An Application of a Two-Equation Model of Turbulence to Three Dimensional Chemically Reacting Flows

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Abstract

A numerical study of three dimensional chemically reacting and non-reacting flowfields is conducted using a two-equation model of turbulence. A generalized flow solver using an implicit Lower-Upper(LU) diagonal decomposition numerical technique and finite-rate chemistry has been coupled with a low-Reynolds number two-equation model of turbulence. This flow solver is then used to study chemically reacting turbulent supersonic flows inside combustors with synergetic fuel injectors. The reacting and non-reacting turbulent combustor solutions obtained are compared with zero-equation turbulence model solutions and with available experimental data. The hydrogen-air chemistry is modeled using a nine-species/eighteen-reaction model. A low-Reynolds number k-ε model was used to model the effect of turbulence because, in general, the low-Reynolds number k-ε models are easier to numerically implement and are far more general than algebraic models. However, low-Reynolds number k-ε models require a much finer near-wall grid resolution than high-Reynolds number models to accurately resolve the near-wall physics. This is especially true in complex flow fields, where the stiff nature of near-wall turbulence must be resolved. Therefore, the limitations imposed by the near-wall characteristics and compressible model corrections need to be evaluated further. The gradient-diffusion hypothesis is used to model the effects of turbulence on the mass diffusion process. The influence of this low-Reynolds number turbulence model on the reacting flowfield predictions was studied parametrically.

Nomenclature

A,B,C Convective Jacobians  
D Difference Operator  
C_{el},C_{e2} Turbulence Model Constants, Table 1  
C_{μ} Eddy Viscosity Constant (=0.09)  
f_{μ} Wall Damping Function, Eqn 7  
H Source Vector  
h_{i} Enthalpy of i^{th} species  
h Cell Volume  
I Identity Vector  
k Turbulent Kinetic Energy  
l Length Scale, Eqn 27  
M Mach Number, (=u/(\sqrt{RT})^{1/2})  
MW_{i} Molecular Weight of i^{th} Species  
M_{t} Turbulent Mach Number (=2k/(\sqrt{RT})^{1/2})  
N_{r} Number of Chemical Reactions (=18)  
N_{s} Number of Chemical Species (=9)  
P_{k} Turbulence Production  
Pr Prandtl Number  
R Universal Gas Constant  
R_{t} Turbulent Reynolds Number (=k^{2}/\nu)  
T Temperature  
T_{u} Turbulence Intensity  
ij Source Jacobian  
w_{i} Mass Averaged Velocity  
u,v,w Mean Velocity Constants  
U_{τ} Friction Velocity (=τ_{w}/p)^{1/2}  
x,y,z Coordinates  
X_{i} Mole Fraction  
y^{+} Non-Dimensional Distance  
Y_{i} Species Mass Fraction  

Symbols

ε Specific dissipation  
δ Boundary Layer Thickness

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In order to design a more efficient and reliable propulsion system for high speed vehicles such as the National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) or the High Speed Civil Transport, it is essential to be able to accurately predict the chemically reacting flow field inside the combustors. In particular, a number of physical mechanisms affecting the mixing and combustion must be modeled correctly so that the combustors can be readily analyzed and optimized. A design tool that can be used to study three-dimensional turbulent non-reacting and reacting flow fields in supersonic combustors has been developed and its potential in investigating possible fuel-air mixing mechanisms is demonstrated. In this study, we will deal primarily with the analyses of flowfields inside combustors to assess the effectiveness of a k-ε turbulence model. By comparing numerical predictions with available experimental data, we show that the complex flow features inside of combustors can be reasonable predicted using a typical k-ε model of turbulence.

In supersonic flow, low combustor efficiency is a consequence of the low shear-mixing caused by compressibility effects, and the extremely short combustor residence time of the injected fuel.\(^1\) In an earlier study of the supersonic shear-layer, Brown and Roshko\(^2\) showed that the spreading rate of a supersonic mixing layer decreases dramatically with increasing freestream Mach number. Therefore, number of investigators have introduced external mixing enhancements into their streamwise injector designs through additional compression/expansion surfaces. Some investigators believe that the initial shear and the vorticity generated by spanwise convolutions\(^3,4\) and externally generated swirl will produce optimal combustor designs. Therefore, these concepts have been incorporated into the swept-ramp injectors\(^5\) and swirling nozzle designs.\(^6,7\) Drummond et. al.\(^8\) and Marble et. al.\(^9\) proposed that externally generated vorticity be used to generate additional mixing; Drummond\(^1\) numerically showed that the swept wedge injector, which generates a strong streamwise vorticity, has far superior mixing characteristics than its un-swept counterpart. In the work of Marble et. al.,\(^8\) planar shockwaves were used to enhance the mixing between co-flowing circular jets of fuel and air. Marble showed that a jet processed by an oblique shock-wave will produce a strong vortical component due to the interaction between the density differential of fuel-air and the strong pressure gradient across the shock-wave. The effects of this interaction was later numerically demonstrated by Drummond.\(^7\)

Many of the previously discussed design concepts increase flow complexity and makes performance analyses very difficult. One potential method of analyzing the combustor flowfield is to use CFD tools. However, in order to determine the potential effectiveness of a particular combustor design, accurate numerical and physical models are needed. During the past several years, significant progress has been made in the development of new physical models in turbulence and in finite rate chemistry and the model limitations are better understood.

