



Freestream velocity-profile measurement in a large-scale, high-enthalpy reflected-shock tunnel

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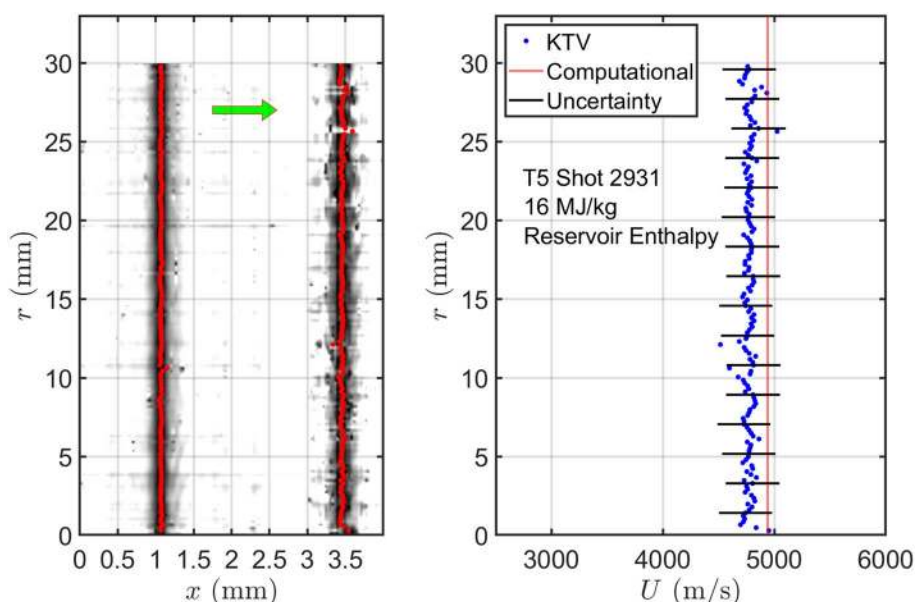
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Abstract

We apply Krypton Tagging Velocimetry (KTV) to measure velocity profiles in the freestream of a large, national-scale high-enthalpy facility, the T5 Reflected-Shock Tunnel at Caltech. The KTV scheme utilizes two-photon excitation at 216.67 nm with a pulsed dye laser, followed by re-excitation at 769.45 nm with a continuous laser diode. Results from a nine-shot experimental campaign are presented where N_2 and air gas mixtures are doped with krypton, denoted as 99% N_2 /1% Kr, and 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr, respectively. Flow conditions were varied through much of the T5 parameter space (reservoir enthalpy $h_R \approx 5 - 16$ MJ/kg). We compare our experimental freestream velocity-profile measurements to reacting, Navier–Stokes nozzle calculations with success, to within the uncertainty of the experiment. Then, we discuss some of the limitations of the present measurement technique, including quenching effects and flow luminosity; and, we present an uncertainty estimate in the freestream velocity computations that arise from the experimentally derived inputs to the code.

Graphic Abstract



1 Introduction

High-speed flow is characterized by complex phenomena such as shock waves, compressible turbulence, and non-equilibrium thermochemistry. There is a pressing need for optical flowfield measurement techniques that can provide

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more insight into these phenomena and their interactions than can be achieved by interpretation of surface measurements (e.g., heat flux and pressure) and conventional optical diagnostics (e.g., schlieren). Ground tests are a critical step before flight, as well as an opportunity to examine fundamental flow interactions in detail; however, no single ground-test facility can recreate all high-speed flow conditions for free flight (Hornung 1993; Lu and Marren 2002; Schneider 2008). An impulse facility, such as a reflected-shock tunnel or expansion tube/tunnel, can recreate free-flight enthalpy in ground tests.

Measurements in impulse facilities are notoriously difficult to make due to challenges such as timing, frequency response, influence of the probe on the flow, chemiluminescence, harsh aerothermodynamic measurement environment, high vibrational environment, and, in the case of particle-based techniques, particle injection, and response time. Nonintrusive optical diagnostics can address some of these challenges (Danehy et al. 2018). In this work, we focus on velocity measurements.

Two ubiquitous velocimetry techniques are Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV) and Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) (Tropea et al. 2007). These particle-based measurements rely on the assumption that the tracer particles travel identically with the flow. However, the particle response time can be inadequate in low-density flows with short timescales. At low densities, the Knudsen number of a particle can become large (Loth 2008). This represents a fundamental limitation of particle-based techniques because the slip condition at the particle surface culminates in reduced response time, making critical quantities difficult to measure (Lowe et al. 2014; Williams et al. 2015; Brooks et al. 2018).

Tagging velocimetry (TV) is an attractive alternative to particle-based techniques because TV is not limited by timing issues associated with tracer injection or reduced particle response at Knudsen and Reynolds numbers characteristic of high-speed wind tunnels. Methods of tagging velocimetry include KTV (Parziale et al. 2015; Zahradka et al. 2016; Mustafa et al. 2017b, a, c, 2018; Mustafa and Parziale 2018; Mustafa et al. 2019a, b; Shekhtman et al. 2020), VENOM (Hsu et al. 2009a, b; Sánchez-González et al. 2011, 2012, 2014), APART (Dam et al. 2001; Sijtsema et al. 2002; Van der Laan et al. 2003), RELIEF (Miles et al. 1987, 1989, 1993; Miles and Lempert 1997; Miles et al. 2000), FLEET (Michael et al. 2011; Edwards et al. 2015), STARFLEET (Jiang et al. 2016), PLEET (Jiang et al. 2017), argon (Mills 2016), iodine (McDaniel et al. 1983; Balla 2013), sodium (Barker et al. 1997), acetone (Lempert et al. 2002, 2003; Handa et al. 2014), NH Zhang et al. (2017) and the hydroxyl group techniques (Boedeker 1989; Wehrmeyer et al. 1999; Pitz et al. 2005; André et al. 2017), among others (Hiller et al. 1984; Gendrich and Koochesfahani 1996; Gendrich

et al. 1997; Stier and Koochesfahani 1999; Ribarov et al. 1999; André et al. 2018).

