Mach Reflection of a Shock Wave from the Symmetry Axis of the Supersonic Nonisobaric Jet

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Abstract: The purpose of the study is to determine the conditions of Mach disk (direct shock wave) in a supersonic nonisobaric jet. Brief details on shock waves triple configurations, Mach reflection of a shock wave from a rigid wall and the axis of symmetry are given. Various known semi-empirical model of calculating the Mach disc diameter in a supersonic jet and its removal from the nozzle are discussed. It is shown that the Mach disk in the jet is corresponded by the so-called stationary Mach shock waves triple configuration, in which the intensity of the main shock (Mach disk) is the maximum possible for a given Mach number. The theoretical and calculative-experimental validation of the Mach disk formation model in a supersonic non-isobaric jet is provided. The results of calculation are in satisfactory match with experiment.

Keywords: A stationary mach configuration, irregular reflection of shock, mach disk, mach stem, the regular reflection of shock, the triple point, triple configuration of shock waves

INTRODUCTION

Main purpose of the study is to determine the conditions of Mach disk (direct shock wave) in a supersonic nonisobaric jet, development and experimental verification of the method of calculating Mach disk offset from the nozzle, as well as disks diameter and intensity. Supersonic jet has a periodic structure consisting of repeating barrel-shaped cells. If an incalculable jet, which is defined as the ratio between the pressure on a supersonic nozzle section and the pressure in the environment, differs significantly from one, the straight shocks in the shock-wave structure of the jet became clearly and have been called the Mach disk. Mach disk only has significant dimensions in the first barrel of the jet and sometimes the second. However, its presence strongly influences the geometry of the jet down the flow (Fig. 1). In jets of rocket engines in areas beyond the Mach disk the reaction of combustion and dissociation occurs, which leads to a significant increase in temperature, pressure and radiant flux. Despite the practical importance of the task, the complete theory of Mach disk formation in a supersonic jet is still missing. Below we present the necessary information about the triple configuration of shock waves, the description of "stationary Mach configuration" model and a basis for its application to the problem of calculating the Mach disk in a supersonic jet of an ideal gas.

![Fig. 1: The typical parts of supersonic turbulent jet](image)

A: Starting part; B: Transition region; C: The main part

![Fig. 2: Triple configuration of shock waves](image)

Brief information about the theory of triple configurations jumps: Triple Configuration (TC) of shock waves is the shock wave structure consisting of the three fronts of shocks $\sigma$, intersecting at some line and the surface of tangential discontinuity $\tau$, coming from this line (Fig. 2), $\sigma_1$ is called incoming shock, $\sigma_2$-outgoing, $\sigma_3$-main shock wave.

Triple configurations occur in irregular reflection of a shock wave from a solid surface and the axis of symmetry in axisymmetric flows, in some problems of...
the heart-shaped curves, singular points, the regions of curves” for the characteristic form. Detailed analysis of TC existence is given in work of Uskov (2012).

According to the classification (Uskov et al., 1995) TC-1, TC-2 and TC-3 triple configuration are distinguished.

**Classification of triple configurations shock waves:**

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**Triple configuration TK-1:** Arise in the interaction of colliding shocks in different directions, for example, the supersonic internal compression inlets. TC-1 is corresponded by the intersection point of the polar left branches (Fig. 5). As the intensity of the incoming jump 1 increases, the intersection point moves toward the top of the main polar, until it reaches it, this moment corresponds to the Stationary Mach Configuration (SMC), which separates the existence regions of TC-1 and TC-2.

TC-1 can exist only at Mach numbers $M>M_T$:

$$M_T = \sqrt{\frac{3+\gamma}{2}}$$

At lower Mach numbers the polars do not intersect. At Mach number equal to the MT behind the shock, the maximum static pressure at a given adiabatic index $\gamma$ (for air $\gamma = 1.4$) is achieved.
Triple configuration TC-2: Occur at irregular reflection of the shock wave from the wall. Difference from TC-1 is that in TC-2 the direction of flow deflection at the main shock (Mach stem) is reversed (Fig. 6). As the intensity of the shock J1 increases, the main shock 4 curves. During the reflection from of the shock 1 form the wall, the Mach stem curves approaching the wall orthogonally.

