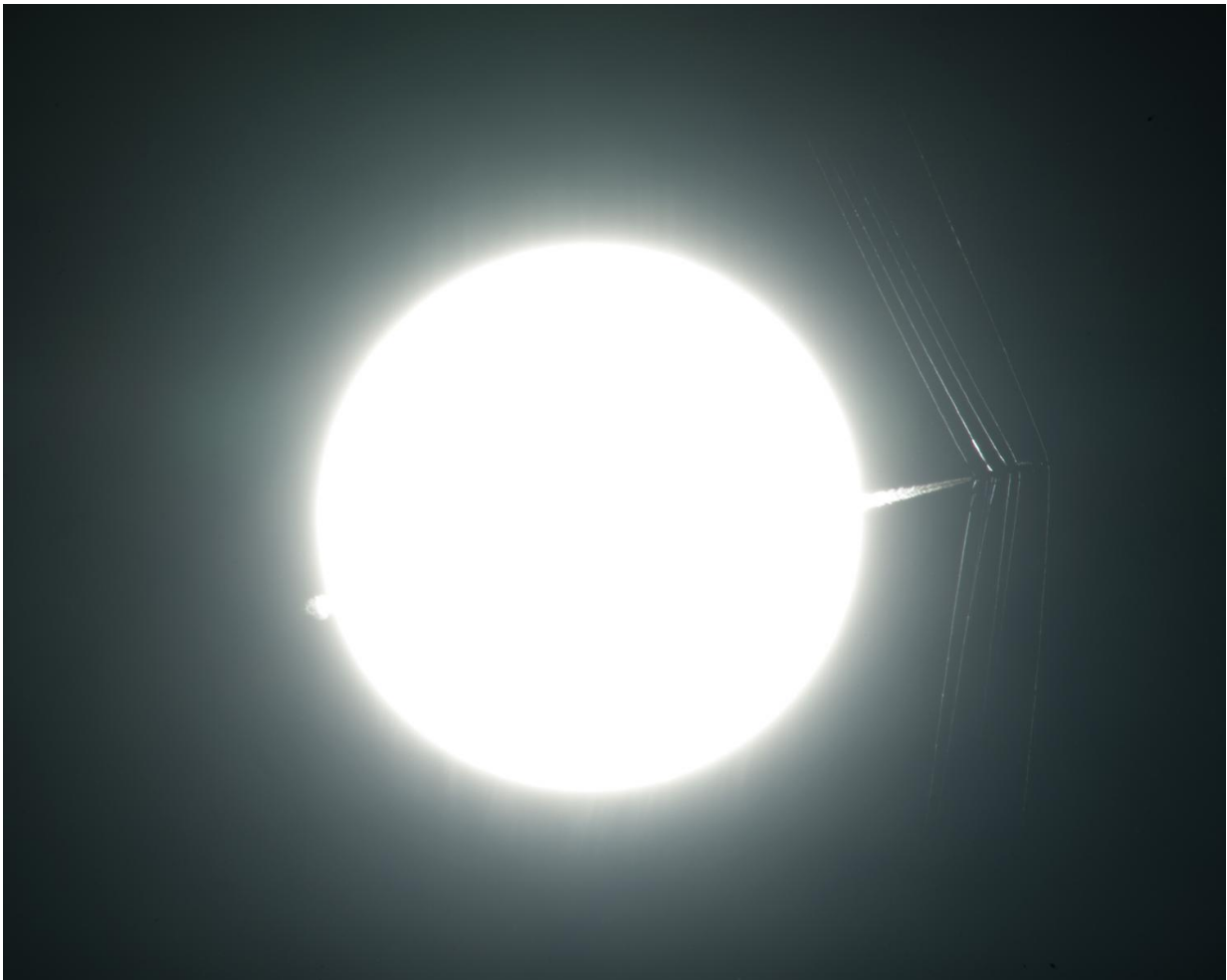


NASA image: T-38C passes in front of the sun at supersonic speed

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 27 January 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-nasa-image-t-38c-front-sun.html>

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