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Wing angle of attack for zero lift at subcritical Mach numbers

Associated software: ESDUpac A8731



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THE PREPARATION OF THIS DATA ITEM

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Mr A. Miller	— Airbus UK, Filton, Bristol
Mr E. Totland*	— Saab AB, Linköping, Sweden
Mr J. Tweedie	— Short Brothers plc, Belfast.

* Corresponding Member

The members 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 were

Mr P. D. Chappell	— Independent
Mr S.F. Wood	— Principal Engineer.

The person with overall responsibility for the work in this subject area is Mr A.J. Clarke, Head of Aircraft Aerodynamics Group.

WING ANGLE OF ATTACK FOR ZERO LIFT AT SUBCRITICAL MACH NUMBERS

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WING ANGLE OF ATTACK FOR ZERO LIFT AT SUBCRITICAL MACH NUMBERS

1. NOTATION AND UNITS

		<i>SI</i>	<i>British</i>
A	aspect ratio, $b/\bar{c}$		
a_1	wing lift-curve slope at low speeds, Equation (3.17)	degree ⁻¹	degree ⁻¹
b	wing span	m	ft
C_L	total lift coefficient		
C_{LLT0}	local lift coefficient due to effective twist at zero C_L		
C_{LTA}	lift coefficient due to unit effective twist of type A, see ESDU 83040 (Derivation 39) and Sketch 3.2	degree ⁻¹	degree ⁻¹
C_{LTB}	lift coefficient due to unit effective twist of type B, see ESDU 83040 (Derivation 39) and Sketch 3.3	degree ⁻¹	degree ⁻¹
c	local chord	m	ft
$\bar{c}$	geometric mean chord, $\int_0^1 c d\eta$	m	ft
c_r	wing root (centre-line) chord	m	ft
c_t	wing tip chord	m	ft
N	number of linear twist segments		
x	streamwise co-ordinate, positive aft	m	ft
z_c	camber ordinate	m	ft
α_r	angle of attack of wing root section	degree	degree
α_t	angle of attack of wing tip section	degree	degree
α_η	angle of attack of wing section at η	degree	degree
α_0	angle of attack of aerofoil section for zero C_L	degree	degree
α_{0r}	value of α_r for zero C_L	degree	degree
$(\alpha_{0r})_1$	contribution to α_{0r} due to camber for untwisted wing with camber line corresponding to that for root section	degree	degree
$(\alpha_{0r})_2$	contribution to α_{0r} due to effective twist	degree	degree

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$(\alpha_{0r})_{\infty}$	value of α_{0r} for two-dimensional flow	degree	degree
α_{0t}	value of α_t at zero C_L	degree	degree
$\alpha_{0\eta}$	value of α_{η} for zero C_L	degree	degree
δ	local geometric twist (angle of local chord relative to root chord, positive leading-edge up)	degree	degree
δ_c	local camber-dependent twist relative to wing root, Equation (3.4)	degree	degree
δ_e	effective wing twist, Equation (3.5)	degree	degree
δ_{et}	value of δ_e at wing tip	degree	degree
$\delta_{e,2/3}$	value of δ_e at $\eta = 2/3$	degree	degree
δ'_{et}	equivalent linear tip twist, Equation (3.11)	degree	degree
δ_t	value of δ at wing tip	degree	degree
η	spanwise distance from root as fraction of semi-span		
η_K, η_{Ki}	value of η at intersection of linear twist segments, see Sketches 3.1 to 3.4		
θ	effective local twist relative to datum value at η_K in linear segment representation (positive leading-edge up)	degree	degree
θ_A	effective root twist relative to datum value at η_K in linear segment representation, see Sketch 3.2 (positive root leading-edge up)	degree	degree
θ_B	effective tip twist relative to datum value at η_K in linear segment representation, see Sketch 3.3 (positive tip leading-edge up)	degree	degree
$\Lambda_{1/4}$	sweepback of quarter-chord line	degree	degree
λ	taper ratio, c_t/c_r		

Subscripts

<i>expt</i>	denotes experimental value
<i>i</i>	denotes i^{th} linear twist segment of type B used in calculating effective twist ($i = 1$ to n)
<i>n</i>	denotes n^{th} linear twist segment of type B ($n = 1$ to $N-1$)
<i>pred</i>	denotes predicted value
<i>th</i>	denotes approximate theoretical value
∞	denotes wing sectional value in two-dimensional flow

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2. INTRODUCTION

This Item provides a simple semi-empirical method for estimating wing angle of attack for zero lift at subcritical Mach numbers.

