

16.885J/ESD.35J  
Aircraft Systems Engineering

# Introduction to Aircraft Performance and Static Stability

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# Today's Topics

- Specific fuel consumption and Breguet range equation
- Transonic aerodynamic considerations
- Aircraft Performance
  - Aircraft turning
  - Energy analysis
  - Operating envelope
  - Deep dive of other performance topics for jet transport aircraft in Lectures 6 and 7
- Aircraft longitudinal static stability

# Thrust Specific Fuel Consumption (TSFC)

- Definition:  $TSFC \square \frac{\text{lb of fuel burned}}{(\text{lb of thrust delivered})(\text{hour})}$
- Measure of jet engine effectiveness at converting fuel to useable thrust
- Includes installation effects such as
  - bleed air for cabin, electric generator, etc..
  - Inlet effects can be included (organizational dependent)
- Typical numbers are in range of 0.3 to 0.9. Can be up to 1.5
- Terminology varies with time units used, and it is not all consistent.
  - TSFC uses hours
  - “c” is often used for TSFC
  - Another term used is  $c_t \square \frac{\text{lb of fuel burned}}{(\text{lb of thrust delivered})(\text{sec})}$

# Breguet Range Equation

- Change in aircraft weight = fuel burned

$$dW = -c_t T dt \quad c_t = TSFC/3600 \quad T = thrust$$

- Solve for dt and multiply by  $V_\infty$  to get ds

$$ds/V_\infty dt = -\frac{V_\infty dW}{c_t T} - \frac{V_\infty W dW}{c_t T W} - \frac{V_\infty L}{c_t D} \frac{dW}{W}$$

- Set L/D,  $c_t$ ,  $V_\infty$  constant and integrate

$$R = \frac{3600}{TSFC} V_\infty \frac{L}{D} \ln \frac{W_{TO}}{W_{empty}}$$

# Insights from Breguet Range Equation

$$R \square \frac{3600}{TSFC} V_{\infty} \frac{L}{D} \ln \frac{W_{TO}}{W_{empty}}$$

$\frac{3600}{TSFC}$  represents propulsion effects. Lower TSFC is better

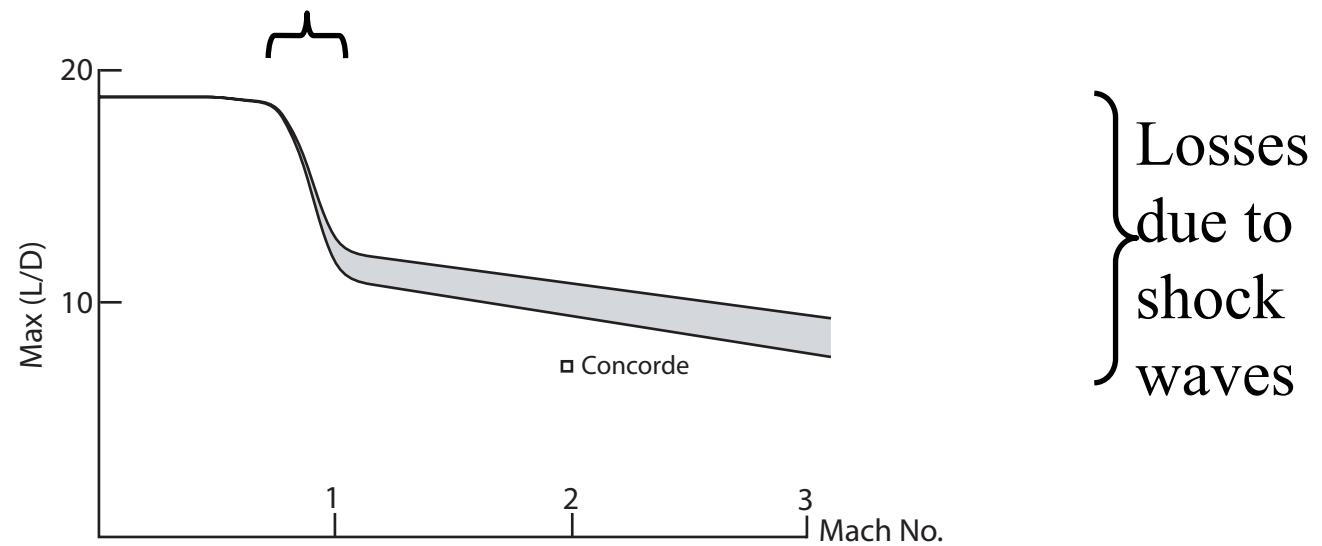
$V_{\infty} \frac{L}{D}$  represents aerodynamic effect. L/D is aerodynamic efficiency

$V_{\infty} \frac{L}{D} - a_{\infty} M_{\infty} \frac{L}{D} \cdot a_{\infty}$  is constant above 36,000 ft.  $M_{\infty} \frac{L}{D}$  important

$\ln \frac{W_{TO}}{W_{empty}}$  represents aircraft weight/structures effect on range

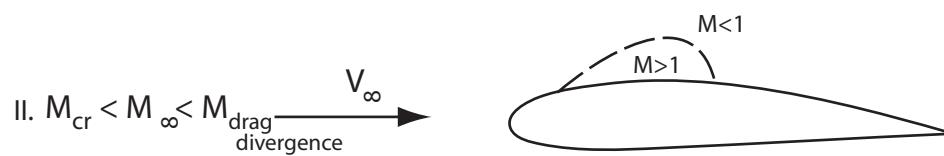
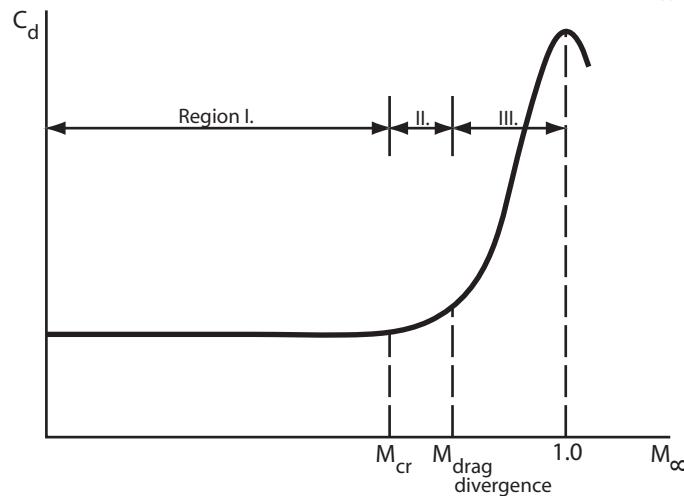
# Optimized L/D - Transport A/C

“Sweet spot” is in transonic range.



