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Large Eddy Simulation of Normally Impinging Round Air-Jet Heat Transfer at Moderate Reynolds Numbers

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents results of dynamic Smagorinsky-type model-based large eddy simulation of normally impinging round air-jet heat transfer at moderate Reynolds numbers (4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴) with orifice-to-plate distance fixed at 5. Using software Open Source Field Operation and Manipulation (OpenFOAM), predicted distributions of mean velocity components, velocity fluctuations, and turbulent stresses in the vertical and radial directions are compared with existing empirical and numerical results. For the predicted heat flow from the target wall, there is satisfactory consistency of the mean Nusselt number in comparison with measured empirical results.

1. Introduction

To enhance heat transfer, jet impingement is a conventional method [1,2]. Increasing the normal velocity gradient and turbulence intensity of fluid flow near the impingement surface, can improve the heat transfer [3]. As ice on highways and urban roads in winter are harmful, with significant influence on the safety of car-drivers and travelers, it generates a demand of effective ice-removal tool. Furthermore, the study of impinging round jet heat transfer has great significance in thermal science. Before introducing the main objective of this paper, background of impinging jet heat transfer, categorized into the experimental [3–14] and numerical aspect [15–28] is briefly reported below.

Many numerical studies have been completed by means of direct numerical simulation (DNS), Reynolds averaged Navier–Stokes (RANS) modeling, and large eddy simulation (LES). In RANS simulation, Craft et al. [15] employed an extended version of the finitevolume code TEAM to predict turbulent impinging jets discharged from a circular pipe, measured by Baughn and Shimizu [5] and Cooper et al. [6]. Zhang et al. [18] studied flow and heat transfer performance of a deflector under periodic jet impingement with the k- ε model developed by using Re-Normalization Group (RNG) methods [19].

LES of a forced semi-confined round impinging jet were done by Olsson and Fuchs [20]. For the case of Reynolds number of 10^4 , the inflow was forced at a Strouhal number of 0.27, the orifice-to-plate distance was set at H/D = 4. The existence of separation vortices in the wall jet region was confirmed, and secondary vortices were found to be related to the radially deflected primary vortices generated by the circular shear layer of the jet, while primary vortex structures that reach the wall were helical and not axi-symmetric.

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LES results of round impinging air jets with heat transfer were reported by Hällqvist [21]. In particular, the LES model was a basic one without explicit sub-grid-scale (SGS) modeling and without explicit filtering. Instead, the numerical scheme was used to consider the necessary amount of dissipation. It was found that top-hat and turbulent inflow conditions can yield a higher rate of incoherent small-scale structures. The applied *swirl* level at the velocity inlet has significant influence on the rate of heat transfer. The turbulence level increased with swirl, which was positive for heat transfer, and also the jet spreading.

Based on LES of a normally impinging round jet issuing from a long pipe at a Reynolds number $\text{Re} = 2 \times 10^4$, and H/D = 2, Hadziabdic and Hanjalic [22] found that there were interesting time and spatial dynamics of the vorticity and eddy structures and their imprints on target wall. Uddin et al. [23] performed LES of turbulent jets that normally impinge on a target surface, focused on the case of a jet that was issued from a circular pipe into stagnant

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surrounding air at the relatively high jet-issuing Reynolds number of 2.3×10^4 and H/D = 6. They found that only one of the models considered succeeded in representing effects on the heat fluxes of the complex strain field associated with the stagnation region and the subsequent development into the wall jet region, and discussed the relevant reasons.

More recently, based on the singular valued SGS model [24] with LES results compared with those based on the dynamic Smagorinsky model [25], recent development of computation of turbulent impinging jet heat transfer was reported by Dewan et al. [26]. An LESdedicated prediction of a pulsatile hot-jet impinging a flat-plate in the presence of a cold turbulent cross-flow was conducted by Toda et al. [27], in which two eddyviscosity-based SGS models, i.e., the σ -model [24] and the dynamic Smagorinsky model [25] were used. LES of a turbulent jet impinging on a heated wall using high-order numerical schemes were carried out by Dairay et al. [28], indicating that highly accurate numerical methods could lead to correct predictions of velocity statistics and heat transfer but only if a procedure was used to regularize the large-scale dynamics calculated explicitly.

