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EFFECT OF REYNOLDS NUMBER ON THE AERODYNAMIC STABILITY AND CONTROL CHARACTERISTICS OF A 55° CLIPPED-DELTA-WING ORBITER CONFIGURATION AT SUPERSONIC MACH NUMBERS

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16. Abstract

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The results indicate that for the Reynolds number range investigated, there are no Reynolds number effects on the longitudinal or lateral aerodynamic characteristics of either model with zero control deflections and only negligible effects with control deflections. The roll control is constant for both models with the possible exception of a slight increase with increases in Reynolds number up to 2.0×10^6 based on body length at the lower Mach numbers. This very small Reynolds number effect is much more apparent for the smaller model and disappears with increasing Mach and Reynolds numbers.

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A. B. Blair, Jr. Langley Research Center

SUMMARY

A wind-tunnel investigation has been conducted at Mach numbers from 1.60 to 4.63 for Reynolds numbers varying from approximately 0.8×10^6 to 10.0×10^6 based on body length to determine Reynolds number effect on the static longitudinal and lateral aero-dynamic stability and control characteristics of two scale models of the Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter.

The results indicate that for the Reynolds number range investigated, there are no Reynolds number effects on the longitudinal or lateral aerodynamic characteristics of either model with zero control deflections and only negligible effects with control deflections. The roll control is constant for both models with the possible exception of a slight increase with increases in Reynolds number up to 2.0×10^6 based on body length at the lower Mach numbers. This very small Reynolds number effect is much more apparent for the smaller model and disappears with increasing Mach and Reynolds numbers.

INTRODUCTION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is currently engaged in a study designed to develop a reusable space shuttle system capable of placing large payloads in near-Earth orbit economically. As part of this study, the Langley Research Center has conducted wind-tunnel investigations of various concepts. These investigations have encompassed the Mach number range from subsonic to hypersonic speeds. One of the questions generated during these investigations concerned the effect of Reynolds number on the aerodynamic characteristics of a space shuttle configuration. Since there were only limited variations in Reynolds number at supersonic speeds, it was believed that tests were needed to expand the Reynolds number range in an effort to determine a Reynolds number effect (if any). Limited Reynolds number data have been presented across the entire Mach number range in reference 1 whereas reference 2 presents data at supersonic speeds. The objective of the present paper is to present data showing Reynolds number effect on the static longitudinal and lateral aerodynamic characteristics of a typical orbiter configuration at supersonic speeds. The configuration selected for the investigation was a Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter design which had a low fineness-ratio body with a large base, a 55° clipped-delta wing, and a center-line vertical tail. Two models of different sizes with appropriately sized electrical strain-gage balances were used in order to expand the range of Reynolds numbers without losing data resolution. The investigation was conducted in the Langley Unitary Plan wind tunnel at Mach numbers from 1.60 to 4.63 for Reynolds numbers that varied from approximately 0.8×10^6 to 4.0×10^6 based on body length for the small model (0.00585 scale) and from 2.0×10^6 to 10.0×10^6 based on body length for the large model (0.0148 scale). The large-scale model was tested through a nominal angle-of-attack range from -2^0 to 31^0 . The smaller scale model was tested over an angle-of-attack range of -2^0 to 50° . Tests included the effect of Reynolds number on pitch- and roll-control effectiveness of the elevons.

SYMBOLS

The results of this investigation are presented as force and moment coefficients with the longitudinal characteristics referred to the body- and stability-axis system and the lateral characteristics referred to the body-axis system. The coefficients were based on model wing area, wing span, and body length; the moment reference point is located at 66.3-percent body length aft of the nose.

Measurements and calculations were made in U.S. Customary Units. The results are presented in the International System of Units (SI) with the equivalent values in U.S. Customary Units given parenthetically. (See ref. 3.)

b wing span, large model, 43.576 cm (17.156 in.); small model, 16.863 cm (6.639 in.)

CA

axial-force coefficient, $\frac{Axial force}{\alpha S}$

C_{A,b} base axial-force coefficient

$$C_{D}$$
 drag coefficient, $\frac{Drag}{qS}$

- C_{L} lift coefficient, $\frac{Lift}{qS}$
- $C_{L_{\sim}}$ lift-curve slope, per deg

c _l	rolling-moment coefficient, Rolling moment qSb
c _{loa}	rolling-moment coefficient due to aileron deflection, $\frac{\Delta C_l}{\Delta \delta_a}$, per deg
c _m	pitching-moment coefficient, $\frac{\text{Pitching moment}}{qSU}$
$c_{m_{\alpha}}$	slope of pitching-moment curve, $\frac{\partial C_m}{\partial \alpha} = \left(\frac{\partial C_L}{\partial \alpha}\right) \left(\frac{\partial C_m}{\partial L}\right)$, at trimmed conditions
c _{m_ðe}	pitch-control effectiveness of elevons at $\alpha = 0^{\circ}$, per degree of deflection for elevon deflections of 0° and -10°
C _N	normal-force coefficient, $\frac{\text{Normal force}}{qS}$
C _n	yawing-moment coefficient, <u>Yawing moment</u> qSb
c _Y	side-force coefficient, $\frac{\text{Side force}}{qS}$
L/D	lift-drag ratio
l	reference body length, large model, 60.960 cm (24.00 in.); small model, 24.089 cm (9.484 in.)
2'	Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter design body length
Μ	Mach number
q	free-stream dynamic pressure, N/m 2 (psf)
Rl	Reynolds number based on body length
S	wing area, large model, 0.09868 m ² (1.06228 ft ²); small model, 0.01541 m ² (0.16588 ft ²)
x _{ac} /l	aerodynamic-center location in percent body length from model nose ($\alpha \approx 0^{\circ}$)
α	angle of attack, deg
$\delta_{\mathbf{a}}$	aileron deflection, $\frac{\delta_{e,L} - \delta_{e,R}}{2}$, positive for right roll command, per deg

 δ_e pitch-control deflection of elevons (symmetric), $\frac{\delta_{e,L} + \delta_{e,R}}{2}$, negative with trailing edge up, deg

 $\delta_{e,L}$ left-elevon surface deflection angle (negative deflection, trailing edge up), deg

 $\delta_{e,R}$ right-elevon surface deflection angle (negative deflection, trailing edge up), deg

Subscripts:

0 at zero lift

ref reference

APPARATUS AND METHODS

Tunnel

The tests were conducted in both the low and high Mach number test sections of the Langley Unitary Plan wind tunnel, a variable-pressure, continuous-flow facility. The test sections are approximately 2.13 m (7 ft) long and 1.22 m (4 ft) square. The nozzles leading to the test sections are of the asymmetric sliding-block type. Use of nozzles of this type permits a continuous variation in Mach number from about 1.5 to 2.9 in the low Mach number test section and from about 2.3 to 4.7 in the high Mach number test section.

Model

Details of the Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter design and test models are presented in figure 1, in table I, and in references 1 and 2. Photographs of the test models are shown in figure 2. Two models of different sizes were tested: a 0.0148-scale (large) model and a 0.00585-scale (small) model. A limited comparison of the test models with the design model can be found in figures 3 and 4. This comparison indicates that the test models were accurately built and that model geometry difference should have little effect on the data. The basic configuration of the two models had a 55° clipped-delta wing and a center-line vertical tail. Symmetric deflections of the wing-mounted elevons produced pitch control, whereas differential deflections provided roll control. Three simulated rocket nozzles protruded from the base of the large model with the inner portion removed for sting clearance. The smaller model had no nozzles. Unless otherwise indicated, all configurations in this report had zero control deflections and a full-span unflared rudder.

