

A trapezoidal wing equivalent to a *Janatella leucodesma*'s wing in terms of aerodynamic performance in the flapping flight of a butterfly model

Kosuke Suzuki & Masato Yoshino

Institute of Engineering, Academic Assembly, Shinshu University, Nagano 380-8553, JAPAN

E-mail: kosuzuki@shinshu-u.ac.jp

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Abstract. Wing planform is one of important factors for lift and thrust generation and enhancement in flapping flight. In our previous study using a simple numerical model of a butterfly, it was found that the wing planform of an actual butterfly (*Janatella leucodesma*) is more efficient than any of the rectangular or trapezoidal wing planforms. In the present study, we make a hypothesis that the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly's wing can be reproduced by the following four geometrical parameters of wing planform: aspect ratio, taper ratio, position of the rotational axis for the geometric angle of attack, and sweepback angle. In order to test this hypothesis, we explore a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to the actual butterfly's wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance in the parameter space consisting of these four parameters. We use a simple butterfly model composed of two rigid thin wings and a rod-shaped body, and calculate the aerodynamic performance of the model by an immersed boundary–lattice Boltzmann method to find such a trapezoidal wing planform. As a result, we find a trapezoidal wing planform which gives almost the same lift, thrust, pitching moment, power, and power-loading coefficients as the actual butterfly's wing planform. Furthermore, in the free flight of the butterfly model with pitching motion control, the flight behavior of the model with the resulting trapezoidal wing planform is almost the same as that with the actual butterfly's wing planform.

1. Introduction

Butterflies have unique and interesting features compared with other insects. The most conspicuous example is their erratic trajectory and large variation in speed. This behavior suggests that butterflies have outstanding agility and maneuverability, which are attractive features in practical applications such as micro air vehicles (MAVs). In order to incorporate the outstanding features into artificial aircrafts, we have to know how butterflies enhance aerodynamic forces, save power expenditure, and control their attitude while flying.

One of interesting features of butterflies is the shape of their wings. A variety of studies in biology have investigated the relationship between the wing shape and the flight behavior in butterflies. Betts & Wootton (1988) observed free flights of various butterfly species by using a high-speed camera, and analyzed the geometrical parameters of wing shapes and the kinematic parameters in representative flight modes. The analyses of these parameters suggested that butterflies with short broad (low aspect ratio) wings tend to fly slowly but to have high agility, whereas those with long slender (high aspect ratio) wings tend to fly fast and to use gliding extensively. The strong correlation between the wing shape and the flapping frequency has been studied in more detail by several researchers (Srygley 1999, Kingsolver 1999). Srygley (1999) compared the morphology and kinematics of four *Heliconius* species, which comprised two mimicry pairs containing two distinct lineages. It was found that the wing shape and the flapping frequency converged not within lineages but within mimicry groups. This result suggested that similar wing shapes result in similar flight behavior. Kingsolver (1999) artificially reduced the wing area of western white butterflies (*Ponita occidentalis*), and found that the reductions of the wing area significantly increased the flapping frequency of hovering butterflies in the laboratory experiments. In addition, the correlation between the wing shape and the acceleration capacity has been investigated for butterflies tethered to a needle (Berwaerts, van Dyck & Aerts 2002) and for butterflies in take-off (Berwaerts, Matthysen & van Dyck 2008). As a result, it was found that the aspect ratios of their forewings were positively related to the acceleration capacity in males of speckled wood butterflies (*Pararge aegeria*), although there were different trends between male and female.

Although the above studies have revealed the strong relationships between the wing shape and the flight behavior in butterflies, few researchers have investigated the effect of wing shape on the aerodynamic performance such as force, torque, and power expenditure from a viewpoint of physics. Recently, Ancel, Eastwood, Vogt, Ithier, Smith, Wood & Kvač (2017) evaluated aerodynamic forces for various butterfly wing shapes and wing orientations both in experiments and numerical simulations using a low-speed wind tunnel. However, they considered only the gliding flight of butterflies, i.e., the relationship between the wing shape and the aerodynamic performance in their flapping flight was not investigated. On the other hand, Suzuki & Yoshino (2018) numerically investigated the effect of wing shape (planform) on the aerodynamic performance in the flapping flight of a simple butterfly model composed of two thin rigid wings and a rod-shaped body (Suzuki, Minami & Inamuro 2015). This model flaps downward to generate lift force and backward to generate thrust force like an actual butterfly. In this study, the aerodynamic performance was calculated for various wing planforms such as rectangular wings, trapezoidal wings, triangular wings, and an actual butterfly's wing. As a result, it was found that an actual butterfly's wing can generate aerodynamic forces more efficiently than the other wing planforms.

From a viewpoint of engineering, it is important to know how to design efficient wing planforms. In ordinary aircrafts with fixed wings, the effect of wing planform on

aerodynamic performance is mainly governed by three geometrical parameters: span, chord, and sweep (Barbarino, Bilgen, Ajaj, Friswell & Inman 2011). In non-dimensional forms, these parameters are likely to be represented by aspect ratio, taper ratio, and sweepback angle. On the other hand, such geometrical parameters in the flapping flight of butterflies have not been clarified. This is because the wing planforms of butterflies are so complex that they cannot be represented by only a few parameters. In designing butterfly-like MAVs, however, it would be very convenient if aerodynamic performance could be governed by a few geometrical parameters like ordinary aircrafts. In the present study, therefore, we attempt to identify a few geometrical parameters which can reproduce not the butterfly's wing itself but the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly's wing. It should be noted that we focus on not gliding flight but flapping flight since the outstanding agility and maneuverability are likely to be caused by flapping motion.

We can find a clue for the above attempt from our previous parametric study using a simple butterfly model with rectangular or trapezoidal wings (Suzuki & Yoshino 2018). In this study, the aerodynamic performance factors such as the lift force, the thrust force, the power expenditure, and the power loading were calculated for rectangular wings with various aspect ratios (ratio of the square of the wing length to the wing area) and for trapezoidal wings with various taper ratios (ratio of the wing-tip length to the wing-root length) when the wing area and the flapping frequency are fixed. As a result, it was found that the lift and thrust forces increase at the cost of the power expenditure as the taper ratio increases and as the aspect ratio increases. This is because wings with long wing-tip lengths can generate large wing-tip vortices (WTVs), which are regarded as a major source of the lift generation by a butterfly, (Yokoyama, Senda, Iima & Hirai 2013) and wings with long wing lengths can generate strong WTVs due to a high flapping speed at the wing tips. In addition, it was found that the position of the rotational axis for the geometric angle of attack (AOA) can significantly affect the aerodynamic performance. For example, in the case when the rotational axis for the geometric AOA is located near the leading edge, the lift and thrust forces can be enhanced due to the kicking-down of the trailing edge like a dolphin kick. From these results, the reason why an actual butterfly's wing planform has high efficiency was explained that the aspect ratio is moderate, the taper ratio is effectively less than 1, and the position of the rotational axis for AOA is located near the leading edge. Therefore, the aspect ratio, the taper ratio, and the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA can be regarded as potential candidates of governing geometrical parameters.

Another clue can be found from the investigation into the effect of wing orientation by Ancel et al. (2017). In their study, it was found that the wing orientation, i.e., the angle of the leading edge relative to the air flow, has a significant effect on the lift-drag ratio in gliding flight. Since the wing orientation can be represented by the sweepback angle, it might be a candidate of governing geometrical parameters even in flapping flight.

From the above clues, we make a hypothesis that the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly’s wing can be reproduced by the following four geometrical parameters of wing planform: aspect ratio, taper ratio, position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA, and sweepback angle. If this hypothesis is correct, a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance must exist, since these four parameters can be defined in trapezoidal wing planforms. In order to test this hypothesis, therefore, we explore such a trapezoidal wing planform in the parameter space consisting of these four parameters. In the present study, we use the butterfly model used in our previous study (Suzuki & Yoshino 2018), and calculate the aerodynamic performance of the model to find such a trapezoidal wing planform. In addition, we compare the flight behavior for a resulting trapezoidal wing planform with that for the actual butterfly’s wing planform in the free flight of the model.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we present the butterfly model and define the geometrical parameters of trapezoidal wing planforms. In section 3, we explain the governing equations and parameters of the system. The computational parameters are presented in section 4, and results and discussion are shown in section 5. We finally conclude in section 6.

