

Further Investigation of the Support System Effects and Wing Twist on the NASA Common Research Model

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An experimental investigation of the NASA Common Research Model was conducted in the NASA Langley National Transonic Facility and NASA Ames 11-foot Transonic Wind Tunnel Facility for use in the Drag Prediction Workshop. As data from the experimental investigations was collected, a large difference in moment values was seen between the experiment and computational data from the 4th Drag Prediction Workshop. This difference led to a computational assessment to investigate model support system interference effects on the Common Research Model. The results from this investigation showed that the addition of the support system to the computational cases did increase the pitching moment so that it more closely matched the experimental results, but there was still a large discrepancy in pitching moment. This large discrepancy led to an investigation into the shape of the as-built model, which in turn led to a change in the computational grids and re-running of all the previous support system cases. The results of these cases are the focus of this paper.

Nomenclature

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| b | = wing span, in. |
| c | = wing mean aerodynamic chord, in. |
| C_D | = drag coefficient |
| C_L | = lift coefficient |
| C_m | = pitching-moment coefficient referenced to 0.25 of the wing mean aerodynamic chord |
| C_p | = pressure coefficient |
| CFD | = Computational Fluid Dynamics |
| CFL | = Courant, Freidrichs, and Lewy |
| CRM | = Common Research Model |
| DPW | = Drag Prediction Workshop |
| M_∞ | = Freestream Mach number |
| $NASA$ | = National Aeronautics and Space Administration |

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| <i>NTF</i> | = National Transonic Facility |
| q_∞ | = dynamic pressure, psf |
| Re_c | = Reynolds number based on mean aerodynamic chord |
| S | = model reference area, ft ² |
| <i>TWT</i> | = Transonic Wind Tunnel |
| <i>WBTO</i> | = CRM wing/body/tail=0° configuration |
| <i>WBTO_{ss}</i> | = CRM wing/body/tail=0° with support system configuration |
| <i>WBTO_{ssa}</i> | = CRM wing/body/tail=0° with support system and arc sector configuration |
| x/c | = longitudinal distance from wing leading edge nondimensionalized by local wing chord |
| α | = angle-of-attack, degrees |
| δ | = change in per unit area values |
| η | = fraction of wing semi-span |
| φ | = radial station, degrees |
| Δ | = change in total values |

I. Introduction

IN an effort to assess the state of the art in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) drag prediction, the AIAA Applied Aerodynamics Technical Committee has initiated a series of Drag Prediction Workshops. The goal of the workshops is to assess state-of-the-art computational methods as practical aerodynamic tools for aircraft force and moment prediction of industry relevant geometries, with a focus on drag prediction. Furthermore, the Drag Prediction Workshop (DPW) is designed to serve as an impartial forum for evaluating the effectiveness of existing computational Navier-Stokes solvers and modeling techniques, and is intended to promote an open discussion on areas needing additional research and development. In order to encourage the widest participation, public-domain subject geometries have been used that are industry-relevant, yet simple enough to permit high-fidelity computations. Additionally, baseline grids have been provided to reduce the variability of CFD results.

The first drag prediction workshop (DPW-I)^{1,2}, held in June of 2001, was directed at the calculation of a wing/body commercial transport configuration, known as the DLR-F4^{3,4}. Previously obtained experimental data were available to compare to for this first workshop. Predictions of a cruise polar and drag rise were the focus. The second drag prediction workshop (DPW-II)^{5,6}, held in June of 2003, added the challenge of determining the increment of a large component, in this case a pylon/nacelle. The DLR-F6 configuration^{5,7} was used for this study. Once again, experimental data were available for comparison. The third drag prediction workshop (DPW-III)^{8,9}, held in June of 2006, added the challenge of determining the increment due to adding a small component, in this case a wing/body fairing. However for this workshop, calculations were conducted “blind” with no experimental data available prior to the workshop. Force and moment, surface pressure, model deformation, and surface flow visualization data were obtained in a National Transonic Facility (NTF) wind tunnel investigation on the DLR-F6 configuration in the fall of 2007¹⁰. The fourth drag prediction workshop (DPW-IV)^{11,12}, held in June of 2009, was another set of blind calculations. However for this workshop, the calculations were conducted on a new model called the Common Research Model (CRM). The force and moment, surface pressure, model deformation, and surface flow visualization data obtained in these two wind tunnel investigations¹³, NASA Langley NTF and NASA Ames 11-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel (TWT) Facility, on the CRM serve as the validation data for the

calculations presented in the DPW-IV. The previous study addressing model support system effects¹⁴ and the current study addressing the twist of the wind tunnel model and support system effects serve as an addendum to the results obtained for the DPW-IV.

II. Background

A. Facility Description

1. National Transonic Facility

The NTF¹⁵ is a unique national facility (Figure 1) that enables testing of aircraft configurations at conditions ranging from subsonic to low supersonic speeds, at Reynolds numbers up to full-scale flight values. The NTF is a conventional, closed circuit, continuous-flow, fan-driven wind tunnel (Figure 2) capable of operating in either dry air at warm temperatures or nitrogen from warm to cryogenic temperatures. Elevated pressure in combination with cryogenic temperature enables testing to the highest Reynolds numbers. The test section is 8.2 x 8.2 x 25 ft. and has a slotted floor and ceiling. Turbulence is reduced by four damping screens in the settling chamber and a contraction ratio of 14.95:1 from the settling chamber to the nozzle throat. Fan-noise effects are minimized by acoustic treatment both upstream and downstream of the fan. Thermal insulation resides inside the pressure shell to aid in maintaining tunnel temperature and thus minimize energy consumption.

The NTF has an operating pressure range of approximately 15 to 125 psia, a temperature range of -260 to +120°F, and a Mach number range of 0.2 to 1.2. The maximum Reynolds number per foot is 146×10^6 at Mach 1. When the tunnel is operated cryogenically, heat is removed by the evaporation of liquid nitrogen, which is sprayed into the tunnel circuit upstream of the fan. During this operational mode, venting is necessary to maintain a constant total pressure. When air is the test gas, heat is removed from the system by a water-cooled heat exchanger at the upstream end of the settling chamber. Further tunnel details and facility information are provided in Reference 16.

2. Ames 11-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel Facility

The Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel (UPWT) Facility consists of three tunnel legs: the 11-by-11-Foot TWT, the 9-by-7-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel, and the 8-by-7-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel (Figure 3). The two supersonic legs share a common 11-stage axial-flow compressor and aftercooler drive leg, and they use diversion valves at the ends of a common drive leg. A three-stage axial-flow compressor drives the 11-by-11-foot TWT. A common drive motor system can be coupled to either the 3-stage or 11-stage compressor. One tunnel can therefore be run while test articles are being installed in or removed from the other two.

The 11-by-11-foot TWT leg, also known as the Ames 11-ft wind tunnel, is a closed circuit, variable pressure, continuous operation wind tunnel (Figure 4). Subsonic Mach number control involves setting the compressor drive speed to one of ten setpoints and using variable-camber inlet guide vanes for fine Mach number control. Supersonic Mach number control involves setting the flexible wall nozzle to achieve the proper area ratio in addition to setting the compressor drive speed and the inlet guide vanes. A tandem diffuser system with an annular diffuser followed by a wide-angle diffuser is upstream of a 70-ft-diameter aftercooler section in the drive leg. Flow-smoothing vanes are located in the tandem diffuser to improve flow uniformity entering the heat exchanger and temperature uniformity in the test section. The settling chamber upstream of the contraction is 38 feet in diameter. A Turbulence Reduction System (TRS) located in the settling chamber includes a 1-in.-cell-diameter, 20-in. long

honeycomb for flow straightening followed by two 0.041-in.-diameter-wire, 6-mesh screens for turbulence reduction. The contraction provides a transition from the circular cross section of the settling chamber to the square cross section of the test section. The contraction ratio is 9.4:1. The test section is 11-by-11-feet in cross-section and 22 feet in length. Slots in all four walls run the full length of the test section. The slots contain baffles that provide a 6-percent porosity into the plenum chamber. Ejector flaps on all four walls at the exit of the test section can be set remotely to control the plenum flow bypassed from the test section. Flow exits the test section and enters a transition region back to the circular main diffuser. A Plenum Evacuation System (PES) provides an active method of removing air from the test section plenum by using the Make-Up Air compressor system (MUA) of the auxiliaries facility. References 17 and 18 provide more detailed information about the Ames 11-Foot Transonic Wind Tunnel Facility.

B. Model Description

The model used in the current investigation was the NASA Common Research Model (CRM). This configuration consists of a contemporary supercritical transonic wing and a fuselage that is representative of a wide-body commercial transport aircraft. The CRM is designed for a cruise Mach number of 0.85 and a corresponding design lift coefficient of $C_L=0.5$. A sketch of the CRM with the reference quantities listed is shown in Figure 5. The aspect ratio is 9.0, the leading edge sweep angle is 35° , the wing reference area (S) is 3.01 ft^2 , the wingspan (b) is 62.47 inches, and the mean aerodynamic chord (c) is 7.45 inches. The model moment reference center is located 35.8 inches back from the fuselage nose and 1.177 inches below the fuselage centerline. The nacelles used for this test were simple, flow through nacelles. Pressure distributions are measured on both the left and right wings using 291 pressure orifices located in 9 spanwise wing stations ($\eta=0.131, 0.201, 0.283, 0.397, 0.502, 0.603, 0.727, 0.846, \text{ and } 0.950$) and on the left nacelle by 6 orifices at 6 radial stations ($\varphi=30^\circ, 90^\circ, 150^\circ, 210^\circ, 270^\circ, \text{ and } 330^\circ$). All pressure measurements were made using Electronically Scanned Pressure (ESP) modules mounted inside the forward portion of the fuselage. Based on quoted accuracies from the ESP module manufacturer, surface pressure measurements should be in error no more than $\pm 0.015 \text{ psi}$. This in turn would correspond to a variation of no more than ± 0.0026 in terms of C_p . The model is mounted in the wind tunnel using a blade sting arrangement as shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Five different configurations were tested in the experimental investigations: the wing/body alone, wing/body/pylon/nacelle, wing/body/tail= 0° tail incidence, wing/body/tail= $+2^\circ$ tail incidence and wing/body/tail= -2° tail incidence. For the current study, though, the focus is on the wing/body/tail= 0° configuration. In the rest of the paper the wing/body/tail= 0° will be denoted the WBT0 configuration. Further details on this geometry are given in Ref. 19.

C. Test Conditions

1. National Transonic Facility

The investigation, conducted over a 6-week period, provided force and moment, surface pressure, model deformation, and surface flow visualization data. Testing was conducted at 5, 19.8 and 30 million Reynolds number. All Reynolds number values presented in this paper are based on mean aerodynamic chord. The 5 and 19.8 million Reynolds number data were collected to provide a comparison to previously calculated CFD results and all of the Reynolds numbers were used to provide an assessment of Reynolds number effects. The 19.8 million Reynolds number data were collected at two different q_∞ levels – a high and a low q_∞ condition. Having two q_∞ levels at the same Reynolds number provides an aeroelastic step in the data. The data

were collected at temperatures ranging from -250°F up to 120°F. For the comparisons made in this paper, only the $Re_c=5$ million data obtained at a temperature of 120°F are presented.

All data presented in this paper were obtained at freestream Mach number of 0.85. Data were generally obtained over an angle-of-attack range from -3° to +12° at 5 million Reynolds number and from -3° to +6° at 19.8 and 30 million Reynolds numbers. The reduced angle-of-attack range at the higher Reynolds number was required such that safe model stress levels would not be exceeded. Flow angularity measurements were made and upflow corrections ranging from 0.092° to 0.173° were applied to the final NTF data. Classical wall corrections accounting for model blockage, wake blockage, tunnel buoyancy, and lift interference have been applied according to the methods presented below.

In order to ensure a consistent and repeatable transition from laminar to turbulent flow and to support the goal of the wind tunnel data being used for CFD validation purposes, it was important to apply a proven and reliable method to fix transition on the model. Evercoat trip dots measuring 0.05 inches in diameter and spaced 0.1 inches apart (center to center) were used for the current investigation. For a chord Reynolds number of 5 million, a trip dot height of 0.0035 inches was used from the SOB (side of body) to the yehudi break, 0.003 inches was used from the yehudi break to the midwing and 0.003 inches was used from the midwing to the wing tip. These trip dots were installed at 10% chord. Vinyl adhesive trip dots with a height of 0.004 inches were applied at the nose of the fuselage and left on for the entire test. When the nacelles were on the model, trip dots with a height of 0.003 inches were located 0.43 inches back from the leading edge on the outer surface and the inner surface. Finally, when the tails were on the model, trip dots were located at 10% chord and measured 0.003 inches in height. Further information about this investigation can be found in reference 20.

Another important set of data obtained in this investigation was model deformation measurements. Since an effective correlation of computational and experimental data will be directly tied to how well the computational and experimental model geometries match one another, it is important to obtain an accurate definition of the model geometry as tested under aerodynamic loads. In order to obtain this information a video model deformation measurement technique²¹ has been developed and employed multiple times at the NTF. This system was used in the current investigation to obtain wing deflection and twist measurements due to aerodynamic loading.

2. Ames 11-ft Wind Tunnel

The investigation, conducted over a 5-week period, provided force and moment, surface pressure, and surface flow visualization data. Testing was conducted at a chord Reynolds number of 5 million. The data were collected at temperatures of approximately 100°F.

All data presented in this paper were obtained at a freestream Mach numbers of 0.85. Data were generally obtained over an angle-of-attack range from -3° to +12° at 5 million chord Reynolds number. Flow angularity measurements were made and upflow corrections ranging from 0.013° to 0.067° were applied to the final data. Classical wall corrections accounting for tunnel buoyancy and lift interference have been applied according to the method presented below.

Transition was also fixed on the model when tested at the Ames 11-ft wind tunnel. For this investigation, though, only vinyl adhesive trip dots were applied. These trip dots measured 0.05 inches in diameter and were spaced 0.1 inches apart. For a chord Reynolds number of 5 million, a trip dot height of 0.0035 inches was used from the SOB (side of body) to the yehudi break, 0.003 inches was used from the yehudi break to the midwing and 0.003 inches was used from the

midwing to the wing tip. These trip dots were installed at 10% chord. Vinyl adhesive trip dots with a height of 0.004 inches were also applied at the nose of the fuselage and left on for the entire test. When the nacelles were on the model, trip dots with a height of 0.003 inches were located 0.43 inches back from the leading edge on the outer surface and the inner surface. Finally, when the tails were on the model, trip dots were located at 10% chord and measured 0.003 inches in height.

D. Wall Correction Methods for NTF and Ames 11-ft Wind Tunnels

Both the NTF and the Ames 11-ft wind tunnels use the Transonic Wall Interference Correction System (TWICS) to provide blockage and incidence corrections due to the presence of the test section boundary. TWICS and its predecessor, the Wall Interference Correction System (WICS), were developed at the NASA Ames Research Center by Ulbrich et al.²²⁻²⁹ as a modification and extension of the Hackett wall signature method.³⁰⁻³⁴ TWICS is an enhanced version of WICS that handles ventilated boundary conditions, typically seen in transonic wind tunnels. This method was chosen to be implemented at the NTF (see Iyer et al.^{35,36}) in an effort to standardize the wall interference correction methodology across NASA centers. TWICS is based on a linearized potential flow method with a Prandtl-Glauert compressibility model which inherently assumes that there is a portion of flow in the test section between the near-field region of the test article and the near-field region of the wall that is a linear perturbation of the empty test section flow field.

