

Aeroheating Testing and Predictions for Project Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle

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An investigation of the aeroheating environment of the Project Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle was performed in the Arnold Engineering Development Center Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 Mach 8 and Mach 10 nozzles and in the NASA Langley Research Center 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. Heating data were obtained using a thermocouple-instrumented ~ 0.035 -scale model [0.1778 m (7 in.) diameter] of the flight vehicle. Runs were performed in the Tunnel 9 Mach 10 nozzle at freestream unit Reynolds numbers of 1×10^6 to 20×10^6 /ft, in the Tunnel 9 Mach 8 nozzle at freestream unit Reynolds numbers of 8×10^6 to 48×10^6 /ft, and in the 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel at freestream unit Reynolds numbers of 1×10^6 to 7×10^6 /ft. In both facilities, enthalpy levels were low and the test gas (N_2 in Tunnel 9 and air in the 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel) behaved as a perfect gas. These test conditions produced laminar, transitional, and turbulent data in the Tunnel 9 Mach 10 nozzle; transitional and turbulent data in the Tunnel 9 Mach 8 nozzle; and laminar and transitional data in the 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. Laminar and turbulent predictions were generated for all wind-tunnel test conditions, and comparisons were performed with the experimental data to help define the accuracy of the computational method. In general, it was found that both laminar data and predictions and turbulent data and predictions agreed to within less than the estimated $\pm 12\%$ experimental uncertainty estimate. Laminar heating distributions from all three data sets were shown to correlate well and demonstrated Reynolds numbers independence when expressed in terms of the Stanton number based on adiabatic-wall-recovery enthalpy. Transition-onset locations on the lee-side centerline were determined from the data and correlated in terms of boundary-layer parameters. Finally, turbulent heating augmentation ratios were determined for several body-point locations and correlated in terms of the boundary-layer momentum Reynolds number.

Nomenclature

c_p	= specific heat of the test gas, J/kg/K
D	= maximum vehicle diameter, m
H_w	= enthalpy at the measured wall temperature, J/kg
H_0	= total enthalpy, J/kg
$H_{300\text{ K}}$	= cold-wall (300 K) enthalpy, J/kg
M_e	= boundary-layer edge Mach number
M_∞	= freestream Mach number
Pr	= Prandtl number
p_∞	= freestream pressure, Pa
q	= heat transfer rate, W/m ²
R	= maximum vehicle radius, m
R_n	= nose (spherical cap) radius, m
R_s	= radius at aftbody shoulder, m

R_T	= radius at tangency point of the spherical cap and shoulder, m
Re_θ	= boundary-layer momentum thickness Reynolds number
Re_∞	= freestream unit Reynolds number, 1/m or 1/ft
$Re_{\infty,D}$	= freestream Reynolds number based on diameter
St	= Stanton number
$St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}$	= correlation parameter for laminar heating data
$St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/5}$	= correlation parameter for turbulent heating data
T_w	= model wall temperature, K
T_∞	= freestream temperature, K
U_∞	= freestream velocity, m/s
x, y, z	= vehicle geometric coordinate system variables
α	= angle of attack, deg
μ_∞	= freestream viscosity, kg/m/s
ρ_∞	= freestream density, kg/m ³
ϕ_T	= turbulent heating augmentation ratio

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I. Introduction

THE Project Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) concept was defined by NASA's Exploration Systems Architecture Study [1]. This study was conducted in 2005 to define requirements for crew and cargo launch systems to support lunar and Mars exploration programs as well as access to the International Space Station (ISS).

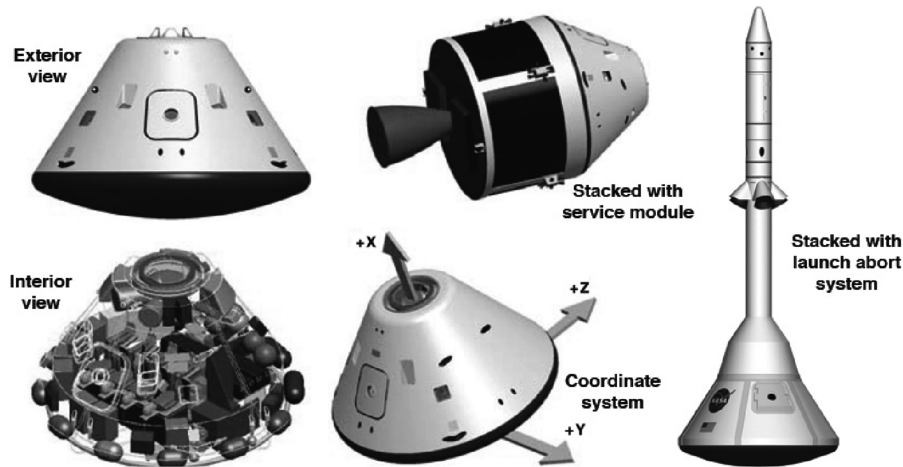


Fig. 1 NASA crew exploration vehicle (conceptual artwork).

Several versions of the Orion CEV are planned that will provide transportation to the ISS, the moon, and Mars.

The crew module of the CEV (Fig. 1) has a configuration that is externally similar to the Apollo Command Module: a spherical-segment heat shield joined by a small toroidal section to a truncated cone-shaped crew compartment. However, the Orion CEV will be considerably larger than Apollo, with a maximum heat-shield diameter of ~ 5 m (current configuration) vs 3.912 m for Apollo. This larger size will allow transport of up to six crew members on International Space Station missions or up to 4 crew members on lunar missions.

An investigation of the aeroheating environment of the CEV crew module was performed in the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 and the NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. The goals of this study were to determine heating augmentation levels due to turbulent flow on the heat shield (which is the assumed condition for the design of the vehicle) and to obtain high-fidelity heat transfer measurements on the heat shield in laminar and turbulent flow to assess the accuracy of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) predictions.

II. Experimental Method

A. Facility Descriptions

1. AEDC Tunnel 9 Description

The U.S. Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 (Fig. 2), located in Silver Spring, Maryland, is a hypersonic, nitrogen-gas, blowdown wind tunnel with interchangeable nozzles that allow for testing at Mach numbers of 7, 8, 10, and 14 over a 0.054×10^6 to 48.4×10^6 /ft (0.177×10^6 to 158.8×10^6 /m) unit Reynolds number range (depending on the nozzle). The test section cell, with a 5 ft (1.52 m) diameter and 12 ft

(3.66 m) length, enables testing of large-scale model configurations. Tunnel 9 features a pitch system that can sweep models from -10 to 50 deg at pitch rates up to 80 deg/s. With the tunnel's 0.2 to 15 s run times, the dynamic pitch capability allows for a large volume of data to be captured over an entire range of pitch angles during a single run. A full description of the facility can be found in [2].

2. LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel Description

The NASA Langley Research Center 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel (Fig. 3) is a blowdown facility in which heated, dried, and filtered air is used as the test gas. The tunnel has a two-dimensional contoured nozzle that opens into a 0.521×0.508 m (20.5×20.0 in.) test section. The tunnel is equipped with a bottom-mounted injection system that can transfer a model from the sheltered model box to the tunnel centerline in less than 0.5 s. Run times of up to 15 min are possible in this facility, although for the current aeroheating study, run times of only a few seconds were required. The nominal reservoir conditions of this facility produce perfect-gas freestream flows with Mach numbers between 5.8 and 6.1 and unit Reynolds numbers of 0.5×10^6 to 7.3×10^6 /ft (1.64×10^6 to 23.3×10^6 /m). A more detailed description of this facility is presented in [3].

B. Test Parametrics

1. AEDC Tunnel 9 Test Parametrics

A total of 31 runs were performed in this AEDC Tunnel 9 test. Freestream conditions are listed in the run matrix in Table 1. The majority of runs (23) were performed in the Mach 10 nozzle at nominal freestream unit Reynolds numbers of 2, 5, 9, 15, and 20×10^6 /ft, and the rest of the runs were performed in the Mach 8 nozzle at nominal freestream unit Reynolds numbers of 8, 17, 31, and 48×10^6 /ft. During several of the runs, interchangeable insert pieces with discrete and distributed roughness elements of various sizes

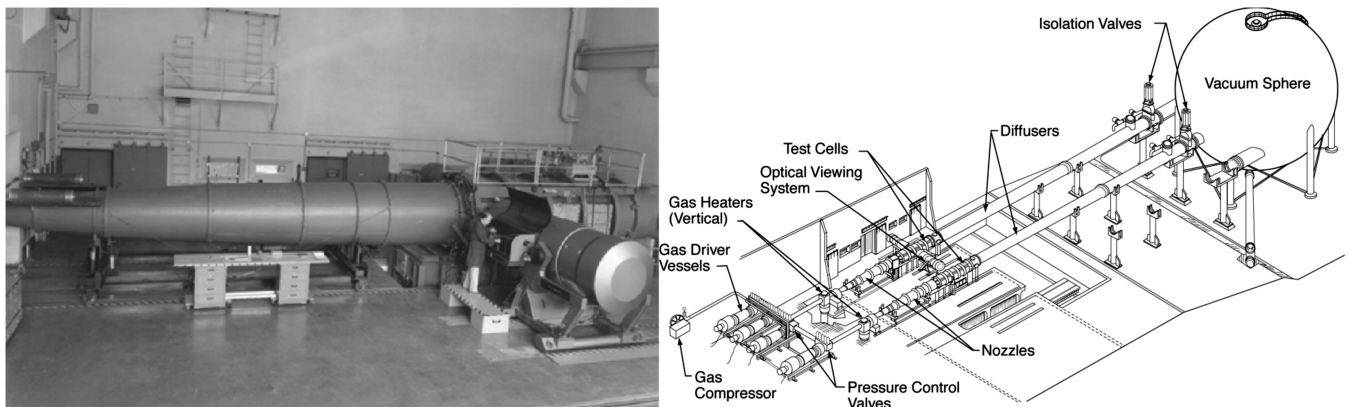


Fig. 2 AEDC Tunnel 9 photograph and schematic.

