

# **American National Standard**

## **Flight Dynamics Model Exchange Standard**

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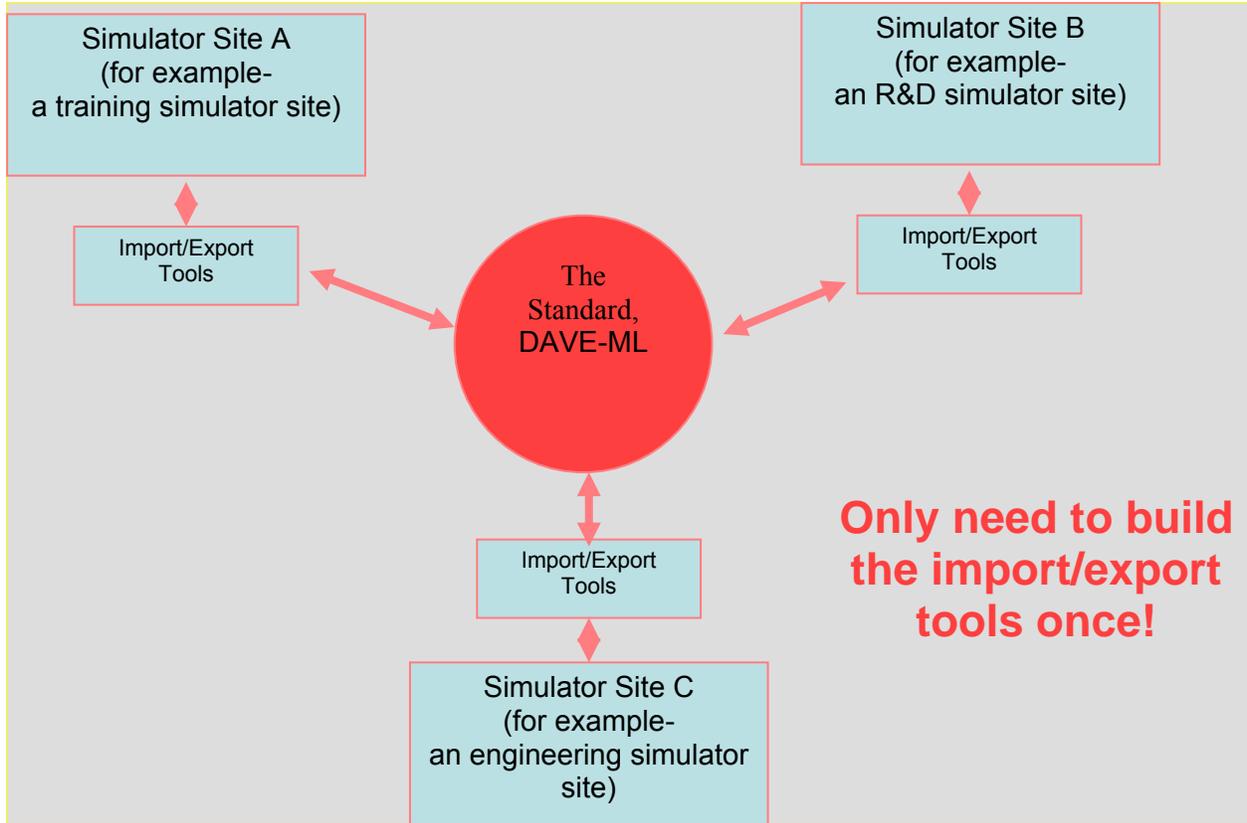
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

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### **Abstract**

This is a standard for the interchange of simulation modeling data between facilities. As illustrated in the figure below, the initial objective is to allow a person with a simulation of a certain type of vehicle or aircraft at facility A to transfer the simulation to facility B in an easy, straightforward manner. The standard includes variable definitions, axis systems, and function table definition. DAVE-ML, an implementation of the standard using XML, is discussed herein and DAVE-ML data type definitions are included in Annex B.



A Standard Format for Exchanging Simulation Modeling Data Between Simulation Facilities

Given a standard format for the exchange of simulation modeling data, the user community investment required to use the standard is minimal. Each facility internal standards and conventions may still be used. The only work required to commit to the standard is to write "translation" programs to import and export data from/to the DAVE-ML standard. This one time investment would then allow any model to be exchanged easily and with good confidence that the "rehosting" of the model would require minimal effort. Again, the user need not change anything inside his facility or software to use the model.

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## Foreword

This standard has been sponsored and developed by the AIAA Modeling and Simulation Committee on Standards. Mr. Bruce Jackson of NASA Langley conceived DAVE-ML. DAVE-ML is the embodiment of the standard in XML. It is the data type descriptions for the XML implementation and includes examples of its use. (Annex B)

This implementation was then tested by trial exchange of simulation models between NASA Langley Research Center (Mr. Bruce Jackson), NASA Ames Research Center (Mr. Thomas Alderete and Mr. Bill Cleveland), and the Naval Air Systems Command (Mr. William McNamara and Mr. Brent York). Numerous improvements to the standard resulted from this “testing”.

At the time of approval, the members of the AIAA **Modeling and Simulation CoS** were:

Bruce Hildreth, Chair	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
Bruce Jackson, Co-chair	NASA Langley Research Center
Geoff Brian	Defense Science Technical Organization (DSTO)
Brent York	Indra Systems, Inc.
Michael Silvestro	Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.
Barry Bryant	NASA Langley Research Center
Bimal Aponso	NASA Ames Research Center
Jean Slane	Engineering Systems Inc.
Peter Grant	University of Toronto
Bill Bezdek	Boeing Phantom Works
Jon Berndt	Jacobs

The above consensus body approved this document in **Month 200X**.

The AIAA Standards Executive Council (**VP-Standards Name**, Chairman) accepted the document for publication in **Month 200X**.

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## Introduction

The purpose of this standard is to clearly define the information required and format to exchange air vehicle simulation models between simulation facilities. This portion of the standard is implemented in XML and called DAVE-ML.

The Exchange Standard (DAVE-ML) Includes:

- Standard variable name definitions – the purpose of this is to facilitate the transfer of information by using these standard variables as a “common language”. Of course, the DAVE-ML standard can be used without using standard variable names. It will just be more difficult because the person exporting the model will have to explicitly define all the variables instead of just a subset unique to the particular model.
- Standard function table definition - this allows easy transfer of non-linear function tables of n dimensions.
- Standard axis system definitions - this is used by the variable names and function tables to clearly define the information being exchanged.
- Standard static math equation representation - for definition of aero model (or other static models) equations. This is implemented using Math-ML.

XML provides a format for the exchange of this information, so each organization only has to make import/export tools to the standard one time, instead of each time they import from, or export to, a new or changed facility or simulation architecture.

The resultants of the use of this standard will be substantially reduced the cost and time to exchange aerospace simulations and model information. Test cases have shown use of the standard results in an order of magnitude reduction in effort to exchange simple models. Even greater benefits should be attained for large or complicated models.

## Trademarks

The following commercial products that require trademark designation are mentioned in this document. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

Simulink ®

Math-ML

# 1 Scope

This standard establishes the definition of the information and format used to exchange air vehicle simulations and validation data between disparate simulation facilities. This standard is not meant to require facilities to change their internal formats or standards. With the concept of an exchange standard, facilities are free to retain their well-known and trusted simulation hardware and software infrastructures. The model is exchanged through the standard, so each facility only needs to create import/export tools to the standard once. Then they can use these tools to exchange models with any facility at minimal effort, instead of making unique import/export tools for every facility that they exchange with.

The standard includes definition of the information in order to clarify the information exchanged. Such clarification includes axis systems, referenced, units, and sign conventions used. XML is used as the mechanism to facilitate automation of the exchange of the information. Using the definitions in the standard, a list of simulation variable names and axis system is included. This list of standard variables names further simplifies the exchange of information, but is not required.

## 2 Tailoring

When viewed from the perspective of a specific program or project context, the requirements defined in this Standard may be tailored to match the actual requirements of the particular program or project. Tailoring of requirements shall be undertaken in consultation with the procuring authority where applicable.

**NOTE** Tailoring is a process by which individual requirements or specifications, standards, and related documents are evaluated and made applicable to a specific program or project by selection, and in some exceptional cases, modification and addition of requirements in the standards.

The following sections provide further guidance on specific tailoring situations.

### 2.1 Partial Use of the Standard

#### 2.1.1 Creating a New Simulation Environment

This situation calls for use of the complete standard. In this situation it is hoped that the team developing this new simulation would add to the list of standard variables and axis systems.

#### 2.1.2 Creating a New Simulation Model in an Existing Simulation Environment

This is defined as creating a new system model (aircraft dynamic model for example) that will run in an existing simulation environment. The authors of this standard expect that this is the most commonly performed work that will see benefit by application of this standard.

In this case the tailoring guidelines are simple. Apply the standard to the new development aspects of the project and all the function tables. Assuming that most or all of the standard variable names and axis systems are applicable to the simulation, use them for the new code developed for the simulation. In the existing simulation environment that is being reused, for example the equations of motion, there is no need to rewrite the code to use the standard variable names or axis systems. However, in most cases the axis systems used in existing simulation environments will be covered in the standard axis system definitions herein (Section 5.2). Therefore the standard axis systems can easily be referenced to when documenting the simulation and interfaces between the new simulation components and those reused.

#### 2.1.3 Creating or Updating a Simulation with a Long Life Expectancy

A pilot training simulator is an excellent example of this type of simulation. This simulation may only be updated every 3-10 years, so at first glance the standard may seem to be less important.

In fact the opposite is true. It is because of the infrequent maintenance that the standard is critical. In this case, in each new software update, the original developers (or last updaters) are probably gone, and

the update is being done by new personnel. Therefore, software developed under the standard is much easier to understand by the new software team. They would be working with clear variable definitions that they are familiar with. The function table format is understood and the functions themselves better documented. Changes are recorded for the next software update team some years down the road. The axis system definitions are clear.

