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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Combustion and Flame



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/combustflame

Large eddy simulation of a supersonic lifted hydrogen flame with sparse-Lagrangian multiple mapping conditioning approach

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 7 June 2021 Revised 13 September 2021 Accepted 14 September 2021 Available online xxx

Keywords: Multiple mapping conditioning Large eddy simulation Supersonic combustion Lifted flame Lagrangian particle Chemical explosive mode analysis

ABSTRACT

The Multiple Mapping Conditioning / Large Eddy Simulation (MMC-LES) approach is used to simulate a supersonic lifted hydrogen jet flame, which features shock-induced autoignition, shock-flame interaction, lifted flame stabilization, and finite-rate chemistry effects. The shocks and expansion waves, shock-reaction interactions and overall flame characteristics are accurately reproduced by the model. Predictions are compared with the detailed experimental data for the mean axial velocity, mean and root-mean-square temperature, species mole fractions, and mixture fraction at various locations. The predicted and experimentally observed flame structures are compared through scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against mixture fraction. Unlike most past MMC-LES which has been applied to low-Mach flames, in this supersonic flame case pressure work and viscous heating are included in the stochastic FDF equations. Analysis indicates that the pressure work plays an important role in autoignition induction and flame stabilization, whereas viscous heating is only significant in shear layers (but still negligibly small compared to the pressure work). The evolutions of particle information subject to local gas dynamics are extracted through trajectory analysis on representative fuel and oxidizer particles. The particles intermittently enter the extinction region and may be deviated from the full burning or mixing lines under the effects of shocks, expansion waves and viscous heating. The chemical explosive mode analysis performed on the Lagrangian particles shows that temperature, the H and OH radicals contribute dominantly to CEM respectively in the central fuel jet, fuel-rich and fuel-lean sides. The pronounced particle Damköhler numbers first occur in the fuel jet / coflow shear layer, enhanced at the first shock intersection point and peak around the flame stabilization point.

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1. Introduction

The fundamental physics of supersonic combustion have attracted much attention from researchers in recent years, driven by the rapid, ongoing development of hypersonic propulsion technology [1–4]. Supersonic flames feature very complex interactions between turbulence, flow discontinuity (e.g., shocks), and chemistry. However, understanding of these phenomena remains incomplete. While useful and continuously improving, experiments under conditions relevant to supersonic engines are expensive and extracting detailed measurements is difficult [3]. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations can and should play a vital complementary role in exploring the physics [1,2]. In particular, Large Eddy Simulation (LES) has the potential to provide detailed spatiotemporal information on supersonic combustion processes at increasingly affordable cost, and consequently it has been used for modeling both fundamental and applied configurations, e.g. coflow [5–7] and crossflow [8–10] jet flames, and model combustors [11–13]. Advanced Sub-Grid Scale (SGS) combustion models are required to accurately capture the unresolved turbulent fluctuations of reaction rates and their interactions with turbulence and characteristic structures in high-speed flows, including shocks and expansion waves [1]. Among the available SGS models, the Probability Density Function (PDF) [14] approaches are the most universal in their range of applicability, because the non-linear chemical source terms are closed naturally independent of the specific turbulence model or flame regime [14]. In LES, solutions are obtained for the so called Filtered Density Function (FDF) [15]. Application of FDF method to supersonic flows has been relatively rare, but includes the stochastic fields FDF approach of De Almeida et al. [7] and the non-reacting fundamental work of Zhang et al. [16].

The two major challenges in FDF methods lie in finding good models for the SGS micro-mixing term and in reducing their relatively high computational cost [17–20]. The Multiple Mapping

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combustflame.2021.111756

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Please cite this article as: Z. Huang, M.J. Cleary, Z. Ren et al., Large eddy simulation of a supersonic lifted hydrogen flame with sparse-Lagrangian multiple mapping conditioning approach, Combustion and Flame, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combustflame.2021.111756

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Conditioning approach (MMC) [21,22] aims to tackle both of these challenges. In its stochastic form, MMC is a full transported PDF / FDF method [18] which introduces concepts from the Conditional Moment Closure (CMC) model [23] to condition the mixing model to ensure that it is local in composition space (a vital property of mixing [24]). This is done indirectly though localizing in a mathematically independent reference space so that two other vital mixing properties (i.e. independence and linearity for all scalars [24]) are preserved. In LES of non-premixed flames, the filtered mixture fraction solved in Eulerian fashion on the LES mesh is an appropriate reference variable since it effectively parameterizes the composition while also being mathematically independent of the composition field on the particles [22]. The enforced localness in Reference Mixture Fraction (RMF) space permits a relaxation of strict mixing localness in physical space and a reduction in the number of Lagrangian particles compared to approaches with conventional (non-local) mixing models.

Sparse-Lagrangian MMC-LES involves significantly fewer particles for the stochastic composition field than Eulerian cells for the LES solution [19]. Therefore, the computational cost is significantly lower than conventional FDF methods with an intensive distribution of particles. Sparse MMC-LES has been extensively validated with a range of subsonic experimental combustion configurations of practical relevance, e.g. piloted methane / air jet diffusion flames [25], methane / air swirl flames [26], Sandia DME flame series [27] and turbulent spray flames [28]. In our recent work, sparse MMC-LES was extended to highly-compressible conditions for the first time [29] and demonstrated good accuracy against experimental data [30] for velocity, pressure and temperature in a model supersonic combustor. The roles of pressure work and viscous heating in flame stabilization were preliminarily analyzed and it was found that the pressure work plays a significant role in the unsteady behavior of the flame base whereas the viscous heating was negligibly small. However, due to the limited availability of data from the experimental combustor, validation of MMC-LES predictions of reactive scalars was not possible.

The objective of the present work is to model an autoignition stabilized supersonic hydrogen jet flame for which detailed experimental data of reactive scalars is available [31]. This very well-characterized target flame features a broad range of physical phenomena, including shock-induced autoignition, shock-flame interaction, lifted flame stabilization, and finite-rate chemistry effects. Therefore, it will be helpful for more comprehensive examination of the compressible MMC-LES model. Moreover, a number of other novel contributions will be made here. Firstly, the importance of pressure work and viscous heating on autoignition and flame stabilization in MMC are re-assessed in detail and the aforementioned negligibility of the latter is questioned. Secondly, the Lagrangian evolutions of temperature and mixture fraction are extracted to study the interactions between unsteady flame behaviors and supersonic gas dynamics. Thirdly, Chemical Explosive Mode Analysis (CEMA) [32] is used to extract the accurate chemical information, including chemical reaction timescale and Damköhler number, from different flame sections.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The formulation and implementation of the compressible MMC-LES are detailed in Section 2. The experimental and numerical configurations are presented in Sections 3 and 4, respectively. The results and discussion are given in Section 5, followed by the conclusions in Section 6.

2. Governing equation and numerical implementation

2.1. Compressible Eulerian LES equation

The filtered equations for mass, momentum and reference mixture fraction are solved using Eulerian LES. The filtered continuity equation is

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\bar{\rho} \tilde{u}_j \right) = 0, \tag{1}$$

where *t* is time, x_j is the spatial coordinate, $\bar{\rho}$ is filtered density and \tilde{u}_j is Favre filtered *j*-th velocity component. The filtered momentum equation is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_i\tilde{u}_j) + \delta_{ij}\frac{\partial\bar{p}}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\tilde{\tau}_{ij} - \tau_{ij}^{sgs}) = 0,$$
(2)

where \bar{p} is filtered pressure, δ_{ij} is a Kronecker delta function and $\tilde{\tau}_{ij}$ is the molecular viscous stress tensor, i.e.,

$$\tilde{\tau}_{ij} = \mu \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_k}{\partial x_k} \right)$$
(3)

Here μ is the dynamic viscosity, which is modelled by Sutherland's law. The SGS viscous stress tensor τ_{ij}^{sgs} in Eq. (2) is given by

$$\tau_{ij}^{\text{sgs}} = -\mu_t \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_k}{\partial x_k} \right) + \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \bar{\rho} k_t, \tag{4}$$

where k_t and μ_t are respectively the SGS kinetic energy and dynamic viscosity. In the present study, they are closed using the standard Smagorinsky model [33].

The filtered RMF (\tilde{f}) is used for localizing stochastic particle mixing. RMF is a conserved normalized scalar with $\tilde{f} = 1$ in the fuel stream and $\tilde{f} = 0$ in the oxidizer stream. Its equation reads

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\bar{\rho} \, \tilde{f} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\bar{\rho} \, \tilde{f} \tilde{u}_j \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\bar{\rho} \, \mathcal{D}_{eff} \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial x_j} \right) = \mathbf{0},\tag{5}$$

where $\mathcal{D}_{eff} = \mathcal{D}_m + \mathcal{D}_t$ is the sum of molecular and SGS diffusivities. The molecular diffusivity is modelled as $\mathcal{D}_m = \mu/\bar{\rho}Sc$ with Schmidt number Sc = 0.7 and the SGS diffusivity is $\mathcal{D}_t = \mu_t/\bar{\rho}Sc_t$ with turbulent Schmidt number $Sc_t = 0.4$ [34].

