



#### Public webinar IEA task 46 WP4 erosion testing

# The abbreviated history of erosion testing

#### The abbreviated history of erosion testing



## First wave: The jet age

- In 18 years planes more than doubled in speed
- New technological developments
  - Radar

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• Rad Domes to protect the sensitive antenna

P-51 Mustang

1940

• Machine gun

- Materials Transparent to RF
  - PMMA
  - GF
  - Other polymers



- 1958
  Only missiles\*
- 2,432 km/h



#### What are we simulating?

- Repeated droplet impacts on a surface
- Multiple impacts leading to fatigue resulting in loss of Material
- How do we simulate this in controlled conditions?

Option 1: Have Unlimited military budget!





#### Rockets!!!





#### **Rocket sleds**

- Samples to be tested was mounted on rocket sleds
  - Send along long linear rails
  - Stationary rain fields along the track.
- The work cumulated in 1976 with springers book
  - The famous springer model



Figure 12. Samples assembled for test 5.



 $n_i^* = 7 \times 10^{-6} \left(\frac{S}{P}\right)_{I}^{5.7}$ 



Figure 11. Test vehicle and samples after test 4.

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#### The model works! But there are limits

Chapter 3. Introduction to rain erosion

Material	Density $\rho$	Speed of sound $C$	Dynamic Impedance $Z$	Max velocity $V_{max}$	$h_s > 2d \frac{C_s}{C_L}$ $d = 2mm$	
	$\mathrm{g/m^2}$	m/s	$MPa/m^2s$	m/s	m	
Acrylic plastic [28]	1.22	1943	2.33	1137	5.3E-3	
Aluminum[28]	2.7	5200	17.75	4650	14.2E-3	
Epoxy[28]	1.77	3531	6.25	2318	9.7E-3	
Neoprene[28]	1.55	135	0.21	502	369.1E-6	
Nikel[28]	8.1	5055	40.95	12749	13.8E-3	
Polyester[28]	1.82	3200	5.82	2188	8.7E-3	
Polyurethane <sup>[28]</sup>	0.99	274	0.271	520	749.1E-6	
Steel[28]	7.6	5182	39.38	12277	14.2E-3	
Water[28]	1	1463	1.46			
Elastomers And rubbers						
Natural rubber[31]	0.92	165	0.15	55	451.1E-6	
Styrene-butadiene rubber[31]	0.91	574	0.52	234	1.6E-3	
Neoprene (chloroprene)[31]	1.24	180	0.22	62	492.1E-6	
Polyurethane (low)[31]	1.15	93	0.11	30	254.3E-6	
Polyurethane[31]	1.15	255	0.29	92	697.2E-6	
Polyurethane (high)[31]	1.15	511	0.59	215	1.4E-3	

**Table 3.1:** The table shows maximum impact speeds  $V_{max}$  that Springer recommends using the straight line approximation of the Rankine-Hugoniot curve. The first set of data in the table is from Gorge Springer's book[28] material data for rubbers and elastomer is from Slot[31]

#### Second wave: Helicopters 80-90's

- Helicopter blades
  - 180 to 270 meters per second (m/s) or approximately 648 to 972 kilometers per hour (km/h)
  - Slower than jets but potentially more time in the rain.
  - Lots of work was conducted much in the, behind closed doors
  - Several independent and unique rotating arm facilities where made

#### Option 1: Have Unlimited military budget! Table 1



Rain erosion test facilities.

Test method	Examples	Maximum test speed (ms <sup>-1</sup> )
Whirling arm	Royal Aircraft Establishment whirling arm rig [4,5] Wright-Patterson AFB rotating arm apparatus, UDRI [6] SAAB-SCANIA whirling arm rig [7] Dornier rotating arm apparatus [7,8]	~270 290 335 700
Basery Ltd	AS&T rain erosion rig [9]	250







AH-1W SuperCobra fra United States Marine Corps letter fra et landgangsfartøj.



