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Inlet flow disturbance effects on direct numerical simulation of incompressible round jet at Reynolds number 2500



Zejing Hu^{a,b}, Yongliang Zhang^a, Zuojin Zhu^{a,*}

^a Faculty of Engineering Science, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China ^b Anhui Xiang Shui Jian Pumped Storage Co., LTD, Wuhu 241083, China

HIGHLIGHTS

The inlet flow disturbance effects on direct numerical simulation (DNS) of incompressible round jet at Reynolds number 2500 are reported.
In the DNS, a six order biased upwind difference scheme (BUDS) for spacial discretization of nonlinear convective terms in the Navier-Stokes equations is used.

• Centerline velocity and its root square value are compared with some existing results for the BUDS validation.

• The contours of time-circumferential mean factor of swirling strength intermittency are shown.

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ABSTRACT

This letter reports inlet flow disturbance effects on direct numerical simulation of incompressible round jet at Reynolds number 2500. The simulation employs an accurate projection method in which a sixth order biased upwind difference scheme is used for spatial discretization of nonlinear convective terms, with a fourth order central difference scheme used in the discretization of the divergence of intermediate velocity. Carefully identifying reveals that the inlet flow disturbance has some influences on the distribution pattern of mean factor of swirling strength intermittency. With the increase of inlet disturbance magnitude jet core cone slightly shortens, observable differences occur in the centerline velocity and its fluctuations, despite the negligible impacts on the least square fitted centerline velocity decay constant (B_u) and distribution parameter (K_u) for velocity profile in self-similar region.

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In many practical applications turbulent jets play crucial roles, for instance in the thermodynamical mechanisms of combustion, heat and mass transfer. As a prototype of free flow, turbulent jet has been studied frequently, there are a large number of publications and reviews. Some early reviews were reported [1-3], with a recent review given in Ref. [4].

To confirm the behavior of jet similarity at least asymptotically, experiments were conducted by Ref. [5-7]. But the universality of jet similarity can still depend on other factors, such as the initial conditions [8]. Using three distinct acceleration schemes of linear, quadratic, and exponential to increase the nozzle exit velocity by an order of magnitude, Zhang et al. [9] studied acceleration effects on turbulent jets in a series of flow visualization experiments. They found that as the flow accelerated, a discernible *front* was established. Based on the scaling of centerline velocity in steady jets, a model appears to correctly predict the time dependence of the front position. Some others experimental results were reported in Refs. [10-14]. For instance, Abdel-Rahman et al. [10] measured the velocity field of turbulent round air jet flows to study the relative influence of using a wall at the jet exit plane on the jet behaviors and characteristics. The dispersion and mixing of passive scalar (temperature) fluctuations in a turbulent jet was studied by Tong and Warhaft [14],

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E-mail address: zuojin@ustc.edu.cn (Z.L. Zhu).

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* Corresponding author.

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for which the centerline velocity fluctuation at Reynolds number 18000 was reported.

To study the inflow condition effect on far field self-similar region of a round jet, the direct numerical simulation (DNS) of a spatially developing free round jet at a low Reynolds number of 2.43×10^3 was performed by Boersma et al. [15]. They found the evidence in support of the suggestion by Ref. [8] that the details of self-similarity depend on the initial conditions, implying that there may exist no universally valid similarity scaling for the free jet.

A brief literature review has been reported elsewhere [16]. In the present study, to present a more specific insight of turbulent intermittency from views relating to variations of vortical structures, prediction of swirling strength intermittency factor with DNS of incompressible jet at Reynolds number 2500 is carried out. For this purpose, a sixth order biased-upwind difference scheme (BUDS) and a fourth order central difference scheme are developed and used in an accurate projection numerical method for the DNS. The BUDS is also used in seeking the 1+1 Burgers equation under definite conditions to inspect its application feasibility at first and then used in the DNS of the jet flow. The numerical results have been checked by a step ratio approach [17, 18], and validated by the existing experimental and DNS results, hence the checking of grid independence is omitted. We will start our description from governing equations and terminate by several concluding remarks.

