



# Lift Enhancement of Supersonic Thin Airfoil at Low Speed by Co-Flow Jet Active Flow Control

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## Abstract

This paper numerically studies a lift enhancement approach for a supersonic thin airfoil with  $t/c$  of 3.2% using Co-Flow Jet (CFJ) active flow control at Mach number of 0.1. The Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes equations with Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model are solved with high order accuracy numerical schemes. The CFJ is first applied to the flapless airfoil. It is able to achieve a high lift coefficient of 2.12 at an angle of incidence of 18deg, 141.9% higher than the baseline airfoil, but at a very large CFJ power cost with the CFJ power coefficient of 3.06. By using a flap for the baseline and CFJ airfoil at zero angle of incidence, the lift coefficient can be increased much more efficiently than using a flapless airfoil. Two methods applying CFJ on the flapped airfoil are investigated: 1) using CFJ on the front main part of the flapped airfoil; 2) using CFJ on both the front part and on the flap. For the same momentum coefficient  $C_{\mu}$  of 0.08, the method 2 achieves a high lift coefficient of 1.91, 42.5% higher than that of the method 1, with a CFJ power coefficient of 0.085, 7.6% lower than that of the method 1. The  $C_L/C_D$  and  $(C_L/C_D)_c$  for the CFJ method 2 is 20 and 10.6, respectively. Compared with the baseline flapped airfoil with no flow control, the lift increase is 103% with a  $(C_L/C_D)_c$  increase of 5.5%, which results in a productivity efficiency increase of 114.2%. Such a good aerodynamic performance is attributed to splitting the CFJ to two series CFJs in streamwise direction with  $C_{\mu}$  of 0.024 used in the front and 0.056 used on the flap. The front CFJ mitigates the separation bubble on the front part of the thin airfoil and energizes the flow, the rear CFJ attaches the flow efficiently in adverse pressure gradients. Even though the total  $C_{\mu}$  of 0.08 is the same for the CFJ method 1 and 2, each of the CFJ in the method 2 has a lower total pressure loss and thus requires lower total pressure ratio from the CFJ actuators, which reduces the total CFJ power required. Using two CFJs in series in the streamwise direction provides a high effectiveness and high efficiency lift enhancement method for supersonic thin airfoil. More study needs to be done to understand the interaction relationship between the two CFJs.

## Nomenclature

CFJ	Co-flow Jet
SST	Supersonic (Civil) Transports
<i>SST</i>	Suction Surface Translation
<i>AoA</i>	Angle of Attack
<i>LE</i>	Leading Edge
<i>TE</i>	Trailing Edge
<i>Ma</i>	Mach Number

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$U$	Flow Velocity
$P$	Pumping Power
$C_L$	Lift Coefficient $L/(q_\infty S)$
$C_D$	Drag Coefficient $D/(q_\infty S)$
$C_\mu$	Jet Momentum Coefficient $\dot{m}_j U_j/(q_\infty S)$
$(C_L/C_D)_c$	CFJ Corrected Lift-Drag Ratio $L/(q_\infty S V_\infty)$
$S_{wing}$	Wing Area
$S_{Takeoff}$	Takeoff Distance
$\dot{m}$	Mass Flow
$c$	Chord Length
$q$	Dynamic Pressure $0.5 \rho U^2$
$p_t$	Mass-averaged Static Pressure
$\alpha$	Angle of Incidence
$\beta$	Flap deflection Angle
$\gamma$	Specific Heat Ratio
$\eta$	Pump Efficiency
$\rho$	Air Density
$\infty$	Free Stream Conditions
$j$	Jet Conditions

## 1 Introduction

Supersonic Civil Transports (SST) is an important sector in aviation industry. High efficiency and low sonic boom are crucial for the SST's economic viability. The higher the cruise speed, the more difficult to meet the stringent requirements of low speed, which determines the community noise and runway length. One challenge for supersonic aircraft at low speed is to achieve a high lift coefficient, which is difficult to obtain when the wing is highly swept and formed with thin airfoil and high aspect ratio.

As shown in Table 1, Concorde needs a runway of about 12,000 ft to take off, which almost exceeds the longest runway of the New York JFK Airport. NASA's SST N+2 Program expects that 30-passenger supersonic business jets and 100-passenger commercial jets limit their takeoff runway requirements to be less than 9,000 ft[1].

Table 1:  $C_{Lmax}$ ,  $S_{wing}$ ,  $S_{Takeoff}$  and Takeoff Velocity of Existing SSTs, compared with B767-200ER.

