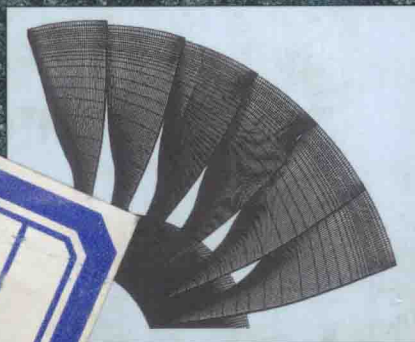


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THIRD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
TURBOMACHINERY:
FLUID DYNAMICS
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VOLUME A



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Contents – Volume 1

Turbine Aerodynamics

C557/063/99	Aerodynamic performance of two isolated turbine stators in transonic annular cascade flow K Freudenreich, M Jöcker, W Höhn, T H Fransson, and H-J Rehder	3
C557/011/99	Numerical simulation of three-dimensional inlet guide vanes V Michelassi and E Belardini	21
C557/039/99	An experimental investigation into the three-dimensional flow field and loss mechanisms in a two-stage axial turbine V Breisig, C Lerner, P Peters, H Pfof, and M Deckers	33
C557/055/99	Measurements of turbine blade aerodynamic entropy generation rate F K O'Donnell and M R D Davies	43
C557/093/99	Multi-stage three-dimensional Navier–Stokes computation of off-design operation of a four-stage turbine G A Gerolymos and C Hanisch	55
C557/022/99	Throughflow analysis for cooled turbines S Gehring and W Riess	79
C557/073/99	Measurements of complex air flow phenomena inside the rotor of an operating industrial gas turbine D Regnery, U Hoepfner, N Vortmeyer, and K Nitsche	89

Design Methods

C557/103/99	The aerodynamic design and testing of a supersonic turbine for rocket engine application U Wåhlén	101
C557/154/99	Three-dimensional turbine blade design using a Navier–Stokes solver and Artificial Neural Network S Pierret and R A Van den Braembussche	113
C557/043/99	The role of research in the aerodynamic design of an advanced low-pressure turbine N W Harvey, J C Cox, V Schulte, R Howell, and H P Hodson	123

Transition and Turbulence

C557/142/99	The prediction of flow on a flat plate with a circular leading edge under zero and non-zero pressure gradient C Yakinthos and A Goulas	135
-------------	--	-----

C557/025/99	Unsteady transition measurements using a Ludwieg tube R Schook, H C De Lange, and A A van Steenhoven	147
C557/036/99	Calculation of transition in turbine cascades by conditioned Navier–Stokes equations J Steelant and E Dick	157
C557/159/99	Transition studies on a two-dimensional NACA63 isolated airfoil at high Mach numbers S Svendsdotter, J Hu, and T Fransson	167
C557/107/99	Experiments on by-pass boundary layer transition with several turbulence length scales P Jonas, O Mazur, and V Uruba	179
C557/131/99	Modelling turbomachine-blade flows with non-linear eddy–viscosity models and second-moment closure W-L Chen and M A Leschziner	189
C557/153/99	Experiments on turbulent flow separation B G B Muhammad-Klingmann and J P R Gustavsson	201
C557/143/99	An effect of the curved passage depth on the shock- induced separation flow structure J Czerwinska and P Doerffer	211
C557/139/99	Unsteady flow past a turbine blade using non-linear two-equation turbulence models F Magagnato	221
C557/068/99	Investigation of wake-induced transition on a highly loaded low-pressure turbine cascade S Brunner, L Fottner, V Schulte, and G Kappler	231
C557/084/99	A new intermittency model incorporating the calming effect O N Ramesh and H P Hodson	243
C557/130/99	Turbulence modelling of rotor-stator interaction with linear and non-linear eddy–viscosity models W-L Chen and M A Leschziner	259

Blade–Row Interaction and Aeroelasticity

C557/057/99	Experimental investigation of the unsteady rotor aerodynamics of a transonic turbine stage R Dénos, C H Sieverding, T Arts, J F Brouckaert, G Paniagua, and V Michelassi	271
C557/049/99	Three-dimensional unsteady Navier–Stokes analysis of stator–rotor interaction in axial-flow turbines L He	289

