This paper presents the results of flow computations around plunging airfoils using a low dissipation finite volume scheme that preserves kinetic energy. The kinetic energy preserving scheme is briefly described and numerical experiments are done on low Mach, low Reynolds numbers plunging airfoils. Results are discussed and compared with experimental data.

Nomenclature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re</td>
<td>Reynolds Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pr</td>
<td>Prandtl Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mach Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Strouhal Number, ( \omega hL/V_\infty )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Spatial Coordinate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>Time variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( v^i )</td>
<td>( i^{th} ) component of flow velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( V_\infty )</td>
<td>Freestream velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \rho )</td>
<td>Density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>Pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Total Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Specific Total Enthalpy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>Specific Kinetic Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \mu )</td>
<td>Dynamic Viscosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \lambda )</td>
<td>Volume Viscosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \kappa )</td>
<td>Coefficient of heat conduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_p )</td>
<td>Specific Heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Chord Length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Nondimensional Plunge Amplitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \omega )</td>
<td>Angular frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \tilde{k} )</td>
<td>Reduced frequency, ( \omega L/V_\infty )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Omega )</td>
<td>Fixed spatial domain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \partial \Omega )</td>
<td>Boundary of the domain ( \Omega )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Introduction

Over the last century, steady airfoils have been thoroughly studied yielding important experimental and numerical results. On the contrary, unsteady flows around airfoils have not been well characterized due to their higher complexity. It is still a challenge to obtain accurate empirical data and current computational capabilities are not sufficient to gain high resolution of the phenomenon. In recent years, unsteady airfoils have been gaining a lot of interest, especially towards the use of flapping flight in the development of micro unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs).

The flow around a plunging airfoil is characterized by the generation of vortices that strongly interact in the wake of the airfoil. In order to study such an unsteady flow numerically and capture the phenomena present in the wake with good resolution, it is crucial to use a scheme that introduces as little dissipation as possible. When the artificial dissipation of the scheme becomes too large, there is significant uncertainty whether the damping observed is due to natural viscosity or numerical dissipation.

Jameson recently proposed a scheme that could overcome this problem. In his Kinetic Energy Preserving (KEP) scheme, the global balance of kinetic energy over the computational domain, along with the balance of mass, momentum and total energy is respected. The KEP scheme provides improved stability, removing almost completely the need of adding artificial viscosity and making it the best candidate for this study.

In this work, we used the KEP scheme to perform computations of flows around plunging airfoils at low Mach and low Reynolds number. Section 2 of this paper briefly describes the Kinetic Energy Preserving
Report Documentation Page

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. REPORT DATE</th>
<th>2. REPORT TYPE</th>
<th>3. DATES COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>00-00-2010 to 00-00-2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</th>
<th>5a. CONTRACT NUMBER</th>
<th>5b. GRANT NUMBER</th>
<th>5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Numerical Simulations of Plunging Airfoils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. AUTHOR(S)</th>
<th>5d. PROJECT NUMBER</th>
<th>5e. TASK NUMBER</th>
<th>5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</th>
<th>8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford, CA, 94305</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</th>
<th>10. SPONSOR/MONITOR’S ACRONYM(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</th>
<th>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 14. ABSTRACT | |
|--------------||

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15. SUBJECT TERMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:</th>
<th>17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</th>
<th>18. NUMBER OF PAGES</th>
<th>19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. REPORT</td>
<td>Same as Report (SAR)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unclassified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. ABSTRACT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unclassified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. THIS PAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unclassified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)
Prepared by ANSI Z39-18
scheme developed by Jameson and the formalism used to solve the equations. Section 3 describes how the computations were performed. In Section 4, results are presented and discussed.

II. Kinetic Energy Preserving scheme for viscous flow

In a recent paper, Jameson\textsuperscript{1,2} presented a new semi-discrete finite volume scheme to solve the Navier-Stokes equations. This scheme has the property to satisfy the global conservation law for kinetic energy. We shall briefly describe this scheme in the present section.

