

# SIMULATION OF ACTIVE FLOW CONTROL ACTUATOR USING CFD WITH APPLICATION TO ROTOR BLADE VIBRATION REDUCTION

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## Abstract

A computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model is developed to determine the unsteady aerodynamic effects of active flow control implemented by combustion-powered actuation (COMPACT) on a two-dimensional airfoil. Previous work with COMPACT actuators employed pulsed-jet actuation at moderate to high angles of attack to control flow separation and dynamic stall. However, the focus of the present study is to implement actuation in the moderate to low angle of attack range suitable for helicopter rotor vibration control. At low angles of attack, the effect of actuation on the sectional aerodynamic forces of the airfoil diminishes. Therefore, modifications to the COMPACT actuator configuration are considered to enhance the actuation authority for the relevant operating range. Modifications include placing a ramp on the airfoil upstream of the actuator and relocating the actuator near the airfoil trailing edge. These are considered using both CFD simulations and wind tunnel experiments, which are compared to validate the CFD model. Finally, a surrogate-based reduced-order modeling technique is described to address the high computational cost of the CFD simulations. The reduced-order model is used to accurately reproduce full-order CFD results for the unsteady changes in lift, moment, and drag due pulsed actuation on a static airfoil. Furthermore, the results show that the reduced-order model represents a feasible method for representing the unsteady aerodynamic effects of COMPACT actuation. This will be refined in future work and implemented in a comprehensive aeroelastic code for helicopter rotor vibration reduction.

## NOMENCLATURE

$c$	Airfoil chord length	$f_{\text{act}}$	Actuation frequency, Hz
$C_l, C_m, C_d$	2D lift, moment, and drag coefficients	$F^+$	Non-dimensional reduced actuation frequency, $f_{\text{act}} c / U_\infty$
$C_L, C_M, C_D$	Experimentally measured lift, moment, and drag coefficients	$k$	Turbulent kinetic energy
$C_q$	Volume flow rate ratio jets/freestream	$m, n$	Number of previous time steps required to account for time-history effects in SBRF
$\Delta C_{x,qs}$	Quasi-steady increment in $C_x$ due to repeated actuation; $x \equiv l, m, \text{ or } d$	$M_\infty$	Freestream Mach number
		$P_{\text{act}}$	Actuator combustion chamber pressure
		$P_r$	Pressure ratio of actuator combustion chamber, $P_{\text{act}} / P_\infty$
		$P_{r,\text{peak}}$	Peak pressure ratio of actuator combustion chamber
		$P_\infty$	Freestream static pressure
		$Re_c$	Reynolds number based on chord length, $U_\infty c / \mu_\infty$
		$t$	Dimensional time
		$t_0$	Initial time of actuator pulse in CFD simulations
		$T_{\text{act,pulse}}$	Actuator pulse duration in CFD simulations
		$T_{\text{conv}}$	Convective time scale, $c / U_\infty$

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$u$	Representative actuator input signal for SBRF model of COMPACT actuation
$\mathbf{u}$	Vector of external inputs
$U_\infty$	Freestream flow speed
$\mathbf{x}$	State vector for SBRF model
$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$	Estimated state vector for SBRF model
$y$	"Exact" solution for a given output variable; e.g., $C_l$ , $C_m$ , or $C_d$
$\hat{y}$	Approximate solution for a given output variable
$\alpha$	Angle of attack
$\epsilon(\hat{y}, y)$	Normalized mean absolute error of $\hat{y}(t)$ relative to $y(t)$
$\mu_\infty$	Molecular dynamic viscosity
$\mu_t$	Turbulent dynamic viscosity
$\Phi$	Non-linear mapping function
$\hat{\Phi}$	Surrogate mapping function
$\hat{\Phi}_{qs}$	Quasi-steady surrogate mapping function for SBRF model
$\omega$	Specific rate of dissipation of turbulent kinetic energy

## 1. INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND OBJECTIVES

The principal thrust of research in active flow control for rotorcraft applications has been to control dynamic stall, which is a major source of vibrations in a helicopter rotor during high-speed flight. Dynamic stall is characterized by unsteady flow separation and reattachment that result from the periodic variations in effective angle of attack of the blade sections. For high forward flight speeds, the inboard sections of the retreating blade encounter large angles of attack that exceed the static stall angle of the blade. Near the maximum angle of attack, a dynamic stall vortex is shed from the blade surface. This induces a large negative pitching moment on the blade that contributes to the overall vibratory loads on the rotor.

Active flow control has been implemented in wind tunnel experiments to alleviate the effects of dynamic stall on pitching airfoils. A typical approach is to inject momentum from the airfoil surface when the airfoil is at moderate to high angles of attack.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Previous studies demonstrated that actuation during the upstroke of the dynamic stall pitching cycle can suppress the formation of the dynamic stall vortex and effectively delay lift-stall to higher angles of attack. Additionally, actuation during the downstroke can accelerate the flow reattachment process after the dynamic stall vortex has been shed. Note that the benefits of active flow control were achieved in these studies because of the interaction with *separated* flows.

Computational fluid dynamics (CFD) studies have also characterized the influence of active flow control on dynamic stall and flow separation. Unsteady Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (URANS) simulations have been implemented to produce engineering-level accuracy suitable for design sensitivity studies<sup>5,6</sup> and optimization<sup>7</sup> of the actuators. In Ref. 8, the accuracy of URANS simulations was compared with higher-fidelity LNS (limited numerical scales) simulations. The study demonstrated that the lower-fidelity URANS simulations were sufficient to reproduce experimental results for low frequencies of actuation (i.e., for  $F^+ < 3.3$ ), whereas the LNS simulations were more accurate up to  $F^+ = 10$ . In the literature, the actuation frequency is commonly expressed in non-dimensional form:  $F^+ = f_{act}c/U_\infty$ . Here the actuation frequency  $f_{act}$  is scaled with the convective time scale,  $T_{conv} = c/U_\infty$ , which is the time for disturbances to travel over the chord length of the airfoil. Large eddy simulations (LES) have also been implemented to produce highly accurate unsteady results for active flow control on a statically stalled airfoil.<sup>9</sup> However, the application of LES to active flow control modeling is limited, due its high computational cost.

Although dynamic stall is an important consideration in rotorcraft aeroelasticity, it is not the only source of vibrations in a helicopter rotor. Active control studies for rotor vibration reduction (reviewed in Ref. 10) have applied a systematic approach to reducing vibrations, rather than targeting only dynamic stall. As a result, the control effort in these studies was applied primarily in attached flows, at low to moderate blade angles of attack. Among these studies, the AVINOR aeroelastic simulation code<sup>11</sup> has been used for active vibration control implemented by active flaps and microflaps.<sup>12</sup> The AVINOR code is a comprehensive simulation code for helicopter rotor vibration reduction. It uses a reduced-order model, based on the rational function approximation,<sup>13,14</sup> to model the unsteady aerodynamic loads during vibration control. The computational efficiency and accuracy of the reduced-order model are critical for performing closed-loop active vibration control studies.

The overall objective of the current study is to develop an accurate representation of active flow control implemented by combustion-powered actuation (COMPACT)<sup>4</sup>. The specific objectives of this paper are:

1) Develop a CFD simulation methodology for modeling the unsteady effects of COMPACT actuation on a two-dimensional (2D) airfoil operating in the moderate to low angle of attack range that is relevant for helicopter rotor vibration control.

2) Compare results from 2D CFD simulations and

wind tunnel experiments for actuation on a static airfoil.

3) Develop a surrogate-based reduced-order model for representing the full-order CFD solutions, capturing changes in cross-sectional aerodynamic coefficients (lift, moment, and drag) due to actuation on the 2D airfoil.

These objectives are important steps towards evaluating active flow control for helicopter rotor vibration reduction when using a comprehensive aeroelastic simulation code.