In Fig. 1(a), a sketch of the jet geometry and the cylindrical coordinate system are illustrated. Let us assume that the fluid is emitting the computational domain through an orifice in a wall with a jet speed U_0 . The fluid flow enters into free space without confining walls. While moving downstream, the jet cross section increases due to entrainment, ambient fluid has to enter the jet region [19]. This entrainment is generated by small pressure differences between the surrounding and the jet flow. The flow is assumed to be isothermal and incompressible and is thus governed by the following equations based on the conservation of mass and momentum:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0},\tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}) = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u},\tag{2}$$

where **u** is the velocity vector, *p* is the pressure, ρ is the mass density, and ν is the kinematic viscosity of the fluid, both taken to be constant. In a cylindrical coordinate system, **u** = (ν , w, u),

the nonlinear convective terms can be defined by

$$H_{1} = v \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + w \left(\frac{\partial v}{r \partial \theta} - \frac{w}{r} \right) + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial z},$$

$$H_{2} = v \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} + w \left(\frac{\partial w}{r \partial \theta} + \frac{v}{r} \right) + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial z},$$

$$H_{3} = v \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial u}{r \partial \theta} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}.$$
(3)
Further label $P_{1} = \left(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial r^{2}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right), P_{2} = \frac{1}{r^{2}} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}}, \text{ and } P_{3} = \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial z^{2}},$

use $D = P_1 + P_2 + P_3$, the diffusion terms can be defined by

$$D_{1} = \nu \left(Dv - \frac{2}{r^{2}} \frac{\partial w}{\partial \theta} - \frac{v}{r^{2}} \right), \quad D_{2} = \nu \left(Dw + \frac{2}{r^{2}} \frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} - \frac{w}{r^{2}} \right),$$
$$D_{3} = \nu Du. \tag{4}$$

Then, the continuity Eq. (1) and momentum equation (2) can be re-written as

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial w}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{v}{r} = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} + H_1 - D_1 = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial r},$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + H_2 - D_2 = -\frac{\partial p}{r\partial \theta},$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + H_3 - D_3 = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z}.$$
(5)

The computational domain and its boundaries are shown in Fig. 1(b). The three types of boundaries: the inflow, outflow, and lateral boundary, require distinguished boundary condition.

At the inflow boundary of the jet all three velocity components are specified, and the pressure is left free. For the specification of the velocity, we distinguish between the area inside and outside the orifice, i.e.,

$$\nu = \begin{cases}
+A_0 r^{0.5} \cdot \cos(1.5\theta), & \text{in the orifice 0, on nozzle wall,} \\
\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{otherwise,} \\
w = \begin{cases}
-A_0 r^{0.5} \cdot \sin(1.5\theta), & \text{in the orifice 0, on nozzle wall,} \\
\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{otherwise,} \\
u = \begin{cases}
U_0, & \text{in the orifice 0, on nozzle wall,} \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 0, & \text{otherwise,} \\
\end{cases}$$
(6)



Fig. 1. a A sketch of the jet geometry plus cylindrical coordinate system, *r* denotes the radial direction, *z* denotes the axial direction, with the circumferential direction θ omitted. **b** A sketch of the computational domain. $r_{\rm m} = 5D$, and $z_{\rm m} = 45D$.

where U_0 is the axial velocity in the orifice, it is a constant. A_0 is the magnitude of inlet flow disturbance, has the unit of U_0/\sqrt{D} . By assuming the main flow streamwise gradient of u is vanished, the velocity component u_r in the orifice can be simply derived from the continuity equation if w is set as $-A_0r^{0.5} \cdot \sin(1.5\theta)$. To seek the effects of the artificially assumed magnitude of inlet flow disturbance, in this letter we will use the normalized parameter $A^* = A_0\sqrt{D}/U_0$ to distinguish the DNS scenarios.

At the lateral boundary, by assuming the radial derivative for radial velocity component v is zero, using the so-called traction-free boundary condition [15, 20], we can derive that the second order derivative should be vanished, that means for $r = r_{\rm m}$,

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial r^2} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} = 0.$$
 (7)

At the flow centerline, the jet symmetry requires that for r = 0,

$$v = 0, \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = 0.$$
 (8)

At the outflow boundary we use a so-called convective boundary condition [15], for $z = z_m$ as

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = -U\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} , \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = -U\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} , \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -U\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} , \quad (9)$$

where U is mean velocity over the outflow boundary. Equation (9) is discretized, with first-order discretization in space and time.

