

# Computational Fluid Dynamics-Based Aeroservoelastic Analysis with Hyper-X Applications

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DOI: 10.2514/1.21992

A finite element computational fluids dynamics-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. A description of a novel viscous flow solver employing unstructured grids is given in detail. Provisions are made for digital as well as analog controllers. These new aeroservoelastic analysis techniques are next applied for the solution of a number of example problems including the novel Hyper-X launch vehicle. Experimental and actual flight test data are also compared with analysis results that signify to the efficacy and accuracy of the newly developed solution procedures.

## Nomenclature

$\hat{\mathbf{C}}$	=	generalized damping matrix
$\mathbf{f}_a(t)$	=	generalized aerodynamic load vector
$\mathbf{f}_I(t)$	=	generalized impulse force vector
$\mathbf{f}_i, \mathbf{g}_i$	=	flux vector convection and diffusion terms
$\mathbf{G}_a, \mathbf{H}_a, \mathbf{C}_a, \mathbf{D}_a$	=	aerodynamic state-space matrices
$\mathbf{G}_c, \mathbf{H}_c, \mathbf{C}_c, \mathbf{D}_c$	=	controls state-space matrices
$\mathbf{G}_s, \mathbf{H}_s, \mathbf{C}_s, \mathbf{D}_s$	=	structural state-space matrices
$\hat{\mathbf{K}}$	=	generalized stiffness matrix
$\hat{\mathbf{M}}$	=	generalized mass matrix
$\mathbf{q}$	=	generalized displacement vector
$t, T$	=	time and temperature
$\mathbf{u}$	=	displacement vector
$v$	=	volume
$\delta$	=	generalized displacement vector of the control surface
$\rho$	=	freestream density

## Introduction

THE Hyper-X launch vehicle is a winged Pegasus booster rocket that carries the X-43 hypersonic flight research vehicle to an altitude of about 100,000 ft for a Mach 7 and a subsequent Mach 10 mission. A primary objective of the mission is to test the scramjet engine performance of the X-43 vehicle. The launch of the booster [1], carrying the X-43, is accomplished from a B-52 aircraft at a suitable altitude around 20,000 ft. These high performance flight vehicles are characterized by unprecedented levels of interactions among a number of major disciplines as structures, fluids, heat transfer, and controls engineering, among others, that may impose considerable constraint on dynamic stability and controls performance margins necessary for safety of flight. Thus an accurate computational fluid dynamics (CFD)-based simulation of these flight

vehicles is of vital importance. Earlier effort in this direction relates to such an analysis pertaining to the X-43A [2] as well as the launch vehicle [3] at an elevation of 100,000 ft.

This paper first provides details of numerical techniques pertaining to the CFD, aeroelastic (AE), and (ASE) aeroservoelastic analyses. A common finite element (FE) discretization is effected for both the structural and the fluids continua and their interaction is simulated by adapting a transpiration boundary condition [4,5] strategy, in which the body normals are appropriately rotated to conform to the deformed structural shape. This method enables leaving the original aerodynamic mesh unchanged throughout the entire solution process, which may only need to be updated in the presence of large deformation. A number of verification problems are also solved to assess accuracy and efficiency of the associated code. This includes a simulation of flight of the Hyper-X vehicle along with a comparison of CFD solution and actual flight test data. Once launched from the B-52, the booster accelerates in a near horizontal flight, through the transonic flight regime, to eventually ascend to the desired 100,000 ft altitude for the X-43 flight. In this paper a novel CFD-based aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic analysis of the vehicle at transonic speed is presented in detail. The analysis is performed for the vehicle flight at Mach 0.9 and at an altitude of 22,500 ft and involves vibrations, CFD steady and unsteady flow simulation as well as stability solution. Such an analysis is further repeated at various altitudes to determine associated flutter boundary.

An aeroservoelastic analysis involves structural, CFD steady and unsteady flow, coupled fluids-structural, and fluids-structural-controls interaction simulations. Novel finite element based formulations pertaining to CFD, AE, and ASE analyses are presented herein in that order to present a systematic and cohesive solution methodology; finite element structural analysis employs widely available standard software and hence is not elaborated herein.

## Numerical Solution of the Flow Equations

Many practical problems involve large scale computation and both spatial and temporal approximations are applied for the solution of the flow equations. A number of FE solution schemes [6,7] have been developed that are based on the Taylor-Galerkin (TG) formulation. Most of these schemes are characterized by somewhat higher CPU requirements primarily due to the use of predictor-corrector-type solution algorithms as well as evaluation of Jacobian-type matrices inherent in the formulation. The Taylor-Galerkin principles are also employed in the present formulation but without

Presented as Paper 884 at the AIAA Aerospace Science Conference and Exhibit, Reno, NV, 5–9 January 2004; received 22 December 2005; accepted for publication 12 August 2006. Copyright © 2007 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. All rights reserved. Copies of this paper may be made for personal or internal use, on condition that the copier pay the \$10.00 per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923; include the code 0001-1452/07 \$10.00 in correspondence with the CCC.

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the higher order stabilization terms. A forward Euler time discretization is carried out in this procedure and the scheme is complimented by the addition of artificial dissipation, based on a pressure switch method, which aids in stabilizing the solution process and in capturing shocks. For viscous flow the inviscid solution is augmented with the viscous terms. The one equation model of turbulence [8] modeling has been found to be suitable for augmenting the finite element viscous flow solution [9].

The Navier–Stokes (N-S) equation in the absence of body forces takes the form,

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_i}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \quad (1)$$

that may also be written as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_i}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}_i}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (2)$$

where the flux vector is split into convection  $\mathbf{f}_i$  and diffusion  $\mathbf{g}_i$  terms, and the diffusion can be expressed in terms of velocity gradients and viscosity. Other definitions pertaining to the conservation variables, flux, and body force column vectors, as well as the viscous stress are given as

$$\mathbf{v} = [\rho \quad \rho u_j \quad \rho E]^T \quad j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_i = [\rho u_i \quad (\rho u_i u_j + p \delta_{ij}) \quad u_i(p + \rho E)]^T \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{g}_i = \left[ 0 \quad \sigma_{ij} \quad \left( u_j \sigma_{ij} + k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_i} \right) \right]^T \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_b = [0 \quad f_{bj} \quad u_j f_{bj}]^T \quad (6)$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \mu \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial x_l} \delta_{ij} \right] \quad l = 1, 2, 3 \quad (7)$$

where  $u_j$  are velocity components in the  $x_j$  coordinate system;  $\rho$ ,  $p$ , and  $E$  are the density, pressure, and total energy, respectively;  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity;  $k$  is the thermal conductivity, the heat flux  $q_j$  being  $-k \partial T / \partial x_j$ ;  $T$  is the temperature;  $f_b$  represents the body forces, and  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta ( $=1, i=j, =0, i \neq j$ ). The energy equation in compressible flow is coupled with other governing flow equations. The coupling is accomplished through the perfect gas law

$$p = \rho R T \quad (8)$$

where  $R$  is the gas constant. For the isentropic assumption the speed of sound and the density and pressure are related as

$$c^2 = \frac{\gamma p}{\rho} = \gamma R T \quad (9)$$

and density and pressure are related by the equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \quad (10)$$

in which  $\gamma = c_p / c_v$  and  $c_p$  is the specific heat at constant pressure, with  $c_v$  being the specific heat at constant volume.