Researchers have applied various velocimetry techniques to impulse facilities. McIntosh (1971) used spark tracer and magnetohydrodynamic methods to measure the velocity of the gas in the freestream of a high-enthalpy shock tunnel; the measurements have large uncertainty and require a complex experimental setup. Wagner et al. (2018) used PIV to measure the impulsively started flow over a cylinder in a shock tube. Haertig et al. (2002) and Havermann et al. (2008) used PIV to measure the flow of a cylinder and a jet in a shock tunnel at modest reservoir enthalpy. Parker et al. (2007) used a line-of-sight integrating method to measure freestream velocity via nitric oxide (NO) in the CUBRC LENS I facility. Danehy et al. (2003) used NO as a tracer to measure shear flows in the T2 and T3 reflected-shock tunnels; those measurements used a mixture of approximately 97–99% N₂ and 1–3% O₂ in the driven section to “produce an amount of NO sufficient to produce good fluorescence but that would minimize the amount of the gases (O₂, O, and NO) that are efficient quenchers.” de S. Matos et al. (2018) made velocity measurements in unseeded hypersonic air flows in a reflected-shock tunnel at an enthalpy of approximately 6 MJ/kg; that work presents a strategy where a reference image was taken before the test, which is not possible in some impulse facilities due to vibration.

There are little or no experimental velocimetry data in the literature at high-enthalpy conditions due to the difficulties of performing experiments in impulse facilities (Stalker 1989; Hornung 1993). As such, there are no experimental data with which computational researchers can use to validate their laudable modeling efforts that can capture the relevant physics of nonequilibrium thermochemistry and the Navier–Stokes equations. A review of these modeling efforts may be found in Candler (2015, 2019). This dearth of experimental techniques to make measurements in these high-enthalpy flows slows the progress of fundamental hypersonic flow-physics research as well as hypersonic vehicle development (Leyva 2017).

In this work, we apply Krypton Tagging Velocimetry (KTV) to measure velocity profiles in the freestream of the T5 Reflected-Shock Tunnel (Hornung 1992) at the California Institute of Technology. We discuss the results from an experimental campaign where the flow conditions were varied through much of the T5 parameter space (reservoir enthalpy $h_R \approx 5 - 16$ MJ/kg). We compare our experimental freestream velocity-profile measurements to reacting, Navier–Stokes nozzle calculations with success. Then, we discuss some of the limitations of the present measurement technique, including quenching effects, flow luminosity, and we present an uncertainty estimate in the freestream velocity computations that would arise from the experimentally derived inputs to the code.

2 Krypton tagging velocimetry

In this work, excited Kr serves as the tracer for tagging velocimetry. The use of a metastable noble gas as a tagging velocimetry tracer was first suggested by Mills et al. (2011) and Balla and Everhart (2012). To date, Krypton Tagging Velocimetry (KTV) has been demonstrated by globally seeding high-speed N_2 flows with 1% Kr and air flows with 5% Kr. Applications include: 1) an underexpanded jet, constituting the first-ever KTV demonstration (Parziale et al. 2015); 2) mean and fluctuating turbulent boundary-layer profiles in a Mach 2.7 flow (Zahradka et al. 2016); 3) twenty simultaneous profiles over a 20 mm field-of-view of streamwise velocity and velocity fluctuations in a Mach 2.8 shock-wave/turbulent boundary-layer interaction (Mustafa et al. 2019a); and 4) the freestream of the large-scale AEDC Hypervelocity Tunnel 9 at Mach 10 and Mach 14 (Mustafa et al. 2017c). In these experiments, the researchers used a pulsed dye laser to perform the write step at 214.77 nm to form a write line and photosynthesize the metastable Kr tracer; after a prescribed delay, an additional pulsed dye laser was used to re-excite the metastable Kr tracer to track displacement. Recently, simplified KTV schemes were developed and demonstrated in an underexpanded-jet configuration (Mustafa and Parziale 2018) and in the flow following the incident shock in a shock tube (Mustafa et al. 2019b). These simplified schemes used 1) a single dye laser for the write step with no read laser, or 2) a dye laser for the write step and a simple, continuous-wave (CW) laser diode to help boost signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) during the read step.

In this work, we build upon the simplified schemes by using a dye laser and a simple CW laser diode. We demonstrate the use of two-photon excitation at 216.67 nm, unlike the 212.56 and 214.77 nm wavelengths used in previous KTV works. The use of the 216.67 nm wavelength is born out of the need to maximize the SNR of the fluorescence images. Details on the experimental and theoretical work

justifying the use of 216.67 nm can be found in Shekhtman et al. (2021).

Following the transitions in the energy level diagram in Fig. 1 along with the relevant transition data in Table 1 (labeled as A, B, C), the KTV scheme is performed as follows:

1. *Write Step* A pulsed, tunable laser excites krypton atoms to form metastable Kr via two-photon excitation and Kr^+ via (2+1) photoionization. Two-photon excitation of $4p^6(^1S_0) \rightarrow 5p[5/2]_2$ (216.67 nm, transition A) and subsequent one-photon ionization (Miller 1989) to Kr^+ (216.67 nm, transition B) occur. This is followed by transitions to metastable $5p[5/2]_2 \rightarrow 5s[3/2]_2^o$ (transition D) and resonance states $5p[5/2]_2 \rightarrow 5s[3/2]_1^o$ (transition

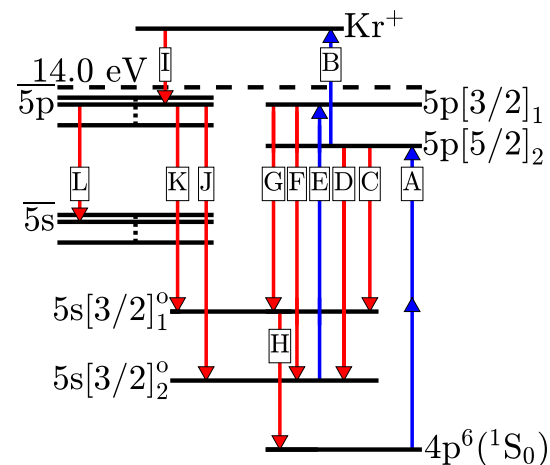


Fig. 1 Energy diagram with Racah $nl[K]_J$ notation. Blue lines indicate stimulated (laser-induced) transitions, and red lines indicate spontaneous transitions. States $5p$ and $5s$ represent the numerous $5p$ and $5s$ states that are produced by the recombination process. Transitions J, K and L represent the numerous transitions in the $5p$ – $5s$ band. 14.0 eV denotes the ionization limit of Kr. Transition details are in Table 1