In simulations with long expected life, use of the state, state derivative and control conventions as part of the naming convention becomes critical. That is because these variables form the core of the model and control of it. It is critical that the personnel modifying or updating the simulation are able to easily find the states, state derivatives and controls.

## 2.2 New and Reused Software Tailoring Guidance

The longer the expected life of the simulation, the more important the use of the standard will be. The above tailoring guidelines may be categorized in to two common situations; new and reused code.

New simulation code should

- use standard axis system definitions (Section 5) where they coincide with the definitions in the standard;
- use standard variable names (Section 6) to facilitate consistency and simplify documentation requirements;
- apply the convention for states, state derivatives and controls (Section 6.3) wherever possible; and
- use standard function tables (Section 7) for ALL function tables.

NOTE This facilitates consistency in the data, the documentation of the data, and collaboration with other organizations to improve or debug the data.

Reused simulation code should reference the standard only when convenient to document interfaces with new code.

## 2.3 Creating New Variable Names and Axis Systems

The standard variable names and axis system definitions are part of the standard to facilitate communication. They provide a “common language” for the exchange. For example, it is not enough to exchange the lift coefficient function. As a minimum the independent variables used to define the function and their units, sign convention, and reference axis system must be defined. This is facilitated by having some standard variable names and axis systems. Of course, new variable names, definitions, and other convenient axis systems may be used to exchange models between simulation facilities. However, in such cases, the exporters and importers must be very careful to carefully define these variables and axes, otherwise, the exchanged model may not produce the desired results. Use of standard variable names and axis systems facilitates the exchange.

The standard includes a methodology for creating new standard variables. Its use is encouraged. **Annex C provides the URL** for submitting additional standard variable names and axis systems or comments on existing standard variable names and axis systems.

## 3 Applicable Documents

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies.

AIAA R-004-1992      *Atmospheric and Space Flight Vehicle Coordinate Systems*

## 4 Vocabulary

### 4.1 Acronyms and Abbreviated Terms

AIAA                      American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

ANSI                      American National Standards Institute

XML                      Extensible Markup Language

### 4.2 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### **Breakpoint**

the value of the independent variable of a given dependent variable, or the X coordinate values (or abscissa of) a one dimensional table

#### **Confidence Interval**

the range of values a variable is considered valid for, to a specified percentage confidence

#### **Dependent Variable**

the output of the function table

EXAMPLE For  $C_L(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $C_L$  is the dependent variable, also called the output.

#### **Independent Variable**

the variable or variables of which the independent variable is a function

EXAMPLE For  $C_L(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are independent variables.

#### **One Dimensional Table**

a table where there is only one independent variable

EXAMPLE  $C_L(\alpha)$  is a one dimensional table.

#### **Two Dimensional Table**

a table where there are two independent variables

EXAMPLE  $C_L(\alpha, \beta)$  is a two dimensional table.

#### **Static Equation**

a mathematical statement where the output (left hand side) does not have direct dependence (right hand side) on a simulation state

#### **Simulation States (State Derivatives)**

in the formulation of a simulation model shown as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{X} &= Ax + Bu \\ y &= Cx + Du\end{aligned}$$

—  $x$  represents a vector of the simulation states.

—  $\dot{X}$  represents a vector of the simulation state derivatives.

—  $u$  represents a vector of the simulation controls (inputs)

### Function Table

a numerical set of data points used to represent non-linear relationships between a dependent variable based on (as a function of) one or more independent variables

EXAMPLE  $C_L(\alpha, \beta)$  is represented by a function table.

### Gridded Table

a multi-dimensional function table where the independent variable breakpoints do not change for different values of other independent variables

NOTE 1 This is sometimes called an orthogonal table.

NOTE 2 All one-dimensional tables are a “gridded tables”.

### Ungridded Table

a multi-dimensional function table where the independent variable breakpoints can change for different values of other independent variables

NOTE This is sometimes called a non-orthogonal table.

## 5 Standard Simulation Axis Systems

### 5.1 Background / Philosophy

The axis system definitions discussed herein were taken from existing standards, the *ANSI/AIAA Recommended Practice for Atmospheric and Space Flight Vehicle Coordinate Systems* (ANSI/AIAA R-004-1992) [Ref. 5.3.1] and the *Distributed Interactive Simulation* (DIS Application Protocols, Version 2, IST-CR-90-50, March 1994) [Ref. 5.3.2]. Reference 5.3.1 is based on ISO Standard 1151-1 of 1988 and 1151-3 of 1972.

Axis system standards also are reflected in the variable naming convention. When applicable, the axis system is included in the variable name (see section 6 below).

#### 5.1.1 Axis System Conventions

In general, ANSI/AIAA R-004-1992 [Ref. 5.3.1] should be referred to as the normative reference on axis system definitions. These axis systems are discussed in Table 5.1-1 below.

It is important to emphasize the correlation of the axis systems in Refs. 5.3.1 and 5.3.2. The geocentric earth fixed axis system and body axis coordinate system axis system both are used in Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) and High Level Architecture (HLA) simulations.

##### 5.1.1.1 Geocentric Earth-Fixed Axis System

The Geocentric Earth-Fixed Axis System (Axis System 1.1.3 of the table below) is identical to the DIS “Geocentric Cartesian Coordinate System” (also referred to “World Coordinate System” of Ref. 5.3.2).

It is a system with both the origin and axis fixed relative to, and rotating with, the earth. The origin is at the center of the earth, the  $x_G$  axis being the continuation of the line from the center of the earth through the intersection of the Greenwich Meridian and the Equator, the  $z_G$  axis being the mean spin axis of the earth, positive the north, and the  $y_G$  axis completing the right hand triad.

All variables in the simulation referenced to this axis system refer to the “GE” for the Geocentric Earth-Fixed Axis System. This axis system is also frequently called “Earth Centered Earth Fixed”.

### 5.1.1.2 Body Axis Coordinate System

Another standard axis system is the Body Axis System (axis system number 1.1.7 in Ref. 5.3.1). This is identical to the DIS “Entity Coordinates System” in Ref. 5.3.2.

The body axis system is referred to in the variable names as “Body”.

### 5.1.1.3 Additional Axis Systems

In addition to the axis systems defined in Reference 5.3.1, this standard has added the Flat Earth and Locally Level axis systems. These axis system are defined only for convenience for use in simple simulations and for creating validation data.

The Flat Earth axis system is a fixed, non-rotating, flat earth with no mapping to a round earth coordinate system, therefore, latitude and longitude are meaningless. The purpose of this coordinate system is to allow, if desired, vehicle checkout simulation to be performed in this axis system. This simplifies the use of this standard by the simulation facilities which do not normally use a round or oblate spheroid, rotating earth model.

The Flat Earth reference system is situated on the earth’s surface directly under the cg of the vehicle at the initialization of the simulation. The x axis on the local frame points northwards and the y axis points eastward, with the z axis down. The x and y axis are parallel to the plane of the flat earth.

The flat earth axis system is referred to in variable names as “FE”.

The locally level axis system is also a simplified axis system convenient for simulation checkout and validation. The –Z axis passes through the vehicle CG. If a flat earth, the X axis is in the plane of the surface and oriented toward true North. The Y axis is also in the plane of the surface and completes the right hand triad (East). If not at flat earth, the X axis is tangential to the smooth surface of the earth and oriented toward true North in the geometric earth model. The Y axis is tangential to the smooth surface of the earth completing the right hand triad (East).

The locally level axis system is referred to in variable names as “LL”.

### 5.1.1.4 Complete List of Axis Systems

The axis systems that are referenced are taken largely from paragraph 1.1 of Ref. 5.3.1. The flat earth and locally level axis systems for atmospheric flight simulation approximation are added to that reference.. Table 5.1-1 below is the comprehensive list of axis systems that may be used.

The first column in the table below provides the abbreviation used for each axis system. The axis system may be referenced in a variable name. See the section below on the variable naming convention.

Table 1 — Standard Axis Systems

Reference Abbreviation for Variable Names	AIAA R-004-1992 Paragraph Number	Term	Definition	Symbol
EI (Earth centered inertial)	1.1.1	Geocentric Inertial axis system  (See Appendix D.2 of Ref. 5.3.1 for a modification of this system used for launch vehicles.)	An inertial reference system of the FK5 mean equator and equinox of J2000.0 has the origin at the center of the Earth, the $X_I$ -axis being the continuation of the line from the center of the Earth through the center of the Sun toward the vernal equinox, the $Z_I$ -axis pointing in the direction of the mean equatorial	$X_I Y_I Z_I$

			plane's north pole, and the $Y_I$ -axis completing the right-hand system.  (See Figure 1A in Ref. 5.3.1)	
Not used, this forms a basis for other definitions	1.1.2	Earth-fixed axis system	A right-hand coordinate system, fixed relative to and rotating with the Earth, with the origin and axes directions chosen as appropriate.	$X_oY_oZ_o$
GE (also called ECEF for earth centered earth fixed)	1.1.3	<u>Geocentric Earth-fixed axis system</u>	A system with both the origin and axes fixed relative to and rotating with the Earth (1.1.2). The origin is at the center of the Earth, the $x_G$ -axis being continuation of the line from the center of the Earth through the intersection of the Greenwich meridian and the equator, the $z_G$ -axis being the mean spin axis of the Earth, positive to the north, and the $y_G$ -axis completing the right-hand system. (See Appendix D.3 in Ref. 5.3.1)	$x_Gy_Gz_G$
	1.1.4	<u>Normal Earth-fixed axis system</u>	An Earth-fixed axis system (1.1.2) in which the $z_o$ -axis is oriented according to the downward vertical passing through the origin (from the origin to the nadir). (See Figure 1C in Ref. 5.3.1)	$x_oY_oZ_o$  NOTE- However, $x_gY_gZ_g$ is an acceptable alternative.
VO	1.1.5	<u>Vehicle-carried orbit-defined axis system<sup>a</sup></u>	A system with the origin fixed in the vehicle, usually the center of mass, in which the $z_o$ -axis is directed from the spacecraft toward the nadir, the $y_o$ -axis is normal to the orbit plane (positive to the right when looking in the direction of the spacecraft velocity), and the $x_o$ -axis completes the right-hand system. (See Figure 1A in Ref. 5.3.1)	$x_oY_oZ_o$
VE	1.1.6	<u>Vehicle-carried normal Earth axis system<sup>a</sup></u>	A system in which each axis has the same direction as the corresponding normal Earth-fixed axis, with the origin fixed in the vehicle, usually the center of mass.	$x_oY_oZ_o$  NOTE- However, $x_gY_gZ_g$ is an acceptable alternative.
Body	1.1.7	<u>Body axis system<sup>a</sup></u>	A system fixed in the vehicle, with the origin, usually the center or mass, consisting of the following	$x_BY_BZ_B$

