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THE EFFECT OF INTERBLADE PHASE ANGLE AND SOLIDITY ON THE TIME-VARIANT AERODYNAMIC RESPONSE OF A COMPRESSOR STATOR

EDR 9930

R. R. Allran

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June 1979

Research Sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFSC) United States Air Force under Contract F49620-78-C-0070

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Division of General Motors Corporation Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

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distributions on the downstream vane row, with the primary source of excitation being the upstream rotor wakes, were measured over a wide range of compressor operating conditions. The individual vane surface data were investigated to determine the effect of interblade phase angle and solidity on the overall unsteady pressure magnitude as well as to determine the dynamic pressure coefficient and aerodynamic phase lag for the unsteady pressure differential across the vanes. The unsteady pressure differential data were correlated with predictions from a state-of-the-art flat plate cascade transverse gust analysis.

EDR 9930

## THE EFFECT OF INTERBLADE PHASE ANGLE AND SOLIDITY ON THE TIME-VARIANT AERODYNAMIC RESPONSE OF A COMPRESSOR STATOR

R. R. ALLRAN

**JUNE 1979** 

## Research Sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFSC) United States Air Force under Contract F49620-78-C-0070

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## DETROIT DIESEL ALLISON DIVISION GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

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## ABSTRACT

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The overall objective of this experimental program was to quantify the effects of the reduced frequency as well as the interblade phase angle and associated solidity variations on the fundamental time-variant aerodynamics relevant to forced response in turbomachinery. This was accomplished in a large, low speed, single-stage research compressor which permitted variation of the interblade phase angle and solidity by varying the number of rotor to stator blades.

At a single value of interblade phase angle, 36 degrees and a corresponding value of solidity of .758, the aerodynamically induced fluctuating surface pressure distributions on the downstream vane row, with the primary source of excitation being the upstream rotor wakes, were measured over a wide range of compressor operating conditions.

The individual vane surface data were investigated to determine the effect of interblade phase angle and solidity on the overall unsteady pressure magnitude as well as to determine the dynamic pressure coefficient and aerodynamic phase lag for the unsteady pressure differential across the vanes. The unsteady pressure differential data were correlated with predictions from a state-of-the-art flat plate cascade transverse gust analysis.

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# NOMENCLATURE

b	Airfoil semi-chord
с	Airfoil chord
cp	Dynamic pressure coefficient
R <sub>c</sub>	Compressor pressure ratio
v	Absolute velocity
W √078	Corrected mass flow
k	Reduced frequency ( $k = \omega b/V$ )
u	Longitudinal perturbation velocity
v	Transverse perturbation velocity
β	Inlet angle
φ	Phase lag
ρ	Inlet air density
ω	Blade passing angular frequency
s	Vane spacing
σ	Solidity ( $\sigma = C/S$ )

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В	Blade
v	Vane
1	First Harmonic
2	Second Harmonic
ABS	Absolute

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### I. INTRODUCTION

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The failure of rotor and stator airfoils as a result of aerodynamic excitations has been and yet remains a serious design consideration throughout the gas turbine engine industry. The discovery of a forced response problem, and the subsequent need to affect a viable solution, results in increased unit cost, delays in delivery schedules and decreased flight readiness. As early as 1955 the need to develop a fundamental understanding of these "forced response" problems was recognized and noted in the open literature by Whitmore, Lull and Adams<sup>(1)</sup>. In the ensuing time period significant advancements have been made in solution techniques, aerodynamic theory and computing capability. However, today forced response still ranks as a significant problem area for gas turbine engines.

The overall objective of the experimental portion of the Detroit Diesel Allison (DDA) forced response program is to provide fundamental time-variant aerodynamic data to validate and to indicate refinements necessary to current state-of-the-art analyses. This unique unsteady aerodynamic cascade data will lead to modifications of the current analyses and direct the development of new analyses. The unsteady aerodynamic data of primary interest herein is that relevant to aerodynamically

Numbers in parentheses refer to references listed at end of test.

induced vibrations in stationary vane rows, with the primary source of excitation being the wakes from upstream rotor blades.

