
Aerodynamics: Some Introductory Thoughts

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Some Historical Examples



- *Douglas DC-3*
- 1930's aircraft
- Low-speed subsonic
 - ✱ Aircraft would not have existed without knowledge of low-speed aerodynamics

Some Historical Examples



- *Boeing 707*
- 1950's aircraft
- High-speed subsonic
 - ✱ A revolution in air travel
 - ✱ Subsonic aerodynamics

Some Historical Examples



● *Bell X-1*

● 1950's aircraft

● First transonic aircraft

✱ Transonic aerodynamics

Some Historical Examples



- *Lockheed F-104*
- 1950's aircraft
- First Supersonic aircraft

Some Historical Examples

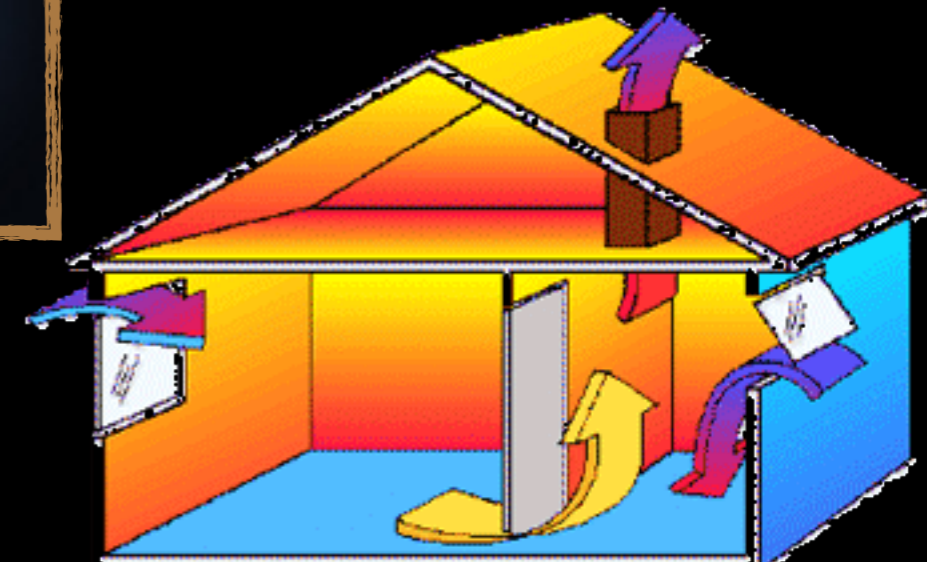
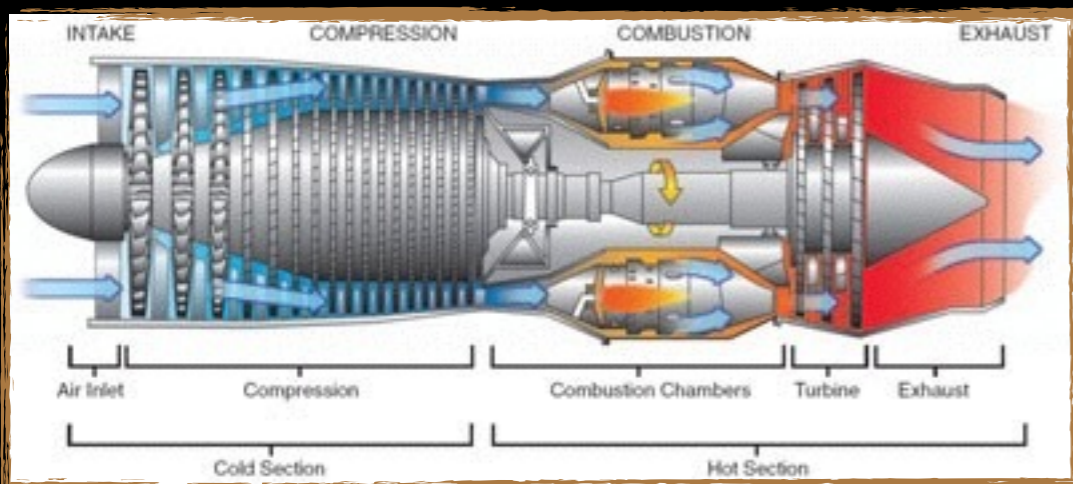
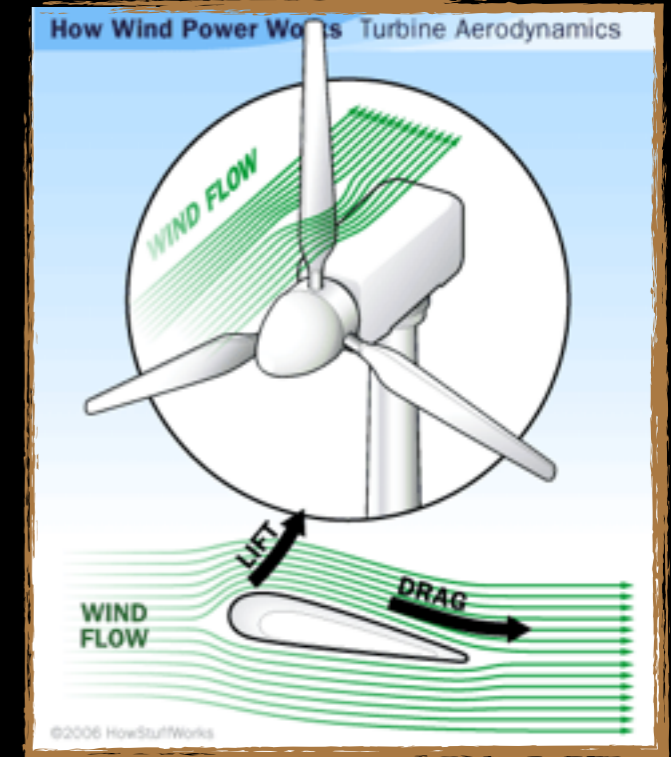
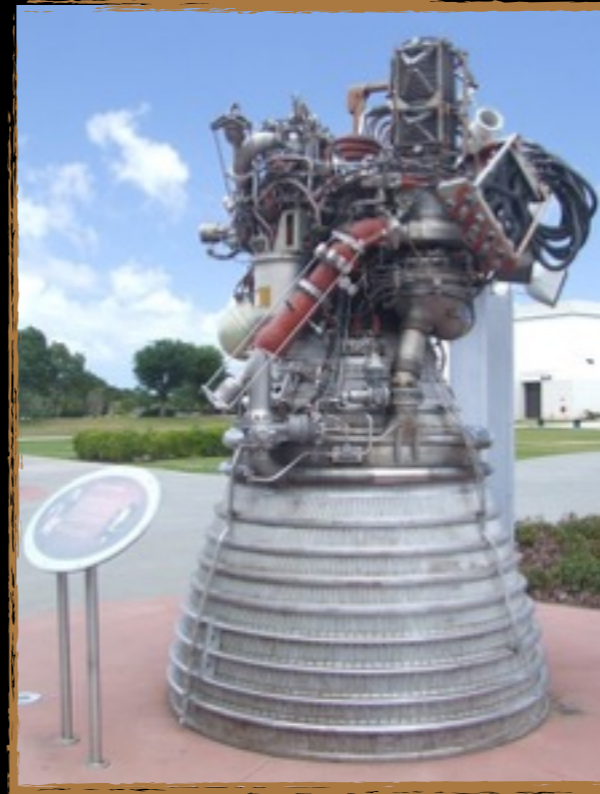


- *Lockheed F-22 Raptor*
- Modern aircraft, supersonic

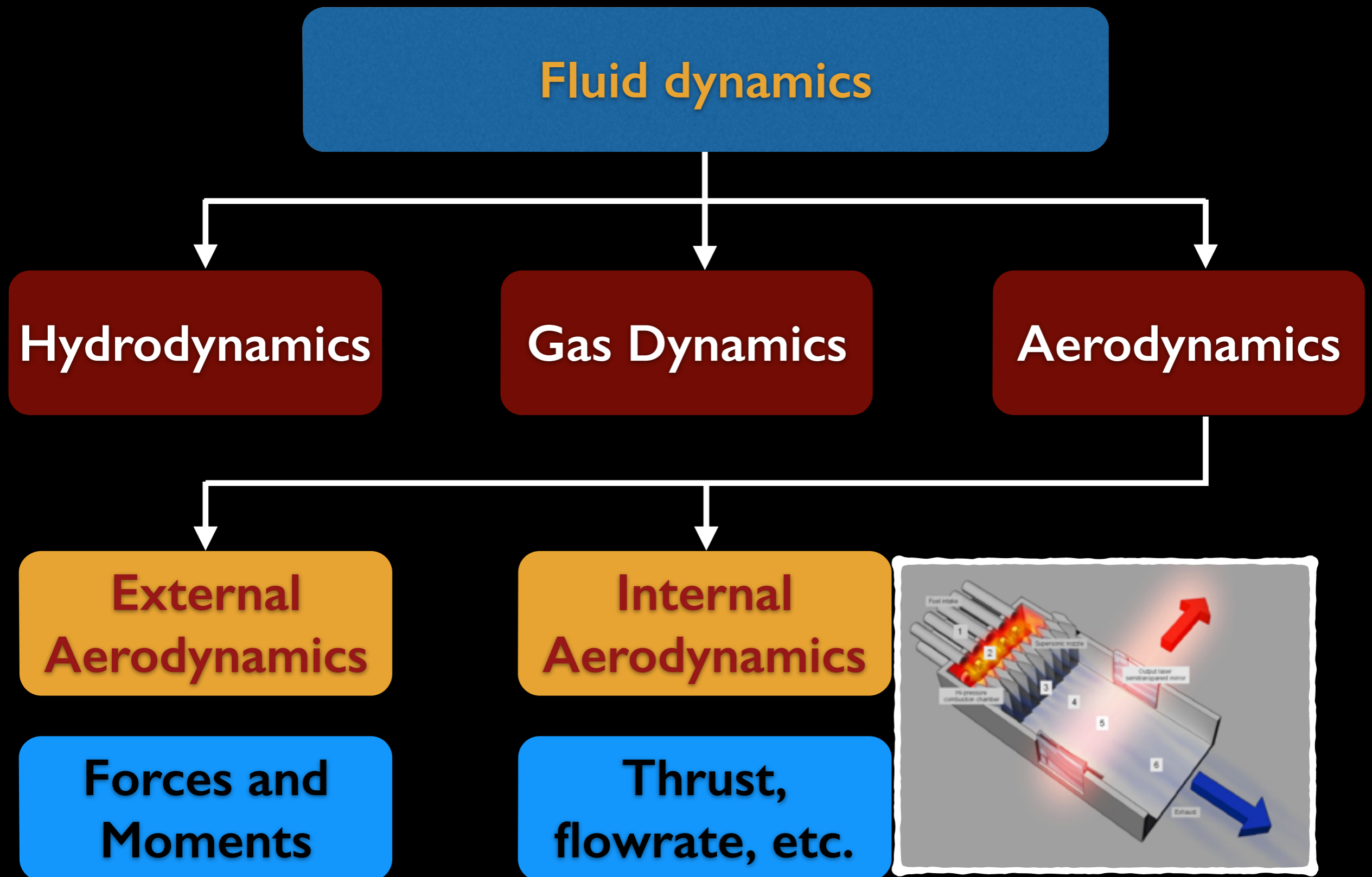


- *Lockheed F-35B VTOL*
- Modern aircraft, supersonic

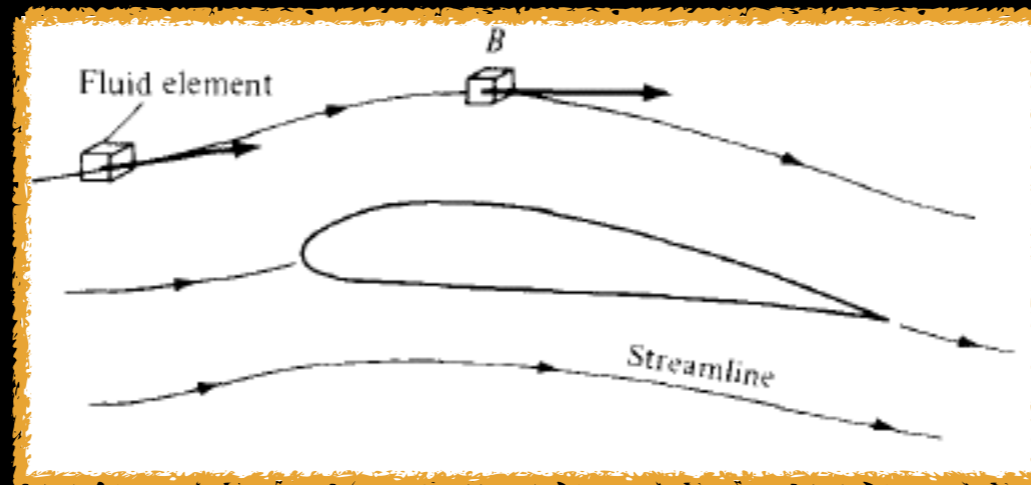
Other Examples of Aerodynamics



Classification and Objectives



Fundamental Aerodynamic Variables

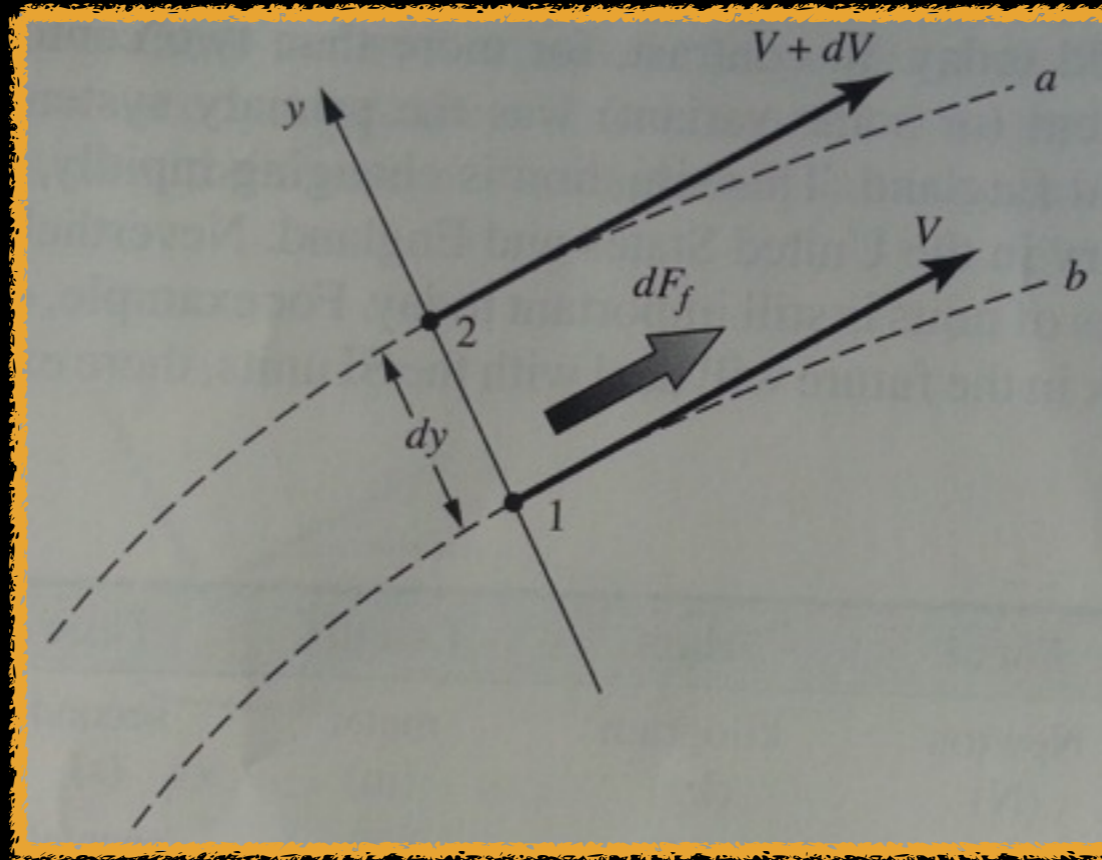


$$p = \lim \left(\frac{dF}{dA} \right) ; dA \rightarrow 0$$

$$\rho = \lim \left(\frac{dm}{dv} \right) ; dv \rightarrow 0$$

$$T = \frac{2}{3k} KE$$

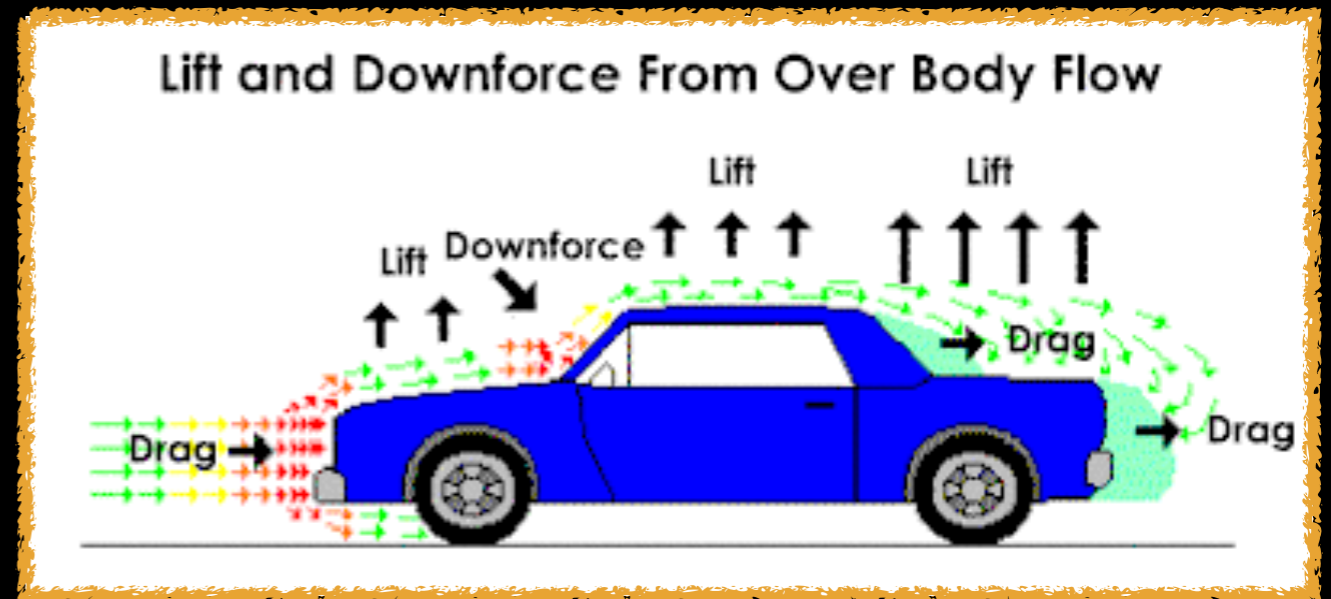
Fundamental Aerodynamic Variables



$$\tau = \lim \left(\frac{dF_f}{dA} \right) ; dA \rightarrow 0$$

$$\tau = \mu \frac{dV}{dy}$$

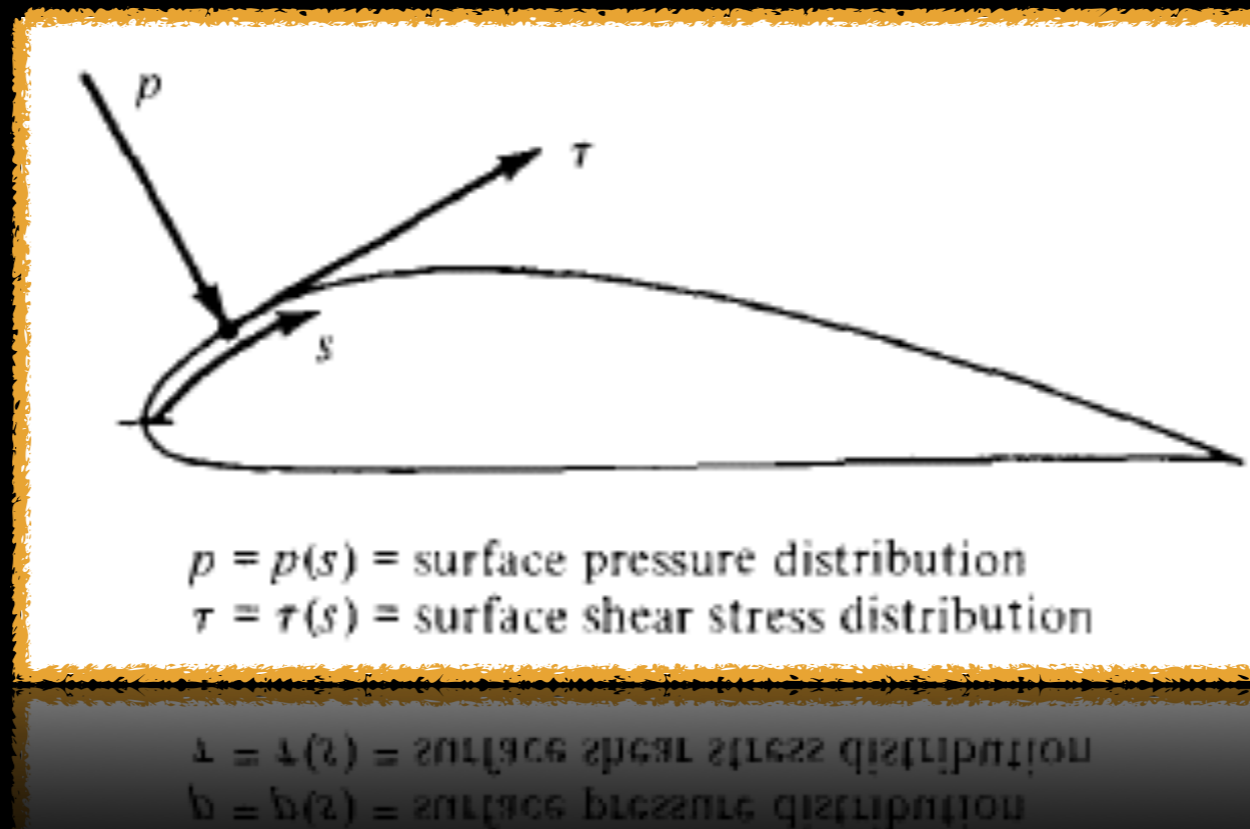
Aerodynamic Forces and Moments



- *Generation of aerodynamic forces on a 747 may seem very complex: wings, fuselage, engine nacelles, tail, etc.*
- *Aerodynamic forces on an automobile on a highway: complex interaction of the body, air and ground.*