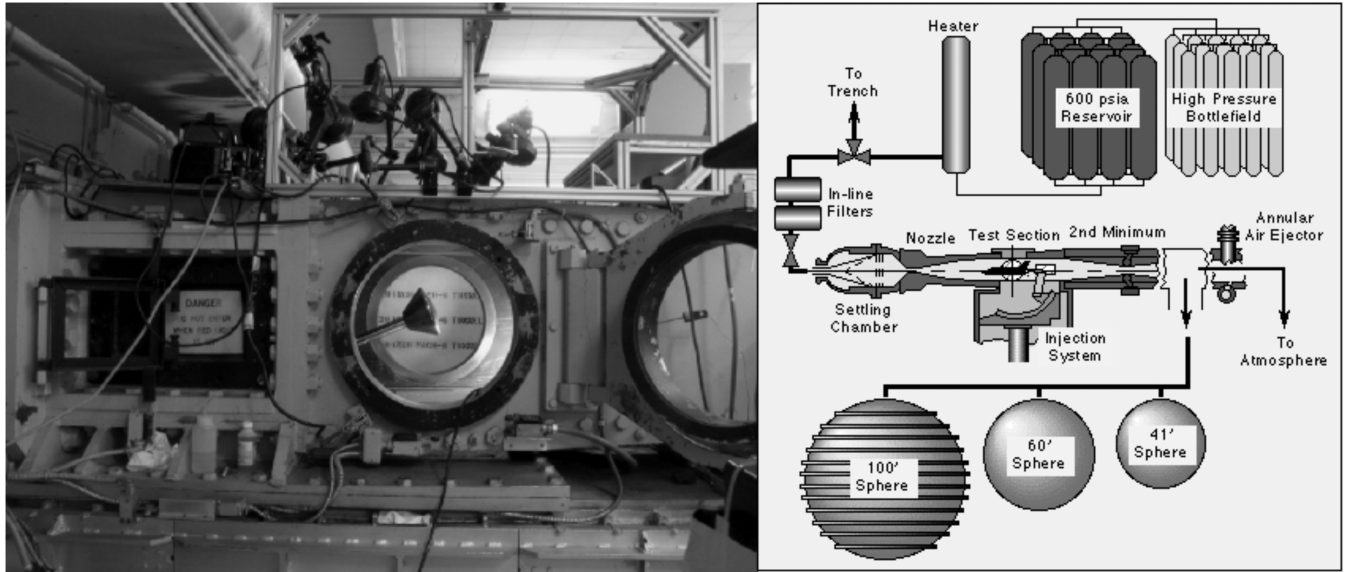


Fig. 3 NASA LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel photograph and schematic.

were employed to promote boundary-layer transition. During the planning stages of this test, the trim angle of attack of the CEV in flight was expected to be 28 deg (152 deg in the formal CEV coordinate system, which is rotated 180 deg from that of the wind-tunnel model coordinate system), but it has since changed to ~ 20 deg. To allow for design changes or deviations during flight that affect the nominal pitch attitude, pitch sweeps of 20 to 32 deg and static 28 deg runs were performed in the Mach 10 nozzle and pitch sweeps of 24 to 32 deg (the smaller increments were due to shorter test times) were made in the Mach 8 nozzle. A few runs were also performed at a 0 deg angle of attack as a symmetry check and with pitch sweeps of 16 to 30 deg to obtain lower-angle-of-attack data.

2. NASA LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel Test 6931 Parametrics

A total of 68 runs were conducted in LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel test 6931 and additional testing devoted to transition-onset

studies was subsequently conducted as detailed in [4]. The run matrix for this test is presented in Table 2. The first 32 runs were performed at static angles of attack from 20 to 32 deg. Eleven runs were then conducted with continuous pitch sweep of the model from 16 to 32 deg for comparison with the static-angle-of-attack data to permit evaluation of this mode of operation. Finally, 25 runs were performed in continuous-pitch-sweep mode with discrete boundary-layer trips of various sizes with the intent of producing turbulent flow.

C. Wind-Tunnel Model Design

A 0.03556-scale model of the CEV crew module (based on an assumed 5.00 m full-scale vehicle when the model was designed) was built for this test. A drawing of the model is given in Fig. 4 (note that the current configuration has advanced beyond that shown) and it is shown installed in Tunnel 9 in Fig. 5. The model was fabricated

Table 1 AEDC Tunnel 9 test conditions

Run	α , deg	Re_∞ , 1/ft	Re_∞ , 1/m	M_∞	P_∞ , Pa	T_∞ , K	ρ_∞ , kg/m ³	U_∞ , m/s	T_w , K	$H_0 - H_{300\text{ K}}$, J/kg
3057	20	1.93E+06	6.35E+06	9.64	2.62E+02	53.6	1.65E-02	1439	320	7.79E+05
3057	24	1.93E+06	6.33E+06	9.63	2.66E+02	54.2	1.65E-02	1446	320	7.85E+05
3057	28	1.91E+06	6.27E+06	9.63	2.60E+02	54.5	1.64E-02	1450	320	7.96E+05
3057	32	1.90E+06	6.23E+06	9.62	2.69E+02	55.1	1.64E-02	1457	320	8.07E+05
3058	20	4.72E+06	1.55E+07	9.87	6.17E+02	53.1	3.91E-02	1468	321	8.21E+05
3058	24	4.60E+06	1.52E+07	9.86	6.23E+02	54.0	3.89E-02	1477	321	8.35E+05
3058	28	4.58E+06	1.50E+07	9.85	6.22E+02	54.4	3.85E-02	1483	321	8.44E+05
3058	32	4.52E+06	1.48E+07	9.85	6.24E+02	55.0	3.82E-02	1489	321	8.54E+05
3060	20	9.23E+06	3.03E+07	10.11	1.11E+03	51.0	7.33E-02	1472	311	8.25E+05
3060	24	8.93E+06	2.93E+07	10.10	1.11E+03	52.2	7.17E-02	1489	314	8.51E+05
3060	28	8.87E+06	2.91E+07	10.09	1.14E+03	53.2	7.20E-02	1501	316	8.54E+05
3060	32	8.69E+06	2.85E+07	10.08	1.12E+03	53.3	7.07E-02	1501	318	8.70E+05
3063	20	15.2E+06	4.99E+07	10.33	1.59E+03	47.1	1.14E-01	1445	317	8.25E+05
3063	24	14.6E+06	4.83E+07	10.33	1.60E+03	48.2	1.10E-01	1468	321	8.51E+05
3063	28	14.5E+06	4.75E+07	10.32	1.61E+03	49.0	1.10E-01	1473	325	8.69E+05
3063	32	14.3E+06	4.70E+07	10.32	1.61E+03	49.4	1.10E-01	1480	331	8.34E+05
3061	20	20.4E+06	6.70E+07	10.37	1.97E+03	44.7	1.48E-01	1413	325	7.33E+05
3061	24	19.4E+06	6.37E+07	10.40	2.03E+03	47.3	1.45E-01	1458	326	8.01E+05
3061	28	19.7E+06	6.45E+07	10.42	2.12E+03	48.4	1.48E-01	1478	336	8.31E+05
3074	24	8.27E+06	2.71E+07	7.45	2.24E+03	71.9	1.05E-01	1287	318	5.91E+05
3074	28	8.16E+06	2.68E+07	7.45	2.28E+03	73.3	1.05E-01	1300	320	6.10E+05
3074	32	8.09E+06	2.65E+07	7.45	2.31E+03	74.6	1.05E-01	1312	322	6.26E+05
3075	24	16.8E+06	5.51E+07	7.57	5.49E+03	82.6	2.24E-01	1403	376	7.59E+05
3075	28	16.8E+06	5.51E+07	7.57	5.57E+03	83.4	2.25E-01	1410	386	7.69E+05
3075	32	16.6E+06	5.46E+07	7.57	5.64E+03	84.6	2.25E-01	1419	393	7.83E+05
3076	24	31.4E+06	1.03E+08	7.79	8.15E+03	72.0	3.82E-01	1347	369	6.70E+05
3076	28	30.7E+06	1.01E+08	7.80	8.29E+03	74.1	3.78E-01	1367	382	6.99E+05
3076	32	30.2E+06	9.90E+07	7.80	8.40E+03	75.5	3.76E-01	1380	394	7.19E+05
3073	28	47.9E+06	1.57E+08	7.96	1.18E+04	70.6	5.66E-01	1360	330	6.87E+05

Table 2 LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel test conditions

α , deg	Re_∞ , 1/ft	Re_∞ , 1/m	M_∞	P_∞ , Pa	T_∞ , K	ρ_∞ , kg/m ³	U_∞ , m/s	T_w , K	$H_0 - H_{300\text{K}}$ J/kg
20–32	3.02E + 06	9.91E + 06	6.0	840.8	62.6	4.68E – 02	950.6	300	2.14E + 05
20–32	3.91E + 06	1.28E + 07	6.0	1109.0	63.4	6.10E – 02	956.2	300	2.20E + 05
20–32	5.09E + 06	1.67E + 07	6.0	1446.0	63.5	7.96E – 02	956.0	300	2.20E + 05
20–32	5.89E + 06	1.93E + 07	6.0	1677.0	63.4	9.22E – 02	955.9	300	2.20E + 05
20–32	7.37E + 06	2.42E + 07	6.0	2131.9	64.2	1.16E – 01	960.4	300	2.25E + 05

squares of Kapton tape with heights of 0.0045, 0.0065, and 0.115 in., as per the method discussed in [7].

The model was instrumented with 101 MedTherm type-E (chromel-constantan) coaxial thermocouples. These gauges were press-fit through holes drilled into the model and then hand-worked to conform to the model surface and to form the required electrical junctions between the chromel and constantan elements of the thermocouples. The voltage output of a thermocouple is related to temperature through National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) calibration standards [8]. Temperature-time history data from the thermocouple measurements are then processed through conduction analysis to determine heat-transfer-rate time histories.

There were 82 gauges located on the forebody heat-shield portion of the model, and the remaining 19 gauges were located on the aftbody crew compartment. Gauges on the heat shield were arrayed vertically, along the centerline (pitch plane) of the model and horizontally across the lee side (top) of the model in which the highest turbulent augmentation occurs. As the data set produced from these two tests is very large, only the data from the 43 gauges located, along the centerline will be discussed in detail herein.

D. Data Acquisition and Reduction

Thermocouple voltage data from AEDC Tunnel 9 were acquired at a frequency of 500 Hz, and data from the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel were acquired at 40 Hz. The difference in data acquisition rates is a function of the different run times in these two tunnels: on the order of 1 s in Tunnel 9 vs several seconds in the 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. In both facilities, the data acquisition rates were sufficient for time-averaging of the quasi-steady flowfields generated by continuous-pitch-sweep testing.

Voltage data were converted to temperatures via the NIST standard calibration formula for type-E thermocouples. These data were then used to compute heat transfer rates through a one-dimensional finite difference numerical method. Descriptions of the software packages QCALC and 1DHEAT used by AEDC and NASA LaRC to perform this analysis can be found in [9–11]. As a check on the data-reduction process, the test data were reduced using both LaRC and AEDC software tools. Results from the two software tools were essentially identical.

As discussed previously in [12,13] for a similar test program, comparisons of experimental data with the computational results indicated substantial uncertainties in the thermal properties (i.e., conductivity and specific heat) of the model and thermocouple materials. This uncertainty had a first-order effect on the heating distributions determined from the data, and considerable testing was conducted to verify the properties employed.

