

# An investigation into the use of Cross Correlation Velocimetry

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## Introduction:

The objective of this thesis was to use current technology to examine Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV) as a cheaper velocity sensor than those available to the research community currently. A sensor was developed which can measure temperature, velocity, and the integral turbulent length scale of a flow simultaneously. While CCV has been used for many years this work analysed higher sampling rates, sampling times, than prior work reported in literature. In addition, this study also analyses the application of CCV to low velocity flows (~0.1 m/s).

The thesis is laid out in 3 chapters plus a future work section and appendices. Each of the three chapters is a paper which was either presented at a conference or is in the process of being submitted for publication. Chapter 1 is a paper titled *Frequency and Spatial Dependence of Cross Correlation Velocimetry* and was presented at the Central States Section of the Combustion Institute, University of Alabama, April 20-22, 2008. This paper discusses the need for cross correlation velocimetry, the history of the use of this technique in fire and other areas of research, and presents preliminary results. These preliminary results used an axi-symmetric jet and a hot wire anemometer as a reference measurement. Both the frequency dependence and the dependence of CCV on the separation of the thermocouples is presented. The purpose of this study was not to prove that CCV works to measure velocity because this had been shown in previous literature, the purpose was to prove that the CCV technique was viable in the experimental setup built for this study and to begin to look at spatial and frequency dependences of the technique. A velocity of 1.1 m/s was used as the velocity to show the validity of the technique because it was in the middle of the range of velocities used in previous literature, a wider range of velocities is presented in later chapters of this work. Sampling frequencies up to 3 kHz were used in this work because it is representative of what had been found in literature so far, larger sampling frequencies are presented in later chapters of this work. This paper explains that there are multiple factors which effect the CCV technique; sampling frequency, TC response time, TC separation distance, turbulent eddy size, soot accumulation, equality of TC time constants, and sampling period. Other than the sampling frequency and separation distance all the other factors were held constant at a value believed to be reasonable based on previous literature. It was found that at the velocity of 1.1 m/s the optimum separation distance was 15mm and the sampling frequency above 500 Hz had little effect. While these are not universally applicable results the purpose of this portion of the experiment was completed showing that the CCV technique was viable for the experimental setup which was built and allowed the expansion of the studies. The hot wire anemometer was susceptible to temperature changes, therefore in later experiments an Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA) was used as the reference measurement. Since the LDA is a non-invasive technique both the CCV and LDA measurements could be taken simultaneously as discussed in chapter 2 and 3.

Chapter 2 is a paper titled *An Examination of Cross Correlation Velocimetry's Ability to Predict Characteristic Turbulent Length Scales in Fire Induced Flows* and was presented at the Eastern States Section of the Combustion Institute, University of Maryland, College Park, October 18-21, 2009. This paper presents a use for the CCV technique which to the author's knowledge has not been published in literature before. This paper discusses the use of a CCV sensor to measure turbulent length scales in both a heated axi-symmetric jet and above a variable diameter natural gas burner. A new axi-symmetric jet was built for use in these studies and an

LDA was used as the reference velocity measurement. Using a triple CCV probe, which is a CCV probe which uses three thermocouples at two different separation distances, it was found that the CCV technique could predict the characteristic length scale, which was taken to be an 85% decay in either the centreline velocity or temperature, within 6.5% of the width measured by a the decay in the LDA and within 13.5% of a correlation published by Kanury (An Introduction to Combustion Phenomena, Gordon and Breach Pub, 1975). The triple probe was also tested over a natural gas plume and the CCV technique could measure the characteristic length within 25% of the width measured by a horizontal thermocouple tree and the width predicted by Heskestad's correlation. The average difference between the CCV technique and thermocouple measurements was 8.4% and reasons for this variation are discussed in this chapter. It was shown that CCV could be used for multiple applications including estimation of the mass flux in a plume as well as the ceiling jet thickness. The methodology, possible uses, and assumptions involved with this technique are discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 3 is a paper titled *Exploring Cross Correlation Velocimetry in Turbulent Fire-Induced Flows*, and is planned to be submitted to Fire Technology. This paper presents a thorough examination of the work which was done using the CCV and covers the sampling time, sampling rate, and measured velocities when using a CCV. In addition, the work discusses the angular dependence of the one dimensional CCV with respect to the bulk flow and how this dependence can be corrected. . Experiments were once again, conducted over-an axi-symmetric jet and a variable diameter natural gas burner discussed in chapter 2.

The E type 0.003" thermocouples were used because they represent the smallest thermocouples commercially available and are similar to the thermocouples used previously used in literature. As discussed in this chapter CCV is affected by nine main factors (two more factors were added from chapters 1): thermocouple separation distance, sampling period, sampling frequency, the alignment of the CCV probe with the bulk flow, thermocouple response time, soot accumulation, equality of thermocouple response time, turbulent eddy size, and the magnitude of the thermal gradients in the flow. This study examines the first four of these factors; these are the fundamental factors required to use the CCV technique in the field. The last 5 factors are set the bounds of where the thermocouples can be used. The effects of response time, and equality of response time are shown in previous literature. Soot effects were not characterized due to time and laboratory availability limitation but are discussed in the future work section of this paper. Turbulent eddy size varies depending on the flow condition along with the magnitude of the thermal gradients in the flow and it is discussed that for CCV to work the separation distance of the thermocouples needs to be smaller than the maximum turbulent eddy size and that the CCV technique is done in temperature conditions ranging from 2°C above ambient conditions to 100°C above ambient conditions though the absolute maximum and minimum conditions were not found.

It was shown that the CCV could measure velocity within 5% of an LDA measurement when using a linear correction factor, the separation distance did not effect the CCV measurement at a sampling rate of 10 kHz and velocity of 2m/s or below. Lower sampling rates effected the non dimensional (ND) cross correlation coefficient and a sampling rate of 2KHz was found to be optimal for the axi-symmetric jet scenario. The sampling time affects both the correlation coefficient and the standard deviation of the velocity measurement. For a robust CCV measurement the standard deviation of the velocity measurement should be low (the

standard deviation of the LDA was used as the baseline for comparison) and the ND cross correlation coefficient should be high (close to 1), it was found that between 4 and 8 seconds of data was needed depending on the velocity of the data. The effect of angular offset with respect to the probe was studied from between  $0^{\circ}$ - $40^{\circ}$ , it was found that a correction could be made which reduced the error induced by the offset from over 25% to less than 10% if the offset angle is known.

It was determined that rather than predicting the characteristic turbulent length scale as discussed in chapter 2 the CCV technique measured the integral length scale which is known to be slightly small but on the same order of magnitude as discussed in this chapter. The integral length scale is more useful than the characteristic length scale in terms of working with computational fluid dynamic models.

The future work section discusses the need to test the last three factors effecting the probe including the effects of soot deposition, turbulent size effects, and the effects of temperature gradients, the last two of which were only touched on briefly in this work. Also testing the probe in full scale fire tests and creating hardware to provide real time measurements should be accomplished. The prospect of obtaining multi-dimensional velocity data is also discussed. An idea for creating a robust 1D probe which can be used with minimal effect of flow angle is presented. Also an optimised data analysis technique is shown along with a theoretical method for using the CCV technique in isothermal flows.

Three appendices are included at the end of this work, the MATLAB script used to analyse the thermocouple data, and two posters presented of this work. Appendix 1 includes the MATLAB script used to analyse the thermocouple data, this script is self inclusive using a custom cross correlation script developed to minimise the edge effects of a standard correlation technique. The script automatically imports a series of tests and outputs the results, the script is capable of either series sampling or overlapping sampling as discussed in the future work section, and performs an autocorrelation of one of the signals so that a check can be made to make sure that Taylor's hypothesis is holding in the flow being studied.

Appendix 2 includes a poster presented at WPI's Annual Showcase of Graduate Research in 2008, it shows the experimental setup and results discussed in chapter 1 in a visual form rather than a text form. Preliminary results of the effects of thermocouple separation distance and sampling frequency using the small axi-symmetric jet with the hot wire anemometer as the reference measurement are presented.

Appendix 3 includes a poster presented at the 2008 International Association of Fire Safety Science Conference hosted by the University of Karlsruhe in Karlsruhe, Germany; September 21-26 2008. This poster shows the large axi-symmetric jet with the LDA and CCV. The poster presents the work of the initial study into the effects of the separation distance and the effects of sampling frequency using the large ax-symmetric jet. The poster discusses the attempts to create the hardware for real time cross correlation using a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) chip. An undergraduate ECE researcher who was hired to help with the project performed this work. While the real time algorithms were developed, due to memory limitations with the chip the ability to do real time CCV calculations was not completed in the time frame allotted by the funding.

# Chapter 1: Frequency and Spatial Dependence of Cross Correlation Velocimetry

(Presented at the Central States Section of the Combustion Conference 2008)

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## Abstract

This study analyses the frequency and spatial dependence of Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV) towards the measurement of fire induced flows. CCV uses temperature-time records from a pair of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, cross-correlated to determine the flow's velocity and is based in principle on the "frozen eddy" concept in turbulent flows. In between 1975 and 1980 Cox et al. (Cox) performed a series of experiments that showed that spatial and temporally resolved velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV. These types of velocity measurements are crucial in understanding ceiling jets, the role of sprinkler activation, and also in micro-gravity fire induced flows that conventional techniques cannot measure. However, the high cost associated with expensive analogue correlators available those days caused the CCV technique to gradually phase out after the advent of the bidirectional probe which was significantly cheaper and more robust in design. There have been vast improvements in data acquisition techniques, digital signal conditioning, filtration of random noise, as well post processing statistical packages which allow better and faster cross correlation of two random signals. This study is a first step towards applying these technological advantages to this outdated technique.

The CCV probe's accuracy is most sensitive to the thermocouple wire diameter, separation distance, and speed of data acquisition (sampling frequency). This study presents a parameter sensitivity analysis that includes the measurement of axial components of velocity in a heated turbulent jet with a velocity of 1.1 m/s with the sampling frequency, and probe separation distance adjusted independently (thermocouple wire diameter is kept constant).

## Nomenclature:

A	=	Surface Area	(m <sup>2</sup> )
C <sub>p</sub>	=	Specific Heat	(J/(kg °C))
d	=	Distance between Thermocouples	(mm)
f	=	Sampling Frequency	(Hz)
h	=	Average Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient	(kW/m <sup>2</sup> )
R <sub>xy</sub>	=	Cross correlation function of x(t) and y(t)	(-)
t	=	Time	(s)
T	=	Averaging Time	(s)
T <sub>max</sub>	=	Maximum temperature	(°C)
T <sub>ave</sub>	=	Average Temperature	(°C)
v	=	Velocity	(m/s)
V	=	Volume	(m <sup>3</sup> )
x(t)	=	Temperature profile	(°C)
y(t)	=	Temperature profile	(°C)
ρ	=	Density	(kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
θ	=	Non Dimensional Time	(ND)
τ	=	Time lag	(s)
τ <sub>s</sub>	=	Spacing Lag	(-)
τ <sub>R</sub>	=	Response Time	(s)

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## Introduction:

Accurate measurement of temperature and velocity fields created by fire plumes is vital in quantifying the thermal impact of a fire. Both play a major role in the prediction of smoke detector and sprinkler activation, design of smoke venting systems, and estimation of egress times. In addition, accurate knowledge of temperature and velocity of fire induced flows is crucial in the determination of structural integrity in a fire environment. While temperatures can be measured accurately using array's of thermocouples, the field of fire science lacks an economical method of measuring velocity fields (Grosshandler). Table 1 shows velocity measurement methods currently in use. Bi-directional probes have been used successfully to determine the velocities in doorways and other areas where the general direction of the flow is known. The disadvantage of this type of system is that the probes are large (causing flow obstruction), and suffer from calibration problems. In addition, the bidirectional probe becomes inaccurate at flows lower than 0.5 m/s (Sette). The pitot tube is not heavily used in the fire field due to the small size of the pressure tap holes which can become clogged with soot. The hot wire anemometer is slow to correct for temperature changes and suffers from a limited range and calibration problems. The laser Doppler anemometer requires seed particles which are easily added to laboratory scale tests but is difficult for large scale tests. Laser systems are also prohibitively expensive for many fire tests situations.

This work tests a methodology for measuring velocity which was proposed in the early 70's by Cox (Cox) that uses the cross correlation of two temperature profiles from a pair of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, to determine a flow's velocity. The cross correlation Velocimetry (CCV) technique is based in principle on the "frozen eddy" concept in turbulent flows put forward by Taylor in 1938 (Taylor). Taylor hypothesized that in a turbulent flow, there are eddy structures that retain their shape and characteristics over some time and space. In other words, an eddy can be considered frozen for a limited time over a given space. If these eddy structures can be identified and traced, then the most probable mean velocity of the flow can be estimated as the weighted average of the velocities at which the eddies are moving. Numerous investigations of turbulent flows have shown the movement of eddy structures in a flow to represent the true mean flow velocity (Favre ; Favre et al.).

Cox was the first to verify the "frozen eddy" hypothesis in a non-isotropic ceiling jet flow thereby developing the CCV probe (Cox). In between 1975 and 1980 Cox *et al.* (Cox ; Cox ; Cox ; Cox and Chitty) performed a series of experiments that showed that spatial and temporally resolved velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV. The associated errors reported by Cox were of the order of  $\pm 15\%$ . Since the velocity measurement is dependent on "phase" and not "amplitude" of the signal, systematic errors in temperature measurement such as radiation and conduction losses does not affect velocity measurement. In spite of this significant advantage, the probe designed by Cox was limited by the speed of data acquisition. In fact, the main problem was the high cost associated with expensive analogue correlators available in those days. This caused the technique to gradually phase out after the advent of the bidirectional probe which was a lot cheaper and more robust in design.

Subsequently these probes have been used for fire applications by Motevalli et al. (Motevalli et al.), Dupuy et al. (Dupuy et al. ; Dupuy et al.), Marcelli et al. (Marcelli et al.), and Santoni et al. (Santoni et al.). These studies have established further limitations associated to the sampling frequency and time constant of the thermocouple which is related mainly to the wire

diameter and material properties of the thermocouple (conductivity, specific heat and density). The problems observed by Cox due to data acquisition were only partially solved leading to 1-D measurements that achieved higher accuracy (order of  $\pm 10\%$ ).

The CCV can be used over a wide range of temperatures, it does not disturb the air flow anymore than the thermocouple tubes and the probe can report temperature as well as velocity. Since most fire tests use thermocouple tubes, the CCV technique allows capability of measuring velocity for basically the cost of a single extra thermocouple for each velocity point. The CCV probe can provide real time velocity measurements in flows up to 800 °C without causing major disruptions to the flow. It is inexpensive to construct and has the potential of yielding high accuracy with the recent advances in signal conditioning and data acquisition methods (Tagawa and Ohta) (Tagawa et al.).

There have been vast improvements in data acquisition techniques, digital signal conditioning, filtration of random noise, as well as post processing statistical packages which allow for better and faster cross correlation of two random signals. So far the probe has been tested at maximum sampling rates of 700 Hz<sup>16</sup>. It is possible to increase this rate to more than 3000 Hz. To get maximum information from the flow one needs sensors with minimal response time. There are various techniques to achieve this: for example using noble metals such as Platinum for thermocouple junctions, amplifying the signal using signal conditioning etc. These methodologies have never been tested thus far.

**Table 1: Velocity measurement methods widely in use. Device is compared with the operating principle**

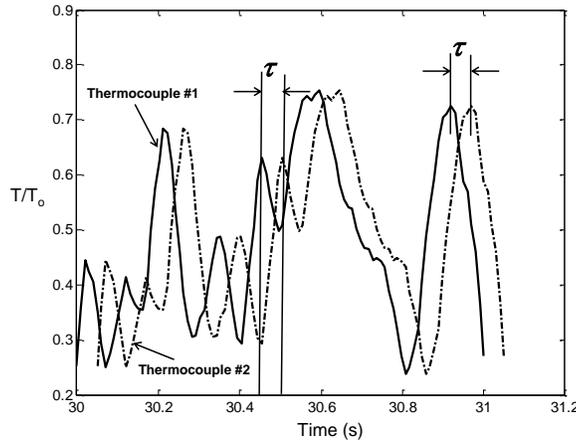
*\* technique proposed in this study*

Device	Operating Principle
Bi-directional probe (BDP)	$\Delta P$
Pitot tube	$\Delta P$
Hot wire anemometer	$\Delta T$
Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA)	Scattered Shifted Light
Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV)*	Temperature Fluctuations
Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)	Scattered Light
Phase Doppler Particle Analyzer (PDPA)	Scattered Shifted Light

*Operating Principle of CCV:*

Only the major points of the method are presented here. The reader can refer to Cox (Cox) (1977) for further details. Figure 1 shows a theoretical temperature profile that is obtained from two thermocouples that are spaced  $r$  cm apart. Since  $r$  is small (less than 30 mm), the two thermocouples sense the same thermal fluctuation. However, the temperature time record of the

thermocouple located downstream is shifted by a time  $\tau$  seconds as shown in Figure 1. If  $\tau$  can be accurately estimated the velocity of the flow is simply given by Eq. 1:



**Figure 1: Example of compensated temperature plot from two thermocouples placed  $r$  cm apart. velocity =  $r/\tau$ .**

$$v = r/\tau. \quad (1)$$

$\tau$  is determined accurately by using the correlation concept where the degree of association between certain variables is to be measured (Cox). To calculate the time for a turbulence eddy passing between the pair of thermocouples the temperature profiles are cross correlated using Eq. 2,

$$R_{xy}(r, \tau) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x(t-\tau)y(t)dt, \quad (2)$$

Where the two thermocouple signals are represented by  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$ , and  $x(t-\tau)$  is the delayed version of signal  $x(t)$ .  $T$  is the averaging time/sampling period over which the signal is correlated. Finding the delay between the time when an eddy passes from one thermocouple to the other requires finding the lag which maximized the correlation function  $R_{xy}$ . To calculate the time for the turbulence to pass between the two thermocouples the lag is multiplied by the sampling rate. For the results presented in this paper the averaging time/sampling period was set to 15 seconds to follow the procedure reported by Motevalli (Motevalli).

CCV is affected by seven main factors: sampling frequency, TC response time, TC separation distance, turbulent eddy size, soot accumulation, equality of TC time constants, and sampling period. The two factors examined in this study are frequency and TC separation distance. A systematic study of the influence of other factors is currently underway at the WPI Fire Science Laboratory.

