

Review of 2D buffet simulations on OAT15A profile



F. Sartor, C. Fournis (presenter)

ONERA - DAAA/ACI

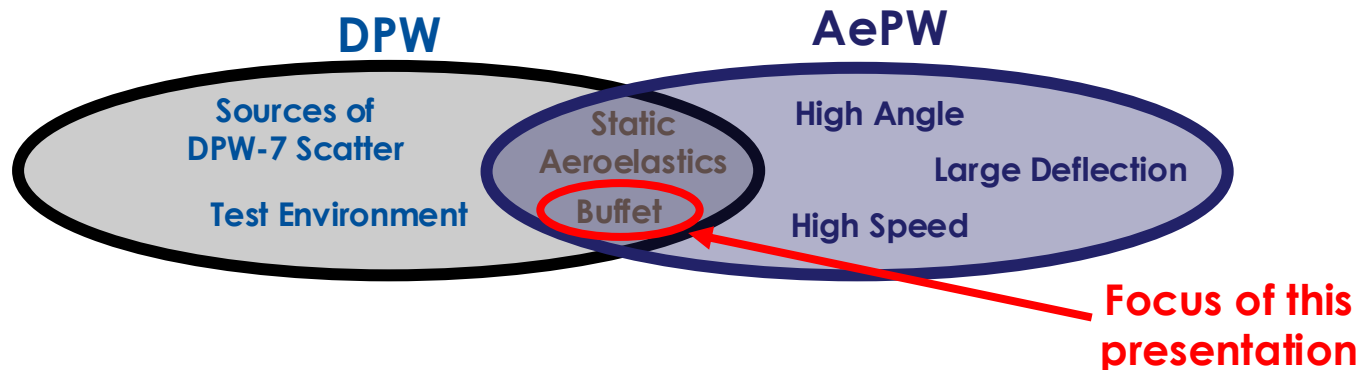
June 2026



Outline

- Introduction
 - Overview work performed on OAT15A within DPW-8
 - Grids and approach
- Simulations using *e/sA*
 - Steady-state simulations
 - Time-accurate simulations
- Comparison with experimental data
- Conclusions

Introduction: DPW-8



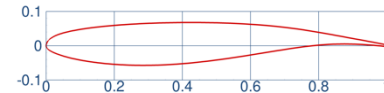
DPW and AePW

- ONERA involved in many activities, mainly in DPW
- DAAA/ACI contributed to Buffet and Scatter Working Group (elsA and CODA)

WG#3 Buffet

- Test case 1: OAT15A simulations (steady/unsteady)
- Test case 2 and 3: CRM, not discussed here

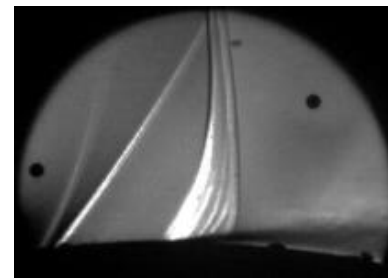
Introduction: Test case 1



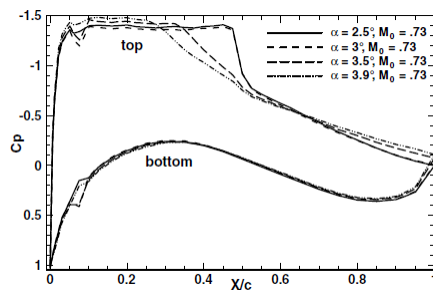
OAT15A

→ Reference for 2D buffet since Jacquin et al. (2009)

- ONERA shared CAD files with geometry details
- Experimental data: C_p , $C_{p_{rms}}$, time-history signals, PSD
- Some 2D grids also provided by the workshop (Cadence, HeldenMesh, ONERA)



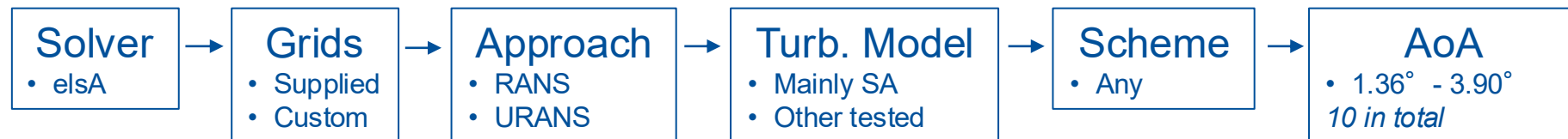
Experiments from Jacquin et al



Experiments indicated buffet onset around 3.5°

- What solver can reproduce it? On which grid?
- What can be delivered using different approaches?
- Best practices for turbulent models, numerical schemes, limiters?

