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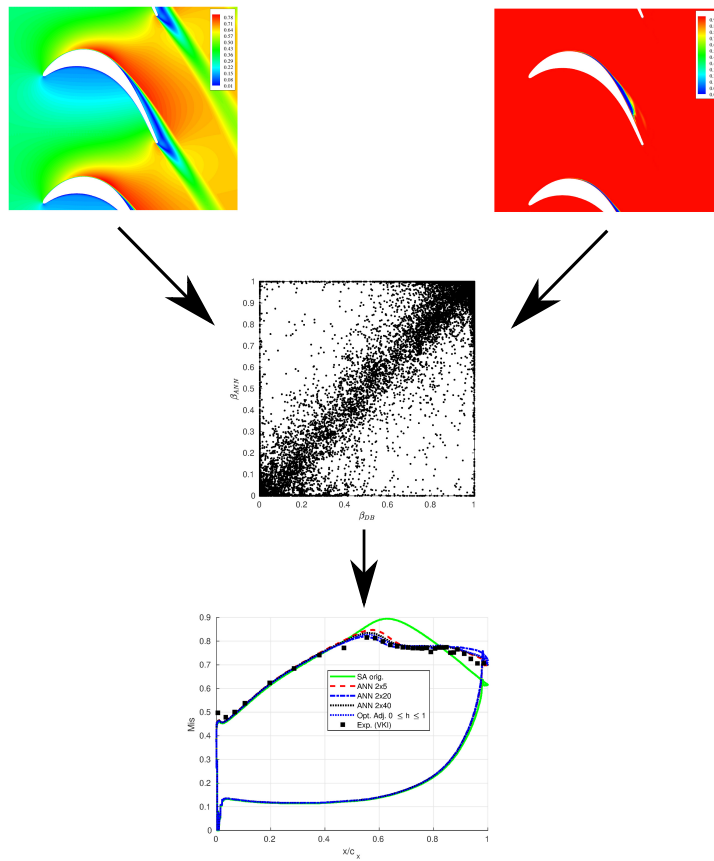
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Graphical Abstract

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Highlights

- The field inversion approach is investigated for improving RANS models in turbomachinery flows
- Working conditions characterised by transition and separation are considered
- Some approaches to improve the robustness of the method are proposed
- The predictive ability of the method is investigated for several working conditions on different geometries

Field inversion for data-augmented RANS modelling in turbomachinery flows

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Abstract

Turbulence modelling in turbomachinery flows remains a challenge, especially when transition and separation phenomena occur. Recently, several research efforts have been devoted to the improvement of closure models for Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations by means of machine learning approaches which make it possible to extract the knowledge hidden inside the available high-fidelity data (from experiments or from scale-resolving simulations). In this work the use of the field inversion approach is investigated for the augmentation of the Spalart-Allmaras RANS model applied to the flow in low pressure gas turbine cascades. As a first step, the field inversion method is applied to the T106c cascade at two different values of Reynolds number (80000-250000): an adjoint-based gradient method is employed in order to minimise the prediction error on the wall isentropic Mach number distribution. The data obtained by the correction field are then analysed by means of an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) which makes it possible to

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generalise the correction by finding correlations which depend on physical variables. A study on the definition of the input variables and on the architecture of the ANN is performed. Different kind of corrections are evaluated and a particularly robust correction factor is obtained by limiting the range of the correction in the spirit of intermittency models. Finally, the ANN is introduced in an augmented version of the Spalart-Allmaras model which is tested on the T106c cascade (for values of the Reynolds number not considered during the training) and for the T2 cascade. The prediction ability of the method is investigated by comparing the numerical predictions with the available experimental data not only in terms of wall isentropic Mach number distribution (which was used as goal function during the field inversion) but also in terms of mass averaged exit angle and kinetic losses.

Keywords: Field inversion, Machine learning, Turbulence modelling, Turbomachinery

1. Introduction

2 The recent trends in the simulation of the flow field inside aerospace
3 propulsion systems are characterised by a growing interest towards high-
4 fidelity simulations which have become feasible thanks to a significant in-
5 crease in the available computational power. This paves the way to the
6 possibility of understanding complex physical effects which characterise tur-
7 bulence and combustion phenomena in modern engines. The ability to under-
8 stand and control these effects can be exploited to increasing the performance
9 and reduce the emissions of existing propulsion systems.
10 However, scale-resolving simulations (like for example Direct Numerical Sim-

11 ulations (DNS) or Large Eddy Simulations (LES)) cannot be easily integrated
12 in the design process of industrial components. This is due to two main rea-
13 sons: computational cost and difficulty to manage the results. It is clear
14 that in the first steps of a design process several configurations must be in-
15 vestigated and the use of high-fidelity simulations in this phase would have a
16 prohibitive cost. For this reason, less expensive approaches like RANS equa-
17 tions will be probably used for several years. As far as the management of the
18 results is concerned, LES and DNS usually generate a huge amount of data
19 for each simulation: in order to extract the useful information required by the
20 design process it would be necessary to perform a complex post-process step.
21 For example, even the computation of the average field from unsteady DNS
22 data is not trivial because it is not known a-priori the extension of the time
23 window required to get statistically converged results: several examples of
24 low frequency phenomena which make difficult to compute the average field
25 can be found in the literature, even looking to simple test cases, and special
26 strategies to estimate the statistical error should be used (1). A review of
27 the current state of the art for high-fidelity simulations in turbomachinery
28 was proposed by Sandberg and Michelassi (2).

29

30 Recently, several research efforts have been devoted to the development
31 of machine learning algorithms for all those applications in which a large
32 amount of data must be processed. In particular, several recent works in the
33 literature have been devoted to the use of machine learning techniques to
34 analyse high-fidelity data from experiments or high-fidelity numerical simu-
35 lations. The idea behind most of these recent works is to get the physical

36 insight hidden in the data and use it to develop or improve low order data-
37 driven models. An example of this philosophy is represented by the work
38 of Xie et al. (3) who proposed a filtered reduced order model with a data-
39 driven closure. Dupuis et al.(4) proposed an approach in which traditional
40 surrogate models and machine learning are combined to improve the predic-
41 tion of the flow on airfoils which work in subsonic or transonic conditions.
42 Margheri et al.(5) performed a study on the epistemic uncertainty of some
43 popular RANS models and used a generalised Polynomial Chaos response
44 surface to perform the calibration of the model coefficients in the spirit of
45 data assimilation strategies. In (6) the Proper Orthogonal Decomposition
46 approach is used in a discontinuous Galerkin (DG) finite element framework
47 (7) together with a domain decomposition strategy (8) to learn empirical
48 local bases which are used to reduce the simulation cost of the flow field in
49 gas turbines.

50 An alternative path was followed by Raissi and Karniadakis (9) who pro-
51 posed an approach to identify the partial differential equations which govern
52 a set of data: they applied the algorithm to an example in which they recov-
53 ered the Navier-Stokes equations used to generate the database but the same
54 approach could be used on experimental data to recover turbulence models.
55 While the work of Raiss and Karniadakis (9) aims at discovering the full
56 governing model, several works focus on the improvement of existing models.
57 For example, Wang et al. (10) developed a machine learning strategy to pre-
58 dict the discrepancy in RANS modelled Reynolds stresses starting from DNS
59 data. Weatheritt et al.(11) proposed the use of Gene Expression Program-
60 ming to identify new expressions for the stress-strain relationship. Promising

61 results were obtained with this technique on high pressure turbines (12).
62 Duraisamy et al. (13; 14) proposed a strategy based on field inversion and
63 machine learning which allows to improve the prediction ability of RANS
64 models. This approach is exploited in the present work in order to improve
65 RANS modelling for low pressure gas turbine cascades.
66 Machine learning techniques have been investigated also on multiphase flows
67 (15; 16), combustion (17; 18; 19) and engine modelling (20; 21). Finally, a
68 comprehensive review of the machine learning techniques proposed for the
69 improvement of turbulence modelling can be found in (22).
70 The paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 the original RANS model is
71 presented. In Section 3 the methods used for the discretisation of the equa-
72 tions are described. In Section 4 the field inversion approach is described and
73 it is then applied to the T106c gas turbine cascade in Section 5. The data
74 obtained by the field inversion are analysed by means of machine learning
75 techniques in Section 6 in order to generalise the obtained results. Finally,
76 the improved RANS model is tested on the T106c and on the T2 cascades in
77 Section 7.

78 **2. Physical model**

79 This work is devoted to the prediction of the compressible turbulent flow
80 in 2D turbine cascades. The study starts from the Spalart-Allmaras (SA)
81 model implemented for compressible equations, following the guidelines of
82 (23). This model is widely used in the literature for fully turbulent flows.
83 However, the model is not suitable for the prediction of transitional flows at
84 low Reynolds numbers. The original model gives the possibility to impose

85 the transition location (by means of the trip term f_{t1} defined in (23)) but this
 86 choice is rarely followed in the literature because in general the location of
 87 transition is not known a-priori. Furthermore, when the transition trip term
 88 f_{t1} is used a second term f_{t2} for delaying natural transition (and making the
 89 trip term f_{t1} effective) is also activated. Further details on the effects of the
 90 term f_{t2} in the prediction of the flow around the T106c cascade can be found
 91 in (24).

92 In the present work the SA model is used without the trip terms f_{t1} and
 93 f_{t2} . With this choice the model is expected to work fine for high Reynolds
 94 numbers but to fail in predicting transition and separation at low values of
 95 Reynolds number. This model tends indeed to produce an excessive amount
 96 of turbulent eddy viscosity on this kind of flows (24). For this reason, it
 97 represents an optimal baseline for testing the field inversion approach and
 98 evaluating how much the original model can be improved.

