



RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

FLIGHT INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF
UNDERWING PROPULSIVE JETS ON THE LIFT, DRAG, AND
LONGITUDINAL STABILITY OF A DELTA-WING CONFIGURATION
AT MACH NUMBERS FROM 1.23 TO 1.62

By Ralph A. Falanga and Joseph H. Judd

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SUMMARY

A flight test was made of a multijet 60° delta-wing airplane configuration whose twin-engine exhausts were located at 18.5 percent of the wing semispan, 38.3 percent of the root chord, and 1.5 jet diameters below the wing mean chord line. Data were obtained for jet-on flight conditions between Mach numbers of 1.23 and 1.29 and for jet-off flight conditions between Mach numbers of 1.23 and 1.62. The range of Reynolds numbers was from 23.8×10^6 to 35.0×10^6 .

The drag coefficients for jet-on flight were lower than the corresponding drag coefficients for jet-off flight. Although the particular locations of the exhaust fairing reduced jet-off lift coefficients below those which would normally be obtained for a symmetrical model, operation of the jet increased the lift coefficients and the lift-curve slope.

Over the Mach number range for which jet-on data were obtained, the longitudinal static-stability derivative and damping derivatives showed little difference between jet-on and jet-off flight.

INTRODUCTION

The engine installation problem has become a major factor in the design of supersonic airplanes. In addition to the effects of inlet type and location on the drag and the influence of the engine location on the airplane geometry, the propulsive jet can exert an appreciable effect on the lift and drag of the airplane. As part of an investigation of these problems by the Langley Pilotless Aircraft Research Division, a study is being made of the effect of the propulsive jet on the aerodynamic characteristics of airplane configurations.

The problem of obtaining low-drag supersonic multi-jet bomber configurations has been particularly troublesome (ref. 1), because the cross-sectional area of the nacelles tends to concentrate at or near the maximum cross-sectional area of the fuselage and wing, decreasing the effective fineness ratio of the configuration. One solution to this problem was proposed: namely, to locate one pair of engines in the fuselage nose and a second pair in the fuselage tail. Thus, the engine locations not only improve the cross-sectional area distribution but also simplify the problem of balancing the airplane. This type of configuration has shown considerable promise as a possible supersonic flying boat (ref. 2). For these airplanes, the practical location for the forward jet exits lies underneath the wing, thus providing a possibility of a considerable amount of jet-induced lift at supersonic speeds (refs. 3 and 4).

The investigation reported herein was a flight test of a delta-wing bomber configuration with two propulsive jets exhausting under the forward portion of the wings. The tests were designed to study the effect of the propulsive jet on the drag, lift, and trim characteristics of this configuration and to compare measured values of lift and trim changes between jet-on and jet-off flight with predicted values obtained from the action of a jet on a flat plate at zero angle of attack.

The propulsive jet issuing from twin sonic exhaust nozzles simulated the exhaust parameters of a current turbojet at an altitude of 35,000 feet and a Mach number of 1.5 by utilizing a solid-propellant rocket motor designed according to reference 5.

The flight test was made at the Langley Pilotless Aircraft Research Station at Wallops Island, Va. The Mach number range of these tests was from 1.23 to 1.62 and the Reynolds number range from 23.8×10^6 to 35.0×10^6 .

SYMBOLS

A	cross-sectional area of any longitudinal station, sq ft
A.C.	distance from leading edge of mean aerodynamic chord to aerodynamic center of model, percent of mean aerodynamic chord, positive rearward
C_D	drag coefficient, Drag/ q_s
C_L	lift coefficient, Lift/ q_s
$C_{L\alpha}$	slope of lift curve, $dC_L/d\alpha$, per deg
C_{LT}	trim lift coefficient

C_m pitching-moment coefficient, with respect to center of gravity,

$$\frac{\text{Pitching moment}}{qS\bar{c}}$$

$C_{m\alpha}$ static-stability derivative, $\frac{dC_m}{d\alpha}$, per deg

$C_{m\dot{\alpha}}$ = $\frac{\partial C_m}{\partial \left(\frac{\dot{\alpha}\bar{c}}{2V}\right)}$ per radian

$C_{m\dot{q}}$ = $\frac{dC_m}{d\left(\frac{\dot{\theta}\bar{c}}{2V}\right)}$ per radian

$C_{m\dot{q}} + C_{m\dot{\alpha}}$ longitudinal damping derivatives, per radian

\bar{c} wing mean aerodynamic chord, ft

c_p wing static-pressure coefficient, $\frac{p_w - p_o}{q}$

c_{pT} trim wing static-pressure coefficient

l fuselage length, ft

M Mach number, $\frac{V}{\text{Speed of sound}}$

P period, sec

p static pressure, lb/sq ft

q dynamic pressure, lb/sq ft

R Reynolds number (based on mean aerodynamic chord)

r radius of equivalent body of revolution, ft

S wing area (including the area enclosed within the fuselage), sq ft

$T_{1/2}$ time required for short-period oscillation to damp to one-half amplitude, sec

t time, sec

V velocity of flight, ft/sec

x distance along fuselage center line measured from nose, ft

z/d_j distance below wing surface in jet diameters

α angle of attack, measured from fuselage reference line, deg

$$\dot{\alpha} = \frac{1}{57.3} \frac{d\alpha}{dt}, \text{ radians/sec}$$

α_T trim angle of attack, deg

θ angle of pitch, measured from fuselage reference line, radians

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{d\theta}{dt}, \text{ radians/sec}$$

Subscripts:

o free-stream condition

j jet

w wing

MODEL AND APPARATUS

Model

A three-view drawing of the flight model is shown in figure 1 and the basic geometric parameters are tabulated in table I. The basic configuration consisted of a triangular wing with 60° sweepback on the leading edge and 10° sweepforward on the trailing edge, mounted on a body of revolution whose ordinates are given in table II. The wing, 10.67 square feet in total plan-form area, had an NACA 65A004 airfoil section and was faired to the fuselage by modified triangular fillets, as shown in figure 1. Two hexagonal airfoil fins 2.5 percent thick at the root were used for vertical fins. Three pulse rockets were located in the nose to disturb the model in pitch.

The general location of the engine jet fairing is shown in figure 1. Detail dimensions of the fairing and nozzles are shown in figure 2(a).

Basically, the fairing consists of a pointed nose, a straight section, and a circular conical boattail of 7.5° half-angle. Figure 2(b) is a photograph of the engine nozzle and fairing viewed from the bottom rear. A photograph of the model showing the engine fairings is given in figure 3. The cross-sectional area distribution of the complete configuration is shown in figure 4 together with its equivalent body of revolution.

The basic turbojet simulator utilized in this model consisted of a combustion chamber, a flow-control nozzle, a plenum chamber, and twin convergent sonic exit sections. A standard cordite SU/K propellant grain generated the necessary exhaust gases to simulate current full-scale turbojet exhaust parameters. (See ref. 5.) The jet-exit diameter was 2.60 inches and the jet-base diameter was 2.75 inches, corresponding to a jet area of 0.0369 square foot and a jet-base area of 0.0415 square foot. Weight, center of gravity, and moment of inertia for the model with and without rocket fuel are presented in table III.

Model Instrumentation

A six-channel telemeter which was carried in the nose of the model continuously transmitted measurements of free-stream total pressure, angle of attack, longitudinal and normal acceleration, combustion-chamber pressure, and wing static pressure. The wing static-pressure orifice was located on the bottom of the wing as shown in figure 1. The normal accelerometer was located at station 32.56, 19.60 inches forward of the initial center of gravity.

The rocket-motor combustion-chamber pressure instrument and telemeter were checked in a preflight motor firing in the Langley rocket test cell. Using the data from this test a calibration curve of the rocket thrust, exhausting into a vacuum, as a function of the combustion-chamber pressure was obtained.

Data for the flight tests were obtained by use of telemeter, CW Doppler velocimeter, tracking radar, and radiosonde. The radiosonde gave a survey of the atmospheric conditions over the test altitude. The model velocity obtained with the velocimeter was corrected for wind velocity which was determined from rawinsonde measurements.

FLIGHT TESTS

The model was launched from a mobile launcher (fig. 3). Two ABL Deacon rocket motors boosted the configuration to the peak Mach number. Jet-off data were obtained during the decelerating flight after separation of the model from the booster. Jet-on data were obtained

during firing of the turbojet simulator which was started at the lowest test Mach number. The limited Mach number range of jet-on data was a byproduct of low acceleration caused by high model drag and the low scale thrust. During jet-off flight a pulse rocket disturbed the model in pitch, and a disturbance in pitch was also obtained when the turbojet simulator motor fired. The variation of Reynolds number based on wing mean aerodynamic chord with Mach number for jet-on and jet-off flight is presented in figure 5.

The angle of attack and normal accelerometer data were corrected to the model center of gravity. The method of obtaining jet-on and jet-off drag data was explained in reference 6 and the method of determining lift and longitudinal stability data from transient disturbances in pitch is given in reference 7. All lift coefficients presented have had the lift component due to the jet subtracted, except where otherwise stated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of Jet on Drag

The variation of drag coefficients with angle of attack for jet-on and jet-off conditions is shown in figure 6. The data presented for jet-on flight were at an average Mach number of 1.23, whereas those for jet-off flight were at an average Mach number of 1.31. These data indicate that the angle of attack for minimum drag coefficient increases by approximately one-half of a degree from jet-on to jet-off flight. The variation of drag coefficient at trim angle of attack with Mach number is presented in figure 7 and the variation of trim angle of attack with Mach number is presented in figure 8.

From the drag coefficients of figure 7, it can be seen that the jet-on drag coefficients are lower than the jet-off drag coefficients. The small change in trim angle of attack due to the jet does not change the drag coefficient by an appreciable amount. Furthermore the approximate difference between jet-on and jet-off engine base drag coefficient (based on total wing area) obtained from reference 6 was 0.0006 at Mach numbers from 1.23 to 1.31. The measured difference between jet-on and jet-off drag coefficients is considerably greater than this difference in base drag coefficient and that due to the change in trim angle of attack. The reduction of drag coefficient between jet-off and jet-on flight is caused by jet effects such as positive pressure increments acting on the boattail or by the jet acting favorably on the complete configuration.

Exhaust and wing fairings were designed from the standpoint of simple geometry and construction instead of low drag. Hence, comparison of the drag coefficients of this configuration with similar multijet configurations (ref. 1) indicates that the supersonic drag coefficient is comparatively high.

Jet Effect on Lift

The variations of lift coefficient with angle of attack for jet-on flight at a Mach number of 1.23 and for jet-off flight at a Mach number of 1.31 are plotted in figure 9. Included in the values for jet-on lift coefficients is the upward thrust component of the propulsive jet. The lift coefficient due to the upward thrust component was subtracted from the measured lift coefficients of figure 9 to obtain the lift coefficient of the configuration including the increment due to the pressure field of the propulsive jet. These jet-on lift coefficients are plotted in figure 10. Since the measured lift coefficients for jet-off flight were obtained at an average Mach number of 1.31, the jet-off lift-curve slope was corrected to that of Mach number 1.23 by using the ratio of lift-curve slopes for an aspect-ratio-2 triangular-wing and body combination at the respective Mach numbers (ref. 8). This increased the lift-curve slope from 0.0407 at a Mach number of 1.31 to 0.0415 at a Mach number of 1.23. This value of lift-curve slope was plotted in figure 10 through the trim lift coefficient and trim angle of attack. It is apparent that operation of the jet has increased both the lift-curve slope and the lift coefficients. Also it may be noted that the exhaust fairings have reduced the lift coefficients below those which would normally be obtained with a symmetrical model.

The experimental values of lift-curve slope are plotted in figure 11, together with data from references 8 and 9 for an aspect-ratio-2 delta wing located in a midwing position. The exhaust fairings have reduced the jet-off lift-curve slope below that of the symmetrical models. Although part of the difference may be due to wing elasticity, an appreciable portion of the reduction in lift-curve slope is believed due to the exhaust fairings and nozzle location. The effect of the jet was favorable over the angle-of-attack range and Mach number values for which data were obtained.

The trim lift coefficient for jet-on and jet-off flight is given in figure 12. The change in trim angle of attack between jet-on and jet-off flight (fig. 8) was small. Thus, the large difference in trim lift coefficient was attributable to the increment in wing lift caused by the jet pressure field.

Although there were no experimental data for the jet-induced incremental lift for the Mach number range of the flight test, unpublished

data on the jet-induced incremental pressures on a flat plate at 0° angle of attack and at a Mach number of 1.39 were available. Assuming that this incremental pressure distribution acted on the delta wing, integration of the distributions gives the change in lift coefficients between jet-on and jet-off flight. These results are shown in figure 13 as a function of jet distance below the wing surface. Incremental lift coefficients for the flat plate varied from 0.039 to 0.053, while the incremental lift coefficient for the present configuration was 0.044. The results of this flight test show, therefore, that at zero angle of attack, the change in lift coefficient between jet-on and jet-off flight can be reasonably estimated from data on the pressure field on a flat plate induced by an exhaust jet.

The variation of jet-exit static-pressure ratio p_j/p_o and wing trim static-pressure coefficients is presented in figures 14 and 15, respectively. The variations of wing static-pressure coefficient with angle of attack at Mach numbers of 1.59 and 1.31 for jet-off flight and at a Mach number of 1.23 for jet-on flight are plotted in figure 16. These data show that a positive increment in pressure coefficient between jet-off and jet-on conditions was obtained at the wing static-pressure orifice. References 3 and 4 also show that for the same relative position from nacelle exit a positive increment in pressure coefficient occurred at zero angle of attack.

Static Longitudinal Stability

The period of the longitudinal oscillations of the angle of attack is given in figure 17. The period was used to compute the static-stability derivative $C_{m\alpha}$ which is shown in figure 18. Although a very limited amount of data was obtained from these tests, the static-stability derivative appears insensitive to jet action. The aerodynamic center (fig. 19) computed by using experimental values of $C_{m\alpha}$ and $C_{L\alpha}$ also appears insensitive to jet operation.

The change in trim angle of attack due to the jet operation (fig. 8) was nearly equal to that required to compensate for the thrust eccentricity of the jet engines. The computed change in trim angle due to the thrust eccentricity was 0.61, while the measured trim change at a Mach number of 1.23 was 0.50. It should be reemphasized that a very small Mach number range was covered and at higher Mach numbers the jet may exert a greater influence on trim angle of attack.

Dynamic Longitudinal Stability

The time required for the short-period longitudinal oscillation to damp to one-half amplitude is shown in figure 20 and the damping derivatives ($C_{m\dot{q}} + C_{m\dot{\alpha}}$) are shown in figure 21. The effect of jet operation on the damping derivatives appears to be small at the Mach number for which jet-on data were obtained. The jet-off data indicate that the model had more damping at a Mach number of 1.59 than at a Mach number of 1.3 or 1.23. Also plotted in figure 21 are theoretical values of damping derivatives for this model, computed by the method of reference 10, and experimental values of damping derivatives obtained from reference 9. Reference 9 indicates fair agreement with the theoretical values plotted, whereas the experimental values of damping derivatives from this test indicate lower damping than the theoretical values for the lower test Mach numbers and higher damping at a Mach number of 1.58.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

A flight test of a twin-jet delta-wing bomber was made between Mach numbers of 1.23 and 1.62 and Reynolds numbers of 23.8×10^6 and 35.0×10^6 . Data obtained during flight tests with the jet operating (at Mach numbers from 1.23 to 1.29) and with no jet indicated the following conclusions:

1. The jet-on drag coefficients of the configuration were lower than the jet-off drag coefficients.
2. The jet-on lift coefficients and lift-curve slope were larger than the jet-off values at corresponding angles of attack. It appears that the incremental lift coefficients can be reasonably estimated from the incremental lift produced by jet effects on a flat plate at zero angle of attack.
3. The installation of the exhaust nozzles and their fairings reduced the lift coefficients for the jet-off case from that which normally would be expected from a symmetrical model at zero angle of attack.

4. The static and dynamic longitudinal stability derivatives were apparently affected very slightly by the operation of the jet.

Langley Aeronautical Laboratory,
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics,
Langley Field, Va., September 12, 1955.

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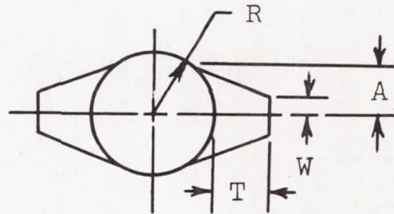
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TABLE I.- GEOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MODEL TESTED

Fuselage:		
Fineness ratio of equivalent body of revolution		8.23
Total frontal area, sq ft		0.5535
Base area, sq ft		0.1806
Wing:		
Aspect ratio		2.10
Taper ratio		0
Mean aerodynamic chord, ft		3.01
Airfoil section	NACA 65A004	
Total plan-form area, sq ft		10.67
Engine fairing (for one fairing):		
Projected frontal area, sq ft		0.347
Base area, sq ft		0.0415
Jet-exit area, sq ft		0.0369
Vertical tail (both fins):		
Area (extended to center line), sq ft		2.176
Aspect ratio		1.458
Taper ratio, Tip chord/Root chord.		0.169
Airfoil section	Hexagonal airfoil	

TABLE II.- FUSELAGE ORDINATES

[All dimensions in inches. All letter dimensions defined in the sketch apply only to this table]



x	R	T	W	A
0	0	----	----	----
.875	.168	----	----	----
1.120	.224	----	----	----
2.100	.460	----	----	----
5.675	1.245	----	----	----
10.675	2.155	----	----	----
15.575	2.785	----	----	----
20.475	3.220	----	----	----
25.375	3.500	----	----	----
31.075	3.500	0	0	0
35.063	3.500	.906	1.188	2.650
78.308	3.500	.906	1.188	2.650
78.683	3.437	.935	1.170	2.610
79.683	3.268	.830	1.020	2.320
80.683	3.099	.655	.770	1.930
81.683	2.930	.380	.440	1.410
82.933	2.875	0	0	0

TABLE III.- PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MODEL TESTED

Characteristic	Jet off	Jet on	
		M = 1.23	M = 1.28
Weight, lb	199.25	197.55	190.47
Center-of-gravity position, percent of \bar{c}	29.78	29.60	28.75
Moment of inertia in pitch about center of gravity, slug-ft ²	11.0446	10.936	10.698

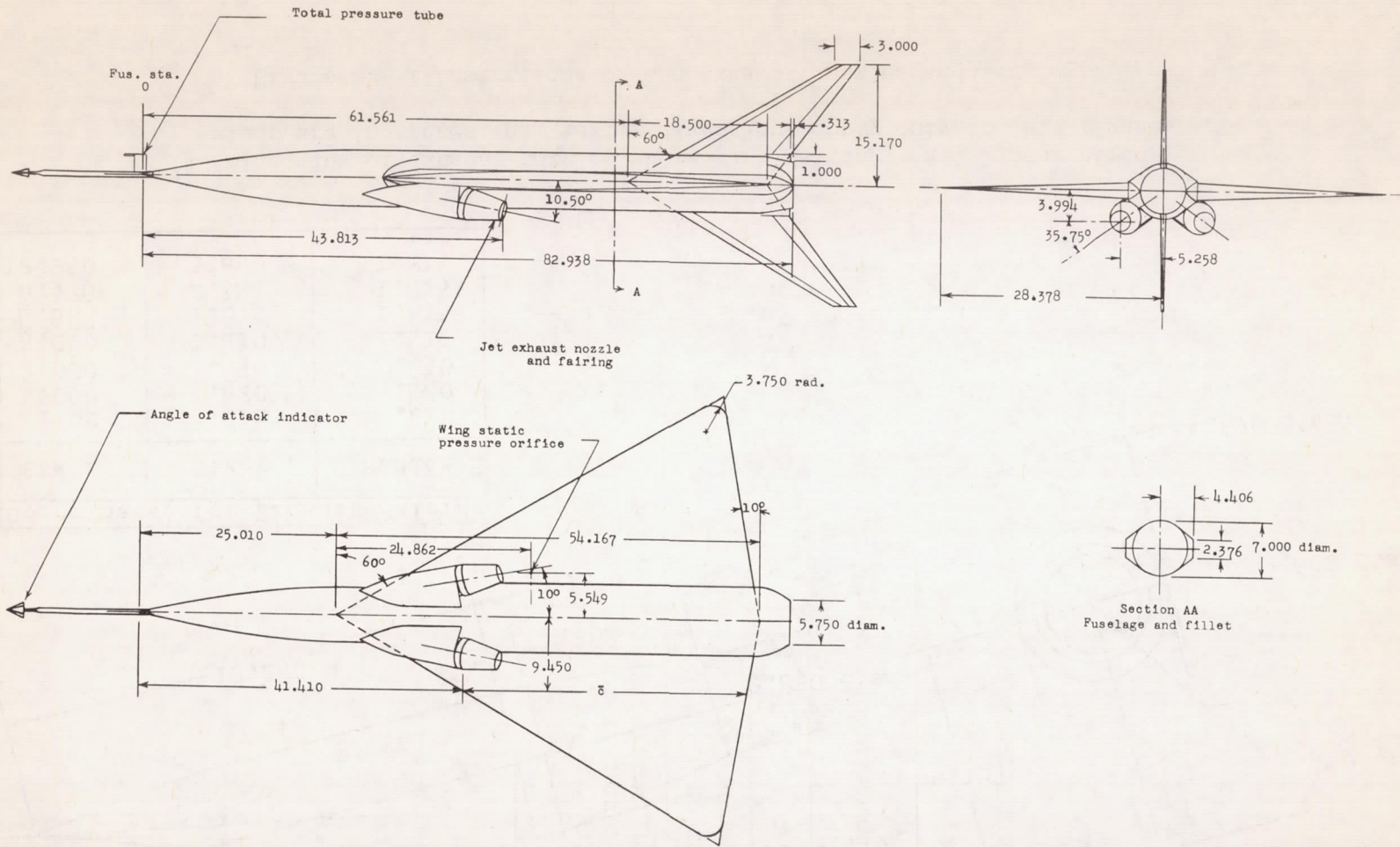
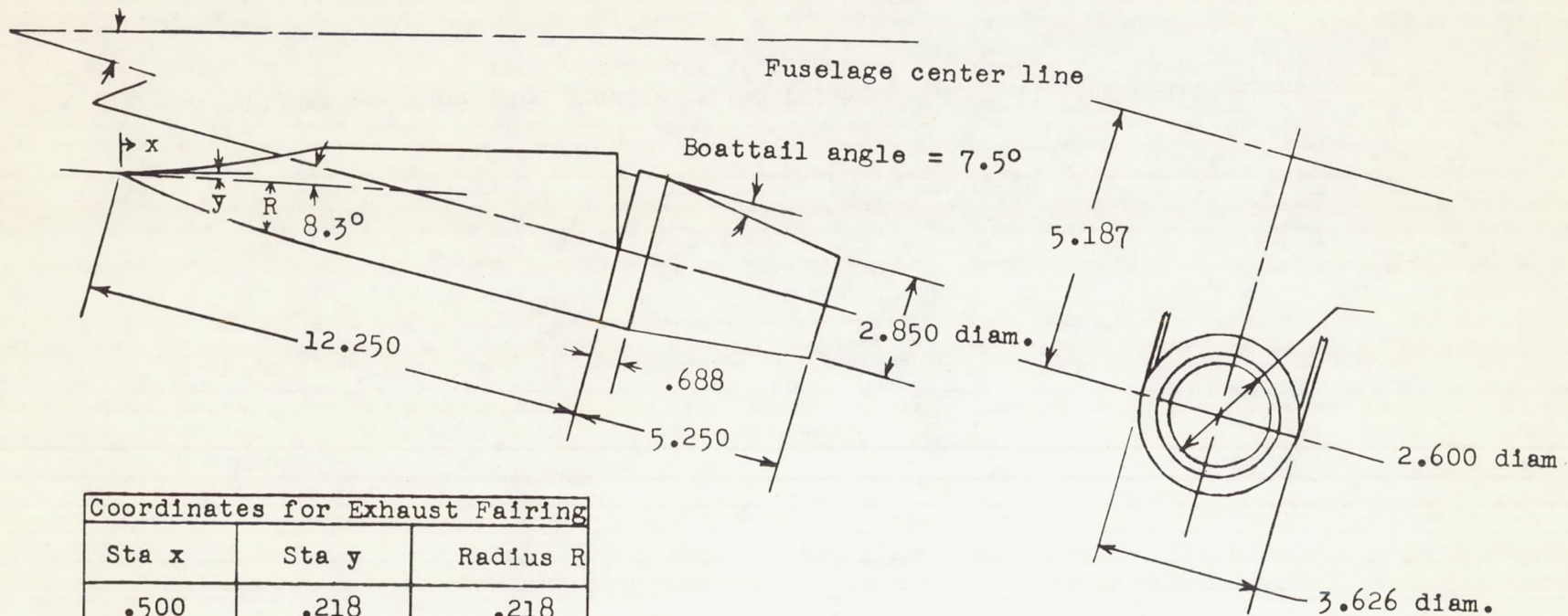