Sampling frequency affects the CCV technique because if data is not recorded fast enough the temperature changes in the turbulent eddies will not be represented correctly by the temperature profile of each thermocouple. The maximum viable sampling frequency is determined by the time constant of the thermocouple. This is due to the thermal inertia of the probe. Sampling too fast will simply result in longer data profiles with no increase in accuracy. Using a lumped analysis the time constant for a thermocouple is determined from Eq. 3. This is valid due to the small point like nature of the thermocouples being used (Motevalli).

$$\tau_R = \frac{\rho c_p V}{hA} \quad (3)$$

The TC response time can be changed by adjusting the size of the thermocouple bead, using materials with smaller specific heats such as noble metals, or using materials with smaller densities. Type E type thermocouples are used because of they have the highest output per degree temperature change of standard thermocouples (approximately 60mV/°C and temperature range between -270 to 1100°C ). The optimum spacing of the two thermocouples is a function of the flow velocity due to several factors. First if the TC's are too far apart the eddy will shift between the TC's, secondly if the thermocouples are too close together the downstream thermocouple will be in the wake of the upstream TC. Also, at smaller spacing's small errors in the lag spacing calculation results in large errors in the velocity calculation when the separation distance is small. The size of the turbulent eddy plays a significant role in the probe accuracy. According to Motevalli (Motevalli) the accuracy of the CCV technique increases as eddies become larger and stronger. Changes in bead diameter can be caused by soot accumulation on the probe. This will affect the time constant of the probe and could make it respond to slowly to make accurate velocity measurements. If soot builds up unevenly on the two probes then their respective time constants will become different due to the change in size and thermal mass. If the two thermocouples have different response times the lag calculated will result in the measured velocity being to low or to high depending on which TC has the increased response time (Motevalli). The sampling period can affect the accuracy of the CCV technique. To measure the most accurate flow profile the sampling period should be long enough to identify the lag in the signal but short enough to show changes in the flow velocity. The sampling period will determine the speed at which real time measurements can be updated using this technique.

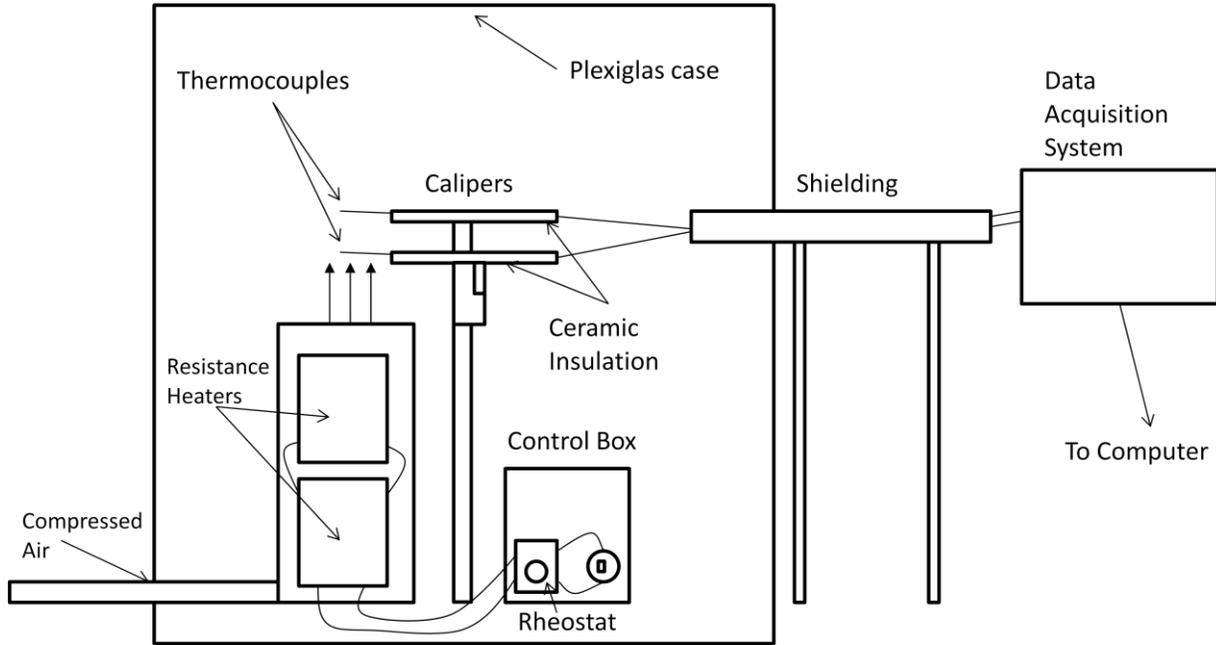
In a real fire scenario, turbulent eddies are generated by the buoyant entrainment of the fire itself. In a forced flow jet, as used in this study, the turbulence must be induced and can be controlled through the use of either obstructions in the flow or a mesh put over the turbulent jet. For an obstruction in the flow the size and shape are the critical parameters to determine the eddy size and for a mesh the spacing between wires will determine the eddy size.

This study examines the effects of sampling frequency and thermocouple separation distance on the CCV technique. By using a heated axisymmetric jet and taking measurements along the vertical axis these parameters can be adjusted to test their influence on velocity measurements separately. Measurements from a hot wire anemometer is taken as the true flow speed and used to calculate the error in the CCV technique.

### **Experimental Setup:**

The experimental setup comprises of a variable speed heated axisymmetric jet surrounded by a Plexiglas cage. The temperature is controlled by a rheostat which controls the current powering two resistance heaters aligned in series inside of the axisymmetric jet. The amount of air injected into the jet is controlled by a regulator connected to the lab air supply. As shown in figure 2, a set of E type thermocouples, with bead diameters of  $7.62 \times 10^{-5}$  m (0.003 inches) are passed through 0.15 m (~6 inches) of ceramic insulation and glued in place. A set of digital calipers mounted parallel to the jet are used to change the spacing between the probes. The thermocouple wires are shielded to damp the disturbance caused by the electromagnetic (EM) fields generated from the heating elements. Since the cross correlation only depends on the phase of the signal and not on the amplitude, cold junction compensation on the

thermocouples is not included. A NI DAQ Data Acquisition system comprised of a NI SCXI-1000 Chassi, NI SCXI 1600 A/D converter, NI SCXI-1102 amplifier, and a NI SCXI 1301 simultaneously sampling unit is used to sample the data at a rate of 1000 to 3000 Hz. An Omega PMA-902 hot wire anemometer is used to compare the velocity obtained by CCV technique. Data is collected at spacing's of 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 mm and one minute of data is recorded for each test. These tests are done at a steady velocity of 1.1 m/s with the upper, stationary thermocouple, 63 mm from the exit of the jet.



**Figure 2: Experimental set up comprising of a heated axisymmetric jet. Two E type thermocouples with bead diameters of  $7.62 \times 10^{-5}$  m are shown mounted on a set of digital calipers to adjust the spacing distance from 5mm to 25mm.**

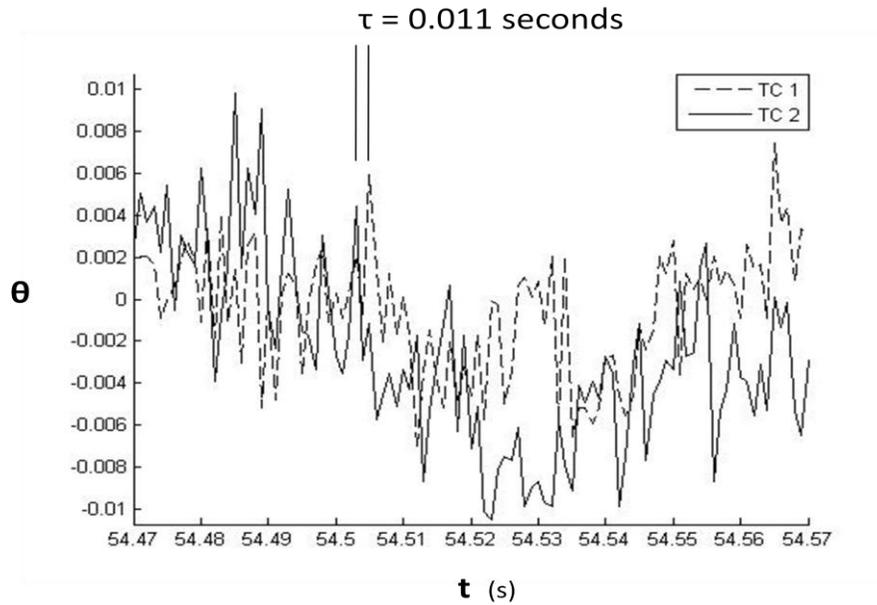
### Results and Analysis

Figure 4 shows part of a non-dimensional adjusted temperature history curve highlighting the offset of the two temperature profiles. The temperature profiles were nondimensionalized using Eq. 4 given by,

$$\theta = \frac{T}{T_{\max}} - T_{\text{ave}} . \quad (4)$$

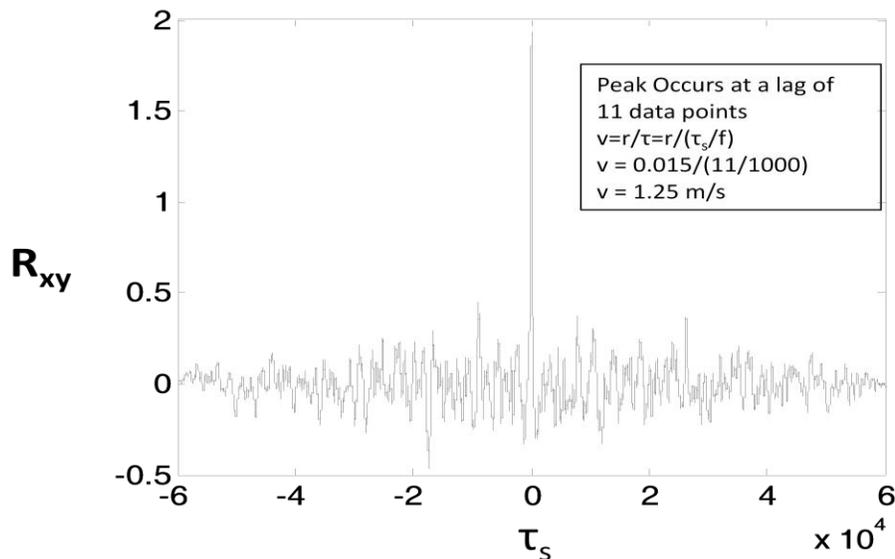
As shown in Figure 4, it is difficult to quantify the lag between two temperature profiles over a range of temperatures directly necessitating the need to apply a cross correlation to find the overall lag between two temperature profiles.

Figure 4b shows the results of cross correlating a 15 second set of data taken at a velocity of 1.1 m/s, with a 15mm separation distance between TC probes, and a sampling rate of 1000 Hz. The cross correlated signal,  $R_{xy}$  has a peak at a lag of 11 data samples which corresponds to a velocity of 1.25 m/s.



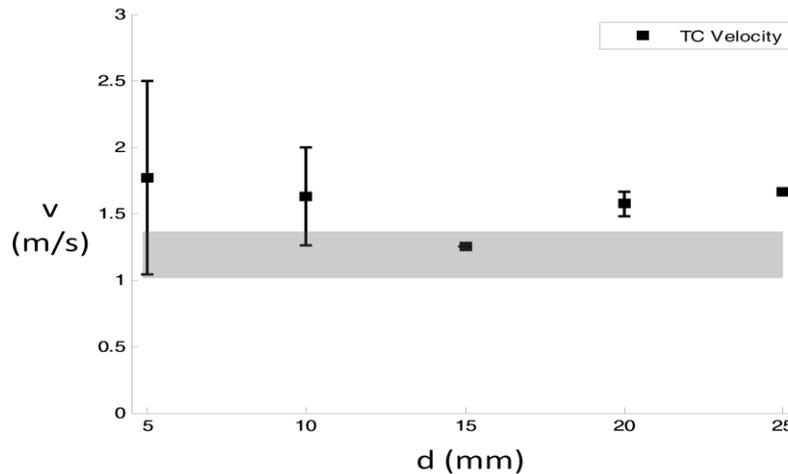
**Figure 4: Data taken at a sampling rate of 1000 Hz and a TC separation distance of 15 mm, which has been non-dimensionalised by dividing by the maximum value in each profile and subtracting the mean.**

**$\tau$  of 0.011 s is shown between two distinct peaks.**

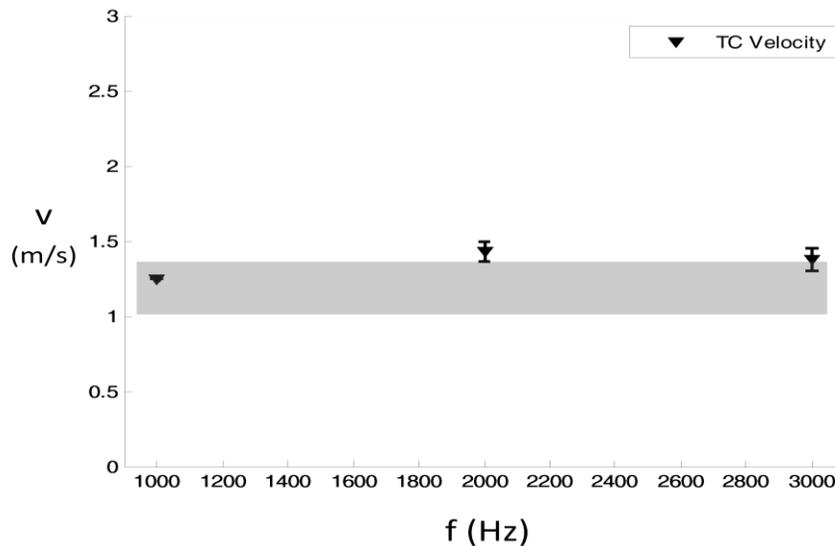


**Figure 4b: Graph of cross correlation function  $R_{xy}$  vs. lag for data taken at velocity 1.1 m/s sampling rate of 1000 Hz, and spacing of 15 mm. Peak occurs at a  $\tau_s$  of 11 samples when corresponds to a velocity of 1.25 m/s.**

Figure 5 shows the comparison of the measurements of the CCV at different sampling distances with respect to the hot wire anemometer. The velocity and temperature of the flow are maintained constant at 1.1 m/s and 313 Kelvin respectively, and the sampling rate is fixed at 1000 Hz. Each data point in Figure 5 is an average of 4 experimental runs. The gray band drawn horizontally denotes the velocity measured by the hot wire anemometer with an error band of  $\pm 15\%$  (after each experimental run, the hot wire anemometer was tested for its ability to correct for temperature and showed a 20-30% reduction in measured speed between 295 K - 315 K which accounts for majority of the error). As shown in Figure 5, increased precision in the CCV measurement is observed as the separation between the two thermocouples increases from 5 mm to 15 mm. At this spacing all four velocity measurements were calculated to be the same. The smaller spacing's (<15 mm) are more susceptible to the small errors in the measurement where of a single lag can lead to significant error. As the spacing distance is further increased (>15 mm), the precision of the CCV measurement once again declines. The larger spacing cause the turbulent eddies to weaken (condition of frozen eddy not satisfied) and thus cause significant measurement error. Figure 6 shows the velocity measurements at a spacing of 15 mm for sampling frequencies of 1000, 2000, and 3000 Hz. It is clear that the CCV technique works well given this frequency range. Further experimentation is planned to test the measurement technique especially at lower frequencies



**Figure 5: CCV velocity measurement and hot wire anemometer vs. separation distance for a sampling rate of 1000 Hz and a flow speed of 1.1 m/s. The gray band indicates the measurement from the hot wire anemometer including the instrument error.**



**Figure 6: Temperature cross correlation velocimetry and hot wire anemometer vs. sampling rate at separation distance of 15 mm. Technique works well for sampling rates over 1000 Hz. The gray band indicates the measurement from the hot wire anemometer including the instrument error.**

### Conclusion:

For a turbulent flow at 1.1 m/s this study has shown that the most accurate and precise velocity measurement predicted by the CCV technique is nominally found at a spacing of 15 mm. Future work includes obtaining a relationship between eddy size and optimum thermocouple spacing distance using flow visualization techniques. In addition, the height above the axisymmetric jet as well as the distance along the radius of the jet will be varied to find an overall flow profile. Once this is accomplished, measurement of entrainment velocity of pool fires of varying sizes is planned. The frequencies covered in this study have shown little effect on either accuracy or precision. Future work to obtain the minimum viable frequency is planned.

### Acknowledgements:

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## **Chapter 2:**

# **An Examination of Cross Correlation Velocimetry's Ability to Predict Characteristic Turbulent Length Scales in Fire Induced Flow**

Presented at the 2009 Fall Technical Meeting Organized by the Eastern States Section of the Combustion Institute

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Since the early 1970's Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV) has been used to measure velocity of turbulent flows. This study explores the use of the cross correlation coefficient decay towards estimation of characteristic turbulent length scales typically found in a fire. To test the theory, experiments were performed in a turbulent free jet and a natural gas fire plume. The experiments showed that CCV measurements were comparable to the velocity decay obtained using Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA). Ultimately, a prototype probe was developed that could measure temperature, velocity, and flow width simultaneously in the plume of a natural gas burner. This allows for a direct estimation of the mass flow in a fire plume.

### **1. Introduction**

Quantitative flow measurements in fires are difficult due to the extreme temperatures and density variations in both amplitude and frequency occurring in fire flows (Tieszen 2001). Normally a fire flow's width is determined by making multiple measurements along the width of either velocity or temperature, and estimating where the measured parameter decays to a minimal value. This study discusses the creation of a probe using Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV), known as a triple CCV probe, capable of simultaneously measuring the temperature, velocity, and flow width from a single measurement. The dependence of the probe on sampling frequency and sampling time are presented. This probe can be used to estimate a fire's plume width and possibly the ceiling jet thickness caused by a compartment fire. Measurement of fire plume temperature, velocity, and width also allows for the direct calculation of the fire's mass flux into the upper hot layer in a compartment fire. Characterization of ceiling jet thickness is important in the analysis of sprinkler activation, flashover calculations, and tenability/egress analysis in compartment fires that occur in, for example, structural and tunnel fires.

### **2. Operating Principle and Theoretical Background:**

CCV uses temperature-time records from a set of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, cross-correlated to determine the flow's velocity similar to spatial and drift cross-correlation velocimetry (Morgan and Bowles 1968; Marvasti and Strahle 1994). The CCV

technique uses the inherent turbulent structures generated by fire flows as the tracers to follow the bulk flow. CCV is based on the “frozen eddy” concept in turbulent flows proposed by Taylor in 1938 (Taylor 1938). Taylor hypothesized that in a turbulent flow, there are random and unique eddy structures that retain their shape and characteristics over some small time and space. This concept is analogous to performing a numerical integration of a function over a small interval. In between 1975 and 1980 Cox et al. (Cox 1976; Cox and Chitty 1980) performed a series of experiments that verified the “frozen eddy” hypothesis in a non-isotropic ceiling-jet flow showing velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV and thus developing the one dimensional CCV probe. The velocity  $u$  of a flow can be calculated using (Cox 1975),

$$u = \frac{d}{\tau}, \quad (1)$$

where  $d$  is the thermocouple separation distance in the direction of the flow and  $\tau$  is the time lag (s) between the two thermocouple signals. Figure 1 shows an example of a turbulent jet with a dual CCV probe and sample temperature profile outputs.