## 2. CFD SIMULATION OF COMPACT ACTUATION

The COMPACT actuator produces a high-velocity jet that is generated by a combustion reaction inside a cubic-centimeter-scale chamber. This causes flow to accelerate when exiting through a narrow slot. An overview of the experimental development and characterization of the actuators was presented in Ref. 15. In the current study CFD simulations are used to represent a VR-12 airfoil with COMPACT actuators embedded in the airfoil surface. This configuration simulates a wind tunnel experiment at Georgia Tech that also represents a configuration used in Ref. 3.

### 2.1. Description of Flow Solver

Simulations of the COMPACT actuators are performed using two-dimensional (2D) RANS CFD simulations. The code used in this study is CFD++,<sup>16</sup> which solves the compressible unsteady RANS equations using a finite volume formulation. The CFD++ code is a general-purpose code that is capable of modeling a variety of mesh types, including structured, unstructured, hybrid, patched, and overset grids through a unified grid methodology. Spatial discretization is based on a second-order total variation diminishing scheme. For time-dependent simulations, a first-order implicit algorithm is implemented, with second-order accuracy achieved by dual time-stepping. Additionally, multi-grid convergence acceleration is utilized in the simulations. Several different turbulence models are available in CFD++. The Menter  $k-\omega$  shear stress transport (SST) model was selected for the current study, assuming a fully turbulent boundary layer.

### 2.2. Actuator Boundary Conditions

The pulsed jet is modeled in the CFD simulations by specifying a time-varying inlet boundary condition for the total pressure within the actuator, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The inlet boundary represents

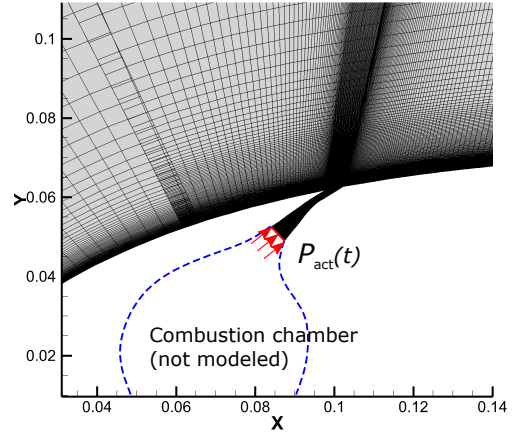


Figure 1: Actuator inlet boundary condition for CFD simulation of COMPACT pulse actuation

a simplification of the internal flow, since the combustion chamber is not modeled. This approach to modeling the jet is similar to that used in a previous CFD study with COMPACT actuation.<sup>6</sup>

The time varying pressure within the actuator is represented by an analytical function that reproduces the rise, peak, and drop in combustion chamber pressure observed in experiments,

$$(1) \quad P_{\text{act}}(t) = P_r(t)P_{\infty},$$

where  $P_{\infty}$  is the freestream static pressure and the pressure ratio is,

$$(2) \quad P_r(t) = 1 + \frac{(P_{r,\text{peak}} - 1)}{2} \times \left[ \cos \left( 2\pi \frac{t - t_0}{T_{\text{act,pulse}}} - \pi \right) + 1 \right].$$

The cosine function in Eq. (2) is used for  $P_r(t)$  for  $0 \leq t - t_0 \leq T_{\text{act,pulse}}$ , where  $T_{\text{act,pulse}} = 7 \times 10^{-4}$  seconds. Otherwise, the actuator inlet boundary is treated as a wall boundary condition.

Within the CFD++ simulation environment, this approach is implemented with a built-in boundary type. The “Time Varying Total Pressure and Temperature” boundary is a reservoir inlet boundary condition for which the stagnation pressure, temperature, and turbulence quantities are specified as functions of time.<sup>17</sup> For the current simulations, only the time-varying pressure is specified, while the values of temperature ( $T$ ) and turbulence variables ( $k$  and  $\omega$ ) are held constant at the inlet boundary. The quantities  $T$ ,  $k$ , and  $\omega$  at the inlet boundary are prescribed to be equal to the values that are specified at the far-field boundary of the domain. These correspond to a temperature of 300 K, a turbulence intensity of 1%, and a turbulent-to-molecular viscosity ratio ( $\mu_t/\mu_{\infty}$ ) of 50.

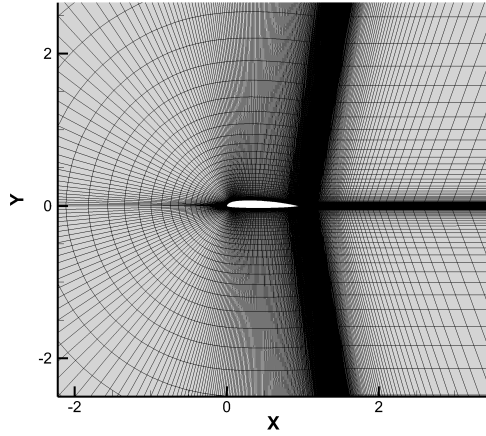


Figure 2: Computational grid for baseline clean VR-12 airfoil

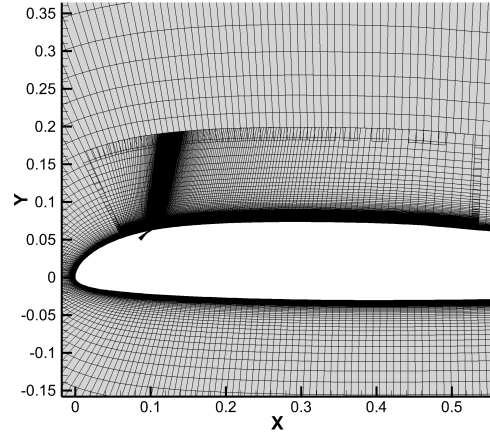


Figure 3: Overset grid for COMPACT actuator located at 10%-chord on VR-12 airfoil

For repeated pulse actuation, the actuator strength is frequency dependent, such that  $P_{r,peak}$  decreases with increasing actuation frequency,  $f_{act}$ . This dependence was characterized in Ref. 18, and is taken into account in our CFD simulations. For example, the peak pressure ratio of a single, isolated pulse is 3.3. Repeated actuation at 50 Hz (pulses/second) yields a peak pressure ratio of 2.3. In Ref. 18, data for  $P_{r,peak}$  versus  $f_{act}$  are available in 5-Hz intervals (up to 85 Hz) and are linearly interpolated in the current study.

### 2.3. Grids for Modeling the Airfoil/Actuator Combination

An overset, structured grid approach is employed in the vicinity of the actuator in order to capture the pulsed jet with sufficient resolution. First, a baseline grid for the clean VR-12 airfoil was generated. The computational domain is a C-grid, as shown in Fig. 2, with the far-field boundary extending to 50 chord-lengths from the airfoil. A distance of 30–50 chord lengths is typically used in order to minimize the effects of numerical reflection from the far-field boundary.

Next, an overset grid for the COMPACT actuator was generated, consisting of the actuator slot and the domain that immediately surrounds the actuator. This includes a small region upstream (5% chord) and a larger region downstream (45% chord) from the actuator. The height of the overset grid extends approximately 12% chord normal to the airfoil surface and overlaps a portion of the baseline clean grid, as shown in Fig. 3. For the configuration shown, the COMPACT actuator is located at 10% chord from the airfoil leading edge.

A grid refinement study was performed with the 2D grids in order to determine the mesh density

required to accurately capture the unsteady pulse-actuation. Three levels of mesh refinement for the combined baseline and overset grids were tested – coarse, nominal, and fine. The coarse mesh consists of a baseline airfoil mesh of approximately 85,000 quadrilateral cells, combined with an overset actuator mesh of approximately 25,000 cells. The nominal mesh uses the same 85,000-cell baseline mesh and a finer overset mesh of approximately 40,000 cells. Finally, the fine mesh consists of a baseline mesh of 160,000 cells, combined with the 40,000-cell overset mesh.