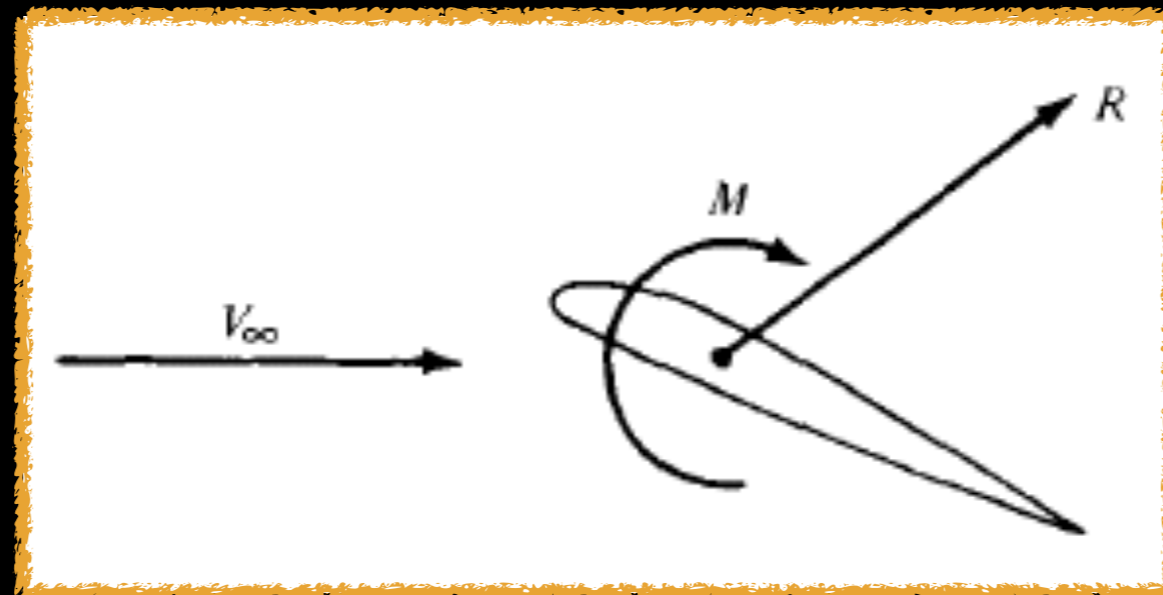
Two basic sources: *Pressure & shear stress distribution*

Aerodynamic Forces and Moments



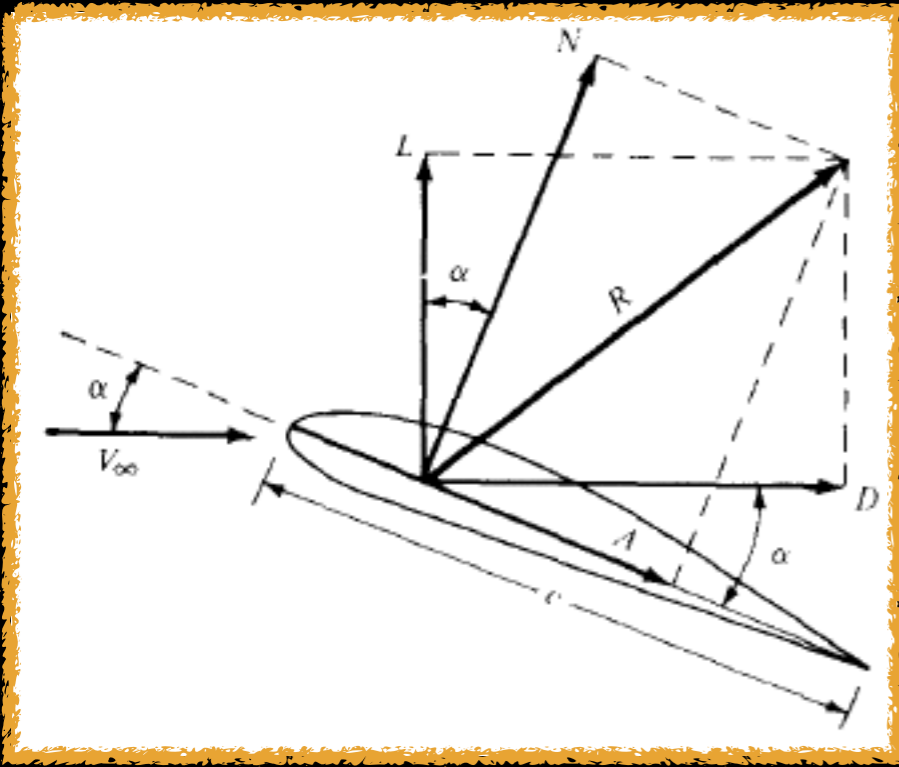
- *Only mechanisms nature has for communicating a force to body is through pressure and shear stress distributions.*
- Pressure acts normal to the surface; Shear stress acts tangential to the surface.

Aerodynamic Forces and Moments



- The net effect of pressure and shear stress distributions integrated over the complete body surface results in: **R & M**
- **R** : Aerodynamic force; **M** : moment on the body

Aerodynamic Forces and Moments



- R can be split into two components
- L : *Lift* - component of R normal to V_{inf}
- D : *Drag* - component of R parallel to V_{inf}
- $Chord\ c$: linear distance from LE to TE

● N : *Normal force* - component of R normal to c

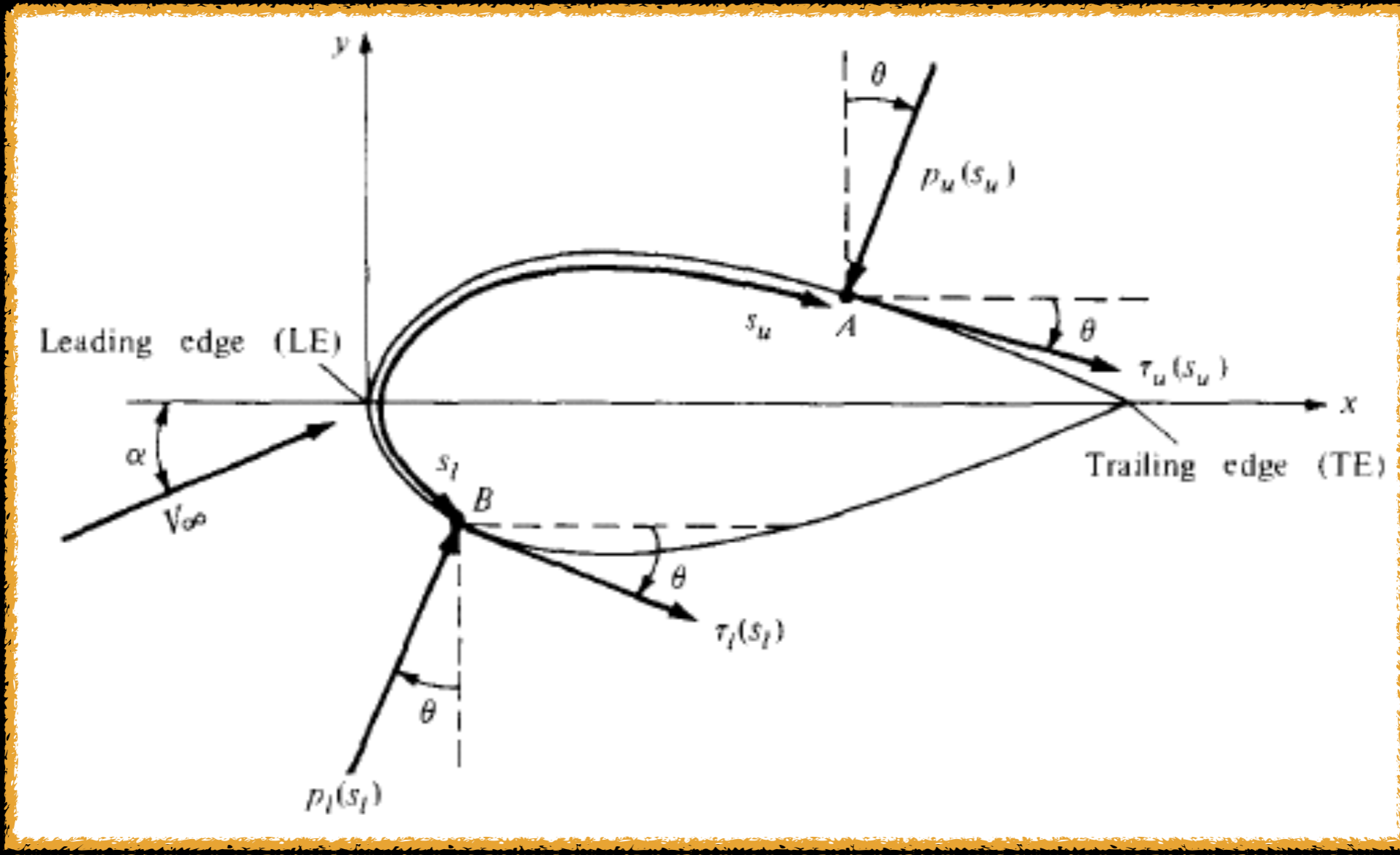
● A : *Axial force* - component of R parallel to c

● α - *angle of attack*

$$L = N \cos(\alpha) - A \sin(\alpha)$$

$$D = N \sin(\alpha) + A \cos(\alpha)$$

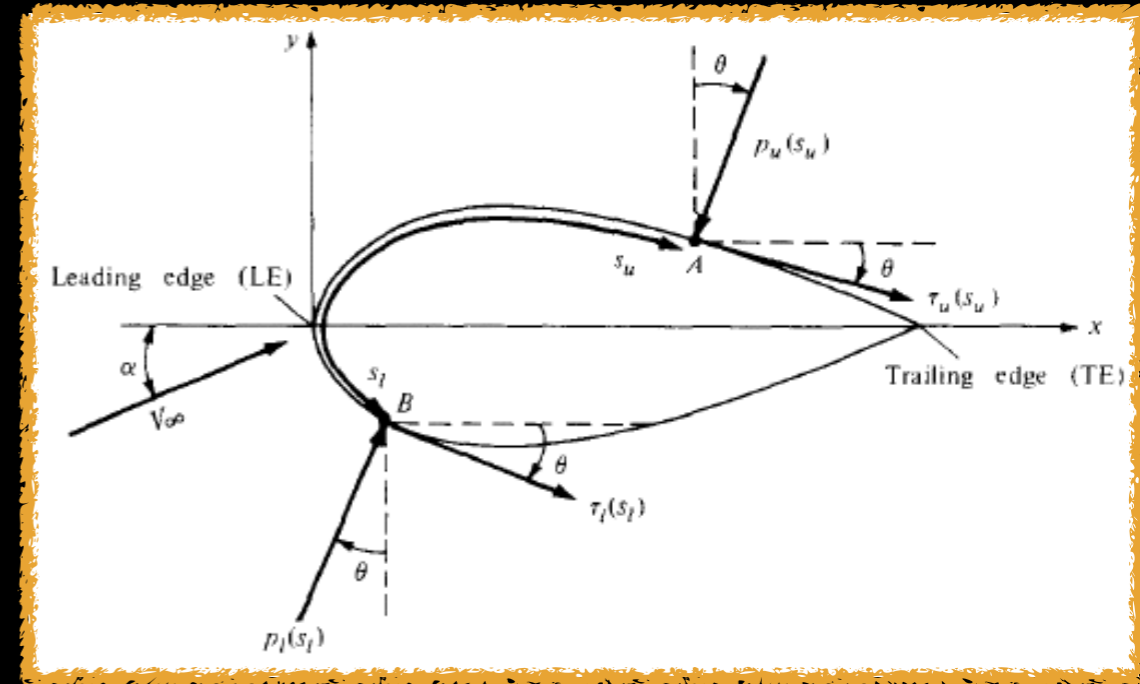
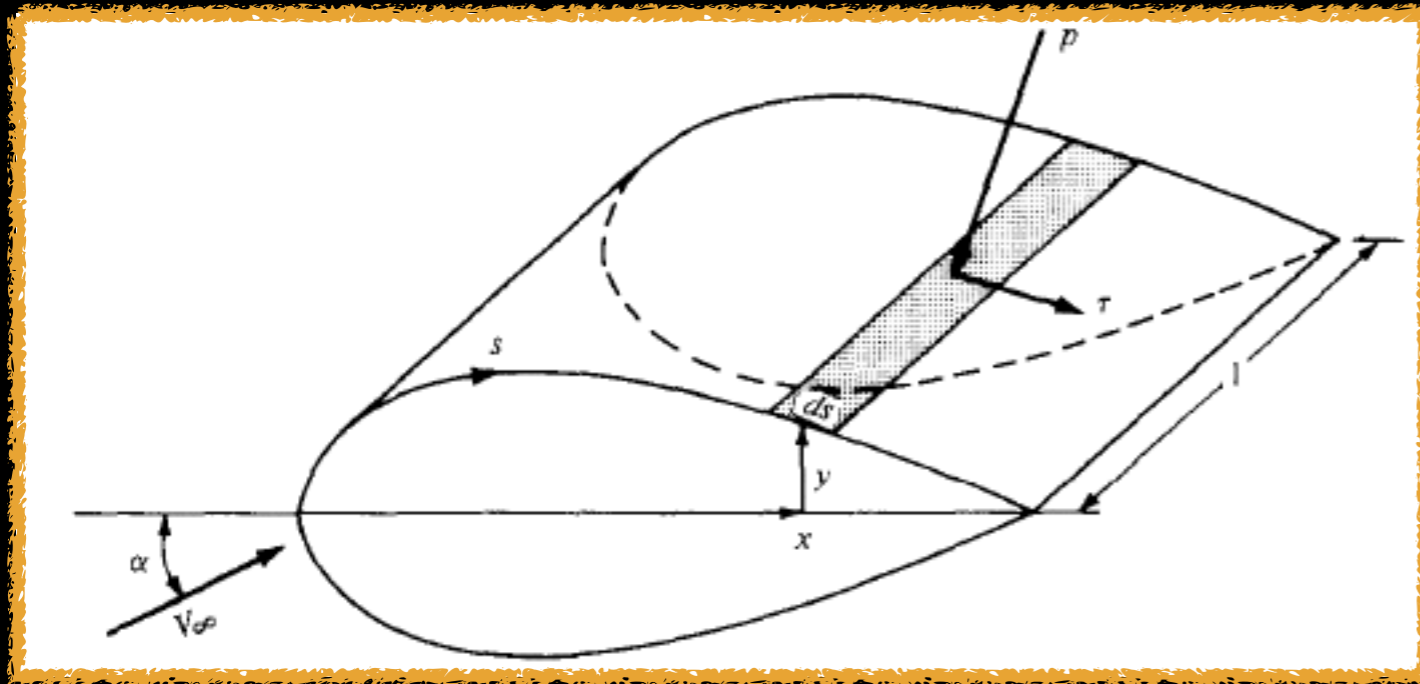
Nomenclature for a 2D Body Surface



$\psi^l(z^l)$

θ

Aerodynamic Forces



$$dN'_u = -p_u ds_u \cos(\theta) - \tau_u ds_u \sin(\theta)$$

$$dA'_u = -p_u ds_u \sin(\theta) + \tau_u ds_u \cos(\theta)$$

$$dN'_l = p_l ds_l \cos(\theta) - \tau_l ds_l \sin(\theta)$$

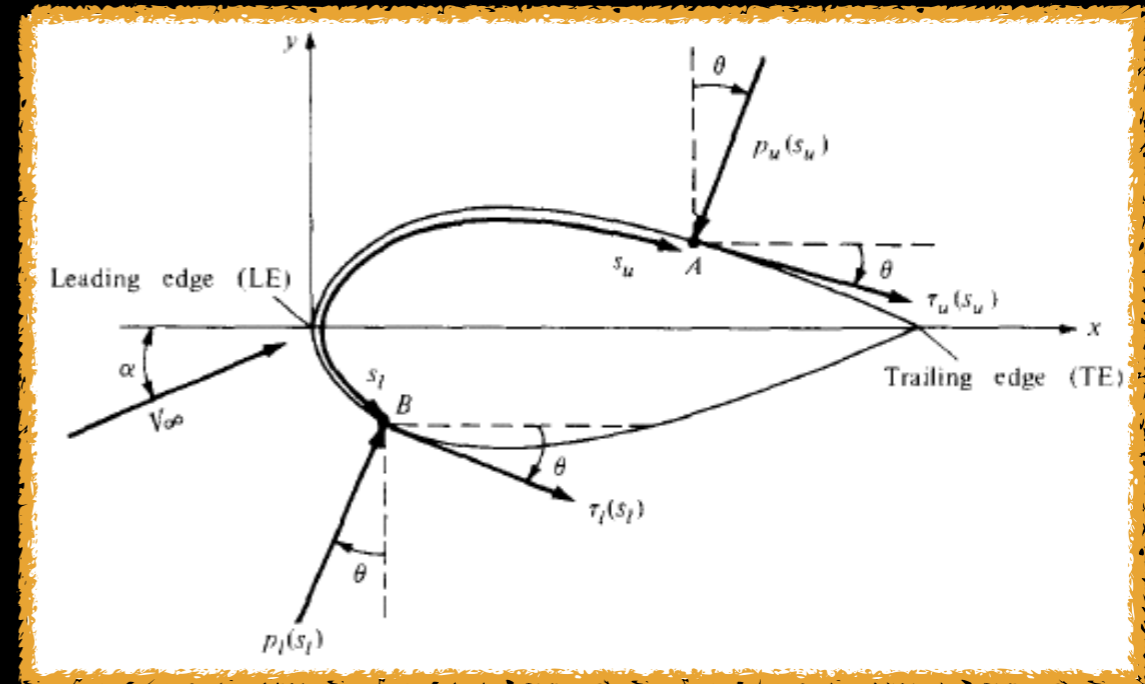
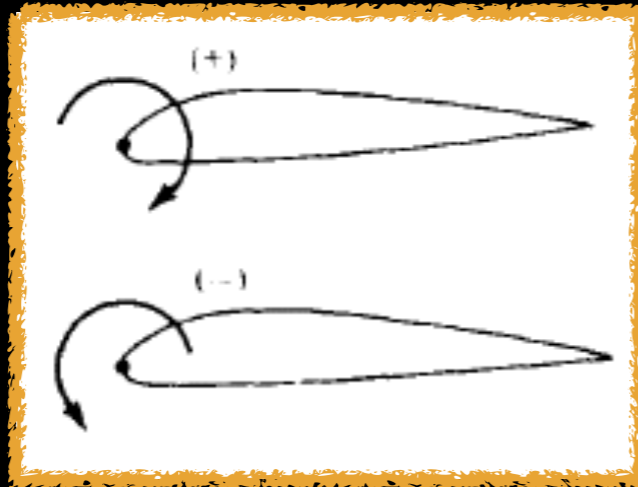
$$dA'_l = p_l ds_l \sin(\theta) + \tau_l ds_l \cos(\theta)$$

*primes denote
forces per unit
span*

$$N' = - \int_{LE}^{TE} dN'_u ds_u + \int_{LE}^{TE} dN'_l ds_l$$

$$A' = \int_{LE}^{TE} dA'_u ds_u + \int_{LE}^{TE} dA'_l ds_l$$

Aerodynamic Moments



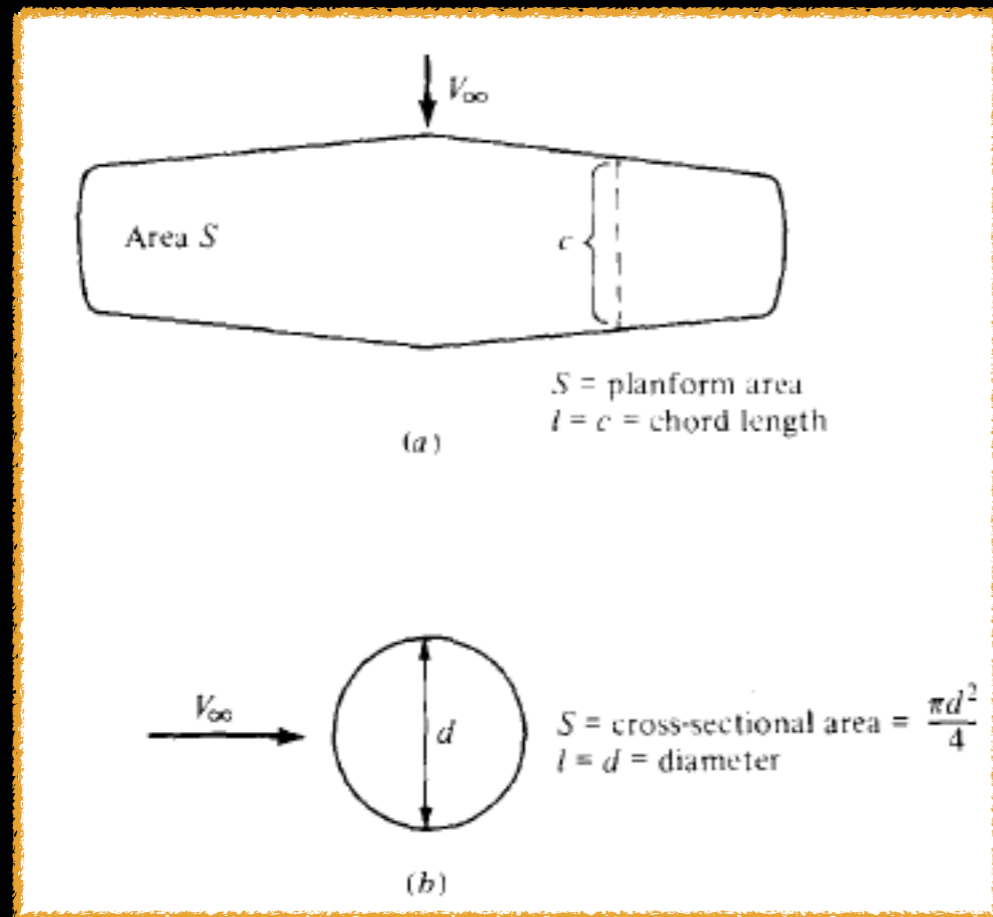
$$dM'_u = (p_u \cos(\theta) + \tau_u \sin(\theta)) x ds_u + (-p_u \sin(\theta) + \tau_u \cos(\theta)) y ds_u$$

$$dM'_l = (-p_l \cos(\theta) + \tau_l \sin(\theta)) x ds_l + (p_l \sin(\theta) + \tau_l \cos(\theta)) y ds_l$$

$$M'_{LE} = \int_{LE}^{TE} [dM'_u + dM'_l]$$

Sources of aerodynamic lift, drag and moments: *Pressure & shear stress distributions integrated over the body.*

Dimensionless Force and Moments



Dynamic pressure:

$$q_\infty \equiv \frac{1}{2} \rho_\infty V_\infty^2$$

Lift coefficient:

$$C_L \equiv \frac{L}{q_\infty S}$$

Drag coefficient:

$$C_D \equiv \frac{D}{q_\infty S}$$

Normal force coefficient:

$$C_N \equiv \frac{N}{q_\infty S}$$

Axial force coefficient:

$$C_A \equiv \frac{A}{q_\infty S}$$

Moment coefficient:

$$C_M \equiv \frac{M}{q_\infty S l}$$

For 2D bodies, forces and moments per unit span are:

$$c_l \equiv \frac{L'}{q_\infty c} \quad c_d \equiv \frac{D'}{q_\infty c} \quad c_m \equiv \frac{M'}{q_\infty c^2}$$

Pressure coefficient:

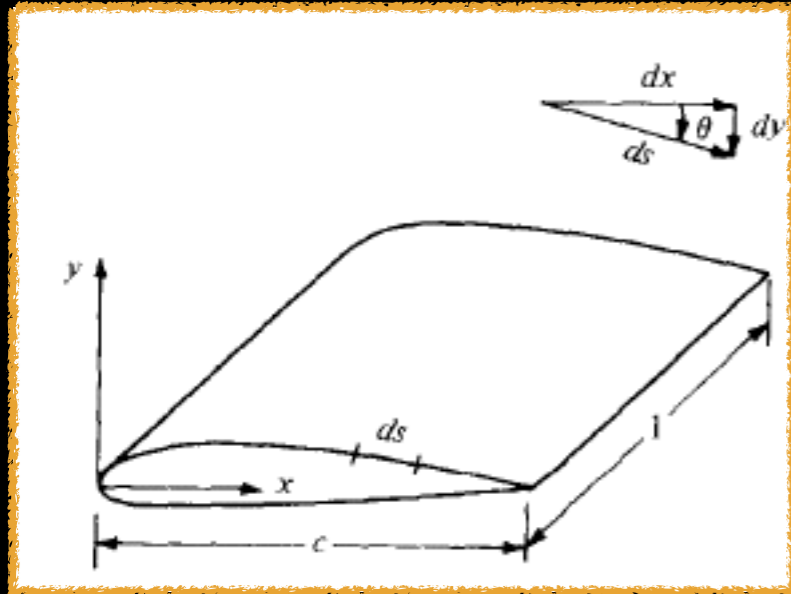
$$C_p \equiv \frac{p - p_\infty}{q_\infty}$$

Skin friction coefficient:

$$c_f \equiv \frac{\tau}{q_\infty}$$

where p_∞ is the freestream pressure.

