brought about by the jet in the model will be exactly reproduced in the real machine. There is little doubt, however, that the underlying mechanism of a separated flow being turned through a blade row to produce an extensive vortex system will occur in any machine which has a step in the casing, and it is highly likely that the consequence will be a reduction of several percentage points in the efficiency of the stage immediately following the step. This experiment gives a guide to the magnitude of the effect, and an empirical line fitted to the efficiency penalty in this case is given approximately by:

Efficiency penalty (%)

$$= 173 \times \left[1 - \frac{\text{diameter upstream of step}}{\text{diameter downstream of step}} \right]$$

with approximately 1-2 percentage points mitigation for a typical leakage jet.

Conclusions

- 1. The presence of a backward facing step in the casing upstream of a stage causes a significant reduction in the efficiency of that stage.
- 2. The reason for this reduction in efficiency is the substantial flow disturbance resulting from the interaction of the separated flow from the step and the blades of the stage.

3. The presence of a tip leakage jet improved the efficiency of the stepped casing configurations but the effect was small when account was taken of the extra flow area introduced by the jet.

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