When circumferential period is assumed to be π , the periodic boundary condition in the circumferential direction is given by

$$\mathbf{u}(r,\theta+\pi,z) = \mathbf{u}(r,\theta,z). \tag{10}$$

Such assumption permits to use less grids in the circumferential direction as compared that for the case without the period half shortening.

The governing Eq. (5) of jet flow were discretized by a finite difference method in a staggered grid system. An accurate projection method [21] is used for the DNS. Now just a brief description is described below. Let the intermediate velocity vector, the pressure potential, and the time level be $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$, ϕ , and n, respectively. Define $\mathbf{u} \equiv (v, w, u)$, $\mathbf{H} = (H_1, H_2, H_3)^{\mathrm{T}}$, and $\mathbf{D} = (D_1, D_2, D_3)^{\mathrm{T}}$ then let

$$\mathbf{u}^{n+1} = \bar{\mathbf{u}} - \Delta t \nabla \phi, \tag{11}$$

we can calculate \bar{u} by

a For
$$u_i \ge 0$$
,
 $u_z = [eu_{i-4} + du_{i-3} + cu_{i-2} + bu_{i-1} + aui + fu_{i+1} + gu_{i+2} + o(\varepsilon^6)]$

b For u_i
 $u_z = [eu_i + du_{i-3} + cu_{i-2} + bu_{i-1} + aui + fu_{i+1} + gu_{i+2} + gu_{i-2} + gu_{i-$

$$\frac{\bar{\mathbf{u}} - \mathbf{u}^n}{\Delta t} + \mathbf{H}^{n+1/2} - \mathbf{D}^n = \mathbf{0},$$
(12)

and calculate pressure p by

$$p^{n+1/2} = \phi, \tag{13}$$

where the pressure potential ϕ satisfies the Poisson's equation

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{u}} / \Delta t, \tag{14}$$

the terms $\mathbf{H}^{n+1/2}$ are calculated explicitly using the second order Adams-Bashforth formula [22]. As mentioned above, the convective terms **H** in the governing equations are spatially discretized by the sixth order BUDS [see in Fig. 2(a) and (b)], with the viscous diffusion terms **D** by 2nd-order central difference scheme. A fourth order central difference scheme is used in the discretization of the divergence of intermediate velocity $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$. Details of the BUDS and the fourth order central difference scheme are reported in [16]. The Poisson's equation of pressure potential is solved by the approximate factorization one method [23].

Computational parameters are shown in Table 1. The jet Reynolds number *Re* is defined by orifice diameter *D*, orifice velocity U_0 , and kinematic viscosity of fluid ν . The orifice wall thickness *h* is assumed to be 0.025*D*. Respectively, the lateral and outflow boundaries are given by $r_m = 5D$ and $z_m = 45D$, with the mesh numbers in radial and axial directions set at $N_r = 86$ and $N_z = 450$. While the mesh number in circumferential direction is set at $N_{\theta} = 37$, as we have made the assumption of period half shortening.

The seventh column of Table 1 shows the step ratio R_s calculated by the approach of Smirnov et al. [17, 18]. The step ratio R_s 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 $S^{\text{max}} = 1\%$, using the time step shown in the sixth column of Table 1, R_s equals 3.158 which is larger than unity. As reported [17, 18], 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 S^{max} . As the reliability of numerical results is evaluated by a step ratio approach [18], the relevant verification is done in comparison with existing measured and calculated data, the DNS is conducted without checking grid independence.

Using the accurate projection method given above, the DNS of the incompressible jet at Reynolds number 2500 was carried out in a personal computer with a memory of 3.2 GB and CPU frequency 3.30 GHz. The DNS is started from a postulated lamin-

b For $u_i < 0$, $u_z = [eu_{i+4} + du_{i+3} + cu_{i+2} + bu_{i+1} + aui + fu_{i-1} + gu_{i-2} + o(\varepsilon^6)]$



Fig. 2. A sketch for discretizing $(\partial u/\partial z)$ at grid z_i with a sixth BUDS, **a** for $u_i \ge 0$, **b** for $u_i < 0$.