E. Heating Parameters

Although the conduction analysis determines dimensional heat flux values at the model surface, this is not the ideal parameter with which to report the experimental data. Over the course of a run, the heat flux experienced by the model varies, mostly due to increasing temperatures on the model surface, but also slightly due to variations in freestream conditions. In the AEDC Tunnel 9, surface temperature increases of up to 150 K were measured (at the highest Mach 8 Reynolds number condition) and freestream conditions varied up to a maximum of $\sim 5\%$. In the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel, surface temperature increases of up to 30 K were measured and freestream conditions varied by $\sim 1\%$ over the course of a run. Because these factors caused the dimensional heat transfer rates to vary, a more

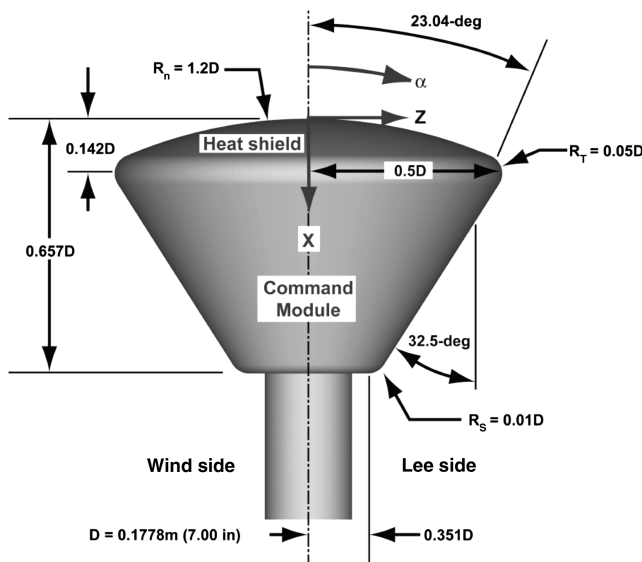


Fig. 4 CEV wind-tunnel model dimension.

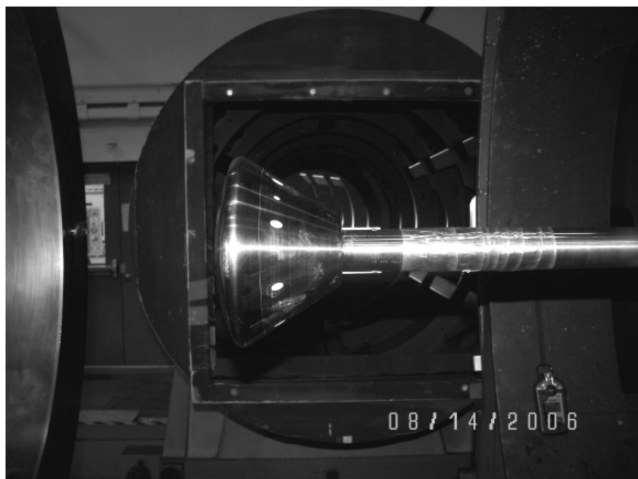


Fig. 5 CEV model installed in AEDC Tunnel 9 (test section opened for viewing).

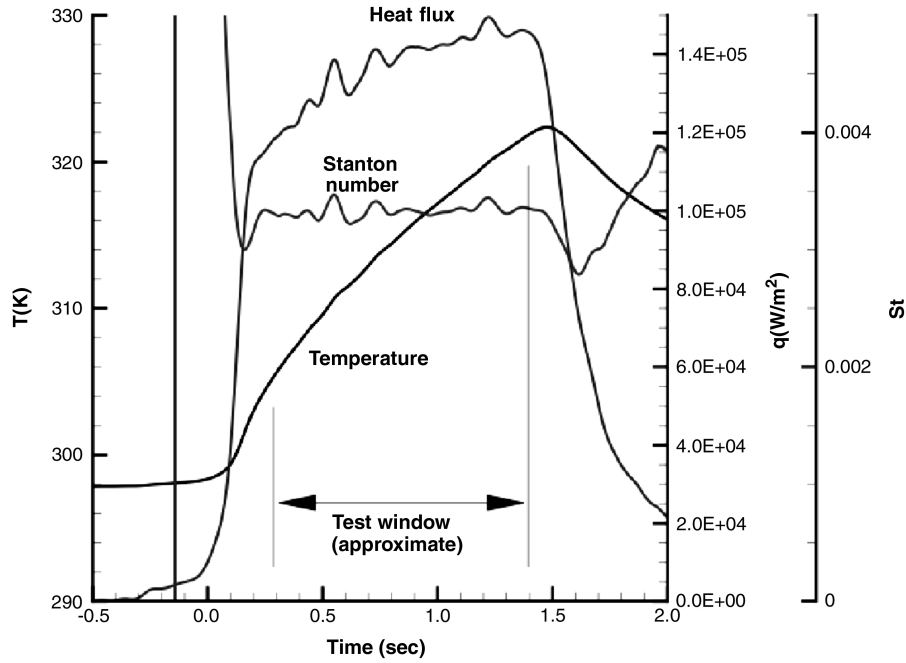


Fig. 6 Sample time histories of temperature, heat flux, and Stanton number data from AEDC Tunnel 9 test of CEV model.

appropriate parameter with which to report the data is the Stanton number, which remains nominally nearly a constant for given conditions (e.g., [14]). Data from runs at various Reynolds numbers (for a given enthalpy) can then be correlated through multiplication by the square root of the freestream Reynolds number for laminar conditions, as in Eq. (1), or by freestream Reynolds number to the $1/5$ th power for turbulent cases, as in Eq. (2). Results herein will be presented in terms of these parameters. To account for noise and transient fluctuations, the reported values represent averages over either the whole course of the run for static-angle-of-attack cases or over 1 deg angle-of-attack increments for continuous-pitch-sweep cases.

Laminar correlation parameter:

$$St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2} = \frac{q}{\rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} (H_0 - H_w)} \left(\frac{\rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} D}{\mu_{\infty}} \right)^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

Turbulent correlation parameter:

$$St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/5} = \frac{q}{\rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} (H_0 - H_w)} \left(\frac{\rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} D}{\mu_{\infty}} \right)^{1/5} \quad (2)$$

where

$$(H_0 - H_w) = \left(H_{\infty} + \frac{U_{\infty}^2}{2} \right) - H_w \quad (3)$$

To illustrate the differences between heat flux and Stanton number, a sample set of Tunnel 9 flow conditions is shown in Fig. 6, along with the computed values for a forebody gauge in terms of each parameter. The Stanton number can be time-averaged to eliminate fluctuation in the data, whereas the heat flux cannot. Another benefit of the Stanton number definition is that the temperature dependence is removed, and thus a constant wall temperature may be specified in computational fluid dynamics solutions, rather than a variable temperature distribution over the entire body.

Reynolds number dependencies are also removed when using Eq. (1) or Eq. (2). As shown in Fig. 7, $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{0.5}$ can be used to approximately correlate laminar heat flux distributions over the range of test conditions. Transitional/turbulent data can clearly be identified when the values diverge from the lower Reynolds number data, which are nearly constant. Similarly, $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{0.2}$ can be used to correlate turbulent data, as in Fig. 8.

Note that the definition of the Stanton number used herein is based on freestream conditions and total enthalpy. Stanton numbers are also sometimes defined in terms of edge conditions and/or in terms of an adiabatic wall-recovery enthalpy. These definitions are not equivalent. The definitions used in Eqs. (1–3) are the simplest to use for data reduction because they do not require a flowfield computation to generate the edge conditions or the use of a recovery factor that has both flowfield and geometric dependencies. Also note that in Eqs. (1–3), the enthalpies are computed from [15]. However, because the freestream temperatures are below the curve-fit ranges in that reference, viscosities are based on Chapman–Cowling relations, as in [16].

F. Experimental Uncertainty

The greatest source of uncertainty (~ 10 – 20%) in the experimental methodology was found to be in the material thermal properties used in the conduction analysis by which heating rates were determined from the temperature–time history data. Without a thorough statistical investigation of the material thermal properties, which is beyond the scope of this study, the overall uncertainty cannot be

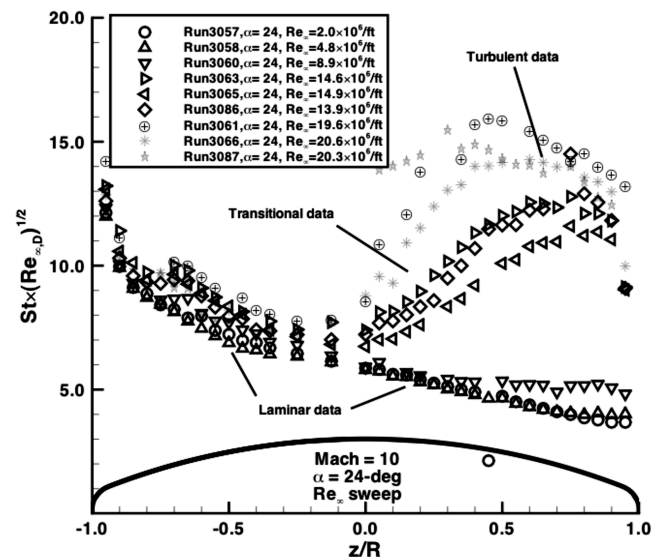


Fig. 7 Correlation of laminar data using $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}$ parameter.

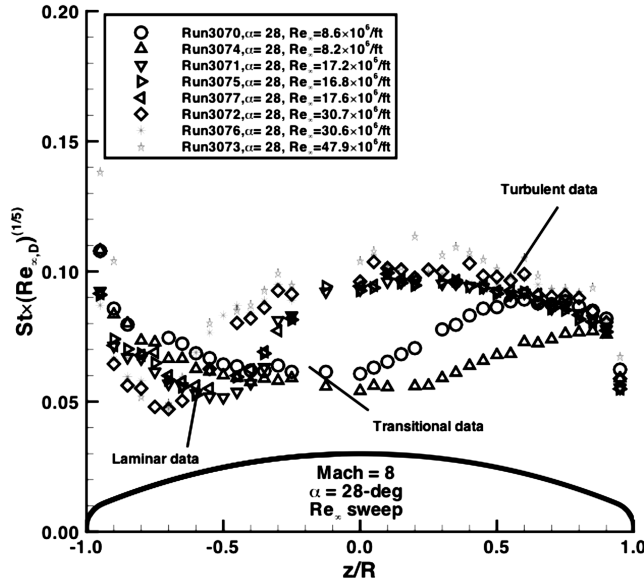


Fig. 8 Correlation of turbulent data using $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/5}$ parameter.

better defined. However, a variety of comparisons with calibration standards and predicted heating rates (as detailed in [12,13]) suggest that the thermal properties used in this study (as given in [12]) are reasonably accurate. In addition to uncertainties resulting from material properties, there were also uncertainties introduced due to variations in freestream conditions, model angle of attack, instrumentation precision, etc. AEDC quotes an uncertainty of $\pm 6\%$ for these factors, and this estimate is assumed to be conservative for testing in the LaRC Mach 6 facility, as the variation in freestream conditions is lower. An overall experimental uncertainty of $\pm 12\%$ can then be estimated from the root-mean-square value of a low-end material properties uncertainty estimate of $\pm 10\%$ with the AEDC-quoted $\pm 6\%$ for other factors.

