Temperature Mapping of Air Film-Cooled Thermal Barrier Coated Surfaces Using Phosphor Thermometry

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  – Doug Wolfe (EB-PVD)

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Aerial View of NASA Glenn Research Center
Cleveland, Ohio

We predate the space age!

1941 Groundbreaking

- National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Flight Propulsion Laboratory
- NASA Lewis Research Center (1958)
- NASA John H. Glenn Research Center (1999)
GRC is Northernmost of 10 NASA Centers

NASA
De-icing research

Science
Michelson-Morley experiment 1887

Technology
First traffic light 1917

Sports
Basketball champions (NBA) 2017

Cleveland highlights
Thermal Barrier Coatings (TBCs) Provide Thermal Protection for Gas Turbine Engine Components

- Ceramic oxide TBCs, e.g., yttria-stabilized zirconia, can increase engine temperatures, reduce cooling, lower emission, and improve engine efficiency and reliability.

- TBCs provide thermal protection by sustaining a thermal gradient between the TBC surface and underlying metal component.
Motivation for Evaluating Combined TBC + Air-Film Cooling

- TBC and air film cooling effectiveness usually studied separately.
- TBC and air film cooling contributions to cooling effectiveness are interdependent and are not simply additive.
- Combined cooling effectiveness must be measured to achieve optimum balance between TBC thermal protection and air film cooling.
Heat Transfer Through Turbine Blade/Vane

Mainstream Gas Flow

$T_{\text{mainstream}}$

$\Delta T_{\text{surface convection}}$

$d_{\text{TBC}}$

$\Delta T_{\text{TBC}}$

$T_{\text{air film}}$

metal

$\Delta T_{\text{backside convection}}$

$d_{\text{metal}}$

$T_{\text{coolant gas}}$

$\Delta T_{\text{metal}}$

Cooling effectiveness:

$\Phi = \frac{T_{\text{mainstream}} - T_{\text{metal}}}{\Delta T_{\text{total}}} = \frac{1}{h_{\text{conv}}} + \frac{d_{\text{TBC}}}{k_{\text{TBC}}}$

- Air film cooling greatly reduces effective $h_{\text{conv}}$, and therefore greatly reduces $\Phi_{\text{TBC}}$
- Air film cooling greatly reduces $q$ and therefore $\Delta T_{\text{TBC}}$

Experimental measurements of combined TBC + air film cooling effectiveness are needed to evaluate TBC/air-film-cooling tradeoffs (Air film cooling carries significant penalty for engine efficiency).
Objectives

- Experimentally map effectiveness of air film cooling on TBC-coated surfaces.
- Examine changes in cooling effectiveness as a function of:
  - Mainstream hot gas temperature
  - Blowing ratio (cooling air flow)
- Examine interplay between air film cooling, backside impingement cooling, and through-hole convective cooling for TBC-coated substrate.
Approach

- Perform measurements in NASA GRC Mach 0.3 burner rig.
  - Vary flame temperature and blowing ratio.
- Perform measurements on TBC-coated superalloy plate with scaled up simple cooling hole geometry.
  - Initial testing of actual vane component did not produce effective air film cooling.

- Perform 2D temperature mapping using Cr-doped GdAlO$_3$ (Cr:GAP) phosphor thermometry.
  - GdAlO$_3$ exhibits orthorhombic perovskite crystal structure: gadolinium aluminum perovskite (GAP).
  - Ultrabright Cr:GAP luminescence emission enables surface temperature mapping using luminescence lifetime imaging by simply broadening the excitation laser beam to cover the region of interest.
  - Unbiased by emissivity changes and reflected radiation.
  - Only applicable to steady state temperatures.
Luminescence Lifetime Image Stack

$n$ images
$t_0 =$ start of $1^{st}$ exposure
$\Delta t =$ frame interval
$t_n = (n-1)\Delta t + t_0$
$= \text{delay time after laser pulse for $n^{th}$ image in stack}$

Typical values
$n = 64$
$t_0 = 0.1 \mu s$
$\Delta t =$ 0.25 to 100 \mu s
Frame interval = exposure = $\Delta t$
Laser pulse frequency = 20 Hz
1 exposure/laser pulse (ICCD)
Luminescence Decay Curves from 25 μm GAP:Cr Coating in Furnace Time-Gated Imaging Averaged over 184x154 Pixel Area Extracted from 64-Frame Stacks

Fit to $I = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$
Calibration of Decay Time vs. Temperature for Cr:GAP Coating
60 to 10% Initial Intensity Fitting Window

Two distinct regions
200°C < T < 750°C: less temperature sensitive
T > 750°C: more temperature sensitive

-fit to τ = τ₂E \cdot \frac{1 + 3e^{-\Delta E/kT}}{1 + αe^{-\Delta E/kT} + βe^{-(\Delta E + ΔE)/kT}}

