

# Experimental Investigation on Flow and Heat Transfer of Jet Impingement inside a Semi-Confined Smooth Channel

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**Abstract:** Experimental investigation is conducted to investigate the flow and heat transfer performances of jet impingement cooling inside a semi-confined smooth channel. Effects of jet Reynolds number (varied from 10 000 to 45 000), orifice-to-target spacing ( $z_n = 1d - 4d$ ) and jet-to-jet pitches ( $x_n = 3d - 5d$ ,  $y_n = 3d - 5d$ ) on the convective heat transfer coefficient and discharge coefficient are revealed. For a single-row jets normal impingement, the impingement heat transfer is enhanced with the increase of impingement Reynolds number or the decrease of span-wise jet-to-jet pitch. The highest local heat transfer is achieved when  $z_n/d$  is 2. For the double-row jets normal impingement, the laterally-averaged Nusselt number distributions in the vicinity of the first row jets impinging stagnation do not fit well with the single-row case. The highest local heat transfer is obtained when  $z_n/d$  is 1. A smaller jet-to-jet pitch generally results in a lower discharge coefficient. The discharge coefficient in the double-row case is decreased relative to the single-row case at the same impingement Reynolds number.

**Key words:** jet impingement; semi-confined channel; convective heat transfer; discharge coefficient

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## 1 Introduction

As a matter of fact, the inlet and exit temperature levels and pressure are progressively getting higher in modern gas-turbine combustors while the percentage of compressed air available for cooling purpose becomes more limited. Undoubtedly, the decrease of the quantity of cooling air available and the increase of the gas temperature in the combustion chamber are contradictory elements of the problem, which presents a great challenge for engineers to design an efficient cost-effective cooling system to meet combustor durability requirement.

Jet impingement is one of the most efficient solutions for the effective cooling of the combustor in gas turbine engines<sup>[1,2]</sup>. The heat and mass transfer produced by the turbulent impinging jets

have been characterized in a number of investigations reviewed by Viskanta<sup>[3]</sup>, Weigand and Spring<sup>[4]</sup>. Basic investigations on single impinging jet with and without cross-flow were conducted for example by Goldstein and Behbahani<sup>[5]</sup>, Lee et al<sup>[6]</sup>, and Colucci and Viskanta<sup>[7]</sup>. These investigations have shown that the heat transfer produced by an impinging jet depends mainly on a number of parameters, including the Reynolds number of the jet, the nozzle-to-plate spacing, the presence of a confining wall, and the Prandtl number, etc. Convective heat transfer enhancement, increase in the heat transfer rate uniformity, improvement in the coverage of the impingement surface, and decrease in the coolant mass flow rate are some of the concerns of jet impingement<sup>[8-14]</sup>.

With regards to the effects of a confining

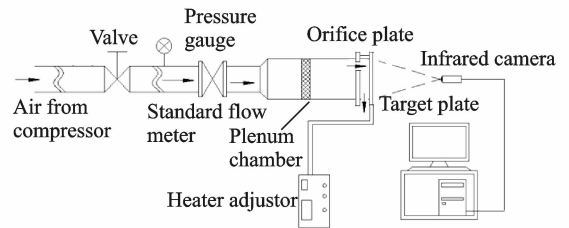
wall on the jet impingement, Garimella and Rice<sup>[15]</sup> as well as Fitzgerald and Garimella<sup>[16]</sup> performed experiments to examine the flow field of a confined jet impingement. A toroidal recirculation-flow pattern in the downstream was clearly shown. Angibletti et al<sup>[17]</sup> investigated the flow field and heat transfer for a jet impinging on a flat plate. Zhang et al<sup>[18]</sup> and Wang et al<sup>[19]</sup> studied the effect of crossflow on jet impingement heat transfer for inline and staggered arrays. Parida et al<sup>[20]</sup> made an experimental and numerical investigation on the confined oblique impingement configurations for high heat flux applications. It was observed that for the inclined impingement case, the flow had to turn and adjust to the cylindrical jet before starting to develop inside the jet holes. This caused the formation of two nonsymmetrical secondary flow regions. Especially due to this large secondary flow region, the jets got accelerated and flowed out at relatively higher velocity causing the heat transfer rates to increase locally. Moreover, the swirl generated after impingement sustained itself for a longer distance, thereby increasing the overall heat transfer rates. Some researchers addressed the effects of nozzle geometry on heat transfer and fluid flow.