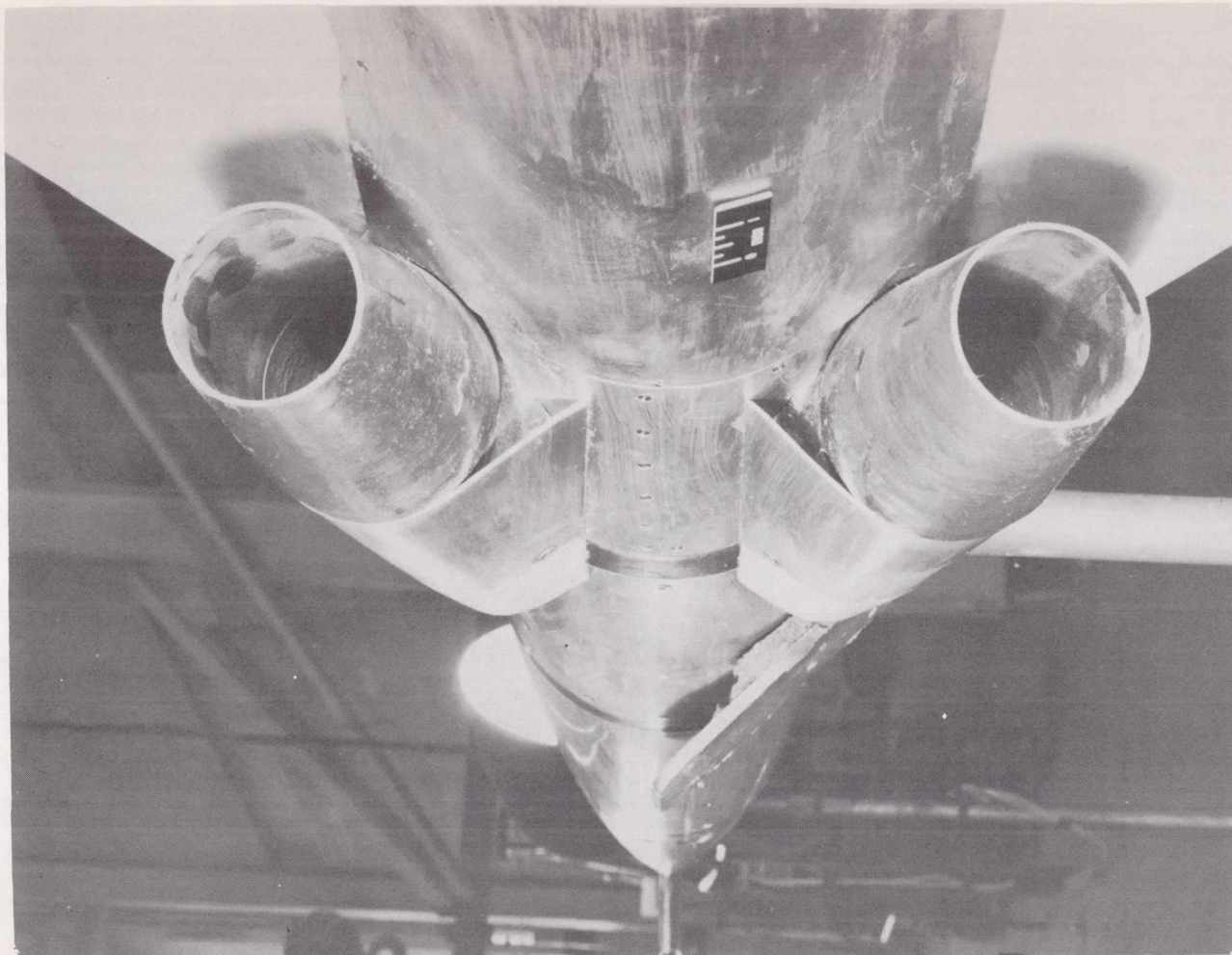
Figure 1.- Three-view drawing of the flight model. All linear dimensions are in inches.



Coordinates for Exhaust Fairing		
Sta x	Sta y	Radius R
.500	.218	.218
1.000	.420	.420
2.000	.830	.830
3.000	1.410	1.410
4.688	1.813	1.813
6.375	2.344	1.813
12.250	3.660	1.813

(a) Side view of exhaust nozzles and engine fairing. All linear dimensions are in inches; all letter dimensions apply only to this figure.

Figure 2.- Illustrations of the exhaust nozzles and fairings.



(b) Rear view of exhaust nozzles and engine fairings.

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Figure 2.- Concluded.