		<p>Longitudinal axis</p> <p>Lateral axis</p> <p>Normal axis</p>	<p>axes:</p> <p>An axis in the reference plane or, if the origin is outside that plane, in the plane through the origin, parallel to the reference plane, and positive forward.<sup>b</sup> In aircraft or missiles, this is normally from the CG forward towards the nose in the vertical plane of symmetry. It is also normally parallel to the waterline of the vehicle.</p> <p>An axis normal to the reference plane and positive to the right of the x-axis (henceforth, positive to the right).</p> <p>An axis which lies in or parallel to the reference plane, whose positive direction is chosen to complete the orthogonal, right-hand system xyz.</p>	<p><math>X_B</math></p> <p><math>Y_B</math></p> <p><math>Z_B</math></p>
<p>Wind (for Wind axis system)</p>	<p>1.1.8</p>	<p>Air-path system<sup>a</sup></p> <p><math>x_a</math>-axis; Air-path axis</p> <p><math>y_a</math>-axis; lateral air-path axis; cross-stream axis</p> <p><math>z_a</math>-axis; normal air-path axis</p>	<p>A system with the origin fixed in the vehicle, usually the center of mass, consistent of the following axes:</p> <p>An axis in the direction of the vehicle velocity relative to the air (1.5.1).</p> <p>An axis normal to the air-path axis and positive to the right.</p> <p>An axis</p> <p>— in the reference plane or, if the origin is outside that plane, parallel to the reference plane, and</p> <p>— normal to the air-path axis.</p> <p>The positive direction of the <math>z_a</math>-axis is chosen so as to complete the orthogonal, right-hand system <math>x_a y_a z_a</math>.</p>	<p><math>X_a Y_a Z_a</math></p> <p><math>X_a</math></p> <p><math>Y_a</math></p> <p><math>Z_a</math></p>
<p>SA (for <u>S</u>tability)</p>	<p>Derived from 1.1.9</p>	<p>Intermediate axis system<sup>a</sup></p>	<p>A body fixed system with the origin fixed in the vehicle, usually the center of mass, consisting of the</p>	<p><math>X_s Y_s Z_s</math></p>

Axis system)		<p><math>X_s</math>-axis</p> <p><math>Y_s</math>-axis</p> <p><math>Z_s</math>-axis</p>	<p>following axes.</p> <p>Aligned with the projection of the air-path axis on the reference plane, or, if the origin is outside that plane, on the plane through the origin, parallel to the reference plane.</p> <p>An axis normal to the reference plane and positive to the right, coinciding with or parallel to the lateral axis (1.1.7).</p> <p>An axis which coincides with or is parallel to the normal air-path axis so as to complete the orthogonal right-hand system.</p>	<p><math>x_s</math></p> <p><math>y_s</math></p> <p><math>z_s</math></p>
FP	1.1.10	<p><u>F</u>light-<u>p</u>ath axis system<sup>a</sup> (also known as the velocity vector axis system)</p>	<p>A system with the origin fixed in the vehicle (usually the center of mass) and in which the <math>x_k</math>-axis is in the direction of the flight-path velocity relative to the Earth.</p> <p>The <math>y_k</math> axis is normal to the plane of symmetry and positive to the right.</p> <p>The <math>z_k</math> axis completes the orthogonal right-hand system</p>	$x_k y_k z_k$
AA	1.1.11	<p><u>T</u>otal-<u>a</u>n-gle-of-<u>a</u>ttack axis system<sup>1)</sup> (USA practice: areoballistic axis system.)</p>	<p>A system with the origin fixed in the vehicle, usually the center of mass, in which the <math>x_r</math>-axis is coincident with the x-axis in the body axis system (1.1.7).</p> <p>The <math>y_r</math> axis is perpendicular to the plane formed by the <math>x_r</math>-axis and the velocity vector, positive to the right.</p> <p>The <math>z_r</math> axis is formed to complete the orthogonal, right-hand system.</p>	$x_r y_r z_r$
FE		<p><u>F</u>lat <u>E</u>arth system (not from Ref. 5.3.1)</p>	<p>The Flat Earth reference system is situated on the earth's surface directly under the cg of the vehicle at the initialization of the simulation. The x axis on the local frame points northwards and the y axis points eastward, with the z axis down. The x and y axis are parallel to the plane of the flat earth.</p>	$x_{FE} y_{FE} z_{FE}$

LL		Locally Level axis system (not from Ref. 5.3.1)	A vehicle related axis system (1.1.6) with the origin on the smooth surface of the earth and moving with the vehicle. The -Z axis passes through the vehicle CG. The X axis is tangential to the smooth surface of the earth and oriented toward true north in the geometric earth model. The Y axis is tangential to the smooth surface of the earth completing the right hand triad (East).	X <sub>LL</sub> Y <sub>LL</sub> Z <sub>LL</sub>
<p><sup>a</sup> Usually the origins of the axis systems defined in 1.1.5 through 1.1.11 coincide. If that is not the case, it is necessary to distinguish the different origins by appropriate suffixes.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> The reference plane should be a plane of symmetry, or a clearly specified alternative.</p>				

**5.2 Summary**

This axis system standard should be followed for all future equations of motion. Additionally, it provides the naming convention to properly reference the definitions herein in simulation variable names.

**5.3 References**

- 5.3.1 ANSI/AIAA Recommended Practice R-004-1992, Atmospheric and Space Flight Vehicle Coordinate Systems, 28 February 1992.
- 5.3.2 Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS Application Protocols, Version 2, IST-CR-90-50, March 1994)

**6 Standard Simulation Variables**

**6.1 Background / Philosophy**

**6.1.1 The Rationale for Having Standard Variable Name and Naming Conventions**

The standard variable names and axis system definitions are part of the standard to **facilitate communication**. They provide a “common language” for the exchange. For example, it is not enough to exchange the lift coefficient function. As a **minimum** the independent variables used to define the function and their units, sign convention, and reference axis system must be defined. This is facilitated by having some standard variable names and axis systems.

Therefore, if you exchange models using the standard variables, you don’t have to define a variable that is part of the standard, just refer to it in the standard. Additionally, the variable naming convention is presented to allow the list of standard variables to grow as needed by the user community. Hopefully the convention will keep some consistency in the variable names and make them easier for users to interpret.

**6.1.2 States and State Derivatives**

Long term software maintenance of simulation software used to model the flight dynamics of an airplane is predicated upon identification of the states and controls in the simulation. The importance of this cannot be overstated. States and inputs (controls) are determined by the physics of the problem. Since the physics are immutable (although we have all seen software where they’re not) the identification of these variables is crucial in software maintenance.

Again, according to physics, all outputs which we use in simulation are derived from states and inputs.

By practice, anything in a simulation we are interested in is an output. To create an output, for example indicated airspeed, we must be able to identify the states and inputs. Therefore, if we know the appropriate law of physics, we may correctly compute indicated airspeed. Too often in simulation modeling we forget these immutable fundamental concepts. We “fudge” things and create states from outputs. Practically speaking, this is done because we can’t determine what the states in the simulation are. Since a simulation is an iterative process, it becomes very cloudy as to what variable is dependent upon what other variable.

This is why we must go back to the physics and remember everything is computed from states and inputs in the mathematical and physical sense.

Now the question becomes which state, that is, state at what time? Again, this becomes clear if we go back to the physics. Outputs at any time  $T$  are a function of the states and inputs at time  $T$ . Integration of the state derivatives at time  $T$  results in states at time  $T$  plus  $\Delta T$ . State derivatives at time  $T$  are functions of the states and inputs at time  $T$ . It is crucial that we do not mix variables at time  $T$  with variables at time  $T$  plus  $\Delta T$ .

Practically speaking, for simulation standards, what this means is that all integrations must be done in a centralized location in each simulation loop, otherwise we mix variables at time  $T$  with variables at time  $T$  plus  $\Delta T$ . The simulation industry has violated this mathematical principle for many years in the use of “in-line” difference equations for simulation filters and actuators, etc. This often works “OK” and “no harm is done”. However, what is missed is that software maintenance becomes much more difficult when those states cannot be located because they are embedded—they are strung throughout the code. Therefore, the outputs cannot be properly created. Furthermore, when a modification comes to add a capability or to fix a bug, the key variables required to modify a simulation (again what would the states, state derivatives, and inputs) are impossible to find or inaccessible. Therefore, the fix made to the simulation is less than optimum and possibly creates more headaches down the road for the next fix, etc., etc., ad infinitum.

