

Lecture – 7

*An Introduction to Basic Principles of  
Atmospheric Flight Mechanics*

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# *Aircraft Designs*

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# First to Fly

- Otto Lilienthal
  - First person to make repeated successful short flights
  - Used a fixed wing glider
  - Died after a crash in 1896, saying „Sacrifices must be made“

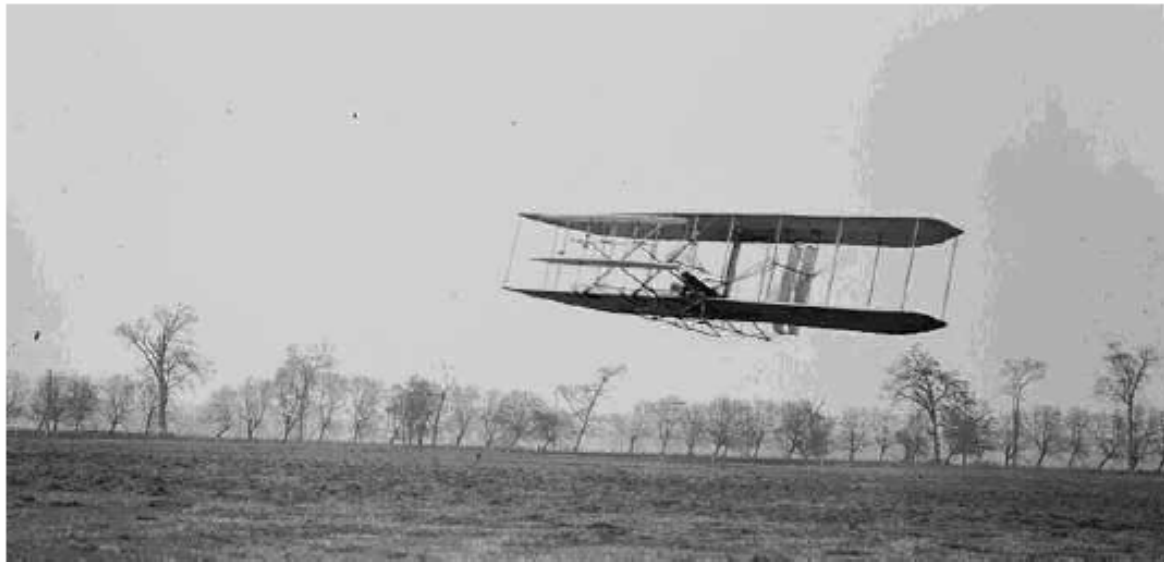


# Wright Brothers

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## Wright brothers

- Started as glider engineers and pilots
- First engine powered flight in 1903
- First to actively manipulate the plane by control surfaces



## Different airplane configurations

- Biplane:
  - More compact layout with shorter wingspan
  - Higher maneuverability
  - Very popular in the early days of aviation
  - But: more drag and less lift than a classical design with equal wing area



## Different airplane configurations

### Sailplane:

- Goal of energy efficiency and flight endurance
  - Large wingspan, low weight
  - Low speed
  - Low payload



# Commercial Aircrafts

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- High Lift/Drag ratio
- High fuel efficiency
- High reliability & safety requirements
- Good handling quality and passenger comfort
- All weather operational capability
- Speed and agility (maneuverability) are not critical



## Different airplane configurations

- Fighter aircraft:
  - Goal of high speed, high climbing rate, high maneuverability, stealthiness
    - Strong engines, short wings with high chord length, complex geometry, large control surfaces
    - High fuel consumption (and thus limited operating range)



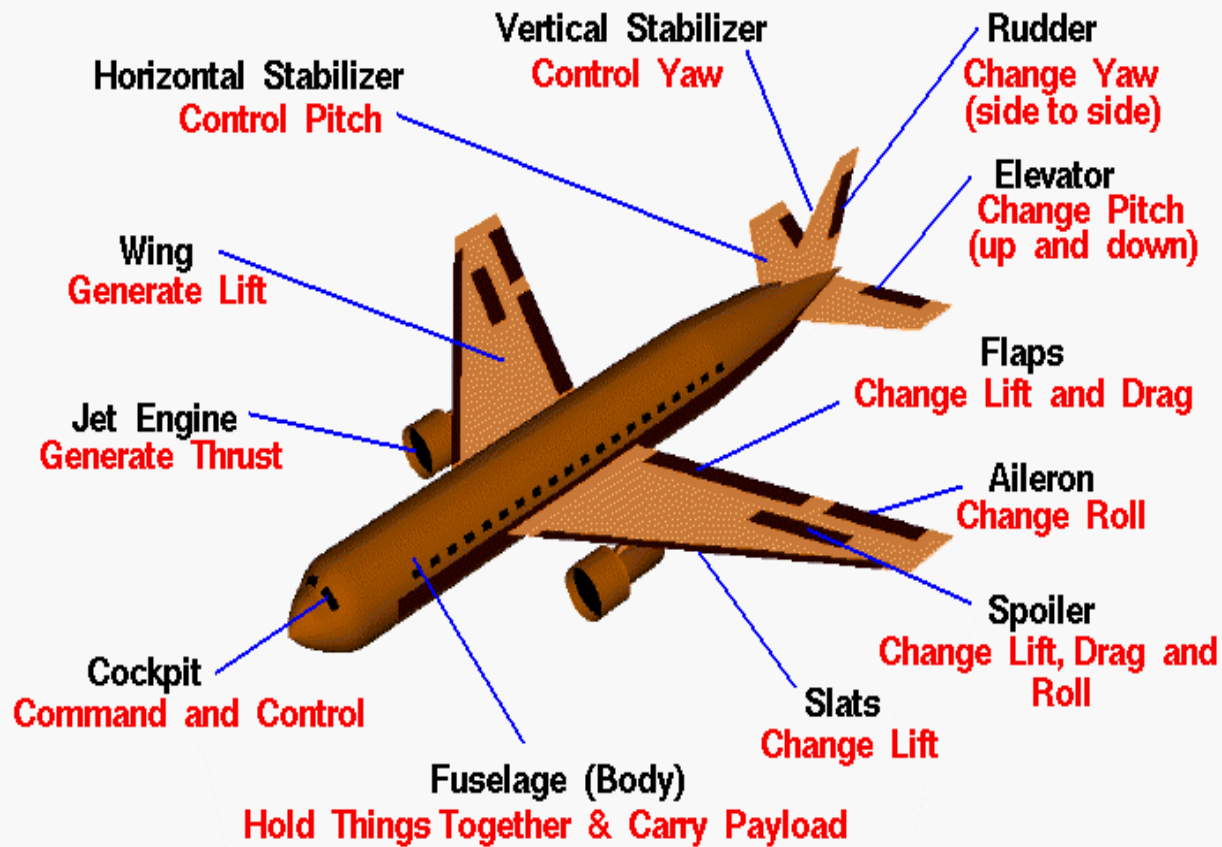


## Different airplane configurations

- Flying wing aircraft:
  - Most commonly used in the low to medium speed range
  - High stealth capabilities (low visibility for radar)
  - Fuel efficient due to low drag
  - Problem: no passenger windows (in commercial application)

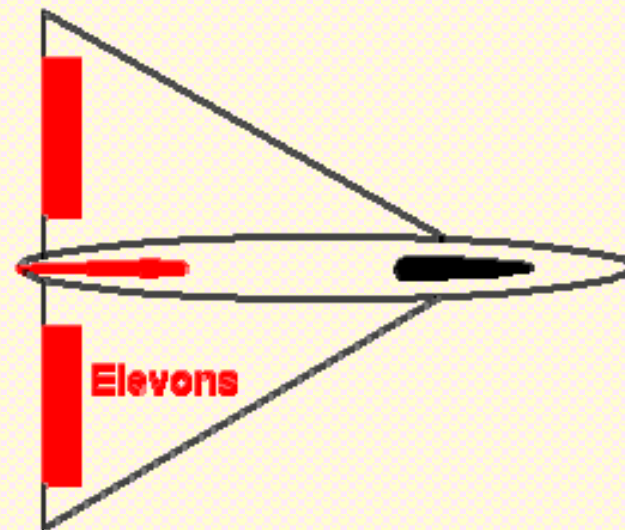


# Geometry of Conventional Aircrafts



# Tailless Aircraft

- On the tailless aircraft the pitch controls and roll controls must both be on the wing. There can be separate elevators and ailerons or they can be combined into one set of controls known as Elevons and still usually has a vertical Fin with a rudder



# Canard Aircraft

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- Horizontal stabilizer and elevators are in front.
- Advantage: Better control characteristics (including elimination of the non-minimum phase behavior)
- Drawback: Disturbed flow pattern over the body, good aerodynamic modeling is difficult.



