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WIND-TUNNEL INVESTIGATION OF AN NACA 23012 AIRFOIL

WITH TWO SIZES OF BALANCED SPLIT FLAP

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## WASHINGTON

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WIND-TUNEEL INVESTIGATION OF AN NACA 23012 AIRFOIL

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## SUKMARY

An investigation has been made in the NACA 7- by 10foot wind tunnel of an NACA 23012 airfoil with a 15-percentchord and a 25-percent-chord balanced split flap of the
Clark Y profile. The investigation was made to determine
the aerodynamic section characteristics of the airfoil as
affected by the size, nose location, and deflection of the
flap. Complete aerodynamic section characteristics were
determined for several nose locations of each flap and are
presented for four typical locations for each flap. A
comparison of the drag and lift characteristics is made
with two other medium-chord flaps previously investigated.

The optimum arrangement of either of the balanced split flaps, from consideration of maximum lift coefficients and minimum profile-drag coefficients for take-off and climb, was a combination comparable to the Fowler flap. When compared on a basis of flap deflection for equal maximum lift coefficients, there was little difference in the pitching-moment coefficients for any of the arrangements tested. Any leak between the nose of the flap and the lower surface of the wing was harmful from consideration of maximum lift coefficient, but if the gap was increased to form a suitable slot the maximum lift coefficient was increased. The results of this investigation furnish data suitable for application to the design of any probable split-flap arrangement.

#### INTRODUCTION

An invostigation of various high-lift devices has been undertaken by the NACA to provide designers with aerodynamic and structural data for the design of wing-flap combinations for improved safety and performance of airplanes. Aerodynamic data for single-slotted flaps on airfoils of various this knesses have been made available in references 1 through 6, for Fowlor and plain flaps on 12-percent thick airfoils in reference 1, and for split flaps on airfoils of various thicknesses in reference 7. Structural data for the single-slotted flaps are presented in references 8 and 9, for the plain flap in reference 8, for the split flap in reference 9, and for the Fowler flap in reference 10.

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Since most of the flaps in general use today are some form of split flap, the investigation was extended to flaps of the balanced split type and the present report presents aerodynamic data for two sizes of balanced split flap on an NACA 23012 airfoil.

## APPARATUS AND TESTS

#### Models

The basic airfoil was built to the NACA 23012 profile, the ordinates of which are given in table I. It has a span of 7 feet and a chord of 3 feet, and is the same basic airfoil used in reference 2. The rear portion of the airfoil is removable so that flaps of various sizes can be used.

The 15-percent-chord and the 25-percent-chord flaps were built of laminated mahogany to the Clark Y profile (table I). The span of each flap was 7 fest and the chords were 5.4 inches and 9 inches which are, respectively, 15 and 25 percent of the wing chord. The flaps were rigidly attached to the main wing by four steel fittings which allowed a wide scleetion of nose locations for each flap and permitted deflecting the flaps from 0° to 60° in 10° increments at each location (fig. 1). The nose point of the flap is defined as the point of tangency of the flap leading-edge are and a line drawn perpendicular to the flap chord.

The models were made to a tolerance of ±0.015 inch.

## Tests

Tunnel mounting. The models were mounted in the closed test section of the NACA 7- by 10-foot wind tunnel so that they completely spanned the jet except for small clearances at either end (references 1 and 11). The main airfoil was rigidly attached to the balance frame by torque tubes which extended through the upper and lower boundaries of the tunnel. The angle of attack of the model was set by rotating the torque tubes with a calibrated drive from outside the tunnel. This type of installation closely approximates two-dimensional flow and therefore the section characteristics of the model being tested can be determined.

Test conditions.— A dynamic pressure of 16.37 pounds per square foot was maintained for all tests, which corresponds to a velocity of about 80 miles per hour under standard sea-level conditions and to an average test Reynolds number of about 2.190,000. Because of the turbulence in the wind tunnel the effective Reynolds number. Re. (reference 12), was approximately 3.500,000. Re. for all tests, is based on the chord of the airfoil with the flap retracted (3 ft), and on 2 turbulence factor of 1.6 for the wind turnel.

Test of the balanced split flap. The regular tests consisted of force and moment measurements with each flap at each of 16 positions. Data were obtained at each flap position at flap deflections from 0° to 60° in 10° increments. The complete angle-of-attack range from -6° to the angle of attack for maximum lift was covered in 2° increments for each test. No data were obtained above the stall because of the unsteady condition of the model.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Coefficients

All the test results are given in standard nondimensional section coefficient form, corrected as explained in reference 1.

 $c_l$  section lift coefficient (l/qc)

 $c_{d_0}$  section profile-drag coefficient  $(d_0/qc)$ 

cn(a.c.) section pitching-moment coefficient about the aerodynamic center of the plain airfoil (m(a.e.) /qc²)

where

l section lift

do section profile drag

m(a.c.) section pitching moment

- q dynamic pressure  $(\frac{1}{2} \rho V^2)$
- c chord of the basic airfoil with flap retracted

and

- angle of attack corrected to infinite aspect ratio
- δ<sub>f</sub> flap deflection, measured between the airfoil chord line and the flap chord line

## Precision

The accuracy of the various measurements is believed to lie within the following limits:

α <sub>0</sub> ±0,1°	ed <sub>o</sub> (c;=1.0) ±0.0006
c <sub>lmax</sub> ±0.03	cdo(c1=2.5)  8f ±0.002
em(a.c.)0 ±0.003	δ <sub>1</sub> ±0.2°
c <sub>domin</sub> ±0.0003	flap position ±0.001c

No corrections were applied for the effect of the hinge fittings since their effect was believed to be small. The same fittings were used on both flaps, therefore the relative nerit of the two should not be affected. No attempt was made to determine the effect of the break in the airfoil lower surface at the forward end of the retracted flap (rig. 1), since a simple cover may be used to seal the break when the flap is retracted.

