

# A Quasi-steady Flexible Launch Vehicle Stability Analysis Using Steady CFD with Unsteady Aerodynamic Enhancement

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Launch vehicles frequently experience a reduced stability margin through the transonic Mach number range. This reduced stability margin is caused by an undamping of the aerodynamics in one of the lower frequency flexible or rigid body modes. Analysis of the behavior of a flexible vehicle is routinely performed with quasi-steady aerodynamic line loads derived from steady rigid computational fluid dynamics (CFD). However, a quasi-steady aeroelastic stability analysis can be unconservative at the critical Mach numbers where experiment or unsteady computational aeroelastic (CAE) analysis show a reduced or even negative aerodynamic damping. This paper will present a method of enhancing the quasi-steady aeroelastic stability analysis of a launch vehicle with unsteady aerodynamics. The enhanced formulation uses unsteady CFD to compute the response of selected lower frequency modes. The response is contained in a time history of the vehicle line loads. A proper orthogonal decomposition of the unsteady aerodynamic line load response is used to reduce the scale of data volume and system identification is used to derive the aerodynamic stiffness, damping and mass matrices. The results of the enhanced quasi-static aeroelastic stability analysis are compared with the damping and frequency computed from unsteady CAE analysis and from a quasi-steady analysis. The results show that incorporating unsteady aerodynamics in this way brings the enhanced quasi-steady aeroelastic stability analysis into close agreement with the unsteady CAE analysis.

## Nomenclature

$A_0$	Roger approximation aerodynamic stiffness matrix
$A_1$	Roger approximation aerodynamic damping matrix
$A_2$	Roger approximation aerodynamic apparent mass matrix
$B_{cfd}$	Projection matrix, structure to CFD surface nodes
$B_{ll}$	Projection matrix, structure to line loads analysis points
$\hat{c}$	X,Y,Z non-dimensional force coefficients per unit vehicle length
$Dia$	Reference diameter
$g$	Generalized variable
$G$	Generalized force
$\hat{G}$	Fourier transform of generalized force
$M$	Structural and aerodynamic mass matrix
$q_\infty$	Free stream dynamic pressure
$q_{nom}$	Nominal trajectory free stream dynamic pressure
$\hat{Q}$	Fourier transform of generalized force per unit generalized variable
$Q_k$	Aerodynamic stiffness matrix
$Q_m$	Aerodynamic apparent mass matrix
$Q_\zeta$	Aerodynamic damping matrix
$S$	Reference area
$U_\infty$	Free stream velocity
$\alpha$	Angle of attack
$\gamma$	Roger approximation lag root
$\vec{\delta}$	Aeroelastic displacement vector
$\Delta$	Structural and aerodynamic damping matrix
$\phi$	Matrix of eigenvectors of structural dynamic equations
$\Phi_{cfd}$	Modal vectors projected to the CFD surface mesh
$\Phi_{ll}$	Modal vectors projected to the line loads analysis points

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$\Phi_{POD}$  unsteady aerodynamic proper orthogonal decomposition modal vector

$\chi$  State variable

$\xi$  Unsteady aerodynamic lag state

$\zeta_a$  Aerodynamic damping ratio

$\Omega$  Structural and aerodynamic stiffness matrix

*Subscript*

*ll* line loads

*dd* dynamic aerodynamics on dynamic mode submatrix

*ds* dynamic aerodynamics on static mode submatrix

*sd* static aerodynamics on dynamic mode submatrix

*ss* static aerodynamics on static mode submatrix

*The predicted performance and certain other features and characteristics of the Ares I and Ares I-X launch vehicles are defined by the U.S. Government to be Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU). Therefore, details have been removed from all plots and figures and tabulated data may have been rescaled.*

## I. Introduction

The Ares program was given the task to develop the vehicle necessary to launch the crew capsule and associated hardware to destinations beyond low earth orbit. The engineering of the Ares crew launch vehicle (CLV) or follow on vehicles is a departure from the past in that CFD will be an integral part of the design from the conceptual stage. Future vehicles will be designed with a smaller proportion of aerodynamic data derived from wind-tunnel testing and increasing amount due to computational fluid dynamics. An increased portion of data produced by CFD poses both exciting possibilities in the extent to which the aerodynamics and flow field physics of a launch vehicle can be understood as well as challenges in validating methodologies for the highly complex flow field about a launch vehicle.

Aeroelastic stability has been a concern since early development of the Saturn I.<sup>1,2</sup> Vehicles with a hammerhead configuration, having a larger diameter upper stage, have the potential for aeroelastic instability.<sup>3,4</sup> One of the notable features of the Ares CLV is the use of a five segment Solid Rocket Booster (SRB) as a first stage with a larger diameter upper stage. The two stages are connected by an aft facing inter-stage frustum. Along with the usual geometric complexity of protuberances over a major launch vehicle, this hammer-head configuration poses a challenge to CFD analysis because it has the potential of producing flow field separation from the frustum. A combined shock separation over the upper stage and frustum separation can significantly influence overall vehicle aerodynamics.<sup>3-5</sup> The extent of separated flow over the Ares vehicle has motivated the widespread use of high fidelity Navier-Stokes analyses. Analyses of this type includes modeling fluid/structure interaction with a high fidelity Navier-Stokes flow solver coupled with a model of the structural dynamics.

