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LOW-DIMENSIONAL DYNAMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SHOCK WAVE/TURBULENT BOUNDARY LAYER

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Final Report**

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14. ABSTRACT Shock wave / boundary layer interaction is studied in a large area ratio axisymmetric nozzle comprising a design exit Mach number of 5.58. Shock motion unsteadiness is captured by way of the dynamic wall pressure and is evaluated during overexpanded operations of the nozzle up to a nozzle pressure ratio of 65. Stationary SWBLI is considered whereby the nozzle is operated at a nozzle pressure ratio of 28.7 such that the internal flow structure is in a restricted-shock separated state; the annular separation shock resides within a fixed intermittent region of the flow. Conditional averages of the wall pressure fluctuations show how the motion of the incipient separation shock is out of phase with pressure fluctuations measured in the separated region downstream of the shock; pressure decreases when the shock moves downstream and vice versa. This is indicative of a long intermittent region, in terms of the boundary layer thickness, as the observed phenomena can be explained by translating the static wall pressure profile along with the shock motion. Non-stationary SWBLI is also considered by increasing the nozzle pressure ratio over time (transient start-up). Under these conditions, the shock pattern is shown to vary in strength and structure as it sweeps through the nozzle.					
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Technical Accomplishments

1 Introduction

This work focusses on Shock Wave / Boundary Layer Interactions (SWBLI) that form within the divergent section of a convergent-divergent axisymmetric nozzle. This kind of geometry provides a database for studying SWBLI in three-dimensional geometries with strong favorable pressure gradient (FPG). Strong interactions lead to concentrated thermal loads, high intensity acoustic radiation, or even undesirable structural loads that act on the vehicle and its surrounding structure. Thus, a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms responsible for generating this unsteadiness would eventually lead to the development of lighter and more robust high speed vehicles comprising complex geometries.

SWBLI type research topics are driven by a continued interest in trying to collectively understand (and accurately predict) turbulent boundary layer flows (Smits and Dussauge, 2006), shock wave dynamics, and multidisciplinary physics. A great many investigations have been conducted using an assortment of geometries including axisymmetric cones, compression ramps and protruding surface cylinders. Here we focus on developing a framework for studying both stationary and non-stationary SWBLIs that form in overexpanded and large area-ratio rocket nozzles. The platform for this investigation comprises a thrust optimized parabolic contour (TOP) with a design exit Mach number of 5.58.

Depending on the contour and Nozzle Pressure Ratio ($NPR = p_0/p_\infty$), two commonly known flow states will form inside high area ratio rocket nozzles prior to flowing full (Frey and Hagemann, 2000; Nguyen et al, 2003; Ruf et al, 2009; Baars et al, 2012). That is, a Free Shock Separation (FSS) or a Restricted Shock Separation (RSS) flow state. The first of these, FSS, occurs at low NPRs, and is characterized by the formation of a single shock that incipiently separates the expanding supersonic flow from the wall. The shock and separated flow are triggered by a growing adverse pressure gradient that forms between the expanding flow and the subsonic entrainment region. As NPR increases, the flow abruptly transitions from a FSS state to a RSS state. During the latter, shock-bounded flow regions form and take on the shape of annular separation bubbles; a schematic of this is shown in Fig. 1. Several SWBLIs occur along the expanding wall of the nozzle to form a complex annular shock train with a subsonic flow region residing in close vicinity to the nozzle axis and downstream of the Mach disk (which connects to a strong reflected shock). Shocks interact with either the incoming boundary layer or invoke an unsteady coupling with the shock-bounded separated flow.

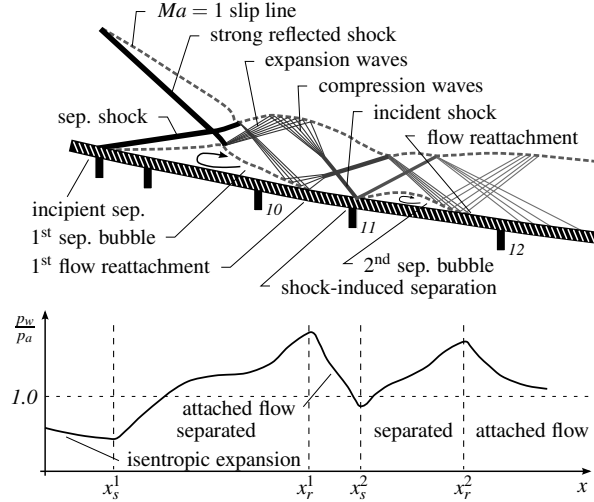


Figure 1: Detailed overview of the RSS internal nozzle flow; a typical time-averaged wall pressure profile is indicated below, extracted from Baars et al (2012)

Studies that focus on internal SWBLI and shock-induced nozzle flow separation in high area ratio nozzles are sparse. Planar nozzle configurations are commonly found in the open literature, given the optical access afforded by having non-diverging walls. For example, a spark schlieren system coupled with dynamic wall and pitot probe pressure measurements have been used to visualize shock motion unsteadiness in planar nozzles, which was shown to increase in amplitude with increasing shock strength. Others have accompanied these measurements by constructing large-eddy simulations of the same flow to show how this low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness (in this planar nozzle) was driven by transonic resonance (Zaman et al, 2002). What is common about many of these planar nozzle studies is that there is just one single separation location, followed by a subsonic entrainment region. This subsonic separated flow region extends to the nozzle exit, and hence, is directly connected to the ambient fluid. In this work, we investigate SWBLI at the incipient separation shock that forms in an axisymmetric and high area ratio nozzle during a RSS state. Under these conditions, the downstream flow comprises both subsonic and supersonic annular separation bubbles which are expected to suppress the mechanism responsible for the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness associated with transonic resonance.

Ideally, one wishes to correlate their findings with those reported in the open literature. Given the complexity of these kinds of flows, this requires an agreed upon set of parameters, which are often difficult to accurately assess (given the limitations with current state-of-the-art experimental tools or high fidelity simulations). Even with simple two-dimensional compression ramps or flat plate geometries, significant discrepancies between the dominant low-frequency shock motion and the characteristic high-frequency content corresponding to the radiation of the turbulent boundary layer have been observed. Plausible explanations continue to be a topic of scientific interest, a discussion of which can be found in the published reviews by Dolling (2001) and Clemens and Narayanaswamy (2014). Studies that consider the effect of the upstream flow on SWBLIs include the work of Beresh et al (2002), Ganapathisubramani et al (2009), Humble et al (2009) while the influence that the downstream flow might have on SWBLI unsteadiness is outlined in detail by Erengil and Dolling (1991), Thomas et al (1994), Dupont et al (2006), Piponniau et al (2009), Wu and Martín (2008), Priebe and Martín (2012), and the references therein. Nevertheless, where the characteristic frequency of the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness is concerned, it is known to reside within a Strouhal number range of $St_{L_i} = (f_c)_{\max} L_i / U_\infty \approx 0.01 - 0.03$ for flat plate, zero-pressure

gradient turbulent boundary layers. L_i is defined as the length of the intermittent region and $(f_c)_{\max}$ is the maximum zero-crossing frequency (average number of shock foot passes per unit time) in the intermittent region. Here, we are experimentally handicapped by the geometry of our nozzle, and so we are unable to resolve the incoming boundary layer fluctuations. This limits our ability to correlate the upstream flow with the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness measured by way of high speed wall pressure sensors. Thus, because L_i is not available, we will resort to the dimensionless expressions determined from the Mach 2 compression ramp study of Ganapathisubramani et al (2009). In this, they show that the most energetic unsteadiness is in the band $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.008 - 0.025$; note that δ_0 , the incoming boundary layer thickness, is used as the length scale as opposed to the length of the intermittent region. Also, u_e is the boundary layer edge velocity, which would equal the free-stream velocity U_∞ in the case of external flows. In doing so, a framework for characterizing shock wave boundary layer interactions, that form in high area ratio three-dimensional nozzles comprising large favorable pressure gradients (FPG), is established.

An outline of this report is as follows. The experimental campaign is described in § 2 with an emphasis on the unsteadiness associated with both stationary and non-stationary operations of the nozzle. Stationary operations of the nozzle are used to examine the incipient separation shock, as well as various points along the wall downstream of this shock, during the RSS state only. A conditional averaging approach is used to process unsteady wall pressure measurements corresponding to a single, constant NPR cases. In doing so, stationary SWBLI is examined in § 3 whereby the unsteady characteristics of the incipient separation shock are superposed on a steady mean. In § 4, the nozzle is operated in a transient manner in order to elucidate non-stationary SWBLI phenomena; non-stationary SWBLIs are much more relevant to real rocket engine operations, considering the ignition process that occurs on launch pads. Thus, the shock pattern varies in strength and structure when moving through the nozzle, and so, the unsteadiness is superposed on a non-stationary and transient mean flow. Because of the limitations with conventional spectral analyses, when analyzing non-stationary data, this study utilizes a time-frequency approach in order to preserve the spectral behavior of the non-stationary signal.

2 Experimental campaign

2.1 Hardware and instrumentation

Experiments were conducted in the fully anechoic chamber and open-jet facility at The University of Texas at Austin (for details see Baars and Tinney, 2013). The axisymmetric TOP contoured nozzle (Ruf et al, 2010) shown in Fig. 2, served as the platform for studying SWBLIs inside axisymmetric geometries experiences strong FPG. The nozzle has a throat radius of $r^* = 19.05$ mm, an exit-to-throat area-ratio of 38 (design exit Mach number of $M_d = 5.58$), and an exit plane located at $x/r^* = 18.40$. A schematic of the nozzle and plenum is shown in Fig. 3a, alongside a profile of the nozzle's interior surface in Fig. 3c. Static wall pressures were measured using 32 ports ($\phi 1.10$ mm thru hole) with an equidistant axial spacing of $\Delta x/r^* = 0.45$. These ports were oriented in a zig-zag fashion in the axial direction around $\theta = 100^\circ$, and spanned the range $x/r^* = [3.85, 17.80]$, as is shown by the white pressure tubing in Fig. 2. Two Scanivalve DSA3218 modules with 50 psia ($\pm 0.05\%$ FS) range pressure sensors were connected to these 32 ports and recorded the static pressure at a rate of 440 Hz.