The method, presented in Section 3, consists of separate estimations of two contributions to zero-lift angle of attack. The first is due to camber, taken for reference purposes as that corresponding to the wing root section and assumed unchanged across the span. The second is due to the combined effects of geometric twist and “camber-dependent” twist associated with spanwise changes in camber. The method, although based on low-speed considerations, is applicable to any subcritical Mach number.

The contribution, $(\alpha_{0r})_1$, due to the reference camber line at the wing root (Section 3.2) is based on an approximate theoretical estimate for two-dimensional flow, corrected with an empirical factor which is independent of wing planform. Two methods are provided for estimating the remaining contribution, $(\alpha_{0r})_2$, due to “effective wing twist”, which combines the effects of geometric and camber-dependent twist (Section 3.3). For linear or monotonic distributions of effective wing twist, the method is based on solutions obtained from extended lifting-line theory, monotonic distributions being treated in terms of equivalent linear distributions. For more complex twist distributions a method involving their representation by a system of linear segments is used.

The applicability and accuracy of the method are discussed in Section 4 and illustrations of typical uses of the Item are given in worked examples in Section 6.

Details of a computer program for the present method, ESDUpac A8731, are given in Appendix A.

The associated pitching moment at zero lift can be estimated using ESDU 87001 (Reference 42).

3. WING ANGLE OF ATTACK FOR ZERO LIFT

3.1 General

For the most general case of a cambered and twisted wing the total lift coefficient for an angle of attack referred to the chord of the root (centre-line) section is given by

$$C_L = a_1 [\alpha_r - (\alpha_{0r})_1 - (\alpha_{0r})_2], \quad (3.1)$$

so that for zero total lift

$$\alpha_r = \alpha_{0r} = (\alpha_{0r})_1 + (\alpha_{0r})_2. \quad (3.2)$$

In Equation (3.2), α_{0r} is the angle of attack for zero total wing lift, $(\alpha_{0r})_1$ is the contribution to α_{0r} due to the reference camber line and $(\alpha_{0r})_2$ is the contribution due to effective wing twist.

The angle of attack of the root section at zero total wing lift due to twist on an otherwise uncambered wing is $(\alpha_{0r})_2$ and is therefore associated with the condition

$$\int_0^1 (C_{LLT0}^{c/\bar{c}})_\eta d\eta = 0 \quad (3.3)$$

where $(C_{LLT0}c/\bar{c})_\eta$ is the local loading at zero total wing lift due to the combined effects of local geometric twist, δ , and local camber-dependent twist, δ_c , which arises for those cases in which the camber line, and hence the local zero-lift angle of attack, varies across the wing. The local geometric twist is defined as the angle of the local chord relative to the root chord, *i.e.* $\delta = \alpha_\eta - \alpha_r$. The local camber-dependent twist is defined as the difference between the local and root section values of $(\alpha_0)_\infty$, *i.e.*

$$\delta_c = (\alpha_{0r})_\infty - (\alpha_{0\eta})_\infty. \quad (3.4)$$

The combined, or effective, local twist, δ_e , can be written as

$$\delta_e = \delta + \delta_c = \delta + (\alpha_{0r})_\infty - (\alpha_{0\eta})_\infty \quad (3.5)$$

which can be interpreted as the angle of the local zero-lift line relative to that of the root section. The determination of $(\alpha_{0\eta})_\infty$ and $(\alpha_{0r})_\infty$ is carried out using Equation (3.8) (which is generally applicable to any wing section) in Section 3.2.

At the wing tip, Equation (3.5) becomes

$$\delta_{et} = \delta_t + (\alpha_{0r})_\infty - (\alpha_{0t})_\infty. \quad (3.6)$$

When the camber line is unchanged across the span, $(\alpha_{0r})_\infty = (\alpha_{0t})_\infty$, and Equation (3.6) reduces to

$$\delta_{et} = \delta_t. \quad (3.7)$$

Procedures for obtaining $(\alpha_{0r})_1$ and $(\alpha_{0r})_2$ from low-speed considerations are presented in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 respectively. The resulting values are, however, applicable over the subcritical Mach number range.

