboratory is a computerized facility which tests aircraft sensors to certify accuracy for anticipated harsh flight environments. Recently, a major AUTOCAL lab upgrade was initiated; the goal of this modernization is to enhance productivity and improve configuration management for both software and test data. The new system will have multiple testing stations employing distributed processing linked by a local area network to a centralized database. The baseline requirements for the new AUTOCAL lab and the design approach being taken for its mechanization are described.


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An extended Kalman filter (EKF) is used to estimate the parameters of a low-order model from aircraft transient response data. The low-order model is a state space model derived from the short-period approximation of the longitudinal aircraft dynamics. The model corresponds to the pitch rate to stick force transfer function currently used in flying qualities analysis. Because of the model chosen, handling qualities information is also obtained. The parameters are estimated from flight data as well as from a six-degree-of-freedom, nonlinear simulation of the aircraft. These two estimates are then compared and the discrepancies noted. The low-order model is able to satisfactorily match both flight data and simulation data from a high-order computer simulation. The parameters obtained from the EKF analysis of flight data are compared to those obtained using frequency response analysis of the flight data. Time delays and damping ratios are compared and are in agreement. This technique demonstrates the potential to determine, in near real time, the extent of differences between computer models and the actual aircraft. Precise knowledge of these differences can help to determine the flying qualities of a test aircraft and lead to more efficient envelope expansion.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Flight characteristics; Flight simulation; Kalman filters; Nonlinear systems; Parameter identification; State estimation; Transient response

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
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Flight tests conducted with the self-repairing flight control system (SRFCS) installed on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control aircraft are described. The development leading to the current SRFCS configuration is highlighted. Key objectives of the program are outlined: (1) to flight-evaluate a control reconfiguration strategy with three types of control surface failure; (2) to evaluate a cockpit display that will inform the pilot of the maneuvering capacity of the damaged aircraft; and (3) to flight-evaluate the onboard expert system maintenance diagnostics process using representative faults set to occur only under maneuvering conditions. Preliminary flight results addressing the operation of the overall system, as well as the individual technologies, are included.

NASA has utilized piloted simulators for nearly two decades to study high-angle-of-attack flying qualities, agility, and air-to-air combat. These studies have included assessments of an F-16XL aircraft equipped with thrust vectoring, an assessment of the F-18 HARV maneuvering requirements to assist in thrust vectoring control system design, and an agility assessment of the F-18. The F-18 agility assessment was compared with in-flight testing. Open-loop maneuvers such as 180-deg rolls to measure roll rate showed favorable simulator/in-flight comparison. Closed-loop maneuvers such as rolls to 90 deg with precision stops or certain maximum longitudinal pitching maneuvers showed poorer performance due to reduced aggressiveness of pilot inputs in flight to remain within flight envelope limits.

Flight tests conducted with the self-repairing flight control system (SRFCS) installed on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control aircraft are described. The development leading to the current SRFCS configuration is highlighted. Key objectives of the program are outlined: (1) to flight-evaluate a control reconfiguration strategy with three types of control surface failure; (2) to evaluate a cockpit display that will inform the pilot of the maneuvering capacity of the damaged aircraft; and (3) to flight-evaluate the onboard expert system maintenance diagnostics process using representative faults set to occur only under maneuvering conditions. Preliminary flight results addressing the operation of the overall system, as well as the individual technologies, are included.

The optimal pursuit-evasion problem between two aircraft,
including nonlinear point-mass vehicle models and a realistic
weapon envelope, is analyzed. Using a linear combination
of flight time and the square of the vehicle acceleration as
the performance index, a closed-form solution is obtained in
nonlinear feedback form. Due to its modest computational
requirements, this guidance law can be used for onboard real-
time implementation.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California and
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.


NASA Ames has conducted a conceptual design study of a
supersonic short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) flight
research and demonstration aircraft sized according to current
technology levels. The aircraft would provide the capability
demonstrating advanced technologies required for
STOVL and would be instrumented to provide temperature,
pressure, and noise data for power-induced-effects research.
The propulsion concept for the single-engine aircraft studied
operates in mixed flow without thrust augmentation during
power-lift flight. The study aircraft is full scale to facilitate
STOVL propulsion-system component validation and power-
induced aerodynamics research. Performance is sufficient to
permit investigation and validation of vertical landing and
hover, accelerating and decelerating transitions, short takeoff,
reduced-weight vertical takeoff, and supersonic flight.
Mission and maneuver capability is sufficient to demonstrate
the operational utility of this class of aircraft. Aircraft mission
and technology sensitivities were also examined.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The X-29A advanced technology demonstrator has shown
the practicality and advantages of the capability to compute
and display, in real-time, aeroperformance flight results. This
capability includes the calculation of the in-flight measured
drag polar, lift curve, and aircraft specific excess power.
From these elements, many other types of aeroperformance
measurements can be computed and analyzed. The technique
can be used to give an immediate postmaneuver assessment
of data quality and maneuver technique, thus, increasing the
productivity of a flight program. A key element of this new
method was the concurrent development of a real-time, in-
flight, net-thrust algorithm, based on the simplified gross
thrust method. This net-thrust algorithm allows for the direct
calculation of total aircraft drag.

*Computing Devices Co., Ottawa, Canada.

1791. Anderson, Bianca Trujillo; and Meyer, Robert R., Jr.: Effects of Wing Sweep on Boundary-Layer Transition for a Smooth F-14A Wing at Mach Numbers From 0.700 to 0.825. NASA TM-101712, H-1531, NAS 1.15:101712, May 1990, 91N24556, #. PDF DTRS

The results are discussed of the variable sweep transition
flight experiment (VSTFE). The VSTFE was a natural laminar
flow experiment flown on the swing wing F-14A aircraft.
The main objective of the VSTFE was to determine the effects
of wing sweep on boundary layer transition at conditions
representative of transport aircraft. The experiment included
the flight testing of two laminar flow wing gloves. Glove 1 was a cleanup of the existing F-14A wing. Glove 2, not
discussed herein, was designed to provide favorable pressure
distributions for natural laminar flow at Mach number (M)
0.700. The transition locations presented for glove 1 were
determined primarily by using hot film sensors. Boundary
layer rake data was provided as a supplement. Transition
data were obtained for leading edge wing sweeps of 15, 20,
25, 30, and 35 degs, with Mach numbers ranging from 0.700
to 0.825, and altitudes ranging from 10,000 to 35,000 ft.
Results show that a substantial amount of laminar flow was
maintained at all the wing sweeps evaluated. The maximum
transition Reynolds number of 13.7 x 10(exp 6) was obtained
for the condition of 15 deg of sweep, M = 0.800, and an
altitude of 20,000 ft.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; Flow distribution;
Laminar flow; Mach number; Variable sweep wings

1792. Anderson, Bianca Trujillo; and Meyer, Robert R., Jr.: Effects of Wing Sweep on In-Flight Boundary-Layer Transition for a Laminar Flow Wing at Mach Numbers From 0.60 to 0.79. NASA TM-101701, H-1565, NAS 1.15:101701, July 1990, 91N24555, #. PDF DTRS

The variable sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE)
was conducted on an F-14A variable sweep wing fighter to
examine the effect of wing sweep on natural boundary layer
transition. Nearly full span upper surface gloves, extending to
60 percent chord, were attached to the F-14 aircraft’s wings.
The results are presented of the glove 2 flight tests. Glove 2 had an airfoil shape designed for natural laminar flow at
a wing sweep of 20 deg. Sample pressure distributions and
transition locations are presented with the complete results
tabulated in a database. Data were obtained at wing sweeps of
15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 deg, at Mach numbers ranging from
0.60 to 0.79, and at altitudes ranging from 10,000 to
35,000 ft. Results show that a substantial amount of laminar
flow was maintained at all the wing sweeps evaluated. The
maximum transition Reynolds number obtained was 18.6 x
10 (exp 6) at 15 deg of wing sweep, Mach 0.75, and at an altitude of 10,000 ft.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; Flow distribution; Laminar flow; Mach number; Pressure distribution; Variable sweep wings


Integration of propulsion and flight control systems and their optimization offers significant performance improvements. Research programs were conducted which have developed new propulsion and flight control integration concepts, implemented designs on high-performance airplanes, demonstrated these designs in flight, and measured the performance improvements. These programs, first on the YF-12 airplane, and later on the F-15, demonstrated increased thrust, reduced fuel consumption, increased engine life, and improved airplane performance; with improvements in the 5 to 10 percent range achieved with integration and with no changes to hardware. The design, software and hardware developments, and testing requirements were shown to be practical.

Keywords: Control systems design; Electronic control; Engine control; Flight control; Propulsion system performance; Systems integration


Integration of propulsion and flight control systems and their optimization offering significant performance improvement are assessed. In particular, research programs conducted by NASA on flight control systems and propulsion system-flight control interactions on the YF-12 and F-15 aircraft are addressed; these programs have demonstrated increased thrust, reduced fuel consumption, increased engine life, and improved aircraft performance. Focus is placed on altitude control, speed-Mach control, integrated controller design, as well as flight control systems and digital electronic engine control. A highly integrated digital electronic control program is analyzed and compared with a performance seeking control program. It is shown that the flight evaluation and demonstration of these technologies have been a key part in the transition of the concepts to production and operational use on a timely basis.

**1795. Freudinger, Lawrence C.; and Kehoe, Michael W.:** Flutter Clearance of the F-14A Variable-Sweep Transition Flight Experiment Airplane, Phase 2. NASA TM-101717, H-1544, NAS 1.15:101717, July 1990, 90N25135, #. PDF DTRS

An F-14A aircraft was modified for use as the test-bed aircraft for the variable-sweep transition flight experiment (VSTFE) program. The VSTFE program was a laminar flow research program designed to measure the effects of wing sweep on laminar flow. The airplane was modified by adding an upper surface foam and fiberglass glove to the right wing. An existing left wing glove had been added for the previous phase of the program. Ground vibration and flight flutter testing were accomplished to verify the absence of aeroelastic instabilities within a flight envelope of Mach 0.9 or 450 knots, calibrated airspeed, whichever was less. Flight test data indicated satisfactory damping levels and trends for the elastic structural modes of the airplane. Ground vibration test data are presented along with in-flight frequency and damping estimates, time histories and power spectral densities of in-flight sensors, and pressure distribution data.

Keywords: F-14 aircraft; Flight tests; Flutter; Laminar flow; Variable sweep wings; Aeroelasticity; Calibrating; Clearances; Damping

**1796. Sim, Alex G.:** Flight Characteristics of a Modified Schweizer SGS 1-36 Sailplane at Low and Very High Angles of Attack. NASA TP-3022, H-1563, NAS 1.60:3022, July 1990, 91N10079, #. PDF DTRS

A manned flight research program using a modified sailplane was conducted to very high angles of attack at the NASA-Ames. Piloting techniques were established that enabled the pilot to attain and stabilize on an angle of attack in the 30 to 72 deg range. Aerodynamic derivatives were estimated from the flight data for both low and very high angles of attack and are compared to wind tunnel data. In addition, limited performance and trim data are presented.

Keywords: Aerodynamic stability; Angle of attack; Flight characteristics; Gliders; Parameter identification; Pilot performance


A simple dynamic engine model was developed for use in thrust vectoring control law development and real-time aircraft simulation. Engine dynamics were simulated.
using a throttle rate limiter and low-pass filter. This paper includes a description of a method to account for axial thrust loss resulting from thrust vectoring and the development of the simple dynamic engine model and its incorporation into the F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) thrust vectoring simulation. The simple dynamic engine model was evaluated at Mach 0.2, 35,000-ft altitude and at Mach 0.7, 35,000-ft altitude. The simple dynamic engine model is within 3 percent of the steady state response, and within 25 percent of the transient response of the complete nonlinear dynamic engine model.


To develop advanced control systems for optimizing aircraft engine performance, unmeasurable output variables must be estimated. The estimation has to be done in an uncertain environment and be adaptable to varying degrees of modeling errors and other variations in engine behavior over its operational life cycle. This paper presents an approach to estimate unmeasured output variables by explicitly modeling the effects of off-nominal engine behavior as biases on the measurable output variables. A state variable model accommodating off-nominal behavior is developed for the engine, and Kalman filter concepts are used to estimate the required variables. Results are presented from nonlinear engine simulation studies as well as the application of the estimation algorithm on actual flight data. The formulation presented has a wide range of application since it is not restricted or tailored to the particular application described in the paper.

*PRC Systems, Edwards, California.


The parameter estimation algorithm developed for the F100 engine is described. The algorithm is a two-step process. The first step consists of a Kalman filter estimation of five deterioration parameters, which model the off-nominal behavior of the engine during flight. The second step is based on a simplified steady-state model of the ‘compact engine model’ (CEM). In this step the control vector in the CEM is augmented by the deterioration parameters estimated in the first step. The results of an evaluation made using flight data from the F-15 aircraft are presented, indicating that the algorithm can provide reasonable estimates of engine variables for an advanced propulsion-control-law development.


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Keywords: Control systems design; Digital systems; Engine control; F-15 aircraft; Kalman filters; Propulsion system performance; Turbofan engines.


A real-time heating algorithm was derived and installed on the Ames Research Center Dryden Flight Research Facility real-time flight simulator. This program can calculate two- and three-dimensional stagnation point surface heating rates and surface temperatures. The two-dimensional calculations can be made with or without leading-edge sweep. In addition, upper and lower surface heating rates and surface temperatures for flat plates, wedges, and cones can be calculated. Laminar or turbulent heating can be calculated, with boundary-layer transition made a function of free-stream Reynolds number and free-stream Mach number. Real-time heating rates and surface temperatures calculated for a generic hypersonic vehicle are presented and compared with more exact values computed by a batch aeroheating program. As these comparisons show, the heating algorithm used on the flight simulator calculates surface heating rates and temperatures well within the accuracy required to evaluate flight profiles for acceptable heating trajectories.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Algorithms; Flight simulation; Flight simulators; Hypersonic flight; Hypersonic
Flight tests conducted with the self-repairing flight control system (SRFCS) installed on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control aircraft are described. The development leading to the current SRFCS configuration is highlighted. Key objectives of the program are outlined: (1) to flight-evaluate a control reconfiguration strategy with three types of control surface failure; (2) to evaluate a cockpit display that will inform the pilot of the maneuvering capacity of the damage aircraft; and (3) to flight-evaluate the onboard expert system maintenance diagnostics process using representative faults set to occur only under maneuvering conditions. Preliminary flight results addressing the operation of the overall system, as well as the individual technologies, are included.

Keywords: Control configured vehicles; Expert systems; F-15 aircraft; Flight control; Flight tests; Self repairing devices

Pressure distributions measured on the forebody and the leading-edge extensions (LEX’s) of the NASA F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) were reported at 10 and 50 degree angles of attack and at Mach 0.20 to 0.60. The results were correlated with HARV flow visualization and 6-percent scale F-18 wind-tunnel-model test results. The general trend in the data from the forebody was for the maximum suction pressure peaks to first appear at an angle of attack (alpha) of approximately 19 degrees and increase in magnitude with angle of attack. The LEX pressure distribution general trend was the inward progression and increase in magnitude of the maximum suction peaks up to vortex core breakdown and then the decrease and general flattening of the pressure distribution beyond that. No significant effect of Mach number was noted for the forebody results. However, a substantial compressibility effect on the LEX’s resulted in a significant reduction in vortex-induced suction pressure as Mach number increased. The forebody primary and the LEX secondary vortex separation lines, from surface flow visualization, correlated well with the end of pressure recovery, leeward and windward, respectively, of maximum suction pressure peaks. The flight to wind-tunnel correlations were generally good with some exceptions.

Keywords: Angle of attack; F-18 aircraft; Flight tests; Forebodies; Leading edges; Mach number; Pressure distribution; Wind tunnel tests

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Keywords: Angle of attack; F-18 aircraft; Flight tests; Forebodies; Leading edges; Mach number; Pressure distribution; Wind tunnel tests

An electrooptical flight-deflection measurement system (FDMS) is described in terms of its use in structural testing of the composite forward-swept wing of the X-29 aircraft. The wing deflected shapes measured using the present system are compared to the shapes predicted by NASTRAN and other codes as well as data from ground-test load measurements. The electrooptical FDMS is based on a control unit, two


receivers, a target driver, and 12-16 IR LED targets. The FDMS determines the in-flight deflected wing shapes at a variety of altitudes at Mach 0.9, and the results are compared to the analytically predicted wing-twist distributions. The FDMS data describe the predicted increasing streamwise twist with increasing dynamic pressure and suggest that the streamwise twist is more prevalent at the inboard measurement station than at the wing tip. This hook shape is not represented in the predicted data, and suggestions are given for improving the modeling of the X-29 wing.


The design of nonlinear controllers has relied on the use of detailed aerodynamic and engine models that must be associated with the control law in the flight system implementation. Many of these controllers have been applied to vehicle flightpath control problems and have attempted to combine both inner- and outer-loop control functions in a single controller. This paper presents an alternate approach to the design of outer-loop controllers. The approach simplifies the outer-loop design problem by separating the inner-loop (stabilization and control) from the outer-loop (guidance and navigation) functions. Linearizing transformations are applied using measurement feedback to eliminate the need for detailed aircraft models in outer-loop control applications. Also discussed is an implementation of the controller. This implementation was tested on a six-degree-of-freedom F-15 simulation and in flight on an F-15 aircraft. Proof of the concept is provided by flight test data which is presented and discussed.

*Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.


The general process of designing an aircraft for good flying qualities is first discussed. Lessons learned are pointed out, with piloted evaluation emerging as a crucial element. Two sources of rating variability in performing these evaluations are then discussed. First, the finite endpoints of the Cooper-Harper scale do not bias parametric statistical analyses unduly. Second, the wording of the scale does introduce some scatter. Phase lags generated by augmentation systems, as represented by equivalent time delays, often cause poor flying qualities. An analysis is introduced which allows a designer to relate any level of time delay to a probability of loss of aircraft control. This view of time delays should, it is hoped, allow better visibility of the time delays in the design process.

*Douglas Aircraft Co., Long Beach, California.


To determine shuttle orbiter wing loads during ascent, wing load instrumentation was added to Columbia (OV-102). This instrumentation included strain gages and pressure orifices on the wing. The loads derived from wing pressure measurements taken during STS 61-C did not agree with those derived from strain gage measurements or with the loads predicted from the aerodynamic database. Anomalies in the surface immediately surrounding the pressure orifices in the thermal protection system (TPS) tiles were one possible cause of errors in the loads derived from wing pressure measurements. These surface anomalies were caused by a ceramic filler material which was installed around the pressure tubing. The filler material allowed slight movement of the TPS tile and pressure tube as the airframe flexed and bent under aerodynamic loads during ascent and descent. Postflight inspection revealed that this filler material had protruded from or receded beneath the surface, causing the orifice to lose its flushness. Flight tests were conducted at NASA Ames Research Center Dryden Flight Research Facility to determine the effects of any anomaly in surface flushness of the orifice installation on the measured pressures at Mach numbers between 0.6 and 1.4. An F-104 aircraft with a flight test fixture mounted beneath the fuselage was used for these flights. Surface flushness anomalies typical of those on the orbiter after flight (STA 61-C) were tested. Also, cases with excessive protrusion and recession of the filler material were tested. This report shows that the anomalies in STS 61-C orifice installations adversely affected the pressure measurements. But the magnitude of the affect was not great enough to account for the discrepancies with the strain gage measurements and the aerodynamic predictions.

Keywords: Ceramics; In-flight monitoring; Installing; Orifices; Space shuttle orbiters; Tiles; Wing loading; Wings...
allowing AOA to be maintained within 1 deg during stabilized points as well as permitting rapid recoveries from all AOAs. Attention is given to controllability degradation above 40-deg AOA due to asymmetric yawing moments. The use of this aircraft as a fundamental research tool which complements analytical methods is powerfully justified by the obviation of scaling effects.

*USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California. **Grumman Corporation, Point Mugu, California.


Increased powerplant thrust and reduced fuel consumption are obtainable by controlling engine stall margins as a function of flight and engine operating conditions. An evaluation is presently conducted of the performance improvements obtainable by these means in SSTs. It is noted that inlet pressure recovery increases and inlet drag reductions are obtainable via inlet control system integration; the use of propulsion system forces and moments to augment the flight control and aircraft stabilization system can also reduce empennage areas, weights, and drag. Special control modes may be instituted for community noise minimization and emergency procedures.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The verification and validation process is a critical portion of the development of a flight system. Verification, the steps taken to assure the system meets the design specification, has become a reasonably understood and straightforward process. Validation is the method used to ensure that the system design meets the needs of the project. As systems become more integrated and more critical in their functions, the validation process becomes more complex and important. The tests, tools, and techniques which are being used for the validation of the high alpha research vehicle (HARV) turning valve control system (TVCS) are discussed, and their solutions are documented. The emphasis of this paper is on the validation of integrated systems.


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In-flight results from surface and off-surface flow visualizations and from extensive pressure distributions document the vortical flow on the leading edge extensions (LEX) and forebody of the NASA F-18 high alpha research vehicle for low speeds and angles of attack up to 50 deg. Surface flow visualization data, obtained using the emitted fluid technique, were used to define separation lines and laminar separation bubbles. Off-surface flow visualization data, obtained by smoke injection, were used to document both the path of the vortex cores and the location of vortex core breakdown. The location of vortex core breakdown correlated well with the loss of suction pressure on the LEX and with the flow visualization results from ground facilities. Surface flow separation lines on the LEX and forebody corresponded well with the end of pressure recovery under the vortical flows. Correlation of the pressures with wind tunnel results show fair to good correlation.

Keywords: Boundary layer separation; Flight tests; Flow distribution; Flow visualization; Pressure measurement; Vortex breakdown; Vortices

1814. *Alag, Gurbux S.; and Gilyard, Glenn B.: A Proposed Kalman Filter Algorithm for Estimation of Unmeasured Output Variables for an F100 Turbofan Engine. NASA TM-4234, H-1639, NAS 1.15:4234, also presented at the
To develop advanced control systems for optimizing aircraft engine performance, unmeasurable output variables must be estimated. The estimation has to be done in an uncertain environment and be adaptable to varying degrees of modeling errors and other variations in engine behavior over its operational life cycle. This paper represented an approach to estimate unmeasured output variables by explicitly modeling the effects of off-nominal engine behavior as biases on the measurable output variables. A state variable model accommodating off-nominal behavior is developed for the engine, and Kalman filter concepts are used to estimate the required variables. Results are presented from nonlinear engine simulation studies as well as the application of the estimation algorithm on actual flight data. The formulation presented has a wide range of application since it is not restricted or tailored to the particular application described.

Keywords: Algorithms; Control systems design; Kalman filters; State estimation; State vectors; Turbofan engines

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

A simple dynamic engine model was developed at NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility, for use in thrust vectoring control law development and real-time aircraft simulation. The simple dynamic engine model of the F404-GE-400 engine (General Electric, Lynn, Massachusetts) operates within the aircraft simulator. It was developed using tabular data generated from a complete nonlinear dynamic engine model supplied by the manufacturer. Engine dynamics were simulated using a throttle rate limiter and low-pass filter. Included is a description of a method to account for axial thrust loss resulting from thrust vectoring. In addition, the development of the simple dynamic engine model and its incorporation into the F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) thrust vectoring simulation. The simple dynamic engine model was evaluated at Mach 0.2, 35,000 ft altitude and at Mach 0.7, 35,000 ft altitude. The simple dynamic engine model is within 3 percent of the steady state response, and within 25 percent of the transient response of the complete nonlinear dynamic engine model.

Keywords: Aircraft models; F-18 aircraft; Real time operation; Scale models; Thrust distribution; Thrust vector control; Turbofan engines

Automated validation of flight-critical embedded systems is being done at ARC Dryden Flight Research Facility. The automated testing techniques are being used to perform closed-loop validation of man-rated flight control systems. The principal design features and operational experiences of the X-29 forward-swept-wing aircraft and F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) automated test systems are discussed. Operationally applying automated testing techniques has accentuated flight control system features that either help or hinder the application of these techniques. The paper also discusses flight control system features which foster the use of automated testing techniques.

Keywords: Angle of attack; Automatic test equipment; Control systems design; F-18 aircraft; Flight control; Research vehicles; Swept forward wings; X-29 aircraft

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

The principal design features and operational experiences of the X-29 forward-swept-wing aircraft and F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) automated test systems are discussed. It is noted that operational experiences in developing and using these automated testing techniques have highlighted the need for incorporating target system features to improve testability. Improved target system testability can be accomplished with the addition of nonreal-time and real-time features. Online access to target system implementation details, unobtrusive real-time access to internal user-selectable variables, and proper software instrumentation are all desirable features of the target system. Also, test system and target system design issues must be addressed during the early stages of the target system development. Processing speeds of up to 20 million instructions/s and the development of high-bandwidth reflective memory systems have improved the ability to integrate the target system and test system for the application of automated testing techniques. It is concluded that new methods of designing testability into the target systems are required.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.
The aerodynamic energy method is used to synthesize control laws for NASA’s drone for aerodynamic and structural testing-aerodynamic research wing 1 (DAST-ARW1) mathematical model. The performance of these control laws in terms of closed-loop flutter dynamic pressure, control surface activity, and robustness is compared with other control laws that relate to the same model. A control law synthesis technique that makes use of the return difference singular values is developed. It is based on the aerodynamic energy approach and is shown to yield results that are superior to those results given in the literature and are based on optimal control theory. Nyquist plots are presented, together with a short discussion regarding the relative merits of the minimum singular value as a measure of robustness as compared with the more traditional measure involving phase and gain margins.

Keywords: Air data systems; Algorithms; Flight tests; Flushing; Wind tunnel tests; Wind tunnels

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To provide information on the potential for long life service of oxidation resistant carbon-carbon (ORCC) materials in the National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) airframe environment, NASP ascent, entry, and cruise trajectories were analytically flown. Temperature and pressure profiles were generated for 20 vehicle locations. Orbital (ascent and entry) and cruise profile sets from four locations are presented along with humidity exposure and testing sequences that are being used to evaluate ORCC materials. The four profiles show peak temperatures during the ascent leg of an orbital mission of 2800, 2500, 2000, and 1700 F. These profiles bracket conditions where carbon-carbon might be used on the NASP vehicle.

Keywords: National Aerospace Plane; Pressure profiles; Temperature profiles; Carbon-carbon oxidation testing

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The role of vehicle configuration and the flight profile on sonic booms produced by the experimental NASP X-30 is investigated. Sonic boom signatures, overpressure levels, and footprints for X-30 are presented and compared with sonic boom measurements for F-104, SR-71, Concorde, XB-70, and STS Orbiter. Results show that the sonic boom signatures for X-30 fall within those of previous high-speed planes.


The paper discusses the design, analysis, and test of hat stiffened panels subjected to a variety of thermal and mechanical load conditions. The panels were designed using data from structural optimization computer codes and finite element analysis. Test methods included the grid shadow moire method and a single gage force stiffness method. The agreement between the test data and analysis provides confidence in the methods that are currently being used to design structures for hypersonic vehicles. The agreement also indicates that post buckled strength may potentially be used to reduce the vehicle weight.

*McDonnell Douglas Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) development program conducted at NASA-Ames/Dryden will use an F-15 test aircraft for flight demonstration. An account is presently given of the HIDEC Inlet Integration mode’s design concept, control law, and test aircraft implementation, with a view to its performance benefits. The enhancement of performance is a function of the use of Digital Electronic Engine Control corrected engine airflow computations to improve the scheduling of inlet ramp positions in real time; excess thrust can thereby be increased by 13 percent at Mach 2.3 and 40,000 ft. Aircraft supportability is also improved through the obviation of inlet controllers.

Hot structures testing have been going on since the early 1960's beginning with the Mach 6, X-15 airplane. Early hot structures test programs at NASA-Ames-Dryden focused on operational testing required to support the X-15 flight test program, and early hot structures research projects focused on developing lab test techniques to simulate flight thermal profiles. More recent efforts involved numerous large and small hot structures test programs that served to develop test methods and measurement techniques to provide data that promoted the correlation of test data with results from analytical codes. In November 1988 a workshop was sponsored that focused on the correlation of hot structures test data with analysis. Limited material is drawn from the workshop and a more formal documentation is provided of topics that focus on hot structures test techniques used at NASA-Ames-Dryden. Topics covered include the data acquisition and control of testing, the quartz lamp heater systems, current strain and temperature sensors, and hot structures test techniques used to simulate the flight thermal environment in the lab.

Keywords: Aerothermodynamics; Aircraft structures; Flight tests; High temperature tests; Space environment simulation; Thermal environments; Thermal stresses


Hot structures test techniques developed and applied by the Aerostructures Branch of the NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility, are presented. Topics covered include the data acquisition and control of testing, the quartz lamp heater systems, current strain and temperature sensors, and hot structures test techniques used to simulate the flight thermal laboratory.


Integration of propulsion and flight control systems will provide significant performance improvements for supersonic transport airplanes. Increased engine thrust and reduced fuel consumption can be obtained by controlling engine stall margin as a function of flight and engine operating conditions. Improved inlet pressure recovery and decreased inlet drag can result from inlet control system integration. Using propulsion system forces and moments to augment the flight control system and airplane stability can reduce the flight control surface and tail size, weight, and drag. Special control modes may also be desirable for minimizing community noise and for emergency procedures. The overall impact of integrated controls on the takeoff gross weight for a generic high speed civil transport is presented.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Control theory; Flight control; Propulsion system performance; Supersonic transports; Systems integration; F-15; HSCT; Integrated control; Performance seeking control.


The requirement for research aircraft and demonstrator vehicles has been seriously challenged by tight budgets and erroneous impressions that aeronautical technology has matured to a point where the value added by flight research and/or demonstration is not sufficient to offset the costs. While this issue may be debatable with respect to subsonic / transonic speeds, such is not the case for high-speed (supersonic and hypersonic) operation. The aerodynamic performance, weight/payload fractions, and thermodynamic problems are such that small margins of error can be tantamount to the vehicle being unable to reach its design point or so inefficient as to render it useless. This paper addresses some of the critical design considerations and operational constraints which make it mandatory to carry out flight research and develop a demonstrator vehicle in order that the risks be reduced to an acceptable level to assure technology readiness for viable hypersonic flight.


The use of experimental and testbed vehicles and their contributions to fundamental problem solving and overall vehicle characteristics are presented. A chronological description of aircraft from the first supersonic flight in the X-1 through the development of the F-100 series, the X-15, and the B-1 is given. One of the early significant contributions made was the development of the all-moving stabilizer that solved the problem associated with high-speed tuck and the trim requirements of entry into the supersonic regime. Some
wind tunnel/flight drag characteristics studies associated with the B-1 bomber involving flexibility effects and wind tunnel effects are shown. Finally, the evolution of digital systems to enhance maintainability and reliability and to reduce the work load in the cockpit are described.


This paper focuses on the design, analysis, and test of a high temperature structural panel, constructed of Ti-6-4, subjected to a variety of thermal and mechanical load conditions. A follow-on panel, constructed of TMC, is also discussed in less detail. The design constraints and test set-up are discussed, as well as the test methods that were used: the grid shadow moire method and a single gage force stiffness method. The agreement between the test data and analysis for this test program provides confidence in the methods that are currently being used to design structures for hypersonic vehicles. The agreement also suggests that postbuckled strength may potentially be used to reduce the vehicle weight.

*McDonnell Douglas Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri.


Flight research at high angles of attack has posed new problems for airdata measurements. New sensors and techniques for measuring the standard airdata quantities of static pressure, dynamic pressure, angle of attack, and angle of sideslip were subsequently developed. The ongoing airdata research supporting NASA’s F-18 high alpha research program is updated. Included are the techniques used and the preliminary results. The F-18 aircraft was flown with three research airdata systems: a standard airdata probe on the right wingtip, a self-aligning airdata probe on the left wingtip, and a flush airdata system on the nose cone. The primary research goal was to obtain steady-state calibrations for each airdata system up to an angle of attack of 50 deg. This goal was accomplished and preliminary accuracies of the three airdata systems were assessed and are presented. An effort to improve the fidelity of the airdata measurements during dynamic maneuvering is also discussed. This involved enhancement of the aerodynamic data with data obtained from linear accelerometers, rate gyros, and attitude gyros. Preliminary results of this technique are presented.

Keywords: Accelerometers; Aerodynamics; Angle of attack; Attitude gyros; Calibrating; Dynamic pressure; F-18 aircraft; Sideslip; Static pressure


The experimental X-29A forward swept-wing aircraft has many unique and critical systems that require constant monitoring during ground or flight operation. One such system is the power takeoff shaft, which is the mechanical link between the engine and the aircraft-mounted accessory drive. The X-29A power takeoff shaft operates in a range between 0 and 16,810 rpm, is longer than most jet engine power takeoff shafts, and is made of graphite epoxy material. Since the X-29A aircraft operates on a single engine, failure of the shaft during flight could lead to loss of the aircraft. The monitoring techniques and test methods used during power takeoff shaft ground and flight operations are discussed. Test data are presented in two case studies where monitoring and testing of the shaft dynamics proved instrumental in discovering and isolating X-29A power takeoff shaft problems. The first study concerns the installation of an unbalanced shaft. The effect of the unbalance on the shaft vibration data and the procedure used to correct the problem are discussed. The second study deals with the shaft exceeding the established vibration limits during flight. This case study found that the vibration of connected rotating machinery unbalances contributed to the excessive vibration level of the shaft. The procedures used to identify the contributions of other rotating machinery unbalances to the power takeoff shaft unbalance are discussed.

Keywords: Engine failure; Flight operations; Graphite-epoxy composites; Ground operational support system; High speed; Rotating shafts; Takeoff; Vibration; X-29 aircraft


Visual aids are valuable assets to engineers for design, demonstration, and evaluation. Discussed here are a variety of advanced three-dimensional graphic techniques used to enhance the displays of test aircraft dynamics. The new software’s capabilities are examined and possible future uses are considered.

Keywords: Computer graphics; Computerized simulation; Display devices; Flight tests; Graphs (charts); Visual aids; X-29 aircraft

Increasingly, aircraft system designs require that aerodynamic parameters feedbacks. Such high frequency pressure measurements’ accuracy is compromised by pressure distortion due to frictional attenuation and pneumatic resonance within the sensing system. A pneumatic distortion model is here formulated and reduced to a low-order state-variable model which retains most of the full model’s dynamic characteristics. This reduced-order model is coupled with standard results from minimum variance estimation theory to develop an algorithm to compensate for pneumatic-distortion effects.


Reentry heat transfer analysis was performed on the space shuttle orbiter using the finite element method. Several different finite element models having different element densities were used in the analysis, and the solution accuracies and minimum element density requirements were examined in great detail. The effects of internal radiation and internal convection on orbiter structural temperatures were found to be considerable and cannot be neglected. A method of optimization of transient thermal analysis computation efficiencies was discussed, and an optimum element density level was established for analyzing the space shuttle-type structures. The studies formed the foundation for the thermal analysis of future hypersonic flight vehicles.

1991 Technical Publications


The details of an integrated general-purpose finite element structural analysis computer program which is also capable of solving complex multidisciplinary problems is presented. Thus, the SOLIDS module of the program possesses an extensive finite element library suitable for modeling most practical problems and is capable of solving statics, vibration, buckling, and dynamic response problems of complex structures, including spinning ones. The aerodynamic module, AERO, enables computation of unsteady aerodynamic forces for both subsonic and supersonic flow for subsequent flutter and divergence analysis of the structure. The associated aeroviscoelastic analysis module, ASE, effects aerostructural-control stability analysis yielding frequency responses as well as damping characteristics of the structure. The program is written in standard FORTRAN to run on a wide variety of computers. Extensive graphics, preprocessings, and postprocessing routines are also available pertaining to a number of terminals.

Keywords: Finite elements; Structural analysis; Aeroelasticity; Aeroviscoelasticity; Graphics


A technical symposium and pilot’s panel discussion were held on June 8, 1989, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first free flight of the X-15 rocket-powered research aircraft. The symposium featured technical presentations by former key government and industry participants in the advocacy, design, manufacturing, and flight research program activities. The X-15’s technical contributions to the X-30 are cited. The panel discussion participants included seven of the eight surviving research pilots who flew the X-15 experimental aircraft to world altitude and speed records which still stand. Pilot’s remarks include descriptions of their most memorable X-15 flight experience. The report also includes a historical perspective of the X-15.


The historical events that led to the development of the X-15 research aircraft are presented. Some of the topics presented include: (1) manned airplane performance regions; (2) X-15 flight problems; (3) design characteristics for conceptual aircraft; (4) analysis of X-15 accident potential; (5) X-15 performance requirements; and (6) milestones in the development of the X-15.

Historical events in the development of the X-15 hardware design are presented. Some of the topics covered include: (1) drivers that led to the development of the X-15; (2) X-15 space research objectives; (3) original performance targets; (4) the X-15 typical mission; (5) X-15 dimensions and weight; (5) the propulsion system; (6) X-15 development milestones; (7) engineering and manufacturing challenges; (8) the X-15 structure; (9) ballistic flight control; (10) landing gear; (11) nose gear; and (12) an X-15 program recap.


The linkages between the Apollo 11 voyage to Tranquility Base and the 199 flights of the X-15 aircraft are discussed. Accomplishments of the X-15 program and a history of aircraft developments that led up to the X-15 are presented.


The X-15 established such widespread confidence in aerodynamic, thermal, and structural areas that new designs for operation aircraft for any speed regime could be expected to be successfully achieved if good use was made of all pertinent test facilities and analytical methods. This philosophy guided design of the space shuttle and is the real legacy of the X-15. The accomplishments and contributions attributable to the research and development work on the X-15 that influenced the formative years of the Space Shuttle Program are presented.


Some of the less publicized flight test results from the X-15 program that might relate to sustained high-speed flight in the atmosphere are presented. The topics covered include: (1) energy management and range considerations; (2) the advantages of pilot-in-the-loop and redundant-emergency systems; (3) a summary of some of the aerodynamic heating problems that were encountered; and (4) some comments on the advantages of an early flight test program and gradual expansion of the flight envelope.

*Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California.


The X-30 is envisioned to be a machine that is capable of exploring technology that is critical to single stage to orbit and to hypersonic cruise. The X-30 is comparable to a laboratory that will be able to investigate such things as the chemistry of supersonic combustion and the control of at of an of an integrated engine airframe, where the forebody of the airplane is the first compression surface for the propulsion. The X-30 is very ambitious; it follows a path that is pretty well established by such programs as the X-15. This document is limited to a discussion of what is anticipated in the flight tests of the X-30 as opposed to describing the entire vehicle.


A summary of the surface and off-surface flow visualization results obtained in flight on the F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) is presented, highlighting the extensive 3-D vortical flow on the aircraft at angles of attack up to 50 degs. The emitted fluid technique, as well as tufts and flow cones, were used to document the surface flow. A smoke generator system injected smoke into the vortex cores generated by the forebody and leading edge extensions (LEXs). Documentation was provided by onboard still and video, by air-to-air, and by postflight photography. The surface flow visualization techniques revealed laminar separation bubbles near the forebody apex, lines of separation on the forebody and LEX, and regions of attached and separated flow on the wings and fins. The off-surface flow visualization techniques showed the path of the vortex cores on the forebody and LEX as well as the LEX vortex core breakdown location. An interaction between the forebody and LEX vortices was noted. The flow over the surfaces of the vertical tail was categorized into regions of attached, unsteady, or separated flow using flow tufts.

Keywords: F-18 aircraft; Flow distribution; Flow visualization; Three Dimensional flow; Unsteady flow.


Finite element thermal stress analysis was performed on a rectangular titanium honeycomb-core sandwich panel which is subjected to thermal load with a temperature gradient across its depth. The distributions of normal stresses in the face sheets and the face-sheet/sandwich-core interfacial shear stresses are presented. The thermal buckling of the heated
A technique has been developed to improve the fidelity of airdata measurements during dynamic maneuvering. This technique is particularly useful for airdata measured during flight at high angular rates and high angles of attack. To support this research, flight tests using the F-18 high alpha research vehicle were conducted at the NASA Ames Research Center Dryden Flight Research Facility. A Kalman filter was used to combine information from research airdata, linear accelerometers, angular rate gyros, and attitude gyros to determine better estimates of airdata quantities such as angle of attack, angle of sideslip, airspeed, and altitude. This paper briefly develops the state and observation equations used by the Kalman filter and shows how the state and measurement covariance matrices were determined from flight data.


The accuracy of a prototype nonintrusive airdata system derived for high-angle-of-attack measurements was demonstrated for quasi-steady maneuvers as great as 55 degrees during phase one of the F-18 high alpha research vehicle flight test program. This system consists of a matrix of nine pressure ports arranged in annular rings on the aircraft nose, and estimates the complete airdata set utilizing flow modeling and nonlinear regression. Particular attention is paid to the effects of acoustical distortions within the individual pressure sensors of the Hi-FADS pressure matrix. A dynamic model to quantify these effects which describes acoustical distortion is developed and solved in closed form for frequency response.


A system to calibrate airdata probes at angles of attack between 0 and 90 deg was developed and tested at the NASA Ames Dryden Flight Research Facility. This system used a test fixture mounted to the roof of a ground vehicle and included an onboard instrumentation and data acquisition system for measuring pressures and flow angles. The data could be easily transferred to the facility mainframe computer for further analysis. The system was designed to provide convenient and inexpensive airdata probe calibrations for projects which require airdata at high angles of attack, such as the F-18 High Alpha Research Program. This type of probe was tested to 90 deg angle of attack in a wind tunnel and using the ground vehicle system. The results of both tests are in close agreement. An airdata probe with a swiveling pilot-static tube was also calibrated with the ground vehicle system. This paper presents the results of these tests and gives a detailed description of the test system.


A technical symposium and pilot’s panel discussion were held on June 8, 1989, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first free flight of the X-15 rocket-powered research aircraft. The symposium featured technical presentations by former key government and industry participants in the advocacy, design, manufacturing, and flight research program activities. The X-15’s technical contributions to the X-30 are cited. The panel discussion participants included seven of the eight surviving research pilots who flew the X-15 experimental aircraft to world altitude and speed records which still stand. Pilot’s remarks include descriptions of their most memorable X-15 flight experience. The report also includes a historical perspective of the X-15.
while maximizing excess thrust during aircraft accelerations, climbs, and dashes, and simultaneously extending engine service life through reduction of fan-driving turbine inlet temperature upon engagement of the extended-life mode. The engine models incorporated by the PSC are continually upgraded, using a Kalman filter to detect anomalous operations. The PSC algorithm will be flight-demonstrated by an F-15 at NASA-Dryden.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


The accuracy of a nonintrusive high angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing (Hi-FADS) system was verified for quasi-steady flight conditions up to 55 deg angle of attack during the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) Program. The system is a matrix of nine pressure ports arranged in annular rings on the aircraft nose. The complete airdata set is estimated using nonlinear regression. Satisfactory frequency response was verified to the system Nyquist frequency (12.5 Hz). The effects of acoustical distortions within the individual pressure sensors of the nonintrusive pressure matrix on overall system performance are addressed. To quantify these effects, a frequency-response model describing the dynamics of acoustical distortion is developed and simple design criteria are derived. The model adjusts measured Hi-FADS pressure data for the acoustical distortion and quantifies the effects of internal sensor geometries on system performance. Analysis results indicate that sensor frequency response characteristics vary greatly with altitude, thus it is difficult to select satisfactory sensor geometry for all altitudes. The solution used presample filtering to eliminate resonance effects, and short pneumatic tubing sections to reduce lag effects. Without presample signal conditioning the system designer must use the pneumatic transmission line to attenuate the resonances and accept the resulting altitude variability.

Keywords: Acoustics; Angle of attack; Design analysis; Flight conditions; Pressure effects.


A technique was developed to improve the fidelity of airdata measurements during dynamic maneuvering. This technique is particularly useful for airdata measured during flight at high angular rates and high angles of attack. To support this research, flight tests using the F-18 high alpha research vehicle (HARV) were conducted at NASA Ames Research Center, Dryden Flight Research Facility. A Kalman filter was used to combine information from research airdata, linear accelerometers, angular rate gyros, and attitude gyros to determine better estimates of airdata quantities such as angle of attack, angle of sideslip, airspeed, and altitude. The state and observation equations used by the Kalman filter are briefly developed and it is shown how the state and measurement covariance matrices were determined from flight data. Flight data are used to show the results of the technique and these results are compared to an independent measurement source. This technique is applicable to both postflight and real-time processing of data.

Keywords: Air data systems; Aircraft maneuvers; Angle of attack; F-18 aircraft; Flight tests.


An overview of the X-29 Forward Swept Wing Technology Demonstrator traces its development and test path during past years. Brief descriptions of the aircraft and its flight control system provide insight for evaluating this unique vehicle. The baseline flight control system provided a starting point for safe concept evaluation and envelope expansion for the aircraft. Subsequent up-dates resulted in performance levels favorably comparable to current fighter aircraft. Efforts are described for the current expansion of the X-29’s capabilities into the high angle-of-attack (AOA) regime of flight. Control law changes have permitted all axis maneuvering to 40 deg AOA with pitch excursions to 66 deg, thereby exploiting the full potential of the X-29 forward swept wing configuration.

*Wright Research Development Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


Predicting the buckling characteristics of a test panel is necessary to ensure panel integrity developed on a hat-stiffened, monolithic titanium buckling panel. Thed was method is an adaptation of the original force/stiffness method which requires back-to-back gages. The single-gage method
was developed because the test panel did not have back-to-back gages. The method was used to predict buckling loads and temperatures under various heating and loading conditions. The results correlated well with a finite element buckling analysis. The single-gage force/stiffness method was a valid real-time and post-test buckling prediction technique.

Keywords: Buckling; Hypersonic vehicles; Panels; Prediction analysis techniques; Stiffness.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


This Note extends some of the results of Etkin and Porter to propulsion system characteristics and flight conditions more typical of a NASP vehicle. Linear analyses using mass and aerodynamic data from Etkin were used. Results are presented in terms of phugoid damping and height-mode stability. Some basic feedback control strategies are also considered.


An introduction to digital measurement processes on aircraft is provided. Flight test instrumentation systems are rapidly evolving from analog-intensive to digital intensive systems, including the use of onboard digital computers. The topics include measurements that are digital in origin, as well as sampling, encoding, transmitting, and storing data. Particular emphasis is placed on modern avionic data bus architectures and what to be aware of when extracting data from them. Examples of data extraction techniques are given. Tradeoffs between digital logic families, trends in digital development, and design testing techniques are discussed. An introduction to digital filtering is also covered.

Keywords: Airborne/spaceborne computers; Data sampling; Data storage; Data transmission; Digital computers.


The structural integrity of proposed high speed aircraft can be seriously affected by the extremely high surface temperatures and large temperature gradients throughout the vehicle’s structure. Variations in the structure’s elastic characteristics as a result of thermal effects can be observed by changes in vibration frequency, damping, and mode shape. Analysis codes that predict these changes must be correlated and verified with experimental data. The experimental modal test techniques and procedures used to conduct uniform, nonuniform, and transient thermoelastic vibration tests are presented. Experimental setup and elevated temperature instrumentation considerations are also discussed. Modal data for a 12 by 50 inch aluminum plate heated to a temperature of 475 F are presented. These data show the effect of heat on the plate’s modal characteristics. The results indicated that frequency decreased, damping increased, and mode shape remained unchanged as the temperature of the plate was increased.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Aluminum; Modal response; Structural vibration; Temperature effects.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The structural integrity of proposed high speed aircraft can be seriously affected by the extremely high surface temperatures and large temperature gradients throughout the vehicle’s structure. Variations in the structure’s elastic characteristics as a result of thermal effects can be observed by changes in vibration frequency, damping, and mode shape. Analysis codes that predict these changes must be correlated and verified with experimental data. The experimental modal test techniques and procedures used to conduct uniform, nonuniform, and transient thermoelastic vibration tests are presented. Experimental setup and elevated temperature instrumentation considerations are also discussed. Modal data for a 12 by 50 inch aluminum plate heated to a temperature of 475 F are presented. These data show the effect of heat on the plate’s modal characteristics. The results indicated that frequency decreased, damping increased, and mode shape remained unchanged as the temperature of the plate was increased.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Research aircraft have become increasingly dependent on advanced electronic control systems to accomplish program
goals. These aircraft are integrating multiple disciplines to improve performance and satisfy research objectives. This integration is being accomplished through electronic control systems. Systems design methods and information management have become essential to program success. The primary objective of the system design/information tool for aircraft flight control is to help transfer flight control system design knowledge to the flight test community. By providing all of the design information and covering multiple disciplines in a structured, graphical manner, flight control systems can more easily be understood by the test engineers. This will provide the engineers with the information needed to thoroughly ground test the system and thereby reduce the likelihood of serious design errors surfacing in flight. The secondary objective is to apply structured design techniques to all of the design domains. By using the techniques in the top level system design down through the detailed hardware and software designs, it is hoped that fewer design anomalies will result. The flight test experiences are reviewed of three highly complex, integrated aircraft programs: the X-29 forward swept wing; the advanced fighter technology integration (AFTI) F-16; and the highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) program. Significant operating technologies, and the design errors which cause them, is examined to help identify what functions a system design/information tool should provide to assist designers in avoiding errors.

*Draper Laboratory, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.


High-alpha flight creates unique aerodynamic phenomena which increase the level of structural mode excitation; in conjunction with high-gain digital control systems, this structural response may result in an aeroservoelastic interaction. One such interaction has been observed during high-alpha flight testing of the X-29A. Data are presented which demonstrate the enhanced modal power in this aircraft’s structural accelerometers, the feedback sensors, and the command signals as a function of alpha value. The structural interaction is traced from the aerodynamic buffet to the flight-control surfaces.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Angle of attack; Buffeting; Fighter aircraft; Flight control.


The F-18 high alpha research vehicle was recently modified by adding a thrust vectoring control system. A key element in the modification was the development of a research flight control system integrated with the basic F-18 flight control system. Discussed here are design requirements, system development, and research utility of the resulting configuration as an embedded system for flight research in the high angle of attack regime. Particular emphasis is given to control system modifications and control law features required for high angle of attack flight. Simulation results are used to illustrate some of the thrust vectoring control system.
capabilities and predicted maneuvering improvements.

Keywords: Control theory; F-18 aircraft; Systems engineering; Thrust vector control.

McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

F-18 HARV With Thrust Vectoring, Three-View Drawing


The structural integrity of proposed high speed aircraft can be seriously affected by the extremely high surface temperatures and large temperature gradients throughout the vehicle’s structure. Variations in the structure’s elastic characteristics as a result of thermal effects can be seen by changes in vibration characteristics. Analysis codes that predict these changes must be correlated and verified with experimental data. Analytical and experimental modal test results are given from uniform, nonuniform, and transient thermoelastic vibration tests of a 12 x 50 x 0.19 aluminum plate. The data show the effect of heat on the modal characteristics of the plate. The results showed that frequencies decreased, damping increased, and mode shapes remained unchanged as the temperature of the plate increased. Analytical predictions provided good correlation with experimental results.

Keywords: Aluminum; Hypersonic vehicles; Structural failure; Temperature effects; Thermoelasticity.

PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A ground-based investigation was conducted on an operational system of multiaxis thrust vectoring using postexit vanes around an axisymmetric nozzle. This thrust vectoring system will be tested on the NASA F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) aircraft. The system provides thrust vectoring capability in both pitch and yaw. Ground based data were gathered from two separate tests at NASA Langley Research Center. The first was a static test in the 16-foot Transonic Tunnel Cold-Jet Facility with a 14.25 percent scale model of the axisymmetric nozzle and the postexit vanes. The second test was conducted in the 30 by 60 foot wind tunnel with a 16 percent F/A-18 complete configuration model. Data from the two sets are being used to develop models of jet plume deflection and thrust loss as a function of vane deflection. In addition, an aerodynamic interaction model based on plume deflection angles will be developed. Results from the scale model nozzle test showed that increased vane deflection caused exhaust plume turning. Aerodynamic interaction effects consisted primarily of favorable interaction of moments and unfavorable interaction of forces caused by the vectored jet plume.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aerodynamics; Deflection; Exhaust gases; Exhaust nozzles.

NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.
Modal filtering is a spatial filtering technique which uses a weighted sum of a number of response measurements to extract the modal coordinates of the system from the physical response coordinates. No moving average or autoregressive calculations are required to implement the modal filter thus the modal coordinates may be calculated in real time. For practical implementation of the modal filter, the number and location of response locations must be chosen carefully. A modal filter is implemented on a five meter model space truss as a case study. The modal coordinates are extracted in real time using Hewlett Packard 3565 data acquisition and processing hardware. The effect of the number and location of response measurements on the performance of the modal filter is investigated. Applications of the modal filter to modal control and fast parameter identification are also discussed.

* University of Cincinnati, Ohio.
**RNUR, Rueil-Malmaison, France.


Surface and off-surface flow visualization techniques were used to visualize the 3-D separated flows on the NASA F-18 high alpha research vehicle at high angles of attack. Results near the alpha = 25 to 26 deg and alpha = 45 to 49 deg are presented. Both the forebody and leading edge extension (LEX) vortex cores and breakdown locations were visualized using smoke. Forebody and LEX vortex separation lines on the surface were defined using an emitted fluid technique. A laminar separation bubble was also detected on the nose cone using the emitted fluid technique and was similar to that observed in the wind tunnel test, but not as extensive. Regions of attached, separated, and vortical flow were noted on the wing and the leading edge flap using tufts and flow cones, and compared well with limited wind tunnel results (includes color photos).

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; Flow visualization; Separated flow; Three dimensional flow; Vortex breakdown.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


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The details and results are presented of the general-purpose finite element STRUctural Analysis RoutineS (STARS) to perform a complete linear aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic analysis. The earlier version of the STARS computer program enabled effective finite element modeling as well as static, vibration, buckling, and dynamic response of damped and undamped systems, including those with pre-stressed and spinning structures. Additions to the STARS program include aeroelastic modeling for flutter and divergence solutions, and hybrid control system augmentation for aeroservoelastic analysis. Numerical results of the X-29A aircraft pertaining to vibration, flutter-divergence, and open- and closed-loop aeroservoelastic controls analysis are compared to ground vibration, wind-tunnel, and flight-test results. The open- and closed-loop aeroservoelastic control analyses are based on a hybrid formulation representing the interaction of structural, aerodynamic, and flight-control dynamics.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aeroservoelasticity; Computer programs; Dynamic response; Dynamic structural analysis.


The combined-load (compression and shear) buckling equations were established for orthotropic sandwich panels by using the Rayleigh-Ritz method to minimize the panel total potential energy. The resulting combined-load buckling equations were used to generate buckling interaction curves for super-plastically-formed/diffusion-bonded titanium truss-core sandwich panels and titanium honeycomb-core sandwich panels having the same specific weight. The relative combined-load buckling strengths of these two types of sandwich panels are compared with consideration of their sandwich orientations. For square and nearly square panels of both types, the combined load always induces symmetric buckling. As the panel aspect ratios increase, antisymmetric buckling will show up with the loading is shear-dominated combined loading. The square panel (either type) has the highest combined buckling strength, but the combined load buckling strength drops sharply as the panel aspect ratio increases. For square panels, the truss-core sandwich panel has higher compression-dominated combined load buckling strength. However, for shear dominated loading, the square honeycomb-core sandwich panel has higher shear-dominated combined load buckling strength.

Keywords: Aircraft structures; Aspect ratio; Buckling; Combined stress; Compressive strength.

Deterioration of engine components may cause off-normal engine operation. The result is an unnecessary loss of performance, because the fixed schedules are designed to accommodate a wide range of engine health. These fixed control schedules may not be optimal for a deteriorated engine. This problem may be solved by including a measure of deterioration in determining the control variables. These engine deterioration parameters usually cannot be measured directly but can be estimated. A Kalman filter design is presented for estimating two performance parameters that account for engine deterioration: high and low pressure turbine delta efficiencies. The delta efficiency parameters model variations of the high and low pressure turbine efficiencies from nominal values. The filter has a design condition of Mach 0.90, 30,000 ft altitude, and 47 deg power level angle (PLA). It was evaluated using a nonlinear simulation of the F100 engine model derivative (EMD) engine, at the design Mach number and altitude over a PLA range of 43 to 55 deg. It was found that known high pressure turbine delta efficiencies of –2.5 percent and low pressure turbine delta efficiencies of –1.0 percent can be estimated with an accuracy of + or –0.25 percent efficiency with a Kalman filter. If both the high and low pressure turbine are deteriorated, the delta efficiencies of –2.5 percent to both turbines can be estimated with the same accuracy.

Keywords: Control simulation; Dynamic models; Engine control; Kalman filters; Performance prediction.


During flight testing of the AFTI/F111 aircraft, horizontal tail buffet was observed. Flutter analysis ruled out any aeroelastic instability, so a water-tunnel flow visualization study was conducted to investigate possible flow disturbances on the horizontal tail which might cause buffet. For this study, a 1/48-scale model was used. Four different wing cambers and one horizontal tail setting were tested between 0 and 20 deg angle of attack. These wing cambers corresponded to the following leading training edge deflections: 0/2, 10/10, 10/2, and 0/10. Flow visualization results in the form of still photographs are presented for each of the four wing cambers between 8 and 12 deg angle of attack. In general, the horizontal tail experiences flow disturbances which become more pronounced with angle of attack or wing trailing-edge deflection.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Buffeting; Flight tests; Flow visualization; Flutter analysis.


A cryogenic test article, the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank, was designed to qualitatively simulate the thermal response of transatmospheric vehicle fuel tanks exposed to the environment of hypersonic flight. One-dimensional and two-dimensional finite-difference thermal models were developed to simulate the thermal response and assist in the design of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank. The one-dimensional thermal analysis determined the required insulation thickness to meet the thermal design criteria and located the purge jacket to eliminate the liquefaction of air. The two-dimensional thermal analysis predicted the temperature gradients developed within the pressure-vessel wall, estimated the cryogen boiloff, and showed the effects the ullage condition has on pressure-vessel temperatures. The degree of ullage mixing, location of the applied high-temperature profile, and the purge gas influence on insulation thermal conductivity had significant effects on the thermal behavior of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank. In addition to analysis results, a description of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank and the role it will play in future thermal structures and transatmospheric vehicle research at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility is presented.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.*

**Hanna Technology Resources, Boulder, Colorado.*
The use of throttle control laws to provide adequate flying qualities for flightpath control in the event of a total loss of conventional flight control surface use was evaluated. The results are based on a simulation evaluation by transport research pilots of a B-720 transport with visual display. Throttle augmentation control laws can provide flightpath control capable of landing a transport-type aircraft with up to moderate levels of turbulence. The throttle augmentation mode dramatically improves the pilots’ ability to control flightpath for the approach and landing flight condition using only throttle modulation. For light turbulence, the average Cooper-Harper pilot rating improved from unacceptable to acceptable (a pilot rating improvement of 4.5) in going from manual to augmented control. The low frequency response characteristics of the engines require a considerably different piloting technique. The various techniques used by the pilots resulted in considerable scatter in the data. Many pilots readily adapted to a good piloting technique while some has difficulty. The research demonstrates a new and viable approach to providing an independent means of redundancy or increasing the redundancy capability of transport aircraft flightpath control.


A performance-seeking control (PSC) algorithm has undergone initial flight test evaluation in subsonic operation of a PW 1128-engine F-15; this algorithm is designed to optimize the quasi-steady performance of an engine for three primary modes: (1) minimum fuel consumption, (2) minimum fan-turbine inlet temperature (FTIT), and (3) maximum thrust. The flight test results have verified a thrust-specific fuel consumption reduction of 1 percent, up to 100 R decreases in FTIT, and increases of as much as 12 percent in maximum thrust. PSC technology promises to be of value in next-generation tactical and transport aircraft.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.
**Pratt and Whitney Group, West Palm Beach, Florida.


A three-dimensional Navier-Stokes code is used to computationally simulate the flow about a modified F-16XL. Transition mechanisms (e.g. attachment line location and crossflow instability) near the swept wing leading edge are analyzed in detail. Flow visualization is used to study the influence of angle-of-attack on the aforementioned transition mechanisms. Validation of the code is accomplished by comparison of numerically generated surface pressures with that obtained by in-flight experiments.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


A preliminary investigation was conducted regarding the use of throttles for emergency flight control of a multiengine aircraft. Several airplanes including a light twin-engine piston-powered airplane, jet transports, and a high performance fighter were studied during flight and piloted simulations. Simulation studies used the B-720, B-727, MD-11, and F-15 aircraft. Flight studies used the Lear 24, Piper PA-30, and F-15 airplanes. Based on simulator and flight results, all the airplanes exhibited some control capability with throttles. With piloted simulators, landings using manual throttles-only control were extremely difficult. An augmented control system was developed that converts conventional pilot stick inputs into appropriate throttle commands. With the augmented system, the B-720 and F-15 simulations were evaluated and could be landed successfully. Flight and simulation data were compared for the F-15 airplane.
A two-dimensional finite-difference thermal model was developed for the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank (GRCT). The model was used to predict the effects of heating profile, fill level, and cryogen type prior to experimental testing. These numerical predictions will assist in defining test scenarios, sensor locations, and venting requirements for the GRCT experimental tests. Bollof rates, tank-wall and fluid temperatures, and wall heat fluxes were determined for 20 computational test cases. The test cases spanned three discrete fill levels and three heating profiles for hydrogen and nitrogen. Large temperature gradients developed in the vapor region of the tank when the vapor was allowed to stratify, but vapor mixing greatly reduced the top-to-bottom temperature gradient. The thermal response of the GRCT was qualitatively similar to anticipated transatmospheric vehicle (TAV) behavior. Nitrogen simulations deviated from hydrogen simulations in several key areas, particularly where the vapor heat capacity contributed to the system thermal response. The internal radiation and wall-to-vapor heat transfer effects were small compared with the effect of vapor mixing.

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**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

Buckling analysis was performed on a hat-stiffened panel subjected to uniaxial compression. Both local buckling and global buckling were analyzed. It was found that the global buckling load was several times higher than the buckling load. The predicted local buckling loads compared favorably with both experimental data and finite-element analysis.

Keywords: Buckling; Compressibility; Finite element method; Panels; Stiffening; Structural analysis; Loads (forces); Titanium

As part of a US/UK cooperative aeronautical research program, a joint activity between the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility and the Royal Aerospace Establishment on knowledge-based systems was established. This joint activity is concerned with tools and techniques for the implementation and validation of real-time knowledge-based systems. The proposed next stage of this research is described, in which some of the problems of implementing and validating a knowledge-based autopilot for a generic high-performance
aircraft are investigated.

Keywords: Automatic pilots; Expert systems; Knowledge bases (artificial intelligence); Project planning; Real-time operation; Research projects

**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The topics are presented in view graph form and include the following: (1) a Dryden overview; (2) the Integrated Tests Facility (ITF); (3) the ITF system architecture; (4) the computer aided system testing; and (5) the ITF system video.

*Computer Sciences Corporation, Moffett Field, California.


An overview is given of the flight planning activities to date in the current National Aero-Space Plane (nASP) program. The government flight-envelope expansion concept and other design flight operational assessments are discussed. The NASA Dryden nASP real-time simulator configuration is examined and hypersonic flight planning simulation propulsion modeling requirements are described. The major propulsion modeling techniques developed by the Edwards flight test team are outlined, and the application value of techniques for developmental hypersonic vehicles are discussed.


This paper presents an overview of the unique capabilities and historical significance of the Remotely Augmented Vehicle (RAV) Laboratory at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. The report reviews the role of the RAV Laboratory in enhancing flight test programs and efficient testing of new aircraft control laws. The history of the RAV Laboratory is discussed with a sample of its application using the X-29 aircraft. The RAV Laboratory allows for closed- or open-loop augmentation of the research aircraft while in flight using ground-based, high performance real-time computers. Telemetry systems transfer sensor and control data between the ground and the aircraft. The RAV capability provides for enhanced computational power, improved flight data quality, and alternate methods for the testing of control system concepts. The Laboratory is easily reconfigured to reflect changes within a flight program and can be adapted to new flight programs.


An account of the in-flight simulation at the Dryden Flight Research Facility is presented and various aircraft and tests performed are discussed. In-flight simulation has been utilized for a variety of flying quality investigations including low-lift-to-drag ratio approach characteristics for vehicles like the X-15, the lifting bodies, and the Space Shuttle. Consideration is given to the effects of time delays on controllability of aircraft with digital flight-control systems, flight control systems for such aircraft as the X-29, and the causes and cures of pilot-induced oscillation in diverse aircraft.


Combined compressive and shear buckling analysis was conducted on flat rectangular sandwich panels with the consideration of transverse shear effects of the core. The sandwich panel is fabricated with titanium honeycomb core and laminated metal matrix composite face sheets. The results show that the square panel has the highest combined load buckling strength, and that the buckling strength decreases sharply with the increases of both temperature and panel aspect ratio. The effect of layup (fiber orientation) on the buckling strength of the panels is studied in detail. The metal matrix composite sandwich panel was much more
efficient than the sandwich panel with nonreinforced face sheets and had the same specific weight.

Keywords: Buckling; Honeycomb cores; Load tests; Metal matrix composites; Sandwich structures; Thermal stresses; Aspect ratio; Compression loads; Shear strength; Temperature effects; Thermal environments


The design of nonlinear controllers has relied on the use of detailed aerodynamic and engine models that must be associated with the control law in the flight system implementation. Many of these controllers were applied to vehicle flight path control problems and have attempted to combine both inner- and outer-loop control functions in a single controller. An approach to the nonlinear trajectory control problem is presented. This approach uses linearizing transformations with measurement feedback to eliminate the need for detailed aircraft models in outer-loop control applications. By applying this approach and separating the inner-loop and outer-loop functions two things were achieved: (1) the need for incorporating detailed aerodynamic models in the controller is obviated; and (2) the controller is more easily incorporated into existing aircraft flight control systems. An implementation of the controller is discussed, and this controller is tested on a six degree-of-freedom simulation and in flight on an F-15 aircraft. Simulation data are presented which validates this approach over a large portion of the F-15 flight envelope. Proof of this concept is provided by flight-test data that closely matches simulation results. Flight-test data are also presented.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Dynamic conversions; Linearizing transformations; Nonlinear control

*Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.


A manned real time simulation of a conceptual vehicle, the stratoplane, was developed to study the problems associated with the flight characteristics of a large, lightweight vehicle. Mathematical models of the aerodynamics, mass properties, and propulsion system were developed in support of the simulation and are presented. The simulation was at first conducted without control augmentation to determine the needs for a control system. The unaugmented flying qualities were dominated by lightly damped dutch roll oscillations. Constant pilot workloads were needed at high altitudes.

Control augmentation was studied using basic feedbacks. For the longitudinal axis, flight path angle, and pitch rate feedback were sufficient to damp the phugoid mode and to provide good flying qualities. In the lateral directional axis, bank angle, roll rate, and yaw rate feedbacks were sufficient to provide a safe vehicle with acceptable handling qualities. Intentionally stalling the stratoplane to very high angles of attack (deep stall) was studied as a means of enabling safe and rapid descent. It was concluded that the deep stall maneuver is viable for this class of vehicle.

Keywords: Deep stall; High-altitude flight; High angle of attack


Procedures for real time evaluation of the inflight health and performance of gas turbine engines and related systems were developed to enhance flight test safety and productivity. These techniques include the monitoring of the engine, the engine control system, thrust vectoring control system health, and the detection of engine stalls. Real time performance techniques were developed for the determination and display of inflight thrust and for aeropropulsion drag polars. These new methods were successfully shown on various research aircraft at NASA-Dryden. The capability of NASA’s Western Aeronautical Test Range and the advanced data acquisition systems were key factors for implementation and real time display of these methods.

Keywords: Engine control; Engine failure; Engine monitoring instruments; Engine tests; In-flight monitoring; Real-time operation; Aerodynamic drag; Data acquisition; Flight tests; Gas turbine engines; Research aircraft; Test ranges; Thrust vector control


A preliminary investigation was conducted regarding the use of throttles for emergency flight control of a multiengine aircraft. Several airplanes including a light twin-engine piston-powered airplane, jet transports, and a high performance fighter were studied during flight and piloted simulations. Simulation studies used the B-720, B-727, MD-11, and F-15 aircraft. Flight studies used the Lear 24, Piper PA-30, and F-15 airplanes. Based on simulator and flight results, all the
airplanes exhibited some control capability with throttles. With piloted simulators, landings using manual throttles-only control were extremely difficult. An augmented control system was developed that converts conventional pilot stick inputs into appropriate throttle commands. With the augmented system, the B-720 and F-15 simulations were evaluated and could be landed successfully. Flight and simulation data were compared for the F-15 airplane.

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An overview is presented of the unique capabilities and historical significance of the Remotely Augmented Vehicle (RAV) Lab at NASA Dryden. The role is reviewed of the RAV Lab in enhancing flight test programs and efficient testing of new aircraft control laws. The history of the RAV Lab is discussed with a sample of its application using the X-29 aircraft. The RAV Lab allows for closed or open loop augmentation of the research aircraft while in flight using ground based, high performance real time computers. Telemetry systems transfer sensor and control data between the ground and the aircraft. The RAV capability provides for enhanced computational power, improved flight data quality, and alternate methods for the testing of control system concepts. The Lab is easily reconfigured to reflect changes within a flight program and can be adapted to new flight programs.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Control systems design; Control theory; Expert systems; Flight tests; Remotely piloted vehicles


The use of throttle control laws to provide adequate flying qualities for flight path control in the event of a total loss of conventional flight control surface use was evaluated. The results are based on a simulation evaluation by transport research pilots of a B-720 transport with visual display. Throttle augmentation control laws can provide flight path control capable of landing a transport-type aircraft with up to moderate levels of turbulence. The throttle augmentation mode dramatically improves the pilots’ ability to control flight path for the approach and landing flight condition using only throttle modulation. For light turbulence, the average Cooper-Harper pilot rating improved from unacceptable to acceptable (a pilot rating improvement of 4.5) in going from manual to augmented control. The low frequency response characteristics of the engines require a considerably different piloting technique. The various techniques used by the pilot resulted in considerable scatter in data. Many pilots readily adapted to a good piloting technique while some had difficulty. A new viable approach is shown to provide independent means of redundancy of transport aircraft flight path control.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; Control simulation; Control theory; Flight control; Flight paths; Thrust control


A multiengine crippled aircraft, with most or all of the flight control system inoperative, may use engine thrust for control. A study was conducted of the capability and techniques for emergency flight control. Included were light twin engine piston powered airplanes, an executive jet transport, commercial jet transports, and a high performance fighter. Piloted simulations of the B-720, B-747, B-727, MD-11, C-402, and F-15 airplanes were studied, and the Lear 24, PA-30, and F-15 airplanes were flight tested. All
aircraft showed some control capability with throttles and could be kept under control in up-and-away flight for an extended period of time. Using piloted simulators, landings with manual throttles-only control were extremely difficult. However, there are techniques that improve the chances of making a survivable landing. In addition, augmented control systems provide major improvements in control capability and make repeatable landings possible. Control capabilities and techniques are discussed.

Keywords: Control theory; Engine control; Flight control; Flight simulation; Throttling; Thrust control


As part of a US/UK cooperative aeronautical research program, a joint activity between NASA-Ames and the Royal Aerospace Establishment on Knowledge Based Systems (KBS) was established. This joint activity is concerned with tools and techniques for the implementation and validation of real-time KBS. The proposed next stage of the research is described, in which some of the problems of implementing and validating a Knowledge Based Autopilot (KBAP) for a generic high performance aircraft will be studied.

**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The development of aircraft for high-altitude research is described in terms of program objectives and environmental, technological limitations, and the work on the Perseus A aircraft. The need for these advanced aircraft is proposed in relation to atmospheric science issues such as greenhouse trapping, the dynamics of tropical cyclones, and stratospheric ozone. The implications of the study on aircraft design requirements is addressed with attention given to the basic categories of high-altitude, long-range, long-duration, and nap-of-the-earth aircraft. A strategy is delineated for a platform that permits unique stratospheric measurements and is a step toward a more advanced aircraft. The goal of Perseus A is to carry scientific air sampling payloads weighing at least 50 kg to altitudes of more than 25 km. The airfoils are designed for low Reynolds numbers, the structural weight is very low, and the closed-cycle power plant runs on liquid oxygen.


Free-to-roll experiments and flow visualization studies have been conducted for a 2.5-percent model of the F-18 undergoing unsteady wing rock oscillations. Data have been acquired in the form of roll angle time histories as well as video recordings and 35 mm photography of the forebody and leading edge extension vortices. The time histories were differentiated to produce angular velocity and angular acceleration. From this the roll moment as a function of time and/or roll angle could be estimated. A thorough analysis of the data has revealed a genuine wing-rock phenomenon. Off-surface flow visualization was used to identify the forebody and LEX vortex core positions and their interaction in both static and dynamic configurations. A direct correlation between the dynamic data and visualized vortex activity during the wing-rock motion has been made.

*Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana.


A rotating rake with 16 hemispherical-tipped five-hole probes was used to obtain flow-field measurements of the leading-edge-extension (LEX) vortex of the F-18 aircraft. The measurements were carried out under 1-g flight conditions at quasi-stabilized angles of attack of 10–52 deg and at Reynolds numbers based on a mean aerodynamic chord up to 16 x 10 to the 6th. Correlations with surface pressure, flow visualization, and computational fluid dynamics results are presented for angles of attack of 19 and 30 deg. (see also 1999.)

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

1896. *Foster, John V.; *Bundick, W. T.; and Pahle, Joseph W.: Controls for Agility Research in the NASA High-Alpha Technology Program. SAE Paper 912148. Presented at the

The research process being used to develop control law design methodologies and guidelines in the NASA High-Alpha Technology Program are discussed. This step-by-step process consists of four basic elements: (1) control law architecture definition and linear synthesis, (2) nonlinear batch simulation, (3) piloted simulation evaluation, and (4) flight test validation. This paper discusses the research tools being used in this effort and provides a status report on design methodologies and guidelines being developed for each of these elements.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A nonintrusive high-angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing system was installed and flight tested in the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. This system consists of a matrix of 25 pressure orifices arranged in concentric circles on the nose of the vehicle to determine angles of attack and sideslip, Mach number, and pressure altitude. During the course of the flight tests, it was determined that satisfactory results could be achieved using a subset of just nine ports.


The capabilities and evolution is described of a flight engineer’s workstation (called TEST-PLAN) from an automated flight test management system. The concept and capabilities of the automated flight test management systems are explored and discussed to illustrate the value of advanced system prototyping and evolutionary software development.

Keywords: Automatic control; Computer programming; Expert systems; Flight tests; Computerized simulation; Man machine systems; Management systems; Prototypes; Systems management; Trajectory control; Workstations


A performance seeking control (PSC) algorithm has undergone initial flight test evaluation in subsonic operation of a PW 1128 engine F-15. This algorithm is designed to optimize the quasi-steady performance of an engine for three primary modes: (1) minimum fuel consumption; (2) minimum fan turbine inlet temperature (FTIT); and (3) maximum thrust. The flight test results have verified a thrust specific fuel consumption reduction of 1 pct., up to 100 R decreases in FTIT, and increases of as much as 12 pct. in maximum thrust. PSC technology promises to be of value in next generation tactical and transport aircraft.

Keywords: Engine control; F-15 aircraft; Flight tests; Inlet temperature; Propulsion system performance; Turbofan engines; Algorithms; Fuel consumption; Kalman filters; Optimal control; Optimization; Thrust control

*McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, West Palm Beach, Florida.


A family of multiple-processor ground support test equipment was used to test digital flight-control systems on high-performance research aircraft. A unit recently built for the F-18 high alpha research vehicle project is the latest model in a series called the extended aircraft interrogation and display system. The primary feature emphasized monitors the aircraft MIL-STD-1553B data buses and provides real-time engineering units displays of flight-control parameters. A customized software package was developed to provide real-time data interpretation based on rules embodied in a highly structured knowledge database. The configuration of this extended aircraft of the rule based package and its application to failure modes and effects testing on the F-18 high alpha research vehicle is discussed.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Applications programs (computers); Display devices; F-18 aircraft; Ground support equipment; Knowledge bases (artificial intelligence); Multiprocessing (computers); Research aircraft; Test equipment

1901. Noffz, Gregory K.; Curry, Robert E.; Haering, Edward A., Jr.; and *Kolodziej, Paul: **Aerothermal Test Results
A survey of temperature measurements at speeds through Mach 8.0 on the first flight of the Pegasus air-launched booster system is discussed. In addition, heating rates were derived from the temperature data obtained on the fuselage in the vicinity of the wing shock interaction. Sensors were distributed on the wing surfaces, leading edge, and on the wing-body fairing or fillet. Side-by-side evaluations were obtained for a variety of sensor installations. Details of the trajectory reconstruction through first-stage separation are provided. Given here are indepth descriptions of the sensor installations, temperature measurements, and derived heating rates along with interpretations of the results.

Keywords: Aerothermodynamics; Body-wing configurations; Heating; Pegasus air-launched booster; Surveys; Temperature measurement

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.

**From the First Flight of the Pegasus® Air-Launched Space Booster.** NASA TM-4330, H-1672, NAS 1.15:4330, October 1991, 92N11301, #. PDF DTRS

The X-29A forward-swept wing flight research aircraft flight envelope was expanded to 66 deg angle-of-attack during 1990. Following this flight envelope expansion, a military utility evaluation was performed to investigate the tactical utility of the X-29 configurations at high-angle-of-attack, slow-speed flight conditions. An overall management view and perspective of the expansion process, the technical problems encountered, and the results obtained when compared to the predictions are presented.


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Keywords: Air data systems; Angle of attack; Flight tests; Pneumatics; Pressure sensors; Sideslip; F-18 aircraft; Fault tolerance; Mach numbers; Research aircraft


The paper describes the procedures of thermal mechanical tests carried out at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility on two titanium honeycomb wing panels bonded using liquid interface diffusion (LID) technique, and presents the results of these tests. The 58.4 cm square panels consisted of two 0.152-cm-thick Ti 6-2-4-2 face sheets LID-bonded to a 1.9-cm-thick honeycomb core, with bearing plates fastened to
the perimeter of the upper and the lower panel surfaces. The panels were instrumented with sensors for measuring surface temperature, strain, and deflections to 315° C and 482° C. Thermal stress levels representative of those encountered during aerodynamic heating were produced by heating the upper panel surface and restraining all four edges. After more than 100 thermal cycles from room temperature to 315° C and 50 cycles from room temperature to 482° C, no significant structural degradation was detected in the panels.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A titanium-matrix-composite (TMC) hat-stiffened panel of 61 cm sq area and 3.175 cm thick was nondestructively tested to 649 C to examine its buckling characteristics. Compressive loads were applied to the panel in a 978.6 kN uniaxial load frame system. High-temperature testing was performed using quartz lamp heating. A single-strain-age force/stiffness buckling prediction technique was developed to predict panel buckling loads. For the monolithic panel, these test predictions correlated within 10 percent with a finite-element buckling analyses performed elsewhere. Comparisons between force/stiffness predictions and analyses for the TMC panel are in progress.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Major hot structure test programs conducted at NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility from 1960s to the present are reviewed with emphasis placed on the YF-12A flight load program, which included extensive experimental and analytical tasks. Analytical models of the YF-12A aircraft were generated using NASTRAN and FLEXTAB codes. Experimental data were generated from wind tunnel model tests, laboratory tests performed on the flight vehicle (including Mach-3 thermal simulation that involved heating the entire aircraft’s surface after which the aircraft was returned to flight status), and flight tests.


This paper describes the experimental modal test techniques and procedures used to conduct uniform, nonuniform, and transient thermoelastic vibration tests. Experimental setup and elevated temperature instrumentation considerations are also discussed. Modal data for a 30.48- by 127-cm aluminum plate heated to a temperature of 371.1 C are presented. These data show the effect of heat on the plate’s modal characteristics.


The objectives of the research is the following: (1) to provide guidance to those concerned in the Flight Critical Control System (FCCS) validation, namely systems designers and certification authorities; and (2) to identify the areas of research which need to be explored to enable validation of the next generation of FCCS. An attempt was made to review all flight critical control system validation activities which had been completed or were under active consideration, in Europe and the U.S.


The buckling characteristics of a titanium matrix composite hat-stiffened panel were experimentally examined for various combinations of thermal and mechanical loads. Panel failure was prevented by maintaining the applied loads below real-time critical buckling predictions. The test techniques used to apply the loads, minimize boundary were shown to compare well with a finite-element buckling analysis for previous panels. Comparisons between test predictions and analysis for this panel are ongoing.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The advantages and shortcomings of currently available aircraft for use in stratosphere-troposphere exchange pose the question of whether to develop advanced aircraft for
atmospheric research. To answer this question, NASA conducted a workshop to determine science needs and feasibility/design studies to assess whether and how those needs could be met. It was determined that there was a need for an aircraft that could cruise at an altitude of 30 km with a range of 6,000 miles with vertical profiling down to 10 km and back at remote points and carry a payload of 3,000 lbs.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A flight test program was undertaken to demonstrate the feasibility of obtaining external burning (EB) data in a flight environment, and to address the question of facility interference in ground test external burning data. Results showed that external burning was effective at reducing transonic base drag in a flight environment having dynamically changing conditions. The flight test program demonstrated that external burning is not just a laboratory phenomenon but is a viable technology for aerospace vehicles.

*Johns Hopkins University, Laurel, Maryland.
**U.S. Navy, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland.
†NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


In this paper a technique of compensating for pneumatic distortion in aircraft surface pressure sensing devices is developed. The compensation allows conventional pressure sensing technology to obtain improved unsteady pressure measurements. Pressure distortion caused by frictional attenuation and pneumatic resonance within the sensing system makes obtaining unsteady pressure measurements by conventional sensors difficult. Typically, most of the distortion occurs within the pneumatic tubing used to transmit pressure impulses from the surface of the aircraft to the measurement transducer. This paper develops a second-order distortion model that accurately describes the behavior of the primary wave harmonic of the pneumatic tubing. The model is expressed in state-variable form and is coupled with standard results from minimum-variance estimation theory to develop an algorithm to compensate for the effects of pneumatic distortion. Both postflight and real-time algorithms are developed and evaluated using simulated and flight data. Covariance selection and filter-tuning examples are presented. Results presented verify that, given appropriate covariance magnitudes, the algorithms accurately reconstruct surface pressure values from remotely sensed pressure measurements.

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An integrated flight and propulsion control system has been developed and flight demonstrated on the NASA Ames-Dryden F-15 research aircraft. The highly integrated digital control (HIDEC) system provides additional engine thrust by increasing engine pressure ratio (EPR) at intermediate and afterburning power. The amount of EPR uptrim is modulated based on airplane maneuver requirements, flight conditions, and engine information. Engine thrust was increased as much as 10.5% at subsonic flight conditions by uptrimming EPR. The additional thrust significantly improved aircraft performance. Rate of climb was increased 14% at 40,000 ft and the time to climb from 10,000 to 40,000 ft was reduced 13%. A 14% increase in acceleration at 40,000 ft and 24% increase at 50,000 ft was obtained at intermediate and maximum power, respectively. The HIDEC logic performed fault free. No engine anomalies were encountered for EPR increases up to 12% and for angles of attack and sideslip of 32 and 11 deg, respectively.


Temperature measurements were obtained on the Pegasus booster from launch through Mach 8.0. The majority of sensors were thin-foil temperature gages installed near the surface within the vehicle’s ablating thermal protection system. These gages were distributed on the wing surfaces and on the wing-body fairing or fillet. Temperature time histories from these installations are presented. In addition, thermocouples were installed on the surface of nonablating plugs located on the fairing. These sensors were more responsive to changes in flight conditions than the foil gages and allowed a derivation of convective heat flux. A heating rate magnification of 2 was found in the vicinity of the wing shock interaction.

The modeling and simulation of hypersonic vehicles which involve the interaction of a number of major technical disciplines including aerodynamics, structures, heat transfer, propulsion, and control engineering are described. Finite element numerical formulations of individual disciplines including their appropriate integration for multidisciplinary simulation are presented. An efficient unstructured grid generation strategy, evolved by modifying an existing code, is developed.

*Eloroet Institute, Claremont, California.


Some of the uses of water tunnels are demonstrated through the description of the NASA Ames-Dryden Flow Visualization Facility. It is concluded that water tunnels are capable of providing a quick and inexpensive means of flow visualization and can aid in the understanding of complex fluid mechanics phenomena.

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The verification and certification of new structural material concepts for advanced high speed flight vehicles relies greatly on thermal testing with infrared quartz lamps. The basic quartz heater system characteristics and design considerations are presented. Specific applications are illustrated with tests that were conducted for the X-15, the Space Shuttle, and YF-12 flight programs.

Keywords: Infrared heating; Quartz lamps; Thermostructural testing; High-temperature testing


A high-angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing system was installed and flight tested on the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle at NASA-Dryden. This system uses a matrix of pressure orifices arranged in concentric circles on the nose of the vehicle to determine angles of attack, angles of sideslip, dynamic pressure, and static pressure as well as other airdata parameters. Results presented use an arrangement of 11 symmetrically distributed ports on the aircraft nose. Experience with this sensing system data indicates that the primary concern for real-time implementation is the detection and management of overall system and individual pressure sensor failures. The multiple port sensing system is more tolerant to small disturbances in the measured pressure data than conventional probe-based intrusive airdata systems. However, under adverse circumstances, large undetected failures in individual pressure ports can result in algorithm divergence and catastrophic failure of the entire system. How system and individual port failures may be detected using chi sq. analysis is shown. Once identified, the effects of failures are eliminated using weighted least squares.

Keywords: Airdata; Nonintrusive airdata; Fault tolerance; Pressure sensing; Chi square analysis

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Methods based on chi-squared analysis are presented for detecting system and individual-port failures in the high-angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing system on the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. The HI-FADS hardware is introduced, and the aerodynamic model describes measured pressure in terms of dynamic pressure, angle of attack, angle of sideslip, and static pressure. Chi-squared analysis is described in the presentation of the concept for failure detection and fault management which includes nominal, iteration, and fault-management modes. A matrix of pressure orifices arranged in concentric circles on the nose of the aircraft indicate the parameters which are applied to the regression algorithms. The sensing techniques are applied to the F-18 flight data, and two examples are given of the computed angle-of-attack time histories. The failure-detection and fault-management techniques permit the matrix to be multiply redundant, and the chi-squared analysis is shown to be useful in the detection of failures.

*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

1921. Johnson, Steven A.: Aircraft Ground Test and Subscale Model Results of Axial Thrust Loss Caused

The NASA-Dryden F/A-18 high alpha research vehicle was modified to incorporate three independently controlled turning vanes located aft of the primary nozzle of each engine to vector thrust for pitch and yaw control. Ground measured axial thrust losses were compared with the results from a 14.25 pct. cold jet model for single and dual vanes inserted up to 25 degs into the engine exhaust. Data are presented for nozzle pressure ratios of 2.0 and 3.0 and nozzle exit areas of 253 and 348 sq in. The results indicate that subscale nozzle test results properly predict trends but underpredict the full scale results by approx. 1 to 4.5 pct. in thrust loss. Keywords: Axial thrust loss; Cold-jet nozzle; F/A-18 HARV; Jet exhaust turning vanes; Thrust vectoring


A piloted simulation was used to study the feasibility of a balloon assisted deployment of a research aircraft at high altitude. In the simulation study, an unmanned, modified sailplane was carried to 110,000 ft with a high altitude balloon and released in a nose down attitude. A remote pilot controlled the aircraft through a pullout and then executed a zoom climb to a trimmed, 1 g flight condition. A small parachute was used to limit the Mach number during the pullout to avoid adverse transonic effects. The use of small rocket motor was studied for increasing the maximum attainable altitude. Aerodynamic modifications to the basic sailplane included applying supercritical airfoil gloves over the existing wing and tail surfaces. The aerodynamic model of the simulated aircraft was based on low Reynolds number wind tunnel tests and computational techniques, and included large Mach number and Reynolds number effects at high altitude. Parametric variations were performed to study the effects of launch altitude, gross weight, Mach number limit, and parachute size on the maximum attainable stabilized altitude. A test altitude of approx. 95,000 ft was attained, and altitudes in excess of 100,000 ft were attained.

Keywords: Atmospheric science; High-altitude aircraft; Low Reynolds number aerodynamics; Remotely piloted vehicle; Simulation

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Various engine related performance and health monitoring techniques developed in support of flight research are described. Techniques used during flight to enhance safety and to increase flight test productivity are summarized. A description of the NASA range facility is given along with a discussion of the flight data processing. Examples of data processed and the flight data displays are shown. A discussion of current trends and future capabilities is also included.


In-flight airdata calibrations are used to determine the aerodynamic influence of an airplane on pitot-static pressure measurements of altitude and speed. Conventional flight-test calibration techniques are briefly reviewed and meteorological analysis methods for estimating calibration reference values of atmospheric conditions are described. There are cases where some conventional in-flight techniques are not entirely satisfactory for research aircraft because of added equipment requirements or flight envelope and location limitations. In these cases, atmospheric wind and pressure information can be used to complement conventional techniques. Accuracy of the atmospheric measurements and the variability of upper-air winds and pressure values are discussed. Results from several flight research aircraft show that wind reference calibration is generally less accurate than calibration accuracy standards for civil and research aircraft. Examples of pressure reference altimetry derived from meteorological analyses are also presented for a variety of flight research programs. These flight data show that the reference pressure accuracy provided by meteorological analyses is usually within civil aircraft and flight research airdata calibration accuracy standards. Meteorological analyses altimetry is particularly useful when it is not feasible to restrict the test airplane altitude, location, or maneuver envelope.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Flight control system design and analysis for aircraft
relies on mathematical models of the vehicle dynamics. In addition to a six degree of freedom nonlinear simulation, the X-29A flight controls group developed a set of programs that calculate linear perturbation models throughout the X-29A flight envelope. The models include the aerodynamics as well as flight control system dynamics and were used for stability, controllability, and handling qualities analysis. These linear models were compared to flight test results to help provide a safe flight envelope expansion. A description is given of the linear models at three flight conditions and two flight control system modes. The models are presented with a level of detail that would allow the reader to reproduce the linear results if desired. Comparison between the response of the linear model and flight measured responses are presented to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the linear models’ ability to predict flight dynamics.

Keywords: Aircraft; Flight control system; Linear aerodynamic model; State space; Rigid body dynamic models; X-29A airplane


The latest upgrade to the Aerospace Energy Systems Laboratory (AESL) is described. The AESL is a distributed digital system consisting of a central system and battery servicing stations connected by a high-speed serial data bus. The entire system is located in two adjoining rooms; the bus length is approximately 100 ft. Each battery station contains a digital processor, data acquisition, floppy diskette data storage, and operator interfaces. The operator initiates a servicing task and thereafter the battery station monitors the progress of the task and terminates it at the appropriate time. The central system provides data archives, manages the data bus, and provides a timeshare interface for multiple users. The system also hosts software production tools for the battery stations and the central system.


Ongoing development of an automated system for monitoring the frequency and damping of time varying structural systems is discussed. A spatial filtering technique called the discrete modal filter is used to uncouple multiple response measurements into modal coordinate responses. Since the modal coordinate responses are the responses of single-degree-of-freedom systems, the frequency and damping may be accurately estimated with short data records. An online monitoring system is discussed which may be useful in a variety of applications. The focus in this paper is on the application to aircraft flight flutter testing.

*University of Cincinnati, Ohio.


A new second-order theory was developed for predicting the service lives of aerospace structural components. The predictions based on this new theory were compared with those based on the Ko first-order theory and the classical theory of service life predictions. The new theory gives very accurate service life predictions. An equivalent constant-amplitude stress cycle method was proposed for representing the random load spectrum for crack growth calculations. This method predicts the most conservative service life. The proposed use of minimum detectable crack size, instead of proof load established crack size as an initial crack size for crack growth calculations, could give a more realistic service life.

Keywords: Fracture mechanics; Half-cycle theory; Random stress cycles; Service life prediction


Described here are the capabilities and evolution of a flight-test engineer’s workstation (called TEST PLAN) from an automated flight-test management system. The concept and capabilities of the automated flight-test management system are explored and discussed to illustrate the value of advanced system prototyping and evolutionary software development.

*G and C Systems, Inc., San Juan Capistrano, California.


Several analytical aerodynamic design tools that were applied to the Pegasus® (registered trademark) air-launched space booster were evaluated using flight measurements. The study
was limited to existing codes and was conducted with limited computational resources. The flight instrumentation was constrained to have minimal impact on the primary Pegasus missions. Where appropriate, the flight measurements were compared with computational data. Aerodynamic performance and trim data from the first two flights were correlated with predictions. Local measurements in the wing and wing-body interference region were correlated with analytical data. This complex flow region includes the effect of aerothermal heating magnification by the presence of a corner vortex and interaction of the wing leading edge shock and fuselage boundary layer. The operation of the first two missions indicates that the aerodynamic design approach for Pegasus was adequate, and data show that acceptable margins were available. Additionally, the correlations provide insight into the capabilities of these analytical tools for more complex vehicles in which the design margins may be more stringent.

Keywords: Aerothermodynamics; Air-launched space booster; Computational fluid dynamics; Hypersonics; Wing-body aerodynamics

*Nielsen Engineering and Research, Inc., Mountain View, California.
**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The advanced fighter technology integration, the AFTI/F-111 aircraft, is a preproduction F-111A testbed research airplane that was fitted with a smooth variable-camber mission adaptive wing. The camber was positioned and controlled by flexing the upper skins through rotary actuators and linkages driven by power drive units. The wing camber and control system are described. The measured servoactuator frequency responses are presented along with analytical predictions derived from the integrated characteristics of the control elements. A mission adaptive wing system chronology is used to illustrate and assess the reliability and dependability of the servoactuator system during 1524 hours of ground tests and 145 hours of flight testing.

Keywords: Advanced fighter technology integration; Flight control; Hydraulic systems; Servoactuators; Variable-camber

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


An integrated flight and propulsion control system designed to reduce the rate of engine deterioration was developed and evaluated in flight on the NASA Dryden F-15 research aircraft. The extended engine life mode increases engine pressure ratio while reducing engine airflow to lower the turbine temperature at constant thrust. The engine pressure ratio uptrim is modulated in real time based on airplane maneuver requirements, flight conditions, and engine information. The extended engine life mode logic performed well, significantly reducing turbine operating temperature. Reductions in fan turbine inlet temperature of up to 80° F were obtained at intermediate power and up to 170° F at maximum augmented power with no appreciable loss in thrust. A secondary benefit was the considerable reduction in thrust-specific fuel consumption. The success of the extended engine life mode is one example of the advantages gained from integrating aircraft flight and propulsion control systems.

Keywords: Extended engine life; Reduced operating temperature at constant thrust


The viewgraphs and discussion of the status of the F-16XL SSLFC numerical design validation are provided. The F-16XL Supersonic Laminar Flow Control Program (SSLFC) is a joint effort involving Rockwell’s North American Aircraft Division, NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility, and NASA Langley Research Center. The objectives of the program are to demonstrate that laminar flow can be obtained on a highly swept wing at supersonic speeds, validate the capabilities of a numerical methodology designed to predict boundary layer transition, and validate the capabilities of the methodology in the design of active and passive laminar flow control (LFC) concepts. The F-16XL SSLFC Program consists of the design, fabrication, installation, and flight test of an active laminar flow control glove for the F-16XL. The glove design emphasized the active (suction) control of attachment line and crossflow boundary condition instabilities. The glove design envelop was constrained by the existing geometry, safety of flight considerations, and space requirements for the suction mechanism. The leading edge extension of the glove was limited to 10 inches for consideration of asymmetric flying qualities and the glove height above the existing surface restricted to two inches. The active (suction) portion of the wing extends to nominally 25 percent chord. The glove was constructed of a micro-perforated titanium sheet (hole diameter = 0.025 inches, spacing ratio = 1/8, and sheet thickness = 0.0025 inches). The glove design includes 22 separate chambers to allow suction variation in the chordwise direction. The F-16XL SSLFC program is currently in the flight test phase.
An application of digital time series analysis to flutter test data processing was conducted. A numerical investigation was used to evaluate the method, as well as its sensitivity to noise and parameter variations. These parameters included those involved with data acquisition, as well as system response characteristics. This digital time series method was then used to predict flutter speed from subcritical response wind tunnel tests. Flutter speeds predicted from forced response, subcritical wind tunnel tests were compared to the experimental flutter speeds.

*University of Notre Dame, Indiana.


The combined-load (compression and shear) buckling equations were established for orthotropic sandwich panels by using the Rayleigh-Ritz method to minimize the panel total potential energy. The resulting combined-load buckling equations were used to generate buckling interaction curves for super-plastically-formed/diffusion-bonded titanium truss-core sandwich panels and titanium honeycomb-core sandwich panels having the same specific weight. The relative combined-load buckling strengths of these two types of sandwich panels are compared with consideration of their sandwich orientations. For square and nearly square panels of both types, the combined load always induces symmetric buckling. As the panel aspect ratios increase, antisymmetric buckling will show up when the loading is shear-dominated combined loading. The square panel (either type) has the highest combined buckling strength, but the combined load buckling strength drops sharply as the panel aspect ratio increases. For square panels, the truss-core sandwich panel has higher compression-dominated load buckling strength. However, for shear dominated loading, the square honeycomb-core sandwich panel has higher shear-dominated combined load buckling strength.


An optimal pursuit-evasion problem between two aircraft including a realistic weapon envelope is analyzed using differential game theory. This study employs sixth-order nonlinear point mass vehicle models and allows the inclusion of an arbitrary weapon envelope geometry. The performance index is a linear combination of flight time and the square of the vehicle acceleration. Closed-form solution to this high-order differential game is then obtained using feedback linearization. The solution is in the form of a feedback guidance law together with a quartic polynomial for time to go. Because of its modest computational requirements, this nonlinear guidance law is useful for onboard real-time implementations.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California and Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.


A captive-carry flight test experiment of the transonic external burning concept using gaseous hydrogen fuel has been proposed for the SR-71A flight research test bed aircraft at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility, Edwards, California. This program will be the first large-scale, near-field flight test investigation of this base drag reduction technique at Mach numbers up to 3. Low-speed base drag reduction for supersonic and hypersonic flight vehicles is important in reducing vehicle drag and improving nozzle efficiency. Flight data will be correlated with a concurrent wind tunnel ground test of a similar test apparatus to confirm geometry and component performance scalability predictions and to investigate design parameters under actual flight conditions. This paper describes the problem of transonic base drag for supersonic and hypersonic aircraft, a planned flight research program to address this problem, the test bed aircraft, and the flight experiment apparatus.


Two flat 12 by 72 inch Rene 41 honeycomb sandwich panels were tested in a manner to produce combined thermal and mechanical longitudinal stresses that simulated those that would occur in a larger, more complex integral tank and fuselage structure of an earth to orbit vehicle. Elastic strains
measured at temperatures below 400° F are compared with calculated values obtained from a linear elastic finite element analysis to verify the analytical model and to establish confidence in the calculated strains. Elastic strain measurement at higher temperatures (between 600° F and 1400° F), where strain measurement is more difficult and less certain, are also compared with calculated strains. Agreement between measured and calculated strains for the lower temperatures is good, but agreement for the higher temperatures is poor because of unreliable strain measurements. Test results indicate that an ascent and entry life cycle of 500 is attainable under high combined thermal and mechanical elastic strains.

Keywords: Rene 41 honeycomb sandwich; Space transportation systems; Integral tank-and-fuselage; Hot structures; Combined thermal-structural tests

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The computer program AeroFcn is discussed. AeroFcn is a utility program that computes the following aerodynamic parameters: geopotential altitude, Mach number, true velocity, dynamic pressure, calibrated airspeed, equivalent airspeed, impact pressure, total pressure, total temperature, Reynolds number, speed of sound, static density, static pressure, static temperature, coefficient of dynamic viscosity, kinematic viscosity, geometric altitude, and specific energy for a standard- or a modified standard-day atmosphere using compressible flow and normal shock relations. Any two parameters that define a unique flight condition are selected, and their values are entered interactively. The remaining parameters are computed, and the solutions are stored in an output file. Multiple cases can be run, and the multiple case solutions can be stored in another output file for plotting. Parameter units, the output format, and primary constants and their values are entered interactively. The remaining parameters that define a unique flight condition are selected, and their values are entered interactively. The remaining parameters are computed, and the solutions are stored in an output file. Multiple cases can be run, and the multiple case solutions can be stored in another output file for plotting. Parameter units, the output format, and primary constants

Keywords: Aerodynamic equations/relations; Atmospheric equations/relations; Compressible flow; Normal shock equations/relations; Aerodynamic functions/parameters


A flight experiment to test and evaluate the skin friction drag characteristics of a riblet surface in turbulent flow at supersonic speeds was conducted at NASA Dryden. Riblets of groove sizes 0.0030 and 0.0013 in. were mounted on the F-104G flight test fixture. The test surfaces were surveyed with boundary layer rakes and pressure orifices to examine the boundary layer profiles and pressure distributions of the flow. Skin friction reductions caused by the riblet surface were reported based on measured differences of momentum thickness between the smooth and riblet surfaces obtained from the boundary layer data. Flight test results for the 0.0030 in. riblet show skin friction reductions of 4 to 8% for Mach numbers ranging from 1.2 to 1.6 and Reynolds numbers ranging from 2 to 3.4 million per unit foot. The results from the 0.0013 in. riblets show skin friction reductions of 4 to 15% for Mach 1.2 to 1.4 and Reynolds numbers ranging from 3.6 to 6 million per unit foot.

Keywords: Riblets; Skin-friction reduction; Supersonic turbulent boundary layers

*High Technology Corporation, Hampton, Virginia.


Over the last two decades, NASA has conducted several experiments in integrated flight-propulsion control. Benefits have included improved maneuverability; increased thrust, range, and survivability; reduced fuel consumption; and reduced maintenance. This paper presents the basic concepts for control integration, examples of implementation, and benefits. The F-111E experiment integrated the engine and inlet control systems. The YF-12C incorporated an integral control system involving the inlet, autopilot, autothrottle, and flight control variables; a self-repairing flight control system; and an engines-only control concept for emergency control. The F-18A aircraft incorporated thrust vectoring integrated with the flight control system to provide enhanced maneuvering at high angles of attack. The flight research programs and the resulting benefits of each program are described.

Keywords: Integrated flight-propulsion control systems; Flight controls; Propulsion

Over the last two decades, NASA has conducted several flight research experiments in integrated flight propulsion control. Benefits have included increased thrust, range, and survivability; reduced fuel consumption; and reduced maintenance. These flight programs were flown at NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. This paper presents the basic concepts for control integration, examples of implementation, and benefits of integrated flight propulsion control systems. The F-15 research involved integration of the engine, flight, and inlet control systems. Further extension of the integration included real time, onboard optimization of engine, inlet, and flight control variables; a self repairing flight control system; and an engines only control concept for emergency control. The flight research programs and the resulting benefits are described for the F-15 research.

Keywords: Integrated flight propulsion control; F-15 HIDEc; Performance seeking control


The paper first presents the details of the development of a new six-noded plane triangular finite dynamic element. A block Lanczos algorithm is developed next for the accurate and efficient solution of the quadratic matrix eigenvalue problem associated with the finite dynamic element formulation. The resulting computer program fully exploits matrix sparsity inherent in such a discretization and proves to be most efficient for the extraction of the usually required first few roots and vectors, including repeated ones. Most importantly, the present eigenproblem solution is shown to be comparable to that of the corresponding finite element analysis, thereby rendering the associated dynamic element method rather attractive owing to superior convergence characteristics of such elements, presented herein.

*Eloret Institute, Claremont, California.


An investigation is underway to determine the benefits of a new propulsion system optimization algorithm in an F-15 airplane. The performance seeking control (PSC) algorithm optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of an F100 derivative turbofan engine for several modes of operation. The PSC algorithm uses an onboard software engine model that calculates thrust, stall margin, and other unmeasured variables for use in the optimization. As part of the PSC test program, the F-15 aircraft was operated on a horizontal thrust stand. Thrust was measured with highly accurate load cells. The measured thrust was compared to onboard model estimates and to results from posttest performance programs. Thrust changes using the various PSC modes were recorded. Those results were compared to benefits using the less complex highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDc) algorithm. The PSC maximum thrust mode increased intermediate power thrust by 10 percent. The PSC engine model did very well at estimating measured thrust and closely followed the transients during optimization. Quantitative results from the evaluation of the algorithms and performance calculation models are included with emphasis on measured thrust results. The report presents a description of the PSC system and a discussion of factors affecting the accuracy of the thrust stand load measurements.

Keywords: Engine performance; F100 turbofan engine; F-15 airplane; Performance seeking control; Thrust calculation; Thrust stand


Results are presented from the evaluation of the performance seeking control (PSC) optimization algorithm developed by Smith et al. (1990) for F-15 aircraft, which optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of an F100 derivative turbofan engine for several modes of operation. The PSC algorithm uses an onboard software engine model that calculates thrust, stall margin, and other unmeasured variables for use in the optimization. Comparisons are presented between the load cell measurements, PSC onboard model thrust calculations, and posttest state variable model computations. Actual performance improvements using the PSC algorithm are presented for its various modes. The results of using the PSC algorithm are compared with similar test case results using the HIDEc algorithm.


A new second-order theory was developed for predicting
the service lives of aerospace structural components. The predictions based on this new theory were compared with those based on the Ko first-order theory and the classical theory of service life predictions. The new theory gives very accurate service life predictions. An equivalent constant-amplitude stress cycle method was proposed for representing the random load spectrum for crack growth calculations. This method predicts the most conservative service life. The proposed use of minimum detectable crack size, instead of proof load established crack size as an initial crack size for crack growth calculations, could give a more realistic service life.

Keywords: Fracture mechanics; Half-cycle theory; Random stress cycles; Service life prediction


A ground test was performed to determine the effects of compressor bleed flow extraction on the performance of F404-GE-400 afterburning turbofan engines. The two engines were installed in the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. A specialized bleed ducting system was installed onto the aircraft to control and measure engine bleed airflow while the aircraft was tied down to a thrust measuring stand. The test was conducted on each engine and at various power settings. The bleed air extraction levels analyzed included flow rates above the manufacturer’s maximum specification limit. The measured relationship between thrust and bleed flow extraction was shown to be essentially linear at all power settings with an increase in bleed flow causing a corresponding decrease in thrust. A comparison with the F404-GE-400 steady-state engine simulation showed the estimation to be within ± 1 percent of measured thrust losses for large increases in bleed flow rate.

Keywords: Bleed air extraction; Engine simulation; Forebody flow control; HARV; Pneumatic flight control; Thrust loss; Turbofan engine

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


Since the late 1950’s, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Dryden Flight Research Facility has found in-flight simulation to be an invaluable tool. In-flight simulation has been used to address a wide variety of flying qualities questions, including low-lift-to-drag ratio approach characteristics for vehicles like the X-15, the lifting bodies, and the Space Shuttle; the effects of time delays on controllability of aircraft with digital flight-control systems, the causes and cures of pilot-induced oscillation in a variety of aircraft, and flight-control systems for such diverse aircraft as the X-15 and the X-29. In-flight simulation has also been used to anticipate problems and to avoid them and to solve problems once they appear. Presented here is an account of the in-flight simulation at the Dryden Flight Research Facility and some discussion. An extensive bibliography is included.

Keywords: Dryden history; Flight test; In-flight simulation


Completed and planned flight research using the Pegasus as a research vehicle and booster for other hypersonic research vehicles is reviewed. Highlights from flights 1 and 2 are discussed and compared with some analytical results. In particular, attention is given to total vehicle aerodynamics
An adaptive-performance-seeking control system which optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of the F-15 propulsion system is discussed. This paper presents flight-and ground-test evaluations of the propulsion system parameter-estimation process used by the performance seeking control system. The estimator consists of a compact propulsion system model and an extended Kalman filter. The extended Kalman filter estimates five engine component deviation parameters from measured inputs. The compact model uses measurements and Kalman-filter estimates as inputs to predict unmeasured propulsion parameters such as net propulsive force and fan stall margin. The ability to track trends and estimate absolute values of propulsion system parameters was demonstrated. For example, thrust stand results show a good correlation especially in trends between the performance seeking control estimated and measured thrust.


A flight evaluation as conducted to determine the effect of engine throttle response characteristics on precision formation-flying qualities. A variable electronic throttle control system was developed and flight-tested on a TF-104G airplane with a J79-11B engine at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. Ten research flights were flown to evaluate the effects of throttle gain, time delay, and fuel control rate limiting on engine handling qualities during a demanding precision wing formation task. Handling quality effects of lag filters and lead compensation time delays were also evaluated. Data from pilot ratings and comments indicate that throttle control system time delays and rate limits cause significant degradations in handling qualities. Threshold values for satisfactory (level 1) and adequate (level 2) handling qualities of these key variables are presented.


The subsonic flight test evaluation phase of the NASA F-15 (powered by F100 engines) performance-seeking control program was completed for single-engine operation at part-and military-power settings. The subsonic performance-seeking control algorithm optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of the propulsion system for three modes of operation: the minimum-fuel-flow mode, the minimum-temperature mode, and the maximum-thrust mode. Decreases in thrust-specific fuel consumption of 1 to 2 percent were measured in the minimum-fuel-flow mode; these fuel savings are significant especially for supersonic cruise aircraft. Decreases of up to approximately 100 R in fan turbine inlet temperature were measured in the minimum-temperature mode. Temperature reductions of this magnitude would more than double turbine life if inlet temperature was the only life factor. Measured thrust increases of up to approximately 15 percent in the maximum-thrust mode cause substantial increases in aircraft acceleration. The subsonic flight phase has validated the performance-seeking control technology which can significantly benefit the next generation of fighter and transport aircraft.
Symposium, Hauppauge, New York, August 3–6, 1992, August 1992, 92N32201, #. PDF DTRS

The Integrated Test Facility, built at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility, provides new real-time test capabilities for emerging research aircraft. An overview of the test facility and the real-time systems developed to operate this unique facility is presented. The facility will reduce flight test risk by minimizing the difference between the flight and ground test environments. This ground test environment is provided by combining real-time flight simulation with the actual aircraft. A brief introduction to the facility is followed by a discussion of the generic capabilities of its real-time systems. The simulation system with flight hardware and the remotely augmented vehicle system is described. An overview of many hardware systems developed for the facility follows. The benefits of applying simulation to hardware-in-the-loop testing on the X-31 Flight Research Program are presented.

Keywords: NASA Dryden; Integrated Test Facility; Systems overview; Real-time testing


The National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) has renewed interest in hypersonic flight and hot-structures technology development for both the airframe and engine. The NASA Dryden Thermostructures Research Facility is a unique national facility that was designed to conduct thermal-mechanical tests on aircraft and aircraft components by simulating the flight thermal environment in the laboratory. The layout of the facility is presented, which includes descriptions of the high-bay test area, the instrumentation laboratories, the mechanical loading systems, and the state-of-the-art closed-loop thermal control system. The hot-structures test capability of the facility is emphasized by the Mach-3 thermal simulation conducted on the YF-12 airplane. The Liquid-Hydrogen Structural Test Facility, which is presently in the design phase, will provide the capability of thermally testing structures containing hydrogen.

Keywords: Test facilities; Thermal-structural testing


Flight tests and simulation studies using the throttles of an F-15 airplane for emergency flight control have been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. The airplane and the simulation are capable of extended up-and-away flight, using only throttles for flight path control. Initial simulation results showed that runway landings using manual throttles-only control were difficult, but possible with practice. Manual approaches flown in the airplane were much more difficult, indicating a significant discrepancy between flight and simulation. Analysis of flight data and development of improved simulation models that resolve the discrepancy are discussed. An augmented throttle-only control system that controls bank angle and flight path with appropriate feedback parameters has also been developed, evaluated in simulations, and is planned for flight in the F-15.

Keywords: F-15; Flight test; Simulation; Propulsion-only control


The subsonic flight test evaluation phase of the NASA F-15 (powered by F100 engines) performance seeking control program was completed for single-engine operation at part- and military-power settings. The subsonic performance seeking control algorithm optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of the propulsion system for three modes of operation. The minimum fuel flow mode minimizes fuel consumption. The minimum thrust mode maximizes thrust at military power. Decreases in thrust-specific fuel consumption of 1 to 2 percent were measured in the minimum fuel flow mode; these fuel savings are significant, especially for supersonic cruise aircraft. Decreases of up to approximately 100 degree R in fan turbine inlet temperature were measured in the minimum temperature mode. Temperature reductions of this magnitude would more than double turbine life if inlet temperature was the only life factor. Measured thrust increases of up to approximately 15 percent in the maximum thrust mode cause substantial increases in aircraft acceleration. The system dynamics of the closed-loop algorithm operation were good. The subsonic flight phase has validated the performance seeking control technology, which can significantly benefit the next generation of fighter and transport aircraft.

Keywords: Propulsion systems; Performance seeking control; Subsonic flight testing; F-15 HIDEC

Several principal aerodynamics flight projects of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility are discussed. Key vehicle technology areas from a wide range of flight vehicles are highlighted. These areas include flight research data obtained for ground facility and computation correlation, applied research in areas not well suited to ground facilities (wind tunnels), and concept demonstration.

Keywords: Flight test; Flow visualization; High angle of attack; Propulsion optimization flight-test techniques; Supersonic laminar flow


The X-31 Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability Program has been recognized to form the International Test Organization, with the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) as the responsible test organization. The two X-31 research aircraft and engineering support personnel were collocated at NASA-Dryden, with flight test operations beginning in April 1992. Therefore, rapid development of a hardware-in-the-loop simulation was needed to support the flight test operations at NASA-Dryden, and to perform verification and validation of flight control software. The X-31 simulation system requirements, distributed simulation system architecture, simulation components math models to the visual system, and the advanced capabilities the X-31 simulation provides. In addition, unique software tools and the methods used to rapidly develop this simulation system will be highlighted.

*Rockwell International Corporation, Downey, California.

Recent Flight-Test Results of Optical Airdata Techniques. AIAA Paper 92-4086. Presented at the 6th AIAA Biennial Flight Test Conference, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, August 24–26, 1992, 93A13265, #. (see also 2026.) PDF AIAA

Optical techniques for measuring airdata parameters have been demonstrated with promising results on high-performance fighter aircraft. These systems can measure the airspeed vector, and some are not as dependent on special in-flight calibration processes as current systems. Optical concepts for measuring free stream static temperature and density are feasible for in-flight as applications. The best feature of these concepts is that the airdata measurements are obtained nonintrusively, and for the most part well into the freestream region of the flowfield about the aircraft. Current requirements for measuring airdata at high angle of attack, and future need to measure the same information at hypersonic flight conditions place strains on existing techniques. Optical technology advances show outstanding potential for application in future programs and promise to make common use of optical concepts a reality. This paper summarizes results from several flight-test programs and identifies the technology advances required to make optical airdata techniques practical.


A Flight Test Engineering Database Management System (FTE DBMS) was designed and implemented at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. The X-29 Forward Swept
Wing Advanced Technology Demonstrator flight research program was chosen for the initial system development and implementation. The FTE DBMS greatly assisted in planning and ‘mass production’ card preparation for an accelerated X-29 research program. Improved Test Plan tracking and maneuver management for a high flight-rate program were proven, and flight rates of up to three flights per day, two times per week were maintained.


A flight measurements program is underway to obtain flight data for validating stability theory-based transition estimation techniques for crossflow-induced boundary-layer transition at Mach 6-8. A smooth wing glove, designed to enhance crossflow transition and suppress Tollmien-Schlichting (T-S) instabilities, will be mounted on the delta wing of the first stage of the Pegasus booster. The instrumentation package will include ‘intelligent’ software capable of yielding space and time-correlations obtained through extensive use of fast Fourier transforms (FFTs), ‘windowing’ and multistage compression as well as a variety of techniques for quality assurance. The flight experiment covers a Mach number range (6 to 8) where low background disturbance data cannot currently be obtained in ground facilities. These flight results will support transition estimation code development for application to supersonic laminar flow control (LFC) and National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) class vehicles in areas where crossflow, rather than T-S waves, is the dominant instability mode.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California.


For the supersonic laminar flow control research program, tests are being conducted to measure the attachment-line flow characteristics and its location on a highly swept aircraft wing. Subsonic wind tunnel experiments were conducted on 2D models to develop sensors and techniques for the flight application. Representative attachment-line data are discussed and results from the wind tunnel investigation are presented.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An airborne information management system is being developed at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. This system will improve the state of the art in management data acquisition on-board research aircraft. The design centers around highly distributable, high-speed microprocessors that allow data compression, digital filtering, and real-time analysis. This paper describes the areas of applicability, approach to developing the system, potential for trouble areas, and reasons for this development activity. System architecture (including the salient points of what makes it unique), design philosophy, and tradeoff issues are also discussed.


Engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) have conducted two flight research programs with lightweight, low-power miniaturized instrumentation systems built around commercial data loggers. One program quantified the performance of a radio-controlled model airplane. The other program was a laminar boundary-layer transition experiment on a manned sailplane. The purpose of this paper is to report NASA-Dryden personnel’s flight experience with the miniaturized instrumentation systems used on these two programs. The paper will describe the data loggers, the sensors, and the hardware and software developed to complete the systems. The paper also describes how the systems were used and covers the challenges encountered to make them work. Examples of raw data and derived results will be shown as well. Finally, future plans for these systems will be discussed.

Flight tests and simulation studies using the throttles of an F-15 airplane for emergency flight control have been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. The airplane and the simulation are capable of extended up-and-away flight, using only throttles for flight path control. Initial simulation results showed that runway landings using manual throttles-only control were difficult, but possible with practice. Manual approaches flown in the airplane were much more difficult, indicating a significant discrepancy between flight and simulation. Analysis of flight data and development of improved simulation models that resolve the discrepancy are discussed. An augmented throttle-only control system that controls bank angle and flight path with appropriate feedback parameters has also been developed, evaluated in simulations, and is planned for flight in the F-15.


Over the last two decades, NASA has conducted several flight research experiments in integrated flight propulsion control. Benefits have included increased thrust, range, and survivability; reduced fuel consumption; and reduced maintenance. These flight programs were flown at NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. This paper presents the basic concepts for control integration, examples of implementation, and benefits of integrated flight propulsion control systems. The F-15 research involved integration of the engine, flight, and inlet control systems. Further extension of the integration included real time, onboard optimization of engine, inlet, and flight control variables; a self repairing flight control system; and an engines only control concept for emergency control. The flight research programs and the resulting benefits are described for the F-15 research.


Results from the wing surface and boundary layer pressures, buffet studies and flight deflection measurement system for the advanced fighter technology integration F-111 mission adaptive wing program are presented. The different aerodynamic technologies studied on the aircraft, and their relationship with each other are described. The wingtip twist measurements provide an insight as to how dynamic pressures for positive normal accelerations affect the wingtip pressure profiles.


In-flight pressure distributions are presented at angles of attack from 15 deg to 60 deg and at Mach numbers from 0.22 to 0.60 at four fuselage stations on the forebody of the X-29A aircraft. Forebody yawing moments are obtained from the integrated pressure distributions and the results are correlated with the overall aircraft yawing moments. Yawing moments created by the forebody were not significant until an angle of attack of 50 deg or above and correlated well with the aircraft left yawing moment.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

X-29A Airplane With Smoke Generators


Flow visualization techniques were used on the X-29A aircraft at high angles of attack to study the vortical flow off the forebody and the surface flow on the wing and tail. The forebody vortex system was studied because asymmetries in the vortex system were suspected of inducing uncommanded...
yawning moments at zero sideslip. Smoke enabled visualization of the vortex system and correlation of its orientation with flight yawing moment data. Good agreement was found between vortex system asymmetries and the occurrence of yawning moments. Surface flow on the forward-swept wing of the X-29A was studied using tufts and flow cones. As angle of attack increased, separated flow initiated at the root and spread outboard encompassing the full wing by 30 deg angle of attack. In general, the progression of the separated flow correlated well with subscale model lift data.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


An architectural approach that greatly increases the capability to handle the increasingly large quantity of flight test/research data is presented. Attention is given to new and emerging technologies in the mass storage arena, the continuous increases in computational performance, and commercially available analysis and display tools. Consideration is given to the capture, archiving, responsive retrieval, efficient and accurate processing, and presentation of these large quantities of information in a convenient and cost effective manner.

*Perimeter Computer Systems, Inc., Lancaster, California.


The research airdata system of an instrumented F-104 aircraft has been calibrated to measure winds aloft in support of the Space Shuttle wind measurement investigation at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center Dryden Flight Research Facility. For this investigation, wind measurement accuracies comparable to those obtained from Jimsphere balloons were desired. This required an airdata calibration more accurate than needed for most aircraft research programs. The F-104 aircraft was equipped with a research pilot-static noseboom with integral angle-of-attack and flank angle-of-attack vanes and a ring-laser-gyro inertial reference unit. Tower fly-bys and radar acceleration-decelerations were used to calibrate Mach number and total temperature. Angle of attack and angle of side slip were calibrated with a trajectory reconstruction technique using a multiple-state linear Kalman filter. The F-104 aircraft and instrumentation configuration, flight test maneuvers, data corrections, calibration techniques, and resulting calibrations and data repeatability are presented. Recommendations for future airdata systems on aircraft used to measure winds aloft are also given.


Singular value analysis can give conservative stability margin results. Applying structure to the uncertainty can reduce this conservatism. This paper presents flight-determined stability margins for the X-29A lateral-directional, multiloop control system. These margins are compared with the predicted unscaled singular values and scaled structured singular values. The algorithm was further evaluated with flight data by changing the roll-rate-to aileron-command-feedback gain by +/- 20 percent. Also presented are the minimum eigenvalues of the return difference matrix which bound the singular values. Extracting multiloop singular values from flight data and analyzing the feedback gain variations validates this technique as a measure of robustness. This analysis can be used for near-real-time flight monitoring and safety testing.


Flow-field measurements on the leading-edge extension (LEX) of the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) were obtained using a rotating rake with 16 hemispherical-tipped five-hole probes. Detailed pressure, velocity, and flow direction data were obtained through the LEX vortex core. Data were gathered during 1-g quasi-stabilized flight conditions at angles of attack alpha from 10 degrees to 52 degrees and at Reynolds numbers based on mean aerodynamic cord up to 16 x 10 (exp 6). Normalized dynamic pressures and crossflow velocities clearly showed the primary vortex above the LEX and formation of a secondary vortex at higher angles of attack. The vortex was characterized by a ring of high dynamic pressure surrounding a region of low dynamic pressure at the vortex core center. The vortex core, subcore diameter, and vertical location of the core above the LEX increased with angle of attack. Minimum values for static pressure were obtained in the vortex subcore and decreased nearly linearly with increasing angle of attack until vortex breakdown. Rake-measured static pressures were consistent with previously documented surface pressures.
and showed good agreement with flow visualization flight test results. Comparison of the LEX vortex flight test data to computational solutions at alpha approximately equals 19 degrees and 30 degrees showed fair correlation.

Keywords: Computational fluid dynamics (CFD); F-18 airplane; Five-hole probe; High angle of attack; Vortex; Vortical flows

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle is the first thrust-vectoring testbed aircraft used to study the aerodynamics and maneuvering available in the poststall flight regime and to provide the data for validating ground prediction techniques. The aircraft includes a flexible research flight control system and full research instrumentation. The capability to control the vehicle at angles of attack up to 70 degrees is also included. This aircraft was modified by adding a pitch and yaw thrust-vectoring system. No significant problems occurred during the envelope expansion phase of the program. This aircraft has demonstrated excellent control in the wing rock region and increased rolling performance at high angles of attack. Initial pilot reports indicate that the increased capability is desirable although some difficulty in judging the size and timing of control inputs was observed. The aircraft, preflight ground testing and envelope expansion flight tests are described.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The X-31 Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability Program has been recognized to form the International Test Organization, with the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) as the responsible test organization. The two X-31 research aircraft and engineering support personnel were collocated at NASA-Dryden, with flight test operations beginning in April 1992. Therefore, rapid development of a hardware-in-the-loop simulation was needed to support the flight test operations at NASA-Dryden, and to perform verification and validation of flight control software. The X-31 simulation system requirements, distributed simulation system architecture, simulation components math models to the visual system, and the advanced capabilities the X-31 simulation provides. In addition, unique software tools and the methods used to rapidly develop this simulation system will be highlighted.

Keywords: Hardware-in-the-loop; Real-time simulation; Simulation cockpit; Verification and validation; Visual systems; X-31 Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability

*Rockwell International Corp., Downey, California.


An airborne information management system is being developed at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. This system will improve the state of the art in management data acquisition on-board research aircraft. The design centers around highly distributable, high-speed microprocessors that allow data compression, digital filtering, and real-time analysis. This paper describes the areas of applicability, approach to developing the system, potential for trouble areas, and reasons for this development activity. System architecture (including the salient points of what makes it unique), design philosophy, and tradeoff issues are also discussed.

Keywords: Data acquisition; Data development; Digital data; Information management; Instrumentation; Liquid cooling


A joint Air Force/NASA X-29 aircraft program to improve yaw control at high angle of attack using vortex flow control (VFC) is described. Directional VFC blowing proved to be a powerful yaw moment generator and was very effective in overriding natural asymmetries, but was essentially ineffective in suppressing wing rock. Symmetric aft blowing also had little effect on suppressing wing rock.

*USAF Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California.

A fiber optic temperature sensor (FOTS) system consisting of an optical probe, a flexible fiber optic cable, and an electro-optic signal processor was fabricated to measure the gas temperature in a turbine engine. The optical probe contained an emissive source embedded in a sapphire lightguide coupled to a fiber-optic jumper cable and was retrofitted into an existing thermocouple probe housing. The flexible fiber optic cable was constructed with 200 micron core, polyimide-coated fiber and was ruggedized for an aircraft environment. The electro-optic signal processing unit was used to ratio the intensities of two wavelength intervals and provided an analog output value of the indicated temperature. Subsequently, this optical sensor system was installed on a NASA Dryden F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) Aircraft Engine and several flight tests were conducted. Over the course of flight testing, the FOTS system’s response was proportional to the average of the existing thermocouples sensing the changes in turbine engine thermal conditions.

*Conax Buffalo Corporation, Buffalo, New York.


An overview is presented of some of the hypersonic technology that will become the baseline for more advanced commercial aerospace systems and new military transportation systems for carrying astronauts and equipment into space. Attention is given to the X-15 aeronautical research program, the X-20 DYNA-SOAR, and the current X-30 National Aerospace Plane. Consideration is given to FEM analysis methods, modal testing conducted to measure the structure’s resonant frequencies, dampings, and mode shapes, and high-temperature, high-speed wind tunnel testing and in-flight measurement of steady and unsteady pressures at Mach 3 and above.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The fundamentals of control integration for propulsion are reviewed giving practical illustrations of its use to demonstrate the advantages of integration. Attention is given to the first integration propulsion-control systems (IPCSs) which was developed for the F-111E, and the integrated controller design is described that NASA developed for the YF-12C aircraft. The integrated control systems incorporate a range of aircraft components including the engine, inlet controls, autopilot, autothrottle, airdata, navigation, and/or stability-augmentation systems. Also described are emergency-control systems, onboard engine optimization, and thrust-vectoring control technologies developed for the F-18A and the F-15. Integrated flight-propulsion control systems are shown to enhance the thrust, range, and survivability of the aircraft while reducing fuel consumption and maintenance.


Considerable experience was acquired with Ada at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility during the on-going High Alpha Technology Program. In this program, an F-18 aircraft was highly modified by the addition of thrust-vectoring vanes to the airframe. In addition, substantial alteration was made in the original quadruplex flight control system. The result is the High Alpha Research Vehicle. An additional research flight control computer was incorporated in each of the four channels. Software for the research flight control computer was written in Ada. To date, six releases of this software have been flown. This paper provides a detailed description of the modifications to the research flight control system. Efficient ground-testing of the software was accomplished by using simulations that used the Ada for portions of their software. These simulations are also described. Modifying and transferring the Ada for flight software to the software simulation configuration has allowed evaluation of this language. This paper also discusses such significant issues in using Ada as portability, modifiability, and testability as well as documentation requirements.

Keywords: Ada; Airborne computers; Digital systems; F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle; Flight control

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


NASA is directing research to develop technology for a high-speed civil transport. Supersonic laminar flow control has been identified as a program element, since it offers significant drag-reduction benefits and is one of the most promising technologies for producing an economically viable aircraft design. NASA is using two prototype F-16XL aircraft to research supersonic laminar flow control. The F-16XL
The supersonic laminar flow control research programs for both aircraft are described. Some general results of the flight program demonstrate that significant laminar flow was obtained using laminar flow control on a highly swept wing at supersonic speeds.

Keywords: Boundary layer control; F-16XL aircraft; Laminar boundary layer; Supersonic boundary layers


A survey of temperature, heat-flux, and pressure measurements was obtained at speeds through Mach 8.0 on the second flight of the Pegasus air-launched space booster system. All sensors were distributed on the wing-body fairing or fillet. Sensors included thin foil-gauge thermocouples installed near the surface within the thermal protection system. Thermocouples were also installed on the surface of nonablating plugs. The resulting temperature time history allowed derivation of convective heat flux. In addition, commercially available calorimeters were installed on the fillet at selected locations. Calorimeters exhibited a larger change in measured heat flux than collocated nonablating plugs in response to particular events. Similar proportional variations in heat flux across different regions of the fillet were detected by both the calorimeters and nonablating plugs. Pressure ports were installed on some nonablating plugs to explore the effects of port protrusion and high-frequency noise on pressure requirements. The effect of port protrusion on static-pressure measurements was found to decrease with increasing Mach number. High-frequency noise suppression was found to be desirable but not required on any future flight.

Keywords: Aerothermal test results; Flight tests; Heat flux; Pegasus; Thermal protection

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


A practical single constant current loop circuit for the signal conditioning of variable resistance transducers has been synthesized, analyzed, and demonstrated. The strain gage and the resistance temperature device are examples of variable resistance sensors. Lead wires connect variable resistance sensors to remotely located signal conditioning hardware. The presence of lead wires in the conventional Wheatstone bridge signal conditioning circuit introduces undesired effects that reduce the quality of the data from the remote sensors. A practical approach is presented for suppressing essentially all lead wire resistance effects while indicating only the change in resistance value. Theoretical predictions supported by laboratory testing confirm the following features of the approach: (1) dc response; (2) the electrical output is unaffected by extremely large variations in the resistance of any or all lead wires; (3) the electrical output remains zero for no change in gage resistance; (4) the electrical output is inherently linear with respect to gage resistance change; (5) the sensitivity is double that of a Wheatstone bridge circuit; and (6) the same excitation wires can serve multiple independent gages. An adaptation of current loop circuit is presented that simultaneously provides an output signal voltage directly proportional to transducer resistance change and provides temperature information that is unaffected by transducer and lead wire resistance variations. These innovations are the subject of NASA patent applications.

Keywords: Measuring instruments; Strain gages; Thermocouples; Test equipment; Temperature sensors


Several principal aeronautics flight projects of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility are discussed. Key vehicle technology areas from a wide range of flight vehicles are highlighted. These areas include flight research data obtained for ground facility and computation correlation, applied research in areas not well suited to ground facilities (wind tunnels), and concept demonstration.


An approach to automate the real-time analysis of flight critical health monitoring and system status is being developed and evaluated at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. A software package was developed in-house and installed as part of the extended aircraft interrogation and display system. This design features a knowledge-base structure in the form of rules to formulate interpretation and decision logic of real-time data. This technique has been applied for ground verification and validation testing and flight testing monitoring where quick, real-time, safety-of-flight decisions can be very critical. In many cases post processing and manual analysis of flight system data are not required. The processing is described of real-time data for analysis along with the output format which features a message stack display.
The development, construction, and testing of the rule-driven knowledge base, along with an application using the X-31A flight test program, are presented.

Keywords: Control systems; Mission control center; Real-time analysis

*Computer Sciences Corporation, Edwards AFB, California.


NASA ARC has conducted flight tests of a new type of aerodynamic pressure sensor based on a luminescent surface coating. Flights were conducted at the NASA ARC-Dryden Flight Research Facility. The luminescent pressure sensor is based on a surface coating which, when illuminated with ultraviolet light, emits visible light with an intensity dependent on the local air pressure on the surface. This technique makes it possible to obtain pressure data over the entire surface of an aircraft, as opposed to conventional instrumentation, which can only make measurements at pre-selected points. The objective of the flight tests was to evaluate the effectiveness and practicality of a luminescent pressure sensor in the actual flight environment. A luminescent pressure sensor was installed on a fin, the Flight Test Fixture (FTF), that is attached to the underside of an F-104 aircraft. The response of one particular surface coating was evaluated at low supersonic Mach numbers (M = 1.0–1.6) in order to provide an initial estimate of the sensor’s capabilities. This memo describes the test approach, the techniques used, and the pressure sensor’s behavior under flight conditions. A direct comparison between data provided by the luminescent pressure sensor and that produced by conventional pressure instrumentation shows that the luminescent sensor can provide quantitative data under flight conditions. However, the test results also show that the sensor has a number of limitations which must be addressed if this technique is to prove useful in the flight environment.

Keywords: Pressure sensitive paint; Pressure sensor; Flight testing

* Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
** University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.


A nonintrusive high angle-of-attack flush airdata sensing system (HI-FADS) was installed and flight tested on the F-18 high alpha research flight vehicle (HARV). This system measures airdata using a matrix of 25 flush pressure orifices on the vehicle nose. Satisfactory results were obtained using all 25 ports and a symmetric subset of just 9 ports. The overall HI-FADS system design and development including hardware, air-data algorithm, and system calibration is presented. Flight test validation results are presented. Under moderate maneuvering conditions the system is shown to give excellent results.

