AERODAS.xls

This document explains how to use AERODAS.xls to obtain the lift and drag (C_L and C_D) for a wide variety of angle of attacks. The AERODAS.xls is developed by Prof. Ercan ERTURK from BRZ Wind Energy company, TURKEY. Prof. ERTURK is also a faculty member of Bahcesehir University. You can freely distribute AERODAS.xls.

MOTIVATION

In wind turbine blade analysis, the Blade Element Momentum (BEM) calculations require lift and drag coefficients (C_L and C_D) for a wide variety of angles of attack. For very few airfoil profiles, in the literature it is possible to find limited experimental datas for the lift and drag coefficients at high angles of attack.

Many researchers use the XFOIL simulation code (developed by Prof. Mark Drela, MIT) to obtain polar coefficients. XFOIL is a very useful simulation tool and it can provide lift and drag coefficients (C_L and C_D) for a limited range of angle of attack (until stall).

In the literature there are some extrapolation techniques (Viterna and Janetzke [1], Montgomerie [2], Lindenburg [3] and Spera [4]) to estimate the lift and drag coefficients (C_L and C_D) for a wide variety of angles of attack using the polar data of limited angle range.

The AERODAS algorithm developed by Spera [4] uses geometrical tools. The AERODAS algorithm is straight forward and easy to follow. In order to implement this algorithm, some parameters have to be calculated. If this model is used extensively, a visual tool is necessary and this motivated the development of this excel document.

MODIFICATIONS ON AERODAS EQUATIONS

In AERODAS.xls document two modifications are done on the original AERODAS equations. They are as follows:

1) In Spera [4] the equation (7a) is given as the following

$$CD1 = CD0 + (CD1 \max - CD0) \left(\frac{\alpha - A0}{ACD1 - A0}\right)^{M}$$

When α is negative, this equation produces negative results for odd powers (for example M=3). In order to have positive values for all α values and for all powers (M), we use absolute value inside the parenthesis such that we modify the equation as the following

$$CD1 = CD0 + \left(CD1 \max - CD0\right) \left(\left|\frac{\alpha - A0}{ACD1 - A0}\right|\right)^{M}$$

2) In Spera [4] the equation (10b) is given as the following

$$G1 = 2.300 \exp \left\{ -\left[0.65(t/c)\right]^{0.90} \right\}$$

In the manuscript Spera [4] gives two numerical examples; one for S809 airfoil and one for CLARK-Y airfoil. The "thickness to chord ratio" of S809 airfoil is 0.21. Using equation (10b) in order to calculate G1, we obtain

$$G1 = 2.300 \exp \left\{ -\left[0.65(0.21)\right]^{0.90} \right\} = 1.947$$

However in Table [5] in Spera [4], G1 is given as 1.922 for this particular airfoil. Similarly the "thickness to chord ratio" of CLARK-Y airfoil is 0.184. Again using equation (10b) in order to calculate G1, we obtain

$$G1 = 2.300 \exp \left\{ -\left[0.65(0.184)\right]^{0.90} \right\} = 1.984$$

However in the Table [6] in Spera [4], G1 is given as 1.958 for this particular airfoil.

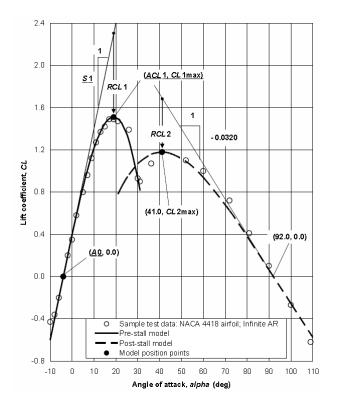
Equation (10b) is a very simple equation with only one variable (t/c). The difference between the calculated G1 values and the G1 values listed in Tables [5] and [6] are big and affects the CD2max value. There must be a mistake either in the equation (10b) or in the listed G1 values in Tables [5] and [6]. We assume that the G1 values listed in Tables [5] and [6] are correct and there is an error in equation (10b). When we modify the equation (10b) as follows

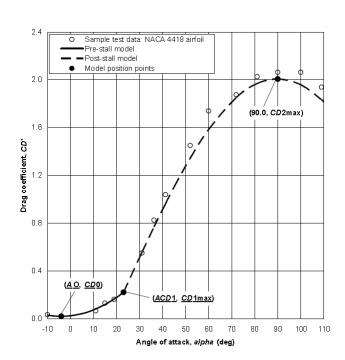
$$G1 = 2.270 \exp \left\{ -\left[0.65(t/c)\right]^{0.90} \right\}$$

for S809 airfoil the calculated G1 becomes 1.922 and for CLARK-Y airfoil the calculated G1 becomes 1.958 which agree with the listed G1 values in Tables [5] and [6]. We believe that in equation (10b) the coefficient 2.27 is rounded as 2.3 by a typing mistake. In AERODAS.xls 2.27 is used as coefficient in equation (10b)

HOW TO USE AERODAS.xls

In order to use AERODAS.xls you should first read Spera [4] and have basic knowledge on the AERODAS model. The model basically consists of two curve; one for pre-stall and one for post-stall for both lift and drag coefficients. The following two figures are from Spera [4] and shows the important parameters used in the model.





The following steps from 1 to 3 describes how to obtain the lift coefficient (C_L) and the steps from 4 to 5 describes how to obtain the drag coefficient (C_D).

STEP 1:

(Look at Figure 1)

Open AERODAS.xls document. Note that if macros are disabled you have to allow macros. Copy and paste your data in the area shown. The first column is the angle of attack, the second column is the lift coefficient and the third column is the drag coefficient. You can enter maximum of 100 lines. Open your XFOIL polar output data file with excel, use text to column feature and have the XFOIL polar data in columns and rows. Then select only the angle, C_L and C_D values and paste it to the place shown in AERODAS.xls document.

Enter your airfoil's thickness to chord ratio, also enter the aspect ratio of your wind turbine blade.

Note that XFOIL provides polar coefficients for infinite aspect ratio. You should <u>always</u> start your analysis by selecting "Infinite AR". The calculations are done on the infinite AR polar coefficients. After you follow all the steps and finish your analysis, you can click on "Finite AR corrected" and obtain results based on the aspect ratio of your wind turbine blade you entered.