Experimental measurements include signal noise and dissipation of small eddy structures which make the measurement of  $\tau$  more difficult. To measure  $\tau$  in a signal with noise, in which a visual measurement is not possible, the time lag  $\tau$  can be calculated using,

$$\tau = \frac{\tau_{sN}}{f}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\tau_{sN}$  is the nominal sampling lag, or the number of data samples the second signal is delayed behind the first, and  $f$  is the sampling frequency.  $\tau_{sN}$  is found by calculating at what lag the non-dimensional cross coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  has a maximum as shown in figure 2. To make the thermocouple data easier to manage numerically, the temperature profiles are normalized using,

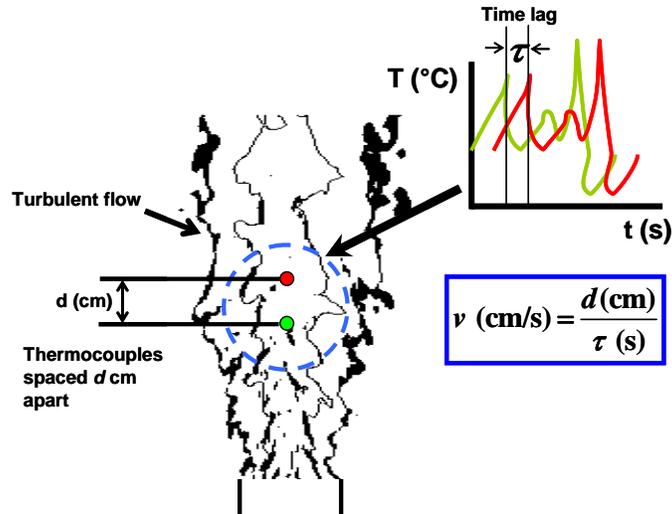
$$\theta = \frac{T_s - T_{avg}}{T_{max}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $T_s$  is the measured temperature,  $T_{avg}$  is the mean temperature of the data set, and  $T_{max}$  is the maximum temperature in the data set. The nondimensionalized cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  can be calculated using,

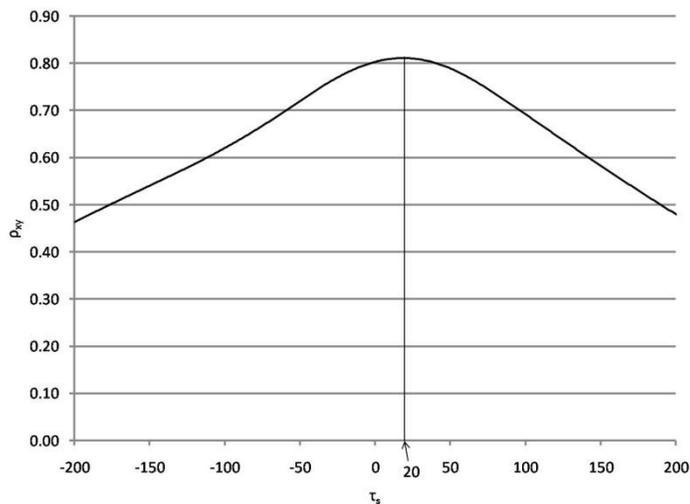
$$\rho_{xy} = \frac{\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \theta_x(z - \tau_s) \theta_y(z) dt}{\left[ \theta_x(z - \tau_s)^2 \right]^{0.5} \left[ \theta_y(z)^2 \right]^{0.5}}, \quad (4)$$

where  $z$  is the position in the temperature profile,  $\tau_s$  is the sampling lag,  $T$  is the total number of samples, and  $\theta_x(z)$  and  $\theta_y(z)$  represent the normalized first and second temperature readings respectively. By plotting  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $\tau_s$  the nominal sampling lag  $\tau_{sN}$  is found as the abscissa of the peak. Figure 2 shows an example of  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $\tau_s$  plot using a  $f$  of 2 kHz and a  $d$  of 20 mm where the  $\tau_{sN}$  is 20 which corresponds to a velocity of 2 m/s using Eqs. 1 and 2.

Signals with a strong correlation have a  $\rho_{xy}$  close to unity while signals with a weak correlation have lower values of  $\rho_{xy}$ . Motevalli (Motevalli 1989) reported that  $\rho_{xy} > 0.5$  is needed for an accurate velocity measurement. This makes intuitive sense because  $\rho_{xy}$  above 0.5 implies greater confidence in the statistical similarity of the signals where as if  $\rho_{xy}$  is below 0.5 then it is more likely that the two signals are unrelated. Further discussion on the velocity, temperature measurement capabilities of CCV, and the practical considerations for the cross correlation technique are discussed elsewhere (Cox ; Motevalli, Marks et al.), (Wills 1964).



**Figure 1: Example of measuring the velocity of a turbulent jet with a CCV Probe. Two thermocouples placed  $d$  (cm) apart.**



**Figure 2: Example of  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $\tau_s$  for an experiment with a thermocouple separation distance of 20 mm and a sampling rate of 2 kHz.**

The measurement of the characteristic turbulent length scale is affected by two main factors, the sampling rate and the sampling period. Using an insufficient sampling frequency will result in the  $\rho_{xy}$  being too low and shortening the width measurement. To find the required sampling rate the asymptotic value of  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $f$  needs to be found. This is discussed below. A similar type of study needs to be done for the sampling period, having too small of a sampling period will result in a lowering of  $\rho_{xy}$  at all separation distances also causing the width prediction to be low.

The total sampling period  $t_T$  can be found using,

$$t_T = \frac{T}{f}, \quad (5)$$

where  $f$  is the sampling frequency, and  $T$  is the total number of samples. To measure an accurate flow profile the sampling period should be long enough to identify the lag in the signal but short enough to show changes in the flow velocity as they occur. To detect as many flow velocity fluctuations as possible the shortest viable sampling period should be used. This minimum total required sampling time is dependent on both the flow condition (turbulent eddy size and the magnitude of thermal gradients) and the quality of data acquisition.

Sampling frequency affects the CCV technique because if data is not recorded fast enough the temperature changes in the turbulent eddies will not be represented correctly by the temperature profile of each thermocouple. Due to the thermal inertia of the probe the maximum viable sampling frequency is proportional to the time constant of the thermocouple. Sampling too fast will simply result in larger data sets which will take longer to analyse with no increase in accuracy. Since the velocity measurement is dependent on the phase, and not the amplitude of the signal, the full response of the thermocouple to the thermal changes in the flow is not needed, therefore the maximum viable sampling frequency is higher than predicted by the thermocouple response time.

To find the width of a flow the maximum viable separation distance for the CCV probe must be found. In the case of a circular free jet the characteristic turbulent length scale is equal to the width of the jet (Turns 2000). Therefore the maximum separation distance at which the signals from two thermocouples can be cross correlated with a  $\rho_{xy} = 0.5$  should be equal to the width of the flow being analyzed. This conclusion is supported by published findings which report that a turbulent structure can be expected to survive as a recognizable entity through a distance comparable to its own length scale (Coats 1996).

The width of a circular free jet can be calculated using (Kanury 1977),

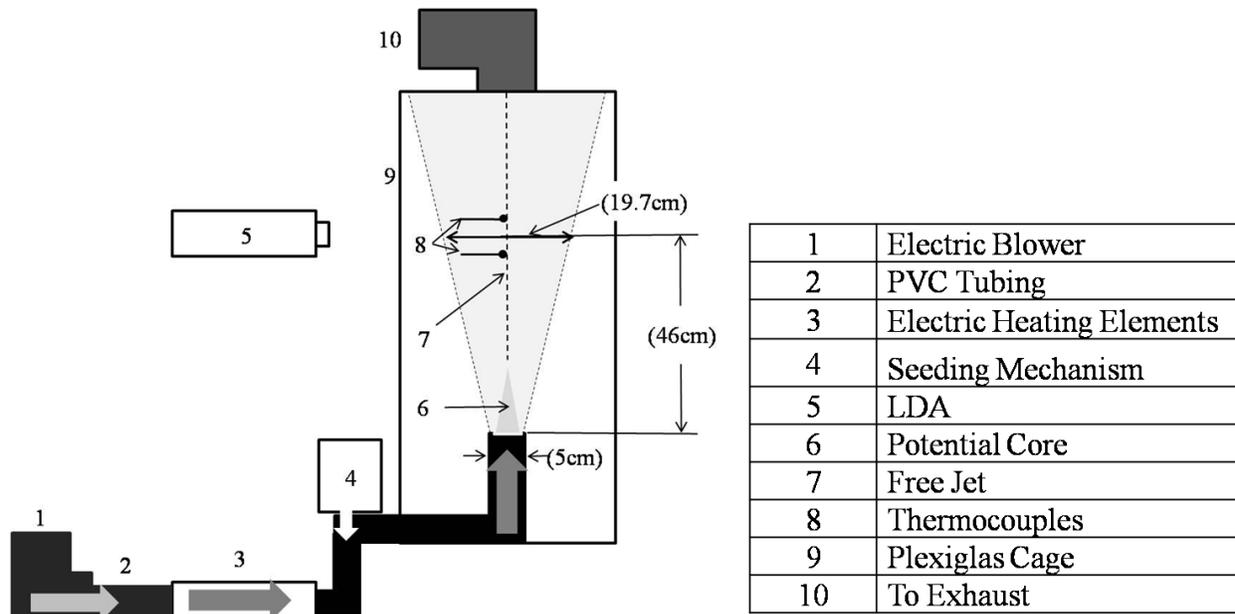
$$\frac{2\delta}{d_i} = \left[ 1 + 24C \frac{x}{d_i} \right], \quad (6)$$

where  $\delta$  is the jet radius,  $d_i$  is the nozzle diameter,  $x$  is the height above the nozzle, and  $C$  is an empirical constant equal to 0.0128.

### 3. Experimental Setup:

#### Axi-symmetric Jet:

Figure 3 shows a diagram of the axi-symmetric jet used to create a uniform and repeatable flow at varying Reynolds Numbers. An electric fan pushed air over electric heaters to generate a constant heated flow. The large scale turbulence structures were generated by viscous shear stress as the jet (nozzle diameter = 5 cm) expands into a clear Plexiglas cage, with dimensions of 46 x 46 x 122 cm. Two E type thermocouples, with wire sizes of  $8 \times 10^{-5}$  m (0.003 inches) were used to make the temperature measurements. E type thermocouples were used because they have a large mV output  $61 \mu\text{V}/^\circ\text{C}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  compared to other commercially available thermocouples such as K type which has a mV output of  $40 \text{ mV}/^\circ\text{C}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  (Agilent-Technologies 2008).

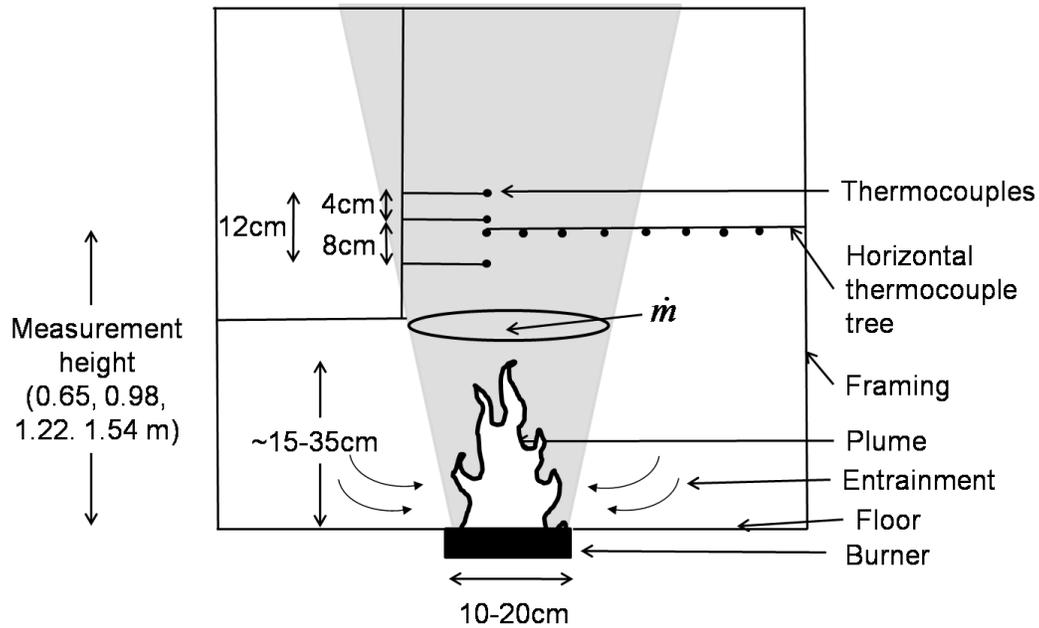


**Figure 3: Axi-symmetric jet experimental setup**

To confirm that the thermocouples had similar response times the probes were reversed in a constant flow and comparable results were obtained. The separation distance between thermocouples could be varied with accuracy up to 0.01 mm in the flow while keeping the measurement volume at the same height above the jet nozzle. In the vertical plane the thermocouples were aligned using a laser-based alignment system which decreased the error due to misalignment. Thermocouple measurements were recorded by a NI DAQ data acquisition. An intelligent Laser Applications (ILA) 75 mW fixed optical path length fp50-shift LDA system was used as the reference velocity measurement.

### Natural Gas burner:

A natural gas burner was built to test the triple CCV probe's ability to work in a real fire scenario. The burner was built with a 1.22 m by 1.22 m square drywall top with a sand burner in the middle. This tabletop design kept the air entrainment horizontal at the fire's base. The diameter of the burner was adjusted by attaching a steel plate with a hole equal to the desired burner size. Fires having base diameters of 10 cm, 15 cm, and 20 cm and heat release rates between 6.2 kW and 23.7 kW were tested. The heat release rate was determined by adjusting the flow of natural gas to the burner. Measurements were taken at 4 heights above the plume (0.65m, 0.98m, 1.22m, 1.54m). A triple thermocouple probe as shown in figure 4 was built to measure temperature, velocity and plume width simultaneously. The triple CCV probe had separation distances of 4 cm, and 8 cm providing 3 total separation distances (4, 8, and 12cm) with which to calculate the  $\rho_{xy}$  decay. The same E type thermocouples used in the Axi-symmetric jet were used here as-well. The thermocouples were aligned in the vertical direction using a plumb bob before each test. To compare with the measurement of CCV probe the plume width was measured using a horizontal thermocouple tree of eight E type thermocouples as shown in figure 4. To find the point of 85% decay in the temperature profile these eight measurements were fitted to a fifth order polynomial which was solved for the desired loss. Due to the low temperatures at the heights above the plume tested radiation loss incurred a maximum of 0.8% error in the calculation of the width of the plume and was not included.

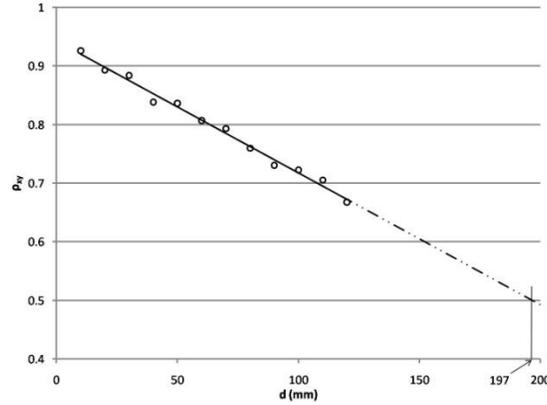


**Figure 4: Diagram of triple CCV probe, horizontal thermocouple tree, and burner, burner diameters ranged from 10cm to 20cm.**

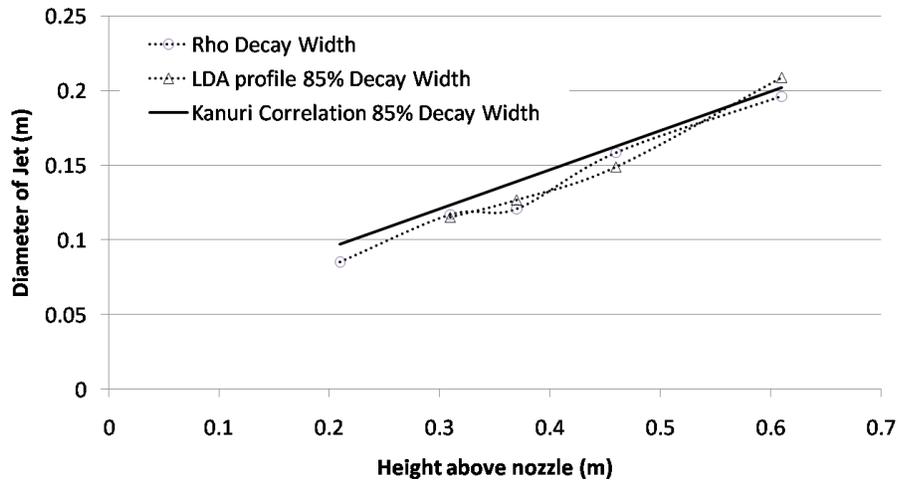
#### 4. Results and Analysis:

##### Axi-symmetric Jet:

Figure 5 shows a plot of the correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $d$  (10 mm to 120 mm) from a measurement taken in the axi-symmetric jet. This figure shows a linear decay of  $\rho_{xy}$  as the thermocouples become farther apart. Linear extrapolation shows that  $\rho_{xy}$  decays to 0.5 at a separation distance of 197mm. Using equation 6 the width of the jet at the measurement location was calculated as 191 mm. To further analyze the use of the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  to predict the width of a flow CCV measurements with varying separation distances were taken in the centerline of the jet and velocity measurements were taken with the LDA along the radius of the jet at different heights above the nozzle. The edge of the jet was defined as when the velocity decayed by 85% of its maximum value. Figure 6 shows that the decay in the  $\rho_{xy}$  predicts the jet width within -6.5% of the width measured by the LDA. Because Kanuri's correlation predicts 100% of the jet width, it was adjusted to 85% to match the LDA data. The CCV data presented lies within -13.5% of the adjusted Kanuri's correlation prediction. All CCV width measurements were below the LDA measurements and Kanuri's correlation predictions. This is to be expected because any error in the CCV measurement will cause the  $\rho_{xy}$  value to prematurely decay producing a smaller width to be calculated.