III. Computational Method

Flowfield computations at the wind-tunnel test conditions were performed using the LAURA code [17,18]. The LAURA code is a three-dimensional finite volume solver that includes perfect-gas, equilibrium, and nonequilibrium chemistry models. The code can be used to solve the inviscid Euler, viscous thin-layer Navier–Stokes, or full Navier–Stokes equations. In the current study, the thin-layer model was employed to save on computational costs; it was concluded in previous studies [19] from computations on a similar blunt body that this model provided accurate results for attached forebody flows. Time integration to steady-state in LAURA is accomplished through a point-relaxation scheme. Roe-averaging [20] with Harten’s entropy fix [21] and Yee’s symmetric total-variation-diminishing limiter [22] is used for inviscid fluxes, and a second-order scheme is employed for viscous fluxes. In this study, a perfect-gas model was used for the AEDC and LaRC tunnel conditions with the appropriate gas parameters for either pure N_2 (AEDC Tunnel 9) or air (LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel).

For the AEDC CFD cases, freestream conditions were extracted from the tunnel conditions data set for that run for the time when the specified angle of attack was reached because conditions varied over the course of a run. For the wall boundary condition, a uniform temperature was specified over the entire body equal to that recorded at the nose of the model at the specified time during the run (see Table 1). For the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel cases, freestream conditions did not vary significantly over the length of the run, and so the nominal conditions were used. The wall temperature boundary condition was specified in the same manner as for the AEDC CFD cases.

Structured, finite volume, multiple-block forebody grids with a singularity-free nose were employed for the computations. Grid adaptation was performed (as per the method detailed in [18]) to align

the grid with the bow shock and to produce nominal wall-cell Reynolds numbers on the order of 1.

Laminar computations were performed for all AEDC and LaRC tunnel cases. Turbulent computations were performed for higher Reynolds number cases using the algebraic Cebeci–Smith turbulence model (the algebraic Baldwin–Lomax model was used for a few selected AEDC cases and was found to produce only slightly different results at these perfect-gas conditions). Although it is recognized that more sophisticated turbulence models exist, different models can produce very different results (e.g., [23]), and the validation status of any turbulence model for hypersonic flow over a given vehicle type is debatable. Algebraic models are fast and stable, and as will be shown subsequently, their accuracy for attached forebody flows is generally as good as that of the laminar predictions, at least for the conditions under consideration.

IV. Results and Analysis

A. Data Overview

The data sets obtained in these tests, which include reading from more than 100 thermocouples from almost 100 wind-tunnel runs, during which measurements were made at multiple angles of attack, is too large to comprehensively present and discuss herein. Therefore, the focus of this report will be on the heat-shield centerline data and a limited selection of the crew-module centerline data. The remainder of the data have been supplied to the CEV program and are documented in [24]. The centerline data (i.e., x – z symmetry plane) to be shown in subsequent sections is the most important data to the CEV project, because the centerline heating is the highest on the body.

As noted previously, data were obtained in the two facilities at angles of attack varying from 16 to 32 deg, although not all angles were covered at all operating conditions. At the time these tests were performed, the trim angle of the flight vehicle was expected to be 28 deg and the test range was centered on that angle. As design work on the CEV progressed, the expected trim angle shifted toward ~ 20 deg. To focus on the angles of attack of most interest to the CEV program, only the data for $\alpha = 20, 24$, and 28 deg will be discussed.

B. Offcenterline Data

To provide some illustration of heating levels over the entire body, heating levels at each of the heat-shield thermocouples are shown for sample cases for the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel and the two AEDC Tunnel 9 nozzles in Figs. 9–11. The cases shown are for the highest Reynolds number cases in each facility and thus are of most interest in showing the extent of offcenterline turbulent heating. At the LaRC Mach 6 condition, the heating levels corresponded to laminar or barely transitional flow over the whole body. At the AEDC Mach 10 condition, the data was transitional or turbulent over most of the lee side of the heat shield (the top half of the image), and at the AEDC Mach 8 condition, the data were turbulent everywhere on the heat shield.

C. Tripped Boundary-Layer Data

Tripped boundary-layer data will not be discussed in detail herein (see [24] for more information). As noted previously, the wind-tunnel model was designed with a replaceable section near the nose, into which inserts with various trip heights and patterns could be substituted. However, it was found that at the AEDC Tunnel 9 operating conditions, fully developed turbulent flow could be produced without use of the trips. Therefore, preliminary plans for an extensive investigation of trip parameters in this facility were curtailed. In the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel, 25 runs were conducted with discrete trips placed on the centerline between the geometric nose and the stagnation point. The purpose of these runs was to determine whether or not the use of boundary-layer trips could produce fully developed turbulent flow at the lower Reynolds number operating conditions of the Mach 6 tunnel on the CEV configuration. The trips definitely caused boundary-layer transition, but the data did not conclusively support the production of fully

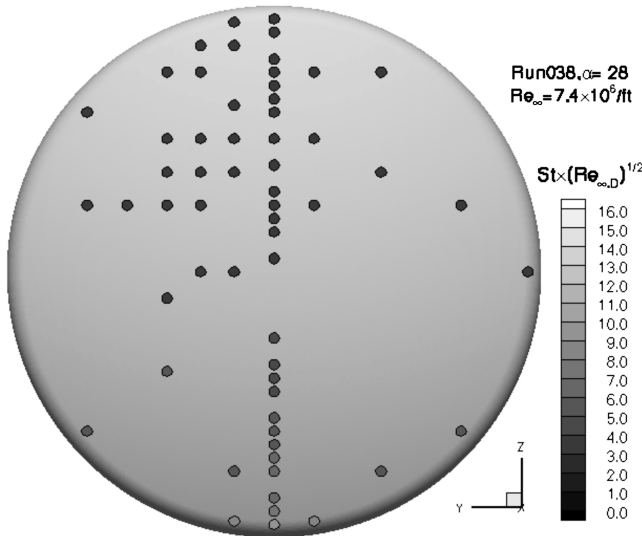


Fig. 9 Sample LaRC Mach 6 data.

developed turbulent flow, which was the goal of the trip study. Therefore, the trip data will not be presented herein. However, these data, as well as subsequent test data obtained with a wider range of trip parameters, are discussed from the perspective of boundary-layer transition criteria in [4].

D. Centerline Data and Comparisons with Predictions

A sampling of the heat-shield centerline data from each facility will be discussed in this section. These data are plotted in Fig. 12 for the LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel, Fig. 13 for the AEDC Tunnel 9 Mach 10 nozzle, and Fig. 14 for the AEDC Tunnel 9 Mach 8 nozzle. Each figure includes data, when available, for $\alpha = 20, 24$, and 28 deg at each Reynolds number operating condition of the respective facility. There are two plots shown side by side for each case. The left-hand plot is a comparison of the predicted and measured values of the laminar heating correlation parameter $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}$. In these comparison plots between experimental and computational values, error bars are shown on the data that correspond to the $\pm 12\%$ experimental uncertainty discussed previously. The comparisons shown in these figures have been used to help define uncertainties for both laminar and turbulent convective heating computational methods used to predict flight environments. The right-hand plots show the experimental heating data for each condition, along with the predicted laminar values of two boundary-layer parameters Re_θ and Re_θ/M_e that are commonly used in analysis of smooth-body boundary-layer transition data. The boundary-layer parameters are

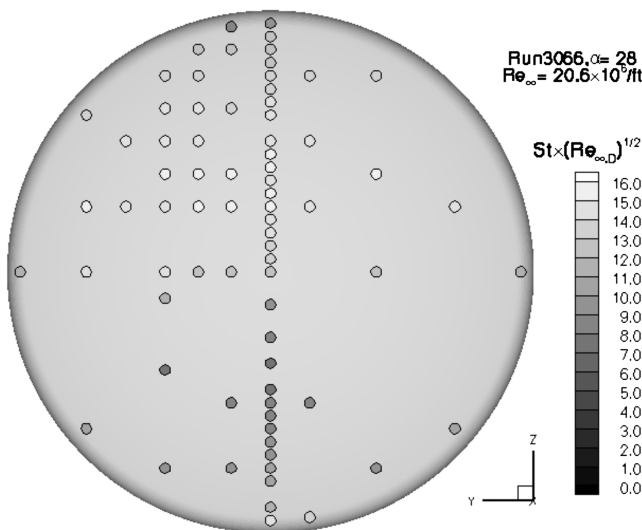


Fig. 10 Sample AEDC Mach 10 data.

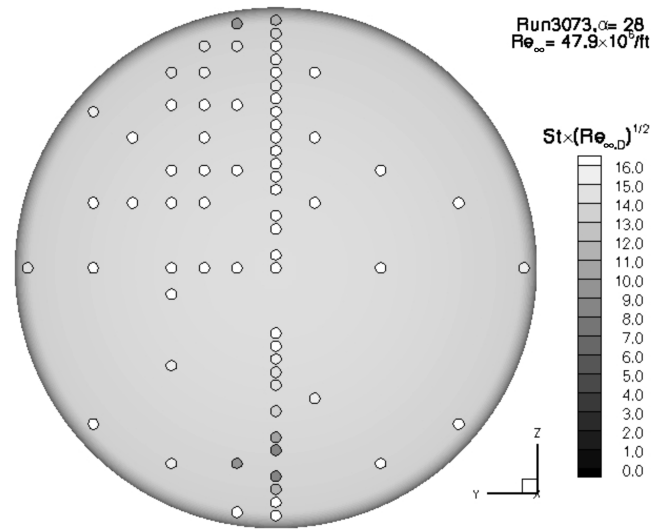


Fig. 11 Sample AEDC Mach 8 data.

shown at this point for convenience of presentation and will be used in a subsequent section to correlate lee-side centerline transition-onset data.