The brief literature review reported above shows that the impinging jet heat transfer is certainly a hot topic in research. Considering the mechanism of impinging jet heat transfer being helpful to the design of effective ice-removal tool, and the case at shorter orifice-toplate distance (H/D = 2) has been numerically investigated [22,28], we focus in this study on investigating the normally impinging round air-jet heat transfer at a relatively long orifice-to-plate distance (H/D = 5) at moderate jet-issuing Reynolds numbers (4,400, 10^4 , and 2.3 \times 10^4) by LES on the basis of the dynamic Smagorinsky model [25] using calculation based on the open sourcecode OpenFOAM (Open Source Field Operation and Manipulation). The distributions of mean velocities, their fluctuations, mean Nusselt numbers, and the corresponding dependence of air-jet Reynolds number are discussed in the section of results and discussion.

2. Governing equations

Schematically, the jet heat transfer problem is shown in Figure 1. It involves a round air-jet impinging normally to a plat plate, with a fixed relatively long orifice-to-plate distance of H/D = 5. The jet Reynolds numbers (Re = W_bD/ν) for the LES are, respectively, 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴, at which the flows are turbulent [23]. For simplicity, air temperature of the jet is assumed to be the same as the ambient temperature, but lower than that of the plate surface heated under the condition of constant heat flux. The air jet plays a cooling role on the target wall. Although



Figure 1. Schematic diagram of normally impinging round air-jet heat transfer.

there exists a reverse effect in the case of ice-removal, the mechanism of jet impinging heat transfer is almost the same as soon as the ice melting related phenomenon is excluded. It is assumed that the air jet flow is incompressible, the cooling mode is mainly related to forced convection, the contributions due to buoyancy caused natural convection, and wall thermal radiation are negligible. Following the published work [17,23], using these assumptions and the mass, momentum and energy conservations, the governing equations can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \widehat{u}_i}{\partial x_i} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial \widehat{u}_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (\widehat{u}_j \widehat{u}_i)}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \widehat{p}}{\partial x_i} + \nu \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\frac{\partial \widehat{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \widehat{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial \overline{t}_i^s}{\partial t^s}$$

$$-\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial v_{ij}}{\partial x_j} \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\partial (c_p \widehat{T})}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (c_p \widehat{u}_j \widehat{T})}{\partial x_j} = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\Gamma c_p \frac{\partial \widehat{T}}{\partial x_j} \right] - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q_j^s}{\partial x_j} \quad (3)$$

where v, ρ , c_p , and Γ are thermophysical parameters of air, u_i is the flow velocity component in the x_i direction, T represents air temperature, with the over hat ' $^{\prime}$ denoting the resolved variables. Sub-grid scale stress is defined by

$$\tau_{ii}^{s} = \rho(\widehat{u_{i}u_{j}} - \widehat{u}_{i}\widehat{u}_{j}).$$
(4)

The sub-grid scale closure model for momentum is based on a gradient-diffusion hypothesis, which can be expressed as a relation between anisotropic stress and (large-scale) strain rate tensor:

$$\tau_{ij}^{s} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ij}\tau_{kk}^{s} = 2\rho\nu_{s}\left(\widehat{S}_{ij} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ij}\widehat{S}_{kk}\right),\tag{5}$$

where v_s is sub-grid viscosity, given by

$$\nu_s = (c_s \Delta)^2 \widehat{S} = (c_s \Delta)^2 \sqrt{2 \widehat{S}_{ij} \widehat{S}_{ij}}, \qquad (6)$$

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Table 1. Thermophysical properties of air used in the LES.