Determination of Optimum Flap Arrangements

Kaximum lift. - Contours of flap nose location for clmax are presented in figure 3 for the 0.15c balanced split flap. For flap deflections of 0° and 10°, the best location is at the trailing edge of the airfoil and 0.06c below the chord line. At deflactions of 20° and 30° the point remains at the trailing edge but moves up to 0.015c below the chord line. The 30° flap deflection gave the highest maximum lift coefficient reached with the 0.15c

balanced split flap; the value was 2.68 and was slightly higher than was reached with the 0.2566c slotted flap 2-h (reference 1) at the same deflection. When deflected 400 or 50°, the flap stalled and the lift decreased slightly. The point for maximum lift moved to 0.05c ahead of the trailing edge and 0.03c below the chord line. At the  $60^{\circ}$ deflection the lift coefficient increased to nearly the value obtained at the 30° deflection, and there was little choice between locating the flap nose at the trailing edge on the chord line or locating it 0.05c ahead of and 0.015c below that point. It is interesting to note that locating the nose of the 0.15c flap 0.05c ahead of the airfoil trailing edge and 0.03c below the chord line gave, for deflections of 40° or over, a maximum lift coefficient nearly as high as that given by the usual Fowler arrangement. (See figs. 3a through 3g.)

The contours of flap location for 0.25c balanced split flap are shown in figure 4. flections of 0° and 10° the best location is the same as for the 0.15c flap, at the trailing edge of the wing with a 0.06c gap. At 200 and 300 the flap position for maximum lift remains at the airfoil trailing edge and moves up to 0.03c below the chord line. At 30° the 0.25c balanced split flap is superior to the 0.2566c slotted flap 2-h of reference 1, since it gave a maximum lift coefficient of The 0.25c flap did not stall at 40°, the maximum lift coefficient increased to 3.22, and the best location was 0.015c below the chord line at the trailing edge of the airfoil. The flap did stall, however, at deflections of 50° and 60°, and the lift decreased. For the 50° deflection, the best location was at the trailing edge on the chord line, and at 60° the maximum lift coefficient was the same at the trailing edge on the chord line and at 0.015c below that point. The 0.25c flap differed from the 0.15c flap in that, for the larger flap, the Fowler arrangement was superior to any other arrangement from consideration of maximum lift coefficient. The dotted contours in figure 4 indicate that a leak or narrow gap between the flap nose and the airfoil is harmful for the intermediate flap positions. This is in agreement with the results in reference 13. The balanced split flap has an airfoil shape, however, and a gap is beneficial when the flap is in the intermediate positions provided the gap is over 2 percent of the airfoil chord in width. When the flap is fully extended and is deflected 20° to 40°, the gap is beneficial provided it is less than 3 percent of the airfoil chord in width.

From the contours of flap location for  $c_{l_{max}}$  in figures 3 and 4, the designer can determine the maximum lift coefficient to be expected at any flap location and deflaction within the range tested. The contours are not closed for all flap deflections, but it is believed that a sufficient range of positions was investigated to cover any probable installation.

Minimum profile drag. - The contours of flap location for the 0.15c balanced split flap presented in figure 5, show that the plain airfoil gave the lowest drag at a lift coefficient of 1.0. At a lift coefficient of 1.5, the 0.15c flap gave a minimum of 0.027 when de-CCO flected 20° and located 0.015c below the chord line at the trailing edge of the wing (fig. 6). This value is about the same as that given by the 0.2500c slotted 2-h and the 0.2567c Fowler flaps of reference 1. The minimum profile drag at a lift coefficient of 2.0 was also obtained with the flap deflected 20° and located 0.015c below the trailing edge of the wing. (See fig. 7.) The 0.2555c slotted flap 2-h (reference 1) gave a slightly higher profile drag at a lift coefficient of 2.0. while the 0.2667c Fowler flap cave the same value of the profile drag at this lift coefficient.

The flap position for minimum profile drag for both lift coefficients, 1.5 and 2.0, was very critical, the drag increasing rapidly with any movement of the flap. It therefore does not appear possible to obtain low profile drags, with the flap in the positions farther ahead where the maximum lift coefficients were large. Data were not available for plotting contours of minimum profile-drag coefficients at a lift coefficient of 2.5.

The 0.25c balanced split flap gave results (fig. 8) comparable with the results given by the 0.15c flap at a lift coefficient of 1.0. At a lift coefficient of 1.5 the minimum profile-drag coefficient was about 0.027 (fig. 9) with either the 10° or 20° deflections of the 0.25c flap when located 0.03c below the chord line at the trailing edge of the wing, which is comparable with the results for the 0.15c flap. When the nose of the flap is located 0.03c below the chord line at the trailing edge of the wing and deflected 20°, it was possible to reach a lift coefficient of 2.0 (fig. 10) with a profile-drag coefficient of 0.039, which is slightly lower than for the 0.15c

flap. At the same location and deflection, the 0.25c flap gave a lift coefficient of 2.5 (fig. 11) with a profiled drag coefficient of 0.056 compared with 0.055 for the 0.30c venetian-blind flap of reference 14, 0.062 for the 0.2667c Fowler flap, and 0.075 for the 0.2566c slotted flap 2-h of reference 1. At a lift coefficient of 2.0, the 0.25c flap was less critical to small changes in the nose location than the 0.15c flap, but both flaps had lower profile-drag coefficients for the Fowler arrangement than for locations farther forward.

The only explanation of the lower profile drag for the Fowler arrangement of the 0.25c flap than for the previously reported results of the Fowler wing (reference 1) is the use of the Clark Y section for the flap in the present tests, while for the previous tests the lower cambered 23012 section was used for the flap. An investigation of the effect of camber of the flap on the acrodynamic characteristics of the airfoil is indicated.

Using the centours of flap location for cdo in figures 5 through 11, the designer can determine very closely the value of profile-drag coefficient to be expected at any location of either flap within the range tested, for any deflection from 0° to 30° and for any lift coefficient from 1.0 to 2.0 for the 0.15c balanced split flap, and for any deflection from 0° to 40° and any lift coefficient from 1.0 to 2.5 for the 0.25c balanced split flap.