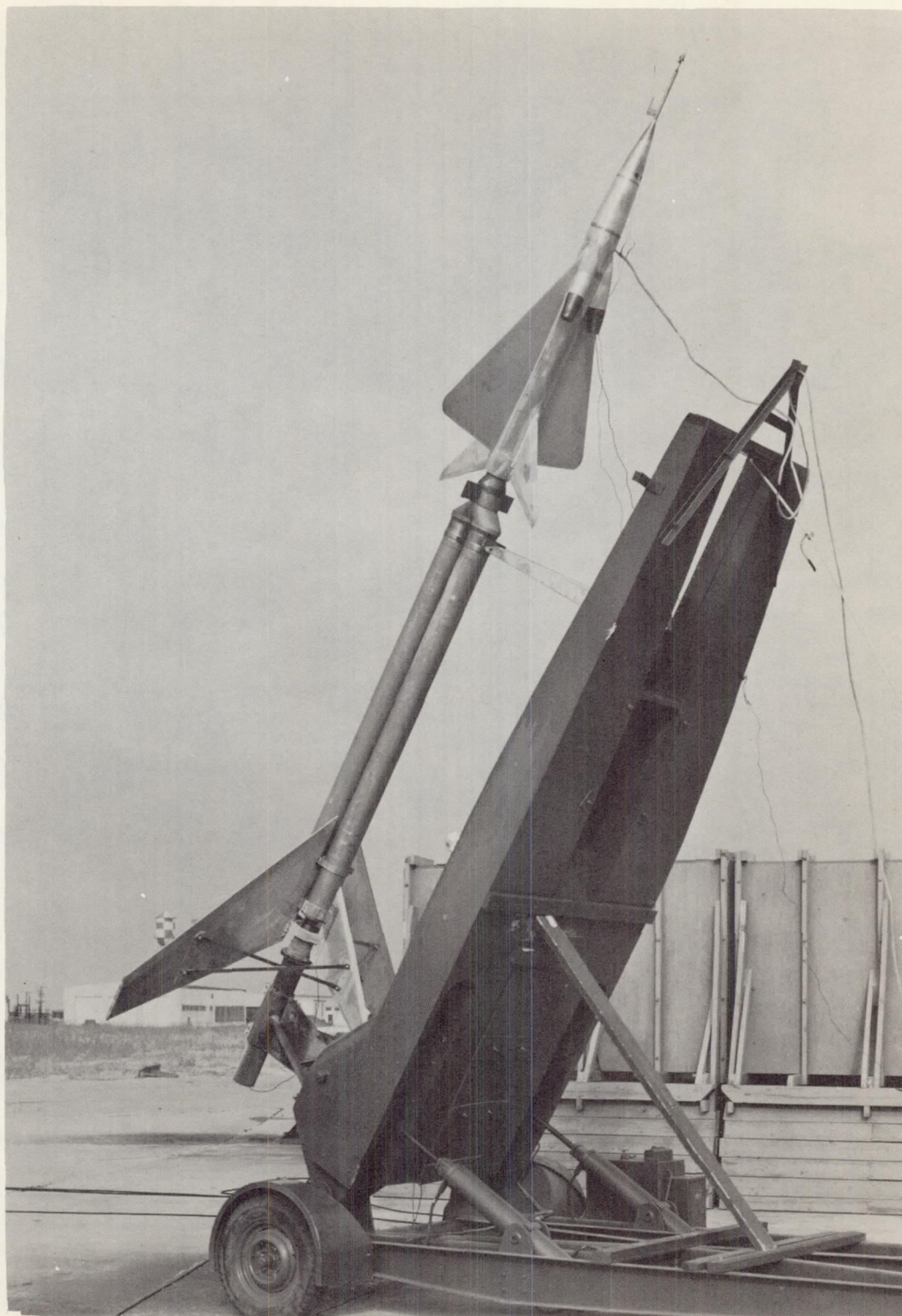
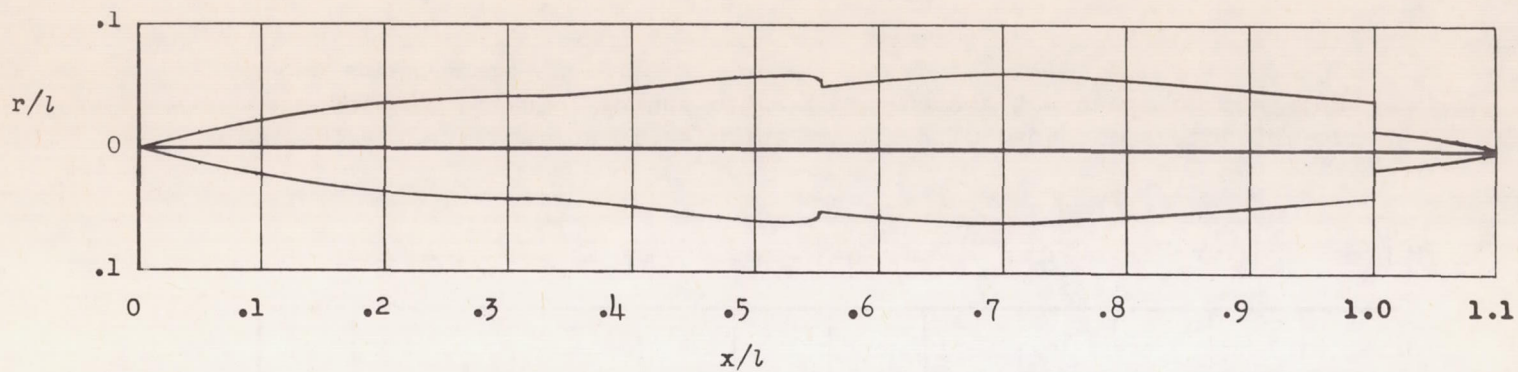
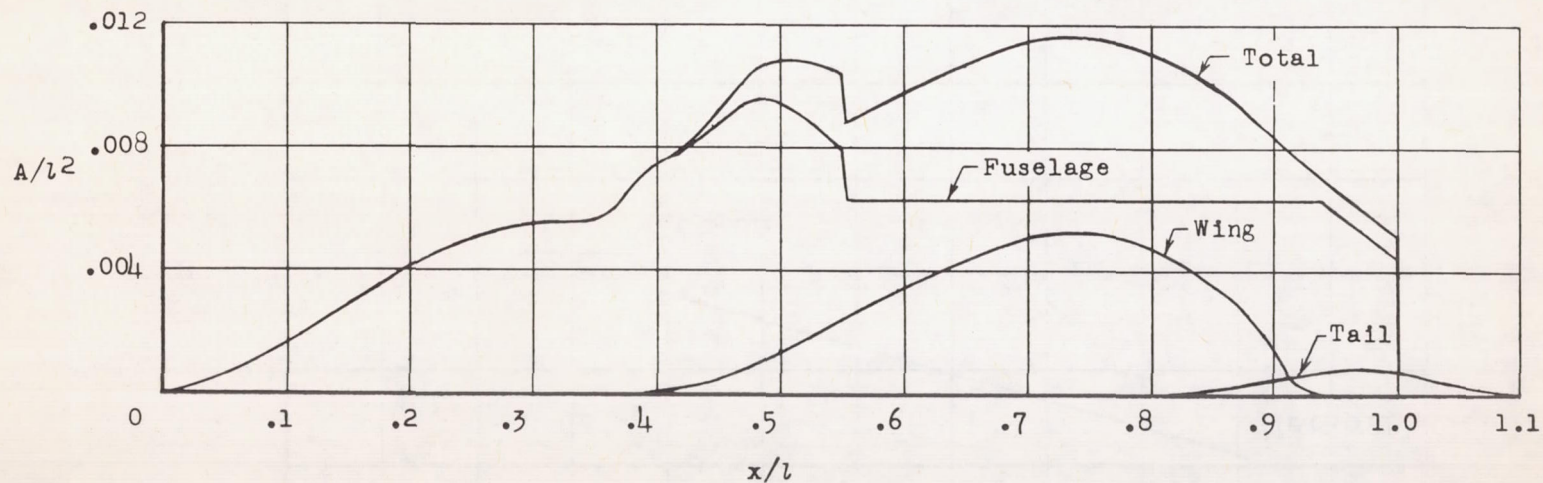


Figure 3.- Model and booster on launcher. L-88147.1



(a) Equivalent body of revolution. Fineness ratio, 8.23.



(b) Cross-sectional area distribution.

Figure 4.- The cross-sectional area distribution and equivalent body of revolution for the model.

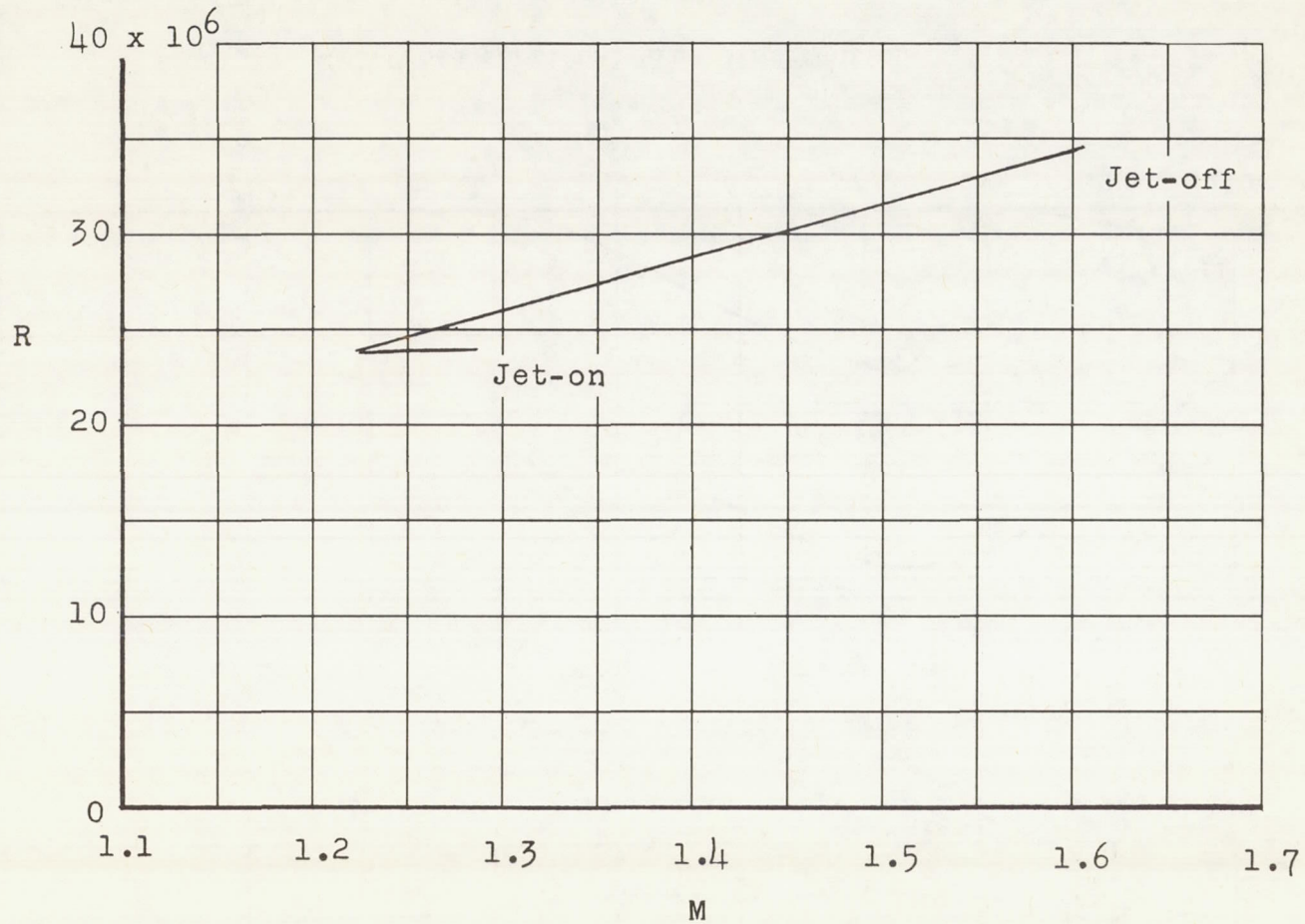
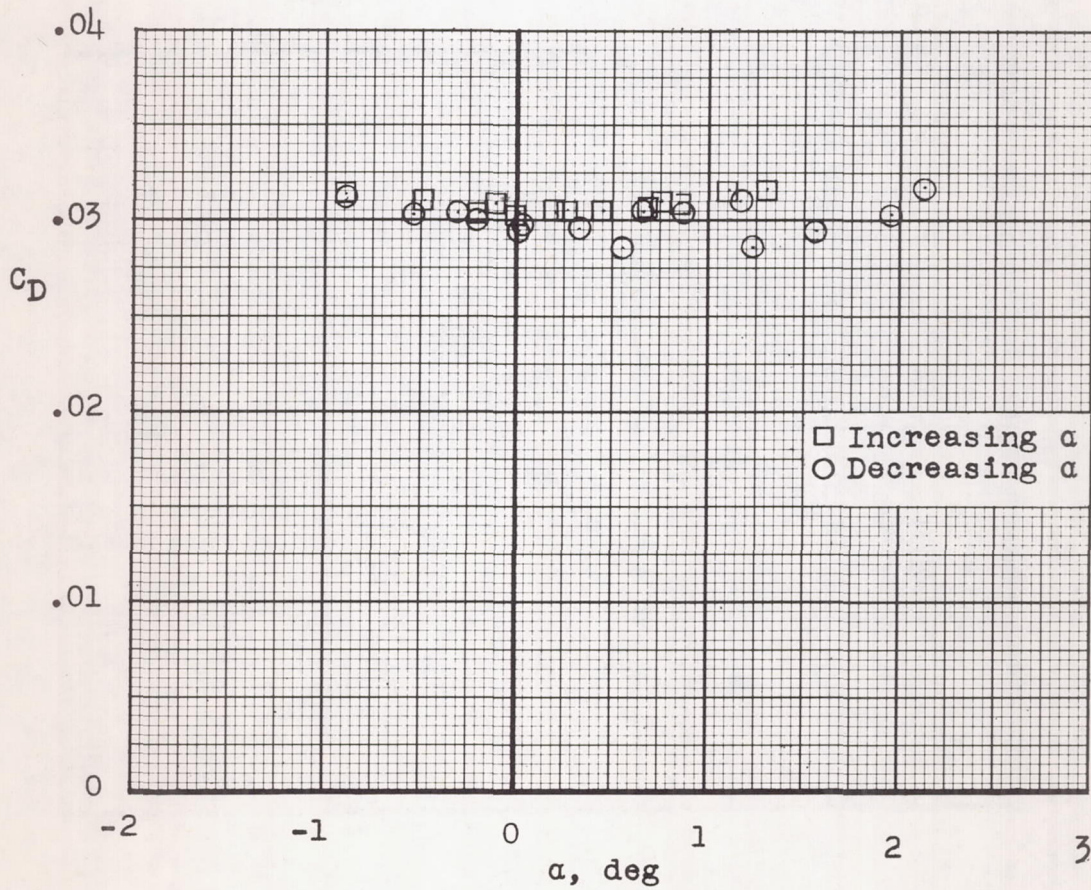
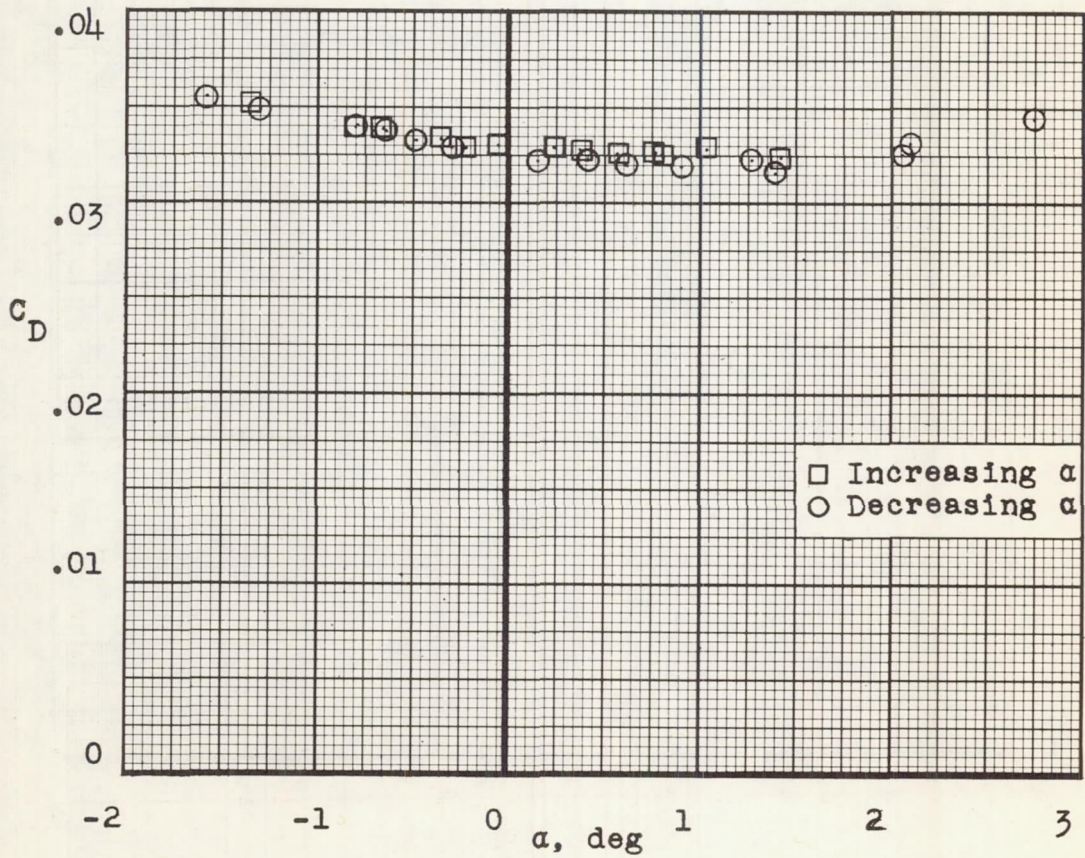