$\rho(\rm kg/m^3)$	$c_p(kJ/kg \cdot K)$	$\lambda(W/m\cdot K)$	$\nu(m^2/s)$	Pr
1.1767	1.0066	0.0262	$1.58 imes10^{-5}$	0.7196

where

$$\widehat{S}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \widehat{u}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \widehat{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \right)$$
(7)

is the resolved strain rate. In Eq. (6), Δ is the grid filter width, c_s is a constant determined by Germano identity dynamically, which assumes similarity of SGS quantities between the grid (Δ) filter level and the test ($\sim 2\Delta$) filter level [29], implying that the sub-grid scale model employed is the dynamic Smagorinsky-type model (DSM) [30].

Sub-grid heat flux q_i^s is expressed as

$$q_j^s = \rho c_p (\widehat{u_j T} - \widehat{u}_j \widehat{T}). \tag{8}$$

Again, let Pr_s be sub-grid Prandtl number, and using gradient diffusion assumption as reported in Ref. [23], we have

$$q_j^s = -\rho c_p \alpha_s \frac{\partial \widehat{T}}{\partial x_i},\tag{9}$$

where ($\alpha_s = \nu_s/Pr_s$) denotes sub-grid thermal diffusivity. In the present LES, the sub-grid Prandtl number Pr_s is set at 0.85.

The open boundaries at the top and side are assigned to have constant pressure conditions, which allow the occurrence of possible reverse flow. The inflow turbulence intensity is assumed at the level of 1%, so that the root mean square (rms) value of velocity fluctuation for each component can be simply set as 1% of the jet velocity W_b . On the target plate wall, no-slip condition and constant heat flux condition are used. The heat flux was set at 1,000 W/m², similar to that described in Ref. [23]. While the ambient air temperature in this LES is set at 300K, at which the thermo-physical properties under standard atmospheric pressure are given in Table 1.

It is noted that the artificially assumed heat flux almost certainly has no impact on the calculated value of Nusselt number, since heat transfer mechanism is primarily dominated by turbulent forced convection caused by the air-jet impinging.

3. Numerical method

LES is carried out by virtue of control volume approach in an unstructured grid system. For the discretization of governing Eqs. (1)-(3), second-order Crank–Nicolsen method is used for time derivatives, while the secondorder central-difference scheme is used for spatial partial

Table 2. Computational parameters.

Re	$W_b(m/s)$	<i>z</i> +	<i>t</i> ₀ (s)	$\overline{\tau}$	R _s
4,400	9.96	≤ 1.87	$\begin{array}{c} 7.049 \times 10^{-3} \\ 3.101 \times 10^{-3} \\ 1.348 \times 10^{-3} \end{array}$	5806	32.26
10,000	22.57	≤ 1.96		3398	125.3
23,000	51.91	≤ 3.59		2789	351.1

derivatives. The discretized algebraic equations are solved by the PISO (Pressure Implicit with Splitting of Operator) algorithm.

Note that time step (Δt) in OpenFOAM is selfadjusted. It is achieved by assigning a condition that the Courant number be less than 0.5, i.e., $\Delta t|U|/\delta x < 0.5$, where δx refers to the cell size in the direction of velocity, and |U| refers to the magnitude of velocity through that cell. The total cell number is about 1.2×10^6 . As shown in the third column of Table 2, the normalized finest grid distance close to the target wall ($z^+ = zu_\tau/\nu$, u_τ refers to the friction velocity) is less than 1.87, 1.96, or 3.59 for jet Reynolds number ($\text{Re} = W_b D/\nu$) of 4,400, 10⁴, or 2.3×10^4 , respectively, causing the time step sometimes at the level of micro-second. For heat transfer problems in engineering, $z^+ \leq 5$ may be a relatively suitable choice [31]. Grid distribution near the stagnation point can be seen in Figure 2.

LES calculation is encompassed using a single processor of a parallel computer station. Computational parameters are listed in Table 2, where the sixth column shows the step ratio R_s estimated on the approach reported by Smirnov et al. [32]. The so-called step ratio refers to the ratio of maximal allowable number of time steps for the problem and the actual number of time steps used to obtain the result. For $S^{max} \approx 3\%$, R_s values are all larger than 30, as shown in Table 2.