The method uses a tared wall pressure signature, which is the difference between the model installed condition and the empty test section, a database of normalized perturbation velocities using unit singularity solutions computed for a given mathematical representation of the wall boundary condition, and geometric information from the test article. Taring of the wall pressure signature is performed to remove first order effects of the empty tunnel boundary layer and buoyancy, assumed to contain only the solid and wake blockage, and assumed that the additional second order change in the test-section-wall boundary layer displacement thickness due to the presence of the test article is negligible—an assumption that is violated by flow near a Mach number of unity where aspects of the crossflow are more critical. The test article is modeled with an appropriately weighted point doublet chain³⁷ to represent the fuselage, wake, and support system. Line doublets, typically distributed along the lifting surface quarter-chord, are used to simulate the effect of lift. The strengths of the line doublets are determined using the measured lift from the balance. The resulting wall signature from these singularities is subtracted from the tared wall signature, leaving only the blockage signature. This remaining signature is used to determine the strengths of the solid and wake blockage singularities.

Although both facilities use TWICS, the implementations are not identical. The differences occur in how the wall boundary conditions are formulated and applied. Ulbrich^{28,29} performed a calibration and validation of the baffled, slotted (i.e. porous) wall boundary condition for the Ames 11-ft wind tunnel. Walker³⁸ calibrated and validated the longitudinal slotted wall boundary condition in the NTF. A discrete wall formulation, where the boundary condition is applied in the baffled slot, is used at the Ames 11-ft wind tunnel; whereas, a homogeneous wall formulation, which is more of an averaged representation of the effect of the ventilated wall boundary, is used at the NTF. Work is in progress to assess the impact of modeling the NTF wall boundary condition as discrete. It is anticipated that a change to the discrete formulation of the NTF may lead to a decreased incidence correction. Data presented in this paper are corrected using the respective implementations of TWICS at each facility.

E. Wing Twist Investigation

While initially comparing the data obtained in the two wind tunnels with the computational data obtained from the DPW IV, an unusually large discrepancy in pitching moment was noted, while the lift and drag comparisons were as expected (Figure 8). A previous study was performed to determine if this discrepancy was caused by the support system while the model was mounted in the tunnel. The results of this study showed that adding the support system to the computational model did indeed improve the comparison with wind tunnel data but there was still a large difference in pitching moment (Figure 9).

In an attempt to determine the source of the discrepancy, the twist of the as-built wing was examined. When designing a wind tunnel model, a 1-g loading shape is designed and then the 1-g (wind-on) loaded shape is determined as well as the 0-g (wind-off) jig (or as-built) shape for model fabrication. Therefore, the 1-g design shape and the as-built jig shape typically differ. Figure 10 shows that the 1-g design shape and the as-built jig shape are the same, which indicates that the wind tunnel model was built to the 1-g shape, not the wind-off shape. Therefore, when the model was tested in the wind tunnel, the wings twisted more than that in the actual grid geometry used for the computational analyses.

In order to ensure the computations were being performed on the same wing shape as the experiments from this point on, the model deformation data from the NTF test at the design conditions of $M_\infty=0.85$ and $C_L=0.5$ was utilized. Since the exact value of $C_L=0.5$ was not obtained during the NTF wind tunnel test, the model deformation data was interpolated to a value of $C_L=0.5$. The wing twist distribution for each computational grid was adjusted using the 'twist' geometry constraint in the CDISC design method (Reference 39). The required twist increment was determined by first interpolating the design twist distribution to the span-wise locations where the twist was measured on the loaded (wind-on) model (see Figure 11), then subtracting these values from the 1-g design shape, as shown in Figure 12. These values define the new wing twist that will be implemented in the new grids. CDISC design stations were defined at these locations, as well as at the wing root and tip. The twist increment at the root was set to zero and the tip twist increment matched that of the most outboard measurement station ($\eta=0.9464$). As the root and tip design stations were defined using the grid points along the fuselage-wing and wing-wingtip intersections, respectively, these had to be redefined for each of the grids.

An automated procedure was created to define these design stations, run CDISC to apply the twist increments to the airfoil sections at these stations, and then modify the surface and volume grids for each case. The increments are applied as a linear shearing about the airfoil trailing edge as opposed to a true twist increment (i.e., only the vertical coordinates are changed). As the absolute twist values are small and the magnitude of the largest twist increment is about one degree (see Figure 11) any error introduced from the use of shearing should be much smaller than the measurement accuracy. Also, it should be noted that the same twist increment was applied for all cases; no attempt was made to compensate for different static aero-elastic deflections for cases at different angles of attack. All of the previous solutions, which were computed on the original grid, were recomputed using the new grid. These solutions are discussed in the Results and Discussion Section below.

III. Computational Approach

A. Grid Generation

The GridTool/VGRID software system⁴⁰ was used to generate unstructured grids for this study. VGRID uses an advancing-front method for generating Euler tetrahedral grids, and an advancing-layer method for thin-layer tetrahedral viscous grids required for Navier-Stokes analysis. In defining the computational domain, boundaries are represented by bi-linear surface patches that are constructed in GridTool based on user-specified geometries and an IGES definition. Grid characteristics like cell spacing and stretching are also specified in GridTool by the placement of volume, node, and linear sources.

A surface mesh is generated in VGRID by triangulating each surface patch with a two-dimensional version of the advancing-front method. Triangulated surface patches then form the initial front for the generation of three-dimensional tetrahedral volume cells by the advancing-layer and advancing-front methods. Smooth variation of grid spacing is achieved with an exponential growth function, using the GridTool-defined sources as inputs.

Three semi-span grids were developed for this study: a grid containing the wing/body/tail= 0° only (WBT0), a grid containing the wing/body/tail= 0° with the support system (WBT0ss), and a grid containing the wing/body/tail=0 with the support system and arc sector (WBT0ssa). Surface meshes from all three grids are shown in Figures 13 thru 15. Grid sizes ranged from 22.6 million cells for the WBT0 configuration to 45.9 million cells for the WBT0ssa configuration. Boundary layers were resolved using approximately 96 tetrahedral cells (32 nodes), with first cell centroid at y^+ of 0.25. In all cases, the computational domain extended roughly 10 body lengths from the aircraft fuselage in all directions.

B. Flow Solver

The NASA Langley unstructured computational fluid dynamics code USM3D 6.0⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ was used for Navier-Stokes analysis in this study. Within the tetrahedral cell-centered, finite volume flow solver, inviscid flux quantities are computed across each cell face using one of the following schemes: Roe's flux difference splitting (FDS), Advection Upstream Splitting Method (AUSM), Flux Vector Splitting (FVS), or Harten, Lax, and van Leer with Contact restoration (HLLC). A novel reconstruction process is used for spatial discretization, based on an analytical formulation for computing gradients within tetrahedral cells. Solutions are advanced to a steady state condition using an implicit backward-Euler time-stepping scheme. For numerical stability, limiter options include MinMod and Superbee flux limiters and an Eigen-value limiter. Turbulence closure in USM3D 6.0 is given by the one equation Spalart-Allmaras (SA) model, the two-equation k - ϵ turbulence model, or the two-equation Menter SST model. For the present study, FDS and Spalart-Allmaras were used. To improve the prediction of skin friction drag, a solution limiter was not activated.

C. Boundary Conditions

Outer boundaries of the computational domain were treated as characteristic inflow/outflow surfaces with freestream conditions specified by Mach number, Reynolds number, flow angle, and static temperature. For comparison with wind tunnel data, a freestream Mach number of 0.85 and a Reynolds number of 5 million based on mean aerodynamic chord were chosen. Solutions were run over a range of angles-of-attack from 0° to 5° .

A reflection boundary condition was used at the symmetry plane of the semi-span geometry. All other aircraft and model support system surfaces were treated as no-slip viscous boundaries.

D. Solution Procedure

Solutions presented in this paper were obtained by running USM3D on the k cluster at NASA Langley Research Center using 96 processors. Cases typically needed 20,000 cycles for full convergence, requiring 20 to 50 hours of wall-clock time. During the computation, global CFL number ramped from 1 to 50. Convergence was judged by tracking the solution residual and integrated aerodynamic performance coefficients until they settled out in a satisfactory fashion. Typical convergence histories for all three configurations are shown in Figures 16 thru 18.

E. Force and Moment Integration

Forces and moments were computed within the flow solver by evaluating pressure and skin friction on the surface. Force and moment coefficients given in this paper were computed for the aircraft only. Forces and moments on the support system and arc sector components were ignored. Because the contribution of forces in the small area where the blade intersected the aircraft fuselage were small, no attempt was made to reconcile or correct these forces when comparing configurations with and without the support system.

IV. Results and Discussion

This study came about as a result of the existence of a larger than expected discrepancy between computational and experimental data. After adding the support system, the discrepancy still existed, just not to the same degree. This led to an investigation into the wing twist of the wind tunnel model, which indicated the wing was not built with the desired “unloaded” twist. As discussed above, the computational grids were changed to reflect the desired (loaded) twist and then all of the previous CFD cases were recomputed.

After all of the CFD cases were completed, the data were plotted against the NTF, Ames TWT and DPW IV data to determine what effect the support system had on the lift, drag and pitching moment. This plot is shown in Figure 19. The plot results confirm that correcting the wing twist and including the support system in the computational analyses does shift the pitching moment even more in the direction of the experimental results. The plot also shows that the agreement between the NTF and Ames 11-ft data is very good and the spread among the CFD results is still significantly larger than the differences between the experimental results.

The rest of this study consisted of computing cases at a Mach number of 0.85 and a Reynolds number of 5 million based on mean aerodynamic chord using the grids with the new wing shape incorporated. The solutions were run over a range of angles-of-attack from 0° to 5°. Summary results from the $\alpha=0.0^\circ$, 2.0° and 4.0° cases are shown in Table 1 below, where the delta coefficients are relative to the without support system cases. In this table the subscript ss denotes with support system and the subscript ssa denotes with support system and arc sector:

Table 1: Summary of CFD Cases, $M_\infty=0.85$, $Re_c=5 \times 10^6$

| CFD Case | α | C_m | C_L | C_D | ΔC_m | ΔC_L | ΔC_D |
|----------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| WBT0 | 0.0 | 0.0866 | 0.1186 | 0.01813 | | | |
| WBT0ss | 0.0 | 0.1217 | 0.0991 | 0.01553 | 0.0351 | -0.0195 | -0.00260 |
| WBT0ssa | 0.0 | 0.1211 | 0.0990 | 0.01523 | 0.0345 | -0.0196 | -0.00290 |
| WBT0 | 2.0 | -0.0097 | 0.4026 | 0.02367 | | | |
| WBT0ss | 2.0 | 0.0338 | 0.3783 | 0.02031 | 0.0435 | -0.0243 | -0.00336 |
| WBT0ssa | 2.0 | 0.0262 | 0.3766 | 0.01997 | 0.0359 | -0.0260 | -0.00370 |
| WBT0 | 4.0 | -0.0584 | 0.6579 | 0.04469 | | | |
| WBT0ss | 4.0 | -0.0182 | 0.6387 | 0.03924 | 0.0402 | -0.0192 | -0.00545 |
| WBT0ssa | 4.0 | -0.0281 | 0.6388 | 0.03847 | 0.0303 | -0.0191 | -0.00622 |

The table indicates that the lift is decreased a small amount and the drag is also decreased, from 26 counts at $\alpha=0^\circ$ up to 55 counts at $\alpha=4^\circ$ for the WBT0ss configuration and from 29 counts at $\alpha=0^\circ$ up to 62 counts at $\alpha=4^\circ$ for the WBT0ssa configuration. To further investigate these differences, pressure coefficient (C_p) contours were examined.

Figure 20 thru 28 show surface pressure coefficient contours for all three configurations at $\alpha=0^\circ$, 2° , and 4° . In general, these figures show that adding the support system does change the surface pressures for each of the three angles-of-attack shown and adding by the arc sector to the support system, no noticeable change in surface pressure is observed. The rest of the paper will focus on the results of the $\alpha=2^\circ$ case on the WBT0ss and WBT0ssa configurations.

To better understand variations in surface pressure, the change in pressure coefficient (ΔC_p) is also examined. This is obtained by subtracting the WBT0 configuration's surface pressure coefficient from the WBT0ss and WBT0ssa configuration's surface pressure coefficient. This can be studied in even more detail by breaking ΔC_p out into its lift, drag, and pitch contributions. Lift and drag quantities are obtained by multiplying ΔC_p by a dot product between the local surface unit normal vector and a unit vector in the lift- and drag-directions, respectively. Pitch quantities are obtained by multiplying ΔC_p by a cross product between the local surface unit normal vector and the normalized (by reference chord) lever arm to the pitch axis at the aircraft moment center. This results in plots of lift, drag, and pitch coefficient per-unit-area (i.e., the integrands in traditional pressure-based lift, drag, and pitch integrations), but it is equally effective to think of these quantities as the influence of ΔC_p in the respective force directions and moment rotations. These per-unit-area values are denoted with a δ in the results shown below.

A. With Support System Configuration, WBT0ss

Figure 29 presents ΔC_p for the WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$. This figure shows a significant change in loads in the aft fuselage region (where the support system attaches to the fuselage) and on the upper surface of the wing.

The δC_m for the WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$ is shown in Figure 30. This figure shows that there is a significant change in the pitching moment on the upper surface aft fuselage, horizontal tail and on the outboard section of the upper surface wing. Figure 31 shows δC_L for the WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$ and Figure 32 shows δC_D . Here the effects of the support system are also apparent – it results in significant local lift per-unit-area changes (both positive and negative) in the aft fuselage, upper surface of the wing and the horizontal tail area. The biggest per-unit-area change in drag occurs in the area where the support system attaches to the fuselage, on the horizontal tail and on the outboard section of the upper surface of the wing. This analysis case is near the cruise design point for the CRM, at $M_\infty=0.85$ and $C_L=0.5$, with a couple of weak shocks

on the upper surface of the wing. However, the sensitivity to the support system can be seen by its influence of stronger shock loading along the upper surface of the wing.

In terms of net force coefficients, the WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$ had an increase in pitching moment of $\Delta C_m=0.0435$, a reduction in lift coefficient of $\Delta C_L=-0.0243$ and a reduction in drag coefficient of $\Delta C_D=-0.00336$ relative to the without support system case.

B. With Support System and Arc Sector Configuration, WBT0ssa

Figures 33 thru 36 show ΔC_p , δC_m , δC_L and δC_D for the WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$. These figures show that the WBT0ssa results are very similar to the WBT0ss results shown in Figures 29 thru 32.

In terms of net force coefficients, the WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$ showed an increase of pitching moment of $\Delta C_m=0.0359$, a reduction in lift coefficient of $\Delta C_L=-0.0260$ and a reduction in drag coefficient of $\Delta C_D=-0.00370$ relative to the without support system case.

V. Conclusion

A computational assessment has been conducted in an effort to further investigate model support system interference effects on the NASA Common Research Model. The configurations computed during this investigation were the WBT0, WBT0ss and WBT0ssa at angles-of-attack of 0° , 2° and 4° . The configurations were compared at a Mach number of 0.85 and Reynolds number of 5 million based on mean aerodynamic chord.

Several important points arise from the results discussed in this paper. First and foremost, the model was not built to achieve the wind-on design condition. The incorporation of the approximate wind-on twist shape into the CFD grids improved correlations with the experiment. Secondly, while the agreement between the two experiments is very good, the spread among the CFD results is still significantly larger than the differences between the experimental results. Thirdly, these computational results suggest that the model support system for the CRM configuration tested in the NTF and the Ames 11-ft wind tunnels indeed affects measured aerodynamic performance. It has been confirmed that the addition of the support system to the computational cases does shift the pitching moment in the direction of the experimental results and that adding the arc sector does not shift the pitching moment any further. While a more rigorous computational study is needed to further classify support system effects over a wider range of flow conditions, the current results reinforce the importance of including the support system in computational studies. The corrections or predictions need to at least account for the sting but the addition of the arc sector is not necessary.

A follow on investigation will look at the wind tunnel wall effects in the computational analyses to better understand their influence on the current results.

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Figure 1. Aerial view of the National Transonic Facility.