Species and standardised enthalpy are FDF state space variables solved on Lagrangian particles as discussed in Section 2.2. Mass and energy consistency between the particle fields and the Eulerian LES is achieved through solution of additional Eulerian filtered equations for the *equivalent species* and *equivalent total enthalpy* [29,35], governed by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\bar{\rho} \tilde{Y}_{m}^{E} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\bar{\rho} \tilde{Y}_{m}^{E} \tilde{u}_{j} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\bar{\rho} \mathcal{D}_{eff} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \tilde{Y}_{m}^{E} \right) \\
= \frac{\bar{\rho} \left(\widetilde{Y_{m}} | f^{E} - \tilde{Y}_{m}^{E} \right)}{\tau_{rel}},$$
(6)

and

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\bar{\rho} \tilde{H}_{t}^{E} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\bar{\rho} \tilde{H}_{t}^{E} \tilde{u}_{j} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{p} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\bar{\rho} \mathcal{D}_{eff} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \tilde{h}_{s}^{E} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\tilde{\tau}_{ij} \tilde{u}_{i} \right) = \frac{\bar{\rho} \left(h_{s} \tilde{f}^{E} - \tilde{h}_{s}^{E} \right)}{\tau_{rel}},$$

$$(7)$$

respectively. Generally, it is computationally efficient to solve for a limited set of equivalent species (in the present study, they are H₂, O₂, H₂O, N₂, and OH), which accounts for a significant fraction of the mixture (say above 99% by mass) and therefore dominates the thermodynamic state of the mixture including the density. The filtered total enthalpy is defined as $\tilde{H}_{t}^{E} = \tilde{h}_{s}^{E} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{3} \tilde{u}_{j}^{2}$ where \tilde{h}_{s}^{E} is the filtered equivalent sensible enthalpy. The third term on the LHS of Eq. (7) is the pressure work and the last term on the LHS is the viscous heating. The source terms on RHS of Eqs. (6) and (7) relax the Eulerian equivalent fields over the timescale τ_{rel} towards the conditional means in RMF space, $\tilde{Y}_{m}|\tilde{f}^{E}$ and $\tilde{h}_{s}|\tilde{f}^{E}$. The relaxation

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timescale, τ_{rel} , is assumed to approximately 10 times the numerical time step, which can produce smooth equivalent species fields [35]. Note that the source terms here are different from those in so called quasi-laminar LES closures of the filtered source term, which neglect SGS fluctuations of the species fields. Since the conditional means, $\widetilde{Y_m|f}^E$ and $\widetilde{h_s|f}^E$, are estimated from the stochastic particle fields (see Section 2.3) the equivalent species and enthalpy source terms therefore explicitly include SGS fluctuations which, in non-premixed combustion, are largely driven by the fluctuations in the mixture fraction.

Finally, the Eulerian pressure is obtained through the ideal gas equation of state,

$$\bar{p} = \bar{\rho} R_u \tilde{T}^E \sum_{m=1}^{N_E} \frac{\tilde{Y}_m^E}{M_m},\tag{8}$$

where $R_u = 8.314 \text{ J/(mol·K)}$ is the universal gas constant, M_m and \tilde{Y}_E^m are, respectively, the molecular weight and filtered mass fraction of *m*-th equivalent species, N_E is the total number of equivalent species that are solved, and \tilde{T}^E is the equivalent temperature updated from the equivalent enthalpy.

2.2. Compressible stochastic differential equations on Lagrangian particles

The equivalent set of Stochastic Differential Equations (SDEs) for the evolution of the joint FDF of species mass fractions and standardised enthalpy are solved on an ensemble of Lagrangian notional particles [21,29]. They read

$$dx_{i}^{q} = \left[\tilde{u}_{i} + \frac{1}{\bar{\rho}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{i}} \left(\bar{\rho} \mathcal{D}_{eff}\right)\right]^{q} dt + \delta_{ij} \left(\sqrt{2\mathcal{D}_{eff}}\right)^{q} d\omega_{i}, \tag{9}$$

$$dY_m^q = \left(W_m^q + S_m^q\right)dt,\tag{10}$$

$$dh^{q} = \left[W_{h}^{q} + S_{h}^{q} + \left(\frac{1}{\bar{\rho}}\frac{D\bar{p}}{Dt}\right)^{q} + \left(\frac{1}{\bar{\rho}}\tilde{\tau}_{ij}\frac{\partial\tilde{u}_{i}}{\partial\boldsymbol{x}_{j}}\right)^{q}\right]dt,\tag{11}$$

$$\langle S^{p,q} | \tilde{f}, \boldsymbol{x} \rangle = 0.$$
⁽¹²⁾

Here q is a particle index associated with a stochastic realization of the turbulent field. Eq. (9) is for transport of particles in physical space where x_i is the *i* th component of the position vector and $d\omega_i$ is the increment of an independent Wiener process. Eqs. (10) and (11) govern the evolution of particle mass fractions, Y_m^q , and standardised enthalpy, $h^q = (h_f^\theta + \int_{T_0}^T C_p dT)^q$, respectively, with h_f^θ being the enthalpy of formation. W_m^q is the closed nonlinear chemical source term and W_h^q is radiative heat loss term (set to zero here). S_m^q and S_h^q are the mixing terms for the dissipation of conditional subfilter fluctuations of mass fraction and standardised enthalpy, respectively, and Eq. (12) represents the MMC model constraint that conserves conditional means during mixing through enforced localness in the combined (\mathbf{x}, f) -space. The particular form of the mixing operation used here adopts a variant of the Curls mixing model [36]. Particles are mixed in pairs (particles p and q), where the mean distances between the mixing pairs in \mathbf{x} -space and \tilde{f} -space are respectively less than two global parameters, r_m (the characteristic distance in x-space) and f_m (the characteristic distance in \tilde{f} -space). Here $f_m = 0.01$ [37] and r_m is obtained by the fractal model [22]. The pairwise mixing is linear and has a mixing timescale, τ_L , which is modelled by the a-ISO model [38]. Different from the previous MMC model for low-Mach flows [21,35], the pressure work, $W_p^q = (\frac{1}{\bar{\rho}} \frac{D\bar{p}}{Dt})^q$, and viscous heating, $W_{VH}^q = (\frac{1}{\rho} \tilde{\tau}_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_i})^q$, are incorporated in Eq. (11) and their roles in predicting supersonic flames are preliminarily discussed in our recent work [29].

Note that the direct effect of SGS pressure fluctuations on the composition is neglected with the choice of FDF state space. Recently, De Almeida et al. [7] validated the Eulerian stochastic field implementation of the FDF model against the Cheng experiment [31]. Two versions of the model with different FDF state spaces were tested. In the first version, the FDF state space includes species mass fractions and enthalpy, which is conventional for FDF methods. The FDF chemical source terms are calculated using the filtered pressure, whereas the direct effect of SGS pressure fluctuations on the reaction rates is neglected. This model gives good agreement with the experimental data. In the second version of significantly more complexity, the FDF state space also includes velocity, and consequently, the direct effect of SGS pressure fluctuations on the composition is included. Although this model also produces reasonable comparisons with experimental data, the SGS mixing rate driven explicitly by the stochastic velocity fluctuation is under-predicted. Despite their conceptual advantages, velocityscalar FDF methods are relatively under-developed in comparison with the more conventional scalar FDF methods, even in low-Mach flows [39]. This is a general issue [1], not only from MMC-LES, and is beyond the scope of the present study.

2.3. Numerical implementation

The numerical implementation of the hybrid Eulerian/Lagrangian compressible MMC-LES model into the *mmcFoam* suite of solvers [35] was recently presented in [29]. The Eulerian scheme is based on the *RYrhoCentralFoam* solver [40–42] which has been validated previously for a range of benchmark problems, including Sod's shock tube, a forward-facing step, a supersonic jet and shock-vortex interaction [40,41]. The stochastic Lagrangian particle implementation is presented and extensively validated in [35] and has been augmented to include compressible pressure work and viscous heating terms in [29]. Essential details of the schemes are given below.

The finite volume forms of the Eulerian LES equations for momentum, RMF, equivalent species mass fraction, and equivalent total enthalpy (i.e., Eqs. (2), 5, 6, 7, respectively) are integrated with an operator-splitting method [29,40]. A second-order implicit Crank-Nicolson scheme is used for discretizing the unsteady terms and the MUSCL-type KNP scheme [43] with Minmod flux limiter [44] is used to discretize the convective terms. The diffusive fluxes are predicted with a second-order central differencing scheme.