99 The mass-averaged RANS equations are reported in the following:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}(E + p)) = \nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{q}) \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \hat{\nu}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \hat{\nu}) = \rho(P - D) + \frac{1}{\sigma} \nabla \cdot (\rho(\nu + \hat{\nu}) \nabla \hat{\nu}) + \frac{c_{b2}}{\sigma} \rho (\nabla \hat{\nu})^2 - \frac{1}{\sigma} (\nu + \hat{\nu}) \nabla \rho \cdot \nabla \hat{\nu} \quad (4)$$

100 where ρ , \mathbf{u} , p , E , ν , $\hat{\nu}$, \mathbf{x} and t are density, velocity, pressure, total
 101 energy per unit volume, molecular viscosity, modified eddy viscosity, spatial
 102 position and time, respectively. A fluid with constant specific heat ratio γ
 103 and constant viscosity is considered. The following equation for the energy
 104 is considered:

$$E = \frac{P}{\gamma - 1} + \frac{1}{2}\rho\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} \quad (5)$$

105 where γ is the specific heat ratio.

106 The viscous stress tensor $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ includes both the molecular and eddy viscosity
 107 contributions and its components are given by:

$$\tau_{ij} = 2\rho(\nu + \hat{\nu}f_{v1}) \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_k} \delta_{ij} \right) \quad (6)$$

108 The production P and destruction D terms in Eq. 4 are computed as follows:

$$P = c_{b1}\tilde{S}\tilde{\nu} \quad D = c_{w1}f_w \left(\frac{\tilde{\nu}}{\bar{d}} \right)^2 \quad (7)$$

109 with the following definitions:

$$f_w = g \left(\frac{1 + c_{w3}^6}{g^6 + c_{w3}^6} \right)^{1/6} \quad g = r + c_{w2}(r^6 - r) \quad r = \min \left(\frac{\tilde{\nu}}{\tilde{S}^2\kappa^2 d^2}, r_{lim} \right) \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{S} = \begin{cases} S + \bar{S} & \text{if } \bar{S} \geq -c_{v2}S \\ S + \frac{S(c_{v2}^2 S + c_{v3}\bar{S})}{(c_{v3} - 2c_{v2})S - \bar{S}} & \text{if } \bar{S} < -c_{v2}S \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

110 where S is the vorticity magnitude and \bar{S} is:

$$\bar{S} = \frac{\tilde{\nu}}{\kappa^2 d^2} f_{v2} \quad (10)$$

111 The functions f_{v1} and f_{v2} depend on the viscosity ratio $\chi = \frac{\tilde{\nu}}{\nu}$:

$$f_{v1} = \frac{\chi^3}{\chi^3 + c_{v1}^3} \quad f_{v2} = 1 - \frac{\chi}{1 + \chi f_{v1}} \quad (11)$$

112 The constants σ , c_{b1} , c_{b2} , c_{v1} , c_{w1} are defined in (23).

113 Finally, the heat flux \mathbf{q} is described by the Fourier's law:

$$\mathbf{q} = - \left(\frac{c_p \mu}{Pr} + \frac{c_p \rho \hat{\nu} f_{v1}}{Pr_t} \right) \nabla T \quad (12)$$

114 where T , c_p , Pr and Pr_t are the temperature, the constant pressure specific
115 heat capacity, the Prandtl number and the turbulent Prandtl number. The
116 test cases considered in this work refer to experiments performed with air
117 and so the following values are assumed: $\gamma = 1.4$, $Pr = 0.72$ and $Pr_t = 0.9$.

118

119 **3. Implicit Discontinuous Galerkin discretization**

120 The discontinuous Galerkin (DG) scheme is used in this work for the
121 spatial discretisation on the governing equations. This approach is charac-
122 terised by a significant flexibility since it allows to easily manage high-order
123 reconstructions on unstructured meshes. The main idea behind this kind of
124 scheme consists in adopting an high-order polynomial reconstruction inside
125 each element without any continuity constraint at the interface between dif-
126 ferent elements. As a result, the scheme can be easily exploited in the frame-
127 work of automatic adaptive approaches, in which both the size (h-adaptivity,
128 (25; 26; 27; 28)), the order (p-adaptivity (29; 30; 31)) or both properties
129 (hp-adaptivity, (32; 33; 34)) can be locally adapted following some error in-
130 dicators.

131

132 The computational domain Ω is discretised with a hybrid mesh which
133 contains a structured boundary layer mesh close to the body surrounded

134 by an unstructured mesh. The grid is generated by means of Gmsh (35)
 135 with the Frontal-Delaunay for Quads algorithm. The management of the
 136 unstructured grid in the parallel MPI environment is performed through the
 137 DMPlex class (36) provided by the PETSc library (37).

138 The numerical approximation of the l -th conservative variable $u_l(\mathbf{x}, t)$ inside
 139 each element Ω_e is described by a modal basis with size $N_e = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$ with
 140 a reconstruction order k :

$$u_l(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \tilde{u}_{li}(t) \phi_i(\mathbf{x}) \quad 1 \leq i \leq N_e \quad (13)$$

141 where $\tilde{u}_{li}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_e}$ contains the degrees of freedom inside the element for
 142 the l -th conservative variable. The basis functions $\phi_i(\mathbf{x})$ are obtained by the
 143 modified Gram-Schmidt orthonormalisation applied to a set of monomials
 144 defined in the physical space, following the approach of Bassi et al. (38). In
 145 this work a third order accurate DG scheme is used ($k = 2$, $N_e = 6$).

146 The spatial discretisation is completed by a projection of the governing equa-
 147 tion on the space of the approximation functions. The resulting weak formu-
 148 lation consists in a set of ordinary differential equations in time. The con-
 149 vective terms which appear in the numerical fluxes at the interface between
 150 the elements are evaluated by means of an approximate Riemann problem
 151 solver (following (39) and (40)). Diffusive terms are evaluated by means of
 152 a recovery-based approach (41).

153 Time integration is here performed by means of the linearised implicit
 154 Euler method. Since steady problems are considered the use of a first order
 155 time integrator appears suitable since it does not influence the accuracy of the
 156 final steady solution and it has good dissipative properties which are useful to
 157 accelerate the numerical transients. The solution of the linear system which

158 is obtained at each time step is performed in parallel by means of the GMRES
159 algorithm with the additive Schwarz preconditioner provided by the PETSc
160 library (37). The GMRES algorithm is employed by setting the maximum
161 number of iterations to 200, the dimension of the Krylov subspace to 100 and
162 the absolute tolerance to 10^{-12} . The CFL number which controls the time
163 step size is automatically adjusted according to the evolution of the residuals
164 following the pseudo-transient continuation strategy (42). In particular, the
165 CFL number is allowed to vary between 10^2 and 10^4 . During the first steps
166 of the transient, a feedback filtering procedure (43) is applied to remove
167 potential instabilities which can appear due to the large CFL number. This
168 filtering procedure is deactivated when the residuals drop under a certain
169 threshold and so it does not influence the steady solution.

170 4. Field inversion and machine learning in a DG framework

171 The field inversion approach proposed by (14) requires to define a goal
172 function G which measures the distance between the experimental data and
173 the predicted numerical results. The procedure requires the solution of an
174 optimisation problem in which a field $\beta(x)$ is found in order to minimise
175 the goal function G . The field $\beta(x)$ is then introduced in a correction term
176 $h(\beta(x))$ which multiplies the production term in the SA transport equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \hat{\nu}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \hat{\nu}) = \rho [h(\beta)P - D] + \frac{1}{\sigma} \nabla \cdot (\rho(\nu + \hat{\nu}) \nabla \hat{\nu}) + \frac{c_{b2}}{\sigma} \rho (\nabla \hat{\nu})^2 - \frac{1}{\sigma} (\nu + \hat{\nu}) \nabla \rho \cdot \nabla \hat{\nu} \quad (14)$$

177 In the original works of (14; 44) the correction was chosen as $h(\beta) = \beta$. In
178 this work, different choices are investigated for the function $h(\beta)$, as described

179 in the next section.

180 As far as the goal function G is concerned, the following choice is made:

$$G = \int_w (M_s - M_s^{exp})^2 dl + \lambda \int_{\Omega} (\beta - 1)^2 d\Omega \quad (15)$$

181 The first term is a line integral performed on the wall of the blade and allows
 182 to evaluate the norm-2 error on the wall isentropic Mach number distribution
 183 M_s , which is defined as:

$$M_s = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\gamma - 1} [(p_i^0/p_w)^{(\gamma-1)/\gamma} - 1]} \quad (16)$$

184 where p_w is the static pressure at wall and p_i^0 is the inlet total pressure.

185 The second term is a surface integral on the computational domain Ω which
 186 acts as a Tikhonov regularisation (45): it penalises the goal function when
 187 the correction factor is far from 1. This is useful to avoid unnecessary correc-
 188 tions which could be introduced during the optimisation process but which
 189 are not required in the final optimal solution. The choice of the penalisation
 190 constant λ will be discussed in the next Section.

191

192 In order to solve the optimisation problem, a simple gradient descent
 193 method is applied. The field β will be described in terms of the same basis
 194 functions used for the conservative variables. Starting from the original SA
 195 model ($h(\beta(x)) = 1$) the degrees of freedom related to the field β are updated
 196 with the gradient descent method:

$$\tilde{\beta} = \beta - \delta \frac{dG}{d\beta} \quad (17)$$

197 where δ is the step size that in this work is chosen constant for simplicity
 198 ($\delta = 0.1$).

