



Diffusion Flames

*What the
flame
diffusion*

In combustion, a diffusion flame is a flame in which the oxidizer and fuel are separated before burning. Contrary to its name, a diffusion flame involves both diffusion and convection processes.

It takes place when the sources of fuel and oxidizer are physically separate so that the energy release is limited primarily by the mixing process. There is no fundamental flame speed as in the case of premixed.

*When the
Diffusion
flames is
occurs?*

Diffusion flames occur with flowing gases, with vaporization of liquid fuels, and with devolatilization of solid fuels.

*example of a
diffusion
flames*

A candle flame is an example of a diffusion flame. Wax is melted, flows up the wick and vaporized. Air flows upward due to natural convection.

The reaction zone is between the air and the fuel

Zones Air diffuses inward and fuel diffuses outward.

In hydrocarbon flames, soot particles are produced giving rise to luminosity.



Laminar premixed flames

A combustion reaction started at a local heat source in a quiescent fuel-air mixture at ambient conditions will propagate as a laminar flame. Chemical reactions take place in a relatively thin zone, and the flame moves at a fairly low velocity.

*Laminar
premixed
flames*

Stoichiometry calculations

Stoichiometry of chemical reactions means that species react in exact proportions

TYPES OF COMBUSTIBLE MIXTURES		
FUEL MIXTURE		
Rich	Stoichiometric	Lean
Excess of fuel	Stoichiometric content of fuel and oxygen	Excess of oxidizer

For stoichiometric hydrocarbon mixtures in ambient air the flame is approximately 1mm thick and moves at about (0.5 m/s).The pressure drop through the flame is very small (1Pa),and the temperature in the reaction zone is high (2200-2600 k).

What is the Effect of stoichiometry on laminar burning velocity?

it can be seen in fig 1. that the laminar burning velocity for a particular fuel can vary by a factor 3 depending on the fuel/air ratio. The rich and lean limits of flammability are also shown in this figure laminar flames will not occur above or below these limits Hydrogen has the highest velocity and widest limits of flammability while methane has the lowest burning velocity and the narrowest limits.

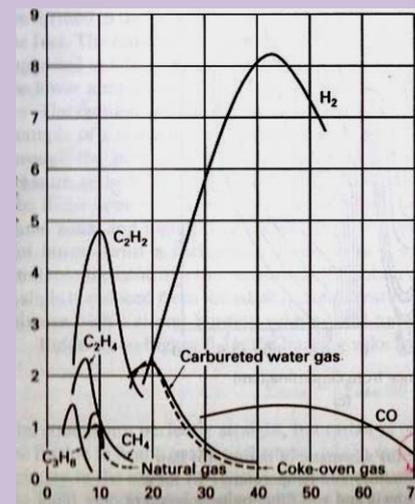


Fig. 1

When the maximum burning velocities are found?

The maximum burning velocities are found just to the rich side of stoichiometric. The flame temperature is highest near the stoichiometric and the lowest near the flammability limits figure 2. Higher laminar burning velocity is associated with a higher flame temperature. The effect of nonreactive additives such as nitrogen or argon is to reduce the flame temperature and the Laminar burning velocity.

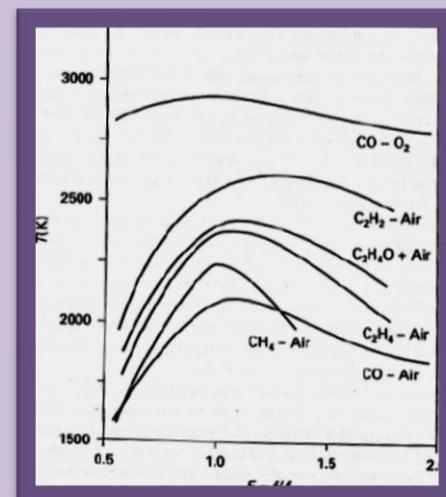


Fig2

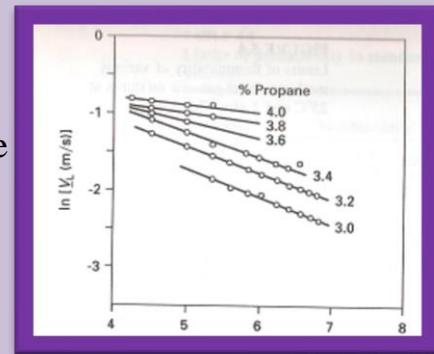
Effect of reactant pressure and temperature on laminar burning velocity

The burning velocity is defined as the flame relative to the unburned reactants
The laminar burning velocity depends on fuel type fuel-air mixture ratio and initial temperature and pressure of the reactants

For slow burning mixtures ($V_L < 0.6$ m/s) the burning velocity decreases with increasing pressure

for fast –burning mixtures ($V_L > 0.6$ m/s), the value of β either zero or slightly positive

the observed pressure dependence can be expressed as a power law $(V_L = ap^\beta)$, where p is the pressure in atmospheres and β varies from (0 to -0.5) for example , the burning velocities for propane – air mixtures at various pressures are shown in figure



Increased pressure increases the flame temperature because there is less dissociation, and hence the burning velocity however, less dissociation means less active radicals are available to diffuse upstream to enhance flame propagation. Both effects are important.

The burning velocity increases with the temperature of the reactants

The observed temperature dependence can also be expressed as a power law. In addition, the burning velocity increases as the second or third power of the absolute temperature. For example, the maximum burning velocity for propane-air goes from **40cm/s** to **140 cm/s** as the reactant temperature is increases from 300K to 617 K.

The burning velocity

On What the pressure dependence ?

Why the increasing of pressure increasing the flame temperature?

On What the temperature dependence?

Structure of CH₄-Air flame

The structure of a premixed flame in fig (4) shows the temperature distribution and selected species mole fraction profiles (the principal C-containing CH₄, CO, and CO₂) through a 1-atm, stoichiometric, CH₄-Air flame. Here we see the disappearance of the fuel, the appearance of the intermediate species CO and burnout of the CO to form CO₂. The CO concentration has its peak value at approximately the same location where the CH₄ concentration goes to zero, whereas the CO₂ concentration at first lags the CO concentration but then continues to rise as the CO is oxidized.

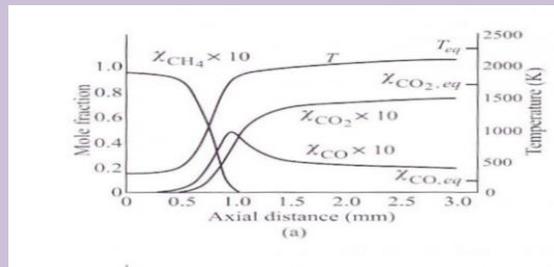


Fig 4

Summary /comment:

