COMPARISON OF AN ACOUSTICALLY OPTIMIZED AND AN AERODYNAMICALLY OPTIMIZED EXIT GUIDE VANE

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ABSTRACT

Within previous EU projects, possible modifications to the engine architecture have been investigated, that would allow for an optimized aerodynamic or acoustic design of the exit guide vanes (EGV) of the turbine exit casing (TEC). However, the engine weight should not be increased and the aerodynamic performance must be at least the same. In addition, the effect onto the aeroacoustic field downstream of the EGV needs to be considered.

This paper compares two different EGV designs. The first design is an acoustically optimized EGV whereas the second EGV is optimized strictly for aerodynamics. The comparison of the two different EGV configurations is done for an operating condition similar to the engine operation point approach. The measurements were conducted in the subsonic test turbine facility (STTF) at the Institute for Thermal Turbomachinery and Machine Dynamics, Graz University of Technology. The inlet guide vanes, the low pressure turbine (LPT) stage, and the EGVs have been designed by MTU Aero Engines. The flow field of the two different designs is being compared, and the difference in aerodynamical losses is show using 5-Hole probes as well as static surface pressure tabs and oil flow visualisation. In addition, aeroacoustic investigations were performed using an array of 24 wall-flush mounted microphones was used to acquire the sound field in the exhaust duct.

NOMENCLATURE

STTF	Subs	onic Test Turbine Facility	EGV	Exit	guide vane		
IGV	Inlet	Guide Vane	LPT	Low	Low pressure Turbine		
TE	Trail	ing edge	TEC	Turb	Turbine exit casing		
SST	Γ Shear Stress			Controlled diffusion airfoil			
ω	1/s	Angular velocity	Ma		Mach number		
р	Ра	Pressure	А		Complex amplitudes		
k		Integer number; k=-1,0,1,	f		Modal shape factor		
k		Axial wave number	SPL	dB	Sound power level		
ζ		Total pressure loss coefficient	i		$\sqrt{(-1)}$		
V		Number of vanes	В		Number of blades		
n		Radial mode order	m		Circumferential mode order		
t	S	time					

INTRODUCTION

For state-of-the art design of EGVs structural requirements are more important than the aerodynamical and/or the acoustical point of view. Today, the EGVs have to support the rear bearing and the engine mount and therefore they are relatively thick and rigid. However, the EGVs

also have to fulfill aerodynamic aspects. Their main aerodynamic purpose is to reduce swirl in the flow. The goal is to generate a homogeneous LPT exit flow by transforming swirl into thrust for highest propulsive efficiencies (Koch, et al., 2012). If structural requirements are of minor interest, for example, if the rear bearing and the engine mount is moving forward near the turbine center frame supported by the TCF struts, an optimisation of the EGVs may lead to a highly efficient low Reynolds number EGV (Schreiber, et al., 2004) which in turn enables the LPT designer to increase the loading of the stage. However, the EGVs downstream of a last stage LPT have to have a large operating range in order to provide a near axial outflow for all operating points of the turbine. Ashpis (Ashpis, 1997) has shown that the operating Reynolds number for the LP turbine can drop below 100000 at high-altitude cruise condition, whereas at ground condition Reyolds number as are as high as 1000000. Therefore, its operating range is significantly larger than that of a regular compressor vane. The number of investigations on modern low Reynolds number turbine exit guide vanes are limited e.g. Sonoda et al. (Sonoda, et al., 2004), Sonoda and Schreiber (Sonoda & Schreiber, 2007), and Hjärne (Hjärne, 2007). Koch et al. (Koch, et al., 2012) investigated a cross section at 33% blade height of the acoustically optimized EGVs used in this investigation in a linear cascade as a baseline design. They experimentally and numerically showed that an aerodynamically optimized EGV meets all requirements for an EGV. The turning was similar to the baseline design and for the entire operating range the outlet flow angle was nearly axial. Further, Koch et al. (Koch, et al., 2012) achieved a significant loss reduction for the optimized airfoil and a slightly higher pressure rise due to lower losses at a reduced wetted surface.

This paper compares two different EGV configurations at a typical off design point identical to approach flight condition. The first EGV design is a CDA with a focus on the aerodynamic optimization of the exit guide vane. These profiles have already been investigated by (Koch, et al., 2012) for its performance under different incidence angle's in a linear cascade. The second EGV design was intended to achieve a low sound power level for the given operating point. This has already been successfully shown by Broszat et.al (Broszat, et al., 2012) (Broszat, et al., 2013).

