NASA Technical Memorandum 4003

Low-Speed Wind-Tunnel Results for Symmetrical NASA LS(1)-0013 Airfoil

James C. Ferris, Robert J. McGhee, and Richard W. Barnwell

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Low-Speed Wind-Tunnel Results for Symmetrical NASA LS(1)-0013 Airfoil

James C. Ferris, Robert J. McGhee, and Richard W. Barnwell Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Scientific and Technical Information Office

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Summary

A wind-tunnel investigation was conducted in the Langley Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel to evaluate the performance of a symmetrical NASA LS(1)-0013 low-speed airfoil. The airfoil contour was obtained from the thickness distribution of a 13-percent-thick, high-performance airfoil developed for general aviation airplanes and is intended for use on the tail and other aerodynamic control surfaces. The tests were conducted at Mach numbers (M) from 0.10 to 0.37 over a Reynolds number (R) range from about 0.6×10^6 to 12.0×10^6 . The angle of attack varied from about -8° to 20° .

The results indicate that the aerodynamic characteristics of the present airfoil are similar to those of the NACA 0012 airfoil. The lift-curve slope at small angles of attack for the present airfoil is slightly larger than that for the NACA 0012, and the maximum lift coefficient is also larger for Reynolds numbers greater than about 4.0×10^6 . For smaller Reynolds numbers, the maximum lift coefficients for the two airfoils are about the same. The zero-lift drag coefficient with roughness applied is slightly greater for the present model for the test Reynolds numbers $(2.2 \times 10^6, 4.0 \times 10^6, \text{ and } 6.0 \times 10^6)$. The opposite trend was obtained for the airfoils without roughness. The stall characteristics of the present airfoil are of the turbulent or trailing-edge type. The stall angle of the present airfoil is 1° or 2° larger than that of the NACA 0012 airfoil. It is shown experimentally that about the same profile drag data are obtained with No. 80 and No. 90 grits for M = 0.15and $R = 4 \times 10^6$ and essentially the same zerolift drag coefficients are obtained for M = 0.15 and $R = 6 \times 10^6$ with No. 60, No. 80, No. 90, and No. 100 grits. The theoretical viscous analysis methods correctly predicted the lift, drag, and pitching-moment coefficients and chordwise pressure distributions for points at which the airfoil boundary layer is attached.

Introduction

Research on advanced technology airfoils has received considerable attention at the Langley Research Center in the last several years. Reference 1 reports the results for an initial thickness family of airfoils developed for low-speed general aviation application. These results show that the 13-percent-thick member of this airfoil family provides the best overall performance (maximum lift and lift-drag ratio). In this report, the basic low-speed characteristics for a symmetrical version of this airfoil are presented. This symmetrical airfoil is intended for use on the tail and other aerodynamic control. surfaces of general aviation airplanes. The first series of low-speed airfoils is designated in the form NASA LS(1)-xxxx, where LS(1) indicates low speed (1st series), the next two digits give the design lift coefficient in tenths, and the last two digits indicate the maximum thickness in percent chord. Consequently, the present 13-percent-thick symmetric airfoil is designated the NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil.

The investigation was performed in the Langley Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel at Mach numbers from 0.10 to 0.37. The chord Reynolds number varied from about 0.6×10^6 to 12.0×10^6 , and the geometric angle of attack varied from -8° to 20° .

Symbols

C_p	pressure coefficient, $\frac{p_L - p_{\infty}}{q_{\infty}}$
c	airfoil chord, in.
c _c	section chord-force coefficient, $\int C_p \ d(\frac{z}{c})$
c_d	section profile-drag coefficient, $\int_{Wake} c'_d \ d\left(rac{h}{c} ight)$
c'_d	point-drag coefficient (ref. 2)
c_l	section lift coefficient, $c_n \cos \alpha - c_c \sin \alpha$
<i>c_m</i> .	section pitching-moment coefficient about quarter-chord point, $-\int C_p \left(\frac{x}{c} - 0.25\right) d\left(\frac{x}{c}\right) + \int C_p \frac{z}{c} d\left(\frac{z}{c}\right)$
c_n	section normal-force coefficient, $-\int C_p \ d(\frac{x}{c})$
h	vertical distance in wake profile, in.
M	free-stream Mach number
p	static pressure, lb/ft ²
q	dynamic pressure, lb/ft^2
R	Reynolds number based on free-stream conditions and airfoil chord
t	airfoil thickness, in.
\boldsymbol{x}	airfoil abscissa, in.
z	airfoil ordinate, in.
z_t	mean thickness, in.
lpha	geometric angle of attack, deg