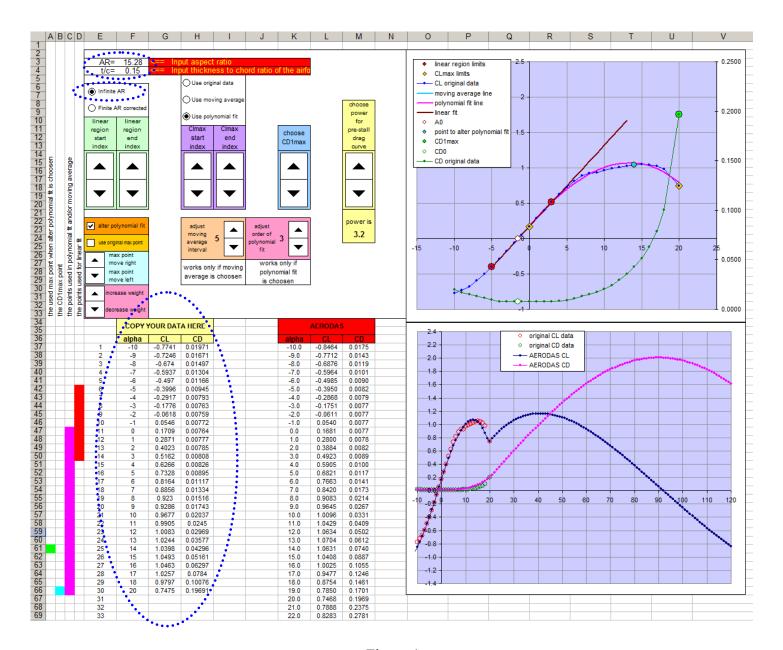


Figure 1

STEP 2:

(Look at Figure 2)

In the pre-stall region the AERODAS model needs the parameter S1 which is basically the linear slope of the lift coefficient in the pre-stall ramp. In order to calculate S1, AERODAS.xls uses linear regression. The user is required to choose the region of the data points used in the linear regression. Use the arrows to set the first data point and the last data point. You can see the beginning data point and the last data point of the chosen region in the figure with two circles with red inside. You can also see the linear fitted line to the selected data points in the figure with brown line.

When the user copy and paste new data in another analysis sometimes the selected data points for the linear regression in previous analysis might be out of scope. You can easily see the selected range of data points by looking at the colored cells in column D. As you change your start and end data points by pressing up/down arrows you can see that the coloring in column D changes dynamically. All of the red colored cells in column D has to be in the range of your pasted data.

(Look at Figure 3)

Choose a region that best describes the linear fit in the lift ramp. The slope of the brown line in the figure gives S1.

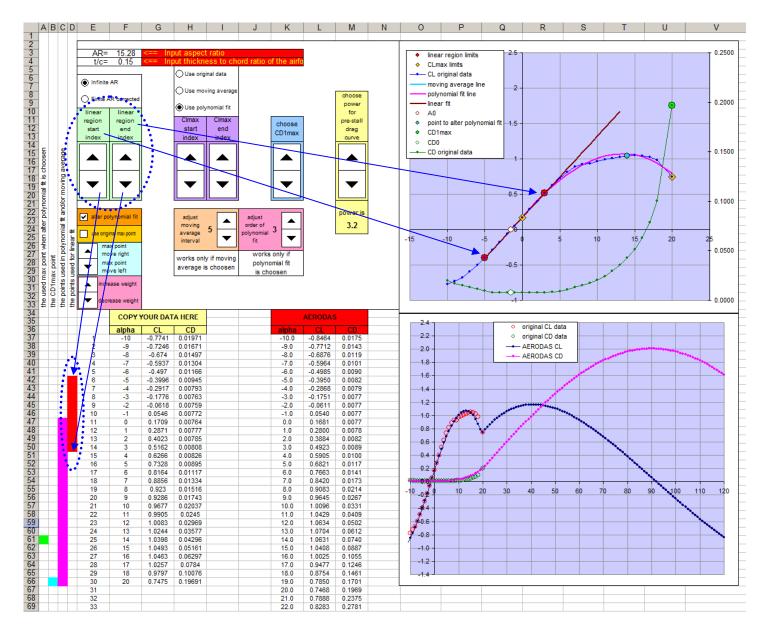


Figure 2

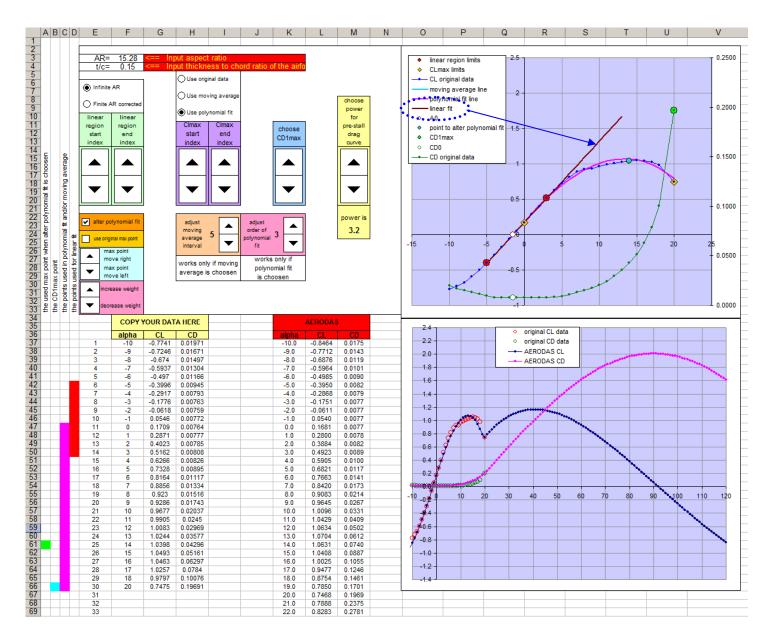


Figure 3

STEP 3:

(Look at Figure 4)

In the pre-stall region the AERODAS model needs the parameter RCL1 which is basically the vertical distance between the peak C_L point and the slope line.

We need to find the vertical distance between the linear fit line and the peak lift value. In order to calculate RCL1 we have couple of options. If you choose "Use original data" then the document will find the maximum C_L value in the pasted data, then it will calculate the vertical distance between the brown line and this maximum C_L value. Note that the tip of the brown line will always be over this maximum C_L value in vertical direction.

According to our experiences with XFOIL, depending on the airfoil used and the Reynolds number sometimes we obtain very nice peak values but sometimes we obtain several humps or zigzag type behavior near the peak. In your calculations if the lift data has a nice and definite peak then check "Use original data". Do not forget, in the prestall region the lift coefficient is defined by a curve in AERODAS model, therefore at the end of your analysis the output lift coefficient will have only one peak without any humps or zigzags. In your lift data if there is not a clear peak point, if there are humps and zigzags near the peak you may want to smooth the C_L curve in order to have a definite peak point. The AERODAS.xls allows you to smooth the C_L curve using moving averages or using higher order polynomial regression. If you want to use moving averages in order to smooth your C_L data check "Use moving average". If you want to use higher order polynomial regression in order to smooth your C_L data check "Use polynomial fit". If you choose "Use moving average" or "Use polynomial fit" you need to specify a region of data points in which the moving average is going to be applied or in which a best high order polynomial curve is going to be fitted. You can choose this region of data points by the up/down arrows to specify the beginning and the last points. The chosen beginning and last data points are shown in the graph as diamond with yellow inside. You can see the moving average line in the figure with light blue line and the polynomial fit line with purple line. You can also see the chosen data points from purple colored cells in column C. The purple colored cells in column C has to be in the range of your pasted data.