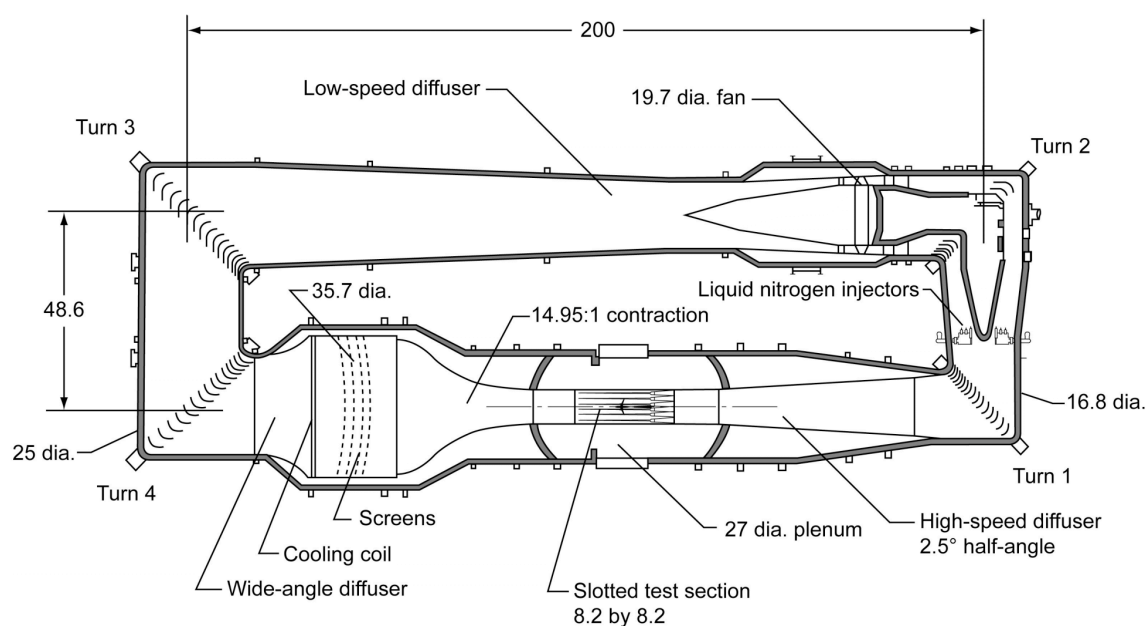


Figure 2. Sketch of the National Transonic Facility tunnel circuit. Linear dimensions are given in feet.

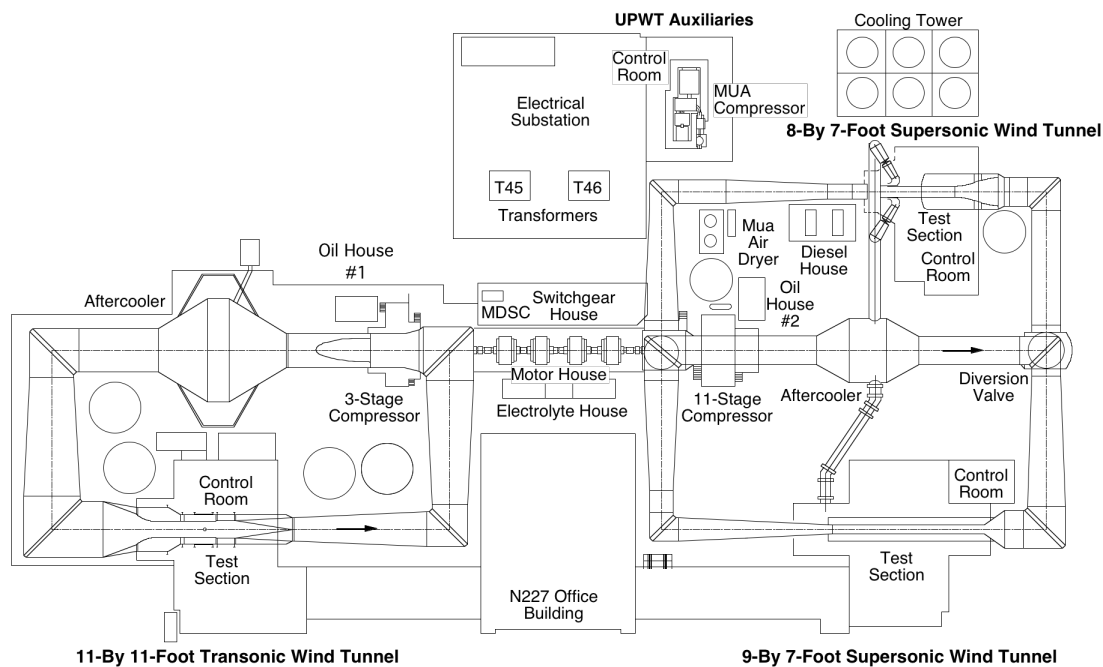


Figure 3. Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel (UPWT) at the NASA Ames Research Center.

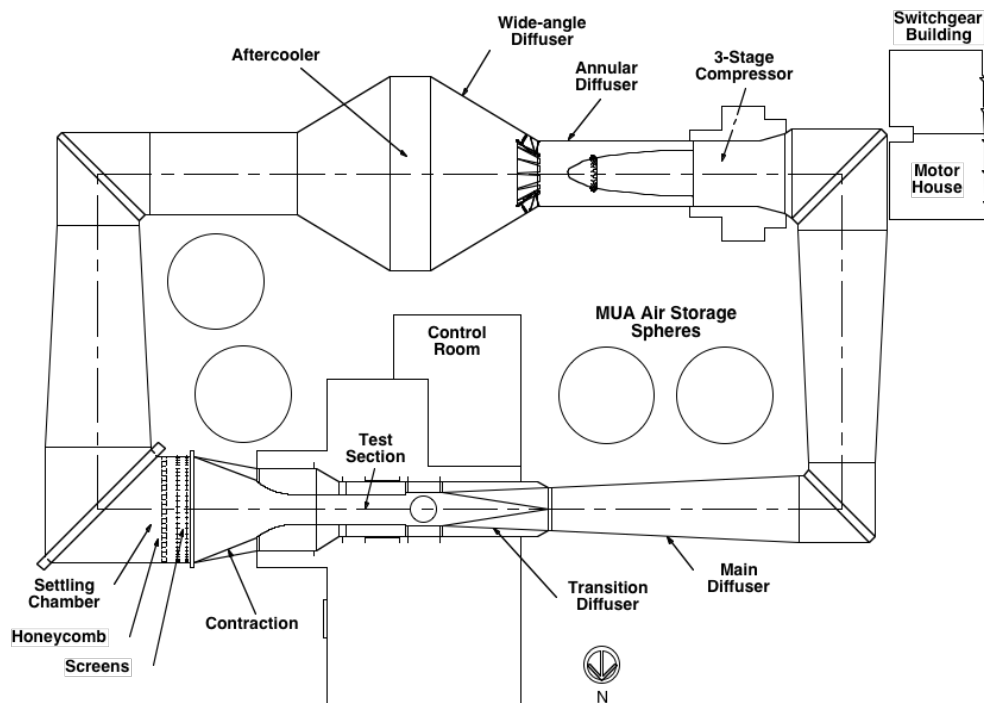
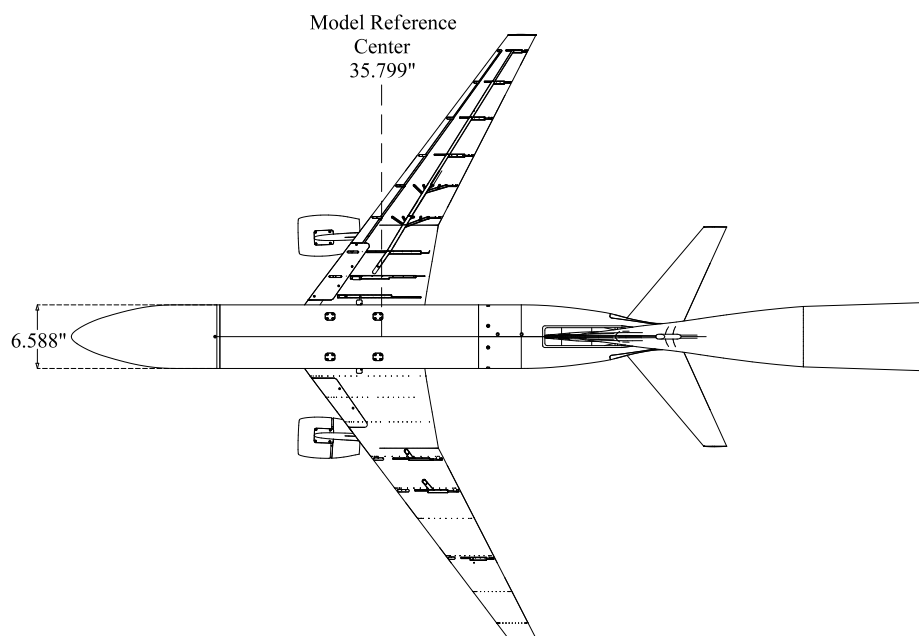
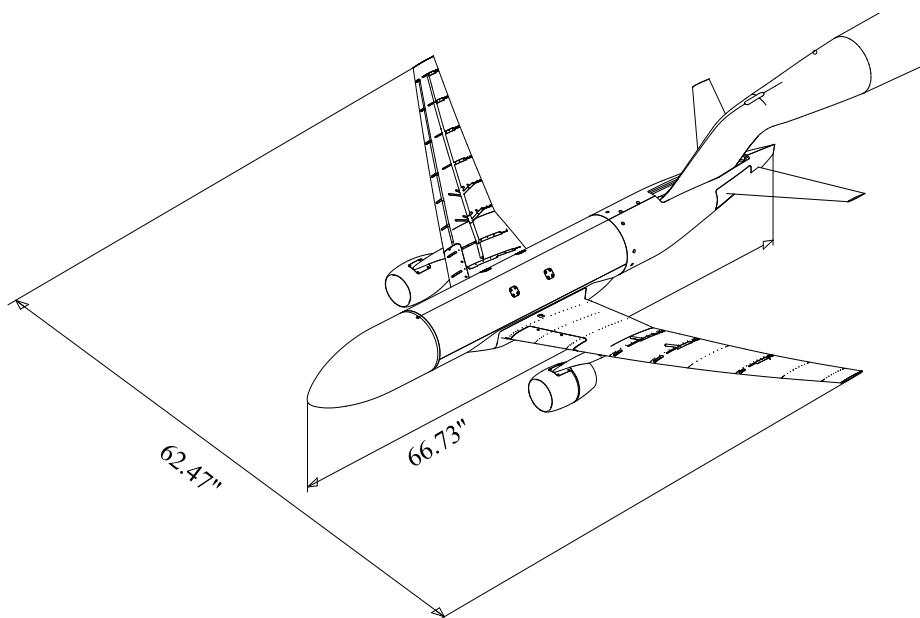


Figure 4. Sketch of the Ames 11-foot Wind Tunnel.



a) Top View



b) Isometric View

Figure 5. Sketch of the Common Research Model with reference quantities.

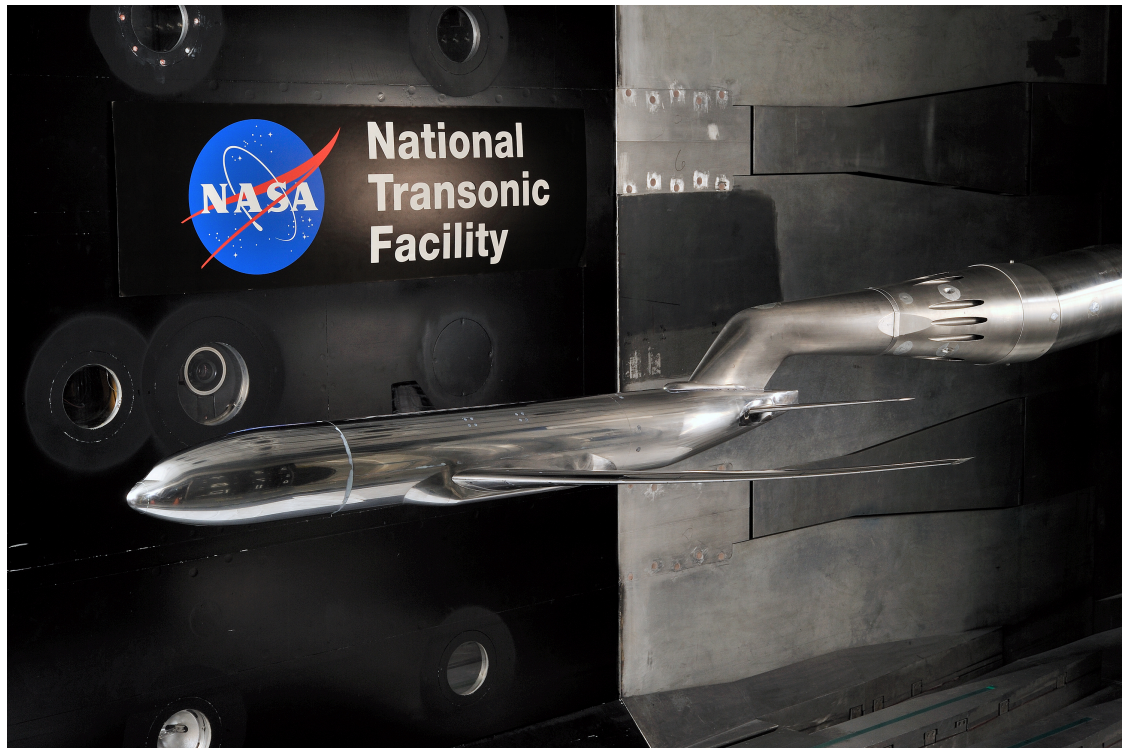


Figure 6. Photo of the Common Research Model in the National Transonic Facility.

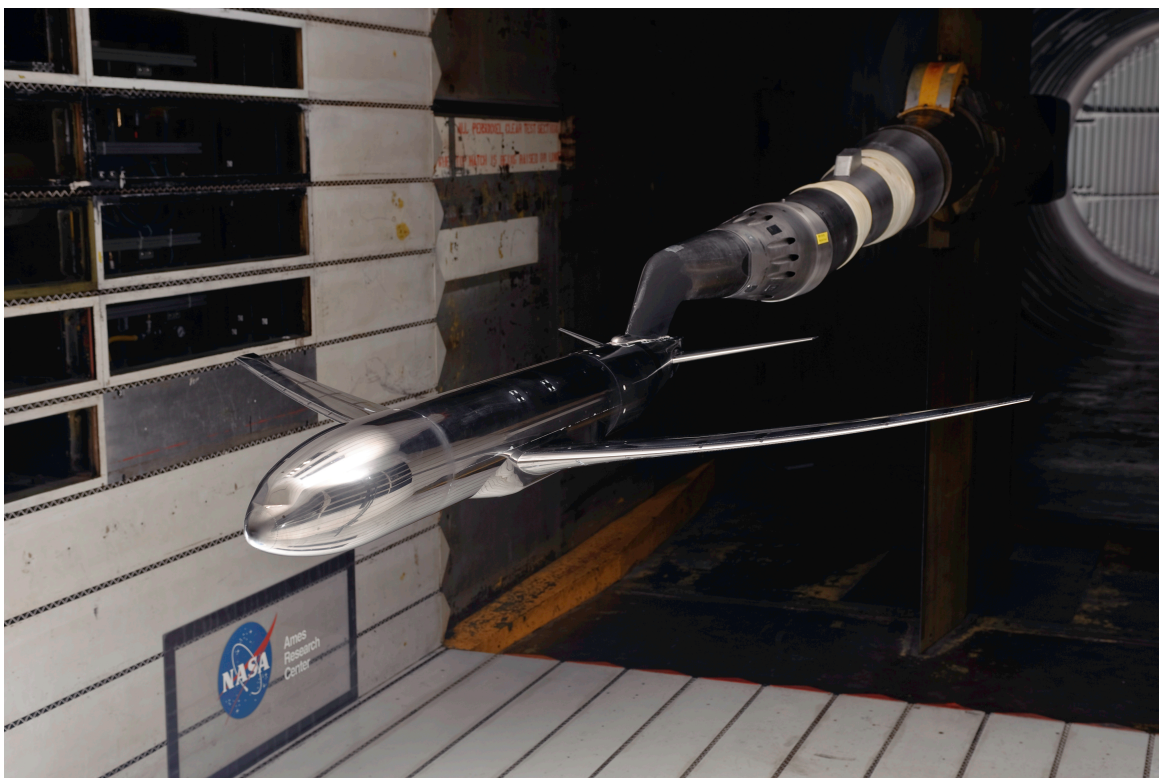


Figure 7. Photo of the Common Research Model in the Ames 11-ft Wind Tunnel.

