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Large-eddy simulations of the flow and acoustic fields of a rocket jet impinging on a perforated plate

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Large-eddy simulations (LES) of five overexpanded rocket jets impinging on a plate located at a distance of $30r_0$, where $r_0 = D/2$ is the nozzle radius, and of the corresponding free jet have been performed. The jets are at an exhaust Mach number of 3.1 and a Reynolds number of 2×10^5 . Four plates are perforated with a hole of diameter $h = 1.33D$, $2D$, $3D$ and $4D$, whereas the last one is not, in order to investigate the effects of the hole on the jet flow and acoustic fields. The acoustic levels are highest for the non-perforated plate, and decrease as the hole diameter increases, due to weaker interactions between the jet and the plate. In comparison with the levels of the free jet, they are higher by about 5 dB for the full plate, 4 dB for $h = 1.33D$ and $2D$, 3 dB for $h = 3D$ and 2 dB for $h = 4D$. In the upstream direction, for the free jet, the broadband shock associated noise (BBSAN) is dominant. For the impinging jets, spatial Fourier transforms and two-dimensional spatial correlations show that the main upstream noise component is produced by the impingement of the jet turbulent structures on the plate, and that the reflections of the Mach waves on the plate are negligible. In the downstream direction, for the free jet and down to the plate for the impinging jets, the acoustic field is dominated by Mach waves produced by the convection of the jet coherent structures at a supersonic velocity. Downstream of the plate, sound waves are generated by interactions between the jet flow and the plate.

I. Introduction

During a rocket launch, the hot supersonic gases of the engines are canalized in a trench dug under the rocket. However, a part of the jets impinges on the ground, which generates intense acoustic waves. Those waves propagate upstream to the fairing, where they might excite the rocket structure and damage the payload. Thus, the understanding of noise generation at the lift-off of a space launcher is a main concern for the aerospace industry.

In order to analyze noise generation during a rocket launch, a simplified geometry of a launch pad, namely a jet impinging on a plate with a hole, can be considered. Such a configuration has been investigated numerically for hot overexpanded supersonic jets, typical of rocket jets, for nozzle-to-plate distances L between $15D$ and $20D$, where $D = 2r_0$ is the nozzle diameter [1–3]. In particular, Kawai *et al.* [1] studied the impingement of an overexpanded jet at an exit Mach number of 3.66 on a plate with a hole using an axisymmetric Large-Eddy Simulation (LES). They observed a strong acoustic radiation in the upstream direction, which they identified as the reflections of the jet Mach waves on the plate. For a similar geometry, Tsutsumi *et al.* [2] simulated a jet at an exit Mach number of 3.7. They highlighted the presence of another significant noise component in the upstream direction, generated by the impingement of the jet turbulent structures on the hole edges. This component was also visualized in the acoustic far field of a jet at a Mach number of 3.1 impinging on a perforated plate computed by Troyes *et al.* [3]. Nevertheless, it is still unclear which of the two upstream components, the impingement noise and the reflections of the Mach waves, dominates. Moreover, the acoustic levels depend on two geometrical parameters, namely the nozzle-to-plate distance L and the hole diameter h .

The effects of the nozzle-to-plate distance have been investigated in the simulations of a rocket launch by Tsutsumi *et al.* [4]. These authors considered a rocket with five jets impinging on a plate with five holes aligned with the jets and four nozzle-to-plate distances of $6D$, $11D$, $16D$ and $21D$. A maximum of the pressure levels near the nozzles is found for $L = 16D$. As for the influence of the hole, it has been examined by Tsutsumi *et al.* [2] for jets at a Mach number of 3.7. In their study, a free jet, a jet impinging on a flat plate and three other ones impinging on a plate with a hole of diameter $h = 2D$, $3D$ or $4D$ were computed. For all impinging jets, the nozzle-to-plate distance was equal to $20D$. The

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overall sound pressure levels were found to decrease when the hole diameter increases, with a reduction varying from 2 dB for $h = 2D$ up to 4 dB for $h = 4D$ compared with the flat-plate configuration. In other studies on impinging jets at a Mach number lower than 2 [5–8], intense tones were also shown to be generated by feedback loops establishing between the nozzle exit and the plate. Such tones do not appear to emerge for Mach numbers around 3, suggesting there is no feedback loops or only weak ones in that case.

In the present work, six overexpanded supersonic jets at an exit Mach number M_e of 3.1 and a Reynolds number Re_D of 2×10^5 are simulated by LES. One jet is free, and the five other ones impinge on a plate located at a distance $L = 30r_0$ from the nozzle exit. Four of the plates have a hole of diameters $h = 1.33D, 2D, 3D$ and $4D$, whereas the fifth one has no hole. The first objective in this study is to investigate the effects of the hole and its diameter on the sound radiated in the upstream direction. For that purpose, the jet flow and acoustic fields are described. In particular, the spectra of the pressure fluctuations in the vicinity of the nozzle are examined. The second objective is to identify the components of the acoustic radiation upstream but also downstream of the plate. To this end, a two-dimensional spatial Fourier transform is applied to the acoustic pressure fields in order to highlight the main propagation directions of the sound waves. Two-dimensional space-time correlations are also used to reveal the propagation of the acoustic waves produced on the plate.

This paper is organized as follows. The jet parameters and numerical methods used in the LES are documented in section II. The results of the simulations are presented in section III. Finally, concluding remarks are given in section IV.

II. Parameters

A. Jet parameters

The parameters of the simulated jets are provided in table 1. The jets have an exhaust Mach number $M_e = u_e/c_e$ of 3.1 and a Reynolds number $Re_D = u_e D/\nu_e$ of 2×10^5 , where u_e is the exhaust velocity, c_e is the sound celerity and ν_e is the kinematic viscosity at the jet nozzle exit. The exhaust temperature T_e is 738K and the exhaust pressure p_e is $0.63p_0$, where $p_0 = 10^5$ Pa is the ambient pressure. The parameters of the corresponding ideally expanded jet are given in table 1. In particular, the ideally expanded Mach number is equal to $M_j = 2.9$. The ejection parameters of the jets have been chosen to match those of a mixed hydrogen-air jet considered in some experiments conducted at the MARTEL facility [9] and in the simulations of Troyes *et al.* [3]. The jet static temperature T_e is set so that the ratio c_e/c_0 between the local and the ambient sound speeds is the same as that in the hydrogen-air jet, following the approach of Doty & McLaughlin [10].

M_e	p_e/p_0	T_e/T_0	M_j	T_j/T_0	D_j/D
3.1	0.63	2.5	2.9	2.2	0.9

Table 1 Jets parameters: exit Mach number M_e , pressure p_e and temperature T_e and ideally expanded Mach number M_j , temperature T_j and diameter D_j .

The first jet, labelled as jetfree, is free. The second one, jeth0, impinges on a full plate. The four other ones, jeth1, jeth2, jeth3 and jeth4, impinge on a plate with a hole of diameter $h = 1.33D, 2D, 3D$ and $4D$, respectively. For the impinging jets, the nozzle-to-plate distance L is equal to $30r_0$. The width e of the plates with a hole is arbitrarily chosen equal to r_0 . The nozzle-to-plate distance and the two hole diameters $h = 1.33D$ and $2D$ are the same as in the MARTEL experiments [9].