The potential for significant shock separation dynamics over a conical fore-body and boat tail flow separation is well known. The SRB aft skirt adds an additional mechanism for dynamic aeroelastic instability due to the disturbance time lag between the upper stage, inter-stage frustum and the aft skirt.<sup>4</sup> The time lag due to flow separation and reattachment is well known to have the potential to couple with vehicle flexibility.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, launch vehicle experience indicates that low frequency modes are particularly susceptible to coupling with such large scale unsteady flow structures. For instance, analyses of the Delta II and the Saturn I were performed that included only the first few low frequency modes.<sup>1-3,6</sup> In attempting to reproduce the Atlas-Able IV flight aeroelastic instability, Azevedo calculated it to involve the second mode.<sup>7</sup> Analysis by Reding and Ericsson indicated that the Seasat-A to be launched on an Atlas/Agenda booster may have had the possibility of a coupling between the third structural mode and aerodynamic undamping.<sup>8</sup> Recent computational aeroelastic analysis of the Ares I included many modes, however, only the first two bending modes coupled closely with the flowfield.<sup>9</sup> In each of the examples above, the mode in question was a lower frequency bending mode. Ericsson indicates that as a general rule most if not all of the flexible response to aerodynamic undamping is by the first several bending modes.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, negatively damped low frequency modes have the potential to couple with rigid body dynamics and degrade overall vehicle controllability.

A commonly used way to simulate flexible launch vehicle dynamics is a method that uses steady rigid line loads.<sup>2-4,10</sup> Here after this method will be called the quasi-steady method of line loads. This quasi-steady approach models the displacement and inertial, elastic, and aerodynamic forces by a distribution along the vehicle centerline axis. The aerodynamic forcing is usually derived from steady state rigid aerodynamics, either from wind tunnel surface pressures, slender body theory or CFD. This model is based upon the assumption that, unlike lifting surfaces, the loading of a slender flexible launch vehicle can be approximated by assembling line loads at local angles of attack

that were computed from rigid steady CFD. The limitation of the quasi-steady aeroelastic method of line loads is that it does not represent a true aeroelastic interaction of a vehicle in flight. The use of rigid steady aerodynamics assumes that each station along the body is influenced only by local angle of attack, and is not in any way influenced by flexibility induced downwash from upstream or downstream aerodynamic response to flexibility. Vehicle dynamics simulated by the quasi-steady aerodynamic method is further removed from reality, unless the model is enhanced by additional states to account for the phase shift due to the unsteady flow.

While the quasi-steady method of line loads is convenient, very versatile and therefore still frequently used, unsteady aeroelastic CFD launch vehicle analysis has been steadily expanding over the last several decades<sup>9,11-17</sup> The use of a nonlinear aeroelastic Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) solver however is still rare because it is computationally expensive. For this reason there is a move toward incorporating unsteady aerodynamic effects through CFD system identification within a reduced order state space model of the launch vehicle. Along this line Capri, Mastroddi and Pizzicaroli use system identification of inviscid aerodynamics to perform aeroelastic stability analysis of the VEGA European small launch vehicle.<sup>18</sup> Silva performs system identification to extract a state representation of the unsteady aerodynamics of the NASA Ares I and I-X CLV's.<sup>19</sup> In each of these cases the expense of simulating a flexible launch vehicle is mitigated by the use of reduced order modeling. The only additional expense of an unsteady state space model over the quasi-steady model is the inclusion of unsteady aerodynamic states and the pulse/response required to obtain them.

The examples just cited performed a system identification of all modes used in the aeroelastic analysis. If it is possible to add unsteady aerodynamic states only to those associated with the lowest frequency modes, it may be possible to limit the computational expense of the pulse/response. It also may be possible to limit the size of the state space model required. In this way the aeroelastic state space analysis can be performed combining the unsteady aerodynamics of the first few modes with a quasi-steady modeling of the higher frequency modes and/or rigid body modes. Furthermore, an extraction of unsteady line loads rather than generalized force time histories from the system identification makes that data compatible with the steady line loads data.

With the potential of these advantages, the purpose of the present study is to outline an approach to accomplish a flexible launch vehicle analysis that judiciously combines steady and unsteady CFD. Previous aeroelastic analysis was presented of the Ares I CLV using the unstructured RANS code FUN3D. The structural representation of the vehicle was introduced by use of a normal modes analysis from the finite element model of the vehicle.<sup>9</sup> Reference 9 presents a comparison of the modal aerodynamic damping at Mach 1 and  $\alpha = 0$  degrees using the method of quasi-steady line loads was made with a time marching aeroelastic analysis with FUN3D. Those results are reproduced in the present paper in Figure 1. The unsteady FUN3D aeroelastic analysis showed the aerodynamics of the first mode is significantly undamped for the Thrust Oscillation Isolator (TOI) structural model. The flexibilized/rigid integrated line loads (FRILLS) method proved to be unconservative at the critical Mach 1 condition since it produced a first mode aerodynamic damping that was significantly positive whereas from the unsteady aeroelastic simulation it was significantly negative. The present paper provides a way to enhance the FRILLS method by combining steady and unsteady line loads to produce the correct aerodynamic damping.

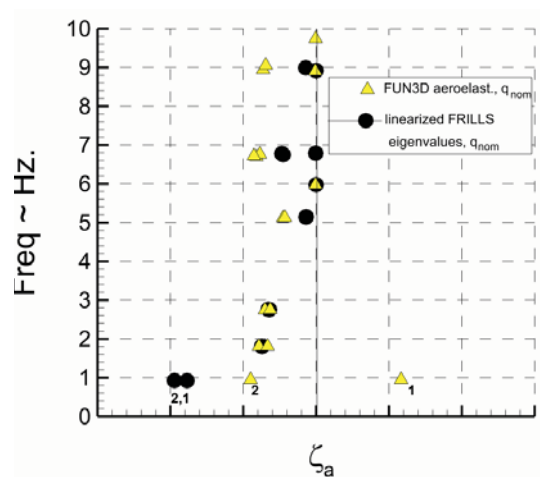


Figure 1. Frequency versus damping due to the unsteady FUN3D and quasi-static FRILLS analyses. Reproduced from reference 9.