II.A. Continuous Model

First, consider the three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations in their conservative form:

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} f^j(u) = 0 \tag{1}
\]

where

\[
u = \begin{bmatrix}
\rho \\
\rho v^1 \\
\rho v^2 \\
\rho v^3 \\
\rho E
\end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad f^j = \begin{bmatrix}
\rho v^j \\
\rho v^j v^1 + p \delta^j_1 - \sigma^{j1} \\
\rho v^j v^2 + p \delta^j_2 - \sigma^{j2} \\
\rho v^j v^3 + p \delta^j_3 - \sigma^{j3} \\
\rho \delta^j_1 v^1 - v^i \sigma^{ij} - q^j
\end{bmatrix} \tag{2}
\]

The viscous stress tensor $\sigma^{ij}$ is given for a Newtonian fluid by $\sigma^{ij} = \lambda \delta^{ij} \frac{\partial v^k}{\partial x^k} + \mu \left( \frac{\partial v^i}{\partial x^j} + \frac{\partial v^j}{\partial x^i} \right)$. Often in aerodynamics, $\lambda$ is taken to be equal to $-\frac{2}{3} \mu$. The heat flux is proportional to the temperature gradient (Fourier’s Law) $q^i = -\kappa \frac{\partial T}{\partial x^i}$.

An equation for the kinetic energy $k = \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2$ can be derived by combining the continuity and the momentum equations. Indeed,

\[
\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 \right) = \rho v^i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho v^i) - \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}
\]

It follows by substituting $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho v^i)$ and $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$ by their corresponding fluxes that:

\[
\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \left[ v^j \left( p + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) - v^i \sigma^{ij} \right] = p \frac{\partial v^j}{\partial x^j} - \sigma^{ij} \frac{\partial v^i}{\partial x^j} \tag{3}
\]

We assume that we are interested in a domain $\Omega$ fixed in space. $\partial \Omega$ denotes the boundary of $\Omega$. By integrating (3) over the domain $\Omega$, we get a global conservation law for kinetic energy.

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Omega} k dV = - \int_{\partial \Omega} \left[ v^j \left( p + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) - v^i \sigma^{ij} \right] n^j dS + \int_{\Omega} \left( p \frac{\partial v^j}{\partial x^j} - \sigma^{ij} \frac{\partial v^i}{\partial x^j} \right) dV \tag{4}
\]

**Definition 1** A numerical scheme to solve the viscous Navier-Stokes equations is said to be Kinetic Energy Preserving if it satisfies a discrete analog of (4).

Here we have assumed that the domain contains no discontinuity. If a shockwave is present in $\Omega$, the relation (4) does not hold anymore.
II.B. Semi-discrete approach

Now, we consider a finite volume discretization of the governing equations in the domain \( \Omega \). The generic cell is a polyhedral control volume \( o \). Each cell has one or more neighbors. The face separating cell \( o \) and cell \( p \) has an area \( A_{op} \), and we define \( n_{op} \) to be the unit normal to this face, directed from \( o \) to \( p \). Evidently \( n_{op} = -n_{po} \). We also define \( S_{op} = A_{op} n_{op} \). \( S_{op} \) can be interpreted as the projected face area in the coordinate direction \( i \).

Boundary control volumes are closed by an outer face of directed area \( S_i^o = - \sum_p S_{i op} \) (a control volume is delimited by a closed surface).

In this framework, the semi-discrete finite volume approximation of the governing equations takes the form:

\[
\text{vol}_o \frac{\partial u_o}{\partial t} + \sum_{p \text{ neighbor}} f_{i op} \cdot n_{i op} A_{op} = 0 \tag{5}
\]

or

\[
\text{vol}_o \frac{\partial u_o}{\partial t} + \sum_{p \text{ neighbor}} f_{i op} \cdot S_{op} = 0 \tag{6}
\]

For a boundary control volume \( b \), another contribution to the fluxes \( f_{i b} \cdot S_b \) comes from the outer face.

Now we assume that \( u_o \) and \( f_{i op} \) take the form:

\[
u_o = \begin{bmatrix} 
\rho_o \\
\rho_o v_i^1_o \\
\rho_o v_i^2_o \\
\rho_o v_i^3_o \\
\rho_o E_o 
\end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{i op} = \begin{bmatrix} 
(p v_i^1)_{op} \\
(p v_i^2)_{op} \\
(p v_i^3)_{op} \\
(p v_i H)_{op} - (v_i^j \sigma_{ij} + q_i)_{op} 
\end{bmatrix} \tag{7}
\]

Jameson has exhibited a set of sufficient conditions on the elements of \( f_{i op} \) that lead to a Kinetic Energy Preserving (KEP) scheme.