2. Butterfly model

2.1. Outline

The butterfly model used in this paper and its wing motion are illustrated in figure 1. It flaps downward and backward to generate lift and thrust forces, respectively. The motions of the left and right wings are symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal plane. The wing motion is a combination of a flapping motion and an attacking motion, described by the flapping angle θ and the geometric angle of attack (AOA)

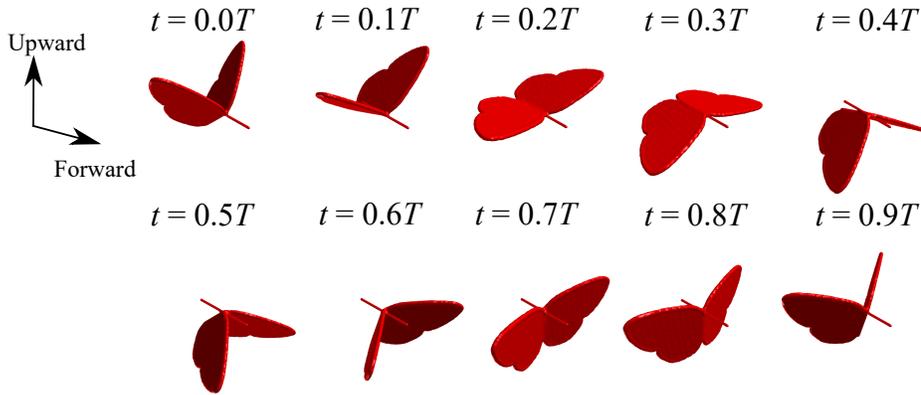


Figure 1. Illustration of a simple butterfly model and its wing motion during one period. The actual butterfly’s wing planform is displayed in this figure as an example. This figure is taken from Suzuki & Yoshino (2018).

α , respectively. The flapping angle $\theta(t)$ and the geometric AOA $\alpha(t)$ at time t are given as follows:

$$\theta(t) = \theta_m \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t\right), \quad (1)$$

$$\alpha(t) = \frac{\alpha_m}{2} \left[1 + \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t + \gamma\right) \right], \quad (2)$$

where θ_m is the flapping amplitude corresponding to half the stroke amplitude, α_m is the maximum geometric AOA, T is the period of flapping motion, and γ is the phase shift. In this study, we set $\theta_m = 45^\circ$, $\alpha_m = 90^\circ$, and $\gamma = \pi/2$, which is almost the optimal set of parameters for the butterfly model in terms of aerodynamic performance (Suzuki & Yoshino 2017). It should be noted that the wing motion is the same as that of the model in Suzuki et al. (2015). For more details about the wing kinematics of the model, see Suzuki et al. (2015).

Although the wing kinematics of the present model are given as simple harmonic functions, those of actual butterflies are more complex (Sunada, Kawachi, Watanabe & Azuma 1993, Yokoyama et al. 2013, Fei & Yang 2015). However, the flapping angle and the geometric AOA of an actual butterfly can be approximated by simple harmonic functions without damaging the rough shapes of the curves of these angles (Fei & Yang 2015). Also, in terms of the kinematic parameters $(\theta_m, \alpha_m, \gamma)$, the wing kinematics of the present model are artificial, since these parameters are determined so that the efficiency (power-loading coefficient) is almost maximum (Suzuki & Yoshino 2017). Unfortunately, appropriate kinematic parameters have not been known, since they might significantly depend on species and flight modes (e.g., take-off, climbing flight, forward flight, and gliding). In the present study, therefore, we consider the situation where a butterfly flies most efficiently. It should be noted that we do not consider the clap-and-fling motion (Weis-Fogh 1973) in the present study, although a butterfly can choose to use (or not to use) this motion depending on the flight mode (Srygley & Thomas 2002).

In the present study, we explore a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly's wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance in the parameter space consisting of the following four parameters: aspect ratio, taper ratio, position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA, and sweepback angle. We assume that all the wing planforms used in this paper have the common wing area S per one wing. We define the characteristic length by $L_{\text{ref}} = \sqrt{S}$. The wings are infinitely thin and rigid. It must be mentioned that the aerodynamic performance depends on wing flexibility and twist (Zhang, Hedrick & Mittal 2013) as well. In addition, the wing inertia affects the wing flexibility and twist (Combes & Daniel 2003), and consequently affects the aerodynamic performance. In this paper, however, we focus on the wing shape, and the wing flexibility and twist are beyond the scope of the present study. In addition, we do not take the effect of the wing inertia into account, i.e., the wing mass is set to be zero.

The body of the model is a thin rod with length equal to L_{ref} . The wings are connected to the mid-point of the body. The rotational axis for the geometric AOA is perpendicular to the body, and that for the flapping angle is parallel to the body.

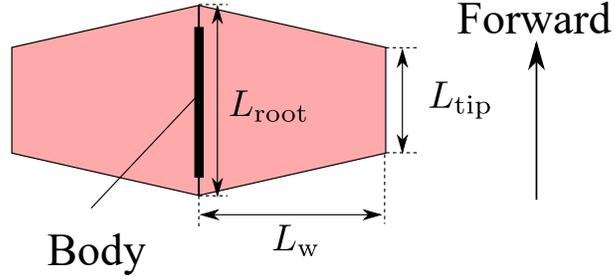


Figure 2. A trapezoidal wing planform. It should be noted that while the body of the model is infinitely thin, it is depicted with a finite thickness in this figure for ease of seeing.

It should be noted that the body has a negligible effect on the flow field and the aerodynamic forces acting on the model. When we simulate the free flight of the model, we use a body composed of two parts, i.e., thorax and abdomen, like an actual butterfly to control its attitude (see section 5.2).

2.2. Trapezoidal wing planform

We consider trapezoidal wing planforms with the wing area S . Let the wing length, the wing-tip length, and the wing-root length be L_w , L_{tip} , and L_{root} , respectively, as shown in figure 2. Since the wing area is fixed at S , we obtain the following equation:

$$S = \frac{1}{2}(L_{\text{tip}} + L_{\text{root}})L_w. \quad (3)$$

2.2.1. Aspect ratio and taper ratio

The aspect ratio AR and the taper ratio TR for trapezoidal wing planforms are defined as follows:

$$AR = \frac{L_w^2}{S}, \quad (4)$$

$$TR = \frac{L_{\text{tip}}}{L_{\text{root}}}. \quad (5)$$

When we set the values of AR and TR , the lengths L_w , L_{tip} , and L_{root} are determined as a function of S from (3)–(5). In the wing planforms with $AR > 1$, the wing length L_w is larger than the average wing-chord length $L_c = (L_{\text{tip}} + L_{\text{root}})/2$, and vice versa. The wing planforms with $TR < 1$ correspond to taper wings, and those with $TR > 1$ correspond to inverse-taper wings.

2.2.2. Position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA

The rotational axis for the geometric AOA is the axis which is perpendicular to the body and passes through the connection point between the body and the wings. The position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA is illustrated in figure 3. Let ℓ be the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA relative to the center of the

wing root, where $\ell > 0$ and $\ell < 0$ mean that the rotational axis is located on the side close to the leading edge and the trailing edge, respectively. It should be noted that the wing area S , the aspect ratio AR , and the taper ratio TR are independent of ℓ .

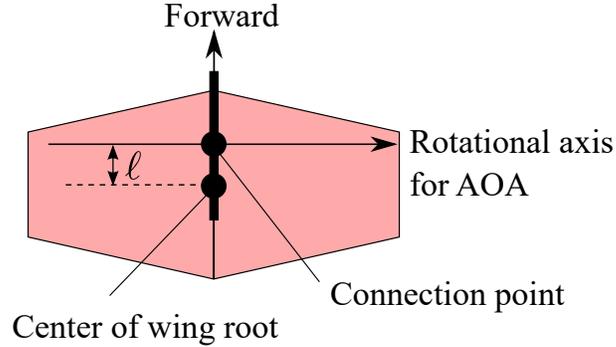


Figure 3. Rotational axis for the geometric angle of attack (AOA) shifted by ℓ relative to the center of the wing root.

2.2.3. Sweepback angle

The sweepback angle λ is defined by the angle between a line perpendicular to the wing root and the line through the mid-points of the wing root and the wing tip as shown in figure 4. We define that the wings have backward sweep and forward sweep when $\lambda > 0$ and $\lambda < 0$, respectively. It should be noted that the wing area S , the aspect ratio AR , the taper ratio TR , and the position ℓ of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA are independent of λ .

The sweepback angles of the leading and trailing edges are different from the above-described λ , and they depend on λ , L_{tip} , L_{root} , and L_w as follows:

$$\lambda_{\text{lead}} = \arctan \left(\tan \lambda - \frac{L_{\text{tip}} - L_{\text{root}}}{2L_w} \right), \quad (6)$$

$$\lambda_{\text{trail}} = \arctan \left(\tan \lambda + \frac{L_{\text{tip}} - L_{\text{root}}}{2L_w} \right). \quad (7)$$

In the investigation into the effect of wing orientation on the gliding performance of butterfly wings by Ancel et al. (2017), the best performance was achieved when the leading edges of the wings are nearly perpendicular to the air flow. Therefore, it might be expected that such an orientation gives a good aerodynamic performance in flapping flight as well. In the present study, we define the *standard* sweepback angle as the angle which makes the leading edges of the wings are perpendicular to the forward direction. The standard sweepback angle λ_0 is given as follows:

$$\lambda_0 = \arctan \left(\frac{L_{\text{tip}} - L_{\text{root}}}{2L_w} \right). \quad (8)$$

It should be noted that when $\lambda = \lambda_0$, we can derive $\lambda_{\text{lead}} = 0^\circ$ from Eqs. (6) and (8).