The simplest of the turbulence models assume length scale behaviors and are called zero equation algebraic eddy viscosity models. These models utilize an assumed local equilibrium turbulent scale distribution and the mean shear information to complete the Boussinesq hypotheses necessary to close the averaged Navier-Stokes equations. The models in this class are widely used in computations because of their simplicity. However, the major Achilles heel of these models is the limitation imposed by the equilibrium assumption used in the development of the length scale profiles. In flowfields involving non-equilibrium phenomena, such as separation, sudden removal or addition of pressure gradient, injection, suction, wall temperature gradient and roughness, the predictions made using these models tend to be poor because the required model physics often exceed the equilibrium assumption.\(^7\) It was previously shown that the simplest turbulence models can yield reasonable combustor flowfield predictions.\(^10\) However, this work also illustrated the need for a more accurate turbulence model to resolve the performance characteristics needed in design.

The second class of models uses scalar transport equations to model the evolution of the turbulent length and velocity scales of the flowfield and therefore these models are not limited to equilibrium situations. Unfortunately, a majority of the modeling parameters and the near-wall formulations are optimized only for simple flow situations. Therefore, the limitations of these models must be carefully explored in complex flow situations. The most widely used of the two equation eddy viscosity models is the k-ε model. In this formulation the length scale and the velocity scale needed to determine the eddy
viscosity are computed from the modeled turbulent kinetic energy and dissipation rate transport equations. The k-ε model has been used in a wide variety of low Mach number problems. There are, however, several well known k-ε model deficiencies. A major deficiency of the model is its inability to handle no-slip surfaces. Extensive review of this deficiency and analysis of the various model correction formulations have been conducted by Patel et al. and Coakley and Huang. There are two techniques commonly used to resolve this difficulty. The first method replaces the turbulence transport equations in the near-wall regions with a known log-law solution. This is usually known as the high-Reynolds number/wall-function approach. The second method simply modifies the transport equations so that the singular behavior in the near wall region is removed.

In this work, a flow solver with finite rate chemistry model is further extended using a two-equation model of turbulence. Although algebraic turbulence models perform well in simple wall bounded flows, the advantages of using two-equation models in corner flow and shear flow predictions are well documented. Therefore, a low-Reynolds number k-ε model/solver with dilatation corrections in three-dimensional form has been developed for combustor simulations. The primary focus of this investigation is to study the influence of the turbulence model on the predictions of supersonic non-reacting and reacting flow fields.

I Governing Equations

The conservative form of the three-dimensional continuity, momentum, energy, species conservation, and turbulent transport equations were solved in following generalized from:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (E - E_\nu) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (F - F_\nu) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (G - G_\nu) = \mathbf{H}$$

where the conservative vector, Q, is defined as:

$$\mathbf{Q} = (\rho, \rho u, \rho v, \rho w, \rho E_\nu, \rho Y_n)^T$$

(1)

All of the quantities appearing above are mass Favre averaged, e.g. $u = \rho u / \rho$, and $k = \rho k / \rho$. The density(\rho) is conventionally averaged. The convective and diffusive terms in E,F, and G are shown in detail by Yu et al. The source vector, H, contains the mass transfer terms in the species transport equations and the production/destruction terms of the turbulent kinetic energy and specific dissipation transport equations.

$$\mathbf{H} = (0, 0, 0, 0, \omega_\nu)^T$$

(2)

A nine species-eighteen reaction model is employed to model H2-air chemistry. In this model the molecular nitrogen, N2, is assumed to be inert. Therefore, only the remaining eight species continuity equations were numerically solved; the coupled Lower-Upper(LU) diagonal decomposition approach proposed by Shuen and Yoon was used. The LU decomposition of the implicit side of the numerics, combined with Symmetric Successive Over Relaxation(SSOR), reduces the overall implicit numerical procedure to a series of scalar inversions. The mass-averaged species continuity equations and the Navier-Stokes equations were implicitly formulated for numerical efficiency. The implicit coupling of the finite rate source terms was used to reduce the numerical stiffness associated with the chemical time scales that need to be resolved. The turbulent kinetic energy and specific dissipation transport equations were solved decoupled from the mean solver.

La Generalized Two Equation Turbulence Model

In general, there are several types of low-Reynolds number k-ε models; the major distinguishing feature of these models is the handling of the singularity that exists in the destruction term of the specific dissipation equation. The most common practice is to use a modified form of the transport equations, where a fictitious dissipation(\xi) rather than the real dissipation(\xi) is used. The fictitious dissipation is usually defined as $\xi = \xi - \xi_{wall}$. There are three types of low-Reynolds number k-ε models. The first type uses flowfield characteristics, such as curvature of the turbulent kinetic energy(\xi_{wall} = 2N(\partial^2 k / \partial y^2)) to satisfy the near wall asymptotic behavior, while avoiding the singularity caused by the no-slip boundary condition. The k-ε model formulation proposed by Launder and Sharma is typical of this type of formulation. The second type of low-Reynolds number k-ε model, proposed by Chien, uses the wall normal distance(\xi_{wall} = 2v k / \nu)^2 and Van-Driest type damping to develop the necessary near wall characteristics. The third type of low-Reynolds number formulation does not modify the transport equation; rather, finite near-wall characteristics are used as boundary conditions. The low Reynolds number model proposed by Shih is typical of this type of formulation. The low Reynolds number models also require much higher near wall grid resolution and careful grid strategy.