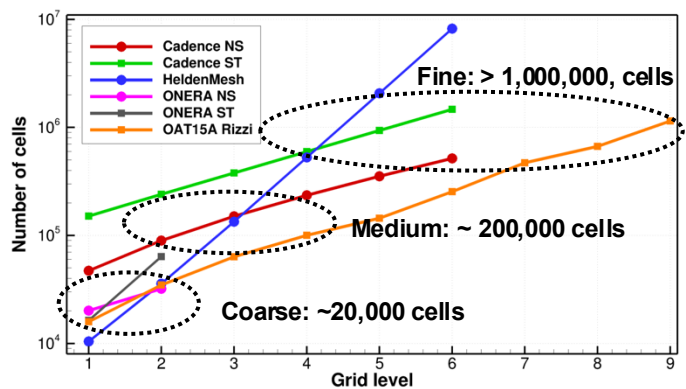
In this presentation:



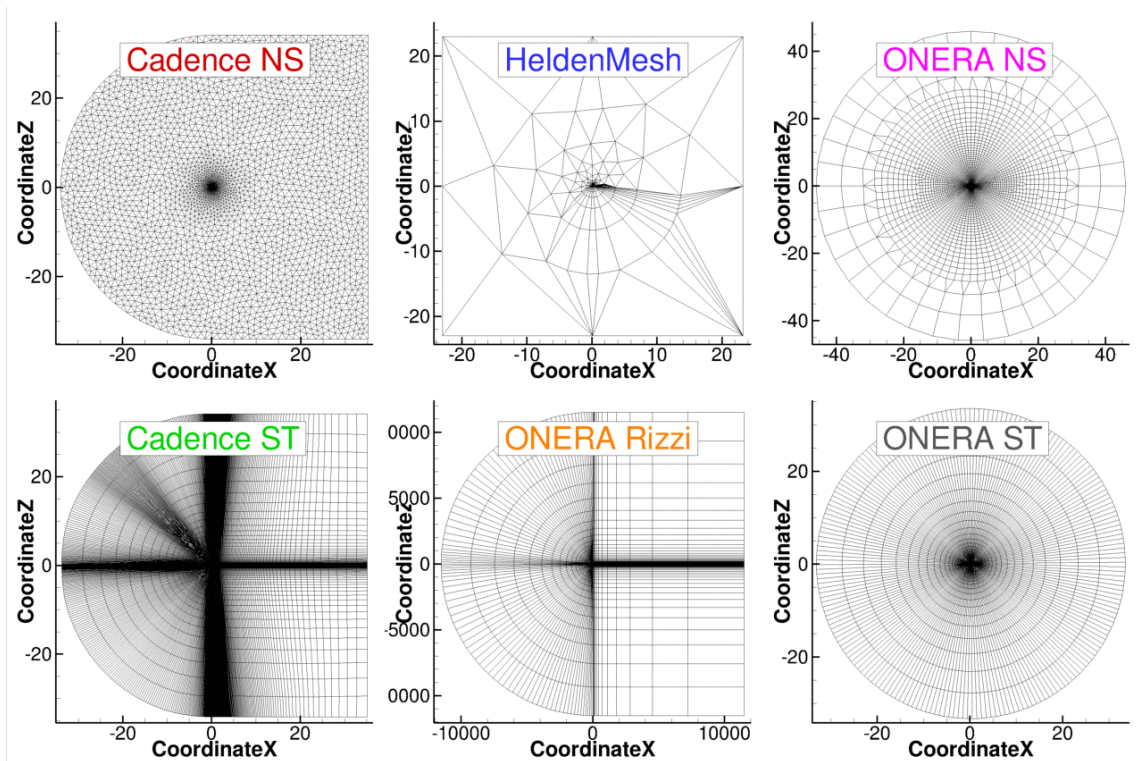
Introduction: available grids

6 families, 30 grids in total:

- Cadence (unst.): 6 levels
- Helden Mesh (unst.): 6 levels
- ONERA O-grid (unst.) : 2 levels
- Cadence (st): 6 levels
- ONERA O-grid (st): 2 levels
- ONERA Rizzi (st): 9 levels



