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Drag due to a circular cavity in a plate with a turbulent boundary layer at subsonic, transonic and supersonic speeds

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THE PREPARATION OF THIS DATA ITEM

The work on this particular Data Item was monitored and guided by the following Working Party:

Mr L. Gaudet	— Royal Aircraft Establishment
Mr P.G. Hutton	— Aircraft Research Association
Mr D.H. Tipper	— Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd, Hatfield
Mr R.G. Williams	— British Aircraft Corporation Ltd, Filton

appointed by the Aerodynamics Committee which first met in 1942 and now has the following membership:

Chairman	
Mr E.C. Carter	— Aircraft Research Association
Vice-Chairman	
Prof. G.M. Lilley	— Southampton University
Members	—
Prof. L.F. Crabtree	— Bristol University
Mr R.L. Dommatt	— Royal Aircraft Establishment
Mr H.C. Garner	— Royal Aircraft Establishment
Mr P.K. Jones	— Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd, Woodford
Mr J.R.C. Pedersen	— Independent
Mr J.J. Perrin	— Aérospatiale, Châtillon
Mr M.R. Pike	— Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd, Derby
Mr M.W. Salisbury	— British Aircraft Corporation Ltd
Mr J.J. Spillman	— Cranfield Institute of Technology
Mr J.W.H. Thomas	— Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd, Hatfield
Mr J. Weir	— Salford University.

The member of staff who undertook the technical work involved in the initial assessment of the available information and the construction and subsequent development of the Item was

Mr J.W. Allan	— Senior Engineer.
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DRAG DUE TO A CIRCULAR CAVITY IN A PLATE WITH A TURBULENT
BOUNDARY LAYER AT SUBSONIC, TRANSONIC AND SUPERSONIC SPEEDS

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DRAG DUE TO A CIRCULAR CAVITY IN A PLATE WITH A TURBULENT BOUNDARY LAYER AT SUBSONIC, TRANSONIC AND SUPERSONIC SPEEDS

1. NOTATION AND UNITS

		SI	British
C_D	incremental drag coefficient (defined in Section 3) due to presence of cavity, based on cavity planform area and kinetic pressure at edge of boundary layer		
C_f	local skin-friction coefficient in absence of cavity, based on kinetic pressure at edge of boundary layer		
d	diameter of cavity	m	ft
F, G, H	functions in Equation (3.1)		
h	depth of cavity	m	ft
M_1	local Mach number at edge of boundary layer		
R_d	Reynolds number based on d , local velocity and kinematic viscosity at edge of boundary layer		
δ	local boundary-layer thickness for which local velocity within boundary layer is 0.999 times local velocity at edge of boundary layer	m	ft

2. SCOPE OF ITEM

Charts described in Section 3 provide a method for estimating incremental drag coefficients for $M_1 \leq 3.0$ due to circular-planform cavities with walls normal to the surface, sharp edges, flat bottoms (no through flow) and of depth/diameter ratios given by $0.04 \leq h/d \leq 1.5$. Some guidance for estimating incremental drag coefficients for shallow cavities ($h/d \leq 0.04$) is given in Section 4. No systematic drag data are available for circular cavities with rounded or chamfered edges and it should *not* be assumed that such edge modifications are necessarily advantageous.

The charts were derived from experimental data for cavities in a flat plate at zero incidence with a turbulent boundary layer; they apply to airflow with zero heat transfer and are considered valid for cavities of diameter up to about $d = 3\delta$.

Notes on applicability are given in Section 5.

3. CAVITIES WITH $0.04 \leq h/d \leq 1.5$

The incremental drag coefficient may be represented by the product

$$C_D = F \times G \times H. \quad (3.1)$$

The functions F (dependent on M_1 and h/d), G (dependent on M_1 and C_f) and H (dependent on M_1 and R_d) are developed in Appendix A and presented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The ranges of the experimental data on which the charts are based are shown in Table 8.1. Outside these ranges the charts should be used with caution. Essentially, Equation (3.1) and the curves presented were derived from tests at subsonic and supersonic speeds reported in Derivations 4, 6 and 8. Derivation 5 presents the results of these tests in a form particularly convenient for use in practice and this form provides the basis of the present Item. Tests in the transonic range between $M_1 = 0.8$ and 1.4 are reported in Derivation 7 and the results have been incorporated in this Item. Equation (3.1) and the curves are substantiated by data from tests at low subsonic speeds reported in Derivations 1, 2 and 3.

In the tests of Derivations 4, 6, 7 and 8 the cavities (of diameter 0.15 m) were located centrally in the circular plate (diameter 0.37 m) of a floating-element drag balance, itself inserted into the wind-tunnel wall. No account was taken of possible effects downstream of the balance plate. Thus, drag coefficients given in this Item represent the streamwise forces on the side and bottom of the cavity plus changes in skin friction on the balance plate due to the presence of the cavity, less the skin friction corresponding to the area of plate removed by the cavity.

Figure 1 shows that at certain values of h/d (e.g. 0.49) maxima occur in the value of F , which are associated with changes in flow pattern within the cavity. Clearly, in designing for low drag, values of h/d which yield high values of F are to be avoided whilst values corresponding to the troughs in F (e.g. $h/d = 0.15, 0.83$) are to be recommended.

Comparison with experiment indicates that C_D from this method is generally accurate to within $\pm 15\%$.

4. SHALLOW CAVITIES

For shallow cavities of $h/d < 0.04$ Equation (3.1) is not applicable. Instead, it is recommended that a method described in Derivation 4 be used in which the cavity is treated as a combination of rearward- and forward-facing steps of height h and varying angle of sweep. By integrating around the circular planform the following expression (similar to the one developed in Derivation 4) evolves:

$$C_D = 0.85 \frac{h}{d} C_f [(P + Q)_{\text{rearward-facing}} + (P + Q)_{\text{forward-facing}}], \quad (4.1)$$

in which P and Q are defined in and obtained from Item No. 75031.

The lack of reliable experimental data prohibits an assessment of the accuracy of this approach but compared to the accuracy of the data in Item No. 75031 there may be some further loss due to the assumptions regarding sweep effects and the interactions between rearward- and forward-facing parts of the cavity wall.