The six jets exhaust from a cylindrical nozzle of length $2r_0$, at the inlet of which Blasius boundary layer profiles with a thickness δ of $0.15r_0$ are imposed. Vortex rings non-correlated in the azimuthal direction are added in the boundary layer at $z = -r_0$ to trigger the boundary layer transition from a fully laminar to a disturbed state [11]. The radial profiles of mean velocity and root-mean-squared values of the axial velocity fluctuations thus obtained at the nozzle exit are plotted in figure 1. For the mean velocity, in figure 1(a), the profiles are very similar for the six jets. They differ from the boundary layer profiles imposed at the nozzle inlet. They decrease slowly down to $\langle u_z \rangle = 0.93u_e$ at $r = 0.8r_0$, then they are drastically reduced below to zero at $r = 0.9r_0$. Therefore, near the nozzle exit, the boundary layer is slightly detached from the wall due to the overexpansion of the jets [12], explaining the discrepancies between the nozzle-exit and the nozzle-inlet profiles. For the axial turbulent intensity, in figure 1(b), for all jets, the radial profiles reach a peak value at $r \approx 0.9r_0$. The peak intensities are between 1% and 1.5% of the exit velocity, indicating weakly disturbed

nozzle-exit conditions.

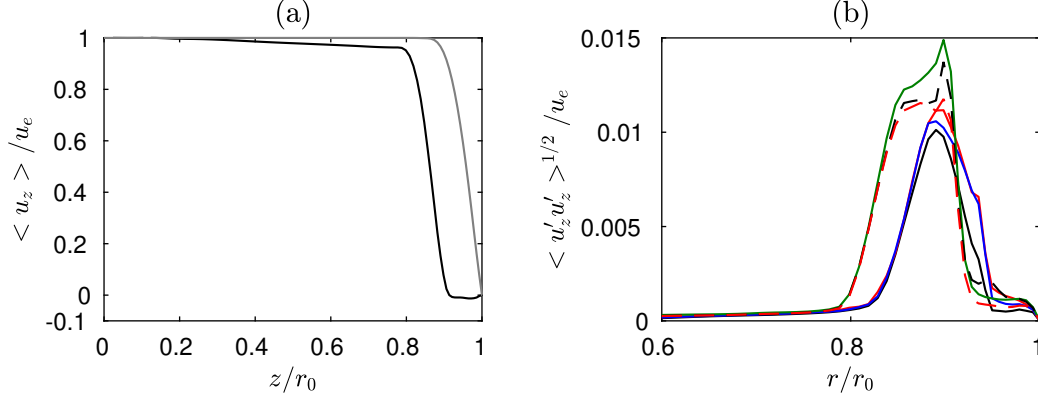


Fig. 1 Radial profiles of (a) mean axial velocity $\langle u_z \rangle / u_e$ at — the nozzle-exit and — at the nozzle-inlet and (b) axial turbulence intensity $\langle u'_z u'_z \rangle^{1/2} / u_e$ at the nozzle-exit: — jeth0, — jeth1, — jeth2, - - jeth3, - - jeth4 and — jethfree.

B. Numerical methods

The numerical set-up is identical to that used in recent LES of subsonic and supersonic, free [13, 14] and impinging [8, 15] jets. In the simulations, the unsteady compressible Navier-Stokes equations are solved in cylindrical coordinates (r, θ, z) using an OpenMP based in-house solver. The time integration is performed using a six-stage Runge-Kutta algorithm and the spatial derivatives are evaluated with eleven-point low-dispersion finite-difference schemes [16]. At the end of each time step, a selective filtering is applied to remove grid-to-grid oscillations [17]. This filter dissipates kinetic turbulent energy near the grid cut-off frequency, thus acting as a subgrid-scale model [18]. Solid and adiabatic wall conditions are implemented at the plate and nozzle walls. In order to handle shock waves, a damping procedure using a dilatation-based shock detector and a second-order filter are used to remove Gibbs oscillations in the vicinity of shocks [17]. The radiation boundary conditions of Tam & Dong [19] are imposed to the radial and lateral boundaries of the computational domain. They are used in combination with sponge zones using grid stretching and Laplacian filtering to prevent significant spurious reflections [20]. The method of Mohseni & Colonius [21] is applied to remove the singularity on the jet axis. The first point close to the axis is located at $r = \Delta r/2$, where Δr is the radial mesh size. The effective azimuthal resolution near the origin of the polar coordinates is reduced down to $2\pi/16$ to increase the time step of the simulation [22].

C. Computational parameters

The number of points of the mesh grids used in the simulations are provided in table 2. In the six simulations, they are equal to 501 and 256 in the radial and azimuthal directions, respectively. In the axial direction, the numbers of points are equal to 2628 for jethfree, 1910 for jeth0 and 2950 for the jets impinging on perforated plates. The grids thus contain between 250 and 380 millions of points. They extend out to $r = 15r_0$ in the radial direction. In the axial direction, they extend down to $z = 30r_0$ in the case with no hole and down to $z = 50r_0$ in the other cases. The variations of the radial mesh spacing are presented in figure 2(a). It is equal to $\Delta r = 0.025r_0$ on the axis and progressively decreases down to $\Delta r = 0.0072r_0$ in the shear layer at $r = r_0$. Farther from the jet axis, it then increases to reach $\Delta r = 0.05r_0$ at $r = 5r_0$, which allows us to obtain a Strouhal cut-off number $St = fD/u_e$ of 1.62 for an acoustic wave discretized with 5 points per wavelength, where f is the frequency. The variations of the axial mesh spacing are plotted in figure 2(b). It has a minimum value of $\Delta z = 0.014r_0$ at the nozzle exit. For the free jet, it increases up to $\Delta z = 0.03r_0$ at $z = 50r_0$. For the impinging jets, the axial mesh spacing grows up to $\Delta z = 0.022r_0$ at $z = 20r_0$, and then is constant. For $z \geq 25r_0$, it is reduced down to its minimum value on the plate at $z = 30r_0$. For the plates with a hole, the axial mesh size increases downstream of the plate up to $\Delta z = 0.03r_0$ at $z = 50r_0$. The extrema values of the mesh spacings and the elongation rates in radial and axial directions are the same as those in the simulations of jets at a Mach number of $M = 2$ of Pineau & Bogey [23, 24]. The results presented in this work are obtained for a simulation time of $1000r_0/u_e$.

	N_r	N_θ	N_z	$N_r \times N_\theta \times N_z$
jetfree	501	256	2628	3.4×10^8
jeth0	501	256	1910	2.5×10^8
jeth1, jeth2, jeth3, jeth4	501	256	2950	3.8×10^8

Table 2 Mesh parameters: numbers of points N_r , N_θ and N_z in the radial, azimuthal and axial directions, and total numbers of points.

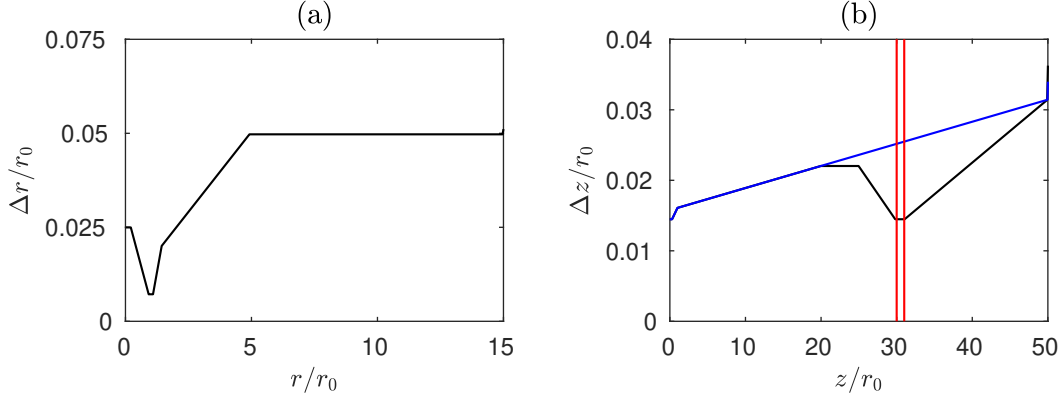


Fig. 2 Variations of (a) radial and (b) axial mesh spacings: — impinging jets, — free jet, — positions of the upstream and downstream faces of the plate.