Two curvilinear arrays of Kulite XT-140 dynamic pressure transducers were employed to sense the fluctuating wall pressure, which are identified by the white electric wiring in Fig. 2. The arrays were positioned at $\theta = 90^\circ$ and 180° and encompassed 12 transducers each; their locations are indicated in Fig. 3c and are further referred to as x_j , $j = 1 \dots 12$. These Kulite transducers comprise a dynamic range of 100 psia ($\pm 0.1\%$ FS with infinitesimal resolution) and were installed in the nozzle such that their protective B-type

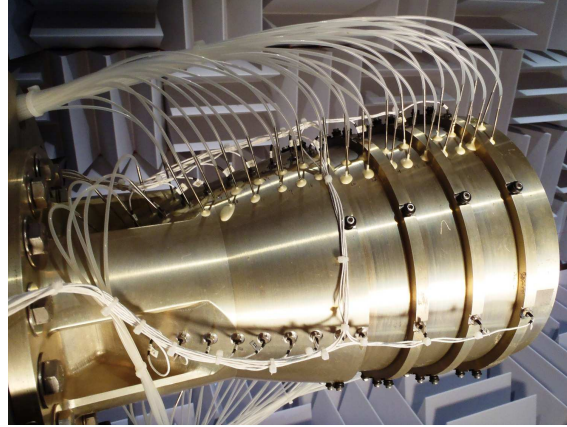


Figure 2: Instrumented TOP nozzle installed in the fully anechoic chamber at The University of Texas at Austin

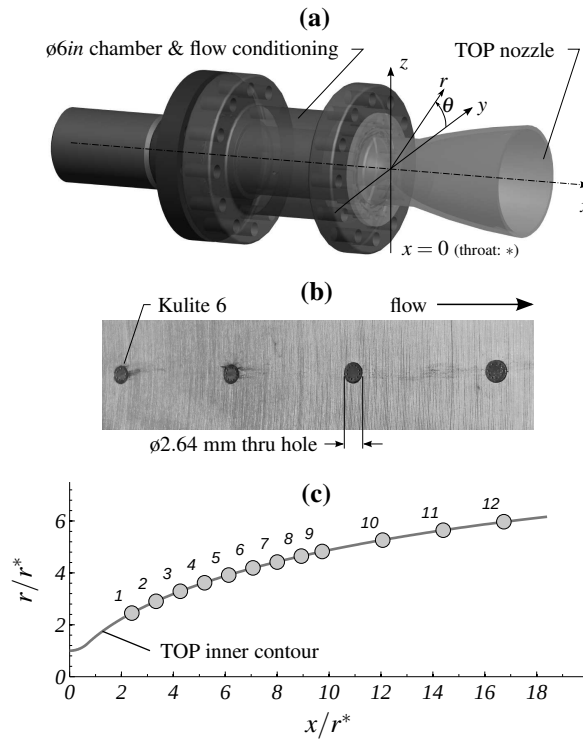


Figure 3: **a** Schematic of the nozzle set-up with coordinate system. **b** Detailed photo of flush-mounted Kulite XT-140 transducers. **c** Locations of Kulites in the curvilinear array

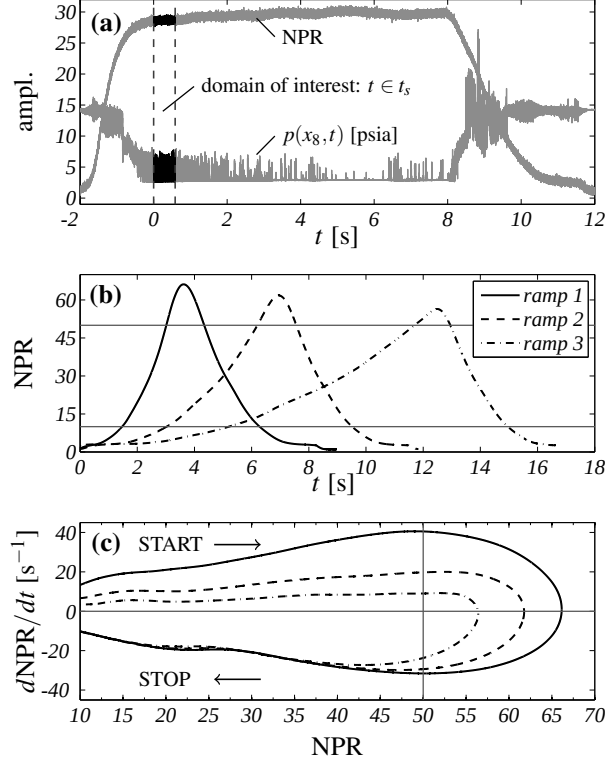


Figure 4: **a** NPR trend and dynamic wall pressure during fixed NPR operation. **b** NPR curves during ramp 1 to 3 for start-up & shut-down. **c** Ramp rate as function of NPR for ramp 1 to 3, a ramp rate of $dNPR/dt = 20 \text{ s}^{-1}$ corresponds to a non-dimensional ramp rate of $(L/a^*)dNPR/dt = 2.3 \cdot 10^{-2}$

screens, with 2.62 mm outside diameter, were flush with the interior surface (Fig. 3b). These screens limit the effective frequency response up to 20 kHz. Therefore, all 24 channels were sampled simultaneously at a rate of $f_s = 40 \text{ kHz}$ using a NI PXI based system.

2.2 Flow conditions

Nozzle pressure ratios were regulated using a control valve located well upstream of the settling chamber and downstream of pressurized tanks that stored unheated air at a maximum pressure of 140 atm. Ambient temperature, ambient pressure, total temperature inside the settling chamber, and relative humidity were recorded as $T_\infty = 294.0 \text{ K}$, $p_\infty = 100.5 \text{ kPa}$, $T_0 = 285 \text{ K}$ and $RH = 32\%$, respectively. Under these conditions, the velocity at the nozzle throat is valued at $a^* = 308.9 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ using isentropic flow equations.

The analysis in this manuscript corresponds to two operating scenarios (visualized in Fig. 4) that govern: 1) a fixed NPR condition and 2) a set of transient NPR conditions. The fixed NPR case provides insight into the wall pressure unsteadiness that forms during steady operations of the nozzle. The NPR operating curve of a typical experiment lasting ~ 14 seconds is shown in Fig. 4a. Only the time domain $t \in t_s$ is considered (highlighted in black) and has a steady operating condition of $NPR = 28.7$; more details on this are provided in § 3. In addition, the unsteady wall pressure signal at location x_8 is shown, and exhibits features of shock crossings and shock motion unsteadiness due to it being located in the intermittent region of the initial separation shock.

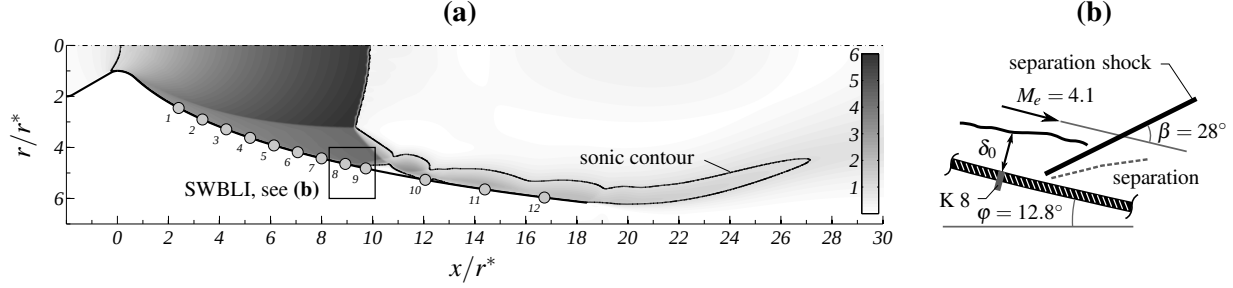


Figure 5: **a** Mach number contour from the RANS model at $\text{NPR} = 28.7$. **b** Detail of the SWBLI at the incipient separation

For transient conditions, three separate runs are considered which contain both start-up and shut-down sequences. Figs. 4b and 4c show the NPR trends of these three runs; denoted as ramps 1, 2 and 3. While shut-down rates are indistinguishable, start-up rates were designed to be different and are lower for each subsequent ramp number. Analyses of non-stationary SWBLIs that occur during these transients can be found in § 4.

2.3 Boundary layer characteristics

Several boundary layer parameters are of interest in this study as they provide a basic understanding of the incoming flow immediately above the surface where the SWBLI phenomenon is studied. This is required in order to correlate our findings to those reported in the open literature. Given the unavailability of flow measurements at this time, these parameters are provided by way of a steady Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) model. This RANS computation utilized the Loci-Chem code with an axisymmetric and steady-state analysis comprising unheated air as the fluid medium. The Mentor baseline turbulence model was implemented, which encompasses a blending of the κ - ϵ and κ - ω models, as well as a compressibility correction. The computational mesh comprised ~ 40 cells within the viscous sublayer with the first cell residing at $y^+ \approx 1$. Thus, no boundary layer characteristics were assumed *a priori* in this simulation. Wall pressure profiles from the simulation were shown to compare remarkably well to the measurements performed in the UT-Austin facility; see Donald et al. (2014) for a discussion of the RANS validation. The steady-state RANS model constructed here was computed at $\text{NPR} = 28.7$ in order to match the stationary, non-transient, experimental case. Mach number contours are shown in Fig. 5a and illustrate that the flow is in RSS state. The incipient separation shock resides around location x_8 and is consistent with the static wall pressure profiles measured in the laboratory (see Fig. 8 on subsequent pages) thereby providing additional confidence in this RANS simulation.

Wall-normal velocity profiles were extracted from the RANS model at 200 equally spaced axial locations, ranging from $x = 0$ to $x = x_8$. Given the changing curvature of the wall, the local wall-tangential velocity was taken along wall-normal profiles using $u = \sqrt{u_x^2 + u_r^2}$, where u_x and u_r are axial and radial velocities, respectively. The boundary layer thickness δ , based on 99% of the local free-stream velocity, was extracted to produce the normalized growth profile shown in Fig. 6a. Subscripts ‘e’ and ‘w’ indicate conditions at the boundary layer edge and wall, respectively. Wall-normal profiles of velocity and Mach number at location x_8 are shown in Fig. 6b using inner-scaling on both axes. Velocity and the wall-normal coordinate are made dimensionless using $u^+ = u(y^+)/u_\tau$ and $y^+ = y'u_\tau/\nu_w$, respectively, where $\nu_w = \mu_w/\rho_w = 2.435 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ and is the kinematic viscosity at the wall computed through Suther-

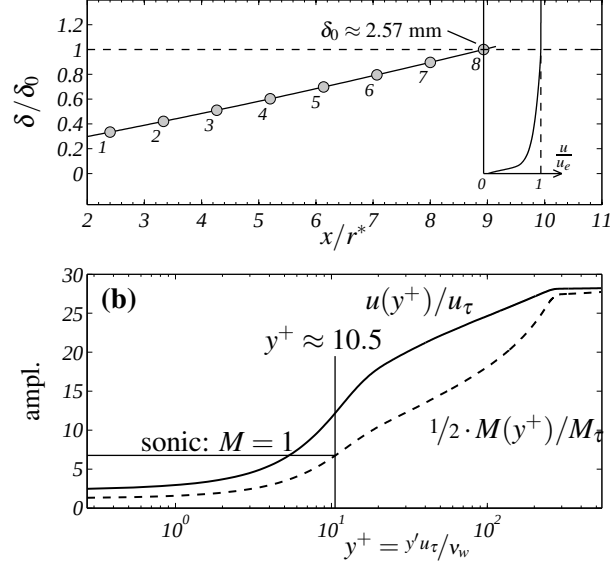


Figure 6: **a** Boundary layer thickness δ/δ_0 as function of axial distance where δ_0 is the thickness at location x_8 and is valued at ≈ 2.57 mm. **b** Boundary layer profiles of velocity (u^+) and Mach number (M^+) using inner scales with $u_\tau = 25.7 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and $M_\tau = 0.074$

land's law (local thermodynamic equilibrium) from the local wall temperature T_w . The friction velocity $u_\tau = \sqrt{\tau_w/\rho_w}$ is obtained by computing the skin-friction from the derivative of the linear velocity profile at the wall, *e.g.* $\tau_w = \mu_w \partial u / \partial y'$. This resulted in a skin-friction valued at $\tau_w = 50.4 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$, a friction velocity of $u_\tau = 25.7 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and a friction Mach number of $M_\tau = u_\tau / \sqrt{\gamma R T_w} = 0.074$. It can be assumed that the incoming boundary layer at x_8 is turbulent since the viscous linear region and the logarithmic overlap region are clearly distinguishable with the sonic line residing in the inner region of the boundary layer. It is important to point out that an attempt was made to correct for wall curvature (Fernholz and Warnack, 1998), compressibility effects (van Driests effective velocity) and pressure gradient (Karman-type closure that relates Coles wake parameter to Clausers equilibrium pressure gradient parameter using the polynomial expression of Das (1987) for non-equilibrium flows) in order to better correlate our findings with those of the zero pressure gradient flat plate studies. The effort proved unsuccessful given the strong changing pressure gradient that forms in these kinds of flows. Thus there is a clear deficiency in our understanding of how large pressure gradients influence the development of supersonic boundary layer flows.

