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Further Piloted Simulation Studies of the Handling Characteristics of a Slender-Wing Supersonic Transport Aircraft During Approach and Landing

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Summary.

A comprehensive simulation of a slender-wing supersonic transport aircraft during approach and landing has been flown by a number of pilots from airlines and test establishments. The aim of the simulation was to obtain pilots' comments on the handling qualities of the simulated aircraft, to discover problem areas, and to study especially touchdown, and the effect of autostabilizer failures. The touchdown phase was of particular interest as, at the time, it had not been studied in detail. Although useful results were obtained, they are qualified by the inability of the simulation to provide all the cues, particularly visual ones, necessary for a successful landing. Cockpit motion in pitch and roll was used. Principal results were that the handling qualities of the simulated aircraft in its fully autostabilized state were good: loss of the pitch damper provoked the strongest criticisms; loss of autothrottle did not pose any great difficulty. Retaining the autothrottle in operation throughout the landing flare was desirable. Sidestep manoeuvres were performed easily and good landings could be made in calm and turbulent conditions, in cross-winds up to 25 kt.

*Replaces R.A.E. Technical Report 69 003-A.R.C. 31 375.

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Detachable Abstract Cards

1. Introduction.

This Report describes tests on a simulated slender-wing supersonic transport aircraft in the approach and landing phases of flight. Aerodynamic and other characteristics of the simulated aircraft were based on the prototype Concorde design using data available at December 1965. The tests were conducted in the Aero Flight simulator¹ at R.A.E. Bedford during early 1967, following a study² of the take-off manoeuvre. Although the cockpit and flight instruments used were not representative of the aircraft, and only single-pilot operation was possible, the Aero Flight simulator provided the best simulation facility available at the time. More recently, detailed studies of flying qualities and control characteristics have been undertaken by the British Aircraft Corporation and Sud Aviation using their simulators at Filton and Toulouse. Many changes and improvements, especially to the stability augmentation systems, have resulted from this work, so that the results described in this Report do not necessarily apply to the current Concorde design.

The work described here is part of a sequence^{3,4} of investigations to study the handling characteristics of slender-wing supersonic transport aircraft at low speeds. As the simulator capability improved, the scope of the experiments widened so that the present work, using a moving cockpit and a closed circuit television display, provided a close representation of the entire approach and landing task.

Earlier work by Perry³ and by Perry and McPherson⁴ had studied the handling qualities of large, slender-wing aircraft during the landing approach under instrument^{3,4} and visual⁴ conditions but limitations of the equipment prevented satisfactory continuation to touchdown. With the development of realistic-looking visual displays by closed-circuit television it was hoped that the landing-flare and touchdown phases could now be studied. This was particularly important as several papers⁵⁻⁹ had highlighted potential difficulties in this area. The aim of the work reported here was to repeat some of the previous tests with more recent information on aerodynamics and autostabilizers, to obtain pilots' comments on the handling qualities of the simulated aircraft, and to study the approach, landing-flare and touchdown with particular attention to the effects of winds, gusts and autostabilizer failures.

As part of the continuous process of simulator validation, a current large jet transport aircraft was set up on the simulator as a preliminary test of the TV visual display for landing. After the Concorde landing study had finished, a simulation of the BAC 221 slender-wing research aircraft was programmed to provide a direct flight-simulator comparison of the handling behaviour associated with slender-wing aircraft. Good qualitative agreement was obtained both for the transport aircraft and for the BAC 221.

2. Description of the Simulation.

2.1. The Aircraft.

Aerodynamic and physical characteristics of the simulated aircraft were derived from wind tunnel and theoretical data¹⁰⁻¹⁵ relevant to the Concorde prototype design at December 1965. Details of data used are given in the Appendix; fuller details appear in Ref. 2. Aerodynamic changes to the actual prototype aircraft since that date are confined to the addition of vortex generators on the forward fuselage, designed to improve the directional stability of the aircraft at high incidence. There are also differences in the controls and autostabilization systems which will be described in Section 2.3. The production aircraft will differ from the prototype primarily in having a longer fuselage and revised outer wing.

In order to prevent structural damage to the aircraft at high pitch attitude during take-off and landing, a compressible tail bumper is fitted. With the main undercarriage oleos fully extended and wheels just touching the ground, tail bumper contact occurs at a pitch attitude of $12 \cdot 2^{\circ}$ and the bumper is fully compressed at $13 \cdot 6^{\circ}$. The simulation included a representation of this tail bumper.

2.2. Representation of Aerodynamic Characteristics and Equations of Motion.

Continuous solution on an analogue computer of the equations of $motion^{16,17}$ for the rigid aircraft in six degrees of freedom determined the aircraft's behaviour in response to control inputs and external disturbances. Details of data used in the simulation are given in Appendix A. The aim was an accurate simulation of the aircraft's handling and performance over the speed range 125–225 kt, corresponding to 5–20° incidence; variations in the aerodynamics due to ground proximity were included. Approximate

representation of the aircraft's ground behaviour (due to tail bumper, tyre sideforces, nosewheel steering, undercarriage oleos, etc.) was provided to enable complete flight from take-off ground roll to touchdown to be performed.

Atmospheric disturbances in the form of steady head-, tail- or cross-winds, wind shear and turbulence could be represented. The turbulence was obtained¹ by filtering white noise from three independent random noise generators to correspond to known power spectra for atmospheric turbulence, and applying these filtered outputs as fluctuations in incidence, sideslip and airspeed. This representation assumes that all portions of the aircraft are simultaneously subjected to the same variations of incidence, sideslip and airspeed, whereas in practice the aircraft will take time to penetrate a disturbance, each fluctuation travelling down the length of the aircraft. These 'immersion' effects may not be negligible for a large slender aircraft⁷.

The selected level of random turbulence was 5–6 ft/sec rms, for all components; the vertical component of the turbulence was attenuated linearly with height from 100 ft to ground level, the value at ground level being 1/10 of that at 100 ft. On some approaches the sideslip turbulence spectrum was modified to have peak values of around 22 ft/sec, still maintaining an rms value of 5–6 ft/sec. This was provided in response to pilot criticism that the number of large gusts experienced with the standard turbulence was low in comparison with flight, where relatively more large gusts are experienced.

2.3. Flying Controls, Autostabilization and Autothrottle.

Control of pitch and roll in the aircraft is by means of elevons rather than by separate elevators and ailerons; as a result, available lateral control travel is a function of the longitudinal control position, as shown in Fig. 41. Since this simulation, the mixing envelope has been modified to give equal (18°) amounts of up and down elevator. The control force gradients and gearings used are shown in Figs. 42–44 compared with those proposed at the time of preparation of the simulation. Trim in pitch was by means of a thumb-operated switch on the left-hand 'ram's horn'; there was no provision for trim in roll or yaw.

Autostabilization was provided about all three axes, and an interconnection between aileron and rudder produced rudder movements proportional to the pilot's demanded aileron angle. Roll and yaw autostabilizers acted simply to improve the aircraft's damping but the pitch autostabilizer quickened the aircraft's pitch response to stick movements in a way described by Pinsker (Section 8.1 of Ref. 9). The control laws are listed in the Appendix. The simulator operator could fail any of the autostabilizers.

A single engine-lever, mounted on the right-hand console, controlled the thrust of all four engines. This feature is, of course, not representative of the real aircraft. An autothrottle was fitted; details of the control law and method of operation are given in the Appendix. Either outboard engine could be failed by the simulator operator, the failure being represented by an instantaneous total loss of power on the appropriate engine.

It should be noted that reliability of the aircraft's autostabilization and autothrottle is intended to be such that the probability of loss of an entire channel is less than 10^{-5} per hour for a three hour flight. The autostabilization laws proposed for the aircraft have been revised since this series of tests; mention of the changes is made in Section 5.

2.4. Cockpit Environment and Flight Instruments.

The simulator was equipped with a small single-seat cockpit (Fig. 1) in which a 'ram's horns' control column was fitted. The cockpit was somewhat cramped, the stick and instruments panel being too close to the pilot, and was not representative of a large transport aircraft.

The flight instruments used are shown in Fig. 2 but their positions on the instrument panel were not as shown in this figure. The layout used is illustrated in Fig. 3. The instruments are:

single pointer airspeed indicator 0-610 kt

F.4B director/artificial horizon, $\pm 25^{\circ}$ pitch attitude, sensitivity 16° /inch

radio altimeter, 0–500 ft

3-pointer pressure altimeter

G.4 compass

vertical speed indicator, ± 4000 ft/min turn and slip indicator raw ILS meter elevator trim position indicator engine rev/min gauge autothrottle controls warning light to indicate tail bumper contact.

The specific instruments used and the layout adopted were not at all representative of those suggested for the actual aircraft.