III. Results

A. Snapshots of the flow and acoustic fields

Snapshots of temperature and pressure fluctuations inside and outside of the flow, respectively, are provided in figure 3. For the six jets, diamond patterns characteristic of shock cells are visible in the jet flows downstream of the nozzle exit. The cells are progressively weakened by the turbulent mixing for $z \geq 10r_0$. For jeth0, jeth1 and jeth2, in figures 3(a-c), a wall jet is created by the impingement of the flow on the plate. The wall jet is most developed for jeth0 for the plate with no hole and is less apparent for jeth1 and jeth2. For these three jets, zones of high temperature are found near the center of the plate and near the hole edges in the impingement area. For jeth3 and jeth4, on the contrary, the jets pass through the plate, interacting weakly with the hole edges.

In the pressure fields of figures 3(a-e), spherical acoustic waves can be observed for the impinging jets, centered on the impingement zone. They are particularly visible for $z \leq 5r_0$. Their levels are highest for jeth0 and they seem to decrease as the hole diameter increases. For $z \geq 5r_0$, inclined wavefronts of strong amplitude are also seen to propagate in the downstream direction. They are typical of Mach wave radiation, as noticed in several previous simulations of free jets at Mach numbers higher than 2 [25–28]. These waves are produced by the convection of turbulent coherent structures at a supersonic speed. The Mach angle α between the direction of propagation of the Mach waves and the jet axis can be evaluated with the relation

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{c_0}{u_c} \right) \quad (1)$$

where u_c is the mean convection velocity of the turbulent structures of the jet. This velocity has been estimated using velocity cross-correlations in the mixing layers between $z = 10r_0$ and $20r_0$ and it is close to $u_c = 0.55u_e$ for all jets, yielding $\alpha = 68^\circ$ using equation (1). This value is consistent with the inclination of the Mach waves in figure 3. For the plates with a hole, in figures 3(b-e), the sound field downstream of the plate has no clear organization, even if acoustic waves seem to originate from the hole. In addition, no oblique wavefronts are present, indicating that no Mach waves are generated for $z \geq L$. Finally, for the free jet, in figure 3(f), Mach waves propagate in the downstream direction.

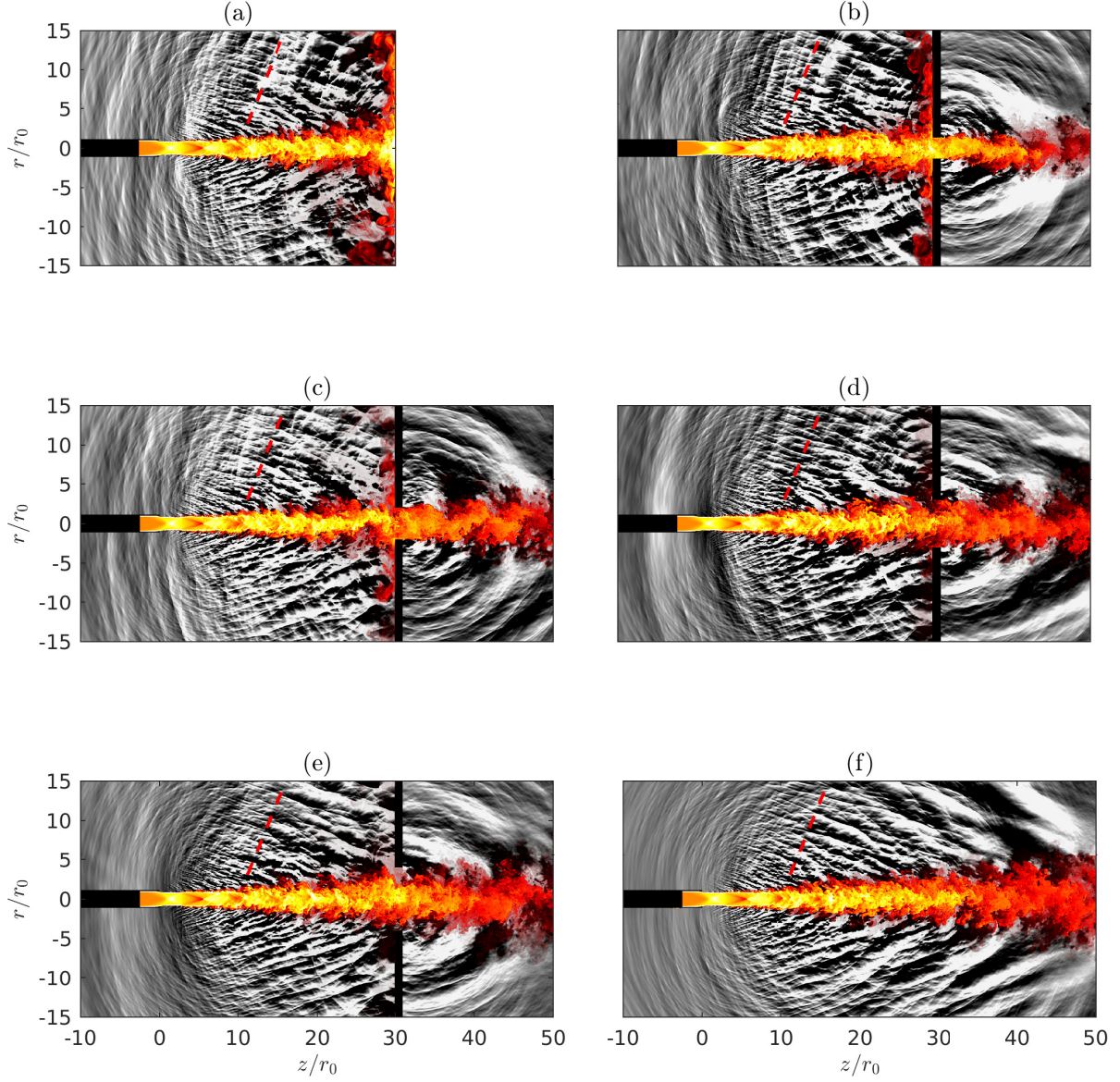


Fig. 3 Snapshots in the (z, r) plane of temperature fluctuations in the flow and of pressure fluctuations outside for (a) jeth0, (b) jeth1, (c) jeth2, (d) jeth3, (e) jeth4 and (f) jetfree. The color scales range from 0 to 780K for temperature from red to white and from -2000 to 2000 Pa for pressure from black to white. The red dashed line indicates the angle of $\alpha = 68^\circ$ with respect to the jet axis.

Sound waves of weak intensity are also emitted upstream. This upstream radiation corresponds to the broadband shock associated noise (BBSAN) produced by the interactions between the turbulent structures of the mixing layers and the shock cells.