Table 1 Relevant NIST Atomic Spectra Database Lines Data (Kramida et al. 2020), labels match Fig. 1. Racah $nl[K]_J$ notation denote Kr excited states. Transition I is not listed because it represents the

recombination process. Entries in the J/K/L row represent order of magnitude estimates for transitions that involve excited Kr species in the $5p$ – $5s$ band, as shown in Fig. 1

Transition	λ_{air} (nm)	Nature	A_{ki} (1/s)	E_i (cm^{-1})	E_k (cm^{-1})	Lower level	Upper level
A	216.670	Two-photon	–	0	92307.3786	$4s^2 4p^6, ^1S_0$	$5p[5/2]_2$
B	216.670	Single-photon	–	92307.3786	112917.62	$5p[5/2]_2$	Kr^+
C	877.675	Single-photon	2.2×10^7	80916.7680	92307.3786	$5s[3/2]_1$	$5p[5/2]_2$
D	810.436	Single-photon	8.9×10^6	79971.7417	92307.3786	$5s[3/2]_2$	$5p[5/2]_2$
E/F	769.454	Single-photon	4.3×10^6	79971.7417	92964.3943	$5s[3/2]_2$	$5p[3/2]_1$
G	829.811	Single-photon	2.9×10^7	80916.7680	92964.3943	$5s[3/2]_1$	$5p[3/2]_1$
H	123.584	Single-photon	3.0×10^8	0	80916.7680	$4s^2 4p^6, ^1S_0$	$5s[3/2]_1$
J/K/L	750–830	Single-photon	$10^6 - 10^7$	80000.0000	90000.0000	$\overline{5s}$	$\overline{5p}$

C), as well as transitions (J, K and L) to states resulting from the recombination process (I) (Shiu and Biondi 1977; Dakka et al. 2018). The position of the write line is captured by gated imaging of the laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) from these transitions (C, D, J, K, L). This is recorded with a camera positioned normal to the flow.

2. **Read Step** After a prescribed delay, the displacement of the tagged metastable krypton and Kr^+ is recorded. A CW laser diode excites $5p[3/2]_1$ level by $5s[3/2]_2^0 \rightarrow 5p[3/2]_1$ transition (769.454 nm, E). This is followed by decay to metastable $5p[3/2]_1 \rightarrow 5s[3/2]_1^0$ (829.81 nm, G) and resonance $5p[3/2]_1 \rightarrow 5s[3/2]_2^0$ (769.454 nm, F) states. The position of the read line is obtained by gated imaging of the LIF from transitions F and G, and the residual fluorescence from transitions J, K and L that result from the recombination process, I.

Due to the need to filter out the freestream luminosity of the T5 reflected-shock tunnel, an 800–850 nm bandpass filter was used, blocking out transitions C, E, F, and a portion of the radiation cascade L that falls below 800 nm. The sacrifice in signal is worthwhile because much of the luminosity is rejected and transitions D and G still fall within our wavelength interval. The filter has the additional benefit of blocking CW read-laser light scattering (transition E).

3 Experimental setup

3.1 T5 reflected-shock tunnel

All measurements were made in T5, the free-piston-driven reflected-shock tunnel at the California Institute of Technology. It is the fifth in a series of shock tunnels designed to simulate high-enthalpy, real gas effects on the aerodynamics of vehicles flying at hypervelocity speeds through the atmosphere. More information regarding the capabilities of T5 can be found in Hornung (1992). In Fig. 2, the schematic shows the driven section of the shock tube, the nozzle, and the test section along with the equipment required for KTV in T5.

To calculate the freestream run conditions, the conditions of the nozzle reservoir are first determined for each experiment. Using the initial driven section pressure, P_1 , and the measured incident shock speed U_s , the thermodynamic state is evaluated for the portion of test gas that has been processed by both the incident and reflected shocks. We assume the pressure of this state isentropically expands to the reservoir pressure, P_R , which accounts for weak expansion or compression waves that are reflected between the contact surface and the shock tube end wall. These calculations were performed using Cantera (Goodwin 2003) with

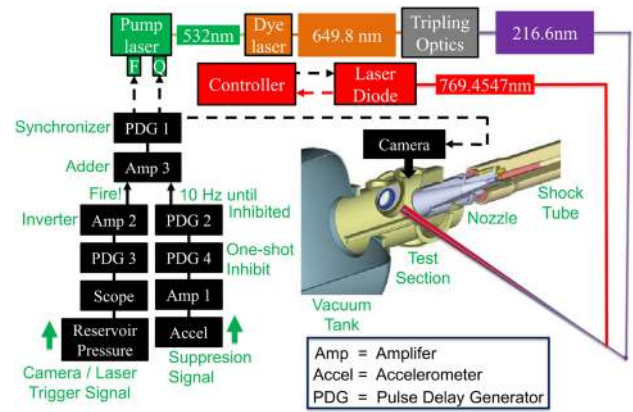


Fig. 2 Experimental setup

the Shock and Detonation Toolbox (Browne et al. 2006). The appropriate thermodynamic data are found in the literature (Gordon and McBride 1999; McBride et al. 2002). Following the evaluation of the reservoir condition, the steady expansion through the contoured nozzle from the reservoir to the freestream is computed by the University of Minnesota Nozzle Code which modeled the flow with the axisymmetric, reacting Navier–Stokes equations assuming turbulent nozzle wall boundary layers (Wright et al. 1996; Candler 2005; Johnson 2000; Wagnild 2012). Finally, the three test-gas mixtures were: (1) 97% N_2 /3% Kr, (2) 99% N_2 /1% Kr, and (3) 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr.