**Proposition 1** If the elements of \( f_{i op} \) defined in (15) satisfy the following conditions:

a) \( (p v_i v_j)_{op} = \frac{1}{2} (p v_i)_{op} (v_j^p + v_j^o) \)

b) \( (p \delta^{ij} - \sigma^{ij})_{op} = \frac{1}{2} (p \delta^{ij} - \sigma^{ij})_o + \frac{1}{2} (p \delta^{ij} - \sigma^{ij})_p \)

and if the fluxes at the boundaries are evaluated such that:

c) \( f_{i b} = f^i(u_b) \) where \( b \) is a boundary control volume

then the semi discrete finite volume scheme (6) satifies the discrete global variation law for kinetic energy.

Indeed in that case, the discrete kinetic energy \( k_o \) satisfies the following relation:

\[
\frac{d}{dt} \sum_o \text{vol}_o k_o = - \sum_b S_b^i \left( v_i^b \left( p_b + \frac{v_i^b 2}{2} \right) - v_i^o \sigma_{ij}^b \right) \\
+ \sum_o \left( p_o \sum_p \frac{v_i^o + v_i^p}{2} S_{op} - \sigma_{ij}^o \sum_p \frac{v_i^o + v_i^p}{2} S_{op} \right) \tag{8}
\]

which is indeed a discretization of (4).
Condition \( a \) of the previous proposition is not very restrictive and allows some degrees of freedom in the construction of the fluxes defined in (15).

Let’s denote by \( \overline{g}_{op} \) the arithmetic average of the quantity \( g \) between cell \( o \) and cell \( p : \overline{g}_{op} = (g_o + g_p)/2 \). We can rewrite condition \( a \)

\[
(\rho v^i v^j)_{op} = \overline{(\rho v^i v^j)}_{op} \tag{9}
\]

We can evaluate the average \( (\rho v^i v^j)_{op} \) by any means (\( (\rho v^i v^j)_{op} = \overline{\rho v^i v^j}_{op} \) or \( \overline{\rho v^i v^j}_{op} \) for example) and then deduce \( (\rho v^i v^j)_{op} \) by using (9) to satisfy condition \( a \).

This degree of freedom could be used to design schemes that also satisfy other properties than Kinetic Energy Preservation.

### III. Direct Numerical Simulation of a plunging airfoil

The Kinetic Energy Preserving scheme described above was used to compute the flow around a plunging airfoil. Computations were done for a NACA 0012 airfoil oscillating in a uniform flow. The transversal motion of the airfoil is given by \( h(t) = h \cdot \cos(\omega t) \).

The freestream flow is characterized by a Mach number \( M_\infty \), a far field temperature \( T_\infty \) and a far field density \( \rho_\infty \).

Viscosity is evaluated using Sutherland’s formula

\[
\mu(T) = C \frac{T^{3/2}}{T + S}
\]

For air, at reasonable temperatures, \( C = 1.456 \times 10^{-6} \text{kg/(ms}\sqrt{\text{K}}) \) and \( S = 110.4 \text{K} \).

The Reynolds number is based on the chord length of the airfoil \( L \) and the free stream velocity \( V_\infty = M_\infty c_\infty \)

\[
Re = \frac{\rho_\infty L V_\infty}{\mu_\infty} \quad \text{where} \quad \mu_\infty = \mu(T_\infty)
\]

The Prandtl number is given by

\[
Pr = \frac{\mu C_p}{\kappa}
\]

it was taken to be equal to 0.75.

### Computational Domain

Simulations were done on a structured “C- mesh” counting \( 4096 \times 512 \) cells. The computational domain extends roughly 30 chord lengths downstream and 20 chord lengths upstream, as can be see on figure 2.

The mesh is subject to rigid body motion and moves with the airfoil.

### Numerical fluxes

The convective fluxes have to be modified to account for the motion of the mesh. First, let us consider the hyperbolic system of equation (1)

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u) = 0
\]

and integrate it over the moving domain \( \Omega(t) \). We have using the divergence theorem

\[
\int_{\Omega(t)} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dV + \int_{\partial \Omega(t)} f'(u) \cdot n'dS = 0
\]

(12)

However, since

\[
\int_{\Omega(t)} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dV = \frac{\partial}{\partial \Omega(t)} \int_{\Omega(t)} u dV + \int_{\partial \Omega(t)} u \hat{v} \cdot n'dS
\]

(13)

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
where \( \hat{v}^i \) is the speed of the boundary of the domain, it follows that

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_\Omega (t) udV + \int_{\partial \Omega (t)} (f^i(u) - u\hat{v}^i) \cdot n^i dS = 0
\]  

(14)