B. Mean flow fields

The variations of the jet centerline mean axial velocity are presented in figure 4(a). The results obtained are similar for all jets down to $z = 28r_0$, indicating a weak influence of the plate. Significant velocity oscillations are visible for $z \leq 18r_0$. They are linked to the presence of six shock cells, which are progressively damped by the turbulent mixing. The mean value of the length L_s of the first four cells is close to $4.6r_0$, in agreement with the experiments of Piantanida & Berterretche [9] and the simulations of Troyes *et al.* [3, 29] and Langenais *et al.* [26]. In order to estimate the shock cell length, Tam & Tanna [30] proposed the following formula based on the work of Pack [31]

$$L_s = \frac{\pi D_j \beta}{\mu_1} \quad (2)$$

where $\beta = \sqrt{M_j^2 - 1}$ and $\mu_1 = 2.40483$ is the first zero of the zero-order Bessel function of the first kind. For the present jets, the equation (2) yields a cell length $L_s = 6.4r_0$, which is larger than the values from the simulations. This may be due to the fact that equation (2) applies to weak shock cells [32], with $|M_e^2 - M_j^2| \leq 1$. Indeed, for the jets in this work, $|M_e^2 - M_j^2|$ is equal to 1.2. Furthermore, the mean axial velocity oscillates around the exhaust velocity down to $z \approx 20r_0$. More precisely, the end of the potential core, defined by the position where the centerline axial velocity is equal to $0.9u_e$, is found at $z_c = 15.7r_0$. This potential core length can be compared with that predicted with the empirical formula proposed by Tam *et al.* [32]

$$\frac{z_c}{D_j} = 4.2 + 1.1M_j^2 + \left\{ \exp \left[-3.2 \left(\frac{T_j}{T_0} - 1 \right) \right] - 1 \right\}, \quad (3)$$

yielding $z_c = 23r_0$ for the present jets. Therefore, the potential core is shorter in the LES, which can be explained by the fact that the constants in relation (3) are based on measurements performed for a jet at a Mach number of 2.2 [33]. Downstream of the potential core, for jeth0, the mean axial velocity is drastically reduced down to zero at $z = 30r_0$ on the plate. For the other jets, for $z \geq 30r_0$, the velocity decreases more gradually. Small differences are however noted between the jets. The sonic core, in which the axial velocity is higher than c_e , closes around $z = 40r_0$. More precisely, its length is equal to $38.4r_0$ for jethfree, $42.4r_0$ for jeth1, $41.4r_0$ for jeth2, $42.6r_0$ for jeth3 and $39.5r_0$ for jeth4, revealing no clear relation between the length of the sonic core and the hole diameter. For the jets impinging on a plate with a hole, the sonic core closes after the plate, in agreement with the simulations of Troyes *et al.* [3].

The jet shear-layer momentum thickness δ_θ obtained for the different jets is represented in figure 4(b). Downstream of the nozzle, it increases and reaches a value of $\delta_\theta = 0.56r_0$ at $z \approx 28r_0$, which is close to the value of $0.65r_0$ obtained by Langenais *et al.* [26] for a similar free jet. Oscillations due to the shock cells are also visible down to $z = 28r_0$. For jethfree, for $z \geq 28r_0$, the shear-layer thickness grows roughly linearly. For jeth0, it increases up to a maximum of $0.69r_0$ at $z = 29.5r_0$ because of the wall jet. For the other impinging jets, for $z \geq 28r_0$, it decreases down to its minimal value at $z = L$, then it grows again downstream of the plate. For $z \geq L$, it is lowest for $h = 1.33D$ and increases with the hole diameter. The spreading rate of the shear layers is higher for the impinging jets than for the free jet, which leads to shear layers at $z = 50r_0$ slightly thicker for jeth3 and jeth4 than for jethfree.

The rms values of the axial velocity fluctuations at $r = r_0$ for the free and impinging jets are shown in figure 4(c). From the nozzle exit down to $z = 2.5r_0$, they are very low. Then, they grow sharply up to a peak value of $0.18u_e$ at $z \approx 11r_0$. The location and the amplitude of the peak are close to those of the simulation of a free jet at $M_e = 3.3$ by De Cacqueray *et al.* [25], for which a peak of axial turbulent intensity of $0.21u_e$ is found at $z = 12r_0$. For jeth0, for $z \geq 28r_0$, the amplitude of the fluctuations falls down to zero on the plate. For the other jets, the axial turbulent velocity decreases more slowly. For $z \geq 30r_0$, the turbulent levels are similar, with differences around 2% of the jet exit velocity between the different cases.

C. Overall sound pressure levels

The overall sound pressure levels (OASPL) obtained at $r = 15r_0$ and at $z = 0$ are plotted in figure 5. The sound levels calculated at $r = 15r_0$ are displayed in figure 5(a). For the free jet, they increase with the axial distance up to a maximum value of 160 dB at $z = 29r_0$. Then, they slowly decrease down to 155 dB at $z = 50r_0$. For jeth0, the OASPL

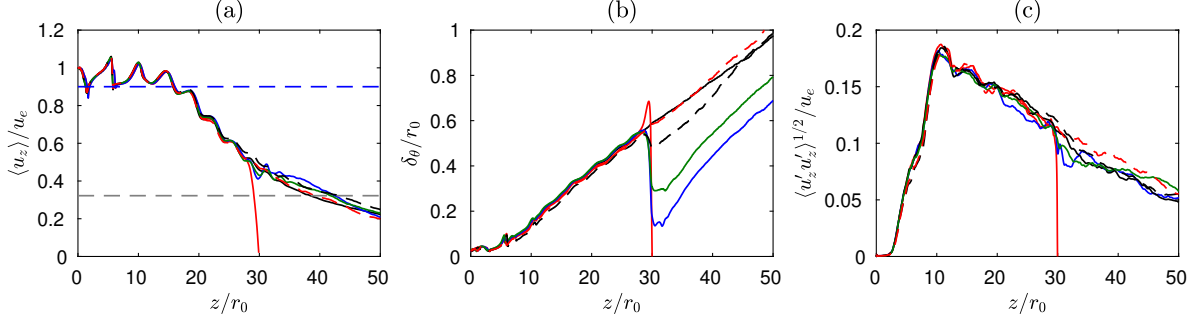


Fig. 4 Variations of (a) the mean axial centerline velocity $\langle u_z \rangle / u_e$, (b) the shear-layer momentum thickness δ_θ / r_0 and (c) the axial turbulence intensity $\langle u'_z u'_z \rangle^{1/2} / u_e$ at $r = r_0$ for — jetfree, — jeth0, — jeth1, — jeth2, --- jeth3 and --- jeth4; --- $\langle u_z \rangle = 0.9u_j$ and --- $\langle u_z \rangle = c_e$.

also first increase with the axial distance and reach a peak value of 168 dB at $z = 28r_0$. The peak strongly emerges because hydrodynamic pressure fluctuations of the wall jet are present in this near-plate region. Outside of this region, the OASPL of jeth0 are higher by between 3 and 7 dB than those of the free jet. For the jets impinging on a plate with a hole, the OASPL upstream of the plate vary as those for jeth0. However, they decrease with the hole diameter. In comparison with the case with no hole, the acoustic levels are lower by 0.5-1 dB for jeth1 and jeth2, 2-3 dB for jeth3 and 2-4 dB for jeth4. This may be caused by weaker interactions between the jet and the plate, as the hole is larger. Downstream of the plate, the sound levels for the impinging jets are lower than for the free jet, which can be explained by the shielding of the jet acoustic radiation by the plate. This hypothesis is also supported by the fact that the levels are the lowest for the plate with the smallest hole and that they grow with the hole diameter.

The OASPL obtained at $z = 0$ are represented in figure 5(b) in order to focus on the noise radiated upstream. For jetfree and jeth4, they increase with the radial distance, by 1.5 dB between $r = 2r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$, whereas for the other jets, they do not vary much. The levels are highest for jeth0, with a value of 152.5 dB, and they decrease as the hole diameter increases. Compared with jeth0, they are reduced by 0.7 dB for jeth1, 1.7 dB for jeth2, 2.7 dB for jeth3, 4.7 dB for jeth4 and 7.7 dB for jetfree.

