

1.1.3 Twist due to flap rotation

Let us write the equilibrium about the elastic axis of the typical section with a movable surface, starting from the definition of the lift and moment considering also the effects generated by the movable surface

$$L = qS(C_{L0} + C_{L\alpha}\theta + C_{L\beta}\beta) \quad (1.19)$$

$$M_{AC} = qSc(C_{m_{CA}} + C_{m\beta}\beta) \quad (1.20)$$

We will not consider any reference load in this case since we are interested in the variation with respect to the equilibrium condition. The equilibrium equation about the elastic axis is

$$Le + M_{AC} = k_\alpha \theta \quad (1.21)$$

Substituting the expression of lift and moment

$$qSe(C_{L\alpha}\theta + C_{L\beta}\beta) + qScC_{m\beta}\beta = k_\alpha \theta \quad (1.22)$$

Ordering on the left end side all terms related to θ

$$(k_\alpha - qSeC_{L\alpha})\theta = qS(eC_{L\beta} + cC_{m\beta})\beta \quad (1.23)$$

Consequently we can compute the elastic torsion that is generated by the rotation of the movable surface β

$$\theta = qS \frac{eC_{L\beta} + cC_{m\beta}}{k_\alpha - qSeC_{L\alpha}} \beta \quad (1.24)$$

The lift generated by the rotation of the movable surface is the sum of the lift generated by a rigid airfoil L_R plus the lift due to elastic torsion L_E

$$L = L_R + L_E = qS \left(C_{L\beta}\beta + C_{L\alpha}qS \frac{eC_{L\beta} + cC_{m\beta}}{k_\alpha - qSeC_{L\alpha}} \beta \right) \quad (1.25)$$

If we express the L through an elastic stability derivative $(C_{L\beta})_e$

$$L = qS(C_{L\beta})_e \beta \quad (1.26)$$

so

$$(C_{L\beta})_e = \left(C_{L\beta} + C_{L\alpha}qS \frac{eC_{L\beta} + cC_{m\beta}}{k_\alpha - qSeC_{L\alpha}} \right) \quad (1.27)$$

The control surface elastic efficiency E_c is the the ration between the elastic and the rigid stability derivatives

$$\frac{(C_{L\beta})_e}{C_{L\beta}} = 1 + \frac{qSeC_{L\alpha} + qScC_{m\beta} \frac{C_{L\alpha}}{C_{L\beta}}}{k_\alpha - qSeC_{L\alpha}} \quad (1.28)$$

Remembering that $k_A = SeC_{L\alpha}$ the expression can be written as

$$\frac{(C_{L\beta})_e}{C_{L\beta}} = 1 + \frac{qk_A + qScC_{m\beta} \frac{C_{L\alpha}}{C_{L\beta}}}{k_\alpha - qk_A} \quad (1.29)$$

$$\frac{(C_{L\beta})_e}{C_{L\beta}} = \frac{k_\alpha + qScC_{m\beta} \frac{C_{L\alpha}}{C_{L\beta}}}{k_\alpha - qk_A} \quad (1.30)$$

$$E_c = \frac{(C_{L\beta})_e}{C_{L\beta}} = \frac{1 + qSc \frac{C_{L\alpha} C_{m\beta}}{k_\alpha C_{L\beta}}}{1 - \frac{q}{q_D}} \quad (1.31)$$