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Monterey, California



Basic Research in Thermoacoustic Heat Transport

by

Anthony A. Atchley

June 1996

Technical Report for Period 01 Jun 95 - 31 May 96

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Prepared for: Office of Naval Research
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Arlington, VA 22217-5660


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800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22217-5660.

This report was prepared by:


ANTHONY A. ATCHLEY
Associate Professor of Physics

Reviewed by:


WILLIAM B. COLSON
Chairman, Department of Physics

Released by:


GORDON E. SCHACHER
Dean of Research (Acting)

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ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT
PREPARED FOR
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH ONR 331

BASIC RESEARCH
IN
THERMOACOUSTIC HEAT TRANSPORT

01 June 1995 - 31 May 1996

by

Anthony A. Atchley
Physics Department
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943

ABSTRACT

This annual summary report details progress in basic research in thermoacoustic heat transport made during the period 01 June 1995 through 31 May 1996. Research efforts were primarily concentrated in three areas: 1) investigation of fundamental limitations to the performance of thermoacoustic devices; 2) design, construction, and demonstration of a proof-of-concept, shipboard, heat driven thermoacoustic cooler capable of cooling loads of 1 kW; 3) measurement of transient effects in thermoacoustic devices to provide data to test nonlinear, time-dependent models of thermoacoustics. Accomplishments include 1) the design of a prototype toroidal prime mover; 2) preliminary measurements of the temperature evolution along a stack in a mechanically driven configuration; 3) preliminary measurements of transient effects in prime movers; 4) preliminary design of a new prime mover configuration; and 5) fabrication of a 1 kW heat driven cooler. A publications, patents, presentations, and honors report is also included.

Project Description

The purpose of this project is three fold: 1) investigate fundamental limitations to the performance of thermoacoustic devices; 2) design, build, and demonstrate a proof-of-concept, shipboard, heat driven thermoacoustic cooler capable of cooling loads of 1 kW; 3) measure transient effects in thermoacoustic devices to provide data to test nonlinear, time-dependent models of thermoacoustics.

Approach

This project is, primarily, experimental-based. Specific areas of experimentation either continued or initiated during the reporting period include 1) investigation of a toroidal prime mover; 2) measurements of the temperature evolution along the stack in a mechanically driven configuration, 3) measurements of the evolution of the acoustic waveform and temperature distribution in heat exchangers in a prime mover from the off-state to steady-state, 4) investigation of new prime mover configurations designed to achieve greater amplitudes, 5) fabrication of a 1 kW heat driven cooler. NPS thermoacoustics work tends to focus on using prime movers because they can generate much greater acoustic pressure amplitudes than can conventional electromechanically driven acoustic resonators. Therefore, the nonlinear regime is more easily reached. A significant amount of the effort is a collaborative among Professors Atchley, Hofler and Keolian.

Accomplishments

Specific accomplishments in the five areas cited above are listed below. 1) The design of a prototype toroidal prime mover is complete. Fabrication is 80% complete. Analysis techniques are under further development. Current focus is on treating the toroidal prime mover as an infinite periodic lattice. 2) A new experimental apparatus has been constructed to measure the temperature evolution along a stack in a mechanically driven configuration. Results of preliminary measurements were presented at the Indianapolis meeting of the

Acoustical Society of America. 3) A new experimental apparatus has been built to measure transient effects in prime movers. Results of preliminary measurements were also presented at the Indianapolis meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. 4) Analysis of past and current NPS research involving heat exchanger performance and various stack geometries has led to preliminary designs for a new prime mover configuration. Construction of this prime mover is planned for the future. 5) Fabrication of the first phase of the 1 kW cooler is 90% completed. Testing of the prime mover portion should be underway by the end of the fiscal year. Testing of the cooler should begin early in the next fiscal year.

**OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
PUBLICATION/PATENTS/PRESENTATIONS/HONORS REPORT
for
01 June 95 through 31 May 96**

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Principal Investigator: Anthony A. Atchley

Mailing Address: Physics Department
Code PH/Ay
Naval Postgraduate School
833 Dyer Road
Monterey, CA 93943-5117

Phone Number: 408-656-2848
Facsimile Number: 408-656-2834
E-mail Address: atchley@physics.nps.navy.mil

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01 June 95 through 31 May 96

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UNIVERSITY MS 38677

PROFESSOR STEVEN L GARRETT
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ACOUSTICS
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
P O BOX 30
STATE COLLEGE PA 16804

1

DR KEITH A GILLIS
THERMOPHYSICS DIVISION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS
AND TECHNOLOGY
GAITHERSBURG MD 20899-0001

1

PROFESSOR ANDREA PROSPERETTI
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE MD 21218

1

PROFESSOR RICHARD RASPET
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY MS 38677

1

PROFESSOR OREST G SYMKO
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84112

1