The identification of states and state derivatives is simply for the purpose of encouraging good mathematical fundamentals and to facilitate software maintenance. Therefore this AIAA Simulation Variable standard identifies states and state derivatives as part of the naming convention.

Identification of controls (also called inputs), while a good idea, is very difficult because so many variables are controls and the controls change with the mode of operation of the simulation. As a consequence, identification of controls is optional but should be strongly considered for inclusion in the development of new dynamic simulation models.

## 6.2 Variable Naming Convention

This paragraph will discuss the convention and philosophy used for naming of simulation variables. The purpose of this is so when other variables are added to the list they will follow the same general convention.

The mixed case variable name convention is used. The only “oddity” is that we use an underscore to separate the prefix and suffix from the body of the variable name. The standard could also be followed using underscores to separate the parts of the variable names.

General rules for naming variables:

- Variables shall have meaningful names. Mnemonics will not be used. Standard abbreviations are allowed.
- The first word in the variable name (not including the prefix, if any) starts with a lower case. Distinct words thereafter in variable names shall be capitalized. Example: `angleOfAttack_d`.

- Variable names shall not exceed 63 characters in length. Brief, but complete names are most effective.
- Abbreviations are generally all capitals.

### 6.3 Methodology for Creating New Names

The suggested method of creating the name is as follows.

- Each name has up to eight components.
- All components are not required to be used because in many cases they do not apply.
- These components are
  1. (prefix)\_
  2. (variable domain)
  3. (specific axis or reference)
  4. (axis or reference system)
  5. (core name)
  6. Of (point on the vehicle) Note: generally only for positions, velocities and accelerations
  7. WRT (reference point or frame) Note: generally only for positions, velocities and accelerations
  8. \_(units).

As will be seen, very rarely, if ever, are all 8 components of a name used.

#### 6.3.1 Prefix

The prefix is used to identify the most important dynamic variables in the simulation, the states and the state derivatives. (see section 6.1.2)

The prefix is always separated from the body of the variable by an underscore or as a separate component of a structure.

##### 6.3.1.1 Identification of States and State Derivatives

The states and state derivatives are those variables which make the simulation dynamic and are essentially the key variables in a real time flight simulation. Basically, anything that is integrated (mathematically) is a state derivative. The result of the integration is the state (integration of the state derivative results in the state). This is true for any integration in a simulation. Obviously then, if the user controls all the states, he controls the motion of the simulation. Also, these along with the controls (inputs) are the key variables for validation. All outputs are computed directly or indirectly from states and controls.

Clearly, the formulation of the equations of motion and the model itself determines what variables are states. **This naming convention is not meant to standardize on any variable as a state, just for the simulation engineer to explicitly identify them in the model implementation**, making it easier to document and exchange the models.

Examples:

s\_XBodyVelocity\_fs\_1

s\_ prefix indicates that this variable is a state

`sd_XBodyAcceleration_fs_2`      `sd_` prefix indicates that this variable is a state derivative

### 6.3.1.2 Identification of Controls (optional)

The controls are those variables which provide the pilot/crew or the simulation operator's inputs to the simulation. As with the states and state derivatives, the controls are the key variables for validation. All outputs are computed directly or indirectly from states and controls.

Again, the formulation of the equations of motion and the model itself determines what variables are controls. **This naming convention is not meant to standardize on any variable as a control, just for the simulation engineer to explicitly name them**, making it easier to document and exchange the models.

Examples:

`c_avgAileronDeflection_d`      `c_` prefix indicates that this variable is a control

`c_pilotLongControlPos_r`      `c_` prefix indicates that this variable is a control

### 6.3.2 Variable Domain

This is the domain in which the variable was calculated. In object oriented design, it could logically be an object. The domain is normally not included if it (or the object) is the vehicle or aircraft being simulated, for example, airspeed.

Some domain examples:

- Aero
- Engine or Thrust
- Controls
- Guidance
- Navigation
- GNC
- Wheel
- Landing Gear
- Hydraulic
- Electrical
- IO (for input/output)
- Motion
- CL or Control Loading
- Radar
- Weapons
- AIM9X (as an example, for the AIM-9X missile)

NOTE Users may (should) add as many domains as needed to clearly identify the variable.

Variable name examples using "aero" and "thrust":

- `aeroXBodyForceCoefficient`
- `aeroXBodyForce_lbf`
- `thrustXBodyForce_lbf`

### 6.3.3 Specific Axis or Reference

This is the specific axis or reference used within the axis system (axis systems are defined in Section 5 above). If the axis system is included in the name, then the specific axis or reference should also be included. For example:

- (X, Y, Z), (N, E, D) or (U, V, W) for linear/translational motion
- (Pitch, Roll, Yaw) or (P, Q, R) for angular motion

Variable name examples:

`s_rollBodyRate_rs_1`

where `Body` is the axis system and `roll` is the specific axis in the body axis system. `Roll` indicating angular motion.

NOTE In this example `rollBodyRate` is designated as a state.

`UBodyTurbulenceVelocity_fs_1`

where `Body` is the axis system and `U` is the specific axis in the body axis system. `U` indicating longitudinal translational motion.

`YGEVelocity_ms_1`

where `GE` is the axis system and `Y` is the specific axis, also indicating translational motion.

`ZRunway22VelocityOfLeftWheelWRT`

`TD_fs_1ZRunway22VelocityOfLeftWheelWRT`  
`TD_fs_1`

where `Runway22` is the axis system (user defined) and `Z` is the specific axis, also indicating translational motion. Left wheel is the point on the vehicle and `TD` (touchdown point) is the reference point

`YBodyAccelOfPilotHead_ms_2`

where `Body` is the axis system and `Y` is the specific axis, also indicating translational motion. Design pilot head location is the point on the vehicle.

Alternatively, the specific axis or reference can logically be a vector or an array. When vectors are used, a right handed triad in order (x, y, z) must be used to avoid confusion.

Examples as a vector:

`s_bodyAngularRate_rs_1[3]`

where element 1 would be about the X axis (pitch), element 2 would be about the Y axis (roll) and element 3 would be about the Z axis (yaw)

### 6.3.4 Axis or Reference System

This is the axis or reference system to which the variable is referenced. [Table 6.3.8-1](#) above specifies that standard axis system abbreviations that should be used. If no axis system pertains to the variable or the core variable name needs no reference system to be unambiguous (ex. Airspeed) then this part of the variable name may be omitted.

#### 6.3.4.1 Conventions Used

Earth fixed frames and Local reference frames by convention use X, Y, Z, Pitch, Roll, and Yaw for axis references. Local reference frames (FE for example) origin and orientations may be user defined. They are meant for runway, test range, target reference, navigational aid, etc. coordinate systems. Body fixed frames may use U, V, W, Pitch, Roll, Yaw for axis references.

#### 6.3.4.2 Variable Name Examples

The following variable names are provided as examples.

- UBodyVelocity\_fs\_1 (or XBodyVelocity\_fs\_1, Body axis system)
- s\_XGEVelocity\_fs\_1 (in the case where the equations of motion are formulated such that the variable IS a state, Geometric Earth axis system)
- XGEVelocity\_fs\_1 (in the case where the equations of motion are formulated such that the variable IS NOT a state)
- UBodyVelocity\_ms\_1 (or XBodyVelocity\_ms\_1)
- VBodyVelocity\_fs\_1 (or YBodyVelocity\_fs\_1)
- S\_XLLVelocity\_fs\_1 (Locally Level axis system)
- S\_XFEVelocity\_fs\_1 (Flat Earth axis system)
- pitchBodyRate\_rs\_1 (or YBodyAngularRate\_rs\_1)
- rollBodyRate\_rs\_1 (or XBodyAngularRate\_rs\_1)
- yawBodyAccel\_rs\_2 (or ZBodyAngularAccel\_rs\_1)

Note that the standard encourages U, V, W, pitch, roll yaw for body frames in particular, since that is widely conventional. However, since the overall objective of the standard is to form a framework for clear communication between simulation facilities, the X, Y, Z convention is also acceptable. But the appropriate core variable name must be used to be clear whether the variable is a linear or angular variable.

#### 6.3.5 Core Variable Name

This is the most specific (hence core) name for the variable. All variable names must include this component of the name. Core variable name examples are as follows.

- velocity
- rate
- accel
- forceCoefficient
- turbulenceVelocity
- angleOfAttack
- angleOfSideslip
- cosineOfAngleOfSideslip
- thrust

- torque
- aileronDeflection (aileron could be considered a domain and deflection the core name)

The following variable names are provided as examples.

- s\_rollBodyRate\_rs\_1
- XBodyTurbulenceVelocity\_fs\_1
- ZGEVelocity\_fs\_1
- angleOfAttack\_r
- angleOfSideslip\_d
- cosineOfAngleOfSideslip
- aileronDeflection\_d

### 6.3.6 Reference Point or location on the vehicle

This component of the name is designed to make positions, velocities and accelerations more clear and is normally omitted if the variable is not a position, velocity or acceleration. However, it can be used for any variable if desired. This component describes which point or object on the vehicle is being specified. “Of” is used to specify the point or object.

For those who prefer shorter variable names, the standard uses the convention that if the point or location on the vehicle is the center of mass (by convention, center of gravity, or CG) then the reference point may be omitted. However, use of “OfCG” is encouraged for clarity.

Reference points may be defined by the user and depend on the object the variable is describing.

Examples of reference points:

- OfCG (CG is the default, so “OfCG” may be omitted in any variable name)
- OfPilot
- OfIMU
- OfSensor
- OfMRC (for moment reference center)
- OfPilotEye (for the pilot eye point)
- OfRadAlt (for radar Altimeter)
- OfTerrain

The following variable names are provided as examples.

