Training Session 1
Gas Turbine Basics

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Gas Turbine Basics

Introduction to the industrial gas turbine generator engine:
- Heavy-duty frame and aero-derivative
- The gas turbine generator package
- The auxiliaries

For the cogeneration or combined-cycle power plant.

GAS TURBINE CONCEPTS

The Basic Gas Turbine Cycle

Brayton Cycle – a continuously operating process using air as the working fluid, moving through state points:
- Ambient Air (state 1)
- Continuous compression (states 1 to 2)
- Continuous fuel combustion (states 2 to 3)
- Expansion to atmosphere (states 3 to 4)
Gas Turbine Basics®

Mechanical Operating Principles

Turbine Section physically drives (i.e. rotates) the Compressor Section

Excess Turbine Shaft Power drives the load – generator (or mechanical drive pump/compressor)

Firing Temperature

Firing Temperatures – T3 – have climbed from 1400 deg F, to 2000~2200 and now 2600 deg F with better turbine section materials and cooling methods

High T3 = power output & efficiency

Pressure Ratio

Pressure Ratio – P2/P1 – High ratio = high efficiency & specific output (hp/lb/sec).

Gas turbine design pressure ratios vary:

- 7.5:1 – smaller & older technology GT’s,
- 35:1 ~ 40:1 – recent, most advanced GT’s.

Aircraft “gas turbines”

- Jet engines
- Turboprops engines
- Low-Bypass & High-Bypass Turbofan engines

All use high pressure ratio & high firing temperature = minimum weight & frontal area.
Gas Turbine Inlet Temperature Trend
Turbine Cycle Variations – of the basic cycle:

**Reheat or sequential combustion** – in high-pressure ratio GT’s.

Hot HP Turbine Section gases reheated by combustion of additional fuel (3a). Reheated gases enter into LP turbine section (3a to 4).

Reheat configuration:
- increases LP Turbine output,
- raises the turbine’s exhaust temperature,
- increases simple-cycle power output,
- increases combined-cycle power output.

**Example:** *Alstom GT24/26.*
Turbine Cycle Variations – of the basic cycle:

**Recuperated or Regenerated GT’s**

For low-pressure ratio units with high firing temperatures.
External regenerative heat exchanger - transfers exhaust heat to compressor discharge air.

Regenerative Configuration:
- Saves fuel
- Increases efficiency
- Low exhaust energy

*Example: Solar Mercury 50*

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**Inter-Cooled GT’s**

For high-pressure ratio multi-shaft units.
LP compressor air directed to external heat exchanger.

Cooling medium (water or air) decreases air temperature. Cooled air re-enters HP compressor.

Intercooled Configuration:
- decreases HP compressor power,
- improves efficiency & specific output
Gas Turbine Basics

Example: **100 MW GE LMS100**, w/ air or water cooling.

**Turbine Cycle Variations** – of the basic cycle:

**Spraywater Cooling** – like intercooling.

Clean water injected before the LP compressor, and between LP & HP LM6000 compressor of the multi-shaft aero-derivative **GE LM6000 Sprint**

- Increases HPC mass flow
- Increased pressure ratio
- Increased power output & efficiency @ high ambients

**Intercooled & Recuperated Gas Turbine**

**Rolls-Royce WR-21** marine drive unit.

- Special high-efficiency configuration.
- Exhaust recuperator & sea-water cooled intercooler.
- For interest only - there are no land applications.
Basic Components of the Gas Turbine

Compressor Section:
Frequently multi-stage axial; centrifugal in smallest units.
Each stage: row of stationary blades (stators) & rotating blades.
Outlet guide vanes (OGV) & diffuser – straighten & slow air stream prior to entry into the combustor section.
Compressed air bled out & used for cooling purposes in hot sections.
Compressor air bled out for startup & part-load operation.
Pivoted-variable inlet guide vanes (IGV’s) – industrial & aero-derivative units - manage bulk inlet air flow.
IGV’s sometimes manipulated to keep exhaust temperatures high for cogeneration or combined-cycle steam generation considerations.
Many aero-derivative units employ variable stator vanes (VSV) to control air flow and rotor speed in the higher-pressure section.

LM6000 Compressor with variable bleed valves (VBV), IGV’s and VSV’s courtesy of GE Energy
Basic Components of the Gas Turbine

**Combustor Section:**

Multi-can (basket) design, or an annular ring design.

For standard diffusion-combustion systems (i.e. non dry low-NOx), gaseous or liquid fuels introduced via nozzles located at the head of each combustor can, or front of combustion annulus chamber.

Portion of compressor air introduced directly into the combustion reaction zone (flame). Remainder introduced afterwards – for flame shaping and quenching to T3.

Water or steam injection – for environmental or power enhancement.

Transition ducts / liners - carefully shape the hot gases for the turbine section.

Fuel and steam and/or water injection manifolds & hoses around the circumference of the combustor section.

Current generation dry low-NOx (DLN or DLE) combustion systems use lean pre-mix principle, frequently multi-nozzle.