Test Conditions

Mach	Model	Stagn tempe:	ation rature	Stagnation pressure		Stagnation pressure Unit Reynolds number				Stagnation pressure Unit Reynolds number			
number		K	٥F	kN/m ²	psfa	per m	per ft	C .					
1.60	Large	339	150	27.29	570	$3.28 imes 10^6$	1.00×10^{6}	$2.0 imes 10^6$					
]	339	150	54.63	1 14 1	6.56	2.00	4.0					
)	339	150	81.92	1711	9.84	3.00	6.0					
		339	150	109.22	2 281	13.12	4.00	8.0					
	Small	339	150	27.29	570	$3.28 imes 10^6$	$1.00 imes 10^6$	$0.8 imes 10^6$					
		339	150	69.09	1443	8.30	2.53	2.0					
		339	150	138.18	2 886	16.60	5.06	4.0					
2.86	Large	339	150	49.22	1 0 2 8	3.28×10^6	1.00×10^{6}	$2.0 imes 10^6$					
ļ		339	150	98.44	2 0 5 6	6.56	2.00	4.0					
		339	150	147.66	3 084	9.84	3.00	6.0					
[(339	150	196.88	4 112	13.12	4.00	8.0					
		339	150	246.10	5 140	16.40	5.00	10.0					
	Small	339	150	49.22	1 0 2 8	$3.28 imes 10^6$	$1.00 imes 10^6$	$0.8 imes 10^6$					
	[339	150	124.54	2 601	8.30	2.53	2.0					
		339	150	249.07	5 202	16.60	5.06	4.0					
4.63	Large	352	175	126.31	2638	$3.28 imes 10^6$	1.00×10^{6}	$2.0 imes 10^6$					
		352	175	252.57	5 275	6.56	2.00	4.0					
		352	175	378.88	7913	9.84	3.00	6.0 ·					
		352	175	505.19	10 551	13.12	4.00	8.0					
		352	175	631.45	13 188	16.40	5.00	10.0					
	Small	352	175	126.31	2638	3.28×10^6	$1.00 imes 10^6$	$0.8 imes 10^6$					
		352	175	319,51	6673	8.30	2.53	2.0					
		352	175	639.06	13 347	16.60	5.06	4.0					

Tests were performed at the following tunnel conditions:

The large model was limited in angle of attack and unit Reynolds number at M = 1.60 to prevent balance overloads.

The dewpoint temperature measured at stagnation pressure was maintained below 239 K (-30° F) to insure negligible condensation effects. All tests were performed with boundary-layer transition strips (located by measuring streamwise) on the fuselage 3.05 cm (1.20 in.) aft of the nose and on both sides of each wing and vertical tail 1.02 cm (0.40 in.) aft of the leading edges. For M = 1.60 and 2.86, the transition strips were

approximately 0.157 cm wide (0.062 in.) and were composed of number 50 sand grains sprinkled in acrylic plastic. For M = 4.63, the transition strips were composed of number 40 sand grains. The grain size and location of the strips were determined according to the recommendations of reference 4.

Measurements

Aerodynamic forces and moments were measured by means of a six-component electrical strain-gage balance housed within each of the models. Each model had an appropriately sized balance which was selected to insure that good data resolution could be obtained (for example, full-balance output). The balance in each model was rigidly fastened to a sting support system. Balance-chamber pressures were measured by means of a single static-pressure orifice located in the vicinity of the balance. In addition, pressure measurements were made at the fuselage bases of both models and at the engine nozzles of the larger model.

Corrections

Angles of attack have been corrected for tunnel-flow misalinement. Angles of attack and sideslip have been corrected for deflection of the sting and balance because of aerodynamic loads. The drag results have been adjusted to correspond to free-stream static-pressure conditions at the base of the models. Typical values of base axial-force coefficients are presented in figure 5.

Presentation of Results

An outline of the data figures follows.

	Figure
Effect of Reynolds number variation on longitudinal aerodynamic	
characteristics:	
Large model; $\delta_e = 0^{\circ}$	6
Small model; $\delta_e = 0^{\circ}$	7
Large model; $\delta_e = -10^{\circ}$	8
Small model; $\delta_e = -10^\circ$	9
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Effect of Reynolds number variation on lateral aerodynamic characteristics:	
Large model; $\delta_e = 0^0$	13
Small model; $\delta_e = 0^\circ$	14

Figure

Large model;	$\delta_{e,L} = 10^{\circ}$	$\delta_{e,R} = -10^{\circ}$	•	•	•			•								•	•			•	15
Small model;	$\delta_{e,L} = 10^{\circ};$	$\delta_{e,R} = -10^{\circ}$	•	•	•	 •	•	•	• •		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	16
Large model;	$\delta_{e,L} = 0^{0};$	$\delta_{e,R} = -30^{\circ}$	•	•	•	 •	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	17
Small model;	$\delta_{e,L} = 0^{0};$	$\delta_{e,R} = -30^{\circ}$	•	•	•	 •	•	•	•••	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	18
Summary of roll	-control cha	racteristics	•	•		 •	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	19