Aircraft	Weight, lb	$C_{Lmax}$	$S_{wing}, ft^2$	$S_{Takeoff}, ft$	Takeoff Velocity, mph
Tu-144LL[2, 3]	455,950	0.612	5,450	9,613	220
Concorde[4]	400,000	0.77	3,856	11,800	250
B767-200ER[5]	395,000	$\simeq 2$	3,050	8,150	140-190(B767-300)

Table 1 shows the maximum takeoff lift coefficient, wing area and required takeoff runway length of Concorde, Tu-144LL and B767-200ER(as comparison). It can be seen that, if the maximum lift coefficient of the two SST during takeoff can be increased to the level of transonic transports, the run way length can be reduced to below 9,000 ft.

Mavris *et al*[6] employ Circulation Control (CC) flow control to enhance HSCT low speed lift coefficient based on the work of Englar[7]. For some configurations, the CC can reduce the takeoff field length by 31%, the lift-off

speed by 11%, and the obstacle height speed by 10%. However, CC needs to use engine bleed, which may be difficult to obtain at takeoff when the engines need maximum mass flow for maximum thrust, and at landing when the engines are mostly idle.

The purpose of this paper is to enhance the lift coefficient of 2D thin supersonic airfoil at low speeds by using coflow jet active flow control with minimized energy expenditure. The study is important to lay a foundation for 3D supersonic swept wing lift enhancement at takeoff and landing[8].

## 1.1 Co-Flow Jet (CFJ) Active Flow Control

The CFJ developed by Zha *et al*[9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20] is demonstrated to achieve large lift augmentation, stall margin increase, drag reduction and moderate nose-down moment for stationary and pitching airfoils.

In a CFJ airfoil, an injection slot near the leading edge (LE) and a suction slot near the trailing edge (TE) on the airfoil suction surface are created. As shown in Fig. 1, a small amount of mass flow is drawn into the suction duct, pressurized and energized by the micro compressor, and then injected near the LE tangentially to the main flow via an injection duct. The whole process does not add any mass flow to the system and hence is a zero-net-mass-flux(ZNMF) flow control.

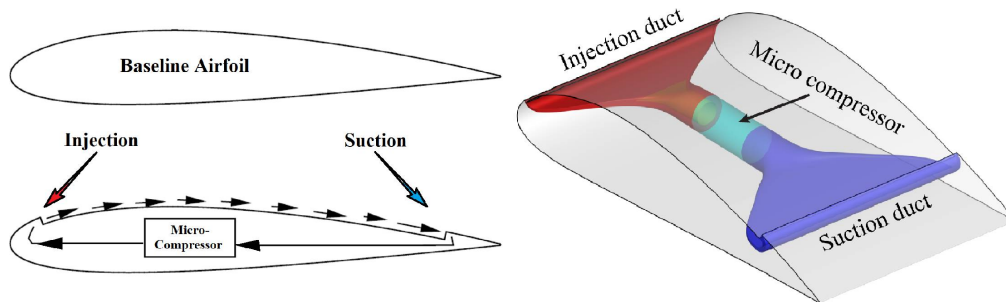


Figure 1: Schematic plot of a typical CFJ airfoil.

The research so far on CFJ are focused on thick airfoils and wings. This study is the first effort to apply CFJ to 2D thin supersonic airfoil at low speeds with or without flaps to enhance the lift coefficient with minimized CFJ power consumption.

### 1.1.1 CFJ Parameters

The following are some important parameters used for CFJ active flow control. The jet momentum coefficient  $C_\mu$  is a parameter used to quantify the jet intensity and is defined as:

$$C_\mu = \frac{\dot{m}U_j}{\frac{1}{2}\rho_\infty U_\infty^2 S} \quad (1)$$

where  $\dot{m}$  is the injection mass flow,  $V_j$  is the mass-averaged injection velocity,  $\rho_\infty$  and  $V_\infty$  denote the free stream density and velocity, and  $S$  is the planform area.

The power consumption is determined by the jet mass flow and total enthalpy change as the following:

$$P = \dot{m}(H_{t1} - H_{t2}) \quad (2)$$

where  $H_{t1}$  and  $H_{t2}$  are the mass-averaged total enthalpy in the injection cavity and suction cavity respectively,  $P$  is the Power required by the pump and  $\dot{m}$  the jet mass flow rate.