Ref: Shevell

# Transonic Effects on Airfoil $C_d$ , $C_l$

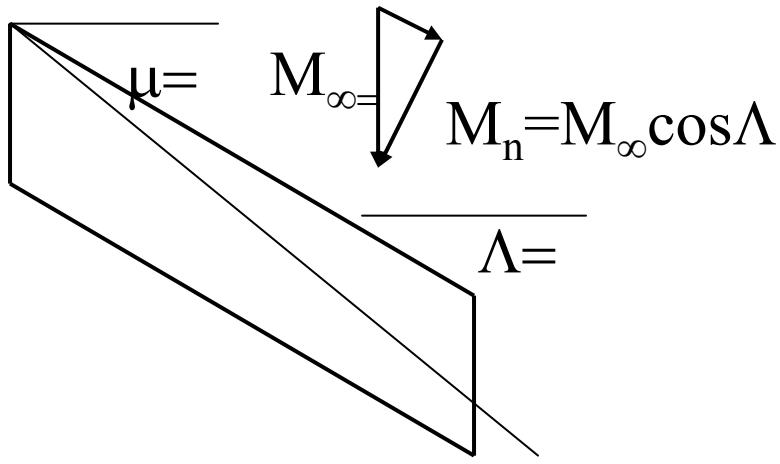


# Strategies for Mitigating Transonic Effects

- Wing sweep
  - Developed by Germans. Discovered after WWII by Boeing
  - Incorporated in B-52
- Area Ruling, aka “coke bottling”
  - Developed by Dick Whitcomb at NASA Langley in 1954
    - Kucheman in Germany and Hayes at North American contributors
  - Incorporated in F-102
- Supercritical airfoils
  - Developed by Dick Whitcomb at NASA Langley in 1965
    - Percey at RAE had some early contributions
  - Incorporated in modern military and commercial aircraft

# Basic Sweep Concept

- Consider Mach Number normal to leading edge



$$\sin \mu = 1 / M_\infty$$

$\mu$  = Mach angle,  
the direction  
disturbances  
travel in  
supersonic flow

- For subsonic freestreams,  $M_n < M_\infty$  - Lower effective “freestream” Mach number delays onset of transonic drag rise.
- For supersonic freestreams
  - $M_n < 1$ ,  $\Lambda \geq \mu$  = Subsonic leading edge
  - $M_n > 1$ ,  $\Lambda \leq \mu$  = Supersonic leading edge
- Extensive analysis available, but this is gist of the concept

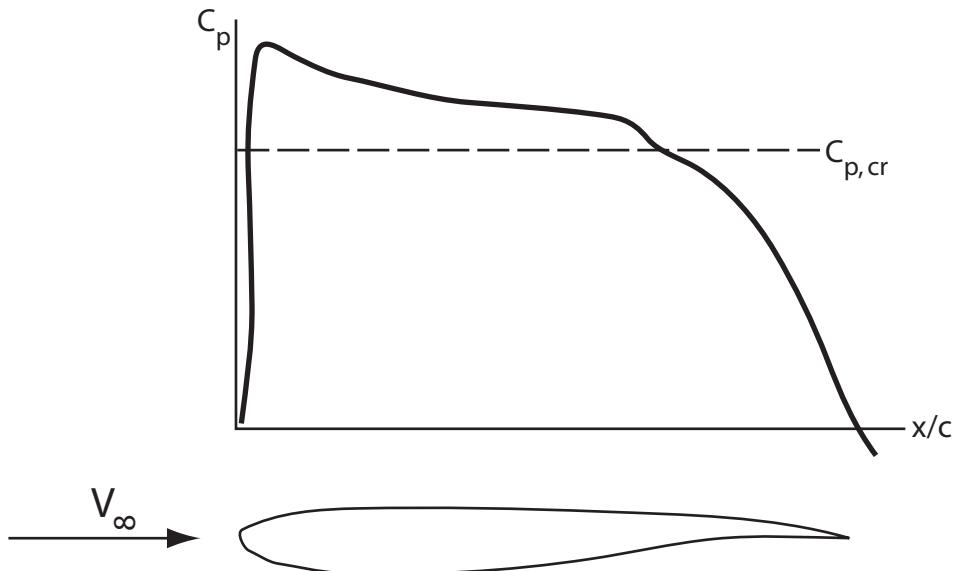
# Wing Sweep Considerations $M_{\infty} > 1$

- Subsonic leading edge
  - Can have rounded subsonic type wing section
    - Thicker section
    - Upper surface suction
    - More lift and less drag
- Supersonic leading edge
  - Need supersonic type wing section
    - Thin section
    - Sharp leading edge

# Competing Needs

- Subsonic Mach number
  - High Aspect Ratio for low induced drag
- Supersonic Mach number
  - Want high sweep for subsonic leading edge
- Possible solutions
  - Variable sweep wing - B-1
  - Double delta - US SST
  - Blended - Concorde
  - Optimize for supersonic - B-58

# Supercritical Airfoil



Supercritical airfoil shape keeps upper surface velocity from getting too large.

Uses aft camber to generate lift.

Gives nose down pitching moment.

# Today's Performance Topics

- Turning analysis
  - Critical for high performance military a/c. Applicable to all.
  - Horizontal, pull-up, pull-down, pull-over, vertical
  - Universal  $M-\omega$ =turn rate chart , V-n diagram
- Energy analysis
  - Critical for high performance military a/c. Applicable to all.
  - Specific energy, specific excess power
  - M-h diagram, min time to climb
- Operating envelope
- Back up charts for fighter aircraft
  - $M-\omega$ =diagram - “Doghouse” chart
  - Maneuver limits and some example
  - Extensive notes from Lockheed available. Ask me.