C557/018/99	Comparison of three approaches to model stator–rotor interaction in the turbine front stage of an industrial gas turbine M von Hoyningen-Huene and J Hermeler	307
C557/017/99	Stator wake clocking effects on three-dimensional unsteady flow in a two-stage low-pressure turbine J E Kryszinski, A Smolny, J R Blaszczyk, and H E Gallus	323
C557/156/99	Numerical analysis of wakes interactions in a transonic inviscid flow of compressor G L Oliveira, P Ferrand, and S Aubert	333
C557/044/99	Simulation of the unsteady interaction of coupled fans with ventilating systems B Schulze Dieckhoff and T H Carolus	343
C557/114/99	Viscous flutter calculations for a fan assembly using hybrid grids M Vahdati, A I Sayma, and M Imregun	353
C557/116/99	Flutter stability analysis of a bird-damaged fan assembly E Ferrari, M Vahdati, and M Imregun	365
C557/067/99	Forced response prediction within the design process J S Green and J G Marshall	377
Erosion		
C557/092/99	Novel design for a gas expander for highly particle loaded gases E Zettl and H Jericha	395
C557/091/99	Erosion due to particle impact in supersonic flow R Pöschl, J Woisetschläger, and H Jericha	405
C557/118/99	A pump separator of mechanical impurities A Wilk and S Wilk	417
Secondary Flows and Tip Clearance Flows		
C557/135/99	Horseshoe vortex control by suction through a slot in the wall cylinder junction D P Georgiou and V A Papavassilopoulos	429
C557/027/99	An experimental investigation of secondary flow in a low aspect ratio impulse cascade at different inlet flow angles V Molnár, F Ridzon, and T Sporina	441
C557/060/99	Profiled end-wall design for a turbine nozzle row J Yan, D G Gregory-Smith, and N Z Ince	453

C557/144/99	Tip-clearance-affected flow fields in a turbine blade row M Sell, M Treiber, C Casciaro, and G Gyarmathy	465
C557/148/99	Experimental and numerical investigations on the influence of the tip leakage flow on the radial flow field in a four-stage turbine D Bohn, K Kusterer, and M Lamping	477
C557/088/99	Parametric study of the flow in swirl brakes by means of a three-dimensional Navier–Stokes solver K K Nielsen, C M Myllerup, and R A Van den Braembussche	489

Additional Paper

C557/138/99	Through-flow model for design and analysis integrated in a three-dimensional Navier–Stokes solver A Sturmayer and Ch Hirsch	501
-------------	---	-----

Contents – Volume 2

Compressors

C557/106/99	Concerted experimental and numerical studies on axial flow fan rotor aerodynamics A Corsini, F Rispoli, F Bencze, and J Vad	519
C557/125/99	Influence of flow coefficient on the turbulence characteristics in the flow behind a rotor blade row of an axial low-speed compressor stage A S Witkowski, T J Chmielniak, M D Stozik, and M M Majkut	533
C557/100/99	The nature of wakes in multi-stage axial flow compressors S Read and R L Elder	545
C557/095/99	Effect of stator design on stator hub boundary layer separation in a highly loaded single-stage axial flow low-speed compressor J Friedrichs, S Baumgarten, and U Stark	573

Rotating Stall and Instability

C557/061/99	Experimental investigations of flow instabilities in a single-stage axial compressor A Jördening, B Stoffel, and B Matyschok	585
C557/006/99	Experimental investigation of rotating instabilities in a low-speed research compressor R Mailach	595

C557/097/99	Structure and propagation of rotating stall cells in an axial compressor stage A P Saxer, H M Saxer-Felici, F Ginter, A Inderbitzin, and G Gyarmathy	605
C557/104/99	An experimental study of stall in two axial compressor stages with variable inlet guide and stator vanes V Cyrus	619

Calculation Methods

C557/047/99	Design of multi-stage axial flow turbines and compressors C Bena, F Larocca, and L Zannetti	635
C557/147/99	Numerical simulations of flows in components of turbomachines using various implicit methods O Schmid, A Bußmann, E von Lavante, and M Moczala	645
C557/012/99	Computations for internal flows with a low Mach preconditioned Newton–Krylov scheme P Adami	655

Steam Turbines

C557/158/99	Temperature jet development in a cross-over channel D Bohn, H-W Funke, and J Gier	671
C557/077/99	Partial steam admission in an axial turbine stage J Skopek, J Vomela, L Tajc, and J Polansky	681
C557/007/99	Optimization of the inlet casing of a low-pressure steam turbine A C Benim and M Geiger	693
C557/124/99	Flow around the rotor blade tips of steam turbine last stage M Stastny, R Matas, P Safarik, A R Jung, J F Mayer, and H Stetter	703
C557/042/99	Velocity and pressure measurements in a non-stationary transonic steam flow W Bosschaerts	713
C557/023/99	Steady and unsteady flow measurements in the last stages of LP steam turbines D Schmidt and W Riess	723
C557/112/99	Three-dimensional coupled flow calculations in a low-pressure steam turbine last stage and exhaust hood for nominal and partial load conditions: comparisons with experimental results F Déjean, C Marty, and O Hartmann	735