3.2 Evaluation of $(\alpha_{0r})_1$

For any wing section the angle of attack for zero lift at low speeds is given by

$$(\alpha_0)_\infty = 0.87(\alpha_0)_{\infty th} \quad (3.8)$$

in which $(\alpha_0)_{\infty th}$ is the value obtained using ESDU 72024 (Derivation 2) and 0.87 is an empirical correction factor obtained from comparisons of $(\alpha_0)_{\infty th}$ with wind-tunnel test data for a large number of aerofoils at low speeds in Derivations 1 and 3 to 11. An improvement in the estimation of $(\alpha_0)_\infty$ is possible by use of the method of ESDU 98011 (Reference 43), where the constant 0.87 is replaced by a viscous correction factor dependent on section geometry, Reynolds number and Mach number. However, it should be noted that the difference in prediction is small in magnitude and of little consequence in the estimation of α_{0r} for a wing.

Analysis of low-speed wind-tunnel test data for untwisted wings with section camber lines unchanged across the span (Derivations 12 to 23, 25 and 26) has shown that planform effects on zero-lift angle are insignificant and that Equation (3.8) still applies. Thus, for the purpose of the subsequent application to twisted wings, and with the root section as a reference,

$$(\alpha_{0r})_1 = 0.87(\alpha_{0r})_{\infty th}. \quad (3.9)$$

3.3 Evaluation of $(\alpha_{0r})_2$

Two cases will be considered; that for which the effective twist varies linearly with spanwise distance, in Section 3.3.1, and that for which the variation is non-linear, in Section 3.3.2.

3.3.1 Linear twist

For wings with linear spanwise twist distribution, Derivation 29 uses extended lifting-line theory to satisfy Equation (3.3) and give the change in the zero-lift angle of the wing root section due to twist at low speeds. Figures 1a to 1d present the results as carpets for $(\alpha_{0r})_2/\delta_{et}$ in terms of A and $A \tan \Lambda_{1/4}$ for taper ratios $\lambda = 0, 0.25, 0.5$ and 1.0 . For intermediate values of λ a cross-plot can be made but linear interpolation is felt to be adequate.

3.3.2 Non-linear twist

Equation (3.3) has been evaluated by simple strip theory for tapered wings with linear twist and non-linear twist in the form of "linear-lofted" twist (see Derivation 38), given by

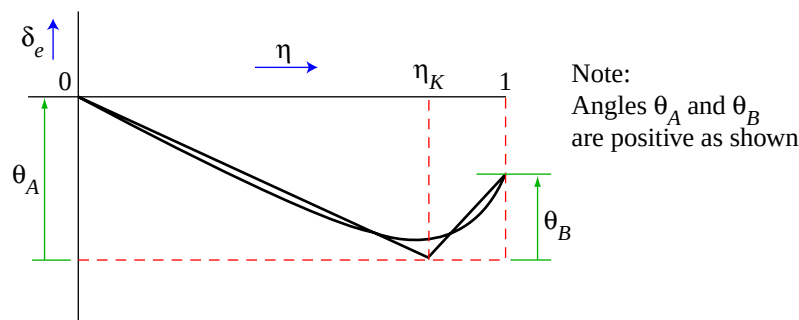
$$\frac{\delta}{\delta_t} = \frac{\eta\lambda}{1 - \eta(1 - \lambda)} \quad (3.10)$$

so as to maintain straight leading and trailing edges. The strip theory calculations suggest replacement of δ_{et} in Figures 1a to 1d by an equivalent linear twist

$$\delta'_{et} = \frac{3}{2} \delta_{e, 2/3} \quad (3.11)$$

where $\delta_{e, 2/3}$ is the actual effective twist at $\eta = 2/3$. Good comparisons were obtained between calculations of $(\alpha_{0r})_2$ for wings with linear-lofted twist using vortex-lattice theory (in Derivation 38 using the method of Derivation 37) and similar calculations for the same wings using Figures 1a to 1d in conjunction with equivalent linear twist given by Equation (3.11).

The artifice in Equation (3.11) is likely to be adequate for twist distributions that are monotonic, as in the case of linear-lofted twist. For more complex twist distributions a method based on that given in ESDU 83040 (Derivation 39) should be used. The method of that Item represents the twist distribution by means of a series of linear segments. The following example gives the simple case in which the twist distribution can be represented by two linear segments.