The local free-stream velocity, Mach number and boundary layer thickness are assessed from the RANS model and used to compute a SWBLI characteristic frequency. The values are tabulated in table 1 at four axial locations ($x_3 - x_5$, x_8) and will be relevant to subsequent analyses in § 3 and § 4. The Reynolds number based on δ (defined as $Re_\delta = u_e \delta / \nu_e$), is also provided. As for Reynolds number based on friction velocity, this is computed using the δ_0 at x_8 and is found to be $Re_\tau = \delta_0 u_\tau / \nu_w = 271$. Given the roughness of the nozzle's interior surface (around $100 \mu\text{m}$), the boundary layer in the supersonic part of the nozzle is believed to have transitioned naturally early on and to have developed under near-adiabatic wall temperature conditions.

A schematic of the stationary SWBLI of the incipient separation shock, whose intermittent region resides around location x_8 , is shown in Fig. 5b. As mentioned earlier, the incoming boundary layer thickness at this location is $\delta_0 \approx 2.57$ mm, the local Mach number is $M_e(x_8) = 4.1$, the local velocity is

Table 1: Outer scaling variables of the boundary layer obtained from the RANS simulation visualized in Fig. 5

loc.	M_e	u_e [ms ⁻¹]	δ [mm]	u_e/δ [kHz]	Re_δ
x_3	3.37	690	1.31	527	$5.4 \cdot 10^4$
x_4	3.54	695	1.55	449	$7.0 \cdot 10^4$
x_5	3.69	706	1.79	394	$8.0 \cdot 10^4$
x_8	4.07	725	2.57	282	$9.5 \cdot 10^4$

$u_e(x_8) = 725 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, and the annular separation shock is inclined at an angle of about $\beta = 28^\circ$ with respect to the wall. The latter is measured from density and temperature contours extracted from the RANS model since the separation shock expresses itself as a sharp discontinuity within these contours. Given these parameters, it is estimated that our dynamic wall pressure measurements at location x_8 are resolving fluctuations up to a non-dimensional frequency of $\tilde{f}_r = f_s/2 \cdot \delta_0/u_e = 0.071$. For zero pressure gradient boundary layer flows, Ganapathisubramani et al (2009) has shown how the large-scale unsteadiness associated with low-frequency shock motion is of the order of $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.008 - 0.025$. While the current study encompasses an incoming boundary layer that experiences a strongly favorable pressure gradient, has wall curvature with surface roughness, the findings from the zero pressure gradient boundary layer flows should provide some reasonable guidance. And so, while it is impossible to accurately resolve the full spectrum of scales at this location ($\tilde{f}_r \gg 1$) due to transducer size, transducer sensitivity and the upper limit of the resolved frequencies (severe spatial and temporal filtering, see Smits and Dussauge, 2006), the large-scale unsteadiness can still be studied.

3 Stationary SWBLI

In this section, the low-frequency unsteadiness encountered during stationary SWBLI is described. In particular, we focus on the unsteady behavior of the shock foot, as well as conditional features immediately following it. We begin with a description of the internal nozzle flow in § 3.1. Hereafter, in § 3.2, the shock motion unsteadiness is studied through variable-window conditional averaging.

3.1 Flow details

A more detailed inspection of Fig. 4a is shown in Fig. 7 to explain how the data was acquired and subsequently analyzed. Only a portion of the experimental run with a fixed NPR operating condition was selected. Based on a window-averaged intermittency (fraction of time that the shock foot is upstream of the location of observation; in this case location x_8), a section of data could be selected that comprised near-stationary operating conditions. From Fig. 7c it can be seen that the window-averaged intermittency, for $t \in [0, 0.58] \text{ s}$, fluctuated around the mean with a maximum deviation of about 18%. And so, only this portion of the stationary data is used throughout this section. The resultant time-averaged NPR is $\langle \text{NPR} \rangle = 28.7$, with deviation bounds close to 1%, as indicated in Fig. 7a.

A comparison of the static wall pressure profile and the mean absolute pressure obtained from the dynamic transducers is shown in Fig. 8 (bottom). The shock wave pattern inferred from this wall pressure profile is also shown (top) which depicts a classical RSS structure comprising two trapped annular separa-

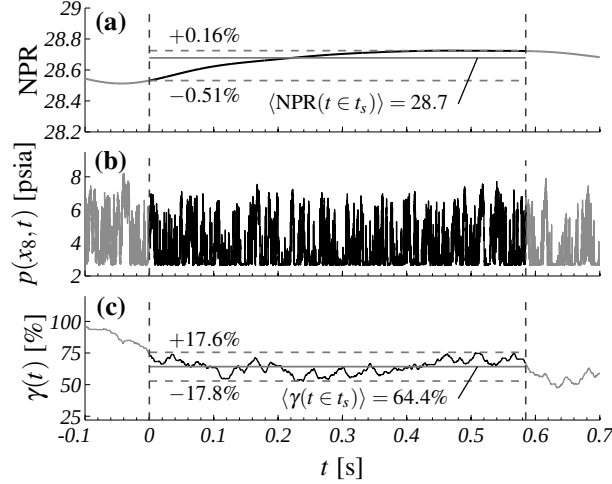


Figure 7: **a** NPR trend during fixed NPR operation of the nozzle; the mean NPR and maximum deviation bounds are indicated. **b** pressure time-series at location x_8 ; the signal is adjusted to account for small drift in NPR. **c** window-averaged intermittency of the pressure time-series at location x_8 ; window size of 75 ms

tion bubbles. The locations of the dynamic pressure transducers are shown (numbered 1 to 8 for $x_1 - x_8$) with x_8 residing in the intermittent region of the incipient separation shock. Transducers x_9 and x_{10} are located downstream in the separated region (indicated by two dashed vertical lines) while x_{11} is near the impingement of the incident shock (see Fig. 1).

Scalar statistics from the dynamic wall pressures are shown in Fig. 9 and comprise (from top to bottom) a dimensionless standard deviation (normalized by the wall pressure: σ_p/p_w), skewness of the pressure $S(p)$, and the Wave Steepening Factor (WSF). The latter is defined as the modulus of the average negative slope divided by the average positive slope in the pressure recording. The range of WSF is thus bounded by 0 and 1, where 1 corresponds to a harmonic wave (symmetric) and 0 to a sawtooth wave. As a consequence of x_8 being located in the intermittent region of the separation shock, $p(x_8)$ registers unsteady shock sweeps. Although the skewness is high during such events, as is expected, the WSF is relatively close to one: $\text{WSF}(p)|_{x_8} = 0.85$. This suggests that, on average, the shock is traveling slightly faster upstream than it is downstream as a value of zero or infinity would correspond to gross differences between upstream and downstream speeds of the shock motion over the transducer.

Shock motion unsteadiness appearing at location x_8 , and how that correlates with the downstream wall pressure, is now studied by conditionally averaging the pressure time series. Sample pressure time-series at $x_7 - x_{12}$ are first shown in Fig. 10, alongside their Probability Density Functions (PDFs) relative to a Gaussian (dashed line). It is well-known that large-scale fluctuations and fine-scale turbulence dominate the wall pressure footprint downstream and upstream of the shock foot, respectively (see § 1); this can be gleaned from the raw time series. As was apparent from § 3.1, the signal at x_8 is a manifestation of the wall pressure signatures that are being sensed both upstream and downstream of the separation shock foot. At instances when the foot is downstream of x_8 , the resolved range of unsteady pressure encompasses relatively small fluctuations whose mean pressure reflects that of an attached, supersonic, boundary layer. Conversely, when the shock foot is upstream, pressure recordings show large fluctuations that are characteristic of a separated flow. By visual inspection, one could see a high degree of correlation between pressure time series at x_8 and subsequent downstream locations ($x_9 - x_{11}$). Similar observations in the pressure recordings in the intermittent regions of SWBLIs associated with canonical compression ramps can be found in the literature (Erengil and Dolling, 1991).

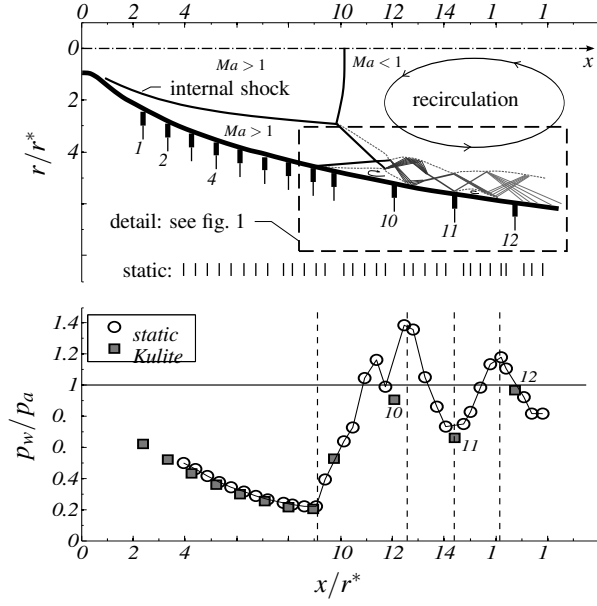


Figure 8: Illustration of the internal shock structure during RSS state in a TOP nozzle. Locations of the Kulites (numbered) and static pressure ports (vertical lines) are indicated and the associated static wall pressure profile is shown for the fixed NPR experiment