Pitching moment. - The contours of flap location for cm(a.c.)<sub>o</sub> in figures 12 through 18, show for both bal-

enced split flaps that the negative pitching moments at the best locations were nearly twice those of the simple split flap, and that they increased progressively as the flaps approached their best locations. When the balanced split flaps were located and deflected to give the same maximum lift coefficients as the split, plain, or slotted flaps of reference 1, the pitching-moment coefficients were only slightly larger than for the plain and split flaps and were about equal to those of the slotted flap 2-h. In the selection of an airfoil-flap combination for a given airplane, the pitching-moment coefficient should be determined for combinations that give equal maximum lifts in order to obtain an unbiased comparison.

With contours of flap location for cm(a.c.) in

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figures 12 through 18, the designer can determine the pitching-moment coefficients of both wing-flap combinations within the range investigated.

Effect of sealing gap. Several tests were made with the 0.25c balanced split flap to determine the effect of sealing the gap between the flap nose and the airfoil. The results of these tests are presented with the contours in figures 4, 8 to 11, and 15 to 18. In nearly all cases, sealing the gap increased the lift, drag, and pitching—moment coefficients. These data will afford the designer additional information on the aerodynamic characteristics of a split flap deflected downward and moved to the rear.

The selection of the optimum arrangements of the balanced split flaps from a consideration of the maximum lift
coefficient, minimum profile-drag coefficient for take-off,
and pitching-moment coefficient will have to be a compromise in which structural simplicity will play an important
part. The data previously presented show that the optimum
arrangement of either the 0.15c or 0.25c flap is an arrangement comparable to a Fowler flap from consideration of
maximum lift and minimum profile-drag coefficients. Complete section data are therefore given for the Fowler arrangements. In addition, the complete section data are
given for several other representative arrangements.

## Aerodynamic Section Characteristics

The aerodynamic section characteristics of the NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.15c and 0.25c balanced split flaps at each of four flap-nose locations, are presented in figures 19 through 26. The angle of attack. for maxia<sub>o</sub>. mum lift varied from 120 to 150 for both flaps but was about the same as for the 0.2566c slotted flap 2-h of reference 1. There was an increase in the slope of the lift curve as the flaps were extended, which may be attributed to the increase in wing area. The four locations for which the aerodynamic section characteristics are given, are believed to be near any probable path that will be used in the application of the data to a design. The data presented in figures 19 through 26 should be sufficient, when used with the contours in figures 3 through 18, to allow the dosigner to predict the performance of any wing-flap combination within the range investigated.



## Comparison of Flap Arrangements

The polars of profile-drag coefficient (figs. 27 and 28) show. as previously mentioned, that both the balanced split flaps are best when located in the usual Fowler position, at the trailing edge of the wing and slightly below the chord line. This flap position gave the highest values of maximum lift coefficient and the lowest values of profile-drag coefficient for take-off. The 0.15c flap, however, when located 0.05c shead of the trailing edge and 0.03c below the chord line or on the chord line at the trailing edge of the wing, gave about the same maximum lift coefficient as the Fowler arrangement but gave larger profiledrag coefficients at all lift coefficients. The lift coefficients were larger, and the drag coefficients for given lift coefficients were lower, for the balanced split flap than for comparable simple split flaps of reference 7.

The comparison of pitching-moment coefficients should be made on the basis of flap deflections that give equal maximum lift coefficients. A comparison of the pitching-moment coefficients for the 0.15c flap set for take-off at four positions, is shown in the following table. In this table the maximum lift coefficient of the wing-flap combination was taken as 2.4. and it is assumed that take-off will be at 0.9ct or at ct = 2.15.

Flap position		8,	cd	C	Data from	
No.	x	y	(deg.)	.ecimex	- ecl max	figures
1 2 3 4	0.05c .10c .15c .15c	0,06c .03c .015c	50 20 12 22	0.095 .064 .054 .060	-0.250 269 267 280	19 20 21 22

An inspection of this table shows that the pitchingmoment coefficient is lowest for flap position 1, but that
the flap deflection and drag coefficient are much higher
than for any of the other positions. The flap in the
Fowler position. 3. gives the next lowest pitchingmoment coefficient and requires only a 12° deflection of
the flap. The reduction in profile-drag coefficient realized by using the Fowler arrangement, from 0.095 to 0.054,
should immediately lead to the use of the Fowler flap in
preference to the other arrangements if low drag for takeoff is desired. The added mechanical complication of the
Fowler arrangement appears to be the chief obstacle.



## Comparison.with Other Flaps

Envelope polars of profile-drag coefficients for the two balanced split flaps, the 0.25660 slotted flap 2-h (reference 1) and a 0.20c venetian-blind flap (reference 14), indicate that the 0.25c balanced split flap was best from the standpoint of profile-drag coefficients for take-off and climb (fig. 29). Then the flaps are compared on the basis of pitching-moment coefficients with the flaps located and deflected to give equal values of the maximum lift coefficient, all of the flap arrangements are of about equal merit. The section maximum lift coefficient is largest for the 0.25c balanced split flap. The 0.20c venetian-blind flap and the 0.2566c slotted flap 2-h gave about the same maximum lift coefficient, while the 0.15c balanced split flap gave the lowest maximum lift coefficient of the arrangements compared.

## CONCLUDING PEMARKS

The optimum arrangement of either of the balanced split flaps, from consideration of maximum lift coefficients and minimum profile-drag coefficients for take-off and climb, was a combination comparable to the Fowler flan. The pitching-moment coefficients increased with flap deflection and with movement of the flap toward the trailing edge of the wing. When compared on a basis of flap deflection for equal maximum lift coefficients, however, there was little difference in the pitching-moment coefficients for any of the arrangements tested. With the 0.15c flap, the maximum lift coefficients were the same with the flav in the Fowler position and in a position 0.05c ahead of the trailing edge of the wing. In this position, however, the flap deflection required to obtain the maximum lift coefficient was twice as oreat as for the flap in the Fowler position and the profile-drag coefficients were much larger. Any leak between the nose of the flap and the lower surface of the wing was harmful from consideration of maximum lift coefficient, but if the gap was increased to form a suitable slot the maximum lift coefficient was increased. The results of this investigation furnish data suitable for application to the design of any probable split-flap arrangement.

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The 0.25c balanced split flap gave higher maximum lift coefficients and lower profile-drag coefficients for take-

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off than the best 0.2566c slotted flap previously developed. The characteristics of the 0.25c balanced split (Foulon) flap were also superior to a Fowler flap combination with a flap of small camber proviously tested.