Visual simulation of the outside world was provided by a closed-circuit television display¹. A television camera tracks over a scale model (1:2000) of an airfield and surrounding countryside mounted on an endless flexible belt which runs over large rollers. Motion of the system is controlled by signals from the simulator computer, and the picture so produced was presented to the pilot on a television monitor screen. This screen and opaque side panels replaced the transparent canopy shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 2 shows the pilot's view of the television picture. Visual flight is possible from $5\frac{1}{2}$ nm before the runway threshold; visibility and cloudbase can be varied up to maxima of 4 nm and 1500 ft respectively. The angular field of view provided by the display is 45° in azimuth and 35° in pitch; Fig. 4 compares this field of view with that of the aircraft simulated.

Cockpit motion was provided in pitch and roll, the displacements of the cockpit being directly proportional to the aircraft's computed attitude. The pitch motion was scaled down to 62 per cent of the computed pitch attitude, and the roll to 45 per cent of the bank angle. The cockpit is 6 ft ahead of the pitching pivot, so that the pilot experienced some incidental translational motion coupled with the pitching rotation, but no attempt was made to simulate the true vertical motion of the aircraft cockpit. The pitch motion was also used to represent nosewheel vibration when on the runway, and to provide a jolt at touchdown proportional to the touchdown rate of descent.

Simulated engine noise in response to throttle movements was fed into loud-speakers behind the pilot's seat. Other aural cues were a representation of mainwheel rumble, and of tyre squeal at touchdown.

2.5. Approach Aids.

Flight path information on the approach could be represented to the pilot in position form on a raw ILS indicator, or in director form on the ring-and-bead portion of the F.4 director/horizon. Details of the ILS beam and indicator law are given in the Appendix. The pilot could join the ILS beam up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ nm from the runway threshold. When approaching in cross-winds, compensation for drift was fed into the director law.

3. Longitudinal Stability.

Fig. 5 shows, for three centre of gravity positions, the relationship between aerodynamic pitchingmoment coefficient and angle of incidence. The normal low speed cg range for the Concorde prototype is expected to be 0.52 c_0 to 0.53 c_0 , with a datum value of 0.525 c_0 . (Since some sources had said that 0.515 c_0 was to be used, a number of approaches were also flown at this cg position.) At the angle of incidence appropriate to an approach speed of 150 kt, $\partial Cm/\partial \alpha$ is negative with the centre of gravity at 0.511 c_0 but positive for cg positions aft of 0.517 c_0 . With the cg at 0.525 c_0 , the variation with airspeed of elevator angle to trim is small and in the unstable sense (Fig. 6). A complicating factor in the longitudinal stability story is the pitching moment due to thrust as a result of the underslung position of the engines.

Over the range of cg positions of interest, say from 0.50 c_0 to 0.53 c_0 , $\partial Cm/\partial \alpha$ varies from -0.06 (stable) to 0.04 (unstable) and this variation produces a gross change in the character of the stability modes. This can be seen in Fig. 7a, where the roots of the longitudinal stability quartic are plotted in the complex plane (a 'root locus' diagram) as a function of centre of gravity position. For a cg position at 0.50 c_0 , the modes are conventional and consist of two oscillations, a phugoid and a short period (although the latter has a period of 20 sec). As the cg moves aft the 'short period' oscillation breaks down into two real roots (subsidences) and the phugoid does likewise. One of these 'ex-phugoid' subsidences then moves into

the right half of the complex plane, indicating a divergent mode. A new oscillatory mode, unlike either of the conventional oscillations, appears for a cg position slightly aft of 0.515 c_0 . The roots at three cg positions are tabulated below.



This uncommon pattern has been described briefly by Etkin¹⁸ but its implications for longitudinal response and handling have not been examined.

Addition of a pitch autostabilizer markedly modifies this root pattern, as shown in Fig. 7b. With the first pitch damper described in the Appendix a short period oscillation reappears, and an extra mode is introduced. The long period motion, however, still possesses an undamped mode, compensation for which is proposed in the form of an 'incidence trim' device. In conjunction with the incidence trim a revised form of pitch damper ('stick boost', *see* Appendix) is now proposed. Incidence trim was not incorporated in this simulation, and stick boost was tried only briefly. Thus current ideas on autostabilization for the aircraft differ from those described for this simulation.

4. Tests.

Twenty-two pilots flew 106 sorties lasting a total of 108 hours, but 3 R.A.E. pilots accounted for over half the total flying time (51 sorties, 60 hours). Of the others, 8 pilots flew from 1–2 hours, generally 2–3 sorties, while 10 pilots flew for $2\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, generally 2–4 sorties. The group of 22 pilots was made up as follows.

	Pilots	Sorties	Hours
Test pilots			
R.A.E.	6	62	69
British Aircraft Corporation	3 -	11	10
Air Registration Board	3	10	8
Sud Aviation	1	1	1
Centre d'Essais en Vol	1	3	3
Airline pilots			
B.O.A.C.	3	8	. 9
British Airline Pilots' Association	5	11	8

One of the aims of the simulation programme was to demonstrate the simulated aircraft's characteristics to pilots concerned with the development, certification and operation of Concorde and obtain their comments. With several failure cases for them to consider, for example approach without autothrottle, the number of conditions to be assessed allowed only a brief look at each. In these circumstances, pilots could hardly be expected to have mastered flying the simulated aircraft, but their impressions of the aircraft's handling qualities are none the less valuable. In some cases, however, visiting pilots accomplished more than a set minimum of landings (15) and were therefore deemed to be sufficiently familiar with the simulated aircraft for their performance to be measured and analysed.

With R.A.E. test pilots, who were available for longer periods of time than the visiting pilots, it was possible to set up and run more systematic experiments. These pilots were used in investigations of cross-wind landings and response to tailgusts.

5. Results for Approach and Touchdown.

This Section considers results obtained from approaches and landings in calm and turbulent conditions, with or without roll autostabilizer or autothrottle. Specific problems of tailgusts, sidesteps and cross-wind landings are discussed in later sections.

Values of rate of descent, airspeed, pitch attitude, bank angle and position at touchdown have been extracted from the trace records, an example of which is shown in Fig. 8, and are plotted as histograms and cumulative probability distributions* in Figs. 9–15.

Fig. 9 shows the rate of descent at touchdown obtained in both calm and turbulent conditions for the fully stabilized aircraft (53 landings) and for the aircraft without autothrottle (31 landings). Fig. 10 shows the same results as a cumulative probability curve. In either case the simulated landings are seen frequently to produce heavy touchdowns, on occasions exceeding the undercarriage design limit of 10 ft/sec rate of descent. If these results had to be taken as fully representative of the actual aircraft, they would suggest a completely unacceptable situation. However, there is good reason to suspect that simulators lack some importance visual clues which, in real flight, permit pilots to exercise the necessary precision for touch-down control. To check the validity of the simulation in this critical task and hence the reliability of the touchdown results obtained from the tests, an aircraft at present in airline service was also simulated so that results could be compared with corresponding real flight data. The aircraft chosen for this experiment was a VC 10; some results from the comparison are shown in Fig. 11.

For 39 VC 10 landings at London Airport (taken from Ref. 21) the mean rate of descent was 2.5 ft/sec and the spread from 0.5 to 6 ft/sec. For 21 VC 10 landings by one pilot in the Aero Flight simulator, the mean was 5.4 ft/sec and the spread from 2.5 to 8 ft/sec. For 21 landings by the same pilot (whose results were better than average) in the simulated supersonic transport, the mean rate of descent was 4.4 ft/sec and the spread from 1.5 to 7.5 ft/sec. Results for this one pilot are shown to enable a direct comparison to be made between VC 10 and SST simulations, since the same population of pilots was not used in both simulations. Thus, on this basis of comparison, the simulated VC 10 gave results much worse than were found in practice and the simulated supersonic transport was superficially better than the simulated VC 10. Extrapolation to an operational situation should not be attempted, however, since it does not necessarily follow that the same relative performance will be maintained in real flight**. In Fig. 12, where these results are replotted as cumulative probability distributions, it can be seen that results from the two simulations are much more like each other than the VC 10 simulation results are like the flight data. Compared with Boeing 707²² and XB 70¹⁹ flight experience, the present supersonic transport results are poor and much worse even than XB 70 flight data. Use of XB 70 data for comparison needs some qualification. Despite its larger size, higher approach speed, a foreplane, lower glide-path angle and use of unlimited runway, the XB 70 is of interest in showing what can happen with a large, heavy aircraft.

Touchdown position was measured for the simulated supersonic transport but not for the VC 10.

*Cumulative probability distributions have been obtained directly from the histograms and Pearson type III curves fitted to the results by the method of Ref. 19 using the chart in Ref. 20.

**Flight experience with Concorde has shown that the average rate of descent at touchdown is 2.3 ft/sec (0.7 m/sec) from 42 landings, which is similar to VC 10 experience. Handling under system failure conditions is also much better than expected.

