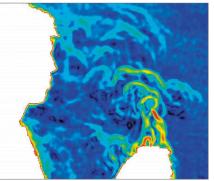


Digital Schlieren Imaging for Flow Visualization

BOS imaging system based on digital image correlation

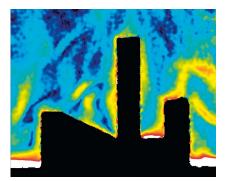


BOS imaging of a thermal flow

Background Oriented Schlieren (BOS, also known as Synthetic Schlieren) is a simple and costeffective imaging method for the visualization of gas motion, mixing and thermal flows all based on local refractive index variations. Compared to the conventional knife-edge Schlieren method, BOS can visualize large scale flow phenomena and measures the optical flow distortion (density gradient field) in form of a digital vector map. For 2-dimensional or axisymmetric flows, BOS provides the potential to measure absolute 3D density and temperature fields.

BOS is a line-of-sight imaging technique and measures locally the density gradient as an integrated value over the line of sight. In practice, only a random dot pattern in the background of the flow is imaged with a high resolution camera before and during the test. By comparing - or more precisely by digitally correlating - the two pictures, the local displacement of the background pattern is used to provide lateral information on path-integrated refractive index variations measured as a gradient vector field. In case of 2-dimensional or axisymmetric flows absolute 3-dimensional gas density and temperature fields are reconstructed from this vector field applying a numerical discretization method.







Thermal flow visualization (Schlieren image) around a heated building model

BOS imaging system features

- simple flow visualization technique on large scales without flow seeding
- advanced image correlation technique applied on background targets
- time-resolved Schlieren imaging using high-speed cameras
- BOS software module in DaVis for quantitative density (temperature) imaging in 2D and axisymmetric flows



Applications

- localization of eddies, vortices and Schlieren
- mixing of gases and liquids
- thermal flows and flame temperature
- sound and shock waves
- gas leakage detection

BOS imaging of an axisymmetric Bunsen flame

For flame temperature measurements using **B**ackground **O**riented **S**chlieren imaging (**BOS**), a background pattern is placed behind the flame and recorded with and without the flame. The optical distortion of the pattern caused by the hot flame gases is recorded with a high resolution camera. The symmetry of this conical flame allows the numerical reconstruction of the absolute 3D temperature field of this Bunsen flame. This 3D-reconstruction module together with the DIC image processing engine is provided in our **BOS** software package.

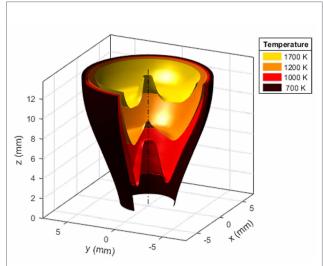
LaVision's **FlowMaster** PIV systems can be easily upgraded for **BOS** imaging adding the **BOS** software package.



BOS imaging setup



Conical Bunsen flame



3D temperature field of the Bunsen flame

Data provided by LaVision are believed to be true. However, no responsibility is assumed for possible inaccuracies or omissions. All data are subject to change without notice.

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