Denote \( \hat{v}^i_{op} \) the velocity of the edge separating cells \( o \) and \( p \). The convective fluxes, are now given by

\[
 f^i_{op \text{ convective}} = \begin{bmatrix}
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})]_{op} \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})v^1]_{op} + p_{op}\delta^i_1 \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})v^2]_{op} + p_{op}\delta^i_2 \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})v^3]_{op} + p_{op}\delta^i_3 \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})E + pv^i]_{op}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

(15)

We then used the following averaging formula:

\[
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})]_{op} = \bar{\rho}_{op}(\bar{v}^i_{op} - \hat{v}^i_{op}) \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})v^1]_{op} = \bar{\rho}_{op}(\bar{v}^i_{op} - \hat{v}^i_{op})\bar{v}^1_{op} \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})v^2]_{op} = \bar{\rho}_{op}(\bar{v}^i_{op} - \hat{v}^i_{op})\bar{v}^2_{op} \\
 [\rho(v^i - \hat{v}^i_{op})E + pv^i]_{op} = \bar{\rho}_{op}(\bar{v}^i_{op} - \hat{v}^i_{op})\bar{E}^i_{op} + \bar{p}_{op}\bar{v}^i_{op}
\]

(16)

Condition \( a \) of proposition (1) does not require a specific form for the energy flux. We defined it in a consistent manner with the continuity and momentum fluxes.

Viscous stress was evaluated in each cell by introducing a complementary mesh, for which cell vertices are the centers of the original control volumes.

**Time integration**

Time integration was done using a TVD Runge Kutta second order multistage time stepping scheme. For a semi discrete law in the form

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + R(u, t) = 0
\]

(17)
the scheme advances from time $n$ to time $n+1$ by

\[
\begin{align*}
    u^1 &= u^n - \Delta t R(u^n, t^n) \\
    u^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{2} u^n + \frac{1}{2} u^1 - \frac{1}{2} \Delta t R(u^1, t^{n+1})
\end{align*}
\]

The explicit dependence in time of the operator $R$ is due to mesh motion. This means that both the location and velocity of the mesh need to be updated at $t^{n+1}$ before evaluating $R(u^1, t^{n+1})$.

This time discretization does not guarantee the preservation of kinetic energy in time. One could use a Crank-Nicholson semi-implicit scheme as suggested by Jameson\textsuperscript{7} to ensure conservation in time, but the computational costs would increase enormously.

### Far field artificial dissipation

As the mesh coarsens in the far field, roughly 5 chord lengths away from the airfoil, small spurious oscillations associated with acoustic waves can be observed. It was shown in previous work\textsuperscript{5,6} that the number of cells required to ensure a non-oscillatory solution and stability was governed by the local cell Reynolds number, which has to be of the order of unity to guarantee these properties. However, covering the entire computational domain with cells as fine as the ones in the wake is currently too expensive.

A small amount of dissipation, based on the Jameson-Schmidt-Turkel (JST) scheme\textsuperscript{7,8} was added in the far field to control these unphysical oscillations and prevent the explosion of the number of grid points. Furthermore, at the very edges of the computational domain, where the cells are the biggest, artificial dissipation is larger and behaves like a sponge that prevents the reflection of the acoustic waves into the computational domain.

The dissipation introduced in the far field was derived from the JST scheme by dropping the lower order diffusive term and conserving the higher order term to control odd/even modes. It shall be noted that no dissipation was introduced in the near field of the airfoil, an area encompassing about 70% of the cells. If we consider the conservation equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u) = 0$, the truncation error introduced by our second order scheme can be seen as a continuous term in a modified differential equation

\[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u) = O(\Delta x^2, \Delta t^2)\]

The idea is to introduce an extra diffusive term that will modify the truncation error

\[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(u) = -\Delta x^p \lambda^{(4)} \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^4} + O(\Delta x^2, \Delta t^2)\]

with $\lambda^{(4)} \geq 0$ and $p \geq 2$ to preserve the order of the scheme. If

\[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[h_{i+\frac{1}{2}} - h_{i-\frac{1}{2}}\right] = 0\]

is a finite volume semi-discretization of the equation where $h_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ is the numerical flux, we can introduce a correction $d_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ to the flux to obtain the desired property. This can be done by taking

\[d_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}} \epsilon^{(4)} (-u_{i+2} + 3u_{i+1} - 3u_i + u_{i-1})\]

similarly to what is done in the JST scheme. $\alpha_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ is proportional to the spectral radius of the local jacobian matrix and $\epsilon^{(4)}$ is a switch to add dissipation only where needed, as described in the original JST scheme. $d_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ is proportional to $\Delta x^3 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3}$.

### IV. Results

We now present the results obtained using the numerical methods described above. We chose the various parameters describing the motion of the plunging airfoil to match the ones studied by Jones and Platzer\textsuperscript{5,6}. Flows around plunging airfoils can be classified according to their Strouhal numbers $Sr = \frac{\omega h L}{V_\infty} = \frac{\omega \tilde{k}}{h k}$. In all the results presented, the Mach number is taken to be $M_\infty = .2$ and the Reynolds number is $Re = 1850$. 

\[\text{American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics}\]
Drag production at low Strouhal number - \( Sr = 0.29 \)

The amplitude of the plunging motion is \( h = 0.08 \) and the reduced frequency \( \tilde{k} = 3.6 \) resulting in a Strouhal number \( Sr = 0.288 \). For such a Strouhal number the resulting flow exerts drag on the airfoil. Figure 3 shows the density contour: not only the flow pattern is clear on this picture, but this is also evidence that there are some non negligible compressibility effects, even at such a low Mach number. Figure 4 represents the vorticity of the flow. As can be seen, the vortical structure of the wake is in agreement with the results obtained by Jones et al., cf. figure 5. Figure 6 is a plot of the evolution in time of the lift coefficient \( C_l \) and the drag coefficient \( C_d \). A positive \( C_d \) indicates that the fluid exerts drag on the airfoil in the flow direction. On the abscissa, the non dimensional time is defined by \( t = \frac{t}{t_0}, t_0 = \frac{L}{V_\infty} \).

Thrust generation at high Strouhal number - \( Sr = 0.60 \)

As the Strouhal number is increased the flow pattern changes and thrust is generated. In this section, we present the results obtained for a Strouhal number of \( Sr = 0.60 \). Figures 7 and 8 depict the computed density and vorticity fields for \( h = 0.1 \) and \( \tilde{k} = 0.6 \). The flow pattern is in excellent agreement with experimental
data by Jones et al. corresponding to this Strouhal number (see figure 9) and we observe on figure 10 that thrust is indeed generated. However, it should be noted that Jones’ experimental result was obtained for $h = 0.2$ and $k = 0.3$. When we tried to compute the flow for these values, we still observed generation of thrust, but the flow pattern was quite different. The large amplitude of the motion (for $h = 0.2$) creates important leading edge vortices that interact strongly with the trailing edge vortices in the wake, as can be seen on figure 11.
Lift and thrust generation - $Sr = 1.5$

This is by far the most interesting case, as lift and thrust are generated by the oscillating airfoil. The nondimensional plunging amplitude is $h = .12$ and the reduced frequency $\tilde{k} = 12.3$, resulting in a Strouhal number $Sr = 1.48$. Figures 12 and 13 depict the density and the vorticity of the flow in the airfoil’s wake. The dual-mode vortex street described by Jones et al.\textsuperscript{5} is clearly visible. Our numerical computations are
again in excellent agreement with Jones et al. experimental results, as shown in figure 14.
V. Conclusion

This paper shows how to solve with high resolution the flow around plunging airfoils using a finite volume formulation. The method proposed uses the Kinetic Energy Preserving scheme proposed by Jameson and a
modified version of the JST artificial dissipation model in the far field to ensure a non oscillatory solution. The resulting code proved to be robust and extremely low dissipative. Applications with coarser grids containing “only” $1024 \times 256$ cells (results not presented in the present document) showed that even though the far field results were largely degraded, the time history curves of $C_l$ and $C_d$ were still relatively close to the ones obtained with fine grids. On an other hand it appears that the code can be easily modified to deal with airfoil motions more complex, like a combination of pitching and plunging motion obeying non sinusoidal variations. These remarks lead us to think that this code would be particularly well suited in the study of optimal motions of rigid airfoils (in a sense of propulsion efficiency) at relatively low reynolds numbers.

Acknowledgments

Yves Allaneau is supported by the Hugh H. Skilling Stanford Graduate Fellowship.

This work is also supported by the AFOSR grant #FA 9550-07-1-0195 from the Computational Math Program under the direction of Dr. Fariba Fahroo.

The authors would also like to thank Matt Culbreth for his help and his precious knowledge of flapping flight theory.

References

8. R. C. Swanson and E. Turkel, Artificial Dissipation and Central Difference Schemes for the Euler and Navier-Stokes Equations, *AIAA paper 87-1107*