For estimating the accumulated error in numerical work based on Navier–Stokes equations, the step ratio R_s can be used. As reported by Smirnov et al. [32], R_s characterizes reliability of results to determine the limit of the simulations. The higher the value of R_s , the lower the accumulated error is. As R_s approaches unity, the error tends to a maximum allowable value. As the reliability of numerical results is evaluated by a step ratio approach [32], the relevant verification is done in comparison with measured empirical correlation, thus omitting the checking of grid independence. The DSM-based LES results will be discussed in the next section.

4. Results and discussion

Taking, respectively, the jet-nozzle diameter D and the jet speed W_b as the scales of length and velocity, the time scale t_0 is D/W_b . As the jet nozzle diameter D is chosen as 0.007 m in this LES, relevant values of the time scale (t_0) , jet



Figure 2. Grid distribution near the stagnation point in the x-y plane.



Figure 3. Instantaneous streamlines and temperature contours in the near wall region (a) $\bar{t} = 5801.96$, Re=4,400; (b) $\bar{t} = 278.8$, Re = 10⁴; (c) $\bar{t} = 302.4$, Re = 2.3 × 10⁴.



Figure 4. Instantaneous iso-surface of pressure fluctuation at different Reynolds numbers, (a) $\bar{t} = 5801.96$, Re = 4,400; (b) $\bar{t} = 278.8$, Re = 10^4 ; (c) $\bar{t} = 302.4$, Re = 2.3×10^4 . Note that the iso-surface of pressure fluctuation is labeled by -1.18Pa.

velocity (W_b) , and time period for the statistical analysis $(\overline{\tau})$ are shown in Table 2.

To show the flow structures of impinging jet on the target plate, instantaneous streamlines for the three cases are shown in Figures 3 a-c, with the illustrations of

temperature contours shown in Figures 3 d–f. It can be seen that the locations of the deflected primary vortices and their shapes not only vary temporally and spatially under the turbulent flow regime, but also depend on the jet Reynolds number (Re). As the target wall is heated under constant heat flux, air temperature in the wall region has an intimate dependency on Re, with an increase of Re, for a given point in the r - z plane, it has a lower value. The temperature patterns in Figures 3 d-f indicate the heat transfer rate due to air-jet impingement is intimately dependent on Re.

To further illustrate the jet Re dependence, Figures 4ac give instantaneous iso-surface of pressure fluctuations labeled by the value -1.18Pa. This pressure iso-surface indicates that the impinging jet flow does relate to the intensity of fluid–solid interaction, which depends on the jet momentum flux and orifice-to-plate distance.

Figures 5 a–c show maps of normalized mean velocity magnitude and mean turbulent kinetic energy. Although these maps of mean velocity magnitude are almost insensitive to the jet Re, the maps of the mean turbulent kinetic energy $\langle k \rangle / W_b^2$ reveal that mean contours of $\langle k \rangle / W_b^2$ are slightly sensitive to Re.



Figure 5. Comparison of maps of normalized mean velocity magnitude and turbulent kinetic energy at Reynolds numbers of (a) 4,400, (b) 10^4 , and (c) 2.3×10^4 , respectively.



Figure 6. Comparison of velocity component in the vertical direction, (a–c) at r/D=0, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴; (d–f) at r/D=0.5, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴. The data labeled by circle and diamond are obtained from Ref. [7]; solid line denotes W/Wb; dashed line represents U/Wb.

Comparison of velocities in the vertical direction at two radial positions [r/D = 0, and r/D = 0.5] is shown in Figures 6 a–f, where experimental data labeled by open circle for U/W_b and filled diamond for W/W_b are obtained from Ref. [7]. The experimental data of Geers et al. [7] are obtained at Re = 2.3×10^4 and at a shorter orificeto-plate distance of H/D = 2. At the two radial positions, predicted velocity distributions in the vertical direction agree favorably with the measured data. The discrepancy is mainly from the difference of H/D. Similarly, in the vertical direction at the two radial positions, normalized velocity distributions are insensitive to the jet Re.