The approach to achieving this objective is to measure the unsteady pressure distribution in controlled experiments which model the fundamental flow physics and thereby identify and quantify the key time-variant aerodynamic parameters relevant to aerodynamically induced vibrations. These parameters include the following:

- Reduced frequency,
- Interblade phase angle,
- Solidity,
- Stagger angle,
- Airfoil shape (camber, thickness),
- Steady aerodynamic loading, and
- Mach number.

21

In the above list experience has demonstrated several of these parameters to have a major influence on aerodynamically forced response. Previous experimental programs under sponsorship of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research have resulted in the successful acquisition of fundamental data regarding the unsteady aerodynamic response of a stator vane where the key parameters of interest have been reduced frequency, incidence, rotor-stator axial spacing, wake profile, steady aerodynamic loading and Mach number<sup>(2,3)</sup>. The specific objective of the experimental research program reported herein is to provide additional data with particular emphasis on quantifying the effects of interblade phase angle and solidity variations. This is being accomplished in the DDA large-scale, research compressor facility with variations in the above key parameters achieved by varying the number of rotor blades and stator vanes.

The results reported here pertain to the first of three proposed configurations. A previously tested baseline configuration consisted of 42 rotors and 40 stators at a rotor to stator axial spacing of .4305. The baseline data have been reported and discussed in Reference (3). Configuration I of this task consists of 42 rotor blades and 20 stator vanes which effectively doubles the interblade phase angle to 36 (relative to the baseline) and reduces the vane solidity to one-half of its baseline configuration value (1.516 to .758).

#### II. WORK STATEMENT

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The Detroit Diesel Allison (DDA) Division of General Motors Corporation is furnishing all necessary facilities and personnel to conduct a research program directed at obtaining fundamental time-variant aerodynamic data relevant to forced response in turbomachinery.

An experiment directed at obtaining this unique unsteady aerodynamic data has been designed and necessary hardware fabricated. The objective of this experiment is to obtain data to quantify the effects of the key parameters over the range of values relevant to forced response in turbomachinery. In particular, the effects of interblade phase angle, solidity and reduced frequency are being investigated in the DDA large-scale, singlestage, research compressor facility shown schematically in Figure 1.

The experimental program is being accomplished in three phases which involve three distinct rig configurations. These are characterized in terms of the number of rotor blades and stator vanes.

•	Configuration	I:	42	rotor	blades	20	stator	vanes
•	Configuration	II:	21	rotor	blades	20	stator	vanes
•	Configuration	III:	21	rotor	blades	40	stator	vanes

Testing in each of these phases consists of obtaining timevariant data at approximately eight steady-state compressor operating points, four on each of two speed lines. Sufficient rig instrumentation is provided to ascertain these steadystate compressor operating points in terms of pressure ratio and corrected mass flow rate. The time-variant data obtained at each steady-state operating point defines the rotor wake (the aerodynamic forcing function) and the resulting aerodynamically induced fluctuating pressure distribution on the downstream stator vane pressure and suction surfaces. These measurements are accomplished with a calibrated crosswire probe and flush mounted Kulite dynamic pressure transducers, respectively.

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From these individual vane surface data, the unsteady pressure differential across the vane is determined, and this difference data correlated with predictions obtained from an appropriate state-of-the-art analysis.

### III. RESEARCH STATUS

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The current research program is broken down into three distinct rig configurations which are listed in Table I as Configuration I, II and III. During this reporting period Configuration I was tested and the results will be reported in this section. Configuration I is directed at extending the range of available data to include variations in: (1) the reduced frequency and solidity at an interblade phase angle equivalent to that of the baseline; (2) the interblade phase angle and reduced frequency at a common vane solidity. This was achieved by building-up the compressor with the 42 bladed rotor and a stator row with every other stator removed.