*PRC Systems, Inc., Edwards, California.


High-angle-of-attack aerodynamic studies have been conducted on both the obtained include on- and off-surface flow visualization and static pressure measurements on the forebody. Comparisons of similar results are made between the two aircraft where possible. The forebody shapes of the two aircraft are different and the X-29A forebody flow is affected by the addition of nose strakes and a flight test noseboom. The forebody flow field of the F-18 HARV is fairly symmetric at zero sideslip and has distinct, well-defined vortices. The X-29A forebody vortices are more diffuse and are sometimes asymmetric at zero sideslip. These asymmetries correlate with observed zero-sideslip aircraft yawing moments.

*PRC Systems, Inc., Edwards, California.

Hypersonic aeronautics research using the Pegasus air-launched space booster is described. Two areas are discussed in the paper: previously obtained results from Pegasus flights 1 and 2, and plans for future programs. Proposed future research includes boundary-layer transition studies on the airplane-like first stage and also use of the complete Pegasus launch system to boost a research vehicle to hypersonic speeds. Pegasus flight 1 and 2 measurements were used to evaluate the results of several analytical aerodynamic design tools applied during the development of the vehicle as well as to develop hypersonic flight-test techniques. These data indicated that the aerodynamic design approach for Pegasus was adequate and showed that acceptable margins were available. Additionally, the correlations provide insight into the capabilities of these analytical tools for more complex vehicles in which design margins may be more stringent. Near-term plans to conduct hypersonic boundary-layer transition studies are discussed. These plans involve the use of a smooth metallic glove at about the mid-span of the wing. Longer-term opportunities are proposed which identify advantages of the Pegasus launch system to boost large-scale research vehicles to the real-gas hypersonic flight regime.


NASA is directing research to develop technology for a high-speed civil transport. Supersonic laminar flow control has been identified as a program element, since it offers significant drag-reduction benefits and is one of the more promising technologies for producing an economically viable aircraft design. NASA is using two prototype F-16XL aircraft to research supersonic laminar flow control. The F-16XL planform is similar to design planforms of high-speed civil transports. The planform makes the aircraft ideally suited for developing technology pertinent to high-speed transports. The supersonic laminar flow control research programs for both aircraft are described. Some general results of the ship-1 program demonstrate that significant laminar flow was obtained using laminar flow control on a highly swept wing at supersonic speeds.


High-angle-of-attack aerodynamic studies have been conducted on both the F18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) and the X-29A aircraft. Data obtained include on- and off-surface flow visualization and static pressure measurements on the forebody. Comparisons of similar results are made between the two aircraft where possible. The forebody shapes of the two aircraft are different and the X-29A forebody flow is affected by the addition of nose strakes and a flight test noseboom. The forebody flow field of the F-18 HARV is fairly symmetric at zero sideslip and has distinct, well-defined vortices. The X-29A forebody vortices are more diffuse and are sometimes asymmetric at zero sideslip. These asymmetries correlate with observed zero-sideslip aircraft yawing moments.

Keywords: F-18 HARV; Forebody pressure distribution; High angle of attack; In-flight flow visualization; Vortex flow; X-29A aircraft


In-flight pressure distributions at four fuselage stations on the forebody of the X-29A aircraft have been reported at angles of attack from 15 to 66 deg and at Mach numbers from 0.22 to 0.60. At angles of attack of 20 deg and higher, vortices shed from the nose strake caused suction peaks in the pressure distributions that generally increased in magnitude with angle of attack. Above 30 deg-angle of attack, the forebody pressure distributions became asymmetrical at the most forward station, while they remained nearly symmetrical until 50 to 55 deg-angle of attack for the aft stations. Between 59 to 66 deg-angle of attack, the asymmetry of the pressure distributions changed direction. Yawing moments for the forebody alone were obtained by integrating the forebody pressure distributions. At 45 deg-angle of attack, the aircraft yaws to the right and at 50 deg and higher, the aircraft yaws to the left. The forebody yawing moments correlated well with the aircraft left yawing moment at an angle of attack of 50 deg or higher. At a 45 deg-angle of attack, the forebody yawing moments did not correlate well with the aircraft yawing moment, but it is suggested that this was due to asymmetric pressures on the cockpit region of the fuselage which was not instrumented. The forebody was also shown to provide a positive component of directional stability of the aircraft at angles of attack of 25 deg or higher. A Mach number effect was noted at angles of attack of 30 deg or higher at the station.
Singular value analysis can give conservative stability margin results. Applying structure to the uncertainty can reduce this conservatism. This paper presents flight-determined stability margins for the X-29A lateral-directional, multiloop control system. These margins are compared with the predicted unscaled singular values and scaled structured singular values. The algorithm was further evaluated with flight data by changing the roll-rate-to-aileron command-feedback gain by +/- 20 percent. Minimum eigenvalues of the return difference matrix which bound the singular values are also presented. Extracting multiloop singular values from flight data and analyzing the feedback gain variations validates this technique as a measure of robustness. This analysis can be used for near-real-time flight monitoring and safety testing.

Keywords: Multi-variable robustness; Singular value analysis; Structured singular values; Flight-determined singular values; Multiple-input - multiple-output stability analysis


Flow visualization techniques were used on the X-29A aircraft at high angles of attack to study the vortical flow off the forebody and the surface flow on the wing and tail. The forebody vortex system was studied because asymmetries in the vortex system were suspected of inducing uncommanded yawing moments at zero sideslip. Smoke enabled visualization of the vortex system and correlation of its orientation with flight yawing moment data. Good agreement was found between vortex system asymmetries and the occurrence of yawing moments. Surface flow on the forward-swept wing of the X-29A was studied using tufts and flow cones. As angle of attack increased, separated flow initiated at the root and
spread outboard encompassing the full wing by 30 deg angle of attack. In general, the progression of the separated flow correlated well with subscale model lift data. Surface flow on the vertical tail was also studied using tufts and flow cones. As angle of attack increased, separated flow initiated at the root and spread upward. The area of separated flow on the vertical tail at angles of attack greater than 20 deg correlated well with the marked decrease in aircraft directional stability.

Keywords: X-29A; Flow visualization; Forebody vortex system; Vortical flow

*PRC Inc. Edwards, California.


Integrated engine-airframe optimal control technology may significantly improve aircraft performance. This technology requires a reliable and accurate parameter estimator to predict unmeasured variables. To develop this technology base, NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (Edwards, California), McDonnell Aircraft Company (St. Louis, MO), and Pratt & Whitney (West Palm Beach, FL) have developed and flight-tested an adaptive performance seeking control system which optimizes the quasi-steady-state performance of the F-15 propulsion system. This paper presents flight and ground test evaluations of the propulsion system parameter estimation process used by the performance seeking control system. The estimator consists of a compact propulsion system model and an extended Kalman filter. The extended Kalman filter estimates five engine component deviation parameters from measured inputs. The compact model uses measurements and Kalman-filter estimates as inputs to predict unmeasured propulsion parameters such as net propulsive force and fan stall margin. The ability to track trends and estimate absolute values of propulsion system parameters was demonstrated. For example, thrust stand results show a good correlation, especially in trends, between the performance seeking control estimated and measured thrust.

Keywords: Propulsion systems; Performance seeking control; Subsonic flight test


The mission adaptive wing (MAW) consisted of leading- and trailing-edge variable-camber surfaces that could be deflected in flight to provide a near-ideal wing camber shape for any flight condition. These surfaces featured smooth, flexible upper surfaces and fully enclosed lower surfaces, distinguishing them from conventional flaps that have discontinuous surfaces and exposed or semiexposed mechanisms. Camber shape was controlled by either a manual or automatic flight control system. The wing and aircraft were extensively instrumented to evaluate the local flow characteristics and the total aircraft performance. This paper discusses the interrelationships between the wing pressure, buffet, boundary-layer and flight deflection measurement system analyses and describes the flight maneuvers used to obtain the data. The results are for a wing sweep of 26 deg, a Mach number of 0.85, leading and trailing-edge cambers (delta (sub LE/TE)) of 0/2 and 5/10, and angles of attack from 3.0 deg to 14.0 deg. For the well-behaved flow of the delta (sub LE/TE) = 0/2 camber, a typical cruise camber shape, the local and global data are in good agreement with respect to the flow properties of the wing. For the delta (sub LE/TE) = 5/10 camber, a maneuvering camber shape, the local and global data have similar trends and conclusions, but not the clear-cut agreement observed for cruise camber.

Keywords: AFTI/F-111 mission adaptive wing; Boundary-layer profiles; Smooth variable-camber wing; Wing buffet intensity; Wing pressures; Wing twist


A review is presented of the major challenges for aerodynamic measurement created by advanced aircraft systems that range from turbulence modeling to scramjet engines. Three diverse examples typically challenge current capabilities: modeling of compressible turbulence, validation of complex 3D flow predictions, and thermochemical characterization of chemically active high-enthalpy flows. Various techniques being explored and under development to realize the aerodynamic measurements required are discussed.

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Progress in computational atmospheric dynamics is exhibiting the ability of numerical simulation to describe instability processes associated with turbulence observed at altitudes between 15 and 25 km in the lower stratosphere. As
these numerical simulation tools mature, they can be used to extend estimates of atmospheric perturbations from the present gust database for airplane design at altitudes below 15 km to altitudes between 25 and 50 km where aerospace plane operation would be at hypersonic speeds. The amount of available gust data and number of temperature perturbation observations are limited at altitudes between 15 and 25 km. On the other hand, in-situ gust data at higher altitudes are virtually nonexistent. The uncertain potential for future airbreathing hypersonic flight research vehicles to encounter strong turbulence at higher altitudes could penalize the design of these vehicles by undue cost or limitations on performance. Because the atmospheric structure changes markedly with altitude, direct extrapolation of gust magnitudes and encounter probabilities to the higher flight altitudes is not advisable. This paper presents a brief review of turbulence characteristics observed in the lower stratosphere and highlights the progress of computational atmospheric dynamics that may be used to estimate the severity of atmospheric transients at higher altitudes.

Keywords: Clear air turbulence; Discrete gust models; Hypersonic aircraft; Mountain waves; Numerical simulations; Stratosphere


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To help ensure that new aerospace initiatives rapidly transition to competitive U.S. technologies, NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility has dedicated a systems research aircraft facility. The primary goal is to accelerate the transition of new aerospace technologies to commercial, military, and space vehicles. Key technologies include more-electric aircraft concepts, fly-by-light systems, flush airdata systems, and advanced computer architectures. Future aircraft that will benefit are the high-speed civil transport and the National AeroSpace Plane. This paper describes the systems research aircraft flight research vehicle and outlines near-term programs.

Keywords: Fiber optics; Fly-by-light; More-electric aircraft; High-speed civil transport


Flexibility in choosing how to display computer-generated three-dimensional drawings has become increasingly important in recent years. A major consideration is the enhancement of the realism and aesthetics of the presentation. A polygonal representation of objects, even with hidden lines removed, is not always desirable. A more pleasing pictorial representation often can be achieved by removing some of the remaining visible lines, thus creating silhouettes (or outlines) of selected surfaces of the object. Additionally, it should be noted that this silhouette feature allows warped polygons. This means that any polygon can be decomposed into constituent triangles. Considering these triangles as members of the same family will present a polygon with no interior lines, and thus removes the restriction of flat polygons. SILHOUETTE is a program for calligraphic drawings that can render any subset of polygons as a silhouette with respect to itself. The program is flexible enough to be applicable to every class of object. SILHOUETTE offers all possible combinations of silhouette and nonsilhouette specifications for an arbitrary solid. Thus, it is possible to enhance the clarity of any three-dimensional scene presented in two dimensions. Input to the program can be line segments or polygons. Polygons designated with the same number will be drawn as a silhouette of those polygons. SILHOUETTE is written in FORTRAN 77 and requires a graphics package such as DI-3000. The program has been implemented on a DEC VAX series computer running VMS and used 65K of virtual memory without a graphics package linked in. The source code is intended to be machine independent. This program is available on a 5.25 inch 360K MS-DOS format diskette (standard distribution) and is also available on a 9-track 1600 BPI ASCII CARD IMAGE
magnetic tape. SILOUETTE was developed in 1986 and was last updated in 1992.


This paper presents pertinent details of the development and application of an integrated, multidisciplinary finite element analysis tool for the effective modeling and simulation of aerospace vehicles including hypersonic ones. Recent advances in this connection include more efficient CFD solution techniques and also aeroservoelastic stability analysis methods that employ unsteady aerodynamic forces for computation of flutter and divergence speeds. An accelerated Euler solution procedure based on the Aitken acceleration technique has recently been implemented that effects considerable improvement in solution efficiency for the same level of solution accuracy, as evidenced by example problems presented in the paper. A summary of finite element numerical formulations for the various individual disciplines as well as for the unified aeroservoelastic analysis and some relevant numerical examples are also presented in the paper.

*Elomet Institute, Claremont, California.


Development of advanced measurement technology for the NASP program is reviewed. The technical need and the program commitment are discussed which are required to ensure that adequate and timely measurement capabilities are provided for ground and flight testing in the NASP program. Particular attention is given to an assessment of the current development status and a perspective on the features of the NASP program that contributed to the current state of instrumentation technology readiness.

*National Aerospace Plane Joint Program Office, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


The HI-FADS system design is an evolution of the FADS systems (e.g., Larson et al., 1980, 1987), which emphasizes the entire airdata system development. This paper describes the HI-FADS measurement system, with particular consideration given to the basic measurement hardware and the development of the HI-FADS aerodynamic model and the basic nonlinear regression algorithm. Algorithm initialization techniques are developed, and potential algorithm divergence problems are discussed. Data derived from HI-FADS flight tests are used to demonstrate the system accuracies and to illustrate the developed concepts and methods.

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**NeuroDyne Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, and MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**McDonnell Aircraft Co., Hypersonic Thermal Systems, St. Louis, Missouri.

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The operational and research aspects of a subscale, radio-controlled model flight test program are presented. By using low-cost free-flying models, an approach was developed for obtaining research-quality vehicle performance and aerodynamic information. The advantages and limitations learned by applying this approach to a specific flight test program are described. The research quality of the data acquired shows that model flight testing is practical for obtaining consistent and repeatable flight data.

Keywords: Radio control; Ducted fan engines; Free flight test apparatus

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

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*PAC Inc. Edwards, California.


A flight control concept that can identify aircraft stability properties and continually optimize the aircraft flying qualities has been developed by McDonnell Aircraft Company under a contract with the NASA-Dryden Flight Research Facility. This flight concept, termed the Intelligent Flight Control System, utilizes Neural Network technology to identify the host aircraft stability and control properties during flight, and use this information to design on-line the control system feedback gains to provide continuous optimum flight response. This self-repairing capability can provide high performance flight maneuvering response throughout large flight envelopes, such as needed for the National Aerospace Plane. Moreover, achieving this response early in the vehicle’s development schedule will save cost.

*MCDONNELL AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.


Pegasus, a three-stage, air-launched, winged space booster was developed to provide fast and efficient commercial launch services for small satellites. The aerodynamic design and analysis of Pegasus was conducted without benefit of wind tunnel tests using only computational aerodynamic and fluid dynamic methods. Flight test data from the first two operational flights of Pegasus are now available, and they provide an opportunity to validate the accuracy of the predicted pre-flight aerodynamic characteristics. Comparisons of measured and predicted flight characteristics are presented and discussed. Results show that the computational methods provide reasonable aerodynamic design information with acceptable margins. Post-flight analyses illustrate certain areas in which improvements are desired.

*NIELSEN ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH, INC., MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA.

**PRC INC., EDWARDS, CALIFORNIA.


Aerodynamic and aerothermodynamic comparisons between flight and ground test for four hypersonic vehicles are discussed. The four vehicles are the X-15, the Reentry F, the Sandia Energetic Reentry Vehicle Experiment (SWERVE), and the Space Shuttle. The comparisons are taken from papers published by researchers active in the various programs. Aerodynamic comparisons include reaction control jet interaction on the Space Shuttle. Various forms of heating including catalytic, boundary layer, shock interaction and interference, and vortex impingement are compared. Predictions were significantly exceeded for the heating caused by vortex impingement (on the Space Shuttle OMS pods) and for heating caused by shock interaction and interference on the X-15 and the Space Shuttle. Predictions of boundary-layer state were in error on the X-15, the SWERVE, and the Space Shuttle vehicles.


The X-15 rocket research airplane flew to an altitude of 354,000 ft and reached Mach 6.70. In almost 200 flights, this airplane was used to gather aerodynamic-heating, structural loads, stability and control, and atmospheric-reentry data. This paper describes the origins, design, and operation of the X-15 airplane. In addition, lessons learned from the X-15 airplane that are applicable to designing and testing the National Aero-Space Plane are discussed.


This paper investigates the feasibility of locating a flush airdata sensing (FADS) system on a wing leading edge where the operation of the avionics or fire control radar system will not be hindered. The leading-edge FADS system (LE-FADS) was installed on an unswept symmetrical airfoil, and a series
of low-speed wind-tunnel tests were conducted to evaluate the performance of the system. As a result of the tests it is concluded that the aerodynamic models formulated for use on aircraft nosetips are directly applicable to wing leading edges and that the calibration process is similar. Furthermore, the agreement between the air-data calculations for angle of attack and total pressure from the LE-FADS and known wind-tunnel values suggest that wing-based flush air-data systems can be calibrated to a high degree of accuracy. Static wind-tunnel tests for angles of attack from –50 to 50 deg and dynamic pressures from 3.6 to 11.4 lb/sq ft were performed.


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Keywords: Airspeed; Angle of attack; Flush airdata; Nonintrusive airdata; Wing leading edge


A nonintrusive airdata-sensing system was calibrated in flight and wind-tunnel experiments to an angle of attack of 70 deg and to angles of sideslip of ±15 deg. Flight-calibration data have also been obtained to Mach 1.2. The sensor, known as the flush airdata sensor, was installed on the nosecone of an F-18 aircraft for flight tests and on a full-scale F-18 forebody for wind-tunnel tests. Flight tests occurred at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility, Edwards, California, using the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. Wind-tunnel tests were conducted in the 30- by 60-ft wind tunnel at the NASA LaRC, Hampton, Virginia. The sensor consisted of 23 flush-mounted pressure ports arranged in concentric circles and located within 1.75 in. of the tip of the nosecap. An overdetermined mathematical model was used to relate the pressure measurements to the local airdata quantities. The mathematical model was based on potential flow over a sphere and was empirically adjusted based on flight and wind-tunnel data. For quasi-steady maneuvering, the mathematical model worked well throughout the subsonic, transonic, and low supersonic flight regimes. The model also worked well throughout the angles-of-attack and -sideslip regions studied.

Keywords: Airdata; Airdata calibration; FADS; Flush airdata sensor; Nonintrusive airdata

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Keywords: Airdata; Airdata calibration; FADS; Flush airdata sensor; Nonintrusive airdata

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

Irvine, California, February 16–19, 1993, 93A30933, #. PDF AIAA

A real-time piloted simulation at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility was used to study the feasibility of launching a research aircraft from a high-altitude balloon. In the study, the simulated aircraft was launched in a nosedown attitude at zero airspeed from 110,000 ft. After launch, the pilot flew the aircraft through a near-maximum-lift pullout and then through a zoom climb to a trimmed, 1-g flight condition at the test altitude. The study included parametric variations to measure the effects of launch altitude, gross weight, Mach number limit, and parachute size on the test altitude attained. The aerodynamic model of the simulated aircraft was based on flight test results, low Reynolds number windtunnel tests, and computational models; the model included significant Mach number and Reynolds number effects at high altitude. A small parachute was included in the simulation to limit Mach number during the pullout to avoid adverse transonic effects and their resultant energy losses. A small rocket motor was included in the simulation and was investigated for boosting the aircraft to a higher test altitude. In the study, a test altitude of approximately 95,000 ft was attained without rocket boost, and a test altitude in excess of 100,000 ft was attained using small rocket boost.


This paper discusses an ongoing effort to implement vibration health monitoring schemes in an on-line environment. Online health monitoring or on-line parameter estimation is required to automate the testing procedures currently observed in practice for certain nonstationary or otherwise nonconstant linear systems. Flight flutter testing of aircraft is discussed as a specific and intended beneficiary of this work. Data acquisition hardware is controlled from within a flexible software package for matrix algebra. This development is unique in the sense that a provision is made to perform coordinated transformations such as discrete modal filtering on the data in the acquisition hardware, which can be exploited as a data condensation tool. The results presented in this paper include an overview of the software tools developed to date and experimental results for stationary and nonstationary data.


A flight evaluation was conducted to determine the effect of engine throttle response characteristics on precision formation-flying qualities. A variable electronic throttle control system was developed and flight-tested on a TF-104G airplane with a J79-11B engine at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility. This airplane was chosen because of its known, very favorable thrust response characteristics. Ten research flights were flown to evaluate the effects of throttle gain, time delay, and fuel control rate limiting on engine handling qualities during a demanding precision wing formation task. Handling quality effects of lag filters and lead compensation time delays were also evaluated. The Cooper and Harper Pilot Rating Scale was used to assign levels of handling quality. Data from pilot ratings and comments indicate that throttle control system time delays and rate limits cause significant degradations in handling qualities. Threshold values for satisfactory (level 1) and adequate (level 2) handling qualities of these key variables are presented. These results may provide engine manufacturers with guidelines to assure satisfactory handling qualities in future engine designs.

Keywords: Electronic engine control system; Engine throttle response; Formation-flying qualities; Handling qualities criteria; Throttle variables


Engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) have conducted two flight research programs with lightweight, low-power miniaturized instrumentation systems built around commercial data loggers. One program quantified the performance of a radio-controlled model airplane. The other program was a laminar boundary-layer transition experiment on a manned sailplane. NASA-Dryden personnel’s flight experience with the miniaturized instrumentation systems used on these two programs is reported. The data loggers, the sensors, and the hardware and software developed to complete the systems are described. How the systems were used is described and the challenges encountered to make them work are covered. Examples of raw data and derived results are shown as well. Finally, future plans for these systems are discussed. For some flight research applications where miniaturized instrumentation is a requirement, the authors conclude that commercially available data loggers and sensors are viable alternatives. In fact, the data loggers and sensors make it possible to gather research-quality data in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Keywords: Data acquisition; Data loggers; Onboard recording; Radio-controlled model airplanes; Sailplanes;
Several analytical aerodynamic design tools that were applied to the Pegasus* air-launched space booster were evaluated using flight measurements. The study was limited to existing codes and was conducted with limited computational resources. The flight instrumentation was constrained to have minimal impact on the primary Pegasus missions. Where appropriate, the flight measurements were compared with computational data. Aerodynamic performance and trim data from the first two flights were correlated with predictions. Local measurements in the wing and wing-body interference region were correlated with analytical data. This complex flow region includes the effect of aerothermal heating magnification caused by the presence of a corner vortex and interaction of the wing leading edge shock and fuselage boundary layer. The operation of the first two missions indicates that the aerodynamic design approach for Pegasus was adequate, and data show that acceptable margins were available. Additionally, the correlations provide insight into the capabilities of these analytical tools for more complex vehicles in which design margins may be more stringent.

N. Nielsen Engineering and Research, Inc., Mountain View, California.

M. PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

Pegasus and the PegaStar integrated spacecraft bus are described, and an overview of integration and launch operations is provided. Payload design issues include payload volume and mass capability, payload interfaces, and design loads. Vehicle and payload processing issues include integration and handling methods, facilities, contamination control, and launch operations. It is noted that Pegasus provides small satellite users with a cost-effective means for delivering payloads into the specific orbits at the optimal time to meet the most demanding mission requirements. PegaStar provides a flexible cost-effective means for providing long-term on-orbit support while minimizing total program risk and cost.


Accurate prediction of airframe/actuation coupling is required by the imposing demands of modern flight control systems. In particular, for agile enhancement at high angle of attack and low dynamic pressure, structural integration characteristics such as hinge moments, effective actuator stiffness, and airframe/control surface damping can have a significant effect on stability predictions. Actuator responses are customarily represented with low-order transfer functions matched to actuator test data, and control surface stiffness is often modeled as a linear spring. The inclusion of the physical properties of actuation and its installation on the airframe is therefore addressed in this paper using detailed actuator models which consider the physical, electrical, and mechanical elements of actuation. The aeroservoelastic analysis procedure is described in which the actuators are modeled as detailed high-order transfer functions and approximate low-order transfer functions. The impacts of unsteady aerodynamic modeling on aeroservoelastic stability are also investigated in this paper by varying the order of approximation, or number of aerodynamic lag states, in the analysis. Test data from a thrust-vectoring configuration of an F/A-18 aircraft are compared to predictions to determine the effects on accuracy as a function of modeling complexity.


Numerically simulated, wind tunnel and flight test experimental data were used to evaluate various types of system excitation sources for subcritical flutter testing. Emphasis was placed upon the determination of modal frequencies and damping from relatively short time series records. Parameter identification based upon digital time series models was used to predict modal characteristics from subcritical test data. Various types of excitation were considered. These were: 1) impulsive loading and the resulting transient free vibration response, 2) random forced response, in which the ‘mechanical’ forcing function could be directly measured, 3) sine sweep forced response, in which the ‘mechanical’ forcing function could be directly measured,
A research excitation system was test flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility on the two-seat F-16XL aircraft. The excitation system is a wingtip-mounted vane with a rotating slotted cylinder at the trailing edge. As the cylinder rotates during flight, the flow is alternately deflected upward and downward through the slot, resulting in a periodic lift force at twice the cylinder’s rotational frequency. Flight testing was conducted to determine the excitation system’s effectiveness in the subsonic and transonic flight regimes. Primary research objectives were to determine the system’s ability to develop adequate force levels to excite the aircraft’s structure and to determine the frequency range over which the system could excite structural modes of the aircraft. The results from the exciter were compared with results from atmospheric turbulence excitation at the same flight conditions. The results from the forced excitation were of higher quality and had less variation than the results from atmospheric turbulence. The forced excitation data also invariably yielded higher structural damping values than those from the atmospheric turbulence data.

A practical single constant current loop circuit for the signal conditioning of variable-resistance transducers has been synthesized, analyzed, and demonstrated. The strain gage and the resistance temperature device are examples of variable-resistance sensors. Lead wires connect variable-resistance sensors to remotely located signal-conditioning hardware. The presence of lead wires in the conventional Wheatstone bridge signal-conditioning circuit introduces undesired effects that reduce the quality of the data from the remote sensors. A practical approach is presented for suppressing essentially all lead wire resistance effects while indicating only the change in resistance value. Theoretical predictions supported by laboratory testing confirm the following features of the approach: (1) the dc response; (2) the electrical output is unaffected by extremely large variations in the resistance of any or all lead wires; (3) the electrical output remains zero for no change in gage resistance; (4) the electrical output is inherently linear with respect to gage resistance change; (5) the sensitivity is double that of a Wheatstone bridge circuit; and (6) the same excitation and sense wires can serve multiple independent gages. An adaptation of the current loop circuit is presented that simultaneously provides an output signal voltage directly proportional to transducer resistance change and provides temperature information that is unaffected by transducer and lead wire resistance variations. These innovations are the subject of NASA patent applications.

Optical techniques for measuring airdata parameters were demonstrated with promising results on high performance fighter aircraft. These systems can measure the airspeed vector, and some are not as dependent on special in-flight calibration processes as current systems. Optical concepts for measuring freestream static temperature and density are feasible for in-flight applications. The best feature of these concepts is that the air data measurements are obtained nonintrusively, and for the most part well into the freestream region of the flow field about the aircraft. Current requirements for measuring
air data at high angle of attack, and future need to measure the same information at hypersonic flight conditions place strains on existing techniques. Optical technology advances show outstanding potential for application in future programs and promise to make common use of optical concepts a reality. Results from several flight-test programs are summarized, and the technology advances required to make optical airdata techniques practical are identified.

Keywords: Aerosols; Airspeed; Calibration static pressure; Doppler velocimetry; Static temperature


A review of the requirement for, and development of, advanced measurement technology for the National Aerospace Plane program is presented. The objective is to discuss the technical need and the program commitment required to ensure that adequate and timely measurement capabilities are provided for ground and flight testing in the NASP program. The scope of the measurement problem is presented, the measurement process is described, how instrumentation technology development has been affected by NASP program evolution is examined, the national effort to define measurement requirements and assess the adequacy of current technology to support the NASP program is discussed, and the measurement requirements are summarized. The unique features of the NASP program that complicate the understanding of requirements and the development of viable solutions are illustrated.

Keywords: Aircraft Combustion; Heat transfer; High temperature instrumentation; Laser-induced fluorescence; National Aero-Space Plane; Scramjet; Strain

*Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.


Accurate prediction of airframe/actuation coupling is required by the imposing demands of modern flight control systems. In particular, for agility enhancement at high angle of attack and low dynamic pressure, structural integration characteristics such as hinge moments, effective actuator stiffness, and airframe/control surface damping can have a significant effect on stability predictions. Actuator responses are customarily represented with low-order transfer functions matched to actuator test data, and control surface stiffness is often modeled as a linear spring. The inclusion of the physical properties of actuation and its installation on the airframe is therefore addressed using detailed actuator models which consider the physical, electrical, and mechanical elements of actuation. The aeroservoelastic analysis procedure is described in which the actuators are modeled as detailed high-order transfer functions and as approximate low-order transfer functions. The impacts of unsteady aerodynamic modeling on aeroservoelastic stability are also investigated by varying the order of approximation, or number of aerodynamic lag states, in the analysis. Test data from a thrust-vectoring configuration of an F/A-18 aircraft are compared to predictions to determine the effects on accuracy as a function of modeling complexity.

Keywords: Actuator dynamics; Aeroservoelasticity; High angle of attack; Modal stability; Structural dynamics; Unsteady aerodynamics


A research excitation system was test flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility on the two-seat F-16XL aircraft. The excitation system is a wingtip-mounted vane with a rotating slotted cylinder at the trailing edge. As the cylinder rotates during flight, the flow is alternately deflected upward and downward through the slot, resulting in a periodic lift force at twice the cylinder’s rotational frequency. Flight testing was conducted to determine the excitation system’s effectiveness in the subsonic, transonic, and supersonic flight regimes. Primary research objectives were to determine the system’s ability to develop adequate force levels to excite the aircraft’s structure and to determine the frequency range over which the system could excite structural modes of the aircraft. In addition, studies were conducted to determine optimal excitation parameters, such as sweep duration, sweep type, and energy levels. The results from the exciter were compared with results from atmospheric turbulence excitation at the same flight conditions. The comparison indicated that the vane with a rotating slotted cylinder provides superior results. The results from the forced excitation were of higher quality and had less variation than the results from atmospheric turbulence. The forced excitation data also invariably yielded higher structural damping values than those from the atmospheric turbulence data.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flutter testing; In-flight structural excitation
A multi-engine aircraft, with some or all of the flight control system inoperative, may use engine thrust for control. NASA Dryden has conducted a study of the capability and techniques for this emergency flight control method for the F-15 airplane. With an augmented control system, engine thrust, along with appropriate feedback parameters, is used to control flightpath and bank angle. Extensive simulation studies were followed by flight tests. The principles of throttles only control, the F-15 airplane, the augmented system, and the flight results including actual landings with throttles-only control are discussed.

Keywords: F-15 airplane; Flight control; Flight-propulsion control integration; Propulsion control; Throttles-only control

*McDonnell-Douglas Automation Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

A multi-engine aircraft, with some or all of the flight control system inoperative, may use engine thrust for control. NASA Dryden has conducted a study of the capability and techniques for this emergency flight control method for the F-15 airplane. With an augmented control system, engine thrust, along with appropriate feedback parameters, is used to control flightpath and bank angle. Extensive simulation studies have been followed by flight tests. This paper discusses the principles of throttles-only control, the F-15 airplane, the augmented system, and the flight results including landing approaches with throttles-only control to within 10 ft of the ground.

Keywords: Afterburner controls; Aircraft flight tests; Aircraft performance; Engine control systems; Inlet controls; Propulsion systems

Digital flight and engine control, powerful onboard computers, and sophisticated controls techniques may improve aircraft performance by maximizing fuel efficiency, maximizing thrust, and extending engine life. An adaptive performance seeking control system for optimizing the quasi-steady state performance of an F-15 aircraft was developed and flight tested. This system has three optimization modes: minimum fuel, maximum thrust, and minimum fan turbine inlet temperature. Tests of the minimum fuel and fan turbine inlet temperature modes were performed at a constant thrust. Supersonic single-engine flight tests of the three modes were conducted using varied after burning power settings. At supersonic conditions, the performance seeking control law optimizes the integrated airframe, inlet, and engine. At subsonic conditions, only the engine is optimized. Supersonic flight tests showed improvements in thrust of 9 percent, increases in fuel savings of 8 percent, and reductions of up to 85 deg R in turbine temperatures for all three modes. The supersonic performance seeking control structure is described and preliminary results of supersonic performance seeking control tests are given. These findings have implications for improving performance of civilian and military aircraft.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight flutter testing; Ground vibration testing

The NASA single-seat F-16XL aircraft was modified by the addition of a glove to the left wing. Vibration tests were conducted on the ground to assess the changes to the aircraft caused by the glove. Flight Luther testing was conducted on the aircraft with the glove installed to ensure that the flight envelope was free of aeroelastic or aeroservoelastic instabilities. The ground vibration tests showed that above 20 Hz, several modes that involved the control surfaces were significantly changed. Flight test data showed that modal damping levels and trends were satisfactory where obtainable. The data presented in this report include estimated modal parameters from the ground vibration and flight flutter test.

Keywords: Hypersonic Aerodynamic and Aerothermodynamic Flight Research and the Comparison to Ground Test Results. NASA TM-4499, H-1894, NAS 1.15:4499, AIAA Paper 93-2988, also presented at the 17th Aerospace Ground Testing Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, July 6–8, 1992, (see A92-56812), June 1993, 94N10820, #. (see also 1944.) PDF DTRS

Aerodynamic and aerothermodynamic comparisons between
flight and ground test for the Space Shuttle at hypersonic speeds are discussed. All of the comparisons are taken from papers published by researchers active in the Space Shuttle program. The aerodynamic comparisons include stability and control derivatives, center-of-pressure location, and reaction control jet interaction. Comparisons are also discussed for various forms of heating, including catalytic, boundary layer, top centerline, side fuselage, OMS pod, wing leading edge, and shock interaction. The jet interaction and center-of-pressure location flight values exceeded not only the predictions but also the uncertainties of the predictions. Predictions were significantly exceeded for the heating caused by the vortex impingement on the OMS pods and for heating caused by the wing leading-edge shock interaction.

Keywords: Aerothermodynamics; Boundary-layer transition; Catalytic effects; Flight-to-ground correlation; Hypersonic aerodynamics


The Space Shuttle Orbiter has provided unique and important information on aircraft flight dynamics. This information has provided the opportunity to assess the flight-derived stability and control derivatives for maneuvering flight in the hypersonic regime. In the case of the Space Shuttle Orbiter, these derivatives are required to determine if certain configuration placards (limitations on the flight envelope) can be modified. These placards were determined on the basis of preflight predictions and the associated uncertainties. As flight-determined derivatives are obtained, the placards are reassessed, and some of them are removed or modified. Extraction of the stability and control derivatives was justified by operational considerations and not by research considerations. Using flight results to update the predicted database of the orbiter is one of the most completely documented processes for a flight vehicle. This process followed from the requirement for analysis of flight data for control system updates and for expansion of the operational flight envelope. These results show significant changes in many important stability and control derivatives from the preflight database. This paper presents some of the stability and control derivative results obtained from Space Shuttle flights. Some of the limitations of this information are also examined.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility and NASA Langley Research Center completed a joint acoustic flight test program. Test objectives were (1) to quantify and evaluate subsonic climb-to-cruise noise and (2) to obtain a quality noise database for use in validating the Aircraft Noise Prediction Program. These tests were conducted using aircraft with engines that represent the high nozzle pressure ratio of future transport designs. Test flights were completed at subsonic speeds that exceeded Mach 0.3 using F-18 and F-16XL aircraft. This paper describes the efforts of NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility in this flight test program. Topics discussed include the test aircraft, setup, and matrix. In addition, the engine modeling codes and nozzle exhaust characteristics are described.

Keywords: Acoustics; Engine modeling codes; Noise; Nozzle exit velocity; Nozzle pressure ratio

Space Shuttle Orbiter


The exhaust characteristics of the F-18 aircraft with an F404 engine are examined with reference to the results of an acoustic flight testing program. The discussion covers an overview of the flight test planning, instrumentation, test procedures, data analysis, engine modeling codes, and results. In addition, the paper presents the exhaust velocity and Mach number data for the climb-to-cruise, Aircraft Noise Prediction Program validation, and ground tests.
Combined inplane compressive and shear buckling analysis was conducted on flat rectangular sandwich panels using the Raleigh-Ritz minimum energy method with a consideration of transverse shear effect of the sandwich core. The sandwich panels were fabricated with titanium honeycomb core and laminated metal matrix composite face sheets. The results show that slightly slender (along unidirectional compressive loading axis) rectangular sandwich panels have the most desirable stiffness-to-weight ratios for aerospace structural applications; the degradation of buckling strength of sandwich panels with rising temperature is faster in shear than in compression; and the fiber orientation of the face sheets for optimum combined-load buckling strength of sandwich panels is a strong function of both loading condition and panel aspect ratio. Under the same specific weight and panel aspect ratio, a sandwich panel with metal matrix composite face sheets has much higher buckling strength than one having monolithic face sheets.

Keywords: Buckling interaction surfaces; Combined load buckling; Metal matrix composites; Sandwich panels

Combined inplane compressive and shear buckling analysis was conducted on flat rectangular sandwich panels using the Raleigh-Ritz minimum energy method with a consideration of transverse shear effect of the sandwich core. The sandwich panels were fabricated with titanium honeycomb core and laminated metal matrix composite face sheets. The results show that slightly slender (along unidirectional compressive loading axis) rectangular sandwich panels have the most desirable stiffness-to-weight ratios for aerospace structural applications; the degradation of buckling strength of sandwich panels with rising temperature is faster in shear than in compression; and the fiber orientation of the face sheets for optimum combined-load buckling strength of sandwich panels is a strong function of both loading condition and panel aspect ratio. Under the same specific weight and panel aspect ratio, a sandwich panel with metal matrix composite face sheets has much higher buckling strength than one having monolithic face sheets.

The performance seeking control (PSC) algorithm is designed to continuously optimize the performance of propulsion systems. The PSC algorithm uses a nominal propulsion system model and estimates, in flight, the engine deviation parameters (EDPs) characterizing the engine deviations with respect to nominal conditions. In practice, because of measurement biases and/or model uncertainties, the estimated EDPs may not reflect the engine’s actual off-nominal condition. This factor has a direct impact on the PSC scheme exacerbated by the open-loop character of the algorithm. In this paper, the effects produced by unknown measurement biases over the estimation algorithm are evaluated. This evaluation allows for identification of the most critical measurements for application of the PSC algorithm to an F100 engine. An equivalence relation between the biases and EDPs stems from the analysis; therefore, it is undecided whether the estimated EDPs represent the actual engine deviation or whether they simply reflect the measurement biases. A new algorithm, based on the engine’s (steady-state) optimization model, is proposed and tested with flight data. When compared with previous Kalman filter schemes, based on local engine dynamic models, the new algorithm is easier to design and tune and it reduces the computational burden of the onboard computer.
to reduce deceleration time from supersonic speeds. This paper traces the history of the PSC program, describes the basic components of PSC, discusses the development and implementation of Dual Engine PSC including additions to the code, and presents predictions of the impact of Dual Engine PSC on aircraft performance.

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A flight test evaluation of the performance-seeking control (PSC) algorithm on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control research aircraft was conducted for single-engine operation at subsonic and supersonic speeds. The model-based PSC system was developed with three optimization modes: minimum fuel flow at constant thrust, minimum turbine temperature at constant thrust, and maximum thrust at maximum dry and full afterburner throttle settings. Subsonic and supersonic flight testing were conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility covering the three PSC optimization modes and over the full throttle range. Flight results show substantial benefits. In the maximum thrust mode, thrust increased up to 15 percent at subsonic and 10 percent at supersonic flight conditions. The minimum fan turbine inlet temperature mode reduced temperatures by more than 100 F at high altitudes. The minimum fuel flow mode results decreased fuel consumption up to 2 percent in the subsonic regime and almost 10 percent supersonically. These results demonstrate that PSC technology can benefit the next generation of fighter or transport aircraft.


High surface temperatures and temperature gradients can affect the vibratory characteristics and stability of aircraft structures. Aircraft designers are relying more on finite-element model analysis methods to ensure sufficient vehicle structural dynamic stability throughout the desired flight envelope. Analysis codes that predict these thermal effects must be correlated and verified with experimental data. Experimental modal data for aluminum, titanium, and fiberglass plates heated at uniform, nonuniform, and transient heating conditions are presented. The data show the effect of heat on each plate’s modal characteristics, a comparison of predicted and measured plate vibration frequencies, the measured modal damping, and the effect of modeling material property changes and thermal stresses on the accuracy of the analytical results at nonuniform and transient heating conditions. Keywords: Hot structures; Modal analysis; Modal testing; Vibration analysis


Several functional agility metrics, including the combat cycle time metric, dynamic speed turn plots, and relative energy state metric, are used to compare turning performance
for generic F-18, X-29, and X-31-type aircraft models. These three-degree-of-freedom models have characteristics similar to the real aircraft. The performance comparisons are made using data from optimal test trajectories to reduce sensitivities to different pilot input techniques and to reduce the effects of control system limiters. The turn performance for all three aircraft is calculated for simulated minimum time 180 deg heading captures from simulation data. Comparisons of the three aircraft give more insight into turn performance than would be available from traditional measures of performance. Using the optimal test technique yields significant performance improvements as measured by the metrics. These performance improvements were found without significant increases in turn radius.

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This paper presents a summary of results obtained to date in an ongoing cooperative research program between NASA and the U.S. Navy to develop design criteria for high-angle-of-attack nose-down pitch control for combat aircraft. A fundamental design consideration for aircraft incorporating relaxed static stability in pitch is the level of stability which achieves a proper balance between high-speed performance considerations and low-speed requirements for maneuvering at high angles of attack. A comprehensive data base of piloted simulation results was generated for parametric variations of critical parameters affecting nose-down control capability. The results showed a strong correlation of pilot rating to the short-term pitch response for nose-down commands applied at high-angle-of-attack conditions. Using these data, candidate design guidelines and flight demonstration requirements were defined. Full-scale flight testing to validate the research methodology and proposed guidelines is in progress, some preliminary results of which are reviewed.

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The simulation configurations used in research flight test, including nonreal-time, real-time all-software, hardware-in-the-loop, iron bird, and aircraft-in-the-loop, are reviewed. It is concluded that progress in simulation technology will demonstrate new concepts, evaluate designs, enhance the quality of flight test, and minimize flight risks.


The application of an adaptive real-time measurement-based performance optimization technique is being explored for a future flight research program. The key technical challenge of the approach is parameter identification, which uses a perturbation-search technique to identify changes in performance caused by forced oscillations of the controls. The controls on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) aircraft were perturbed using inlet cowl rotation steps at various subsonic and supersonic flight conditions to determine the effect on aircraft performance. The feasibility of the perturbation-search technique for identifying integrated airframe-propulsion system performance effects was successfully shown through flight experiments and postflight data analysis. Aircraft response and control data were analyzed postflight to identify gradients and to determine the minimum drag point. Changes in longitudinal acceleration as small as 0.004 g were measured, and absolute resolution was estimated to be 0.002 g or approximately 50 lbf of drag. Two techniques for identifying performance gradients were compared: a least-squares estimation algorithm and a modified maximum likelihood estimator algorithm. A complementary filter algorithm was used with the least squares estimator.

2056. Sim, Alex G.; Murray, James E.; Neufeld, David C.; and *Reed, R. Dale: The Development and Flight Test of a Deployable Precision Landing System for Spacecraft Recovery. NASA TM-4525, H-1933, NAS 1.15:4525, September 1993, 94N14853, #. (see also 2110.) PDF DTRS

A joint NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility and Johnson Space Center program was conducted to determine the feasibility of the autonomous recovery of a spacecraft using a ram-air parafoil system for the final stages of entry from space that included a precision landing. The feasibility of this system was studied using a flight model of a spacecraft in the generic shape of a flattened biconic which weighed approximately 150 lb and was flown under a commercially available, ram-air parachute. Key elements of the vehicle included the Global Positioning System guidance for navigation, flight control computer, ultrasonic sensing for terminal altitude, electronic compass, and onboard data recording. A flight test program was used to develop and refine the vehicle. This
vehicle completed an autonomous flight from an altitude of 10,000 ft and a lateral offset of 1.7 miles which resulted in a precision flare and landing into the wind at a predetermined location. At times, the autonomous flight was conducted in the presence of winds approximately equal to vehicle airspeed. Several techniques for computing the winds postflight were evaluated. Future program objectives are also presented.

Keywords: Autonomous landing systems; Global positioning system navigation; Parachute decelerator; Ram-air parachutes; Satellite-based air navigation; Wind estimation

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A transonic fighter-bomber aircraft, having a swept supercritical wing with smooth variable-camber flaps was fitted with a maneuver load control (MLC) system that implements a technique to reduce the inboard bending moments in the wing by shifting the spanwise load distribution inboard as load factor increases. The technique modifies the spanwise camber distribution by automatically commanding flap position as a function of flap position, true airspeed, Mach number, dynamic pressure, normal acceleration, and wing sweep position. Flight test structural loads data were obtained for loads in both the wing box and the wing root. Data from uniformly deflected flaps were compared with data from flaps in the MLC configuration where the outboard segment of three flap segments was deflected downward less than the two inboard segments. The changes in the shear loads in the forward wing spar and at the roots of the stabilators also are presented. The camber control system automatically reconfigures the flaps through varied flight conditions. Configurations having both moderate and full trailing-edge flap deflection were tested. Flight test data were collected at Mach numbers of 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, and 0.9 and dynamic pressures of 300, 450, 600, and 800 lb/sq ft. The Reynolds numbers for these flight conditions ranged from 26 x 10(exp 6) to 54 x 10(exp 6) at the mean aerodynamic chord. Load factor increases of up to 1.0 g achieved with no increase in wing root bending moment with the MLC flap configuration.

Keywords: Load alleviation; Load distribution; Maneuver load control; Variable camber; Wing bending moment


A reactive program is one which engages in an ongoing interaction with its environment. A system which is controlled by an embedded reactive program is called a reactive system. Examples of reactive systems are aircraft flight management systems, bank automatic teller machine (ATM) networks, airline reservation systems, and computer operating systems. Reactive systems are often naturally modeled (for logical design purposes) as a composition of autonomous processes which progress concurrently and which communicate to share information and/or to coordinate activities. Formal (i.e., mathematical) frameworks for system verification are tools used to increase the users’ confidence that a system design satisfies its specification. A framework for reactive system verification includes formal languages for system modeling and for behavior specification and decision procedures and/or proof-systems for verifying that the system model satisfies the system specifications. Using the Ostroff framework for reactive system verification, an approach to achieving fault-tolerant communication between transputers was shown to be effective. The key components of the design, the decoupler processes, may be viewed as discrete-event-controllers introduced to constrain system behavior such that system specifications are satisfied. The Ostroff framework was also effective. The expressiveness of the modeling language permitted construction of a faithful model of the transputer network. The relevant specifications were readily expressed in the specification language. The set of decision procedures provided was adequate to verify the specifications of interest. The need for improved support for system behavior visualization is emphasized.

X-31 Airplane

2059. *Groves, Al; **Knox, Fred; Smith, Rogers; and †Wisneski, Jim: X-31 Flight Test Update. Presented at the 37th SETP Symposium, Beverly Hills, California, September 1993, (see A95-90866). Society of Experimental Test Pilots,
The goals of the tactical utility flight test are to verify the basic tactical lessons learned in simulation and determine the situational awareness implications of post-stall maneuvering. Tactics and lessons learned from post-stall engagements will supplement current fighter tactics and complement future fighter tactics development. Although the present envelope of the X-31 for carefree post stall (PST) use is limited to 225 KIAS versus 325 KIAS in simulations, the same initial conditions used in 'Pinball II' are being utilized in flight test. Starting conditions up to 325 KIAS are being flown during the build-up phase leading to the full close in air combat (CIC) evaluations. The flight control program has been modified to limit PST entry to below 225 KIAS. Full aft stick application above 225 KIAS cannot command angle of attack (AOA) in excess of 30 deg.

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2060. Fullerton, C. Gordon: Propulsion Controlled Aircraft Research. Presented at the 37th SETP Symposium, Beverly Hills, California, September 1993, (see A95-90866), and at the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Lancaster, California, September 1993, (ISSN 0742-3705), pp. 78–88, 95A90869.

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility has been conducting flight, ground simulator, and analytical studies to investigate the use of thrust modulation on multi-engine aircraft for emergency flight control. Two general methods of engine only control have been studied; manual manipulation of the throttles by the pilot, and augmented control where a computer commands thrust levels in response to pilot attitude inputs and aircraft motion feedbacks. This latter method is referred to as the Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) System. A wide variety of aircraft have been investigated. Simulation studies have included the B720, F-15, B727, B747 and MD-11. A look at manual control has been done in actual flight on the F15, T-38, B747, Lear 25, T-39, MD-11, and PA-30 Aircraft. The only in-flight trial of the augmented (PCA) concept has been on an F15, the results of which will be presented.


The Horizontal Lander 10 (HL-10) lifting body successfully completed 37 flights, achieved the highest Mach number and altitude of this class of vehicle, and contributed to the technology base used to develop the space shuttle and future generations of lifting bodies. Design, development, and flight testing of this low-speed, air-launched, rocket-powered, lifting body was part of an unprecedented effort by NASA and the Northrop Corporation. This paper describes the evolution of the HL-10 lifting body from theoretical design, through development, to selection as one of two low-speed flight vehicles chosen for fabrication and piloted flight testing. Interesting and unusual events which occurred during the program and flight tests, review of significant problems encountered during the first flight, and discussion of how these problems were solved are presented. In addition, impressions of the pilots who flew the HL-10 lifting body are given.

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This paper presents details of a flutter and stability analysis of aerospace structures such as hypersonic vehicles. Both structural and aerodynamic domains are discretized by the common finite element technique. A vibration analysis is first performed by the STARS code employing a block Lanczos solution scheme. This is followed by the generation of a linear aerodynamic grid for subsequent linear flutter analysis within subsonic and supersonic regimes of the flight envelope; the doublet lattice and constant pressure techniques are employed to generate the unsteady aerodynamic forces. Flutter analysis is then performed for several representative flight points. The nonlinear flutter solution is effected by first implementing a CFD solution of the entire vehicle. Thus, a 3-D unstructured grid for the entire flow domain is generated by a moving front technique. A finite element Euler solution is then implemented employing a quasi-implicit as well as an explicit solution scheme. A novel multidisciplinary analysis is next effected that employs modal and aerodynamic data to yield aerodynamic damping characteristics. Such analyses are performed for a number of flight points to yield a large set of pertinent data that define flight flutter characteristics of the vehicle. This paper outlines the finite-element-based integrated analysis procedures in detail, which is followed by the results of numerical analyses of flight flutter simulation.

Keywords: Computational fluid dynamics; Flutter and stability analysis; Generic hypersonic vehicles; Multidisciplinary aeroelastic analysis

By using the Rayleigh-Ritz method of minimizing the total potential energy of a structural system, combined load (mechanical or thermal load) buckling equations are established for orthotropic rectangular sandwich panels supported under four different edge conditions. Two-dimensional buckling interaction curves and three dimensional buckling interaction surfaces are constructed for high-temperature honeycomb-core sandwich panels supported under four different edge conditions. The interaction surfaces provide easy comparison of the panel buckling strengths and the domains of symmetrical and antisymmetrical buckling associated with the different edge conditions. Thermal buckling curves of the sandwich panels also are presented. The thermal buckling conditions for the cases with and without thermal moments were found to be identical for the small deformation theory. In sandwich panels, the effect of transverse shear is quite large, and by neglecting the transverse shear effect, the buckling loads could be overpredicted considerably. Clamping of the edges could greatly increase buckling strength more in compression than in shear.

Keywords: Buckling interaction curves; Buckling interaction surfaces; Mechanical buckling; Sandwich panels; Thermal buckling

Using the scramjet engine as the prime example of a hypersonic airbreathing concept, this paper reviews the history of and addresses the need for hypersonic flight tests. It also describes how such tests can contribute to the development of airbreathing technology. Aspects of captive-carry and free-flight concepts are compared. An incremental flight envelope expansion technique for manned flight vehicles is also described. Such critical issues as required instrumentation technology and proper scaling of experimental devices are addressed. Lastly, examples of international flight test approaches, existing programs, or concepts currently under study, development, or both, are given.

Keywords: Airbreathing hypersonic vehicles; Flight tests; Ground tests; Spacecraft design; Spacecraft development

Personnel at the NASA Langley Research Center (NASA-Langley) and the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) recently completed a joint acoustic flight test program. Several types of aircraft with high nozzle pressure ratio engines were flown to satisfy a twofold objective. First, assessments were made of subsonic climb-to-cruise noise from flights conducted at varying altitudes in a Mach 0.30 to 0.90 range. Second, using data from flights conducted at constant altitude in a Mach 0.30 to 0.95 range, engineers obtained a high quality noise database. This database was desired to validate the Aircraft Noise Prediction Program and other system noise prediction codes. NASA-Dryden personnel analyzed the engine data from several aircraft that were flown in the test program to determine the exhaust characteristics. The analysis of the exhaust characteristics from the F-18 aircraft are reported. An overview of the flight test planning, instrumentation, test procedures, data analysis, engine modeling codes, and results are presented.
Keywords: Acoustics; Climb to cruise; Engine exhaust characteristics; Environmental impact


The application of an adaptive real-time measurement-based performance optimization technique is being explored for a future flight research program. The key technical challenge of the approach is parameter identification, which uses a perturbation-search technique to identify changes in performance caused by forced oscillations of the controls. The controls on the NASA F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) aircraft were perturbed using inlet cowl rotation steps at various subsonic and supersonic flight conditions to determine the effect on aircraft performance. The feasibility of the perturbation-search technique for identifying integrated airframe-propulsion system performance effects was successfully shown through flight experiments and postflight data analysis. Aircraft response and control data were analyzed postflight to identify gradients and to determine the minimum drag point. Changes in longitudinal acceleration as small as 0.004 g were measured, and absolute resolution was estimated to be 0.002 g or approximately 50 lbf of drag. Two techniques for identifying performance gradients were compared: a least-squares estimation algorithm and a modified maximum likelihood estimator algorithm. A complementary filter algorithm was used with the least squares estimator.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Aircraft flight tests; Aircraft performance; Flight optimization; Optimal control


This paper describes a new signal-conditioning technique for measuring strain and temperature which uses fewer connecting wires than conventional techniques. Simultaneous measurement of temperature and strain has been achieved by using thermocouple wire to connect strain gages to signal conditioning. This signal conditioning uses a new method for demultiplexing sampled analog signals and the Anderson current loop circuit. Theory is presented along with data to confirm that strain gage resistance change is sensed without appreciable error because of thermodielectric effects. Furthermore, temperature is sensed without appreciable error because of voltage drops caused by strain gage excitation current flowing through the gage resistance.

Keywords: Bridge circuits, Instrumentation; Signal demultiplexer; Simultaneous measurement; Strain gage measurements; Thermocouple; Transducers


A boundary-layer transition is proposed for a future flight mission of the air-launched Pegasus space booster. The flight experiment requires attaching a glove assembly to the wing of the first-stage booster. The glove design consists of a spring and hook attachment system which allows for thermal growth of a steel 4130 skin. The results from one- and two-dimensional thermal analyses of the initial design are presented. Results obtained from the thermal analysis using turbulent flow conditions showed a maximum temperature of approximately 305 C and a chordwise temperature gradient of less than 8.9 C/cm for the critical areas in the upper glove skin. The temperatures obtained from these thermal analyses are well within the required temperature limits of the glove.

Keywords: Heat transfer; Pegasus; Thermal analysis; Thermostructures; Transition


The Generic Research Cryogenic Tank was designed to establish techniques for testing and analyzing the behavior of reusable fuel tank structures subjected to cryogenic fuels and aerodynamic heating. The Generic Research Cryogenic Tank tests will consist of filling a pressure vessel to a prescribed fill level, waiting for steady-state conditions, then draining the liquid while heating the external surface to simulate the thermal environment associated with hypersonic flight. Initial tests of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank will use liquid nitrogen with future tests requiring liquid hydrogen. Two-dimensional finite-difference thermal-fluid models were developed for analyzing the behavior of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank during fill and drain operations. The development and results of the two-dimensional fill and drain models, using liquid nitrogen, are provided, along with results and discussion on extrapolating the model results to the operation of the full-size Generic Research Cryogenic
Tank. These numerical models provided a means to predict the behavior of the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank during testing and to define the requirements for the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank support systems such as vent, drain, pressurization, and instrumentation systems. In addition, the fill model provided insight into the unexpected role of circumferential conduction in cooling the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank pressure vessel during fill operations.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Cryogenics; Fuel tanks; Heat transfer; Liquid nitrogen; Thermal analysis; Thermal insulation

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Significant strain-gage errors may exist in measurements acquired in transient thermal environments if conventional correction methods are applied. Conventional correction theory was modified and a new experimental method was developed to correct indicated strain data for errors created in radiant heating environments ranging from 0.6 °C/sec (1 °F/sec) to over 56 °C/sec (100 °F/sec). In some cases the new and conventional methods differed by as much as 30 percent. Experimental and analytical results were compared to demonstrate the new technique. For heating conditions greater than 6 °C/sec (10 °F/sec), the indicated strain data corrected with the developed technique compared much better to analysis than the same data corrected with the conventional technique.

Keywords: Apparent strain; Measurement errors; Strain–gage measurement; Structural testing; Thermal stress analysis


A closed-form mathematical solution to the classical photogrammetric problem is presented. Although quite general, the solution is more applicable to problems in which the image-space conjugates are very difficult to match but one of the elements of the pair is not. Additionally, observations are made that should make the solution to the general problem of automatic matching less computationally intensive. This approach was used to analyze flow visualization data for the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. The conditions for this analysis were less than ideal for image-to-object-space transformation.

Keywords: F-18 aircraft; Flow visualization; Photogrammetry


The performance seeking control algorithm is designed to continuously optimize the performance of propulsion systems. The performance seeking control algorithm uses a nominal model of the propulsion system and estimates, in flight, the engine deviation parameters characterizing the engine deviations with respect to nominal conditions. In practice, because of measurement biases and/or model uncertainties, the estimated engine deviation parameters may not reflect the engine’s actual off-nominal condition. This factor has a necessary impact on the overall performance seeking control scheme exacerbated by the open-loop character of the algorithm. The effects produced by unknown measurement biases over the estimation algorithm are evaluated. This evaluation allows for identification of the most critical measurements for application of the performance seeking control algorithm to an F100 engine. An equivalence relation between the biases and engine deviation parameters stems from an observability study; therefore, it is undecided whether the estimated engine deviation parameters represent the actual engine deviation or whether they simply reflect the measurement biases. A new algorithm, based on the engine’s (steady-state) optimization model, is proposed and tested with flight data. When compared with previous Kalman filter schemes, based on local engine dynamic models, the new algorithm is easier to design and tune and it reduces the computational burden of the onboard computer.

Keywords: Turbofan engines; Adaptive control; Control systems design; Optimal control; Propulsion system configurations; Propulsion system performance


Singular value analysis can give conservative stability margin results. Applying structure to the uncertainty can reduce this conservatism. This paper describes flight-determined stability margins for the X-29A lateral-directional, multiloop control system. These margins are compared with the predicted
The algorithm was further evaluated with flight data by changing the roll-rate-to-aileron-command-feedback gain by ±20%. Minimum eigenvalues of the return difference matrix that bound the singular values are also presented. Extracting multiloop singular values from flight data and analyzing the feedback gain variations validates this technique as a measure of robustness. This analysis can be used for near-real-time flight monitoring and safety testing.


Two X-29A aircraft were flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility over a period of eight years. The airplanes’ unique features are the forward-swept wing, variable incidence close-coupled canard and highly relaxed longitudinal static stability (up to 35-percent negative static margin at subsonic conditions.) This paper describes the primary flight control system and significant modifications made to the system, flight test techniques used during envelope expansion, and results for the low- and high-angle-of-attack programs. Throughout the paper, lessons learned will be discussed to illustrate the problems associated with the implementation of complex flight control systems.


A study has been performed that investigates parameter measurement effects on calculated in-flight thrust for the General Electric F404-GE-400 afterburning turbofan engine which powered the X-29A forward-swept wing research aircraft. Net-thrust uncertainty and influence coefficients were calculated and are presented. Six flight conditions were analyzed at five engine power settings each. Results were obtained using the mass flow-temperature and area-pressure thrust calculation methods, both based on the commonly used gas generator technique. Thrust uncertainty was determined using a common procedure based on the use of measurement uncertainty and influence coefficients. The effects of data nonlinearity on the uncertainty calculation procedure were studied and results are presented. The advantages and disadvantages of using this particular uncertainty procedure are discussed. A brief description of the thrust-calculation technique along with the uncertainty calculation procedure is included.

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A series of wind tunnel and flight investigations have been conducted to characterize the flow field of the forebody region of an F/A-18 configuration at high angles of attack and define its effects on the overall configuration stability at these conditions. The particular experiments included obtaining on- and off-surface flow visualization, surface pressure distributions, and overall aerodynamic characteristics. Early high angle-of-attack high Reynolds number tests indicated strong lateral stability near maximum lift, while low Reynolds number tests and flight tests indicated lateral instability at the same condition. Results from these investigations indicate that these differences are due in part to the dissimilar forebody flow field and its subsequent interaction with the strong leading-edge extension (LEX) and wing flow fields. The forebody flow field is sensitive to cross-flow Reynolds number and protuberances, notably air data probes, near the apex. The high angle-of-attack LEX and wing flow fields show sensitivity to Mach number and leading-edge flap deflection. Variations in this combined flow field were shown to result in distinct changes in lateral stability.


This paper describes a variety of practical application circuits based on the current loop signal conditioning paradigm. Equations defining the circuit response are also provided. The constant current loop is a fundamental signal conditioning circuit concept that can be implemented in a variety of configurations for resistance-based transducers, such as strain gages and resistance temperature devices. The circuit features signal conditioning outputs which are unaffected by extremely large variations in lead wire resistance, direct current frequency response, and inherent linearity with respect to resistance change. Sensitivity of this circuit is double that of a Wheatstone bridge circuit. Electrical output is zero for resistance change equals zero. The same excitation and output sense wires can serve multiple transducers. More application arrangements are possible with constant current loop signal conditioning than with the Wheatstone bridge.

Keywords: Measurements; Resistance; Strain; Signal

A practical single constant current loop circuit for the signal conditioning of variable-resistance transducers has been synthesized, analyzed, and demonstrated. The strain gage and the resistance temperature detector are examples of variable-resistance sensors. Lead wires connect variable-resistance sensors to remotely located signal-conditioning hardware. The presence of lead wires in the conventional Wheatstone bridge signal-conditioning circuit introduces undesired effects that reduce the quality of the data from the remote sensors. A practical approach is presented for suppressing essentially all lead wire resistance effects while indicating only the change in resistance value. Theoretical predictions supported by laboratory testing confirm the following features of the approach: (1) dc response; (2) the electrical output is unaffected by extremely large variation in the resistance of any or all lead wires; (3) the electrical output remains zero for no change in gage resistance; (4) the electrical output is inherently linear with respect to gage resistance change; (5) the sensitivity is double that of a Wheatstone bridge circuit; and (6) the same excitation wires can serve multiple independent gages. An adaptation of current loop circuit is presented that simultaneously provides an output signal voltage directly proportional to transducer resistance change and provides temperature information that is unaffected by transducer and lead wire resistance variations. These innovations are the subject of NASA patent applications.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility and NASA Langley Research Center completed a joint acoustic flight test program. Test objectives were (1) to quantify and evaluate subsonic climb-to-cruise noise and (2) to obtain a quality noise database for use in validating the Aircraft Noise Prediction Program. These tests were conducted using aircraft with engines that represent the high nozzle pressure ratio of future transport designs. Test flights were completed at subsonic speeds that exceeded Mach 0.3 using F-18 and F-16XL aircraft. This paper describes the efforts of NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility in this flight test program. Topics discussed include the test aircraft, setup, and matrix. In addition, the engine modeling codes and nozzle exhaust characteristics are described.


Being a woman in engineering, and in particular, being the woman with the dubious distinction of having the most years at Dryden, gives the author a long-term perspective on the women who worked in the engineering field and their working environment. The working environment for the women was influenced by two main factors. One factor was the Dryden’s growth of 14 persons (2 of them women) at the end of 1946 to the present size. The other factor was the need for programming knowledge when the digital computers came into use. Women have been involved with flight research at Dryden since the days of the first transonic and supersonic airplanes. This paper uses available records, along with memory, to document the number of women in engineering at Dryden, to comment about observed trends, and to make personal observations.


Considerable experience has been acquired with Ada at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility during the ongoing High Alpha Technology Program. In this program, an F-18 aircraft has been highly modified by the addition of thrust-vectoring vanes to the airframe. In addition, substantial alteration was made in the original quadruplex flight control system. The result is the High Alpha Research Vehicle. An additional research flight control computer was incorporated in each of the four channels. Software for the research flight control computer was written Ada. To date, six releases of this software have been flown. This paper provides a detailed description of the modifications to the research flight control system. Efficient ground-testing of the software was accomplished by using simulations that used the Ada for portions of their software. These simulations are also described. Modifying and transferring the Ada flight software to the software simulation configuration has allowed evaluation of this language. This paper also discusses such significant issues in using Ada as portability, modifiability, and testability as well as documentation requirements.


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Since the late 1950’s the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Dryden Flight Research Facility has found in-flight simulation to be an invaluable tool. In-flight simulation has been used to address a wide variety of flying qualities questions, including lift-to-drag ratio approach characteristics for vehicles like the X-15, the lifting bodies, and the space shuttle; the effects of time delays on controllability of aircraft with digital flight control systems; the causes and cures of pilot-induced oscillation in a variety of aircraft; and flight control systems for such diverse aircraft as the X-15 and the X-29. In-flight simulation has also been used to anticipate problems, avoid them, and solve problems once they appear. This paper presents an account of the in-flight simulation at the Dryden Flight Research Facility and some discussion. An extensive bibliography is included.


Observed in the lateral-directional axis of the flight-control system is an aeroservoelastic interaction during the high angle-of-attack flight envelope expansion of the X-29A forward-swept wing aircraft. This interaction consists of structural modes that result in commands to the control surface actuators.


Volume 1 of the AG 300 series on ‘Flight Test Instrumentation’ gives a general introduction to the basic principles of flight test instrumentation. The other volumes in the series provide more detailed treatments of selected topics on flight test instrumentation. Volume 1, first published in 1974, has been used extensively as an introduction for instrumentation courses and symposia, as well as being a reference work on the desk of most flight test and instrumentation engineers. It is hoped that this second edition, fully revised, will be used with as much enthusiasm as the first edition. In this edition a flight test system is considered to include both the data collection and data processing systems. In order to obtain an optimal data flow, the overall design of these two subsystems must be carefully matched; the detail development and the operation may have to be done by separate groups of specialists. The main emphasis is on the large automated instrumentation systems used for the initial flight testing of modern military and civil aircraft. This is done because there, many of the problems, which are discussed here, are more critical. It does not imply, however, that smaller systems with manual data processing are no longer used. In general, the systems should be designed to provide the required results at the lowest possible cost. For many tests which require only a few parameters, relatively simple systems are justified, especially if no complex equipment is available to the user. Although many of the aspects discussed in this volume apply to both small and large systems, aspects of the smaller systems are mentioned only when they are of special interest. The volume has been divided into three main parts. Part 1 defines the main starting points for the design of a flight test instrumentation system, as seen from the points of view of the flight test engineer and the instrumentation engineer. In Part 2 the discussion is concentrated on those aspects which apply to each individual measuring channel, and in Part 3 the main emphasis is on the integration of the individual data channels into one data collection system and on those aspects of the data processing which apply to the complete system.

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The origins of the lifting-body idea are traced back to the mid-1950’s, when the concept of a manned satellite reentering the Earth’s atmosphere in the form of a wingless lifting body was first proposed. The advantages of low reentry deceleration loads, range capability, and horizontal landing of a lifting reentry vehicle (as compared with the high deceleration loads and parachute landing of a capsule) are presented. The evolution of the hypersonic HL-10 lifting body is reviewed from the theoretical design and development process to its selection as one of two low-speed flight vehicles for fabrication and piloted flight testing. The design, development, and flight testing of the low-speed, air-launched, rocket-powered HL-10 was part of an unprecedented NASA and contractor effort. NASA Langley Research Center conceived and developed the vehicle shape and conducted numerous theoretical, experimental, and wind-tunnel studies. NASA Flight Research Center (now NASA Dryden Flight Research Center) was responsible for final low-speed (Mach numbers less than 2.0) aerodynamic analysis, piloted simulation, control law development, and flight tests. The prime contractor, Northrop Corp., was responsible for hardware design, fabrication, and integration. Interesting and unusual events in the flight testing are presented with a review of significant problems encountered in the first flight and how they were solved. Impressions by the pilots who flew the HL-10 are included. The HL-10 completed a successful 37-flight program, achieved the highest Mach number and
altitude of this class vehicle, and contributed to the technology base used to develop the space shuttle and future generations of lifting bodies.

Keywords: HL-10; Lifting body; Rocket airplanes; Wingless flight

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The combined load (mechanical or thermal load) buckling equations were established for orthotropic rectangular sandwich panels under four different edge conditions by using the Rayleigh-Ritz method of minimizing the total potential energy of a structural system. Two-dimensional buckling interaction curves and three-dimensional buckling interaction surfaces were constructed for high-temperature honeycomb-core sandwich panels supported under four different edge conditions. The interaction surfaces provide overall comparison of the panel buckling strengths and the domains of symmetrical and antisymmetrical buckling associated with the different edge conditions. In addition, thermal buckling curves of these sandwich panels are presented. The thermal buckling conditions for the cases with and without thermal moments were found to be identical for the small deformation theory.

Keywords: Different edge conditions; Mechanical buckling; Rayleigh-Ritz method; Sandwich panels; Thermal buckling


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility performs ground vibration testing to assess the structural characteristics of new and modified research vehicles. This paper updates the research activities, techniques used, and experiences in applying this technology to aircraft since 1987. Test equipment, data analysis methods, and test procedures used for typical test programs are discussed. The data presented illustrate the use of modal test and analysis in flight research programs for a variety of aircraft. This includes a technique to acquire control surface free-play measurements on the X-31 airplane more efficiently, and to assess the effects of structural modifications on the modal characteristics of an F-18 aircraft. In addition, the status and results from current research activities are presented. These data show the effectiveness of the discrete modal filter as a preprocessor to uncouple response measurements into simple single-degree-of-freedom responses, a database for the comparison of different excitation methods on a JetStar airplane, and the effect of heating on modal frequency and damping.

Keywords: Ground vibration test; Hot structures; Modal analysis; Modal filter


Modal parameter estimation algorithms require too much user interaction and are not sufficiently robust to be considered for fully automated test methodologies. This paper presents a preliminary look at a nontraditional approach for identifying the pole values (frequency and damping) derived from one or more free decay time histories. Specifically, multiple independent solutions to the characteristic equation of a typically overdetermined system are found via an eigenvector decomposition of a certain symmetric positive semi-definite matrix. The desired solution vectors span the null space of this matrix. Computational poles are removed using a histogramming approach, and the technique appears to provide robust and unbiased estimates. This report introduces the algorithm and histogramming concepts and shows their use on synthesized and experimental data.


Presented is a feasibility and error analysis for a hypersonic flush airdata system on a hypersonic flight experiment (HYFLITE). HYFLITE heating loads make intrusive airdata measurement impractical. Although this analysis is specifically for the HYFLITE vehicle and trajectory, the problems analyzed are generally applicable to hypersonic vehicles. A layout of the flush-port matrix is shown. Surface pressures are related airdata parameters using a simple aerodynamic model. The model is linearized using small perturbations and inverted using nonlinear least-squares. Effects of various error sources on the overall uncertainty are evaluated using an error simulation. Error sources modeled include boundary layer/viscous interactions, pneumatic lag, thermal transpiration in the sensor pressure tubing, misalignment in the matrix layout, thermal warping of the vehicle nose, sampling resolution, and transducer error. Using simulated pressure data for input to the estimation algorithm, effects caused by various error sources are analyzed by comparing estimator outputs with the original trajectory. To
obtain ensemble averages the simulation is run repeatedly and output statistics are compiled. Output errors resulting from the various error sources are presented as a function of Mach number. Final uncertainties with all modeled error sources included are presented as a function of Mach number.

Keywords: Airdata; Hypersonic flight; Least-squares; NASP; Parameter estimation


Flight tests of a propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system on an F-15 airplane have been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The airplane was flown with all flight control surfaces locked both in the manual throttles-only mode and in an augmented system mode. In the latter mode, pilot thumbwheel commands and aircraft feedback parameters were used to position the throttles. Flight evaluation results showed that the PCA system can be used to land an airplane that has suffered a major flight control system failure safely. The PCA system was used to recover the F-15 airplane from a severe upset condition, descend, and land. Pilots from NASA, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace evaluated the PCA system and were favorably impressed with its capability. Manual throttles-only approaches were unsuccessful. This paper describes the PCA system operation and testing. It also presents flight test results and pilot comments.

Keywords: Emergency control; F-15 airplane; Flight test; Hydraulic failure; Propulsion-only control


New flight test maneuvers and analysis techniques for evaluating the dynamic response of in-flight thrust models during throttle transients have been developed and validated. The approach is based on the aircraft and engine performance relationship between thrust and drag. Two flight test maneuvers, a throttle step and a throttle frequency sweep, were developed and used in the study. Graphical analysis techniques, including a frequency domain analysis method, were also developed and evaluated. They provide quantitative and qualitative results. Four thrust calculation methods were used to demonstrate and validate the test technique. Flight test applications on two high-performance aircraft confirmed the test methods as valid and accurate. These maneuvers and analysis techniques were easy to implement and use. Flight test results indicate the analysis techniques can identify the combined effects of model error and instrumentation response limitations on the calculated thrust value. The methods developed in this report provide an accurate approach for evaluating, validating, or comparing thrust calculation methods for dynamic flight applications.

Keywords: Aircraft engine simulation; Aircraft engine testing; Aircraft flight test; Dynamic thrust; Performance; Thrust; Thrust Validation; Unsteady Flow


A model-based, adaptive control algorithm called Performance Seeking Control (PSC) has been flight tested on an F-15 aircraft. The algorithm attempts to optimize performance of the integrated propulsion system during steady-state engine operation. The final phase of a 3-year PSC flight test program is described in this paper. Previous studies of use of PSC on the F-15 airplane show improvements in propulsion system performance. Because these studies were conducted using one of two F-15 engines, the full effect on aircraft performance was not measured. During the most recent studies, both engines were optimized to demonstrate the full effect of PSC propulsion system optimization on aircraft performance. Results were gathered over the 1-g supersonic envelope demonstrating benefits of the integrated control approach. Quantitative flight test results illustrating the PSC method for deriving benefits from the F-15 integrated propulsion system for Mach numbers up to 2 are also presented.


Two X-29A aircraft were flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center over a period of eight years. The airplanes’ unique features are the forward-swept wing, variable incidence close-coupled canard and highly relaxed longitudinal static stability (up to 35-percent negative static margin at subsonic conditions). This paper describes the primary flight control system and significant modifications made to this system, flight test techniques used during envelope expansion, and results for the low- and high-angle-of-attack programs. Through out the paper, lessons learned will be discussed to illustrate the problems associated with the implementation of complex flight control systems.
The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center conducted flight tests of a propulsion-controlled aircraft system on an F-15 airplane. This system was designed to explore the feasibility of providing safe emergency landing capability using only the engines to provide flight control in the event of a catastrophic loss of conventional flight controls. Control laws were designed to control the flight path and bank angle using only commands to the throttles. Although the program was highly successful, this paper highlights some of the challenges associated with using engine thrust as a control effector. These challenges include slow engine response time, poorly modeled nonlinear engine dynamics, unmodeled inlet-airframe interactions, and difficulties with ground effect and gust rejection. Flight and simulation data illustrate these difficulties.

Pressure distributions were obtained at nearly identical fuselage stations and wing chord butt lines in flight on the F-18 HARV at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and in the NASA Ames Research Center’s 80 by 120 ft wind tunnel on a full-scale F/A-18 aircraft. The static pressures were measured at the identical five stations on the forebody, three stations on the left and right leading-edge extensions, and three spanwise stations on the wing. Comparisons of the flight and wind-tunnel pressure distributions were made at alpha = 30 deg, 45 deg, and 60 deg/59 deg. In general, very good agreement was found. Minor differences were noted at the forebody at alpha = 45 deg and 60 deg in the magnitude of the vortex footprints and a Mach number effect was noted at the leading-edge extension at alpha = 30 deg. The inboard leading edge flap data from the wind tunnel at alpha = 59 deg showed a suction peak that did not appear in the flight data. This was the result of a vortex from the corner of the leading edge flap whose path was altered by the lack of an engine simulation in the wind tunnel.

The X-31 aircraft are being used in the enhanced fighter maneuverability (EFM) research program, which is jointly funded by the (U.S.) Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) and Germany’s Federal Ministry of Defense (FMOD). The flight test portion of the program, which involves two aircraft, is being conducted by an International Test Organization (ITO) comprising the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, Rockwell International, and Deutsche Aerospace (DASA). The goals of the flight program are to demonstrate EFM technologies, investigate close-in-combat exchange ratios, develop design requirements, build a database for application to future fighter aircraft, and develop and validate low-cost prototype concepts. For longitudinal control the X-31 uses canards, symmetrical movement of the trailing-edge flaps, and pitch deflection of the thrust vectoring system. The trim, inertial coupling, and engine gyroscopic coupling compensation tasks are performed primarily by the trailing-edge flaps. For lateral-directional control the aircraft uses differential deflection of the trailing-edge flaps for roll coordination and a conventional rudder combined with the thrust vectoring system to provide yaw control. The rudder is only effective up to about 40 deg angle of attack (alpha),
after which the thrust vectoring becomes the primary yaw control effector. Both the leading-edge flaps and the inlet lip are scheduled with the angle of attack to provide best performance.

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This status paper reviews the experimental ground test program of the High Alpha Technology Program (HATP). The reasons for conducting this ground test program had their origins during the 1970’s when several difficulties were experienced during the development programs of both the F-18 and F-16. A careful assessment of ground test to flight correlations appeared to be important for reestablishing a high degree of confidence in our ground test methodology. The current paper will then focus on one aspect of the HATP program that is intended to improve the correlation between ground test and flight, high-alpha gritting. The importance of this work arises from the sensitivity of configurations with smooth-sided forebodies to Reynolds number. After giving examples of the effects of Reynolds number, the paper will highlight efforts at forebody gritting. Finally, the paper will conclude by summarizing the charter of the HATP Experimental Aerodynamics Working Group and future experimental testing plans.

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This presentation will concentrate on a series of low-speed wind tunnel tests conducted on a 2.5 percent subscale F-18 model and a 2 percent subscale X-31 model. The model’s control surfaces were unaugmented; and for the most part, were deflected at a constant angle throughout the tests. The tests consisted mostly of free-to-roll experiments conducted with the use of an air-bearing, surface pressure measurements, off-surface flow visualization, and force-balance tests. Where possible the results of the subscale tests have been compared to flight test data, or to other wind tunnel data taken at higher Reynolds numbers.

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This viewgraph presentation describes the general methodology used to apply Honeywell’s Multi-Application Control (MACH) and the specific application to the F-18 High Angle-of-Attack Research Vehicle (HARV) including piloted simulation handling qualities evaluation. The general steps include insertion of modeling data for geometry and mass properties, aerodynamics, propulsion data and assumptions, requirements and specifications, e.g. definition of control variables, handling qualities, stability margins and statements for bandwidth, control power, priorities, position and rate limits. The specific steps include choice of independent variables for least squares fits to aerodynamic and propulsion data, modifications to the management of the controls with regard to integrator windup and actuation limiting and priorities, e.g. pitch priority over roll, and command limiting to prevent departures and/or undesirable inertial coupling or inability to recover to a stable trim condition. The HARV control problem is characterized by significant nonlinearities and multivariable interactions in the low speed, high angle-of-attack, high angular rate flight regime. Systematic approaches to the control of vehicle motions modeled with coupled nonlinear equations of motion have been developed. This paper will discuss the dynamic inversion approach which explicitly accounts for nonlinearities in the control design. Multiple control effectors (including aerodynamic control surfaces and thrust vectoring control) and sensors are used to control the motions of the vehicles in several degrees-of-freedom. Several maneuvers will be used to illustrate performance of MACH in the high angle-of-attack flight regime. Analytical methods for assessing the robust performance of the multivariable control system in the presence of math modeling uncertainty, disturbances, and commands have reached a high level of maturity. The structured singular value (mu) frequency response methodology is presented as a method for analyzing robust performance and the mu-synthesis method will be presented as a method for synthesizing a robust control system. The paper concludes with the author’s expectations regarding future applications of robust nonlinear multivariable controls.
The design goals for the X-31 flight control system were: (1) level 1 handling qualities during post-stall maneuvering (30 to 70 degrees angle-of-attack); (2) thrust vectoring to enhance performance across the angle-of-attack. Additional performance goals are discussed. A description of the flight control system is presented, highlighting flight control system features in the pitch and roll axes and X-31 thrust vectoring characteristics. The high angle-of-attack envelope clearance approach will be described, including a brief explanation of analysis techniques and tools. Also, problems encountered during envelope expansion will be discussed. This presentation emphasizes control system solutions to problems encountered in envelope expansion. An essentially ‘care free’ envelope was cleared for the close-in-combat demonstrator phase.

High angle-of-attack flying qualities maneuvers are currently being flown and evaluated. These results are compared with pilot opinions expressed during the close-in-combat program and with results obtained from the F-18 HARV for identical maneuvers. The status and preliminary results of these tests are discussed.

An innovative inlet total-pressure distortion measurement rake has been designed and developed for the F/A-18 A/D aircraft inlet. The design was conceived by NASA and General Electric Aircraft Engines (Evendale, Ohio). This rake has been flight qualified and flown in the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The rake’s eight-legged, one-piece wagon wheel design was developed at a reduced cost and offers reduced installation time compared with traditional designs. The rake features 40 dual measurement ports for both low- and high-frequency pressure measurements with the high-frequency transducer mounted at the port. The high-frequency transducer offers direct absolute pressure measurements from low frequency to the highest frequency of interest, thereby allowing the rake to be used during highly dynamic aircraft maneuvers. Outstanding structural characteristics are inherent to the design through its construction and use of lightweight materials.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and NASA Johnson Space Center are jointly conducting a phased program to determine the feasibility of the autonomous recovery of a spacecraft using a ram-air parachute system for the final stages of entry from space to a precision landing. The feasibility is being studied using a flight model of a spacecraft in the generic shape of a flattened biconic that weighs approximately 120 lb and is flown under a commercially available ram-air parachute. Key components of the vehicle include the global positioning system (GPS) guidance for navigation, a flight control computer, an electronic compass, a yaw rate gyro, and an onboard data recorder. A flight test program is being used to develop and refine the vehicle. The primary flight goal is to demonstrate autonomous flight from an altitude of 3,000 m (10,000 ft) with a lateral offset of 1.6 km (1.0 mi) to a precision soft landing. This paper summarizes the progress to date. Much of the navigation system has been tested, including a heading tracker that was developed using parameter estimation techniques and a complementary filter. The autorudder portion of the autopilot is still in development. The feasibility of conducting the flare maneuver without servoactuators was investigated as a means of significantly reducing the servoactuator rate and load requirements.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight flutter testing; Ground vibration testing


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has an ongoing program to investigate aircraft flight characteristics at high angles of attack. As part of this investigation, longitudinal boundary layer transition strips were installed on the F-18 HARV forebody, a preproduction F/A-18 radome with a nose-slice tendency, and the X-31 aircraft forebody and noseboom to reduce asymmetric yawing moments at high angles of attack. The transition strips were effective on the F-18 HARV at angles of attack above 60 deg. On the preproduction F/A-18 radome at an angle of attack near 50 deg the strips were not effective. When the transition strips were installed on the X-31 noseboom, a favorable effect was observed on the yawing moment dynamics but the magnitude of the yawing moment was not decreased.

Keywords: Boundary layer separation; Boundary layer transition; F-18 aircraft; Flight tests; Forebodies; Pressure distribution; Vortices; X-31 aircraft; Yawing moments


An experimental research program to provide basic knowledge of the pressure-sensing performance of upright, flush-mounted cylinders in a hypersonic boundary layer is described. Three upright cylinders of 0.25-, 0.5- and 1.0-in. diameters and a conventional rake were placed in the test section sidewall boundary layer of the 31 inch Mach 10 Wind Tunnel at NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. Boundary-layer pressures from these cylinders were compared to those measured with a conventional rake. A boundary-layer thickness-to-cylinder-diameter ratio of 8 proved sufficient to accurately measure an overall pressure profile and ascertain the boundary-layer thickness. Effects of Reynolds number, flow angularity, and shock wave impingement on pressure measurement were also investigated. Although Reynolds number effects were negligible at the conditions studied, flow angularity above 10 deg significantly affects the measured pressures. Shock wave impingement was used to investigate orifice-to-orifice pressure cross-talk. No cross-talk was measured. The lower pressure measured above the oblique shock wave impingement showed no influence of the higher pressure generated at the lower port locations.

Keywords: Boundary-layer measurements; Flow angularity; Hypersonic aerodynamics; Shock wave impingements; Upright cylinders; Wind tunnel tests

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The performance-seeking-control algorithm (PSC) is designed to continuously optimize the performance of propulsion systems. The PSC uses engine deviation parameters (EDPs) characterizing engine deviations with respect to nominal conditions. In practice, the measurement biases (or model uncertainties) may prevent the estimated EDPs from reflecting the engine’s actual off-nominal condition. This factor has a direct impact on the PSC scheme exacerbated by the open-
loop character of the algorithm. An observability analysis shows that the biases cannot be estimated together with the EDPs. Moreover, biases and EDPs turn out to have equivalent effects on the measurements, leaving it undecided whether the estimated EDPs represent the actual engine deviation or whether they simply reflect the measurement biases. In this article, the effects produced by unknown measurement biases over the estimation algorithm are evaluated. This evaluation allows for identification of the most critical measurements for application of the PSC algorithm to an F100 engine.


Increasing competition among airline manufacturers and operators has highlighted the issue of aircraft efficiency. Fewer aircraft orders have led to an all-out-efficiency improvement effort among the manufacturers to maintain if not increase their share of the shrinking number of aircraft sales. Aircraft efficiency is important in airline profitability and is key if fuel prices increase from their current low. In a continuing effort to improve aircraft efficiency and develop an optimal performance technology base, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center developed and flight tested an adaptive performance seeking control system to optimize the quasi-steady-state performance of the F-15 aircraft. The demonstrated technology is equally applicable to transport aircraft although with less improvement. NASA Dryden, in transitioning this technology to transport aircraft, is specifically exploring the feasibility of applying adaptive optimal control techniques to performance optimization of redundant control effectors. A simulation evaluation of a preliminary control law optimizes wing-aileron camber for minimum net aircraft drag. Two submodes are evaluated: one to minimize fuel and the other to maximize velocity. This paper covers the status of performance optimization of the current fleet of subsonic transports. Available integrated controls technologies are reviewed to define approaches using active controls. A candidate control law for adaptive performance optimization is presented along with examples of algorithm operation.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Cambered wings; Drag reduction; Flight optimization; Fuel consumption; Optimal control; Optimization


A second-generation flight test fixture, developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, offers a generic testbed for aerodynamic and fluid mechanics research. The new fixture, a low-aspect ratio vertical fin shape mounted on the centerline of an F-15B aircraft lower fuselage, is designed for flight research at Mach numbers up to 2.0. The new fixture is a composite structure with a modular configuration and removable components for functional flexibility. This report describes the multidisciplinary design and analysis approach used to develop the fixture. The approach integrates conservative assumptions with simple analysis techniques to minimize the time and cost associated with its development. Presented are the principal disciplines required for this effort, which include aerodynamics, structures, stability, and operational considerations. In addition, preliminary results from the first phase of flight testing are presented. Acceptable directional stability and flow quality are documented and show agreement with predictions. Future envelope expansion activities will minimize current limitations so that the fixture can be used for a wide variety of high-speed aerodynamic and fluid mechanics research experiments.

Keywords: Aerodynamic loads; F-15 directional stability; Flight test fixture; Flow visualization; Structural design; Structural ground testing; Water tunnel visualization studies

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A flight experiment, conducted at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, investigated the effects of surface excrescences, specifically gaps and steps, on boundary-layer transition in the vicinity of a leading edge at transonic flight conditions. A natural laminar flow leading-edge model was designed for this experiment with a spanwise slot manufactured into the leading-edge model to simulate gaps and steps like those present at skin joints of small transonic aircraft wings. The leading-edge model was flown with the flight test fixture, a low-aspect ratio fin mounted beneath an F-104G aircraft. Test points were obtained over a unit Reynolds number range of 1.5 to 2.5 million/ft and a Mach number range of 0.5 to 0.8. Results for a smooth surface showed that laminar flow extended to approximately 12 in. behind the leading edge at Mach number 0.7 over a unit Reynolds number range of 1.5 to 2.0 million/ft. The maximum size of the gap-and-step configuration over which laminar flow was maintained consisted of two 0.06-in. gaps with a 0.02-in. step
Flow Visualization Study of a 4.4 Percent Scale x-31 and nosebooms has been performed in the Flow Visualization Facility at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The focus of the study was to determine the relative effects of the different configurations on the stability and symmetry of the high-angle-of-attack forebody vortex flow field. The clean, noseboom-off configuration resisted the development of asymmetries in the primary vortices through 70 deg angle of attack. The wake of the X-31 flight test noseboom configuration significantly degraded the steadiness of the primary vortex cores and promoted asymmetries. An alternate L-shaped noseboom mounted underneath the forebody did results similar to those seen with the configuration, enabling stable, symmetrical vortices up to 70 deg angle of attack. The addition of strakes near the radome tip along the waterline increased the primary vortex strength while it simultaneously caused the vortex breakdown location to move forward. Forebody strakes did not appear to significantly reduce the asymmetries in the forebody vortex field in the presence of the flight test noseboom.

Keywords: Asymmetry; Forebody; High angle of attack; Noseboom; Strake; Vortex flow; Water tunnel; X-31

A water-tunnel study on a 1/48-scale model of the X-29A aircraft was performed at the NASA Dryden Flow Visualization Facility. The water-tunnel test enhanced the results of the X-29A flight tests by providing flow-visualization data for comparison and insights into the aerodynamic characteristics of the aircraft. The model was placed in the water tunnel at angles of attack of 20 to 55 deg. and with angles of sideslip from 0 to 5 deg. In general, flow-visualization techniques provided useful information on vortex formation, separation, and breakdown and their role in yaw asymmetries and tail buffeting. Asymmetric forebody vortices were observed at angles of attack greater than 30 deg. with 0 deg. sideslip and greater than 20 deg. with 5 deg. sideslip. While the asymmetric flows observed in the water tunnel did not agree fully with the flight data, they did show some of the same trends. In addition, the flow visualization indicated that the interaction of forebody vortices and the wing wake at angles of attack between 20 and 35 deg. may cause vertical-tail buffeting observed in flight.

Keywords: Flow visualization; High angle of attack; Water tunnel; X-29A

Flight tests to determine the changes in the aerodynamic characteristics of an F-15 aircraft caused by dynamic ground effects are described. Data were obtained for low and high sink rates between 0.7 and 6.5 ft/sec and at two landing approach speeds and flap settings: 150 kn with the flaps down and 170 kn with the flaps up. Simple correlation curves are given for the change in aerodynamic coefficients because of ground effects as a function of sink rate. Ground effects generally caused an increase in the lift, drag, and nose-down pitching movement coefficients. The change in the lift coefficient increased from approximately 0.05 at the high-sink rate to approximately 0.10 at the low-sink rate. The change in the drag coefficient increased from approximately 0 to 0.03 over this decreasing sink rate range. No significant difference because of the approach configuration was evident for lift and drag; however, a significant difference in pitching movement was observed for the two approach speeds and flap settings. For the 170 kn with the flaps up configuration, the change in the nose-down pitching movement increased from approximately –0.008 to –0.016. For the 150 kn with the flaps down configuration, the change was approximately –0.008 to –0.038.

Keywords: Aircraft aerodynamics; Aircraft approach and landing; F-15 aircraft; Flight testing; Ground effect; Propulsion-controlled aircraft

A water-tunnel test of a 4.4 percent-scale, forebody-only model of the X-31 aircraft with different forebody strakes and nosebooms has been performed in the Flow Visualization Facility at the NASA Dryden Flow Visualization Facility. The focus of the study was to determine the relative effects of the different configurations on the stability and symmetry of the high-angle-of-attack forebody vortex flow field. The clean, noseboom-off configuration resisted the development of asymmetries in the primary vortices through 70 deg angle of attack. The wake of the X-31 flight test noseboom configuration significantly degraded the steadiness of the primary vortex cores and promoted asymmetries. An alternate L-shaped noseboom mounted underneath the forebody did results similar to those seen with the configuration, enabling stable, symmetrical vortices up to 70 deg angle of attack. The addition of strakes near the radome tip along the waterline increased the primary vortex strength while it simultaneously caused the vortex breakdown location to move forward. Forebody strakes did not appear to significantly reduce the asymmetries in the forebody vortex field in the presence of the flight test noseboom.

Keywords: Asymmetry; Forebody; High angle of attack; Noseboom; Strake; Vortex flow; Water tunnel; X-31

A water-tunnel study on a 1/48-scale model of the X-29A aircraft was performed at the NASA Dryden Flow Visualization Facility. The water-tunnel test enhanced the results of the X-29A flight tests by providing flow-visualization data for comparison and insights into the aerodynamic characteristics of the aircraft. The model was placed in the water tunnel at angles of attack of 20 to 55 deg. and with angles of sideslip from 0 to 5 deg. In general, flow-visualization techniques provided useful information on vortex formation, separation, and breakdown and their role in yaw asymmetries and tail buffeting. Asymmetric forebody vortices were observed at angles of attack greater than 30 deg. with 0 deg. sideslip and greater than 20 deg. with 5 deg. sideslip. While the asymmetric flows observed in the water tunnel did not agree fully with the flight data, they did show some of the same trends. In addition, the flow visualization indicated that the interaction of forebody vortices and the wing wake at angles of attack between 20 and 35 deg. may cause vertical-tail buffeting observed in flight.

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When designing a flight simulator, providing a set of low mass variable-characteristic pilot controls can be very difficult. Thus, a strong incentive exists to identify the highest possible mass that will not degrade the validity of a simulation. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has conducted a brief flight program to determine the maximum acceptable mass (system inertia) of an aircraft sidearm controller as a function of force gradient. This information is useful for control system design in aircraft as well as development of suitable flight simulator controls. A modified Learjet with a variable-characteristic sidearm controller was used to obtain data. A boundary was defined between mass considered acceptable and mass considered unacceptable to the pilot. This boundary is defined as a function of force gradient over a range of natural frequencies. This investigation is limited to a study of mass-frequency characteristics only. Results of this investigation are presented in this paper.

Keywords: Control dynamics; Control mass; Force gradient; Handling qualities; Natural frequency; Sidearm controllers

Engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility (NASA-Dryden) have conducted two flight research programs with lightweight, low-power miniaturized instrumentation systems built around commercial data loggers. One program quantified the performance of a radio-controlled model airplane. The other program was a laminar boundary-layer transition experiment on a manned sailplane. The purpose of this article is to report NASA-Dryden personnel’s flight experience with the miniaturized instrumentation systems used on these two programs. This article will describe the data loggers, the sensors, and the hardware and software developed to complete the systems. It also describes how the experience with the miniaturized instrumentation systems is useful for effective wing camber modifications. As shown in the past, this fact can be used to improve aircraft performance. To date, however, algorithm developments for in-flight camber optimization have been limited. This paper presents a perturbational approach for cruise optimization through in-flight camber adaptation. The method uses, as a performance index, an indirect measurement of the instantaneous net thrust. As such, the actual performance improvement comes from the integrated effect of airframe and engine. The algorithm, whose design and robustness properties are discussed, is demonstrated on the NASA Dryden B-720 flight simulator.

Available redundancy among aircraft control surfaces allows for effective wing camber modifications. As shown in the past, this fact can be used to improve aircraft performance. To date, however, algorithm developments for in-flight camber optimization have been limited. This paper presents a perturbational approach for cruise optimization through in-flight camber adaptation. The method uses, as a performance index, an indirect measurement of the instantaneous net thrust. As such, the actual performance improvement comes from the integrated effect of airframe and engine. The algorithm, whose design and robustness properties are discussed, is demonstrated on the NASA Dryden B-720 flight simulator.
shears, up- and down-drafts and various wave behaviors. Differences between the speed of sound at the ground and at flight level will influence the threshold flight Mach number for which the sonic boom first reaches the ground as well as the width of the resulting sonic-boom carpet. Mean atmospheric temperature and wind structure as a function of altitude vary with location and time of year. These average properties of the atmosphere are well-documented and have been used in many sonic-boom propagation assessments. In contrast, smaller scale atmospheric perturbations are also known to modulate the shape and amplitude of sonic-boom signatures reaching the ground, but specific perturbation models have not been established for evaluating their effects on sonic-boom propagation. The purpose of this paper is to present simple examples of atmospheric vertical temperature gradients, wind shears, and wave motions that can guide preliminary assessments of nonturbulent atmospheric perturbation effects on sonic-boom propagation to the ground. The use of simple discrete atmospheric perturbation structures can facilitate the interpretation of the resulting sonic-boom propagation anomalies as well as intercomparisons among varied flight conditions and propagation models.


The computational method developed to study the cryogenic fluid characteristics inside a fuel tank in a hypersonic aircraft is presented. The model simulates a rapid draining of the tank by modeling the ullage vapor and the cryogenic liquid with a moving interface. A mathematical transformation was developed and applied to the Navier-Stokes equations to account for the moving interface. The formulation of the numerical method is a transient hybrid explicit-implicit technique where the pressure term in the momentum equations is approximated to first order in time by combining the continuity equation with an ideal equation of state.

Keywords: Compressible flow; Computation fluid dynamics (CFD); Fluid flow; Fluid mechanics; Gas dynamics; Numerical modeling; Unsteady flow


Thermocryogenic buckling and stress analyses were conducted on a horizontally oriented cryogenic tank using the finite element method. The tank is a finite length circular cylindrical shell with its two ends capped with hemispherical shells. The tank was subjected to cylindrical strip heating in the region above the liquid-cryogen fill level and to cryogenic cooling below the fill level (i.e., under thermocryogenic loading). The effects of cryogen fill level on the buckling temperatures and thermocryogenic stress field were investigated in detail. Both the buckling temperature and stress magnitudes were relatively insensitive to the cryogen fill level. The buckling temperature, however, was quite sensitive to the radius-to-thickness ratio. The of solutions from different finite element models were compared, and high-stress domains were identified.


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Keywords: Cryogenic tank; Thermocryogenic buckling; Stress analysis; Thermocryogenic loading; Internal pressure loading; Liquid pressure loading; Tank wall inertia loading


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A buckling analysis was performed on a hat-stiffened panel subjected to shear loading. Both local buckling and global buckling were analyzed. The global shear buckling load was found to be several times higher than the local shear buckling load. The classical shear buckling theory for a flat plate was found to be useful in predicting the local shear buckling load of the hat-stiffened panel, and the predicted local shear buckling loads thus obtained compare favorably with the results of finite element analysis.

Keywords: Hat-stiffened panel; Global buckling; Local buckling; Minimum energy method; Shear buckling


This study is concerned about the optimization of PSC which is designed to continuously enhance the performance of a propulsion system. The optimization model is a simplified steady-state model of the propulsion system called the compact propulsion system model (CPSM). To characterize the steady-state model, two approaches which include the Kalman filter approach and a simpler Luenberger-type observer are employed. It was observed that simpler Luenberg-type observer is more effective than the Kalman filter approach for such application.


Lift (L) and drag (D) characteristics have been obtained in flight for the X-29A airplane (a forward swept-wing demonstrator) for Mach numbers (M) from 0.4 to 1.3. Most of the data were obtained near an altitude of 30,000 ft. A representative Reynolds number for M = 0.9, and a pressure altitude of 30,000 ft, is 18.6 × 10(exp 6) based on the mean aerodynamic chord. The X-29A data (forward-swept wing) are compared with three high-performance fighter aircraft: the F-15C, F-16C, and F/A18. The lifting efficiency of the X-29A, as defined by the Oswald lifting efficiency factor, e, is about average for a cantilevered monoplane for M = 0.6 and angles of attack up to those required for maximum L/D. At M = 0.6 the level of L/D and e, as a function of load factor, for the X-29A was about the same as for the contemporary aircraft. The X-29A and its contemporaries have high transonic wave drag and equivalent parasite area compared with aircraft of the 1940’s through 1960’s.

Keywords: Efficiency; Forward-swept wing; Lift-drag; Lift-related drag; Aerodynamic cleanners; Transonic wave drag

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In an effort to place payloads into orbit at the lowest possible costs, the use of air-breathing space-planes, which reduces the need to carry the propulsion system oxidizer, has been examined. As this approach would require the space-plane to fly at hypersonic speeds for periods of time much greater than that required by rockets, many factors must be considered when analyzing its benefits. The Basic Hypersonic Data and Equations spreadsheet provides data gained from three analyses of a space-plane’s performance. The equations used to perform the analyses are derived from Newton’s second law of physics (i.e. force equals mass times acceleration); the derivation is included. The first analysis is a parametric study of some basic factors affecting the ability of a space-plane to reach orbit. This step calculates the fraction of fuel mass to the total mass of the space-plane at takeoff. The user is able to vary the altitude, the heating value of the fuel, the orbital gravity, and orbital velocity. The second analysis calculates the thickness of a spherical fuel tank, while assuming all of the mass of the vehicle went into the tank’s shell. This provides a first order analysis of how much material results from a design where the fuel represents a large portion of the total vehicle mass. In this step, the user is allowed to vary the values for gross weight, material density, and fuel density. The third analysis produces a ratio of gallons of fuel per total mass for various aircraft. It shows that the volume of fuel required by the space-plane relative to the total mass is much larger for a liquid hydrogen space-plane than any other vehicle made. This program is a spreadsheet for use on Macintosh series computers running Microsoft Excel 3.0. The standard distribution medium for this package is a 3.5 inch 800K Macintosh format diskette. Documentation is included in the price of the program. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. Microsoft is a registered
Two X-29A aircraft were flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility over a period of eight years. The airplanes' unique features are the forward-swept wing, variable incidence close-coupled canard and highly relaxed longitudinal static stability (up to 35-percent negative static margin at subsonic conditions). This paper describes the primary flight control system and significant modifications made to the system, flight test techniques used during envelope expansion, and results for the low- and high-angle-of-attack programs. Throughout the paper, lessons learned will be discussed to illustrate the problems associated with the implementation of complex flight control systems.

Development of an instrument capable of nonintrusively measuring the thickness of a dielectric material is described. Twenty gages with thirteen different sensing element geometries were built and tested. A finite element analysis using a code capable of calculating electrostatic fields was performed on a number of the candidate geometries. Calibration procedures using the actual ablative material and ablator-simulating shims are described. A one to one correspondence between system output and dielectric material thickness is observed out to a thickness of 1.4 mm for a material with a dielectric constant about three times that of air or vacuum. Further improvements in gage design and fabrication techniques are suggested.

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This paper describes the variety of practical application circuits based on the current loop signal conditioning paradigm. Equations defining the circuit response are also provided. The constant current loop is a fundamental signal conditioning circuit concept that can be implemented in a variety of configurations for resistance-based transducers, such as strain gages and resistance temperature detectors. The circuit features signal conditioning outputs which are unaffected by extremely large variations in lead wire resistance, direct current frequency response, and inherent linearity with respect to resistance change. Sensitivity of this circuit is double that of a Wheatstone bridge circuit. Electrical output is zero for resistance change equals zero. The same excitation and output sense wires can serve multiple transducers. More application arrangements are possible with constant current loop signal conditioning than with the Wheatstone bridge.

Keywords: Bridge circuits; Circuit theory; Electrical engineering; Electronic circuits; Electronic test equipment; Electronics, Gages; Instrumentation; Measuring instruments; Remote sensors; Resistance temperature detectors; Resistors; Sensors; Strain gage instruments; Structural testing; Test facility instruments; Testing of materials; Transducers.


The in-flight elastic wing twist of a fighter-type aircraft was studied to provide for an improved on-board real-time computed prediction of pointing variations of three wing store stations. This is an important capability to correct sensor pod alignment variation or to establish initial conditions of iron bombs or smart weapons prior to release. The original algorithm was based upon coarse measurements. The electro-optical Flight Deflection Measurement System measured the deformed wing shape in flight under maneuver loads to provide a higher resolution database from which an improved twist prediction algorithm could be developed. The FDMS data combined with the NASTRAN analysis indicated that an improved prediction algorithm could be derived by using a different set of aircraft parameters, namely normal acceleration, stores configuration, Mach number, and gross weight.

Keywords: Elastic wing twist; F-16 wing deformations; Inflight deflection measurement; Wing store alignment


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The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has been conducting integrated flight-propulsion control flight research using the NASA F-15 airplane for the past 12 years. The research began with the digital electronic engine control (DEEC) project, followed by the F100 Engine Model Derivative (EMD). HIDECC (Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control) became the umbrella name for a series of experiments including: the Advanced Digital Engine Controls System (ADEC), a twin jet acoustics flight experiment, self-repairing flight control system (SRFCS), performance-seeking control (PSC), and propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA). The upcoming F-15 project is ACTIVE (Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles). This paper provides a brief summary of these activities and provides background for the PCA and PSC papers, and includes a bibliography of all papers and reports from the NASA F-15 project.


The minimum fuel mode of the NASA F-15 research aircraft is designed to minimize fuel flow while maintaining constant net propulsive force (FNP), effectively reducing thrust specific fuel consumption (TSFC), during cruise flight conditions. The test maneuvers were at stabilized flight conditions. The aircraft test engine was allowed to stabilize at the cruise conditions before data collection initiated; data were then recorded with performance seeking control (PSC) not-engaged, then data were recorded with the PSC system engaged. The maneuvers were flown back-to-back to allow for direct comparisons by minimizing the effects of variations in the test day conditions. The minimum fuel mode was evaluated at subsonic and supersonic Mach numbers and focused on three altitudes: 15,000; 30,000; and 45,000 feet. Flight data were collected for part, military, partial, and maximum afterburning power conditions. The TSFC savings at supersonic Mach numbers, ranging from approximately 4% to nearly 10%, are in general much larger than at subsonic Mach numbers because of PSC trims to the afterburner.

*McDonnell-Douglas Corp., St. Louis, Missouri.


Measured reductions in turbine temperature which resulted from the application of the F-15 performance seeking control (PSC) minimum fan turbine inlet temperature (FITT) mode during the dual-engine test phase is presented as a function of net propulsive force and flight condition. Data were collected at altitudes of 30,000 and 45,000 feet at military and partial afterburning power settings. The FTIT reductions for the supersonic tests are less than at subsonic Mach numbers because of the increased modeling and control complexity. In addition, the propulsion system was designed to be optimized at the mid supersonic Mach number range. Subsonically at military power, FTIT reductions were above 70 R for either the left or right engines, and repeatable for the right engine. At partial afterburner and supersonic conditions, the level of FTIT reductions were at least 25 R and as much as...
55 R. Considering that the turbine operates at or very near its temperature limit at these high power settings, these seemingly small temperature reductions may significantly lengthen the life of the turbine. In general, the minimum FTIT mode has performed well, demonstrating significant temperature reductions at military and partial afterburner power. Decreases of over 100 R at cruise flight conditions were identified. Temperature reductions of this magnitude could significantly extend turbine life and reduce replacement costs.

*McDonnell-Douglas Corp., St. Louis, Missouri.


Measured reductions in acceleration times which resulted from the application of the F-15 performance seeking control (PSC) maximum thrust mode during the dual-engine test phase is presented as a function of power setting and flight condition. Data were collected at altitudes of 30,000 and 45,000 feet at military and maximum afterburning power settings. The time savings for the supersonic acceleration is less than at subsonic Mach numbers because of the increased modeling and control complexity. In addition, the propulsion system was designed to be optimized at the mid supersonic Mach number range. Recall that even though the engine is at maximum afterburner, PSC does not trim the afterburner for the maximum thrust mode. Subsonically at military power, time to accelerate from Mach 0.6 to 0.95 was cut by between 6 and 8 percent with a single engine application of PSC, and over 14 percent when both engines were optimized. At maximum afterburner, the level of thrust increases were similar in magnitude to the military power results, but because of higher thrust levels at maximum afterburner and higher aircraft drag at supersonic Mach numbers the percentage thrust increase and time to accelerate was less than for the supersonic accelerations. Savings in time to accelerate supersonically at maximum afterburner ranged from 4 to 7 percent. In general, the maximum thrust mode has performed well, demonstrating significant thrust increases at military and maximum afterburner power. Increases of up to 15 percent at typical combat-type flight conditions were identified. Thrust increases of this magnitude could be useful in a combat situation.

*McDonnell-Douglas Corp., St. Louis, Missouri.


Aircraft with flight capability above 1.4 normally have an RPM lockup or similar feature to prevent inlet buzz that would occur at low engine airflows. This RPM lockup has the effect of holding the engine thrust level at the intermediate power (maximum non-afterburning). For aircraft such as military fighters or supersonic transports, the need exists to be able to rapidly slow from supersonic to subsonic speeds. For example, a supersonic transport that experiences a cabin decompression needs to be able to slow/descend rapidly, and this requirement may size the cabin environmental control system. For a fighter, there may be a desire to slow/descend rapidly, and while doing so to minimize fuel usage and engine exhaust temperature. Both of these needs can be aided by achieving the minimum possible overall net propulsive force. As the intermediate power thrust levels of engines increase, it becomes even more difficult to slow rapidly from supersonic speeds. Therefore, a mode of the performance seeking control (PSC) system to minimize overall propulsion system thrust has been developed and tested. The rapid deceleration mode reduces the engine airflow consistent with avoiding inlet buzz. The engine controls are trimmed to minimize the thrust produced by this reduced airflow, and moves the inlet geometry to degrade the inlet performance. As in the case of the other PSC modes, the best overall performance (in this case the least net propulsive force) requires an integrated optimization of inlet, engine, and nozzle variables. This paper presents the predicted and measured results for the supersonic minimum thrust mode, including the overall effects on aircraft deceleration.

*McDonnell-Douglas Corp., St. Louis, Missouri.


Flight testing of the performance seeking control (PSC) excitation mode was successfully completed at NASA Dryden on the F-15 highly integrated digital electronic control (HIDEC) aircraft. Although the excitation mode was not one of the original objectives of the PSC program, it was rapidly prototyped and implemented into the architecture of
the PSC algorithm, allowing valuable and timely research data to be gathered. The primary flight test objective was to investigate the feasibility of a future measurement-based performance optimization algorithm. This future algorithm, called AdAPT, which stands for adaptive aircraft performance technology, generates and applies excitation inputs to selected control effectors. Fourier transformations are used to convert measured response and control effector data into frequency domain models which are mapped into state space models using multiterm frequency matching. Formal optimization principles are applied to produce an integrated, performance optimal effector suite. The key technical challenge of the measurement-based approach is the identification of the gradient of the performance index to the selected control effector. This concern was addressed by the excitation mode flight test. The AdAPT feasibility study utilized the PSC excitation mode to apply separate sinusoidal excitation trims to the controls - one aircraft, inlet first ramp (cowl), and one engine, throat area. Aircraft control and response data were recorded using on-board instrumentation and analyzed post-flight. Sensor noise characteristics, axial acceleration performance gradients, and repeatability were determined. Results were compared to pilot comments to assess the ride quality. Flight test results indicate that performance gradients were identified at all flight conditions, sensor noise levels were acceptable at the frequencies of interest, and excitations were generally not sensed by the pilot.


The performance seeking control algorithm optimizes total propulsion system performance. This adaptive, model-based optimization algorithm has been successfully flight demonstrated on two engines with differing levels of degradation. Models of the engine, nozzle, and inlet produce reliable, accurate estimates of engine performance. But, because of an observability problem, component levels of degradation cannot be accurately determined. Depending on engine-specific operating characteristics PSC achieves various levels performance improvement. For example, engines with more deterioration typically operate at higher turbine temperatures than less deteriorated engines. Thus when the PSC maximum thrust mode is applied, for example, there will be less temperature margin available to be traded for increasing thrust.


There have been many cases in which the crew of a multi-engine airplane had to use engine thrust for emergency flight control. Such a procedure is very difficult, because the propulsion control forces are small, the engine response is slow, and airplane dynamics such as the phugoid and dutch roll are difficult to damp with thrust. In general, thrust increases are used to climb, thrust decreases to descend, and differential thrust is used to turn. Average speed is not significantly affected by changes in throttle setting. Pitch control is achieved because of pitching moments due to speed changes, from thrust offset, and from the vertical component of thrust. Roll control is achieved by using differential thrust to develop yaw, which, through the normal dihedral effect, causes a roll. Control power in pitch and roll tends to increase as speed decreases. Although speed is not controlled by the throttles, configuration changes are often available (lowering gear, flaps, moving center-of-gravity) to change the speed. The airplane basic stability is also a significant factor. Fuel slosh and gyroscopic moments are small influences on throttles-only control. The background and principles of throttles-only flight control are described.


Flight tests of the propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) system on the NASA F-15 airplane evolved as a result of a long series of simulation and flight tests. Initially, the simulation results were very optimistic. Early flight tests showed that manual throttles-only control was much more difficult than the simulation, and a flight investigation was flown to acquire data to resolve this discrepancy. The PCA system designed and developed by MDA evolved as these discrepancies were found and resolved, requiring redesign of the PCA software and modification of the flight test plan. Small throttle step inputs were flown to provide data for analysis, simulation update, and control logic modification. The PCA flight tests quickly revealed less than desired performance, but the extensive flexibility built into the flight PCA software allowed rapid evaluation of alternate gains, filters, and control logic, and within 2 weeks, the PCA system was functioning well. The initial objective of achieving adequate control for up-and-away flying and approaches was satisfied, and the option to continue to actual landings was achieved. After the PCA landings were accomplished, other PCA features were added, and additional maneuvers beyond those originally planned were flown. The PCA system was used to recover from
extreme upset conditions, descend, and make approaches to landing. A heading mode was added, and a single engine plus rudder PCA mode was also added and flown. The PCA flight envelope was expanded far beyond that originally designed for. Guest pilots from the USAF, USN, NASA, and the contractor also flew the PCA system and were favorably impressed.


Aerodynamic characteristics of an aircraft may significantly differ when flying close to the ground rather than when flying up and away. Recent research has also determined that dynamic effects (i.e., sink rate) influence ground effects (GE). A ground effects flight test program of the F-15 aircraft was conducted to support the propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) program at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Flight data was collected for 24 landings on seven test flights. Dynamic ground effects data were obtained for low- and high-sink rates, between 0.8 and 6.5 ft/sec, at two approach speed and flap combinations. These combinations consisted of 150 kt with the flaps down (30 deg deflection) and 170 kt with the flaps up (0 deg deflection), both with the inlet ramps in the full-up position. The aerodynamic coefficients caused by ground effects were estimated from the flight data. These ground effects data were correlated with the aircraft speed, flap setting, and sink rate. Results are compared to previous flight test and wind-tunnel ground effects data for various wings and for complete aircraft.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center conducted flight tests of a propulsion-controlled aircraft system on an F-15 airplane. This system was designed to explore the feasibility of providing safe emergency landing capability using only the engines to provide flight control in the event of a catastrophic loss of conventional flight controls. Control laws were designed to control the flight path and bank angle using only commands to the throttles. While the program was highly successful, this paper concentrates on the challenges encountered using engine thrust as the only control effector. Compared to conventional flight control surfaces, the engines are slow, nonlinear, and have limited control effectiveness. This increases the vulnerability of the system to outside disturbances and changes in aerodynamic conditions. As a result, the PCA system had problems with gust rejection. Cross coupling of the longitudinal and lateral axis also occurred, primarily as a result of control saturation. The normally negligible effects of inlet airframe interactions became significant with the engines as the control effector. Flight and simulation data are used to illustrate these difficulties.

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Two X-29A aircraft were flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center over a period of eight years. The airplanes’ unique features are the forward-swept wing, variable incidence close-coupled canard and highly relaxed longitudinal static stability (up to 35-percent negative static margin at subsonic conditions). This paper describes the primary flight control system and significant modifications made to this system, flight test techniques used during envelope expansion, and results for the low- and high-angle-of-attack programs. Throughout the paper, lessons learned will be discussed to illustrate the problems associated with the implementation of complex flight control systems.


The static and dynamic stability characteristics of wingships are discussed in the framework of small disturbance stability theory of conventional airplanes. The existence of force and moment derivatives with respect to height for wingship modifies the criteria for longitudinal static stability, and gives rise to a speed subsidence mode. The lateral-directional stability characteristics are influenced only moderately by ground effect. Consideration of the effect of wind shear and sinusoidal gusts are also given in the paper.

2153. Bauer, Jeffrey E.; Clarke, Robert; and Burken, John J.;
The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has flight tested two X-29A aircraft at low and high angles of attack. The high-angle-of-attack tests evaluate the feasibility of integrated X-29A technologies. More specific objectives focus on evaluating the high-angle-of-attack flying qualities, defining multiaxis controllability limits, and determining the maximum pitch-pointing capability. A pilot-selectable gain system allows examination of tradeoffs in airplane stability and maneuverability. Basic fighter maneuvers provide qualitative evaluation. Bank angle captures permit qualitative data analysis. This paper discusses the design goals and approach for high-angle-of-attack control laws and provides results from the envelope expansion and handling qualities testing at intermediate angles of attack. Comparisons of the flight test results to the predictions are made where appropriate. The pitch rate command structure of the longitudinal control system is shown to be a valid design for high-angle-of-attack control laws. Flight test results show that wing rock amplitude was overpredicted and aileron and rudder effectiveness were underpredicted. Flight tests show the X-29A airplane to be a good aircraft up to 40 deg angle of attack.

Keywords: Digital flight controls; Flight test; Flying qualities; Forward-swept wing; High alpha; High angle of attack; Unstable; X-29A


These problems relating to Pilot Induced Oscillations have manifested themselves since the earliest days of manned flight. The earliest recorded examples of PIO date back to the Wright brothers first aircraft. The earliest filmed records date back to just prior to World War 2, with the XB-19 aircraft which suffered a pitch PIO just prior to touchdown. Four classes of PIO have been identified, into which all of the known incidents can be grouped. These are: (1) Essentially Single Axis, Extended Rigid Body Effective Vehicle Dynamics; (2) Essentially Single Axis, Extended Rigid Body with Significant Feel-System Manipulator Mechanical Control Elements; (3) Multiple Axis, Extended Rigid Body Effective Vehicle Dynamics; and (4) PIO’s Involving Higher Frequency Modes.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Manhattan Beach, California.


An approach to obtaining and evaluating flight flutter data as well as ground test data is presented and evaluated. This approach uses spatial filters to allow many channels of data to be processed such that the primary frequencies of interest can be evaluated on a frequency by frequency basis. In some cases, the filtering is the simple sum and/or difference of signals measured in the test, while in other cases, the filter is created from the mode shapes measured during a ground test or obtained from a finite element analysis. This modal or spatial filtering application allows complex responses of physical degrees of freedom to be refined as single degree of freedom responses corresponding to the modes or shapes of interest. The condensed set of filtered responses provide more meaningful and easily understood information which can be evaluated immediately after data acquisition.


Aircraft performance can be optimized at the flight condition by using available redundancy among actuators. Effective use of this potential allows improved performance beyond limits imposed by design compromises. Optimization based on nominal models does not result in the best performance of the actual aircraft at the actual flight condition. An adaptive algorithm for optimizing performance parameters, such as speed or fuel flow, in flight based exclusively on flight data is proposed. The algorithm is inherently insensitive to model inaccuracies and measurement noise and biases and can optimize several decision variables at the same time. An adaptive constraint controller integrated into the algorithm regulates the optimization constraints, such as altitude or speed, without requiring and prior knowledge of the autopilot design. The algorithm has a modular structure which allows easy incorporation (or removal) of optimization constraints or decision variables to the optimization problem. An important part of the contribution is the development of analytical tools enabling convergence analysis of the algorithm and the establishment of simple design rules. The fuel-flow minimization and velocity maximization modes of the algorithm are demonstrated on the NASA Dryden B-720 nonlinear flight simulator for the single- and multi-effector optimization cases.

Keywords: Adaptive constrained optimization; Adaptive disturbance rejection; Aircraft performance optimization; Integrated optimization; Multivariable optimization; Transport aircraft


The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 established NASA and charged it to 'provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning...its activities and the results thereof.' The search for innovative methods to distribute NASA's information lead a grass-roots team to create the NASA Technical Report Server (NTRS), which uses the World Wide Web and other popular Internet-based information systems as search engines. The NTRS is an inter-center effort which provides uniform access to various distributed publication servers residing on the Internet. Users have immediate desktop access to technical publications from NASA centers and institutes. This paper presents the NTRS architecture, usage metrics, and the lessons learned while implementing and maintaining the services over the initial 6-month period. The NTRS is largely constructed with freely available software running on existing hardware. NTRS builds upon existing hardware and software, and the resulting additional exposure for the body of literature contained will allow NASA to ensure that its institutional knowledge base will continue to receive the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination.

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†Computer Sciences Corp., Moffett Field, California.
‡Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and the Technical University of Munich are cooperating in a research program to assess the impact of unstable long-term dynamics on the flying qualities of planes in hypersonic flight. These flying qualities issues are being investigated with a dedicated flight simulator for hypersonic vehicles located at NASA Dryden. Several NASA research pilots have flown the simulator through well-defined steady-level turns with varying phugoid and height mode instabilities. The data collected include pilot ratings and comments, performance measurements, and pilot workload measurements. The results presented in this paper include design guidelines for height and phugoid mode instabilities, an evaluation of the tapping method used to measure pilot workload, a discussion of techniques developed by the pilots to control large instabilities, and a discussion of how flying qualities of unstable long-term dynamics influence control power design requirements.

Keywords: Flying qualities; Height mode; Hypersonics; Long-term dynamics; Phugoid mode; Pilot workload; Tapping method; Workload estimation

*Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.


The search for innovative methods to distribute NASA's information lead a grass-roots team to create the NASA Technical Report Server (NTRS), which uses the World Wide Web and other popular Internet-based information systems as search engines. The NTRS is an inter-center effort which provides uniform access to various distributed publication servers residing on the Internet. Users have immediate desktop access to technical publications from NASA centers and institutes. This paper presents the NTRS architecture, usage metrics, and the lessons learned while implementing and maintaining the services over the initial 6-month period. The NTRS is largely constructed with freely available software running on existing hardware. NTRS builds upon existing hardware and software, and the resulting additional exposure for the body of literature contained will allow NASA to ensure that its institutional knowledge base will continue to receive the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination.

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Current loop circuitry replaced Wheatstone bridge circuitry to signal-condition strain gage transducers in more than 350 data channels for two different test programs at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The uncorrected test data from current loop circuitry had a lower noise level than data from comparable Wheatstone bridge circuitry, were linear with respect to gage-resistance change, and were uninfluenced by varying lead-wire resistance. The current loop channels were easier for the technicians to set up, verify, and operate than equivalent Wheatstone bridge channels. Design choices and circuit details are presented in this paper in addition to operational experience.

Keywords: Bridge circuits; Circuit theory; Electrical engineering; Electronic circuits; Electronic test equipment; Electronics; Gages; Instrumentation; Measuring instruments; Remote sensors; Resistance temperature detectors; Resistors; Sensors; Strain gage instruments; Structural testing; Test facility instruments; Testing of materials; Transducers


Parameter identification of time series models for linear dynamic structural systems using the least squares and total least squares criteria is investigated. Excitation and response time domain data are used to determine system parameters for autoregressive, moving average (ARMA) models. The method, or criteria, which is used to solve the set of overdetermined simultaneous equations developed from the time domain data affects the solution. A commonly used criteria, least squares, introduces the possibility of significant bias error in the system parameters and leads to bias errors in the modal parameter estimates. An alternative criteria, total least squares, provides an approach which appears to significantly reduce the bias error in the parameter estimates. These methods are applied to a simple, simulated system and then to flight flutter test data with particular emphasis on accurate modal damping estimates.

*Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana.


This report describes the Flow Visualization Facility at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. This water tunnel facility is used primarily for visualizing and analyzing vortical flows on aircraft models and other shapes at high-incidence angles. The tunnel is used extensively as a low-cost, diagnostic tool to help engineers understand complex flows over aircraft and other full-scale vehicles. The facility consists primarily of a closed-circuit water tunnel with a 16- x 24-in. vertical test section. Velocity of the flow through the test section can be varied from 0 to 10 in/sec; however, 3 in/sec provides optimum velocity for the majority of flow visualization applications. This velocity corresponds to a unit Reynolds number of 23,000/ft and a turbulence level over the majority of the test section below 0.5 percent. Flow visualization techniques described here include the dye tracer, laser light sheet, and shadowgraph. Limited correlation to full-scale flight data is shown.

Keywords: Flow simulations; Flow visualization; Flow visualization instrumentation; High angle of attack; Vortex breakdown; Vortex flows; Water tunnel


The present Dryden Flight Research Center, a part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has a flight research history that extends back to the mid-1940’s. The parent organization was a part of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and was formed in 1946 as the Muroc Flight Test Unit. This document describes 13 selected examples of important supersonic flight research conducted from the Mojave Desert location of the Dryden Flight Research Center over a 4 decade period beginning in 1946. The research described herein was either obtained at supersonic speeds or enabled subsequent aircraft to penetrate or traverse the supersonic region. In some instances there accrued from these research efforts benefits which are also applicable at lower or higher speed regions. A major consideration in the selection of the various research topics was the lasting impact they have had, or will have, on subsequent supersonic flight vehicle design, efficiency, safety, and performance or upon improved supersonic research techniques.

Keywords: Area rule; Compressibility effects; Digital fly-by-wire; F-8 DFBW; F-102; Flight path control; Inertial coupling; Model-to-full scale correlation; Parameter estimation; Reaction controls; Space shuttle; Supersonic flight research/testing; History


Thermal buckling characteristics of hypersonic aircraft sandwich panels of various aspect ratios were investigated. The panel is fastened at its four edges to the substructures under four different edge conditions and is subjected to uniform temperature loading. Minimum potential energy
theory and finite element methods were used to calculate the panel buckling temperatures. The two methods gave fairly close buckling temperatures. However, the finite element method gave slightly lower buckling temperatures than those given by the minimum potential energy theory. The reasons for this slight discrepancy in eigensolutions are discussed in detail. In addition, the effect of eigenshifting on the eigenvalue convergence rate is discussed.

Keywords: Different edge conditions; Finite element method; Hypersonics; Minimum potential energy theory; Sandwich panels; Thermal bucklings


The operational and research aspects of a subscale, radio-controlled model flight-test program are presented. By using low-cost free-flying models, an approach was developed for obtaining research-quality vehicle performance and aerodynamic information. The advantages and limitations learned by applying this approach to a specific flight-test program are described. The research quality of the data acquired shows that model flight testing is practical for obtaining consistent and repeatable flight data.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A tire and landing gear test facility has been developed and incorporated into a Convair 990 aircraft. The system can simulate tire vertical load profiles to 250,000 lb, sideslip angles to 15 degrees, and wheel braking on actual runways. Onboard computers control the preprogrammed test profiles through a feedback loop and also record three axis loads, tire slip angle, and tire condition. The aircraft to date has provided tire force and wear data for the Shuttle Orbiter tire on three different runways and at east and west coast landing sites. This report discusses the role of this facility in complementing existing ground tire and landing gear test facilities, and how this facility can simultaneously simulate the vertical load, tire slip, velocity, and surface for an entire aircraft landing. A description is given of the aircraft as well as the test system. An example of a typical test sequence is presented. Data collection and reduction from this facility are discussed, as well as accuracies of calculated parameters. Validation of the facility through ground and flight tests is presented. Tests to date have shown that this facility can operate at remote sites and gather complete data sets of load, slip, and velocity on actual runway surfaces. The ground and flight tests have led to a successful validation of this test facility.

Keywords: Aircraft tire; CV990; Landing gear; Landing Systems Research Aircraft; Space Shuttle Orbiter Test Facility

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The value of flight research in developing and evaluating gas turbine engines is high. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has been conducting flight research on propulsion systems for many years. The F100 engine has been tested in the NASA F-15 research airplane in the last three decades. One engine in particular, S/N P680063, has been used for the entire program and has been flown in many pioneering propulsion flight research activities. Included are detailed flight-to-ground facility tests; tests of the first production digital engine control system, the first active stall margin control system, the first performance-seeking control system; and the first use of computer-controlled engine thrust for emergency flight control. The flight research has been supplemented with altitude facility tests at key times. This paper presents a review of the test of engine P680063, the F-15 airplanes in which it flew, and the role of the flight test in maturing propulsion technology.

*Pratt and Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.

NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has completed a preliminary performance analysis of the SR-71 aircraft for use as a launch platform for high-speed research vehicles and for carrying captive experimental packages to high altitude and Mach number conditions. Externally mounted research platforms can significantly increase drag, limiting test time and, in extreme cases, prohibiting penetration through the high-drag, transonic flight regime. To provide supplemental SR-71 acceleration, methods have been developed that could increase the thrust of the J58 turbojet engines. These methods include temperature and speed increases and augmentor nitrous oxide injection. The thrust-enhanced engines would allow the SR-71 aircraft to carry higher drag research platforms than it could without enhancement. This paper presents predicted SR-71 performance with and without enhanced engines. A modified climb-dive technique is shown to reduce fuel consumption when flying through the transonic flight regime with a large external payload. Estimates are included of the maximum platform drag profiles with which the aircraft could still complete a high-speed research mission. In this case, enhancement was found to increase the SR-71 payload drag capability by 25 percent. The thrust enhancement techniques and performance prediction methodology are described.

A frequency-based performance identification approach was evaluated using flight data from the NASA F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control aircraft. The approach used frequency separation to identify the effectiveness of multiple controls simultaneously as an alternative to independent control identification methods. Fourier transformations converted measured control and response data into frequency domain representations. Performance gradients were formed using multiterm frequency matching of control and response frequency domain models. An objective function was generated using these performance gradients. This function was formally optimized to produce a coordinated control trim set. This algorithm was applied to longitudinal acceleration and evaluated using two control effectors: nozzle throat area and inlet first ramp. Three criteria were investigated to validate the approach: simultaneous gradient identification, gradient frequency dependency, and repeatability. This report describes the flight test results. These data demonstrate that the approach can accurately identify performance gradients during simultaneous control excitation independent of excitation frequency.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Aircraft flight tests; Aircraft performance; Control effectiveness; Performance optimization

*McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace, St. Louis, Missouri.
PSC fan stall margin modeling accuracy was completed with analysis of in-flight stall tests. Results indicate that the model overestimates the stall margin by between 5 to 10 percent. Because PSC achieves performance gains by using available stall margin, this overestimation may represent performance improvements to be recovered with increased modeling accuracy. Assessment of thrust and stall margin modeling accuracy provides a critical piece for a comprehensive understanding of PSC’s capabilities and limitations.

Keywords: Airbreathing engines (aircraft); Aircraft engine testing; Aircraft propulsion systems; Engine control systems; Flight tests; Turbofan engines


A postflight FORTRAN program called ‘radar’ reads and analyzes ground-based radar data. The output includes position, velocity, and acceleration parameters. Air data parameters are also provided if atmospheric characteristics are input. This program can read data from any radar in three formats. Geocentric Cartesian position can also be used as input, which may be from an inertial navigation or Global Positioning System. Options include spike removal, data filtering, and atmospheric refraction corrections. Atmospheric refraction can be corrected using the quick White Sands method or the gradient refraction method, which allows accurate analysis of very low elevation angle and long-range data. Refraction properties are extrapolated from surface conditions, or a measured profile may be input. Velocity is determined by differentiating position. Accelerations are determined by differentiating velocity. This paper describes the algorithms used, gives the operational details, and discusses the limitations and errors of the program. Appendices A through E contain the derivations for these algorithms. These derivations include an improvement in speed to the exact solution for geodetic altitude, an improved algorithm over earlier versions for determining scale height, a truncation algorithm for speeding up the gradient refraction method, and a refinement of the coefficients used in the White Sands method for Edwards AFB, California. Appendix G contains the nomenclature.