However, this does not hold for distributions of velocity fluctuations, as shown in Figures 7 a–f. At the two same radial positions [r/D = 0, and r/D = 0.5], comparison of velocity fluctuations in the *z*-direction suggests that the jet Re does have some influence on the distribution of velocity fluctuations in the *z*-direction.

On the other hand, comparison of mean velocity distributions in the r-direction with the numerical results of



Figure 7. Comparison of velocity fluctuations in the vertical direction, (a–c) at r/D = 0, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴; (d–f) at r/D = 0.5, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴. The data labeled by circle and diamond are obtained from Ref. [7], solid line denotes $u_{\rm rms}/W_b$, dashed line represents $w_{\rm rms}/W_b$.



Figure 8. Comparison of mean velocity distributions in the radial direction, (a–c) for U/W_b , Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴; (d–f) for W/W_b , Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴. The data labeled by open circle and filled diamond are obtained from the numerical work [22].

Hadziabdic and Hanjalic [22] is shown in Figures 8(a)-(f), where parts (a-c) show the mean velocity component U/W_b at two distances to the wall surface (z/D =0.0125, 0.05), with (d-f) parts showing W/W_b at the two distances. In Figures 8(a)-(c), it can be seen that the radial velocity distribution is sensitive to the wall distance z/Dfor the three cases $\text{Re} = 4,400, 10^4, 2.3 \times 10^4$. The value of mean velocity U/W_h is larger at z/D = 0.05 as compared with that at z/D = 0.0125, with the mean velocity difference depending on the distance to the impinging jet axis r/D. In Figures 8 d-f, a good agreement with numerical results as reported in Ref. [22] occurs for the wall distance z/D = 0.05, while for finer wall distance z/D = 0.0125, there is an observable discrepancy in the stagnation point region. Similarly, the discrepancy in comparison with the numerical results in Ref. [22], which are illustrated by open circles and filled diamonds, is mainly due to the difference of H/D.

The influence of round air-jet impingement condition can be seen more obviously from the comparison of turbulent stress, as shown in Figures 9 a–f. Apart from the main features such as the orifice-to-plate distance H/Dand the jet Reynolds number, the assignment of boundary conditions and the numerical approach to some extent have certain influences on the LES results. From Figures 9 a–f, it is seen that at two vertical locations z/D = 0.0125and 0.05, the radial distributions of sub-grid stresses indicate that there exists a clear dependence on jet Re.

Describing the target wall surface in polar coordinates, averaging the heat transfer coefficient of jet impingement in the θ -direction from zero to 2π , the heat transfer coefficient *h* can be expressed as a single function of *r*. Further

averaging the local Nusselt number

$$Nu = hD/\lambda$$

in the *r*-direction, the mean Nusselt number can be written as

$$Nu_{av} = \frac{2}{r^2} \int_0^r Nu \cdot \eta d\eta, \qquad (10)$$

where η denotes intermediate variable of integration. As shown in Figure 10, based on LES using OpenFOAM, the predicted mean Nusselt number agrees well with the data given by Ref. [4]. It can be seen that for $r/D \ge 2.5$, the data are calculated directly by empirical expression [4]

$$Nu_{av,\exp} = F \cdot [1.36 \text{Re}^{0.574} \text{Pr}^{0.42}], \qquad (11)$$

where the multiplier

$$F = [D/r(1 - 1.1D/r)]/[1 + 0.1D/r(H/D - 6)]$$
(12)

is a function of D/r and H/D. For the empirical Eq. (11), the available range of Reynolds number is 2, $000 \le \text{Re} \le 30,000$.

It is noted that for r/D < 2.5 in the region close to stagnation point, experimental data are obtained with respect to some measured curves in Ref. [4], implying that in the region there also exist some uncertainties for the empirically obtained data. In general, the favorable comparison of heat transfer indicates that the DSM-based LES with OpenFOAM can obtain satisfactory numerical heat transfer results for the normally impinging round air-jets at moderate Reynolds numbers.



Figure 9. Comparison of turbulent stress in the radial direction (a–c) at z/D = 0.0125, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴; (d–f) at z/D = 0.05, Re = 4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3 × 10⁴. The data labeled by open circle and filled diamond are obtained from the numerical work [22].