The two-equation model of turbulence can be written in the generalized strong conservative form of Equation 1, where the conservative vectors are defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{Q} = (\rho k, \rho e)^T$$

$$E - E_\nu = \begin{bmatrix} \rho k u - (\mu + \frac{\rho \nu_\epsilon}{\sigma_k}) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x} \\ \rho e u - (\mu + \frac{\rho \nu_\epsilon}{\sigma_e}) \frac{\partial e}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix}$$

and the F and G vectors are similarly defined. The source vector containing the production/destruction terms of the
turbulent kinetic energy and specific dissipation transport equations can be written in the following form:

\[ H = \left[ \frac{p_k - \rho c}{c_{\epsilon 1} k^2} \right] + \Lambda + \Lambda_c \]

where the production and the Reynolds stresses are defined as follows. Here, a linear stress-strain approximation for the Reynolds stresses is employed.

\[ p_{ij} = \rho \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_k} \right] \]

\[ \rho \tau_{ij} = \mu \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_k} \right] - \frac{2}{3} \rho k \delta_{ij} \]

The turbulence modeling constants are shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models</th>
<th>( C_{\epsilon 1} )</th>
<th>( C_{\epsilon 2} )</th>
<th>( C_{\mu} )</th>
<th>( \overline{\sigma_\kappa} )</th>
<th>( \overline{\sigma_\epsilon} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chien</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Turbulence Model Parameters

A low-Reynolds number k-\( \epsilon \) model proposed by Chien\(^ {21} \) is used because of its favorable convergence behavior and numerical stability.\(^ {18} \) However, this two-equation model number formulation has a disadvantage in that the low Reynolds number corrections are not Galilean-invariant; it is dependent on the grid coordinate system and the geometry. Therefore, a major disadvantage of this formulation is that for complex geometries the near wall characteristics may not be uniquely defined; for some cases, there may be wide range of possibilities. Here, the original model formulation has been extended into a three dimensional compressible formulation by closely following the two dimensional form previously reported.\(^ {18} \) The low-Reynolds number correction terms for the Chien model are defined as follows:

\[ \Lambda = \begin{bmatrix}
-2\mu_k k \\
\frac{\epsilon}{y_n} \\
-2\mu_e \exp(-0.5y_n^+) \\
\end{bmatrix} \]

\[ f_{\mu} = 1.0 - \exp(0.0115y_n^+) \]

where \( y_n \) is defined as nearest wall normal distance and \( ^+ \) is used to denote non-dimensionalization based only on wall characteristics. Here, the Van-Driest damping function is enforced with respect to the nearest wall.

Ib Compressibility Effects

In compressible flow situations, the mass weighted averaging procedure used to formulate the governing equations yields fewer unknown terms than the conventional Reynolds averaging procedure.\(^ {14} \) Unfortunately, this procedure does not eliminate the need for additional modeling work needed for the mass fluctuation and dilatation terms. Modeling of the dilatational terms is essential in accurate predictions of high speed combustors because these terms directly contribute to the overall turbulent energy gain or loss caused by the volumetric fluctuations. Turbulence energy loss caused by additional compressible behavior is modeled using a modified term of the dilatation dissipation suggested by Wilcox.\(^ {13} \) The mass averaged velocity\(^ {12} \) is modeled according to the gradient diffusion hypothesis:

\[ \Lambda_c = \left[ -\alpha (M_t^2 - 0.06) x H (M_t - 0.25) + MAS \right] \]

\[ C_{\epsilon 1} k \]

\[ MAS = (\bar{w} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \bar{w} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \bar{w} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}) \bar{w} = \frac{\mu_t}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \]

where \( H(x) = 1.0 \) for \( x > 0 \) and \( H(x) = 0.0 \) for \( x < 0 \).

II Diffusion Model

The models used to determine the mass-averaged coefficients governing the diffusion of momentum, energy, and mass can be described as follows. The individual species viscosity\( (\mu) \) and conductivity\( (\kappa) \) are computed using fourth order polynomial expressions developed by Gordon and McBride.\(^ {23} \) These expressions have been shown to be accurate up to 6000 K and are adequate for the problems investigated\((<2500^\circ K)\).

\[ \mu_n = \sum_{k=0}^{4} C_{\mu_n} (k) T^k \]

\[ \kappa_n = \sum_{k=0}^{4} C_{\kappa_n} (k) T^k \]

Once the individual species viscosities are found, the mixture viscosity and conductivity are computed using Wilke's mixing rule,\(^ {31} \)

\[ \mu = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\mu_n}{N} \]

\[ \kappa = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\kappa_n}{N} \]
Here, the inter-collisional parameter($\phi$) between species $n_1$ and $n_2$ is defined as:

$$\phi_{n_1n_2} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{M_{W_1}}{M_{W_2}} \right) \right)^\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{M_{W_2}}{M_{W_1}} \right)^\frac{1}{2}$$

(11)

The inter-species diffusion is modeled using the Chapman-Enskog formulation for dilute gases:

$$D_{n_1n_2} = 0.0018583 \left[ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{M_{W_1}}{M_{W_2}}} + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{M_{W_2}}{M_{W_1}}} \right] \left( \frac{T_{D}^{1.5}}{P_{O}} \right)$$

(12)

where $\sigma_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_i + \sigma_j)$ and the effective collision integral factor, $\Omega_D$, and the effective temperature, $T_D$, are approximated by:

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{T_{D}^{0.145}} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(T_D + 0.5)^2} \right)$$

$$T_D = \frac{T}{\sqrt{T_{r} T_{e}}}$$

(13)

The physical properties of the gas components and the reference enthalpy needed are summarized in Table 2.