The total power can be expressed with the pump efficiency  $\eta$  and total pressure ratio of the pump  $\Gamma = \frac{P_{t1}}{P_{t2}}$  as:

$$P = \frac{\dot{m}C_p T_{t2}}{\eta} (\Gamma^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} - 1) \quad (3)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the specific heat ratio equal to 1.4 for air. Eq. 3 indicates that the CFJ power is determined exponentially by the total pressure ratio and linearly by the mass flow rate. This provides a guideline to minimize the energy expenditure by using larger injection slot size to have lower total pressure loss and higher mass flow[21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26].

The power coefficient is expressed as:

$$P_c = \frac{P}{\frac{1}{2}\rho_\infty V_\infty^3 S} \quad (4)$$

For a CFJ wing, a corrected aerodynamic efficiency that includes the CFJ power coefficient is defined as:

$$\left(\frac{C_L}{C_D}\right)_c = \frac{C_L}{C_D + P_c} \quad (5)$$

Eq. 5 is mainly for the purpose to compare the aerodynamic efficiency with conventional aircraft with no active flow control that has  $P_c = 0$ . A more comprehensive parameter termed productivity efficiency measuring the aircraft transportation productivity represented by  $R \times W$  (Range  $\times$  Gross weight) is defined as[22]:

$$\left(\frac{C_L^2}{C_D}\right)_c = \frac{C_L^2}{C_D + P_c} \quad (6)$$

## 2 The Airfoils

The baseline airfoil, shown in Fig. 2, is a thin symmetric airfoil we created with a maximum thickness of 3.2%chord to represent a supersonic airfoil, named OD3P. For CFJ airfoil, we usually have the suction surface (upper surface) slightly translated downward to accommodate the tangential injection jet. It is named suction surface translation (*SST*).

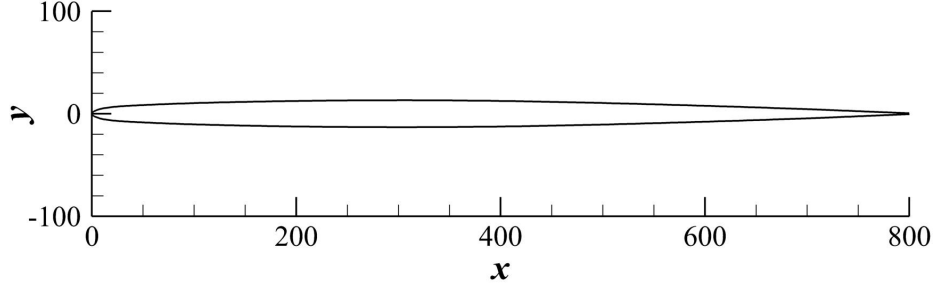


Figure 2: Baseline geometry.

Fig. 3 shows the 2D thin airfoils modified from OD3P studied in this paper. They include two groups: flapless airfoil shown on the top row of Fig. 3 and the flapped airfoils shown on the lower part. Each group has a baseline airfoil with no CFJ for comparison. The flapless CFJ airfoil uses the Geometry D, CFJ-OD3P-0-0.5-75-8-0 shown on the right upper corner of Fig. 3, which has injection slot located at 0.5% $C$  with a size of 0.3% $C$  and suction slot located at 75% $C$  with a size of 1% $C$ . The flapped baseline airfoil is modified from the flapless baseline airfoil by adding a hinge at 80% $C$  location. The CFJ flapped airfoils are modified from the Geometry D by adding a hinge at 80% $C$  location and have two different types: CFJ-1 and CFJ-2. The CFJ-1 airfoil only has the CFJ applied on the front main part of the airfoil and the flap has no flow control. The CFJ-2 configuration has CFJ applied on both the main part and the flap. A flow angle of incidence  $\alpha$  is used to define the angle between the freestream direction and the chord of the front main part of a flapped airfoil as illustrated in Fig. 3. For flapless airfoil, the angle of incidence is the same as the angle of attack.