## II. Methods of Analysis

### A. FUN3D Aeroelastic Solver

The Navier-Stokes code used in this study is FUN3D. The Fully Unstructured Navier-Stokes Three-Dimensional (FUN3D) flow solver is a finite-volume unstructured CFD code for either compressible or incompressible flows.<sup>20,21</sup> In the present study the RANS solver and the loosely coupled Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model are used on an all tetrahedron grid.<sup>22</sup> The low dissipation flux splitting scheme for the inviscid flux construction, and the blended Van Leer flux limiter<sup>23</sup> were used. The solution at each time step is updated with a backwards Euler time differencing scheme and the use of local time stepping. At each time step, the linear system of equations is approximately solved either with a multi-color point-implicit procedure or an implicit-line relaxation scheme.<sup>24</sup> Domain decomposition exploits the distributed high-performance computing architectures that are necessary for the grid sizes used in the present study.

For a moving mesh, the conservation equations are written in the Arbitrary Lagrange Euler (ALE) formulation.<sup>25</sup> The mesh deformation is accomplished by treating the mesh motion as analogous to a linear elasticity problem.<sup>26</sup> The linear elasticity equations are written in finite-volume form and evaluated in a manner similar to the integration of the conservation form of the flow equations. The material properties vary based on distance to the nearest solid boundary. In contrast to the original implementation<sup>26</sup> in which the Poisson ratio is varied, elements near a solid boundary are made significantly stiffer by specifying the value of  $E$ , the Youngs modulus. The Poisson ratio  $\nu$  is given a uniform value of zero. The displacements are computed from the finite volume formulation of the elasticity equations using the GMRES algorithm.<sup>25,27</sup>

In the present aeroelastic analysis FUN3D utilizes a modal decomposition of the structural model. An orthogonal transformation of the finite element equations provides the eigenvalues and eigenvectors from which the mode shapes and structural frequencies are derived. The eigenvectors of the modal transformation are projected on to the CFD surface node points.

$$[\Phi_{cfid}] = [B_{cfid}] [\phi] \quad (1)$$

where  $[B_{cfid}]$  is a  $N_{st} \times 3N_{cfid}$  projection matrix relating structural centerline nodes to CFD surface nodes,  $[\phi]$  is a  $N_{modes} \times N_{st}$  matrix of eigenvectors and  $[\Phi_{cfid}]$  is a  $N_{modes} \times 3N_{cfid}$  matrix of mode shapes projected to the CFD surface nodes.

### B. Dynamic Aeroelastic Analysis Based on line loads Including Unsteady Aerodynamic Effects

A review of the method of line loads for launch vehicles is presented in a paper by Bartels et al.<sup>9</sup>, denoted there as the flexibilized rigid integrated line loads (FRILLS) method. The essence of that method is to simplify the aeroelastic response of the vehicle to discrete points along the vehicle axis and apply elastic, inertial and aerodynamic forces at those points. The vehicle is partitioned into  $N_{ll}$  stations along the vehicle axis. Modal analysis of the finite element model provides mode shapes that are projected to these stations. The projection can be written

$$[\Phi_{ll}] = [B_{ll}] [\phi] \quad (2)$$

where  $[B_{ll}]$  is a  $3N_{st} \times 3N_{ll}$  projection matrix relating structural and line loads analysis centerline nodes, and  $[\Phi_{ll}]$  is a  $N_{modes} \times 3N_{ll}$  matrix of mode shapes projected to the line loads analysis centerline nodes. The matrices  $[B_{ll}]$  and  $[B_{cfid}]$  use the same method of projection to ensure consistency of the line loads results and the FUN3D CAE results. The modal transformation yields

$$\vec{g} = [\phi]^T [B_{ll}]^T \vec{\delta} \quad (3)$$

where  $g$  is the generalized variable responding to vehicle dynamics and  $\delta$  are dynamic centerline deflections. The generalized forcing due to aerodynamics can be written in terms of the  $3 \times N_{ll}$  dimensional line loading  $\hat{c}$

$$G = \frac{q_{\infty} S \Delta x}{Dia} [\phi]^T [B_{ll}]^T \hat{c} \quad (4)$$

where

$$\hat{c} = (\hat{c}_{x1} \quad \hat{c}_{y1} \quad \hat{c}_{z1} \quad \cdots \quad \hat{c}_{xN_{ll}} \quad \hat{c}_{yN_{ll}} \quad \hat{c}_{zN_{ll}})^T \quad (5)$$

and at time step  $l$

$$(\hat{c}_x)_l = ((\hat{c}_{x1})_l \quad \cdots \quad (\hat{c}_{xN_{ll}})_l)^T \quad (6)$$

$(\hat{c}_y)_l$  and  $(\hat{c}_z)_l$  defined similarly. The aerodynamic loading at each body station  $n$ ,  $\hat{c}_{nx}$ ,  $\hat{c}_{ny}$ ,  $\hat{c}_{nz}$  are functions of Mach number, angle of attack and angle of side slip. The line loads aerodynamics are computed by integrating

nondimensional pressure coefficients from the vehicle surface using the FUN3D solution.<sup>28</sup> Further details regarding the data transfer, the static aeroelastic solution method and FRILLS formulation are discussed elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

In the quasi-steady formulation the dynamic response of the vehicle can be computed by linearizing the line loads around the local static  $\alpha_l$ ,  $\beta_l$  and static generalized force  $G_s$ . The linearized equation can be written

$$[M] \{ \ddot{g} \} + [\Delta] \{ \dot{g} \} + [\Omega] \{ g \} = 0 \quad (7)$$

where

$$[M] = I - \rho_\infty [Q_m] \quad , \quad [\Omega] = [\omega^2] - \rho_\infty U_\infty^2 [Q_k] \quad , \quad [\Delta] = [2\zeta_{sd} \omega] - \rho_\infty U_\infty [Q_\zeta] . \quad (8)$$