# *Force Balance in Flying Vehicles*

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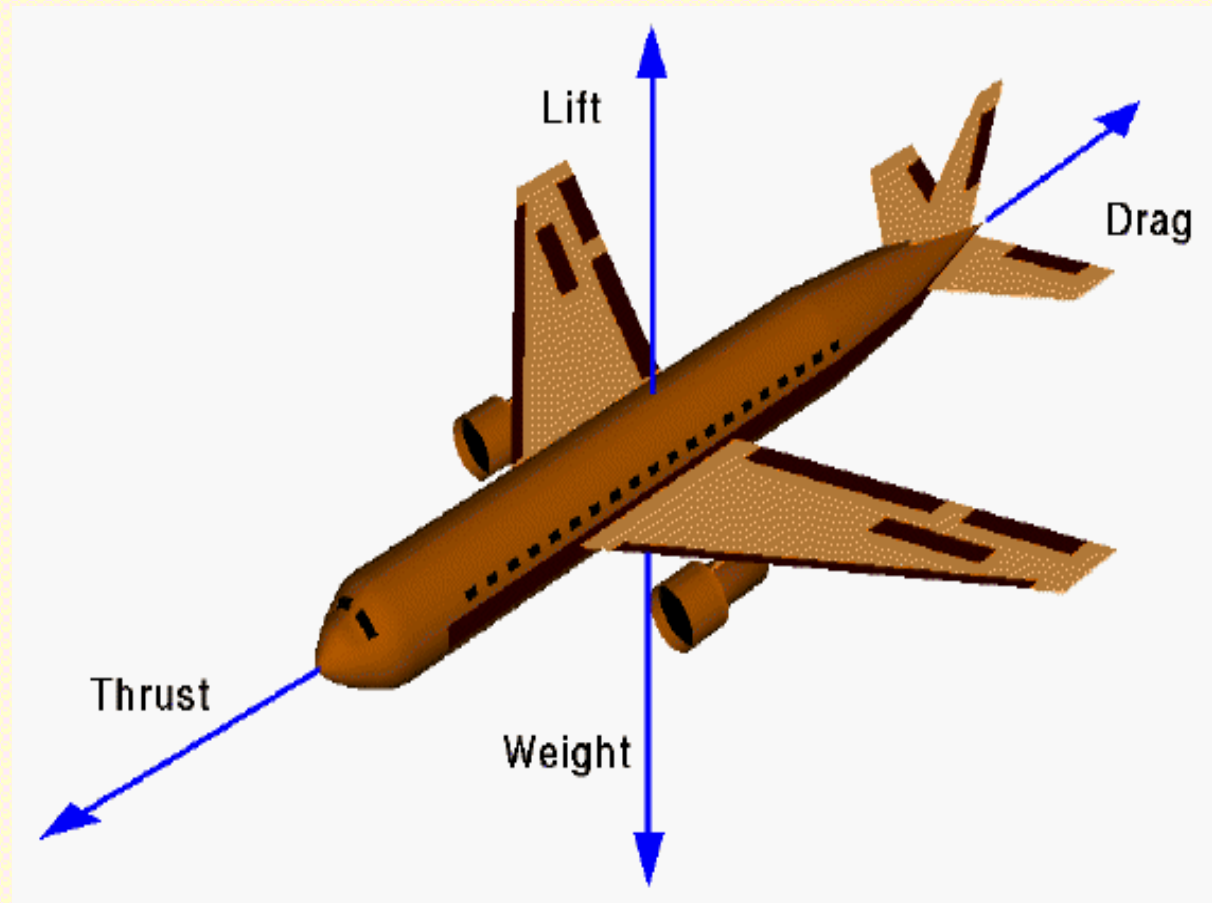
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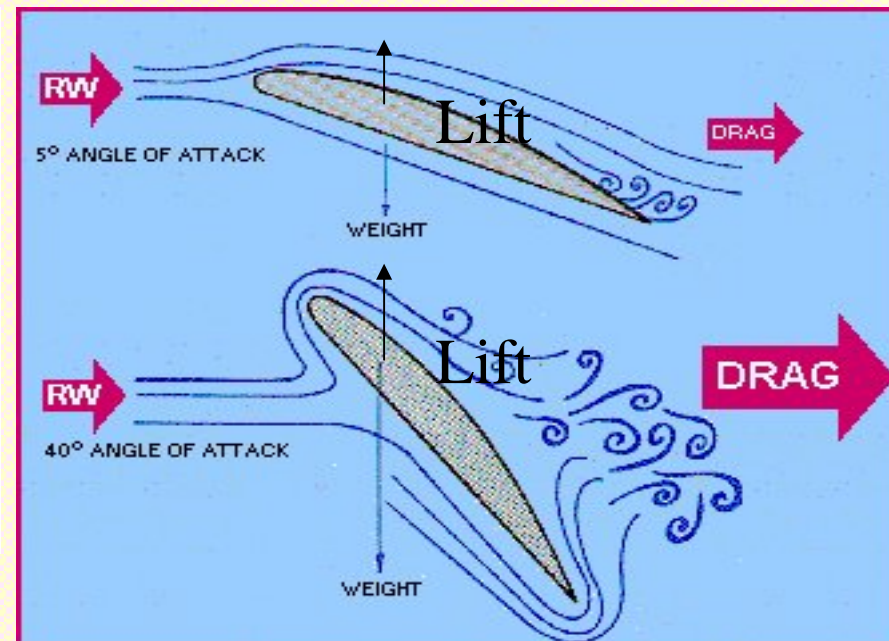
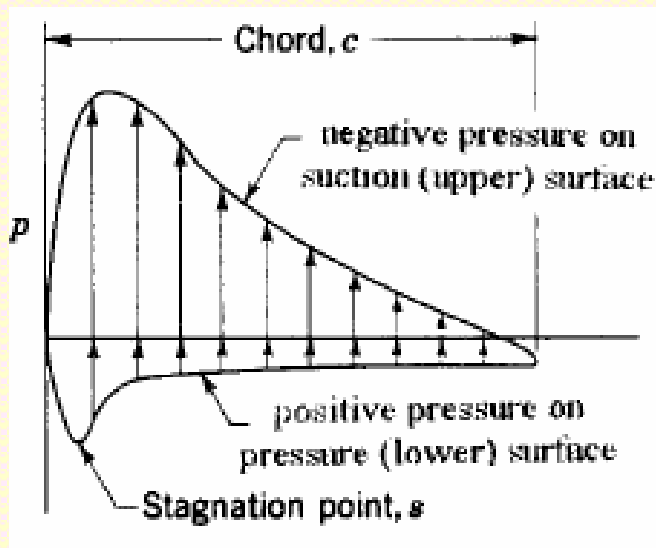
# Basic Force Balance

- Weight
- Lift
- Drag
- Thrust



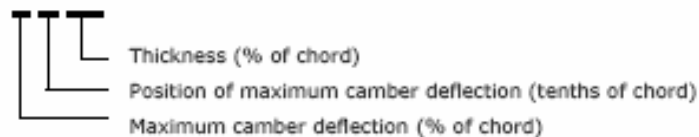
# Lift

- Lift is generated by differential pressure on upper and lower side of the wing



## Airfoil Theory in 2D

- There isn't any « **ideal** » airfoil
- The choice of an airfoil depends on:
  - Flying speed
  - Wing loading
  - Construction method
  - Kind of flight (acrobatic, glide,...)
  - Placement on the airplane
    - Ex: tail airfoils are always symmetrical
- Standard airfoils
  - Goettingen
  - Eppler
  - Naca
  - Example: NACA 2412



Symmetrical Airfoils



Semi-Symmetrical Airfoils



Under-Cambered Airfoils



Reflexed Airfoils



Flat-Bottom Airfoils





Lift

$$L = \bar{q} S C_L = \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 \right) S C_L$$

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$\rho(h)$  = atmospheric density (a function of height)

$V$  = relative velocity of air

$S$  = wetted surface area

$C_L$  = coefficient of lift

$\bar{q} = \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 \right)$ : Dynamic Pressure