# Horizontal Turn

$$W = L \cos\phi, \phi = \text{bank angle}$$

Level turn, no loss of altitude

$$F_r = (L^2 - W^2)^{1/2} = W(n^2 - 1)^{1/2}$$

Where  $n \equiv L/W = 1/\cos\phi$  is the load factor measured in “g’s”.

$$\text{But } F_r = (W/g)(V_\infty^2/R)$$

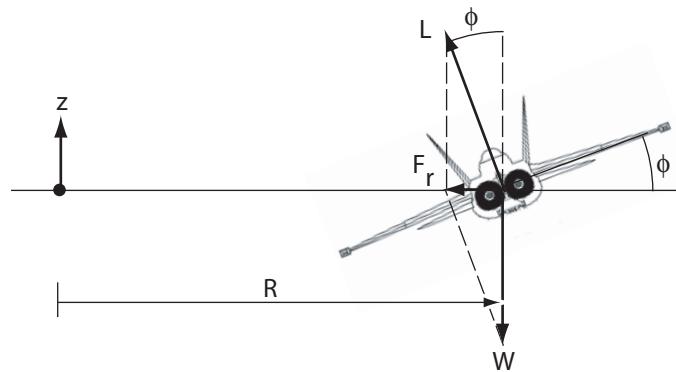
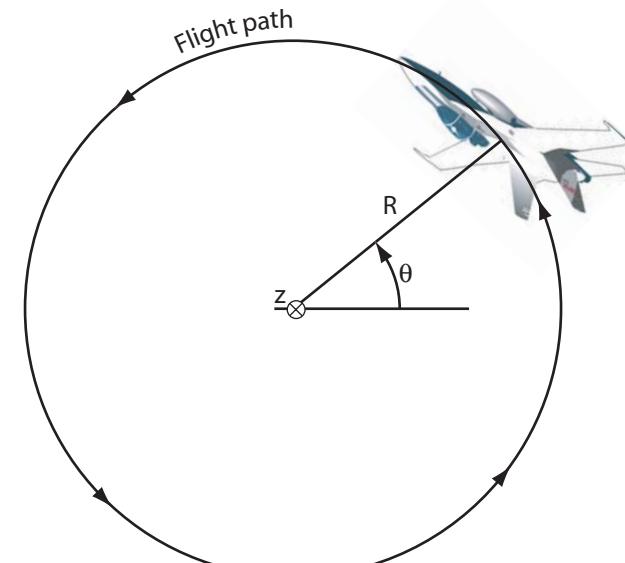
So radius of turn is

$$R = V_\infty^2/g(n^2 - 1)^{1/2}$$

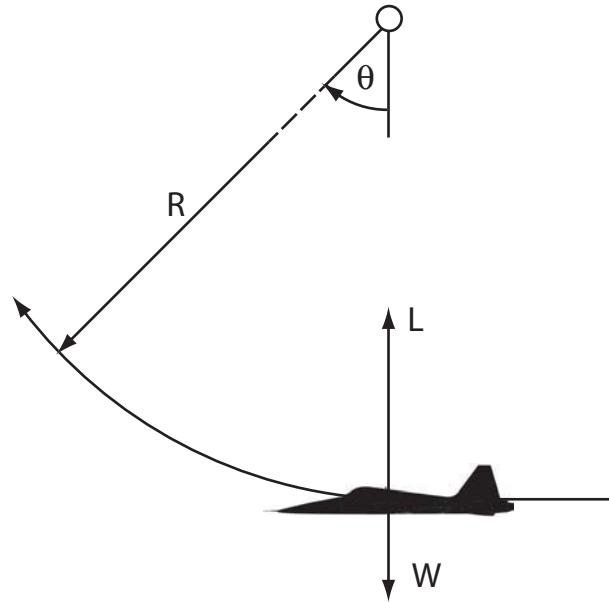
And turn rate  $\omega = V_\infty/R$  is