Dimensionless Force and Moments



$$dx = ds(\cos\theta)$$

$$dy = -ds(\sin\theta)$$

$$S = (\text{unit span})c$$

Substituting into equations for N' , A' and M' :

$$c_n = \frac{1}{c} \left[\int_0^c (C_{p,l} - C_{p,u}) dx + \int_0^c \left(c_{f,u} \frac{dy_u}{dx} + c_{f,l} \frac{dy_l}{dx} \right) dx \right]$$

$$c_a = \frac{1}{c} \left[\int_0^c (C_{f,u} + C_{f,l}) dx + \int_0^c \left(c_{p,u} \frac{dy_u}{dx} - c_{p,l} \frac{dy_l}{dx} \right) dx \right]$$

Dimensionless Force and Moments

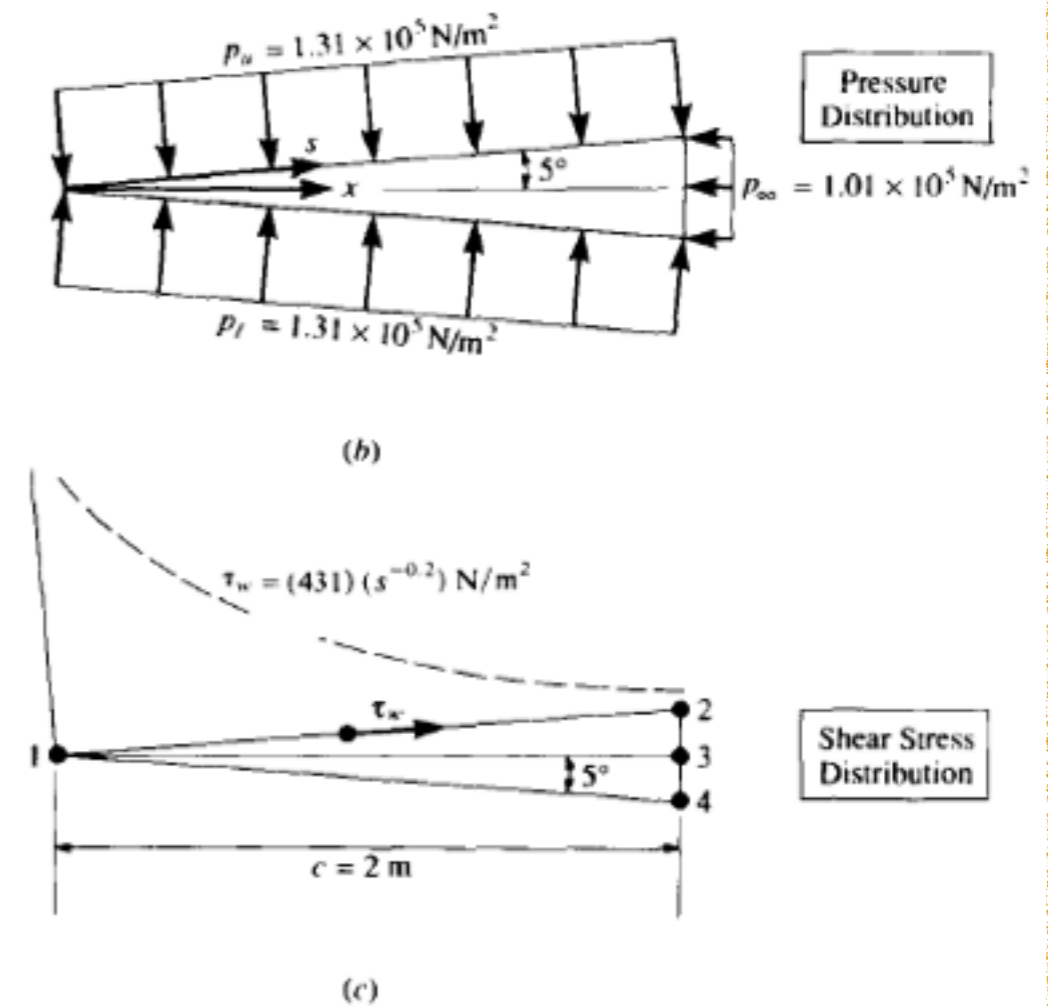
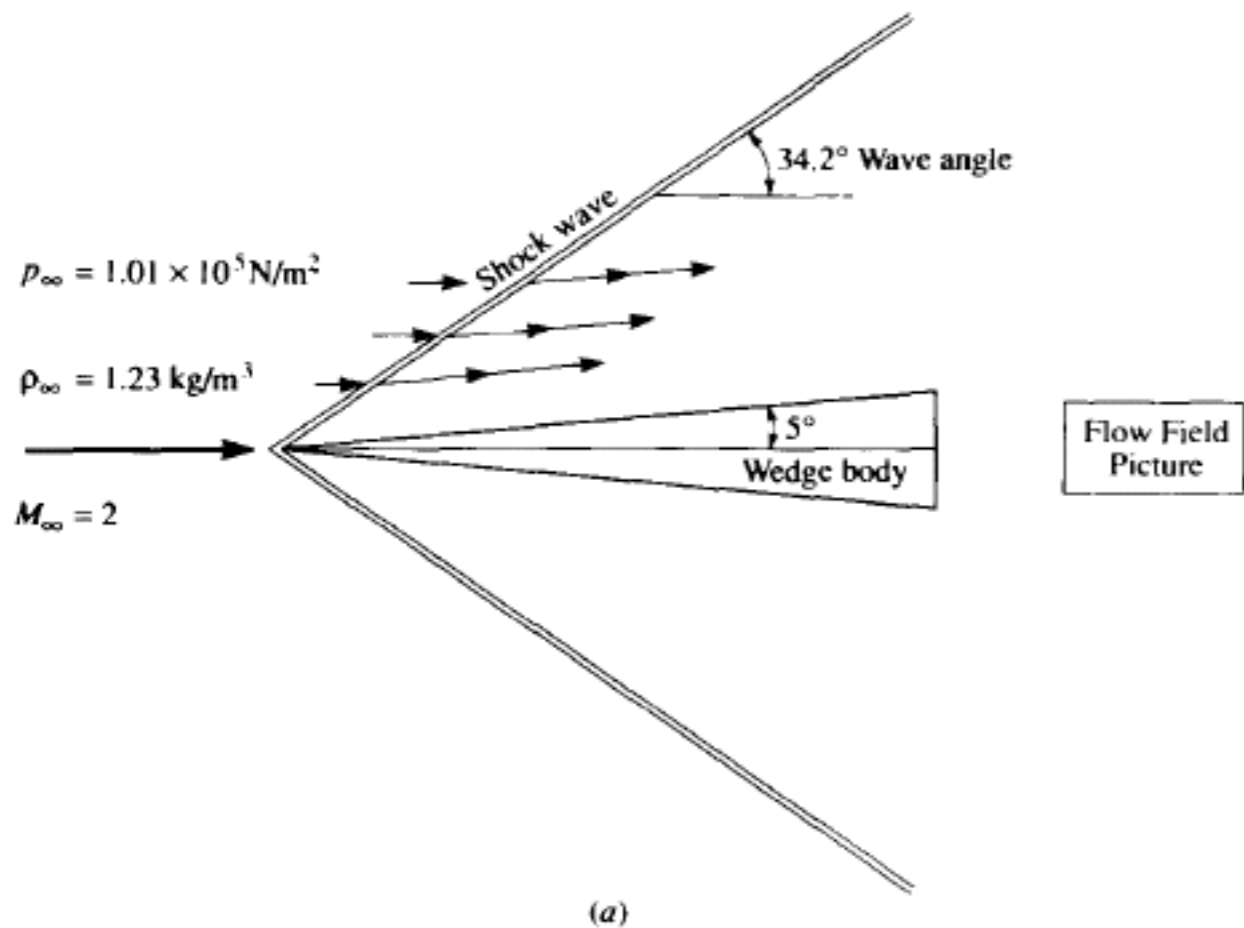
The lift and drag coefficients for 2D bodies are therefore given by:

$$c_l = c_n \cos \alpha - c_a \sin \alpha$$

$$c_d = c_n \sin \alpha + c_a \cos \alpha$$

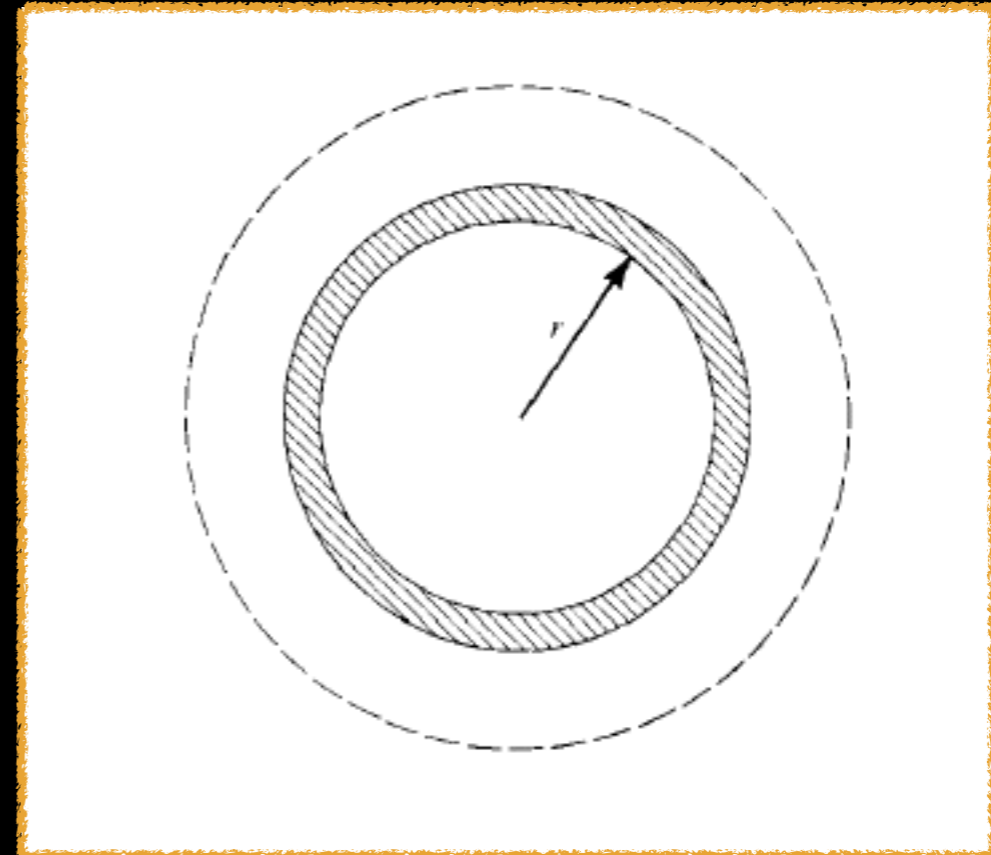
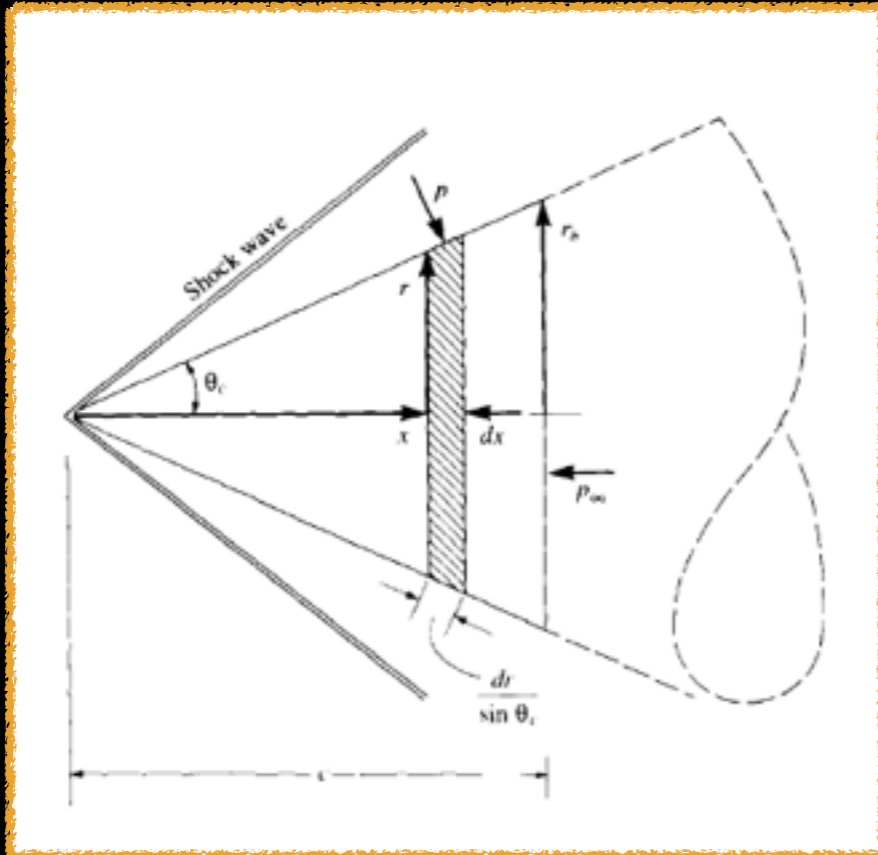
The aerodynamic force and moment coefficients can be obtained by *integrating pressure & skin friction coefficients over the body.*

Example



Calculate the drag coefficient for the wedge.

Example



Pr. coeff. on the surface of a hypersonic body (Newtonian sine squared):

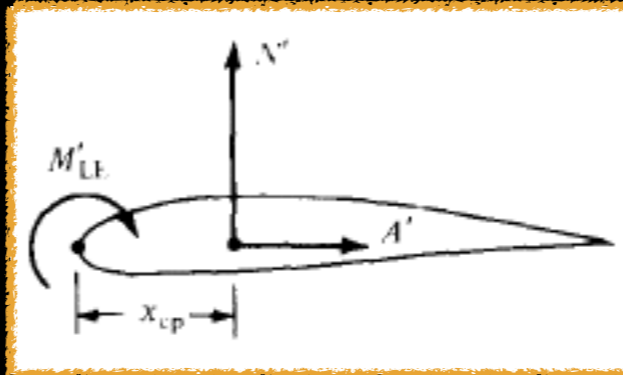
$$C_p = 2\sin^2\theta_c$$

Assume C_p (hence $pr.$) is constant, $p = p_{inf}$ at the base.

Calculate the drag coefficient for the cone.

Center of Pressure

Can the distributed load over a body be replaced by a single force (or its components)?



The replaced force (or its components) must also be able to generate the same moment about the LE as shown by our equations.

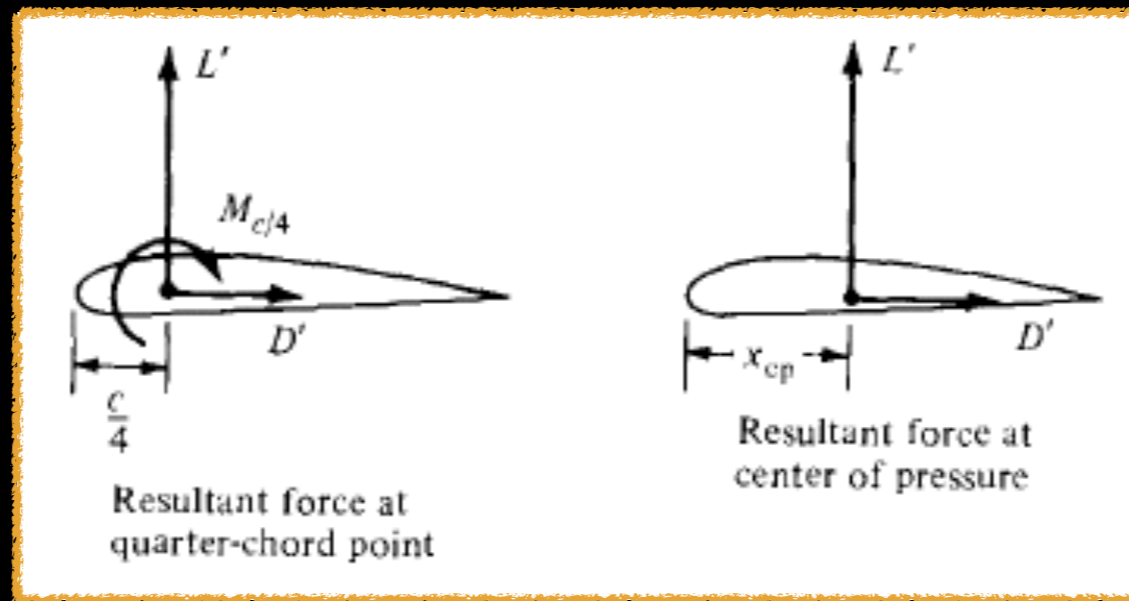
$$M'_{LE} - N'x_{cp} = 0$$

$$x_{cp} = \frac{M'_{LE}}{N'}$$

*x_{cp} is the **center of pressure**: Point on the body about which the aerodynamic moment is zero.*

Center of Pressure

*The replaced force (or its components) can be placed at **any** point on the body as long as the moment at that point is also known.*



$$M'_{LE} = -\frac{c}{4}L' + M'_{c/4} = -x_{cp}L'$$

For later: For a thin airfoil (symmetric), the center of pressure is at the quarter-chord location.

Center of Pressure: Example

Low-Speed, incompressible flow over NACA 4412 airfoil

$$\alpha = 4^\circ$$

$$c_l = 0.85$$

$$c_{m,c/4} = -0.09$$

Calculate the location of location of the center of pressure.