Experimental Facility and Instrumentation

Test Facility

The Institute for Thermal Turbomachinery and Machine Dynamics at Graz University of Technology operates a 3MW compressor station in order to supply a couple of test facilities continuously with pressurized air. In the described subsonic test facility the maximum pressure ratio is limited to 2 due to the inlet spiral casing and the maximum mass flow rate is 15 kg/s at a temperature at stage inlet of 100 C. This inlet temperature can be adjusted by coolers within a wide range. The pressurized air enters the facility through a spiral inlet casing where the flow turns into axial direction. Within this spiral inlet casing the front bearing of the overhung-type turbine shaft is mounted. The shaft is coupled to a water brake, whose cooling water cycle is connected to the recooling plant of the institute. In order to provide well defined and uniform inflow conditions a deswirler together with a perforated plate is located upstream of the stage inlet. Further, upstream of the stage (and downstream of the perforated plate) inlet guide vanes can be found that should simulate additional wakes of other upstream low pressure turbine stages. The air leaves the rig through an acoustic measurement section, supporting struts, exhaust casing, and the exhaust stack to ambient. A detailed description of the STTF is given in (Moser, et al., 2007).

Turbine Stage and EGVs

The aerodynamic design of the low pressure turbine stage, IGVs as well as the EGVs was performed by MTU Aero Engines. Considerable effort was put into the adjustment of relevant model parameters to reproduce the full scale LPT situation. The turbine diameter is approximately

half of that of a commercial aero engine LPT and therefore the rig is operated at higher rotational speeds. A meridional section of the rig is shown in Figure 1. The cross section for the inverse cutoff EGV design as well as the aerodynamically optimized EGV design can be seen in Figure 2. These two vanes only have a very small difference in terms of axial chord and therefore the rigcrossection is almost identical for both vanes. The bladings are not drawn to scale. The rig is characterized by a high aspect ratio unshrouded rotor followed by the EGVs of the TEC. Relevant geometry parameters can be seen in the upper half of Table 1. For this investigation two different set-ups have been tested: an acoustically optimized EGV with a higher number of vanes and an EGV focused on aerodynamic performance. The leading edge is at the same axial position for both configurations. Details on the EGVs can be found in Table 1.

The acoustically optimized EGV is a scaled down version of a modern low aspect ratio EGV as used in current engine designs. The number of vanes and the chord length has been adapted in order to use the so called "inverse-cut off" corridor. This procedure including a comparison between the original EGV and the acoustically optimized EGV can be found in Broszat et.al (Broszat, et al., 2012).

The aerodynamically optimized airfoil was designed applying a multi-point optimization process to the 33% span profile section of the original low aspect ratio EGV. The optimization process and the results for a 2D-section can be seen in Koch et al. (Koch, et al., 2012). The EGV has been designed for the required working range using a loss criterion of 1.5 times minimum loss (compared to e.g 2 times minimum loss requirement suggested in the NASA) to take into account possible real engine effects as e.g. manufacturing tolerances and engine aging.



Figure 1: Meridional section of the STTF



Figure 2: Meridional section of the STTF for the inverse cutoff EGV as well as the aerodynamically optimized EGV including measurement planes

Operating Conditions

Based on the intended use of the LPT rig for both acoustic and aerodynamic investigations, the main operating points are selected according to the typical noise certification points. They have been defined using an aero design point of the last stage LPT, derived from current LPT design practice using scaling along reduced speed, reduced mass flow (both referred to 288.15 K and 101325 Pa) and pressure ratio. For this investigation the operating point approach was chosen. The Reynolds number of the EGVs is defined using the midspan conditions at rotor exit as well as the axial chord of the vanes. The right half of Table 1 shows the operating conditions. These conditions are valid for both EGVs. The Reynolds number is defined using the axial chord of the EGV. Since the difference in axial chord for both EGV configurations is only 5%, the Reynolds number given is valid for both EGVs.

Table 1 Geometry details and operating conditions						
Geometry details		Operating conditions				
Number of blades/vanes		Reduced mass flow	6.94kg/s			
IGV/Stator/Rotor/	83/96/72	Reduced rotational speed	3653rpm			
EGV inverse cut-off (inv.)	>40	Stage pressure ratio	1.16			
EGV high loading (hl.)	32	Stage total inlet temperature	100 C			
		EGV Reynolds number	130000			
Rotor tip gap to blade height ratio	1.0%					
EGV Hub to tip radius ratio	≈2/3					

Table 1	Geometry	⁷ details and	operating	conditions

Instrumentation

Five-hole-probes (IST, RWTH Aachen) with a probe head of 2.5 mm diameter were applied in measurement plane C and D (see Figure 1b). The probes are calibrated for Mach numbers between 0.1 and 0.8, yaw angles between -20 deg and +20 deg, pitch angles between -16 deg and +20 deg. Negative values of the yaw angle indicate a counter-rotating flow and negative values of the pitch angle indicate the flow direction towards the hub. The correlation between the calibration characteristics and the value to be measured is given by a multi- parameter approximation.