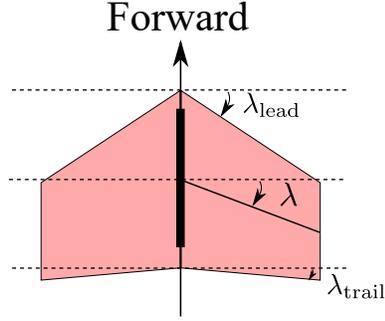


Figure 4. The sweepback angle λ , the leading edge sweepback angle λ_{lead} , and the trailing edge sweepback angle λ_{trail} .

2.3. Actual butterfly's wing planform

We explore a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly's wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance. As the target wing planform, we use the wing planform of a small butterfly (*Janatella leucodesma*) used in our previous study (Suzuki & Yoshino 2018). The wing planform is shown in figure 5. We assume that the area of the wing planform has the same wing area S as the trapezoidal wing planforms.

As mentioned in Suzuki & Yoshino (2018), the wing planform is constructed from a photograph of a *J. leucodesma* (Warren, Davis, Grishin, Pelham & Stangeland accessed 2013-10-14). While an actual butterfly has fore-wings and hind-wings, i.e., totally four wings, we assume that the fore-wing and the hind-wing on each side coalesce together into one rigid plate, i.e., the model has totally two wings. The aspect ratio of this wing planform is $AR = 1.61$. The connection point between the two wings and the body is set in a manner such that a point obtained by internally dividing the wing root by $0.0792 : 0.9208$ (Warren et al. accessed 2013-10-14) is located at the middle point of the body. This means that the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA is at $\ell = 0.36c_{\text{max}}$ where $c_{\text{max}} = 0.775L_{\text{ref}}$ is the maximum chord length.

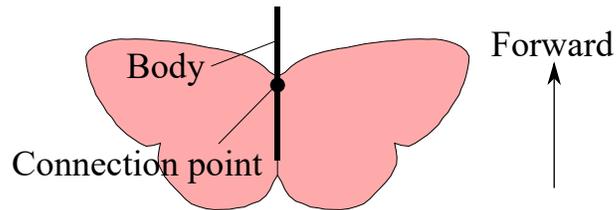


Figure 5. The wing planform of an actual butterfly (*J. leucodesma*). It should be noted that while the body of the model is infinitely thin, it is depicted with a finite thickness in this figure for ease of seeing.

3. Governing equations and non-dimensional parameters

The fluid motion around the butterfly model is governed by the continuity equation and the Navier–Stokes equation for incompressible fluid as follows:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho_f} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}, \quad (10)$$

where \mathbf{u} is the fluid velocity, p is the pressure, ρ_f is the fluid density, and ν is the kinematic viscosity of the fluid. We consider the fluid to be air at room temperature (20°C), and we set $\rho_f = 1.205 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and $\nu = 1.512 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$. It should be noted that the gravitational term does not appear in (10). This is because the pressure p includes the gravitational potential. The no-slip condition must be satisfied on the surface of the model, i.e., the fluid velocity must be equal to the velocity of the wings and the body. It should be noted that the body has a negligible effect on the flow field and the aerodynamic forces acting on the model, although the no-slip condition is enforced on the body.

The governing parameter of the above equations (9) and (10) is the Reynolds number defined as follows:

$$Re = \frac{U_{\text{ref}} L_{\text{ref}}}{\nu}, \quad (11)$$

where U_{ref} is a characteristic flow speed and L_{ref} is a characteristic length. As mentioned in section 2.1, we take $L_{\text{ref}} = \sqrt{S}$ where S is the wing area. In this study, we consider the wing area $S = 246.3 \text{ mm}^2$ of *J. leucodesma* calculated from the data in Dudley (1990). In addition, we take $U_{\text{ref}} = 4\theta_m L_{\text{ref}}/T$, which means the mean flapping speed of the reference point separated by L_{ref} from the rotational axis for the flapping angle. It should be noted that the above definition of the Reynolds number is independent of the wing planforms, since all the wing planforms considered here have the same wing area S .

From a practical point of view, the same Reynolds number for the different wing planforms means the same flapping frequency $F_{\text{req}} = 1/T$. While the Reynolds number for a *J. leucodesma* calculated from the data in Dudley (1990) is $Re = 892$ and that for other butterflies $Re \sim O[10^3]$, we set $Re = 500$ in the present simulation. It is known that at the Reynolds number over several hundreds the effect of the Reynolds number on the aerodynamic performance is relatively insensitive for the butterfly model (Suzuki et al. 2015).

In this study, in order to explore a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to the actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance, we calculate the aerodynamic performance when the body of the model is fixed. It should be noted that we assume that there is no forward velocity in this calculation. Then, we compare the flight behavior for the resulting trapezoidal wing planform with that for the actual butterfly’s wing planform in the free flight of the model. In the free flight simulation,

we have to consider the equations of motion of the model in addition to (9) and (10). For the detail of the equations of motion of the model, see section 5.2.

It should be noted that in this study the Strouhal number doesn't appear as a governing parameter unlike many other studies on flapping wings (e.g., Triantafyllou, Triantafyllou & Grosenbaugh 1993, Wang 2000, Taylor, Nudds & Thomas 2003). The Strouhal number is defined by $St = F_{\text{req}}L_{\text{ref}}/U_{\text{ref}}$ where F_{req} is the flapping frequency, L_{ref} is the characteristic length, and U_{ref} is the characteristic velocity. In general, the stroke amplitude and the forward velocity are chosen as L_{ref} and U_{ref} , respectively (e.g., Shyy, Lian, Tang, Viieru & Liu 2008). The Strouhal number is an important governing parameter when the forward velocity is chosen as the characteristic velocity. In this study, however, we assume that there is no forward velocity when we calculate the aerodynamic performance, and we use the flapping velocity as the characteristic velocity. Therefore, the Strouhal number is not included in governing parameters here. For the same reason, the reduced frequency (see Shyy et al. 2008, Shyy, Aono, Chimakurthi, Trizila, Kang, Cesnik & Liu 2010) doesn't appear as a governing parameter. On the other hand, in the free flight simulation, we can calculate the Strouhal number by using the forward velocity of the model obtained as a resulting motion of the model. However, it is not a parameter but a result.

In this study, we calculate the following aerodynamic performance factors, i.e., the lift coefficient C_L , the thrust coefficient C_T , the pitching moment coefficient C_M , and the power coefficient C_P :

$$C_L = \frac{F_{\text{lift}}}{0.5\rho_f U_{\text{ref}}^2 (2S)}, \quad (12)$$

$$C_T = \frac{F_{\text{thrust}}}{0.5\rho_f U_{\text{ref}}^2 (2S)}, \quad (13)$$

$$C_M = \frac{M_{\text{pitch}}}{0.5\rho_f U_{\text{ref}}^2 (2S)L_{\text{ref}}}, \quad (14)$$

$$C_P = \frac{\int_{\text{wing}} \mathbf{p}_{\text{local}} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\text{local}} dS}{0.5\rho_f U_{\text{ref}}^3 (2S)}, \quad (15)$$

where F_{lift} and F_{thrust} are the lift and thrust forces acting on the model, i.e., the components of the aerodynamic force in the upward and forward directions, respectively, M_{pitch} is the pitching moment acting on the model, $\mathbf{p}_{\text{local}}$ is the local stress acting on the fluid by a unit area of the wing surface, and $\mathbf{u}_{\text{local}}$ is the flow velocity at the point. Also, $\int_{\text{wing}} dS$ means the integral over the wings. Therefore, the power coefficient C_P represents the non-dimensional form of the power expenditure to move the wings against the aerodynamic force. It should be noted that the above definitions of the aerodynamic performance factors are also independent of the wing planforms, since all the wing planforms considered here have the same wing area S .

The time-averaged values of C_L , C_T , and C_P are important indices of the aerodynamic performance. Let the time-averaged values of C_L , C_T , and C_P in one

stroke be $\overline{C_L}$, $\overline{C_T}$, and $\overline{C_P}$. We define the power-loading coefficient as follows:

$$C_{\text{PL}} = \frac{\sqrt{\overline{C_L}^2 + \overline{C_T}^2}}{\overline{C_P}}. \quad (16)$$

It should be noted that in this study the power-loading coefficient is defined by using the magnitude of the vector $(\overline{C_T}, \overline{C_L})$, while in general it is defined by the ratio of the lift coefficient to the power coefficient. Since the present butterfly model generates the thrust force as well as the lift force, the above definition should be more appropriate as an index of efficiency.

