

# Curved Diffusing Annulus Turbulent Boundary-Layer Development

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## Nomenclature

- $c_f$  = local coefficient of friction,  $\tau_o/1/2\rho U_{p,\delta}^2$ ,  
 $\bar{H}$  = energy thickness shape factor for flat-plate flow,  $\delta^{**}/\theta$   
 $H$  = shape factor for flat-plate flow,  $\delta^*/\theta$   
 $H_1$  = shape factor for axisymmetric flow,  $\delta_1^*/\theta_1$   
 $r$  = radial coordinate  
 $r_o$  = inner or outer casing radius  
 $r_1$  = casing longitudinal radius of curvature  
 $Re_\theta$  = Reynolds number based on momentum thickness,  $U\theta/\nu$   
 $U$  = freestream velocity for flat-plate flow  
 $U_{p,\delta}$  = mean velocity at the potential flow region, boundary-layer interface  
 $u$  = mean local velocity within the boundary layer  
 $x$  = coordinate along the casing or flat plate  
 $y$  = coordinate normal to the casing or flat plate  
 $z$  = axial coordinate  
 $\beta$  = angle between  $y$  and  $r$   
 $\delta$  = flat-plate flow boundary-layer thickness  
 $\delta_y$  = boundary-layer thickness along a normal line  
 $\delta_r$  = boundary-layer thickness along a radius  
 $\delta^{**}$  = flat-plate flow dissipation energy thickness,

$$\int_0^{\delta} \frac{u}{U} \left(1 - \frac{u^2}{U^2}\right) dy$$

$$\delta^* = \text{flat-plate flow displacement thickness, } \int_0^{\delta} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U}\right) dy$$

$$\delta_1^* = \text{axisymmetric flow displacement thickness,}$$

$$\int_0^{\delta_y} \frac{r}{r_o} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}}\right) dy$$

$$\theta = \text{flat-plate flow momentum thickness, } \int_0^{\delta} \left(\frac{u}{U}\right) \left(1 - \frac{u}{U}\right) dy$$

$$\theta_1 = \text{axisymmetric flow momentum thickness,}$$

$$\int_0^{\delta_y} \frac{r}{r_o} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}}\right) \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}} dy$$

- $\nu$  = kinematic viscosity  
 $\rho$  = fluid density  
 $\tau_o$  = shear stress at the casing

## Theme

THE turbulent boundary-layer development along the walls of an internal flow passage is an important facet of turbomachinery design and analysis. No entirely satisfactory general method of calculating the end wall boundary-layer development associated with the complicated flow through a turbomachine is currently available in the open literature. From an engineering point of view, it seems as if simplified but reliable methods of boundary-layer calculation can be obtained with acceptable assumptions for special flow situations; for example, several attempts in this direction have already been made<sup>1-3</sup> for axial flow compressors. The authors are not aware of similar work related to flow through curved-wall annular diffusing passages. In this paper, the von Kármán momentum integral approach for boundary-layer development calculation is used for predicting curved-wall annular diffuser boundary-layer growth.

## Contents

A flow model consisting of developing annulus wall boundary layers which surround a potential flow core was adopted for the present calculations. The appropriate form of the von Kármán momentum integral equation to use is<sup>4</sup>

$$\frac{1}{r_o} \frac{d}{dx} (r_o \theta_1) + \frac{2 + H_1}{U_{p,\delta}} \frac{dU_{p,\delta}}{dx} \theta_1 = \frac{c_f}{2} + \frac{\nu \sin^2 \beta}{r_o U^2} \int_0^{\delta_y} \frac{u}{r} dy \quad (1)$$

where

$$\theta_1 = \int_0^{\delta_y} \frac{r}{r_o} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}}\right) \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}} dy, \quad \delta_1^* = \int_0^{\delta_y} \frac{r}{r_o} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U_{p,\delta}}\right) dy$$

$$H_1 = \delta_1^*/\theta_1$$

This relationship assumes that several terms involving turbulent velocity fluctuations will be accounted for by the auxiliary equations used and that longitudinal curvature is mild. If the function  $U_{p,\delta}(x)$  is known either from experiment or from a potential flow portion solution, two other equations in addition to Eq. (1) are needed to determine the variation of  $\theta$ ,  $H$ , and  $c_f$  with  $x$ . Five different sets (see Ref. 5) of auxiliary equations were selected from the literature and, together with Eq. (1) and the experimentally<sup>5</sup> determined variation of  $U_{p,\delta}(x)$ , were solved on a digital computer with the aid of the Runge-Kutta-Gill method.<sup>6</sup> This was done in order to evaluate the various sets of auxiliary equations. Based on this evaluation, appropriate auxiliary equations—namely, Eq. (2) Ref. 7, Eq. (3) Ref. 5, and Eq. (4) Ref. 8 for the annulus outer wall and Eq. (5) Ref. 9 and Eq. (6) Ref. 10 for the annulus inner wall—were combined with Eq. (1) and the variation of  $U_{p,\delta}(x)$  obtained from a potential flow solu-

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Index category: Boundary Layers and Convective Heat Transfer-Turbulent.