199 Since the dimension of the optimisation problem is related to the total num-
 200 ber of degrees of freedom per equation the computation of the gradient $\frac{dG}{d\tilde{\beta}}$
 201 by means of numerical differentiation would be prohibitive. For this reason,
 202 an adjoint-based gradient evaluation was implemented. The gradient of the
 203 goal function G which respect to the degrees of freedom of the field $\beta(x)$ is
 204 computed as:

$$\frac{dG}{d\tilde{\beta}} = \frac{\partial G}{\partial \tilde{\beta}} + \psi^T \frac{\partial R}{\partial \tilde{\beta}} \quad (18)$$

205 where R represents the residual of the governing equations. The first term
 206 contains only the contributions related to the penalisation integral which
 207 appears in the goal function. The adjoint variable Ψ is computed by the
 208 solution of the following linear system with the GMRES iterative solver:

$$\left[\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tilde{u}} \right]^T \Psi = - \left[\frac{\partial G}{\partial \tilde{u}} \right]^T \quad (19)$$

209 in which the jacobian matrix $\left[\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tilde{u}} \right]$ is already available from the implicit time
 210 integrator and the term $\left[\frac{\partial G}{\partial \tilde{u}} \right]$ contains the derivatives of the goal function
 211 with respect to the fluid dynamics degrees of freedom. This last term was
 212 computed by means of automatic differentiation with the Tapenade tool (46).
 213 Summarising, the procedure works as follows. First of all, a steady solution
 214 with the original SA model is obtained. The solution is considered steady
 215 when the residuals of all the governing equations are lower than 10^{-6} . Usua-
 216 lly, the SA equation is the one which converges with the lowest speed so
 217 when the condition is satisfied the residuals of the Eqs. 1-3 are orders of
 218 magnitudes lower (typically around 10^{-8} - 10^{-10}). When the steady solution
 219 is reached, the gradient $\frac{dG}{d\tilde{\beta}}$ is computed by the adjoint approach and the
 220 correction field is updated. This generates a transient which is solved in

221 time up to a new steady solution. Since the perturbation introduced by the
222 correction update is small, the transient can be easily solved by marching in
223 time with a very large CFL number. For example, in this work the constant
224 value CFL=5000 is used for this part of the computation. The procedure is
225 repeated until the goal function does not show any significant improvement.

226

227 The correction field $h(\beta(x))$ obtained by the inversion process can be
228 exploited for different purposes. On one hand, it gives insight for the devel-
229 opment of new turbulence models since it shows where and how the original
230 model fails. On the other hand, it is possible to directly generalise the cor-
231 rection in order to obtain a new model which can be used for predictive
232 simulations. For example, Duraisamy and Durbin (47) used the results of
233 field inversion to define a transport equation for an intermittency factor,
234 where the different terms of the transport equation are computed by means
235 of machine learning techniques. Alternatively, it is possible to find a local
236 closure which allows to define the correction field as a function of local phys-
237 ical quantities (14; 44). This last approach is followed in the present work.
238 In particular, the results of the inverse problem will be exploited to train
239 an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) which can then be used to define an
240 augmented version of the SA model.

241 **5. Field inversion on the T106c cascade**

242 The field inversion approach is here applied to the flow around the T106c
243 gas turbine cascade. This profile is representative of high-lift low pressure
244 gas turbines in modern turbofan engines. The cascade was experimentally

245 investigated at the VKI and some experimental results are available from
246 the literature (48; 49; 50). In particular, the wall isentropic Mach number
247 distribution, the mass averaged kinetic losses and exit angle in the wake are
248 available for several values of the Reynolds number. The flow field is studied
249 for an inlet angle $\alpha = 32.7^\circ$, an isentropic exit Mach number $M_{2s} = 0.65$
250 and different values of the exit isentropic Reynolds number $8 \cdot 10^4 \leq Re_{2s} \leq$
251 $2.5 \cdot 10^5$. The Reynolds number Re_{2s} is defined by using the blade chord and
252 the isentropic exit velocity and density. The dynamic viscosity is assumed
253 constant. The turbulence intensity during the experiments was very low
254 (0.9%): for this reason all the RANS simulations are performed by setting a
255 very small value of inlet eddy viscosity ($\tilde{\nu}/\nu = 0.1$).

256 Houmorziadis (51) showed that the Reynolds number in low pressure gas
257 turbines of turbofan engines is the range between $10^5 - 4 \cdot 10^5$ where the
258 smaller values are observed in cruise conditions and the higher values are
259 obtained at take-off. The high-lift profiles can show large laminar separations
260 at low values of Reynolds number. When the Reynolds number is increased
261 the separation transforms from an open separation to a closed separation in
262 which there is a separation bubble followed by reattached flow. The evolution
263 from one configuration to the other takes place in a small range of Reynolds
264 number and so the flow is quite sensitive to the working condition.

265 The presence of separation can be easily noticed in the experimental studies
266 on these flows by checking the wall isentropic Mach number distribution: the
267 separation is usually related to the presence of a plateau in the distribution.
268 Singh et al.(44) showed that the wall pressure distribution (which is directly
269 related to the isentropic Mach number distribution) can be effectively used

270 in the field inversion approach for improving the prediction of separated
 271 flows. They indeed showed that the field inversion based on the wall pressure
 272 distribution can significantly improve the prediction of the Reynolds stresses
 273 in the separation region (44). For these reasons, the field inversion algorithm
 274 used in this work will use the error on the wall isentropic Mach number
 275 distribution as goal function.

276 First of all, a convergence study is performed on the T106c cascade with the
 277 original SA model at the highest Reynolds number ($Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$). Three
 278 different meshes and two reconstruction orders ($1 \leq k \leq 2$) are evaluated.
 279 The convergence level is assessed by checking the mass averaged value of the
 280 kinetic losses in a control section located $0.465c_x$ behind the trailing edge.
 281 The kinetic losses are defined in the following way:

$$\zeta = 1 - \frac{1 - (p_e/p_e^0)^{(\gamma-1)/\gamma}}{1 - (p_e/p_i^0)^{(\gamma-1)/\gamma}} \quad (20)$$

282 where p_e , p_e^0 and p_i^0 are the static pressure in the control section, the total
 283 pressure in the control section and the inlet total pressure, respectively. The
 284 results of the convergence analysis are reported in Table 1 which shows the
 285 number of elements n_{ele} , the number of degrees of freedom per equation
 286 n_{DOF} and the predicted averaged losses. It is useful to remember that in the
 287 asymptotic range mesh refinement gives a fixed convergence order (depending
 288 on k) while order refinement gives exponential convergence.

289 We emphasise that the losses in the wake represent a better goal function for
 290 the convergence assessment with respect to the wall isentropic Mach number
 291 distribution because the original SA model over-predicts significantly the
 292 turbulence eddy viscosity and so it gives a wall isentropic Mach number
 293 distribution which is very similar to what would be obtained by an inviscid

294 Euler simulation, regardless of the mesh resolution. In contrast, the wake
 295 losses are influenced by the mesh resolution in the boundary layer and in the
 296 wake region.

297 The mesh C reported in Tab.1 will be used for all the following simulations
 298 with a third order accurate DG scheme ($k = 2$). The mesh contains 40436
 299 elements and so the total number of degrees of freedom per equation is equal
 300 to 242616. The dimensionless wall cell size is $y^+ < 1$ on the entire surface.

	n_{ele}	n_{DOF}	ζ
Mesh A, k=1	11480	34440	2.39E-002
Mesh B, k=1	21195	63585	2.27E-002
Mesh C, k=1	40436	121308	2.24E-002
Mesh A, k=2	11480	68880	2.25E-002
Mesh B, k=2	21195	127170	2.24E-002
Mesh C, k=2	40436	242616	2.24E-002

Table 1: Mass averaged kinetic losses: convergence with grid size and reconstruction order

301 As reported in Equation 14, the field inversion approach requires to alter
 302 the production term by the presence of the correction factor $h(\beta)$. In this
 303 work, different expressions for $h(\beta)$ are investigated. The most straightfor-
 304 ward approach, which was used by Singh et al. (44) for the study of wind
 305 turbine airfoils, consists in setting :

$$h(\beta) = \beta \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R} \quad (21)$$

306 In this way the correction factor is free to assume both positive and negative
 307 values and so the correction term is very general. However, this generality

308 comes with a price: since $h(\beta)$ is not limited it can lead to unstable numerical
 309 results during the transients which must be solved in predictive simulations.
 310 An alternative approach, experimented in this work, consists in setting

$$h(\beta) = \beta^2 \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R} \quad (22)$$

311 In this way the correction term is not allowed to assume negative values.
 312 This means that the generality of the approach is reduced but the robust-
 313 ness of the simulation is increased because the correction term cannot change
 314 the nature of the production term (it can, in the limit, set the production
 315 to zero but it cannot transform the production term into a destruction term).

316
 317 A third approach, which showed the most robust results in this work,
 318 is reported in the following. The idea behind this approach is to mimic
 319 the behaviour of intermittency models in which the production term of the
 320 RANS model is reduced by a factor defined in the range $[0, 1]$ in order to
 321 reproduce transition phenomena. Following this approach, the correction
 322 term is defined as a smooth ramp function of β :

$$h(\beta) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \beta \leq 0 \\ 3\beta^2 - 2\beta^3 & \text{if } 0 < \beta < 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } \beta \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

323 This last approach is the least general between the three alternatives exam-
 324 ined in this work but it is the most robust. This is due to the fact that,
 325 in the end, the correction factor h will be expressed by means of an ANN.
 326 When the SA model augmented by the ANN correction term will be used for

327 actual predictions, the ANN will be asked to compute the correction factor
 328 for input values which could be outside of the range explored in the train-
 329 ing database. This is very likely to happen during the numerical transient
 330 which must be solved before getting the steady solution. However, ANNs
 331 are known for their poor extrapolation accuracy and so the use of a more
 332 general expression (like for example the one defined by Equation 21) would
 333 allow the presence of unlimited values of the correction factor. In contrast,
 334 when the correction factor is limited in the range $0 \leq h \leq 1$ the model can
 335 behave, in the limit, as the original SA model (when $h \rightarrow 1$) or as the laminar
 336 Navier-Stokes equations (when $h \rightarrow 0$).

337

338 In order to understand whether the limitation introduced by Equation
 339 23 affects the ability of the field inversion to match the experimental data,
 340 the different definitions of $h(\beta)$ are tested on the T106c cascade. In partic-
 341 ular, the gradient based optimisation process is carried out for the T106c at
 342 $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$. The plot in Figure 1 shows the history
 343 of the goal function during the optimisation process. The results shows that
 344 after approximately 50 steps of the gradient descent algorithm a minimum
 345 is reached. This optimisation is carried out by starting from the original SA
 346 model with $h = 1$ in all the domain and using the unlimited correction factor
 347 defined by Eq. 21 with $\lambda = 0$.

