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Effects of Swirl on the Subcritical Performance of Convergent Nozzles

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Introduction

SCHWARTZ^{1,2} has advocated the use of swirl as a possible method of noise reduction for turbojet, and turbofan engines. His experimental data show considerable noise attenuation. On the other hand, the experimental results obtained by Lu et al.³ and Whitfield⁴ appear to be less promising. An important factor in assessing the suitability of swirl as a noise suppression device is the magnitude of the thrust loss incurred. Accordingly, a relatively simple method of estimating the effects of swirl on the mass flux and thrust of a subcritical convergent nozzle flow is presented below.

Some previous theoretical work has been reported on subcritical swirling flows in nozzles. For instance, Bussi⁵ compared Mach number distributions in a convergentdivergent nozzle obtained by numerical methods with the predictions of quasicylindrical theory. An approximate method is presented by Lu et al., who apparently assume that the swirl angle remains constant across a nozzle section. It is shown herein that this method leads to substantially larger estimates of the thrust loss as compared to the present method. Experimental measurements of thrust and mass flux for subcritical swirling nozzle flows have been reported by Whitfield.⁴ These experiments were carried out at Rolls-Royce, Bristol, using single- and double-stage fixed-vane swirlers. Some of the data obtained are compared to theoretical predictions.

Analysis

It is assumed that the flow at the nozzle exit section is equivalent to a swirling flow in an infinitely long cylindrical duct. This is the so-called quasicylindrical assumption, which is analogous to the familiar one-dimensional theory for nonswirling nozzle flows. Furthermore, it is assumed that the swirl is produced by fixed vanes. This implies that for an inviscid non-heat-conducting gas the entropy and stagnation enthalpy are uniformly constant throughout the flow. Under these conditions Carpenter and Johannesen⁶ have shown that the Crocco vorticity theorem reduces to

$$\frac{v}{r}\frac{d(rv)}{dr} + w\frac{dw}{dr} = 0 \tag{1}$$

where v and w are, respectively, the tangential and axial velocity components at the nozzle exit and r the radial coordinate. Integration of Eq. (1) gives

$$w = \left(q_{\rm ex}^2 - v_{\rm ex}^2 + 2\int_r^{R_{\rm ex}} \frac{v}{r'} \frac{d(r'v)}{dr'} dr'\right)^{1/2}$$
 (2)

where $q^2 = v^2 + w^2$, subscript ex indicates conditions at the nozzle lip and $R_{\rm ex}$ is the radius of the nozzle exit section.

The pressure, p and density ρ at the nozzle exit are obtained from the isentropic flow relations, namely

$$\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\gamma-1} = \left(\frac{p}{p_0}\right)^{(\gamma-1)/\gamma} = 1 - \frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma+1} \left(W^2 + V^2\right)$$
 (3)

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the first minimum occurs just after the change of curvature while the second occurs further downstream on the parallel section. The minima appear to be of comparable values in the particular cases shown.

Nose profiles having a more bluff aspect $(a/t = 2, \ell/t = 2)$ show a very much stronger minimum λ at the further aft position on the surface, the particular cases considered indicating that separation would occur on the elliptical nose (a/t=2) and the smaller nose arc $(r/t=0.25, \ell/t=2)$ profiles. Where the nose profile has a more slender aspect (a/t = 8, $\ell/t = 8$) the minimum at the more forward position is stronger.

The variation of the minimum value of λ with the nose slenderness parameters a/t and ℓ/t is shown in Fig. 3, separate curves denoting the minima at more forward or more aft positions. For the circular arc profiles it is seen that the tendency to separate may be minimized by selecting an intermediate value of ℓ/t ($\ell/t = 4.0$ giving $-\lambda_{\text{max}} = 3.6$ for r/t = 0.5 and $\ell/t = 4.6$ giving $-\lambda_{\text{max}} = 3.2$ for r/t = 0.25) such that the minimum λ at both positions is the same. It seems that the result is not strongly sensitive to the value of r/t in the range 0.25 < r/t < 0.5 considered. If a greater margin to avoid separation is required, then an elliptical nose with a/t > 5.0should be used when $(-\lambda_{max}) < 3.0$ can be obtained. Experiments with a flat plate with a thickness Reynolds number between 1.5×10^4 and 5.0×10^4 and having an elliptical leading edge with a/t = 4.0 were found to give no problems in the leading-edge area even when the plate was subjected to intense acoustical distrurbances.2

III. Conclusions

The tendency for flow separation in the leading-edge region of a flat surface can be minimized using double arc contours with r/t = 0.25 and $\ell/\ell = 4.6$. Where a greater margin for boundary-layer separation near the nose is required, an elliptical leading edge with a/t > 5.0 should be used.

Acknowledgment

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where $W=w/a_{\star}$, $V=v/a_{\star}$, a_{\star} is the critical speed of sound, γ is the ratio of the specific heats, and subscript 0 denotes stagnation conditions.