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ar velocity field, as soon as the flow patterns have appeared some turbulent properties, the instantaneous flow field is saved and the time in the unit of D/U_0 is changed and reset at $t_0 = 10$. For statistical analysis of jet flow field, further simulations are carried out for 100 time scales D/U_0 to achieve DNS data. Such a further simulation needs CPU time about 64.5 h. As the total step number is $100/\Delta t = 62500$, the per time step CPU time is about 3.715 seconds.

The DNS predicts mean values of velocities on the basis of time-circumferential $(t-\theta)$ average. The inverse of mean centerline velocity in the unit of orifice velocity (U_c/U_0) plotted as a function of distance to the orifice (z/D) is shown in Fig. 3(a), where the yellow filled black circles show the DNS results obtained by solving the Navier-Stokes equations in spherical coordinates with a method briefly described by Ref. [15], the squares and plus-symbols are the existing measured data [5, 7]. For self-similar jet, as shown by blue deltas in Fig. 3(a), U_0/U_c can be described empirically [7]

$$\frac{U_0}{U_c} = \frac{1}{B_u} \cdot \left(\frac{z - z_0}{D}\right),\tag{15}$$

where z_0 represents virtual origin, and B_u is the decay constant which in general has a value between 5.7 and 6.1 depending on the experimental setup, as reported by Ref. [15], also can be seen in Table 2.

Using least squares method to analyze the present DNS data in the far region $z \ge 12$, when $z_0 = 5.0$, it is estimated that $B_u = 6.051$, 6.038 and 5.846 respectively for $A^* = 0.0618$, 0.1, and 0.1382 labeled by DNS1, DNS2, and DNS3. The decay constant is excellently well predicted in comparison with that value 5.9 predicted by Boersma et al. [15] and the experimental data 5.9 of Hussein et al. [7].

When the velocity profile is assumed to be Gaussian,

$$\frac{U}{U_c} = \exp(-K_u \eta^2). \tag{16}$$

By averaging the axial velocity over the range $[z/D \in (24, 40)]$,

Table 1 Parameters of the round jet flow used in the DNS.

$Re = U_0D/\nu$	h/D	$z_{ m m}/D$	$r_{ m m}/D$	$N_r imes N_ heta imes N_z$	Δt	R_{s}^{*}
$2.5 imes10^3$	0.025	45	5	$86\times37\times450$	$1.6 imes10^{-3}$	3.518

 *R_s is calculated using $S^{\text{max}} = 1\%$ and $n = 100/\Delta t$, details were reported by Smirnov et al. [18]



Fig. 3. a Inverse of centerline velocity in the unit of orifice velocity versus the distance to orifice z/D. **b** The t- θ averaged mean velocity profiles scaled by the local centerline velocity as function of $\eta = r/(z - z_0)$. Note that BBN= Boersma, Brethouwer and Nieuwstadt [15], HCG= Hussein, Capp and George [7], WF= Wygnanski and Fiedler [5].

Table 2	Some	parameters	obtained	from	different	experiments	and DNS.
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Ref.	WF[5]	Rodi [2]	HCG[7]	PL[6]	BBN[15]	DNS1	DNS2	DNS3
Re	$pprox 10^5$	$8.7 imes10^4$	$pprox 10^5$	1.1×10^4	2.4×10^3	2.5×10^3	2.5×10^3	2.5×10^3
B _u	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.1	5.9	6.051	6.038	5.846
K _u	-	-	-	75.2	76.1	75.09	75.59	74.17
z_0	3	-	4.0	-	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0

WF= Wygnanski and Fiedler; HCG= Hussein, Capp and George; PL= Panchapakesan and Lumley; BBN= Boersma, Brethouwer and Nieuwstadt.

by means of a least-squares method, the numerical data by DNS show that the distribution parameter K_u =75.09, 75.59, and 74.17 for DNS1, DNS2 and DNS3 respectively, see in Fig. 3(b), an excellent agreement as compared with the experimental data (K_u = 75.2) of Panchapakesan and Lumley [6], and DNS data (K_u = 76.1) in Ref. [15].