Number of cells vs grid level



Introduction: simulations completed

elsA code:

- Co-developed by ONERA and Safran
- Finite volume, centered cells, RANS/URANS approach
- Structured or unstructured, depending on the grid
- Intensively used for buffet simulations since many years, both in 2D and 3D

First approach:

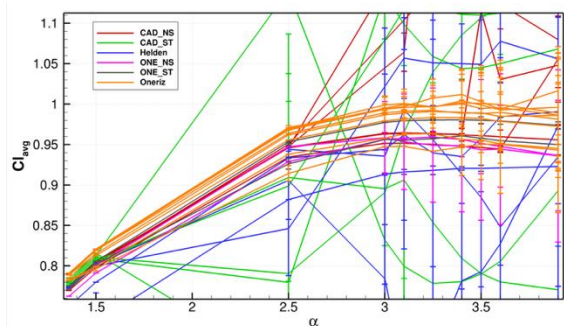
- test ALL the grids in RANS/URANS using the same “standard” parameters, for all AoA
- ONERA best practices have second order in both conservative and turbulent fluxes
 - This does not yield buffet! Not even one grid, one AoA, for all the turbulence models tested
 - Decided to use first order turbulence
 - This behavior have already been observed with elsA in the past for 2D and 3D buffet simulations

Final approach:

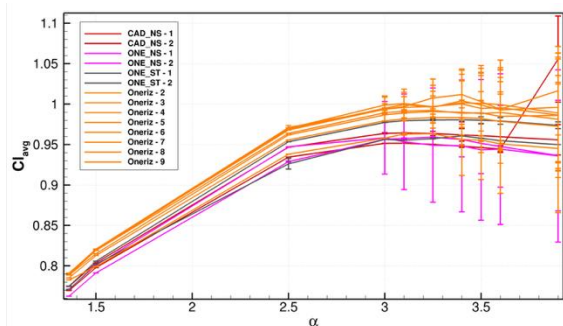
- elsA solver, RANS on most grids, SA, Roe scheme, all AoA
- First order on turbulent fluxes
- Run of roughly 300 steady and 300 unsteady cases
- Additional 100 parametric simulations changing some parameters, only on AoA=3.5°
- Conclusions analyzing and comparing the “only” 15 cases that show buffet at 3.5°

RANS results using elsA

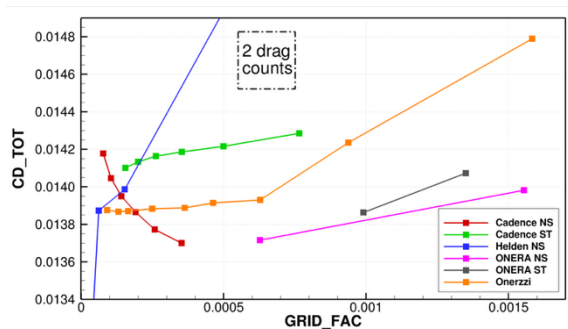
Result example of **steady-state** simulation, using **all grids**, elsA solver using standard best practices



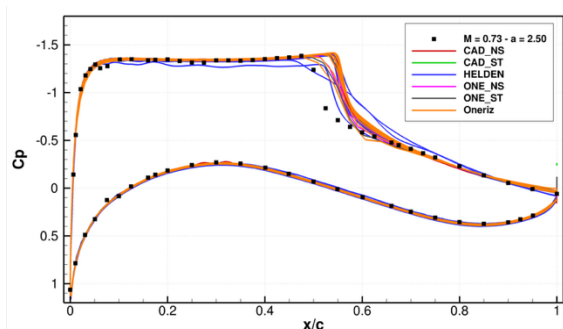
Some cases still not converging at all



Polars for cases that converge at low AoA



Grid convergence at 1.36 deg only for "Oneriz"