# Dynamic pressure

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Total pressure of any fluid

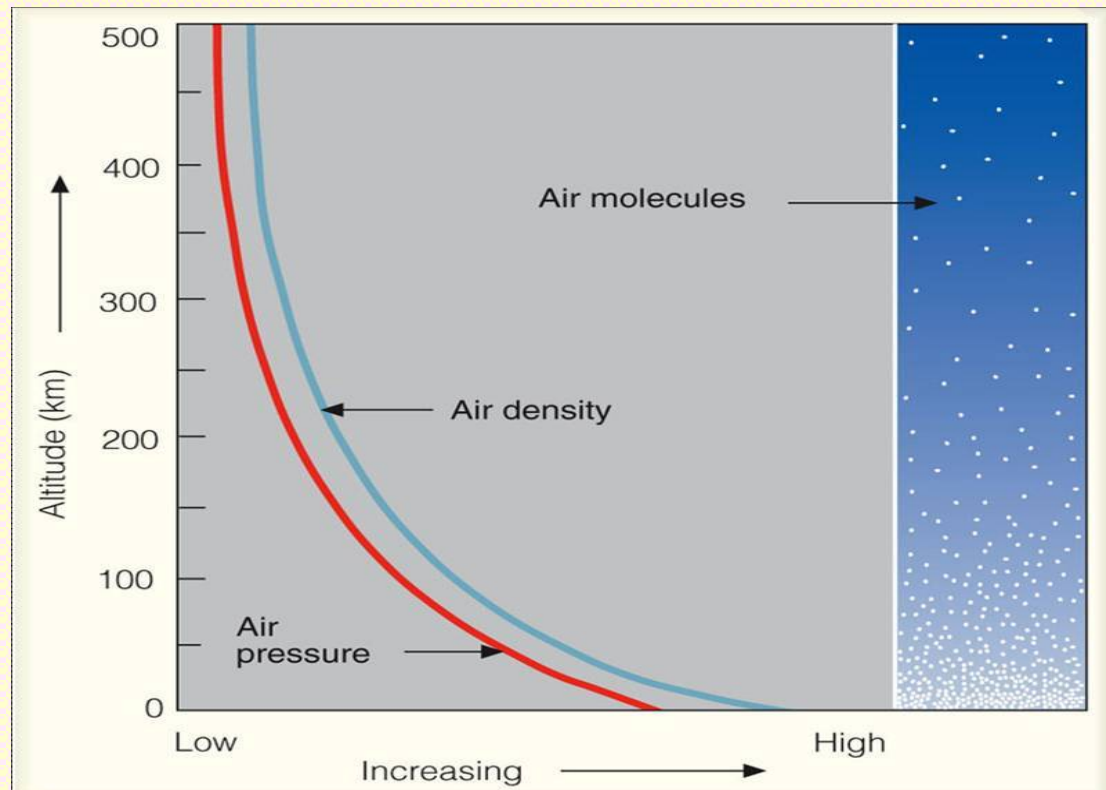
= static pressure + dynamic pressure

$$= \rho gh + \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2$$

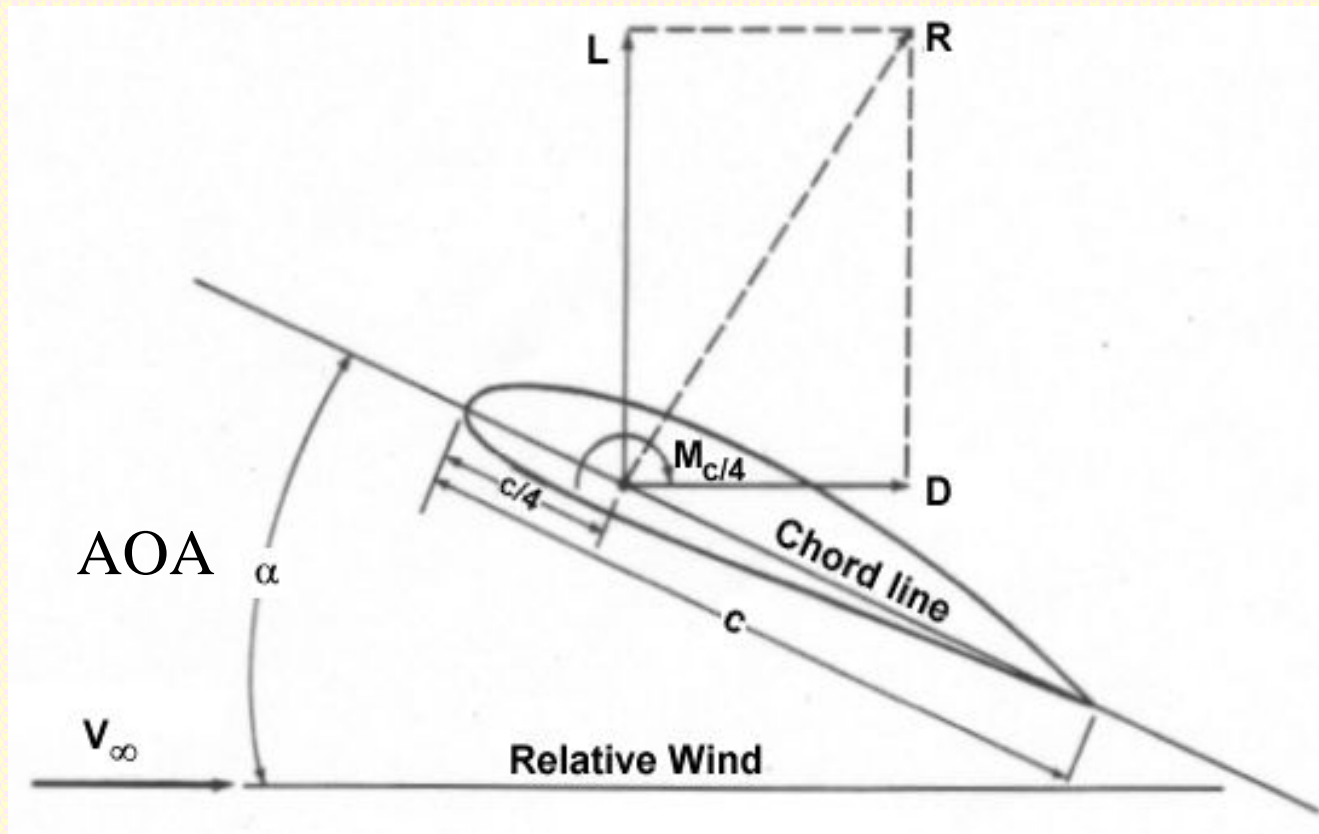
Dynamic pressure of a fluid represents its kinetic energy

# Atmospheric density

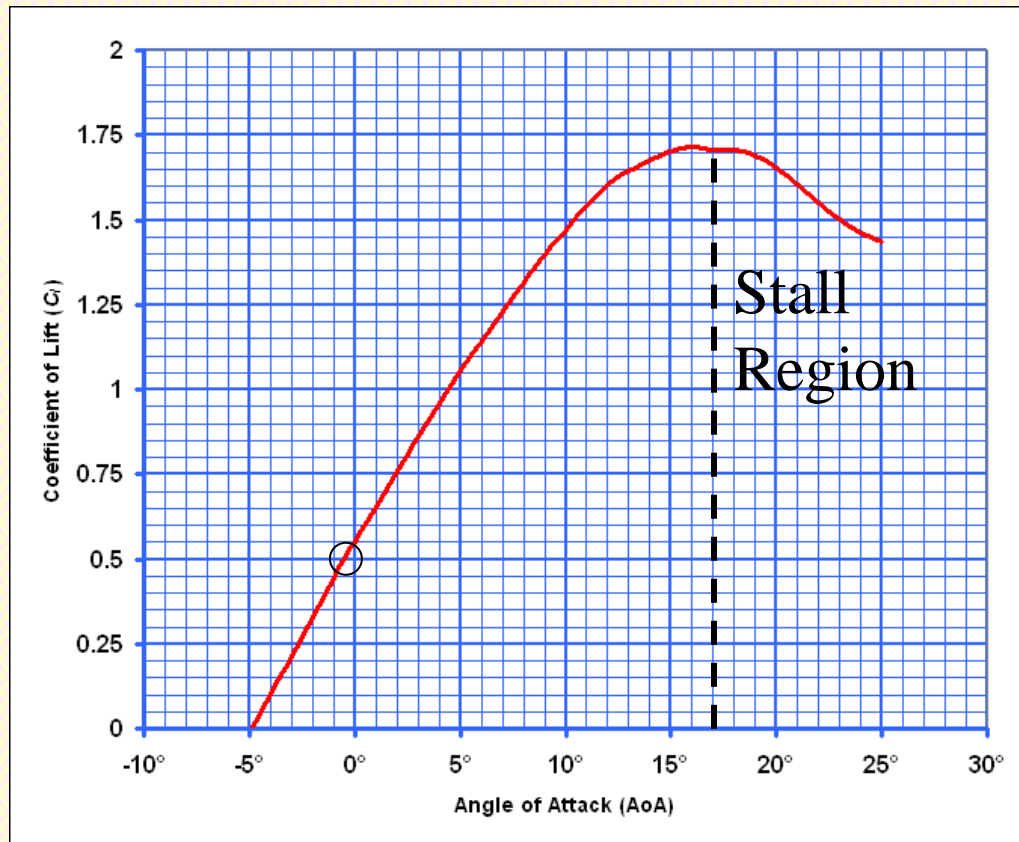
$$\rho = \rho_0 e^{-\left[\frac{g_0(h-h_0)}{RT}\right]}$$



# Angle of attack



# Coeff. of Lift vs Angle of attack



$$L = \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 \right) S C_L$$

Lift coefficient

# Drag

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$$D = \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 \right) S C_D$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_D &= \text{Coefficient of drag} \\ &= \text{profile drag} + \text{induced drag} \\ &= C_{D_0} + K C_L^2 \end{aligned}$$

## Mach Number $M = V / C$

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$V$  = velocity of object relative to medium

$C$  = velocity of sound in the medium

= velocity of sound in air = 340 m/s at 25<sup>0</sup> C

$$M < 1$$

Subsonic

$$C = \sqrt{\gamma RT} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma P}{\rho}}$$