The axial positions of measurement planes can be seen in Figure 2. Plane C is located 60% axial rotor blade chord length downstream of the rotor TE. The plane D0 is located 55% axial chord length downstream of the EGV trailing edge (TE) for both configurations. The measurement grid in each plane consists of 21 points in radial direction for both EGVs and 16 points in circumferential direction for inverse cut-off TEC/ 19 points for the aerodynamically optimized EGV. The grid covers one EGV pitch and about 95% passage height. Traversing was done along radial lines. Static pressure taps are located at several axial positions along the suction and pressure surface at 20%, 30%, 50%, and 80% channel height.

In order to estimate the sound power propagating downstream 12 flush mounted condenser microphones (1/4") at the hub and 12 at the casing are located in the 360deg rotatable acoustic measurement section. The distance between the EGV trailing edge and the first microphone is approximately 280mm. In addition to these microphones, 1 microphone was mounted at a fixed position downstream of the EGV's TE as a reference. The complete sound field was detected at the hub and the casing by traversing the section 360deg in steps of 2deg. Some more detailed information about the acoustic measurement section is given in (Moser, et al., 2009).

Acoustic Measurement and Modal Analysis

A decomposition of a variable in time and space was provided by Tyler and Sofrin (Tyler & Sofrin, 1962). The circumferential (azimuthal) mode orders excited by the relevant airfoil interactions can be calculated as follows:

$$m = n \cdot B + k \cdot V; \quad k = -\infty, ..., -1, 0, 1, ... + \infty$$
 (1.)

With the vane and blade counts B and V, respectively, the harmonic order n, and the integer index k as well as an additional similar equation describing the scattering of acoustic modes when interacting with a following vane.

$$m_{\rm S} = m + k \cdot V; \quad k = -\infty, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots + \infty$$
 (2.)

In order to describe the sound generating mechanisms, Tyler and Sofrin wrote the pressure fluctuations at any circumferential positions downstream of the compressor stage as a sum of harmonics. The theoretical model they proposed has been verified by numerous aeroacoustic experimental investigations and it is also valid for turbines (e.g. Moser et al. (Moser, et al., 2009)). The theory of the acoustic data analysis used in this work is well described in Enghardt et al. (Enghardt, et al., 2001) and Enghardt et al. (Enghardt, et al., 2005). In cylindrical coordinates and for a single frequency component $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ the solution of the wave equation is given by a linear superposition of modal terms as can be seen in the equation below.

$$p(x,r,\varphi,t) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(A_{mn}^{\pm} e^{ik_{mn}^{\pm}x} \right) f_{mn} e^{im\varphi} e^{-i\omega t}$$
(3.)

For hard-walled acoustic boundary conditions the modal shape factor is reported in Tapken et al. (Tapken & Enghardt, 2006). Tapken et al. also describe the calculation of radial mode amplitudes A_{mn}^{\pm} as an inverse problem of the equation above, which is also applied in this work.

Results and Discussion

EGV Inlet flow

The EGV inlet conditions are shown in Figure 3, where the Mach number as well as the yaw angle upstream of the vane is shown. Structures belonging to the rotor appear as circumferential bands that are modulated by the structures from the upstream stator. The figure shows a region of low Mach number close to the casing that is due to the tip leakage flow present for this configuration. This can also be identified via the strong under turning that can be seen in the yaw angle distribution in Figure 4 where the circumferentially averaged values for Mach number and yaw angle are shown for both EGV geometries. The radial structures visible are due to the wakes of the upstream stator. Close to the hub the effect of the secondary flows dominating this region can be identified. A small variation of the inlet conditions for the two EGVs can be identified from Figure 4.



Figure 3: Mach number and yaw angle upstream of the EGV



Figure 4: Circumferentially averaged Mach number and yaw angle

Oil Flow Visualisation

The following section shows the evolution of the flow within the vane passage. A mixture of motor oil and titanium-oxide is used to cover the endwalls as well as the suction and pressure side. Attention was paid on reaching the operation point as fast as possible to avoid run up effects. The operating point was held for about 2 hours. The shut-down procedure was again as fast as possible in order to protect the flow structures from being vanished. Figure 5 and Figure 6 present the oil flow visualization for the inverse cut-off EGV, whereas Figure 7 and Figure 8 present the aerodynamically optimized geometry.