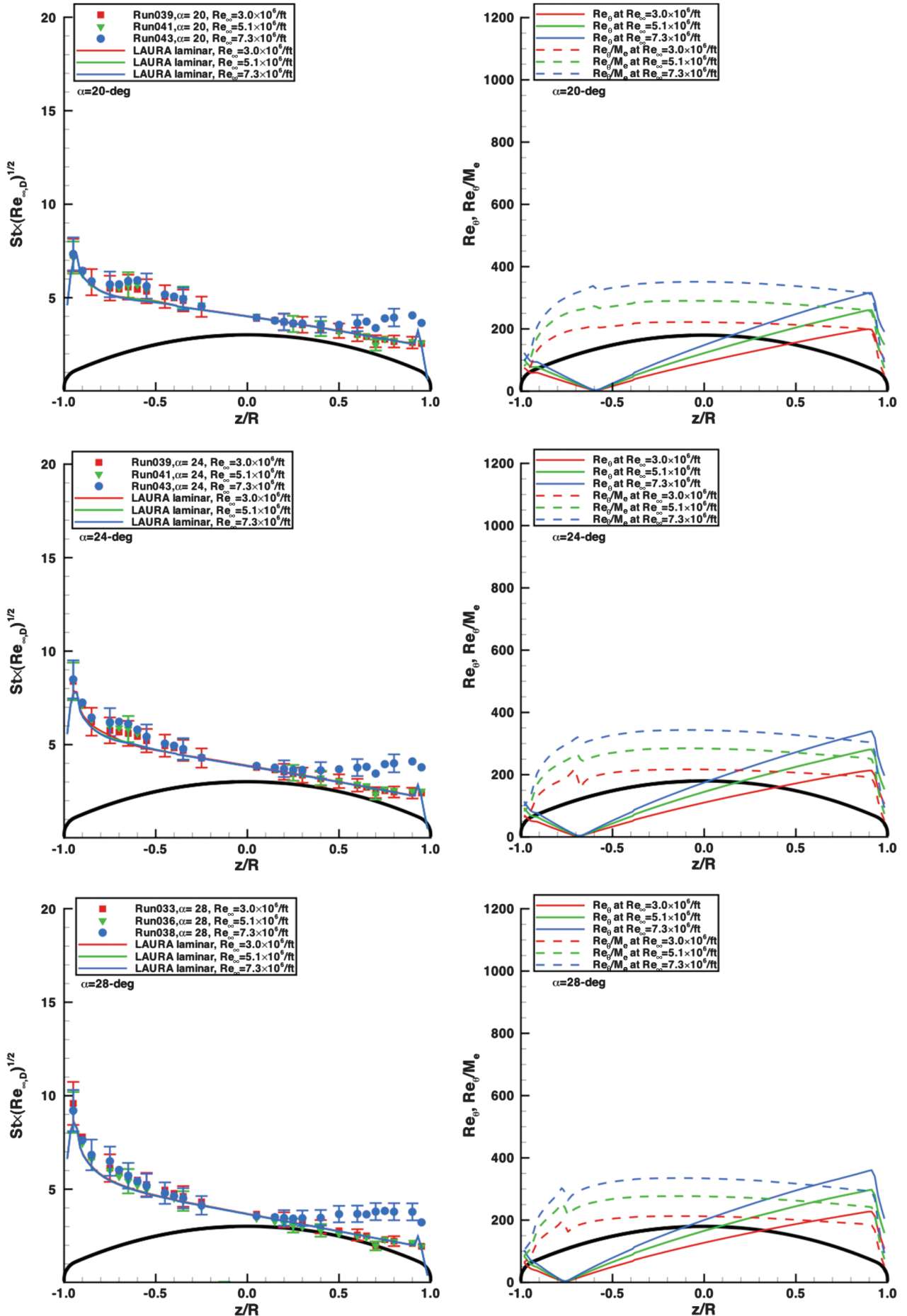
In the LaRC Mach 6 tunnel (Fig. 12), the laminar predictions generally fell within the experimental uncertainty of the data. The exceptions were on the lee side of the heat shield ($z/R > 0.5$) at the highest Reynolds number condition ($Re_\infty = 7.4 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$) in which the boundary layer appeared to become transitional and in the stagnation region ($z/R = -0.7$ to -0.8 , depending on angle of attack). The augmentation of the experimental heating data in the stagnation region above surrounding levels has been observed previously in other facilities and with different configurations [12,25–27]. Therefore, it is thought to be a real, nonlaminar, or unsteady flow phenomenon, as opposed to an artifact of a particular test facility, instrumentation type, or vehicle configuration.

At the AEDC Mach 10 conditions (Fig. 13), the data indicated laminar behavior at $Re_\infty = 2.0 \times 10^6$ and $4.8 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$, the beginning of lee-side transition at $Re_\infty = 8.9 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$, and fully developed turbulent flow over at least part of the lee side for $Re_\infty = 14.6 \times 10^6$ and $19.6 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$. Regions of laminar data and regions of turbulent data each matched the respective laminar or turbulent predictions to within the experimental uncertainty for all conditions. Transitional data (generally between the stagnation point and geometric nose) fell between predicted laminar and turbulent levels. In the stagnation region, an augmentation of heating levels above both the surrounding region and the predicted laminar levels was again observed.

The highest test Reynolds numbers were produced at the AEDC Mach 8 conditions (Fig. 14), and all data appeared to be at least transitional over most of the body for all conditions. At the highest Reynolds number ($Re_\infty = 47.9 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$), the data appeared to be turbulent over the entire heat shield. Both laminar and fully turbulent predictions were generated for these conditions. For all but the lowest (transitional) Reynolds number, the turbulent predictions for the lee side were within the experimental uncertainty. On the wind side of the body, the turbulent predictions were also similar to the experimental data. However, the sparseness of the data between the stagnation region and wind-side shoulder (3 or 4 gauges, depending on angle of attack) and the large heating gradient there made it difficult to assess the accuracy of the comparisons.

From these figures and analyses, the following conclusions can be made:

- 1) Transition occurred first on the lee side of the heat shield and only occurred on the wind side at much higher Reynolds numbers.
- 2) The accuracy of the predictions was generally as good as or better than the experimental uncertainty for fully laminar or fully turbulent conditions. For transitional cases, the data were bounded by the laminar and turbulent predictions.

Fig. 12 Forebody heating and boundary-layer parameters, 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel, $\alpha = 20, 24,$ and 28 deg.

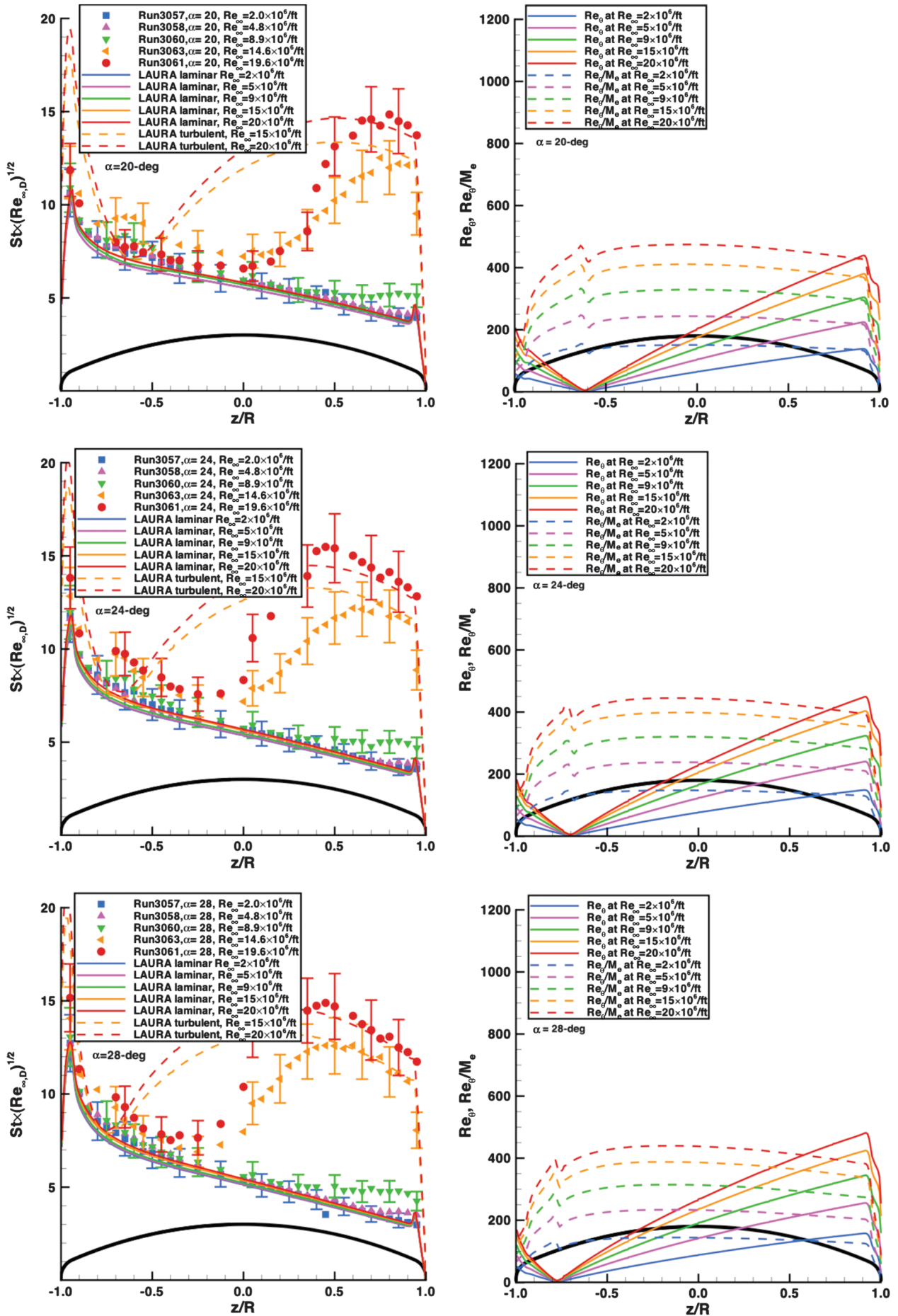


Fig. 13 Forebody heating and boundary-layer parameters, AEDC Tunnel 9, Mach 10 nozzle, $\alpha = 20, 24, 28$ deg.

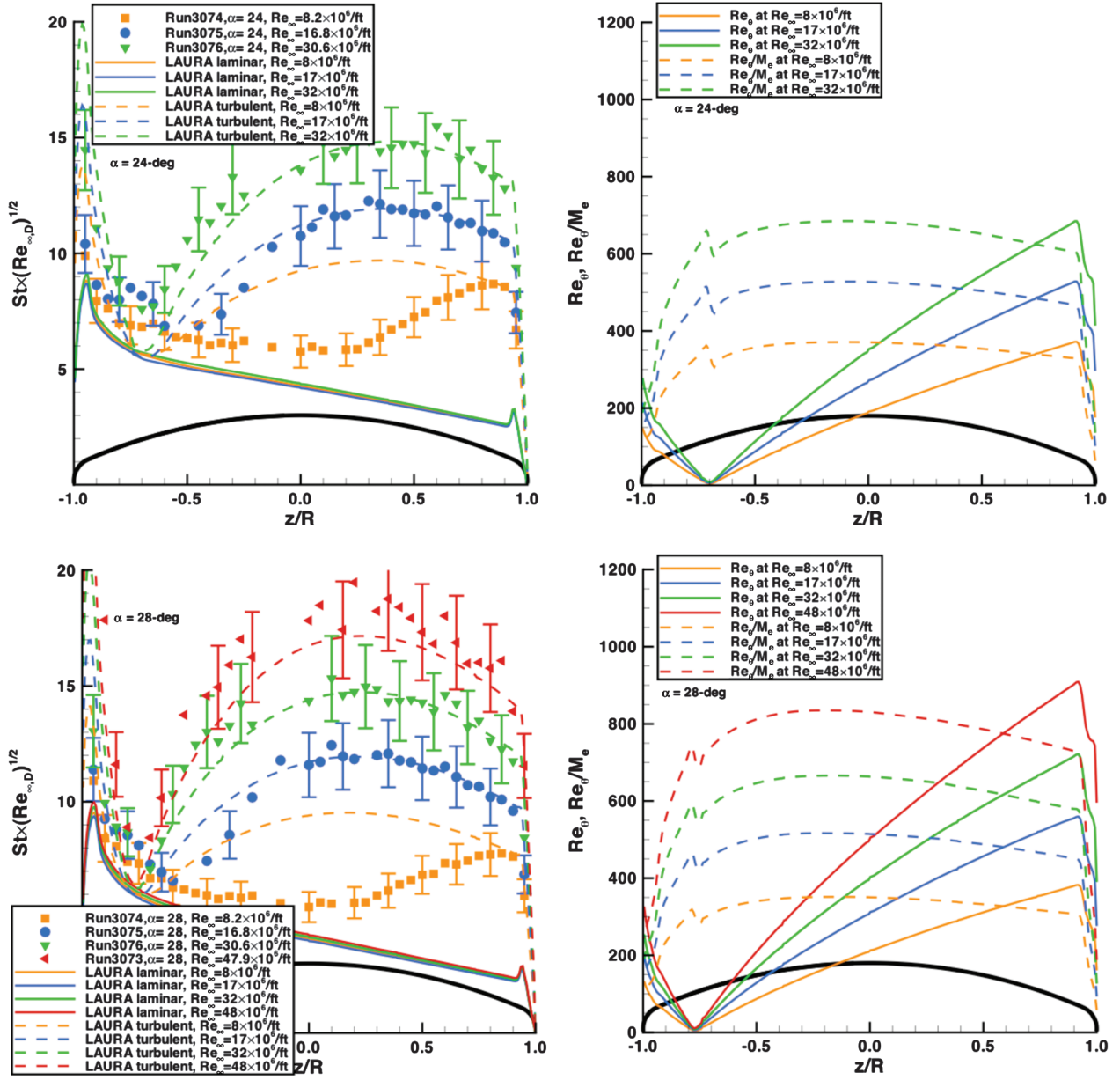


Fig. 14 Forebody heating and boundary-layer parameters, AEDC Tunnel 9, Mach 8 nozzle, $\alpha = 24$ and 28 deg.