Buckingham PI Theorem

What physical quantities determine the variation of forces and moments? - Dimensional Analysis

- 1. Select the dimensional parameters (n).*
- 2. Select primary dimensions ($r = 3$).*
- 3. Write down the dimensions of each dimensional parameter.*
- 4. Select ' m ' dimensional parameters that are primarily different from each other.*
- 5. Set up ' $n-m$ ' non-dimensional parameters.*

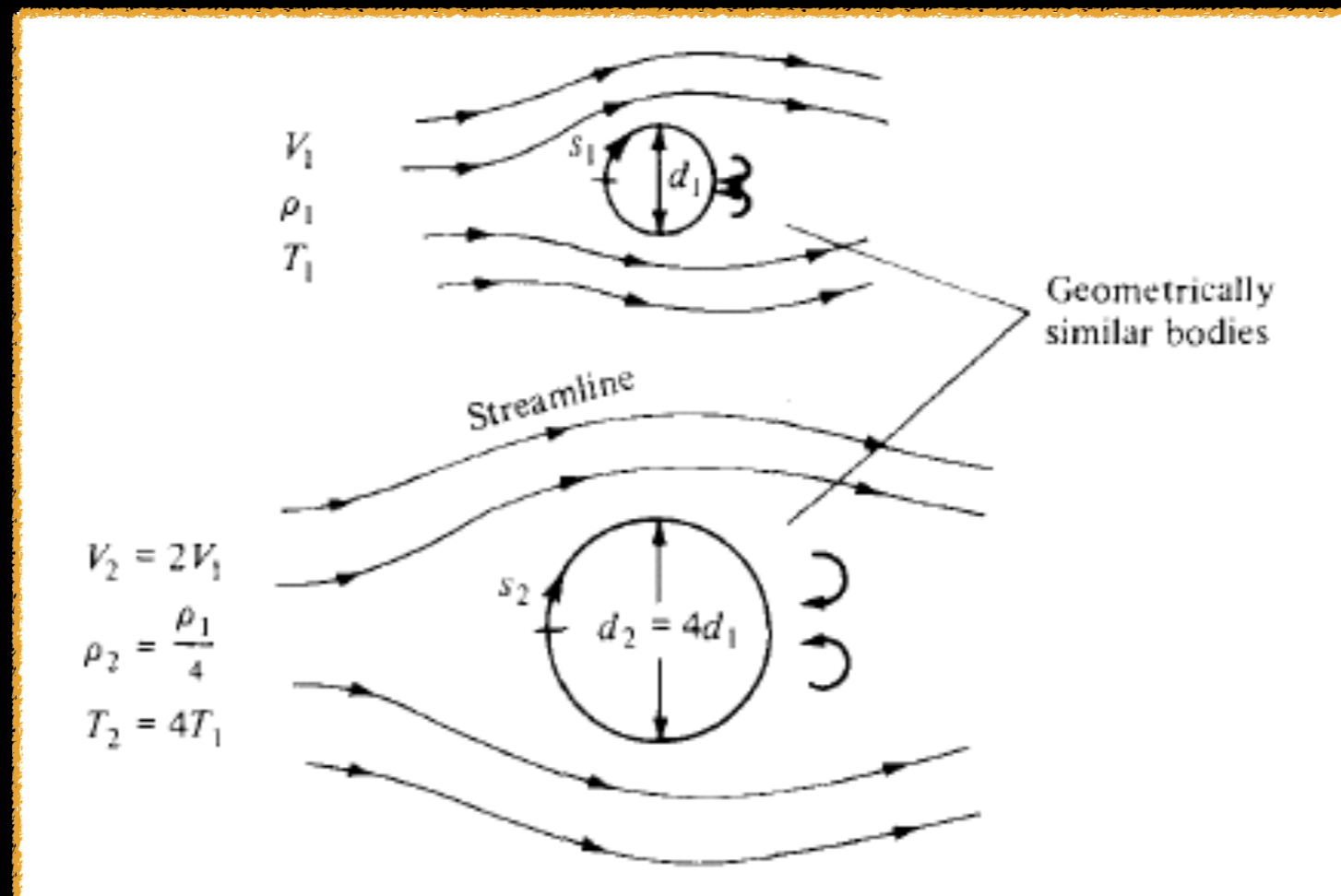
Dynamically Similar Flows

Consider different flows over a model and a prototype.

The flows are dynamically similar if:

- 1. The bodies have geometric similarity.*
- 2. Streamline patterns are geometrically similar.*
- 3. Distributions of non-dimensional velocity, pressure and temperature are the same when plotted against the same non-dimensional parameters.*
- 4. The force coefficients (non-dimensional parameters) are same for both the flows.*

Dynamically Similar Flows: Example



Show that the two flows are dynamically similar.

Dynamically Similar Flows: Example

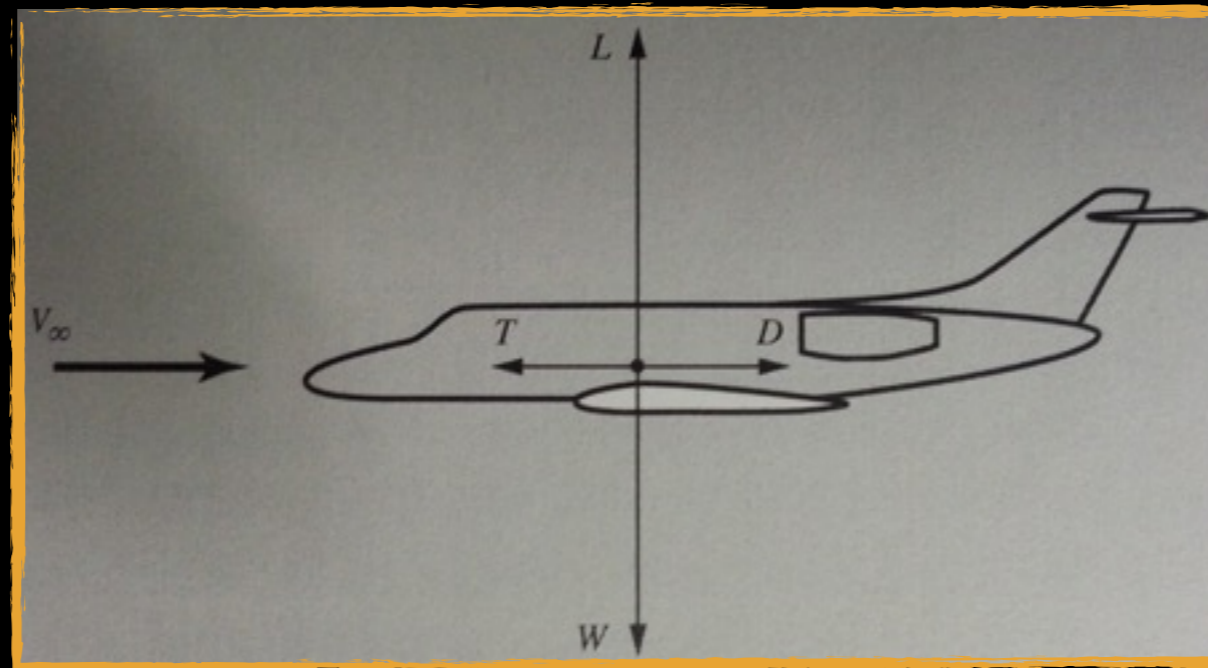


- 1. Boeing 747 at cruising velocity of 550mi/h, 38000ft.*
- 2. Freestream pressure and temperature: 432.6lb/ft² and 390R.*
- 3. 1/50th scale model is tested where temperature is 430R.*

Calculate velocity and pressure in the tunnel such that lift and drag coefficients are the same.

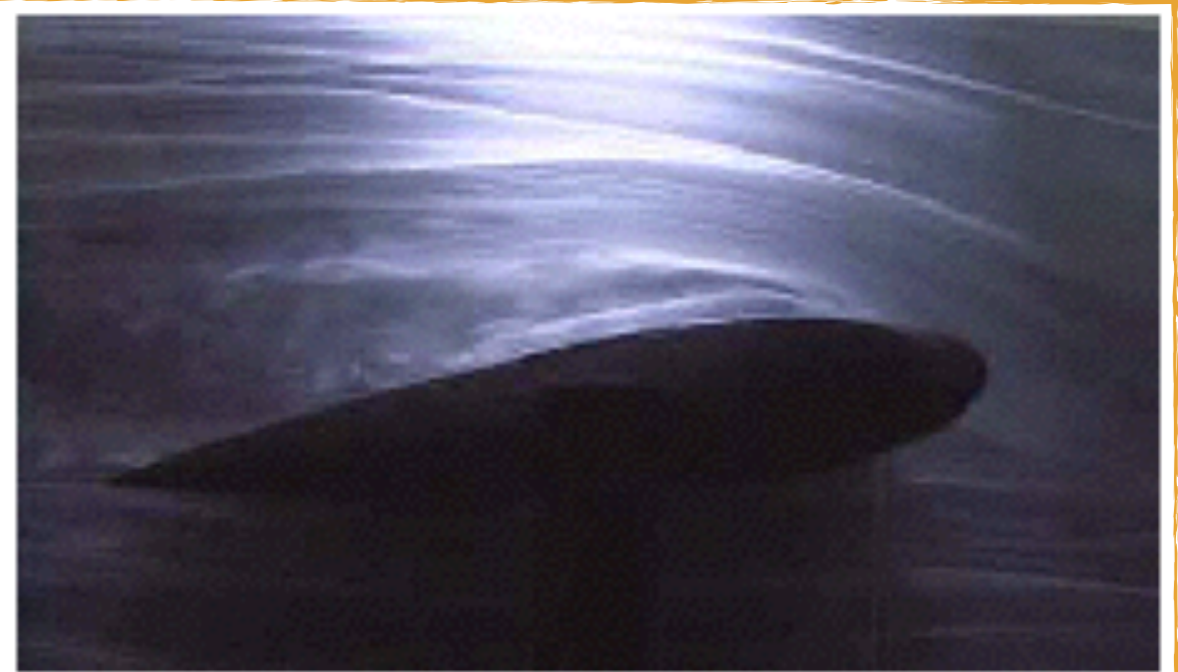
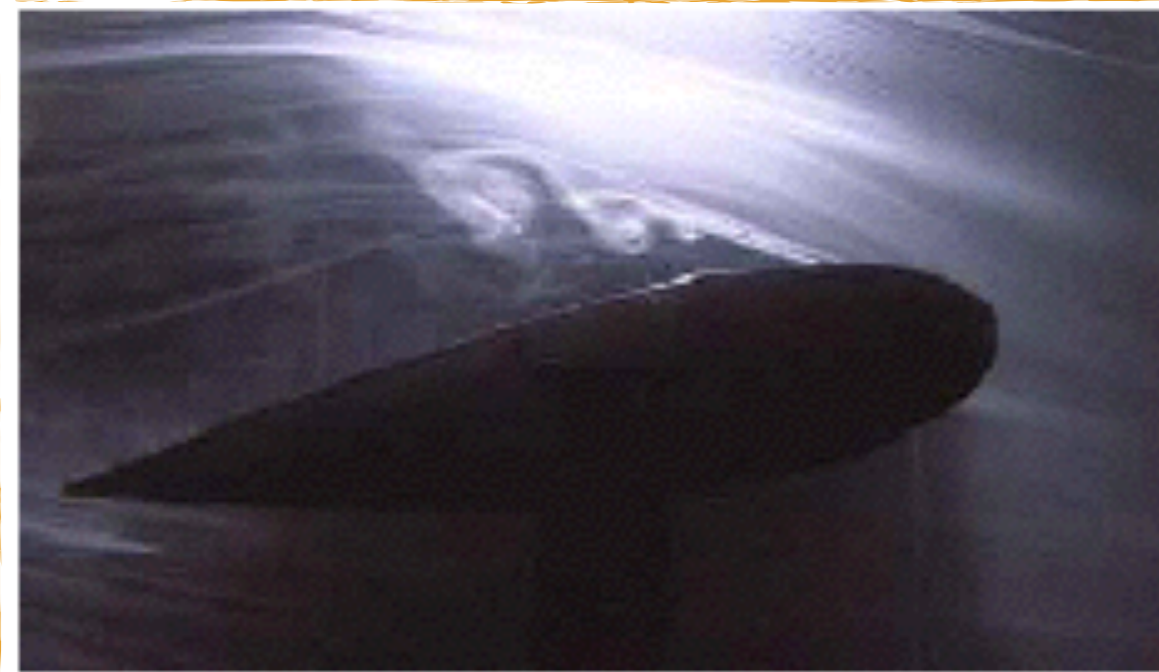
Lift and Drag Coefficients

- C_D and C_L are fundamental quantities: intelligent design vs groping in the dark.



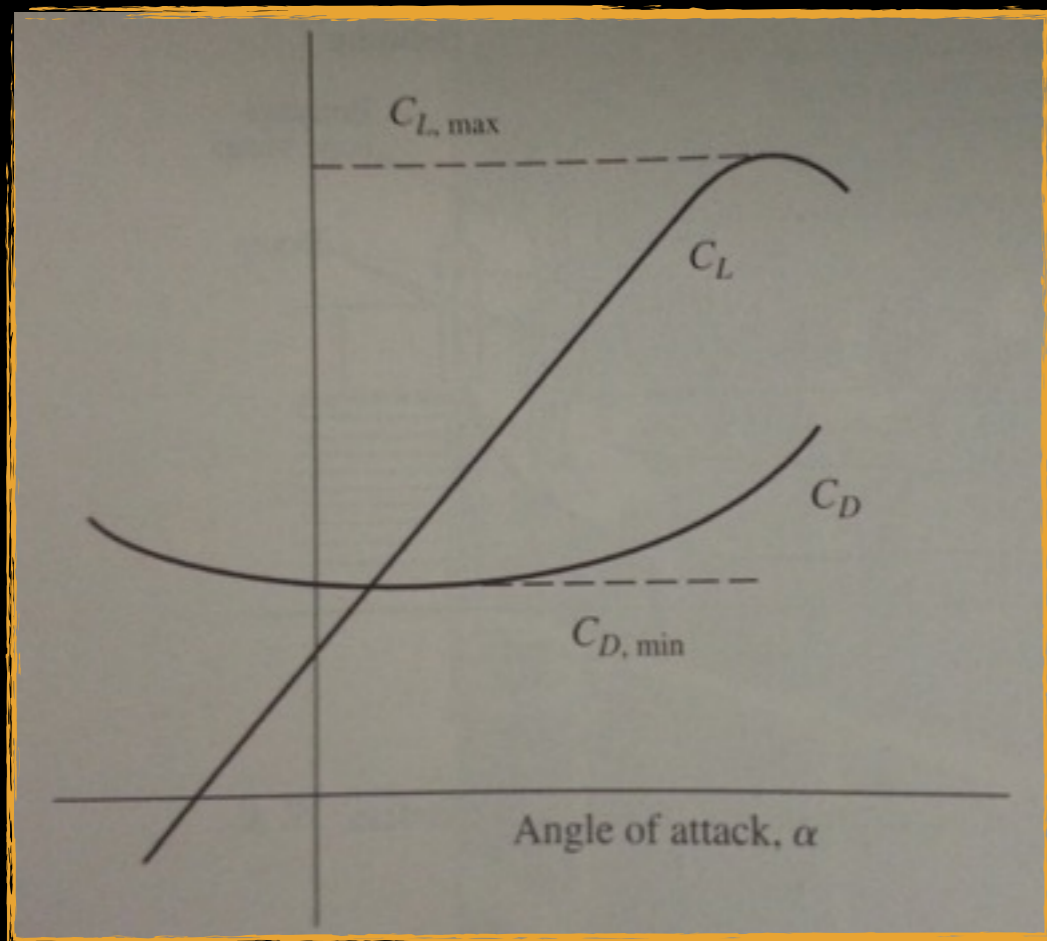
- In order to sustain the airplane $L = W$.
- For steady (unaccelerated flight) $T = D$.
- Typically $L/D = 15 - 20$.

Lift and Drag Coefficients



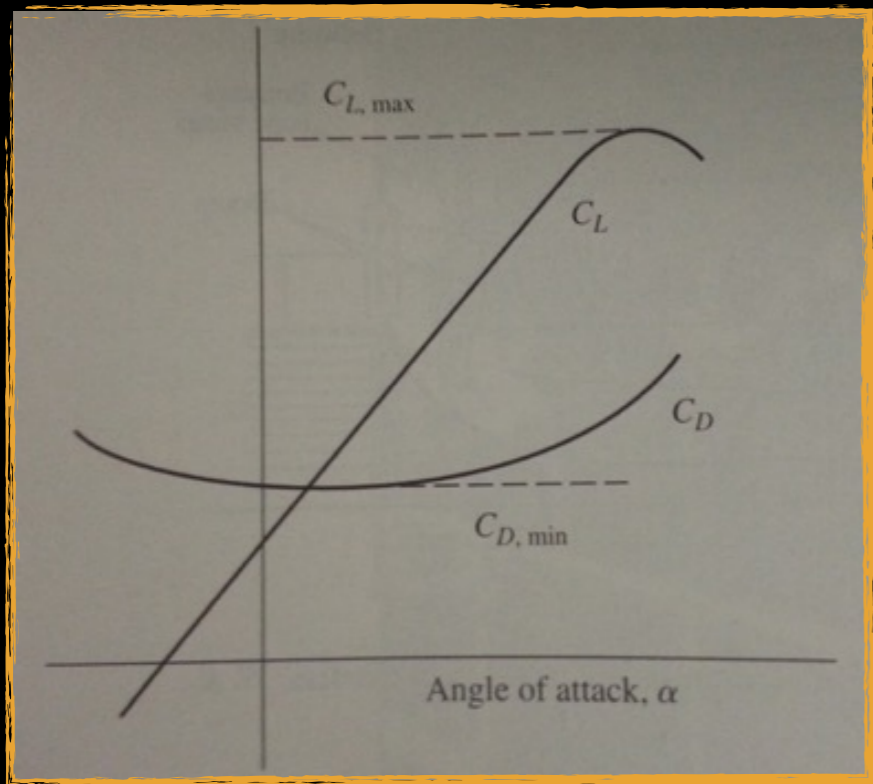
Lift and Drag Coefficients

- For a given Reynolds and Mach number, C_D and C_L are only function of angle of attack (from dimensional analysis).



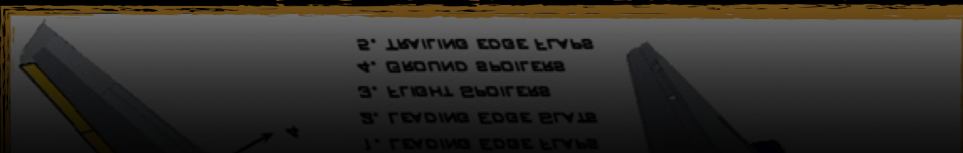
- C_L increases with angle of attack until the wing stalls (C_L reaches peak value: $C_{L, \max}$).
- Lowest possible velocity at which airplane can maintain steady, level flight is the stalling velocity, V_{stall} .

Lift and Drag Coefficients

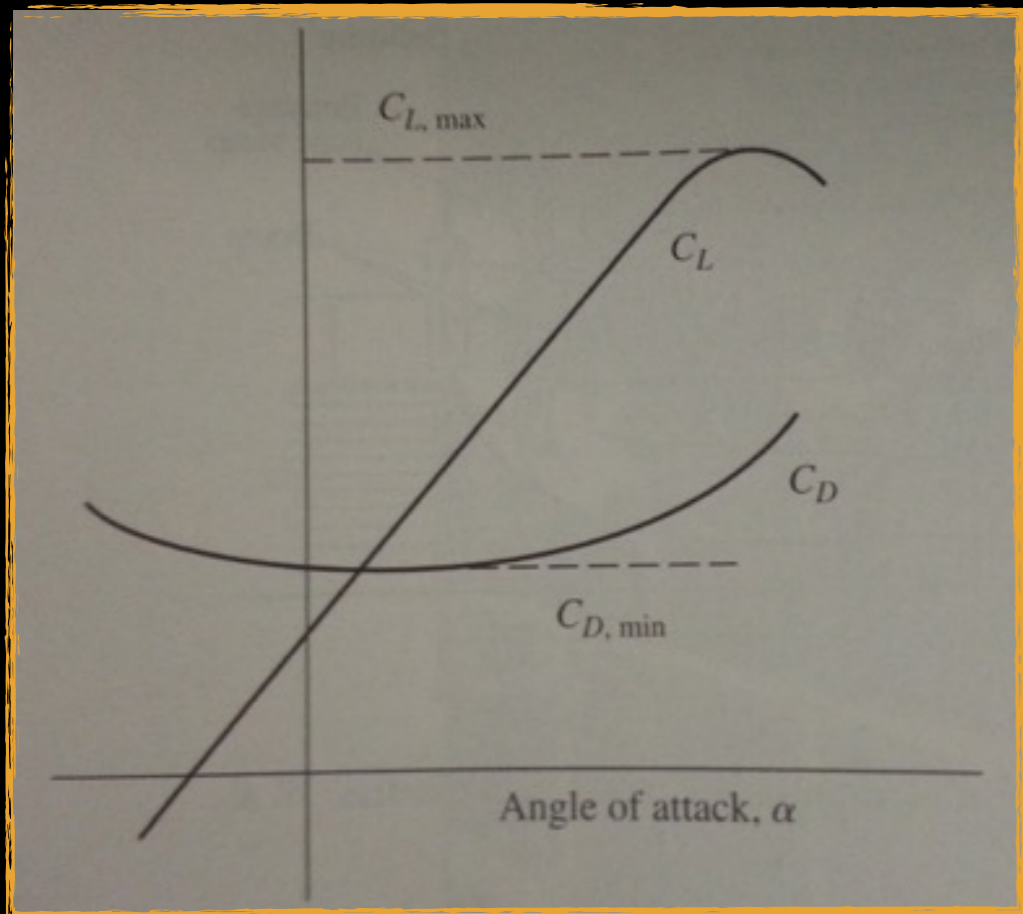


$$V_{stall} = \sqrt{\frac{2W}{\rho_{\infty} S C_{L, max}}}$$

- $C_{L, max}$ is purely determined by nature.
- High-lift devices such as flaps, slats and slots can be also used to increase $C_{L, max}$.



Lift and Drag Coefficients



● $C_{D, \min}$ determines the maximum thrust.

● For steady, level flight $T = D$.