4. Numerical method and computational parameters

The numerical method used in this study is the same as that in Suzuki et al. (2015); we use the IB-LBM approach (Suzuki & Inamuro 2011) to solve (9) and (10). The aerodynamic forces F_{lift} and F_{thrust} and the pitching moment M_{pitch} are calculated by the summation of the body force which is applied to enforce the no-slip condition on the model in the immersed boundary method. In this calculation, the internal mass effect (see Suzuki & Inamuro (2011)) is neglected, since the model has no volume. The wings and the body of the model are represented by an arrangement of boundary Lagrangian points. The position and velocity of the boundary Lagrangian points on the wings and the body are updated by orthogonal transformation of the coordinate systems fixed to the wings and the body relative to that fixed to the flight space. For details of the numerical method, see Suzuki & Inamuro (2011). The verification of the numerical method and the convergence studies for temporal and spatial resolutions have been extensively checked in Suzuki et al. (2015) and Suzuki & Yoshino (2018). In addition, Engels, Kolomenskiy, Schneider & Sesterhenn (2016) simulated the same problem as Suzuki et al. (2015) to verify their proposed method (a Fourier method with volume penalization), and they reported that their result for the free flight of the butterfly model had a good agreement with that obtained in Suzuki et al. (2015).

The computational domain is the same as that used in Suzuki & Yoshino (2018): we use a cuboid of $18L_{\text{ref}} \times 12L_{\text{ref}} \times 12L_{\text{ref}}$. The x -, y -, and z -axes are fixed to the domain, and we denote the directions of the x - and y -axes as forward and upward, respectively. The boundary condition on two sides perpendicular to the x -axis is the periodic boundary condition, and on the other sides the no-slip condition is used. The center of the body is fixed at the center of the domain. The domain is initially filled with a stationary fluid at uniform pressure. We use a multi-block grid (Inamuro 2012) in order to save computation time. The multi-block grid is composed of a fine grid with a lattice spacing Δx and a coarse grid with $2\Delta x$. The size of the inner fine grid is set to $4.5L_{\text{ref}} \sin \theta_m \times 4.5L_{\text{ref}} \sin \theta_m \times 4.5L_{\text{ref}}$, in order to confine the butterfly model to the inner fine grid including a sufficient margin. In order to reduce the computational cost, we calculate one-half of the computational domain with the mirror boundary condition on the longitudinal plane which passes through the center of the domain and

is perpendicular to z -axis. This implies that the flow field is assumed to be symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal plane. In the present simulations, we set the spatial and temporal resolutions to $L_{\text{ref}} = 60\Delta x$ and $T = 6000\Delta t$ (where Δx is a lattice spacing and Δt is the time step), respectively.

5. Results and discussion

In this section, we explore a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to the actual butterfly's wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance in the parameter space consisting of the aspect ratio AR , the taper ratio TR , the position ℓ of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA, and the sweepback angle λ , when the body of the model is fixed. Then, we compare the flight behavior for the resulting trapezoidal wing planform with that for the actual butterfly's wing planform in the free flight of the model.

5.1. Aerodynamic performance when the body of the model is fixed

As mentioned in section 1, the reason why an actual butterfly's wing has high efficiency was explained that the aspect ratio is moderate, the taper ratio is effectively less than 1, and the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA is located near the leading edge (Suzuki & Yoshino 2018). In addition, it might be expected from the results by Ancel et al. (2017) that the sweepback angle which makes the leading edge of the wings perpendicular to the forward direction gives a good aerodynamic performance even in flapping flight. From these considerations, we explore in the parameter space (AR, TR, ℓ, λ) where $1 \leq AR \leq 2$ (the aspect ratio of the actual butterfly's wing is 1.61), $0 \leq TR \leq 1$, $\ell \geq 0$, and $0 \leq \lambda/\lambda_0 \leq 1.25$ (the leading edge of the wings is perpendicular to the forward direction when $\lambda = 1.0\lambda_0$).

5.1.1. Adjusting aspect ratio AR

First, we adjust the aspect ratio AR when the other parameters (TR, ℓ, λ) are fixed to $(1.0, 0.0, 0.0)$. Figure 6 shows the time variations of the lift coefficient C_L , the thrust coefficient C_T , the pitching moment coefficient C_M , and the power coefficient C_P for $9.0 \leq t/T \leq 10$. It should be noted that the simulations are conducted until $t/T = 20$, but the results during each stroke are almost the same after $t/T = 9$. Thus, we present the results of the 10th period here. As seen in figure 6 (a), the positive lift is produced during downstroke and the negative lift force is produced during upstroke. This is attributed to the wing kinematics that the wings are flapped downward and backward during downstroke and upstroke, respectively. Similar phenomenon can be seen from other numerical results using more realistic butterfly models whose wing kinematics were derived directly from those of actual butterflies (Yokoyama et al. 2013, Fei & Yang 2015).

We can see from figures 6 (a) and (b) that the positive peaks of C_L and C_T significantly increase with AR , while the phases of the peaks are almost independent from AR in the range $1.0 \leq AR \leq 2.0$. This is attributed to the fact that the wing

length L_w increases with AR . The flapping speed at the wing tip increases with L_w , and therefore the wing-tip vortex (WTV), which is regarded as a large source of the lift generation by a butterfly (Yokoyama et al. 2013), is intensified. The intensified WTV is likely to be a cause of the lift and thrust enhancement. In addition, we can see that the positive peaks of C_L and C_T for the rectangular wing planform with $AR = 1.6$ are comparable to those for the actual butterfly's wing planform, while there is a large phase difference between the results for the two wing planforms.

We can see from figure 6 (c) that the magnitude of C_M decreases with AR . This is because the average wing-chord length L_c decreases with AR , and consequently the wing surface points where the aerodynamic forces are applied come near the rotational axis of the geometric AOA. In addition, we can see that the magnitude of C_M for the actual butterfly's wing planform is much larger than that for the rectangular wing planforms.

We can see from figure 6 (d) that the magnitude of C_P significantly increases with AR . This is because the flapping speed at the wing tip as well as the aerodynamic forces increase with AR . In addition, we can see that the magnitude of C_P for the rectangular wing planform with $AR = 1.4$ are comparable to those for the actual butterfly's wing

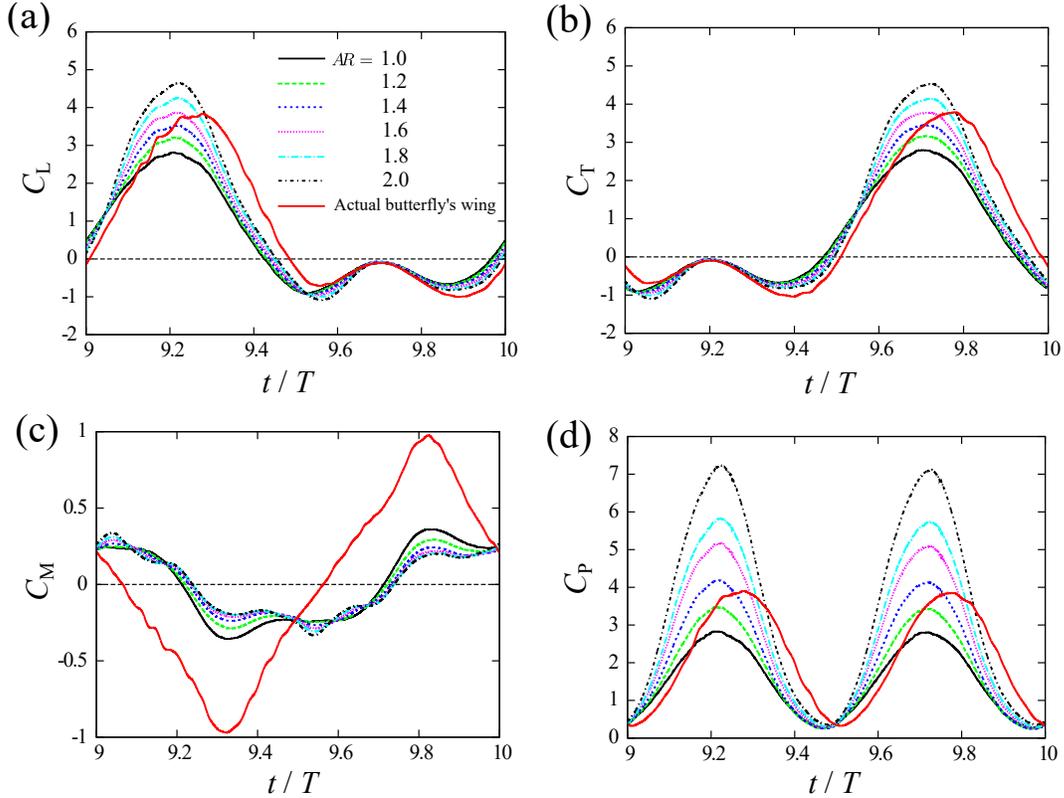


Figure 6. Time variations of (a) lift coefficient C_L , (b) thrust coefficient C_T , (c) pitching moment coefficient C_M , and (d) power coefficient C_P . The results of the trapezoidal wing planforms for various values of AR when the other parameters (TR, ℓ, λ) are fixed to $(1.0, 0.0, 0.0)$ are compared with those of the actual butterfly's wing planform.

planform, while there is a large phase difference between the results for the two wing planforms.