Figure 5.- The variation of Reynolds number with Mach number for jet-on and jet-off flight. Values of Reynolds number are based on the wing mean aerodynamic chord.



(a) Jet-on flight at an average Mach number of 1.23.

Figure 6.- Variation of drag coefficients with angle of attack.



(b) Jet-off flight at an average Mach number of 1.31.

Figure 6.- Concluded.

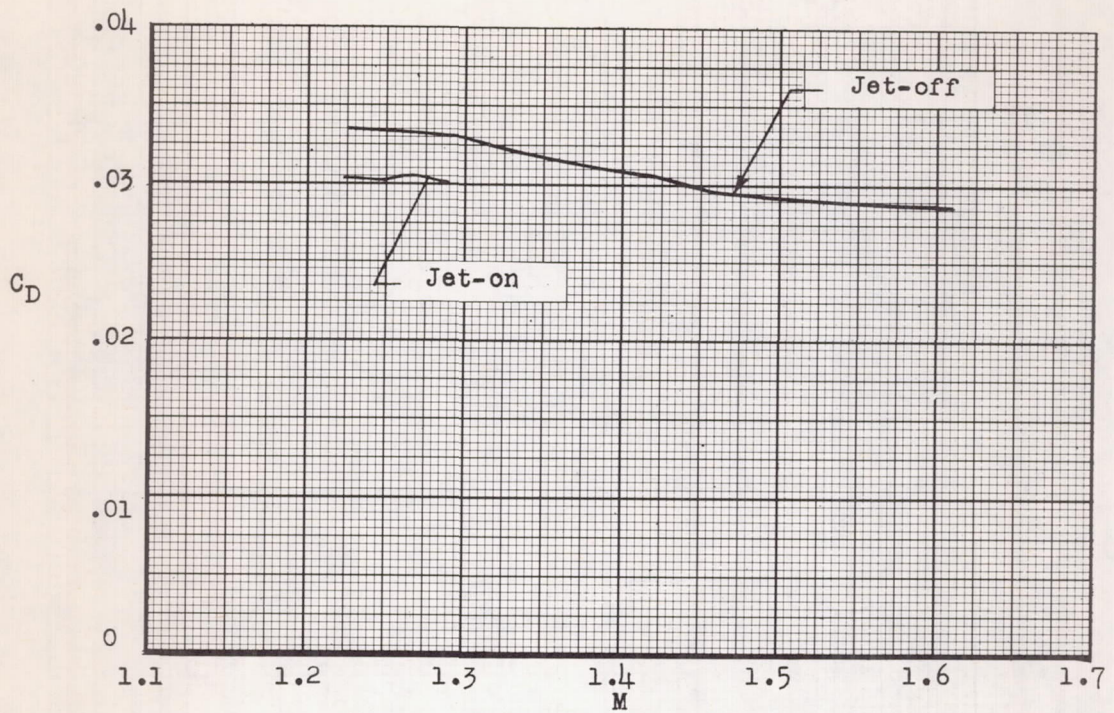


Figure 7.- Variation of trim drag coefficient with Mach number.

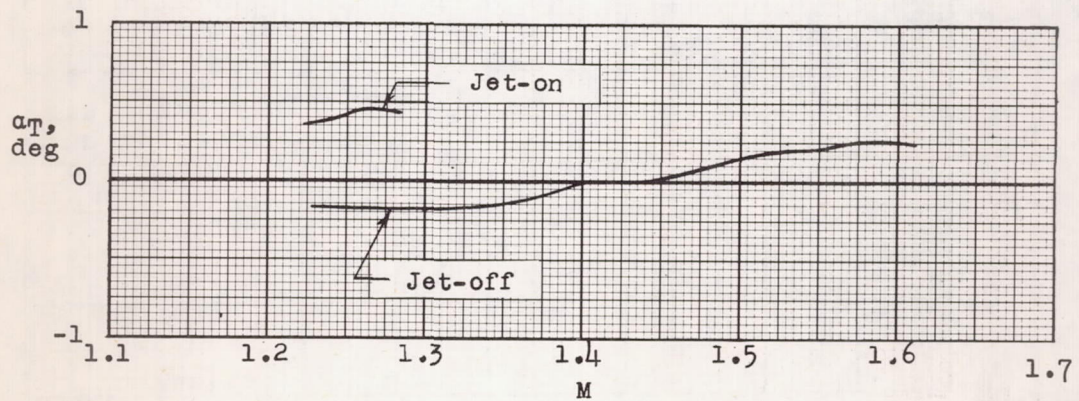
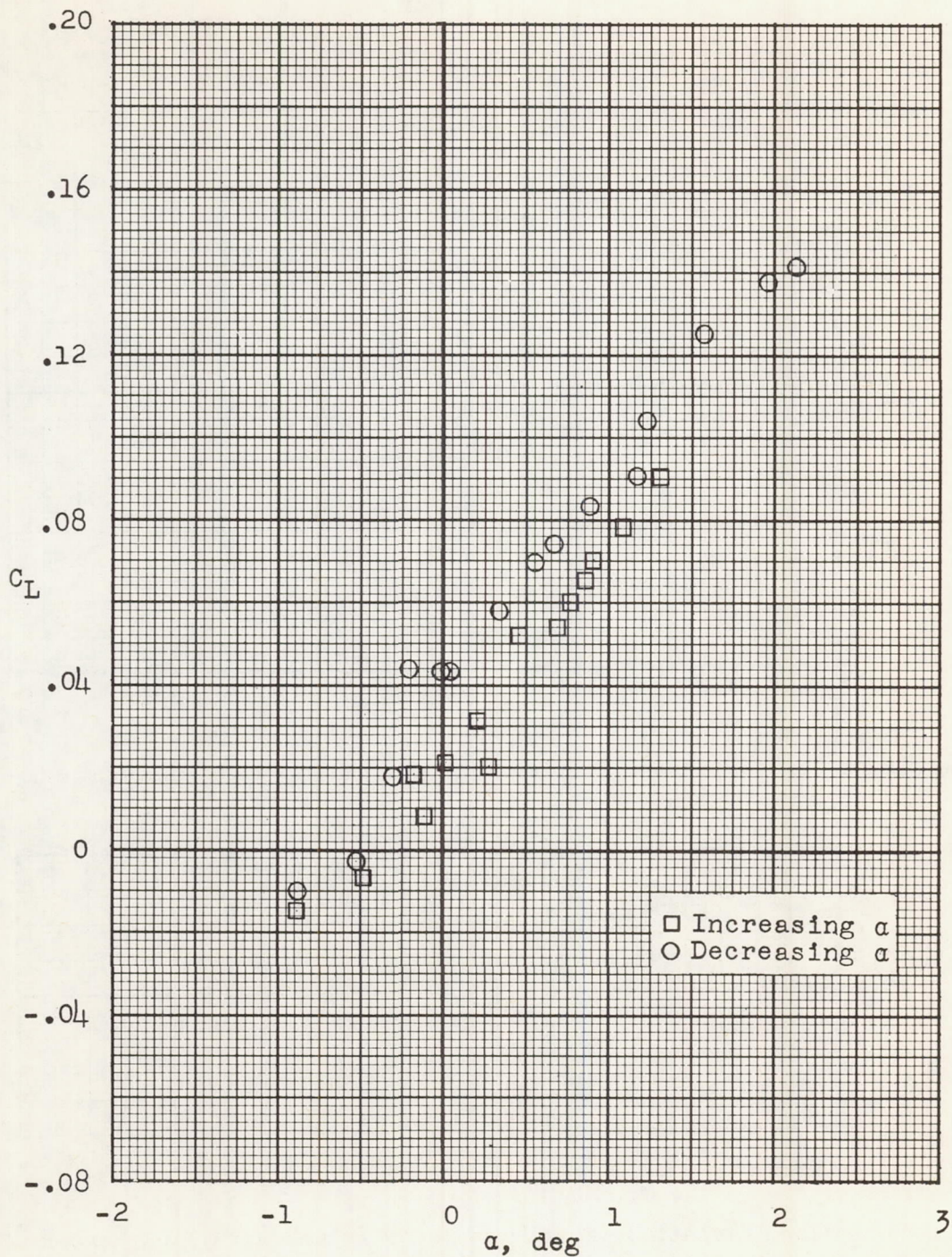
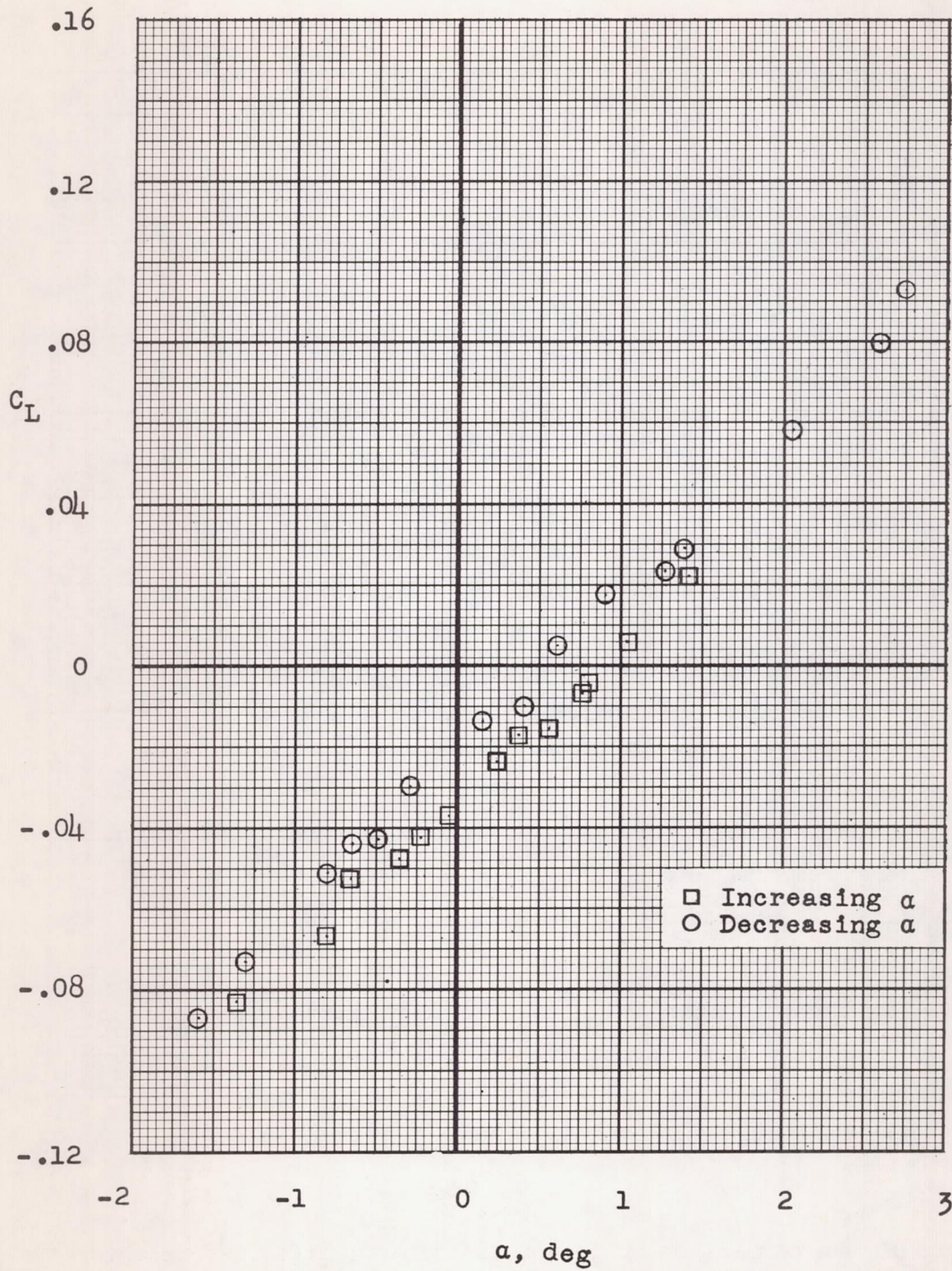