For the root mean squares (rms) of centerline velocity denoted by $U_{\rm c}^{\prime}/U_{\rm c}$, some existing experimental and DNS results together with the rms distributions in the axial direction from the present DNS are shown in Fig. 4(a), with the temporal evolution of centerline velocity at z/D = 18.97 shown in Fig. 4(b). It is noted that the velocity in the orifice was turbulent in the experiment of Tong and Warhaft [14], and Abdel-Rahman et al. [10]. As reported [15], this turbulent inflow will lead to a much smaller virtual origin (probably $z_0 \approx 0$). On the other hand, the measured data of Fellouah, Ball and Pollard [13] show an almost the same axial distribution of $U_{\rm c}'/U_{\rm c}$ as that reported previously by [12], even though the Reynolds number of the measured jet flow is 3.0×10^4 , less than the jet flow Reynolds number (8.6×10^4) in the experiment of Xu and Antonia [12]. The rms based on the DNS of Boersma et al. [15] are shown by cyan-filled blue circles, which illustrates a satisfactory distribution in the region close to orifice (z/D < 12), but in the region far from the orifice (z/D > 12), the rms curve oscillates around a value (~ 0.24). For the rms values of $U_{\rm c}'/U_{\rm c}$ calculated based on the present DNS1, DNS2 and DNS2, there is a good agreement with the existing measured and DNS data. The present DNS reveals that inlet flow disturbance can impose an observable influence the axi-



Fig. 4. a The root mean square values (rms) of axial velocity component measured by the local centerline velocity versus the distance to the orifice z/D. **b** Temporal evolution of centerline velocity at z/D = 18.97. Note that the vertical dash dot dot line in sunfigure **a** shows the axial position z/D = 18.97, and FBP= Fellouah, Ball and Pollard [13], XA= Xu and Antonia [12], ACW= Abdel-Rahman, Chakroun and Fahed [10], TW= Tong and Warhaft [14], BBN= Boersma, Brethouwer and Nieuwstadt [15].

al distribution of $U_{\rm c}^{\prime}/U_{\rm c}$.

As reported [24, 25], when the swirling-strength of filtered velocity gradient $\nabla \mathbf{u}$ is denoted by λ_{ci} , the complex eigenvalue of $\nabla \mathbf{u}$ is given by $\lambda = (\lambda_{cr} + i\lambda_{ci})$, the factor of swirling strength intermittency (*FSI*) is defined by

$$FSI(\mathbf{x},t) = \frac{\lambda_{ci}}{\sqrt{\lambda_{cr}^2 + \lambda_{ci}^2}}.$$
(17)

To measure jet flow intermittency, we use the mean factor of swirling strength intermittency (MFSI) on the basis of time-circumferential $(t - \theta)$ average, since at any point of turbulent flow, as soon as the *FSI* is zero, the local flow should be laminar, but if FSI is unity the local flow is fully turbulent. Hence a sub-grid model based on *FSI* for large eddy simulation has been developed [24, 25].

To show the MFSI distribution patterns, contours in the r-z plane are given by Fig. 5(a-c). Carefully identifying indicates the inlet disturbance has some influences on the MFSI distribution pattern. It is seen that there is a more complex structure in the region near the orifice $(z/D \le 12)$; in the region $z/D \in (12, 24)$, in the area close to lateral boundary $r/D \ge 3.5$, the MFSI is lower. While in most areas of the region further far from the orifice $z/D \ge 24$, the MFSI is distributed relative uniformly and in general takes a value in the range from 0.4 to 0.6, except for the near centerline region. Particularly, the jet core displayed by the blue colored cone near the orifice has a relative short length, the cone ends at z = 8.4, 7.8, and 7.2 as $A^* = 0.0618$, 0.1 and 0.1382 respectively.

In summary, the DNS results reveal that an intensity increase of inlet flow disturbances can shorten the jet core cone,



Fig. 5. Contours of the mean factor of swirling strength (MFSI) in the *r*-*z* plane, **a** DNS1, $A^* = 0.0618$; **b** DNS2, $A^* = 0.1$; **c** DNS3, $A^* = 0.1382$.

larger space variations of mean factor of swirling strength intermittency occur in the region near the orifice, but in most areas of the jet flow region that are far from the jet orifice, the mean factor has a value close to 0.5, with an uncertainty of about 0.1.

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