(Look at Figure 5)

You can change the moving average interval and also the order of the polynomial fit. In moving average if the interval is chosen as 1 then there is no smoothing, the smoothing increases as the interval increases. In polynomial fit if the order is increased then the fitted curve will behave more like the original data. You can increase the polynomial regression order until 6.

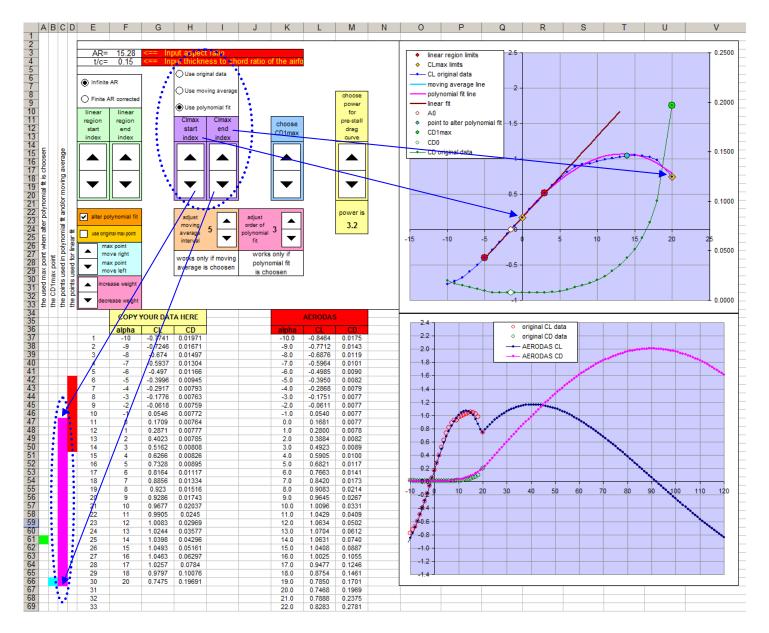


Figure 4

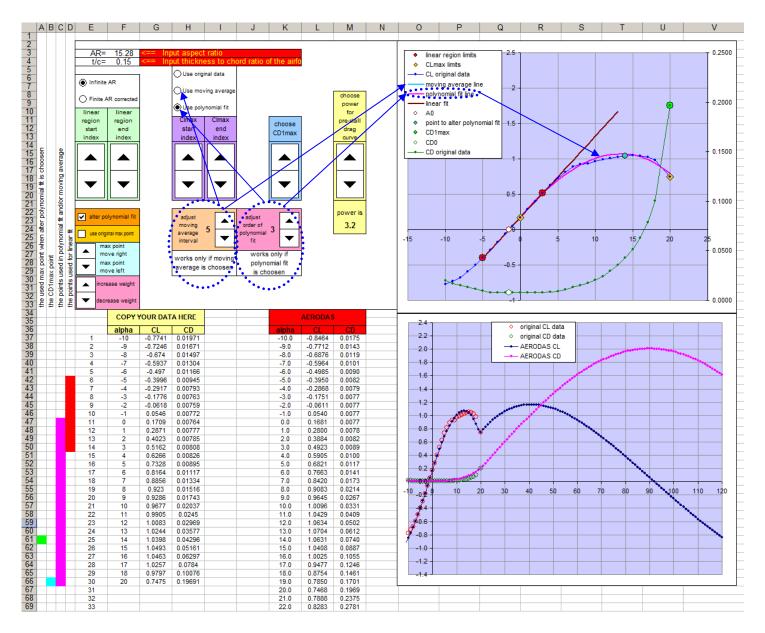


Figure 5

(Look at Figure 6)

If neither moving average nor polynomial regression with any order fits good to your C_L data, AERODAS.xls offers you to alter the polynomial regression fit. In order to use this feature you should choose "Use polynomial fit". Otherwise when "Use original data" or "Use moving average" is chosen this feature is disabled. In order to alter the fitted polynomial curve you should choose "alter polynomial fit". The AERODAS.xls alter the polynomial fit by increasing the weight of a chosen point. If you want this point to be the maximum data in your original C_L data check "use original max point". If this is chosen you can increase the weight of this data however you can not change the point. If you would like to change the point as well then uncheck "use original max point". By using the up and down arrows you can change the location of the point and the weight of this point. The chosen point is shown in the figure and the corresponding row of the point is colored in column A. The chosen point should always be in the range of your data.

(Look at Figure 7)

I personally use polynomial fit more often. Altering the polynomial fit is convenient in some cases. In your analysis try to have a curve that best describe your original C_L data.

With this step the analysis for the lift coefficient (C_L) is done.

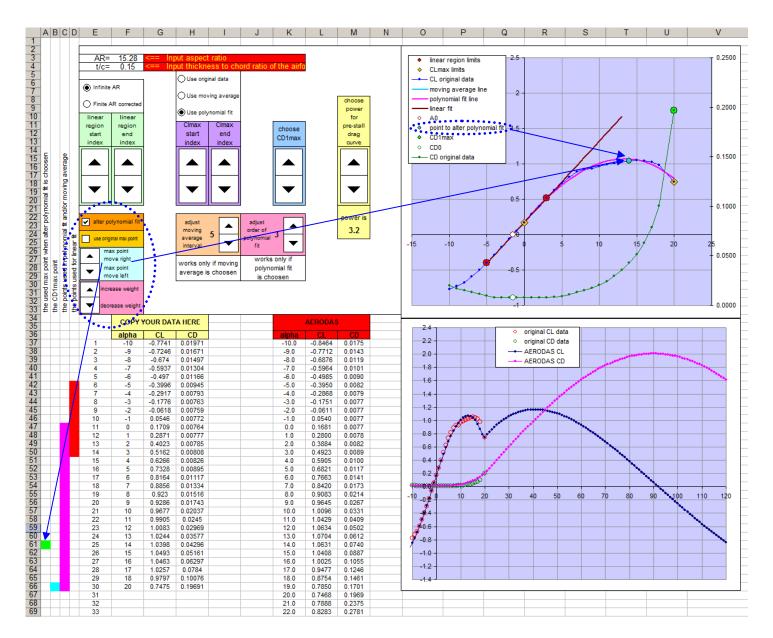


Figure 6

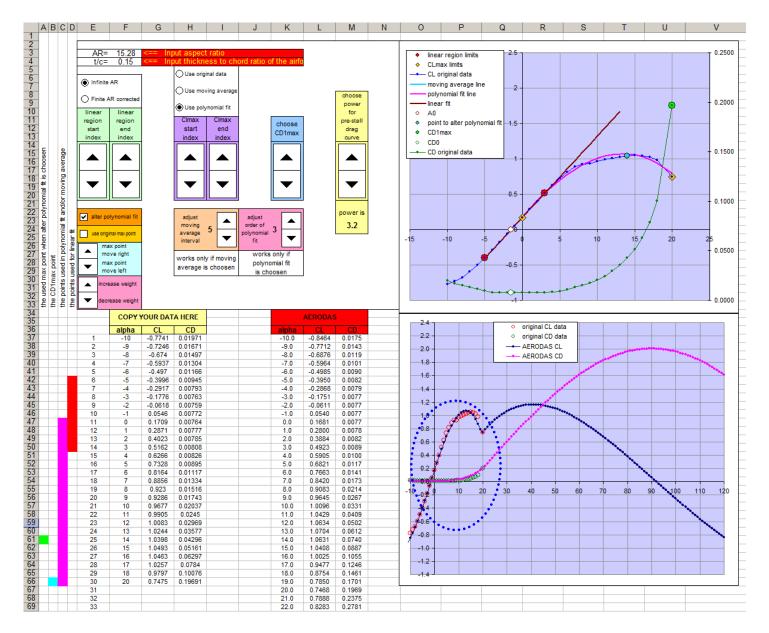


Figure 7

STEP 4:

(Look at Figure 8)

For the drag coefficient the AERODAS model needs CD1max and ACD1 values. ACD1 and CD1max defines the point that separates the pre-stall region and the post-stall region for the drag coefficient. ACD1 is the angle of attack (alpha) and CD1max is the C_D value at this alpha in the original data. Using the up and down arrows choose the dividing point of the pre-stall and post-stall regions. The circle with green inside shows this point in the figure and the row of this data point is colored in column B. The colored row should always be in the range of your original data.

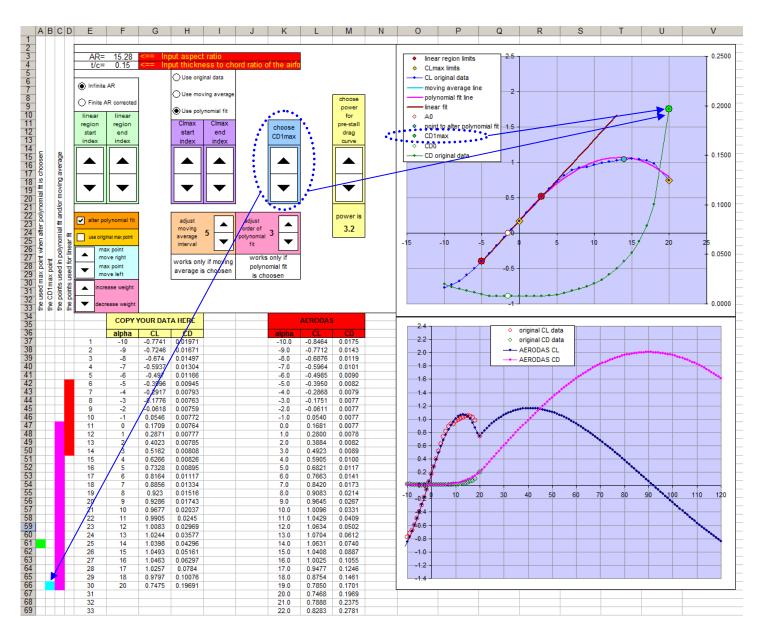


Figure 8

STEP 5:

(Look at Figure 9)

The last step is to select the power for the pre-stall drag curve. Use arrows and choose the power that best fits to your original data. As the power increases the curve gets more flat and this mainly affects the curve near the chosen CD1max point in the pre-stall region.

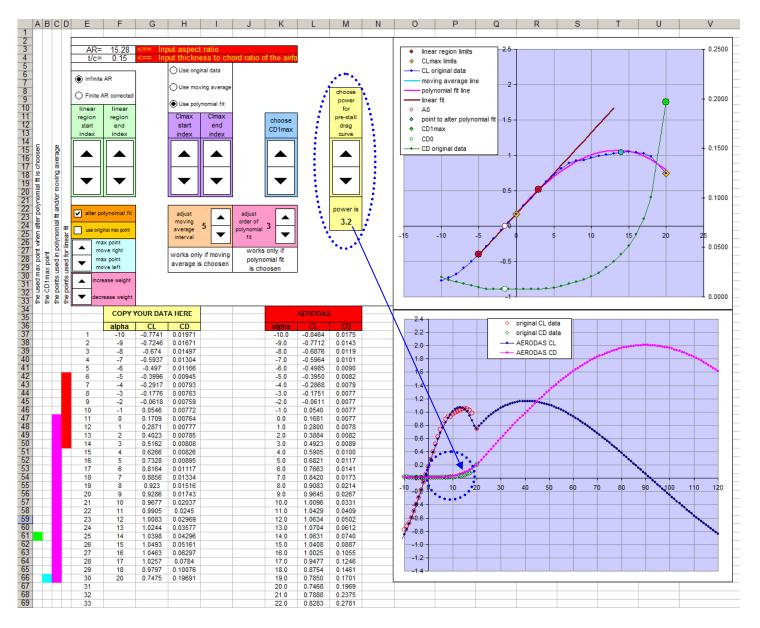


Figure 9

(Look at Figure 10)

With step 5 the analysis is finished for the <u>infinite aspect ratio</u>. The model uses the angle of attack of the zero lift point (A0) and also the corresponding drag coefficient at this angle of attack (CD0). These points are shown in the figure also.

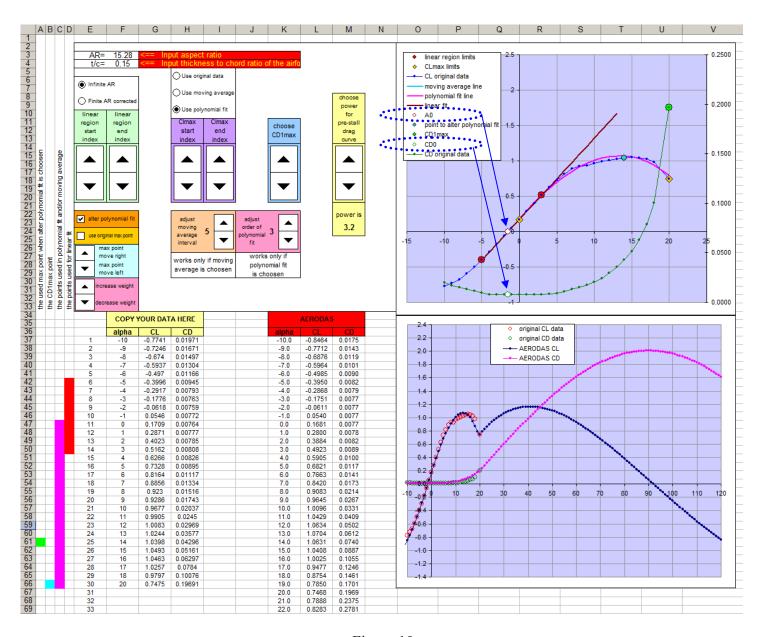


Figure 10

(Look at Figure 11)

Finally the calculated lift and drag coefficients by the AERODAS model are tabulated and also plotted in the figure. Note that these coefficients are for **infinite aspect ratio**.