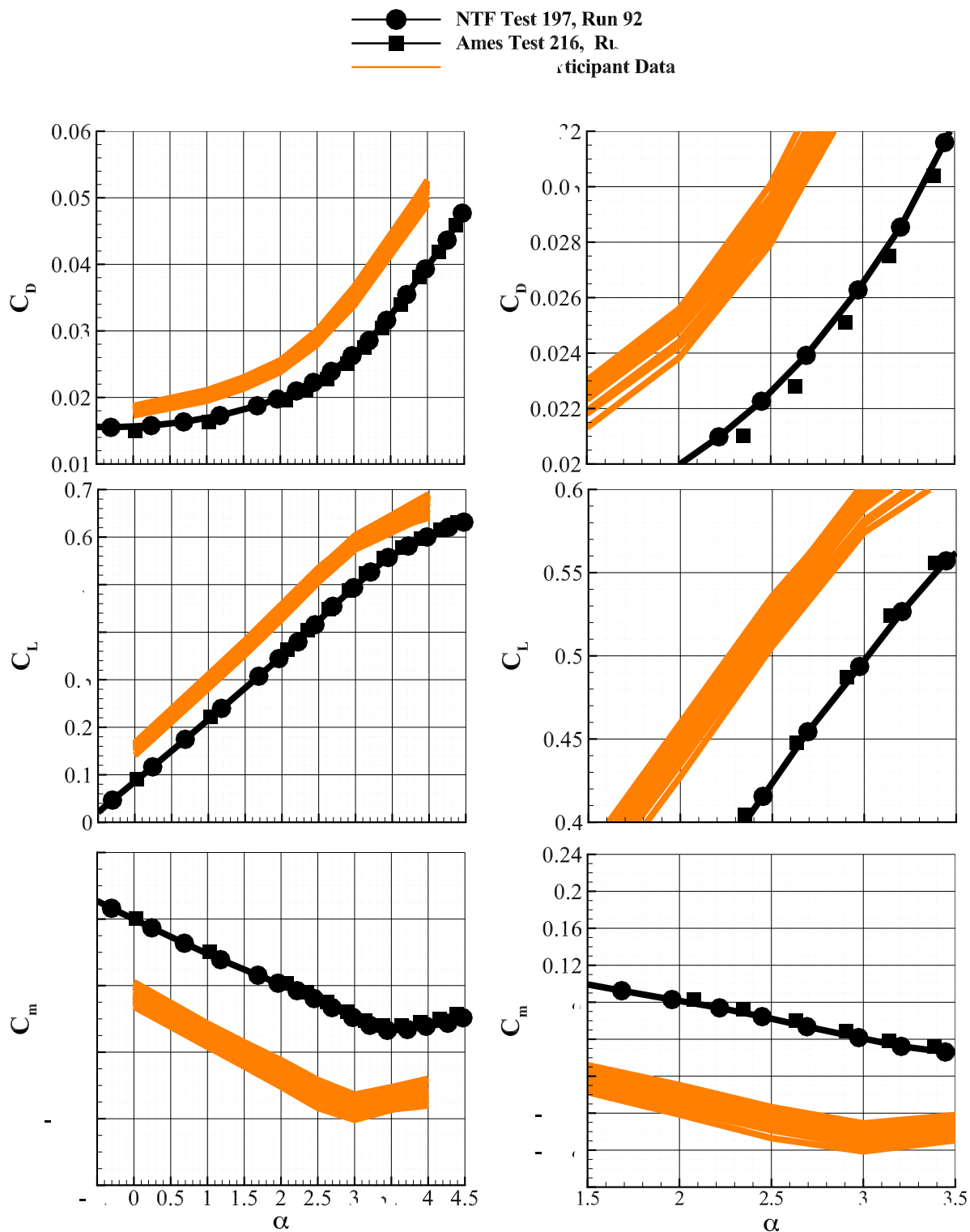


Figure 8. Comparison of NTF and Ames 11-ft TWT experimental data with DPW IV CFD data for the WBT0 configuration.

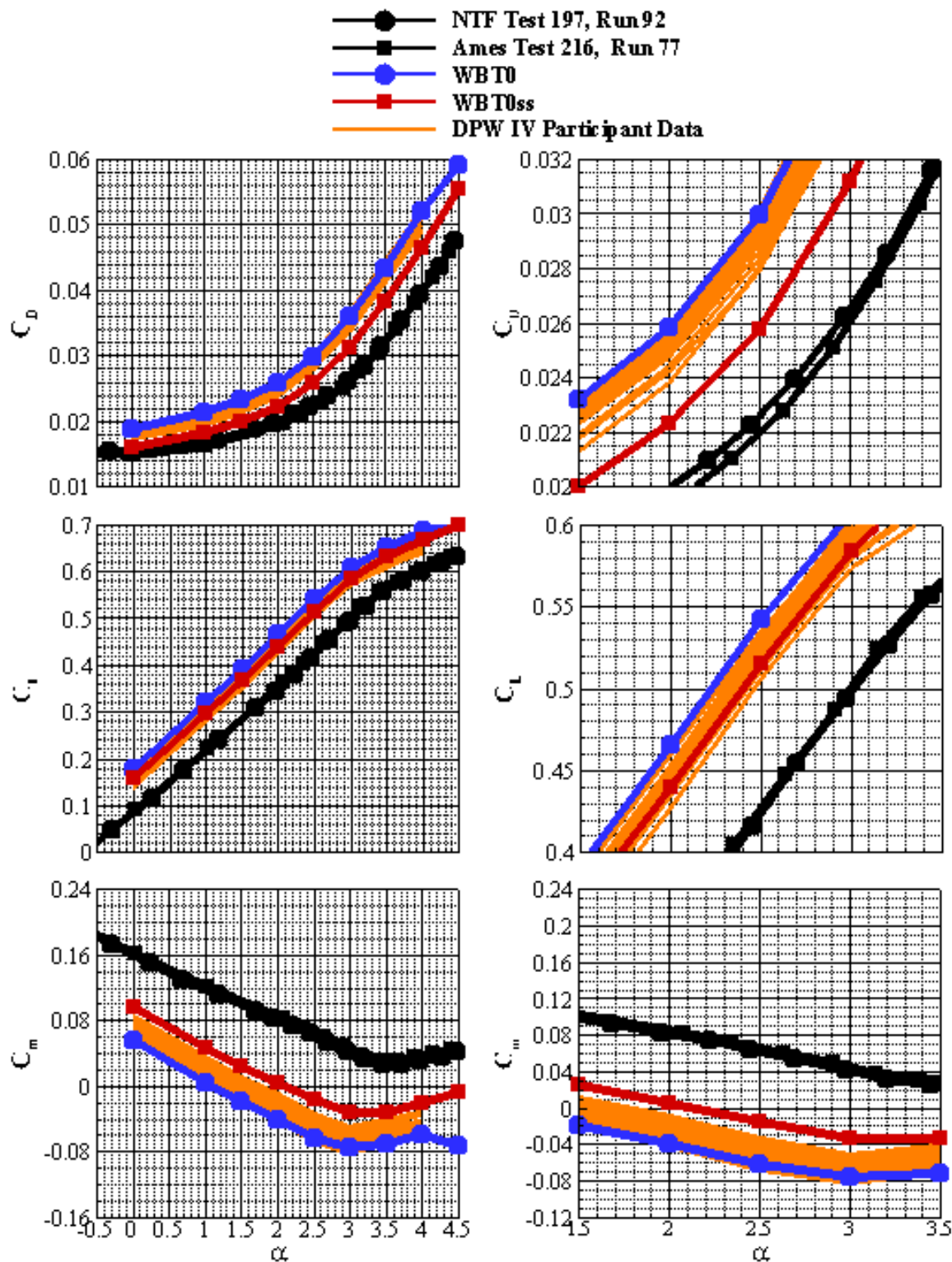


Figure 9. Comparison of NTF and Ames 11-ft TWT experimental data with the DPW IV CFD data for the WBT0 configuration along with the USM3D CFD data for both the WBT0 and WBT0ss configurations, $M_\infty=0.85$, $Re_c=5 \times 10^6$.

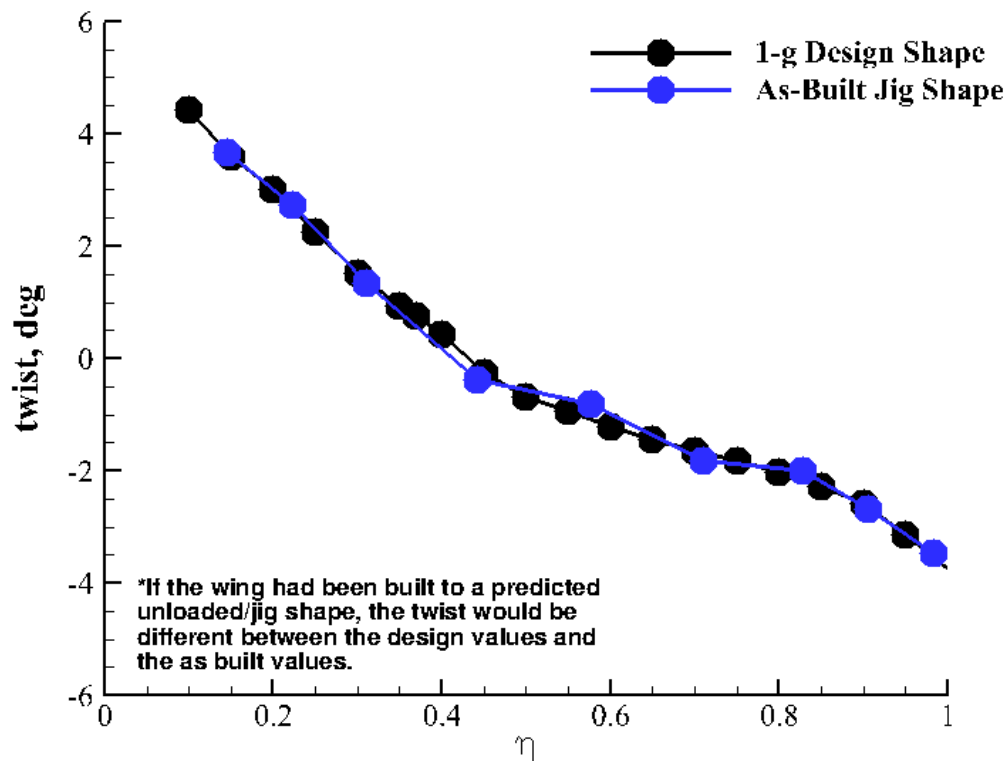


Figure 10. Comparison of as-built jig shape versus wing-design (1-g load) shape.

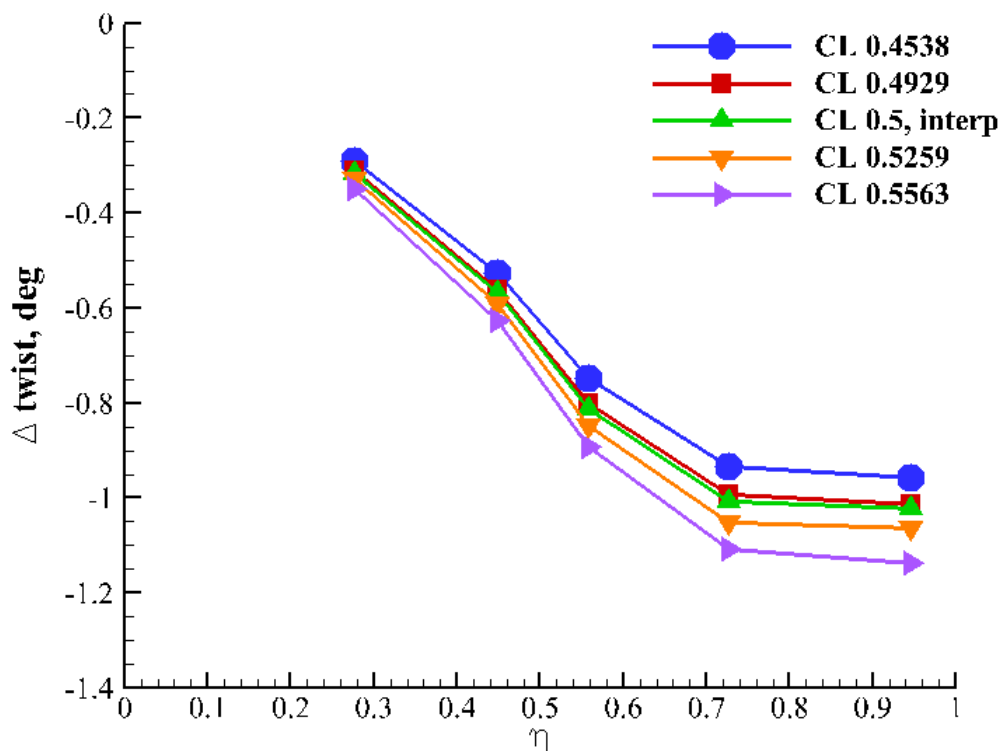


Figure 11. Experimental twist increments (NTF Test 197) at loaded (wind-on) model conditions, $M_\infty=0.85$ and $Re_c=5$ million.

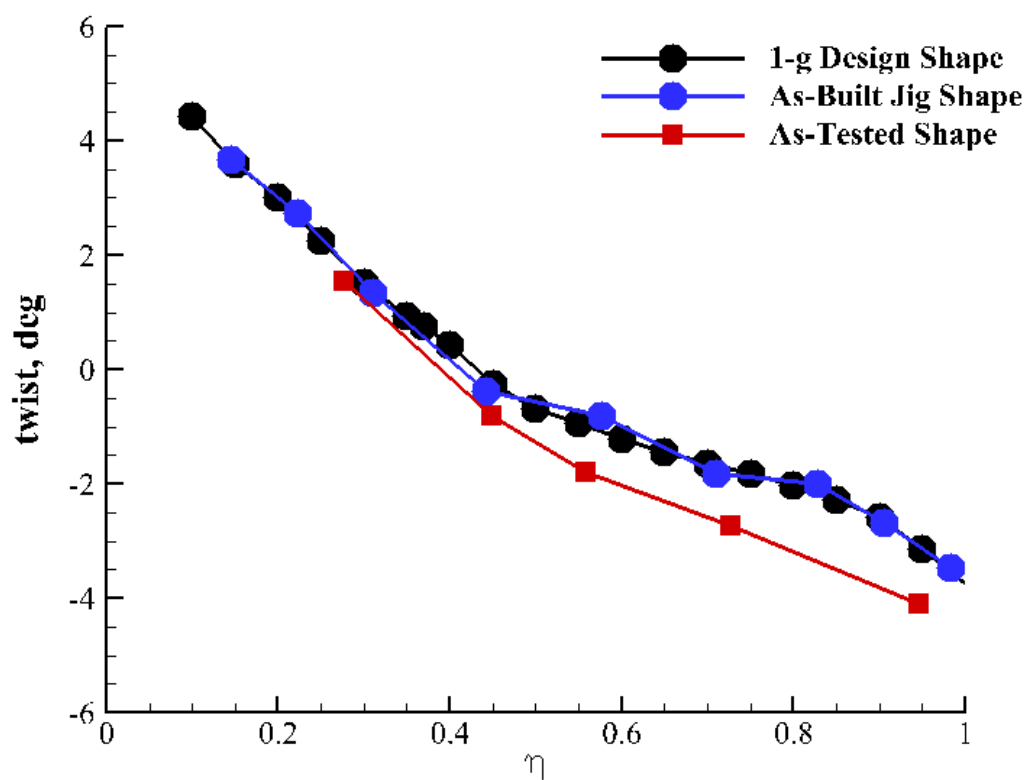


Figure 12. Comparison of wing-design (1-g load) shape with the as-built jig shape and the as-tested shape.

