

12. Endnote

Most textbooks come to an abrupt ending. This seems strange considering most papers and reports contain a conclusions section. Here we need to finish with a few brief comments. This text covers just the tip of the iceberg of configuration aerodynamics. I've included lots of citations to references that can lead you further into the study of configuration aerodynamics. And of course the papers keep coming – stay up to date by following the literature.

Be curious

As new concepts and theories are proposed, think about why they might be good ideas. What physics are exploited? How can we connect new requirements and technological advances? UAVs and various proposed autonomous vehicles are examples. When do they make sense? When don't they make sense?

Be skeptical

Similarly, all the results presented in papers and textbooks aren't necessarily correct. Be skeptical and be prepared to do some calculations for yourself to look further into the assertions. You will be rewarded with a deeper understanding of the work.

Most of all, be creative

Use your understanding of aerodynamics to invent new configurations. You have the tools. We've seen the physics supporting Whitcomb's *Area Rule*, *Supercritical Airfoil* and *Winglets*. We saw why RT Jones's *Oblique Wing Concept* should continue to be considered. And we saw the basis for Werner Pfenninger's *High Aspect Ratio Truss Braced Wing Concept*, Rudy Meyer's *Supercritical Conical Camber* and Glenn Spacht's *Forward Swept Wing Concept*. These are just a few of the innovative ideas arising from an understanding of aerodynamics.

Use these notes as a basis to keep exploring. As technology changes, concepts that were ridiculous may become practical! Talk to anyone who has been through the process. There are fewer and fewer of these people around. I always tried to talk to experienced configuration aerodynamicists. I was lucky to be able to chat with many of the famous aerodynamicists. Lots of the key issues were never written down in the literature.