

CURVATURE AND VELOCITY STRAIN DEPENDENCIES OF BURNING SPEED IN A TURBULENT PREMIXED JET FLAME

G. Troiani¹, F. Battista², F. Picano³ & C. M. Casciola²

¹*Sustainable Combustion Laboratory, ENEA C.R. Casaccia, via Anguillarese 301 Rome, Italy*

²*Dept. Mechanics and Aeronautics, Univ. "La Sapienza", Rome Italy*

³*Linnè Flow Center, KTH Mechanics, Osquars Backe 18, SE-100 44 Stockholm, Swede*

Abstract In this work the dependencies of the turbulent burning speed on flame stretch in a premixed jet flame is analyzed. Considering a reference system attached to the front, the flame stretch is split into three contributions based on flame front curvature, normal fluid velocity and divergence of tangential velocity. The turbulent burning velocity is derived from the measure of the divergence of the mean unconditioned velocity field, that is taken as an estimate of the mean reaction rate in the context of flamelet hypothesis. The results are in a reasonable agreement with the literature data on turbulent combustion rates. Though, this methodology is more complex compared to that grounded on the measure of the reactant mass flow rate and the mean flame position, it gives the variation of the turbulent burning speed along the mean flame position and not as a whole as in the other case. With this result in one hand and the variation of the flame stretch along the mean flame contour in the other, it is argued the existence of a wide region along the flame height where the stretching factor assumes constant values at fixed Reynolds number and equivalence ratio. Since the Reynolds number controls the small-scale behavior of turbulence, these findings denote a direct connection between the local, turbulence-induced, flame front deformation and the increase of the local flame propagation speed. The aim of this work is to establish correlations between the three different terms of flame stretch and the turbulent combustion speed that can lead to the definition of suitable closure models for turbulent combustion numerical simulations.

METHODOLOGY

Flame stretch acting on reactive surfaces in turbulent premixed combustion can deeply influence the turbulent burning speed. Following the classical hypothesis of flamelet structure, the correlation between surface evolution and turbulent burning speed S_{LB} is expressed as $S_{LB}/S_{Lo} = I_o A_T/A_o$, with S_{Lo} the unstretched laminar combustion velocity, where the turbulent and average flame surface are A_T and A_o , respectively. The term I_o , namely the stretching factor, takes into account the influence of flame surface stretch $K = 1/A(dA/dT)$ on the unstretched laminar combustion velocity. Depending on the chemistry of the reacting mixture, S_{Lo} can raise or lower its value with the flame surface stretch, i.e., $S_L = S_{Lo} - \mathcal{L}K$. The Markstein length \mathcal{L} , available from literature data, is of the order of the flamelet thickness. In this work it is adopted a definition of the stretching factor based on the evolution of a reacting surface conveyed by a velocity field [1]:

$$S_{LB} = S_{Lo} [1 - \mathcal{L}(kS_{Lo} - v_n k + \nabla_t \cdot \mathbf{v}_t)] (A_T/A_o) = I_o S_{Lo} (A_T/A_o) . \quad (1)$$

being v_t , v_n and k the tangential, normal to surface flow velocities and the front curvature.

By means of PIV velocity acquisitions and front position measurements in an air methane turbulent premixed jet flame at a relatively high Reynolds numbers ($Re = 5000 \div 15000$), the turbulent burning speed is measured and the evolution

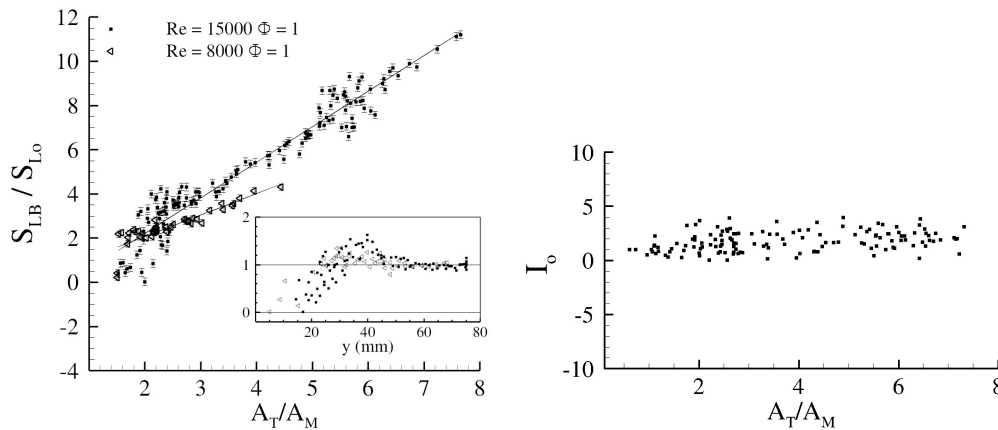


Figure 1. Left panel, scatter plot of S_{LB}/S_{Lo} vs A_T/A_M . Two best-fits represent values of $I_o = 0.97$ and $I_o = 1.61$. In the inset, compensated plot of $(S_{LB}/S_{Lo})/I_o$ vs axial coordinate y . Right panel, scatter plot of I_o vs A_T/A_o for a stoichiometric flame at $Re = 15000$.

of the ratio A_T/A_o and of I_o along the whole flame height is studied. The flame stretch I_o is evaluated following two different methodologies, one is to find the proportionality constant between S_{LB}/S_{Lo} and A_t/A_M (see left panel of figure (1) and the other stems directly from its kinematic definition in equation (1) (right panel of the same figure).

The results will show that I_o has values larger than unity that are substantially constant along the flame, while maintaining a dependence on the Reynolds number of the flame. A linear regression gives values of I_o ranging between 1 and 2.5, which are of the same order of I_o measured by other experiments on highly symmetric configurations, like spherical expanding flames [2]. Since the Reynolds number controls the small-scale behavior of turbulence, these findings denote a direct connection between the local, turbulence-induced, flame front deformation and the increase of the local flame propagation speed. More details on this aspect will be presented at the congress.

References

- [1] S. H. Chung and C. K. Law. An invariant derivation of flame stretch. *Combustion and flame*, **55**:123–125, 1984.
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