In the quasi-steady formulation of reference 9 the apparent aerodynamic mass  $[Q_m] = 0$  and the aerodynamic damping and stiffness are

$$[Q_\zeta] = \frac{S\Delta x}{2Dia} [\phi]^T [B_{ll}]^T \left\{ \frac{\partial [\hat{c}]}{\partial \alpha} [\hat{S}] [T_z] + \frac{\partial [\hat{c}]}{\partial \beta} [\hat{S}] [T_y] \right\} [B_{ll}] [\phi] \quad (9)$$

and

$$[Q_k] = \frac{S\Delta x}{2Dia} [\phi]^T [B_{ll}]^T \left\{ \frac{\partial [\hat{c}]}{\partial \alpha} [\hat{S}] [T_z] + \frac{\partial [\hat{c}]}{\partial \beta} [\hat{S}] [T_y] \right\} [B_{ll}] \left[ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right] . \quad (10)$$

The matrices  $[\hat{S}]$ ,  $[T_y]$  and  $[T_z]$  were defined previously.<sup>9</sup> Equation 7 can be written in state space

$$\dot{\chi} = [A] \chi \quad , \quad \chi = \{ g, \dot{g} \}^T \quad (11)$$

where

$$[A] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -M^{-1}\Omega & -M^{-1}\Delta \end{bmatrix} . \quad (12)$$

To obtain the dynamic responses in the present analysis, the first two modes are pulsed separately using the unsteady aeroelastic FUN3D code to obtain a time history of the loads at each body station. A variety of pulses can be used to excite the system. Marques and Azevedo investigated the use of a unit sample, discrete step and Gaussian pulse. They find that for a nonlinear CFD solver the Gaussian pulse produces the most accurate response for a given time step size.<sup>29</sup> Figure 2 shows the Gaussian pulse used in the present analysis. FUN3D solutions due to the modal pulse excitation at  $N_t$  time steps and line loads at  $N_{ll}$  body stations are obtained. This results in a large set of data from which to extract a reduced order model of the unsteady aerodynamics. In order to reduce the data storage required, a proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) of the unsteady line loads data is performed. For instance the reconstructed  $x$ -dir. line load is derived from

$$[\hat{c}_x] = [\Phi_{xPOD}] [\psi_x] \quad (13)$$

where  $\Phi_{xPOD}$  is an  $N_{ll} \times N_{PODmodes}$  matrix of POD eigenvectors, containing the spatial variation of the response along the vehicle axis.  $\psi_x$  is an  $N_{PODmodes} \times N_t$  matrix of coefficients associated with the  $x$ -dir. line loads. The coefficients  $\psi_x$  contain the time varying part of the response. Note that in the present POD analysis the steady values have been removed from  $[\hat{c}_x]$  at each body station. The coefficients  $\psi_x$  are obtained from a least squares analysis of equation 13. The POD modes are the eigenvectors of the  $N_{ll} \times N_{ll}$  matrix  $[\hat{c}_x][\hat{c}_x]^T$ . The eigenvectors measure the relative contribution of each body station to the unsteady energy of the mode, while the eigenvalues are a relative measure of the energy content of each mode. A limited number of highest energy modes (i.e.  $N_{PODmodes}$ ) is typically required to relatively accurately reproduce the data. This procedure is repeated for the line loads in each coordinate direction.

The advantage of using unsteady line loads rather than generalized force to construct a reduced order model is that the line loads due to a modal excitation of the first few modes can be used to compute the projection of those responses to an arbitrarily chosen set of additional modes. Other analyses may alternately require rigid body modes and/or control system modes. Any or all of these can be added (in a quasi-steady sense) to the fully unsteady modes. The generalized aerodynamic stiffness  $Q_k$ , damping  $Q_\zeta$  and apparent mass  $Q_m$  can be divided into that due to unsteady and that due to quasi-steady aerodynamics,

$$[Q_k] = \begin{bmatrix} (Q_k)_{dd} & (Q_k)_{sd} \\ (Q_k)_{ds} & (Q_k)_{ss} \end{bmatrix} \quad , \quad [Q_\zeta] = \begin{bmatrix} (Q_\zeta)_{dd} & (Q_\zeta)_{sd} \\ (Q_\zeta)_{ds} & (Q_\zeta)_{ss} \end{bmatrix} \quad , \quad [Q_m] = \begin{bmatrix} (Q_m)_{dd} & (Q_m)_{sd} \\ (Q_m)_{ds} & (Q_m)_{ss} \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

where  $()_{dd}$  represents the terms due to the unsteady modal excitation,  $()_{ds}$  is due to projection of the unsteady responses on the quasi-steady modes. Terms  $()_{sd}$  and  $()_{ss}$  are derived exclusively from quasi-steady line loads data. The terms  $()_{dd}$  are derived from a system identification. In this paper the Roger approximation is used, although any method of system identification can be used. The steady state mean value is removed from the generalized force time history.

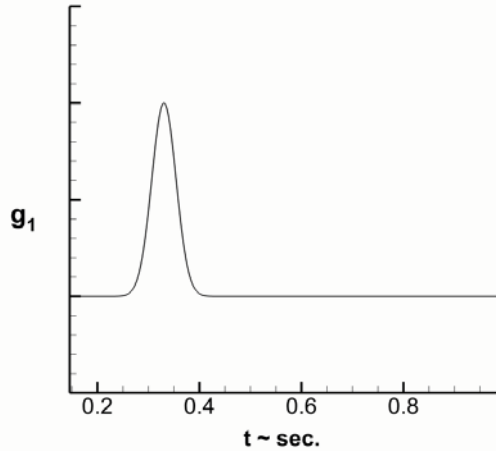


Figure 2. Gaussian pulse applied to mode 1

The fast Fourier transform of the generalized force time history is computed, denoted by  $\hat{G}$ . If the Fourier transform of the generalized forces can be written

$$\hat{G} = [\hat{Q}] \hat{g} \quad , \quad [\hat{Q}] = \begin{bmatrix} (\hat{Q})_{dd} & (\hat{Q})_{sd} \\ (\hat{Q})_{ds} & (\hat{Q})_{ss} \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