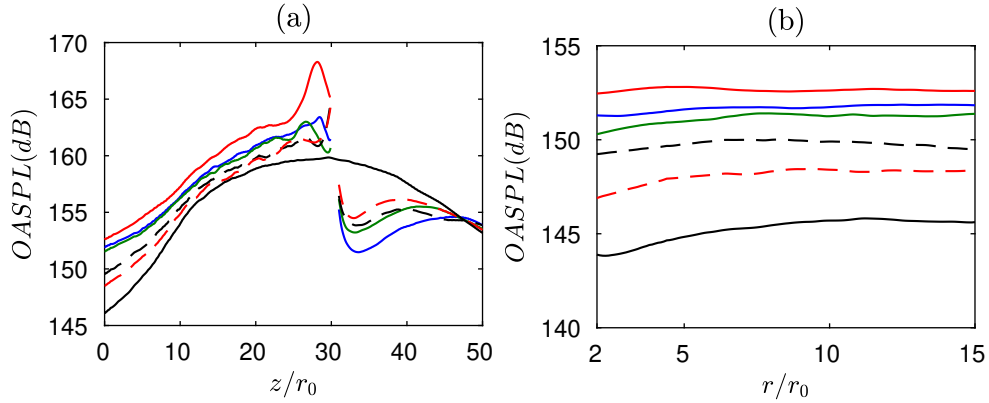


Fig. 5 Overall sound pressure levels at (a) $r = 15r_0$ and (b) $z = 0$ for — jetfree, — jeth0, — jeth1, — jeth2, --- jeth3 and --- jeth4.

D. Pressure spectra

In order to assess the validity of the simulations, the LES acoustic spectra are first compared to those recorded in the experiments at the MARTEL test bench. The sound pressure levels obtained at $z = -1.3r_0$ and $r = 10.5r_0$ for jeth1 and jeth2 are represented in figure 6, along with the experimental data. For both jets, a fair agreement is found. The

spectra are broadband and exhibit bumps for Strouhal numbers between 0.02 and 0.4. For jeth1, in figure 6(a), the bump frequencies from the simulations and the experiments do not agree very well. However, the difference in SPL does not exceed 1 dB between $St = 0.04$ and 0.2. For jeth2, in figure 6(b), the discrepancies between the simulations and the experiments are stronger. In particular, the main peak observed at a similar frequency $St \approx 0.07$ is 3 dB higher in the LES than in the experiments. The frequency of this peak can be compared with the central frequency f_p of BBSAN estimated by the model of Harper-Bourne & Fisher [34]

$$f_p = \frac{u_c}{L_s(1 - M_c \cos \theta)} \quad (4)$$

where $M_c = u_c/c_0$ is the convection Mach number and θ is the angle between the jet direction and the far-field observation point. For $\theta = 180^\circ$, a Strouhal number of $St_p = 0.0635$ is obtained using equation (4), which is close to the frequency $St = 0.065$ of the peak in the LES spectrum. Therefore, the peak in the spectra appears to be related to the BBSAN. Its higher amplitude in the simulation may be due to the state of the mixing layer at the nozzle exit. Indeed, the turbulent intensity at the nozzle exit is equal to 1.5% in the present simulations, but is most probably higher in the experiments, which can affect the sound radiated by the jet [35].

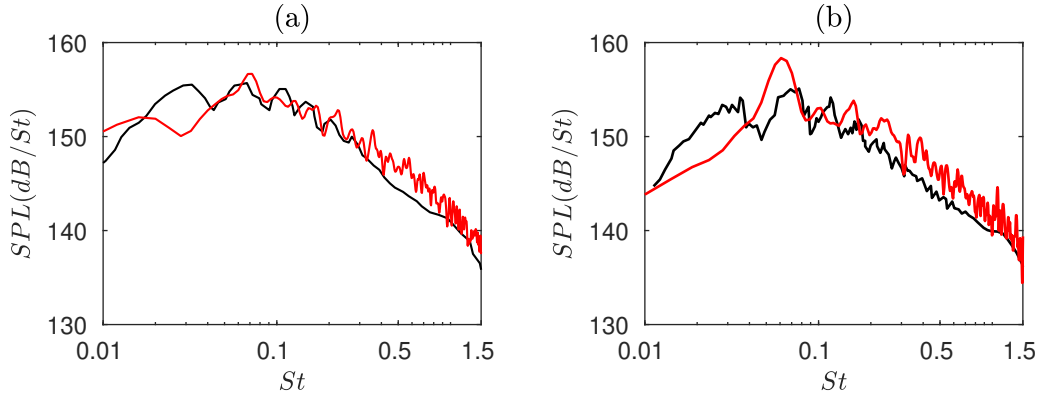


Fig. 6 Sound pressure levels at $z = -1.3r_0$ and $r = 10.5r_0$ for (a) jeth1 and (b) jeth2; — experiments, — present simulations.

The acoustic spectra estimated at three locations, namely near the nozzle, near the plate and downstream of the plate, are displayed in figure 7. The pressure spectra calculated at $z = 0$ and $r = 2r_0$ near the nozzle are shown in figure 7(a). For the free jet, a peak centered on $St = 0.06$ appears. As discussed above, this peak is attributed to the BBSAN. For jeth0, the levels are approximately 12 dB higher, and the strongest components are found around $St = 0.04$. They may be generated by a feedback loop establishing between the nozzle and the plate. However, the absence of strongly emerging tones implies that such a resonance is weak. For the plates with a hole, the pressure levels decrease as the hole diameter increases. This suggests that the interactions between the jet and the hole edges are weaker for larger holes, leading to a diminution of the impingement noise. For jeth1 and jeth2, compared with the no-hole case, the acoustic levels are reduced for $St \geq 0.1$, by about 3 dB for jeth1 and 4 dB for jeth2. For jeth3, a noise reduction of 4 dB is observed for all frequencies with respect to jeth2. Finally, for jeth4, for $St \leq 0.2$, the pressure levels decrease by approximately 2 dB relative to jeth3.

The acoustic spectra computed at $z = 20r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$, in the direction of propagation of the Mach waves, are represented in figure 8(b). For all jets, the spectra display a similar shape, reaching a peak at a Strouhal number between 0.11 and 0.15. They are almost superimposed for $St > 0.5$. At lower frequencies, the levels are highest for jeth0, they decrease as the hole is larger and they are lowest for the free jet. In comparison to those for the free jet, for $St < 0.2$, they increase by at maximum 14 dB for jeth0, 12 dB for jeth1 and jeth2, and 10 dB for jeth3 and jeth4. The jet impingement on the plate therefore seems to produce stronger acoustic waves of low frequencies.

The sound pressure levels obtained downstream of the plate, at $z = 40r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$, are plotted in figure 8(c). For all jets, the spectra are centered on a peak at Strouhal numbers around $St \approx 0.09$. The acoustic levels are similar for $St \geq 0.5$. For lower Strouhal numbers, they are minimal for jeth1 and increase with the hole diameter. Compared with those for jeth1, the levels increase by roughly 2 dB for jeth2, 3 dB for jeth3, 4 dB for jeth4 and 5 dB for the free jet.

Indeed, for the impinging jets, the Mach waves generated in the jet shear layers are shielded by the plate. A significant part of the flow is also diverted in the wall jet, leading to a weaker noise radiation of the jets downstream of the plate.

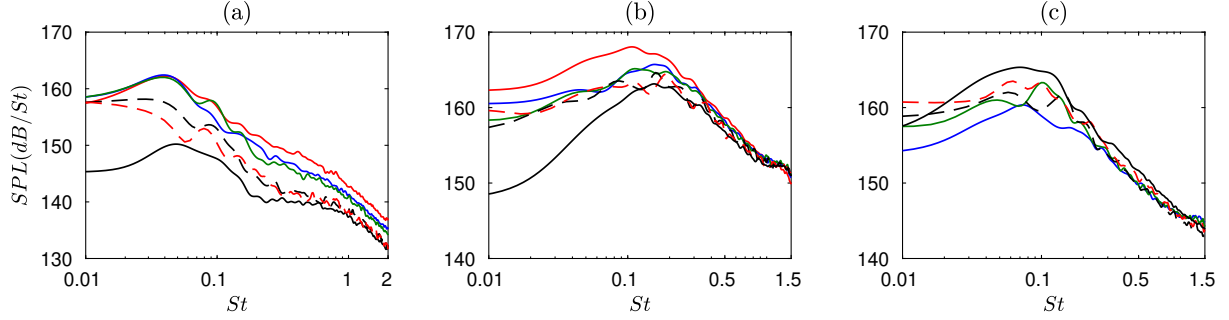


Fig. 7 Sound pressure levels (SPL) at (a) $z = 0$ and $r = 2r_0$, (b) $z = 20r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$ and (c) $z = 40r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$ as a function of the Strouhal number St : — jeth0, — jeth1, — jeth2, - - jeth3, - - jeth4 and — jetfree.