$$M = 1$$

Sonic

$$0.8 < M < 1.2$$

Transonic

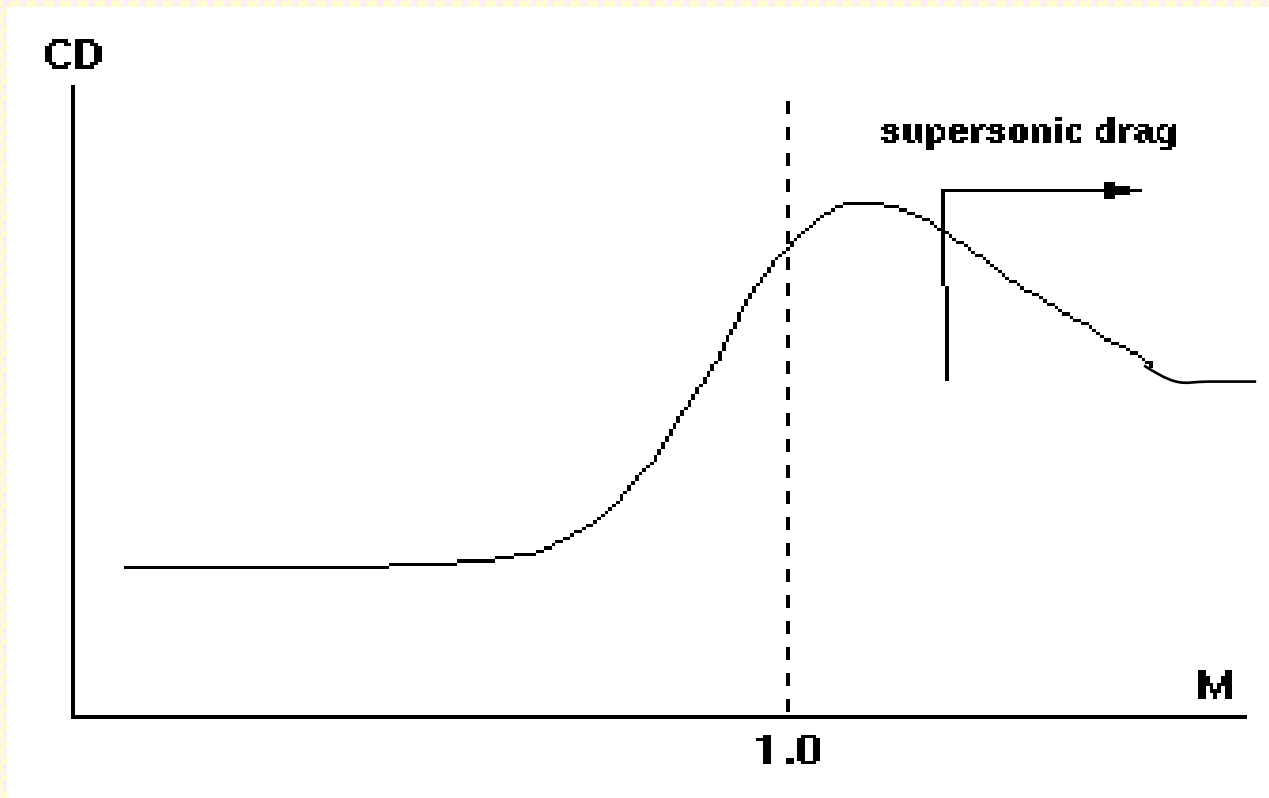
$$1.2 < M < 5$$

Supersonic

$$M > 5$$

Hypersonic

# Drag vs Mach number



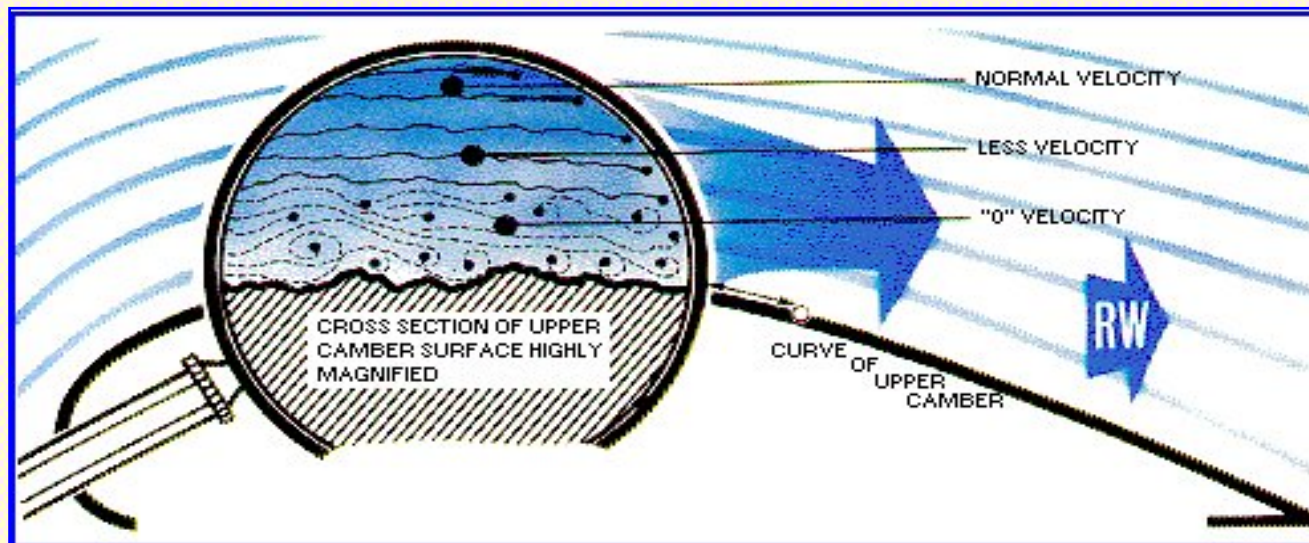


# Drag

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- Skin friction drag
- Pressure drag
- Induced drag

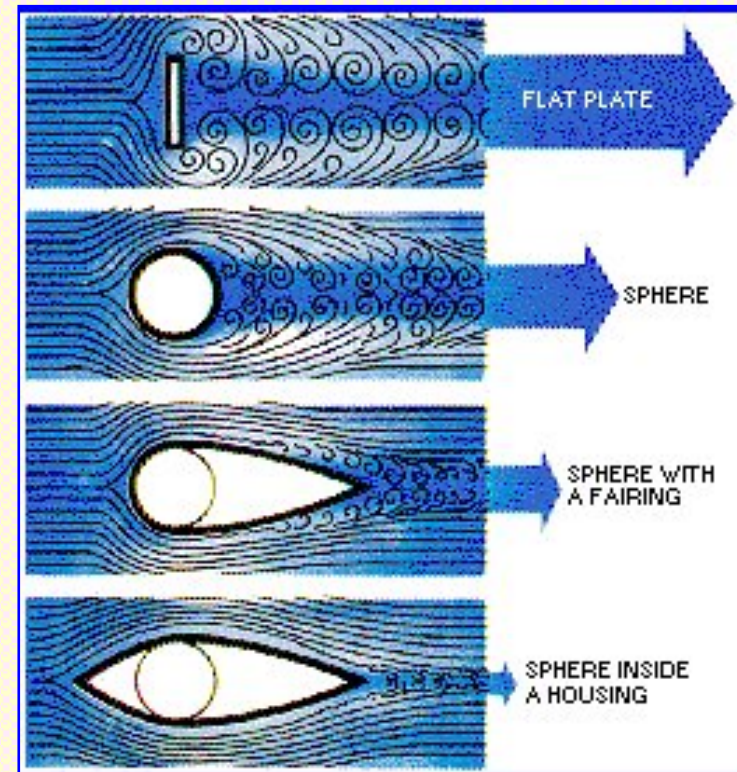
# Skin friction drag



- It is caused by the interaction of the air particles against the surface of the aircraft. For the airplane, skin friction drag can be reduced, by keeping an aircraft's surface highly polished and clean.

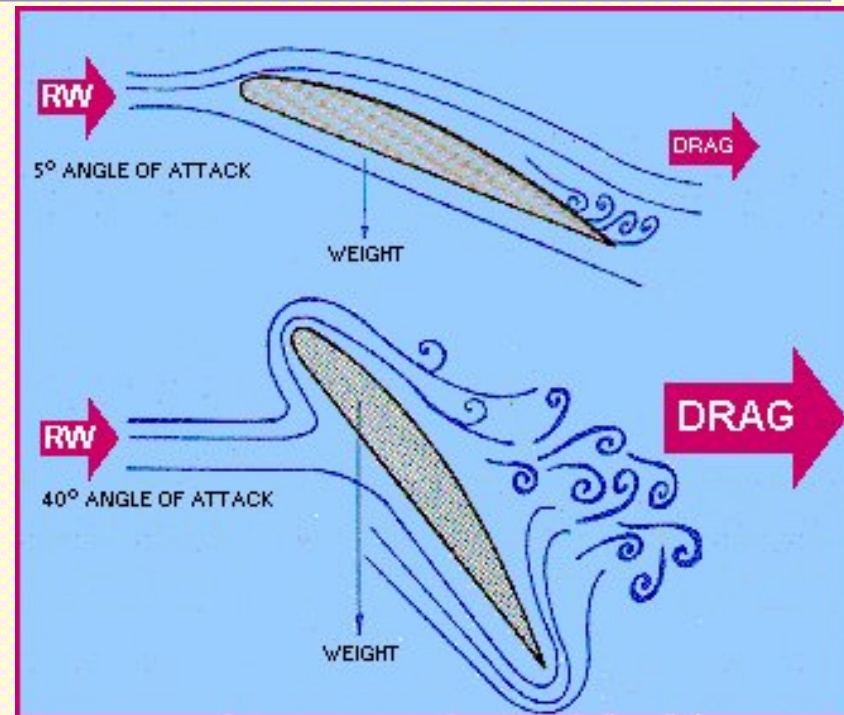
# Form or Pressure drag

- *Pressure drag* is caused by the separation of air that is flowing over the aircraft or airfoil.
- **Note:** New generation cars are designed to reduce pressure drag, which leads to better mileage



# Induced drag

- *Induced drag* is the drag created by the vortices at the tip of an aircraft's wing.
- *Induced drag* is more while maneuvering due to more flow separation over the entire body.



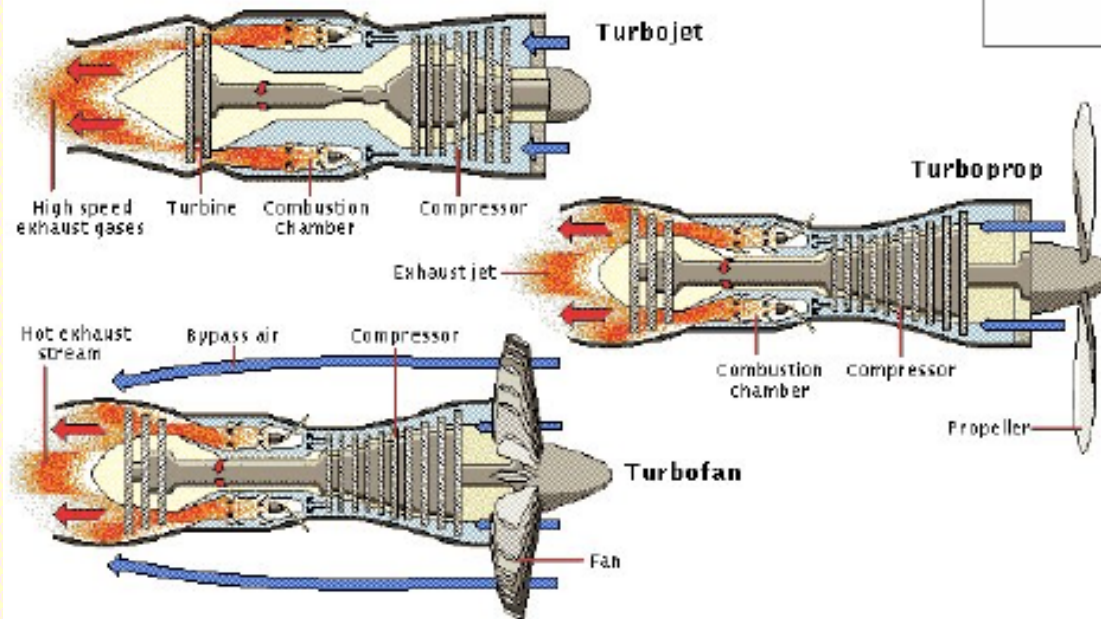
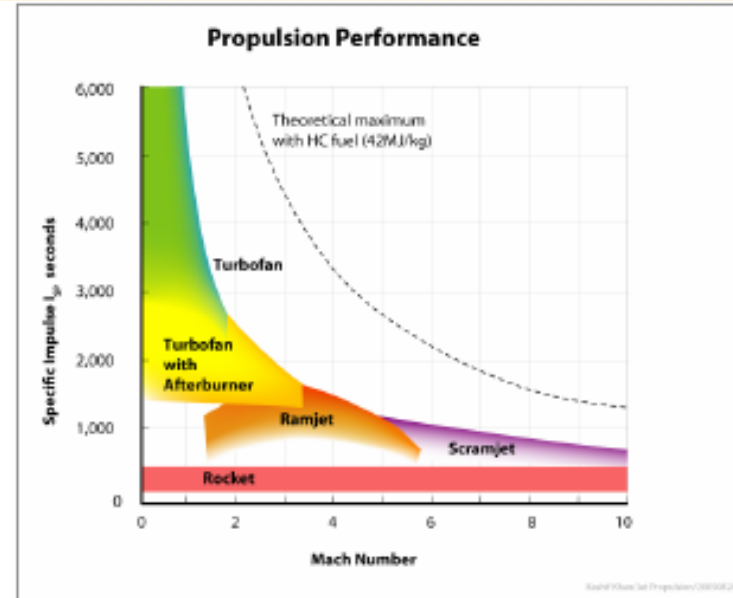
# Thrust

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- Thrust is produced by engines, which counteracts the drag and hence the airplane moves in forward direction.
- Types of engines
  - Propeller
  - Turboprop
  - Turbofan
  - Turbojet
  - Ramjet
  - Scramjet

# Propulsion group types

## Jet engine



# Propeller engine



*Spitfire*: Used by England in second world war.