then the unsteady aerodynamic submatrix can be modeled

$$[(\hat{Q})_{dd}] = [(A_0)_{dd}] + [(A_1)_{dd}] ik - [(A_2)_{dd}] k^2 + [d] \left[ \frac{ik}{ik - \gamma} \right] [e] \quad (16)$$

while quasi-steady terms  $(\hat{Q})_{ds}$  can be modeled

$$[(\hat{Q})_{ds}] = [(A_0)_{ds}] + [(A_1)_{ds}] ik. \quad (17)$$

Having these defined the association can be made  $(Q_k)_{dd} = (A_0)_{dd}$ ,  $(Q_\zeta)_{dd} = (A_1)_{dd}$ ,  $(Q_m)_{dd} = (A_2)_{dd}$ . The quasi-steady terms in equation 17,  $(A_0)_{ds}$ ,  $(A_1)_{ds}$  and  $(A_2)_{ds}$ , derive from the projection of the unsteady line loads data of modes  $(\hat{Q})_{dd}$  on higher frequency mode shapes. The remaining terms in equation 16 derive from  $N_R$  aerodynamic lag states associated with the  $(\hat{Q})_{dd}$  generalized forces. Since Roger's approximation rather than minimum state is used here, the coefficients  $d$  (in equation 16) are pre-selected so that the lags are distributed equally and in equal numbers between all the modes. The calculation of the terms  $A_0$ ,  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$  and  $e$  in equations 16 and 17 is performed using the method of least squares, while an outer loop attempts an optimization of the lag roots  $\gamma$ . The remaining terms in equation 14 are due to quasi-steady aerodynamics. When the complete system of equations is assembled, a stability analysis can be performed to determine the overall damping of the flexible vehicle in flight.

### III. CFD and Structural Models

The unstructured tetrahedral mesh is created using VGRID.<sup>30</sup> In the present analysis a grid having 19 million nodes was used. A more complete description of this grid is found in Bartels.<sup>31</sup> The structural model used in the Ares I analyses are *MSC.Nastran*<sup>TM</sup> finite element models. The Ares I model includes a finite element modeling of the first stage, first stage solid propellant, second stage including liquid fuel and oxidizer masses, the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and Launch Abort System (LAS). The Ares I structural model used in the present analysis incorporates a Thrust Oscillation Isolator (TOI). The TOI is a dual plane isolation system intended to isolate the upper stage from second stage thrust oscillation. The isolator mechanism was modeled by a circumferential ring of springs at the interface between the Orion and the upper stage, and a circumferential ring of spring elements and mass elements at the interface between the upper stage and the first stage. In all other respects the TOI model is identical to the baseline Ares 1 structural model.

The entire Ares I vehicle structural model was reduced to 51 points along the vehicle centerline by a Guyan reduction and translational and rotational modal deflections were obtained. Mode shapes having only axial or rotational

deflections were discarded for the present analysis. The remaining modes were ranked by the moduli of the mode shape amplitude and the top 37 flexible modes for the Ares 1 were retained. The translational deflections of the remaining modes were projected with a spline fit to the CFD surface mesh points. Thirty seven modes have been retained in the aeroelastic analysis of the Ares I.

#### IV. Dynamic Aeroelastic Results

Previous aeroelastic results of the Ares I CLV at Mach 1 and  $\alpha = 0$  degrees have shown that the FRILLS and the time accurate CAE analyses differed primarily in the aerodynamic damping of the first two modes. (See Figure 1) The fact that only the first two modes are strongly influenced by unsteady aerodynamics suggests a partitioning in which the first two modes make up the  $(\ )_{dd}$  submatrix (modeled fully unsteady) and the  $(\ )_{sd}$  and  $(\ )_{ss}$  submatrices are modeled in a quasi-steady sense. The unsteady line loads data for the first two modes were obtained by performing time accurate solutions with FUN3D, pulsing each of modes 1 and 2 separately using the Gaussian pulse shown in Figure 2. The FUN3D generated line loads at each time step were the data used in the following analyses.

A study using generalized force time histories was first performed to assess the accuracy of the response to the Gaussian pulse excitation at different time step sizes. The generalized force time history used here was derived by projecting the unsteady line loads onto the first mode. The projection involved integrating line loads and modal data at 1000 body stations and over 4000 time steps. Figure 3 shows the FFT of the generalized force (mode 1) due to mode 1 excitation at three time step sizes,  $\Delta t = 5, 10$  and 20. As can be seen in the figure both the real and imaginary responses at all frequencies are converging as the time step size is reduced. The response at all frequencies using  $\Delta t = 10$  is nearly identical to that using  $\Delta t = 5$ . On the other hand all the results are nearly identical at low frequencies. Since an accurate modeling of the low frequency response is the primary objective in the following analysis, the solution at  $\Delta t = 20$  was considered sufficiently accurate.

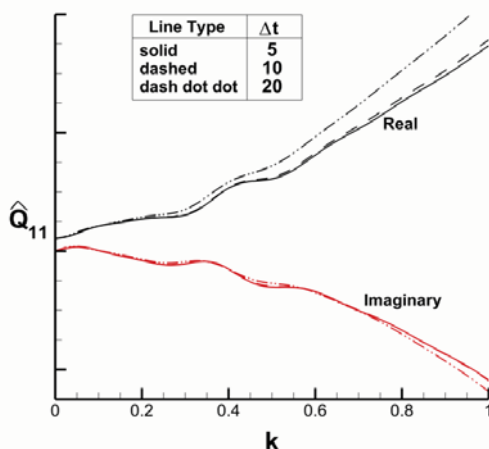


Figure 3. Time step study of unsteady Gaussian pulse response (mode 1 on mode 1).

