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Assessment of implementation variants of conditional scalar dissipation rate in LES-CMC simulation of auto-ignition of hydrogen jet

A. TYLISZCZAK

Institute of Thermal Machinery Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science Częstochowa University of Technology Al. Armii Krajowej 21 42-200 Częstochowa, Poland e-mail: atyl@imc.pcz.czest.pl

IN THIS PAPER THE LARGE EDDY SIMULATION (LES) and conditional moment closure (CMC) combustion model have been applied for modelling of auto-ignition of hydrogen jet issuing into a hot ambient co-flow. Most of the attention was devoted to modelling aspects of the conditional scalar dissipation rate which is a key quantity of the CMC model. Two models are compared with emphasis on differences in distributions in mixture fraction space. Analysis of mutual relations between the terms of CMC equations confirms importance of the conditional scalar dissipation rate. It is also shown that model constants are crucial from the point of view of an autoignition location and a flame lift off height. The numerical results are compared with experimental data and both the mean and the root mean square fluctuating values of the temperature and species mass fraction agree well with measurements.

Key words: auto-ignition, lifted flame, large eddy simulation, conditional moment closure.

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1. Introduction

AUTO-IGNITION OF GASEOUS MIXTURE followed by a flame propagation and stabilisation are crucial from the point of view of safety, reliability and efficiency of many technical devices. Experimental analysis of auto-ignition is extremely difficult and expensive as it requires very sophisticated experimental apparatus and dedicated measurements techniques. On the other hand, today's computers and available numerical tools enable modelling of these phenomena at reasonable time with acceptable accuracy. In contemporary CFD (computational fluid dynamics), in the field of combustion, the numerical modelling of strongly unsteady phenomena, such as ignition, local extinction or blow-off, is one of the most important and most difficult tasks. In non-premixed configurations the experimental and numerical studies concerning the auto-ignition have mainly focused on gaseous fuels in simple configurations, such as mixing layers [1, 2], jet flows [3, 4, 5] or counter-flows [6, 7]. These research examined various fuels including hydrogen, pure or hydrogen-enriched methane, kerosene as aviation fuel. and other single component hydrocarbons. Mostly the research concentrated on parameters that prohibit or promote the auto-ignition phenomena. From this point of view, the scalar dissipation rate (or critical strain rate), equivalence ratio and temperature are regarded to be the most important [8]. In case of the laminar flows the general observation is that there exists some critical value of the scalar dissipation rate above which the auto-ignition does not occur. In case of the turbulent flows the situation may be different, i.e., even if the timeaveraged scalar dissipation rate is higher than the critical value the auto-ignition may still occur depending on the amplitude of fluctuations which may allow an excursion into a region of low scalar dissipation rate and last long enough to permit auto-ignition. On the other hand, even if the time-averaged scalar dissipation rate is smaller than the critical value the auto-ignition may be precluded because of long lasting excursions above that value [8].

In this paper we deal with a simple hydrogen jet issuing into a hot ambient flow. If the temperature of that flow is high enough then at some distance from the nozzle the jet spontaneously auto-ignites. In the numerical simulations this scenario takes place provided that the combustion model and all related submodels properly reflect the physics. As will be shown in the paper this is not always the case and at some point the combustion models must be tuned in order to predict the solution correctly. The paper concentrates on modelling aspects of the scalar dissipation rate as a key parameter of the conditional moment closure (CMC) model [9] and also all flamelet type models [10, 11, 12]. The focus is on the CMC model which together with Eulerian PDF approach [13, 14, 15, 16] is currently regarded as the most accurate. It allows for analysis of very complicated physical processes including lifted flames [17, 5], local extinction [18, 19], autoignition [20] or forced ignition [21, 22, 23]. All these phenomena are undoubtedly strongly unsteady and require precise and time accurate solutions. This is offered by the large eddy simulation (LES) method which is becoming a standard tool in academic research in virtually all aspects of fluid flow and related processes. The LES approach, contrary to the classical (u)RANS ((unsteady) Reynoldsaveraged Navier–Stokes) methods, gives a very deep insight into the unsteady turbulent flow phenomena.

In case of fundamental research the LES method combined with the CMC model is very attractive as it enables an accurate analysis of basic physical processes. A big disadvantage of the CMC model is a very high computational cost from the point of view of the memory requirements as well as the computational time. This is particularly true when the CMC model is combined with LES approach which requires numerical mesh much finer than in RANS methods.

Hence, the LES-CMC simulations even for relatively simple problems always involve a number of optimisation steps which in many cases open the fields for simplifications and various modelling strategies. One of the main objectives of this work is to explore sensitivity of LES-CMC approach to implementation variants of the scalar dissipation rate in auto-igntion problem; to the author knowledge such an analysis was never done before.

The paper is organised as follows: in the next section the presentation of LES and CMC methods is limited to basic ideas and appropriate papers are cited for interested readers; the main attention is paid to possible variants of modelling of the scalar dissipation rate which are then compared; in Section 3 numerical schemes and algorithms used in the LES and CMC codes are briefly characterised; the obtained results are presented in Section 4 which is followed by conclusions.