Keywords: Airdata; Atmospheric refraction; Computer program; Derivations; FORTRAN; Geodetics; Radar


SR-71 sonic boom signatures were measured to validate sonic boom propagation prediction codes. An SR-71 aircraft generated sonic booms from Mach 1.25 to Mach 1.6, at altitudes of 31,000 to 48,000 ft, and at various gross weights. An F-16XL aircraft measured the SR-71 near-field shock waves from close to the aircraft to more than 8,000 ft below, gathering 105 signatures. A YO-3A aircraft measured the SR-71 sonic booms from 21,000 to 38,000 feet below, recording 17 passes. The sonic booms at ground level and atmospheric data were recorded for each flight. Data analysis is underway. Preliminary results show that shock wave patterns and coalescence vary with SR-71 gross weight, Mach number, and altitude. For example, noncoalesced shock wave signatures were measured by the YO-3A at 21,000 ft below the SR-71 aircraft while at a low gross weight, Mach 1.25, and 31,000-ft altitude. This paper describes the design and execution of the flight research experiment. Instrumentation and flight maneuvers of the SR-71, F-16XL, and YO-3A aircraft and sample sonic boom signatures are included.

Keywords: Aerodynamic flow field; Aerodynamics; Aircraft flight test; Global Positioning System; Instrumentation; Sonic boom; YO-3A


SR-71 and F-16XL Airplanes

Two F-18 aircraft were flown, one above the other, in two formations, in order for the shock systems of the two aircraft to merge and propagate to the ground. The first formation had the canopy of the lower F-18 in the inlet shock of the upper
F-18 (called inlet-canopy). The flight conditions were Mach 1.22 and an altitude of 23,500 ft. An array of five sonic boom recorders was used on the ground to record the sonic boom signatures. This paper describes the flight test technique and the ground level sonic boom signatures. The tail-canopy formation resulted in two, separated, N-wave signatures. Such signatures probably resulted from aircraft positioning error. The inlet-canopy formation yielded a single modified signature; two recorders measured an approximate flattop signature. Loudness calculations indicated that the single inlet-canopy signatures were quieter than the two, separated tail-canopy signatures. Significant loudness occurs after a sonic boom signature. Such loudness probably comes from the aircraft engines.

Keywords: Aircraft engine noise; Aircraft flight test; Data acquisition systems; Ground-based data acquisition systems; Sonic boom


This paper describes ground-level measurements of sonic boom signatures made as part of the SR-71 sonic boom propagation experiment recently completed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. Ground level measurements were the final stage of this experiment which also included airborne measurements at near and intermediate distances from an SR-71 research aircraft. Three types of sensors were deployed to three station locations near the aircraft ground track. Pressure data were collected for flight conditions from Mach 1.25 to Mach 1.60 at altitudes from 30,000 to 48,000 ft. Ground-level measurement techniques, comparisons of data sets from different ground sensors, and sensor system strengths and weaknesses are discussed. The well-known N-wave structure dominated the sonic boom signatures generated by the SR-71 aircraft at most of these conditions. Variations in boom shape caused by atmospheric turbulence, focusing effects, or both were observed for several flights. Peak pressure and boom event duration showed some dependence on aircraft gross weight. The sonic boom signatures collected in this experiment are being compiled in a data base for distribution in support of the High Speed Research Program.

Keywords: Aircraft flight test; Data acquisition systems; Ground-based data acquisition systems; Instrumentation; Sonic boom


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a versatile simulation software package that is applicable to a broad range of fixed-wing aircraft. This package has evolved in support of a variety of flight research programs. The structure is designed to be flexible enough for use in batch-mode, real-time pilot-in-the-loop, and flight hardware-in-the-loop simulation. Current simulations operate on UNIX-based platforms and are coded with a FORTRAN shell and C support routines. This paper discusses the features of the simulation software design and some basic model development techniques. The key capabilities that have been included in the simulation are described. The NASA Dryden simulation software is in use at other NASA centers, within industry, and at several universities. The straightforward but flexible design of this well-validated package makes it especially useful in an engineering environment.

Keywords: Aircraft simulators; Flight simulation; Simulation software; Simulators


A prototype real-time flush airdata sensing (RT-FADS) system has been developed and flight tested at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. This system uses a matrix of pressure orifices on the vehicle nose to estimate airdata parameters in real time using nonlinear regression. The algorithm is robust to sensor failures and noise in the measured pressures. The RT-FADS system has been calibrated using inertial trajectory measurements that were bootstrapped for atmospheric conditions using meteorological data. Mach numbers as high as 1.6 and angles of attack greater than 45 deg have been tested. The system performance has been evaluated by comparing the RT-FADS to the ship system airdata computer measurements to give a quantitative evaluation relative to an accepted measurement standard. Nominal agreements of approximately 0.003 in Mach number and 0.20 deg in angle of attack and angle of sideslip have been achieved.

Keywords: Airdata; Flight testing; Flush port measurements; F-18 HARV; F-18 Systems Research Aircraft; Instrumentation; Pressure sensing

An innovative inlet total pressure distortion measurement rake has been designed and developed for the F/A-18 A/B/C/D aircraft inlet. The design was conceived by NASA and General Electric Aircraft Engines personnel. This rake has been flight qualified and flown in the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The eight-legged, one-piece, wagon wheel design of the rake was developed at a reduced cost and offered reduced installation time compared to traditional designs. The rake features 40 dual-measurement ports for low- and high-frequency pressure measurements with the high-frequency transducer mounted at the port. This high-frequency transducer offers direct absolute pressure measurements from low to high frequencies of interest, thereby allowing the rake to be used during highly dynamic aircraft maneuvers. Outstanding structural characteristics are inherent to the design through its construction and use of lightweight materials.

Keywords: F-18 aircraft; Flow measurement; In-flight monitoring; Inlet flow; Pressure measurement; Pressure sensors

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.
**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
†General Electric Co., Evendale, Ohio.


Aerodynamic and aerothermodynamic comparisons between flight and ground test for four hypersonic vehicles are discussed. The four vehicles are the X-15, the Reentry F, the Sandia Energetic Reentry Vehicle Experiment (SWERVE), and the Space Shuttle. The comparisons are taken from papers published by researchers active in the various programs. Aerodynamic comparisons include reaction control jet interaction on the Space Shuttle. Various forms of heating including catalytic, boundary layer, shock interaction and interference, and vortex impingement are compared. Predictions were significantly exceeded for the heating caused by vortex impingement (on the Space Shuttle OMS pods) and for heating caused by shock interaction and interference on the X-15 and the Space Shuttle. Predictions of boundary-layer state were in error on the X-15, the SWERVE, and the Space Shuttle vehicles.

Keywords: Aerothermodynamics; Boundary-layer transition; Catalytic effects; Flight-to-ground test correlation; Hypersonic aerodynamics; Reentry F; Sandia Energetic Reentry Vehicle Experiment (SWERVE); Shuttle reentry; X-15 aircraft


This paper reviews the test techniques developed over the last several decades for flight flutter testing of aircraft. Structural excitation systems, instrumentation systems, digital data preprocessing, and parameter identification algorithms (for frequency and damping estimates from the response data) are described. Practical experiences and example test programs illustrate the combined, integrated effectiveness of the various approaches used. Finally, comments regarding the direction of future developments and needs are presented.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aircraft vibration; Flight flutter testing; Flutter test history; Flutter test procedures


This paper reviews the test techniques developed over the last several decades for flight flutter testing of aircraft. Structural excitation systems, instrumentation systems, digital data preprocessing, and parameter identification algorithms (for frequency and damping estimates from the response data) are described. Practical experiences and example test programs illustrate the combined, integrated effectiveness of the various approaches used. Finally, comments regarding the direction of future developments and needs are presented.


Article about the Smooth-Variable-Camber Supercritical Mission Adaptive Wing flown on the Advanced Fighter Technology Integration F-111 Aircraft.

1996 Technical Publications

The practical application of real-time performance optimization is addressed (using a wide-body transport simulation) based on real-time measurements and calculation of incremental drag from forced response maneuvers. Various controller combinations can be envisioned although this study used symmetric outboard aileron and stabilizer. The approach is based on navigation instrumentation and other measurements found on state-of-the-art transports. This information is used to calculate winds and angle of attack. Thrust is estimated from a representative engine model as a function of measured variables. The lift and drag equations are then used to calculate lift and drag coefficients. An expression for drag coefficient, which is a function of parasite drag, induced drag, and aileron drag, is solved from forced excitation response data. Estimates of the parasite drag, curvature of the aileron drag variation, and minimum drag aileron position are produced. Minimum drag is then obtained by repositioning the symmetric aileron. Simulation results are also presented which evaluate the affects of measurement bias and resolution.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Airfoil and wing aerodynamics; Cambered wings; Drag reduction; Fuel consumption; Flight optimization; F-111 aircraft; Optimal control; Optimization


This paper develops a dynamic model for pressure sensors in continuum and rarefied flows with longitudinal temperature gradients. The model was developed from the unsteady Navier-Stokes momentum, energy, and continuity equations and was linearized using small perturbations. The energy equation was decoupled from momentum and continuity and was linearized using small perturbations. The energy equation was decoupled from momentum and continuity and was linearized using small perturbations. The energy equation was decoupled from momentum and continuity and was linearized using small perturbations. The energy equation was decoupled from momentum and continuity and was linearized using small perturbations. The equations were radially averaged and solved assuming gas properties remain constant along a small tubing element. This fundamental solution was used as a building block for arbitrary geometries where fluid properties may also vary longitudinally in the tube. The problem was solved recursively starting at the transducer and working upstream in the tube. Dynamic frequency response tests were performed for continuum flow conditions in the presence of temperature gradients. These tests validated the recursive formulation of the model. Model steady-state behavior was analyzed using the final value theorem. Tests were performed for rarefied flow conditions and compared to the model steady-state response to evaluate the regime of applicability. Model comparisons were excellent for Knudsen numbers up to 0.6. Beyond this point, molecular affects caused model analyses to become inaccurate.

Keywords: Hypersonic aerodynamics; Knudsen number; Pneumatic attenuation; Pressure sensing

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Engine inlet velocity flow fields are important for determining inlet flow distortion, optimizing inlet design, and understanding high angle of attack operation. These flow fields are normally measured by expensive, fixed position, and perturbing multi-channel pitot rake sensors. The objective of this study is to show that Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV) offers a potential solution to these problems, along with providing high spatial and temporal resolution. Data in the inlet of an F-100 EMD engine was acquired with a state of the art, ruggedized LDV system incorporating a high bandwidth, real-time signal processor. As part of this work, an inlet duct with an optical access and seeding methodology were developed. One-component axial mean and rms velocity profiles were successfully determined under steady state and transient engine run conditions from idle to maximum afterburner. Time-velocity correlations during transient engine maneuvers and an estimate of LDV data rate versus laser power were also obtained. The results show that LDV may be applied to full scale inlets both with and without seeding. Data rates in most cases would be adequate for active feedback control of the engine. The results of this work will be used to guide the development of an in-flight instrument.

*Aerometrics, Inc., Sunnyvale, California.


A technical symposium, aircraft display dedication, and pilots’ panel discussion were held on May 27, 1992 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first flights of the F-8 Digital Fly-By-Wire (DFBW) and Supercritical Wing (SCW) research aircraft. The symposium featured technical presentations by former key government and industry participants in the advocacy, design, aircraft modification,
The new correction technique has been demonstrated through a series of tests in which strain measurements were acquired for temperature-rise rates ranging from 1 to greater than 100 degrees F/sec. Strain-gage data from these tests have been corrected with both the new and conventional methods and then compared with an analysis. Results show that, for temperature-rise rates greater than 10 degrees F/sec, the strain measurements corrected with the conventional technique produced strain errors that deviated from analysis by as much as 45 percent, whereas results corrected with the new technique were in good agreement with analytical results.

Keywords: Apparent strain; Measurement errors; Strain gage instrumentation; Structural testing

Preparations for a boundary-layer transition experiment to be conducted on a future flight mission of the air-launched Pegasus® rocket are underway. The experiment requires a flight-test article called a glove to be attached to the wing of the Mach-8 first-stage booster. A three-dimensional, nonlinear finite-element analysis has been performed and significant small-scale laboratory testing has been accomplished to ensure the glove design integrity and quality of the experiment. Reliance on both the analysis and experiment activities has been instrumental in the success of the flight-article design. Results obtained from the structural analysis and laboratory testing show that all glove components are well within the allowable thermal stress and deformation requirements to satisfy the experiment objectives.

Keywords: Computational methods; Flight test techniques; Structural analysis; Structural design; Structural testing

This paper describes a flight research program initiative for the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) concept. AAW technology is also known as active flexible wing technology. This paper introduces key design studies which project significant aircraft weight savings when the concept is applied to new aircraft. The paper also summarizes wind tunnel performance results which provide the basis for the next step in AAW
development: a flight research program.


Around 1970, the YF-12A loads and structures efforts focused on numerous technological issues that needed defining with regard to aircraft that incorporate hot structures in the design. Laboratory structural heating test technology with infrared systems was largely created during this program. The program demonstrated the ability to duplicate the complex flight temperatures of an advanced supersonic airplane in a ground-based laboratory. The ability to heat and load an advanced operational aircraft in a laboratory at high temperatures and return it to flight status without adverse effects was demonstrated. The technology associated with measuring loads with strain gages on a hot structure was demonstrated with a thermal calibration concept. The results demonstrated that the thermal stresses were significant although the airplane was designed to reduce thermal stresses. Considerable modeling detail was required to predict the heat transfer and the corresponding structural characteristics. The overall YF-12A research effort was particularly productive, and a great deal of flight, laboratory, test and computational data were produced and cross-correlated.

Keywords: F-111 aircraft; Flight loads; Heat transfer; Hot structures; Loads measurement; Strain gages; Thermal loads and structures; YF-12A aircraft


Significant strain-gage errors may exist in measurements acquired in transient temperature environments if conventional correction methods are applied. Conventional correction theory was modified and a new experimental method was developed to correct indicated strain gage data errors created in radiant heating environments ranging from 0.6°C/sec (1°F/sec) to over 56°C/sec (100°F/sec). In some cases the new and conventional methods differed by as much as 30 percent. Experimental and analytical results were compared to demonstrate the new technique. For heating conditions greater than 6°C/sec (10°F/sec), the indicated strain gage data corrected with the developed technique compared much better to analysis than the same data corrected with the conventional technique.

2193. Szalai, Kenneth J.; *Bonifazi, Carlo; **Joyce, Paul M.; †Schwinghamer, Robert J.; **White, Robert D.; **Bowersox, Kenneth; **Schneider, William C.; ††Stadler, John H.; and

Reasons for the tether separation during the Tethered Satellite System (TSS-1) Mission are investigated. Lessons learned are presented.

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A flight experiment has been proposed to investigate the performance of an aerospike rocket motor installed in a lifting body configuration. An SR-71 airplane would be used to carry the aerospike configuration to the desired flight test conditions. Wind-tunnel tests were completed on a 4-percent scale SR-71 airplane with the aerospike pod mounted in various locations on the upper fuselage. Testing was accomplished using sting and blade mounts from Mach 0.6 to Mach 3.2. Initial test objectives included assessing transonic drag and supersonic lateral-directional stability and control. During these tests, flight simulations were run with wind-tunnel data to assess the acceptability of the configurations. Early testing demonstrated that the initial configuration with the aerospike pod near the SR-71 center of gravity was unsuitable because of large nosedown pitching moments at transonic speeds. The excessive trim drag resulting from accommodating this pitching moment far exceeded the excess thrust capability of the airplane. Wind-tunnel testing continued in an attempt to find a configuration suitable for flight test. Multiple configurations were tested. Results indicate that an aft-mounted model configuration possessed acceptable performance, stability, and control characteristics.

Keywords: Aerodynamic models; Aerospike; Flight simulations; Rocket; SR-71 airplane; Wind tunnel

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A quasi-tailless flight investigation was launched using the
The ability to use flight data to determine an aircraft model with structural dynamic effects suitable for piloted simulation and handling qualities analysis has been developed. This technique was demonstrated using SR-71 flight test data. For the SR-71 aircraft, the most significant structural response is the longitudinal first-bending mode. This mode was modeled as a second-order system, and the other higher order modes were modeled as a time delay. The distribution of the modal response at various fuselage locations was developed using a uniform beam solution, which can be calibrated using flight data. This approach was compared to the mode shape obtained from the ground vibration test, and the general form of the uniform beam solution was found to be a good representation of the mode shape in the areas of interest. To calibrate the solution, pitch-rate and normal-acceleration instrumentation is required for at least two locations. With the resulting structural model incorporated into the simulation, a good representation of the flight characteristics was provided for handling qualities analysis and piloted simulation.

Keywords: Handling qualities; Parameter estimation; Simulation; Structural dynamics

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One of the advanced control concepts being investigated on the High-Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) is multi-axis thrust vectoring using an experimental thrust-vectoring (TV) system consisting of three hydraulically actuated vanes per engine. A mixer is used to translate the pitch-, roll-, and yaw-TV commands into the appropriate TV-vane commands for distribution to the vane actuators. A computer-aided optimization process was developed to perform the inversion of the thrust-vectoring effectiveness data for use by the mixer in performing this command translation. Using this process a new mixer was designed for the HARV and evaluated in simulation and flight. An important element of the Mixer is the priority logic, which determines priority among the pitch, roll-, and yaw-TV commands.

Keywords: Flight control systems; Thrust-vectoring; High angle of attack; Control design

*Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Co., Hampton, Virginia.
preliminary performance analysis of the SR-71 aircraft for use as a launch platform for high-speed research vehicles and for carrying captive experimental packages to high altitude and Mach number conditions. Externally mounted research platforms can significantly increase drag, limiting test time and, in extreme cases, prohibiting penetration through the high-drag, transonic flight regime. To provide supplemental SR-71 acceleration, methods have been developed that could increase the thrust of the 158 turbojet engines. These methods include temperature and speed increases and augmentor nitrous oxide injection. The thrust-enhanced engines would allow the SR-71 aircraft to carry higher drag research platforms than it could without enhancement. This paper presents predicted SR-71 performance with and without enhanced engines. A modified climb-dive technique is shown to reduce fuel consumption when flying through the transonic flight regime with a large external payload. Estimates are included of the maximum platform drag profiles with which the aircraft could still complete a high-speed research mission. In this case, enhancement was found to increase the SR-71 payload drag capability by 25 percent. The thrust enhancement techniques and performance prediction methodology are described.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; 158 turbojet engine; Optimal flight profile; SR-71 aircraft; Thrust enhancement; Transonic drag rise


Two F-18 aircraft were flown, one above the other, in two formations, in order for the shock systems of the two aircraft to merge and propagate to the ground. The first formation had the canopy of the lower F-18 in the tail shock of the upper F-18 (called tail-canopy). The second formation had the canopy of the lower F-18 in the inlet shock of the upper F-18 (called inlet-canopy). The flight conditions were Mach 1.22 and an altitude of 23,500 ft. An array of five sonic boom recorders was used on the ground to record the sonic boom signatures. This paper describes the flight test technique and the ground level sonic boom signatures. The tail-canopy formation resulted in two, separated, N-wave signatures. Such signatures probably resulted from aircraft positioning error. The inlet-canopy formation yielded a single modified signature; two recorders measured an approximate flatte signature. Loudness calculations indicated that the single inlet-canopy signatures were quieter than the two, separated tail-canopy signatures. Significant loudness occurs after a sonic boom signature. Such loudness probably comes from the aircraft engines.


A large, civilian multiengine transport MD-11 airplane control system was recently modified to perform as an emergency backup controller using engine thrust only. The emergency backup system, referred to as the propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system, would be used if a major primary flight control system fails. To allow for longitudinal and lateral-directional control, the PCA system requires at least two engines and is implemented through software modifications. A flight-test program was conducted to evaluate the PCA system high-altitude flying characteristics and to demonstrate its capacity to perform safe landings. The cruise flight conditions, several low approaches, and one landing without any aerodynamic flight control surface movement were demonstrated. This paper presents results that show satisfactory performance of the PCA system in the longitudinal axis. The lateral-directional axis of the system performed well at high altitude but was sluggish and prone to thermal upsets during landing approaches. Flight-test experiences and test techniques are also discussed, with emphasis on the lateral-directional axis because of the difficulties encountered in flight test.

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This report describes how an MD-11 airplane landed using only thrust modulation, with the control surfaces locked. The propulsion-controlled aircraft system would be used if the aircraft suffered a major primary flight control system failure and lost most or all the hydraulics. The longitudinal and lateral-directional controllers were designed and flight tested, but only the longitudinal control of flight path angle is addressed in this paper. A flight-test program was conducted to evaluate the aircraft’s high-altitude flying characteristics and to demonstrate its capacity to perform safe landings. In addition, over 50 low approaches and three landings without the movement of any aerodynamic control surfaces were performed. The longitudinal control modes include a wing engines only mode for flight path control and a three-engine operation mode with speed control and dynamic control of the flight path angle using the tail engine. These modes were flown in either a pilot-commanded mode or an instrument landing system coupled mode. Also included are the results of
an analytical study of an autothrottle longitudinal controller designed to improve the phugoid damping. This mode requires the pilot to use differential throttles for lateral control.

*Honeywell, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona


This paper describes ground-level measurements of sonic boom signatures made as part of the SR-71 sonic boom propagation experiment recently completed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. Ground-level measurements were the final stage of this experiment which also included airborne measurements at near and intermediate distances from an SR-71 research aircraft. The types of sensors were deployed to three station locations near the aircraft ground track. Pressure data collected for flight conditions from Mach 1.25 to Mach 1.60 at altitudes from 30,000 to 48,000 ft. Ground-level measurement techniques, comparisons of data sets from different ground sensors, and sensor system strengths and weaknesses are discussed. The well-known N-wave structure dominated sonic boom signatures generated by the SR-71 aircraft at most of these conditions. Variations in boom shape caused by atmospheric turbulence, focusing effects, or both, were observed for several flights. Peak pressure and boom event duration showed some dependence on aircraft gross weight. The sonic boom signatures collected in this experiment are being compiled in a database for distribution in support of the High Speed Research Program.


SR-71 sonic boom signatures were measured to validate sonic boom propagation prediction codes. An SR-71 aircraft generated sonic booms from Mach 1.25 to Mach 1.6, at altitudes of 31,000 to 48,000 ft, and at various gross weights. An F-16XL aircraft measured the SR-71 near-field shock waves from close to the aircraft to more than 8,000 ft below, gathering 105 signatures. A YO-3A aircraft measured the SR-71 sonic booms from 21,000 to 38,000 ft below, recording 17 passes. The sonic booms at ground level and atmospheric data were recorded for each flight. Data analysis is underway. Preliminary results show that shock wave patterns and coalescence vary with SR-71 gross weight, Mach number, and altitude. For example, noncoalesced shock wave signatures were measured by the YO-3A at 21,000 ft below the SR-71 aircraft while at a low gross weight, Mach 1.25, and 31,000-ft altitude. This paper describes the design and execution of the flight research experiment. Instrumentation and flight maneuvers of the SR-71, F-16XL, and YO-3A aircraft and sample sonic boom signatures are included.


During rapid rolling maneuvers, the F-16 XL aircraft exhibits a 2.5 Hz lightly damped roll oscillation, perceived and described as ‘roll ratcheting’. This phenomenon is common with fly-by-wire control systems, particularly when primary control is derived through a pedestal-mounted side-arm controller. Analytical studies have been conducted to model the nature of the integrated control characteristics. The analytical results complement the flight observations. A three-degree-of-freedom linearized set of aerodynamic matrices was assembled to simulate the aircraft plant. The lateral-directional control system was modeled as a linear system. A combination of two second-order transfer functions was derived to couple the lateral acceleration feed through effect of the operator’s arm and controller to the roll stick force input. From the combined systems, open-loop frequency responses and a time history were derived, describing and predicting an analogous in-flight situation. This report describes the primary control, aircraft angular rate, and position time responses of the F-16 XL-2 aircraft during subsonic and high-dynamic-pressure rolling maneuvers. The analytical description of the pilot’s arm and controller can be applied to other aircraft or simulations to assess roll ratcheting susceptibility.

Keywords: Biomechanics; F-16XL airplane; Flying qualities; Handling qualities; Human factors; Pilot induced oscillations; Roll control; Roll ratcheting


An emergency flight control system using only engine thrust, called Propulsion-Controlled Aircraft (PCA), has been developed and flight tested on an MD-11 airplane. In this thrust-only control system, pilot flight path and track commands and aircraft feedback parameters are used to control the throttles. The PCA system was installed on the MD-11 airplane using software modifications to existing
computers. Flight test results show that the PCA system can be used to fly to an airport and safely land a transport airplane with an inoperative flight control system. In up-and-away operation, the PCA system served as an acceptable autopilot capable of extended flight over a range of speeds and altitudes. The PCA approaches, go-arounds, and three landings without the use of any normal flight controls have been demonstrated, including instrument landing system-coupled hands-off landings. The PCA operation was used to recover from an upset condition. In addition, PCA was tested at altitude with all three hydraulic systems turned off. This paper reviews the principles of throttles-only flight control; describes the MD-11 airplane and systems; and discusses PCA system development, operation, flight testing, and pilot comments.

Keywords: Emergency flight control; MD11 airplane; Propulsion-controlled aircraft; Propulsive control; Throttle-only control

Most existing subspace identification algorithms assume that a single input to output data set is available. Motivated by a real-life problem on the F18-SRA experimental aircraft, we show how these algorithms are readily adapted to handle multiple data sets. We show by means of an example the relevance of such an improvement.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mechanical and thermal buckling behavior of monolithic and metal-matrix composite hat-stiffened panels were investigated. The panels have three types of face-sheet geometry: Flat face sheet, microdented face sheet, and microbulged face sheet. The metal-matrix composite panels have three types of face-sheet layups, each of which is combined with various types of hat composite layups. Finite-element method was used in the eigenvalue extractions for both mechanical and thermal buckling. The thermal buckling analysis required both eigenvalue and material property iterations. Graphical methods of the dual iterations are shown. The mechanical and thermal buckling strengths of the hat-stiffened panels with different face-sheet geometry are compared. It was found that by just microdenting or microbulging of the face sheet, the axial, shear, and thermal buckling strengths of both types of hat-stiffened panels could be enhanced considerably. This effect is more conspicuous for the monolithic panels. For the metal-matrix composite panels, the effect of fiber orientations on the panel buckling strengths was investigated in great detail, and various composite layup combinations offering, high panel buckling strengths are presented. The axial buckling strength of the metal-matrix panel was sensitive to the change of hat fiberorientation. However, the lateral, shear, and thermal buckling strengths were insensitive to the change of hat fiberorientation.

Keywords: Hat-stiffened panels; Mechanical buckling; Metal-matrix composites; Thermal buckling; Varying face sheet geometry; Varying fiber orientation

Atmospheric turbulence adversely affects operation of commercial and military aircraft and is a design constraint. The airplane structure must be designed to survive the loads imposed by turbulence. Reducing these loads allows the airplane structure to be lighter, a substantial advantage for a commercial airplane. Gust alleviation systems based on accelerometers mounted in the airplane can reduce the maximum gust loads by a small fraction. These systems still represent an economic advantage. The ability to reduce the gust load increases tremendously if the turbulent gust can be measured before the airplane encounters it. A lidar system can make measurements of turbulent gusts ahead of the airplane, and the NASA Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced In-Flight Measurements (ACCLAIM) program is developing...
such a lidar. The ACLAIM program is intended to develop a prototype lidar system for use in feasibility testing of gust load alleviation systems and other airborne lidar applications, to define applications of lidar with the potential for improving airplane performance, and to determine the feasibility and benefits of these applications. This paper gives an overview of the ACLAIM program, describes the lidar architecture for a gust alleviation system, and describes the prototype ACLAIM lidar system.

Keywords: Aircraft operation; Aircraft sensors; Backscatter; Gust; Lidar; Load alleviation; Turbulence

**Coherent Technologies, Inc., Boulder, Colorado.


A propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system for emergency flight control of aircraft with no flight controls was developed and flight tested on an F-15 aircraft at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The airplane has been flown in a throttles-only manual mode and with an augmented system called PCA in which pilot thumbwheel commands and aircraft feedback parameters were used to drive the throttles. Results from a 36-flight evaluation showed that the PCA system can be used to safely land an airplane that has suffered a major flight control system failure. The PCA system was used to recover from a severe upset condition, descend, and land. Guest pilots have also evaluated the PCA system. This paper describes the principles of throttles-only flight control; a history of loss-of-control accidents; a description of the F-15 aircraft; the PCA system operation, simulation, and flight testing; and the pilot comments.

Keywords: Emergency flight control; F-15 airplane; Flight control systems; Propulsion-controlled aircraft; Propulsive control; Throttle-only control


The X-31A aircraft gross-acquisition and fine-tracking handling qualities have been evaluated using standard evaluation maneuvers developed by Wright Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The emphasis of the testing is in the angle-of-attack range between 30 deg and 70 deg. Longitudinal gross-acquisition handling qualities results show borderline Level 1/Level 2 performance. Lateral gross-acquisition testing results in Level 1/Level 2 ratings below 45 deg angle of attack, degrading into Level 3 as angle of attack increases. The fine-tracking performance in both longitudinal and lateral axes also receives Level 1 ratings near 30 deg angle of attack, with the ratings tending towards Level 3 at angles of attack greater than 50 deg. These ratings do not match the expectations from the extensive close-in combat testing where the X-31A aircraft demonstrated fair to good handling qualities maneuvering for high angles of attack. This paper presents the results of the high-angle-of-attack handling qualities flight testing of the X-31A aircraft. Discussion of the preparation for the maneuvers, the pilot ratings, and selected pilot comments are included. Evaluation of the results is made in conjunction with existing Neal-Smith, bandwidth, Smith-Geddes, and military specifications.

Keywords: Flight controls; Handling qualities; High angle of attack; Pilot-induced oscillation; Standard evaluation maneuvers; X-31A aircraft


An emergency flight control system using only engine thrust called Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) was developed and successfully flight tested on an F-15A aircraft in 1993. As a follow-on to the F-15 PCA research, McDonnell Douglas Aerospace (MDA) and NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) developed and tested a concept demonstration PCA system for the MD-11 transport airplane. An objective was to demonstrate controlled up-and-away flight over a flight envelope from 150 to 250 knots below 15,000 ft. Another was to make low approached to a runway that could have been continued to a survivable landing. The goal was to make actual PCA landings. To make the PCA demonstration apply to a large number of transports with two wing-mounted engines, the MD-11 PCA system primarily used only the wing engines. The PCA system used only software changes to existing digital systems on the MD-11. In over 25 hr of testing, the PCA system exceeded the objectives, served as a very acceptable autopilot, and performed landings without using any flight controls.


This paper addresses the classical problem of printed circuit board routing: that is, the problem of automatic routing by a computer other than by brute force that causes the execution time to grow exponentially as a function of the complexity. Most of the present solutions are either inexpensive but not efficient and fast, or efficient and fast but very costly. Many solutions are proprietary, so not much is written or known about the actual algorithms upon which these solutions are based. This paper presents a formal algorithm for routing traces on a printed circuit board. The solution presented is very fast and efficient and for the first time speaks to the question eloquently by way of symbolic statements.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Printed circuit board; Routing

An F/A-18 aircraft was modified to perform flight research at high angles of attack (AOA) using thrust vectoring and advanced control law concepts for agility and performance enhancement and to provide a testbed for the computational fluid dynamics community. Aeroservoelastic (ASE) characteristics had changed considerably from the baseline F/A-18 aircraft because of structural and flight control system amendments, so analyses and flight tests were performed to verify structural stability at high AOA. Detailed actuator models that consider the physical, electrical, and mechanical elements of actuation and its installation on the airframe were employed in the analysis to accurately model the coupled dynamics of the airframe, actuators, and control surfaces. This report describes the ASE modeling procedure, ground test validation, flight test clearance, and test data analysis for the reconfigured F/A-18 aircraft. Multivariable ASE stability margins are calculated from flight data and compared to analytical margins. Because this thrust-vectoring configuration uses exhaust vanes to vector the thrust, the modeling issues are nearly identical for modern multi-axis nozzle configurations. Results indicate that the thrust-vectoring enhancement and to provide a testbed for the computational fluid dynamics community. The NASA F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) has been the flight test bed of a focused technology effort to significantly increase maneuvering capability at high angles of attack. Development and flight test of control law design methodologies, handling qualities metrics, performance guidelines, and flight evaluation maneuvers are described. The HARV has been modified to include two research control effectors, thrust vectoring, and actuated forebody strakes in order to provide increased control power at high angles of attack. A research flight control system has been used to provide a flexible, easily modified capability for high-angle-of-attack research controls. Different control law design techniques have been implemented and flight-tested, including eigenstructure assignment, variable gain output feedback, pseudo controls, and model-following. Extensive piloted simulation has been used to develop nonlinear performance guidelines and handling qualities criteria for high angles of attack. This paper reviews the development and evaluation of technologies useful for high-angle-of-attack control. Design, development, and flight test of the research flight control system, control laws, flying qualities specifications, and flight test maneuvers are described. Flight test results are used to illustrate some of the lessons learned during flight test and handling qualities evaluations.

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Detailed wind tunnel and flight investigations were performed on the F/A-18 configuration to explore the causes of many high-angle-of-attack phenomena and resulting disparities between wind tunnel and flight results at these conditions. Obtaining accurate predictions of full-scale flight aerodynamics from wind-tunnel tests is important and becomes a challenge at high-angle-of-attack conditions where large areas of vortical flow interact. The F/A-18 airplane was one of the first high-performance aircraft to have an unrestricted angle-of-attack envelope, and as such the configuration displayed many unanticipated characteristics. Results indicate that fixing forebody crossflow transition on models can result in a more accurate match of flow fields, and thus a more accurate prediction of aerodynamic characteristics of flight at high angles of attack. The wind tunnel results show that...
small geometry differences, specifically nosebooms and aft-end distortion, can have a pronounced effect at high angles of attack and must be modeled in sub-scale tests in order to obtain accurate correlations with flight.

Keywords: Fighter aircraft; Forebody flows; High angle of attack; Vortex flows; Vortex interactions

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The F404-GE-400-powered F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) was used to examine the quality of inlet airflow during departed flight maneuvers, that is, during flight outside the normal maneuvering envelope where control surfaces have little or no effectiveness. Six nose-left and six nose-right departures were initiated at Mach numbers between 0.3 and 0.4 at an altitude of 35 kft. The entry yaw rates were approximately 40 to 90 deg/sec. Engine surges were encountered during three of the nose-left and one of the nose-right departures. Time-variant inlet-total-pressure distortion levels at the engine face did not significantly exceed those at maximum angle-of-attack and sideslip maneuvers during controlled flight. Surges caused by inlet distortion levels resulted from a combination of high levels of inlet distortion and rapid changes in aircraft position. These rapid changes indicate a combination of engine support and gyroscopic loads being applied to the engine structure that impact the aerodynamic stability of the compressor through changes in the rotor-to-case clearances. This document presents the slides from an oral presentation.

Keywords: Aircraft departures; Engine stability limits; F/A-18 airplane; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion


The effects of high-angle-of-attack flight on aircraft inlet aerodynamic characteristics were investigated at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, as part of NASA’s High Alpha Technology Program. The highly instrumented F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle was used for this research. A newly designed inlet total-pressure rake was installed in front of the starboard F404-GE-400 engine to measure inlet recovery and distortion characteristics. One objective was to determine inlet total-pressure characteristics at steady high-angle-of-attack conditions. Other objectives include assessing whether significant differences exist in inlet distortion between rapid angle-of-attack maneuvers and corresponding steady aerodynamic conditions, assessing inlet characteristics during aircraft departures, providing data for developing and verifying computational fluid dynamic codes, and calculating engine airflow using five methods. This paper addresses the first objective by summarizing results of 79 flight maneuvers at steady aerodynamic conditions, ranging from –10° to 60° angle of attack and from –8° to 11° angle of sideslip at Mach 0.3 and 0.4. These data and the associated database have been rigorously validated to establish a foundation for understanding inlet characteristics at high angle of attack.

Keywords: F/A-18A aircraft; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion; Pressure distributions;


The performance and distortion levels of the right inlet of the F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle were assessed during maneuvers with rapidly changing angle-of-attack at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The distortion levels were compared with those produced by current inlet-engine compatibility evaluation techniques. The objective of these analyses was to determine whether the results obtained for steady aerodynamic conditions were adequate to describe the inlet-generated distortion levels that occur during rapid aircraft maneuvers. The test data were obtained during 46 dynamic maneuvers at Mach numbers of 0.3 and 0.4. Levels of inlet recovery, peak dynamic circumferential distortion, and peak dynamic radial distortion of dynamic maneuvers for a General Electric F404-GE-400 turbofan engine were compared with estimations based on steady aerodynamic conditions. The comparisons were performed at equivalent angle-of-attack, angle-of-sideslip, and Mach number. Results showed no evidence of peak inlet distortion levels being elevated by dynamic maneuver conditions at high angle-of-attack compared with steady aerodynamic estimations. During sweeps into high angle-of-attack, the peak distortion levels of the dynamic maneuvers rarely rose to steady aerodynamic estimations. The dynamic maneuvers
were shown to be effective at identifying conditions when discrete changes in inlet behavior occur.

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**General Electric Aircraft Engines, Cincinnati, Ohio.


Aircraft flight characteristics at high angles of attack can be improved by controlling vortices shed from the nose. These characteristics have been investigated with the integration of the actuated nose strakes for enhanced rolling (ANSER) control system into the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. Several hardware and software systems were developed to enable performance of the research goals. A strake interface box was developed to perform actuator control and failure detection outside the flight control computer. A three-mode ANSER control law was developed and installed in the Research Flight Control System. The thrust-vectoring mode does not command the strakes. The strakes and thrust-vectoring mode uses a combination of thrust vectoring and strakes for lateral–directional control, and strake mode uses strakes only for lateral–directional control. The system was integrated and tested in the Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) simulation for testing before installation in the aircraft. Performance of the ANSER system was monitored in real time during the 89-flight ANSER flight test program in the DFRC Mission Control Center. One discrepancy resulted in a set of research data not being obtained. The experiment was otherwise considered a success with the majority of the research objectives being met.

Keywords: Ada; Digital systems; F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle; Flight control; Nose strakes; Servoactuators


This paper gives an overview of the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle. The three flight phases of the program are introduced, along with the specific goals and data examples taken during each phase. The aircraft configuration and systems needed to perform the disciplinary and interdisciplinary research are discussed. The specific disciplines involved with the flight research are introduced, including aerodynamics, controls, propulsion, systems, and structures. Decisions that were made early in the planning of the aircraft project and the results of those decisions are briefly discussed. Each of the three flight phases corresponds to a particular aircraft configuration, and the research dictated the configuration to be flown. The first phase gathered data with the baseline F-18 configuration. The second phase was the thrust-vectoring phase. The third phase used a modified forebody with deployable nose strakes. Aircraft systems supporting these flights included extensive instrumentation systems, integrated research flight controls using flight control hardware and corresponding software, analog interface boxes to control forebody strakes, a thrust-vectoring system using external postexit vanes around axisymmetric nozzles, a forebody vortex control system with strakes, and backup systems using battery-powered emergency systems and a spin recovery parachute.

Keywords: Aircraft aerodynamics; Control laws; Flight test; High angle-of-attack; Thrust vectoring


Extensive pressure measurements and off-surface flow visualization were obtained on the forebody and strakes of the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) equipped with actuated forebody strakes. Forebody yawing moments were obtained by integrating the circumferential pressures on the forebody and strakes. Results show that large yawing moments can be generated with forebody strakes. At angles of attack greater than 40°, deflecting one strake at a time resulted in a forebody yawing moment control reversal for small strake deflection angles. At α = 40° and 50°, deflecting the strakes differentially about a 20° symmetric strake deployment eliminated the control reversal and produced a near linear variation of forebody yawing moment with differential strake deflection. At α = 50° and for 0° and 20° symmetric strake deployments, a larger forebody yawing moment was generated by the forward fuselage (between the radome and the apex of the leading-edge extensions), than on the radome where the actuated forebody strakes were located. Cutsouts on the flight vehicle strakes that were not on the wind tunnel models are believed to be responsible for deficits in the suction peaks on the flight radome pressure distributions and differences in the forebody yawing moments.

Keywords: Angle-of-attack; F-18 aircraft; Flight control; Flight test; Pressure distribution; Vortices; Yawing moments

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The goal of flight flutter testing is to detect possibly destructive modes of aircraft vibration which may arise during flight from interaction of aerodynamic forces with structural dynamic properties of the airframe. This is typically accomplished by exciting the airframe with a time varying force and monitoring the response of the aircraft throughout its flight envelope. The data generated must be analyzed and presented so that the frequency and time of occurrence of excited modes are clearly and unambiguously displayed. Processing and display in near real time is also desirable. Display of data in the time-frequency plane is a natural choice because it is a familiar and intuitive framework. The Matching Pursuit algorithm provides a time-frequency analysis with good adaptability to signal structure and good signal representation in the time-frequency plane. Improvements in efficiency are needed before the algorithm can be used in real time, however.

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Investigations into a multiaxis thrust-vectoring system have been conducted on an F-18 configuration. These investigations include ground-based scale-model tests, ground-based full-scale testing, and flight testing. This thrust-vectoring system has been tested on the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). The system provides thrust vectoring in pitch and yaw axes. Ground-based subscale test data have been gathered as background to the flight phase of the program. Tests investigated aerodynamic interaction and vane control effectiveness. The ground-based full-scale data were gathered from static engine runs with image analysis to determine relative thrust-vectoring effectiveness. Flight tests have been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Parameter identification input techniques have been developed. Individual vanes were not directly controlled because of a mixer-predictor function built into the flight control laws. Combined effects of the vanes have been measured in flight and compared to combined effects of the vanes as predicted by the cold-jet test data. Very good agreement has been found in the linearized effectiveness derivatives.

Keywords: Aircraft parameter identification; Cold jet testing; Flight test; Thrust vectoring; Wind tunnel testing

A flight research study of high-angle-of-attack handling qualities has been conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center using the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). The objectives were to create a high-angle-of-attack handling qualities flight database, develop appropriate research evaluation maneuvers, and evaluate high-angle-of-attack handling qualities guidelines and criteria. Using linear and nonlinear simulations and flight research data, the predictions from each criterion were compared with the pilot ratings and comments. Proposed high-angle-of-attack nonlinear design guidelines and proposed handling qualities criteria and guidelines developed using piloted simulation were considered. Recently formulated time-domain Neal-Smith guidelines were also considered for application to high-angle-of-attack maneuvering. Conventional envelope criteria were evaluated for possible extension to the high-angle-of-attack regime. Additionally, the maneuvers were studied as potential evaluation techniques, including a limited validation of the proposed standard evaluation maneuver set. This paper gives an overview of these research objectives through examples and summarizes result highlights. The maneuver development is described briefly, the criteria evaluation is emphasized with example results given, and a brief discussion of the database form and content is presented.

Keywords: Criteria guidelines; Database; Handling qualities; High-angle-of-attack; Maneuvers

**ViGYAN, Inc., Hampton, Virginia.

Thermal–mechanical tests were performed on a titanium honeycomb sandwich panel to experimentally validate the hypersonic wing panel concept and compare test data with analysis. Details of the test article, test fixture development, instrumentation, and test results are presented. After extensive testing to 900 °F, non-destructive evaluation of the panel has not detected any significant structural degradation caused by the applied thermal–mechanical loads.

Keywords: Elevated temperatures; Hypersonic vehicle; Strain gages; Structural analysis; Structural testing; Test techniques

**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.
Flight vehicles are typically instrumented with subsurface thermocouples to estimate heat transfer at the surface using inverse analysis procedures. If the vehicle has an ablating heat shield, however, temperature time histories from subsurface thermocouples no longer provide enough information to estimate heat flux at the surface. In this situation, the geometry changes and thermal energy leaves the surface in the form of ablation products. The ablation rate is required to estimate heat transfer to the surface. A new concept for a capacitive sensor has been developed to measure ablator depth using the ablator’s dielectric effect on a capacitor’s fringe region. Relying on the capacitor’s fringe region enables the gage to be flush mounted in the vehicle’s permanent structure and not intrude into the ablative heat shield applied over the gage. This sensor’s design allows nonintrusive measurement of the thickness of dielectric materials, in particular, the recession rates of low-temperature ablators applied in thin (0.020 to 0.060 in. (0.05 to 1.5 mm)) layers. Twenty capacitive gages with 13 different sensing element geometries were designed, fabricated, and tested. A two-dimensional finite-element analysis was performed on several candidate geometries. Calibration procedures using ablator-simulating shims are described. A one-to-one correspondence between system output and dielectric material thickness was observed out to a thickness of 0.055 in. (1.4 mm) for a material with a permittivity about three times that of air or vacuum. A novel method of monitoring the change in sensor capacitance was developed. This technical memorandum suggests further improvements in gage design and fabrication techniques.

Keywords: Ablation; Ablation measurement; Capacitive sensors; Fringe field; Thin film measurement

The exhaust flow properties (mass flow, pressure, temperature, velocity, and Mach number) of the F110-GE-129 engine in an F-16XL airplane were determined from a series of flight tests flown at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. These tests were performed in conjunction with NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia (LaRC) as part of a study to investigate the acoustic characteristics of jet engines operating at high nozzle pressure conditions. The range of interest for both objectives was from Mach 0.3 to Mach 0.9. NASA Dryden flew the airplane and acquired and analyzed the engine data to determine the exhaust characteristics. NASA Langley collected the flyover acoustic measurements and correlated these results with their current predictive codes. This paper describes the airplane, tests, and methods used to determine the exhaust flow properties and presents the exhaust flow properties. No acoustics results are presented.

Keywords: Acoustics; F110 engine; F-16XL airplane; Flyover noise

Under a contract with NASA, a joint Central Institute of Aviation Motors (CIAM) and NASA team is preparing to conduct the fourth flight test of a dual-mode scramjet aboard the CIAM Hypersonic Flying Laboratory, “Kholod.” Ground-launch, rocket boosted by a modified Russian SA-5 missile, the redesigned scramjet is to be accelerated to a new maximum velocity of Mach 6.5. This should allow for the first-time measurement of the fully supersonic combustion mode. The primary program objective is the flight-to-ground correlation of measured data with preflight analysis and wind-tunnel tests in Russia and potentially in the United States. This paper describes the development and objectives of the program as well as the technical details of the scramjet and SA-5 redesign to achieve the Mach 6.5 aim test condition. The purpose and value of a joint Russian-American program to attain overall hypersonic air-breathing technology objectives are discussed. Finally, the current project status and schedules to reach the final flight launch are discussed.

*Central Institute of Aviation Motors, Moscow, Russia.

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*Central Institute of Aviation Motors, Moscow, Russia.
future flight experiments that use the FTF–II as a test bed. Additional information enclosed in the appendices has been included to assist with more detailed analyses, if required.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characterization; Boundary-layer pressures; F-15B aerodynamic test bed; F-15 directional stability; Flight test facility; Flight test fixture; Flow visualization; Surface pressure distribution


The lateral–directional stability and control derivatives of the X-29A number 2 are extracted from flight data over an angle-of-attack range of 4° to 53° using a parameter identification algorithm. The algorithm uses the linearized aircraft equations of motion and a maximum likelihood estimator in the presence of state and measurement noise. State noise is used to model the uncommanded forcing function caused by unsteady aerodynamics over the aircraft at angles of attack above 15°. The results supported the flight-envelope-expansion phase of the X-29A number 2 by helping to update the aerodynamic mathematical model, to improve the real-time simulator, and to revise flight control system laws. Effects of the aircraft high gain flight control system on maneuver quality and the estimated derivatives are also discussed. The derivatives are plotted as functions of angle of attack and compared with the predicted aerodynamic database. Agreement between predicted and flight values is quite good for some derivatives such as the lateral force due to sideslip, the lateral force due to rudder deflection, and the rolling moment due to roll rate. The results also show significant differences in several important derivatives such as the rolling moment due to sideslip, the yawing moment due to sideslip, the yawing moment due to aileron deflection, and the yawing moment due to rudder deflection.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Forward-swept wing; High angle of attack; Lateral-directional; Maximum likelihood estimation; Parameter identification; Stability and control derivatives; X-29A

*SPARTA Inc., Lancaster, California.


A large, civilian, multiengine transport MD-11 airplane control system was recently modified to perform as an emergency backup controller using engine thrust only. The emergency backup system, referred to as the propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system, would be used if a major primary flight control system fails. To allow for longitudinal and lateral–directional control, the PCA system requires at least two engines, and is implemented through software modifications. A flight-test program was conducted to evaluate the PCA system high-altitude flying characteristics and to demonstrate its capacity to perform safe landings. The cruise flight conditions, several low approaches, and four landings without any aerodynamic flight control surface movement were demonstrated. This paper presents results that show satisfactory performance of the PCA system in the longitudinal axis. Test results indicate that the lateral–directional axis of the system performed well at high altitude but was sluggish and prone to thermal upsets during landing approaches. Flight-test experiences and test techniques are also discussed with emphasis on the lateral–directional axis because of the difficulties encountered in flight test.

*McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, Long Beach, California


This report describes Government Work Package Task 29 (GWP29), whose purpose was to develop advanced strain gage technology in support of the National Aerospace Plane (NASP) Program. The focus was on advanced resistance strain gages with a temperature range from room temperature to 2000 F (1095 C) and on methods for reliably attaching these gages to the various materials anticipated for use in the NASP program. Because the NASP program required first-cycle data, the installed gages were not prestabilized or heat treated on the test coupons before first-cycle data were recorded. NASA Lewis Research Center, the lead center for GWP29, continued its development of the palladium-chromium gage; NASA Langley Research Center investigated a new concept gage using Kanthal A1; and the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center chose the well-known BCL-3 iron-chromium-aluminum gage. Each center then tested all three gages. The parameters investigated were apparent strain, drift strain, and gage factor as a function of temperature, plus gage size and survival rate over the test period. Although a significant effort was made to minimize the differences in test equipment between the three test sites (e.g., the same hardware and software were used for final data processing), the center employed different data acquisition systems and furnace configurations so that some inherent differences may be evident in the final results.

Keywords: Strain gage; NASP

*Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.

**U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Lewis Research Center,
Cleveland, Ohio.
***PRC, Inc., Edwards, California.
†NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The X-29A airplanes were evaluated over the full design envelope. The flight control system successfully performed the tasks of stabilizing the short-period mode and providing automatic camber control to minimize trim drag. Compared with other highly augmented, digital fly-by-wire airplanes, the X-29A and its flight control system proved remarkably trouble free. Despite the unusually large negative static margin, the X-29A proved safe to operate within the design envelope.


As part of the NASA History Series, this report (NASA SP-4309) describes fifty years of aeronautical research at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Starting with early efforts to exceed the speed of sound with the X-1 aircraft, and continuing through to the X-31 research aircraft, the report covers the flight activities of all of the major research aircraft and lifting bodies studied by NASA. Chapter One, ‘A Place for Discovery’, describes the facility itself and the surrounding Mojave Desert. Chapter Two, ‘The Right Stuff’, is about the people involved in the flight research programs. Chapter Three, ‘Higher, Faster’ summarizes the early years of transonic flight testing and the development of several lifting bodies. Chapter Four, ‘Improving Efficiency, Maneuverability & Systems’, outlines the development of aeronautical developments such as the supercritical wing, the mission adaptive wing, and various techniques for improving maneuverability of winged aircraft. Chapter Five, ‘Supporting National Efforts’, shows how the research activities carried out at Dryden fit into NASA’s programs across the country in supporting the space program, in safety and in problem solving related to aircraft design and aviation safety in general. Chapter Six, ‘Future Directions’ looks to future research building on the fifty year history of aeronautical research at the Dryden Flight Research Center. A glossary of acronyms and an appendix covering concepts and innovations are included. The report also contains many photographs providing a graphical perspective to the historical record.

1997 Technical Publications


A low-cost attitude system has been developed for an ultrahigh altitude flight experiment. The experiment uses a remotely piloted sailplane, with the wings modified for flight at altitudes greater than 100,000 ft. Mission requirements deem it necessary to measure the aircraft pitch and bank angles with accuracy better than 1.0 deg and heading with accuracy better than 5.0 deg. Vehicle cost restrictions and gross weight limits make installing a commercial inertial navigation system unfeasible. Instead, a low-cost attitude system was developed using strap down components. Monte Carlo analyses verified that two vector measurements, magnetic field and velocity, are required to completely stabilize the error equations. In the estimating algorithm, body-axis observations of the airspeed vector and the magnetic field are compared against the inertial velocity vector and a magnetic-field reference model. Residuals are fed back to stabilize integration of rate gyros. The effectiveness of the estimating algorithm was demonstrated using data from the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) flight tests. The algorithm was applied with good results to a maximum 10° pitch and bank angles. Effects of wind shears were evaluated and, for most cases, can be safely ignored.

Keywords: Attitude estimation; Euler angles; Kalman filter; Quaternion; Ultrahigh altitude

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
**University of California, Los Angeles, California.


A low-cost altitude system has been developed for an ultrahigh altitude flight experiment. The experiment uses a remotely piloted sailplane, with the wings modified for flight at altitudes greater than 100,000 ft. Mission requirements deem it necessary to measure the aircraft pitch and bank angles with accuracy better than 1 deg and heading with accuracy better than 5 deg. Vehicle cost restrictions and gross weight limits make installing a commercial inertial navigation system unfeasible. Instead, a low-cost attitude system was developed using strap down components. Monte Carlo analyses verified that two vector measurements, magnetic field and velocity, are required to completely stabilize the error equations. In the estimating algorithm, body-axis observations of the

Detailed wind tunnel and flight investigations were performed on the F/A-18 configuration to explore the causes of many high-angle-of-attack phenomena and resulting disparities between wind tunnel and flight results at these conditions. Obtaining accurate predictions of full-scale flight aerodynamics from wind-tunnel tests is important and becomes a challenge at high-angle-of-attack conditions where large areas of vortical flow interact. The F/A-18 airplane was one of the first high-performance aircraft to have an unrestricted angle-of-attack envelope, and as such the configuration displayed many unanticipated characteristics. Results indicate that fixing forebody crossflow transition on models can result in a more accurate match of flow fields, and thus a more accurate prediction of aerodynamic characteristics of flight at high angles of attack. The wind tunnel results show that small geometry differences, specifically nosebooms and aft-end distortion, can have a pronounced effect at high angles of attack and must be modeled in sub-scale tests in order to obtain accurate correlations with flight.

Keywords: Fighter aircraft; Forebody flows; High angle of attack; Vortex flows; Vortex interactions

**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.**


The F/A-18 high-Angle-of-Attack Technology Conference, Hampton, Virginia, September 17–19 1996, was presented. The derivatives are estimated from dynamic flight data using a specialized identification program developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The formulation uses the linearized aircraft equations of motions in their continuous/discrete form and a maximum likelihood estimator that accounts for both state and measurement noise. State noise is used to model the uncommanded forcing function caused by unsteady aerodynamics, such as separated and vortical flows, over the aircraft. The derivatives are plotted as functions of angle of attack between 3 deg and 47 deg and compared with wind-tunnel predictions. The quality of the derivative estimates obtained by parameter identification is somewhat degraded because the maneuvers were flown with the aircraft’s control augmentation system engaged, which introduced relatively high correlations between the control variables and response variables as a result of control motions from the feedback control system.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight-to-wind-tunnel comparisons; F-18 aircraft; High angle of attack; Maximum likelihood estimation; Parameter identification; Stability and control derivatives


The F404-GE-400-powered F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) was used to examine the quality of inlet airflow during departed flight maneuvers, that is, during flight outside the normal maneuvering envelope where control surfaces have little or no effectiveness. Six nose-left and six nose-right departures were initiated at Mach numbers between 0.3 and 0.4 at an altitude of 35 kft. The entry yaw rates were approximately 40 to 90 deg/sec. Engine surges were encountered during three of the nose-left and one of the nose-right departures. Time-variant inlet-total-pressure distortion levels at the engine face did not significantly exceed those at maximum angle-of-attack and sideslip maneuvers during controlled flight. Surges caused by inlet distortion levels resulted from a combination of high levels of inlet distortion and rapid changes in aircraft position. These rapid changes indicate a combination of engine support and gyroscopic loads being applied to the engine structure that impact the aerodynamic stability of the compressor through changes in the rotor-to-case clearances. This document presents the slides from an oral presentation.

Keywords: Aircraft departures; Engine stability limits; F/18-18A airplane; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion

Coupling dynamics can produce either adverse or beneficial stability and controllability, depending on the characteristics of the aircraft. This report presents archival anecdotes and analyses of coupling problems experienced by the X-series, Century series, and Space Shuttle aircraft. The three catastrophic sequential coupling modes of the X-2 airplane and the two simultaneous unstable modes of the X-15 and Space Shuttle aircraft are discussed. In addition, the most complex of the coupling interactions, inertia roll coupling, is discussed for the X-2, X-3, F-100A, and YF-102 aircraft. The mechanics of gyroscopics, centrifugal effect, and resonance in coupling dynamics are described. The coupling modes discussed are interacting multiple degrees of freedom of inertial and aerodynamic forces and moments. The aircraft are assumed to be rigid bodies. Structural couplings are not addressed. Various solutions for coupling instabilities are discussed.

Keywords: Coupling dynamics; Coupling modes; F-100 aircraft; Space Shuttle; X-2 aircraft; X-3 aircraft; X-15 aircraft; YF-102 aircraft

Most flying qualities criteria have been developed from data in the subsonic flight regime. Unique characteristics...
of supersonic flight raise questions about whether these criteria successfully extend into the supersonic flight regime. Approximately 25 years ago NASA Dryden Flight Research Center addressed this issue with handling qualities evaluations of the XB-70 and YF-12. Good correlations between some of the classical handling qualities parameters, such as the control anticipation parameter as a function of damping, were discovered. More criteria have been developed since these studies. Some of these more recent criteria are being used in designing the High-Speed Civil Transport (HSCT). A second research study recently addressed this issue through flying qualities evaluations of the SR-71 at Mach 3. The research goal was to extend the high-speed flying qualities experience of large airplanes and to evaluate more recent MIL-STD-1797 criteria against pilot comments and ratings. Emphasis was placed on evaluating the criteria used for designing the HSCT. XB-70 and YF-12 data from the previous research supplemented the SR-71 data. The results indicate that the criteria used in the HSCT design are conservative and should provide good flying qualities for typical high-speed maneuvering. Additional results show correlation between the ratings and comments and criteria for gradual maneuvering with precision control. Correlation is shown between ratings and comments and an extension of the Neal/Smith criterion using normal acceleration instead of pitch rate.

Keywords: Bandwidth criteria; Flightpath bandwidth; Flying qualities; High-speed civil transport; Low-order equivalent systems; Neal/Smith criteria; SR-71 aircraft; Supersonic flying qualities

E-1841

Richard Day conducts Dryden’s 1st flight simulation, a roll coupling experiment


Time-frequency signal representations combined with subspace identification methods were used to analyze aeroelastic flight data from the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) and aeroservoelastic data from the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). The F/A-18 SRA data were produced from a wingtip excitation system that generated linear frequency chirps and logarithmic sweeps. HARV data were acquired from digital Schroeder-phased and sinc pulse excitation signals to actuator commands. Nondilated continuous Morlet wavelets implemented as a filter bank were chosen for the time-frequency analysis to eliminate phase distortion as it occurs with sliding window discrete Fourier
transform techniques. Wavelet coefficients were filtered to reduce effects of noise and nonlinear distortions identically in all inputs and outputs. Cleaned reconstructed time domain signals were used to compare improved transfer functions. Time and frequency domain subspace identification methods were applied to enhanced reconstructed time domain data and improved transfer functions, respectively. Time domain subspace performed poorly, even with the enhanced data, compared with frequency domain techniques. A frequency domain subspace method is shown to produce better results with the data processed using the Morlet time-frequency technique.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aeroservoelasticity; Aircraft vibration; Modal stability; Structural dynamics; System identification; Wavelet analysis


Thermostructural analysis was performed on a heated titanium honeycomb-core sandwich panel. The sandwich panel was supported at its four edges with spar-like substructures that acted as heat sinks, which are generally not considered in the classical analysis. One side of the panel was heated to high temperature to simulate aerodynamic heating during hypersonic flight. Two types of surface heating were considered: (1) flat-temperature profile, which ignores the effect of edge heat sinks, and (2) dome-shaped-temperature profile, which approximates the actual surface temperature distribution associated with the existence of edge heat sinks. The finite-element method was used to calculate the deformation field and thermal stress distributions in the face sheets and core of the sandwich panel. The detailed thermal stress distributions in the sandwich panel are presented, and critical stress regions are identified. The study shows how the magnitudes of those critical stresses and their locations change with different heating and edge conditions. This technical report presents comprehensive, three-dimensional graphical displays of thermal stress distributions in every part of a titanium honeycomb-core sandwich panel subjected to hypersonic heating on one side. The plots offer quick visualization of the structural response of the panel and are very useful for hot structures designers to identify the critical stress regions.

Keywords: Heat-sink effect; One-sided heating; Sandwich panels; Thermal deformations; Thermal stress analysis; Thermal stress distributions


The effects of high-angle-of-attack flight on aircraft inlet aerodynamic characteristics were investigated at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, as part of NASA’s High Alpha Technology Program. The highly instrumented F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle was used for this research. A newly designed inlet total-pressure rake was installed in front of the starboard F404-GE-400 engine to measure inlet recovery and distortion characteristics. One objective was to determine inlet total-pressure characteristics at steady high-angle-of-attack conditions. Other objectives include assessing whether significant differences exist in inlet distortion between rapid angle-of-attack maneuvers and corresponding steady aerodynamic conditions, assessing inlet characteristics during aircraft departures, providing data for developing and verifying computational fluid dynamic codes, and calculating engine airflow using five methods. This paper addresses the first objective by summarizing results of 79 flight maneuvers at steady aerodynamic conditions, ranging from –10 deg to 60 deg angle of attack and from –8 deg to 11 deg angle of sideslip at Mach 0.3 and 0.4. These data and the associated database have been rigorously validated to establish a foundation for understanding inlet characteristics at high angle of attack.

Keywords: FA-18A aircraft; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion; Pressure distributions

*Analytical Services and Materials, Hampton, Virginia.
**General Electric Aircraft Engines, Evandale, Ohio.


An approach for computing worst-case flutter margins has been formulated in a robust stability framework. Uncertainty operators are included with a linear model to describe modeling errors and flight variations. The structured singular value, micron, computes a stability margin which directly accounts for these uncertainties. This approach introduces a new method of computing flutter margins and an associated new parameter for describing these margins. The micron margins are robust margins which indicate worst-case stability estimates with respect to the defined uncertainty. Worst-case flutter margins are computed for the F/A-18 SRA using uncertainty sets generated by flight data analysis. The robust margins demonstrate flight conditions for flutter may lie closer to the flight envelope than previously estimated by p-k analysis.

Keywords: Flight test; Flutter; Robust stability; Stability

Time-frequency signal representations combined with subspace identification methods were used to analyze aeroelastic flight data from the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) and aeroservoelastic data from the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). The F/A-18 SRA data were produced from a wingtip excitation system that generated linear frequency chirps and logarithmic sweeps. HARV data were acquired from digital Schroeder-phased and sine pulse excitation signals to actuator commands. Nondilated continuous Morlet wavelets implemented as a filter bank were chosen for the time-frequency analysis to eliminate phase distortion as it occurs with sliding window discrete Fourier transform techniques. Wavelet coefficients were filtered to reduce effects of noise and nonlinear distortions identically in all inputs and outputs. Cleaned reconstructed time domain signals were used to compute improved transfer functions. Time and frequency domain subspace identification methods were applied to enhanced reconstructed time domain data and improved transfer functions, respectively. Time domain subspace performed poorly, even with the enhanced data, compared with frequency domain techniques. A frequency domain subspace method is shown to produce better results with the data processed using the Morlet time-frequency technique.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


In response to the concerns of the aeroelastic community, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, is conducting research into improving the flight flutter (including aeroservoelasticity) test process with more accurate and automated techniques for stability boundary prediction. The important elements of this effort so far include the following: 1) excitation mechanisms for enhanced vibration data to reduce uncertainty levels in stability estimates; 2) investigation of a variety of frequency, time, and wavelet analysis techniques for signal processing, stability estimation, and nonlinear identification; and 3) robust flutter boundary prediction to substantially reduce the test matrix for flutter clearance. These are critical research topics addressing the concerns of a recent AGARD Specialists’ Meeting on Advanced Aeroservoelastic Testing and Data Analysis. This paper addresses these items using flight test data from the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft and the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle.


A multidisciplinary, finite element-based, highly graphics-oriented, linear and nonlinear analysis capability that includes such disciplines as structures, heat transfer, linear aerodynamics, computational fluid dynamics, and controls engineering has been achieved by integrating several new modules in the original STARS (STructural Analysis RoutineS) computer program. Each individual analysis module is general-purpose in nature and is effectively integrated to yield aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic solutions of complex engineering problems. Examples of advanced NASA Dryden Flight Research Center projects analyzed by the code in recent years include the X-29A, F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle/Thrust Vectoring Control System, B-52/Pegasus Generic Hypersonic, National AeroSpace Plane (NASP), SR-71/Hypersonic Launch Vehicle, and High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) projects. Extensive graphics capabilities exist for convenient model development and postprocessing of analysis results. The program is written in modular form in standard FORTRAN language to run on a variety of computers, such as the IBM RISC/6000, SGI, DEC, Cray, and personal computer; associated graphics codes use OpenGL and IBM/graPHIGS language for color depiction. This program is available from COSMIC, the NASA agency for distribution of computer programs.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aeroservoelasticity; Computational fluid dynamics; Finite elements; Graphics; Nonlinear aeroelasticity; Structural analysis


It is essential to determine flight conditions at which aeroelastic instabilities occur. Flight-test methods can be dangerous and costly, whereas analytical methods may not accurately predict the flutter boundary. An approach to computing flutter boundaries based on the structured singular value is presented. The aeroelastic system is formulated in a robust stability framework by parameterizing around
dynamic pressure and introducing uncertainty operators to account for modeling errors. Flight data can be used to validate the robust system model and increase accuracy of the flutter margin estimate. Flutter margins are generated for the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft using this method and traditional methods. Extensive flight data from conditions throughout the flight envelope are analyzed to determine the levels of uncertainty in a theoretical model. The robust margins demonstrate that the flight conditions for flutter may lie closer to the flight envelope than previously estimated by traditional analysis.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has completed a preliminary performance analysis of the SR-71 aircraft for use as a launch platform for high-speed research vehicles and for carrying captive experimental packages to high altitude and Mach number conditions. Externally mounted research platforms can significantly increase drag, limiting test time and, in extreme cases, prohibiting penetration through the high-drag, transonic flight regime. To provide supplemental SR-71 acceleration, methods have been developed that could increase the thrust of the J58 turbojet engines. These methods include temperature and speed increases and augmentor nitrous oxide injection. The thrust-enhanced engines would allow the SR-71 aircraft to carry higher drag research platforms than it could without enhancement. This paper presents predicted SR-71 performance with and without enhanced engines. A modified climb-dive technique is shown to reduce fuel consumption when flying through the transonic flight regime with a large external payload. Estimates are included of the maximum platform drag profiles with which the aircraft could still complete a high-speed research mission. In this case, enhancement was found to increase the SR-71 payload drag capability by 25 percent. The thrust enhancement techniques and performance prediction methodology are described.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; J58 turbojet engine; Optimal flight profile; SR-71 aircraft; Thrust enhancement; Transonic drag rise


The performance and distortion levels of the right inlet of the F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle were assessed during maneuvers with rapidly changing angle-of-attack at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The distortion levels were compared with those produced by current inlet-engine compatibility evaluation techniques. The objective of these analyses was to determine whether the results obtained for steady aerodynamic conditions were adequate to describe the inlet-generated distortion levels that occur during rapid aircraft maneuvers. The test data were obtained during 46 dynamic maneuvers at Mach numbers of 0.3 and 0.4. Levels of inlet recovery, peak dynamic circumferential distortion, and peak dynamic radial distortion of dynamic maneuvers for a General Electric F404-GE-400 turbofan engine were compared with estimations based on steady aerodynamic conditions. The comparisons were performed at equivalent angle-of-attack, angle-of-sideslip, and Mach number. Results showed no evidence of peak inlet distortion levels being elevated by dynamic maneuver conditions at high angle-of-attack compared with steady aerodynamic estimations. During sweeps into high angle-of-attack, the peak distortion levels of the dynamic maneuvers rarely rose to steady aerodynamic estimations. The dynamic maneuvers were shown to be effective at identifying conditions when discrete changes in inlet behavior occur.

Keywords: Comparison to steady aerodynamic conditions; F/A-18A aircraft; High angle of attack

*AS&M, Inc, Edwards, California.
**General Electric Aircraft Engines, Evandale, Ohio.


A flight test article, called a glove, is required for a Mach-8 boundary-layer experiment to be conducted on a flight mission of the air-launched Pegasus® space booster. The glove is required to provide a smooth, three-dimensional, structurally stable, aerodynamic surface and includes instrumentation to determine when and where boundary-layer transition occurs during the hypersonic flight trajectory. A restraint mechanism has been invented to attach the glove to the wing of the space booster. The restraint mechanism securely attaches the glove to the wing in directions normal to the wing/glove interface surface, but allows the glove to thermally expand and contract to alleviate stresses in directions parallel to the interface surface. A finite-element analysis has been performed using nonlinear contact elements to model the complex behavior of the sliding restraint mechanism. This paper provides an overview of the glove design and presents details of the analysis that were essential to demonstrate the flight worthiness of the wing-glove test article. Results show that all glove components are well within the allowable stress...
and deformation requirements to satisfy the objectives of the flight research experiment.

Keywords: Computational methods; Finite element analysis; Hypersonic flight research; Nonlinear analysis; Structural design


Flight tests were conducted using the advanced fighter technology integration F-111 (AFTI/F-111) aircraft modified with a variable-sweep supercritical mission adaptive wing (MAW). The MAW leading- and trailing-edge variable-camber surfaces were deflected in flight to provide a near-ideal wing camber shape for the flight condition. The MAW features smooth, flexible upper surfaces and fully enclosed lower surfaces, which distinguishes it from conventional flaps that have discontinuous surfaces and exposed or semi-exposed mechanisms. Upper and lower surface wing pressure distributions were measured along four streamwise rows on the right wing for cruise, maneuvering, and landing configurations. Boundary-layer measurements were obtained near the trailing edge for one of the rows. Cruise and maneuvering wing leading-edge sweeps were 26 deg for Mach numbers less than 1 and 45 deg or 58 deg for Mach numbers greater than 1. The landing wing sweep was 9 deg or 16 deg. Mach numbers ranged from 0.27 to 1.41, angles of attack from 2 deg to 13 deg, and Reynolds number per unit foot from 1.4 x 10(exp 6) to 6.5 x 10(exp 6). Leading-edge cambers ranged from 0 deg to 20 deg down, and trailing-edge cambers ranged from 1 deg up to 19 deg down. Wing deflection data for a Mach number of 0.85 are shown for three cambers. Wing pressure and boundary-layer data are given. Selected data comparisons are shown. Measured wing coordinates are given for three streamwise semispan locations for cruise camber and one spanwise location for maneuver camber.

Keywords: Boundary layers; Pressure distributions; Smooth variable camber; Supercritical wing


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a second-generation flight test fixture for use as a generic test bed for aerodynamic and fluid mechanics research. The flight Test Fixture II (FTF-II) is a low-aspect-ratio vertical fin-like shape that is mounted on the centerline of the F-15B lower fuselage. The fixture is designed for flight research at Mach numbers up to 2.0. The FTF-II is a composite structure with a modular configuration and removable components for functional flexibility. This report documents the flow environment of the fixture, such as surface pressure distributions and boundary layer profiles, throughout a matrix of conditions within the F-15B/FTF-II flight envelope. Some guidelines and recommendations are presented to assist in the development of future experiments that may utilize the FTF-II test bed.


Inlet unstart causes a disturbance akin to severe turbulence for a supersonic commercial airplane. Consequently, the current goal for the frequency of unstarts is a few times per fleet lifetime. For a mixed-compression inlet, there is a tradeoff between propulsion system efficiency and unstart margin. As the unstart margin decreases, propulsion system efficiency increases, but so does the unstart rate. This paper intends to first, quantify that tradeoff for the High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) and second, to examine the benefits of using a sensor to detect turbulence ahead of the airplane. When the presence of turbulence is known with sufficient lead time to allow the propulsion system to adjust the unstart margin, then inlet unstarts can be minimized while overall efficiency is maximized. The NASA Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced In-Flight Measurements program is developing a lidar system to serve as a prototype of the forward-looking sensor. This paper reports on the progress of this development program and its application to the prevention of inlet unstart in a mixed-compression supersonic inlet. Quantified benefits include significantly reduced takeoff gross weight (TOGW), which could increase payload, reduce direct operating costs,
Inlet unstart causes a disturbance skin to severe turbulence for a supersonic commercial airplane. Consequently, the current goal for the frequency of unstarts is a few times per fleet lifetime. For a mixed-compression inlet, there is a tradeoff between propulsion system efficiency and unstart margin. As the unstart margin decreases, propulsion system efficiency increases, but so does the unstart rate. This paper intends to first, quantify that tradeoff for the High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) and second, to examine the benefits of using a sensor to detect turbulence ahead of the airplane. When presence of turbulence is known with sufficient lead time to allow the propulsion system to adjust the unstart margin, then inlet unstarts can be minimized while overall efficiency is maximized. The NASA Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced In-Flight Measurements program is developing a lidar system to serve as a prototype of the forward-looking sensor. This paper reports on the progress of this development program and its application to the prevention of inlet unstart in a mixed-compression supersonic inlet. Quantified benefits include significantly reduced takeoff gross weight (TOGW), which could increase payload, reduce direct operating costs, or increase range for the HSCT.

*Boeing Defense and Space Group, Seattle, Washington.
**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


Normally, the damage that results in a total loss of the primary flight controls of a jet transport airplane, including all engines on one side, would be catastrophic. In response, NASA Dryden has conceived an emergency flight control system that uses only the thrust of a wing-mounted engine along with a lateral center-of-gravity (CGY) offset from fuel transfer. Initial analysis and simulation studies indicate that such a system works, and recent high-fidelity simulation tests on the MD-11 and B-747 suggest that the system provides enough control for a survivable landing. This paper discusses principles of flight control using only a wing engine thrust and CGY offset, along with the amount of CGY offset capability of some transport airplanes. The paper also presents simulation results of the throttle-only control capability and closed-loop control of ground track using computer-controlled thrust.

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**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


NASA Dryden supported a cooperative flight test program on the NASA DC-8 aircraft in November 1993. This program evaluated optical airspeed and aerosol measurement techniques. Three brassboard optical systems were tested. Two were laser Doppler systems designed to measure free-stream-referenced airspeed. The third system was designed to characterize the natural aerosol statistics and airspeed. These
systems relied on optical backscatter from natural aerosols for operation. The DC-8 aircraft carried instrumentation that provided real-time flight situation information and reference data on the aerosol environment. This test is believed to be the first to include multiple optical airspeed systems on the same carrier aircraft, so performance could be directly compared. During 23 hr of flight, a broad range of atmospheric conditions was encountered, including aerosol-rich layers, visible clouds, and unusually clean (aerosol-poor) regions. Substantial amounts of data were obtained. Important insights regarding the use of laser-based systems of this type in an aircraft environment were gained. This paper describes the sensors used and flight operations conducted to support the experiments. The paper also briefly describes the general results of the experiments.

Keywords: Aerosols; Aircraft instrumentation; Airspeed indicators; Laser optical radar

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**Honeywell Systems Research Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
***Singular Systems, Irvine, California.
****Titan Corporation, Costa Mesa, California.


Fifteen aircraft structures that were calibrated for flight loads using strain gages are examined. The primary purpose of this paper is to document important examples of load calibrations on airplanes during the past four decades. The emphasis is placed on studying the physical procedures of calibrating strain-gaged structures and all the supporting analyses and computational techniques that have been used. The results and experiences obtained from actual data from 14 structures (on 13 airplanes and 1 laboratory test structure) are presented. This group of structures includes fins, tails, and wings with a wide variety of aspect ratios. Straightwing, swept-wing, and delta-wing configurations are studied. Some of the structures have skin-dominant construction; others are spar-dominant. Anisotropic materials, heat shields, corrugated components, nonorthogonal primary structures, and truss-type structures are particular characteristics that are included.

Keywords: Anisotropic structure; Flight load; Isotropic structure; Load calibration; Loads measurement; Strain gage


The first airbreathing aircraft flights past Mach 5 could lead to new types of airplanes and space-launch vehicles.
F-16XL airplane are presented and correlated with wind tunnel predictions and similar flight results from other aircraft. Maneuvers were conducted at a variety of flightpath angles. Conventional ground effect flight test methods were used, with the exception that space positioning data were obtained using the differential global positioning system (DGPS). Accuracy of the DGPS was similar to that of optical tracking methods, but it was operationally more attractive. The dynamic flight-determined lift and drag coefficient increments were measurable lower than steady-state wind-tunnel predications. This relationship is consistent with the results of other aircraft for which similar data are available. Trends in the flight measured lift increments caused by ground effect as a function of flightpath angle were evident but weakly correlated. An engineering model of dynamic ground effect was developed based on linear aerodynamic theory and super-positioning of flows. This model was applied to the F-17XL data set and to previously published data for an F-15 airplane. In both cases, the model provided an engineering estimate of the ratio between the steady-state and dynamic data sets.


Approximately 25 years ago NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, initiated the evaluation of supersonic handling qualities issues using the XB-70 and the YF-12. Comparison of pilot comments and ratings with some of the classical handling qualities criteria for transport aircraft provided information on the usefulness of these criteria and insight into supersonic flying qualities issues. A second research study has recently been completed which again addressed supersonic flying qualities issues through evaluations of the SR-71 in flight at Mach 3. Additional insight into supersonic flying qualities issues was obtained through pilot ratings and comments. These ratings were compared with existing military specifications and proposed criteria for the High Speed Civil Transport. This paper investigates the disparity between pilot comments and the Neal/Smith criteria through a modification of the technique using vertical speed at the pilot station. The paper specifically addresses the pilot ability to control flightpath and pitch attitude in supersonic flight and pilot displays typical of supersonic maneuvering.

Keywords: Bandwidth criteria; Flightpath bandwidth; Flying qualities; High Speed Civil Transport

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.


For many years, the Wheatstone bridge has been used successfully to measure electrical resistance and changes in that resistance. However, the inherent problem of varying lead wire resistance can cause errors when the Wheatstone bridge is used to measure strain in a flight environment. The constant current loop signal-conditioning card was developed to overcome that difficulty. This paper describes a limited evaluation of the constant current loop strain measurement method as used in the F-16XL ship 2 Supersonic Laminar Flow Control flight project. Several identical strain gages were installed in close proximity on a shock fence which was mounted under the left wing of the F-16XL ship 2. Two strain gage bridges were configured using the constant current loop, and two were configured using the Wheatstone bridge circuitry. Flight data comparing the output from the constant current loop configured gages to that of the Wheatstone bridges with respect to signal output, error, and noise are given. Results indicate that the constant current loop strain measurement method enables an increased output, unaffected by lead wire resistance variations, to be obtained from strain gages.

Keywords: Circuit theory; Constant current loop; F-16XL aircraft; Strain gage; Structural testings; Wheatstone bridge


Flight tests have demonstrated the effectiveness of an array of hot-film sensors using constant voltage anemometry to determine shock position on a wing or aircraft surface at transonic speeds. Flights were conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center using the F-15B aircraft and Flight Test Fixture (FTF). A modified NACA 0021 airfoil was attached to the side of the FTF, and its upper surface was instrumented to correlate shock position with pressure and hot-film sensors. In the vicinity of the shock-induced pressure rise, test results consistently showed the presence of a minimum voltage in the hot-film anemometer outputs. Comparing these results with previous investigations indicate that hot-film anemometry can identify the location of the shock-induced boundary layer separation. The flow separation occurred slightly forward of the shock-induced pressure rise for a laminar boundary layer and slightly aft of the start of the pressure rise when the boundary layer was tripped near the airfoil leading edge. Both minimum mean output and phase reversalanalyses were used to identify the shock location.
Keywords: Transonic shocks; Shock impingement; Boundary layers; Hot-films; Anemometry; Constant voltage

*Tao of Systems Integration, Inc., Hampton, Virginia.


Longitudinal and lateral-directional estimates of the aerodynamic derivatives of the X-24B research aircraft were obtained from flight data by using a modified maximum likelihood estimation method. Data were obtained over a Mach number range from 0.35 to 1.72 and over an angle of attack range from 3.5 deg. to 15.7 deg. Data are presented for a subsonic and transonic configuration. The flight derivatives were generally consistent and documented the aircraft well. The correlation between the flight data and wind-tunnel predictions is presented and discussed.

Keywords: Aerodynamic derivatives; Flight-determined X-24B derivatives; Parameter identification; X-24B research aircraft


Safety and productivity of the initial flight test phase of a new vehicle have been enhanced by developing the ability to measure the stability margins of the combined control system and vehicle in flight. One shortcoming of performing this analysis is the long duration of the excitation signal required to provide results over a wide frequency range. For flight regimes such as high angle of attack or hypersonic flight, the ability to maintain flight condition for this time duration is difficult. Significantly reducing the required duration of the excitation input is possible by tailoring the input to excite only the frequency range where the lowest stability margin is expected. For a multiple-input/multiple-output system, the inputs can be simultaneously applied to the control effectors by creating each excitation input with a unique set of frequency components. Chirp-Z transformation algorithms can be used to match the analysis of the results to the specific frequencies used in the excitation input. This report discusses the application of a tailored excitation input to a high-fidelity X-31A linear model and nonlinear simulation. Depending on the frequency range, the results indicate the potential to significantly reduce the time required for stability measurement.

Keywords: Control; Excitation; Fourier; Margin; Stability


The paper develops an adaptive performance optimizer using the technology of artificial neural networks (ANN). The adaptive performance optimizer is aimed at adjusting the aircraft control surface configuration to minimize the drag force which in turn will boost the fuel efficiency. The control surfaces involved in this optimization are the outboard symmetric ailerons which re-camber the wing. The initial flight scenario is the level flight at cruise. The ANN optimizer identifies the optimal symmetric aileron position based on flight conditions and aircraft states and sends this position command to the flight control system. The automatic flight control system uses this signal to command the symmetric outboard aileron accordingly. This results in a minimum drag aircraft control surface configuration for fuel savings. The ANN optimizer is trained off-line extensively with multiple flight conditions and multiple parameter variations to render the performance robustness. The ANN optimizer is equipped with on-line learning capability for adaptation to modeling error and aircraft aging.

*American GNC Corporation, Chatsworth, California.


Optimal locations and types for feedback sensors which meet design constraints and control requirements are difficult to determine. This paper introduces an approach to choosing
a sensor configuration based on Full Control synthesis. A globally optimal Full Control compensator is computed for each member of a set of sensor configurations which are feasible for the plant. The sensor configuration associated with the Full Control system achieving the best closed-loop performance is chosen for feedback measurements to an output feedback controller. A flexible structure is used as an example to demonstrate this procedure. Experimental results show sensor configurations chosen to optimize the Full Control performance are effective for output feedback controllers.

*Minnesota University, Minneapolis, Minnesota.


An analytical investigation into the feasibility of using deep-stall flight for the return of the first stage of a Pegasus XL space booster configuration is described. A combination of analytical and experimental longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics is used in a 3-DOF simulation to demonstrate the deep-stall flight characteristics. The configuration exhibits stable, deep-stall flight over a wide range of Mach numbers, and the feasibility of a return trajectory with deep-stall flight to recovery is demonstrated. Flight test results are presented to validate and demonstrate the low-speed deep-stall flight characteristics.

*Nielsen Engineering and Research, Mountain View, California.


Approximately 25 years ago NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, initiated the evaluation of supersonic handling qualities issues using the XB-70 and the YF-12. Comparison of pilot comments and ratings with some of the classical handling qualities criteria for transport aircraft provided information on the usefulness of these criteria and insight into supersonic flying qualities issues. A second research study has recently been completed which again addressed supersonic flying qualities issues through evaluations of the SR-71 in flight at Mach 3. Additional insight into supersonic flying qualities issues was obtained through pilot ratings and comments. These ratings were compared with existing military specifications and proposed criteria for the High Speed Civil Transport. This paper investigates the disparity between pilot comments and the Neal/Smith criteria through a modification of the technique using vertical speed at the pilot station. The paper specifically addresses the pilot ability to control flightpath and pitch attitude in supersonic flight and pilot displays typical of supersonic maneuvering.

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California


Stability analysis of high performance aircraft must account for errors in the system model. A method for computing flutter margins that incorporates flight data has been developed using robust stability theory. This paper considers applying this method to update flutter margins during a post-flight or on-line analysis. Areas of modeling uncertainty that arise when using flight data with this method are investigated. The amount of conservatism in the resulting flutter margins depends on the flight data sets used to update the model. Post-flight updates of flutter margins for an F/A-18 are presented along with a simulation of on-line updates during a flight test.


Modal stability parameters are extracted directly from aeroservoelastic flight test data by decomposition of accelerometer response signals into time-frequency atoms. Logarithmic sweeps and sinusoidal pulses are used to generate DAST (drone for aerodynamic and structural testing) closed loop excitation data. Novel wavelets constructed to extract modal damping and frequency explicitly from the data are introduced. The so-called Haley and Laplace wavelets are used to track time-varying modal damping and frequency in a matching pursuit algorithm. Estimation of the trend to aeroservoelastic instability is demonstrated successfully from analysis of the DAST data.


The problem of gain adjustment in an existing control law is cast into the framework of modern control theory, which results in a real-diagonal block structure of gains to be adjusted. The desire to recover performance in the form
of input-output properties, as well as handling qualities, is introduced as a mixed cost functional. LMI-based solutions for Hinf and H2 phased optimization are discussed, as well as a Quasi-Newton approach. The handling qualities of the F/A-18 HARV during refueling serves as a motivating example for the method. Five gains in the existing flight control system are adjusted to recover the performance and handling qualities of the standard F/A-18.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

NASA CV 990 Landing Systems Research Aircraft


A conference was held on March 18–20, 1997, to investigate the lessons learned by the Aeronautics Cooperative Agreement Projects with regard to the most effective strategies for developing instruction for the World Wide Web. The conference was a collaboration among the NASA Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Centers (Ames, Dryden, Langley, and Lewis), NASA Headquarters, the University of Idaho, and The Pennsylvania State University. The conference consisted of presentations by the Aeronautics Cooperative Agreement Teams, the University of Idaho, and working sessions in which the participants addressed teacher training and support, technology, evaluation and pedagogy. The conference was also undertaken as part of the Dryden Learning Technologies Project which is a collaboration between the Dryden Education Office and The Pennsylvania State University. The DFRC Learning Technology Project goals relevant to the conference are as follows: conducting an analysis of current teacher needs, classroom infrastructure and exemplary instructional World Wide Web sites, and developing models for Web-enhanced learning environments that optimize teaching practices and student learning.

Keywords: Education; Learning technology; Pedagogy; Teacher training; Technology; World Wide Web

*Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.


Forces generated by the Space Shuttle orbiter tire under varying vertical load, slip angle, speed, and surface conditions were measured using the Landing System Research Aircraft (LSRA). Resulting data were used to calculate a mathematical model for predicting tire forces in orbiter simulations. Tire side and drag forces experienced by an orbiter tire are cataloged as a function of vertical load and slip angle. The mathematical model is compared to existing tire force models for the Space Shuttle orbiter. This report describes the LSRA and a typical test sequence. Testing methods, data reduction, and error analysis are presented. The LSRA testing was conducted on concrete and lakebed runways at the Edwards Air Force Flight Test Center and on concrete runways at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Wet runway tire force tests were performed on test strips made at the KSC using different surfacing techniques. Data were corrected for ply steer forces and conicity.

Keywords: Aircraft tire; CV-990; Landing gear; Landing system; Space shuttle orbiter test facility
relatively conservative compared to the testing data. Thus, the modified Y-S Criterion could be used as a design tool. To further understand the composite failure problem, an investigation of the damage zone in front of the crack tip coupled with the Y-S Criterion is imperative.

Keywords: Composite materials; Composite research; Failure theory; Macromechanics; Stress concentration

*California State University, Long Beach, California.

**Systems Research Aircraft (SRA)**


An electro-hydrostatic actuator was evaluated at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The primary goal of testing this actuator system was the flight demonstration of power-by-wire technology on a primary flight control surface. The electro-hydrostatic actuator uses an electric motor to drive a hydraulic pump and relies on local hydraulics for force transmission. This actuator replaced the F-18 standard left aileron actuator on the F-18 Systems Research Aircraft and was evaluated throughout the Systems Research Aircraft flight envelope. As of July 24, 1997, the electro-hydrostatic actuator had accumulated 23.5 hours of flight time. This paper presents the electro-hydrostatic actuator system configuration and component description, ground and flight test plans, ground and flight test results, and lessons learned. This actuator performs as well as the standard actuator and has more load capability than required by aileron actuator specifications of McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft, St. Louis, Missouri. The electro-hydrostatic actuator system passed all of its ground tests with the exception of one power-off test during unloaded dynamic cycling.

Keywords: Electro-hydrostatic actuator; F-18 Systems Research Aircraft; Performance; Ground test; Flight test


High bandwidth, immunity to electromagnetic interference, and potential weight savings have led to the development of fiber optic technology for future aerospace vehicle systems. This technology has been incorporated in a new smart actuator as the primary communication interface. The use of fiber optics simplified system integration and significantly reduced wire count. Flight test results showed that fiber optics could be used in aircraft systems and identified critical areas of development of fly-by-light technology. This paper documents the fiber optic experience gained as a result of this program, and identifies general design considerations that could be used in a variety of specific applications of fiber optic technology. Environmental sensitivities of fiber optic system components that significantly contribute to optical power variation are discussed. Although a calibration procedure successfully minimized the effect of fiber optic sensitivities, more standardized calibration methods are needed to ensure system operation and reliability in future aerospace vehicle systems.

Keywords: Fiber optics; Smart actuator; F-18 Systems Research Aircraft; Electrical actuation


A flight research program exploring the practical application of real-time performance optimization based on aircraft measurements and calculation of incremental drag from forced-response maneuvers is presented. The outboard ailerons of the L-1011 test bed aircraft were modified to provide for symmetric deflections to permit a recambering of the wing in that localized area, which in turn modifies the entire wing load distribution. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration developed an onboard research engineering test station from which the flight experiments are conducted and all analyses, both qualitative and quantitative, are performed in a real-time or near real-time manner. Initial flight test results are presented that indicate real-time drag minimization is attainable. An approach to an operational implementation of adaptive performance optimization on current and future commercial and military transports is discussed with the goal of keeping the required modifications simple and the pilot interface minimal and user friendly.
Keywords: Aircraft performance; Drag reduction; Fuel consumption; Wing camber; Flight optimization and Optimization


The finite-element structural analysis method was used in a two-dimensional stress concentration analysis of a new pylon hook for carrying the X-38 lifting body atmospheric drop test vehicle on the B-52 carrier aircraft. The stress distributions in the hook were obtained, and the critical stress points were identified. The functional relationships between the applied hook load and the induced maximum tangential and shear stresses were established for setting the limit hook load for test flights. By properly representing the X-38 hook with an equivalent curved beam, the conventional curved beam theory predicted the values of the maximum tangential and shear stresses close to those calculated from the finite-element analysis. The equivalent curved beam method may be of practical value during the initial stage of the hook design in estimating the critical stresses and failure loads with reasonable accuracy.

Keywords: Equivalent curved beam theory; Finite element stress analysis; Stress concentrations; X-38 hooks


This paper documents an invited presentation given to The Boeing Company, Seattle, Washington, on September 9, 1997. The audience consisted of structural dynamic and flight test engineers from the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group who were interested in discussing research which may be applied to future flight flutter test programs. A method to compute robust flutter margins is described which is a significant departure from traditional methods. This method uses the structured singular value, mu, to compute a flutter margin which directly accounts for modeling errors such that a worst-case flutter margin is computed with respect to those errors. This method may be applied in several ways. A post-flight application uses data sets from multiple test points to compute worst-case flutter margins and a worst-case flight envelope. An on-line implementation computes flutter margins at each test point to track the flutter margins during a flight test. This on-line implementation is the basis for a flutterometer flight test tool that displays the distance to flutter at a given test point. Such a tool was not previously possible using traditional flutter flight test analysis methods. The F/A-18 System Research Aircraft was used to demonstrate these applications using flight data recorded from test points throughout the flight envelope.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight test; Flutter; Robust stability; Structured singular value

*National Research Council.


Chordwise pressure distributions were obtained in-flight on the upper and lower surfaces of the F-16XL ship 2 aircraft wing between Mach 1.4 and Mach 2.0. This experiment was conducted to determine the location of shock waves which could compromise or invalidate a follow-on test of a large chord laminar flow control suction panel. On the upper surface, the canopy closure shock crossed an area which would be covered by a proposed laminar flow suction panel. At the laminar flow experiment design Mach number of 1.9, 91 percent of the suction panel area would be forward of the shock. At Mach 1.4, that value reduces to 65 percent. On the lower surface, a shock from the inlet diverter would impinge on the proposed suction panel leading edge. A chordwise plate mounted vertically to deflect shock waves, called a shock fence, was installed between the inlet diverter and the leading edge. This plate was effective in reducing the pressure gradients caused by the inlet shock system.

Keywords: F-16XL aircraft; Supersonic transports; Shockwaves; Pressure distribution; Laminar flow

* PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) is working with the United States Navy to complete ground testing and initiate flight testing of a modified set of F/A-18 flight control computers. The Production Support Flight Control Computers (PSFCC) can give any fleet F/A-18 airplane an in-flight, pilot-selectable research control law capability. NASA DFRC can efficiently flight test the PSFCC for the following four reasons: (1) Six F/A-18 chase aircraft are available which could be used with the PSFCC; (2) An F/A-18 processor-in-the-loop simulation exists for validation testing; (3) The expertise has been developed in programming the research processor in the PSFCC; and (4) A well-defined process has been established for clearing flight control research projects for flight. This report presents a functional description of the
PSFCC. Descriptions of the NASA DFRC facilities, PSFCC verification and validation process, and planned PSFCC projects are also provided.

Keywords: Flight control computers; Control laws; F/A-18 aircraft; Production support flight


An emergency flight control system that uses only engine thrust, called the propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system, was developed and flight tested on an MD-11 airplane. The PCA system is a thrust-only control system, which augments pilot flightpath and track commands with aircraft feedback parameters to control engine thrust. The PCA system was implemented on the MD-11 airplane using only software modifications to existing computers. Results of a 25-hr flight test show that the PCA system can be used to fly to an airport and safely land a transport airplane with an inoperative flight control system. In up-and-away operation, the PCA system served as an acceptable autopilot capable of extended flight over a range of speeds, altitudes, and configurations. PCA approaches, go-arounds, and three landings without the use of any normal flight controls were demonstrated, including ILS-coupled hands-off landings. PCA operation was used to recover from an upset condition. The PCA system was also tested at altitude with all three hydraulic systems turned off. This paper reviews the principles of throttles-only flight control, a history of accidents or incidents in which some or all flight controls were lost, the MD-11 airplane and its systems, PCA system development, operation, flight testing, and pilot comments.

Keywords: Emergency control; MD-11; Propulsion control; Throttle-only control


The propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) system uses software that combines pilot inputs and airplane feedbacks to drive the throttles.


Modal stability parameters are extracted directly from aeroviscoelastic flight test data by decomposition of accelerometer response signals into time-frequency atoms. Logarithmic sweeps and sinusoidal pulses are used to generate DAST closed loop excitation data. Novel wavelets constructed to extract modal damping and frequency explicitly from the data are introduced. The so-called Haley and Laplace wavelets are used to track time-varying modal damping and frequency in a matching pursuit algorithm. Estimation of the trend to aeroviscoelastic instability is demonstrated successfully from analysis of the DAST data.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Wavelet; Modal; Parameter estimation; System identification

*National Research Council.


An impact-location estimation algorithm is being used at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to support range safety for uninhabited aerial vehicle flight tests. The algorithm computes an impact location based on the descent rate, mass, and altitude of the vehicle and current wind information. The predicted impact location is continuously displayed on the range safety officer’s moving map display so that the flightpath of the vehicle can be routed to avoid ground assets if the flight must be terminated. The algorithm easily adapts to different vehicle termination techniques and has been shown to be accurate to the extent required to support range safety for subsonic uninhabited aerial vehicles. This paper describes how the algorithm functions, how the algorithm is used at NASA Dryden, and how various termination techniques are handled by the algorithm. Other approaches to predicting the impact location and the reasons why they were not selected for real-time implementation are also discussed.

Keywords: Flight termination; Flight testing; Impact prediction; Range safety; Uninhabited aircraft

2294. Davis, Bette: Dryden Flight Research Center Chemical Pharmacy Program. NASA/CP-97-206321,
The Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) Chemical Pharmacy “Crib” is a chemical sharing system which loans chemicals to users, rather than issuing them or having each individual organization or group purchasing the chemicals. This cooperative system of sharing chemicals eliminates multiple ownership of the same chemicals and also eliminates stockpiles. Chemical management duties are eliminated for each of the participating organizations. The chemical storage issues, hazards and responsibilities are eliminated. The system also ensures safe storage of chemicals and proper disposal practices. The purpose of this program is to reduce the total releases and transfers of toxic chemicals. The initial cost of the program to DFRC was $585,000. A savings of $69,000 per year has been estimated for the Center. This savings includes the reduced costs in purchasing, disposal and chemical inventory/storage responsibilities. DFRC has chemicals stored in 47 buildings and at 289 locations. When the program is fully implemented throughout the Center, there will be three chemical locations at this facility. The benefits of this program are the elimination of chemical management duties, elimination of the hazard associated with chemical storage, elimination of stockpiles, assurance of safe storage, assurance of proper disposal practices, assurance of a safer workplace, and more accurate emissions reports.

Quality assurance programs provide a very effective means to monitor and evaluate medical care. Quality assurance involves: (1) Identify a problem; (2) Determine the source and nature of the problem; (3) Develop policies and methods to effect improvement; (4) Implement those polices; (5) Monitor the methods applied; and (6) Evaluate their effectiveness. Because this definition of quality assurance so closely resembles the Nursing Process, the health unit staff was able to use their knowledge of the nursing process to develop many forms which improve the quality of patient care. These forms include the NASA DFRC Service Report, the occupational injury form (Incident Report), the patient survey (Pre-hospital Evaluation/Care Report), the Laboratory Log Sheet, the 911 Run Sheet, and the Patient Assessment Stamp. Examples and steps which are followed to generate these reports are described.

The X-31A aircraft has a unique configuration that uses thrust-vector vanes and aerodynamic control effectors to provide an operating envelope to a maximum 70 deg angle of attack, an inherently nonlinear portion of the flight envelope. This report presents linearized versions of the X-31A longitudinal and lateral-directional control systems, with aerodynamic models sufficient to evaluate characteristics in the poststall envelope at 30 deg, 45 deg, and 60 deg angle of attack. The models are presented with detail sufficient to allow the reader to reproduce the linear results or perform independent control studies. Comparisons between the responses of the linear models and flight data are presented in the time and frequency domains to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the ability to predict high-angle-of-attack flight dynamics using linear models. The X-31A six-degree-of-freedom simulation contains a program that calculates linear perturbation models throughout the X-31A flight envelope. The models include aerodynamics and flight control system dynamics that are used for stability, controllability, and handling qualities analysis. The models presented in this report demonstrate the ability to provide reasonable linear representations in the poststall flight regime.

Keywords: Aircraft flight control system; Linear aerodynamics model; Rigid-body dynamic model; State space; X-31A airplane
A new family of NASA experimental aircraft (X-planes) is being developed to uniquely, yet synergistically tackle a wide class of technologies to advance low-cost, efficient access to space for a range of payload classes. This family includes two non-air-breathing rocket-powered concepts, the X-33 and the X-34 aircraft, and two air-breathing vehicle concepts, the scramjet-powered Hyper-X and the rocket-based combined cycle flight vehicle. This report describes the NASA vision for reliable, reusable, fly-to-orbit spacecraft in relation to the current space shuttle capability. These hypersonic X-plane programs, their objectives, and their status are discussed. The respective technology sets and flight program approaches are compared and contrasted. Additionally, the synergy between these programs to advance the entire technology front in a uniform way is discussed. NASA's view of the value of in-flight hypersonic experimentation and technology development to act as the ultimate crucible for proving and accelerating technology readiness is provided. Finally, an opinion on end technology products and space access capabilities for the 21st century is offered.


The subsonic longitudinal stability and control derivatives of the F-18 High Angle of Attack Research Vehicle (HARV) are extracted from dynamic flight data using a maximum likelihood parameter identification technique. The technique uses the linearized aircraft equations of motion in their continuous/discrete form and accounts for state and measurement noise as well as thrust-vectoring effects. State noise is used to model the uncommanded forcing function caused by unsteady aerodynamics over the aircraft, particularly at high angles of attack. Thrust vectoring was implemented using electrohydraulically-actuated nozzle postexit vanes and a specialized research flight control system. During maneuvers, a control system feature provided independent aerodynamic control surface inputs and independent thrust-vectoring vane inputs, thereby eliminating correlations between the aircraft states and controls. Substantial variations in control excitation and dynamic response were exhibited for maneuvers conducted at different angles of attack. Opposing vane interactions caused most thrust-vectoring inputs to experience some exhaust plume interference and thus reduced effectiveness. The estimated stability and control derivatives are plotted, and a discussion relates them to predicted values and maneuver quality.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight-to-wind-tunnel comparisons; F-18 aircraft; High angle of attack


The X-31A aircraft gross-acquisition and fine-tracking handling qualities have been evaluated using standard evaluation maneuvers developed by Wright Laboratory, Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The emphasis of the testing is in the angle-of-attack range between 30 deg. and 70 deg. Longitudinal gross-acquisition handling qualities results show borderline Level 1/Level 2 performance. Lateral gross-acquisition testing results in Level 1/Level 2 ratings below 45 deg. angle of attack, degrading into Level 3 as angle of attack increases. The fine tracking performance in both longitudinal and lateral axes also receives Level 1 ratings near 30 deg. angle of attack, with the ratings tending towards Level 3 at angles of attack greater than 50 deg. These ratings do not match the expectations from the extensive close-in combat testing where the X-31A aircraft demonstrated fair to good handling qualities maneuvering for high angles of attack. This paper presents the results of the high-angle-of-attack handling qualities flight testing of the X-31A aircraft. Discussion of the preparation for the maneuvers, the pilot ratings, and selected pilot comments are included. Evaluation of the results is made in conjunction with existing Neal/Smith, bandwidth, Smith-Geddes, and military specifications.


A new open-loop heat flux control technique has been developed to conduct transient thermal testing of thick, thermally-conductive aerospace structures. This technique uses calibration of the radiant heater system power level as a function of heat flux, predicted aerodynamic heat flux, and the properties of an instrumented test article. An iterative process was used to generate open-loop heater power profiles prior to each transient thermal test. Differences between the measured and predicted surface temperatures were used to refine the heater power level command profiles through the iteration process. This iteration process has reduced the effects of environmental and test system design factors, which are normally compensated for by closed-loop temperature control, to acceptable levels. The final revised heater power profiles resulted in measured temperature time histories which deviated less than 25 F from the predicted surface temperatures.

Keywords: Heat flux; Heat transfer; Radiant heating; Structural tests; Thermal testing; Transient thermal simulation

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This paper provides an overview of NASA’s Hyper-X Program; a focused hypersonic technology effort designed to move hypersonic, airbreathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment. This paper presents an overview of the flight test program, research objectives, approach, schedule and status. Substantial experimental database and concept validation have been completed. The program is currently concentrating on the first, Mach 7, vehicle development, verification and validation in preparation for wind-tunnel testing in 1998 and flight testing in 1999. Parallel to this effort the Mach 5 and 10 vehicle designs are being finalized. Detailed analytical and experimental evaluation of the Mach 7 vehicle at the flight conditions is nearing completion, and will provide a database for validation of design methods once flight test data are available.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

This paper provides an overview of NASA’s focused hypersonic technology program, i.e. the Hyper-X program. This program is designed to move hypersonic, airbreathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment, the last stage preceding prototype development. This paper presents some history leading to the flight test program, research objectives, approach, schedule and status. Substantial experimental data base and concept validation have been completed. The program is concentrating on Mach 7 vehicle development, verification and validation in preparation for wind-tunnel testing in 1998 and flight testing in 1999. It is also concentrating on finalization of the Mach 5 and 10 vehicle designs. Detailed evaluation of the Mach 7 vehicle at the flight conditions is nearing completion, and will provide a database for validation of design methods once flight test data are available.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

Wingless Flight tells the story of the most unusual flying machines ever flown, the lifting bodies. It is my story about my friends and colleagues who committed a significant part of their lives in the 1960s and 1970s to prove that the concept was a viable one for use in spacecraft of the future. This story, filled with drama and adventure, is about the twelve-year period from 1963 to 1975 in which eight different lifting-body configurations flew. It is appropriate for me to write the story, since I was the engineer who first presented the idea of flight-testing the concept to others at the NASA Flight Research Center. Over those twelve years, I experienced the story as it unfolded day by day at that remote NASA facility northeast of Los Angeles in the bleak Mojave Desert. Benefits from this effort immediately influenced the design and operational concepts of the winged NASA Shuttle Orbiter. However, the full benefits would not be realized until the 1990s when new spacecraft such as the X-33 and X-38 would fully employ the lifting-body concept. A lifting body is basically a wingless vehicle that flies due to the lift generated by the shape of its fuselage. Although both a lifting reentry vehicle and a ballistic capsule had been considered as options during the early stages of NASA’s space program, NASA initially opted to go with the capsule. A number of individuals were not content to close the book on the lifting-body concept. Researchers including Alfred Eggers at the NASA Ames Research Center conducted early wind-tunnel experiments, finding that half of a rounded nose-cone shape that was flat on top and rounded on the bottom could generate a lift-to-drag ratio of about 1.5 to 1. Eggers’ preliminary design sketch later resembled the basic M2 lifting-body design. At the NASA Langley Research Center, other researchers toyed with their own lifting-body shapes. Meanwhile, some of us aircraft-oriented researchers at the NASA Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) in California were experiencing our own fascination with the lifting-body concept. A model-aircraft builder and private pilot on my own time, I found the lifting-body idea intriguing. I built a model based on Eggers’ design, tested it repeatedly, made modifications in its control and balance characteristics along the way, then eventually presented the concept to others at the Center, using a film of its flights that my wife, Donna and I had made with our 8-mm home camera.

This monograph discusses the working and living environment of women involved with flight research at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center during the late 1940s and early 1950s. The women engineers, their work and the airplanes they worked on from 1960 to December 1995 are highlighted. The labor intensive data gathering and analysis procedures and instrumentation used before the age of digital computers are explained by showing and describing typical instrumentation found on the X-series aircraft from the X-1
through the X-15. The data reduction technique used to obtain the Mach number position error curve for the X-1 aircraft and which documents the historic first flight to exceed the speed of sound is described and a Mach number and altitude plot from an X-15 flight is shown.


Stability analysis of high performance aircraft must account for errors in the system model. A method for computing flutter margins that incorporates flight data has been developed using robust stability theory. This paper considers applying this method to update flutter margins during a post-flight or on-line analysis. Areas of modeling uncertainty that arise when using flight data with this method are investigated. The amount of conservatism in the resulting flutter margins depends on the flight data sets used to update the model. Post-flight updates of flutter margins for an F/A-18 are presented along with a simulation of on-line updates during a flight test.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight data; Robust stability; Structured singular value
*National Research Council.


A schlieren imaging system that uses the sun as a light source was developed to obtain direct flow-field images of shock waves of aircraft in flight. This system was used to study how shock waves evolve to form sonic booms. The image quality obtained was limited by several optical and mechanical factors. Converting the photographs to digital images and applying digital image-processing techniques greatly improved the final quality of the images and more clearly showed the shock structures.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


This paper describes efforts to develop a technique to monitor structural health using response data to characterize the structure. The paper describes the hardware and pattern recognition methodology used in two experiments. The first test used a cantilevered beam to acquire and analyze vibration measurements for assessing the state of the structure. This test demonstrated the use of the health monitoring system as the beam changes its state in a prescribed manner. The second test used the strut of an F-18 vertical tail. Postflight structural signature data were acquired over a 2-month flight period. Qualitative evaluation determined that the system was viable in an operational aircraft environment. No debonding or failures of the transducers occurred. The data indicated frequency shifts below 3000 Hz, which were related to the removal of load-bearing side panels during testing. The cantilevered beam and aircraft experiments showed that, using structural signatures and pattern recognition software, it is possible to detect changes in the structures.


The objective of this study was to design and construct a vibration control system for an electronic equipment shelf to be evaluated in the NASA Dryden FTF-II. The vibration control system was a hybrid system which included passive and active damping techniques. Passive damping was fabricated into the equipment shelf using ScotchDamp™ damping film and aluminum constraining layers. Active damping was achieved using a two channel active control circuit employing QuickPack™ sensors and actuators. Preliminary Chirp test results indicated passive damping smoothed the frequency response while active damping reduced amplitudes of the frequency response for most frequencies below 500Hz.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


The newly developed Yeh-Stratton (Y-S) Strength Criterion was used to study the failure of composite materials with central holes and normal cracks. To evaluate the interaction parameters for the Y-S failure theory, it is necessary to perform several biaxial loading tests. However, it is indisputable that the inhomogeneous and anisotropic nature of composite materials have made their own contribution to the complication of the biaxial testing problem. To avoid the difficulties of performing many biaxial tests and still consider the effects of the interaction term in the Y-S Criterion, a simple modification of the Y-S Criterion was developed. The
preliminary predictions by the modified Y-S Criterion were relatively conservative compared to the testing data. Thus, the modified Y-S Criterion could be used as a design tool. To further understand the composite failure problem, an investigation of the damage zone in front of the crack tip coupled with the Y-S Criterion is imperative.

*California State University, Long Beach, California

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1998 Technical Publications


Atmospheric considerations are a key element in support of uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) flight testing. The local atmospheric environment (wind speed and direction, wind shear, temperature, precipitation, and turbulence) must be characterized and understood. The primary objective is to ensure safety of the vehicle, test range, and ground assets. The generalized atmospheric behavior for any potential flight operations site is best described by combining the local seasonal climatology, daily upper atmospheric wind and temperature profiles, and hourly surface and low-level wind observations. This paper describes a continuous forecast update process based on monitoring atmospheric turbulence with surface and low-level wind for the support of UAV flights. Updates ensure the most current available data needed for mission planning. Each mission plan is developed so as not to exceed operation limits because of weather conditions. This paper also discusses climatology, weather forecasts, and day-of-flight weather monitoring for planning of uninhabited aerial vehicle missions.

**AeroVironment, Inc., Monrovia, California


Atmospheric considerations are a key element in support of uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) flight testing. The local atmospheric environment (wind speed and direction, wind shear, temperature, precipitation, and turbulence) must be characterized and understood. The primary objective is to ensure safety of the vehicle, test range, and ground assets. The generalized atmospheric behavior for any potential flight operations site is best described by combining the local seasonal climatology, daily upper atmospheric wind and temperature profiles, and hourly surface and low-level wind observations. This paper describes a continuous forecast update process based on monitoring atmospheric turbulence with surface and low-level wind for the support of UAV flights. Updates ensure the most current available data needed for mission planning. Each mission plan is developed so as not to exceed operation limits because of weather conditions. This paper also discusses climatology, weather forecasts, and day-of-flight weather monitoring for planning of uninhabited aerial vehicle missions.

**AeroVironment, Inc., Monrovia, California

The Altus I vehicle


In the event of a control surface failure, the purpose of a reconfigurable control system is to redistribute the control effort among the remaining working surfaces such that satisfactory stability and performance are retained. Four reconfigurable control design methods were investigated for the X-33 vehicle: Redistributed Pseudo-Inverse, General Constrained Optimization, Automated Failure Dependent Gain Schedule, and an Off-line Nonlinear General Constrained Optimization. The Off-line Nonlinear General Constrained Optimization approach was chosen for implementation on the X-33. Two example failures are shown, a right outboard elevon jam at 25 deg. at a Mach 3 entry condition, and a left rudder jam at 30 degrees. Note however, that reconfigurable control laws have been designed for the entire flight envelope. Comparisons between responses with the nominal controller and reconfigurable controllers show the
benefits of reconfiguration. Single jam aerosurface failures were considered, and failure detection and identification is considered accomplished in the actuator controller. The X-33 flight control system will incorporate reconfigurable flight control in the baseline system.

*Lockheed Martin Skunk Works, Palmdale, California.
**MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


This paper presents the design of the X-33 Flush Airdata Sensing (FADS) system. The X-33 FADS uses a matrix of pressure orifices on the vehicle nose to estimate airdata parameters. The system is designed with dual-redundant measurement hardware, which produces two independent measurement paths. Airdata parameters that correspond to the measurement path with the minimum fit error are selected as the output values. This method enables a single sensor failure to occur with minimal degrading of the system performance. The paper shows the X-33 FADS architecture, derives the estimating algorithms, and demonstrates a mathematical analysis of the FADS system stability. Preliminary aerodynamics calibrations are also presented here. The calibration parameters, the position error coefficient (ε), and flow correction terms for the angle of attack (δα), and angle of sideslip (δβ) are derived from wind tunnel data. Statistical accuracy of the calibration is evaluated by comparing the wind tunnel reference conditions to the airdata parameters estimated. This comparison is accomplished by applying the calibrated FADS algorithm to the sensed wind tunnel pressures. When the resulting accuracy estimates are compared to accuracy requirements for the X-33 airdata, the FADS system meets these requirements.


A Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV) is applied to the exhaust flow of an F-100 EMD gas turbine engine. Measurements of the exhaust flow field are made with and without artificial seeding under run conditions ranging from Idle to Military power. Inlet LDV measurements for the engine are also obtained. Such measurements could non-obtrusively help refine exhaust and inlet geometry design, determine thrust, and proved control system feedback. The LDV offers high temporal and spatial resolution, and combined with state of the art frequency domain signal processing, is capable of making these measurements with minimal laser power. The LDV is also capable of withstanding the harsh vibrations and temperature found near the engine. Single-component profiles of axial mean and rms velocity are shown for three run conditions, along with transient velocity data. An estimate of LDV data rate versus laser power was also determined. The results show that LDV may be effectively applied to full scale engines inlets and exhausts, but that seeding methodology needs added development if measurements throughout all regions of the exhaust or inlet are to be effectively measured.

*Aerometrics, Inc., Sunnyvale, California.


A unique alliance creates new RPVs to conduct research for both commercial and military applications.

2317. *VonOfenheim, William H. C.; *Heimerl, N. Lynn; Binkley, Robert L.; Curry, Marty A.; **Slater, Richard T.;
This paper discusses the technical aspects of and the project background for the NASA Image exchange (NIX). NIX, which provides a single entry point to search selected image databases at the NASA Centers, is a meta-search engine (i.e., a search engine that communicates with other search engines). It uses these distributed digital image databases to access photographs, animations, and their associated descriptive information (meta-data). NIX is available for use at the following URL: http://nix.nasa.gov/NIX, which was sponsored by NASA's Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program, currently serves images from seven NASA Centers. Plans are under way to link image databases from three additional NASA Centers. Images and their associated meta-data, which are accessible by NIX, reside at the originating Centers, and NIX utilizes a virtual central site that communicates with each of these sites. Incorporated into the virtual central site are several protocols to support searches from a diverse collection of database engines. The searches are performed in parallel to ensure optimization of response times. To augment the search capability, browse functionality with pre-defined categories has been built into NIX, thereby ensuring dissemination of 'best-of-breed' imagery. As a final recourse, NIX offers access to a help desk via an on-line form to help locate images and information either within the scope of NIX or from available external sources.

Keywords: Computer systems design; Computer programming; Images; Photography; Distributed networks

**NASA** Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.  
**Johnson** Space Center, Houston, Texas.  
**Lewis** Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.  
**Goddard** Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland.  
**Ames** Headquarters, Washington, DC.  
**Jet** Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.


Mechanical- and thermal-buckling analyses were performed on rectangular plates with central cutouts. The cutouts were either circular holes or square holes. The finite-element structural analysis method was used to study the effects of plate-support conditions, plate aspect ratio, hole geometry, and hole size on the mechanical-and thermal-buckling strengths of the perforated plates. By increasing the hole size, thermal-buckling strengths of the plates could be enhanced. The compressive-buckling strengths of the plates could also be increased considerably only under certain boundary conditions and aspect ratios. The plate-buckling mode can be symmetrical or antisymmetrical, depending on the plate boundary conditions, aspect ratio, and the hole size. For the same cutout areas (i.e., same plate weight density), the buckling strengths of the same-sized plates with square holes generally surpass those of the plates with circular holes over the range of hole sizes. The results and illustrations provide vital information for the efficient design of aerospace structural panels.

Keywords: Buckling mode shapes; Mechanical buckling; Plates with circular holes; Plates with square holes; Thermal buckling


Wavelet analysis for filtering and system identification was used to improve the estimation of aeroservoelastic stability margins. The conservatism of the robust stability margins was reduced with parametric and nonparametric time-frequency analysis of flight data in the model validation process. Nonparametric wavelet processing of data was used to reduce the effects of external desirableness and unmodeled dynamics. Parametric estimates of modal stability were also extracted using the wavelet transform. Computation of robust stability margins for stability boundary prediction depends on uncertainty descriptions derived from the data for model validation. F-18 high Alpha Research Vehicle aeroservoelastic flight test data demonstrated improved robust stability prediction by extension of the stability boundary beyond the flight regime.

Keywords: Aeroservoelasticity; Modal estimation; Robust stability; Uncertainty modeling; Wavelet analysis

*National Research Council.
An approach for computing worst-case flutter margins has been formulated in a robust stability framework. Uncertainty operators are included with a linear model to describe modeling errors and flight variations. The structured singular value, \( \mu \), computes a stability margin that directly accounts for these uncertainties. This approach introduces a new method of computing flutter margins and an associated new parameter for describing these margins. The \( \mu \) margins are robust margins that indicate worst-case stability estimates with respect to the defined uncertainty. Worst-case flutter margins are computed for the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft using uncertainty sets generated by flight data analysis. The robust margins demonstrate flight conditions for flutter may lie closer to the flight envelope than previously estimated by \( p-k \) analysis.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight data analysis; Flutter; Robust stability; Structural dynamics; Structured singular value

*National Research Council.

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**Three-view of the X-33 vehicle**

An aerodynamic uncertainty model for the X-33 single-stage-to-orbit demonstrator aircraft has been developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The model is based on comparisons of historical flight test estimates to preflight wind-tunnel and analysis code predictions of vehicle aerodynamics documented during six lifting-body aircraft and the Space Shuttle Orbiter flight programs. The lifting-body and Orbiter data were used to define an appropriate uncertainty magnitude in the subsonic and supersonic flight regions, and the Orbiter data were used to extend the database to hypersonic Mach numbers. The uncertainty data consist of increments or percentage variations in the important aerodynamic coefficients and derivatives as a function of Mach number along a nominal trajectory. The uncertainty models will be used to perform linear analysis of the X-33 flight control system and Monte Carlo mission simulation studies. Because the X-33 aerodynamic uncertainty model was developed exclusively using historical data rather than X-33 specific characteristics, the model may be useful for other lifting-body studies.

Keywords: Aerodynamic uncertainty; Lifting-body aircraft; Monte Carlo simulation; Reusable
This paper describes experiences with five remotely piloted flight research vehicle projects in the developmental flight test phase. These projects include the Pathfinder, Perseus B, Altus, and X-36 aircraft and the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT). Each of these flight projects was flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. With the exception of the HiMAT, these projects are a part of the Flight Research Base Research and Technology (R&T) Program of the NASA Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Enterprise. Particularly with respect to operational interfaces between the ground-based pilot or operator, this paper draws from those experiences, then provides some rationale for extending the lessons learned during developmental flight research to the possible situations involved in the developmental flights proceeding deployed uninhabited tactical aircraft (UTA) operations. Two types of UTA control approaches are considered: autonomous and remotely piloted. In each of these cases, some level of human operator or pilot control blending is recommended. Additionally, “best practices” acquired over years of piloted aircraft experience are drawn from and presented as they apply to operational UTA.

Keywords: Altus; Autonomous control; Flight test; Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology; (HiMAT); Pathfinder; Perseus B; Remotely piloted vehicles; Uninhabited tactical aircraft; Unmanned tactical aircraft; X-36 airplane


The $\mu$ method for flutter analysis is extended to compute stability margins of aeroservoelastic dynamics. This method uses flight data to determine operators which describe errors in a model. The resulting stability margins directly account for these errors to compute a worst-case range of the flight conditions for which the aircraft is guaranteed to be free of aeroservoelastic instabilities. The $\mu$ method is used to analyze an F/A-18 aircraft and demonstrate the stability margins of the nominal dynamics are quite large; however, accounting for modeling errors can dramatically reduce the stability margins.


The Pegasus crossflow transition experiment is a code validation experiment to take place at Mach 5.5 to 8 and an altitude of 100,000 to 180,000 ft., on the delta wing of the first stage of the Orbital Sciences Corporation (OSC) Pegasus three-stage launch vehicle. A smooth steel glove designed to enhance crossflow transition has been manufactured and installed. Instrumentation on the glove will document where and how transition occurs. The experiment is described in terms of essential features, hardware description and operational aspects. It is currently planned to fly as a secondary payload in the launch of a Brazilian satellite, SCD-2, off the coast of Florida, staging from Cape Canaveral AFB, Florida, in mid-1998.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Edwards, California.

The CIAM Mach 6.5, model 58L, flight test scramjet.


Under a contract with NASA, a joint Central Institute of Aviation Motors (CIAM) and NASA team recently conducted the fourth flight test of a dual-mode scramjet aboard the CIAM Hypersonic Flying Laboratory, ‘Khodl’. With an aim test Mach 6.5 objective, the successful launch was conducted at the Sary Shagan test range in central Kazakhstan on February 12, 1998. Ground-launch, rocket boosted by a modified Russian SA5 missile, the redesigned scramjet was accelerated to a new maximum velocity greater than Mach 6.4. This launch allowed for the measurement of the fully supersonic combustion mode under actual flight conditions. The primary program objective was the flight-to-ground correlation of measured data with preflight analysis and wind-tunnel tests in Russia and potentially in the United States. This paper describes the development and objectives of the program as well as the technical details of the scramjet
Under a contract with NASA, a joint Central Institute of Aviation Motors (CIAM) and NASA team recently conducted the fourth flight test of a dual-mode scramjet aboard the CIAM Hypersonic Flying Laboratory, “Kholod.” With an aim test Mach 6.5 objective, the successful launch was conducted at the Sary Shagan test range in central Kazakhstan on February 12, 1998. Ground-launch, rocket boosted by a modified Russian SA5 missile, the redesigned scramjet was accelerated to a new maximum velocity greater than Mach 6.4. This launch allowed for the measurement of the fully supersonic combustion mode under actual flight conditions. The primary program objective was the flight-to-ground correlation of measured data with preflight analysis and wind-tunnel tests in Russia and potentially in the United States. This paper describes the development and objectives of the program as well as the technical details of the scramjet and SA5 redesign to achieve the Mach 6.5 aim test condition. An overview of the launch operation is also given. Finally, preliminary flight test results are presented and discussed.

*Central Inst. of Aviation Motors, Moscow, Russia.


Research presented in this paper illustrates the implementation of the transpiration boundary condition in steady and unsteady aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic simulations. For two reference cases, the AGARD 445.6 wing and BACT wing with a finite-span flap, application of the transpiration method has demonstrated the effectiveness of applying the numbers on configurations of practical interest. Additionally, the effectiveness of the transpiration method is demonstrated by its ability to model large scale continuous and discontinuous surface deflections without the computational expense of re-meshing at each CFD time-step.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.


This paper presents the relevant details of a newly developed eigenproblem solution technique capable of computing a few desired roots and vectors accurately and economically. The solution algorithm effects simultaneous convergence of a set of roots and vectors and proves to be numerically stable. Solution results for a representative practical problem is also presented that testify to the superior convergence characteristics of the present procedure over existing ones.

*Martin Engineering, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska.

2332. *iorio, Carla; and Lind, Rick: Parameter Estimation Of The SR-71 Fuselage Dynamics Using An Additive

This paper introduces flexible dynamics into the equations of motion for an SR-71 model. An additive beam describes the elastic mode shape by superimposing multiple uniform beams so as to account for varying fuselage stiffness. The aerodynamic lift and moment coefficients are formulated to account for the dynamics of the elastic mode in the equations of motion. The resulting nonlinear aerodynamic coefficient functions are determined along with rigid body and structural terms by a parameter estimation algorithm operating on flight data. Simulated responses of this model to pilot stick inputs closely match measured flight data responses.

*West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.


Nonlinear dynamics in aeroelastic systems are difficult to analyze and can induce dangerous limit cycle oscillations in flight. This paper introduces wavelet analysis for processing flight data responses to extract information about structural nonlinearities. Features and trends from wavelet transform maps of transient responses are used to detect and characterize a certain class of nonlinearities. These features are also used to formulate functions which may use transient responses at stable flight conditions to predict the onset of limit cycle oscillations.


Wavelet analysis for filtering and system identification was used to improve the estimation of aeroservoelastic stability margins. The conservatism of the robust stability margins was reduced with parametric and nonparametric time-frequency analysis of flight data in the model validation process. Nonparametric wavelet processing of data was used to reduce the effects of external disturbances and unmodeled dynamics. Parametric estimates of modal stability were also extracted using the wavelet transform. Computation of robust stability margins for stability boundary prediction depends on uncertainty descriptions derived from the data for model validation. F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle aeroservoelastic flight test data demonstrated improved robust stability prediction by extension of the stability boundary beyond the flight regime.


This paper describes the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) Flight Research Program’s technical content and summarizes analytical model development through March 1998. Goals of the AAW Flight Research Program are to demonstrate, in full scale, key AAW parameters and to measure the aerodynamic, structural, and flight control characteristics associated with AAW. Design guidance, derived from the results of this benchmark flight program, will be provided for implementation on future aircraft designs.

*USAF, Air Vehicles Directorate, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
**Boeing-Phantom Works, Saint Louis, Missouri.
***Boeing-Phantom Works, Seal Beach, California.
****Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas.


Hypersonic long-term dynamics are investigated in this paper. Since 1997 a new simulator is used for flying qualities evaluations. Peculiarities of hypersonic flight mechanics like novel phugoid dependencies, height mode characteristics and path attitude lags are considered. Current longitudinal handling qualities criteria are compared to pilot ratings and deficiencies of the long-term criteria are addressed. The effect of stick and throttle input time delays on handling qualities is shown. Finally the influence of phugoid and height mode instabilities on handling qualities is considered.

*Muenchen, Technische University, Munich, Germany.

The premier organization of its kind in the United States, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, furthers aviation science by testing a wide variety of state-of-the-art and high performance aircraft. GPS plays an increasing role in these tasks, as demonstrated by recent tests involving such elite aircraft as the SR-71 Blackbird, the F-16XL, F-15s, a Russian TU-144, paragliding landers, and the Pegasus rocket.


With modern digital control systems, using engine thrust for emergency flight control to supplement or replace failed aircraft normal flight controls has become a practical consideration. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system in which computer-controlled engine thrust provides emergency flight control. An F-15 and an MD-11 airplane have been landed without using any flight control surfaces. Preliminary studies have also been conducted that show that engines on only one wing can provide some flight control capability if the lateral center of gravity can be shifted toward the side of the airplane that has the operating engine(s). Simulator tests of several airplanes with no flight control surfaces operating and all engines out on the left wing have all shown positive control capability within the available range of lateral center-of-gravity offset. Propulsion-controlled aircraft systems that can operate without modifications to engine control systems, thus allowing PCA technology to be installed on less capable airplanes or at low cost, are also desirable. Further studies have examined simplified ‘PCA Lite’ and ‘PCA Ultralite’ concepts in which thrust control is provided by existing systems such as auto-throttles or a combination of existing systems and manual pilot control.

Keywords: B-747; Emergency control; MD-11; Propulsion control; Throttle-only-control

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


An analysis and needs assessment was conducted to identify kindergarten through grade 14 (K14) customer needs with regard to using the World Wide Web (WWW) for instruction and to identify obstacles K14 teachers face in utilizing NASA Learning Technologies products in the classroom. The needs assessment was conducted as part of the Dryden Learning Technologies Project which is a collaboration between Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), Edwards, California and The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), University Park, Pennsylvania. The overall project is a multiyear effort to conduct research in the development of teacher training and tools for Web-based science, mathematics and technology instruction and learning. The project team conducting the research consisted of graduate students at PSU under the supervision of Dr. Barbara Grabowski, Associate Professor, PSU, and Dr. Marianne McCarthy, Learning Technologies Project Manager at DFRC. Jeff Ehmen of the Marshall Space Flight Center Spacelink program, Dr. Marchelle Canright of the Langley Research Center Office of Education and Lee Duke, Chief of Public Affairs, Commercialization, and Education at DFRC also contributed to the research effort.

The areas investigated included administrative infrastructure, technology infrastructure, teacher factors, school curriculum, existing Web-based NASA materials, best practices using the WWW in the classroom, teacher tutorials and teaching and learning philosophy.

Keywords: Education; Learning technology; Pedagogy; Teacher tutorials; World wide web

*The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

**AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.
a specially instrumented F/A-18, the High-Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). Preliminary guidelines for high-angle-of-attack gritting strategies are given.

Keywords: High-angle-of-attack gritting; F/A-18; Experimental data

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Stability analysis and control synthesis for high-performance aircraft must account for errors in the aircraft model. This paper introduces a method to update a theoretical model using measured flight data. Variations between the flight data and model are represented as uncertainty operators in a robust stability framework. The structured singular value can directly account for these uncertainty operators to compute stability margins robust to the associated dynamical variations. This procedure is used to formulate an uncertain model of an F/A-18 fighter aircraft and compute stability margins that indicate the worst-case flutter conditions.


Lessons learned from comparisons between ground-based tests and flight measurements for the high-angle-of-attack programs on the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV), the X-29 forward-swept wing aircraft, and the X-31 enhanced fighter maneuverability aircraft are presented. On all three vehicles, Reynolds number effects were evident on the forebodies at high angles of attack. The correlation between flight and wind tunnel forebody pressure distributions for the F-18 HARV were improved by using twin longitudinal grit strips on the forebody of the wind-tunnel model. Pressure distributions obtained on the X-29 wind-tunnel model at flight Reynolds numbers showed excellent correlation with the flight data up to α = 50°. Above α = 50° the pressure distributions for both flight and wind tunnel became asymmetric and showed poorer agreement, possibility because of the different surface finish of the model and aircraft. The detrimental effect of a very sharp nose apex was demonstrated on the X-31 reduced aircraft. Grit strips on the forebody of the X-31 reduced the randomness but increased the magnitude of the asymmetry. Nose strakes were required to reduce the forebody yawing moment asymmetries and the grit strips on the flight test noseboom improved the aircraft handling qualities.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


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A metallic ‘glove’ structure has been built and attached to the wing of the Pegasus® space booster. An experiment on the upper surface of the glove has been designed to help validate boundary-layer stability codes in a free-flight environment. Three-dimensional thermal analyses have been performed to ensure that the glove structure design would be within allowable temperature limits in the experiment test section of the upper skin of the glove. Temperature results obtained from the design-case analysis show a peak temperature at the leading edge of 490 F. For the upper surface of the glove, approximately 3 in. back from the leading edge, temperature calculations indicate transition occurs at approximately 45
sec into the flight profile. A worst-case heating analysis has also been performed to ensure that the glove structure would not have any detrimental effects on the primary objective of the Pegasus® launch. A peak temperature of 805 °F has been calculated on the leading edge of the glove structure. The temperatures predicted from the design case are well within the temperature limits of the glove structure, and the worst-case heating analysis temperature results are acceptable for the mission objectives.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Boundary layer transition; Finite element modeling

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Direct thrust measurement using strain gages offers advantages over analytically-based thrust calculation methods. For flight test applications, the direct measurement method typically uses a simpler sensor arrangement and minimal data processing compared to analytical techniques, which normally require costly engine modeling and multisensor arrangements throughout the engine. Conversely, direct thrust measurement has historically produced less than desirable accuracy because of difficulty in mounting and calibrating the strain gages and the inability to account for secondary forces that influence the thrust reading at the engine mounts. Consequently, the strain-gage technique has normally been used for simple engine arrangements and primarily in the subsonic speed range. This paper presents the results of a strain gage-based direct thrust-measurement technique developed by the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and successfully applied to the full flight envelope of an F-15 aircraft powered by two F100-PW-229 turbofan engines. Measurements have been obtained at quasi-steady-state operating conditions at maximum non-augmented and maximum augmented power throughout the altitude range of the vehicle and to a maximum speed of Mach 2.0 and are compared against results from two analytically-based thrust calculation methods. The strain-gage installation and calibration processes are also described.

Keywords: Accuracy; Analytical models; Calibration; Direct


This paper provides an overview of NASA's current focused hypersonic technology program, called the Hyper-X Program. The Hyper-X Program, a joint NASA program executed by the Langley Research Center and the Dryden Flight Research Center, is designed to move hypersonic, air breathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment, the last stage preceding prototype development. The Hyper-X research vehicle will provide the first ever opportunity to obtain data on an airframe integrated scramjet (supersonic combustion ramjet) propulsion system at true flight conditions and the first opportunity for flight validation of experimental wind tunnel, numerical and analytical methods used for design of this class of vehicles. A substantial portion of the program is experimentally based, both for database development and performance validation. At this time wind tunnel testing of the flight engine on a “full forebody” simulation and complete airframe integrated scramjet configuration flowpath is expected this year (1998) and in 1999, respectively, and the first flight test, at Mach 7, is planned for 2000. This paper addresses ground and flight testing aspects of the Hyper-X program, with some discussion on flight data utilized.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A joint Russian/U.S. effort brings a viable supersonic combustion ramjet one step closer.