The stochastic Lagrangian transport equations Eqs. (9)-(12) are integrated as three fractional steps. Spatial transport in Eq. (9) uses the first-order Euler-Maruyama scheme [45]. Chemical source terms in Eqs. (10)-(11) are integrated using a stiff ODE solver *seulex* [46]. The particle pairs for mixing in Eq. (12) are selected dynamically using a k-dimensional tree algorithm [47].

The Eulerian and Lagrangian parts of the *mmcFoam* solvers are two-way coupled. In the *forward coupling* step, in order to integrate Eqs. (9) and (11) with the constraint (12), the filtered velocity, pressure material derivative, viscous heating, RMF, effective (molecular plus SGS) diffusivity and its gradient are all tri-linearly interpolated from the underlying Eulerian LES fields to the particle locations. In the *backward coupling* step, mass and energy consistency between the two schemes is achieved by passing estimates of $\widetilde{Y_m} | f^E$ and $h_{\widetilde{s}} | f^E$ from the stochastic particle fields to the Eulerian scheme to solve Eqs. (6) and (7). The two conditional means are instantaneous quantities calculated by the *KernelEstimation* submodel in *mmcFoam* [35], similar to the smoothed particle hydrodynamics approach [48]. In this submodel, the estimation involves integration over stochastic particles around each Eu-

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Fig. 1. (a) Schematic of the experimental configuration [31], (b) detail around the burner exit, and (c) long exposure visual photograph [31].

lerian grid with weighting by radial basis functions in both RMF and physical space. Here we take $h_{s}|f^{E}$ for example, and the full details are provided in Ref. [35]. In sparse MMC, the integral interpolation of $h_{s}|f^{E}$ is approximated by a summation over the entire ensemble of particles [35],

$$\widetilde{h_s} f^E \simeq \sum_p m^p \frac{h_s^p}{\rho^p} \Omega(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}^p, \Delta),$$
(13)

where m^p , h_s^p , and ρ^p are respectively the particle mass, sensible enthalpy and density, Δ is the characteristic distance in (\mathbf{x}, \tilde{f}) -space (i.e., r_m and f_m introduced in Section 2.2), whereas $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{x}, \tilde{f})$ and $\mathbf{r}^p = (\mathbf{x}^p, z^p)$. The kernel function (unit in m⁻³) is [35]

$$\Omega(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}^p, \Delta) = \prod_i \Omega_i \left(r_i - r_i^p, \Delta_i \right), \tag{14}$$

where the index *i* runs over each dimension of *r*. The above procedure also applies for the conditional mean of *equivalent species* $\widetilde{Y_m}|f^E$.

Besides, the present two-way coupling adopts the approach that has been extensively validated for low-speed combustion [21,35], which assumes that species and enthalpy are well modelled by their conditional values in mixture fraction space (i.e., the source terms in Eqs. (6) and 7). Across a shock, the enthalpy will change even if the mixture fraction is constant and therefore the twoway coupling introduces some numerical diffusion of the equivalent enthalpy and density fields. However, this issue is ameliorated in two ways. Firstly, the numerical diffusion improves the numerical stability of the method. Secondly, the numerical diffusion can be reduced with increased number of particles in the simulations. The previous work [21] has shown low sensitivity to significant increases in particle resolution and it is believed that the numerical diffusion is not a noticeable problem.

3. Experimental configuration

Figure 1(a) shows the schematic of the supersonic hydrogen jet flame experimentally investigated by Cheng et al. [31]. The burner consists of a central round fuel pipe with diameter $D_f = 2.36$ mm

issuing a sonic hydrogen jet surrounded by an annular hot vitiated coflow at Mach 2.0 generated by an upstream lean-burned hydrogen combustor. Figure 1(b) shows the details of the fuel jet and coflow nozzle near the burner exit. The resulting flame is stabilized at about $25D_f$ downstream of the nozzle exit (red line in Fig. 1c), inferred from the experimental visual photograph of flame luminosity in Fig. 1(c). The major dimensions of the burner and the flow conditions at the exits of both hydrogen and coflow streams are detailed in Table 1. Small concentrations of radical species, such as OH, are also present in the vitiated coflow [31], but are neglected in the modeling and only the major product species fractions are specified at the inflow boundaries.

4. Numerical configuration

4.1. Eulerian computational configuration

As shown in Fig. 1(a), the cylindrical computational domain is $70D_f$ in the streamwise direction (*x*) by $30D_f$ in radial direction (*r*). The coordinate origin lies at the center of the fuel jet exit (i.e., point 'O' in Fig. 1b). The mesh is discretized by 12,175,200 hexahedron cells with refinement around the fuel jet. fuel / coflow shear laver and across the coflow with a minimum cell size of 118 μ m in the x-direction by 50 μ m in r-direction, respectively. The twodimensional schematic of the computational domain on the central symmetry plane and local enlarged mesh distribution around the fuel and coflow nozzles are provided in Section A of supplementary document. As a comparison, the Kolmogorov length scale for this flow is estimated to be the 10–20 μ m range and the integral length scale is of order 3–7 mm [31]. Therefore, the finest cell in the present work is between approximately three and seven times the Kolmogorov length scale. A posterior analysis of the LES mesh resolution (see Section A of supplementary document) shows that the present LES resolution is sufficient for predicting the kinetic energy (more than 90% is resolved) and scalar variations in the jet flame. Moreover, the maximum CFL (Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy) number is 0.1, which approximately corresponds to the physical time step of 10^{-9} s.

The upstream boundary of the cylindrical computational domain (see Fig. 1a) extends $x/D_f = -1.5$ (i.e. 3.54 mm) into the fuel and coflow inlet pipes (Fig. 1b) where Dirichlet conditions are enforced. A synthetic turbulence generator [49,50] is applied at the fuel and coflow inlets, and the Reynolds stress is given following the method of Masri et al. [51] and Zhang et al. [52]. Details on the synthetic inflow turbulence specification are provided in Section B of supplementary document. Based on the work of Bouheraoua et al. [6] and Zhao et al. [53] on the same flame, the inflow turbulence is significant for the shear layer development after the nozzle exits and near-field shock structures. An adiabatic no-slip wall condition is adopted at the fuel and coflow injector lips. The spatially averaged y^+ values are 0.67 and 1.64 normal to the fuel and coflow pipe walls, respectively, and no wall function is used. Similar wall treatment has been adopted in Ref. [6], and satisfactory results are obtained with a comparable mesh resolution to ours (see Table 2). Non-reflective conditions [54] are applied at the circumferential boundary of the domain. Since the outflow is supersonic, zero gradient conditions are applied for all variables.

This flame has been simulated by many research groups with different combustion models, among which the LES simulations are summarized in Table 2. Note that the standard Smagorinsky model [33] is used in all these studies. The results from some of them will be discussed wherever necessary in Section 5.

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Table 1

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Major dimensions and boundary conditions for the Cheng supersonic flame [31]. D_i is inner diameter, D_o is outer diameter, p is pressure, T is temperature, Re is Reynolds number, Ma is flow Mach number, X_m is mole fraction of the m-th species.

	D _i [mm]	D_o [mm]	p [kPa]	T [K]	Re	Ма	X ₀₂	X _{H20}	X _{N2}	$X_{\rm H2}$
Hydrogen	0	2.36	112	545	15,600	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Coflow	3.81	17.78	107	1250	101,100	2.0	0.201	0.255	0.544	0.0

Table 2

Summary of LES studies on Cheng supersonic flame [31]. QLC: Quasi-Laminar Chemistry, U-PaSR: Unsteady Partially-Stirred Reactor, ESF: Eulerian Stochastic Field, PSR: Perfectly Stirred Reactor.