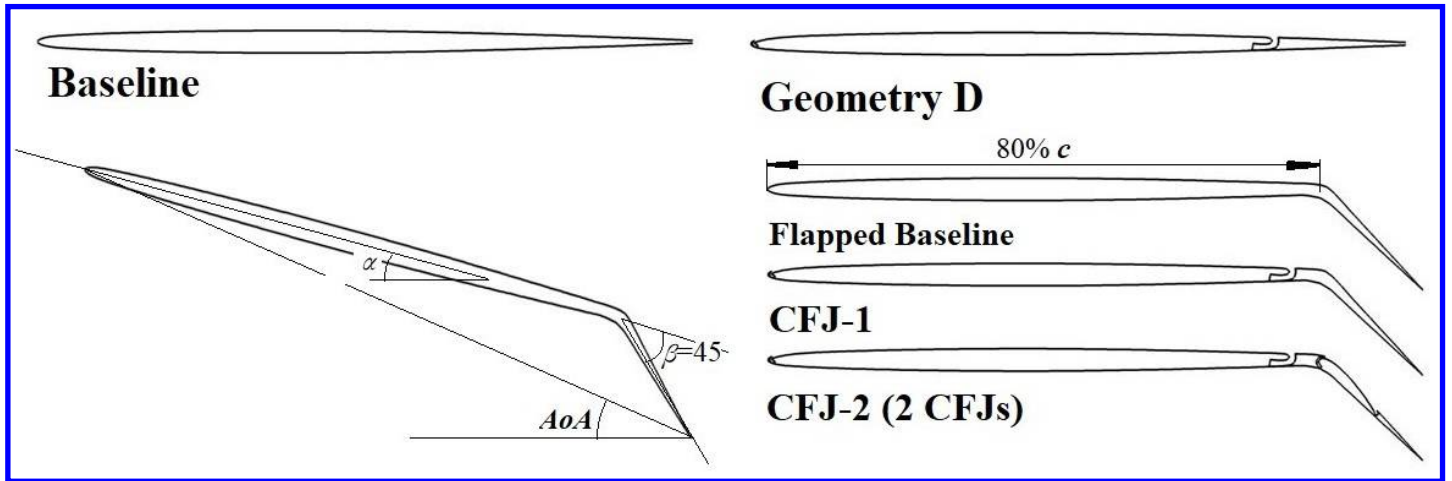


Figure 3: Configurations of the flapless and flapped airfoils without and with CFJ.

### 3 Numerical Approaches

The in-house CFD code FASIP (Flow-Acoustics-Structure Interaction Package) is used to conduct all the numerical simulations. The 2-D Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equation is solved with one-equation Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model. A 5th order WENO scheme for the inviscid flux and a 2nd order central differencing for the viscous terms are employed to discretize the Navier-Stokes equations. The low diffusion E-CUSP scheme used as the approximate Riemann solver suggested by Zha *et al*[27] based on the Zha-Bilgen flux

vector splitting scheme [28] is utilized with the WENO scheme to evaluate the inviscid fluxes. Implicit time marching method using Gauss-Seidel line relaxation is adopted to achieve a fast convergence rate [29]. Parallel computing is implemented to save wall-clock simulation time. The RANS solver is validated for CFJ airfoil simulation [30, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26].

The wall treatment suggested in [31] to achieve the 3rd order accuracy is employed. Total pressure, total temperature and flow angle are specified as the inlet boundary conditions for the upstream side of the far-field boundary and inside the injection cavity. Constant static pressure is used downstream at the far-field boundary and in the suction cavity. To achieve zero-net mass-flux with the CFJ flow control, the injection mass flow must be equal to the mass flow entering the suction slot. Additionally, the jet strength must be controlled in order to reach the prescribed  $C_\mu$ . This is achieved by iterating the jet total pressure until the  $C_\mu$  value is within 1% of the prescribed value. At the suction, the suction mass flow is matched to the injection mass flow by iterating the static pressure at the suction cavity. The process is iterated throughout the simulation until the specified momentum coefficient is achieved and the injection and suction mass flow match.

### 3.1 Mesh

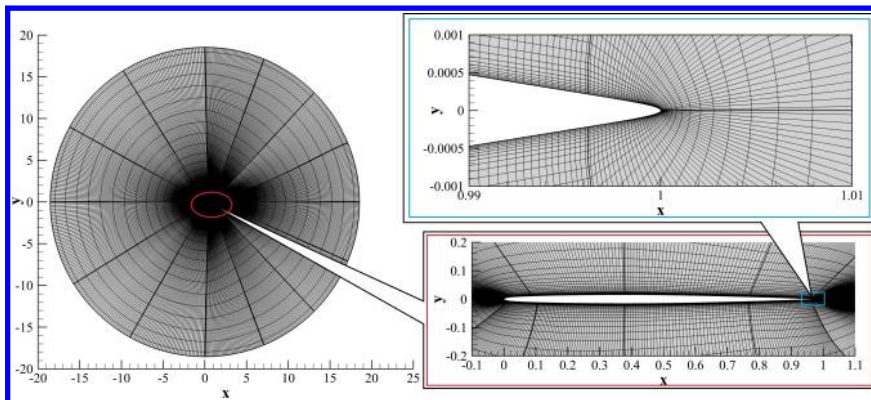


Figure 4: A baseline mesh.