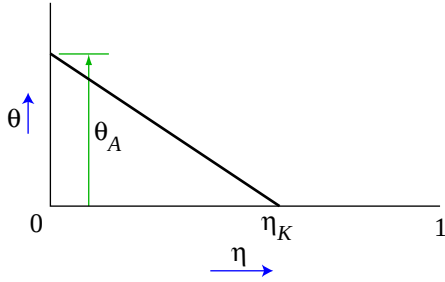


Sketch 3.1

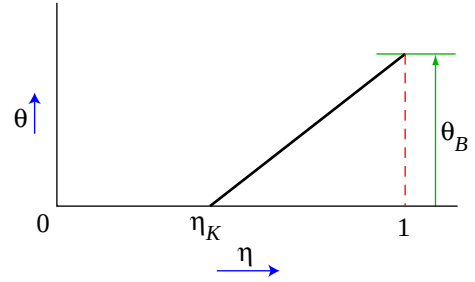
The twist of type A, see Sketch 3.2, is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \theta_A(\eta_K - \eta)/\eta_K & \text{for } 0 \leq \eta \leq \eta_K \\ &= 0 & \text{for } \eta_K \leq \eta \leq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

and gives a lift coefficient C_{LTA} .



Sketch 3.2 Twist of type A



Sketch 3.3 Twist of type B

The twist of type B, see Sketch 3.3, is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= 0 & \text{for } 0 \leq \eta \leq \eta_K \\ &= \theta_B(\eta - \eta_K)/(1 - \eta_K) & \text{for } \eta_K \leq \eta \leq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

and gives a lift coefficient C_{LTB} .

The representation by linear segments in Sketch 3.1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e &= -\theta_A + \theta_A(\eta_K - \eta)/\eta_K & \text{for } 0 \leq \eta \leq \eta_K \\ &= -\theta_A + \theta_B(\eta - \eta_K)/(1 - \eta_K) & \text{for } \eta_K \leq \eta \leq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

and a corresponding lift coefficient

$$C_L = -\theta_A a_1 + \theta_A C_{LTA} + \theta_B C_{LTB}. \quad (3.15)$$

The contribution of the twist distribution to the zero-lift angle is

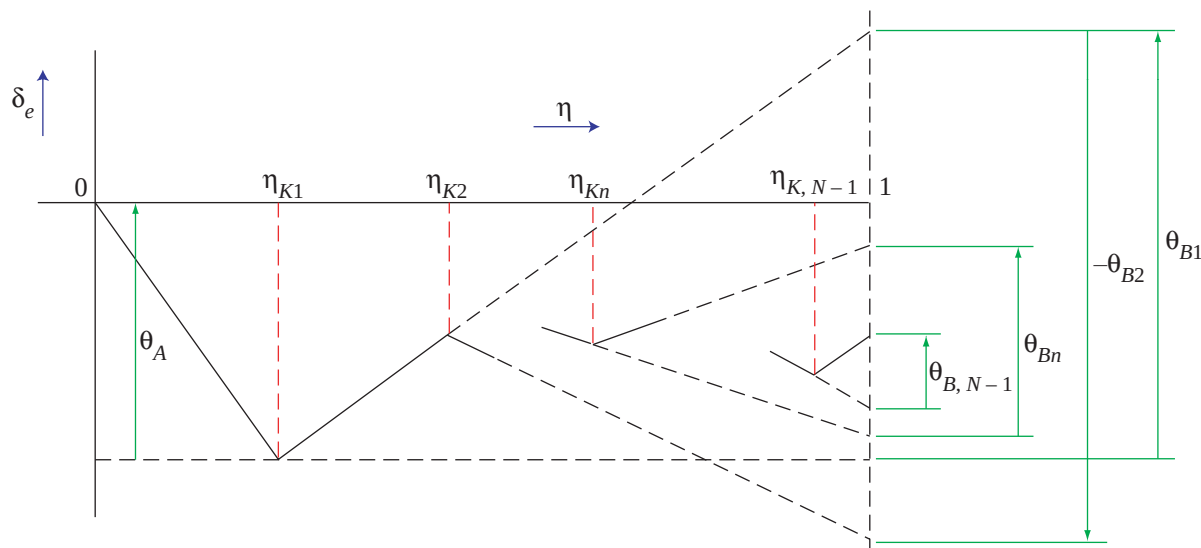
$$(\alpha_{0r})_2 = \theta_A - \theta_A \frac{C_{LTA}}{a_1} - \theta_B \frac{C_{LTB}}{a_1}. \quad (3.16)$$