LES work	Combustion and chemistry models	Inflow turbulence treatment	Computational domain and characteristic cell size
Boivin et al. [55]	QLC, 6 s/3r [56]	lsotropic turbulence with 20% intensity for coflow	Hemisphere, 10,000 D_f in radius, 6.6 million cells, minimum volume of 8 \times 10 ⁻¹³ m ³
Moule et al. [5]	U-PaSR, 9 s/19r [57]	No inflow turbulence but includes nozzle geometry	Cylinder, $60D_f$ in length and $20D_f$ in radius, 31 million cells, cell size of 100–400 μ m
Bouheraoua et al. [6]	QLC, 6 s/3r [56]	Pre-computed isotropic turbulence [58] with 18% / 22% intensity for fuel / coflow	Cylinder, $70D_f$ in length and $30D_f$ in radius, 4 / 32 / 268 million cells, minimum cell size of 60 μ m
De Almeida et al. [7]	Scalar-enthalpy [59] and velocity-scalar-energy [60] ESF, 9 s/19r [61]	Synthetic turbulence of 5% intensity for coflow, through digital filter	Cylinder, $70D_f$ in length and $30D_f$ in radius, 0.2 / 2 million cells
Zhang et al. [41]	QLC, 9 s/19r [62]	White noise inflow turbulence with 5% intensity for fuel and coflow	Cylinder, $100D_f$ in length and $30D_f$ in radius, 26 million cells, minimum cell size of 160 μ m
Zhao et al. [53]	PSR, 9 s/19r [62]	White noise inflow turbulence with 5% intensity for fuel and coflow	Cylinder, $100D_f$ in length and $30D_f$ in radius, 26 million cells, minimum cell size of 160 μ m
Current work	MMC, 9 s/19r [62]	Synthetic turbulence [49,50] with 18% / 22% intensity for fuel / coflow	Cylinder, $70D_f$ in length and $30D_f$ in radius, 12.2 million cells, minimum cell size of 50 / 118 μ m in x- / r-direction

4.2. Lagrangian computational configuration

In addition to the finite volume mesh for solving the LES equations, a *superMesh* is constructed to control the particle resolution. The Lagrangian and Eulerian fields have equivalent initial and boundary conditions for mass consistency [35]. Lagrangian particles enter and leave the computational domain at the boundary patches of *superMesh*. Inflow of particles is controlled by the *FreeStream* boundary type in *mmcFoam* [35], which is implemented such that particles enter the domain after being accumulated on the boundary with a mass flow that is equivalent to the inflow mass flux on the LES mesh. At solid walls, particles are rebounded with a consistent wall-normal displacement.

At initialization, particles are randomly distributed and their mass is stochastically equivalent to that of the Eulerian field. As the simulation proceeds, the particles are redistributed according to the density and this may not coincide with the required particle resolution. Therefore, a mass-conservative particle number control algorithm is employed [35]. Particles are cloned or killed if the number falls below or above the lower and upper limits (which are respectively set to be 12 and 20 in the present study), respectively. The full details are provided in Ref. [35].

Nominally 760,000 Lagrangian particles are used in the domain, corresponding to a sparse distribution of about one Lagrangian particle for every 16 Eulerian LES cells (1 L/16E). The resultant characteristic spacing between particles in the central jet and shear layer is approximately $\Delta_{\rm L}=0.12$ mm. The low sensitivity of MMC-LES to increased resolution has been extensively demonstrated for subsonic jet flames [26,35], and more recently for supersonic combustion as well [29]. The particle resolution used in the present work is comparable to the finest case in our recent study with $\Delta_{\rm L}=0.115$ mm [29].

A detailed hydrogen mechanism, containing 9 species (H_2 , O_2 , N_2 , H_2O , HO_2 , H_2O_2 , H, O and OH) and 19 elementary reactions [62], is used. Validations have shown that it can well reproduce the measured ignition delay and laminar flame speed over a range of pressure conditions [63].

In the Eulerian equivalent composition Eqs. (6)–(7) and stochastic particle Eqs. (10)–(11), unity Lewis number is used for all the species, whereas the molecular and turbulent Prandtl numbers are 0.71 and 0.9, respectively [5–7,54,55].

5. Results and discussion

Simulations are performed on 360 processors with 2.60 GHz cores on the ASPIRE 1 Cluster at the National Supercomputing Center in Singapore. The computational time is about 41,882 CPU-hours per flow-through time (given by the ratio of the domain length, $70D_f$, and coflow bulk velocity, 1420 m/s), of which about 90.4% is associated with the Eulerian scheme (including the solution of the *equivalent species* and *equivalent enthalpy* equations for the density coupling between Eulerian and Lagrangian fields) and about 9.6% is associated with the Lagrangian scheme (on which the chemistry is integrated). Using far fewer Lagrangian particles than Eulerian LES cells illustrates the relatively low computational load for integration of the simple hydrogen kinetics in the present work. The cost reduction would become more pronounced when more complicated fuels are considered.

Following a statistically transient flow period of 0.3 ms to eliminate the effects of the initial conditions, the stationary statistics presented in this section were integrated over 0.7 ms corresponding to about six characteristic flow-through times. In the following, instantaneous filtered quantities are represented by tilde (e.g., \tilde{f}) and the time-averaged quantities are represented by angle brackets (e.g., $\langle f \rangle$).

5.1. Flow and flame structures

Figure 2 shows various aspects of the predicted flow and flame structures. Contours of instantaneous and mean pressure gradient magnitudes are shown in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. Iso-lines of instantaneous stoichiometric reference mixture fraction, $\tilde{f}_{st} = 0.0297$, are also shown in Fig. 2(a). The shock structures immediately downstream of the nozzle exit show a

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Fig. 2. Flow and flame structures: (a) instantaneous pressure gradient magnitude, (b) mean pressure gradient magnitude, (c) instantaneous density gradient magnitude, and (d) instantaneous (left) and mean (right) equivalent OH mole fraction. Iso-lines in (a) represent instantaneous stoichiometric mixture fraction. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

good resemblance to those captured respectively by Moule et al. [5] whose simulations extended upstream and included detailed nozzle geometry, Bouheraoua et al. [6] who used synthetic inflow turbulent velocity boundary conditions at the nozzle exit plane, and Zhao et al. [53] who made detailed comparison with and without synthetic inflow velocity fluctuations. In comparison with the results in Refs. [41,53] produced without a turbulent inflow, the Mach trains shown in Fig. 2(a) are less intense (lower contrast) and become more diffuse (blurred) in the far field. This is because the shock-turbulence interactions and more rapid turbulent jet breakup (see Fig. 2c) resulting from the realistic inflow turbulent spectrum modulate the development of very strong shock wave structures. The diamond-like shock structures are clearly identified in Fig. 2(b) through the mean pressure gradient. Expansion waves (E1) form at the fuel jet exit with radially adjacent shocks (S1). These are reflected from the shear layer between the vitiated coflow and the surrounding ambient air, which is visualized through the density gradient magnitude in Fig. 2(c). The expansion waves / shocks interaction forms a Mach disk after the burner exit and leads to the distinctive diamond-shaped alternating expansion / shock wave system (E1-E3 and S1-S3). The shock strength decays with downstream distance due to the shock-flame and/or shock-turbulence interactions. This is most obvious downstream of $x/D_f = 25$ (line l_{fb}), where the flame base is stabilized near the intersection of two shocks indicated by point 'b'. It is known that shocks are strong compression waves, whereas combustion generally leads to gas thermal expansion. Therefore, the shock structure is distorted and shock pressure is decreased when it across flames due to substantial heat release and thermal expansion, which has been widely observed [64-68]. Moreover, even for this same flame configuration the downstream shock decaying is observed in other LES studies detailed in Table 2 [5,6,41,53]. The downstream turbulence (random vortices and eddies) dissipates the originally regular shock structures [69-71].



Fig. 3. Lagrangian particles colored by: (a) X_{HO2} , (b) X_{OH} , (c) z and (d) T (in K). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Figure 2(d) shows the instantaneous equivalent OH mole fraction field \tilde{X}^{E}_{OH} , and its mean $\langle X^{E}_{OH} \rangle$, on the left and right sides of the image, respectively. Note that the equivalent species fields are useful for the purpose of visualization whereas the stochastic particle fields are the real quantities used below for direct quantitative comparison against the experiment. The mean lift-off distance corresponding to $\langle X_{OH}^E \rangle = 0.008$ is at about $x/D_f = 25$ (line l_{fb}), which agrees well with the experimental value (c.f. Fig. 1c). Upstream of line l_{fb} , there is no observable OH radical, but extensive HO₂ is generated (see Fig. 3), which is a precursor species of autoignition. Hence, this region is regarded as the reaction induction zone (Region I in Fig. 2d). For 25 $< x/D_f <$ 32, $\langle X_{OH}^E \rangle$ is still rather small and this region is called the autoignition initiation zone (Region II). For 32 $< x/D_f <$ 37, $\langle X_{OH}^E \rangle$ grows rapidly in the transitional zone (Region III), and downstream of $x/D_f = 37$ in the turbulent combustion zone (Region IV) $\langle X_{OH}^E \rangle$ is much larger still. The staged flame development shows close qualitative similarity to that experimentally observed (again, c.f. Fig. 1c). This will be further analyzed in Section 5.4.

Figure 3 shows instantaneous HO₂ and OH mole fractions as well as mixture fraction and temperature on the Lagrangian particles. Note that zones I-IV are the same as those in Fig. 2. As indicated by circle 'A' in Fig. 3(a), isolated HO₂ pockets are first observed in the shear layers between the fuel jet and coflow in the reaction induction zone (Region I) and begins to accumulate into a continuous field downstream of point 'a' where the shocks first intersect along the jet centerline. OH radical in Fig. 3(b) appears in very isolated pockets indicated by circles 'B' and 'C' near the flame base (line l_{fb}) well downstream of where HO₂ first appears, and peaks in turbulent combustion zone (Region IV). Its spatial distribution reflects the fact that OH is produced in the thin stoichiometric reaction layers and consumed by slow recombination reactions, which is significant in the main reaction zones (i.e., the transitional and turbulent combustion zones, Regions III and IV). This is also demonstrated in the mean Eulerian fields in Fig. 2(d). For the instantaneous mixture fraction in Fig. 3(c), as is to be expected, the breakup of the turbulent fuel jet occurs further upstream than it does in the simulations reported in [41] without inflow turbu-

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Fig. 4. Radial profiles of mean axial velocity. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

lence, and the mixing between the jet and coflow is also much enhanced. The staged distributions of *T* in Fig. 3(d) are qualitatively similar to that of X_{OH} .