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TABLE I
Ordinates for Airfoil and Flap Shapes

HACA 23012 airfoil	
(stations and ordinates	in
percent wing chord)	

Station	Uppor surface	Lower surface
0 1.25 2.5 5.0 7.5 10 15 20 25 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 95 100	2.67 3.69 3.69 3.90 5.43 7.50 7.55 7.14 5.47 4.36 8.13 1.68 9.23	0 -1.71 -2.26 +2.61 -2.92 -3.50 -3.97 -4.28 -4.48 -4.17 -3.67 -2.16 -1.23 -1.23 -1.23

L.E. radius: 1.58. Slope of radius through and of chord: 0.305.

A CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY OF

Clark Y flaps
(stations and ordinates in
percent flap chord)

Station	Upper .	Lower surface
0 1.25 2.5 5.0 7.5 10 15 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 95 100	3.50 5.45 6.50 7.90 8.85 9.60 10.69 11.36 11.70 11.40 10.52 9.15 7.35 5.22 2.80 1.49	3.50 1.93 1.47 .93 .63 .42 .15 .03 0
	<del></del>	

L.E. radius: 1.50

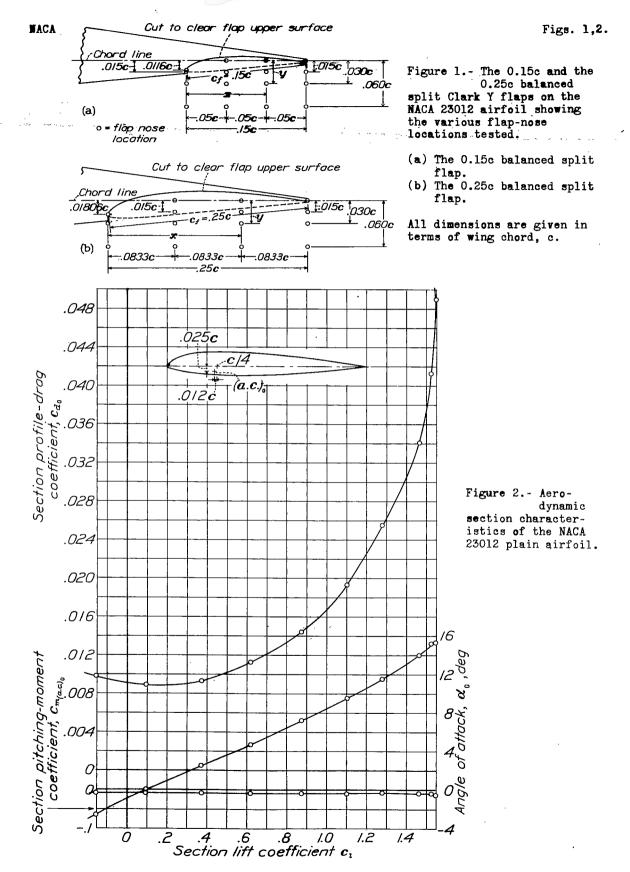




Fig. 3.

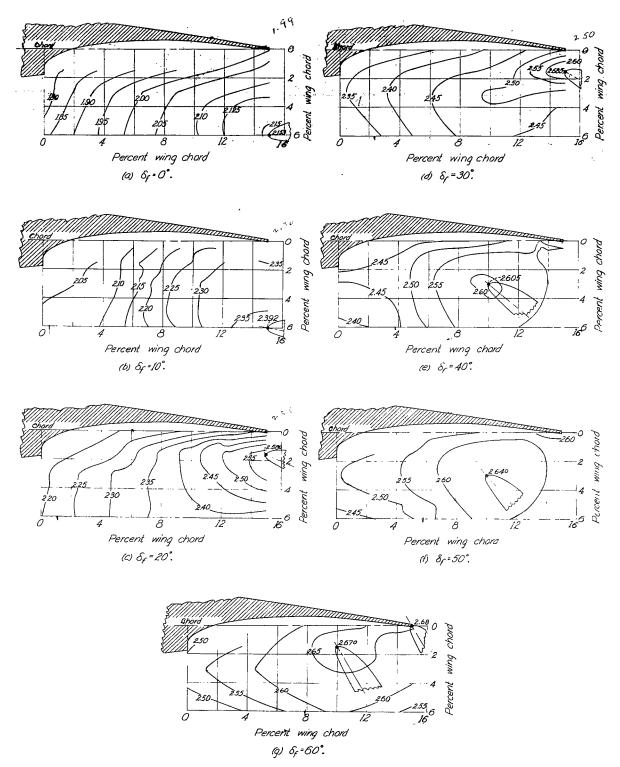


Figure 3. -Contours of flap location for contours of flap location for contours. The O.15c balanced split Clark Y flap.



Fig. 4.

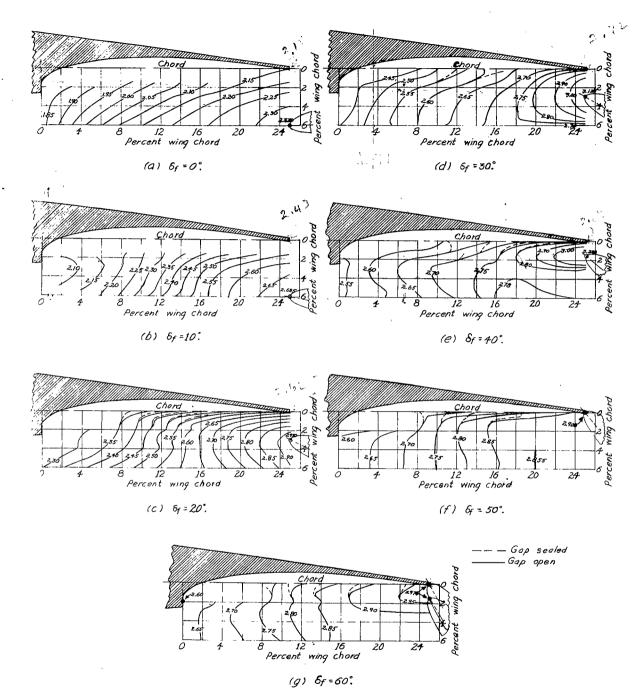


Figure 4. - Contours of flap location for Cimox. The 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap.