C557/041/99	New principles of exhaust duct designing and updating A Zaryankin, A N Paramonov, S I Chusov, and B P Simonov	747
C557/024/99	Examination of the dynamic stress in the moving blades of the last stage in a low-pressure model turbine during windage F Truckenmüller, W Gerschütz, H Stetter, and H-G Hosenfeld	757

Condensation

C557/019/99	Modelling of the droplet size distribution in LP steam turbine V Petr and M Kolovratnik	771
C557/099/99	Wet steam analysis using Eulerian method for two-dimensional droplet growth and nucleation rate equations G Singh, R Hunt, and McCallum	783
C557/123/99	Steam flow calculations in turbine channels T Chmielniak, W Wroblewski, and S Dykas	803
C557/082/99	Numerical analysis of heterohomogeneous condensation of the steam flowing in turbine cascade M Stastny and M Sejna	815
C557/010/99	Method for nucleating steam flow in low-pressure turbine stages U Singh	827

Radial Compressors

C557/065/99	Performance prediction and optimization of an industrial centrifugal compressor inlet guide vane system M Coppinger and E Swain	839
C557/134/99	Impact of leading edge redesign on vaned radial diffuser performance E Casartelli, A P Saxer, and G Gyarmathy	853
C557/075/99	Time-resolved measurements with fast-response probes and laser-Doppler velocimetry at the impeller exit of a centrifugal compressor – a comparison of two measurement techniques W P Gizzi, C Roduner, D Stahlecker, P Köppel, and G Gyarmathy	865
C557/111/99	Research into variable geometry turbochargers without wastegates M Toussaint, G Descombes, and M Pluiose	883

Radial Machines

C557/028/99	Surge dynamics in a centrifugal compressor system C Meuleman, R de Lange, and A van Steenhoven	895
C557/030/99	Unsteady characteristics of a mixed-flow turbocharger turbine C Arcoumanis, N Karamanis, R F Martinez-Botas, and C C Su	905
C557/001/99	An analysis of the internal aerodynamic losses produced in the laminar and centrifugal flow between two co-rotating discs E Laroche and Y Ribaud	923

Heat Transfer and Cooling

C557/119/99	Experimental investigation of the external heat transfer on a nozzle guide vane U R Radeklint, C Hjalmarsson, F Rubensdörffer, and M Annerfeldt	937
C557/150/99	An experimental investigation of the interaction between trailing edge coolant-jet and blade wake P Zunino, M Ubaldi, A Cattanei, and U Campora	953
C557/074/99	Prediction of flow and heat transfer in a stationary two- dimensional rib roughened passage using low-<i>Re</i> turbulent models J Bredberg and L Davidson	963
C557/078/99	PIV investigation of the flow characteristics in an internal coolant passage with 90 degree rib arrangement J Schabacker, A Böles, and B V Johnson	973

Pumps and Hydraulic Turbines

C557/034/99	Evaluation of predictive capabilities of a performance prediction model for pumps of various specific speeds handling oil and water A Nemdili and D-H Hellmann	987
C557/045/99	Numerical investigations of the flow in a pump turbine in pump mode F A Muggli, K Eisele, Z Zhang, M V Casey, H Keck, A Sebestyen, and M Sallaberger	997
C557/102/99	Numerical and experimental investigation of flow in axial flow hydraulic machinery M Sedlar, M Vlach, and J Soukal	1007
C557/083/99	Investigation of rotor-stator interaction influence on flow fields in radial flow pumps M Sedlar and P Mensik	1017

C557/080/99	Performance discontinuity of a shrouded centrifugal pump impeller: Part 1 – numerical model and flow instability F Ginter and T Staubli	1027
C557/080/99	Performance discontinuity of a shrouded centrifugal pump impeller: Part 2 – stabilizing geometrical modifications F Ginter and T Staubli	1039
C557/066/99	Experimental and numerical analysis about self-priming phenomena on waterwork-pump systems G Navarro and L Tosato	1051

Performance

C557/098/99	Small gas turbine design: a total technology educational experience A W Court, K R Pullen, and C B Besant	1063
C557/002/99	Increased data reliability by data validation during performance tests and field acceptance tests on combustion engines W Götz and S Reisacher	1075
C557/141/99	On thermal diagnostics of turbomachinery power systems J Gluch and J Krzyzanowski	1087
C557/149/99	Gas turbines – modelling and simulation A Miller, J Lewandowski, K Badyda, and K Swirski	1099

