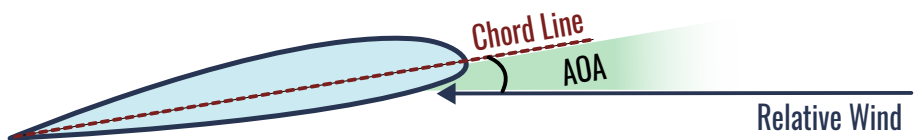
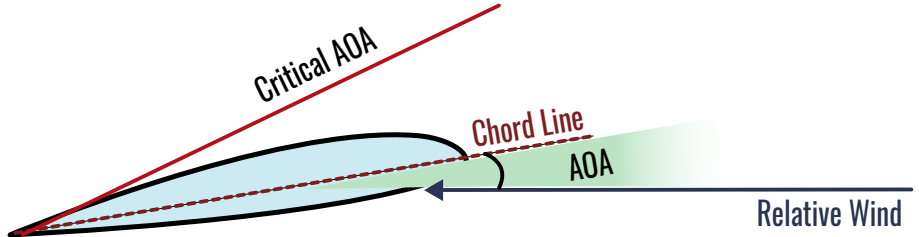


ANGLE OF ATTACK

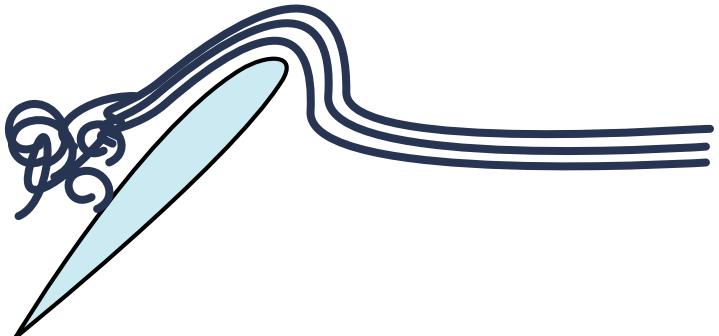
THE ANGLE BETWEEN THE CHORD LINE AND THE RELATIVE WIND



In other words, it's the angle between where the plane is pointed and where it's going.



A given airfoil always stalls at the same AOA. This is called the Critical AOA.



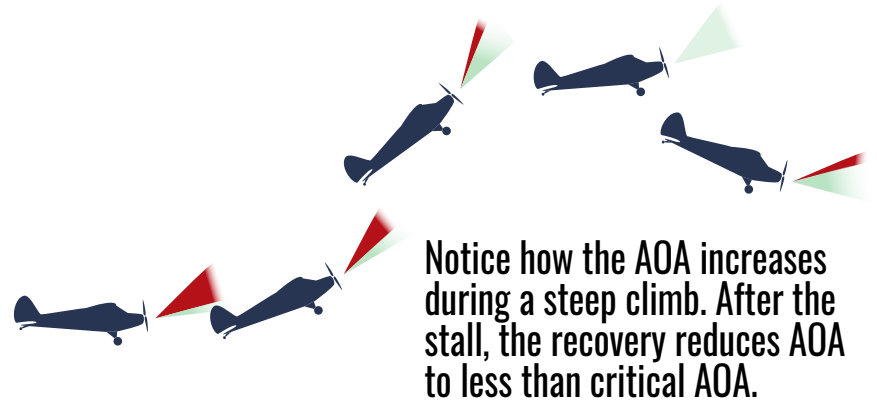
When an airfoil stalls, the airflow which normally flows smoothly along the upper surface of the wing begins to separate. This causes a loss of lift.

Final approach angle.

High-pitch climb with insufficient power.

Final approach angle.

High-pitch climb with insufficient power.



Notice how the AOA increases during a steep climb. After the stall, the recovery reduces AOA to less than critical AOA.