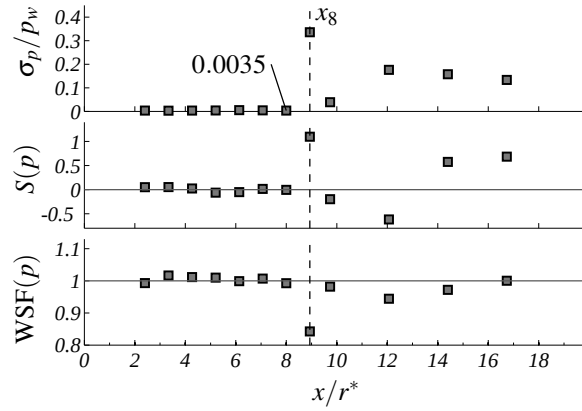


Figure 9: Scalar statistics of the dynamic wall pressures. From top to bottom: normalized standard deviation, skewness and the Wave Steepening Factor (WSF)

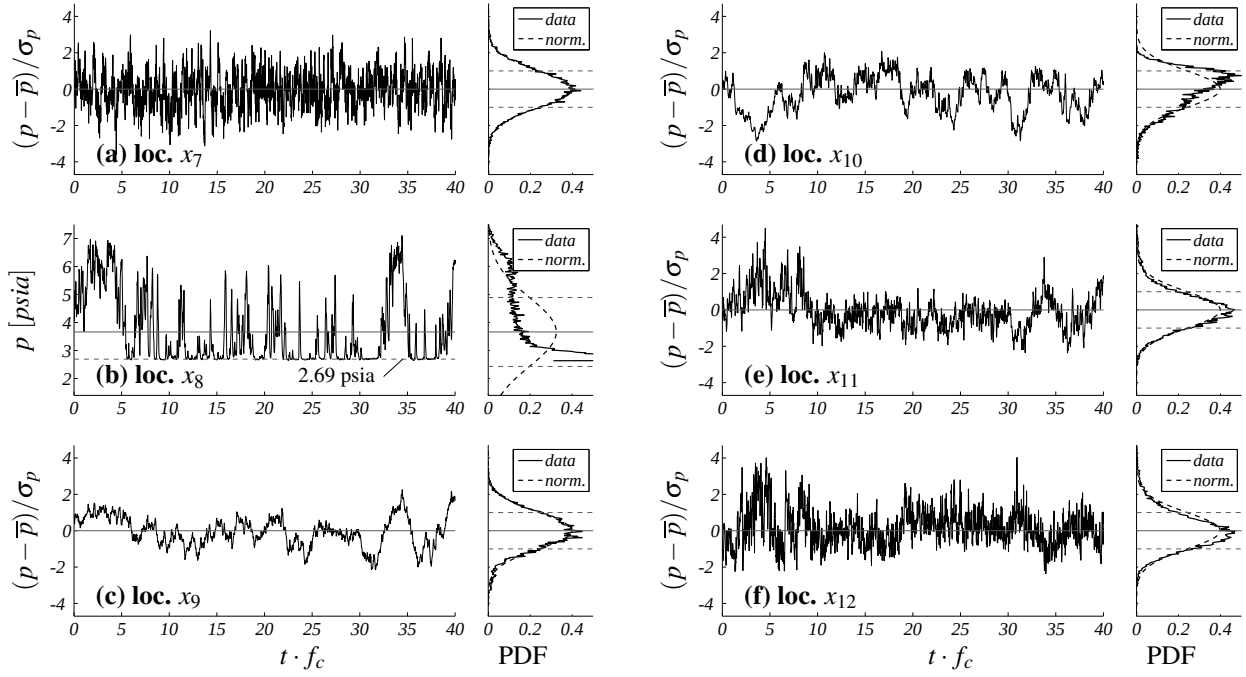


Figure 10: Time-synchronized wall pressure time series at location $x_7 - x_{12}$ with associated PDFs generated from from all stationary data: $t \in [0, 0.58]$ s. For reference, $t \cdot f_c = 40$ equals $t = 58.3$ ms or $tu_e/\delta_0 = 1.65 \cdot 10^4$ at location x_8 . Signals were high-pass filtered at 5 Hz and the pressure time series at x_8 (conditional point) is adjusted to account for small drifts in NPR

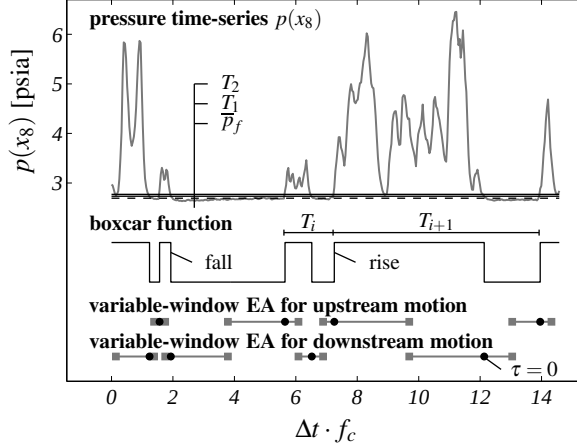


Figure 11: Illustration of the boxcar conversion technique and the variable-window ensemble averaging, following Erenil and Dolling (1991). Thresholds are taken as: $T_1 = \bar{p}_f + 3\sigma_p(x_7)$ and $T_2 = \bar{p}_f + 6\sigma_p(x_7)$

3.2 Variable-window conditional averaging

An assessment of the relationship between shock motion and wall pressure unsteadiness is now examined by exploiting a novel approach described by Dolling and Brusniak (1989). By determining instances in time when the shock foot moves over a transducer residing in the intermittent region (x_8), one can isolate signatures corresponding to either upstream or downstream motions of the shock foot; here we will choose to use x_8 as the conditional point. This approach is summarized in Fig. 11, which duplicates Fig. 3 of Erenil and Dolling (1991), and works as follows.

1. When the shock foot is downstream of x_8 , the pressure recording represents a locally undisturbed and attached turbulent boundary layer. By manually recording the mean pressure at these instances in time, a so-called pressure floor, at location x_8 and denoted as $\bar{p}_f$, is established.
2. Next, two thresholds are defined: $T_1 = \bar{p}_f + 3\sigma_p(x_7)$ and $T_2 = \bar{p}_f + 6\sigma_p(x_7)$, so that the pressure time-series $p(x_8)$ can be decomposed into regions where the separation shock foot is either upstream (boxcar function is on) or downstream of x_8 (boxcar function is off). That is, the boxcar function is switched on when $p(x_8) > T_2$ and switched off when $p(x_8) < T_1$. Thus, when a ‘rise’ of the boxcar function appears, the shock moves in the upstream direction over x_8 , and adversely, when a ‘fall’ is identified, the shock foot moves downstream. Note that these shock passages, either upstream or downstream, are the only pertinent time-scales of the shock motion unsteadiness that we consider in this work.
3. The shock zero-crossing frequency corresponding to the average rise- or fall-times in the pressure waveform can then be computed as

$$f_c = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N T_i} = \frac{1}{\langle T_i \rangle} = 686.1 \text{ Hz}, \quad (1)$$

with an intermittency factor γ , defined as the fraction of time that the shockfoot is upstream of x_8 , determined to be $\gamma = 64.4\%$ (also identified in Fig. 7c).

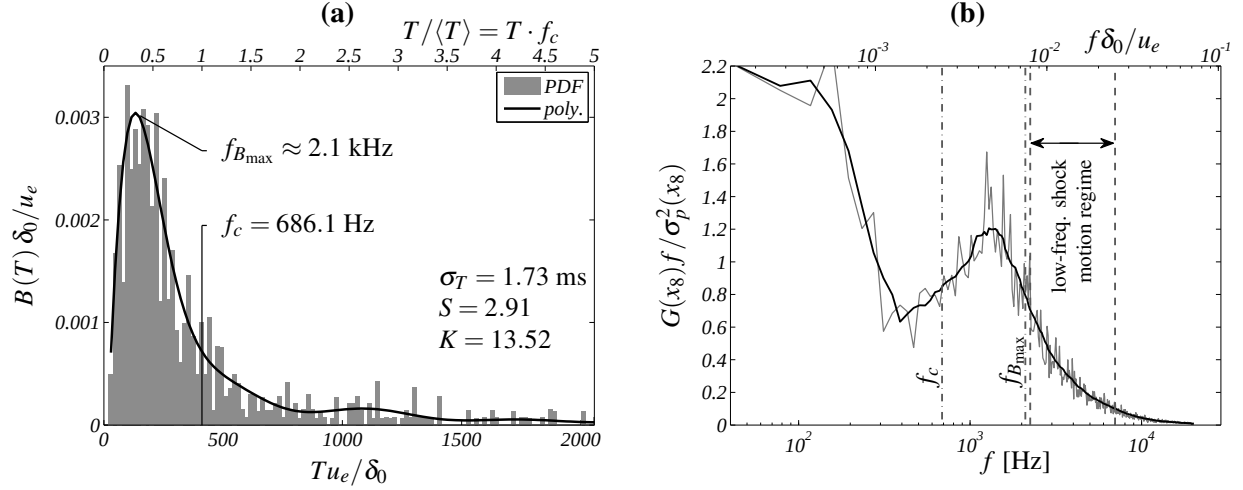


Figure 12: **a** Average PDF of the rise- and fall-intermittence created out of 396 shock passages. Note that the distribution does not fall in the category of a χ^2 , Rayleigh or Γ distribution. **b** PSD of pressure time-series at location x_8 , $\sigma_p^2(x_8) = 1.514 \text{ psia}^2$

Based on earlier studies by Thomas et al (1994) as well as simple observations, it can be seen that these shock passages are non-periodic in nature, and hence, the shock zero-frequency f_c has limited physical relevance to the shock motion unsteadiness. Therefore, an average PDF of the rise- and fall-intermittence (time between successive shock crossings) is overlaid a higher order polynomial approximation in Fig. 12a. The mean of this PDF is equal to the shock zero-crossing frequency, which, in normalized form, is equal to $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.0024$ ¹. The most probable frequency at which the shock crosses x_8 is equal to $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.008$ (peak of the PDF at 2.1 kHz). And so, a plausible shock crossing frequency is approximately three times the shock zero-crossing frequency. One can see that the PDF in Fig. 12a is highly skewed about the mean (skewness of $S = 2.91$ and kurtosis of $K = 13.52$); similar features have also been observed in low- and high-Mach-number compression ramp experiments (Thomas et al, 1994). The energy spectrum of the pressure time-series at x_8 is shown in Fig. 12b with two humps being manifest. The first resides at frequencies below 300 Hz ($f\delta_0/u_e < 0.001$), while the second comprises a peak centred around 1,300 Hz ($f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.004$). When we translate the first energetic peak (with a frequency of 150 Hz) to a timescale, we obtain $1/150 = 0.0067\text{s}$, or in non-dimensional form as $(t \cdot f_c)$ 4.6. This value agrees well with a direct inspection of the time-series in Fig. 10b when looking at possible zero crossings. Superposed on the low frequency shock motion is the higher-frequency, lower amplitude, content of 1,300 Hz and this is likely caused by boundary layer pressure fluctuations, which differs from the frequency associated with the axial fore and aft movement of the shock. The discrepancies between the humps in Fig. 12b and the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness identified during the 2D compression ramp study of Ganapathisubramani et al (2009) ($f_0/u_e \sim 0.008 - 0.025$) are attributed to the favourable pressure gradient of the incoming boundary layer, relative to the zero pressure gradient study of Ganapathisubramani et al (2009), and the additional surface roughness of this rough walled nozzle.