Authors' Index		1109
-----------------------	--	------

Turbine Aerodynamics

C557/063/99

Aerodynamic performance of two isolated turbine stators in transonic annular cascade flow

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the present work are to investigate experimentally the steady aerodynamic characteristics of two isolated turbine stators and the development of the wakes at transonic flow conditions in an annular turbine facility. The steady three-dimensional flow field was measured at several axial downstream positions and three radial positions using a three-dimensional Laser-Two-Focus anemometer and a total pressure probe. Steady vane surface pressure distributions were recorded on the vane surfaces. A trailing edge shock propagating in the stator downstream flow field was found to have a significant influence on the velocity and turbulence intensity distribution. In the wake strong radial velocity components were obtained. Close to the trailing edge they are directed towards the hub, further downstream the flow is directed towards the tip.

At midspan the experimental vane surface data and wake flow data are compared with predictions from two different numerical models: Firstly a 2D/Q3D code solving the viscous terms only in the boundary layer region of the vanes (k-l turbulence model) and elsewhere the Euler equations, secondly a fully viscous 3D code using a Baldwin-Lomax type turbulence model. Fairly good agreement between numerical results and experimental data were achieved. Differences, which are mainly observed in the wake flow predictions, are assumed to be due to turbulence modeling and a possible grid resolution influence. Furthermore, three dimensional flow contributions were observed in the 3D predictions, especially in the wake region, which could partly lead to the differences between VOLSOL and UNSFLO results. Different trends for the 3D effects have been found in the experiments and for VOLSOL.

The data will serve as part of a database for further experimental and numerical investigations of stator-rotor interactions in a turbine configuration. It is assumed that the presented data describe key parameters determining the forced response of a downstream rotor blade row.

INTRODUCTION

The flow in turbine stators is complex, including three-dimensional secondary flow effects and wake induced flow disturbances. This leads to loss, noise, unsteady flow and rotor blade vibrations due to stator-rotor interactions. The origin, decay and interaction phenomena of stator wakes and shocks are essential for the prediction of the aerodynamical and structural performance of the following blade rows. Numerous publications have been presented on annular stator flows. Binder and Romey [1982] presented subsonic results. Vortices were identified to contribute strongly to losses and mixing of the wake with the core flow, even at positions far downstream of the trailing edge. Radial components of the flow velocity towards the hub were obtained especially in wake regions. Sieverding et al. [1983] came to similar conclusions, testing a turbine nozzle guide vane in a low-speed annular facility. Total pressure loss, flow angle and static pressure measurements revealed a radial migration of the passage vortices in the passage flow field and at the outlet towards the hub under the influence of the radial pressure gradient. Both experiments showed total pressure distributions in the wake close to the trailing edges resembling Gaussian curves in the pitchwise direction. A vane geometry almost identical to the present one, but with coolant ejection slots close to the trailing edges, was tested in transonic flow in a straight cascade by Colantuoni et al. [1995] and in an annular facility by Kapteijn [1995]. The wake was found to resemble Gaussian curves with separate standard deviations for pressure and suction side of the jet. A weak shock structure at the suction side trailing edge was found.

The pressure and velocity distributions, created by wakes and shock structures, affect the steady and unsteady loading and pressure excitation of downstream positioned rotor blades. These phenomena were studied numerically by several authors, eg. Korakianitis [1992], who used wake velocity deficit data from several experimental investigations as rotor inlet conditions. For his examined subsonic cases the computed unsteady rotor passage flow was found to be sensitive to the amplitudes of the potential flow interactions, but not to changes in the viscous wake amplitudes. Kielb and Chiang [1992] and Izsak and Chiang [1993] modeled velocity and pressure distributions downstream of a turbine stator as incoming flow distortions into a rotor row in their forced response analysis. They reported problems in modeling stator wakes due to lack of appropriate turbulence models and lack of high speed stator wake data for verification.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this investigation are to gain a better understanding of the aerodynamic effects of turbine stator induced disturbances on the downstream flow field. Experiments and computations were carried out with two isolated stator configurations in a transonic annular wind tunnel. The wake characteristics and its interaction with shocks downstream of the cascades were examined. The aim was to gain a detailed understanding of the wake flow with the perspective to study stator-rotor interactions, which is planned as future work.

It was of interest how accurate the wake flow can be predicted with different numerical tools, because this is expected to be essential for the foreseen unsteady stator-rotor interaction simulations. Therefore, two numerical methods, which differ in turbulence modeling and flow field solution strategy, were applied to predict the flow around and behind the stator.