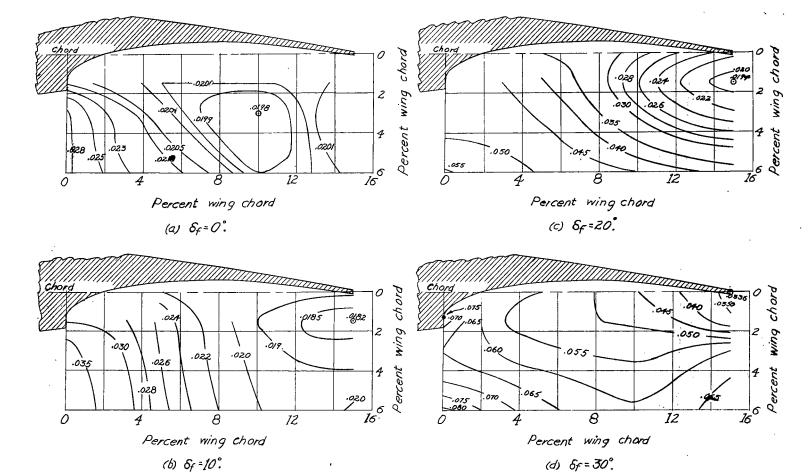


Figure 5. -Contours of flap location for cd. The 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap. c; = 1.0.



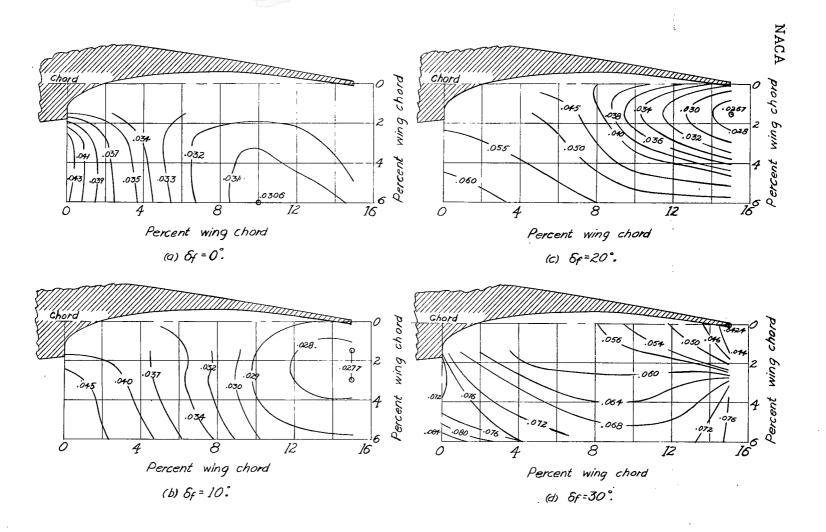
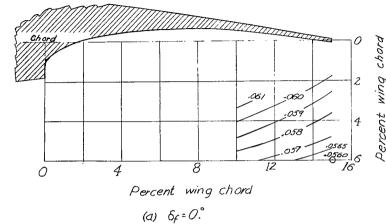
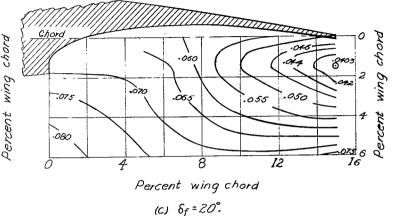
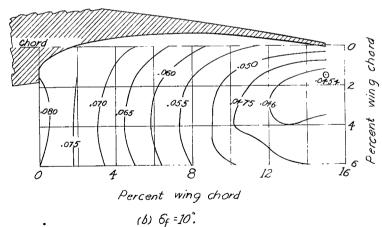


Figure 6. -Contours of flap location for  $c_d$ . The 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_7 = 1.5$ .







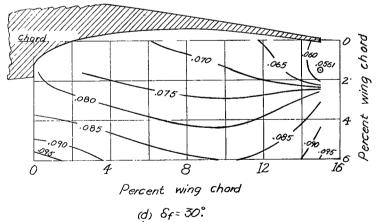
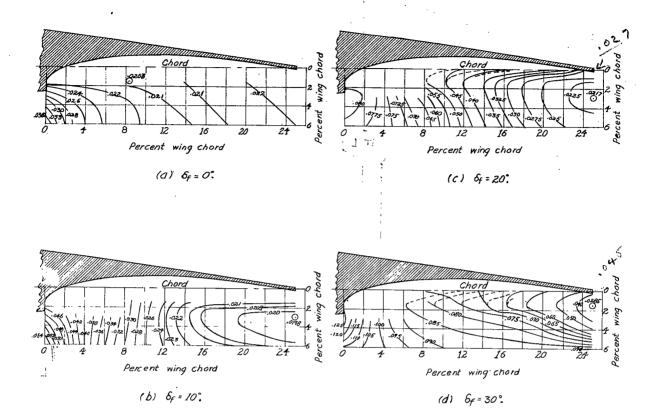


Figure 7. -Contours of flap location for  $c_0$ :

The 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_7 = 2.0$ .



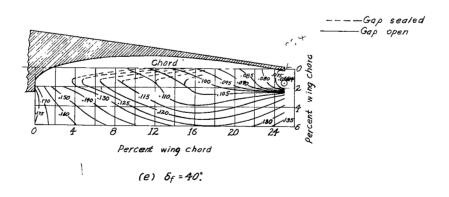
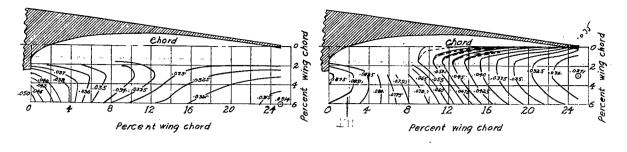


Figure 8. - Contours of flap location for ca. The 025c balanced split Clark Y flap. c.=1.0.