2. Mathematical modelling

2.1. LES formulation

In LES the scales of the turbulent flow are divided into the large scales, which are directly solved on a given numerical mesh, and the small scales (subgrid scales) which require modelling. This separation of scales is obtained by a spatial filtering defined as [24, 25]

(2.1)
$$\bar{f}(\mathbf{x},t) = \int_{\Omega} G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}', \Delta) f(\mathbf{x}', t) d\mathbf{x}',$$

where f stands for arbitrary variable and $G(x, \Delta)$ is the filter function:

(2.2)
$$G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \begin{cases} 1/\Delta^3 & \text{for } |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'| < \Delta, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

with a filter width $\Delta = Vol^{1/3}$, where Vol stands for a local mesh volume. In the variable density flows the Favre filtering is applied almost without exception. It is defined as $\tilde{f}(\mathbf{x},t) = \overline{\rho f}/\overline{\rho}$ where ρ is the density. Applying the filtering procedure to the continuity equation and the Navier–Stokes give

(2.3)
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \bar{\rho} \widetilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i} = 0,$$

(2.4)
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho} \widetilde{u}_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \bar{\rho} \widetilde{u}_i \widetilde{u}_j}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial \bar{p}}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial \tau_{ij}}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \tau_{ij}^{sys}}{\partial x_j},$$

where u_i are the velocity components, p is the pressure. The stress tensor of the resolved field τ_{ij} and unresolved subgrid stress tensor τ_{ij}^{sgs} , resulting from the

filtering of the non-linear advection terms, are defined as

(2.5)
$$\tau_{ij} = \mu \left[\left(\frac{\partial \widetilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \widetilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \right) - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \frac{\partial \widetilde{u}_k}{\partial x_k} \right], \qquad \tau_{ij}^{\text{sgs}} = \overline{\rho} \left(\widetilde{u}_i \widetilde{u}_j - \widetilde{u}_i \widetilde{u}_j \right),$$

where μ is the molecular viscosity determined from the Sutherland law. In this work, the subgrid tensor is modelled by eddy-viscosity type model [25] defined as

(2.6)
$$\tau_{ij}^{\text{sgs}} = 2\mu_t S_{ij} - \tau_{kk} \delta_{ij}/3,$$

where $S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \right)$ and the subgrid (or turbulent) viscosity is computed according to model proposed by VREMAN [26] given as

(2.7)
$$\mu_t = \bar{\rho} C \sqrt{\frac{B_\beta}{\alpha_{ij} \alpha_{ij}}},$$

where

(2.8)
$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i}, \qquad \beta_{kl} = \Delta^2 \alpha_{mk} \alpha_{ml},$$

(2.9)
$$B_{\beta} = \beta_{11}\beta_{22} - \beta_{12}^2 + \beta_{11}\beta_{33} - \beta_{13}^2 + \beta_{22}\beta_{33} - \beta_{23}^2,$$

and with the model constant $C = 2.5 \times 10^{-2}$. The model of Vreman is very easy to implement and almost negligible from the point of view of additional computational cost. This model overcomes a weakness of the classical eddyviscosity type models which are known to be excessively dissipative near the walls. Similarly, as in the case of dynamic subgrid models [27] or in the WALE approach [28] the subgrid viscosity in the model of Vreman vanishes in pure shear regions.

The CMC model presented in the next section belongs to the family of the mixture fraction based models [11]. The mixture fraction ξ measures the local fuel/oxidizer ratio and its standard definition is given as

(2.10)
$$\xi = \frac{sY_F - Y_O + Y_O^0}{sY_F^0 + Y_O^0}$$

where s is the mass stoichiometric ratio, the symbols Y_F and Y_O denote fuel and oxidizer mass fractions in a mixture and Y_F^0 and Y_O^0 are the fuel and oxidizer mass fractions in pure fuel and oxidizer streams, respectively. The mixture fraction varies in the range $0 \le \xi \le 1$, and $\xi = 0$ (obtained with $Y_F = 0$, $Y_O = Y_O^0$) denotes the mixture composition corresponding to the oxidizer composition, and $\xi = 1$ ($Y_F = Y_F^0$, $Y_O = 0$) corresponds to the fuel composition. The mixture fraction is a conserved quantity and it obeys the classical convection-diffusion transport equation, which in the framework of LES is defined as

(2.11)
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}\tilde{\xi}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_i\tilde{\xi}}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\bar{\rho}\mathcal{D}\frac{\partial\tilde{\xi}}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{\partial J_{\text{sgs}}}{\partial x_i},$$

where $\mathcal{D} = \mu/\bar{\rho}Sc$ is the molecular diffusivity and Sc = 0.7 is the Schmidt number. The term J_{sgs} is the subgrid part modelled as $J_{sgs} = \bar{\rho}\mathcal{D}_t \frac{\partial \tilde{\xi}}{\partial x_i}$ with the subgrid diffusivity $\mathcal{D}_t = \mu_t/\bar{\rho}Sc_t$ where the turbulent Schmidt number is assumed constant $Sc_t = 0.4$ [29].

2.2. CMC formulation

The CMC model has been formulated in 1990s by Klimenko and Bilger and then it was summarized in the joint paper [9]. In the context of LES the CMC model has been presented in [30] approximately ten years later, where it was derived applying the density-weighted conditional filtering operation [31, 30, 29] to the transport equations for the species (Y_k) mass fraction and total enthalpy (h). The final form of the CMC equations in the framework of LES is given as [30, 29]

(2.12)
$$\frac{\partial Q_h}{\partial t} + \widetilde{u_i} | \eta \frac{\partial Q_h}{\partial x_i} = \widetilde{N} | \eta \frac{\partial^2 Q_h}{\partial \eta^2} + e_h,$$

(2.13)
$$\frac{\partial Q_k}{\partial t} + \widetilde{u_i} | \eta \frac{\partial Q_k}{\partial x_i} = \widetilde{N} | \eta \frac{\partial^2 Q_k}{\partial \eta^2} + \widetilde{\omega_k} | \eta + e_Y, \qquad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where *n* is the number of reacting species. The operator $(\cdot|\eta) = (\cdot|\xi = \eta)$ is the conditional filtering operator with conditioning being done on the mixture fraction. The symbols $Q_k = \widetilde{Y_k}|\eta$ and $Q_h = \widetilde{h}|\eta$ are the conditionally filtered species mass fractions and enthalpy, $\widetilde{u_i}|\eta$ - velocity, $\widetilde{N}|\eta$ - scalar dissipation rate. The symbols e_Y , e_h represent the subgrid interactions and they are usually expressed as [29, 20, 5]

(2.14)
$$e_Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\widetilde{D_t} | \eta \, \frac{\partial Q_k}{\partial x_i} \right), \qquad e_h = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\widetilde{D_t} | \eta \, \frac{\partial Q_h}{\partial x_i} \right),$$

where $D_t | \eta$ is the conditionally filtered subgrid diffusivity. The conditionally filtered reaction rate is evaluated with the first order closure [9] where the subgrid conditional fluctuations are neglected, i.e., $\widetilde{\omega_k} | \eta = \omega_k(Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_n, Q_h)$.

