





## Hot Plume Impact on Rocket Base Flows

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# Highly unsteady flow-fields, dominated

by recirculation regions and flow-flow interaction

system geometries in transonic flight

- Unsteady loads due to **buffet**
- Convective heating



Aft-body flows of generic space transportation





# Introduction



## Introduction



#### GOALS

- 1. Investigate the impact of hot plumes on rocket base flows
- 2. Validate CFD and experimental methods and maximize information output on a challenging flow problem

( wtt

Additional parameter studies
 Ma<sub>m</sub>, L/D, ...

#### METHODS

- Compare reference cases using cold and hot exhaust plumes
- Apply and compare WTT & CFD and make use of their specific advantages

Additional parameter studies
 *T*<sub>w</sub>, OFR, ...

Investigate impact on wake flow dynamics and mechanical/thermal loads from different perspectives

## Content



#### > Introduction

#### > Tools & Methods

- Experiments
- Numerics
- Results
  - Cold Plume Test Case
  - Hot Plume Test Case
- Conclusion & Outlook



**Tools & Methods** 

# **EXPERIMENTS**

#### EXPERIMENTS Hot Plume Testing Facility (HPTF)

- Wind Tunnel
  - Vertical Test Section Cologne (VMK)
- GH2/GO2 Supply Facility
  - Gas reservoir
  - Control station
  - Supply lines
- Test Specimen
  - Wind tunnel model incl. combustion chamber

First design loop in 2014 <sup>[2]</sup>

Operation since 2017





#### Reference condition for max, supply pressure hot plume tests (RC0): 5000 $p_{\rm cc} = 20.7 \, \rm bar$ 100

120

80

4000

 $T_{\rm cc} = 925 \, {\rm K}$ 

OFR = 0.7



3400-3500

3200

3000

2600 K

Ш

2200

O RC2

3600

3500

mat.

0

3400 3200 3000

## **EXPERIMENTS HPTF Operating Range**



9000

2400

2200

7000

8000 2800-

2600

8.6868

## EXPERIMENTS HPTF Operating Range



- Characterization tests performed for RC0 and off-design conditions
- Suitability of the given design at RC0 and elevated conditions proven for: <sup>[4]</sup>
  - □ 0.6 < OFR < 2.0
  - $p_{\rm cc} < 40$  bar
  - $\dot{m}_{tot} < 150 \text{ g/s}$



#### EXPERIMENTS Test Setup and Test Conditions

Cold jet

Hot jet

0.80

0.80

0.987

0.992

255.4\*

255.4\*

19.90

20.27

 $288.0^{\star}$ 

918.7\*

459.9\*

89.40

0.693





#### 9

619.8\*

2803.9\*

### EXPERIMENTS Measurements & Instrumentation





- Pressure (steady/unsteady) and thermocouple measurements
- High-speed Schlieren (HSS)
- Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)
- Infrared Thermography (IRT)





**Tools & Methods** 

# NUMERICS

### NUMERICS Numerical Method



- General
  - DLR flow solver TAU (2<sup>nd</sup> order, hybrid grids)
  - k-ω SST turbulence modelling
- Thermally coupled simulations
  - 2D axisymmetric RANS and coupling to ANSYS Mechanical
  - AUSMDV Upwind scheme and detailed chemistry



### NUMERICS Numerical Method



- Scale resolving simulations of external flow
  - Improved Delayed Detached Eddy Simulation (IDDES)
  - Low-dissipation low-dispersion central scheme
  - Non-reacting two gas mixture (plume + ambient air)
  - ~31 Million grid points





### NUMERICS IDDES Validation Studies



- Preliminary studies based on reference data from literature <sup>[5]</sup>
- Grid study <sup>[6]</sup>
  - Optimize grid resolution and design, validate implemented grid sensors and determine sensitivity of the solution to grid changes
- Parameter study
  - Optimize modelling and determine sensitivity to parameter changes
  - Very good agreement with experimental data



- [5] WEISS et al.: On the dynamics of axisymmetric turbulent separating/reattaching flows." Physics of Fluids 21.7 (2009): 075103.
- [6] SCHUMANN, J.-E., HANNEMANN, V., HANNEMANN, K.: Investigation of structured and unstructured grid topology and resolution dependence for scale-resolving simulations of axisymmetric detaching-reattaching shear layers, In: Progress in Hybrid RANS/LES methods. Springer, 2020.