The overall diffusion coefficients were computed by lumping all of the species together into a mixture and then determining the binary diffusion between the $i^{th}$ species and the mixture. The diffusion coefficient, $D_{ij}$, is defined in Equation 14. Once the binary diffusion coefficients for all of the species combinations and the mixture are known, the diffusion velocity of each species is found using Fick’s law. Therefore, the inter-species diffusion velocity components, $(u_j)_i$, are defined as:

$$y_j = -D_{im} \frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial x_j}$$

$$D_{im} = \frac{1}{\sum_{m \neq i} D_{im}}$$

(14)

The turbulent diffusion of mass was modeled based on assumptions that the eddy diffusivity is directly proportional to the turbulent mass diffusivity by a constant, the turbulent Schmidt number($Sct$), and that the gradient-diffusion process also applies to the turbulent diffusion process, i.e. $D_{ij} = (D_{ij})_{lam} + \mu \rho / Sct$. For the $k-\varepsilon$ model predictions, $Sct$ was assumed to be 0.9; for the Baldwin-Lomax model prediction, $Sct$ was assumed to be 0.5.

III Thermodynamic model

The mass-averaged specific heat constant at constant pressure($C_p$) of the individual species is assumed to be a fourth order polynomial function of temperature. Curve fitted constants have been adopted from Gordon and McBride.23 Once the individual species thermodynamic properties, such as specific heat and gas constant, have been found, the mixture properties can be found by weighting them over all of the species. Typically, the specific heat and the corresponding mixture relationship are defined as:

$$C_{pi} = \sum_{k=0}^{4} C_{p_{i(k)}} T^k$$

$$C_p = \sum_{n=1}^{N_s} C_{p_{n}y_{n}}$$

(15)

The internal energy of the gas mixture is determined by using mixture properties such as pressure, density and enthalpy, and is defined as:

$$\epsilon = \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \frac{Y_i h_i}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} (u^2 + v^2 + w^2)$$

(16)

Here, $h_{0i}$ is the reference enthalpy at standard temperature($T_{r}$) and is shown in Table 2. Since the specific heat of the species is formulated as a function of temperature only, the enthalpy relationship can be easily integrated to yield a polynomial relationship between enthalpy and temperature for the gas mixture. Newton’s iteration is used to find the temperature from the predicted internal energy of the gas mixture. Here, the pressure of the gas mixture is determined from Dalton’s law of partial pressure:

$$p = \rho \frac{T}{T_r} \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \frac{Y_i}{M_{W_{i}}}$$

(17)

IV Finite Rate Chemistry Model

Chemical balance of the $N_s$ species and $N_r$ reaction finite rate reaction model is determined from stoichiometric equation.24

$$N_{r} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_s} \nu_{ik} C_{i}$$

(18)

where $\nu_{ik}$ is stoichiometric coefficients and $C_{i}$ is chemical symbol of $i^{th}$ species.

The Law of Mass Action states that the rate of change of concentration of the $i^{th}$ species is defined by the movement of each species summed over all of the contributing reactions. Therefore, if $n_i$ is assumed to be the
molar concentration ($= \rho Y_i / M_{W_i}$). Then, the rate of change in species concentration can be expressed as follows:

$$\omega_i = M_{W_i} \sum_{K=1}^{N} \left( \pi_{ik} K_f(k) \prod_{j=1}^{N_s} n_j^{v_{jk} - K_b(k)} \prod_{j=1}^{N_s} n_j^{v_{jk} - K_a(k)} \right)$$

(19)

where $\pi_{ik} = v_i - v_{ik} - v_{ik}$. The forward and backward reaction rates ($K_f$, $K_b$) are computed from Arrhenius’ relationship with phenomenological developed chemical rate constants. The forward reaction rate constants of the $K$th reactant are defined as:

$$K_f(k) = \alpha_f(k) T^{\gamma_f(k)} \exp\left( \frac{E_f(k)}{k_B T} \right)$$

(20)

The reverse reaction rate ($K_r$) is similarly defined. The laminar reaction rate constants for a H$_2$-air model are summarized in Table 4.

V  Numerical Techniques

Once the thermal, chemical and turbulent properties have been computed, the LU-SSOR technique originally proposed by Yoon and Jameson$^{16}$ is used to find the steady-state solution. In order to handle complex geometry, the governing equations are solved in a body fitted coordinate system ($\xi, \eta, \zeta$).

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{E} \phi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} (F - F_v) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta} (G - \hat{G}_v) = \hat{H}$$

where the typical conservative vectors are defined as:

$$\hat{\phi} = hQ \quad \vec{E} = h \left( \xi \vec{E}_\xi + \eta \vec{E}_\eta + \zeta \vec{E}_\zeta \right) \quad \vec{F}_v = h \left( \xi \vec{F}_v + \eta \vec{F}_\eta + \zeta \vec{F}_\zeta \right) \quad \hat{H} = hH$$

(21)

The implicit finite volume formulation of the finite differenced governing equations is linearized to the following delta expression:

$$L^{-1} U \Delta \hat{Q} = \Delta \hat{H}$$

$$L = (I + \Delta t \left( D_{\xi} \partial^+_{\xi} + D_{\eta} \partial^+_{\eta} + D_{\zeta} \partial^+_{\zeta} - \partial^-_{\xi} - \partial^-_{\eta} - \partial^-_{\zeta} \right))$$

$$U = (I + \Delta t \left( D_{\xi} \partial^+_{\xi} + D_{\eta} \partial^+_{\eta} + D_{\zeta} \partial^+_{\zeta} - \partial^-_{\xi} - \partial^-_{\eta} - \partial^-_{\zeta} \right))$$

$$S = (I + \Delta t \left( \partial^+_{\xi} + \partial^+_{\eta} + \partial^+_{\zeta} - \partial^-_{\xi} - \partial^-_{\eta} - \partial^-_{\zeta} \right))$$

(22)

where the explicit right hand side (RHS) is

$$RHS = D_{\xi} \left( \vec{E} - \vec{F}_v \right) + D_{\eta} \left( \hat{G} - \hat{G}_v \right) + D_{\eta} \left( \hat{G} - \hat{G}_v \right) + \hat{H}$$

The flux Jacobians $A^+$, $A^-$, $B^+$, $B^-$, $C^+$ and $C^-$ are constructed such that the eigenvalues of $A^+$, $B^+$ and $C^+$ are positive and the eigenvalues of $A^-$, $B^-$ and $C^-$ are negative.

