Validation of OVERFLOW for Supersonic Retropropulsion

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Outline

- Introduction
- Explanation of SRP flow structure
- Validation Approach
- LRC UPWT Test
- Ames UPWT Test
- Conclusions/Future Work
The goal is to softly land high mass vehicles (10s of metric tons) on Mars

- Supersonic Retropropulsion (SRP) is a potential method of deceleration
- Current method of supersonic parachutes does not scale past ~1 metric ton
- CFD is of increasing importance since flight and experimental data at these conditions is difficult to obtain
- CFD must first be validated at these conditions
Introduction

- The EDL SA Team identified SRP as the only credible method of supersonic deceleration for Exploration Class (40 metric tons) vehicles entering Mars.
SRP Flow Structure

CFD of Daso et al (AIAA 2007-1423)
Sonic nozzle
$M_\infty = 3.48$, $C_f = 0.4$

Supersonic Flow

Bow Shock

Model and Sting

Sonic Nozzle

Time = 0.000000 seconds
SRP Flow Structure

CFD of Dasso et al (AIAA 2007-1423)
Sonic nozzle
$M_\infty = 3.48, C_T = 0.4$

Supersonic Flow

Opposing Jet

Time = 0.000000 seconds
SRP Flow Structure

CFD of Daso et al (AIAA 2007-1423)
Sonic nozzle
$M_\infty = 3.48$, $C_T = 0.4$

Supersonic Flow

Bow Shock

Shear Layer

Terminal Shock

Barrel Plume

Time = 0.001035 seconds
SRP Flow Structure

CFD of Daso et al (AIAA 2007-1423)
Sonic nozzle
$M_\infty = 3.48, C_T = 0.4$

Mach: 0 1 2 3 4 5

Supersonic Flow

Triple Point (2D) or Annular Ring (3D)

Recirculation

Stagnation Region

Time = 0.000000 seconds
CFD Validation Approach

Employ multiple solvers to the same SRP problems
- DPLR (Kerry Zarchi, ARC)
- FUN3D (Bil Kleb, LRC)
- OVERFLOW (Guy Schauerhamer, Jacobs/JSC)

Compare results between codes and with historical tunnel data
- Qualitative: Shock structure and standoff distance, unsteady behavior
- Quantitative: Surface pressure, forces and moments

Perform CFD-validation wind tunnel tests of SRP
- Complete run conditions, quantified tunnel uncertainties
- Higher thrust coefficients to better match flight requirements

DPLR | Code-to-Code Comparisons
---|---
FUN3D | Verification
OVERFLOW | Historical Tunnel Tests
CFD Validation Tunnel Tests
Code-to-Test Comparisons
Validation of CFD for SRP
Wind Tunnel Model

- Air as freestream and jet gas.
- 4 removable nozzle plugs.
- 167 pressure taps including 7 high frequency pressure transducers.
- High speed Schlieren video (10 kfps).
- Same model used in both tests.
Wind Tunnel Tests

Langley 4’x4’ Test
- Mach 2.4, 3.5, 4.6
- $C_T$’s up to 3, a couple at 6

Ames 9’x7’ Test
- Mach 1.8, 2.4
- $C_T$’s up to 10
- Liquefaction in plumes
OVERFLOW Best Practices for SRP

- Best practices based from LRC UPWT Run 165: 1-nozzle, Mach 4.6, $C_T$ 2
- Grid refinement and time step sensitivity studies
  - Grids between 80 and 90 million points
  - Time steps $\leq 1.71e-06$ seconds
  - 5 Newton subiterations
- HLLE++ numerical flux function with Van Albada limiter for spatial terms
- Symmetric Successive Over Relaxation (SSOR) algorithm with Newton dual time stepping for temporal terms.
- Used Direct Eddy Simulation (DES) turbulence modeling with Menter’s Shear-Stress Transport (SST) as the Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) submodel.
  - For SST, used strain-based production term employing Wilcox’s realizability constraint
- All jet-on cases were solved time-accurately.
Structured Overset Grid System

- Chimera Grid Tools script library- all configurations in single script
- X-rays and DCF for domain connectivity
LRC Run 165 Qualitative Comparison

- 1-nozzle, Mach 4.6, $C_T$ 2.
- Periodic unsteadiness.
- Oscillating pressure wave increases average pressure on model face.
- Movies not synced in time.

- US3D solution by Emre Sozer (ARC)
- Cart3D solution by Noel Bahktian (Stanford) and Michael Aftosmis (ARC)
LRC Run 165 Comparisons

- Capturing periodic oscillation in the triple point increased average pressure on the face.
- All codes fall within tunnel uncertainty.
Unsteady behavior was influenced by turbulence modeling.