The low-speed wing lift-curve slope, a_1 , could be obtained from ESDU 70011 (Reference 40). However, for the present purpose, sufficiently accurate values can be calculated from the following simple equation, which was used instead of ESDU 70011.

$$a_1 = \pi^2 A / \{ 90 [2 + \sqrt{4 + (A / \cos \Lambda_{1/4})^2}] \} \text{ deg}^{-1}. \quad (3.17)$$

Equation (3.17) is the Helmbold-Diederich equation, obtained from Derivation 24, which provides values accurate to within about ± 8 per cent of those given by ESDU 70011, see ESDU TM 169 (Reference 44). The evaluation of $(\alpha_{0r})_2$ in Equation (3.16) also requires the values of C_{LTA} and C_{LTB} , which have been extracted from ESDU 83040, and are given in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, respectively, as functions of A and η_K .

Many practical twist distributions can be satisfactorily represented by only two linear segments. However, if more segments are required the method can be generalised to N segments as shown in Sketch 3.4.



Sketch 3.4

From Sketch 3.4, for the first linear segment,

$$\delta_e = -\theta_A + \theta_A(\eta_{K1} - \eta)/\eta_{K1} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \eta \leq \eta_{K1}. \quad (3.18a)$$

For those linear segments beyond the first, within the range η_{K1} to $\eta_{KN} (= 1)$, Equation (3.18b) provides δ_e for any particular general segment,

$$\delta_e = -\theta_A + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \theta_{Bn}(\eta - \eta_{Kn})/(1 - \eta_{Kn}) \quad \text{for } \eta_{Kn} \leq \eta \leq \eta_{K, n+1} \quad (3.18b)$$

(i.e. over the general segment), where $n = 1$ to $N-1$ and $\eta_{KN} = 1$.

Note that the correct signs for θ_{Bn} must be incorporated.

This representation gives

$$(\alpha_{0r})_2 = \theta_A - \theta_A \frac{C_{LTA}(\eta_{K1})}{a_1} - \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \theta_{Bn} \frac{C_{LTB}(\eta_{Kn})}{a_1}, \quad (3.19)$$

which is a simple generalisation of Equation (3.16).

TABLE 3.1 Values of C_{LTA} (Derivation 39)

$\eta_K \backslash A$	1.5	3	5	8	12
0	0	0	0	0	0
0.1	0.0023	0.0036	0.0046	0.0054	0.0061
0.2	0.0045	0.0071	0.0091	0.0107	0.0119
0.3	0.0068	0.0106	0.0134	0.0158	0.0174
0.4	0.0089	0.0140	0.0176	0.0207	0.0226
0.5	0.0111	0.0173	0.0217	0.0254	0.0276
0.6	0.0131	0.0204	0.0256	0.0298	0.0323
0.7	0.0151	0.0234	0.0293	0.0339	0.0368
0.8	0.0170	0.0263	0.0327	0.0379	0.0409
0.9	0.0188	0.0289	0.0359	0.0415	0.0448
1.0	0.0203	0.0313	0.0388	0.0448	0.0483

TABLE 3.2 Values of C_{LTB} (Derivation 39)

$\eta_K \backslash A$	1.5	3	5	8	12
0	0.0150	0.0225	0.0270	0.0304	0.0330
0.1	0.0128	0.0192	0.0232	0.0263	0.0283
0.2	0.0108	0.0162	0.0195	0.0221	0.0238
0.3	0.0090	0.0134	0.0161	0.0182	0.0197
0.4	0.0072	0.0107	0.0129	0.0146	0.0158
0.5	0.0055	0.0082	0.0099	0.0112	0.0122
0.6	0.0040	0.0059	0.0071	0.0081	0.0089
0.7	0.0026	0.0039	0.0047	0.0054	0.0059
0.8	0.0014	0.0021	0.0026	0.0030	0.0033
0.9	0.0005	0.0008	0.0011	0.0013	0.0014
1.0	0	0	0	0	0

