RESEARCH MEMORANDUM
for the
Air Materiel Command, Army Air Forces

ALTITUDE-WIND-TUNNEL INVESTIGATION OF PERFORMANCE
OF SEVERAL PROPELLERS ON YP-47M AIRPLANE
AT HIGH BLADE LOADING
I - AEROPRODUCTS H20C-162-X11M2 FOUR-BLADE PROPELLER

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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS
WASHINGTON
OCT 11 1946
An investigation was made in the Cleveland Altitude wind tunnel to determine the performance of an Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller on a YP-47M airplane at high blade loadings and high engine powers. The propeller characteristics were obtained for a range of power coefficients from 0.30 to 1.00 at free-stream Mach numbers of 0.40 and 0.50. The results of the force measurements are indicative only of trends in propeller efficiency with changes in power coefficient and advance-diameter ratio because unknown interference effects existed during the investigation.

At a free-stream Mach number of 0.40, the envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 8 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 1.80 and 4.20. Nearly constant maximum efficiencies were obtained at power coefficients from 0.30 to 0.60 for advance-diameter ratios from 1.70 to 2.40. The advance-diameter ratio for peak efficiency increased as the power coefficient was increased. For advance-diameter ratios below 2.90 the propeller efficiency decreased rapidly at power coefficients above 0.60 apparently caused by blade stall. In the range of advance-diameter ratios above 2.90, the propeller efficiency improved as the power coefficient increased.

At a free-stream Mach number of 0.50, the envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 11 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 2.40 and 4.40. An increase in power coefficient from 0.30 to 0.80 at an advance-diameter ratio of 2.40 had little effect on the propeller efficiency. A change in power coefficient from 0.40 to 1.00 at an advance-diameter ratio of 4.40 increased the propeller efficiency by about 40 percent.
For conditions below the stall the thrust loading on the outboard blade sections increased more rapidly than on the inboard sections as the power coefficient was increased or as the advance-diameter ratio was decreased. For conditions beyond the stall the thrust loading decreased on the outboard sections and increased on the inboard sections.

INTRODUCTION

Propeller investigations conducted in NACA wind tunnels at high blade loadings (power coefficients up to 1.8), low airspeeds, low engine powers and low propeller rotational speeds are reported in references 1 to 3. Other studies made in flight at high airspeeds, engine powers and engine speeds but at relatively low power coefficients (up to 0.40) are reported in references 4 to 7. Developments in aircraft power plants providing high powers at high altitudes make necessary the investigation of propeller performance at high power coefficients, engine powers, propeller rotational speeds and relatively high airspeeds.

An investigation of the performance characteristics of several propellers on the YP-47M airplane at high blade loadings has been conducted in the Cleveland altitude wind tunnel at the request of the Air Materiel Command, Army Air Forces. As part of this investigation the efficiencies and blade thrust load distributions were determined for the Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller over a wide range of operating conditions. Similar data are being obtained on other propellers.

The range of power coefficients covered was from 0.30 to 1.00 at free-stream Mach numbers of 0.40 and 0.50. The engine combustion air was supplied to the turbosupercharger at sea-level conditions and the propeller was operated at density altitudes from 20,000 to 45,000 feet. Engine powers ranged from 150 to 2000 brake horsepower and engine speeds from 1100 to 2900 rpm. The blade thrust load distribution was obtained from two diametrically opposed slipstream survey rakes.
PROPELLER AND POWER PLANT

A description of the propeller and power plant is as follows:

Propeller

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hub</td>
<td>A642F-X17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blade design</td>
<td>Aero products H20C-162-X1L2M2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of blades</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blade sections</td>
<td>NACA 16 series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propeller diameter</td>
<td>12 feet 7 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity factor</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propeller gear ratio</td>
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Engine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>R-2800-73</td>
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War emergency power rating:

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<tr>
<td>Engine speed, rpm</td>
<td>2800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifold pressure, in. Hg</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brake horsepower</td>
<td>2800</td>
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Military power rating:

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<tr>
<td>Engine speed, rpm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifold pressure, in. Hg</td>
<td>53.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brake horsepower</td>
<td>2100</td>
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</table>

Normal power rating:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Engine speed, rpm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifold pressure, in. Hg</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brake horsepower</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ A.F. = \frac{100,000}{16} \int_{0.2}^{1.0} \frac{b}{D} \left( \frac{r}{R} \right)^3 d \left( \frac{r}{R} \right) \]

where

- \( b \) blade width at radius \( r \)
- \( D \) propeller diameter
- \( R \) propeller radius to tip
- \( r \) radius of any blade element

