NONDIMENSIONAL CALCULATION OF TURBULENT BOUNDARY-LAYER DEVELOPMENT IN TWO-DIMENSIONAL NOZZLES OF SUPersonic WIND TUNNELS

By

H. Maxwell and J. L. Jacocks
Propulsion Wind Tunnel Facility
ARO, Inc.

January 1962

ARNOLD ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
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ARO, Inc.,
a subsidiary of Sverdrup and Parcel, Inc.

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ABSTRACT

The method developed by Maurice Tucker for calculating the growth of turbulent boundary layers in two-dimensional compressible flow has been adapted to the computation of a dimensionless boundary-layer parameter. Equations and calculational procedures are presented for correcting two-dimensional supersonic nozzles for boundary-layer growth using only one or two tables, depending on the geometry. The tables are supplied for the Mach number range from 1.5 to 8.0. Agreement of calculated data with measured data and effect of Mach number distribution are shown.
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**NOMENCLATURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Speed of sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Function of Mach number, ( \frac{7}{6} \left[ \frac{1 + \left( \frac{M^3}{10} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}}{M} \right]^{1/7} ), for ( \gamma = 1.4 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Mach number functions as tabulated in Ref. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Contour scale factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Ratio of displacement thickness to total thickness, ( \delta^*/\delta )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Shape factor, ( \delta^*/\theta )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Constant based on stagnation conditions, ( 0.0131 \left[ \frac{\mu o}{\rho o a_o} \right]^{1/7} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Distance between nozzle throat and test section entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mach number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Defined by velocity profile parameter, ( \frac{u}{u_1} = \frac{1}{(y/\delta)^N} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ram</td>
<td>( \frac{\rho am u_1 x}{\mu am} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>Radius of curvature of nozzle at the throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Absolute temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>Velocity in direction of streamline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>One-half the distance between tunnel parallel walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x, y</td>
<td>Cartesian coordinates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \bar{x} )</td>
<td>Mean distance of surface interval from the effective start of the boundary-layer development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \beta )</td>
<td>( K \delta_E^* )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta )</td>
<td>Boundary-layer thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta^* )</td>
<td>Boundary-layer displacement thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta^* )</td>
<td>Dimensionless boundary-layer parameter, ( \delta^*/Kx_E^{6/7} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \theta )</td>
<td>Boundary-layer momentum thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \mu )</td>
<td>Coefficient of viscosity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
\( \rho \)  
Air density

\( \tau \)  
Local skin-friction stress

**SUBSCRIPTS**

\( a, b \)  
Start and end of the integration interval, respectively

\( am \)  
Arithmetic mean of conditions at wall and outer edge of boundary layer

\( E \)  
Exit plane of contours

\( i, m \)  
Numerical indexes

\( L \)  
Test section entrance

\( P \)  
Perfect fluid

\( R \)  
Reduced to allow for boundary-layer correction

\( T \)  
Throat

\( TS \)  
Test section

\( o \)  
Stagnation value

\( 1 \)  
At the outer edge of the boundary layer
INTRODUCTION

A problem that exists during both design and operation of supersonic wind tunnels with two-dimensional nozzles is the determination of boundary-layer growth along the tunnel walls. Information on boundary-layer thickness that is directly applicable to a specific tunnel is generally not available when design studies are initiated, and later calculations usually are limited to a determination of the contour correction required for a specific set of tunnel stagnation conditions. These calculations may not easily be adapted to different stagnation conditions or extended to regions downstream of the nozzle area. This scarcity of information is attributed to lack of equations specifying the growth of a turbulent boundary layer in a pressure gradient which can be integrated in closed form. Therefore, numerical integration is required which is time-consuming.

An effort was made to improve this situation by developing a boundary-layer growth parameter which is independent of nozzle size and stagnation conditions. This was accomplished by arranging the equations of Tucker (Ref. 1) in a dimensionless form in such a way that the coordinate along which the boundary layer develops enters into the integration only as a ratio to the total contour length and that flow stagnation conditions require no consideration during the integration. Procedures were developed for reducing the dimensionless parameter thus obtained to corrections for any contour having the same exit Mach number and for any stagnation condition. The Mach number distributions of a representative family of contours were used in the calculation of data which is applicable to most two-dimensional supersonic flexible nozzles. These data and the Mach number distributions are presented.