*LM6000 Combustor Section*
- courtesy of GE Energy
Basic Components of the Gas Turbine

Turbine Section:
Usually multi-stage axial design.

Each stage - stationary nozzle row imparts correct angle to hot gases, for succeeding rotating blades.

Most critical section of turbine: 1st few stages.

Nozzle & rotating blade exposed to “red-hot” gases at design firing temperature.

Far in excess of acceptable creep-fatigue limits for engineered alloys employed.

Rotating blade – survival under high centrifugal & mechanical stresses.

Internal cooling passages cast and machined into nozzles & blade. Cooled compressor bleed air passed through to maintain material temperatures at acceptable limits.
Creep-resistant directionally-solidified (DS) & single-crystal (SC) blade production technology – introduced from the aircraft GT world.

Thermal barrier coatings (TBC) employed to protect aerodynamic surfaces & materials from corrosion, oxidization and erosion.

Turbine row assembly, showing blade attachments to the rotating disk, and blade cooling air exit holes.
THE GAS TURBINE ASSEMBLY

The Basic Gas Turbine Machine

Individual **compressor, combustor & turbine** sections and **casings** bolted together. Supported via struts & baseplates - to make a complete **machine**.

Rotating compressor & turbine sections mechanically interconnected.

Compression power provided by turbine section’s power. Excess turbine shaft power drives pump, compressor or generator via output shaft:

- Cold-end drive
- Hot-end drive

**LM6000PC** and **6FA** courtesy of **GE Energy**.

60~70% of turbine’s power output used by compressor.

Remaining 30~40% available as true shaft output power, e.g. typical nominal 50 MW single-shaft industrial gas turbine produces ~150 MW in the turbine section, giving ~100 MW to compressor section.
Gas Turbine Variations – from the single-shaft design.

Single-Shaft with PT – industrial & aero-derivative units.

Single-shaft GT operates at the speed and firing temperature – keeps itself self-sustained.

Its exhaust gases passed to aerodynamic-coupled free power turbine (PT) which drives the load – at fixed (generator) or variable (mechanical drive) speed.

Frequently called a “jet”, or “gas-generator”, for convenience.

Multi-shaft, with & without PT

Industrial units designed for variable-speed mechanical drive or derivatives of aircraft engines.

Basic compressor & turbine sections divided into HP and LP units. HP and LP each operates at different speed – depends upon load & ambient conditions. The LP compressor (LPC) is coupled to and is driven by LP turbine (LPT). The HP compressor (HPC) is coupled to and is driven by the turbine (HPT).

In some three-shaft machines, an intermediate compressor (IPC) & turbine (IPT) also used, in between LP & HP sections (configuration not shown).

Fixed or variable-speed loads are driven off LP shaft.

Some units can drive off cold-end or hot-end of LP shaft.

In some cases, these multi-shaft units, act as “gas generator”, and PT is required to drive the load.
**AERO-DERIVATIVE & HEAVY-DUTY INDUSTRIAL GAS TURBINES**

The “**THERMODYNAMIC COUSINS**” – sharing the same basic cycle.

**Aero-Derivative GTs** – based on aircraft engines. Usually low weight & low frontal area (generally inconsequential for industrial service).

The original **jet engines** have their nozzles removed & power turbines (PT’s) installed for industrial service.

Later **turbo-prop & turbo-fan** engines – industrialized by redesign of the prop or fan takeoff drives’; or a PT.

Most aero-derivatives (compared to same-size industrial cousins):

- very efficient – because of high T3 and P2/P1
- less steam generation due to lower flows.

**Major Maintenance** – by complete removal of gas turbine from package – special lifting frames required.

- Modules disassembled into smaller components - LPC, HPC, combustion module, HPT and LPT, etc.
- Minor maintenance activities – conducted at site.
- Major maintenance & overhaul - unit returned to certified shop.
- Lease engines available – replaces original engine while under repair.
Gas Turbine Basics®

Heavy-Duty Industrial GTs – heavier and more rugged.
Optimized to operate over narrow speed range & base-load duty.
Typically – scheduled maintenance intervals longer than aero units.

Heavy multi-cylinder castings and fabrications.
Large bolted horizontal and vertical split joints.
Heavy built-up rotors & journal bearings.
Large solid couplings
Large baseplates and frames.

Major Maintenance – usually accomplished at site:
- removal of top half cylinder;
- removal of diaphragms and blade rings;
- lifting and removal of the turbine rotor;
- subsequent blade removal.
## COMPARISON – Aero-Derivative & Heavy-Duty Industrial Gas Turbines