Taylor's expansion of the solution  $v(x, t)$  in the time domain takes the form

$$\mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{v}(t) + \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}(t)}{\partial t} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{v}(t)}{\partial t^2} \Delta t^2 + \dots \quad (11)$$

and neglecting the second order term, Eq. (11) is written as

$$\Delta \mathbf{v} = -\Delta t \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_i}{\partial x_i} \right]_{(t)} = -\Delta t \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_i}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}_i}{\partial x_i} \right]_{(t)} \quad (12)$$

where  $\Delta \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}(t + \Delta t) - \mathbf{v}(t)$ . Next applying Galerkin's spatial idealization  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{N} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$ , with  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}$  being the nodal values, and  $\mathbf{N}$  the shape function and assuming absence of body forces, Eq. (12) takes the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{v}} = & -\Delta t \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} \mathbf{M} + \mathbf{K} \right] \tilde{\mathbf{v}} - \Delta t (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{f}}_2) \\ & + \Delta t \hat{\mathbf{R}} + \Delta t (\mathbf{K}_\sigma + \mathbf{f}_\sigma) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}$  is the consistent mass matrix,  $\mathbf{K}$  the convection matrix,  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_1$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_2$  the pressure matrices,  $\mathbf{K}_\sigma$  the second order matrix that includes viscous and heat flux effects, and  $\mathbf{f}_\sigma$  the boundary integral matrix from second order terms; the individual matrices are defined as

$$\mathbf{M} = \int_v \mathbf{N}^T \mathbf{N} dV; \quad \mathbf{K} = \int_v \mathbf{N}^T \bar{u}_i \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}}{\partial x_i} dV$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_1 = \int_v \mathbf{N}^T \bar{p}_i \frac{\partial \mathbf{e}_i}{\partial x_i} dV; \quad \hat{\mathbf{f}}_2 = \int_v \mathbf{N}^T \bar{\mathbf{e}}_i \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial x_i} dV$$

$$\mathbf{K}_\sigma = - \int_v \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^T}{\partial x_j} \mathbf{e}_j \sigma_{ij} dV - \int_v \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}^T}{\partial x_i} \mathbf{m}_j \hat{q}_j dV$$

$$\mathbf{f}_\sigma = \int_\Gamma \mathbf{N}^T \mathbf{e}_j \sigma_{ij} \hat{\mathbf{n}} d\Gamma + \int_\Gamma \mathbf{N}^T \mathbf{m}_j \hat{q}_j \hat{\mathbf{n}}_j \Gamma \quad (14)$$

In the above equations,  $\bar{p}_i$ ,  $\bar{u}_i$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{e}}_i$  are the average values;  $\mathbf{e}_1 = (0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ u_1)^T$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_2 = (0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ u_2)^T$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_3 = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ u_3)^T$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$  [Eq. (23)] is the artificial dissipation and  $\mathbf{m}_1 = \mathbf{m}_2 = \mathbf{m}_3 = [0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ ;  $\hat{q}_j$  is the heat flux in the energy equation. The viscous effects may be modified to include turbulence terms.

The solution for the flow equation is achieved by a two step algorithm, the inviscid solution being augmented with the viscous term and stabilized with the artificial dissipation term. Expressing

$$\Delta \tilde{\mathbf{v}} = \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} - \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n \quad (15)$$

then, Eq. (13) takes the form

$$\mathbf{M} (\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} - \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n) = \frac{-\Delta t}{2} [c \mathbf{M} + \mathbf{K}] (\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} + \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n) - \Delta t (\hat{\mathbf{f}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{f}}_2) \quad (16)$$

which becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2} c \right) \mathbf{M} + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \mathbf{K} \right] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} \\ & = \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta t}{2} c \right) \mathbf{M} - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \mathbf{K} \right] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n + \Delta t \mathbf{R} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

or

$$[\mathbf{M}_+] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} = [\mathbf{M}_-] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n + \Delta t \mathbf{R} \quad (18)$$

where

$$\mathbf{R} = -(\hat{\mathbf{f}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{f}}_2), \quad c = \partial u_i / \partial x_i \quad (19)$$

Writing

$$\mathbf{M}_+ = \mathbf{D}_+ + \mathbf{M}'_+ \quad (20)$$

with the matrix  $\mathbf{D}_+$  having diagonal elements, then Eq. (18) may be solved as follows:

Step 1: Assemble

$$[\mathbf{D}_+] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} = [\mathbf{M}_-] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n - [\mathbf{M}'_+] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} + \Delta t \mathbf{R} \quad (21)$$

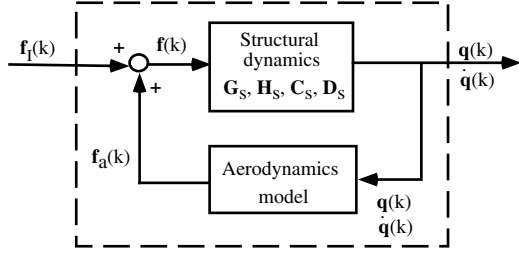


Fig. 1 Coupled AE model.

Step 2: Solve  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}$  iteratively

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}^{(i+1)} = [\mathbf{D}_+]^{-1} \left\{ [\mathbf{M}_-] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n - [\mathbf{M}_+] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}^{(i)} + \Delta t (\mathbf{R} + \hat{\mathbf{R}} + \mathbf{K}_\sigma + \mathbf{f}_\sigma) \right\} \quad (22)$$

Step 3: If  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}^{(i+1)}\| \neq \text{EPS1} \|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}^{(i)}\|$  go to step 2.

Step 4: If  $\|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1}\| \neq \text{EPS2} \|\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n\|$  go to step 1.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1 to 4 NITER (required number of solution iteration steps) times until convergence is reached, that is until  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{n+1} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n$ ; EPS1 and EPS2 are suitable convergence factors.

The iterative solution in step 2 takes a small number of steps, usually 1 or 2 to achieve convergence.

An artificial dissipation term is applied in regions of high gradients to prevent oscillations in the vicinity of discontinuities by incorporating pressure switched diffusion coefficients appropriately. Then,

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}} = \frac{C_s S_e}{\Delta t} \mathbf{M}_L^{-1} [\mathbf{M}_c - \mathbf{M}_L] \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_n \quad (23)$$

where  $C_s$  is a shock capturing constant,  $S_e$  is the averaged element value of the nodal pressure switch given as

$$S_i = \frac{|\Sigma(p_i - p_j)|}{\Sigma(|p_i - p_j|)} \quad (24)$$

and  $\mathbf{M}_c$  and  $\mathbf{M}_L$  are consistent and lumped mass matrices, respectively;  $i$  is the node under consideration, and  $j$  are the nodes connected to  $i$ .

To compute the viscous components,  $\sigma_{ij}$  in Eq. (14) is written as

$$\sigma_{ij} = -\frac{2}{3} \frac{\mu}{Re} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \delta_{ij} + \frac{\mu}{Re} \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (25)$$

and the diffusion flux of the Navier–Stokes equation is

$$g_i = \left( 0 \quad \sigma_{i1} \quad \sigma_{i2} \quad \sigma_{i3} \quad u_j \sigma_{ij} + \frac{1}{Re Pr} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_j} \right)^T \quad i = 1, 2, 3; \quad j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (26)$$

in which  $\mu$  is the nondimensional viscosity term, and  $Re$  and  $Pr$  are

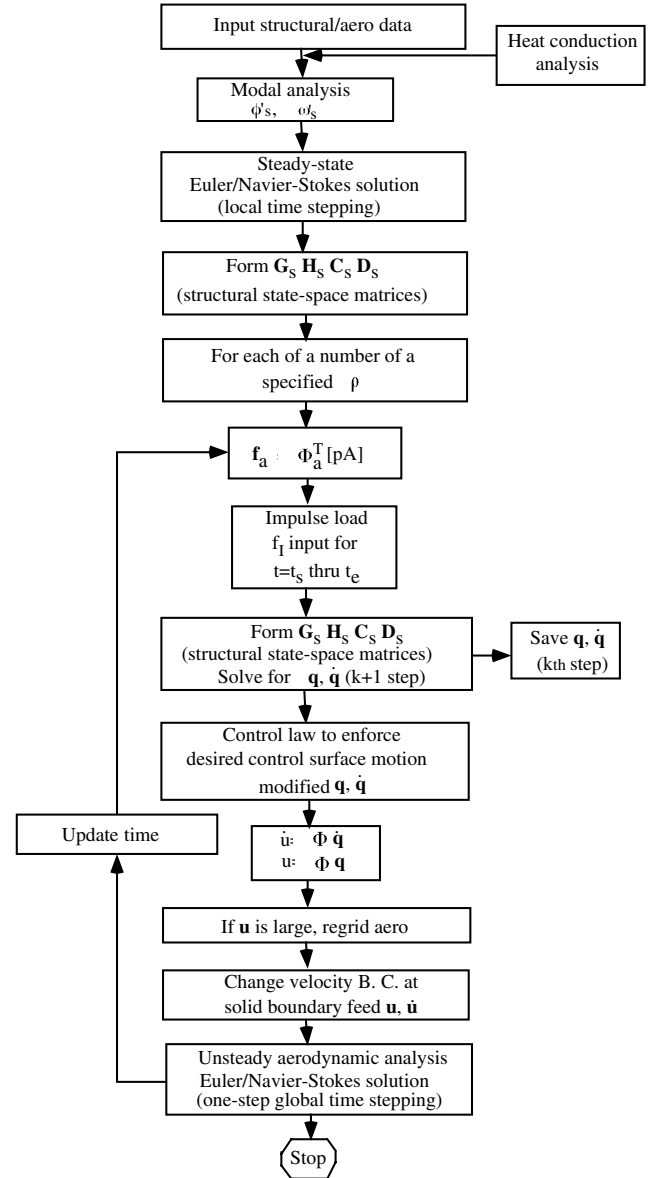


Fig. 2 Nonlinear AE/ASE analysis methodology.