Since the parameter space is still large, we cannot determine the aspect ratio AR only from the above results. In this study, we set $AR = 1.6$, since this value is close to the aspect ratio of the actual butterfly's wing and makes the positive peaks of C_L and C_T comparable to those for the actual butterfly's wing planform.

5.1.2. Adjusting taper ratio TR

Second, we adjust the taper ratio TR when the other parameters (AR, ℓ, λ) are fixed to (1.6, 0.0, 0.0). We can see from figures 7 (a), (b), and (d) that the positive peaks of C_L , C_T , and C_P decrease as the value of TR decreases, while the phases of the peaks are almost independent from TR in the range $0.0 \leq TR \leq 1.0$. This is attributed to the fact that the wing-tip length L_{tip} decrease as the value of TR decreases. The WTV is likely to be smaller as L_{tip} decreases, and therefore both the aerodynamic forces and the power expenditure decrease. In addition, we can see that the positive peaks of C_L and C_T for the trapezoidal wing planforms are smaller than those for the actual butterfly's wing

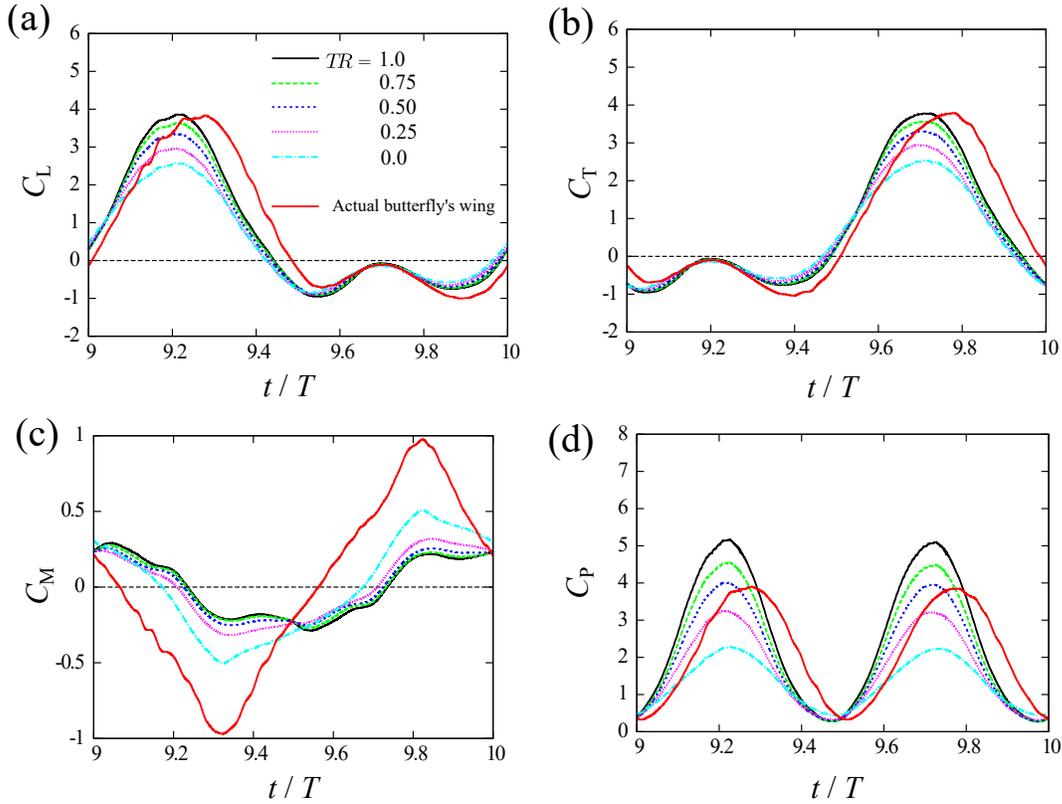


Figure 7. Time variations of (a) lift coefficient C_L , (b) thrust coefficient C_T , (c) pitching moment coefficient C_M , and (d) power coefficient C_P . The results of the trapezoidal wing planforms for various values of TR when the other parameters (AR, ℓ, λ) are fixed to (1.6, 0.0, 0.0) are compared with those of the actual butterfly's wing planform.

planform, and the magnitude of C_P for the trapezoidal wing planform with $TR = 0.50$ is comparable to that for the actual butterfly's wing planform.

On the other hand, we can see from figure 7 (c) that magnitude of C_M increases as the value of TR decreases. This is because the wing surface points around the wing root become more distant from the rotational axis of the geometric AOA as the value of TR decreases. However, the magnitude of C_M for the actual butterfly's wing planform is much larger than that for the trapezoidal wing planforms in the range $0.0 \leq TR \leq 1.0$.

From the above results, all the curves of C_L , C_T , C_M , and C_P for the trapezoidal wing planforms are still far from those for the actual butterfly's wing planform. In this study, we set $TR = 0.25$, since it can be expected from the results by Suzuki & Yoshino (2018) that the positive peaks of C_L , C_T , and C_P increase when the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA is shifted forward.

5.1.3. Adjusting position ℓ of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA

Third, we adjust the position ℓ of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA when the other parameters (AR, TR, λ) are fixed to (1.6, 0.25, 0.0). Figure 8 shows the time variations of the aerodynamic performance factors for various values of ℓ normalized by

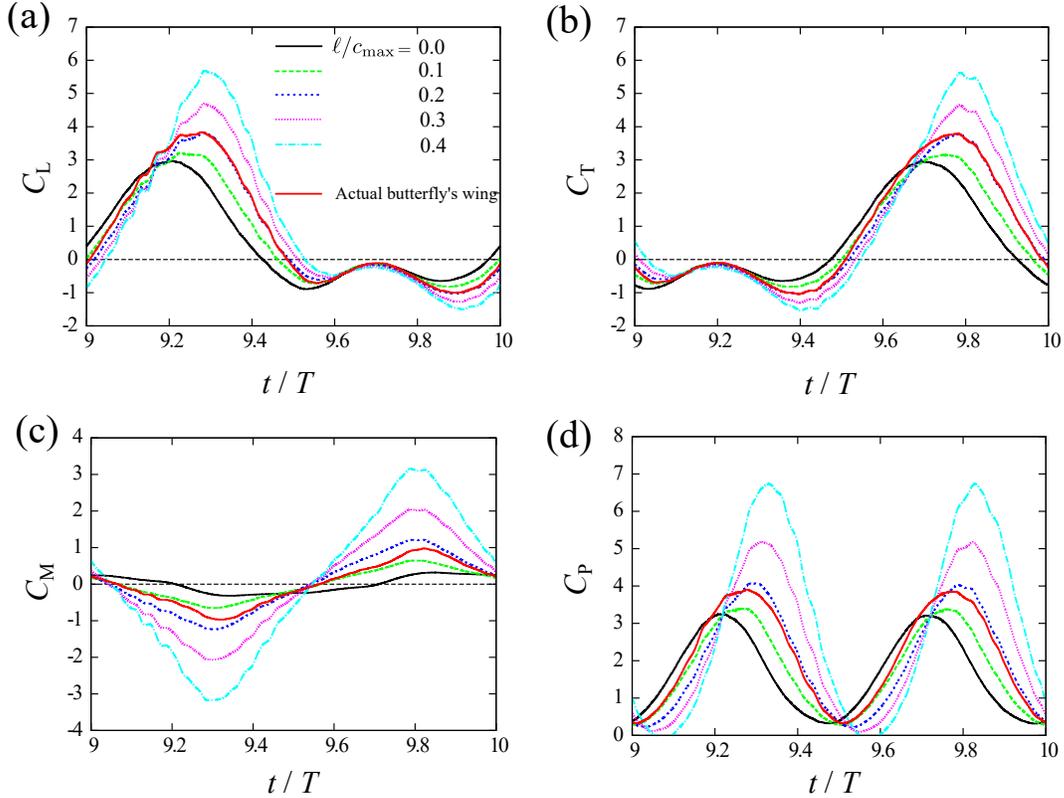


Figure 8. Time variations of (a) lift coefficient C_L , (b) thrust coefficient C_T , (c) pitching moment coefficient C_M , and (d) power coefficient C_P . The results of the trapezoidal wing planforms for various values of ℓ normalized by the maximum chord length c_{\max} when the other parameters (AR, TR, λ) are fixed to (1.6, 0.25, 0.0) are compared with those of the actual butterfly's wing planform.

the maximum chord length c_{\max} . It should be noted that $c_{\max} = L_{\text{root}}$ for the trapezoidal wing planform with $TR < 1$. We can see from figures 8 (a), (b), and (d) that the positive peaks of C_L , C_T , and C_P increase with ℓ , i.e., the position of the rotational axis comes near the leading edge, and the phases of these curves delay with ℓ . This is attributed to the fact that the distance of the trailing edge from the rotational axis for the geometric AOA increases with ℓ . This intensifies the effect of the kicking-down of the trailing edge like a dolphin kick, and this effect enhances the aerodynamic forces at the cost of the power expenditure and shifts these peak values (Suzuki & Yoshino 2018).