There are several methods of splitting the Jacobian matrices to achieve the needed sign. A splitting procedure suggested by Yoon and Jameson$^{16}$ based on global spectral radii, has been adopted. The final delta form of the governing equation is developed by splitting the Jacobians into positive and negative parts and upward differencing the governing equation. This procedure enables us to split the implicit side of the numerics into a Upper and Lower form shown in Equation 23 for $\Delta Q$. If no mass transfer ($\omega_e = 0$) is present, as is the case in non-reacting or chemically equilibrium situations, only two scalar inversions are needed to solve Equation 23. For finite rate calculations, the first operator ($L$) in Equation 23 requires point block diagonal inversion because of the implicit coupling of the chemical source terms. This implicit procedure is essentially equivalent to re-scaling the characteristic time scale of the governing equations and is essential for numerical stability. Furthermore, this implicit procedure is much more efficient than explicit procedures in which the numerical stability is further limited by the chemical time scales, which can be orders of magnitude smaller than the convective time scales. The three dimensional LU implicit procedure can be written in the following form:

$$\Delta \hat{Q}_{ijk} = \Delta t \left( \frac{\gamma_A}{\Delta \xi} + \frac{\gamma_B}{\Delta \eta} + \frac{\gamma_C}{\Delta \zeta} \right) \Delta \hat{H}_{ijk}$$

$$+ \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta \xi} \hat{B}_{i-1,j,k} \Delta \hat{Q}_{i-1,j,k} + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta \eta} \hat{B}_{i,j-1,k} \Delta \hat{Q}_{i,j-1,k}$$

(23)
where the split flux Jacobian is defined as,

$$
\lambda^{+} = \frac{1}{2} (\lambda L_{A} l)
$$

$B^{+}, B^{-}, C^{+},$ and $C^{-}$ are similarly defined.

The turbulent kinetic energy and specific dissipation rate transport equations are only weakly coupled to the mean equations through eddy viscosity. Therefore, the turbulence transport equations are solved uncoupled from the mean equations. This decoupling maintains the rank of the Jacobian matrices for the mean flow solver at thirteen and requires only a two by two matrix solver for the turbulence equations. On the right hand (physics) side of Equation 24, a central differencing technique with a numerical filter introduced by Jameson is used. In this uncoupled procedure, the time marching of the turbulence transport equations lags the mean equations marching by one iteration. While the decoupling greatly simplifies the algorithm, additional iterations may be required to resolve any sudden changes in the numerical solutions because of the numerical accuracy lost in the decoupling procedure. Furthermore, it is possible that the decoupling can cause numerical instabilities during early stages of the computation, when rapid changes in the solution are expected. Therefore, additional limiters for turbulent kinetic energy and dissipation were adopted to insure numerical stability.

The source term ($B$) contains the effect of turbulent energy transfer between the dissipative scales and energy containing scales as well as the low Reynolds effects. Therefore, proper numerical treatment of these terms is essential in turbulent flow solver development. In high shear situations, this term tends to get extremely stiff and therefore in most cases the implicit representation of this term is essential in maintaining numerical stability. This difficulty is further extenuated when the turbulence model is expected to handle a rapid exchange in turbulent energy between the dissipative scales and the turbulent energy scales due to externally generated gradients such as shockwaves and their interaction with the turbulent boundary layer. Similar observations have been made by other investigators. However, the exact formulation of the source flux Jacobian term varies from study to study. Initially, we have used the following 2x2 matrix for the source Jacobian on the left hand side of the Equation 24:

$$
\tau_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\bar{P}_k + \epsilon}{\rho \bar{k} - k} & 0 \\
0 & \frac{\bar{P}_k + \epsilon}{\rho \bar{C}_{e1} \bar{k}} - \frac{C_{e2}}{2 \bar{C}_{e1}}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

(24)

Huang and Coakley showed that in order to maintain numerical stability the source Jacobian should be formulated so that the overall numerical scheme maintains a positive left hand side. Therefore, only the negative part of the production term ($\bar{P}_k$) is represented in the source Jacobian.

**Boundary and Initial Conditions**

The combustor walls were assumed to be adiabatic and non-catalytic. At the wall surfaces, zero boundary conditions for turbulent kinetic energy and specific dissipation were used. Zero gradient conditions were assumed at the freestream boundaries. The inlet velocity profile was developed from the initial value of the skin friction coefficient, boundary-layer thickness and the law of the wall assumptions. The compressible law of the wall transformation proposed by Van Driest was then used to account for the effects of compressibility. Furthermore, the velocity and the temperature profiles was assumed to be similar non-dimensionally. Therefore, once the velocity profile is developed the thermal profile can also be completely developed. Finally, the turbulent kinetic energy and dissipation rate profiles were developed from the following empirical relationships:

$$
k = \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{T_{in}}{U} \right) \rho \epsilon = C_{f}^{3/4} \rho \frac{3/2}{l}
$$

(25)

where the characteristic length scale is assumed to be

$$
l = \min (0.4 y, 0.0858)
$$

(26)

**VI Test Cases**

Several non-reacting and reacting injector/combustor flowfields were studied to evaluate the numerical technique and the k-$\epsilon$ turbulence model solver developed. First, a problem of chemical reaction in premixed gas was considered to assess the influence of turbulence models in the predictions of shock-induced combustion. Secondly, predictions of non-reacting combustor flowfields were obtained for a transverse injector/backstep combustor and the solutions were compared with experimental measurements to study effects of the turbulence in typical combustor flowfield predictions. Third, reacting and non-reacting solutions to ramp injector/combustor flowfields were obtained to illustrate the influence of geometry and chemical reactions on the turbulence model predictions.

