

Experimental and numerical investigation of microscale hydrogen diffusion flames

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Abstract

Characteristics of microscale hydrogen diffusion flames produced from sub-millimeter diameter ($d = 0.2$ and 0.48 mm) tubes are investigated using non-intrusive UV Raman scattering coupled with LIPF technique. Simultaneous, temporally and spatially resolved point measurements of temperature, major species concentrations (O_2 , N_2 , H_2O , H_2), and absolute hydroxyl radical concentration (OH) are made in the microflames for the first time. The probe volume is $0.02 \times 0.04 \times 0.04$ mm³. In addition, photographs and 2-D OH imaging techniques are employed to illustrate the flame shapes and reaction zones. Several important features are identified from the detailed measurements of microflames. Qualitative 2-D OH imaging indicates that a spherical flame is formed with a radius of about 1 mm as the tube diameter is reduced to 0.2 mm. Raman/LIPF measurements show that the coupled effect of ambient air leakage and preheating enhanced thermal-diffusive of H_2 leads to lean-burn conditions for the flame. The calculated characteristic features and properties indicate that the buoyancy effect is minor while the flames are in the convection-diffusion controlled regime because of low Peclet number. Also, the effect of Peclet number on the flame shape is minor as the flame is in the convection-diffusion controlled regime. Comparisons between the predicted and measured data indicate that the trends of temperature, major species, and OH distributions are

properly modeled. However, the code does not properly predict the air entrainment and pre-heating enhanced thermal-diffusive effects. Therefore, thermal diffusion for light species and different combustion models must be considered in the simulation of microflame structure.

Keyword : Microflames, Raman scattering, LIPF, Numerical simulation