### NUMERICS Data Reduction Strategy



- Data reduction method for aft-body flow data <sup>[7]</sup>
  - Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) reduces file size
  - Python script to extract the surface pressure time series in the desired format
  - Data reduction by up to a factor of 10<sup>6</sup>



	Spatial points	Variables	Time steps	Total data values	
Original data set	$25 \cdot 10^{6}$	10	1000	$250 \cdot 10^9$	
Wall pressure	$200 \cdot 10^{3}$	1	1000	$200 \cdot 10^{6}$	
Relevant region and freq.	$20 \cdot 10^3$	1	1000	$20 \cdot 10^6$	
					10-6
	Spatial points	Modes	Time sequence	Total data values	
POD without domin. modes	$20 \cdot 10^{3}$	200	1000	$4.2 \cdot 10^{6}$	
POD with domin. modes	$20 \cdot 10^3$	10	1000	$210 \cdot 10^3$	

[7] FERTIG, M., SCHUMANN, J.-E., HANNEMANN, V., EGGERS, T., HANNEMANN, K.: Efficient analysis of transonic base flows employing hybrid URANS/LES methods. In: SFB/TRR 40 Annual Report 2017, pp. 115–126.

## Content



- > Introduction
- Tools & Methods
  - Experiments
  - Numerics

#### Results

- Cold Plume Test Case
- Hot Plume Test Case
- Conclusion & Outlook



Results

# **COLD PLUME TEST CASE**

### COLD PLUME TEST CASE Mean Flow Field



- Comparison of the mean flow features between HSS, PIV and CFD results
- Prominent flow features for comparison:

EXHAUST JET

FREE

STREAM

THRUST

NOZZLE

ROCKET BASE

- Shock distance from nozzle exit
- Vortex center location
- Reattachment location

 Good agreement of the basic flow structure

. . .

- Reattachment location
  - 20% farther downstream in the CFD



#### **COLD** PLUME TEST CASE **Base Pressure Data**





- RMS pressure and frequency analysis for varying Mach number from WTT results
- Significant variation during ascent, thus potentially critical Mach numbers
- RMS pressure and frequency analysis as local distribution from CFD results
- Local distribution of fluctuation level and frequency impacts load predictions

#### COLD PLUME TEST CASE HSS Spectral Analysis





Modal analyzes of the High-speed Schlieren recordings reveal a strong amplification of the swinging motion of the shear layer at cold plume conditions

#### Strong indication for resonant coupling of

 Development of a concept of dynamic mode coupling and analytical extrapolation to a real flight trajectory

### **COLD** PLUME TEST CASE Jet–Wake Flow Coupling Hypothesis

cold plume testing <sup>[7]</sup>
 Strong indication for resonant coupling of near-wake and jet shear layer instabilities

Hypothesis from D.

SAILE (SFB/TRR40)

PROPAGATION OF SOUND WAVE 0 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ...... 5 • vortex/turbulent structure injection in shear layer of (3) TRIGGER FOR the jet VORTEX SHEDDING upstream travelling acoustic wave front 5 [8] upstream travelling acoustic vortex shedding wave front

(1) SOUND WAVE GENERATION

5



acoustic wave

turbulent structure-

mechansim)

sound

leakage

shock cell interaction (iet screech instability

(2) UPSTREAM

## **COLD** PLUME TEST CASE Jet–Wake Flow Coupling Hypothesis

- Hypothesis from D.
  SAILE (SFB/TRR40)
  cold plume testing <sup>[7]</sup>
- Strong indication for resonant coupling of near-wake and jet shear layer instabilities
- Development of a concept of dynamic mode coupling and analytical extrapolation to a real flight trajectory



[8] SAILE, D.: Experimental Analysis on Near-Wake Flows of Space Transportation Systems. Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen. Ph.D. Thesis (2019). 7) F(G

#### **COLD** PLUME TEST CASE Mach Number Variation



- Continuous variation of the ambient freestream Mach number (45s)
- Spectrogram from high-frequency base pressure measurements



![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

Results

# **HOT PLUME TEST CASE**

## HOT PLUME TEST CASE Thermally Coupled Simulations

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Combustion chamber and structure conditions at OFR = 0.7
  - $T_{cc,max} = 3550$ K,  $T_{cc,avg} = 900$ K,  $p_{cc} = 21.5$ bar
  - $T_{th} = 743 \text{K}, \ T_{corner} = 730 \text{K}$
- Aft-body RANS flow field
  - □ Comparison between 2 species/no chemistry ↔ 9 species/finite rate chemistry
  - Similar results without post combustion

![](_page_24_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_9.jpeg)