$$\omega = g(n^2 - 1)^{1/2} / V_\infty$$

Want high load factor, low velocity



# Pull Up



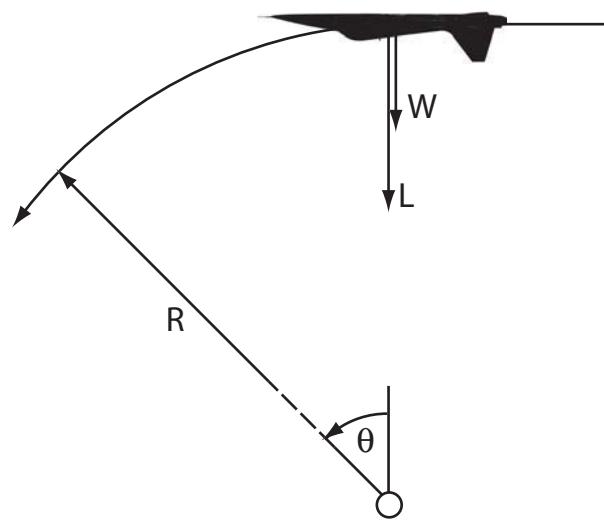
$$F_r = (L - W) = W(n-1)$$

$$= (W/g)(V_\infty^2/R)$$

$$R = V_\infty^2/g(n-1)$$

$$\omega = g(n-1)/V_\infty$$

# Pull Over



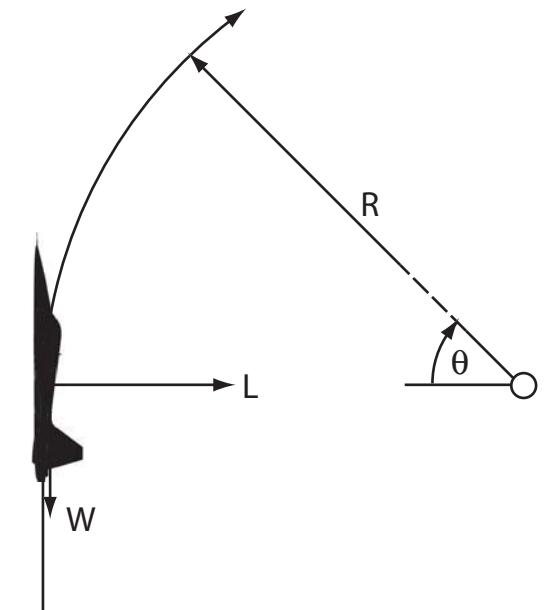
$$F_r = (L + W) = W(n+1)$$

$$= (W/g)(V_\infty^2/R)$$

$$R = V_\infty^2/g(n+1)$$

$$\omega = g(n+1)/V_\infty$$

# Vertical



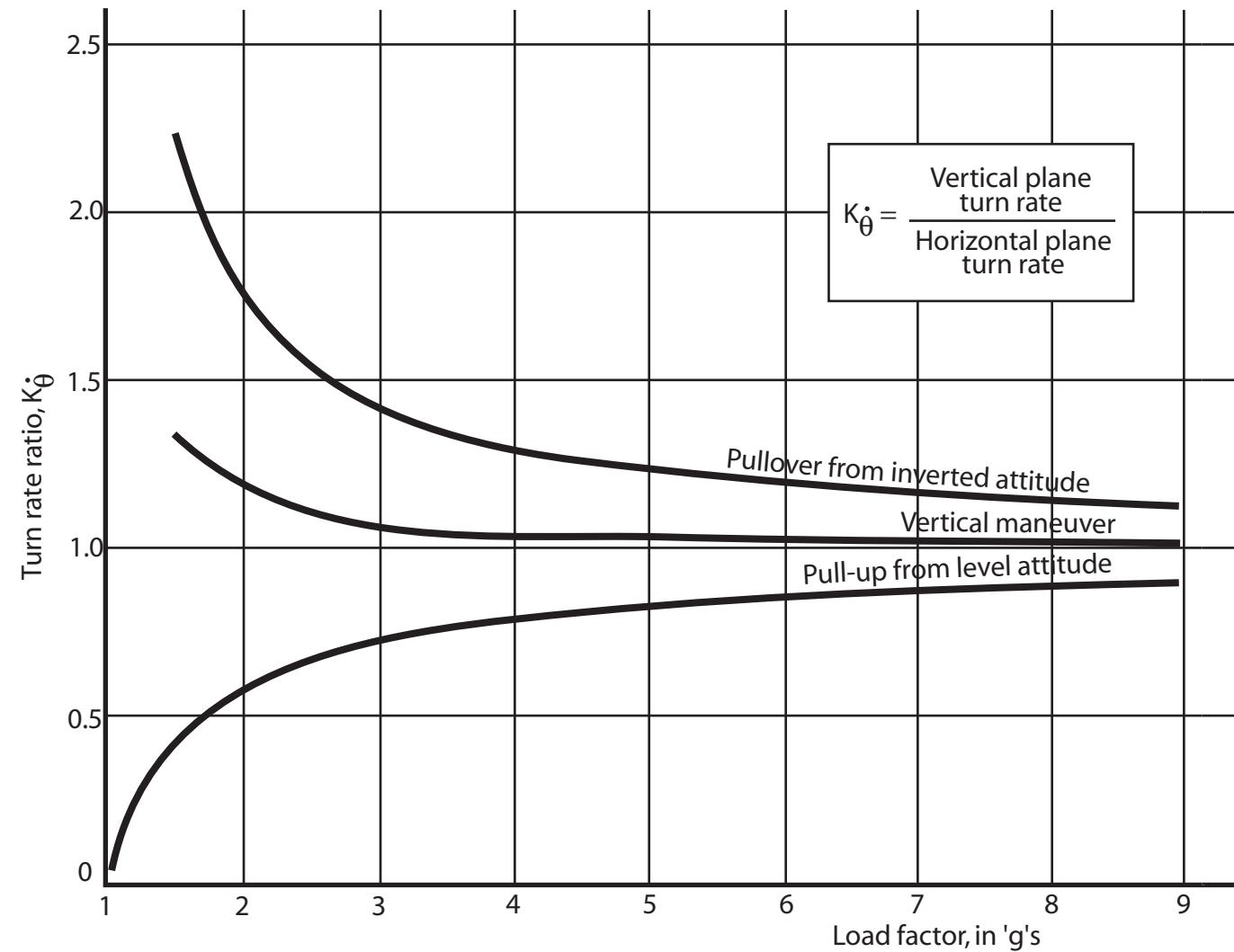
$$F_r = L = Wn$$

$$= (W/g)(V_\infty^2/R)$$

$$R = V_\infty^2/gn$$

$$\omega = gn/V_\infty$$

## Vertical Plan Turn Rates



Let  $\theta^Y \omega$

### Pull Over

$$K_{\omega} = \frac{(n+1)}{(n^2-1)^{1/2}}$$

### Vertical Maneuver

$$K_{\omega} = \frac{n}{(n^2-1)^{1/2}}$$

### Pull Up

$$K_{\omega} = \frac{(n-1)}{(n^2-1)^{1/2}}$$

For large  $n$ ,  $K_{\omega} \approx 1$  and for all maneuvers  $\omega \approx gn/V_{\infty}$

Similarly for turn radius, for large  $n$ ,  $R \approx V_{\infty}^2/gn$ .

For large  $\omega$  and small  $R$ , want large  $n$  and small  $V_{\infty}$

$\omega \approx gn / V_\infty = gn / a_\infty M_\infty$  so  $\omega \sim 1 / M_\infty$  at const h (altitude) & n

Using  $R \approx V_\infty^2 / gn$ ,  $\omega \approx V_\infty / R = a_\infty M_\infty / R$ . So  $\omega \sim M_\infty$  at const h & R

For high Mach numbers, the turn radius gets large

# $R_{\min}$ and $\omega_{\max}$

Using  $V_{\infty} = (2L/\rho_{\infty}SC_L)^{1/2} = (2nW/\rho_{\infty}SC_L)^{1/2}$

$$R \cong V_{\infty}^2/gn \quad \text{becomes} \quad R = 2(W/S)/g\rho_{\infty}C_L$$

$W/S$  = wing loading, an important performance parameter

And using  $n = L/W = \rho_{\infty}V_{\infty}^2SC_L/2W$

$$\omega \cong gn/V_{\infty} = g \rho_{\infty}V_{\infty}C_L/2(W/S)$$

For each airplane,  $W/S$  set by range, payload,  $V_{\max}$ .

Then, for a given airplane

$$R_{\min} = 2(W/S)/g\rho_{\infty}C_{L,\max}$$

$$\omega_{\max} = g \rho_{\infty}V_{\infty}C_{L,\max}/2(W/S)$$

Higher  $C_{L,\max}$  gives superior turning performance.