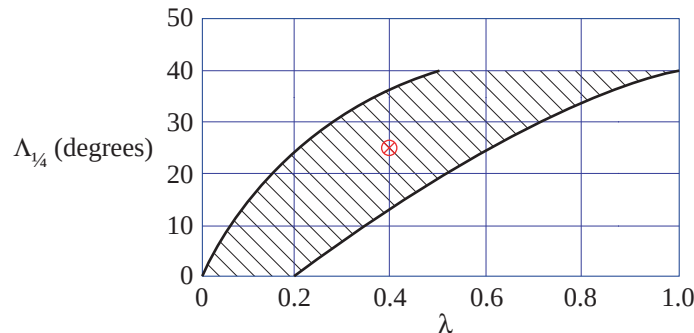
4. APPLICABILITY AND ACCURACY

The method given in this Item for estimating wing angle of attack for zero lift at subcritical Mach numbers is applicable to straight-tapered wings with camber and twist provided that the local effective twist is not excessive ($|\delta_e| \leq 10^\circ$, say) and provided that the flow over the wing is attached and wholly subsonic at the zero-lift condition. The method has been applied successfully to wings with cranked or curved edges by means of the “equivalent wing planform” concept detailed in ESDU 76003 (Reference 41).

The method can cope (via ESDU 72024) with any shape of camber line which may vary across the span. The method is capable of dealing with any form of spanwise twist distribution but is simplest to use for wings with an approximately linear twist distribution or for a twist distribution that is essentially monotonic. The method for the more complex twist distributions requires the values of C_{LTA} and C_{LTB} given in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, which are assumed to be invariant with $\Lambda_{1/4}$ and λ . The tabulated values were in fact calculated for wings with $\Lambda_{1/4} = 25^\circ$ and $\lambda = 0.4$, but checks against values deduced using Figures 1a

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to 1d and Equation (3.16) for the special case of a single linear segment indicate that the assumption of invariance is reasonable (to within about ± 10 per cent) for combinations of $\Lambda_{1/4}$ and λ within the hatched area shown in Sketch 4.1.



Sketch 4.1

It is recommended that, although for untwisted wings the method has been found to be independent of planform over very wide ranges of planform parameters, its use for twisted wings should be restricted to planforms in the range $\lambda \leq 1$, $2 \leq A \leq 10$ and $0 \leq A \tan \Lambda_{1/4} \leq 6$.

For untwisted wings the upper limit on aspect ratio can be exceeded and moreover the method can be applied to wings with forward sweep.

The method has been compared with wind-tunnel test data for a wide range of aerofoils (Derivations 1 and 3 to 11) and wings, both without geometric twist (Derivations 12 to 23, 25 and 26) and with twist (Derivations 14 to 17, 23, 27, 28 and 30 to 36). The comparisons for low-speed flow are shown in Sketches 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 for aerofoils, unswept wings and swept wings respectively. It is seen that while the test data for conventional NACA aerofoils correlate to within ± 20 per cent, those for modern aerofoils correlate rather better, to within ± 15 per cent. The data for wings are mainly correlated to within $\pm 0.3^\circ$, independent of planform within the ranges noted earlier. The difference in the type of scatter exhibited by the test data for aerofoils (percentage) compared with that for wings (incremental) requires comment. To some extent the difference is a reflection of the fact that test data for wings relate to a smaller range of aerofoil sections than those covered by the two-dimensional tests. In this respect most of the wings represented in Sketches 4.3 and 4.4 had NACA 4- or 5-digit or NACA 6 or 6A sections, and with only two exceptions the corresponding two-dimensional test data were correlated to within $\pm 0.3^\circ$. However, there were in addition 23 wings with sections (mostly pre-1940) that had not been represented in true two-dimensional tests and the data for these wings still correlated to within about $\pm 0.3^\circ$ as shown. In spite of this evidence there is no reason to believe that test data for aerofoils are intrinsically less accurate than those for wings and in applying the method of this Item to wings it would be prudent to bear in mind the scatter relating to aerofoils (Sketch 4.2).

The effects of fixing boundary layer transition and of varying Reynolds number (provided that it is greater than about 10^6 based on $\bar{c}$) can be ignored within the quoted error bands.

It has been established by reference to theoretical calculations (Derivation 2) and test data (Derivations 1, 17, 18, 22, 35 and 36) that the angle of attack for zero lift of aerofoils and wings is essentially independent of Mach number up to the critical value. Where there is an effect it is often present as a reduction in the magnitude of α_{0r} as Mach number increases. Therefore, the method of this Item, although derived for low-speed flows, is applicable to subcritical Mach numbers. Confirmation of this is shown in Sketch 4.5 for a Mach number of 0.7.

Most of the data were restricted to straight-tapered swept-back wings; exceptionally, Derivations 16 and 18 related to swept-forward wings without twist and Derivation 26 related to a wing with cranked trailing edges.