The unsteady lift, moment, and drag coefficients ( $C_l$ ,  $C_m$ ,  $C_d$ ) were computed on the coarse, nominal, and fine grids for a single actuator pulse. For this comparison, the airfoil was fixed at a static  $8^\circ$  angle of attack, with freestream flow conditions corresponding to  $M_\infty = 0.06$  and  $Re_c = 535,000$ . The unsteady coefficients were compared over an interval of  $5T_{conv}$  after the pulse ( $T_{conv} = c/U_\infty$ ). The relative error was computed using the following metric:

$$(3) \quad \epsilon(\hat{y}, y) = 100 \times \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N |\hat{y}(t_n) - y(t_n)|}{y_{max} - y_{min}}.$$

This metric is the mean absolute error of  $\hat{y}(t)$  relative to  $y(t)$ , where  $y(t)$  represents the “exact” response and  $\hat{y}(t)$  represents an approximate response. The quantity  $y$  is used to represent a single output of interest, and is replaced by  $C_l$ ,  $C_m$ , and  $C_d$ , respectively, and  $N$  is the number of time samples from the CFD responses that are used to compute the relative error. In the grid refinement study, the responses calculated on the fine grid represent the “exact” solutions and the responses calculated on the coarse and nominal grids represent approximate solutions.

The unsteady errors of the coarse and nominal grids relative to the fine grid were calculated using Eq. (3) and are summarized in Table 1. The response of the nominal grid approximates the response of the fine grid within a reasonable margin of error: 1.9% in  $C_l$ , 0.6% in  $C_m$ , and 0.5% in  $C_d$ . Therefore, the nominal grid is used for the remainder of the CFD computations in this study.

## 2.4. Modification of Actuation for Low Angles of Attack

Active flow control has been shown in the literature to be effective for separated flows considered at moderate to high angles of attack. However, the principal region of interest for helicopter rotor vibration control is in attached flows at lower angles of attack. Reference 19 presented a clear example of the diminished authority of active flow control at low angles of attack ( $\alpha < 10^\circ$ ), when compared to higher angles of attack (up to  $30^\circ$ ). Motivated by the need to increase the effectiveness of COMPACT actuators at low angles of attack, several modifications of the basic configuration are considered.

The first modification to COMPACT consisted of placing a ramp upstream of the actuator. By placing a ramp with an aft-facing step on the airfoil surface, a localized region of “trapped vorticity” surrounds the actuator. This localized region of trapped vorticity is subsequently manipulated by COMPACT actuation to effect changes in aerodynamic forces. However, it is noted that this actuation approach would only provide a unidirectional change (net reduction) in the lift force relative to the uncontrolled baseline. This modification was implemented in both the wind tunnel experiments and in the CFD simulations. The addition of the ramp was accounted for in the CFD simulations by generating a new overset mesh for the actuator/ramp combination. This will be referred to as the COMPACT+Ramp configuration and is shown in Fig. 4 for a ramp height of 1.3% chord.

The second type of modification to COMPACT consisted of relocating the actuator. The overset grid method for generating the CFD meshes made the investigation of different locations straightforward in simulations, because only the overset actuator mesh needed to be regenerated for each new configuration. This flexibility of the simulations is not present in actual wind tunnel experiments. Therefore, the results examining alternate locations of the COMPACT actuator are obtained exclusively from simulations.

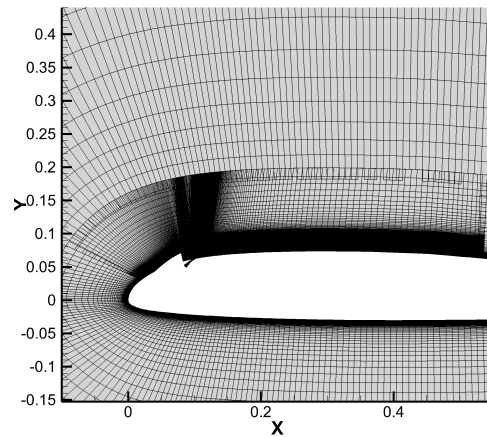


Figure 4: Overset grid for COMPACT actuator located at 10%-chord on VR-12 airfoil with added 1.3%-chord ramp

## 3. RESULTS

The CFD simulation results are presented in this section for COMPACT actuation on a static airfoil. First, the effects of actuation at low and high angles of attack are compared in order to illustrate the fundamental differences between the flow regimes. Next, the effect of adding a ramp to the airfoil to enhance the actuation at low angles is shown. Finally, alternate locations for the COMPACT actuator are investigated to identify locations where the actuators are most effective. The CFD simulations are used throughout this section and are compared with the wind tunnel experiments where available.

### 3.1. Actuator Operation at Low and High Angles of Attack

The performance of the COMPACT actuator is dependent on the ambient flow conditions, and is effective in controlling separated flow. When the base flow is fully attached the actuation can be utilized indirectly by regulating the presence of trapped vorticity concentration that can be engendered using a passive element. This is illustrated by simulating pulse actuation at several angles of attack using 2D simulations. The cases considered are  $4^\circ$ ,  $8^\circ$ ,  $12^\circ$ , and  $16^\circ$ , with freestream flow conditions corresponding to the experimental test conditions ( $M_\infty = 0.06$ ,  $Re_c = 535,000$ ). Before actuation,  $\alpha = 4^\circ$  and  $8^\circ$  have fully attached flows under steady state conditions. At  $\alpha = 12^\circ$  partial flow separation is encountered near the airfoil trailing edge and at  $\alpha = 16^\circ$  there is substantial flow separation. This behavior is identified from contour plots of the Mach number, provided in Fig. 5 for each case.

After obtaining steady-state flow solutions, pulse

Table 1: Relative error of unsteady aerodynamic coefficients in 2D CFD simulations of a single pulse

Grid	# of cells baseline	# of cells overset	$\epsilon(\hat{C}_l, C_l)$	$\epsilon(\hat{C}_m, C_m)$	$\epsilon(\hat{C}_d, C_d)$
coarse	86,304	24,689	3.6%	1.6%	1.4%
nominal	86,304	40,399	1.9%	0.6%	0.5%
fine	158,404	40,399	–	–	–

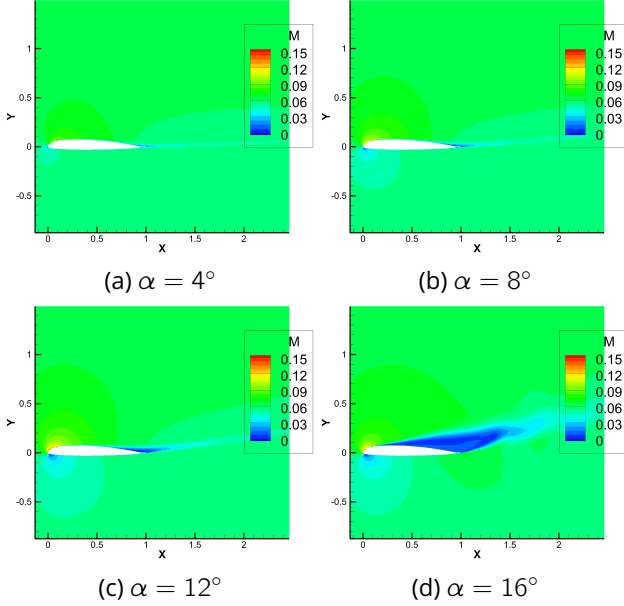


Figure 5: Mach number contours for VR-12 airfoil at  $\alpha = 4^\circ, 8^\circ, 12^\circ$ , and  $16^\circ$ , before COMPACT actuation;  $M_\infty = 0.06$ ,  $Re_c = 535,000$

actuation was applied for each angle of attack. The actuation consisted of seven consecutive pulses applied at a reduced frequency  $F^+$  of 1.67. The raw CFD data for the lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to actuation contain high-frequency oscillations after each pulse. Therefore, in order to compare the quasi-steady trends in the unsteady data, the phase average of each response was computed over intervals of  $1/F^+$ . Figure 6 illustrates how the computed phase average compares with raw CFD data for the lift coefficient. Note that in the figure the raw CFD data are clipped to be within the prescribed axis bounds. In this case, the range of  $\Delta C_l(t)$  is -0.8 to 0.5. Also shown at the bottom of the figure is the actuation signal. Here the magnitude of the actuation signal is arbitrary and is plotted only to show the timing of each pulse relative to the response.