5.2. Statistics of velocity and scalars in physical space

Figure 4 shows the radial profiles of mean axial velocity, $\langle u_x \rangle$, at four streamwise locations. The overall agreement of the predictions with the experimental data is good, although there are some discrepancies. There is slight over-prediction at $x/D_f = 10.8$ near the center of the jet where the experimental data exhibits local minima. This may be caused by differences between the model and experimental turbulent velocity boundary conditions at the jet inlet. Although synthetic inflow velocity fluctuations [49,50] are used in the present simulations, the degree to which they mimic the experimental inflow velocity profiles cannot be quantified due to lack of data. It is noted that similar over-prediction at this location has also been observed in other studies either with [6,53] or without [41] inflow turbulence. Another discrepancy in Fig. 4 is that the model produces slightly less radial spreading of the coflow into the ambient air. This could be the result of an insufficient mesh resolution in the outer shear layer, especially at downstream locations. However, these relatively small differences in the velocity profiles are expected to have limited influence on the predictions of autoignition and lifted flame stabilization along the centerline of the jet.

Figure 5 shows the radial profiles of mean temperature, $\langle T \rangle$, at various streamwise locations. Note that the experimental profiles (also for the species mole fractions in Figs. 8 and 9) are asymmetric due to the imperfect orientation of the burner [31]. Considering this uncertainty, $\langle T \rangle$ is relatively well reproduced with MMC-LES. At $x/D_f = 21.5$, $\langle T \rangle$ is under-predicted (about 40%). Statistically, no flame (but random and isolated HO₂ pockets) occurs before $x/D_f = 25$ in the simulation as seen in Figs. 2-3. Therefore, $\langle T \rangle$ in the central jet is under-predicted. The experimental data shows a temperature of above 1500 K in the central jet, which indicates early ignition before $x/D_f = 25$. Since our mean lift-off height (based on OH criterion) is fairly close to that of the measured one (i.e., $25D_f$), this under-prediction is probably because some highly transient and localized autoignition events at this particular location that are not well captured. It may be associated with two factors: (1) the unaligned fuel / coflow axes (hence unexpected turbulence and then early ignition) and (2) radicals in the coflow (from the pre-burned hydrogen-lean combustor for preheating of the coflow) [31]. For the latter, there is about 0.1% mole fraction of OH at $x/D_f = 0.85$ in the experiment, which may reduce the ignition delay time of the mixture downstream [31]. However, [m5G;September 29, 2021;11:21] Combustion and Flame xxx (xxxx) xxx



Fig. 5. Radial profiles of mean temperature. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

these two experimental uncertainties are not quantified in the experiments and hence difficult to be reproduced in our simulations. The sensitivity of the ignition delay time to OH concentration is analyzed using zero-dimensional perfectly stirred reactor model (see Section C of supplementary document). It is found that when small amount of OH (e.g., 5×10^{-4} by volume, close to the experimental values in [31]) is added, the ignition delay is characterized by an abrupt decrease at a specific range of mixture temperature. As pressure is elevated (e.g., by shock compression in our flame), the sudden change of ignition delay occurs at a higher temperature range. This result, to some degree, confirms the strong dependence of the flame ignition behaviors to high-enthalpy coflow conditions, e.g., with or without radicals. Further downstream like $x/D_f = 64.7$, $\langle T \rangle$ agrees well with the experimental data except that the boundary of high temperature zone is slightly narrower. Insufficient radial spreading has been observed with various combustion models [5-7,41,54,55], which may be caused by the insufficient mesh resolution near the coflow shear layers. Besides, the following two factors also play a role. The first is the unaligned fuel jet / coflow axes in the experiment [31], which makes the experimental flow field asymmetry (see the experimental data in Figs. 4-9) and more dispersive in the radial direction because the fuel jet and coflow are to some extent, angled. The second is the under-prediction of temperature in the central jet, which indicates less intensive heat release, and hence thermal expansion of the central burning gas. The same trends, also systematically observed in other studies for this same flame configuration [5-7,41,54,55], to some degree indicate that common difficulties exist in numerical simulations to reproduce a sufficient spreading of the coflow.

Figure 6 shows the radial profiles of temperature RMS, $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$, at the same locations. Overall, $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$ in the jet and shear layers are reasonably reproduced at $x/D_f = 0.85$, 10.8, 43.1 and 64.7, although it is under-predicted inside the coflow at $x/D_f = 0.85$ and 10.8 in MMC-LES. These discrepancies may be caused by the temperature fluctuation by local turbulence or chemical reactions in the radical-containing coflow in the experiment [31], as discussed in Fig. 5. Again, one can see that it is of great significance to quantify the conditions (e.g., temperature or chemical composition fluctuations) of high enthalpy flows in supersonic combustion experiments, although it is difficult in the experiments [3,31]. At $x/D_f = 21.5$ (in the reaction induction zone I in Fig. 2), no obvious combustion oc-

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Experiment MMC-LES 600 (b) $x/D_f = 10.8$ (a) $x/D_c = 0.85$ (T^{rms}) [K] 400 200 0 600 (c) $x/D_c = 21.5$ (d) $x/D_f = 32.3$ (Trms) [K] 400 ß ത 200 249 C 600 (e) $x/D_f = 43.1$ (f) $x/D_f = 64.7$ $\langle T^{rms} \rangle [K]$ 6000 400 2000 -10 -5 0 5 10 -5 0 5 10 r/D_t r/D_f

Fig. 6. Radial profiles of temperature RMS. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

curs in our simulation. Hence, in the shear layer between the central jet and coflow, $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$ is relatively weak. At $x/D_f = 32.3$ (in zone III), significant combustion occurs and the local $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$ increases and is quantitatively close to the measured data. Improvements are also seen for the further downstream locations in Figs. 6(e) and 6(f). However, consistent with the mean values discussed above, $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$ near the coflow shear layers (e.g., $|r|/D_f > 4$) is generally under-predicted. Moreover, the results in Figs. 4-6 (i.e., the radial profiles of mean axial velocity, mean temperature and temperature RMS at various streamwise locations) are quantitatively compared with the work of Moule et al. [5] (includes detailed nozzle geometry) and Bouheraoua et al. [6] (uses refined mesh and synthetic inflow turbulence), which are provided in Section D of supplementary document. It is found that in the central jet and fuel / coflow shear layers, our results in $\langle u_x \rangle$ generally show better accuracy than those of Moule et al. [5]. However, far from the central region, their results show better radial spreading of the coflow. For $\langle T \rangle$ and $\langle T^{rms} \rangle$, the MMC-LES results show comparable accuracies with the reference studies [5,6], and no predominance is observed one over the others.

Figs. 7-9 show the radial profiles of mean species mole fractions, $\langle X_{H_2} \rangle$, $\langle X_{O_2} \rangle$, $\langle X_{H_2O} \rangle$, $\langle X_{N_2} \rangle$ and $\langle X_{OH} \rangle$, and mixture fraction, $\langle z \rangle$, at $x/D_f = 10.8$, 21.5 and 32.3, respectively. At $x/D_f = 10.8$ in Fig. 7, the results agree well with the experimental data, except some over-predictions of $\langle z \rangle$ in the central jet. At $x/D_f = 21.5$ in Fig. 8, $\langle X_{OH} \rangle$ is nearly zero in our simulation, and accordingly there is little H₂ consumption in the central jet. This leads to the slight over-prediction of $\langle X_{H_2} \rangle$ in Fig. 8(a), but overshoot of $\langle X_{H_20} \rangle$ in Fig. 8(c). At $x/D_f = 32.3$ in Fig. 9, the over-prediction of $\langle X_{H_2} \rangle$ and under-prediction of $\langle X_{H_2O} \rangle$ in the central jet becomes more obvious, but the results from MMC-LES are still of comparable accuracy with other studies, e.g., in Refs. [5,6,41,55]. This discrepancy is associated with the under-prediction of $\langle T \rangle$ at this location as shown in Fig. 5(d). Lower temperature generally indicates weaker combustion in the simulation, and therefore slower H₂ consumption rate and lower H₂O production rate. More scalar comparisons (including mean species mole fractions and mixture fraction at $x/D_f = 0.85$, 43.1 and 64.7, as well as RMS species mole fractions and mixture fraction at $x/D_f = 21.5$, 32.3 and 64.7) with the experimental data are provided in Section E of supplementary document.