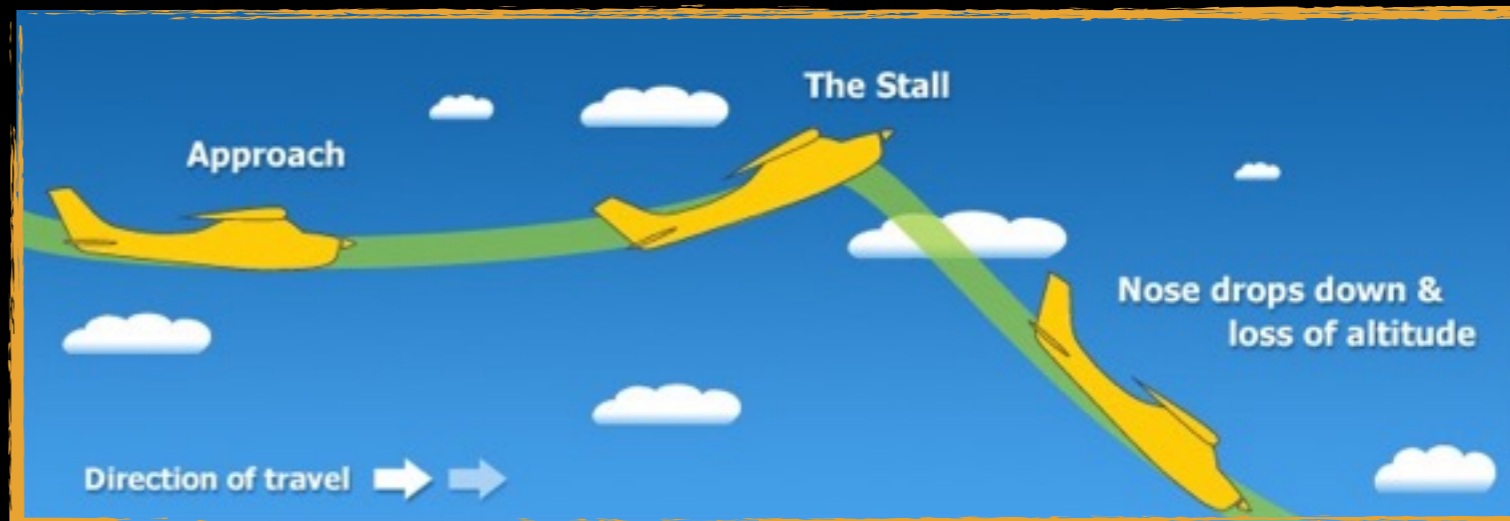
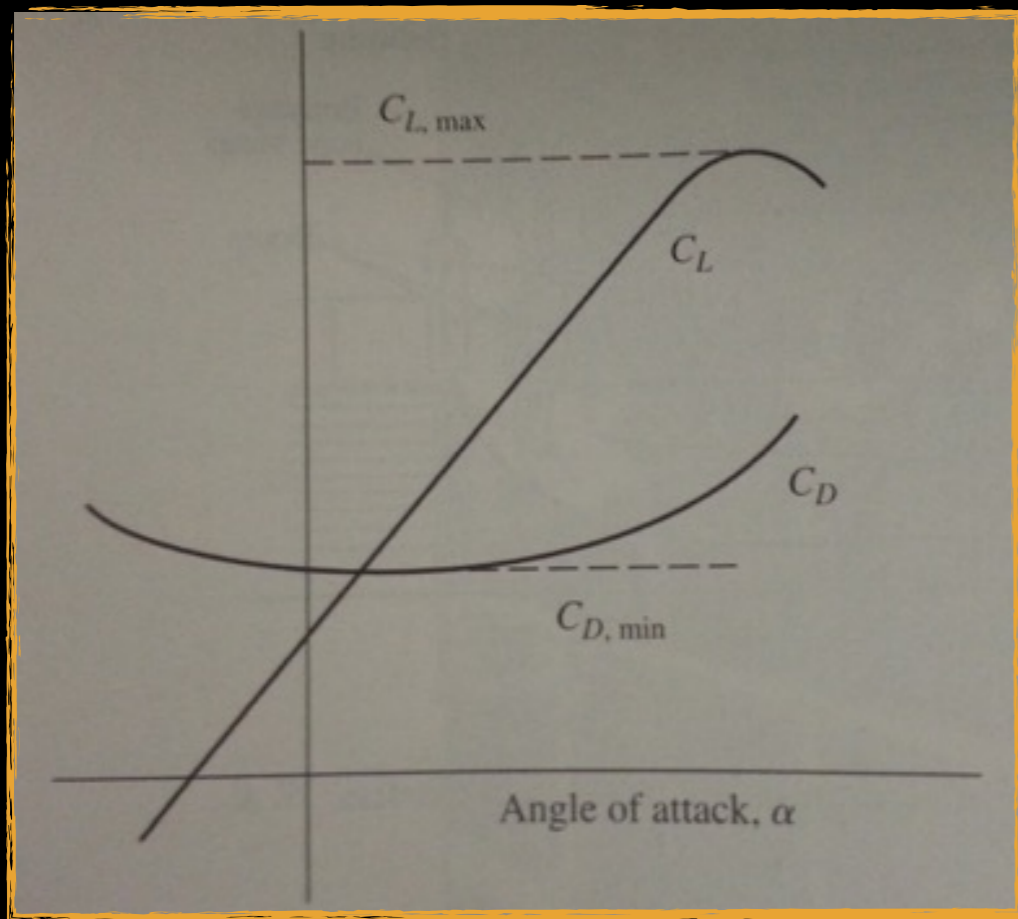
$$C_D = \frac{D}{q_\infty S} = \frac{T}{q_\infty S} = \frac{2T}{\rho_\infty V_\infty^2 S}$$

$$V_\infty = \sqrt{\frac{2T}{\rho_\infty S C_D}}$$

$$V_{max} = \sqrt{\frac{2T_{max}}{\rho_\infty S C_{D, \min}}}$$

Lift and Drag Coefficients

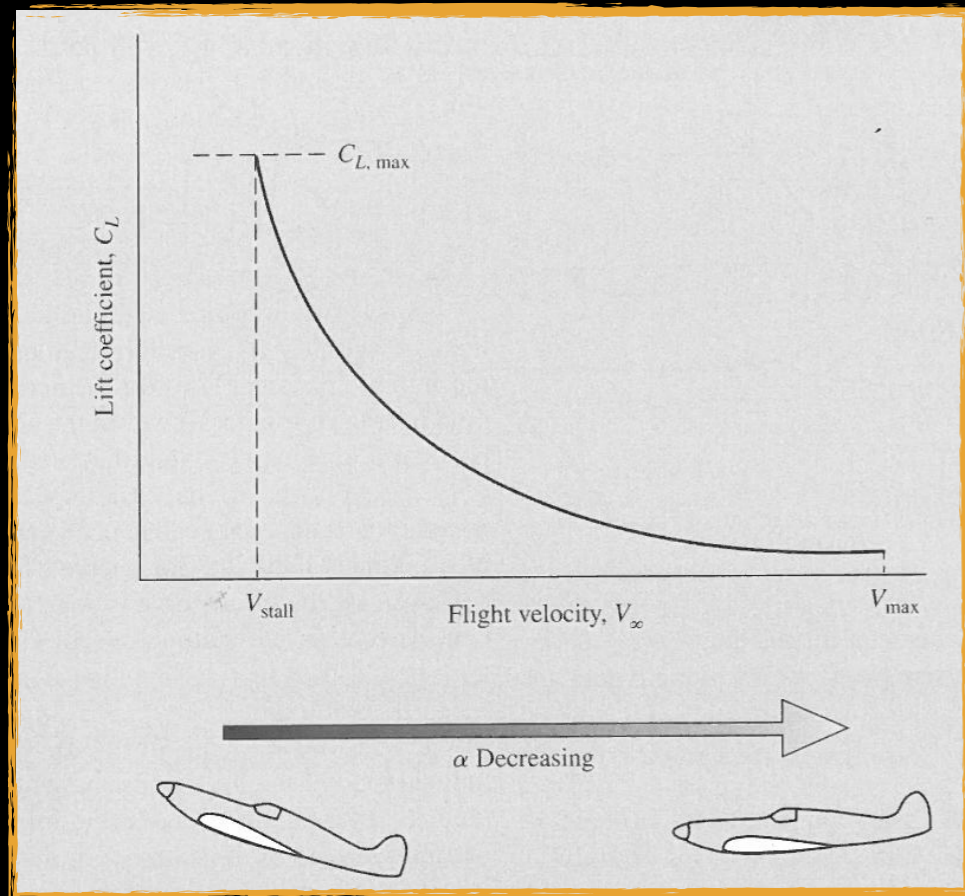
- Stalling velocity is determined by $C_{L, max}$ and maximum velocity is determined by $C_{D, min}$.



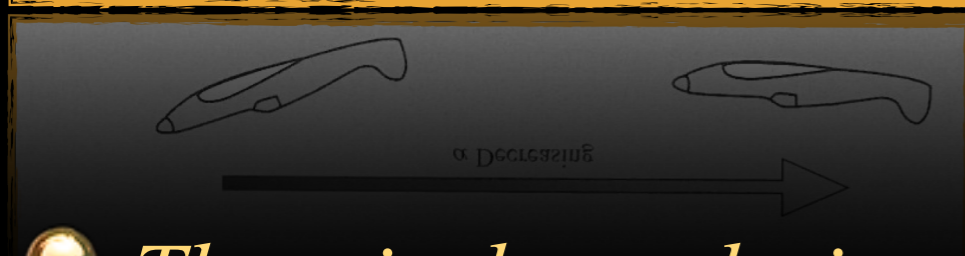
$$V_{stall} = \sqrt{\frac{2W}{\rho_{\infty} S C_{L, max}}}$$

$$V_{max} = \sqrt{\frac{2T_{max}}{\rho_{\infty} S C_{D, min}}}$$

Lift and Drag Coefficients

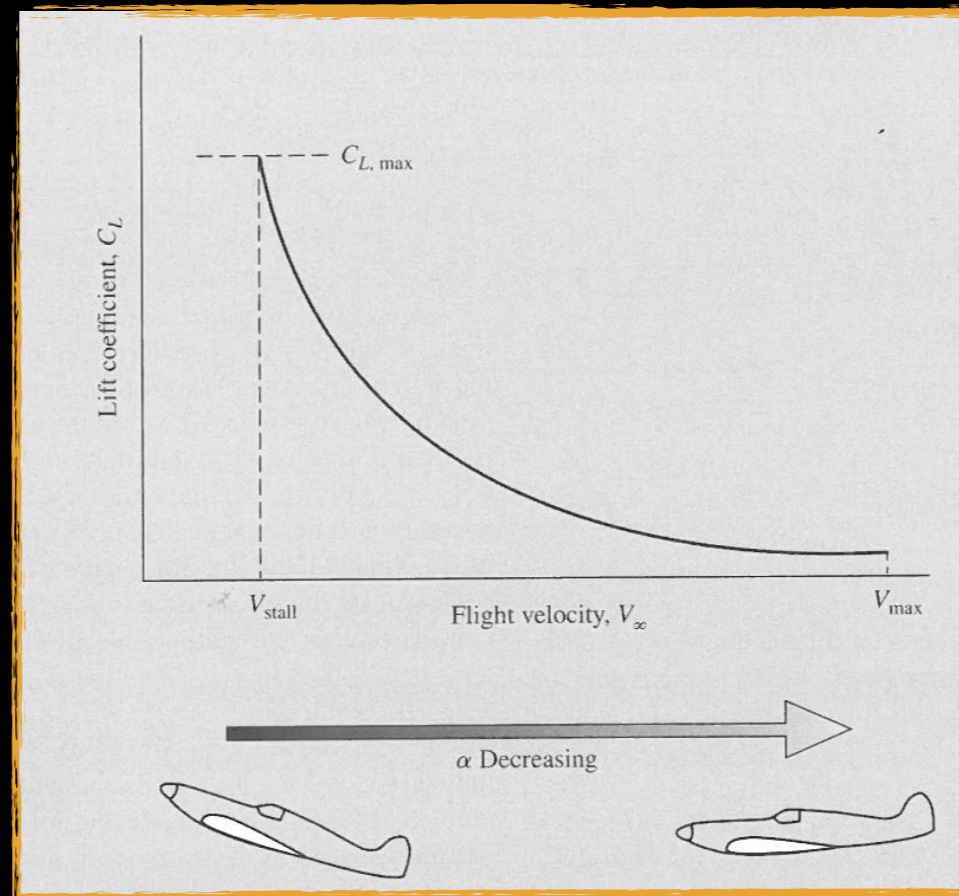


- Each flight velocity corresponds to a lift coefficient.
- At a given altitude, the values of C_L are *what are needed* to maintain a level flight.



- The airplane designer must achieve these values of C_L for a given weight and wing area.

Lift and Drag Coefficients



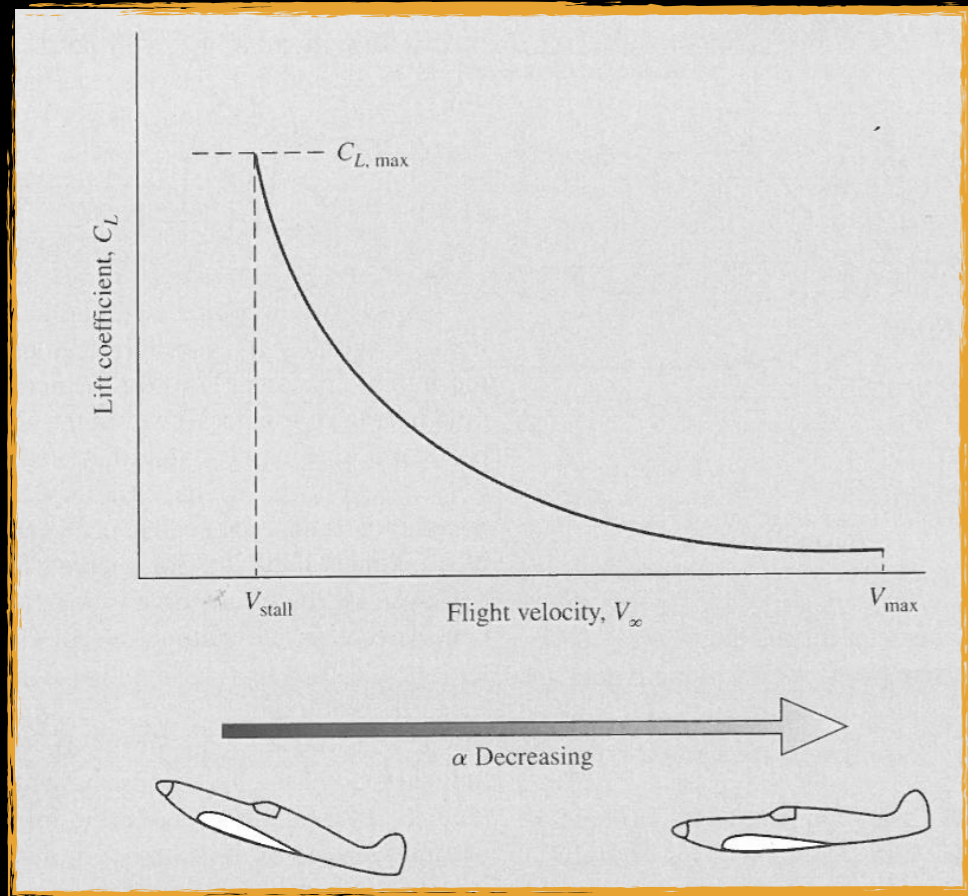
slower
high α

faster
low α

The specific angle of attack the airplane must have at a given flight velocity is dictated by specific value of C_L .

Lift and Drag Coefficients

- Any “body” can generate lift at sufficient angle of attack for the range of velocities.



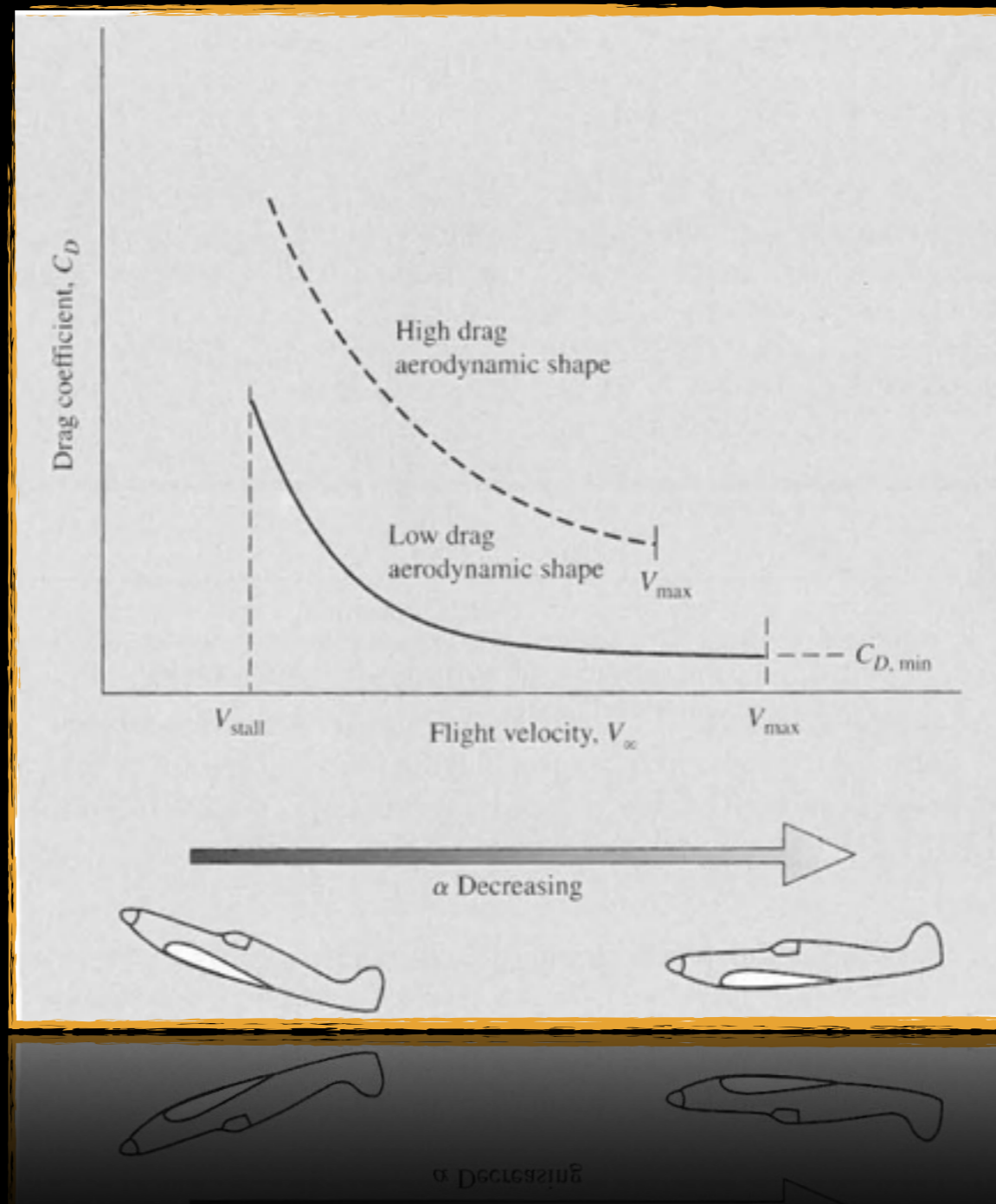
- C_D is also varies with flight velocity.

$$C_D = \frac{D}{q_\infty S} = \frac{T}{q_\infty S} = \frac{2T}{\rho_\infty V_\infty^2 S}$$

- A poor aerodynamic shape can generate high amount of drag.

Lift and Drag Coefficients

- *A poor aerodynamic shape can generate high amount of drag.*



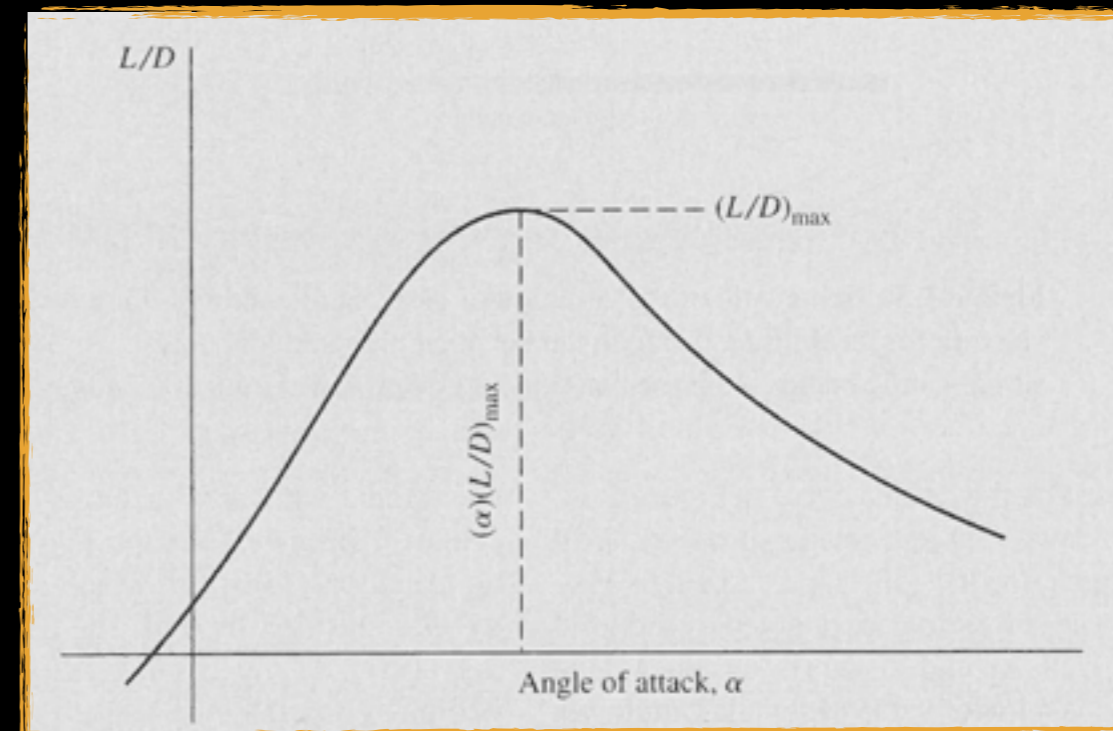
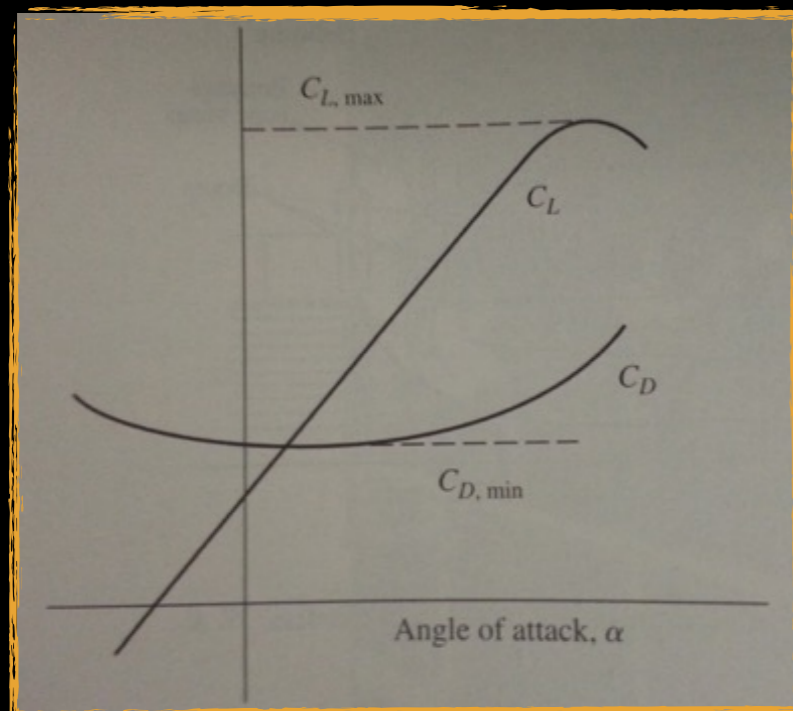
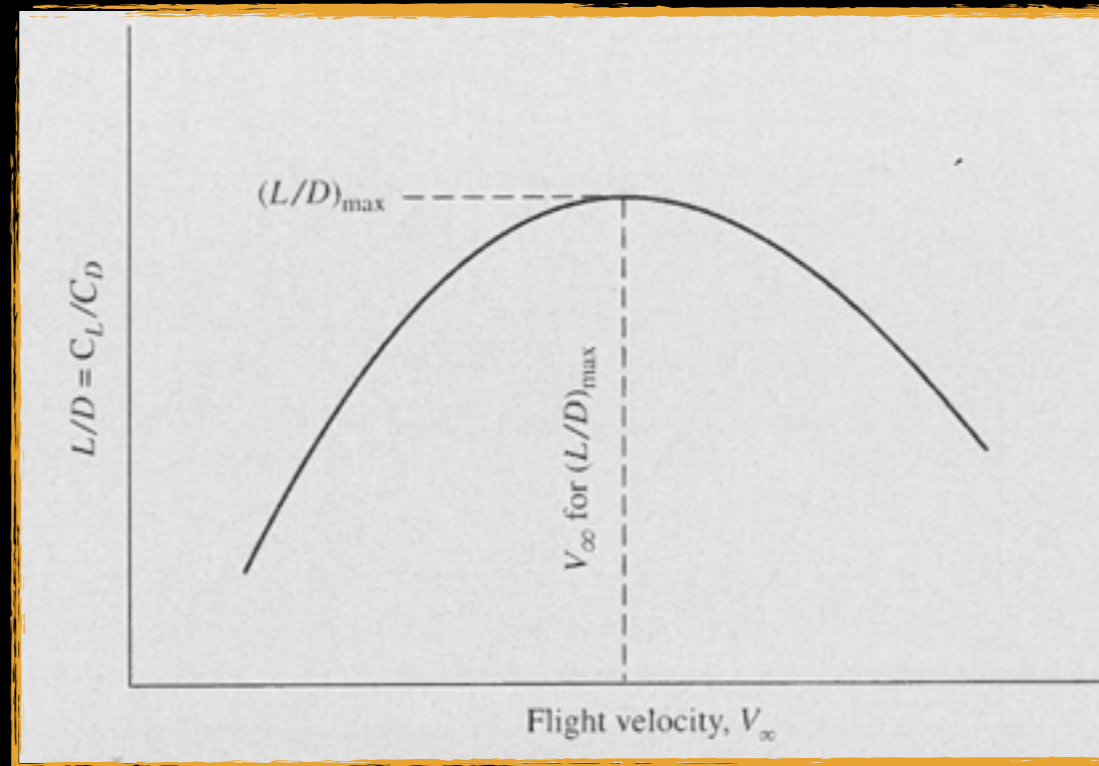
Lift to Drag Ratio

