

Ultrasonic Thermometry for Recession Measurements in Ablative Materials

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Outline

- Background of Ultrasonic Thermometry
- Applications
 - Regenerative Combustors
 - Extreme Temperature
 - Thermal gradients
- Re-Entry Applications:
 - Challenges
 - Recession Measurement Concept
 - Scoping studies



- Auto ignition or "cook-off" is one of the most serious safety concerns when firing large caliber guns.
- NETS Non-intrusive
 Erosion & Temperature
 Sensor





Ultrasonic

Sensor

Harsh Thermal or Chemically Reacting Environment

Key Components

➤Ultrasonic Sensors

➢ High Speed Data Acquisition

High Bandwidth Ultrasonic Instrumentation

High Speed Data transfer/Storage

Initialization

Thermocouple > Cooperative/Characterized Materials

Relevant Property Data over Operating Range



Overarching integral relationship:

$$G = 2 \int_0^L \frac{1}{V(T(x))} dx \approx \frac{2}{V_0} \int_0^L [1 + \xi \theta(x)] dx$$

G = Ultrasonic ToF *L* = Length of Propagation ξ = Velocity-Expansion coefficient *V*₀ = Velocity of Sound at reference temperature *T*₀ $\theta(x) = T(x) - T_0$

Under isothermal thermal conditions, $\frac{\Delta G}{G} = \xi (T - T_0)$



Background: Localization

Layered Structural Echoes





Propulsion Applications









Propulsion Applications





Extreme Temperatures









Backscatter: Copper





Backscatter: Copper



Inversion and Heat Flux







Re-Entry Applications





Re-Entry Applications

Challenges:

High Attenuation

Significant Backscatter

Anisotropy

Recession/Temperature





Anisotropy Re-Entry Applications:



Carbon Phenolic 1



Re-Entry Applications



Carbon Phenolic 2





Re-Entry Applications Recession Measurement Concept $\Delta G(t) = \left[\frac{\partial G}{\partial L}\right] \Delta L(t) + \left[\frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta}\right] \langle \Delta \theta(t) \rangle$

- Determine frequency & configuration
- Understand echo origin & Measure ultrasonic properties
- Track & measure Δ G for eroding surface
- Use non-eroding, internal, backscatter echoes to estimate temperature and material property effects



Re-Entry Applications





Re-Entry Applications





Summary

- Ultrasonic Thermometry:
 - Model-independent local temperature measurement
 - Only material property needed for temperature measurement is the Velocity-Expansion Coefficient
 - Material structure becomes the sensor
 - Non-destructive, Non-Intrusive
 - Remote mounting away from harsh, chemically reactive environments
 - Does not disrupt thermal transport
 - Rapid Response
 - Backscatter useful for correcting recession data.



Next Steps

- Continue Scoping Experiments
- Velocity-expansion Coefficient
- Real-time Studies
- Backscatter Temperature Analysis
- Need Teaming Partners for Phase II programs



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- Maximum probe operation: ~500°C
 But probes can be mounted remotely
- Fast Response: 5000Hz
 50 kHz under development
- Heat Flux measurement not limited by thermal mass

- 2 - 170,000 KW/m² have been demonstrated to date



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Instrumentation





One Dimensional Model & Heat Flux 📶



SIGNIFICANCE OF ΔG



$$q_0'' = \frac{\rho c_p}{\Delta t} \frac{c_0 \Delta G}{2\xi} + q_L''.$$
$$q_0'' = \frac{L\rho c_p}{\xi} \left(\frac{\Delta G}{G_o}\right) \frac{1}{\Delta t} + q_L''.$$

Change in the time-of-flight from one pulse to the next is really a measure of the stored energy in the system



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