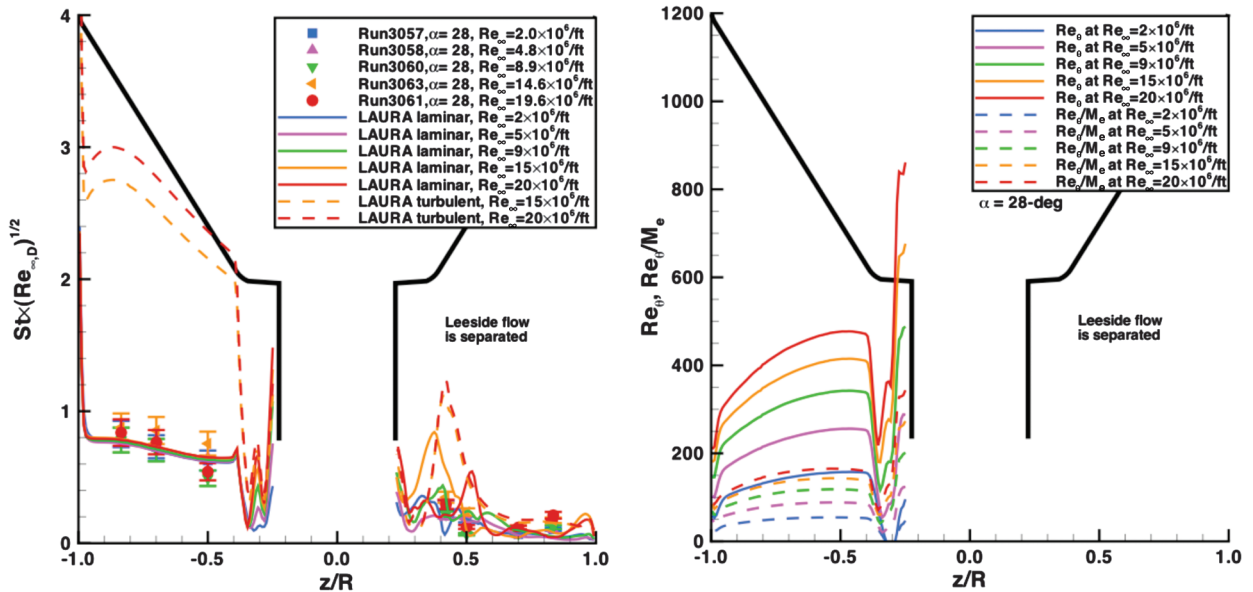


Fig. 15 Afterbody heating and boundary-layer parameters, AEDC Tunnel 9, Mach 10 nozzle, $\alpha = 28$ deg.

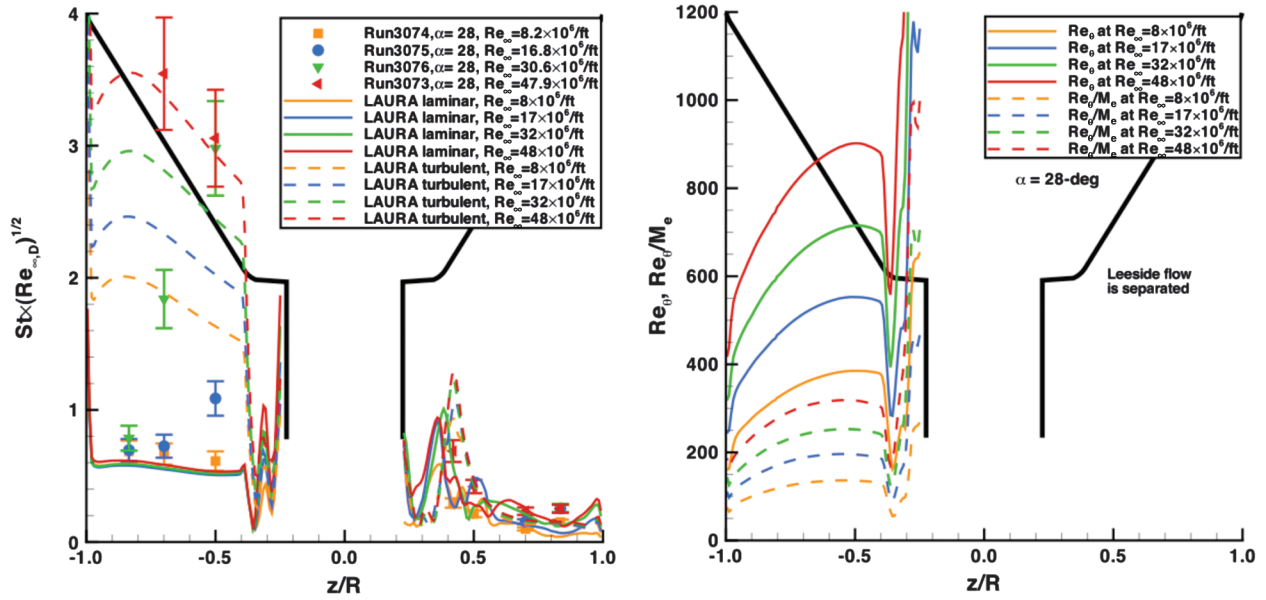


Fig. 16 Aftbody heating and boundary-layer parameters, AEDC Tunnel 9, Mach 8 nozzle, $\alpha = 28$ deg.

3) Stagnation-region data for most conditions showed an augmentation above both nearby laminar data and the laminar predictions.

E. Aftbody Comparisons

Full-vehicle computations that included the crew module, model sting, and wake flowfield were performed for only a limited set of cases ($\alpha = 28$ deg in AEDC Tunnel 9), because of the high computational costs of generating such solutions. Comparisons between wind-tunnel data and predictions for these cases are shown in Figs. 15 and 16. The format for these plots is the same as that of the heat-shield plots, except that boundary-layer parameters are not shown for the lee-side ($z/R > 0$) portion of the crew module. The flowfield in this region was mostly separated, and therefore the values of these parameters, which are defined in terms of an attached-wall boundary layer, were meaningless.

At Mach 8, the wind-side ($z/R < 0$) data for the two lower Reynolds numbers were ~ 15 to 25% higher than laminar predictions, which was outside the estimated experimental uncertainty. However, these data were still much lower than turbulent predictions. At $Re_\infty = 30.6 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$, the data indicated transition midway along the body, and at the end of the body, the data and turbulent predictions matched. For the highest Reynolds number of $Re_\infty = 47.9 \times 10^6/\text{ft}$, the data and turbulent predictions agreed to within the experimental uncertainty. At Mach 10, the laminar predictions matched the data for all cases. From these comparisons, two conclusions can be reached. First, the flow from the heat shield relaminarized as it turned around the shoulder onto the command module and only transitioned again farther along the body. Second, the algebraic turbulence models were as accurate for attached aftbody flow (over the command module) as for the forebody flow (over the heat shield).

F. Data Correlations Between Wind Tunnels

As shown previously, laminar heating distributions from each wind tunnel were nearly independent of Reynolds numbers when plotted in terms of the parameter $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}$. However, as shown in Fig. 17 for the $\alpha = 28$ deg data from all tunnels, the distributions from each tunnel differed, because the formulation in Eq. (1) does not account for the effects of different enthalpy levels in each facility. To account for this factor, the data were replotted in terms of a Stanton number based on the adiabatic-wall-recovery enthalpy, for which the recovery factor was approximated by the

square root of the Prandtl number as for a flat plate (e.g., [14]). Note that the Prandtl number in this equation was determined from the relations in [15] using an approximate boundary-layer edge temperature, which was assumed to be that obtained from a one-dimensional, perfect-gas, compressible flow calculation for the stagnation-point temperature:

$$St_{\text{rec}} \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2} = q \left(\frac{\rho_\infty U_\infty D}{\mu_\infty} \right)^{1/2} / \rho_\infty U_\infty \left[\sqrt{Pr} \left(H_\infty + \frac{U_\infty^2}{2} \right) - H_w \right] \quad (4)$$

As shown in Fig. 18 for the same test data, near independence from Reynolds number and enthalpy for laminar data can be obtained with this formulation. Additional correlations are shown for the $\alpha = 24$ and 32 deg cases in Figs. 19 and 20. The wind-tunnel data-reduction