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Keywords: Accuracy; Analytical models; Calibration; Direct
thrust measurement; F-15; F100-PW-229 engine; Strain gage; Supersonic; Thrust calculation


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Flight qualifyable sensors for inlet air mass flux are desired for improved control of conventional aeropulsion gas turbine power plants and variable-geometry, mixed-compression inlets of advanced flight vehicles. At the present time, air mass flux is inferred from limited spatial samples of total/static pressure and temperature. Variable geometry inlets are controlled using open-loop altitude/air speed scheduling without regard to local mass flux conditions. Improvements in engine performance, such as narrower stall margins, could be achieved through continuous, real-time measurements of the engine air mass flux. This paper describes an effort to develop and flight test an optical air mass flux sensor that provides continuous, rapid-response mass flux data within the inlet duct over the entire flight envelope. The measurement technique is based on Doppler-shifted absorption of oxygen using a fiber-coupled diode laser source. This work builds on the previous, successful demonstration of the sensor in multiple ground test settings, including a full-scale P&W F-100 gas turbine engine test at NASA Dryden. The design of the flight version of the sensor and its integration with the aircraft will be reviewed. Successful development of a flight-qualifiable mass flux sensor will have significant impact on future flight testing activities, including those associated with advanced, high-speed vehicles such as Hyper-X.

*Physical Sciences Inc., Andover, Massachusetts.


Flight tests were recently completed to demonstrate an inlet-distortion-tolerant engine control system. These flight tests were part of NASA's High Stability Engine Control (HISTEC) program. The objective of the HISTEC program was to design, develop, and flight demonstrate an advanced integrated engine control system that uses measurement-based, real-time estimates of inlet airflow distortion to enhance engine stability. With improved stability and tolerance of inlet airflow distortion, future engine designs may benefit from a reduction in design stall-margin requirements and enhanced reliability, with a corresponding increase in performance and decrease in fuel consumption. This paper describes the HISTEC methodology, presents an aircraft test bed description (including HISTEC-specific modifications) and verification and validation ground tests. Additionally, flight test safety considerations, test plan and technique design and approach, and flight operations are addressed. Some illustrative results are presented to demonstrate the type of analysis and results produced from the flight test program.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
**Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.
***Boeing Phantom Works, Saint Louis, Missouri.


Future aircraft turbine engines, both commercial and military, must be able to accommodate expected increased levels of steady-state and dynamic engine face distortion. The current approach of incorporating sufficient design stall margin to tolerate these increased levels of distortion would
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*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
**Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.


The High Stability Engine Control (HISTEC) Program, managed and funded by the NASA Lewis Research Center, is a cooperative effort between NASA and Pratt & Whitney (P&W). The program objective is to develop and flight demonstrate an advanced high-stability integrated engine control system that uses real-time, measurement-based estimation of inlet pressure distortion to enhance engine stability. Flight testing was performed using the NASA Advanced Controls Technologies for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE) F-15 aircraft at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The flight test configuration, details of the research objectives, and the flight test matrix to achieve those objectives are presented. Flight test results are discussed that show the design approach can accurately estimate distortion and perform real-time control actions for engine accommodation.

*Pratt and Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.
**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.

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This paper describes experiences with five remotely piloted flight research vehicle projects in the developmental flight test phase. These projects include the Pathfinder, Perseus B, Altus, and X-36 aircraft and the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology (HiMAT). Each of these flight projects was flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. With the exception of the HIMAT, these projects are a part of the Flight Research Base Research and Technology (R&T) Program of the NASA Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Enterprise. Particularly with respect to operational interfaces between the ground-based pilot or operator, this paper draws from those experiences, then provides some rationale for extending the lessons learned during developmental flight research to the possible situations involved in the developmental flights proceeding deployed uninhabited tactical aircraft (UTA) operations. Two types of UTA control approaches are considered: autonomous and remotely piloted. In each of these cases, some level of human operator or pilot control blending is recommended. Additionally, “best practices” acquired over years of piloted aircraft experience are drawn from and presented as they apply to operational UTA.


From 1967 to 1997, pioneering propulsion flight research activities have been conceived and conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Many of these programs have been flown jointly with the United States Department of Defense, industry, or the Federal Aviation Administration. Propulsion research has been conducted on the XB-70, F-111 A, F-111E, YF-12, JetStar, B-720, MD-11, F-15, F-104, Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology, F-14, F/A-18, SR-71, and the hypersonic X-15 airplanes. Research studies have included inlet dynamics and control, in-flight thrust computation, integrated propulsion controls, inlet and boattail drag, wind tunnel-to-flight comparisons, digital engine controls, advanced engine control optimization algorithms, acoustics, antimisting kerosene, in-flight lift and drag, throttle response criteria, and thrust-vectoring vanes. A computer-controlled thrust system has been developed to land the F-15 and MD-11 airplanes without using any of the normal flight controls. An F-15 airplane has flown tests of axisymmetric thrust-vectoring nozzles. A linear aerospace rocket experiment has been developed and tested on the SR-71 airplane. This paper discusses some of the more unique flight programs, the results, lessons learned, and their impact on current technology.

Keywords: Engine; Flight test; Inlet; Nozzle; Propulsion

2356. Burcham, Frank W. Jr.; Ray, Ronald J.; Conners,
From 1967 to 1997, pioneering propulsion flight research activities have been conceived and conducted at NASA Flight Research Center. Many of these programs have been flown jointly with the United States Department of Defense, industry, or the Federal Aviation Administration. Propulsion research has been conducted on the XB-70, F-111A, F-111E, YF-12, JetStar, B-720, MD-11, F-15, F-104, Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology, F-14, F/A-18, SR-71, and hypersonic X-15 airplanes. Research studies have been included in flight dynamics and control, in-flight thrust computation, integrated propulsion controls, inlet and boattail drag, wind tunnel-to-flight comparisons, digital engine controls, advanced engine control optimization algorithms, acoustics, antimisting kerosene, in-flight lift and drag, throttle response criteria, and thrust-vectoring vanes. A computer-controlled thrust system has been developed to land the F-15 and MD-11 airplanes without using any of the normal flight controls. An F-15 airplane has flown tests of axisymmetric thrust-vectoring nozzles. A linear Aerospike rocket experiment has been developed and tested on the SR-71 airplane. This paper discusses some of the more unique flight programs, the results, lessons learned, and their impact on current technology.


Compressive buckling analysis was performed on metal-matrix composite (MMC) plates with central square holes. The MMC plates have varying aspect ratios and hole sizes and are supported under different boundary conditions. The finite-element structural analysis method was used to study the effects of plate boundary conditions, plate aspect ratio, hole size, and the composite stacking sequence on the compressive buckling strengths of the perforated MMC plates. Studies show that by increasing the hole sizes, compressive buckling strengths of the perforated MMC plates could be considerably increased under certain boundary conditions and aspect ratios (“anomalous” buckling behavior); and that the plate buckling mode could be symmetrical or antisymmetrical, depending on the plate boundary conditions, aspect ratio, and the hole size. For same-sized plates with same-sized holes, the compressive buckling strengths of the perforated MMC plates with [90/0/90]2 lamination could be as much as 10 percent higher or lower than those of the [45/-45/-45/45]2 laminations, depending on the plate boundary conditions, plate aspect ratios, and the hole size. Clamping the plate edges induces far stronger “anomalous” buckling behavior (enhancing compressive buckling strengths at increasing hole sizes) of the perforated MMC plates than simply supporting the plate edges.

Keywords: Anomalous buckling; Aspect ratio effect; Edge support effect; Hole size effect; Metal-matrix composites; Square cutout


A major hazard posed by the propulsion system of hypersonic and space vehicles is the possibility of fire or explosion in the vehicle environment. The hazard is mitigated by minimizing or detecting, in the vehicle environment, the three ingredients essential to producing fire: fuel, oxidizer, and an ignition source. The Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) consisted of a linear aerospike rocket engine integrated into one-half of an X-33-like lifting body shape, carried on top of an SR-71 aircraft. Gaseous hydrogen and liquid oxygen were used as propellants. Although LASRE is a one-of-a-kind experimental system, it must be rated for piloted flight, so this test presented a unique challenge. To help meet safety requirements, the following propulsion hazard mitigation systems were incorporated into the experiment: pod inert purge, oxygen sensors, a hydrogen leak detection algorithm, hydrogen sensors, fire detection and pod temperature thermocouples, water misting, and control room displays. These systems are described, and their development discussed. Analyses, ground test, and flight test results are presented, as are findings and lessons learned.

Keywords: Fire prevention; Flight safety; Hypersonic vehicles; Reusable launch vehicles

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


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*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


Supersonic airliners are expected to use the Mixer-Ejector Nozzles (MENs) as part of their power-plants to meet increasingly stringent noise rules. Proximity of wing and flaps to the MEN inlet could disturb tertiary air ingestion. It was feared that this disturbance could severely degrade the MEN’S acoustic performance. An experimental study was completed to determine this degree of degradation. Effect of wing boundary-layer, flap tip vortices and flaps on the far-field jet acoustics and exhaust flow-field were determined. These data show that noise levels from the tested MEN were insensitive to the wing boundary-layer. However, proper radial location of the flap tip vortex can provide about 0.5 EPNdB reduction for ideally expanded core mixer velocities (Vmixer) greater than 2000 ft/sec. Also, proper location and deflection of flaps can provide about 1 EPNdB reduction above 2200 ft/sec and about 1.5 EPNdB reduction below 2200 ft/sec. So, about 1.5 to 2 EPNdB benefit is achievable above 2000 ft/sec by selecting proper flaps settings and their placement. These noise benefits were a pleasant surprise! Although small, these benefits maybe the difference between obtaining or not obtaining noise certification. These effects may become even more pronounced when finely tuned MENs are used. Therefore, to capitalize on these benefits, airframe integration effects should be revisited with aerodynamically and acoustically improved MEN.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


Effects of high-angle-of-attack flight on aircraft inlet aerodynamic characteristics were investigated at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center as part of NASA’s High Alpha Technology Program. The highly instrumented F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle was used for this research. A newly designed inlet total-pressure rake was installed in front of the right-hand F404-GE-400 engine to measure inlet recovery and distortion characteristics. Objectives included: (1) determining the inlet total-pressure characteristics at steady high-angle-of-attack conditions; (2) assessing if inlet distortion is significantly different between rapid angle-of-attack maneuvers and corresponding steady aerodynamic conditions; (3) assessing inlet characteristics during aircraft departures; (4) providing data for developing and verifying computational fluid dynamic codes; and (5) calculating engine airflow using four methods for comparison with a reference method. This paper describes the results obtained from this investigation. These data and the associated database were rigorously validated to establish the foundation for understanding inlet characteristics at high angle of attack.

Keywords: Aircraft departures; Computational fluid dynamics; F/A-18A airplane; GE-404engine airflow; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion; Rapid angle-of-attack maneuvers

*General Electric Aircraft Engines, Evendale, Ohio.


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are presented to demonstrate the type of analysis and results produced from the flight test program.

Keywords: Air data; Avionics; Controls; Engine control; Engine stability; F-15 ACTIVE

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
**Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.
***Boeing Phantom Works, Saint Louis, Missouri.


A full envelope database of a thrust-vectoring axisymmetric nozzle performance for the Pratt & Whitney Pitch/Yaw Balance Beam Nozzle (P/YBBN) is being developed using the F-15 Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE) aircraft. At this time, flight research has been completed for steady-state pitch vector angles up to 20° at an altitude of 30,000 ft from low power settings to maximum afterburner power. The nozzle performance database includes vector forces, internal nozzle pressures, and temperatures all of which can be used for regression analysis modeling. The database was used to substantiate a set of nozzle performance data from wind tunnel testing and computational fluid dynamic analyses. Findings from initial flight research at Mach 0.9 and 1.2 are presented in this paper. The results show that vector efficiency is strongly influenced by power setting. A significant discrepancy in nozzle performance has been discovered between predicted and measured results during vectoring.

*Analytical Services & Materials, Edwards, California.
**United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.


Future aircraft turbine engines, both commercial and military, must be able to accommodate expected increased levels of steady-state and dynamic engine-face distortion. The current approach of incorporating sufficient design stall margin to tolerate these increased levels of distortion would significantly reduce performance. The objective of the High Stability Engine Control (HISTEC) program is to design, develop, and flight-demonstrate an advanced, integrated engine control system that uses measurement-based estimates of distortion to enhance engine stability. The resulting distortion tolerant control reduces the required design stall margin, with a corresponding increase in performance and decrease in fuel burn. The HISTEC concept has been developed and was successfully flight demonstrated on the F-15 ACTIVE aircraft during the summer of 1997. The flight demonstration was planned and carried out in two phases, the first to show distortion estimation, and the second to show distortion accommodation. Post-flight analysis shows that the HISTEC technologies are able to successfully estimate and accommodate distortion, transiently setting the stall margin requirement on-line and in real-time. This allows the design stall margin requirement to be reduced, which in turn can be traded for significantly increased performance and/ or decreased weight. Flight demonstration of the HISTEC technologies has significantly reduced the risk of transitioning the technology to tactical and commercial engines.

*NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
**Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.

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*Pratt and Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.
**NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


The Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) is presently being conducted to test a 20-percent-scale version of the Linear Aerospike rocket engine. This rocket engine has been chosen to power the X-33 Single Stage to Orbit Technology Demonstrator Vehicle. The rocket engine was integrated into a lifting body configuration and mounted to the upper surface of an SR-71 aircraft. This paper presents stability and control results and performance results from the envelope expansion flight tests of the LASRE configuration up to Mach 1.8 and compares the results with wind tunnel predictions. Longitudinal stability and elevator control effectiveness were well-predicted from wind tunnel tests. Zero-lift pitching moment was mispredicted transonically. Directional stability, dihedral stability, and rudder effectiveness were overpredicted. The SR-71 handling qualities were never significantly impacted as a result of the missed predictions. Performance results confirmed the large amount of wind-tunnel-predicted transonic drag for the LASRE configuration. This drag increase made the performance of the vehicle so poor that acceleration through transonic Mach numbers could not be achieved on a hot day without depleting the available fuel.

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.


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*Analytical Services and Materials, Inc. Edwards, California.
computation for each Mach number must be completed to determine the aeroelastic instability boundary. Results show that system identification can accurately model the unsteady aerodynamic forces for complex aerospace structures of practical interest. The methodology results in a substantial savings in computational time when predicting aeroelastic instabilities.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

2370. *Lin, Ching-Fang; *Ge, Jianhua; *Yu, Tiejun; and Gillyard, Glenn: Application of Neural Networks to Transport Performance Optimization. AIAA-98-4221. Presented at the AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference and Exhibit, Boston, Massachusetts, August 10–12, 1998. PDF AIAA

This paper developed a neural network based adaptive performance optimization (NNAPO) algorithm for roll axis control that will increase aircraft fuel efficiency by reducing the drag coefficient. A feedforward neural network is used in the adaptive performance optimizer. All the training, and the evaluation results are satisfactory. The results clearly demonstrate the potential advantages of the neural network based adaptive performance optimizer.

*American GNC Corporation, Chatsworth, California.


This paper presents a robust lateral/ directional high altitude flight control system. The simulation results demonstrate that the proposed flight control system provides robust performance for four distinct flight conditions.

*American GNC Corp., Chatsworth, California.


Future aircraft turbine engines, both commercial and military, must be able to accommodate expected increased levels of steady-state and dynamic engine-face distortion. The current approach of incorporating sufficient design stall margin to tolerate these increased levels of distortion would significantly reduce performance. The High Stability Engine Control (HISTEC) program has developed technologies for an advanced, integrated engine control system that uses measurement-based estimates of distortion to enhance engine stability. The resulting distortion tolerant control reduces the required design stall margin, with a corresponding increase in performance and/or decrease in fuel burn. The HISTEC concept was successfully flight demonstrated on the F-15 ACTIVE aircraft during the summer of 1997. The flight demonstration was planned and carried out in two parts, the first to show distortion estimation, and the second to show distortion accommodation. Post-flight analysis shows that the HISTEC technologies are able to successfully estimate and accommodate distortion, transiently setting the stall margin requirement on-line and in real-time. Flight demonstration of the HISTEC technologies has significantly reduced the risk of transitioning the technology to tactical and commercial engines.

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**Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida.


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Off-surface smoke flow visualization and extensive pressure measurements were obtained on the forebody of the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle equipped with actuated forebody strakes. Test points at alpha = 50 deg. were examined in which only one strake was deflected or in which both strakes were deflected differentially. The forebody pressures were integrated to obtain forebody yawing moments. Results showed that small single strake deflections can cause an undesirable yawing moment reversal. At alpha = 50 deg., this reversal was corrected by deploying both strakes at 20 deg. initially, then differentially from 20 deg. to create a yawing moment. The off-surface flow visualization showed that in the case of the small single strake deflection, the resulting forebody/strake vortex remained close to the surface and caused accelerated flow and increased suction pressures on the deflected side. When both strakes were deflected differentially, two forebody/strake vortices were present. The forebody/strake vortex from the larger deflection would lift from the surface while the other would remain close to the surface. The nearer forebody/strake vortex would cause greater flow acceleration, higher suction pressures and a yawing moment on that side of the forebody. Flow visualization provided a clear description of the strake vortices fluid mechanics.

Keywords: Aircraft; F-18; Flight; Flight test; Flow visualization; Forebody; Smoke; Strake

Wing compression shock shadowgraph was observed on two flights during banked turns of an L-1011 aircraft at a Mach number of 0.85 and an altitude of 35,000 ft (10,700 m). Photos and video recording of the shadowgraphs were taken during the flights to document the shadowgraphs. Bright sunlight on the aircraft was required. The time of day, aircraft position, speed and attitudes were recorded to determine the sun azimuth and elevation relative to the wing quarter chord-line when the shadowgraphs were visible. Sun elevation and azimuth angles were documented for which the wing compression shock shadowgraphs were visible. The shadowgraph was observed for high to low elevation angles relative to the wing, but for best results high sun angles relative to the wing are desired. The procedures and equations to determine the sun azimuth and elevation angle with respect to the quarter chord-line is included in the Appendix.

Keywords: Flight test; Flow visualization; GPS; L-1011 aircraft; Shadowgraph; Shock waves
are presented to show the efficiency and practical aspects of these procedures for on-line implementation. Feasibility of the method is shown for processing flight data from time-varying nonstationary test points.

Keywords: Aeroservoelasticity; Modal estimation; Robust stability; Uncertainty modeling

*National Research Council.

**The LASRE in flight**


The design of the next generation of space access vehicles has led to a unique flight test that blends the space and flight research worlds. The new space vehicle designs, such as the X-33 vehicle and Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), are powered by linear aerospike rocket engines. Conceived of in the 1960’s, these aerospike engines have yet to be flown, and many questions remain regarding aerospike engine performance and efficiency in flight. To provide some of these data before flying on the X-33 vehicle and the RLV, a spacecraft rocket engine has been flight-tested atop the NASA SR-71 aircraft as the Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE). A 20 percent-scale, semispan model of the X-33 vehicle, the aerospike engine, and all the required fuel and oxidizer tanks and propellant feed systems have been mounted atop the SR-71 airplane for this experiment. A major technical objective of the LASRE flight test is to obtain installed-engine performance flight data for comparison to wind-tunnel results and for the development of computational fluid dynamics-based design methodologies. The ultimate goal of firing the aerospike rocket engine in flight is still forthcoming. An extensive design and development phase of the experiment hardware has been completed, including approximately 40 ground tests. Five flights of the LASRE and firing the rocket engine using inert liquid nitrogen and helium in place of liquid oxygen and hydrogen have been successfully completed.

Keywords: Flight test; Flight tests using hydrogen fuel; Linear aerospike rocket engines; SR-71; X-33 space vehicle


An overview of an experimental demonstration of aerotowing a delta-wing airplane with low-aspect ratio and relatively high wing loading is presented. Aerotowing of future space launch configurations is a new concept, and the objective of the work described herein is to demonstrate the aerotow operation using an airplane configuration similar to conceptual space launch vehicles. Background information on the use of aerotow for a space launch vehicle is presented, and the aerotow system used in this demonstration is described. The ground tests, analytical studies, and flight planning used to predict system behavior and to enhance flight safety are detailed. The instrumentation suite and flight test maneuvers flown are discussed, preliminary performance is assessed, and flight test results are compared with the preflight predictions.

Keywords: ECLIPSE; Tethered aircraft; Towed aircraft; Towing aircraft; Towed system

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.

**Aerotow system in flight, OF-106 and C141A**

This calibration system must be well understood if the heat flux gages calibrated in it are to provide useful data during radiant heating ground tests or flight tests of high speed aerospace vehicles. A part of the calibration system characterization process is to develop a numerical model of the flat plate heater element and heat flux gage, which will help identify errors due to convection, heater element erosion, and other factors. A 2-dimensional mathematical model of the gage-plate system has been developed to simulate the combined problem involving convection, radiation and mass loss by chemical reaction. A fourth order finite difference scheme is used to solve the steady state governing equations and determine the temperature distribution in the gage and plate, incident heat flux on the gage face, and flat plate erosion. Initial gage heat flux predictions from the model are found to be within 17% of experimental results.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.

The evolution of systems health monitoring and signal processing is toward online automated techniques that improve performance, cost effectiveness, and safety associated with operating modern machines. The evolution of computing is toward distributed networks of dissimilar applications communicating through standard interfaces and tools. This papers gives an overview of a scaleable collaborative computing environment that routes real-time and non-real-time data via transaction control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP). A primary enabling technology is an object-oriented, Java™-based, software data server and data management tool. A network composed of one or more of these data servers provides storage, data stream parsing and merging, and compatibility among similar and dissimilar applications running anywhere on the network. Connectivity to mobile platforms is accomplished through a wireless spread spectrum approach. Applications to flight research and aviation safety are discussed.

*Creare, Inc., Hanover, New Hampshire
**Invocon, Inc., Conroe, Texas

Wavelet analysis for filtering and system identification is used to improve the estimation of aeroservoelastic (ASE) stability margins. Computation of robust stability margins for stability boundary prediction depends on uncertainty descriptions derived from the test data for model validation. Non ideal
test conditions, data acquisition errors, and signal processing algorithms cause uncertainty descriptions to be intrinsically conservative. The conservatism of the robust stability margins is reduced with parametric and nonparametric time-frequency analysis of flight data in the model validation process. Nonparametric wavelet processing of data is used to reduce the effects of external disturbances and unmodeled dynamics. Parametric estimates of modal stability are also extracted using the wavelet transform. F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle ASE flight test data are used to demonstrate improved robust stability prediction by extension of the stability boundary from within the flight envelope to conditions sufficiently beyond the actual flight regime. Stability within the flight envelope is confirmed by flight test. Practical aspects and guidelines for efficiency of these procedures are presented for on-line implementation.


Worst-case flutter margins may be computed for a linear model with respect to a set of uncertainty operators using the structured singular value. This paper considers an on-line implementation to compute these robust margins in a flight test program. Uncertainty descriptions are updated at test points to account for unmodeled time-varying dynamics of the airplane by ensuring the robust model is not invalidated by measured flight data. Robust margins computed with respect to this uncertainty remain conservative to the changing dynamics throughout the flight. A simulation clearly demonstrates this method can improve the efficiency of flight testing by accurately predicting the flutter margin to improve safety while reducing the necessary flight time.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight test; Flutter; Robust stability; Structural dynamics; Structural singular value

*National Research Council.


A transfer function estimation procedure that relies on the time-frequency analysis of input and output signals is described. This method was developed in an attempt to better identify the aeroelastic behavior of NASA Dryden’s F-18 systems research aircraft and to predict its flutter boundaries using in-flight experimental data. Numerical experiments on field data show that exploiting the time-frequency characteristics of the excitation inputs can bring enhanced accuracy and confidence when identifying multi-input/multi-output transfer functions. In particular, the proposed approach complements many well-established black-box identification procedures by providing an independent way to obtain transfer function estimates. A computational tool implementing this approach is now being evaluated for practical use at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

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1999 Technical Publications


This paper examines flight-measured subsonic lift and drag characteristics of seven lifting-body and wing-body reentry vehicle configurations with truncated bases. The seven vehicles are the full-scale M2-F1, M2-F2, HL-10, X-24A, X-24B, and X-15 vehicles and the Space Shuttle prototype. Lift and drag data of the various vehicles are assembled under aerodynamic performance parameters and presented in several analytical and graphical formats. These formats unify the data and allow a greater understanding than studying the vehicles individually allows. Lift-curve slope data are studied with respect to aspect ratio and related to generic wind-tunnel model data and to theory for low-aspect-ratio planforms. The proper definition of reference area was critical for understanding and comparing the lift data. The drag components studied include minimum drag coefficient, lift-related drag, maximum lift-to-drag ratio, and, where available, base pressure coefficients. The effects of fineness ratio on forebody drag were also considered. The influence of forebody drag on afterbody (base) drag at low lift is shown to be related to Hoerner’s compilation for body, airfoil, nacelle, and canopy drag. These analyses are intended to provide a useful analytical framework with which to compare and evaluate new vehicle configurations of the same generic family.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Lifting bodies; Reentry vehicles; Reusable launch vehicles

*Analytical Services & Materials, Edwards, California.
**The Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo, California.
The subsonic, lateral-directional, stability and control derivatives of the thrust-vectoring F-18 High Angle of Attack Research Vehicle (HARV) are extracted from flight data using a maximum likelihood parameter identification technique. State noise is accounted for in the identification formulation and is used to model the uncommanded forcing functions caused by unsteady aerodynamics. Preprogrammed maneuvers provided independent control surface inputs, eliminating problems of identifiability related to correlations between the aircraft controls and states. The HARV derivatives are plotted as functions of angles of attack between 10° and 70° deg and compared to flight estimates from the basic F-18 aircraft and to predictions from ground and wind tunnel tests. Unlike maneuvers of the basic F-18 aircraft, the HARV maneuvers were very precise and repeatable, resulting in tightly clustered estimates with small uncertainty levels. Significant differences were found between flight and prediction; however, some of these differences may be attributed to differences in the range of sideslip or input amplitude over which a given derivative was evaluated, and to differences between the HARV external configuration and that of the basic F-18 aircraft, upon which most of the prediction was based. Some HARV derivative fairings have been adjusted using basic F-18 derivatives (with low uncertainties) to help account for differences in variable ranges and the lack of HARV maneuvers at certain angles of attack.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; F-18 aircraft; HARV; High angle of attack; Maximum likelihood estimation; Parameter estimation; Parameter identification; Stability and control derivatives; Thrust vectoring; Wind-tunnel predictions

*The Aerospace Corporation, Los Angeles, California.

A NASA Dryden Flight Research Center program explores the practical application of real-time adaptive configuration optimization for enhanced transport performance on an L-1011 aircraft. This approach is based on calculation of incremental drag from forced-response, symmetric, outboard aileron maneuvers. In real-time operation, the symmetric outboard aileron deflection is directly optimized, and the horizontal stabilator and angle of attack are indirectly optimized. A flight experiment has been conducted from an onboard research engineering test station, and flight research results are presented herein. The optimization system has demonstrated the capability of determining the minimum drag configuration of the aircraft in real time. The drag-minimization algorithm is capable of identifying drag to approximately a one-drag-count level. Optimizing the symmetric outboard aileron position realizes a drag reduction of 2-3 drag counts (approximately 1 percent). Algorithm analysis of maneuvers indicates that two-sided raised-cosine maneuvers improve definition of the symmetric outboard aileron drag effect, thereby improving analysis results and consistency. Ramp maneuvers provide a more even distribution of data collection as a function of excitation deflection than raised-cosine maneuvers provide. A commercial operational system would require airdata calculations and normal output of current inertial navigation systems; engine pressure ratio measurements would be optional.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Ailerons; Aircraft performance; Cambered wings; Commercial aircraft; Drag reduction; Flight optimization; Fuel consumption; Optimization; Transport aircraft; Flaps (control surfaces); Variable geometry; Wing camber


The F-18 High Angle of Attack Research Vehicle (HARV)


A NASA Dryden Flight Research Center program explores the practical application of real-time adaptive configuration optimization for enhanced transport performance on an L-1011 aircraft. This approach is based on calculation of incremental drag from forced-response, symmetric, outboard aileron maneuvers. In real-time operation, the symmetric outboard aileron deflection is directly optimized, and the horizontal stabilator and angle of attack are indirectly optimized. A flight experiment has been conducted from an onboard research engineering test station, and flight research results are presented herein. The optimization system has demonstrated
the capability of determining the minimum drag configuration of the aircraft in real time. The drag-minimization algorithm is capable of identifying drag to approximately a one-drag-count level. Optimizing the symmetric outboard aileron position realizes a drag reduction of 2-3 drag counts (approximately 1 percent). Algorithm analysis of maneuvers indicate that two-sided raised-cosine maneuvers improve definition of the symmetric outboard aileron drag effect, thereby improving analysis results and consistency. Ramp maneuvers provide a more even distribution of data collection as a function of excitation deflection than raised-cosine maneuvers provide. A commercial operational system would require airdata calculations and normal output of current inertial navigation systems; engine pressure ratio measurements would be optional.


A new technique for reducing the drag of existing aircraft configurations was investigated. Heating the surface under a turbulent boundary layer reduces the turbulent skin friction. An experimental program was conducted to determine the feasibility of applying this technology to military and commercial aircraft. Three different experimental investigations were conducted to measure the extent of the drag reduction. The first experiment was a low speed wind tunnel test. Very significant drag reduction was measured while only heating the forward portion of the wind tunnel model. In order to determine the effects of higher Mach and Reynolds number, a flight test program was conducted using the NASA Dryden F-15B Flight Test Fixture. The experiment measured the skin friction over a flat plate using a drag reduction configuration. The third experiment confirmed the overall drag reduction on a business jet aircraft. This work has shown that significant drag savings can be achieved using boundary layer heating.

*Eidetics Corporation, Torrance, California.
**University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio.


A parallel, finite-volume algorithm has been developed for large-eddy simulation (LES) of compressible turbulent flows. This algorithm includes piecewise linear least-square reconstruction, trilinear finite-element interpolation, Roe flux-difference splitting, and second-order MacCormack time marching. Parallel implementation is done using the message-passing programming model. In this paper, the numerical algorithm is described. To validate the numerical method for turbulence simulation, LES of fully developed turbulent flow in a square duct is performed for a Reynolds number of 320 based on the average friction velocity and the hydraulic diameter of the duct. Direct numerical simulation (DNS) results are available for this test case, and the accuracy of this algorithm for turbulence simulations can be ascertained by comparing the LES solutions with the DNS results. The effects of grid resolution, upwind numerical dissipation, and subgrid-scale dissipation on the accuracy of the LES are examined. Comparison with DNS results shows that the standard Roe flux-difference splitting dissipation adversely affects the accuracy of the turbulence simulation. For accurate turbulence simulations, only 3-5 percent of the standard Roe flux-difference splitting dissipation is needed.

Keywords: Finite-volume; Large-eddy simulation; Parallel computers; Turbulence; Upwind methods


A parallel, finite-volume algorithm has been developed for large-eddy simulation (LES) of compressible turbulent flows. This algorithm includes piecewise linear least-square reconstruction, trilinear finite-element interpolation, Roe flux-difference splitting, and second-order MacCormack time marching. Parallel implementation is done using the message-passing programming model. In this paper, the numerical algorithm is described. To validate the numerical method for turbulence simulation, LES of fully developed turbulent flow in a square duct is performed for a Reynolds number of 320 based on the average friction velocity and the hydraulic diameter of the duct. Direct numerical simulation (DNS) results are available for this test case, and the accuracy of this algorithm for turbulence simulations can be ascertained by comparing the LES solutions with the DNS results. The effects of grid resolution, upwind numerical dissipation, and subgrid-scale dissipation on the accuracy of the LES are examined. Comparison with DNS results shows that the standard Roe flux-difference splitting dissipation adversely affects the accuracy of the turbulence simulation. For accurate turbulence simulations, only 3-5 percent of the standard Roe flux-difference splitting dissipation is needed.

Light-wing-loaded aircraft such as the high altitude solar electric powered aircraft Pathfinder (designed by AeroVironment, Inc., Simi Valley, CA.) are extremely sensitive to the wind speeds, wind shears, and turbulence and thereby are easily affected by mountain gravity wave activity. After reaching an altitude over 67,400 ft on June 9, 1997, the Pathfinder aircraft encountered a mountain wave during descent produced by the 5,000+ feet mountain of Hawaii’s northernmost island of Kauai. This paper will discuss the atmospheric conditions and aircraft configuration for this case of mountain wave observed at the U. S. Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. This paper also describes the pathfinder airplane, climatology, and atmospheric conditions leading to the wave formation.

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.  
**New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

![The Pathfinder Solar-powered Aircraft](EC97-44287-2)


System identification is used to develop an accurate and computationally efficient discrete-time aerodynamic model of a three-dimensional, unsteady CFD solution. This aerodynamic model is then used in place of the unsteady CFD solution in a coupled aeroelastic analysis resulting in a substantial savings in computational time. The methodology has the advantage of producing an explicit mathematical relationship for the aerodynamic forces acting on a structure while still retaining the accuracy of the complete unsteady CFD solution. The explicit aerodynamic model can then be coupled with the known structural model and recast in state-space form. Using the combined state-space form, stability and control analysis for the aeroelastic system can be completed based on an eigenvalue solution for the state matrices. Results address the extent to which this methodology is applicable to aerospace applications.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.


This study demonstrates the use of an Euler-based, unsteady CFD flow solver to model the aeroservoelastic behavior of the Benchmark Active Controls Technology (BACT) wing. For the steady case, results illustrate that a control surface deflection as large as 5" may be modeled without loss of accuracy due to viscous effects. Secondly, the unsteady characteristics of a benchmark wing are addressed showing that flutter prediction agrees well with experimental data over a wide Mach number range. Finally, as a combination of the latter, the development and implementation of a control law into the CFD-based aeroservoelastic model for the purpose of flutter suppression is addressed.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.


Drag reduction tests were conducted on the LASRE X-33 flight experiment. The LASRE experiment is a flight test of a roughly 20-percent scale model of an X-33 forebody with a single aerospike engine at the rear. The experiment apparatus is mounted on top of an SR-71 aircraft. This paper suggests a method for reducing base drag by adding surface roughness along the forebody. Calculations show a potential for base drag reductions of 8 to 14 percent. Flight results corroborate the base drag reduction, with actual reductions of 15 percent in the high-subsonic flight regime. An unexpected result of this experiment is that drag benefits were shown to persist well into the supersonic flight regime. Flight results show no overall net drag reduction. Applied surface roughness causes forebody pressures to rise and offset base drag reductions. Apparently the grit displaced streamlines outward, causing forebody compression. Results of the LASRE drag experiments are inconclusive and more work is needed. Clearly, however, the forebody grit application works as a viable drag reduction tool.

The F404-GE-400 engine powered F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) was used to examine the quality of inlet airflow during departed flight maneuvers, that is, during flight outside the normal maneuvering envelope where control surfaces have little or no effectiveness. A series of six nose-left and six nose-right departures were initiated at Mach numbers between 0.3 and 0.4 at an altitude of 35 kft. The yaw rates at departure recovery were in the range of 40 to 90 degrees per second. Engine surges were encountered during three of the nose-left and one of the nose-right departures. Time-variant inlet-total-pressure distortion levels at the engine face were determined to not significantly exceed those measured at maximum angle-of-attack and - sideslip maneuvers during controlled flight. Surges as a result of inlet distortion levels were anticipated to initiate in the fan. Analysis revealed that the surges initiated in the compressor and were the result of a combination of high levels of inlet distortion and rapid changes in aircraft motion. These rapid changes in aircraft motion are indicative of a combination of engine mount and gyroscopic loads being applied to the engine structure that impact the aerodynamic stability of the compressor through changes in the rotor-to-case clearances.

Keywords: Aircraft departures; F-18 aircraft; F/A-18A; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion; Inlet-engine compatibility

*General Electric Aircraft Engines, Evendale, Ohio.


Nursing is a service profession. The services provided are essential to life and welfare. Therefore, setting the benchmark for high quality care is fundamental. Exploring the definition of a benchmark value will help to determine a best practice approach. A benchmark is the descriptive statement of a desired level of performance against which quality can be judged. It must be sufficiently well understood by managers and personnel in order that it may serve as a standard against which to measure value.


Drag reduction tests were conducted on the LASRE/X-33 flight experiment. The LASRE experiment is a flight test of a roughly 20% scale model of an X-33 forebody with a single aerospike engine at the rear. The experiment apparatus is mounted on top of an SR-71 aircraft. This paper suggests a method for reducing base drag by adding surface roughness along the forebody. Calculations show a potential for base drag reductions of 8-14%. Flight results corroborate the base drag reduction, with actual reductions of 15% in the high-subsonic flight regime. An unexpected result of this experiment is that drag benefits were shown to persist well into the supersonic flight regime. Flight results show no overall net drag reduction. Applied surface roughness causes forebody pressures to rise and offset base drag reductions. Apparently the grit displaced streamlines outward, causing forebody compression. Results of the LASRE drag experiments are inconclusive and more work is needed. Clearly, however, the forebody grit application works as a viable drag reduction tool.

Keywords: Aerospike engine; Base drag; Skin friction


Hot film sensors, consisting of a metallic film on an electrically non-conducting substrate, have been used to measure skin friction as far back as 1931. A film is maintained at an elevated temperature relative to the local flow by passing an electrical current through it. The power required to maintain the specified temperature depends on the heat transferred to the flow, which correlates to the velocity gradient and therefore skin friction. This method is most thoroughly developed for steady-state conditions, but additional issues arise under transient conditions.

*University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California


Structural dynamics can introduce low frequency modes that must be considered for modeling and control of flexible aircraft. This paper considers structural dynamics using a linear parameter-varying framework. This frame- work uses state-space matrices that are affine functions of an uncertain and time-varying parameter to describe a range of plant dynamics. Controllers can be constructed for the models.
that are inherently gain scheduled over all trajectories of the parameter. This paper particularly considers the linear parameter-varying framework to account for the aerothermoelastic effects on the structural dynamics of a hypersonic vehicle. A controller that is gain scheduled over temperature is synthesized to actively damp the modal dynamics that vary across a flight profile for an example hypersonic vehicle.


Real-time analysis of modal dynamics can help ensure safety while reducing costs during flight flutter testing. One method of analysis is correlation filtering based on a set of continuous Laplace wavelets. This method is able to accurately identify parameters of dominant modal dynamics but the computational cost can be excessive. This paper presents an alternative method for correlation filtering that introduces the discrete wavelet transform. Using this transform allows a considerable reduction in data quantity and consequently reduce the computational cost of filtering. A test signal is used to demonstrate that this alternative method is able to accurately identify the modal dynamics while using fewer computations than the initial method of filtering.

*Toledo University, Toledo, Ohio.


Titles, authors, report numbers, and abstracts are given for more than 2200 unclassified and unrestricted technical reports and papers published from September 1946 to December 1996 by NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and its predecessor organizations. These technical reports and papers describe and give the results of 50 years of flight research performed by the NACA and NASA, from the X-1 and other early X-airplanes, to the X-15, Space Shuttle, X-29 Forward Swept Wing, and X-31 aircraft. Some of the other research airplanes tested were the D-558, phase 1 and 2; M-2, HL-10 and X-24 lifting bodies; Digital Fly-By-Wire and Supercritical Wing F-8; XB-70; YF-12; AFTI F-111 TACT and MAW; F-15 HiDEC; F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle, and F-18 Systems Research Aircraft. The citations of reports and papers are listed in chronological order, with author and aircraft indices. In addition, in the appendices, citations of 233 contractor reports, more than 200 UCLA Flight System Research Center reports and 25 video tapes are included.


Wavelets present a method for signal processing that may be useful for analyzing responses of dynamical systems. This paper describes several wavelet-based tools that have been developed to improve the efficiency of flight flutter testing. One of the tools uses correlation filtering to identify properties of several modes throughout a flight test for envelope expansion. Another tool uses features in time-frequency representations of responses to characterize nonlinearities in the system dynamics. A third tool uses modulus and phase information from a wavelet transform to estimate modal parameters that can be used to update a linear model and reduce conservatism in robust stability margins.

*National Research Council.

Figure of Curved Sandwich Panels Subjected to Heating and Cryogenic Cooling on Opposite Faces


Increasing use of curved sandwich panels as aerospace structure components makes it vital to fully understand their thermostructural behavior and identify key factors affecting the open-mode debonding failure. Open-mode debonding analysis is performed on a family of curved honeycomb-core sandwich panels with different radii of curvature. The curved sandwich panels are either simply supported or clamped, and are subjected to uniform heating on the convex side and uniform cryogenic cooling on the concave side. The finite-element method was used to study the effects of panel curvature and boundary condition on the open-mode stress (radial tensile stress) and displacement fields in the curved sandwich panels. The critical stress point, where potential debonding failure could initiate, was found to be at the midspan (or outer span) of the inner bonding interface between the sandwich core and...
face sheet on the concave side, depending on the boundary condition and panel curvature. Open-mode stress increases with increasing panel curvature, reaching a maximum value at certain high curvature, and then decreases slightly as the panel curvature continues to increase and approach that of the quarter circle. Changing the boundary condition from simply supported to clamped reduces the magnitudes of open-mode stresses and the associated sandwich core depth stretching.

Keywords: Curved sandwich panels; Debonding stresses; Open-mode debonding; Thermo-cryogenic loading

DTRS

Between 1973 and 1982, the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center conducted “coast-down” tests demonstrating means for reducing the drag of trucks, buses, and motor homes. Numerous configurations were evaluated using a box-shaped test van, a two-axle truck, and a tractor-semi trailer combination. Results from three configurations of the test van are of interest now in view of a trucking industry goal of a 0.25 drag coefficient for tractor-semi trailer combinations. Two test van configurations with blunt-base geometry, similar to present day trucks (one configuration has square front corners and the other has rounded front corners), quantify the base drag increase associated with reduced forebody drag. Hoemer’s equations predict this trend; however, test van results, reinforced by large-scale air vehicle data, indicate that Hoemer’s formula greatly overestimates this dependence of base drag on forebody efficiency. The demonstrated increase in base drag associated with forebody refinement indicates that the goal of a 0.25 drag coefficient will not be achieved without also reducing afterbody drag. A third configuration of the test van had a truncated boattail to reduce afterbody drag and achieved a drag coefficient of 0.242. These results are included here and references are identified for other means of reducing afterbody drag.

*Analytical Services & Materials, Edwards, California.

DTRS

With the advent of digital engine control systems, considering the use of engine thrust for emergency flight control has become feasible. Many incidents have occurred in which engine thrust supplemented or replaced normal aircraft flight controls. In most of these cases, a crash has resulted, and more than 1100 lives have been lost. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system in which computer-controlled engine thrust provides emergency flight control capability. Using this PCA system, an F-15 and an MD-11 airplane have been landed without using any flight controls. In simulations, C-17, B-757, and B-747 PCA systems have also been evaluated successfully. These tests used full-authority digital electronic control systems on the engines. Developing simpler PCA systems that can operate without full-authority engine control, thus allowing PCA technology to be installed on less capable airplanes or at lower cost, is also a desire. Studies have examined simplified “PCA Ultralite” concepts in which thrust control is provided using an autothrottle system supplemented by manual differential throttle control. Some of these concepts have worked well. The PCA Ultralite study results are presented for simulation tests of MD-11, B-757, C-17, and B-747 aircraft.

Keywords: B-747; B-757; C-17; Emergency flight control; MD-11; Propulsive control

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CASI

Contributions to the evolution of solid-propellant rocketry have come from a variety of sources. World War II research on large solids enabled one company to capitalize on work in the area of castable double-base propellants. Separate development of castable composite propellants led to production of Polaris and Minuteman powerplants. Pivotal to the development of these missiles were Edward Hall’s advocacy of the Minuteman missile within the Air Force and contract funding to resolve problems. The discovery that adding large amounts of aluminum significantly increased the specific impulse of a castable composite propellant further aided large-missile technology. These separate lines of research led to the development of large solid-propellant motors and boosters. Many more discoveries went into the development of large solid-propellant motors. Ammonium perchlorate replaced potassium perchlorate as an oxidizer in the late 1940’s, and binders were developed. Discoveries important in the evolution of large solid-propellant motors appear to have resulted from innovators’ education and skills, an exposure to contemporary problems, an awareness of theory but a willingness not to let it dictate empirical investigations, and proper empirical techniques. Other important contributions are the adequate funding and exchange of information. However, many questions remain about these and other innovations.
Keywords: Solid propellants; Solid rocket booster; Space launch vehicles; Space shuttle


A sailplane is currently being developed at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center to support a high altitude flight experiment. The purpose of the experiment is to measure the performance characteristics of an airfoil at altitudes between 100,000 and 70,000 feet at Mach numbers between 0.65 and 0.5. The airfoil lift and drag are measured from pilot and static pressures. The location of the separation bubble and vortex shedding are measured from a hot film strip. The details of the flight experiment are presented. A comparison of several estimates of the airfoil performance is also presented. The airfoil, APEX-16, was designed by Drela (MIT) with his MSES code. A two dimensional Navier-Stokes analysis has been performed by Tatineni and Zhong (UCLA) and another at the Dryden Flight Research Center. The role these analysis served to define the experiment is discussed.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Wavelets present a method for signal processing that may be useful for analyzing responses of dynamical systems. This paper describes several wavelet-based tools that have been developed to improve the efficiency of flight flutter testing. One of the tools uses correlation filtering to identify properties of several modes throughout a flight test for envelope expansion. Another tool uses features in time-frequency representations of responses to characterize nonlinearities in the system dynamics. A third tool uses modulus and phase information from a wavelet transform to estimate modal parameters that can be used to update a linear model and reduce conservatism in robust stability margins.

*National Research Council.


The F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing research aircraft will demonstrate technologies related to aeroservoelastic effects such as wing twist and load minimization. This program presents several challenges for control design that are often not considered for traditional aircraft. This paper presents a control design based on H-infinity synthesis that simultaneously considers the multiple objectives associated with handling qualities, actuator limitations, and loads. A point design is presented to demonstrate a controller and the resulting closed-loop properties.

*National Research Council.


A sailplane being developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center will support a high-altitude flight experiment. The experiment will measure the performance parameters of an airfoil at high altitudes (70,000 to 100,000 ft), low Reynolds numbers (200,000 to 700,000), and high subsonic Mach numbers (0.5 and 0.65). The airfoil section lift and drag are determined from pitot and static pressure measurements. The locations of the separation bubble, Tollmien-Schlichting boundary layer instability frequencies, and vortex shedding are measured from a hot-film strip. The details of the planned flight experiment are presented. Several predictions of the airfoil performance are also presented. Mark Drela from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology designed the APEX-16 airfoil, using the MSES code. Two-dimensional Navier-Stokes analyses were performed by Mahidhar Tatineni and Xiaolin Zhong from the University of California, Los Angeles, and by the authors at NASA Dryden.

Keywords: Airfoils; High altitude; Low Reynolds numbers; Sailplane; Transition

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**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight
The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a Propulsion Controlled Aircraft, or PCA, system in which computer-controlled engine thrust is used to provide emergency flight control capability. Using this system, F-15 and MD-11 aircraft have been successfully landed without the use of primary flight controls. However, aircraft, not equipped with full-authority digital engine control, require implementations of PCA technology that can be installed on existing systems. Piloted transport aircraft simulation studies at the NASA Ames Research Center have examined a “PCA Ultralite” concept, in which thrust control is provided through a combination of the autothrottle system and manual pilot control with the aid of flight director guidance. Existing autothrottle systems were found to provide adequate thrust-only pitch control for achieving a safe runway landing. However the level of difficulty of manual lateral-directional control was found to vary between aircraft. While certain flight director implementations were found to provide adequate guidance for some aircraft in regards to achieving successful runway alignment, alternate flight director implementations still need to be investigated to determine if satisfactory performance can be achieved on all PCA capable aircraft.

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight; Flight controls; Flight systems; Flight test; Instrumentation

Two methods for control system reconfiguration have been investigated. The first method is a robust servomechanism control approach (optimal tracking problem) that is a generalization of the classical proportional-plus-integral control to multiple input-multiple output systems. The second method is a control-allocation approach based on a quadratic programming formulation. A globally convergent fixed-point iteration algorithm has been developed to make onboard implementation of this method feasible. These methods have been applied to reconfigurable entry flight control design for the X-33 vehicle. Examples presented demonstrate simultaneous tracking of angle-of-attack and roll angle commands during failures of the right body flap actuator. Although simulations demonstrate success of the first method in most cases, the control-allocation method appears to provide uniformly better performance in all cases.

Keywords: Failure control system design; Reconfigurable flight controls; Robust

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has completed the initial flight test of a modified set of F/A-18 flight control computers that gives the aircraft a research control law capability. The production support flight control computers (PSFCC) provide an increased capability for flight research control law operation in flight. To validate flight operation, a replication of a standard F/A-18 control law was programmed into the research processor and flight-tested over a limited envelope. This paper provides a brief description of the system, summarizes the initial flight test of the PSFCC, and describes future experiments for the PSFCC.

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a Propulsion Controlled Aircraft, or PCA, system in which computer-controlled engine thrust is used to provide emergency flight control capability. Using this system, F-15 and MD-11 aircraft have been successfully landed without the use of primary flight controls. However, aircraft, not equipped with full-authority digital engine control, require implementations of PCA technology that can be installed on existing systems. Piloted transport aircraft simulation studies at the NASA Ames Research Center have examined a “PCA Ultralite” concept, in which thrust control is provided through a combination of the autothrottle system and manual pilot control with the aid of flight director guidance. Existing autothrottle systems were found to provide adequate thrust-only pitch control for achieving a safe runway landing. However the level of difficulty of manual lateral-directional control was found to vary between aircraft. While certain flight director implementations were found to provide adequate guidance for some aircraft in regards to achieving successful runway alignment, alternate flight director implementations still need to be investigated to determine if satisfactory performance can be achieved on all PCA capable aircraft.

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demonstrate simultaneous tracking of angle-of-attack and roll angle commands during failures of the right body flap actuator. Although simulations demonstrate success of the first method in most cases, the control-allocation method appears to provide uniformly better performance in all cases.

* Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has completed the initial flight test of a modified set of F/A-18 flight control computers that gives the aircraft a research control law capability. The production support flight control computers (PSFCC) provide an increased capability for flight research in the control law, handling qualities, and flight systems areas. The PSFCC feature a research flight control processor that is “piggybacked” onto the baseline F/A-18 flight control system. This research processor allows for pilot selection of research control law operation in flight. To validate flight operation, a replication of a standard F/A-18 control law was programmed into the research processor and flight-tested over a limited envelope. This paper provides a brief description of the system, summarizes the initial flight test of the PSFCC, and describes future experiments for the PSFCC.


Preliminary results on the application of modern robust control law design methods to the stability and command augmentation of the F/A-18 systems research aircraft are described. Focusing on a low dynamic pressure sub-envelope, spanned by five trim points, some first steps are taken toward robust lateral-directional control law design. We state the flight control objectives and develop the uncertainty and performance models and weights required for robust control design. A single robust linear controller is designed by synthesis to cover the whole sub-envelope. On the basis of handling qualities and simulated response characteristics, the robust controller has good performance at all five trim points.

* University of California, Irvine, California.


The goal of the Hyper-X program is to demonstrate and validate technology for design and performance predictions of hypersonic aircraft with an airframe-integrated supersonic-combustion ramjet propulsion system. Accomplishing this goal requires flight demonstration of a hydrogen-fueled scramjet powered hypersonic aircraft. A key enabling technology for this flight demonstration is flight controls. Closed-loop flight control is required to enable a successful stage separation, to achieve and maintain the design condition during the engine test, and to provide a controlled descent. Before the contract award, NASA developed preliminary flight control laws for the Hyper-X to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed scramjet test sequence and descent trajectory. After the contract award, a Boeing/NASA partnership worked to develop the current control laws. This paper presents a description of the Hyper-X Research Vehicle control law architectures with performance and robustness analyses. Assessments of simulated, flight trajectories and stability margin analyses demonstrate that these control laws meet the flight test requirements.

* NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. **The Boeing Co., Long Beach, California. ***Analytical Methods and Associates, Austin, Texas.


The research described in this paper is related to a Parameter Identification (PID) study on the longitudinal and lateral/ directional dynamics of the NASA SR-71 aircraft. The NASA SR-71 is a high altitude (85,000 ft), supersonic (Mach >3) research aircraft and it is currently being flown at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, CA. The objective of this study is the determination of the longitudinal and lateral-directional aerodynamic stability and control derivatives from flight data using the Maximum Likelihood method coupled with a Newton-Raphson minimization technique. Results were obtained for the NASA SR-71 over a flight regime of [2°–6°] angle of attack and a [0.5 - 3] Mach number range.

* West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

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*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**Analytical Methods and Associates, Austin, Texas.


An overview is presented of atmospheric modeling relative to aeronautical and aerospace vehicles design, flight simulation, and mission operation applications. Included is a review of the various environmental phenomena and areas of design and mission assessment concern. In particular, the paper discusses the sources of measurements, modeling issues, design application philosophies and examples of models developed for use by the engineering community. This review is based on many years of experience associated with atmospheric model developments and applications to various aeronautical and aerospace programs.

*University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama.
**NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama.


System controllers must be fail-safe, low cost, flexible to software changes, able to output health and status words, and permit rapid retest qualification. The system controller designed and tested for the aerospike engine program was an attempt to meet these requirements. This paper describes (1) the aerospike controller design, (2) the automated simulation testing techniques, and (3) the real time monitoring data visualization structure. Controller cost was minimized by design of a single-string system that used an off-the-shelf 486 central processing unit (CPU). A linked-list architecture, with states (nodes) defined in a user-friendly state table, accomplished software changes to the controller. Proven to be fail-safe, this system reported the abort cause and automatically reverted to a safe condition for any first failure. A real time simulation and test system automated the software checkout and retest requirements. A program requirement to decode all abort causes in real time during all ground and flight tests assured the safety of flight decisions and the proper execution of mission rules. The design also included health and status words, and provided a real time analysis interpretation for all health and status data.

Keywords: Aerospike engine; Automated software testing; Controller architecture; LASRE


Flight tests recently completed at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center evaluated performance of a hydromechanically vectored axisymmetric nozzle onboard the F-15 ACTIVE. A flight-test technique whereby strain gages installed onto engine mounts provided for the direct
measurement of thrust and vector forces has proven to be extremely valuable. Flow turning and thrust efficiency, as well as nozzle static pressure distributions were measured and analyzed. This report presents results from testing at an altitude of 30,000 ft and a speed of Mach 0.9. Flow turning and thrust efficiency were found to be significantly different than predicted, and moreover, varied substantially with power setting and pitch vector angle. Results of an in-flight comparison of the direct thrust measurement technique and an engine simulation fell within the expected uncertainty bands. Overall nozzle performance at this flight condition demonstrated the F100-PW-229 thrust-vectoring nozzles to be highly capable and efficient.


This paper describes the design and calibration of a four-channel, airborne, swept-tuned spectrum analyzer used in two hypersonic flight experiments for characterizing dynamic data up to 25 kHz. Built mainly from commercially available analog function modules, the analyzer proved useful for an application with limited telemetry bandwidth, physical weight and volume, and electrical power. The authors discuss considerations that affect the frequency and amplitude calibrations, limitations of the design, and example flight data.

Keywords: Spectrum analysis; Signal processing; Multiple input calibration; Multivariable calibration; Analog circuits


The L-1011 airplane.


The F404-GE-400 engine powered F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) was used to examine the characteristics of inlet airflow during rapid aircraft maneuvers. A study of the degree of similarity between inlet data obtained during rapid aircraft maneuvers and inlet data obtained at steady aerodynamic attitudes was conducted at the maximum engine airflow of approximately 145 lbm/sec using a computer model that was generated from inlet data obtained during steady aerodynamic maneuvers. Results show that rapid-maneuver inlet recoveries agreed very well with the recoveries obtained at equivalent stabilized angle-of-attack conditions. The peak dynamic circumferential distortion values obtained during rapid maneuvers agreed within 0.01 units of distortion over the 10 - 38 degree angle of attack range with the values obtained during steady aerodynamic maneuvers while similar agreement was found for the peak dynamic radial distortion values up to 29 degrees angle-of-attack. Exceedences of the rapid-maneuver peak dynamic circumferential distortion values relative to the peak distortion model values at steady attitudes occurred only at low or negative angles of attack and were inconsequential from an engine-stability assessment point of view. The results of this study validate the current industry practice of testing at steady aerodynamic conditions to characterize inlet recovery and peak dynamic distortion levels.

Keywords: Aircraft rapid maneuvers; F-18 aircraft; F/A-18A; High angle of attack; Inlet distortion; Inlet-engine compatibility

*GE Aircraft Engines, Cincinnati, Ohio.


Analytical benefits of variable-camber capability on subsonic transport aircraft are explored. Using aerodynamic performance models, including drag as a function of deflection angle for control surfaces of interest, optimal performance benefits of variable camber are calculated. Results demonstrate that if all wing trailing-edge surfaces are available for optimization, drag can be significantly reduced at most points within the flight envelope. The optimization approach developed and illustrated for flight uses variable camber for optimization of aerodynamic efficiency (maximizing the lift-to-drag ratio). Most transport aircraft have significant latent capability in this area. Wing camber control that can affect performance optimization for transport aircraft includes symmetric use of ailerons and flaps. In this paper, drag characteristics for aileron and flap deflections...
are computed based on analytical and wind-tunnel data. All
calculations based on predictions for the subject aircraft
and the optimal surface deflection are obtained by simple
interpolation for given conditions. An algorithm is also
presented for computation of optimal surface deflection for
given conditions. Benefits of variable camber for a transport
configuration using a simple trailing-edge control surface
system can approach more than 10 percent, especially for
nonstandard flight conditions. In the cruise regime, the benefit
is 1–3 percent.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Aircraft performance; Cambered
wings; Commercial aircraft

*National Research Council.

2433. Orme, John S.; and Sims, Robert L.: Selected
Performance Measurements of the F-15 Active
Axisymmetric Thrust-Vectoring Nozzle. Presented at the
14th International Symposium on Airbreathing Engines
(ISABE), Florence, Italy, September 5–10, 1999, November
8, 1999. CASI ID: 19990097979. PDF CASI

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gages installed onto engine mounts provided for the direct
measurement of thrust and vector forces has proven to be
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well as nozzle static pressure distributions were measured
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an engine simulation fell within the expected uncertainty
bands. Overall nozzle performance at this flight condition
demonstrated the F100-PW-229 thrust-vectoring nozzles to
be highly capable and efficient.

Keywords: Axisymmetric nozzle; Direct thrust measurement;
F-15 ACTIVE; Flight tests; Nozzle aerodynamic loads;
Nozzle drag; Nozzle flow field; Nozzle performance; Thrust
efficiency; Thrust measurement; Thrust vectoring

2434. *Bodwe, David A.; **Hannon, Stephen M.; and
Bogue, Rodney K.: Comparison of Predicted and
Measured 2 Micron Aerosol Backscatter from the 1998
at the Tenth Biennial Coherent Laser Radar Technology and
Applications Conference, November 1999, pg. 151, CASI
ID: 2000012987, (see 2000001295). Individual paper PDF
not available.

The 1998 Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced Inflight
Measurements (ACLAIM) flight tests were conducted aboard
a well-instrumented research aircraft. This paper presents
comparisons of 2 micrometer aerosol backscatter coefficient
predictions from aerosol sampling data and mie scattering
codes with those produced by the ACLAIM instrument.

*University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama.
**Coherent Technologies, Inc., Lafayette, Colorado.

2435. *Hannon, Stephen M.; *Bagley, Hal R.; **Soreide,
Dave C.; ***Bodwe, David A.; Bogue, Rodney K.; and
Ehernberger, L. Jack: Airborne Turbulence Detection
and Warning ACLAIM Flight Test Results. NASA/
CP-1999-209758. Presented at the Tenth Biennial Coherent
20000012951). PDF CASI

The Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced Inflight
Measurements (ACLAIM) is a NASA/Dryden-lead program
to develop and demonstrate a 2 micrometers pulsed Doppler
lidar for airborne look-ahead turbulence detection and
warning. Advanced warning of approaching turbulence can
significantly reduce injuries to passengers and crew aboard
commercial airliners. The ACLAIM instrument is a key asset
to the ongoing Turbulence component of NASA's Aviation
Safety Program, aimed at reducing the accident rate aboard
commercial airliners by a factor of five over the next ten
years and by a factor of ten over the next twenty years. As
well, the advanced turbulence warning capability can prevent
“unstarts” in the inlet of supersonic aircraft engines by alerting
the flight control computer which then adjusts the engine to
operate in a less fuel efficient, and more turbulence tolerant,
mode. Initial flight tests of the ACLAIM were completed in
March and April of 1998. This paper and presentation gives
results from these initial flights, with validated demonstration
of Doppler lidar wind turbulence detection several kilometers
ahead of the aircraft.

**Boeing Defense and Space Group, Seattle, Washington.
***University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama.

2436. Cobleigh, Brent R.; Whitmore, Stephen A.; Haering,
Edward A., Jr.; *Borrrer, Jerry; and **Roback, V. Eric: Flush
Airdata Sensing (FADS) System Calibration Procedures
and Results for Blunt Forebodies. NASA/TP-1999-209012,
H-2379. NAS 1.60:209012, also presented at the 9th Space
Planes and Hypersonic Systems and Technologies Conference,
Norfolk, Virginia, November 1–5, 1999, November 1999,
CASI ID: 19990105883. PDF DTRS

Blunt-forebody pressure data are used to study the behavior of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center flush airdata
sensing (FADS) pressure model and solution algorithm. The
model relates surface pressure measurements to the airdata
state. Spliced from the potential flow solution for uniform
flow over a sphere and the modified Newtonian impact theory, the model was shown to apply to a wide range of blunt-forebody shapes and Mach numbers. Calibrations of a sphere, spherical cones, a Rankine half body, and the F-14, F/A-18, X-33, X-34, and X-38 configurations are shown. The three calibration parameters are well-behaved from Mach 0.25 to Mach 5.0, an angle-of-attack range extending to greater than 30 deg, and an angle-of-sideslip range extending to greater than 15 deg. Contrary to the sharp calibration changes found on traditional pitot-static systems at transonic speeds, the FADS calibrations are smooth, monotonic functions of Mach number and effective angles of attack and sideslip. Because the FADS calibration is sensitive to pressure port location, detailed measurements of the actual pressure port locations on the flight vehicle are required and the wind-tunnel calibration model should have pressure ports in similar locations. The procedure for calibrating a FADS system is outlined.

Keywords: Airdata calibration; Blunt forebody; FADS; Flush airdata sensing; Sphere; X-33

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.
**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) was a propulsion flight experiment for advanced space vehicles such as the X-33 and reusable launch vehicle. A linear aerospike rocket engine was integrated into a semi-span of an X-33-like lifting body shape (model), and carried on top of an SR-71 aircraft at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Because no flight data existed for aerospike nozzles, the primary objective of the LASRE flight experiment was to evaluate flight effects on the engine performance over a range of altitudes and Mach numbers. Because it contained a large quantity of energy in the form of fuel, oxidizer, hypergolics, and gases at very high pressures, the LASRE propulsion system posed a major hazard for fire or explosion. Therefore, a propulsion-hazard mitigation system was created for LASRE that included a nitrogen purge system. Oxygen sensors were a critical part of the nitrogen purge system because they measured purge operation and effectiveness. Because the available oxygen sensors were not designed for flight testing, a laboratory study investigated oxygen-sensor characteristics and accuracy over a range of altitudes and oxygen concentrations. Laboratory test data made it possible to properly calibrate the sensors for flight. Such data also provided a more accurate error prediction than the manufacturer’s specification. This predictive accuracy increased confidence in the sensor output during critical phases of the flight. This paper presents the findings of this laboratory test.

Keywords: Aerospike; Flammability limits; High speed civil transport; Linear aerospike


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This paper presents pertinent results and assessment of propellant feed system leak detection as applied to the Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) program flown at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The LASRE was a flight test of an aerospike rocket engine using liquid oxygen and high-pressure gaseous hydrogen as propellants. The flight safety of the crew and the experiment demanded proven technologies and techniques that could detect leaks and assess the integrity of hazardous propellant feed systems. Point source detection and systematic detection were used. Point source detection was adequate for catching gross leakage from components of the propellant feed systems, but insufficient for clearing LASRE to levels of acceptability. Systematic detection, which used high-resolution instrumentation to evaluate the health of the system within a closed volume, provided a better means for assessing leak hazards. Oxygen sensors detected a leak rate of approximately 0.04 cubic inches per second of liquid oxygen. Pressure sensor data revealed speculated cryogenic boiloff

*NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida.


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*Dynacs Engineering Co., Inc., Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

This paper presents results from a joint research effort of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and the Institute of Flight Mechanics and Flight Control of the Technische Universität Münchcen on flight path control problems of aerospace craft when flying at high speed. There is an effect which leads to an increase of path-attitude decoupling with increasing airspeed. Beyond a certain airspeed in the supersonic or hypersonic flight regime, there is a limiting effect according to which path-attitude decoupling does not deteriorate further. The path-attitude decoupling problems were subject of an experimental simulation program using the high speed simulation facility of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Since the conventional path control technique is not adequate in case of the severe path-attitude decoupling at high speed an alternate control technique is
considered in the paper. A special display instrumentation was developed and installed in the cockpit of the high speed simulator of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Furthermore, results from flight tests in the high supersonic regime at Mach 3 are presented. The flight test results are from a SR-71 operated by the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

*Technische Universitat Muenchen, Munich, Germany.


Refractory Composites, Inc. under contract to NASA Langley Research Center has been developing a ceramic composite elevon control surface for a NASP size vehicle. Structural feasibility development has been completed on the highly stressed superalloy to CMC torque transmission interface. Current work is focused on the fabrication, integration and ground based flight simulation testing of a full-scale component at NASA Dryden Flight Test Center. Full reversing motion with structural buffet capability at elevated temperature and simulated altitude conditions will be incorporated into this ground based flight simulation test.


The ability to predict laminar-to-turbulent transition on airbreathing vehicles at hypersonic speeds is crucial, and to obtain free-flight data needed for code validation, the a Pegasus* launch vehicle was fitted with an instrumented metallic glove (Figures 1 through 3) on the delta wing of stage one air-launched from Orbital Sciences’ L-1011 carrier airplane. The experiment was launched in October 1998 off the East coast of Florida. Data was gathered during stage 1 burn, from drop at Mach 0.8 and 38,000 ft to Mach 8 and altitude 240,000 ft, meeting the experiment objectives. A description of the project is given, from experiment design through build-up to launch. Samples of the experimental results are discussed.


Significant advancements in hypersonic airbreathing vehicle technology have been made in the country’s research centers and industry over the past 40 years. Some of that technology is being validated with the X-43 flight tests. This paper presents an overview of hypersonic airbreathing technology status within the US, and a hypersonic technology development plan. This plan builds on the nation’s large investment in hypersonics. This affordable, incremental plan focuses technology development on hypersonic systems, which could be operating by the 2020’s.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. ** NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A flight program using the SR-71 airplane to validate sonic boom technologies for High-Speed Commercial Transport (HSCT) operation and potentially for low- or softened-boom design configurations is described. This program employs a shaped signature modification to the SR-71 airplane which is designed to demonstrate computational fluid dynamics (CFD) design technology at a full-scale HSCT operating condition of Mach 1.8 at 48,000 feet altitude. Test plans call for measurements in the near-field, at intermediate propagation altitudes, and through the more turbulent boundary layer near the Earth surface. The shaped signature modification to the airplane is comprised of added cross-section areas on the underside of the airplane forward of the wing and engine nacelles. Because the flight demonstration does not approach maximum SR-71 altitude or Mach number, the airplane provides more than adequate performance and maneuver margins for safe operation of the modified airplane. Probe airplane measurements in the near-field will use fast response pressure sensors. Far-field and ground-based boom measurements will use high response microphones or conventional sonic boom field recorders. Scope of the planned demonstration flights also includes ground level measurements during conditions which cause minimal signature distortion and conditions which cause high distortion of the signature.

Airplane design studies have developed configuration concepts that may produce lower sonic boom annoyance levels. Since lower noise designs differ significantly from other HSCT designs, it is necessary to accurately assess their potential before HSCT final configuration decisions are made. Flight tests to demonstrate lower noise design capability by modifying an existing airframe have been proposed for the Mach 3 SR-71 reconnaissance airplane. To support the modified SR-71 proposal, baseline in-flight measurements were made of the unmodified aircraft. These measurements of SR-71 near-field sonic boom signatures were obtained by an F-16XL probe airplane at flightpath separation distances ranging from approximately 740 to 40 ft. This paper discusses the methods used to gather and analyze the flight data, and makes comparisons of these flight data with CFD results from Douglas Aircraft Corporation and NASA Langley Research Center. The CFD solutions were obtained for the near-field flow about the SR-71, and then propagated to the flight test measurement location using the program MDBOOM.


A variable-porosity suction glove has been flown on the F-16XL-2 aircraft to demonstrate the feasibility of this technology for the proposed High-Speed Civil Transport (HSCT). Boundary-layer transition data have been obtained on the titanium glove primarily at Mach 2.0 and altitudes of 53,000-55,000 ft. The objectives of this supersonic laminar flow control flight experiment have been to achieve 50- to 60-percent-chord laminar flow on a highly swept wing at supersonic speeds and to provide data to validate codes and suction design. The most successful laminar flow results have not been obtained at the glove design point (Mach 1.9 at an altitude of 50,000 ft). At Mach 2.0 and an altitude of 53,000 ft, which corresponds to a Reynolds number of 22.7 X 10^6, optimum suction levels have allowed long runs of a minimum of 46-percent-chord laminar flow to be achieved. This paper discusses research variables that directly impact the ability to obtain laminar flow and techniques to correct for these variables.

Keywords: F-16XL; Hot film; Laminar flow control; Suction; Transition


One of the technological challenges in designing advanced hypersonic aircraft and the next generation of spacecraft is developing reusable flight-weight cryogenic fuel tanks. As an aid in the design and analysis of these cryogenic tanks, a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model has been developed specifically for the analysis of flow in a cryogenic fuel tank. This model employs the full set of Navier-Stokes equations, except that viscous dissipation is neglected in the energy equation. An explicit finite difference technique in two-dimensional generalized coordinates, approximated to second-order accuracy in both space and time is used. The stiffness resulting from the low Mach number is resolved by using artificial compressibility. The model simulates the transient, two-dimensional draining of a fuel tank cross section. To calculate the slosh wave dynamics the interface between the ullage gas and liquid fuel is modeled as a free surface. Then, experimental data for free convection inside a horizontal cylinder are compared with model results. Finally, cryogenic tank draining calculations are performed with three different wall heat fluxes to demonstrate the effect of wall heat flux on the internal tank flow field.

Keywords: Computation fluid dynamics; Cryogenic; Free surface; Fuel tank; Numerical modeling


In the event of a control surface failure, the purpose of a reconfigurable control system is to redistribute the control effort among the remaining working surfaces such that satisfactory stability and performance are retained. An Off-line Nonlinear General Constrained Optimization approach was used for the reconfigurable X-33 control design method. Three examples of failure are shown using a high fidelity 6 DOF simulation (case 1: ascent with a left body flap jammed at 25 deg.; case 2: entry with a right inboard elevon jam at 25 deg. and case 3: landing (TAEM) (Terminal Area Energy Management) with a left rudder jam at -30 deg.) Failure comparisons between responses with the nominal controller and reconfigurable controllers show the benefits of reconfiguration. Single jam aerosurface failures were considered, and failure detection and identification is considered accomplished in the actuator controller. The X-33 flight control system will incorporate reconfigurable flight control in the baseline system.


The F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing research aircraft will
demonstrate technologies related to aeroelastic effects such as wing twist and load minimization. This program presents several challenges for control design that are often not considered for traditional aircraft. This paper presents a control design based on H(sub infinity) synthesis that simultaneously considers the multiple objectives associated with handling qualities, actuator limitations, and loads. A point design is presented to demonstrate a controller and the resulting closed-loop properties.

*National Research Council.


Significant advancements in hypersonic airbreathing vehicle technology have been made in the countries research centers and industry over the past 40 years. Some of that technology is being validated with the X-43 flight tests. This paper presents an overview of hypersonic airbreathing technology status within the US, and a hypersonic technology development plan. This plan builds on the nation’s large investment in hypersonics. This affordable, incremental plan focuses technology development on hypersonic systems, which could be operating by the 2020’s.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. **NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


A boundary-layer rake of pitot tubes has been designed and built for installation on a flight-test fixture (FTF) on the NASA Dryden F-15B, which is a two-seat version of the F-15 high-performance, supersonic, all-weather fighter airplane. This boundary-layer rake will be used in flight-research projects in which there are requirements for detailed surveys of the turbulent boundary layer. A design feature unique to this rake is a curved rake body; this feature makes it possible to cluster the pitot tubes in the near-wall region more densely than they can be clustered in conventional rakes. Results of tests have shown that this rake exhibits good aerodynamic performance and that it is operationally rugged.


This monograph contains the edited transcript of a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of this aircraft’s first flight in 1948. A sister aircraft to the more well-known rocket-powered X-1, the jet-powered D-558 gave NACA researchers many useful insights about the transonic speed range. Several of the original aircraft pilots present accounts of their involvement in the program. Appendices include design specifications for the Douglas D-558-1 and -2 as well as declassified documentation and memoranda (1949-1957) regarding the progress of the program.


This paper provides details of a newly developed structural eigenproblem solution technique that effects simultaneous convergence of a set of desired roots and associated vectors in an accurate and efficient fashion. The procedure is based on a progressive simultaneous iteration method that enables effective computation of either the first few or a specified number of intermediate roots associated vectors without having to compute any other. Numerical results pertaining to some practical problems are also presented that testify to the superior convergence characteristics of the present procedure when compared with other existing ones.

2000 Technical Publications


A new boundary-layer rake has been designed and built for flight testing on the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center F-15B/Flight Test Fixture. A feature unique to this rake is its curved body, which allows pitot tubes to be more densely clustered in the near-wall region than conventional rakes allow. This curved rake design has a complex three-dimensional shape that requires innovative solid-modeling and machining techniques. Finite-element stress analysis of the new design shows high factors of safety. The rake has passed a ground test in which random vibration measuring 12 g rms was applied for 20 min in each of the three normal directions. Aerodynamic evaluation of the rake has been conducted in the NASA Glenn Research Center 8 x 6 Supersonic Wind Tunnel at Mach 0-2. The pitot pressures from the new rake agree with conventional rake data over the range of Mach numbers tested. The boundary-layer profiles computed from the rake data have been shown to have the standard logarithmic-law profile. Skin friction values computed from
the rake data using the Clauser plot method agree with the Preston tube results and the van Driest II compressible skin friction correlation to approximately +/- 5 percent.

Keywords: Boundary layer; Compressible flows; Flight testing; Pitot pressure rake; Skin friction

*Dynacs Engineering Co., Inc., Brookpark, Ohio.


This paper develops a real-time method based on the law of the wake for estimating forebody skin-friction coefficients. The incompressible law-of-the-wake equations are numerically integrated across the boundary layer depth to develop an engineering model that relates longitudinally averaged skin-friction coefficients to local boundary layer thickness. Solutions applicable to smooth surfaces with pressure gradients and rough surfaces with negligible pressure gradients are presented. Model accuracy is evaluated by comparing model predictions with previously measured flight data. This integral law procedure is beneficial in that skin-friction coefficients can be indirectly evaluated in real-time using a single boundary layer height measurement. In this concept a reference pitot probe is inserted into the flow, well above the anticipated maximum thickness of the local boundary layer. Another probe is servomechanism-driven and floats within the boundary layer. A controller regulates the position of the floating probe. The measured servomechanism position of this second probe provides an indirect measurement of both local and longitudinally averaged skin friction. Simulation results showing the performance of the control law for a noisy boundary layer are then presented.

Keywords: Base drag; Boundary layer; Hypersonic vehicles; Skin friction

* University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.
** University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a flush airdata sensing (FADS) system on a sharp-nosed, wedge-shaped vehicle. This paper details the design and calibration of a real-time angle-of-attack estimation scheme developed to meet the onboard airdata measurement requirements for a research vehicle equipped with a supersonic-combustion ramjet engine. The FADS system has been designed to perform in flights at speeds between Mach 3–8 and at angle of attack between –6 deg and 12 deg. The description of the FADS architecture includes port layout, pneumatic design, and hardware integration. Predictive models of static and dynamic performance are compared with wind-tunnel results across the Mach and angle-of-attack range. Results indicate that static angle-of-attack accuracy and pneumatic lag can be adequately characterized and incorporated into a real-time algorithm.

Keywords: Airdata calibration; FADS; Flush airdata sensing system; Hypersonics; Wedge forebody

** Sverdrup Corp., Arnold AFB, Tennessee.

Planform and layout of the baseline Pegasus® launch vehicle with the wing glove


In a recent flight experiment to study hypersonic crossflow transition, boundary layer characteristics were documented. A smooth steel glove was mounted on the first stage delta wing of Orbital Sciences Corporation’s Pegasus (R) launch vehicle.
vehicle and was flown at speeds of up to Mach 8 and altitudes of up to 250,000 ft. The wing-glove experiment was flown as a secondary payload off the coast of Florida in October 1998. This paper describes the measurement system developed. Samples of the results obtained for different parts of the trajectory are included to show the characteristics and quality of the data. Thermocouples and pressure sensors (including Preston tubes, Stanton tubes, and a "probeless" pressure rake showing boundary layer profiles) measured the time-averaged flow. Surface hot-films and high-frequency pressure transducers measured flow dynamics. Because the vehicle was not recoverable, it was necessary to design a system for real-time onboard processing and transmission. Onboard processing included spectral averaging. The quality and consistency of data obtained was good and met the experiment requirements.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; Cross flow; Fault trees; Flight test instruments; Hypersonics; Onboard data processing; Pegasus air-launched booster

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.
**CSC, Edwards, California.
***NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
††NASA Kennedy Space Flight Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida.


In the last twenty years, the development of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) has advanced tremendously, coinciding with the development of more powerful computers, but CFD numerical codes are still not very easy to use. Current numerical codes still require an advanced knowledge of CFD methods and fluid flow modeling requirements before a successful simulation can be calculated. Visualization of CFD results usually requires the use of a separate graphical post processor. The objective of this work was to develop a new numerical code Internet system that will dramatically improve the way that numerical codes, such as those used in computational fluid dynamics, are currently developed and tested. A package that integrates a high order accurate CFD inviscid flow solver with approximate analytic aerodynamic heating methods, was developed and utilized in conjunction with the Internet system which includes advanced graphical features to view the computational results. The Internet system was developed with the Java language, while the CFD inviscid flow solver and heating methods were developed with the Fortran language.

*University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.


A new boundary-layer rake has been designed and built for flight testing on the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center F-15B/Flight Test Fixture. A feature unique to this rake is its curved body, which allows pitot tubes to be more densely clustered in the near-wall region than conventional rakes allow. This curved rake design has a complex three-dimensional shape that requires innovative solid-modeling and machining techniques. Finite-element stress analysis of the new design shows high factors of safety. The rake has passed a ground test in which random vibration measuring 12 g rms was applied for 20 min in each of the three normal directions. Aerodynamic evaluation of the rake has been conducted in the NASA Glenn Research Center 8 x 6 Supersonic Wind Tunnel at Mach 0-2. The pitot pressures from the new rake agree with conventional rake data over the range of Mach numbers tested. The boundary-layer profiles computed from the rake data have been shown to have the standard logarithmic-law profile. Skin friction values computed from the rake data using the Clauser plot method agree with the Preston tube results and the van Driest II compressible skin friction correlation to approximately +5 percent.

*Dynacs Engineering Co., Inc., Brook Park, Ohio.


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Onboard processing included spectral averaging. The quality and consistency of data obtained was good and met the experiment requirements.

**Computer Sciences Corp., Edwards, California.
***NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
†WYLE Laboratories, Hampton, Virginia.
‡NASA Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida.


This paper develops a real-time method based on the law of the wake for estimating forebody skin-friction coefficients. The incompressible law-of-the-wake equations are numerically integrated across the boundary layer depth to develop an engineering model that relates longitudinally averaged skin-friction coefficients to local boundary layer thickness. Solutions applicable to smooth surfaces with pressure gradients and rough surfaces with negligible pressure gradients are presented. Model accuracy is evaluated by comparing model predictions with previously measured flight data. This integral law procedure is beneficial in that skin-friction coefficients can be indirectly evaluated in real-time using a single boundary layer height measurement. In this concept a reference pitot probe is inserted into the flow, well above the anticipated maximum thickness of the local boundary layer. Another probe is servomechanism-driven and floats within the boundary layer. A controller regulates the position of the floating probe. The measured servomechanism position of this second probe provides an indirect measurement of both local and longitudinally averaged skin friction. Simulation results showing the performance of the control law for a noisy boundary layer are then presented.

* University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.
**University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.


Numerical simulation of air flow over realistically modeled mountains now resolves flow structures smaller than a kilometer wide. Simulations here demonstrate how these motions of size scale small enough to directly impact aircraft arise from instabilities of mountain lee waves. These instabilities occur where the waves break, where they locally destabilize the environment, while they penetrate to lower stratospheric flight altitudes. The small scale motions are shown to be organized vortices appearing in altitude layers of wavebreaking. These vortices have an axis parallel to the ground and perpendicular to the flow. The small scale structures are characteristic of high resolution, inviscid simulations of air flow over large scale terrain. The vortex train first appears in a downstream region of stratospheric wavebreaking, and then propagates upstream toward the mountain ridge. Gust velocity is examined for several vortices. One particularity strong vortex encountered has a gust speed near 30 m/s (100 feet per second). Vortex core dimensions are on the order of only 1 or 2 kilometer and smaller so their gradients and reversal scales would produce significant response to penetrating aircraft.

*UCLA Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Los Angeles, California.


Two U.S. research pilots evaluated the Tupolev Tu-144 supersonic transport aircraft on three dedicated flights: one subsonic and two supersonic profiles. The flight profiles and maneuvers were developed jointly by Tupolev and U.S. engineers. The vehicle was found to have unique operational and flight characteristics that serve as lessons for designers of future supersonic transport aircraft. Vehicle subsystems and observed characteristics are described as are flight test planning and ground monitoring facilities. Maneuver descriptions and extended pilot narratives for each flight are included as appendices.

Keywords: HSR; Flying qualities; Supersonic transport; High-speed flight; Gromov; Tupolev; Zhukovsky; Tu-144

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, Long Beach, California.


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center is exploring the optimum thrust-vector angle on aircraft. Simple aerodynamic performance models for various phases of aircraft flight are developed and optimization equations and algorithms are presented in this report. Results of optimal angles of thrust vectors and associated benefits for various flight regimes of aircraft (takeoff, climb, cruise, descent, final approach, and
landing) are given. Results for a typical wide-body transport aircraft are also given. The benefits accruable for this class of aircraft are small, but the technique can be applied to other conventionally configured aircraft. The lower L/D aerodynamic characteristics of fighters generally would produce larger benefits than those produced for transport aircraft.

Keywords: Commercial aircraft; Efficiency; Lift-to-drag ratio; Optimization; Thrust vectoring

* National Research Council, Edwards, California.


Titles, authors, report numbers, and abstracts are given for more than 2200 unclassified and unrestricted technical reports and papers published from September 1946 to December 1996 by NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and its predecessor organizations. These technical reports and papers describe and give the results of 50 years of flight research performed by the NACA and NASA, from the X-1 and other early X-airplanes, to the X-15, Space Shuttle, X-29 Forward Swept Wing, and X-31 aircraft. Some of the other research airplanes tested were the D-558, phase 1 and 2; M-2, HL-10 and X-24 lifting bodies; Digital Fly-By-Wire and Supercritical Wing F-8; XB-70; YF-12; AFTI F-111 TACT and MAW; F-15 HiDEC; F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle, and F-18 Systems Research Aircraft. The citations of reports and papers are listed in chronological order, with author and aircraft indices. In addition, in the appendices, citations of 233 contractor reports, more than 200 UCLA Flight System Research Center reports and 25 video tapes are included.

Description: CD-ROM contains full text document in pdf formation of the bibliography, an audio and text of the form of introduction, plus selected video clips from the NASA Dryden Movie Gallery

Keywords: Bibliographies; Databases; Flight-tests; High-speed flight aircraft; Research facilities; Research vehicles


Pressure distributions on the wings of the F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) were obtained using both flush-mounted pressure orifices and surface-mounted pressure tubing. During quasi-stabilized 1-g flight, data were gathered at ranges for angle of attack from 5 deg to 70 deg, for angle of sideslip from -12 deg to +12 deg, and for Mach from 0.23 to 0.64, at various engine settings, and with and without the leading edge extension fence installed. Angle of attack strongly influenced the wing pressure distribution, as demonstrated by a distinct flow separation pattern that occurred between the range from 15 deg to 30 deg. Influence by the leading edge extension fence was evident on the inboard wing pressure distribution, but little influence was seen on the outboard portion of the wing. Angle-of-sideslip influence on wing pressure distribution was strongest at low angle of attack. Influence of Mach number was observed in the regions of local supersonic flow, diminishing as angle of attack was increased. Engine throttle setting had little influence on the wing pressure distribution.

Keywords: Aircraft icing; Tailplane icing; Stability and control; Aerodynamics; Aeroperformance

**NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio.


This report presents results from research flights that explored the characteristics of an ice-contaminated tailplane using various simulated ice shapes attached to the leading edge of the horizontal tailplane. A clean leading edge provided the baseline case, then three ice shapes were flown in order of increasing severity. Flight tests included both steady state and dynamic maneuvers. The steady state points were 1G wings level and steady heading sideslips. The primary dynamic maneuvers were pushovers to various G-levels; elevator doublets; and thrust transitions. These maneuvers were conducted for a full range of flap positions and aircraft angle of attack where possible. The analysis of this data set has clearly demonstrated the detrimental effects of ice contamination on aircraft stability and controllability. Paths to tailplane stall were revealed through parameter isolation and transition studies. These paths are (1) increasing ice shape severity, (2) increasing flap deflection, (3) high or low speeds, depending on whether the aircraft is in a steady state (high speed) or pushover maneuver (low speed), and (4) increasing thrust. The flight research effort was very comprehensive, but did not examine effects of tailplane design and location, or other aircraft geometry configuration effects. However, this effort provided the role of some of the parameters in promoting tailplane stall. The lessons learned will provide guidance to regulatory agencies, aircraft manufacturers, and operators on ice-contaminated tailplane stall in the effort to increase aviation safety and reduce the fatal accident rate.

Keywords: Aircraft icing; Tailplane icing; Stability and control; Aerodynamics; Aeroperformance

**Dynacs Engineering Company, Inc., Brook Park, Ohio.
A digital longitudinal Aircraft Propulsion Control (APC) system of a multiengine aircraft is provided by engine thrust modulation in response to comparing an input flightpath angle signal (\(\gamma\)) from a pilot thumbwheel or an ILS system with a sensed flightpath angle \(\gamma\) to produce an error signal (\(\gamma\)) that is then integrated (with reasonable limits) to generate a drift correction signal to be added to the error signal (\(\gamma\)) after first subtracting a lowpass filtered velocity signal \(\text{Vel}(\text{sub} f)\) for phugoid damping. The output error signal is multiplied by a constant to produce an aircraft thrust control signal ATC of suitable amplitude to drive a throttle servo for all engines. Each of which includes its own full-authority digital engine control (FADEC) computer. An alternative APC system omits sensed flightpath angle feedback and instead controls the flightpath angle by feedback of the lowpass filtered velocity signal \(\text{Vel}(\text{sub} f)\) which also inherently provides phugoid damping. The feature of drift compensation is retained.

The Tu-144LL airplane in the cruise configuration

Four flights have been conducted using the Tu-144LL supersonic transport aircraft with the dedicated objective of collecting quantitative data and qualitative pilot comments. These data are compared with the following longitudinal flying qualities criteria: Neal-Smith, short-period damping, time delay, control anticipation parameter, phase delay \((\omega(\text{sp}))^{*}T(\theta(2)))\), pitch bandwidth as a function of time delay, and flight path as a function of pitch bandwidth. Determining the applicability of these criteria and gaining insight into the flying qualities of a large, supersonic aircraft are attempted. Where appropriate, YF-12, XB-70, and SR-71 pilot ratings are compared with the Tu-144LL results to aid in the interpretation of the Tu-144LL data and to gain insight into the application of criteria. The data showing the approach and landing requirements appear to be applicable to the precision flightpath control required for up-and-away flight of large, supersonic aircraft. The Neal-Smith, control anticipation parameter, and pitch-bandwidth criteria tend to correlate with the pilot comments better than the phase delay criterion, \(\omega(\text{sp}))^{*}T(\theta(2))\). The data indicate that the detrimental flying qualities implication of decoupled pitch-attitude and flightpath responses occurring for high-speed flight may be mitigated by requiring the pilot to close the loop on flightpath or vertical speed.

Keywords: Bandwidth criterion; Control anticipation criterion; Flying qualities; Neal-Smith criterion; Short period criteria; SR-71 aircraft; Supersonic flying qualities; TU-144 aircraft; XB-70 aircraft

NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a flush airdata sensing (FADS) system on a sharp-nosed, wedge-shaped vehicle. This paper details the design and calibration of a real-time angle-of-attack estimation scheme developed to meet the onboard airdata measurement requirements for a research vehicle equipped with a supersonic-combustion ramjet engine. The FADS system has been designed to perform in flights at speeds between Mach 3 and Mach 8 and at angles of attack between -6 deg. and 12 deg. The description of the FADS architecture includes port layout, pneumatic design, and hardware integration. Predictive models of static and dynamic performance are compared with wind-tunnel results across the Mach and angle-of-attack range. Results indicate that static angle-of-attack accuracy and pneumatic lag can be adequately characterized and incorporated into a real-time algorithm.

** Sverdrup Corp., Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee.
entire apparatus was mounted on top of an SR-71 aircraft. This paper suggests a method for reducing base drag by adding surface roughness along the forebody. Calculations show a potential for base-drag reductions of 8 – 14%. Flight results corroborate the base drag reduction, with actual reductions of 15% in the high-subsonic flight regime. Flight results show no overall net drag reduction. The applied roughness caused forebody pressures to rise and offset base-drag reductions. Apparently, the grit displaced streamlines outward, causing forebody flow compression. Clearly the drag optimization must be modified to include not only the base pressure drag and viscous forebody drag coefficients but must also include the forebody pressure distribution. Because of the mixed experimental results — there was no overall net drag reduction, the existence of an optimal forebody surface roughness must still be proven. Clearly, however, the forebody grit met hod has been proven as a viable drag-reduction tool.


Two large-scale, two-dimensional helicopter tail boom models were used to determine the effects of passive venting on boom down loads and side forces in hovering crosswind conditions. The models were oval shaped and trapezoidal shaped. Completely porous and solid configurations, partial venting in various symmetric and asymmetric configurations, and strakes were tested. Calculations were made to evaluate the trends of venting and strakes on power required when applied to a UH-60 class helicopter. Compared with the UH-60 baseline, passive venting reduced side force but increased down load at flow conditions representing right sideward flight. Selective asymmetric venting resulted in side force benefits close to the fully porous case. Calculated trends on the effects of venting on power required indicated that the high asymmetric oval configuration was the most effective venting configuration for side force reduction, and the high asymmetric with a single strake was the most effective for overall power reduction. Also, curves of side force versus flow angle were noticeable smoother for the vented configurations compared with the solid baseline configuration; this indicated a potential for smoother flight in low-speed crosswind conditions.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia


The SR-71 test bed aircraft is shown to be a unique platform to flight-test large experiments to supersonic Mach numbers. The test bed hardware mounted on the SR-71 upper fuselage is described. This test bed hardware is composed of a fairing structure called the “canoe” and a large “reflection plane” flat plate for mounting experiments. Total experiment weights, including the canoe and reflection plane, as heavy as 14,500 lb can be mounted on the aircraft and flight-tested to speeds as fast as Mach 3.2 and altitudes as high as 80,000 ft. A brief description of the SR-71 aircraft is given, including details of the structural modifications to the fuselage, modifications to the J58 engines to provide increased thrust, and the addition of a research instrumentation system. Information is presented based on flight data that describes the SR-71 test bed aerodynamics, stability and control, structural and thermal loads, the canoe internal environment, and reflection plane flow quality. Guidelines for designing SR-71 test bed experiments are also provided.

Keywords: Flight test; SR-71 aerodynamics; SR-71 aircraft; SR-71 stability and control; SR-71 upper fuselage flow field; Test bed aircraft.


Infrared thermography was used to obtain data on the state of the boundary layer of a natural laminar flow airfoil in supersonic flight. In addition to the laminar-to-turbulent transition boundary, the infrared camera was able to detect shock waves and present a time dependent view of the flow field. A time dependent heat transfer code was developed to predict temperature distributions on the test subject and any necessary surface treatment. A commercially available infrared camera was adapted for airborne use in this application. Readily available infrared technology has the capability to provide detailed visualization of various flow phenomena in subsonic to hypersonic flight regimes.

Keywords: Boundary layer transition; Flow visualization; Infrared thermography; Shockwaves; Supersonic flow

* University of California, Davis, California.
** PVP Advanced EP Systems, Orange, California.

A limited evaluation of the F/A-18 baseline loads model was performed on the Systems Research Aircraft at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California). Boeing developed the F/A-18 loads model using a linear aeroelastic analysis in conjunction with a flight simulator to determine loads at discrete locations on the aircraft. This experiment was designed so that analysis of doublets could be used to establish aircraft aerodynamic and loads response at 20 flight conditions. Instrumentation on the right outboard leading edge flap, left aileron, and left stabilator measured the hinge moment so that comparisons could be made between in-flight-measured hinge moments and loads model-predicted values at these locations. Comparisons showed that the difference between the loads model-predicted and in-flight-measured hinge moments was up to 130 percent of the flight limit load. A stepwise regression technique was used to determine new loads derivatives. These derivatives were placed in the loads model, which reduced the error to within 10 percent of the flight limit load. This paper discusses the flight test methodology, a process for determining loads coefficients, and the direct comparisons of predicted and measured hinge moments and loads coefficients.

Keywords: Active aeroelastic wing; F/A-18; Flight test; Loads; Simulation 30

*The Boeing Company Phantom Works, St. Louis, Missouri.


A direct-measuring skin friction gage was developed for the high-speed, high-temperature environment of the turbulent boundary layer in a supersonic combustor. The design is that of a nonnulling cantilevered beam, the head of which is flush with the model wall and surrounded by a small (0.005 in = 0.0127 cm) gap. Thus, the shear force due to the flow along the wall will deflect the head, inducing a measurable strain in the beam. Finite element software was used along with simple beam theory to analyze the response of the beam to an applied shear load. Semiconductor (piezo-resistive) strain gages were used to detect this strain at the base of the beam. Cooling water was routed both inside the beam and around the external housing in order to control the temperature of the strain gages. The gage was statically calibrated using a direct force method. The design was next verified by testing in a well-documented Mach 2.4 cold-flow. Results of the cold-flow tests were repeatable and within 15% of the value of Cf estimated from simple theory. The gage was then installed and tested in a rocket-based-combined-cycle engine model operating in the scramjet mode. The free-jet facility provided a Mach 6.4 flow with P0 = 1350 psia (9310 kPa) and T0 = 2800 °R (1555 °K). Local wall temperatures were measured between 850 and 900 °R (472-500 °K). Output from the scramjet tests was repeatable. Those results and possible refinements to the gage are discussed.

*Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia.


A flat plate and faired pod have been mounted on a NASA SR-71A aircraft for use as a supersonic flight experiment test bed. A test article can be placed on the flat plate; the pod can contain supporting systems. A series of test flights has been conducted to validate this test bed configuration. Flight speeds to a maximum of Mach 3.0 have been attained. Steady-state sideslip maneuvers to a maximum of 2 deg have been conducted, and the flow field in the test region has been surveyed. Two total-pressure rakes, each with two flow-angle probes, have been placed in the expected vicinity of an experiment. Static-pressure measurements have been made on the flat plate. At subsonic and low supersonic speeds with no sideslip, the flow in the surveyed region is quite uniform. During sideslip maneuvers, localized flow distortions impinge on the test region. Aircraft sideslip does not produce a uniform sidewash over the test region. At speeds faster than Mach 1.5, variable-pressure distortions were observed in the test region. Boundary-layer thickness on the flat plate at the rake was less than 2.1 in. For future experiments, a more focused and detailed flow-field survey than this one would...
be desirable.

Keywords: Flight testing; Flow distortion; Fluid flow; SR-71 aircraft; Supersonic inlet.

*Analytic Services and Materials, Inc., Hampton, Virginia.


A variable-porosity suction glove has been flown on the F-16XL-2 aircraft to demonstrate the feasibility of this technology for the proposed High-Speed Civil Transport. Boundary-layer transition data on the titanium glove primarily have been obtained at speeds of Mach 2.0 and altitudes of 15,240–16,764 m (50,000–55,000 ft). The objectives of this flight experiment have been to achieve 0.50–0.60 chord laminar flow on a highly swept wing at supersonic speeds and to provide data to validate codes and suction design. The most successful laminar flow results have not been obtained at the glove design point, a speed of Mach 1.9 at an altitude of 15,240 m (50,000 ft); but rather at a speed of Mach 2.0 and an altitude of 16,154 m (53,000 ft). Laminar flow has been obtained to more than 0.46 wing chord at a Reynolds number of 22.7 x 10(exp 6). A turbulence diverter has been used to initially obtain a laminar boundary layer at the attachment line. A lower-surface shock fence was required to block an inlet shock from the wing leading edge. This paper discusses research variables that directly impact the ability to obtain laminar flow and techniques to correct for these variables.

Keywords: F-16XL; Hot-films; Laminar flow control; Suction; Transition


NASA Dryden conducted a handling qualities experiment using a small displacement centerstick controller that Saab-Scania developed for the JAS 39 Gripen aircraft. The centerstick, or ministick, was mounted in the rear cockpit of an F/A-18 aircraft. Productions support flight control computers (PSFCC) provided a pilot-selectable research control system. The objectives for this experiment included determining whether the mechanical characteristics of the centerstick controller had any significant effect on the handling qualities of the F/A-18, and determining the usefulness of the PSFCCs for this kind of experiment. Five pilots evaluated closed-loop tracking tasks, including echelon and column formation flight and target following. Cooper-Harper ratings and pilot comments were collected for each maneuver. This paper describes the test system, including the PSFCCs, the Gripen centerstick, and the flight test experiment. The paper presents results of longitudinal handling qualities maneuvers, including low order equivalent systems, Neal-Smith, and controls anticipation parameter analyses. The experiment showed that, while the centerstick controller provided a different aircraft feel, few handling qualities deficiencies resulted. It also demonstrated that the PSFCCs were useful for this kind of investigation.

Keywords: Aircraft control; Flight control; Handling qualities; JAS 39 Gripen; Piloting


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Keywords: Aircraft control; Flight control; Handling qualities; JAS 39 Gripen; Piloting
is differentially applied to the left and right engines, with p, yaw rate $\tau$, and true velocity produce an aircraft thrust of sensed bank angle $\phi$. Bank angle rate $\phi$, or roll rate control signal is developed with compensation as a function of the difference between the heading angle the aircraft and computing a heading error signal $\psi_{e}$ be tracked. By continually sensing the heading angle $\psi$ of in response to a heading angle command $\psi_{c}$ is to displaced to the left and right from the axis of the aircraft. The multiengine has at least two engines laterally thrust modulation of multiengine aircraft is currently disclosed for lateral control using only differential engine development of an emergency flight control system is demonstrated using a generic transport nonlinear simulator. General issues associated with commercial transport reconfiguration are highlighted. Simulation results reveal that the retrofit provides reconfiguration functionality for a wide variety of control surface failures. For the failure scenarios tested, the simulations showed that the aircraft without reconfiguration typically departs; with reconfiguration, nominal performance is achieved provided that adequate control authority exists post-failure.


An innovative concept for retrofitting a reconfiguration module to an existing control law is described. The concept is motivated by the need for low cost, add-on modules that improve air safety in the existing fleet of civil air transport vehicles. A direct adaptive, model reference control approach that accommodates control surface nonlinearities is adopted, which uses a slowly adapting model of the closed-loop aircraft as the reference model. The motivation, benefits, and components of the architecture are presented. The architecture is demonstrated using a generic transport nonlinear simulator.

A blackbody calibration furnace at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center is used to calibrate heat flux gages. These gages are for measuring the aerodynamic heat flux on hypersonic flight vehicle surfaces. The blackbody is a graphite tube with a midplane partition which divides the tube into two compartments (dual cavities). Electrical resistance heating is used to heat the graphite tube. This heating and the boundary conditions imposed on the graphite tube result in temperature gradients along the walls of the blackbody cavity. This paper describes measurements made during steady-state operation and development of finite-difference thermal models of the blackbody furnace at 1100 C. Two configurations were studied, one with the blackbody outer surface insulated and the other without insulation. The dominant modes of heat transfer were identified for each configuration and the effect of variations in material properties and electric current that was passed through the blackbody were quantified.

Keywords: Blackbody calibration furnace; Heat flux calibration; Heat transfer; Numerical

*A St Martin’s College, Lacey, Washington.

A sailplane being developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center will support a high-altitude flight experiment. The experiment will measure the performance parameters or an airfoil at high altitudes (70,000 - 100,000 ft), low Reynolds numbers (2 x 10(exp 5) - 7 x 10(exp 5)), and high subsonic Mach numbers (0.5 and 0.65). The airfoil section lift and drag numbers (2 x 10(exp 5) - 7 x 10(exp 5)), and high subsonic experiment will measure the performance parameters or an airfoil at high altitudes (70,000 - 100,000 ft), low Reynolds numbers (2 x 10(exp 5) - 7 x 10(exp 5)), and high subsonic Mach numbers (0.5 and 0.65). The airfoil section lift and drag are determined from pilot and static pressure measurements. The locations of the separation bubble, Tollmien-Schlichting boundary-layer instability frequencies, and vortex shedding are measured from a hot-film strip. The details of the planned flight experiment are presented as well as several predictions of the airfoil performance.

**Spiral Technology, Inc., Edwards, California. ** Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Development of an emergency flight control system is disclosed for lateral control using only differential engine thrust modulation of multiengine aircraft is currently underway. The multiengine has at least two engines laterally displaced to the left and right from the axis of the aircraft. In response to a heading angle command $\psi_{c}$ is to be tracked. By continually sensing the heading angle $\psi$ of the aircraft and computing a heading error signal $\psi_{e}$ as a function of the difference between the heading angle command $\psi_{c}$ and the sensed heading angle $\psi$, a track control signal is developed with compensation as a function of sensed bank angle $\phi$. Bank angle rate $\dot{\phi}$, or roll rate $p$, yaw rate $\tau$, and true velocity produce an aircraft thrust control signal ATC(sub $\psi_{L,R}$). The thrust control signal is differentially applied to the left and right engines, with equal amplitude and opposite sign, such that a negative sign
A sailplane being developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center will support a high-flight experiment. The experiment will measure the performance parameters of an airfoil at high altitudes (70,000–100,000 ft), low Reynolds numbers \((2 \times 10^5 \sim 7 \times 10^6)\), and high subsonic Mach numbers (0.5 and 0.65). The airfoil section lift and drag are determined from pitot and static pressure measurements. The location of the separation bubble, Tollmien-Schlichting boundary-layer instability frequencies, and vortex shedding are measured from a hot-film strip. The details of the planned flight experiment are presented as well as several predictions of the airfoil performance.

**Sparta, Inc., Edwards, California.**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.**


Robust control based on H-infinity and mu synthesis has developed into a mature technology. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has initiated a program to flight test several variants of H-infinity, controllers. This paper documents the design and simulation of the first of these controllers to be flown. The controller is designed via mu synthesis to meet handling qualities and robustness goals. This initial controller is designed for a single operating point but will demonstrate issues that may affect future designs that consider an operating envelope.


During hypersonic flight, high temperatures and high heat fluxes are generated on the surfaces of vehicles. The Flight Loads Laboratory (FLL) at Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) is equipped with a calibration furnace, capable of calibrating heat flux gages up to 1100 kW per square meter, and temperature sensors up to 2600°C. One heating configuration of the calibration furnace is a cylindrical blackbody cavity. Throughout the blackbody there are temperature gradients due to various boundary conditions. These boundary conditions include resistance heating, radiant heat transfer, and conduction to water-cooled electrodes. Also, an inert gas is purged through the graphite blackbody to prevent it from oxidizing. Consequently, the various modes of heat transfer present during operation of the blackbody cavity must be well understood in order to produce accurate heat flux gage and temperature sensor calibrations for use in ground testing or flight testing of hypersonic vehicles. The first step towards understanding the heat transfer in the blackbody cavity was to perform experiments at 1100°C, with and without outer surface insulation, while taking detailed temperature measurements inside the blackbody cavity. Steady state thermal models of the blackbody cavity were then developed. These models included detailed thermal analysis using commercial thermal analysis software. Conduction, radiation, and convection were considered in the thermal models for two cases: one with the outside of the blackbody cavity insulated and the second without insulation. This paper describes the experimental and numerical efforts used to characterize the steady state operation of the blackbody cavity. It describes the analysis of the test measurements, the boundary conditions used in the numerical models, and how the models were calibrated to fit the experimental data. Effects of various uncertainties, such as material properties, and convection are discussed. Initial thermal models predicted temperatures in the deepest part of the blackbody cavity within 7°C of the measured value and produced trends comparable to the experimental data, throughout the models. Adjustment of the boundary conditions, which were included in the thermal models, produced good agreement with measured temperatures. Free and forced convection of the purge gas inside the blackbody was found to be insignificant.

*St Martin’s College, Lacey, Washington.*


To visually record the initial free flight event of the Hyper-X research flight vehicle immediately after separation from the Pegasus(registered) booster rocket, a video camera was mounted on the bulkhead of the adapter through which Hyper-X rides on Pegasus. The video camera was shielded by a protecting camera window made of heat-resistant quartz material. When Hyper-X separates from Pegasus, this camera window will be suddenly exposed to Mach 7 stagnation thermal shock and dynamic pressure loading (aerothermal loading). To examine the structural integrity, thermoelastic analysis was performed, and the stress distributions in the camera windows were calculated. The critical stress point where the tensile stress reaches a maximum value for each camera window was identified, and the maximum tensile stress level at that critical point was found to be considerably
A preliminary field test of the accuracy of wind velocity measurements obtained using global positioning system-tracked rawinsonde balloons has been performed. Wind comparisons have been conducted using global positioning system (GPS) and radio automatic theodolite sounder (RATS) rawinsondes and a high-precision range instrumentation radar-tracked reflector. Wind velocity differences between the GPS rawinsondes and the radar were significantly less than between the RATS rawinsondes and the radar. These limited test results indicate a root-mean-square wind velocity difference from 4.98 kn (2.56 m/sec) for the radar and RATS to 1.09 kn (0.56 m/sec) for the radar and GPS. Differences are influenced by user reporting requirements, data processing techniques, and the inherent tracking accuracies of the system. This brief field test indicates that the GPS sounding system tracking data are more precise than the RATS system. When high-resolution wind data are needed, use of GPS rawinsonde systems can reduce the burden on range radar operations.

Keywords: Atmospheric science; Flight test; GPS rawinsonde; RADAR; Rawinsonde.


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The purpose of the ACLAIM program is ultimately to establish the viability of light detection and ranging (lidar) as a forward-looking sensor for turbulence. The goals of this flight test are to: 1) demonstrate that the ACLAIM lidar system operates reliably in a flight test environment, 2) measure the performance of the lidar as a function of the aerosol backscatter coefficient (beta), 3) use the lidar system to measure atmospheric turbulence and compare these measurements to onboard gust measurements, and 4) make measurements of the aerosol backscatter coefficient, its probability distribution and spatial distribution. The scope of this paper is to briefly describe the ACLAIM system and present examples of ACLAIM operation in flight, including comparisons with independent measurements of wind gusts, gust-induced normal acceleration, and the derived eddy dissipation rate.

Keywords: Atmospheric turbulence; Coherent lidar; Doppler lidar; Flight test; Optical radar; Structure function; Turbulence detection.

*The Boeing Co., Chicago, Illinois.
**Coherent Technologies, Inc.
***University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama.

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This is a conference publication for an event designed to inform potential contractors and appropriate personnel in various scientific disciplines that the ERAST (Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology) vehicles have reached a certain level of maturity and are available to perform a variety of missions ranging from data gathering to telecommunications. There are multiple applications of the technology and a great many potential commercial and governmental markets. As high altitude platforms, the ERAST vehicles can gather data at higher resolution than satellites and can do so continuously, whereas satellites pass over a particular area only once each orbit. Formal addresses are given by Rich Christiansen, (Director of Programs, NASA Aerospace Technology Ent.), Larry Roeder, (Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Dept. of State), and Dr. Marianne McCarthy, (DFRC Education Dept.). The Commercialization Workshop is chaired by Dale Tietz (President, New Vista International) and the Science Workshop is chaired by Steve Wegener, (Deputy Manager of NASA ERAST, NASA Ames Research Center.

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The X-33 reusable space plane technology demonstrator is on course to begin the flights of the X-33 by the end of 2002 that will serve as a basis for industry and government decisions that could lead to VentureStar™. Lockheed Martin has placed the VentureStar LLC in it’s Space Company and is now competing in an industry wide effort that will permit NASA to select a Second Generation RLV source by 2005. This move provides the focus for firm business planning needed to enable the decision by the time X-33 flies in mid 2002 and possibly with upgraded technologies a year or so later. The
operations concept for the X-33 is an integration of launch vehicle and aircraft operations approaches. VentureStar is a Single Stage To Orbit (SSTO) and will therefore enable a new approach to Space Launch Operations that is more “aircraft like” and can produce substantially lower operating costs over current systems. NASA’s initiatives over the past several years in Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV) have had as a primary objective to demonstrate technologies that will result in significant reduction in costs of space access. Further, the end objective is to commercialize the development and operations of the next generation RLV. Hence, the X-33 and its operations demonstration is a major contributor to that next generation system.


This paper provides an overview of the objectives and status of the Hyper-X program which is tailored to move hypersonic, airbreathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment, the last stage preceding prototype development. The first Hyper-X research vehicle (HXRV), designated X-43, is being prepared at the Dryden Flight Research Center for flight at Mach 7 in the near future. In addition, the associated booster and vehicle-to-booster adapter are being prepared for flight and flight test preparations are well underway. Extensive risk reduction activities for the first flight and non-recurring design for the Mach 10 X-43 (3rd flight) are nearing completion. The Mach 7 flight of the X-43 will be the first flight of an airframe-integrated scramjet-powered vehicle.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The X-33 reusable launch vehicle demonstrator has identified the need to implement a vehicle health monitoring system that can acquire data that monitors system health and performance. Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company, has designed and developed a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)-based open architecture system that implements a number of technologies that have not been previously used in a flight environment. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and Sanders teamed to demonstrate that the distributed remote health nodes, fiber optic distributed strain sensor, and fiber distributed data interface communications components of the X-33 vehicle health management (VHM) system could be successfully integrated and flown on a NASA F-18 aircraft. This paper briefly describes components of X-33 VHM architecture flown at Dryden and summarizes the integration and flight demonstration of these X-33 VHM components. Finally, it presents early results from the integration and flight efforts.

*SPARTA Range Systems Division, Lancaster, California.
**Sanders, A Lockheed Martin Company, Nashua, New Hampshire.


Development of reliable power-by-wire actuation systems for both aeronautical and space applications has been sought recently to eliminate hydraulic systems from aircraft and spacecraft and thus improve safety, efficiency, reliability, and maintainability. The Electrically Powered Actuation Design (EPAD) program was a joint effort between the Air Force, Navy, and NASA to develop and fly a series of actuators validating power-by-wire actuation technology on a primary flight control surface of a tactical aircraft. To achieve this goal, each of the EPAD actuators was installed in place of the standard hydraulic actuator on the left aileron of the NASA F/A-18B Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) and flown throughout the SRA flight envelope. Numerous parameters were recorded, and overall actuator performance was compared with the performance of the standard hydraulic actuator on the opposite wing. This paper discusses the integration and testing of the EPAD electromechanical actuator (EMA) on the SRA. The architecture of the EMA system is discussed, as well as its integration with the F/A-18 Flight Control System. The flight test program is described, and actuator performance is shown to be very close to that of the standard hydraulic actuator it replaced. Lessons learned
during this program are presented and discussed, as well as suggestions for future research.

*Dynamic Controls, Inc., Dayton, Ohio.
**USAF Wright Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

** Wright Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

F-18B Systems Research Aircraft (SRA)


Development of reliable power-by-wire actuation systems for both aeronautical and space applications has been sought recently to eliminate hydraulic systems from aircraft and spacecraft and thus improve safety, efficiency, reliability, and maintainability. The Electrically Powered Actuation Design (EPAD) program was a joint effort between the Air Force, Navy, and NASA to develop and fly a series of actuators validating power-by-wire actuation technology on a primary flight control surface of a tactical aircraft. To achieve this goal, each of the EPAD actuators was installed in place of the standard hydraulic actuator on the left aileron of the NASA F/A-18B Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) and flown throughout the SRA flight envelope. Numerous parameters were recorded, and overall actuator performance was compared with the performance of the standard hydraulic actuator on the opposite wing. This paper discusses the integration and testing of the EPAD electromechanical actuator (EMA) on the SRA. The architecture of the EMA system is discussed, as well as its integration with the F/A-18 Flight Control System. The flight test program is described, and actuator performance is shown to be very close to that of the standard hydraulic actuator it replaced. Lessons learned during this program are presented and discussed, as well as suggestions for future research.

* Dynamic Controls, Inc., Dayton, Ohio.
** Wright Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.


A maximum-likelihood output-error parameter estimation technique has been used to obtain stability and control derivatives for the NASA F-18B Systems Research Aircraft. This work has been performed to support flight testing of the active aeroelastic wing (AAW) F-18A project. The goal of this research is to obtain baseline F-18 stability and control derivatives that will form the foundation of the aerodynamic model for the AAW aircraft configuration. Flight data have been obtained at Mach numbers between 0.85 and 1.30 and at dynamic pressures ranging between 600 and 1500 lbf/sq ft. At each test condition, longitudinal and lateral-directional doublets have been performed using an automated onboard excitation system. The doublet maneuver consists of a series of single-surface inputs so that individual control-surface motions cannot be correlated with other control-surface motions. Flight test results have shown that several stability and control derivatives are significantly different than prescribed by the F-18B aerodynamic model. This report defines the parameter estimation technique used, presents stability and control derivative results, compares the results with predictions based on the current F-18B aerodynamic model, and shows improvements to the nonlinear simulation using updated derivatives from this research.

Keywords: Active aeroelastic wing; Control derivatives; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification; Stability derivatives


Robust flutter margins can be computed for an aeroelastic model with respect to an associated uncertainty description that describes modeling errors. An on-line implementation to compute these robust margins is considered. The on-line approach generates uncertainty descriptions at test points and can account for time-varying errors in the model. A flutterometer is introduced as an on-line tool to indicate a measure of distance to flutter during a flight flutter test. Such a tool is formulated based on robust flutter margin analysis. A flight test of an F/A-18 is simulated to demonstrate the performance of the flutterometer. This tool is clearly more informative than traditional tracking of damping trends and provides accurate information about the true flutter margin...
throughout the flight test. The simulation demonstrates characteristics of the flutterometer that could improve flight test efficiency by increasing safety and reducing flight time for envelope expansion.


This report describes a method that can calculate transient aerodynamic heating and transient surface temperatures at supersonic and hypersonic speeds. This method can rapidly calculate temperature and heating rate time-histories for complete flight trajectories. Semi-empirical theories are used to calculate laminar and turbulent heat transfer coefficients and a procedure for estimating boundary-layer transition is included. Results from this method are compared with flight data from the X-15 research vehicle, YF-12 airplane, and the Space Shuttle Orbiter. These comparisons show that the calculated values are in good agreement with the measured flight data.

Keywords: Aerodynamic heating; Boundary layer; Flight measurements; Flow hypersonic; Flow inviscid


A user’s guide for the computer program SKETCH is presented on this disk. SKETCH solves a popular problem in computer graphics—the removal of hidden lines from images of solid objects. Examples and illustrations are included in the guide. Also included is the SKETCH program, so a user can incorporate the information into a particular software system.

Keywords: Eulerian angles; Hidden line; ICORE; SKETCH


This disk contains both a FORTRAN computer program and the corresponding user’s guide that facilitates both its incorporation into your system and its utility. The computer program represents an efficient algorithm that routes signal traces on layers of a printed circuit with both through-pins and surface mounts. The computer program included is an implementation of the ideas presented in the theoretical paper titled “A Formal Algorithm for Routing Signal Traces on a Printed Circuit Board”, NASA TP-3639 published in 1996. The computer program in the “connects” file can be read with a FORTRAN compiler and readily integrated into software unique to each particular environment where it might be used.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Printed circuit board; Routing

2001 Technical Publications


An entry, descent, and flight (EDF) trajectory profile for a Mars airplane mission is defined as consisting of the following elements: ballistic entry of an aeroshell; supersonic deployment of a decelerator parachute; subsonic release of a heat shield; release, unfolding, and orientation of an airplane to flight attitude; and execution of a pull up maneuver to achieve trimmed, horizontal flight. Using the Program to Optimize Simulated Trajectories (POST) a trajectory optimization problem was formulated. Model data representative of a specific Mars airplane configuration, current models of the Mars surface topography and atmosphere, and current estimates of the interplanetary trajectory, were incorporated into the analysis. The goal is to develop an EDF trajectory to maximize the surface-relative altitude of the airplane at the end of a pull up maneuver, while subject to the mission design constraints. The trajectory performance was evaluated for three potential mission sites and was found to be site-sensitive. The trajectory performance, examined for sensitivity to a number of design and constraint variables, was found to be most sensitive to airplane mass, aerodynamic performance characteristics, and the pull up Mach constraint. Based on the results of this sensitivity study, an airplane-drag optimized trajectory was developed that showed a significant performance improvement.

Keywords: Aircraft design; Atmospheric entry; Flight mechanics; Mars probes; Trajectory optimization

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


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*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

Two-View Drawing of Mars Airplane


This paper presents results of wind-tunnel tests that demonstrate a novel drag reduction technique for blunt-based vehicles. For these tests, the forebody roughness of a blunt-based model was modified using micomachined surface overlays. As forebody roughness increases, boundary layer at the model aft thickens and reduces the shearing effect of external flow on the separated flow behind the base region, resulting in reduced base drag. For vehicle configurations with large base drag, existing data predict that a small increment in forebody friction drag will result in a relatively large decrease in base drag. If the added increment in forebody skin drag is optimized with respect to base drag, reducing the total drag of the configuration is possible. The wind-tunnel tests results conclusively demonstrate the existence of a forebody dragbase drag optimal point. The data demonstrate that the base drag coefficient corresponding to the drag minimum lies between 0.225 and 0.275, referenced to the base area. Most importantly, the data show a drag reduction of approximately 15% when the drag optimum is reached. When this drag reduction is scaled to the X-33 base area, drag savings approaching 45,000 N (10,000 lbf) can be realized.

Keywords: Base drag; Drag reduction; Reusable launch vehicle; Skin friction; Wind tunnel

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
**University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.


This paper presents the details of a set of aeroelastic stability analyses of the Hyper-X free flyer vehicle employing Euler-based steady and unsteady flow solutions. These results are also compared with piston theory using the conventional as well as a system identification procedure. Both structural and fluids discretization are achieved by the standard finite element method. Analysis results indicate good correlation of various procedures in the simulation of aeroelastic stability phenomenon. Also, CPU time required for such an analysis is indicative of the feasibility of CFD-based flutter and aeroservoelastic stability analysis of complex aerospace vehicles using currently available computing resources.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Edwards, California.


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*McClinton, Charles R.; *Rausch, Vincent L.; Sitz,
Geometrical, flight, computational fluid dynamics (CFD), and wind-tunnel studies for the F-16XL-1 airplane are summarized over a wide range of test conditions. Details are as follows: (1) For geometry, the upper surface of the airplane and the numerical surface description compare reasonably well. (2) For flight, CFD, and wind-tunnel surface pressures, the comparisons are generally good at low angles of attack at both subsonic and transonic speeds, however, local differences are present. In addition, the shock location at transonic speeds from wind-tunnel pressure contours is near the aileron hinge line and generally is in correlative agreement with flight results. (3) For boundary layers, flight profiles were predicted reasonably well for attached flow and underneath the primary vortex but not for the secondary vortex. Flight data indicate the presence of an interaction of the secondary vortex system and the boundary layer and the boundary-layer measurements show the secondary vortex located more outboard than predicted. (4) Predicted and measured skin friction distributions showed qualitative agreement for a two vortex system. (5) Web-based data-extraction and computational-graphical tools have proven useful in expediting the preceding comparisons. (6) Data fusion has produced insightful results for a variety of visualization-based data sets.

Keywords: F-16XL-1; Flow physics; Subsonic; Transonic; Data fusion

*SNASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) systems provide crucial information to meteorologists for advising uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) flight crews and mission directors on historical, current, and forecasted wind and turbulence conditions. The SODAR system provided advanced warning of increasing surface winds for an X-38 flight on February 6, 1999. The SODAR system has also provided important postflight data for X-38 engineers to review the performance of the parashute in the presence of strong wind shears near the surface at landing.

Keywords: Acoustic beams; B-52; Doppler shift; Flight test; Helios; Meteorology; Pathfinder; SODAR (sonic detection and ranging); Solar electric UAV; UAV; Windspeed profiles; X-38

**Aerovironment Inc., Monrovia, California.
***NOAA, Houston, Texas.


Non-linear dynamics in aeroelastic systems are difficult to analyze and can induce unpredicted limit cycle oscillations in flight. This paper introduces wavelet analysis for processing flight data to extract information about structural non-linearities. Features and trends from wavelet transform maps of transient responses are used to detect and characterize polynomial non-linearities in stiffness. These features are also used to formulate functions that use transient responses at stable flight conditions to predict the onset of limit-cycle oscillations.

2516. Brenner, Marty; and *Groutage, Dale: Nonstationary Dynamics Data Analysis with Wavelet-SVD Filtering. NASA/TM-2001-210391, H-2445, NAS 1.15:210391, also
Nonstationary time-frequency analysis is used for identification and classification of aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic dynamics. Time-frequency multiscale wavelet processing generates discrete energy density distributions. The distributions are processed using the singular value decomposition (SVD). Discrete density functions derived from the SVD generate moments that detect the principal features in the data. The SVD standard basis vectors are applied and then compared with a transformed-SVD, or TSVD, which reduces the number of features into more compact energy density concentrations. Finally, from the feature extraction, wavelet-based modal parameter estimation is applied.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; AERoservoelasticity; Singular value decomposition; System identification; Time-frequency analysis; Wavelet analysis

*Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Bremerton, Washington.


Nonstationary time-frequency analysis is used for identification and classification of aeroelastic and aeroervsvoelastic dynamics. Time-frequency multiscale wavelet processing generates discrete energy density distributions. The distributions are processed using the singular value decomposition (SVD). Discrete density functions derived from the SVD generate moments that detect the principal features in the data. The SVD standard basis vectors are applied and then compared with a transformed-SVD, or TSVD, which reduces the number of features into more compact energy density concentrations. Finally, from the feature extraction, wavelet-based modal parameter estimation is applied. The primary objective is the automation of time-frequency analysis with modal system identification. The contribution is a more general approach in which distinct analysis tools are merged into a unified procedure for linear and nonlinear data analysis. This method is first applied to aeroelastic pitch-plunge wing section models. Instability is detected in the linear system, and nonlinear dynamics are observed from the time-frequency map and parameter estimates of the nonlinear system. Aeroelastic and aeroervsvoelastic flight data from the DAST (drone for aerodynamic and structural testing) and F18 aircraft are also investigated and comparisons made between the SVD and TSVD results. Input-output data is used to show that this process is an efficient and reliable tool for automated on-line analysis.


This paper describes a method of alleviating buffet loads using a smart actuation system. The smart actuation system entails a flexible rudder fitted with plurality of pairs of piezoelectric actuators that deform antagonistically. Unlike conventional rudders the actively controlled surface modal device generates unsteady aerodynamic forces in out-of-phase with the exciting buffet loads in a wide band spectrum. Hence, it is seen to be very effective to reduce the dynamic loads resulting from buffet and gust environments.

*Appa Technology Initiatives, Lake Forest, California.
**USAF Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.


A ground vibration test can be used to obtain information about structural dynamics that is important for flutter analysis. Traditionally, this information such as natural frequencies of modes is used to update analytical models used to predict flutter speeds. The ground vibration test can also be used to obtain uncertainty models, such as natural frequencies and their associated variations, that can update analytical models for the purpose of predicting robust flutter speeds. Analyzing test data using the $\ell_\infty$-norm, rather than the traditional $\ell_2$-norm, is shown to lead to a minimum-size uncertainty description and, consequently, a least-conservative robust flutter speed. This approach is demonstrated using ground vibration test data for the Aerostructures Test Wing. Different norms are used to formulate uncertainty models and their associated robust flutter speeds to evaluate which norm is least conservative.

Keywords: Flutter; Ground vibration test; Uncertainty

A ground vibration test can be used to obtain information about structural dynamics that is important for flutter analysis. Traditionally, this information such as natural frequencies of modes is used to update analytical models used to predict flutter speeds. The ground vibration test can also be used to obtain uncertainty models, such as natural frequencies and their associated variations, that can update analytical models for the purpose of predicting robust flutter speeds. Analyzing test data using the \( \ell_1 \)-norm, rather than the traditional 2-norm, is shown to lead to a minimum-size uncertainty description and, consequently, a least-conservative robust flutter speed. This approach is demonstrated using ground vibration test data for the Aerostructures Test Wing. Different norms are used to formulate uncertainty models and their associated robust flutter speeds to evaluate which norm is least conservative.

2521. Shafer, Mary F.(Compiler); and Steinmetz, Paul: (Compiler) *Pilot-Induced Oscillation Research: The Status at the End of the Century; Volume 1.* NASA/CP-2001-210389/VOL1, H-2407, NAS 1.55:210389/VOL1. Presented at the Pilot-Induced Oscillation (PIO) Research: Status at the End of the Century Workshop, Edwards, California, April 6–8, 1999, CASI ID: 20010038270, (see 20010038271 through 20010038282). PDF CASI

The workshop “Pilot-Induced Oscillation Research: The Status at the End of the Century,” was held at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center on 6–8 April 1999. The presentations at this conference addressed the most current information available, addressing regulatory issues, flight test, safety, modeling, prediction, simulation, mitigation or prevention, and areas that require further research. All presentations were approved for publication as unclassified documents with no limits on their distribution. This proceedings includes the viewgraphs (some with author’s notes) used for thirty presentations that were actually given and two presentations that were not given because of time limitations. Four technical papers on this subject are also included.

Keywords: Flight control; Flight safety; Pilot-induced oscillation; Simulation of flight test


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Keywords: Flight control; Flight safety; Pilot-induced oscillation; Simulation of flight test


The flutterometer is an on-line tool that indicates a measure of distance to flutter during a flight test. The measure of distance is computed as a robust flutter margin by applying \( \mu \)-method analysis. The approach is to update the robust flutter margin at a series of test points by analyzing flight data. This paper documents the results of an envelope expansion for the Aerostructures Test Wing that used the flutterometer. Algorithm and implementation details that are critical to the successful application of the tool are discussed. Also, flight data and analysis are presented to demonstrate the properties of the flutterometer for predicting robust flutter speeds.

2525. Lind, Richard C.(Inventor); and Brenner, Martin J.:

A structured singular value (mu) analysis method of computing flutter margins has robust stability of a linear aeroelastic model with uncertainty operators (Delta). Flight data is used to update the uncertainty operators to accurately account for errors in the computed model and the observed range of aircraft dynamics of the aircraft under test caused by time-varying aircraft parameters, nonlinearities, and flight anomalies, such as test nonrepeatability. This mu-based approach computes predict flutter margins that are worst case with respect to the modeling uncertainty for use in determining when the aircraft is approaching a flutter condition and defining an expanded safe flight envelope for the aircraft that is accepted with more confidence than traditional methods that do not update the analysis algorithm with flight data by introducing mu as a flutter margin parameter that presents several advantages over tracking damping trends as a measure of a tendency to instability from available flight data.


This paper provides an overview of the objectives and status of the Hyper-X program, which is tailored to move hypersonic, airbreathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment. The first Hyper-X research vehicle (HXRV), designated X-43, is being prepared at the Dryden Flight Research Center for flight at Mach 7. Extensive risk reduction activities for the first flight are completed, and non-recurring design activities for the Mach 10 X-43 (third flight) are nearing completion. The Mach 7 flight of the X-43, in the spring of 2001, will be the first flight of an airframe-integrated scramjet-powered vehicle. The Hyper-X program is continuing to plan follow-on activities to focus an orderly continuation of hypersonic technology development through flight research.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Boundary layer manipulation used many aerodynamic applications produce large changes in flow field. For example, vortex generators are used on wings to energize the boundary layer to delay separation suction surface. Surface treatment capable producing large changes boundary layer is surface roughness. Surface roughness effects on turbulent flows have been studied last years. In addition, favorable pressure gradient effects on turbulent boundary layers have also been widely studied. However, the combination of these two effects has been widely studied. This paper considers combined effect favorable pressure gradient roughness incompressible turbulent boundary layer moderate Reynolds number.

*University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.


Two methods for control system reconfiguration have been investigated. The first method is a robust servomechanism control approach (optimal tracking problem) that is a generalization of the classical proportional-plus-integral control to multiple input-multiple output systems. The second method is a control-allocation approach based on a quadratic programming formulation. A globally convergent fixed-point iteration algorithm has been developed to make onboard implementation of this method feasible. These methods have been applied to reconfigurable entry flight control design for the X-33 vehicle. Examples presented demonstrate simultaneous tracking of angle-of-attack and roll angle commands during failures of the flight body flap actuator. Although simulations demonstrate success of the first method in most cases, the control-allocation method appears to provide uniformly better performance in all cases.

*Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.


Extensive pressure measurements and off-surface flow visualization were obtained on the forebody and strakes of the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) equipped with actuated forebody strakes. Forebody yawing moments were obtained by integrating the circumferential pressures on the forebody and strakes. Results show that large yawing moments can be generated with forebody strakes. At a 50 deg angle-of-attack, deflecting one strake at a time resulted in a forebody yawing moment control reversal for small strake deflection angles. However, deflecting the strakes differentially
about a 20 deg symmetric strake deployment eliminated the control reversal and produced a near linear variation of forebody yawing moment with differential strake deflection. At an angle of attack of 50 deg and for 0 deg and 20 deg symmetric strake deployments, a larger forebody yawing moment was generated by the forward fuselage (between the radome and the apex of the leading-edge extensions) than on the radome where the actuated forebody strakes were located. Cutouts on the flight vehicle strakes that were not on the wind tunnel models are believed to be responsible for deficits in the suction peaks on the flight radome pressure distributions and differences in the forebody yawing moments.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

The X-31 aircraft in flight


Significant yawing moment asymmetries were encountered during the high-angle-of-attack envelope expansion of the two X-31 aircraft. These asymmetries caused position saturations of the thrust-vectoring vanes and trailing-edge flaps during some stability-axis rolling maneuvers at high angles of attack. The two test aircraft had different asymmetry characteristics, and ship 2 has asymmetries that vary as a function of Reynolds number. Several aerodynamic modifications have been made to the X-31 forebody with the goal of minimizing the asymmetry. These modifications include adding transition strips on the forebody and noseboom, using two different length strakes, and increasing nose bluntness. Ultimately, a combination of forebody strakes, nose blunting, and noseboom transition strips reduced the yawing moment asymmetry enough to fully expand the high-angle-of-attack envelope. Analysis of the X-31 flight data is reviewed and compared to wind-tunnel and water-tunnel measurements. Several lessons learned are outlined regarding high-angle-of-attack configuration design and ground testing.


Finite element models are often developed for load validation, structural certification, response predictions, and to study alternate design concepts. In rare occasions, models developed with a nominal set of parameters agree with experimental data without the need to update parameter values. Today, model updating is generally heuristic and often performed by a skilled analyst with in-depth understanding of the model assumptions. Parameter uncertainties play a key role in understanding the model update problem and therefore probabilistic analysis tools, developed for reliability and risk analysis, may be used to incorporate uncertainty in the analysis. In this work, probability analysis (PA) tools are used to aid the parameter update task using experimental data and some basic knowledge of potential error sources. Discussed here is the first application of PA tools to update parameters of a finite element model for a composite wing structure. Static deflection data at six locations are used to update five parameters. It is shown that while prediction of individual response values may not be matched identically, the system response is significantly improved with moderate changes in parameter values.

Keywords: Parameter updates; Probabilistic analysis; Finite element; Model correlation

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An airdata estimation and evaluation system and method, including a stable algorithm for estimating airdata from nonintrusive surface pressure measurements. The airdata estimation and evaluation system is preferably implemented in a flush airdata sensing (FADS) system. The system and method of the present invention take a flow model equation and transform it into a triples formulation equation. The triples formulation equation eliminates the pressure related...
states from the flow model equation by strategically taking the differences of three surface pressures, known as triples. This triples formulation equation is then used to accurately estimate and compute vital airdata from nonintrusive surface pressure measurements.