Laminar and turbulent solutions to premixed H$_2$-air flow over a ten degree ramp were obtained to illustrate the effects of turbulence on chemical reactions. The inlet Mach number is 4.5, and the static pressure and temperature are assumed to be 1 ATM and 900K, respectively. A stoichiometric hydrogen and air mixture is the freestream gas. This configuration is similar to the problem reported by Yangster. Figure 1 shows normalized pressure and temperature distributions at a small distance from the wall for both reacting and non-reacting flows. The open symbol is used to denote pressure and temperature profiles obtained from the non-reacting flow solution and the solid line is used for profiles obtained from the reacting flow. This figure clearly shows the rise in wall temperature caused by the chemical reaction; this rise is preceded by slight ignition delay behind the shock wave.
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A similar comparison of turbulent solutions obtained using the Baldwin-Lomax (BL) turbulence model and the present \( k-\varepsilon \) model on the same grid system is shown in Figure 2. The solid line in Figure 2 is the \( k-\varepsilon \) model prediction, and the open symbols are used to denote the solution obtained from the zero-equation model. Here, the \( k-\varepsilon \) model solution does not include compressibility corrections (i.e., \( \alpha=0, \beta^2=0 \)). As with the laminar solutions, the majority of the chemical reactions take place in the near-wall region behind the shock-wave, where favorable thermodynamic conditions exist. The difference between BL model and \( k-\varepsilon \) model solutions is small because of the low-Reynolds number of the problem and the low turbulence intensity \( (T_i=0.5\%) \) used in the \( k-\varepsilon \) model prediction. However, it is worthwhile to note that there are differences in the boundary-layer characteristics and the shock-wave angle predicted by the two models, shown in Figure 2, especially around the corner region. This indicates that the boundary-layer characteristic predicted is a strong function of the turbulence model employed. Similar behavior was even observed in absence of chemical reactions. Furthermore, the rise in temperature through the shock-wave and the subsequent rise in surface heating causing the ignition are predicted at different ramp locations by the two models. Further evidence of chemical reaction is shown in Figure 3, where fuel \( (H_2) \), oxidant \( (O_2) \), hydroxyl \( (OH) \) and water \( (H_2O) \) mass fraction profiles are plotted. The premixed air-hydrogen burns behind the shock-wave, causing the temperature to rise and water to be produced.

In order to further test the three-dimensional solver with the \( k-\varepsilon \) model of turbulence, a transverse injector/constant area combustor flowfield was studied and the numerical solution is compared with the experimental data obtained by McDaniel. In this combustor design, a rearward facing step is used to create a recirculation region that acts as a flame-holder. This rearward facing step is followed by two injection ports located at the bottom wall of the test section where the fuel (seeded-air) is injected transversely. In order to reduce computational resource required, the flowfield was assumed to be symmetric about a XY-plane located along the centerline of the combustors. A typical geometry of the constant area combustor model with transverse injectors is shown in Figure 4. Two block computational grid systems similar to those used by Lee were also used here. Here, a block of grid was used to model the main combustor and a block of grid was used to model the flowfield inside of the wind tunnel prior to the backstep. The grid cells along the no-slip walls around the injectors and the combustor were stretched using a hyperbolic tangent function to maintain a near-wall non-dimensional height \( (y^+ \) ) of approximately 1.0 at the inlet location. For this problem a half percent turbulence level was assumed in the \( k-\varepsilon \) model prediction. The incoming boundary-layer characteristics were developed from a log-law based formulation. The combustor walls were assumed to adiabatic and non-catalytic. The two-air model \( 15 \) was used to match experimental conditions. In order to further simplify the calculation, only the noslip surface along the bottom surface of the combustor has been resolved in the computation; all other wall surfaces are assumed to be slip walls. A zero gradient boundary condition has been assumed for the injector exit.
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around the injected gas columns. These pressure and temperature contours are in close agreement with the experimental data and the algebraic model predictions shown in Lee.

This difficulty may be the result of the singular eddy viscosity value predicted upstream of this location at the injector ports. At first glance, these results do not indicate any distinctive advantages of using a transport model over a zero-equation model. However, it is important to note that the k-e model approach allows for further generality and physical flexibility not found in the algebraic model formulation and not tested here. These model flexibilities include the ability to model the influence of freestream turbulence intensity and the fuel jet turbulence characteristics on the combustor flow field predictions.