Results, in cumulative frequency form, are shown in Fig. 14 and compared with Boeing 707 flight data. The simulated supersonic transport touched down further along the runway than the Boeing 707 in airline operation. Use of the autothrottle reduced this distance, but does not align the curve with the flight results. Figs. 13 and 14 taken together show that although the touchdowns were well down the runway, this did not result in low rates of descent. It is clear that pilots' judgement and hence control of touchdown was not good. Their comments (Section 9.1) bear this out.

Histograms of speed and pitch attitude at touchdown are shown in Fig. 15 for the fully stabilized aircraft, labelled 'autothrottle in', and for autothrottle inoperative for the whole approach. With the autothrottle working, the mean speed at touchdown was 151 kt (target is 150 kt) and the spread was 16 kt from 143–159 kt, but 68 per cent of landings were within the range 148–153 kt. Speed control deteriorated markedly when the autothrottle was out of action. The mean dropped to 147 kt, the spread increased to 35 kt (132–167 kt) and two thirds of landings resulted in a touchdown speed below 150 kt, compared with one fifth when autothrottle was working. Pitch attitude at touchdown tended to be higher (Fig. 15b) without autothrottle than with it, thus increasing the probability of the tail bumper striking the ground (with the main-wheels just touching the ground, tail bumper contact occurred at a pitch attitude of $12\cdot2^{\circ}$). In fact seven out of thirty-two landings (22 per cent) without autothrottle resulted in the tail bumper touching the ground, whereas no instances of bumper contact occurred with the autothrottle operating.

The same target speed of 150 kt was used regardless of whether or not the autothrottle was in use. As the touchdown speed was consistently low without autothrottle, it might be necessary in practice to raise the target approach speed, when the autothrottle is out of action, by 10–15 kt to avoid tail bumper contact. The low touchdown speed with autothrottle out was due mainly to deceleration in the final stages of the landing (the target approach speed was also 150 kt). In 34 per cent of landings the touchdown speed was more than 10 kt less than the speed at 100 ft, whereas with autothrottle working the speed loss was never more than 8 kt. Speed change between a wheel height of 100 ft and touchdown is illustrated in Fig. 16 for calm and turbulent conditions with autothrottle in and out.

Speed and rate of descent at a wheel height of 100 ft are shown in Fig. 17. The large spread in rate of descent was unaffected by availability of autothrottle. Not surprisingly, use of autothrottle kept speed much closer to the target value than manual operation of throttle.

Accuracy of speed control during instrument approach is illustrated in Fig. 18, which shows maximum and minimum speeds for individual approaches recorded in the height interval from 1500 ft to 200 ft. The speed excursions are arranged in order of increasing minimum speed and are grouped as a function of autothrottle and turbulence conditions. In calm air the speed variation during any single approach was less than 6 kt with autothrottle but between 5 and 22 kt without it. In turbulence (3 kt rms, \pm 9 kt peaks) use of the autothrottle kept the speed variation to less than 24 knots compared with up to 40 kt variation with manual throttle. Some pilots said that with autothrottle inoperative they were quite happy to keep speed in a 25 kt band on the high side of 150 kt. It should not be forgotten that each pilot had to operate his own engine controls. In airline operation, the second pilot would probably manipulate the throttle levers, resulting perhaps in increased accuracy of speed control. More pilot comments on this task are given in Section 9.3.

Insufficient approaches were made with pitch damper failed for any quantitative results to be presented, but pilot comments on this task are given in Section 9.3. Several approaches were performed with an alternative pitch damper law ('stick boost'); pilot comments appear in Section 9.2.

Bank angle at touchdown is shown in Fig. 19 for Boeing 707 and XB 70 measured in flight and for the simulated supersonic transport with roll damper in and out. Roll damper in, the distribution of the bank angle at touchdown for the simulated aircraft is very close to that for the XB 70, which is itself somewhat worse than the Boeing 707. Many of the landings in the simulator included sidestep manoeuvres; if these are not included the distribution for roll damper in is modified to one which is closer to the Boeing 707 curve. Paradoxically, the opposite happens with roll damper out but only 10 landings are involved. Although the results for the simulated supersonic transport include some runs when both autothrottle and roll damper were inoperative, which should be an extremely unlikely occurrence, preliminary analysis showed that failure of the autothrottle had no influence on the bank angle at touchdown and therefore the two conditions could be combined.

6. Tailgusts.

Pinsker has shown^{8,9} that recovery from the effects of a tailgust, experienced in the final stages of an approach to land, severely tests an aircraft's longitudinal controllability. Increasing aircraft size, implying a high moment of inertia in pitch and hence sluggish response to elevator, aggravates the difficulty. If the aircraft is also of delta wing planform, as in the present case, pitch control may be provided by large flap-type surfaces at the wing trailing edge, which produce significant changes in lift. This elevator lift tends further to delay the response of the aircraft in a vertical plane.

Time histories of the response to rapid elevator inputs are shown in Fig. 20. Up elevator at first reduces wing lift, causing movement of the aircraft in the wrong sense. For $\eta = -10^{\circ}$ a height loss of 2.5 ft is produced while for $\eta = -5^{\circ}$ a loss of 1.6 ft is recorded. More important is the fact that, although the vertical velocity becomes positive after about 1.5 sec, at least 2 seconds elapse before a net gain in height is observed. The Table below summarises these results, related to Fig. 20.

Elevator deflection	- 10°	— 5°
Minimum \dot{h} Time delay before $\dot{h} = 0$	- 1.75 ft/sec	-0.8 ft/sec
Height lost	2.5 ft	1.6 ft
Time delay before $\delta h = 0$	2.0 sec	2.3 sec
Time at which $\dot{h} = 5$ ft/sec	2·1 sec	2.8 sec

Experimentally, the tailgust problem has been looked at here in two ways, firstly by computing the aircraft's uncontrolled response to a 10 kt tailgust at various heights, and secondly by applying a tailgust to the aircraft while under pilot control.

6.1. Computed Responses.

It has been suggested that incremental lift due to ground effect on this aircraft is sufficiently powerful to produce a good flare if pitch attitude is held constant. To test this in a simplified way, the aircraft was trimmed at 150 kt on a 3° glide path at a wheel height of 100 ft. Equilibrium pitch attitude was 10.7° . When allowed to descend with no constraint the aircraft began to pitch nose down at a height of about 35 ft and hit the ground with a pitch attitude of 6.1° and a rate of descent of 13 ft/sec (dotted trace in Fig. 21a). When the pitch attitude was held fixed at 10.7° the rate of descent was reduced smoothly to zero and in fact the aircraft did not quite touch down (Fig. 21a, solid line). This manoeuvre was not quite the same as a real-life constant attitude flare because pitch attitude must be held constant in flight by applying up-elevator to oppose the nose down pitch due to ground effect of up-elevator would be to reduce C_L and thus make the aircraft touch down properly rather than float as here. This elevator influence is not important for the present purpose, since changes in rate of descent at impact rather than absolute values can be studied. Thus, starting from ideal initial conditions, holding a constant pitch attitude gave a close approximation to a perfect touchdown. This process could therefore form a basis for a study of tailgusts, although the results will be very dependent on the assumed ground effect.

The effect of a 10 kt tailgust at a nominal height of 50 ft is shown in Fig. 21c and 21d compared with no tailgust case in Fig. 21b. With autothrottle inoperative (Fig. 21c) the tailgust increased the rate of descent from 12 ft/sec at 50 ft to nearly 15 ft/sec at 25 ft and the aircraft hit the ground at about 9 ft/sec. With the autothrottle working (Fig. 21d) impact with the ground was reduced to less than 6 ft/sec. Time histories of the effect of a tailgust at nominal heights of 80, 50 and 30 ft are shown in Fig. 22 on an expanded time scale for direct comparison with Pinsker's results⁸. A summary of the improvement obtained

from use of autothrottle is shown in Fig. 23. The higher the tailgust is met, the more improvement is obtained since more lost speed is regained before touchdown. Even for gusts in the critical height band of 20–50 ft the autothrottle still produces a worthwhile reduction in rate of descent at impact.

In all these calculations engine thrust response to throttle lever movement was represented as a simple first order lag with a time constant of 1.25 sec. A 10 kt tailgust leads to a maximum thrust change of 15 000 lb in about 2 sec (Fig. 21d) which is well within the assumed authority limit of 25 000 lb. It was not possible to study the effect of varying the engine response time. This still needs to be done.

A 10 kt headgust was also applied at 50 ft (Figs. 21e and 21f). Without autothrottle a long float resulted but with autothrottle operating this tendency was opposed.

These simplified calculations using the simulator only as an analogue computer have shown that using the autothrottle during the landing flare provides worthwhile benefits in the event of sudden head or tailgusts. The next Section describes what happened with a pilot flying the aircraft.

