CFD and CFD-Based Optimization in Aerodynamic High-Lift Design

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Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) found its way into aircraft design starting with the important contributions of A. Jameson in the late 1980's [1]. First, Euler methods were implemented and in the 1990's with the rise of the Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) methods [2] and the growing availability of high-preformance computers (HPC) mathematical optimization. A recent review on the spread of CFD in aircraft design has been provided by Martins [3]. Anyhow, this summary concentrates on overall aircraft and curise flight design. In high-lift system design, numerical optimization based on RANS-CFD for multi-element airfoils was introduced by Eyi et al. [4] and validated as design method by the author [5]. A review on the role of computational methods in high-lift design was presented at that time by van Dam [6]. The first application of numerical optimization on a full 3D aircraft wing was reported by Brezillon et al. [7] in 2008 followed by a kind of design challenge decribed by Iannelli et al. [8].

Nevertheless, full 3D numerical optimization based on RANS is not as established for the highlift wing as it is for the cruise condition – and this for good reasons. The lecture attempts to give some insight into some recent experience on the use of CFD methods in high-lift design, both for classical aircraft configurations [8] or for more challenging new architectures of highlift systems [9].

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