¹Note that the shock zero-crossing frequency is not equal to the mean frequency of shock oscillations.

3.2.1 Pressure time histories

Following the procedure outlined by Erengil and Dolling (1991) and illustrated in Fig. 11, conditional time histories of the fluctuating wall pressure at locations $x_8 - x_{12}$ are shown in Fig. 13. As the number of samples between successive upstream or downstream motions increases, the number of ensembles that one can average over decreases, as demonstrated in Fig. 13a. This quantitative analysis shows how motions of the incipient separation shock and pressure fluctuations in the separated region downstream ($x_9 - x_{10}$) are out of phase; the pressure decreases when the shock moves downstream and vice versa. This result is indicative of a long intermittent region (in terms of δ), since the out-of-phase behaviour can be explained by translating the static wall pressure profile along with the shock motion. Interestingly, the results contradict the behaviors seen in bounded separation bubbles that form just downstream of the shock foot in front of canonical compression ramps (Erengil and Dolling, 1991) where shock motion and pressure experience an in-phase relationship. Additional measurements are required to determine if our observations are indeed the result of more extensive motions of the shock foot (i.e. the shock foot is not anchored to a geometric feature inside the smooth expanding nozzle contour, as opposed to a compression ramp or blunt fin in the case of classical SWBLI studies reported in the literature). A densely spaced stream wise array of pressure transducers in the intermittent region would reveal this behaviour in more detail, but ideally, internal flow measurements would provide much more meaningful results; internal flow measurements are currently unavailable at this time.

As for the transducers located at x_9 (Fig. 13c) and x_{11} (Fig. 13e) the ensemble averaged pressure time series at these locations manifest a high degree of similarity. Location x_{11} seems to be just downstream of the stream wise point where the incident shock impinges on the wall and re-separates the flow. The pressure time-series $p(x_{11})$, Fig. 10e, does not provide any indication that the incident shock is moving downstream of x_{11} , as that would result in a low-amplitude signal resembling an attached supersonic boundary layer. Therefore, the pressure time histories at x_{11} show that the pressure fluctuations in the second separation bubble are in-phase with pressure fluctuations in the first separation bubble, and hence out-of-phase with the motion of the incipient separation shock foot. This implies that the shock system drawn in Figs. 1 and 8, moves unsteadily in a rigid fashion and at relatively low-frequencies.

Moving now to the pressure time histories at location x_{12} , no significant correlation between the attached supersonic flow and the motion of the separation shock is observed. This is not surprising given the levels of energy in the low-frequency pressure fluctuations of the attached boundary layer at x_{12} , as well as the deterioration of the correlation by the two upstream shocks, regions of separated flow, and flow reattachment.

4 Non-stationary SWBLI

Having now established an understanding for the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness in this axisymmetric nozzle during stationary operations, we turn our attention to transient start-ups and shut-downs. In this case, the unsteadiness of the shock system is superposed on a non-stationary, transient mean which cannot be decoupled. Hence, conventional spectral analyses techniques are no longer suitable due to the non-stationary character of the data. We begin this section by reviewing some of the flow features that form during transient start-ups and shut-downs of this nozzle in § 4.1, followed by an overview of time-frequency analysis in § 4.2. In § 4.3, we focus our attention on transient sweeps of the shock foot -or SWBLI- over location x_8 in order to compare the behavior of the shock foot unsteadiness during transient operations to those that form during the non-transient operations discussed in § 3.2. In closing, the effect that the transient start-up rate has on the low-frequency unsteadiness exerted on the global system is then described in § 4.4.

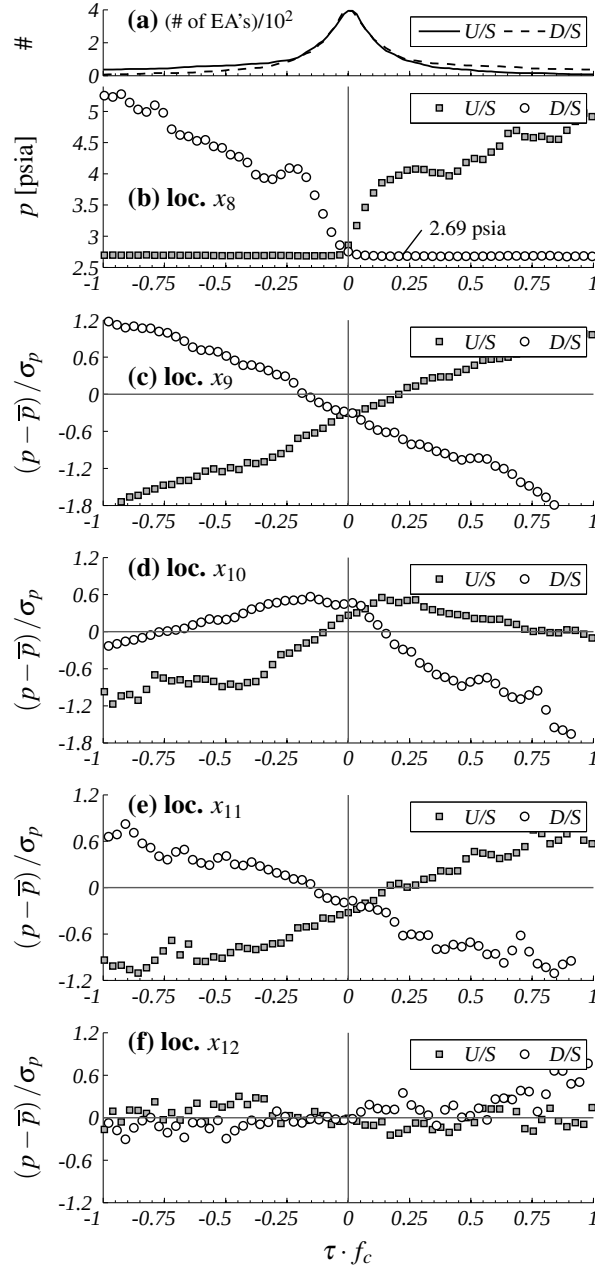


Figure 13: Ensemble-averaged pressure histories at location $x_8 - x_{12}$ (a-f) for upstream (U/S) and downstream (D/S) shock motions; x_8 is the conditional point. For clarity, temporal points are shown with half the available resolution

4.1 Temporal inspection

By operating the nozzle in a transient manner, the shock system varies in strength and structure as it sweeps along the nozzle wall. Sample time-series of all twelve dynamic transducers at location x_1 to x_{12} are presented in Fig. 14b for the second ramping case shown in Fig. 4b. Initially, the internal flow exhibits a FSS state whereby a single separation shock sweeps over locations x_1 to x_5 in a staggered sense. A sweeping of the intermittent region over locations x_3 , x_4 and x_5 are highlighted by windows A, B, and C, respectively, and will be used for subsequent analyses in § 4.2. While operating in a FSS state, all downstream transducers record pressure fluctuations associated with the subsonically entrained flow. At a NPR of 24.3, the flow state transitions from FSS to RSS whereby the subsonic entrained flow gives way to intense pressure fluctuations associated with expansion and compression waves that bound separation bubbles. As the shock pattern pushes out of the nozzle, intense wall pressure fluctuations form at locations x_{11} and x_{12} and is caused by the intermittent relief of pressure that occurs when the first bubble opens up to atmosphere; this is known as the ‘end-breathing effect’. For this particular ramp, the incipient separation shock foot resides between x_{10} and x_{11} when the maximum NPR of approximately 60 is reached at $t = 4.2$ s. During shut-down, a hysteresis phenomenon occurs whereby the RSS to FSS transition appears around $\text{NPR} \approx 9.6$ (Frey and Hagemann, 2000; Ruf et al, 2009).

4.2 Time-frequency analysis

A time-frequency analyses of the fluctuating wall pressure is performed in a similar fashion as Baars and Tinney (2013) in order to view the spectral properties of the wall pressure data as a function of time. The process works by convolving a mother wavelet ψ with the fluctuating wall pressure $p(x_j, t)$ at location x_j thereby producing complex-valued wavelet coefficients according to

$$\tilde{p}(x_j; l, t) = \int p(x_j, t') \psi^* \left(\frac{t' - t}{l} \right) dt, \quad (2)$$

where l is a time-scale of the predefined wavelet. The convolution is performed in the frequency domain to increase processing time and is repeated for various wavelet time-scales l . Each wavelet time-scale can be transformed to an equivalent Fourier frequency f , and so, the fluctuating wall pressure is decomposed in time-frequency space. For the purposes of this study, we are interested in the energy density, known as the Wavelet Power Spectrum (WPS), which is taken as

$$E(x; l, t) = \frac{|\tilde{p}(x; l, t)|^2}{l}, \quad (3)$$

and is then converted to Fourier frequency to obtain the double-sided WPS, denoted as $E(x; f, t)$. The current application comprises a resolved band of frequencies ranging from 10 Hz to $f_s/2$, spaced uniformly in a logarithmic frame using 81 frequency scales. Two mother wavelets are employed and are the Morlet and Mexican hat wavelets, which are formulated in Eqs. (4a) and (4b), respectively.

$$\psi(t/l) = e^{j\omega_\psi t/l} e^{-|t/l|^2/2}, \quad (4a)$$

$$\psi(t/l) = (1 - |t/l|^2) e^{-|t/l|^2/2}. \quad (4b)$$

The Morlet wavelet is a harmonic wave (non-dimensional frequency taken as $|\omega_\psi| = 6$) modulated by a Gaussian function, whereas the Mexican hat wavelet is the 2nd derivative of a Gaussian. The implications on the time- and frequency-resolution of the WPS is discussed extensively in the literature. For transients

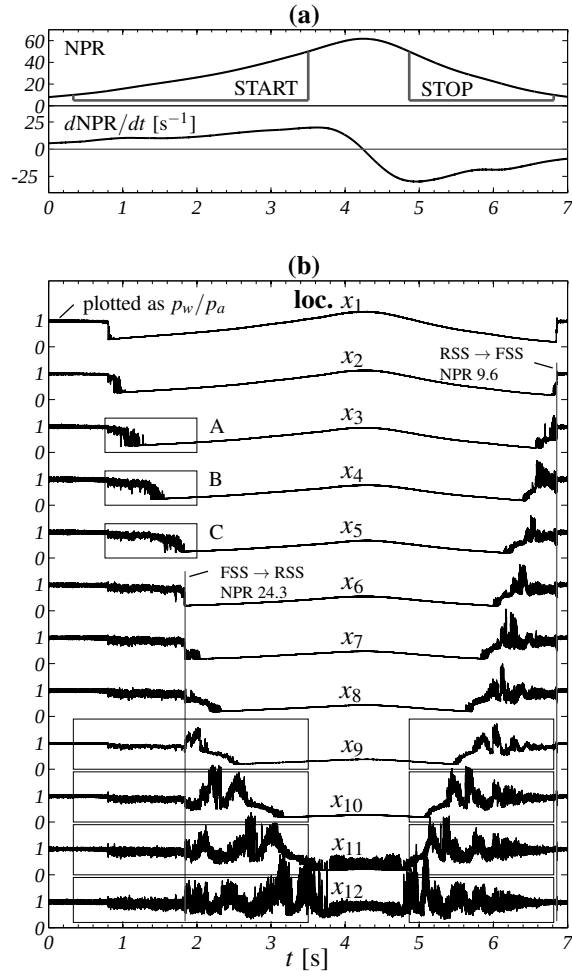


Figure 14: **a** NPR trend of ramp 2. **b** Pressure time-series at location x_1 to x_{12} during start-up and shut-down of ramp 2