Although a considerable amount of investigations have been conducted on the jet impingement heat transfer so that the design of impingement cooling systems could be optimized to produce the most effective cooling with a minimum amount of coolant, little work has been made on the heat transfer characteristics of jet impingement inside a semi-confined channel where the coolant air is constrained to evacuate in a single preferential direction toward the trailing exit. This situation could be viewed as a simplified model of impingement-convection heat transfer encountered in the combustor liner cooling configurations. The motivation of present study is to explore the effects of the impingement Reynolds number, impingement distance and the hole pitch on the flow and heat transfer characteristics inside the semi-confined channel.

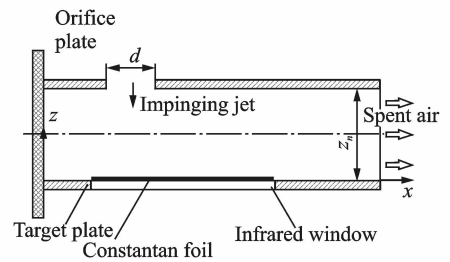
## 2 Experimental Procedures

### 2.1 Experimental setup

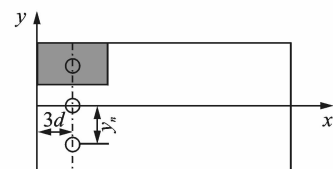
The experimental setup is sketched in Fig. 1(a). It basically consists of a test section connected to a coolant air supply passage. The coolant air from the compressor is firstly drawn through a standard flow meter and forced to enter into the plenum chamber. Then the coolant air is discharged through the orifice plate to impinge at the target plate. After impingement on the target plate, the spent air is constrained inside the semi-channel to exit in only one direction (the positive  $x$ -direction as seen in Fig. 1(b)).



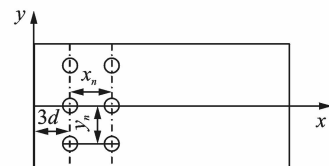
(a) Experimental system



(b) Details of test section



Single-row case



Double-row case

(c) Arrangement of jet holes

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of experimental setup

The orifice plate is made of epoxy resin of 5 mm thickness. The spanwise width ( $y$ -direction) is 100 mm and the streamwise length ( $x$ -di-

rection) is 200 mm. Single-row and double-row of circular sharp-edged holes are used to generate the impinging jets. The diameter ( $d$ ) of each hole is equal to 2 mm, as shown in Fig. 1(c). Single-row of impinging jets is positioned  $3d$  from the closed side of the test section. The spanwise pitch ( $y_n$ ) between adjacent holes varies from  $3d$  to  $5d$ . With regard to the double-row configuration, the first row of jets is positioned  $3d$  downstream from the closed side of the test section. Two rows of jets are arranged inline with streamwise pitch ( $x_n$ ) of  $3d$ ,  $4d$  or  $5d$ , respectively.

The impingement target is a thin constantan foil of 0.01 mm thickness (70 mm long, 100 mm wide) which is mounted on the inner surface of a nylon plate (200 mm long, 100 mm wide and 20 mm thick). The foil spans the width of the plate and is tightened up by the adjustable copper bars to tension the foil after it is heated. The impingement distance or the nozzle-to-plate spacing between the orifice plate and the target plate is adjusted by a spacer thickness, giving some different non-dimensional orifice-to-target space ratios ( $z_n/d$ , impingement distance to the diameter of jet hole). The foil is heated by DC current with two-side edges connecting to the copper bars to ensure uniform heat flux. The voltage ( $V$ ) and the current ( $I$ ) are recorded to determine the heat flux. In the experiment, the constant heat-flux on the heating foil surface is set as  $5\,000\text{ W/m}^2$ . To make the object thermal image be detected by the infrared camera, a viewing window with 30 mm wide and 70 mm long is opened in the nylon insulation plate.

## 2.2 Measurement and parameter definition

The impingement Reynolds number is determined as

$$Re_j = \frac{u_j d}{\nu} = \frac{4\dot{m}}{N\pi d\mu} \quad (1)$$

where  $d$  is the inlet diameter of jet hole,  $\nu$  the kinematic viscosity of the jet,  $u_j$  the mean jet velocity at the inlet,  $\dot{m}$  the total mass flow rate of the air emerging from the orifice plate,  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity of the jet, and  $N$  is the number of holes in the orifice plate.