The design and development of the F-15B Propulsion Flight Test Fixture (PFTF), a new facility for propulsion flight research, is described. Mounted underneath an F-15B fuselage, the PFTF provides volume for experiment systems and attachment points for propulsion devices. A unique feature of the PFTF is the incorporation of a six-degree-of-freedom force balance. Three-axis forces and moments can be measured in flight for experiments mounted to the force balance. The NASA F-15B airplane is described, including its performance and capabilities as a research test bed aircraft. The detailed description of the PFTF includes the geometry, internal layout and volume, fore-balance operation, available instrumentation, and allowable experiment size and weight. The aerodynamic, stability and control, and structural designs of the PFTF are discussed, including results from aerodynamics computational fluid dynamic calculations and structural analysis. Details of current and future propulsion flight experiments are discussed. Information about the integration of propulsion flight experiments is provided. The detailed description of the PFTF is included, its performance and capabilities as a research test bed aircraft. The detailed description of the PFTF includes the geometry, internal layout and volume, force-balance operation, available instrumentation, and allowable experiment size and weight. The aerodynamic, stability and control, and structural designs of the PFTF are discussed, including results from aerodynamics computational fluid dynamic calculations and structural analysis. Details of current and future propulsion flight experiments are discussed. Information about the integration of propulsion flight experiments is provided for the potential PFTF user.


Uncertainty modeling is a critical element in the estimation of robust stability margins for stability boundary prediction and robust flight control system development. There has been a serious deficiency to date in aeroservoelastic data analysis with attention to uncertainty modeling. Uncertainty can be estimated from flight data using both parametric and nonparametric identification techniques. The model validation problem addressed in this paper is to identify aeroservoelastic models with associated uncertainty structures from a limited amount of controlled excitation inputs over an extensive flight envelope. The challenge to this problem is to update analytical models from flight data estimates while also deriving non-conservative uncertainty descriptions consistent with the flight data. Multisine control surface command inputs and control system feedbacks are used as signals in a wavelet-based modal parameter estimation procedure for model updates. Transfer function estimates are incorporated in a robust minimax estimation scheme to get input-output parameters and error bounds consistent with the data and model structure. Uncertainty estimates derived from the data in this manner provide an appropriate and relevant representation for model development and robust stability analysis. The model-plus-uncertainty identification procedure is applied to aeroservoelastic flight data from the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center F-18 Systems Research Aircraft.

Keywords: Aeroservoelasticity; Modal identification; Morlet wavelet; Robust minimax

The design and development of the F-15B Propulsion Flight Test Fixture (PFTF), a new facility for propulsion flight research, is described. Mounted underneath an F-15B fuselage, the PFTF provides volume for experiment systems and attachment points for propulsion devices. A unique feature of the PFTF is the incorporation of a six-degree-of-freedom force balance. Three-axis forces and moments can be measured in flight for experiments mounted to the force balance. The NASA F-15B airplane is described, including its performance and capabilities as a research test bed aircraft. The detailed description of the PFTF includes the geometry, internal layout and volume, force-balance operation, available instrumentation, and allowable experiment size and weight. The aerodynamic, stability and control, and structural designs of the PFTF are discussed, including results from aerodynamics computational fluid dynamic calculations and structural analysis. Details of current and future propulsion flight experiments are discussed. Information about the integration of propulsion flight experiments is provided for the potential PFTF user.


This paper provides an overview of the objectives and status of the Hyper-X program, which is tailored to move
Reconfigurable control design for the full X-33 flight envelope. The Hyper-X program is the 12-foot long X-43, hypersonic scramjet powered vehicle. Extensive risk reduction activities for the two Mach 7 flights are completed, and non-recurring design activities for the Mach 10 (3rd flight) are nearing completion. The first Mach 7 flight of the X-43, was June 2, 2001. Problems encountered in the transonic boost phase precluded reaching the scramjet test condition, but extensive data generated is being studied to verify all systems. The second flight is currently scheduled for late in CY 2001. When flown, this will be the first flight of an airframe-integrated scramjet-powered vehicle. The Hyper-X program is supporting the NASA MSFC ASTP Program in planning follow-on activities to focus an orderly continuation of hypersonic technology development through ground and flight research.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

A reconfigurable control law for the full X-33 flight envelope has been designed to accommodate a failed control surface and redistribute the control effort among the remaining working surfaces to retain satisfactory stability and performance. An offline nonlinear constrained optimization approach has been used for the X-33 reconfigurable control design method. Using a nonlinear, six-degree-of freedom simulation, three example failures are evaluated: ascent with a left body flap jammed at maximum deflection; entry with a right inboard elevon jammed at maximum deflection; and landing with a left rudder jammed at maximum deflection. Failure detection and identification are accomplished in the actuator controller. Failure response comparisons between the nominal control mixer and the reconfigurable control subsystem (mixer) show the benefits of reconfiguration. Single aerosurface jamming failures are considered. The cases evaluated are representative of the study conducted to prove the adequate and safe performance of the reconfigurable control mixer throughout the full flight envelope. The X-33 flight control system incorporates reconfigurable flight control in the existing baseline system.

Describing function models of human operators are standard components of manual control studies. Estimates of these models from experimental data typically use ratios of FFT-based power and cross-power spectra. Here we show that time varying versions of these human operator models can be estimated using wavelet transforms. Data is presented for three pilots performing a fixed-based-simulator tracking task. It is seen that the human operator models change significantly during the 60-second task.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

A Monte Carlo dispersion analysis has been completed on the X-33 software simulation. The simulation is based on a preliminary version of the software and is primarily used in an effort to define and refine how a Monte Carlo dispersion analysis would have been done on the final flight-ready version of the software. This report gives an overview of the processes used in the implementation of the dispersions and describes the methods used to accomplish the Monte Carlo analysis. Selected results from 1000 Monte Carlo runs are presented.

**Keywords:** Control system reconfiguration; Emergency backup system; Reusable launch

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**Refereed Publications**


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hypersonic, airbreathing vehicle technology from the laboratory environment to the flight environment. The focus of Hyper-X program is the 12-foot long X-43, hypersonic scramjet powered vehicle. Extensive risk reduction activities for the two Mach 7 flights are completed, and non-recurring design activities for the Mach 10 (3rd flight) are nearing completion. The first Mach 7 flight of the X-43, was June 2, 2001. Problems encountered in the transonic boost phase precluded reaching the scramjet test condition, but extensive data generated is being studied to verify all systems. The second flight is currently scheduled for late in CY 2001. When flown, this will be the first flight of an airframe-integrated scramjet-powered vehicle. The Hyper-X program is supporting the NASA MSFC ASTP Program in planning follow-on activities to focus an orderly continuation of hypersonic technology development through ground and flight research.
In the event of a control surface failure, the purpose of a reconfigurable control system is to redistribute the control effort among the remaining working surfaces such that satisfactory stability and performance are retained. An Off-line Nonlinear General Constrained Optimization (ONCO) approach was used for the reconfigurable X-33 control design method. Three example failures are shown using a high fidelity 6 DOF simulation (case 1 ascent with a left body flap jammed at 25 deg.; case 2 entry with a right inboard elevon jam at 25 deg.; and case 3, landing (TAEM) with a left rudder jam at –30 deg.) Failure comparisons between responses with the nominal controller and reconfigurable controllers show the benefits of reconfiguration. Single jam aerosurface failures were considered, and failure detection and identification is considered accomplished in the actuator controller. The X-33 flight control system will incorporate reconfigurable flight control in the baseline system.

**Hyper-X hypersonic flight research vehicle mated to the launch vehicle Pegasus® booster rocket**


Heat transfer, thermal stresses, and thermal buckling analyses were performed on the unconventional wing structures of a Hyper-X hypersonic flight research vehicle (designated as X-43) subjected to nominal Mach 7 aerodynamic heating. A wing midspan cross section was selected for the heat transfer and thermal stress analyses. Thermal buckling analysis was performed on three regions of the wing skin (lower or upper); 1) a fore wing panel, 2) an aft wing panel, and 3) a unit panel at the middle of the aft wing panel. A fourth thermal buckling analysis was performed on a midspan wing segment. The unit panel region is identified as the potential thermal buckling initiation zone. Therefore, thermal buckling analysis of the Hyper-X wing panels could be reduced to the thermal buckling analysis of that unit panel. “Buckling temperature magnification factors” were established. Structural temperature-time histories are presented. The results show that the concerns of shear failure at wing and spar welded sites, and of thermal buckling of Hyper-X wing panels, may not arise under Mach 7 conditions.

Keywords: Buckling temperature magnification factors; Hyper-X wing; Irregular panels; Non-uniform temperature loading; Thermal buckling


A temperature compensation element for a high-temperature strain gage and the method of fabricating the same. Preferably, the element is a “dummy” strain gage not mechanically attached to the substrate. The element is encapsulated in an insulative material and used to compensate an active high-temperature strain gage and wired in a half-bridge configuration. The temperature compensation element and high-temperature strain gage are fabricated using the method of the present invention. This method includes temporarily adhering the element to a heat sink, encapsulated in an insulative material and then removed from the heat sink. Next, the element is either stacked or placed near the active gage. Ideally, the element and the active gage have substantially similar heat transfer and electrical properties.


Aircraft hardware-in-the-loop simulation is an invaluable tool to flight test engineers; it reveals design and implementation flaws while operating in a controlled environment. Engineers, however, must always be skeptical of the results and analyze them within their proper context. Engineers must carefully ascertain whether an anomaly that occurs in the simulation
will also occur in flight. This report presents a chronology illustrating how misleading simulation timing problems led to the implementation of an overly complex position data synchronization guidance algorithm in place of a simpler one. The report illustrates problems caused by the complex algorithm and how the simpler algorithm was chosen in the end. Brief descriptions of the project objectives, approach, and simulation are presented. The misleading simulation results and the conclusions then drawn are presented. The complex and simple guidance algorithms are presented with flight data illustrating their relative success.

Keywords: Global Positioning System; Inertial navigation; Automatic control; Flight simulation; Universal time


The X-33 reusable launch vehicle demonstrator has identified the need to implement a vehicle health monitoring system that can acquire data that monitors system health and performance. Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company, has designed and developed a COTS-based open architecture system that implements a number of technologies that have not been previously used in a flight environment. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and Sanders teamed to demonstrate that the distributed remote health nodes, fiber optic distributed strain sensor, and fiber distributed data interface communications components of the X-33 vehicle health management (VHM) system could be successfully integrated and flown on a NASA F-18 aircraft. This paper briefly describes components of X-33 VHM architecture flown at Dryden and summarizes the integration and flight demonstration of these X-33 VHM components. Finally, it presents early results from the integration and flight efforts.

Keywords: Aircraft systems; Bragg gratings; Fiber optic sensing; Flight testing; Integrated vehicle health management; Intelligent systems; IVHM; Structural health monitoring

*BAE Systems, Nashua, New Hampshire.

2002 Technical Publications


A small-scale, instrumented research aircraft was flown to investigate the flight characteristics of inflatable wings. Ground tests measured the static structural characteristics of the wing at different inflation pressures, and these results compared favorably with analytical predictions. A research-quality instrumentation system was assembled, largely from commercial off-the-shelf components, and installed in the aircraft. Initial flight operations were conducted with a conventional rigid wing having the same dimensions as the inflatable wing. Subsequent flights were conducted with the inflatable wing. Research maneuvers were executed to identify the trim, aerodynamic performance, and longitudinal stability and control characteristics of the vehicle in its different wing configurations. For the angle-of-attack range spanned in this flight program, measured flight data demonstrated that the rigid wing was an effective simulator of the lift-generating capability of the inflatable wing. In-flight inflation of the wing was demonstrated in three flight operations, and measured flight data illustrated the dynamic characteristics during wing inflation and transition to controlled lifting flight. Wing inflation was rapid and the vehicle dynamics during inflation and transition were benign. The resulting angles of attack and sideslip were small, and the dynamic response was limited to roll and heave motions.

Keywords: Research aircraft; Inflatable gliders; Aircraft performance; Inflatable structures; Structural analysis

**California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, California.
***Vertigo, Inc., Lake Elsinore, California.


A small-scale, instrumented research aircraft was flown to investigate the flight characteristics of inflatable wings. Ground tests measured the static structural characteristics of the wing at different inflation pressures, and these results compared favorably with analytical predictions. A research-quality instrumentation system was assembled, largely from commercial off-the-shelf components, and installed in the aircraft. Initial flight operations were conducted with a conventional rigid wing having the same dimensions as the inflatable wing. Subsequent flights were conducted with the inflatable wing. Research maneuvers were executed to identify the trim, aerodynamic performance, and longitudinal stability and control characteristics of the vehicle in its different wing
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**California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, California.
***Vertigo, Inc., Lake Elsinore, California.

2549. Gupta, Kajal K.; Voelker, Leonard S.; *Bach, Can: 
Finite Element CFD-Based Aeroservoelastic Analysis. 
AIAA 2002-0953. Presented at the 40th AIAA Aerospace 
Sciences Meeting and Exhibit, Reno, Nevada, January 14– 
17, 2002. PDF AIAA

This paper presents details of an aeroservoelastic modeling 
and simulation procedure for analysis of aerospace vehicles. 
Both structural and fluids discretization are achieved by the 
finit element method and the interaction of the two mediums 
is modeled by employing the transpiration boundary condition 
technique, while control laws are used for suppression of 
unwarranted motions. This is achieved by developing a state- 
space model employing a system identification procedure. 
An associated software is also described in some detail along 
with analysis results for a cantilever wing and the Hyper-X 
stack model.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Edwards, California.

2550. *Decker, R.K.; *Naughton, J.W.; and Whitmore, S.A.: 
Modification of Base Drag through Boundary-Layer 
Manipulation. AIAA 2002-0273. Presented at the 40th AIAA 
Aerospace Sciences Conference, Reno, Nevada, January 14– 
17, 2002. PDF AIAA

Previous work has demonstrated the potential use fore-body 
viscous drag to reduce overall drag on vehicles with large 
base-area-to-fore-body-area ratios. To study this poten- 
tial drag-reduction method and to determine the mechanism 
responsible for the observed drag reduction, detailed pressure 
and shear stress measurements have been made on a ramp 
model. In this study, the fore-body drag is manipulated using 
surface roughness. The results presented here indicate that, 
for the particular configuration studied, no re- duction in base 
drag is observed with increased fore-body drag. Explanations 
for this result are presented. Further work is required to 
conclusively demonstrate the potential of this drag-reduction 
method.

*University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

2551. Lind, Rick: Match-Point Solutions for Robust 
February 2002. PDF AIAA

The computation of robust flutter speeds presents a significant 
advancement over traditional types of flutter analysis. In 
particular, 1-method analysis is able to generate robust 
flutter speeds that represent worst-case flight conditions 
with respect to potential modeling errors. Robust flutter 
speeds may be computed using a model formulation that has 
been previously presented; however, that formulation has 
limitations in its ability to generate a match-point solution. A 
model formulation is introduced for which 1-method analysis 
is guaranteed to compute a match-point solution. The match- 
point solution is immediately realized by analyzing a single 
model so the computation time is reduced from the previous 
approach that required iterations. Also, the solution is able 
to consider parametric uncertainty in any element, whereas 
the previous formulation did not consider mass uncertainty. 
The match-point formulation is derived by properly treating 
the nonlinear perturbations and uncertainties that affect the 
equation of motion. The Aerostructures Test Wing is used 
to demonstrate that the 1-method analysis computes match- 
point flutter speeds using this new formulation.

2552. Corda, Stephen; Franz, Russell J.; Blanton, James N.; 
Vachon, M. Jake; and DeBoer, James B.: In-Flight Vibration 
Environment of the NASA F-15B Flight Test Fixture. 
NASA/TM-2002-210719, H-2468, NAS 1.15:210719, 
February 2002, CASI ID: 20020043372. PDF DTRS

Flight vibration data are analyzed for the NASA F-15B/Flight 
Test Fixture II test bed. Understanding the in-flight vibration 
environment benefits design and integration of experiments 
on the test bed. The power spectral density (PSD) of 
accelerometer flight data is analyzed to quantify the in-flight 
 vibration environment from a frequency of 15 Hz to 1325 Hz. 
These accelerometer data are analyzed for typical flight 
conditions and maneuvers. The vibration data are compared 
to flight-qualification random vibration test standards. The 
PSD levels in the lateral axis generally are greater than in the 
longitudinal and vertical axes and decrease with increasing 
frequency. At frequencies less than approximately 40 Hz, the 
highest PSD levels occur during takeoff and landing. Peaks 
in the PSD data for the test fixture occur at approximately 
65, 85, 105-110, 200, 500, and 1000 Hz. The pitch-pulse and 
2-g turn maneuvers produce PSD peaks at 115 Hz. For cruise 
conditions, the PSD level of the 85-Hz peak is greatest for 
transonic flight at Mach 0.9. From 400 Hz to 1325 Hz, the 
takeoff phase has the highest random vibration levels. The 
flight-measured vibration levels generally are substantially 
lower than the random vibration test curve.

Keywords: F-15B flight test fixture; Flight test; Power spectral 
density; Random vibration;Vibration flight data
In at least one embodiment, the apparatus of the invention is a flight vehicle tail assembly having an exterior surface, at least one first vent in the exterior surface, at least one second vent in the exterior surface, and an air passage connecting the at least one first vent to the at least one second vent allowing air to flow there between. Where the at least one first vent is located near a high air pressure area acting on the exterior surface during a range of predefined flight conditions. Further, the at least one second vent is located near a low air pressure area acting on the exterior surface during the predefined flight conditions. So that at the predefined flight conditions adverse loads on the tail assembly are reduced by venting air from the high pressure area, through the tail assembly, to the low pressure area. The method of the present invention includes the steps of: receiving air through the at least one first vent in the exterior surface, passing the air through the tail assembly from the at least one first vent to at least one second vent in the exterior surface. and ejecting the air out of the tail assembly at the at least one second vent.

In February 2000 the NASA DC-8 airborne sciences research airplane during a flight from Edwards Air Force Base to Kiruna Sweden, inadvertently flew through a diffuse volcanic ash cloud of the Hekla Volcano. Although there was no visible indication to the flight crew, sensitive research experiments and instruments detected the ash plume. In-flight performance checks and post-flight visual inspections revealed no damage to the airplane or engine 1st stage fan blades, but later detailed examination of the engines revealed clogged turbine cooling air passages. As a result, the engines were removed and overhauled at a cost of $3.2M. This paper presents analysis of the volcanic ash plume, trajectory, analysis of the ash particles collected in aircraft filters and removed from the engines, and engine conditions.

A dynamic model is presented for pneumatic tubing and pressure sensor conconditions. The model uses the lineari zed Navier–Stokes equations, with the boundary conditions extended to allow for rarefied conditions. At the low pressure levels, the modified wall boundary condition allows fluid elements to slip when directly in contact with the tubing wall. This slippage effectively lowers fluid viscosity. Dynamic effects of rarefied-flow extension are demonstrated by comparing rarefied-flow solutions to equivalent solutions generated using continuum-flow models. Lower viscosity resulting from rarefied flow causes the configuration responses to be less damped than for similar conditions without molecular effects. Comparing steady-state response to data from a series of laboratory experiments validates the range of the rarefied-flow model. When pneumatic tubing heated unevenly, rarefied flow forces the tube hot end to have higher pressure than the cold end, with no net flow along the tube. This pressure difference results in a dc offset in the measured pressure reading. Comparisons of the steady-state model to experimental data show that the slip-flow model is generally applicable for Knudsen numbers up to approxim ate 0.65. Beyond 0.7 Knudsen number, molecular effects dominate, and the model is no longer applicable to the problem physics.

In this paper, we present closed-form formulas for the lift and moment coefficients of a lifting surface in two-dimensional, unsteady, compressible, subsonic flow utilizing a newly developed explicit analytical solution of the Possio equation. Numerical calculations are consistent with previous numerical tables based on series expansions or ad hoc numerical schemes. More importantly, these formulas lend themselves readily to flutter analysis, compared with the tedious tablelook-up schemes currently in use.

An elastomeric tension-compression load pad material was selected in preparation for ground loads testing of a research aircraft. Five rubber materials candidates were load tested for ultimate tensile strength, creep strength, low-cycle fatigue strength, and compressive stiffness. Additionally, two bonding agents candidates were tested for strength properties, ease of application, removal, and reliability. Material testing was completed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to select a load pad material and a bonding agent capable of providing the elastomer interface for the aircraft while enduring both tensile and compressive applied loads.
A flight flutter experiment at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California, used an 18-inch half-span composite model called the Aerostructures Test Wing (ATW). The ATW was mounted on a centerline flight test fixture on the NASA F-15B and used distributed piezoelectric strain actuators for in-flight structural excitation. The main focus of this paper is to investigate the performance of the piezoelectric actuators and test their ability to excite the first-bending and first-torsion modes of the ATW on the ground and in-flight. On the ground, wing response resulting from piezoelectric and impact excitation was recorded and compared. The comparison shows less than a 1-percent difference in modal frequency and a 3-percent increase in damping. A comparison of in-flight response resulting from piezoelectric excitation and atmospheric turbulence shows that the piezoelectric excitation consistently created an increased response in the wing throughout the flight envelope tested. The data also showed that to obtain a good correlation between the piezoelectric input and the wing accelerometer response, the input had to be nearly 3.5 times greater than the turbulence excitation on the wing.

Keywords: Actuators; Flight test; Flutter; Piezoelectrics; Structural excitation

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

The left wing of the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) F/A-18 airplane has been ground-load-tested to quantify its torsional stiffness. The test has been performed at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in November 1996, and again in April 2001 after a wing skin modification was performed. The primary objectives of these tests were to characterize the wing behavior before the first flight, and provide a before-and-after measurement of the torsional stiffness. Two streamwise load couples have been applied. The wing skin modification is shown to have more torsional flexibility than the original configuration has. Additionally, structural hysteresis is shown to be reduced by the skin modification. Data comparisons show good repeatability between the tests.

Keywords: Ground load testing; Wing deflection measurement; Wing elastic twist; Wing flexibility; Wing torsional stiffness

* Spiral Technology Inc., Lancaster, California.
**The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri.
The left wing of the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) F/A-18 airplane has been ground–load-tested to quantify its torsional stiffness. The test has been performed at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in November 1996, and again in April 2001 after a wing skin modification was performed. The primary objectives of these tests were to characterize the wing behavior before the first flight, and provide a before-and-after measurement of the torsional stiffness. Two streamwise load couples have been applied. The wing skin modification is shown to have more torsional flexibility than the original configuration has. Additionally, structural hysteresis is shown to be reduced by the skin modification. Data comparisons show good repeatability between the tests.

*Spiral Technology Inc., Lancaster, California.
**The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

Several methods have been formulated to predict the onset of flutter during flight testing. These methods have been demonstrated using data from simulations; however, a rigorous evaluation that includes data from flight testing must be performed. This paper evaluates the ability of several methods to predict the onset of flutter by analyzing data from flight tests of the Aerostructures Test Wing. The evaluated methods include data-based approaches that utilize the damped extrapolation, an envelope function, the Zimmerman-Weissenburger flutter margin, and a discrete-time autoregressive moving-average model. Also, a model-based approach that uses the $\mu$-method flutterometer is evaluated. The data-based methods are demonstrated to predict inaccurate flutter speeds using data from low-speed test points but converge to the accurate solution as airspeed is increased. Conversely, the flutterometer is demonstrated as immediately conservative using data from low-speed test points but the predictions remain conservative and do not converge to the true flutter speed as the envelope is expanded.

*University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

The Autonomous Formation Flight (AFF) program was initiated in 1995 with a goal to demonstrate at least 10% drag reduction, and to reduce the requirements and therefore the cost. Selection, and simplifying assumptions for given applications that may reduce the requirements and therefore the cost.

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.
reduction by positioning a trailing aircraft in the wing tip vortex of a leading aircraft. The first step in accomplishing this feat, Phase 0, was to develop the station keeping system enabling the trailing aircraft to autonomously maintain formation flight with the leading aircraft. In doing so, two technology areas needed to be investigated. First, a GPS based relative navigation system capable of accurately tracking both leading and following aircraft positional data was needed. Second, a control system using both aircraft’s positional data was required to command the trailing aircraft to autonomously maintain relative position with the leading aircraft.

*Spiral Tech, Edwards, California.

An Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced In-Flight Measurements (ACCLAIM) of turbulence and wind shear was tested aboard the NASA DC-8 airplane during the Fourth Convection and Moisture Experiment (CAMEX-4) during August - September 2001. The flights provided a wide range of physical variations for functional testing and applications development experience. ACLAIM primarily used a forward-looking line of sight to gain experience for advanced turbulence detection. Some data were acquired using upward slanting lines of sight to probe for atmospheric wind shear components parallel to the flight track. In addition, downward views to the sea surface were used to calibrate Doppler velocity signals. Both downward and upward viewing angles provided backscatter information for validation of 2-micron wavelength atmospheric backscatter models. This paper presents the highlights of the turbulence encounters, examples of lidar line-of-sight data contrasts between unperturbed atmospheric conditions and those with gusts, and changing reflectivity along the lidar line of sight.

*Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia
**Coherent Technologies, Lafayette, Colorado
***AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California
****Swales Aerospace, Hampton, Virginia

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*Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia
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***AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California
****Swales Aerospace, Hampton, Virginia
produce a database suitable for deriving load equations for left and right wing root and fold shear; bending moment; torque; and all eight wing control-surface hinge moments. A secondary goal is to produce a database of wing deflections measured by string potentiometers and the onboard flight deflection measurement system. Another goal is to produce strain-gage data through both the laboratory data acquisition system and the onboard aircraft data system as a check of the aircraft system. Thirty-two hydraulic jacks have applied loads through whiffletrees to 104 tension-compression load pads bonded to the lower wing surfaces. The load pads covered approximately 60 percent of the lower wing surface. A series of 72 load cases has been performed, including single-point, double-point, and distributed load cases. Applied loads have reached 70 percent of the flight limit load. Maximum wingtip deflection has reached nearly 16 in.

Keywords: Strain gage calibration; Loads testing; Load equations; Load measurement; Load calibration

* Spiral Technology Inc., Lancaster, California.
**The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri.


This report describes strain-gage calibration loading through the application of known loads of the Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18 airplane. The primary goal of this test is to produce a database suitable for deriving load equations for left and right wing root and fold shear; bending moment; torque; and all eight wing control-surface hinge moments. A secondary goal is to produce a database of wing deflections measured by string potentiometers and the onboard flight deflection measurement system. Another goal is to produce strain-gage data through both the laboratory data acquisition system and the onboard aircraft data system as a check of the aircraft system. Thirty-two hydraulic jacks have applied loads through whiffletrees to 104 tension-compression load pads bonded to the lower wing surfaces. The load pads covered approximately 60 percent of the lower wing surface. A series of 72 load cases has been performed, including single-point, double-point, and distributed load cases. Applied loads have reached 70 percent of the flight limit load. Maximum wingtip deflection has reached nearly 16 in.

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Use of global positioning systems (GPS) for guidance and control functions is of increasing interest to the aviation industry. Many levels of solutions exist, from the relatively simple to highly complex integrated systems. This presentation examines three different GPS approaches to determining the relative separation between two aircraft. It presents flight test data showing the errors in each of the three approaches, tradeoffs in selecting from these three approaches, and the simplifying assumptions made for implementing applications that may reduce the requirements and therefore the cost of using them.

Keywords: Aircraft communication; Relative aircraft navigation; Flight test instrumentation; F/A-18; Autonomous air navigation; Global Positioning System


A new type of direct-measuring skin friction gage was developed for the high-speed, high-temperature environment of the turbulent boundary layer in flows such as that in supersonic combustion ramjet (scramjet) engines, with tests designed to progress from free-jet ground tests to an actual hypersonic scramjet-integrated flight vehicle. The final skin friction gage was specifically developed to be installed on the Hyper-X flight vehicle. The design was non-nulling, with a sensing head that was flush with the model wall and surrounded by a small gap. Thus, the shear force due to the flow along the wall deflects the head slightly, inducing a measurable strain. Strain gages were used to detect the strain. Rather than the cantilever beam and semiconductor strain gages used on earlier skin friction sensors, this skin friction gage made use of a flexure ring and metal foil strain gages to sense the shear. The water-cooling and oil-fill used on previous skin friction sensors were also eliminated. The gages were statically calibrated using a direct force method. The design was verified by testing in a well-documented Mach 2.4 cold flow. Results of the cold-flow tests were repeatable and within 10-15% of the value of C_f estimated from simple theory. The sensor was qualified for flight through a rigorous series of environmental tests, including pressure, temperature, vibration, shock, acceleration, and heat flux tests. Finally, the skin friction gage was tested in the Hyper-X Engine Model (HXEM), a full-scale partial-width wind tunnel model of the flight vehicle engine. These tests were conducted at Mach 6.5 enthalpy with P0 = 555 psia (3827 kPa) and h0 = 900
Btu/lbm (2093 kJ/kg) in a freejet facility at NASA Langley Research Center. The successful testing in the wind tunnel scramjet model provided the final verification of the gage before installation in the flight vehicle engine.


Flights of the F-15B/Propulsion Flight Test Fixture (PFTF) with a Cone Drag Experiment (CDE) attached have been accomplished at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Mounted underneath the fuselage of an F-15B airplane, the PFTF provides volume for experiment systems and attachment points for propulsion experiments. A unique feature of the PFTF is the incorporation of a six-degree-of-freedom force balance. The force balance mounts between the PFTF and experiment and measures three forces and moments. The CDE has been attached to the force balance for envelope expansion flights. This experiment spatially and inertially simulates a large propulsion test article. This report briefly describes the F-15B airplane with the PFTF installed. Flights are provided and discussed, including force-balance profiles and selected flight data from the envelope expansion tests and stiffness modifications are described. Flight profiles and selected flight data from the envelope expansion flights are provided and discussed, including force-balance data, the internal PFTF thermal and vibration environment, a handling qualities assessment, and performance capabilities of the F-15B airplane with the PFTF installed.

Keywords: F-15B flight testing; In-flight force balance; Propulsion flight test fixture; Propulsion flight testing; Rocket-based combined cycle propulsion


Inlets designed for high-speed flight require a wide variation in throat area to provide proper airflow to the engine for efficient operation at all Mach numbers. The inlet concept of this study consists of a design proven through prior research to offer high performance and excellent operability at cruise conditions (an axisymmetric inlet with a moderate amount of internal compression). It is made viable at off-design conditions with the application of an innovative variable geometry concept. This variable geometry system opens up longitudinal channels in the centerbody with forward centerbody translation at off-design Mach numbers. The translating channeled centerbody inlet is slightly more complex than a traditional translating centerbody inlet, but significantly simpler and lighter than the variable diameter centerbody inlet. A VDC configuration was previously considered to be required to make axisymmetric inlet configurations without excessively large amounts of internal compression capable of meeting transonic engine airflow requirements. A flight research program utilizing the F-15B aircraft at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has been initiated to demonstrate the inlet’s off-design mass-capture capabilities and assess its impact on performance and distortion due to application of the variable geometry. This paper discusses the concept and the development of the aerodynamic designs of the configurations to be tested.
A factorization method is proposed for identification of Volterra systems of order $n$ and analyses the stability of the systems constructed by this method. An optimization method is also suggested to generate optimal systems, which minimize system response energy.

Results of wind-tunnel tests that demonstrate a novel drag reduction technique for blunt-based vehicles are presented. For these tests, the forebody roughness of a blunt-based model was modified using micromachined surface overlays. As forebody roughness increases, the boundary layer at the model aft thickens and reduces the shearing effect of external flow on the separated flow behind the base region, resulting in reduced base drag. For vehicle configurations with large base drag, existing data predict that a small increment in forebody friction drag will result in a relatively large decrease in base drag. If the added increment in forebody skin drag is optimized with respect to base drag, reducing the total drag of the configuration is possible. The wind-tunnel test results conclusively demonstrate the existence of a forebody drag–base drag optimal point. The data demonstrate that the base drag coefficient corresponding to the drag minimum lies between 0.225 and 0.275, referenced to the base area. Most important, the data show a drag reduction of approximately 15% when the drag optimum is reached.

This concept is applied to numerous flight projects such as the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV), the F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System (IFCS), the X-38 Actuator Control Test (XACT), and X-43A (Hyper-X). The Dryden 6-DOF simulations are typically used through various stages of a project, from design to ground tests. The roles of these simulations have expanded to support control room training, reinforcing flight safety by building control room staff proficiency. Real-time telemetry, radar, and video data are generated from flight vehicle simulation models. These data are used to drive the control room displays. Nominal static values are used to complete information where appropriate. Audio communication is also an integral part of training sessions. This simulation capability is used to train control room personnel and flight crew for nominal missions and emergency situations. Such training sessions are also opportunities to refine flight cards and control room display pages, exercise emergency procedures, and practice control room setup for the day of flight. This paper describes this technology as it is used in the X-43A and F-15 IFCS and XACT projects.

String stability analysis of an autonomous formation flight system was performed using linear and nonlinear simulations. String stability is a measure of how position errors propagate from one vehicle to another in a cascaded system. In the formation flight system considered here, each $(i)^{th}$ aircraft uses information from itself and the preceding $(i-1)^{th}$ aircraft to track a commanded relative position. A possible solution for meeting performance requirements with such a system is to allow string instability. This paper explores two results of string instability and outlines analysis techniques for string unstable systems. The three analysis techniques presented here are: linear, nonlinear formation performance, and ride quality. The linear technique was developed from a worst-case scenario and could be applied to the design of a string unstable controller. The nonlinear formation performance and ride quality analysis techniques both use nonlinear formation simulation. Three of the four formation-controller gain-sets analyzed in this paper were limited more by ride quality than by performance. Formations of up to seven aircraft in a cascaded formation could be used in the presence of light gusts with this string unstable system.

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The integration of uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs) into controlled airspace has generated a new era of autonomous technologies and challenges. Autonomous aerial refueling would enable UAVs to travel further distances and loiter for extended periods over time-critical targets. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center recently has completed a flight research project directed at developing a dynamic hose and drogue system to support the development of an automated aerial refueling system. A systematic dynamic model of the hose and drogue system would include the effects of various influences on the system, such as flight condition, hose and drogue type, tanker type and weight, receiver type, and tanker and receiver maneuvering. Using two NASA F/A-18 aircraft and a conventional hose and drogue aerial refueling store from the Navy, NASA has obtained flight research data that document the response of the hose and drogue system to these effects. Preliminary results, salient trends, and important lessons are presented.


Previous investigations into formation flight have shown the possibility for significant fuel savings through drag reduction. Using two F/A-18 aircraft, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has investigated flying aircraft in autonomous formation. Positioning the trailing airplane for best drag reduction requires investigation of the wingtip vortex effects induced by the leading airplane. A full accounting of the vortex effect on the trailing airplane is desired to validate vortex-effect prediction methods and provide a database for the design of a formation flight autopilot. A recent flight phase has mapped the complete wingtip vortex effects at two flight conditions with the trailing airplane at varying distances behind the leading one. Force and moment data at Mach 0.56 and an altitude of 25,000 ft and Mach 0.86 and an altitude of 36,000 ft have been obtained with 20, 55, 110, and 190 ft of longitudinal distance between the aircraft. The moments induced by the vortex on the trailing airplane were well within the pilot’s ability to control. This report discusses the data analysis methods and vortex-induced effects on moments and side force. An assessment of the impact of the nonlinear vortex effects on the design of a formation autopilot is offered.

Keywords: Formation; Vortex; F-18; Rolling; Yawing


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The Autonomous Formation Flight research project has been implemented at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to demonstrate the benefits of formation flight and develop advanced technologies to facilitate exploiting these benefits. Two F/A-18 aircraft have been modified to precisely control and monitor relative position, and to determine performance of the trailing airplane. Flight test maneuvers and analysis techniques have been developed to determine the performance advantages, including drag and fuel flow reductions and improvements in range factor. By flying the trailing airplane through a matrix of lateral, longitudinal, and vertical offset positions, a detailed map of the performance benefits has been obtained at two flight conditions. Significant performance benefits have been obtained during this flight test phase. Drag reductions of more than 20 percent and fuel flow reductions of more than 18 percent have been measured at flight conditions of Mach 0.56 and an altitude of 25,000 ft. The results show favorable agreement with published theory and generic predictions. An F/A-18 long-range cruise mission at Mach 0.8 and an altitude of 40,000 ft has been simulated in the optimum formation position and has demonstrated a 14-percent fuel reduction when compared with a controlled chase airplane of similar configuration.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Drag reduction; Drag measurement; Performance tests; Fuel consumption


The Autonomous Formation Flight research project has been implemented at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to demonstrate the benefits of formation flight and develop advanced technologies to facilitate exploiting these benefits. Two F/A-18 aircraft have been modified to precisely control and monitor relative position, and to determine performance of the trailing airplane. Flight test maneuvers and analysis techniques have been developed to determine the performance advantages, including drag and fuel flow reductions and improvements in range factor. By flying the trailing airplane through a matrix of lateral, longitudinal, and vertical offset positions, a detailed map of the performance benefits has been obtained at two flight conditions. Significant performance benefits have been obtained during this flight test phase. Drag reductions of more than 20 percent and fuel flow reductions of more than 18 percent have been measured at flight conditions of Mach 0.56 and an altitude of 25,000 ft. The results show favorable agreement with published theory and generic predictions. An F/A-18 long-range cruise mission at Mach 0.8 and an altitude of 40,000 ft has been simulated in the optimum formation position and has demonstrated a 14-percent fuel reduction when compared with a controlled chase airplane of similar configuration.

Keywords: Aircraft performance; Drag reduction; Drag measurement; Performance tests; Fuel consumption


The first flight test phase of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Autonomous Formation Flight project has successfully demonstrated precision autonomous station-keeping of an F/A-18 research airplane with a second F/A-18 airplane. Blended inertial navigation system (INS) and global positioning system (GPS) measurements have been communicated across an air-to-air telemetry link and used to compute relative-position estimates. A precision research formation autopilot onboard the trailing airplane controls lateral and vertical spacing while the leading airplane operates under production autopilot control. Four research autopilot gain sets have been designed and flight-tested, and each exceeds the project design requirement of steady-state tracking accuracy within 1 standard deviation of 10 ft. Performance also has been demonstrated using single- and multiple-axis inputs such as step commands and frequency sweeps. This report briefly describes the experimental formation flight systems employed and discusses the navigation, guidance, and control algorithms that have been flight-tested. An overview of the flight test results of the formation autopilot during steady-state tracking and maneuvering flight is presented.

Keywords: Formation autopilot; Formation flight; Station keeping


The first flight test phase of the NASA Dryden Flight Research
The Autonomous Formation Flight (AFF) project at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California) investigated performance benefits resulting from formation flight, such as reduced aerodynamic drag and fuel consumption. To obtain data on performance benefits, a trailing F/A-18 airplane flew within the wingtip-shed vortex of a leading F/A-18 airplane. The pilot of the trail airplane used advanced station-keeping technology to aid in positioning the trail airplane at precise locations behind the lead airplane. The specially instrumented trail airplane was able to obtain accurate fuel flow measurements and to calculate engine thrust and vehicle drag. A maneuver technique developed for this test provided a direct comparison of performance values while flying in and out of the vortex. Based on performance within the vortex as a function of changes in vertical, lateral, and longitudinal positioning, these tests explored design-drivers for autonomous station-keeping control systems. Observations showed significant performance improvements over a large range of trail positions tested. Calculations revealed maximum drag reductions of over 20 percent, and demonstrated maximum reductions in fuel flow of just over 18 percent.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center uses its six-degrees-of-freedom (6-DOF) fixed-base simulations for mission control room training to improve flight safety and operations. This concept is applied to numerous flight projects such as the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV), the F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System (IFCS), the X-38 Actuator Control Test (XACT), and X-43A (Hyper-X). The Dryden 6-DOF simulations are typically used through various stages of a project, from design to ground tests. The roles of these simulations have expanded to support control room training, reinforcing flight safety by building control room staff proficiency. Real-time telemetry, radar, and video data are generated from flight vehicle simulation models. These data are used to drive the control room displays. Nominal static values are used to complete information where appropriate. Audio communication is also an integral part of training sessions. This simulation capability is used to train control room personnel and flight crew for nominal missions and emergency situations. Such training sessions are also opportunities to refine flight cards and control room display pages, exercise emergency procedures, and practice control room setup for the day of flight. This paper describes this technology as it is used in the X-43A and F-15 IFCS and XACT projects.


The present invention comprises a method and apparatus that generates a waveform consisting of an arbitrary number of frequency sweeps combined from adding and subtracting mini frequency sweeps. Optimization routines determine the best combination order of frequency sweep to minimize or maximize design criteria such is aerodynamic surface deflection or maximum command rate of the wave form. The invention allows for arbitrary output timing, or commands per second issued for the desired waveform, arbitrary starting and ending frequencies and amplitudes, arbitrary number of frequency sweep components, arbitrary frequency sweep exponent, arbitrary amplitude sweep exponent, and arbitrary waveform length. For a given frequency range and sweep exponent, amplitude range and sweep exponent, desired total waveform time and number of frequency sweep components, the algorithm can determine the optimum arrangement of the components to minimize the maximum amplitude or rate.

The advanced range safety system project is a collaboration between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the United States Air Force to develop systems that would reduce costs and schedule for safety approval for new classes of unmanned high-energy vehicles. The mission-planning feature for this system would yield flight profiles that satisfy the mission requirements for the user while providing an increased quality of risk assessment, enhancing public safety. By improving the speed and accuracy of predicting risks to the public, mission planners would be able to expand flight envelopes significantly. Once in place, this system is expected to offer the flexibility of handling real-time risk management for the high-energy capabilities of hypersonic vehicles including autonomous return-from-orbit vehicles and extended flight profiles over land. Users of this system would include mission planners of Space Launch Initiative vehicles, space planes, and other high-energy vehicles. The real-time features of the system could make extended flight of a malfunctioning vehicle possible, in lieu of an immediate terminate decision. With this improved capability, the user would have more time for anomaly resolution and potential recovery of a malfunctioning vehicle.


This report examines subsonic flight-measured lift and drag characteristics of seven lifting-body and wing-body reentry vehicle configurations with truncated bases. The seven vehicles are the full-scale M2-F1, M2-F2, HL-10, X-24A, X-24B, and X-15 vehicles and the Space Shuttle Enterprise. Subsonic flight lift and drag data of the various vehicles are assembled under aerodynamic performance parameters and presented in several analytical and graphical formats. These formats are intended to unify the data and allow a greater understanding than individually studying the vehicles allows. Lift-curve slope data are studied with respect to aspect ratio and related to generic wind-tunnel model data and to theory for low-aspect-ratio platforms. The definition of reference area is critical for understanding and comparing the lift data. The drag components studied include minimum drag coefficient, lift-related drag, maximum lift-to drag ratio, and, where available, base pressure coefficients. The influence of forebody drag on afterbody and base drag at low lift is shown to be related to Hoerner’s compilation for body, airfoil, nacelle, and canopy drag. This feature may result in a reduced need of surface smoothness for vehicles with a large ratio of base area to wetted area. These analyses are intended to provide a useful analytical framework with which to compare and evaluate new vehicle configurations of the same generic family.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Lifting bodies; Reentry vehicles; Reusable launch vehicles

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Flow visualization test of GRV configuration


A ground research vehicle (GRV) has been developed to study the base drag on large-scale vehicles at subsonic speeds. Existing models suggest that base drag is dependent upon vehicle forebody drag, and for certain configurations, the total drag of a vehicle can be reduced by increasing its forebody drag. Although these models work well for small projectile shapes, studies have shown that they do not provide accurate predictions when applied to large-scale vehicles. Experiments are underway at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to collect data at Reynolds numbers to a maximum of 3 x 10(exp 7), and to formulate a new model for predicting the base drag of trucks, buses, motor homes, reentry vehicles, and other large-scale vehicles. Preliminary tests have shown errors as great as 70 percent compared to Hoerner’s two-dimensional base drag prediction. This report describes the GRV and its capabilities, details the studies currently underway at NASA Dryden, and presents preliminary results of both the effort to formulate a new base drag model and the investigation into a method of reducing total drag by manipulating forebody drag.
Infrared visualization was used to obtain information on the state of the boundary layer of a natural laminar flow airfoil in supersonic flight. In addition to the laminar/turbulent transition boundary, the infrared camera was able to detect shock waves and present a time-dependent view of the flow field. Thermal and flow mechanisms on the surface in flight were modeled numerically to aid in the design of the flight experiment and facilitate analysis of recorded infrared footage. A commercially available infrared camera was adapted for airborne use in this application. Readily available infrared technology has the capability to provide detailed visualization of various flow phenomena in subsonic to hypersonic flight regimes.

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**2003 Technical Publications**


This paper presents viewgraphs on turbulence detection and mitigation technologies in weather accident prevention. The topics include: 1) Organization; 2) Scope of Turbulence Effort; 3) Background; 4) Turbulence Detection and Mitigation Program Metrics; 5) Approach; 6) Turbulence Team Relationships; 7) WBS Structure; 8) Deliverables; 9) TDAM Changes; 10) FY-01 Results/Accomplishments; 11) Out-year Plans; and 12) Element Status.


This viewgraph presentation provides an overview of the turbulence detection and mitigation technologies in weather accident prevention. The topics include: 1) Organization; 2) Scope of Turbulence Effort; 3) Background; 4) Turbulence Detection and Mitigation Program Metrics; 5) Approach; 6) Turbulence Team Relationships; 7) WBS Structure; 8) Deliverables; 9) TDAM Changes; 10) FY-01 Results/Accomplishments; 11) Out-year Plans; and 12) Element Status.


This viewgraph presentation provides information on the development of a system by which aircraft pilots will be warned of turbulence. This networked system of in situ sensors will be mounted on various aircraft all of which are linked through a ground based parabolic antenna. As its end result, this system will attempt to reduce the number of accidents arising from turbulence.


This viewgraph presentation provides an overview of a simulation exercise designed to determine the estimated time required to configure a commercial aircraft cabin for safe transit of atmospheric turbulence. Simulations are to be carried out in a number of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft cabins using professional cabin crews and paid passenger subjects. A number of variables are considered including passenger load, flight attendant compliment, cabin class and cabin activities. Various scenarios are also being played out in the exercises.


This viewgraph presentation provides an overview of the turbulence JSIT program. Topics covered include: CAST process, intervention and project statistics, JSAT turbulence model, initial project subject candidates and project status.


During their long personal friendship and professional association, Theodore von Karman (1882-1963) and Hugh L. Dryden (1898-1965) exercised a pivotal if somewhat elusive influence over American aeronautics and spaceflight. Both decisive figures in organizing scientists and engineers at home and abroad, both men of undisputed eminence in their technical fields, their range of contacts in government, academia, the armed forces, industry, and professional societies spanned the globe to an extent unparalleled then as now. Moreover, because they coordinated their activities closely, their combined influence far exceeded the sum of each one’s individual contributions. This paper illustrates their personal origins as well as the foundations of their friendship, how their relationship became a professional alliance, and their joint impact on the world of aeronautics and astronautics during the twentieth century.

2603. *Pienkowski, John P.; *Whitmore, Stephen A.; and *Spencer, Michael G.: Analysis Of The Aerodynamic Orbital Transfer Capabilities Of The X-37 Space

The ability to perform an inclination change greatly enhances the utility of an orbiting spacecraft. To date plane changes have been achieved using spacecraft propulsive systems. Propellant cost required to achieve orbital plane changes in low-earth orbit (LEO) are so great that no LEO spacecraft has ever changed orbital planes by more than a few degrees. Fuel amounts required for such energy-intensive maneuvers often exceed benefits of performing them. However, this paper demonstrates that a winged re-entry vehicle, based on the X-37 vehicle currently being built by NASA and Boeing, has sufficient capability to achieve a significant plane change via aerodynamic maneuvering. Critical to this capability is the main X-37 rocket engine that has multiple re-start and throttle capabilities. During plane change maneuvers, the engine is used to stabilize the orbit and plane change is achieved entirely using aerodynamic forces. Simulation studies presented show that a plane change of more than 12° is achievable. This plane change leaves enough AV capacity to return to the original orbit, and safely de-orbit for a return to earth. A large plane change capability greatly enhances mission flexibility of the X-37 and could enable mission planners to achieve a dual-mission for the price of a single launch.

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The design of an adjustable-protrusion surface-obstacle (APSO) skin friction vector gage is presented. Results from exploratory calibrations conducted in laminar and turbulent boundary layers at the Washington University Low-Speed Wind Tunnel and for turbulent boundary layers at speeds up to Mach 2 on the ceiling of the NASA Glenn Research Center 8- X 6-ft Supersonic Wind Tunnel are also discussed. The adjustable-height gage was designed to yield both the magnitude and direction of the surface shear stress vector and to measure the local static pressure distribution. Results from the NASA test show good correlation for subsonic and low supersonic conditions covering several orders of magnitude in terms of the adopted similarity variables. Recommendations for future work in this area consist of identifying the physical parameters responsible for the disagreement between the university and NASA data sets, developing a compressibility correction specific to the APSO geometry, and examining the effect that static pressure distribution and skewed boundary layers have on the results from the APSO.

*Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.


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Keywords: Skin friction; Friction measurement; Shear stress; Stress measurement; Boundary layer; Preston tube; Pressure measurement; Calibrating; Wind tunnel tests

*Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.


An 8-in.-square boundary-layer sensor panel has been developed for in-flight evaluation of skin-friction gages.
and other near-wall flow sensors on the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center F-15B/Flight Test Fixture (FTF). Instrumentation on the sensor panel includes a boundary-layer rake, temperature sensors, static pressure taps, and a Preston tube. Space is also available for skin-friction gages or other near-wall flow sensors. Pretest analysis of previous F-15B/FTF flight data has identified flight conditions suitable for evaluating skin-friction gages. At subsonic Mach numbers, the boundary layer over the sensor panel closely approximates the two-dimensional (2D), law-of-the-wall turbulent boundary layer, and skin-friction estimates from the Preston tube and the rake (using the Clauser plot method) can be used to evaluate skin-friction gages. At supersonic Mach numbers, the boundary layer over the sensor panel becomes complex, and other means of measuring skin friction are needed to evaluate the accuracy of new skin-friction gages. Results from the flight test of a new rubber-damped skin-friction gage confirm that at subsonic Mach numbers, nearly 2D, law-of-the-wall turbulent boundary layers exist over the sensor panel. Sensor panel data also show that this new skin-friction gage prototype does not work in flight.

Keywords: Boundary layer; Flight test; Flow sensors; F-15B; Skin friction

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An investigation has been performed on the use of low-thermal conductivity, ceramic substrates for hot films intended to measure skin friction. Hot films were deposited on two types of ceramic substrates. Four hot films used composite-ceramic substrates with subsurface thermocouples (TCs), and two hot films were deposited on thin Macor(R) substrates. All six sensors were tested side by side in the wall of the NASA Glenn Research Center 8-ft by 6-ft Supersonic Wind Tunnel (SWT). Data were obtained from zero flow to Mach 1.98 in air. Control measurements were made with three Preston tubes and two boundary-layer rakes. The tests were repeated at two different hot film power levels. All hot films and subsurface TCs functioned throughout the three days of testing. At zero flow, the films on the high-thermal conductivity Macor(R) substrates required approximately twice the power as those on the composite-ceramic substrates. Skin-friction results were consistent with the control measurements. Estimates of the conduction heat losses were made using the embedded TCs but were hampered by variability in coating thicknesses and TC locations.

Keywords: Ceramic substrates; Hot film; Hot film calibration; Hot film substrates; Skin friction

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The present invention is a force-based instrument that measures local flow angle. The preferred embodiment of the invention has a low aspect ratio airfoil member connected to a mounting base. Using a series of strain gauges located at the connecting portion of the probe, aerodynamic forces on the airfoil member can be converted to strain, which in turn can be converted to local air flow measurements. The present invention has no moving parts and is well suited for measuring flow in a transonic and supersonic regime.


Significant yawing moment asymmetries were encountered during the high-angle-of-attack envelope expansion of the two X-31 aircraft. These asymmetries caused position saturations of the thrust-vectoring vanes and trailing-edge flaps during some stability-axis rolling maneuvers at high angles of attack. The two test aircraft had different asymmetry characteristics, and ship 2 has asymmetries that vary as a function of Reynolds number. Several aerodynamic modifications have been made to the X-31 forebody with the goal of minimizing the asymmetry. These modifications include adding transition strips on the forebody and noseboom, using two different length strakes, and increasing nose bluntness. Ultimately, a combination of forebody strakes, nose blunting, and noseboom transition strips reduced the yawing moment asymmetry enough to fully expand the high-angle-of-attack envelope. Analysis of the X-31 flight data is reviewed and compared to wind-tunnel and water-tunnel measurements. Several lessons learned are outlined regarding high-angle-of-attack configuration design and ground testing.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton Virginia.

Extensive pressure measurements and off-surface flow visualization were obtained on the forebody and strakes of the NASA F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) equipped with actuated forebody strakes. Forebody yawing moments were obtained by integrating the circumferential pressures on the forebody and strakes. Results show that large yawing moments can be generated with forebody strakes. At a 50°-angle-of-attack, deflecting one strake at a time resulted in a forebody yawing moment control reversal for small strake deflection angles. However, deflecting the strakes differentially about a 20 symmetric strake deployment eliminated the control reversal and produced a near linear variation of forebody yawing moment with differential strake deflection. At an angle of attack of 50° and for 0 and 20 symmetric strake deployments, a larger forebody yawing moment was generated by the forward fuselage (between the radome and the apex of the leading-edge extensions) than on the radome where the actuated forebody strakes were located. Cutouts on the flight vehicle strakes that were not on the wind tunnel models are believed to be responsible for deficits in the suction peaks on the flight radome pressure distributions and differences in the forebody yawing moments.

Keywords: Aircraft; F-18; Flight; Flight test; Flow visualization; Forebody; Smoke; Strake; Vortex; Vortical flow

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The paper treats the question of the existence of limit cycle oscillations of prototypical aeroelastic wing sections with structural nonlinearity using the describing function method. The chosen dynamic model describes the nonlinear plunge and pitch motion of a wing. The model includes an asymmetric structural nonlinearity in the pitch degree of freedom. The dual-input describing functions of the nonlinearity are derived for the limit cycle analysis. Analytical expressions for the average value, and the amplitude and frequency of oscillation of pitch and plunge responses are obtained. Based on an analytical approach as well as the Nyquist criterion, stability of the limit cycles is examined. Numerical results are presented for a set of values of the flow velocities and the locations of the elastic axis which show that the predicted limit cycle oscillation amplitude and frequency as well as the mean value are quite close to the actual values. Furthermore, for the chosen model with linear aerodynamics, it is seen that the amplitude of the pitch limit cycle oscillation does not always increase with the flow velocity for certain elastic axis locations.

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada


Non-stationary time–frequency analysis is used for identification and classification of aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic dynamics. Time–frequency multiscale wavelet processing generates discrete energy density distributions. The distributions are processed using the singular-value decomposition (SVD). Discrete density functions derived from the SVD generate moments that detect the principal features in the data. The SVD standard basis vectors are applied and then compared with a transformed-SVD, or TSVD, which reduces the number of features into more compact energy density concentrations. Finally, from the feature extraction, wavelet-based modal parameter estimation is applied. The primary objective is the automation of time–frequency analysis with modal system identification. The contribution is a more general approach in which distinct analysis tools are merged into a unified procedure for linear and non-linear data analysis. This method is first applied to aeroelastic pitch-plunge wing section models. Instability is detected in the linear system, and non-linear dynamics are observed from the time-frequency map and parameter estimates of the non-linear system. Aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic flight data from the drone for aerodynamic and structural testing and F18 aircraft are also investigated and comparisons made between the SVD and TSVD results. Input–output data are used to show that this process is an efficient and reliable tool for automated on-line analysis. Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.


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The flutterometer is a tool used for predicting the onset of flutter during flight testing. This tool uses robust flutter analysis to consider a model with an associated uncertainty description. The flutterometer is particularly useful because the uncertainty description is determined by flight data.
However, the standard method of uncertainty estimation is somewhat suspect because of the effects of nonlinearities in the flight data. A method is introduced to estimate uncertainties by considering only the linear component of the flight data. The linear component is extracted by representing the system in terms of Volterra kernels. The first-order kernel describes the linear component of the data and, thus, can be used by the flutterometer. Flight data from the aerostructures test wing is used to demonstrate this procedure. The analysis using the first-order kernel is shown to generate a more accurate description of the modeling error than standard analysis of the measured flight data.

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**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.


Model validation and flight test data analysis require careful consideration of the effects of uncertainty, noise, and nonlinearity. Uncertainty prevails in the data analysis techniques and results in a composite model uncertainty from unmodeled dynamics, assumptions and mechanics of the estimation procedures, noise, and nonlinearity. A fundamental requirement for reliable and robust model development is an attempt to account for each of these sources of error, in particular, for model validation, robust stability prediction, and flight control system development. This paper is concerned with data processing procedures for uncertainty reduction in model validation for stability estimation and nonlinear identification. F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) aircraft data is used to demonstrate signal representation effects on uncertain model development, stability estimation, and nonlinear identification. Data is decomposed using adaptive orthonormal best-basis and wavelet-basis signal decompositions for signal denoising into linear and nonlinear identification algorithms. Nonlinear identification from a wavelet-based Volterra kernel procedure is used to extract nonlinear dynamics from aeroelastic responses, and to assist model development and uncertainty reduction for model validation and stability prediction by removing a class of nonlinearity from the uncertainty.

Keywords: Aeroservoelasticity; Local trigonometric basis; Morlet wavelet; Multiwavelet-based Volterra kernel identification; Robust minimax estimation

**National Research Council Fellow, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California.


This report describes the technical content of the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) Flight Research Program and discusses the analytical development, aircraft test bed modifications, ground test results, and flight research results through January 2003. The goals of the AAW Flight Research Program are to demonstrate, in full scale, AAW technology, and to measure the aerodynamic, structural, and flight control characteristics associated with the AAW aircraft. Design guidance, derived from the results of this benchmark flight program, will be provided for implementation on future aircraft designs.

Keywords: Active aeroelastic wing; Aeroelasticity; Flight research; Morphing; Structures

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**Boeing Phantom Works, St. Louis, Missouri.
***Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas.
****Spiral Technology, Inc., Edwards, California.


Aeroelastic dynamics must be accurately known to ensure safe and efficient flight testing. Unfortunately, most models of aircraft systems typically describe only the linear dynamics. These models are inadequate for predicting behaviors, like limit cycle oscillations, resulting from nonlinearities. This paper presents an approach to augment a linear model by identifying associated nonlinear operators. Essentially, the difference between a flight data measurement and a simulated measurement indicates the unmodeled dynamics. Volterra kernels are computed to represent the difference in measurement and, consequently, represent the unmodeled dynamics. The approach is applied to a nonlinear pitch-plunge system for which only a linear model is assumed available. The method is able to characterize errors due to incorrect parameters in the linear model and errors due to unmodeled non-linearities of the dynamics.

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The paper treats the question of adaptive control of prototypical aeroelastic wing sections with structural nonlinearity. The chosen dynamic model describes the nonlinear plunge and pitch motion of a wing. The model has both the plunge and pitch structural nonlinearities, and a single control surface is used for the purpose of control. It is assumed that only the sign of the coefficient of the control input and the lower bound on its absolute value are known, and the remaining parameters of the model are completely unknown. Modular adaptive control systems based on estimation-based design are derived for the control of the pitch angle and the plunge displacement. Unlike the direct adaptive controllers available in the literature, an input-to-state stabilizing control law is used herein. This control law accomplishes input-to-state stability with respect to parameter estimation error treated as a disturbance input. The control system includes a passive identifier (an observer and an adaptation law) for the parameter estimation. In the closed-loop system asymptotic stabilization of the plunge and pitch motion is accomplished. Simulation results are presented to show that the modular adaptive control systems accomplish loop system without parameter adaptation fails to suppress effective in keeping the pitch and plunge responses bounded.

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada.


Briefing charts from presentation on the Automatic Air Collision Avoidance System(Auto-ACAS).


Non-stationary time–frequency analysis is used for identification and classification of aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic dynamics. Time–frequency multiscale wavelet processing generates discrete energy density distributions. The distributions are processed using the singular-value decomposition (SVD). Discrete density functions derived from the SVD generate moments that detect the principal features in the data. The SVD standard basis vectors are applied and then compared with a transformed-SVD, or TSVD, which reduces the number of features into more compact energy density concentrations. Finally, from the feature extraction, wavelet-based modal parameter estimation is applied. The primary objective is the automation of time–frequency analysis with modal system identification. The contribution is a more general approach in which distinct analysis tools are merged into a unified procedure for linear and non-linear data analysis. This method is first applied to aeroelastic pitch-plunge wing section models. Instability is detected in the linear system, and non-linear dynamics are observed from the time-frequency map and parameter estimates of the non-linear system. Aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic flight data from the drone for aerodynamic and structural testing and F18 aircraft are also investigated and comparisons made between the SVD and TSVD results. Input–output data are used to show that this process is an efficient and reliable tool for automated on-line analysis. Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.


A Monte Carlo analysis has been conducted to evaluate the performance of the scramjet engine controller for the X-43A. The Propulsion System Controller (PSC) logic was evaluated to assess the effectiveness of a proposed unstart protection algorithm with regard to preventing engine unstarts and achieving vehicle performance goals. The Monte Carlo data obtained from a high fidelity simulation predicts that utilizing the unstart protection logic significantly reduces the risk of unstart by keeping the isolator margin at or above its desired value. The results also show that the unstart protection algorithm does not significantly reduce the probability of meeting the project’s primary acceleration goal, thus justifying its suitability for use within the X-43A PSC.


This paper addresses the future of flight test for the American
space program. The key emphasis is development of an orbital space plane (OSP). The discussion includes high-
level mission analysis and includes those configurations that are most advantageous for accomplishing the space
plane mission. Examination of operational requirements; launch, reentry, and orbital phases of the mission; and the
feasibility of single-stage-to-orbit (SSTO) follows. The paper discusses reusable and expendable launch vehicle
issues, compares previous space plane concepts and key performance elements, and presents data indicating vertical-
launch-horizontal-landing as the most economical concept for achieving space plane objectives. While launch and
reentry mission phases can be accomplished with a wingless vehicle; the higher lift-to-drag ratio of a delta-winged vehicle
offers a significant increase in operations flexibility. This makes a case for the X-37 as a platform for integrating
technologies and for redeveloping the operational experience required for deploying an OSP. Methods for testing prototype
OSP configurations are discussed. The examination suggests movement from an initial test-and-development vehicle with
no humans on board to an operational space plane with full cockpit and a wide variety of pilot displays and capabilities.

* NASA Johnson Spaceflight Center, Houston, Texas.


Flight research—the art of flying actual vehicles in the atmosphere in order to collect data about their behavior—has
played a historic and decisive role in the design of aircraft. Naturally, wind tunnel experiments, computational fluid
dynamics, and mathematical analyses all informed the judgments of the individuals who conceived of new aircraft.
But flight research has offered moments of realization found in no other method. Engineer Dale Reed and research pilot
Milt Thompson experienced one such epiphany on March 1, 1963, at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s
Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California. On that date, Thompson sat in the cockpit of a small, simple,
gumdrop-shaped aircraft known as the M2-F1, lashed by a long towline to a late-model Pontiac Catalina. As the Pontiac
raced across Rogers Dry Lake, it eventually gained enough speed to make the M2-F1 airborne. Thompson braced himself
for the world’s first flight in a vehicle of its kind, called a lifting body because of its high lift-to-drag ratio. Reed later
recounted what he saw.

2627. *Ali, Syed Firasat; *Khan, M. Javed; *Rossi, Marcia J.; **Crane, Peter; *Heath, Bruce E.; *Knighten, Tremaine; *Culpepper, Christi; and Norlin, Ken (Technical Monitor): Effects of Self-Instructional Methods and Above Real Time Training (ARTT) for Maneuvering Tasks on a Flight Simulator; Final Report. NAG4-209. August 2003, CASI ID: 20030065994. PDF CASI

Personal computer based flight simulators are expanding opportunities for providing low-cost pilot training. One
advantage of these devices is the opportunity to incorporate instructional features into training scenarios that might not be
cost effective with earlier systems. Research was conducted to evaluate the utility of different instructional features using
a coordinated level turn as an aircraft maneuvering task. In study I, a comparison was made between automated computer
grades of performance with certified flight instructors grades. Every one of the six student volunteers conducted a flight
with level turns at two different bank angles. The automated computer grades were based on prescribed tolerances
on bank angle, airspeed and altitude. Two certified flight instructors independently examined the video tapes of heads
up and instrument displays of the flights and graded them. The comparison of automated grades with the instructors
grades was based on correlations between them. In study II, a 2x2 between subjects factorial design was used to devise
and conduct an experiment. Comparison was made between real time training and above real time training and between
feedback and no feedback in training. The performance measure to monitor progress in training was based on
deviations in bank angle and altitude. The performance measure was developed after completion of the experiment
including the training and test flights. It was not envisaged before the experiment. The experiment did not include self-
instructions as it was originally planned, although feedback by experimenter to the trainee was included in the study.

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Back in 2000, one of the potential Mars projects involved delivering and then flying an observation plane over the
planet. Among the challenges of the project was the small size of the capsule that was going to be used in order to get
the plane to Mars. With the planet’s thin atmosphere, a plane would need to have large wings in order to fly efficiently.
How could you package a large-winged plane in a small capsule?


The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) DC-8 airborne sciences research airplane inadvertently flew
through a diffuse volcanic ash cloud of the Mt. Hekla volcano
in February 2000 during a flight from Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards, California) to Kiruna, Sweden. Although the ash plume was not visible to the flight crew, sensitive research experiments and instruments detected it. In-flight performance checks and postflight visual inspections revealed no damage to the airplane or engine first-stage fan blades; subsequent detailed examination of the engines revealed clogged turbine cooling air passages. The engines were removed and overhauled. This paper presents volcanic ash plume analysis, trajectory from satellites, analysis of ash particles collected in cabin air heat exchanger filters and removed from the engines, and data from onboard instruments and engine conditions.

Keywords: Aircraft; Ash; Safety; Turbine; Volcanic

NASA DC-8 airborne sciences platform aircraft on takeoff from Kiruna, Sweden


Near real-time stability and control derivative extraction is required to support flight demonstration of Intelligent Flight Control System (IFCS) concepts being developed by NASA, academia, and industry. Traditionally, flight maneuvers would be designed and flown to obtain stability and control derivative estimates using a postflight analysis technique. The goal of the IFCS concept is to be able to modify the control laws in real time for an aircraft that has been damaged in flight. In some IFCS implementations, real-time parameter identification (PID) of the stability and control derivatives of the damaged aircraft is necessary for successfully reconfiguring the control system. This report investigates the usefulness of Prescribed Simultaneous Independent Surface Excitations (PreSISE) to provide data for rapidly obtaining estimates of the stability and control derivatives. Flight-test data were analyzed using both equation-error and output-error PID techniques. The equation-error PID technique is known as Fourier Transform Regression (FTR) and is a frequency-domain real-time implementation. Selected results were compared with a time-domain output-error technique.

The real-time equation-error technique combined with the PreSISE maneuvers provided excellent derivative estimation in the longitudinal axis. However, the PreSISE maneuvers as presently defined were not adequate for accurate estimation of the lateral-directional derivatives.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A real-time, frequency-domain, equation-error parameter identification (PID) technique was used to estimate stability and control derivatives from flight data. This technique is being studied to support adaptive control system concepts currently being developed by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), academia, and industry. This report describes the basic real-time algorithm used for this study and implementation issues for onboard usage as part of an indirect-adaptive control system. A confidence measures system for automated evaluation of PID results is discussed. Results calculated using flight data from a modified F-15 aircraft are presented. Test maneuvers included pilot-input doublets and automated inputs at several flight conditions. Estimated derivatives are compared to aerodynamic model predictions. Data indicate that the real-time PID used for this study performs well enough to be used for onboard parameter estimation. For suitable test inputs, the parameter estimates converged rapidly to sufficient levels of accuracy. The devised confidence measures used were moderately successful.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The road to supersonic flight was a story of propulsion as much as it was of aerodynamic configuration. To be sure both had to work together. Propellers and reciprocating power plants had reached their limit by the mid 1940’s. Strangely enough they had reached the sonic barrier even before the builders of these airplanes understood the problem. The tip speeds of propeller aircraft flying three or four hundred miles per hour were reaching sonic velocities and the capability of power plants to provide this power was falling short. Only with jet engines could an aircraft go faster in sustained level flight. Even then, jet engines were not capable of reaching sustained supersonic speeds. Some aircraft such as the F-86 could readily reach supersonic speeds in a dive. Others of that era tragically were lost trying. Thus, the much simpler rocket engines were used for the first short duration
supersonic flights. Sustained supersonic flight had to wait the development of more powerful gas turbine propulsion. These were not the “be-all-and-end-all” of propulsion systems. We had much to learn about integrating the aircraft configuration and control systems with the propulsion systems. It took over 20 years and we are still learning and relearning.

* DAR Corporation, Lawrence, Kansas.


An indirect adaptive system has been constructed for robust control of an aircraft with uncertain aerodynamic characteristics. This system consists of a multilayer perceptron pre-trained neural network, online stability and control derivative identification, a dynamic cell structure online learning neural network, and a model following control system based on the stochastic optimal feedforward and feedback technique. The pre-trained neural network and model following control system have been flight-tested, but the online parameter identification and online learning neural network are new additions used for in-flight adaptation of the control system model. A description of the modification and integration of these two stand-alone software packages into the complete system in preparation for initial flight tests is presented. Open-loop results using both simulation and flight data, as well as closed-loop performance of the complete system in a nonlinear, six-degree-of-freedom, flight validated simulation, are analyzed. Results show that this online learning system, in contrast to the nonlearning system, has the ability to adapt to changes in aerodynamic characteristics in a real-time, closed-loop, piloted simulation, resulting in improved flying qualities.


The paper treats the question of adaptive control of prototypical aeroelastic wing sections with structural nonlinearity. The chosen dynamic model describes the nonlinear plunge and pitch motion of a wing. The model has both the plunge and pitch structural nonlinearities, and a single control surface is used for the purpose of control. It is assumed that only the sign of the coefficient of the control input and the lower bound on its absolute value are known, and the remaining parameters of the model are completely unknown. Modular adaptive control systems based on estimation-based design are derived for the control of the pitch angle and the plunge displacement. Unlike the direct adaptive controllers available in the literature, an input-to-state stabilizing control law is used herein. This control law accomplishes input-to-state stability with respect to parameter estimation error treated as a disturbance input. The control system includes a passive identifier (an observer and an adaptation law) for the parameter estimation. In the closed-loop system, asymptotic stabilization of the plunge and pitch motion is accomplished. Simulation results are presented to show that the modular adaptive control systems accomplish flutter suppression in spite of the large uncertainties in the system. Simulation results also show that the closed-loop system without parameter adaptation fails to suppress flutter, but the input-to-state stabilizing controller is effective in keeping the pitch and plunge responses bounded.

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A new type of direct-measuring skin-friction gauge was developed for the high-speed, high-temperature environment of turbulent boundary-layer flows in supersonic combustion ramjet (scramjet) engines, with tests progressing from ground tests to an actual hypersonic scramjet-integrated flight vehicle. The skin friction gauge was specifically developed for installation on the Hyper-X flight vehicle (X-43A). The design was nonnulling, with a sensing head that was flush with the model wall and surrounded by a small gap. Unlike previous skin-friction sensor designs, this gauge eliminated water cooling and gap-filling oil, in addition to a radically different flexure design. The design was verified by repeatable tests in a well-documented Mach 2.4 cold flow, with results within 10-15% of $C_f$ estimates from simple theory. The sensor was qualified for flight through a rigorous series of environmental tests, including pressure, temperature, vibration, shock, acceleration, and heat flux tests. Finally, the skin-friction gauge was tested in the Hyper-X engine model (HXEM), a full-scale-partial-width wind-tunnel model of the flight vehicle engine, at Mach 6.5 enthalpy in a freejet facility at NASA Langley Research Center. Successful testing in the HXEM provided the final verification of the gauge before installation in the X-43A flight vehicle engine.

* Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia.


This paper presents results of a joint research program of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and the Institute of
Flight Mechanics and Control of Technische Universit\"at München on hypersonic longitudinal long-term dynamics. The peculiarities of hypersonic flight dynamics as well as approximations for eigenvalues and transfer functions are described. The flight simulator which is used for the evaluation and a head up display customized for hypersonic cruise flight will be presented. A special piloting technique to compensate path-attitude lag is described. Pilot ratings for longitudinal long-term dynamic handling qualities of different phugoid and height mode instabilities including combined ones, are presented. Further the strong influence of engine time lag on handling qualities is described. Pilot models for stable closed loop dynamics concerning feedback of vertical speed to elevator and airspeed to throttle are presented. With reference to the maximum stable crossover frequency and the exponent of the most unstable eigenvalue a new handling qualities criterion for unstable longitudinal long-term dynamics is presented.


The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has proposed to develop a two-stage system to deliver a small payload to orbit. The proposal calls for an airplane, as a first-stage vehicle, to perform an exo-atmospheric zoom climb maneuver, from which a second-stage rocket is launched carrying the payload into orbit. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has conducted an in-house generic simulation study to determine how accurately a human-piloted airplane, as a first-stage vehicle, can deliver a second-stage rocket to a desired exo-atmospheric launch condition, and then examine how deviations in launch condition propagate through a second-stage transfer orbit. To support this study, a high-performance, fighter-type, fixed-base, real-time, pilot-in-the-loop airplane simulation has been modified to perform exo-atmospheric zoom climb maneuvers. A reference exo-atmospheric zoom climb maneuver, consistent with the DARPA proposal, has been developed for this study. This reference zoom climb maneuver consisted of three phases: level acceleration, pullup, and ballistic. Four research pilots have tracked this reference trajectory to a second-stage launch condition. The pilot-flown launch conditions have been compared to the reference trajectory launch condition to characterize deviations in launch condition parameters. In addition to a nominal case, deviations have been documented for cases with winds, initial condition offsets, and degraded engine thrust. At each launch condition, a speed change has been applied to the second-stage rocket to insert the payload onto a transfer orbit to the desired operational orbit. The most sensitive of the test cases was the degraded thrust case, yielding second-stage launch energies that were too low to achieve the radius of the desired operational orbit.

In addition to thrust deviations, the resultant second-stage transfer orbit was very sensitive to launch inertial flightpath angle and launch inertial azimuth. The handling qualities of the airplane, as a first-stage vehicle, have been investigated and determined to be level 1 for the level acceleration phase. The pitch and roll axes for the remaining phases generally have been rated level 2 and level 1, respectively.


Close formation flight involving aerodynamic coupling through wingtip vortices shows significant promise to improve the efficiency of cooperative aircraft operations. Impediments to the application of this technology include internship communication required to establish precise relative positioning. This report proposes a method for estimating the lateral relative position between two aircraft in close formation flight through real-time estimates of the aerodynamic effects imparted by the leading airplane on the trailing airplane. A fuzzy algorithm is developed to map combinations of vortex-induced drag and roll effects to relative lateral spacing. The algorithm is refined using self-tuning techniques to provide lateral relative position estimates accurate to 14 in., well within the requirement to maintain significant levels of drag reduction. The fuzzy navigation algorithm is integrated with a leader-follower formation flight autopilot in a two-ship F/A-18 simulation with no internship communication modeled. It is shown that in the absence of measurements from the leading airplane the algorithm provides sufficient estimation of lateral formation spacing for the autopilot to maintain stable formation flight within the vortex. Formation autopilot trim commands are used to estimate vortex effects for the algorithm. The fuzzy algorithm is shown to operate satisfactorily with anticipated levels of input uncertainties.

Keywords: Automatic pilot; Drag reduction; Formation flying; Fuzzy system; Wingtip vortex


Neural networks were used to model wing bending-moment loads, torsion loads, and control surface hinge-moments of the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) aircraft. Accurate loads models are required for the development of control laws designed to increase roll performance through wing twist while not exceeding load limits. Inputs to the model include aircraft rates, accelerations, and control surface positions.
Neural networks were chosen to model aircraft loads because they can account for uncharacterized nonlinear effects while retaining the capability to generalize. The accuracy of the neural network models was improved by first developing linear loads models to use as starting points for network training. Neural networks were then trained with flight data for rolls, loaded reversals, wind-up-turns, and individual control surface doublets for load excitation. Generalization was improved by using gain weighting and early stopping. Results are presented for neural network loads models of four wing loads and four control surface hinge moments at Mach 0.90 and an altitude of 15,000 ft. An average model prediction error reduction of 18.6 percent was calculated for the neural network models when compared to the linear models. This paper documents the input data conditioning, input parameter selection, structure, training, and validation of the neural network models.

Keywords: Aeroelastic research wings; F-18 aircraft; Flight simulation; Loads (forces); Neural nets

**Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane**


A real-time, frequency-domain, equation-error parameter identification (PID) technique was used to estimate stability and control derivatives from flight data. This technique is being studied to support adaptive control system concepts currently being developed by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), academia, and industry. This report describes the basic real-time algorithm used for this study and implementation issues for onboard usage as part of an indirect-adaptive control system. A confidence measures system for automated evaluation of PID results is discussed. Results calculated using flight data from a modified F-15 aircraft are presented. Test maneuvers included pilot input doublets and automated inputs at several flight conditions. Estimated derivatives are compared to aerodynamic model predictions. Data indicate that the real-time PID used for this study performs well enough to be used for onboard parameter estimation. For suitable test inputs, the parameter estimates converged rapidly to sufficient levels of accuracy. The devised confidence measures used were moderately successful.

Keywords: F-15; Frequency domain; Parameter identification; Real-time; Stability and control derivatives

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During their long personal friendship and professional association, Theodore von Kármán (1882-1963) and Hugh L. Dryden (1898-1965) exercised a pivotal if somewhat elusive influence over American aeronautics and spaceflight. Both decisive figures in organizing scientists and engineers at home and abroad, both men of undisputed eminence in their technical fields, their range of contacts in government, academia, the armed forces, industry, and professional societies spanned the globe to an extent unparalleled then as now. Moreover, because they coordinated their activities closely, their combined influence far exceeded the sum of each one’s individual contributions. This paper illustrates their personal origins as well as the foundations of their friendship, how their relationship became a professional alliance, and their joint impact on the world of aeronautics and astronautics during the twentieth century.

Keywords: Aeronautical history; Hugh L. Dryden; National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (the NACA); Science advising; Theodore von Kármán


The Autonomous Formation Flight (AFF) project at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California) investigated performance benefits resulting from formation flight, such as reduced aerodynamic drag and fuel consumption. To obtain data on performance benefits, a trailing F/A-18 airplane flew within the wing tip-shed vortex of a leading F/A-18 airplane. The pilot of the trail airplane used
advanced station-keeping technology to aid in positioning the trail airplane at precise locations behind the lead airplane. The specially instrumented trail airplane was able to obtain accurate fuel flow measurements and to calculate engine thrust and vehicle drag. A maneuver technique developed for this test provided a direct comparison of performance values while flying in and out of the vortex. Based on performance within the vortex as a function of changes in vertical, lateral, and longitudinal positioning, these tests explored design drivers for autonomous stationkeeping control systems. Observations showed significant performance improvements over a large range of trail positions tested. Calculations revealed maximum drag reductions of over 20 percent, and demonstrated maximum reductions in fuel flow of just over 18 percent.

Keywords: Drag reduction; Flight test techniques; Formation flight; Fuel reduction; Performance


The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has proposed a two-stage system to deliver a small payload to orbit. The proposal calls for an airplane to perform an exo-atmospheric zoom climb maneuver, from which a second-stage rocket is launched carrying the payload into orbit. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has conducted an in-house generic simulation study to determine how accurately a human-piloted airplane can deliver a second-stage rocket to a desired exo-atmospheric launch condition. A high-performance, fighter-type, fixed-base, real-time, pilot-in-the-loop airplane simulation has been modified to perform exo-atmospheric zoom climb maneuvers. Researchers used the simulation to assess the potential of such a system. They found that the maneuver is feasible with current technology, and that further development is needed to improve performance and reduce costs.

Keywords: Drag reduction; Flight test techniques; Formation flight; Fuel reduction; Performance


The first century of flight overlays a world of change and contrast that is kaleidoscopic in its variety. When Orville Wright started the clock of flight running with his successful first-ever sortie on Dec. 17, 1903, electricity was not available in many homes, and horses still powered many farm implements and freight wagons. Roads were largely unpaved ruts in the country, and Henry Ford’s mass-produced Model-T was unheard of. Some U.S. Army units in the Philippines still carried the old Colt cowboy six-shooter as the age of flight dawned.


As World War Two enfolded the United States by the end of 1941, the flight-testing profession in America continued to increase its sophistication, albeit under the varied interpretations of company pilots, the armed services, and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). Worldwide, the testing process was the domain of manufacturers, whose test pilots typically had first crack at a new design before handing it over to the end user to validate the company’s claims for the aircraft’s capabilities. If this duplicative testing process worked in the prewar years, it was beginning to fray as the accelerated demands of wartime production meant more testing had to be accomplished quicker.


The decade of the 1960s saw Americans enter space, first with tentative sub-orbital downrange hops, and ultimately with excursions on the Moon. The U.S. Air Force flew variants of the World War Two Douglas A-26 Invader attack bomber through most of the decade, and the U.S. Navy still counted a handful of Second World War Privateer patrol bombers as target drones into 1964. But there was an inexcusable changing of the guard from 1960 to 2003. The sound of radial piston engines, still heard from C-118s and C-131s into the 1980s, faded into an all-jet rush in the U.S. Air Force and Navy.


A project was recently completed that investigated the ability to predict the onset of flutter using tools like the flutterometer. This project used an experiment called the aerostructures test wing that was flown while mounted to the flight test fixture...
on an F-15. Several flight tests were conducted to expand the envelope and determine the aeroelastic dynamics of the experiment. The final flight ended with destruction of the experiment due to the onset of flutter. The flutterometer attempted to predict this onset by analysing the flight data. The results indicate the flutterometer is able to generate a conservative estimate of the flight conditions associated with flutter. This paper details the flight tests of the experiment and the resulting predictions from the flutterometer.

Tu-144LL airplane in the normal landing configuration


Ground-effect characteristics of the Tu-144 supersonic transport airplane have been obtained from flight and ground-based experiments to improve understanding of ground-effect phenomena for this class of vehicle. The flight test program included both dynamic measurements obtained during descending flight maneuvers and steady-state measurements obtained during level pass maneuvers over the runway. Both dynamic and steady-state wind-tunnel test data have been acquired for a simple planform model of the Tu-144 using a developmental model support system in the NASA Langley Research Center 14- by 22-ft Subsonic Wind Tunnel. Data from steady-state, full-configuration wind-tunnel tests of the Tu-144 are also presented. Results from the experimental methods are compared with results from simple computational methods (panel theory). A power law relationship has been shown to effectively fit the variation of lift with height above ground for all data sets. The combined data sets have been used to evaluate the test techniques and assess the sensitivity of ground effect to various parameters. Configuration details such as the fuselage, landing gear, canards, and engine flows have had little effect on the correlation between the various data sets. No distinct trend has been identified as a function of either flight path angle or rate of descent.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight test; Ground effect; Supersonic transport; Tu-144

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


A Monte Carlo analysis has been conducted to evaluate the performance of the scramjet engine controller for the X-43A. The Propulsion System Controller (PSC) logic was evaluated to assess the effectiveness of a proposed unstart protection algorithm with regard to preventing engine unstarts and achieving vehicle performance goals. The Monte Carlo data obtained from a high fidelity simulation predicts that utilizing the unstart protection logic significantly reduces the risk of unstart by keeping the isolator margin at or above its desired value. The results also show that the unstart protection algorithm does not significantly reduce the probability of meeting the project’s primary acceleration goal, thus justifying its suitability for use within the X-43A PSC.

Keywords: Engine control; Monte Carlo; Scramjet; Unstart; X-43

X-43A/Pegasus stack mounted under wing of B-52


An indirect adaptive system has been constructed for robust control of an aircraft with uncertain aerodynamic characteristics. This system consists of a multilayer perceptron pre-trained neural network, online stability and control derivative identification, a dynamic cell structure online learning neural network, and a model following control system based on the stochastic optimal feedback control technique. The pre-trained neural network and
model following control system have been flight-tested, but the online parameter identification and online learning neural network are new additions used for in-flight adaptation of the control system model. A description of the modification and integration of these two stand-alone software packages into the complete system in preparation for initial flight tests is presented. Open-loop results using both simulation and flight data, as well as closed-loop performance of the complete system in a nonlinear, six-degree-of-freedom, flight validated simulation, are analyzed. Results show that this online learning system, in contrast to the nonlearning system, has the ability to adapt to changes in aerodynamic characteristics in a real-time, closed-loop, piloted simulation, resulting in improved flying qualities.

Keywords: F-15 Aircraft; Indirect Adaptive Control; Intelligent Flight Control System; Neural Network; Parameter Identification


Near real-time stability and control derivative extraction is required to support flight demonstration of Intelligent Flight Control System (IFCS) concepts being developed by NASA, academia, and industry. Traditionally, flight maneuvers would be designed and flown to obtain stability and control derivative estimates using a postflight analysis technique. The goal of the IFCS concept is to be able to modify the control laws in real time for an aircraft that has been damaged in flight. In some IFCS implementations, real-time parameter identification (PID) of the stability and control derivatives of the damaged aircraft is necessary for successfully reconfiguring the control system. This report investigates the usefulness of Prescribed Simultaneous Independent Surface Excitations (PreSISE) to provide data for rapidly obtaining estimates of the stability and control derivatives. Flight test data were analyzed using both equation-error and output-error PID techniques. The equation-error PID technique is known as Fourier Transform Regression (FTR) and is a frequency-domain real-time implementation. Selected results were compared with a time-domain output-error technique. The real-time equation-error technique combined with the PreSISE maneuvers provided excellent derivative estimation in the longitudinal axis. However, the PreSISE maneuvers as presently defined were not adequate for accurate estimation of the lateral-directional derivatives.

Keywords: Equation error; Intelligent flight control; Output error; Parameter identification; Stability and control derivatives


This AGARDograph provides information on flight test techniques, instrumentation, environmental effects, and flight procedures that have been used successfully in laminar flow research. Many techniques are described for measuring the location of boundary layer transition in-flight, from the very simple to the more complex. References to previous works are included for readers to explore. Specific instrumentation for flight is described and the unique environmental effects of flight noted. Procedures for flight test maneuvers are also included. Techniques discussed cover both local and global measurements. Some of the local flow techniques include surface temperatures, hot-film and hot-wire anemometry, raised-pitot, and traversing surface pitot. Global flow techniques include the infrared imaging, oil flow, liquid crystal, sublimating chemicals, and emitted fluid techniques. Some of the environmental concerns discussed include atmospheric particulate (ice crystals) and turbulence. Flight test procedures for infrared imaging and for insect contamination avoidance are described.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; ATTAS; Boundary layer flow; Boundary layer transition; Data acquisition; Emitted fluid; Flight maneuvers; Flight tests; Hot-film; Hot-wire; Hybrid laminar flow control; Infrared imaging; JetStar; Laminar flow control; Liquid crystal; Oil flow; Raised-pitot; Separation; Sublimating chemicals; Surface properties; Surface temperatures; Test facilities; Transonic characteristics; Traversing pitot; X-21

*Deutsche Forschungsanstalt fur Luft- and Raumfahrt (DLR), Braunschweig, Germany.


Over a three-year period, researchers and educators from the Pennsylvania State University (PSU), University Park, Pennsylvania, and the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), Edwards, California, worked together to analyze, develop, implement and evaluate materials and tools that enable teachers to use NASA Web resources effectively for teaching science, mathematics, technology and geography. Two conference publications and one technical paper have already been published as part of this educational research series on Web-based instruction and learning. This technical paper, Web-Enhanced Instruction and Learning: Findings of a Short- and Long-Term Impact Study, is the
culminating report in this educational research series and is based on the final report submitted to NASA. This report describes the broad spectrum of data gathered from teachers about their experiences using NASA Web resources in the classroom. It also describes participating teachers' responses and feedback about the use of the NASA Web-Enhanced Learning Environment Strategies reflection tool on their teaching practices. The reflection tool was designed to help teachers merge the vast array of NASA resources with the best teaching methods, taking into consideration grade levels, subject areas, and teaching preferences. The teachers described their attitudes toward technology and innovation in the classroom and their experiences and perceptions as they attempted to integrate Web resources into science, mathematics, technology, and geography instruction.

Keywords: Education; Educational technology; Learning technology; Teacher training; World Wide Web

*Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.


XML is a simple and powerful way to handle on data transfers between organizations, applications and/or computer systems. Currently, there is a significant effort within NASA to transition to XML vocabularies as the means of exchanging electronic data. XML can provide a useful way to transfer telemetry attributes data between customers and systems. The current standard for airborne telemetry data description is the Telemetry Attributes Transfer Standard (TMATS). TMATS is a well-defined, structured specification that will map into XML extremely well. This makes XML an excellent choice to supplement TMATS for the interchange of telemetry attribute information. The Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) is defining an XML Schema that will be used in support of the WATR Integrated Next Generation System (WINGS). This paper describes this work in progress.

*Spiral Technology, Inc., Edwards, California

**Arcata Associates, Inc., Edwards, California


The Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) is facing a challenge in meeting the technology demands of future flight missions projects. Rapid growth in technology for aircraft has resulted in complexity often surpassing the capabilities of the current WATR real-time processing and display systems. These current legacy systems are based on an architecture that is over a decade old. In response, the WATR has initiated the development of the WATR Integrated Next Generation System (WINGS). The purpose of WINGS is to provide the capability to acquire data from a variety of sources and process that data for subsequent analysis and display to Project Users in the WATR Mission control Centers (MCCs) in real-time, near real-time, and subsequent post-mission analysis. WINGS system architecture will bridge the continuing gap between new research flight test requirements and capability by distributing current system architectures to provide incremental and iterative system upgrades.

*Arcata Associates, Inc., Edwards, California


The Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) Integrated Next Generation System (WINGS) Mission Segment provides data acquisition, processing, display and storage in support of each project’s mission at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC). The network architecture for WINGS Mission Segment is responsible for distributing a variety of information from the Telemetry and Radar Acquisition and Processing System (TRAPS), which is responsible for data acquisition and processing, to the Mission Control Centers (MCCs) for display of data to the user. WINGS consists of three TRAPS and four MCCs, where any TRAPS can drive any one or multiple MCCs. This paper will address the requirements for the TRAPS/MCC network and the design solution.

*Arcata Associates, Inc., Edwards, California

**James Bros. Systems, Inc., Edwards, California


A handling qualities analysis has been performed on two unique side stick controllers in a fixed-base F-18 flight simulator. Each stick, which uses a larger range of motion than is common for similar controllers, has a moving elbow cup that accommodates movement of the entire arm for control. The sticks are compared to the standard center stick in several typical fighter aircraft tasks. Several trends are visible in the time histories, pilot ratings, and pilot comments. The aggressive pilots preferred the center stick, because the side sticks are underdamped, causing overshoots and oscillations when large motions are executed. The less aggressive pilots preferred the side sticks, because of the smooth motion and low breakout forces. The aggressive pilots collectively gave the worst ratings, probably because of increased sensitivity of the simulator (compared to the actual F-18 aircraft), which
can cause pilot-induced oscillations when aggressive inputs are made. Overall, the elbow cup is not a positive feature, because using the entire arm for control inhibits precision. Pilots had difficulty measuring their performance, particularly during the offset landing task, and tended to overestimate.

Keywords: Cooper-Harper Rating; Dynamic Controls, Inc.; Ergonomics; Flying qualities; Handling qualities; Side stick controller


New aging theories have been developed to establish the safe life span of airborne critical structural components such as B-52B aircraft pylon hooks for carrying air-launch drop-test vehicles. The new aging theories use the equivalent-constant-amplitude loading spectrum to represent the actual random loading spectrum with the same damaging effect. The crack growth due to random loading cycling of the first flight is calculated using the half-cycle theory, and then extrapolated to all the crack growths of the subsequent flights. The predictions of the new aging theories (finite difference aging theory and closed-form aging theory) are compared with the classical flight-test life theory and the previously developed Ko first- and Ko second-order aging theories. The new aging theories predict the number of safe flights as considerably lower than that predicted by the classical aging theory, and slightly lower than those predicted by the Ko first- and Ko second-order aging theories due to the inclusion of all the higher order terms.

Keywords: Closed-form aging theory; Discrete aging theory; Equivalent constant stress cycle; Half cycle theory; Number of safe flights


Providing an introductory practical overview of in-flight optical flow measurement techniques is the goal of this AGARDograph. This document is written for instrumentation engineer or research scientist having a need for making non-intrusive flow measurements on an aircraft. It is hoped that this document will be particularly useful for the technologist with a limited background in optical theory and limited experience in applying optical technology. The experience of the authors and well as numerous other workers has been infused to provide guidance to avoid expensive non-productive diversions that may occur when applying optical technology for the first time in the flight environment. This AGARDograph provides basic knowledge and techniques necessary to assess the applicability of optical measurements and to address effective optical measurement techniques in flight. Key aspects of optical measurements are discussed and the tradeoffs are identified as they are currently understood. Basic components of optical measurement systems are discussed and key requirements are identified. Specific systems designed for a variety of applications are discussed to provide insight for the reader.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Air data systems; Aircraft instruments; Atmospheric disturbances; Atmospheric physics; Data acquisition; Flight safety; Flow measurement; Laser anemometers; Laser doppler velocimetry; Light scattering; Measuring instruments; Meteorological instruments; Optical detection; Optical measuring instruments; Optical properties; Pressure measurement; Turbulence; Velocity measurement; Wind shear

*National Aerospace Lab, Amsterdam, Netherlands.


A follow-up working conference was held at Lewis Research Center (now Glenn Research Center) on September 23-25, 1997, to continue discussing issues related to the development of Web-based education materials for the K-14 community. The conference continued the collaboration among the NASA aerospace technology Centers (Ames, Dryden, Langley, and Lewis [now Glenn]), NASA Headquarters, the University of Idaho and the Pennsylvania State University. The conference consisted of presentations by the Aeronautics Cooperative Agreement teams, and working sessions that addressed issues related to the conference theme, responding to the K-14 customers needs. The group identified the most significant issues by consensus. The issues addressed were: classroom access, World Wide Web resources, teacher training, different teaching and learning styles, interactivity, and education standards. The working sessions produced observations and recommendations in each of these areas in order to work toward the goal of making NASA sponsored Web-based educational resources useful to teachers and students.

Keywords: Education; Educational technology; World Wide Web; Classroom access to technology; Teacher training; Aerospace education curricula; Pedagogy; Education standards

*Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.


Year end review of aerospace progress in atmospheric flight
mechanics.


The Centennial of Flight Education Outreach project worked with community partners to disseminate NASA Education materials and the Centennial of Flight CD-ROM as a vehicle to increase national awareness of NASA's Aerospace Education products, services and programs. The Azimuth Education Foundation and the Ninety Nines, an International Women Pilots Association, Inc. were chartered to conduct education outreach to the formal and informal educational community. The Dryden Education Office supported the development of a training and information distribution program that established a national group of prepared Centennial of Flight Ambassadors, with a mission of community education outreach. These Ambassadors are members of the Ninety Nines and through the Azimuth Foundation, they assisted the AECC on the national level to promote and disseminate Centennial of Flight and other educational products. Our objectives were to explore partnership outreach growth opportunities with consortium efforts between organizations. This project directly responded to the highlights of NASA's Implementation Plan for Education. It was structured to network, involve the community, and provide a solid link to active educators and current students with NASA education information. Licensed female pilots who live and work in local communities across the nation carried the link. This partnership has been extremely gratifying to all of those Ninety-Nines involved, and they eagerly look forward to further work opportunities.

*Azimuth Education Foundation, San Clemente, California.


The papers contained in this volume were presented at the 2003 American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting. The symposium was organized by Jonathan Coopersmith, Department of History at Texas A&M University and Roger Launius, Division of Space History, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. The year 2003 marks the centennial of manned flight, a major anniversary for an Earth-shattering accomplishment. Six authors discuss the consequences of the Wright brothers' achievements, including the actual accomplishments of the Wrights, the evolution of aerospace engineering and science, the development of civil and military aviation, and the long, intertwining relationship between aviation and the government. Although the Wright brothers are best known for making the first manned flight, their most significant achievement was the creation of aeronautical engineering, a legacy far more enduring than their first flights.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. **National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C. ***University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. ****Air National Guard.


This text differs from other finite element books by addressing the challenges and developments in multidisciplinary analysis. Structural mechanics, heat transfer, fluid mechanics, controls engineering, and propulsion technology and their interactions are covered. Unique chapters on finite element based aeroelasticity and aeroservoelasticity, structural eigenvalue problems, dynamics of spinning systems, and dynamic element method add value to the book. The second edition covers additional topics on CFD, aeroelasticity, aeroservoelasticity, optimization, and sparse matrix storage and decomposition using current frontal techniques. Numerical problems help illustrate the applicability of the techniques presented in the book. Exercises are given that may be solved either manually or by using suitable computer software. As a textbook, the book is useful at the senior undergraduate or graduate level. The practicing engineer will find it invaluable for solving full-scale practical problems.

*University of Queensland, Australia.

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2004 Technical Publications


This research investigates thermal buckling characteristics of rectangular panels subjected to different types of humped temperature profile heating. Minimum potential energy and finite-element methods are used to calculate the panel buckling temperatures. The two methods give fairly close thermal buckling solutions. ‘Buckling temperature magnification factor of the first kind, etai’ is established for the fixed panel edges to scale up the buckling solution of uniform temperature loading case to give the buckling solution of the humped temperature profile loading cases. Also, ‘buckling temperature magnification factor of the second kind, xi’ is established for the free panel edges to scale up the buckling solution of humped temperature profile loading cases with
unheated boundary heat sinks to give the buckling solutions when the boundary heat sinks are heated up.

Keywords: Buckling temperature magnification factors; Finite-element method; Humped temperature profile heating; Minimum potential energy method; Thermal buckling


The aerodynamic drag of an aerial refueling assembly was calculated during the Automated Aerial Refueling project at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. An F/A-18A airplane was specially instrumented to obtain accurate fuel flow measurements and to determine engine thrust. A standard Navy air refueling store with a retractable refueling hose and paradrogue was mounted to the centerline pylon of the F/A-18A airplane. As the paradrogue assembly was deployed and stowed, changes in the calculated thrust of the airplane occurred and were equated to changes in vehicle drag. These drag changes were attributable to the drag of the paradrogue assembly. The drag of the paradrogue assembly was determined to range from 200 to 450 lbf at airspeeds from 170 to 250 KIAS. Analysis of the drag data resulted in a single drag coefficient of 0.0056 for the paradrogue assembly that adequately matched the calculated drag for all flight conditions. The drag relief provided to the tanker airplane when a receiver airplane engaged the paradrogue is also documented from 35 to 270 lbf at the various flight conditions tested. The results support the development of accurate aerodynamic models to be used in refueling simulations and control laws for fully autonomous refueling.


Multiple scenarios were identified in which the X-37 approach and landing test vehicle (ALTV) catastrophically recontacts the B-52H carrier aircraft after separation. The most cost-effective recontact risk mitigation is the prelaunch deployment of a drogue parachute that is released after the X-37 ALTV has safely cleared the B-52H. After release, a fully-inflated drogue parachute takes 30 min to reach ground and results in a large footprint that excessively restricts the days available for flight. To reduce the footprint, a passive collapse mechanism consisting of an elastic reefing line attached to the parachute skirt was developed. At flight loads the elastic is stretched, allowing full parachute inflation. After release, drag loads drop dramatically and the elastic line contracts, reducing the frontal drag area. A 50 percent drag reduction results in an approximately 75 percent ground footprint reduction. Eleven individual parachute designs were evaluated at flight load dynamic pressures in the High Velocity Airflow System (HIVAS) at the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), China Lake, California. Various options for the elastic reefing system were also evaluated at HIVAS. Two best parachute designs were selected from HIVAS to be carried forward to flight test. Detailed HIVAS test results are presented in this report.

*Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake, California.


If normal aircraft flight controls are lost, emergency flight control may be attempted using only engines thrust. Collective thrust is used to control flightpath, and differential thrust is used to control bank angle. Flight test and simulation results on many airplanes have shown that pilot manipulation of throttles is usually adequate to maintain up-and-away flight, but is most often not capable of providing safe landings. There are techniques that will improve control and increase the chances of a survivable landing. This paper reviews the principles of throttles-only control (TOC), a history of accidents or incidents in which some or all flight controls were lost, manual TOC results for a wide range of airplanes from simulation and flight, and suggested techniques for flying with throttles only and making a survivable landing.

Keywords: B-747; C-17; Emergency flight control; MD-11; Propulsive control; Throttles-only control


The Autonomous Formation Flight (AFF) project was initiated in 1995 to demonstrate at least 10-percent drag reduction by positioning a trailing aircraft in the wingtip vortex of a leading aircraft. If successful, this technology would provide increased fuel savings, reduced emissions, and extended flight duration for fleet aircraft flying in formation. To demonstrate this technology, the AFF project at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center developed a system architecture incorporating two F-18 aircraft flying in leading-trailing formation. The system architecture has been
designed to allow the trailing aircraft to maintain station-keeping position relative to the leading aircraft within +/- 10 ft. Development of this architecture would be directed at the design and development of a computing system to feed surface position commands into the flight control computers, thereby controlling the longitudinal and lateral position of the trailing aircraft. In addition, modification to the instrumentation systems of both aircraft, pilot displays, and a means of broadcasting the leading aircraft inertial and global positioning system-based positional data to the trailing aircraft would be needed. This presentation focuses on the design and testing of the AFF Phase 0 research system.

Keywords: Autonomous formation flight; Development and testing; NASA Dryden; System architecture; Unmanned aerial vehicle

*Spiral Tech, Edwards, California.


An empirical model to predict the effects of flight on the noise from a supersonic transport is developed. This model is based on an analysis of the exhaust jet noise from high subsonic flights of the F-15 ACTIVE Aircraft. Acoustic comparisons previously attainable only in a wind tunnel were accomplished through the control of both flight operations and exhaust nozzle exit diameter. Independent parametric variations of both flight and exhaust jet Mach numbers at given supersonic nozzle pressure ratios enabled excellent correlations to be made for both jet broadband shock noise and jet mixing noise at flight speeds up to Mach 0.8. Shock noise correlated with flight speed and emission angle through a Doppler factor exponent of about 2.6. Mixing noise at all downstream angles was found to correlate well with a jet relative velocity exponent of about 7.3, with deviations from this behavior only at supersonic eddy convection speeds and at very high flight Mach numbers. The acoustic database from the flight test is also provided.

Keywords: Supersonic jet noise; Jet shock noise in flight; Jet mixing noise in flight

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


An experimental study of a two-dimensional wedge model has been carried out to assess conditions under which increasing viscous fore-body drag reduces base drag. Pressure, shear stress, and hot-wire measurements have been obtained for various conditions. Lengthening the wedge model while holding the base area constant yielded higher viscous fore-body drag, but no corresponding reduction in base drag was observed. In contrast, adding roughness to one of the models increased the base pressure and lowered base drag. The inconsistencies in the results are not fully understood at this point, but may be due to Reynolds number effects or slight variations in geometry.

*University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.


A finite element CFD-based aeroservoelastic analysis methodology is presented in this paper, in which both structural and fluids discretization are achieved by the finite element method, and their interaction is modeled by the transpiration boundary condition technique. In the fluids discipline either inviscid or viscous flow may be accounted for, usually employing unstructured grids. Provisions are made for either digital or analog controller for aeroservoelastic analysis. A time marched direct simulation procedure is presented for aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic analysis. This technique is next applied to the Hyper-X launch vehicle at transonic speed and solution results are presented in some detail.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Edwards, California.


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight; Flight controls; Flight systems; Flight test; Instrumentation; Propulsion; Structures; Structural dynamics


A high-order shock-fitting, finite-difference, direct-numerical-simulation (DNS) Navier-Stokes computer code has been under development. The code has been developed
specifically as a tool for investigating the attachment-line and crossflow boundary layer transition mechanisms associated with supersonic/ hypersonic airflows past swept/tapered wing geometries. This paper briefly introduces the importance of studying the fundamental attachment-line and crossflow vortice swept-wing boundary layer instabilities mechanisms and discusses the reasons for approaching the problem using DNS simulations. Preliminary results from several DNS simulations of Mach 5.1 airflow about various parabolic cross-section wing leading edge geometries, differing in leading edge sweep angle and wing taper ratio, will be shown. Also to be shown are initial results from unsteady receptivity simulations where the mean flow solution is excited by a standing acoustic or vorticity wave introduced in the freestream ahead of the bow shock created in front of a swept parabolic leading edge in supersonic flow.

*University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.


The research is concerned with developing a new approach to enhancing fault tolerance of flight control systems. The original motivation for fault-tolerant control comes from the need for safe operation of control elements (e.g. actuators) in the event of hardware failures in high reliability systems. One such example is modern space vehicle subjected to actuator/ sensor impairments. A major task in flight control is to revise the control policy to balance impairment detectability and to achieve sufficient robustness. This involves careful selection of types and parameters of the controllers and the impairment detecting filters used. It also involves a decision, upon the identification of some failures, on whether and how a control reconfiguration should take place in order to maintain a certain system performance level. In this project new flight dynamic model under uncertain flight conditions is considered, in which the effects of both ramp and jump faults are reflected. Stabilization algorithms based on neural network and adaptive method are derived. The control algorithms are shown to be effective in dealing with uncertain dynamics due to external disturbances and unpredictable faults. The overall strategy is easy to set up and the computation involved is much less as compared with other strategies. Computer simulation software is developed. A serious of simulation studies have been conducted with varying flight conditions.

*North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina.


The aerodynamic drag of an aerial refueling assembly was calculated during the Automated Aerial Refueling project at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. An F/A-18A airplane was specially instrumented to obtain accurate fuel flow measurements and to determine engine thrust. A standard Navy air refueling store with a retractable refueling hose and paradrogue was mounted to the centerline pylon of the F/A-18A airplane. As the paradrogue assembly was deployed and stowed, changes in the calculated thrust of the airplane occurred and were equated to changes in vehicle drag. These drag changes were attributable to the drag of the paradrogue assembly. The drag of the paradrogue assembly was determined to range from 200 to 450 lbf at airspeeds from 170 to 250 knots indicated airspeed. Analysis of the drag data resulted in a single drag coefficient of 0.0056 for the paradrogue assembly that adequately matched the calculated drag for all flight conditions. The drag relief provided to the tanker airplane when a receiver airplane engaged the paradrogue is also documented from 35 to 270 lbf at the various flight conditions tested. The results support the development of accurate aerodynamic models to be used in refueling simulations and control laws for fully autonomous refueling.

Keywords: Aerial refueling; Aircraft performance; Drag measurement; Thrust measurement; UAV

*United States Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland.
A structural test requirement of the National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) program has resulted in the design, fabrication, and implementation of a combined loads test fixture. Principal requirements for the fixture are testing a 4- by 4-ft hat-stiffened panel with combined axial (either tension or compression) and shear load at temperatures ranging from room temperature to 915 F, keeping the test panel stresses caused by the mechanical loads uniform, and thermal stresses caused by non-uniform panel temperatures minimized. The panel represents the side fuselage skin of an experimental aerospace vehicle, and was produced for the NASP program. A comprehensive mechanical loads test program using the new test fixture has been conducted on this panel from room temperature to 500 F. Measured data have been compared with finite-element analyses predictions, verifying that uniform load distributions were achieved by the fixture. The overall correlation of test data with analysis is excellent. The panel stress distributions and temperature distributions are very uniform and fulfill program requirements. This report provides details of an analytical and experimental validation of the combined loads test fixture. Because of its simple design, this unique test fixture can accommodate panels from a variety of aerospace vehicle designs.

Keywords: Aerospace engineering; Composites; Curved elements; Finite element; Structural design


In the early 1980s, two F-16 airplanes were modified to extend the fuselage length and incorporate a large area delta wing planform. These two airplanes, designated the F-16XL, were designed by the General Dynamics Corporation (now Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems) (Fort Worth, Texas) and were prototypes for a derivative fighter evaluation program conducted by the United States Air Force. Although the concept was never put into production, the F-16XL prototypes provided a unique planform for testing concepts in support of future high-speed supersonic transport aircraft. To extend the capabilities of this testbed vehicle the F-16XL ship 1 aircraft was upgraded with a digital flight control system. The added flexibility of a digital flight control system increases the versatility of this airplane as a testbed for aerodynamic research and investigation of advanced technologies. This report presents the handling qualities flight test results covering the envelope expansion of the F-16XL with the digital flight control system.

Keywords: F-16XL aircraft; Flight test; Handling qualities; Low-order equivalent systems; Neal–Smith criteria


When asked about his processes in designing a new airplane, Burt Rutan responded: ...there is always a performance requirement. So I start with the basic physics of an airplane that can get those requirements, and that pretty much sizes an airplane... Then I look at the functionality... And then I try a lot of different configurations to meet that, and then justify one at a time, throwing them out... Typically I’ll have several different configurations... But I like to experiment, certainly. I like to see if there are other ways to provide the utility. This kind of thinking engineering as a total systems engineering approach is what is being instilled in all engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.


This paper describes the details of the finite element multidisciplinary analysis computer program STARS with particular reference to structures/vibrations, linear/CFD-based aeroelasticity and aeroservoelasticity. A common finite element discretization is adopted for both the structural and the fluids domains, with provision for both analog and digital controllers. The basic theoretical development is narrated in the paper in some detail. Also presented are some practical numerical example problems pertaining to the NASA Hyper X and also the F/A 18 AAW programs and their correlation with available flight test data. In the concluding remarks section some justification is provided in favor of CFD based stability analysis of flight vehicles.
Flight testing for envelope expansion remains dangerous and costly due to difficulties in accurately predicting the onset of flutter. Approaches have been developed that are able to identify optimal models of the aeroelastic dynamics based on flight data but are not able to predict the responses at all airspeeds. This paper extends those previous approaches to include parameter variations in the optimal models. Specifically, parameter-varying models of Volterra kernels are identified for inclusion with theoretical models in aeroelastic analysis. The new approach is applied to a pitch-plunge system to demonstrate the accuracy achieved in predicting the onset of flutter by analyzing data obtained at lower airspeeds.


The “reverse path” spectral method, a frequency domain based nonlinear system identification technique, is considered for identifying nonlinear aeroelastic models. The method is based upon a multi-input/multi-output spectral conditioning process that mutually uncorrelates the linear and nonlinear components of the system response. Conditioned frequency response estimates derived from this process enable estimation of the system’s underlying linear frequency response matrix without contaminating effects from the nonlinearities. Analytic functions for describing the system’s nonlinearities are also identified once the linear frequency response matrix has been estimated. Since these analytic functions must be chosen prior to the identification, conditioned coherence functions, also derived from the spectral conditioning process, are used to indicate the presence (or absence) of select nonlinear components in the response data, hence overcoming the a priori assumption of this and many other parametric-based nonlinear system identification techniques. To illustrate the performance of the identification method, numerical data is first simulated from a nonlinear analytical aeroelastic system. Results show that the method is capable of identifying an accurate nonlinear aeroelastic model even when the underlying nonlinearities are unknown. The usefulness of the conditioned coherence functions for selecting analytic functions for describing the nonlinearities is also illustrated. The method is then applied to test data collected from the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) aircraft, an experimental vehicle used to investigate active flexibility control of aircraft wings for improved maneuverability, weight reduction and extended range.

*University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky. **The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.


Flutter is a dynamic instability that aerodynamic vehicles encounter in atmospheric flight. The interaction between structural elastic, structural inertial and aerodynamic forces may cause the flexible vehicle to undergo divergent oscillations, at which point flutter is encountered. Undesirable effects of this behavior include difficult controllability, structural fatigue and even catastrophic structural failure. This point of instability is dependent on many factors including the structural properties, structural geometry, aerodynamic shape and the flight condition. Since these factors may influence the flutter point in a sensitive manner investigation of uncertainty in these properties is warranted. A modern method to investigate system uncertainty is with the use of robust stability. These modern techniques are used to analyze the uncertainty in structural properties (mass and stiffness properties) of a wing in flight and the effect these uncertainties have on the flutter point. Recent use of these robust stability techniques on the flutter problem have focused on uncertainty in the natural structural modal frequencies. The uncertainties in the modal frequencies are also typically assumed independent. Uncertainties in the natural structural mode shapes have not been explored in complete detail. By including uncertainty in the structural mode shapes the robust flutter margins will be much less conservative. A complete structural uncertainty model for robust flutter prediction is constructed. Robust flutter margins are found for a fictitious wing with uncertainties in wing mass and stiffness properties, using the structured singular value. Since the robust flutter margins include uncertainty in the structural mode shapes, as well as the structural mode frequencies, they are least conservative estimates. The uncertainties in many structural properties on the wing are investigated and the effect that they have on the flutter point is determined. The formulation presented herein can be applied to a wide array of problems concerning the sensitivity of the flutter solution.

*Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.


Theoretical functions for describing the system’s nonlinearities are also identified once the linear frequency response matrix has been estimated. Since these analytic functions must be chosen prior to the identification, conditioned coherence functions, also derived from the spectral conditioning process, are used to indicate the presence (or absence) of select nonlinear components in the response data, hence overcoming the a priori assumption of this and many other parametric-based nonlinear system identification techniques. To illustrate the performance of the identification method, numerical data is first simulated from a nonlinear analytical aeroelastic system. Results show that the method is capable of identifying an accurate nonlinear aeroelastic model even when the underlying nonlinearities are unknown. The usefulness of the conditioned coherence functions for selecting analytic functions for describing the nonlinearities is also illustrated. The method is then applied to test data.
The investigation of flutter and aeroelastic stability through flight testing is an essential part of aircraft certification. The stability boundary prediction is especially difficult when the instability is associated with nonlinearity in the dynamics. This paper presents an approach for the characterization of the nonlinear dynamics by non-iterative identification algorithms. Two different block-oriented nonlinear models are considered in this work. Specifically, we focused on the identification of Hammerstein and nonlinear feedback models from a N-point data record \{uk , yk\} N k=1 of observed input-output measurements from an aeroelastic system. In the nonlinear feedback case, we propose a method to generate the orthonormal bases that is based on the cascade of input-normal balanced state-space realizations of al I-pass filters. We present an application of this non-linear aeroelastic modeling setup to a structurally nonlinear prototypical two-dimensional wing section.

*ZONA Technology Inc., Scottsdale, Arizona.  
**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.


This paper investigates the modeling of nonlinear aeroelastic systems using Volterra theory. With this approach, the system dynamics are expressed in terms of a set of Volterra kernels. It is well known that the parameters of aeroelastic systems, such as natural frequencies and damping ratios, change with flight condition. Therefore, a system is characterized by a different set of Volterra kernels at each flight condition. These kernels must be extracted from the flight data at each flight condition of interest – a relatively costly procedure. This paper presents a kernel extrapolation method designed to model first and second-order kernels as functions of a single varying parameter, such as altitude or Mach number. First, using a multiwavelet-based algorithm, a set of Volterra kernels is identified from the input/output data at a number of flight conditions. In this manner, each kernel is represented in terms of a set of multiwavelet basis functions. An extrapolation model is then obtained by using a polynomial curve-fit to express the magnitude of each basis coefficient as a function of the varying parameter. The performance of this kernel extrapolation method is studied in detail for a simulated nonlinear aeroelastic system, demonstrating the validity of the approach. Then, the algorithm is applied to flight data from the F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing. This example illustrates the difficulties associated with extrapolating kernels from noisy flight data.

**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.  
**Nielson Engineering and Research, Mountain View, California.

2686. *Cooke, W.P.; *Guler, M.G.; *Cintron, I.A.;  

Maintenance and staffing of down-range tracking and telemetry stations is a large component of the cost of current space launches. While the data gathered by such telemetry stations are vital to the technical assessment of the launcher’s performance and safety, more cost effective methods of gathering telemetry data must be developed in support of Responsive Space missions. This paper reports on the development of a telemetry subsystem that uplinks data from a launch vehicle directly to the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS), reducing the need for ground-based telemetry.

* EMS Technologies, Inc., Norcross, Georgia

X-37 with drogue parachute soon after release from the B-52H carrier aircraft


Multiple scenarios were identified in which the X-37 approach and landing test vehicle (ALTV) catastrophically recontacts the B-52H carrier aircraft after separation. The most cost-effective recontact risk mitigation is the prelaunch deployment of a drogue parachute that is released after the X-37 ALTV has safely cleared the B-52H. After release, a fully-inflated drogue parachute takes 30 min to reach ground and results in a large footprint that excessively restricts the days available for flight. To reduce the footprint, a passive collapse mechanism consisting of an elastic reefing line attached to the parachute skirt was developed. At flight loads the elastic is stretched, allowing full parachute inflation.
After release, drag loads drop dramatically and the elastic line contracts, reducing the frontal drag area. A 50-percent drag reduction results in an approximately 75-percent ground footprint reduction. Eleven individual parachute designs were evaluated at flight load dynamic pressures in the High Velocity Airflow System (HIVAS) at the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), China Lake, California. Various options for the elastic reefing system were also evaluated at HIVAS. Two best parachute designs were selected from HIVAS to be carried forward to flight test. Detailed HIVAS test results are presented in this report.

Keywords: Aerodynamic flight test; Low temperature elastomer; Orbital transfer vehicle; Parachute design; Stores separation

*Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake, California.


Heat-transfer, thermal bending, and mechanical buckling analyses have been performed on a superalloy “honeycomb” thermal protection system (TPS) for future hypersonic flight vehicles. The studies focus on the effect of honeycomb cell geometry on the TPS heat-shielding performance, honeycomb cell wall buckling characteristics, and the effect of boundary conditions on the TPS thermal bending behavior. The results of the study show that the heat-shielding performance of a TPS panel is very sensitive to change in honeycomb core depth, but insensitive to change in honeycomb cell cross-sectional shape. The thermal deformations and thermal stresses in the TPS panel are found to be very sensitive to the edge support conditions. Slight corrugation of the honeycomb cell walls can greatly increase their buckling strength.

Keywords: Heat shielding performance; Heat transfer; Honeycomb sandwich panels; Thermal buckling; Thermal protection system


As flight progressed from propellers to jets to rockets, the propulsive energy grew exponentially. With the development of rocket-only boosted vehicles, energy management of these boost-gldiers became a distinct requirement for the unpwowered return to base, alternate landing site, or water-parachute landing, starting with the X-series rocket aircraft and terminating with the present-day Shuttle. The problem presented here consists of: speed (kinetic energy) - altitude (potential energy) - steep glide angles created by low lift-to-drag ratios (L/D) - distance to landing site - and the bothersome effects of the atmospheric characteristics varying with altitude. The primary discussion regards post-boost, stabilized glides; however, the effects of centrifugal and geopotential acceleration are discussed as well. The aircraft and spacecraft discussed here are the X-1, X-2, X-15, and the Shuttle; and to a lesser, comparative extent, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and lifting bodies. The footprints, landfalls, and methods developed for energy management are also described. The essential tools required for energy management - simulator planning, instrumentation, radar, telemetry, extended land or water range, Mission Control Center (with specialist controllers), and emergency alternate landing sites - were first established through development of early concepts and were then validated by research flight tests.

Keywords: Approach and landing; Energy management; History of rocket aircraft; Mission control center; Rocket propulsion


A finite-element stress analysis has been conducted on a lobed composite sandwich tank subjected to internal pressure and cryogenic cooling. The lobed geometry consists of two obtuse circular walls joined together with a common flat wall. Under internal pressure and cryogenic cooling, this type of lobed tank wall will experience open-mode (a process in which the honeycomb is stretched in the depth direction) and shear stress concentrations at the junctures where curved wall changes into flat wall (known as a curve-flat juncture). Open-mode and shear stress concentrations occur in the honeycomb core at the curve-flat junctures and could cause debonding failure. The levels of contributions from internal pressure and temperature loading to the open-mode and shear debonding failure are compared. The lobed fuel tank with honeycomb sandwich walls has been found to be a structurally unsound geometry because of very low debonding failure strengths. The debonding failure problem could be eliminated if the honeycomb core at the curve-flat juncture is replaced with a solid core.

Keywords: Composite honeycomb sandwich wall; Lobed cryogenic tank; Open-mode debonding; Stress concentrations; Thermocryogenic stress analysis


This report deals with hypothetical reentry thermostructural
performance of the Space Shuttle orbiter with missing or eroded thermal protection system (TPS) tiles. The original STS-5 heating (normal transition at 1100 sec) and the modified STS-5 heating (premature transition at 800 sec) were used as reentry heat inputs. The TPS missing or eroded site is assumed to be located at the center or corner (spar-rib juncture) of the lower surface of wing midspan bay 3. For cases of missing TPS tiles, under the original STS-5 heating, the orbiter can afford to lose only one TPS tile at the center or two TPS tiles at the corner (spar-rib juncture) of the lower surface of wing midspan bay 3. Under modified STS-5 heating, the orbiter cannot afford to lose even one TPS tile at the center or at the corner of the lower surface of wing midspan bay 3. For cases of eroded TPS tiles, the aluminum skin temperature rises relatively slowly with the decreasing thickness of the eroded central or corner TPS tile until most of the TPS tile is eroded away, and then increases exponentially toward the missing tile case.

Keywords: Eroded TPS; Missing TPS; Reentry heat transfer; Reentry survivability; Space Shuttle orbiter


A precision clamp that accurately measures force over a wide range of conditions is described. Using a full bridge or other strain gage configuration, the elastic deformation of the clamp is measured or detected by the strain gages. The strain gages transmit a signal that corresponds to the degree of stress upon the clamp. The strain gage signal is converted to a numeric display. Calibration is achieved by ero and span potentiometers which enable accurate measurements by the force-measuring clamp.

2693. Gupta, Pramod; Loparo, Kenneth; Mackall, Dale; Schumann, Johann; and Soares, Fola: **Verification and Validation Methodology of Real-Time Adaptive Neural Networks for Aerospace Applications.** Presented at the International Conference on Computational Intelligence on Modeling, Control and Automation (CIMCA), Gold Coast, Australia, July 12–14, 2004, CASI ID: 20040084434.

Recent research has shown that adaptive neural based control systems are very effective in restoring stability and control of an aircraft in the presence of damage or failures. The application of an adaptive neural network with a flight critical control system requires a thorough and proven process to ensure safe and proper flight operation. Unique testing tools have been developed as part of a process to perform verification and validation (V&V) of real time adaptive neural networks used in recent adaptive flight control system, to evaluate the performance of the on line trained neural networks. The tools will help in certification from FAA and will help in the successful deployment of neural network based adaptive controllers in safety-critical applications. The process to perform verification and validation is evaluated against a typical neural adaptive controller and the results are discussed.

2694. *Kirby, Kelvin; and Gupta, Kajal (Technical Monitor): Mitigation of High Altitude and Low Earth Orbit Radiation Effects on Microelectronics via Shielding or Error Detection and Correction Systems; Final Report.** Grant No. NAG4-210, July 19, 2004, CASI ID: 20040084780. PDF CASI

The NASA Cooperative Agreement NAG4-210 was granted under the FY2000 Faculty Awards for Research (FAR) Program. The project was proposed to examine the effects of charged particles and neutrons on selected random access memory (RAM) technologies. The concept of the project was to add to the current knowledge of Single Event Effects (SEE) concerning RAM and explore the impact of selected forms of radiation on Error Detection and Correction Systems. The project was established as an extension of a previous FAR awarded to Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), under the direction of Dr. Richard Wilkins as principal investigator. The NASA sponsored Center for Applied Radiation Research (CARR) at PVAMU developed an electronic test-bed to explore and quantify SEE on RAM from charged particles and neutrons. The test-bed was developed using 486DX microprocessor technology (PC-104) and a custom test bed to mount RAM integrated circuits or other electronic devices. The test-bed had two configurations - a bench test version for laboratory experiments and a 400 Hz powered rack version for flight experiments. The objectives of this project were to: 1) Upgrade the Electronic Test-bed (ETB) to a Pentium configuration; 2) Accommodate more than only 8 Mbytes of RAM; 3) Explore Error Detection and Correction Systems for radiation effects; 4) Test modern RAM technologies in radiation environments.

*Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas.


One thing was certain, the airplane and the program had to be grounded until we could figure out what had happened.


A mobile, rapidly deployable ground-based system to track and image targets of aeronautical interest has been developed. Targets include reentering reusable launch vehicles as well as atmospheric and transatmospheric vehicles. The optics
were designed to image targets in the visible and infrared wavelengths. To minimize acquisition cost and development time, the system uses commercially available hardware and software where possible. The conception and initial funding of this system originated with a study of ground-based imaging of global aerothermal characteristics of reusable launch vehicle configurations. During that study the National Aeronautics and Space Administration teamed with the Missile Defense Agency/Innovative Science and Technology Experimentation Facility to test techniques and analysis on two Space Shuttle flights.

Keywords: Aeroheating; Boundary-layer transition; Imaging system; Infrared thermography; Object tracking; Reentry vehicles; Space Shuttle Orbiter

*George Washington University, Washington, District of Columbia.
**PVP Advanced EO Systems, Inc., Orange, California.


A mobile, rapidly deployable ground-based system to track and image targets of aeronautical interest has been developed. Targets include reentering reusable launch vehicles (RLVs) as well as atmospheric and transatmospheric vehicles. The optics were designed to image targets in the visible and infrared wavelengths. To minimize acquisition cost and development time, the system uses commercially available hardware and software where possible. The conception and initial funding of this system originated with a study of ground-based imaging of global aerothermal characteristics of RLV configurations. During that study NASA teamed with the Missile Defense Agency/Innovative Science and Technology Experimentation Facility (MDA/ISTEF) to test techniques and analysis on two Space Shuttle flights.

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This report documents a parametric study of various aircraft wing-load test features that affect the quality of the resultant derived shear, bending-moment, and torque strain-gage load equations. The effect of the following on derived strain-gage equation accuracy are compared: single-point loading compared with distributed loading, variation in applied test load magnitude, number of applied load cases, and wing-box-only compared with control-surface loading. The subject of this study is an extensive wing-load calibration test of the Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18 aircraft. Selected subsets of the available test data were used to derive load equations using the linear regression method. Results show the benefit of distributed loading and the diminishing-return benefits of test load magnitudes and number of load cases. The use of independent check cases as a quality metric for the derived load equations is shown to overcome blind extrapolating beyond the load data used to derive the load equations.

Keywords: Calibration parametric study; F/A-18 AAW; Loads calibration optimization; Loads calibration test; Loads test design; Strain-gage


Several flight-critical aerodynamic problems such as buffet, flutter, stall, and wing rock are strongly affected or caused by abrupt changes in unsteady aerodynamic loads and moments. Advanced sensing and flow diagnostic techniques have made possible simultaneous identification and tracking, in realtime, of the critical surface, viscosity-related aerodynamic phenomena under both steady and unsteady flight conditions. The wind tunnel study reported here correlates surface hot-film measurements of leading edge stagnation point and separation point, with unsteady aerodynamic loads on a NACA0015 airfoil. Lift predicted from the correlation model matches lift obtained from pressure sensors for an airfoil undergoing harmonic pitchup and pitchdown motions. An analytical model was developed that demonstrates expected stall trends for pitchup and pitchdown motions. This report demonstrates an ability to obtain unsteady aerodynamic loads in real time, which could lead to advances in air vehicle safety, performance, ride-quality, control, and health management.

Keywords:Aerodynamic loads;Constant voltage anemometer; Dynamic lift; Dynamic stall; Flow separation; Hot-film; Phase reversal signature; Stagnation point; Unsteady aerodynamics

*Tao of Systems Integration, Inc., Pomona, California.
The integration of uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs) into controlled airspace has created a new era of autonomous technologies and challenges. Autonomous aerial refueling would enable UAVs to travel further distances and loiter for extended periods over time-critical targets. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center recently completed a flight research project directed at developing a dynamic hose and drogue system model to support the development of an automated aerial refueling system. A systematic dynamic model of the hose and drogue system would include the effects of various influences on the system, such as flight condition, hose and drogue type, tanker type and weight, receiver type, and tanker and receiver maneuvering. Using two NASA F/A-18 aircraft and a conventional hose and drogue aerial refueling store from the Navy, NASA has obtained flight research data that document the response of the hose and drogue system to these effects. Preliminary results, salient trends, and important lessons are presented.


This paper presents some of the unique verification, validation, and certification challenges that must be addressed during the development of adaptive system software for use in safety-critical aerospace applications. The paper first discusses the challenges imposed by the current regulatory guidelines for aviation software. Next, a number of individual technologies being researched by NASA and others are discussed that focus on various aspects of the software challenges. These technologies include formal methods of model checking, compositional verification, static analysis, program synthesis, and runtime analysis. Then the paper presents some validation challenges for adaptive control, including proving convergence over long durations, guaranteeing controller stability, using new tools to compute statistical error bounds, identifying problems in fault-tolerant software, and testing in the presence of adaptation. These specific challenges are presented in the context of a software validation effort in testing the Integrated Flight Control System (IFCS) neural control software at the Dryden Flight Research Center. Lastly, the challenges to develop technologies to help prevent aircraft system failures, detect and identify failures that do occur, and provide enhanced guidance and control capability to prevent and recover from vehicle loss of control are briefly cited in connection with ongoing work at the NASA Langley Research Center.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


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*Tao Systems, Pomona, California.


This paper documents a parametric study of various aircraft wing-load test features that affect the quality of the resultant derived shear, bending-moment, and torque strain-gage load equations. The effect of the following on derived strain-gage equation accuracy are compared: single-point loading compared with distributed loading, variation in applied test load magnitude, number of applied load cases, and wingbox-only compared with control-surface loading. The subject of this study is an extensive wing-load calibration test of the Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18 airplane. Selected subsets of the available test data were used to derive load equations using the linear regression method. Results show the benefit of distributed loading and the diminishing-return benefits of test load magnitudes and number of load cases. The use of independent check cases as a quality metric for the derived load equations is shown to overcome blind extrapolating beyond the load data used to derive the load equations.

Wavelet transform methods were developed to predict loss of control for a broad range of refractory automatic and manual control system problems, including threats to flight safety. The systems being controlled are characterized by dynamics that change with time, so that loss of control or potential loss of control occurs only under unusual or rare circumstances, and the dangers can escape detection by conventional design criteria and methodologies. Recent technical developments are presented that were used for the real time implementation of wavelet transform methods for frequency response estimation. These developments include a description of the real time algorithm, the variance of the power spectral estimate, and methods used to reduce the variance of the power spectral estimate. An example is presented where the sudden onset of extra delay in a pitch stability and control augmentation system (SCAS) is detected. Wavelet transform methods are shown to have a faster detection time than Fourier transform methods.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight; Flight controls; Flight systems; Flight test; Instrumentation; Propulsion; Structures; Structural dynamics


The NASA IFCS F-15 program has currently entered into a phase called “Gen-2”. For this phase the research control laws (RCL) are executed in a single string computer and are interfaced with the quad redundant, basic flight control system to close the loop. There are inherent safety risks associated with the flight test of a single string flight control system, which requires various safety monitors for fault detection and mode reversion. This paper discusses the design issues and simulation results of the testing of one of these safety monitor schemes developed to detect research control law failures and to ensure smooth transition to the conventional control laws for the NASA IFCS F-15 aircraft. This aircraft is used at NASA Dryden for testing neural network-based fault tolerant control systems. Specific parameters related to the design of the “Gen-2” control laws in addition to conventional flight data and signals from the basic flight control system are being used by the safety monitor scheme to guarantee a safe flight testing of the planned failures. The scheme has been tested through the command injections of simulated surface failures on the right stabilator and the right canard in the F-15 simulator as well as in the WVU simulator. These failures are scheduled to be tested on the NASA IFCS F-15 aircraft in 2004. The simulation results have confirmed the capabilities of the scheme.

*West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.
**University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy.


The NASA F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System project team has developed a series of flight control concepts designed to demonstrate the benefits of a neural network-based adaptive controller. The objective of the team is to develop and flight-test control systems that use neural network technology to optimize the performance of the aircraft under nominal conditions as well as stabilize the aircraft under failure conditions. Failure conditions include locked or failed control surfaces as well as unforeseen damage that might occur to the aircraft in flight. This report presents flight-test results for an adaptive controller using stability and control derivative values from an online learning neural network. A dynamic cell structure neural network is used in conjunction with a real-time parameter identification algorithm to estimate aerodynamic stability and control derivative increments to the baseline aerodynamic derivatives in flight. This set of open-loop flight tests was performed in preparation for a future phase of flights in which the learning neural network and parameter identification algorithm output would provide the flight controller with aerodynamic stability and control derivative updates in near real time. Two flight maneuvers are analyzed: a pitch frequency sweep and an automated flight-test maneuver designed to optimally excite the parameter identification algorithm in all axes. Frequency responses generated from flight data are compared to those obtained from nonlinear simulation runs. An examination of flight data shows that addition of the flight-identified aerodynamic derivative increments into the simulation improved the pitch handling qualities of the aircraft.


* AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California

2709. Ehrenberger, L. J.; Donohue, Casey; Teets, Edward H.,
A series of solar-powered aircraft have been designed and operated by AeroVironment, Inc. (Monrovia, CA) as a part of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) objectives to develop energy-efficient high-altitude long-endurance platforms for earth observations and communications applications. Flight operations have been conducted at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards CA and at the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai, HI. These aircraft flown at PMRF are named Pathfinder, Pathfinder Plus and Helios. Sizes of these three aircraft range from 560 lb with a 99-ft wingspan to 2300 lb with a 247-ft wingspan. Available payload capacity reaches approximately 200 lb. Pathfinder uses six engines and propellers; Pathfinder Plus 8; and Helios 14. The 2003 Helios fuel cell configurations used 10 engines and propellers. The PMRF was selected as a base of operations because if offers optimal summertime solar exposure, low prevailing winds-speeds on the runway, modest upper-air wind-speeds and the availability of suitable airspace. Between 1997 and 2001, successive altitude records of 71,530 ft, 80,200 ft, and 96,863 ft were established. Flight durations extended to 18 hours.