Subscripts:

L local point on airfoil

max	maximum		
0	zero lift		
∞	undisturbed stream		

Model, Apparatus, and Procedure

Model

The airfoil model consisted of a metal core with plastic fill to form the basic contour. (See table I.) Two thin layers of fiberglass were bonded to the plastic to form the smooth final surface. The contour of the airfoil is compared with that of the NACA 0012 airfoil in figure 1 and a comparison of the nondimensional thickness distributions of these airfoils is shown in figure 2. The model had a chord of 24 inches and a span of 36 inches. The model was equipped with both upper and lower surface orifices located 2 inches off the midspan. The airfoil surface was sanded in the chordwise direction with No. 400 dry silicon carbide paper to provide a smooth aerodynamic finish. The model contour accuracy was generally within ± 0.004 inch.

Wind Tunnel

The Langley Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel (ref. 3) is a closed-throat, single-return tunnel which can be operated at stagnation pressures from 1 to 10 atmospheres with wind-tunnel empty-test-section Mach numbers up to 0.42 and 0.22, respectively. The maximum unit Reynolds number per foot is about 15.0×10^6 at a Mach number of about 0.22. The tunnel test section is 3 feet wide by 7.5 feet high.

Hydraulically actuated circular plates provided positioning and attachment for the two-dimensional model. The plates are 40 inches in diameter, rotate with the airfoil, and are flush with the tunnel wall. The airfoil ends were attached to rectangular model attachment plates (fig. 3), and the airfoil was mounted so that the center of rotation of the circular plates was at 0.25c on the model reference line. The air gaps at the tunnel walls between the rectangular plates and the circular plates were sealed with flexible sliding metal seals shown in figure 3. Tunnel sidewall boundary-layer control was not available for this test.

Wake Survey Rake

A fixed wake survey rake (fig. 4) at the model midspan was cantilever mounted from the tunnel sidewall and located 1 chord behind the trailing edge of the airfoil. The wake rake utilized total-pressure tubes, 0.060 inch in diameter, and static-pressure tubes, 0.125 inch in diameter. The total-pressure tubes were flattened to 0.040 inch for 0.24 inch from the tip of the tube. The static-pressure tubes each had four flush orifices drilled 90° apart, longitudinally located 8 tube diameters from the tip of the tube, and radially located in and perpendicular to the measurement plane of the total-pressure tubes.

Instrumentation

Measurements of the static pressures on the airfoil surface and the wake rake pressures were made simultaneously by an automatic pressure-scanning system with variable-capacitance-type precision transducers. Basic tunnel pressures were measured with precision quartz manometers. Angle of attack was measured with a calibrated digital shaft encoder operated by a pinion gear and rack attached to the circular model attachment plates. Data were obtained by a high-speed acquisition system and recorded on magnetic tape.

Test and Methods

The airfoil was tested at Mach numbers from 0.10 to 0.37 over an angle-of-attack range from about -8° to 20° . Reynolds number based on the airfoil chord was varied from about 0.6×10^{6} to 12.0×10^{6} . The airfoil was tested both smooth (natural transition) and with roughness located on both upper and lower surfaces at 0.075c. In general, the roughness was sized for each Reynolds number according to reference 4; however, a limited roughness study was conducted to verify the appropriate roughness sizes. The roughness consisted of granular-type strips 0.05 inch wide, sparsely distributed, and attached to the airfoil surface with clear lacquer.

The static-pressure measurements at the airfoil surface were reduced to standard pressure coefficients and machine integrated to obtain section normal-force and chord-force coefficients and section pitching-moment coefficients about the quarterchord. The section profile-drag coefficient was computed from the wake-rake total and static pressures by the method reported in reference 2.

An estimate of the standard low-speed, windtunnel boundary corrections (ref. 5) amounted to a maximum of about 2 percent of the measured coefficients; therefore, these corrections have not been applied to the data.

Presentation of Results

The results of this investigation have been reduced to coefficient form and are presented in the following figures:

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Effect of Reynolds number on section	
characteristics for NASA LS(1)-0013	
airfoil at $M \leq 0.15$ with model	
smooth	5
Effect of Reynolds number on section	
characteristics for NASA LS(1)-0013	
airfoil at $M \leq 0.15$ with transition	
fixed at $0.075c$	6
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$R = 6.0 \times 10^6$	8
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Effect of angle of attack on pressure	
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and NACA 0012 airfoils at	
$R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition	
fixed at $0.075c$	20