The propeller blade-form characteristics are given in figure 1. A photograph of an Aero products H20C-162-X1L2M2 propeller blade is shown in figure 2.
APPARATUS

A fuselage of a YP-47M airplane with stub wings was installed in the 20-foot-diameter test section of the wind tunnel with the thrust axis of the airplane parallel to and about 12 inches above the axis of the test section. The Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 propeller and the R-2800-73 engine were incorporated in the airplane as shown in figure 3. The engine was provided with refrigerated combustion air at sea-level pressure from an external source by a duct passing through the left wing stub and the fuselage to the inlet of the turbosupercharger. The combustion-air temperature was maintained at approximately 100°F.

Pressure and temperature surveys were made at all cooling-air inlets and outlets and exhaust-gas outlets to determine the internal momentum losses and exhaust-jet thrust. Pressures were measured by water manometers and were photographically recorded. The temperatures were recorded by self-balancing potentiometers.

Engine horsepower was measured within ±2 percent by a calibrated Pratt & Whitney torquemeter and a pressure gage. Propulsive thrust was measured and recorded by the tunnel drag balance, which measures the resultant force on the airplane in the direction of the thrust axis.

A survey was conducted of the total pressure in the propeller slipstream by two rakes, each consisting of 32 shielded total-head tubes 1/2 inches apart, one on each side of the airplane 46 inches behind the propeller disk as shown in figure 4. The rakes were attached to the tunnel wall in the horizontal plane of the thrust axis and extended to within three-fourths inch of the engine cowlings.

PROCEDURE

The readings of temperature, pressure, horsepower, and the resultant thrust force were obtained for a range of power coefficients from 0.30 to 1.00 at free-stream Mach numbers of 0.40 and 0.50. Density altitudes from 20,000 to 45,000 feet were simulated for engine powers from 150 to 2000 brake horsepower at engine speeds from 1100 to 2900 rpm. Runs were made with the propeller removed at the beginning and the end of the program for ranges of tunnel airspeeds, density altitudes, and cowl flap deflections.
REDUCTION OF DATA

The external drag $D_e$ of the installation was evaluated as the difference between the total drag $D$ and the internal cooling-air momentum losses $D_i$ obtained from runs with the propeller removed. The external-drag values obtained at the end of the program were as much as 9 percent greater than the values obtained at the beginning of the program. The increase is attributed to the deterioration of the installation by distortion of surfaces and accumulation of dirt on the surfaces of the airplane. An average of the two drag coefficients was used in calculation of external drag.

An attempt was made to correct the installation drag for differences in horizontal buoyancy between propeller-removed and propeller-operating conditions by the methods given in references 9 and 10 but the results were too inconsistent to be reliable and were therefore not applied. No effort was made to correct the installation drag for the effects of the propeller slipstream. The change in free-stream velocity in the plane of the propeller disk resulting from inflow, tunnel-wall constriction and proximity of the airplane cowling was not determined.

The propeller thrust $T$ was determined by

$$T = T_p + D_e + D_i - T_j$$

where

$T_p$ propulsive thrust read on drag scale, pounds

$T_j$ jet thrust of exhaust gases, calculated from pressure and temperature surveys in exhaust-gas outlets, pounds

The value of $T$ as defined is an approximate value because corrections for tunnel-wall constriction were not applied.

The thrust coefficient $C_T$ was calculated from

$$C_T = \frac{T}{\rho u^2 D^2}$$

where

$\rho$ free-stream density, slugs per cubic foot

$n$ propeller rotational speed, revolutions per second

$D$ propeller diameter, feet
The power coefficient $C_P$ was calculated from

$$C_P = \frac{P}{\rho n^3 D^5}$$

where $P$ is the engine power in foot pounds per second. The propeller efficiency $\eta$ was computed from

$$\eta = \left( \frac{C_T}{C_P} \right)^J$$

where $J$ is the advance-diameter ratio $V/nD$, $V$ being the tunnel free-stream velocity.

The propeller tip Mach number $M_t$ was calculated from

$$M_t = M_\infty \sqrt{1 + \left( \frac{\eta}{J} \right)^2}$$

where $M_\infty$ is the free-stream Mach number.