Fig. 7. Radial profiles of mean (a-e) species mole fractions and (f) mixture fraction at $x/D_f = 10.8$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].



Fig. 8. Radial profiles of mean (a-e) species mole fractions and (f) mixture fraction at $x/D_f = 21.5$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

Overall, the MMC-LES simulation well reproduces the statistics of reactive scalars in physical space.

5.3. Scalar statistics in mixture fraction space

Figs. 10-12 show scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against the mixture fraction at three locations, $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (10.8, 0.65), (32.3, 1.1)$ and (43.1, 0), respectively. The mixing and chemically-equilibrium lines [31] are also shown. At $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (10.8, 0.65)$ in Fig. 10, mixing dominates (below the appearance of autoigniting precursor HO₂, i.e., point 'a' at $x/D_f \approx 11$ in Fig. 3a) and therefore, the major species (i.e., H₂, O₂, H₂O and N₂) closely follow their corresponding mixing lines. Furthermore, low OH (e.g., $X_{OH} < 10^{-4}$) may occur at both fuel-lean and fuelrich conditions (z = 0-0.05). Similar observations are also found

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Fig. 9. Radial profiles of mean (a-e) species mole fractions and (f) mixture fraction at $x/D_f = 32.3$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].



Fig. 10. Scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against mixture fraction at $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (10.8, 0.65)$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

by Moule et al. [5] (z = 0-0.06), Zhang et al. [41] (z = 0-0.055) and Boivin et al. [55] (z = 0-0.05).

At $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (32.3, 1.1)$ in Fig. 11, the overall thermochemical state is reasonably captured by MMC-LES. The highest temperature is about 2130 K in the reaction zone, below the equilibrium line. For OH radical, most stochastic data points produced by the MMC-LES are above the equilibrium line, except in the nearstoichiometric point. This may be caused by the strong turbulent mixing. These observations are also seen in Refs. [5,55] with a partially stirred reactor model and quasi-laminar chemistry method, respectively. Furthermore, the highest mixture fraction is about 0.15 in the simulation, higher than the experimental value of about 0.08. This is likely to have been caused by the insufficient radial spreading of the coflow into the ambient air, which leads to underpredicted dissipation of the fuel-containing coflow. However, when $z \gtrsim 0.06$ the scatter data of X_{H_2} , X_{O_2} , and X_{H_2O} become more dispersive and move closer to their mixing lines. Our result is close to



Fig. 11. Scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against mixture fraction at $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (32.3, 1.1)$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].



Fig. 12. Scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against mixture fraction at $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (43.1, 0)$. Experimental data from Ref. [31].

that of Moule et al. (the highest z is about 0.13) [5], but is higher than that of Boivin et al. (the highest z is about 0.07) [55].

At $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (43.1, 0)$ in Fig. 12, the overall distributions of all scalar scatters are qualitatively similar to their counterparts at $(x/D_f, r/D_f) = (32.3, 1.1)$ in Fig. 11, but move a bit closer to their equilibrium lines and become more dispersive because of additional turbulence development with downstream distance. This location lies in the turbulent combustion zone (IV in Fig. 2). Examples of sub-equilibrium temperature (i.e., *T* in the flame zone is about 290 K lower than the equilibrium value) and superequilibrium OH (i.e., X_{OH} in the flame zone is higher than the equilibrium value) are also found in the experimental data. According to the Damköhler number analysis in the experimental work [31], this may be caused by the slow three-body recombination reactions.

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Fig. 13. Lagrangian particles colored by: (a) $\frac{dh^a}{dt}$, (b) S_h^a , (c) W_p^a and (d) W_{VH}^a . All variables in W/kg. Zones I-IV, point 'a' and ellipse 'A' are identical to those in Fig. 3. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

5.4. Compressibility effects

Incorporation of the pressure work and viscous heating effects is a significant model improvement for MMC in high-speed reacting flow simulations. To assess the modeling of pressure work and viscous heating, Fig. 13 shows the instantaneous distributions of the time derivative of standardised enthalpy $(\frac{dh^q}{dt})$, mixing term (S_h^q) , pressure work (W_p^q) and the viscous heating term (W_{VH}^q) on the Lagrangian particles. The spatial distribution of $\frac{dh^q}{dt}$ in Fig. 13(a) is qualitatively similar to that of S_h^q in Fig. 13(b) in most regions, suggesting that conditional subfilter mixing plays a dominate role in the variations of particle standardised enthalpy. As expected, in Fig. 13(c) the pressure work is important only near the shock / expansive waves. Also, in Fig. 13(d) it is evident that viscous heating is high (e.g., comparable to 10% of pressure work) mainly around the shear layers with large velocity gradient, e.g., the area labelled by 'G'. However, W_{VH}^q is generally smaller than W_P^q and $\frac{dh^q}{dt}$ by more than two orders of magnitude. This is also seen in our previous study for a model supersonic combustor [29], which is probably because of the low mixture viscosity (of the order of 10^{-5} Pa·s) but strong pressure derivative (as high as 10¹¹ Pa/s or above) in these supersonic, shock-laden flows.

The correspondence between chemical reaction and shock compression can be further confirmed in Fig. 14, which shows the scatter plots of HO₂ and OH mole fractions against mixture fraction on the Lagrangian particles in two cylindrical domains $(|r|/D_f \le 4)$ in zones I and II, respectively. The scatter data are colored by pressure work. In Fig. 14(a), high HO₂ radical mole fraction (e.g., X_{HO2} $\approx 10^{-4}$) is observed near the stoichiometric line ($z_{st} = 0.0297$) and fuel-lean areas. This is related to the large W_p^q , which considerably promotes the autoignition. However, OH radical is limited (no flame occurs), as seen from Fig. 14(c).

In downstream locations near the flame stabilization point in Fig. 14(b), the peak X_{HO2} is considerably increased. Furthermore, high X_{HO2} is observed over a wider range of mixture fraction because of the extended ignition region (see Fig. 3a). Large pressure



Fig. 14. Scatter plots of (a)-(b) X_{HO2} and (c)-(d) X_{OH} colored by pressure work. Results are from the Lagrangian particles in: $|r|/D_f \leq 4$, 9.5 $\leq x/D_f \leq 11.5$ (first column); $|r|/D_f \leq 4$, 24.5 $\leq x/D_f \leq 26.5$ (second column). Dashed lines: $z_{st}=0.0297$. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



Fig. 15. Scatter plots of the (a) autoignition induction base and (b) flame base. Both are colored by pressure work. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

work can be seen for most data points (color scale), indicating the importance of pressure work for HO₂ generation in this area. In Fig. 14(d), compared to the results in Fig. 14(c), noticeable amounts of X_{OH} radicals (e.g., $X_{OH} \approx 0.02$) are observed near the stoichiometric line, indicating the occurrence of flame there. The highest X_{OH} generally occurs on those particles of large W_p^q , indicating the significance of shock compression (results in large positive W_p^q , see Fig. 13c) for the stabilization of the flame base at $x/D_f = 25$.

Figure 15 further shows the evolutions of the instantaneous axial locations of Autoignition Induction Base (AIB) and Flame Base (FB). They are identified from the first occurrence of $X_{HO2} \ge 10^{-4}$ and $X_{OH} \ge 8 \times 10^{-3}$, respectively. Based on our tests, choosing other threshold values of X_{HO2} and X_{OH} almost give the same AIB and FB axial locations. The data are collected from 120 instants over 0.24 ms. It is seen that the AIB oscillates between $8.5D_f$ and $12.5D_f$, and those with high pressure work lie at $10D_f - 11.5D_f$ where the first shock intersection point 'a' resides (see Fig. 3). There are also some scatter points from downstream locations with low W_P^q , which may result from hot coflow effects. Moreover, the AIB is mainly observed for lean mixtures with $z < z_{st}$. We can

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Fig. 16. Trajectories of particles (a) P1 and (b) P2 in temperature–mixture fraction space colored by location. Lines represent the full burning (red), extinction (blue) and mixing (pink) solutions. Arrows: particle evolution direction. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

also find from Fig. 15(b) that the FB location varies at $24D_f - 27D_f$, implying that it fluctuates around the second shock intersection point 'b' (see Fig. 2b). Moreover, it is mainly located in the region $z \approx 0.005$ –0.01, well below the stoichiometric mixture fraction. This is because the most reactive range of mixture fraction in supersonic combustion is considerably extended towards fuel-lean compositions due to the elevated pressures by shock compression [53,68,72]. Furthermore, W_p^q is significant around $x/D_f \approx 24.8$ –26, which means that the pressure work also plays an important role for stabilization of the lifted supersonic hydrogen flame.