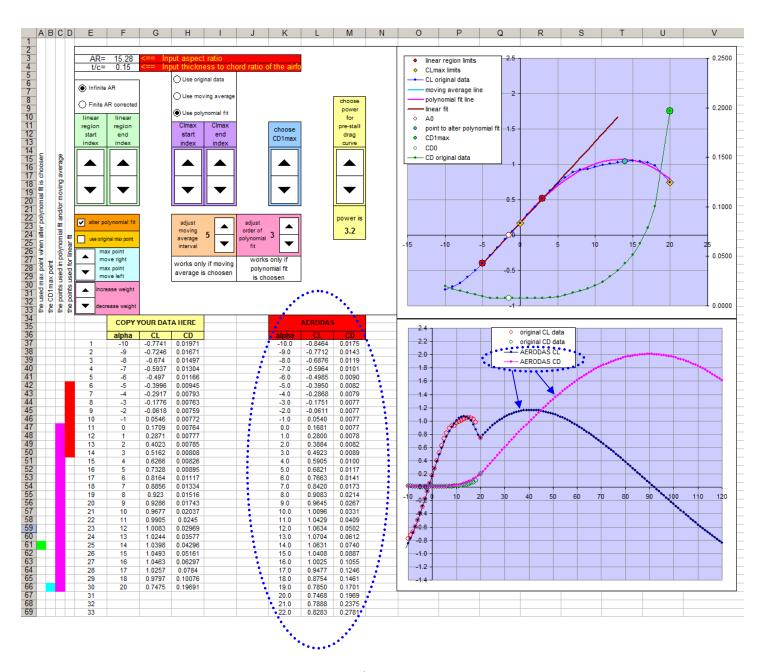
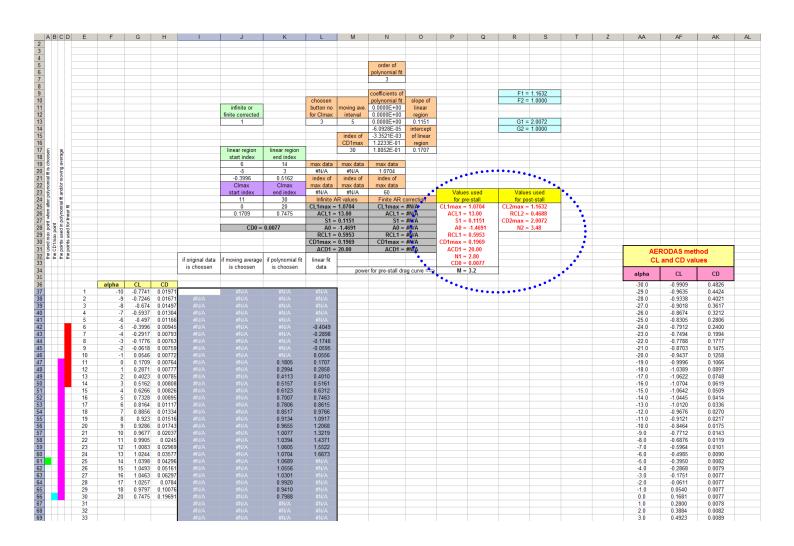


Figure 11

The AERODAS.xls has two sheets; data sheet and calculation sheet. All of the calculations are done on the calculations sheet. In calculations sheet some of the empty cells are not actually empty. The font color of some cells are conditionally becomes white such that the user sees only the used data in calculations (you can see this by selecting the cells). I am frustrated with the fact that every paper in the literature that uses Blade Element Momentum (BEM) calculations give every detail about equations and so on, but do not give any information about the polar data they used in the BEM calculations. BEM calculations are very sensitive to the polar data. It is really hard, almost impossible, to reproduce the same results in the literature if polar datas are not shared in papers. If you are going to use AERODAS model in your study and want to share your polar data, all you have to do is to share the parameters used in the model in a table as it was done in Spera [4]. These parameters are shown in the figure below. These parameters are calculated, however if you overwrite the values of these parameters in the cells, you can reproduce a shared polar data.



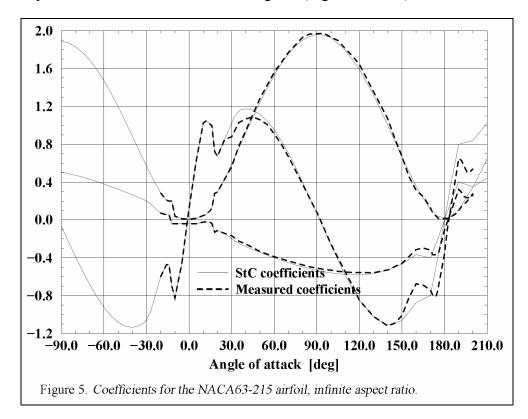
SOME EXAMPLE RESULTS AND COMPARISONS

NACA 63-215

We note that in the figures (Figures 1 to 11) the lift and drag data of airfoil NACA 63-215 obtained by XFOIL direct analysis (Re=0.55×10⁶) was used. The XFOIL output polar file is below.

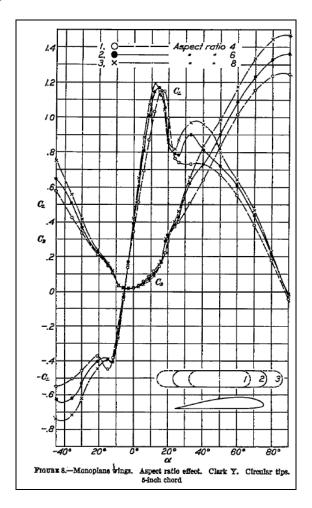
Calculat	ed polar	for: NACA	63-215 AIR	FOIL					
1 1 Reynolds number fixed			Ма	ch numbe	r fixed				
xtrf = Mach =		op) Re =			it = 9				
alpha	CL	CD	CDp	Cm	Top Xtr	Bot Xtr	Cpmin	Chinge	XCp
-10.000 -9.000 -8.000 -7.000 -6.000 -7.000 -6.000 -3.000 -2.000 -1.000	-0.7741 -0.7246 -0.6740 -0.5937 -0.4970 -0.3996 -0.2917 -0.1776 -0.1769 0.2871 0.1709 0.2871 0.4023 0.5166 0.7328 0.5166 0.7328 0.5166 0.7328 1.0244 1.0398 1.0398 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0463 1.0475 0.7475	0.01971 0.01671 0.01497 0.01304 0.01166 0.00945 0.00763 0.00763 0.00772 0.00764 0.00777 0.00764 0.00777 0.00780 0.00808 0.00808 0.00859	0.01428 0.01088 0.00877 0.00653 0.00501 0.00351 0.00243 0.00243 0.00243 0.00243 0.00248 0.00250 0.00250 0.00250 0.0035	-0.0555 -0.0495 -0.0403 -0.0363 -0.0364 -0.0340 -0.0355 -0.0364 -0.0374 -0.0386 -0.0366 -0.0402 -0.0401 -0.0407 -0.0371 -0.0310 -0.0407 -0.0374 -0.0350 -0.0402 -0.0412 -0.0510 -0.0407 -0.0371 -0.0510 -0.0525 -0.0090	0.9850 0.9024 0.8522 0.8244 0.7644 0.7644 0.7403 0.6613 0.6613 0.6148 0.5489 0.4878 0.0374 0.00181 0.0163 0.0153 0.0145 0.0145 0.0145	0.0200 0.0219 0.0248 0.0389 0.0644 0.2305 0.4505 0.5792 0.6009 0.6344 0.7388 0.7651 0.7941 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	-4.4380 -4.0119 -3.5825 -3.0925 -2.0112 -1.4466 -0.9380 -0.5739 -0.5215 -0.5820 -0.6641 -0.7511 -0.9241 -1.9940 -2.5795 -3.1238 -3.123	0.0000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.000000	0.166 0.170 0.180 0.172 0.122 0.041 -0.385 0.346 0.325 0.298 0.276 0.276 0.241 0.223 0.210 0.202 0.202 0.202

The following figure is taken from Lindenburg [3]. This figure shows the aerodynamic coefficients for NACA 63-215 for Re= 0.55×10^6 for infinite aspect ratio. The aerodynamic coefficients in this figure are comparable with the calculated C_L and C_D values by AERODAS model in the above figures (Figures 1 to 11).



