

Reynolds stress budgets in canonical shock-turbulence interaction

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Shock turbulence interaction is a important and commonly observed phenomenon in high speed flows. This phenomenon results yields regions of high pressure and high thermal loads with significant impact to the flow topology also. Correct predictions of properties such as heat flux, wall pressure and skin friction in regions of such a phenomenon is essential from a design perspective. However, due to the complex nature of interaction, it has been a challenging task to predict such flow properties experimentally or numerically¹.

A simplified case of shock-turbulence problem is the interaction of an isotropic turbulence with a normal shock. This problem has been extensively studied in the past experimentally², numerically^{3, 4} as well as theoretically⁵. Some of the recent numerical studies were performed by Larsson et al. who carried out DNS for the case of purely vortical turbulence interacting with a normal shock⁶.

In their study, simulations were performed for 20 cases, each varying in either upstream Mach number, turbulent Mach number or Reynolds number. Upstream Mach numbers ranged from 1.06 to 6. Turbulent Mach number for these cases were between 0.15 and 0.38. Further, two cases of upstream Reynolds number based on Taylor-scale, were considered for study. These cases highlight the effect of shock strength, upstream turbulent intensity and viscous mechanisms on the shock-turbulence interaction.

An important quantity of interest is the Reynolds stress which is a defining characteristic of the turbulence. Reynolds stress R_{ij} is defined as $\overline{u'_i u'_j}$ where u'_i is the fluctuating velocity component in the i^{th} direction with the overbar representing Reynolds averaging. Correct prediction of Reynolds stresses across the shock, forms the basis of prediction of other important flow properties such as wall pressure and wall heat flux in RANS modeling⁸. Larsson et al. study the effect of mean Mach number M , turbulent Mach number M_t and Reynolds number Re_λ on the evolution of Reynolds stress across the shock.

In this study, we take a closer look at the Reynolds stress budget equation for streamwise Reynolds stress R_{11} , transverse Reynolds stress R_{22} and the trace of the Reynolds stress tensor R_{kk} . The budget equation highlights the mechanisms affecting the evolution of Reynolds stress in the post-shock region. The effect of M , M_t and Re_λ on each of these mechanisms is studied and important observations are highlighted.

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