NONDIMENSIONAL BOUNDARY-LAYER PARAMETERS

DERIVATION OF EQUATIONS

The Karman momentum-integral equation for shock-free, steady, compressible, viscous flow

\[ r = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \rho_1 u_1^2 \theta \right) + \rho_1 u_1 \delta^* \frac{du_1}{dx} \]

Manuscript released by authors November 1961.
was arranged by Tucker in Ref. 1 in a form suitable for numerical integration of the rate of boundary-layer development. This was accomplished by using Falkner's empirical skin-friction relationship, modified to include Mach number effects by using the density ratio \( \rho_{am}/\rho_1 \)

\[
\frac{r}{\rho_1 u_i^2} = 0.0131 \ R_{am}^{-1/7} \left( \frac{\rho_{am}}{\rho_1} \right)
\]

and by specifying a constant ratio of the specific heats, \( \gamma = 1.4 \). Determination of the arithmetic mean temperature was simplified by assuming a Prandtl number of unity and an insulated wall, hence constant stagnation temperature throughout the flow and full temperature recovery at the wall. A further simplification was his use of the viscosity-temperature relationship \( \mu_0/\mu_1 = T_0/T_1 \).

Integration of the momentum-integral equation for zero pressure gradient \((d u_1/d x = d p_1/d x = d M_1/d x = 0)\), and assuming \( \theta = 0 \) at \( x = 0 \), yielded in the present notation,

\[
\delta^* = K \ D H (x)^{6/7}
\]

(1)

With the assumptions that \( N, \ dM_1/d x \), and \( x^{1/7} \) are constant for each integration interval \((a, b)\), the momentum-integral equation was written for favorable pressure gradient as

\[
\delta^*_b = (g \ E)_b \left[ \frac{K \ \Delta x \ \Delta I}{\Delta M_1 (\delta^*_b)^{1/7}} + \left( \frac{\delta^*}{g \ E} \right)_a \right]
\]

(2)

where

\[
\delta^*_a = \left( \frac{\delta^*}{K \ D H} \right)_a + \frac{\Delta x}{2} \ \text{and} \ \Delta(\ ) = (\ )_b - (\ )_a
\]

In Tucker's work the \( x \) coordinate was measured along the contour surface, whereas for this paper, \( x \) is taken as a Cartesian coordinate. Justification of this change is shown later.

Numerical integration for the boundary-layer growth is possible by using Eq. (2) and the tabulated values of \( g, \ E, \) and \( I \) as given in Ref. 1. The validity of Eqs. (1) and (2) for determining supersonic nozzle corrections has been experimentally established.

The equations of Tucker are now modified to facilitate their use and to make the results more generally applicable. By writing the equations in the proper nondimensional form, it is possible to separate the effect of stagnation conditions and of nozzle sizes so that separate integrations for different situations are avoided. By dividing Eqs. (1) and (2) by the
factor $K$ we obtain expressions which are independent of stagnation conditions. The aerodynamic contour length $x_E$ is used as a reference length, and since the factor $K$ has the unit of $(\text{length})^{1/7}$, dividing both Eqs. (1) and (2) by $Kx_E^{6/7}$ yields for zero pressure gradient

$$
\overline{\delta^*} = \frac{\delta^*}{x_E^{4/7}} = DH \left( \frac{x}{x_E} \right)^{6/7}
$$

and for favorable pressure gradient

$$
\overline{\delta^*_b} = (gE)_b \left[ \frac{\Delta x}{x_E} \frac{\Delta I}{\Delta M_1} \left( \frac{\overline{\delta^*_b}}{DH} \right)^{7/6} + \frac{\Delta x}{x_E} \right]^{1/7} + \left( \frac{\overline{\delta^*_b}}{gE} \right)_a
$$

The variation of $\overline{\delta^*}$ is completely determined by the variation of Mach number and of velocity profile parameter $N$.

