Hot-Wire Anemometry



• Purpose:

to measure mean and fluctuating variables in fluid flows (velocity, temperature, etc.): mean velocity, turbulence characteristics



Anemometer signal output

The thermal anemometer provides an analogue output which represents the velocity in a point. A velocity information is thus available anytime.

Note that LDA signals occur at random, while PIV signals are timed with the frame grapping of illuminated particles.





Principles of operation

Consider a thin wire mounted to supports and exposed to a velocity U.

When a current is passed through wire, heat is generated (I^2R_w) . In equilibrium, this must be balanced by heat loss (primarily convective) to the surroundings.

- If velocity changes, convective heat transfer coefficient will change, wire temperature will change and eventually reach a new equilibrium.
- Calibration needed





Probe types I

- Miniature Wire Probes
 Platinum-plated tungsten,
 5 μm diameter, 1.2 mm length
- Gold-Plated Probes
 3 mm total wire length,
 1.25 mm active sensor
 copper ends, gold-plated

Advantages:

- accurately defined sensing length
- reduced heat dissipation by the prongs
- more uniform temperature distribution along wire
- less probe interference to the flow field







Probe types II

• Film Probes

Thin metal film (nickel) deposited on quartz body. Thin quartz layer protects metal film against corrosion, wear, physical damage, electrical action

• Fiber-Film Probes

"Hybrid" - film deposited on a thin wire-like quartz rod (fiber) "split fiber-film probes."







Probe types III

- X-probes for 2D flows
 2 sensors perpendicular to each other. Measures within ±45°.
- Split-fiber probes for 2D flows
 2 film sensors opposite each other on a quartz cylinder. Measures within ±90°.
- Tri-axial probes for 3D flows
 3 sensors in an orthogonal system. Measures within 70° cone.







Constant Temperature Anemometer CTA

- Principle:
 Sensor resistance is kept constant by servo amplifier
- Advantages:
 - Easy to use
 - High frequency response
 - Low noise
 - Accepted standard
- Disadvantages:
 - More complex circuit



Flow velocity deduced from heating voltage



Axial fan:







Measurements upstream



Measurements downstream



Axial velocity



Example: dimensionless CTA data, downstream of rotor, design point

Swirl



Radial velocity