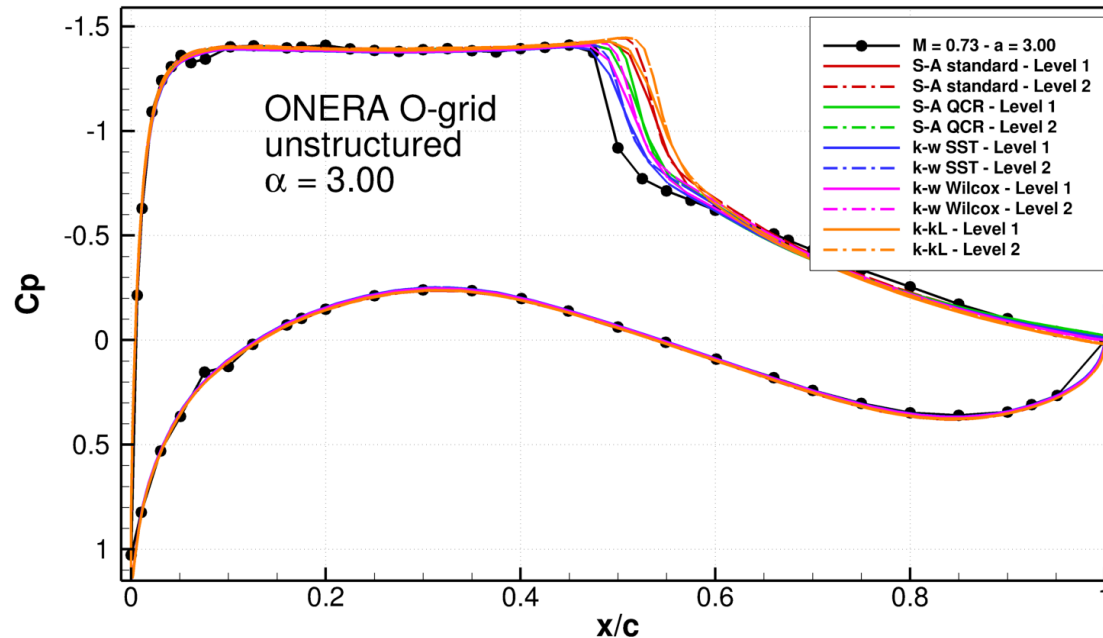
Cp at $AoA = 2.50^\circ$ for all grids

- Cl vs α . Error bars showing Cl_{std}
- Low-dissipation setup not converging
- Down-selection of converging grids
- Still a lot of grid dependency
- Some grids are unsteady already at 3.0°

- Grid convergence: only ONERA-Rizzi grid shows some sort of grid convergence
- Reasonable comparison with exp. data
- No grid has correct shock location with this combination of model/limiter

RANS results using elsA

Focus on ONERA O-grids (2 levels): effect of turbulence model for AoA = 3.00°



Turbulence model and grid dependency for ONERA O-grid (unstructured)

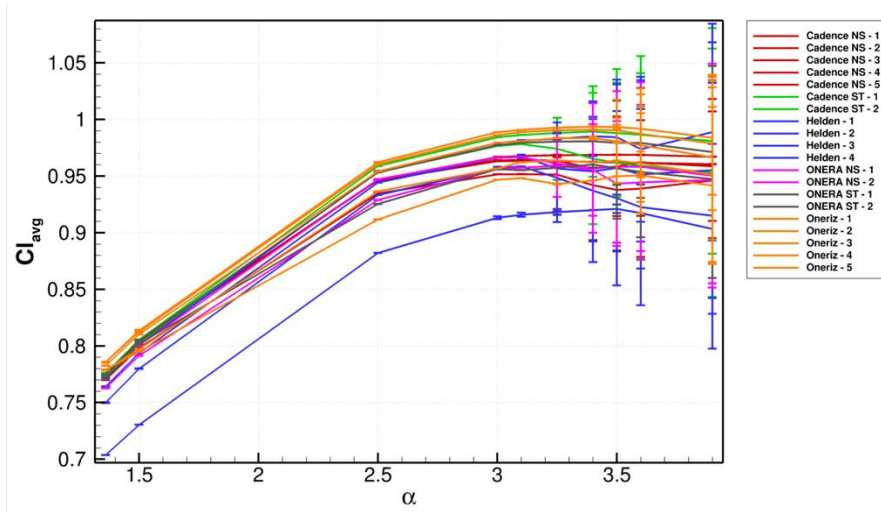
Conclusions:

- As expected, turbulence-model dependency
- k-w SST closer to experiments than SA, but shock still too downstream
- Different results when changing grid
- Model dependency more important than grid dependency

RANS reliable only for small
angles of attack:
need for time-accurate simulations