The computational mesh is constructed using an O-mesh topology in order to achieve high quality around the airfoil. The O-mesh is split into 14 blocks for parallel computing. To resolve the turbulent boundary layer, the thickness of the first layer around the surface has  $y_+ = 1$ . The baseline mesh has 151 points in the  $i$  direction around the airfoil and 61 points in the  $j$  radial direction.

Three refined meshes are used for mesh refinement study with the size of  $300 \times 60$ ,  $300 \times 120$  and  $600 \times 60$ . The coefficient of lift and drag of the results from different meshes are shown in Fig. 5. It shows that, the  $300 \times 60$  mesh is sufficient to have a mesh independent solution and is used for all the studies in this paper.

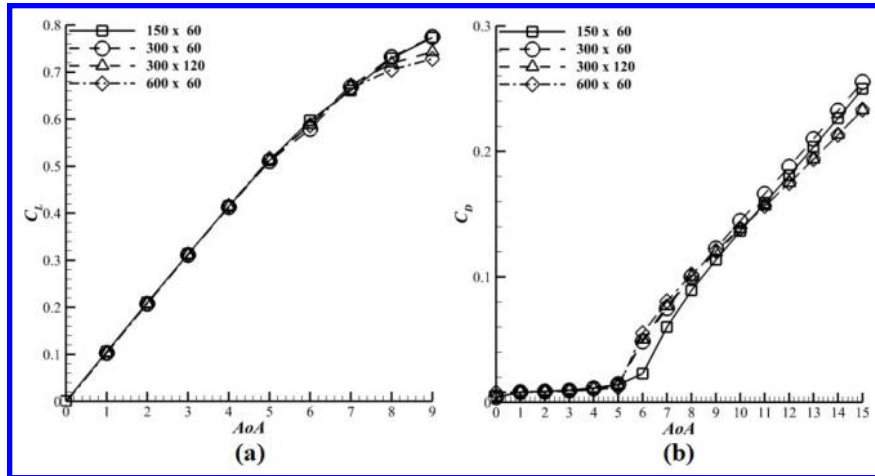


Figure 5: Baseline  $C_L$ ,  $C_D$  Mesh-independence validation.  $Ma=0.1$ ,  $\alpha=0^\circ$ ,  $Re=2.85 \times 10^6$ .

## 4 Results and Discussion

The free-stream condition used are  $Ma_\infty=0.1$  and  $Re = 2.85 \times 10^6$ . Fig. 6 (a)-(c) shows the flapless baseline and CFJ airfoil Mach contours with streamlines at angles of incidence of  $7^\circ$ ,  $12^\circ$ , and  $18^\circ$  with the corresponding  $C_\mu$  that achieves mostly attached flows. Table 3 lists the quantitative results. The baseline airfoil at  $\alpha$  of  $7^\circ$  has a thin flow separation starting from the leading edge and extend to the trailing edge. When  $\alpha$  is increased to  $12^\circ$  and  $18^\circ$ , the separation is massive. The CFJ airfoil using  $C_\mu$  of 0.08, 0.3, and 0.5 mostly removes the flow separation from the macro scale, but downstream of the leading edge of the CFJ airfoil, there is a small flow separation, which has the effect of rounding and thickening the airfoil.