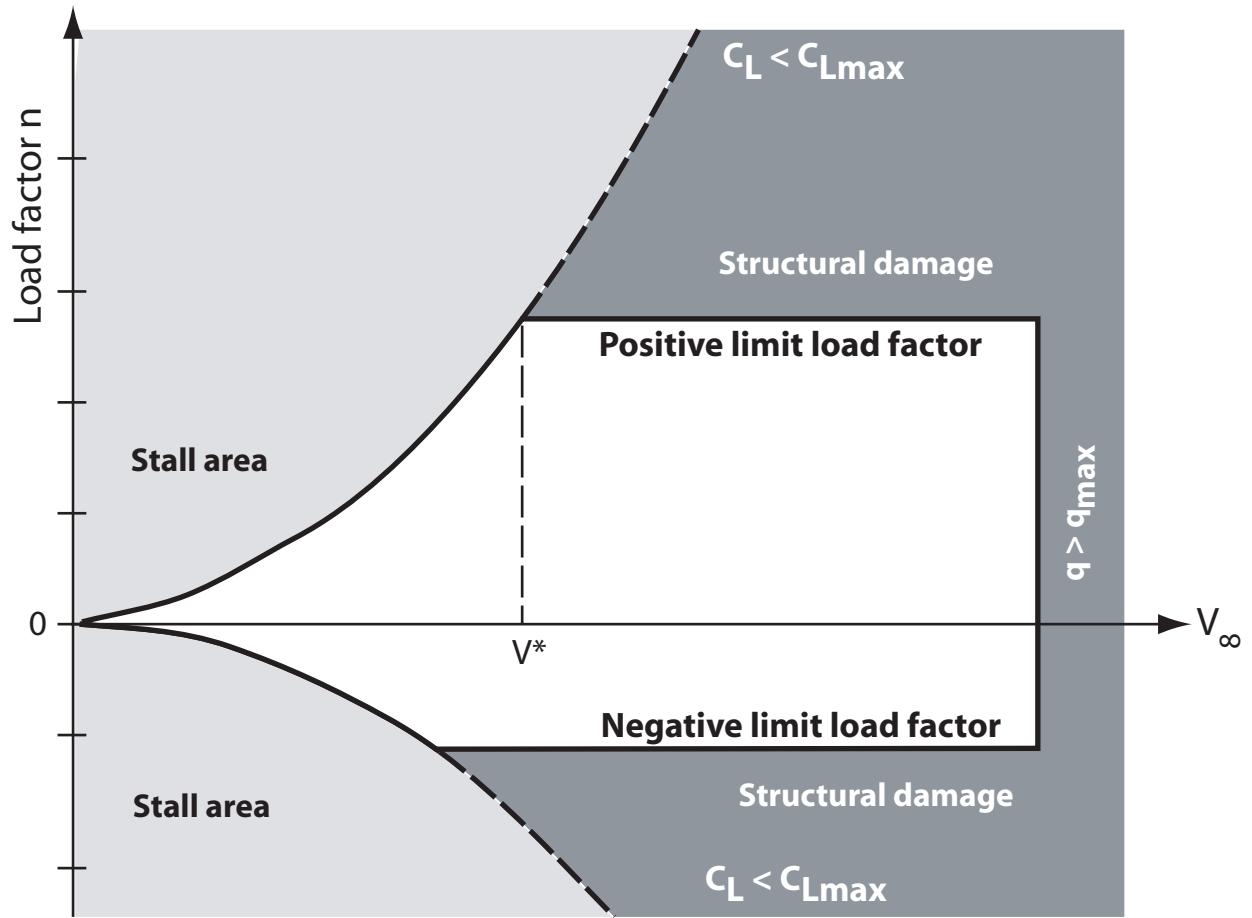
But does  $n_{CL,\max} = \rho_{\infty}V_{\infty}^2C_{L,\max}/2(W/S)$  exceed structural limits?

# V-n diagram

$$V^* = \sqrt{\frac{2n_{\max}}{\rho_\infty C_{L,\max}} \frac{W}{S}}$$

Highest  
possible  $\omega$ =

Lowest  
possible R



Each airplane has a V-n diagram.

Source: Anderson

# Summary on Turning

- Want large structural load factor  $n$
- Want large  $C_{L,MAX}$
- Want small  $V_\infty$
- Shortest turn radius, maximum turn rate is “Corner Velocity”
- Question, does the aircraft have the power to execute these maneuvers?

# Specific Energy and Excess Power

Total aircraft energy = PE + KE

$$E_{\text{tot}} = mgh + mV^2/2$$

Specific energy = (PE + KE)/W

$$H_e = h + V^2/2g \text{ "energy height"}$$

Excess Power = (T-D)V

Specific excess power\*

$$= (TV - DV)/W$$

$$= dH_e/dt$$

$$P_s = dh/dt + V/g \, dV/dt$$

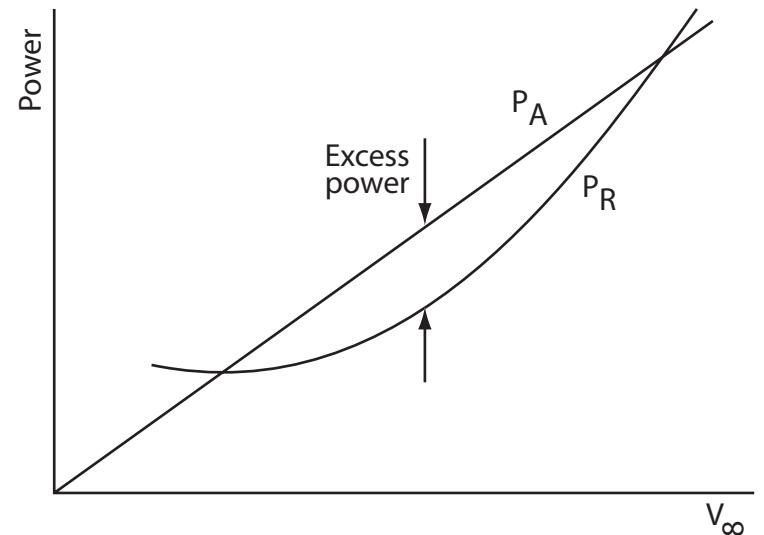
$P_s$  may be used to change altitude, or accelerate, or both

\* Called specific power in Lockheed Martin notes.

# Excess Power

## Power Required

$$\begin{aligned} P_R &= DV_{\infty} = q_{\infty} S (C_{D,0} + C_L^2 / \pi A Re) V_{\infty} \\ &= q_{\infty} S C_{D,0} V_{\infty} + q_{\infty} S V_{\infty} C_L^2 / \pi A Re \\ &= \underbrace{\rho_{\infty} S C_{D,0} V_{\infty}^3 / 2}_{\text{Parasite power required}} + \underbrace{2n^2 W^2 / \rho_{\infty} S V_{\infty} \pi A Re}_{\text{Induced power required}} \square \end{aligned}$$



## Power Available

$P_A = TV_{\infty}$  and Thrust is approximately constant with velocity, but varies linearly with density.