The eddy viscosity contours predicted are shown in Figure 7. This figure shows the weakness of using a low-Reynolds model formulation with Van-Driest damping function. The separation, reattachment, and the injector boundary conditions cause the wall shear stress and therefore the damping function of Equation 7 to go to zero; as a result the eddy viscosity also goes to zero. This behavior causes discontinuity in the predicted eddy viscosity distribution, shown as spikes in Figure 7. Further work is needed to eliminate this difficulty in the model formulation. A typical centerline turbulent kinetic energy distribution predicted is shown in Figure 8. The essential features of the predicted turbulent kinetic energy are consistent with the flowfield physics; for example, high turbulence intensities occur in the high shear regions caused by shock waves and the shear flow mixing generated by the backstep. Typical centerline velocity, pressure, and temperature profiles at three streamwise stations along the combustor centerplane are compared with the experimental data in Figures 9 through 11. In these figures the open symbols denote experimental data obtained by McDaniel, and the lines represent the predictions. In particular, the solid lines denote the k-e model prediction and dashed lines denote the Baldwin-Lomax model prediction. These comparisons clearly show that reasonable predictions can be made with the new k-e model approach. The BL model and k-e model predictions are in rather close agreement with each other because of the low turbulence intensity used in the k-e model prediction. The only appreciably distinguishable feature is seen at the second station, where the re-circulation predicted by the k-e model is stronger than either the measured value or the zero-equation model prediction.
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The new turbulence model-solver combination was used to solve the chemically reacting and non-reacting combustor/injector flowfields. These complex three-dimensional swept and straight ramp hypermixing injector designs are important in developing high efficiency combustors. Typical geometry of the swept ramp injector is shown in Figure 12. The ramp angle is 9.5 degrees and the sweep angle is at 9.0 degrees. The straight ramp geometry was generated using the same ramp angle and zero sweep angle. Both injector geometries were numerically resolved using three block grid system similar to that used in reference 10. In order to obtain combustion, the freestream and the injector static conditions were raised to match the test conditions of NASA Langley's combustor test facility. Here, the inflow Mach number was assumed to be 2.0. The freestream gas is assumed to be vitiated air made up of 25.6% oxygen, 56.2% nitrogen, and 18.2% water. The freestream pressure and temperature are assumed to be 1.0x10^5 Pa and 1024^°K, respectively. The physical conditions, geometrical features, and computational performance of the computation are summarized in Table 4. Fuel-air equivalence ratios of 90% and 60% were investigated. Typical convergence characteristics of the mean variables and the turbulence scalar quantities are shown in Figure 13. In this work, two orders of reduction in the total residual for all variables was assumed to be adequate for convergence.

The chemically reacting solutions are shown along with non-reacting(mixing) solutions to illustrate the influence of exothermic reactions on the turbulent flowfield predictions. Typical water mass fractions predicted at several streamwise locations for the two fuel-air equivalence ratio are shown in Figure 14. This figure also shows that the strength and shape of the streamwise vorticity developed by the swept injector is not significantly influenced by the chemical reactions. The low combustion efficiency achieved for these flow conditions can be a contributing factor for this behavior. Therefore, flows with higher turbulence intensities with additional chemical reactions should be further investigated for additional insight. In this configuration, the majority of the chemical reactions occur in the core region of the streamwise rollup(vorticity), where low streamwise velocity due to ramp blockage is found. This is also the region where the majority of the water is produced. Figure 15 shows the typical static temperature distribution and, as expected, high temperature regions are developed by the combustion process which produced water. Figure 16 shows the typical wall temperature distribution; an extremely hot spot on the combustor wall is evident. The appearance of the hot spot on the wall temperature distribution is consistent with the experimental observations of Northam,28 where extremely high combustor wall temperature some distance from the injector exit was observed. In some cases, the high temperature encountered led to combustor wall failures. Figure 17 shows the turbulent kinetic energy distribution predicted. As expected, the higher turbulence intensities are found in the reacting flow. Furthermore, predicted turbulent kinetic energy profiles show physically
Page intentionally left blank
consistent trends in the turbulence intensities predicted. For example the high mean shear generated by the streamwise vorticity and shock-waves lead to higher turbulence intensities predicted. However, in the absence of experimental measurements definitive conclusions cannot be drawn from this trend. Furthermore, a number of physical modelling issues have not yet been explicitly addressed and the models used in this work may not adequately resolve the injector/combustor flowfield.

An additional reacting combustor flowfield was computed to determine the influence of the fuel-air equivalence ratio. The overall equivalence ratio of the two injector experimental configuration in reference 28 is 120%. In order to match the static condition of that experiment, an equivalent case of 60% fuel-air equivalence ratio was used to test single injector model. Here, only a short constant area section of the combustor duct was computed to minimize the thermal choking effects. The injector to combustor cross-sectional area ratio of the present combustor is different from the work of Northam.\textsuperscript{28} Therefore, only the exit Mach number and static pressures were matched; the static temperature of the fuel was raised to 629\(^\circ\)K to achieved the desired fuel-air equivalence of 60%. The flowfield predicted at this equivalence ratio is similar to earlier solutions.

However, the thermal characteristics predicted have been dramatically altered. The evidence of extensive exothermic activity is shown in Figures 18 and 19. Figure 18 shows the water mass fraction levels predicted at various streamwise locations of the combustor for the two fuel-air equivalence levels studied. The hotter fuel in the 60\% fuel-air equivalence ratio case causes extensive chemical reactions to take place in the combustor. These chemical reactions cause the temperature to rise and a large amount of water to be produced around the tail end and center core region of the streamwise vorticity created by the swept injector, where favorable thermodynamics conditions are present. All three fuel-air equivalence cases studied show similar flowfield features, including the formation of the butterfly shape that vortical rollup causes, with dramatically different combustion efficiencies. This figure further reinforces the idea that the shape of the streamwise vorticity is only weakly linked to the exothermic chemistry and strongly linked to the shape of the ramp injector. Figure 20 shows the influence of chemical reaction on the predicted turbulent kinetic energy. The overall flow feature shown in this figure is very similar to Figure 17. However, in this case the
Page intentionally left blank
increase in exothermic chemical reaction leads to an increase in the peak turbulence intensity.