Cooling Hole Plate Geometry

Side view

Top view

Coating layers

EB-PVD

30 μm
200 μm
125 μm
6.35 mm

Cr:GAP
YSZ
MCrAlY
Hastelloy X
Cooling Effectiveness Measurements

Conventional Air Film Cooling Effectiveness Test

- Uniform mainstream flow (velocity & temperature)
- Typical surface temperatures: < 100°C
- Measure adiabatic air film cooling effectiveness, \( \eta = \frac{\Delta T_{\text{mainstream}} - \Delta T_{\text{adiabatic}}}{\Delta T_{\text{mainstream}} - \Delta T_{\text{surface}}} \)
- \( \eta \) is a fundamental characterization of pure air film cooling effectiveness
- Measure \( \eta \) as a function of blowing ratio, \( M \)

\[
M = \frac{\rho_{\text{coolant}} v_{\text{coolant}}}{\rho_{\text{mainstream}} v_{\text{mainstream}}}
\]

Burner Rig Air Film Cooling Effectiveness Test

- Divergent mainstream flow
- Typical temperatures: 600-1100°C
- Measure overall surface cooling effectiveness, \( \eta' \)

\[
\eta' = \frac{T_{\text{uncooled}} - T_{\text{cooled}}}{T_{\text{uncooled}} - T_{\text{cooled enter}}}
\]

- \( \eta' \) is a nonfundamental but realistic characterization of combined surface cooling effects
- Measure \( \eta' \) as a function of \( M' \)

\[
M' = \frac{\rho_{\text{coolant}} v_{\text{coolant}}}{\rho_{\text{mainstream}} v_{\text{mainstream}}^{\text{max}}}
\]
2D Temperature Mapping by Luminescence Lifetime Imaging

- Image stack collection
- Background subtraction
- Data filtering
- Pixel by pixel lifetime analysis
- Produce temperature and cooling effectiveness maps from decay time maps
Pre-Fit Data Filtering
Criteria for removing pixels unsuitable for temperature determination

- Minimum absolute threshold: $l_{ij}(\text{frame 1}) < 2200$
- Maximum final frame relative threshold: $l_{ij}(\text{last frame}) > 10\% * l_{ij}(\text{first frame})$
- Minimum number of frames in fitting interval: $10\% * l_{ij}(\text{first frame}) < l_{ij}(\text{frame n}) < 90\% * l_{ij}(\text{first frame})$
- Number of frames: $< 6$

- Insufficient signal
- Too cold: need to extend to longer delay times after laser pulse
- Too hot: need smaller increments of delay time

Post-fit temperature map

Example of better delay time range & increments
2D Temperature Maps from Luminescence Lifetime Imaging

- Multi-step procedure:
  - Step 1: Remove radiation background from each frame collected.

10 µs exposure 300 µs after laser pulse

Luminescence before background subtraction  Background (no laser)  Luminescence after background subtraction

- Step 2: Assemble stack of background-corrected time-gated images over sequence of incremented delay times.

- Step 3: Preform pre-fit filtering.
  - Insufficient intensity, decay too fast or too slow
2D Temperature Maps from Luminescence Lifetime Imaging

- Step 4: Fit luminescence decay curve at each pixel to produce decay time map. Dynamic fitting window spans region between 60% and 10% of initial intensity. (Matlab routine).

- Step 5: Use calibration data to convert decay time map to temperature map (Matlab routine).

Find $T$ that gives know $\tau$ where

$$\tau = \frac{\tau^R}{1 + 3e^{-\Delta E/kT} + \beta e^{-(\Delta E + \Delta E)/kT}}$$

Temperature Map

Temperature Line Scan

95% Confidence Interval
Effect of Luminous Flame Bursts

Decay time temperature maps 95% confidence interval

Image Stack

0 µsec

Luminous flame streaks produce local temperature errors ~20°C too low.

Burning particles crossing field of view produce temperature map artifacts, can be mitigated by outlier removal.
Effect of Outlier Removal

$I_{ij}(t_n)$ is intensity of pixel $ij$ in frame $n$ of stack,

$t_n = n\Delta t + t_0$ where $\Delta t$ is frame interval and $t_0$ is 1st frame time;

$I_{ij}(t_n)$ is an outlier when $|I_{ij}(t_n) - I_{ij}^{fit}(t_n)| > 1.5\sigma[I_{ij}(t_n) - I_{ij}^{fit}(t_n)]$

$\tau = 140.1 \mu s$ (777.6°C)

$\tau = 84.3 \mu s$ (813.4°C)
Air Film Cooling of TBC-Coated Surface Results

- Examine changes in cooling effectiveness as a function of:
  - Mainstream hot gas temperatures: 1390, 1604, and 1722°C
  - Blowing ratio: $M' = 0$ to 1.1
Burner Rig 2D Cooling Effectiveness Maps