We can see from figure 8 (c) that the magnitude of C_M increases with ℓ . This is because the wing surface points around the trailing edge become more distant from the rotational axis of the geometric AOA as ℓ increases. In addition, we can see that the magnitude of C_M for the trapezoidal wing planforms with $\ell \geq 0.2c_{\max}$ is larger than that for the actual butterfly's wing planform.

From the above results, we can see that the trapezoidal wing planform with $(AR, TR, \ell, \lambda) = (1.6, 0.25, 0.2c_{\max}, 0.0)$ gives quite similar aerodynamic performance to the actual butterfly's wing planform. However, the magnitude of C_M for this trapezoidal

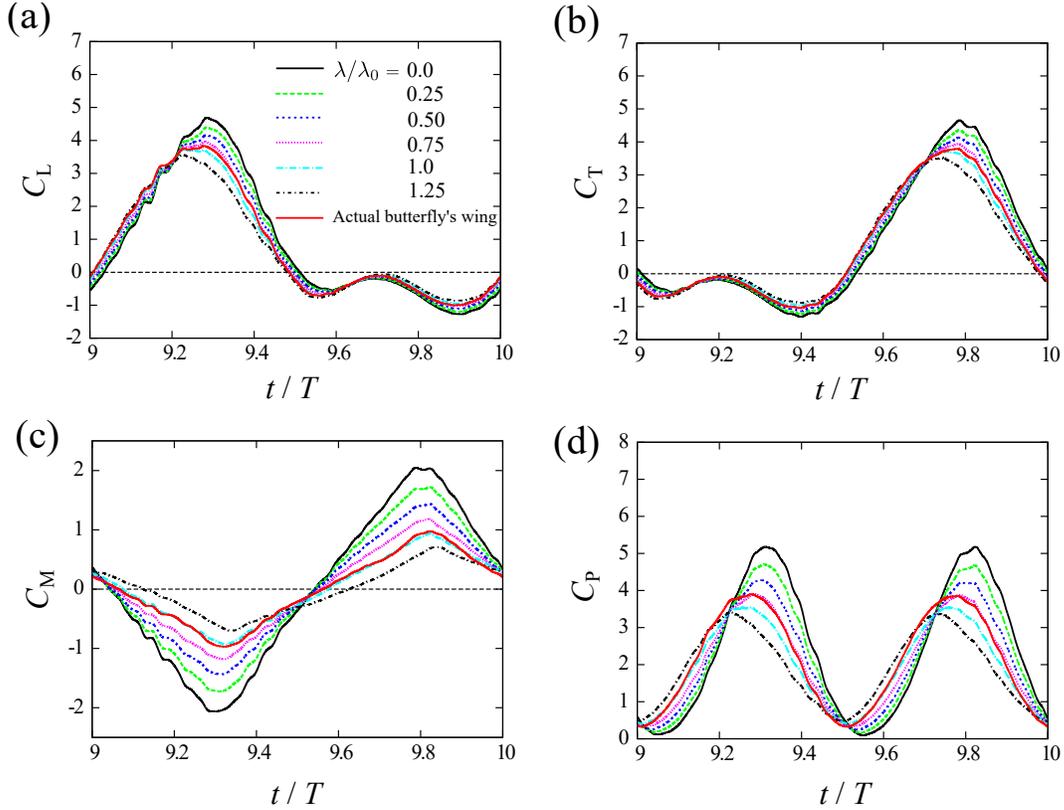


Figure 9. Time variations of (a) lift coefficient C_L , (b) thrust coefficient C_T , (c) pitching moment coefficient C_M , and (d) power coefficient C_P . The results of the trapezoidal wing planforms for various values of λ when the other parameters (AR, TR, ℓ) are fixed to $(1.6, 0.25, 0.3c_{\max})$ are compared with those of the actual butterfly's wing planform.

wing planform exceeds that for the actual butterfly’s wing planform, and the curves of C_P still have a phase difference. In this study, we set not $\ell = 0.2c_{\max}$ but $\ell = 0.3c_{\max}$ in order to leave place for the effect of the sweepback angle λ .

5.1.4. Adjusting sweepback angle λ

Finally, we adjust the sweepback angle λ when the other parameters (AR, TR, ℓ) are fixed to $(1.6, 0.25, 0.3c_{\max})$. Figure 9 shows the time variations of the aerodynamic factors for various λ in the range $0 \leq \lambda/\lambda_0 \leq 1.25$. This range of λ is determined so that it includes the range where the leading edge sweepback angle λ_{lead} is nearly equal to 0° . This comes from the expectation that when $\lambda_{\text{lead}} \simeq 0^\circ$, i.e., the leading edge of the wings is almost perpendicular to the forward direction, a good aerodynamic performance can be achieved even in flapping flight like the results by Ancel et al. (2017). It should be noted that from the definition of the standard sweepback angle (8), λ_0 is equal to -20.56° in this set of the parameters. This means that the wings have more forward sweep as λ/λ_0 increases. We can see from figure 9 that all the peaks of C_L, C_T, C_M , and C_P decrease with λ . This is because the wing surface points around the leading edge come near the rotational axis of the geometric AOA as λ increases, and consequently the kicking-down effect is weakened. As a result, we can see that the trapezoidal wing planform with $(AR, TR, \ell, \lambda) = (1.6, 0.25, 0.3c_{\max}, \lambda_0)$ gives almost equivalent aerodynamic performance to the actual butterfly’s wing planform.

5.1.5. Butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform

In summary, the resulting trapezoidal wing planform is shown in figure 10, and its geometrical parameters are shown in table 1. Hereafter, we will call it *butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform*.

Figure 11 shows the locations of the centroids of the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform and the actual butterfly’s wing planform. We can see from this figure that the centroid of the former one is close to that of the latter one. This means that if the mass densities on these wings are assumed to be uniform and the same, the centers of mass of these wings are close to each other as well. Therefore, the inertial force and

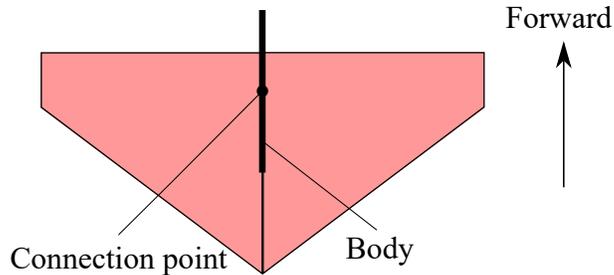


Figure 10. A trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance. It should be noted that while the body of the model is infinitely thin, it is depicted with a finite thickness in this figure for ease of seeing.

Table 1. Parameters for a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance, where AR is the aspect ratio, TR is the taper ratio, ℓ is the position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA, c_{\max} is maximum chord length, λ is the sweepback angle, and λ_0 is the standard sweepback angle.

AR	TR	ℓ/c_{\max}	λ
1.6	0.25	0.3	$-20.56^\circ (= \lambda_0)$

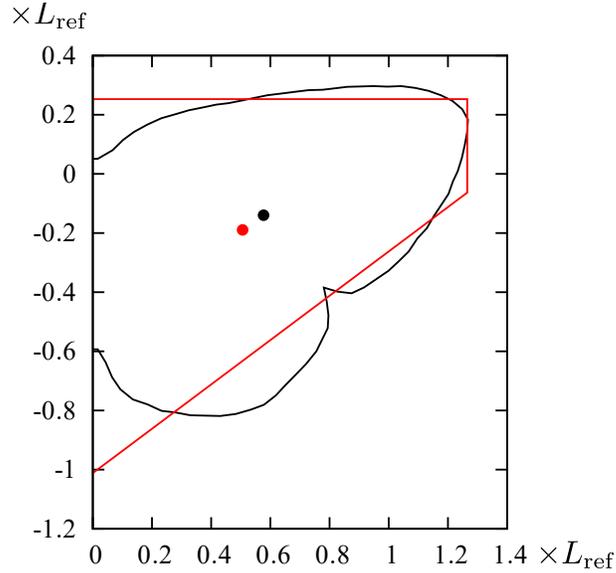


Figure 11. Locations of the centroids of the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform (red) and the actual butterfly’s wing planform (black). The outlines and centroids of these wing planforms are shown in solid lines and bullets, respectively, in the coordinate whose axes are normalized by the reference length L_{ref} and origin is located at the intersection point of the wing root and the rotational axis for the geometric AOA.

torque of these wings might be close to each other. In this paper, however, we focus on not the inertial force and torque but the aerodynamic force and torque generated by the wings, and the wing inertia is beyond the scope of the present study.