In order to highlight the azimuthal structure of the jet acoustic fields, the contributions of the first four azimuthal modes to the pressure spectra at $z = 0$ and $r = 2r_0$ are shown in figure 8. In all cases, the axisymmetric mode $n_\theta = 0$ is predominant at Strouhal numbers lower than 0.1, for which the acoustic levels are the highest. For $St \geq 0.2$, the contributions of the axisymmetric mode weaken significantly. For higher azimuthal modes, in all cases, the levels are negligible at Strouhal numbers lower than 0.1, then they increase with the frequency to reach those for the axisymmetric mode. Therefore, the jet impingement on the plate does not change the azimuthal structure of the upstream acoustic field. Some differences can be however noticed between the spectra of the free and those of the impinging jets. For the impinging jets in figures 8(a-d), a bump is observed at $St = 0.04$ for $n_\theta = 0$. Secondary humps around $St \approx 0.08$ are also noted for jeth2, jeth3 and jeth4. Such humps are not found for the free jet. They may be related to feedback loops establishing between the nozzle and the plate.

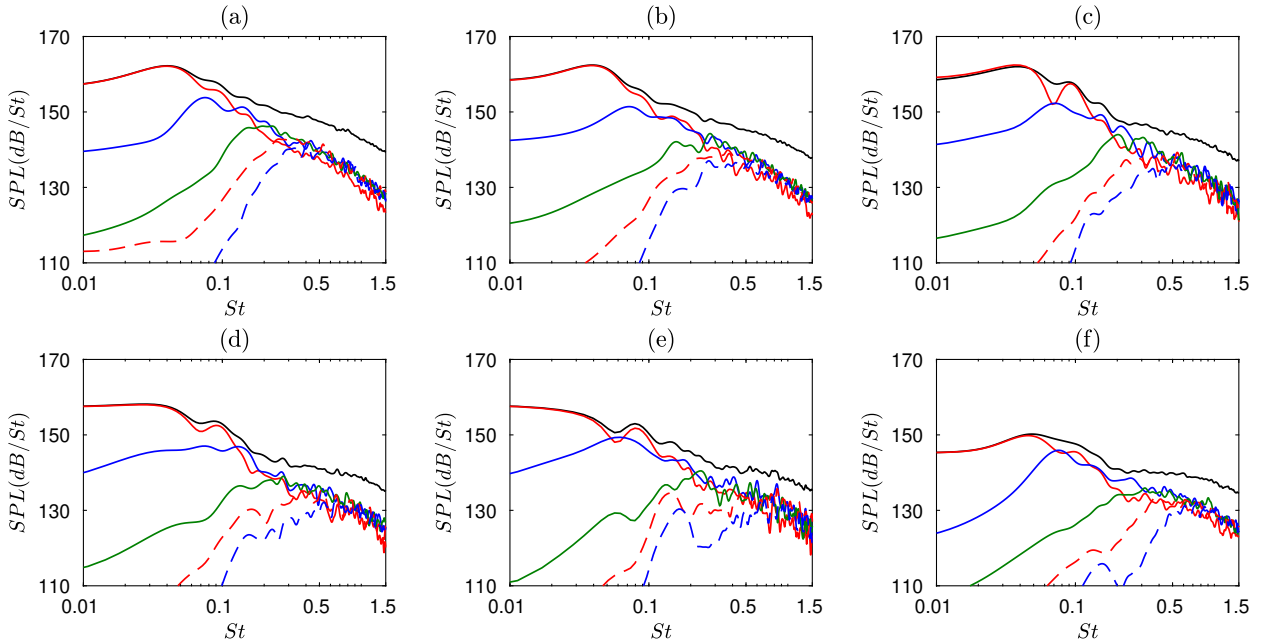


Fig. 8 Sound pressure spectra at $z = 0$ and $r = 2r_0$ for (a) jeth0, (b) jeth1, (c) jeth2, (d) jeth3, (e) jeth4 and (f) jetfree: — full spectra, and for modes — $n_\theta = 0$, — $n_\theta = 1$, — $n_\theta = 2$, - - $n_\theta = 3$ and - - $n_\theta = 4$.

E. Spatial Fourier decomposition of the pressure fields

A two-dimensional spatial Fourier transform in the radial and axial directions has been applied to the pressure fields of the jets using the method developed by Nonomura *et al.* [36] for free jets at an exit Mach number of 2. For the jets impinging on a perforated plate, the results are similar and therefore only those for jeth1 are presented. The regions where this Fourier transform is performed are represented in figure 9 for jetfree, jeth0 and jeth1. In the three cases, they extend from $z = 5r_0$ down to $z = 25r_0$ axially and from $r = 5r_0$ out to $r = 15r_0$ radially. These areas are chosen far enough from the jet so that the fluctuations of pressure are only of acoustic nature. In all cases, Mach waves are seen to propagate downstream. For jetfree, in figure 9(a), upstream-propagating waves of very weak amplitude are also observed for $z \leq 10r_0$. For jeth0 and jeth1, in figures 9(b-c), strong pressure waves originating from the plate propagate upstream. Their amplitude is lower for the plate with a hole.

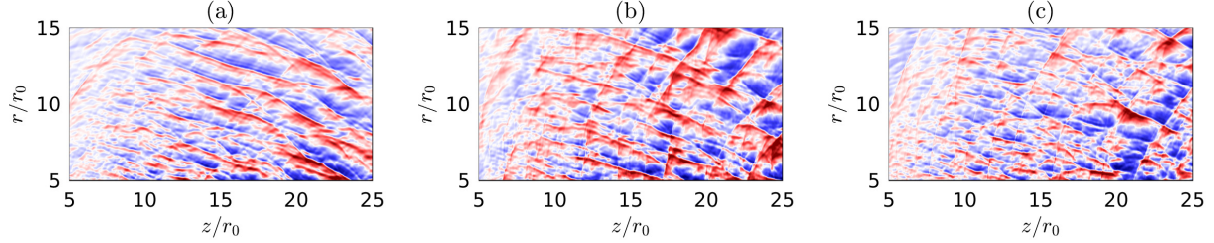


Fig. 9 Pressure fields where the two-dimensional spatial Fourier transform is applied for (a) jetfree, (b) jeth0 and (c) jeth1. The color scale level ranges from $\pm 0.1p_0$, from blue to red.

The spatial Fourier decomposition is performed at each recorded time. The results are then time-averaged. The amplitudes thus obtained are presented in figure 10 as a function of the radial and axial wavenumbers k_r and k_z . For the free jet in figure 10(a), lobes are observed in the quadrants where k_r and k_z have the same sign, indicating that they are associated with downstream-propagating waves. The lobes are aligned with the direction of propagation of the Mach waves, showing that the latter are the main acoustic components in the pressure field. Similar lobes can be seen for the impinging jets in figures 10(b,c). However, lobes are also found in quadrants with k_r and k_z of opposite signs, indicating the presence of upstream-propagating waves. The orientation of the lobes is compared with the direction of propagation of reflected Mach waves, assuming a specular reflection on the plate. The orientation of the lobes does not agree with this direction, implying that the reflections of Mach waves have negligible contributions in the acoustic region considered. The amplitude fields also provide information on the frequency content of the sound waves, since in the wavenumber plane (k_z, k_r), the distance of a point to the origin is proportional to the frequency. For the impinging jets in figures 10(b,c), the lobes related to upstream-propagating waves do not extend as far from the origin as those of the downstream-propagating waves, indicating that the frequencies of the upstream noise components are lower than those of the downstream noise components. This result is consistent with the sound spectra of figure 7. This provides further evidence that the main upstream noise components are not generated by the reflections of the downstream noise on the plate. Moreover, the levels in the quadrants with k_z and k_r of opposite signs are lower for jeth1 than for jeth0, supporting the idea that the noise in the upstream direction is mainly produced by the impingement of turbulent structures on the plate.