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1390^\circ \text{C}$

Initially increasing air jet film cooling effectiveness

Rapidly increasing through-hole convection cooling effectiveness

Diminishing air film cooling effectiveness with air jet lift-off

Appearance of vortex-induced hot streaks

Upstream through-hole convective cooling
Burner Rig 2D Temperature Maps

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1604^\circ\text{C}$

Decay time temperature maps

$M' = 0.151$

$M' = 0.362$

$M' = 0.604$

$M' = 0.906$

$M' = 1.057$

1 cm

95% confidence interval

photos
Burner Rig 2D Cooling Effectiveness Maps

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1604^\circ C$

Initially increasing air jet film cooling effectiveness

Rapidly increasing through-hole convection cooling effectiveness
Diminishing air film cooling effectiveness with air jet lift-off
Appearance of vortex-induced hot streaks

Upstream through-hole convective cooling
Burner Rig 2D Temperature Maps

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1722^\circ\text{C}$

Decay time temperature maps

$M' = 0.151$
$M' = 0.385$
$M' = 0.642$
$M' = 0.963$
$M' = 1.123$

1 cm

95% confidence interval

photos
Burner Rig 2D Cooling Effectiveness Maps

\[ T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1722^\circ C \]

Initially increasing air jet film cooling effectiveness

Rapidly increasing through-hole convection cooling effectiveness

Diminishing air film cooling effectiveness with air jet lift-off

Appearance of vortex-induced hot streaks

Deposition/fouling region

Signal attenuation due to flame deposit

\( M' = 0.160 \)
\( M' = 0.257 \)
\( M' = 0.385 \)
\( M' = 0.514 \)
\( M' = 0.642 \)
\( M' = 0.802 \)
\( M' = 1.123 \)
How Many Frames Do We Really Need?
64 frames requires minimum 3 s, up to minutes at highest temperatures

2x binning

2x decimation

$n \times$ binning = $n \times$ faster acquisition

$n \times$ decimation = $n \times$ faster acquisition
Burner Rig 2D Temperature Maps
Effect of Binning

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1390^\circ\text{C}$
$M' = 0.321$

Decay time temperature maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Binning Level</th>
<th>Frames</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64 frames</td>
<td>64</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(no binning)</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 frames</td>
<td>32</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2x binning)</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 frames</td>
<td>16</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4x binning)</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 frames</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8x binning)</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95% confidence interval

$\Delta T = T_{\text{binned}} - T_{\text{unbinned}}$

$n$x binning = $n$x faster acquisition

Binning effects
- Limits temperature range
- Modest decrease in precision
- Produces very little bias
Burner Rig 2D Temperature Maps
Effect of Binning

$T_{\text{mainstream}} = 1390^\circ C$

$M' = 0.321$

64 frames (no binning)  
32 frames (2x binning)  
32 frames (2x decimation)  

2x decimated minus 2x binned

Decay time temperature maps

1 cm

95% confidence interval

$\Delta T = T_{\text{binned}} - T_{\text{unbinned}}$

$n\times$ binning $= n\times$ faster acquisition
Combined Cooling Effects Summary

- **Air film cooling**
  - Effectiveness initially increases with increasing $M$, then diminishes with jet lift-off.
  - Vortex-induced hot streaks appear near cooling holes. May be worse on TBC-coated surface.

- **Through-hole convective cooling**
  - Effectiveness increases rapidly at high $M$.
  - Not observed in conventional air film cooling measurements.

- **Backside impingement cooling**
  - Slowly increases with increasing $M$.

- **Cooling effectiveness shows similar dependence on blowing ratio over wide range of mainstream gas temperature.**

- **Effect of TBC on other cooling mechanisms**
  - Will decrease air film cooling effectiveness.
  - Will increase through hole convective cooling effectiveness – may be useful for showerhead cooling.
Future Direction
Add Metal Surface Temperature Maps

Mainstream Gas Flow

\[ T_{\text{mainstream}} \]

\[ T_{\text{air film}} \]

\[ T_{\text{surface}} \]

\[ d_{\text{TBC}} \]

\[ d_{\text{metal}} \]

\[ T_{\text{coolant gas}} \]

Surface cooling effectiveness from Cr:GAP layer:

\[ \eta' = \frac{T_{\text{surface uncooled}} - T_{\text{surface cooled}}}{T_{\text{uncooled}} - T_{\text{coolant enter}}} \]

Metal cooling effectiveness from doped YSZ layer:

\[ \Phi' = \frac{T_{\text{metal uncooled}} - T_{\text{metal cooled}}}{T_{\text{uncooled}} - T_{\text{coolant enter}}} \]
Conclusions

- Successfully demonstrated 2D temperature mapping by Cr:GAP phosphor thermometry with high resolution (temperature, spatial, but not temporal) in presence of strong background radiation associated with combustor burner flame.
- Can be used as new tool for studying/optimizing non-additive interplay of cooling mechanisms for TBC-coated components.
  - TBC
  - Air film
  - Through-hole convection
  - Backside impingement