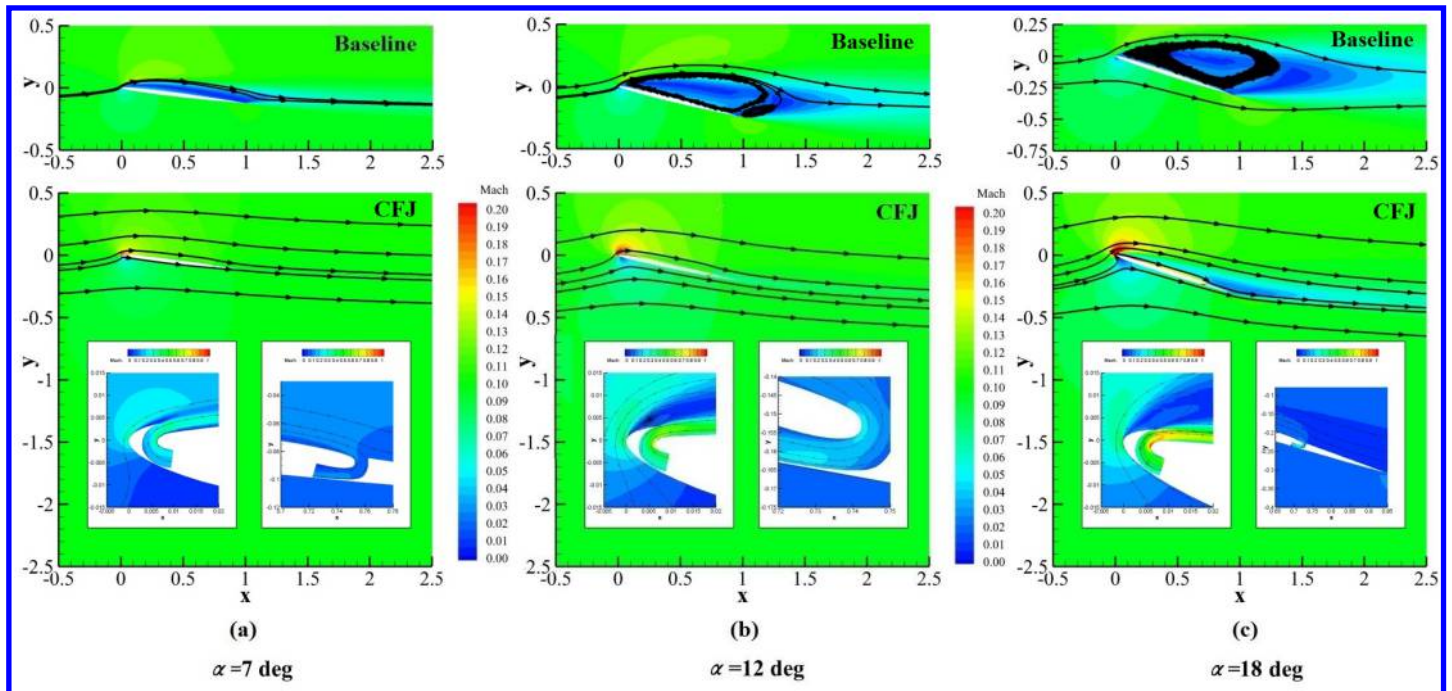


Figure 6: Mach contour of the baseline airfoil and CFJ geometry D at varied  $\alpha$ s and corresponding  $C_\mu$ .



Table 3 indicates that the CFJ thin airfoil is able to achieve a large lift coefficient increase from 21.6% to 141.9% when the incidence is varied from  $7^\circ$  to  $18^\circ$ . The airfoil generates a thrust of  $C_D$  from -0.011 to -0.027. At low  $\alpha$  of  $7^\circ$ , not just the  $C_L$  is improved by 21.6%, the corrected aerodynamic efficiency also exceeds that of the baseline by 14.55%, which results in a 39% productivity efficiency improvement. At high  $\alpha$ , the large lift enhancement comes with a high cost of energy with the CFJ power coefficient up to 3.05.

Table 2: Comparison of baseline and CFJ thin airfoil at different  $\alpha$  and  $C_\mu$

Case	$\alpha$	$C_\mu$	$C_L$	$\delta C_L$	$C_D$	$P_c$	$C_L/C_D$	$(C_L/C_D)_c$	$\delta(C_L/C_D)_c$
Baseline	$7^\circ$	0	0.666	-	0.081	0	8.25	8.25	-
CFJ	$7^\circ$	0.08	0.810	21.6%	-0.011	0.097	-73.64	9.45	14.55%
Baseline	$12^\circ$	0	0.778	-	0.175	0	4.44	4.44	-
CFJ	$12^\circ$	0.3	1.458	87.4%	-0.057	0.861	-25.58	1.81	-59.3%
Baseline	$18^\circ$	0	0.878	-	0.298	0	2.95	2.95	-
CFJ	$18^\circ$	0.5	2.124	141.9%	-0.027	3.055	-78.67	0.702	-66.0%

To seek an alternative way of enhancing lift coefficient of thin airfoil with high efficiency, the second group of the airfoils with flaps described in Fig. 3 are studied. Fig. 7 shows the pressure and Mach contours with streamlines of the flapped-baseline(a), CFJ-1(b) and CFJ-2(c) airfoils at  $\alpha=0^\circ$  and flap deflection angle of  $45^\circ$ . The same  $C_\mu$  of 0.08 is used for the two CFJ cases. Table 3 gives the quantitative comparison.