348 The optimal field obtained from this first step is then used as initial field for
 349 a second optimisation in which the correction factor is limited according to
 350 Eq. 23. It is useful to emphasise that, in order to apply the correction factor
 351 defined by Eq. 23, it is not possible to start with a uniform field with $\beta = 1$.

352 This is due to the fact that the derivative of the smooth ramp function is
 353 null for $\beta = 1$ and so it would not be possible to update the solution since
 354 the gradient of the goal function would remain to zero according to Eq. 18
 355 ($\frac{\partial R}{\partial \beta} = \frac{\partial R}{\partial g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \beta}$, with $\frac{\partial g}{\partial \beta} = 0$ for $\beta = 1$).

356 In order to compare the two approaches, the wall isentropic Mach number
 357 distribution is reported in Figure 2 for the original SA model and the op-
 358 timised solutions related to Eq. 21 and 23. The results for the correction
 359 factor defined by Eq.22 are not reported in the plot since they overlap the
 360 other results related to 21 and 23. The Figure shows also the available exper-
 361 imental data which are used to drive the optimisation process. The optimal
 362 solutions show a good match with the experimental data and a significant
 363 improvement with respect to the baseline model. This test confirms that
 364 the limited correction factor defined by Eq. 23 is able to provide an optimal
 365 solution which is comparable to the results provided by the unlimited correc-
 366 tion factor. This is due to the fact that the original SA model overestimates
 367 significantly the turbulence production in this kind of flows and so the use of
 368 a correction factor limited between 0 and 1 is sufficient to correct the model.
 369 In this sense, the correction factor proposed in this work acts exactly as a
 370 intermittency correction in the framework of laminar-to-turbulence transi-
 371 tion. After this analysis, the limited correction factor defined by Eq. 23 was
 372 chosen for all the following simulations.

373 The plots in Figure 3 show the Mach field for the original SA model and
 374 optimal model at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$. The optimal solution at
 375 $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ is characterised by a large open separation which is completely
 376 missed by the original SA model. The optimal solution at $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$

377 shows a small separation bubble followed by reattachment. Again, this sep-
378 aration is missed by the original SA model.

379 Finally, the correction field at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ for the case
380 defined by Eq. 23 is reported in Figures 4 and 5 for $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 10^{-3}$, re-
381 spectively. An analysis of the pictures shows clearly that the adjoint approach
382 obtained an optimal solution in which the production term is deactivated in
383 the boundary layer for the first portion of the suction side: the algorithm
384 has recovered a laminar separation just by using the knowledge on the ex-
385 perimental wall isentropic Mach number distribution. As far as the influence
386 of λ is concerned, a study with $\lambda = 0, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}$ is performed. These
387 values are chosen by running a preliminary simulation with $\lambda = 0$ and then
388 evaluating the order of magnitude of the two integrals which appear in the
389 goal function defined by Eq. 15. For all these values, the optimal wall isen-
390 tropic Mach number distribution does not show significant variations. The
391 weak influence of the parameter λ can be seen in Figures 4 and 5 where the
392 higher value of λ tends to avoid unnecessary corrections at the end of the
393 separation region.

394

395 **6. Machine learning on the T106c cascade**

396 The field inversion algorithm described in the previous section is able to
397 provide a correction field which alters the original SA model in order to match
398 very well the experimental results for two different working conditions. In
399 this section this result will be generalised in order to express the correction
400 factor as a function of some physical features. In particular, several choices

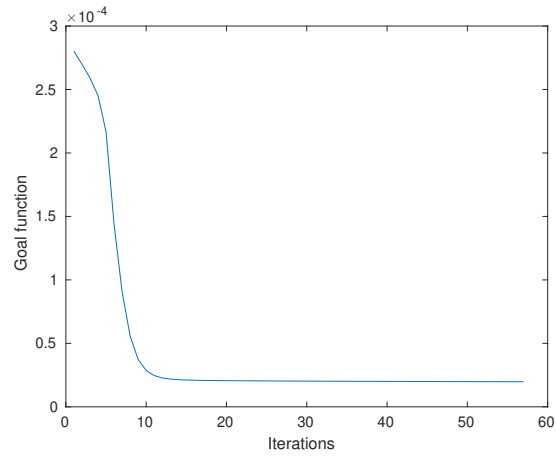


Figure 1: Adjoint-based optimization history for T106c at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ with $\beta \in R$

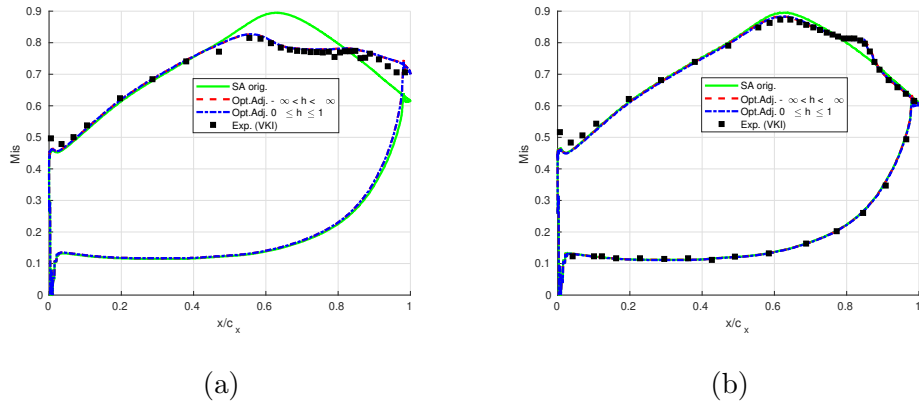


Figure 2: Comparison between original SA model, optimized model and experimental results in terms of Mis distribution for the T106c at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (a) and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ (b)

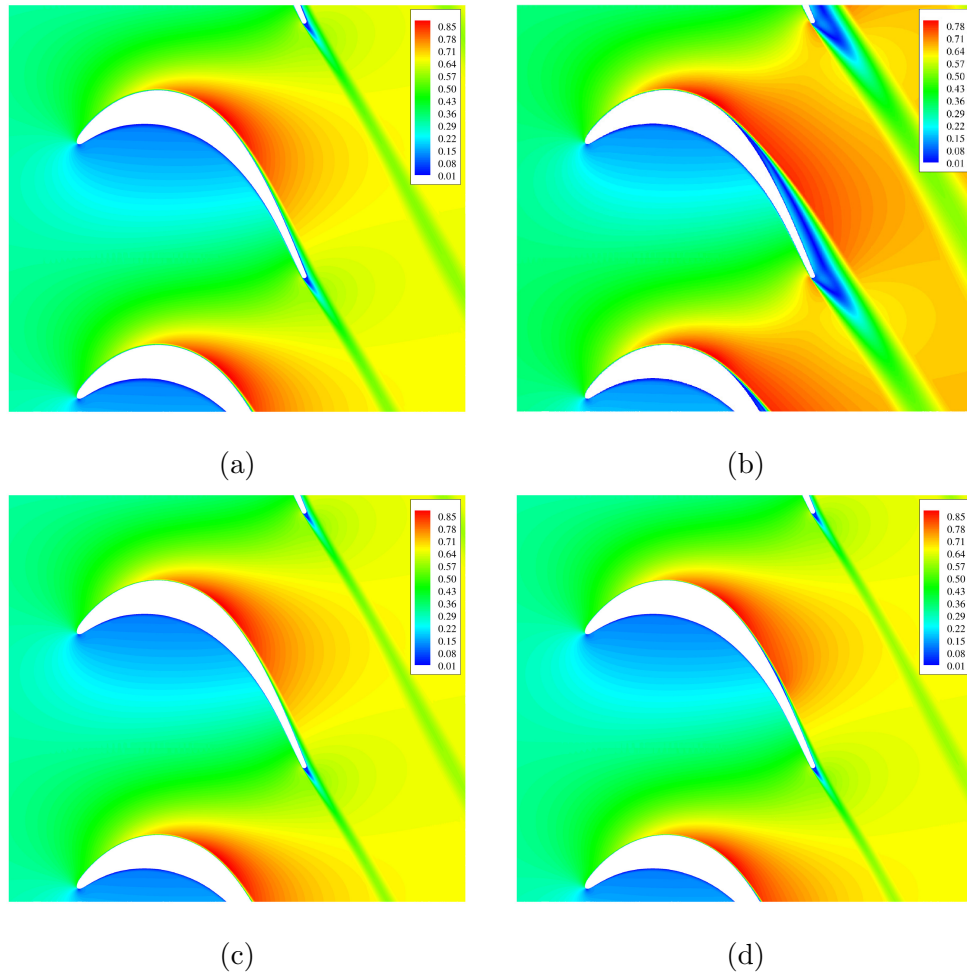


Figure 3: Mach field for T106c with the original SA model (a,c) and with optimised model (b,d) at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (a,b) $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ (c,d)

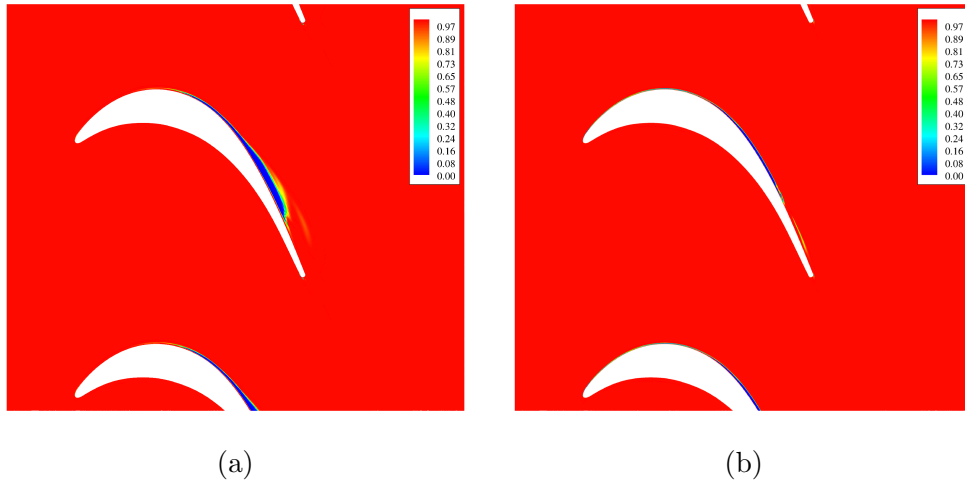


Figure 4: Correction field $h(x)$ for T106c at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (a) and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ (b) with $\lambda = 0$