The conditionally filtered variables are related to the filtered variables by the integration over the mixture fraction space, this is defined as

(2.15)
$$\widetilde{f}(\mathbf{x},t) = \int_{0}^{1} \widetilde{f|\eta} \widetilde{P}(\eta) d\eta,$$

where \widetilde{P} is a filtered probability density function assumed here as a beta-function PDF defined as [32]

(2.16)
$$P(\xi) = \xi^{a-1} (1-\xi)^{b-1} \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)},$$

where: $a = \tilde{\xi}(\tilde{\xi}(1-\tilde{\xi})/\tilde{\xi''}^2 - 1)$, $b = a(1-\tilde{\xi})/\tilde{\xi}$, $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function and $\tilde{\xi''}^2$ is the filtered mixture fraction variance modelled as $\tilde{\xi''}^2 = C_V \Delta^2 \frac{\partial \tilde{\xi}}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial \tilde{\xi}}{\partial x_j}$. The value of the parameter C_V may be computed dynamically or may be a fixed constant [33, 34]. For simplicity here it is assumed that $C_V = 0.1$, as suggested by [34].

From the point of view of the solution of the CMC equations the main difficulty is related to a very large computational cost. The CMC equations are formulated in the four dimensional space, i.e., physical co-ordinates and mixture fraction space. It means that in every time step the solution would have to be computed on $N_{x,y,z} \times N_{\eta}$ nodes, where $N_{x,y,z}$ and N_{η} denote the number of nodes in the physical and mixture fraction spaces. This would imply the computational cost which would prevent using of the LES-CMC approach for realistic problems, and even in simple cases the computations would be hardly feasible. A number of optimisation and simplifications steps have to be performed to reduce huge memory requirements and very long simulation times. A common simplifying approach is to use two separate meshes in physical space: one for the solution of the flow field (CFD mesh) and another one, much coarser for the CMC equations (CMC mesh). In the papers cited above the ratio of the nodes of CFD/CMC meshes varies in between 20–300 depending on the flow problem. The application of the coarser mesh for the CMC model is justified by the fact that in physical space the conditionally filtered variables are smoother than the LES filtered variables [30]. Hence, they do not require the numerical resolution as good as for the flow variables (velocity, mixture fraction).

The second difficulty of the CMC model is connected to the modelling of the conditional terms appearing in Eqs. (2.12) and (2.13), i.e., the conditionally filtered scalar dissipation rate, velocity and diffusivity. These terms have to be computed based on the resolved variables before solving the CMC equations. The conditional scalar dissipation rate $N|\eta$ is usually computed applying the AMC – amplitude mapping closure model [35, 36, 37] defined as

(2.17)

$$\widetilde{N|\eta} = N_0 G(\eta),$$

$$G(\eta) = exp(-2[\text{erf}^{-1}(2\eta - 1)]^2),$$

$$N_0 = \frac{\widetilde{N}}{\int_0^1 G(\eta) \widetilde{P}(\eta) d\eta},$$

where $\operatorname{erf}(x)$ is the error function. The filtered scalar dissipation rate \widetilde{N} is computed as the sum of the resolved and subgrid part [18, 30, 5]:

(2.18)
$$\widetilde{N} = \underbrace{\mathcal{D}\left[\frac{\partial \widetilde{\xi}}{\partial x_i}\frac{\partial \widetilde{\xi}}{\partial x_i}\right]}_{\text{resolved}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}C_N\frac{\nu_t}{\Delta^2}\widetilde{\xi''^2}}_{\text{subgrid}}.$$

The constant C_N is an important parameter in flow problems which depend strongly on the level of \tilde{N} and thus on $N|\eta$. Typical examples are flames with local extinction and re-ignition or auto-ignition phenomena. There are no clear recommendations on what value of C_N should be in a particular problem, and thus the value of C_N is sometimes estimated based on existing experimental or DNS data [38] and sometimes it is set by trial and error. Analysis of influence of C_N on the results is discussed later in the paper (Section 4).

The models for the conditionally filtered velocity and diffusivity are much simpler than for $N|\eta$. In many papers [30, 29, 20, 18] it is shown that on the level of CFD resolution the conditional terms $\widetilde{u_i|\eta}$ and $\widetilde{D_t}|\eta$ may be assumed equal to the filtered values, i.e., $\widetilde{u_i}|\eta \approx \widetilde{u_i}$ and $\widetilde{D_t}|\eta \approx D_t$. This is the simplest approach and it is used in the present work.

2.3. Transfer between CFD and CMC mesh

The application of two meshes requires that the conditional terms that have been computed on the CFD mesh must be transferred to the CMC mesh. Various possibilities for transferring data between the CMC and CFD meshes have been discussed in [29]. Here, the formulas pointed as the most proper ones are used.