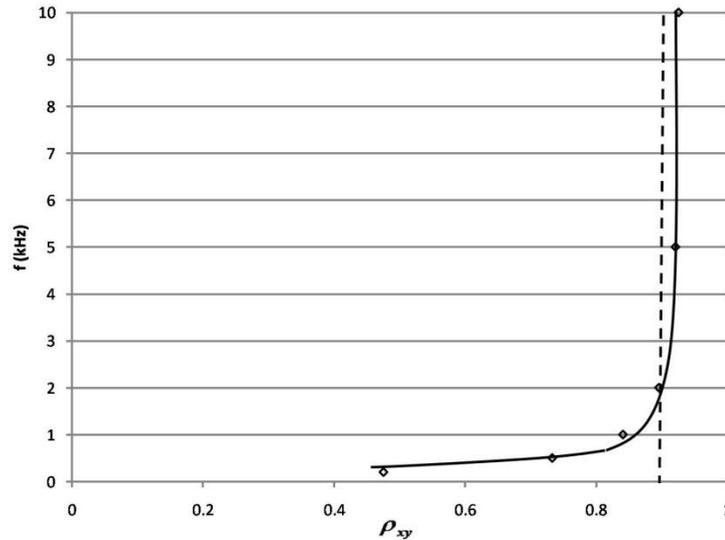
**Figure 5: Nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  versus thermocouple separation distance  $d$ , sampling rates 2 kHz,  $t_T$  of 15 s,  $Re = 4200$ . This figure shows the linear decay of  $\rho_{xy}$  with increasing separation distance.**



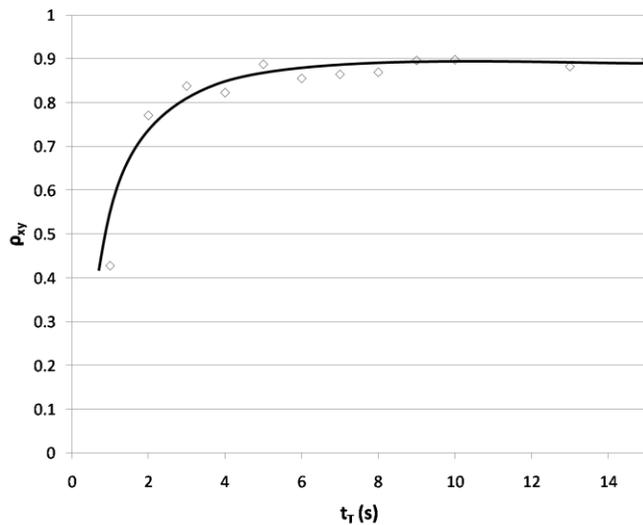
**Figure 6: Diameter of turbulent free jet versus height above nozzle**

To analyze the dependence of CCV on the sampling frequency experiments were performed at a constant flow varying the sampling frequency between 200 Hz and 10 kHz. Figure 7 shows the relationship between  $\rho_{xy}$  and  $f$ . After 2 kHz,  $\rho_{xy}$  reaches an asymptotic value where increasing the sampling frequency produces little change in the correlation of the signals. This type of result is likely to be flow structure and temperature dependent; flows with large thermal gradients and turbulent structures are expected to have higher  $\rho_{xy}$  values using slower sampling rates. Similar results were found in all of the Reynolds numbers tested in this study, a  $f = 2$  kHz represents an optimum sampling rate for the range of flow conditions tested.

To determine the sampling period dependence of the CCV, calculations were done using a range of total sampling periods,  $t_T$ . In figure 8 the relationship between  $\rho_{xy}$  and the total sampling time is shown. For the flow conditions presented a total sampling time of 5 seconds is required ( $Re = 4200$ ,  $f = 2$  kHz) to reach an asymptotic value usable for the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  calculation.



**Figure 7: Sampling frequency  $f$  versus nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  for a thermocouple separation distance of 10 mm using a 15-second sampling time. The nondimensional cross correlation coefficient reaches a near asymptotic value at 2 kHz.**

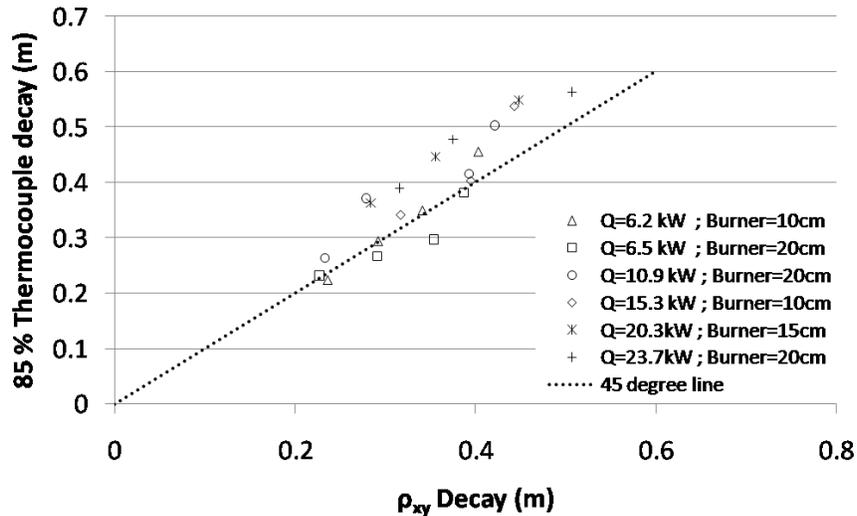


**Figure 8:  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $t_T$ ,  $Re=4200$  and  $f = 2$  kHz.  $\rho_{xy}$  reaches an asymptotic value with a sampling time of 6 seconds.**

### Natural Gas Burner:

Using the triple CCV probe simultaneous measurements of temperature, velocity, and plume width were made near the centre of a fire plume above the natural gas burner with a sampling frequency of 10 kHz and a sampling period of 10 s. The velocity of the plume was not measured directly but the CCV measurements were within the range of velocities predicted by McCaffrey's (Drysdale) and Heskestad's (Karlsson and Quintiere) correlations. Figure 9 shows the width of an 85% decay in the temperature profile versus the width predicted by the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  for three different burner diameters and six different heat release rates. Width measured using CCV were within  $\pm 25\%$  of the thermocouple width measurements. On average the CCV width measurements were 8.4% smaller than the thermocouple width measurements. These differences

could be due to a number of factors including: uneven deposition of soot on the thermocouple beads causing the thermocouples to have differences in their time constants, an offset in the alignment of the thermocouples along the centerline of the plume, varying plume angles due to ambient air flow in the lab, or having three thermocouples inline making a single measurement which adds more disturbances into the flow as opposed to the normal dual CCV probe. However the error in these measurements seem to be reasonable for most measurements made in a turbulent fire environment. Experimental Observations were also compared with empirical plume width correlations reported in literature (Karlsson and Quintiere). Heskestad's plume width correlation over predicts experimental results by 25%. This could be due to the small fire sizes (6.2-23.7 kW) used in this study.



**Figure 9: Plume width measured using a thermocouple tree versus plume width predicted by the decay in the CCV nondimensional cross correlation coefficient.  $f = 10 \text{ kHz}$ ,  $t_T = 10 \text{ s}$ .**

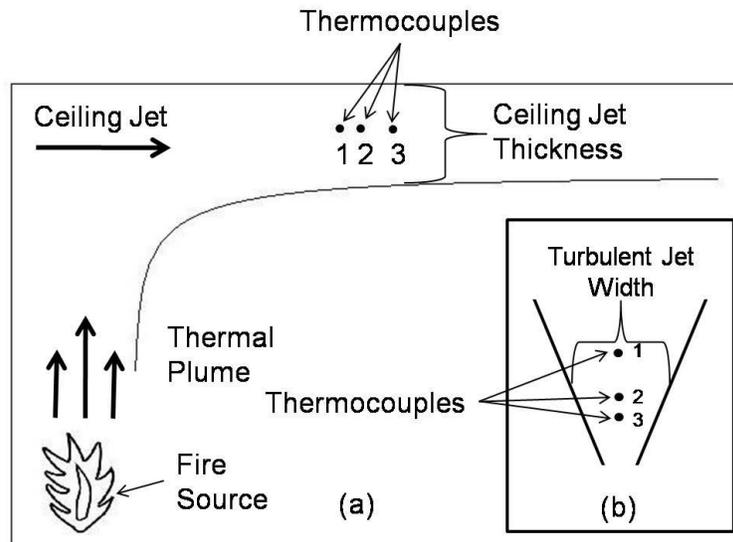
The mass flux  $\dot{m}$  of a fire plume can be approximated assuming a top hat flow profile using,

$$\dot{m} = \rho u \frac{\pi}{4} D^2, \quad (7)$$

where  $\rho$  is the average air density,  $u$  is the flow velocity, and  $D$  is the width of the plume. The density of the flow can be estimated using the temperature measurement and the ideal gas law. Knowing the mass flux from a fire plume is important for calculating how fast smoke detectors will activate, how quickly the upper layer will grow which is needed for evacuation calculations and calculating the ventilation requirements in a given space. The triple CCV probe is unique because it allows the user to measure all three of the quantities needed to use this equation simultaneously.

The measurement of the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  can likely be used to estimate the ceiling jet caused by a compartment fire. Ceiling jet refers to the gas flow in a layer beneath the ceiling surface driven by the buoyancy of hot combustion products from a fire plume. Characterization of ceiling jet thickness is important in the analysis of sprinkler activation, flashover calculations, and tenability/egress analysis in compartment fires that occur in, for example, structural and

tunnel fires. Figures 10a and 10b show diagrams of a typical ceiling jet generated by a fire at the back of a room and the expansion of a circular free jet respectively.



**Figure 10: Application of CCV to measure characteristic turbulent length scales. (a) Typical ceiling jet found in a compartment fire. (b) Axi-symmetric free jet**

## 5. Conclusions

The triple CCV probe can measure the temperature, velocity, and characteristic turbulent length scale of a medium to high temperature turbulent flow which allows the direct calculation of a fire plumes mass flux. The CCV's width measurement is most effected by 2 main factors, sampling frequency and sampling time. For different types of flow conditions in which these measurements are done an analysis to find the asymptotic value for these two parameters is required. For the flows tested here, the minimum required sampling time was found to be 5 seconds and the optimum sampling frequency was found to be 2 kHz.

In the future this technique could be used to measure the ceiling jet thickness in compartment fires. Future work is needed to characterize the angular dependence of this measurement, how far away from the centre of the plume the thermocouple sensor can be placed before an accurate measurement of the plume width is no longer possible, and how close to the characteristic turbulent length scale the thermocouple separation distance can be and still make a valid measurement. These parameters are important for using the triple CCV probe to measure the ceiling jet thickness.

## Acknowledgments

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# Chapter 3:

## Cross Correlation Velocimetry in Turbulent Fire-Induced Flows

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### 1. Abstract

This study analyses the applicability of cross correlating the signal between two thermocouples to obtain simultaneous measurement of velocity, integral turbulent length scales, and temperature in fire induced turbulent flows. This sensor is based on the classical Taylor's hypothesis which states that turbulent structures should retain their shape and identity over a small period of time. If sampling rate is fast enough such that the signal from two thermocouples is sampled within this time duration, the turbulent eddy can be used as a tracer to measure flow velocity and fluctuation. Experiments performed in two laboratory scale devices: *a heated turbulent jet* and *a variable diameter natural gas burner* show that sampling rate, sampling time, and angular orientation with respect to the bulk flow are the most sensitive parameters in velocity measurements. Flows with Reynolds numbers between 300 ( $u=0.1\text{m/s}$ ) and 6000 ( $u=2.0\text{ m/s}$ ) were tested.

### 2. Nomenclature:

BDP	=	Bi-directional probe
$C$	=	Empirical constant (-)
CCV	=	Cross Correlation Velocimetry
$d$	=	Distance between thermocouples (mm)
$d_i$	=	Nozzle exit diameter (m)
$d_p$	=	Diameter of seed particles (m)
$f$	=	Sampling frequency (Hz)
$f_\tau$	=	Maximum sampling frequency using full thermocouple response (Hz)
$f_R$	=	Maximum sequential sampling rate (Hz)
LDA	=	Laser Doppler Anemometer
PIV	=	Particle Image Velocimetry
$Re$	=	Reynolds number (-)
$t$	=	Time (s)
$t_T$	=	Total sampling time (s)
$t_1$	=	Air transition time (s)
$t_2$	=	Overlap time (s)
$t_{TR}$	=	Total required sampling time (s)
$T$	=	Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
$T$	=	Total number of samples (-)
$u$	=	Velocity (m/s)
$u_{rel}$	=	Seed particle relative velocity (m/s)

$V_m$	=	Measured Velocity
$V_T$	=	Total bulk flow Velocity
$x$	=	Distance away from nozzle (m)
$z$	=	Position in array ( - )

**Greek:**

$\rho$	=	Fluid density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho_P$	=	Density of seed particles (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho_f$	=	Density of fluid (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho_{xy}$	=	Non-dimensional cross correlation coefficient (-)
$\theta$	=	Normalized temperature (-)
$\tau$	=	Time lag (s)
$\tau_s$	=	Sampling lag (-)
$\tau_{sN}$	=	Nominal sampling lag (-)
$\tau_R$	=	Response time (s)
$\delta$	=	½ Plume width (m)
$\nu$	=	Kinematic viscosity (m <sup>2</sup> /s)
$\mu$	=	Viscosity (N s/m <sup>2</sup> )

**Subscripts:**

$max$	=	Maximum in data set
$avg$	=	Average of data set
$m$	=	Measured
$c$	=	Corrected

**3. Introduction:**

Accurate measurements of temperature and velocity fields created by fire plumes are vital in quantifying the thermal impact of a fire. Knowledge of these high temperature flows play a major role in the prediction of ceiling jet velocity, smoke detector, and sprinkler activation, requirements for smoke venting systems, and estimation of available safe egress times (ASET). Recent large scale experimental studies on fires in building have discussed the lack of accurate velocity measurement techniques in fires and the severe need of research in this area (Torero and Carvel 2007).

Quantitative flow measurements in fires are difficult due to the elevated temperatures and caustic environment in fire flows (Tieszen 2001). This causes any kind of sensitive instrument difficult to maintain. Table 1 shows velocity measurement techniques currently in use along with their cost and accuracy. The bi-directional probe (BDP) is predominantly used to make measurements in full-scale fire experiments (Bryant 2009). The BDP calculates velocity by comparing the pressure difference between the stagnation pressure on the upstream portion and the static pressure in the downstream portion of the probe. The BDP has difficulty resolving velocities below 0.3 m/s accurately (McCaffrey and Heskestad 1976). This type of probe also uses a correction factor which changes with variation in the pitch and yaw angles<sup>3</sup> (Sette 2006). The pitot tube works in a similar fashion to the BDP but it uses small pressure ports which can become clogged with combustion products (Koslowski 1991; Sette 2006). The hot wire

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<sup>3</sup> Pitch and yaw are changes in the vertical and horizontal axis of the probe with respect to the bulk flow direction.

anemometer, works well for ambient temperature flows; however, the accuracy and robustness of the probe drops with changing elevated temperatures. The Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA) is non-intrusive and has better spatial resolution than a hot wire anemometer but requires seeding of the flow (Degraaff and Eaton 2001). Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) is also highly dependent on particle seeding (Astarita 2008). These laser based systems work well for measuring bench scale experimental flows but both seeding and recording the reflection of laser light from the seed particles is difficult in full scale fire situations. Laser systems are also prohibitively expensive and many use a class 4 laser which must be contained to prevent optically damaging transmission from exiting the experiment.

A velocity probe using the cross correlation velocimetry (CCV) technique separates itself from these traditional techniques because it is inexpensive, easy to operate, robust, and capable of measuring low speed flows. This study discusses the frequency, sampling time, spatial dependence, and angular dependence of CCV technique towards the creation of a functional sensor. This study also presents a method for estimating the integral turbulent length scales in turbulent flow using the CCV technique which was used to measure a fire plume width which might be used to measure ceiling jet thickness in a developing compartment fire. The integral length scale is vital to optimize grid scale resolution for use with Large Eddy Simulation (LES) computational fluid dynamic (CFD) models. In CFD models two equation models are often used known as the  $k-\epsilon$  turbulence model. The dissipation rate  $\epsilon$  is a strong function of the integral length scale. It is always assumed that the integral length scale is finite (Tennekes and Lumley 1972). Experimentally the integral length scale can be defined as the length beyond which fluid mechanical quantities become uncorrelated (Glassman 1996). This occurs when eddies are of the order of the width of the shear flow, for example the diameter of a pipe or the width of a boundary layer along a wall (Kundu and Cohen 1987) similar to a ceiling jet in a developing compartment fire.

CCV uses temperature-time records from a set of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, cross-correlated to determine the flow's velocity similar to spatial and drift cross-correlation velocimetry (Morgan and Bowles 1968; Marvasti and Strahle 1994). This technique based on the "frozen eddy" concept in turbulent flows proposed by Taylor in 1938 (Taylor 1938) where he hypothesized that in a turbulent flow, there are random and unique eddy structures that retain their shape and characteristics over some time and space. This concept is analogous to performing a numerical integration of a function over a small interval. Several Studies in fluid mechanics have shown the validity of this assumption (Antonia et al. 1979; Cenedese et al. 1991; Burghelea et al. 2005). Investigations of turbulent flows have shown the movement of eddy structures to be a good representation of the true mean flow velocity (Dupuy, Marechal et al. 2003; Favre, Gaviglio et al. 2006). In between 1975 and 1980 Cox et al. (Cox 1976; Cox and Chitty 1980) performed a series of experiments that verified the "frozen eddy" hypothesis in a non-isotropic ceiling-jet flow showing velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV and thus developing the one dimensional CCV probe. Non-isotropy is necessary, because temperature records are used to capture the flow velocity. Thus it is assumed that there is proportionality between the fluctuating velocity and temperature field in a turbulent flow. Interestingly, for the current set of experiments we show that this proportionality is linear. This is discussed further in the results and analysis section.

Due to the high cost associated with analogue correlators available in the 1970's, the CCV technique phased out after the advent of the bidirectional probe which was significantly cheaper at that time. This technique had been used more recently in fire related research by

Motevalli et al. (Motevalli 1989; Motevalli, Marks et al. 1992), Marrion (Marrion 1989) and Dupuy et al. (Dupuy, Marechal et al. 2003). This work further established limitations associated with the sampling frequency and the time constant of the thermocouple. The problems observed by Cox (Cox 1976) due to data acquisition were partially solved leading to 1-D measurements that achieved higher accuracy (order of  $\pm 5\%$ ). The current is different from prior work in this area because it investigates higher sampling rates (up to 10 kHz), wider range of velocities (0.1 – 2 m/s), and thoroughly investigates the sampling time requirements to apply this technique in the field. In addition, this work also investigates—the applicability of using CCV to obtain information on the characteristic of the turbulent flow. As a first step, a methodology to predict integral turbulent length scales is presented.