- *True measure of aerodynamic efficiency of a body shape is given by the lift-to-drag ratio.*

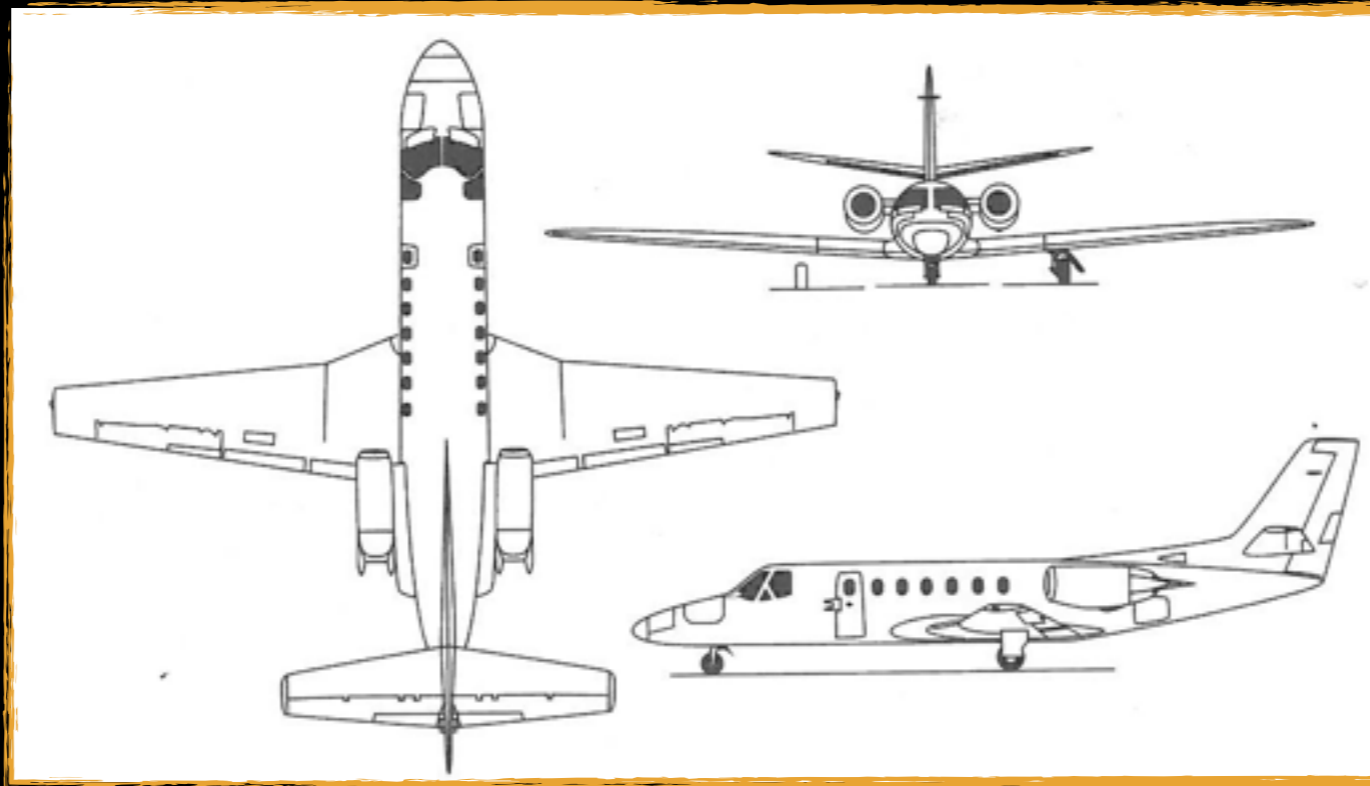
$$\frac{L}{D} = \frac{q_{\infty} S C_L}{q_{\infty} S C_D} = \frac{C_L}{C_D}$$

- *C_L : determined by airplane's W/S (wing loading).*
- *L/D is controlled by C_D at this velocity.*
- *We want a high L/D : an aerodynamically efficient body.*

Lift to Drag Ratio



Lift to Drag Ratio: Example

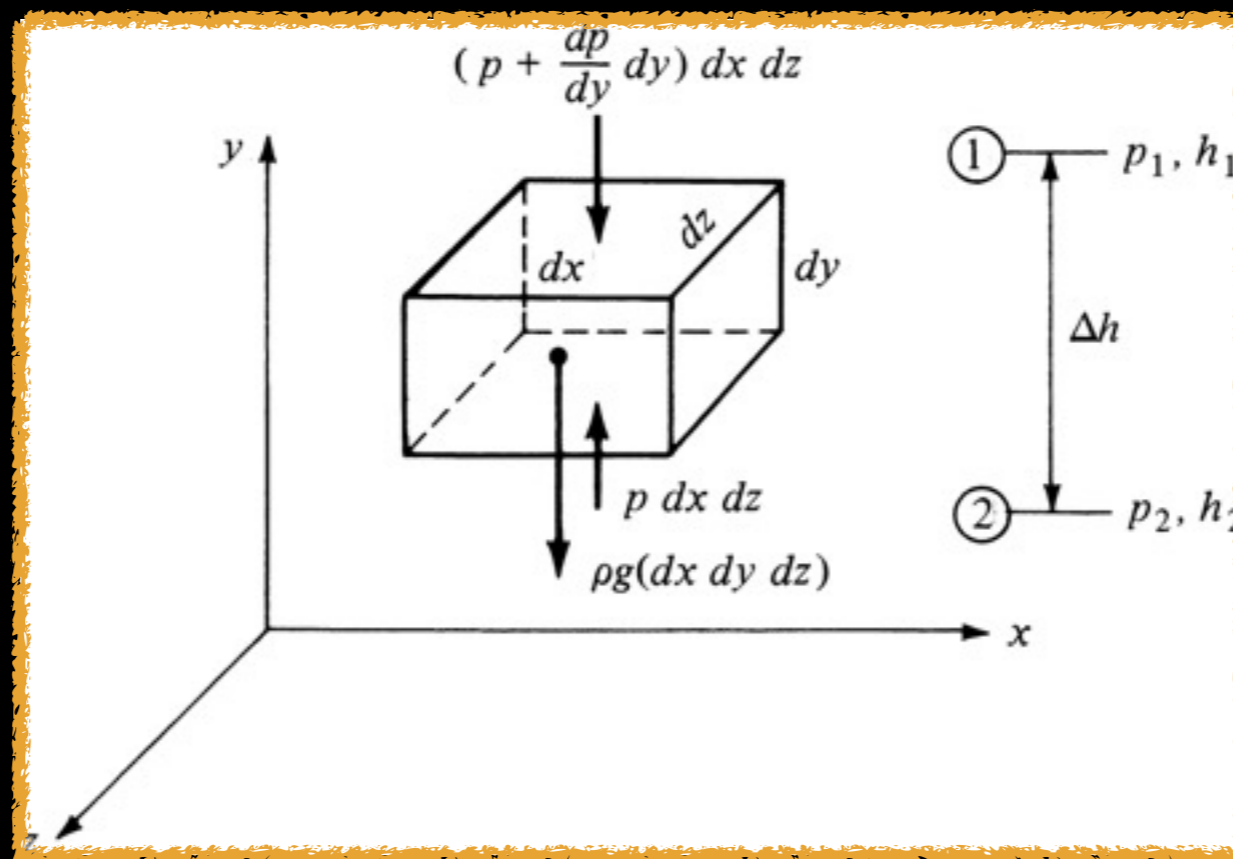


- *Cessna 560 cruising at 492mph at 33,000ft.*
- *Wing planform area is 342.6 sq.ft., weight is 15,000lb.*
- *Drag coefficient at cruise is 0.015.*

Calculate lift coefficient and L/D ratio.

Buoyancy Force

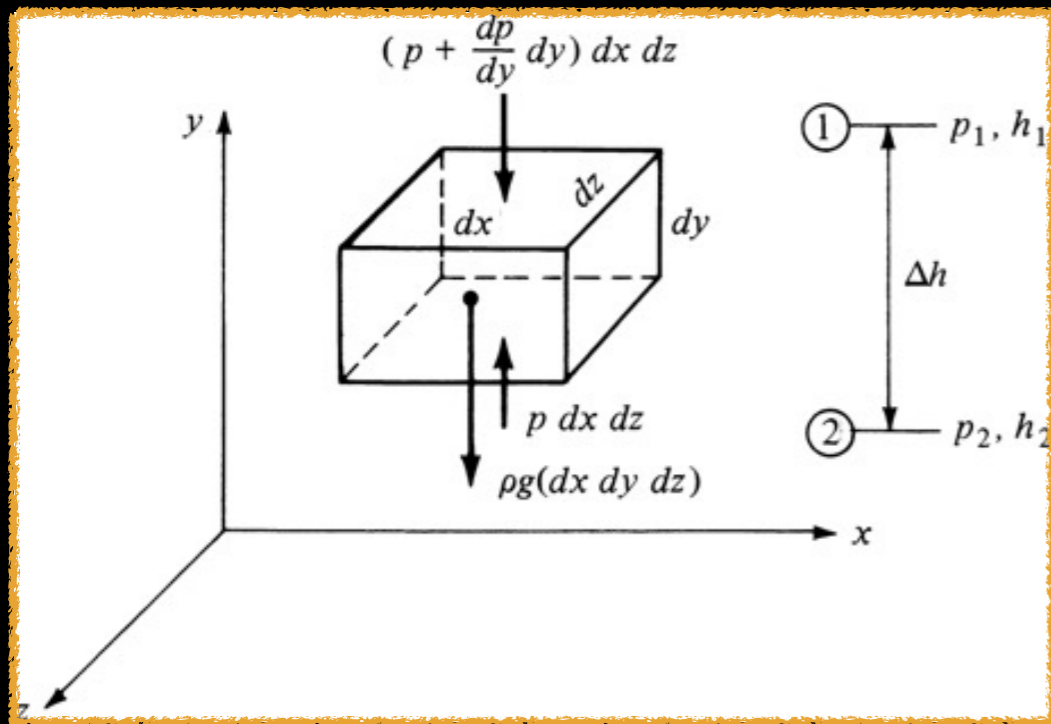
- What are the forces acting on a body when there is *no relative motion* between the body and the fluid medium?



Sum of forces : $-\frac{dp}{dy}(dx dy dz) - g\rho(dx dy dz) = 0$

$dp = -g\rho dy$ (Hydrostatic equation)

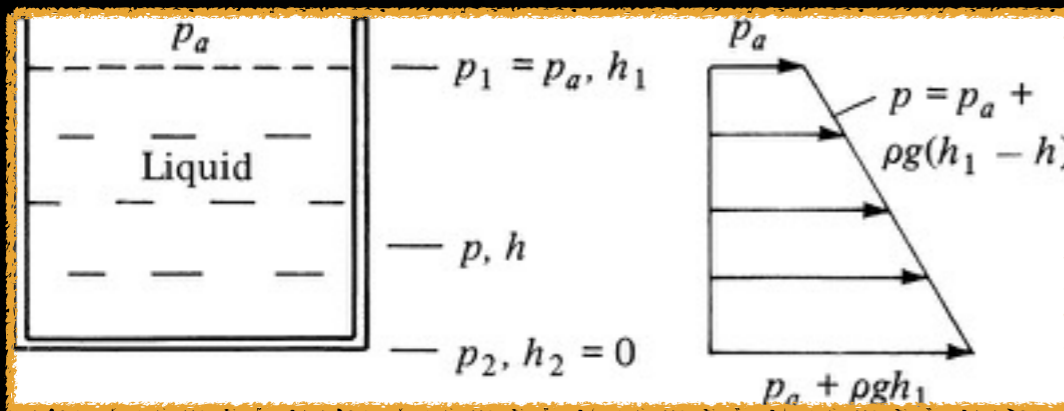
Buoyancy Force



$$dp = -\rho g dy \text{ (Hydrostatic equation)}$$

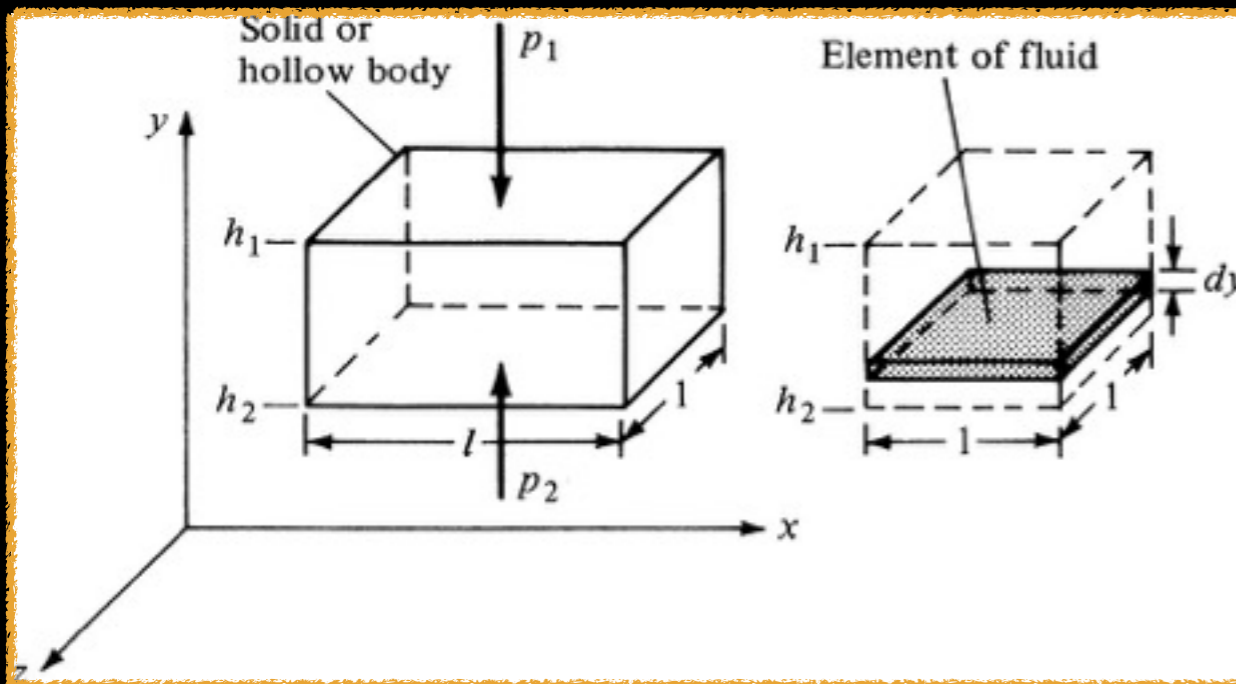
$$\int_{p_1}^{p_2} dp = -\rho g \int_{p_1}^{p_2} dy$$

$$p + \rho g h = \text{const}$$



$$p = p_a + \rho g(h_1 - h)$$

Buoyancy Force



- A solid body immersed in a fluid experiences a force, *buoyancy force*, even if there is no relative motion.

$$F = (p_2 - p_1)l(1)$$

$$= l \int_{p_1}^{p_2} dp$$

$$= l \int_{h_2}^{h_1} \rho g dy$$

Buoyancy Force = Weight of fluid displaced

Buoyancy Force: Example

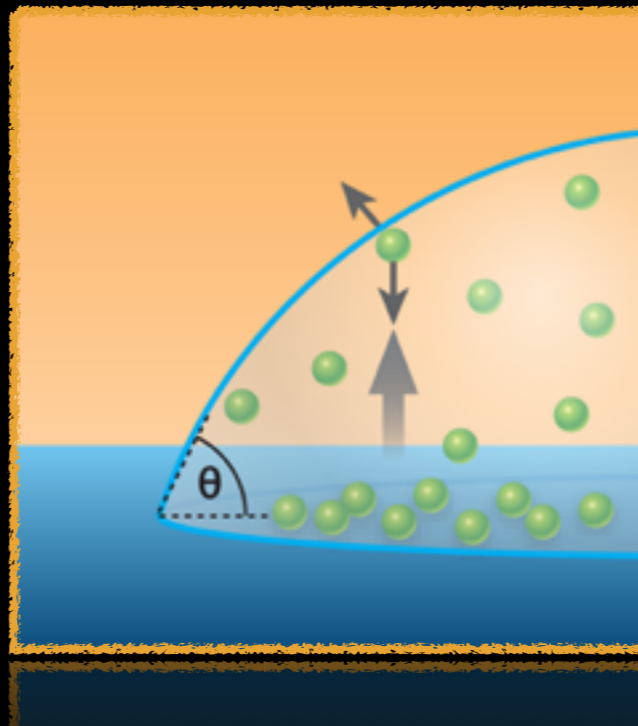


- *Hot-air balloon with an inflated diameter of 30ft carrying weight of 800lb.*
- *Calculate its upward acceleration and the achievable maximum altitude.*

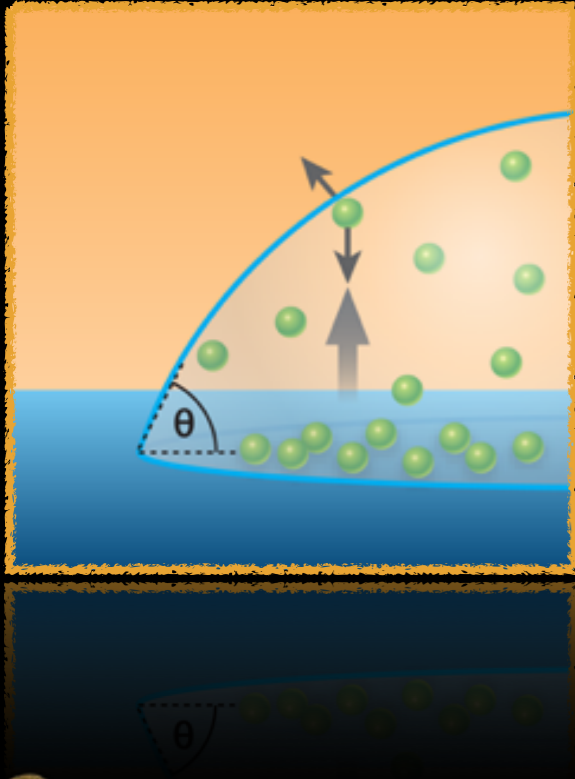
$$\rho = 0.002377(1 - 7 \times 10^{-6}h)^{4.21}$$

Continuum vs. Free Molecule Flow

- *If the mean-free path is orders of magnitude smaller than the length scale of the body: continuum flow.*
- *If the mean-free path is of the same order of magnitude as the length scale of the body: free molecular flow.*



Inviscid vs. Viscous Flow



- *When molecules move, they transport their mass, momentum and energy from one location to another in a fluid.*
- *This transport on a molecular level gives rise to mass diffusion, viscosity (friction), and thermal conduction: **Viscous Flows**.*
- *Flow with no friction, thermal conduction or diffusion: **Inviscid Flow**.*