The quantities of most practical significance in assessing nozzle performance are the mass flux, impulse function, and thrust. Nondimensional coefficients for these three quantities can be defined as follows:

$$C_{m} = 2 \int_{0}^{R_{\text{ex}}} \rho w r dr / \rho_{*} a_{*} R_{\text{ex}}^{2},$$

$$C_{nx} = 2 \int_{0}^{R_{\text{ex}}} (p + \rho w^{2}) r dr / (p_{*} + \rho_{*} a_{*}^{2}) R_{\text{ex}}^{2},$$

$$C_{t} = t / \rho_{*} a_{*}^{2} \pi R_{\text{ex}}^{2}$$
(4)

where ρ_* and p_* are the density and pressure corresponding to a_* and t is the thrust.

The thrust generated by a nozzle attached to a turbojet engine which is moving with forward speed V_F is given to good approximation by

$$t = 2\pi \int_{0}^{R_{\text{ex}}} (p + \rho w^{2}) r dr - 2\pi V_{F} \int_{0}^{R_{\text{ex}}} \rho w r dr - \pi p_{A} R_{\text{ex}}^{2}$$
 (5)

where p_A is the ambient pressure. Using Eq. (5) together with definitions Eq. (4) we find that

$$C_{t} = \frac{\gamma + I}{\gamma} C_{nx} - \frac{V_{F}}{a_{*}} C_{m} - \frac{I}{\gamma} \left(\frac{\gamma + I}{2} \right)^{\gamma/(\gamma - I)} \cdot \frac{p_{A}}{p_{0}}$$
 (6)

If the back-pressure ratio, p_A/p_0 , is given, then the nondimensional total velocity at the nozzle lip, i.e, $q_{\rm ex}/a_{\star}$, can be determined from Eq. (3). Hence, if the swirl profile at nozzle exit is given, the axial velocity can be determined from Eq. (2). The density and pressure distributions can then be determined from Eq. (3). With the axial velocity, density, and pressure distributions determined, the coefficients C_m and C_{nx} can be evaluated by numerical quadrature.

In the case of weak swirl analytical expressions can be obtained for C_m and C_{nx} by following a procedure similar to that described in Refs. 6 and 7. Accordingly, the right-hand side of Eq. (2) is expanded and terms of $0(V_{\rm ex}^4)$ neglected. Approximate expressions for ρ/ρ_0 and ρ/ρ_0 are obtained from Eq. (3) by expanding and neglecting terms of $0(V_{\rm ex}^4)$. These approximate expressions for W, ρ/ρ_0 , and ρ/ρ_0 are substituted into the integrands in definitions (4) and the integrations carried out, again neglecting terms of $0(V_{\rm ex}^4)$, to obtain the following approximate expressions:

$$C_m = Q_{\rm ex} \left(\frac{\gamma + 1}{2} \Lambda \right)^{1/(\gamma - 1)} \left(1 - \frac{2}{(\gamma + 1)\Lambda} \epsilon_m \right) \tag{7}$$

$$C_{nx} = \frac{1}{2} \left(I + Q_{\text{ex}}^2 \right) \left(\frac{\gamma + I}{2} \Lambda \right)^{I/(\gamma - I)}$$

$$\times \left(1 - \frac{2}{\gamma + I} \left(\frac{1}{\Lambda} + \frac{\gamma - I}{I + Q_{\rm ex}^2}\right) \epsilon_m\right) \tag{8}$$

where

$$Q = q/a_*, \quad \Lambda = I - \frac{\gamma - I}{\gamma + I} Q_{\text{ex}}^2,$$

$$\epsilon_m = \int_0^I V^2 \zeta d\zeta \text{ and } \zeta = r/R_{\text{ex}}$$

An approximate analytical expression for the thrust can be obtained by using Eqs. (7) and (8) together with Eq. (6). For example, the coefficient of specific static thrust is given by

$$\frac{C_{ts}}{C_m} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\frac{\gamma + I}{2} \right) \frac{1}{Q_{\text{ex}}} \left(I + Q_{\text{ex}}^2 - \Lambda - \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma + I} \epsilon_m \right) \tag{9}$$

Results and Discussion

Accurate values of C_m and C_{ts}/C_m have been computed for two families of swirl distributions. The first of these is defined as follows:

$$V = \Omega \zeta; \ \theta \le \zeta \le \zeta_c; \quad V = \Omega \zeta_c^2 / \zeta; \ \zeta_c \le \zeta \le I$$
 (10)

This represents an "inner-biased" swirling flow with a core, of radius $\zeta_c R_{\rm ex}$, which is in solid-body rotation; outside the core there is free-vortex flow. The parameters Ω and ζ_c can both be varied. The second family of swirl distributions is defined as follows:

$$V=0: \ 0 \le \zeta \le \zeta_c^*; \quad V=\frac{\zeta-\zeta_c^*}{1-\zeta_c^*} V_{\text{ex}} : \zeta_c^* \le \zeta \le I$$
 (11)

This represents an "outer-biased" swirling flow with a nonswirling core of radius $\zeta_c^* R_{\rm ex}$, surrounded by an annulus of swirling flow. Again, two parameters, $V_{\rm ex}$ and ζ_c^* , can be varied. This type of flow is similar to those investigated experimentally by Lu et al. and Whitfield, who used annuli of swirler blades to produce the swirl.