**PRESENTATION OF DATA**

Two approximations covering the parameters upon which Eqs. (3) and (4) are dependent allow the correction of two-dimensional supersonic nozzles through the use of only one table, with a constant determined as a function of exit Mach number also required if the throat location is to be specified:

1. The extensively used velocity profile parameter $N = 7$ is chosen as being representative for a wide range of Reynolds numbers. Tucker gives the relation $N = 2.2 \, R_{am}^{1/4}$ and further states that the value for $N$ has little effect on the calculations.

2. The wall Mach number distribution as a function of $x/x_E$ for a given exit Mach number is considered invariant regardless of the variation in contour design procedure. Experience with several design procedures has shown this to be a reasonable approximation, especially if the contours are for flexible plates.

With these approximations the growth of the nondimensional parameter $\overline{\delta^*}$ along the contoured wall is dependent only upon the exit Mach number, $M_E$.

Presented in Table 1 are the distributions of the parameter $\overline{\delta^*}$ as a function of $x/x_E$ for exit Mach numbers ranging from 1.5 to 8.0. The local Mach number distributions also are given for reference purposes, and are graphically shown in Fig. 1 as a function of $x/x_E$. 


The frequently made assumption of zero boundary-layer thickness at the nozzle throat has not been made here. Sibulkin (Ref. 2) has given an equation which yields satisfactory throat displacement thickness. His relation has been modified to allow determination of the initial value of \( \delta^* \), given by

\[
\delta^*_T = \left( \frac{2y_T r_T}{x_E^2} \right)^{6/7}
\]

where the evaluation at "P" signifies the perfect fluid contour. For a given perfect fluid contour, Eq. (5) is independent of contour scaling. The combination of parameters is a relation which is essentially a function of exit Mach number only, provided the contours are for flexible wall nozzles. Therefore Eq. (5) was used to calculate the initial values \( M_1 = 1.00 \) of Table 1.

To check the effect of the approximations used in the computation of Table 1, boundary-layer measurements were made on the contoured walls of two Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) wind tunnels over the Mach number range from 1.5 to 5.0. The 40-in. Supersonic Tunnel has a 40 by 40-inch test section and a flexible plate, two-dimensional nozzle, the contours of which were designed by the method of Sivells (Ref. 3). The Supersonic Model Tunnel (SMT) has a 12 by 12-inch test section and a flexible plate, two-dimensional nozzle. The SMT nozzle contours were designed using the method of characteristics and corrected for boundary-layer growth by the method presented herein. The experimentally determined displacement thicknesses were normalized to the form \( \delta^* \) and transferred upstream to the aerodynamic exit planes \( x_E \) by Eq. (3) and are compared with the calculated values of \( \delta^*_E \) in Fig. 2. The agreement shown in Fig. 2 justifies the assumption made previously concerning the equality of arc length and axial coordinate of the contours.

As further indication of the accuracy to be expected, two extreme deviations in Mach number distribution are given in Fig. 3, and the effect upon \( \delta^* \) is shown.

For preliminary studies concerning boundary-layer growth the data given in Table 1 are sufficiently accurate. If the Mach number distribution deviation is small, then the data of Table 1 can be used for correction of perfect fluid contours for viscous effects. However, if the Mach number distribution does not closely match that used to obtain the data of Table 1, the curves of Fig. 3 should be used as a guide for adjustment of Table 1 data. The resultant flow quality is comparable to that obtainable from nozzles corrected by any of the commonly used methods.
APPLICATION TO NOZZLE CORRECTION

GENERAL PROCEDURE

The primary application of the procedure given is the correction of two-dimensional nozzle contours for viscous effects. This requires determination of the coordinates $x$, $y$ of a flexible plate wall such that the aerodynamic exit coordinates $x_E$, $y_E$ meet certain geometrical conditions and that the wall contour yields the desired perfect fluid flow channel when displacement thicknesses are added.