Assuming that the conditional variable $(f|\eta)$ has been computed on the CFD mesh, its counterpart on the CMC mesh is determined by using a PDF weighted volume integral within the CMC cells (V_{CMC}) defined as

(2.19)
$$\widetilde{f|\eta}^* = \frac{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \widetilde{P}(\eta) f|\eta \, dV'}{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \widetilde{P}(\eta) \, dV'};$$

thus, the conditionally filtered variable $\widetilde{f|\eta}^*$ corresponding to the CMC cell is common for a group of the CFD nodes embedded in that CMC cell. The formula (2.19) is applied for velocity $\widetilde{u_i|\eta}^*$, diffusivity $\widetilde{D_t|\eta}^*$ and also for the scalar dissipation rate $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$. However, in this case there is another option to compute $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ and it relies on application of the AMC model directly on the CMC resolution [29]. This approach leads to

(2.20)

$$N|\eta = N_0^* G(\eta),$$

$$G(\eta) = \exp(-2[\operatorname{erf}^{-1}(2\eta - 1)]^2),$$

$$N_0^* = \frac{\widetilde{N}^*}{\int_0^1 G(\eta) \widetilde{P}^*(\eta) d\eta},$$

where \widetilde{N}^* and $\widetilde{P}^*(\eta)$ are the volume integrated values:

(2.21)
$$\widetilde{N}^* = \frac{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \widetilde{N} \, dV'}{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \, dV'}, \qquad \widetilde{P}^*(\eta) = \frac{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \widetilde{P}(\eta) \, dV'}{\int_{V_{CMC}} \bar{\rho} \, dV'}.$$

In this work we compare the results obtained with two variants of computing $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$. The variant defined by Eq. (2.17) with the volume integration according to Eq. (2.19) will be denoted as N-1, and the variant defined by Eq. (2.20) with Eq. (2.21) will be denoted as N-2. Here, one should realize that there are no physical aspects that led to different formulations for $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ on the CMC mesh – the differences come from the necessity of application of two separate meshes with different number of nodes. Actually, if the CMC and CFD meshes were equal then the variant N-1 and N-2 would become identical and consistent with Eq. (2.17). From the point of view of the computational time the variant N-2 is slightly less costly, mainly because the AMC model (Eq. (2.20)) is applied once for the CMC cell. However, the computational time needed for calculation of $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ has a minor contribution in a total computational time and therefore this aspect cannot be regarded as an important parameter in the evaluation of N-1 and N-2 variants.

Finally, it is worth to mention that the volume integrals (2.21) are simplified form of Eq. (2.19), i.e., one could write:

(2.22)
$$\widetilde{f}^* = \frac{\int_{V_{CMC}} \overline{\rho} \widetilde{f} \, dV'}{\int\limits_{V_{CMC}} \overline{\rho} \, dV'}$$

and these forms are sometimes used when evaluating \widetilde{u}_i^* and $\widetilde{D_t}^*$ [29, 20].

Having all needed conditional terms computed the CMC equations can be solved. Next, the species and enthalpy on the CFD mesh are computed from

(2.23)
$$\widetilde{f}(\mathbf{x},t) = \int_0^1 \widetilde{f|\eta}^* \widetilde{P}(\eta) d\eta$$

with $\tilde{P}(\eta)$ evaluated separately in each of the CFD nodes and with $\tilde{f}|\tilde{\eta}^*$ being the same for the group of the CFD nodes belonging to particular CMC cells.

3. Numerical methods

The CMC model has been implemented in a high-order LES solver called SAILOR. The SAILOR code is based on the low Mach number approach [39, 40]. The spatial discretisation is performed by the sixth order compact method [41] for the Navier–Stokes and continuity equations and with fifth order WENO scheme [42] for the mixture fraction. The time integration is performed by the Adams-Bashforth/Adams-Multon predictor-corrector approach. The solution algorithm is well verified, the SAILOR code was used in various LES studies for gaseous flows, multi-phase flows and flames [43, 44, 45, 46]. The type of applied high-order spatial discretisation limits applicability of the code to simple geometries such as channel or free jet flows. On the other hand, as the discretisation errors are minimized one may expect that the differences between applied models should be highlighted and easier to identify. This is the main advantage of using high-order schemes.

The CMC equations were solved applying the operator splitting approach where the transport in physical space, transport in mixture fraction space and chemistry are solved separately. Time integration in physical space was performed with the first order explicit Euler method. In mixture fraction space the CMC equations are stiff due to the reaction rate terms. In this case the time integration had to be performed applying the VODPK [47] solver that is well suited for stiff systems.

The CMC terms in mixture fraction space are: the source terms and the second derivatives of the species and enthalpy. These terms, i.e., $\partial^2 Q_{k,h}/\partial \eta^2$, were discretised using the second order finite difference method [48]. The reaction rates were computed using CHEMKIN interpreter [49]. The chemistry is modelled by Muller's mechanism [50] with 9 species and 21 reactions.

The CMC terms in physical space are the convective terms $u_i |\eta(\partial Q_{k,h}/\partial x_i)$ and the diffusive terms defined by (2.14). The conditional variables are smoother in physical space and therefore they were discretised with second order methods. The convective terms were discretized using second order TVD (total variation diminishing) [51] method with VAN LEER'S [52] limiters. The diffusive terms were discretised using the central finite difference scheme.

4. Computational results

A sketch of the computational configuration is shown in Fig. 1, it corresponds to the test case studied experimentally and numerically in [3]. The fuel jet is a mixture of hydrogen and nitrogen with the molar fraction $X_{H_2} = 0.254$, $X_{N_2} = 0.746$. The fuel temperature is 305 K, the mean velocity at the nozzle exit is equal to U = 107 m/s, and the nozzle diameter is D = 4.57 mm. The fuel



FIG. 1. Schematic view of the computational configuration for auto-ignition of H_2/N_2 jet.

jet auto-ignites due to the presence of hot co-flowing stream. Its temperature is equal to $T_c = 1045 \text{ K} \pm 3\%$, the velocity of the co-flow is equal to $U_c = 3.5 \text{ m/s}$ and the ambient pressure is assumed equal to the atmospheric pressure. The co-flow mixture consists of the oxygen $X_{O_2} = 0.147$, water $X_{H_2O} = 0.1$ and nitrogen $X_{N_2} = 0.753$. The stoichiometric composition corresponds to the mixture fraction $\xi_{ST} = 0.476$, and the most reactive mixture fraction, i.e., where the auto-ignition occurs in mixture fraction space [8], equals to $\xi_{MR} = 0.0534$. The auto-ignition time and a final flame position are sensible to T_c [4, 53, 54, 55]. For higher values of T_c the jet auto-ignites quickly, the flame propagates downstream and attaches to the nozzle eventually. For lower values of T_c , the flame remains lifted and the lift off height H is a function of T_c . The lift off height was determined as the axial distance form the nozzle where the mass fraction of species OH increased up to 2×10^{-4} . In [3] for the co-flow temperature $T_c = 1045$ K they observed $H/D \approx 10$, both in the computations and in the experimental data. On the other hand in [54], applying LES with Eulerian PDF approach, the same lift off height was obtained for $T_c = 1035$ K, which however, lies in the 3% error bar of the temperature measurements [3]. Additionally in [54] they stressed that this test case is particularly sensitive to T_c and even a few degrees of variation may play an important role.