the Reynolds and Prandtl numbers, respectively. The components of  $\partial g_i / \partial x_j$  are evaluated term by term which are then discretized by Galerkin approximation. It is apparent from Eq. (26) that the second order terms occur only in momentum and energy equations. The

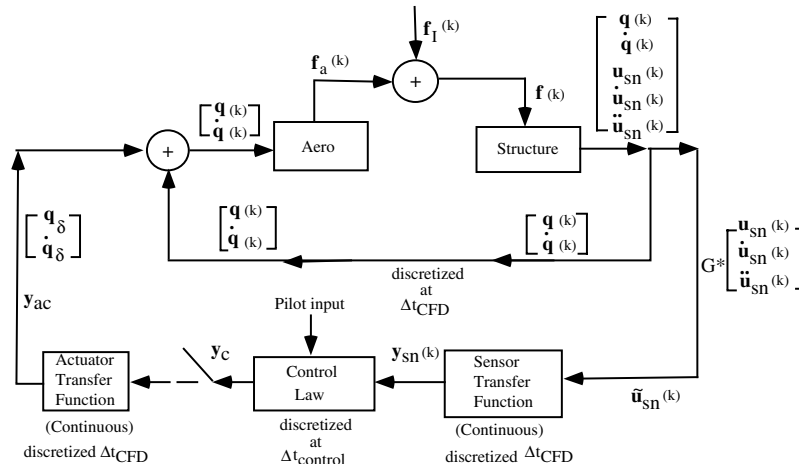


Fig. 3 Coupled aeroservoelastic model.

three momentum equations will have seven terms each, whereas the energy equation will have 24 terms. Thus, for example, the  $x_1$  momentum component equation can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \sigma_{i1}}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial \sigma_{11}}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{21}}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{31}}{\partial x_3} = \frac{\mu}{Re} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left[ \frac{4}{3} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_1} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial x_2} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial x_3} \right] \\ + \frac{\mu}{Re} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \left[ \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_2} \right] + \frac{\mu}{Re} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \left[ \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_3} + \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial x_1} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Each of these equations when discretized by the Galerkin method yields the viscous contribution. For each of the four nodes, three components of the viscous terms can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VIN(I1)} \\ \text{VIN(I1 + 1)} \\ \text{VIN(I1 + 2)} \end{bmatrix} \\ = \frac{\Delta t \mu}{Re} V \begin{bmatrix} (J_{1i} \ J_{2i} \ J_{3i}) (\sigma_{11} \ \sigma_{12} \ \sigma_{13})^T \\ (J_{2i} \ J_{1i} \ J_{3i}) (\sigma_{22} \ \sigma_{23} \ \sigma_{21})^T \\ (J_{3i} \ J_{2i} \ J_{1i}) (\sigma_{33} \ \sigma_{32} \ \sigma_{31})^T \end{bmatrix} \\ i = 1, \dots, 4 \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

in which I1 = 2, 7, 12, and 17, respectively, for the momentum equation. The remaining terms of the energy equation are as follows:

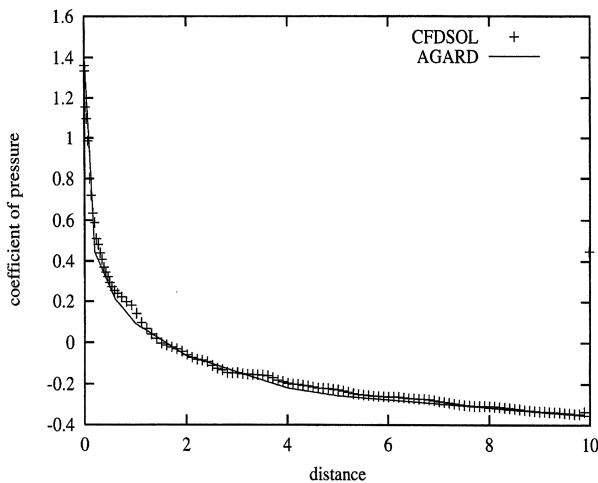


Fig. 4  $C_p$  distribution along the surface of the NACA0012 aerofoil, inviscid flow.

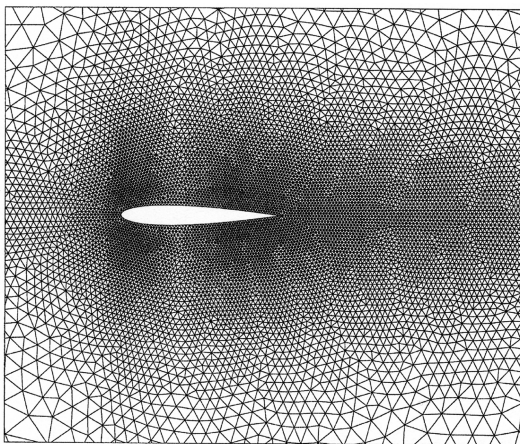


Fig. 5 Finite element mesh for supersonic viscous flow past a NACA0012 aerofoil.

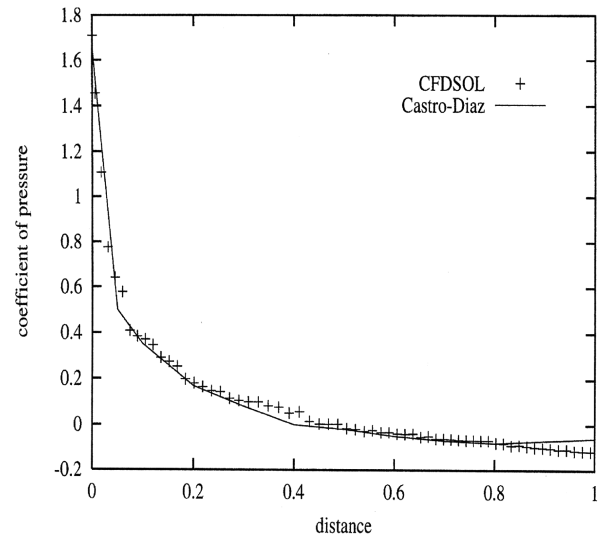


Fig. 6 Distribution of  $C_p$  for viscous supersonic flow,  $Re = 10,000$ ,  $M = 2$ .

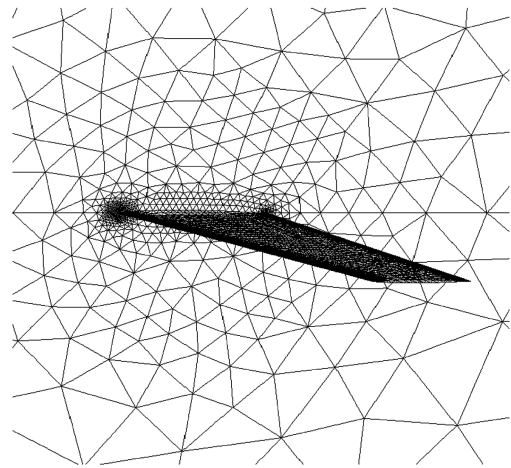


Fig. 7 Partial view of the CFD surface grid for the AGARD wing and the symmetry plane.

$$\text{VIN}(5) = \sum_{i=1}^3 J_{i1} \left[ X_i C_1 + \left( \sum_{j=1}^4 T_{ij} \right) c_2 \right] \quad (29)$$