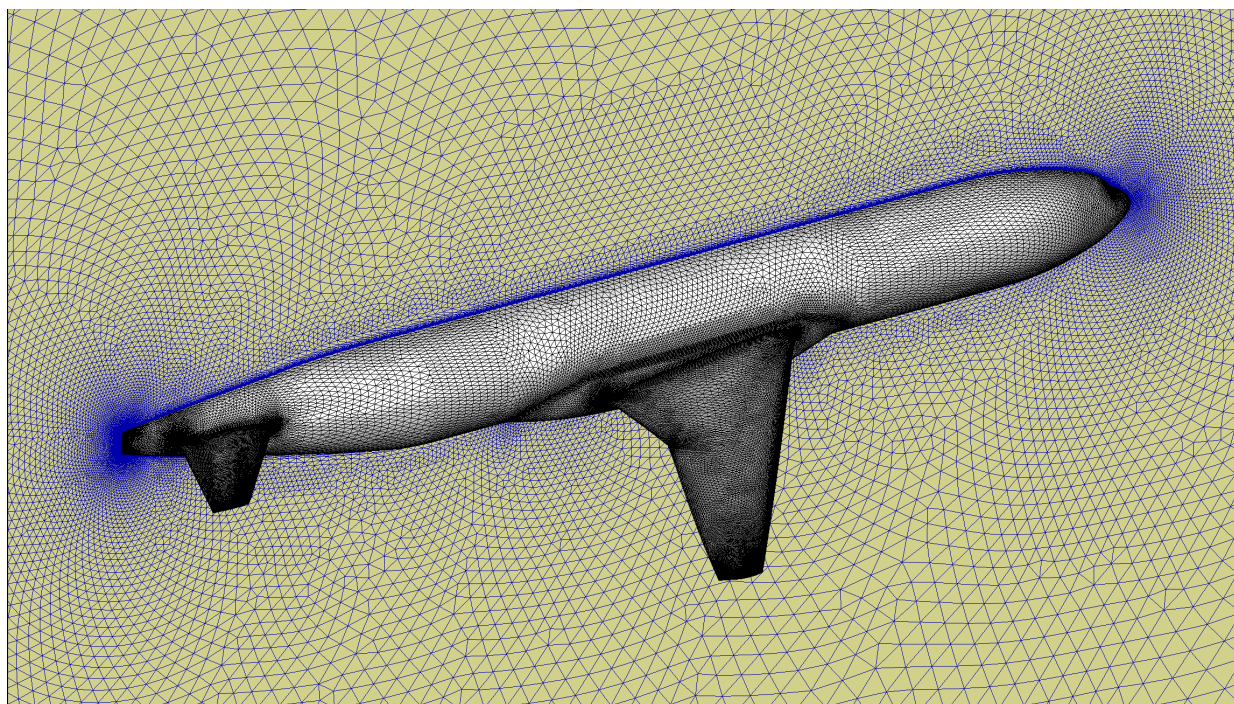


Figure 13. WBT0 configuration surface mesh with new wing shape.

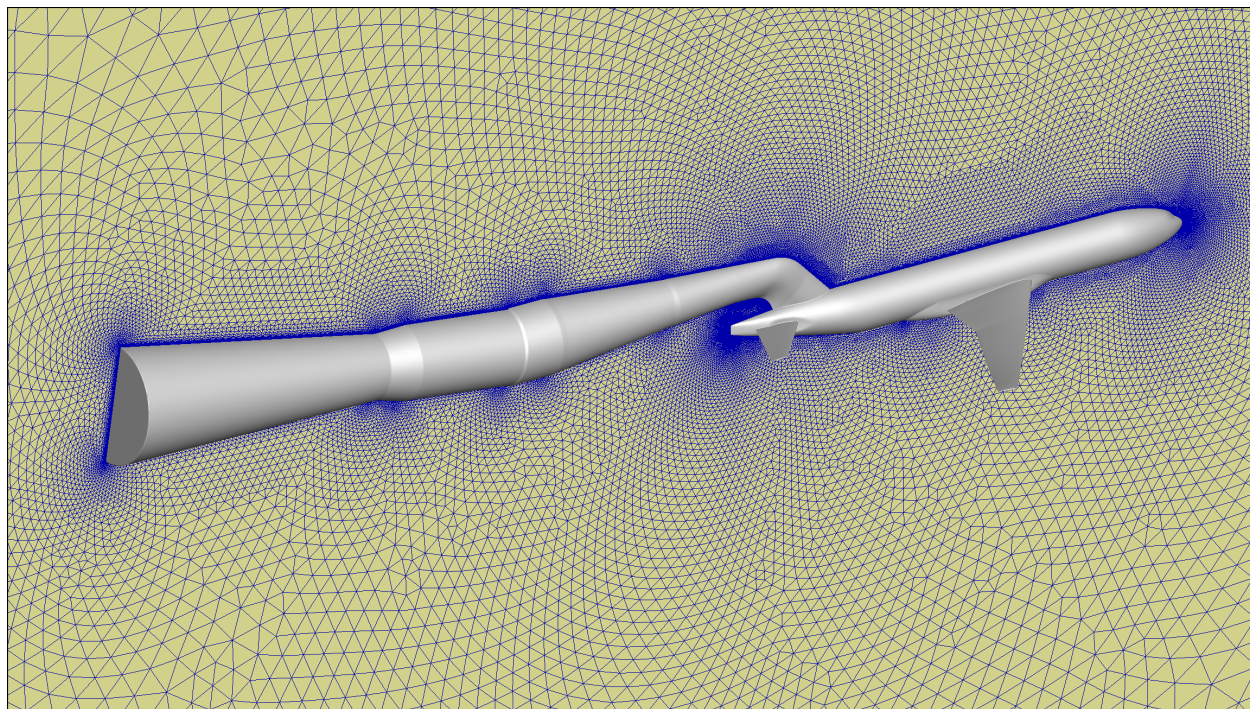


Figure 14. WBT0ss configuration surface mesh with new wing shape.

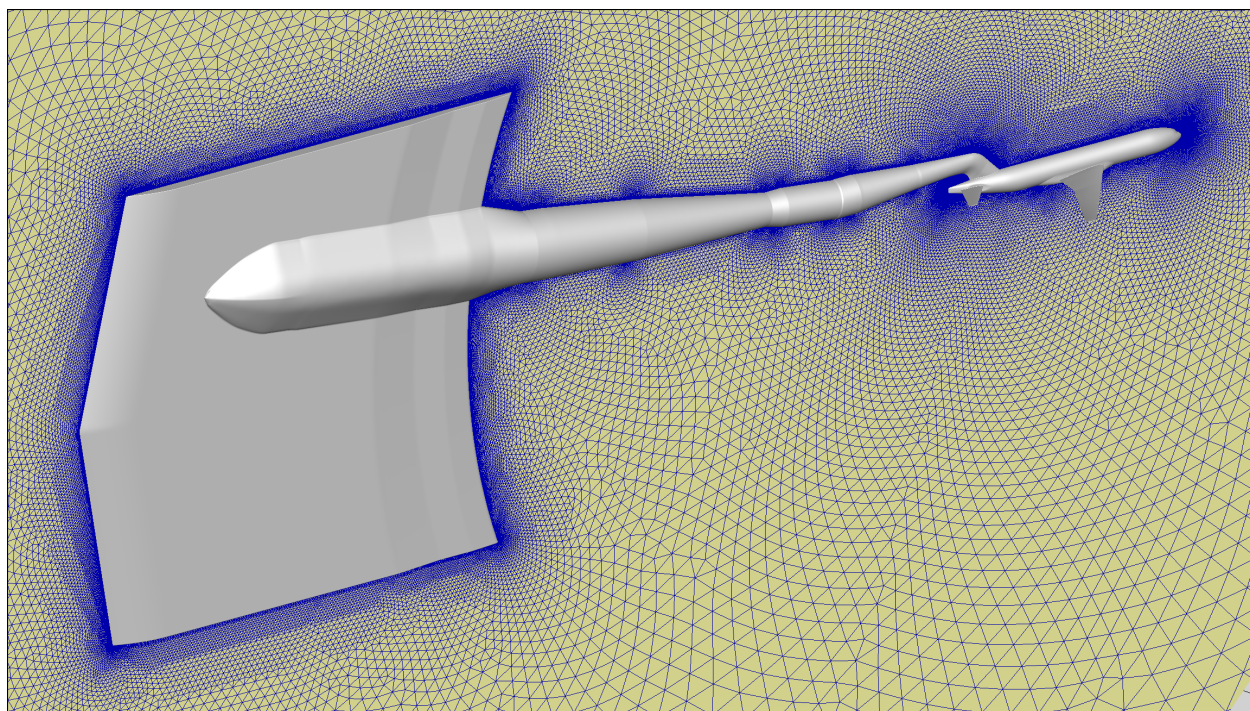


Figure 15. WBT0ssa configuration surface mesh with new wing shape.

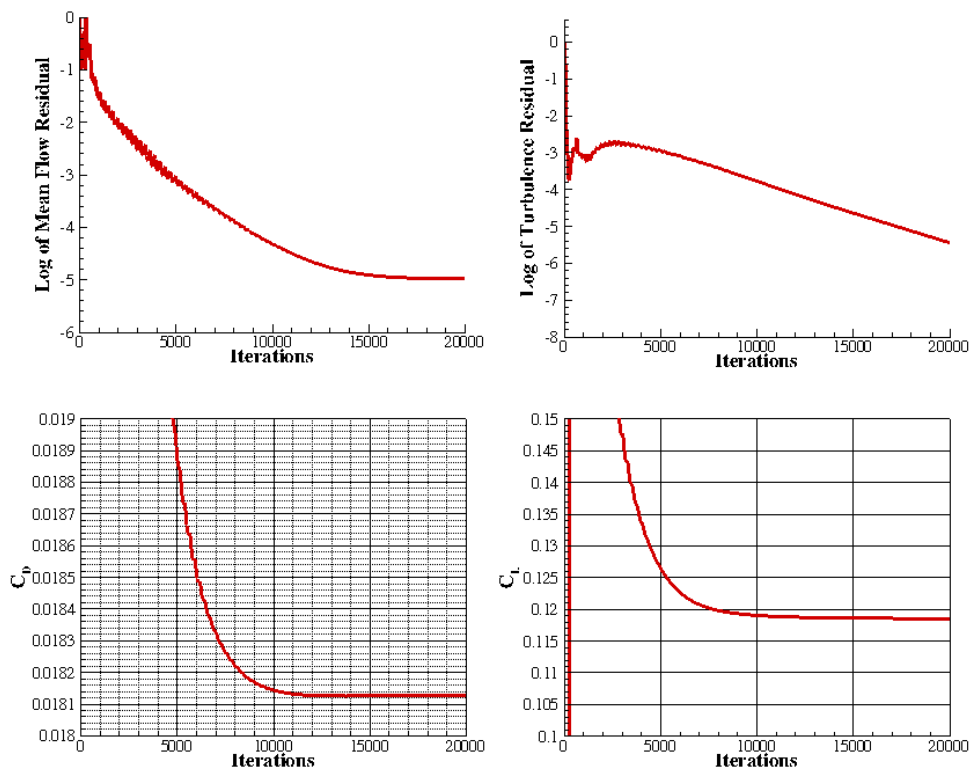


Figure 16. WBT0 convergence history, $M=0.85$, $\alpha=0.0^\circ$, $Re_c=5$ million.

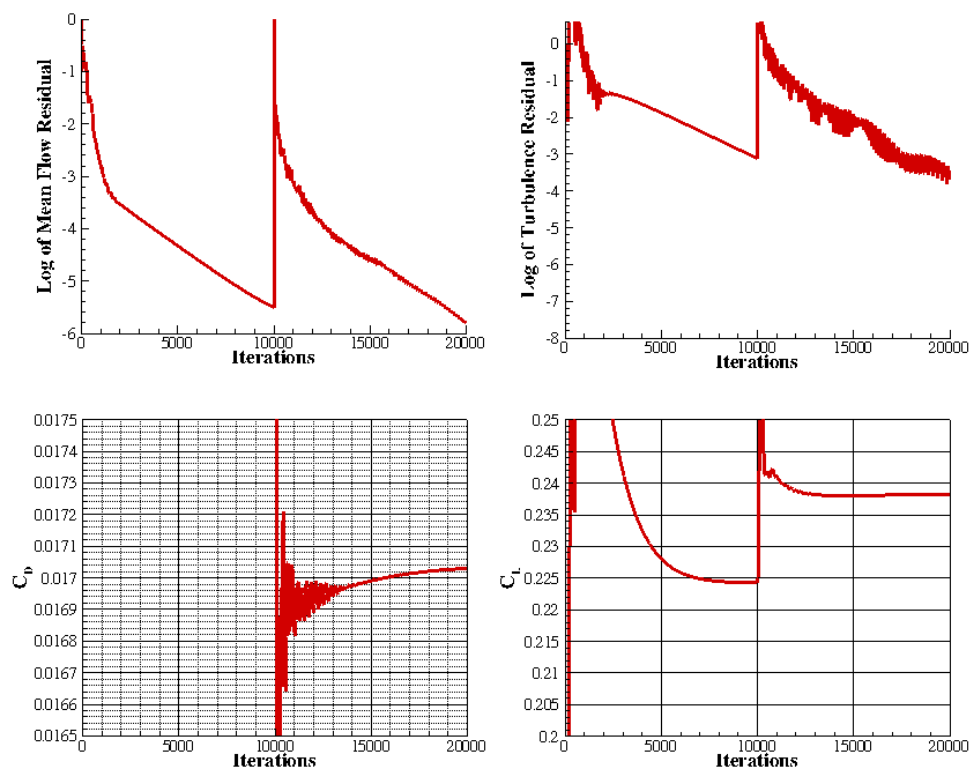


Figure 17. WBT0ss convergence history, $M_\infty=0.85$, $\alpha=1.0^\circ$, $Re_c=5$ million. (Note: spatial accuracy of computations 1st order for first 10000 iterations then set to 2nd order)

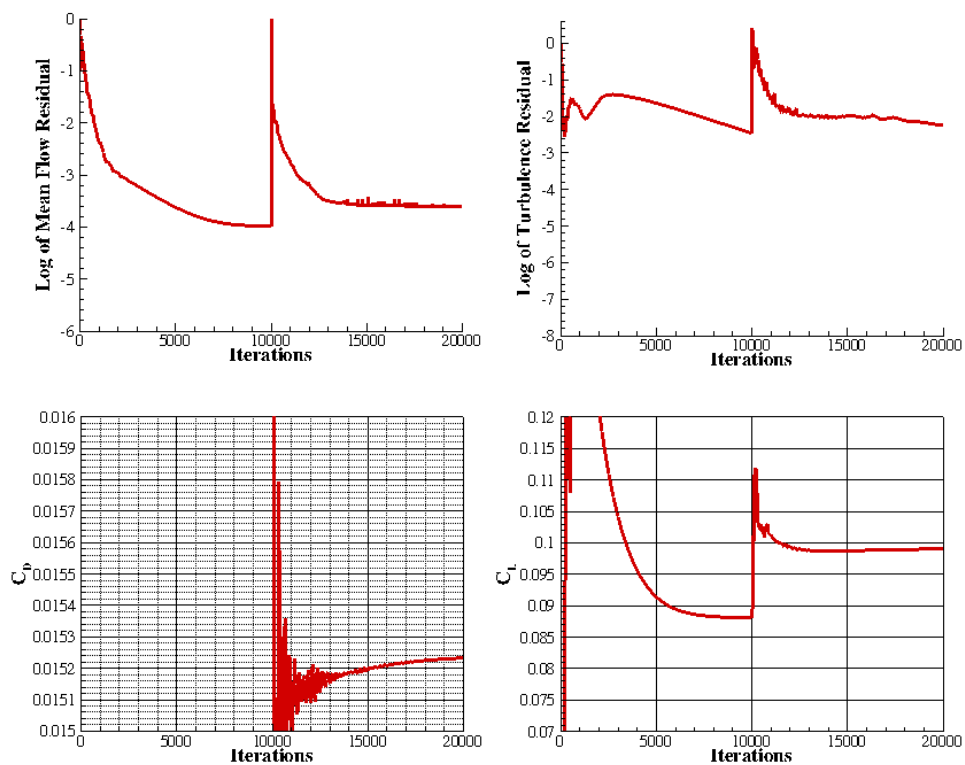


Figure 18. WBT0ssa convergence history, $M_\infty=0.85$, $\alpha=0.0^\circ$, $Re_c=5$ million. (Note: spatial accuracy of computations 1st order for first 10000 iterations then set to 2nd order)