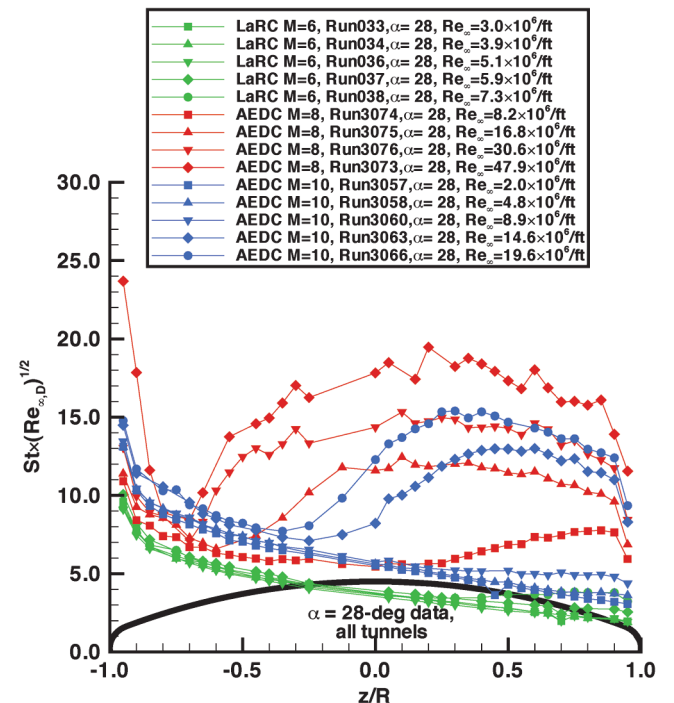
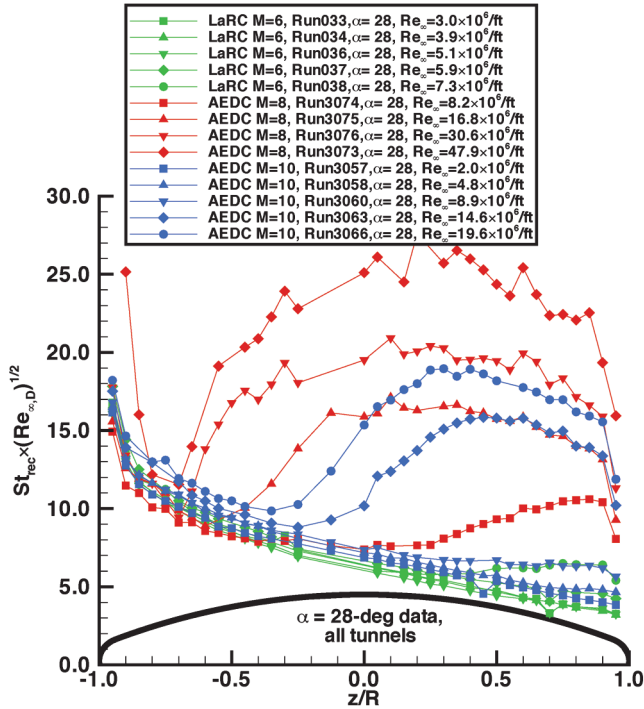


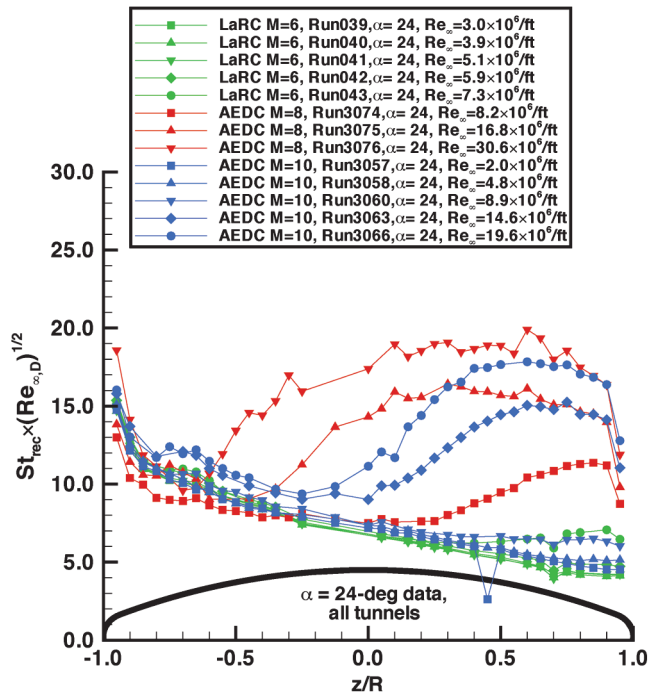
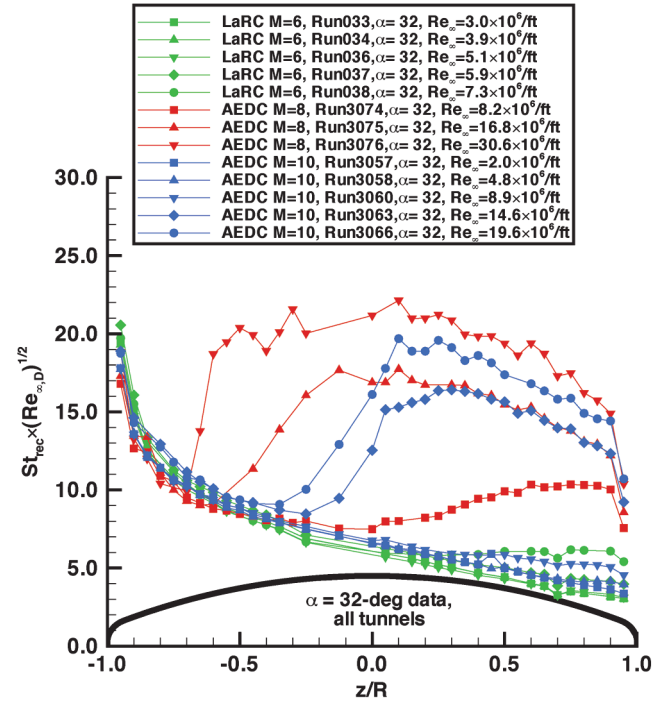
Fig. 17 Plots of $\alpha = 28$ deg distributions using total enthalpy.

Fig. 18 Plots of $\alpha = 28$ deg distributions using adiabatic wall enthalpy.

schemes used in this study do not typically output data in this format, because the recovery factor is only an approximation. However, for the current configuration and test conditions, this approximation is fairly accurate.

G. Transition Correlations

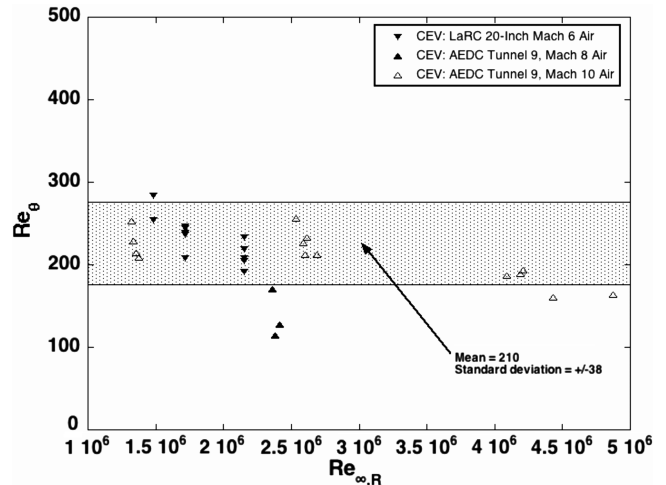
The heating data obtained in this study can also be used in the analysis of boundary-layer transition. In these tests, the transition mechanism was smooth-body boundary-layer growth with running length. In flight, however, transition will also be promoted by ablation roughening and blowing of its thermal protection system

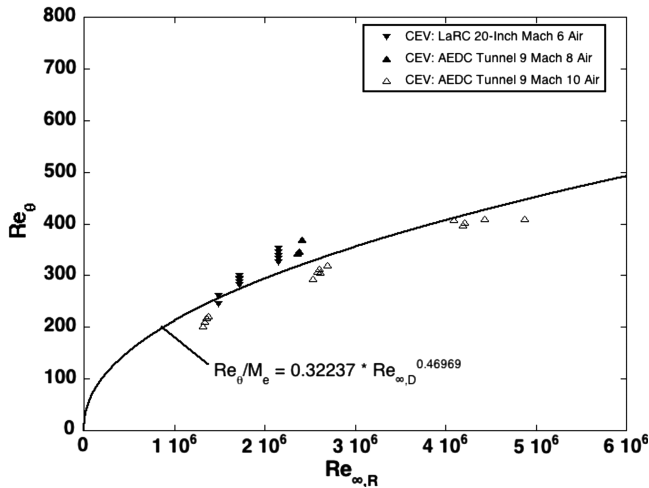
Fig. 19 Plots of $\alpha = 24$ deg distributions using adiabatic wall enthalpy.Fig. 20 Plots of $\alpha = 32$ deg distributions using adiabatic wall enthalpy.

material. Because of the challenges associated with analysis of all the possible transition mechanisms, it is the defined policy of the CEV program to make a conservative assumption that the vehicle will experience turbulent flow throughout its trajectory. Therefore, the following results are presented for use in transition research, rather than for direct use by the CEV program.

With respect to lee-side transition onset in the three data sets, a comparison can be made between a commonly used estimate of $Re_\theta = 200$ for onset of transition and the computed values shown in Figs. 12–14. In the LaRC Mach 6 test, peak Re_θ values on the lee side were in the range of 200 to 350 and the experimental data were laminar or barely transitional. In the AEDC Tunnel 9, the Mach 10 peak values were between 100 and 450 and the data ranged from laminar to fully turbulent, and the Mach 8 peak values varied from 400 to 900 and the data were transitional or fully turbulent.

A more exact correlation of the transition-onset data along the lee-side centerline of the heat shield was also performed by extracting the values of Re_θ and Re_θ/M_e at the onset locations from the flowfield solutions. These values are plotted vs freestream Reynolds numbers in Figs. 21 and 22. These plots encompass all Reynolds numbers and

Fig. 21 Transition-onset values of Re_θ .

Fig. 22 Transition-onset values of Re_θ/M_e .

angles of attack at each of the three test Mach numbers. The average Re_θ value was 210, which is close to the $Re_\theta = 200$ criteria used in smooth-body transition analyses. However, the transition-onset location for each Reynolds number varied with angle of attack, which led to the scatter seen in this plot. A better correlation can be formed by plotting Re_θ/M_e vs Reynolds number, as shown in Fig. 22, because the M_e term helps account for variations in local conditions with angle of attack.

In addition to the data collected from these tests, transition data from a similar blunt body, the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) heat shield, was obtained in the same wind tunnels [19,27] as well as in the Calspan–University of Buffalo Research Center (CUBRC) Large Enthalpy National Shock (LENS) [27] and California Institute of Technology (CalTech) T5 [28] facilities. The lee-side centerline transition-onset location values of Re_θ and Re_θ/M_e from those tests are added to the CEV data in Figs. 23 and 24. The Re_θ values all fell within approximately the same range as for CEV with an average value of 226. However, the Re_θ/M_e data fell into three distinct bands: the perfect-gas air and N_2 CEV data, the perfect-gas air and N_2 MSL data, and the high-enthalpy CO_2 data from CUBRC LENS and CalTech T5.