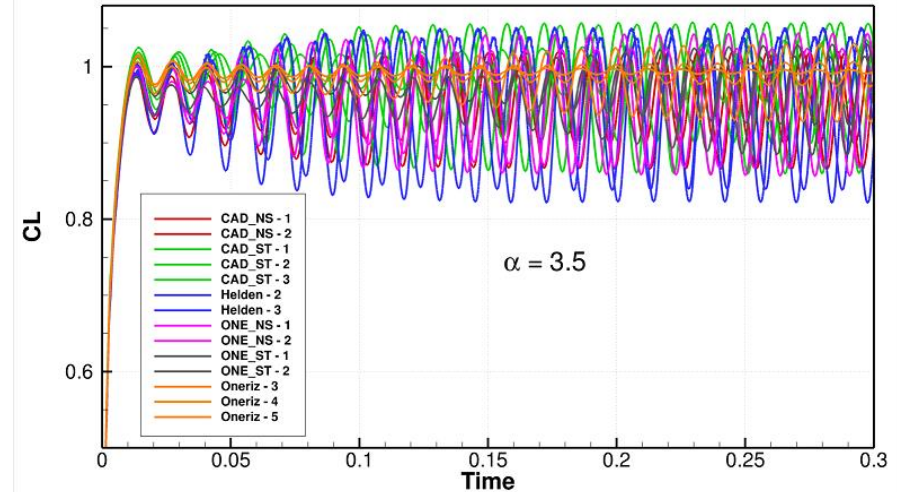
URANS results using elsA: time-accurate simulations

Lift polars still not showing grid convergence
Some agreement about buffet onset



Polars of average Cl , error bars with std of lift (unsteady cases)

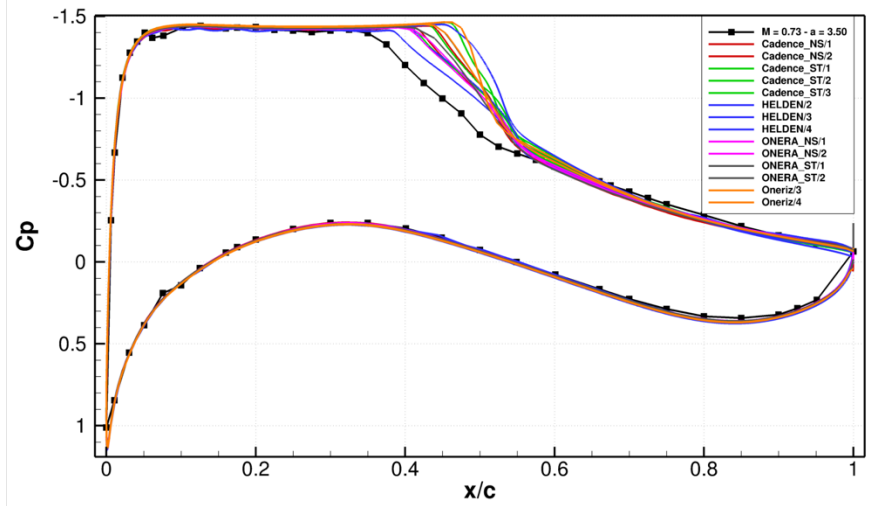
Time-history of lift coefficient quite similar in transient, average Lift and buffet frequency, different amplitudes



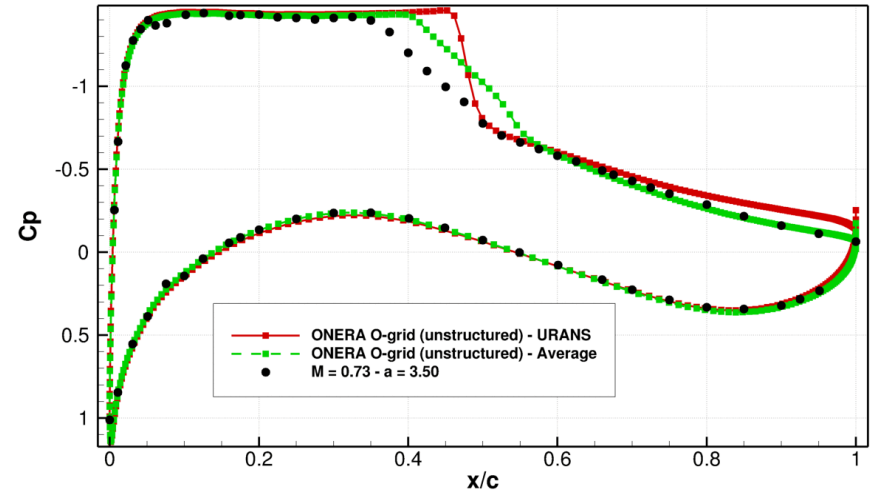
Typical Cl -iterations for all unsteady cases when $AoA = 3.50$