- UBodyVelocityWRTWind\_fs\_1 (OfCG understood)
- UBodyVelocityOfCGWRTWind\_fs\_1 (same meaning as above)
- UBodyVelocityWRTInertial\_fs\_1 (inertial velocity of the CG along the X body axis)
- heightOfCGWRTTerrain\_f (CG may be omitted since it is the default)

- heightOfRadAltWRTTerrain\_f (CG may be omitted since it is the default)
- heightOfTerrainWRTSurfaceReference\_f
- XBodyPositionOfPilotEyeWRTCG\_f
- longitudeRateOfIMUWRTWGS84\_ds\_1
- longitudeOfIMUWRTWGS84\_d
- bodyAccelOfPilot\_fs\_2(3)

### 6.3.7 External Reference Frame or Reference Point on the Reference Frame

The external reference frame is generally used in conjunction with “reference point or location on the vehicle” above. It is primarily used in variables describing position, velocities and accelerations. This component defines the external reference frame for which the motion is relative to. If the reference frame is rotating or the variable is describing angular motion, this component should define a specific point in the reference frame. Stevens and Lewis (reference 6.7.1) may be referred to for a more rigorous definition of “frames”.

The standard uses the convention “WRT” to define the frame component of the variable name. For those who prefer shorter variable names, the inertial frame is default, and therefore while use of “WRTInertial” is encouraged it may be omitted. Some examples of reference frames:

- WRTInertial (WRTInertial is the default and may be omitted)
- WRTCG (this is commonly used to clarify definitions of positions)
- WRTMRC (moment reference center)
- WRTWGS84 (world geodetic system 84)
- WRTTD (ideal touchdown point)
- WRTImpact (the desired weapon impact point)
- WRTWind (the instantaneous wind velocity)
- WRTMeanSL

The following variable names are provided as examples.

- UBodyVelocityWRTWind\_fs\_1 (OfCG understood)
- UBodyVelocityOfCGWRTWind\_fs\_1 (same meaning as above)
- UBodyVelocityWRTInertial\_fs\_1 (inertial velocity of the CG along the X body axis. Note: WRTInertial may be omitted since Inertial is the default reference frame)
- UBodyVelocity\_fs\_1 (inertial velocity of the CG along the X body axis, same meaning as above)
- bodyPositionOfPilotEyeWRTCG\_f (3)
- longitudeOfIMUWRTWGS84\_d
- longitudeOfCGWRTWGS84\_d
- bodyPositionOfPilotEyeWRTCG\_f(3)
- bodyPositionOfCGWRTMRC(3)

- ZRunway22VelocityOfLeftWheelWRTTD\_fs\_1
- ZRunway22VelocityOFLeftWheelWRTTD\_fs\_1
- heightOfRunwayWRTMeanSL\_f
- UBodyVelocityWRTWind\_fs\_1
- totalVelocityWRTGround\_fs\_1
- totalVelocityWRTGround\_fs\_1
- GEVelocity\_ms\_1(3) (WRT Inertial is omitted since inertial is the default)

**6.3.8 Suffix- Units**

The suffix is used to describe the units of the variable. The convention for the suffix is simple and is followed for all variables. This will allow the user, the programmer, and the reader of the code to check for homogeneity of the units and is obviously self-documenting in this respect. Therefore, the units will be put on all variables except variables that are non-dimensional (which therefore have no units). This also has the other significant advantage of making this standard consistent and acceptable in countries with the international system of units. For example, airspeed is just as acceptable as a standard both for the US system of units and the International system of units. An analogy for to standard for exponential expression is used for specifying units. A standard expression for cubic feet per second squared (for example) would be:

$$f^3s^{-2}$$

By eliminating the super- and sub- scripts we have:

$$f3s-2$$

However, a parser might interpret this as subtracting 2 from f3s. Therefore instead of using the negative sign for exponents, we replace it with the underscore. Thus feet cubed per second squared can be represented as:

$$f3s_2$$

So feet per second is fs\_1 and feet per second squared is fs\_2. Every term in the denominator has an exponent. For example:

$$(r/s^2)/(f*lf) \text{ would be expressed as } rs_2f_1lf_1.$$

Further examples are as follows.

- trueAirspeed\_fs\_1                      feet per second (f/s)
- trueAirspeed\_ms\_1                      meters per second (m/s)
- trueAirspeed\_nmih\_1                    knots (nautical miles per hour)

This standard defines what the variable name for airspeed is; the user defines what units they are using. The suffix is always separated from the body of the variable name by an underscore. The standard unit notations are given below. The seven *Système Internationale d’Unites* (SI) units and standard abbreviations are included.

Table 6.3.8-1 Abbreviations used to designate units in standard variable names

Time	
------	--

hour	h
second	s (SI standard)
minute	min
Length	
inch	inch
foot	f
meter	m (SI standard)
nautical mile	nmi
statute mile	smi
kilometer	km (kilo prefix k)
centimeter	cm (centi prefix c)
millimeter	milmm (milli prefix mil)
Force	
pound force	lbf
Newton	N
Mass	
gram	g
kilogram	kg (SI standard)
pound mass	lbm
slug	slug
Plane Angle	
degrees (angular)	d
radians	r
revolution	rev
Temperature	
degrees Rankine	R
degrees Centigrade	C
degrees Kelvin	K (SI standard)
Power, energy, work, heat	
British thermal unit	btu
erg	erg
calorie	Cal
joule	Jou
horsepower	Hp
Electrical	
volt direct current	vdc
volt alternating current	vac
ampere	A (SI standard)
cycles	cyc
watt	watt
henry	hy
farad	Fd
ohm	ohm
Other	
candela (luminous intensity)	cd (SI standard)
mole (amt. of substance)	mol (SI standard)

## 6.4 Some Additional Discussion

Very rarely, if ever, are all 8 components of a name used. In the case of `s_rollBodyRate_rs_1` the following 5 components were used:

- prefix [s] indicating that in this formulation of the equations of motion this variable is a state,
- specific axis or reference [Roll],
- axis or reference system [body],
- core name [Rate], and
- units suffix [rs\_1].

In this case “variable source domain” was omitted because `s_rollBodyRate_rs_1` is a variable defined by the laws of physics and there cannot be a body rate from aerodynamics and a body rate from the moments produced by the engine. If however, the user wanted to have a multi-body simulation, logically the “variable source domain” could be used to discriminate between different elements of the body, or, perhaps more logically, an array or structure would be used to define different elements in a multi-body or flexible structure problem.

The “Of” and “WRT” were omitted because the variable is describing motion about (“Of”) the CG and it is relative to (“WRT”) the inertial frame of reference.

The whole point here is to help provide clear communication when exchanging models, not to force the universal use of these variable names. `s_rollBodyRate_rs_1` is intended to be a clear, brief unambiguous name for the variable.

#### 6.4.1 Initial Condition Convention

A helpful convention that may be used is adding IC to the end of any variable name, but before the units, to designate that the variable is an initial condition specification. This can be added to virtually any variable, conceptually creating a constant, for example:

- `s_rollBodyRateIC_rs_1`
- `grossWeightIC_kg`

#### 6.4.2 Discarded Conventions and Reasons

One convention considered was to have a prefix for simulation outputs as well as states and controls, but at the present time this has been discarded since the outputs required vary so widely, and there are typically an extremely large number of outputs. Practically speaking, every variable in the model including states, state derivatives and controls (inputs) could be considered an output.

Also considered was eliminating the suffix when the units were one of the standard set, but this concept was discarded since always having the units attached to the variable will help the programmer/engineer have consistent units when they are programming and reduce programming errors due to mixing of the units improperly. It also should noticeably reduce the software maintenance effort after initial development when another software engineer is trying to understand the code to make bug fixes, offer enhancements, or reuse the code.

#### 6.4.3 Relationship with markup grammar, DAVE-ML

At present, this variable naming convention is intended to be realized using DAVE-ML grammar of XML (see section 7). In DAVE-ML, the state/state derivative designation and the units are identified in separate components from the variable name. Thus, including these in a variable name encoded in DAVE-ML would be redundant. .

The best practice is to strip these components (the prefix and suffix) from the variable name when encoding to DAVE-ML, and reinsert them into the variable name if code or model data is generated from the DAVE-ML. Following this convention will have two advantages:

- 1) Since the DAVE-ML grammar can be used with any variables, for those variables that do not conform to the naming convention and therefore do not have state/state derivative designation or units, DAVE-ML encourages the inclusion of this information which is critical to clear documentation of a model.
- 2) It allows XML processors to adopt the convention of automatically stripping and adding the prefix and suffix to the variable names,

## 6.5 Standard Variable Name Table Example

Using the conventions discussed above, a set of standard variable names has been created. These are presented in Annex A. An excerpt of Annex A is given below for illustrative purposes.

Interpretation of the standard variable name annex is best given by example. In the table below is standard variable defining the Roll Euler Angle, its axis system and positive sign convention (+ = RWD, or right wing down). Four name examples are provided.

- The short name, PHI – the short name is included to accommodate standard variable definitions in legacy compilers with name length restrictions
- One or more full names using the standard units convention — generally one full name with English units and one with SI units

NOTE Any suitable units may be used and no attempt is made to include all possible units in Annex A.

- description of the variable — when applicable the description should include the axis system in which the variable is defined
- The POSITIVE sign convention of the variable
- Minimum and Maximum values of the variable, normally only specified for angles

In addition this example also illustrates the pitch and yaw Euler angles.

Since roll, pitch and yaw may also conveniently be expressed as a vector, the shaded area is the standard definition of the Euler angle vector. Again, `eulerAngle_r(3)` would be the standard vector using radians as the units and is fully compliant with the standard.

The standard allows use of any of the standard set of units.