Figure 8.- Variation of trim angle of attack with Mach number.



(a) Variation of lift coefficient with angle of attack for jet-on flight at an average Mach number of 1.23.

Figure 9.- Lift coefficients obtained during the oscillating parts of the flight.



(b) Variation of lift coefficient with angle of attack for jet-off flight at an average Mach number of 1.31.

Figure 9.- Concluded.

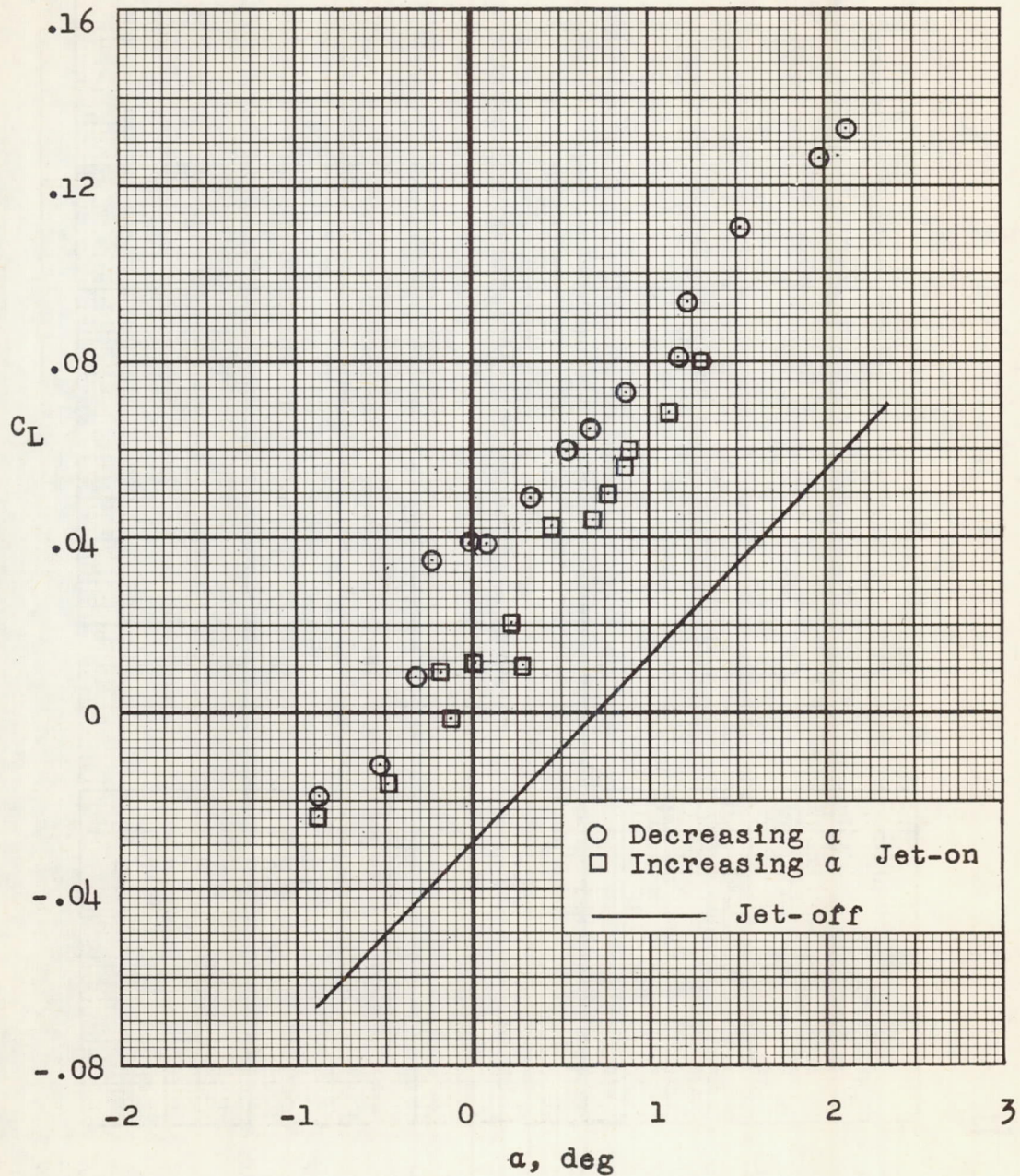


Figure 10.- A comparison of jet-on and jet-off lift coefficients at a Mach number of 1.23.

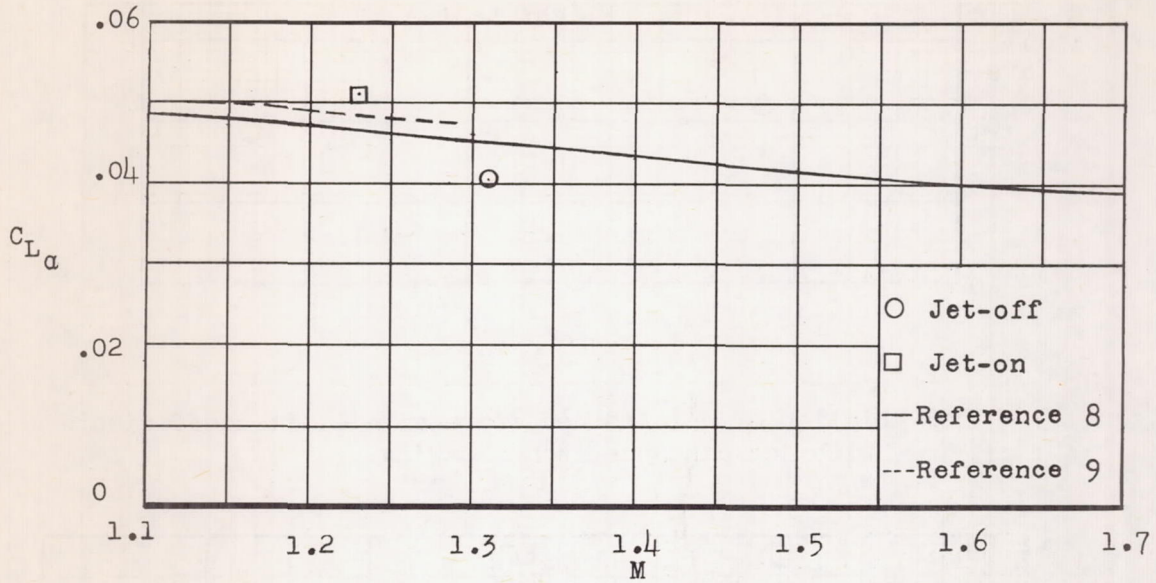


Figure 11.- Comparison of lift-curve slope with Mach number.