Triple configurations TK-3: Arise during the interaction of catch-up shocks in one direction. Their research is of practical importance for the design of supersonic air intakes of external compression.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Models of mach disk formation-history of research: Let us focus more detailed on the question of the Mach disk position in the jet. Mach disk has notable sizes only in the first and, sometimes the second barrel. However, its presence strongly influences the geometry of the jet down the flow.

The impossibility of regular shock reflection off the symmetry axis without forming Mach disk was first pointed out in the study of Melnikov (1962). Indeed, on the axis of symmetry the conditions of the velocity vector’s angle of inclination equality to zero and the flow line curvature behind the reflected shock must be fulfilled, but at y = 0 is impossible. When the falling shock to approaches the axis of symmetry, its curvature K_{σ} tends to infinity, as K_{σ}~y^{-1} and therefore the conditions for the formation of the Mach disk in the incalculable jet are always created.

Failures in creating methods for calculating jets usually significantly associated with an inability to find the position of the Mach disc. A detailed analysis of this issue is made in study of Avduevsky et al. (1989), where various hypotheses of the transition from regular shock reflection from the axis to an irregular (Mach) is performed. The most famous among them is the so-called Abbeth model (Abbett, 1971), often referred to in the known studies of Dash et al. (1985), Dash and Sinha (1985) and Dash and Thorpe (1981), which are devoted to the creation of methods for calculating the flame of the solid fuel tactical missile engine, as well as different assumptions about the magnitude of the pressure behind the reflected shock at the triple point. Last will not be considered, because today it is known that they are not applicable in the general case.

Abbeth procedure establishes a certain analogy between the Mach disk in the jet and Launch Shock Wave (LSW) that occurs at the Laval nozzle’ launch. Initially it was assumed that the pressure in the minimum cross section of the flow behind the Mach disk is equal to atmospheric. Later it was found that this assumption is only approximately true in highly under expanded jets, in which the turbulent area begins immediately after the first barrel section. In low-incalculable jets the Abbeth hypothesis leads to very large errors.

Abbeth hypothesis was upgraded by Dash and Thorpe (1981), suggesting that in the critical section of the Mach disk the "throat flow" condition fulfills, i.e., the flow velocity becomes equal to the local speed of sound. If the triple point position is set on the falling shock, the initial conditions for the calculation of the flow, limited disk Mach and tangential discontinuity is thereby defined. Considering this flow a one-dimensional, we can perform the calculation in the same way as in the Laval nozzle. If the calculation results in the minimum cross section of the flow behind the Mach disk show that the speed is equal to the local speed of sound, then in the procedure of Abbeth-Dash it is considered that the position of the jet Mach disk is selected correctly.

Mach disk in the jet-stationary mach configuration: Among the other models the criterion, experimentally described in study of Uskov and Mostovykh (2012) is well confirmed. According to this criterion, the formation of Mach disk occurs when the intensity of the falling shock value approaches J = J_0 value, corresponding to Stationary Mach Configuration (SMC). Such configurations of shock waves were studied in detail in along with the problem of shock reflection from a solid wall (Silnikov et al., 2014; Uskov and Chermnyshov, 2008). An indirect confirmation of the criterion J_0 is the solution of first-
order problem about configurations of triple shock waves. If we are to perform a formal calculation of triple configuration at any point of hanging (falling on the symmetry axis) shock to produce a formal settlement jump triple configuration of shock waves, then at intensities $J < J_0$ outgoing tangential discontinuity $\tau$ has positive curvature. At the point of shock, where $J = J_0$, curvature $\tau$ becomes negative (Uskov and Mostovykh, 2010), which corresponds to the empirical understanding of a tangential discontinuity form.