3.2 Laser and camera setup

The write-laser system for this KTV investigation is a frequency-doubled Quanta Ray Pro-290 Nd:YAG laser and a frequency-tripled Sirah PrecisionScan Dye Laser (DCM dye, DMSO solvent). A schematic of the optical setup is shown in Fig. 2. The Nd:YAG laser pumps the dye laser with 500 mJ/pulse at a wavelength of 532 nm. The dye laser is tuned to output a 650.01 nm beam, and frequency tripling (Sirah THU 205) of the dye laser output results in a 216.67 nm beam, with 4 mJ of energy entering the test section, a 1350 MHz linewidth, and a 7 ns pulsewidth at a repetition rate of 10 Hz. The write beam was focused into the test section, near the centerline of the nozzle, just downstream of the exit plane of the nozzle with a 1000 mm focal-length, fused-silica lens. The beam fluence and spectral intensity at the waist were $1.5 \times 10^3 \text{ J/cm}^2$ and $1.6 \times 10^2 \text{ W/(cm}^2 \text{ Hz)}$, respectively. Additionally, we present data with sufficient SNR at least 20–35 mm away from the focal point where the beam fluence and spectral intensity are lower, 87 J/cm^2 and 9.2 $\text{W/(cm}^2 \text{ Hz)}$, respectively.

The read laser was a Toptica TA Pro 2 watt, CW Laser Diode that generated the 769.4547 nm laser radiation to excite the metastable Kr state. As shown in Fig. 2, the

diode's beam is directed into the test section to overlap with the write beam. The beam output is approximately 15 mm x 15 mm in size at the location of the write beam focus (where the KTV measurement is made), resulting in an intensity of $\approx 900 \text{ mW/cm}^2$. We note this intensity is several orders of magnitude larger than the saturation intensity estimated from Chapter 7 of Eckbreth (1996). A laser diode is much easier to manage than a second pulsed dye laser, as was used previously for KTV involving 214.7 nm excitation scheme. With little increase in the complexity of the laser setup, the laser diode increases the SNR of the KTV read image. A feedback loop for wavelength reference tracking was implemented to lock the diode on the desired wavelength with Wavelength Meter WS7-4150.

The intensified CCD camera used for all experiments was a Princeton Instruments PIMAX-4 (PM4-1024i-HR-FG-18-P46-CM) with two one-inch lens tubes and an AF-S NIKKOR 200 mm f/2G ED-VR-II prime lens positioned approximately 500 mm from the write/read location. To maintain a frame rate greater than 20 Hz, a region of interest 1020×512 was selected from a 1024×1024 frame, and the image was binned by 6 in the radial/vertical coordinate. The camera gate opened twice: once for 5 ns immediately following the write-laser pulse and again at a prescribed delay time of 500 ns for 50 ns to capture the transitions from the read step. The inherent luminosity of the flow in the T5 tunnel obscured the fluorescence signal. To mitigate this, three 800 nm high pass and two 850 nm low pass filters were placed in front of the camera. The filters also decreased the KTV signal; however, this did not outweigh the benefit of reducing the effect of the flow luminosity. A typical image scale of ≈ 32 pixels/mm was recorded before each shot, using Gaussians fitted to the white space between the 1 mm markings on a Pocket USAF Optical Test Pattern card.

3.3 Timing scheme for data acquisition

A timing scheme was implemented to synchronize the time of laser pulsing and camera image acquisition with the firing of the T5 reflected-shock tunnel. The fundamental design requirements of the scheme were to (1) pulse the dye laser at 10 Hz to maintain its operating temperature, (2) during a tunnel run, suppress the 10 Hz signal, and (3) pulse the dye laser and trigger the camera once, at the time of measurement. The time of KTV measurement was set to be 0.6–1.8 ms after the reservoir pressure P_R has been established. A representative P_R trace is shown in Fig. 3. This choice of delay time is made such that the measurement occurs after the nozzle start-up (1 ms in Fig. 3), but before the drive-gas contamination or arrival of the expansion fan (2 ms in Fig. 3). The choice of delay time is determined by referencing past T5 experiments; see, for example, more

details on driver-gas contamination in Sudani and Hornung (1998) and Sudani et al. (2000).

Figure 2 illustrates how the timing scheme controls the dye laser and camera, noting that the CW laser is left on throughout the experiment. Pulse delay generator (PDG) 2 provides a 10 Hz pulse to the dye laser and camera. Amplifier (AMP) 3 adds the contributions of PDG 2 and PDG 3. The output of AMP 3 triggers PDG 1, which synchronizes the triggering of the dye laser and camera 1.5 ms after the rising edge of each trigger pulse. At the start of the tunnel run, an accelerometer senses the tunnel recoil and triggers PDG 4, which sends a single, one-shot inhibit signal to PDG 2, thus suppressing the 10 Hz signal for 10 seconds. Once the incident shock is reflected at the end of the shock tube, the reservoir pressure rises sufficiently for the reservoir pressure transducer to trigger in sequence an oscilloscope and PDG3, which sends a TTL pulse to AMP 2. The TTL pulse is inverted by AMP 2 and is subtracted by AMP 3. Signals produced by PDG 2 and PDG 3 are essentially added. Through AMP 3, this TTL pulse both fires the dye laser and triggers the camera 0.6–1.8 ms after the rising edge of the reservoir transducer.

The length of the pause that the laser system experiences is less than 200 ms. This is the time between the accelerometer inhibiting the laser and the reservoir pressure triggering it to make the measurement. This is essentially the time between the T5 piston starting to move and the establishment of reservoir pressure. 200 ms is longer than the 10 Hz operating frequency, but it was observed that there was an acceptable loss of power in the dye laser during the “write pulse.”

4 Results

In this section, we present results for the experiments in N_2 and air. Corresponding flow conditions and gas mixtures are listed in Table 2. To process the KTV exposures, the line centers were found in the following manner:

- (1) An image was cropped to an appropriate field of view and normalized. For each row in the image, the minimum was subtracted off, and row elements were normalized by the row maximum. This resulted in some horizontal streakiness in the processed images. To remove background offset, a global mean was subtracted off from the image, followed by normalization by a global maximum.
- (2) A two-dimensional Wiener adaptive-noise removal filter was applied. The Wiener-filter stencil was 1 pixel in the streamwise direction and 8 pixels in the spanwise direction.