A comparative assessment on the roles of pressure work and viscous heating terms in the particle standardised enthalpy equation (i.e., Eq. (11)) is also performed (see Section F of supplementary document), with one additional simulation where these terms are de-activated. It is found that without the foregoing two terms, the supersonic flame stabilization cannot be correctly captured by MMC-LES. The predicted flame base varies between $52D_f$ and $62D_f$, leading to a mean lift-off of 58.2D_f, much higher than the counterpart results in Fig. 15(b) and measured value $(25D_f)$. Moreover, the mean temperature, H₂O and OH mole fractions are underpredicted, whilst H₂ mole fraction is over-predicted. This is particularly obvious at $x/D_f = 21.5$, 32.3 and 43.1. This is because without the shock compression effects, the autoignition induction period is considerably elongated, which can be seen from higher autoignition induction base locations $(28D_f - 38D_f)$ in Fig. S20 of supplementary document, compared to those in Fig. 15(a). Therefore, the results from the above examination further corroborate the shock wave effects on supersonic flame stabilization.

5.5. Lagrangian particle trajectory

In this section, trajectories of stochastic Lagrangian particles from the MMC-LES are extracted to investigate the reactive scalar evolutions subject to the supersonic flow fields. Four representative stochastic particles are tracked, which are respectively injected from the fuel jet ($r_0 \approx 0.005$ mm), fuel jet shear layer ($r_0 \approx 1.2$ mm), and the coflow ($r_0 \approx 2.0$ and 6.0 mm). They are also marked in Fig. 1(b). Hereafter, they are respectively termed as P1, P2, P3 and P4.

Figure 16 shows the temperature evolutions of particles P1 and P2, colored by their instantaneous streamwise positions. Laminar flame temperatures calculated using OPPDIF [73] under three dif-

ferent strain rates are also shown for reference. The line with strain rate, $S_r \approx 19$ /s is deemed the full burning state, whereas the line with $S_r \approx 3971$ /s is the "extinction line", below which the particles are extinguished. The mixing line is also shown. Note that in *T-z* space, reactions can only move the particles vertically (i.e., change the particle temperature) because mixture fraction is conserved during chemical reactions. However, mixing makes the particles move both vertically and horizontally, corresponding to the variations of temperature and mixture fraction of the particles. In contrast to low-speed flows [74], in supersonic flows the particle temperature variations may also be associated with shocks / expansion waves, and viscous heating. Hence, they can also move the particle positions vertically in *T-z* space.

In Figure 16(a), particle P1 (starts from z = 1) is first affected by viscous heating in the nozzle and shock compression near the nozzle exit. Its temperature is increased to 574 K ('V' in the inset). Then the particle experiences expansion and its temperature is decreased to 522 K ('E'). The mixture fraction decreases because of mixing with oxidizer particles from points 'i' to 'a' and T evolves nearly along the mixing line. However, T may also be raised above the mixing line (marked by 'S') due to shock and/or viscous heating. From points 'a' to 'b', autoignition occurs at $z \approx 0.354$ (i.e., fuel-rich) and T rises nearly vertically along line a-b because of chemical reaction at about $x/D_f = 6.8$. From points 'b' to 'c', T changes roughly following the full burning line. However, interactions with the shocks, expansion waves and viscous heating result in some variations. These effects are not observable in subsonic flames [74], and in turn, make the particle trajectory deviate from the full burning or mixing lines in supersonic flames. From points 'c' to 'd', the fully burned particle ($z \approx 0$) mixes with surrounding oxidizer particles and T decreases towards 1250 K. Overall, the mixture fraction of the fuel particle can vary in its life history from 0 to 1. According to Wang et al. [74] and Mitarai et al. [75], this particle trajectory is regarded as continuous burning, most of which lies within the burning region (above the extinction line) once it is ignited.

In Fig. 16(b), particle P2 (starts from z = 0) originates in the recirculation zone between the fuel and coflow nozzle walls (see Fig. 1b). Therefore, it has relatively long time to mix with the fuel particles before it is ignited, and viscous heating on this particle is weak because of the small velocity gradient. From points 'i' to 'a', the particle proceeds with expansion and shock compression ('E' and 'S') when it mixes with the fuel particles near the mixing line. At point 'a' ($z \approx 0.35$ and $x/D_f \approx 7.3$), it is ignited, and *T* increases rapidly along line a-b. Then it burns near the full burning line until point 'c'. After that, it mixes with oxidizer particles and *T* decreases. The burning process (lines b-c) of P2 are different from P1 because the former intermittently enters the extinction state (see the inset). The mixture fraction of particle P2 varies in the range of 0 to 0.35.

Figure 17 shows the temperature evolutions of particles P3 and P4. In Fig. 17(a), particle P3 from the coflow is first heated to 1430 K ('V' in the inset) because of shock compression and viscous heating. Then *T* decreases to 1058 K ('E') because of expansion after it leaves the nozzle. From points 'i' to 'a', *T* can be raised above the mixing line by shock compression (e.g., 'S') although only mixing proceeds. At point 'a' ($z \approx 0.257$ and $x/D_f \approx 9.8$), the particle is ignited and *T* increases rapidly along line a-b. From points 'b' to 'c', the particle burns around the burning line under the effects of shocks, expansion waves or viscous heating. From points 'c' to 'd', *T* is decreased because of the mixing with oxidizer particles ($z \approx 0$). This particle experiences localized extinctions in the burning process along line b-c. The mixture fraction varies in the range of 0 to 0.257.

In Fig. 17(b), particle P4 (from z = 0) from the outer part of coflow first experiences expansion (region 'E') after it is injected

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Fig. 17. Trajectories of particles (a) P3 and (b) P4 in temperature–mixture fraction space. Arrows: particle evolution direction. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

in the domain. Viscous heating in the nozzle is not significant as it is relatively far away from the nozzle wall. Note that this particle is difficult, if not impossible, to directly mix with a fuel particle. Therefore, its trajectory generally deviates far from the mixing line. However, when it travels downstream in the physical space, it still can mix with fully burned (of the highest temperature but nearly zero mixture fraction) or partially burned (of intermediate temperature but is still fuel-containing) particles. In this manner, both its temperature and mixture fraction can be increased. Furthermore, under the effects of shock compression, viscous heating and mixing with high temperature particles, it may enter the burning region (zone 'SV'). Overall, extinction dominates for most segment of its trajectory and the mixture fraction ranges in 0 to 0.071 (fuellean).

5.6. Chemical explosive mode and timescale

The chemical explosive mode analysis [32,76–78] is performed on the Lagrangian particles in MMC. Key combustion features can be identified through eigen-analyses of the local chemical Jacobian matrix, J_c . Chemical modes are associated with the eigenvalues of J_c , among which the one with the maximum real part is detonated as λ_e . A Chemical Explosive Mode (CEM) is identified when the real part of λ_e , $Re(\lambda_e)$, is positive. In this section, it is visualized through

$$\lambda_{cem} = \max\{sign[Re(\lambda_e)], 0\} \cdot log_{10}[1 + |Re(\lambda_e)|],$$
(15)

where sign(x) is the sign function, whilst max(x,y) is the maximum function. More details of CEMA can be found in Ref. [32] and are not repeated here. Moreover, explosion index [77] is used to quantify the contributions of temperature and species concentrations to CEM in Lagrangian particles, i.e.,

$$EI_{i}^{P} = EI_{i} \cdot max\{sign[Re(\lambda_{e})], 0\},$$
(16)

where El_j is the explosion index of temperature or species obtained from the CEMA (which may be non-zero in non-CEM regions). Note that the chemical Jacobian can be determined by these dependent variables without the constant-density or constant-pressure assumption. Therefore, the incompressible CEMA [32] used in the present study is applicable to both compressible and incompressible reactive flows.



Fig. 18. Lagrangian particles colored by: (a) λ_{cem} , (b) $El_{T^*}^p$ (c) El_{H}^p and (d) $El_{OH^*}^p$. Isolines in (b)-(d) represent instantaneous stoichiometric mixture fraction. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Figure 18(a) shows the spatial distribution of chemical explosive mode λ_{cem} of the Lagrangian particles. It is seen that CEM particles are present immediately after the burner exit, mainly in the shear layer between the fuel jet and hot coflow. When extensive HO₂ radicals occur after point 'a' (see Fig. 3a), the explosive particles grow rapidly and also become significant in the central fuel jet until zone IV, above which they vanish in most areas but are only present near the fuel shear layer. To quantify the relative importance of temperature and species to particle CEM, the explosion indices for temperature, H and OH, as well as the isolines of instantaneous stoichiometric reference mixture fraction are shown in Figs. 18(b)–18(d). In Fig. 18(b), temperature contributes to CEM mainly inside the fuel jet, especially below zone IV, indicating the thermal explosion propensity in these areas. In Figs. 18(c) and 18(d), the H and OH radicals are dominant in CEM (therefore radical explosion propensity) respectively in the fuel-rich and fuel-lean sides near the fuel jet shear layer. This can be justified through the competition of elementary reactions. On the fuel-rich side of the fuel / coflow shear layer, the hydrogen dissociation reactions are dominant (e.g., $H_2 + M \rightarrow H + H + M$ in the hydrogen mechanism [62]). However, on the fuel-lean side, the reactions related to oxidizer dissociation are important (e.g., OH + OH \rightarrow O + H₂O). Therefore, H and OH radicals play dominant roles in CEM respectively in the fuel-rich and fuel-lean regions. Similar qualitative distributions of the stratified explosion indices are also observed for a near-wall transverse hydrogen flame [32] and a lifted ethylene jet flame in a heated air coflow [79].