#### 4. Operating Principle:

Figure 1 shows an illustrative sketch of a heated turbulent flow where two thermocouples are used to measure velocity. The velocity  $u$  (m/s) of a flow can be calculated using (Cox 1975),

$$u = \frac{d}{\tau}, \quad (1)$$

where  $d$  (m) is the thermocouple separation distance and  $\tau$  is the time lag (s) between the two thermocouple signals. In practice, the thermocouple separation distance is a known quantity. The time lag can be measured directly off of the graph as shown in Figure 1 of there is no noise or decay in the temperature signal. However, experimental measurements typically include signal noise and dissipation of small eddy structures, due to which statistical correlation techniques have to be used to measure time lag. The time lag  $\tau$  can be calculated using,

$$\tau = \frac{\tau_{sN}}{f}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\tau_{sN}$  is the nominal sampling lag, or the number of data samples the second signal is delayed behind the first, and  $f$  is the sampling frequency.  $\tau_{sN}$  is found by calculating at what lag the non-dimensional cross coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  has a maximum as shown in Figure 2. The temperature profiles are normalized using,

$$\theta = \frac{T_s - T_{avg}}{T_{max}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $T_s$  is the measured temperature,  $T_{avg}$  is the mean temperature of the data set, and  $T_{max}$  is the maximum temperature in the data set. The nondimensionalized cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  can be calculated using (Cox 1977),

$$\rho_{xy} = \frac{\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \theta_x(z - \tau_s) \theta_y(z) dz}{\left[ \theta_x(z - \tau_s)^2 \right]^{0.5} \left[ \theta_y(z)^2 \right]^{0.5}}, \quad (4)$$

where  $z$  is an indices location in the  $\theta$  profile,  $\tau_s$  is the sampling lag,  $T$  is the total number of samples, and  $\theta_x(z)$  and  $\theta_y(z)$  represent the normalized first and second temperature readings respectively. By plotting  $\rho_{xy}$  verses  $\tau_s$  the nominal sampling lag  $\tau_{sN}$  is found as the abscissa of the peak. Figure 2 shows an example of  $\rho_{xy}$  verses  $\tau_s$  plot using an  $f$  of 2 kHz and a  $d$  of 20 mm where  $\tau_{sN}$  is 20 which corresponds to a velocity of 2 m/s using Eqs. 1 and 2.

Signals with a strong correlation have a  $\rho_{xy}$  close to unity while signals with a weak correlation have lower values of  $\rho_{xy}$ . Previous studies (Motevalli) have shown that  $\rho_{xy} > 0.5$  implies greater confidence in the statistical similarity of the signals where as if  $\rho_{xy}$  is below 0.5

then it is ~~more~~ likely that the two signals are unrelated. Further discussion on the practical considerations for the cross correlation technique are discussed elsewhere (Wills 1964).

#### *Factors influencing the CCV technique*

Similar to many experimental measurements CCV is affected by the environment and the construction of the sensor. CCV is mostly affected by nine main factors: thermocouple separation distance, sampling period, sampling frequency, the alignment of the CCV probe with the bulk flow, thermocouple response time, soot accumulation, equality of thermocouple response time, turbulent eddy size, and the magnitude of the thermal gradients in the flow. This study examines the first four of these factors.

The thermocouple separation distance affects the accuracy of the measurement in one of two ways. If the thermocouples are significantly close to one another, the second thermocouple can lie in the wake of the first. Close proximity of thermocouples also lead to very small lag times being measured requiring higher sampling rates for accuracy. This type of error is discussed by Motevalli (Motevalli 1989). On the other hand, if the thermocouples are too far apart the eddy structures have time to rotate and shift. Turbulent structures have been found to retain their identity through a length comparable to their size (Coats 1996) therefore the maximum thermocouple separation distance should not exceed this limit.

The total sampling period  $t_T$  can be found using,

$$t_T = \frac{T}{f}, \quad (5)$$

where  $f$  is the sampling frequency, and  $T$  is the total number of samples. To measure an accurate flow profile the sampling period should be long enough to identify the lag in the signal but short enough to show changes in the flow velocity as they occur. To detect as many flow velocity fluctuations as possible the shortest viable sampling period should be used. This minimum total required sampling time  $t_{TR}$  to make a CCV calculation is given by,

$$t_{TR} = t_1 + t_2, \quad (6)$$

where  $t_1$  is the flow time for air to travel between the thermocouples and  $t_2$  is the time required to collect enough overlapping temperature data to calculate the sampling lag between the two signals.  $t_1$  can be estimated if a flow velocity range is known, but  $t_2$  is dependent on both the flow condition (turbulent eddy size and the magnitude of thermal gradients) and the quality of data acquisition.

Sampling frequency adversely affects the CCV technique when it is too high or low. If data is not recorded fast enough the temperature changes in the turbulent eddies will not be represented correctly by the temperature profile of each thermocouple. Due to the thermal inertia of the probe the maximum viable sampling frequency is proportional to the time constant of the thermocouple. Sampling too fast will simply result in larger data sets which will take longer to analyse with no increase in accuracy. The sampling frequency  $f_\tau$  based on the full thermocouple response can be calculated using (Young 1998),

$$f_\tau = \frac{1}{\frac{\rho c_p V}{hA}}, \quad (7)$$

where the denominator of this equation is the full response time of the thermocouple. Since the velocity measurement is dependent on the phase, and not the amplitude of the thermocouple output signal, the full response of the thermocouple  $\tau_R$  to the thermal changes in the flow is not needed. Thus the sampling rate can be significantly higher than a frequency calculated using Eq. 7. Due to this insensitivity to the amplitude of the signal, errors in temperature measurement

from radiation and conduction losses do not affect the velocity measurement; this also means that as long as the circuits connecting the two thermocouples are the same and at similar condition, cold junction compensation is not needed. Not having to correct for losses or compensate for the Seebeck affect at the wire connection makes the measurement simpler and saves a significant amount of computational time.

### 5. Experimental Setup:

The influence of the four parameters: 1. thermocouple separation distance, 2. sampling period, 3. sampling frequency, and 4. the alignment of the CCV probe with the bulk flow, were analyzed using two laboratory scale devices: *a heated turbulent jet* and *a variable diameter natural gas burner*. Figure 3 shows a diagram of the axi-symmetric jet experimental setup used to create a repeatable flow at varying Reynolds Numbers. An electric fan pushed air over electric heaters to generate a constant heated flow. The flow velocity ranged from 0.1m/s to 2 m/s. The large scale turbulence structures were generated as the jet (nozzle diameter = 5 cm) expands into a clear Plexiglas cage, with dimensions of 46 x 46 x 122 cm. Two E type thermocouples, with wire sizes of  $8 \times 10^{-5}$  m (0.003 inches) were used to make the temperature measurements. E type thermocouples were used because they have a large mV output  $61 \mu\text{V}/^\circ\text{C}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  compared to other commercially available thermocouples such as K type ( $40 \text{ mV}/^\circ\text{C}$ ) (Agilent-Technologies 2008). The purpose of the axisymmetric jet was to create a uniform environment in which a single variable could be changed for each experiment. Using the constant flow provided by this set up the separation distance, thermocouple size, and thermocouple orientation can all be varied independently.

To confirm that the thermocouples had similar response times the probes were reversed in a constant flow and comparable results were obtained. The separation distance between thermocouples could be varied with accuracy up to  $\pm 0.01$  mm in the flow while keeping the measurement volume at the same height above the jet nozzle. In the vertical plane the thermocouples were aligned using a laser-based alignment system which decreased the error due to misalignment. An Intelligent Laser Applications (ILA) 75 mW fixed optical path length fp50-shift LDA system was used as the reference velocity measurement.

A solid particle seeder was used to inject 12 micron zirconium dioxide particles into the flow. The terminal velocity or the relative velocity of seed particles with respect to the bulk flow  $u_{rel}$  can be calculated using (Tavoularis 1995),

$$u_{rel} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\rho_P / \rho_F} \right) g \frac{\rho_P d_p^2}{18 \mu_F}, \quad (8)$$

where  $\rho_P$  and  $\rho_F$  are the density of the particle and fluid respectively,  $d_p$  is the diameter of the particle,  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity, and  $\mu_F$  is the dynamic viscosity of the fluid. Based on equation 8 and properties of zirconium oxide and air given in

Table 3 the seed particles used in these experiments had a terminal velocity of 0.022 m/s. This is accounted for in the results. A Honeywell Model 16200 hepa filter was used to remove the seed particles from the flow after the jet passes out of the measurement volume.

In addition to an axi-symmetric jet, a natural gas burner was built to test the CCV probes ability to work in a real fire scenario and analyse the  $\rho_{xy}$  decay above a fire as shown in figure 4. The burner consists of a 1.22 m by 1.22 m square drywall top with the burner in the center. This tabletop design kept the air entrainment horizontal at the fire base. The experimental apparatus was constructed based on the classical study by Zukoski et al. 1980. The diameter of the burner was adjusted by attaching a steel plate with a hole equal to the desired burner size. A schematic of the burner geometry is shown as Figure 4. Natural gas was piped through a 2.54 cm stainless steel braided tube into an air gap created by wire mesh, 5 cm of Kaowool and 10 cm of sand was provide to ensure an even distribution of gas over the burner surface.

The purpose of testing over a burner was to test the viability of the CCV probe in a fire induced buoyancy driven plume. Three thermocouples were used in the CCV probe so that the separation distance did not have to be changed manually. The thermocouple separation distances were adapted from the axi-symmetric jet experiments. They were set at 4 cm, and 8 cm providing 3 total separation distances (4, 8, and 12cm) with which to calculate the  $\rho_{xy}$  decay. The same E type thermocouples used in the axi-symmetric jet were used here as-well. The thermocouples were aligned in the vertical direction using a plumb bob before each test. Fires having base diameters of 10 cm, 15 cm, and 20 cm and heat release rates between 6.2 kW to 23.7 kW were tested. The heat release rate was determined by adjusting the flow of natural gas to the burner. Measurements were taken at 4 heights above the plume (0.65m 0.98m, 1.22m, 1.54m). The plume width was measured using a horizontal thermocouple tree using eight E type thermocouples as shown in Figure 5. LDA measurements were not done in this scenario due to seeding difficulties. Due to the low temperatures at the heights above the plume tested ( $\leq \sim 100^\circ\text{C}$ ) radiation loss incurred a maximum of 0.8% error in the calculation of the plume width and was not included.

## 6. Results and Analysis:

The results include velocities measured using the CCV technique and compared with LDA measurements and characteristic turbulent length scales. Analysis of the influence of sampling frequency, sampling time, and thermocouple alignment is also presented.

Figure 6 shows experimental results from varying the thermocouple separation distance for Reynolds numbers between 300 and 6000. These Reynolds numbers correspond to a flow velocity range between 0.1 m/s with a temperature  $\sim 2^\circ\text{C}$  above ambient and 2.0 m/s with a temperature  $\sim 20^\circ\text{C}$  above ambient. The jet diameter was equal to 5 cm. The Reynolds number  $Re$  was calculated using,

$$Re = \frac{ud_i}{\nu}, \quad (9)$$

where  $u$  is the flow speed at the measurement volume,  $d_i$  is the nozzle diameter (5cm) of the jet and  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of air. The measurements were taken 46 cm above the nozzle, beyond the potential core which can extend 4-6 nozzle diameters (20-30 cm) into the jet (Kanury 1977). Each data point in Figure 6 represents the average of 12 consecutive measurements each using a total sampling time  $t_T = 15$  s. The sampling frequency  $f = 10$  kHz and thermocouple separation distances: 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 70 mm were tested.

It was observed that the velocities measured by the CCV procedure and the LDA were off by a factor of approximately 30%. This was consistent through the entire range of Reynolds numbers tested. To account for this an experimental correction factor was included. The CCV Reynolds numbers were corrected with a linear correction factor based solely on the measured Reynolds number  $Re_m$  using,

$$Re_c = Re_m(1 - a_1) - a_2, \quad (10)$$

where  $Re_m$  is the measured Reynolds number using CCV and  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are experimental constants found to be 0.2301 and 188.16 respectively. This correction factor is partially due to the terminal velocity of the seed particles, non-white noise<sup>4</sup> in the data acquisition system, or a non-axial component of the jet. At the lowest Reynolds numbers tested the terminal velocity accounts for nearly the entire correction. At higher speeds it is believed that small misalignments in the CCV probe with the flow angle play a larger role. Future work is needed to analyse this correction factor. Using the correction factor discussed above, Figure 6 shows that CCV measurement can generally report accuracies of within 5% of the LDA. The ability to measure flows down to  $Re=300$  ( $u=0.1\text{m/s}$ ) is a significant advantage over current measuring techniques such as the BDP. It was also found that the CCV technique is independent of separation distance for values between 5 and 70 mm for the Reynolds numbers used in these experiments. To study the effects of larger separation distances Figure 7 shows a plot of  $\rho_{xy}$  versus  $d$  (10 mm to 120 mm). This figure shows a decay of the correlation coefficient as the thermocouples become farther apart. If it is assumed that the decay is linear, extrapolation shows that  $\rho_{xy}$  decays to 0.5 at a separation distance of 197mm. In the case of a circular free jet the characteristic turbulent length scale is equal to the width of the jet and can be calculated using (Kanury 1977),

$$\frac{2\delta}{d_i} = \left[ 1 + 24C \frac{x}{d_i} \right], \quad (11)$$

where  $\delta$  is the jet radius,  $d_i$  is the nozzle diameter (5 cm),  $x$  is the height above the nozzle (46 cm), and  $C$  is an empirical constant equal to 0.0128. Using equation 11 the width of the jet at the measurement location was calculated as 191 mm, close to the 197 mm predicted by CCV.

To further analyse the use of the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  to estimate the width of a flow, CCV measurements with varying separation distances were taken along the centreline of the flow and velocity measurements were taken with the LDA along the radius of the jet at different heights above the nozzle. The edge of the jet was defined as a region when velocity decayed to 85% of the maximum (velocity along centreline). Good agreement is observed between the two methods. Figure 8 shows the length scales measured using LDA, and CCV. The dark solid line is obtained using Kanuri's correlation. Because Kanuri's correlation predicts 100% of the jet width, it was adjusted to 85% to match the LDA data. All CCV width measurements were below the LDA measurements and Kanuri's correlation predictions. The CCV measurements are less than the reference measurements because any disturbance in the measurement will reduce the nondimensional cross correlation coefficient and cause a smaller width calculation. These disturbances include signal noise and misalignment with the plume angle with the thermocouple probe.

Figure 8, shows that in addition to measurement of velocity and temperature at a given location, CCV also allows estimation of the integral turbulent length scale, as previously defined,

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<sup>4</sup> Non-white noise is signal noise which is not distributed evenly across the spectrum of the signal.

by measuring the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$ . This conclusion is supported by published findings which report that a turbulent structure can be expected to survive as a recognizable entity through a distance comparable to its own length scale (Coats 1996). These results make intuitive sense because the full width of the jet is nominally the characteristic turbulent length scale and the integral length scale is usually less than the characteristic length scale but of the same order of magnitude (Glassman 1996).

Knowing that the CCV estimates the integral length scale which is slightly smaller than the characteristic length scale (nominally known as the flow width) by using the CCV probe the mass flux of a fire plume can be approximated if the probe is placed in the center of the plume and a velocity profile is assumed because the probe measures the temperature, centreline velocity and width of the plume simultaneously. Knowing the mass flux from a fire plume is important for calculating the smoke detector activation time needed for evacuation calculations and calculating the ventilation requirements in a given space.

CCV could also be used to estimate the ceiling jet thickness caused by a compartment fire. A ceiling jet refers to the gas flow in a shallow layer beneath the ceiling surface driven by the buoyancy of hot combustion products from a fire plume. Characterization of ceiling jet thickness is important in the analysis of sprinkler activation, flashover calculations, and tenability/egress analysis in compartment fires that occur in, for example, structural and tunnel fires. Using a three thermocouple CCV probe, as shown in Figure 5, with two different spacing three separation distances can be achieved (spacing between thermocouples 1&2, 2&3, and 1&3) and used to calculate the decay of  $\rho_{xy}$ . A figure similar to Figure 7 can be generated and the ceiling jet thickness can be obtained. This will allow the calculation of the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  due to the change in separation distance and by extrapolating this line to 0.5 as done above, the height of the smoke layer interface could be estimated. Knowledge of the integral length scale of a flow allows the use of the most efficient grid scale in large eddy simulation (LES) CFD calculations which can help increase the accuracy of using CFD.

To analyze the dependence of CCV on the sampling frequency experiments were performed, in a constant flow, varying the sampling frequency between 200 Hz and 10 kHz. Figure 9 shows the relationship between  $\rho_{xy}$  and  $f$ . As shown in figure 9, at  $f > 2$  kHz,  $\rho_{xy}$  reaches an asymptotic value where increasing the sampling frequency produces little change in the correlation of the signals. Between 500 Hz and 2 kHz,  $\rho_{xy}$  value drops below 0.5. This type of result is likely to be flow structure and temperature dependent; flows with large thermal gradients and turbulent structures are expected to have higher  $\rho_{xy}$  values using slower sampling rates. Similar results were found in all of the Reynolds numbers tested in this study;  $f = 2$  kHz represents an optimum sampling rate for the range of flow conditions tested. Larger bead diameters will have a slower response time thus acting like low pass filters to the temperature data. Slower sampling rates will be more viable but longer sampling periods will be required to capture the lag in the signal in this case. Currently in fire experiments thermocouples are usually sampled at 1 Hz but the data acquisition hardware available today has no problem handling multiple channels at much higher sampling rates.

To determine the sampling time dependence of the CCV, calculations were done using a range of total sampling times,  $t_T$ . Figure 10 shows the standard deviation of the CCV velocity calculation versus the sampling time along with the average standard deviation of the LDA for the same experiment ( $Re = 4200$ ,  $f = 2$  kHz). Figure 10 shows that when a total sampling less than 4s is used, the certainty in the CCV calculation decreases rapidly. The relationship between  $\rho_{xy}$  and the total sampling time is shown on the right axis. This line does not start to decay until

below a sampling time of 3s. Based on these results, an accurate velocity measurement, with a low standard deviation and  $\rho_{xy}$  above 0.5, requires a minimum total sampling time  $t_{TR}$  of 4 seconds. Figures similar to Figure 10 were generated for all velocities tested. The total sampling time varied from 4-8 seconds, and showed an inverse relationship with Reynolds number (higher Reynolds numbers requiring lower sampling times and vice versa).