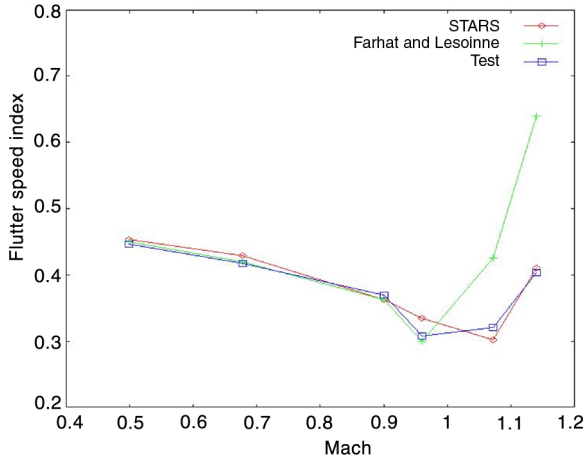
$$\text{VIN}(10) = \sum_{i=1}^3 J_{i2} \left[ X_i C_1 + \left( \sum_{j=1}^4 T_{ij} \right) c_2 \right] \quad (30)$$

$$\text{VIN}(15) = \sum_{i=1}^3 J_{i3} \left[ X_i C_1 + \left( \sum_{j=1}^4 T_{ij} \right) c_2 \right] \quad (31)$$

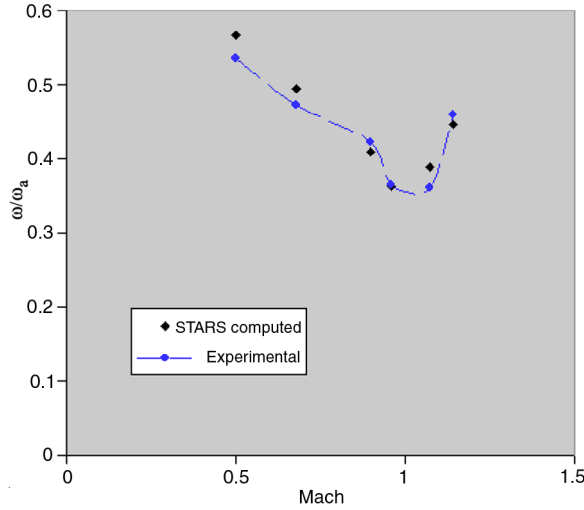
Table 1 Comparison of calculated and test results for the AGARD wing

Freestream $M$	Flutter speed index			Flutter frequency ratio	
	STARS	Ref. [18]	Test	STARS	Test
0.499	0.453	0.438	0.446	0.567	0.535
0.678	0.429	0.418	0.417	0.494	0.472
0.900	0.362	0.3625	0.370	0.409	0.422
0.960	0.334	0.3010	0.308	0.363	0.365
1.072	0.302	0.425	0.320	0.388	0.362
1.141	0.410	0.6375	0.403	0.447	0.459





a) Flutter speed index vs Mach number



b) Flutter frequency ratio vs Mach number

Fig. 8 Comparison of analysis and test data for AGARD 445.6.

$$\text{VIN}(20) = \sum_{i=1}^3 J_{i4} \left[ X_i C_1 + \left( \sum_{j=1}^4 T_{ij} \right) c_2 \right] \quad (32)$$

in which

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= \bar{u}\sigma_{11} + \bar{v}\sigma_{12} + \bar{\omega}\sigma_{13} & X_2 &= \bar{u}\sigma_{21} + \bar{v}\sigma_{22} + \bar{\omega}\sigma_{23} \\ X_3 &= \bar{u}\sigma_{31} + \bar{v}\sigma_{32} + \bar{\omega}\sigma_{33} \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

and

$$c_1 = \frac{\Delta t \mu}{Re} V, \quad c_2 = \frac{\Delta t}{Re Pr} V, \quad T_{ij} = \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}_j}{\partial x_i} \right]^T \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}_j}{\partial x_i} \right] \quad (34)$$

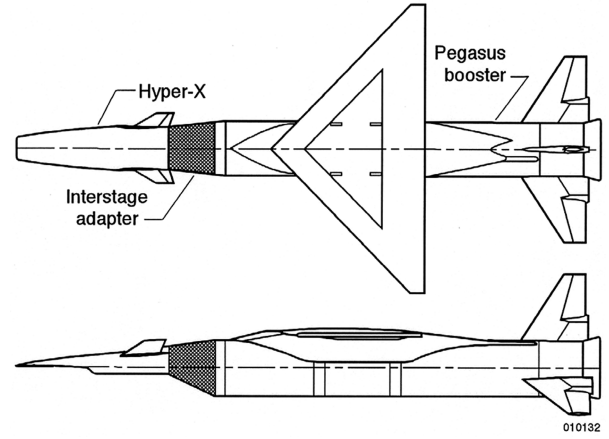


Fig. 9 Hyper-X flight vehicle.

with  $\mathbf{J}$  being the Jacobian matrix. For turbulent flow,  $\mu$  is replaced by  $\mu + \mu_t$ ,  $k$  by  $k + (\mu_t c_p)/(Pr_t)$ , and  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  take the forms,

$$c_1 = \frac{\Delta t}{Re} V(\mu + \mu_t); \quad c_2 = \frac{\Delta t}{Re} V \left[ \frac{1}{Pr_t} + \frac{\mu_t}{Pr_t} \right] \quad (35)$$

in which  $\bar{u}$ ,  $\bar{v}$ , and  $\bar{\omega}$  are the average velocity values in an element;  $\mu_t$  is the turbulent viscosity, and  $Pr_t$  is the turbulent Prandtl number. For turbulence [8] modeling, a one equation model has been implemented in the STARS program.

### Time Marched Aeroelastic and Aeroservoelastic Analyses

For the nonlinear aeroelastic and aeroservoelastic analyses [10,11], both the fluid and solids domains are idealized by the common finite element method. Figure 1 depicts a coupled aeroelastic model, whereas Fig. 2 shows the flow chart of the numerical algorithm adopted in the STARS [10] program for the CFD-based, integrated, aerostructural-controls analysis of structures such as aerospace vehicles; a corresponding coupled aeroservoelastic model is shown in Fig. 3. This procedure starts with the finite element structural modeling and subsequently computes the natural frequencies  $\omega$  and modes  $\phi$ , incorporating rigid-body, elastic, and control-surface motions, by solving

$$\mathbf{M} \ddot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (36)$$

in which  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  are the inertial and stiffness matrices, respectively, and  $\mathbf{u}$  is the displacement vector. Next, a steady-state Euler/N-S solution is effected using the local time-stepping, two step solution procedure described earlier. An associated vehicle equation of motion is then cast into the frequency domain as

$$\hat{\mathbf{M}} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \hat{\mathbf{C}} \dot{\mathbf{q}} + \hat{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{f}_a(t) + \mathbf{f}_l(t) = 0 \quad (37)$$

in which the generalized matrices and vectors are as follows:  $\mathbf{q}$  is the displacement vector ( $= \Phi^T \mathbf{u}$ ),  $\hat{\mathbf{M}}$  the inertia matrix ( $= \Phi^T \mathbf{M} \Phi$ ), and,

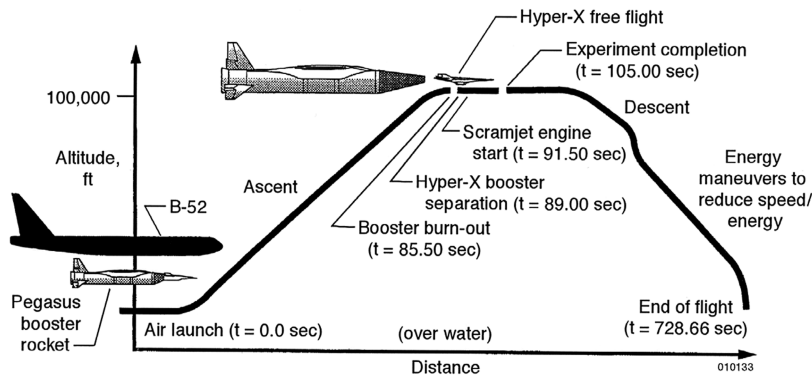


Fig. 10 Hyper-X flight trajectory.

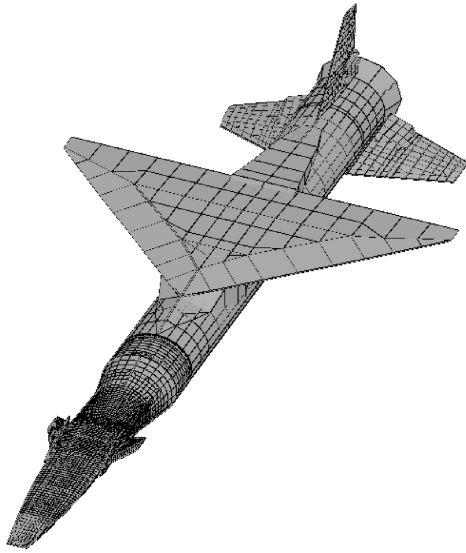


Fig. 11 Hyper-X finite element structural model.

similarly,  $\hat{\mathbf{K}}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{C}}$  the stiffness and damping matrices;  $\mathbf{f}_a(t)$  the aerodynamic (CFD) load vector ( $=\Phi_a^T pA$ ),  $p$  is the fluid pressure at a fluid node, and  $A$  is the appropriate surface area around the node;  $\Phi_a$  is the modal vector at aerodynamic grid points on the vehicle surface, interpolated from relevant structural modes; and  $\mathbf{f}_I(t)$  is the applied generalized structural impulse force vector.