#### **Third wave: Wind Turbines**

- In the 2010's the problem of erosion start to rear it s face on wind turbines
  - Infamously the Anholt park had 261 blades recoated after only 5 years op operation



Option 2: do the Hard ting and Collaborate

BICEPS - testing of leading edge erosion protection systems





#### Why is a turbine different than a helicopter?

- Time, speed and money
  - A helicopter gets 1h of maintenance per 10h
     I air
  - Turbine 1 h of maintenance per 10'000h in the "air"
  - Speeds 60-100m/s vs 180-270m/s







Figure 3.6: Illustration showing how blade size has increased over the last 30+ years. The figure is from [1]]



#### The industry needed to standardize

- The BICEPS consortion
  - SRGE, VESTAS and LM
  - DVL-GL RP 0171
    - 2018
  - The new standard for erosion testing for wind energy





## Whirling arm Rain Erosion Tester(RET) short introduction

- Industry standard tester
- Developed by R&D A/S
- More than 15 tester have been commissioned around the world
- Testing a multiple velocities at once
- Automated
- Controlled diverging rain field
  - Equal n# impacts along blade
    - More even erosion







#### But we are not, done yet!!!

- Most machines are inside commercial environments
  - Exceptions, AIST Japan(university), ORE catapult (UK)
  - There is a need for a open platform
- Unique capabilities of the DTU RET
  - Full independent rain felid
    - One ring with 600 needles and one with 1200
    - Possibility of 6X the rain intensity compared to standard
  - Temperature control
    - Expected +-15degC temperature control compared to ambient
  - Extended chamber Height
    - Future possibility for changing drop height, or introducing hail generation system
  - Extra Large operator facility, allowing for teaching and training of small groups



#### Thank you for listening

To get in contact go to:

https://wind.dtu.dk/facilities/leading-edge-erosion-test-facility

And see our deliverables on:

https://iea-wind.org/task46/t46-results/

- 4.1 overwiev of testing methods
- 4.2 damage classification system
- 4.3 open tool for damage analysis and prediction (ongoing)



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#### Extra slides on the open tool

- The following are slides about the current 4.3 deliverable. Where we are working on releasing a open python framework for using the methodologies in 0171 and 0573
- A focus is on how best to fit the observed erosion data from the RET, to get the most out of this expensive test.



#### A unified python-based rain-erosion lifetime calculation tool, using rain-erosion test data.

- Investigate the different lifetime models and compare the outputs (lifetime), using V & N dependency.
- 1. Constant rain and tip-speed
- 2. Constant rain and tip-speed (springer)
- 3. Variating rain and variating tip speed
- 4. Variating rain and variating tip speed (springer)
- 5. Time-series incrementation
- 6. Time-series incrementation (springer)
- 7. Also have the Cobra-code implemented in python
- Compare the V & N dependent results
- Investigate the uncertainty and influence of drop size & falling height on rain, number of specific impacts and impingement. Propagate mentioned through to lifetime estimate.

 $\sqrt{}$ 

• Create a bar-plot illustrating lifetime-uncertainty for each method.

Date 2023-12-04 DTU Wind

The models & their complexity levels.

#### Springer Constant rain Turbine input material and wind parameters model Output Output Time Springer Variating rain incrementation and wind material model data Output Output Time Springer incrementatio material n data model Output Output



#### **D** onstant and variating rain and wind

Note !!! Requires: RET data SN curve fitting parameters Turbine operating conditions Site data







### Constant variating rain and wind output









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#### Working on the confidence intervals

- Some data seems to break the statistical 95/95% conf intervals
- We are looking at alternative methods
- Mean fit's are identical to our other tools
- Semilog plot implemented



#### What do we need to complete

- Provide Sample Data for Testing:
  - RET data that exemplifies typical outcomes.
  - Data that includes material properties speed of sound and density values for springer model
- Submit Image Sets from the RET:
  - High-quality image sets derived directly from the Rain Erosion Tester.
- Contribute RET Test Reports:
  - Comprehensive reports from past and recent tests.
- Share Data that can be disseminated:
  - Data sets that can be shared with the project team, and or published.
  - Anonymized data is acceptable. However, the more detailed and complete the data, the better it will serve the project's objectives.
- Become a Beta Tester:
  - Participants who can test early versions of the program and provide feedback.
- Supply Turbine Site MET Data:
  - Meteorological data from turbine sites.
  - Ideally, this data should come with blade inspection.