# Turboprop engine

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Used by ATR flights



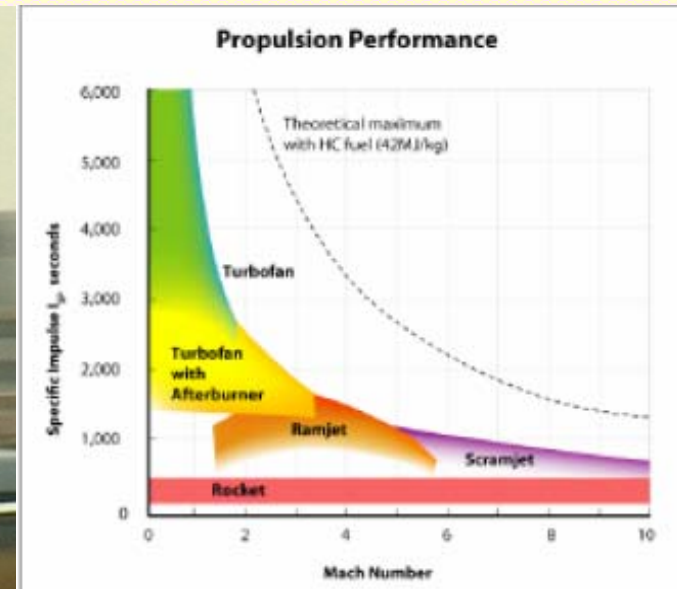
# Turbofan engine

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*Airbus A380 – Largest Passenger Aircraft  
Engine Used: Either Rolls Royas or GE*

# Turbofan engine with afterburner



## **LCA - Light Combat Aircraft**

**Kaveri:** An indigenous engine under development at GTRE (Gas Turbine Research Est.) under DRDO

# Ramjet Engines



*Brahmos: A supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by India and Russia.*

# Scramjet



X-43 is an experimental vehicle of NASA which used scramjet propulsion to reach up to MACH 9

# *Moment Balance in Flying Vehicles*

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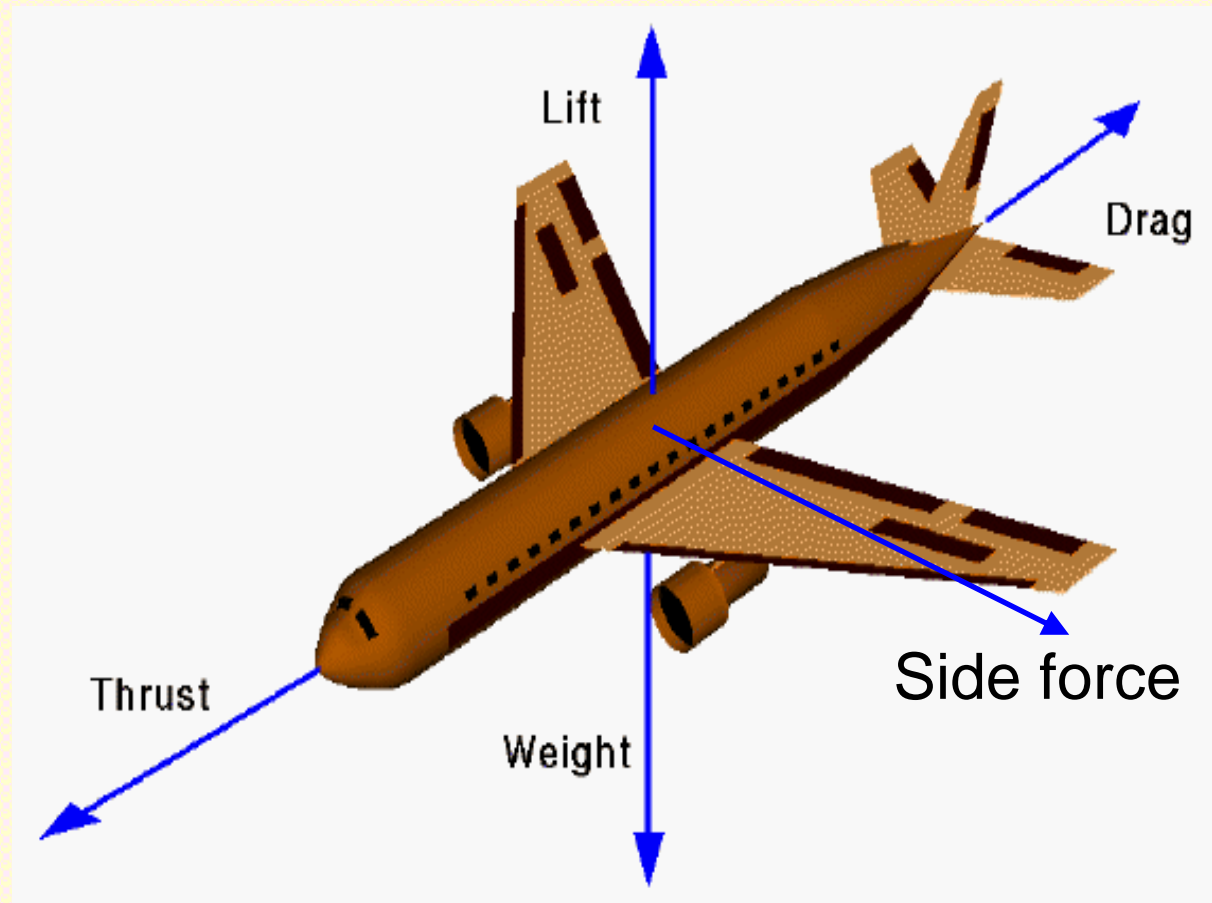
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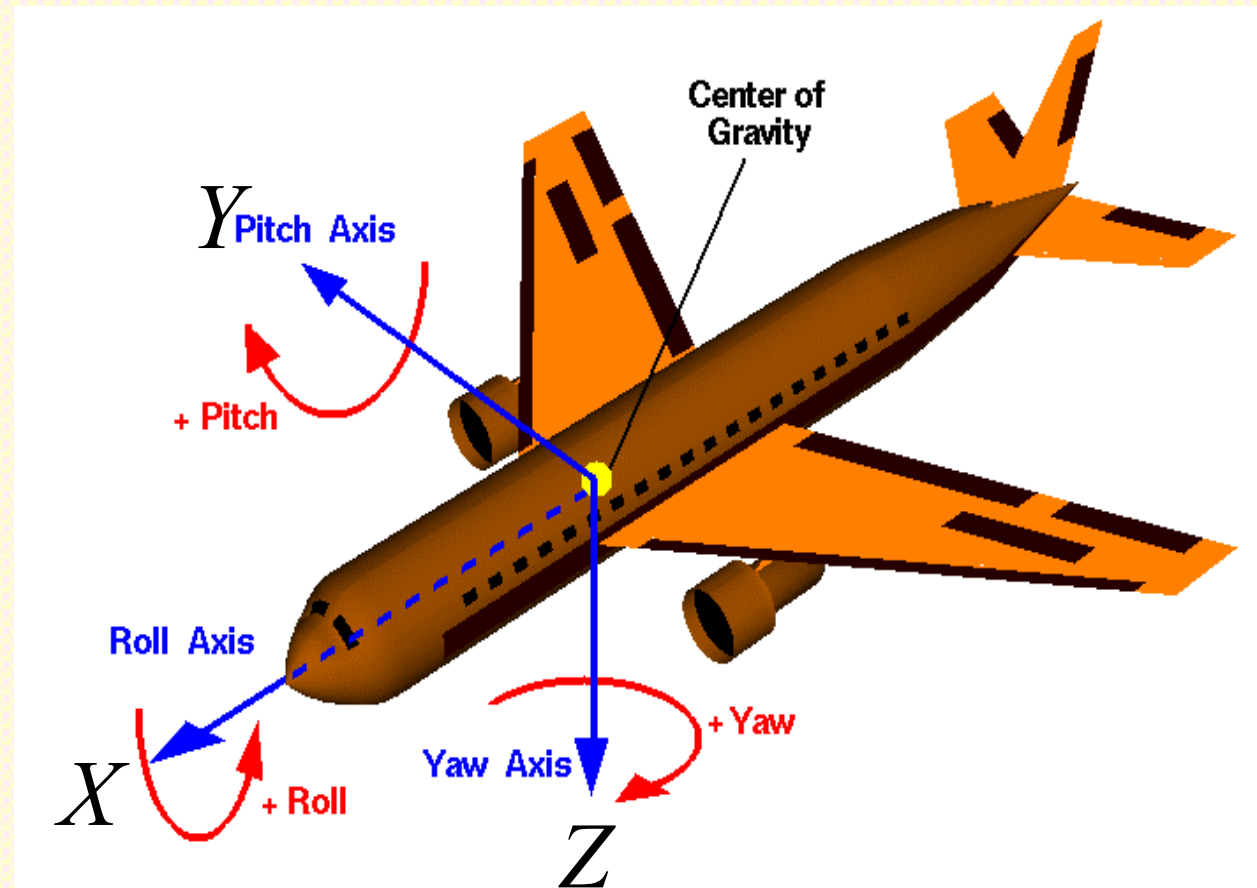
# Basic Force Balance