Propeller efficiencies were also determined by the slipstream survey method described in references 3 and 5 but the results were inconsistent with the values obtained from force measurements. The surveys are of value, however, in showing the blade thrust load distribution for various operating conditions. The blade thrust loading is presented as the rise in total-head pressure $H_g - H_o$ across the propeller disk where $H_g$ is the total pressure measured by the slipstream survey rake and $H_o$ is the free-stream total pressure.

The results of the force measurements indicate primarily the trend of propeller efficiency with changes in power coefficient and advance-diameter ratio because corrections for tunnel-wall constriction effects on the installation were not applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The propeller characteristics for various blade loading conditions are presented separately for free-stream Mach numbers of 0.40 and 0.50 because it is not possible to compare the data obtained at different free-stream Mach numbers. Slipstream surveys are presented to illustrate blade thrust load distribution in terms of the total-pressure rise across the propeller disk for certain operating conditions.
Free-stream Mach number, 0.40. - The variation of propeller efficiency \( \eta \) with advance-diameter ratio \( J \) for values of power coefficient \( C_p \) from 0.30 to 1.00 at a free-stream Mach number of 0.40 is shown in figure 5. The variation of propeller efficiency with power coefficient is shown in figure 6 for three approximately constant values of advance-diameter ratio. The dashed curves were cross-plotted from an extrapolation of figure 5.

The effect of increasing the power coefficient from 0.30 to 1.00 was to reduce the propeller efficiency at low advance-diameter ratios and to increase the efficiency at high advance-diameter ratios. The envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 8 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 1.80 and 4.20. In the range of advance-diameter ratio from 1.70 to 2.40, maximum efficiencies were obtained at power coefficients from 0.50 to 0.60. (See fig. 5.) The advance-diameter ratio for peak efficiency increased with power coefficient. Serious losses in propeller efficiency became evident at values of advance-diameter ratios from 1.70 to 2.90 for values of power coefficients above 0.60. (See figs. 5 and 6.) These losses may be attributed to blade stall caused by high operating angle of attack and by the probable reduction of the maximum section lift coefficient associated with high operating tip Mach numbers. (See references 11 and 12.) In order to illustrate the magnitude of these losses in efficiency, a change in power coefficient from 0.60 to 0.70 at an advance-diameter ratio of 1.75 resulted in a 20-percent reduction in efficiency. A further change in power coefficient from 0.70 to 0.90 reduced the efficiency an additional 20 percent. For values of advance-diameter ratio above 2.90 the propeller efficiency increased as the power coefficient was increased from 0.30 to 0.80 (figs. 5 and 6).

The effect of power coefficient on blade thrust load distribution is shown by the slipstream surveys in figure 7, which correspond to the conditions of figure 6 for an advance-diameter ratio of 1.75. The blade thrust load distributions for power coefficients from 0.30 to 0.59 were uniform and similar except that as the power coefficient was increased the loading on the outboard sections increased more rapidly than on the inboard sections. (See figs. 7(a) to 7(d).) When the power coefficient was changed from 0.59 to 0.69, blade stall, indicated by a reduction in total-pressure rise, occurred on the outboard sections, which caused the loading on the inboard sections to increase (fig. 7(e)). The increased loading on the inboard sections apparently originates from tip stall. At constant power operation, stalling of the propeller-blade tips creates a torque imbalance for which the propeller compensates by an increase in blade angle. The increased blade angle causes additional sections inboard of the tips to stall.
and the stall region progresses gradually inboard until a state of
torque equilibrium is reached. Because of the blade angle increase,
the stalled inboard sections operate at high lift coefficients and
consequently the thrust loading is high. At values of power coeffi-
cient of 0.78 and 0.90 the region of stall extended inboard as far
as \((r_s/R)^2 = 0.40\) or more than 35 percent of the blade span. (See
figs. 7(f) and 7(g).)

The difference between the right-side and left-side surveys was
apparently due to an upward inclination of the approaching air stream
to the propeller axis caused by the lift of the wing. The right, or
downgoing, blades therefore operated at higher angles of attack than
the left, or upgoing, blades and thus produced more thrust. For the
same reasons, the right blades stalled earlier and the losses due to
stall were slightly greater than for the left blades. This phenomenon
is explained in greater detail in references 6 and 13.