Inviscid vs. Viscous Flow

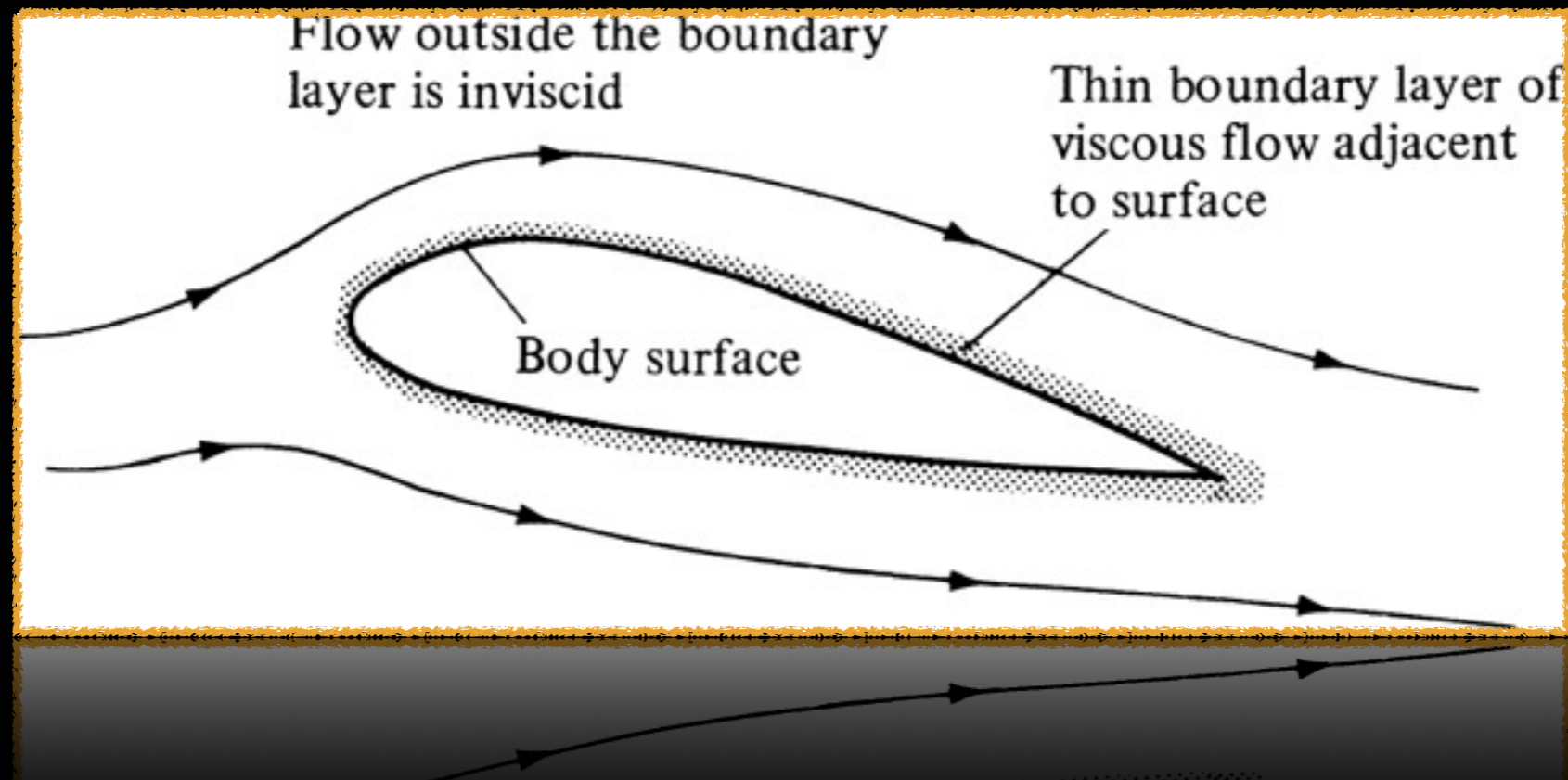
- *Inviscid flows do not truly exist in nature.*
- *However, there are many flows where the influence of transport phenomena is small: flow can be modeled as inviscid flow.*

$$Re = \frac{\rho v d}{\mu}$$

- *Inviscid flow is realized when Re approached infinity.*
- *Many flows with high but finite Re can be assumed inviscid.*

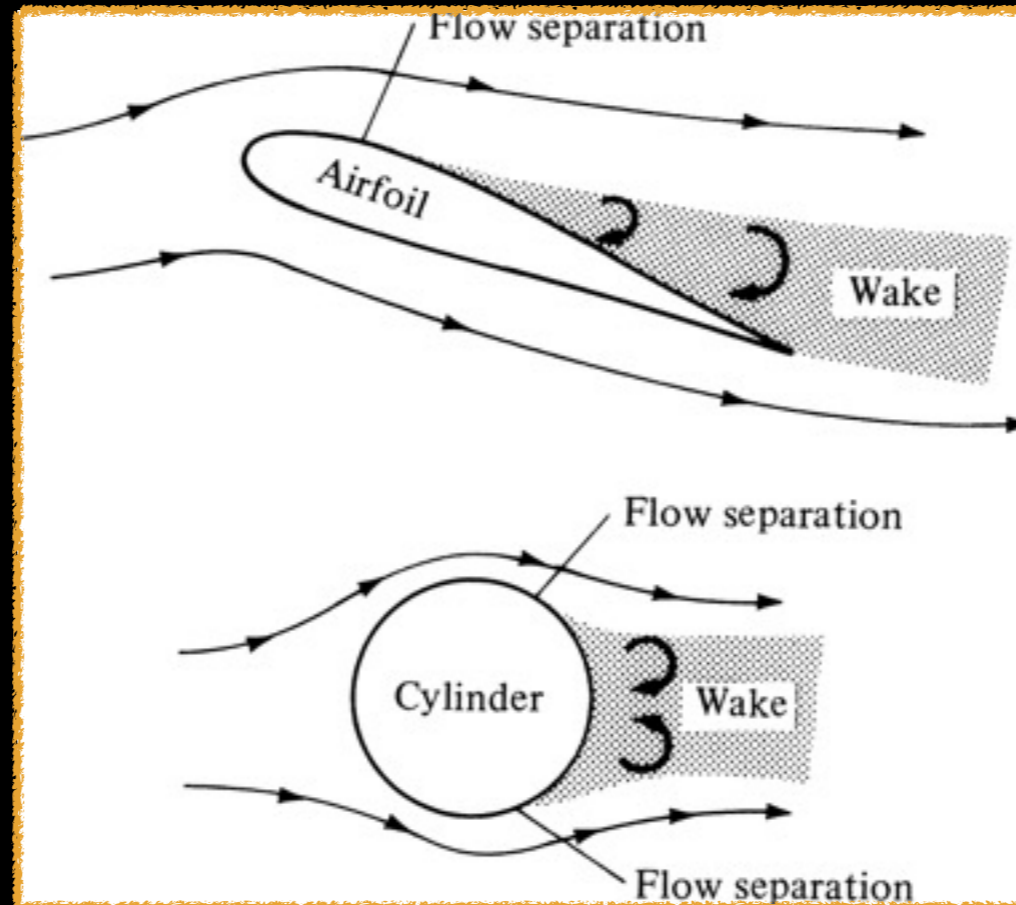
Inviscid vs. Viscous Flow

- For such high Re flows, the influence of transport phenomena is limited to a very thin layer adjacent to the surface: *boundary layer*.
- Outside this layer, the flow can be assumed to be essentially inviscid.



Inviscid vs. Viscous Flow

- *In contrast, some flows can be dominated by viscous effects.*

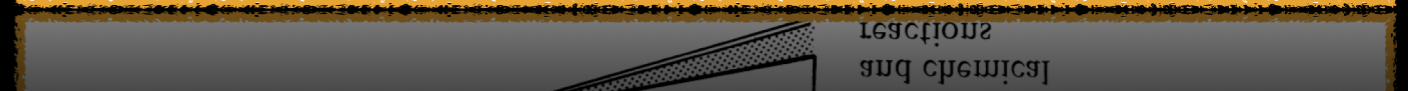
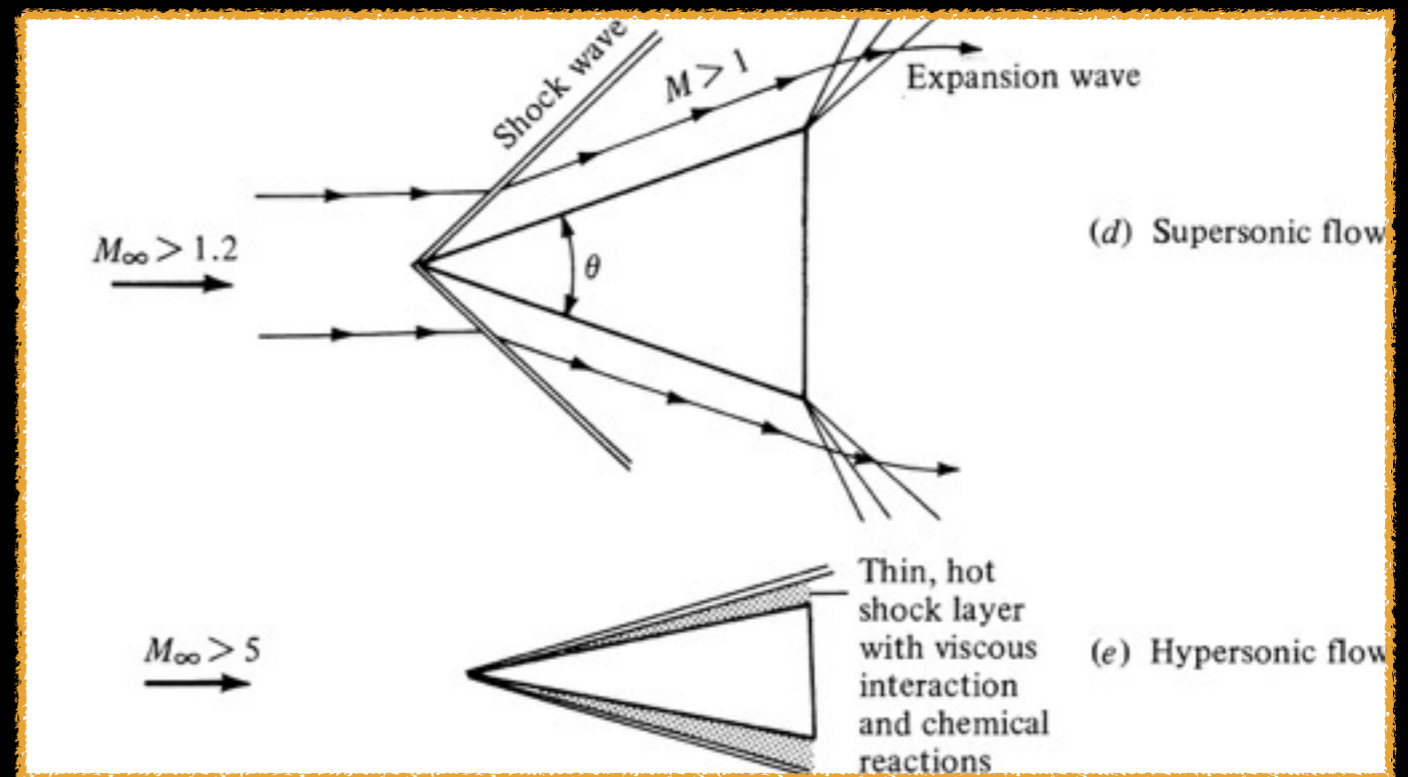
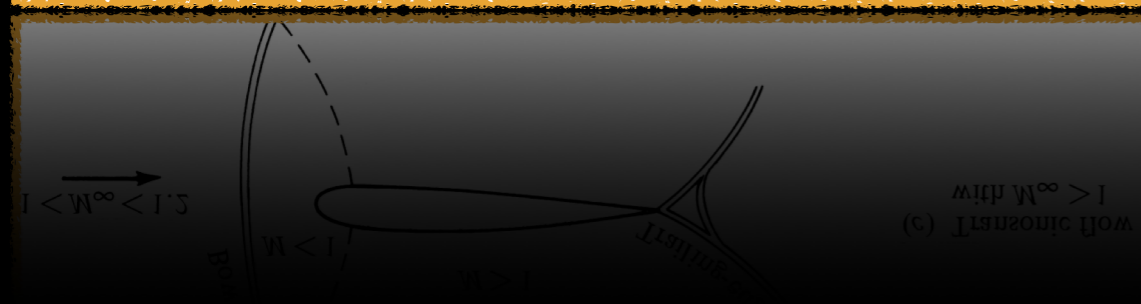
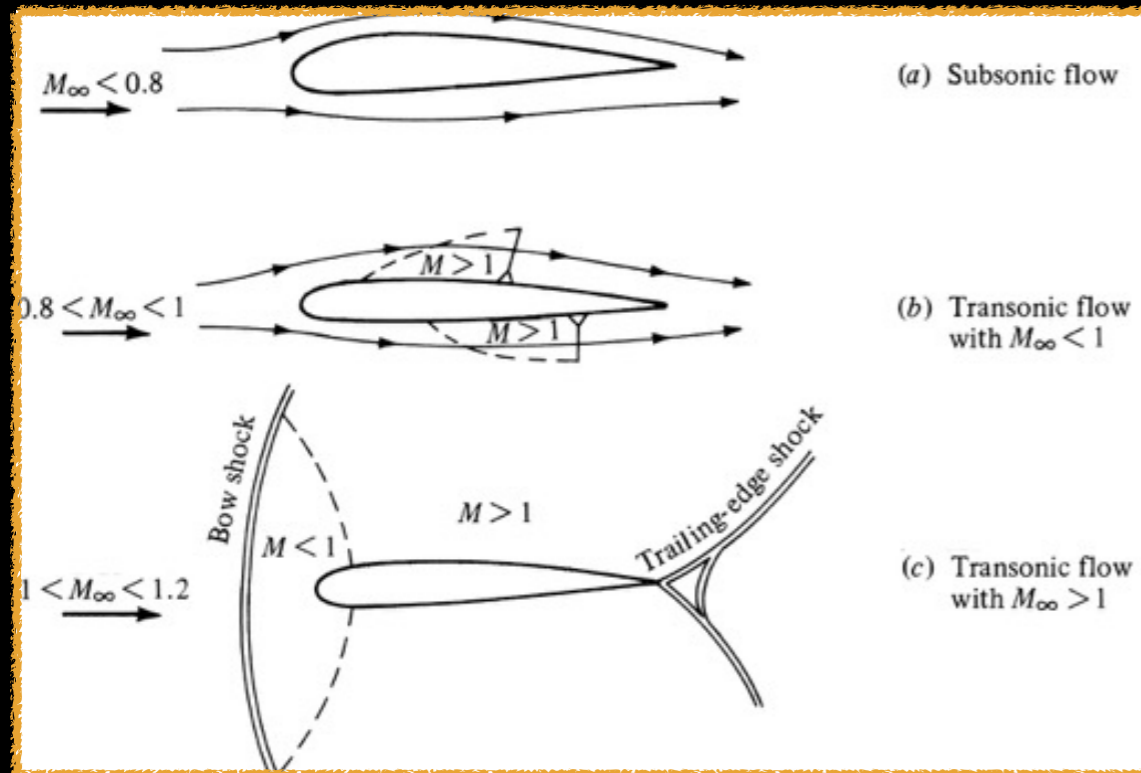


- *No inviscid flow theory can predict the aerodynamics of the above flows (viscous flows).*

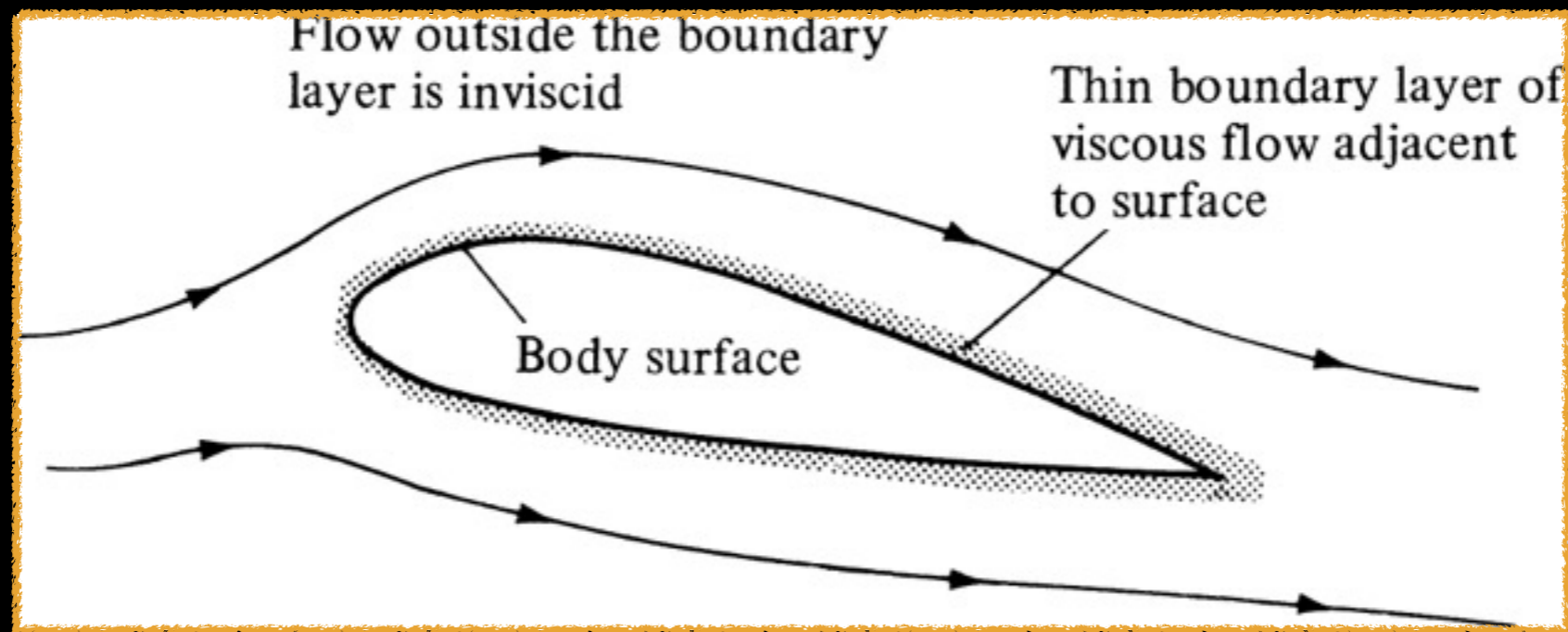
Incompressible vs. Compressible Flows

- *Flow in which density is constant: **incompressible flow**.*
- *Truly incompressible flow does not occur in nature. However, there are large number of flows in which the change in density is negligible.*
- *Such flows can be modeled as incompressible without any detrimental loss of accuracy.*
- *Flow in which density changes is called **compressible flow**.*

Mach Number Regimes

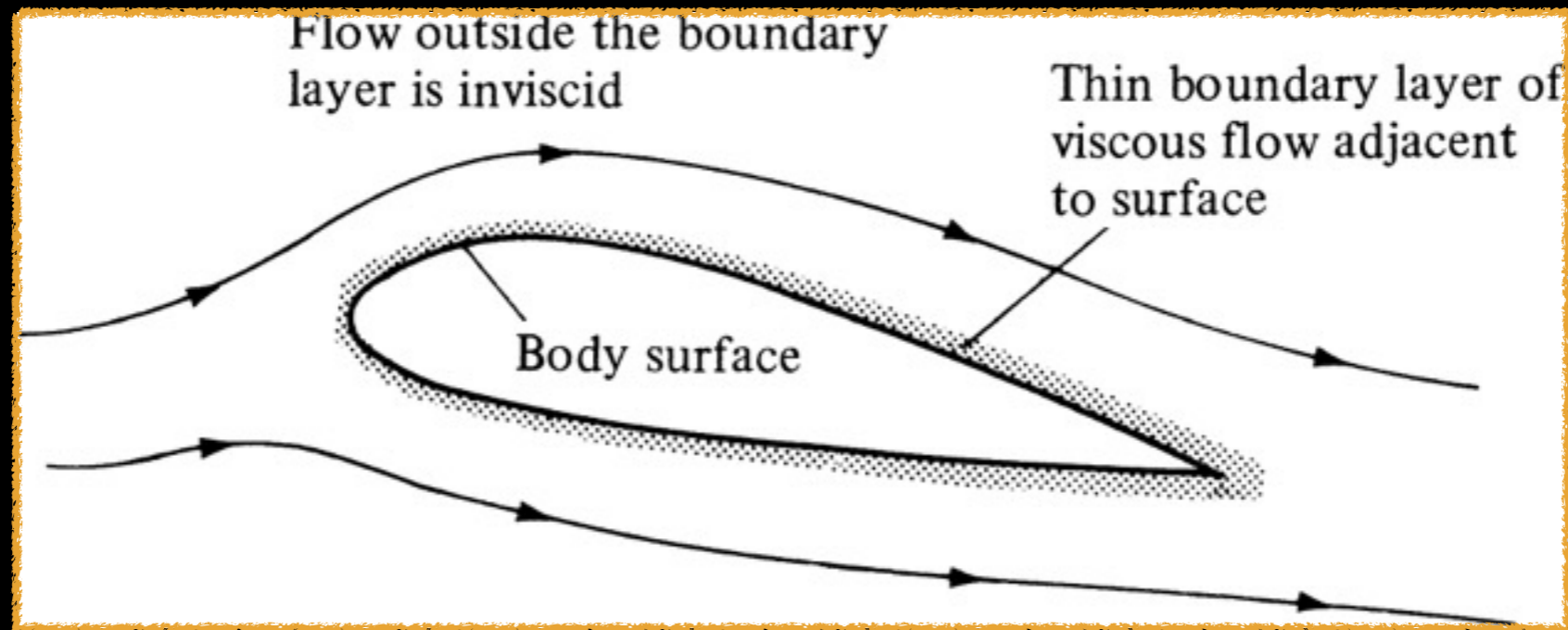


Viscous Flow: Boundary Layers



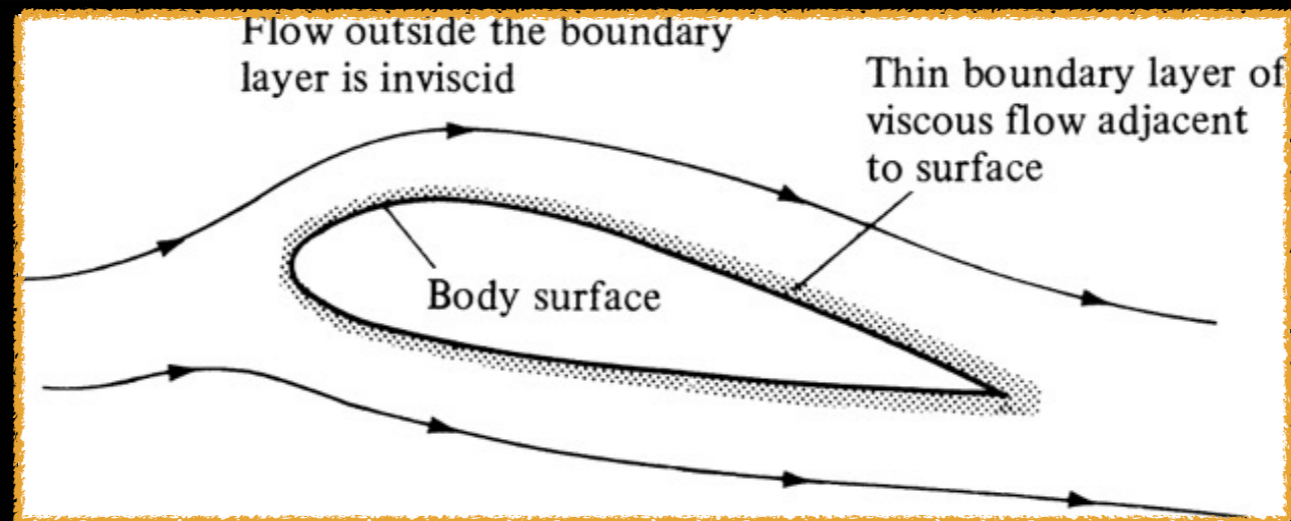
- *For the vast region of the flow field away from the body, velocity gradients are small, negligible friction.*
- *For the thin region adjacent to the surface, velocity gradients are large, substantial friction.*