4.1. Solutions in physical space

In this work the computations were performed for $T_c = 1030$ K, $T_c = 1035$ K and $T_c = 1045$ K. The computational domain was the rectangular box with dimensions $15D \times 15D \times 35D$ in x, y and z direction respectively. Two sets of the

LES and CMC meshes were used: (i) coarse configuration with $128 \times 128 \times 196$ nodes for LES solver and $23 \times 23 \times 60$ nodes for the CMC model; (ii) refined configuration with $140 \times 140 \times 240$ and $23 \times 23 \times 90$ nodes, respectively for LES and CMC part. In both cases the meshes were smoothly stretched towards the nozzle, both axially (z-direction) and in the directions x, y. In the region of the jet the meshes were nearly uniform in the directions x, y. The minimum cell sizes of the refined LES mesh were $\Delta x_{\min} = \Delta y_{\min} = 0.048D$ and $\Delta z_{\min} = 0.087D$. Close to the outlet the maximum cell size in z-direction was equal to $\Delta z_{\max} = 0.223D$. The time step for all the simulations was equal to $\Delta t = 5 \times 10^{-7}$ s what corresponded to the CFL number equal approximately to 0.5.

The inlet boundary conditions for the velocity are: fully developed pipe flow for the jet and the uniform velocity profile for the co-flow. The velocity fluctuations were added to the mean profile according to the digital filtering method [56]. The pressure was computed based on the Neumann condition $\partial p/\partial n = 0$. The mixture fraction at the inlet was specified as: $\xi = 1$ (corresponding to $X_{\text{H}_2} = 0.254$, $X_{\text{N}_2} = 0.746$) for the jet, and $\xi = 0$ (corresponding to $X_{\text{O}_2} = 0.147$, $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.1$, $X_{\text{N}_2} = 0.753$) for the co-flow. In mixture fraction space the solution was assumed as inert, i.e., the enthalpy and species for $\xi \in (0, 1)$ varied linearly. On the side boundaries the velocity was equal to the co-flow velocity, the pressure and the other variables where computed applying the Neumann boundary conditions. At the outlet boundary the pressure was constant and the remaining variables were computed from the Orlansky type convective condition [57]: $\partial f/\partial t + U \partial f/\partial n = 0$, with the convection velocity Ucorresponding to the mean normal velocity at the outlet.

The simulations were performed on a PC cluster using 20 CPU cores (Intel Xeon 2.67 GHz). The computational cost of the simulation was dependent on the flow conditions (before auto-ignition, flame propagation, developed attached or lifted flame) and was the biggest for the fully developed flame. In this case, the computations of 0.01 s of physical time required approximately 8 days of the continuous simulation. The time-averaged results (presented in Section 4.3) were collected for approximately 0.01 s starting from the time when the flame was developed. The averaging time corresponded to slightly more than 6.5 passes of the flow through the flow domain (assuming the uniform jet velocity as the reference velocity). The obtained results were practically independent of the mesh density and minor differences were only visible in the time-averaged data. Similarity of the solutions obtained on different meshes was attributed to the high-order discretization method which is assumed to yield the grid independent results at relatively small number of the nodes. Theoretically, this never happens in LES method as the filter width is related to the mesh density. All the results presented in the following sections were obtained using the refined configuration of the meshes.

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The following analysis concentrates on a comparison of two variants of computing $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ which in the previous section were denoted as *Variant N-1* and *Variant N-2*. In both the cases $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ is evaluated using \widetilde{N} that requires setting the model constant C_N . As it was mentioned in the previous section there is no clear recommendation what a value this constant should have. For example in LES-CMC simulations of an auto-ignition of hydrogen jet [20, 5] or a bluff-body stabilised methane flame [21] it was assumed that $C_N = \mathcal{O}(1)$, whereas in [18] for a methane flame with local extinctions (Sandia F) C_N was equal to 42, as a result of calibration based on experimental data. Furthermore, an analysis presented in [38], performed based on DNS solutions, shows that subgrid part of \widetilde{N} varies considerably and its correct prediction may require tuning of the model constant.

4.1.1. Results with standard model constant. The preliminary computations were performed with the constant $C_N = 2$ which was the same as in [5]. The obtained results for variant N-1 and variant N-2 show that after the occurrence of autoignition the flame propagates towards the nozzle (inlet plane) and remains nearly attached to the nozzle for all analysed co-flow temperatures. Sample evolution of the flame for $T_c = 1030$ K starting form the auto-ignition phase, up to the fully developed flame, is shown in Figs. 2–5, these results were obtained applying variant N-1. The presented contours show the temperature and radicals OH and HO₂. The white lines in the figures with the temperature contours correspond to the stoichiometric mixture fraction. In the time instant $T_1 = 3 \times 10^{-3}$ s the temperature is low but the first signs of the auto-ignition are already seen. This is manifested by an increase of HO_2 , which is called the pre-ignition species [8], and regarded as the indicator of the flame appearance. In the next time steps the radicals OH are visible at $H/D \approx 5$, the temperature increases rapidly and the flame starts to propagate downstream. Eventually it stabilises very close to the inlet, in the third CMC cell. In the present case, the flame will never fully attach to the inflow plane because of the assumed inert boundary condition.