![Image](Figure 18. Effects of Fuel-Air Equivalence Ratio on the Water Mass Fraction Prediction)

Figure 18. Effects of Fuel-Air Equivalence Ratio on the Water Mass Fraction Prediction

The injector/combustor problems can also be characterized using non-dimensional efficiency parameters. Typical mixing and combustion efficiency predictions are shown in Figure 21. Here the mixing and combustion efficiency definitions proposed by Riggins have been adopted. Mixing efficiency is defined as the ratio of mass flux of least available reactant which would react if complete reaction occurred with no further mixing to total mass flux of the least available reactant. The combustion efficiency is defined as the ratio of the reacted mass flux of least available reactant to total mass of least available reactant. In Figure 21, open symbols are used to denote the combustion efficiency and the filled symbols are used to denote the mixing efficiency. In general Figure 21 shows that only a small amount of combustion occurs near the injector exit plane(X-D region), where the supersonic fuel jet exhibits the under-expanded jet and limited mixing behavior. Furthermore, the increase in the combustion efficiency lags behind the increase in mixing efficiency which indicates that the fuel-air must be well mixed before combustion is possible. Figure 21 also clearly shows the influence that the exothermic chemical reaction has on the mixing of fuel and air. As previously shown in Figure 14, only a small amount of water is produced for the 90% fuel-air equivalence case and is reflected in the lower combustion efficiency shown in Figure 21.

![Image](Figure 20. Effects of Fuel-Air Equivalence Ratio on the Turbulent Kinetic Energy Prediction)

Figure 20. Effects of Fuel-Air Equivalence Ratio on the Turbulent Kinetic Energy Prediction

It is also interesting to note that the mixing efficiency for this low combustion case closely matches the mixing efficiency obtained from the non-reacting solution. As the fuel-air equivalence ratio is reduced to 60%, the influence of exothermic reaction on mixing increases, and higher mixing efficiency is then predicted. The increased combustion also leads to higher production of reacted products, such as water and hydroxyl, and leads to higher combustion efficiency. This behavior is consistent with observations made in numerical simulations of Givi where increased mixedness was observed with an increase in exothermic chemical reactions. The influence of the injector geometry on the fuel-air mixing is shown in Figure 21, where the fuel mass fraction contours generated by the swept ramp injector and the straight ramp injector are compared. This figure clearly shows the swept ramp injector generated peak fuel mass fraction decay behavior and fuel penetration characteristics that are much better than those generated by the straight ramp injector. This behavior further translates into higher mixing efficiencies shown in Figure 23.
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VII Concluding Remarks

A generalized flow solver using Lower-Upper diagonal decomposition techniques has been successfully coupled with three low-Reynolds number k-ε models for engineering analyses. A generalized solver for chemically reacting flows with a low-Reynolds number k-ε turbulence model has been developed. Preliminary comparisons of experimental data and computed solutions show reasonable agreement. Using a two-equation model of turbulence requires only slightly more computational resources than using an algebraic model. However, the generalized formulation of the two-equation model provides flexibility and generality, and allows modeling of needed physics not possible with an algebraic model formulation. Several test cases have been used to illustrate the potential of the new CFD method in dealing with variation in fuel-air equivalence ratio and injector geometry. Additional analyses are needed to determine the effects of the low Reynolds model variations and the compressibility effects in injector/combustor problems. An alternate low-Reynolds number formulation that does not use the Van-Driest damping function should be further tested to avoid model formulation difficulties for complex combustor geometries.

VIII Acknowledgment

This work was funded by Contract NAS 3-25266 monitored by Dr. D. R. Reddy and Dr. L. A. Povinelli. Extremely helpful suggestions of Dr. J. Shuen and other NASA LeRC personnel are gratefully acknowledged. The computations presented in this work were performed using resources from the LeRC-YMP and the C-90 at NAS.

IX References

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### Table 2: Chemical Species Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>( \sigma^0(A) )</th>
<th>( T_e^{0(K)} )</th>
<th>( h_o^0(J/Kg) )</th>
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### Table 3: Summary of combustor performance

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<td>2.56 g/s</td>
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CPU(Cray) 1.7-3.1 x 10⁶

Table 2: Chemical Species Property

Table 3: Summary of combustor performance
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<th>Reactions</th>
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Table 4: Laminar Reaction Rate Constants
**Title and Subtitle**

An Application of a Two-Equation Model of Turbulence to Three Dimensional Chemically Reacting Flows

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**Notes**


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**Abstract**

A numerical study of three dimensional chemically reacting and non-reacting flowfields is conducted using a two-equation model of turbulence. A generalized flow solver using an implicit Lower-Upper (LU) diagonal decomposition numerical technique and finite-rate chemistry has been coupled with a low-Reynolds number two-equation model of turbulence. This flow solver is then used to study chemically reacting turbulent supersonic flows inside combustors with synergetic fuel injectors. The reacting and non-reacting turbulent combustor solutions obtained are compared with zero-equation turbulence model solutions and with available experimental data. The hydrogen-air chemistry is modeled using a nine-species/eighteen-reaction model. A low-Reynolds number k-ε model was used to model the effect of turbulence because, in general, the low-Reynolds number k-ε models are easier to numerically implement and are far more general than algebraic models. However, low-Reynolds number k-ε models require a much finer near-wall grid resolution than high-Reynolds number models to accurately resolve the near-wall physics. This is especially true in complex flow fields, where the stiff nature of the near-wall turbulence must be resolved. Therefore, the limitations imposed by the near-wall characteristics and compressible model corrections need to be evaluated further. The gradient-diffusion hypothesis is used to model the effects of turbulence on the mass diffusion process. The influence of this low-Reynolds number turbulence model on the reacting flowfield predictions was studied parametrically.

**Subject Terms**

Two-equation turbulence model; Turbulent chemically reacting flows; Supersonic; Hypersonic; Combustor; Injector; Hydrogen

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