6.2. Tailgust Experiment.

According to Pinsker^{8,9} the critical height band for the onset of a tailgust during the flare is 30–80 ft. Outside this range either there is insufficient time for the aircraft to respond, or the pilot has plenty of time to react. For the purposes of a simulator experiment, therefore, it was decided to apply a tailgust at a height of 50 ft in half the landings. Since the value of an autothrottle was also to be examined, half of the runs had autothrottle operating and half were with manual throttle control. Thus there were four conditions to be tested : autothrottle in or out combined with the presence or absence of a tailgust at 50 ft. Twelve approaches could conveniently be completed in one trial, so that each condition was repeated three times. The test conditions were arranged in three blocks of four, each block containing the different combinations in a random order. Two pilots each flew one trial of twelve runs, all runs being in turbulence. Tailgusts were not mentioned in the briefing: the aim of the experiment was stated as being to study the influence of the autothrottle on landing impact.

The results are summarised in Figs. 24–26. Fig. 24 shows the effect of tailgust and autothrottle on the rate of descent at touchdown. Although a tailgust sometimes severely upset the landing, causing the tail bumper to touch the ground on 3 occasions with pilot B, two points stand out in these results. First no catstrophes occurred (although a landing impact of 10 ft/sec combined with striking the tail bumper is on the verge of being catastrophic) and second, using the autothrottle throughout the flare seemed to produce a consistent improvement in the rate of descent at touchdown. This improvement has been obtained without too much runway being used (Fig. 25).

An analysis of variance shows that the difference between the mean rate of descent of touchdown with and without autothrottle is statistically significant at the 5 per cent significance level but statistically the experiment has failed to show any effect of tailgusts. This last result is surprising and is perhaps due to the small number of runs made.

The improvement in touchdown impact attributed to the autothrottle could result either from the autothrottle responding immediately to the loss of airspeed or from a general improvement in the tightness of control over speed and rates of descent. The second point is illustrated in Fig. 26, which shows the speed and rate of descent at a height of 100 ft. With the autothrottle in, the speed was much more closely controlled.

Fig. 27 shows time histories in the four conditions. Considering that the aircraft was flying the approach at a speed well below minimum drag speed, there was unusually little manual throttle activity during the run illustrated in Fig. 27a. From breaking cloud at about 400 ft altitude (which is where the traces start) the throttle was hardly touched. The height trace is in two parts, a coarse trace down to 100 ft (left-hand scale) and a fine trace below 100 ft (right-hand scale). The flare phase, starting at about 70 ft, is notable for a nearly constant pitch attitude, maintained by about 6° elevator. When he experienced a tailgust (Fig. 27b), pilot A reacted 1 second later by applying engine power. This was the only occasion on which this pilot touched the throttles below 100 ft. Pilot B, however, tended to make more frequent use of throttle and on 2 out of 3 occasions reacted to a tailgust by applying power. Figs. 27c and 27d show the effect of autothrottle on the approach and landing. The autothrottle managed to restore a large part of the speed loss due to the tailgust (Fig. 27d).

Some qualifying remarks are necessary concerning the simulation. Without exception, pilots complained that the visual scene provided by the closed-circuit television display did not include all the visual cues normally available in real life. In particular they found it difficult to assess height and rate of descent when close to the ground, and hence to arrest the descent before touchdown. Perhaps as a result of practice, some pilots including those used in the tailgust experiment, were able to judge the landing better than others. Although it is accepted that judgement of the flare did not match real life, arrangement of this experiment should permit the relative influence of autothrottle on tailgusts to be shown.

For the autothrottle to yield the benefits shown here it is important that the lags in the system be small. In a real system there are lags associated with the airspeed sensor, the throttle actuator and the engine response to throttle movement. In this simulation a single first order lag of value 1.25 sec was used to represent the entire system. Its effect on the thrust response can be seen in Fig. 27d. If overall lags are equivalent to a larger value than this then the autothrottle will be less useful in countering tailgusts than has been shown here. Every effort is needed to keep system response times as short as possible.

A second factor related to the engines is that in the simulation the line of action of thrust was assumed to pass 2.3 ft below the aircraft's centre of gravity, thus producing a nose-up pitch change with increased thrust. In responding to a tailgust, therefore, the autothrottle would lead to an increase of incidence which helps to arrest the higher rate of descent due to the tailgust. (This effect was not present, of course, in the constant attitude flares reproduced on the computer.) Some sources, however, say that the airflow at the engine intake induces a nose-down pitching moment with increased thrust, so that the net pitch change with thrust is zero. If this is borne out in practice the autothrottle will perhaps be less effective in countering tailgusts than has been shown here. There was unfortunately insufficient time to repeat the experiment without thrust line offset.

7. Sidestep Manoeuvres.

During the simulation a number of approaches were flown with a low cloudbase (400–450 ft) and a laterally offset ILS azimuth beam, so that on breaking cloud it was necessary to sidestep to reach the runway. Sidesteps from lateral displacements of up to 375 ft were performed. Fig. 28 shows the times taken to perform the manoeuvres and the lateral distances covered. Also plotted are the manoeuvre called for in the flying qualities document TSS- 5^{23} (a sidestep *s* of 100 metres in a distance of 1000 metres, i.e. 12.8 sec at 150 kt) and the theoretical minimum manoeuvre time with a bank limit of 20° (from Ref. 25). On all but two of the approaches, peak bank angles of less than 20° were used.

Theoretical calculations²⁴ of the ability of slender wing aircraft to perform sidestep manoeuvres had indicated that large rudder angles would be required to co-ordinate a sidestep; failure to apply rudder would result in the development of adverse sideslip and hence a need for further aileron to obtain the required roll response. In these calculations the manoeuvre was specified by the bank angle time history; the control surface motions necessary to achieve this time history were computed. The three chosen bank angle functions and their resulting lateral displacement time histories are shown in Fig. 29.

Similar calculations have been performed using aerodynamic data relevant to this simulation and including the effects of autostabilization (but assuming that the autostabilizers had unlimited authority); the control angles required to perform the sidesteps, while suppressing sideslip exactly, have been calculated. These angles, expressed as degrees of aileron per 100 ft of sidestep, are plotted as functions of manoeuvre time in Fig. 30 (curves A, B and C). Most of the sidesteps flown in the simulator were performed with roll autostabilizer effective, although in several of these manoeuvres rates of roll in excess of 4° /sec were used, thus exceeding the authority of the roll damper. When the authority of the damper is exceeded or the damper is inoperative, the steady rate of roll obtainable per degree of aileron applied by the pilot is more than four times that obtainable with damper effective. Since the damper opposes the rate of roll generated by the ailerons by applying opposite aileron, the amount of aileron control surface movement obtained for a given *control wheel* displacement is reduced by the dampers, and hence the aircraft's response is reduced. The response to a given *surface* deflection is of course the same whether or not the damper is operational. In Figs. 30 and 31 the aileron angles referred to are the pilot's demanded angles, and do not equal the control surface angles if the damper is in use.

The peak control angles used during sidestep manoeuvres are plotted in Fig. 30, the points being

classified according to the amount of rudder used and the state of the roll damper. The simulator results for damper operational are grouped largely in the area between curves B and C whereas TSS-5 effectively calls for a vlue of ξ/s of less than 6.1° per 100 ft in 12.8 sec (as maximum ξ is 20°), which is somewhat better than the values of curve B. To achieve a low value of ξ/s , the pilot would have to perform a sidestep which was as near to being symmetrical, and preferably sinusoidal, as possible. However, in these tests the pilots were not specifically instructed to perform such a manoeuvre but to treat the situation as they would in normal operation, and as a result the values of ξ /s obtained are not necessarily optimum ones. Some values are large because the pilot, although positioning the aircraft in line with the runway fairly rapidly, used the available time before touchdown to continue the sidestep until the aircraft was aligned closer to the runway centreline (see Fig. 31a, also shown as point (a) on Figs. 28 and 30). On other approaches the pilot performed highly unsymmetrical manoeuvres in which the peak bank angle for one part of the manoeuvre was very different from that for the second part (Fig. 31b). Other difficulties in interpretation of the sidesteps are the lack of definition of the end of the manoeuvre and the change of effective sidestep distance with heading error at the start of the manoeuvre (Fig. 2 Ref. 25). Corrections for initial heading have been made for the simulator results of Figs. 28 and 30; sidesteps with an initial error greater than 1.5° have not been plotted.

Thus for assessment of the largest sidestep possible in a given time, the optimum experimental values of ξ/s obtained should be considered. Fig. 31c shows a run for which a value of ξ/s close to curve A was obtained; the manoeuvre is well co-ordinated and the bank angle response is close to sinusoidal. The best values of ξ/s for runs in which little rudder was used and roll stabilizer was effective throughout are in the area between curves B and C (e.g. Fig. 31d). If rapid rates of roll were used and the autostabilizer saturated, more favourable values of ξ/s could be obtained (because the values of ξ/s are in terms of pilot's demanded angle and not of surface angle). Fig. 31e shows a manoeuvre where the pilot was trying to perform a large sidestep as rapidly as possible. Although little co-ordinating rudder was used and quite large sideslip angles developed, a sidestep which was close to the requirement of TSS-5 was performed with three-quarters of the available aileron.