The phase average highlights the quasi-steady nature of the lift response. As each pulse is applied, the lift coefficient incrementally increases towards a converged value. After the final pulse, the lift coefficient gradually returns to the initial steady-state

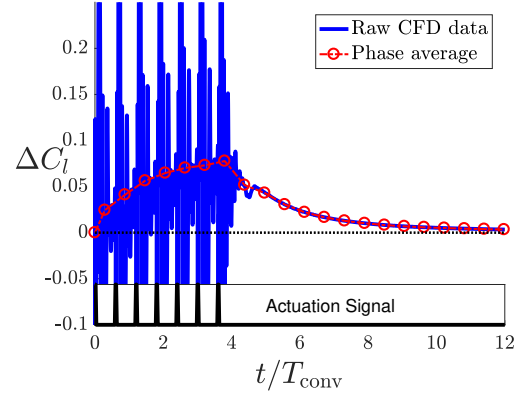


Figure 6: Phase average of lift coefficient data from 2D CFD simulation of COMPACT actuation at  $F^+ = 1.67$ ,  $\alpha = 8^\circ$

value that existed before the actuation. For this particular flow condition, the post-actuation relaxation takes place over approximately  $8T_{\text{conv}}$ .

The phase averages of the responses for  $\alpha = 4^\circ, 8^\circ, 12^\circ$ , and  $16^\circ$  are plotted in Fig. 7 in terms of the increments in lift, moment, and drag coefficients. The most straightforward comparison is obtained by comparing the responses for the lift coefficient. The peak value of lift due to actuation increases greatly from  $\alpha = 12^\circ$  to  $\alpha = 16^\circ$ . Additionally, the post-actuation relaxation period for  $\alpha = 16^\circ$  takes place over  $30T_{\text{conv}}$  – approximately three times longer than any of the lower angles. Furthermore, the overshoot phenomenon in the lift response for  $\alpha = 16^\circ$  is not observed at the lower angles of attack.

The greater receptivity of the flow to actuation at  $\alpha = 16^\circ$  is due to the natural instability of the separated flow domain. In previous experiments with COMPACT actuators,<sup>20</sup> the transient effects of actuation in a fully separated flow were characterized via particle image velocimetry (PIV). In the study, PIV frames were used to identify that the immediate effect of a pulse from the actuators is to sever the separated vorticity layer. Consequently, a large-scale vortex is shed which causes the progressive reattachment of flow to the upper surface of the airfoil. The result is a dramatic increase in the circula-



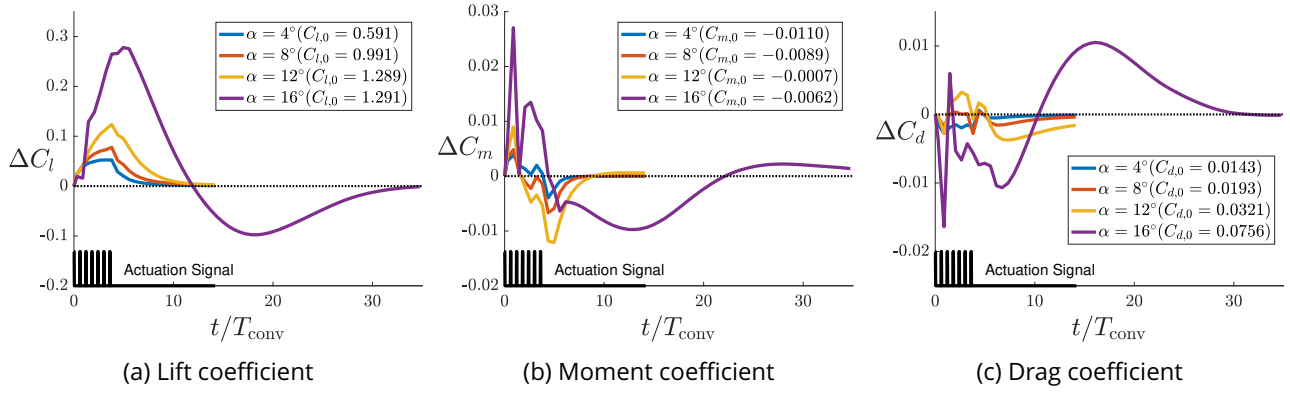


Figure 7: Phase-averaged increments in lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to COMPACT actuation for  $F^+ = 1.67$  at  $\alpha = 4^\circ, 8^\circ, 12^\circ$ , and  $16^\circ$

tion of the airfoil. After the vortex passes the airfoil trailing edge, the attached vorticity layer gradually lifts off the airfoil surface, thus reestablishing the baseline separated flow domain. For low to moderate angles of attack, the lack of a substantial separated flow domain weakens the influence of the actuation.

### 3.2. Influence of COMPACT+Ramp for Enhanced Actuation

A ramp was added to the airfoil/actuator configuration to alleviate the diminished performance at low angles of attack. The rear portion of the ramp is an aft-facing step, which induces local flow separation near the COMPACT actuator and generates a region of “trapped vorticity”. Although in the absence of COMPACT actuation the local separation bubble formed downstream of the passive ramp can lead to a decrease in lift relative to the baseline airfoil, this reduction can be subsequently augmented by COMPACT actuation. The actuation can increase the lift performance such that it is nearly at the level of the base airfoil. The magnitude of the lift may be optimized by the streamwise position of the actuators, although in the present experiments it is a bit lower than the lift of the base airfoil. Contour plots of the Mach number from CFD simulations, provided in Fig. 8, show the influence of a 1.3%-chord ramp height on the flow field. Both the original COMPACT configuration and the COMPACT+Ramp configuration are depicted prior to actuation.

The CFD simulations are compared with experimental results for unsteady lift, moment, and drag coefficients. It is important to note that the wind tunnel model used in the experiments is only equipped with the COMPACT actuators and ramps over the center 21% of the model span. This constitutes the *active* section of the model, as the remain-

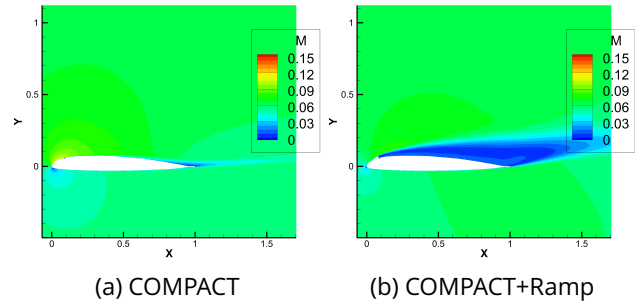


Figure 8: Mach number contours from 2D CFD simulation of VR-12 airfoil with COMPACT and COMPACT+Ramp actuator configurations, before actuation;  $\alpha = 8^\circ$ ,  $M_\infty = 0.06$ ,  $Re_c = 535,000$

ing outer sections are clean airfoil sections. Because the CFD simulations are representative of a fully-actuated, infinite span, a direct comparison of the calculated 2D coefficients from simulations with the measured coefficients from experiments is not a one-to-one comparison. Therefore, an approximate 2D comparison is used to scale the experimental results in an appropriate manner.