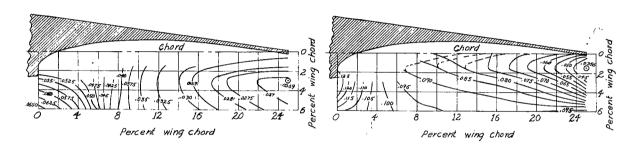
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Fig. 9.



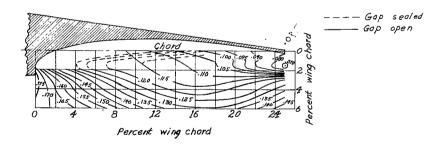
(a) 8f = 0:

(C) 8f=20:



(b) 6f = 10:

(d) Sf = 30.°



(e) 6f=40:

Figure 9. - Contours of flap location for  $c_d$ . The 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_i$ =1.5.

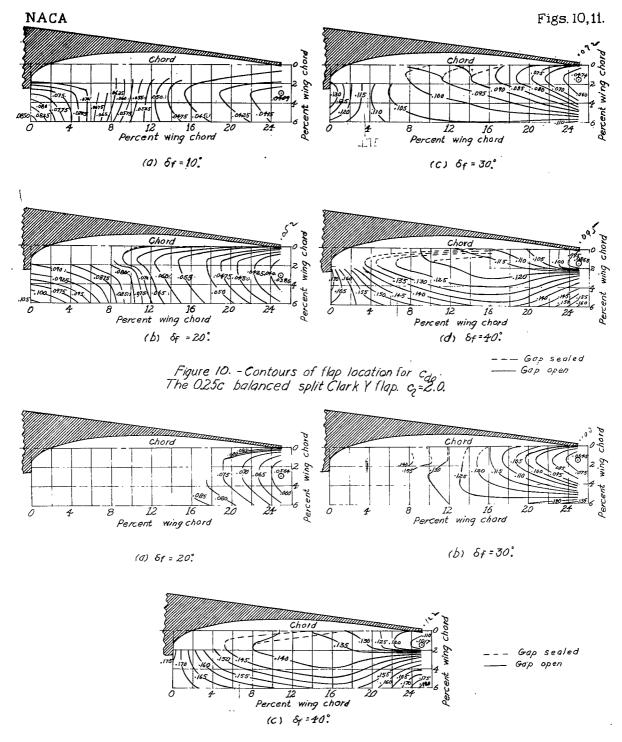


Figure II. - Contours of flap location for  $c_{do}$ . The 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap  $c_{\rm c}$ =2.5.

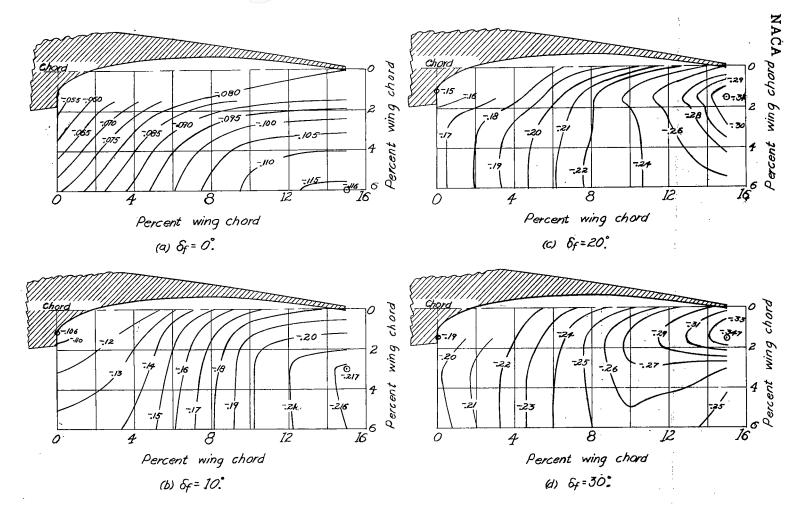


Figure 12. -Contours of flap location for  $c_{m (a.c.)}$ . The 0.15 c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_{i} = 1.0$ .

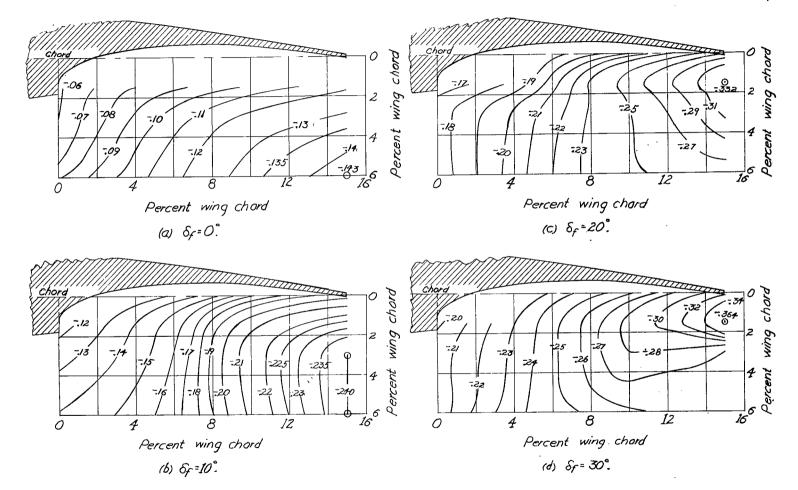


Figure 13. -Contours of flap location for  $c_{max}$ . The 0.15 c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_7 = 1.5$ .