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Longitudinal Aerodynamic Characteristics

The longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics of the large and small models with elevon pitch-control deflections are presented in figures 6 to 11. Figure 12 presents a summary plot obtained from these figures. Included in figure 12 are the longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics as a function of R_{l} for both models at low angles of attack $(\alpha \approx 0^{\circ})$ and for a flight α -schedule ($\alpha = 7.0^{\circ}$, 12.0°, and 27.0° for M = 1.60, 2.86, and 4.63, respectively; ref. 1) of a typical space shuttle orbiter entering the atmosphere of the Earth. For the Reynolds number range investigated, there is no apparent Reynolds number effect on the longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics of the models at $\alpha \approx 0^{\circ}$ (fig. 12(a)). For the flight α -schedule (fig. 12(b)), there are small R₁ effects on the parameters shown; these effects are more pronounced for the smaller model at M = 1.60, but disappear above $R_1 = 2.0 \times 10^6$. In addition, there appears to be a small increment in data levels between the two models. The increment may be caused by the differences in the geometry of the model bases (for example, no simulated nozzles on smaller model) and by the extent of boundary-layer flow separation ahead of the elevons for each of the models. The flight α -schedule data for each of the models were obtained from figures 8 and 9 ($\delta_e = -10^{\circ}$). Although several other Mach numbers (M = 2.00, 2.40, and 3.95) were investigated, data at these Mach numbers are not included since the trends with Reynolds number change are similar to those described in the previous paragraph.

Lateral Aerodynamic Characteristics

The lateral aerodynamic characteristics of the large and small models with asymmetric elevon roll-control deflections are presented in figures 13 to 18. For $\delta_e = 0^0$ (figs. 13 and 14), there is no Reynolds number effect on the lateral aerodynamic characteristics. In figures 15 and 16 ($\delta_{e,L} = 10^0$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -10^0$ for the large and small models, respectively), the rolling-moment coefficient produced by either model is constant with the possible exception of a very small Reynolds number effect at M = 1.60; the effect is more apparent for the smaller model. For example, in figure 16, a small

Reynolds number effect exists at the lower angles of attack but disappears with increasing Mach number and Reynolds number. Similar results can also be seen in figure 18 for the small model. The accompanying yawing moments from the elevon roll-control deflections of both models are not affected by the Reynolds number variations. A summary of the roll-control characteristics $(C_{l_{\delta_a}})$ as a function of R_l for both models at $\alpha \approx 0^{\circ}$ and for the flight α -schedule is presented in figure 19. For the small model at $\alpha \approx 0^{\circ}$, there is a slight increase in roll control with increases in R_l up to 2.0×10^6 at the lower Mach numbers. A similar roll-control increase can be seen for the flight α -schedule with the small model at maximum roll deflection.

Figure 19 also shows a small variation in roll-control levels between the two models at M = 1.60 for their maximum roll-control deflections ($\delta_{e,L} = 0^0$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -30^{\circ}$); this variation disappears with increasing Mach number. It is believed that this variation is primarily the result of two factors: first, there were differences in the base geometries of the models (as discussed earlier); the second factor could be a difference in the extent of boundary-layer flow separation ahead of the elevons for the two models.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

A wind-tunnel investigation has been conducted at Mach numbers from 1.60 to 4.63 for Reynolds numbers varying from approximately 0.8×10^6 to 10.0×10^6 based on body length to determine Reynolds number effect on the static longitudinal and lateral aero-dynamic stability and control characteristics of two scale models of the Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter.

The results indicate that for the Reynolds number range investigated, there are no Reynolds number effects on the longitudinal or lateral aerodynamic characteristics of either model with zero control deflections and only negligible effects with control deflections. The roll control is constant for both models with the possible exception of a slight increase with increases in Reynolds number up to 2.0×10^6 based on body length at the lower Mach numbers. This very small Reynolds number effect is much more apparent for the smaller model and disappears with increasing Mach and Reynolds numbers.