Corrections for boundary-layer thickness can be made only to the contoured surfaces of a two-dimensional flexible plate nozzle, assuming the other two walls are parallel. Hence, it is convenient to define a reduced boundary contour $(x, y)_R$ such that the assumed flow area $4y_RW$, where $W$ is one-half the distance between the parallel walls, is equal to the effective flow area defined by using the displacement thickness $\delta^*$. In addition, the usual simplifying assumptions are made: (1) the boundary-layer growth along the parallel walls is equal to that along the contoured walls, and (2) a cross section through the boundary layer at any station is rectangular.

From the sketch it follows directly that the reduced ordinate is given by

$$y_R = \frac{(W - \delta^*) (y - \delta^*)}{W} \quad (6)$$

It is necessary that an arbitrarily scaled perfect fluid design contour $(x, y)_P$ be available, and it follows that the area ratio relationship of this contour is reproduced in the reduced contour. That is, the definition

$$f = \frac{x_R}{x_P} = \frac{y_R}{y_P}$$
applies at each value of \(x/x_E\). Since the wall contour \((x, y)\) is to be obtained by adding a correction to \(y_R\) only, it will not be necessary to distinguish between the wall coordinate \(x\) and the reduced coordinate \(x_R\).

Determination of the scale factor \(f\) requires consideration of Eq. (7) at the exit plane using the expression of Eq. (6) for \(y_R\) and the definition \(\beta = \delta_E^x\)

\[
\left(\frac{x}{x_p}\right)_E = \frac{(W - \beta x_E^{6/7}) (y_E - \beta x_E^{6/7})}{W y_{pE}} = f \tag{8}
\]

Solution of Eq. (8) for \(x_E\) and \(f\) would enable determination of the physical wall coordinates

\[
y = \frac{W f y_p}{W - \delta^* K x_E^{6/7}} + \delta^* K x_E^{6/7} \tag{9}
\]

\[x = f x_p\]

which are derived from Eqs. (6) and (7) and the definition for \(\delta^*\).

It is necessary that the stagnation conditions contained in the parameter \(K\) be defined at this point. For a flexible wall nozzle it may be desirable to determine two or more real fluid contours to allow for large changes in the test section Reynolds number. Once the value of \(K\) is specified, then \(\beta\) is known since \(\delta_E^x\) is known.

Equation (8) now contains two unknowns, \(x_E\) and \(y_E\). The manner in which \(y_E\) is found depends upon the tunnel geometry. For a flexible wall nozzle it is desirable to maintain the throat a constant distance \(L\) from the test section which has a fixed height \(y_{TS}\). However, the aerodynamic length \(x_E\) for a family of contours is generally an increasing function of \(M_E\). Therefore, the aerodynamic exit height \(y_E\) is generally not equal to the test section height \(y_{TS}\).

**APPLICATION TO SPECIFIC GEOMETRIES**

If the distance from the throat to the test section is not specified, as would be the case for fixed-block nozzles, it can be required that \(y_E = y_{TS}\). This allows solution of Eq. 8 for \(x_E\) and the final wall contour is given by Eq. (9).

If the length \(L\) from the throat to the test section is specified, as well as the test section height, \(y_{TS}\), further calculations are required.
It is necessary to obtain an approximate value of \( x_E \), and hence iterate for the proper combination of \( x_E \) and \( y_E \). There are two cases which must be considered: \( x_E < L \) and \( x_E > L \) with the corresponding \( y_E < y_{TS} \) and \( y_E > y_{TS} \). For \( x_E < L \) the wall contour must be extended beyond the exit plane the distance \( L - x_E \); this extension is essentially linear but its slope is dependent upon the boundary-layer growth as given by Eq. (3) and used in Eq. (9). For \( x_E > L \) the aerodynamic contour is cut off the amount \( x_E - L \) which yields an effective test section height of \( y_E \). The two cases are interdependent as the converging solution may oscillate about the point \( x_E = L \).