The 2D comparison consists of scaling the increment in the measured coefficients by  $1/0.21$ , as if COMPACT actuation were applied across the entire span of the wind tunnel model. To illustrate the scaling, denote the unsteady lift coefficient measured in experiments as  $C_L^{\text{EXP}}(t)$ , the baseline, steady-state value of the lift as  $C_{L,0}^{\text{EXP}}$ , and the unsteady increment as the difference between the two, i.e.,  $\Delta C_L^{\text{EXP}}(t) = C_L^{\text{EXP}}(t) - C_{L,0}^{\text{EXP}}$ . The measured increment in lift is scaled to yield the approximate 2D increment in lift on the active section of the wind tunnel model:

$$(4) \quad \Delta C_l^{\text{EXP}}(t) = \frac{\Delta C_L^{\text{EXP}}(t)}{0.21}.$$

The incremental lift from Eq. (4) is compared with

the increment in lift obtained in the CFD simulations:  $\Delta C_l^{\text{CFD}}(t) = C_l^{\text{CFD}}(t) - C_{l,0}^{\text{CFD}}$ . The experimental data for moment and drag coefficients ( $C_M^{\text{EXP}}$  and  $C_D^{\text{EXP}}$ ) are also scaled for comparison with CFD results in a similar manner. The increments in aerodynamic coefficients are all calculated relative to the original baseline COMPACT configuration.

To demonstrate the approximate 2D scaling, a 2D CFD simulation with the COMPACT+Ramp configuration is compared with experimental results. Thirteen consecutive pulses were applied at a reduced actuation frequency  $F^+$  of 0.634. The flow conditions correspond to a fixed angle of attack of  $8^\circ$  with  $M_\infty = 0.06$  and  $Re_c = 535,000$ . The unscaled lift, moment, and drag coefficients are plotted in Figs. 9a-c and the scaled, relative coefficients are shown in Figs. 9d-f.

It is evident from Fig. 9 that much better agreement is obtained between the CFD simulations and the experiments when the 2D scaling is applied to the experimental data. This is particularly evident in the lift coefficient, as both quasi-steady and transient effects are accurately represented. The converged value of the lift due to the repeated actuation is denoted as the quasi-steady lift increment,  $\Delta C_{l,qs}$ . From the CFD simulations  $\Delta C_{l,qs}^{\text{CFD}} = -0.163$  and from the scaled experimental data  $\Delta C_{l,qs}^{\text{EXP}} = -0.165$ . This demonstrates remarkable agreement for the combined effects of the ramp and the actuation. Similarly, the quasi-steady increments in moment and drag coefficient were calculated and are summarized in Table 2. For comparison, results are also included for the configuration without the ramp.

The aerodynamic effectiveness of the ramp on the airfoil is limited by several practical considerations. First, when the COMPACT actuators are not in use, the lift coefficient of the airfoil is 0.51 lower than the unmodified airfoil, while drag coefficient is increased by 0.084. The control authority (force excursion) of the actuator is greatly enhanced with the addition of the ramp, as the change in lift coefficient in the absence and presence of COMPACT actuation is 0.35, compared to 0.05 of the base airfoil. However, the combined effect of COMPACT and the ramp still produces a net decrease in the lift coefficient of 0.16 and net increase in drag coefficient of 0.045, which is undesirable in practical applications at low angles of attack.

### 3.3. Alternate Actuator Locations

Although the presence of the passive ramp leads to significant improvement in the control authority of COMPACT, the performance penalties associated

with the presence of the ramp exceed levels that are deemed practically acceptable. Therefore, considerable optimization must be undertaken to minimize the loss in the aerodynamic performance in the absence of actuation.

The location of the actuator in the simulations and experiments has been fixed at 10% chord from the leading edge on the upper surface of the airfoil. This resembles the configuration used in previous experimental<sup>3,4</sup> and computational<sup>6</sup> studies where the objective was to control dynamic stall. However, it may not be the best location for active flow control in the low to moderate angle of attack range. The flexibility of the overset grid method for modeling the COMPACT actuator in CFD simulations facilitates testing of alternate actuator locations. Therefore, several new locations for the COMPACT actuator are explored and compared in this section.

The new COMPACT configurations include an actuator at 75% chord on the upper surface, 90% chord on the upper surface, and 90% chord on the lower surface of the airfoil. These configurations are located closer to the trailing edge of the airfoil, in contrast to the original configuration where actuation was located near the leading edge. The exploration of locations near the trailing edge is motivated by manipulating the unsteady aerodynamic loads by affecting the Kutta condition. For each configuration, seven consecutive pulses were applied at  $F^+ = 1.67$ . As before, the flow conditions correspond to a fixed angle of attack of  $8^\circ$  with  $M_\infty = 0.06$  and  $Re_c = 535,000$ . The phase-averaged responses for the increments in lift, moment, and drag coefficients are plotted in Fig. 10 for the three new configurations as well as the original configuration located at 10%-chord from the leading edge.

The lift responses of the 10% and 75% configurations are nearly identical. However, actuation at 75% chord induces larger increments in the pitching moment and drag. The two 90% configurations affect changes in opposite directions for both lift and moment. From these results, there is no definitive improvement over the original actuator location. However, the responses of the two actuators at 90% chord demonstrate that bi-directional control of lift and moment may be achievable by utilizing actuation on both the upper and lower surfaces of the airfoil. This could potentially lead to an implementation that resembles the active trailing-edge flap for control of vibrations on a rotor blade.<sup>10</sup> To simulate positive and negative active flap deflections, the COMPACT actuators could be alternately pulsed on the upper and lower surfaces of the blade.

Preliminary experiments with steady blowing jets at the trailing edge support the bi-directional lift