While using the probe in a realistic fire, it is possible that there could be a misalignment of the thermocouples with the bulk flow. This effect of horizontal displacement or offset angle of the thermocouples in the CCV probe with respect to the bulk flow on the accuracy of the velocity measurement was also studied. Velocity measurements were taken with horizontal offset angles ranging from 0° to 40°. These experiments showed that an offset of the flow angle with respect to the thermocouple alignment causes a significant deviation in the velocity measurement. The effect of the offset angle varied between a 3% off nominal measurements made with an offset angle of 6° to a 25% off nominal measurements with a 40° offset angle.

The offset can be corrected if the orientation of the probe with respect to the bulk flow is known. The offset CCV probe creates a right triangle with the bulk flow as shown in Figure 11, where  $V_m$  is the velocity measured by the probe and  $V$  is the “true” velocity of the flow being measured. If the offset angle is known, the velocity measured by the CCV probe can be corrected. The corrected bulk flow velocity can be found using,

$$V_{BF} = \frac{V_M}{\cos(\theta)}. \quad (14)$$

Using equation 14 the corrected error is below 10% for each case while the uncorrected error goes above 25%. The angle  $\theta$  needs to be known in addition to the separation distance for this to work in the field.

The jet results showed that the optimum sampling frequency was 2kHz and the optimum sampling time was 6 seconds, given E type thermocouples with a wire diameter of 80 $\mu$ m. To determine the applicability of this technique in fire induced flows a variable diameter natural gas burner was constructed. This burner allowed the variation of the heat release rate by varying the gas input along with the ability to vary the diameter of the burner itself. This allowed the width of the plume to be changed using more than just the change in height above the burner. Using a burner instead of a heated axi-symmetric jet allowed the technique to be tested over purely buoyancy driven flows with natural mixing and turbulence generation. Characteristic width measurement was focused on in this study because it was the novel part of using CCV which had never been implemented in earlier studies.

Figure 12 shows the plume width obtained using the temperature profile verses the width predicted by the decay in  $\rho_{xy}$  for three burner diameters and six different heat release rates. To find the point of 85% decay in the temperature profile these 8 measurements were fitted to a fifth order polynomial. Width measured using CCV were within  $\pm 25\%$  of the thermocouple width measurements. On average the CCV width measurements were 8.4% smaller than the thermocouple width measurements. These differences could be due to a number of factors including: an offset in the alignment of the thermocouples along the centerline of the plume, varying plume angles due to ambient air flow in lab, or having three thermocouples inline making a single measurement which adds more disturbances to the flow as opposed to the axi-symmetric jet experiments which only had two. However, the error in these measurements seem to be reasonable for most measurements made in a turbulent fire environment. Experimental observations were also compared with an empirical plume width correlation of Heskestad reported in literature (Karlsson and Quintiere). Heskestad’s plume width correlation over

predicts experimental results by 25%. This is mainly due to the small fire sizes used in this study.

## 7. Conclusions:

This study examines four factors affecting the CCV measurement. These are the thermocouple separation distance, the sampling period, the sampling frequency, and angular alignment dependence of the technique. Two experimental set ups, a turbulent jet and a natural gas burner were designed to analyze the four factors. It was found that thermocouple separation distance had little effect on the accuracy of the velocity measurement as long as the separation distance is smaller than the characteristic turbulent length scale. However, separation distance has a large effect on the cross correlation,  $\rho_{xy}$  of the signal between two thermocouples. Based on the standard deviation of the velocity measurements and the value of  $\rho_{xy}$  the optimum sampling frequency for the range of Reynolds numbers tested is 2 kHz. Above this value the strength in the correlation coefficient does not change significantly and below this value  $\rho_{xy}$  begins to decay. The minimum required sampling time was found to vary between 4 and 8 seconds.

It was shown that the error due to misalignment of the CCV probe with the bulk flow direction could be corrected if the angle is known. The nondimensional cross correlation coefficient decreased in a linear fashion as the thermocouple separation distance is increased. This linear decay can be used to estimate the integral turbulent length scale of the turbulent flows. Experiments with the natural gas burner showed that a CCV probe can measure temperature, velocity, and plume width simultaneously which allows the calculation of an estimation of the total mass flux of a fire plume, optimize CFD grid sizing, and ceiling jet thicknesses in a developing compartment fire.

## 8. Acknowledgements:

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## 9. Figures and Tables:

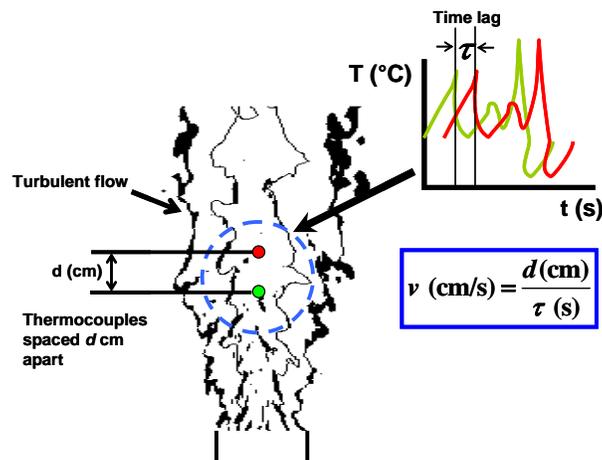
**Table 2: Velocity measurement methods widely in use**  
\* *technique proposed in this study*

Device	Operating Principle	Cost	Accuracy
Bi-directional probe (BDP)	$\Delta P$	~\$1000	<10 %
Pitot tube	$\Delta P$		<10 %
Hot wire anemometer (HWA)	$\Delta T$	~\$1000	<2 <sup>5</sup> %
Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA)	Scattered Shifted Laser Light	~\$80,000	<4 %
Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)	Scattered Laser Light	~100,000	<5 %
Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV)*	Temperature Fluctuations	~\$100	<5 %

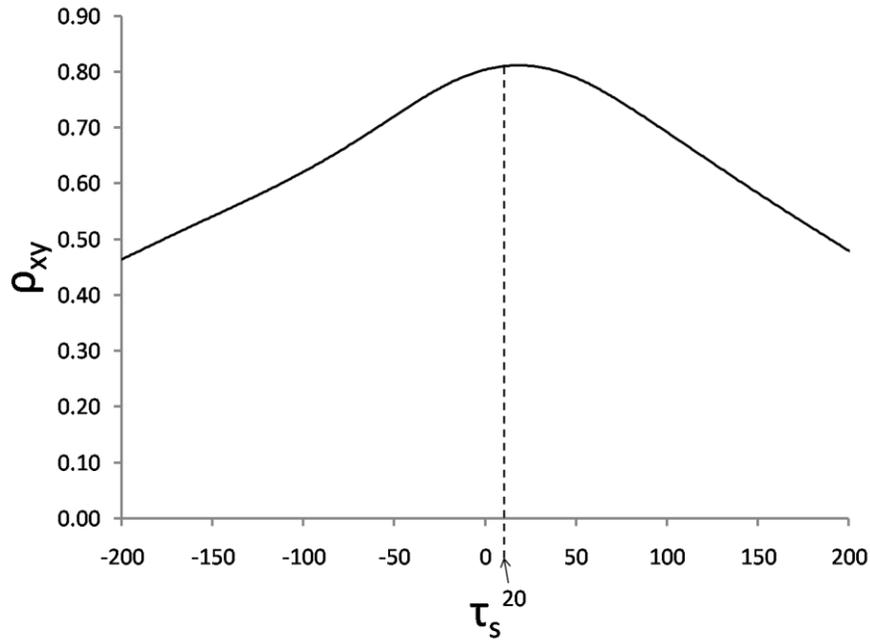
<sup>5</sup> Dependent on flow temperature and temperature fluctuations.

**Table 3: Properties for Equation 8**

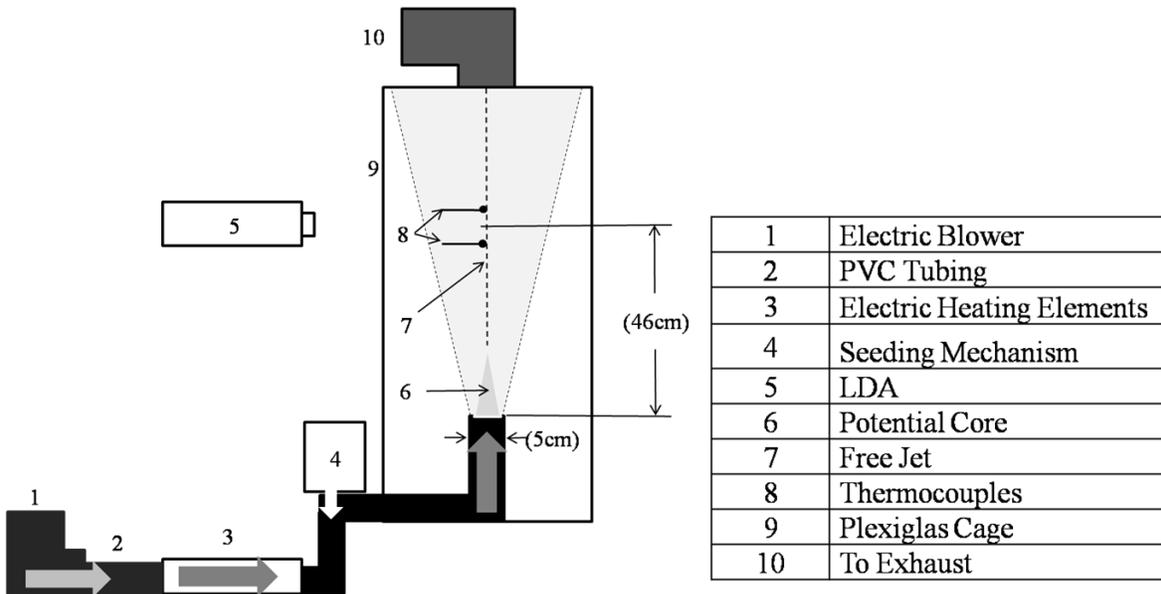
$\rho_P$	5600 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\rho_F$	1000 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$d_p$	12x10 <sup>-6</sup> m
$g$	9.81 m/s <sup>2</sup>
$\mu_F$	1.983x10 <sup>-3</sup> kg/m s



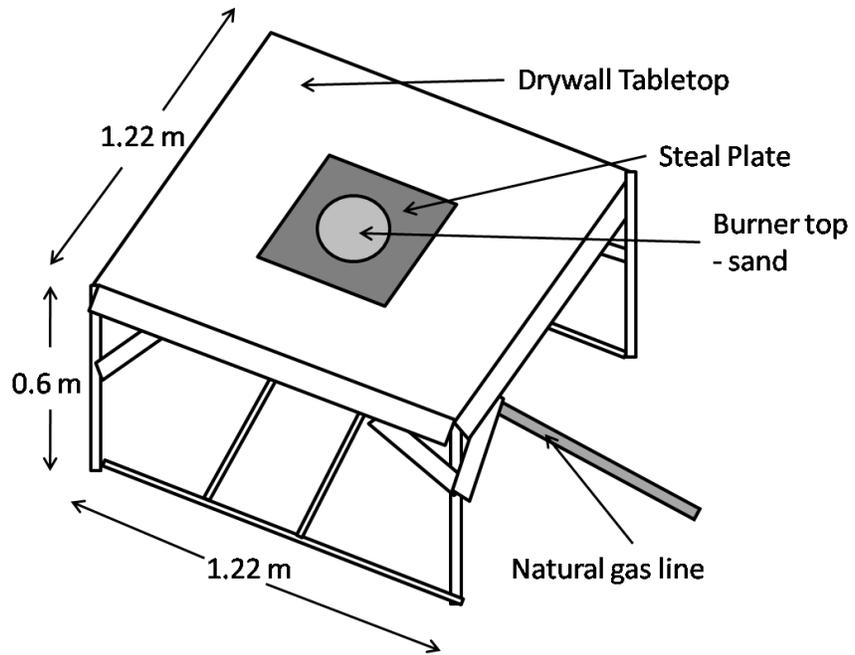
**Figure 1: Example of measuring the velocity of a turbulent jet with a CCV probe. Two thermocouples placed  $d$  (cm) apart. A sample temperature profile showing the time lag of the temperature fluctuations is also shown.**



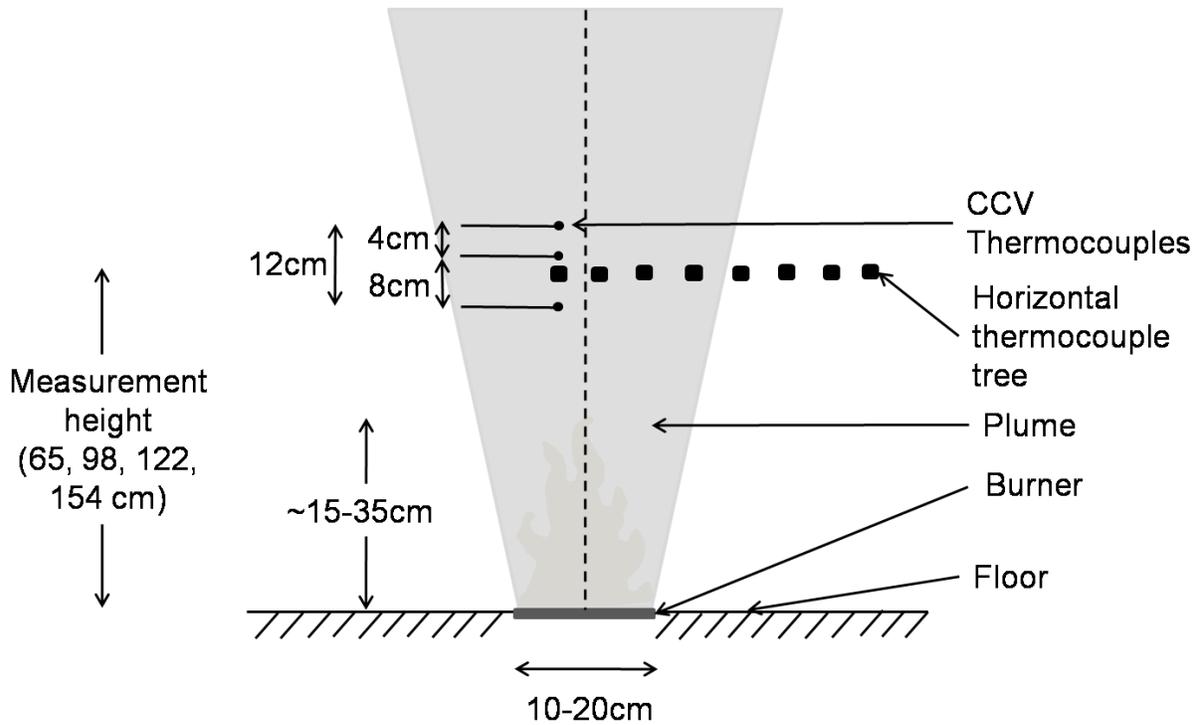
**Figure 2: Example of nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  verses sampling lag  $\tau_s$  for an experiment with a thermocouple separation distance of 20 mm and a sampling rate of 2 kHz.**



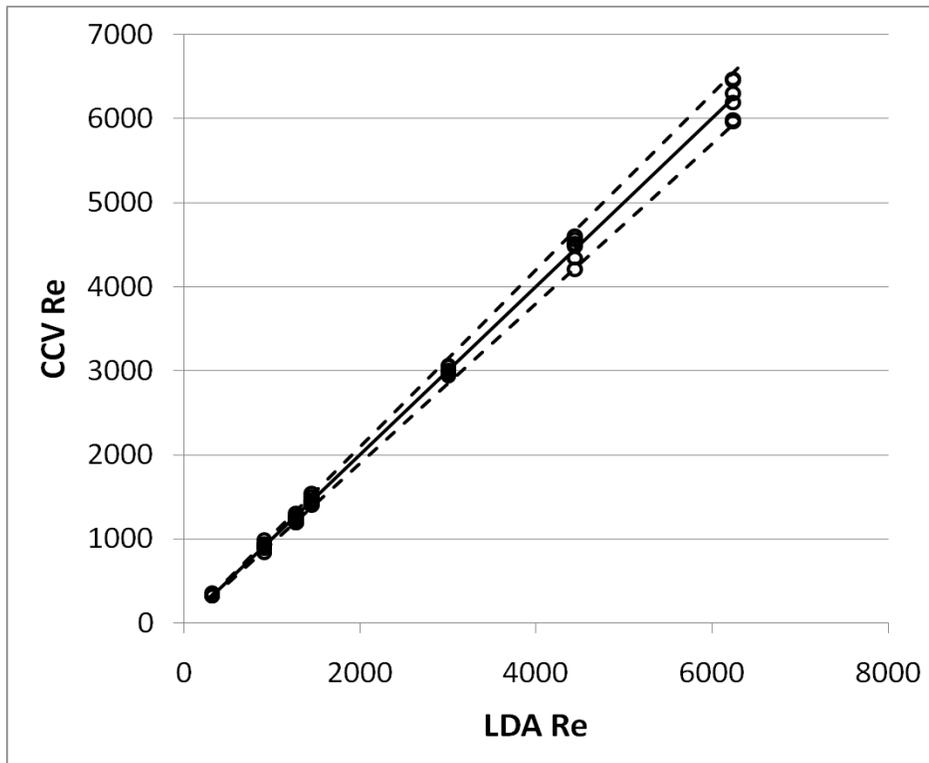
**Figure 3: Large Axi-symmetric jet experimental setup. Jet nozzle diameter was 5 cm. CCV and LDA measurements were taken at 46 cm above the nozzle exit.**