CLARK-Y

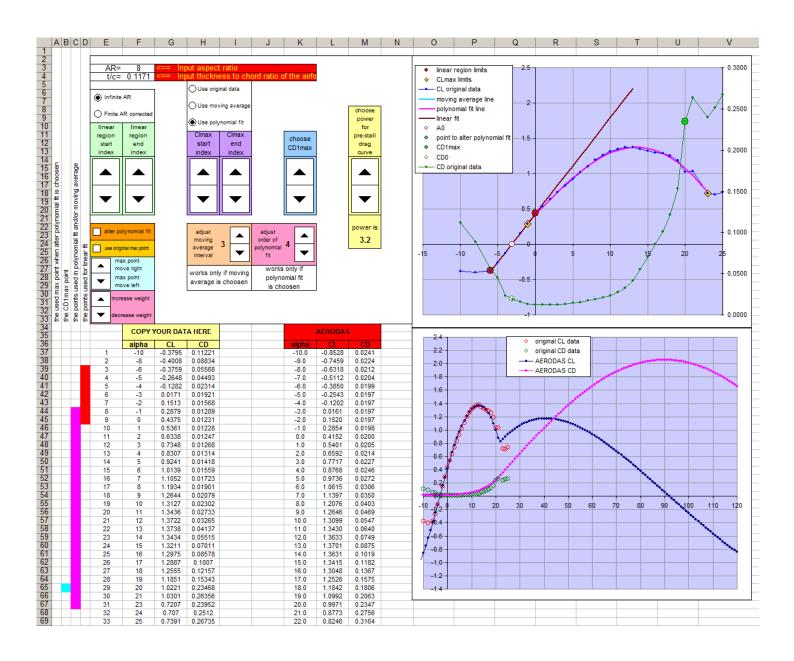
As an other example, the following figure is taken from Knight and Werzinger [5]. This figure shows the experimental results of Clark-Y airfoil for Re=153000.



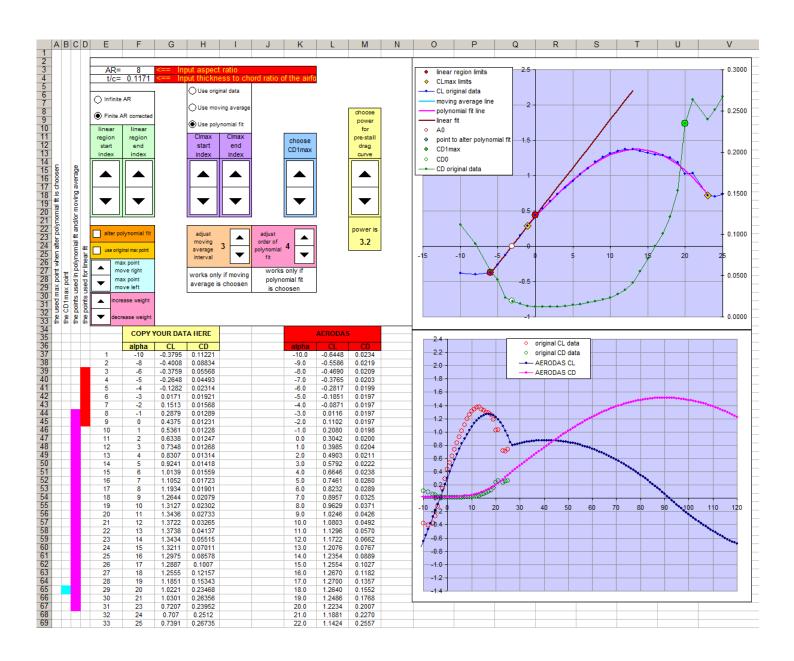
The following is the XFOIL output polar file for Clark-Y airfoil for Re=153000.

1 1 Reyr	olds numbe	er fixed	Ма	ch numbe	r fixed				
xtrf = Mach =	1.000 (to 0.000	op) Re =	1.000 (bottom) 0.153 e 6 Ncrit = 9.000						
alpha	CL	CD	CDp	Cm	Top Xtr	Bot Xtr	Cpmin	Chinge	XCp
	-0.3795 -0.4008 -0.3759 -0.2648 -0.12648 -0.127 -0.1287 -0.4375 -0.5361 -0.6338 -0.7348 -0.8307 -0.9241 -1.0139 -1.013	0.11221 0.08834 0.05568 0.04493 0.02314 0.01258 0.01268 0.01228 0.01227 0.01268 0.01247 0.01268 0.01247 0.01269 0.01314 0.01555 0.01418 0.01555 0.01723 0.0279 0.0279 0.0230 0.0230 0.0255 0.04137 0.05515 0.07011 0.08578 0.10970 0.12157 0.15343 0.1228 0.1228 0.1228 0.1228 0.1228 0.1228 0.1238 0.12	0.10810 0.08462 0.05155 0.04020 0.01518 0.01090 0.00748 0.00632 0.00532 0.0	-0.0441 -0.0346 -0.0607 -0.0771 -0.0792 -0.0855 -0.0893 -0.0991 -0.0857 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0775 -0.0816 -0.0776 -0.0816 -0.0776 -0.0816 -0.0776 -0.0816 -0.0776 -0.0816 -0.0778 -0.07788 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.0778 -0.07	1.0000 1.0000 0.9719 0.9466 0.9270 0.9835 0.8835 0.8835 0.8208 0.7789 0.6067 0.5223 0.6067 0.5223 0.6062 0.0408 0.1524 0.1524 0.0408 0.0408 0.0408 0.0408 0.0408 0.0508 0.0508 0.0556 0.0556	0.0798 0.0966 0.1234 0.1569 0.0759 0.0894 0.2915 0.9555 1.0000 1.	-1.9117 -1.7953 -1.9493 -1.5967 -1.8770 -1.5566 -1.2126 -0.7704 -0.7583 -0.8555 -0.9598 -1.0726 -1.5706 -1.5129 -1.7606 -1.5129 -1.7680 -2.0517 -2.6294 -3.3213 -3.3213 -3.3213 -3.3213 -3.3213 -3.5213 -4.5860 -5.5214 -5.6839 -6.5232 -6.0123 -6.5232 -6.0123 -2.9205 -2.2118 -1.4769 -1.13127	0.0000 0.00000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.00000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.00000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.00000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.00000 0.00000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0	0.122 0.155 0.082 -0.025 -0.383 5.342 0.846 0.563 0.469 0.420 0.387 0.362 0.342 0.327 0.304 0.295 0.285 0.265 0.265 0.24