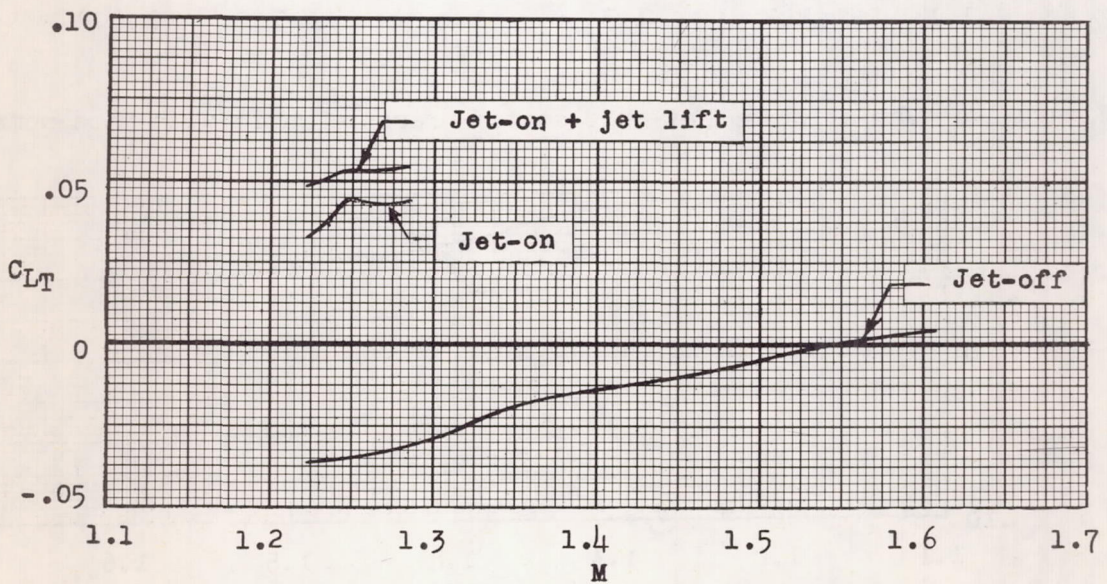


Figure 12.- Variation of trim lift coefficient with Mach number.

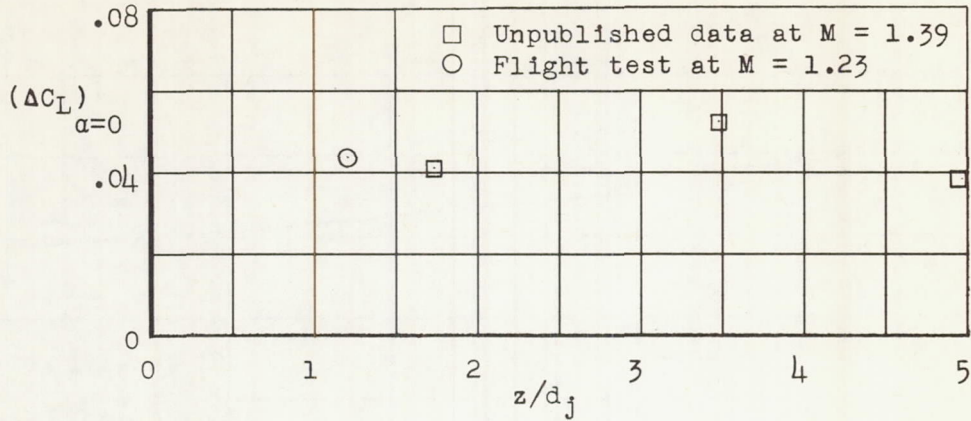


Figure 13.- The variation of jet-induced incremental lift coefficients with jet distance from the wing.

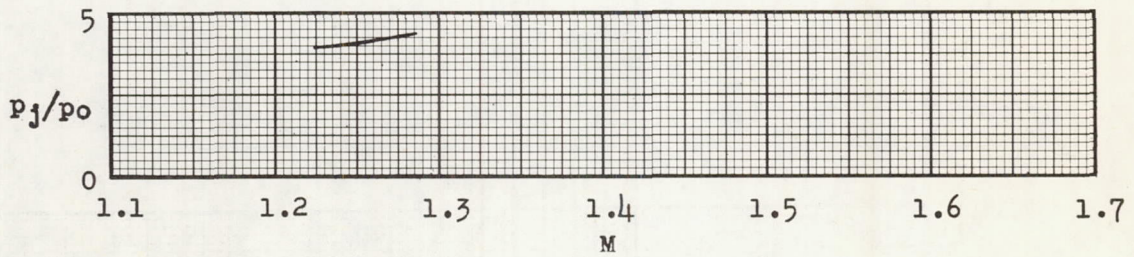


Figure 14.- Variation of jet-exit static-pressure ratio with Mach number.

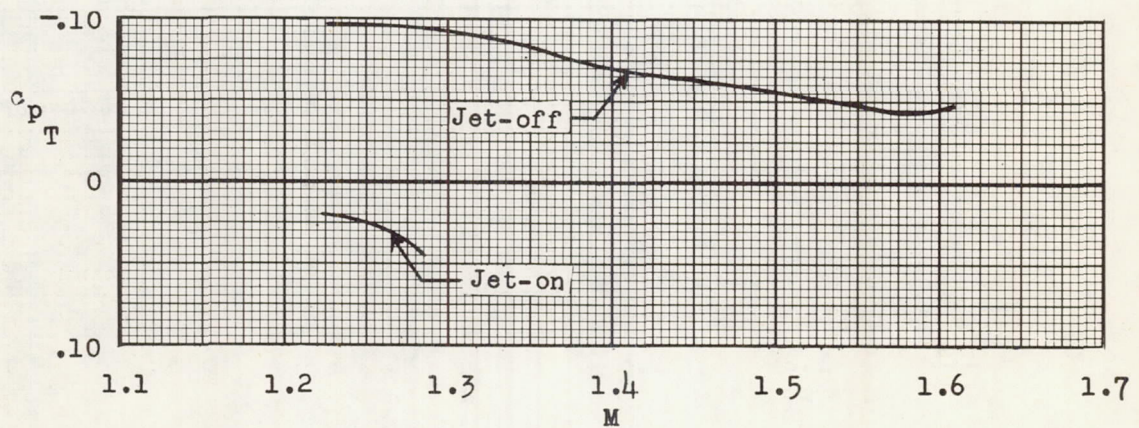
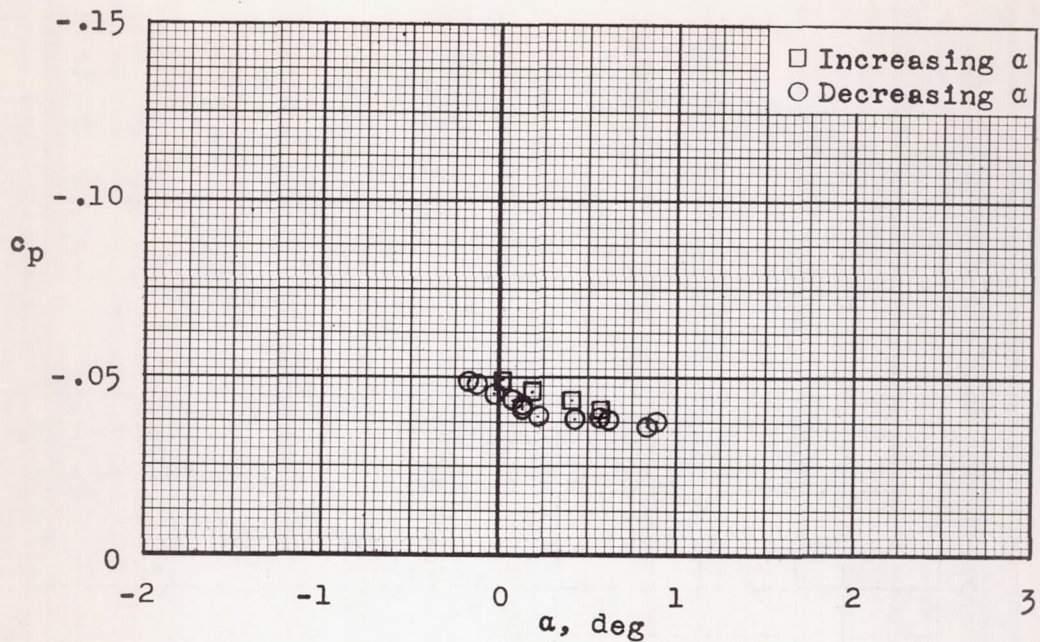
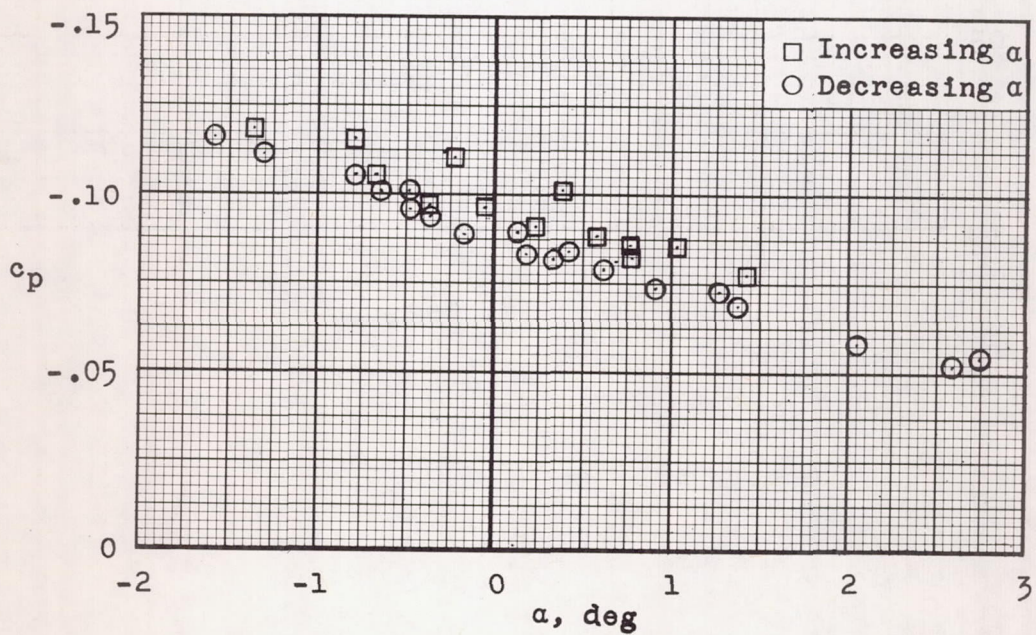


Figure 15.- Variation of wing static-pressure coefficient with Mach number at trim angle of attack.