Since the line loads data at each time step and body station comprised a rather unwieldy data set, a POD analysis was performed to reduce the data size. Performing several POD analyses with different numbers of POD modes, it was found that a very accurate model of the line loads can be achieved with  $N_{PODmodes} = 8$ . As seen in Figure 4, with this number of POD modes, the original and reconstructed generalized force responses are indistinguishable. The POD analysis thus provides a large reduction in the amount of storage required to model the data. As mentioned earlier, the POD eigenvectors provide the relative contributions of each body station to the overall energy of the mode. A composite of the combined highest energy POD mode amplitudes provides the overall distribution of the unsteady energy over the entire body. In order to compare the energy distribution from the line loads due to a time accurate FUN3D solution and that due to the FRILLS analysis, a similar Gaussian pulse and response was performed using the FRILLS solver. The process to obtain the line loads response from the FRILLS solver was identical to that used for unsteady FUN3D line loads except the FRILLS solver uses steady state rigid aerodynamics. Figure 5 shows the composite distribution of the highest energy POD modes from the unsteady line loads model and that from the quasi-steady FRILLS line loads. That figure clearly indicates that points along the body at which there is a change in cross sectional area or at major clusters of protuberances the FRILLS and the unsteady FUN3D responses are nearly

identical. These areas are at the LAS nozzles, the CEV module and fairing, the upper stage cluster of protuberances, the first stage rings and the aft skirt. However, the time accurate modeling of the unsteady line loads also has high energy content at locations away from cross sectional area changes. These areas include the long unchanging region of the upper stage and the first stage SRB. This indicates that a fully time accurate solution is required to capture all of the unsteady energy. It also shows that a quasi-steady model only provides energy content at points of geometry change while in fact unsteady energy is distributed both at and away from cross sectional area changes. It is also note worthy that the frustum dynamics due to the time accurate solution is much larger than that due to the FRILLS analysis. Also shown in that figure are the generalized force responses integrated from the line loads. The difference in the unsteady and quasi-steady responses is clearly seen in that figure.

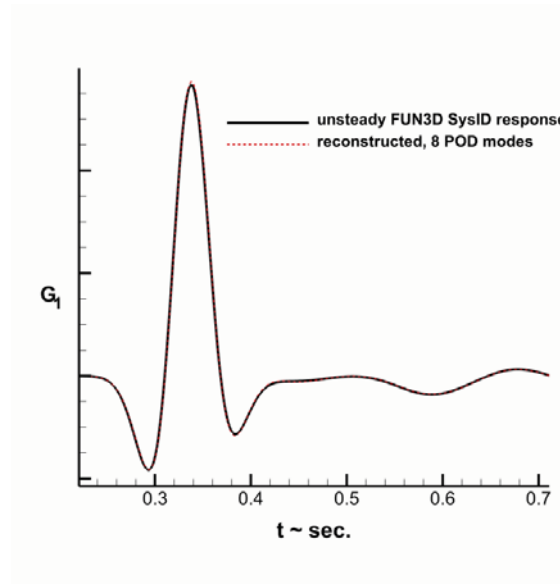
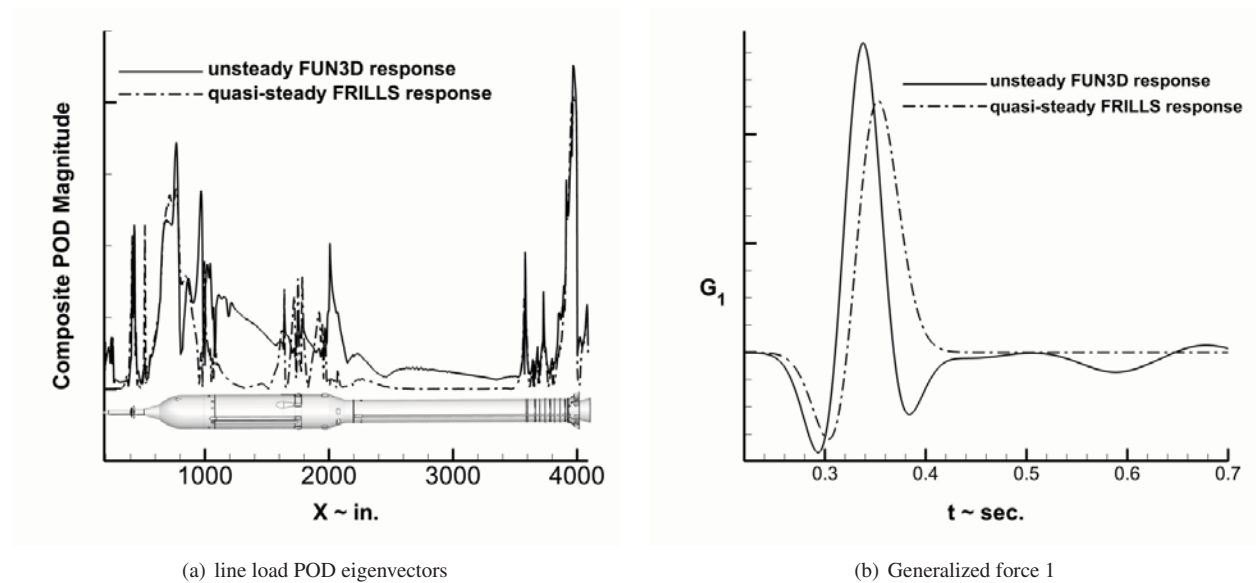


Figure 4. Comparison of FUN3D and POD approximation of unsteady mode 1 response (The reconstructed solution is from unsteady line loads).



(a) line load POD eigenvectors

(b) Generalized force 1

Figure 5. Comparison of unsteady FUN3D and FRILLS responses due to 1<sup>st</sup> mode Gaussian pulse.