5. Conclusions

Based on the dynamic Smagorinsky model (DSM), LES of normally impinging round air-jet heat transfer at moderate jet Reynolds numbers (4,400, 10⁴, and 2.3×10^4) and at the orifice-to-plate distance H/D = 5 have been conducted with OpenFOAM with the following findings:

- 1. The normally impinging round air-jet heat transfer, and the relevant deflected turbulent flow structures on the target plate are intimately dependent on the air-jet conditions simply denoted by the jet issuing Re and the orifice-to-plate distance.
- 2. The mean Nusselt number based on LES agrees satisfactorily with measured empirical results, indicating that the sub-grid model DSM and OpenFOAM certainly have potential in numerically simulating some thermal engineering problems.



Figure 10. Distributions of mean Nusselt number at different Reynolds numbers.

- 3. The top and side open boundaries can be assigned to have constant pressure conditions, under which reverse flow on the open boundaries is permitted.
- 4. To guarantee the reliability of LES results, the evaluations should be done by predicting the step ratio with the method reported recently [32].

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Nomenclature

- c_p specific heat capacity at constant pressure, (J/kg · K)
- *cs* constant determined by the Germano identity dynamicall
- D nozzle diameter, (m
- DNS direct numerical simulation
- DSM dynamic Smagorinsky-type model
 - *H* orifice-to-plate distance, (m)
 - *h* heat transfer coefficient, $(W/m^2 \cdot K)$
 - k turbulent kinetic energy per unit mass, (= $\frac{1}{2}\overline{u'_i^2}$), (m²/s²)
 - $\langle k \rangle$ mean turbulent kinetic energy per unit mass, (m^2/s^2)
- LES large eddy simulation
- *Nu* Nusselt number, $(= hD/\lambda)$
- Nu_{av} mean Nusselt number
 - *p* pressure, (Pa)
 - q_j^s sub-grid heat flux, (W/m²)
 - Pr Prandtl number, $(= c_p \rho \nu / \lambda)$

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exhaust gas.

- Pr_s sub-grid Prandtl number
- *r* radial coordinate, (m)
- RANS Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes
 - Re Reynolds number, $(= W_b D/v)$
 - *R_s* ratio of maximal allowable number and actual number of time steps
 - S_{ii} resolved strain rate, (s⁻¹)
 - *S*^{max} assumed allowable total error
 - SGS sub-grid scale
 - T temperature, (K
 - t time, (s)
 - t_0 time scale, (s)
 - \overline{t} normalized time, $(=t/t_0)$
 - U mean velocity component in radial direction, (m/s)
 - |U| magnitude of velocity through the cell, (m/s)
 - u_{τ} friction velocity, (m/s)
 - u_i velocity component in x_i direction, (m/s)
 - u_i velocity component in x_i direction, (m/s)
 - u'_i instantaneous fluctuation of u_i , $(= \hat{u}_i \overline{\hat{u}_i})$, (m/s)
 - $u_{\rm in}$ incoming flow speed, (m/s
 - u_{rms} root mean square of velocity component in radial direction, (m/s
 - W mean velocity component in axial direction, (m/s)
 - W_b jet-issuing mean velocity, (m/s)
 - w_{rms} root mean square velocity component in axial direction, (m/s

x, y, z Cartesian coordinates

 z^+ normalized finest grid distance close to the target wall

Greek symbols

- α_s sub-grid thermal diffusivity, (m²/s)
- Δ rid filter width
- δ_{ij} Kronecker delta
- λ thermal conductivity, (W/m · K)
- ν kinematic viscosity, (m²/s)
- v_s sub-grid viscosity, (m²/s)
- ρ density, (kg/m³)
- τ_{ij}^s sub-grid scale stress, (N/m²)
- $\frac{1}{\overline{\tau}}$ time period for statistical analysis in the unit of t_0

Subscripts

- ∞ ambient
- av average
- *b* bulk
- exp experimental correlations
- rms oot mean square
 - *s* sub-grid scale
 - w wall

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