Sidesteps with roll autostabilizer failed were still acceptable (though care was needed to avoid overcontrol), and were performed in similar times to those with damper effective. Values of ξ /s were lower because of the higher roll rate available, and aileron angles were small (peak aileron angles for the 5 approaches shown were less than 6°).

Thus satisfactory sidesteps were performed with and without roll autostabilizer and the manoeuvre called for in TSS-5 was accomplished without using maximum aileron.

A revised form of roll autostabilizer, 'aileron stick boost', is now proposed for the prototype Concorde. This applies additional aileron proportional to the rate of control-wheel movement to counteract the effect of the damper while manoeuvring. Thus some of the aircraft's roll response lost to the damper will be restored by the stick boost and more favourable values of ξ/s should be possible.

8. Landings in Cross-Winds.

The same features that make a slender-wing aircraft sensitive to sideslip in its normal rolling behaviour are also important during landings in a cross-wind. These characteristics are a large value of rolling moment due to sideslip and a small moment of inertia in roll. With a conventional drifting technique²⁶, the controls are neutral and the aircraft points into wind while crabbing along the extended runway centreline. Just before touchdown the pilot must point the aircraft down the runway by 'kicking off drift', i.e. yawing the aircraft out of wind. Exposed to the full strength of the cross-wind, the aircraft will tend to roll and it has been suggested that the wing tip would be in danger of striking the ground. Judging when to apply the necessary rudder to 'kick off drift' had been difficult even in a small delta-wing aeroplane²⁶. Consequently there was great interest in studying the manoeuvre during this simulation exercise.

Several pilots landed in simulated cross-winds of up to 30 kt, with associated turbulence gusting about 10 kt. Results have been analysed for the two pilots most experienced in this simulation. Fig. 32a illustrates a landing by each pilot using a drifting technique in a cross-wind of 25 kt. In each case a rudder movement of 15° 5 sec before touchdown resulted in near zero drift angle at impact. An aileron input of about 7 stopped any tendency to roll out of wind. These pilots commented that holding wings level was not

difficult as roll control was good but yawing the aircraft required care as it responded slowly to rudder inputs. Achievement of a small drift angle at touchdown was difficult as lack of definition in the simulated external visual scene resulted in poor height and rate of descent judgement close to the ground. Pilots also commented that they lacked any strong sense of which way the aircraft was heading.

An alternative technique of sideslipping was also tried. With this method the aircraft points at the runway and must be held in this position by using crossed controls (right rudder and left aileron for a crosswind from the left). Just before touchdown the pilot must level the wings. Fig. 32b illustrates the final phase of a successful landing using this technique. Just over 1 sec before touchdown the bank angle was 10° , but was reduced to zero at touchdown. Pilots commented that levelling the wings was very easy and preferable to yawing straight but that holding large control deflections (about half aileron and half rudder) for some time was most uncomfortable. The cramped simulator cockpit prevented free use of ailerons when large rudder angles were applied.

A landing using a mixture of these two techniques is shown in Fig. 32c. To reduce the drift in a 25 kt cross-wind to 5° required a bank angle of about 5°. This mixed method had some advantages over either of the other techniques as it gave a quick manoeuvre to level the wings and avoided having large stick and pedal deflections during approach and flare.

Results for all techniques from a number of landings are shown in Figs. 33 and 34. Fig. 33 shows maximum rudder and aileron angles used during each approach and landing. The theoretical value to trim the appropriate sideslip is also shown, together with dashed lines indicating limits of control travel used. A drifting approach made least demand on the controls and a sideslipping approach required the largest control angles. In many landings the pilot failed to remove all the drift (Fig. 34) but his difficulty in judging the moment of touchdown complicated the issue.

These tests showed, however, that a large slender wing aircraft could be landed successfully with a cross-wind of 25 kt without exceeding touchdown limitations of drift angle, ground clearance or rate of descent.

9. Pilots' Comments.

This Section has been compiled from comments made by the pilots while flying the simulator, and from reports written later by many of them. Their remarks have been gathered into three sections concerning simulation validity, normal operation of the aircraft and operation under system failure conditions.

9.1. The Simulation.

Most pilot comments on, and criticisms of, the simulation, were concerned with the visual display. 'Height cues seem to disappear once you cross the threshold.' 'The visual presentation ... was good, but I found it very difficult to cope with pitch oscillations (with pitch damper disengaged) during the last 200 ft due to the lack of a natural horizon and ... the complete lack of peripheral vision.' 'There is a lack of rate of descent information during the flare.' 'Pitch attitude is rather difficult to assess on the TV display.' Nearly all the pilots felt initially that the picture gave insufficient information of height and rate of descent in the flare and that, as a result, judgement of touchdown position and rate of descent was very difficult. This same result was obtained in flight tests²⁹ using a TV system, rather than direct vision, to provide an outside world display. Inadequate height and height rate information was available from the TV display. and other instruments had to be used. In the simulator, most pilots produced a marked improvement in touchdown performance after a few approaches had been flown. 'Initially the quality of definition of the pictorial display, with particular reference to the texture of the runway surface, made it very hard to make accurate depth assessment during the flare. This became progressively easier.' Another pilot wrote after the trial; 'I found that judgement of the height to commence flare was quite easy and that a reasonably smooth touchdown could be achieved.' However, all pilots felt that their judgement of height and rate of descent, even with practice, was not as good as in real life. 'The limitations of the visual presentation prevented a consistent or accurate assessment of height. Judgement of height appeared better than that of rate of descent, as some pilots were able to predict correctly that they would touchdown within the next second or so, but were not aware that their touchdown rates of descent were high. These visual difficulties

should be borne in mind when considering the absolute values of touchdown data. Such problems are not unique to this simulator and simulation; they have been found in other facilities³⁰, in U.K. and U.S.A.

Many pilots also complained that the visual display gave the impression that they were flying on a glide path shallower than 3°. As a result they tended to fly above the glide path once they transferred from instrument to visual flight, thus producing a steep final approach path when they neared the runway threshold and became aware that they were high. No positive reason has been found for this visual discrepancy, but it may be due to apparent foreshortening of the display, the 'horizon' being only 4 nm from the pilot, rather than at infinity.

The display was considered by most pilots to be satisfactory for performing a sidestep manoeuvre, although there were a few complaints of difficulty in assessing final alignment with the runway; pilots commented that this could occur in some real aircraft. Also, during cross-wind approaches, pilots often touched down with a substantial amount of drift, although they thought that they had kicked off all the drift. There were no real problems in setting up the drift angle required on the approach to follow the runway centreline.

A few of the taller pilots complained of the cramped nature of the cockpit and of the limited amount of seat and rudder pedal adjustment. Occasionally, particularly in cross-wind landings when large rudder angles were applied, the pilot's knee restricted the available aileron control.

Further criticisms of the simulator included deficiencies of the instrument display. It was felt that the rpm gauge and ILS indicator were rather too far from the centre of scan of the instruments; this increased the workload during raw ILS approaches. One pilot said that the scaling of the VSI was not sensitive enough for accurate flying.

9.2. Normal Operation.

In general, the handling of the simulated aircraft with all dampers and autothrottle engaged attracted little criticism. The light control forces were popular—'I found that the simulator handled very pleasantly. Aileron and elevator stick forces were very light and response was excellent.' 'The control forces were pleasantly light and control harmonization was good'— although the 'ram's horn' control wheel received some criticism from a few pilots. 'With a conventional wheel, pivoted near the centre of the wheel, one hand is tempering the force of the other hand. With the ram's horn and a low pivot point, one does not seem to have the same matching of hands and consequently has less fine roll control.' Because of the light stick forces and low static margin there was no need to retrim through the flight regime covered (approach, take-off or overshoot) (Fig. 6). The autothrottle system provided satisfactory speed holding in both calm and turbulent conditions although, with the system used, a little care was needed to ensure that the autothrottle was engaged at the correct power setting and speed. Sidestep manoeuvres were performed 'with little more difficulty than with present jet aircraft.'

If the centre of gravity was moved further aft, control in pitch, especially in turbulence, became a little tiring: it was harder to find a suitable trim position, and there was a tendency for the pitch attitude to wander. More gentle control inputs were required to prevent over-controlling, and closer monitoring of the instruments was necessary to hold the glide path.

On several approaches an alternative form of pitch autostabilizer known as 'stick boost' was used (*see* Appendix A.4). This modified law had been proposed to counter some deficiencies of the standard autostabilizer law in steady turning flight. Details were received at too late a date for the law to be incorporated in the main tests but two pilots flew approaches with this law for comparison. No real differences between the two laws were found for the approach though less stick movement was needed to initiate the flare with stick boost and it was possible to delay the start of the flare or to flare more rapidly if required.