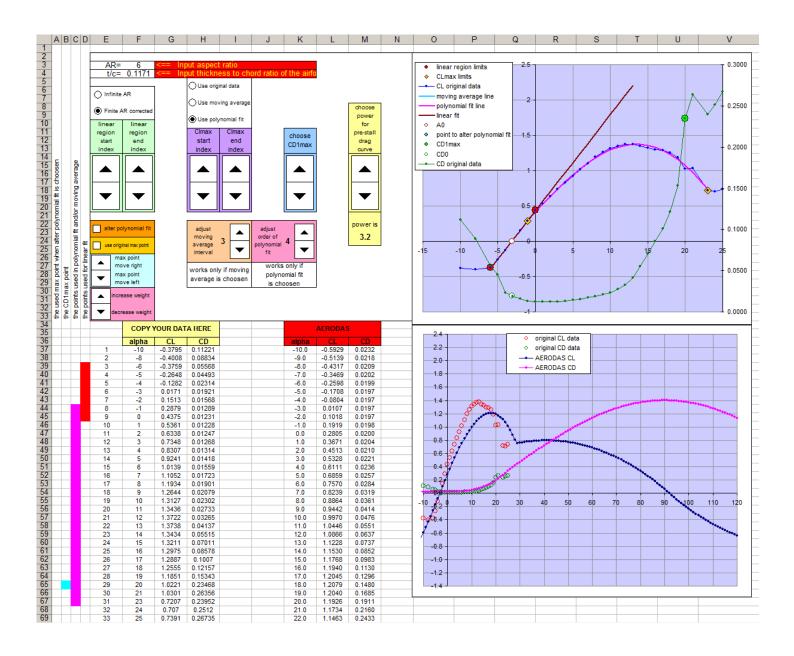
The following is the polar data obtained by the AERODAS model for Clark-Y airfoil for infinite aspect ratio. Note that we always start the analysis for infinite AR.



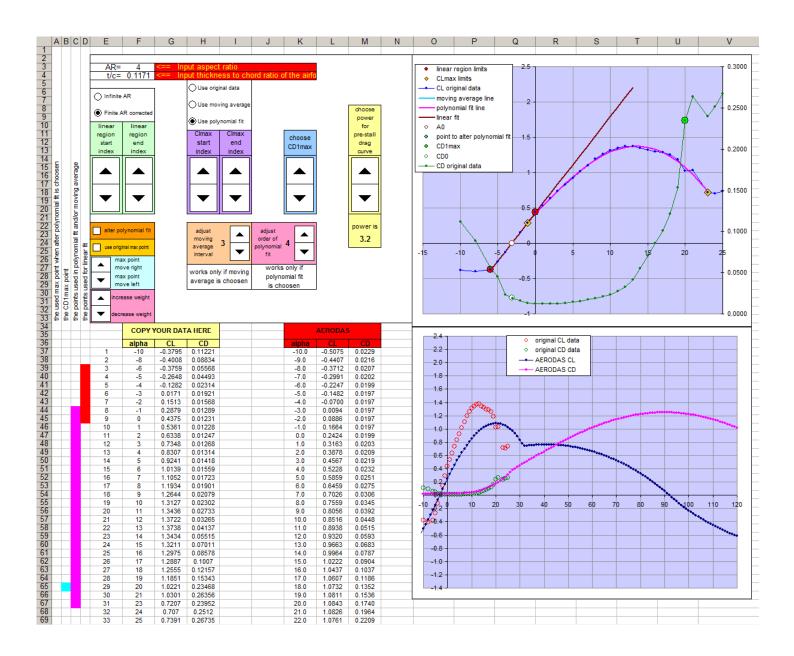
After we finish our analysis for infinite AR, then we choose "Finite AR corrected" option. Below is the polar output for AR=8.



Below is the polar output for AR=6.



Below is the polar output for AR=4.



These calculated C_L and C_D values by AERODAS model in the above figures are comparable with the data given by Knight and Werzinger [5].

NACA 4418

As an other example, the following figure is taken from Timmer [6]. This figure shows the polar data of NACA 4418 for Re=250000.

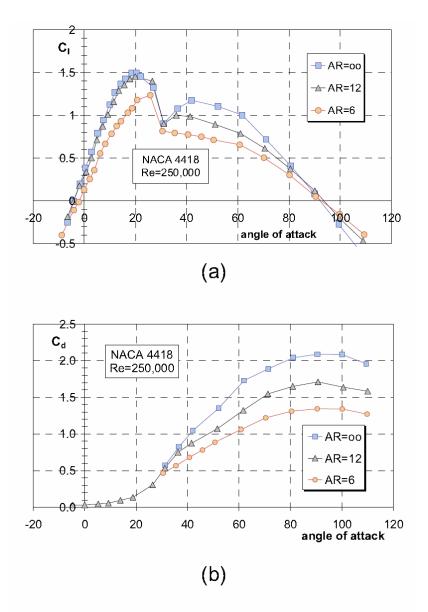
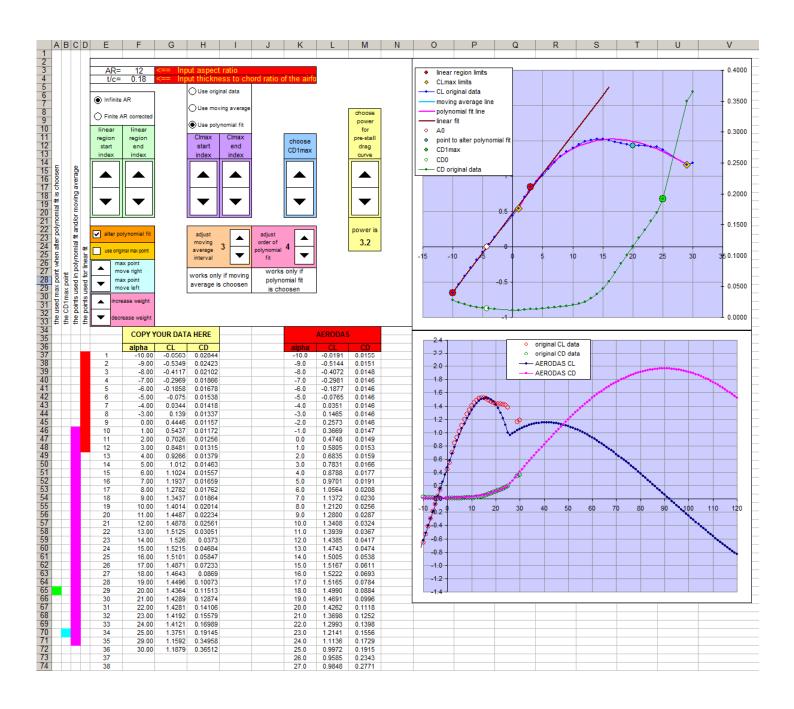


Figure 6: The lift (a) and drag (b) data of airfoil NACA 4418 [8] for various aspect ratios.