H. Turbulent Heating Augmentation Ratios

A final parameter of interest for CEV design purposes is the ratio of heating augmentation above laminar levels due to turbulence on the heat shield, ϕ_T , as defined in Eq. (5). Values of this ratio at each tunnel condition were extracted from the data for three points

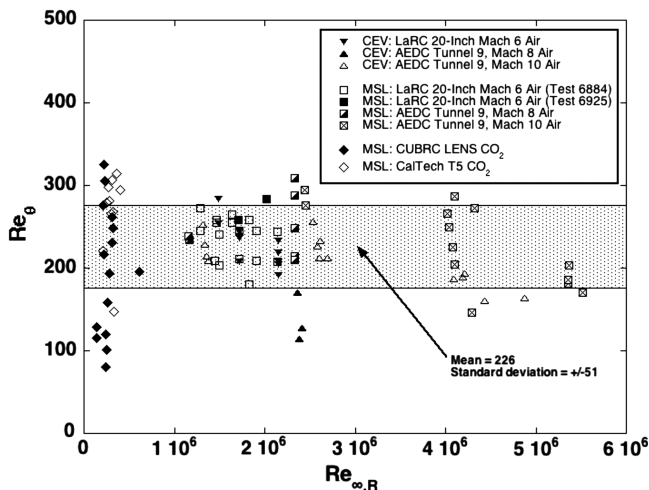
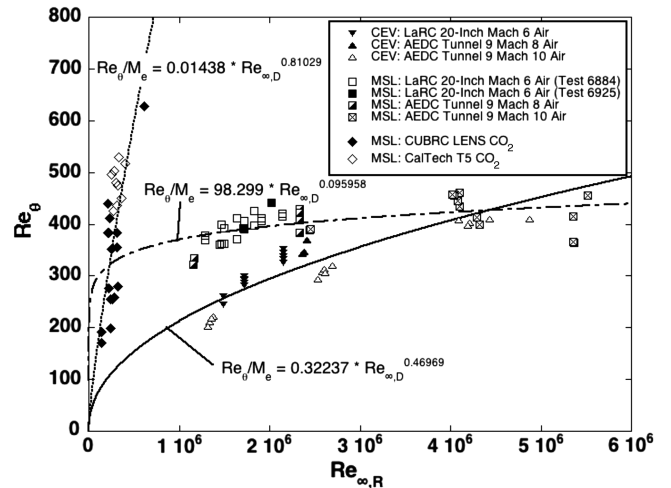
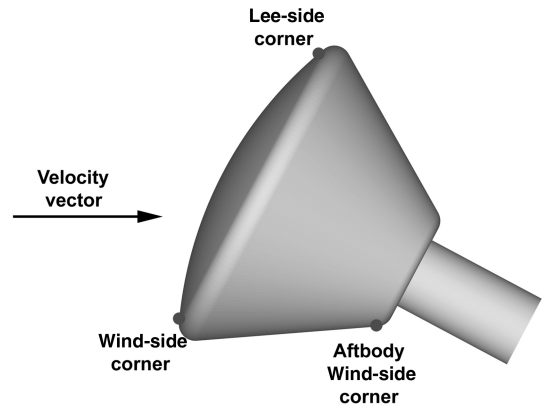
Fig. 23 Transition-onset values of Re_θ with additional MSL data added.Fig. 24 Transition-onset values of Re_θ/M_e with additional MSL data added.

Fig. 25 Body points for augmentation ratio.

(Fig. 25) on the model: on the heat shield immediately before the wind-side and lee-side tangency points with the shoulder and on the windward side of the crew module before the base of the vehicle. These values are plotted in Figs. 26–28 vs Re_θ values predicted for

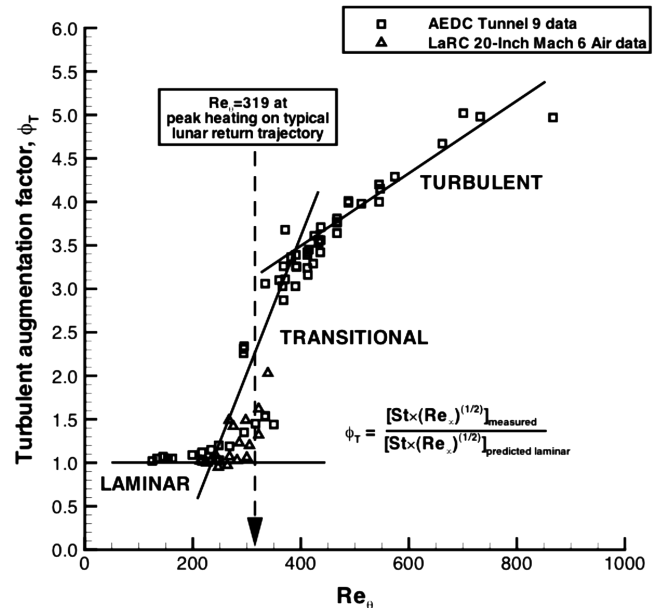


Fig. 26 Lee-side corner heating augmentation ratio.

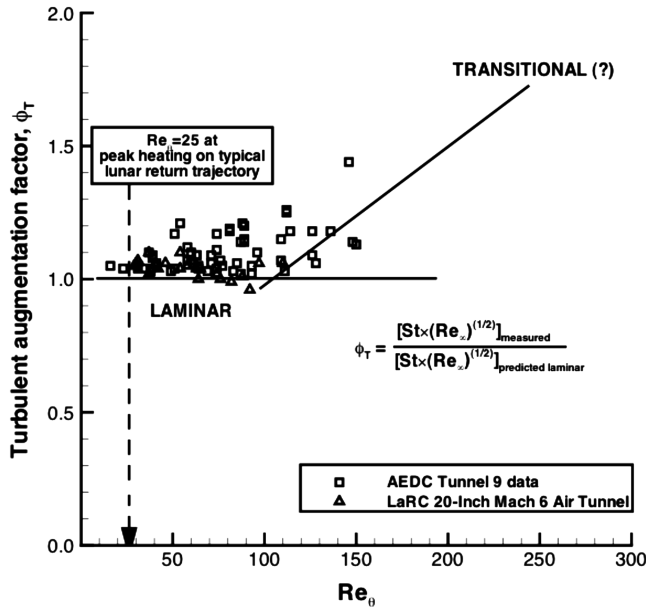


Fig. 27 Wind-side corner heating augmentation ratio.

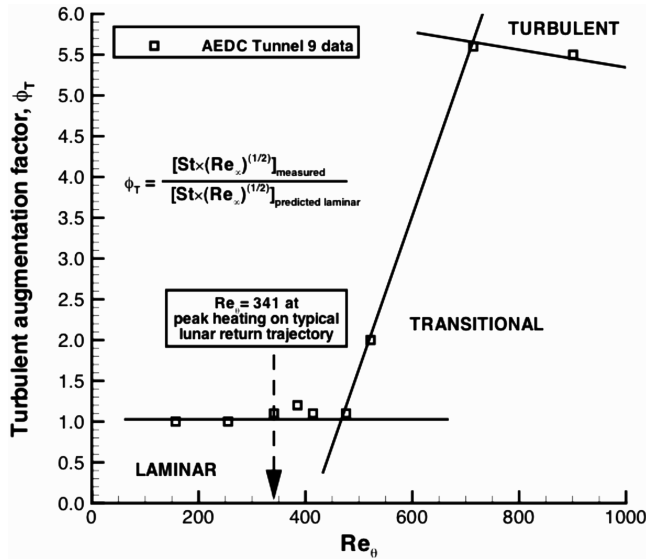


Fig. 28 Aftbody augmentation ratio.

the wind-tunnel conditions. Estimates for the extent of laminar, transitional, and turbulent behavior at each point are shown. Additionally, the value of Re_θ predicted in flight at the peak heating point along a typical lunar return mission trajectory is also given. At the lee-side corner point, these data indicate that the boundary layer would be transitional with augmentation factors of up to 3 times the laminar level. At the wind-side corner, the boundary layer would still be laminar, as would the boundary layer at the crew-module point. These results provide some evidence that the CEV design philosophy of assuming turbulent flow in flight throughout the trajectory does provide some conservatism. However, the data from these perfect-gas, smooth-body, wind-tunnel tests do not account for chemistry, roughness, or ablation effects and are thus not directly scalable to flight conditions:

$$\phi_T = [St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}]_{\text{measured}} / [St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}]_{\text{predicted,laminar}} \quad (5)$$

V. Conclusions

The convective aeroheating environment of the Project Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle has been studied through testing of a

thermocouple-instrumented 7-in.-diam (~ 0.035) scale model in the AEDC Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 Mach 8 and Mach 10 nozzles and the NASA LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. Test conditions produced (as a function of freestream Reynolds number) laminar, transitional, and turbulent flow in the AEDC Tunnel 9 Mach 10 nozzle; transitional and turbulent flow in the AEDC Tunnel 9 Mach 8 nozzle; and laminar and transitional flow in the NASA LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel. For the transitional and turbulent cases, transition always began first on the lee side of the heat shield and increased to fully developed turbulent flow on the lee side as Reynolds numbers were increased. A small region of transitional/turbulent flow was also observed on the wind side between the stagnation region and shoulder for the highest Reynolds number conditions in AEDC Tunnel 9.

Computational predictions were generated for all wind-tunnel test conditions and comparison was made between the predictions and test data. Laminar data and predictions and turbulent data and predictions were generally found to agree to well within the estimated $\pm 12\%$ experimental uncertainty. Transitional data were bounded by the fully laminar and fully turbulent predictions. The only region in which significant differences were observed was around the stagnation point, where the data showed augmentation above expected laminar levels.

The laminar experimental heating data from each facility were shown to correlate well (near Reynolds number independence) when expressed in terms of the parameter $St \times (Re_{\infty,D})^{1/2}$. Similarly, turbulent experimental heating data correlated well when the exponent on the Reynolds number was changed from 0.5 to 0.2. To account for the differences in enthalpy levels between the facilities, a modified Stanton number was employed in which the adiabatic-wall-recovery enthalpy, rather than the total enthalpy, was used. This formulation permitted a universal correlation of all three laminar data sets.

Transition-onset locations on the lee side of the model were determined from the data and comparisons with predictions. The values of the boundary-layer parameters Re_θ and Re_θ/M_e were extracted from the predictions at these onset locations. An average of $Re_\theta = 210$ was determined; however, the scatter was fairly high. A better correlation of the data was found with a power-law fit to Re_θ/M_e . These transition data were also compared with a wide range of data obtained from the MSL program. The average transition-onset value of Re_θ only shifted slightly to 226, although the scatter in the data was again high. For the transition-onset value of Re_θ/M_e , it was found that the data fell into three distinct bands: perfect-gas air and N_2 CEV data, perfect-gas air and N_2 MSL data, and high-enthalpy CO_2 MSL data.

Correlations were also generated for heating augmentation above laminar levels due to transition and turbulence. Ratios of measured heating levels to predicted laminar levels were generated and plotted against Re_θ for three points on the body. With respect to the peak-heating time along a preliminary lunar return trajectory for the CEV, these correlations indicated that the flow at the lee-side shoulder of the heat shield would be transitional, with a convective heating augmentation of up to 3.5 times laminar levels. The correlations also indicated that the flow at the heat-shield wind-side corner and along the crew-module wind side would be laminar.

These comparisons between computations and data helped to define uncertainties for computational methods used to predict laminar and turbulent convective heating levels in flight and have been incorporated into the best practices used in the vehicle design process. These data can also be used in other code-validation exercises. Also, the transition-onset and heating augmentation correlations provided evidence that the design assumption of turbulence throughout the flight does indeed provide conservatism in the vehicle design, because these results indicated that the flow would only be transitional at the peak-heating location along the trajectory. That conclusion is, of course, subject to change throughout the CEV development process as the trajectory evolves. Also, the effects of heat-shield ablation, roughness, and blowing must be taken into account, as the current data set only provides information on smooth-body flowfields.

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