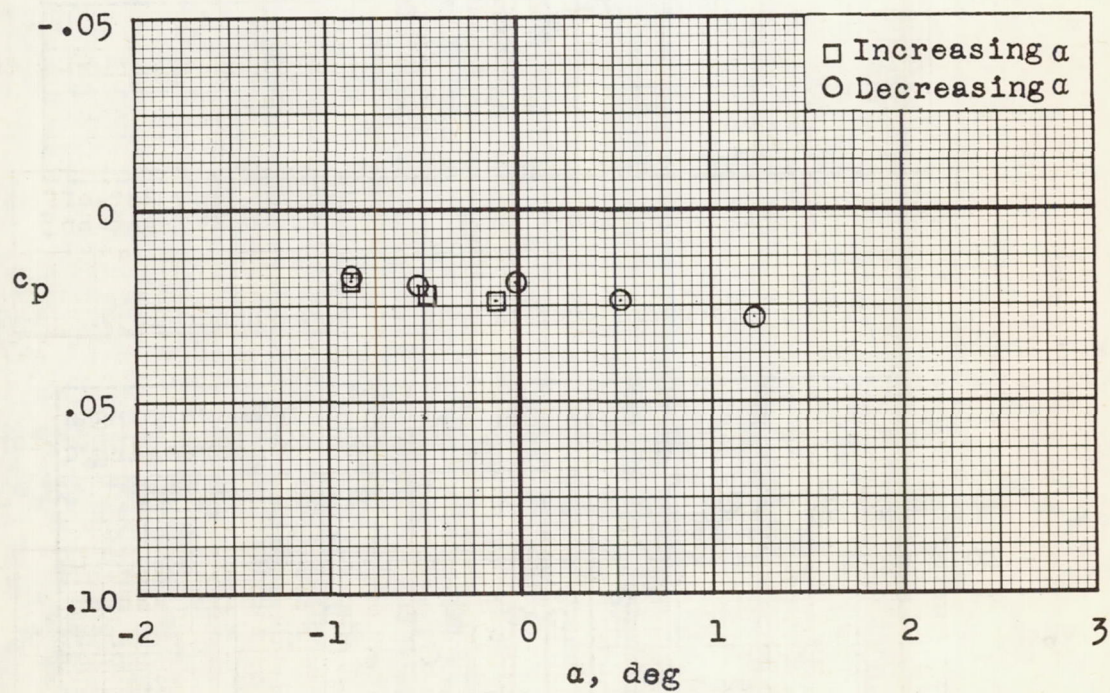


(a) Jet-off wing pressure coefficient at Mach number 1.59.



(b) Jet-off wing pressure coefficient at Mach number 1.31.

Figure 16.- Variation of wing static-pressure coefficient with angle of attack.



(c) Jet-on wing pressure coefficient at Mach number 1.23.

Figure 16.- Concluded.

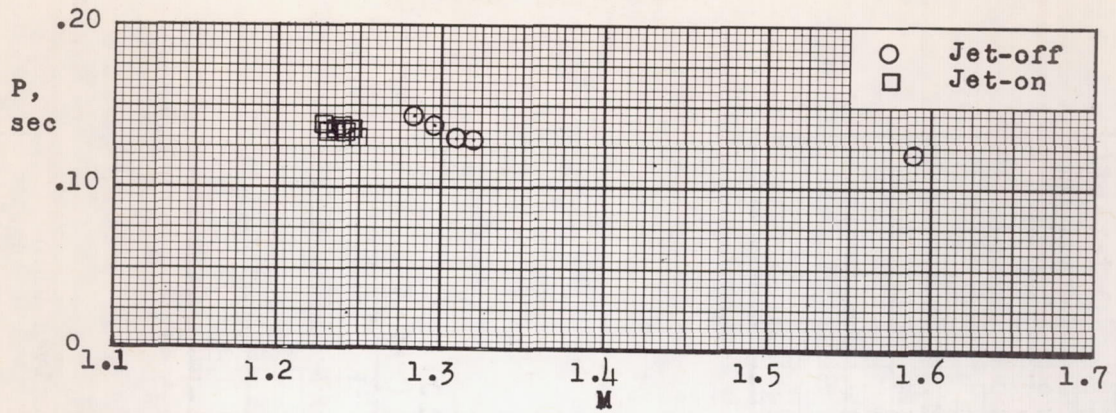


Figure 17.- Variation of the period of the short-period oscillation with Mach number for jet-on and jet-off flight.

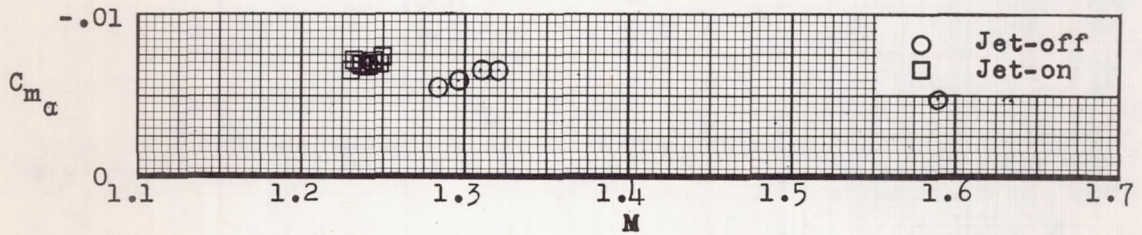


Figure 18.- Variation of static-stability derivative with Mach number for jet-off and jet-on flight.

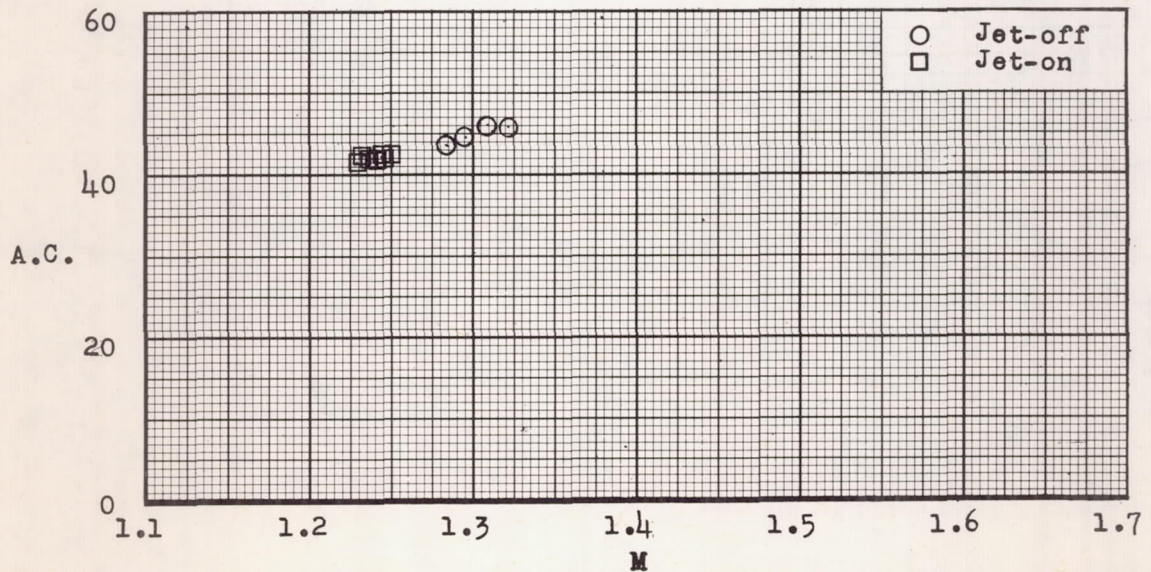


Figure 19.- Variation of aerodynamic-center location with Mach number for jet-off and jet-on flight.

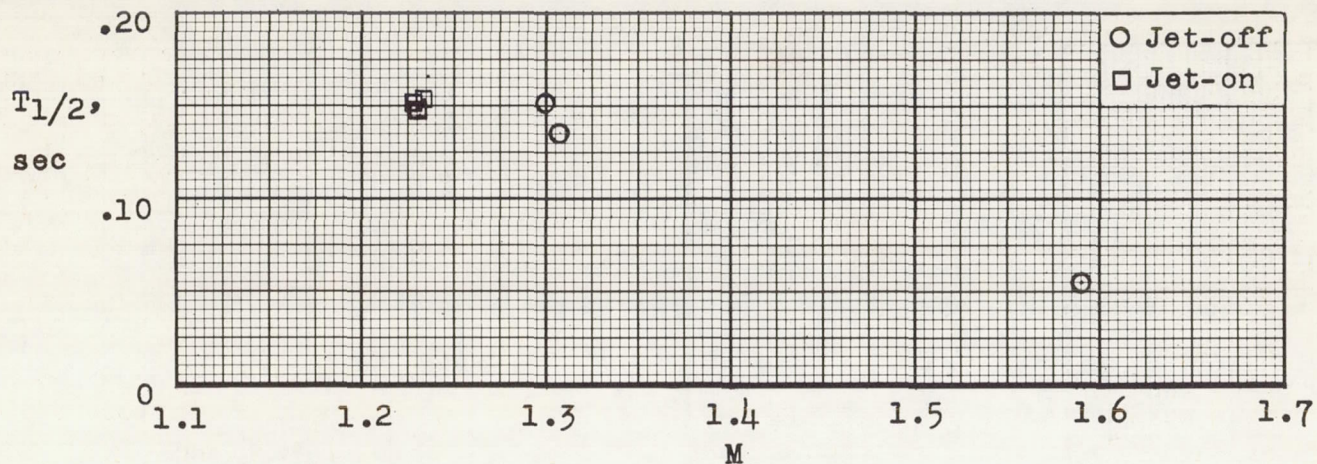


Figure 20.- Variation of time to damp to one-half amplitude for jet-on and jet-off flight.

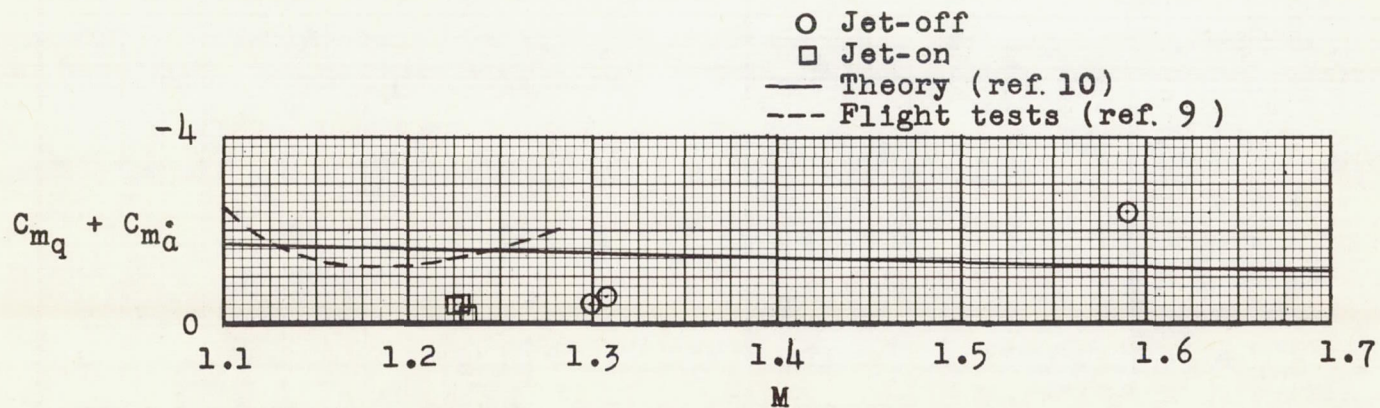


Figure 21.- Variation of jet-on and jet-off damping derivatives with Mach number.