F. Two-dimensional spatial correlations

In order to visualize the different noise components, two-dimensional spatial correlations of the jet pressure fields have been calculated in a section (z, r) . The fluctuating pressure p' at a reference point (z_1, r_1) at time t is correlated with the pressure fluctuations in the plane (z, r) at time $t + \delta t$, giving the dimensionless coefficient \mathcal{R}

$$\mathcal{R}(r, z, \delta t) = \frac{\langle p'(r_1, z_1, t) p'(r, z, t + \delta t) \rangle}{\langle p'^2(r_1, z_1, t) \rangle^{1/2} \langle p'^2(r, z, t) \rangle^{1/2}} \quad (5)$$

where δt is the time delay between the signals and $\langle . \rangle$ denotes time averaging. In this manner, the shapes and the time variations of the waves correlated with the pressure fluctuations at the reference point are revealed. The correlation coefficient \mathcal{R} has been evaluated for all jets at different reference points to study the sound radiation upstream and downstream of the plate. The results for the impinging jets are similar. Therefore, only those for jeth2 are shown.

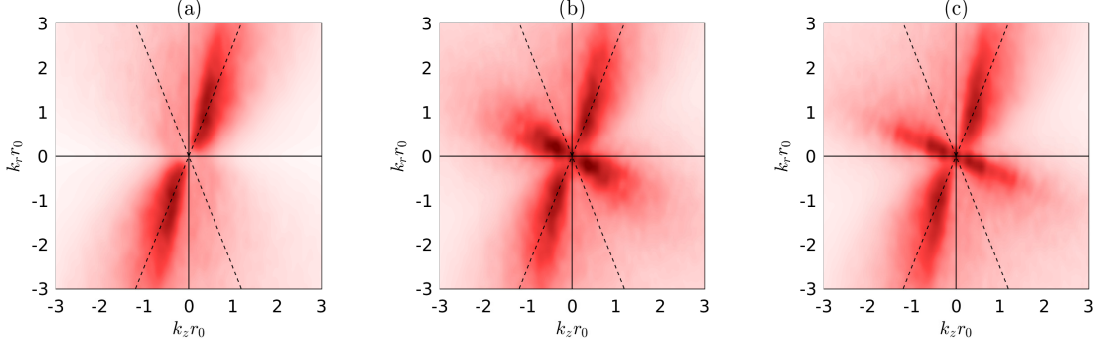


Fig. 10 Two-dimensional wavenumber spectra as a function of (k_r, k_z) for (a) jethfree, (b) jeth0 and (c) jeth1; - - - propagation directions of $\alpha = 68^\circ$ and 112° of the incident and reflected Mach waves. The color scale levels spread over 35 dB from white to red.

Upstream of the plate

The correlations are first calculated for jeth2 for a reference point near the nozzle at $z_1 = 0$ and $r_1 = 2r_0$, in order to highlight the upstream acoustic radiation. The results obtained are presented in figure 11 for time delays $\delta t = -100r_0/u_e$, $-50r_0/u_e$ and 0. For $\delta t = -100r_0/u_e$, in figure 11(a), three circular fronts of positive correlations are observed, located around $z = 0$, $z = 10r_0$ and $z = 20r_0$ for $r \approx 0$. They are separated by a distance close to the wavelength $\lambda = 10.2r_0$ corresponding to the Strouhal number $St = 0.04$ of the strongest noise components near the nozzle. The levels of correlations are highest for the front at $z \approx 20r_0$. The latter is aligned with a circle centered on a point at $z = L$ and $r = 6r_0$, suggesting that the main upstream noise components are generated on the plate. For $\delta t = -50r_0/u_e$, in figure 11(b), the correlation levels are higher than previously. The wavefronts propagate to the reference point over a distance of about $10r_0$, which is consistent with the distance $c_0 \times 50r_0/u_e$ travelled by a sound wave during $50r_0/u_e$. For $\delta t = 0$, in figure 11(c), correlation is equal to 1 on the reference point, as expected. The wavefront is circular, as for the previous time delays, and strong levels are visible inside and outside of the jet flow in the vicinity of the nozzle exit.

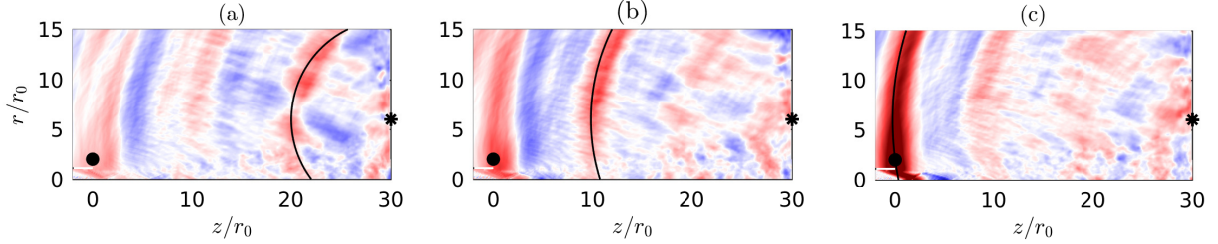


Fig. 11 Correlations \mathcal{R} of $p'(r = 2r_0, z = 0, t)$ with $p'(r, z, t + \delta t)$ for (a) $\delta t = -100u_e/r_0$, (b) $\delta t = -50r_0/u_e$ and (c) $\delta t = 0$ for jeth2; — circle centered on * at $(z = L, r = 6r_0)$. The color scale ranges between ± 0.5 , from blue to red.

The correlation levels are then computed for jeth2 for a reference point near the plate at $z = 20r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$, with the aim of examining the acoustic waves propagating in the radial direction. The correlations thus computed are shown in figure 12 for $\delta t = -40r_0/u_e$, $-20r_0/u_e$ and 0. For $\delta t = -40r_0/u_e$, in figure 12(a), two areas of significant correlations appear. The first one is aligned with the direction $\beta = 158^\circ$ of the incident Mach waves observed in the pressure snapshots of figure 3. The second one has the shape of a circular arc and is aligned with a circle centered on a point at $z = L$ and $r = 6r_0$ on the plate. In particular, no correlation front parallel to possible reflected Mach waves can be seen, indicating that the contributions of these reflections to the radiated sound are negligible at the reference point. Therefore, the acoustic radiation consists of two main components, namely the incident Mach waves and the impingement noise. For $\delta t = -20r_0/u_e$, in figure 12(b), these two contributions propagate to the reference point. Finally, for $\delta t = 0$, in figure 12(c), they reach that point, causing a correlation level of 1.