NASA's 2003-2004 Leadership Development Program class recognized that effective collaborations are often the key to achieving mission success. Personal connections and common goals were key elements of their work together and key findings of their collaboration benchmarking within the agency.


The NASA F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System project team developed a series of flight control concepts designed to demonstrate neural network-based adaptive controller benefits, with the objective to develop and flight-test control systems using neural network technology to optimize aircraft performance under nominal conditions and stabilize the aircraft under failure conditions. This report presents flight-test results for an adaptive controller using stability and control derivative values from an online learning neural network. A dynamic cell structure neural network is used in conjunction with a real-time parameter identification algorithm to estimate aerodynamic stability and control derivative increments to baseline aerodynamic derivatives in flight. This open-loop flight test set was performed in preparation for a future phase in which the learning neural network and parameter identification algorithm output would provide the flight controller with aerodynamic stability and control derivative updates in near real time. Two flight maneuvers are analyzed - pitch frequency sweep and automated flight-test maneuver designed to optimally excite the parameter identification algorithm in all axes. Frequency responses generated from flight data are compared to those obtained from nonlinear simulation runs. Flight data examination shows that addition of flight-identified aerodynamic derivative increments into the simulation improved aircraft pitch handling qualities.

Keywords: Adaptive control; Automatic flight control; F-15 aircraft; Neural nets; Parameter identification; Real-time operation


An online systems engineering tool for flight research projects has been developed through the use of a workgroup database. Capabilities are implemented for typical flight research systems engineering needs in document library, configuration control, hazard analysis, hardware database, requirements management, action item tracking, project team information, and technical performance metrics. Repetitive tasks are automated to reduce workload and errors. Current data and documents are instantly available online and can be worked on collaboratively. Existing forms and conventional processes are used, rather than inventing or changing processes to fit the tool. An integrated tool set offers advantages by automatically cross-referencing data, minimizing redundant data entry, and reducing the number of programs that must be learned. With a simplified approach, significant improvements are attained over existing capabilities for minimal cost. By using a workgroup-level database platform, personnel most directly involved in the project can develop, modify, and maintain the system, thereby saving time and money. As a pilot project, the system has been used to support an in-house flight experiment. Options are proposed for developing and deploying this type of tool on a more extensive basis.

Keywords: Computer database; Configuration control; Flight testing; Product data management; Systems engineering

This document has been written to assist the flight-test engineer and researcher in using optical flow measurements in flight applications. The emphasis is on describing tradeoffs in system design to provide desired measurement performance as currently understood. Optical system components are discussed with examples that illustrate the issues. The document concludes with descriptions of optical measurement systems designed for a variety of applications including aeronautics research, airspeed measurement, and turbulence hazard detection. Theoretical discussion is minimized, but numerous references are provided to supply ample opportunity for the reader to understand the theoretical underpinning of optical concepts.

Keywords: Air data systems; Backscattering; Infrared radar; Laser anemometers; Laser Doppler radar; Laser Doppler velocimeters; Lidar; Light scattering; Optical measurement; Remote atmospheric measurements; Velocity measurement

*National Aerospace Laboratory, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

2005 Technical Publications


Adaptive control technologies that incorporate learning algorithms have been proposed to enable automatic flight control and vehicle recovery, autonomous flight, and to maintain vehicle performance in the face of unknown, changing, or poorly defined operating environments. In order for adaptive control systems to be used in safety-critical aerospace applications, they must be proven to be highly safe and reliable. Rigorous methods for adaptive software verification and validation must be developed to ensure that control system software failures will not occur. Of central importance in this regard is the need to establish reliable methods that guarantee convergent learning, rapid convergence (learning) rate, and algorithm stability. This paper presents the major problems of adaptive control systems that use learning to improve performance. The paper then presents the major procedures and tools presently developed or currently being developed to enable the verification, validation, and ultimate certification of these adaptive control systems. These technologies include the application of automated program analysis methods, techniques to improve the learning process, analytical methods to verify stability, methods to automatically synthesize code, simulation and test methods, and tools to provide on-line software assurance.


A relatively unexplored method to improve the endurance of an autonomous aircraft is to use buoyant plumes of air found in the lower atmosphere called thermals or updrafts. Glider pilots and birds commonly use updrafts to improve range, endurance, or cross-country speed. This report presents a quantitative analysis of a small electric-powered uninhabited air vehicle using updrafts to extend its endurance over a target location. A three-degree-of-freedom simulation of the uninhabited air vehicle was used to determine the yearly effect of updrafts on performance. Surface radiation and rawinsonde balloon measurements taken at Desert Rock, Nevada, were used to determine updraft size, strength, spacing, shape, and maximum height for the simulation. A fixed-width spiral path was used to search for updrafts at the same time as maintaining line-of-sight to the surface target position. Power was used only when the aircraft was flying at the lower-altitude limit in search of updrafts. Results show that an uninhabited air vehicle with a nominal endurance of 2 hours can fly a maximum of 14 hours using updrafts during the summer and a maximum of 8 hours during the winter. The performance benefit and the chance of finding updrafts both depend on what time of day the uninhabited air vehicle is launched. Good endurance and probability of finding updrafts during the year was obtained when the uninhabited air vehicle was launched 30 percent into the daylight hours after sunrise each day. Yearly average endurance was found to be 8.6 hours with these launch times.


The AAW 1 technology program involves multidisciplinary, aero-structural-controls interactions in an optimized fashion that maximizes the performance of a flight vehicle. This is achieved by the use of a more flexible, lighter wing that provides desirable wing twist response at higher speeds and deforms aeroelastically into favorable shapes for optimum performance; in this process the wing produces the control forces. The goal of this program is to generate control laws that will maximize the vehicle performance taking into account the flexibility of the wing. This is a joint flight research program involving NASA, Air Force, Navy and the industry. The AAW program uses a F/A-18 aircraft with suitable modifications of the wing that reduces the torsional stiffness characteristics. Thus the aft upper and lower wing
covers were replaced by more flexible ones, made of thinner aluminum and composite skins, as appropriate. Apart from structural changes modifications were effected in the leading edge flap drive system (LEFDS), the flight control computer (FCC) and the baseline flight control laws. This paper presents the results of a set of aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic analyses of this modified aircraft along with flight test data in support of an ongoing research effort in the area of aeroelastic(AE) model validation and test data analysis.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Edwards, California.


The Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration project showed for the first time that by careful design of aircraft contour the resultant sonic boom can maintain a tailored shape, propagating through a real atmosphere down to ground level. In order to assess the propagation characteristics of the shaped sonic boom and to validate computational fluid dynamics codes, airborne measurements were taken of the pressure signatures in the near field by probing with an instrumented F-15B aircraft, and in the far field by overflying an instrumented L-23 sailplane. This paper describes each aircraft and their instrumentation, and analysis of the measured booms. A description of the sonic boom measurement arrays and instrument calibration, analysis of the near- and far-field airborne data, and shows the good to excellent agreement between computational fluid dynamics solutions and flight data. The flights of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration aircraft occurred in two phases. Instrumentation problems were encountered during the first phase, and corrections and improvements were made to the instrumentation system for the second phase, which are documented in the paper. Piloting technique and observations are also given. These airborne measurements of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration aircraft are a unique and important database that will be used to validate design tools for a new generation of quiet supersonic aircraft.


Flight tests of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator (SSBD), an F-5E Tiger II modified so as to generate a flat-top shaped sonic boom, were conducted in August 2003 and January 2004. The primary data collected in those tests were ground measurements of sonic booms form SSBD. Three flights in August and eight in January were back-to-back with a stock F-5E, providing controlled tests of shaped booms from the modified aircraft. The project successfully demonstrated that sonic boom waveforms can be modified by shaping of the aircraft, and that shaped booms would persist to the ground under actual flight conditions. This paper presents a description of the sonic boom measurement arrays and instrumentation, and analysis of the measured booms.


A generic control system framework for both real-time and batch six-degree-of-freedom (6-DOF) simulations is presented. This framework uses a simplified dynamic inversion technique to allow for stabilization and control of any type of aircraft at the pilot interface level. The simulation, designed primarily for the real-time simulation environment, can also be run in a batch mode through a simple guidance interface. Direct vehicle-state acceleration feedback is required with the simplified dynamic inversion technique. The estimation of surface effectiveness within real-time simulation timing constraints also is required. The generic framework provides easily modifiable control variables, allowing flexibility in the variables that the pilot commands. A direct control allocation scheme is used to command aircraft effectors. Primary uses for this system include conceptual and preliminary design of aircraft, when vehicle models are rapidly changing and knowledge of vehicle 6-DOF performance is required. A simulated airbreathing hypersonic vehicle and simulated high-performance fighter are used to demonstrate the flexibility and utility of the control system.


A control system framework is presented for both real-time and batch six-degree-of-freedom simulation. This framework allows stabilization and control with multiple command options, from body rate control to waypoint guidance. Also, pilot commands can be used to operate the simulation in a pilot-in-the-loop environment. This control system framework is created by using direct vehicle state feedback with nonlinear dynamic inversion. A direct control allocation scheme is used to command aircraft effectors. Online B-matrix estimation is used in the control allocation algorithm for maximum algorithm flexibility. Primary uses for this framework include conceptual design and early preliminary design of aircraft, where vehicle models change rapidly and a knowledge of vehicle six-degree-of-freedom performance is required. A simulated airbreathing hypersonic vehicle and a simulated high-performance fighter are controlled to demonstrate the flexibility and utility of the control system.


Flight test of an US Navy F-5E Tiger II was conducted at Edwards Air Force Base in February 2002. The purpose of the flight test was the measurement of near-field pressure data at supersonic speeds, including nose shock, inlet spillage shock, wing shock, and horizontal tail shock. The pressure data were collected by a NASA F-15B at a supersonic Mach number of 1.40 and various aircraft separation distances. The measured near-field pressure data were used in the validation and correlation of Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) predicted pressure data. The validation of the CFD code, and the experience gained in refining the correlation process, greatly aided in the design and analysis of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator (SSBD) program. The Inlet Spillage Shock Measurement Test (ISSM) flight test program using the F-5E also acted as an excellent “dry run” for the SSBD pressure data collection program the following year.

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** Wyle Laboratories, Arlington, Virginia.


The Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration project showed for the first time that by careful design of aircraft contour the resultant sonic boom can maintain a tailored shape, propagating through a real atmosphere down to ground level. In order to assess the propagation characteristics of the shaped sonic boom and to validate computational fluid dynamics codes, airborne measurements were taken of the pressure signatures in the near field by probing an instrumented F-15B aircraft, and in the far field by overflying an instrumented L-23 sailplane. This paper describes each aircraft and their instrumentation systems, the airdata calibration, analysis of the near- and far-field airborne data, and shows the good to excellent agreement between computational fluid dynamics solutions and flight data. The flights of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration aircraft occurred in two phases. Instrumentation problems were encountered during the first phase, and corrections and improvements were made to the instrumentation system for the second phase, which are documented in the paper. Piloting technique and observations are also given. These airborne measurements of the Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstration aircraft are a unique and important database that will be used to validate design tools for a new generation of quiet supersonic aircraft.

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A finite-element stress analysis is performed on Helios filament-wound hydrogen tanks to examine the stress field and effect of end dome geometry on the stress field. Each tank is composed of a central circular cylindrical section with either geodesic or hemispherical end domes, which have metallic polar bosses. The tanks are subjected to combined and separate internal pressure and temperature loading conditions, and the stress contributions of each loading component are examined. The tank-wall-polar-boss interfacial meridional tensile stress in the hemispherical dome is found to be approximately 27 percent lower than that in the geodesic dome. The effects of both material anisotropy and the aluminum lining on the intensities of tensile meridional stress at the tank-wall-polar-boss bonding interface are examined.

Keywords: Filament-wound tanks; Geodesic dome tank; Hemispherical dome tank; Pressure and temperature loading; Structural performance


A relatively unexplored method to improve the endurance of an autonomous aircraft is to use buoyant plumes of air found in the lower atmosphere called thermals or updrafts. Glider pilots and birds commonly use updrafts to improve range, endurance, or cross-country speed. This report presents a quantitative analysis of a small electric-powered uninhabited air vehicle using updrafts to extend its endurance over a target location. A three-degree-of-freedom simulation of the uninhabited air vehicle was used to determine the yearly effect of updrafts on performance. Surface radiation and rawinsonde balloon measurements taken at Desert Rock, Nevada, were used to determine updraft size, strength, spacing, shape, and maximum height for the simulation. A fixed-width spiral path was used to search for updrafts at the same time as maintaining line-of-sight to the surface target position. Power was used only when the aircraft was flying at the lower-altitude limit in search of updrafts. Results show that an uninhabited air vehicle with a nominal endurance of 2 hours can fly a maximum of 14 hours using updrafts during the summer and a maximum of 8 hours during the winter. The performance benefit and the chance of finding updrafts both depend on what time of day the uninhabited air vehicle is launched. Good endurance and probability of finding updrafts during the year was obtained when the uninhabited air vehicle was launched 30 percent into the daylight hours after sunrise each day. Yearly average endurance was found to be 8.6 hours with these launch times.

Keywords: Automated aerial refueling; Dynamic modeling; F/A-18 aircraft; UAV; Videogrammetry


The integration of uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs) into controlled airspace has generated a new era of autonomous technologies and challenges. Autonomous aerial refueling would enable UAVs to travel further distances and loiter for extended periods over time-critical targets. The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center recently has completed a flight research project directed at developing a dynamic hose and drogue system model to support the development of an automated aerial refueling system. A systematic dynamic model of the hose and drogue system would include the effects of various influences on the system, such as flight condition, hose and drogue type, tanker type and weight, receiver type, and tanker and receiver maneuvering. Using two NASA F/A-18 aircraft and a conventional hose and drogue aerial refueling store from the Navy, NASA has obtained flight research data that document the response of the hose and drogue system to these effects. Preliminary results, salient trends, and important lessons are presented.

Keywords: Automated aerial refueling; Dynamic modeling; F/A-18 aircraft; UAV; Videogrammetry

View of in-flight Automated Aerial Refueling configuration from below

A method has been developed for real-time stability margin measurement calculations. The method relies on a tailored-forced excitation targeted to a specific frequency range. Computation of the frequency response is matched to the specific frequencies contained in the excitation. A recursive Fourier transformation is used to make the method compatible with real-time calculation. The method was incorporated into the X-38 nonlinear simulation and applied to an X-38 robustness test. X-38 stability margins were calculated for different variations in aerodynamic and mass properties over the vehicle flight trajectory. The new method showed results comparable to more traditional stability analysis techniques, and at the same time, this new method provided coverage that is more complete and increased efficiency.

Keywords: Control; Excitation; Fourier; Margin; Stability


2729. Lizotte, Andrew; Allen, Michael J.: Twist Model Development and Results From the Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18 Aircraft. NASA/TM-2005-212861, H-2579, March 10, 2005, CASI ID: 20050111580. PDF DTRS

Understanding the wing twist of the active aeroelastic wing F/A-18 aircraft is a fundamental research objective for the program and offers numerous benefits. In order to clearly understand the wing flexibility characteristics, a model was created to predict real-time wing twist. A reliable twist model allows the prediction of twist for flight simulation, provides insight into aircraft performance uncertainties, and assists with computational fluid dynamic and aeroelastic issues. The left wing of the aircraft was heavily instrumented during the first phase of the active aeroelastic wing program allowing deflection data collection. Traditional data processing steps were taken to reduce flight data, and twist predictions were made using linear regression techniques. The model predictions determined a consistent linear relationship between the measured twist and aircraft parameters, such as surface positions and aircraft state variables. Error in the original model was reduced in some cases by using a dynamic pressure-based assumption and by using neural networks. These techniques produced excellent predictions for flight between the standard test points and accounted for nonlinearities in the data. This report discusses data processing techniques and twist prediction validation, and provides illustrative and quantitative results.

Keywords: Active aeroelastic wing; Aeroelasticity; Flight deflection measurement system; Reduced wing twist; Twist model development


A “Multimode” or “switched” system is one that switches between various modes of operation. When a switch occurs from one mode to another, a discontinuity may result followed by a smooth evolution under the new regime. Characterizing the switching behavior of these systems is not well understood and, therefore, identification of multimode systems typically requires a preprocessing step to classify the observed data according to a mode of operation. A further consequence of the switched nature of these systems is that data available for parameter estimation of any subsystem may be inadequate. As such, identification and parameter estimation of multimode systems remains an unresolved problem. In this paper, we 1) show that the NARMAX model structure can be used to describe the impulsive-smooth behavior of switched systems, 2) propose a modified extended least squares (MELS) algorithm to estimate the coefficients of such models, and 3) demonstrate its applicability to simulated and real data from the Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex (VOR). The approach will also allow the identification of other nonlinear bio-systems, suspected of containing “hard” nonlinearities.

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When asked [1] about his processes in designing a new airplane, Burt Rutan responded:

…there is always a performance requirement. So I start with the basic physics of an airplane that can get those requirements, and that pretty much sizes an airplane... Then I look at the functionality... And then I try a lot of different configurations to meet that, and then justify one at a time, throwing them out... Typically I'll have several different configurations... But I like to experiment, certainly. I like to see if there are other ways to provide the utility.

This kind of thinking—engineering as a total systems engineering approach—is what is being instilled in all engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

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**NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California

If you could see the road ahead, you might pass up a fantastic opportunity because you’re blinded by the potential pitfalls. In my case, I was testing the project management waters at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center after ten years of being a research engineer. I was an eager (but ignorant) rookie project manager (PM) and I was willing to engage in just about any project without knowing what it would entail.

The assignment I accepted was to help NASA’s Environment Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) Project, a partnership with a fledgling Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) industry, to tackle stratospheric flight. I remember one of our industrial partners querying me about whether or not I understood what I was getting into. Like one of those bobble-head toys that have become quite popular, I nodded. But in reality, I didn’t have a clue. His response was, “Hang on, it’s going to be a wild ride.” He was right. In retrospect, if I had clearly understood the ten years of pitfalls that were coming, I might not have “hung on.” Now I can look back and say that I would not trade the experience for anything. The lows included the destruction of a number of UAVs on my watch.

Later someone told me that we should not be surprised if we lost one UAV for every ten flights. We wrote many chapters in the book on what can go wrong with UAVs—and we are still writing. As you can imagine, each mishap was accompanied by an investigation. What an education!

A generic control system framework for both real-time and batch six-degree-of-freedom simulations is presented. This framework uses a simplified dynamic inversion technique to allow for stabilization and control of any type of aircraft at the pilot interface level. The simulation, designed primarily for the real-time simulation environment, also can be run in a batch mode through a simple guidance interface. Direct vehicle-state acceleration feedback is required with the simplified dynamic inversion technique. The estimation of surface effectiveness within real-time simulation timing constraints also is required. The generic framework provides easily modifiable control variables, allowing flexibility in the variables that the pilot commands. A direct control allocation scheme is used to command aircraft effectors. Primary uses for this system include conceptual and preliminary design of aircraft, when vehicle models are rapidly changing and knowledge of vehicle six-degree-of-freedom performance is required. A simulated airbreathing hypersonic vehicle and simulated high-performance fighter aircraft are used to demonstrate the flexibility and utility of the control system.

Keywords: Dynamic inversion; General control laws; Handling qualities; Pilot-in-the-loop simulation; Rapid prototyping
Keywords: B-52B/H pylons; Failure-critical components; Proof loads; Stress concentrations; Stress/load equations


A control system framework is presented for both real-time and batch six-degree-of-freedom simulation. This framework allows stabilization and control with multiple command options, from body rate control to waypoint guidance. Also, pilot commands can be used to operate the simulation in a pilot-in-the-loop environment. This control system framework is created by using direct vehicle state feedback with nonlinear dynamic inversion. A direct control allocation scheme is used to command aircraft effectors. Online B-matrix estimation is used in the control allocation algorithm for maximum algorithm flexibility. Primary uses for this framework include conceptual design and early preliminary design of aircraft, where vehicle models change rapidly and a knowledge of vehicle six-degree-of-freedom performance is required. A simulated airbreathing hypersonic vehicle and a simulated high performance fighter are controlled to demonstrate the flexibility and utility of the control system.

Keywords: Autonomous flight; Conceptual design; Flying qualities; Inner loop control; Nonlinear dynamic inversion; Outer loop control; Performance; Stability and control; Waypoint tracking


Traditional techniques in structural load measurement entail the correlation of a known load with strain-gage output from the individual components of a structure or machine. The use of strain gages has proved successful and is considered the standard approach for load measurement. However, remotely measuring aerodynamic loads using deflection measurement systems to determine aeroelastic deformation as a substitute to strain gages may yield lower testing costs while improving aircraft performance through reduced instrumentation weight. With a reliable strain and structural deformation measurement system this technique was examined. The objective of this study was to explore the utility of a deflection-based load estimation, using the active aeroelastic wing F/A-18 aircraft. Calibration data from ground tests performed on the aircraft were used to derive left wing-root and wing-fold bending-moment and torque load equations based on strain gages, however, for this study, point deflections were used to derive deflection-based load equations. Comparisons between the strain-gage and deflection-based methods are presented. Flight data from the phase-1 active aeroelastic wing flight program were used to validate the deflection-based load estimation method. Flight validation revealed a strong bending-moment correlation and slightly weaker torque correlation. Development of current techniques, and future studies are discussed.


Limit Cycle Oscillation, LCO, has been a prevalent aeroelastic/aseroservoelastic problem on several fighter aircrafts in the transonic regime. Complicated by the air-craft/stores and its flight regimes, the LCO mechanisms still remain to be fully analytically predictable. Linear flutter engineering tools only are able to predict frequency and modal composition of the LCO dynamics, but fail to predict the LCO onset as well as its oscillation amplitude. This work augments the current match-point solution approach using the μ-method analysis with nonlinear memoryless operators. These operators are characterized using a block-oriented system identification techniques. By replacing the identified memoryless operators by its related sinusoidal-input describing function, SIDF, the resulting model can be used to compute robust stability margins using the μ-method that would reflect both flutter and LCO instability regions of the flight envelope. The concept involves a representation of the aeroelastic/aeroservoelastic dynamics that includes linear, nonlinear and uncertain components using a general Linear Fractional Transformation. A general data-based modeling updating approach is sought, that is, a technique to augment existing production flutter models of actual aircraft with nonlinear operators derived by analyzing wind-tunnel/flight-test data. To illustrate this modeling framework for LCO detection, this technique is applied to a typical section with a control surface freeplay while including uncertain stiffness parameters. Comments are provided concerning possible limitations of the proposed modeling methodology.

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**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.


The aerodynamic forces acting on an F/A-18 SRA aircraft...
modeled by finite element methods by use of STARS software at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center are calculated in the frequency domain. In order to study the effects of the control laws on the flexible aircraft structure and calculate the flutter velocities and frequencies, these aerodynamic forces must be approximated in the Laplace domain. We show here that in the case where the aerodynamic forces data are calculated for a range of non-evenly spaced reduced frequencies, a combination of fuzzy clustering and shape-preserving techniques may be used to obtain a very good approximation of these unsteady aerodynamic forces. Because of the fact that the approximation of these forces by this new method remain actually in the frequency domain, we could easily further use for their conversion from the frequency domain into Laplace domain, classical methods such as Least Squares or Minimum State. The choice of the reduced frequencies range remains a very important feature in these studies.

*Ecole de technologie supérieure, Montréal, Quebec.

Active aeroelastic wing F/A-18 aircraft


Traditional techniques in structural load measurement entail the correlation of a known load with strain-gage output from the individual components of a structure or machine. The use of strain gages has proved successful and is considered the standard approach for load measurement. However, remotely measuring aerodynamic loads using deflection measurement systems to determine aeroelastic deformation as a substitute to strain gages may yield lower testing costs while improving aircraft performance through reduced instrumentation weight. This technique was examined using a reliable strain and structural deformation measurement system. The objective of this study was to explore the utility of a deflection-based load estimation, using the active aeroelastic wing F/A-18 aircraft. Calibration data from ground tests performed on the aircraft were used to derive left wing-root and wing-fold bending-moment and torque load equations based on strain gages, however, for this study, point deflections were used to derive deflection-based load equations. Comparisons between the strain-gage and deflection-based methods are presented. Flight data from the phase-1 active aeroelastic wing flight program were used to validate the deflection-based load estimation method. Flight validation revealed a strong bending-moment correlation and slightly weaker torque correlation. Development of current techniques, and future studies are discussed.

Keywords: Active Aeroelastic Wing; Deflection-based load estimation; Flight deflection measurement system; Structural hysteresis; Wing deformation


This paper describes the development and testing of a collapsible drogue parachute design, which was required for the testing of NASA's X-37 Approach and Landing Test Vehicle (ALTV) from the B-52 H aircraft. The ALTV, which has a relatively low drop weight of 7000 lbs, and an L/D in excess of 4.4 at the time of release from the B-52, also has completely autonomous control authority during the test flights, which, in the event of a software failure, could result in re-contact of the ALTV and the B-52 after release. To eliminate the possibility of re-contact, several mitigation strategies were investigated. The strategy selected involved deploying a drogue parachute from the ALTV prior to release from the B-52, and then releasing the drogue from the ALTV a few seconds after the ALTV separates from the B-52. However, due to the high altitude at which the drogue is released, the predominant wind direction, and the close proximity of an air corridor of a major commercial airport, the drogue was required to collapse after release to minimize its drift potential. Since the drogue parachute required the use of a swivel, the collapse mechanism chosen was a silicone band attached at the drogue skirt. While the chute was attached to the ALTV, the high aerodynamic loading would cause the band to stretch to the skirt diameter, causing only negligible drag loss, but would retract when the drogue was released, causing the drogue to collapse and fall rapidly to the ground. Ground testing demonstrated that the design worked, but the program was cancelled prior to flight testing with the B-52.

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Traditional techniques in structural load measurement entail the correlation of a known load with strain-gage output from the individual components of a structure or machine. The use of strain gages has proved successful and is considered the standard approach for load measurement. However, remotely measuring aerodynamic loads using deflection measurement systems to determine aeroelastic deformation as a substitute to strain gages may yield lower testing costs while improving aircraft performance through reduced instrumentation weight. With a reliable strain and structural deformation measurement system this technique was examined. The objective of this study was to explore the utility of a deflection-based load estimation, using the active aeroelastic wing F/A-18 aircraft. Calibration data from ground tests performed on the aircraft were used to derive left wing-root and wing-fold bending-moment and torque load equations based on strain gages, however, for this study, point deflections were used to derive deflection-based load equations. Comparisons between the strain-gage and deflection-based methods are presented. Flight data from the phase-1 active aeroelastic wing flight program were used to validate the deflection-based load estimation method. Flight validation revealed a strong bending-moment correlation and slightly weaker torque correlation. Development of current techniques, and future studies are discussed.

The X-43A Hyper-X program demonstrated the first successful flights of an airframe-integrated scramjet powered hypersonic vehicle. The X-43A vehicles established successive world records for jet-powered vehicles at speeds of Mach 7 and Mach 10. The X-43A vehicle is a subscale version of proposed hypersonic reconnaissance–strike aircraft. Scaled down to a length of 12 ft (3.66 m), the lifting body design with high fineness ratio resulted in very small internal space available for fluid systems and their corresponding environmental conditioning systems. Safe testing and operation of the X-43A fluid and environmental systems was critical for mission success, not only for the safety of the flight crew in the NASA B-52B carrier aircraft, but also to maintain the reliability of vehicle systems while exposed to dynamics and hostile conditions encountered during the boost trajectory. The X-43A fluid and environmental systems successfully managed explosive, pyrophoric, inert, and very high pressure gases without incident. This report presents a summary of the checkout and flight validation of the X-43A fluid systems. The testing used for mission assurance is summarized. System performance during captive carry and launch flights is presented. The lessons learned are also discussed.
for aerodynamics and flight controls research. This report also will provide an overview of the flight controls related research and results.

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The X-43A Program (Hyper-X) utilized a derivative of the Pegasus Space Launch Vehicle for atmospheric testing of the X-43A SCRAMJET Research Vehicle at Mach 7 and 10. NASA and Orbital Sciences Corporation developed the Hyper-X Launch Vehicle (HXLV) to meet the challenge of boosting the 2,800 lb X-43A to various test conditions in the atmosphere. This paper will address the design challenges and modifications required to standard Pegasus launch vehicle systems in order to survive the extreme aerothermal environments and successfully deliver the X-43A to multiple test conditions. The unique aerodynamic shape of the HXLV with the unshrouded X-43A attached, coupled with the high angle-of-attack flight profile, presented significant challenges to aerodynamics and Guidance and Control disciplines. Through lessons learned in the first flight failure and subsequent design modifications, extraordinary test condition accuracy on the second (Mach 7) and third (Mach 10) X-43A flights was achieved and will be discussed. Lessons learned on the HXLV can be applied to many design problems for Hypersonic Vehicles and Space Planes.

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This paper provides an overview of the final flight of the NASA X-43A project. The project consisted of three flights, two planned for Mach 7 and one for Mach 10. The third and final flight, November 16, 2004, was the first Mach 10 flight demonstration of an airframe-integrated, scramjet-powered, hypersonic vehicle. The goals and objectives for the project as well as those for the third flight are presented. The configuration of the Hyper-X stack including the X-43A, Hyper-X launch vehicle, and Hyper-X research vehicle adapter is discussed. The second flight of the X-43A was successfully conducted on March 27, 2004. Mission differences, vehicle modifications and lessons learned from the second flight as they applied to the third flight are also discussed. An overview of flight 3 results is presented.

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The top of the 12.2 m long NASA Dryden Flight Research Center’s ground research vehicle (GRV) was used as a flat plate test bed for demonstrating an approach to measure skin friction. Using an array of surface hot-films operated by constant voltage anemometers (CVAs), the approach was demonstrated with in situ estimation of conduction heat loss from the hot-films to the substrate. An algebraic relationship, using the channel calibration constants a and b (determined a priori) with CVA output voltages V(sub s) and V(sub w) from that channel, is used for the estimation of the required quantities and lead resistance (r(sub L)) of the hot-film measured on site. Estimates of the power dissipated in the hot-film alone (P(sub hf)) (excluding the lead resistances), in situ resistance (R(sub w)) of the hot-film due to applied overheating and flow, and the cold resistance (R(sub a)) of the same hot-film at the ambient temperature are so obtained. Different approaches to estimate the in situ cold resistance (which is the resistance without any self-heating) of the hot-film are presented addressing the suitability of the procedure for flight applications as well. Tests were performed at several speeds of the GRV on the tarmac of a runway at the flight test center. The measured values are fitted to the classical (1/3) law equation with the computational dimensional skin friction (tau) of the long flat plate. There was an excellent (1/3) law fit in all the hot-films, demonstrating that the measured values fit classical theory. Using this measured fit with the theoretical values, calibration coefficients (A and B) for dimensional skin friction (tau) were obtained. Using these calibration coefficients, measured values were then converted to nondimensional local skin friction coefficients c(sub f) for all the hot-films at all speeds. Measured c(sub f) values agree well with the associated flat plate theory. Since the in situ measurement of heat loss to the substrate should ideally apply at all ambient temperatures, the method was tested in a wind tunnel at two ambient temperatures, where the results repeated well. Accounting for conduction loss had been the difficult issue in using hot-films, which otherwise offer many advantages. For example, skin friction from an array of hot-films can be measured simultaneously and the hot-films offer large dynamic response, high sensitivity, and simple installation. In practice, it should be possible to insert a calibrated plug in the test article and use the in situ measured substrate loss
to accurately estimate the skin friction. The approach does not need any additional temperature sensor to accomplish the measurements. The system is highly amenable to automation with further work. It may be noted that the purpose of this test and article is to demonstrate an approach to skin friction measurements using hot-films operated by CVAs with in situ estimation of the heat loss to the substrate. It does not address any other aspect of the skin friction measurements.


A method for reducing drag upon a blunt-based vehicle by adaptively increasing forebody roughness to increase drag at the roughened area of the forebody, which results in a decrease in drag at the base of this vehicle, and in total vehicle drag.


Optical air flow measurements can support the testing of aircraft and can be instrumental to in-flight investigations of the atmosphere or atmospheric phenomena. Furthermore, optical air flow meters potentially contribute as avionics systems to flight safety and as air data systems. The qualification of these instruments for the flight environment is where we encounter the systems in flight testing. An overview is presented of different optical air flow measurement techniques applied in flight and what can be achieved with the techniques for flight test purposes is reviewed. All in-flight optical airflow velocity measurements use light scattering. Light is scattered on both air molecules and aerosols entrained in the air. Basic principles of making optical measurements in flight, some basic optical concepts, electronic concepts, optoelectronic interfaces, and some atmospheric processes associated with natural aerosols are reviewed. Safety aspects in applying the technique are shortly addressed. The different applications of the technique are listed and some typical examples are presented. Recently NASA acquired new data on mountain rotors, mountain induced turbulence, with the ACLAIM system. Rotor position was identified using the lidar system and the potentially hazardous air flow profile was monitored by the ACLAIM system.

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space-Based Telemetry and Range Safety study is a multiphase project to increase data rates and flexibility and decrease costs by using space-based communications assets for telemetry during launches and landings. Phase 1 used standard S-band antennas with the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to obtain a baseline performance. The selection process and available resources for Phase 2 resulted in a Ku-band phased array antenna system. Several development efforts are under way for a Ka-band phased array antenna system for Phase 3. Each phase includes test flights to demonstrate performance and capabilities. Successful completion of this project will result in a set of communications requirements for the next generation of launch vehicles.

Keywords: Ku-band; Ku-band; Phased array antenna; Space-Based Telemetry and Range Safety; TDRSS


Flight research has been conducted on an aerospike rocket nozzle using high power solid rockets. Two aerospike rockets and one conventional rocket were flown successfully to supersonic speeds, providing the first known set of transonic flight performance data for aerospike rockets. This paper describes the rockets, solid rocket motors, nozzles, and rocket instrumentation system. Flight test results are also discussed and compared with ground test results. Flight data show that all of the rockets successfully reached supersonic speeds with a maximum Mach number of 1.6 and a peak pressure altitude of nearly 30,000 ft. The aerospike nozzle efficiency was determined to be 0.96 from computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis. The rocket chamber pressures and thrusts of the aerospike rocket motors were lower than the conventional rocket motors. Because the same propellant formulation was used in all of the rocket motors, the discrepancy in pressure and thrust was most likely caused by a larger actual aerospike nozzle throat area than the designed throat area. Potential causes for the larger aerospike nozzle throat area are also discussed.

This Section provides a brief introduction to airdata measurement and calibration. Readers will learn about typical test objectives, quantities to measure, and flight maneuvers and operations for calibration. The Section informs readers about tower-flyby, trailing cone, pacer, radar-tracking, and dynamic airdata calibration maneuvers. Readers will also begin to understand how some data analysis considerations and special airdata cases, including high-angle-of-attack flight, high-speed flight, and nonobtrusive sensors are handled. This section is not intended to be all inclusive; readers should review AGARDograph 300, Volume 1, “Calibration of Airdata Systems and Flow Direction Sensors” for more detailed information. [11-1] References 11-2, 11-3, and 11-4 also supply pertinent information to better understand airdata measurement and calibration and related terminology. Airdata are vital to successfully complete an aircraft’s mission and are derived from the air surrounding the aircraft. These airdata encompass indicated and true airspeed, pressure altitude, ambient air temperature, angles of attack and sideslip, Mach number, and rate of climb. Typically, pitot and static pressures are sensed and converted (by mechanical means in the instruments themselves) into indications on the altimeter, vertical speed indicator, airspeed indicator, and Machmeter. Similarly, measured local flow angles establish angles of attack and sideslip, and the outside air temperature is measured and indicated in the cockpit. (Instruments that can perform the conversion, such as airspeed indicators, altimeters, and Machmeters, do not correct for errors in the input values.) These measured parameters are commonly input to the airdata computer which, using appropriate algorithms and correction factors (or calibrations, as discussed later), can provide other parameters, such as true airspeed, required by the aircraft’s avionics or flight control system. The presence of the aircraft in the airstream causes input errors to the measuring instruments - the aircraft disturbs the air that it flies through, thereby also disturbing the airdata measurements. Figure 11-1 shows the airflow around an airplane wing. The air above the wing has lower pressure than the ambient air, while the pressure below the wing is higher than the ambient air. Compressibility and shock waves also affect the air and affect the measurements. Compressibility effects become important above approximately Mach number 0.3. As a result the static pressure around an airplane varies considerably with location. Local flow angles also differ from the free-stream flow direction. In straight-and-level flight the airflow rises to the wing leading edge and falls below the trailing edge, causing errors in flow direction measurements. To some extent these errors can be studied in wind tunnels, but wind-tunnel measurements cannot replace in-flight measurements.


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight; Flight systems; Flight test, Instrumentation; Propulsion, Structures; Structural Dynamics


The Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane was successfully flight-tested in March 2005. During phase 1 of the two-phase program, an onboard excitation system provided independent control surface movements that were used to develop a loads model for the wing structure and wing control surfaces. The resulting loads model, which was used to develop the control laws for phase 2, is described. The loads model was developed from flight data through the use of a multiple linear regression technique. The loads model input consisted of aircraft states and control surface positions, in addition to nonlinear inputs that were calculated from flight-measured parameters. The loads model output for each wing consisted of wing-root bending moment and torque, wing-fold bending moment and torque, inboard and outboard leading-edge flap hinge moment, trailing-edge flap hinge moment, and aileron hinge moment. The development of the Active Aeroelastic Wing loads model is described, and the ability of the model to predict loads during phase 2 research maneuvers is demonstrated. Results show a good match to phase 2 flight data for all loads except inboard and outboard leading-edge flap hinge moments at certain flight conditions. The average load prediction errors for all loads at all flight conditions are 9.1 percent for maximum stick-deflection rolls, 4.4 percent for 5-g windup turns, and 7.7 percent for 4-g rolling pullouts.


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This paper investigates the utility of the Hilbert-Huang transform for the analysis of aeroelastic flight data. It is well known that the classical Hilbert transform can be used for time-frequency analysis of functions or signals. Unfortunately, the Hilbert transform can only be effectively applied to an extremely small class of signals, namely those that are characterized by a single frequency component at any instant in time. The recently-developed Hilbert-Huang algorithm addresses the limitations of the classical Hilbert transform through a process known as empirical mode decomposition. Using this approach, the data is filtered into a series of intrinsic mode functions, each of which admits a well-behaved Hilbert transform. In this manner, the Hilbert-Huang algorithm affords time-frequency analysis of a large class of signals. This powerful tool has been applied in the analysis of scientific data, structural system identification, mechanical system fault detection, and even image processing. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the potential applications of the Hilbert-Huang algorithm for the analysis of aeroelastic systems, with improvements such as localized/online processing. Applications for correlations between system input and output, and amongst output sensors, are discussed to characterize the time-varying amplitude and frequency correlations present in the various components of multiple data channels. Online stability analyses and modal identification are also presented. Examples are given using aeroelastic test data from the F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing aircraft, an Aerostructures Test Wing, and pitch-plunge simulation.

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Successful flight-testing of the Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane was completed in March 2005. This program, which started in 1996, was a joint activity sponsored by NASA, Air Force Research Laboratory, and industry contractors. The test program contained two flight test phases conducted in early 2003 and early 2005. During the first phase of flight test, aerodynamic models and load models of the wing control surfaces and wing structure were developed. Design teams built new research control laws for the Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane using these flight-validated models; and throughout the final phase of flight test, these new control laws were demonstrated. The control laws were designed to optimize strategies for moving the wing control surfaces to maximize roll rates in the transonic and supersonic flight regimes. Control surface hinge moments and wing loads were constrained to remain within hydraulic and load limits. This paper describes briefly the flight control system architecture as well as the design approach used by Active Aeroelastic Wing project engineers to develop flight control system gains. Additionally, this paper presents flight test techniques and comparison between flight test results and predictions.

Keywords: Aeroelastic; Aircraft control; Aircraft stability; Flight control system; Flight test


**Spiral Technology, Inc, Edwards, California.


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Modem aircraft, UAVs, and robotic spacecraft pose substantial requirements on controllers in the light of ever increasing demands for reusability, affordability, and reliability. The individual systems (which are often nonlinear) must be controlled safely and reliably in environments where it is virtually impossible to analyze-ahead of time- all the important and possible scenarios and environmental factors. For example, system components (e.g., gyros, bearings of reaction wheels, valves) may deteriorate or break during autonomous UAV operation or long-lasting space missions, leading to a sudden, drastic change in vehicle performance. Manual repair or replacement is not an option in such cases. Instead, the system must be able to cope with equipment failure and deterioration. Controllability of the system must be retained as good as possible or re-established as fast as possible with a minimum of deactivation or shutdown of the system being controlled. In such situations the control engineer has to employ adaptive control systems that automatically sense and correct themselves whenever drastic disturbances and/or severe changes in the plant or environment occur.


The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the potential applications of the Hilbert-Huang algorithm for the analysis of aeroelastic flight data. It is well known that the classical Hilbert transform can be used for time-frequency analysis of functions or signals. Unfortunately, the Hilbert transform can only be effectively applied to an extremely small class of signals, namely those that are characterized by a single frequency component at any instant in time. The recently-developed Hilbert-Huang algorithm addresses the limitations of the classical Hilbert transform through a process known as empirical mode decomposition. Using this approach, the data is filtered into a series of intrinsic mode functions, each of which admits a well-behaved Hilbert transform. In this manner, the Hilbert-Huang algorithm affords time-frequency analysis of a large class of signals. This powerful tool has been applied in the analysis of scientific data, structural system identification, mechanical system fault detection, and even image processing. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the potential applications of the Hilbert-Huang algorithm for the analysis of aeroelastic systems, with improvements such as localized/online processing. Applications for correlations between system input and output, and amongst output sensors, are discussed to characterize the time-varying amplitude and
A new aerodynamic model has been developed and validated for a modified F/A-18A used for the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) research program. The goal of the program was to demonstrate the advantages of using the inherent flexibility of an aircraft to enhance its performance. The research aircraft was an F/A-18A with wings modified to reduce stiffness and a new control system to increase control authority. There have been two flight phases. Data gathered from the first flight phase were used to create the new aerodynamic model. A maximum-likelihood output-error parameter estimation technique was used to obtain stability and control derivatives. The derivatives were incorporated into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration F-18 simulation, validated, and used to develop new AAW control laws. The second phase of flights was used to evaluate the handling qualities of the AAW aircraft and the control law design process, and to further test the accuracy of the new model. The flight test envelope covered Mach numbers between 0.85 and 1.30 and dynamic pressures from 600 to 1250 pound-force per square foot. The results presented in this report demonstrate that a thorough parameter identification analysis can be used to improve upon models that were developed using other means. This report describes the parameter estimation technique used, details the validation techniques, discusses differences between previously existing F/A-18 models, and presents results from the second phase of research flights.

The Active Aeroelastic Wing research program was a joint program between the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA established to investigate the characteristics of an aeroelastic wing and the technique of using wing twist for roll control. The flight test program employed the use of an F/A-18 aircraft modified by reducing the wing torsional stiffness and adding a custom research flight control system. The research flight control system was optimized to maximize roll rate using only wing surfaces to twist the wing while simultaneously maintaining design load limits, stability margins, and handling qualities. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center developed control laws using the software design tool CONDUIT®, which employs a multi-objective function optimization to tune selected control system design parameters. Modifications were made to the Active Aeroelastic Wing implementation in CONDUIT® to incorporate the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center nonlinear F/A-18 simulation for time history analysis. This paper describes the design process, including how the control law requirements were incorporated into constraints for the CONDUIT® optimization. Predicted performance is also compared to results from flight.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space-Based Telemetry and Range Safety study is a multiphase project to demonstrate the performance, flexibility and cost savings that can be realized by using space-based assets for the Range Safety (global positioning system metric tracking data, flight termination command and range safety data relay) and Range User (telemetry) functions during vehicle launches and landings. Phase 1 included flight testing S-band Range Safety and Range User hardware in 2003 onboard a high-dynamic aircraft platform at Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California) using the NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System as the communications link. The current effort, Phase 2, includes hardware and packaging upgrades to the S-band Range Safety system and development of a high data rate Ku-band Range User system. The enhanced Phase 2 Range Safety Unit provided real-time video for three days during the historic GlobalFlyer (Scaled Composites, Mojave, California) flight in March, 2005. Additional Phase 2 testing will include a sounding rocket test of the Range Safety system and aircraft flight testing of both systems. Future testing will include a flight test on a launch vehicle platform. This report describes both Range Safety and Range User developments and testing with emphasis on the Range Safety system. The operational concept of a future space-based range is also discussed.

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During several Active Aeroelastic Wing research flights, the shadow of the over-wing shock could be observed because of natural lighting conditions. As the plane accelerated, the shock location moved aft, and as the shadow passed the aileron and trailing-edge flap hinge lines, their associated hinge moments were substantially affected. The observation of the dominant effect of shock location on aileron control surface hinge moments led to this investigation. This report investigates the effect of over-wing shock location on wing loads through flight-measured data and analytical predictions. Wing-root and wing-fold bending moment and torque and leading- and trailing-edge hinge moments have been measured in flight using calibrated strain gages. These same loads have been predicted using a computational fluid dynamics code called the Euler Navier-Stokes Three Dimensional Aeroelastic Code. The computational fluid dynamics study was based on the elastically deformed shape estimated by a twist model, which in turn was derived from in-flight measured wing deflections provided by a flight deflection measurement system. During level transonic flight, the shock location dominated the wing trailing-edge control surface hinge moments. The computational fluid dynamics analysis based on the shape provided by the flight deflection measurement system produced very similar results and substantially correlated with the measured loads data.

*A* Air Force Research Laboratory/VASD, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

**Spiral Technology Inc., Lancaster, California.


Aerodynamic parameters were estimated based on flight data from the third flight of the X-43A hypersonic research vehicle, also called Hyper-X. Maneuvers were flown using multiple orthogonal phase-optimized sweep inputs applied as simultaneous control surface perturbations at Mach 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, and 3 during the vehicle descent. Aerodynamic parameters, consisting of non-dimensional longitudinal and lateral stability and control derivatives, were estimated from flight data at each Mach number. Multi-step inputs at nearly the same flight conditions were also flown to assess the prediction capability of the identified models. Prediction errors were found to be comparable in magnitude to the modeling errors, which indicates accurate modeling. Aerodynamic parameter estimates were plotted as a function of Mach number, and compared with estimates from the pre-flight aerodynamic database, which was based on wind-tunnel tests and computational fluid dynamics. Agreement between flight estimates and values computed from the aerodynamic database was excellent overall.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


Modern exploration missions require modern control systems—control systems that can handle catastrophic changes in the system’s behavior, compensate for slow deterioration in sustained operations, and support fast system ID. Adaptive controllers, based upon Neural Networks (NN) have these capabilities, but they can only be used safely if proper verification & validation (V & V) can be done. In this paper we present our V & V approach and simulation result within NASA’s Intelligent Flight Control Systems (IFCS).

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
†AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.
‡Spiral Technology, Edwards, California.
**Contek Research, El Segundo, California.


A near-optimal periodic solution to the maximum-endurance cruise problem is investigated. Point-mass models are developed for different types of aircraft. Energy-state methods are used to determine minimum-fuel climb and maximum-endurance descent schedules in the altitude-airspeed plane, which are then pieced together with transition arcs to form a periodic cruise solution. A trajectory tracking controller is designed to make the point-mass models track the periodic cruise trajectories. The tracking controller is designed using the feedback linearization methodology. Closed-loop simulations are then used to compute the fuel consumption resulting from the use of periodic trajectories. These values are compared to the steady-state, optimal-endurance cruise fuel consumption values. For an F/A-18 aircraft model, it was found that savings of about 17% could be realized if the engines can be turned off when the aircraft is not on the climb schedule. However, if the throttle cannot be set below flight idle, the periodic cruise trajectory is found to produce worse performance than the steady-state cruise, primarily due to poor specific fuel consumption at idle throttle setting. Simulations with a model of an F-4 in periodic cruise with idealized engine characteristics non-zero minimum throttle
did show a modest improvement over the steady-state cruise performance, but only by 2.7%.


The NASA F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System project team has developed a series of flight control concepts designed to demonstrate the benefits of a neural network-based adaptive controller. The objective of the team was to develop and flight-test control systems that use neural network technology, to optimize the performance of the aircraft under nominal conditions, and to stabilize the aircraft under failure conditions. Failure conditions include locked or failed control surfaces as well as unforeseen damage that might occur to the aircraft in flight. The Intelligent Flight Control System team is currently in the process of implementing a second generation control scheme, collectively known as “Generation 2” or “Gen 2,” for flight testing on the NASA F-15 aircraft. This report describes the Gen 2 system as implemented by the team for flight test evaluation. Simulation results are shown which describe the experiment to be performed in flight and highlight the ways in which the Gen 2 system meets the defined objectives.


The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space-Based Telemetry and Range Safety study is a multiphase project to increase data rates and flexibility and decrease costs by using space-based communications assets for telemetry during launches and landings. Phase 1 used standard S-band antennas with the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to obtain a baseline performance. The selection process and available resources for Phase 2 resulted in a Ku-band phased array antenna system. Several development efforts are under way for a Ka-band phased array antenna system for Phase 3. Each phase includes test flights to demonstrate performance and capabilities. Successful completion of this project will result in a set of communications requirements for the next generation of launch vehicles.

*NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida.
**Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Aerospace Corporation, Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

2771. Soares, Fola; Loparo, Kenneth A.; Burken, John;


The Automated Neural Flight Controller Test (ANCT) tool is an application that runs in the MATLAB environment, designed to help engineers perform computational test experiments on a simulation model of a complex adaptive system for the purpose of verification and validation of system performance.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


In this paper we describe the recently developed Fast on-Line Actuator Reconfiguration Enabling (FLARE) system and its extensive performance evaluations. The testing consists of several steps of increasing complexity, ending with piloted simulations. The central part of the FLARE system are Failure Detection, Identification and Reconfiguration (FDIR) algorithms well suited for accommodation of severe flight-critical actuator failures and control effector damage. Our initial design of the FLARE algorithms was carried out in MATLAB using the linearized simulation of F/A–18 dynamics. Upon successful testing, in the next step the FDIR algorithms were evaluated on Boeing’s high-fidelity simulation of F/A–18 dynamics. Once acceptable results were obtained on that simulation, the algorithms were transitioned to the piloted simulator at Boeing. In this paper we give a detailed description of the FLARE algorithms, the performance evaluation process, and a summary of the results of the piloted simulations. The performance evaluation results presented in this paper have demonstrated that the FLARE system achieves fast and accurate detection and identification of failures, and compensates for their effect using effective control reconfiguration.

**Boeing Phantom Works, St. Louis, Missouri.
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration conducted an unmanned aerial system (UAS) Demonstration Project beginning in spring 2005. The Project utilized the Altair high-altitude UAS manufactured and operated by General Atomics - Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI). NASA Dryden Flight Research Center provided Project management and safety oversight. The Project objective was a demonstration of the value of a medium-altitude, long-endurance UAS platform for NOAA research and operational needs. These needs include the detection and attribution of climate change, improved weather prediction, satellite calibration, hydrological monitoring, fisheries and marine sanctuary surveillance, atmospheric and oceanic research, and nautical charting. The Altair flights were conducted from the GA-ASI Grey Butte facility in Los Angeles County, CA. The Altair payload includes both remote and in situ instruments. In situ composition measurements included ozone and long-lived gases such as halocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrous oxide. The remote retrievals also included profiles of water vapor and temperature. An ocean color sensor detected changes in the pigmentation of the surface seawaters due to chlorophyll-a from phytoplankton and algae. Test flights up to 45,000 ft began in April 2005. Mission flights began in May with an imaging survey of the Channel Islands. Final flights, which will include long-duration flights over the Pacific Ocean, are planned for late 2005. This paper describes aspects of mission and instrument objectives, and flight plans.

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**NOAA Environmental Technology Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado.
***NOAA National Ocean Service, Silver Spring, Maryland.
†† NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado.
‡‡ General Atomics – Aeronautical Systems, Inc., San Diego, California.
§§NOAA Climate and Monitoring Diagnostics Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado.
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§NOAA National Ocean Service, Silver Spring, Maryland.
‡‡‡NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado.


Weather is a causal factor in thirty percent of all aviation accidents. Many of these accidents are due to a lack of weather situation awareness by pilots in flight. Improving the strategic and tactical weather information available and its presentation to pilots in flight can enhance weather situation awareness and enable avoidance of adverse conditions. This paper presents technologies for airborne detection, dissemination and display of weather information developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), industry and the research community. These technologies, currently in the initial stages of implementation by industry, will provide more precise and timely knowledge of the weather and enable pilots in flight to make decisions that result in safer and more efficient operations.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, Cleveland, Ohio.
The investigation of aeroelastic/aeroservoelastic stability through flight testing is an essential part of aircraft certification. The stability boundary prediction is especially difficult when the instability is associated with nonlinearities in the dynamics. An approach is presented for the characterization of the nonlinear dynamics by noniterative identification algorithms. Two different block-oriented nonlinear models are considered to augment existing linear models with nonlinear operators derived by analyzing experimental data. Specifically, focus is placed on the identification of Hammerstein or Wiener block-oriented models from a N-point data record \((\mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{y}_k)_{k=1}^N\) of observed input–output measurements from an aeroelastic/aeroservoelastic system. Central in the identification of block-oriented models is the use of an a priori set of orthonormal bases tuned with the dynamics of the aeroelastic/aeroservoelastic system. In both cases, a method is proposed to generate the orthonormal bases that is based on the cascade of input-normal balanced state-space realizations of all-pass filters. Case studies with a simulated structurally nonlinear prototypical two-dimensional wing section and actual F/A-18 active aeroelastic wing ground vibration test data are presented.

**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.


The unsteady aerodynamic forces acting on an F/A-18 aircraft are calculated in the frequency domain using a doublet-lattice method (subsonic regime) or a constant-pressure method (supersonic regime). To study the effects of the control laws on a flexible fly-by-wire aircraft structure and calculate the flutter velocities and frequencies, these aerodynamic forces must be approximated in the Laplace domain. We show here that in the case where the aerodynamic forces data are calculated for a range of unevenly spaced reduced frequencies, a combination of fuzzy clustering and shape-preserving techniques can be used to obtain a very good approximation of these unsteady aerodynamic forces. Because the approximation of these forces by this new method remains actually in the frequency domain, we could easily further use for their conversion from the frequency domain into Laplace domain, classical methods such as least squares or minimum state. Finally, care must be used in the choice of reduced frequencies range, to determine the method to be deployed.

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The Hyper-X program flew X-43A research vehicles to hypersonic speeds over the Pacific Ocean in March and November 2004 from the Western Aeronautical Test Range, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. The program required multiple telemetry ground stations to provide continuous coverage of the captive carry, launch, boost, experiment, and descent phases of these missions. An overview is provided of vehicle telemetry and distributed assets that supported telemetry acquisition, best-source selection, radar tracking, video tracking, flight termination systems, and voice communications. Real-time data display and processing are discussed, and postflight analysis and comparison of data acquired are presented.


The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space-Based Telemetry and Range Safety (STARS) study is a multiphase project to demonstrate the performance, flexibility and cost savings that can be realized by using space-based assets for the Range Safety [global positioning system (GPS) metric tracking data, flight termination command and range safety data relay] and Range User (telemetry) functions during vehicle launches and landings. Phase 1 included flight testing S-band Range Safety and Range User hardware in 2003 onboard a high-dynamic aircraft platform at Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California, USA) using the NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) as the communications link. The current effort, Phase 2, includes hardware and packaging upgrades to the S-band Range Safety system and development of a high data rate Ku-band Range User system. The enhanced Phase 2 Range Safety Unit (RSU) provided real-time video for three days during the historic Global Flyer (Scaled Composites, Mojave, California, USA) flight in March, 2005. Additional Phase 2 testing will include a sounding rocket test of the Range Safety system and aircraft flight testing of both systems. Future testing will include a flight test on a launch vehicle platform. This paper discusses both Range Safety and Range User developments and testing with emphasis on the Range Safety system. The operational concept of a future space-based range is also discussed.

*NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida.


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*NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Local flow conditions were measured underneath the National Aeronautics and Space Administration F-15B airplane to support development of future experiments on the Propulsion Flight Test Fixture (PFTF). The local Mach number and flow angles were measured using a conventional air data boom on a cone-cylinder mounted under the PFTF and compared with the airplane air data nose boom measurements. At subsonic flight speeds, the airplane and PFTF Mach numbers were approximately equal. Transonic Mach number values were up to 0.1 greater at the PFTF than the airplane, which is a counterintuitive result. The PFTF local supersonic Mach numbers were as much as 0.46 less than the airplane values. The maximum local Mach number at the PFTF was approximately 1.6 at an airplane Mach number near 2.0. The PFTF local angle of attack was negative at all Mach numbers, ranging from -3 to -8 degrees. When the airplane angle of sideslip was zero, the PFTF local value was zero between Mach 0.8 and Mach 1.1, -2 degrees between Mach 1.1 and Mach 1.5, and increased from zero to 1 degree from Mach 1.5 to Mach 2.0. Airplane inlet shock waves crossed the aerodynamic interface plane between Mach 1.85 and Mach 1.90.

Keywords: Advanced propulsion systems; Air breathing engines; F-15 aircraft; Flight test fixture; Flight tests; Flow characteristics; Inlet flow; Inlet nozzles; Nozzle flow; Rocket-based combined-cycle engines; Testbed

NASA 837 F-15 airplane


Wavelet transform methods can be used to rapidly identify the frequency response of aerospace vehicles using on-line time series for selected input/output pairs. These methods are an alternative to windowed Fourier transforms, the main difference being that wavelets transform more rapidly identify changes in the vehicle response at high frequency, and thus are more suited to problems such as failure detection, loss of control detection, and flutter detection. Identification methods based on wavelets can improve flight safety and increase the efficiency of on-line flight test analysis methods. Two wavelet-based methods are described in this paper, with examples and a discussion of how they are implemented. In the first method the frequency response is estimated using ratios of wavelet transforms, and is recommended for use when the input spectrum is broadband and for piloted input during normal operations. In the second method the wavelets are used as a front end to the Eigensystem Realization Algorithm, and is recommended for system identification when using short duration, discrete inputs such as steps and doublets. Windowed Fourier transform methods remain the recommended choice for longer duration, discrete inputs such as frequency sweeps.

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The NASA F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System project team has developed a series of flight control concepts designed to demonstrate the benefits of a neural network-based adaptive controller. The objective of the team was to develop and flight-test control systems that use neural network technology, to optimize the performance of the aircraft under nominal conditions, and to stabilize the aircraft under failure conditions. Failure conditions include locked or failed control surfaces as well as unforeseen damage that might occur to the aircraft in flight. The Intelligent Flight Control System team is currently in the process of implementing a second generation control scheme, collectively known as Generation 2 or Gen 2, for flight testing on the NASA F-15 aircraft. This report describes the Gen 2 system as implemented by the team for flight test evaluation. Simulation results are shown which describe the experiment to be performed in flight and highlight the ways in which the Gen 2 system meets the defined objectives.

Keywords: Adaptive control; F-15 aircraft; Flight control; Flight safety; Flight test; Neural networks; Simulation

A new aerodynamic model has been developed and validated for a modified F/A-18A airplane used for the Active Aeroelastic Wing (AAW) research program. The goal of the program was to demonstrate the advantages of using the inherent flexibility of an aircraft to enhance its performance. The research airplane was an F/A-18A with wings modified to reduce stiffness and a new control system to increase control authority. There have been two flight phases. Data gathered from the first flight phase were used to create the new aerodynamic model. A maximum-likelihood output-error parameter estimation technique was used to obtain stability and control derivatives. The derivatives were incorporated into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration F-18 simulation, validated, and used to develop new AAW control laws. The second phase of flights was used to evaluate the handling qualities of the AAW airplane and the control law design process, and to further test the accuracy of the new model. The flight test envelope covered Mach numbers between 0.85 and 1.30 and dynamic pressures from 600 to 1250 pound-force per square foot. The results presented in this report demonstrate that a thorough parameter identification analysis can be used to improve upon models that were developed using other means. This report describes the parameter estimation technique used, details the validation techniques, discusses differences between previously existing F/A-18 models, and presents results from the second phase of research flights.

Keywords: Aerodynamic characteristics; Aeroelastic research wings; Aircraft models; F-18 aircraft; Flight simulation; Flight test; Maximum likelihood estimates; Parameter identification


The Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane was successfully flight-tested in March 2005. During phase 1 of the two-phase program, an onboard excitation system provided independent control surface movements that were used to develop a loads model for the wing structure and wing control surfaces. The resulting loads model, which was used to develop the control laws for phase 2, is described. The loads model was developed from flight data through the use of a multiple linear regression technique. The loads model input consisted of aircraft states and control surface positions, in addition to nonlinear inputs that were calculated from flight-measured parameters. The loads model output for each wing consisted of wing-root bending moment and torque, wing-fold bending moment and torque, inboard and outboard leading-edge flap hinge moment, trailing-edge flap hinge moment, and aileron hinge moment. The development of the Active Aeroelastic Wing loads model is described, and the ability of the model to predict loads during phase 2 research maneuvers is demonstrated. Results show a good match to phase 2 flight data for all loads except inboard and outboard leading-edge flap hinge moments at certain flight conditions. The average load prediction errors for all loads at all flight conditions are 9.1 percent for maximum stick-deflection rolls, 4.4 percent for 5-g windup turns, and 7.7 percent for 4-g rolling pullouts.

Keywords: Aeroelastic; Aircraft loads; Linear regression; Modeling; Simulation


The NASA Space-based Telemetry and Range Safety (STARS) program has developed and tested a low cost Ku-Band transmitter alternative for TDRSS applications based on an existing IRIG shaped offset quaternary phase shift keying (SOQPSK) transmitter. This paper presents information related to the implementation of this low cost system, as well as performance measurements of the alternative TDRSS transmitter system compared with an existing OPSK TDRSS transmitter.


The adaptation of a proven wind tunnel test technique, known as Videogrammetry, to flight testing of full-scale vehicles is presented. A description is presented of the technique used at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center for the measurement of the change in wing twist and deflection of an F/A-18 research aircraft as a function of both time and aerodynamic load. Requirements for in-flight measurements are compared and contrasted with those for wind tunnel testing. The methodology for the flight-testing technique and differences compared to wind tunnel testing are given. Measurement and operational comparisons to an older in-flight system known as the Flight Deflection Measurement System (FDMS) are presented.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Flight tests; Wind tunnel tests; F-18 Aircraft; In-Flight monitoring; Photogrammetry

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.

2787. Dibley, Ryan P.; Allen, Michael J.; Clarke, Robert; Gera, Joseph; and Hodgkinson, John: Development and Testing of Control Laws for the Active Aeroelastic
The Active Aeroelastic Wing research program was a joint program between the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA established to investigate the characteristics of an aeroelastic wing and the technique of using wing twist for roll control. The flight test program employed the use of an F/A-18 aircraft modified by reducing the wing torsional stiffness and adding a custom research flight control system. The research flight control system was optimized to maximize roll rate using only wing surfaces to twist the wing while simultaneously maintaining design load limits, stability margins, and handling qualities. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center developed control laws using the software design tool called CONDUIT, which employs a multi-objective function optimization to tune selected control system design parameters. Modifications were made to the Active Aeroelastic Wing implementation in this new software design tool to incorporate the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center nonlinear F/A-18 simulation for time history analysis. This paper describes the design process, including how the control law requirements were incorporated into constraints for the optimization of this specific software design tool. Predicted performance is also compared to results from flight.

Keywords: AAW; Active aeroelastic wing; CONDUIT; Control reversal; F/A-18; Handling qualities; Structural loads model; Wing twist


During several Active Aeroelastic Wing research flights, the shadow of the over-wing shock could be observed because of natural lighting conditions. As the plane accelerated, the shock location moved aft, and as the shadow passed the aileron and trailing-edge flap hinge lines, their associated hinge moments were substantially affected. The observation of the dominant effect of shock location on aft control surface hinge moments led to this investigation. This report investigates the effect of over-wing shock location on wing loads through flight-measured data and analytical predictions. Wing-root and wing-fold bending moment and torque and leading- and trailing-edge hinge moments have been measured in flight using calibrated strain gages. These same loads have been predicted using a computational fluid dynamics code called the Euler Navier-Stokes Three Dimensional Aeroelastic Code. The computational fluid dynamics study was based on the elastically deformed shape estimated by a twist model, which in turn was derived from in-flight-measured wing deflections provided by a flight deflection measurement system. During level transonic flight, the shock location dominated the wing trailing-edge control surface hinge moments. The computational fluid dynamics analysis based on the shape provided by the flight deflection measurement system produced very similar results and substantially correlated with the measured loads data.

Keywords: Active aeroelastic wing; Control surface hinge moments; Flight deflection measurement system; Predicted and measured loads; Transonic shock location


In this paper, a TTCP+ Collaborative Program focused on the development of improved procedures for flight flutter testing will be described. The Defense organizations of each of the participating nations have programs wherein new underlying stores are cleared on military aircraft typically by a combination of analysis and flight test. Flight flutter testing involves operating the aircraft in regimes that may be hazardous, while minimizing the risk by prior analyses and extrapolating sub-critical data to predict the safety of the aircraft at the next speed increment. Such risk minimization usually implies the penalty of lengthy test programs and can sometimes still not avoid flutter. The collaborative activities that will be described in this paper involve the development of procedures that result in greater confidence in the prediction methods. These procedures may then permit the use of larger speed increments during flight test with a consequent reduction in the total test matrix, without compromising safety. The focus of this collaborative program has been on the development of tools for improved prediction of flutter boundaries when the aeroelastic system is behaving linearly as well as furthering the state-of-the-art in the identification of non-linear aeroelastic phenomena. For linear processes, developments will be described that concentrate on improved incorporation of uncertainties in the prediction of flutter boundaries. With regards to non-linear systems, aircraft that exhibit limit cycle oscillation (LCO) are of particular concern and system identification techniques for the early identification of non-linearities that may lead to LCO or other non-linear phenomena have been examined and further developed.
The recent flight demonstration of shaped sonic booms shows the potential for quiet overland supersonic flight, which could revolutionize air transport. To successfully design quiet supersonic aircraft, the upper limit of an acceptable noise level must be determined through quantitative recording and subjective human response measurements. Past efforts have concentrated on the use of sonic boom simulators to assess human response, but simulators often cannot reproduce a realistic sonic boom sound. Until now, molecular relaxation effects on low overpressure rise time had never been compared with flight data. Supersonic flight slower than the cutoff Mach number, which generates evanescent waves, also prevents loud sonic booms from impacting the ground. The loudness of these evanescent waves can be computed, but flight measurement validation is needed. A novel flight demonstration technique that generates low overpressure N-waves using conventional military aircraft is outlined, in addition to initial quantitative flight data. As part of this demonstration, evanescent waves also will be recorded.


Identification of parametric nonlinear models involves estimating unknown parameters and detecting its underlying structure. Structure computation is concerned with selecting a subset of parameters to give a parsimonious description of the system which may afford greater insight into the functionality of the system or a simpler controller design. In this study, a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) technique is investigated for computing efficient model descriptions of nonlinear systems. The LASSO minimizes the residual sum of squares by the addition of a L1 penalty term on the parameter vector of the traditional L2 minimization problem. Its use for structure detection is a natural extension of this constrained minimization approach to linear regression problems which produces some model parameters that are exactly zero and, therefore, yields a parsimonious system description. The performance of this LASSO structure detection method was evaluated by using it to estimate the structure of two nonlinear polynomial models. Applicability of the method to more complex systems such as those encountered in aerospace applications was shown by identifying a parsimonious system description of the F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing using flight test data.


An important aspect of any flight research project is assessing aircraft stability and flight control performance. In some programs this assessment is accomplished through the estimation of the in-flight vehicle frequency response. This estimation has traditionally been a lengthy task requiring separate swept sine inputs for each control axis at a constant flight condition. Hypersonic vehicles spend little time at any specific flight condition while they are decelerating. Accordingly, it is difficult to use traditional methods to calculate the vehicle frequency response and stability.
margins for this class of vehicle. A technique has been previously developed to significantly reduce the duration of the excitation input by tailoring the input to excite only the frequency range of interest. Reductions in test time were achieved by simultaneously applying tailored excitation signals to multiple control loops, allowing a quick estimate of the frequency response of a particular aircraft. This report discusses the flight results obtained from applying a tailored excitation input to the X-43A longitudinal and lateral-directional control loops during the second and third flights. The frequency responses and stability margins obtained from flight data are compared with preflight predictions.


A comparison of 4 reentry configurations for human-rated lunar return is presented. These configurations are: an HL-20-derived lifting body configuration, a flattened bi-conic with trim flaps, an Apollo-derived capsule modified for volumetric efficiency, and the modified-Apollo capsule with trim flaps. The study employs an existing aerodynamic database for the HL-20. The biconic and capsule aerodynamic databases were generated using hypersonic incidence angle analysis tools with a viscous skin-drag correction. A comparative reentry performance analysis is performed using 8 metrics – volumetric efficiency, peak deceleration during reentry, peak dynamic pressure during reentry, available downrange during reentry, available cross range during reentry, handling qualities and controllability, stagnation point heating rates and temperatures, and technology readiness level. These metrics allow configuration performances to be objectively compared. Lunar return trajectories were analyzed using an interactive trajectory simulation tool. Surprisingly, the trade study concludes that while the capsule configuration with no trim flap is limited in operability capability; the capsule with the trim flap provides operational flexibility equivalent to the HL-20 and superior to the flattened bi-conic. Additionally, the trim-flap capsule has the ability to perform a direct reentry without active control, and is preferred for both nominal and emergency lunar returns.

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A new testbed for hypersonic flight research is proposed. Known as the Phoenix air-launched small missile (ALSM) flight testbed, it was conceived to help address the lack of quick-turnaround and cost-effective hypersonic flight research capabilities. The Phoenix ALSM testbed results from the development of two unique and very capable flight assets: the United States Navy Phoenix AIM-54 long-range, guided air-to-air missile and the NASA Dryden F-15B testbed airplane. The U.S. Navy retirement of the Phoenix AIM-54 missiles from fleet operation has presented an excellent opportunity for converting this valuable flight asset into a new flight testbed. This cost-effective new platform will fill an existing gap in the test and evaluation of current and future hypersonic systems for flight Mach numbers ranging from 3 to 5. Preliminary studies indicate that the Phoenix missile is a highly capable platform. When launched from a high-performance airplane, the guided Phoenix missile can boost research payloads to low hypersonic Mach numbers, enabling flight research in the supersonic-to-hypersonic transitional flight envelope. Experience gained from developing and operating the Phoenix ALSM testbed will be valuable for the development and operation of future higher-performance ALSM flight testbeds as well as responsive microsatellite–small-payload air-launched space boosters.

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**Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Edwards, California.


Large birds and glider pilots commonly use updrafts caused by convection in the lower atmosphere to extend flight duration, increase cross-country speed, improve range, or simply to conserve energy. Uninhabited air vehicles may also have the ability to exploit updrafts to improve performance. An updraft model was developed at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (Edwards, California) to investigate the use of convective lift for uninhabited air vehicles in desert regions. Balloon and surface measurements obtained at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Surface Radiation station (Desert Rock, Nevada) enabled the model development. The data were used to create a statistical representation of the convective velocity scale, w*, and the convective mixing-layer thickness, z*. These parameters were then used to determine updraft size, vertical velocity profile, spacing, and maximum height. This paper gives a complete description of the updraft model and its derivation. Computer code for running the model is also given in conjunction with a check case for model verification.

2797. Jennison, Chris: Making Robot Planes Useful for
This viewgraph slides presentation reviews the program to use unmanned aerial vehicles to gather information to study the Earth, the changes to the climate, and to protect the Earth. Several robot planes are shown, and cooperative programs with other agencies of the U.S. Government are highlighted. Including one with the United States Forest Service, that is planned to assist in locating fires.

2798. Brenner, Martin J.; and *Prazenica, Chad: *Aeroelastic Flight Data Analysis with the Hilbert–Huang Algorithm. NASA/TM-2006-213665, January 2006. PDF DTRS

This report investigates the utility of the Hilbert–Huang transform for the analysis of aeroelastic flight data. It is well known that the classical Hilbert transform can be used for time-frequency analysis of functions or signals. Unfortunately, the Hilbert transform can only be effectively applied to an extremely small class of signals, namely those that are characterized by a single frequency component at any instant in time. The recently-developed Hilbert–Huang algorithm addresses the limitations of the classical Hilbert transform through a process known as empirical mode decomposition. Using this approach, the data is filtered into a series of intrinsic mode functions, each of which admits a well-behaved Hilbert transform. In this manner, the Hilbert–Huang algorithm affords time-frequency analysis of a large class of signals. This powerful tool has been applied in the analysis of scientific data, structural system identification, mechanical system fault detection, and even image processing. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate the potential applications of the Hilbert–Huang algorithm for the analysis of aeroelastic systems, with improvements such as localized–online processing. Applications for correlations between system input and output, and amongst output sensors, are discussed to characterize the time-varying amplitude and frequency correlations present in the various components of multiple data channels. Online stability analyses and modal identification are also presented. Examples are given using aeroelastic test data from the F-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing airplane, an Aerostructures Test Wing, and pitch–plunge simulation.

Keywords: Aeroelasticity; Aeroservoelasticity; Hilbert–Huang transform; Stability and health monitoring; System identification

*University of Florida, Shalimar, Florida.

2799. Baumann, Ethan: *C-20A Precision Autopilot Development in Support of NASA’s UAVSAR Program. CASI ID: 20060046723

The primary objective of the UA VSAR Project is to develop a miniaturized polarimetric L-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) for use on an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or minimally piloted vehicle.


A novel force-based flow angle probe was designed and flight tested on the NASA F-15B Research Testbed aircraft at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The prototype flow angle probe is a small, aerodynamic fin that has no moving parts. Forces on the prototype flow angle probe are measured with strain gages and correlated with the local flow angle. The flow angle probe may provide greater simplicity, greater robustness, and better access to flow measurements in confined areas relative to conventional moving vane-type flow angle probes. Flight test data were obtained at subsonic, transonic, and supersonic Mach numbers to a maximum of Mach 1.70. Flight conditions included takeoff, landing, straight and level flight, flight at higher aircraft angles of attack, and flight at elevated g-loadings. Flight test maneuvers included angle-of-attack and angle-of-sideslip sweeps. The flow angle probe-derived flow angles are compared with those obtained with a conventional moving vane probe. The flight tests validated the feasibility of a force-based flow angle measurement system.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Airdata probes; Angle-of-attack probes; F-15B Flight testing; Flow angle measurement

2802. *Mackey, Ryan; **Iverson, David; **Pisanich, Greg; Toberman, Mike; and *Hicks, Ken: *Integrated System Health Management (ISHM) Technology Demonstration Project Final Report; Progress Report. NASA/TM-2006-213482, February 2006, CASI ID: 20060015097. PDF CASI

Integrated System Health Management (ISHM) is an essential capability that will be required to enable upcoming explorations mission systems such as the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and Crew Launch Vehicle (CLV), as well as NASA aeronautics missions. However, the lack of flight experience and available test platforms have held back the infusion by NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of ISHM technologies into future space and aeronautical missions. To address this
A viewgraph presentation detailing X-43A Flight Controls at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) was chosen as a suitable host platform for the test bed. This report describes how the test bed was conceived, how the technologies were integrated on to the aircraft, and how these technologies were matured during the project. It also describes the lessons learned during the project and a forward path for continued work.

*Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.
**Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


2804. Baumann, Ethan: X-43A Flight Controls. Presented at the Graduate Aeronautic Labs. of Caltech (GALCIT) Aeronautic Seminar, Pasadena, California, March 6, 2006. CASI ID: 20060047627 PDF CASI

A viewgraph presentation detailing X-43A Flight controls at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center is shown. The topics include: 1) NASA Dryden, Overview and current and recent flight test programs; 2) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) Program, Program Overview and Platform Precision Autopilot; and 3) Hyper-X Program, Program Overview, X-43A Flight Controls and Flight Results.


The X-38 Transonic Rocket Assist feasibility and conceptual design study examined the possibility of obtaining transonic flight data for the X-38 program by boosting an existing X-38 airframe into the transonic flight regime. The objective of the study was to develop a conceptual design to collect X-38 transonic aerodynamic flight data. This report summarizes the work performed by the conceptual design team in developing a proposed XTRA configuration. Initial study phases focused on selecting the appropriate vehicle to use for the transonic flight-test program, selecting the most appropriate propulsion system, and integrating the propulsion system with the X-38 vehicle. The final design featured two 10,000-lb thrust rocket motors, externally mounted on the sides of an X-38 flight-test vehicle. A detailed structural loads analysis of this configuration was performed and structure required for rocket attachment and jettison systems was designed. A ballast management system was developed to control changes in center of gravity caused by rocket burn and jettison. Simulation studies were performed to optimize the XTRA trajectory for maximum data collection potential and to identify any vehicle controllability issues. Simulation studies with this configuration show the potential for obtaining flight-test data at Mach numbers of up to 1.5.

Keywords: Atmospheric flight test; Rocket assist; Transonic aerodynamics; XTRA; X-15


Identification of parametric nonlinear models involves estimating unknown parameters and detecting its underlying structure. Structure computation is concerned with selecting a subset of parameters to give a parsimonious description of the system which may afford greater insight into the functionality of the system or a simpler controller design. In this study, a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) technique is investigated for computing efficient model descriptions of nonlinear systems. The LASSO minimises the residual sum of squares by the addition of a 1 penalty term on the parameter vector of the traditional 2 minimisation problem. Its use for structure detection is a natural extension of this constrained minimisation approach to pseudolinear regression problems which produces some model parameters that are exactly zero and, therefore, yields a parsimonious system description. The performance of this LASSO structure detection method was evaluated by using it to estimate the structure of a nonlinear polynomial model. Applicability of the method to more complex systems such as those encountered in aerospace applications was shown by
identifying a parsimonious system description of the F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing using flight test data.

*Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Automatic Control Lab, Zurich, Switzerland

2807. Smith, Mark S.: **Photogrammetric Trajectory Estimation of Foam Debris Ejected From an F-15 Aircraft.** NASA/TM-2006-213675, April 2006. PDF DTRS

Photogrammetric analysis of high-speed digital video data was performed to estimate trajectories of foam debris ejected from an F-15B aircraft. This work was part of a flight test effort to study the transport properties of insulating foam shed by the Space Shuttle external tank during ascent. The conical frustrum-shaped pieces of debris, called “divots,” were ejected from a flight test fixture mounted underneath the F-15B aircraft. Two onboard cameras gathered digital video data at two thousand frames per second. Time histories of divot positions were determined from the videos post flight using standard photogrammetry techniques. Divot velocities were estimated by differentiating these positions with respect to time. Time histories of divot rotations were estimated using four points on the divot face. Estimated divot position, rotation, and Mach number for selected cases are presented. Uncertainty in the results is discussed.

Keywords: Camera calibration; Debris; F-15 aircraft; High-speed camera; Photogrammetry


This viewgraph presentation reviews Dryden Flight Research Center’s (DFRC) facility, and the role in developing and testing Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).


Description of the performance of a simplified dynamic inversion controller with neural network augmentation follows. Simulation studies focus on the results with and without neural network adaptation through the use of an F-15 aircraft simulator that has been modified to include canards. Simulated control law performance with a surface failure, in addition to an aerodynamic failure, is presented. The aircraft, with adaptation, attempts to minimize the inertial cross-coupling effect of the failure (a control derivative anomaly associated with a jammed control surface). The dynamic inversion controller calculates necessary surface commands to achieve desired rates. The dynamic inversion controller uses approximate short period and roll axis dynamics. The yaw axis controller is a sideslip rate command system. Methods are described to reduce the cross-coupling effect and maintain adequate tracking errors for control surface failures. The aerodynamic failure destabilizes the pitching moment due to angle of attack. The results show that control of the aircraft with the neural networks is easier (more damped) than without the neural networks. Simulation results show neural network augmentation of the controller improves performance with aerodynamic and control surface failures in terms of tracking error and cross-coupling reduction.

Keywords: Adaptation; Artificial neural network; Control system design; Failure accommodation; Reconfiguration

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**NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


New turbulence prediction technology offers the potential for advance warning of impending turbulence encounters, thereby allowing necessary cabin preparation time prior to the encounter. The amount of time required for passengers and flight attendants to be securely seated (that is, seated with seat belts fastened) currently is not known. To determine secured seating–based warning times, a consortium of aircraft safety organizations have conducted an experiment involving a series of timed secured seating trials. This demonstrative experiment, conducted on October 1, 2, and 3, 2002, used a full-scale B-747 wide-body aircraft simulator, human passenger subjects, and supporting staff from six airlines. Active line-qualified flight attendants from three airlines participated in the trials. Definitive results have been obtained to provide secured seating–based warning times for the developers of turbulence warning technology.

Keywords: Aircraft cabin safety; Aircraft cabin safety procedures; Aircraft cabin turbulence warning


A low-speed wind-tunnel test was performed with a three-percent-scale model of a booster rocket mated to an X-43A research vehicle—a combination referred to as the Hyper-X launch vehicle. The test was conducted both in free-stream air and in the presence of a partial model of the B-52B airplane. The objectives of the test were to obtain force and moment data to generate structural loads affecting the pylon of the B-52B airplane and to determine the aerodynamic influence of the B-52B airplane on the Hyper-X launch vehicle to evaluate launch separation characteristics. The wind-tunnel test was
conducted at a low-speed wind tunnel in Hampton, Virginia. All moments and forces reported are based either on the aerodynamic influence of the B-52B airplane or are for the Hyper-X launch vehicle in free-stream air. Overall, the test showed that the B-52B airplane imparts a strong downwash onto the Hyper-X launch vehicle, reducing the net lift of the Hyper-X launch vehicle. Also, pitching and rolling moments are imparted onto the booster and are a strong function of the launch–drop angle of attack.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.
**AS&M, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California.


This viewgraph presentation reviews the applicability of NARMAX structure detection to aeroelastic systems. In conclusion, the simulation results demonstrate bootstrap approach for structure computation of aircraft structural stiffness provided a high rate of true model selection: 1. T-test and stepwise regression methods had difficulty providing accurate results 2. Work contributes to understanding of the use of structure detection for modelling and identification of aerospace systems. 3. Limitation of model complexity that can be studied with these structure computation techniques 4. Result of the large number of candidate terms, for a given model order, and the data length required to guarantee convergence 5. Another approach to structure computation problem uses least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO)


This viewgraph presentation reviews the 1. Motivation for the study 2. Nonlinear Model Form 3. Structure Detection 4. Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (LASSO) 5. Objectives 6. Results 7. Assess LASSO as a Structure Detection Tool: Simulated Nonlinear Models 8. Applicability to Complex Systems: F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing Flight Test Data. The authors conclude that 1. this is a novel approach for detecting the structure of highly over-parameterised nonlinear models in situations where other methods may be inadequate 2. that it is a practical significance in the analysis of aircraft dynamics during envelope expansion and could lead to more efficient control strategies and 3. this could allow greater insight into the functionality of various systems dynamics, by providing a quantitative model which is easily interpretable


Structure detection is a procedure for selecting a subset of candidate terms, from a full model description, that best describe the observed output. This is a necessary procedure to compute an efficient system description which may afford greater insight into the functionality of the system or a simpler controller design. Structure computation as a tool for “black-box” modelling is not well known to the flight-test community but may be of critical importance for development of robust parsimonious models. This approach may lead to efficient strategies for rapid envelope expansion which may save significant development time and costs. Structure detection methods applicable to NARMAX modelling are applied to aeroelastic dynamics and their properties demonstrated via simulations of experimental conditions. Simulation results of a nonlinear dynamic model of aircraft structural stiffness demonstrates that methods developed for NARMAX structure computation provide a high degree of accuracy for selection of the exact model structure. Applicability of structure detection, as a tool for black-box modelling, to the F/A-18 Active Aeroelastic Wing using flight test data is shown by identifying a parsimonious system description with a high percent fit for cross-validated data.

*University of Calgary, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Canada


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.

Keywords: Aerodynamics; Flight; Flight controls; Flight systems; Flight test; Instrumentation; Propulsion; Structures; Structural dynamics


The previously developed Ko closed-form aging theory has
been reformulated into a more compact mathematical form for easier application. A new equivalent loading theory and empirical loading theories have also been developed and incorporated into the revised Ko aging theory for the prediction of a safe operational life of airborne failure-critical structural components. The new set of aging and loading theories were applied to predict the safe number of flights for the B-52B aircraft to carry a launch vehicle, the structural life of critical components consumed by load excursion to proof load value, and the ground-sitting life of B-52B pylon failure-critical structural components. A special life prediction method was developed for the preflight predictions of operational life of failure-critical structural components of the B-52H pylon system, for which no flight data are available.

Keywords: Empirical loading theory; Equivalent crack-growth theory; ESE critical stress points; Operational flight-life theory; Stress load coefficients


The Bohn-Meyer Math and Science Odyssey is a one-day event for 8th graders. Odyssey exposes the students to the variety of careers that math and science can open up for them through exciting, hands-on workshops presented by local mathematicians, scientists, and engineers. Hosted by Antelope Valley College, and powered by a team of industry, government, and academic volunteers, Odyssey serves as a motivating experience for students with a wide diversity of backgrounds as they begin to make decisions about their high school career and beyond. This paper will explore a brief history of the event, a description of its structure, and lessons learned and best practices for those interested in starting or improving their own local programs.

*U.S. Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, California


Adaptive control technologies that incorporate learning algorithms have been proposed to enable autonomous flight control and to maintain vehicle performance in the face of unknown, changing, or poorly defined operating environments [1-2]. At the present time, however, it is unknown how adaptive algorithms can be routinely verified, validated, and certified for use in safety-critical applications.

Rigorous methods for adaptive software verification and validation must be developed to ensure that the control software functions as required and is highly safe and reliable. A large gap appears to exist between the point at which control system designers feel the verification process is complete, and when FAA certification officials agree it is complete. Certification of adaptive flight control software verification is complicated by the use of learning algorithms (e.g., neural networks) and degrees of system non-determinism. Of course, analytical efforts must be made in the verification process to place guarantees on learning algorithm stability, rate of convergence, and convergence accuracy. However, to satisfy FAA certification requirements, it must be demonstrated that the adaptive flight control system is also able to fail and still allow the aircraft to be flown safely or to land, while at the same time providing a means of crew notification of the (impending) failure. It was for this purpose that the NASA Ames Confidence Tool was developed [3]. This paper presents the Confidence Tool as a means of providing in-flight software assurance monitoring of an adaptive flight control system. The paper will present the data obtained from flight testing the tool on a specially modified F-15 aircraft designed to simulate loss of flight control faces.

*NASA Ames Research Center; Moffett Field, California


Joint efforts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, and industry partners are enhancing the capability of airborne wind and turbulence detection. The Airborne Coherent Lidar (light detection and ranging) for Advanced In-Flight Measurements was flown on three series of flights to assess its capability over a range of altitudes, air mass conditions, and gust phenomena. This report describes the observation of mountain waves and turbulence induced by mountain waves over the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges by lidar on board the NASA Airborne Science DC-8 (McDonnell Douglas Corporation, Long Beach, California) airplane during two flights. The examples in this report compare lidar-predicted mountain waves and wave-induced turbulence to subsequent airplane-measured true airspeed. Airplane acceleration data is presented describing the effects of the wave-induced turbulence on the DC-8 airplane. Highlights of the lidar-predicted airspeed from the two flights show increases of 12 m/s at the mountain wave interface and peak-to-peak airspeed changes of 10 m/s and 15 m/s in a span of 12 s in moderate turbulence.

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2820. *Su, Haiping; **Karna, Duane; *Fram, Eric;
Eelgrass (Zostera marina) can provide vital ecological functions in stabilizing sediments, influencing current dynamics, and contributing significant amounts of biomass to numerous food webs in coastal ecosystems. Mapping eelgrass beds is important for coastal water and nearshore estuarine monitoring, management, and planning. This study demonstrated the possible use of high spatial (approximately 5 m) and temporal (maximum low tide) resolution airborne multispectral scanner on mapping eelgrass beds in Northern Puget Sound, Washington. A combination of supervised and unsupervised classification approaches were performed on the multispectral scanner imagery. A normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) derived from the red and near-infrared bands and ancillary spatial information, were used to extract and mask eelgrass beds and other submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the study area. We evaluated the resulting thematic map (geocoded, classified image) against a conventional aerial photograph interpretation using 260 point locations randomly stratified over five defined classes from the thematic map. We achieved an overall accuracy of 92 percent with 0.92 Kappa Coefficient in the study area. This study demonstrates that the airborne multispectral scanner can be useful for mapping eelgrass beds in a local or regional scale, especially in regions for which optical remote sensing from space is constrained by climatic and tidal conditions.

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***USGS- Nat’l Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, Louisiana


Description of the performance of a simplified dynamic inversion controller with neural network augmentation follows. Simulation studies focus on the results with and without neural network adaptation through the use of an F-15 aircraft simulator that has been modified to include canards. Simulated control law performance with a surface failure, in addition to an aerodynamic failure, is presented. The aircraft, with adaptation, attempts to minimize the inertial cross-coupling effect of the failure (a control derivative anomaly associated with a jammed control surface). The dynamic inversion controller calculates necessary surface commands to achieve desired rates. The dynamic inversion controller uses approximate short period and roll axis dynamics. The yaw axis controller is a sideslip rate command system. Methods are described to reduce the cross-coupling rate and maintain adequate tracking errors for control surface failures. The aerodynamic failure destabilizes the pitching moment due to angle of attack. The results show that control of the aircraft with the neural networks is easier (more damped) than without the neural networks. Simulation results show neural network augmentation of the controller improves performance with aerodynamic and control surface failures in terms of tracking error and cross-coupling reduction.

Keywords: Adaptation; Artificial neural network; Control system design; Failure accommodation; Reconfiguration

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A series of flight tests has been performed to assess the structural survivability of space shuttle external tank debris, known as divots, in a real flight environment. The NASA F-15B research test bed aircraft carried the Aerodynamic Flight Test Fixture configured with a shuttle foam divot ejection system. The divots were released in flight at subsonic and supersonic test conditions matching points on the shuttle ascent trajectory. Very high-speed digital video cameras recorded the divot trajectories. The objectives of the flight test were to determine the structural survivability of the divots in a real flight environment, assess the aerodynamic stability of the divots, and provide divot trajectory data for comparison with debris transport models. A total of 10 flights to Mach 2 were completed, resulting in 36 successful shuttle foam divot ejections. High-speed video was obtained at 2,000 pictures per second for all of the divot ejections. The divots that were cleanly ejected remained structurally intact. The conical frustrum-shaped divots tended to aerodynamically trim in both the subsonic and supersonic free-stream flow.

Keywords: Divot aerodynamics; F-15 flight test fixture; Foam divot; Photogrammetry; Space Shuttle external tank

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

This paper presents a neural network based adaptive controller with application to a high performance flight vehicle such as F-15 military aircraft. The baseline dynamic inversion controller is augmented with a Radial Basis Function Network (RBFN) that minimizes the inversion error which may occur due to imperfect modeling, approximate inversion, or sudden changes in aircraft dynamics such as failure of control surfaces. The RBFN is trained online using a simple growing and pruning algorithm in which hidden layer neurons are added or pruned based on the input to the network. The controller is simulated for 2 types of control surface failures with and without the adaptive neural network. The comparative results presented show the ability of the adaptive controller to compensate for errors arising due to the specified control surface failures.

*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio


This paper proposes a methodology for the task of comparing the performance of flight control laws using flight data recorded under non-homogeneous atmospheric conditions and dissimilar pilot input. Small differences in atmospheric conditions can potentially impact significantly the evaluation of the controller performance and prevent consistent comparison especially in the case of reduced size aircraft (autonomous or remotely piloted). Consistent deterministic control inputs can only be guaranteed by some form of onboard excitation system. An algorithm is developed for flight data reduction to account for such dissimilarities. The method presented in this paper is developed for the specific purpose of comparing model following control laws based on nonlinear dynamic inversion with neural network augmentation. Evaluation parameters based on angular rate tracking errors are defined and used for the comparison. The procedure is documented using flight data from the WVU YF22 research aircraft model - a platform for testing fault tolerant control laws.

* West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia


The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center flew two Hyper-X research vehicles and achieved hypersonic speeds over the Pacific Ocean in March and November 2004. To train the flight and mission control room crew, the NASA Dryden simulation capability was utilized to generate telemetry and radar data, which was used in nominal and emergency mission scenarios. During these control room training sessions personnel were able to evaluate and refine data displays, flight cards, mission parameter allowable limits, and emergency procedure checklists. Practice in the mission control room ensured that all primary and backup Hyper-X staff were familiar with the nominal mission and knew how to respond to anomalous conditions quickly and successfully. This report describes the technology in the simulation environment and the Mission Control Center, the need for and benefit of control room training, and the rationale and results of specific scenarios unique to the Hyper-X research missions.

*Zel Technologies, LLC, Hampton, Virginia


This paper presents a neural network based adaptive controller with application to a high performance flight vehicle such as F-15 military aircraft. The baseline dynamic inversion controller is augmented with a Radial Basis Function Network (RBFN) that minimizes the inversion error which may occur due to imperfect modeling, approximate inversion, or sudden changes in aircraft dynamics such as failure of control surfaces. The RBFN is trained online using a simple growing and pruning algorithm in which hidden layer neurons are added or pruned based on the input to the network. The controller is simulated for 2 types of control surface failures with and without the adaptive neural network. The comparative results presented show the ability of the adaptive controller to compensate for errors arising due to the specified control surface failures.

*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.


* AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California

Free-flight tests of a large-scale lifting-body configuration, the X-38 aircraft, were conducted using tufts to characterize the flow on the aft end, specifically in the inboard region of the vertical fins. Pressure data was collected on the fins and base. Flow direction and movement were correlated with surface pressure and flight condition. The X-38 was conceived to be a rescue vehicle for the International Space Station. The vehicle shape was derived from the U.S. Air Force X-24 lifting body. Free-flight tests of the X-38 configuration were conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California from 1997 to 2001.

Keywords: Free flight; Lifting body; Surface pressures; Tufts; X-38


Joint efforts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, and industry partners are enhancing the capability of airborne wind and turbulence detection. The Airborne Coherent Lidar (light detection and ranging) for Advanced In-Flight Measurements was flown on three series of flights to assess its capability over a range of altitudes, air mass conditions, and gust phenomena. This report describes the observation of mountain waves and turbulence induced by mountain waves over the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges by lidar on board the NASA Airborne Science DC-8 (McDonnell Douglas Corporation, Long Beach, California) airplane during two flights. The examples in this report compare lidar-predicted mountain waves and wave-induced turbulence to subsequent airplane-measured true airspeed. Airplane acceleration data is presented describing the effects of the wave-induced turbulence on the DC-8 airplane. Highlights of the lidar-predicted airspeed from the two flights show increases of 12 m/s at the mountain wave interface and peak-to-peak airspeed changes of 10 m/s and 15 m/s in a span of 12 s in moderate turbulence.

Keywords: Accelerations; Airborne science; Airplane; Aviation safety; Clear-air turbulence; DC-8 airplane; Lidar; Mountain wave; Rotors; Terrain-induced; Vortexes

**Retired, NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California.

2830. Allen, Michael J.: Autonomous Soaring Flight Results. Presented at the ESA Western Workshop, Tehachapi, California, September 3, 2006. CASI ID: 20060047448. PDF CASI

A viewgraph presentation on autonomous soaring flight results for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)’s is shown. The topics include: 1) Background; 2) Thermal Soaring Flight Results; 3) Autonomous Dolphin Soaring; and 4) Future Plans.


Free-flight tests of a large-scale lifting-body configuration, the X-38 aircraft, were conducted using tufts to characterize the flow on the aft end, specifically in the inboard region of the vertical fins. Pressure data was collected on the fins and base. Flow direction and movement were correlated with surface pressure and flight condition. The X-38 was conceived to be a rescue vehicle for the International Space Station. The vehicle shape was derived from the U.S. Air Force X-24 lifting body. Free-flight tests of the X-38 configuration were conducted at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California from 1997 to 2001.


The method of flight-testing the Intelligent Flight Control System (IFCS) Second Generation (Gen-2) project on the NASA NF-15B is herein described. The Gen-2 project objective includes flight-testing a dynamic inversion controller augmented by a direct adaptive neural network to demonstrate performance improvements in the presence of simulated failure/damage. The Gen-2 objectives as implemented on the NASA NF-15B created challenges for software design, structural loading limitations, and flight test operations. Simulated failure/damage is introduced by modifying control surface commands, therefore requiring structural loads measurements. Flight-testing began with the validation of a structural loads model. Flight-testing of the Gen-2 controller continued, using test maneuvers designed in a sequenced approach. Success would clear the new controller with respect to dynamic response, simulated failure/damage, and with adaptation on and off. A handling qualities evaluation was conducted on the capability of the Gen-2 controller to restore aircraft response in the presence of a simulated failure/damage. Control room monitoring of loads sensors, flight dynamics, and controller adaptation, in addition to postflight data comparison to the simulation, ensured a safe methodology of build up testing. Flight-testing continued without major incident to accomplish the project objectives, successfully uncovering strengths and weaknesses of the Gen-2 control approach in flight.
Joint efforts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Defense, and industry partners are enhancing the capability of airborne wind and turbulence detection. The Airborne Coherent Lidar for Advanced In-Flight Measurements (ACCLAIM) was flown on three series of flights to assess its capability over a range of altitudes, air mass conditions, and gust phenomena. This paper describes the observation of mountain waves and turbulence induced by mountain waves over the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges (California, USA) by lidar onboard the NASA Airborne Science DC-8 airplane. The examples in this paper compare lidar-predicted mountain waves and wave-induced turbulence to subsequent aircraft-measured true airspeed. Airplane acceleration data is presented describing the effects of the wave-induced turbulence on the DC-8 airplane. Highlights of the lidar-predicted airspeed from the two flights show increases of 12 meters per second (m/s) at the mountain wave interface and peak-to-peak airspeed changes of 10 m/s and 15 m/s in a span of 12 seconds in moderate turbulence.

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The space shuttle orbiter was the first spacecraft designed with the aerodynamic characteristics and in-atmosphere handling qualities of a conventional airplane. In order to evaluate the orbiter’s flight control systems and subsonic handling characteristics, a series of flight tests were undertaken at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in 1977. A modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft carried the Enterprise, a prototype orbiter, during eight captive tests to determine how well the two vehicles flew together and to test some of the orbiter’s systems. The free-flight phase of the ALT program allowed shuttle pilots to explore the orbiter’s low-speed flight and landing characteristics. The Enterprise provided realistic, in-flight simulations of how subsequent space shuttles would be flown at the end of an orbital mission. The fifth free flight, with the Enterprise landing on a concrete runway for the first time, revealed a problem with the space shuttle flight control system that made it susceptible to pilot-induced oscillation, a potentially dangerous control problem. Further research using various aircraft, particularly NASA Dryden’s F-8 Digital-Fly-By-Wire testbed, led to correction of the problem before the first Orbital Test Flight.

avionics. The research F/A-18 was configured with specially designed AARD hardware, software and research flight control computers to permit autonomous, precision, formation flight in all three axes. The aircraft also was equipped with an optical tracking system necessary to conduct autonomous probe and drogue air refueling. This demonstration took autonomous formation flight to the ultimate pinnacle -- air refueling with no pilot in the loop. Its success presented a viable option for refueling naval unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAV’s) or even manned naval aircraft of the future.


This viewgraph presentation reviews the recent activities of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Some of the activities are: the delivery of Ikhana, a platform to conduct Earth Science Missions; work on Autonomous Airborne Refueling Demonstration (AARD); progress in developing Quiet Spike, an extendable boom to reduce sonic boom signature; and work on Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) and Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV).


The second flight of the Hyper-X program afforded a unique opportunity to determine the aerodynamic force and moment characteristics of an airframe-integrated scramjet-powered aircraft in hypersonic flight. These data were gathered via a repeated series of pitch, yaw, and roll doublets; frequency sweeps; and pushover–pullup maneuvers performed throughout the X-43A cowl-closed descent. Maneuvers were conducted at Mach numbers of 6.80 to 0.95 and altitudes from 92,000 ft msl to sea level. The dynamic pressure varied from 1300 psf to 400 psf with the angle of attack ranging from 0 deg to 14 deg. The flight-extracted aerodynamics were compared with preflight predictions based on wind-tunnel-test data. The X-43A flight-derived axial force was found to be 10 percent to 15 percent higher than prediction.

2841. Lux-Baumann, Jessica; Dees, Ray; and *Fratello, David: Control Room Training for the Hyper-X Project Utilizing Aircraft Simulation. Technical Report NASA/ TM-2006-213685, November 2006. PDF DTRS

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center flew two Hyper-X research vehicles and achieved hypersonic speeds over the Pacific Ocean in March and November 2004. To train the flight and mission control room crew, the NASA Dryden simulation capability was utilized to generate telemetry and radar data, which was used in nominal and emergency mission scenarios. During these control room training sessions personnel were able to evaluate and refine data displays, flight cards, mission parameter allowable limits, and emergency procedure checklists. Practice in the mission control room ensured that all primary and backup Hyper-X staff were familiar with the nominal mission and knew how to respond to anomalous conditions quickly and successfully. This report describes the technology in the simulation environment and the Mission Control Center, the need for and benefit of control room training, and the rationale and results of specific scenarios unique to the Hyper-X research missions.

*Zel Technologies, LLC, Hampton, Virginia


Selected research and technology activities at Dryden Flight Research Center are summarized. These activities exemplify the Center’s varied and productive research efforts.


NASA engineers teach an unmanned aerial vehicle to extend flight by detecting and soaring on updrafts.


Joint efforts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Defense, and industry partners are enhancing the capability of airborne wind and turbulence detection. The Airborne Coherent Lidar.
for Advanced In-Flight Measurements (ACCLAIM) was flown on three series of flights to assess its capability over a range of altitudes, air mass conditions, and gust phenomena. This paper describes the observation of mountain waves and turbulence induced by mountain waves over the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges (California, USA) by lidar onboard the NASA Airborne Science DC-8 airplane. The examples in this paper compare lidar-predicted mountain waves and wave-induced turbulence to subsequent aircraft-measured true airspeed. Airplane acceleration data is presented describing the effects of the wave-induced turbulence on the DC-8 airplane. Highlights of the lidar-predicted airspeed from the two flights show increases of 12 meters per second (m/s) at the mountain wave interface and peak-to-peak airspeed changes of 10 m/s and 15 m/s in a span of 12 seconds in moderate turbulence.
Appendix A. Dryden Flight Research Center Tech Briefs

Tech Briefs submitted by the Dryden Flight Research Center are included below. Tech Brief citations from 1963 to 1976 have been indexed in NASA SP-5021 to NASA SP-5021(19) and some can be found in the NASA Aeronautics and Space Database (CASI). Tech Brief from 1976 to June 1996 can be found in the NASA Aeronautics and Space Database (CASI) and the Document ID’s are included with the citations. The Technology Utilization Office at NASA Dryden provided the Tech Briefs from July 1996 through December 1997. Tech briefs from 1998 to the present can be found at TechBriefs.com and the URL’s are included with the citation.

1964 Tech Briefs


A v-slotted designed screw and a screwdriver with a v-shaped tang facilitates driving the screw into difficult locations and minimizes axial forces thus avoiding damage to the screw.


A stop watch which may be remotely controlled by the use of a solenoid mechanism is described. When the solenoid is energized the coil spring pulls the lever arm and starts the balance wheel, when it is not energized the spring pulls the lever and stops the watch.

1965 Tech Briefs


Self-aligning tool positions and rigidly holds lathe chuck jaws for refacing and truing of the clamping surface. The jaws clasp the fixture in the manner of clamping a workpiece. The fixture can be modified to accommodate four-jawed checks.


Portable, lightweight systems collects the exhaust gas of an aircraft during flight for the use in analyzing combustion efficiency. The system uses an evacuated chamber and plastic bags.


Transmitting-damping tube with one end closed, the other open to a pressure source, has a pressure sensor connected to a port close to the pressure source. This accurately measures transient or rapidly varying fluid pressures.

1966 Tech Briefs


Easily applied EKG electrodes monitor the heart signals of human subjects engaged in various physical exercises. The electrodes are formed from an air drying, electrically conductive cement mixture that can be applied to the skin by means of a modified commercially available spray gun.

1967 Tech Briefs


Program traces rays of light through optical systems consisting of up to 65 different optical surfaces and computers the aberrations. For design purposes, paraxial tracings with astigmatism and third order tracings are provided.

8. Fagot, R. J.; McDonald, R. T.; and Roman, J. A.: High-And Low-Pressure Pneumotachometers Respiration Rates Accurately In Adverse Environments. FRC-10012 and FRC-10022, B68-10188, June 1968.

Respiration-rate transducers in the form of pneumotachometers measure respiration rates of pilots operating high performance research aircraft. In each low pressure or high pressure oxygen system a sensor is placed in series with the pilots oxygen supply line to detect gas flow accompanying respiration.


Electrocardiograph of an injured human subject is transmitted by RF and telephone links from the ambulance at the emergency scene, to the hospital emergency facilities. This system eliminates delay in the diagnosis of required therapy,
thereby enhancing emergency and rescue operations.

1969 Tech Briefs


Computer program reduces the unbalance of weldable half-bridge strain gage installations. The program calculates the two resistance ratios of each half-bridge gage, outputting a table of gages ranked according to resistance ratio. The tabulation forms a convenient record of gage characteristics.


Analog-to-digital computer accepts physiological flight data as three basic analog input signals – the ECG signal, the flowmeter signal which is a respiration monitor, and the accelerometer signal which measures the normal g-load on the subject.

1975 Tech Briefs


Capacitive strain gage and signal conditioning system measures stress-induced strain and cancels thermal expansion strain at temperatures to 1,500 F (815 C). Gage does not significantly restrain or reinforce specimen.

1976 Tech Briefs


Analytical equation for computing relative humidity as function of wet bulb temperature, dry bulb temperature, and atmospheric pressure is suitable for use with calculator or computer. Analytical expressions may be useful for chemical process control systems and building environmental control systems.

1977 Tech Briefs


System of three computer programs determines stability and control derivatives from flight data.


Remote multiplexer/demultiplexer digital instrumentation system, which is suitable to both airborne and ground-based data acquisition/process control applications, can be employed in a variety of research and flight test applications where great flexibility to accommodate changes in number of parameters, data sampling rates, and signal conditioning is required.

1978 Tech Briefs


Energy-saving concepts in truck design are emerging from developing new shapes with improved aerodynamic flow properties that can reduce air-drag coefficient of conventional tractor-trailers without requiring severe design changes or compromising load-carrying capability. Improvements are expected to decrease somewhat with increased wind velocities and would be affected by factors such as terrain, driving techniques, and mechanical condition.


Circuit consists of chopper section which converts input dc to square wave, followed by bridge-rectifier stage. Chopper gives nearly-ideal switching characteristics, and bridge uses series of full-wave stages rather than less-efficient half-wave rectifiers found in previous circuits. Special features of full-wave circuit allow redundant components to be eliminated, lowering parts count. Circuit can also be adapted for use as dc-to-dc converter or as combination dc-and-ac source.
1979 Tech Briefs


Program detects hardware failure in servosystems by comparing actual servo valve position with predictions of software model. In addition, system will also pick up most computer input/output failures. Process presents faster and more reliable results than previous failure detection methods.


An air-data probe allows air to flow through it so that supersonic and hypersonic shock waves form behind pressure measuring orifices and tube instead of directly on them. Measured pressures are close to those in free-flowing air and are used to determine mach numbers of flying aircraft.


Circuit uses only single operational amplifier and few passive components to remove background noise from miniature ‘wristwatch’ pulse detector. It can be applied to other systems where background noise is slowly varying, such as ultrasonics, strain-gage sensors, and accelerometers.


Built-in safety mechanism for tractor-trailer ‘fifth-wheel’ coupling keeps rig together in case kingpin failure. Modified coupling utilizes all standard components, such as two wear plates, kingpin, and kingpin latch. It is modified by adding semicircular lip to top wear plate, matching semicircular slot to bottom wear plate, and two latching stop mechanisms.

1980 Tech Briefs


Computer program Spectrum Analysis is developed to perform wide range statistical-estimation functions. It is rigorous tool for time-and frequency-domain studies. Program is written in FORTRAN IV.


Program performs general analysis of linear and continuous, discrete and sampled-data systems using state-variable techniques. Program is especially suited analysis of linearized control system problems. It also can be used to model system described by combination of differential equations and Laplace transform blocks, such as aircraft control system.


Four-blade stripper removes insulation from end or middle of wire without damaging shielding.


Circuit determines whether voltage is within preselected range of voltage levels. Device requires fewer components than previous window comparators and is less susceptible to errors from reference drift. Comparator is useful in process-control circuitry, measuring instruments, and checkout equipment.


Circuit smooths stepped waveform from analog-to-digital converter without appreciable phase shift between stepped input signal and smoothed output signal and without any effect from stepping rate. Waveform produced is suitable for driving controls used in manufacturing processes, aerospace systems, and automobiles.


Flight experience with both current and advanced redundancy management schemes was gained in recent flight research programs using the F-8 digital fly by wire aircraft. The flight performance of fault detection, isolation, and reconfiguration (FDIR) methods for sensors, computers, and actuators is reviewed. Results of induced failures as well as of actual
random failures are discussed. Deficiencies in modeling and implementation techniques are also discussed. The paper also presents comparison off multisensor tracking in smooth air, in turbulence, during large maneuvers, and during maneuvers typical of those of large commercial transport aircraft. The results of flight tests of an advanced analytic redundancy management algorithm are compared with the performance of a contemporary algorithm in terms of time to detection, false alarms, and missed alarms. The performance of computer redundancy management in both iron bird and flight tests is also presented.

**1981 Tech Briefs**


Compact, lightweight oven designed with geometric and heating symmetry holds many junctions at stable temperature. Oven has cylindrical wall with all points equidistant from heating coil. Thermocouple junctions are inserted in holes bored radially in wall. Sensor controls power supplied to heating coil, maintaining cylinder wall and junctions at constant temperature.

**1982 Tech Briefs**


Biaxially-corrugated sandwich core, formed by concurrent diffusion bonding and superplastic deformation, makes a proposed sandwich panel unusually strong and stiff. New panel should be useful where light-weight panel that resists bending is needed. Panel would have internal core consisting of multitude of hollow, truncated pyramids. Four layers of panel would be diffusion-bound at all contacting areas.

**1983 Tech Briefs**


Better aerodynamics and ventilation increases fuel efficiency and decreases shipping losses. Trailer is ventilated and cooled by inlet ports in front of rig and outlet ports in middle and rear. Rounded cab and fairing reduce drag by creating an attached airflow.

**1984 Tech Briefs**


New, efficient solution minimizes run time. Approach based on approved theorem provides formal basis for assuring generality and rapid execution. Theorem does not directly address nuisance of square law growth. Analysis of algorithm shows it tends to avoid square-law growth, and rigorous testing verified algorithm tends to enjoy almost linear growth.

**1985 Tech Briefs**


Mounting holds microphone flush with aircraft surface and maintains pressure seal. Microphones, which measure dynamic pressure and shock waves as they pass over aircraft fuselage or other experimental body, mounted through fuselage flush with outside surface. Besides being faster and easier to use than older mounts, new mount prevents damage to microphone on removal because no sealant to be cut and scraped away.


NASA Technical Memorandum presents overview of remotely-piloted research vehicle (RPRV) activities. Controlled from ground, vehicles allow new concepts tried without subjecting pilots to danger. Critical role of pilot in flight testing with RPRV’s demonstrated repeatedly, and many thermocouples with a tap screw.
system anomalies uncovered with no risk to human life.


Mechanism easy to open intentionally but resists accidental opening. Locking or Unlocking occurs when pull pin enters or leaves conical base. Pushing ejection pin or pulling knob unlocks mechanism. Unintentional release unlikely since accidental pilot motions push on knob in most cases. This safety feature, coupled with simplicity and reliability of mechanism, useful for emergency exits for land vehicles or even buildings.

1986 Tech Briefs


In-flight deflections of aircraft surfaces are measured accurately over wide range of airspeeds and attitudes by electro-optical instrumentation system. Deflections caused by aerodynamic and acceleration forces are measured on wings, stabilizers, helicopter rotors, and other surfaces. Electro-optical system replaces 70-millimeter motor-driven camera previously used to observe deflections.


Microphone for measuring aircraft engine noise mounted on lengthwise boom supported away from fuselage and engine. This configuration minimizes boundary-layer effects and pressure doubling that is present if microphone were mounted in aircraft fuselage.


Modified gyroscopic system indicates geographic heading even in nearly vertical flight. Gyroscopes and gimbals of system assume this configuration when aircraft has pitched into vertical dive. Outer roll gimbal fixed with respect to aircraft frame in this orientation. Now, azimuth signal in modified system indicates what aircraft heading would be if it were to resume level flight from climb or dive.


Modular microcomputer provides real-time data processing and telemetry interface functions. Programmable instrumentation system links pulsecode-modulation (PCM) telemetry to digital systems on test aircraft. Called AICS for airborne instrumentation computer system, also analyzes flight-test data during flight. Synthesized voice output available.


Total In-Flight Simulator permits reliable evaluation of landing characteristics of aircraft with PIO. Report discusses simulation requirements for investigating PIO characteristics and includes evaluation of relative merits of simulators. Observations of interest to those studying landing characteristics of other aircraft and to those designing pilot-training programs.

1987 Tech Briefs


Multiple-input, multiple-output mathematical models combined. Report presents mathematical background for combination of linear multiple-input, multiple-output equations of subsystems into overall matrix equations for whole system. Development of such system mathematical models essential for design of complicated control systems.


Tests yield information relating to design, safety, and performance. Report gives overview of flight research program on X-29A experimental airplane. X-29A features forward-swept wings. Research program providing data needed to improve design, fabrications, and testing procedures for airplane.


Experimental conditions for effective visualization
determined. NASA technical Memorandum describes preliminary experiments in laser-enhanced flow visualization in water tunnel. Aspects of study include required laser power, flow seeding, model preparation, and photographic techniques. Results of study assist potential users in design and construction of similar equipment.

1988 Tech Briefs


Digital flight-control systems monitored by computer program that evaluates and recommends. Flight-systems engineers for advanced, high-performance aircraft use knowledge-acquisition tool for expert-system flight-status monitor supplying interpretative data. Interpretative function especially important in time-critical, high-stress situations because it facilitates problem identification and corrective strategy. Conditions evaluated and recommendations made by ground-based engineers having essential knowledge for analysis and monitoring of performances of advanced aircraft systems.


Researchers at widely separated locations able to participate in tests and analyze data immediately. Basic data-handling needs common: Communicates with vehicle, pilot, and test team; Acquires, computes, and displays data; knows exact location of research vehicle at all times. Continuing challenge for designers and operators of ground support facilities to perform tasks in real time and present integrated results to research team in real time. Paper presents several approaches to satisfaction of requirements of representative types of aircraft research programs at NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range of Ames Research Center.


Temperature-compensated instrument yields data at subsonic and supersonic speeds. Modifications in new anemometer include addition of temperature-compensation resistor and resistors Rs and Rp series and parallel with compensation device.


Both types of digital systems evaluated in flight and on ground. Evaluates four different systems by such criteria as software reliability, cost increases, and schedule delays.


Report discusses design and testing of redundant control system for F-8 digital fly-by-wire airplane. Outstanding feature of system is fault-tolerant software (REBUS) residing in primary digital computers. Transition to operation on backup software smooth.


Report describes radar data system at NASA Western Aeronautical Test Range. System provides real-time and recorded data about flightpaths of research aircraft and Space Shuttle. Called RADATS, processes data from three radars simultaneously; interacts with system operator; enhances data by introducing corrections and smoothing; controls range, azimuth, and elevation of radars; and automatically calibrates itself before and after missions. Software classified into three kinds of programs: utility, real-time, and calibration. Equipment exhibited exceptional reliability. Software matured to become virtually trouble-free.

1989 Tech Briefs


Report describes equipment and techniques used in vibration testing of aircraft on ground at Dryden Flight Research Facility. Includes discussions of role of ground vibration testing in qualification of new and modified aircraft for flight and of experience gained from various applications.


Output-isolation circuit couples precise analog signals (-10 to +10 V, 0 to 20 kHz) from computer or from other electronic
equipment to external electronic equipment that may be at different ground potential. Circuit functions in presence of common-mode voltages up to 2,500 Vac or 3,500 Vdc. To prevent damage from accidental connection of output leads to powerlines or other sources of high voltage, circuit includes features that protect input and output signal lines against normal-mode overvoltages up to 120 V ac or dc.


Report reviews accumulated knowledge of atmospheric turbulence at high altitudes. Discusses characteristics of high-altitude turbulence and associated meteorological features, with emphasis on data obtained by flight research conducted in XB-70 and YF-12A prototype aircraft. Gives example of numerical simulation of gravity waves to illustrate potential contribution of such studies to understanding of atmospheric turbulence. Products of such efforts include ability to extend estimates of transient properties of atmospheric altitudes below 20 km to altitudes as high as 80 km for use in design and flight simulation of future advanced aerospace vehicles. Enables more accurate assessment of feasibility of remote sensors and computer systems aboard airplanes to process measurements into advanced warnings of turbulence.


Combined thermal deformations of wing-skin panel and TPS would not tear SIP layer. Report presents analysis of thermal stresses induced in skin panel, thermal-protection system (TPS), and strain-isolation pad (SIP) of Space Shuttle orbiter. Purpose of analysis to determine whether any part of above mentioned structures overstressed and overdeformed under reentry heating, assuming one TPS tile lost at end of reentry heating.


Pilot effective delay increases with system delay. Report compares pilot effective time delays measured in simulations of aircraft-control systems equipped with Space Shuttle rotational hand controller and with two versions of conventional stick-type hand controller. Report of interest to those concerned with design of multiple-axis controllers in aircraft, armored vehicles, industrial machinery, and remote manipulators: operator response or delay critical to stable and accurate operation of such systems.


Real-time display of data on performance supports decisions regarding maneuvers. Data from sensors aboard airplane transmitted to control station on ground for immediate processing and display. Data-acquisition subsystem aboard airplane uses both pulse code modulation and frequency modulation for transmission of sensor data on operation of engine, performance of airplane, and conditions in atmosphere. No data recorded on aircraft.


Versatile digital equipment supports research, development, and maintenance. Extended aircraft interrogation and display system is general-purpose assembly of digital electronic equipment on ground for testing of digital electronic systems on advanced aircraft. Many advanced features, including multiple 16-bit microprocessors, pipeline data-flow architecture, advanced operating system, and resident software-development tools. Basic collection of software includes program for handling many types of data and for displays in various formats. User easily extends basic software library. Hardware and software interfaces to subsystems provided by user designed for flexibility in configuration to meet user’s requirements.


Theory of elastic and inelastic stresses and strains in isotropic materials blended with finite-element computer programs to calculate residual stresses due to creep in structures. Analogy drawn between thermal expansion and creep, enabling use of thermal-stress computational approach to calculate creep stresses and strains. Overall transient solution obtained by piecewise-linear iterations. Creep stresses in structure computed in iterative process in which cumulative creep strains treated as fictitious changes in coefficients of thermal expansion.
Techniques, problems, and solutions described. Report discusses construction of thin covers - known as ‘gloves’ in industry - on wings of airplanes for use in aerodynamic studies. Made of foam cores and fiberglass-and-resin outer layers, contain instrumentation to measure properties of boundary layers, sounds, and pressures. Report focuses on gloves installed on F-14A and F-15A airplanes, and compares techniques used to construct gloves with technique used to construct glove on F-111 airplane during previous study.


Trajectories displayed directly on maps. Computer graphical system shows trajectories of experimental aircraft in real time during flight tests. Enables operator to choose variety of display modes and to issue course corrections to pilot. Principle of system adapted to variety of civil, military, and commercial uses in which paths of vehicles overlaid on maps - for example, in dispatching delivery vans.


Report reviews program of testing and evaluation of digital flight-control system for X-29A airplane, with emphasis on operation during tests. Topics include design of system, special electronic testing equipment designed to aid in daily operations, and aspects of testing, including detection of faults.


Classical anisotropic elasticity theory used to construct ‘multilayer’ composite semicircular curved bar subjected to end forces and end moments. Radial location and intensity of open-mode delamination stress calculated and compared with results obtained from anisotropic continuum theory and from finite element method. Multilayer theory gave more accurate predictions of location and intensity of open-mode delamination stress. Currently being applied to predict open-mode delamination stress concentrations in horse-shoe-shaped composite test coupons.


Report describes experiments in which flows over forebody of F-18 airplane visualized by emitting liquid containing dye from orifices on forebody. In this method, liquid flows along body and evaporates, leaving behind lines of dye marking streamlines and photographed after test flight. Results similar to those of wind-tunnel oil flows.


Transformation technique enables inefficient expert systems to run in real time. Paper suggests use of knowledge compiler to transform knowledge base and inference mechanism of expert-system computer program into conventional computer program. Main benefit, faster execution and reduced processing demands. In avionic systems, transformation reduces need for special-purpose computers.

1991 Tech Briefs


Errors caused by attenuation of air-pressure waves in narrow tubes calculated by method based on fundamental equations of flow. Changes in ambient pressure transmitted along narrow tube to sensor. Attenuation of high-frequency components of pressure wave calculated from wave equation derived from Navier-Stokes equations of viscous flow in tube. Developed to understand and compensate for frictional attenuation in narrow tubes used to connect aircraft pressure sensors with pressure taps on affected surfaces.


Derivation and Definition of Linear Aircraft Model (LINEAR) computer program provides user with powerful, and flexible, standard, documented, and verified software tool for linearization of mathematical models of aerodynamics of aircraft. Intended for use in software tool to drive linear analysis of stability and design of control laws for aircraft. Capable of both extracting such linearized engine effects as net thrust, torque, and gyroscopic effects, and including these effects in linear model of system. Designed to provide easy selection of state, control, and observation variables used in particular model. Also provides flexibility of allowing
alternate formulations of both state and observation equations. Written in FORTRAN.


Software package for master graphics interactive console (MAGIC) at Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) of NASA Ames Research Center provides general-purpose graphical display system for real-time and post-real-time analysis of data. Written in C language and intended for use on workstation of interactive raster imaging system (IRIS) equipped with level-V Unix operating system. Enables flight researchers to create their own displays on basis of individual requirements. Applicable to monitoring of complicated processes in chemical industry.


Method for assigning positions of control surfaces to suppress aeroelastic flutter involves analysis of transfer of energy. Neither depends on nor prescribes specific form of control law. Assuming suitable control law available by whatever means, shows how to determine where on aircraft or airfoil control surface(s) maximally effective in suppressing flutter.


Flat triangular element developed for use in finite-element analyses of stress and strain in laminated plates made of such materials as plywood or advanced fiber/epoxy composite materials. Has multiple layers, each of which can have different isotropic or orthotropic elastic properties. Many such elements used in finite-element mesh to calculate stiffness of plate. Formulation of element straightforward, and calculation of its stiffness matrix simple and fast.


Report describes experiment on subjective effects of rates at which display on cathode-ray tube in flight simulator updated and refreshed. Conducted to learn more about jumping, blurring, flickering, and multiple lines that observer perceives when line moves at high speed across screen of a calligraphic CRT.


Report describes details of implementation of procedure for accurate and economical computation of natural frequencies and associated vibrational modes of elastic structure rotating along arbitrary axis. Block version of Lanczos algorithm derived for solution of eigenvalue and eigenvector problems. Fully exploits sparsity of associated matrices and employs only real numbers in all relevant computations. Capable of determining multiple roots and proves to be most efficient when compared to other similar existing techniques.


Programmable maintenance processor (MAINT) made of commercially available integrated circuits. Autonomous one of four digital electronic processors in extended aircraft interrogation and display system (XAIDS). Developed for testing of system and application computer programs as well as for testing equipment. MAINT has independent terminal and printer interfaces and dedicated magnetic bubble memory storing system-testing sequences entered from terminal. Software for MAINT written in PLM86 programming language and broken into four separate modules.


Report presents comparison of predicted and measured temperatures, thermal stresses, and residual creep stresses in heated and loaded titanium structure. Study part of continuing effort to develop design capability to predict and reduce deleterious effects of creep, which include excessive deformations, residual stresses, and failure.


Conceptual digital computing system intended to monitor and interpret telemetered data on health and status of complicated avionic system in advanced experimental aircraft. Monitor programmed with expert-system software to interpret data in real time. Software includes rule-based model of failure-management system of aircraft that processes fault-indicating signals from avionic system to give timely advice to human operators in mission-control room on ground.
1992 Tech Briefs


Technical memorandum evaluates four techniques for determining location laminar flow about airfoil changes to turbulent flow. Studied in flight experiments on F-14 variable-sweep-wing aircraft. First technique involved measurements by hot-film anemometer sensors. Second, measurements by boundary-layer rakes, each array of pressure probes. Third, measurements taken by pitot tubes arrayed on airfoil, flush with surface, and fourth, test airfoil surface coated with pressure-sensitive liquid crystals, to make pressure pattern of flow visible.


Autopilot replaces pilot during automatic maneuvers. Pilot, based on ground, flies aircraft to required altitude, then turns control over to autopilot. Increases quality of maneuvers significantly beyond that attainable through remote manual control by pilot on ground. Also increases quality of maneuvers because it performs maneuvers faster than pilot could and because it does not have to repeat poorly executed maneuvers.


Smoke-generating system used to identify vortex-core and vortex-core-breakdown locations in flights. Housed in forebody of airplane, includes multiple pyrotechnic smoke cartridges fired simultaneously or in sequence. Firing of cartridges controlled from cockpit, and smoke produced ducted to desired locations on or near surface of aircraft. Useful for other aerodynamic flight research in which necessary to visualize local flows. Nonaerospace applications include research in reduction of aerodynamic drag on vehicles and reduction of turbulence related to structures or other obstacles.


Report discusses approach to verification and validation of knowledge-based systems. Also known as ‘expert systems’. Concerned mainly with development of methodologies for verification of knowledge-based systems critical to flight-research systems; e.g., fault-tolerant control systems for advanced aircraft. Subject matter also has relevance to knowledge-based systems controlling medical life-support equipment or commuter railroad systems.


Trajectory-control laws based on singular-perturbation theory and nonlinear dynamical modeling. Nonlinear maneuver autopilot commands flight-test trajectories of F-15 airplane. Underlying theory of controller enables separation of variables processed in fast and slow control loops, reducing amount of computation required.


Technical memorandum proposes procedure for mathematical synthesis of control signals proportional to commanded deflections of rudder, elevators, and ailerons of oblique-wing airplane. Procedure designed to generate signals compensating for aerodynamical and inertial cross-coupling among yawing, pitching, and rolling motions. Control interactions decoupled by feedforward and feedback.


SILHOUETTE is program for line drawings rendering any subset of polygons as silhouette. Program is improvement on, and replacement for, HIDDEN LINE COMPUTER CODE (ARC-11446). Offers combinations of silhouette and nonsilhouette specifications for arbitrary solid. Written in FORTRAN 77.


‘Intelligent Computer Assistant for Engine Monitoring’ (ICAEM), computer-based monitoring system intended to distill and display data on conditions of operation of two turbofan engines of F-18, is in preliminary state of development. System reduces burden on propulsion engineer by providing single display of summary information on statuses of engines and alerting engineer to anomalous
conditions. Effective use of prior engine-monitoring system requires continuous attention to multiple displays.


Report describes tests of array of pressure sensors connected to small orifices flush with surface of 1/7-scale model of F-14 airplane in wind tunnel. Part of effort to determine whether pressure parameters consisting of various sums, differences, and ratios of measured pressures used to compute accurately free-stream values of stagnation pressure, static pressure, angle of attack, angle of sideslip, and mach number. Such arrays of sensors and associated processing circuitry integrated into advanced aircraft as parts of flight-monitoring and -controlling systems.


Report describes recent efforts to develop automatic control system operating under supervision of pilot and making airplane follow prescribed trajectories during flight tests. Report represents additional progress on this project. Gives background information on technology of control of test-flight trajectories; presents mathematical models of airframe, engine and command-augmentation system; focuses on mathematical modeling of maneuvers; addresses design of autopilots for maneuvers; discusses numerical simulation and evaluation of results of simulation of eight maneuvers under control of simulated autopilot; and presents summary and discussion of future work.

1993 Tech Briefs


Elaborate combination of techniques used to calibrate wind-measuring instrumentation aboard F104 airplane. Obtains wind profiles more rapidly. Airplane equipped with standard NACA research nose boom, including pressure probes and flow vanes yielding data on static and total pressures, angle of attack, and angle of sideslip. Has ring-laser-gyroscope inertial reference unit, giving linear and angular velocities, linear acceleration, and orientation of airplane. Body-mounted total-temperature sensor also used. Improved method of calibration devised to determine whether winds aloft at and shortly after time of measurement allow safe launch of Space Shuttle. Proves beneficial in other safety- or research-oriented applications in which wind velocities over range of altitudes must be determined in nearly real time.


Report discusses engineering issues considered in design of conceptual subsonic airplane intended to cruise at altitudes of 100,000 ft or higher. Airplane would carry scientific instruments for research in chemistry and physics of atmosphere, particularly, for studies of ozone hole, greenhouse gases, and climatic effects.


NASA technical memorandum describes experimental investigation of distorting effects of propagation of pressure signals along narrow pneumatic tubes from pressure-sensing orifices on surfaces of models or aircraft to pressure sensors distant from orifices. Pressure signals distorted principally by frictional damping along walls of tubes and by reflections at orifice and sensor ends.


Kalman-filter ‘observer’ algorithm used in estimating unmeasured output variables of turbofan engine. Unmeasured output variables needed along with measured output variables as feedback data to characterize state of aircraft-and-engine system for control purposes. Subsystem or processor implementing Kalman-filter algorithm incorporated into adaptive digital control system, called ‘performance-seeking’ control system, developed to compute engine-control settings to optimize performance of aircraft under given pseudo-steady-state cruise conditions. Basic concept of algorithm not restricted to aircraft-engine application and can be extended to internal-combustion engines in land vehicles.


Tests to determine open-mode-delamination stresses of laminated composite materials improved by use of horseshoe-like curved bar specimens. Two horseshoe-like
specimen shapes proposed: one with semicircular midsection and straight end sections, and one essentially half of ellipse cut along its minor axis. Shapes suitable for both solid and sandwich laminates. Calculations show elliptical horseshoe bar concentrates delamination stress slightly more than semicircular/straight bar does. Semicircular/straight bar specimen used to determine both delamination strength of solid laminate and debonding strength of sandwich laminate.

89. Mackall, Dale: **Space-Plane Spreadsheet Program.**

Basic Hypersonic Data and Equations (HYPERDATA) spreadsheet computer program provides data gained from three analyses of performance of space plane. Equations used to perform analyses derived from Newton’s second law of physics, derivation included. First analysis is parametric study of some basic factors affecting ability of space plane to reach orbit. Second includes calculation of thickness of spherical fuel tank. Third produces ratio between volume of fuel and total mass for each of various aircraft. HYPERDATA intended for use on Macintosh(R) series computers running Microsoft Excel 3.0.

90. Philips, Andrew; Bresina, John; Drummond, Mark: **NASA TileWorld Simulator Program.**

NASA TileWorld (NTW) computer program formulated to further research on planning, scheduling, and control problems. Designed to focus on three particular attributes of real-world problems: exogenous events, uncertain outcomes of actions, and metric time. Written specifically for use by NASA, NTW modified easily to act as software base for other simulated environments. Written in Allegro Common Lisp for Sun-3-(TM) and Sun-4-series(TM) computers running SunOS(TM).

1994 Tech Briefs

91. Whitmore, Stephen A.; and Leondes, Cornelius T: **Estimating Fluctuating Pressures From Distorted Measurements.**

Two algorithms extract estimates of time-dependent input (upstream) pressures from outputs of pressure sensors located at downstream ends of pneumatic tubes. Effect deconvolutions that account for distorting effects of tube upon pressure signal. Distortion of pressure measurements by pneumatic tubes also discussed in ‘Distortion of Pressure Signals in Pneumatic Tubes,’ (ARC-12868). Varying input pressure estimated from measured time-varying output pressure by one of two deconvolution algorithms that take account of measurement noise. Algorithms based on minimum-covariance (Kalman filtering) theory.

92. Anderson, Karl F: **The Anderson Current Loop.**

Four-wire-probe concept applied to electrical-resistance transducers. Anderson current loop is excitation-and-signal-conditioning circuit suitable for use with strain gauges, resistance thermometers, and other electrical-resistance transducers mounted in harsh environments. Used as alternative to Wheatstone bridge. Simplifies signal-conditioning problem, enabling precise measurement of small changes in resistance of transducer. Eliminates some uncertainties in Wheatstone-bridge resistance-change measurements in flight research. Current loop configuration makes effects of lead-wire and contact resistances insignificantly small. Also provides output voltage that varies linearly with change in gauge resistance, and does so at double sensitivity of Wheatstone bridge.