Symbol	Short Name	Full Variable Name	Description	Sign Convention	Min Value	Max Value
<b>Vehicle Positions and Angles</b>						
$\underline{\epsilon}$	EUL(3)	<code>eulerAngle_d(3)</code> <code>eulerAngle_r(3)</code>	Vector of the roll, pitch, and yaw Euler angles comprised of the elements defined below. LL (locally level) frame.			
$\Phi$	PHI	<code>rollEulerAngle_d</code> <code>rollEulerAngle_r</code>	Roll Euler Angle, LL frame.	RWD	-180 $\pi$	180 $\pi$
$\theta$	THET	<code>pitchEulerAngle_d</code> <code>pitchEulerAngle_r</code>	Pitch Euler Angle, LL frame	ANU	-90 $-\pi/2$	90 $\pi/2$
$\psi$	PSI	<code>yawEulerAngle_d</code> <code>yawEulerAngle_r</code>	Yaw Euler Angle, LL frame	ANR	-180 $-\pi$	180 $\pi$

## 6.6 Summary

While it is strongly recommended that this naming convention be followed for all future variables, the real key to a “**standard variable name**” is not the name, but the definition of the name. To exchange information between two or more organizations, the most important factor is not whether a variable is named “airspeed” or “as”, but what is the precise, unambiguous definition of the variable (true, indicated or calibrated airspeed?) including units and axis system.

Using the “standard variable name” simply provides a common language and set of definitions within which to facilitate transfer of the model.

The simulation community is encouraged to propose additional standard variable names. Annex C describes the web site used to support this standard. There is an appropriate URL or email address for submitting additional names or for recommending clarification of existing names.

## 6.7 References

6.7.1 Stevens, Brian L., and Lewis, Frank L., **Aircraft Control and Simulation, Second Edition**. ISBN 978-0-471-37145-8, 2004, New York, J. Wiley and Sons, 2003, p. 3.

# 7 Standard Simulation Function Table Data Format and XML Implementation of the Standard: DAVE-ML

## 7.1 Purpose

This section will explain the data requirements which a Standard Function Table Format must be able to satisfy. It includes the content of the information contained in the table and configuration management of the data in the table. As you will see, the definition of the table format includes data for all these components.

This document also discusses conceptually how the data table should be looked up in an executable program.

The standard is implemented in XML as specified by DAVE-ML, Annex B. Annex C provides links to example programs for loading and looking up data in the XML standard.

## 7.2 Philosophy

Probably the most immediate benefit of the standard to the simulation discipline is one that defines formats for the interchange of tabular data. Tabular data is used almost universally for non-linear function generation of aerodynamic, engine, atmospheric, and many other model parameters. The easy interchange of such data can greatly improve efficiency in the simulation community.

Most simulation developers and users have addressed this issue locally. In many simulation communities, a family of tools has been built around existing local function table standards. Thus, the intent of this standard is not to obsolete these local standards, but rather to define a format for communication which will allow each site to develop a single format converter to and from their local format. This is an exchange standard. It is hoped that this standard will eventually be adopted for local use as well, but that is not required for the standard to succeed.

## 7.3 Design Objective

The design objectives of the Standard Data Table Format were first and foremost to make a data format that would include all the information about real multi-dimensional data, not just the data values. This notably is the fact that, in the general case of the independent variables for a multi-dimensional table, the

independent variables have different number of breakpoints, different breakpoints, and different valid ranges. An equally important design objective was to allow the table to contain information on where the data points come from (provenance, via reference), and a confidence interval for the data. Confidence Intervals can be used for Monte Carlo simulations and to mathematically combine two different estimates of the same parameter at the same point. Therefore, confidence statistics are extremely valuable when attempting to update a data set (however the user must be careful as not all confidence intervals are equivalent, or even meaningful). Additionally, the table has to be easy to read by the computer and the human being, and be self-documenting as much as possible.

## 7.4 Standard Function Table Data-An Illustrative Example

Figure 5.3-1 presents a fairly standard three-dimensional set of data as is typical of aerodynamic data from flight test or from a wind tunnel. In the example given, lift coefficient is a function of angle-of-attack, Mach number, and a control position. More generally stated, a function output (dependent variable), CLALFA is dependent on three inputs (independent variables), `angleOfAttack_d`, `mach`, and `avgElevatorDeflection_d`.

Close examination of the example data given will reveal the following characteristics:

- 3) The number of breakpoints of the independent variables varies for each independent variable. Not only are there a different number of angle-of-attack (`angleOfAttack_d`) breakpoints, but also a different number of Mach number (`mach`) and control position (`avgElevatorDeflection_d`) breakpoints. We have defined this as an “Ungridded Table”. (A “Gridded Table” is one where the number of breakpoints of a specific independent variable are the same for each of the other independent variables. For example, there are the same number of Mach breakpoints for each angle of attack breakpoint.)
- 4) The values (breakpoints) of the independent variables are different. Again, an “Ungridded Table”.
- 5) The valid ranges of the independent variables are different. (“Ungridded Table”)
- 6) The above three differences are not consistent for all the data. For example, in the example table the `angleOfAttack_d`, breakpoints for `mach = 0.6` and `mach = 0.7` for `delta SavgElevatorDeflection_d = -5` are identical.

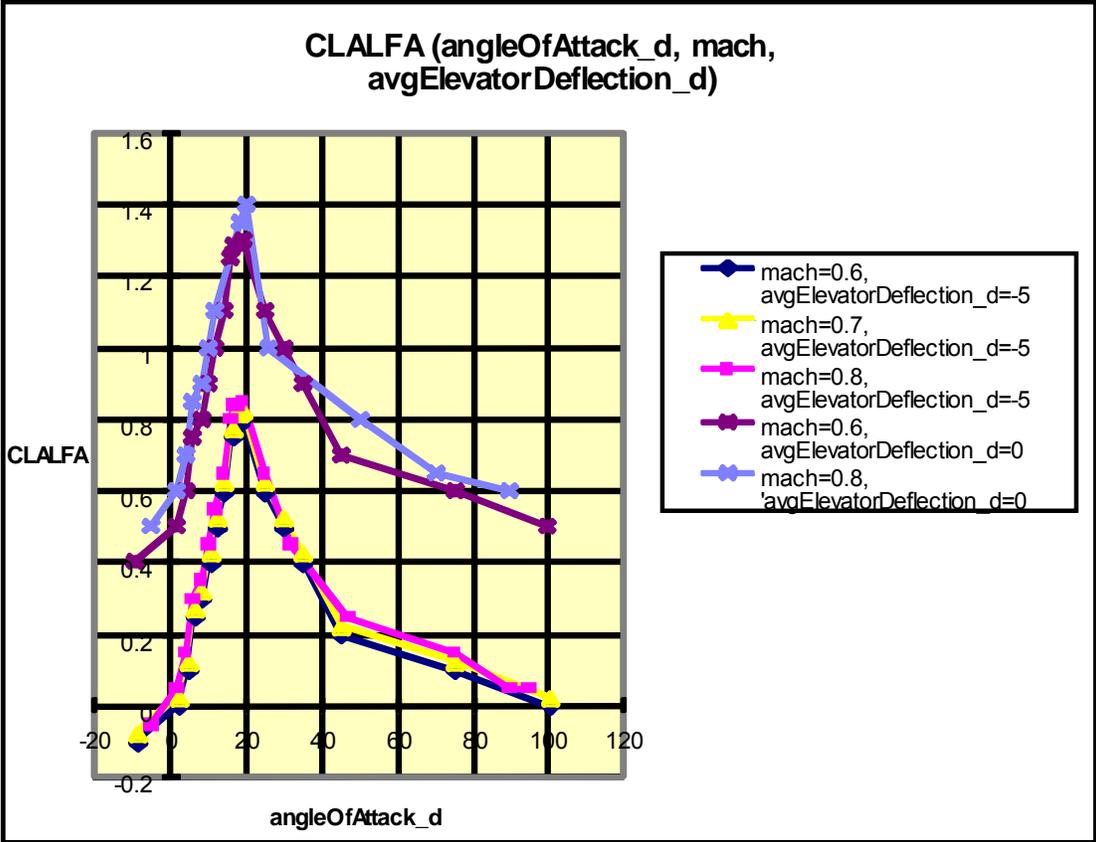


Figure 1 — An Illustration of a 3 Dimensional Function Table, CLALFA (angleOfAttack\_d, mach, avgElevatorDeflection\_d)

For function data there is other information that is of significant importance to the user, without which the data is not very useful. In general this information is as follows.

- where did the data come from? For example what report?
- how is it defined? For example, is this at a specific altitude? What configuration is it for?
- what are the engineering units of the output (the dependent variable) and the independent variables?
- what is the sign convention of the independent and dependent variables? For example, is the control position positive trailing edge up or trailing edge down? Exactly which control surface is it?
- who created the table? Not where the data came from, but what person decided that this was the correct data for this table?
- how has it been modified and for what reason?
- how accurate is the data estimated to be? Or, mathematically what is the confidence interval of the data?
- by what method is the data intended to be interpolated? For example, linear interpolation or bi-cubic spline interpolation?
- by what method is the data intended to be extrapolated for data with different ranges?

The standard data format has data elements that contain all of the above information. It has been implemented in XML as seven Major Elements and is discussed in detail in Annex B. An introduction and overview will be provided here.

Additionally, DAVE-ML also includes the ability to automate static checks of the function data to allow spot checking of the function after it has been exchanged.

## 7.5 DAVE-ML Major Elements (reference Annex B)

These major elements are provided in the same order as they must be in the XML files. In general, most attributes and sub-elements are optional. In fact, only the *fileHeader* and *variableDef* major elements are required.

The logical flow of information is such that the lower major elements refer upward to information previously defined, in general, so that information (breakpoints, data points, provenance, etc.) that is used in more than one function does not need to be repeated.