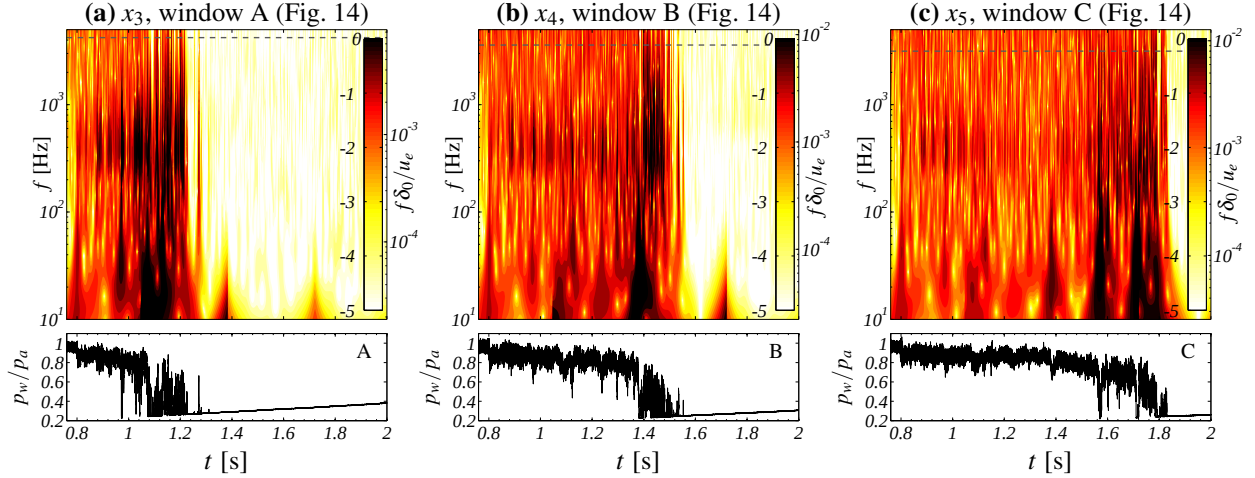


Figure 15: Pre-multiplied Mexican hat WPS, contour is $\log_{10}(E(x_j; f, t) \cdot f)$ in $[\text{psia}^2]$, for the pressure time-series that include the FSS shock foot sweep at location **a** x_3 , **b** x_4 and **c** x_5 . The raw time signal is synchronously shown. Note that time is not normalized. Frequency is shown in normalized form on the right ordinate; u_e/δ_0 , and values for frequency normalization are indicated in table 1. The lower threshold for stationary low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness is shown by the horizontal dashed line at $f\delta_0/u_e = 0.008$. Discontinuities in the WPS are caused by the plotting style, since WPS are down-sampled in time due to memory constraints (global features do not change)

that encompass small time-scales, the time-averaged double sided wavelet spectra can be resourceful and is calculated using $\bar{E} = 1/T \int_T E dt$, where T is the time-domain over which the averaging is performed. As for stationary signals, the single-sided global wavelet spectrum (time-average spectrum of the complete signal) compares well with a filtered Fourier spectrum: $G(x_j; f) = 2 \cdot \bar{E}(x_j; f)$.

Turning one's attention to the energy content in the pressure time-series at locations x_3 , x_4 and x_5 , this comprises sweep-overs of the incipient separation shock (FSS state). The pressure time-series were shown in Fig. 14b with three domains of interest, highlighted by windows A, B and C, comprising sweep-overs of the intermittent region. The Mexican hat WPS² are shown directly above the raw pressure time series in Fig. 15. It is important to mention that no corresponding stationary data is available at these locations, i.e. no data is accessible when the nozzle is operated at a fixed NPR at which the intermittent region of the shock foot is centred around one of these locations; in § 4.3, the sweep of the incipient separation shock foot over location x_8 is considered, for which a stationary counterpart is available for comparison. Nonetheless, it is evident that the energy resides within two frequency bands during these sweeps. The first coincides with a sweeping of the intermittent region and resides at very low frequencies (10-50 Hz). This is a consequence of gross changes to the mean wall pressure during the shock sweep, which is most significant in Figs. 15a, b and c around 1.2, 1.4 and 1.7 seconds, respectively. The duration of these sweeps comprises time scales on the order of 0.1 – 0.4 s which correlates well with the increased low-frequencies that the wavelet spectra manifest. And so, this low frequency unsteadiness is due to changes in the mean wall pressure, as oppose to shock intermittence. The second high-energy band resides around 500 Hz, or a dimensionless frequency of $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.001$. Changes in the boundary layer parameters are too subtle during these snippets of time

²Overlapping signal partitions of $N = 2^{14}$ samples are transformed. The regions inside the cone of influence, for 10 Hz $< f < f_s/2$, are presented in a continuous fashion throughout the article.

and so the y-axis scale is made dimensionless by assuming the values in Table 1 to be constant.

4.3 Transient sweeps of SWBLIs over location x_8

In an effort to isolate the effects that large transient flow motions have on SWBLI, the pressure footprint registered at x_8 is analysed during a sweeping of the intermittent region associated with the incipient separation shock. It is clear from Fig. 14 that the internal nozzle flow transitions to a RSS state before the incipient shock foot reaches x_8 . And so, it is important to realize that we only focus on very localized unsteady features at the nozzle wall (location x_8 during the sweep of one shock foot) while the nozzle wall is concurrently exposed to a tremendous amount of unsteadiness exerted by the entire RSS shock train. Furthermore, while Fig. 14 only presents the time-series corresponding to ramp 2, it is in fact the case that for all other ramps, FSS $\rightarrow$ RSS transition occurs at similar NPRs and that global features of the pressure signatures are visually identical (Baars, Tinney and Ruf 2011).

Fig. 16 presents the sweep of the incipient separation shock foot’s intermittent region over location x_8 for all three ramps; WPS are shown in sub-figures (a), (c) and (e) with corresponding normalized pressure time-series $p(x_8, t)/p_a$ being shown in sub-figures (b), (d) and (f), respectively. Beginning with the pressure time series, they are shown to transition from experiencing a broad spectrum of high energy unsteadiness in the 1st separation bubble to relatively low-energetic activity, superposed sparsely distributed and large amplitude spikes associated with an attached boundary layer and a passing shock. The raw time-series demonstrate how a decreasing ramp rate causes more shock crossings during the sweep, which is expected, given the longer amount of time the transducer is exposed to the intermittent region (note that the abscissa on each plot does not span a similar time range).

As for the pre-multiplied Mexican hat WPS shown in sub-figures (a), (c) and (e), they are being presented with non-dimensional frequency on the right ordinate, and non-dimensional time on the top abscissa. Contour levels represent the pre-multiplied spectra, and are presented in a logarithmic fashion to account for the large range of energy scales. The cone of influence of the Mexican hat wavelet is also shown to illustrate the temporal domain influenced by each wavelet scale. For the third ramp, the Mexican hat WPS is re-shown in Fig. 17a where it is compared to the Morlet WPS in Fig. 17b. The differences expose themselves in the resolution of the wavelet spectra, but in general, are quite similar overall. When the intermittent region sweeps over this location, most of the energy is shown to reside with frequencies centered around 150 Hz (this corresponds to a non-dimensional frequency of $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.0005$).

A quantitative comparison between the peak-frequency of the non-stationary shock motion unsteadiness with what was observed during stationary conditions (Fig. 12b) is now made. Time-averaged WPS are evaluated over five non-overlapping windows in the intermittent region. These are denoted as I1 through I5 and span 0.02 s each. The individual window-averaged WPS are shown in Fig. 17e, as well as the resultant trend that one obtains by averaging over all windows (dashed black line). The ordinate on the left-hand side has been non-dimensionalized by the standard deviation of the stationary pressure time-series at location x_8 , as was used in Fig. 12b. The factor of two is incorporated as we are comparing these time-averaged WPS to the one-sided, pre-multiplied PSD in Fig. 12b; $2\overline{E}f/\sigma^2 = Gf/\sigma^2$ would have to hold if the signal used to generate $\overline{E}(x_8; f)$ would have been the non-transient, stationary signal. Given that the individual spectra corresponding to windows I1 to I5 are generated over a short temporal window length, it is not surprising that each individual spectrum looks different. That is, the features that appear in the window average spectra –centered around 150 Hz and 1,500 Hz– do not appear periodically in time. This is the case for most random stationary data, which necessitates ensemble averaging. For now, it is assumed that the average over all of the individual window spectra (dashed line in Fig. 17e) is converged and representative of the shock motion unsteadiness during non-stationary operation. Ideally, one would repeat the analysis