- Weight
- Lift
- Drag
- Thrust
- Side force

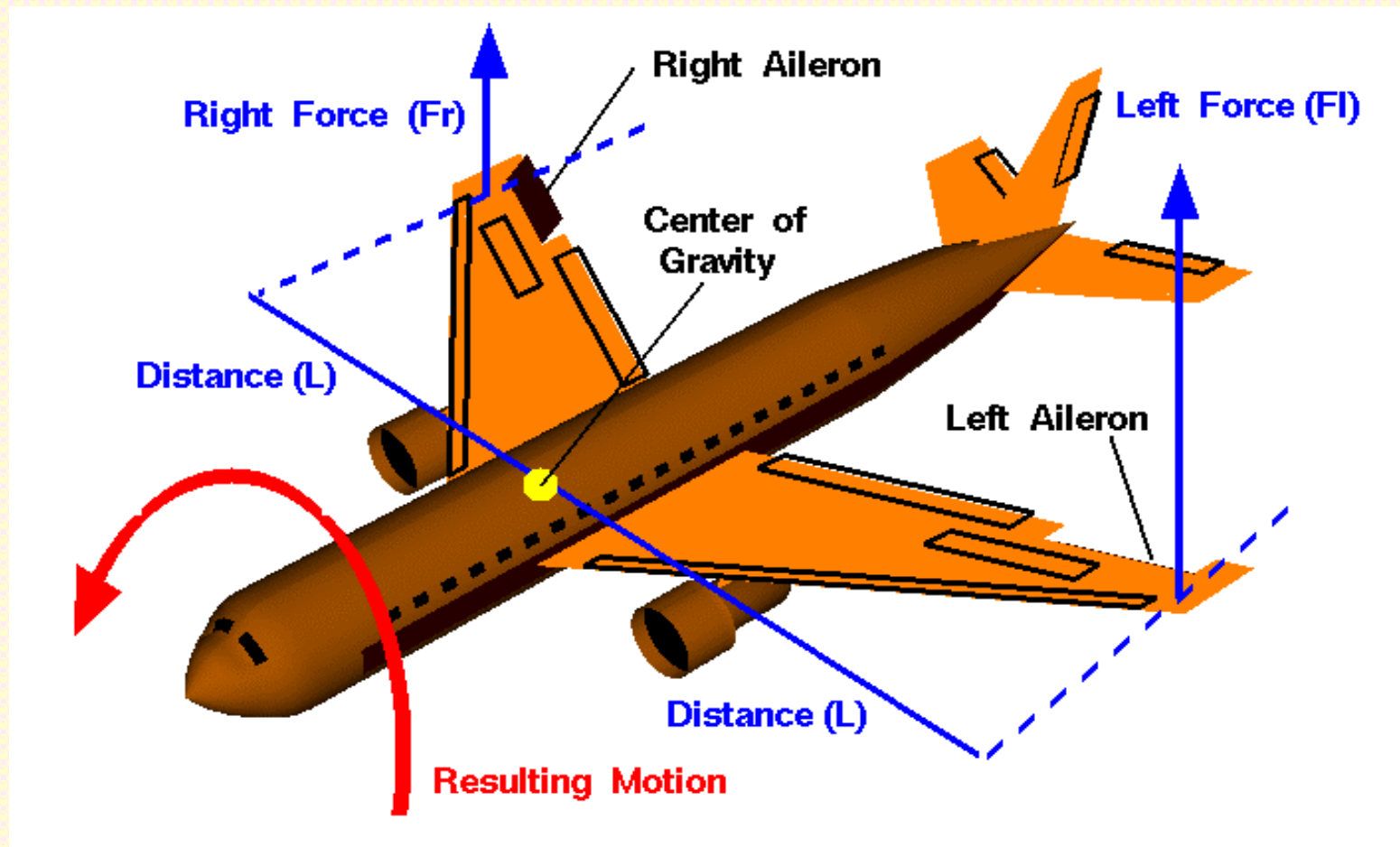


# Basic Moment Balance

- Rolling
- Pitching
- Yawing

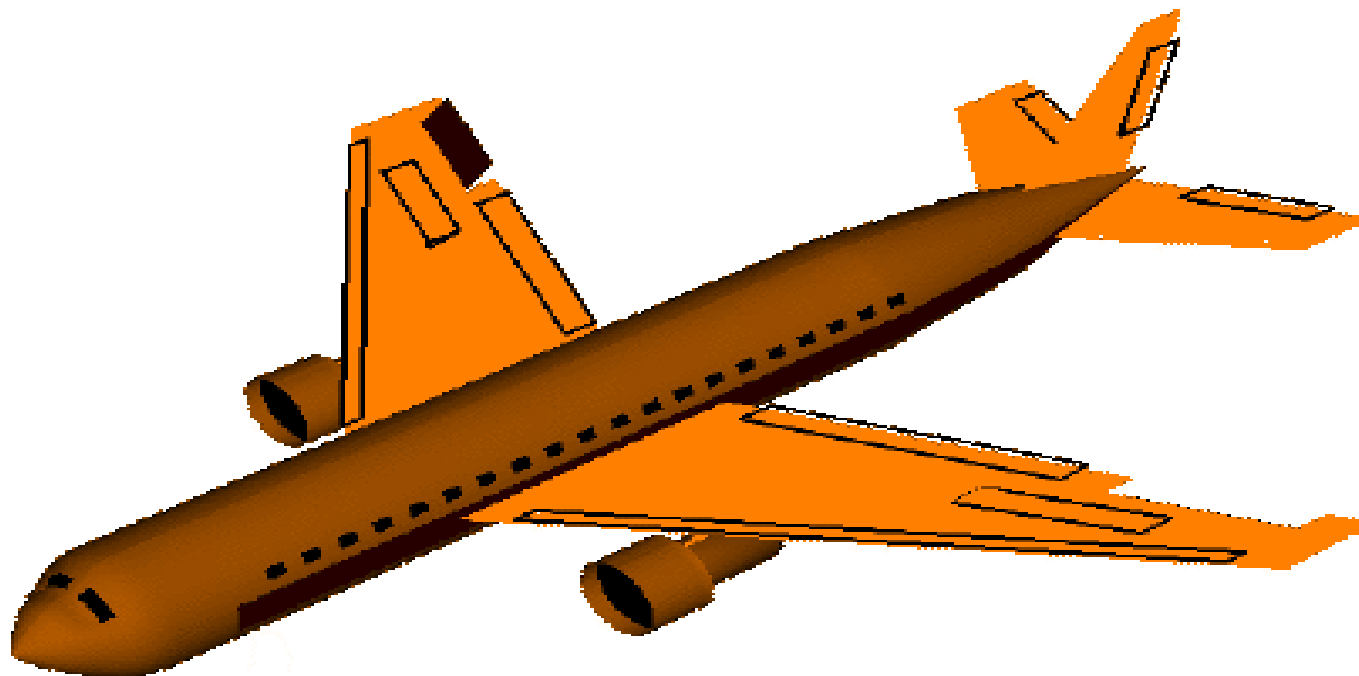


# Ailerons $\rightarrow$ Roll

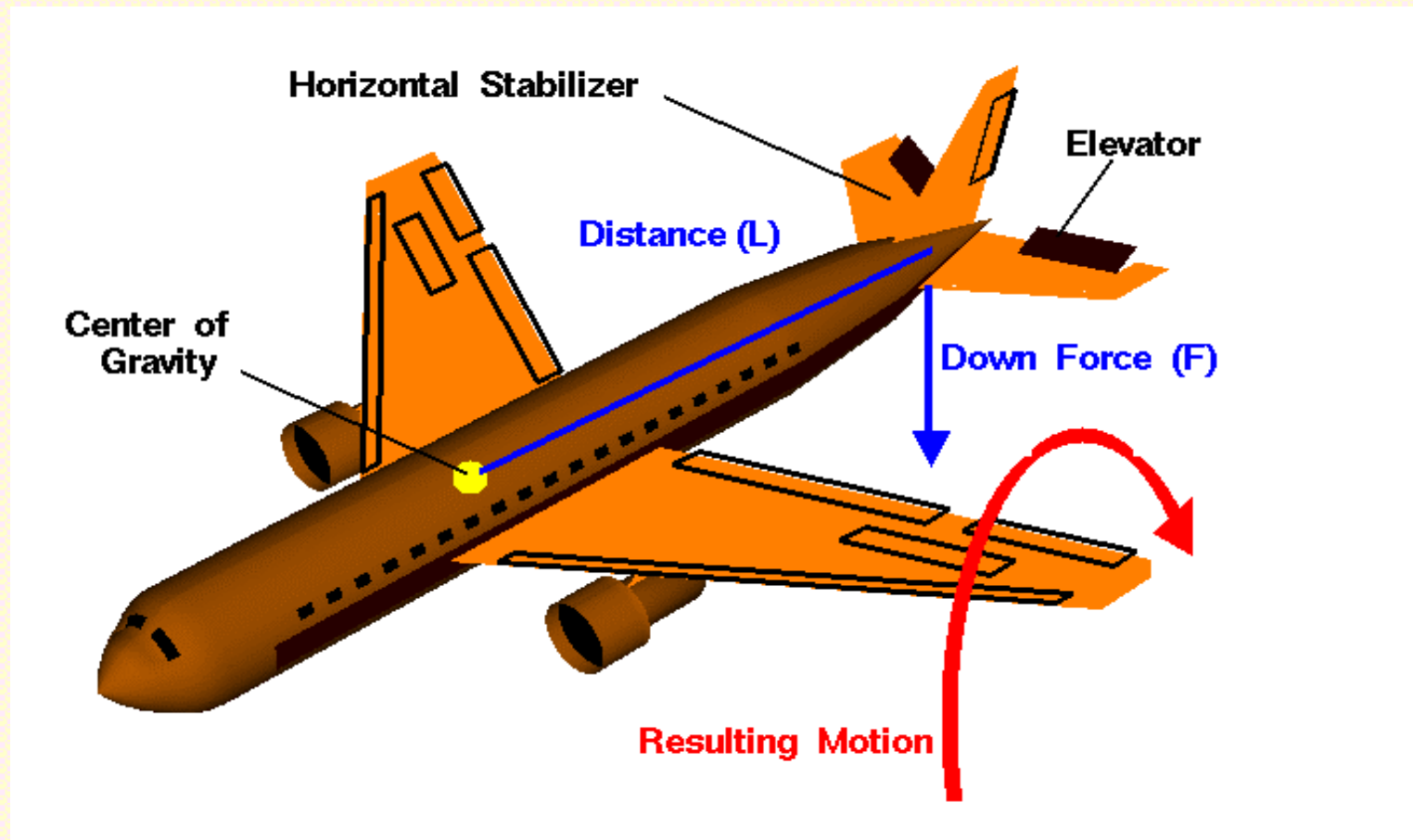


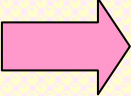


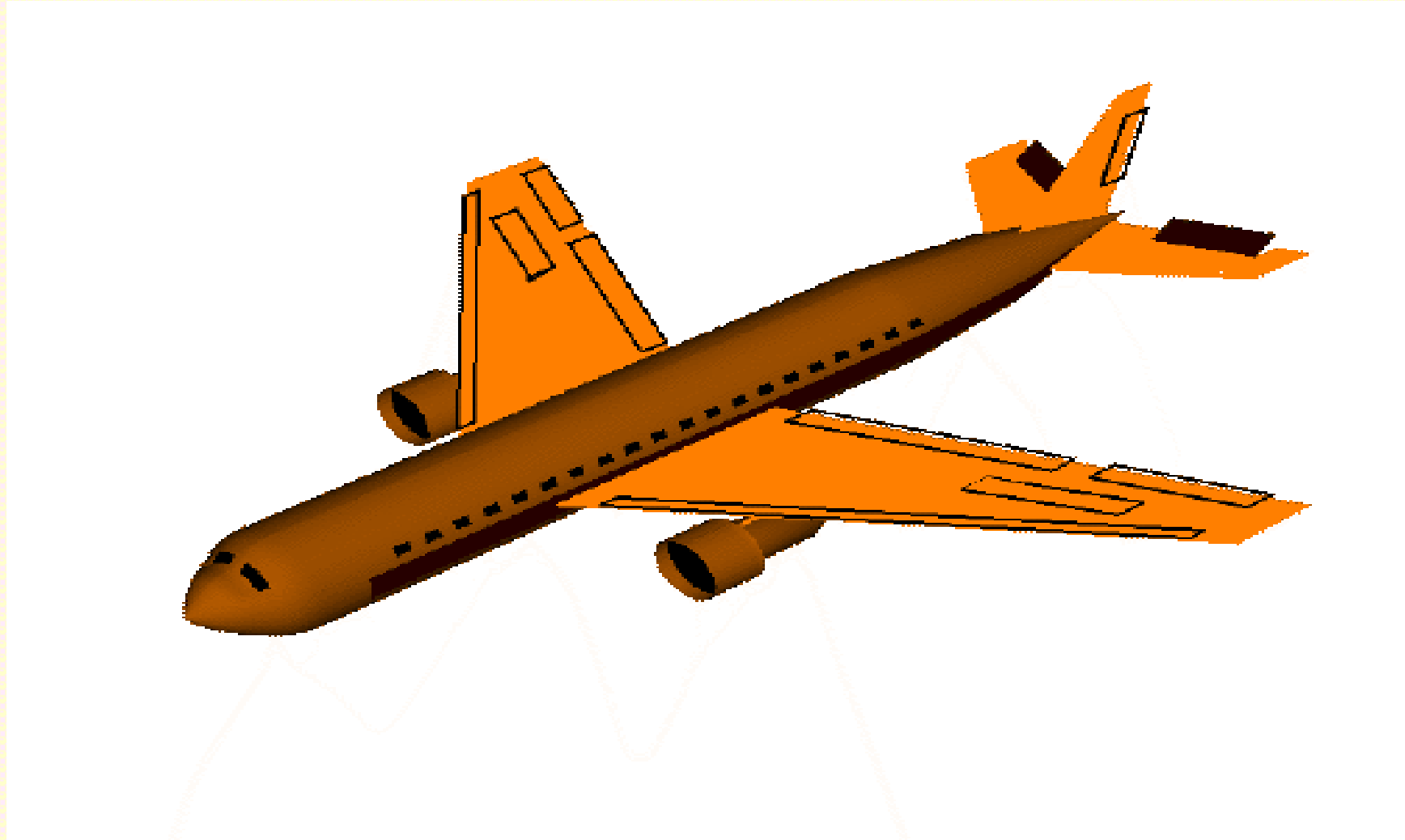
Aileron → Roll



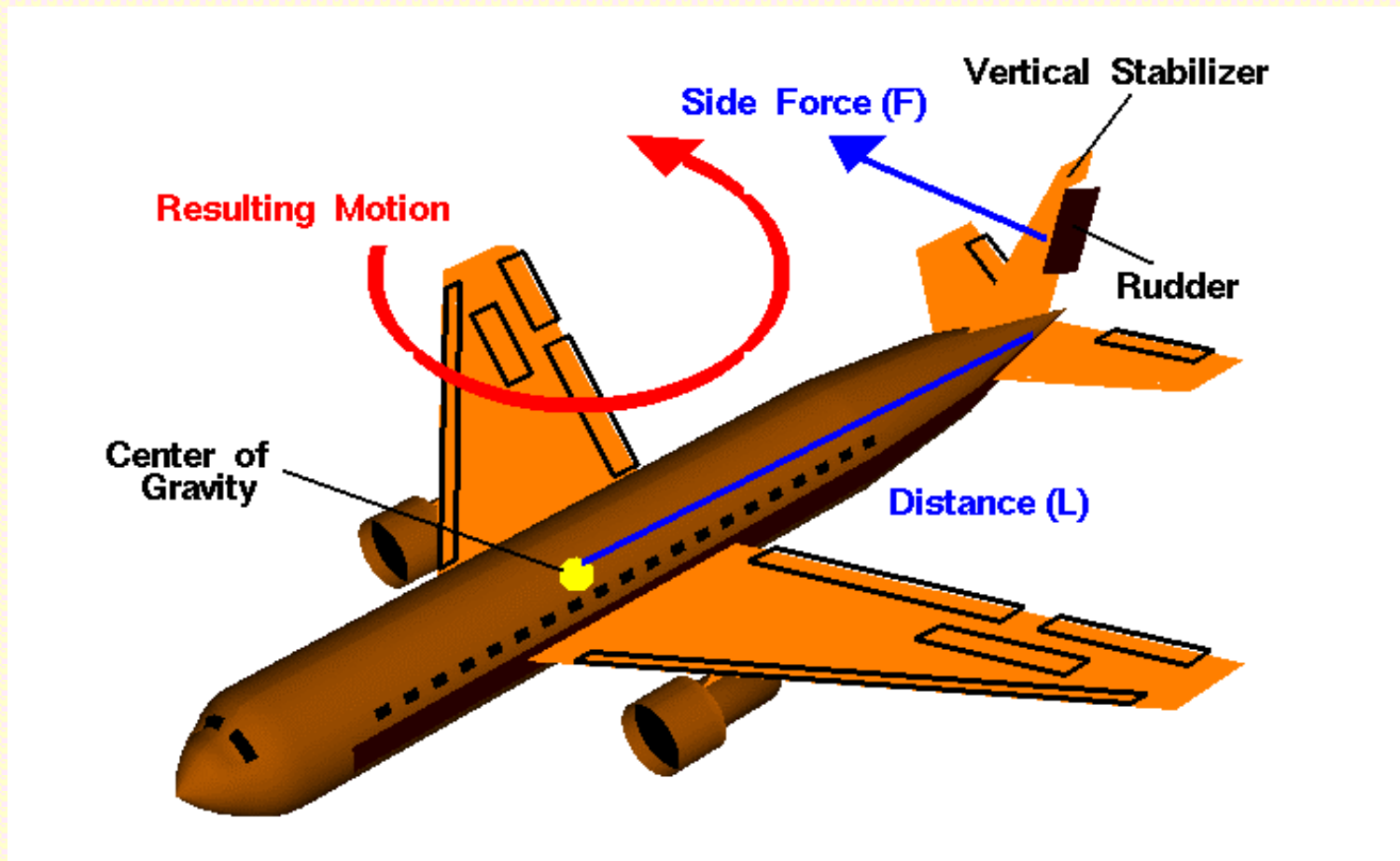
# Elevator $\rightarrow$ Pitch



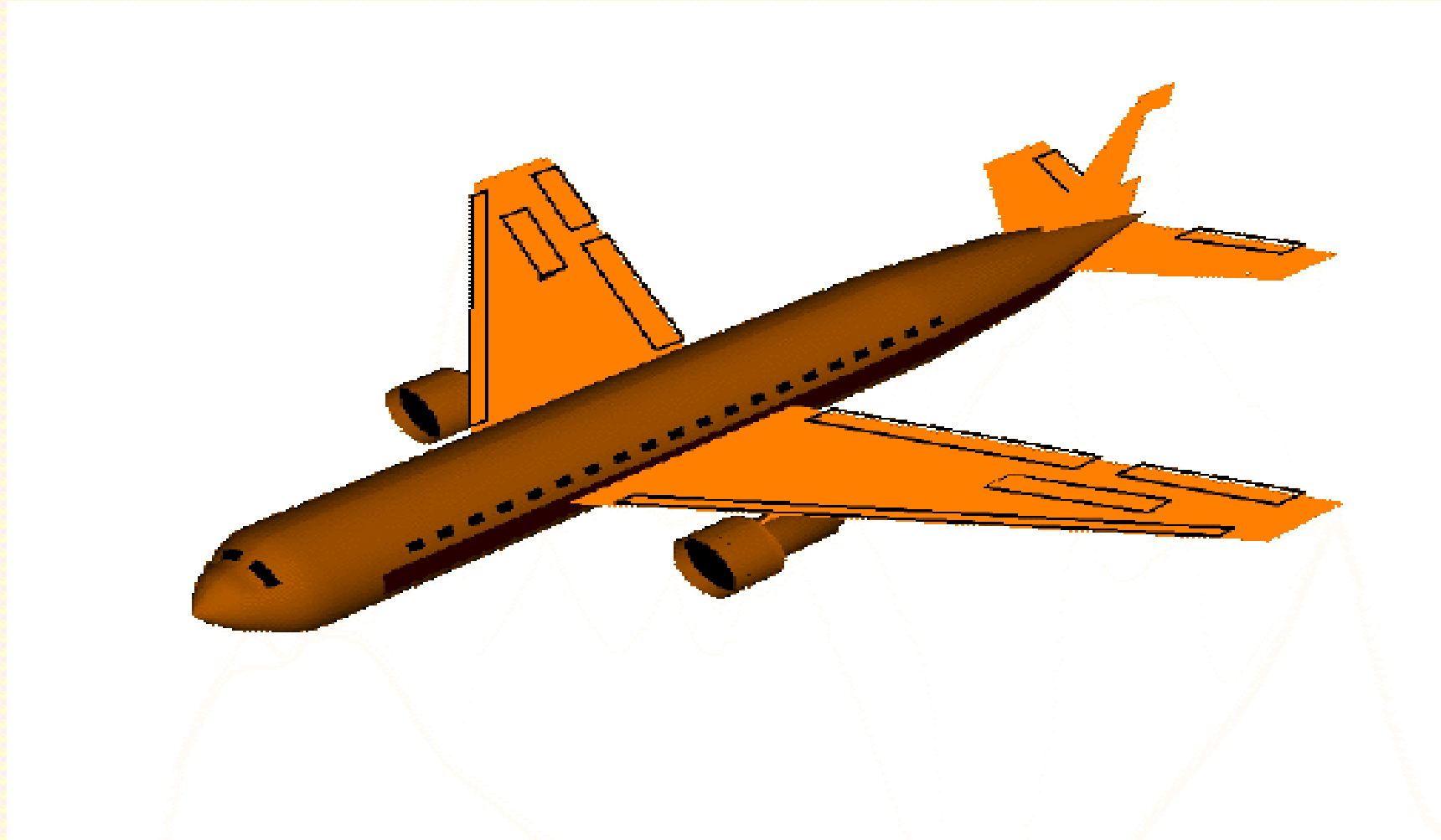