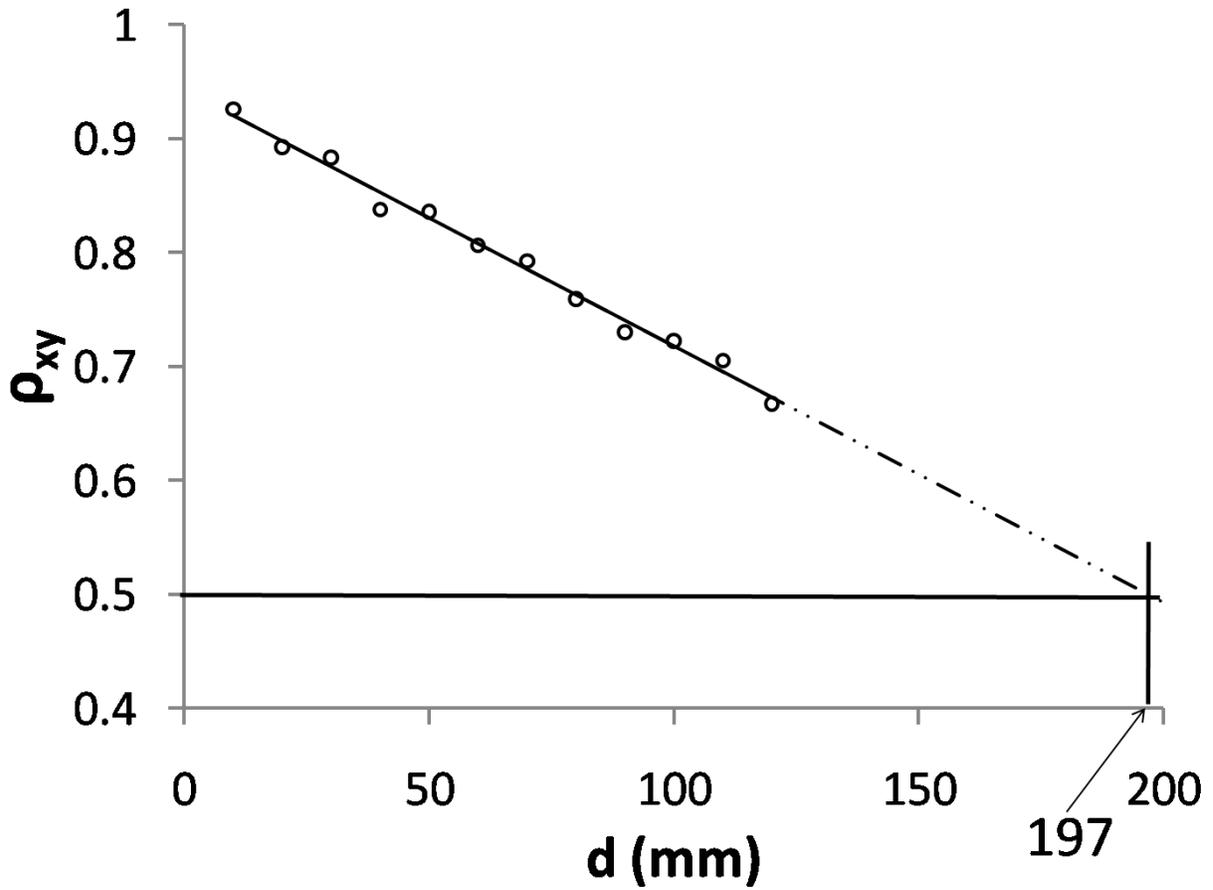
**Figure 4: Natural gas burner base with drywall tabletop. Floor dimensions were 1.22 m square on top with the table top 0.6m off the floor.**



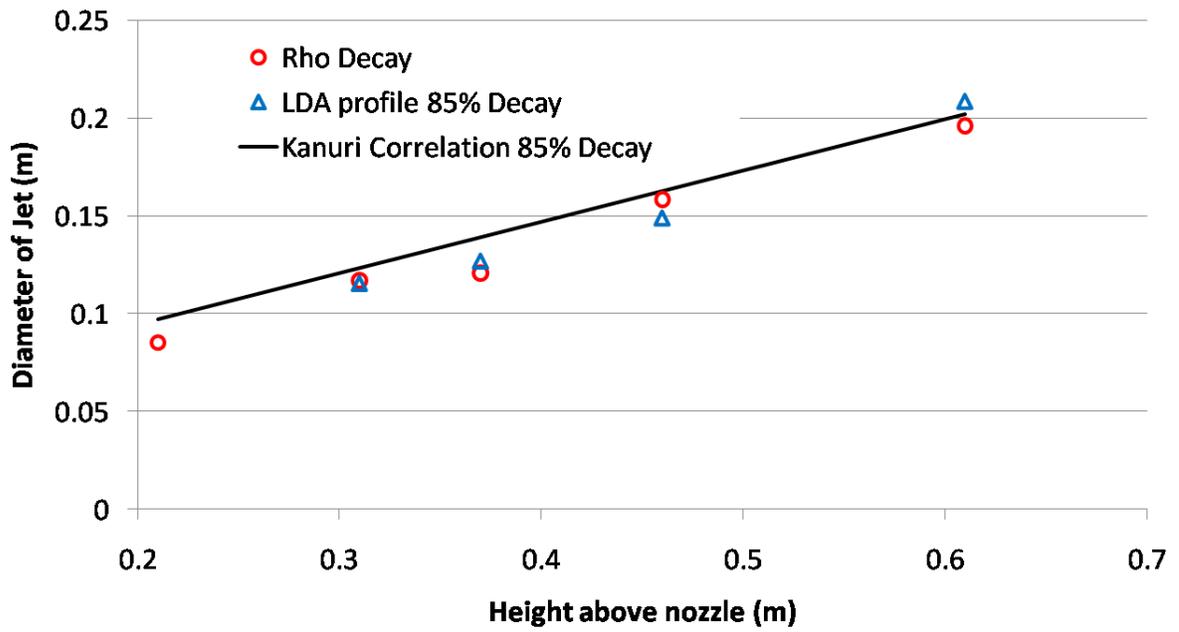
**Figure 5: CCV probe, horizontal thermocouple tree, and burner, burner diameters ranged from 10cm to 20cm. CCV measurements were taken at heights of 56, 98, 122, and 154 cm. CCV thermocouples had separation distances of 4, 8, and 12 cm. Flame heights varied from 15 to 35 cm. Eight E type thermocouples were used in the horizontal thermocouple tree.**



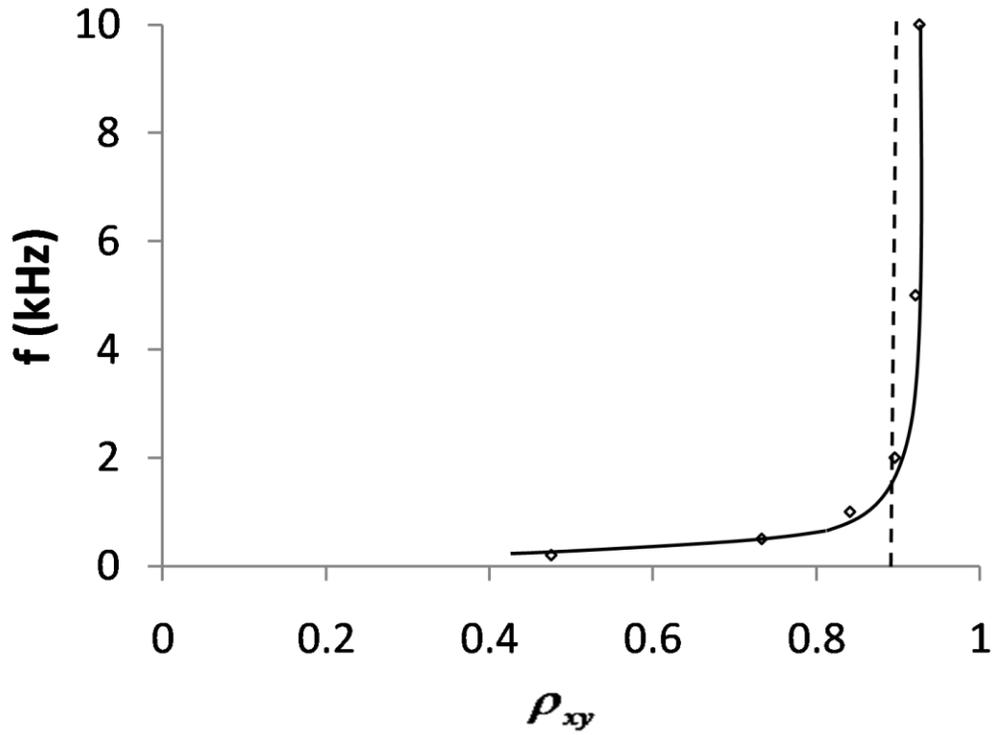
**Figure 6: CCV Reynolds number versus LDA Reynolds number, solid line represents a linear regression of the data and the dotted lines indicate 5% error bars.**



**Figure 7: Nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  versus thermocouple separation distance  $d$ , sampling rates 2 kHz,  $t_T$  of 15s,  $Re = 4200$ . This figure shows the linear decay of  $\rho_{xy}$  with increasing separation distance.**



**Figure 8: Diameter of turbulent free jet verses height above nozzle.**



**Figure 9: Sampling frequency  $f$  versus nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  for a thermocouple separation distance of 10 mm using a 15-second sampling time. The nondimensional cross correlation coefficient reaches a near asymptotic value at 2 kHz.**

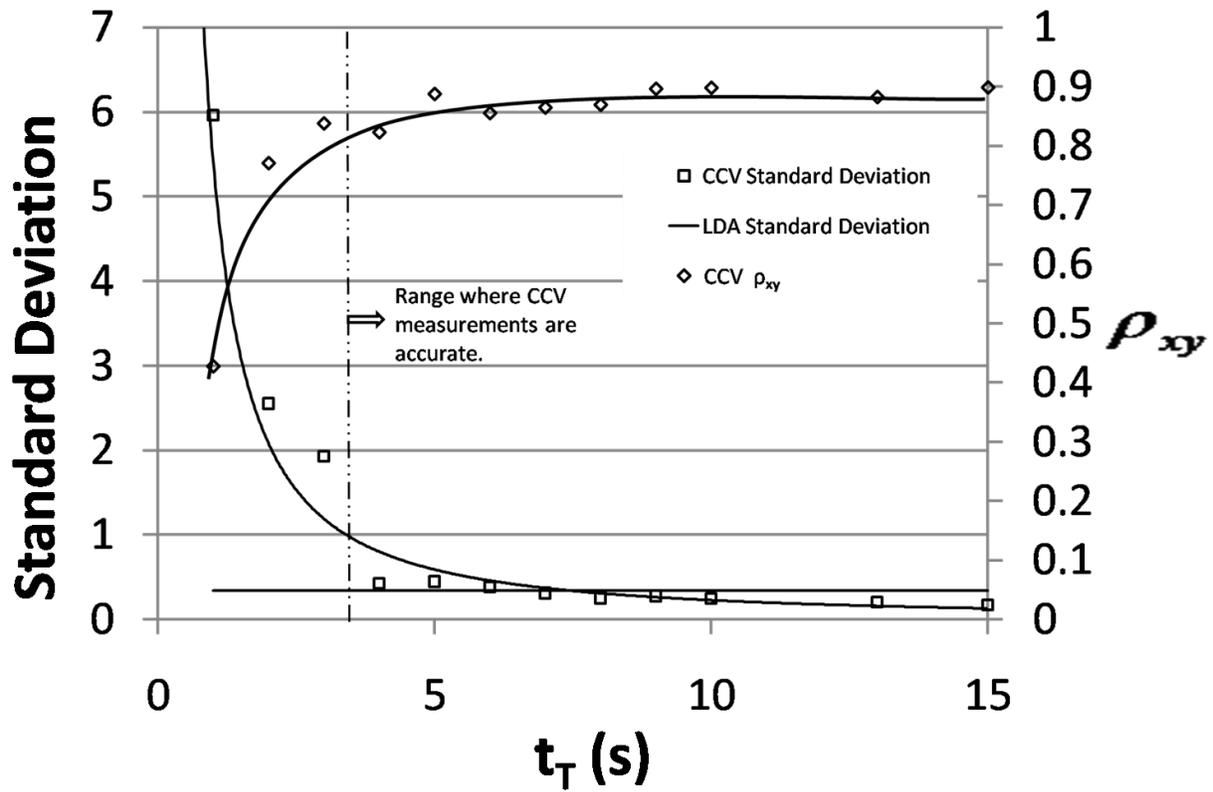
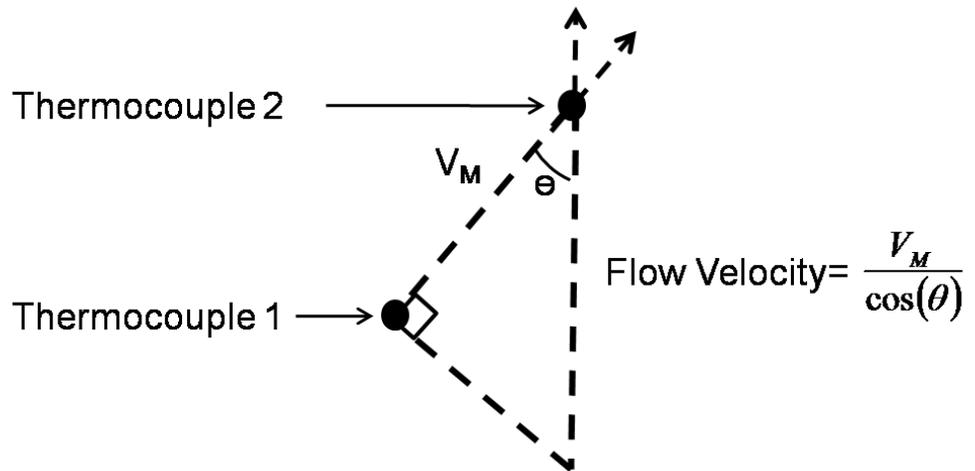
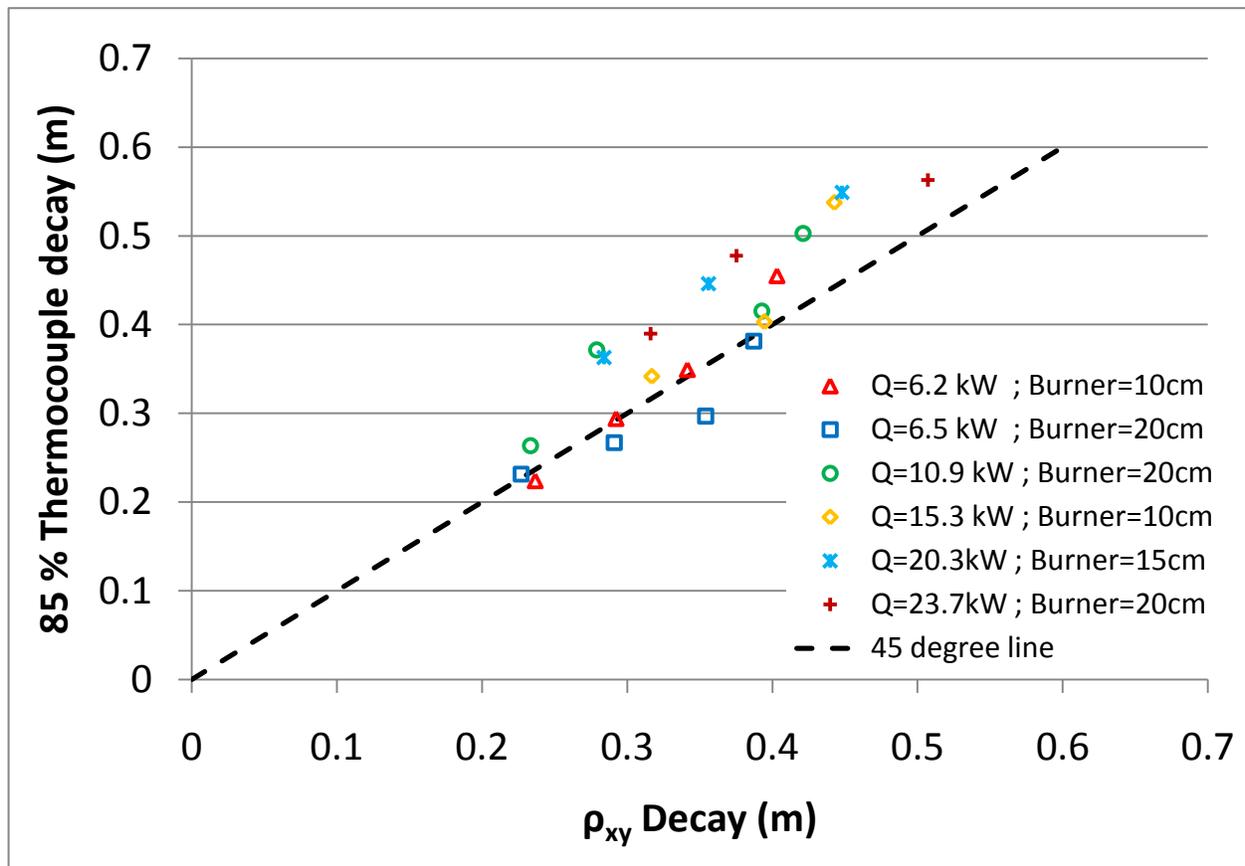


Figure 10: Standard deviation and nondimensional cross correlation coefficient  $\rho_{xy}$  versus sampling time  $t_T$ ,  $Re=4200$  and  $f = 2$  kHz. The standard deviation of the velocity measurement increases with a total sampling time less than 4 seconds and  $\rho_{xy}$  decreases with a  $t$ .



**Figure 11: Right triangle created by CCV thermocouples and bulk flow velocity.**



**Figure 12: Plume width measured using a thermocouple tree verses plume width predicted by the decay in the CCV nondimensional cross correlation coefficient.  $f=10$  kHz,  $tT=10s$**

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## **Chapter 4: Future Work:**

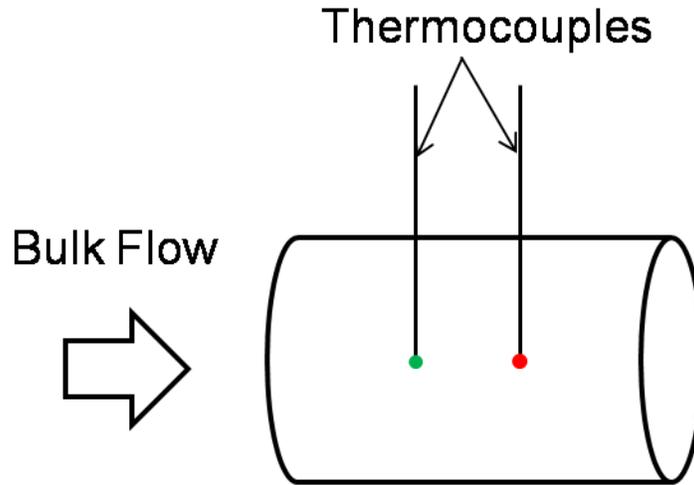
Future work which should be done before the CCV probe will be ready for commercial application includes testing the effects of the the last three factors effecting the probe which were not covered in this work including the effects of soot deposition, turbulent size effects, and the effects of temperature gradients, the last two of which were only touched on briefly in this work. Specifically future work with regard to soot deposition should include testing the probe in a sooty environment to see how long it takes before soot deposition becomes a problem. The CCV probe needs to be tested in full scale fire tests to make sure that it can withstand the temperatures and the physical loads experienced in these environments.

For this probe to be used in the research arena real time hardware needs to be created. An undergraduate ECE major was hired to begin this process and his work is shown in Appendix 2.