A baseline configuration, also listed in Table I, has been previously investigated under sponsorship of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the results are thoroughly discussed in Reference (3). The data obtained from the baseline configuration will not be repeated here in its entirety; however selected points will be discussed and presented for the sake of comparison.

Configuration I duplicates, at a specified rotor speed, the reduced frequency for the baseline configuration but at a solidity of .758 as compared to the baseline solidity of 1.516.

For the stators, the reduced frequency is defined as  $k = \omega C/2V_{axial}$ where  $\omega$  is the blade pass frequency, C is the vane chord, and  $V_{axial}$  is the stator inlet axial velocity. The solidity is defined as  $\sigma = C/S$  where C is the vane chord and S is the vane spacing.

The interblade phase angle is specified by the ratio of the number of rotor blades to stator vanes:  $\theta = N_B/N_V \cdot 360^\circ$ , -  $180^\circ \leq \theta \leq + 180^\circ$  where  $N_B$  is the number of rotor blades and  $N_V$  is the number of stator vanes.

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Figure 2 presents the location of the eight steady-state operating points along the 70% and 100% corrected speed lines in terms of overall pressure ratio and corrected mass flow rate for Configuration I and the baseline points. The particular steadystate operating points for Configuration I were determined by matching the stator incidence angle at a similar point on the baseline operating line. It can be seen from Figure 2 that the operation of the compressor has been altered at the reduced solidity (.758), a similar pressure ratio occurring at a lower flow rate. The data point identification along with a description of the key time-variant parameters is shown in Table II. Points 1 through 8 are the operating points for Configuration I while points 9 through 16 are comparative points for the baseline Configuration <sup>(3)</sup>.

At each steady operating point an averaged time-variant data set, consisting of the two hot-wire and the 22 Kulite signals, are obtained. Each of these signals is digitized and Fourier decomposed into its harmonics. In this investigation only the first two harmonics of the data are examined through the entirety of the data analysis process. The reduced frequencies of these data are in the range of turbomachinery experience with forced response problems.

From the Fourier analyses performed on the data both the magnitude and phase angles referenced to the data initiation pulse are obtained. To then relate the wake generated velocity profiles with the surface dynamic pressures on the instrumented vanes, the rotor exit velocity triangles are examined. Figure 3 shows the change in the rotor relative exit velocity which occurs as a result of the presence of the blade. A deficit in the velocity in this relative frame creates a change in the absolute velocity vector as indicated. This velocity change is measured via the crossed hot-wires. From this instantaneous absolute angle and velocity, the rotor exit relative angle and velocity as well as the magnitude and phase of the perturbation quantities are determined.

As Figure 4 indicates, the hot-wire probe is positioned immediately upstream of the leading edge of the stator row. To relate the time based events as measured by this hot-wire probe

to the pressures on the vane surfaces, the assumptions are made that: (1) the wakes are identical at the hot-wire and the stator leading edge planes; (2) the wakes are fixed in the relative frame. Figure 4 presents a schematic of the rotor wakes, the instrumented vanes, and the hot-wire probe. The rotor blade spacing, the vane spacing, the length of the probe, and the axial spacing between the vane leading edge plane and the probe holder centerline are known quantities. At a steady operating point the hot-wire data is analyzed to determine the absolute flow angle and the rotor exit relative flow angle. Using the two assumptions noted, the wake is located relative to the hot-wires and the leading edges of the instrumented vane suction and pressure surfaces. From this, the times at which the wake is present at various locations is determined. The incremented times between occurrences at the hot-wire and the vane leading edge plane are then related to phase differences between the perturbation velocities and the vane surface.

1

To simplify the experiment-theory correlation process, the data is adjusted in phase such that the transverse perturbation is at zero degrees at the vane suction surface leading edge. From the geometry indicated in Figure 4, the time at which this would occur is calculated and transposed into a phase difference. This difference is then used to adjust the pressure data from the suction surface. A similar operation is performed on the

pressure surface data so that the surfaces of the vanes are time related; i.e., time relating the data results in data equivalent to that for a single instrumented vane.