Elevator  Pitch



# Rudder → Yaw



Rudder → Yaw



# Sensors

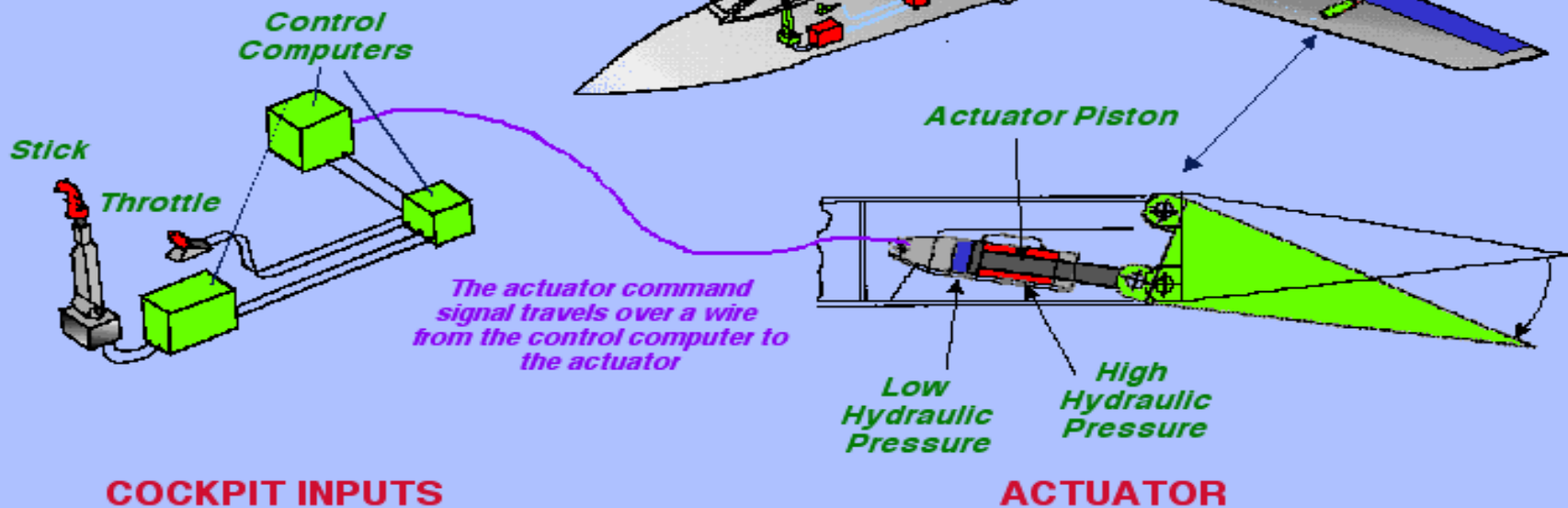
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- **Altimeter:** Height above sea level
- **Air Data System:** Airspeed, Angle of Attack, Mach No., Air Temperature etc.
- **Magnetometer:** Heading
- **Accelerometers:** Translational motion of the aircraft in the three axes
- **Gyroscopes:** Rotational motion of the aircraft in the three axes