A region of low shear stress (L-SST) on the suction side is visible for both configurations up to about 80% channel height. Above 80% this region cannot be seen anymore. Both configurations show radial inward flow on the suction side at the casing and a radial outward flow at the hub. This is due to the cross passage flow rolling up into the upper and lower passage vortex. When comparing the suction side of both EGVs the radial inward flow is stronger for the high loaded EGV. Another region of low shear stress can be identified at the leading pressure side of the inverse

cutoff EGV. In addition to that, a vertical structure (V) can is located at the casing close to the leading edge of the vane. This structure can be an effect of the untypical rotor tip gap present in this rig, that would not occur downstream of a LPT with shroud.



Figure 5: Pressure side (left) and suction side (right) of the inverse cutoff EGV



Figure 6: casing (left) and hub (right) of the inverse cutoff EGV

At the endwalls the cross passage flow is clearly visible for both of the EGVs (Figure 6 and Figure 8). The cross passage gradient pushes the fluid towards the pressure side of the vane and promotes the formation of a corner separation on the suction side.

The pressure side of the high loaded EGV a region of low shear stress at approximately 25% axial chord reaching from the hub to approximately 80% span marked with a dotted line on the left side of Figure 7. The reason for this region of low shear stress is unknown. The vane pressure distribution shown later does not show any evidence of a separation bubble or similar effects that would explain a behavior leading to a region of low shear stress explaining an accumulation of oil in this particular region.



Figure 7: Pressure side (left) and suction side (right) of aerodynamically optimized EGV



Figure 8: casing (left) and hub (right) of the aerodynamically optimized EGV

Surface Pressure Distribution

The static pressure coefficient for the vane surface is calculated according to the following equation using static wall pressure tabs.

$$C_{pi} = \frac{p_i - \tilde{p}_C}{\tilde{p}_{t,C} - \tilde{p}_C} \tag{4.}$$

The subscript in equation 4 relates to the local position and C refers to the measurement plane C at EGV inlet. Figure 9 shows the static pressure coefficient distribution at 30% span. For both setups the chord length is given in percent. Considering that fact it is clear that the fluid undergoes a steeper adverse pressure gradient from peak suction to the TE. The same pressure rise has to be achieved in a shorter vane. While the high lift vane shows an increase in overall pressure difference between suction and pressure side, the maximum velocity at suction peak is lower than for the inverse cutoff EGV.



Figure 9: Pressure distribution at 30% (left) and 80% (right) span

The influence of the tip leakage flow can be seen when looking at the pressure distribution at 80% span. Due to the difference in yaw angle the stagnation point moves towards the pressure side of the vane. The design of the high lift EGV shows a lower loading for this particular reason, whereas the inverse cutoff EGV shows a very strong suction peak at approximately 35% chord.

EGV Outlet flow – Plane D0

The following section shows the presents the flow-field downstream of the EGV. The plane D0 is located 55% axial chord downstream of the TE of the vane. Figure 10 shows the Mach number (left) and yaw angle distribution (right) for the inverse-cutoff EGV. From the Mach number distribution the wake can clearly be identified as a radial region of low flow speed. Close to the hub and casing two distinct low Mach regions can be identified. The region close to the casing can be associated with the tip leakage flow from the upstream LPT stage. This structure can also be identified from the yaw angle distribution in the right of Figure 10 where a region of positive yaw angle that is due to the under-turning of the rotor in the tip leakage region can be identified as a region of positive yaw angle. Another small vertical structure can be identified close to the suction side endwall corner of the vane. This is a result of the horseshoe vortex of the vane interacting with the tip leakage flow. The leakage flow causes a downwash on the vane resulting in said vertical structure as explained in (Selic, et al., 2012). Close to the hub, another region of low Mach number can be identified that is due to the corner separation that occurs in this particular region of the EGV as well as the hub secondary flow occurring in this region.

The flow field in plane D0 for the aerodynamically optimized EGV can be seen in Figure 11. The influence of the tip leakage flow can again be identified by the low Mach region as well as the region of positive yaw angle close to the casing. Close to the hub, the secondary flow due to the pressure gradient of the vane can be seen. In addition, one is still able to identify the traces of the upstream stator in the flow-field downstream of the EGV. These traces can be identified by the leaned regions of low Mach number that can be seen in the midspan region where the 2d-flow is dominant. This can also identified in Figure 10 but due to the higher number of vanes the structures are easier identifiable in Figure 11.