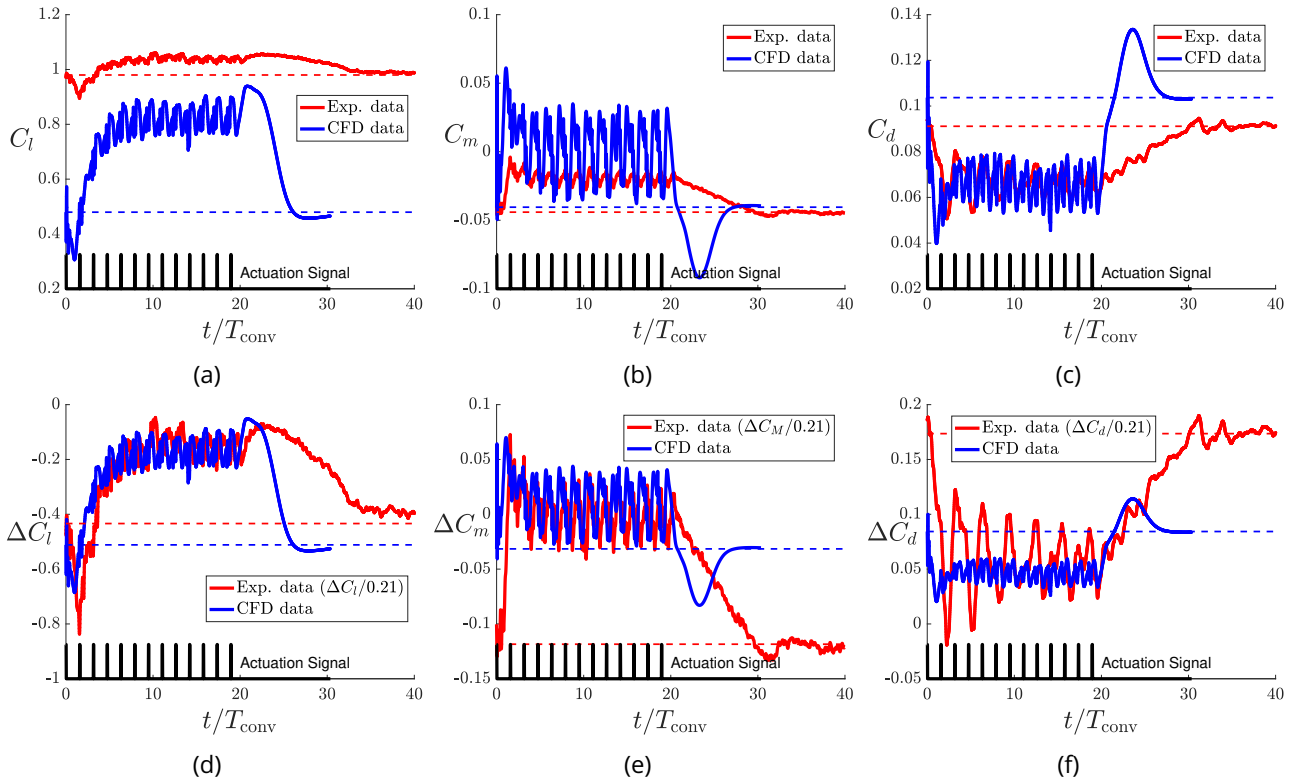


Figure 9: CFD and experimental data for multiple COMPACT pulses at  $F^+ = 0.634$  for COMPACT+Ramp configuration; absolute coefficients (a)-(c) and scaled relative coefficients (d)-(f) for unsteady lift, moment, and drag.

Table 2: Quasi-steady coefficients due to repeated COMPACT actuation at  $F^+ = 0.634$ ,  $\alpha = 8^\circ$

Configuration	Method	$\Delta C_{l,qs}$	$\Delta C_{m,qs}$	$\Delta C_{d,qs}$
COMPACT	2D CFD	+0.0495	-0.0017	-0.0006
	EXP	+0.0274	-0.0050	+0.0009
COMPACT+Ramp	2D CFD	-0.1632	+0.0092	+0.0452
	EXP	-0.1655	-0.0017	+0.0578

and moment control predicted in CFD simulations. The trailing-edge blowing jets were placed at 87.5%-chord locations on both the upper and lower surfaces of the wind tunnel model. In contrast to the CFD simulations and previous experiments, the jets were directed upstream relative to the oncoming flow ( $65^\circ$  relative to chord), as shown in Fig. 11.

Jet flow rates of up to 600 liters/minute ( $C_q = 0.00052$ ) were tested for angles of attack ranging from  $-2^\circ$  to  $12^\circ$ . The lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to the steady blowing are shown in Fig. 12 for both the upper and lower surface jets. The control authority of the jets to affect lift and moment scale linearly with the jet flow rate and is nearly unaffected by the angle of attack. The strength of the jet, and thereby the changes in forces, can be varied continuously for application to

vibration control.

In future experiments, COMPACT actuators will replace the steady blowing jets at the trailing edge of the airfoil. The steady jets currently act as a substitute for the COMPACT actuators because the steady jets could be integrated with the wind tunnel model in a more convenient manner. However, it is difficult to predict the effects that COMPACT actuation will have on the aerodynamic loads by considering only the performance of the steady jets. Nevertheless, the experiments and the CFD simulations suggest that the bi-directional response of the lift and moment can be anticipated with confidence. Additional CFD simulations will also be performed in order to investigate the effect of directing the COMPACT actuator jets upstream relative to the oncoming flow.

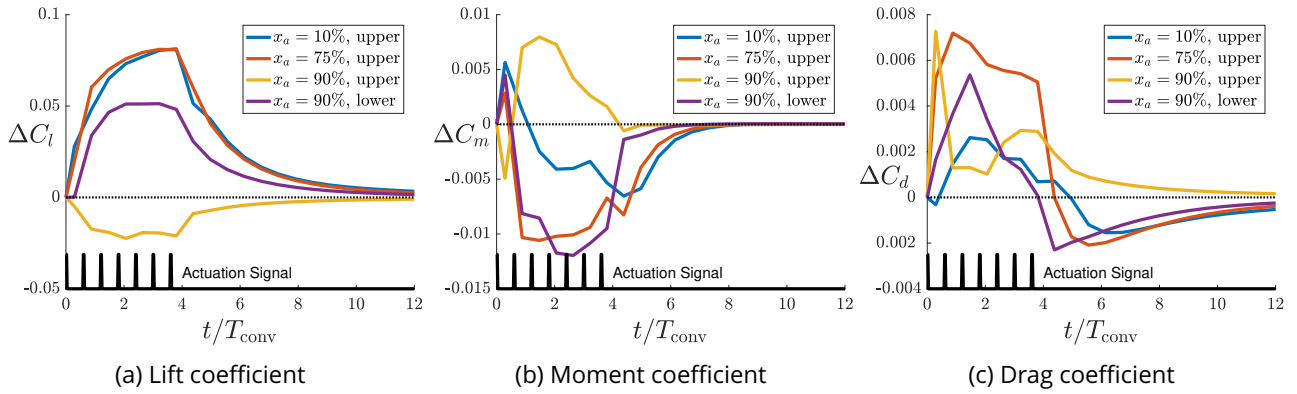


Figure 10: Phase-averaged coefficients due to COMPACT actuation at 10% chord, 75% chord, and 90% chord on airfoil upper surface and 90% chord on airfoil lower surface

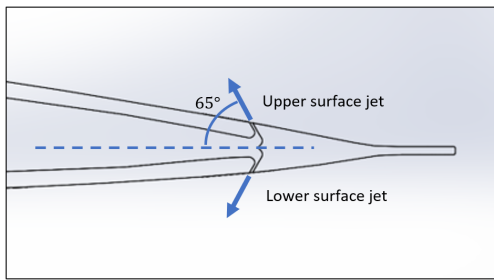


Figure 11: Drawing of steady blowing jets located at 87.5% chord on upper and lower surfaces of VR-12 airfoil model in wind tunnel experiments

#### 4. DEVELOPMENT OF A SURROGATE-BASED REDUCED-ORDER MODEL

The computational expense of the CFD approach for modeling COMPACT actuation is not suitable for direct integration with a comprehensive rotorcraft code. In order to study rotor vibration reduction, an efficient realization of the relationship between the actuator input and the induced cross-sectional force and moment coefficients on the airfoil is needed. Therefore, a surrogate approach is used to generate a reduced-order model (ROM) of the unsteady response due to actuation. Surrogates provide an efficient global approximation by interpolation of a limited number of samples from expensive, full-order results. A surrogate model can then be evaluated many times in optimization or control studies at a fraction of the cost when compared to evaluating the full-order model directly. Thus surrogates can reproduce the results of high-fidelity CFD at a fraction of the cost.

A surrogate-based recurrence framework (SBRF) developed in Ref. 21 is adapted in the current study to model CFD solutions of COMPACT actuation. The SBRF was initially developed to model the unsteady aerodynamic loads induced on an airfoil by com-

bined pitching and plunging motions.<sup>21</sup> The SBRF is suitable for predicting unsteady aerodynamic responses, because time history effects associated with unsteadiness are incorporated directly into the model structure. This approach was implemented in Ref. 22 to predict dynamic stall characteristics of an airfoil undergoing realistic rotor-blade motions, including the effects of time-varying Mach number. The previous studies demonstrated that the SBRF approach is suitable for predicting unsteady aerodynamic loads across a wide range of operating conditions, from attached to separated flows, with significantly less computational expense than full-order CFD simulations.

In the present study, the SBRF is constructed based on the time-dependent responses for the airfoil lift, moment, and drag coefficients calculated using the 2D CFD simulation methodology described in Sec. 2. The design of the SBRF closely follows the approach described in Ref. 21. Therefore, to avoid repeating all the details available in Ref. 21, only the essential modifications made in order to model COMPACT actuation are presented here.