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Following this procedure the pressure differences across an equivalent single vane at each transducer location is calculated. These data, along with the individual surface pressure data, are normalized with respect to the inlet flow parameter:  $(\rho \cdot v^2 \cdot \frac{v}{V})$  where  $\rho$  is the inlet air density, V is the stator inlet absolute velocity, and v is the transverse perturbation velocity measured by the cross-wire probe.

The time-variant first and second harmonic data obtained for Configuration I are presented in Figures 5 through 20 as normalized dimensionless unsteady pressure coefficients and its phase relation to a transverse gust at the vane leading edge. Also included in these figures are the compressible predictions obtained from the state-of-the-art cascade transverse gust analysis of Reference 4 for the flow conditions as specified in Table II.

The high negative incidence angle dynamic pressure coefficient data at 100% corrected speed generally exhibit good correlation over the entire blade surface as indicated in Figures 5 through 8. The exception to that being the trailing edge value where

the data attain a finite, albeit non-zero, value. The low incidence angle dynamic pressure coefficient, Figures 9 through 12, attains almost a constant value at approximately 10% chord and exhibits little tendency to decrease as a function of chord. The phase lag also exhibits a sharp dip at about the same chordwise location.

The 70% corrected speed data is shown in Figures 13 through 20. It is interesting to note that the wave phenomena that was reported in Reference (5) appears at the 70% speed point. The dominance of the convected wave appears as a rapidly decreasing phase lag over the latter half of the stator vane in Figures 13 through 16, which are at relatively high negative incidence angles. The dominance decreases to a large extent on the second harmonic data at the low incidence points, Figures 18 and 20; however, it appears to still be present in the first harmonic data at the low incidence points, Figures 17 and 19.

The comparative relation between the baseline configuration and Configuration I is shown in Figures 21 through 24. The comparison is made realizing that the parameters which are felt to be important have not yet been fully investigated. For example, the pressure coefficient and phase lag shown in Figures 21 and 22 for both the baseline and first configuration may be used to show the difference or similarity caused by a change in

interblade phase angle. It should be noted, however, that the solidity ratio between the two configurations is two to one with the higher solidity (1.516) belonging to the baseline configuration. Noting this difference, one may still assess a similarity between the two builds. Figure 21 suggests that for a doubling of interblade phase angle little difference between the pressure coefficient for each build is seen. The data for point 9 is almost identical to that of point 1. The phase lag, however, suggests that the dominating convected wave phenomena occurs much later on the blade surface for the 36° phase angle than for the 18° phase angle. The same conclusion concerning convected wave dominance may be reached by comparing the second harmonic data of point 9 to that of the first harmonic data of point 1, which is shown in Figure 22. In this figure the interblade phase angle is the same for both points with the reduced frequency being doubled from point 1 to point 9.

Considering data at a lower incidence angle, point 3 and point 11, a different conclusion concerning the existence and dominance of a convected wave can be reached. In Figure 23 the phase lag shows a marked decrease (increasing negative value) at about 40% chord for point 11 and little for point 3. If the second harmonic data of point 11 is compared to the first harmonic data of point 3, Figure 24, the phase lag data is approximately the same for both points. The conclusion, therefore,

would be that doubling the reduced frequency prevents the appearance of a convected wave down the blade surface with incidence angle entering into the relationship as a controlling factor.

The point in the above discussion is that a more detailed analysis of the data, both that available and yet to be generated during the course of this investigation, is needed before adequate conclusions concerning the behavior of the forced response model can be made. To further extend the range of this fundamental unsteady aerodynamic data with respect to the reduced frequency as well as the interblade phase angle and solidity, Configuration II will be investigated. This configuration features 21 rotor blades and 20 stator vanes, and necessitates a rebalancing of the rotor. As indicated in Table I, dynamic data will be obtained for interblade phase angles of 18° and 36° and reduced frequency values from 3 to 5 and 6 to 10 respectively. These interblade phase angle values are identical to the baseline values, but the solidity has been reduced to 0.758 and the range of reduced frequency values extended.