Figure 6 shows the isosurfaces of the temperature and the mixture fraction inside the flame. Here it is well seen that the high temperature regions are in the mixing layer and they occur very close to the inlet. The auto-ignition scenario for $T_c = 1035$ K and $T_c = 1045$ K is basically the same. In these cases the flame appears slightly faster, in the sense of the simulation time, but the final state is exactly the same as for $T_c = 1030$ K. Unfortunately all these results are inconsistent with the experimental data where the flame remained lifted at about $H/D \approx 10$ for $T_c = 1045$ K. The computations performed for $T_c = 1030$ K, which is still in the 3% measurement error [3], should definitely yield to the lifted flame, at least a few diameters.



FIG. 2. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH and HO₂ at time instant $T_1 = 3 \times 10^{-3}$ s – beginning of the auto-ignition. Results obtained when applying variant *N-1* with $C_N = 2$.



FIG. 3. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH and HO₂ at time instant $T_2 = 5 \times 10^{-3}$ s – production of OH. Results obtained when applying variant N-1 with $C_N = 2$.



FIG. 4. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH and HO₂ at time instant $T_3 = 6 \times 10^{-3}$ s – destruction of HO₂ starting from z/D = 15. Results obtained when applying variant N-1 with $C_N = 2$.



FIG. 5. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH and HO₂ at time instant $T_4 = 7 \times 10^{-3}$ s – developed flame. Results obtained when applying variant N-1 with $C_N = 2$.



FIG. 6. Isosurfaces of the temperature (figure on the left-hand side) and mixture fraction inside the flame. Results obtained when applying variant N-1 with $C_N = 2$.

4.1.2. Results with altered model constant. Following the suggestions from [18], the next computations were performed with a higher value of C_N , i.e., with $C_N = 40$. Although it was much higher than the initial value $C_N = 2$, one should note that it was more or less the same as in [18], where for the methane flame $C_N = 42$ was used. Figure 7 shows the instantaneous solution for $T_c = 1030$ K, these results were obtained applying variant N-1. The flame is lifted at 4D approximately and even though this is still less than in the experiment it clearly shows the influence of C_N modification. The results for $T_c = 1035$ K and $T_c = 1045$ K are very similar and the lift off height is practically the same. This may suggest that the influence of co-flow temperature is not as significant as stressed in [54], at least in the analysed range of temperatures. The present observations are rather consistent with analysis presented in [58] where it was concluded that the lift off height predicted by computations is mainly influenced by a turbulence model. Indeed, this seems to be confirmed by the following results obtained with variant N-2. Different values of the scalar dissipation rate resulting from the variant N-2 may be regarded as the effect of application of another turbulence model. The obtained solution shows that the flame stabilises closer to the inlet. The contours of time-averaged mass fraction of OH for $T_c = 1030$ K and $T_c = 1035$ K are presented in Fig.8, and though the averaging period $T_{\rm ave} = 200 D/U \approx 8.5$ ms was not long enough to obtain expected symmetric contours, the differences between the results achieved when applying variant N-1 and N-2 are evident. They are much more pronounced than differences caused by different co-flow temperatures. Indeed, the lift off height for $T_c = 1030$ K and $T_c = 1035$ K obtained with variant N-1 are hardly noticeable, i.e. $H/D \approx 4$ in both the cases. On the other hand for $T_c = 1030$ K and variant N-2 we have $H/D \approx 1$.



FIG. 7. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH i HO₂ – fully developed flame – the results obtained when applying variant N-1 with $C_N = 40$.



FIG. 8. Time averaged contours of OH mass fraction for $T_c = 1035$ K and $T_c = 1030$ K. Solutions with $C_N = 40$. Variant N-1 and N-2 (the most right figure).

4.2. Solutions in mixture fraction space

The obtained solutions showed that variant N-1 gives the results significantly better than N-2. The main difference between N-1 and N-2 lies in the evaluation of the conditional scalar dissipation rate $N|\eta$ in mixture fraction space, and hence, this space seems to be the right place to start detailed comparisons. According to CMC formulation (in physical space and ξ space) the signs of auto-ignition should be first visible in mixture fraction space close to the most reactive value – there, the conditional temperature should rise and the species composition should also alter. Then the auto-ignition may be noticed in physical space, i.e., after computing the temperature and species by integration in mixture fraction space according to Eq. (2.23).

The following analysis concentrates on the solutions before the auto-ignition occurred which means that the mixture fraction distribution was the same for N-1 and N-2 variants. This is important aspect because both N-1 and N-2 are directly linked to the mixture fraction gradients. The presentation is limited to the case with the co-flow temperature $T_c = 1030$ K only, the results for $T_c = 1035$ K and $T_c = 1045$ K show similar behaviour. The time evolving solutions were monitored in mixture fraction space in one selected node of the CMC mesh lying in the point (r = 0.55 D, z = 4 D), which was close to the auto-ignition region. The profiles of $N|\eta^*$ obtained applying N-1 and N-2 variants are shown in Fig. 9. The instantaneous values are represented by the grey lines, whereas the bold black lines represent the mean profiles. In the case of N-2 a characteristic bell-shape profile comes directly from the definition of AMC model, and precisely from the



FIG. 9. Profiles of $N|\eta$ in mixture fraction space. Solutions for $T_c = 1030$ K with $C_N = 40$. The black bold lines represent the mean profiles computed based on the instantaneous results shown by the grey lines.

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function $G(\eta)$. It is worth to mention that particular profiles could be obtained from the arbitrary one by multiplication with a constant value. According to Eq. (2.20), in the real computations the parameter N_0 plays the role of scaling factor. In the case of variant N-1 the AMC model is also applied but the resulting profiles are weighted with the $\tilde{P}(\eta)$ function. This leads to irregular shapes that are considerably different than for the variant N-2.