The procedure for the solution is as follows:

1. Assume an initial value of \( y_E = y_{TS} \) and obtain the iterative solution of Eq. (8) for \( x_E \).

2. If \( x_E < L \), continue to Step 3a, whereas if \( x_E > L \), skip to Step 3b.

3. a. (\( x_E < L \)) The displacement thickness at the test section entrance is determined by using Eq. (3) written as

\[
\delta^*_L = K x_E^{\epsilon'/\gamma} (DH)_E \left[ \left( \frac{\delta^*}{(DH)} \right)_E^{\gamma/\epsilon'} + \left( \frac{L}{x_E} - 1 \right) \right]^{\gamma/\epsilon'} \tag{10}
\]

The product DH is read, or interpolated, from Table 2. The values of H used to calculate Table 2 were obtained from Ref. 1 with \( N = 7 \) so that \( DH = f(M_1) \) only. The wall ordinate at the test section entrance is now calculated:

\[
y_L = \left( \frac{W_f y_{P_p}}{W - \delta^*_L} \right) + \delta^*_L
\]

b. (\( x_E > L \)) For the case of the cut-off nozzle, it is required that the aerodynamic wall contour pass through the point \( (L, y_{TS}) \). Consistency with most perfect fluid design procedures is obtained by assuming the wall contour to be made of straight-line segments in the region of the exit plane. There are two successive points on the original perfect fluid contour such that \( x_{R_m} \leq L < x_{R_{m+1}} \) where \( x_R = f(x_P) = (x/x_P)_E x_P \). Associated with each of these points of the reduced contour are the wall ordinates \( y_m \) and \( y_{m+1} \) where

\[
y_m = \frac{W_f y_{p_m}}{W - \delta^*_m} K x_E^{\epsilon'/\gamma} + \delta^*_m K x_E^{\epsilon'/\gamma}
\]

Then, using linear interpolation, the value of \( y \) at \( x = L \) is given by

\[
y_L = y_m + \frac{L - x_{R_m}}{x_{R_{m+1}} - x_{R_m}} (y_{m+1} - y_m)
\]
4. For either case the discrepancy between $y_L$ and the desired value, $y_{TS}$, is used to obtain a corrected value of $y_E$

$$y_{E_{i+1}} = y_{E_i} + (y_{TS} - y_L)$$

Using the corrected value of $y_E$ return to Step 1 and continue until $y_L = y_{TS}$ to within the desired accuracy.

5. For either case the final wall coordinates are given by Eq. (9) where the values of $\delta^*$ are obtained by interpolating in Table 1 as a function of $x/x_E$. For the case $x_E < L$ the values of $\delta^*$ for $x_E < x < L$ are found from

$$\bar{\delta}^* = (DH)_E \left[ \left( \frac{\bar{\delta}^*}{DH} \right)_{E}^{\gamma} + \frac{x - x_E}{x_E} \right]^{\gamma/\gamma}$$

although this section of the wall can be made linear if $L - x_E$ is not large.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

A method for correcting two-dimensional supersonic nozzles for boundary layer which does not require integration of the rate of boundary-layer growth has been presented. The experimentally determined data presented show that corrections determined by this method are accurate for the Mach number range from 1.5 to 5. It is believed that accuracy will be comparable in the Mach number range from 5 to 8 if the nozzle walls are not cooled to such an extent as to significantly affect the ratio of displacement thickness to total thickness. With use of the tabulated data, all the effects of boundary layer on contour and nozzle design can be more accurately taken into account than by the usual approximate procedures. All the data and equations required for correcting contours and for determining the boundary-layer displacement thickness throughout the shock-free region are given in this report.
REFERENCES


TABLE 1

DIMENSIONLESS BOUNDARY-LAYER PARAMETER, $\tilde{\delta}$, AS A FUNCTION OF THE DIMENSIONLESS LONGITUDINAL COORDINATE FOR $M_e = 1.5$ TO $8.0$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$x/x_E$</th>
<th>$M_e = 1.50$</th>
<th>$M_e = 1.75$</th>
<th>$M_e = 2.00$</th>
<th>$M_e = 2.25$</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$M_1$</td>
<td>$\tilde{\delta}$</td>
<td>$M_1$</td>
<td>$\tilde{\delta}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.960</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.051</td>
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<td>5.0</td>
<td>7.7807</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>11.1772</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 1 Mach Number Distribution as Tabulated in Table 1
Fig. 2 Comparison of Measured Data with the Exit-Plane Values of Table 1
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limit of Probable Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 3 Effect of Mach Number Distribution upon $\delta^*$ Distribution