The temperature distribution on the rear face of the foil (the opposite side of jet impingement) is measured by an infrared camera (TVS-2000 MK) working in the  $3\text{--}5\ \mu\text{m}$  band at speed of 30 frames per second. The field of view is  $25^\circ \times 18.8^\circ/0.4\text{ m}$ , the instantaneous field of view is 1.3 mrad, and the thermal sensitivity is  $0.07\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  at  $30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The infrared camera calibration is conducted by using a series of thermocouples placed on the black painted test surface to act as the benchmark<sup>[21,22]</sup>. These thermocouples are used to estimate the emissivity of the test surface. The emissivity of the black painted surface when viewed directly is about 0.96. Three copper-constantan thermocouples are fixed on the foil to check the heater temperature and to help determine steady-state conditions. Once the temperature field on the impinging target reaches steady, the thermal image is recorded by the infrared camera. The detective distance is set as 100 mm and accordingly the transmissivity for the infrared camera is approximately regarded as 1.

In the present case, the infrared camera is used in conjunction with the "heated thin foil" steady state heat transfer sensor (Carlomagno and Cardone<sup>[23]</sup>). Since the impingement target thickness is very thin, the Biot number ( $Bi = h\delta/\lambda_s$ , where  $h$  is the convective heat transfer coefficient on the target surface,  $\delta$  and  $\lambda_s$  are the thickness and thermal conductivity of the thin target plate, respectively) is small with respect to unity, the temperature on the face of the foil opposite to the jet impingement may be considered practically the same as that on the target surface directly impinged by the jets. Considering the energy balance of a thin plate in steady state conditions, the local convective heat transfer coefficient on the target surface is evaluated as

$$h = \frac{q_j - q_{\text{radiation}} - q_{\text{convection}}}{T_w - T_j} \quad (2)$$

where  $T_w$  is the target wall temperature,  $T_j$  the impinging jet temperature (metered in the plenum chamber),  $q_j$  the Joule heat flux, and  $q_{\text{radiation}}$  the radiation heat flux, and  $q_{\text{convection}}$  the natural convection heat flux on the rear foil surface.

Due to the thermal inertia of the foil and the time averaging process of the image, present measurements have to be considered as time averaged. This means that temperature fluctuations due to flow turbulence are not measured.

The net rate of radiation heat flux is estimated as

$$q_{\text{radiation}} = \epsilon_{\text{back}} \sigma (T_w^4 - T_a^4) \quad (3)$$

where  $T_a$  is the surrounding ambient temperature,  $\epsilon_{\text{back}}$  the emissivity of nylon plate, and  $\sigma$  the Stefan-Boltzmann constant.

The heat loss from the back of foil by natural convection mode is determined according to the empirical relation for natural convection from vertical flat plate.

$$q_{\text{convection}} = h_f (T_w - T_a) \quad (4)$$

where  $h_f$  is the natural convection heat transfer coefficient over the back of heated foil, which is determined according to the empirical relation for natural convection from vertical flat plate.

Heat transfer measurements are expressed in dimensionless form in terms of Nusselt number. The laterally-averaged Nusselt number is defined as

$$Nu_{\text{av},x} = \frac{h_{\text{av},x} d}{\lambda} \quad (5)$$

where  $\lambda$  is the thermal conductivity of air, and  $h_{\text{av},x}$  the laterally-averaged convective heat transfer coefficient.

The discharge coefficient, which is inversely proportional to the pressure drop across the coolant hole in the rib-roughened channel, is defined as

$$c_d = \frac{\dot{m}}{N \pi d_j^2 \sqrt{2\rho(p^* - p_0)}/4} \quad (6)$$

where  $p^*$  is the coolant flow total pressure in the plenum chamber metered by a pressure probe,  $p_0$  the coolant flow static pressure at semi-confined channel outlet, approximately regarded as the ambient pressure.

In all experiments, the measured temperature difference (between the surface and ambient) is at least 10 °C with an uncertainty of  $\pm 2\%$ . The uncertainty of the power supplied to the heater, is assumed to be the same as the uncer-

tainty of the heat flux out of the heater, that is, approximately  $\pm 6\%$ . The uncertainty in the thermal conductivity of air, given the small temperature fluctuations, is estimated to be less than  $\pm 2\%$ . The uncertainty of the flow rate is about 1%. And the measured errors of pressure are estimated as  $\pm 3\%$ . Following the uncertainty analysis based on Moffat<sup>[24]</sup>, the maximum uncertainty in the measurement of the average convective heat transfer is  $\pm 8\%$ . The uncertainty in discharge coefficient measurements is estimated in the order of  $\pm 5\%$ .