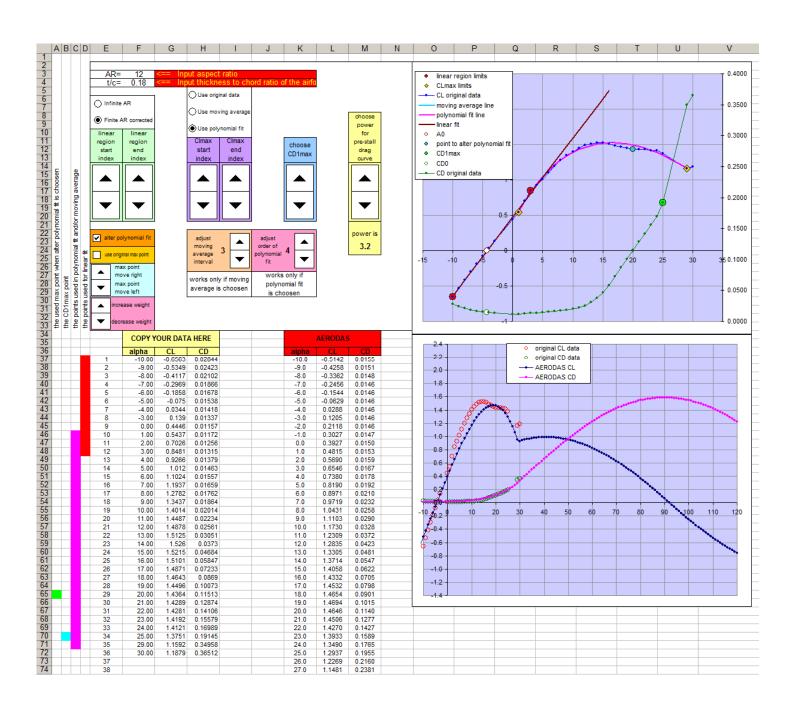
The following is the XFOIL output polar file for NACA 4418 airfoil for Re=250000.

XFLR5 v6.09.01 beta										
Calculated polar for: NACA 4418										
1 1 Reynolds number fixed Mach number fixed										
xtrf = 1 Mach = 0	.000 (top) .000 Re =	1.000 (bottom) 0.250 e 6 Ncrit = 9.000								
alpha	CL CD	CDp	Cm	Top Xtr	Bot Xtr	Cpmin	Chinge	XCp		
-9.0008.0007.0006.0005.0005.0004.0003.	0.6563 0.02844 0.5349 0.02423 0.4117 0.02102 0.2969 0.01866 0.0750 0.01538 0.0750 0.01538 0.0344 0.01418 0.1390 0.01337 0.5437 0.01127 0.5437 0.01127 0.8481 0.01357 1.0120 0.01438 1.0120 0.01438 1.0120 0.01438 1.0121 0.01579 1.0120 0.01464 1.0121 0.01579 1.1932 0.01664 1.1932 0.01664	0.01739 0.01389 0.01135 0.00943 0.00768 0.00565 0.00517 0.00566 0.00709 0.00780 0.00780 0.00957 0.01168 0.01557 0.01320 0.01557 0.01320 0.053215 0.06621 0.09403 0.053215 0.06621 0.09403 0.09403 0.09403 0.105215 0.06611 0.08074 0.09469 0.10320 0.11320 0.1	-0.0986 -0.1032 -0.1064 -0.1071 -0.1067 -0.1059 -0.0959	0.9479 0.9300 0.9106 0.8684 0.8618 0.8307 0.7960 0.5695 0.5421 0.4730 0.4481 0.3048 0.3048 0.3048 0.3048 0.2043 0.1039 0.1039 0.095	0.0697 0.0790 0.0911 0.1062 0.1272 0.1552 0.1939 0.2451 0.8894 0.8893 1.0000	-4.0826 -3.5801 -2.6156 -2.1905 -1.8160 -1.4648 -1.1738 -0.9756 -1.0053 -1.3468 -1.7276 -1.2053 -1.3458 -1.5726 -1.2053 -1.3458 -1.5726 -1.2053 -1.3458 -1.3526 -1.352	0.0000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.000000	0. 0793 0. 0358 -0. 0316 -0. 1375 -1. 229 -1. 229 -1. 229 -1. 229 -1. 229 -1. 239 -1. 238 -1.		

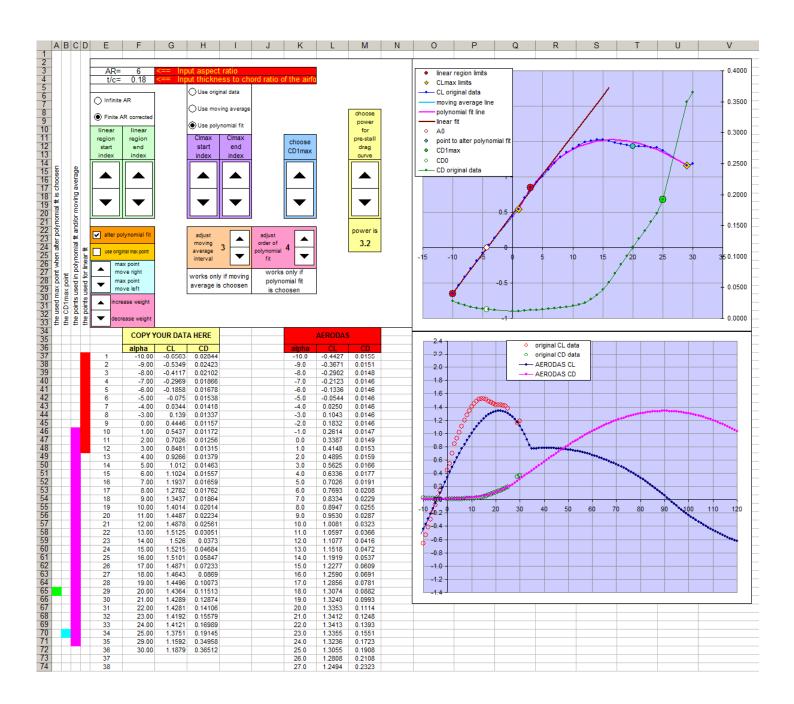
The following is the polar data obtained by the AERODAS model for NACA 4418 airfoil for infinite aspect ratio.



Below is the polar output for AR=12.



Below is the polar output for AR=6.



These calculated C_L and C_D values by AERODAS model in the above figures are comparable with the data given by Timmer [6].

AERODAS model provides an easy way of estimation for C_L and C_D values over a wide range of angle of attack within small acceptable errors. With AERODAS.xls document, application of this model becomes very quick and very easy.

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