Let us discuss the triple configurations TC-2 more detailed, because they are directly related to the problem of calculating the Mach disk in a supersonic jet. Triple configuration TC-1 and TC-2 shares stationary Mach configuration, which is corresponded by the case when the secondary shock polar intersects the main polar at its apex. In the SMC (Fig. 7), the main shock wave is straightforward. Characteristic intensity $J_0$ is obtained by solving the cubic equation, corresponding to the polars intersection at the apex of the main polar (Fig. 7):

$$\sum_{i=0}^{3} A_i x_i^3 = 0, x_0 = J_0,$$
$$A_3 = 1 - \varepsilon, A_2 = m \varepsilon^2 - \varepsilon (M^2 + 1) - (M^2 - 2), m = (1 - \varepsilon)(M^2 - 1) - 1,$$
$$A_1 = m \varepsilon (1 + \varepsilon)(M^2 + 1) - (1 + \varepsilon)(2M^2 - 1), A_0 = m \varepsilon + \varepsilon 2M^2$$

For some typical Mach number $M_{\text{OR}}$ in SMC of the polar, corresponding to Mach number behind the incoming shock $1$, crosses the top of the apex of the main polar in the point of limit rotation angle $4$ (Fig. 8).

Hence the transcendental equation for a special number $M_{\text{OR}}$:

$$\frac{4A_1(A_1A_2)^2}{9A_0^2A_2/A_0} = 9 - A_1A_2/A_0 - 4 \left(3 - \frac{A_1^2}{A_1}\right)$$

Coefficients $A_i$ have the same value, as in the preceding equation.

At Mach numbers, smaller than $M_{\text{OR}}$ the polar intersects the vertical axis and lies inside the main polar, therefore the intensity $J_r$, corresponded by polar’s tangency to the axis (Fig. 9), is sometimes (wrongly) assumed as a transition criterion for the Mach. This allows to find the value of this intensity by solving the following equation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{3} A_i x_i^3 = 0, x_r = \frac{(1 + \varepsilon)M^2}{(J_r + \varepsilon)},$$
$$A_0 = -(1 - \varepsilon) L^4, L = \frac{1 - \varepsilon}{1 + \varepsilon},$$
$$A_1 = 2(1 - \varepsilon)(3 - \varepsilon)L^2 - 4(1 - 3\varepsilon)(1 - \varepsilon)L^3 + (1 + \varepsilon)^2 L^4,$$
$$A_2 = 2L^2(1 - 2\varepsilon - \varepsilon^2) - 4L - 1,$$
$$A_3 = 1$$

Fig. 7: Stationary Mach Configuration (SMC)

Fig. 8: The special configuration, corresponding to $M_{\text{OR}}$

Fig. 9: TC, corresponding to $J = J_r, M < M_{\text{OR}}$

However, in the stationary case is not experimentally confirmed. This fact is denied as well by the developed theory of shock waves restructuration (Bulat et al., 2012b). In axisymmetric ideal gas jet the triple point of hanging shock can be formally positioned in different sections. Triple configuration should contain the shocks with the lowest possible intensity (in accordance with the Lagrange mechanics principle of least action). At Mach number greater than $M_{\text{OR}}$ the formation of triple configuration with Mach disk at the shock in the point with lesser intensity than $J_0$ impossible due to Baryshnikov theorem (Arnold, 1976), which states that with small change in the parameter the wave configuration (addition to the shock wave) must remain topologically the same. Indeed, the intensity of hanging shock in this problem is a parameter. If the restructuring took place earlier, at $J < J_0$, then with further change of parameter $J$ at the moment when $J = J_0$ the configuration of shocks would topologically change because curvature $\tau$ would became negative.

If the Mach number than before the shock is less $M_{\text{OR}}$ then $J_r < J_0$. It would seem that the equation of
hanging shock intensity Jr must be taken as a criterion of Mach disk formation. But again the theorem of Bogaevsky is violated, since with the small change in a parameter (hanging shock intensity) upwards, the point of polar’s intersection with the shock moves on a strong branch of the main shock polar, i.e., decision is non-contractible (topologically changes) in the neighborhood of shock-wave structure adjustment point.

Model of stationary Mach configuration allows, with satisfactory for practice accuracy, to predict the position of the Mach disc in the supersonic jet. Positioning the Mach disk during calculation at the point of the hanging shock, in which its intensity \( J = J_0 \), it is possible determine the diameter of the Mach disk and its distance from the nozzle cut. Calculation results showed a good match with experiment.