### 2.3 Baseline validation of single jet impingement

Baseline validation is made to provide checks on the present measurement apparatus and procedures. The baseline test aiming at a single round jet employed for this purpose matches that employed by Gao et al<sup>[9]</sup> with  $Re_j = 23\,000$  and nozzle-to-plate distance of 2 diameters. Fig. 2 presents the comparison of area-averaged Nusselt number profiles. Here the area-averaged Nusselt number is defined in terms of the region of radius ( $R$ ) surrounding the jet impinging stagnation point.

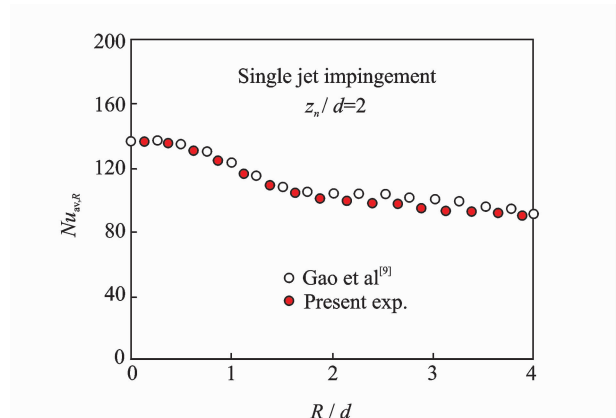


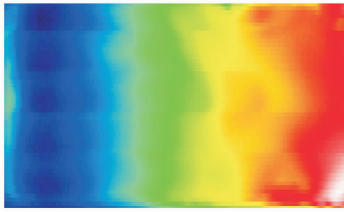
Fig. 2 Baseline validation of area-averaged Nusselt numbers under single jet impingement

Fig. 2 illustrates that the averaged Nusselt number distributions on the impinged plate for both works exhibit the same behaviors. The good agreement of area-averaged Nusselt number distribution with Gao et al<sup>[9]</sup> validates the experimental procedures and apparatus employed in the present study.

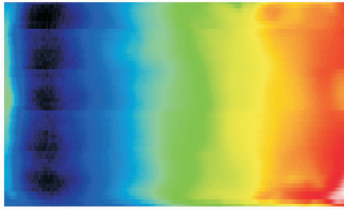
### 3 Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Temperature distributions

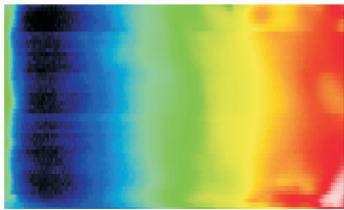
Fig. 3 presents the temperature distributions on the constant heat-flux ( $q=5\,000\text{ W/m}^2$ ) heating foil surface under orifice-to-target spacing  $z_n/d=2$  and spanwise pitch  $y_n/d=3$ . Fig. 4 presents the temperature distributions for double-row case under  $z_n/d=1$ ,  $x_n/d=3$  and  $y_n/d=4$ . It seems that each impingement jet is responsible for a high heat transfer zone around the stagnation point. As the impingement Reynolds increases, the stagnation zone corresponding to each impinging jet is extended and the temperature on the stagnation zone is decreased obviously, which is coincidental perfectly to the previous studies.



(a)  $Re_j=10\,600$



(b)  $Re_j=22\,100$



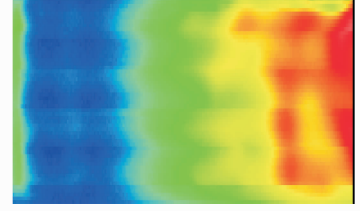
(c)  $Re_j=34\,800$

Fig. 3 Thermal images on target for single-row case ( $y_n/d=3$ ,  $z_n/d=2$ )

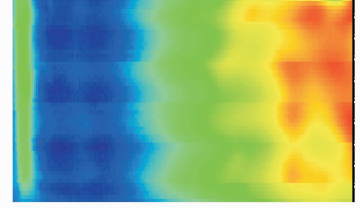
#### 3.2 Heat transfer coefficients

Heat transfer variations with the impingement distance  $z_n/d$  have been investigated extensively. A few laterally-averaged Nusselt number profiles extracted from these measurements are displayed in Fig. 5.