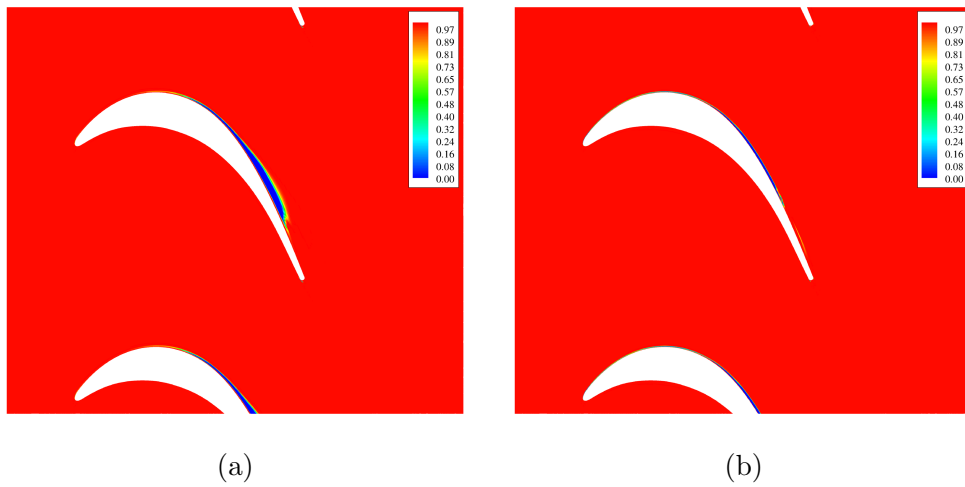


Figure 5: Correction field $h(x)$ for T106c at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (a) and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ (b) with $\lambda = 10^{-3}$

401 related to the inputs and the architecture of the ANN used to express the
402 correction factor will be investigated.

403 *6.1. Choice of the inputs*

404 The choice of the input variables of the ANN is not a trivial task. In
405 particular, it is necessary to avoid input variables which would introduce
406 a dependency on the particular frame of reference which is used to study
407 the problem (i.e. Galilean invariance must be satisfied). Furthermore, there
408 should not be strong correlations between the different input variables and
409 they should be chosen as adimensional quantities in order to get general re-
410 sults.

411 A natural choice is to identify some adimensional groups which appear in
412 the source term of the original RANS model and use them as input for the
413 ANN. This choice was for example carried out by Singh et al. (44).

414 A similar approach is used in this work but particular attention is here de-
415 voted to the robustness and the prediction ability of the model. The following
416 five input variables are used: χ , $\log(\tau/\tau_{ref} + \epsilon)$, f'_d , $\log(P/(D + \epsilon) + \epsilon)$ and
417 $\log(|\nabla\tilde{\nu}|d/(\nu + \tilde{\nu}) + \epsilon)$. The plots in Figure 6 show the distribution for all
418 the inputs variables in the optimised solution at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$.

419

420 The first input, χ , simply represents the turbulent intensity. The quantity
421 τ/τ_{ref} is obtained by normalising the module of the stress tensor with respect
422 to a reference stress. The reference stress is here defined as $\tau_{ref} = \rho(\nu + \tilde{\nu})^2/d^2$
423 which makes this input a local quantity. In contrast, Singh et al. (44)
424 used a non local normalisation in which the stress tensor is normalised with
425 respect to the wall stress τ_w . However, such non-local terms are avoided

426 in this work since the presence of non-local terms reduces significantly the
 427 scalability of the discretisation in a parallel environment. Furthermore, the
 428 physical meaning of using τ_w for the normalisation is clear for the mesh points
 429 in the boundary layer but is not so clear for other regions, like for example
 430 the wake. Finally, a logarithmic scaling of the quantity τ/τ_{ref} was observed
 431 to significantly improve the fitting of the database. The additive constant
 432 $\epsilon = 10^{-5}$ is introduced to prevent the algorithm of the logarithm to become
 433 null.

434 The term f'_d is introduced in this work as a modification of the term f_d used
 435 by Singh et al. (44) and originally proposed by (52) in the framework of
 436 Detached Eddy Simulations. The terms are defined as:

$$f_d = 1 - \tanh((8r_d)^3) \quad f'_d = 1 - \tanh((r_d)^{0.5}) \quad (24)$$

437 where the quantity r_d is an adimensional group obtained by combining wall
 438 distance, turbulence and molecular viscosity and velocity gradient:

$$r_d = \frac{\nu + \tilde{\nu}}{d^2 \kappa^2 \sqrt{\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j}}} \quad (25)$$

439 where $\kappa = 0.41$ is the von Karman constant.

440 The plot in Figure 6 explains why in this work the term f'_d is used instead of
 441 f_d : both terms are limited between 0 and 1 but f'_d allows to better describes
 442 the flow features close to wall while f_d tends to compress the information
 443 and does not allow to distinguish the different structures. This qualitative
 444 analysis was confirmed by quantitative analysis which shows that an ANN
 445 with f'_d was able to better fit the database with respect to an equivalent ANN
 446 with f_d as input.

447

448 The term $\log(P/(D + \epsilon) + \epsilon)$ represents a convenient scaling of the ratio
 449 between the production P and destruction D terms of the SA model. In the
 450 work of Singh et al. (44) the ratio P/D is directly used while in this work a
 451 logarithmic scaling is used: this is due to the fact that the values assumed
 452 by this ratio are distributed in a wide range which covers several orders of
 453 magnitude and some numerical experiments confirmed that the fitting sig-
 454 nificantly improves with this scaling. Furthermore, both the numerator and
 455 the denominator of this quantity can go to zero in the presence of uniform
 456 fields or where the turbulence viscosity is zero and so the constant $\epsilon = 10^{-5}$ is
 457 introduced. Some numerical tests showed that the use of logarithmic scaling
 458 improves significantly the fitting of the database with the ANN.
 459 Finally, the adimensional gradient of the modified turbulent viscosity $\log(|\nabla\tilde{\nu}|d/(\nu+$
 460 $\tilde{\nu}) + \epsilon)$ is considered. This quantity was not used in (44) and does not appear
 461 in the production and destruction terms. However, it appears in the cross
 462 production term (the last term of Eq. 4) and allows to identify regions with
 463 strong variations in the eddy viscosity. It is normalised with respect to the
 464 wall distance and the sum of kinematic and eddy viscosity: this means that
 465 this quantity remains well conditioned even when the eddy viscosity tends
 466 to zero since the kinematic viscosity prevents the denominator to become
 467 zero. Even for this variable the logarithmic scaling was found to be useful to
 468 improve the fitting.

469

470 6.2. Choice of the ANN architecture

471 After choosing the input features, it is necessary to define the architec-
 472 ture of the ANN. In this work, feedforward ANNs are considered. As far as

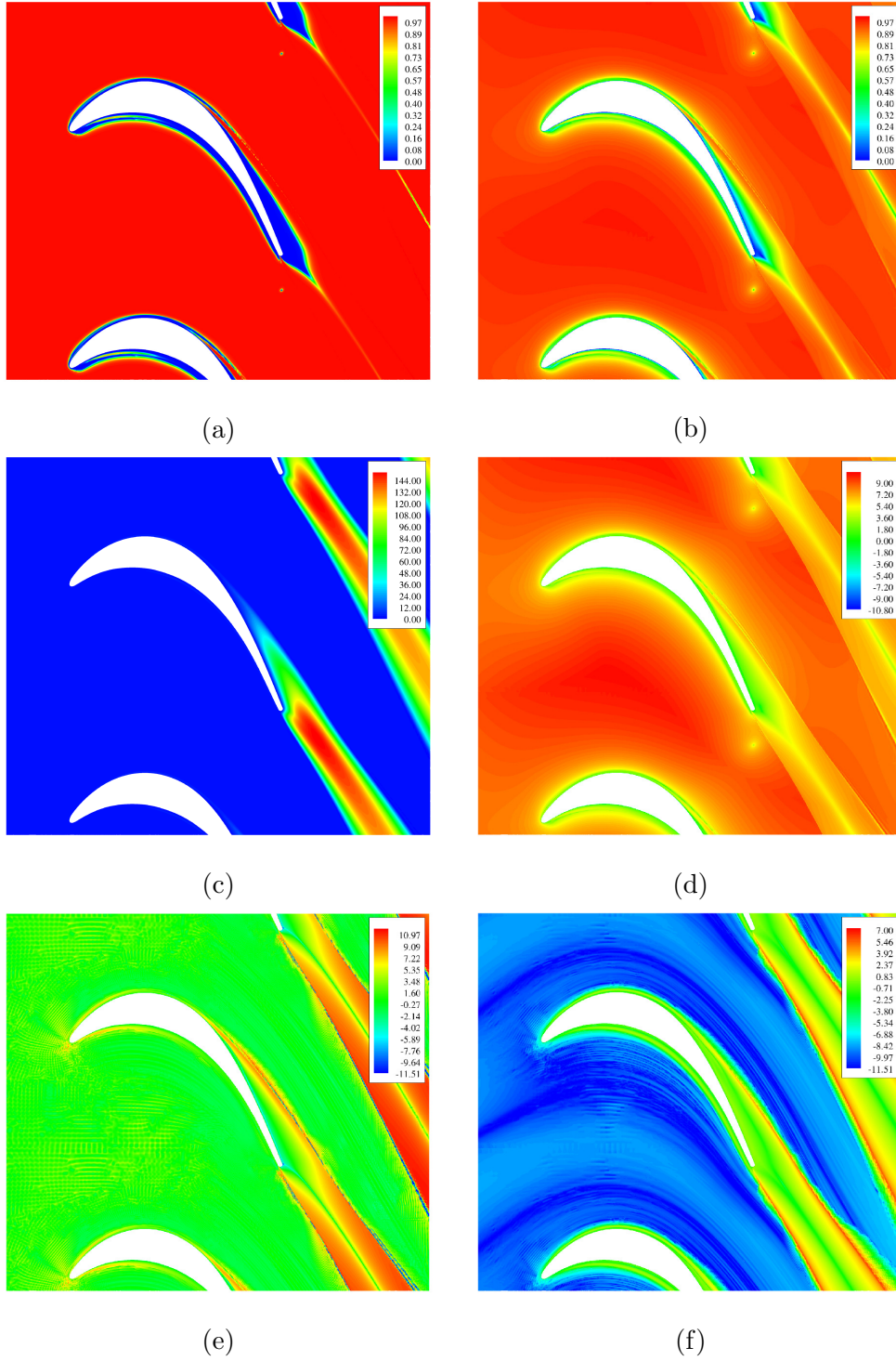


Figure 6: Input features for the neural network: f_d (a), f'_d (b), χ (c), $\log(\tau/\tau_{ref} + \epsilon)$ (d), $\log(P/(D + \epsilon) + \epsilon)$ (e), $\log(|\nabla \tilde{v}|d/(\nu + \tilde{v}) + \epsilon)$ (f)