Viscous Flow: Boundary Layers



- *The thin viscous region adjacent to the body is called the **boundary layer** (Ludwig Prandtl, 1904).*
- *For most aerodynamics problems, the boundary layer is very thin compared to the extent of rest of the flow.*

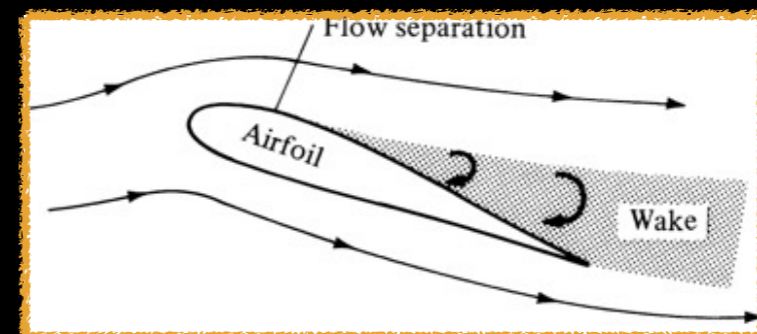
Viscous Flow: Boundary Layers



● *Thin boundary layer - BUT what an effect it has!!*

✱ *It is the source of friction drag on an aerodynamic body.*

✱ *When the boundary layer separates from the surface, it dramatically alters pressure distribution resulting in large increase in drag - pressure drag.*



The Aerodynamic Coefficients

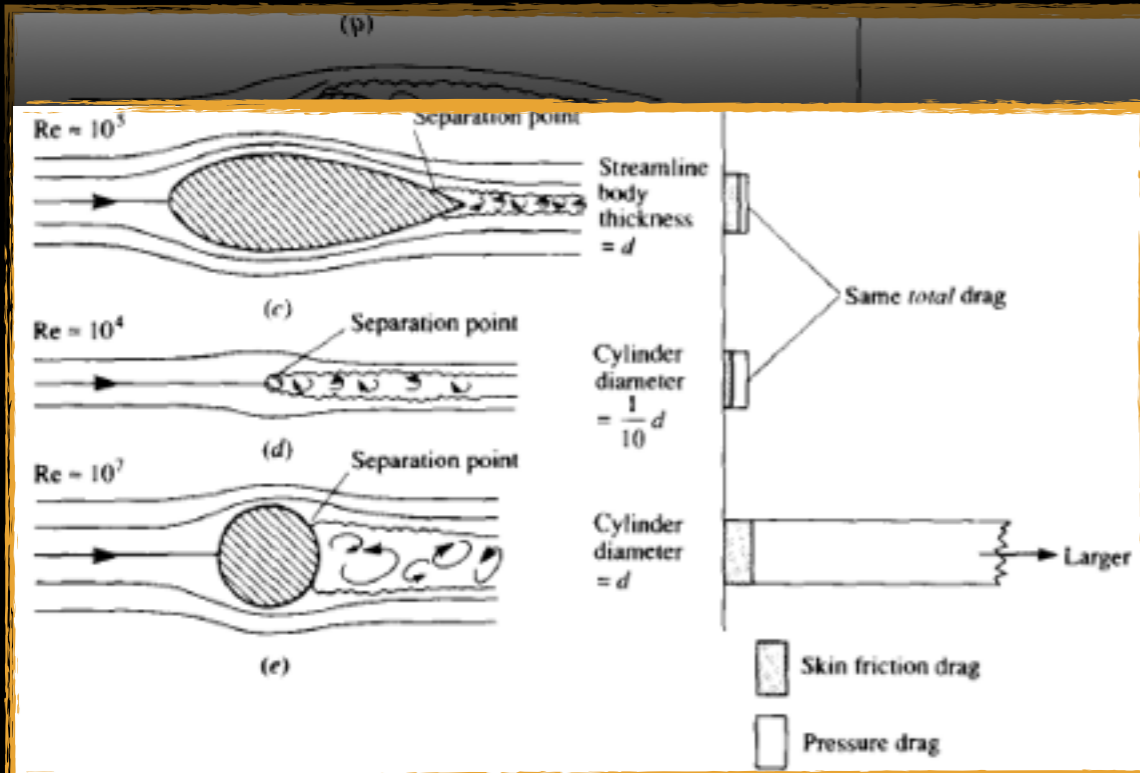
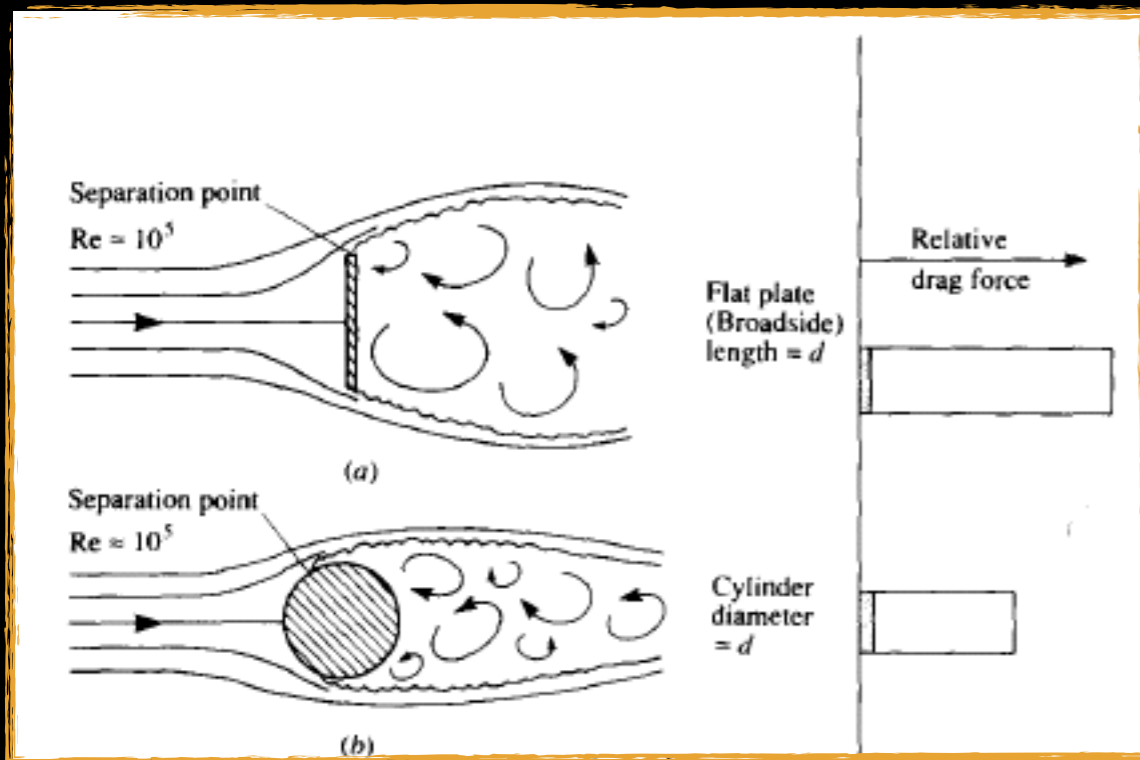
- What are some *typical drag coefficients* for various aerodynamic configurations?

$$C_D = f(M, Re)$$

For incompressible flow, $M \rightarrow 0$ because a is essentially ∞

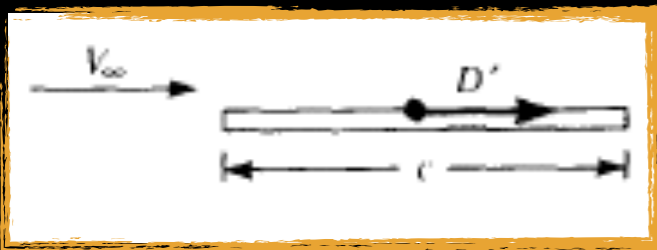
- Therefore, drag coefficient for a fixed shape and orientation to the flow is only a function of Re .

The Aerodynamic Coefficients

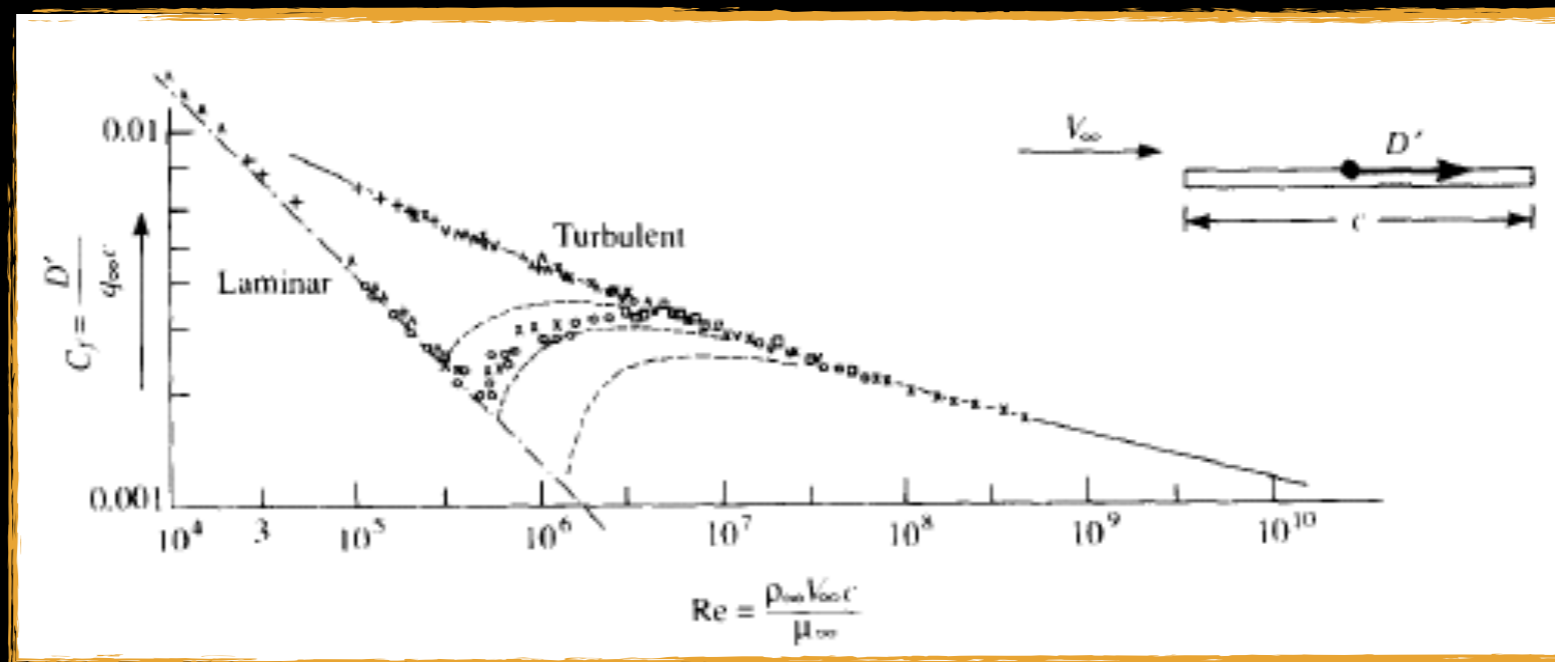


- *Blunt body: mostly pressure drag*
- *Pressure drag caused by flow separation - form drag.*
- *Streamlined: mostly friction drag*

Drag on a Flat Plate

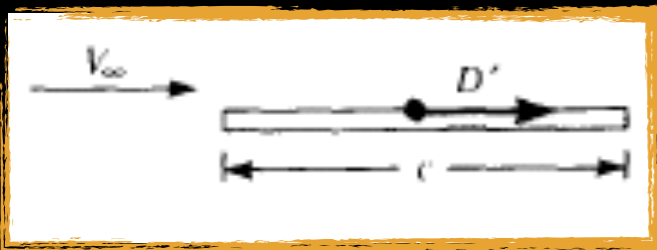


- *Drag is completely due to shear force.*
- *No pressure force in the drag direction.*

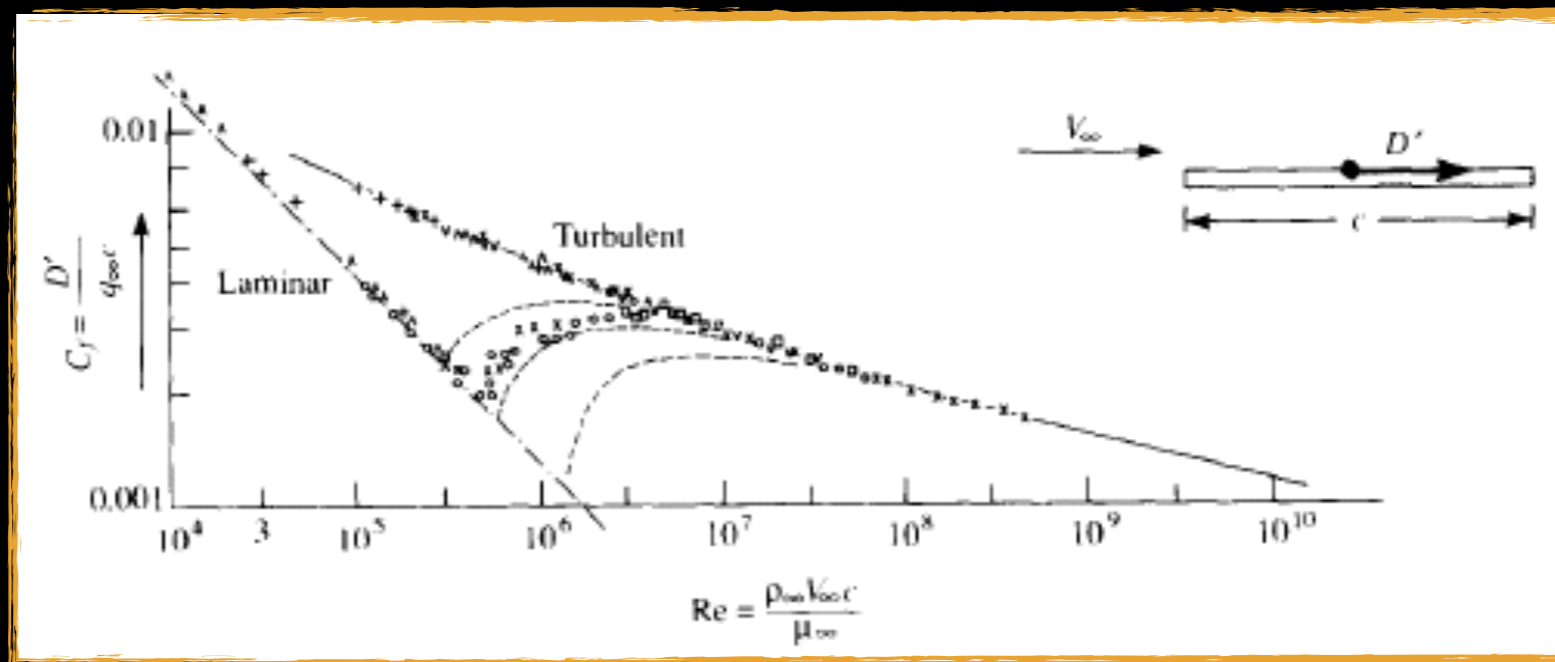


- *C_f is a strong function of Re .*
- *C_f is dependent on whether the flow is laminar or turbulent.*

NACA 63-210 Airfoil



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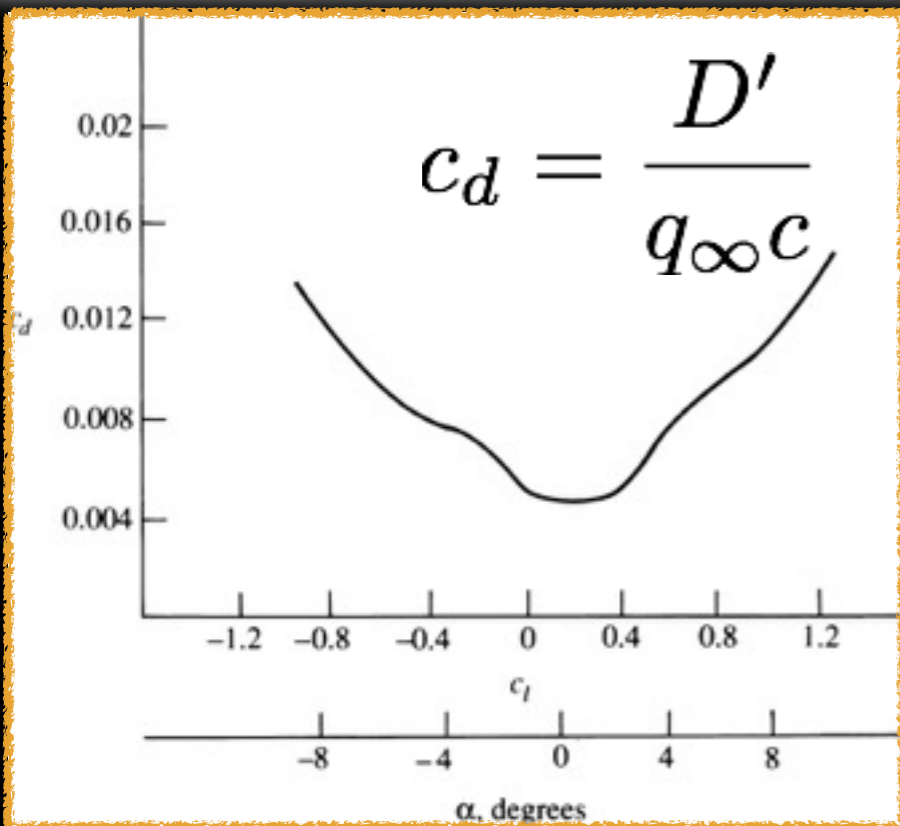


- *C_f is a strong function of Re .*
- *C_f is dependent on whether the flow is laminar or turbulent.*

NACA 63-210 Airfoil

- *6 denotes the series and indicates that this family is designed for greater laminar flow than the Four- or Five-Digit Series.*
- *The second digit, 3, is the location of the minimum pressure in tenths of chord ($0.3c$).*
- *The third digit represents the lift coefficient.*
- *The final two digits specify the thickness in percentage of chord, 10%.*

NACA 63-210 Airfoil



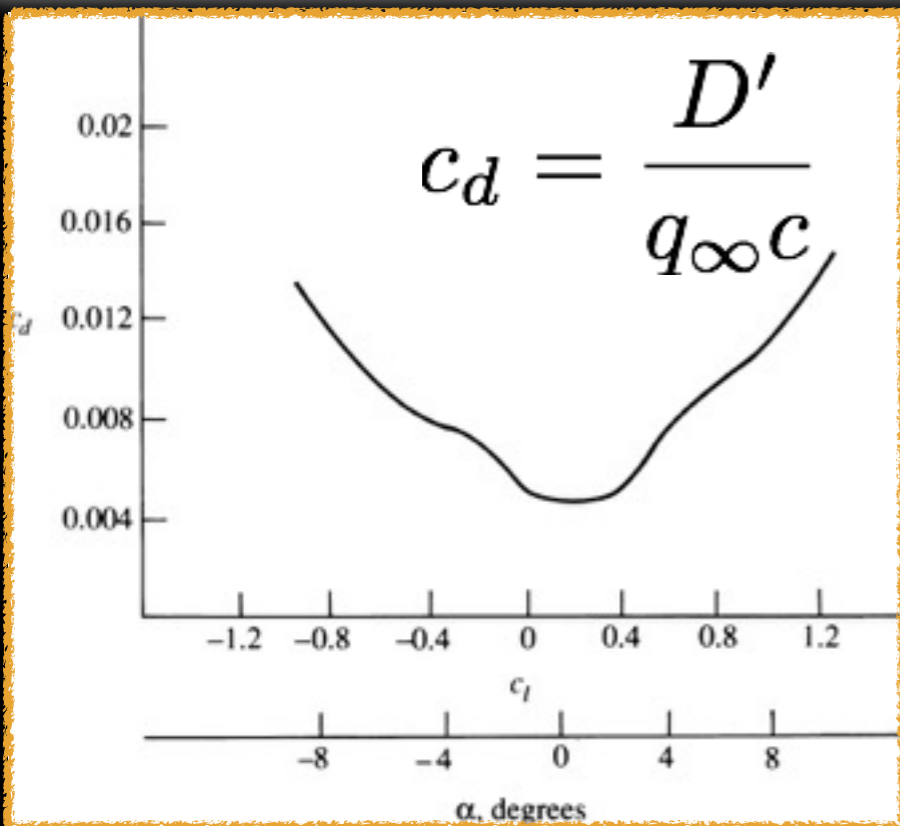
- *NACA 63-210 is classified as a **laminar flow airfoil** - it promotes laminar flow at small angles of attack.*
- *At higher angles of attack, it transitions to turbulent flow.*

● *The drag coefficient for laminar flow over the airfoil is of the order of 0.0045.*

● *Typical airfoil drag coefficients are between 0.004 - 0.006, mostly from skin friction.*

● *At higher angles of attack, **form drag** also contributes.*

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