Excess power depends upon velocity, altitude and load factor

# Altitude Effects on Excess Power

$$P_R = DV_{\infty} = (nW/L) DV_{\infty}$$

$$= nWV_{\infty} C_D/C_L$$

From  $L = \rho_{\infty} S V_{\infty}^2 C_L / 2 = nW$ , get

$$V_{\infty} = (2nW / \rho_{\infty} S C_L)^{1/2}$$

Substitute in  $P_R$  to get

$$P_R = (2n^3 W^3 C_D^2 / \rho_{\infty} S C_L^3)^{1/2}$$

So can scale between sea level “0” and altitude “alt” assuming  $C_D, C_L$  const.

$$V_{\text{alt}} = V_0 (\rho_0 / \rho_{\text{alt}})^{1/2}, P_{R,\text{alt}} = P_{R,0} (\rho_0 / \rho_{\text{alt}})^{1/2}$$

Thrust scales with density, so

$$P_{A,\text{alt}} = P_{A,0} (\rho_{\text{alt}} / \rho_0)$$

# Summary of Power Characteristics

- $H_e$  = specific energy represents “state” of aircraft. Units are in feet.
  - Curves are universal
- $P_s = (T/W - D/W)V$  = specific excess power
  - Represents ability of aircraft to change energy state.
  - Curves depend upon aircraft (thrust and drag)
  - Maybe used to climb and/or accelerate
  - Function of altitude
  - Function of load factor
- “Military pilots fly with  $P_s$  diagrams in the cockpit”, Anderson

# A/C Performance Summary

Factor	Commercial Transport	Military Transport	Fighter	General Aviation
Take-off	Liebeck			
	$h_{obs} = 35'$	$h_{obs} = 50'$	$h_{obs} = 50'$	$h_{obs} = 50'$
Landing	Liebeck			
	$V_{app} = 1.3 V_{stall}$	$V_{app} = 1.2 V_{stall}$	$V_{app} = 1.2 V_{stall}$	$V_{app} = 1.3 V_{stall}$
Climb	Liebeck			
Level Flight	Liebeck			
Range	Breguet Range		Radius of action*. Uses refueling	Breguet for prop
Endurance, Loiter	$E \text{ (hrs)} = R \text{ (miles)}/V(\text{mph})$ , where $R = \text{Breguet Range}$			
Turning, Maneuver	Emergency handling		Major performance factor	Emergency handling
Supersonic Dash	N/A	N/A	Important	N/A
Service Ceiling	100 fpm climb			



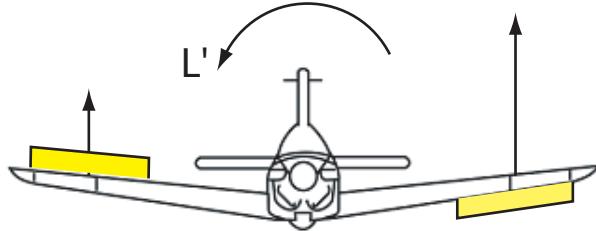
Lectures 6 and 7 for commercial and military transport

\* Radius of action comprised of outbound leg, on target leg, and return.

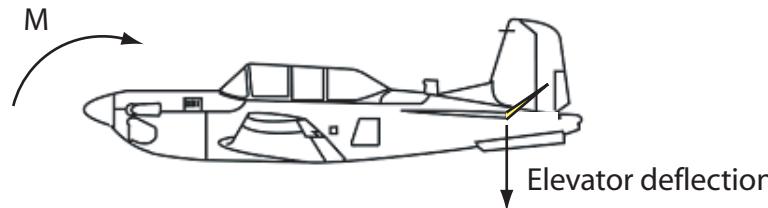
# Stability and Control

- Performance topics deal with forces and translational motion needed to fulfill the aircraft mission
- Stability and control topics deal with moments and rotational motion needed for the aircraft to remain controllable.