## HOT PLUME TEST CASE Heat Flux Data (IDDES)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Large discrepancies in heat flux prediction between RANS and IDDES
  - Partially due to mean flow field changes (e.g. earlier reattachment for SA-RANS)

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

## HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Mean Flow Field

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Comparison between PIV and CFD
  - Reattachment location about 20% farther downstream in the CFD
- Hot plume impact on the mean flow field
  - Reattachment location shifted approx. 22% downstream compared to the cold plume case

![](_page_26_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_7.jpeg)

### HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Base Pressure

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_5.jpeg)

Pressure level and pressure fluctuation level reduced for the hot plume case in WTT and CFD

- Impact on the base pressure spectrum
- Additional frequency peak at 2/3 of the nozzle length
- Various effects on the pressure visible in WTT and CFD results

#### HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Base Pressure (IDDES)

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

 Significant changes in flow field and pressure distribution when comparing cold/cold, hot/cold, and hot/hot cases

![](_page_28_Figure_3.jpeg)

### HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Base Pressure (IDDES)

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

 Significant changes in flow field and pressure distribution when comparing cold/cold, hot/cold, and hot/hot cases

![](_page_29_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Base Pressure (IDDES)

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

 Significant changes in flow field and pressure distribution when comparing cold/cold, hot/cold, and hot/hot cases

![](_page_30_Figure_3.jpeg)

Pressure fluctuations on the nozzle wall are significantly reduced in the hot plume case with hot walls.

## HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Wake Flow Dynamics

![](_page_31_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

No excitation of one of the shear layer modes in the hot plume case. The dominant movement corresponds to the case without plume

- Similar mode frequencies and mode shapes for all cases
  - Sr<sub>D</sub> = 0.1 (symmetric, *longitudinal cross-pumping*)
  - Sr<sub>D</sub> = 0.2 (asymmetric, *flapping*)
  - $Sr_D = 0.35$  (asymmetric, *swinging*)
- Additional mode at  $Sr_D \approx 0.45$  (symmetric, *swinging*)
  - Appears related to an interaction between the shear layer movement and a nozzle flow separation

![](_page_32_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_10.jpeg)

## HOT PLUME TEST CASE Impact on Nozzle Forces (IDDES)

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Nozzle forces dominated by Sr<sub>D</sub> = 0.2 and Sr<sub>D</sub> = 0.35 peaks for the hot exhaust plume
- Reduced amplitude of forces for the hot wall case (~20%)

![](_page_33_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Conclusion

## Conclusion

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### > INVESTIGATION OF PLUME INTERACTION WITH AMBIENT FLOW

for cases with cold and hot exhaust jets using wind tunnel tests and CFD

#### CHARACTERIZATION OF THE COLD PLUME INTERACTION

test case in terms of: mean flow features, base pressure, wake flow dynamics

#### > COMPARISON OF THE COLD AND HOT PLUME INTERACTION

test cases indicates significant impacts from hot plumes and higher wall temperatures on the near wake flow of a launcher

#### > RELEVANT DATA SETS ARE PROVIDED

about the experimental and numerical results of the main test cases (listed at the end of the presentation)

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

# APPENDIX

#### APPENDIX **Provided Data Sets**

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Experimental**

Description	Mach	Plume	L/D	Tw	Stored data
No plume	0.8	No plume	1.2	N/K	$p_{\rm b}(t)$ , HSS, PIV
Cold plume	0.8	Air (~288K, ~20bar)	1.2	N/K	$p_{\rm b}(t)$ , HSS, PIV
Hot plume	0.8	O/F=0.7 (~900K, ~20bar)	1.2	N/K	$p_{\rm b}(t)$ , HSS, PIV

\*an updated list with an increased number of test cases might be available after final evaluation of all data

#### **Numerical**

Description	Mach	Plume	L/D	Tw	Stored data
Cold plume	0.8	Air (300K, 22bar)	1.2	300K	$p_{w}(x,t)$
Hot plume, cold	0.8	O/F=0.7 (~900K, 22bar)	1.2	300K	$p_{w}(x,t)$
Hot plume, hot	0.8	O/F=0.7 (~900K, 22bar)	1.2	~700K	$p_{w}(x,t) \& T_{w}(x)$
Short, cold	0.8	O/F=6 (~3000K, 22bar)	0.4	300K	$p_{w}(x,t)$
Short, hot	0.8	O/F=6 (~3000K, 22bar)	0.4	~1100K	$p_{w}(x,t) \& T_{w}(x)$