- For SRP, limiting eddy viscosity produced more realistic behavior
  - Cart3D is inviscid
- Figure is ratio of eddy to laminar viscosity for different turbulence models, simulated with OVERFLOW and FUN3D.
- For SRP simulations:
  - DPLR used SST-V.
  - FUN3D used SA-DES
  - OVERFLOW used SST-DES and SST-RC
LRC Sting Sensitivity Study, 3-nozzle
LRC Run 165 Comparisons

α 0°  α 12°  α 20°

TEST

DPLR

FUN3D

OVERFLOW
LRC Run 165 Comparisons

$C_A,\text{total} = C_A,\text{aero} + C_T$

$\alpha 0^\circ$

$\alpha 12^\circ$

$\alpha 20^\circ$
LRC Run 262: 3-nozzle, Mach 4.6, $C_T=3$
LRC Run 262: 3-Nozzle, $C_T=3$, $\alpha=12^0$

Bow shock shedding impacts model face and side shell

Constructed shadowgraph of CFD solution
Run 262: 3-Nozzle, $C_T=3$, $\phi=0^0$

- DPLR steadier than FUN3D and OVERFLOW (SST-V vs DES)
- Large scatter in neighboring pressure ports on the model windward side shell
- FUN3D overpredicts $C_p$ on model face for $\alpha=0^0$ and $\alpha=12^0$
- Deviation at nose implies jet-to-jet interactions predicted differently between codes
- Deviation at shoulder implies differences in shock shedding impacting the model face
Run 307 and 311: 4-Nozzle, $C_T=2$, $\phi=0^\circ$, $180^\circ$

- Runs only differ in roll angle.
- Short blunt behavior vs. large shock standoff.
Viscous Full Tunnel
Ames Test
Ames Sting Sensitivity Study, 1-nozzle
Run 223, $\beta = 0^\circ, 4^\circ, 8^\circ, \text{ and } 12^\circ$
Run 141, $\beta = 0^\circ, 4^\circ, 8^\circ, \text{ and } 12^\circ$
3-Nozzle, Mach 2.4, $C_T$ 10, Run 145
Run 130, $C_T \ 6, \ \beta = 0^\circ$

- Comparisons with other codes
- DPLR reached steady state, captures side shell $C_p$ well.
- FUN3D and OVERFLOW simulations very similar
- OVERFLOW captures $C_p$ and nose and near nozzle
4-Nozzle, Mach 1.8

Run 166
4-nozzle
Mach 1.8, Cl 2

Run 170
4-nozzle
Mach 1.8, Cl 6

Run 172
4-nozzle
Mach 1.8, Cl 8
Thrust Dominance

Aerodynamic forces are small when compared to thrust.

Are aerodynamic forces negligible?
  • Need to know entry angles and vehicle design
  • Scalability
Computational Costs

- From the Ames post-test runs
- All cases run on Pleiades, either Nehalem or Westmere nodes
- This is not a perfect comparison
  - DPLR is an average of three estimates
  - FUN3D is from a single case (not an average)
  - OVERFLOW is an average of six runs
- Need time accurate runs for predictions
- Would need to cut down computational costs for parametric studies or database generation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Solver</th>
<th>CPU Hours per Case</th>
<th>Iterations per Case</th>
<th>Grid Points</th>
<th>CPU seconds/ iteration/grid point</th>
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<td>FUN3D</td>
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<td>39500</td>
<td>42M</td>
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Conclusions

- Best agreement between WTT and CFD is for 1-nozzle cases and high thrust 3-nozzle cases.
- Worst agreement was for low thrust 3-nozzle cases and high thrust 4-nozzle cases.
- 3-nozzle cases more steady at $C_Ts > 4$.
- 4-nozzle cases highly unsteady and chaotic at $C_Ts \approx 4$.
  - WTT averages spanning 2.5 seconds are probably not converged.
  - CFD averages spanning < 0.01 seconds are not too comparable to WTT data.
- Large difference in data acquisition rates exists between codes and test.
  - Test rate was 10 or 30 Hz (0.1 or 0.033 seconds per reading) for 2.5 seconds for 25 or 75 points per average.
  - CFD rate was between 190 and 400 points over a maximum of 0.017 seconds.
  - Frequencies captured by CFD not captured by test, and vice versa.
  - A “converged” average for CFD may be a completely different than the average that was obtained by the test data acquisition system.
- Aero effects are small when compared to thrust.
- Computational costs high for validation, could be much less for production.
Future Work

- More steps need to be taken to better simulate Mars EDL SRP
  - NASA funding for SRP was discontinued in Fiscal Year 2012
  - Live rocket engine test including startup in SRP conditions
  - Sounding rocket test
  - CFD of flight conditions
    - Atmospheric and rocket
- SRP is an enabling technology which still needs development
  - Large-scale propulsion
  - Aero/aerothermal analysis
  - Vehicle design
  - GN&C
- Additional funding avenues are being pursued
  - SpaceX and the USAF are researching SRP for Return To Launch Site capabilities
  - Masten Space is interested in returning rockets using SRP
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