##### 4.1. Surrogate-Based Recurrence Framework

The SBRF approximates the response of a non-linear dynamical system in which the output at any time  $t$  is not only a function of the instantaneous input at  $t$ , but is also a function of the input time history. The mapping from external inputs,  $\mathbf{u}(t)$ , to a single output of interest,  $y(t)$ , is expressed in the following form:

$$(5) \quad y(t) = \Phi(\mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{u}(t - \Delta t), \dots, \mathbf{u}(t - m\Delta t), y(t - \Delta t), \dots, y(t - n\Delta t)),$$

where  $\Phi$  is an unknown function that, in general, may be computationally expensive to evaluate.  $m$

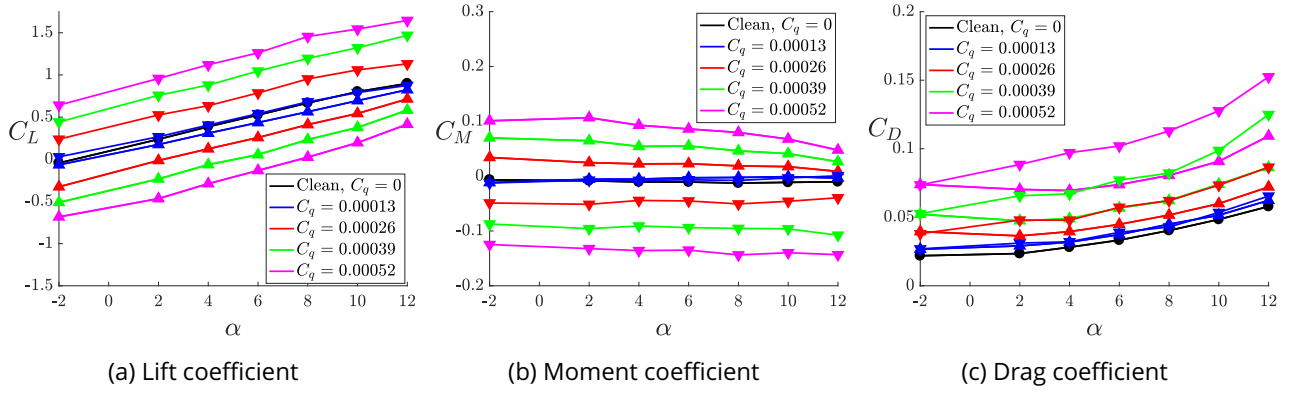


Figure 12: Time-averaged lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to steady trailing-edge blowing jets on upper ( $\Delta$ ) and lower ( $\nabla$ ) surface of airfoil model in wind tunnel experiments

and  $n$  are integers representing the number of previous inputs and outputs required to account for time-history effects.

The SBRF constructs a surrogate mapping function  $\hat{\Phi}$  that emulates the response of the full-order system. The SBRF approximation is written as

$$(6) \quad \hat{y}(t) = \hat{\Phi}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)),$$

where the state vector  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$  contains the short-term memory of the external inputs and outputs of the surrogate model:

$$(7) \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}(t) & \mathbf{u}(t - \Delta t) & \dots & \mathbf{u}(t - m\Delta t) \\ \hat{y}(t - \Delta t) & \dots & \hat{y}(t - n\Delta t) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The term *recurrence* refers to the property that past outputs from the surrogate model,  $\hat{y}$ , are fed back as inputs to  $\hat{\Phi}$  to improve the prediction of the response at the current time  $t$ .

Note that responses corresponding to  $n$  previous time steps are required as inputs to the surrogate mapping function. The SBRF is initialized by constructing an additional surrogate model that is based on only the instantaneous value of the input signal:

$$(8) \quad \hat{y}(t_j) = \hat{\Phi}_{\text{qs}}(\mathbf{u}(t_j)), \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, n,$$

where  $\hat{\Phi}_{\text{qs}}$  denotes that the surrogate can be considered a quasi-steady approximation. The quasi-steady surrogate model corresponds to an SBRF model with  $m=n=0$ . Following the initialization, the response is predicted using an SBRF model with selected values of  $m$  and  $n$ , utilizing the previous values generated by the quasi-steady approximation.

The surrogate model for  $\hat{\Phi}$  is constructed based on kriging interpolation of sample data. In kriging, the unknown function is assumed to be of the form

$$(9) \quad \Phi(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + Z(\mathbf{x}),$$

where  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is an assumed function and  $Z(\mathbf{x})$  is a stochastic (random) process that is assumed to be Gaussian. The regression function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a global approximation of  $\Phi(\mathbf{x})$ , while  $Z(\mathbf{x})$  accounts for local deviations from  $f(\mathbf{x})$  that ensure that the kriging model interpolates the sample points exactly. In this study,  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is assumed to be a second-order polynomial and  $Z(\mathbf{x})$  is based on a linear spatial correlation function provided in Ref. 21. The surrogates were constructed using an available Matlab kriging toolbox,<sup>23</sup> which determines the optimal fitting parameters for the kriging predictor  $\hat{\Phi}(\mathbf{x})$  based on maximum likelihood estimation.<sup>24</sup>

In this study, the outputs of interest from the CFD simulations are the unsteady lift, moment, and drag coefficients of the airfoil. Therefore, each of the outputs ( $C_L$ ,  $C_M$ , or  $C_D$ ) corresponds to a mapping function ( $\Phi_L$ ,  $\Phi_M$ , or  $\Phi_D$ ) for which a surrogate mapping function ( $\hat{\Phi}_L$ ,  $\hat{\Phi}_M$ , or  $\hat{\Phi}_D$ ) was generated.

## 4.2. Time-Dependent Sample Data From CFD Simulations

The sample data required for surrogate construction are generated from time-dependent CFD simulations of COMPACT actuation on a static airfoil. This represents the simplest case for the demonstration of the SBRF, because the only external input is the actuator input signal,  $u(t)$ . The SBRF originally used in Ref. 21 was for an airfoil with pitching and plunging motions, which required the use of several external input variables, including the pitch angle  $\theta(t)$ , plunge velocity  $\dot{h}(t)$ , and their time derivatives, such that,

$$(10) \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = [\theta(t) \quad \dot{\theta}(t) \quad \ddot{\theta}(t) \quad \dot{h}(t) \quad \ddot{h}(t)].$$

The approach was also extended to represent time-varying Mach number,  $M(t)$ , as an external input. However, for the static airfoil considered in the

present study, the vector of external inputs to the SBRF model simplifies to a scalar input, i.e.,  $\mathbf{u}(t) = u(t)$ . For the current application the actuator input signal is described by a sinusoidal function,

$$(11) \quad u(t) = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos(2\pi f_{\text{act}} t)) ,$$

defined by a single parameter,  $f_{\text{act}}$ . This representative input signal  $u(t)$  is used to correlate the CFD response due to pulses applied at frequency  $f_{\text{act}}$  with a reference signal of the same frequency. Although actuation is applied in the CFD simulations as discrete, short-duration pulses – i.e., Eq. (2) – it was found that a sinusoidal function such as Eq. (11) results in better performance of the SBRF model. That is, when a pulse input signal with pulse width  $T_{\text{act,pulse}}$  was used to construct the SBRF, the predicted response typically diverged after the first pulse. However, when Eq. (11) is used as a representative input signal, the predicted response reproduces the full-order CFD results over the entire simulation period.

As mentioned in Sec. 3.1, the unsteady lift, moment, and drag coefficient data from the CFD simulations contain high-frequency oscillations associated with each pulse. In order to transform the data from the CFD simulations into a more tractable form for constructing the SBRF models, the CFD data were filtered and sampled with larger time steps. A moving-average filter was applied to the CFD data to smooth the high-frequency components of the responses. Figure 13 illustrates how filtering the CFD data removes the oscillations while preserving the unsteady trends. Next, the filtered data were sampled at time-steps of  $\Delta t = 0.05T_{\text{conv}}$  to reduce the overall number of data points. This results in two orders of magnitude fewer data points for each training case, since the time step sizes required for accurate CFD results are  $O(T_{\text{conv}} \times 10^{-4})$ .