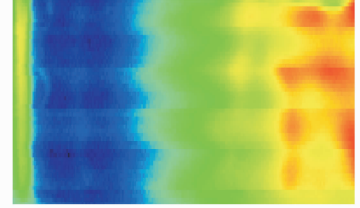
As a consequence, it is notable that the im-



(a)  $Re_j=11\,000$



(b)  $Re_j=17\,400$



(c)  $Re_j=35\,300$

Fig. 4 Thermal images on target for double-row case ( $x_n/d=3$ ,  $y_n/d=4$ ,  $z_n/d=1$ )

pingement distance  $z_n/d=2$  leads to the highest local heat transfer over the range of impingement distances tested for the single-row case. The heat transfer rate generated by the impingement distance  $z_n/d=3$  is close to that for  $z_n/d=2$ . A rapidly decrease of laterally-averaged Nusselt number appears under impingement distance  $z_n/d=1$ . At this distance, the confinement effect is greatly penalizing due to the self-interaction of impinging jet and circular flow induced by the impinging jet near the closed side of semi-confined channel. This effect seems more vigorous under higher impingement Reynolds number. While for the double-row case, the optimum impingement distance is  $z_n/d=1$ . This tendency is completely contrary to that of single-row case. With regard to the double-row case, the interaction of the jets from front row and rear row will play an important role in the heat transfer. In the case of  $z_n/d=1$ , the stagnation zone corresponding to each row may be seriously affected by the other row. The junction effect may be superior to confinement effect, re-

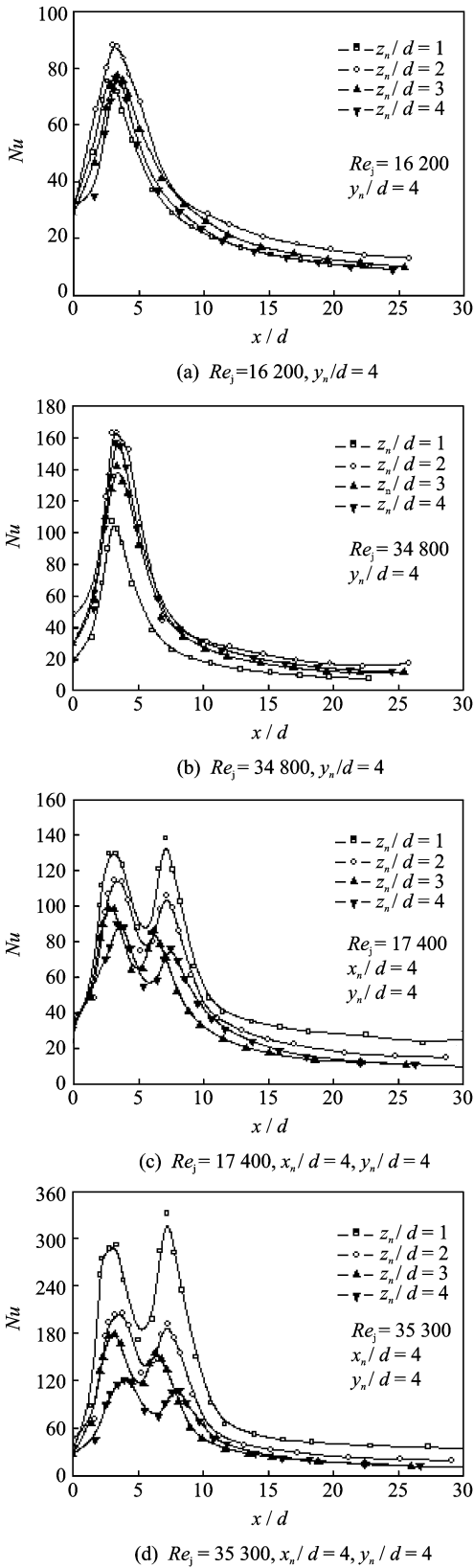


Fig. 5 Laterally-averaged Nusselt numbers under different  $z_n/d$

sulting in tremendous heat transfer enhancement under  $z_n/d=1$ .