Fig. 7 (a) indicates that the flapped-baseline airfoil flow has a separation bubble starting from the leading edge of the front part, reattaches near the end, and is massively separated in the flap region due to the large flap deflection. It has a  $C_L$  of 0.945 and  $C_L/C_D$  of 10.05, significantly better than the flapless baseline airfoil at  $\alpha=7^\circ$  in Table 2. The CFJ-1 with  $C_\mu$  of 0.08 is able to remove the flow separation in the front part completely, but has a small flow separation on the flap. The  $C_L$  is 1.347, 42.5% higher than the baseline, and the  $(C_L/C_D)_c$  is about the same as the baseline. This is a significant improvement over the flapped baseline airfoil.

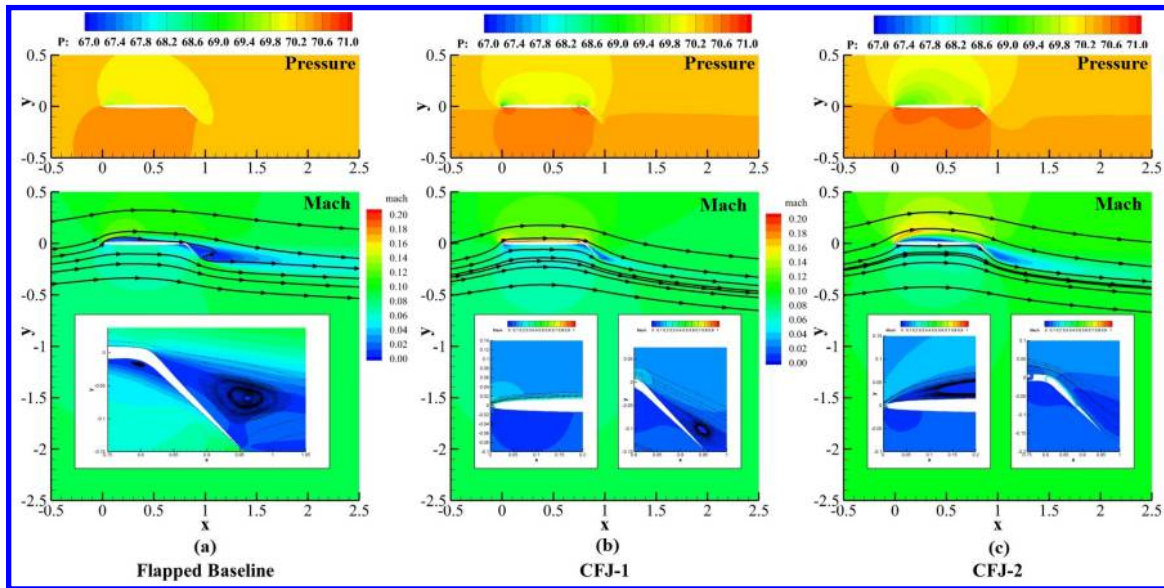


Figure 7: Pressure and Mach contour of flow fields around flapped airfoils at  $\alpha=0^\circ$ ,  $C_\mu=0.08$ .

The most encouraging result is from the CFJ-2 flapped airfoil, which has the CFJ applied on both the front



main part and on the flap. The same total  $C_\mu$  of 0.08 as for the CFJ-1 is used, but is split to 0.024 for the front part and 0.056 for the flap. The front CFJ with  $C_{mu}$  of 0.024 is not able to completely remove the front separation bubble, but mitigates the separation and energizes the flow, which makes the flow attached on the flap. The mild separation on the front part of the airfoil also creates a thickening effect of the airfoil that increases lift. The attached flow on the flap turns the flow locally by about  $45^\circ$  following the flap and significantly increases the circulation and the lift coefficient. The comparison of the pressure contours of the three cases in Fig. 7 clearly shows that the CFJ-2 has significantly higher pressure on the pressure surface and lower pressure on the suction surface than those of CFJ-1 and the flapped baseline airfoil.