1995 Tech Briefs

93. Burcham, Frank W., Jr.; Fullerton, C. Gordon; Stewart, James F.; Gilyard, Glenn B.; and Conley, Joseph A.: **Emergency Flight Control Using Computer-Controlled Thrust.**

Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) systems are digital electronic control systems undergoing development to provide limited maneuvering ability through variations of individual engine thrusts in multiple-engine airplanes. Provide landing capability when control surfaces inoperable. Incorporated on existing and future airplanes that include digital engine controls, digital flight controls, and digital data buses, adding no weight for additional hardware to airplane. Possible to handle total failure of hydraulic system, depending on how surfaces respond to loss of hydraulic pressure, and broken control cables or linkages. Future airplanes incorporate data from Global Positioning System for guidance to any suitable emergency runway in world.

94. Richwine, David M.; and Del Frate, John H.: **Flight-Test Fixture For Aerodynamic Research.**

Second-generation flight-test fixture (FTF-II) developed to be used as generic test bed for research in aerodynamics and fluid mechanics. Highly instrumented finlike structure mounted on lower fuselage surface of F-15B airplane. Modular configuration makes possible to modify FTF-II to
satisfy variety of flight-test requirements. Fixture used at
airspeeds up to Mach 2.0.

1996 Tech Briefs

95. Haering, Edward A., Jr.: SR-71 Experiment On
Propagation Of Sonic Booms. DRC-95-32, NASA Tech
ID: 19960014909

Flight experiment conducted using an SR-71, F-16XL, and
YO-3A airplane to study propagation of sonic booms. Work
grounded toward developing high-speed civil transport (HSCT)
aircraft. Data used to soften sonic booms from supersonic
aircraft. Techniques used in experiment to measure pressures
and relative aircraft separation accurately also under
consideration for use in other flight research unrelated to
sonic booms.

96. Moes, Tim; Nichols, Doug; Vanderloop, Dirk; and
Rood, Rich: Swivel Total-Temperature Probe. DRC-95-21,
Document ID: 19960018804

Improved probe designed to be mounted at wingtip of airplane
and used for measuring total temperature of air when airplane
flies at high angles of attack. Four fins and swivel mount
enable probe to align itself aerodynamically with local flow
of air. Thus, stagnated-flow condition needed for accurate
measurement of total temperature achieved.

97. Ray, Ronald J.; and Yuhas, Andrew J.: Improved
Aircraft Inlet Total-Pressure Distortion Rakes. DRC-95-07,
NASA Tech Briefs, Vol 20, pg. 66, 19960401, April 1, 1996.
Document ID: 19960021845

Innovative rake of pressure transducers for measuring
distortion of total pressure at inlet of jet engine developed.
Rake features one-piece wagon-wheel design, reducing cost
and installation time relative to traditional designs. Design
adaptable to inlets of other aircraft. Rake scaled to smaller
and larger inlets with minimal qualification requirements.

98. Carter, John F.; and Nagy, Christopher J.: NASA
Landing Systems Research Aircraft. DRC-95-31, NASA
Tech Briefs, Vol 20, pg. 67, 19960401, April 1, 1996.
Document ID: 19960021846

NASA Landing Systems Research Aircraft (LSRA) is Convair
990 airplane modified to incorporate tire-and-landing-gear
test facility containing test fixture. Airplane instrumented to
measure loads, velocities, and slip angles between tires and
runways.

99. Carrott, David T.: Robot Drills Holes To Relieve
Excess Tire Pressures. DRC-95-20; NASA Tech Briefs,
Vol 20, pg. 72, 19960501, May 1, 1996. Document ID:
19960022410

Small, relatively inexpensive, remotely controlled robot
called ‘tire assault vehicle’ (TAV) developed to relieve excess
tire pressures to protect ground crew, aircraft equipment,
and nearby vehicles engaged in landing tests of CV-990 Landing
System Research Aircraft. Reduces costs and saves time in
training, maintenance, and setup related to ‘yellow’ and ‘red’
tire conditions. Adapted to any heavy-aircraft environment
in which ground-crew safety at risk because of potential for
tire explosions. Also ideal as scout vehicle for performing
inspections in hazardous locations.

100. Miller, Geoffrey; Richwine, David M.; and Hass, Neal
E.: Advanced Video Data-Acquisition System For Flight
Research. DRC-96-01, NASA Tech Briefs, Vol 20, pg. 40,
19960501, May 1, 1996. Document ID: 19960022393

Advanced video data-acquisition system (AVDAS) developed
to satisfy variety of requirements for in-flight video
documentation. Requirements range from providing images
for visualization of airflows around fighter airplanes at high
angles of attack to obtaining safety-of-flight documentation.
F/A-18 AVDAS takes advantage of very capable systems like
NITE Hawk forward-looking infrared (FLIR) pod and recent
video developments like miniature charge-couple-device
(CCD) color video cameras and other flight-qualified video
hardware.

For Forebody Vortex Control. DRC-95-30, NASA Tech
Briefs, Vol 20, pg. 78, 19960601, June 1, 1996. Document
ID: 19960024426

Nose of F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) modified
with conformal, mechanically actuated nose strakes for
enhanced rolling (ANSE). Forebody vortex control effected
by use of actuated strakes and/or other flow-control devices.
System provides means to evaluate design tradeoffs.

102. Kelly, L.; and Ramey L.: F-18 HARV Nose Strake
Actuator Model, DRC-095- 036, NASA Tech Briefs Vol 20,
pg. 54, July 1, 1996.

Researchers at the Dryden Flight Research Center have
developed a device to minimize simulation downtime which
is cheap, easy to maintain, troubleshoot, and modify. The
Strake Actuator Model (SAM) accurately models the response
of the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) forebody
strake actuators, located on the nose of the aircraft. The
SAM was designed according to McDonnell Douglas F-18
specifications on the ailerons and strake actuator information
from HR Textron.

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A novel real-time flush air data sensing (RT-FADS) system was developed and flight tested by research engineers at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC). This system, flight tested on the DFRC Systems Research Aircraft (SRA), uses a matrix of flush pressure orifices arranged along the aircraft contour to determine air mass reference data -- commonly referred to as “air data”. The system eliminates the need for external probes to measure air mass reference information. The SRA vehicle is shown in figure 1. This brief describes the development and flight testing of the RT-FADS system.

STARS is a highly graphics-oriented computer program for multidisciplinary, finite-element-based, linear and nonlinear analysis. Its range of application includes structural analysis, heat transfer, linear aerodynamics, computational fluid dynamics (CFD), and controls engineering. It provides extensive graphics capabilities for convenient development of mathematical models as well as for postprocessing of analysis results. Examples of advanced NASA Dryden Flight Research Center projects analyzed by STARS include X-29A, F-18 HARV/TVCS, B-52/Pegasus, Generic Hypersonics, NASP, SR-71, and the high-speed civil transport (HSCT), among others.

Indigent, Hispanic children with cancer living in medically underserved regions of South Texas near the Mexican border have no consistent access to pediatric oncology specialists. To address this problem, NASA helped create a telemedicine linkage between the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSC-SA) and South Texas Hospital (STH) in Harlingen, Texas. NASA centers participating were Dryden and Johnson, with additional help from NASA Headquarters. Other partners in this endeavor include Sprint Corporation and VTEL, the manufacturer of the telecommunications equipment used in this project.
Transient thermal testing is an important part of design validation for aerospace test articles subjected to significant aerodynamic heating. One such test article, called a “wing glove,” has been designed to obtain cross-flow boundary layer transition data in the Mach 6 to 8 range while mounted on the wing of an air-launched space booster. The glove has been designed to maintain a specific aerodynamic shape during the extreme aerodynamic heating encountered in the flight trajectory. The ground tests were performed to simulate the flight of the launch vehicle from the drop conditions of approximately Mach 0.8 and 40,000 feet through first stage burn-out at approximately Mach 8 and 200,000 feet. These conditions translated into temperatures on the glove ranging from -30 °F at launch to 500 °F at first stage burn out. New laboratory test techniques were developed in order to simulate the flight conditions. This paper describes the complex test techniques used in the transient thermal testing of the wing glove, an overview of the glove design, a description of the cooling and heating systems, and details of the temperature and heat flux control techniques used to validate the glove design.


An approach for computing worst-case flutter margins has been formulated in a robust stability framework. Uncertainty operators are included with a linear model to describe modeling errors and flight variations. The structured singular value, \( \mu \), computes a stability margin which directly accounts for these uncertainties. This approach introduces a new method of computing flutter margins and an associated new parameter for describing these margins. The \( \mu \) margins are robust margins which indicate worst-case stability estimates with respect to the defined uncertainty. Worst-case flutter margins are computed for the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) using uncertainty sets generated by flight data analysis. The robust margins demonstrate flight conditions for flutter may lie closer to the flight envelope than previously estimated by p-k analysis.


This paper presents the results from agility research performed under a grant through the University of Kansas. Several functional agility metrics, including the combat cycle time metric, dynamic speed turn plots, and relative energy state metric, are used to compare turning performance for generic F-18, X-29, and X-31 type aircraft models. These models are generic because they are 3-degree-of-freedom models that have characteristics similar to the real aircraft, but may not exactly represent the aircraft. The performance comparisons are made using data from optimal test trajectories to reduce sensitivities to different pilot input techniques and to reduce the effects of control system limiters. The turn performance for all three aircraft is calculated for simulated minimum time 180 deg. heading captures from simulation data. Comparisons of the three aircraft give more insight into turn performance than would be available from traditional measures of performance. Using the optimal test technique yields significant performance improvements as measured by the metrics. These performance improvements were found without significant increases in turn radius.


The F-15 Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE) aircraft recently achieved its first supersonic yaw vectoring flight at Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA. ACTIVE is a joint NASA, U.S. Air Force, McDonnell Douglas Aerospace (MDA), and Pratt & Whitney (P&W) program. The team will expand the flight envelope of the nozzles to Mach 2 and 750 KCAS with maximum vector angles, rates and power settings. Additionally, the team will assess performance benefits and identify aerodynamics effects induced by the two vectored supersonic jets on the aft-end of the aircraft during flight test operations. Current plans call for approximately 60 flights totaling 100 hours.


Departure resistance testing is difficult for highly complex and maneuverable aircraft, such as modern fighters, and presents a challenging problem for system designers. As aircraft have become more complex and maneuverable, departure susceptibility has increased. System complexity
has also made “wringing out” the system to find potential pitfalls more difficult. This is evidenced by the number of incidents that have occurred in recent history with modern fly-by-wire aircraft. To insure a level of safety, aircraft are flown within a safe margin of conditions that could invoke a departure, reducing the available maneuvering envelope of the aircraft. These margins of safety are found using simple, single parameter static and dynamic stability prediction parameters and/or simulation and flight test studies.


Researchers at the Dryden Flight Research Center are testing a new electrically-powered device that can significantly reduce the weight, costs, logistical, and maintenance support for future aircraft. Under the Electrically Powered Actuation Design (EPAD) validation program, NASA Dryden has begun flight testing an Electro-Hydrostatic Actuator (EHA) in its F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) as part of a joint Air Force-Navy-NASA effort. The EHA operates the left aileron in the aircraft without use of aircraft hydraulics. Taking its signals from the aircraft’s flight control computer, it uses electrical power generated by the aircraft’s engines to drive a pump containing a small amount of internal hydraulic fluid.


A diode laser-based sensor system for inlet and exhaust mass flux measurements on aeroengines was developed and tested. The sensors use compact, room-temperature diode laser sources to obtain simultaneous density and velocity measurements of unseeded inlet air and exhaust water vapor. Fiber-optic cables are used to transport the laser light from a remote electronics/data processing module to the measurement location. The measurements are continuous and non-intrusive, with measurement bandwidths of about 1 Hz. Simultaneous measurements of the inlet and exhaust mass flux can be used for real-time thrust determinations.


An impact prediction algorithm is being used at NASA DFRC to support range safety for unpiloted aerial vehicles. The algorithm computes an impact location based on the vehicles’ descent rate and wing information. The predicted impact location is continuously displayed so that flight paths may be selected to avoid ground assets in the event a termination is required. The algorithm adapts easily to different vehicle termination techniques. It has been shown to be accurate to the extend required to support range safety.


A general capability has been developed for using flight data to determine an aircraft structural dynamic model that would be suitable for piloted simulation and the analysis of handling qualities. This technique provides structural mode shape information comparable to a ground vibration test or a structural analysis with a minimum of instrumentation, flight time, and analysis. With the resulting structural model incorporated into the simulation, a good representation of the flight characteristics was provided for handling qualities and control system analysis.


In support of the Linear Aerospike SR-71 Experiment (LASRE) an autonomous Programmable Switch Assembly (PSA) was developed. The PSA system currently in flight operations on the NASA SR-71 844 was designed to address the complex and varying system control requirements of research aircraft. The system at DFRC uses four cockpit switches each containing 560 LED elements coupled to a microcontroller and a Dryden designed relay board set. The PSA represents the first operational demonstration of such a system in a stand alone configuration. The advantages of such a system include providing the engineer with the capability to reduce up to 16 individual cockpit indicators and switches down to one. In addition, the system provides feedback from the controlled equipment indicating the current state of the hardware. Individual control changes to an installed system consist of ANSI C software and wire changes, with a nominal one day turnaround time. The capabilities of this system extend beyond research aircraft and provide the capability to control any system with feedback requirements.


Time-frequency signal representations combined with subspace identification methods are used to analyze aeroelastic flight data from the F-18 Systems Research Aircraft (SRA) and aeroelastic data from the F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV). The F-18 SRA data were produced from a
wingtip excitation system which generated linear frequency
chirps and logarithmic sweeps. HARV data were acquired
from digital Schroeder-phased and Sinc pulse excitation
signals to the actuator commands. Non-dilated continuous
Morlet wavelets implemented as a filter bank are chosen for
the time-frequency analysis to eliminate phase distortion
as occurs with sliding window discrete Fourier transform
techniques. Wavelet coefficients are filtered to reduce the
effects of noise and other distortions, like nonlinearities, in all
the inputs and outputs identically. The cleaned reconstructed
time domain signals are used to compute improved transfer
functions. Time and frequency domain subspace identification
methods are applied to the enhanced reconstructed time
domain data and improved transfer functions, respectively.
Time domain subspace performed poorly even with the
enhanced data compared with frequency domain techniques.
A frequency domain subspace method is shown to produce
better results with the data processed with the Morlet time-
frequency technique.

122. Balas G., Nalbantoglu V., and Lind R: Computing
Optimal Vibration-Sensor Configurations. DRC-097-035,

This paper introduces an approach to choosing a sensor
configuration based on Full Control synthesis. A globally
optimal full control compensator is computed for each member
of a set of sensor configurations which are feasible for the
plant. The sensor configuration associated with the full control
system achieving the best closed-loop performance is chosen
for feedback measurements to an output feedback controller.
A flexible structure is used as an example to demonstrate this
procedure. Experimental results show sensor configuration
chosen to optimize the full control performances are effective
for output feedback controllers.

1998 Tech Briefs

123. Gilyard, Glenn B.: Adaptive Performance
Optimization of Transport Aircraft. NASA Tech Briefs,
DRC9522.html

Adaptive performance optimization (APO) is an approach
for improving aircraft performance without the need for
extensive modifications of hardware. In this approach, one
exploits existing redundant control-effector capabilities by
providing for automatic reconfiguration of control-surface
deflections to achieve a minimum-drag trim condition.

124. *Flynn, Fred; *Ghofrani, Ron; *Goldie, Jim; *Leary,
Kevin; *Swenbeck, John; *Hockney, Dick; *Makseyn,
Scott; *Armstrong, Steve; *Rao, Gita; *Lansberry, Geoff;
*Satter, Dick; *Paine, Cynthia; and *Voelker, Leonard:
Electromagnetic Shaker for Flight Flutter Testing. NASA
May98/DRC9804.html

An electromagnetic shaker based on a linear induction
motor has been developed for use in flight flutter testing of
aircraft. The shaker is a wing-tip-mounted unit capable of
delivering root-mean-square forces as large as 140 lb (623 N)
at frequencies from 10 to 60 Hz.

*SatCon Technology Corp., Cambridge, Maine.

125. Anderson, Karl F.: DC-Excited Thermostrain-Gauge

The dc-excited Anderson-loop circuit includes (1)
thermocouples for measuring the temperature of the strain
gauge and (2) a signal-conditioning circuit that separates the
temperature and strain-gauge signals in the sense that one
output voltage is proportional to the change in the strain-
gauge resistance and another voltage is proportional to the
thermoelectric voltage indicative of the temperature of the
strain gauge.

126. Brenner, Martin J.; and *Lind, Rick: Wavelet
Processing for Aeroservoelastic-Stability Analysis. NASA
Jun98/DRC9826.html

A wavelet-based modal-parameter-extraction procedure has
been developed to augment wavelet filtering and thereby
produce more-realistic, robust aeroservoelastic-stability
margins. The procedure is intended for use in processing data
from aircraft flight tests.

*National Research Council, Edwards, California.

127. McGrath, John; Haering, Ed, Jr.; Miller, Harry; Trapp,
Jack; Webber, Dave; Bever, Glenn; Collura, Joe; *Ficke,
Jules; and **Aragon, George: GPS Drives Interactive
Map Showing Position of Test Airplane. NASA Tech Briefs,
DRC9823.html

An electronic system that comprises airborne and ground-
based subsystems generates data for a global real-time
interactive map (GRIM) that displays the current position
and velocity of the NASA F-18 Systems Research Aircraft
(SRA). This system utilizes the Global Positioning System
(GPS) to determine the position and velocity of the aircraft;
it serves as a prototype for the development of other, similar
GPS-based systems that could be used for tracking and
guidance of aircraft during flight research. Such GPS-based
systems could be used to augment, back up, or substitute for
radar-based tracking systems; indeed, as described below, the
performance of the prototype GPS-based system has been
compared with that of a radar-based tracking system in initial
The feasibility of remotely acquiring infrared images (thermograms) of aircraft surfaces in flight to locate flow-transition boundaries has been investigated. As used here, “remotely” means that the infrared instrumentation is mounted aboard an observing aircraft that flies along with an observed aircraft, the surface flow on which one seeks to analyze.

*University of California Davis, Davis, California.


A novel airdata system based on flush-mounted pressure sensors has been developed for the X-33 aerospace vehicle. Denoted the “X-33 flush airdata sensing” (FADS) system, it was designed to overcome limitations of pitot-static probes that were used previously.


A developmental electronic system that includes Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers is designed to track the relative position and velocity to two airplanes in real time. In the original application for which the system is being developed, one F-18 airplane (denoted the “chase vehicle”) is to be used to take schlieren photographs of shock waves generated by the another F-18 airplane (denoted the “target vehicle”). When fully developed, the system would afford the precise position and time measurements needed to accomplish the schlieren shock-wave photography.

*TYBRIN Corp., Edwards, California.


The Production Support Flight Control Computers (PSFCCs) are flight-control computers that are being developed by NASA in conjunction with the United States Navy. These computers are designed to provide any of the F/A-18 airplanes at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center with capabilities for research in flight-control laws and integrated propulsion/flight-control concepts.


Nearly every military and commercial aircraft in the United States today uses pitot-static probes for accurate, repeatable airdata measurements. Recently, local angle-of-attack- and sideslip-sensing capabilities have been added to these probes to satisfy requirements for advanced aircraft with extended manuevering envelopes. Probes made in advanced shapes to satisfy these requirements have been evaluated in wind-tunnel tests at angles of attack up to 90°, with favorable results. Flight tests of the Advanced L-probe Air Data Integration (ALADIN) program, directed toward evaluating...
The performances of these probes, were recently concluded at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

*Boeing Phantom Works, St. Louis, Missouri.

**BFGoodrich Aircraft Sensors Division, Burnsville, Minnesota.


A unique dual-flow, cold-jet facility has been developed and operated by California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) at San Luis Obispo for NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The facility supports flight research on thrust-vectoring nozzles and thrust-vector control systems. To date, the facility has completed tests on subscale nozzles of the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV), the X-31 airplane, and the F-15 Advanced Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE).

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.

1999 Tech Briefs


A mathematical model represents the dynamic response of a pressure sensor that (a) comprises a transducer connected to a pressure-sensing port via a pneumatic tube and (b) is operated under flow conditions like those expected to be encountered on advanced hypersonic aerospace vehicles operating at high altitudes. The model is applicable to both continuum and rarefied flows, including flows accompanied by large gradients of temperature.

*University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.


A flutterometer is being developed for use as a data-analysis tool for flight flutter testing. The tool is based on an on-line implementation of a robust flutter-analysis technique, called the “* method,” that was described in “Characterizing Worst-Case Flutter Margins From Flight Data” (DRC-97-03), NASA Tech Briefs, Vol. 21, No. 4 (April 1997), page 62.


A digital solution for the problem of filtering serial digital data prior to modulation of a telemetry transmitter has been developed by engineers at the Dryden Flight Research Center. The solution is described in a patent application entitled “DIGITAL APPROXIMATION PREMODULATION FILTER FOR PULSE-CODE-MODULATED SIGNALS.”


The Perseus B remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) has achieved a record altitude for a single-engine, propeller-driven airplane of 60,260 ft (18,367 m) on June 27, 1998. The Perseus B is one of the test-bed aircraft developed under NASA’s Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program for use in conducting high-altitude, long-duration missions carrying atmospheric sampling and sensing payloads for the scientific community within NASA and other agencies.


Each member of the aircrew of an advanced fighter airplane wears a complex, multilayered ensemble that imposes a significant thermal burden by inhibiting normal transport of heat from the body. The thermal burden may be aggravated by the use of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) protective clothing, insolation through the canopy, psychological mission stress, and, in the future, positive-pressure breathing equipment used in COMBAT EDGE (Combined Advanced Technology Enhanced Design “G” Ensemble) equipped aircraft. The inability of the body to rid itself of excess heat can, at the very least, cause discomfort, but can also degrade mission effectiveness and pose a serious threat to safety and health. The aircrew personnel environmental control system (APECS) was designed to satisfy the need to remove excess heat from the body under these conditions. The APECS can also be used to keep pilots relatively cool when waiting for long times on the ground in hot weather, as well as in flight.

*Foster-Miller, Inc., Waltham, Massachusetts.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center is supporting a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract
between the U.S. Air Force Research Labs and Kelly Space & Technology (KST). KST’s innovation is to use an aerotowed reusable launch vehicle to put small satellites into low orbits around the Earth. In support of this idea, the SBIR is to demonstrate aerotow with representative aircraft; namely, a C-141A as the towing airplane and a QF-106A (a modified F-106) as the towed airplane. NASA Dryden has developed a computational simulation of the dynamics of the tow rope and towed airplane, conducted dynamic-stability studies, developed test plans, and completed successful ground, taxi, and flight tests.


An experiment consisting of flight tests on the X-31A airplane has demonstrated the ability to use thrust vectoring to replace the functions of stabilization and turn coordination usually required of a rudder and vertical tail. Comments by the pilot indicated no difference in handling qualities for the majority of the tests flown. The experiment showed that the greatest demand was placed on the thrust-vectoring system at low thrust settings and high roll accelerations. It was demonstrated that a higher level of interaction between the engine and flight-control system will be needed for future reduced-tail or tailless aircraft with thrust-vector control. This experiment helped to introduce thrust vectoring as a new design dimension for future aircraft.


Direct measurement of aircraft-engine thrust by use of strain gauges offers several advantages over traditional model-based methods of calculating thrust, provided that care is taken during the installation and calibration of strain gauges, and provided further that secondary load paths are understood. Advantages of the strain-gauge-based thrust-measurement method depend upon the specific engine/airframe interface, but can include the following: (1) Simplification of the sensor installation, relative to the sensor suite that would be needed to support model-based calculations; (2) Immunity (unlike in model-based methods) to drift and to the associated loss of accuracy as the engine deteriorates over time; and (3) Excellent dynamic response.


The Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) has been a partner in many uninhabited-aerial-vehicle (UAV) test programs. Our participation has largely been in the areas of technical oversight and range safety, but the X-36 program provided an opportunity to get some “stick and throttle” experience in this very unique type of flying. It was also an excellent opportunity to evaluate first hand the elements which make a successful UAV test program. I participated in the program as part of an independent review team, a chase pilot, and as a project pilot. In November 1997, I piloted two parameter-identification and flight-envelope-expansion sorties — they proved to be some of the most intense flight testing of my career.


NASA’s F-15B #836 is a two-seat version of the F-15, which is a high-performance, supersonic, all-weather fighter airplane. The F-15B is used as a test-bed aircraft for a wide variety of flight experiments. In support of this use, a flight-test fixture was developed to provide a space for flight experiments in a region with known aerodynamic conditions.


The Crew-Return Vehicle is a 30-ft (9.1-m) long spacecraft that will be moored on the station and will carry up to seven crewmembers safely back to Earth. Designed to replace the three-person Soyuz vehicle used in early space-station operations, it is completely autonomous, can carry the entire station crew, has significant cross-range capability, and can make ground-based, low-speed, soft landings at predefined sites around the world by use of a large parafoil.

*NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.


Current proposed shapes for single-stage-to-orbit vehicles like the Lockheed-Martin X-33 and VentureStar reusable launch vehicle have extremely large base areas when compared with previous hypersonic-vehicle designs. As a result, base drag — especially in the transonic flight regime — is expected to be very large. The unique configuration of the X-33, with its very large base area and relatively low forebody drag, offers the potential for a very high payoff in overall performance if the base drag can be reduced significantly. This article
presents results of a base-drag-reduction experiment that was performed in the X-33 Linear Aerospike SR-71 (LASRE) flight program.


A method to detect and to characterize the type of nonlinear dynamics in an aeroelastic system involves the utilization of information from wavelet processing of measurement data. This method is intended to assist in identifying unmodeled dynamics of aircraft during flight testing.

*University of Tennessee Space Institute, Tullahoma, Tennessee.


A program of flight testing of an instrumented subscale model of the X-33 aerospace vehicle is underway. The objectives of this program are the following: (1) Successful flight of a model of the X-33; (2) Development of a small, lightweight, instrumentation system suitable for model research; (3) Determination of limited X-33 aerodynamic characteristics from flight data; and (4) Quantification of how well parameter-estimation techniques perform when applied to data acquired by use of the lightweight instrumentation system on a model of this type.


An all-software data server has been invented to enable any set of connected application programs to create or gain access to live data streams. (As used here, “connected” signifies running on either the same computer or on different computers and communicating via the Internet, an intranet, or another network.) In combination with seamless archiving and retrieval of historical data, the invention offers new opportunities for distributed computing.

*Creare, Inc., Hanover, New Hampshire.


Dryden Flight Research Center’s Flight Loads Laboratory (FLL) was constructed in 1964 for use in performing combined mechanical and thermal tests of structural components and complete flight vehicles. The FLL is also used to calibrate and evaluate flight-loads instrumentation under the conditions expected in flight. The required testing is performed by the FLL’s data-acquisition and control system (DACS).

*Woodside Summit Group, Edwards, California.


A boundary-layer rake of pitot tubes has been designed and built for installation on a flight-test fixture (FTF) on the NASA Dryden F-15B, which is a two-seat version of the F-15 high-performance, supersonic, all-weather fighter airplane. This boundary-layer rake will be used in flight-research projects in which there are requirements for detailed surveys of the turbulent boundary layer. A design feature unique to this rake is a curved rake body; this feature makes it possible to cluster the pitot tubes in the near-wall region more densely than they can be clustered in conventional rakes. Results of tests have shown that this rake exhibits good aerodynamic performance and that it is operationally rugged.

2000 Tech Briefs


Technological advances have driven the evolution of aircraft flight-control systems. In the dawn of 20th-century aviation, the Wright Brothers used cables and warping of wing surfaces to change the shapes of flight-control surfaces. As engineers designed aircraft capable of flying faster, higher, and farther, the forces needed for controlling the aircraft surpassed the physical abilities of pilots. Hydraulics were introduced to provide the pilot with the capability to manipulate the flight-control surfaces on the wings and tail of the aircraft. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) has been instrumental in effecting the continuing evolution of aviation technology by exploring ways of replacing hydraulics with “power by wire” actuators; an instance of this effort was reported in “Design-ing Electrically Powered Actuators for Aircraft” (DRC-9609), NASA Tech Briefs, Vol. 21, No. 10 (October 1997), page 84.
Dryden Flight Research Center has developed a computer program that performs signal management for analysis in real time (SMART). This program, called “SMART,” has been effectively used since 1991 in F-18, X-31, LASRE, and X-33 programs.


A research project now underway addresses the concept of utilizing stratospheric mountain waves to soar to high altitudes in sailplanes. Stratospheric mountain waves are mountain waves that propagate strongly, and with continuity, into the middle and upper stratosphere, and are not extinguished, trapped, or reflected at or near the tropopause. The historical experience of high-flying aircraft has been limited to the lower region of their domain, where large amplification leading to large vertical speeds and instability is uncommon. Amplification with increasing altitude, and the instability caused by this amplification, can lead to wave overturning, similar to waves breaking at the beach. Wave overturning originating from amplification has not been experienced by aircraft yet, as far as we know. The general impression of the stratosphere as an entirely quiet region is not, in general, justified.

*Norjen, Inc., Oxnard, California.


Two airborne spectrum analyzers were developed for acquiring dynamic data, characterized by frequencies up to 25 kHz, from a hypersonic-crossflow-transition experiment aboard the air-launched Pegasus® space booster rocket. Real-time transmission of time histories of the dynamic data via a pulse-code modulation (PCM) telemetry encoder would have required sample rates of at least 50,000 s⁻¹. The telemetry bandwidth necessary to support rates as high as this was not available; however, conversion of the data to the frequency domain aboard the rocket would make it possible to trade frequency resolution for a reduction in telemetry bandwidth. The two airborne spectrum analyzers implement this type of conversion. One spectrum analyzer is based on a swept-tuned receiver; the other is based on digital signal processing technology.

**NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has ruggedized and qualified an inexpensive commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) oxygen sensor that accurately and reliably aids assessment, in flight tests, of the hazards associated with propulsion systems supplemented by oxidizers. Future flight-test vehicles continue to rely on such energetic propellants as liquid and/or gaseous oxygen and hydrogen for purposes of demonstration because these propellants deliver high specific impulses.


2001 Tech Briefs


A wind-tunnel investigation was conducted to obtain some preliminary indications of the effectiveness of venting the boom for reducing adverse forces and moments. This study was conducted with two-dimensional tail-boom shapes in the 14-by-22-ft (4.3-by-6.7-m) subsonic wind tunnel at NASA Langley Research Center. The shape that was tested most extensively was representative of the tail boom of a UH-60 helicopter (see Figure 1) with the tail-rotor drive-shaft cover on. The aerodynamic forces, including the down load and side force, were measured at freestream dynamic pressures up to 30 psf (1.4 kPa), at full-scale Reynolds numbers, and at angles of incidence (wind azimuth angles) from –90° to +90° to simulate left and right cross winds. Calculations were performed, using the normal-force and side-force coefficients, to determine the trends of the aerodynamic forces on the boom of a full-scale UH-60 helicopter and to estimate the main-rotor and tail-rotor power needed to trim those forces in the presence and absence of venting.

*U.S. Army Aeromechanics Laboratory at Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia.


The NASA Dryden DC-8 Airborne Science Laboratory performs research around the globe, recently in support of the SAGE III Ozone Loss and Validation Experiment (SOLVE). This experiment operated in the North Atlantic airspace...
region, which is subject to reduced vertical separation minimum (RVSM) requirements. These requirements allow aircraft traffic to be separated vertically by a minimum of 1,000 ft (304.8 m) at altitudes between 29,000 and 41,000 ft (between 8.84 and 12.50 km) above mean sea level, in contradistinction to the usual vertical separation of 2,000 ft (0.61 km). RVSM non-group aircraft compliance requires a pressure-altitude accuracy within ±160 ft (±49 m). RVSM allows greater traffic density while maintaining safe aircraft separation.


Extensive redundancy is designed into aircraft flight-control systems to ensure a low probability of failure. During recent years, however, major failures of flight-control systems have occurred in several airplanes, leaving engine thrust as the flight-control mode of last resort. In some of these emergency situations, engine thrust was successfully modulated by the pilots to maintain flightpath or pitch angle, but in other situations, lateral control was also needed. In the majority of such cases, crashes resulted, and over 1,200 people died because of control-system failures.


A method to predict the onset of a limit cycle for an aeroelastic testbed has been developed. The prediction is based on wavelet processing of measurement data that have been recorded under various flight conditions. The method has been considered for only a small testbed; however, the concepts may lead to techniques that could assist in prediction of the aeroelastic behaviors of aircraft during flight testing.


The Propulsion group at Dryden Flight Research Center is performing analyses of the effectiveness of chemical-species sensors for detecting and assessing leakage. The group is also studying relationships between (1) rates at which high-energy species leak from the propellant-feed systems of advanced aircraft and spacecraft and (2) the rates of leakage of inert species substituted for the high-energy species in the same systems. Several commercial sensors and a prototype noncommercial sensor have been and continue to be subjected to tests of their ability to detect their respective chemical species accurately and quickly. Analysis of the data from these tests is expected to determine whether it is possible to develop instruments capable of detecting propellant leaks over a wide range of temperature and pressure. If suitable, the instruments can be employed in various flight experiments in which there are requirements for such leak-detection capability. Analysis of data from inert- and high-energy-propellant leak testing will help in scaling leakage from gaseous propellant feed systems without the need to use high-energy propellants during subsequent leak tests.


An active-control surface modal (ACSM) device has been developed as an improved means of alleviating buffet of an aircraft. The ACSM device is a “smart” actuator system that includes an array of antagonistic piezoelectric actuators installed within a rudder or other aircraft control surface. These actuators are used to deform the control surface in what amounts to controlled vibration modes, the frequencies and mode shapes being chosen to affect unsteady aerodynamic damping to suppress the dynamic effects of buffet.

*Appa Technology Initiatives
**Air Force Research Laboratory


Structural dynamics are often an important consideration when evaluating system characteristics. A concern related to structural dynamics is the analysis of flutter for a flight vehicle. The instability associated with flutter can be quite sensitive to the structural dynamics; therefore, analysis of robustness with respect to error, or uncertainty, is becoming increasingly important for the flight test community. In particular, uncertainty models are needed for μ-method analysis as described in “Characterizing Worst-Case Flutter Margins From Flight Data” (DRC-97-03), NASA Tech Briefs, Vol. 21, No. 4 (April 1997), page 62.

2002 Tech Briefs


Software and electronic hardware are being developed to provide cockpit guidance and camera control for an air-to-air schlieren photography system that is to be used to take high-resolution pictures of shock waves generated by a full-scale airplane (see Figure 1). For success in schlieren imaging, it
will be necessary to position two airplanes — an observing airplane and the one generating the shock waves — precisely along a line of sight to the Sun, which will be used for illumination. The shock-wave-generating airplane will fly at supersonic speed, while the observing airplane will have to fly at a much lower speed of 250 knots (129 m/s).


One method of measuring turbulent fluctuations of density and velocity across the compressible boundary layer of an aircraft surface in flight (which fluctuations give rise to Reynolds stresses) involves the use of a recently developed automated hot-wire anemometry system. Prior to the development of the automated hot-wire anemometry system, a method of measuring turbulent velocity fluctuations in flight had not been perfected and routinely used in NASA’s flight experiments, primarily because of the limitations of conventional anemometry systems. Conventional anemometry systems are characterized by difficulties in tuning, poor signal-to-noise ratios and low bandwidths at low overheat ratios, sensitivity to electromagnetic interference, and vulnerability to effects of cable capacitance. The automated hot-wire anemometry system is, more specifically, a constant-voltage anemometry (CVA) system that has been shown not to be subject to the aforementioned deficiencies of conventional anemometry systems. The CVA system was selected for flight testing on the FTF on the F-15B airplane.


A video camera has been integrated with a tracking pedestal (see figure) for tracking of aircraft and spacecraft. The camera is of a high-definition (1,280 × 720 pixels), progressive-scan, 60-frame-per-second digital type that conforms to NASA Standard 2818 (Digital Television Standards for NASA, a copy of which can be obtained via the Internet at http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/cio/standards/2818.pdf). The camera is mated to a 13.5-to-1,755-mm zoom lens, making it possible to track vehicles at distances up to 100 miles (160 km).


Normally, the damage that results in a total loss of the primary flight control of a transport airplane, including all the engines on one side, would be catastrophic. Dryden Flight Research Center has conceived of a method of responding to a total loss of hydraulic pressure and failure of engines on one side: An emergency controller would utilize the engines that are still working on the other side, along with transfers of fuel among tanks to effect lateral shift of the center of gravity (CG), in order to steer the airplane to an emergency landing.


A project is underway in the Flight Loads Laboratory (FLL) at Dryden Flight Research Center to reduce the uncertainties in heat-flux measurements. The impetus for this project is provided, in part, by the observation that uncertainties in heat-flux measurements are large — often 10 to 20 percent or more. Further impetus is provided by the fact that heat-flux calibration facilities being developed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) operate at heat fluxes well below the levels which can be achieved during high-speed flight. Thus, a heat-flux-gauge user interested in such high fluxes has only two options: (1) take the gauge manufacturer’s calibration on faith or (2) develop and understand his or her own calibration process.

*University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.


Some airfoil designs have been shown by theory and small-scale tests to be capable of passively maintaining laminar flow at supersonic speeds. More recently, flight tests have proven that these designs can maintain large runs of laminar flow at higher Reynolds numbers in harsh flight environments. The flight tests were conducted for the purposes of observing laminar flow at speeds up to mach 2.0 and determining the conditions under which laminar flow breaks down.

*Reno Aeronautical Corporation, Carson City, Nevada.


A relatively simple and inexpensive method of fabricating a temperature-compensation element for high-temperature strain gauges has been devised. This element, connected in the adjacent arm of a Wheatstone bridge, provides temperature compensation for an active strain gauge attached to the substrate. A method for accurately measuring structural static strains in harsh environments is an important requirement for future flight research of hypersonic vehicles.
and ground test articles. Sturdy, flight-worthy strain sensors must be developed for attachment to superalloys, new composite materials, and thermal-protection systems. With little deviation from standard Rokide flame-spray installation procedures, preliminary tests indicate viable data can be produced to operating temperatures of at least 1,700 °F (927 °C).


Flight data gathered by use of the F-18 System Research Aircraft (SRA) based at Dryden Flight Research Center have been used to estimate stability and control derivatives for a baseline F-18 airplane. The data were obtained in the high-dynamic-pressure range of the F-18 flight envelope in an experiment performed in support of a future F-18 program to be devoted to the concept of the active aeroelastic wing (AAW). The AAW technology is intended to integrate aerodynamics, active controls, and aeroelasticity in such a way as to maximize the performance of the airplane. More specifically, the goal of the AAW project will be to maximize the contribution of a reduced-stiffness F-18 wing to roll-rate performance.


In support of NASA’s Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program, flight tests of the Pathfinder solar-electric-powered, remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) were conducted at the Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kaua’i, Hawaii, from May to November 1997 and from June to August 1998. This airplane was designed to operate at low speeds and low Reynolds numbers for long duration at altitudes above 60,000 ft (18 km). Three successive altitude world records for propeller-driven aircraft were established during these tests: 67,400 ft (20.54 km) on June 9, 1997; 71,350 ft (21.75 km) on July 7, 1997; and 80,201 ft (24.45 km) on August 6, 1998.

*Analytical Services and Materials, Inc., Edwards, California. ** University of New Mexico, New Mexico.


A report presents a study of the use of wavelet-based mathematical models to quantify the responses of humans in control loops. The report begins with a review of the traditional representation of manual control responses by use of transfer functions derived from Fourier transforms, which, the report notes, are not adequate to represent the temporally varying human responses observed in practice. Some basic principles and equations of wavelet transforms are presented.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

2003 Tech Briefs


NASA Dryden Flight Research Center’s new Propulsion Flight Test Fixture (PFTF), designed in house, is an airborne engine-testing facility that enables engineers to gather flight data on small experimental engines. Without the PFTF, it would be necessary to obtain such data from traditional wind tunnels, ground test stands, or laboratory test rigs.

*AS&M, Edwards, California.


Force-measuring clamps have been invented to facilitate and simplify the task of measuring the forces or pressures applied to clamped parts. There is a critical need to measure clamping forces or pressures in some applications — for example, while bonding sensors to substrates or while clamping any sensitive or delicate parts. Many manufacturers of adhesives and sensors recommend clamping at specific pressures while bonding sensors or during adhesive bonding between parts in general.


In March of 1999, five pilots performed flight tests to evaluate the handling qualities of an F/A-18 research airplane equipped with a small-displacement center stick (ministick) controller that had been developed for the JAS 39 Gripen airplane (a fighter/attack/reconnaissance airplane used by the Swedish air force). For these tests, the ministick was installed in the aft cockpit (see figure) and production support flight control computers (PSFCCs) were used as interfaces between the controller hardware and the standard F/A-18 flight-control laws. The primary objective of the flight tests was to assess any changes in handling qualities of the F/A-18 airplane attributable to the mechanical characteristics of the ministick. The secondary objective was to demonstrate the capability of the PSFCCs to support flight-test experiments.

Hot-film sensors, consisting of a metallic film on an electrically nonconductive substrate, have been used to measure skin friction as far back as 1931. A hot film is maintained at an elevated temperature relative to the local flow by passing an electrical current through it. The power required to maintain the specified temperature depends on the rate at which heat is transferred to the flow. The heat-transfer rate correlates to the velocity gradient at the surface, and hence, with skin friction. The hot-film skin friction measurement method is most thoroughly developed for steady-state conditions, but additional issues arise under transient conditions.

*Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.
***UCLA, Los Angeles, California.


The measurement of local flow angle is critical in many fluid-dynamic applications, including the aerodynamic flight testing of new aircraft and flight systems. Flight researchers at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center have recently developed, flight-tested, and patented the force-based flow-angle probe (FLAP), a novel, force-based instrument for the measurement of local flow direction. Containing no moving parts, the FLAP may provide greater simplicity, improved accuracy, and increased measurement access, relative to conventional moving-vane-type flow-angle probes.


Aerothermoelasticity comprises those aspects of the dynamics of an aircraft that are caused by flexibility and heating during flight. The concept of aerothermoelasticity is particularly important for hypersonic vehicles that operate at extremely high dynamic pressures. The design requirements for such vehicles often introduce long and thin fuselages subject to elastic bending in low-frequency vibrational modes. Furthermore, surface heating can significantly change the stiffness characteristics of these modes. These aerothermoelastic effects must be considered in the synthesis and analysis of control systems.


Engineers at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center have received a patent on an emergency flight-control method implemented by a propulsion-controlled aircraft (PCA) system. Utilizing the pre-existing auto-throttle and engine-pressure-ratio trim controls of the airplane, the PCA system provides pitch and roll control for landing an airplane safely without using aerodynamic control surfaces that have ceased to function because of a primary-flight-control-system failure. The installation of the PCA does not entail any changes in pre-existing engine hardware or software.


The F-15 Advanced Controls Technology for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE) airplane (see figure) was the test bed for a flight test of an intelligent flight control system (IFCS). This IFCS utilizes a neural network to determine critical stability and control derivatives for a control law, the real-time gains of which are computed by an algorithm that solves the Riccati equation. These derivatives are also used to identify the parameters of a dynamic model of the airplane. The model is used in a model-following portion of the control law, in order to provide specific vehicle handling characteristics. The flight test of the IFCS marks the initiation of the Intelligent Flight Control System Advanced Concept Program (IFCS ACP), which is a collaboration between NASA and Boeing Phantom Works.

*Boeing Phantom Works, St. Louis, Missouri.
**Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.


The flight-test community routinely spends considerable time and money to determine a range of flight conditions, called a flight envelope, within which an aircraft is safe to fly. The cost of determining a flight envelope could be greatly reduced if there were a method of safely and accurately predicting the speed associated with the onset of an instability called flutter.

The Aerostructures Test Wing (ATW) was an apparatus used in a flight experiment during a program of research on aeroelastic instabilities. The ATW experiment was performed to study a specific instability known as flutter. Flutter is a destructive phenomenon caused by adverse coupling of structural dynamics and aerodynamics. The process of determining a flight envelope within which an aircraft will not experience flutter, known as flight flutter testing, is very dangerous and expensive because predictions of the instability are often unreliable.

*Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.

### 2004 Tech Briefs


NASA’s Strategic Plan for the Aerospace Technology Enterprise includes ambitious objectives focused on affordable air travel, reduced emissions, and expanded aviation-system capacity. NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, in cooperation with NASA Ames Research Center, the Boeing Company, and the University of California, Los Angeles, has embarked on an autonomous-formation-flight project that promises to make significant strides towards these goals.


In the summer of 2001, the Helios prototype solar-powered uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) [a lightweight, remotely piloted airplane] was deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), at Kauai, Hawaii, in an attempt to fly to altitudes above 100,000 ft (30.48 km). The goal of flying a UAV to such high altitudes has been designated a level-I milestone of the NASA Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program. In support of this goal, meteorologists from NASA Dryden Flight Research Center were sent to PMRF, as part of the flight crew, to provide current and forecast weather information to the pilots, mission directors, and planners. Information of this kind is needed to optimize flight conditions for peak aircraft performance and to enable avoidance of weather conditions that could adversely affect safety.

*AS&M, Inc., Edwards, California.

### 2005 Tech Briefs


A capability for real-time computational simulation of aeroheating has been developed in support of the Hyper-X program, which is directed toward demonstrating the feasibility of operating an air-breathing ramjet/scramjet engine at Mach 5, Mach 7, and Mach 10. The simulation software will serve as a valuable design tool for initial trajectory studies in which aerodynamic heating is expected to exert a major influence in the design of the Hyper-X airplane; this tool will aid in the selection of materials, sizing of structural skin thicknesses, and selection of components of a thermal-protection system (TPS) for structures that must be insulated against aeroheating.


A digital video camera system has been qualified for use in flight on the NASA supersonic Research Testbed aircraft. This system is capable of very-high-speed color digital imaging at flight speeds up to Mach 2. The components of this system have been ruggedized and shock-mounted in the aircraft to survive the severe pressure, temperature, and vibration of the flight environment. The system includes two synchronized camera systems installed in fuselage-mounted camera pods.


A state-of-the-art solar array is providing a unique opportunity to demonstrate the latest in high-efficiency solar cells available for terrestrial use at a demonstration site at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California.


A technique for real-time estimation of stability and control derivatives (derivatives of moment coefficients with respect to control-surface deflection angles) was used to support a flight demonstration of a concept of an indirect-adaptive
intelligent flight control system (IFCS). Traditionally, parameter identification, including estimation of stability and control derivatives, is done post-flight. However, for the indirect-adaptive IFCS concept, parameter identification is required during flight so that the system can modify control laws for a damaged aircraft.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia


A flight test on an F-15 airplane was performed to evaluate the utility of prescribed simultaneous independent surface excitations (PreSISE) for real-time estimation of flight-control parameters, including stability and control derivatives. The ability to extract these derivatives in nearly real time is needed to support flight demonstration of intelligent flight-control system (IFCS) concepts under development at NASA, in academia, and in industry.

*NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia
Appendix B. NASA Contractor Reports

The research described in the following NASA contractor reports was funded by NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

1964 Contractor Report


1965 Contractor Report


1966 Contractor Report


General purpose airborne simulator with capabilities for model controlled and response feedback types of variable stability operation.

*Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Buffalo, New York.


Evaluation of miniaturized magnetic double focusing mass spectrometer to measure gas concentrations in flight environment.

*Spacelabs, Inc., Van Nuys, California.


Expired air analyzers with time-of-flight and magnetic deflection mass spectrometers for spacecraft use.

*Geophysics Corp. of America, Bedford, Massachusetts.


Variable stability system development for General Purpose Airborne Simulator (GPAS).

*Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Buffalo, New York.

1967 Contractor Report


Phosphor development for cathode ray tubes to extend spectral emission without increasing decay rate.

*Panaura Corp., Chemical Medical Electronics, Pennsauken, New Jersey.


Design, fabrication, and feasibility testing of prototype airborne respiration analyzer for measuring respiration products and oxygen consumption.

*North American Aviation, Inc., Los Angeles, California.


Lateral directional handling qualities of piloted reentry vehicles utilizing fixed base and in flight evaluations.

*Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Buffalo, New York.


Flight path stabilization of light aircraft using fluid control system.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


Three axis fluidic automatic flight control system developed and flight tested.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


Relationship between atmospheric temperature gradients and clear air turbulence of lower atmosphere.


1968 Contractor Report


Ablative thermal protection system for X-15 aircraft operating at hypersonic speeds.

*Martin Co., Denver, Colorado.


*Martin Co., Denver, Colorado.

Operational process manual for ablative thermal protection system of X-15A-2 aircraft.

*Martin Co., Denver, Colorado.


Engineering equations of X-15 energy management system and mechanization of equations in SDS 930 and ALERT guidance programs.

*Bell Aerosystems Co., Buffalo, New York.


New methods for obtaining stability derivatives from flight data.

*Decision Science, Inc., San Diego, California.


High total temperature sensing probe using fluid oscillator concept for X-15 hypersonic aircraft.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


Computerized design of second and third order systems with parameter variations and time response constraints.

*University of Colorado, Department of Electrical Engineering, Boulder, Colorado.


Fourth order feedback system synthesis with large plant parameter variations.

*University of Colorado, Dep. of Electrical Engineering, Boulder, Colorado.

1969 Contractor Report


Instruction manual for accelerometer test system.


Aircraft stability and control data.

* Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


Optimal system with controlled sensitivity to parameter uncertainty.

* University of Colorado, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Boulder, Colorado.


Frequency response approach to adaptive control systems design by translating from time to frequency domain specifications.

* University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

1970 Contractor Report


XB-70-1 mass, structural, and aerodynamic data were updated to reflect as closely as possible the characteristics of the airplane at three specific flight conditions which were actually flown; a nominal Mach number of 0.90 at an altitude of 25,000 feet (two cases) and a nominal Mach number of 1.6 at an altitude of 40,000 feet (one case). In-flight response characteristics at a number of points on the vehicle were obtained by exciting a pair of shaker vanes on the nose of the airplane. Data were recorded with the basic stability augmentation system (SAS) operating both alone and together with the identical location of accelerometer and force (ILAF) structural mode control system. Detailed total
vehicle weight, mass characteristics, structural frequencies, generalized masses, all aerodynamic data used in the present analyses, and a description of the actual mode shapes are tabulated and presented.

*North American Aviation, Inc., Los Angeles, California.


Literature survey on clear air turbulence.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.


Improving feedback control design by using digital computer techniques.

*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.


XB-70 flight test data comparison with simulated predictions of inlet unstart and buzz.

*North American Rockwell Corp., Los Angeles, California.


Damping system for control of structural motion in flexible airframes.

*North American Rockwell Corp., Los Angeles, California.

1971 Contractor Report


Design method including effects of parameter uncertainties in design of linear control systems.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The problem of ameliorating the discomfort of passengers on a large air transport subject to flight disturbances is examined. The longitudinal dynamics of the aircraft, including effects of body flexing, are developed in terms of linear, constant coefficient differential equations in state variables. A cost functional, penalizing the rigid body displacements and flexure accelerations over the surface of the aircraft is formulated as a quadratic form. The resulting control problem, to minimize the cost subject to the state equation constraints, is of a class whose solutions are well known. The feedback gains for the optimal controller are calculated digitally, and the resulting autopilot is simulated on an analog computer and its performance evaluated.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


XB-70 aircraft for investigating and predicting mountain waves.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.


There is given a minimum-phase plant transfer function, with prescribed bounds on its parameter values. The plant is imbedded in a two-degree-of freedom feedback system, which is to be designed such that the system time response to a deterministic input lies within specified boundaries. Subject to the above, the design should be such as to minimize the effect of sensor noise at the input to the plant. This report presents a design procedure for this purpose, based on frequency response concepts. The time-domain tolerances are translated into equivalent frequency response tolerances. The latter lead to bounds on the loop transmission function in the form of continuous curves on the Nichols chart. The properties of the loop transmission function which satisfy these bounds with minimum effect of sensor noise, are derived.

*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

1972 Contractor Report


A literature search was conducted to assemble a catalog of devices and techniques which have possible application to boundary layer and wake measurements on flight vehicles. The indices used in the search were NACA, NASA STAR, IAA, USGRDR and Applied Science and Technology Index. The period covered was 1950 through 1970. The devices contained in the catalog were restricted to those that provided essentially direct measurement of velocities, pressures and shear stresses. Pertinent material was included in the catalog if it contained either an adequate description of a device and associated performance data or a presentation of applicable information on a particular measurement theory and/or technique. When available, illustrations showing the configuration of the device and test condition data were also included.

*Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi.


An algorithm for design via parameter optimization has been developed for linear-time-invariant control systems based on the model reference adaptive control concept. A cost functional is defined to evaluate the system response relative to nominal, which involves in general the error between the system and nominal response, its derivatives and the control signals. A program for the practical implementation of this algorithm has been developed, with the computational scheme for the evaluation of the performance index based on Lyapunov’s theorem for stability of linear invariant systems.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The results are presented of in-flight comparisons of a number of boundary-layer and wake measurement probes suitable for low-speed flight-test investigations. The tested boundary-layer probes included a traversing total-pressure probe and a hot-film probe mounted on an internally-mounted drive mechanism, a curved and a straight boundary-layer rake, and a traversing hot-film probe with an externally-mounted drive mechanism. The wake measuring devices included a traversing, self-aligning probe, a wake rake, and an integrating wake rate. The boundary-layer data are compared with a common reference velocity profile and comments given regarding the accuracy of the static-pressure and total-pressure measurements. Discussions on the various calibration presentations used with hot-wire and hot-film sensors and various aspects of improving the accuracy of hot-film sensor results are given in the appendix of this report.

*Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi.


The development of synthesis procedures for linear time-varying feedback systems is considered. It is assumed that the plant can be described by linear differential equations with time-varying coefficients; however, ignorance is associated with the plant in that only the range of the time-variations are known instead of exact functional relationships. As a result of this plant ignorance the use of time-varying compensation is ineffective so that only time-invariant compensation is employed. In addition, there is a noise source at the plant output which feeds noise through the feedback elements to the plant input. Because of this noise source the gain of the feedback elements must be as small as possible. No attempt is made to develop a stability criterion for time-varying systems in this work.

*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.


The potentials and capability for implementing a LAMS (load alleviation and mode suppression) system on the YF-12A for the purpose of flight research were evaluated. The nature of the research is to minimize the design risk in application of LAMS to future aircraft. The results of the study show that the YF-12A would be a suitable test bed for continuing development of LAMS technology. This was demonstrated by defining five candidate LAMS systems and analytically evaluating them with regard to performance and mechanization. Each of the five systems used a different combination of force producers. A small canard vane or a mass-reaction device mounted near the cockpit was considered as a possible LAMS force producer, together with the existing inboard and outboard elevons. It was concluded that a combination of canard vane and outboard elevons would provide the most effective system for the YF-12A.

*Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Burbank, California.


Available information on weight and inertia, aerodynamic derivatives, control characteristics, and stability augmentation.
systems is documented for 10 representative contemporary airplanes. Data sources are given for each airplane. Flight envelopes are presented and dimensional derivatives, transfer functions for control inputs, and several selected handling qualities parameters have been computed and are tabulated for 10 different flight conditions including the power approach configuration. The airplanes documented are the NT-33A, F-104A, F-4C, X-15, HL-10, JetStar, CV-880M, B-747, C-5A, and XB-70A.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

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**1973 Contractor Report**


The problem considered is the design of a feedback system containing a linear, time invariant, minimum phase plant, whose parameters are known only within given bounds, such that the time response of the system remains within specified limits. A quasi-optimal design, for given design constraints, is one which minimizes the effects of white system noise on the input to the plant. An investigation was conducted on the use of the non-linear device known as the Clegg integrator in the design of such a system. The describing function of the Clegg integrator has the same magnitude characteristic, apart from a scale factor, as the linear integrator, but has 52 deg more phase-lag, at all frequencies, than the linear integrator; thus, when used in a feedback system, it provides a larger stability margin than the linear integrator. This property allows the nonlinear feedback system to be designed so that the sensor noise is attenuated more than in the linear design.

*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.


An investigation to provide the analyses, data, and hardware required to experimentally validate the beaded panel concept and demonstrate its usefulness as a basis for design of a Hypersonic Research Airplane (HRA) wing is reported. Combinations of the beaded panel structure, heat shields, channel caps and corrugated webs for ribs and spars were analyzed for the wing of a specified HRA to operate at Mach 8 with a lifespan of 150 flights. Detailed analyses were conducted in accordance with established design criteria and included aerodynamic heating and load predictions, transient structural thermal calculations, extensive NASTRAN computer modeling, and structural optimization. Optimum beaded panel designs at 922 K (1200 °F) were performed to verify panel performance. Close agreement of predicted and actual critical loads permitted use of design procedures and equations for the beaded panel concept without modification.

*Martin Marietta Corp., Denver, Colorado.

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**1974 Contractor Report**


A multidisciplinary team approach to pilot error-related U.S. air carrier jet aircraft accident investigation records successfully reclaimed hidden human error information not shown in statistical studies. New analytic techniques were developed and applied to the data to discover and identify multiple elements of commonality and shared characteristics within this group of accidents. Three techniques of analysis were used: Critical element analysis, which demonstrated the importance of a subjective qualitative approach to raw accident data and surfaced information heretofore unavailable. Cluster analysis, which was an exploratory research tool that will lead to increased understanding and improved organization of facts, the discovery of new meaning in large data sets, and the generation of explanatory hypotheses. Pattern recognition, by which accidents can be categorized by pattern conformity after critical element identification by cluster analysis.

*Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Albuquerque, New Mexico.


*Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.


The problem of an airplane being upset by encountering the vortex wake of a large transport on takeoff or landing is currently receiving considerable attention. This report describes the technique and results of a study to assess the effectiveness of automatic control systems in alleviating vortex wake upsets. A six-degree-of-freedom nonlinear digital simulation was used for this purpose. The analysis included establishing the disturbance input due to penetrating a vortex wake from an arbitrary position and angle. Simulations were computed for both a general aviation airplane and a commercial jet transport. Dynamic responses were obtained for the penetrating aircraft with no augmentation, and with various command augmentation systems, as well as with human pilot control. The results of this preliminary study
indicate that attitude command augmentation systems can provide significant alleviation of vortex wake upsets; and can do it better than a human pilot.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


A flight test program to investigate the effects of atmospheric turbulence on passenger ride quality in large, wide-body commercial aircraft was conducted. Data were collected on a series of flight on a Boeing 747 aircraft. Atmospheric and aircraft performance data were obtained from special sensors, as well as conventional instruments and avionics systems normally available. Visual observations of meteorological conditions encountered were manually recorded during the flights.

*Continental Airlines, Inc., Los Angeles, California.

1975 Contractor Report


An approach for designing inputs to identify stability and control derivatives from flight test data is presented. This approach is based on finding inputs which provide the maximum possible accuracy of derivative estimates. Two techniques of input specification are implemented for this objective - a time domain technique and a frequency domain technique. The time domain technique gives the control input time history and can be used for any allowable duration of test maneuver, including those where data lengths can only be of short duration. The frequency domain technique specifies the input frequency spectrum, and is best applied for tests where extended data lengths, much longer than the time constants of the modes of interest, are possible. These techniques are used to design inputs to identify parameters in longitudinal and lateral linear models of conventional aircraft. The constraints of aircraft response limits, such as on structural loads, are realized indirectly through a total energy constraint on the input. Tests with simulated data and theoretical predictions show that the new approaches give input signals which can provide more accurate parameter estimates than can conventional inputs of the same total energy. Results obtained indicate that the approach has been brought to the point where it should be used on flight tests for further evaluation.

*Systems Control, Inc., Palo Alto, California.


This volume contains a delineation of fundamental and mechanization-specific flight control characteristics and problems gleaned from many sources and spanning a period of over two decades. It is organized to present and discuss first some fundamental, generic problems of closed-loop flight control systems involving numerator characteristics (quadratic dipoles, non-minimum phase roots, and intentionally introduced zeros). Next the principal elements of the largely mechanical primary flight control system are reviewed with particular emphasis on the influence of nonlinearities. The characteristics and problems of augmentation (damping, stability, and feel) system mechanizations are then dealt with. The particular idiosyncrasies of automatic control actuation and command augmentation schemes are stressed, because they constitute the major interfaces with the primary flight control system and an often highly variable vehicle response.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


A compendium of stability augmentation system and autopilot block diagrams is presented. Descriptive materials for 48 different types of aircraft systems are provided. A broad representation of the many mechanical approaches which have been used for aircraft control is developed.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


The effects of lightning on a Digital Fly-By-Wire (DFBW) aircraft control system were investigated. The aircraft was a NASA operated F-8 fitted with a modified Apollo guidance computer. Current pulses similar in waveshape to natural lightning, but lower in amplitude, were injected into the aircraft. Measurements were made of the voltages induced on the DFBW circuits, the total current induced on the bundles of wires, the magnetic field intensity inside the aircraft, and the current density on the skin of the aircraft. Voltage measurements were made in both the line-to-ground and line-to-line modes. Voltages measured at the non-destructive test level were then scaled upward to determine how much would be produced by actual lightning. A 200,000 ampere severe lightning flash would produce between 40 and 2000 volts in DFBW circuits. Some system components are expected to be
vulnerable to these voltages.
*General Electric Co., Pittsfield, Massachusetts.


An assessment of the frequency and severity of carburetor/induction icing in general-aviation accidents was performed. The available literature and accident data from the National Transportation Safety Board were collected. A computer analysis of the accident data was performed. Between 65 and 90 accidents each year involve carburetor/induction system icing as a probable cause/factor. Under conditions conducive to carburetor/induction icing, between 50 and 70 percent of engine malfunction/failure accidents (exclusive of those due to fuel exhaustion) are due to carburetor/induction system icing. Since the evidence of such icing may not remain long after an accident, it is probable that the frequency of occurrence of such accidents is underestimated; therefore, some extrapolation of the data was conducted. The problem of carburetor/induction system icing is particularly acute for pilots with less than 1000 hours of total flying time. The severity of such accidents is about the same as any accident resulting from a forced landing or precautionary landing. About 144 persons, on the average, are exposed to death and injury each year in accidents involving carburetor/induction icing as a probable cause/factor.
*Manned Systems Sciences, Inc., Northridge, California.


A critical review of past efforts in the design and testing of ride smoothing and gust alleviation systems is presented. Design trade offs involving sensor types, choice of feedback loops, human comfort, and aircraft handling-qualities criteria are discussed. Synthesis of a system designed to employ direct-lift and side-force producing surfaces is reported. Two STOL aircraft and an executive transport are considered. Theoretically predicted system performance is compared with hybrid simulation and flight test data. Pilot opinion rating, pilot workload, and passenger comfort rating data for the basic and augmented aircraft are included.
*University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.


The feasibility was studied of modifying a Jet Star airplane into a demonstrator of benefits to be achieved from incorporating active control concepts in the preliminary design of transport type aircraft. Substantial benefits are shown in terms of fuel economy and community noise by virtue of reduction in induced drag through use of a high aspect ratio wing which is made possible by a gust alleviation system. An intermediate configuration was defined which helps to isolate the benefits produced by active controls technology from those due to other configuration variables. Also, an alternate configuration which incorporated composite structures, but not active controls technology, was defined in order to compare the benefits of composite structures with those of active controls technology.
*Lockheed-Georgia Co., Marietta, Georgia.


A pilot rating scale is developed for subjective assessment of hazard resulting from wake vortex encounter upsets. The development of the rating scale is based on a survey of 48 pilots regarding the semantic properties of various phrases and a choice of formats for the rating scale. The rating scale can be used to define a hazard/nonhazard boundary as well as to determine a measure of the hazard.
*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


The feasibility of fitting a rotating oblique wing on an F-8 aircraft to produce a full scale manned prototype capable of operating in the transonic and supersonic speed range was investigated. The strength, aeroelasticity, and fatigue life of such a prototype are analyzed. Concepts are developed for a new wing, a pivot, a skewing mechanism, control systems that operate through the pivot, and a wing support assembly that attaches in the F-8 wing cavity. The modification of the two-place NTF-8A aircraft to the oblique wing configuration is discussed.
*LTV Aerospace Corp., Dallas, Texas.

Procedures for forecasting clear air turbulence in the stratosphere over the western United States from rawinsonde data are described and results presented. Approaches taken to relate meteorological parameters to regions of turbulence and nonturbulence encountered by the XB-70 during 46 flights at altitudes between 12-20 km include: empirical probabilities, discriminant function analysis, and mountainwave theory. Results from these techniques were combined into a procedure to forecast regions of clear air turbulence with an accuracy of 70–80 percent. A computer program was developed to provide an objective forecast directly from the rawinsonde sounding data.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

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**1976 Contractor Report**


Results are presented of the YF-12 Lockalloy Ventral Fin Program which was carried out by Lockhead Aircraft Corporation - Advanced Development Projects for the joint NASA/USAF YF-12 Project. The primary purpose of the program was to redesign and fabricate the ventral fin of the YF-12 research airplane (to reduce flutter) using Lockalloy, and alloy of beryllium and aluminum, as a major structural material. A secondary purpose, was to make a material characterization study (thermodynamic properties, corrosion; fatigue tests, mechanical properties) of Lockalloy to validate the design of the ventral fin and expand the existing data base on this material. All significant information pertinent to the design and fabrication of the ventral fin is covered. Emphasis throughout is given to Lockalloy fabrication and machining techniques and attendant personnel safety precautions. Costs are also examined. Photographs of tested alloy specimens are shown along with the test equipment used.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


Pilot performance was studied during simulated manual terrain following flight for ride quality criteria validation. An existing B-1 simulation program provided the data for these investigations. The B-1 simulation program included terrain following flights under varying controlled conditions of turbulence, terrain, mission length, and system dynamics. The flight simulator consisted of a moving base cockpit which reproduced motions due to turbulence and control inputs. The B-1 aircraft dynamics were programmed with six-degrees-of-freedom equations of motion with three symmetric and two antisymmetric structural degrees of freedom. The results provided preliminary validation of existing ride quality criteria and identified several ride quality/handling quality parameters which may be of value in future ride quality/criteria development.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


Aerodynamic drag tests were performed on a tractor trailer combination using the coast-down method on a smooth, nearly level runway. The tests included an investigation of drag reduction obtained with add on devices that are commercially available or under development. The tests covered tractor trailer speeds ranging from approximately 35 to 65 miles per hour and included fuel consumption measurements. The study shows the effects of the various add on devices on the aerodynamic drag, and for some devices on the fuel consumption. Results from a simulation of fuel consumption tests using a computer program are also included.


A wind tunnel investigation was conducted to determine the reduction in drag which could be obtained by making various configuration changes to a box-shaped ground vehicle. Tests were conducted at yaw (relative wind) angles of 0, 5, 10, 20, and 30 degrees and Reynolds numbers of 300,000 to 850,000. The power required to overcome the aerodynamic drag was reduced by a maximum of 73% for a head wind for the best configuration relative to the smooth bottom box-shape, or 75% relative to the rough bottom box-shape. The reduction for a 20 MPH wind at 30 deg to the vehicle path was, respectively, 77% and 79%.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
Flight data from an F-8 Corsair and a Cessna 172 was analyzed to demonstrate specific improvements in the LRC parameter extraction computer program. The Cramer-Rao bounds were shown to provide a satisfactory relative measure of goodness of parameter estimates. It was not used as an absolute measure due to an inherent uncertainty within a multiplicative factor, traced in turn to the uncertainty in the noise bandwidth in the statistical theory of parameter estimation. The measure was also derived on an entirely nonstatistical basis, yielding thereby also an interpretation of the significance of off-diagonal terms in the dispersion matrix. The distinction between coefficients as linear and non-linear was shown to be important in its implication to a recommended order of parameter iteration. Techniques of improving convergence generally, were developed, and tested on flight data. In particular, an easily implemented modification incorporating a gradient search was shown to improve initial estimates and thus remove a common cause for lack of convergence.

*University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

**1977 Contractor Report**


State variable techniques are utilized to generate the RMS vertical load factors for the B-52H and B-1 bombers at low level, mission critical, cruise conditions. A ride quality index is proposed to provide meaningful comparisons between different controls or conditions. Ride quality is shown to be relatively invariant under various popular control laws. Handling quality variations are shown to be major contributors to ride quality variations on both vehicles. Relaxed static stability is artificially implemented on the study vehicles to investigate its effects on ride quality. The B-52H ride quality is generally degraded when handling characteristics are automatically restored by a feedback control to the original values from relaxed stability conditions. The B-1 airplane shows little ride quality sensitivity to the same analysis due to the small rigid body contribution to load factors at the flight condition investigated.

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.


A flight evaluation of a Beech model 99 equipped with an attitude command control system incorporating separate surface stability augmentation (SSSA) was conducted to determine whether an attitude command control system could be implemented using separate surface controls, and to determine whether the handling and ride qualities of the aircraft were improved by the SSSA attitude command system. The results of the program revealed that SSSA is a viable approach to implementing attitude command and also that SSSA has the capability of performing less demanding augmentation tasks such as yaw damping, wing leveling, and pitch damping. The program also revealed that attitude command did improve the pilot rating and ride qualities of the airplane while flying an IFR mission in turbulence. Some disadvantages of the system included the necessity of holding aileron force in a banked turn and excessive stiffness in the pitch axis.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


Parameter optimization techniques for the design of linear automatic control systems that are applicable to both continuous and digital systems are described. The model performance index is used as the optimization criterion because of the physical insight that can be attached to it. The design emphasis is to start with the simplest system configuration that experience indicates would be practical. Design parameters are specified, and a digital computer program is used to select that set of parameter values which minimizes the performance index. The resulting design is examined, and complexity, through the use of more complex information processing or more feedback paths, is added only if performance fails to meet operational specifications. System performance specifications are assumed to be such that the desired step function time response of the system can be inferred.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The aerodynamic development of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology remotely piloted research vehicle (HiMAT/ RPRV) from the conceptual design to the final configuration is presented. The design integrates several advanced concepts
to achieve a high degree of transonic maneuverability, and was keyed to sustained maneuverability goals while other fighter typical performance characteristics were maintained. When tests of the baseline configuration indicated deficiencies in the technology integration and design techniques, the vehicle was reconfigured to satisfy the subcritical and supersonic requirements. Drag-due-to-lift levels only 5 percent higher than the optimum were obtained for the wind tunnel model at a lift coefficient of 1 for Mach numbers of up to 0.8. The transonic drag rise was progressively lowered with the application of nonlinear potential flow analyses coupled with experimental data.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


A program was conducted to compile and document some of the existing information about the conceptual design, development, and tests of the B-1 structural mode control system (SMCS) and its impact on ride quality. This report covers the following topics: (1) Rationale of selection of SMCS to meet ride quality criteria versus basic aircraft stiffening. (2) Key considerations in designing an SMCS, including vane geometry, rate and deflection requirements, power required, compensation network design, and fail-safe requirements. (3) Summary of key results of SMCS vane wind tunnel tests. (4) SMCS performance. (5) SMCS design details, including materials, bearings, and actuators. (6) Results of qualification testing of SMCS on the “Iron Bird” flight control simulator, and lab qualification testing of the actuators. (7) Impact of SMCS vanes on engine inlet characteristics from wind tunnel tests.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


Statistical analyses were performed to study the relationship between cold pressor test responses and certain medical attributes of a group of 81 pilots and a group of 466 executives. The important results of this study were as follows: There was a significant relationship between a subject’s cold pressor test response and his profession (that is, pilot or executive). The executives’ diastolic cold pressor test responses were significantly related to their medical conditions, and their families’ medical conditions. Significant relationships were observed between executives’ diastolic and systolic cold pressor test responses and their history of tranquilizer and cardiac drug use.

*System Development Corp., Edwards, California.


A study was made of aircrew performance in the high-performance YF-12 aircraft in the course of aerodynamic flight testing at the Dryden Flight Research Center. The study objectives were the development of system performance and objective crew performance sets, the investigation of objective, subjective, and physiological crew performance measures, the development of measurements for such applications as crew workload analysis and crew-station control-display evaluation, and the development of practical and feasible automatic and semiautomatic data processing techniques. Five data sources were considered: Physiological recordings, onboard pulse-code-modulation (PCM) and telemetry recordings, audio recordings, crew interviews, and ground-based flight observations and records. A prototype data processing system was developed, and the FORTRAN program listings are included. Complete data reduction was not within the scope of the study, but it was concluded that the measurement sets and data handling methods developed are viable and the this particular aircraft environment is a rich source of human performance data which should prove valuable in modeling human performance in complex, high performance aircraft systems.

*Manned Systems Sciences, Inc. Northridge, California.

1978 Contractor Report


Several techniques for obtaining linear constant-coefficient airplane models from specified handling-quality time histories are discussed. The pseudodata method solves the basic problem, yields specified eigenvalues, and accommodates state-variable transfer-function zero suppression. The algebraic equations to be solved are bilinear, at worst. The disadvantages are reduced generality and no assurance that the resulting model will be airplane like in detail. The method is fully illustrated for a fourth-order stability-axis small motion model with three lateral handling quality time histories specified. The FORTRAN program which obtains and verifies the model is included and fully documented.

*Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.


The free-wing/free-trimmer is a NASA-Conceived extension
of the free-wing concept intended to permit the use of high-lift flaps. Wing pitching moments are balanced by a smaller, external surface attached by a boom or equivalent structure. The external trimmer is, itself, a miniature free wing, and pitch control of the wing-trimmer assembly is effected through a trailing-edge control tab on the trimmer surface. The longitudinal behavior of representative small free-wing/free-trimmer aircraft was analyzed. Aft-mounted trimmer surfaces are found to be superior to forward trimmers, although the permissible trimmer moment arm is limited, in both cases, by adverse dynamic effects. Aft-trimmer configurations provide excellent gust alleviation and meet fundamental stick-fixed stability criteria while exceeding the lift capabilities of pure free-wing configurations.

* Battelle Columbus Laboratories, Columbus, Ohio.


The usefulness of a painted diamond on a runway as a visual aid to perform safe landings of aircraft was studied. Flight data on glideslope intercepts, flight path elevation angles, and touchdown distances were collected and analyzed. It is concluded that an appropriately painted diamond on a runway has the potential of providing glideslope information for the light weight class of general aviation aircraft. This conclusion holds irrespective of the differences in landing techniques used by the pilots.

* System Development Corp., Edwards, California.


As part of NASA’s continuing research into hypersonics an 85 square foot hypersonic wing test section of a proposed hypersonic research airplane was laboratory tested. The project reported on in this paper has carried the hypersonic wing test structure project one step further by testing a single beaded panel to failure. The primary interest was focused upon the buckling characteristics of the panel under pure compression with boundary conditions similar to those found in a wing mounted condition. Three primary phases of analysis are included in the report. These phases include: experimental testing of the beaded panel to failure; finite element structural analysis of the beaded panel with the computer program NASTRAN; a summary of the semiclassical buckling equations for the beaded panel under purely compressive loads. Comparisons between each of the analysis methods are also included.

* University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


A triplex digital flight control system was installed in a NASA F-8C airplane to provide fail operate, full authority control. The triplex digital computers and interface circuitry process the pilot commands and aircraft motion feedback parameters according to the selected control laws, and they output the surface commands as an analog signal to the servoelectronics for position control of the aircraft’s power actuators. The system and theory of operation of the computer by pass and servoelectronics are described and an automated ground test for each axis is included.


Peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model were studied to determine if the data can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle, and to provide a better understanding of the time variant total pressure distortion and the attendant effects of Reynolds number/scale and frequency content. The data base used to accomplish this goal covered a range from Mach 0.4 to 2.5 and an angle of attack range from –10 degrees to +12 degrees. Data are presented which show that: (1) increasing the Reynolds number increases total pressure recovery, decreases peak distortion, and decreases turbulence, (2) increasing the filter cutoff frequency increases both peak distortion and turbulence, and (3) the effect of engine presence on total pressure recovery, peak distortion, and turbulence is small but favorable.

* McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Time variant data quality analysis plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

* McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

86. * Stevens, C. H.; * Spong, E. D.; and * Hammock, M.
Power spectral density plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Autocorrelation function plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


The effect of filter cutoff frequency on turbulence plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Distortion analysis plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Cross correlation function plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Cross spectral density plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Stability audit plots were used to determine if peak distortion data taken from a subscale inlet model can be used to predict peak distortion levels for a full scale flight test vehicle.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


The propulsion flight control integration technology (PROFIT) program was designed to develop a flying testbed dedicated to controls research. The preliminary design, analysis, and feasibility studies conducted in support of the PROFIT program are reported. The PROFIT system was built around existing IPCS hardware. In order to achieve the desired system flexibility and capability, additional interfaces between the IPCS hardware and F-15 systems were required. The requirements for additions and modifications to the existing hardware were defined. Those interfaces involving the more significant changes were studied. The DCU memory expansion to 32K with flight qualified hardware was completed on a brassboard basis. The uplink interface breadboard and a brassboard of the central computer interface were also tested. Two preliminary designs and corresponding program plans are presented.


The Propulsion Flight Control Integration Technology (PROFIT) program is designed to develop a flying testbed dedicated to controls research. The control software for PROFIT is defined. Maximum flexibility, needed for long term use of the flight facility, is achieved through a modular
design. The Host program, processes inputs from the telemetry uplink, aircraft central computer, cockpit computer control and plant sensors to form an input data base for use by the control algorithms. The control algorithms, programmed as application modules, process the input data to generate an output data base. The Host program formats the data for output to the telemetry downlink, the cockpit computer control, and the control effectors. Two applications modules are defined - the bill of materials F-100 engine control and the bill of materials F-15 inlet control.


Force and moment data were obtained from a one-twentyfifth scale wind tunnel model of a cab-over-engine tractor trailer combination. The tests define the aerodynamic characteristics of the baseline (unmodified) vehicle and several modified configurations. The primary modifications consist of: (1) greatly increased forebody corner radii, (2) a smooth fairing over the cab-to-trailer gap, (3) a smoothed underbody, and (4) rear streamlining (boattailing) of the trailer. Tests were conducted for yaw angles from 0 deg to 30 deg. The reduction in drag, relative to the baseline, obtained by combining the modifications are compared for the zero yaw condition with full scale coast down drag results for similar configurations. The drag reductions obtained from the model and full scale tests are in good agreement.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


Water tunnel studies were performed to qualitatively define the flow field of the F-15 aircraft. Two lengthened forebodies, one with a modified cross-sectional shape, were tested in addition to the basic forebody. Particular emphasis was placed on defining vortex flows generated at high angles of attack. The flow visualization tests were conducted in the Northrop diagnostic water tunnel using a 1/48-scale model of the F-15. Flow visualization pictures were obtained over an angle-of-attack range to 55 deg and sideslip angles up to 10 deg. The basic aircraft configuration was investigated in detail to determine the vortex flow field development, vortex path, and vortex breakdown characteristics as a function of angle of attack and sideslip. Additional tests showed that the wing upper surface vortex flow fields were sensitive to variations in inlet mass flow ratio and inlet cowl deflection angle. Asymmetries in the vortex systems generated by each of the three forebodies were observed in the water tunnel at zero sideslip and high angles of attack.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


The Highly maneuverable aircraft technology (HiMAT) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) uses cross-ship comparison monitoring of the actuator RAM positions to detect a failure in the aileron, canard, and elevator control surface servosystems. Some possible sources of nuisance trips for this failure detection technique are analyzed. A FORTRAN model of the simplex servosystems and the failure detection technique were utilized to provide a convenient means of changing parameters and introducing system noise. The sensitivity of the technique to differences between servosystems and operating conditions was determined. The cross-ship comparison monitoring method presently appears to be marginal in its capability to detect an actual failure and to withstand nuisance trips.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.

1979 Contractor Report


The development of the DAST I (drones for aerodynamic and structural testing) remotely piloted research vehicle is described. The DAST I is a highly modified BQM-34E/F Firebee II Supersonic Aerial Target incorporating a swept supercritical wing designed to flutter within the vehicle’s flight envelope. The predicted flutter and rigid body characteristics are presented. A description of the analysis and design of an active flutter suppression control system (FSS) designed to increase the flutter boundary of the DAST wing (ARW-1) by a factor of 20% is given. The design and development of the digital remotely augmented primary flight control system (FSS) designed to detect a failure in the aileron, canard, and elevator control surfaces, and structural testing) remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) uses cross-ship comparison monitoring of the actuator RAM positions to detect a failure in the aileron, canard, and elevator control surface servosystems. Some possible sources of nuisance trips for this failure detection technique are analyzed. A FORTRAN model of the simplex servosystems and the failure detection technique were utilized to provide a convenient means of changing parameters and introducing system noise. The sensitivity of the technique to differences between servosystems and operating conditions was determined. The cross-ship comparison monitoring method presently appears to be marginal in its capability to detect an actual failure and to withstand nuisance trips.

*Northrop Corporate Labs., Hawthorne, California.

The free wing/free trimmer concept was analytically studied in order to: (1) compare the fore and aft trimmer configurations on the basis of equal lift capability, rather than equal area; (2) assess the influence of tip mounted aft trimmers, both free and fixed, on the lateral directional modes and turbulence responses; (3) examine the feasibility of using differential tip mounted trimmer deflection for lateral control; (4) determine the effects of independent fuselage attitude on the lateral directional behavior; and (5) estimate the influence of wing sweep on dynamic behavior and structural weight. Results indicate that the forward trimmer concept is feasible with the reduced size examined, but it remains inferior to the aft trimmer in every respect except structural weight. Differential motion of the aft trimmer is found to provide powerful lateral control; while the effect of fuselage deck angle is a reduction of the Dutch roll damping ratio for nose-down attitudes.

* Battelle Columbus Laboratories, Columbus, Ohio.


A beta distribution is specified by range parameters a, b, and two shape parameters alpha and beta 0. The computer program presented calculates any desired probability and/or fractile point for specified values of a, b, alpha, and beta. This program additionally computes gamma function values for integer and noninteger arguments.

* System Development Corp., Edwards, California.


The application of the time-lag products correlation/frequency analysis procedure to determine subcritical frequency and damping from structural response measurements made during flight flutter test of the B-1 prototype airplane is described. The analysis procedure, the test airplane, and flight test procedures are discussed. Summary frequency and damping results are presented for six transonic flight conditions. Illustrative results obtained by applying various options and variations of the analysis method are included for one flight condition.

* Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The YF-17 aircraft was evaluated as a candidate nonaxisymmetric nozzle flight demonstrator. Configuration design modifications, control system design, flight performance assessment, and program plan and cost we are summarized. Two aircraft configurations were studied. The first was modified as required to install only the augmented deflector exhaust nozzle (ADEN). The second one added a canard installation to take advantage of the full (up to 20 deg) nozzle vectoring capability. Results indicate that: (1) the program is feasible and can be accomplished at reasonable cost and low risk; (2) installation of ADEN increases the aircraft weight by 600 kg (1325 lb); (3) the control system can be modified to accomplish direct lift, pointing capability, variable static margin and deceleration modes of operation; (4) unvectored thrust-minus-drag is similar to the baseline YF-17; and (5) vectoring does not improve maneuvering performance. However, some potential benefits in direct lift, aircraft pointing, handling at low dynamic pressure and takeoff/landing ground roll are available. A 27 month program with 12 months of flight test is envisioned, with the cost estimated to be $15.9 million for the canard equipped aircraft and $13.2 million for the version without canard. The feasibility of adding a thrust reverser to the YF-17/ADEN was investigated.

* Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.

** General Electric Co., Hawthorne, California.


Pilot performance during a terrain following flight was studied for ride quality criteria validation. Data from manual and automatic terrain following operations conducted during low level penetrations were analyzed to determine the effect of ride qualities on crew performance. The conditions analyzed included varying levels of turbulence, terrain roughness, and mission duration with a ride smoothing system on and off. Limited validation of the B-1 ride quality criteria and some of the first order interactions between ride qualities and pilot/vehicle performance are highlighted. An earlier B-1 flight simulation program correlated well with the flight test results.

* Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.

The effectiveness of a dual mode adaptive landing gear system in reducing the dynamic response of an airplane during ground taxiing was studied. The dynamic taxi tests of the YF-12A research airplane are presented. A digital computer program which simulated the test conditions is discussed. The dual mode system as tested provides dynamic taxi response reductions of 25 percent at the cg and 30 to 45 percent at the cockpit.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


In order to improve aerodynamic performance, a twist criterion was used to design the canard and wing lifting surfaces of two graphite-epoxy research aircraft. To meet that twist criterion, the lifting surfaces were tailored using graphite-epoxy tape. The outer surface of the aircraft is essentially constructed of 95 percent graphite epoxy materials. The analytical tools and methodology used to design those lifting surfaces are described. One aircraft was subjected to an 8g ground test in order to verify structural integrity and to determine how well the desired twist was achieved. Test results are presented and the reductions of both flight and ground strain test gages and their associated stresses are discussed.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1980 Contractor Report


Analyses and flight tests of the B-1 structural mode control system (SMCS) are presented. Improvements in the total dynamic response of a flexible aircraft and the benefits to ride qualities, handling qualities, crew efficiency, and reduced dynamic loads on the primary structures, were investigated. The effectiveness and the performance of the SMCS, which uses small aerodynamic surfaces at the vehicle nose to provide damping to the structural modes, were evaluated.

*Rockwell International Corp., El Segundo, California.


Water tunnel studies were performed to qualitatively define the flow field of the highly maneuverable aircraft technology remotely piloted research vehicle (HiMAT RPRV). Particular emphasis was placed on defining the vortex flows generated at high angles of attack. The flow visualization tests were conducted in the Northrop water tunnel using a 15 scale model of the HiMAT RPRV. Flow visualization/photographs were obtained for angles of attack up to 40 deg and sideslip angles up to 5 deg. The HiMAT model was investigated in detail to determine the canard and wing vortex flow field development, vortex paths, and vortex breakdown characteristics as a function of angle of attack and sideslip. The presence of the canard caused the wing vortex to form further outboard and delayed the breakdown of the wing vortex to higher angles of attack. An increase in leading edge camber of the maneuver configuration delayed both the formation and the breakdown of the wing and canard vortices. Additional tests showed that the canard vortex was sensitive to variations in inlet mass flow ratio and canard flap deflection angle.

*Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.


The vortex flows generated at subsonic speed during the final portion of atmospheric reentry were defined using a 0.01 scale model of the orbiter in a diagnostic water tunnel. Flow visualization photographs were obtained over an angle-of-attack range to 40 deg and sideslip angles up to 10 deg. The vortex flow field development, vortex path, and vortex breakdown characteristics were determined as a function of angle-of-attack at zero sideslip. Vortex flows were found to develop on the highly swept glove, on the wing, and on the upper surface of the fuselage. No significant asymmetries were observed at zero sideslip in the water tunnel tests. The sensitivity of the upper surface vortex flow fields to variations in sideslip angle was also studied. The vortex formed on the glove remained very stable in position above the wing up through the 10 deg of sideslip tested. There was a change in the vortex lifts under sideslip due to effective change in leading-edge sweep angles. Asymmetric flow separation occurred on the upper surface of the fuselage at small sideslip angles. The influence of vortex flow fields in sideslip on the lateral/ directional characteristics of the orbiter is discussed.

*Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.

Baseline definitions for three major areas of the Integrated Research Aircraft Control Technology (INTERACT) program are provided.

*Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group, Government Products Div., West Palm Beach, Florida.


The criteria evaluated were: Calspan Neal-Smith; Onstott (Northrop Time Domain); McDonnell-Douglas Equivalent System Approach; R. H. Smith Criterion. Each criterion was applied to the same set of longitudinal approach and landing flying qualities data. A revised version of the Neal-Smith criterion which is applicable to the landing task was developed and tested against other landing flying qualities data. Results indicated that both the revised Neal-Smith criterion and the Equivalent System Approach are good discriminators of pitch landing flying qualities; Neal-Smith has particular merit as a design guide, while the Equivalent System Approach is well suited for development of appropriate military specification requirements applicable to highly augmented aircraft.

*Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo, New York.


Water tunnel studies were performed to define the changes that occur in vortex flow fields above the wing due to spanwise blowing over the inboard and outboard wing panels and over the trailing-edge flaps. Flow visualization photographs were obtained for angles of attack up to 30 deg and sideslip angles up to 10 deg. The sensitivity of the vortex flows to changes in flap deflection angle, nozzle position, and jet momentum coefficient was determined. Deflection of the leading edge flap delayed flow separation and the formation of the wing vortex to higher angles of attack. Spanwise blowing delayed the breakdown of the wing vortex to farther outboard and to higher angles of attack. Spanwise blowing over the trailing edge flap entrained flow downward, producing a lift increase over a wide range of angles of attack. The sweep angle of the windward wing was effectively reduced in sideslip. This decreased the stability of the wing vortex, and it burst farther inboard. Reduced wing sweep required a higher blowing rate to maintain a stable vortex. A vortex could be stabilized on the outboard wing panel when an outboard blowing nozzle was used. Blowing from both an inboard and an outboard nozzle was found to have a favorable interaction.

*Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.


Water tunnel studies were performed to qualitatively define the flow field of the F-14. Particular emphasis was placed on defining the vortex flows generated at high angles of attack. The flow visualization tests were conducted in the Northrop water tunnel using a 1/72 scale model of the F-14 with a wing leading-edge sweep of 20 deg. Flow visualization photographs were obtained for angles of attack up to 55 deg and sideslip angles up to 10 deg. The F-14 model was investigated to determine the vortex flow field development, vortex path, and vortex breakdown characteristics as a function of angle of attack and sideslip. Vortex flows were found to develop on the highly swept glove and on the upper surface of the forebody. At 10 deg of sideslip, the windward glove vortex shifted inboard and broke down farther forward than the leeward glove vortex. This asymmetric breakdown of the vortices in sideslip contributes to a reduction in the lateral stability above 20 deg angle of attack. The initial loss of directional stability is a consequence of the adverse sidewise from the windward vortex and the reduced dynamic pressure at the vertical tails.

*Northrop Corp., Hawthorne, California.


A computerized tool for the analysis of time independent cyclic plasticity structural response, life to crack initiation prediction, and crack growth rate prediction for metallic materials is described. Three analytical items are combined: the finite element method with its associated numerical techniques for idealization of the structural component, cyclic plasticity models for idealization of the material behavior, and damage accumulation criteria for the fatigue failure.

*National Research Council, Washington, D. C.


Several YF-12C airplane analog control systems were converted to a digital system. Included were the air data computer, autopilot, inlet control system, and autothrottle systems. This conversion was performed to allow assessment of digital technology applications to supersonic cruise aircraft. The digital system was composed of a digital computer and specialized interface unit. A large scale mathematical simulation of the airplane was used for integration testing and software checkout.
The current atmospheric conditions and visibility were modeled, and the effect of the power plant effluent was then added to determine its influence upon the prevailing visibility; the actual reduction in visibility being a function of meteorological conditions and observer-plume-target geometry. In the cases investigated, the perceptibility of a target was reduced by a minimum of 10 percent and a maximum of 100 percent. This significant visual impact would occur 40 days per year in the Edwards area with meteorological conditions such as to cause some visual impact 80 days per year.

*Systems Applications, Inc., San Rafael, California.

1981 Contractor Report


The terminal guidance system (TGS) is avionic equipment which gives guidance along a curved descending flight path to a landing. A Cessna 182 was used as the test aircraft and the TGS was installed and connected to the altimeter, DME, RMI, and gyro compass. Approaches were flown by three different pilots. When the aircraft arrives at the termination point, it is set up on final approach for a landing. The TGS provides guidance for curved descending approaches with glideslopes of 6 deg which required, for experienced pilots, workloads that are approximately the same as for an ILS. The glideslope is difficult to track within 1/2 n.m. of the VOR/DME station. The system permits, for experienced pilots, satisfactory approaches with a turn radius as low as 12 n.m. and a glideslope of 6 deg. Turn angles have little relation to pilot workload for curved approaches. Pilot experience is a factor for curved approaches. Pilots with low instrument time have difficulty flying steep approaches with small turn radius. Turbulence increases the pilot workload for curved approaches. The TGS does not correct to a given flight path over the ground nor does it adequately compensate for wind drift.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


A wind tunnel investigation was conducted to determine the influence of several physical variables on the aerodynamic drag of a trailer model. The physical variables included: a cab mounted wind deflector, boattail on trailer, flow vanes on trailer front, forced transition on trailer, and decreased gap between tractor and trailer. Tests were conducted at yaw angles (relative wind angles) of 0, 5, 10, 20, and 30 degrees and Reynolds numbers of 3.58 × 10 to the 5th power to the 5th power based upon the equivalent diameter of the vehicles. The wind deflector on top of the cab produced a calculated reduction in fuel consumption of about 5 percent of the aerodynamic portion of the fuel budget for a wind speed of 15.3 km/hr (9.5 mph) over a wind angle range of 0 deg to 180 deg and for a vehicle speed of 88.5 km/hr (55 mph). The boattail produced a calculated 7 percent to 8 percent reduction in fuel consumption under the same conditions. The decrease in gap reduced the calculated fuel consumption by about 5 percent of the aerodynamic portion of the fuel budget.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


An aeroacoustic test program to determine the cause of YF-12 inlet noise suppression was performed with a YF-12 aircraft at ground static conditions. Data obtained over a wide range of engine speeds and inlet configurations are reported. Acoustic measurements were made in the far field and aerodynamic and acoustic measurements were made inside the inlet. The J-58 test engine was removed from the aircraft and tested separately with a bellmouth inlet. The far field noise level was significantly lower for the YF-12 inlet than for the bellmouth inlet at engine speeds above 5500 rpm. There was no evidence that noise suppression was caused by flow choking. Multiple pure tones were reduced and the spectral peak near the blade passing frequency disappeared in the region of the spike support struts at engine speeds between 6000 and 6600 rpm.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


The development and initial flight testing of the DAST (drones for aerodynamic and structural testing) remotely piloted research vehicle, fitted with the first aeroelastic research wing ARW-I are presented. The ARW-I is a swept supercritical wing, designed to exhibit flutter within the vehicle’s flight envelope. An active flutter suppression system
(FSS) designed to increase the ARW-I flutter boundary speed by 20 percent is described. The development of the FSS was based on prediction techniques of structural and unsteady aerodynamic characteristics. A description of the supporting ground facilities and aircraft systems involved in the remotely piloted research vehicle (RPRV) flight test technique is given. The design, specification, and testing of the remotely augmented vehicle system are presented. A summary of the preflight and flight test procedures associated with the RPRV operation is given. An evaluation of the blue streak test flight and the first and second ARW-I test flights is presented.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


An explicit adaptive control algorithm based on maximum likelihood estimation of parameters was designed. To avoid iterative calculations, the algorithm uses parallel channels of Kalman filters operating at fixed locations in parameter space. This algorithm was implemented in NASA/DFRC’s Remotely Augmented Vehicle (RAV) facility. Real-time sensor outputs (rate gyro, accelerometer, surface position) are telemetered to a ground computer which sends new gain values to an on-board system. Ground test data and flight records were used to establish design values of noise statistics and to verify the ground-based adaptive software.

*Honeywell, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota.


Various geodetic and mapping algorithms are analyzed as they apply to radar tracking systems and tested in extended BASIC computer language for real time computer applications. Closed-form approaches to the solution of converting Earth centered coordinates to latitude, longitude, and altitude are compared with classical approximations. A simplified approach to atmospheric refractivity called gradient refraction is compared with conventional ray tracing processes. An extremely detailed set of documentation which provides the theory, derivations, and application of algorithms used in the programs is included. Validation methods are also presented for testing the accuracy of the algorithms.

*GMD Systems, Inc., Lancaster, California.


A wind tunnel investigation was conducted to determine the influence of several physical variables on the aerodynamic drag of a standard truck model. The physical variables included: a cab mounted air deflector; a boattail on the rear of the cargo compartment; flow-vanes on the front of the cargo compartment; and a forebody fairing over the cab. Tests were conducted at yaw angles (relative wind angle) of 0, 5, 10, 20, and 30 degrees and Reynolds numbers of $3.4 \times 100,000$ to $6.1 \times 100,000$ based upon the equivalent diameter of the vehicles. The forebody fairing and the flow-vane with the closed bottom were very effective in improving the flow over the forward part of the cargo compartment. The forebody fairing provided a calculated fuel saving of 5.6 liters per hour (1.5 gallons per hour) over the baseline configuration for a ground speed of 88.6 km/hr (55 mph) in national average winds.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


A study of one shuttle orbiter approach and landing conditions are summarized. Causes of observed PIO like flight deficiencies are identified and potential cures are examined. Closed loop pilot/vehicle analyses are described and path/attitude stability boundaries defined. The latter novel technique proved of great value in delineating and illustrating the basic causes of this multiloop pilot control problem. The analytical results are shown to be consistent with flight test and fixed base simulation. Conclusions are drawn relating to possible improvements of the shuttle orbiter/digital flight control system.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


A control system design approach for optimal stability augmentation, systems, using limited state feedback theory with the specific inclusion of the human pilot in the loop is presented. The methodology is especially suitable for application to flight vehicles exhibiting nonconventional dynamic characteristics and for which quantitative handling qualities specifications are not available. The design is based on a correlation between pilot ratings and objective function of the optimal control model of the human pilot. Simultaneous optimization for augmentation and pilot gains are required.

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

The influence of physical variables on the aerodynamic drag of a box-shaped vehicle model was studied. The physical variables included built-in rounded front corners, and two different designs of add-on flow vanes for the front of the box-shaped vehicle with 67 deg and 90 deg of arc. For a diesel-powered vehicle, only slightly larger than a family van, the built-in rounded front corners provide a calculated fuel saving of about 6.0 liters per hour of driving (1.6 gallons per hour) at 88.6 km per hour (55 mph) in national average winds, as compared to the baseline vehicle having all square corners. The corresponding savings for a baseline vehicle to which front-mounted flow vanes were added is competitive. For a gasoline-powered vehicle, the volumetric fuel savings would be larger by a factor of about 1.7. The fuel savings for a standard-sized motorhome would be greater for the diesel or gasoline-powered vehicles by from 30 to 35 percent because of the larger frontal area. Thus, projected fuel savings for a standard-sized motorhome powered by gasoline can approach 12.5 to 13.5 liters (3.3 to 3.6 gallons) for each hour driving at highway speeds.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

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The flight testing of an inlet static pressure probe and instrumented inlet case produced results consistent with sea-level and altitude stand testing. The F-15 flight test verified the basic relationship of total to static pressure ratio versus corrected airflow and automatic distortion downmatch with the engine pressure ratio control mode. Additionally, the backup control inlet case statics demonstrated sufficient accuracy for backup control fuel flow scheduling, and the station 6 manifolded production probe was in agreement with the flight test station 6 total pressure probes.

*Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group, West Palm Beach, Florida.

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The F-8 Digital Fly-by-Wire (DFBW) flight test program intended to provide the technology for advanced control systems, giving aircraft enhanced performance and operational capability is addressed. A detailed analysis of the experimental system was performed to estimate the probabilities of two significant safety critical events: (1) loss of primary flight control function, causing reversion to the analog bypass system; and (2) loss of the aircraft due to failure of the electronic flight control system. The analysis covers appraisal of risks due to random equipment failure, generic faults in design of the system or its software, and induced failure due to external events. A unique diagrammatic technique was developed which details the combinatorial reliability equations for the entire system, promotes understanding of system failure characteristics, and identifies the most likely failure modes. The technique provides a systematic method of applying basic probability equations and is augmented by a computer program written in a modular fashion that duplicates the structure of these equations.

*Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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A simplified gross thrust computing technique for the HiMAT J85-GE-21 engine using altitude facility data was evaluated. The results over the full engine envelope for both the standard engine mode and the open nozzle engine mode are presented. Results using afterburner casing static pressure taps are compared to those using liner static pressure taps. It is found that the technique is very accurate for both the standard and open nozzle engine modes. The difference in the algorithm accuracy for a calibration based on data from one test condition was small compared to a calibration based on data from all of the test conditions.

*Computing Devices Co., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.


The structural integrity and potential cost savings of superplastic forming/diffusion bonding (SPF/DB) titanium structure for future Supersonic Cruise Research (SCR) and military aircraft primary structure applications was demonstrated. Using the horizontal stabilizer of the T-38 aircraft as a baseline, the structure was redesigned to the existing criteria and loads, using SPF/DB titanium technology. The general concept of using a full-depth sandwich structure which is attached to a steel spindle, was retained. Trade studies demonstrated that the optimum design should employ double-truss, sinewave core in the deepest section of the surface, making a transition to single-truss core in the thinner areas at the leading and trailing edges and at the tip. At the extreme thin edges of the surface, the single-truss core was changed to dot core to provide for gas passages during the SPF/DB process. The selected SPF/DB horizontal stabilizer design consisted of a one-piece SPF/DB sinewave truss core panel, a trunnion fitting, and reinforcing straps. The fitting and the straps were mechanically fastened to the SPF/DB panel.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.

1982 Contractor Report


The handling qualities of large airplanes in the approach and landing flight phase were studied. The primary variables were relative pilot position with respect to center of rotation, command path time delays and phase shifts, augmentation schemes and levels of augmentation. It is indicated that the approach and landing task with large airplanes is a low bandwidth task. Low equivalent short period frequencies and relatively long time delays are tolerated only when the pilot is located at considerable distance forward of the center of rotation. The control problem experienced by the pilots, when seated behind the center of rotation, tended to occur at low altitude when they were using visual cues of rate of sink and altitude. A direct lift controller improved final flight path control of the shuttle like configurations.

*Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo, New York.

133. *Bailey, R. E.; and *Smith, R. E.: An In-Flight Investigation of Pilot-Induced Oscillation Suppression Filters During the Fighter Approach and Landing Task. NASA CR-163116, REPT-6645-F-9, March 1982, 83N13110, #.

An investigation of pilot-induced oscillation suppression (PIOS) filters was performed using the USAF/Flight Dynamics Laboratory variable stability NT-33 aircraft, modified and operated by Calspan. This program examined the effects of PIOS filtering on the longitudinal flying qualities of fighter aircraft during the visual approach and landing task. Forty evaluations were flown to test the effects of different PIOS filters. Although detailed analyses were not undertaken, the results indicate that PIOS filtering can improve the flying qualities of an otherwise unacceptable aircraft configuration (Level 3 flying qualities). However, the ability of the filters to suppress pilot-induced oscillations appears to be dependent upon the aircraft configuration characteristics. Further, the data show that the filters can adversely affect landing flying qualities if improperly designed. The data provide an excellent foundation from which detail analyses can be performed.

*Calspan Corp., Buffalo, New York.


The suitability of existing and proposed flying quality and flight control system criteria for application to the space shuttle orbiter during atmospheric flight phases was assessed. An orbiter experiment for flying qualities and flight control system design criteria is discussed. Orbiter longitudinal and lateral-directional flying characteristics, flight control system lag and time delay considerations, and flight control manipulator characteristics are included. Data obtained from conventional aircraft may be inappropriate for application to the shuttle orbiter.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

A review was conducted of B-1 aircraft no. 2 (A/C-2) internal loads models to determine the minimum model complexity necessary to fulfill all of the airloads research study objectives. Typical model sizings were tabulated at selected vehicle locations, and scale layouts were prepared of the NASTRAN structural analysis model.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The NASTRAN model plans for the horizontal stabilizer, vertical stabilizer, and nacelle structure were expanded in detail to generate the NASTRAN model for each of these substructures. The grid point coordinates were coded for each element. The material properties and sizing data for each element were specified. Each substructure model was thoroughly checked out for continuity, connectivity, and constraints. These substructures were processed for structural influence coefficients (SIC) point loadings and the deflections were compared to those computed for the aircraft detail models. Finally, a demonstration and validation processing of these substructures was accomplished using the NASTRAN finite element program installed at NASA/DFRC facility. Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The NASTRAN model plan for the wing structure was expanded in detail to generate the NASTRAN model for this substructure. The grid point coordinates were coded for each element. The material properties and sizing data for each element were specified. The wing substructure model was thoroughly checked out for continuity, connectivity, and constraints. This substructure was processed for structural influence coefficients (SIC) point loadings and the deflections were compared to those computed for the aircraft detail model. Finally, a demonstration and validation processing of this substructure was accomplished using the NASTRAN finite element program. The bulk data deck, stiffness matrices, and SIC output data were delivered.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The NASTRAN model plan for the fuselage structure was expanded in detail to generate the NASTRAN model for this substructure. The grid point coordinates were coded for each element. The material properties and sizing data for each element were specified. The fuselage substructure model was thoroughly checked out for continuity, connectivity, and constraints. This substructure was processed for structural influence coefficients (SIC) point loadings and the deflections were compared to those computed for the aircraft detail model. Finally, a demonstration and validation processing of this substructure was accomplished using the NASTRAN finite element program. The bulk data deck, stiffness matrices, and SIC output data were delivered.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The NASTRAN model plan for the fairing structure was expanded in detail to generate the NASTRAN model of this substructure. The grid point coordinates, element definitions, material properties, and sizing data for each element were specified. The fairing model was thoroughly checked out for continuity, connectivity, and constraints. The substructure was processed for structural influence coefficients (SIC) point loadings to determine the deflection characteristics of the fairing model. Finally, a demonstration and validation processing of this substructure was accomplished using the NASTRAN finite element program. The bulk data deck, stiffness matrices, and SIC output data were delivered.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


A fly by wire flight control system architecture designed for high reliability includes spare sensor and computer elements to permit safe dispatch with failed elements, thereby reducing unscheduled maintenance. A methodology capable of demonstrating that the architecture does achieve the predicted performance characteristics consists of a hierarchy of activities ranging from analytical calculations of system reliability and formal methods of software verification to iron bird testing followed by flight evaluation. Interfacing this architecture to the Lockheed S-3A aircraft for flight test is discussed. This testbed vehicle can be expanded to support flight experiments in advanced aerodynamics, electromechanical actuators,
The effect of pressure on the infrared spectra of H2O and D2O ice VII was studied at room temperature and pressures between 2 and 15 GPa with a Fourier transform infrared spectrometer and a diamond anvil high pressure cell. Two librational modes, one bending mode, and various overtone bands are well resolved. The stretching modes, nu sub 1 and nu sub 3 are poorly resolved due to overlap with diamond window absorption. Differences between the spectra of H2O and D2O are discussed.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.

Other references are also included, covering topics such as flight control systems, simulation models, and other flight-related studies.
of the simulator are quite representative of the real aircraft. These comments are validated herein by comparing data from both static and dynamic flight test maneuvers to the same obtained using the nonlinear program.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


Dryden Flight Research Center has the responsibility for flight testing of advanced remotely piloted research vehicles (RPRV) to explore highly maneuverable aircraft technology, and to test advanced structural concepts, and related aeronautical technologies which can yield important research results with significant cost benefits. The primary purpose is to provide the preliminary design of an upgraded automatic approach and landing control system and flight director display to improve landing performance and reduce pilot workload. A secondary purpose is to determine the feasibility of an onboard autonomous navigation, orbit, and landing capability for safe vehicle recovery in the event of loss of telemetry uplink communication with the vehicles. The current RPRV approach and landing method, the proposed automatic and manual approach and autoland system, and an autonomous navigation, orbit, and landing system concept which is based on existing operational technology are described.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


Written in standard FORTRAN, NAS is capable of identifying linear as well as nonlinear relations between input and output parameters; the only restriction is that the input/output relation be linear with respect to the unknown coefficients of the estimation equations. The output of the identification algorithm can be specified to be in either the time domain (i.e., the estimation equation coefficients) or in the frequency domain (i.e., a frequency response of the estimation equation). The frame length (“window”) over which the identification procedure is to take place can be specified to be any portion of the input time history, thereby allowing the freedom to start and stop the identification procedure within a time history. There also is an option which allows a sliding window, which gives a moving average over the time history. The NAS software also includes the ability to identify several assumed solutions simultaneously for the same or different input data.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Mountain View, California.


Methods for nonintrusive identification of pilot control strategy and task execution dynamics are presented along with examples based on flight data. The specific analysis technique is Nonintrusive Parameter Identification Procedure (NIPIP), which is described in a companion user’s guide (NASA CR-170398). Quantification of pilot control strategy and task execution dynamics is discussed in general terms followed by a more detailed description of how NIPIP can be applied. The examples are based on flight data obtained from the NASA F-8 digital fly by wire airplane. These examples involve various piloting tasks and control axes as well as a demonstration of how the dynamics of the aircraft itself are identified using NIPIP. Application of NIPIP to the ATF/F-16 flight test program is discussed. Recommendations are made for flight test applications in general and refinement of NIPIP to include interactive computer graphics.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Mountain View, California.


The details are presented of an onboard digital computer algorithm designed to reliably detect and isolate the first failure in a duplex set of flight control sensors aboard the NASA F-8 digital fly-by-wire aircraft. The algorithm’s successful flight test program is summarized, and specific examples are presented of algorithm behavior in response to software-induced signal faults, both with and without aircraft parameter modeling errors.

*Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


A pitch rate control system designed for use in the shuttle during approach and landing was analyzed and compared with a revised control system developed by NASA and the existing OFT control system. The design concept control system uses filtered pitch rate feedback with proportional plus integral paths in the forward loop. Control system parameters were designed as a function of flight configuration. Analysis included time and frequency domain techniques. Results indicate that both the Calspan and NASA systems significantly improve the flying qualities of the shuttle over the OFT. Better attitude and flight path control and less time delay are
the primary reasons. The Calspan system is preferred because of reduced time delay and simpler mechanism. Further testing of the improved flight control systems in an in-flight simulator is recommended.

*Calspan Advanced Technology Center, Buffalo, New York.


Wind tunnel tests were conducted on a one-tenth scale model of a conventional tractor trailer livestock hauler to determine the air flow through the trailer and the drag of the vehicle. These tests were conducted with the trailer empty and with a full load of simulated cattle. Additionally, the drag was determined for six configurations, of which details for three are documented herein. These are: (1) conventional livestock trailer empty, (2) conventional trailer with smooth sides (i.e., without ventilation openings), and (3) a stream line tractor with modified livestock trailer (cab streamlining and gap fairing). The internal flow of the streamlined modification with simulated cattle was determined with two different ducting systems: a ram air inlet over the cab and NACA submerged inlets between the cab and trailer. The air flow within the conventional trailer was random and variable. The streamline vehicle with ram air inlet provided a nearly uniform air flow which could be controlled. The streamline vehicle with NACA submerged inlets provided better flow conditions than the conventional livestock trailer but not as uniform or controllable as the ram inlet configuration.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


High voltage safety, fuels safety, simulation, and response/measurement techniques are discussed. Travelling wave transit times, return circuit conductor configurations, LC ladder network generators, and repetitive pulse techniques are also discussed. Differential conductive coaxial cable, analog fiber optic link, repetitive pulse sampled data instrumentation system, flash A/D optic link system, and an FM telemetry system are considered.


The Variable Acuity Remote Viewing System (VARVS), originally developed under contract to the Navy (ONR) as a laboratory brassboard, was modified for flight demonstration. The VARVS system was originally conceived as a technique which could circumvent the acuity/field of view/bandwidth tradeoffs that exists in remote viewing to provide a nearly eye limited display in both field of view (160 deg) and resolution (2 min arc) while utilizing conventional TV sensing, transmission, and display equipment. The modifications for flight demonstration consisted of modifying the sensor so it could be installed and flow in a Piper PA20 aircraft, equipped for remote control and modifying the display equipment so it could be integrated with the NASA Research RPB (RPRV) remote control cockpit.

*McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, Missouri.


A wind tunnel evaluation of the drag and ventilation characteristics of a conventional (unmodified) and five modified subscale model livestock haulers at 0 deg yaw angle has been made. The unmodified livestock hauler has a relatively high drag coefficient, and a low velocity recirculation region exists in the forward portion of the hauler. The use of a streamlined forebody and enclosed gap reduced the drag coefficient of one model by 42% and improved the rate at which contaminants can be flushed from the cargo compartment by a factor of 2.5. From the limited data obtained, any increase in the fraction of open area of the trailer sides was found to improve the trailer ventilation. The use of a ram air inlet can improve the ventilation within the hauler and remove the low velocity recirculation region at the expense of a modest increase in the truck’s drag coefficient. A mathematical model for vehicles with ram air or NACA submerged inlets was developed and appears to adequately predict the ventilation characteristics of livestock haulers.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


A program of flying qualities experiments as part of the Orbiter Experiments Program (OEX) is defined. Phase 1, published as CR-170391, reviewed flying qualities criteria and shuttle data. The review of applicable experimental and shuttle data to further define the OEX plan is continued. An unconventional feature of this approach is the use of pilot strategy model identification to relate flight and simulator results. Instrumentation, software, and data analysis techniques for pilot model measurements are examined. The relationship between shuttle characteristics and superaugmented aircraft is established. STS flights 1 through 4 are reviewed from
the point of view of flying qualities. A preliminary plan for a coordinated program of inflight and simulator research is presented.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


A practical structural mode control system (SMCS) that could be turned on at takeoff and be left on for the entire flight was demonstrated. The SMCS appears to be more effective in damping the key fuselage bending modes at supersonic speeds than at the design point of Mach 0.85 (for fixed gains). The SMCS has an adverse effect on high frequency symmetric modes; however, this adverse effect did not make the system unstable and does not appear to affect ride quality performance. The vertical ride quality analyses indicate that the basic configuration without active systems is satisfactory for long term exposure. If clear air turbulence were to be encountered, indications are that the SMCS would be very effective in reducing the adverse accelerations. On the other hand, lateral ride quality analyses indicate that the aircraft with the SMCS on does not quite meet the long term exposure criteria, but would be satisfactory for short term exposure at altitude. Again, the lateral SMCS was shown to be very effective in reducing peak lateral accelerations.

*NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California.

1984 Contractor Report


A multivariable control augmentation synthesis method is presented that is intended to enable the designer to directly optimize pilot opinion rating of the augmented system. The approach involves the simultaneous solution for the augmentation and predicted pilot’s compensation via optimal control techniques. The methodology is applied to the control law synthesis for a vehicle similar to the AFTI F-16 control-configured aircraft. The resulting dynamics, expressed in terms of eigenstructure and time/frequency responses, are presented with analytical predictions of closed loop tracking performance, pilot compensation, and other predictors of pilot acceptance.

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.


The development of a thermal and structural model for a hypersonic wing test structure using the NASTRAN finite-element method as its primary analytical tool is described. A detailed analysis was defined to obtain the temperature and thermal stress distribution in the whole wing as well as the five upper and lower root panels. During the development of the models, it was found that the thermal application of NASTRAN and the VIEW program, used for the generation of the radiation exchange coefficients, were deficient. Although for most of these deficiencies solutions could be found, the existence of one particular deficiency in the current thermal model prevented the final computation of the temperature distributions. A SPAR analysis of a single bay of the wing, using data converted from the original NASTRAN model, indicates that local temperature-time distributions can be obtained with good agreement with the test data. The conversion of the NASTRAN thermal model into a SPAR model is recommended to meet the immediate goal of obtaining an accurate thermal stress distribution.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


The development of B-1 aircraft rigid wind tunnel data for use in subsequent tasks of the Airloads Research Study is described. Data from the Rockwell International external structural loads data bank were used to generate coefficients of rigid airload shear, bending moment, and torsion at specific component reference stations or both symmetric and asymmetric loadings. Component stations include the movable wing, horizontal and vertical stabilizers, and forward and aft fuselages. The coefficient data cover a Mach number range from 0.7 to 2.2 for a wing sweep position of 67.5 degree.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The acquisition of B-1 aircraft flight loads data for use in subsequent tasks of the Airloads Research Study is described. The basic intent is to utilize data acquired during B-1 aircraft tests, analyze these data beyond the scope of Air Force requirements, and prepare research reports that will add to the technology base for future large flexible aircraft. Flight
test data obtained during the airloads survey program included condition-describing parameters, surface pressures, strain gage outputs, and loads derived from pressure and strain gauges. Descriptions of the instrumentation, data processing, and flight load survey program are included. Data from windup-turn and steady yaw maneuvers cover a Mach number range from 0.7 to 2.0 for a wing sweep position of 67.5 deg.

*Rockwell International Corp., Los Angeles, California.


The crucial flight data measurement and reduction techniques required for the experimental approach are explored. An overview of available flight data is presented, identification of the effective augmented vehicle and pilot models determined, a summary of flight data problems compiled, and further recommendations for the Orbiter Flying Qualities (OFQ) experiment provided.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


The important algorithm issues necessary to achieve a real time flutter monitoring system; namely, the guidelines for choosing appropriate model forms, reduction of the parameter convergence transient, handling multiple modes, the effect of over parameterization, and estimate accuracy predictions, both online and for experiment design are addressed. An approach for efficiently computing continuous-time flutter parameter Cramer-Rao estimate error bounds were developed. This enables a convincing comparison of theoretical and simulation results, as well as offline studies in preparation for a flight test. Theoretical predictions, simulation and flight test results from the NASA Drones for Aerodynamic and Structural Test (DAST) Program are compared.


The development, implementation and flight test evaluation of a performance modeling technique which required a limited amount of quasisteady state flight test data to predict the overall one g performance characteristics of an aircraft. The concept definition phase of the program include development of: (1) the relationship for defining aerodynamic characteristics from quasi steady state maneuvers; (2) a simplified in flight thrust and airflow prediction technique; (3) a flight test maneuvering sequence which efficiently provided definition of baseline aerodynamic and engine characteristics including power effects on lift and drag; and (4) the algorithms necessary for cruise and flight trajectory predictions. Implementation of the concept include design of the overall flight test data flow, definition of instrumentation system and ground test requirements, development and verification of all applicable software and consolidation of the overall requirements in a flight test plan.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


The approach of Neal and Smith was merged with the advances in pilot modeling by means of optimal control techniques. While confirming the findings of Neal and Smith, a methodology that explicitly includes the pilot’s objective in attitude tracking was developed. More importantly, the method yields the required system bandwidth along with a better pilot model directly applicable to closed-loop analysis of systems in any order.

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.


Computations of drag polars for a low-speed Wortmann sailplane airfoil are compared to both wind tunnel and flight results. Excellent correlation is shown to exist between computations and flight results except when separated flow regimes were encountered. Wind tunnel transition locations are shown to agree with computed predictions. Smoothness of the input coordinates to the PROFILE airfoil analysis computer program was found to be essential to obtain accurate comparisons of drag polars or transition location to either the flight or wind tunnel results.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


Aircraft-alone dynamics and superaugmented control system
fundamental regulatory properties including stability and regulatory responses of the basic closed-loop systems; fundamental high and low frequency margins and governing factors; and sensitivity to aircraft and controller parameters are addressed. Alternative FCS mechanizations, and mechanization side effects are also discussed. An overview of flying qualities considerations encompasses general pilot operations as a controller in unattended, intermittent and trim, and full-attention regulatory or command control; effective vehicle primary and secondary response properties to pilot inputs and disturbances; pilot control architectural possibilities; and comparison of superaugmented and conventional aircraft path responses for different forms of pilot control. Results of a simple experimental investigation into pilot dynamic behavior in attitude control of superaugmented aircraft configurations with high frequency time laps and time delays are presented.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

1985 Contractor Report


An approach and a technique for effectively obtaining reduced order mathematical models of a given large order model for the purposes of synthesis, analysis and implementation of control systems is developed. This approach involves the use of an error criterion which is the H-infinity norm of a frequency weighted error between the full and reduced order models. The weightings are chosen to take into account the purpose for which the reduced order model is intended. A previously unknown error bound in the H-infinity norm for reduced order models obtained from internally balanced realizations was obtained. This motivated further development of the balancing technique to include the frequency dependent weightings. This resulted in the frequency weighted balanced realization and a new model reduction technique. Two approaches to designing reduced order controllers were developed. The first involves reducing the order of a high order controller with an appropriate weighting. The second involves linear quadratic Gaussian synthesis based on a reduced order model obtained with an appropriate weighting.

*Stanford University, Stanford, California.


A study is performed under NASA contract to evaluate data from an AN/FPS-16 radar installed for support of flight programs at Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. The purpose of this study is to provide information necessary for improving post-flight data reduction and knowledge of accuracy of derived radar quantities. Tracking data from six flights are analyzed. Noise and bias errors in raw tracking data are determined for each of the flights. A discussion of an altitude bias error during all of the tracking missions is included. This bias error is defined by utilizing pressure altitude measurements made during survey flights. Four separate filtering methods, representative of the most widely used optimal estimation techniques for enhancement of radar tracking data, are analyzed for suitability in processing both real-time and post-mission data. Additional information regarding the radar and its measurements, including typical noise and bias errors in the range and angle measurements, is also presented. This is in two parts. This is part 1, an analysis of radar data.

*GMD Systems, Inc., Lancaster, California.


A study is performed under NASA contract to evaluate data from an AN/FPS-16 radar installed for support of flight programs at Dryden Flight Research Facility of NASA Ames Research Center. The purpose of this study is to provide information necessary for improving post-flight data reduction and knowledge of accuracy of derived radar quantities. Tracking data from six flights are analyzed. Noise and bias errors in raw tracking data are determined for each of the flights. A discussion of an altitude bias error during all of the tracking missions is included. This bias error is defined by utilizing pressure altitude measurements made during survey flights. Four separate filtering methods, representative of the most widely used optimal estimation techniques for enhancement of radar tracking data, are analyzed for suitability in processing both real-time and post-mission data. Additional information regarding the radar and its measurements, including typical noise and bias errors in the range and angle measurements, is also presented. This report is in two parts. This is part 2, a discussion of the modeling of propagation path errors.

*GMD Systems, Inc., Lancaster, California.


This report presents the development and application of a sensitivity analysis technique for multiloop flight control systems. This analysis yields very useful information on the sensitivity of the relative-stability criteria of the control system, with variations or uncertainties in the system and
controller elements. The sensitivity analysis technique developed is based on the computation of the singular values and singular-value gradients of a feedback-control system. The method is applicable to single-input/single-output as well as multiloop continuous-control systems. Application to sampled-data systems is also explored. The sensitivity analysis technique was applied to a continuous yaw/roll damper stability augmentation system of a typical business jet, and the results show that the analysis is very useful in determining the system elements which have the largest effect on the relative stability of the closed-loop system. As a secondary product of the research reported here, the relative stability criteria based on the concept of singular values were explored.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


This report discusses a geological and seismological investigation of the NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility site at Edwards, California. Results are presented as seismic design criteria, with design values of the pertinent ground motion parameters, probability of recurrence, and recommended analogous time-history accelerograms with their corresponding spectra. The recommendations apply specifically to the Dryden site and should not be extrapolated to other sites with varying foundation and geologic conditions or different seismic environments.

*Soils International, San Gabriel, California.


Two techniques, direct eigenspace assignment (DEA) and explicit model following (EMF), are used initially to synthesize control laws for the longitudinal dynamics model of a Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) vehicle in the landing configuration. The vehicle model and the flight control design are presented. The two synthesis techniques are briefly discussed and the handling qualities specifications mapped into the algorithm formulations. The control laws resulting from exercising the algorithms are evaluated in terms of achieved performance and robustness. Since the synthesized control laws involve full state feedback, methodologies were implemented for the control laws using output feedback without adversely affecting performance and robustness. Finally, the salient features of the two design techniques are summarized and the areas that require further investigation are suggested.

*Purdue University, School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, West Lafayette, Indiana.

1986 Contractor Report


The development of flying qualities experiments (OFQ) as a part of the Orbiter Experiments Program (OEX) was continued. The data base was extended to use the ground based cinetheodolite measurements of orbiter approach and landing. Onboard the cinetheodolite data were analyzed from flights STS 2 through 7 to identify the effective augmented vehicle dynamics, the control strategy employed by the pilot during preflare, shallow glide, and final flare segments of the landing, and the key approach and touchdown performance measures. A plan for an OFQ flying qualities data archive and processing is presented.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


A self-organizing controller is developed for a simplified two-dimensional aircraft model. The controller learns how to pilot the aircraft through a navigational mission without exceeding pre-established position and velocity limits. The controller pilots the aircraft by activating one of eight directional actuators at all times. By continually monitoring the aircraft’s position and velocity with respect to the mission, the controller progressively modifies its decision rules to improve the aircraft’s performance. When the controller has learned how to pilot the aircraft, two actuators fail permanently. Despite this malfunction, the controller regains proficiency at its original task. The experimental results reported show the controller’s capabilities for self-organizing control, learning, and malfunction recovery.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.


The OFQ archives data base and handling system assembled as part of the Orbiter Flying Qualities (OFQ) research of the Orbiter Experiments Program (OEX) are described. The purpose of the OFQ archives is to preserve and document shuttle flight data relevant to vehicle dynamics, flight control,
and flying qualities in a form that permits maximum use for qualified users. In their complete form, the OFQ archives contain descriptive text (general information about the flight, signal descriptions and units) as well as numerical time history data. Since the shuttle program is so complex, the official data base contains thousands of signals and very complex entries are required to obtain data. The OFQ archives are intended to provide flight phase oriented data subsets with relevant signals which are easily identified for flying qualities research.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.

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1987 Contractor Report


A sensitivity analysis technique for multiloop flight control systems is studied. This technique uses the scaled singular values of the return difference matrix as a measure of the relative stability of a control system. It then uses the gradients of these singular values with respect to system and controller parameters to judge sensitivity. The sensitivity analysis technique is first reviewed; then it is extended to include digital systems, through the derivation of singular-value gradient equations. Gradients with respect to parameters which do not appear explicitly as control-system matrix elements are also derived, so that high-order systems can be studied. A complete review of the integrated technique is given by way of a simple example: the inverted pendulum problem. The technique is then demonstrated on the X-29 control laws. Results show linear models of real systems can be analyzed by this sensitivity technique, if it is applied with care. A computer program called SVA was written to accomplish the singular-value sensitivity analysis techniques. Thus computational methods and considerations form an integral part of many of the discussions. A user’s guide to the program is included. The SVA is a fully public domain program, running on the NASA/Dryden Elxsi computer.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


Theoretical methods of predicting aircraft buffeting are reviewed. For the buffeting due to leading-edge vortex breakdown, a method is developed to convert test data of mean square values of fluctuating normal force to buffeting vortex strength through an unsteady lifting-surface theory and unsteady suction analogy. The resulting buffeting vortex from the leading-edge extension of an F-18 configuration is used to generate a fluctuating flow field which produces unsteady pressure distribution on the vertical tails. The root mean square values of root bending moment on the vertical tails are calculated for a rigid configuration. Results from a flow visualization and hot films study in a water tunnel facility using a 1/48 scale model of an F-18 are included in an appendix. The results confirm that the LEX vortex is the dominant forcing function of fin buffet at high angles of attack.

*University of Kansas, Center for Research, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.


A series of load tests was conducted on the HiMAT tailored composite wing. Coupon tests were also run on a series of unbalanced laminates, including the ply configuration of the wing, the purpose of which was to compare the measured and predicted behavior of unbalanced laminates, including - in the case of the wing - a comparison between the behavior of the full scale structure and coupon tests. Both linear and nonlinear finite element (NASTRAN) analyses were carried out on the wing. Both linear and nonlinear point-stress analyses were performed on the coupons. All test articles were instrumented with strain gages, and wing deflections measured. The leading and trailing edges were found to have no effect on the response of the wing to applied loads. A decrease in the stiffness of the wing box was evident over the 27-test program. The measured load-strain behavior of the wing was found to be linear, in contrast to coupon tests of the same laminate, which were nonlinear. A linear NASTRAN analysis of the wing generally correlated more favorably with measurements than did a nonlinear analysis. An examination of the predicted deflections in the wing root region revealed an anomalous behavior of the structural model that cannot be explained. Both hysteresis and creep appear to be less significant in the wing tests than in the corresponding laminate coupon tests.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


Tests of small panels of advanced flexible reusable surface insulation (AFRSI) were conducted using a small wind tunnel that was designed to simulate Space Shuttle Orbiter entry mean-flow and pulsating aerodynamic loads. The wind tunnel, with a 3 inch wide by 1.75 inch high by 7.5
inch long test section, proved to be capable of continuous flow at dynamic pressures q near 580 psf with fluctuating pressures over 2 psi RMS at an excitation frequency f sub E of 200 Hz. For this investigation, however, the wind tunnel was used to test entry-temperature preconditioned and heat-cleaned AFRSI at q = 280 psf, Prms was nearly equal to 1.2 psi and f sub E = 200 Hz. The objective of these tests was to determine the mechanism of failure of AFRSI at Orbiter entry conditions. Details of the test apparatus and test results are presented.

*Coe Engineering, Inc., Los Altos, California.


A structural excitation system, using an oscillating canard vane to generate force, was mounted on the forebody of the YF-12A airplane. The canard vane was used to excite the airframe structural modes during flight in the subsonic, transonic, and supersonic regimes. Structural modal responses generated by the canard vane forces were measured at the flight test conditions by airframe-mounted accelerometers. Correlations of analytical and experimental aeroelastic results were made. Doublet lattice, steady state double lattice with uniform lag, Mach box, and piston theory all produced acceptable analytical aerodynamic results within the restrictions that apply to each. In general, the aerodynamic theory methods, carefully applied, were found to predict the dynamic behavior of the YF-12A aircraft adequately.

*Lockheed-California Co., Burbank, California.


An Extruded Sheet Tooling Compound (ESTC) was developed for use in quickly building low cost molds for fabricating composites. The ESTC is a very highly mineral-filled resin system formed into a 6 mm thick sheet. The sheet is laid on the pattern, vacuum (bag) is applied to remove air from the pattern surface, and the assembly is heat cured. The formed ESTC is then backed and/or framed and ready for use. The cured ESTC exhibits low coefficient of thermal expansion and maintains strength at temperatures of 180 to 200 C. Tools were made and used successfully for: Compression molding of high strength epoxy sheet molding compound, stamping of aluminum, resin transfer molding of polyester, and liquid resin molding of polyester. Several variations of ESTC can be made for specific requirements. Higher thermal conductivity can be achieved by using an aluminum particle filler. Room temperature gel is possible to allow use of foam patterns.


Two design techniques for linear flight test trajectory controllers (FTTCs) are described: Eigenstructure assignment and the minimum error excitation technique. The two techniques are used to design FTTCs for an F-15 aircraft model for eight different maneuvers at thirty different flight conditions. An evaluation of the FTTCs is presented.


The objective of the research performed was to establish the feasibility of using spectral contents analysis to measure accurately, strains and retardation in birefringent sensors, and more generally, on transparent materials.


This project was devoted to the development of a software package, called the Orbiter Flying Qualities (OFQ) Workstation, for working with the OFQ Archives which are specially selected sets of space shuttle entry flight data relevant to flight control and flying qualities. The basic approach to creation of the workstation software was to federate and extend commercial software products to create a low cost package that operates on personal computers. Provision was made to link the workstation to large computers, but the OFQ Archive files were also converted to personal computer diskettes and can be stored on workstation hard disk drives. The primary element of the workstation developed in the project is the Interactive Data Handler (IDH) which allows the user to select data subsets from the archives and pass them to specialized analysis programs. The IDH was developed as an application in a relational database management system product. The specialized analysis programs linked to the workstation include a spreadsheet program, FREDA for spectral analysis, MFP for frequency domain system identification, and NIPIP for pilot-vehicle system parameter identification. The workstation also includes capability for ensemble analysis over groups of missions.

*Quantum Composites, Inc., Midland, Michigan.

1988 Contractor Report
The theory of anisotropic elasticity was used to evaluate the anisotropic stress concentration factors of a composite laminated plate containing a small circular hole. This advanced composite was used to manufacture the X-29A forward-swept wing. It was found for composite material, that the anisotropic stress concentration is no longer a constant, and that the locations of maximum tangential stress points could shift by changing the fiber orientation with respect to the loading axis. The analysis showed that through the lamination process, the stress concentration factor could be reduced drastically, and therefore the structural performance could be improved. Both the mixture rule approach and the constant strain approach were used to calculate the stress concentration factor of room temperature. The results predicted by the mixture rule approach were about twenty percent deviate from the experimental data. However, the results predicted by the constant strain approach matched the testing data very well. This showed the importance of the inplane shear effect on the evaluation of the stress concentration factor for the X-29A composite plate.

*California State University, Long Beach, California.


Several different model reduction methods are developed and detailed implementation information is provided for those methods. Command files to implement the model reduction methods in a proprietary control law analysis and design package are presented. A comparison and discussion of the various reduction techniques is included.

*Indiana University-Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.


The coupling of expert systems and control design and analysis techniques are documented to provide a realizable self repairing flight control system. Key features of such a flight control system are identified and a limited set of rules for a simple aircraft model are presented.

1988 Contractor Report


Methods for building real-time onboard expert systems were investigated, and the use of expert systems technology was demonstrated in improving the performance of current real-time onboard monitoring and fault diagnosis applications. The potential applications of the proposed research include an expert system environment allowing the integration of expert systems into conventional time-critical application solutions, a grammar for describing the discrete event behavior of monitoring and fault diagnosis systems, and their applications to new real-time hardware fault diagnosis and monitoring systems for aircraft.

*Charles River Analytics, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.


A methodology is described for the development of flight test trajectory control laws based on singular perturbation methodology and nonlinear dynamic modeling. The control design methodology is applied to a detailed nonlinear six degree-of-freedom simulation of the F-15 and results for a level accelerations, pushover/pullup maneuver, zoom and pushover maneuver, excess thrust windup turn, constant thrust windup turn, and a constant dynamic pressure/constant load factor trajectory are presented.


The extension of the NASA Ames-Dryden remotely augmented vehicle (RAV) facility to accommodate flight testing of a hypersonic aircraft utilizing the continental United States as a test range is investigated. The development and demonstration of an automated flight test management system (ATMS) that uses expert system technology for flight test planning, scheduling, and execution is documented.

*Sparta, Inc., Laguna Hills, California.


