



## 6. Turn performance

As said, maneuverability is the ability to quickly change velocity vector, in other words, direction of flight and magnitude of aircraft speed.

Most missiles, having cruciform configuration (two pairs of wings and tails or without wings at all) can equally maneuver in any plane, without any bank angle. Since airplanes have wings in one plane, they can make significant turns only in one plane. Lateral turns with fuselage lift is possible but with not more than about 1.5 (g) load factor because of limited rudder (and aileron) control power and tail structural strength to trim that sideforce. Some of the most maneuverable missiles depend just on fuselage lift to turn at 30 g at high speed. At very high angle of attack body lift is significant as is vertical component of thrust which augments lift.





Lift coefficient is used to cover wing form factor and the lift of other surfaces.

Stall can be defined as breakdown in dynamic directional stability.

Although static directional stability (Cn $\beta$ ) can be negative at 10-20°  $\alpha$  depending on Mach number, directional (yaw) divergence and subsequent roll off may still not occur. When aircraft starts sideslipping, the lateral stability will produce rolling moment due to sideslip (and due to yawing velocity) which will develop opposing yawing moment due to rolling

velocity (adverse yaw). In other words lateral stability could compensate the loss of directional stability depending on aircraft inertial and lateraldirectional characteristics. The response of the aircraft to static directional instability would be Dutch roll combined rolling-yawing oscillation (rocking) which will not result in roll off if parameter related to the Dutch roll frequency referred to as  $Cn\beta_{dynamic}$  or dynamic directional stability is positive.

 $Cn\beta_{dyn}$  (dynamic directional stability) =  $Cn\beta - (I_Z / I_X) * Cl\beta \sin \alpha$ 

 $(Cn\beta,Cl\beta - static directional and lateral stability; I_Z,I_X - aircraft moments of inertia about vertical and longitudinal axis)$ 



At very high  $\alpha$  the most important contributor to directional stability is nose (radome) shape. The depth to width ratio of the forebody and the curvature of the lower portion of the nose cross section determine whether vortex emanating from nose will be symmetrical.

Lift does not stop at stall angle of attack. Lift of supersonic configurations peaks at about  $30-35^{\circ}$   $\alpha$  and declines to zero at about  $90^{\circ}$ . Changes in longitudinal and lateral-directional stability are what defines max allowable angle of attack.



Assuming max lift coefficient is constant, at double the stall speed, F-4E will be capable aerodynamically to produce two squared i.e. four g.

The speed which will result in limit load factor, when aircraft flies at max  $\alpha$  is called maneuver speed or corner velocity.

Corner velocity = stall speed EAS \*  $\sqrt{(\text{limit load factor})}$ 

For example: corner velocity of slatted F-4E: 265 km/h \*  $\sqrt{7.8} = 740$  km/h (about 400 kt)

For comparison, air to air missiles of that age (AIM-9 or K-13) had stall speed of 420 km/h at Mach 2 and  $\alpha < 10^{\circ}$  (380 km/h at Mach 1.5) when motor burns out. Because of their proportional navigation laws that chase the predicted point of collision, large missile/target speed difference and the