473 the activation functions are concerned, a common choice consists in using
474 sigmoid functions for the hidden layers and linear functions for the output
475 layer. However, since the chosen correction factor h is limited in the range
476 $[0, 1]$ a sigmoid activation function is adopted also for the output layer: in
477 this way the output of the ANN will be automatically limited in the range
478 $[0, 1]$.

479

480 Particular care should be taken in choosing the number of hidden layers
481 n_{HL} and the number of neurons per layer $n_N = 10$. In particular it is
482 necessary to find a compromise between the complexity of the network (which
483 allows to capture the correlations hidden in the database) and its ability to
484 perform predictions outside of the database. When the complexity of the
485 network is increased its ability to reproduce the training database is enhanced
486 because it has more degrees of freedom which can be adjusted to fit the data.
487 However, if too many degrees of freedom are introduced then the network
488 will behave poorly during predictions: this is due to the fact that when too
489 many degrees of freedom are used then the output of the network will show
490 strong oscillations for the points in the parameter space which do not exactly
491 match a training point.

492 In order to find a suitable network by using a general criteria the following
493 approach is used. First of all, different architectures are considered ($1 \leq$
494 $n_{HL} \leq 25 \leq n_N \leq 40$) and the ability of the networks to fit the database is
495 investigated. Each network is trained in Matlab by means of the Levenberg-
496 Marquadt algorithm with a goal function based on the mean squared error.
497 The training is performed by dividing randomly the database in 3 subsets:

498 one for training (70% of the data), one for validation (15% of the data) and
499 one for test (15% of the data). The training set is actually used for the
500 computation of the mean square error and for driving the training process.
501 The validation set is used during the training to verify that the ANN is still
502 able to give good predictions for points which do not belong to the training
503 set: when the validation error tends to increase the training is arrested,
504 even if the training error is still decreasing, in order to limit the problem
505 of overfitting. Finally, the test set is used to monitor the behaviour of the
506 ANN on an external set of data which do not influence the training process
507 (neither in the mean squared error computation nor in the validation checks
508 for the overfitting). An example of training history is reported in Figure 7a
509 in which it can be clearly seen that when the training is stopped the training
510 error was still decreasing but the validation error just started to grow. In
511 Figure 8 it is possible to see the regression plots for the different data sets:
512 in each plot the abscissa represents the reference value in the database while
513 the ordinate represents the approximated value computed by the network.
514 Another approach for avoiding overfitting was also investigated: Bayesian
515 regularisation (53). In Bayesian regularisation the mean square error goal
516 function is augmented by a term which penalises large values of the weights.
517 However, some experiments on the problems considered in this work showed
518 that the splitting of the database in training, validation and test sets allows
519 to achieve a better compromise between fitting and robustness with respect
520 to the Bayesian regularisation.
521 A sequence of regression plots (on the full database) for the ANN 2×5 ,
522 2×10 , 2×20 and 2×40 are reported in Figure 9: as the complexity of

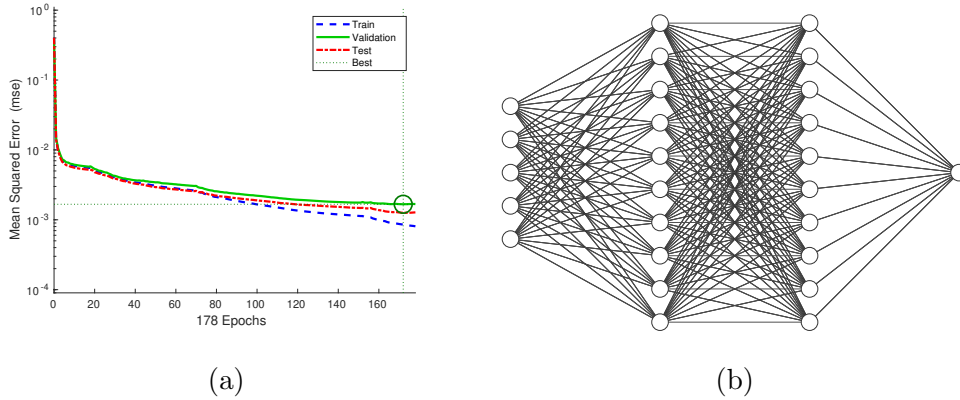


Figure 7: Training history (a) and architecture (b) for 2x20 ANN

523 the network is increased its ability to reproduce the database is enhanced as
 524 can be clearly seen by the fact that the points tend to assume a distribution
 525 centered along the bisector of the quadrant.
 526 In Table 2 the regression coefficient R for different ANN architectures are
 527 reported.

	$n_N = 5$	$n_N = 10$	$n_N = 20$	$n_N = 40$
$n_{HL} = 1$	0.799	0.831	0.865	0.897
$n_{HL} = 2$	0.822	0.890	0.918	0.953

Table 2: Regression coefficient R for several architectures of the ANN

528 According to the previous analysis it would seem that the larger is the
 529 network the better is the result. This is true for the fitting of the points
 530 in the database. However, it is fundamental to investigate the behaviour of
 531 the network for points which do not coincide exactly with the points in the
 532 database. In order to do this it is possible to run some CFD simulations at

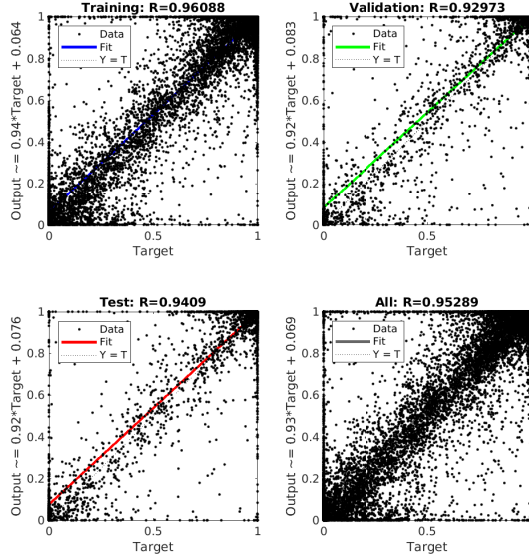
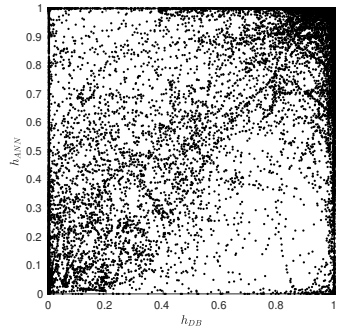
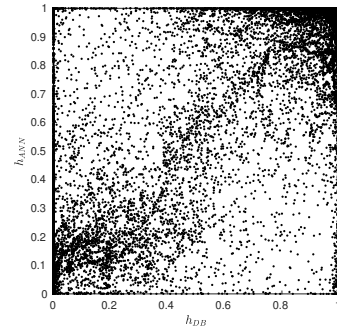


Figure 8: Training, validation and test error for 2x20 ANN

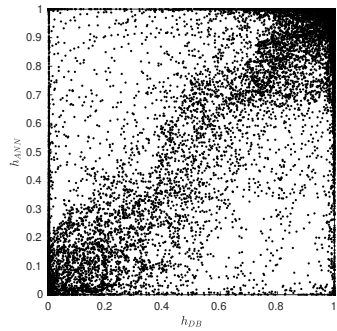
533 $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ with the correction term h estimated by the
 534 different ANNs. Apparently, this seems a useless check since the database
 535 used for the training is built from the optimal solution at these Reynolds
 536 number and so one could aspect that the ANN should reproduce perfectly
 537 these working conditions. However, it is important to keep in mind that
 538 the regression coefficient R is always less than 1: this means that, even if
 539 the CFD simulation is initialised with the optimal solution obtained by the
 540 adjoint approach, the correction field reproduced by the ANN will not co-
 541 incide exactly which the optimal one. As a consequence, the CFD solution
 542 will evolve towards a new steady solution. This introduces a perturbation in
 543 the input features given to the ANN: if the ANN is robust the new steady
 544 solution will be close to the optimal one. However, if the ANN is poorly



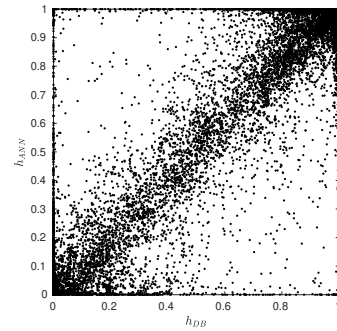
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 9: Regression plots for different ANN architectures: 2x5 (a), 2x10 (b), 2x20 (c), 2x40 (d)

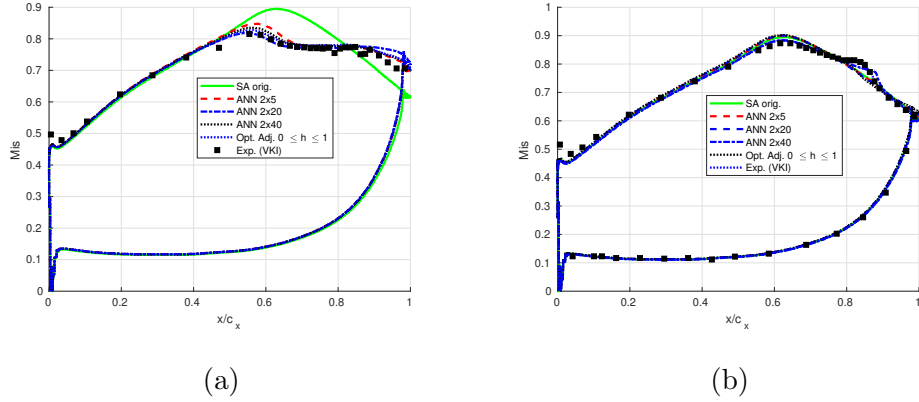


Figure 10: Comparison of different ANN architectures in terms of wall isentropic Mach number distribution on the T106c at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (a) and $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ (b):

545 conditioned because an excessive number of neurons has been chosen then
 546 the network will give a significantly different response.