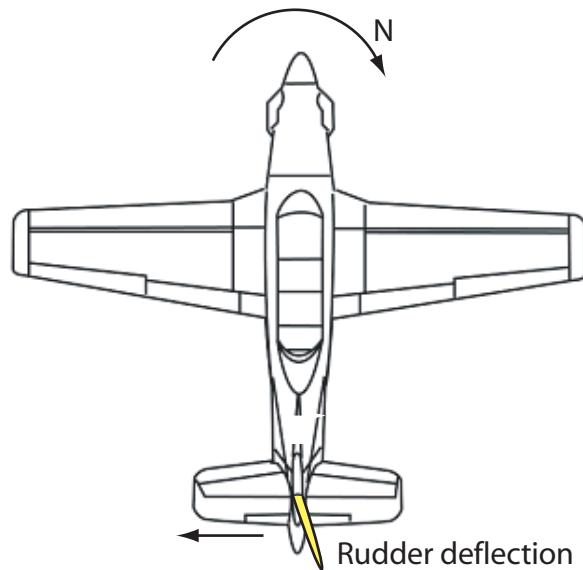
# S&C Definitions



- $L'$  - rolling moment
- Lateral motion/stability



- $M$  - pitching moment
- Longitudinal motion/control



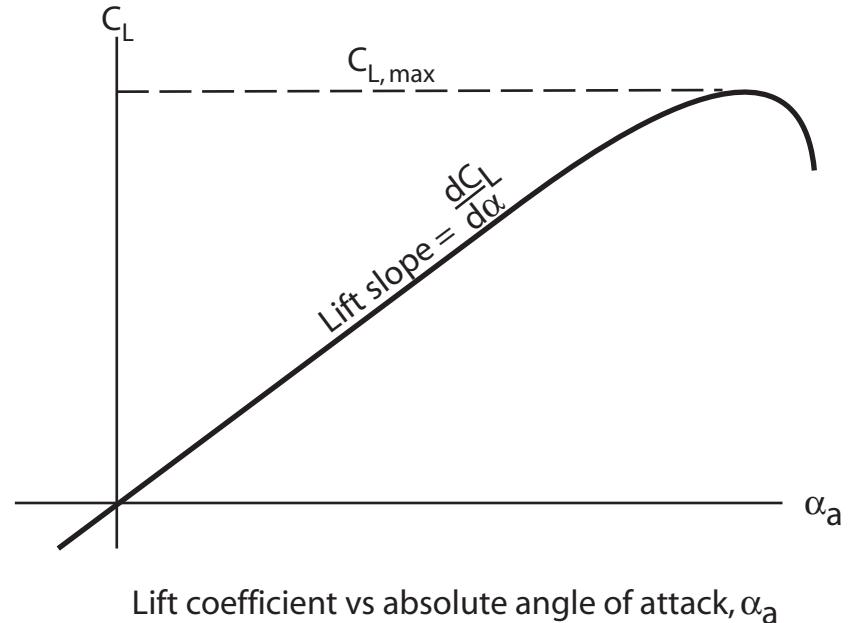
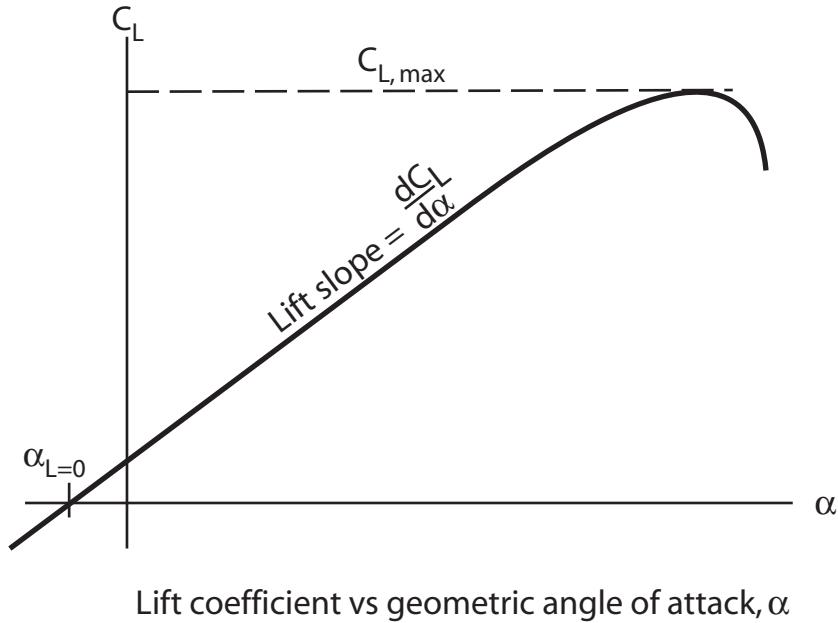
- $N$  - rolling moment
- Directional motion/control

Moment coefficient:  $C_M \frac{M}{q_\infty S c}$

# Aircraft Moments

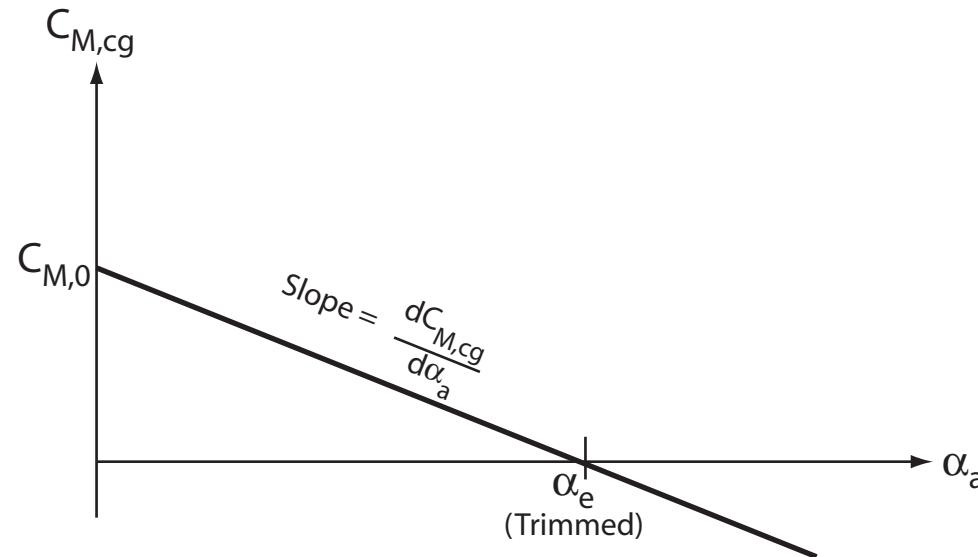
- Aerodynamic center (ac): forces and moments can be completely specified by the lift and drag acting through the ac plus a moment about the ac
  - $C_{M,ac}$  is the aircraft pitching moment at  $L = 0$  around any point
- Contributions to pitching moment about cg,  $C_{M,cg}$  come from
  - Lift and  $C_{M,ac}$
  - Thrust and drag - will neglect due to small vertical separation from cg
  - Lift on tail
- Airplane is “trimmed” when  $C_{M,cg} = 0$

# Absolute Angle of Attack



- Stability and control analysis simplified by using the absolute angle of attack which is 0 at  $C_L = 0$ .
- $\alpha_a = \alpha \neq \alpha_{L=0}$

# Criteria for Longitudinal Static Stability



$C_{M,0}$  must be positive

$\frac{\partial C_{M,CG}}{\partial \alpha_a}$  must be negative

Implied that  $\alpha_e^*$  is within flight range of angle of attack  
for the airplane, i.e. aircraft can be trimmed

# Moment Around cg

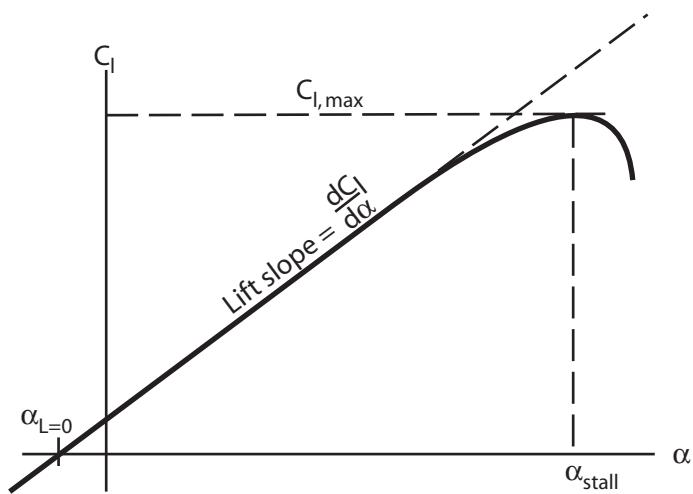
$$M_{cg} = M_{ac} + L_{wb}(hc - h_{ac}) - t L_t$$