Discussion of Results

Experimental Results

Airfoil smooth. Figure 5 shows that with the airfoil smooth (natural boundary-layer transition), a lift-curve slope of about 0.12 per degree was obtained at small angles of attack for all test Reynolds numbers. Maximum lift coefficients increased from about 1.0 to about 1.8 as the Reynolds number was increased from about 0.6×10^6 to 9.0×10^6 , and the angle of attack at which the maximum lift coefficient occurred increased from about 13° to about 19° over this Reynolds number range. No appreciable change is noted in the maximum lift coefficient or the angle of attack at which maximum lift occurs when the Reynolds number is increased above 9.0×10^6 . The stall characteristics of the airfoil are of the turbulent or trailing-edge type as shown by the lift data of figure 5 and the pressure data of figures 10, 11, and 12.

The pitching-moment coefficient data with the airfoil smooth (fig. 5) are generally insensitive to Reynolds numbers from about 2.0×10^6 to 12.0×10^6 . A decrease in Reynolds number below about 2.0×10^6 causes a positive increment in c_m for angles of attack greater than about 9°.

The profile-drag data of figures 5 and 19 show a reduction in the drag coefficient in the low drag range up to a Reynolds number of about 4×10^6 . The increase in drag at the higher Reynolds numbers is a result of the decrease in the extent of laminar flow on the model. The minimum drag coefficient measured was about 0.0056.

Roughness effect. The addition of roughness at 0.075c (figs. 6 and 7) had no appreciable effect on the lift curves for this airfoil for Reynolds numbers of 2.2×10^6 , 4.0×10^6 , and 6.0×10^6 at M = 0.15. The maximum lift coefficient was unaffected by the addition of roughness under these conditions. (See fig. 17.) The addition of roughness causes no appreciable change in the pitching-moment coefficient for M = 0.15 and Reynolds numbers of 2.2×10^6 , 4.0×10^6 , and 6.0×10^6 . The addition of roughness forces transition to turbulent flow at the chord station of 0.075c and thus increases the drag coefficient. This effect is particularly large in the range of lift coefficient between -0.3 and 0.3 where the extent of laminar flow on the smooth model can be appreciable.

An attempt has been made to determine to what extent the drag data is affected by roughness size. Figure 7(b) shows that about the same profile-drag data are obtained with No. 80 and No. 90 grits for M = 0.15 and $R = 4.0 \times 10^6$. It can be seen in figure 8 that essentially the same zero-lift drag coefficients are obtained for M = 0.15 and $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with No. 60, No. 80, No. 90, and No. 100 grits. For most general aviation applications, the drag data of most practical interest are thought to be those obtained with roughness applied since transition is usually fixed near the leading edge by construction roughness or insect remains gathered in flight. However, new structural materials and fabrication techniques would enable the use of laminar-flow airfoils on general aviation airplanes.

Mach number effects. Figure 9 shows that at a Reynolds number of 6.0×10^6 with transition fixed at 0.075*c*, the lift characteristics do not vary appreciably for Mach numbers below 0.20. The maximum lift coefficient and the angle of attack at which it occurs vary smoothly with Mach numbers from 0.20 to 0.37. This same Mach number increase results in a decrease of about 6° in the angle of attack for stall and a decrease in $c_{l,max}$ of about 0.50. For a Reynolds number of 6.0×10^6 with transition fixed at 0.075*c* (fig. 9), the pitching-moment coefficient is insensitive to Mach number change from 0.10 to 0.20. An increase in the Mach numbers above 0.20 causes a positive increment in c_m for angles of attack greater than about 8°.

Figure 9 shows that the profile-drag data for $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c are not affected appreciably by Mach numbers from 0.10 to 0.37 for lift coefficients between about -1 and 1. For larger lift coefficients, the general effect of increasing Mach number is to increase the drag coefficient.

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Pressure distributions. The chordwise pressure data of figures 10, 11, and 12 illustrate the effects of angle of attack for M = 0.15 and Reynolds numbers of 2.2×10^6 , 4.0×10^6 , and 6.0×10^6 , respectively, with transition fixed at 0.075c. The symmetry of the model is indicated by the coincidence of the upper and lower surface data for $\alpha = 0^\circ$ and the coincidence of the data from opposite surfaces of the airfoil for $\alpha = 4.0^\circ$ and -4.0° . The airfoil stall is of the turbulent or trailing-edge type and is reflected somewhat in the pressure distributions at the highest angles of attack.

Experimental and theoretical data predictions of the chordwise pressure distributions by the methods of references 6 and 7 are compared with the experimental data at M = 0.15 and $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ for angles of attack of 4° and 8° in figure 13. Both methods predict the pressure distribution well; however, there are some slight differences over the aft 20-percent chord.