URANS results using elsA: average Cp

Focus on all grids, using best practices for time-accurate simulations. AoA = 3.50°



Average Cp distribution for all unsteady cases

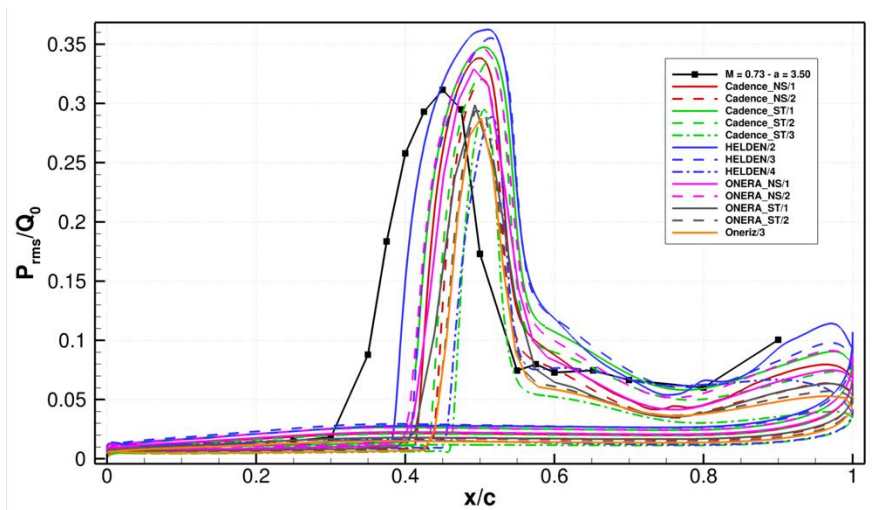


Animation of Cp distribution vs average on ONERA O-grid, AoA = 3.50°

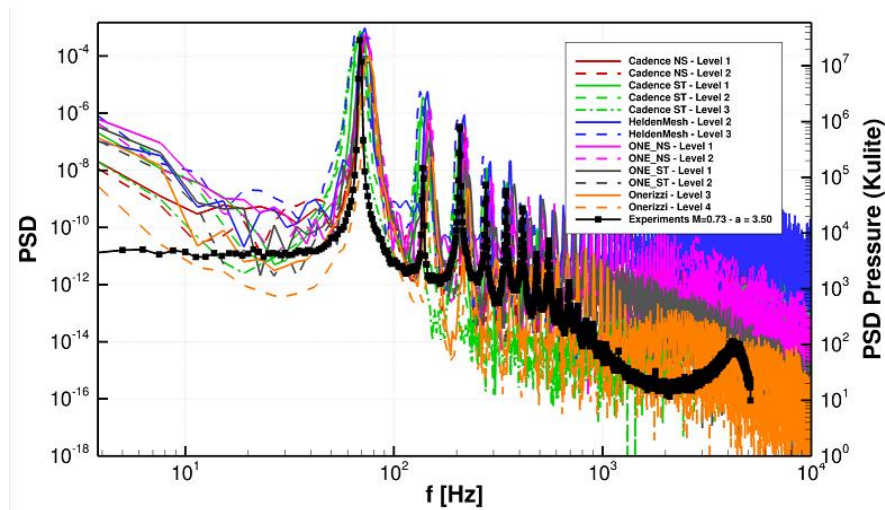
- Shock location always downstream w.r.t. experiments among the 14 grids showing buffet at 3.50°
- All other grids yields steady solutions (no shock movements)
- Favorable comparison elsewhere: upstream shock, downstream separation, pressure side, LE, TE

URANS results using elsA: fluctuations

Focus on all grids, using best practices for time-accurate simulations. AoA = 3.50°