- **GPS:** Accurate position, ground speed

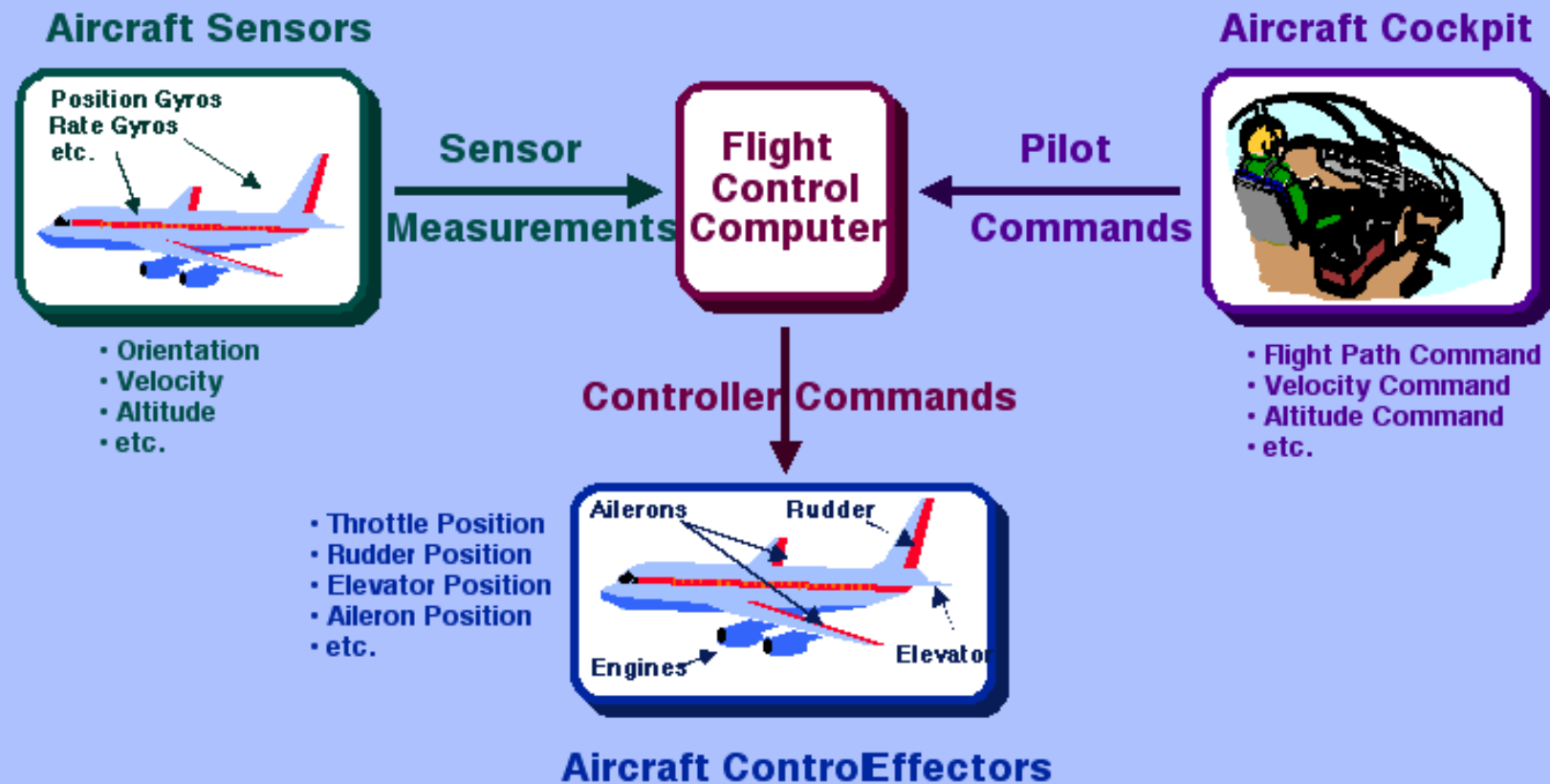
# Actuators

## Control Surfaces are Moved with Actuators

*In modern aircraft, hydraulic systems or electric motors called actuators move control surfaces by responding to control signals sent from a flight computer connected to the control stick.*



# “Putting it All Together” Flight Control System





**Thanks for the Attention...!**