### 4.3. Demonstration of the SBRF for COMPACT Actuation on a Static Airfoil

The SBRF approach is used to reproduce full-order CFD results for unsteady changes in lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to COMPACT actuation. The demonstration of the approach is limited to actuation on a static airfoil in this study. The CFD simulations required to construct the SBRF models were performed using the original actuator located at 10% chord on the upper surface. For the case considered, the angle of attack of the airfoil was set at  $\alpha = 8^\circ$ , with the same freestream flow conditions that have been used throughout this study ( $M_\infty = 0.06$ ,  $Re_c = 535,000$ ).

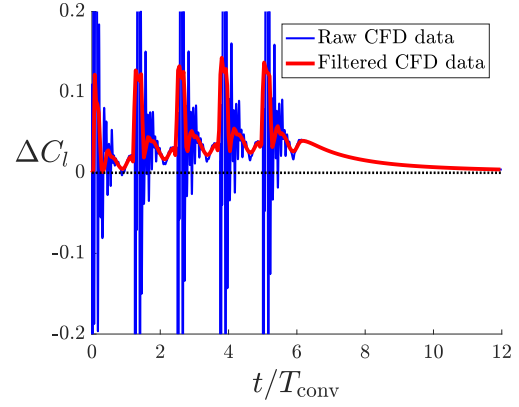


Figure 13: Filtered CFD data for lift coefficient due to COMPACT actuation for reduced-order model construction

Several training cases were used to construct the SBRF models, spanning the range of actuation frequencies from  $f_{\text{act}} = 10$  Hz to 50 Hz. For each training case, actuation was applied from  $t = 0$  to  $6T_{\text{conv}}$ , a time period sufficient for the unsteady lift coefficient to reach a converged quasi-steady-state value. After the final pulse, a relaxation period of  $6T_{\text{conv}}$  was included in the simulations to allow the lift, moment, and drag coefficients to return to their initial values.

Two different SBRF models were constructed for each the lift, moment, and drag: one based on data from 11 training cases and the other based on 21 training cases. For both models, the training cases were equally spaced across the frequency range of 10-50 Hz. The accuracy of each of the models was compared for four test cases that were not included in either of the training data sets. The test cases were  $f_{\text{act}} = 15, 25, 35$ , and 45 Hz, corresponding to  $F^+ = 0.75, 1.25, 1.75$ , and 2.25.

The values of  $m$  and  $n$  for the SBRF models were selected after trying various combinations of the parameters, with values up to 5. The values that produced the best overall accuracy for the test cases were  $(m, n) = (1, 4)$  for  $C_l$ ,  $(2, 4)$  for  $C_m$ , and  $(2, 4)$  for  $C_d$ . Figure 14 shows an example of the unsteady responses predicted by the SBRF models for the lift, moment, and drag due to actuation at  $f_{\text{act}} = 15$  Hz ( $F^+ = 0.75$ ). These were obtained using the 21-training-case SBRF model.

The errors of the SBRF models relative to the full-order CFD responses were calculated using Eq. (3) for each test case examined. A comparison of the errors for both the 11-training-case and the 21-training-case SBRF models is presented in Table 3. There is a clear improvement in the error of the lift coefficient when comparing the 11- and 21-training-case SBRF models, as the average unsteady

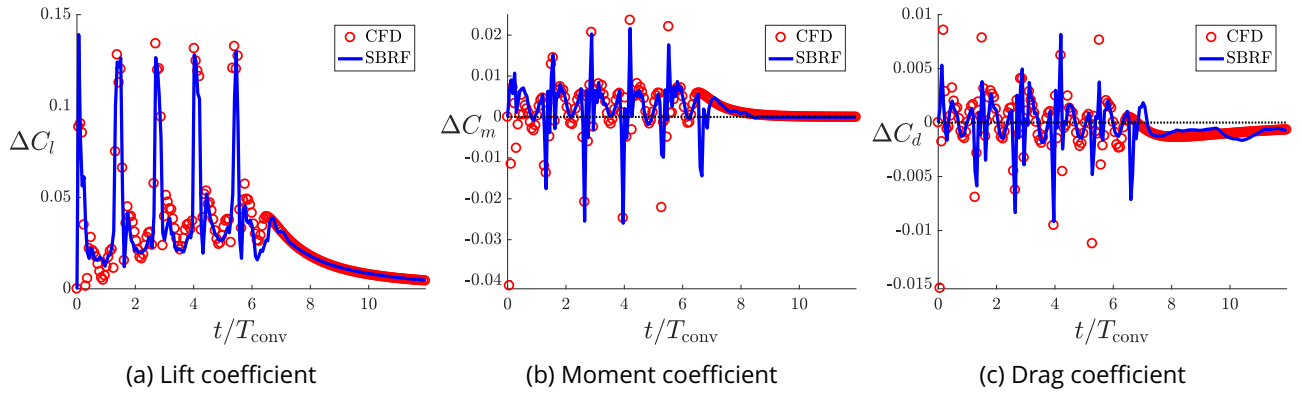


Figure 14: Predicted unsteady lift, moment, and drag coefficients due to COMPACT actuation at  $F^+ = 0.75$  from SBRF models and 2D CFD simulation

error decreases from 12.5% to 6.8%. However, there is only marginal improvement in the errors of the moment and drag coefficients when using the 21-training-case model. Furthermore, the SBRF models reproduced the full-order CFD results within a reasonable margin of error, considering the limited number of training data sets that the models were constructed from. The SBRF models required a fraction of a second on a single computer processor to compute the predictions for each test case, while each of the CFD results required 50-60 hours of computer time for calculation on four parallel processors.

The demonstration of the SBRF for actuation on a static airfoil represents a necessary step towards implementing active flow control for rotor-blade vibration reduction. The SBRF was shown in the previous studies to accurately predict unsteady lift, moment, and drag for realistic rotor blade motions at reduced computational cost. Therefore, the modeling approach is clearly appropriate for application to helicopter rotor aeroelastic computations. However, further development of the SBRF is needed in order to model the combined effects of COMPACT actuation and unsteady rotor blade motions. The ultimate goal is to implement the reduced-order model into a comprehensive code for helicopter rotor vibration reduction.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The principal conclusions of this study are:

1) The unsteady aerodynamic effects of COMPACT actuation on the lift, moment, and drag coefficients of a 2D airfoil are accurately represented using the computational methods described in this paper. The 2D CFD simulations were correlated with wind tunnel experiments for pulse actuation on a static airfoil, and the agreement with the experi-

mental data was acceptable.

2) The 2D CFD method presented is suitable for studying actuator modifications needed to enhance control authority at low angles of attack. The modifications consisted of ramp placement on the airfoil as well as actuator relocation.

3) No definite improvement was found from the modifications. However, actuation at the airfoil trailing edge indicated the potential for bi-directional control of lift and moment when actuators were used on both the upper and lower surfaces.

4) The surrogate-based reduced order model reproduces full-order CFD results for COMPACT actuation with a reasonable degree of accuracy and at a fraction of the computational cost.

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Table 3: Unsteady error of SBRF models constructed from 11 and 21 training data sets for 4 test cases

SBRF model	$\epsilon (\hat{C}_l, C_l)$	$\epsilon (\hat{C}_m, C_m)$	$\epsilon (\hat{C}_d, C_d)$
11 training cases	4.0 – 17.1% (avg 12.5%)	3.8 – 5.1% (avg 4.4%)	4.1 – 6.3% (avg 5.0%)
21 training cases	4.0 – 9.6% (avg 6.8%)	2.8 – 5.8% (avg 4.5%)	3.7 – 5.6% (avg 4.7%)

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