In both the cases the maximum instantaneous values of $N|\eta$ are more or less of the same magnitude, however, the mean value is bigger for N-1 variant. In this case we have $\langle \widetilde{N}|\eta^* \rangle > |_{\max} = 630 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and for N-2 it is $\langle \widetilde{N}|\eta^* \rangle|_{\max} = 425 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (the triangular brackets denote the mean value taken as the time average). From the point of view of auto-ignition appearance the maximum values are important but the crucial seems to be the localisation of these maximum values. In the case of N-2 it is always at $\xi = 0.5$, whereas for N-1 it depends on the shape of the PDF. In the present results the instantaneous maxima of $\widetilde{N}|\eta^*$ obtained with variant N-1 occur mainly at ξ small and $\langle \widetilde{N}|\eta^* \rangle|_{\max}$ is located at $\xi = 0.137$. It means that in the region of the most reactive mixture fraction, $\xi_{MR} = 0.0534$, the scalar dissipation resulting from N-1 method is large most of the time. Thus, the higher values of $\widetilde{N}|\eta^*$ at ξ_{MR} are regarded as the main cause responsible for shifting the auto-ignition point further downstream.

4.2.1. Balance in mixture fraction space. The assumption that $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ plays the crucial role is correct provided that the terms of the CMC equations that are affected by $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ are dominant. To analyse this aspect the solutions in mixture fraction space are compared in two physical locations. As previously in (r = 0.55 D, z = 4 D), where the flame is anchored, and in (r = 0.55 D, z = 2 D) which is the place close to the inlet and thus is not reachable by the flame. The analysis is limited to *N-1* variant and corresponds to the time when the flame is well established. In these conditions one can verify whether the convective and diffusive transport in physical space may bring the flame downstream, where the auto-ignition in mixture fraction space is precluded due to the high level of $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$.

The profiles of the temperature, the profiles of main species O_2 , H_2 , H_2O and the radicals OH and HO_2 are shown in Fig. 10 and in Fig. 11. These figures correspond to the solutions in the point (r = 0.55D, z = 4D) and (r = 0.55D, z = 2D), respectively. The results obtained in the point (r = 0.55D, z = 4D) are strongly unsteady, the temperature varies in between the temperature of the unburned gases and the temperature of the developed flame. The profiles of the species also oscillate in a wide range and the radical OH almost vanishes instantaneously. If the mass fraction of OH becomes very low and the temperature becomes small one may suppose that the flame extinguishes – at least in a given time instant.

In the location (r = 0.55 D, z = 2D) the solution behaviour is completely different. Here the profiles change very little and nothing indicates that the flame appears in this point. Although the pre-ignition species HO₂ is of the same order as in (r = 0.55 D, z = 4D), the temperature remains small and the level of OH mass fraction is very low. The occurrence of OH could be regarded as



FIG. 10. Profiles of the temperature and species in mixture fraction space in the point (0.55 D, 4 D).

the beginning of the auto-ignition but it could be also the effect of the transport in physical space. The species OH could be "brought" to (r = 0.55 D, z = 2D) from the place where the flame exists. Here, one should remember that the possibility of the flame propagation in physical space is the inherent part of the CMC model. However, the strength of this phenomenon is conditioned



FIG. 11. Profiles of the temperature and species in mixture fraction space in the point (0.55 D, 2D).

by a relative magnitude of all the terms of the CMC equations: the convection $(u_i|\eta \partial Q/\partial x)$ and diffusion $(\partial/\partial x(D_t|\eta \partial Q/\partial x))$ in physical space, the diffusion $(N|\eta \partial^2 Q/\partial \eta^2)$ and the source term $\omega|\eta$ in mixture fraction space. Indeed, it may happen that even if the flame is transferred to the cold place it is then dissipated in mixture fraction space and it is not seen in physical space eventually. The mutual relations between the terms of the CMC equations in mixture fraction space are crucial from the point of view of the flame movement. Figures 12 and 13 show the balance of particular terms for two main radicals HO₂ and OH. The convection and diffusion terms in physical space are denoted as $\text{CONV}_{x,y,z}$ and $\text{DIFF}_{x,y,z}$. The diffusion and source terms in mixture fraction space are denoted as DIFF_{ξ} and CHEM_{ξ} . The results presented in Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 correspond to the solutions in the points (0.55 D, 4D) and (0.55 D, 2D), respectively.

In the point (0.55 D, 4D) the terms $\text{CONV}_{x,y,z}$ and $\text{DIFF}_{x,y,z}$ for HO₂ are of the same magnitude. The source term $CHEM_{\xi}$ shows that HO_2 is mostly produced in the entire range of ξ , and in the same time the term DIFF_{ξ}, which is evidently the dominant one, strongly counteracts to the production term. The negative values of $CHEM_{\xi}$ result in the production of OH, among the others. The terms $\text{CONV}_{x,y,z}$ and $\text{DIFF}_{x,y,z}$ for OH are considerably larger than for HO_2 , and are comparable with the source term. The point (0.55 D, 4D) is close to the location where the flame is anchored. As one could see in Fig. 10 at this location the flame instantaneously vanishes and appears again. This is caused by the large values of the transport terms in physical space. In this case the convection and diffusion mechanisms are responsible for the mixing of cold gases and the burning mixture. The source term corresponding to OH mainly shows production with the maxima shifted towards the stoichiometric value of ξ . In Fig. 10 one could see that the level of OH is relatively high but its distribution is smooth. Therefore the diffusion term DIFF_{ξ} for OH in the whole range of ξ is small and not sufficient to compete with the transport in physical space or the source term.

The balance of the CMC terms in the point (0.55 D, 2D) is different. Here, the terms $\text{CONV}_{x,y,z}$ and $\text{DIFF}_{x,y,z}$ for species HO_2 are on the same level as in the point (0.55 D, 4D), but for OH they are much smaller. The source term CHEM_{ξ} shows that HO_2 is produced in the whole range of ξ . The term DIFF_{ξ} , which is again the dominant term, counteracts the production term. The term CHEM_{ξ} for OH shows production in the vicinity of ξ_{MR} and this could be regarded as the beginning of auto-ignition. However, this term is immediately balanced by DIFF_{ξ} that has opposite sign and is of the same order of magnitude. Such behaviour of DIFF_{ξ} explains and stresses the very important role of $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$. As $\widetilde{N|\eta}^*$ directly influences on DIFF_{ξ} , its higher level prevents the spreading and



FIG. 12. Balance of the CMC terms for HO_2 and OH species in the point (0.55 D, 4 D).



