Lecture F23 Mud: Airfoil Polars, Quiz Review

(34 respondents)

1. How is % camber defined? (2 students)

Example: 8% camber means that the maximum camber line height is 0.08c high, where c is the airfoil's chord.

2. On a NACA 4-digit airfoil, what if the camber is a fraction of a percent? (1 student)

There's no standard notation for this. One lame attempt I've seen: An airfoil with a 2.5% camber was given as a NACA (2.5)415, which is midway between a 2415 and 3415. Such fractional specs on 4-digit airfoils are rarely used.

3. Typo in notes handed out: $V_{\rm max}/V_{\rm min} = C_{L_{\rm max}}/C_{L_{\rm min}}$? (2 students)

Yep, it's a typo. It should be

$$\frac{V_{\text{max}}}{V_{\text{min}}} = \sqrt{\frac{C_{L_{\text{max}}}}{C_{L_{\text{min}}}}}$$

The posted notes have been fixed.

4. How would we calculate $\partial \phi / \partial n$? (2 students)

The relation

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n} = 0$$

or $\vec{V} \cdot \hat{n} = 0$ is a boundary condition imposed at a wall. How exactly this is done depends on the method used to solve the governing Laplace's equation $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$. In a panel method, we determine both u and v at the surface as a superposition of the freestream u_{∞} and v_{∞} , plus the velocity contributions from all the panels with their strengths γ_i . Then we require

$$\vec{V} \cdot \hat{n} \equiv u n_x + v n_y = 0$$

which becomes one of the equation rows in the big matrix system to be solved.

- 5. What is the Helmholtz Equation $D\xi/Dt = 0$? (1 student) See F16.
- 6. **Still don't understand circulation.** (1 student) Try reviewing F11, F18, F20. Also Anderson 2.13.
- 7. How did you get $\Gamma = \gamma \ell$? (1 student)

The vortex sheet strength γ is defined as "circulation per length". See F20.

8. What do we need to know about lifting cylinders? (1 student)

Here's a list of relevant things which I can think of: Superposition, surface velocity and pressure, circulation, d'Alembert Paradox, Kutta-Joukowsky Theorem, ideal versus real flow. There may be a few others in the notes which I missed here.

9. Will we need to do any numerical analysis of c_{ℓ} , c_{d} graphs? (1 student)

I expect to you be able to pick numbers off a graphs and to apply equations involving c_{ℓ} and c_d , such as $L' = \frac{1}{2}\rho V_{\infty}^2 c c_{\ell}$, etc.

- 10. Can you give us a table for all the sources, vortices, etc.? (1 student) Anderson Table 3.1, page 232.
- 11. What are the objectives in Unified Fluids? (1 student)
 See "Learning Objectives" link in Fluids section of UE website.
- 12. How do you keep all these concepts straight? Experience? (1 student) Yeah, pretty much. Eventually even new and complex things become familiar and natural if you work with them long enough.
- 13. Will you be around this week for questions? (2 students) Yep, but my schedule is flaky at this point. Try knocking on my door.
- 14. No mud (19 students)