The development of blade stall for power coefficients of 0.70
and 0.90 is shown in figures 8 and 9, respectively. For a power
coefficient of 0.70 and an advance-diameter ratio of 4.00, the thrust
loading over the blades was very low especially at the tip sections
(fig. 8(a)). At a constant \(C_p\), a reduction in \(J\) resulted in an
increase of angle of attack and section lift coefficients; the thrust
loading increased steadily up to the stall point. (See figs. 8(b)
and 8(c).) Blade stall was evident at an advance-diameter ratio of
1.73 and at an advance-diameter ratio of 1.58 the stall, further
aggravated by increased angle of attack and tip Mach number, extended
to sections as far inboard as \((r_s/R)^2 = 0.40\) (fig. 8(e)). The
survey shown in figure 8(e) illustrates, as previously discussed, that
the right-side blades stall first and the losses in thrust are slightly
greater than on the left-side blades. The stall developed in a similar
manner for a power coefficient of 0.90 except that it occurred at a
somewhat higher advance-diameter ratio owing to the greater required
blade angle. The initial stall apparently occurred at an advance-
diameter ratio between 2.94 and 2.07 because at 2.07 the stall was in
an advanced stage. (See figs. 9(a) and 9(b).) A further reduction
in advance-diameter ratio resulted in stalling of all sections outboard
of \((r_s/R)^2 = 0.40\) (figs. 9(c) and 9(d)).

Free-stream Mach number, 0.50. - The variation of propeller effi-
ciency with advance-diameter ratio for power coefficients from 0.50
to 1.00 at a free-stream Mach number of 0.50 is presented in figure 10.
The variation of propeller efficiency with power coefficient at approx-
imately constant values of advance-diameter ratio is shown in figure 11.
The envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 11 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 2.40 and 4.40. An increase in power coefficient from 0.30 to 0.80 at an advance-diameter ratio of approximately 2.40 had little effect on the propeller efficiency and nearly constant maximum efficiencies were obtained. (See fig. 10.) As the advance-diameter ratio was increased from 2.40 to 4.40 the effect of increasing the power coefficient became more pronounced. A change in power coefficient from 0.40 to 1.00 at an advance-diameter ratio of 4.40 increased the propeller efficiency by about 40 percent. (See figs. 10 and 11.)

The effect of power coefficient on blade thrust load distribution is shown by the slipstream surveys in figure 12, which correspond to conditions of figure 11 for an advance-diameter ratio of about 2.80. A change in power coefficient from 0.30 to 0.83 resulted in a uniform increase in thrust loading over the blade span. There were no significant irregularities in the thrust load distribution curves that would indicate blade stall at any power coefficient. Similar surveys are presented in figure 13 for a range of power coefficients from 0.42 to 0.93 at an advance-diameter ratio of approximately 4.40. At a power coefficient of 0.42 the thrust loading was very low particularly on the outboard sections (fig. 13(a)). As the power coefficient was increased to 0.93, the thrust loading on the inboard sections remained nearly constant and the loading on the outboard sections increased (figs. 13(b) to 13(d)). The surveys indicate that the thrust loading at high advance-diameter ratios could be considerably increased before adverse effects due to stall would be encountered.

Slipstream surveys for power coefficients of 0.70, 0.90, and 1.00 are presented in figures 14 to 16, respectively, for a range of advance-diameter ratios. In general, as the advance-diameter ratio was reduced at a given power coefficient the thrust loading on the outboard sections increased more rapidly than on the inboard sections. Within the range of advance-diameter ratios investigated, there was no evidence of blade stall for the power coefficients obtained.

A comparison of figures 14(b) and 8(b) shows that the thrust load distribution curves are similar for conditions run at approximately the same power coefficient and advance-diameter ratio but different tip Mach numbers. A similar comparison of figures 15(b) and 9(a) further indicates that below the stall a moderate increase in tip Mach number had little effect on blade thrust load distribution.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Corrections for the effects of tunnel-wall constriction on propeller characteristic parameters and on the installation have not been applied and the propeller efficiencies therefore only serve to show the comparative effects of blade loading on propeller performance. The investigation in the altitude wind tunnel of the performance at high blade loadings of an Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller on a YP-47M airplane indicated:

1. At a free-stream Mach number of 0.40, the envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 3 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 1.80 and 2.20. Nearly constant maximum efficiencies were obtained for power coefficients from 0.30 to 0.60 at advance-diameter ratios from 1.70 to 2.40. The advance-diameter ratio for peak efficiency increased as the power coefficient was increased. In the low range of advance-diameter ratios (1.70 to 2.90), losses in propeller efficiency resulting from blade stall occurred at power coefficients above 0.60; an increase in power coefficient from 0.60 to 0.70 reduced the efficiency as much as 20 percent. For advance-diameter ratios above 2.90, the propeller efficiency increased as the power coefficient was increased from 0.30 to 0.80.