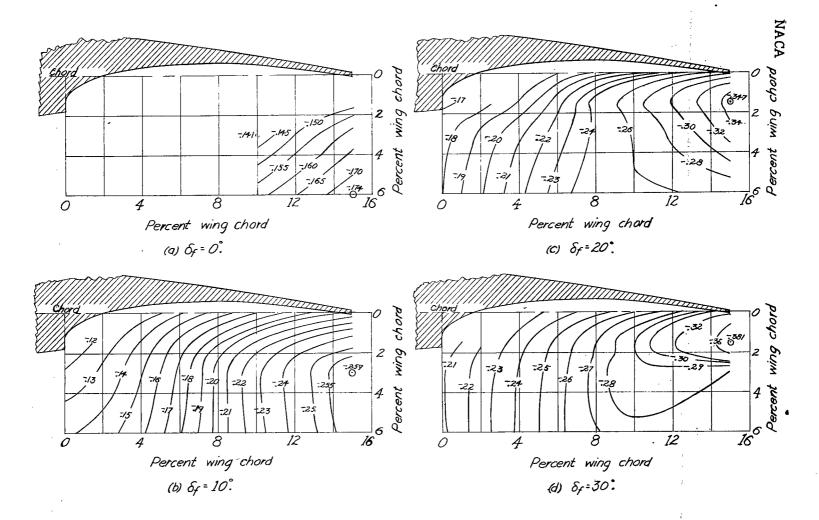
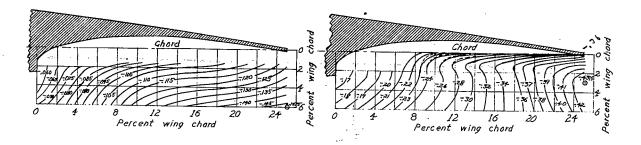


Figure 14. -Contours of flap location for  $c_{m.(a.c.)}$ .
The 0.15 c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_2 = 2.0$ .

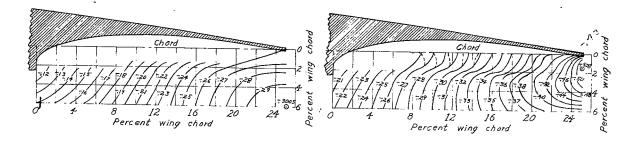
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Fig. 15.



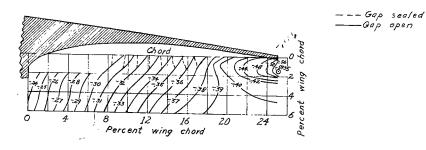
(a) Sf = 0:

(C) δf =20°



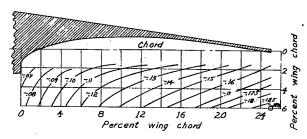
(b) Sf =10:

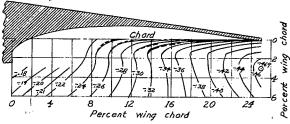
(d) 8f = 30°.



(e) 8f =40°.

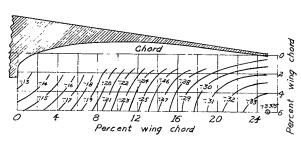
Figure 15. - Contours of flap location for  $c_{m(c,c)}$ . The 025c balanced split Clark Yflap.  $c_{\zeta}=1.0$ .

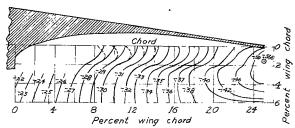




(a) 8f = 0:

(C) &f =20:

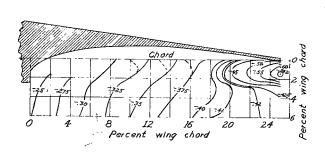




(b) 8f = 10:

(d) 8f = 30°.

-- Gap seoled



(e) Sf = 40°.

Figure 16. - Contours of that location for  $c_{m_{\alpha,e,o}}$ . The 0.25 c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_{\rm c}$ =1.5.

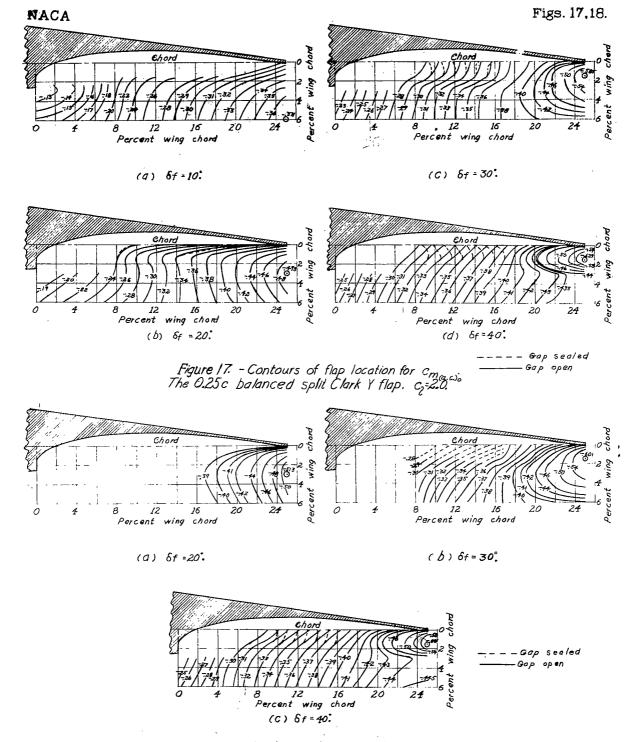


Figure 18. - Contours of flap location for  $c_{max}$ . The 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $c_1$ =2.5.



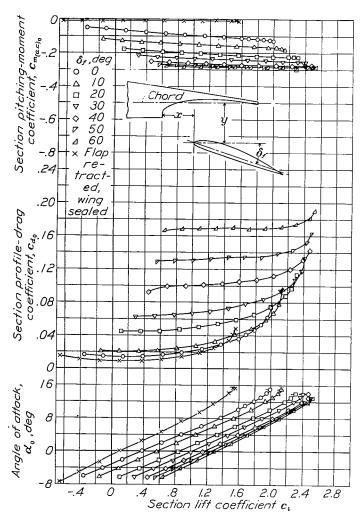


Figure 19.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.05c, y = 0.06c.

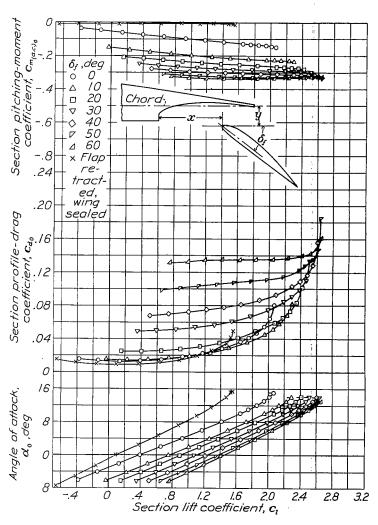


Figure 20.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.10c, y = 0.03c.