9.3. Operation with System Failures.

In addition to describing the handling of the aircraft with system failures, the pilots were asked to consider under what operational conditions they would tolerate the failure. They were subjected to these failures in both calm air and turbulence. Since the probability of losing the autothrottle or an entire autostabilizer channel (pitch, roll or yaw) is intended to be no higher than 10^{-5} per hour for a 3 hour flight, the combination of such a failure with heavy turbulence is even less likely.

9.3.1. No autothrottle. Pilots were unanimous on two points of operation without autothrottle; firstly, that the workload was far higher than with autothrottle, and secondly that coarse throttle movements were required to correct all but the smallest speed errors. However, those airline pilots who had heard of the possible problem of speed control during flight below minimum drag speed thought the task was easier than they expected. (Test pilots who have flown the BAC 221 slender-wing research aircraft have also been pleasantly surprised²⁷ by the ease of speed control in the BAC 221 on the 'backside of the drag curve'.) All pilots felt that a satisfactory performance could be achieved without autothrottle, although a number of airline pilots stated that they would not wish to take-off with an unserviceable autothrottle. (In this exercise the pilot was flying the aircraft unaided. If control of speed were delegated to a second crew member the above restriction might not apply.)

Fig. 35 shows attempts to correct a speed error with the use of gentle (trace A) and coarse (trace B) throttle movements. In trace A the slow power reduction is insufficient to compensate for the reduction in drag due to the speed increase, and speed continues to rise. In trace B a sharp thrust reduction soon corrects the speed error and the trim power setting can be reapplied. Fig. 36 shows the need for frequent throttle corrections to obtain good speed holding; for comparison an approach with the simulator representing a current jet transport aircraft (VC 10) in a similar turbulence level is also shown. The pilots stressed the need for frequent monitoring of airspeed as speed errors could build up quite rapidly and large thrust changes would be needed to recover to the required condition. Speed behaviour under autothrottle control is shown in Fig. 37. Fig. 38 illustrates an inadvertent speed excursion which occurred between approaches; the pilot was supposed to be at 1200 ft height and 150 kt. While discussing his previous approach he allowed the speed to decrease; the gentle throttle increases prior to A did not check the speed decay, and at A he realised the need for a large increase in power. The initial effect of this power increase was to increase the pitch attitude (due to the trim change with power) and the speed showed little tendency to recover; only by pushing forward on the stick as well as by application of full power was speed recovered.

9.3.2. No pitch autostabilizer. Handling with pitch autostabilizer failure provoked the most adverse comments. 'The aircraft appeared to be unstable in pitch and I found it very easy to aggravate this condition.' 'Whilst the aircraft was controllable, only very light control pressures were required and any attempt to chase the oscillations resulted in an increase in amplitude.' Fig. 39 shows part of an approach in calm conditions; note the comparative steadiness of the attitude trace at B, when elevator activity is low, compared with that at A where the pilot inputs are tending to force the pitching oscillation. Almost all the pilots felt that an approach and landing would be possible in calm conditions, but assessments of the task in turbulence varied greatly among pilots. Most test pilots and some airline pilots thought that a safe landing could be achieved, even in moderte to heavy turbulence, but other airline pilots suggested diverting to an airfield with a low turbulence level. On the basis of this simulation and his limited experience, one pilot stated that even in calm conditions he would wish to divert to the longest available runway. Some pilots considered that complete pitch autostabilizer failure must be an extremely remote possibility and that careful thought about training demonstration would be necessary.

Much of the difficulty encountered by the pilots occurred during the final visual phase of the approach; control while on instruments was more satisfactory. The difficulty of assessing pitch attitude and glide path from the TV visual system may have complicated the task. In reality there might be more time to set up and hold a steady approach path thus avoiding any major last-minute corrections to the flight path to achieve a satisfactory touchdown.

9.3.3. No roll autostabilizer. Lack of roll autostabilizer in calm conditions presented no major difficulties as long as control inputs were kept to a minimum, and only mild use made of the ailerons to correct bank errors. Even gentle control inputs tended to produce a steady rocking of the aircraft in roll, and pilots found it wise to accept this rocking and not to try to damp out the motion. Fig. 40 shows the roll behaviour of the aircraft in calm air. In Fig. 40b the pilot is attempting to check the oscillation; aileron activity is high but excursions in bank angle are no smaller than when he accepts the oscillation and only uses the aileron to correct the mean flight path (Fig. 40a).

The same comments apply to flight in turbulent conditions; pilots preferred to tolerate the rocking of the aircraft while the bank excursions remained less than 5 or 6°, and to use the aileron only for larger bank errors and for obtaining wings level at touchdown. It was noticed that even though the bank angle might oscillate through $\pm 5^{\circ}$, there was little deterioration in heading performance, and that following of the ILS beam was only slightly harder than with fully stabilized aircraft. These comments are supported²⁷ by experience in the HP 115 and BAC 221 slender-wing research aircraft. In rough air pilots prefer to allow these aircraft to rock by up to $\pm 10^{\circ}$ of bank, with a low pilot workload. Roll response to gusts was so rapid that pilots felt that a large sidegust just before touchdown could produce a bank angle which would endanger the wing tip or engine box.

A few pilots felt that their tendency to overcontrol in roll might be aggravated by the ram's horn stick and that with a conventional control wheel it might be possible to provide the precise inputs needed to counter the roll oscillation.

Because of the behaviour in turbulence of the simulated aircraft without a roll (or pitch) autostabilizer, several pilots suggested that it might be necessary, if the handling characteristics in a failure situation were realistic, to divert to another airfield to find more suitable weather conditions. Such action is taken now in certain aircraft if a yaw damper fails completely. With the proposed reliability levels in the Concorde, such a diversion would be rare, and the aircraft handling may, in any case, prove to be better than in the simulation for the final phases of the approach.

9.3.4. Engine failure. On a number of approaches an engine was failed without warning at heights in the range 200–500 ft. No difficulties were experienced either in completing the approach and touchdown or in overshooting. A few pilots thought that the yaw resulting from engine failure was rather large, but these were pilots currently flying VC 10 aircraft, in which the engines are close to the aircraft centreline.

10. Simulator Validation.

To assess the validity of various aspects of this simulation, two other simulations, of aircraft that had actually flown, were set up. The first of these, a VC 10, was programmed as a calibration exercise prior to the SST landing study as landings using the TV display had not been tried before on this simulator. Few detailed flight records were available for comparison with simulator results but assessment of the simulation by test pilots from the aircraft manufacturer was generally favourable. The simulated aircraft was described as 'a near relative of the VC 10' in terms of its response. Landing was found to be difficult as pilots could not judge height above the ground nor detect high rates of descent close to the ground. Performing sidestep manoeuvres and lining up with the runway, however, were found to be quite straightforward.

The second relevant simulation, set up after the Concorde study, was of the BAC 221, an aircraft used by R.A.E. Bedford for research into the behaviour of slender-wing configurations. The handling qualities of this aircraft should be similar to those of Concorde in many respects, particularly in its lateral behaviour, although the great difference in size and hence in the time scale of some of the aircraft's responses should be remembered. As the BAC 221 has no autostabilization, its handling is more akin to Concorde without autostabilizers than to the fully stabilized aircraft. Two of the R.A.E. pilots who flew the Concorde simulation were familiar with the BAC 221 aircraft and also took part in the BAC 221 simulation. Quantitative results from the actual aircraft were few, so comparison had to be largely on a qualitative basis, although the aircraft had not flown during the 10 months prior to the simulation.

The overall impression of the simulation was that the lateral handling and speed stability were well represented within the limits of the pilots' memories, but that the pitch response of the simulated aircraft was too lively. Comparison of flight and simulator records supported this impression. Recent wind-tunnel tests suggest that the elevator power used may have been high. Other possible reasons for the discrepancy could be errors in the estimate of aircraft pitch inertia or effects resulting from the lack of correct motion cues, of greater importance in the simulation of a small, responsive aircraft than in that of a large one. It should be noted that this simulation was prepared entirely on the basis of wind tunnel and theoretical data; no flight results were used.

As mentioned in Section 9, control problems associated with the speed stability characteristics of the BAC 221 aircraft were not as severe as expected; the simulation matched the aircraft in this respect. Sidestep manoeuvres and cross-wing landings were performed in the simulator for comparison with flight; control usages in the aircraft and simulator were similar. In the sidestep manoeuvres the same ability to perform sidesteps without co-ordinating rudder that was noticed in the Concorde simulation was also found in flight on the BAC 221.

A more detailed discussion of the comparison between BAC 221 aircraft and simulation is given in Ref. 31. Handling qualities of the BAC 221 in flight are described by Barnes³² and Dee³³.

11. Conclusions.

A simulation of the prototype Concorde has been flown by 14 test pilots and 8 airline pilots. Aircraft data available at December 1965 was used to set up the simulation. As the general purpose research simulator at R.A.E. Bedford was used, neither the cockpit environment nor the flight instruments matched the design but aircraft responses closely resembled Concorde behaviour expected at that time. Much detailed work has since been undertaken on the simulators at Filton and Toulouse, with the result that many changes and improvements have been made to Concorde's flying qualities.