Table 2 Experimental conditions grouped approximately by reservoir enthalpy. Shot refers to the experimental shot number. Gas composition is given in percent by mole. P_R , T_R , and h_R are the reservoir pressure, temperature, and mass-specific enthalpy, respectively. P_∞ , T_∞ , ρ_∞ , M_∞ , U_∞ , and Re_∞^{unit} are the freestream pressure, temperature, density, Mach number, and unit Reynolds number, respectively

Set	Shot	Test Gas			P_R (MPa)	T_R (K)	h_R (MJ/kg)	P_∞ (kPa)	T_∞ (K)	ρ_∞ (kg/m ³)	M_∞	U_∞ (m/s)	Re_∞^{unit} (1/m)
		% Kr	% N ₂	% O ₂									
1	2909	3	97	0	19.9	4483	4.94	4.07	444	0.032	7.16	2983	4.61×10^6
	2910	1	99	0	20.4	4489	5.18	4.44	461	0.033	7.02	3039	4.03×10^6
	2926	1	99	0	14.8	3948	4.57	3.97	421	0.032	6.80	2850	3.81×10^6
	2927	5	75	20	18.1	3700	4.65	5.63	552	0.035	6.09	2836	3.56×10^6
2	2928	1	99	0	16.6	6097	7.87	3.97	723	0.019	6.71	3675	2.00×10^6
	2929	5	75	20	17.3	5024	7.55	6.50	1037	0.021	5.50	3502	1.81×10^6
3	2930	1	99	0	20.7	8335	15.7	7.24	1665	0.014	5.80	4894	1.25×10^6
	2931	1	99	0	21.0	8376	15.9	7.45	1695	0.014	5.14	4940	1.26×10^6
4	2933	1	99	0	22.4	5379	6.60	5.52	611	0.030	6.75	3400	3.39×10^6

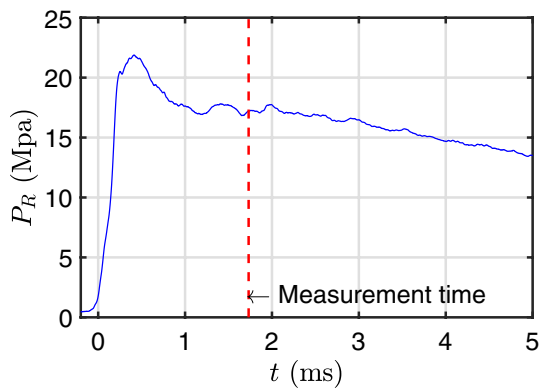


Fig. 3 Representative pressure reservoir trace. The trace is shown for Shot 2929

- Fourier filtering is performed by transforming into wavenumber space and applying a low-pass filter that removed structures with wavenumbers above 800 1/m in the spanwise-direction (Rzeszutowski et al. 1983; Shapiro and Stockman 2001). Without the Fourier filtering in the spanwise direction, obtaining consistent results for the higher-enthalpy cases would not have been possible.
- The Gaussian peak finding algorithm from O'Haver (1997) was applied to find the line centers for the top row using the lines in the top row of each image as a first guess.
- Proceeding from the top-down, the Gaussian peak finding algorithm from O'Haver (1997) was applied to find the line centers for each row using the line center location immediately above as the guess.

Error bars for the KTV measurements are calculated in the same fashion as Zahradka et al. (2016) as

$$\tilde{U}_{\text{KTV}} = \left[\left(\tilde{\Delta x} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \Delta x} \right)^2 + \left(\tilde{\Delta t} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \Delta t} \right)^2 + \left(v'_{\text{RMS}} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \Delta t \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (1)$$

where uncertainty estimates of a variable are indicated with a tilde and $U = \Delta x / \Delta t$. The uncertainty in the measured displacement distance, $\tilde{\Delta x}$, of the excited Kr tracer is estimated as the 95% confidence bound on the write and read locations from the Gaussian fits, ≈ 10 microns. The uncertainty in time, $\tilde{\Delta t}$, is estimated to be half the camera gate width, 50 ns, causing fluorescence blurring (Bathel et al. 2011). The third term in Eq. 1 is uncertainty in streamwise velocity due to wall-normal fluctuations in the xy -plane (Hill and Klewicki 1996; Bathel et al. 2011), where v'_{RMS} is estimated as the mean of the wall-normal velocity at the nozzle exit, approximately 40 m/s. We note the third term in Eq. 1 is relatively small in these experiments because there is little slope in the measured profiles.

The results for shots 2909, 2910, 2926–2931, and 2933 are shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7. For each experiment, the plot on the left is the concatenation of normalized write and read KTV images. Peaks of Gaussian fits (in red) are plotted on these images. The plot on the right shows the derived KTV velocity profile in blue, the uncertainty estimate as black bars, and the computational results in red. The field of view of the KTV measurements is $20\text{--}35 \times 3.5$ mm and the uncertainty is typically 5% of the freestream value. The zero in Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7 marks the centerline of the nozzle, and we note the measurement was made immediately downstream of the exit plane of the nozzle.