Configuration II features a 21 bladed rotor and the complete 40 vane stator row. The second harmonic data has an interblade phase angle of 18<sup>0</sup> and a reduced frequency range from 6 to 10.

Thus, this second harmonic data should duplicate the first harmonic baseline data and will serve as a valid check on the data. The first harmonic data from Configuration III has an interblade phase angle of  $-171^{\circ}$  and reduced frequency values from 3 to 5. Thus, this configuration is very significant in that it acquires unsteady data for a backward traveling wave for the first time.

At present the compressor rotor has been rebalanced with the 21 airfoils installed. Rig build has been accomplished and electronic set-up is now in progress for testing of Configuration II.

In conclusion, the investigation of Configurations I, II and III in this experimental program, together with the baseline data should significantly increase the available fundamental unsteady data to much more fully encompass the range of interest of the key parameters of turbomachine forced response experience. The analysis and correlation of these data will enhance the understanding of the forced response phenomena so that present forced response models may be modified and updated to reflect this understanding.

## IV. PUBLICATIONS

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- Fleeter, S., Jay, R. L., Bennett, W. A., "Rotor Wake Generated Unsteady Aerodynamic Response of a Compressor Stator", ASME Paper No. 78-GT-112, April 1978.
- Fleeter, S., Bennett, W. A., Jay, R. L., "Time-Variant Aerodynamic Measurements in a Research Compressor", <u>Proceedings of the Dynamic Flow Conference 1978</u>, pages 279-285, September 1978.
- Fleeter, S., Jay, R. L., Bennett, W. A., "Wake Induced Time-Variant Aerodynamics Including Rotor-Stator Axial Spacing Effects", <u>ASME Journal of Non-Steady Fluid</u> Dynamics, pages 147-163, December 1978.
- Fleeter, S., Bennett, W. A., Jay, R. L., "The Time-Variant Response of a Stator Row Including the Effects of Airfoil Camber", ASME Paper No. 79-GT-110, March 1979.

#### V. INTERACTIONS

The paper entitled "Rotor Wake Generated Unsteady Aerodynamic Response of a Compressor Stator" covering research done under AFOSR contract F44620-74-C-0065 was presented by S. Fleeter at the Annual Gas Turbine Conference, London, England during the week of April 9 through 13, 1978. A companion paper entitled "Time-Variant Aerodynamic Measurements in a Research Compressor" covering the particular data acquisition techniques utilized during the research effort under the same contract was presented by W. A. Bennett at the Dynamic Flow Conference held at John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland during the week of September 18, 1978.

During the week of December 10, 1978, the paper entitled "Wake Induced Time-Variant Aerodynamics Including Rotor-Stator Axial Spacing Effects", which covered research done under AFOSR contract F49620-77-C-0024, was presented by S. Fleeter at the Winter Annual Meeting of the ASME held in San Francisco, California. A similar paper that expanded upon data obtained under the same contract entitled "The Time-Variant Aerodynamic Response of a Stator Row Including the Effects of Airfoil Camber" was presented by S. Fleeter at the ASME Gas Turbine and Solar Energy Conference held at San Diego, California during the week of March 12, 1979.

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- 3. Fleeter, S., Jay, R. L., and Bennett, W. A., "The Effect of Rotor-Stator Axial Spacing on the Time-Variant Aerodynamic Response of a Compressor Stator", <u>Air Force Office of Scientific</u> Research Report DDA EDR 9379, December, 1977.
- Fleeter, S., "Fluctuating Lift and Moment Coefficients for Cascaded Airfoils in a Nonuniform Compressible Flow". <u>AIAA</u> Journal of Aircraft, Vol. 10, No. 2, February 1973.
- Fleeter, S., Bennett, W. A., Jay, R. L., "The Time Variant Aerodynamic Response of a Stator Row Including the Effects of Airfoil Camber", ASME Paper No. 79-GT-110, March 1979.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This research was sponsored, in part, by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFSC) United States Air Force, under Contract F49620-78-C-0070 to Detroit Diesel Allison Division of General Motors Corporation. The United States Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute reprints for governmental purposes notwithstanding any copyright notation hereon.