Predictions of the aerodynamic characteristics by the viscous method of reference 6 are compared at a Mach number of 0.15 and Reynolds number of 4.0×10^6 in figure 14 with experimental results for angles of attack at which the flow is attached. The Reynolds number is increased to 6.0×10^6 in the data in figure 15, and predictions from reference 7 are also included. The theoretical methods predict the lift, drag, and pitching-moment data well over the range of angle of attack to 12° . The method of reference 7 predicts the drag coefficient somewhat low in the angle-of-attack range from 8° to 12° .

Comparison of NASA LS(1)-0013 With NACA 0012 Airfoil

The section characteristics of the NASA LS(1)-0013 and the NACA 0012 airfoils at M = 0.15 with transition fixed at 0.075c are compared in figure 16 for the Reynolds numbers 2.0×10^6 , 4.0×10^6 , and 6.0×10^6 . Both airfoils were tested in the Langley Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel. The lift-curve slope at small angles of attack for the NASA LS(1)-0013 is slightly larger, and the stall angle of attack for this airfoil is approximately 1° larger for Reynolds numbers of 2.0×10^6 and 4.0×10^6 and approximately 2° larger for the Reynolds number 6.0×10^6 .

The maximum lift coefficients for the two airfoils (fig. 17) are approximately the same for Reynolds numbers of about 4.0×10^6 and less. For larger Reynolds numbers, the maximum lift coefficient of the NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil is larger. For example, for M = 0.15 and $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c, the values of $C_{l,\max}$ for the NASA LS(1)-0013 and the NACA 0012 airfoils are about 1.75 and 1.65, respectively. The difference in $C_{l,\max}$ diminishes with increasing Mach number (fig. 18). Figure 16 also shows that the pitching-moment coefficient for the NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil is less than that for the NACA 0012 airfoil for all positive lift coefficients. In this range, the pitching-moment coefficient for the NASA LS(1)-0013 is zero or slightly negative, whereas that for the NACA 0012 is zero or slightly positive.

The section drag characteristics for the NASA LS(1)-0013 and the NACA 0012 airfoils at M = 0.15with transition fixed at 0.075c (fig. 16) are about the same for Reynolds numbers of 2.0×10^6 , 4.0×10^6 , and 6.0×10^6 . Figure 19 shows that the drag coefficient at zero lift for the NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15 with roughness applied is slightly greater than that for the NACA 0012 airfoil under similar conditions. The additional thickness of the LS(1)-0013 airfoil should cause the drag coefficient to be slightly higher. The opposite trend applies for the airfoils without roughness. This is a result of more laminar flow present on the LS(1)-0013 airfoil compared with that on the NACA 0012 airfoil. The zerolift drag coefficients of both airfoils with roughness applied are independent of Mach number over the test range (fig. 20).

Concluding Remarks

A wind-tunnel test has been conducted in the Langley Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel to evaluate the performance of a symmetrical NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil. The contour of this symmetrical airfoil was obtained from the thickness distribution of a 13-percent-thick, high-performance airfoil developed for general aviation airplanes. The tests were conducted at Mach numbers (M) from 0.10 to 0.37 over a Reynolds number (R) range from about 0.6×10^6 to 12.0×10^6 . The angle of attack varied from about -8° to 20° .

The results indicate that the aerodynamic characteristics of the present airfoil are similar to those of the NACA 0012 airfoil. The lift-curve slope for small angles of attack for the present airfoil is slightly larger; and the maximum lift coefficient for the present airfoil is larger for Reynolds numbers greater than about 4.0×10^6 . For smaller Reynolds numbers, the maximum lift coefficients for the two airfoils are about the same. The zero-lift drag coefficient with roughness applied is slightly greater for the present model for the test Reynolds numbers $(2.2 \times 10^6, 4.0 \times 10^6, \text{ and } 6.0 \times 10^6)$. This trend is consistent with the fact that the present airfoil is slightly thicker than the NACA 0012 airfoil. The opposite trend was obtained for the airfoils without roughness. This is a result of more laminar flow present on the LS(1)-0013 airfoil compared with that on the NACA 0012 airfoil. The stall characteristics of both airfoils are of the turbulent or trailing-edge type. The stall angle of the present airfoil is about 1° greater than that of the NACA 0012 airfoil for $R = 2.2 \times 10^6$ and 4.0×10^6 and about 2° greater for $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$. It was shown experimentally that about the same profiledrag data are obtained with No. 80 and No. 90 grit for M = 0.15 and $R = 4 \times 10^6$ and essentially the same zero-lift drag coefficients are obtained for M = 0.15and $R = 6 \times 10^6$ with No. 60, No. 80, No. 90, and No. 100 grits. The theoretical viscous analysis methods correctly predicted the lift, drag, and pitching-moment coefficients and chordwise pressure distribution when the airfoil boundary layer is attached.