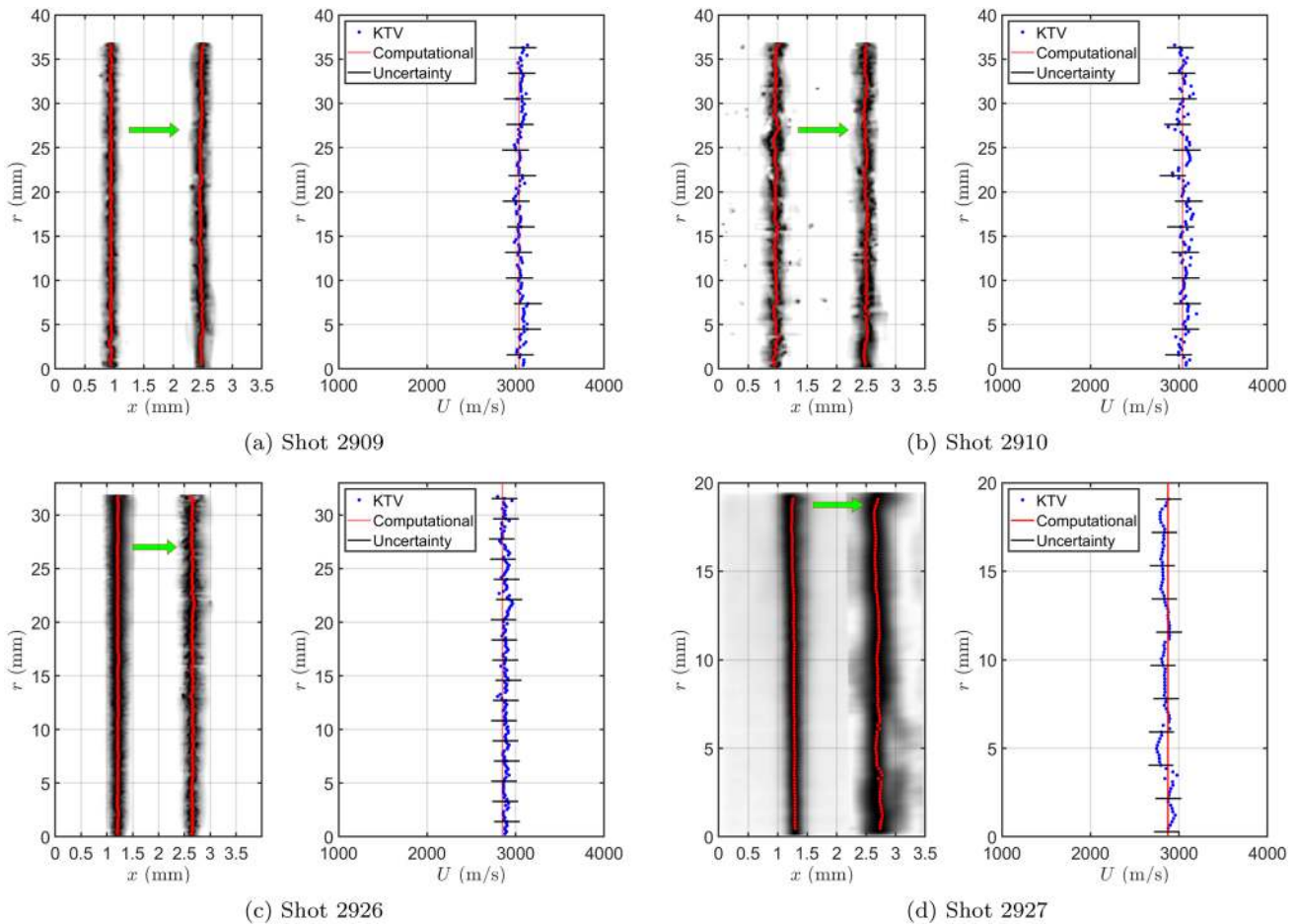


Fig. 4 Shots with reservoir enthalpy of approximately 4.5–5 MJ/kg and freestream pressure of 4.07–5.63 kPa. In each subfigure, *left* is the concatenation of processed write and read KTV images (inverted Scale); and *right* is the KTV-obtained velocity profile in blue, error

bars in black, and computational results in red. The time of displacement is $\Delta t = 500$ ns. Gas mixtures were 97% N_2 /3% Kr (a), 99% N_2 /1% Kr (b and c), and 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr (d)

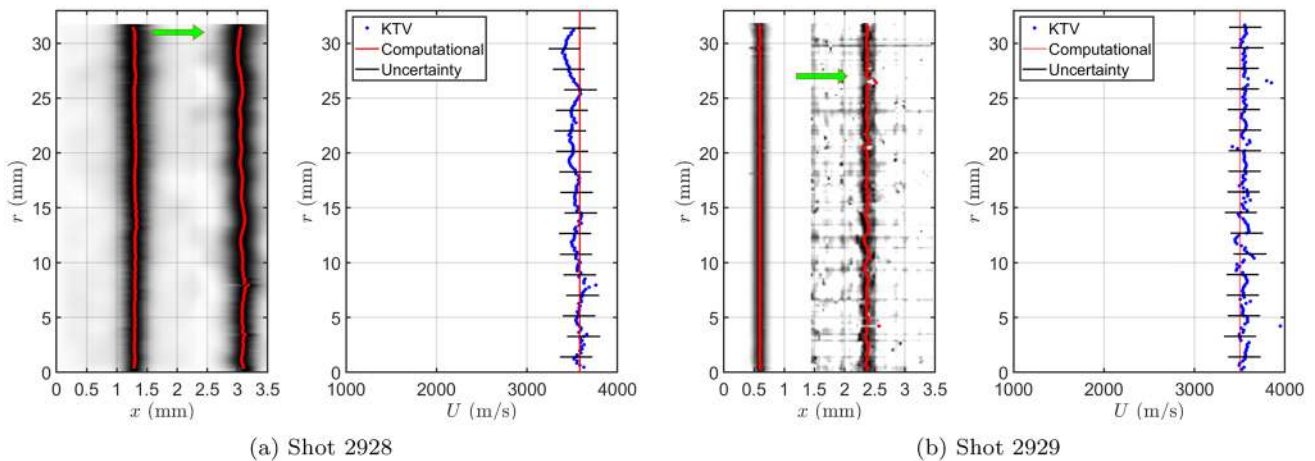


Fig. 5 Shots with reservoir enthalpy of approximately 7–8 MJ/kg and freestream pressure of ≈ 6.5 kPa. Same layout as Fig. 4. Gas mixtures were 99% N_2 /1% Kr (a), and 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr (b)