Figure 10: Mach number (left) and yaw angle (right) distribution inverse cut-off EGV

When comparing the flow field of the two EGVs the secondary flow close to the hub is less pronounced for the inverse cut-off EGV. This is due to the fact that the aerodynamically optimized EGV consists of fewer vanes, therefore has to provide a higher loading in order to achieve the same deflection. This results in stronger secondary flows as can be seen when comparing Figure 11 and Figure 10.



Figure 11: Mach number (left) and yaw angle (right) distribution high loaded EGV

Loss Estimation

Equation 5 gives a rough estimation of the total pressure loss coefficient from plane C upstream of the EGVs to plane D downstream of the EGVs. The total pressure has been mass averaged by means of the five-hole-probe data.

$$\zeta = \frac{\overline{\widetilde{p}}_{t,C} - \overline{\widetilde{p}}_{t,D}}{\overline{\widetilde{p}}_{t,C} - p_{ex}}$$
(5.)

Table 2 compares the total pressure loss of both configurations. The values have been normalized with the total pressure loss coefficient of the inverse cutoff EGV in Plane D0. The table also shows the total pressure loss in plane D that is not presented in this paper. It can be seen that the high loading EGV reduces the total pressure loss in plane D0 by 40% with respect to the total pressure loss of the inverse cutoff EGV. Between plane D0 and D only mixing takes place,

increasing the total pressure loss by a further 34% for the inverse cutoff EGV and 39% for the high loading configuration.

Table 2 Total pressure loss

	Total pressure loss $\frac{\zeta}{\zeta_{ref}}$			
Configuration	C-D0	C-D		
Inverse Cut-Off TEC	1.00	1.34		
High Loading EGV	0.61	0.85		

Sound Power Level

Table 3 shows the azimuthal interaction mode orders calculated according the equation of Tyler and Sofrin. According to their formula the modes propagable are +10 from the rotor/IGV interaction as well as the mode m=-8, a rotor/EGV interaction for the high loading EGV.

Tab	ole 3	Air	foil	int	terac	tion	mod	les	m	at	1	B	PF
							-						

Configuration	IGV-Rotor	Vane-Rotor	Rotor-TEC
Inv. Cut-Off	+11	Cut-Off	Cut-Off
High Loading	+11	Cut-Off	-8

Figure 12 shows the sound power level per azimuthal mode order m of the two TEC configurations evaluated for the first BPF of the operating point approach. The dark bars indicate the sound power level of sound waves propagating in flow direction P^+ and the light bars the propagating waves against flow direction P^- . The dotted line indicates the noise floor of the measurements.



Figure 12: Sound power level of inv. Cut-off TEC (left) and high loading EGV (right) (blue: P⁺; green: P⁻)

The difference in overall sound power level $\Delta SPL = SPL - SPL_{ref}$ in and against flow direction as well as the sum of both is given in Table 4. It can be seen that the acoustically optimized EGV has an overall SPL that is approximately 4.6dB higher than for the inverse cut-off EGV. This effect is largely due to the fact that the main interaction mode, the mode m=-8 that is due to the interaction between the rotor and the EGV is not able to propagate for the inverse cutoff EGV. The mode m=-8 is by far the largest contributor to the SPL, towering all other interaction modes by more than 10 dB.

Table 4 Overall sound power level change for 1 BPF

	$\sum SPL^+$	$\sum SPL^{-}$	$\sum SPL^{\pm}$
Inv. Cut-off EGV	0 [dB]	0 [dB]	0 [dB]
High loaded EGV	+4.6 [dB]	+3.0 [dB]	5.0 [dB]

CONCLUSIONS

A comparison of two different EGV designs for a LPT has been shown within this paper. The two geometries have different approaches: the inverse-cutoff EGV focuses on minimizing the sound power level of the LPT exit flow, whereas the so called high loading EGV focuses on aerodynamic loss optimization, resulting in different vane numbers for both configurations.

Comparing the aerodynamical effects of the EGVs it can be seen that the resulting flow field of the aerodynamically optimized EGV has a 39% lower total pressure loss for the EGV, though it has to be taken into account, that the difference in wetted area is approximately 30% for the two geometries. The flow field itself shows similar effects for both geometries, yet due to the fact that the high lift EGV has a larger vane loading, the effects of secondary flows are more distinct for this design.

In terms of acoustic SPL of the resulting flow field, the inverse cutoff EGV results in a 4.6 dB lower sound power level. This is a result of the fact that the main interaction mode between the rotor and the EGV according to the formula of Tyler and Sofrin doe propagate for the aerodynamically optimized EGV but not for the inverse cut-off EGV. This mode m=8 that is able to propagate causes this large difference in SPL.

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