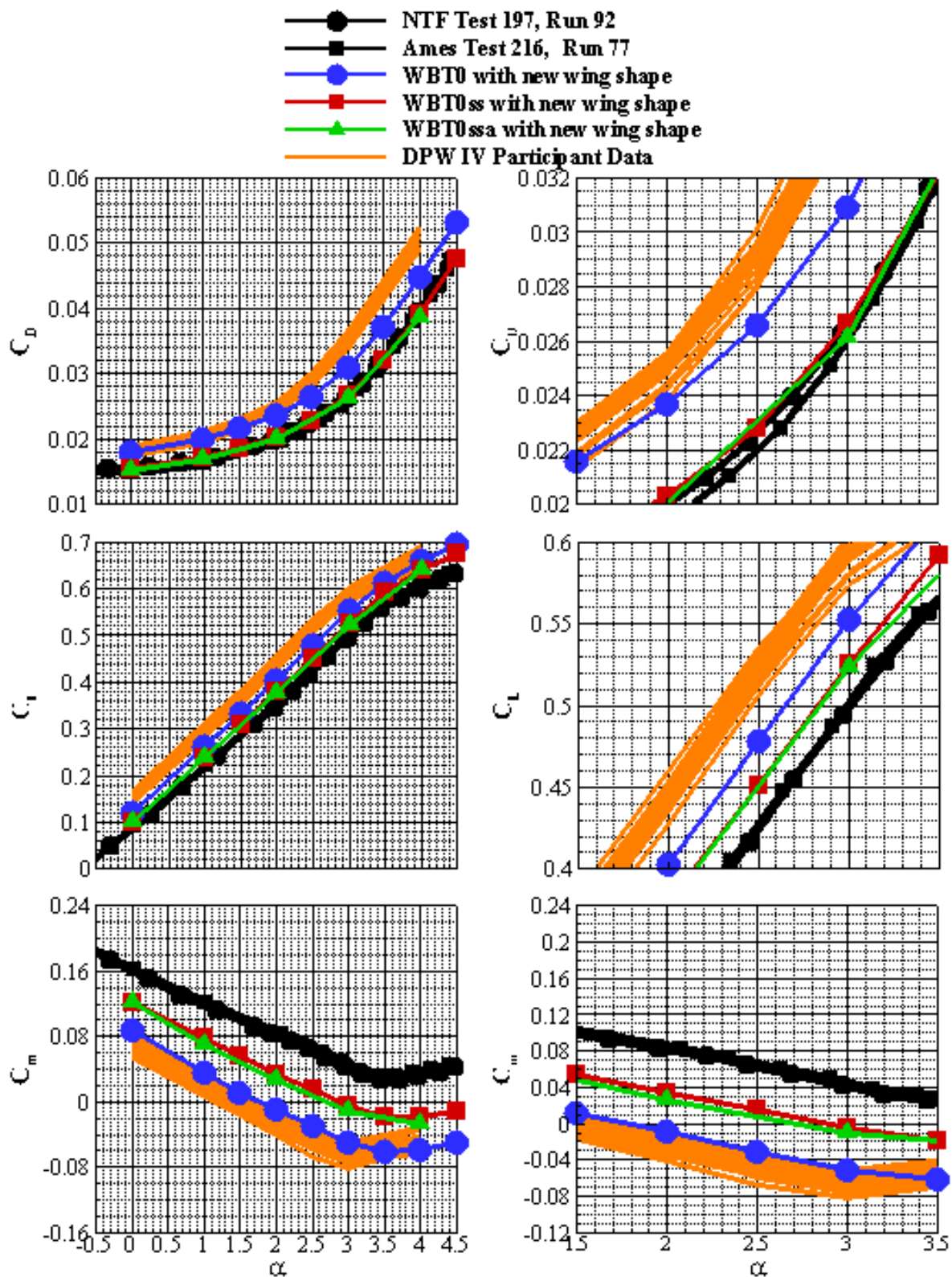


Figure 19. Comparison of NTF and Ames 11-ft TWT experimental data with the DPW IV CFD data for the WBT0 configuration along with the USM3D CFD data for the WBT0, WBT0ss and WBT0ssa configurations using new wing shape, $M_\infty=0.85$, $Re_c=5 \times 10^6$.

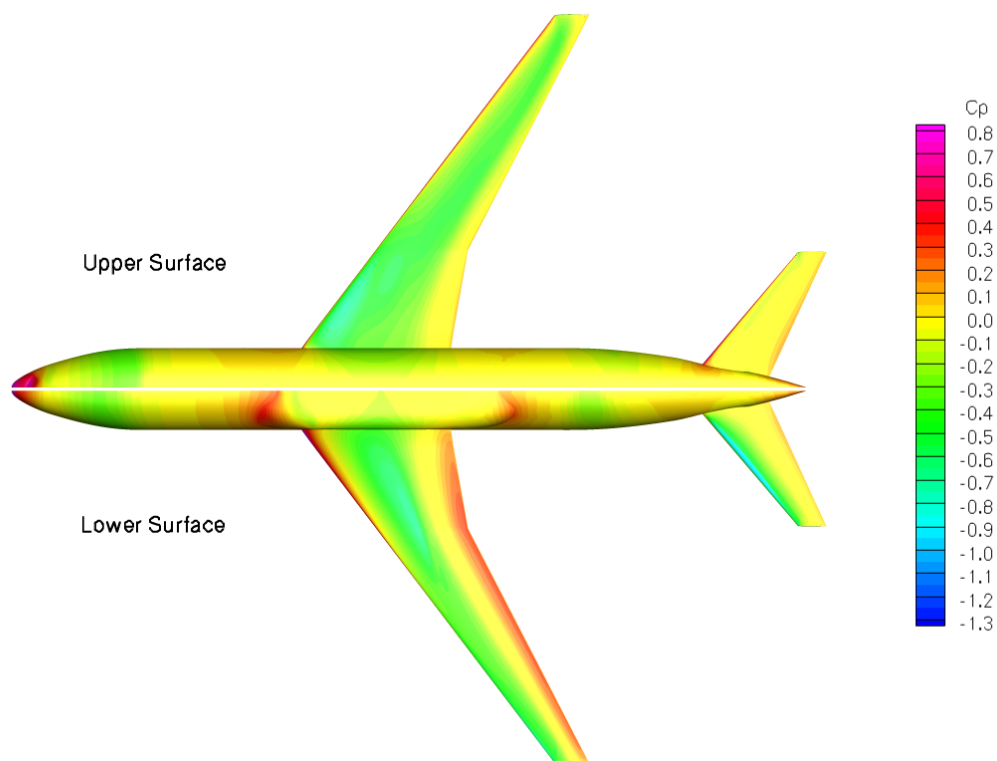


Figure 20. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0 configuration, $\alpha=0^\circ$.

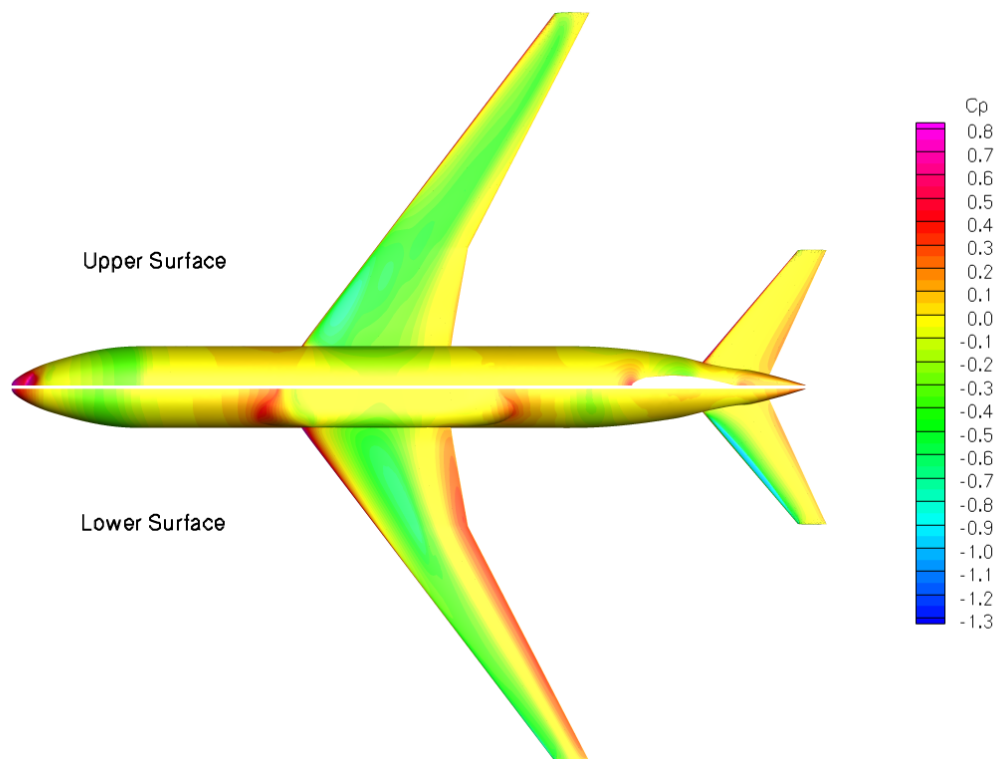


Figure 21. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ss configuration, $\alpha=0^\circ$.

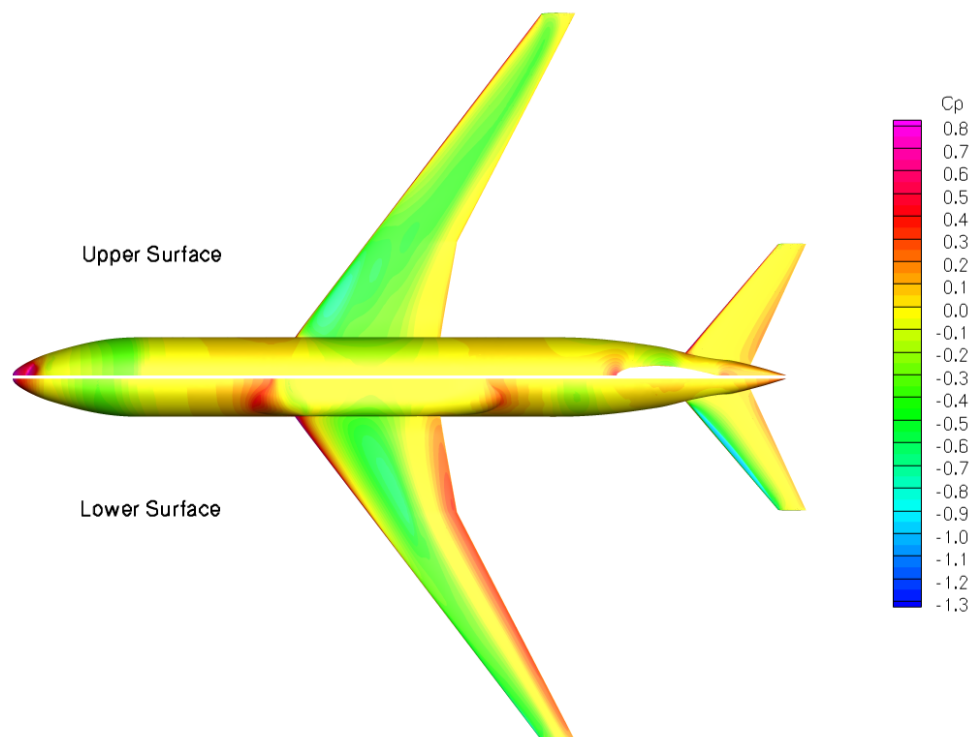


Figure 22. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ssa configuration, $\alpha=0^\circ$.

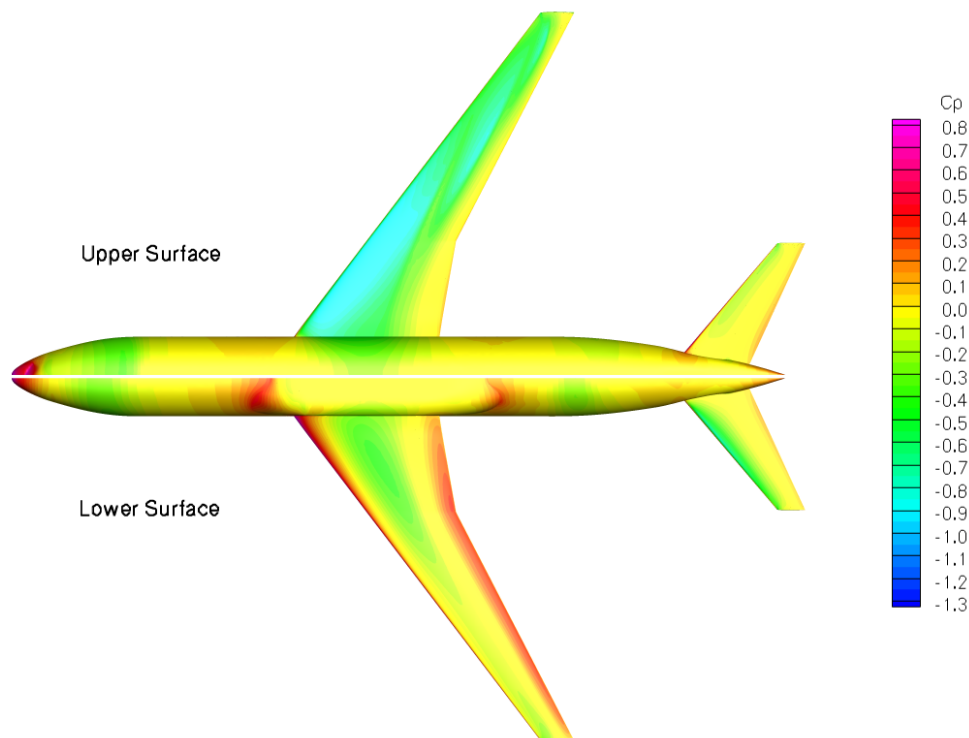


Figure 23. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0 configuration, $\alpha=2^\circ$.