A state-space matrix equation form of Eq. (37) is written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{I} \\ -\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{K}} & -\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{C}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{f}_a(t) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\mathbf{f}_I(t) \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad (38)$$

or

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_s(t) = \mathbf{A}_{st}\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{B}_{st}\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (39)$$

where

$$\mathbf{B}_{st} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{f}(t) = \mathbf{f}_a(t) + \mathbf{f}_I(t), \quad \mathbf{x}_s(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (40)$$

and

$$\mathbf{y}_s(t) = \mathbf{C}_{st}\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{D}_{st}\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (41)$$

in which  $\mathbf{C}_{st} = \mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{D}_{st} = 0$ .

Following the procedure of linear aeroservoelasticity [10], Eq. (41) may be modified to account for the presence of sensors

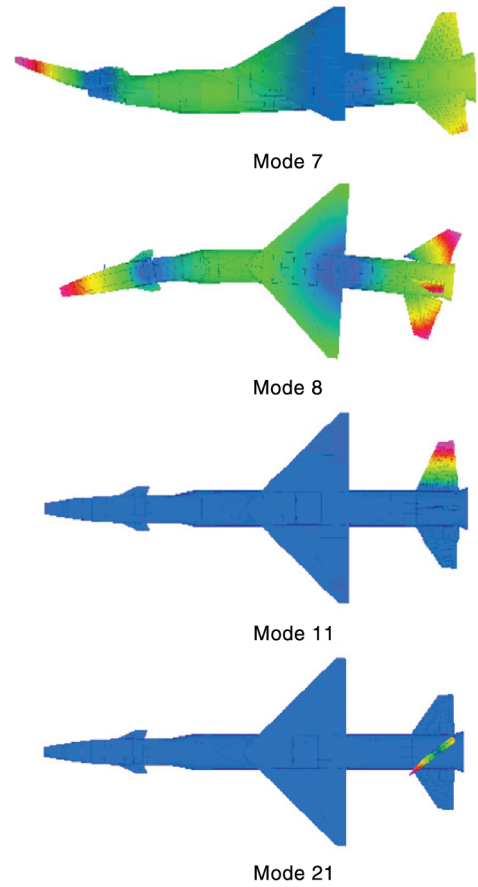


Fig. 12 Hyper-X typical elastic mode shapes.

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{q}(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t) \\ \mathbf{u}_{sn}(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{u}}_{sn}(t) \\ \ddot{\mathbf{u}}_{sn}(t) \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{T}_{sn}\Phi & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{T}_{sn}\Phi \\ -\mathbf{T}_{sn}\Phi\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{K}} & -\mathbf{T}_{sn}\Phi\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{C}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{q}(t) \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t) \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -\mathbf{T}_{sn}\Phi\hat{\mathbf{M}}^{-1} \end{Bmatrix} \mathbf{f}(t) \quad (42)$$

or

$$\mathbf{y}_{ss}(t) = \mathbf{C}_{ss}\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{D}_{ss}\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (43)$$

Table 2 Hyper-X stack free vibration analysis results

Mode	STARS freq., Hz $\alpha_v = 12.43$ deg, $\alpha_{HT} = -11$ deg	Mode shape description (major motion)	Modes for AE analysis	Modes for ASE analysis
1–6	0.0	Rigid-body modes		1–6
7 (1st el)	8.03	F1B vertical (S)	7	7
8 (2 el)	9.44	F1B lateral (A/S)	8	8
9 (3 el)	11.42	RT FIN F/A	—	
10 (4 el)	11.99	LT FIN F/A	—	
11 (5 el)	13.21	RT FIN 1B	11	11
12 (6 el)	14.20	RUDDER 1B	12	12
13 (7 el)	14.45	LT FIN 1/B	13	13
14 (8 el)	15.05	RUDDER F/A	—	
15 (9 el)	16.38	F2B vertical (S)	15	15
21 (15 el)	28.97	RUDDER 1/T	21	21
CL	0.0	Control longitudinal rigid-body mode		CL

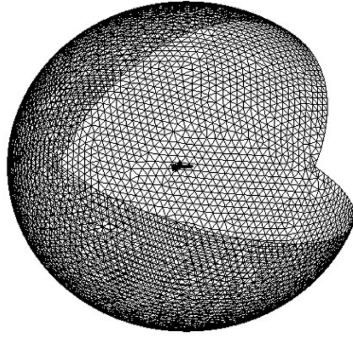
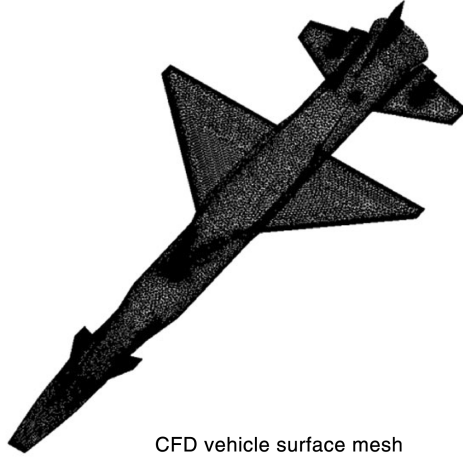


Fig. 13 Hyper-X CFD surface and global mesh.

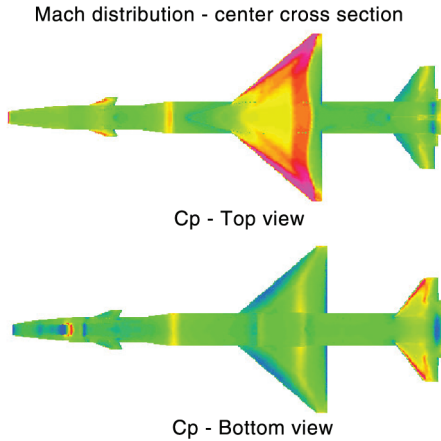


Fig. 14 Hyper-X Mach and pressure distribution.

where the vectors  $\mathbf{u}_{sn}$  denote the real, physical displacements of the sensors in the continuous time domain. Also the interpolation matrix  $\mathbf{T}_{sn}$ , having sensor location information, is of dimensions  $(2 \times NS, N)$ , with  $NS$  being the number of sensors, and  $N$  being the number of degree of freedom for the structure. Equation (43) is the sensor output

Table 3 Comparison of computed and flight test measured pressure data for the Hyper-X

Sensor point	Pressure, psi		
	Flight test	CFD computed	Percent difference
001	1.6900	1.7297	2.34
003	1.7800	1.6890	6.12
007	-0.2419	-0.1400	42.12
085	-0.1567	-0.3886	147.99
090	0.07	-0.08	2.56

relationship signifying motion at the sensors due to the body motion  $\mathbf{C}_{ss}$  and control motion  $\mathbf{D}_{ss}$ . These equations are next converted from inertial to body axis frame

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_s(t) = \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2^{-1}(\mathbf{A}_{st}\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1 - \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_3)\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2^{-1}\mathbf{B}_{st}\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (44)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_s(t) = \mathbf{C}_{ss}\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{D}_{ss}\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (45)$$

which may then be written as

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_s(t) = \mathbf{A}_s\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{B}_s\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (46)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_s(t) = \mathbf{C}_s\mathbf{x}_s(t) + \mathbf{D}_s\mathbf{f}(t) \quad (47)$$

in which  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2$  are coordinate transformation matrices of dimensions  $(NR2 \times NR2)$ ;  $NR2 = 2 \times NR$ , with  $NR$  being the number of desired roots. These equations are then converted to the zero-order hold (ZOH) discrete time equivalent at the  $k$ th step:

$$\mathbf{x}_s(k+1) = \mathbf{G}_s\mathbf{x}_s(k) + \mathbf{H}_s\mathbf{f}(k) \quad (48)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_s(k) = \mathbf{C}_s\mathbf{x}_s(k) + \mathbf{D}_s\mathbf{f}(k) \quad (49)$$

where

$$\mathbf{G}_s = e^{\mathbf{A}_s\Delta t} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{H}_s(k) = [e^{\mathbf{A}_s\Delta t} - \mathbf{I}][\mathbf{A}_s^{-1}\mathbf{B}_s] \quad (50)$$

$$\mathbf{f}(k) = \mathbf{f}_a(k) + \mathbf{f}_l(k) \quad (51)$$

and  $\Delta t = t_{k+1} - t_k$ , and  $\mathbf{C}_s$  and  $\mathbf{D}_s$  remain unchanged.

