

Experimental and Numerical Investigation on Aerodynamic Performance of Blade/Endwall Integrated Compressor Cascades: Postprint

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Abstract

Abstract: Existing numerical studies have demonstrated that blade/endwall blending design can effectively delay, weaken, or eliminate compressor corner separation, but experimental data are lacking. To address this deficiency, this paper presents a suction-side blade/endwall blending design for a NACA65 diffuser cascade with a 42-degree turning angle, and conducts comparative experiments for the first time in a low-speed planar cascade wind tunnel, confirming the performance improvement capability of blade/endwall blending diffuser cascades. Based on the experimental results, the simulation accuracy of different turbulence models such as RNG-KE and SST is further validated, and the mechanism of the blade/endwall blending design is revealed based on SST model results. Experimental results indicate that the blade/endwall blending diffuser cascade can improve cascade performance at design incidence and positive incidence, increasing the total pressure loss coefficient by 7%-8%. Numerical results demonstrate that the addition of blending reorganizes the endwall flow field, prevents strong three-dimensional separation caused by excessive fluid accumulation in the suction-side corner region at the rear of the cascade, and effectively alleviates the high-loss flow in the baseline cascade.

Full Text

2. Methodology

2.1 Experimental Setup and Geometry

The geometry parameters for the cascade are summarized in . The prototype cascade and the BBEW (Blended Blade and EndWall) cascade were compared based on the NACA65 airfoil profile with a chord length of 16 mm and a maximum thickness of 25% at the blade tip [Figure 2: see original paper]. The experimental facility consisted of a low-speed linear cascade wind tunnel with a

test section measuring 100 mm in spanwise length and 80 mm in width [Figure 3: see original paper]. The inlet flow velocity was maintained at 30 m/s, corresponding to a Reynolds number of approximately 2.6×10^6 based on the blade chord. The boundary layer thickness at the inlet was controlled to be less than 5% of the span to minimize upstream effects.

2.2 Numerical Simulation Approach

Numerical simulations were performed using the ANSYS Fluent solver with second-order spatial discretization. The three-dimensional Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations were solved using two turbulence models for comparison: the RNG k- ϵ model and the Shear Stress Transport (SST) k- ω model. The computational domain included one blade passage with periodic boundary conditions applied in the pitchwise direction. Structured grids were generated using ICEM CFD, with a total of 2.6 million cells for the baseline case. The near-wall grid resolution was refined to ensure y^+ values below 1 for the SST model and between 30 and 50 for the RNG k- ϵ model [Figure 11: see original paper]. The inlet boundary condition specified a uniform velocity profile with 5% turbulence intensity, while the outlet employed a pressure outlet condition. All solid surfaces were treated as no-slip walls with adiabatic conditions.

4. Results and Discussion

4.2 Performance at Varying Incidence Angles

The performance characteristics of the BBEW cascade were evaluated over a range of incidence angles from -10° to $+10^\circ$. The total pressure loss coefficient, defined as $\frac{P_{t,0} - P_{t,2}}{P_{t,0}}$, was calculated at the outlet section. The performance metrics were evaluated at various incidence angles, including -10° , -5° , 0° , 5° , and 10° . The results show that the BBEW cascade exhibits a wide operating range with high efficiency and low loss. The performance is significantly affected by the incidence angle, with the highest efficiency observed at 0° and the lowest at $\pm 10^\circ$. The results are compared with experimental data and other cascade configurations. The performance metrics, including the total pressure loss coefficient, are presented in Figure 4. The processing of the BBEW cascade for experiment is shown in Figure 5. The BBEW cascade on the experiment bench is shown in Figure 6. The measure point distribution at the outlet section is shown in Figure 7.

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Fig. 7 [Figure 7: see original paper] The comparison of the total pressure loss coefficient at different attack angle (cid:9)(cid:244)
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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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