The CEMA also provides the accurate chemical timescale information and thereby Lagrangian particle Damköhler number can be derived from [77]

$$Da = \tau_L / \tau_c = \tau_L \cdot Re(\lambda_e), \tag{17}$$

where $\tau_c = 1/Re(\lambda_e)$ is the chemical timescale from the CEMA, and τ_L is a mixing timescale estimated from the a-ISO model [38] in MMC, i.e.,

$$\tau_L = \frac{C_f d_x^2}{2\left(\mathcal{D}_m + \mathcal{D}_t \frac{d_x}{\Delta_E}\right)},\tag{18}$$

where $C_f = 0.1$ is model constant [22]. d_x is the particle mixing distance in **x**-space, and Δ_E is the LES filter width estimated as

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 $log_{10}[max(10^{-5}, Da)]$ 70 -3 0 2 -2 60 40 50 38 35 4(III x/D_f 33 30 II 25 20 10 9.5 0 0 -10 10 -5 0 5

Fig. 19. Lagrangian particles colored by Damköhler number (in logarithmic scale). (a) is on the center plane, (b)-(f) are from subdomains of $x/D_f = 9.5$ -11.5, 23-25, 25-27, 33-35 and 38-40 with $|r|/D_f \le 5$, respectively. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

 r/D_f

the cube root of the LES cell volume.

 r/D_f

$$\chi = 2\mathcal{D}_{eff} \left(\nabla \tilde{f} \right)^2, \tag{19}$$

Figure 19 shows the instantaneous distributions of Lagrangian particle Damköhler number. Generally, large positive Da indicates that the mixture is autoigniting, whereas negative Da (in logarithmic scale) indicates that the mixture is non-ignitable or postignited [79]. In Fig. 19(a), Da is well above unity (\sim 100) in the fuel jet shear layer, right after the burner exit. This is mainly attributed to the small chemical timescale of the mixture (large λ_{cem} in Fig. 18a). The mixing between the fuel jet and hightemperature coflow is important for the mixture to achieve high reactivity in the reaction induction period. This is more appreciable in Fig. 19(b), which shows Da for $x/D_f = 9.5-11.5$ (in zone I). One can see that $Da \approx 100$ in the shear layer, however it is much lower in most part of the fuel jet center. Only after $x/D_f \approx 10.5$, Da > 1 is observed intermittently along the centerline, mainly caused by local shock compression, which decreases the chemical timescale. In Fig. 19(c), Da is also small around the centerline for $x/D_f = 23-25$ (the end of zone I), near the flame stabilization point $(x/D_f = 25)$. However, the region with high Da (e.g., $Da \ge 10$) is pronounced off the centerline. In Fig. 19(d), Da becomes significant in the jet center for $x/D_f = 25-27$ (zone II). The rapid increase of Da in the jet center is caused by the shock intersection here (i.e., point 'b' in Fig. 2b). In Fig. 19(e), part of the central jet and fuel shear layer reaches the post-ignition state (i.e., those of $Da \ll 1$) for $x/D_f = 33$ -35 (zone III). In Fig. 19(f), extensive zones with $Da \ll 1$ occur in the jet center as well as in the fuel-lean side of the fuel jet shear layer for $x/D_f = 38-40$ (zone IV). Further downstream, *Da* decreases rapidly because the mixture is no longer chemically explosive (relatively large chemical timescale), as seen from Fig. 18(a).

Figure 20 further shows the axial profiles of averaged Lagrangian particle Damköhler numbers, which are estimated based on the particles within a cylindrical domain ($|r|/D_f \le 0.01$) along the jet centerline. Those estimated by the experimentalists at different locations (some of which are off the centerline) [31] are also shown for reference. In the experiment, the hydrogen-air chemical reaction times for two-body reactions (used here) at the locations $x/D_f \ge 32.3$ are assumed to be 15.4 μ s [31,80]. In the lifted region $(x/D_f = 0.85$ and 10.8), the chemical reaction times are assumed [m5G;September 29, 2021;11:21] Combustion and Flame xxx (xxxx) xxx



Fig. 20. Axial profile of particle Damköhler number along $r/D_f = 0$. Experimental data from Ref. [31]. I-IV: flame zones in Fig. 2(d).

to be much greater than the turbulent mixing times, and hence, the Damköhler numbers are much less than unity [31]. In MMC-LES, upstream *Da* is slightly above zero in the jet center, which increases slowly until $x/D_f \approx 11$. After that, *Da* increases rapidly because of shock intersection and sufficient mixing with the hot coflow. It peaks at the flame stabilization point $(x/D_f = 25)$ and sustains high level in zones II-III. After zone III, it decreases rapidly because that central fuel jet is almost fully burned. However, discrepancies exist for *Da* beyond $x/D_f = 30$, which can be attributed to the constant chemical timescales used in their estimations [31]. The streamwise evolution of *Da* is similar to the DNS work of subsonic lifted hydrogen [77] and ethylene [79] flames.

6. Conclusions

A lifted supersonic hydrogen jet flame in vitiated coflow is simulated with sparse MMC-LES model for fully compressible flows. The pressure work and viscous heating terms are incorporated in the MMC, to model the interactions between supersonic flow structures (e.g., shock waves) and chemical reactions.

The results show that the diamond-shaped alternative expansion / shock wave structures, shock-flame interaction, and overall flame characteristics (e.g., lift-off, staged flame evolution) are accurately reproduced. Moreover, the MMC-LES results show reasonable agreement with the experimental data in terms of time-averaged quantities (axial velocity, temperature, species mole fractions and mixture fraction) and the available root-mean-square values. Furthermore, the scatter plots of species mole fractions and temperature against mixture fraction also agree satisfactorily with the experimental counterparts.

The effect of pressure work and viscous heating on autoignition initiation and supersonic flame stabilization is also assessed. The positive contribution of pressure work to the variation of particle standardised enthalpy at the shock intersection point enhances the buildup of HO_2 radical in the reaction induction and autoignition initiation stages. Furthermore, pressure work contributes positively to the production of OH radical in the transitional and turbulent combustion zones. Nonetheless, viscous heating is negligibly small in most regions except those with strong velocity gradients (e.g., around the burner exit), compared to particle enthalpy variation and pressure work. The autoignition induction base and flame base oscillate around two shock intersection points, considerably enhanced by high pressure work.

The evolutions of particle information, e.g., temperature and mixture fraction, are extracted through particle trajectory analysis to discuss the interactions between particle and gas dynamics. For a particle from the central jet, it first mixes with the oxidizer particles under the effects of shock, expansion wave and viscous heating. Then it is autoignited and almost continuously reactive along the full burning line until the fuel is consumed. For representative oxidizer particles, they first mix with other fuelJID: CNF

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containing particles and are autoignited because of shock compression and/or hot particle heating after some distance of reaction induction. However, during the burning process the particles may also intermittently enter the extinction region. The shock, expansion wave and/or viscous heating effects in supersonic flows can deviate the particle trajectories from the full burning or mixing lines, which are not observed in subsonic flames.

The chemical explosive mode analysis is performed based on the Lagrangian particles. The results show that temperature (may vary because of mixing, shock compression, flow expansion and viscous heating) contributes dominantly to CEM in the central fuel jet. The H and OH radicals are respectively dominant in the fuel-rich and fuel-lean sides near the fuel jet shear layer. The Lagrangian particle Damköhler numbers show that large positive *Da* first occurs in the fuel jet / coflow shear layer, right after the burner exit. Then *Da* is enhanced at the first shock intersection point in the jet center and peaks around the flame stabilization point, right after the second shock intersection point.

Declaration of Competing Interest

None.

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by MOE Tier 1 grant (R-265–000– 653–114) and the USyd-NUS Partnership Collaboration Award. The simulations are performed with the computational resources from National Supercomputing Center Singapore (NSCC, https://www. nscc.sg/). ZR is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (52025062). Wantong Wu from Tsinghua University is thanked for assistance with the chemical explosive mode analysis. Professors T.-S. Cheng and R.W. Pitz are acknowledged for sharing the experimental data and burner details.

Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.combustflame.2021. 111756.

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