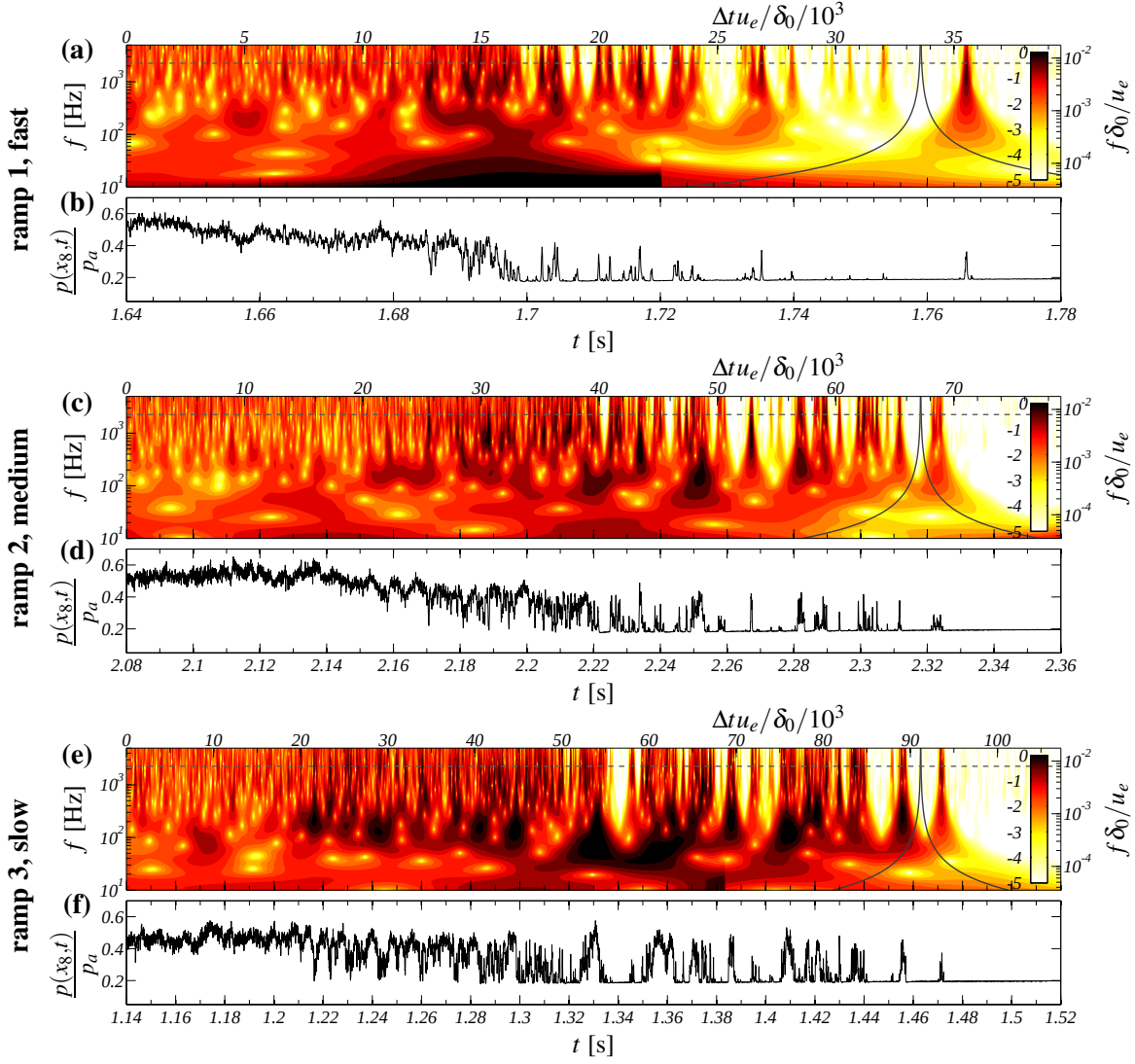


Figure 16: **a,c,e** Pre-multiplied Mexican hat WPS of the fluctuating wall pressure at location x_8 with contour levels defined as $\log_{10}(E(x_8; f, t) \cdot f)$ in $[\text{psia}^2]$ for **a** ramp 1, **b** ramp 2 and **c** ramp 3. **b,d,f** Raw pressure time-series $p(x_8, t)/p_a$ synchronously shown with the WPS. Normalized time is shown on the top abscissa of the WPS plot, and normalized frequency is shown on the right ordinate; values used for normalization are provided in table 1. The lower threshold for stationary low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness is shown by the horizontal dashed line at $f\delta_0/u_e \approx 0.008$. Discontinuities in the WPS are caused by the plotting style, since WPS are down-sampled in time due to memory constraints (global features do not change)

for many experimental runs and check that the spectrum is indeed converged and representative, however, this is practically challenging and costly. A comparison between the obtained wall pressure spectrum at location x_8 during stationary operation and the spectrum obtained during non-stationary operation is now shown in Fig. 18. When assembling this figure, the amplitude of the PSD of the stationary case was divided by a factor of 7.5. Also, the non-stationary spectrum is obtained via the wavelet-based time-frequency analysis and thus involved an implicit scale-filtering that makes it visually smooth. It can be seen how the energy content is similar for the stationary and non-stationary scenarios. These data suggest that the low-frequency shock motions, reflected in the spectra by a peak at 150 Hz, and the lower-amplitude fluctuations around 1,500 Hz, are present for both scenarios. Aside from the energized frequency bands, it is revealed that the energy amplitude during the non-stationary operation is reduced by a factor of 7.5, since the spectra collapse on the figure, where the stationary one is divided by 7.5 before plotting. Thus, this shows that during transient operation the pressure fluctuations associated with the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness are damped. Figs. 17 and 18 and the discussion above are only valid for the slowest ramp. Comparing this ramp to ramps 1 and 2 in Figs. 16a and 16c, respectively, the signal comprises less energy in the intermittent region. This demonstrates how the amount of unsteadiness that the system is exposed to during transient SWBLI depends significantly on the transient rate. The findings suggest that the local wall pressure unsteadiness becomes less pronounced when transient rates are increased. To summarize, during ramp 3, where the non-dimensional ramp rate at the moment that the intermittent region passes location x_8 is $(L/a^*)dNPR/dt = 0.7 \cdot 10^{-2}$, the energy is reduced by a factor of 7.5 compared to the stationary operating scenario, while for ramp 1 and 2 (non-dimensional ramp rates of $3.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$ and $1.5 \cdot 10^{-2}$, respectively) the amplitude decrease can not be defined since similar energetic features can not be identified. A future parametric study, comprising numerous repeated trials and various ramp rates would provide for statistically converged results capable of confirming the hypothesis that the energetic features of low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness reduce strongly in amplitude for increasing ramp rate.

4.4 Global influence of transient unsteadiness

In this last section, the integrated unsteadiness, or *global* unsteadiness, exerted by the internal flow topology on part of the nozzle's interior surface is studied for all three transients. The focus is to establish a single metric that is capable of quantifying the global unsteadiness acting on the system during transient operations. Earlier work by Baars and Tinney (2013) investigated the transient unsteadiness at two stream wise positions by taking the azimuthal three-dimensionality into account. Here, we only focus on the unsteadiness along the stream wise array of transducers in the aft section of the nozzle. It is assumed that three-dimensional effects are inherently included. We begin by presenting the unsteady behaviour at one stream wise location (x_{10}) in Fig. 18, with each column corresponding to each of the three ramps considered. The transient rate ($dNPR/dt$) is shown at the top of each column (similar to Fig. 4c) and is confined to a NPR range (for both start-up and shut-down) of $NPR = [10, 50]$. Start-up is denoted by 'START' with ΔT corresponding to the absolute time of the start-up through this NPR range. As for shut-down, denoted by 'STOP', time progresses from right to left, as indicated by the arrow. The normalized pressure time-series and the pre-multiplied Mexican hat WPS for both start-up and shut-down are also shown. The metric that we will use to characterize this global unsteadiness is obtained by simply integrating the wavelet spectrum, denoted as the total wavelet energy, according to,

$$E_W(x_j) = 2 \int_{10}^{f_{\max}} \left\{ \frac{1}{T} \int_T E(x_j; f, t) dt \right\} df, \quad (5)$$

where $f_{\max} = 5$ kHz. This metric represents the total energy exerted on transducer x_j per unit time and can be interpreted as the variance of the transient signal over the frequency range $10 \text{ Hz} < f < 5 \text{ kHz}$; a factor of

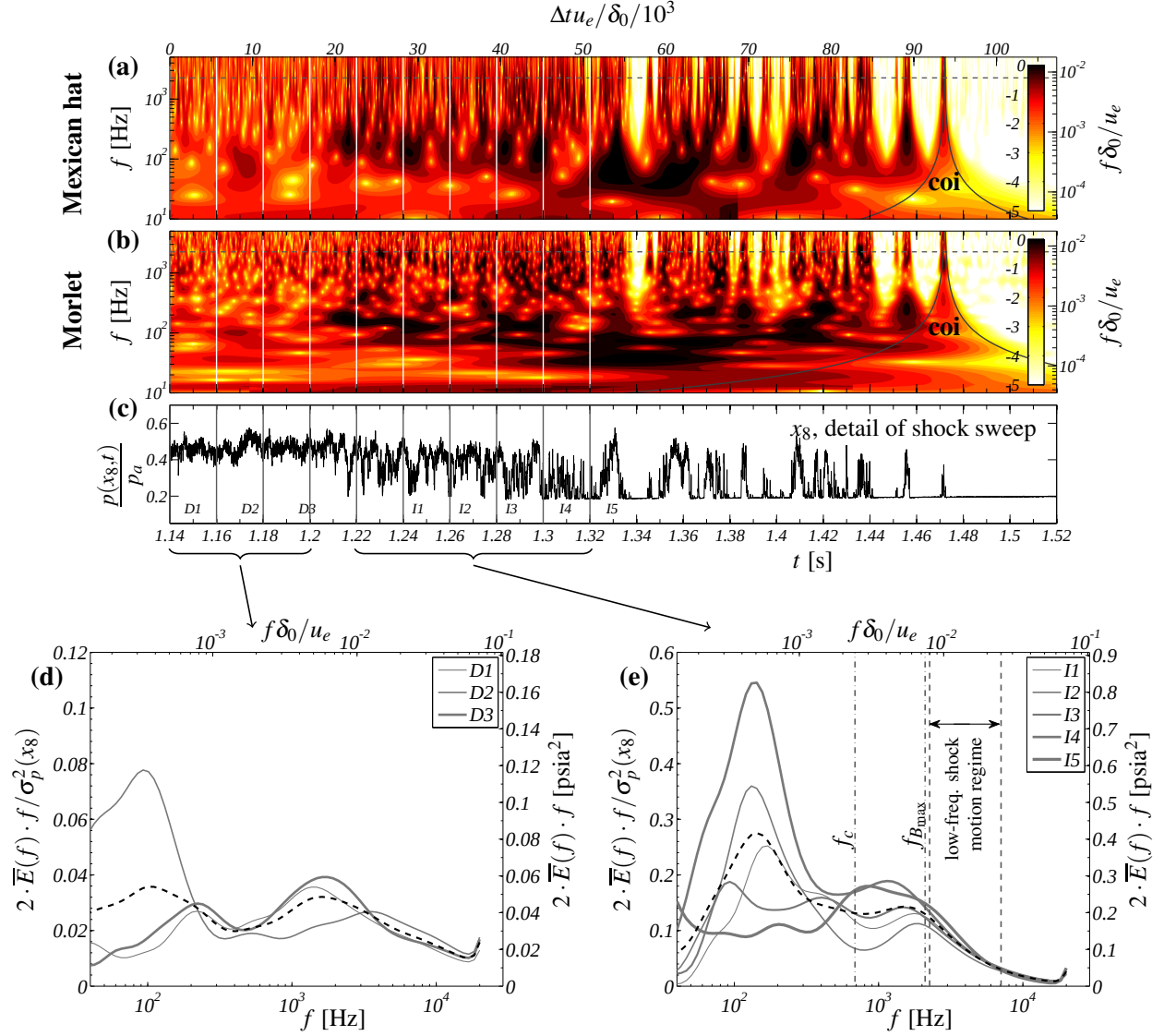


Figure 17: **a** Pre-multiplied Mexican hat and **b** pre-multiplied Morlet wavelet power spectra of the pressure time series at location x_8 ; contour levels are $\log_{10}(E(x_8, f, t) \cdot f)$ in [psia²]. The raw time signal is synchronously shown in **c**. Normalized time and normalized frequency is shown on the top and right ordinates, respectively using the values from in table 1. The lower threshold for stationary low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness is shown by the horizontal dashed line at $f \delta_0 / u_e = 0.008$. Discontinuities in the WPS are caused by the plotting style, since WPS are down-sampled in time due to memory constraints. **d** Local time-averaged Mexican hat WPS when the transducer is located downstream of the shock and **e** local time-averaged Mexican hat WPS when the shock sweeps past the transducer (the intermittent region sweeps over x_8), windows of averaging have a temporal range of $\Delta t = 0.02$ s or $\Delta t u_e / \delta_0 = 5,600$ and $\sigma_p^2(x_8) = 1.514$ psia². The dashed black line is the average over all respective windows