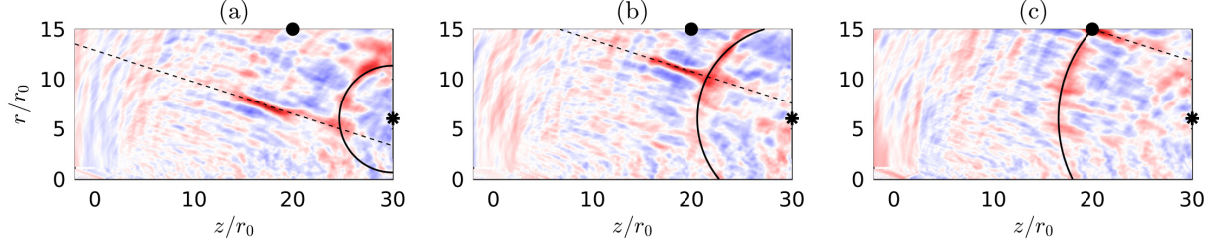


Fig. 12 Correlations \mathcal{R} of $p'(r = 15r_0, z = 20r_0, t)$ with $p'(r, z, t + \delta t)$ for (a) $\delta t = -40r_0/u_e$, (b) $\delta t = -20r_0/u_e$ and (c) $\delta t = 0$ for jeth2; — circle centered on * at $(z = L, r = 6r_0)$ and - - - direction $\beta = 158^\circ$ with respect to the jet axis. The color scale ranges between ± 0.5 , from blue to red.

Downstream of the plate

Two-dimensional spatial correlations are estimated for a reference point at $z = 40r_0$ and $r = 15r_0$ for the free jet, in order to visualize the noise radiation in the downstream direction. The correlation coefficients obtained are given in figures 13 for the time delays $\delta t = -75r_0/u_e$, $-45r_0/u_e$ and $-15r_0/u_e$. For $\delta t = -75r_0/u_e$, in figure 13(a), a spot of strong correlations is found in the jet flow at $z = 30r_0$. An inclined front of high positive correlations also emerges from the flow at this position. These features indicate the generation of Mach waves by flow structures convected at a supersonic speed. Similar results were found in previous studies for temporal jets at Mach numbers of 2 and 3 [28, 37]. Later, for $\delta t = -45r_0/u_e$, in figure 13(b), the pressure wave leaves the flow, creating a straight band of strong correlations at an angle of $\beta = 148^\circ$ with respect to the jet axis. This angle is lower than that of the Mach waves observed for $z < 30r_0$, which can be explained by the decrease of the convection velocity of the jet vortical structures with the axial distance. Finally, for $\delta t = -15r_0/u_e$, in figure 13(c), the wave propagates to the reference point.

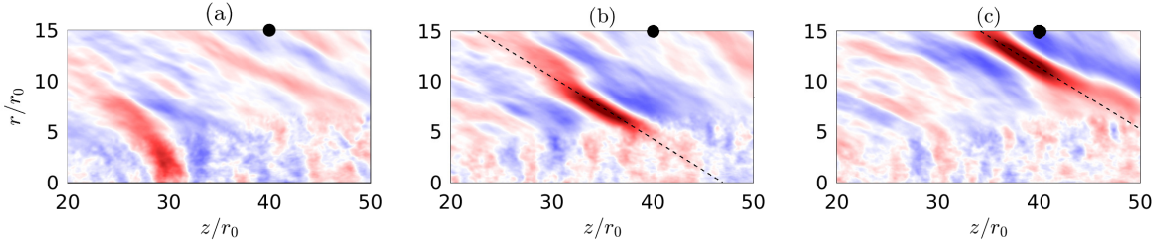


Fig. 13 Correlations \mathcal{R} of $p'(r = 15r_0, z = 40r_0, t)$ with $p'(r, z, t + \delta t)$ for (a) $\delta t = -75r_0/u_e$, (b) $\delta t = -45r_0/u_e$ and (c) $\delta t = -15r_0/u_e$ for jetfree. The dashed line indicates the direction $\beta = 148^\circ$ with respect to the jet axis. The color scale ranges between ± 0.5 , from blue to red.

Correlations are finally evaluated for the same reference point for jeth2 to give insight into the acoustic radiation downstream of the plate. The results obtained for the same time delays as for the free jet are presented in figure 14. For $\delta t = -75r_0/u_e$, in figure 14(a), significant correlation levels are noted near the hole in the plate, revealing interactions between the jet flow and the plate. Upstream of the plate, no clear organization of the correlations field is observed, whereas downstream of the plate, fronts of positive correlations centered on the hole are seen. For $\delta t = -45r_0/u_e$, in figure 14(b), a front of strong correlations is noticed downstream of the plate. In comparison with the wavefront observed at the same time delay for the corresponding free jet, in figure 13(b), it is more curved and is not aligned with the angle $\beta = 148^\circ$. These differences in shape indicate that the sound waves downstream of the plate for jeth2 are not produced by Mach waves, but that they result from the interactions between the jet turbulent structures and the plate visible at the previous time delay. For $\delta t = -15r_0/u_e$, in figure 14(c), as for the free jet, the wave travels to the reference point.

IV. Conclusion

In this paper, compressible large-eddy simulations have been used to examine the sound radiation of overexpanded jets at an exhaust Mach number of 3.1 impinging on a plate with and without a hole for different hole diameters h . The effects of the plate and of the hole on the flow and acoustic fields have been investigated by comparing the fields

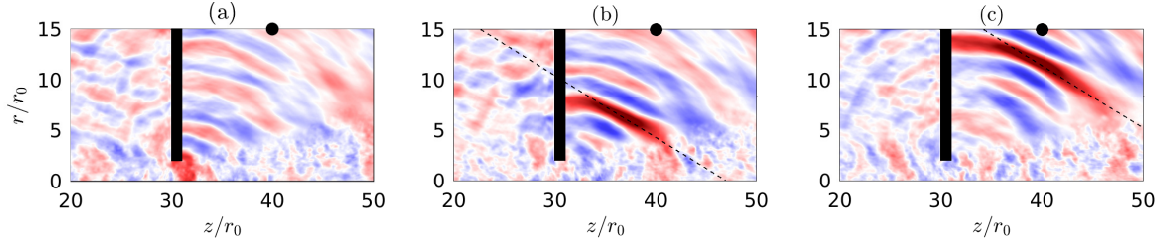


Fig. 14 Correlations \mathcal{R} of $p'(r = 15r_0, z = 40r_0, t)$ with $p'(r, z, t + \delta t)$ for (a) $\delta t = -75r_0/u_e$, (b) $\delta t = -45r_0/u_e$ and (c) $\delta t = -15r_0/u_e$ for jeth2. The dashed line indicates the direction $\beta = 148^\circ$ with respect to the jet axis. The color scale ranges between ± 0.5 , from blue to red.

obtained to those of the corresponding free jet. For all impinging jets, two-dimensional spatial correlations and spatial Fourier transforms reveal that the upstream acoustic radiation is mainly produced by the impingement of the turbulent structures of the jet flow on the plate, and that the sound reflections on the plate have negligible contributions near the jet nozzle. The upstream sound radiation is weaker as the hole diameter is larger. Compared with the full-plate case, for $h \leq 2D$, the near-nozzle sound pressure levels are reduced at high frequencies only, while for $h \geq 3D$, they are lower for all frequencies. The latter reduction over the whole frequency range is due to weaker interactions between the turbulent structures of the jets and the plate. Indeed, for $h \leq 2D$, the jet mixing layers impinge on the plate and are strongly distorted by the impingement, whereas for $h \geq 3D$, they pass through the hole and are only slightly distorted. These interactions are especially weak for the largest hole $h = 4D$, resulting in a decrease by 4 dB of the overall acoustic level in the vicinity of the nozzle in comparison with the full plate. Moreover, for $h \leq 3D$, a large peak is found at a low frequency in the near-nozzle pressure spectra. This peak is too wide and its amplitude is too low to clearly conclude about the existence of a resonance phenomenon in the present cases. In further investigations, rocket jets impinging on plates at a smaller nozzle-to-plate distance, typically $L = 15r_0$, could be considered in order to investigate the possible establishment of feedback phenomena and the generation of acoustic tones for high Mach number jets.

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