The tests described in this Report have examined the handling qualities of the aircraft during the instrument approach and visual landing phases of flight and included flying without autostabilizers. The principal results are as follows.

- (1) The handling qualities of the simulated aircraft in its fully autostabilized state were good.
- (2) Loss of the pitch damper provoked the strongest criticisms.

(3) Despite the approach speed being more than 60 kt below minimum-drag speed, loss of the autothrottle did not pose insurmountable difficulties, even with single pilot operation. Manual speed during the approach required coarse use of throttle lever. This may be a feature requiring special attention during training.

(4) Retaining the autothrottle in operation throughout the landing flare seems to be desirable to prevent large speed losses and hence high pitch attitude at touchdown, with its associated danger of the tail bumper striking the ground.

(5) The autothrottle can also compensate for the hazardous aircraft response to tailgusts during landing but for this benefit fully to be realised the autothrottle and engines must have good response characteristics.

(6) Rates of descent at touchdown were generally high. A comparative simulation of a subsonic jet transport aircraft in current airline service produced equally unsatisfactory results. It seems that the deficiencies lie with the simulator rather than with the aircraft simulated. Failure to produce a truly satisfactory simulation of touchdown was disappointing but not unexpected in view of experiences in other simulators. The main problem was a visual display from which pilots found it difficult to judge height and rate of descent close to the ground. Nevertheless, good landings, with a low rate of descent at touchdown, were performed on a number of occasions, indicating that the aircraft is capable of being landed smoothly, but in view of the difficulties associated with the simulator an assessment of the probable statistical spread of touchdown conditions is not possible on the basis of the present results.

(7) Sidesteps manoeuvres were performed easily with and without roll damper operating. The TSS-5 requirement of a 100 m sidestep in 1000 m along the ground was met without difficulty.

(8) Cross-wind landings were made satisfactory with a 25 kt cross component. Low drift and low rate of descent at touchdown were obtained but the proviso of item (6) also applies. Crabbed approaches made least demand on aileron and rudder, while sideslipping approaches made most demand, as well as being uncomfortable.

This supersonic transport simulation has revealed no new problem areas in the approach and landing phases of flight but compared with earlier results has disclosed a shift of emphasis from lateral difficulties to longitudinal ones. On the credit side the simulation has shown that in some areas the handling situation is perhaps better than had been predicted by theory.

LIST OF SYMBOLS

b	Reference wing span
c _o	Reference chord
C_L, C_D, C_Y	Aerodynamic force coefficients
C_l, C_m, C_n	Aerodynamic moment coefficients, defined as $C_l = \frac{L}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S c_0}$ etc.
D_{γ}	Approach director azimuth signal
Dz	Approach director elevation signal
F(h)	Ground effect function (see Appendix)
g	Acceleration due to gravity
h	Height
h_W	Height of mainwheels above ground
h_{G}	Ground height parameter; $h_G = h_W + 10$ ft
I_{XX}, I_{YY}, I_{ZZ}	Moments of inertia with respect to principal axes
k_1, k_2, k_3	Constants in azimuth director law
k_{4}, k_{5}	Constants in elevation director law
L, M, N	Aerodynamic moments
l_p, l_r, n_p, n_r	Moment derivatives, defined in the Appendix
Р	Period of oscillation
<i>p</i> , <i>q</i> , <i>r</i>	Angular velocity components
S	Reference wing area
S	Laplace variable
S	Magnitude of sidestep
Т	Sidestep time
Т	Engine thrust
ΔT_D	Thrust increment demanded by autothrottle
t	Time
V	Airspeed
V _{TD}	Airspeed at touchdown
V _D	Demanded speed in autothrottle law
x	Aircraft centre of gravity parameter, defined in the Appendix
У	Lateral displacement

LIST OF SYMBOLS—continued

- *y*_r Sideforce derivative, defined in the Appendix
- α Angle of incidence
- β Angle of sideslip
- β' Limited angle of sideslip, defined in the Appendix
- $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{Y}}$ Azimuth offset from ILS beam centreline
- ε_Z Elevation offset from ILS beam centreline
- ζ Damping ratio
- ζ Rudder angle
- η Elevator angle
- η_T Elevator angle to trim
- θ Pitch attitude angle
- θ_0 Constant in elevation director law
- θ_{TD} Pitch attitude at touchdown
 - λ Port elevon angle
 - μ Starboard elevon angle
 - ξ Aileron angle
 - *l* Air density
 - ϕ Roll attitude angle
 - ψ Heading angle

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APPENDIX

Aircraft Data as Used in the Simulation.

(For further details see Ref. 2)

A .1.	Dimensions.	
	Reference wing area S	3856 ft ²
	Reference wing chord c_0	90·75 ft
	Reference wing span b	83.87 ft
	Reference cg point	$52^{\circ}_{0} c_{0}$ and 3.28 ft below the body datum
	Pitch moment arm of engine about	
	reference cg	2.29 ft, thrust line below cg
	Yaw moment arm of outer engines about	
	reference cg	20-22 ft
	Inclination of thrust line to body datum	0.96° nose-up
	Main oleos	
	Distance aft of reference cg	4·6 ft
	Bottom of tyres below reference cg;	
	oleo fully extended	14·27 ft
	Track	25-2 ft
	Nose oleo	
	Distance forward of reference cg	51-5 ft
	Bottom of tyres below reference cg	51 5 11
	oleo fully extended	15·87 ft
	Tail bumper	
	Distance aft of reference cg	64·44 ft
	Bottom of bumper below reference cg	
	when fully extended	1.17 ft
	Pilot's eye position	
	Above reference cg	4·2 ft
	Forward of reference cg	89·0 ft
Δ 2	Weight etc.	
11.2.	Weight	200.000 15
	Rolling inertia with respect to principal	200 000 10
	aves I	0.935×10^6 slug ft ²
	Pitching inertia with respect to	0,555 × 10 stugit
	principal axes I _{vv}	7.46×10^6 slug ft ²
	Yawing inertia with respect to	
	principal axes I_{zz}	8.26×10^6 slug ft ²
	Body datum x-axis is inclined 1.4° nose-down re	lative to x principal axis
	Max. net thrust; sea level, ISA conditions	4×30000 lb
	Per cent may net thrust	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \end{array} \right)$ × per cent throttle travel
		$(1+1.25s)^{-1}$ per cent unotice traver

APPENDIX

A.3. Aerodynamic coefficients.

(a) Longitudinal.

Lift coefficient
$$C_L = 0.0578 \alpha - 0.182 + 0.004 |\beta| - 0.00051 \alpha |\beta|$$

+ $0.01204 \eta + \frac{100}{h_G} (0.00167 + 0.00246 \alpha + 0.000343 \eta)$
Drag coefficient $C_D = 0.0396 - 0.0081 \alpha + 0.0012 \alpha^2 + 0.0017 |\beta|$
 $- 0.0002 \alpha |\beta| + 0.000194 \alpha \eta + \frac{100}{h_G} (0.000766 \alpha - 0.00461)$
Pitching moment coefficient $C_m = 0.00776 - 0.002387 \alpha + 0.0000688 \alpha^2 - 0.0006 |\beta|$
about the cg
 $+ 0.00005 \alpha |\beta| + (0.00905 + x) \left(C_L \cos \alpha + C_D \frac{\alpha}{57.3} \right)$
 $- \frac{F(h)}{100} (0.00385 \alpha - 0.01771) - \left(0.00366 + \frac{0.01124}{h_G} \right) \eta$

F(h) is a ground effect parameter defined in Fig. 45. α , β , η are in degrees. The centre of gravity of the aircraft was at $(0.52 + x) c_0$. Plots of C_m versus α for various cg positions are shown in Fig. 5.

Damping in pitch
$$\frac{\partial C_m}{\partial \left(\frac{q c_0}{V}\right)} = -0.183 + 0.91 x$$
 per radian
 $\frac{\partial C_m}{\partial \left(\frac{\dot{\alpha} c_0}{V}\right)} = -0.092 + 0.46 x$ per radian

(b) Lateral.

Static coefficients:

Sideforce coefficient
$$C_Y = -0.01 \ \beta + 0.0024 \ \xi + 0.00235 \ \zeta$$

Roll coefficient $C_I = -0.0001745 \ \alpha\beta - 0.00212 \ \xi + 0.00034 \ \zeta$
Yaw coefficient $C_n = 0.0018 \ \beta - 0.0011 \ \beta' - 0.000372 \ [\alpha - 16.5] \ \beta - 0.00115 \ \xi$
 $-0.0015 \ \zeta + (x + 0.02) \ C_Y$

where $\beta' = \beta$ for $-2^\circ \leq \beta \leq +2^\circ$

$$\beta' = +2^{\circ}$$
 for $\beta > +2^{\circ}$
 $\beta' = -2^{\circ}$ for $\beta < -2^{\circ}$

and the bracket $[\alpha - 16.5]$ takes the value 0 for $\alpha < 16.5$.