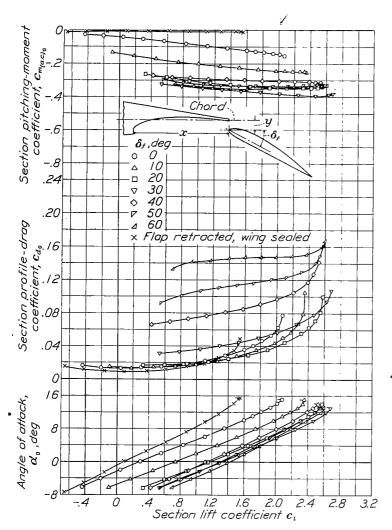


Figure 21.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.15c, y = 0.015c.

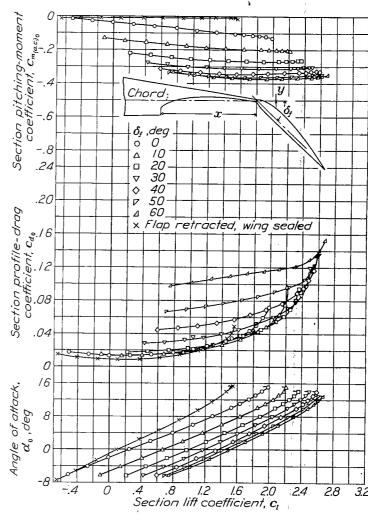


Figure 22.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.15c, y = 0.



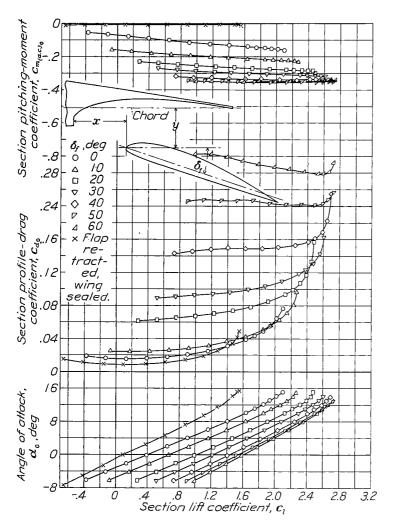


Figure 23.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.0833c, y = 0.06c.

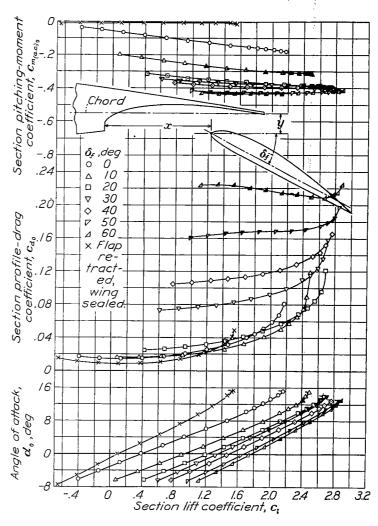


Figure 24.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.1667c, y = 0.03c.



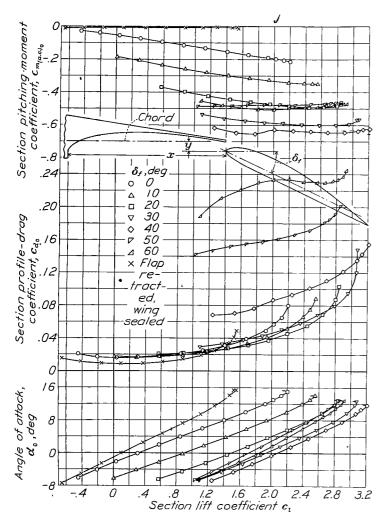


Figure 25.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap.  $\mathbf{x} = 0.25c$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = 0.015c$ .

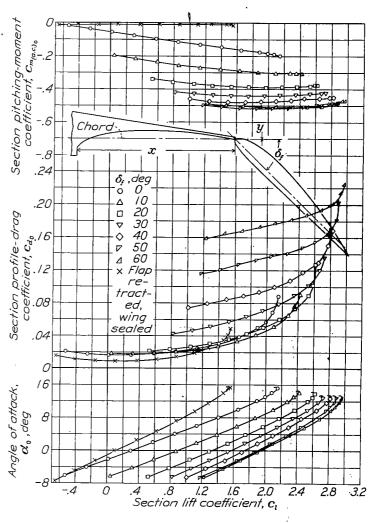


Figure 26.- Aerodynamic section characteristics. The NACA 23012 airfoil with the 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap. x = 0.25c, y = 0.

Figure 27.- Comparison of profile-drag coefficients. The 0.15c balanced split Clark Y flap.

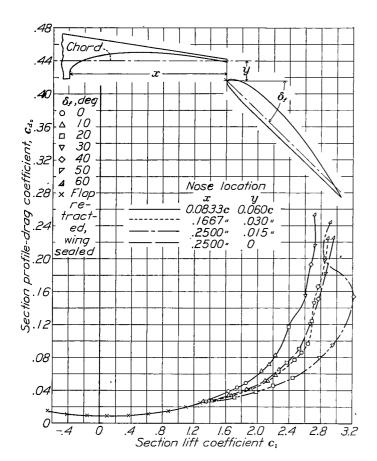


Figure 28.- Comparison of profile-drag coefficients. The 0.25c balanced split Clark Y flap.

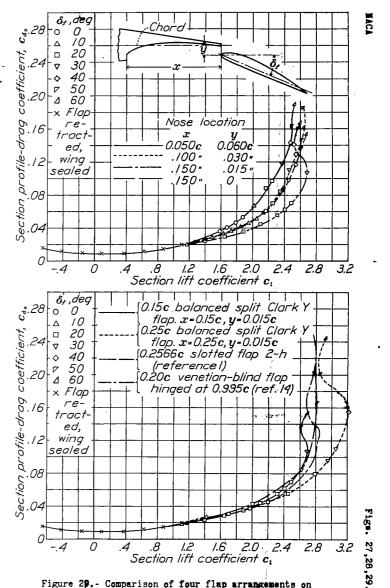


Figure 29. - Comparison of four flap arrangements on NACA 23012 airfeil.

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