FIG. 13. Balance of the CMC terms for HO_2 and OH species in the point (0.55 D, 2D).

production of OH in a wider range of ξ . As a result the level of OH remains low (see Fig. 11) and the mixture in the point (0.55 D, 2D) does not ignite.

4.3. Comparison with experiment

The analysis presented above shows the importance of the mutual relation between CMC terms. In the point (0.55 D, 2D) it could be seen that the diffusion in mixture fraction space is high enough to efficiently prevent the auto-ignition. This confirms the previous observations related to the constant C_N , its higher value caused that the flame could not arise close to the inlet and the auto-ignition point was shifted downstream to the region of better mixing and lower values of $\widetilde{N} \to \widetilde{N} | \eta^*$. Knowing that the increase of C_N pushes the flames away from the inlet the natural procedure was to raise C_N more than proposed in [18] and see how it influences the results. Hence, the next computations were performed with $C_N = 80$ and $C_N = 120$ for the co-flow temperature $T_c = 1030$ K and applying variant N-1. It turned out that only for $C_N = 120$ the results were satisfactory and the lift off height was close to the experimental data, although for $C_N = 80$ the flame shift was also well seen.

The instantaneous and time averaged results obtained with $C_N = 120$ are shown in Figs. 14 and 15, here one may see that the flame is lifted at about 10D what is consistent with the measurements. The radial profiles of the mean and



FIG. 14. Contours of the temperature and mass fraction of OH i HO₂ – the results for $T_c = 1030$ K. Variant N-1 with $C_N = 120$.



FIG. 15. Contours of the time averaged values the temperature and mass fraction of OH and HO_2 – the results for $T_c = 1030$ K. Variant N-1 with $C_N = 120$.

fluctuating temperature and species: O_2 , H_2O , are shown in Figs. 16–21 where they are compared with the experimental data [3]. The results are presented for various locations z/D from the inlet. The mean temperature profiles show that the auto-igniton occurs slightly closer to the inlet than in the experiment. The temperature spreading in the radial direction is also slightly larger, for example, at z/D = 14 the measured temperature at the axis is approximately 100 K smaller than in the simulations. Nevertheless, the overall agreement is certainly acceptable; the discrepancies are more or less of the same order as in other papers cited in the previous sections. Correctness of the solution is further confirmed by the mean profiles of the species. Some of them, for instance H_2O , match the experimental data almost perfectly. The figures presenting the measured fluctuations evidently show that the co-flowing stream is not fully uniform – this may be assumed from the profiles at z/D = 1. In the case of temperature the fluctuations are 3% of the mean temperature and this corresponds to the measurement error reported in [3]. In the case of H_2O the fluctuations are of the order of 10% of the mean value which is twice more than the reported measurement error. Taking this into account one may say that at z/D = 10, 14, 26 the fluctuations predicted numerically agree with measurements surprisingly well both in the case of temperature and in the case of the species mass fractions. Their values and radial distribution are correct.



FIG. 16. Profiles of the time averaged temperature along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.



FIG. 17. Profiles of the time averaged temperature fluctuations along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.



FIG. 18. Profiles of the time averaged mass fraction of O_2 along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.



FIG. 19. Profiles of the time averaged fluctuations of mass fraction of O_2 along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.



FIG. 20. Profiles of the time averaged mass fraction of H_2O along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.



FIG. 21. Profiles of the time averaged fluctuations of mass fraction of H_2O along the radial direction at various locations from the inlet.

5. Conclusions

The auto-ignition phenomenon in the hydrogen/nitrogen jet was successfully predicted applying the LES method combined with the CMC combustion model. Very high computational cost of the CMC model required application of two different meshes: dense mesh for the LES solver and coarse mesh for the CMC. The resulting LES-CMC model turned out to be very sensitive to the modelling of conditional scalar dissipation rate $N|\eta$. This term had to be first modelled on the LES mesh and then transferred to the CMC mesh. It was shown that the lift off height of the flame changes significantly depending on the distribution and absolute values of $N|\eta$ in mixture fraction space. Two variants of computing $\widetilde{N|\eta}$ on the CMC mesh were analyzed in the paper and in both of them the conditional scalar dissipation rate was calculated utilizing the AMC model as the basic method. However, depending whether the AMC model was applied on the LES mesh (as in variant N-1) or directly on the CMC mesh (as in variant N-2) the resulting profiles of $N|\eta$ in mixture fraction space were considerably different. Performed comparison revealed that the main difference between variant N-1 and N-2 is the location of the maximum of $N|\eta$. It turned out that in the case of variant N-1 the maxima of $N|\eta$ were located close to the most reactive mixture fraction and this was regarded as the main reason shifting the flame further from the nozzle which was consistent with the experiment. Further analysis of the mutual relation between the terms of CMC equations confirmed the importance of $N|\eta$. This part of work allowed to select the variant N-1 as a better one which was then used in further computations.

The obtained results showed that the lift off height of the flame was predicted correctly, and moreover, the time averaged results were in satisfactory agreement with the experimental data. However, the correctness of results was conditioned by the value of C_N constant used in the model for subgrid part of the scalar dissipation rate. In comparison to the literature data the value of C_N had to be considerably increased which implied larger values of $N|\eta$. It should be stressed that the necessity of raising C_N may be characteristic only for the the present LES solver. Here, the high-order discretization was used, in contrast to the second order schemes applied in the cited papers. One may suppose that applied highorder scheme minimised the discretisation errors and highlighted the importance of modelling of the subgrid terms. Taking into account that the discretisation errors and the modelling errors interact, it is reasonable to assume that the type of discretisation may enforce modification of the model constants. Hence, in case of another LES solver the above mentioned increase of the model constant may not be necessary, or it may be less pronounced than the one studied in this paper.

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