	NUMBER OF	NIMBER OF		INTERBLADE	PHASE ANGLE	REDUCED FRE	QUENCY RANGE
CONFIGURATION	ROTOR BLADES	STATOR	VANE SOLIDITY	FIRST HARMONIC	SECOND	FIRST HARMONIC	SECOND HARMONIC
Baseline	42	40	1.516	+ 18°	+ 36°	6 - 10	12 - 20
1	42	20	0.758	+ 36°	+ 72°	6 - 10	12 - 20
2	21	20	0.758	+ 18 <sup>0</sup>	+ 36°	3 - 5	6 - 10
3	21	40	1.516	- 171°	+ 18 <sup>0</sup>	3 - 5	6 - 10

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TABLE I. RELEVANT PARAMETERS FOR FOUR LOW-SPEED, SINGLE-STAGE, RESEARCH COMPRESSOR CONFIGURATIONS.

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	AXIAL								
DATA POINT	SPACING RATIO	Z SPEED	BABS	к <sub>1</sub> ах	K <sub>2</sub> AX	۲(۸/۸	۱(۸/۳	v/v)2	u/V)2
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1	.4305	100	25	6.418	12.836	11640.	.02785	.04899	.02735
2		100	29	6.736	13.472	.05055	.02686	.04984	.02607
3		100	33	7.517	15.034	.06457	.02770	.06024	.02468
4		100	36	8.339	16.678	.1412	.04760	.11590	.03119
5		70	24	6.423	12.846	.05145	.02841	.05257	.02998
9		70	27	6.642	13.284	.05490	.02912	.05390	.02765
1		70	32	7.422	14.844	.07218	.02962	.06679	.02590
80		70	36	8.086	16.172	.12857	.03835	.10752	.02519
				BASELIN	E CONFIGURAT	ION			
6	0.4305	100	25	6.95	13.90	.03148	.01973	.03203	.01583
10	:	100	28	7.27	14.54	.03306	.01845	.03452	.01556
11		100	33	8.96	17.92	.07811	.02499	.06258	.01813
12		100	36	10.05	20.10	.10798	.01652	.07397	.00754
13		70	25	6.95	13.90	.03388	.02602	.03622	.01863
14		70	28	7.40	14.80	.03630	.02360	.03826	.01891
15		70	33	8.91	17.82	.07803	.03156	.06462	.02419
16	:	70	36	9.82	19.64	.12118	.02614	.08612	.01381

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FIGURE 2. DATA POINT IDENTIFICATION IN TERMS OF PRESSURE RATIO AND MASS FLOW RATE and the second se



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FIGURE 3. REDUCTION IN RELATIVE VELOCITY GENERATED BY BLADE WAKE CREATES CORRESPONDING VELOCITY AND ANGULAR CHANGE IN ABSOLUTE FRAME







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	DDA EDR 9930
R. R. Allran	F49620-78-C-0070
PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
Detroit Diesel Allison P.O. Box 894, Indianapolis, IN 46206	
CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	12. REPORT DATE
Air Force Office of Scientific Research	June 1979
Building 410	13. NUMBER OF PAGES
Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. 20332	
MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADURESS(It different from Controlling Office)	Inclassified
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A single value of interblade phase angle, 36 degrees and a corresponding value of solidity of .758, the aerodynamically induced fluctuating surface pressure distributions on the downstream vane row, with the primary source of excitation being the upstream rotor wakes, were measured over a wide range of compressor operating conditions.

The individual vane surface data were investigated to determine the effect of interblade phase angle and solidity on the overall unsteady pressure magnitude as well as to determine the dynamic pressure coefficient and aerodynamic phase lag for the unsteady pressure differential across the vanes. The unsteady pressure differential data were correlated with predictions from a state-of-the-art flat plate cascade transverse gust analysis.