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<th>Aero-Derivative</th>
<th>Heavy-Duty Industrial</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
<td>Up to 50 MW. Up to 41~42% efficiency (LHV). Generally, less waste heat opportunity from the exhaust gases.</td>
<td>Up to 240 MW+. Up to 35~40% efficiency (LHV). Good waste heat opportunity. Large units with high exhaust temperatures allow reheat combined-cycle</td>
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<td><strong>Fuel Aspects</strong></td>
<td>Natural gas to light distillates and jet fuels. Most require relatively high gas pressures.</td>
<td>Natural gas through to distillates and cheaper heavy or residual fuels. Generally require lower gas pressures. Expensive treatment of heavy / residual fuels is required.</td>
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<td><strong>Start-Up</strong></td>
<td>Quick startup – 5~20 minutes. Relatively low horsepower starters usually electro-hydraulic</td>
<td>20 to 60 minutes depending on size. High horsepower diesel or motor starters, also some are started by the motoring of the generator itself</td>
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<td><strong>Loading</strong></td>
<td>Quick loading, sometimes 10~25%/min</td>
<td>Slower loading, 1~10%/min depending on size</td>
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<td><strong>Shutdown</strong></td>
<td>Many larger units require a short time of motoring to cool internals after a trip, but can then be shutdown</td>
<td>Many units require 1~2 days on turning gear after shutdown, but most can be motored to assist quicker cool down</td>
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**THE GAS TURBINE PACKAGE**

Packaging – completes the machine. Needs to be straightforward to install & commission, and easy to maintain.

**Driven Equipment**

Typically:
- process or pipeline compressors
- occasional use as large pumping sets for oil.

For cogeneration / combined-cycle – typically a **generator**.

2-pole (3600 rpm) or 4-pole (1800 rpm) for 60 Hz. Air-cooled, water-cooled (TEWAC) or hydrogen-cooled (the largest units).

Generator output voltages:
- 600V for the very smallest GT’s,
- to 2.4 and 4.16 kV for the 3~8 MW class units,
- 13.8 kV for the 10 MW+ units,
- 27.6 kV for the 100 MW+ units.

**Excitation** systems for voltage & power factor/var control – brushless or static

Double-helical or epicyclic gearboxes – when GT output speed doesn’t match generator speed.
Air Inlet Systems (Filters, Silencers, Heating/Cooling)

Critical to GT health, for noise mitigation and/or performance.

High-volume multi-stage high-efficiency filtration systems – capture atmospheric particles; prevent their deposition on bladepath.

Inlet Air Heating – via coils or bleed air systems - for anti-icing; inlet temperature / performance optimization; DLE control.

Inlet Air Cooling – via coils – for inlet temperature / performance optimization.

Evaporative Cooling Systems & mist eliminators.

Tuned inlet air silencers – absorb sound & acoustic emissions from intake.

Many companies providing all the air inlet filtration, cooling, heating, and silencing equipment to GTG packagers.

Plus supplying exhaust systems – silencers, expansion joints, bypass systems, stacks & enclosures.
Lubricating Oil Systems

Main, auxiliary and emergency lubricating and control oil (as required) systems – provided for gas turbine and driven equipment.

Aero-derivatives – usually fire-resistant synthetic lube oils.

Power turbines, gearboxes & generators – mineral-based lube oils.

Most heavy-duty industrial GT’s have common lube oil system.

Lube oil – cooled by aerial fin-fan coolers, or oil-to-water heat exchangers.

Fuel Systems

Aero-derivative & heavy duty gas turbines – light-liquid or gaseous fuels.

Only frame units – operate on heavy fuel oils & crude oils.

Fuel control systems for gaseous and liquid fuels include:

- filters, strainers and separators;
- block & bleed valves;
- flow control/throttle and sequencing valves, manifolds and hoses.

For natural gas duty – sometimes reciprocating or centrifugal gas compression equipment required, plus pulsation dampening equipment.

Complex dry low-NOx (DLE) units – some units require several throttle valves, staged and sequenced to fire:

- pilot / ignition,
- primary,
- secondary and/or tertiary

nozzle and basket sections (as applicable) of the DLE combustion system for startup/shutdown, speed ramps, and load changes. Several fuel manifolds usually required.
Acoustic and Weatherproof Enclosures

Most smaller industrial & almost all aero-derivative GTG packages – pre-packaged - complete drivetrain enclosed in acoustic enclosure(s).

The turbine & generator compartments - separately ventilated

Can be easier and quicker to install.

40~50 MW+ industrial GT machines - too large to pre-package.

Components shipped in major blocks – assembled at site. Enclosures or buildings (if required) built around the complete drivetrain.

Controls and Monitoring

Complex combinations of digital PLC and/or processor systems – Woodward; vendor-proprietary systems; occasionally DCS-based.

Systems include, manage, sequence, monitor and control:

- GT fuel control and speed/load control
- generator’s voltage, power factor or var control
- breaker synchronization
- auxiliaries
- vibration, temperature & pressure monitors
- sequence of events recorders
- certified metering systems
- communication to plant DCS.
Miscellaneous Auxiliaries

- starting and turning gear systems;
- inlet manifolds;
- exhaust diffusers or plenums;
- water wash systems;
- water and steam injection (if required);
- gas detection systems;
- fire detection and CO2 suppression systems;
- battery and charger systems;
- ventilation and heating;
- exhaust expansion joint;
- silencer & stack systems (simple-cycle).

Complete Package Examples

Rolls-Royce Trent Package
GE LM6000 NXGN Package
Gas Turbine Basics®

GE LM2500 / LM2500 Plus Package
Rolls-Royce RB211 Package / Plant