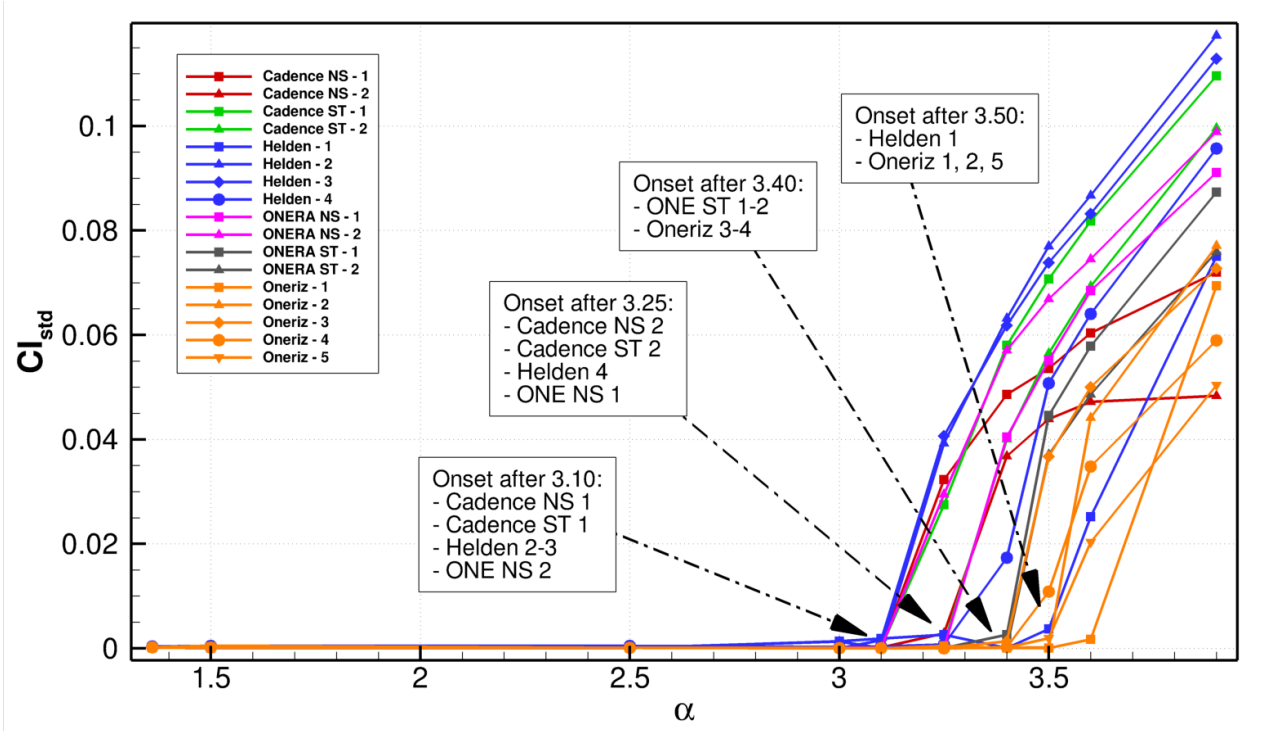
RMS on suction side for all unsteady cases at 3.50°



Power Spectral density of all unsteady cases at 3.50°

- RMS show shock downstream, but similar amplitudes
- Good agreement in separated region
- Power Spectral Density: very good agreement for the main buffet frequency

URANS results using elsA: buffet onset



Buffet onset criterion: increase of STD of lift coefficient

- Buffet criterion: CL oscillations
- No grid convergence
- Coarse grids: onset sooner
- Unst. grids: ~ onset sooner
- Some grids never show buffet!

Conclusion: very hard to select the best grid or refinement level

Conclusions

Recap of work performed:

- Started elsA “best practices”, no buffet at all
- Moved to second order for conservatives, first for turbulent equation(s):
 - RANS: poor residual convergence for high AoA, need for time-accurate simulations
 - URANS: tested all grids with “standard best practices” (only few of them are unsteady)
 - URANS: some extra simulations for tStep, inner-iterations, model, scheme

Conclusions

- Very strong grid dependency, even at low AoA:
 - When changing the grid, the behavior changes
 - No grid convergence: if we refine we get different results
- Time-step and inner iteration:
 - Fairly stable. Minimum number of iteration per period required
- Buffet simulations:
 - Shock always slightly downstream w.r.t. experiments
 - Buffet frequency and shock amplitudes fairly well captured and consistent
 - Onset depends both on grid family and grid level
- “Best grid”: hard to tell, but O-grids (20-40k cells/vertex) can give satisfying results

