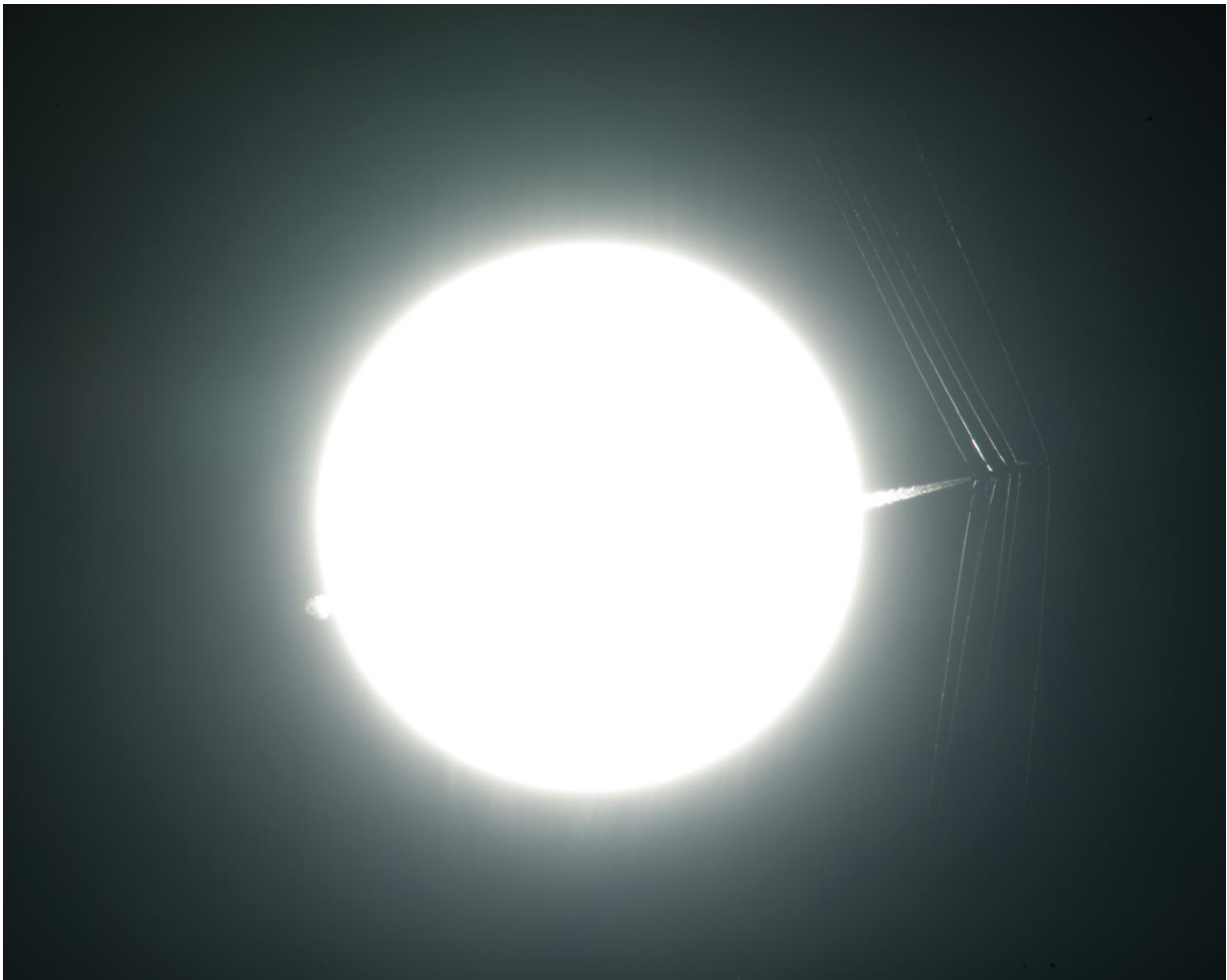


NASA image: T-38C passes in front of the sun at supersonic speed

April 13 2016



Credit: NASA/Ken Ulbrich

An Air Force Test Pilot School T-38C passes in front of the sun at a supersonic speed, creating shockwaves that are caught photographically for research.

NASA is using a modern version of a 150-year-old German photography technique — schlieren imagery — to visualize supersonic flow phenomena with full-scale aircraft in flight. The results will help engineers to design a quiet supersonic transport.

Although current regulations prohibit unrestricted overland supersonic flight in the United States, a clear understanding of the location and relative strength of [shock waves](#) is essential for designing future high-speed commercial aircraft.

Citation: NASA image: T-38C passes in front of the sun at supersonic speed (2016, April 13) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-nasa-image-t-38c-front-sun.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--