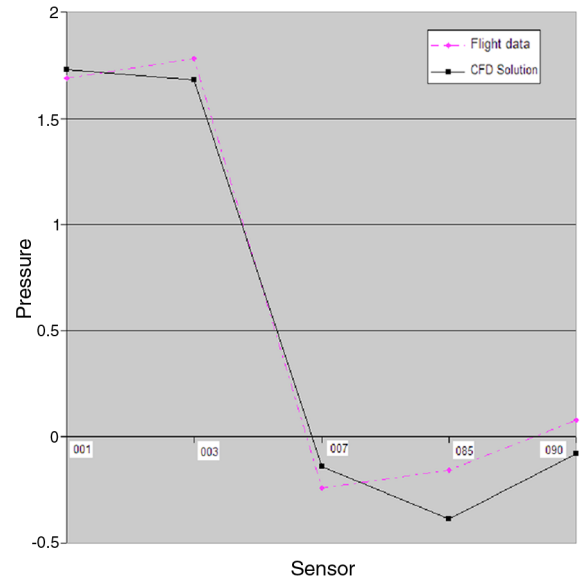


Fig. 15 Comparison of flight measured and calculated (CFD) pressure data.

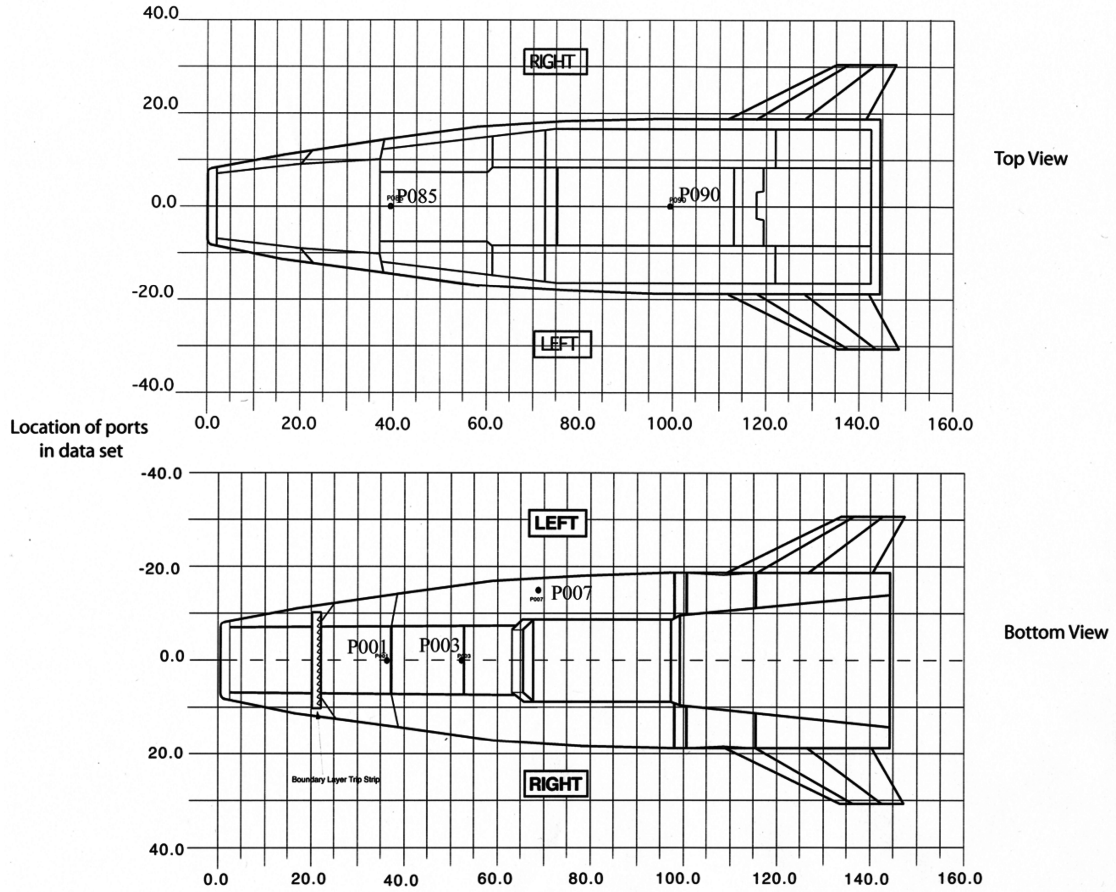


Fig. 16 Hyper-X sensor locations on X-43.

The related ASE analysis procedure is depicted in Fig. 3, where the generalized displacement  $\mathbf{q}$  is defined as

$$\mathbf{q} = (\mathbf{q}_R \quad \mathbf{q}_E \quad \mathbf{q}_\delta)^T \quad (52)$$

in which  $\mathbf{q}_R$ ,  $\mathbf{q}_E$ , and  $\mathbf{q}_\delta$  are the generalized rigid-body, elastic, and control-surface displacements, respectively. Thus the continuous aerostructural outputs are converted to a discrete time equivalent form using the time interval  $\Delta t_{CFD}$ . Other continuous systems such as the sensor and the actuator transfer functions are also discretized using the time interval  $\Delta t_{CFD}$ . The digital control law has its own sampling rate  $\Delta t_C$  and it only participates in the solution when the two sampling rates coincide. The sensor motions can be obtained from Eq. (49), through the gain matrix  $\mathbf{G}$ , as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{sn} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{y}_s(k) \quad (53)$$

which yields the sensor output as follows:

$$\mathbf{x}_{sn}(k+1) = \mathbf{G}_{sn}\mathbf{x}_{sn}(k) + \mathbf{H}_{sn}\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{sn}(k) \quad (54)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{sn}(k+1) = \mathbf{C}_{sn}\mathbf{x}_{sn}(k) + \mathbf{D}_{sn}\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{sn}(k) \quad (55)$$

The control law output, corresponding to each sampling time interval  $\Delta t_C$  is obtained as below using  $\mathbf{y}_{sn}(k)$  from Eq. (55)

$$\mathbf{x}_c(k+1) = \mathbf{G}_c\mathbf{x}_c(k) + \mathbf{H}_c\mathbf{y}_{sn}(k) \quad (56)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_c(k) = \mathbf{C}_c\mathbf{x}_c(k) + \mathbf{D}_c\mathbf{y}_{sn}(k) \quad (57)$$

The desired control-surface motion is obtained from Eq. (57) and the actual motion of the control surface is obtained from the actuator transfer function,

$$\mathbf{x}_{ac}(k+1) = \mathbf{G}_{ac}\mathbf{x}_{ac}(k) + \mathbf{H}_{ac}\mathbf{y}_c(k) \quad (58)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{ac}(k) = \mathbf{C}_{ac}\mathbf{x}_{ac}(k) + \mathbf{D}_{ac}\mathbf{y}_c(k) \quad (59)$$

with the control-surface motion being

$$\mathbf{y}_{ac}(k) = (\mathbf{q}_{\delta 1} \quad \mathbf{q}_{\delta 2}, \dots, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\delta 1}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\delta 2}, \dots)^T \quad (60)$$

The position and velocity of the control surface are put back into the  $\mathbf{x}_n$  vector which is the  $\mathbf{x}_s$  vector with new control-surface definition.