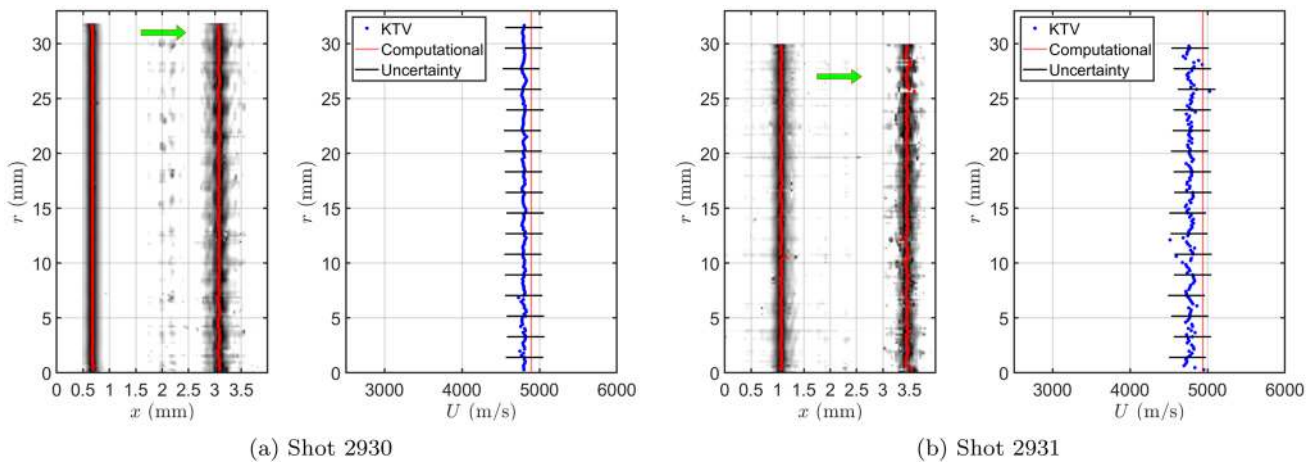


Fig. 6 Shots with reservoir enthalpy of 16.7–16.9 MJ/kg and freestream pressure of 9.44–9.59 kPa. Same layout as Fig. 4. Gas mixtures are 99% N_2 /1% Kr (**a** and **b**)

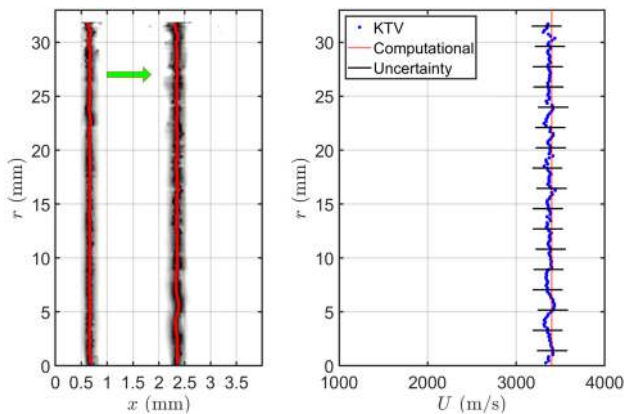


Fig. 7 Shot 2933 with reservoir enthalpy of 6.7 MJ/kg and freestream pressure of 8.07 kPa. Same layout as Fig. 4. Gas mixture was 99% N_2 /1% Kr

5 Discussion

The experimental conditions in Mustafa et al. (2019b) showed that KTV could be performed at static conditions similar to the T5 freestream with 99% N_2 /1% Kr, and 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr gas mixtures. Relative to Mustafa et al. (2019b), the experiments described in the present work are significantly more complex due to (a) the longer stand-off distance from the KTV LIF to the camera; (b) lower write-laser power, 10 mJ/pulse in Mustafa et al. (2019b) versus 3–4 mJ/pulse in this work; (c) timing complexity; (d) laser-power attenuation resulting from not triggering the laser setup at the designed repetition rate of 10 Hz; (e) freestream luminosity; and, (f) scheduling complications of single-shot-per-day experiments.

5.1 Choice of gas mixtures and quenching effects

In light of the complexity associated with performing experiments in T5, the first experiment was performed with the 97% N_2 /3% Kr mixture to serve as a conservative baseline of what could be done with KTV in a large-scale, high-enthalpy reflected-shock tunnel. This successful experiment led us to use the 99% N_2 /1% Kr and 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr gas mixtures in subsequent experiments. We chose the air mixture with 5% Kr, as opposed to the 1% used in the N_2 experiments, because of the additional quenching from O_2 . We found these levels of Kr doping to be sufficient in previous experiments (Mustafa et al. 2019b). Referring to the energy level diagram in Fig. 1, the increased quenching effects occur in at least two ways: (1) fluorescence quenching of transitions C, D, and F through L, and (2) collisional quenching of the metastable state via $5s[3/2]_2^o \rightarrow 4p^6$. Fluorescence quenching (1) reduces the fluorescence, thus reducing the SNR. Meanwhile, quenching of the metastable state (2) reduces the population of the $5s[3/2]_2^o$ level, which in turn reduces the number Kr atoms to be re-excited with the CW laser diode (transition E in Fig. 1), thus reducing the SNR by reducing the number of G and F transitions to be imaged with the camera.

Experiments 2910 and 2926 were conducted approximately one year apart due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Fig. 4). All authors were present for shots 2909 and 2910, but the rest of the experiments were performed by the Caltech authors with virtual support by the Stevens authors. Shot 2926 served as a check on the experimental setup and assessed whether indeed this experiment could be performed quasi-remotely. The results from Shots 2910 and 2926 are nominally identical, giving some confidence in the repeatability of the measurement and robustness of the technique

for other large-scale high-enthalpy facilities. One discrepancy in the results from these two shots is the location of the write-line focus, manifesting itself as a wider write line at 30 mm from the nozzle center line in shot 2926 than at the same location in shot 2910. In shot 2926, the focus appears to be at the nozzle center-line (approximately 0 mm), and this was corrected to be located at approximately 10 mm in the experiments that followed; we note the write lines appear more uniform as a result.

At two nominal reservoir enthalpies, ≈ 5 MJ/kg and ≈ 8 MJ/kg, we were able to perform experiments with the 99% N_2 /1% Kr mixture and repeat it with the 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr mixture. This opens the possibility of performing experiments at these conditions with KTV to investigate nonequilibrium effects by fixing the run condition and executing an experiment with a more reactive or less reactive gas mixture.