Having a POD model of the unsteady line loads due to an excitation of the first two modes, the following steps were taken to create a state space model of the flexible launch vehicle:

1. Choose the modes (rigid body or higher frequency flexible) to be included in the quasi-steady analysis. In the present case, flexible modes 3-37 have been selected, although other modes may also be included such as rigid body modes.
2. The unsteady line loads due to excitation of modes 1 and 2 (reconstructed from the POD model) are projected at each time step to each of 37 modes. This produces a generalized force time history of all 37 modes due to excitation of the first two modes.
3. An FFT analysis was performed on the generalized force responses integrated from the line loads.
4. A Roger approximation with 20 lag states ( $N_R = 20$ ) using equation 16 is calculated for the first two modes. This produces the  $(\cdot)_{dd}$  submatrices.
5. A Roger approximation using equation 17 is calculated for modes 3-37. This produces the  $(\cdot)_{ds}$  submatrices.
6. The  $(\cdot)_{sd}$  and  $(\cdot)_{ss}$  submatrices are derived using quasi-steady FRILLS line loads data. The computation of these submatrices is no different than for a purely quasi-steady FRILLS analysis.

Figure 6 shows the FFT of the generalized force submatrix  $(\hat{Q})_{dd}$  (comprised of data from modes 1 and 2) and the Roger approximation of that data as a function of reduced frequency. The Roger approximation uses 20 unsteady aerodynamic states (i.e.  $N_R = 20$ ). It can be seen in this figure that the Roger approximation with 20 states quite accurately represents the generalized force data over the entire reduced frequency range. As an additional test, the time history of the mode 1 generalized force due to the Gaussian pulse excitation was reproduced using the Roger approximation. In Figure 7, this result is compared with the generalized force time history of mode 1 obtained directly from the FUN3D modal pulse solution. The Roger model reproduces the original data very accurately up to 0.55 seconds. Although a slight deviation can be seen in the last 0.1 second of the simulation, the overall agreement is excellent.

Having verified that the POD, the FFT and Roger models all accurately reproduce the data, the model is applied to the aeroelastic simulation of the Ares I. A state space model was constructed that included the 20 unsteady aerodynamic lag states. The state space model of equation 11 is modified by the addition of lag states ( $\xi$ ),

$$\dot{\chi} = [A]\chi \quad , \quad \chi = \{g, \dot{g}, \xi\}^T \quad (18)$$

where

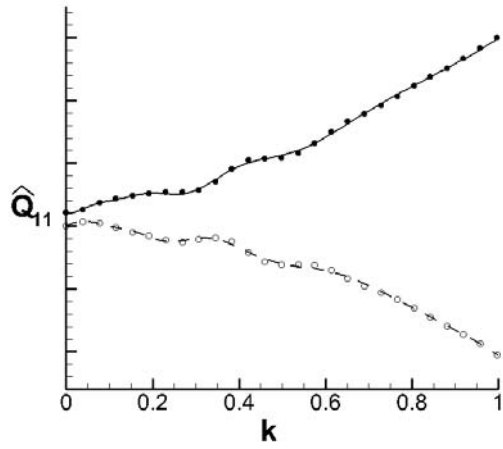
$$[A] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I & 0 \\ -M^{-1}\Omega & -M^{-1}\Delta & M^{-1}q_{\infty}d \\ 0 & e & \gamma \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

The damping of equations 18 and 19 was extracted by a log-decrement of a time marching solution. Figure 8 shows the damping of the first 14 modes as a function of frequency at nominal dynamic pressure. The FRILLS and unsteady FUN3D data from Bartels<sup>9</sup> are presented for reference. The present model significantly improves the overall damping in that the first mode undamping is now captured very well. The second mode is much less strongly damped than in the FRILLS result, although also slightly less damped than the unsteady FUN3D result.

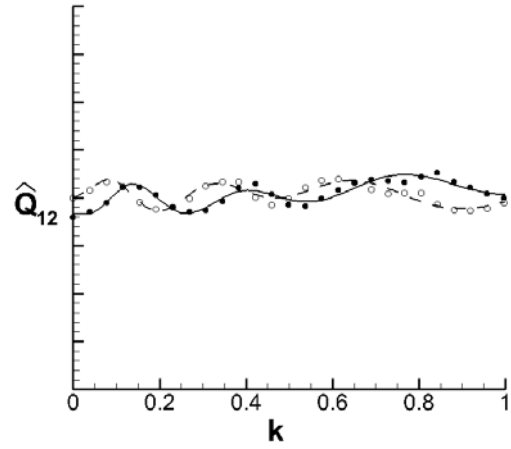
Figure 9 presents the damping of modes 1 and 2 from the Roger 20 lag state model at dynamic pressures  $q_{nom}$  and  $1.32q_{nom}$ , all at Mach 1. The unsteady FUN3D results at  $q_{nom}$  from reference 9 overlay the present data. A reduced order analysis of the Ares I with the AIIM1-TOI model at Mach 1 at successive dynamic pressures was previously performed by Silva.<sup>19</sup> Damping values are shown from that reference. Note that the present and FUN3D aeroelastic damping values are obtained from a log decrement of the time histories while the damping values from reference 19 were obtained by an eigenvalue analysis. Along with the results of Silva, the present state space model accurately reproduces the continued undamping of mode 1 with successively higher dynamic pressures. The increasing damping of mode 2 seen in the unsteady aeroelastic solution of reference 9 is observed in the present results. Furthermore, the presently computed damping values compare much more favorably with the log decrement values from reference 9 than does the damping of reference 19.