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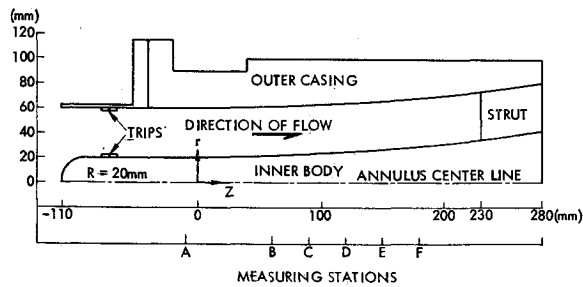


Fig. 1 The diffusing passage.

Table 1 Ratio of the radii of longitudinal and transverse curvatures to the boundary-layer thickness

Section (see Fig. 1)	$r_l/\delta_r$		$r_o/\delta_r$	
	Outer wall	Inner wall	Outer wall	Inner wall
A	$\infty$	$\infty$	13.3	4.4
B	445.0	445.0	9.4	3.8
C	313.5	364.8	10.9	3.1
D	352.8	287.3	7.8	3.2
E	246.0	269.0	8.0	3.4
F	246.0	289.2	8.0	4.0

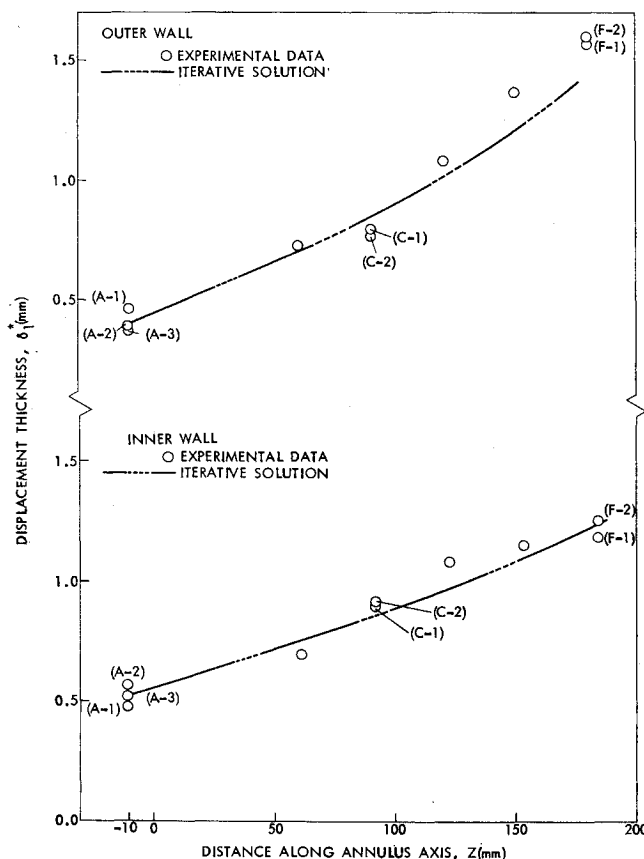


Fig. 2 Comparison of calculated and measured values of boundary-layer displacement thickness.

tion based on the streamline curvature method<sup>11</sup> to form an iterative solution. These auxiliary equations are

$$c_f = (0.246)(10^{-0.678H})(R_\theta^{-0.268}) \quad (2)$$

$$\theta \frac{dH}{dx} = H \left[ (H-1) \frac{\theta}{U} \frac{dU}{dx} - \frac{c_f}{2} \right] + 0.0112 R_\theta^{-1/6} \quad (3)$$

$$\bar{H} = (1.02 + 0.87H + 0.095H^2)/H \quad (4)$$

$$\theta \frac{dH}{dx} = e^{4.680(H-2.975)} \left[ -\frac{\theta}{U} \frac{dU}{dx} \frac{4}{c_f} - 2.035(H-1.286) \right] \quad (5)$$

$$c_f/2 = 0.0288/[\log_{10}(4.075U\theta/\nu)]^2 \quad (6)$$

In all instances, values of displacement thickness, shape factor, and  $U_{p,\delta}$  at the entrance of the curved passage were obtained experimentally. A sketch of the curved annular diffusing passage is shown in Fig. 1. The results<sup>5</sup> of this analytical solution appear to be fair considering the approximations made. For example, the calculated and measured displacement thicknesses comparison is shown in Fig. 2. Table 1 indicates the significance of the passage longitudinal and transverse curvatures. Bradshaw<sup>12</sup> suggests that longitudinal curvature associated with a value of  $r_l/\delta < 300$  is significant. Cebeci<sup>13</sup> states that when the radius of a body in a viscous flow is of the same order of magnitude as the thickness of the boundary layer, the transverse curvature effect on skin friction becomes appreciable. Further improvements in the present calculation method will probably be obtained when the auxiliary equations are revised to more nearly reflect curvature effects. Research along these lines is in progress.

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