Divide by  $q_\infty S_c$  and note that  $C_{L,t} = \frac{L}{q_\infty S_t}$

$$C_{M,cg} = C_{M,ac} + C_{Lwb}(h - h_{ac}) - \frac{l S_t}{c S_t} C_{L,t}, \text{ or}$$

$$\boxed{C_{M,cg} = C_{M,ac} + C_{Lwb}(h - h_{ac}) - V_H C_{L,t}}, \text{ where } V_H = \frac{l S_t}{c S_t}$$

$$C_{M,cg} \square C_{M,ac} \square_{wb} + C_{Lwb} (h - h_{ac}) - V_H C_{L,t}$$



$$C_{L_{wb}} \quad \frac{dC_{L_{wb}}}{d\alpha} \alpha_{a,wb} \quad a_{wb} \alpha_{a,wb}$$

$$C_{L,t} \quad a_t \alpha_t \quad a_t (\alpha_{wb} - i_t - \varepsilon)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is the downwash at the tail due to the lift on the wing

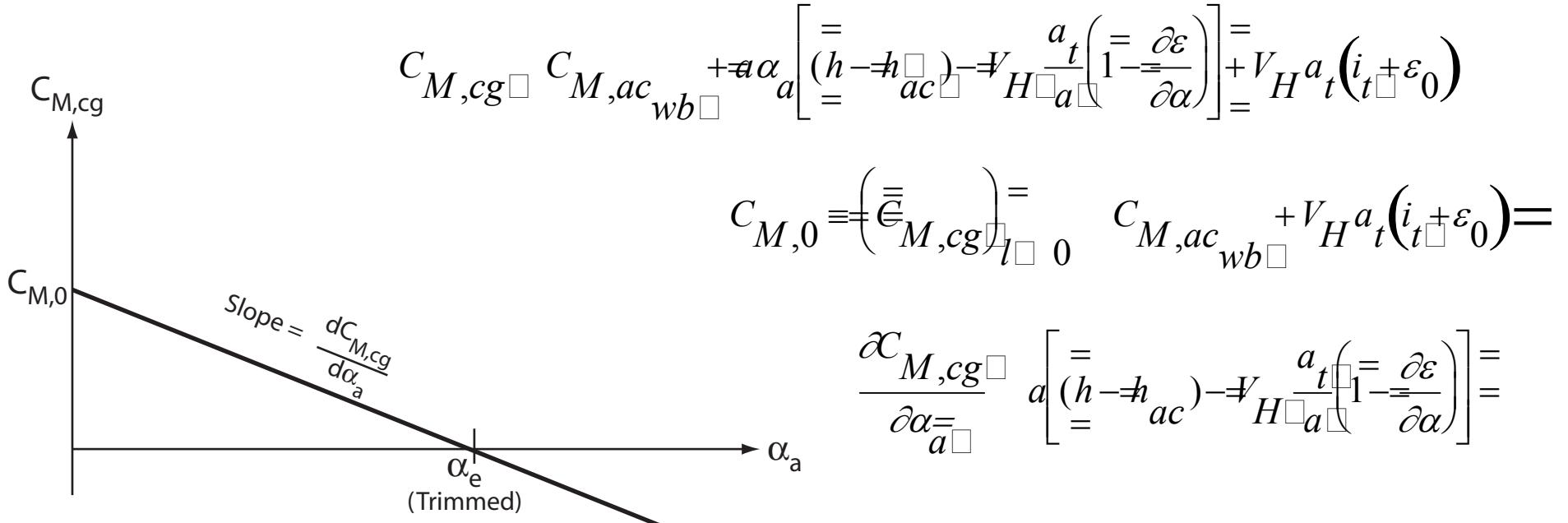
$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 + \left( \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial \alpha} \right) \alpha_{a,wb}$$

$$C_{L,t} \quad a_t \alpha_{a,wb} \left( 1 - \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial \alpha} \right) = a_t (i_t + \varepsilon_0)$$

At this point, the convention is drop the  $wb$  on  $a_{wb}$

$$C_{M,cg} \square C_{M,ac} \square_{wb} + a \alpha_a \left[ \left( h - h_{ac} \right) - V_H \frac{a_t}{a} \left( 1 - \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial \alpha} \right) \right] = V_H a_t (i_t + \varepsilon_0)$$

# Eqs for Longitudinal Static Stability



- $C_{M,ac_{wb}} < 0, V_H > 0, i_t > 0 \Rightarrow \varepsilon_0 > 0$  for  $C_{M,0} > 0$ 
  - Tail must be angled down to generate negative lift to trim airplane
- Major effect of cg location ( $h$ ) and tail parameter  $V_H = (lS)/(cs)$  in determining longitudinal static stability

# Neutral Point and Static Margin

$$\frac{\partial C_{M,CG}}{\partial \alpha} = a \left[ (h - h_{ac}) - V_H \frac{a_t}{a} \left( 1 - \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \alpha} \right) \right]$$

- The slope of the moment curve will vary with  $h$ , the location of cg.
- If the slope is zero, the aircraft has neutral longitudinal static stability.
- Let this location be denote by  $h_n = h_{ac} + V_H \frac{a_t}{a} \left( 1 - \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \alpha} \right)$
- or  $\frac{\partial C_{M,CG}}{\partial \alpha} = a(h - h_n) = -a(h_n - h) = -a \times \text{static margin}$

- For a given airplane, the neutral point is at a fixed location.
- For longitudinal static stability, the position of the center of gravity must always be forward of the neutral point.
- The larger the static margin, the more stable the airplane

# Longitudinal Static Stability

Aerodynamic center  
location moves aft for  
supersonic flight

cg shifts with fuel burn,  
stores separation,  
configuration changes

- “Balancing” is a significant design requirement
- Amount of static stability affects handling qualities
- Fly-by-wire controls required for statically unstable aircraft

# Today's References

- **Lockheed Martin Notes on “Fighter Performance”**
- **John Anderson Jr. , *Introduction to Flight*, McGraw-Hill, 3rd ed, 1989, Particularly Chapter 6 and 7**
- **Shevell, Richard S., “Fundamentals of Flight”, Prentice Hall, 2nd Edition, 1989**
- **Bertin, John J. and Smith, Michael L., Aerodynamics for Engineers, Prentice Hall, 3rd edition, 1998**
- **Daniel Raymer, *Aircraft Design: A Conceptual Approach*, AIAA Education Series, 3rd edition, 1999, Particularly Chapter 17**
  - Note: There are extensive cost and weight estimation relationships in Raymer for military aircraft.