Figure 12 shows the time variation of the vortex structure near the butterfly model with the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform and the actual butterfly’s wing planform in the tenth period. The vortex structure is visualized by the Q -criterion (Hunt, Wray & Moin 1988), i.e., the second invariant of the velocity gradient tensor given by

$$Q = -\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i}, \quad (17)$$

where $i, j = x, y, z$ represent the Cartesian coordinates and the summation convention is used. We can see from figure 12 that the structures of the leading-edge vortex, the wing-tip vortex, and the separated vortices behind the model for the butterfly-

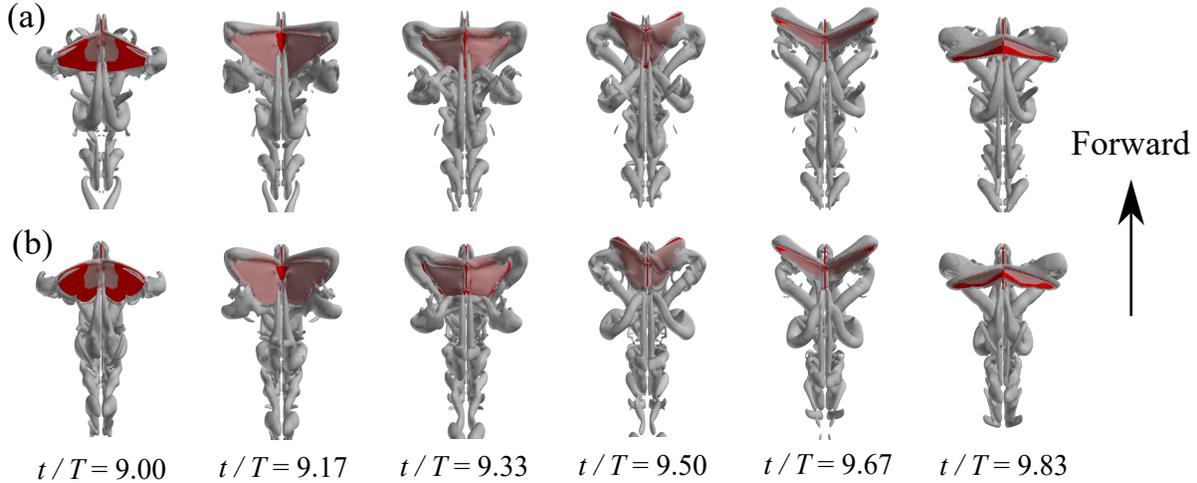


Figure 12. Vortex structures viewed from the upper side of the butterfly model: (a) the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform and (b) the actual butterfly's wing planform. The model is shown in red, and the isosurface of $Q = 3(U_{\text{ref}}/L_{\text{ref}})^2$ is shown in gray.

equivalent trapezoidal wing planform are very similar to those for the actual butterfly's wing planform, although the geometries of the two wing planforms are largely different.

Figure 13 shows the time variations of the lift coefficient C_L , the thrust coefficient C_T , the pitching moment coefficient C_M , and the power coefficient C_P for $9.0 \leq t/T \leq 10$. Although the results for $(AR, TR, \ell, \lambda) = (1.6, 0.25, 0.3c_{\text{max}}, \lambda_0)$ are included in figure 9, we show them again in order to make it easy to compare the results of the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform with those of the actual butterfly's wing planform. We can see from figures 13(a)–(c) that the curves of C_L , C_T , and C_M for the two wing planforms are almost coincident with each other. In addition, we can see from figure 13(d) that the peak value of C_P for the butterfly-equivalent wing planforms is slightly smaller than that for the actual butterfly's wing planform. This suggests that trapezoidal wing planforms with a good set of parameters can have a smaller power expenditure than the actual butterfly's wing, and consequently it is possible to construct more efficient trapezoidal wing planforms than the actual butterfly's wing.

Table 2 shows the time-averaged values of C_L , C_T , and C_P in the tenth period. In addition, the power-loading coefficient C_{PL} is shown in this table. It should be noted that the time-averaged value of C_M is not shown in this table, since it is more than two orders of magnitude smaller than the peak value, i.e., negligibly small. We can see from table 2 that $\overline{C_L}$, $\overline{C_T}$, and $\overline{C_P}$ for the butterfly-equivalent wing planform are slightly smaller than those for the actual butterfly's wing planform. Consequently, in terms of the power-loading coefficient C_{PL} , the efficiency of the two wing planforms is comparable.

The differences in the aerodynamic performance between the two wing planforms shown in figure 13 and table 2 are likely to come from the difference in the detailed shape (e.g., smoothness of the outline) between the two wing planforms. However,

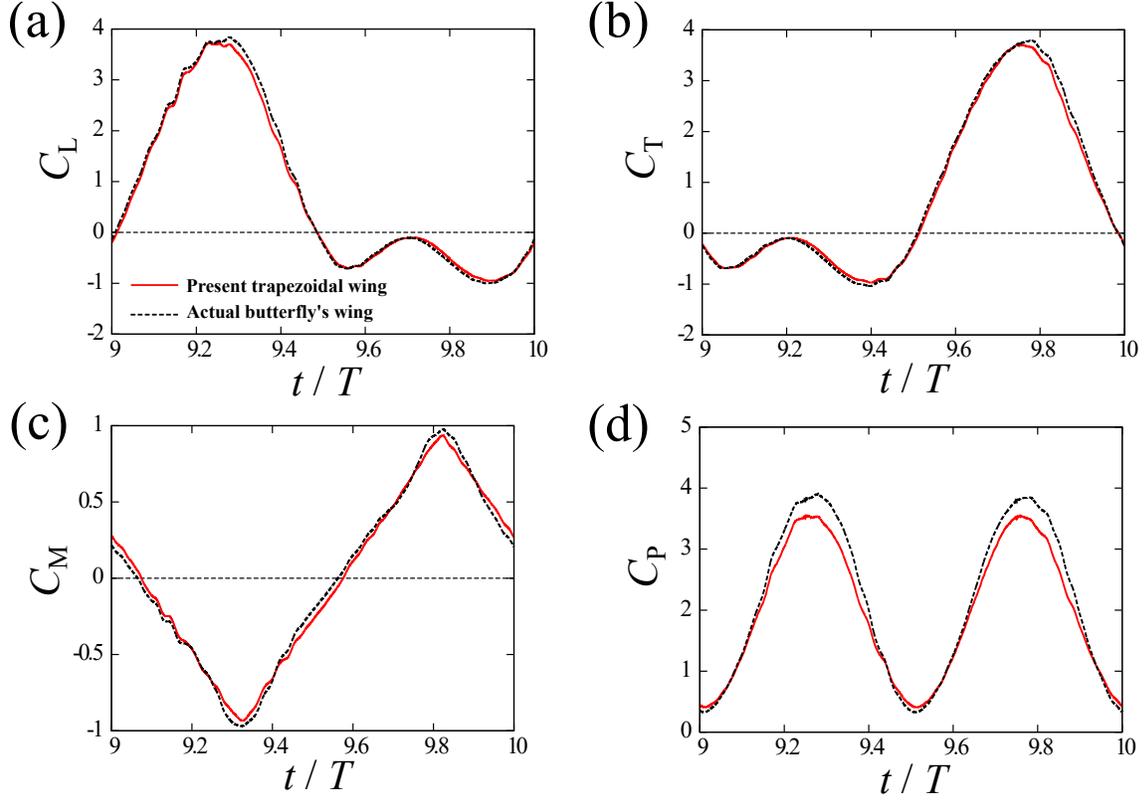


Figure 13. Time variations of (a) lift coefficient C_L , (b) thrust coefficient C_T , (c) pitching moment coefficient C_M , and (d) power coefficient C_P for the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform and the actual butterfly's wing planform.

Table 2. The time-averaged lift coefficient $\overline{C_L}$, the time-averaged thrust coefficient $\overline{C_T}$, the time-averaged power coefficient $\overline{C_P}$, and the power-loading coefficient C_{PL} for the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform and the actual butterfly's wing planform.

	$\overline{C_L}$	$\overline{C_T}$	$\overline{C_P}$	C_{PL}
Present trapezoidal wing	0.758	0.770	1.97	0.548
Actual butterfly's wing	0.812	0.794	2.13	0.533

the differences in the aerodynamic performance are very small. This suggests that the four geometrical parameters (AR, TR, ℓ, λ) have a dominant effect on the aerodynamic performance for the present wing kinematics, and the detailed shape of the wing planform is not significant.