Fig. 6 shows the influence of spanwise jet-to-jet pitch ( $y_n/d$ ) on the laterally-averaged Nusselt number in the single-row case, while Fig. 7 shows the influence of streamwise jet-to-jet pitch ( $x_n/d$ ) on the laterally-averaged Nusselt number in the double-row case. As expected, under the same impingement Reynolds number, the laterally-averaged Nusselt number is decreased with the increase of  $y_n/d$ . With regard to the double-row case, the increase of  $x_n/d$  extends the impinging cooling region. Besides, there is a little decrease of heat transfer coefficient in the region between two row impinging holes.

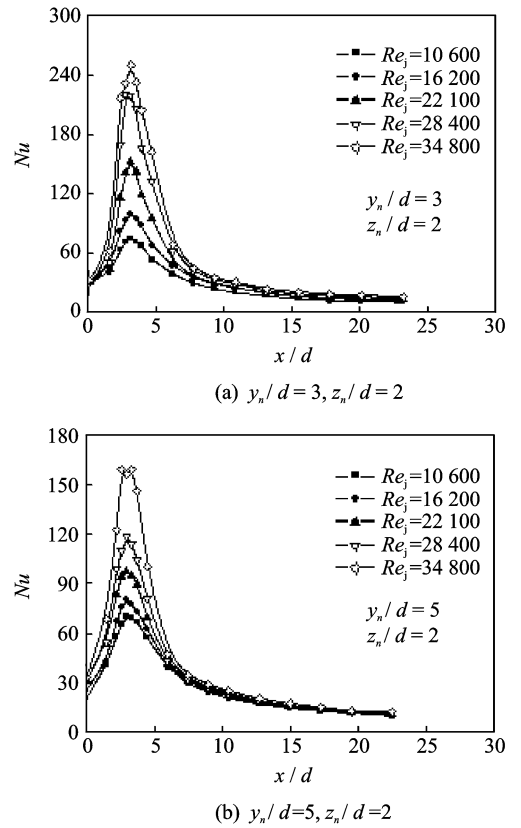


Fig. 6 Laterally-averaged Nusselt numbers under different  $y_n/d$

By comparison of the single-row and double-row cases, it is found that the laterally-averaged Nusselt number distributions within the zone of the first row of double-row case do not fit perfectly with the single-row case. Downstream of this region, heat transfer is drastically reduced in the single-row case since the impingement is not efficient any more whereas the impinging jets from

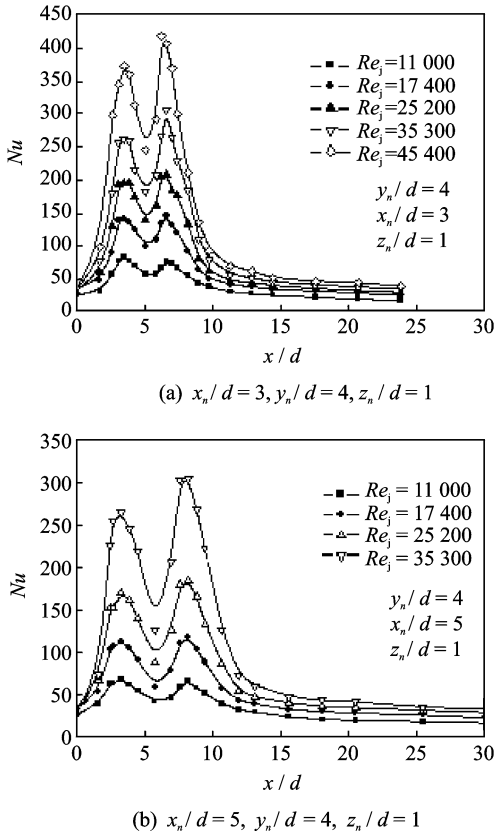


Fig. 7 Laterally-averaged Nusselt numbers under different  $x_n/d$

the secondary row maintain high heat exchanges in the double-row configuration.

It is noticed that the quantity of air used to impinge the target is associated with the number of impinging jets and the impingement Reynolds number. Therefore, one should not compare directly the averaged Nusselt numbers for different spanwise spacings from Figs. 6, 7. To evaluate the overall cooling efficiency of the different impingement configurations and to compare these different impingement cases directly, one can work at a fixed mass flow rate of coolant per unit area of cooled surface  $G_j$ <sup>[25]</sup>. In the present study,  $G_j$  is expressed as

$$G_j = \frac{\rho u_j (\pi d^2 / 4)}{y_n (6d)} \quad (5)$$

where  $G_j$  represents the air quantity devoted to the cooling of a given area (as seen in Fig. 1) surrounding the impinging jet.