Values of C_m and C_{nx} were determined by numerical quadrature for various swirl levels and types of swirling flow. In Fig. 1 calculated points representing these values of C_m are plotted against the swirl parameter ϵ_m for various backpressure ratios. Similarly, calculated points representing values of C_{ts}/C_m , obtained by using Eq. (6) and the computed values of C_m and C_{nx} , are plotted in Fig. 2. It can be seen from both Figs. 1 and 2 that the calculated points corresponding to a particular value of p_A/p_θ almost fall on a single curve, even at high swirl levels. This suggests that to a good approximation ϵ_m may be regarded as a universal swirl parameter for subcritical swirling nozzle flows; a similar result was found in the supercritical case. The solid curves drawn through the calculated points in Figs. 1 and 2 are intended to represent these notional "universal" curves. Also plotted as dashed lines in Figs. 1 and 2 are the variations of C_m and C_{ts}/C_m with ϵ_m according to Eqs. (7) and (9), respectively. It can be seen that Eqs. (7) and (9) appear to be reasonable approximations at moderate swirl intensities.

Lu et al.³ carried out noise measurements on swirling jets but did not measure thrust. Instead, they estimated the thrust

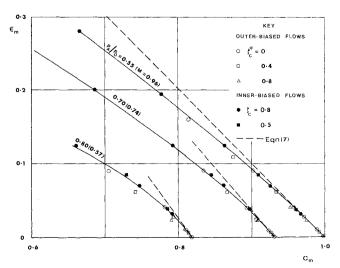


Fig. 1 Variation of mass-flux coefficient with swirl intensity, $\gamma = 1.4$.

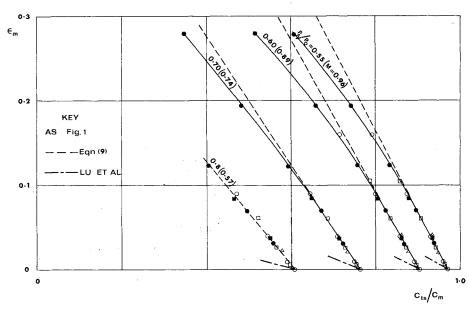


Fig. 2 Variation of static specific-thrust coefficient with swirl intensity, $\gamma = 1.4$.

Table 1 A comparison of calculated values and experimental data

p_A/p_0	α_{ex} , deg	C_m/C_{m0}		$(C_t/C_m)/(C_t/C_m)_0$	
		Theory	Experiment	Theory	Experiment
0.571	23	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98
0.556	40	0.93	0.92	0.95	0.97

produced by the swirling jet by using the approximate theory previously mentioned. In Fig. 2 curves are plotted which represent the predictions of Lu et al. for the case of outer-biased swirling flow with $\zeta_c^* = 0.8$. These curves are calculated from the appropriate curve in Fig. 17 of Ref. 3. It can be seen from Fig. 2 that the approximate method of Lu et al. leads to substantially larger reductions in specific thrust as compared to the present theory. As a specific example, consider a flow with $p_A/p_0 = 0.55$ and a swirl angle $\alpha_{\rm ex} \equiv \arctan(V_{\rm ex}/W_{\rm ex}) = 25$ deg. The present theory predicts a reduction of 1% in specific static thrust compared to the no-swirl case. The comparable figure according to Lu et al. is approximately 3.5%. This is a significant difference when considering swirl as a possible noise-suppression technique.

In Table 1 the present numerical results are also compared with some of Whitfield's experimental results for outer-biased swirling flows with $\zeta_c^* = 0.6$. In the case of the higher swirl angle some allowance has been made for the fact that the swirl-angle distribution is given at 0.5 diameters downstream of nozzle exit. It can be seen that there is reasonable agreement between the theoretical and experimental values.

In practice, it would be more natural to specify the swirl distribution immediately downstream of the swirler vanes rather than at the nozzle exit. However, upstream axial and swirl velocity profiles corresponding to particular exit conditions can be determined by following the method described in Ref. 6. Also, by following the method described in Ref. 7, the analysis can be easily extended to swirling flows with nonuniform stagnation enthalpy and/or entropy distributions, e.g., swirling flows produced by rotating blades.

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T 90 - 10 8 Free-Molecule Normal-Momentum Transfer at Satellite Surfaces

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Porces due to free-molecule normal-momentum transfer at satellite surfaces are of great interest not only because those arising from collisions with atmospheric particles contribute to drag but also because those arising from asymmetric jet impingements introduce additional needs for attitude control. Hence a satellite designer would like to be able to predict these forces for a wide variety of particle species, surface materials, surface roughnesses, and surface contaminants, and for a wide range of particle energies, surface temperatures, and surface coverages.

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