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Upper surface		Lower surface		
x/c	z/c	x/c	z/c	
0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	
.00624	.01344	.00708	01435	
.01255	.01892	.01301	01938	
.01771	.02222	.01843	02283	
.02470	.02583	.02505	02612	
.03737	.03075	.03729	03080	
.04998	.03465	.04993	03462	
.06260	.03790	.06245	03788	
.07535	.04075	.07498	04070	
.10014	.04541	.10003	04543	
.15007	.05245	.14914	05241	
.19992	.05750	.19979	05755	
.25029	.06094	.24982	06102	
.30055	.06307	.29964	06316	
.34984	.06407	.34958	06428	
.40004	.06432	.39969	06453	
.45013	.06374	.44988	06388	
.50025	.06203	.50082	06209	
.55021	.05896	.54984	05905	
.60038	.05446	.59961	05459	
.65028	.04868	.64938	04885	
.70010	.04183	.69962	04196	
.75018	.03429	.74964	03441	
.80021	.02638	.79934	02654	
.85035	.01859	.84858	01891	
.90019	.01172	.90080	01165	
.95029	.00633	.94991	00618	
.98960	.00371	.99007	00358	
1.00000	.00302	1.00000	00302	

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Table I. Measured Coordinates for NASA LS(1)-0013 Airfoil



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End view, section A-A

Figure 3. Typical airfoil mounted in wind tunnel. All dimensions are in inches.



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Figure 4. Drawing of wake survey rake. All dimensions are in inches.







Figure 5. Concluded.

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Figure 7. Effect of roughness on section characteristics for NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15.

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No. 100 grit No. 80 grit No. 90 grit No. 60 grit Smooth .012 0 . 010 . 006 88. <u>8</u> . 002

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Figure 10. Effect of angle of attack on pressure distribution for NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15 and $R = 2.2 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c.



N. L. H. L. H.

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(b) $\alpha \ge 8.0^{\circ}$.

Figure 10. Concluded.



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Figure 11. Effect of angle of attack on pressure distribution for NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15 and $R = 4.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c.



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(b) $\alpha \ge 8.1^{\circ}$.

Figure 11. Concluded.



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Figure 12. Effect of angle of attack on pressure distribution for NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15 and $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c.



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(b) $\alpha \ge 8.0^{\circ}$.

Figure 12. Concluded.



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(a) $\alpha = 4^{\circ}$.

Figure 13. Comparison of experimental and theoretical chordwise pressure distributions for NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil at M = 0.15 and $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c.



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(b) $\alpha = 8^{\circ}$.

Figure 13. Concluded.









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Figure 17. Variation of maximum section lift coefficient with Reynolds number for NASA LS(1)-0013 and NACA 0012 airfoils at $M \leq 0.15$.

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Figure 18. Variation of maximum section lift coefficient with Mach number for NASA LS(1)-0013 and NACA 0012 airfoils at $R = 6.0 \times 10^6$ with transition fixed at 0.075c.

Airfoil





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National Aeronaulics and Space Administration	Report Docum	entation Page	9		
1. Report No. NASA TM-4003	2. Government Accessio	on No.	3. Recipient's Ca	talog No.	
4. Title and Subtitle Low-Speed Wind-Tunnel Results NASA IS(1) 0013 Airfoil		5. Report Date August 1987	7		
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A wind-tunnel test has been con the performance of a symmetri- airfoil. The airfoil contour was of performance airfoil developed f numbers from 0.10 to 0.37 ove The angle of attack varied fro characteristics of the present air airfoil.	nducted in the Lang cal NASA LS(1)-00 obtained from the t for general aviation r a Reynolds numb m about -8° to 20 foil are similar to, b	ley Low-Turbul 13 airfoil which hickness distrib airplanes. The er range from 0°. The results but slightly bett	ence Pressure ' is a 13-percen ution of a 13-p e tests were co about 0.6 × 1 s indicate that er than, those o	Tunnel to evaluate f(x) = 0 for $x = 0$	
NASA LS(1)-0013 airfoil Experimental		Unclassified -	Unlimited		
Low speed Reynolds number variation					
Symmetrical	20 Security Classif (of	bis page)	bject Category	02 22 Price	
Unclassified	Unclassified	mo page)	36	A03	

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