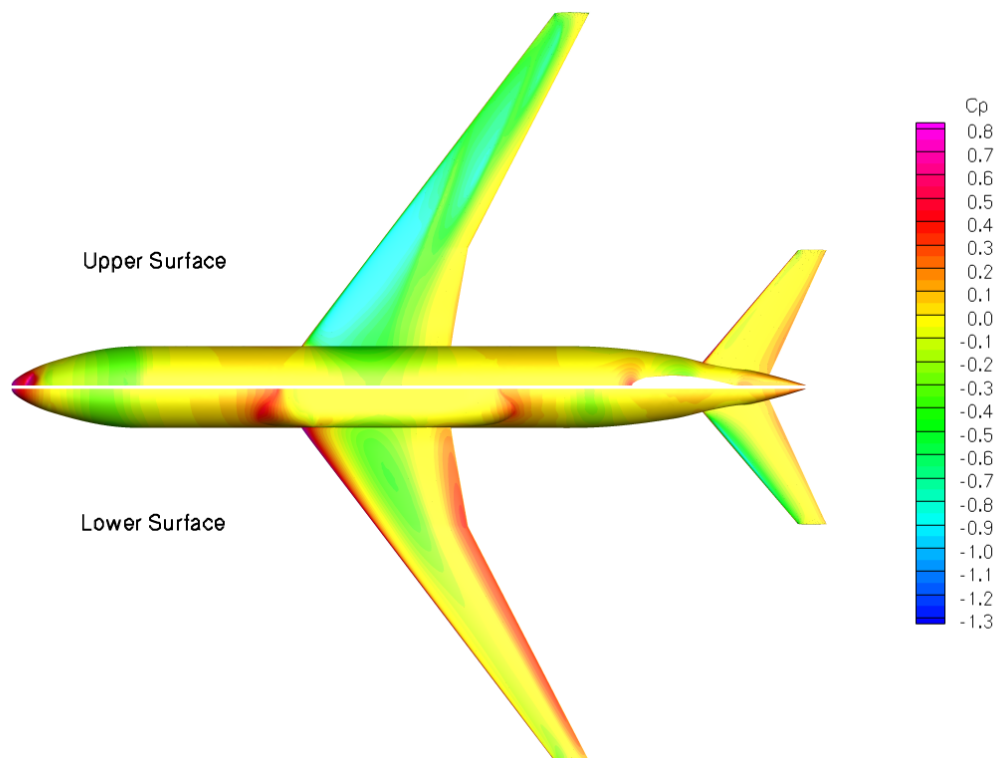


Figure 24. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ss configuration, $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

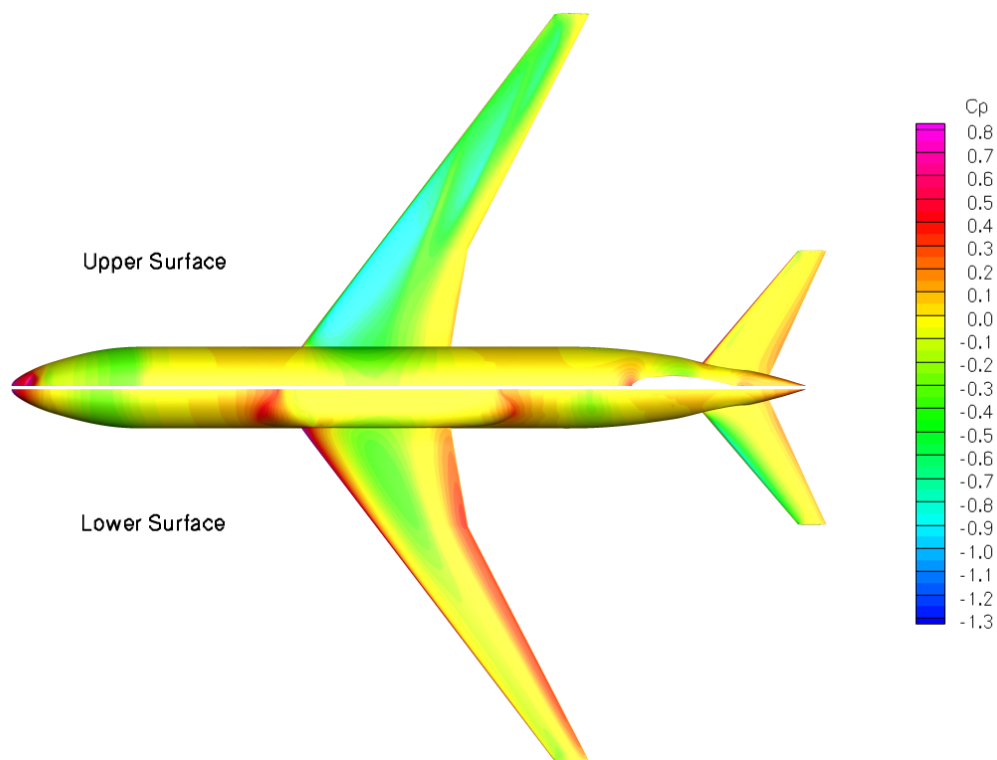


Figure 25. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ssa configuration, $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

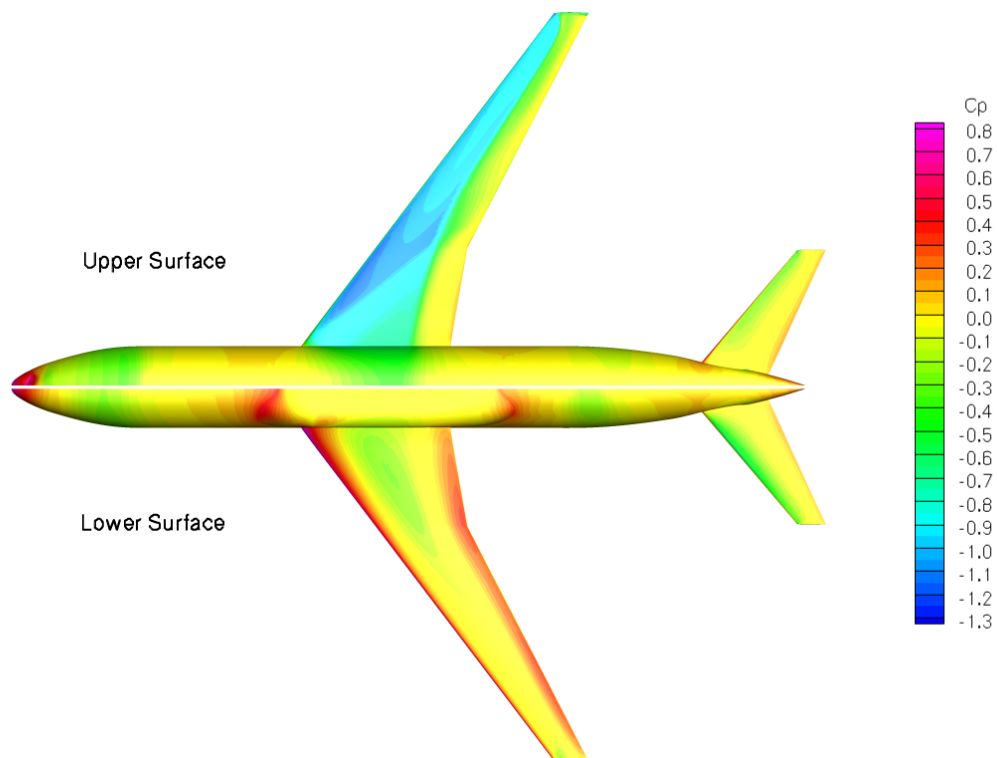


Figure 26. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0 configuration, $\alpha=4^\circ$.

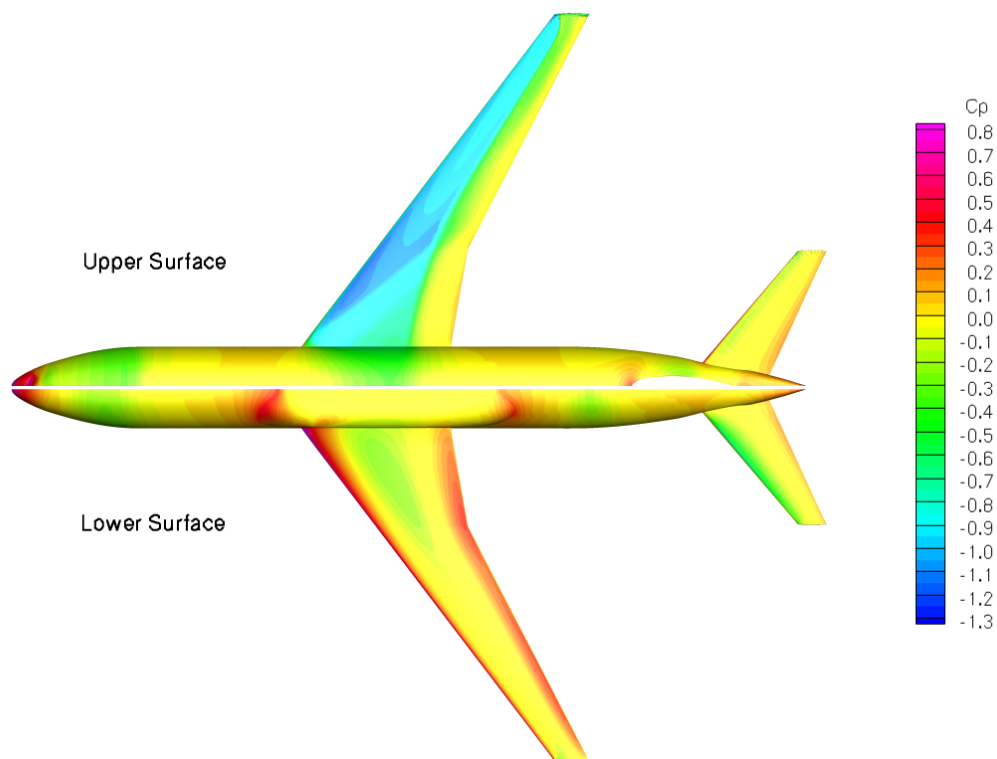


Figure 27. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ss configuration, $\alpha=4^\circ$.

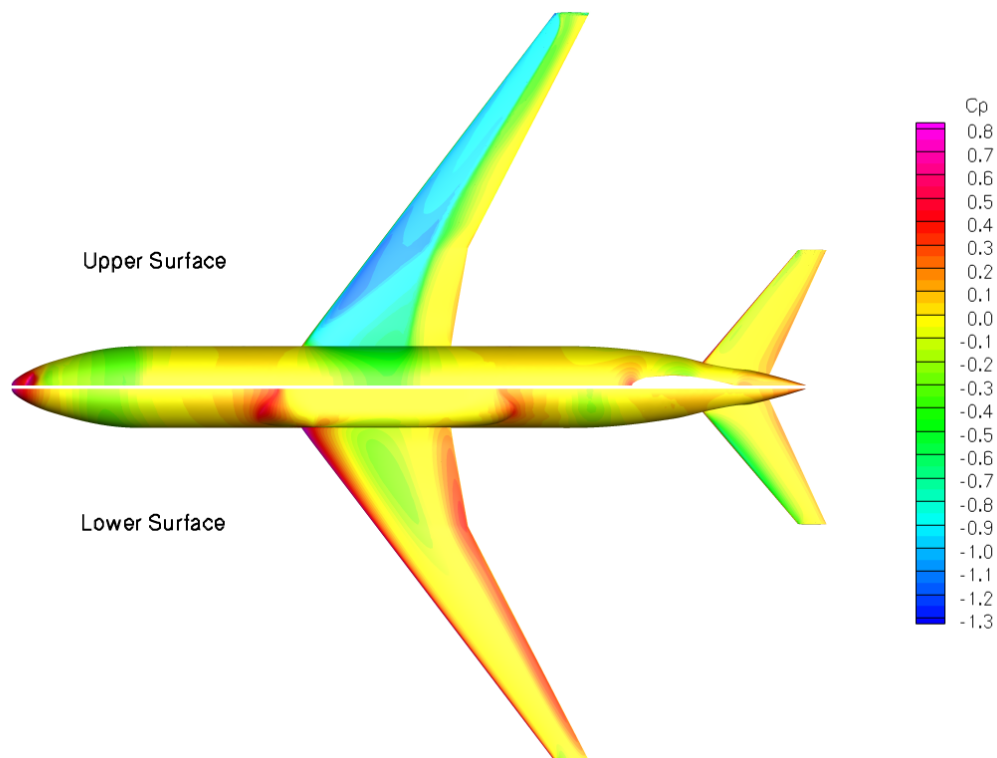


Figure 28. Surface pressure coefficient contours, WBT0ssa configuration, $\alpha=4^\circ$.