From the above results, we can find a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly's wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance. This suggests that our hypothesis that the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly's wing can be reproduced by AR, TR, ℓ , and λ is valid when the body of the model is fixed.

5.2. Free flight with pitching motion control

Next, we compare the flight behavior for the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform with that for the actual butterfly's wing planform in the free flight of the butterfly model. In this simulation, we calculate the free flight with pitching motion control. We use the control strategy used in Suzuki et al. (2015), i.e., we use a modified model whose body is composed of the thorax and the abdomen like an actual butterfly. Here, we assume that the body moves only in the x (forward) and y (upward) directions and rotates only in the pitching motion for simplicity.

It is known that the body of an actual butterfly is composed of the thorax and the abdomen, and the pitching angle of the body might be controlled by flexing at the joint between the thorax and the abdomen (Dudley 2002). As a simple model of the butterfly body, let the body of the model be composed of two straight infinitely-thin rods as shown in figure 14 (a): the thorax with the length L_t and the abdomen with the length L_a . The total length of the body is $L_b = L_t + L_a$. Let the mass of the thorax be M_t and that of the abdomen be M_a . The total mass of the body is $M_b = M_t + M_a$. The connection point between the thorax and the wings is located at the distance of ℓ_0 from the head of the thorax. In this study, we set $L_b = 0.86L_{\text{ref}}$, $L_t : L_a = 3 : 7$, $M_t : M_a = 44 : 51$, and $\ell_0 = 0.77L_t$, which are the same as a *J. leucodesma* (Dudley 1990). We assume that the thorax and the abdomen are connected by a rotary actuator with no mass and no rotation friction.

We control the pitching angle of the thorax θ_t by the input torque T^{cont} produced by the rotary actuator. In the same way as Suzuki et al. (2015), we determine the input torque T^{cont} by the proportional-plus-integral-plus-derivative (PID) control as follows:

$$T^{\text{cont}}(t) = K_p(\theta_0(t) - \theta_t(t)) + K_i \int_0^t (\theta_0(t') - \theta_t(t')) dt' + K_d(\dot{\theta}_0(t) - \dot{\theta}_t(t)), \quad (18)$$

where θ_0 is the target pitching angle of the thorax, K_p is the proportional gain, K_i is the integral gain, and K_d is the derivative gain. In order to suppress the increase in the pitching angle θ_t , we set $\theta_0(t) = 0^\circ$.

The equations of motion of the model are the same as those in Suzuki et al. (2015), and we calculate them by the second-order Adams–Bashforth method in the same way as Suzuki et al. (2015). The governing parameters of these equations are the Froude number Fr and the non-dimensional mass N_M as follows:

$$Fr = \frac{U_{\text{ref}}}{\sqrt{L_{\text{ref}}G}}, \quad (19)$$

$$N_M = \frac{M_b}{\rho_f L_{\text{ref}}^3}, \quad (20)$$

where $G = 9.807 \text{ m/s}^2$ is the gravitational acceleration.

Totally, the governing parameters of this system are the Reynolds number Re , the Froude number Fr , and the non-dimensional mass N_M . For an actual butterfly (*J. leucodesma*), these parameters are $(Re, Fr, N_M) = (892, 2.19, 5.16)$ (Dudley 1990).

However, we use $(Re, Fr, N_M) = (300, 8.815, 38)$, which are comparable to the parameters for a fruit fly rather than a butterfly, in order to reduce the computational cost. In addition, we set $K_p = -M_a L_a^2 F_{req}^2 \times 0.698$, $K_i = -M_a L_a^2 F_{req}^3 \times 0.698$, and $K_d = -M_a L_a^2 F_{req} \times 9.65$, which are the same as used in Suzuki et al. (2015).

Figures 14 (b)–(d) show the trajectory of the center of the thorax, the time variation of the pitching angle θ_t of the thorax, and the time variation of the relative angle ψ of the abdomen to the thorax. We can see from these figures that the results for the two wing planforms are comparable with each other. Therefore, the butterfly-equivalent trapezoidal wing planform has almost the same flight behavior as the actual butterfly's wing planform. This suggests that our hypothesis that the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly's wing can be reproduced by AR , TR , ℓ , and λ is valid even in the free flight with pitching motion control.

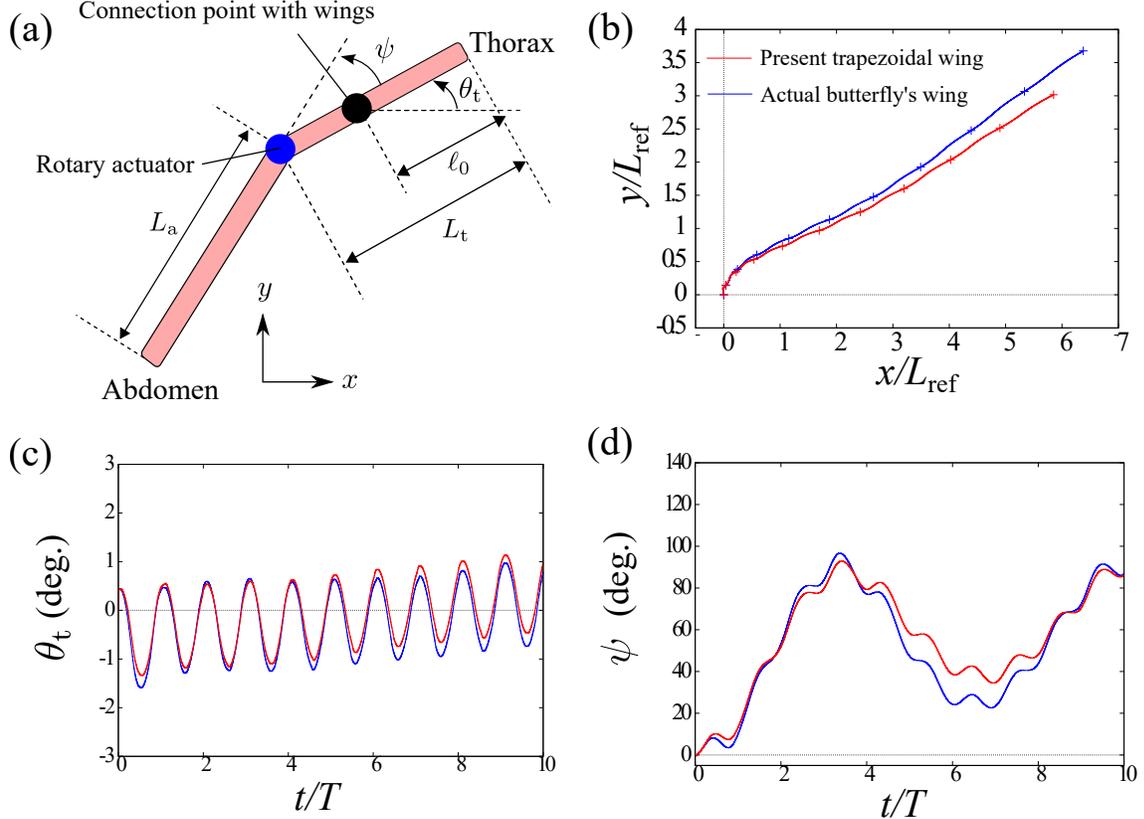


Figure 14. (a) The body composed of the thorax and the abdomen to control the pitching angle of the butterfly model, (b) trajectory of the center of the thorax, (c) time variation of the pitching angle θ_t of the thorax, and (d) time variation of the relative angle ψ of the abdomen to the thorax when the pitching angle of the thorax is controlled by flexing the abdomen. In (b), the initial position of the center of the thorax is $(x/L_{ref}, y/L_{ref}) = (0, 0)$, and the symbols on the trajectories indicate the position of the center of the thorax when the wings are at $\theta = \theta_m$.

6. Conclusions

We made a hypothesis that the efficient aerodynamic performance of the butterfly’s wing can be reproduced by the following four geometrical parameters of wing planform: aspect ratio, taper ratio, position of the rotational axis for the geometric AOA, and sweepback angle. In order to test this hypothesis, we explored a trapezoidal wing planform equivalent to an actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of aerodynamic performance in the parameter space consisting of these four parameters through immersed boundary–lattice Boltzmann simulations of the flapping flight of a simple butterfly model. As a result, we found that a trapezoidal wing planform with the parameters shown in table 1 is equivalent to an actual butterfly’s wing planform in terms of the aerodynamic performance factors such as lift force, thrust force, pitching moment, power expenditure, and power loading. In addition, we found that the resulting trapezoidal wing planform has almost the same flight behavior as the actual butterfly’s wing planform. From these results, we can conclude that our hypothesis is valid, and we believe that these four parameters can be useful in designing butterfly-like MAVs.

acknowledgments

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