## V. Conclusions

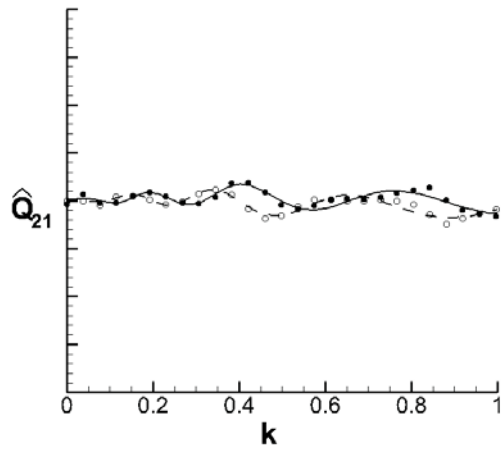
A method has been presented to enhance the quasi-steady method of line loads by using unsteady line load data for selected modes. For the Ares I vehicle with the thrust oscillation isolator structural model the first two modes are poorly modeled by the quasi-steady method of line loads. Furthermore, these modes are the most likely to couple



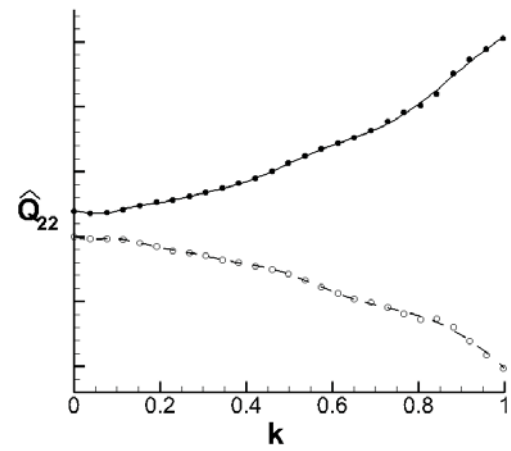
(a) Generalized force 11



(b) Generalized force 12



(c) Generalized force 21



(d) Generalized force 22

Figure 6. FFT of generalized force (filled symbol - real, open symbol - imag) and 20 state Roger approximation (line) versus frequency. Data reconstructed from unsteady line loads.

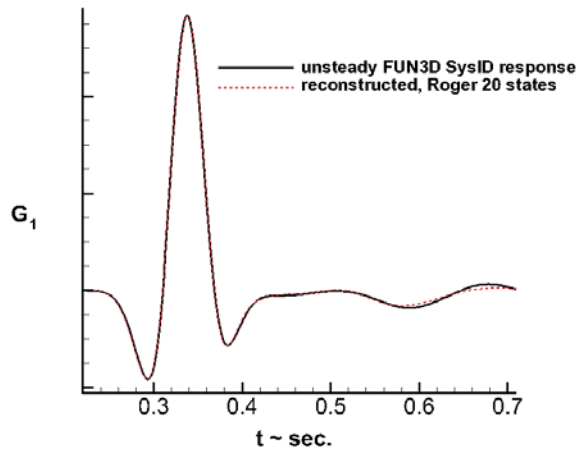


Figure 7. Time history of response (The reconstructed solution is derived from unsteady line loads).

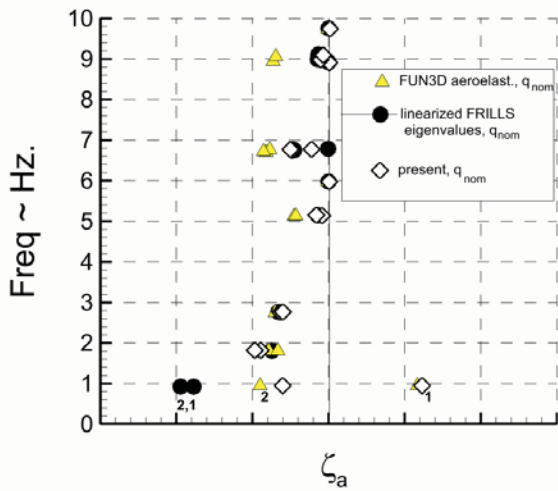


Figure 8. Frequency versus damping,  $q_{nom}$ .

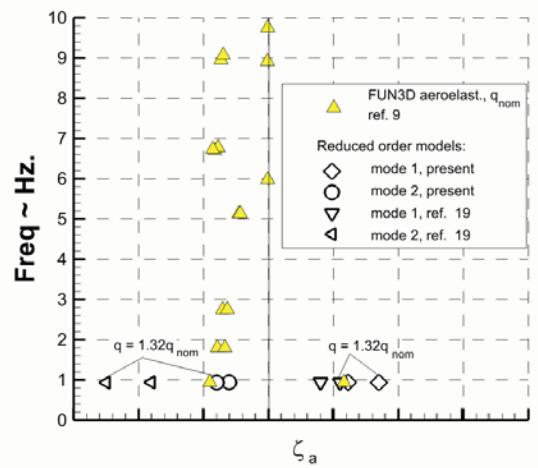


Figure 9. Frequency versus damping,  $q_{\infty} = q_{nom}, 1.32q_{nom}$ .

with rigid body modes and lead to potential controllability issues. In the present paper a Gaussian pulse is applied to the first two vehicle bending modes and a time history of the line loads response is acquired. Proper orthogonal decomposition is used to reduce the volume of line loads data. The Roger approximation is then used to derive a state space model that can be integrated into the quasi-steady line loads model. The results of this study can be summarized as follows:

1. The method of dividing the aeroelastic problem into fully unsteady and quasi-steady partitions has yielded a relatively efficient way of introducing unsteady aerodynamics because a limited number of CFD pulse/response solutions are required.
2. Proper orthogonal decomposition of the time history of the line loads data has successfully reduced the data required for an accurate unsteady aerodynamic model.
3. The time history of the unsteady line loads provides additional insight into the flow physics not available from the integrated generalized forces alone.

One aspect of this method not investigated here is the addition of rigid body modes, or alternate higher frequency modes in a quasi-steady sense. Addition of these modes in a quasi-steady sense should be easy since doing so involves retracing steps 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the method outlined above. Adding modes in a quasi-steady sense does not involve additional unsteady CFD system identification solutions. The pulse shape used here was a Gaussian pulse of each of the first two modes separately. The use of other pulse functions or the excitation of all modes (in this case modes 1 and 2) simultaneously was not investigated. Finally, the Roger approximation was used to create the state space model of the unsteady aerodynamics. Future examination of other time domain methods of system identification would be helpful.

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