- 1) *fileHeader*- the fileHeader contains the file provenance (who created the file and how to contact that person or team), all references and overall description about all the functions in this particular file. The provenance of each particular function refers to the fileHeader.
- 2) *variableDef* – defines the signals used (variables) to generate the functions, at a minimum, the independent variables (inputs) and the dependent variables (outputs). Additionally, it includes the definition of any intermediate variables used to generate the functions, and defines any calculations that are to be performed (defined as MathML).
- 3) *breakpointDef* - here, all the breakpoints, or independent variable data points, for gridded tables are defined. One set of breakpoints may be used by many functions. This section does not apply to ungridded tables. They contain their breakpoints within the *ungriddedTableDef* major element. There may be a provenance for the breakpoints, which again may refer to the *fileHeader*.
- 4) *griddedTableDef* - contains the data points of the function. These data points use the breakpoints defined in the breakpointDef major element. The provenance of each set of data points may be explicitly defined here, and may refer to documents defined in the *fileHeader*.
- 5) *ungriddedTableDef* - contains the breakpoints and the data points of the ungridded tables. These are specified as sets of breakpoints and data points together and do not refer to the *breakPointDef* major element. As in *griddedTableDef*, the provenance of each set of data points may be explicitly defined here, and may refer to documents defined in the *fileHeader*.
- 6) *function* – combines the breakpoints with the data points, and defines which independent variables are used as inputs to the functions. This element also includes definition of how the function should be interpolated and extrapolated, and is the definitive element to include provenance on the particular function (where did the data for this function come, who decided this set of data points would be used for this function, etc.). The nonlinear function definition is complete at this point.
- 7) *checkData* - contains a set of static check cases to verify the functions. It includes an optional tolerance on the outputs. If the checkData element is used, it must include check cases for all outputs in the file (it cannot check some functions and not others).

Annex B contains a detailed description and examples of the data element definitions of the DAVE-ML function table standard. Appendix A of Annex B provides detailed XML element references and descriptions.

## 7.6 A Simple DAVE-ML Example

The easiest way to understand the standard is through an example. Annex B contains many more examples of the DAVE-ML implementation of the standard.

Let's take a simple one dimensional aero table, in this case pitching moment coefficient as a function of angle of attack, Table 5.3-1 and Figure 5.3-2 below.

Table 7.6-1 — A simple function

angleOfAttack_d	0	18	19	20	22	23	25	27	9
cm(angleOfAttack_d)	0.1	-0.1	-0.09	-0.08	-0.05	-0.05	-0.07	-0.15	-0

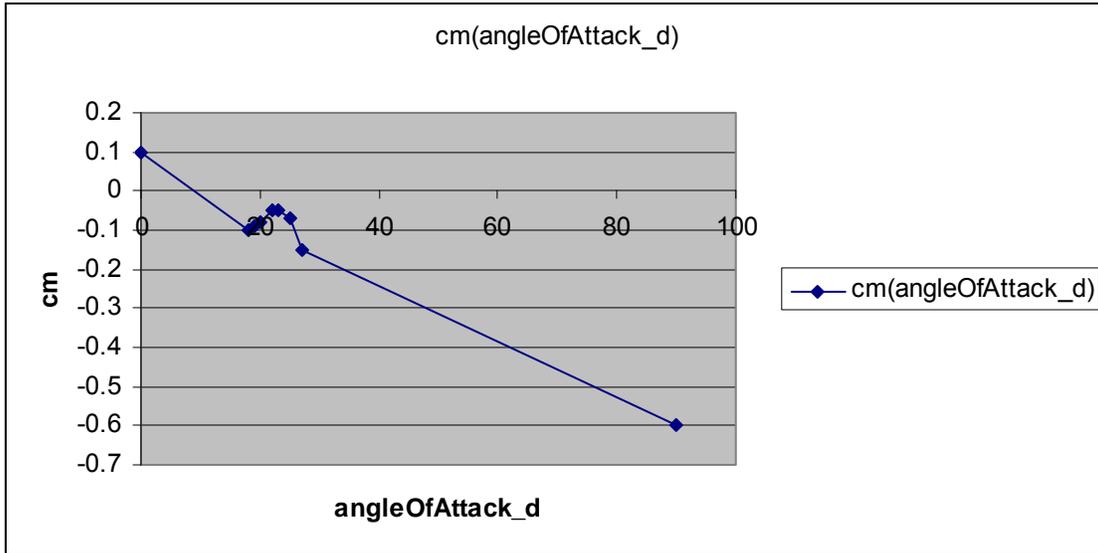


Figure 7.6-1 — The  $C_m(\alpha)$  function — a simple one dimensional gridded function

The DAVE-ML implementation for this function could be as follows.

```
CmaExample.dml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE DAVEfunc PUBLIC "-//NASA//DTD for Flight Dynamic Models - Functions
2.0//EN" "DAVEfunc.dtd">
<DAVEfunc>

<!-- ===== -->
<!--===== File Header Components ===== -->
<!-- ===== -->
<fileHeader>

<!-- This is an example of the file header components of the
derivative of Cm as a function of angle of attack. It must
remembered that all fileheader components of all functions
in the file must be grouped together into one file header
area.

Also note that there is not much information in this header,
Mainly because it is mean to be a simple example. In
reality, probably the most important information is the
author, the reference and the modification record, because
these data describe where the data came from and if it has
been changed (and how). See annex B for more complete
examples.

-->

<author name="Bruce Hildreth" org="SAIC" email="bruce.hildreth@saic.com"/>
<fileCreationDate date="2006-03-18"/>
<description>
```

```

    This is made up data to use as an example of a simple gridded function.
</description>
<reference refID="BLHRpt1" author="Joe Smith"
    title="A Generic Aircraft Simulation Model (does not really exist)"
    accession="ISBN 1-2345-678-9" date="2004-01-01"/>

<!-- no modifications so far, so we don't need a modificationRecord yet -->

</fileHeader>

<!-- ===== -->
<!--===== Variable Definition Components ===== -->
<!-- ===== -->

<!-- Input variable -->

<variableDef name="Angle of attack" varID="angleOfAttack_d" units="deg" >
    <isStdAIAA/> <!-- Indicates that this variable is a standard
        variable, which is why the author omitted
        description and sign convention
        and any other info. (it certainly could
        be included here) -->
</variableDef>

<!-- Output (function value) -->

<variableDef name="Pitching moment coefficient due to angle of attack"
    varID="CmAlfa" units="nondimensional" sign="+ANU">
    <description>
        The derivative of total pitching moment with respect to
        angle of attack.
    </description>
</variableDef>

<!-- ===== -->
<!--===== Breakpoint Definition Set ===== -->
<!-- ===== -->

<breakpointDef bpID="angleOfAttack_d_bp1">

    <!--
        Note that the bpID can be any name for the breakpoints. The
        author here chose to use a name related to the independent
        variable that is expected to be used to look up the function. In
        fact, if this set of breakpoints were shared by many functions
        and different independent variables would be used to look up the
        function, then the bpID of "angleOfAttack_d_BP1" would be
        misleading and a more generic name like "AOA" would probably be
        better.
    -->

    <description>
        Angle of attack breakpoint set for CmAlfa, CdAlfa, and ClAlfa
    </description>

    <bpVals> <!-- Always comma separated values -->
        0, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 90
    </bpVals>

</breakpointDef>

<!-- ===== -->
<!--===== Gridded Table Definition ===== -->

```

```

<!--          =====          -->

<griddedTableDef gtID="CmAlfa_Table1">
  <description>
    The derivate of Cm wrt fuselage AOA in degrees
  </description>

  <provenance>
    <author name="Jake Smith" org="AlCorp"/>
    <functionCreationDate date="2006-12-31"/>
    <documentRef refID="BLHRpt1" /> <!-- This points back to the Header,
                                     which provides the information
                                     about BLHRpt1. -->
  </provenance>

  <breakpointRefs>
    <bpRef bpID="angleOfAttack_d_bp1" />
  </breakpointRefs>

  <uncertainty effect="percentage">
    <normalPDF numSigmas="3">
      <bounds>12</bounds>
    </normalPDF>
    <!-- This means that the 3 sigma confidence is +/-12% on the Data. -->
  </uncertainty>

  <dataTable> <!-- Always comma separated values -->
    0.1,-0.1,-0.09, -.08, -0.05, -0.05, -0.07, -0.15, -0.6
  </dataTable>

</griddedTableDef>

<!--          =====          -->
<!--=====  Function Definition  =====>
<!--          =====          -->

<!-- The function definition ties together input and output variables
      to table definitions. This allows a level of abstraction such
      that the table, with it's breakpoint definitions, can be reused
      by several functions (such as left and right aileron or multiple
      thruster effect tables).
-->

<function name="Cm_alpha_func">
  <description>
    Variation of pitching moment coefficient with angle of attack (example)
  </description>
  <independentVarRef varID="angleOfAttack_d"/>
  <dependentVarRef varID="CmAlfa"/>
  <functionDefn>
    <griddedTableRef gtID="CmAlfa_Table1"/>
  </functionDefn>
</function>

<!--          =====          -->
<!--=====  Check Data Cases  =====>
<!--          =====          -->

<!-- Checkcase data provides automatic verification of the model by
      specifying the tolerance in output values for a given set of
      input values. One 'staticShot' is required per input/output
      mapping; in this case for a single input, single output model,
      we have a single input signal and a single output signal in each
      test point.