Langley Research Center National Aeronautics and Space Administration Hampton, Va. 23665 March 29, 1976

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TABLE I. - GRUMMAN H-33 SPACE SHUTTLE ORBITER AERODYNAMICCOEFFICIENT REFERENCE DIMENSIONS (DESIGN)

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Reference theoretical wing area, S_{ref} , m^2 (ft ²)	449.6	(4840)
Reference body length, $l_{ref} = l'$, m (ft)	41.15	(135)
Reference theoretical wing span, $b_{ref} = b, m$ (ft)	28.8	(94.5)

.

.



Figure 1.- Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter design model. All dimensions are in percent body length.



Figure 2.- Model photographs.



(b) Small model.



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Figure 3.- Comparison of 61-cm (24-in.) test model built by Grumman Aerospace Corporation with Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter, 0.0148 scale.





with Grumman H-33 space shuttle orbiter, 0.00585 scale.













Figure 6.- Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_e = 0^0$.



(a) Continued.Figure 6. - Continued.





Figure 6. - Continued.



Figure 6. - Continued.



(b) Continued.Figure 6.- Continued.



(b) Concluded.

Figure 6.- Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 6. - Continued.



(c) Continued. Figure 6.- Continued.



(c) Concluded.

Figure 6. - Concluded.



Figure 7.- Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_e = 0^{\circ}$.



(a) Continued.

Figure 7.- Continued.



(a) Concluded.

Figure 7. - Continued.



Figure 7.- Continued.



(b) Continued.

Figure 7. - Continued.

.



(b) Concluded. Figure 7.- Continued.


Figure 7. - Continued.



(c) Continued.Figure 7. - Continued.



Figure 7. - Concluded.



Figure 8. - Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_e = -10^{\circ}$.



Figure 8. - Continued.

39



(a) Concluded.

Figure 8. - Continued.



Figure 8. - Continued.



(b) Continued.





(b) Concluded.

Figure 8. - Continued.



Figure 8.- Continued.



Figure 8. - Continued.



(c) Concluded.

Figure 8. - Concluded.



Figure 9.- Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_e = -10^{\circ}$.



(a) Continued.

Figure 9. - Continued.



(a) Concluded.

Figure 9. - Continued.



Figure 9.- Continued.



Figure 9. - Continued.



(b) Concluded.

Figure 9. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 9. - Continued.



(c) Continued. Figure 9.- Continued.



(c) Concluded.

Figure 9. - Concluded.



Figure 10. - Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_e = -30^{\circ}$.



Figure 10. - Continued.

57



(a) Concluded. Figure 10. - Continued.



(b) M = 2.86.

Figure 10. - Continued.







(b) Concluded.

Figure 10. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 10. - Continued.



(c) Continued. Figure 10. - Continued.



Figure 10. - Concluded.



Figure 11.- Effect of Reynolds number on longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_e = -30^{\circ}$.



(a) Continued.

Figure 11. - Continued.



(a) Concluded.

Figure 11. - Continued.



Figure 11. - Continued.



Figure 11.- Continued.



(b) Concluded. Figure 11. - Continued.


(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 11. - Continued.



(c) Continued.

Figure 11. - Continued.



(c) Concluded.

Figure 11. - Concluded.



Figure 12. - Summary of longitudinal aerodynamic characteristics.



(b) Flight α -schedule for nominal operational high cross-range mission. (See ref. 1.)

Figure 12. - Concluded.



Figure 13. - Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_e = 0^0$.



Figure 13. - Continued.







Figure 14.- Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_e = 0^0$.



Figure 14. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 14. - Concluded.



Figure 15.- Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_{e,L} = 10^{\circ}$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -10^{\circ}$.



Figure 15. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 15. - Concluded.



Figure 16.- Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_{e,L} = 10^{\circ}$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -10^{\circ}$.





Figure 16. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 16.- Concluded.



Figure 17.- Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Large model; $\delta_{e,L} = 0^{\circ}$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -30^{\circ}$.



(b) M = 2.86.

Figure 17. - Continued.



Figure 17. - Concluded.



Figure 18.- Effect of Reynolds number on lateral aerodynamic characteristics. Small model; $\delta_{e,L} = 0^{0}$ and $\delta_{e,R} = -30^{0}$.





Figure 18. - Continued.



(c) M = 4.63.

Figure 18. - Concluded.



Figure 19.- Summary of roll-control characteristics.



(b) Flight α -schedule for nominal operational high cross-range mission. (See ref. 1.)

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