547 This behaviour was verified by checking the wall isentropic Mach number
 548 distribution reported in Figure 10 for the ANNs with 2×5 , 2×10 , 2×20
 549 and 2×40 neurons. It can be seen that the 2×5 network performs poorly
 550 because of its inability to reproduce the database. The networks with 2×10
 551 and 2×20 neurons performs significantly better and gives solutions which
 552 are very close to the optimal ones. The largest network with 2×40 neurons
 553 starts to show some problems at $Re_{2s} = 2.5 \cdot 10^5$ in which it is not able to
 554 reproduce the small separation bubble.

555 According to this analysis, all the predictive simulations reported in the fol-
 556 lowing will be performed by using the 2×20 ANN.

557

558 **7. Predictions**

559 In the previous Section the procedure for choosing the architecture of
 560 the ANN is reported. Now, the chosen network is use to perform predictive
 561 simulation for working conditions and geometries which were not included
 562 in the database. As a first step all the simulations are performed by setting
 563 $h(x) = 1$, i.e. with the original SA model. Then the obtained steady solution
 564 is used to initialise a simulation in which the correction term is computed
 565 with the ANN. This approach speed ups the convergence since the ANN is
 566 not employed during the strong initial transient at the beginning of the sim-
 567 ulation.

568

569 Furthermore, the numerical experiments showed that the robustness of
 570 the method during predictive simulations can be improved by limiting the
 571 input variables to the range used for the training. This is important because
 572 the ANN has been trained only on a few steady solutions and so during
 573 the transients which can appear in predictive simulations the input features
 574 could assume values which were not observed in the training database. In
 575 particular, if $h(\mathbf{Y})$ represents the ANN approximation of the correction fac-
 576 tor and \mathbf{Y} is the vector of the five input variables, the modified expression
 577 $h(L(\mathbf{Y}))$ is used during predictive simulations, where the limiting function L
 578 is defined as:

$$L(Y_i) = \begin{cases} Y_i & \text{if } Y_i^{min} \leq Y_i \leq Y_i^{max} \\ Y_i^{max} & \text{if } Y_i > Y_i^{max} \\ Y_i^{min} & \text{if } Y_i < Y_i^{min} \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

579 Here Y_i^{min} and Y_i^{max} represent the minimum and maximum values of the i-th

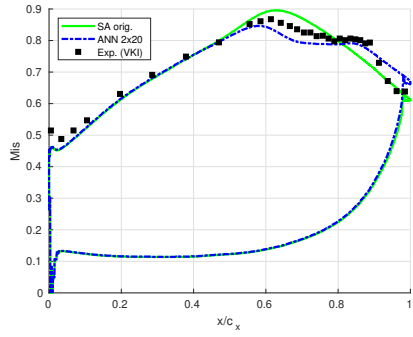
580 input feature observed in the training database.

581 *7.1. T106c cascade at different Reynolds number*

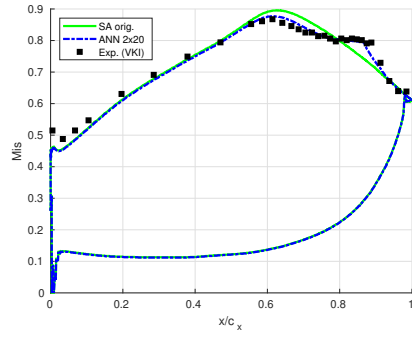
582 As a first test, the ANN augmented SA model is used to predict the flow
583 field on the T106c at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$, $1.6 \cdot 10^5$ and $2.1 \cdot 10^5$. In this range
584 of Reynolds number a strong variation is observed in the solution due to the
585 transition from open to closed separation. The results related to the wall
586 isentropic Mach number distribution are reported in Figure 11 in which they
587 are compared with the available experimental results and the original SA
588 model. The ANN augmented SA model performs significantly better than
589 the original model and the predictions are quite close to the experiment. Only
590 the solution obtained at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$ seems to overpredict the separation.

591 The results reported in Figure 11 refer to the M_{is} distribution used in the
592 goal function which drove the field inversion and so it is natural to expect
593 an improvement with respect to the original model. However, the prediction
594 ability of the model was also investigated in terms of mass averaged kinetic
595 losses ζ and exit angle β_2 in the wake, quantities which were not included in
596 the goal function used for the optimisation.

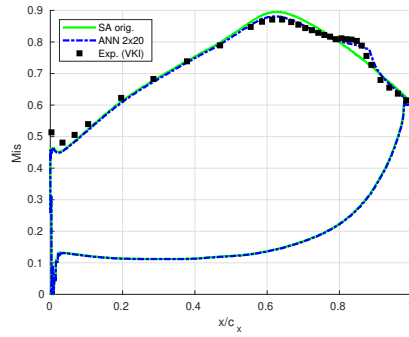
597 The average is performed in a control section located $0.465c_x$ behind the
598 trailing edge, where c_x is the axial chord, in the same location used for the
599 experimental measurements. The results of these tests are reported in Figure
600 12. As far as the losses are concerned, both the original SA model and the
601 ANN augmented SA model perform well for high Reynolds values. However,
602 for low Reynolds numbers the original SA model misses completely the sepa-
603 ration and so it underpredicts significantly the losses. The ANN augmented
604 SA model shows the correct trend and is quite close to the experimental re-



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 11: Wall isentropic Mach number distribution: predictions at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$ (a), $Re_{2s} = 1.6 \cdot 10^5$ (b) and $Re_{2s} = 2.1 \cdot 10^5$ (c)

605 sults at $Re_{2s} = 8 \cdot 10^4$ (for which the optimisation was performed). The plot
 606 shows also the results obtained by Benyahia et al. (54) with the SST- γ - Re_θ
 607 model based on the correlations proposed by (55), by Pacciani et al.(56) with
 608 the $k - \omega$ model coupled with a transport equation for the laminar kinetic
 609 energy and by Babajee (50) with the SST- γ - Re_θ model (57; 58). The bound-
 610 ary condition for the turbulent kinetic energy equation which appears in the
 611 SST model is clearly defined by the experimental inlet turbulence intensity
 612 (0.9%). However, the SST model requires also an inlet boundary condition
 613 for the ω equation which is usually prescribed by defining an inlet turbulence
 614 Reynolds number (Re_T). Babajee performed a study on the choice of the in-
 615 let value for Re_T : in particular he found the optimal value of Re_T which fits
 616 the experimental turbulence decay in the wind tunnel without the cascade.
 617 However, when this value is imposed at the inlet, the SST- γ - Re_θ model is
 618 not able to predict accurately the separation. For this reason he performed
 619 a parametric study changing Re_T in order to match at best the experimen-
 620 tal results on the T106c. For this reason, the plot shows two set of results
 621 related to the SST- γ - Re_θ model: the results with the boundary condition
 622 which is coherent with the physical decay of turbulence in the wind tunnel
 623 ($Re_T = TD$) and the results with an alternative value which gives better
 624 predictions ($Re_T = 0.01$).

625 As far as the average exit angle is concerned, the ANN augmented SA model
 626 shows a better behaviour than the original SA model at low Reynolds num-
 627 bers while the two models give similar results at higher Reynolds numbers.
 628 It is interesting to note that the asymptotic value of the exit angle for high
 629 values of Reynolds number presents an offset between experimental and nu-

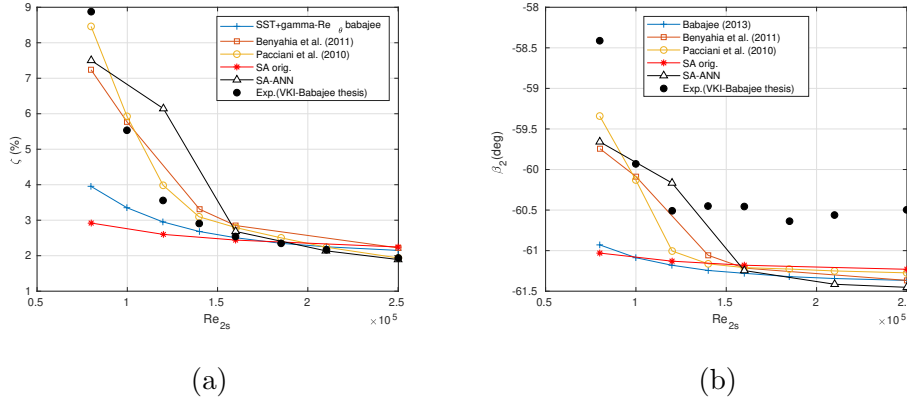


Figure 12: Average losses and exit angle for T106c cascade: comparison between original SA model, SA-ANN model and experimental results

630 merical results. However, this offset was observed also by other results in the
 631 literature as shown by the SST- γ - Re_θ results from (50).