The technical objective of this research program was to develop a birefringent sensor, capable of measuring strain/stress up to 2000 °F and a readout system based on Spectral Contents analysis. As a result of the research work, a data acquisition system was developed, capable of measuring strain birefringence in a sensor at 2000 °F, with multi-point static and dynamic capabilities. The system uses a dedicated spectral analyzer for evaluation of stress-birefringence and a PC-based readout. Several sensor methods were evaluated. Fused silica was found most satisfactory. In the final evaluation, measurements were performed up to 2000 °F and the system performance exceeded expectations.


An inverse wing design method was developed around an existing transonic wing analysis code. The original analysis code, TAWFIVE, has as its core the numerical potential flow solver, FLO30, developed by Jameson and Caughey. Features of the analysis code include a finite-volume formulation; wing and fuselage fitted, curvilinear grid mesh; and a viscous boundary layer correction that also accounts for viscous wake thickness and curvature. The development of the inverse methods as an extension of previous methods existing for design in Cartesian coordinates is presented. Results are shown for inviscid wing design cases in supercritical flow regimes. The test cases selected also demonstrate the versatility of the design method in designing an entire wing or discontinuous sections of a wing.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.


The objective is to develop efficient numerical techniques for the study of aeroelastic response of a propfan in an unsteady transonic flow. A three dimensional unsteady Euler solver is being modified to address this problem.

*Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.

1990 Contractor Report


An experimental investigation of the influence of lateral feel system characteristics on fighter aircraft roll flying
qualities was conducted using the variable stability USAF NT-33. Forty-two evaluation flights were flown by three engineering test pilots. The investigation utilized the power approach, visual landing task and up-and-away tasks including formation, gun tracking, and computer-generated compensatory attitude tracking tasks displayed on the Head-Up Display. Experimental variations included the feel system frequency, force-deflection gradient, control system command type (force or position input command), aircraft roll mode time constant, control system prefilter frequency, and control system time delay. The primary data were task performance records and evaluation pilot comments and ratings using the Cooper-Harper scale. The data highlight the unique and powerful effect of the feel system of flying qualities. The data show that the feel system is not ‘equivalent’ in flying qualities influence to analogous control system elements. A lower limit of allowable feel system frequency appears warranted to ensure good lateral flying qualities. Flying qualities criteria should most properly treat the feel system dynamic influence separately from the control system, since the input and output of this dynamic element is apparent to the pilot and thus, does not produce a ‘hidden’ effect.

*Calspan-State University of New York Joint Venture, Buffalo, New York.

1991 Contractor Report


A study was conducted to determine the effects of seventh-stage compressor bleed on the performance of the F100 afterburning turbofan engine. The effects of bleed on thrust, specific fuel consumption, fan turbine inlet temperature, bleed total pressure, and bleed total temperature were obtained from the engine manufacturer’s status deck computer simulation. These effects were determined for power settings of intermediate, partial afterburning, and maximum afterburning for Mach numbers between 0.6 and 2.2 and for altitudes of 30,000, 40,000, and 50,000 ft. It was found that thrust loss and specific fuel consumption increase were approximately linear functions of bleed flow and, based on a percent-thrust change basis, were approximately independent of power setting.

*San Jose State University, San Jose, California.


The application of reciprocal modal vectors to the analysis of structural response data is described. Reciprocal modal vectors are constructed using an existing experimental modal model and an existing frequency response matrix of a structure, and can be assembled into a matrix that effectively transforms the data from the physical space to a modal space within a particular frequency range. In other words, the weighting matrix necessary for modal vector orthogonality (typically the mass matrix) is contained within the reciprocal model matrix. The underlying goal of this work is mostly directed toward observing the modal state responses in the presence of unknown, possibly closed loop forcing functions, thus having an impact on both operating data analysis techniques and independent modal space control techniques. This study investigates the behavior of reciprocal modal vectors as modal filters with respect to certain calculation parameters and their performance with perturbed system frequency response data.

*University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.


The results are presented of a study to identify potential real time remote computational applications to support monitoring HRV flight test experiments along with definitions of preliminary requirements. A major expansion of the support capability available at Ames-Dryden was considered. The focus is on the use of extensive computation and data bases together with real time flight data to generate and present high level information to those monitoring the flight. Six examples were considered: (1) boundary layer transition location; (2) shock wave position estimation; (3) performance estimation; (4) surface temperature estimation; (5) critical structural stress estimation; and (6) stability estimation.

*Sparta, Inc., Laguna Hills, California.


The requirements are assessed for the use of remote computation to support HRV flight testing. First, remote computational requirements were developed to support functions that will eventually be performed onboard operational vehicles of this type. These functions which either cannot be performed onboard in the time frame of initial HRV flight test programs because the technology of airborne computers will not be sufficiently advanced to
support the computational loads required, or it is not desirable to perform the functions onboard in the flight test program for other reasons. Second, remote computational support either required or highly desirable to conduct flight testing itself was addressed. The use is proposed of an Automated Flight Management System which is described in conceptual detail. Third, autonomous operations is discussed and finally, unmanned operations.

*Sparta, Inc., Laguna Hills, California.

**Hanna Technology Resources, Boulder, Colorado.

**Planning Research Corp., Edwards, California.


The Phase I development of an automated flight test management system (ATMS) as a component of a rapid prototyping flight research facility for artificial intelligence (AI) based flight concepts is discussed. The ATMS provides a flight engineer with a set of tools that assist in flight test planning, monitoring, and simulation. The system is also capable of controlling an aircraft during flight test by performing closed loop guidance functions, range management, and maneuver-quality monitoring. The ATMS is being used as a prototypical system to develop a flight research facility for AI based flight systems concepts at NASA Ames Dryden.

*Sparta, Inc., Laguna Hills, California.

**Integrated Systems, Inc., Santa Clara, California.


The results of a consulting effort to aid NASA Ames-Dryden in defining a new initiative in aircraft automation are described. The initiative described is a multi-year, multi-center technology development and flight demonstration program. The initiative features the further development of technologies in aircraft automation already being pursued at multiple NASA centers and Department of Defense (DOD) research and Development (R and D) facilities. The proposed initiative involves the development of technologies in intelligent systems, guidance, control, software development, airborne computing, navigation, communications, sensors, unmanned vehicles, and air traffic control. It involves the integration and implementation of these technologies to the extent necessary to conduct selected and incremental flight demonstrations.

*G and C Systems, Inc., San Juan Capistrano, California.


A two dimensional finite difference thermal model was developed to predict the effects of heating profile, fill level, and cryogen type prior to experimental testing the Generic Research Cryogenic Tank (GRCT). These numerical predictions will assist in defining test scenarios, sensor locations, and venting requirements for the GRCT experimental tests. Boiloff rates, tank-wall and fluid temperatures, and wall heat fluxes were determined for 20 computational test cases. The test cases spanned three discrete fill levels and three heating profiles for hydrogen and nitrogen.

*Hanna Technology Resources, Boulder, Colorado.

**Planning Research Corp., Edwards, California.


A generic, state-of-the-art, high-performance aircraft model, including detailed, full-envelope, nonlinear aerodynamics, and full-envelope thrust and first-order engine response data is described. While this model was primarily developed Controls Design Challenge, the availability of such a model provides a common focus for research in aeronautical control theory and methodology. An implementation of this model using the FORTRAN computer language, associated routines furnished with the aircraft model, and techniques for interfacing these routines to external procedures is also described. Figures showing vehicle geometry, surfaces, and sign conventions are included.

*PRC Systems Services Co., Edwards, California.

1992 Contractor Report


The objective was to validate the computational capability of the NASA Ames Navier-Stokes code, F3D, for flows at high Mach numbers using comparison flight test data from the Pegasus air launched, winged space booster. Comparisons were made with temperature and heat fluxes estimated from measurements on the wing surfaces and wing-fuselage fairings. Tests were conducted for solution convergence, sensitivity to grid density, and effects of distributing grid points to provide high density near temperature and heat
flux sensors. The measured temperatures were from sensors embedded in the ablating thermal protection system. Surface heat fluxes were from plugs fabricated of highly insulative, non-ablating material, and mounted level with the surface of the surrounding ablative material. As a preflight design tool, the F3D code produces accurate predictions of heat transfer and other aerodynamic properties, and it can provide detailed data for assessment of boundary layer separation, shock waves, and vortex formation. As a postflight analysis tool, the code provides a way to clarify and interpret the measured results.

*Nielsen Engineering and Research, Inc., Mountain View, California.


The advantages and disadvantages of using thrust vectoring for lateral-directional control and the effects of reducing the tail size of a single-engine aircraft were investigated. The aerodynamic characteristics of the F-16 aircraft were generated by using the Aerodynamic Preliminary Analysis System II panel code. The resulting lateral-directional linear perturbation analysis of a modified F-16 aircraft with various tail sizes and yaw vectoring was performed at several speeds and altitudes to determine the stability and control trends for the aircraft compared to these trends for a baseline aircraft. A study of the paddle-type turning vane thrust vectoring control system as used on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle is also presented.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


Technology advances required in the flight and propulsion control system disciplines to develop a high-speed civil transport (HSCT) are identified. The mission and requirements of the transport and major flight and propulsion control technology issues are discussed. Each issue is ranked and, for each issue, a plan for technology readiness is given. Certain features are unique and dominate control system design. These features include the high temperature environment, large flexible aircraft, control-configured empennage, minimizing control margins, and high availability and excellent maintainability. The failure to resolve most high-priority issues can prevent the transport from achieving its goals. The flow-time for hardware may require stimulus, since market forces may be insufficient to ensure timely production. Flight and propulsion control technology will contribute to takeoff gross weight reduction. Similar technology advances are necessary also to ensure flight safety for the transport. The certification basis of the HSCT must be negotiated between airplane manufacturers and government regulators. Efficient, quality design of the transport will require an integrated set of design tools that support the entire engineering design team.


Control of a large jet transport aircraft without the use of conventional control surfaces was studied. Engine commands were used to attempt to recreate the forces and moments typically provided by the elevator, ailerons, and rudder. Necessary conditions for aircraft controllability were developed pertaining to aircraft configuration such as the number of engines and engine placement. An optimal linear quadratic regulator controller was developed for the Boeing 707-720, in particular, for regulation of its natural dynamic modes. The design used a method of assigning relative weights to the natural modes, i.e., phugoid and dutch roll, for a more intuitive selection of the cost function. A prototype pilot control interface was then integrated into the loop based on pseudoradom command of both pitch and roll. Closed loop dynamics were evaluated first with a batch linear simulation and then with a real time high fidelity piloted simulation. The NASA research pilots assisted in evaluation of closed loop handling qualities for typical cruise and landing tasks. Recommendations for improvement on this preliminary study of optimal propulsion only flight control are provided.

*San Jose State University, San Jose, California.


A study was conducted to identify, rank, and define development plans for the critical guidance and control design and analysis issues as related to economically viable and environmentally acceptable high-speed civil transport. The issues were identified in a multistep process. First, pertinent literature on supersonic cruise aircraft was reviewed, and experts were consulted to establish the fundamental characteristics and problems inherent to supersonic cruise aircraft. Next, the advanced technologies and strategies being pursued for the high-speed civil transport were considered to determine any additional unique control problems the transport may have. Finally, existing technologies and methods were examined to determine their capabilities for
the design and analysis of high-speed civil transport control systems and to identify the shortcomings and issues. Three priority levels - mandatory, highly beneficial, and desirable - were established. Within each of these levels, the issues were further ranked. Technology development plans for each issue were defined. Each plan contains a task breakdown and schedule.

*Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc., Long Beach, California.


A strawman program plan is presented, consisting of technology developments and demonstrations required to support the construction of a high-speed civil transport. The plan includes a compilation of technology issues related to the development of a transport. The issues represent technical areas in which research and development are required to allow airframe manufacturers to pursue an HSCT development. The vast majority of technical issues presented require flight demonstrated and validated solutions before a transport development will be undertaken by the industry. The author believes that NASA is the agency best suited to address flight demonstration issues in a concentrated effort. The new Integrated Test Facility at NASA Dryden Flight Research Facility is considered ideally suited to the task of supporting ground validations of proof-of-concept and prototype system demonstrations before flight demonstrations. An elaborate ground hardware-in-the-loop (iron bird) simulation supported in this facility provides a viable alternative to developing an expensive full-scale prototype transport technology demonstrator. Dryden’s SR-71 assets, modified appropriately, are a suitable test-bed for supporting flight demonstrations and validations of certain transport technology solutions. A subscale, manned or unmanned flight demonstrator is suitable for flight validation of transport technology solutions, if appropriate structural similarity relationships can be established. The author contends that developing a full-scale prototype transport technology demonstrator is the best alternative to ensuring that a positive decision to develop a transport is reached by the United States aerospace industry.

*G and C Systems, Inc., San Juan Capistrano, California.


A study of flying quality requirements for air-breathing aerospacecraft gives special emphasis to the unusual operational requirements and characteristics of these aircraft, including operation at hypersonic speeds. The report considers distinguishing characteristics of these vehicles, including dynamic deficiencies and their implications for control. Particular emphasis is given to the interaction of the airframe and propulsion system, and the requirements for dynamic systems integration. Past operational missions are reviewed to define tasks and maneuvers to be considered for this class of aircraft. Areas of special concern with respect to vehicle dynamics and control are identified. Experience with the space shuttle orbiter is reviewed with respect to flight control system mechanization and flight experience in approach and landing flying qualities for the National Aerospace Plane (NASP).

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


Satellite surveillance in such areas as the Antarctic indicates that from time to time concentration of ozone grows and shrinks. An effort to obtain useful atmospheric data for determining the causes of ozone depletion would require a flight capable of reaching altitudes of at least 100,000 ft and flying subsonically during the sampling portion of the mission. A study of a heat rejection system for an advanced variable cycle diesel (AVCD) engine was conducted. The engine was installed in an extreme altitude, high altitude advanced research platform. Results indicate that the waste heat from an AVCD engine propulsion system can be rejected at the maximum cruise altitude of 120,000 ft. Fifteen performance points, reflecting the behavior of the engine as the vehicle proceeded through the mission, were used to characterize the heat exchanger operation. That portion of the study is described in an appendix titled, ‘A Detailed Study of the Heat Rejection System for an Extreme Altitude Atmospheric Sampling Aircraft,’ by a consultant, Mr. James Bourne, Lytron, Incorporated.

*DieselDyne Corp., Morrow, Ohio.


The advantages and disadvantages of using thrust vectoring for lateral-directional control and the effects of reducing the tail size of a single-engine aircraft were investigated. The aerodynamic characteristics of the F-16 aircraft were generated by using the Aerodynamic Preliminary Analysis System II panel code. The resulting lateral-directional linear perturbation analysis of a modified F-16 aircraft with various tail sizes and yaw vectoring was performed at several speeds and altitudes to determine the stability and control trends for the aircraft compared to these trends for a baseline aircraft.
A study of the paddle-type turning vane thrust vectoring control system as used on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle is also presented.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


Technology advances required in the flight and propulsion control system disciplines to develop a high-speed civil transport (HSCT) are identified. The mission and requirements of the transport and major flight and propulsion control technology issues are discussed. Each issue is ranked and, for each issue, a plan for technology readiness is given. Certain features are unique and dominate control system design. These features include the high temperature environment, large flexible aircraft, control-configured empennage, minimizing control margins, and high availability and excellent maintainability. The failure to resolve most high-priority issues can prevent the transport from achieving its goals. The flight-time for hardware may require stimulus, since market forces may be insufficient to ensure timely production. Flight and propulsion control technology will contribute to takeoff gross weight reduction. Similar technology advances are necessary also to ensure flight safety for the transport. The certification basis of the HSCT must be negotiated between airplane manufacturers and government regulators. Efficient, quality design of the transport will require an integrated set of design tools that support the entire engineering design team.

1993 Contractor Report


A review of accidents that involved the loss of hydraulic flight control systems serves as an introduction to this project. In each of the accidents—involving transport aircraft such as the DC-10, the C-5A, the L-1011, and the Boeing 747—the flight crew attempted to control the aircraft by means of thrust control. Although these incidents had tragic endings, in the absence of control power due to primary control system failure, control power generated by selective application of engine thrust has proven to be a viable alternative. NASA Dryden has demonstrated the feasibility of controlling an aircraft during level flight, approach, and landing conditions using an augmented throttles-only control system. This system has been successfully flown in the flight test simulator for the B-720 passenger transport and the F-15 air superiority fighter and in actual flight tests for the F-15 aircraft. The Douglas Aircraft Company is developing a similar system for the MD-11 aircraft. The project’s ultimate goal is to provide data for the development of thrust control systems for mega-transports (600+ passengers).


Under a NASA Dryden-sponsored contract in the mid 1960s, temperatures of up to 2200 C were successfully measured using a fluid oscillator. The current program, although limited in scope, explores the problem areas which must be solved if this technique is to be extended to 10,000 R. The potential for measuring extremely high temperatures, using fluid oscillator techniques, stems from the fact that the measuring element is the fluid itself. The containing structure of the oscillator need not be brought to equilibrium temperature with the fluid for temperature measurement, provided that a suitable calibration can be arranged. This program concentrated on review of high-temperature material developments since the original program was completed. Other areas of limited study included related pressure instrumentation requirements, dissociation, rarefied gas effects, and analysis of sensor time response.

*Cuyuna Corp., Austin, Texas.


A prototype intermittent flow visualization system that was designed to study vortex flow field dynamics has been constructed and tested through its ground test phase. It produces discrete pulses of dense white smoke consisting of particles of terephthalic acid by the pulsing action of a fast-acting three-way valve. The trajectories of the smoke pulses can be tracked by a video imaging system without intruding in the flow around in flight. Two methods of pulsing the smoke were examined. The simplest and safest approach is to simply divert the smoke between the two outlet ports on the valve; this approach should be particularly effective if it were desired to inject smoke at two locations during the same test event. The second approach involves closing off one of the outlet ports to momentarily block the flow. The second approach requires careful control of valve dwell times to avoid excessive pressure buildup within the cartridge container. This method also increases the velocity of the smoke injected into the flow. The flow of the smoke has been blocked for periods ranging from 30 to 80 milliseconds, depending on the system volume and the length of time the valve is allowed to remain open between valve closings.
A flow visualization scheme, designed to measure vortex fluid dynamics on research aircraft, was validated in flight. Stroke vortex trajectories and axial core velocities were determined using pulsed smoke, high-speed video images, and semiautomated image edge detection hardware and software. Smoke was pulsed by using a fast-acting three-way valve. After being redesigned because of repeatedly jamming in flight, the valve shuttle operated flawlessly during the last two tests. A 25-percent scale, Gothic stroke was used to generate vortex over the wing of a GA-7 Cougar and was operated at a local angle of attack of 22 degrees and Reynolds number of approximately 7.8 x 10\(^{6}\) /ft. Maximum axial velocities measured in the vortex core were between 1.75 and 1.95 times the freestream velocity. Analysis of the pulsed smoke system’s affect on forebody vortices indicates that the system may reorient the forebody vortex system; however, blowing momentum coefficients normally used will have no appreciable affect on the leading-edge extension vortex system. It is recommended that a similar pulsed smoke system be installed on the F/A-18 High Angle Research Vehicle and that this approach be used to analyze vortex core dynamics during the remainder of its high-angle-of-attack research flights.

*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.
Traditionally, structural loads are measured using strain gages. A loads calibration test must be done before loads can be accurately measured. In one measurement method, a series of point loads is applied to the structure, and loads equations are derived via the least squares curve fitting algorithm using the strain gage responses to the applied point loads. However, many research structures are highly instrumented with strain gages, and the number and selection of gages used in a loads equation can be problematic. This paper presents an improved technique using a genetic algorithm to choose the strain gages used in the loads equations. Also presented are a comparison of the genetic algorithm performance with the current T-value technique and a variant known as the Best Step-down technique. Examples are shown using aerospace vehicle wings of high and low aspect ratio. In addition, a significant limitation in the current methods is revealed. The genetic algorithm arrived at a comparable or superior set of gages with significantly less human effort, and could be applied in instances when the current methods could not.

Keywords: Columns space; Data channel selection; Gage selection methods; Genetic algorithms; Loads equations; Structural calibration

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


The design and development of an airborne flight-test experiment to study nonreacting gas jets injected transversely into transonic and supersonic crossflows is presented. Free-stream/crossflow Mach numbers range from 0.8 to 2.0. Planar laser-induced fluorescence (PLIF) of an iodine-seeded nitrogen jet is used to visualize the jet flow. Time-dependent images are obtained with a high-speed intensified video camera synchronized to the laser pulse rate. The entire experimental assembly is configured compactly inside a unique flight-test fixture (FTF) mounted under the fuselage of the F-104G research aircraft, which serves as a ‘flying wind tunnel’ at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The aircraft is flown at predetermined speeds and altitudes to permit a perfectly expanded (or slightly underexpanded) gas jet to form just outside the FTF at each free-stream Mach number. Recorded gas jet images are then digitized to allow analysis of jet trajectory, spreading, and mixing characteristics. Comparisons will be made with analytical and numerical predictions. This study shows the viability of applying highly sophisticated ground-based flow diagnostic techniques to flight-test vehicle platforms that can achieve a wide range of thermo-fluidodynamic conditions. Realistic flow environments, high enthalpies, unconfined flowfields, and moderate operating costs are also realized, in contrast to traditional wind tunnel testing.

Keywords: F-104; Flight test; Flight test fixture; Flow visualization; Imaging; Injection; Nd: YAG laser; Planar laser-induced fluorescence (PLIF); Supersonic; Transonic; Transverse jet

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.

**224.** *Wang, Kon-Sheng Charles: In-Flight Imaging of Transverse Gas Jets Injected into Transonic and Supersonic Crossflows: Design and Development. NASA CR-186031, H-2027, NAS 1.26:186031, November 1994, 95N17418, #. PDF*

The principal objective of this research effort was to develop a multicomponent strain gauge balance to measure forces and moments on models tested in flow visualization water tunnels. An internal balance was designed that allows measuring normal and side forces, and pitching, yawing and rolling moments (no axial force). The five-components to applied loads, low interactions between the sections and no hysteresis. Static experiments (which are discussed in this Volume) were conducted in the Eidetics water tunnel with delta wings and a model of the F/A-18. Experiments with the F/A-18 model included a thorough baseline study and investigations of the effect of control surface deflections and of several Forebody Vortex Control (FVC) techniques. Results were compared to wind tunnel data and, in general, the agreement is very satisfactory. The results of the static tests provide confidence that loads can be measured accurately in the water tunnel with a relatively simple multicomponent internal balance. Dynamic experiments were also performed using the balance, and the results are discussed in detail in Volume 2 of this report.

Keywords: Static and dynamic experiments; Water tunnel force/moment balance

*Eidetics International, Inc., Torrance, California.


The principal objective of this research effort was to develop a multicomponent strain gauge balance to measure forces and moments on models tested in flow visualization water tunnels. Static experiments (which are discussed in Volume 1 of this report) were conducted, and the results showed good agreement with wind tunnel data on similar configurations.
Dynamic experiments, which are the main topic of this Volume, were also performed using the balance. Delta wing models and two F/A-18 models were utilized in a variety of dynamic tests. This investigation showed that, as expected, the values of the inertial terms are very small due to the low rotating rates required in a low-speed water tunnel and can, therefore, be ignored. Oscillations in pitch, yaw and roll showed hysteresis loops that compared favorably to data from dynamic wind tunnel experiments. Pitch-up and hold maneuvers revealed the long persistence, or time-lags, of some of the force components in response to the motion. Rotary-balance experiments were also successfully performed. The good results obtained in these dynamic experiments bring a whole new dimension to water tunnel testing and emphasize the importance of having the capability to perform simultaneous flow visualization and force/ moment measurements during dynamic situations.

*Eidetics International, Inc., Torrance, California.

1995 Contractor Report


Laboratory studies examine phase changes of hygroscopic substances which occur as aerosol in stratosphere and troposphere (sodium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium bisulfate, nitric acid, sulfuric acid), under controlled conditions, in samples volume 1 to 10 (exp –4) ml. Crystallization of salts from supersaturated solutions is examined by slowly evaporating a solution drop on a substrate, under controlled relative humidity, until self nucleation occurs; controlled nucleation of ice in a mm capillary U-tube gives a measured ice crystallization velocity at known supercooling. Two states of crystallization occur for regions where hydrates exist. It is inferred that all of the materials readily exist as supersaturated/supercooled solutions; the degree of metastability appears to be slightly enhanced by inclusion of aircraft produced soot. The crystallization velocity is taken as a measure of viscosity. Results suggest an approach to a glass transition at high molality, supersaturation and/or supercooling within the range of atmospheric interest. It is hypothesized that surface reactions occur more readily on solidified particles - either crystalline or glass, whereas volume reactions are more important on droplets with sufficiently low viscosity and volume diffusivity. Implications are examined for optical properties of such particles in the atmosphere. In a separate experiment, crystal growth was examined in a modified thermal vapor diffusion chamber over the range of cirrus temperature (–30 to –70 C) and under controlled supersaturation and air pressure. The crystals grew at a velocity of 1–2 microns/s, thickness 60-70 micron, in the form of thin column crystals. Design criteria are given for a system to investigate particle growth down to –100 °C, (PSC temperatures) where nitric acid particles can be grown under similar control and in the form of hydrate crystals.

*Prodata, Inc., Burlingame, California.
**PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


This is an in-depth survey and study of Pilot-Induced Oscillations (PIOs) as interactions between human pilot and vehicle dynamics; it includes a broad and comprehensive theory of PIOs. A historical perspective provides examples of the diversity of PIOs in terms of control axes and oscillation frequencies. The constituents involved in PIO phenomena, including effective aircraft dynamics, human pilot dynamic behavior patterns, and triggering precursor events, are examined in detail as the structural elements interacting to produce severe pilot-induced oscillations. The great diversity of human pilot response patterns, excessive lags and/or inappropriate gain in effective aircraft dynamics, and transitions in either the human or effective aircraft dynamics are among the key sources implicated as factors in severe PIOs. The great variety of interactions which may result in severe PIOs is illustrated by examples drawn from famous PIOs. These are generalized under a pilot-behavior-theory-based set of categories proposed as a classification scheme pertinent to a theory of PIOs. Finally, a series of interim prescriptions to avoid PIO is provided.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


Methods of testing aircraft for departures range from simple, single-parameter criteria to complex, in-flight departure avoidance maneuvers. These methods are useful for predicting departure characteristics, but single-parameter methods may be limited in accuracy because of simplifying assumptions made in their derivation. Also, in-flight or simulation testing of departure avoidance maneuvers can be limited by the small number of conditions tested. These limitations increase at high altitudes of attack where the dynamics of the aircraft are more complex. This paper presents a method for using genetic algorithms to augment traditional evaluation criteria. Quasi-random control inputs are generated by a genetic algorithm for a high fidelity X-31 simulation. Each input is evaluated to determine if it causes a departure. The result of the genetic-algorithm-based search is a population, or
set, of control input combinations that lead to uncontrolled flight conditions in the simulation. Recognizing possible differences and simplifications between simulation models and the real aircraft, the results show that the method used is effective for finding possible departures caused by inertial coupling and aerodynamic asymmetries. Simulation data are used to show the results of the genetic algorithm search.

*PRC Inc., Edwards, California.


A study has been conducted to determine the capability to control a very large transport airplane with engine thrust. This study consisted of the design of an 800-passenger airplane with a range of 5000 nautical miles design and evaluation of a flight control system, and design and piloted simulation evaluation of a thrust-only backup flight control system. Location of the four wing-mounted engines was varied to optimize the propulsive control capability, and the time constant of the engine response was studied. The goal was to provide level 1 flying qualities. The engine location and engine time constant did not have a large effect on the control capability. The airplane design did meet level 1 flying qualities based on frequencies, damping ratios, and time constants in the longitudinal and lateral-directional modes. Project pilots consistently rated the flying qualities as either level 1 or level 2 based on Cooper-Harper ratings. However, because of the limited control forces and moments, the airplane design fell short of meeting the time required to achieve a 30 deg bank and the time required to respond a control input.

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.


An adaptive control method is presented for the minimization of drag during flight for transport aircraft. The minimization of drag is achieved by taking advantage of the redundant control capability available in the pitch axis, with the horizontal tail used as the primary surface and symmetric deflection of the ailerons and cruise flaps used as additional controls. The additional control surfaces are excited with sinusoidal signals, while the altitude and velocity loops are closed with guidance and control laws. A model of the throttle response as a function of the additional control surfaces is formulated and the parameters in the model are estimated from the sensor measurements using a least squares estimation method. The estimated model is used to determine the minimum drag positions of the control surfaces. The method is presented for the optimization of one and two additional control surfaces. The adaptive control method is extended to optimize rate of climb with the throttle fixed. Simulations that include realistic disturbances are presented, as well as the results of a Monte Carlo simulation analysis that shows the effects of changing the disturbance environment and the excitation signal parameters.

*Honeywell Technology Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1996 Contractor Report


The goal of this program was to combine modern control concepts with new identification techniques to develop a comprehensive package for estimation of ‘robust flutter boundaries’ based on experimental data. The goal was to use flight data, combined with a fundamental physical understanding of flutter dynamics, to generate a prediction of flutter speed and an estimate of the accuracy of the prediction. This report is organized as follows: the specific contributions of this project will be listed first. Then, the problem under study will be stated and the general approach will be outlined. Third, the specific system under study (F-18 SRA) will be described and a preliminary data analysis will be performed. Then, the various steps of the flutter boundary determination will be outlined and applied to the F-18 SRA data and others.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


The P404-GF-400 Powered F/A-18A High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) was used to examine the impact of inlet-generated total-pressure distortion on estimating levels of engine airflow. Five airflow estimation methods were studied. The Reference Method was a fan corrected airflow to fan corrected speed calibration from an uninstalled engine test. In-flight airflow estimation methods utilized the average, or individual, inlet duct static- to total-pressure ratios, and the average fan-discharge static-pressure to average inlet total-pressure ratio. Correlations were established at low distortion conditions for each method relative to the Reference Method. A range of distorted inlet flow conditions were obtained from
−10 deg. to +60 deg. angle of attack and −7 deg. to +11 deg. angle of sideslip. The individual inlet duct pressure ratio correlation resulted in a 2.3 percent airflow spread for all distorted flow levels with a bias error of −0.7 percent. The fan discharge pressure ratio correlation gave results with a 0.6 percent airflow spread with essentially no systematic error. Inlet-generated total-pressure distortion and turbulence had no significant impact on the P404-GE400 engine airflow pumping. Therefore, a speed-flow relationship may provide the best airflow estimate for a specific engine under all flight conditions.

*General Electric Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.


A procedure has been developed for predicting peak dynamic inlet distortion. This procedure combines Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and distortion synthesis analysis to obtain a prediction of peak dynamic distortion intensity and the associated instantaneous total pressure pattern. A prediction of the steady state total pressure pattern at the Aerodynamic Interface Plane is first obtained using an appropriate CFD flow solver. A corresponding inlet turbulence pattern is obtained from the CFD solution via a correlation linking root mean square (RMS) inlet turbulence to a formulation of several CFD parameters representative of flow turbulence intensity. This correlation was derived using flight data obtained from the NASA High Alpha Research Vehicle flight test program and several CFD solutions at conditions matching the flight test data. A distortion synthesis analysis is then performed on the predicted steady state total pressure and RMS turbulence patterns to yield a predicted value of dynamic distortion intensity and the associated instantaneous total pressure pattern.

*Mcdonnell-Douglas Aerospace, St. Louis, Missouri.


Future high-lift systems must achieve improved aerodynamic performance with simpler designs that involve fewer elements and reduced maintenance costs. To expeditiously achieve this, reliable CFD design tools are required. The development of useful CFD-based design tools for high lift systems requires increased attention to unresolved flow physics issues. The complex flow field over any multi-element airfoil may be broken down into certain generic component flows which are termed high-lift building block flows. In this report a broad spectrum of key flow field physics issues relevant to the design of improved high lift systems are considered. It is demonstrated that in-flight experiments utilizing the NASA Dryden Flight Test Fixture (which is essentially an instrumented ventral fin) carried on an F-15B support aircraft can provide a novel and cost effective method by which both Reynolds and Mach number effects associated with specific high lift building block flows can be investigated. These in-flight high lift building block flow experiments are most effective when performed in conjunction with coordinated ground based wind tunnel experiments in low speed facilities. For illustrative purposes three specific examples of in-flight high lift building block flow experiments capable of yielding a high payoff are described. The report concludes with a description of a joint wind tunnel/flight test approach to high lift aerodynamics research.

*Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana.


This study investigated the Yeh-Stratton Failure Criterion with the stress concentrations on fiber-reinforced composites materials under tensile stresses. The Yeh-Stratton Failure Criterion was developed from the initial yielding of materials based on macromechanics. To investigate this criterion, the influence of the materials anisotropic properties and far field loading on the composite materials with central hole and normal crack were studied. Special emphasis was placed on defining the crack tip stress fields and their applications. The study of Yeh-Stratton criterion for damage zone stress fields on fiber-reinforced composites under tensile loading was compared with several fracture criteria; Tsai-Wu Theory, Hoffman Theory, Fischer Theory, and Cowin Theory. Theoretical predictions from these criteria are examined using experimental results.

*California State University, Long Beach, California.


As part of an ongoing government and industry effort to study the flying qualities of aircraft with rate-limited control surface actuators, two studies were previously flown to examine an algorithm developed to reduce the tendency for pilot-induced oscillation when rate limiting occurs. This algorithm, when working properly, greatly improved the performance of the
The effectiveness of transpiration for simulation of structural deformations in steady and unsteady aeroelastic applications is examined. The majority of the investigations were performed using a highly integrated, finite-element code for the multidisciplinary analysis of flight vehicles. A supplement to this code, which allows for the generation of deflected meshes using modal superposition, was developed in this study. This research demonstrated that the transpiration boundary condition has strong potential for applications in unsteady aeroelastic analysis, such as in the prediction of flutter boundaries.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.


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*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.


Aircraft control systems are usually very reliable because of redundancy and multiple control surfaces. However, there are rare occasions when potentially disastrous flight control system failures do occur. At such times, the use of appropriate modulation of engine thrust to stabilize the aircraft may be the only chance of survival for the people aboard. In several cases where complete loss of control systems has occurred in multi-engine aircraft, pilots used the propulsion system to regain limited control of the aircraft with various degrees of success. In order to evaluate the feasibility of using only engine thrust modulation for emergency backup flight control, the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center has been conducting a series of analytical studies and flight tests on several different types of aircraft in a propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) program. Simulation studies have included B-720, B-727, MD-11, C-402, C-17, F-18, and F-15, and flight tests have included B-747, B-777, MD-11, T-39, Lear 24, F-18, F-15, T-38, and PA-30. One objective was to determine the degree of control available with manual manipulation (open-loop) of the engine throttles. Flight tests and simulations soon showed that a closed loop controller could improve the chances of making a safe runway landing. The major work to date has concentrated on three aircraft (F-15, F-18, and the MD-11). Successful landings using PCA controllers were performed on the F-15 and MD-11 without the use of control surfaces. During the course of the research, some unique challenges have been identified. Compared to the conventional flight control surfaces, the engines are slow and have limited control effectiveness. Hence the ability of the system to promptly respond to aerodynamic changes is limited. Consequently, many nonlinear effects, which are easily accommodated by a conventional flight control system, become significant issues in the design of an effective controller when the engines are used as the only control effectors. A number of nonlinear behaviors observed during PCA flight tests, which are not meant to be exhaustive, are reviewed in the next section.

*Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.


The nucleation and growth of different phases of simulated polar stratospheric cloud (PSC) particles were investigated in the laboratory. Solutions and mixtures of solutions at concentrations 1 to 5 m (molality) of ammonium sulfate, ammonium bisulfate, sodium chloride, sulfuric acid, and nitric acid were supercooled to prescribed temperatures below their equilibrium melting point. These solutions were contained in small diameter glass tubing of volumes ranging from 2.6 to 0.04 ml. Samples were nucleated by insertion of an ice crystal, or in some cases by a liquid nitrogen cooled wire. Crystallization velocities were determined by timing the crystal growth front passages along the glass tubing. Solution mixtures containing aircraft exhaust (soot) were also examined. Crystallization rates increased as “Delta”T(squared), where “Delta”T is the supercooling for weak solutions (2 m or less). The higher concentrated solutions (>3 m) showed rates significantly less than “Delta”T(squared). This reduced rate suggested an onset of a glass phase. Results were applied to
the nucleation of highly concentrated solutions at various stages of polar stratospheric cloud development within the polar stratosphere.

Keywords: Cloud research; Crystals; Stratospheric circulation; Temperature effects; Thermodynamic properties of liquids

*University of Reno, Reno, Nevada.


Wavelet analysis allows processing of transient response data commonly encountered in vibration health monitoring tasks such as aircraft flutter testing. The Laplace wavelet is formulated as an impulse response of a single mode system to be similar to data features commonly encountered in these health monitoring tasks. A correlation filtering approach is introduced using the Laplace wavelet to decompose a signal into impulse responses of single mode subsystems. Applications using responses from flutter testing of aeroelastic systems demonstrate modal parameters and stability estimates can be estimated by correlation filtering free decay data with a set of Laplace wavelets.

*National Research Council, Edwards, California.


The ultimate goal of this report was to integrate the powerful tools of artificial intelligence into the traditional process of software development. To maintain the US aerospace competitive advantage, traditional aerospace and software engineers need to more easily incorporate the technology of artificial intelligence into the advanced aerospace systems being designed today. The future goal was to transition artificial intelligence from an emerging technology to a standard technology that is considered early in the life cycle process to develop state-of-the-art aircraft automation systems. This report addressed the future goal in two ways. First, it provided a matrix that identified typical aircraft automation applications conducive to various artificial intelligence methods. The purpose of this matrix was to provide top-level guidance to managers contemplating the possible use of artificial intelligence in the development of aircraft automation. Second, the report provided a methodology to formally evaluate neural networks as part of the traditional process of software development. The matrix was developed by organizing the discipline of artificial intelligence into the following six methods: logical, object representation-based, distributed, uncertainty management, temporal and neurocomputing. Next, a study of existing aircraft automation applications that have been conducive to artificial intelligence implementation resulted in the following five categories: pilot-vehicle interface, system status and diagnosis, situation assessment, automatic flight planning, and aircraft flight control. The resulting matrix provided management guidance to understand artificial intelligence as it applied to aircraft automation. The approach taken to develop a methodology to formally evaluate neural networks as part of the software engineering life cycle was to start with the existing software quality assurance standards and to change these standards to include neural network development. The changes were to include evaluation tools that can be applied to neural networks at each phase of the software engineering life cycle. The result was a formal evaluation approach to increase the product quality of systems that use neural networks for their implementation.

*Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California.


We use two-dimensional time-dependent hydrodynamical simulations to follow the growth of the Kelvin-Helmholtz (K-H) instability in cooling jets into the nonlinear regime. We focus primarily on asymmetric modes that give rise to transverse displacements of the jet beam. A variety of Mach numbers and two different cooling curves are studied. The growth rates of waves in the linear regime measured from the numerical simulations are in excellent agreement with the predictions of the linear stability analysis presented in the first paper in this series. In the nonlinear regime, the simulations show that asymmetric modes of the K-H instability can affect the structure and evolution of cooling jets in a number of ways. We find that jets in which the growth rate of the sinusoidal surface wave has a maximum at a so-called resonant frequency can be dominated by large-amplitude sinusoidal oscillations near this frequency. Eventually, growth of this wave can disrupt the jet. On the other hand, nonlinear body waves tend to produce low-amplitude wiggles in the shape of the jet but can result in strong shocks in the jet beam. In cooling jets, these shocks can produce dense knots and filaments of cooling gas within the jet. Ripples in the surface of the jet beam caused by both surface and body waves generate oblique shock “spurs” driven into the ambient gas. Our simulations show these shock “spurs” can accelerate ambient gas at large distances from the jet beam to low velocities, which represents a new mechanism by which low-velocity bipolar outflows may be driven by high-velocity jets. Rapid entrainment and acceleration of ambient gas may also occur if the jet is disrupted. For parameters typical of protostellar jets, the frequency at which K-H growth is a
maximum (or highest frequency to which the entire jet can respond dynamically) will be associated with perturbations with a period of ~200 yr. Higher frequency (shorter period) perturbations excite waves associated with body modes that produce internal shocks and only small-amplitude wiggles within the jet. The fact that most observed systems show no evidence for large-amplitude sinusoidal oscillation leading to disruption is indicative that the perturbation frequencies are generally large, consistent with the suggestion that protostellar jets arise from the inner regions (r<1AU) of accretion disks.

*University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.
**University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.


Monitoring the dynamic response of structures is often performed for a variety of reasons. These reasons include condition-based maintenance, health monitoring, performance improvements, and control. In many cases the data analysis that is performed is part of a repetitive decision-making process, and in these cases the development of effective on-line monitoring schemes help to speed the decision-making process and reduce the risk of erroneous decisions. This report investigates the use of spatial modal filters for tracking the dynamics of slowly time-varying linear structures. The report includes an overview of modal filter theory followed by an overview of several structural system identification methods. Included in this discussion and comparison are H-infinity, eigensystem realization, and several time-domain least squares approaches. Finally, a two-stage adaptive on-line monitoring scheme is developed and evaluated.

Keywords: Modal filtering; Reciprocal modal vector; Parameter estimation; Structural dynamics; On-line health monitoring

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois.


Vibration isolation is needed to protect avionics equipment from adverse aircraft vibration environments. Passive isolation is the simplest means to achieve this goal. The system used here consists of a circular steel ring with a lump mass on top and exposed to base excitation. Sinusoidal and filtered zero-mean Gaussian white noise are used to excite the structure and the acceleration response spectra at the top of the ring are computed. An experiment is performed to identify the natural frequencies and modal damping of the circular ring. Comparison is made between the analytical and experimental results and good agreement is observed. The ring response is also evaluated with a concentrated mass attached to the top of the ring. The effectiveness of the ring in isolating the equipment from base excitation is studied. The acceleration response spectra of a single degree of freedom system attached to the top of the ring are evaluated and the results are compared with those exposed directly to the base excitation. It is shown that a properly designed ring could effectively protect the avionics from possible damaging excitation levels.

*Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York.


The X-36 is a 28% scale, remotely piloted research aircraft, designed to demonstrate tailless fighter agility. Powered by a modified Williams International F-112 jet engine, the X-36 uses thrust vectoring and a fly-by-wire control system. Although too small for an onboard pilot, a full-sized remote cockpit was designed to virtually place the test pilot into the aircraft using a variety of innovative techniques. To date, 22 flights have been flown, successfully completing the second phase of testing. Handling qualities have been matching predictions; the test operation is flown similarly to that for full sized manned aircraft. All takeoffs, test maneuvers and landings are flown by the test pilot, affording a greater degree of flexibility and the ability to handle the inevitable unknowns which may occur during highly experimental test programs. The cockpit environment, cues, and display techniques used in this effort have proven to enhance the “virtual” test pilot’s awareness and have helped ensure a successful RPV test program.

Keywords: Agility; High angle of attack; RPV; Tailless; Thrust vectoring; X-36 remotely piloted

*Boeing AS&T Phantom Works, St. Louis Missouri.


The data reduction and results of the F-15B Flight Test Fixture experiment conducted at NASA Dryden are discussed. In addition, the feasibility of using the Orbital Sciences L-1011 was studied and a cost estimate prepared. Initial discussions
have begun with Edwards Flight Research to explore the possibility of using their T-39 aircraft for the second flight experiment.

*Eidetics Corporation, Torrance, California.


The feasibility of remote infrared thermography of aircraft surfaces during flight to visualize the extent of laminar flow on a target aircraft has been examined. In general, it was determined that such thermograms can be taken successfully using an existing airplane/thermography system (NASA Dryden’s F-18 with infrared imaging pod) and that the transition pattern and, thus, the extent of laminar flow can be extracted from these thermograms. Depending on the in-flight distance between the F-18 and the target aircraft, the thermograms can have a spatial resolution of as little as 0.1 inches. The field of view provided by the present remote system is superior to that of prior stationary infrared thermography systems mounted in the fuselage or vertical tail of a subject aircraft. An additional advantage of the present experimental technique is that the target aircraft requires no or minimal modifications. An image processing procedure was developed which improves the signal-to-noise ratio of the thermograms. Problems encountered during the analog recording of the thermograms (banding of video images) made it impossible to evaluate the adequacy of the present imaging system and image processing procedure to detect transition on untreated metal surfaces. The high reflectance, high thermal diffusivity, and low emittance of metal surfaces tend to degrade the images to an extent that it is very difficult to extract transition information from them. The application of a thin (0.005 inches) self-adhesive insulating film to the surface is shown to solve this problem satisfactorily. In addition to the problem of infrared based transition detection on untreated metal surfaces, future flight tests will also concentrate on the visualization of other flow phenomena such as flow separation and reattachment.

*University of California, Davis, Davis, California.


Based on this review, the following conclusions are drawn regarding the ‘school readiness’ of the sites. All six of the sites had great appeal to the reviewers and therefore we can conclude that each has tremendous potential for use in the classroom. None, however, were given a completely ‘school-ready’ assessment. With recommended revisions, each site will be a valuable asset to the classroom teacher. For each as well, teachers particularly had problems with access or finding them, but once there, felt they all had some relevance. Many of the weaknesses noted related to lack of guidance for teachers with links to their curriculum or provision of activities. Other weaknesses related to the lack of educational purpose, however, this may be addressed in the development of strong teacher resources and guides linked to the sites. For those sites with a weak or without a teacher’s guide, adding this component would be worth the expenditure of time and money needed.

*The Pennsylvania State University, College Station, Pennsylvania.


This research set out to investigate flight control of aircraft which has sustained damage in regular flight control effectors, due to jammed control surfaces or complete loss of hydraulic power. It is recognized that in such an extremely difficult situation unconventional measures may need to be taken to regain control and stability of the aircraft. Propulsion controlled aircraft (PCA) concept, initiated at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, represents a ground-breaking effort in this direction. In this approach, the engine is used as the only flight control effector in the rare event of complete loss of normal flight control system. Studies and flight testing conducted at NASA Dryden have confirmed the feasibility of the PCA concept. During the course of this research (March 98, 1997, to November 30, 1997), a comparative study has been done using the full nonlinear model of an F-18 aircraft. Linear controllers and nonlinear controllers based on a nonlinear predictive control method have been designed for normal flight control system and propulsion controlled aircraft. For the healthy aircraft with normal flight control, the study shows that an appropriately designed linear controller can perform as well as a nonlinear controller. On the other hand, when the normal flight control is lost and the engine is the only available means of flight control, a nonlinear PCA controller can significantly increase the size of the recoverable region in which the stability of the unstable aircraft can be attained by using only thrust modulation. The findings and controller design methods have been summarized in an invited paper entitled.

*Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

A goal of the ERAST Program is the commercial application of technology resulting from the work if the ERAST Alliance. This goal is sufficiently primary to be called out in the recitals section of the ERAST Joint Sponsored Research Agreement. In support of this goal, two activities described below were commenced in 1996 to assess and explore commercial applications of UAV technologies relevant to the ERAST Alliance.

*American Technologies Alliances


The objective of this study was to design and construct a vibration control system for an electronic equipment shelf to be evaluated in the NASA Dryden FTF-11. The vibration control system was a hybrid system which included passive and active damping techniques. Passive damping was fabricated into the equipment shelf using ScotchDamp(trademark) damping film and aluminum restraining layers. Active damping was achieved using a two channel active control circuit employing QuickPack(trademark) sensors and actuators. Preliminary Chirp test results indicated passive damping smoothed the frequency response while active damping reduced amplitudes of the frequency response for most frequencies below 500Hz.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


Flight flutter testing is an integral part of flight envelope clearance. This paper discusses advancements in several areas that are being investigated to improve efficiency and safety of flight test programs. Results are presented from recent flight testing of the F/A-18 Systems Research Aircraft. A wingtip excitation system was used to generate aeroelastic response data. This system worked well for many flight conditions but still displayed some anomalies. Wavelet processing is used to analyze the flight data. Filtered transfer functions are generated that greatly improve system identification. A flutter margin is formulated that accounts for errors between a model and flight data. Worst-case flutter margins are computed to demonstrate the flutter boundary may lie closer to the flight envelope than previously estimated. This paper concludes with developments for a distributed flight analysis environment and on-line health monitoring.

*National Research Council


A flight simulation system with graphics and software on Silicon Graphics computer workstations has been installed in the Flight Vehicle Design Laboratory at Tuskegee University. The system has F-15E flight simulation software from NASA Dryden which uses the graphics of SGI flight simulation demos. On the system, thus installed, a study of pilot induced oscillations is planned for future work. Preliminary research is conducted by obtaining two sets of straight level flights with pilot in the loop. In one set of flights no additional delay is used between the stick input and the appearance of airplane response on the computer monitor. In another set of flights, a 500 ms additional delay is used. The flight data is analyzed to find cross correlations between deflections of control surfaces and response of the airplane. The pilot dynamics features depicted from cross correlations of straight level flights are discussed in this report. The correlations presented here will serve as reference material for the corresponding correlations in a future study of pitch attitude tracking tasks involving pilot induced oscillations.

*Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.


The goal of this project was the development of a program of science and mathematics activities that is suitable for use in preschool and daycare settings, for children before they enter kindergarten. More and more members of the business, government, education and military communities are calling for a notable upgrading of the scientific and technical literacy levels of our all of our citizens. Many are encouraging educators to introduce children to relevant learning opportunities at early ages. Two lines of work converge on the suitability of this recommendation. More and more we are seeing how important early learning experiences are for later successful development. Second, research with preschool aged children shows that they do have some conceptual understandings of scientific and mathematical knowledge, ones that can provide a conceptual foundation with which to engage activities about the content and methods of science. Given our own work on the nature of early conceptual competence, we judged that it would be possible to develop suitable preschool learning activities that can support the development of scientific intuitions about: the causal conditions for change and/movement of animate and inanimate objects (that are separably moveable); the similarity and differences between different kinds of plant life and the causal factors that contribute to their growth and form; the role of different energy sources; and scientific ways
of thinking, talking and working—including experimenting, predicting, checking, measuring and record keeping. The idea was to move young children onto science-relevant learning paths, ones that would facilitate their learning about science in the more formal learning opportunities they will encounter in school. To do this we established a unique collaboration between classroom teachers, UCLA researchers who specialize in early learning of mathematical and scientific concepts/tools, and the UCLA Child Care Services program. We also planned to help develop a community of teacher-researchers as part of our dissemination efforts. We achieved our objectives as evidenced by the writing of a draft of a preschool teachers’ guidebook entitled: Preschool Pathways to Science: Facilitating, Scientific Ways of Thinking, Talking, Working.

*University Of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

**1998 Contractor Report**


Fabry-Perot Interferometer (FPI) sensor detection system was continued and refined modifications were made in the data acquisition and evaluation process during the last year. The ultrasonic and FPI detection system was improved from one to multiple sensor detectors. Physical models were developed to understand the physical phenomenon of this work. Multilayered flawed samples were fabricated for inspection by a prototype ultrasonic and FPI detection. Experimental data was verified with simulated results. Undergraduate students that were associated with this research gained valuable knowledge from this experience. This was a learning process helping students to understand the importance of research and its application to solve important technological problems. As a result of our students exposure to this research two and planning to continue this type of research work in graduate school. A prototype instrument package was laboratory tested an actual airframe structure for documentation purposes.

*Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia.


As a result of this funded project high purity Zirconia-Toughened Alumina (ZTA) ceramic powders with and without yttria were produced using metal alkoxide precursors. ZTA ceramic powders with varying volume percents of zirconia were prepared (7, 15, and 22%). Aluminum tri-sec butoxide, zirconium propoxide, and yttrium isopropoxide were the reagents used. Synthesis conditions were varied to control the hydrolysis and the aging conditions for the sol to gel transition. FTIR analysis and rheological characterization were used to follow the structural evolution during the sol to gel transition. The greater extent of hydrolysis and the build-up of structure measured from viscoelastic properties were consistent. Heat treatment was conducted to produce submicron grain fully crystalline ZTA ceramic powders. This improved materials should have enhanced properties such strength, toughness, and wear resistance for advanced structural applications, for example engine components in high technology aerospace applications.

*C Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.


A test bed for the in situ evaluation of electronic devices for high altitude aircraft was developed. A prototype of the test bed, suitable for operation on a research aircraft, was built and readied for ground tests. The principle investigator established a working relationship with the Project APEX team at Dryden with the intent of flying the test bed “piggyback” on a Project APEX balloon in 1998. Contact was also established with NASA contractors charged with operating the ER-2 aircraft now at Dryden.

*Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas.


Three workshops, held in Lancaster, Orange County and Compton, were produced by the Los Angeles Regional Technology Alliance (LARTA) and NASA Far West Technology Transfer Center (FWRTTC). The workshops were held on December 12, 1997, February 5, 1998, and March 30, 1998, respectively. The purpose behind these workshops was to spread information regarding NASA procurement opportunities to small businesses in the region. This was accomplished by inviting economic and business development organizations to the three workshops, presenting NASA procurement resources to them, and asking them to distribute this information to the small businesses in their communities. With the assistance of LARTA, marketing and publicity in the form of direct mail, telemarketing, and promotion via a web site was implemented to publicize the workshops. These methods were remarkably effective because they enabled the workshops to attain its full capacity. Further publicity was provided by Wendy Reed of Valley
Focus Magazine, an Antelope Valley Magazine aimed at business people. Her article entitled, “Doing Business with the Government” recapped the Lancaster workshop that she had attended and made references to several presentations. In the article, she discussed selling to the government via electronic commerce, and specifically mentioned Robert Medina, the NASA Dryden Small Business Specialist, as a contact person for those interested in pursuing procurement opportunities. The feedback provided by the participants is illustrated by the enclosed graphs and charts. These figures represent the number of participants who have frequented web sites presented at workshops, specifically the NASA procurement resources, and how extensive information dissemination was. Input from participants was favorable and encouraged more NASA Dryden workshops directly to the small business communities. There was an overwhelming response to the benefit of the NASA procurement opportunities presented at the workshops. Ninety-nine percent of participants who responded to surveys expressed that the NASA procurement information was beneficial. By the fifth month after the start of the workshops, NASA procurement resource inquiries peaked at 100%. Also during this time, 100% of respondents to a survey mentioned that they had passed along information from workshops to other small businesses or organizations that could benefit from it. These results indicate successful implementation of the Dryden Workshops. The objective of spreading NASA procurement opportunities throughout small businesses in the region was achieved through the three workshops. In conclusion, we recommend that further NASA procurement workshops be funded to continue the education and outreach that has been started. We also feel that in addition to targeting economic development service providers, Dryden procurement should also be provided directly to small business communities.

*University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.


The NASA Academy in Aeronautics at the Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) was a ten-week summer leadership training program conducted for the first time in the summer of 1997. Funding was provided by a contract between DFRC and Purdue University. Mr. Lee Duke of DFRC was the contract monitor, and Professor Dominick Andrisani was the principal investigator. Five student research associates participated in the program. Biographies of the research associates are given in Appendix 1. Dominick Andrisani served as Dean of the NASA Academy in Aeronautics. NASA Academy in Aeronautics is a unique summer institute of higher learning that endeavors to provide insight into all of the elements that make NASA aeronautical research possible. At the same time the Academy assigns the research associate to be mentored by one of NASA’s best researchers so that they can contribute towards an active flight research program. Aeronautical research and development are an investment in the future, and NASA Academy is an investment in aeronautical leaders of the future. The Academy was run by the Indiana Space Grant Consortium at Purdue in strategic partnership with the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. Research associates at the Academy were selected with help from the Space Grant Consortium that sponsored the research associate. Research associate stipend and travel to DFRC were paid by the students’ Space Grant Consortium. All other student expenses were paid by the Academy. Since the Academy at DFRC had only five students the opportunity for individual growth and attention was unique in the country. About 30% of the working time and most of the social time of the students were be spent as a “group” or “team.” This time was devoted to exchange of ideas, on forays into the highest levels of decision making, and in executing aeronautical research. This was done by interviewing leaders throughout the aerospace industry, seminars, working dinners, and informal discussions. The other 70% of the working time was spent working on the technical research project with the engineering mentors. Abstracts of those projects are given in Appendix 4.

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.


Dryden real-time flight simulators encompass the simulation of pulse code modulation (PCM) telemetry signals. This paper presents a new method whereby the calibration polynomial (from first to sixth order), representing the conversion from counts to engineering units (EU), is numerically inverted in real time. The result is less than one-count error for valid EU inputs. The Newton-Raphson method is used to numerically invert the polynomial. A reverse linear interpolation between the EU limits is used to obtain an initial value for the desired telemetry count. The method presented here is not new. What is new is how classical numerical techniques are optimized to take advantage of modern computer power to perform the desired calculations in real time. This technique makes the method simple to understand and implement. There are no interpolation tables to store in memory as in traditional methods. The NASA F-15 simulation converts and transmits over 1000 parameters at 80 times/sec. This paper presents algorithm development, FORTRAN code, and performance results.

Keywords: Flight simulators; Fortran; Newton-Raphson method; Numerical analysis

262. *Kolkailah, Faysal A.; *Elghandour, Eltahry I.; and Kehoe, Michael (Technical Monitor): Modal Analysis of
This report presents an experimental and numerical investigation of the free vibration of cantilevered composite plates with and without passive damping. A total of seven composite material plates are considered. The lay-up sequences for the two plates without damping are [90/90/0/0] and [90/0/90/0]; the other five plates are the same as the first two with two embedded layers of passive damping material. The passive damping material is embedded at different locations in the plate with orientation [90/0/90/0]. The damping material employed is a 3M material (SJ-2015 ISD 112) with peak damping properties in the ambient temperature range (32 F to 140 F). The composite material used is a carbon fiber (977-2)/epoxy resin (IM7). The effect of the passive damping system employed in this study for the composite plates are discussed. Modal testing is performed on these plates to determine resonant frequencies, amplitude and mode shape information. Numerical results are obtained using COSMOS/M software for the plates without damping. The experimental and numerical results are in very good agreement for different laminated plates without damping layers.

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.


In our initial proposal, we laid plans for developing a hybrid motion planning system that combines the concepts of visibility-based motion planning, artificial potential field based motion planning, evolutionary constrained optimization, and reinforcement learning. Our goal was, and still is, to produce a hybrid motion planning system that outperforms the best traditional motion planning systems on problems with dynamic environments. The proposed hybrid system will be in two parts the first is a global motion planning system and the second is a local motion planning system. The global system will take global information about the environment, such as the placement of the obstacles and goals, and produce feasible paths through those obstacles. We envisage a system that combines the evolutionary-based optimization and visibility-based motion planning to achieve this end.

*North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina.

1999 Contractor Report


Light-wing-loaded aircraft such as the high altitude solar electric powered aircraft Pathfinder (designed by AeroVironment, Inc., Simi Valley, Ca.) are extremely sensitive to the wind speeds, wind shears, and turbulence and thereby are easily affected by mountain gravity wave activity. After reaching an altitude over 67,400 ft on June 9, 1997, the Pathfinder aircraft encountered a mountain wave during descent produced by the 5,000+ feet mountain of Hawaii’s northernmost island of Kauai. This paper will discuss the atmospheric conditions and aircraft configuration for this case of mountain wave observed at the U. S. Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. This paper also describes the pathfinder airplane, climatology, and atmospheric conditions leading to the wave formation.

Keywords: Atmospheric waves; Flight test; Meteorology, Mountain waves; Pathfinder; Solar-powered aircraft

*Analytical Services and Materials, Inc., Edwards, California. ** New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico.


This paper presents a new analytical treatment of Unsteady Aerodynamics - the linear theory covering the subsonic compressible (inviscid) case - drawing on some recent work in Operator Theory and Functional Analysis. The specific new results are: (a) An existence and uniqueness proof for the Laplace transform version of the Possio integral equation as well as a new closed form solution approximation thereof. (b) A new representation for the time-domain solution of the subsonic compressible aerodynamic equations emphasizing in particular the role of the initial conditions.

*University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

2003 Contractor Report

266. *Shubov, Marianna A. and **Peterson, Cheryl A.: Asymptotic Distribution of Eigenfrequencies for a

This research is devoted to the asymptotic and spectral analysis of a coupled Euler-Bernoulli and Timoshenko beam model. The model is governed by a system of two coupled differential equations and a parameter family of boundary conditions modeling the action of self-staining actuators. The aforementioned equations of motion together with a two-parameter family of boundary conditions form a coupled linear hyperbolic system, which is equivalent to a single operator evolution equation in the energy space. That equation defines a semigroup of bounded operators. The dynamics generator of the semigroup is our main object of interest. For each set of boundary parameters, the dynamics generator has a compact inverse. If both boundary parameters are not purely imaginary numbers, then the dynamics generator is a selfadjoint operator in the energy space. We calculate the spectral asymptotics of the dynamics generator. We find that the spectrum lies in a strip parallel to the horizontal axis, and is asymptotically close to the horizontal axis - thus the system is stable, but is not uniformly stable.

Keywords: Aeroelastic mode; Bending-torsion vibration model; Integro-differential equations; Reflection matrix; Theodorsen function

* Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.
** University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

2005 Contractor Report


Mathematical development and some computed results are presented for Mindlin plate and shell elements, suitable for analysis of laminated composite and sandwich structures. These elements use the conventional 3 (plate) or 5 (shell) nodal degrees of freedom, have no communicable mechanisms, have no spurious shear energy (no shear locking), have no spurious membrane energy (no membrane locking) and do not require arbitrary reduction of out-of-plane shear moduli or under-integration. Artificial out-of-plane rotational stiffnesses are added at the element level to avoid convergence problems or singularity due to flat spots in shells. This report discusses a 6-node curved triangular element and a 4-node quadrilateral element. Findings show that in regular rectangular meshes, the Martin-Breiner 6-node triangular curved shell (MB6) is approximately equivalent to the conventional 8-node quadrilateral with 2 x 2 integration. The 4-node quadrilateral (MB4) has very good accuracy for a 4-node element, and may be preferred in vibration analysis because of narrower bandwidth. The mathematical developments used in these elements, those discussed in the seven appendices, have been applied to elements with 3, 4, 6, and 10 nodes and can be applied to other nodal configurations.

Keywords: Aerospace engineering; Composites; Curved elements; Finite element; Structural design

*Martin Engineering Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska.


Wavelet transforms are used for on-line detection of aircraft loss of control. Wavelet transforms are compared with Fourier transform methods and shown to more rapidly detect changes in the vehicle dynamics. This faster response is due to a time window that decreases in length as the frequency increases. New wavelets are defined that further decrease the detection time by skewing the shape of the envelope. The wavelets are used for power spectrum and transfer function estimation. Smoothing is used to tradeoff the variance of the estimate with detection time. Wavelets are also used as front-end to the eigensystem reconstruction algorithm. Stability metrics are estimated from the frequency response and models, and it is these metrics that are used for loss of control detection. A Matlab toolbox was developed for post-processing simulation and flight data using the wavelet analysis methods. A subset of these methods was implemented in real time and named the Loss of Control Analysis Tool Set or LOCATS. A manual control experiment was conducted using a hardware-in-the-loop simulator for a large transport aircraft, in which the real time performance of LOCATS was demonstrated. The next step is to use these wavelet analysis tools for flight test support.

*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California.


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*Systems Technology, Inc., Hawthorne, California


The ground testing of a Rocket Based Combined Cycle engine implementing the Simultaneous Mixing and Combustion scheme was performed at the direct-connect facility of Purdue University’s High Pressure Laboratory. The fuel-rich exhaust of a JP-8/H2O2 thruster was mixed with compressed, metered air in a constant area, axisymmetric duct. The thruster was similar in design and function to that which will be used in the flight test series of Dryden’s Ducted-Rocket Experiment. The determination of duct ignition limits was made based on the variation of secondary air flow rates and primary thruster equivalence ratios. Thrust augmentation and improvements in specific impulse were studied along with the pressure and temperature profiles of the duct to study mixing lengths and thermal choking. The occurrence of ignition was favored by lower rocket equivalence ratios. However, among ignition cases, better thrust and specific impulse performance were seen with higher equivalence ratios owing to the increased fuel available for combustion. Thrust and specific impulse improvements by factors of 1.2 to 1.7 were seen. The static pressure and temperature profiles allowed regions of mixing and heat addition to be identified. The mixing lengths were found to be shorter at lower rocket equivalence ratios. Total pressure measurements allowed plume-based calculation of thrust, which agreed with load-cell measured values to within 6.5-8.0%. The corresponding Mach Number profile indicated the flow was not thermally choked for the highest duct static pressure case.

* Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
Appendix C. UCLA Flight Systems Research Center Publications

The following papers were published under NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Grant NCC2-374 by the Flight Systems Research Center (FSRC) at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). This program is run under the direction of Dr. Kenneth W. Iliff of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The publications listed were written by students or faculty of UCLA unless otherwise noted.

UCLA FSRC 1988 Publications


Methods for noninvasive study of the dynamic characteristics of the internal behavior of a heat pipe are proposed. The application of twin beam holographic interferometry to simultaneously measure temperature and concentration of a noncondensible is described. Laser Doppler anemometry is recommended for measurement of the local instantaneous velocities in the vapor phase.


Analytical/numerical modeling of the behavior of a single nonreacting liquid jet in compressible (high subsonic and supersonic) crossflows is described here. Inviscid, compressible flow about the elliptical cross-section of the jet is solved numerically, using a procedure modeled after that of Godunov. External boundary layer analysis along the surface of the elliptical cross-section allows determination of an effective drag associated with the jet, which balances centripetal forces resulting from jet deflection. Mass and momentum balances performed along the jet, with and without the inclusion of mass loss due to droplet shedding, are then incorporated so that liquid jet trajectories and bow shock penetration may be calculated. Comparisons of the predictions are made with experimental results.


In the numerical simulation of incompressible and anelastic flows, it is necessary to solve an elliptic equation at each time step. When the boundaries of such flows are nonrectangular, it may be advantageous to solve the equations on a new, numerically generated coordinate grid, in which the property of orthogonality has been preserved. Flow equations in general curvilinear coordinates maintaining the conservative form are given for both anelastic models using the momentum equations, and for incompressible models, using the vorticity equation. The general problem of grid-generation in two dimensions is presented, and a quasi-conformal transformation technique is discussed in detail. Some examples of grids generated by this technique are exhibited. Three examples of the flow of a stratified fluid over obstacles are presented, in which the grid-generation permits some new results to be obtained.


This paper discusses an analytical/numerical model developed to describe the behavior of gaseous jets injected transversely into a subsonic (but compressible) crossflow. The cross-section of the jet is modeled as an inviscid compressible vortex pair, consistent with experimental observations of the transversejet cross-section. The numerically computed behavior of the vortex pair is used as an input to mass and momentum balances along the jet, forming a model which describes the trajectory, entrainment, and mixing of jets injected into subsonic compressible crossflows.

10. Lincoln, R. A.; and Yao, K.: Kalman Filtering Systolic...
**UCLA FSRC 1989 Publications**


Holographic interferometry is a nonintrusive method and as such possesses considerable advantages such as not disturbing the velocity and temperature field by creating obstacles which would alter the flow field. These optical methods have disadvantages as well. Holography, as one of the interferometry methods, retains the accuracy of older methods, and at the same time eliminates the system error of participating components. The holographic interferometry consists of comparing the objective beam with the reference beam and observing the difference in lengths of optical paths, which can be observed during the propagation of the light through a medium with locally varying refractive index. Thus, change in refractive index can be observed as a family of nonintersecting surfaces in space (wave fronts). The object of the investigation was a rectangular heat pipe. The goal was to measure temperatures in the heat pipe, which yields data for computer code or model assessment. The results were obtained by calculating the temperatures by means of finite fringes.


Results on efficient forms of decoding convolutional codes based on the Viterbi algorithm by using systolic arrays are presented. Various properties of convolutional codes are discussed. A technique called strongly connected trellis decoding is introduced to increase the efficient utilization of all the systolic array processors. Issues dealing with the composite branch metric generation, survivor updating, overall system architecture, throughput rate, and computational overhead ratio also investigated. The scheme is applicable to both hard and soft decoding of any rate b/n convolutional code. It is shown that as the length of the code becomes large, the systolic Viterbi decoder maintains a regular and general interconnection structure as well as moderate throughput rate gain over the sequential Viterbi decoder.

*California Institute of Technology, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.


An analytical/numerical model for the deflection and mixing of a single gaseous jet in a supersonic crossflow is presented. The jet cross-section is described in terms of the compressible vortex pair resulting from viscous and impulsive forces acting at the jet periphery, and the vortex pair data are combined with data for the mass and momentum balance along the jet axis in order to model the trajectory and mixing of the injected fluid. A numerical technique is employed to solve for the inviscid outer flow and the position of the bow shock which envelopes the jet. The model is shown to be capable of predicting overall jet penetration (for perfectly or slightly underexpanded jets) to within 10 percent of experimental findings, while requiring only a few seconds of computer time.


**UCLA FSRC 1990 Publications**


The purpose is to solve the Linear Quadratic Regulator
An analytical study of the breakup, burning, and ignition of liquid fuels injected transversely into a hot air stream is conducted. The non-reacting liquid jet breakup location is determined by the local sonic point criterion. Two models, one employing analysis of an elliptical jet cross-section and the other employing a two-dimensional blunt body to represent the transverse jet, were used for sonic point calculations. An auxiliary criterion based on surface tension stability is used as a separate means of determining the breakup location. For the reacting liquid jet problem, a diffusion flame supported by a one-step chemical reaction within the gaseous boundary layer is solved along the ellipse surface in subsonic cross flow. Typical flame structures and concentration profiles were calculated for various locations along the jet cross-section as a function of upstream Mach numbers. The integration reaction rate along the jet cross-section is used to predict ignition position, which is found to be situated near the stagnation point. While a multi-step reaction is needed to represent the ignition process more accurately, the present calculation does yield reasonable predictions concerning ignition along a curved surface.


Least-squares (LS) estimations and spectral decomposition algorithms constitute the heart of modern signal processing and communication problems. Implementations of recursive LS and spectral decomposition algorithms onto parallel processing architectures such as systolic arrays with efficient fault-tolerant schemes are the major concerns of this dissertation. There are four major results in this dissertation. First, we propose the systolic block Householder transformation with application to the recursive least-squares minimization. It is successfully implemented on a systolic array with a two-level pipelined implementation at the vector level as well as at the word level. Second, a real-time algorithm-based concurrent error detection scheme based on the residual method is proposed for the QRD RLS systolic array. The fault diagnosis, order degraded reconfiguration, and performance analysis are also considered. Third, the dynamic range, stability, error detection capability under finite-precision implementation, order degraded performance, and residual estimation under faulty situations for the QRD RLS systolic array are studied in details. Finally, we propose the use of multi-phase systolic algorithms for spectral decomposition based on the QR algorithm. Two systolic architectures, one based on triangular array and another based on rectangular array, are presented for the multiphase operations with fault-tolerant considerations. Eigenvectors and singular vectors can be easily obtained by using the multi-pase operations. Performance issues are also considered.


An analytical/numerical model is described which predicts
the behavior of nonreacting and reacting liquid jets injected transversely into subsonic cross flow. The compressible flowfield about the elliptical jet cross section is solved at various locations along the jet trajectory by analytical means for free-stream local Mach number perpendicular to jet cross section smaller than 0.3 and by numerical means for free-stream local Mach number perpendicular to jet cross section in the range 0.3-1.0. External and internal boundary layers along the jet cross section are solved by integral and numerical methods, and the mass losses due to boundary layer shedding, evaporation, and combustion are calculated and incorporated into the trajectory calculation. Comparison of predicted trajectories is made with limited experimental observations.


The purpose of the study is to develop an analytical model of the transient dynamics of the liquid phase in a including boundary conditions, required to solve the liquid-phases, heat-pipe problem are considered. A simplified solution is formulated by using certain assumptions and integrating the liquid-dynamics equations. A kinetic-theory approach is used to model the phase change. It is pointed out that the model requires a small time step for stability even with the simplifications used in the analysis. At the same time, the study indicates that the transient heat-pipe problem is not amenable to a straightforward simplification such as is used for the vapor phase and requires a full solution of the liquid and vapor phases.


Currently NASA, USA, has under active study and development several large structures for deployment in space. These include for instance beam-like trusses to serve as antenna masts and/or basic building blocks for Space Station construction. An important design consideration is that of assuring adequate stability of the structure in the space environment and in addition in the case of antennas, meeting stringent pointing accuracy requirements. This paper addresses some of the basic design considerations involved such as: (1) modeling flexible multibody dynamics, including sensors and actuators, (2) identifying/monitoring model parameters in orbit, and (3) integrated controls-structures optimization with emphasis on novel concepts and techniques.


Three truncated QR methods are proposed for sinusoidal frequency estimation: (1) truncated QR without column pivoting (TQR), (2) truncated QR with reordered columns, and (3) truncated QR with column pivoting. It is demonstrated that the benefit of truncated SVD for high frequency resolution is achievable under the truncated QR approach with much lower computational cost. Other attractive features of the proposed methods include the ease of updating, which is difficult for the SVD method, and numerical stability. TQR methods thus offer efficient ways to identify sinusoids closely clustered in frequencies under stationary and nonstationary conditions.


A new successive-approximation A/D converter is described. It combines a string of equal-valued polysilicon resistors and a set of ratioed capacitors in a unique circuit configuration so that a high sampling rate is achieved. The comparator is realized by a chopper-stabilized amplifier to reduce the effect of the offset voltages of MOS amplifiers. The converter performs an 8-b monotonic conversion with a differential nonlinearity less than 1 LSB in 770 nsec. The die area is 3750 sq mil. This new conversion technique can also be utilized in a pipelined A/D converter (Temes, 1985) and enables it to achieve high speed.


The vapor flow patterns in heat pipes are examined during the start-up transient phase. The vapor core is modeled as a channel flow using a two dimensional compressible flow model. A nonlinear filtering technique is used as a post process to eliminate the nonphysical oscillations of the flow variables. For high-input heat flux, multiple shock reflections are observed in the evaporation region. The reflections cause a reverse flow in the evaporation and circulations in the adiabatic region. Furthermore, each shock reflection causes a significant increase in the local pressure and a large pressure drop along the heat pipe.


A modification of the offset-compensated switched-capacitor integrator is described. The resulting circuit has a reduced delay and low gain distortion. It also retains the simplicity and low phase errors of earlier schemes.


Measurements of the temperature and noncondensible gas fields found in a heat pipe are reported. The heat pipe is rectangular in cross section to facilitate measurements using twin beams interferometry. The heat pipe operating fluid is Freon 113, and air the noncondensible gas constituent. The experimental technique is described, and results are in the form of graphs of temperatures and molar concentration fractions for different regions of the heat pipe. Some interferograms showing the actual flow field under different laser lights are included.


The transient behavior of vapor flow during the startup mode of heat pipe operation is analyzed numerically. The vapor core is modeled as a channel flow using a two-dimensional compressible flow model. The centered difference scheme along with a nonlinear filtering technique is employed to overcome non-physical oscillations in flow variables. It is shown that multiple shockwave reflections are obtained near the evaporation region during the early stage of startup transient. Shock reflections induce time dependent flow reversals which are only transient and disappear as the dynamics approach steady state.


Heat flux induced dryout of thin liquid films on an inclined copper plate was studied. Rewet of the dried out area is also considered. The four fluids used to form the thin films exhibited very different dryout and rewet characteristics. The contact angle and hysteresis effects were found to be important, but they must be considered in context with other parameters. No single variable was found to independently determine the pattern of dryout and rewet.


The transition density of a one-dimensional diffusion process with a discontinuous drift coefficient is studied. A probabilistic representation of the transition density is given, illustrating the close connections between discontinuities of the drift and Brownian local times. In addition, some explicit results are obtained based upon the trivariate density of Brownian motion, its occupation, and local times.

*University of California, Los Angeles, California.
A class of infinite impulse response (IIR) digital filters with a systolizable structure is proposed and its synthesis is investigated. The systolizable structure consists of pipelineable regular modules with local connections and is suitable for VLSI implementation. It is capable of achieving high performance as well as high throughput. This class of filter structure provides certain degrees of freedom that can be used to obtain some desirable properties for the filter. Techniques of evaluating the internal signal powers and the output roundoff noise of the proposed filter structure are developed. Based upon these techniques, a well-scaled IIR digital filter with minimum output roundoff noise is designed using a local optimization approach. The internal signals of all the modes of this filter are scaled to unity in the L2-norm sense. Compared to the Rao-Kailath (1984) orthogonal digital filter and the Gray-Markel (1973) normalized-lattice digital filter, this filter has better scaling properties and lower output roundoff noise.

*Bell Communications Research, Inc., Red Bank, New Jersey.

A numerical solution for the flow field associated with a compressible pair of counter-rotating vortices is developed. The compressible, two-dimensional potential equation is solved utilizing the numerical method of Osher et al. (1985) for flow regions in which a non-zero density exists. Close to the vortex centers, vacuum ‘cores’ develop owing to the existence of a maximum achievable flow speed in a compressible flow field. A special treatment is required to represent these vacuum cores. Typical streamline patterns and core boundaries are obtained for upstream Mach numbers as high as 0.3, and the formation of weak shocks, predicted by Moore and Pullin (1987), is observed.

The transient behavior of heat pipes during the start-up mode of operation is studied using a 2D transient model to represent the vapor core as well as other regions of the heat pipe. An implicit finite difference scheme is used with different time scales for the vapor region and the solid regions of the heat pipe to save significant computational time. The transient characteristics of the solid and the liquid phases effect the vapor flow transient behavior. If the working fluid is highly conductive (liquid metals), the compressible waves are generated in the vapor space, which cause flow circulations. The vapor flow transient behavior was found to be two-dimensional which cannot simply be modeled as a one-dimensional flow.


The vapor flow transient behavior was found to be two-dimensional which cannot simply be modeled as a one-dimensional flow.


UCLA FSRC 1991 Publications


The cost of numerical studies of heat pipe dynamics is prohibitively expensive both in computational time used and in computer resource allocation. The potential of the spectral methods is explored for the heat pipe analysis to significantly reduce the computational efforts. Using data sets from the numerical calculations available from past studies, it is shown that a few first terms of Fourier Series, given the proper trial functions, will satisfactorily represent the data sets.


A unified approach is presented for deriving a large class of new and previously known time- and order-recursive least-squares algorithms with systolic array architectures, suitable for high-throughput-rate and VLSI implementations of space-time filtering and system identification problems. The geometrical derivation given is unique in that no assumption is made concerning the rank of the sample data correlation matrix. This method utilizes and extends the concept of oblique projections, as used previously in the derivations of the least-squares lattice algorithms. Exponentially weighted least-squares criteria are considered for both sliding and growing memory.

*MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.


A theoretical study of the breakup of a circular liquid jet injected transversely into a supersonic air stream is conducted. Two different criteria for breakup are explored in the context of a previously developed model for the behavior of liquid jets in compressible crossflow (Heister et al., 1989). The local sonic point criterion first proposed by Schetz, et al. (1980) is explored, in addition to an auxiliary criterion put forth by Clark (1964) based on surface-tension stability. It is found that the local sonic point appears to provide a more reasonable approximation to the actual location of jet breakup, based on comparisons with limited experimental data.


A novel computational method for aeroelastic stability and structural response calculations is presented in which the entire fluid-structure system is treated as one continuum dynamics problem, by using a mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation and switching from an Eulerian to a Lagrangian description at the fluid-structure boundary. This method effectively eliminates the phase integration errors associated with previous methods, where the fluid and the structure are integrated sequentially by different schemes; it also provides a systematic method for coupling finite element structural codes to finite volume fluid dynamics codes, in a manner that leads to highly vectorizable overall codes. The method is applied to transonic flutter calculations with wings and cascades, using simple finite element models. These results suggest that the method is capable of reproducing the energy exchange between the fluid and the structure with much less error that existing methods.


A digital adaptive controller is applied to the active flutter suppression problem of a wing under time varying flight conditions in subsonic and transonic flow. Linear quadratic controller gain at each time step is obtained using an iterative Riccati solver. The digital adaptive optimal controller is robust with respect to the unknown external loads. Flutter and divergence instabilities are simultaneously suppressed using a trailing-edge control surface and displacement sensing. A new transonic unsteady aeroelastic approximation
methodology is developed which enables one to carry out the rapid calculation required for transonic aeroservoelastic applications. This approximation is based on a combination of unsteady subsonic aerodynamics combined with a transonic correction procedure. Aeroservoelastic transient time response is obtained using Roger’s approximation, state transition matrices and an iterative time marching algorithm. The aeroservoelastic system in the time domain is modeled using a deterministic ARMA model together with a parameter estimator. Transonic flutter boundaries of a wing structure are computed, in the time domain, using an estimated aeroelastic system matrix and are in good agreement with experimental data for the low transonic Mach number range.

*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.


Vapor dynamics of heat pipes during the start-up phase of operation is analyzed. The vapor flow is modeled by a two-dimensional, compressible viscous flow in an enclosure with inflow and outflow boundary conditions. For high-input heat fluxes, a compression wave is created in the evaporator early in the operation. A nonlinear filtering technique, along with the centered difference scheme, is used to capture the shocklike wave and overcome the cell Reynolds number problem. Multiple wave reflections are observed in the evaporation and adiabatic regions. These wave reflections cause a significant increase in the local pressure and flow circulations, which grow with time. It is shown that the maximum and maximum-averaged pressure drops oscillate periodically because of the wave reflections. Although the pressure drops converge to a constant value at steady state, they are significantly higher than their steady-state value at the initiation of the process. The time for the vapor core to reach a steady-state condition was found to be on the order of seconds.


The dynamic behavior of the vapor flow is analyzed for the heat pipes with axisymmetric geometry. The results show that the transient process involves multiple symmetric radial wave reflections about the symmetry line, as was observed in the two-dimensional analysis. Each wave reflection causes a significant increase in the local pressure and a large pressure drop along the heat pipe. The cost of numerical studies of heat pipe dynamics is prohibitively expensive both in computational time used and in computer resource allocation. The potential of the Galerkin method is exploited for the heat pipe analysis to significantly reduce the computational efforts. Applying a Fourier analysis on the data resulted from the numerical calculations, it is shown that a few first terms of Fourier series, given the proper trial functions, will satisfactorily represent the data sets.

78. Stroes, Gustave; Rohloff, Thomas; and Catton, Ivan: The Dependence of Capillary Force in Rectangular
The effect of heat flux on the capillary forces in rectangular grooves has been studied. Tests were simultaneously undertaken on grooves of different depths so that the effect of varying the aspect ratio could be examined. It was found that deeper grooves are generally capable of providing larger capillary forces than shallow grooves when no heat is applied. Upon the introduction of a heat flux, grooves of all depths showed a degradation in the net capillary force that could be provided to pull fluid upwards against gravity. Three stages of meniscus retreat were observed corresponding to three ranges of heat input. Experiments showed that shallow channels tend to be less sensitive to heat loads than deeper channels.

UCLA FSRC 1992 Publications


This paper describes an analytical model of an incompressible, isothermal reacting jet in crossflow. The model represents the flow in the jet cross-section by a counter rotating vortex pair, a flow structure that has been observed to dominate the jet behavior. The reaction surface surrounding the fuel jet is represented as a composite of strained diffusion flames that are stretched and deformed by the vortex pair flow. The results shed new light on the interaction between the vortex pair circulation and flame structure evolution and their relation to the concept of entrainment.


A computational study of the influence of shock motion on flutter and divergence in transonic flow is presented. The numerical scheme models the entire fluid-structure system as a single continuum dynamics problem, by using a mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation. No assumptions of small displacements are made, but the effect of viscosity is neglected. The results from this study indicate that the shock dynamics gives rise to limit cycles and highly nonlinear aeroelastic phenomena, such as weak divergence and flutter-divergence interactions. Although the shocks typically are destabilizing at the linear flutter boundary, they often have a strongly stabilizing effect for moderate-amplitude motions. The shocks are thus capable of quenching an emerging bending-torsion flutter motion and turning it into limit cycle flutter. The usefulness of classical flutter and divergence boundary diagrams is severely limited in transonic flow, because much of the global dynamic stability information is lost in such a presentation.


A finite element solution of the unsteady Euler equations is presented and demonstrated for 2D airfoil configurations oscillating in transonic flows. Computations are performed by spatially discretizing the conservation equations using the Galerkin weighted residual method and thenemploying a multistage Runge-Kutta scheme to march forward in time. A mesh deformation scheme has been developed to efficiently move interior points in a smooth fashion as the airfoil undergoes rigid body pitch and plunge motion. Both steady and unsteady results are presented, and a comparison is made with solutions obtained using finite-volume techniques. The effects of using either a lumped or consistent mass matrix are presented; the finite element method provides an accurate solution for unsteady transonic flows about isolated airfoils.


A new methodology for flutter boundary identification in the time domain is presented. This technique is based on a single-input single-output deterministic ARMA model and an on-line parameter estimation procedure. It is capable of simultaneous identification of the aeroelastic modal parameters as well as the static offset term which represents the static deformation or state of the aeroelastic system. The capabilities of the method are illustrated by applying it to several examples, such as: damped free oscillations, a two degree of freedom NACA 64A010 airfoil in transonic flight, and a cantilevered rectangular wing in subsonic flow. Numerical implementations of the new methodology developed in this study demonstrates that it is a cost effective time-domain technique for flutter boundary identification.


105. Fricker, Darren; Mendoza, John; and Catton, Ivan: **A Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis of the Hypersonic Flights of Pegasus.** NASA CR-186023, H-1835, NAS 1.26:186023, **August 1992,** 92N32560, #.

The performance of a fully viscous, three-dimensional Navier-Stokes solver, PARC3D, was tested. The criteria for judging the performance of the CFD code were based on flight data from the first two flights of the Pegasus. The flight data consisted of heat-transfer rates and sparse pressure coefficients primarily in the fillet region of the vehicle. The code performed remarkably well in all aspects of the tests. As expected, the best heat-transfer results were obtained for the low Mach number simulations. These results are attributed to lack of high ablation rates at the lower Mach numbers since the CFD simulations did not account for ablation at the vehicle surface. As the Mach number increased, the ablative effects became more apparent in the comparisons. This effect was evident at the highest Mach numbers, when PARC3D would be required over the entire fillet region, rather than at a few discrete locations. In this manner, CFD heat-flux profiles could be accurately evaluated. Although the pressure data were sparse, the trends suggest that the code predicts surface pressures with reasonable accuracy. Three of the four locations yield pressures that are consistent, but the CFD results yield pressures below the flight data by a factor of 2 at the fourth location.


A computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis of the hypersonic flights of the NASA’s Pegasus launch vehicle was carried out using the PARC code. The flight data included heat transfer rates and sparse pressure coefficients primarily in the fillet region of the vehicle. Since the CFD simulations did not account for ablation at the vehicle surface, the test heat transfer results were obtained for the low Mach number simulations; as the Mach number was increased, the ablative effects at the vehicle surface became more apparent and contributed to the error.


The instability of a liquid jet immersed in a coflowing compressible airstream is investigated, for both two-dimensional and circular jets, using a simplified flow model in which the effects associated with the cross-flow component of velocity are ignored. Results of the analysis agreed qualitatively with experimental results in that they suggest a more violent instability when the free-stream Mach number is close to unity. It was also found that a change from convective to absolute instability occurs in this transonic flow regime.


The flow of an incompressible, stratified fluid over an obstacle will produce an oscillation in which buoyancy is the restoring force, called a gravity wave. For disturbances of this scale, the atmosphere may be treated as incompressible; and even the linear approximation will explain many of the phenomena observed in the lee of mountains. However, nonlinearities arise in two ways: (1) through the large (scaled) size of the mountain, and (2) from dynamically singular levels in the fluid field. These produce a complicated array of phenomena that present hazards to aircraft and to lee surface areas. If there is no dynamic barrier, these waves can penetrate vertically into the middle atmosphere (30-100 km altitude), where recent observations show them to be of a length scale that must involve the Coriolis force in any modeling. At these altitudes, the amplitude of the waves is very large, and the waves are studied with a view to their potential impact on the projected National Aerospace Plane. This paper presents the results of analyses and state-of-the-art numerical simulations, validated where possible by observational data.
A Dynamic Flowgraph Methodology (DFM) based on an integrated approach to modeling and analyzing the behavior of software-driven embedded systems for assessing and verifying reliability and safety is discussed. DFM is based on an extension of the Logic Flowgraph Methodology to incorporate state transition models. System models which express the logic of the system in terms of causal relationships between physical variables and temporal characteristics of software modules are analyzed to determine how a certain state can be reached. This is done by developing timed fault trees which take the form of logical combinations of static trees relating the system parameters at different point in time. The resulting information concerning the hardware and software states can be used to eliminate unsafe execution paths and identify testing criteria for safety critical software functions.


A computational study of inviscid, transonic aileron and trailing-edge buzz instabilities is presented. A mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation is used to model the fluid-structure system and to obtain a system of space-discretized equations that is time-marched to simulate the aeroelastic behavior of the wing-aileron system. Results obtained suggest that shock-induced separation may not be an essential driving force behind all buzz phenomena. Several examples are shown where the shock motion interacts with the aileron motion to extract energy from the flow. If the trailing-edge region is sufficiently flexible and the shocks are at the trailing edge, a trailing-edge buzz instability appears possible.


The general equations describing the nonlinear fluttering oscillations of shallow, curved, heated orthotropic panels have been derived. The formulation takes into account the location of the panel on the surface of a generic hypersonic vehicle, when calculating the aerodynamic loads. It is also shown that third order piston theory produces unsteady aerodynamic loading which is in close agreement with that based upon direct solution of the Euler equations. Results, for simply supported panels, are obtained using Galerkin’s method combined with direct numerical integration in time to compute stable limit cycle amplitudes. These results illustrate the sensitivity of the aeroelastic behavior to the unsteady aerodynamic assumptions, temperature, orthotropy and flow orientation.


A computational study of inviscid, transonic aileron and trailing-edge buzz instabilities is presented. A mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation is used to model the fluid-structure system and to obtain a system of space-discretized equations that is time-marched to simulate the aeroelastic behavior of the wing-aileron system. Results obtained suggest that shock-induced separation may not be an essential driving force behind all buzz phenomena. Several examples are shown where the shock motion interacts with the aileron motion to extract energy from the flow. If the trailing-edge region is sufficiently flexible and the shocks are at the trailing edge, a trailing-edge buzz instability appears possible.


Turbulent flow in a 2D channel with repeated rectangular rib roughness was numerically simulated using a low Reynolds number form of the k-epsilon turbulence model. Friction factors and average Stanton numbers were calculated for various pitch to rib height ratios and bulk Reynolds numbers. Comparisons with experiment were generally adequate, with the predictions of friction superior to those for heat transfer. The effect of variable properties for channel flow was investigated, and the results showed a greater effect for friction than for heat transfer. Comparison with experiment yielded no clear conclusions. The turbulence model was also validated for a related problem, that of flow downstream of an abrupt pipe expansion.
The transfer of energy from a compressible airstream to a coflowing unstable liquid jet via the pressure perturbation at the interface is studied as the Mach number varies continuously from subsonic to supersonic values. The ‘lift’ component of the pressure perturbation has been demonstrated to predominate up to slightly supersonic free-stream Mach numbers, after which the ‘drag’ component predominates.

The flow of an incompressible fluid over an obstacle will produce an oscillation in which buoyancy is the restoring force, called a gravity wave. For disturbances of this scale, the atmosphere may be treated as dynamically incompressible, even though there exists a mean static upward density gradient. Even in the linear approximation -i.e., for small disturbances - this model explains a great many of the flow phenomena observed in the lee of mountains. However, nonlinearities do arise importantly, in three ways: through amplification due to the decrease of mean density with height; (2) through the large (scaled) size of the obstacle, such as a mountain range; and (3) from dynamically singular levels in the fluid field. These effects produce a complicated array of phenomena - large departure of the streamlines from their equilibrium levels, high winds, generation of small scales, turbulence, etc. - that present hazards to aircraft and to lee surface areas. The nonlinear disturbances also interact with the larger-scale flow in such a manner as to impact global weather forecasts and the climatological momentum balance. If there is no dynamic barrier, these waves can penetrate vertically into the middle atmosphere (30–100 km), where recent observations show them to be of a length scale that must involve the coriolis force in any modeling. At these altitudes, the amplitude of the waves is very large, and the phenomena associated with these wave dynamics are being studied with a view to their potential impact on high performance aircraft, including the projected National Aerospace Plane (NASP). The presentation shows the results of analysis and of state-of-the-art numerical simulations, validated where possible by observational data, and illustrated with photographs from nature.
The essentially nonoscillatory (ENO) shock-capturing scheme for the solution of hyperbolic equations is extended to solve a system of coupled conservation equations governing two-dimensional, time-dependent, compressible chemically reacting flow with full chemistry. The thermodynamic properties of the mixture are modeled accurately, and stiff kinetic terms are separated from the fluid motion by a fractional step algorithm. The methodology is used to study the concept of shock-induced mixing and combustion, a process by which the interaction of a shock wave with a jet of low-density hydrogen fuel enhances mixing through streamwise vorticity generation. Test cases with and without chemical reaction are explored here. Our results indicate that, in the temperature range examined, vorticity generation as well as the distribution of atomic species do not change significantly with the introduction of a chemical reaction and subsequent heat release. The actual diffusion of hydrogen is also relatively unaffected by the reaction process. This suggests that the fluid mechanics of this problem may be successfully decoupled from the combustion processes, and that computation of the mixing problem (without combustion chemistry) can elucidate much of the important physical features of the flow.

This paper treats the control problem of shaping the surface deformation of a circular plate using embedded piezo-electric actuators and collocated rate sensors. An explicit Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) optimizer stability augmentation compensator is derived as well as the optimal feed-forward control. Corresponding performance evaluation formulas are also derived.

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This thesis focuses on the subject of the accuracy of parameter estimation and system identification techniques. Motivated by a complicated load measurement from NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, advanced system identification techniques are needed. The objective of this problem is to accurately predict the load experienced by the aircraft wing structure during flight determined from a set of calibrated load and gage response relationship. We can then model the problem as a black box input-output system identification from which the system parameter has to be estimated. Traditional LS (Least Square) techniques and the issues of noisy data and model accuracy are addressed. A statistical bound reflecting the change in residual is derived in order to understand the effects of the perturbations on the data. Due to the intrinsic nature of the LS problem, LS solution faces the dilemma of the trade off between model accuracy and noise sensitivity. A method of conflicting performance indices is presented, thus allowing us to improve the noise sensitivity while at the same time configuring the degradation of the model accuracy. SVD techniques for data reduction are studied and the equivalence of the Correspondence Analysis (CA) and Total Least Squares Criteria are proved. We also looked at nonlinear LS problems with NASA F-111 data set as an example. Conventional methods are neither easily applicable nor suitable for the specific load problem since the exact model of the system is unknown. Neural Network (NN) does not require prior information on the model of the system. This robustness motivated us to apply the NN techniques on our load problem. Simulation results for the NN methods used in both the single load and the ‘warning signal’ problems are both useful and encouraging. The performance of the NN (for single load estimate) is better than the LS approach, whereas no conventional approach was tried for the ‘warning signals’ problems. The NN design methodology is also presented. The use of SVD, California and Collinearity Index methods are used to reduce the number of neurons in a layer.


The nonlinear interfacial instability of a liquid jet in a coflowing compressible airstream is studied numerically. A high-resolution scheme which has second-order accuracy in space and time is coupled with a Lagrangian marker particle algorithm to visualize the large-scale motion of the interfaces in compressible flow. A numerical algorithm based on an approximate equation of state of a compressible liquid is developed to allow this two-fluid system to be governed by the nonlinear unsteady Euler equations in conservative form. The initial growth of small disturbances given by the simulations agrees well with linear theory. The process of jet disruption in compressible flow is demonstrated to consist of the formation of liquid spikes, interweaving of the gas and liquid and stretching and detachment of the liquid main center core.


Empirical correlations for evaporation rates from single fuel droplets have existed since the 1930s. These correlations, which will be referred to in this article as Froessling/Ranz-Marshall types of correlations, are appropriate to the special cases of steady-state evaporation in the absence of chemical reaction. In a previous article by the authors, the quasi-steady evaporation and burning processes associated with a fuel drop in a convective environment are examined through a droplet model based on the boundary layer approach. For droplet Reynolds numbers of practical interest, this model produces very reasonable steady state as well as quasi-time-dependent droplet simulations, requiring relatively short computational times and yielding good agreement with the above-mentioned empirical correlations. The steady-state case, however, is usually relevant to practical combustor situations only when the drop has reached a nearly uniform temperature since the heating process of the drop cannot be considered to be quasi-steady. In the present study, the transient heating process of the droplet interior during evaporation and/or burning is taken into account, and thus calculations pertaining to the entire life-time of the droplet are carried out. It is of particular interest here to obtain simplified correlations to describe the transient behavior of evaporating and burning droplets; these may be incorporated with greater ease into spray calculations. Accordingly, we have chosen to use stagnation conditions in the present model in a modification of the Froessling/Ranz-Marshall correlations. These modified correlations, incorporating an effective transfer number, produce a fairly accurate representation of droplet evaporation and burning, while requiring only one tenth the computational effort used in a full boundary layer solution.


Numerical simulations of incompressible turbulent flow through rectangular ducts with one side rib-roughened were performed to determine pressure drop. The ‘PHOENICS’ software package was used for the computations, which required provision of a wall function for transverse rib-roughened surfaces. The present study was conducted in the range of 10(5)(superscript) <= Reynolds number <= 10(7)(superscript), 0.01 <= rib height to hydraulic diameter ratio <= 0.04, 10 <= pitch to rib height ratio <= 40. Using the numerical results, friction factor charts for various aspect ratios were generated. The numerical results agreed well with experimental data that was obtained for 10(5)(superscript) < Reynolds number < 2 x 10(5)(superscript). In addition, a scheme for predicting friction factor using existing correlations for smooth and rough walls was developed.


System parameters should be tracked on-line to build a reconfigurable control system even though there exists an abrupt change. For this purpose, a new performance index that we are studying is the speed of adaptation- how quickly does the system determine that a change has occurred? In this paper, a new, robust algorithm that is optimized to minimize the time delay in detecting a change for fixed false alarm probability is proposed. Simulation results for the aircraft lateral motion with a known or unknown change in control gain matrices, in the presence of doublet input, indicate that the algorithm works fairly well. One of its distinguishing properties is that detection delay of this algorithm is superior to that of Whiteness Test.


This paper describes a two-dimensional aeroservoelastic study in the time domain. The model, which is based on exact inviscid aerodynamics, correctly represents the large amplitude motions and the associated strong shock dynamics in the transonic regime. The aeroservoelastic system consists of a two degree-of-freedom airfoil with a trailing edge control surface. Using first-order actuator dynamics, a digital adaptive controller is applied to provide active flutter suppression. Comparisons between time-responses of the open-loop and closed loop systems show the ability of the trailing edge control surface to suppress non-linear transonic aeroelastic phenomena. A relation between actuator dynamics, sampling time-step and limits on the flap deflection angle to guarantee the effectiveness of the adaptive controller was demonstrated by the results generated.


154. Karplus, W. J.; and Harrel, M. R.: The Role of Virtual


We derive the temporal spectral density of the log-amplitude scintillation of a laser beam due to cross wind. The dependence on the velocity distribution along the propagation axis - magnitude and direction - in relation to the detector position vector in the plane normal to the axis is of main interest in addition to the usual turbulence parameters such as the inner and outer scales. Also studied are the moments of the (normalized) spectral density, which would appear to be less sensitive to these parameters, as providing possible means for monitoring changes in the wind velocity. We begin in Section 2 with a brief review of propagation theory essential for our purposes. The treatment is different from the standard textbook in that we make systematic use of the parabolic approximation of the Helmholtz equation rather than ad hoc arguments for simplification inside the solution integral. The main results, including the spectral density derivation, are in Section 3. Some approximations - which help avoid purely numerical computer evaluation of the integrals and provide some analytical insight - are studied in Section 4.


This paper presents an overview of recent applications of Eulerian-Lagrangian computational schemes in simulating transonic flutter instabilities. In this approach, the fluid-structure system is treated as a single continuum dynamics problem, by switching from an Eulerian to Lagrangian formulation at the fluid-structure boundary. This computational approach effectively eliminates the phase integration errors associated with previous methods, where the fluid and structure are integrated sequentially using different schemes. The formulation is based on Hamilton’s Principle in mixed coordinates, and both finite volume and finite element discretization schemes are considered. Results from numerical simulations of transonic flutter instabilities are presented for isolated wings, thin panels, and turbomachinery blades. The results suggest that the method is capable of reproducing the energy exchange between the fluid and the structure with significantly less error than existing methods. Localized flutter modes and panel flutter modes involving traveling waves can also be simulated effectively with no a priori knowledge of the type of instability involved.


The design and development of an airborne flight-test experiment to study nonreacting gas jets injected transversely into transonic and supersonic crossflows is presented. Free-stream/crossflow Mach numbers range from 0.8 to 2.0. Planar laser-induced fluorescence (PLIF) of an iodine-seeded nitrogen jet is used to visualize the jet flow. Time-dependent images are obtained with a high-speed intensified video camera synchronized to the laser pulse rate. The entire experimental assembly is configured compactly inside a unique flight-test-fixture (FTF) mounted under the fuselage of the F-104G research aircraft, which serves as a ‘flying wind tunnel’ at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The aircraft is flown at predetermined speeds and altitudes to permit a perfectly expanded (or slightly underexpanded) gas jet to form just outside the FTF at each free-stream Mach number. Recorded gas jet images are then digitized to allow analysis of jet trajectory, spreading, and mixing characteristics. Comparisons will be made with analytical and numerical predictions. This study shows the viability of applying highly sophisticated ground-based flow diagnostic techniques to flight-test vehicle platforms that can achieve a wide range of thermo/fluid dynamic conditions. Realistic flow environments, high enthalpies, unconstrained flowfields, and moderate operating costs are also realized, in contrast to traditional wind-tunnel testing.

UCLA FSRC 1995 Publications


An aerospace vehicle may operate throughout a wide range of flight environmental conditions that affect its dynamic characteristics. Even when the control design incorporates a degree of robustness, system parameters may drift enough to cause its performance to degrade below an acceptable level. The object of this paper is to develop a change detection algorithm so that we can build a highly adaptive control system applicable to aircraft systems. The idea is to detect system changes with minimal time delay. The algorithm developed...
is called Minimal Time-Change Detection Algorithm (MT-CDA) which detects the instant of change as quickly as possible with false-alarm probability below a certain specified level. Simulation results for the aircraft lateral motion with a known or unknown change in control gain matrices, in the presence of doublet input, indicate that the algorithm works fairly well as theory indicates though there is a difficulty in deciding the exact amount of change in some situations. One of MT-CDA distinguishing properties is that detection delay of MT-CDA is superior to that of Whiteness Test.


The development of and results from an airborne flight-test experiment to study nonreacting gas jets injected traversely into subsonic and slightly supersonic crossflows is presented. Freestream/crossflow Mach numbers in the study ranged from 0.6 to 1.2, and planar laser-induced fluorescence imaging of an iodine-seeded nitrogen jet was used to visualize the jet flow. Time dependent images were obtained with a high-speed intensified video camera synchronized to the laser pulse rate. The entire experimental assembly was configured compactly inside a unique flight-test fixture mounted under the fuselage of NASA Dryden’s F-104G research aircraft, which served as a flying wind tunnel. Recorded traverse jet images were then digitized to allow analysis of jet trajectory, spreading, and mixing characteristics. Comparisons of experimental results with model predictions in this transonic crossflow regime show reasonable agreement.


The development of and results from an airborne flight-test experiment to study nonreacting gas jets injected transversely into subsonic and slightly supersonic crossflows is presented. Freestream/crossflow Mach numbers range from 0.6 to 1.2.
Planar laser-induced fluorescence (PLIF) imaging of an iodine-seeded nitrogen jet is used to visualize the jet flow. Time-dependent images are obtained with a high-speed intensified video camera synchronized to the laser pulse rate. The entire experimental assembly is configured compactly inside a unique flight-test-fixture mounted under the fuselage of NASA Dryden’s F-104G research aircraft, which serves as a ‘flying wind tunnel’. Recorded transverse gas jet images are then digitized to allow analysis of jet trajectory, spreading, and mixing characteristics. Comparisons of experimental results with model predictions show reasonable agreement.


A theoretical and numerical study of traveling wave panel flutter in transonic and low supersonic flows is presented. A mixed Eulerian-Lagrangian formulation is used to model the fluid-structure system and to obtain space-discretized equations that are time-marched to determine panel stability. In the strongly nonlinear transonic range, M = 0.95-1.2, the prevailing panel flutter mode is a traveling wave, in the generalized sense, and the panel motions at different chord locations are significantly out of phase. At transonic Mach numbers, the structural and aerodynamic nonlinearities interact to generate traveling wave flutter, even in panels of low chord to width ratios, where previous studies based on linearized aerodynamics predict single-DOF flutter. The presence of traveling wave flutter modes offer another possible explanation for some of the observed discrepancy between earlier calculations based on linear aerodynamic theory and experimental data.


The Dynamic Flowgraph Methodology (DFM) is an integrated methodological approach to modeling and analyzing the behavior of software-driven embedded systems for the purpose of reliability/safety assessment and verification. The methodology has two fundamental goals: to identify how certain postulated events may occur in a system; and (2) to identify an appropriate testing strategy based on an analysis of system functional behavior. To achieve these goals, the methodology employs a modeling framework in which system models are developed in terms of causal relationships between physical variables and temporal characteristics of the execution of software modules. These models are then analyzed to determine how a certain state (desirable or undesirable) can be reached. This is done by developing timed fault trees which take the form of logical combinations of static trees relating system parameters at different points in time. The prime implicants (multi-state analogue of minimal cut sets) of the fault trees can be used to identify and eliminate system faults resulting from unanticipated combinations of software logic errors, hardware failures and adverse environmental conditions, and to direct testing activity to more efficiently eliminate implementation errors by focusing on the neighborhood of potential failure modes arising from these combinations of system conditions.


186. Stroes, G.; and Catton, I.: A Simple Analytical Model for the Dryout Location in a Heated Inclined Triangular


The computational fluid dynamics code, PARC3D, is tested to see if its use of non-physical artificial dissipation affects the accuracy of its results. This is accomplished by simulating a shock-laminar boundary layer interaction and several hypersonic flight conditions of the Pegasus launch vehicle using full artificial dissipation, low artificial dissipation, and the Engquist filter. Before the filter is applied to the PARC3D code, it is validated in one-dimensional and two-dimensional form in a MacCormack scheme against the Riemann and convergent duct problem. For this explicit scheme, the filter shows great improvements in accuracy and computational time as opposed to the unfiltered solutions. However, for the implicit PARC3D code it is found that the best estimate of the Pegasus experimental heat fluxes and surface pressures is the simulation utilizing low artificial dissipation and no filter. The filter does improve accuracy over the artificially dissipative case but at a computational expense greater than that achieved by the low artificial dissipation case which has no computational time penalty and shows better results. For the shock-boundary layer simulation, the filter does well in terms of accuracy for a strong impingement shock but not as well for weaker shock strengths. Furthermore, for the latter problem the filter reduces the required computational time to convergence by 18.7 percent.


A recent (1971) result due to Wittrick-Williams relating the number of modes of a flexible structure to the zeros of a matrix function is generalized and an independent proof given. It is applied to Timoshenko models of a class of interconnected beamlike lattice structures and an interpretation of the zeros given as pinned modes of the structure.


UCLA FSRC 1996 Publications


We investigate the feasibility of using dynamic twist control to suppress flutter of wings operating in the transonic flow regime. A simple feedback of the wing twist at a representative span location is used, and the control torque is applied directly to the wing structure. The stabilization mechanism relies on the simple fact that the plunge motion is strongly damped; thus, if the torsional motion can be controlled, the plunge motion can be used to extract energy from the structure. The practical feasibility of implementing such wing twist-control schemes depends on the availability of high-torque actuators and relatively stiff torque tubes. The required control torques are of the order of the torque required to twist a typical wing tip section by 1-3 deg, which is well within the capability.
of current technology actuators. Because the control systems are simple and robust, involving only the torsional degree of freedom, flutter suppression schemes based on dynamic twist control may find practical applications in fail-safe stability augmentation or in gust-load alleviation.


boundary layer at high Reynolds numbers has been measured. Based on the measurement, the physical quantities associated with the high shear-stress streaks, such as their length, width and peak shear-stress level, are obtained. We found that a high correlation exists between the peak shear stress level and the front-end shear-stress gradient of a high shear-stress streak. This important property is currently being applied to the design of a real-time flow control logic. The control logic will be used to initiate a micro actuator, which interacts with the detected streak for the purpose of reducing local shear stress. The interaction between an actuator with near wall vortices was first investigated in a laminar boundary layer. The results show that the level of reduction is related to the product of the actuator’s peak amplitude and oscillating frequency. This result suggests the possibility of achieving shear-stress reduction by using high-frequency and low-amplitude actuators.

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The Luo and Rudy III cardiac cell mathematical model is implemented on the parallel supercomputer CRAY-T3D. The splitting algorithm combined with variable time step and an explicit method of integration provide reasonable solution times and almost perfect scaling for rectilinear wave propagation. The computer simulation makes it possible to observe new phenomena: the break-up of spiral waves caused by intracellular calcium dynamics and the non-uniformity of the calcium distribution in space during the onset of the spiral wave.

Keywords: Heart fibrillation; Intracellular calcium effect; Simulation on parallel computers


The goal of this project was the development of a program of science and mathematics activities that is suitable for use in preschool and daycare settings, for children before they enter kindergarten. More and more members of the business, government, education and military communities are calling for a notable upgrading of the scientific and technical literacy levels of our all of our citizens. Many are encouraging educators to introduce children to relevant learning opportunities at early ages. Two lines of work converge on the suitability of this recommendation. More and more we are seeing how important early learning experiences are for later successful development. Second, research with preschool aged children shows that they do have some conceptual understandings of scientific and mathematical knowledge, ones that can provide a conceptual foundation with which to engage activities about the content and methods of science. Given our own work on the nature of early conceptual competence, we judged that it would be possible to develop suitable preschool learning activities that can support the development of scientific intuitions about: the causal conditions for change and/movement of animate and inanimate objects (that are separably moveable); the similarity and differences between different kinds of plant life and the causal factors that contribute to their growth and form; the role of different energy sources; and scientific ways of thinking, talking and working-including experimenting, predicting, checking, measuring and record keeping. The idea was to move young children onto science-relevant learning paths, ones that would facilitate their learning about science in the more formal learning opportunities they will encounter in school. To do this we established a unique collaboration between classroom teachers, UCLA researchers who specialize in early learning of mathematical and scientific concepts/tools, and the UCLA Child Care Services program. We also planned to help develop a community of teacher-researchers as part of our dissemination efforts. We achieved our objectives as evidenced by the writing of a draft of a preschool teachers’ guidebook entitled: Preschool Pathways to Science: Facilitating, Scientific Ways of Thinking, Talking, Working.


The Luo and Rudy 3 cardiac cell mathematical model is implemented on the parallel supercomputer CRAY - T3D. The splitting algorithm combined with variable time step and an explicit method of integration provide reasonable solution times and almost perfect scaling for rectilinear wave propagation. The computer simulation makes it possible to observe new phenomena: the break-up of spiral waves caused by intracellular calcium and dynamics and the non-uniformity of the calcium distribution in space during the onset of the spiral wave.

UCLA FSRC 1999 Publications


This paper presents a new analytical treatment of Unsteady
Aerodynamics - the linear theory covering the subsonic compressible (inviscid) case - drawing on some recent work in Operator Theory and Functional Analysis. The specific new results are: (a) An existence and uniqueness proof for the Laplace transform version of the Possio integral equation as well as a new closed form solution approximation thereof. (b) A new representation for the time-domain solution of the subsonic compressible aerodynamic equations emphasizing in particular the role of the initial conditions.

Keywords: Boundary value problem; Closed form solution; Field equations; Initial value problem; Laplace transform; Operator theory; Possio equation; Semigroups; Subsonic compressible inviscid aerodynamics; Unsteady aerodynamics.

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**UCLA FSRC 2000 Publications**


In this paper, we present closed-form formulas for the lift and moment coefficients of a lifting surface in two dimensional, unsteady, compressible, subsonic flow utilizing a newly developed explicit analytical solution of the Possio equation. Numerical calculations are consistent with previous numerical tables based on series expansions or ad hoc numerical schemes. More importantly, these formulas lend themselves readily to flutter analysis, compared with the tedious table-look-up schemes currently in use.

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**UCLA FSRC 2003 Publications**


This research is devoted to the asymptotic and spectral analysis of a coupled Euler- Bernoulli and Timoshenko beam model. The model is governed by a system of two coupled differential equations and a two parameter family of boundary conditions modeling the action of self-straining actuators. The aforementioned equations of motion together with a two-parameter family of boundary conditions form a coupled linear hyperbolic system, which is equivalent to a single operator evolution equation in the energy space. That equation defines a semigroup of bounded operators. The dynamics generator of the semigroup is our main object of interest. For each set of boundary parameters, the dynamics generator has a compact inverse. If both boundary parameters are not purely imaginary numbers, then the dynamics generator is a nonselfadjoint operator in the energy space. We calculate the spectral asymptotics of the dynamics generator. We find that the spectrum lies in a strip parallel to the horizontal axis, and is asymptotically close to the horizontal axis - thus the system is stable, but is not uniformly stable.

Keywords: Aeroelastic mode, Bending-torsion vibration model, Integro-differential equations, Reflection matrix, Theodorsen function

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Appendix D. Dryden Historical Publications

Some of the following publications can be found online at the following URL's.

http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/history/Publications/index.html
http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/series95.html


The autobiography of Scott Crossfield, an NACA High Speed Flight Station research pilot from 1950 to 1955, was the first man to fly faster than Mach 2 and first to fly the X-15 rocket plane.


X-15 aircraft development concept, flight research, aerodynamic characteristics of supersonic-hypersonic flight, hypersonic structure, flying laboratory, and bibliography. This short study, written about half-way through the highly significant X-15 program, provides much valuable information about the airplane and its flight research from 1959 to 1964.


The history of flight research at the NASA Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center is recounted. The period of emerging supersonic flight technology (1944 to 1959) is reviewed along with the era of flight outside the Earth’s atmosphere (1959 to 1981). Specific projects such as the X-15, Gemini, Apollo, and the space shuttle are addressed. The flight chronologies of various aircraft and spacecraft are given.


A technical symposium and pilot’s panel discussion were held on June 8, 1989, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first free flight of the X-15 rocket-powered research aircraft. The symposium featured technical presentations by former key government and industry participants in the advocacy, design, manufacturing, and flight research program activities. The X-15’s technical contributions to the X-30 are cited. The panel discussion participants included seven of the eight surviving research pilots who flew the X-15 experimental aircraft to world altitude and speed records which still stand. Pilot’s remarks include descriptions of their most memorable X-15 flight experience. The report also includes a historical perspective of the X-15.


The author, the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center chif engineer and one of 12 former X-15 research pilots, describe the X-15 program in his own words, the men, the machine and the operations. Forward by Neil A. Armstrong.


As part of the NASA History Series, this report (NASA SP-4309) describes fifty years of aeronautical research at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. Starting with early efforts to exceed the speed of sound with the X-1 aircraft, and continuing through to the X-31 research aircraft, the report covers the flight activities of all of the major research aircraft and lifting bodies studied by NASA. Chapter One, ‘A Place for Discovery’, describes the facility itself and the surrounding Mojave Desert. Chapter Two, ‘The Right Stuff’, is about the people involved in the flight research programs. Chapter Three, ‘Higher, Faster’ summarizes the early years of transonic flight testing and the development of several lifting bodies. Chapter Four, ‘Improving Efficiency, Maneuverability & Systems’, outlines the development of aeronautical developments such as the supercritical wing, the mission adaptive wing, and various techniques for improving maneuverability for winged aircraft. Chapter 5, ‘Supporting National Efforts’, shows how the research activities carried out at Dryden fit into NASA's programs across the country in supporting the space program, in safety and in problem solving related to aircraft design and aviation safety in general. Chapter Six, ‘Future Directions’ looks to future research building on the fifty year history of aeronautical research at the Dryden Flight Research Center. A glossary of acronyms and an appendix covering concepts and innovations are included. The report also contains many photographs providing a graphical perspective to the historical record.

Hugh Latimer Dryden led a life rich in paradox. Born in obscurity, he attained international prominence. Indifferent to self-advancement, he nonetheless rose to the pinnacle of the aeronautics profession and subsequently assumed a pivotal role in the initial period of space exploration. Although a research scientist of the first order, he nurtured within himself a profoundly spiritual outlook.


This monograph discusses the working and living environment of women involved with flight research at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center during the late 1940s and early 1950s. The women engineers, their work and the airplanes they worked on from 1960 to December 1995 are highlighted. The labor intensive data gathering and analysis procedures and instrumentation used before the age of digital computers are explained by showing and describing typical instrumentation found on the X-series aircraft from the X-1 through the X-15. The data reduction technique used to obtain the Mach number position error curve for the X-1 aircraft and which documents the historic first flight to exceed the speed of sound is described and a Mach number and altitude plot from an X-15 flight is shown.


Wingless Flight tells the story of the most unusual flying machines ever flown, the lifting bodies. It is my story about my friends and colleagues who committed a significant part of their lives in the 1960s and 1970s to prove that the concept was a viable one for use in spacecraft of the future. This story, filled with drama and adventure, is about the twelve-year period from 1963 to 1975 in which eight different lifting-body configurations flew. It is appropriate for me to write the story, since I was the engineer who first presented the idea of flight-testing the concept to others at the NASA Flight Research Center. Over those twelve years, I experienced the story as it unfolded day by day at that remote NASA facility northeast of Los Angeles in the bleak Mojave Desert. Benefits from this effort immediately influenced the design and operational concepts of the winged NASA Shuttle Orbiter. However, the full benefits would not be realized until the 1990s when new spacecraft such as the X-33 and X-38 would fully employ the lifting-body concept. A lifting body is basically a wingless vehicle that flies due to the lift generated by the shape of its fuselage. Although both a lifting reentry vehicle and a ballistic capsule had been considered as options during the early stages of NASA's space program, NASA initially opted to go with the capsule. A number of individuals were not content to close the book on the lifting-body concept. Researchers including Alfred Eggers at the NASA Ames Research Center conducted early wind-tunnel experiments, finding that half of a rounded nose-cone shape that was flat on top and rounded on the bottom could generate a lift-to-drag ratio of about 1.5 to 1. Eggers' preliminary design sketch later resembled the basic M2 lifting-body design. At the NASA Langley Research Center, other researchers toyed with their own lifting-body shapes. Meanwhile, some of us aircraft-oriented researchers at the, NASA Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) in California were experiencing our own fascination with the lifting-body concept. A model-aircraft builder and private pilot on my own time, I found the lifting-body idea intriguing. I built a model based on Eggers' design, tested it repeatedly, made modifications in its control and balance characteristics along the way, then eventually presented the concept to others at the Center, using a film of its flights that my wife, Donna and I had made with our 8-mm home camera.


The paper contains the following sections: Foreword; Preface; Laminar-Flow Control Concepts and Scope of Monograph; Early Research on Suction-Type Laminar-Flow Control (Research from the 1930s through the War Years; Research from after World War II to the Mid-1960s); Post X-21 Research on Suction-Type Laminar-Flow Control; Status of Laminar-Flow Control Technology in the Mid-1990s; Glossary; Document 1-Aeronautics Panel, AACC, R&D Review, Report of the Subpanel on Aeronautic Energy Conservation/Fuels; Document 2-Report of Review Group on X-21A Laminar Flow Control Program; Document 3-Langley Research Center Announcement, Establishment of Laminar Flow Control Working Group; Document 4-Intercenter Agreement for Laminar Flow Control Leading Edge Glove Flights, LaRC and DFRC; Document 5-Flight Report NLF-144, of AFTI F-111 Aircraft with the TACT Wing Modified by a Natural Laminar Flow Glove; Document 6-Flight Record, F-16XL Supersonic Laminar Flow Control Aircraft; Index; and About the Author.


This monograph relates the important history of the Propulsion Controlled Aircraft project at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center. Spurred by a number of airplane crashes caused by the loss of hydraulic flight controls, a NASA-industry team led by Frank W. Burcham and C. Gordon Fullerton developed a way to land an aircraft safely using only engine thrust to control the airplane. In spite of initial skepticism, the team discovered that, by manually manipulating an airplane's thrust, there was adequate control for extended up-and-away flight. However, there was not adequate control precision for safe runway landings because of the small control forces, slow response, and difficulty in damping the airplane phugoid and Dutch roll oscillations. The team therefore conceived, developed, and tested the first computerized Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) system. The PCA system takes pilot commands, uses feedback from airplane measurements, and computes commands for the thrust of each engine, yielding much more precise control. Pitch rate and velocity feedback damp the phugoid oscillation, while yaw rate feedback damps the Dutch roll motion. The team tested the PCA system in simulators and conducted flight research in F-15 and MD-11 airplanes. Later, they developed less sophisticated variants of PCA called PCA Lite and PCA Ultralite to make the system cheaper and therefore more attractive to industry. This monograph tells the PCA story in a non-technical way with emphasis on the human aspects of the engineering and flight-research effort. It thereby supplements the extensive technical literature on PCA and makes the development of this technology accessible to a wide audience.


The first author, a former X-15 and the initial lifting body pilot who participated in every phase of NASA’s lifting body program, describes the adventure, triumphs, setbacks, and fun of pioneering a technology that allowed astronauts to accomplish lifting reentries and precise runway landings.


This monograph contains the edited transcript of a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of this aircraft’s first flight in 1948. A sister aircraft to the more well-known rocket-powered X-1, the jet-powered D-558 gave NACA researchers many useful insights about the transonic speed range. Several of the original aircraft pilots present accounts of their involvement in the program. Appendices include design specifications for the Douglas D-558-1 and -2 as well as declassified documentation and memoranda (1949-1957) regarding the progress of the program.


An overview of the NASA F-8 Fly-by-Wire project is presented. The project made two significant contributions to the new technology: (1) a solid design base of techniques that work and those that do not, and (2) credible evidence of good flying qualities and the ability of such a system to tolerate real faults and to continue operation without degradation. In 1972 the F-8C aircraft used in the program became the first digital fly-by-wire aircraft to operate without a mechanical backup system.


It is a beginning. Over forty-five years have elapsed since the X-15 was conceived; 40 since it first flew. And 31 since the program ended. Although it is usually heralded as the most productive flight research program ever undertaken, no serious history has been assembled to capture its design, development, operations, and lessons. This monograph is the first step towards that history. Not that a great deal not previously been written about the X-15, because it has. But most of it has been limited to specific aspects of the program; pilot’s stories, experiments, lessons-learned, etc. But with the exception of Robert S. Houston’s history published by the Wright Air Development Center in 1958, and later included in the Air Force History Office’s Hypersonic Revolution, no one has attempted to tell the entire story. And the WADC history is taken entirely from the Air Force perspective, with small mention of the other contributors.


This is a history of the many aircraft simulations that were implemented during the early days at what later became Dryden Flight Research Center using the early generations of analog and hybrid computers. The period to be reviewed is from 1955 to about 1975. This is when analog computer systems were being used at the Flight Research Center (and its predecessor, the NACA HSFS) as major components of all the aircraft simulations that were mechanized and used in support of the various flight research programs.

The document by Milt Thompson that is reproduced here was an untitled rough draft found in Thompson’s papers in the Dryden Historical Reference Collection. Internal evidence suggests that it was written around 1974. I have not attempted to second guess what Milt might have done in revising the paper, but I have made some minor stylistic changes to make it more readable without changing the sense of what Milt initially wrote. For the most part, I have not attempted to bring his comments up to date. For readers who may not be familiar with the history of what is today the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center and of its predecessor organizations, I have added a background section.


The Eclipse Project by Tom Tucker provides a readable narrative and a number of documents that record an important flight research effort at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center. Carried out by Kelly Space and Technology, Inc., in partnership with the Air Force and Dryden at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert of California, this project tested and gathered data about a potential newer and less expensive way to launch satellites into space. Whether the new technology comes into actual use will depend on funding, market forces, and other factors at least partly beyond the control of the participants in the project. This is a familiar situation in the history of flight research.


This book is a comprehensive history of the first major NASA project involving the Lockheed Blackbirds, airplanes capable of flying more than three times the speed of sound at altitudes exceeding 80,000 feet. Conducted with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) as a partner, the NASA-USAF YF-12 research program lasted 10 years, and produced a wealth of data on materials, structures, loads, heating, aerodynamics, and performance for high-speed aircraft.


The author writes of the early experiments conducted by England’s Sir George Cayley, who in the nineteenth century tested kites and gliders by subjecting them to experimental flight, and of the Wright brothers’ work in the redesign and calibration of flight surfaces in order to achieve the greatest lift and control. He details the creation of NACA and the pivotal discoveries it made in the areas of pressure distribution, flying qualities, and transonic research and brings the story to the present cutting-edge aeronautical research conducted at NASA today.


Wingless Flight tells the dramatic story of the most unusual flying machines ever flown. Eight different lifting bodies configurations were flown at the NASA Flight Research Center (FRC) at Edwards, California over a 12 year period from 1963 to 1975. These wingless wonders were all considered flying prototypes of models of future spacecraft that could land like an airplane after the searing heat of reentry from space. Precursors of today’s Shuttle, the X-33, and X-38, the lifting bodies provided technical and operational data that shaped all three space vehicles.


This monograph contains interviews with former employees about the early years of the Dryden Flight Research Center.


For a while, it seemed the series of experimental aircraft sponsored by the U. S. government had run its course. Between the late 1940s and the late 1970s, almost thirty designations had been allocated to aircraft meant to explore new flight regimes or untried technologies. Then, largely, it ended. But there was a resurgence in the mid- to late- 1990s, and as we enter the fourth year of the new millennia, the designations are up to x-50. Many have a misconception that X-vehicles have always explored the high-speed and high-altitude flight regimes - something popularized by Chuck Yeager in the original X-1 and the exploits of the twelve men that flew the X-15. Although these flight regimes have always been in the spotlight, many others have been explored by X-vehicles. The little Bensen X-25 never exceeded 85 mph, and others were limited to speeds of several hundred mph. There has been some criticism that the use of X designations has been corrupted somewhat by including what are essentially prototypes of future operational aircraft, especially the two JSF demonstrators. But this is not new—the X-11 and X-12 from the 1950s were going to be prototypes of the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile, and the still-born Lockheed
X-27 was always intended as a prototype of a production aircraft. So although this practice does not represent the best use of ‘X’ designations, it is not without precedent.


This is an updated and revised version of the 1984 edition. It includes several new chapters and interviews with several Dryden employees including former research pilot and chief engineer Bill Dana.


This book tells the story of a NASA research pilot who logged over 11,000 flight hours in more than 125 types of aircraft. It recalls the times as a small boy in Pennsylvania, to a young naval cadet, to a test pilot at NACA later NASA Langley Research Center and at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center where he flew the triple-sonic YF-12 Blackbird.


In his remarkable memoir Runway to Orbit, Dr. Kenneth W. Iliff - the recently retired Chief Scientist of the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center- tells a highly personal, yet a highly persuasive account of the last forty years of American aeronautical research. His interpretation of events commands respect, because over these years he has played pivotal roles in many of the most important American aeronautics and spaceflight endeavors. Moreover, his narrative covers much of the second half of the first 100 years of flight, a centennial anniversary being celebrated this year. aerospace knowledge. He arrived at the then NASA Flight Research Center in 1962 as a young aeronautical engineer and quickly became involved in two of the seminal projects of modern flight, the X-15 and the lifting bodies. In the process, he pioneered (with Lawrence Taylor) the application of digital computing to the reduction of flight data, arriving at a method known as parameter estimation, now applied the world over. Parameter estimation not only enabled researchers to acquire stability and control derivatives from limited flight data, but in time allowed them to obtain a wide range of aerodynamic effects. Although subsequently involved in dozens of important projects, Dr. Iliff devoted much of his time and energy to hypersonic flight, embodied in the Shuttle orbiter (or as he refers to it, the world’s fastest airplane). To him, each Shuttle flight, instrumented to obtain a variety of data, represents a research treasure trove, one that he has mined for years. This book, then, represents the story of Dr. Ken Iliff’s passion for flight, his work, and his long and astoundingly productive career. It can be read with profit not just by scientists and engineers, but equally by policy makers, historians, and journalists wishing to better comprehend advancements in flight during the second half of the twentieth century. Dr. Iliff’s story is one of immense contributions to the nation’s repository of


This monograph describes the history of the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle from conception by Dryden and Bell Aerospace engineers, through design, manufacturing and testing to eventual conversion to the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle for training astronauts going to the moon. Forward by Neil Armstrong.


Neural-net computer software makes possible self-repairing flight control aircraft systems that can compensate for damage to an aircraft and render it not only flyable, but nearly as controllable as it was before the damage. NASA has played an integral role in the development and airborne testing of these systems, systems which may change the way aircraft are designed, built, tested, and maintained.


Appendix E. Videotapes


An overview of the Western Aeronautical Test Range (WATR) and its connection to NASA Dryden is presented.


This dedication of NASA's HL-10 lifting body, being put on display at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, is shown.


Historical film footage of the X-series aircraft (including Yeager's X-1 flight), lifting bodies, and early Apollo landing tests is presented.


Two video tapes of raw material show examples of research activity at the center from the 1950's to the 1980's.


Captain Al Haynes of United Airlines gives a presentation about the DC-10 he captained that crash landed in Sioux City, Iowa in 1989.


A musical video salute to NASA's delivery of three SR-71 aircraft for use in flight research.


Flight test film footage of three different aircraft testing the acoustical noise levels during take-off, climb, maneuvers, and touch and go landings are described. These sound tests were conducted on two fighter aircraft and one cargo aircraft. Results from mobile test vehicle are shown.


This video provides educators an overview of Dryden for students from late elementary through high school.


Excitation system research at Dryden with an F-16XL aircraft is presented.


This video on transonic research is given by Dryden engineer Ed Saltzman as part of the 20th Anniversary F-8 Digital Fly-By-Wire (DFBW) and Supercritical Wing (SCW) Symposium.


Marta Bohn-Meyer discusses the cooperative research between Rockwell Industries and NASA research facilities in their effort to optimize and maintain the supersonic laminar flow on the F-16XL aircraft. Research on the airfoil design, chord optimization, introduction of a suction feature to maintain pressure distribution, and CFD, both theoretical and actual phenomena, are discussed. Bohn-Meyer discusses the difference between supersonic and subsonic laminar flow, cross flow, reasons behind using this particular F-16 aircraft for this research, and the future of this ongoing research, including the data base that investigators are building from wind tunnel data and in-flight validation.


This award winning program looks at the efforts to preserve the desert tortoise in and around the Edwards Air Force Base, California area. It also explains what people should do if they come in contact with a tortoise. This video was produced in cooperation with Edwards Air Force Base.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s X-31 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-104 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) aircraft.

This video provides a look at some work done by Dryden’s F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) in cooperation with the United States Navy and industry.

This video presents how Dryden engineers use radio-controlled aircraft such as the 1/8-scale model F-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) featured to conduct flight research.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-16XL aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) software through June 1993 at Dryden.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-16XL aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Controls (HIDEC) aircraft.

This video presents clips (in-flight, ground crew, pilots, etc.) of almost everything from X-1 through X-31.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control (HIDEC) aircraft.

This video is a news release highlighting the F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Controls (HIDEC) Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA) software through June 1993 at Dryden.

This video provides an overview of NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center. This is the program shown to visitors during the tour at Dryden.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-104 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s X-31 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-104 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 aircraft.

This video presents raw, unedited material of Dryden’s F-15 aircraft.
This video salutes the 25th anniversary of the Apollo 11’s landing on the moon and Dryden’s contributions with the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle (LLRV) program.


This video presents a complete, technically detailed report on all Dryden projects, achievements, and employee activities for 1994.


This video addresses the NASA Dryden and X-31 International Test Organization (ITO) testbed provided for the Pentagon’s ‘tailless’ and quasi-tailless vehicle configuration testing.


Live footage shows the Hyper-X program modeling at NASA Langley Research Center. The Hyper-X craft is shown on top of a Pegasus booster in a 20” Mach 6 Wind Tunnel. Visualization data runs are performed in the wind tunnel. Also seen is a brief interview with Vincent Rausch the Hyper-X Program Manager. Animation includes the flight model of the Hyper-X vehicle.


Live footage shows the rollout of the aircraft carrying the X-34. Also shown are the taxing of the aircraft and takeoff.


Live footage shows Project Managers Susan Turner, MSFC and David Manley, Boeing Co. participating in the X-37 Briefing. NASA’s Public Affairs June Malone introduced these panelists who went on to discuss the vehicle and its secondary payload. Manley mentions the X-37 capabilities, main propulsion system, its lithium iron batteries, hot control surfaces, and its fly by wire system. Turner mentions the onboard operations, the deployment of the solar arrays, and the autonomous navigation and landing system. Also included is an animation of the X-37 vehicle during flight and the secondary payload release into orbit.


Live footage shows Project Manager Joel Sitz participating in an interview about the X-43 project. Sitz mentions several tests that will be performed on the X-43. He also mentions that the main objective of this project is to validate the design code for hypersonic air breathing vehicles. He discusses the projected data collection to prove that the predictions that were made in the laboratories and wind tunnels are correct. Scenes include the roll of the X-43 and an animation of the flight.


Live footage shows the drop of the X-38 vehicle. Also shown are parachute deployments from various cameras.
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