For the single-row jet impingement with  $z_n/d = 2$ , the area-averaged Nusselt numbers are ex-

pressed as functions of  $G_j$  in Fig. 8. It is interesting to find that the increase of impingement Reynolds number does not mean that the heat transfer rate will be certainly increased at a fixed value of  $G_j$ . As an example, for  $G_j$  fixed at 8.5, area-averaged Nusselt number is increased by 20% when changing the impingement configuration from  $y_n/d = 4$  and  $Re_j = 28\,400$  to  $y_n/d = 5$  and  $Re_j = 34\,800$ . Furthermore the influence of  $y_n/d$  on area-averaged Nusselt number seems more significantly under the larger impingement Reynolds number.

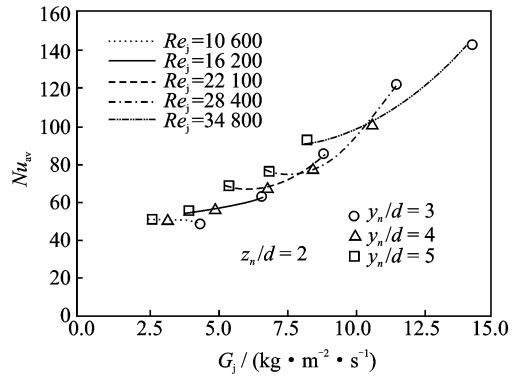


Fig. 8 Area-averaged Nusselt numbers vs.  $G_j$

With regard to the relation of front row and rear row, it behaves more complicated. As we know, the jets from the first row impinging holes form uneven cross flow relative to the downstream jets, which deflects the downstream jets from the normal direction and weakens the convective heat transfer capacity of downstream jets. Simultaneously, the secondary jets behave as "disturbed pins" along the cross flow, which often enhances the convective heat transfer capacity of cross flow. The contradictory aspects are responsible for the complicated heat transfer features along downstream of the first row. In the case of  $z_n/d = 1$ , the impingement jets maintain stronger penetration in the surrounding fluid, which is weakly affected by the cross flow. At the same time, the cross flow is strengthened more obviously, so that the heat transfer enhancement shows advantageous in the region corresponding to the secondary row. While in the case of a larger  $z_n/d$ , the jet penetration is decadent to be

easily deflected by the cross flow and the convective heat transfer of the cross flow is also weakened, and the laterally-averaged Nusselt number is thus reduced on the second row compared with the peak Nusselt number on the first row.

### 3.3 Discharge coefficients

The discharge coefficient is inversely proportional to the pressure drop between the jet inlet and the channel outlet. Fig. 9 presents the influence of  $z_n/d$  on the discharge coefficients in the single-row case. It is shown that the impingement distance  $z_n/d=1$  leads to the lowest discharge coefficient over the range of impingement distances tested for the single-row case, which indicates that the pressure drop for this situation is the biggest. By comparison, the influence of  $z_n/d$  on the discharge coefficients is more obvious when the spanwise jet-to-jet pitch is smaller.

The influence of  $y_n/d$  on the discharge coefficients is shown in Fig. 10. It is evident that  $y_n/d$  has an important effect on the discharge coefficient

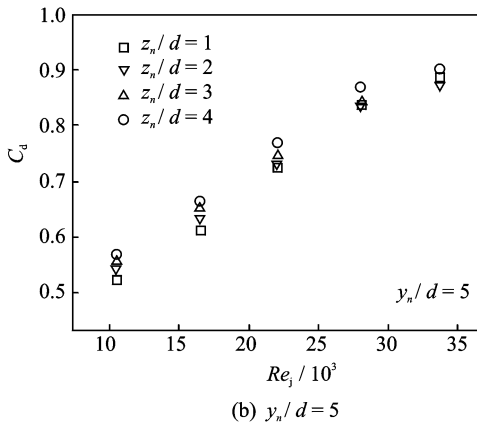
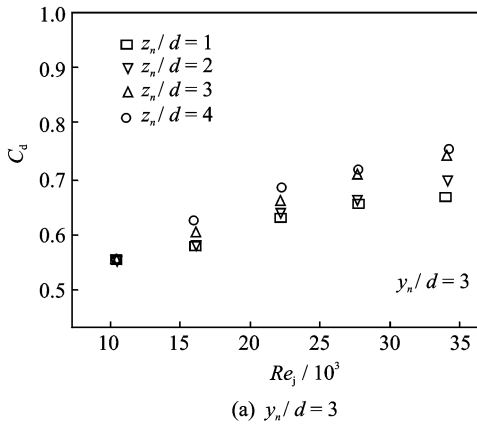


Fig. 9 Discharge coefficients vs.  $Re_j$  under different  $z_n/d$

in the single-row case. When the spanwise jet-to-jet pitch is smaller, the interaction of the adjacent jets will be more intensive, owing to the increases of flow loss and a smaller discharge coefficient. As it can be seen from the figures, the influence is more significant in the higher impingement Reynolds number.