632

633 7.2. T2 cascade

634 The prediction ability of the ANN augmented SA model is investigated
 635 also on another geometry, the T2 cascade. The simulations are carried out
 636 with a third order accurate DG scheme on a mesh with 59453 elements, cor-
 637 responding to 356718 degrees of freedom per equation. The mesh resolution
 638 at wall and in the wake region is the same used for the T106c, since both
 639 cascades are investigated at similar values of Reynolds number. The T2
 640 airfoil was designed at the VKI for the same velocity triangles of the T106
 641 (inlet angle $\alpha = 32.7^\circ$) but it is characterised by a larger pitch-to-chord ratio
 642 (1.05) and an increased diffusion rate along the rear suction side (50). Also
 643 the Zweifel number is larger ($\Psi = 1.46$) with respect to the T106 ($\Psi = 1.24$).
 644 The isentropic exit Mach number is set to $M_{2s} = 0.65$.

645 In Figure 13 and 14 the Mach number field at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$ and $2.1 \cdot 10^5$ is
646 reported for the original SA model and for the ANN augmented SA model.
647 The plots show clearly the presence of an open separation at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$
648 and a closed separation at $Re_{2s} = 2.1 \cdot 10^5$.

649 Finally, in Figure 15 the predicted wall isentropic Mach number distribution
650 is reported as a function of the curvilinear coordinate s along the blade sur-
651 face, normalised with respect to the curvilinear length of the blade (s_0). The
652 ANN augmented SA model shows significant improvements with respect to
653 the baseline SA model and gives good results also with respect to the SST-
654 γ - Re_θ results from (50).

655 Finally, the models are evaluated in terms of mass averaged exit kinetic losses
656 and angle, as reported in Figure 16. As observed for the T106c, even in this
657 case the ANN augmented SA model outperforms the original SA model at
658 low Reynolds numbers. It is interesting to note that the numerical results
659 obtained in the present work presents an offset in β_2 with respect to the ex-
660 perimental results, offset which is not observed in the results obtained from
661 the SST- γ - Re_θ model. This could be a limitation of the SA model which
662 is inherited by the augmented model: future work will be devoted to apply
663 the field inversion approach to other RANS models to verify whether this
664 limitation persists.

665 8. Conclusions

666 The potential of the field inversion approach was investigated for the aug-
667 mentation of a RANS model used in the simulation of turbomachinery flows.
668 In particular the approach was applied to the original SA model and the

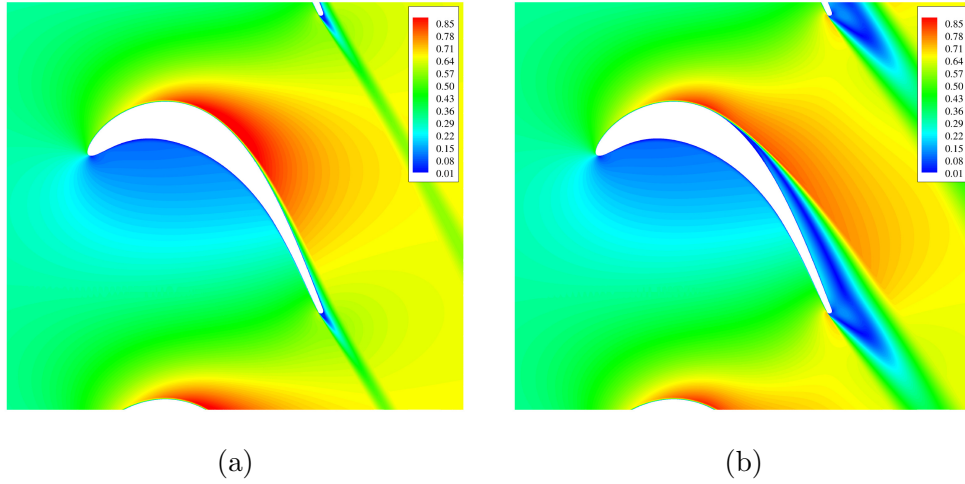


Figure 13: Mach field for the T2 cascade at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$ with the original SA model (a) and with the ANN-SA model (b)

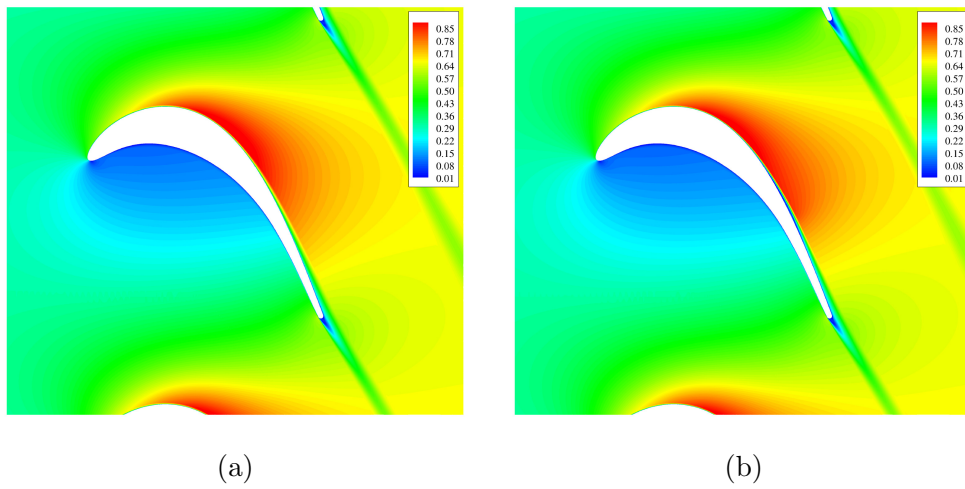


Figure 14: Mach field for the T2 cascade at $Re_{2s} = 2.1 \cdot 10^5$ with the original SA model (a) and with the ANN-SA model (b)

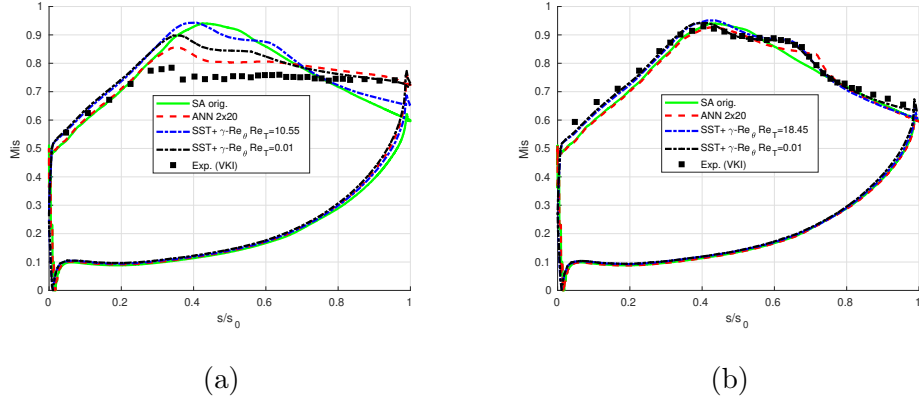


Figure 15: Mis distribution for T2 cascade at $Re_{2s} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$ (a) and $Re_{2s} = 2.1 \cdot 10^5$ (b): comparison between original SA model, SA-ANN model and experimental results

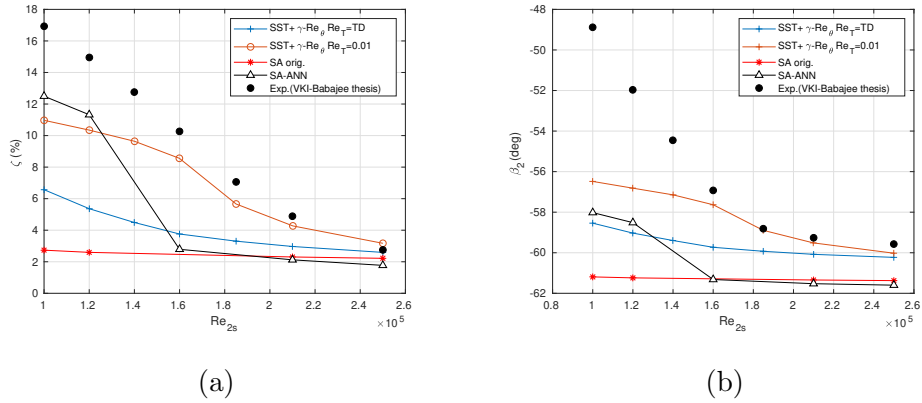


Figure 16: Average losses and exit angle for T2 cascade: comparison between original SA model, SA-ANN model and experimental results

669 attention is focused on transitional flows with separation in low pressure gas
670 turbines. Since the original model is not suited for this kind of flows, the
671 field inversion approach is used to develop a local correction of the produc-
672 tion term which acts like an intermittency correction for transitional flows.
673 The correction factor is then expressed by means of an ANN as a function
674 of some physical quantities in order to generalise the model. An investiga-
675 tion has been carried out on the definition of the input features which are
676 improved with respect to the original definitions suggested in the literature.
677 A convergence study is carried out to choose the architecture of the ANN in
678 order to underline the problem of overfitting. The ability of the ANN aug-
679 mented SA model to compute low Reynolds number flow fields in low pressure
680 gas turbine cascades is investigated by performing actual predictions at dif-
681 ferent Reynolds numbers and on a different geometry with respect to the one
682 used for the field inversion. Furthermore, a new expression of the correction
683 term is proposed in order to limit its value in a finite range: this, together
684 with the introduction of a limiting on input features, significantly improves
685 the robustness of the approach during transients and in predictions.
686 The results seem promising and are substantially better than the results pro-
687 vided by the original model. They also appears satisfactory if compared to
688 the results obtained by a significantly more complex four equation model
689 (SST- γ - Re_θ). In particular, even if the goal function used for the field inver-
690 sion is based only on the wall isentropic Mach number, the ANN augmented
691 model shows improvements also in terms of average losses and exit angle in
692 the wake.
693 Future work will be devoted to the application of the field inversion approach

694 to other RANS models. Furthermore, possible alternatives to the use of an
695 ANN will be investigated for achieving a better fitting of the database with
696 a good level of robustness in predictions.

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