2. At a free-stream Mach number of 0.50, the envelope of the efficiency curves decreased about 11 percent between advance-diameter ratios of 2.40 and 4.40. An increase in power coefficient from 0.30 to 0.80 at an advance-diameter ratio of 2.40 has little effect on the propeller efficiency. A change in power coefficient from 0.40 to 1.00 at an advance-diameter ratio of 4.40 increased the efficiency by about 40 percent.

3. For conditions below the stall the thrust loading on the outboard blade sections increased more rapidly than on the inboard
sections as the power coefficient was increased or as the advance-
diameter ratio was decreased. For conditions beyond the stall the
thrust loading decreased on the outboard sections and increased on
the inboard sections.

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2. Biermann, David, and Hartman, Edwin P.: Wind-Tunnel Tests of

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(a) $C_p$, 0.69; $J$, 3.42; $M_o$, 0.49; $M_t$, 0.67. ............... F-21
(b) $C_p$, 0.70; $J$, 3.01; $M_o$, 0.49; $M_t$, 0.71. ............... F-21
(c) $C_p$, 0.72; $J$, 2.67; $M_o$, 0.50; $M_t$, 0.77. ............... F-22
(d) $C_p$, 0.72; $J$, 2.48; $M_o$, 0.50; $M_t$, 0.81. ............... F-22
Figure 15. - Effect of advance-diameter ratio \( J \) on the blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient \( C_P \) of approximately 0.91 and free-stream Mach number \( M_0 \) of approximately 0.50. Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.

(a) \( C_P, 0.93; \) \( J, 4.36; \) \( M_0, 0.49; \) \( M_t, 0.61 \). . . . . . . . . . . . F-23
(b) \( C_P, 0.91; \) \( J, 3.05; \) \( M_0, 0.50; \) \( M_t, 0.72 \). . . . . . . . . . . . F-23

Figure 16. - Effect of advance-diameter ratio \( J \) on blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient \( C_P \) of approximately 1.00 and free-stream Mach number \( M_0 \) of approximately 0.50. Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.

(a) \( C_P, 1.01; \) \( J, 3.63; \) \( M_0, 0.48; \) \( M_t, 0.64 \). . . . . . . . . . . . F-24
(b) \( C_P, 1.03; \) \( J, 3.15; \) \( M_0, 0.50; \) \( M_t, 0.70 \). . . . . . . . . . . . F-24
Figure 1. Blade-form curves for Aeroprop H20C-162-X1LM2 four-blade propeller. b, section chord; D, diameter; h, section thickness; R, radius to tip; r, section radius.
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Figure 7. Continued. Effect of power coefficient $C_P$ on blade thrust load distribution at advance-diameter ratio $J$ of approximately 1.75 and free-stream Mach number $M_o$ of approximately 0.40. Aero Products H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.
(g) $C_p$, 0.90; $J$, 1.78; $M_o$, 0.39; $M_t$, 0.79.

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(d) $C_p = 0.68; \ J = 1.73; \ M_0 = 0.38; \ M_t = 0.79$.

(e) $C_p = 0.70; \ J = 1.58; \ M_0 = 0.39; \ M_t = 0.87$.

Figure 8. - Concluded. Effect of advance-diameter ratio $J$ on blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient $C_p$ of approximately 0.70 and free-stream Mach number $M_0$ of approximately 0.40. Aeropropulsion H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.
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Figure 14.—Concluded. Effect of advance-diameter ratio \( J \) on blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient \( C_p \) of approximately 0.70 and free-stream Mach number \( M_o \) of approximately 0.50. Aeroproducts H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.
Figure 15.- Effect of advance-diameter ratio \( J \) on blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient \( C_p \) of approximately 0.91 and free-stream Mach number \( M_o \) of approximately 0.50. Aeropropulsion H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.
Figure 16.—Effect of advance-diameter ratio $J$ on blade thrust load distribution at power coefficient $C_p$ of approximately 1.00 and free-stream Mach number $M_o$ of approximately 0.50. Aero products H20C-162-X11M2 four-blade propeller.