At Mach numbers of \( M < M_T \) stationary solution for the shock wave reflection from the jet axis does not exist. The assumption that at Mach numbers of \( M_1 < M < M_{opt} \) the Mach disk is formed in such point of the hanging shock, where its intensity is equal to \( J_R \), is disproved by both theory and experiment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Testing the hypothesis of the SMC for the case of a mach disc formation in a supersonic overexpanded jet: For the practical justification of the model systematic calculations of overexpanded jets, flowing out from conical and profiled nozzle were performed. Choice of overexpanded jets for analysis was due to the simplicity of the flow before the shock in such jets, representing a continuation of the flow at the nozzle. In the underexpanded jets the flow structure before the shock is much more complex, contains a set of compression waves and weak discontinuities, which complicates the calculation of the SWS geometry. Formation of the falling shock wave in overexpanded jet was performed by solving a system of ordinary differential equations describing its geometry (Bulat et al., 1993), at each point of the shock; its intensity was compared with \( J_0 (M) \). The point in which, at given accuracy, the condition \( J = J_0 \) was true were considered the birthplace of the Mach disk. Figure 10 shows a comparison of the Mach disk diameter numerical calculations results and its distance from the nozzle (the ideal gas model). On the Fig. 10 the results of numerical calculations are shown as shaded areas corresponding to the “smearing” of the shocks on few difference cells.

The calculation results are in good match with numerical methods as well as with the concept of Mach disk diameter’s dependence on the basic parameters of the supersonic jet, based on experimental studies.

For a more thorough test of the \( J_0 \) model a series of experiments on the nozzles with half-angle from 8 to

Fig. 10: Mach disk diameter’s dependence on the mach number \( M \) and incalculability \( n \) in the over expanded jet, flowing from profiled nozzle
15° were performed. In the calculations the gas in the nozzle to was by the flow from a point source.

It is known that the greater the angle of a nozzle is, the more is the difference between the flow at the nozzle and model of the flow from the source, so the checking numerical calculation were performed using sst-model of turbulence without the resolution of the boundary layer on the nozzle walls. Experimental data thus must be positioned between two calculated curves. Calculations (Fig. 11) showed a very good match of the results.

Testing the hypothesis of the SMC for the case of a mach disc formation in a supersonic underexpanded jet: In order to correctly verify compliance of the calculation method with the experimental data it is necessary to minimize the influence of viscous effects the vicinity of the nozzle edge that distort the flow pattern during experiment. This can be achieved using such installation, in which the jet flows from a sonic nozzle with a bottom screen. Inside such nozzle, the boundary layer is small and the ejection flow at its edge is absent. Such experiment was conducted in the Dnepropetrovsk University (Belyaev and Karteshkin, 1982). Figure 12 and 13 show the dependence of distance L on the nozzle cut characteristic sections of the jet, as well as the dependence of diameter D of the jet’s first barrel corresponding element on the jet’s automodel parameter. The symbols mark the experimental data, solid-calculative.
Fig. 13: Comparison of the calculation results of the first barrel main elements diameter with the experiment (Belyaev and Karteshkin, 1982)

\(D_{vs}\): Maximum diameter of hovering shock; \(D_{m}\): Maximum diameter of the jet boundary; \(D_{dm}\): The diameter of the mach disk

The triple point on a hanging shock was chosen in section, in which the hanging shock’s intensity is equal to \(J_0\). There is not only a qualitative but also a satisfactory quantitative match with experiment.

CONCLUSION

Triple configuration of shock waves are briefly considered. It is shown that the Mach disk in a jet is a special case of triple configurations. The most well-known semi-empirical models, which allow to approximately calculate the diameter of the Mach disk and its distance from the nozzle are listed. The stationary Mach configuration, as the Mach disk model in the jet, is discussed. Checking calculations and comparisons with the results of full-scale and numerical experiment are performed.

Described studies are the next step in the development of the theory of shock waves. These models, results of calculations and experiments for the first time allowed to unequivocally prove that the Mach disk in nonisobaric supersonic jet is stationary Mach configuration.

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