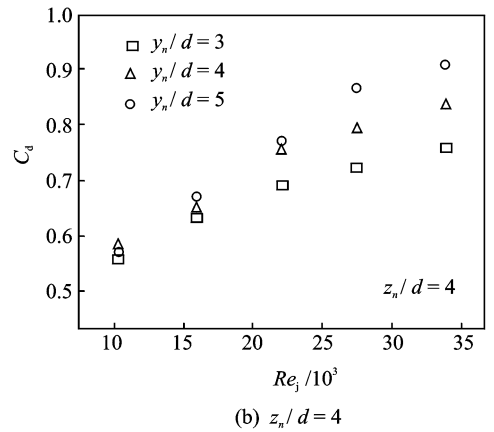
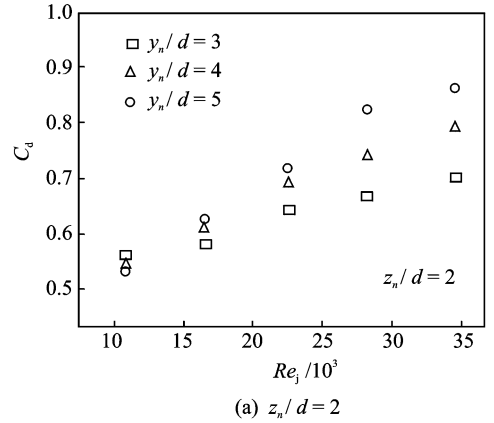


Fig. 10 Discharge coefficients vs.  $Re_j$  under different  $y_n/d$

Fig. 11 presents the comparison of discharge coefficients between single-row case and double-

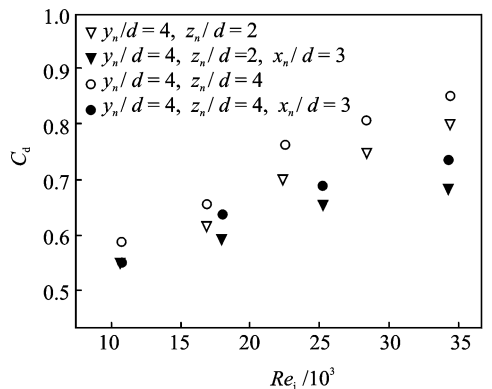


Fig. 11 Comparison of discharge coefficients



row case. It can be found that the discharge coefficient in the double-row case decreases compared with that of the single-row case at the same impingement Reynolds number. Due to the interaction of jets between adjacent streamwise rows, the flow loss inside the channel increases, which is contributed to the decrease of the discharge coefficient.

## 4 Conclusions

Experimental investigation is conducted to investigate the flow and heat transfer performances of impingement cooling inside semi-confined channel. Effects of impingement Reynolds number, orifice-to-target spacing and hole pitch on the convective heat transfer coefficient and discharge coefficient are revealed. The results are summarized as follows:

(1) The impingement distance  $z_n/d=2$  leads to the highest local heat transfer over the range of impingement distances tested for the single-row case. The impingement heat transfer is enhanced with the increase of impinging Reynolds number or the decrease of spanwise jet-to-jet pitch.

(2) The laterally-averaged Nusselt number distributions within the zone of the first row of double-row case do not fit perfectly with the single-row case. The optimum impingement distance is  $z_n/d=1$  in the double-row case. And the laterally-averaged Nusselt number is reduced on the second row compared to the first row at larger impingement distance.

(3) The spanwise jet-to-jet pitch has an important effect on the discharge coefficient. A smaller jet-to-jet pitch generally results in a lower discharge coefficient. This influence is more significant under the higher impingement Reynolds number. The discharge coefficient in the double-row case is decreased relative to the single-row case at the same impingement Reynolds number.

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