Dynamic coefficients:

Sideforce due to rate of yaw
$$y_r = \frac{\partial C_y}{\partial \left(\frac{r c_0}{V}\right)} = 0.42 - 0.0173 \,\alpha$$
 per radian
Rolling moment due to rate of roll $l_p = \frac{\partial C_l}{\partial \left(\frac{p c_0}{V}\right)} = -0.1$ per radian
Rolling moment due to rate of yaw $l_r = \frac{\partial C_l}{\partial \left(\frac{r c_0}{V}\right)} = 0.015 + 0.0046 \,\alpha$ per radian
Yawing moment due to rate of roll $n_p = \frac{\partial C_n}{\partial \left(\frac{p c_0}{V}\right)} = -0.003 \,\alpha$ per radian
Yawing moment due to rate of yaw $n_r = \frac{\partial C_n}{\partial \left(\frac{r c_0}{V}\right)} = -0.15$ per radian

 $\alpha, \beta, \xi, \zeta$ are in degrees and moments are referred to body datum axes.

A.4. Contols.

The simulated aircraft used elevons for pitch and roll control instead of separate elevators and ailerons; however, the conventional terms 'elevator angle' and 'aileron angle' will be used to describe the amount of elevons used for pitch and roll control respectively.

Autostabilization was provided in pitch, roll and yaw, and an interconnect between aileron and rudder produced a rudder angle proportional to the pilot's demanded aileron angle.

Demanded elevator angle $\eta_D = \eta_{\text{pilot}} + \eta_{\text{autostabilizer}}$

$$= \eta_{\text{pilot}} + 1.75 \left(\frac{1+0.8 \, s}{1+1.4 \, s}\right) q$$

the autostabilizer term being limited to a demand of $\pm 4^{\circ}$ of elevator.

An alternative pitch autostabilizer, known as 'stick boost' was used in several trials. This had a law

$$\eta_{\text{autostabilizer}} = \left\{ \frac{0.5 + 3.75 \, s}{1 + 2.5 \, s} \right\} q + \frac{2}{3} \left\{ \frac{2 \, s}{(1 + 2 \, s) \, (1 + 1.2 \, s)} \right\} \eta_{\text{pilot}}$$

and was limited to a demand of $\pm 2^{\circ}$ of elevator.

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Demanded aileron angle
$$\xi_D = \xi_{\text{pilot}} + \xi_{\text{autostabilizer}}$$

$$=\xi_{\text{pilot}}+p$$

the autostabilizer term being limited to a demand of $\pm 4^{\circ}$ of aileron.

 η_{pilot} and ξ_{pilot} were subject to the control mixing envelope of Fig. 41 which shows the maximum available aileron as a function of elevator angle. The elevon control system lags were represented by a first order lag of time constant 0.1 sec and a rate limit of 30°/sec.

Port elevon angle
$$\lambda = \frac{1}{1 + 0.1 s} (\xi_D + \eta_D)$$

Starboard elevon angle
$$\mu = \frac{1}{1+0.1 s} (\xi_D - \eta_D)$$

and

resultant 'elevator angle'
$$\eta = \frac{\lambda - \mu}{2}$$

resultant 'aileron angle' $\xi = \frac{\lambda + \mu}{2}$.

The rudder control system was assumed to have no lags and the rudder angle was given by

$$\zeta = \zeta_{\text{pilot}} + \zeta_{\text{autostabilizer}} + \zeta_{\text{interconnect}}$$
$$= \zeta_{\text{pilot}} + \frac{4s}{1+2s}r + 0.2 \xi_{\text{pilot}}$$

the autostabilizer term being limited to a demand of $\pm 4.5^{\circ}$ of rudder. Details of feel forces and gearings for each control are given in Figs. 42-44.

A.5. Autothrottle law.

Demanded thrust
$$\Delta T_D = -2000 \left(1 + \frac{1}{30 s} \right) (V - V_D) + 2500 \frac{10}{1 + 10 s} \dot{\theta} \, \text{lb}$$

where V = airspeed in knots

 V_D = selected airspeed in knots

- $\dot{\theta}$ = pitch rate in degrees/sec
- s = Laplace operator.

 ΔT_p is limited to $\pm 25\,000$ lb.

When $|V - V_D|$ is greater than 6 kt the $\frac{1}{30 s}(V - V_D)$ term is prevented from integrating.

APPENDIX

The autothrottle had 4 controls, a 'speed to hold' dial and 3 'mode select' buttons, PRIME, OUT and IN. In the PRIME mode the autothrottle was disengaged; $\Delta T_D = 0$. On selecting IN, the autothrottle operated according to the above law, where V_D was the speed set on the dial; selection of OUT held ΔT_D constant at the value it then possessed. For computational reasons it was necessary to return to PRIME before reselecting IN. The autothrottle system did not move the throttle lever, and it was possible for the pilot to add further thrust demands to those produced by the autothrottle:

i.e. total demanded thrust = $\Delta T_D + T$ due to throttle position.

However, if a large thrust increase were demanded, as in an overshoot, the autothrottle automatically returned to the PRIME condition.

A.6. Approach aids.

The simulated ILS beams comprised:

3° glideslope beam, angular width of beam $\pm \frac{3}{4}$ °, beam origin 1000 ft beyond runway threshold

azimuth beam, angular width of beam $\pm 2^\circ$, beam origin 11 250 ft beyond runway threshold.

It was possible to displace laterally the origin of the azimuth beam, so that from an accurate ILS approach it would be necessary to perform a sidestep manoeuvre to land on the runway centreline. Using this facility in conjunction with a low cloudbase enabled sidestep situations to be presented to the pilot without his foreknowledge.

The ILS information could also be presented in director form, the director laws being :

AZIMUTH
$$D_{y} = -k_{1} \varepsilon_{y} - k_{2} \psi - k_{3} \phi$$

where $k_1 = 1$

 $k_2 = 10\%$ f.s.d. per degree

 $k_3 = 2\%$ f.s.d. per degree

 $\varepsilon_{\gamma} = \frac{\circ}{10}$ f.s.d. of ILS azimuth needle, positive for aircraft to right of centreline

and D_{Y} is positive when 'fly right' is directed.

The $k_1 \varepsilon_y$ term was limited to a maximum value of 70% f.s.d.

ELEVATION
$$D_Z = -k_4 \varepsilon_Z + k_5 (\theta - \theta_0)$$

where $k_4 = 0.7$

 $k_5 = 6\%$ f.s.d. per degree

 $\theta_0 = 10.7^\circ$ (the datum attitude for a 3° glideslope at 150 kt and 200 000 lb)

 $\varepsilon_z = \frac{9}{0}$ f.s.d. of ILS glideslope needle, positive for aircraft below glide path

and D_z is positive when 'flydown' is directed.



FIG. 1. General view of simulator cockpit.







FIG. 4. Angular fields of view of aircraft and simulator in approach configuration.











(a) Variation of longitudinal stability roots with centre of gravity position, no pitch damper



- (b) Effect of pitch damper on roots for cg at 0.525 Co
 - FIG. 7 a & b. Roots of longitudinal stability equation, 150 kt.



FIG. 8b. Approach in calm air with 400 ft cloudbase and ILS azimuth error, fully stabilized.



(a) Fully stabilised aircraft, calm and turbulent conditions



(b) Without autothrottle, calm and turbulent conditions











FIG. 12. Probability of exceeding a given rate of descent at touchdown.









FIG. 19. Probability of exceeding a given bank angle at touchdown.





FIG. 21. Response to step gusts when aircraft is constrained in pitch.



FIG. 22. Constant attitude flare with 10 kt tailgust at various heights, 3° glide path. Auto-throttle out.

FIG. 23. Effect of autothrottle on landing impact.







FIG. 26. Conditions at 100 ft-tailgust experiment.



FIG. 27. Time histories of final approach and landing, with and without tailgusts, pilot A.

÷.



FIG. 28. Manoeuvre time for sidestep.



(a) Bank angle



(b) Lateral displacement

FIG. 29 a & b. Bank angle and lateral displacement time histories (Ref. 24).



FIG. 30. (Aileron angle)/(sidestep distance) versus manoeuvre time.



FIG. 31. Sidestep manoeuvres, dampers in.



(a)Drifting technique (b)Sideslipping technique (c)Mixed technique



FIG. 33. Maximum control usage during crosswind landings.



FIG. 34. Drift angle at touchdown versus maximum rudder angle, in a 25 kt crosswind.

FIG. 35. Coarse use of throttle for speed control.





'n

50

in use.









FIG. 44. Rudder forces and gearings.

FIG. 45. Pitching moment ground-effect parameter.

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