5.2 Effects of flow luminosity

We observe some nonuniformity in the write line for shot 2910 (Fig. 4a), which is unusual for KTV or any tagging experiments; that is, the line should be straight because the flow has not yet had a chance to advect the tagged atoms or molecules. We speculate that this is due to sensor noise exacerbated by high levels of flow luminosity. The flow luminosity in T5 is nonuniform within each experiment in time and space, and is not repeatable from shot to shot at matching conditions. The luminosity could be a function of the tunnel operation during the previous experiment; that is, there could have been material that ablated and was deposited on the shock-tube wall following the run, and then on the following shot, this contaminant would be reintroduced to the test gas and present itself as nonuniform flow luminosity at the instant the write or read image is taken. Parziale et al. (2014) noted increased levels of noise during a shot that followed an experiment where a large amount of debris was introduced to the facility via ill-advised tunnel operation. During this campaign, there were no ill-advised experiments where a major amount of contamination would have been introduced to the flow on the following run; however, we note that there is still some run-to-run variation in flow luminosity likely due to these effects. Finally, we note that shock-tube cleanliness in T5 was the main focus of Jewell et al. (2017), where boundary-layer transition was noted to be inconsistent if proper shock-tube cleaning procedures were not followed. (They were followed in this work.)

To assess whether flow luminosity would be an issue at high-enthalpy conditions, two experiments were performed at ≈ 16 MJ/kg. The first experiment in 99% N_2 /1% Kr was successful, but the SNR was low relative to the other 99% N_2 /1% experiments at lower-enthalpy conditions. Therefore, we chose to repeat the experiment with the 99% N_2 /1% Kr mixture. Noting the write pulse was only 4 mJ/pulse, it is

likely that higher write-laser power would increase the SNR to sufficient levels to make measurements in the 75% N_2 /20% O_2 /5% Kr mixture at the higher-enthalpy conditions.

5.3 DPLR/KTV comparison and effects of uncertainty in calculation of run conditions on velocity

The computations from the University of Minnesota Nozzle Code were in excellent agreement with the KTV-measured velocities, being between 0.43 and 3.3% in each of the nine experiments. Comparisons are presented in Table 3. We note the broad range of enthalpy ($\approx 5 - 16$ MJ/kg) spanning nearly the entire usable envelope of T5 which is a test of the nonequilibrium thermochemical modeling incorporated into the Data Parallel Line Relaxation (DPLR) computational fluid dynamics code. That is, if a large modeling error or omission in DPLR was present, a significant error in the calculated velocity would be expected. In the two high-enthalpy cases (≈ 16 MJ/kg), KTV measurements of velocity were lower than the DPLR computations. The authors speculate that this could be the result of radiation losses in the reservoir, as $T_R > 8000$ K. Quantifying the radiation losses in a reflected-shock tunnel is difficult, as was done in Logan et al. (1977). However, following Wittliff et al. (1959) to a first approximation, if we assume a 5% reduction in reservoir enthalpy, h_R , due to radiation losses, this could explain the 2–3% velocity deficit at the higher enthalpy conditions. This could be an avenue for interesting further work.

As detailed in Sect. 3.1, the reservoir conditions are calculated using the initial driven section pressure, P_1 , the measured incident shock speed U_s , and the measured reservoir pressure, P_R . The reservoir conditions, calculated from these measured parameters, are then input into the UM Nozzle code, giving the freestream conditions. To assess the bounds of error on the inputs to the nozzle code, we estimate the error in P_1 , U_s , and P_R as 1.5, 1.5 and 8% per Parziale (2013) and Jewell (2014). In Table 4, we observe

Table 3 Comparison of DPLR/KTV velocimetry results

Shot	DPLR	KTV		%
	U_∞ (m/s)	\overline{U} (m/s)	σ (m/s)	
2909	2983	3056	33.0	0.572
2910	3039	3059	52.3	0.657
2926	2850	2884	27.6	1.18
2927	2836	2848	44.6	0.425
2928	3675	3567	56.0	2.94
2929	3502	3553	55.8	1.47
2930	4894	4797	15.5	1.99
2931	4940	4775	51.3	3.33
2933	3400	3372	26.6	0.818

Table 4 Run-condition effect on calculated velocity from DPLR

Shot	$\overline{\Delta U_{\infty P_1}} (\%)$	$\overline{\Delta U_{\infty P_R}} (\%)$	$\overline{\Delta U_{\infty U_s}} (\%)$
2929	0.05	0.76	0.98
2931	0.10	0.67	0.85

only small uncertainties in the freestream velocity due to these measured input uncertainties; for example, the change in freestream velocity due to the uncertainty in the shock speed being is $\overline{\Delta U_{\infty U_s}} \approx 1\%$.

6 Conclusions

KTV was performed successfully in the T5 Reflected-Shock Tunnel at Caltech. At reservoir enthalpies of 5 MJ/kg and 8 MJ/kg, experiments were performed in 99% N₂/1% Kr and 75% N₂/20% O₂/5% Kr gas mixtures, thus allowing the possibility of performing experiments that investigate nonequilibrium effects. A 16 MJ/kg KTV experiment was performed twice in a 99% N₂/1% Kr gas mixture; with higher laser power, this experiment could likely be repeated in the air/Kr mixture. The experiments at ≈ 16 MJ/kg had a freestream velocity of ≈ 4.94 km/s which represent some of the highest experimentally-obtained velocities in the literature.

KTV-measured velocity profiles agree well with computationally obtained velocity profiles, to within the experimental error of the KTV technique. This agreement of experiment and computation in N₂ and air flows over the range of ≈ 5 –16 MJ/kg brings confidence to the T5 test condition calculation method, which inputs three experimentally measured quantities: (1) driven section initial pressure, (2) the incident shock speed, and (3) the reservoir pressure. If there were large systemic errors in this method or omissions in the underlying models in Cantera or the UM Nozzle code, one would expect a larger discrepancy in the freestream velocity or a trend in uncertainty for air vs. N₂ flows due to the great complexity of calculating these reacting flows.

We note this experimental campaign was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Shots 2909 and 2910 were conducted in December 2019 with all authors present. Shots 2926–2933 were conducted in December 2020 by the Caltech group with remote help from the Stevens group, due to travel restrictions. This illustrates the utility, ease, and reliability of the KTV schemes with a pulsed-write laser and CW read laser in performing high-enthalpy research.

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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