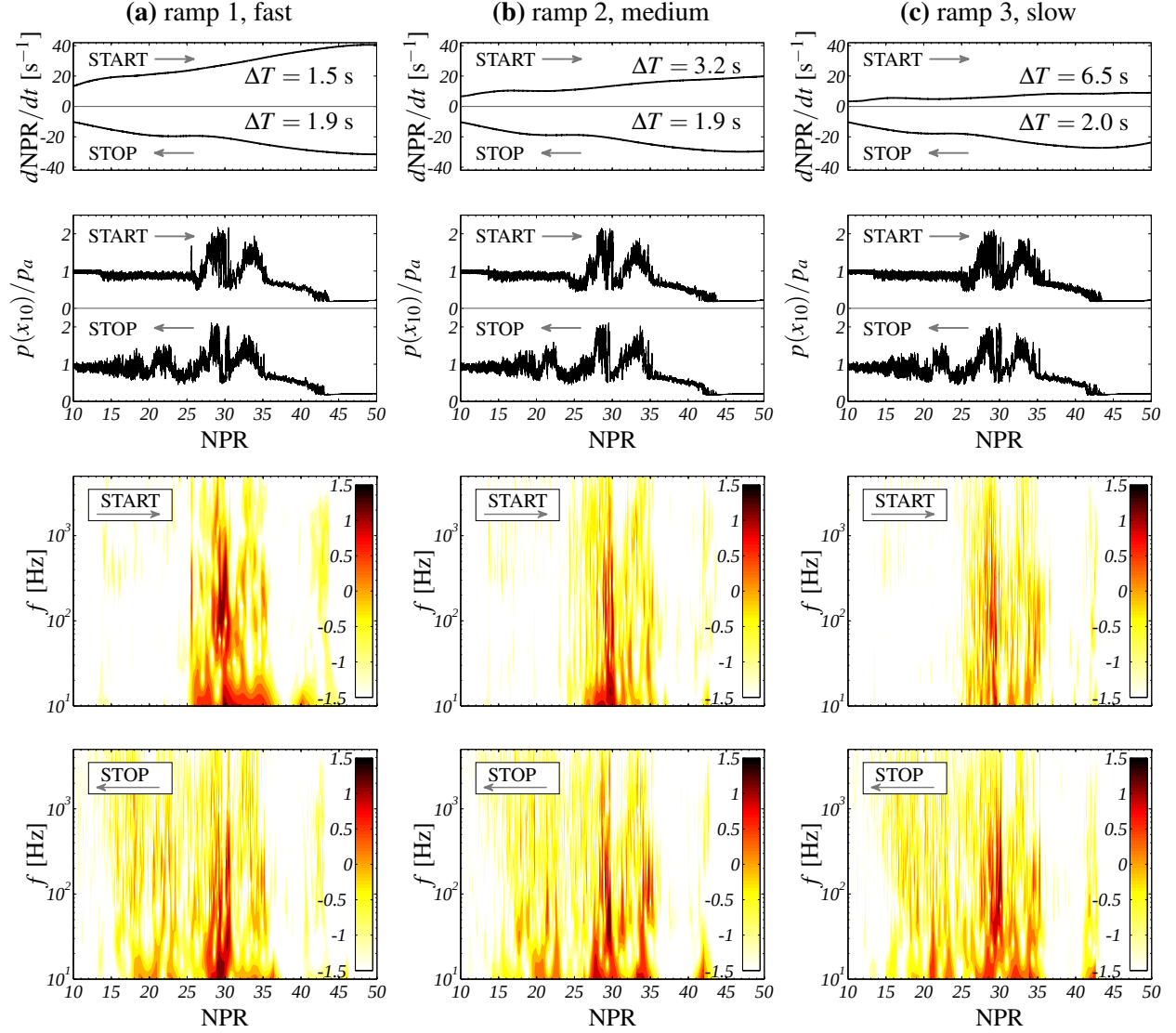


Figure 18: Local wavelet spectra, plotted as $\log_{10}(E(x_{10}; f, t) \cdot f)$ in $[\text{psia}^2]$ as function of NPR for the start-up (START) and shut-down (STOP). The ramp rates and raw time signals are synchronously shown. Δt is the duration associated with the NPR range. Refer to Baars and Tinney (2013) for detail on events sweeping by x_{10}

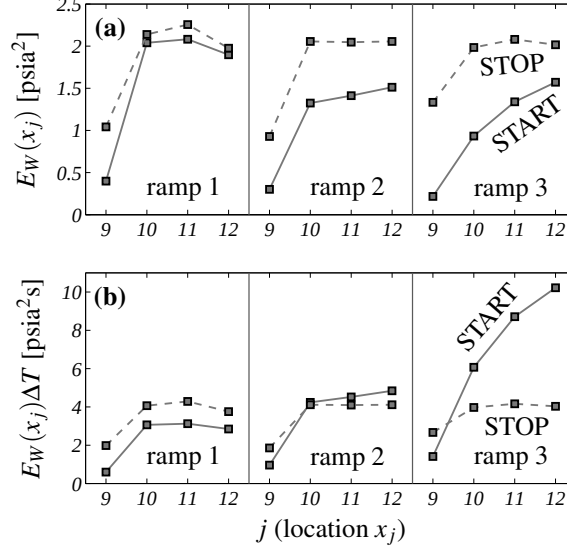


Figure 19: **a** Total wavelet energy E_W during start-up and shut-down at the four aft locations in the axisymmetric nozzle. E_W is based on the Mexican hat WPS but visually similar curves are obtained when using the Morlet WPS. **b** Exposed energy to the global system $E_W\Delta T$, where ΔT is the duration of the ramp indicated in Fig. 18

two has been included since the wavelet spectrum is one-sided. Fig. 14 shows how the four aft locations (x_9 - x_{12}) experience most of the RSS shock structure unsteadiness. For this reason the total wavelet energies $E_W(x_j)$ are calculated at these locations for each ramp, the results of which are visualized in Fig. 19a. The trends indicate that the global unsteadiness during start-up decreases when the transient rate increases (ramp 1 $\rightarrow$ 3). Earlier observations in Fig. 16, which focused on the localized SWBLI unsteadiness, showed how wall pressure unsteadiness increased with increasing ramp rate. Here, it is apparent that trends for the localized unsteadiness do not translate one-to-one to the global system. That is, the global system is exposed to unsteadiness of the entire RSS shock train, while the localized unsteadiness was analysed for the incipient separation shock foot at one particular stream wise location upstream (x_8 , see also Fig. 14b). The increased unsteadiness for locations closer to the nozzle exit plane can be explained by the fact that the shock strength increases when moving aft; this can lead to larger amounts of low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness.

Concerning the three shut-downs with similar ramp rates, a small variation in E_W for ramps 1 to 3 is attributed to the natural variations that are expected with each trial. It is easily seen how shut-downs are more energetic per unit time than start-ups. Experiments by Ruf et al (2009) at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center have confirmed this. In their studies, a sub-scale nozzle was supported on a strain-tube so that global response moments could be quantified. Their findings demonstrated how the shut-down process was generally more violent than the start-up, where moments induced by the nozzle assembly are concerned. Here we quantify the total energy that the system is exposed to; displayed here in Fig. 19b by multiplying the wavelet energy by the duration of the ramp, ΔT (the time that the system is exposed to SWBLI unsteadiness). These findings are insightful to those interested in performing life cycle analyses. Glancing at ramp 2 for example, it is clear that the wavelet energy during shut-down is higher (Fig. 19a) than start-up, thus demonstrating how the shut-down process produces more violent SWBLI activity. However, due to the shorter exposure time during shut-down (1.9 s) as opposed to start-up (3.2 s), the total energy that the system is exposed to during this start-up and shut-down is roughly equal (Fig. 19b).

5 Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Future Work

We have surveyed the low-frequency wall pressure unsteadiness of the internal flow of a large area-ratio supersonic nozzle ($M_d = 5.58$) during overexpanded operations. As has been observed elsewhere, multiple shock wave/boundary layer interactions, associated with turbulent boundary layer separations were shown to reside within the diverging section of the nozzle and comprised low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness. Two different operating scenarios of the nozzle were considered. The first focused on low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness during a fixed (stationary) pressure ratio of 28.7. The incipient shock-induced separation being considered was part of an annular shock train that is classified as a restricted shock separation. The stationary low-frequency unsteadiness of the shock foot was shown to be centred around a non-dimensional shock-zero crossing frequency of $St_\delta = f_c \delta_0 / u_e \approx 0.004$ at a position in the intermittent region where the intermittency was $\gamma = 64.4\%$. Furthermore, wall pressure unsteadiness in the separated regions downstream of the interaction decreased when the shock moved downstream, and vice versa. This was found through an averaging technique conditioned on upstream and downstream shock motions, respectively. The out-of-phase pressure fluctuations are indicative of a relatively long intermittent region, as the phenomenon can be explained by translating the static wall pressure profile back and forth with the shock foot's motion. This long intermittent region is plausible since the shock foot is not anchored by geometric features, as is the case with compression ramps and blunt fins for example. A drawback to the findings reported here was in our inability to make a direct comparison between a 3D and FPG SWBLI flow to flat plate turbulent boundary layer flows. There is currently a limited understanding as to the effect that strong pressure gradients have on turbulent boundary layer flows which would appear to be an important topic for those developing high speed vehicles with complex geometries.

The second operating scenario focused on transient nozzle pressure ratios with an emphasis on nozzle start-ups and shut-downs. A wavelet based time-frequency analyses was employed to characterize the spectral content of the wall pressure fluctuations during sweeping of the shock foot's intermittent region. In general, at the same physical location, the energy was found to reside intermittently at frequencies roughly one order of magnitude lower ($St_\delta = f_c \delta_0 / u_e \approx 0.0005$) than the low-frequency shock motion unsteadiness during the corresponding stationary case ($St_\delta \approx 0.0024$). Moreover, the energy amplitude of the unsteady fluctuations reduce by a factor of about 4.5. Different transient rates then revealed how the wall pressure unsteadiness is less pronounced in amplitude and frequency (frequency content more broadband) when the transient rate is increased. This is a significant finding where the longevity and maintenance of current and future high speed vehicles are concerned.

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1. Baars, W.J., Tinney C.E., Ruf, J.H. (2011) Time-frequency analysis of rocket nozzle wall pressures during start-up transients. Proceedings of the 13th European Turbulence Conference, (ed. Bajer, K., Kopec, J. & Podziemski, P.), Warsaw, Poland. Published by Journal of Physics: Conference Series 318 (2011) 092001, IOP Publishing. Conference proceedings can be found on line at: <http://iopscience.iop.org/1742-6596/318/9>
2. Baars, W.J., Tinney, C.E., Ruf, J.H., Brown, A.M., McDaniels, D.M. (2012) Wall pressure unsteadiness and side loads in overexpanded rocket nozzles. *AIAA Journal*. **50**:1, pp. 6173.
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