Quantitatively, the CFJ-2 case achieves a  $C_L$  of 1.919, 42.5% higher than that of the CFJ-1, 103% higher than that of the flapped baseline with a 6% higher  $(C_L/C_D)_c$ . The excellent aerodynamic efficiency of a thin airfoil at such a high  $C_L$  is attributed to the two split CFJs that each has a lower  $C_\mu$  and thus a lower total pressure ratio. As indicated by Eq. (3), the CFJ power coefficient is determined exponentially by the total pressure ratio and linearly by the mass flow rate[21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26]. Thus even though the total  $C_\mu$  is the same as that of the CFJ-1, the  $P_c$  of each individual CFJ is substantially lower, so is the total  $P_c$  as the sum. The benefit applying the CFJ on the flap is because that CFJ is most effective and efficient to be used in adverse pressure gradients as indicated by Xu et al[26].

Table 3: Lift, drag and power performance of various geometries,  $\alpha=0^\circ$ ,  $C_\mu=0.08$ .

Geometry	$C_L$	$\delta C_L$	$C_D$	$P_c$	$C_L/C_D$	$(C_L/C_D)_c$	$\delta(C_L/C_D)_c$
Baseline	0.945	0	0.094	0	10.05	10.05	0
CFJ-1	1.347	42.5%	0.043	0.092	31.33	9.98	-0.7%
CFJ-2	1.919	103.1%	0.096	0.085	19.99	10.60	5.5%

Multiple CFJ actuators are used in parallel with varying strength along 3D transonic wing span to optimize the wing efficiency by Boling and Zha[32]. The CFJ-2 case in this study is the first time using two CFJs in a series manner in the streamwise direction to enhance 2D thin airfoil lift coefficient and reduce the energy consumption. The result is encouraging, but is not optimized. More study needs to be done to understand the relationship between the two CFJs in series. This may open a new direction to optimize the CFJ effectiveness and efficiency, in particular for thin airfoils. For 3D highly swept Delta wings formed by thin airfoil, Lei and Zha [8] demonstrate that applying CFJ only on the flap is the most effective and efficient.

## 5 Conclusions

This paper numerically studies a lift enhancement approach for a supersonic thin airfoil with  $t/c$  of 3.2% using Co-Flow Jet (CFJ) active flow control at Mach number of 0.1. The CFJ is first applied to the flapless airfoil. It is able to achieve a high lift coefficient of 2.12 at an angle of incidence of 18deg, 141.9% higher than the baseline airfoil, but at a very large CFJ power cost with the CFJ power coefficient of 3.06. By using a flap for the baseline and CFJ airfoil at zero angle of incidence, the lift coefficient can be increased much more efficiently than using a flapless airfoil. Two methods applying CFJ on the flapped airfoil are investigated: 1) using CFJ on the front main part of the flapped airfoil; 2) using CFJ on both the front part and on the flap. For the same momentum coefficient  $C_\mu$  of 0.08, the methods 2 achieves a high lift coefficient of 1.91, 42.5% higher than that of the method 1, with a CFJ power coefficient of 0.085, 7.6% lower than that of the method 1. The  $C_L/C_D$  and  $(C_L/C_D)_c$  for the CFJ method 2 is 20 and 10.6, respectively. Compared with the baseline flapped airfoil with no flow control, the lift increase is 103% with a  $(C_L/C_D)_c$  increase of 5.5%, which results in a productivity efficiency increase of

114.2%. Such a good aerodynamic performance is attributed to splitting the CFJ to two series CFJs in streamwise direction with  $C_{\mu}$  of 0.024 used in the front and 0.056 used on the flap. The front CFJ mitigates the separation bubble on the front part of the thin airfoil and energizes the flow, the rear CFJ attaches the flow efficiently in adverse pressure gradients. Even though the total  $C_{\mu}$  of 0.08 is the same for the CFJ method 1 and 2, each of the CFJ in the method 2 has a lower total pressure loss and thus requires lower total pressure ratio from the CFJ actuators, which reduces the total CFJ power required. Using two CFJs in series in the streamwise direction provides a high effectiveness and high efficiency lift enhancement method for supersonic thin airfoil. More study needs to be done to understand the interaction relationship between the two CFJs.

## 6 Acknowledgment

The simulations are conducted on Pegasus super-computing system at the Center for Computational Sciences (CCS) at the University of Miami.

Disclosure: The University of Miami and Dr. Gecheng Zha may receive royalties for future commercialization of the intellectual property used in this study. The University of Miami is also equity owner in CoFlow Jet, LLC, licensee of the intellectual property used in this study.

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