The  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{u}}$  values are next calculated from  $\mathbf{x}_n$  and modified to change the normal velocity boundary conditions at the solid boundary described earlier as the transpiration boundary condition. This is then followed by a one-step CFD solution using a global time-stepping scheme, and the entire solution process is then repeated for the required number of time steps. A time response solution of Eq. (48) in an interval  $(\Delta t = t_{k+1} - t_k)$  is obtained as

$$\mathbf{x}_s(k+1) = e^{A_s \Delta t} \mathbf{x}_s(k) + \mathbf{A}_s^{-1} [e^{A_s \Delta t} - \mathbf{I}] \mathbf{B}_s \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{k}) \quad (61)$$

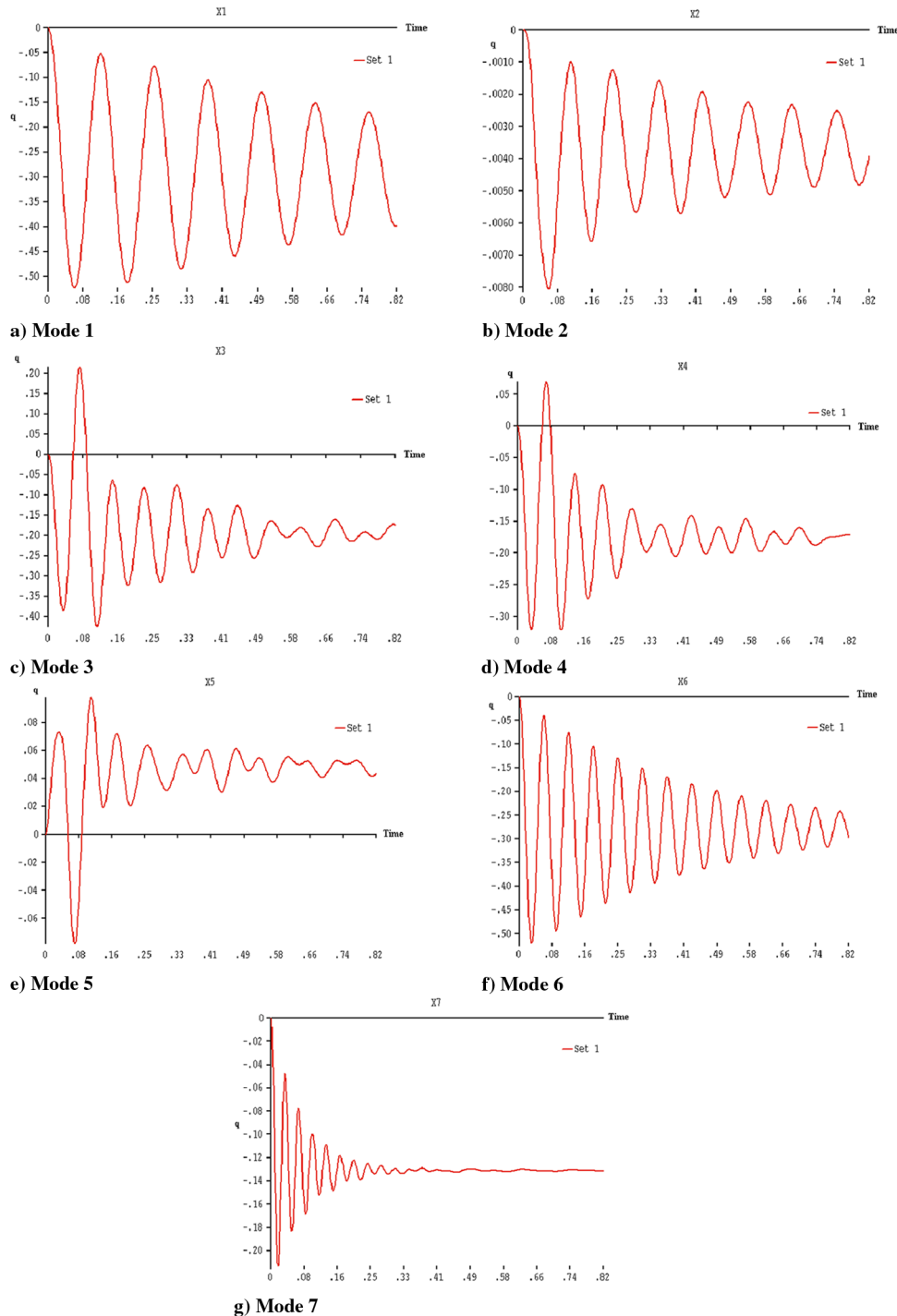
The set of response data as above may be resolved into modal components using an FFT (fast Fourier transform), as

$$\mathbf{q} = \sum_{m=1}^r e^{i\omega_m t} (a_m \cos \omega_m t + b_m \sin \omega_m t) \quad (62)$$

to yield the damping ( $\zeta$ ) and frequency ( $\omega$ ) values. In practice, however, the generalized response is plotted against time. This plot depicting stability characteristic of the vehicle enables prediction of the onset of flutter or divergence occurring within the entire flight regime.

Another recent effort involving FE CFD analysis for unsteady flow has been described in [12]. The effect of aerodynamic heating [13] needs to be taken into consideration for the aeroelastic response





**Fig. 17** Hyper-X generalized displacement response; Mach = 0.9, altitude = 22, 500 ft.

analysis of high speed vehicles. In this procedure, once the steady-state CFD analysis is completed, the temperature distribution at various heat transfer mesh node is obtained by interpolation from such data at aerodynamic grid points on the structural surface. Subsequent heat transfer analysis of the structure then yields the temperature distribution in all structural elements by suitable interpolation at structural nodes, and the stiffness matrix is next generated taking into account temperature-dependent material properties. Such a stiffness matrix is then used to perform a free vibration analysis, and the rest of the analysis continues as shown in Fig. 2.

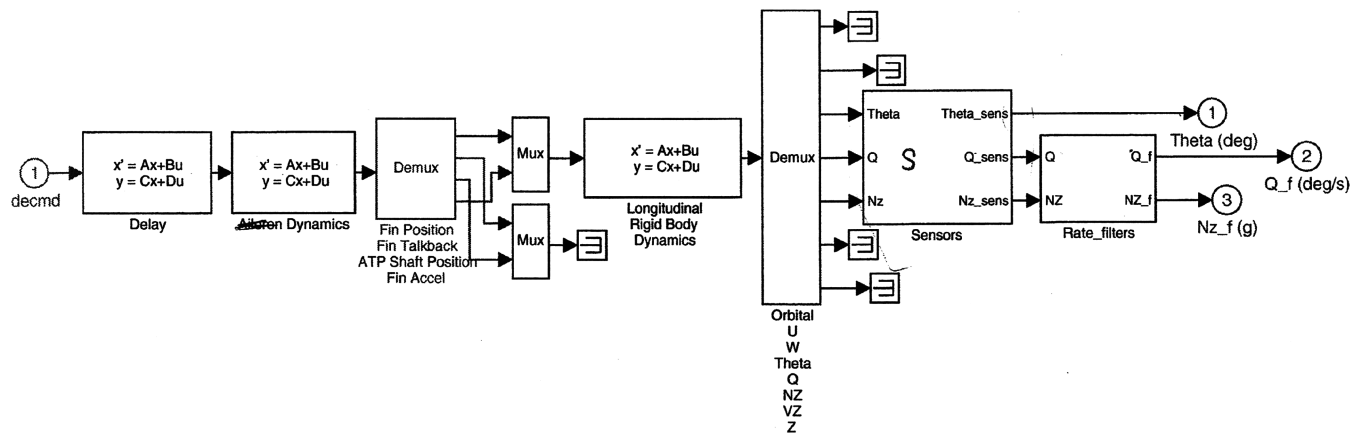
This formulation allows for any digital control sampling rate that is different from the aeroelastic solution time steps. Such an analysis, pertaining to a specific Mach number, may then be repeated for a

number of altitudes, involving various dynamic pressure values, and the instability altitude signified by a zero damping value may then be extracted using simple interpolation of each desired state variable.

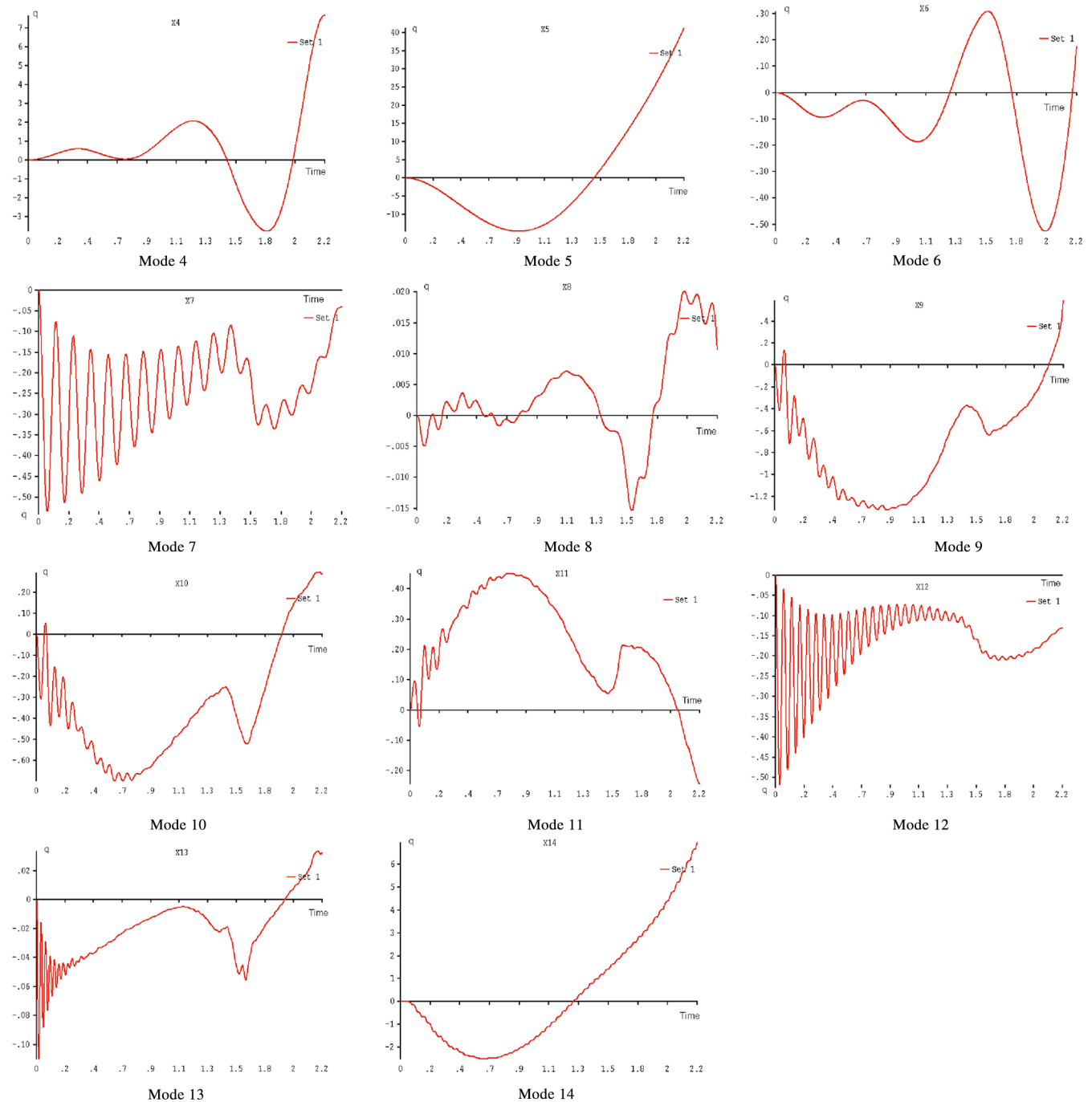
### Numerical Examples

An extensive number of relevant CFD examples [14,15] and also AE and ASE problems have been solved to assess the accuracy of the currently developed numerical formulation and software. An ASE analysis capability has also been verified with wind tunnel test results pertaining to the BACT (benchmark active controls technology) wing [9]. Examples of representative test problems are given next in which the CFDSOL (CFD solution) module of the STARS program has been used for the relevant CFD solutions. All example problems,





**Fig. 20** Hyper-X plant.



**Fig. 21 Hyper-X flight vehicle ASE generalized displacement ( $q$ ) responses.**

regime. Table 1 presents a comparison of calculated and test [16,17] results. Figure 8 provides a pictorial depiction of such results along with a solution derived by using a higher order method [18]; excellent correlation is shown between the currently calculated results and the test data, throughout the entire flight regime including transonic flow. All calculations were made using a 3.19 GHz, 64 bits PC that required CPU time of about 1.25 h for a steady-state solution per flight point; relevant CPU time for unsteady simulation is typically about 7–8 h; grid generation time amounted to around 3 min.

### Example 3: Hyper-X Flight Vehicle

The Hyper-X stack, Fig. 9, consists of a Pegasus booster and the X-43 hypersonic flight test vehicle, which are launched from a B-52 aircraft as shown in Fig. 10 [1]. Once the vehicle is boosted to around 100,000 ft, the X-43 separates from the booster and is designed to perform a hypersonic free flight at Mach 7 and also at about Mach 10. Stability analysis of the X-43 and the stack at Mach 7 was described in [2,3], respectively. A related analysis of the stack in the transonic flight regime is of critical importance for the success of the project and a representative solution is presented herein. A finite element structural model consists of 20,017 nodes and a total of 22,420 various elements resulting in an approximate 120,000 degrees of freedom dynamic problem. Figure 11 shows the finite element structural model whereas the first few typical mode shapes are shown in Fig. 12. Table 2 provides a list of natural frequencies identifying the choice of modes for aeroservoelastic as well as aeroelastic analysis; this was based on numerous studies on modal convergence. A progressive simultaneous iteration method [19] was used for the eigensolution requiring about 6 min of CPU time for the extraction of the first 20 roots and vectors. The angles of attack for the vehicle and the horizontal tails were taken as 12.43 and  $-11^\circ$ , respectively.

Stability analyses of the vehicle were performed at Mach 0.9, at an altitude of 22,500 ft, employing selective modes 7, 8, 11–13, 15, and 21, respectively. Details of aerodynamic mesh are shown in Fig. 13 consisting of 496,526 nodes and 2,653,975 tetrahedron elements, which is a 2.5 million degree of freedom problem. Mach and pressure distributions pertaining to a steady-state analysis are shown in Fig. 14, indicating aeroelastic stability. A comparison of flight measured values of aerodynamic pressure data with CFD computed results, pertaining to inviscid flow (high Reynolds number, around  $10^{15}$ ) is given in Table 3 and graphically depicted in Fig. 15; excellent correlation is observed for the primary data values; the last three pressure values in the table are rather small and hence prone to measurement inaccuracy. The relevant sensor locations are shown in Fig. 16. Distribution of generalized displacements for the AE analysis, pertaining to a few representative elastic modes, is shown in Fig. 17. A summary of predicted flutter points [20], along the flight trajectory, for Hyper-X and the X-43, defining the flutter boundary is shown in Fig. 18.

A detailed coupled aeroservoelastic analysis (Fig. 3) at Mach 0.9 was conducted for the critical flight condition to assess the aerostructural-controls stability by calculating the longitudinal closed-loop response. The relevant details of the control law are shown in Fig. 19 and also in Fig. 20. Figure 21 depicts the generalized response plots of a few typical modes, depicting possible ASE instability. An associated analysis indicated that rigid-body dynamics is unstable in the open loop model.

The steady-state CFD solution took about 10 h and the associated unsteady solution needed around 200 h of CPU time, using the 64 bit single processor PC with a clock speed of 3.19 GHz.

### Concluding Remarks

This paper, an expanded and modified version of [21], presents details of a new finite element, CFD-based aeroservoelastic analysis procedure suitable for modeling and simulation of large complex practical problems. A novel CFD and a new direct time marched

analysis procedure are described in detail, along with the unique Hyper-X simulation results.

Numerical examples include the NACA0012 airfoil and the current solutions are compared to earlier ones for both inviscid as well as viscous flow. The second example involves the AGARD sweptback wing 445.6 and related aeroelastic wind tunnel test results are compared with current numerical analysis results that are found to be quite favorable. Finally, results of vibration, aeroelastic, and aeroservoelastic analyses of the novel Hyper-X launch vehicle are presented in detail. Also presented is a comparison of computed pressure values with flight test data. These results testify to the accuracy and efficiency of the numerical techniques presented herein.

The use of CFD techniques for the accurate prediction of unsteady aerodynamic forces around a flight vehicle is essential for transonic flow conditions [22,23]. The employment of linear panel methods for such a simulation will generally prove to be unreliable. For large, complex practical problems, parallelization of relevant analysis codes employing multiple processors is expected to bring down solution time quite considerably and future effort is being directed to that effect. References [24,25] provide detailed review of state-of-the-art developments of associated research efforts.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to S. Lung, E. Hahn, T. Doyle, C. L. Lawson, and P. Nithiarasu for their sincere help in the preparation of this work.

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