```

-->

```
<checkData>
  <staticShot name="case 1">
    <checkInputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
        <signalValue> 0.</signalValue>
      </signal>
    </checkInputs>
    <checkOutputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
        <signalValue>0.01</signalValue>
        <tol>0.00001</tol>
      </signal>
    </checkOutputs>
  </staticShot>
  <staticShot name="case 2">
    <checkInputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
        <signalValue> 5.</signalValue>
      </signal>
    </checkInputs>
    <checkOutputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
        <signalValue>0.04444</signalValue>
        <tol>0.00001</tol>
      </signal>
    </checkOutputs>
  </staticShot>
  <staticShot name="case 3">
    <checkInputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
        <signalValue>10.</signalValue>
      </signal>
    </checkInputs>
    <checkOutputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
        <signalValue>-0.01111</signalValue>
        <tol>0.00001</tol>
      </signal>
    </checkOutputs>
  </staticShot>
  <staticShot name="case 4">
    <checkInputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
        <signalValue>15.</signalValue>
      </signal>
    </checkInputs>
    <checkOutputs>
      <signal>
        <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
        <signalValue>-0.06667</signalValue>
        <tol>0.00001</tol>
      </signal>
    </checkOutputs>
  </staticShot>
  <staticShot name="case 5">
```

```

<checkInputs>
  <signal>
    <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
    <signalValue>20.</signalValue>
  </signal>
</checkInputs>
<checkOutputs>
  <signal>
    <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
    <signalValue>-0.08</signalValue>
    <tol>0.00001</tol>
  </signal>
</checkOutputs>
</staticShot>
<staticShot name="case 6">
  <checkInputs>
    <signal>
      <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
      <signalValue>25.</signalValue>
    </signal>
  </checkInputs>
  <checkOutputs>
    <signal>
      <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
      <signalValue>-0.07</signalValue>
      <tol>0.00001</tol>
    </signal>
  </checkOutputs>
</staticShot>
<staticShot name="case 7">
  <checkInputs>
    <signal>
      <varID>angleOfAttack_d</varID>
      <signalValue>50.</signalValue>
    </signal>
  </checkInputs>
  <checkOutputs>
    <signal>
      <varID>CmAlfa</varID>
      <signalValue>-0.31429</signalValue>
      <tol>0.00001</tol>
    </signal>
  </checkOutputs>
</staticShot>
</checkData>
</DAVEfunc>

```

While the above seems incredibly long for a function with only 9 data points, keep in mind it also includes many instructional comments and optional, but very important information, such as units and where the data came from (provenance). Also, a very large complex function would only be expanded by the additional data points. The definitions and provenance information included with the function would probably not change much.

In the minimum, the same data can be represented as shown.

shorter\_cma\_example.dml

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?> <!DOCTYPE DAVEfunc
PUBLIC "-//NASA//DTD for Flight Dynamic Models - Functions 2.0//EN"
"DAVEfunc.dtd"> <DAVEfunc>
  <fileHeader>
    <author name="Bruce Hildreth" org="SAIC"/>
    <fileCreationDate date="2006-03-18"/>

```

```

    </fileHeader>
    <variableDef name="Angle of attack" varID="angleOfAttack_d"
units=""/>
    <variableDef name="CMalpha" varID="CmAlfa" units=""/>
    <breakpointDef bpID="angleOfAttack_d_bp1">
      <bpVals> 0, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 90 </bpVals>
    </breakpointDef>
    <griddedTableDef gtID="CmAlfa_Table1">
      <breakpointRefs>
        <bpRef bpID="angleOfAttack_d_bp1"/>
      </breakpointRefs>
      <dataTable> 0.1,-0.1,-0.09, -.08, -0.05, -0.05, -0.07, -0.15, -0.6
    </dataTable>
    </griddedTableDef>
    <function name="Cm_alpha_func">
      <independentVarRef varID="angleOfAttack_d"/>
      <dependentVarRef varID="CmAlfa"/>
      <functionDefn>
        <griddedTableRef gtID="CmAlfa_Table1"/>
      </functionDefn>
    </function>
  </DAVEfunc>

```

## 7.7 Summary

The DAVE-ML embodiment of the standard truly enables nearly effortless transfer of simulation aerodynamics models between simulation facilities or architectures. The addition of the Math-ML allows the formulation of algebraic equations, aero or engine model coefficient buildup equations, for example, to be included as data in the model. DAVE-ML is also suitable for use of transfer of tabular functions and supporting algebraic equations for any type of data, not just simulation models.

While the above paragraphs explained the concepts implemented in DAVE-ML, Annex B is the authoritative normal for this standard. It provides much more detail and examples on how to easily build a DAVE-ML compliant simulation. Annex C provides reference to the DAVE-ML web site that includes tools to facilitate using DAVE-ML based models in you particular simulation.

## 8 Future Work

The AIAA modeling and simulation Technical Committee plans to continue our efforts in facilitation of the exchange of simulations and models throughout the user community. Comments and suggestions on this expansion are welcomed on the simulation standards discussion group. Visit <http://daveml.nasa.gov> for submittal information. The following sections describe the two tasks of primary interest.

### 8.1 Time history information

The immediate task that is being pursued is the transfer of validation data between facilities. This is for the purpose of sending time response validation data when a model is exchanged.

The approach being taken is to adopt a flight test data standard. This has the advantage of using an existing standard and facilitating the use of flight test data to validate a simulation. Lockheed Martin has an existing internal standard that they have released for use by the community. It is implemented in hierarchal data format (HDF) and has been adopted by the JSF community and other programs. It is the Modeling and Simulation Technical Committees intent to adopt this for the transfer of simulation validation data. Some work will be required to define the data elements that are required for the validation of a simulation. This is expected to be a subset of the data elements that comprise flight test data.

## 8.2 Dynamic element specification

The addition of the specification of dynamics (e.g. continuous and discrete states) is being considered to expand the scope of the standard. This expansion would allow more of the domain of a flight vehicle model (flight controls as a good example) to be exchanged in a non-proprietary, facility-neutral way.

## 9 Conclusion

This is a standard for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of simulation models between users. This purpose cannot be emphasized enough. It is not meant to enforce any standard simulation architecture. DAVE-ML provides the mechanism for exchange of the modeling data and equations; the standard variables and axis systems provide a common language for the users to use to communicate. The standard is also valuable for documenting a model, since the names and axis system definitions are clearly documented for the user.

A model can be DAVE-ML compliant without using any standard names or axis systems, but the exchange of such a model between users will be more difficult, since clear definitions will have to be exchanged also.

It is the earnest desire of the authors of this standard that the user community will employ the current standard for aerodynamic models, continue to suggest improvements to the standard, and develop tools to enhance the standard. Visit <http://daveml.nasa.gov> for information on how to be part of this effort and/or submit change or improvement recommendations.

## Annex A Standard Variable Names (Normative)

### A.1 General

The table in this annex is meant to contain simulation variables that are independent of the particular vehicle type being simulated. These variables are tailored towards aircraft simulation. Visit <http://DaveML.nasa.gov> to suggest additional variables or changes to the existing list

### A.2 Table Explanation

Interpretation of the standard variable name table is best given by example. In general the table has 7 columns. These are described below using the `rollEulerAngle` as an example:

- 1) The symbol for that variable,  $\Phi$
- 2) The short name, PHI
- 3) One of more full names using the standard units conventions — generally, one full name with US convention units and one with SI units.

NOTE Any suitable units may be used. In the example for `rollEulerAngle` both the `_d` for degrees and the `_r` for radians are given. The “Full Variable Name” column does not necessarily provide all acceptable units for each variable.

- 4) A description of the variable, if applicable should always specify the axis system.
- 5) The POSITIVE sign convention of the variable — RWD indicates that positive `rollEulerAngle` is right wing down
- 6) Minimum value, normally only specified for angles
- 7) Maximum values of the variable, normally only specified for angles

This example also illustrates the pitch and yaw Euler angles.

Some variables may be used to represent variables referenced to more than one axis system. In this case the axis system is specified as `xx` and any axis system reference (refer to the body of this standard) may be substituted for the `xx`. For example, `YxxVelocity_fs_1` may represent:

- `YEIVelocity_fs_1` for the EI axis system- Earth centered Inertial (also know as geocentric inertial) axis system
- `YECEFVelocity_fs_1` for the ECEF axis system- Earth centered earth Fixed (also known as Geocentric Earth [GE] axis system, `YGEVelocity_fs_1` is the same as `YECEFVelocity_fs_1`)
- `YVOVelocity_fs_1` for the VO axis system- Vehicle carried, Orbit defined axis system

Since roll, pitch and yaw may also conveniently be expressed as a vector, the shaded area is the standard definition of the Euler angle vector. Again, `eulerAngle_r[3]` would be the standard vector using radians as the units and is fully compliant with the standard.

Symbol	Short Name	Full Variable Name	Description	Sign Convention	Min Value	Max Value
--------	------------	--------------------	-------------	-----------------	-----------	-----------

Symbol	Short Name	Full Variable Name	Description	Sign Convention	Min Value	Max Value
$\underline{\varepsilon}$	EUL(3)	eulerAngle_d[3] eulerAngle_r[3]	Vector of the roll, pitch, and yaw Euler angles comprised of the elements defined below. LL (locally level) frame.			
$\Phi$	PHI	rollEulerAngle_d rollEulerAngle_r	Roll Euler Angle, LL frame.	RWD	-180, $-\pi$	180, $\pi$
$\theta$	THET	pitchEulerAngle_d pitchEulerAngle_r	Pitch Euler Angle, LL frame	ANU	-90, $-\pi/2$	90, $\pi/2$
$\psi$	PSI	yawEulerAngle_d yawEulerAngle_r	Yaw Euler Angle, LL frame	ANR	-180, $-\pi$	180, $\pi$

The variable name table below does not specify which variables are states, state derivatives, inputs or initial conditions. These specifications may be added to any appropriate variable. See the body of this standard.

### A.3 Standard Variable Name Tables

Table A.1 — Vehicle Positions and Angles

(insert the file “Annex 1 simpar 20080917.doc” here)