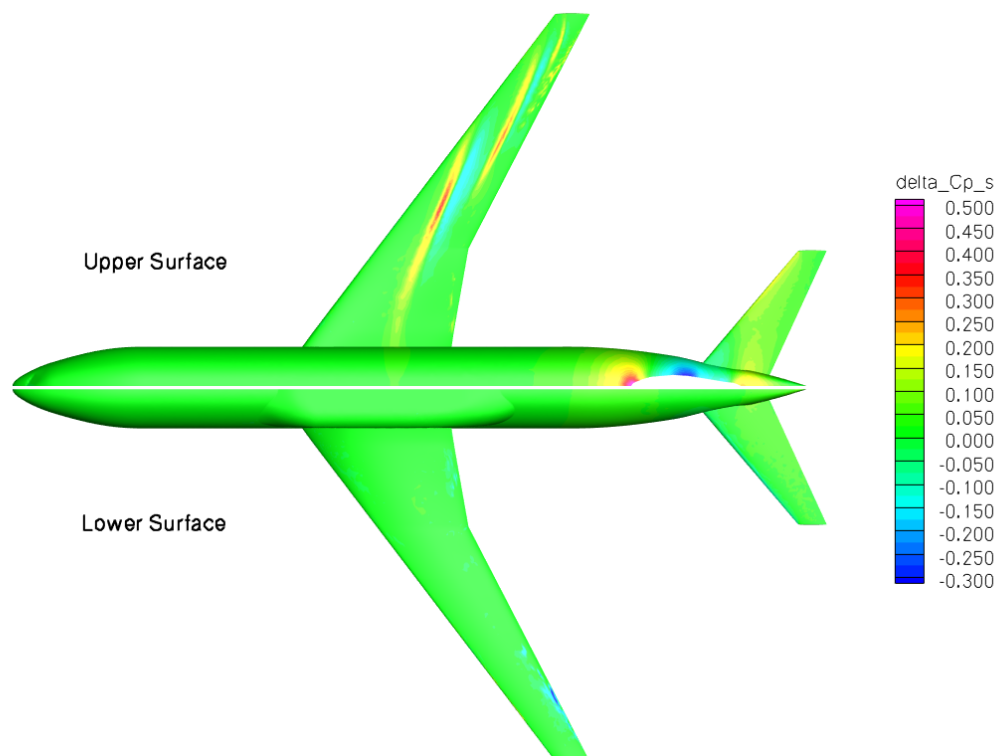


Figure 29. ΔC_p contours, WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

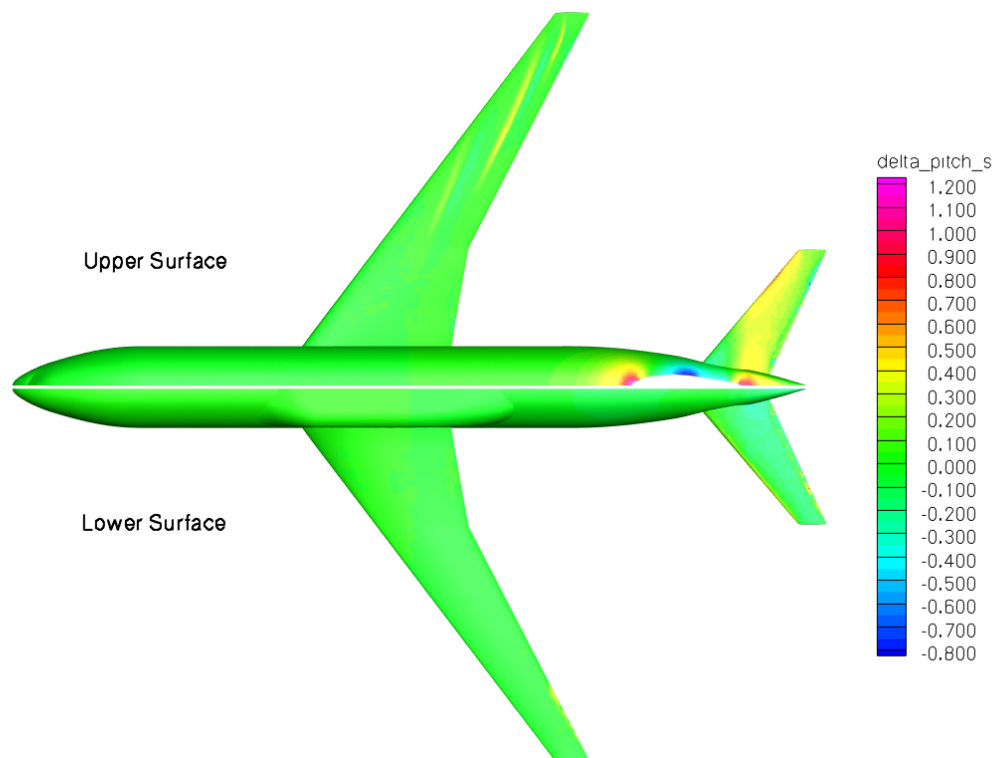


Figure 30. δC_m contours, WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

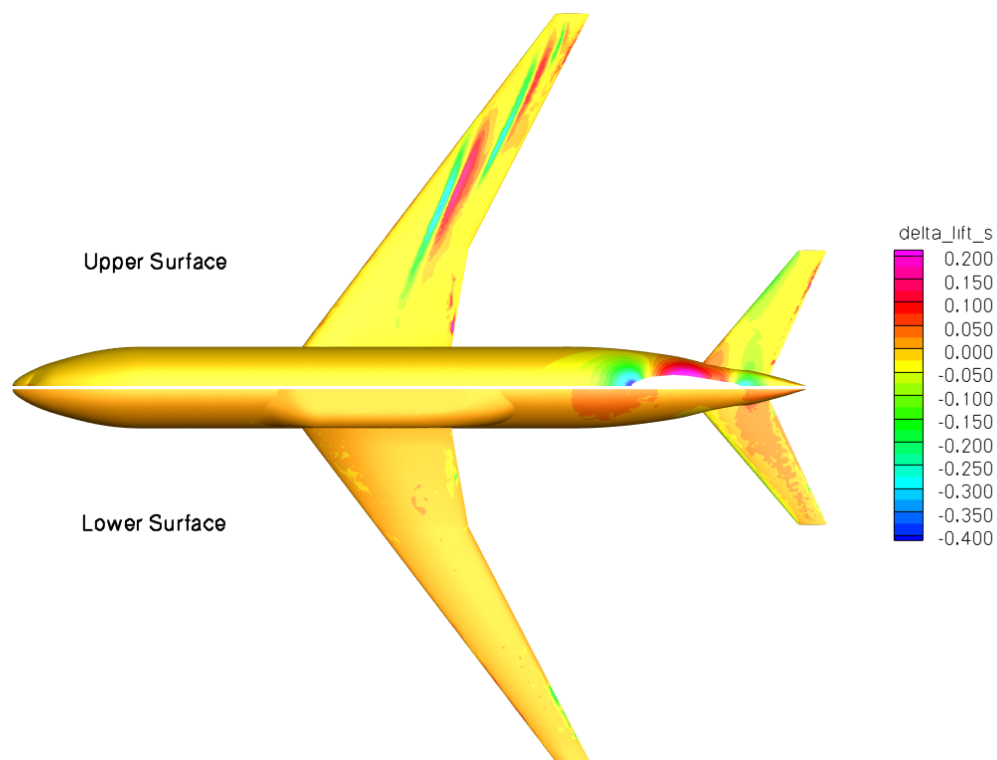


Figure 31. δC_L contours, WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

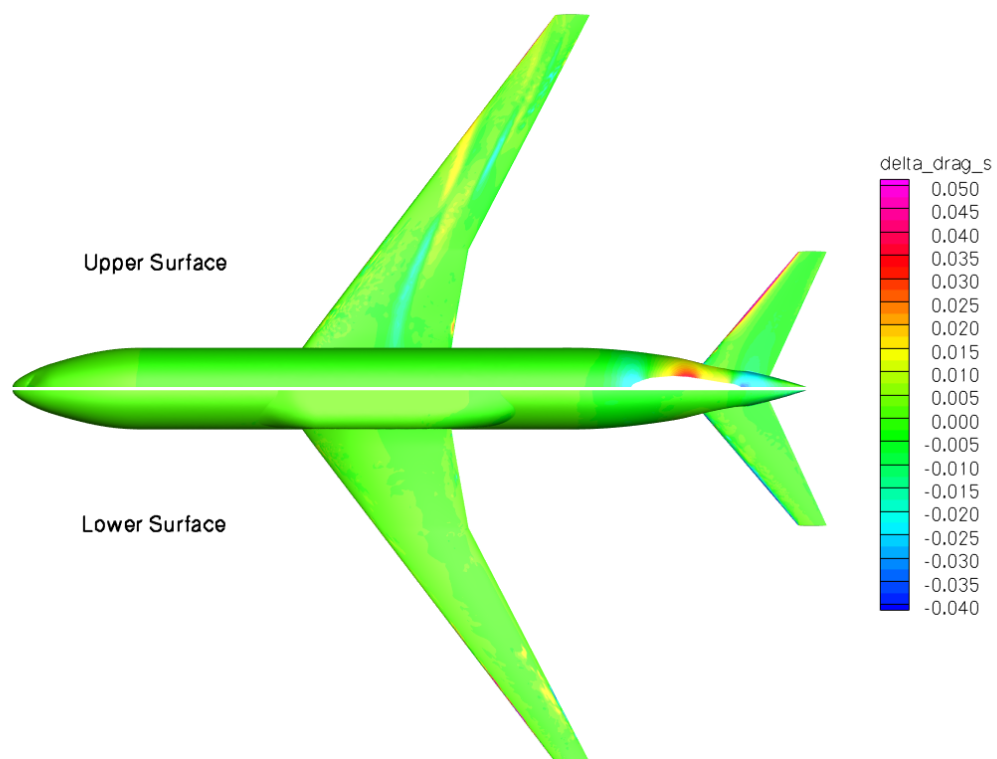


Figure 32. δC_D contours, WBT0ss configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

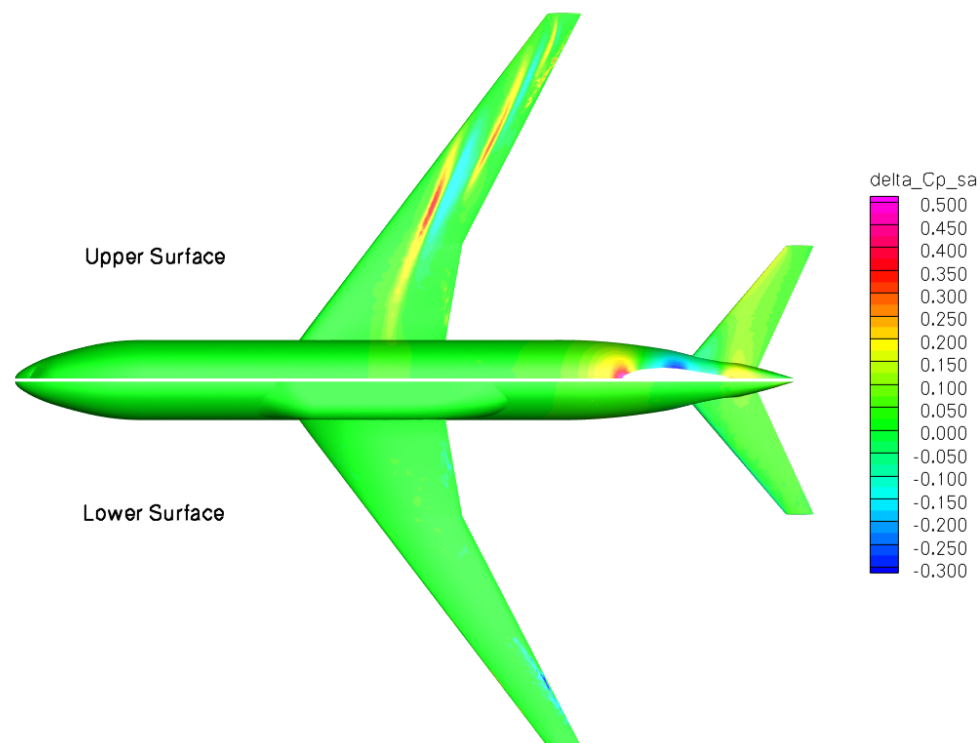


Figure 33. ΔC_p contours, WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

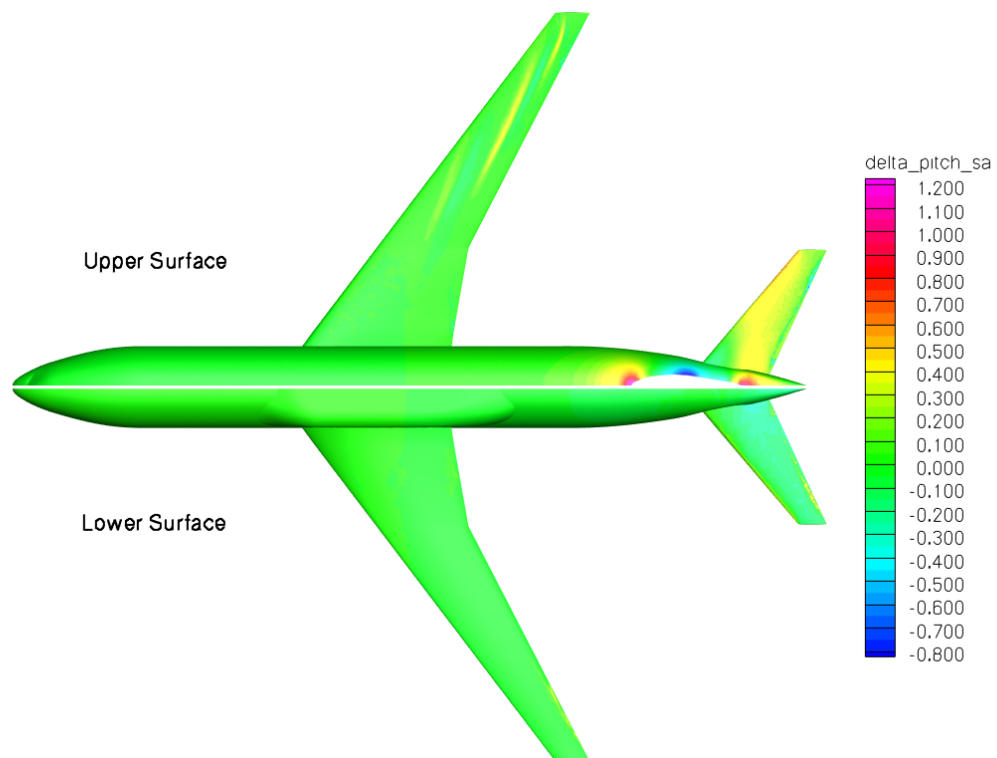


Figure 34. δC_m contours, WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

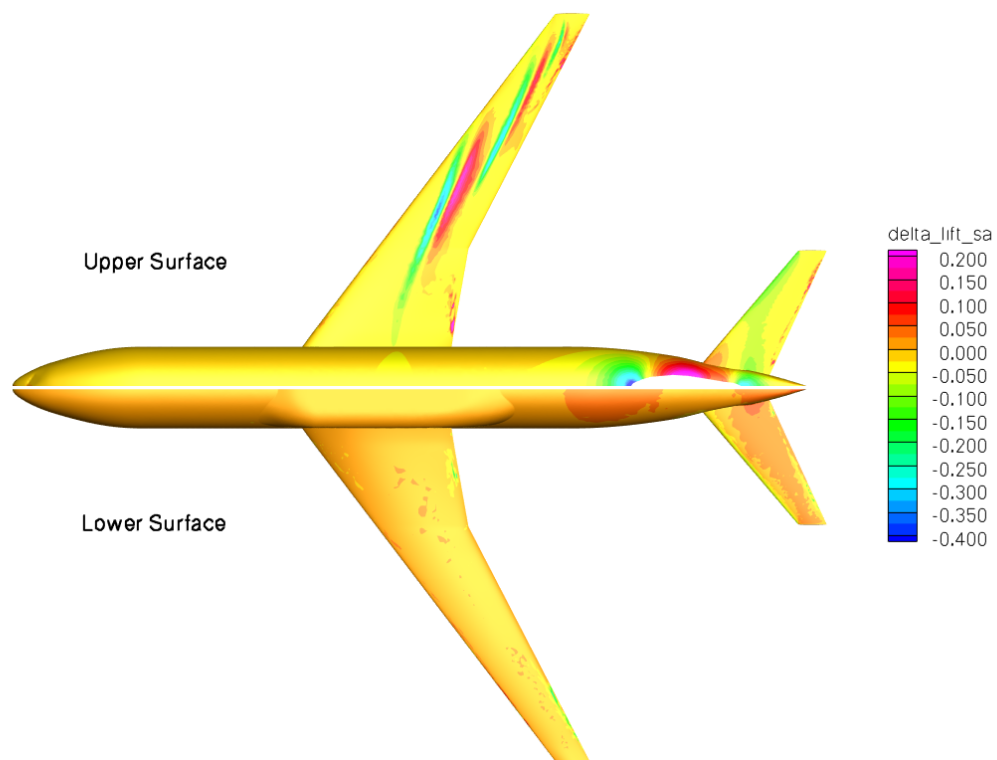


Figure 35. δC_L contours, WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.

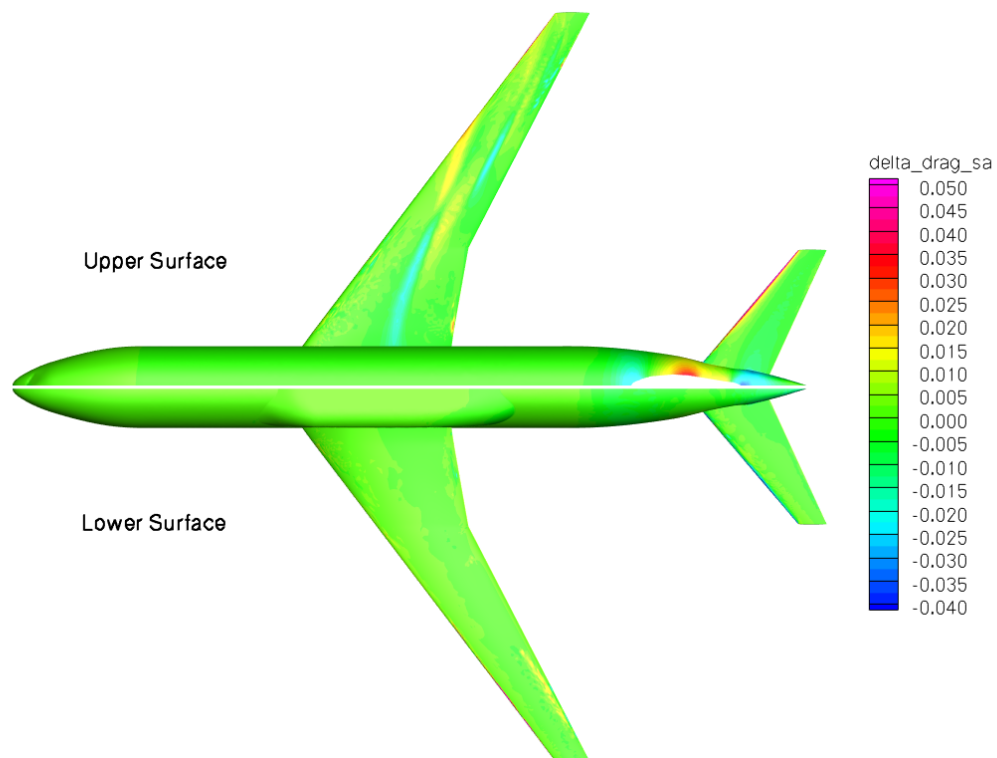


Figure 36. δC_D contours, WBT0ssa configuration at $\alpha=2^\circ$.