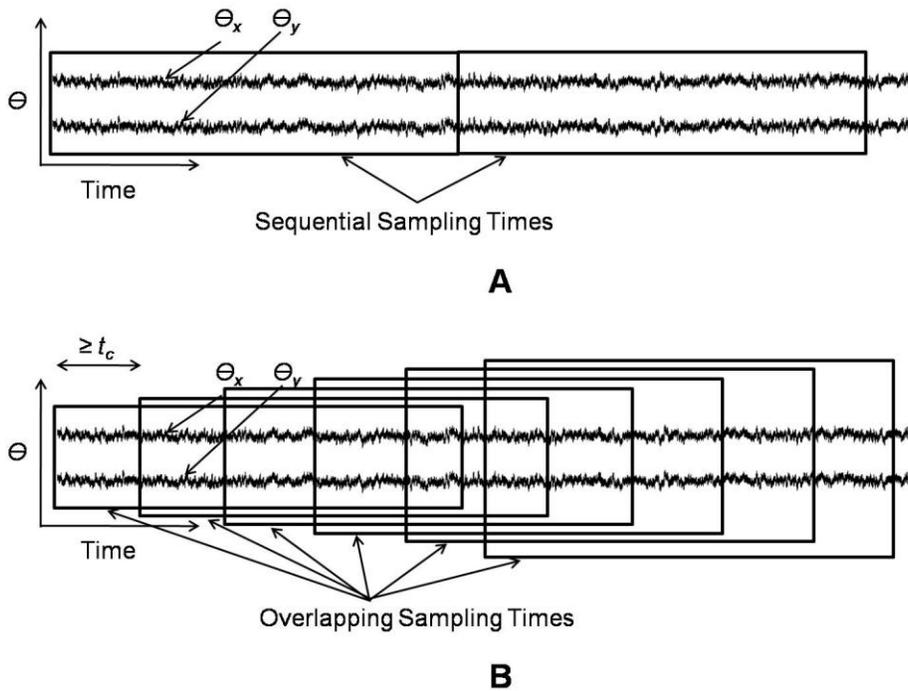
Since it was shown that the angular dependence of CCV can be corrected in chapter 3 the possibility for making a multi-dimensional CCV probe has a possibility of success. While creating a multi-dimensional CCV probe to use in the field will be a daunting task, creating a cheap 1 dimensional sensor which can be used in a similar manner to the bi-directional probe is likely to be possible. By putting the sensor inside of an open ended pipe the as shown below in figure 1 the temperature gradients in the flow would be forced to traverse linearly through the pipe in line with the thermocouple sensors. This arrangement would also lend itself to easy mounting in a test environment and protect the thermocouples from accidental impact damage.

Figure 2 represents two methods for analysing the sampled thermocouple data. Part A the simples and most inefficient way of analysing recorded data which is in a series type of scenario where one section of data is analysed after the other with no overlap. A more efficient method for analysing the recorded data is to use an overlapping scheme which allows the technique to pick up more temporal variation in the flow and requires less data to be collected to get a specific number of measurement points. Optimization in terms of memory storage needs to be down so as to determine the minimum amount of data needed to be stored at any given time.

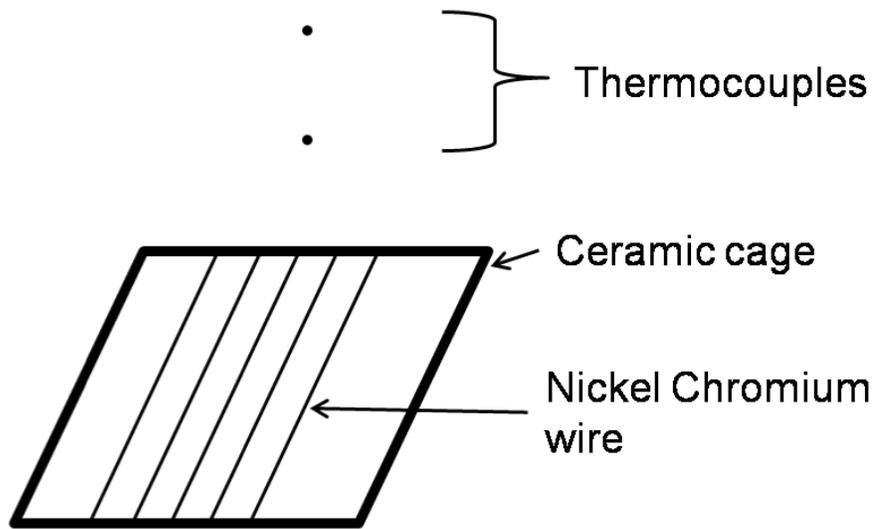
Figure 3 represents a possible way to use CCV to measure velocity in isothermal flows. The idea of introducing an artificial temperature gradient is not necessarily new but this idea is to use a whole sheet of heating wires as to make the technique less dependent on small variations in flow angle.



**Figure 1: Simple, cheap, method of building a one dimensional CCV probe for use in full scale fire experiments.**



**Figure 2: Diagram of sampling techniques. A: Sequential sampling technique representing an inefficient way to collect data. B: Overlapping sampling technique representing an efficient way to collect data.**



**Figure 3: Possible way to use a heated wire to generate artificial heat waves with which to measure velocity in an iso-thermal flow.**

## Appendix 1: MATLAB script to Cross correlate thermocouple signals and generate velocity results.

```
%% Written by Scott Rockwell
% 12/13/08
% last modified 05/01/09
%% Basics
clc
; % Clear command window
clear all
; % Clear Workspace
close all
; % Close open figures
tic
; % Start recording cpu time

dname = ('C:\Documents and
Settings\srockwel\My Documents\2 WPI research\Axi-symmetric jet\Test
Data\Field Exp\Calibration test');%Default Directory To be Opened
dt = 10
;
num_data_pts = 1810000
; % Tells the crossCorr_fxn how many data points to use incase I wran two
tests back to back = hz rate times (run time+1)

%% Set up basic file name path to read
top_file = [dname '\\']
; %Set up main database to open and look inside
ls_top_file = ls(top_file)
; %List Files inside main folder
c = cellstr(ls_top_file)
; %Turn cells from ls function into strings
cc = c(3:length(c))
; %Set up a matrix without the . and .. produces by the ls function
S = size(cc)
; %Find the size of matrix containing names of files inside of main
database
a = 1
; %This counter is set to 3 to account for the . and .. at the begining of
each matrix created by the ls function, the need for this was eliminated in
the two nested loops

count1 = 1
;
count2 = 1
;

while a <= S(1)
    file = char(cellstr([top_file
char(cc(a))])) ; %File to be operated on
    data_n = char(cc(a))
    file_name = char(cc(a))
;
end
```

```

    dist_1(count2)                = str2double(data_n(10:13))./10
;   %mm   Spacing pulled from the name of the file
    dist_2(count2)                = str2double(data_n(15:17))./10
;   %mm   Spacing pulled from the name of the file

%% read LDA files
    if data_n(end-4) == 'A'
        [LDA_vel(count1)]        = importfile_LDA_fxn_3_Nan(file)
;
        dist_LDA(count1)         = str2double(data_n(10:12))
;   %m    Spacing pulled from the name of the file
        if isnan(dist_LDA(count1)) == 1
            dist_LDA(count1)     = str2double(data_n(10:11))
;   %m    Spacing pulled from the name of the file
        end
        count1                   = count1 + 1
;
%% Import data from FDS simulation
    else
%% Import data from multiple FDS
%       if dname(end) == 'S'

        if data_n(end-4) == 'S'
            fileToRead1          = (file)
;   %Set data file to import
            DELIMITER = ',';
            HEADERLINES = 2;

            newData1 = importdata(fileToRead1, DELIMITER, HEADERLINES);
            num       = newData1.data
;
            else

%% Import Data from experimental file
            fileToRead1          = (file)
;   %Set data file to import
            DELIMITER            = '\t'
;
            HEADERLINES          = 22
;

            newData1             = importdata(fileToRead1, DELIMITER,
HEADERLINES); % Import the file
            num                   = newData1.data
;
            end
%% Setting data variables
            time                  = num(:,1)                ;   %s
seconds Time column

%       T_1t                     = num(1:num_data_pts,2)
;   %C       First temperature profile - left
%       T_2t                     = num(1:num_data_pts,3)
;   %C       Second temperature profile - center
%       T_3t                     = num(1:num_data_pts,4)
;   %C       Third temperature profile - right

```

```

clear newData1
% save memory

%% Jet_2_2D_2Dprobe.fds
%      T_1t = num(:,4) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      T_2t = num(:,5) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      T_3t = num(:,2) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      U_vel = num(:,10) ;
% m/s velocity recorded by FDS
%      W_vel = num(:,11) ;
% m/s vertical velocity recorded by FDS
%      W_vel_avg = mean(W_vel) ;

%      T_1t = num(:,7) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      T_2t = num(:,8) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      T_3t = num(:,6) ;
%C      Third temperature profile - right
%      U_vel = num(:,12) ;
% m/s velocity recorded by FDS
%      W_velt = num(:,13) ;
% m/s vertical velocity recorded by FDS

%% One D profile Experiments
%      T_1t = num(:,2) ; %C
First temperature profile - left
%      T_2t = num(:,3) ; %C
Second temperature profile - center
%      T_3t = num(:,3) ; %C
Third temperature profile - right

%% Creating Test T arrays

% offset = 100 ;
% T_1t(offset+1:length(time)) = T_3t(1:(length(time)-offset)) ;
% T_2t(offset+1:length(time)) = T_3t(1:(length(time)-offset)) ;

%% Adjusting the sampling frequency
%for 200 Hz ==> new_Hz = 50
%for 500 Hz ==> new_Hz = 20
%for 1000 Hz ==> new_Hz = 10
%for 2000 Hz ==> new_Hz = 5
%for 5000 Hz ==> new_Hz = 2
% Look at pg 59 of lab book 3 for more specific frequencies

ck = 0
;
new_Hz = 1
;
if ck ==1

```

```

        new_length          = length(time)/new_Hz
;
        time_temp          = zeros(1,new_length)
;
        T_1t_temp         = zeros(1,new_length)
;
        T_2t_temp         = zeros(1,new_length)
;
        T_3t_temp         = zeros(1,new_length)
;
        ct_1              = 1
;
        for dd = 1:new_Hz:length(time)
;
            time_temp(ct_1)    = time(dd)
;
            T_1t_temp(ct_1)    = T_1t(dd)
;
            T_2t_temp(ct_1)    = T_2t(dd)
;
            T_3t_temp(ct_1)    = T_3t(dd)
;
            ct_1              = ct_1+1
;
        end
        clear time T_1t T_2t T_3t
        time                = time_temp
;
        T_1t                = T_1t_temp
;
        T_2t                = T_2t_temp
;
        T_3t                = T_3t_temp
;
    end

    if data_n(end-4) == 'S'
        del_t = zeros(1, length(time)-1) ;
        for ct_3 = 1:length(time)-1
            del_t(ct_3) = time(ct_3+1)-time(ct_3) ;
        end
        del_t_avg = mean(del_t) ;

        Hz                = round(1/(del_t_avg))
;    %Hz    Sampling rate
        check = 1 ;
    else
        Hz = round(1/(time(2)-time(1))) ;    %Hz
    Sampling rate
    end
    %% Break the time step into sections based on the specified dt split time
        split                = dt*Hz
;
        over_lap            = round(split/1) ; % Number of data
points between calculation matrix
        %if over_lap = split ==> sequential calculation
        %if over_lap < split ==> some type of overlapping calculation

```

```

        tt                = 1
;

    T_1ss = zeros(round((length(T_1t)-split)./over_lap), split+1) ;
    T_2ss = zeros(round((length(T_1t)-split)./over_lap), split+1) ;
    T_3ss = zeros(round((length(T_1t)-split)./over_lap), split+1) ;
    for t = 1:over_lap:length(T_1t)-split
% Splitting temperature profile into sections
        T_1ss(tt,:)      = T_1t(t:t+split)
;
        T_2ss(tt,:)      = T_2t(t:t+split)
;
        T_3ss(tt,:)      = T_3t(t:t+split)
;
        tt                = tt+1
;
    end

%% Start Calculation Loop
    S_T_1ss                = size(T_1ss)
;

    for ss = 1:1:S_T_1ss(1)
        T_1                = T_1ss(ss,:)
; % Setting temperature profiles to be calculated
        T_2                = T_2ss(ss,:)
; % " "
        T_3                = T_3ss(ss,:)
; % " "

        maxlag              = 2500/new_Hz
; % maximum size of sampling lag
        window_size         = length(T_1)-2*(maxlag+1)
; % length of data profile to use

        T_1s                = T_1(maxlag+1:maxlag+window_size)
; % create 1st correlated profile
        T_1s                = T_1s - mean(T_1)
; % Normalizing the temperature profile

        T_2s                = T_2(maxlag+1:maxlag+window_size)
; % create 1st correlated profile
        T_2s                = T_2s - mean(T_2)
; % Normalizing the temperature profile

        sigma_13            = std(T_1)*std(T_3)
; % Calculating standard deviation
        sigma_23            = std(T_2)*std(T_3)
; % Calculating standard deviation
        CCC1                = zeros(2*maxlag+1,1)
; % create initial CC coefficient matrix
        CCC2                = zeros(2*maxlag+1,1)
; % create initial CC coefficient matrix
%% Cross Correlation claculations
        for i = -maxlag:maxlag
            T_3s              =
T_3(i+maxlag+1:i+maxlag+window_size) ;

```

```

T_3s_avg = mean(T_3s) ;
T_3_avg = mean(T_3) ;

T_3s = T_3s - mean(T_3)
;

%          sigma_13 = std(T_1s)*std(T_3s)
; % Calculating standard deviation
%          sigma_23 = std(T_2s)*std(T_3s)
; % Calculating standard deviation
%

CCC1(i+maxlag+1) =
(T_3s*T_1s')/(length(T_3s)*sigma_13) ; % Cross correlation 1st side
CCC2(i+maxlag+1) =
(T_3s*T_2s')/(length(T_3s)*sigma_23) ; % Cross correlation 2nd side
end

%          lag_spacing = (1:2*maxlag+1) - (maxlag+1)
; % Create matrix is lag spacings
lag_spacing = (1:2*maxlag+1) - (maxlag+1)
; % Create matrix is lag spacings

%% Setting 0 lag to zero
lag_0 = find(lag_spacing==0) ;
% Find position of lag spacing of zero in lag matrix
CCC1(lag_0) = 0 ; % Set
lag of zero = 0
CCC2(lag_0) = 0 ; % Set
lag of zero = 0

%% Plot Comparison
close all
figure
hold on
plot(lag_spacing, CCC1)
plot(lag_spacing, CCC2, 'r')
hold off
pause(0.2)
% break
%%
%% End Copy code

CCC1s = CCC1 ;
CCC2s = CCC2 ;
% Setting 0 lag to average of points around it - two points out
%          lag_0 = find(lag_spacing==0)
; % Find position of lag spacing of zero in lag matrix
%          CCC1(lag_0-2:lag_0+2) = (CCC1(lag_0-2)+CCC1(lag_0+2))./2
+1e-5 ; %
%          CCC2(lag_0-2:lag_0+2) = (CCC2(lag_0-2)+CCC2(lag_0+2))./2
+1e-5 ; %

```

```

%% Simple Low Pass Filter

%           CCC_N1           = zeros(2*maxlag+1,1)
;
%           CCC_N2           = zeros(2*maxlag+1,1)
;
%           num_pt_ave       = 5
; % number of points being averaged
%           for ii = num_pt_ave+1:length(CCC1)-(num_pt_ave+1)
%               CCC_N1(ii)   = mean( CCC1(ii-num_pt_ave :
ii+num_pt_ave ) );
%               CCC_N2(ii)   = mean( CCC2(ii-num_pt_ave :
ii+num_pt_ave ) );
%           end
%
%           clear CCC1 CCC2
%           CCC1             = CCC_N1
;
%           CCC2             = CCC_N2
;

%% Plotting Nondimensional cross correlation coefficient
%           close all
%           figure
%           hold on
%           plot(lag_spacing,CCC1s,'k')
%           plot(lag_spacing,CCC2s,'r')
%           axis([-maxlag maxlag 0 1])
%           axis([-20 20 0.7 1])
%           grid on
%           pause(0.2)
%           hold off

%% Note
% When going to 3D make look crating matrix of CCC's using ct_1 so each one
will be ccc(ct_1) instead of CCC1, CCC2, CCC3

%% Calculating Peaks
%           m_CC1             = max(CCC1)
; % Find max CC coefficient
%           peak_pos1        = find(CCC1 == m_CC1 )
; % Find position of max CC coefficient (peak)

%           m_CC2             = max(CCC2)
; % Find max CC coefficient
%           peak_pos2        = find(CCC2 == m_CC2 )
; % Find position of max CC coefficient (peak)

%           lag1(ss, count2)  = lag_spacing(peak_pos1(1))
; % supposidly the offset
%           lag2(ss, count2)  = lag_spacing(peak_pos2(1))
; % supposidly the offset

%% Do trig to find vector
%           theta(ss, count2) = atan(lag1(ss, count2)/lag2(ss,
count2)) ; % Angle of flow vector

```

```

        theta_degree(ss, count2)    = theta(ss, count2)*180./pi()
; % angle of flow in degrees

%          lag_correct(ss, count2)    = lag1(ss, count2)*cos(theta(ss,
count2)) ; % corrected lag based on angle
%          TC_vel_correct(ss, count2)  =
(dist_1(count2)./1000)./(lag_correct(ss, count2))*Hz ; %m/s Velocity from
Termocouple measurements

        % Averaging individual lags together to find velocity
        lag1_avg(ss, count2)         = mean(lag1(1:ss, count2))
; % average of lag 1
        lag2_avg(ss, count2)         = mean(lag2(1:ss, count2))
; % average of lag 2
%
%          theta_avg(ss, count2)       = atan(lag1_avg(ss,
count2)/lag2_avg(ss, count2)) ; % Angle of flow vector
%          theta_degree_avg(ss, count2) = theta_avg(ss, count2)*180./pi()
; % angle of flow in degrees

        rho_1(ss, count2)            = m_CC1
; % Save non-dimensionalized coefficient ;
        rho_2(ss, count2)            = m_CC2
; % Save non-dimensionalized coefficient ;

    end
%% Calculate velocities and angles
    TC_vel_1(:, count2)              =
(dist_1(count2)./1000)./(lag1(:, count2))*Hz ; %m/s Velocity from
Termocouple measurements
    TC_vel_2(:, count2)              =
(dist_2(count2)./1000)./(lag2(:, count2))*Hz ; %m/s Velocity from
Termocouple measurements
    theta_TC                         = atan(TC_vel_1./TC_vel_2)
; % average Angle of flow vector in radians use velocities instead of lags
because dist can be different
    theta_TC_degree                  = theta*180./pi()
; % average angle in degrees

    V_t_total = TC_vel_1.*cos(theta_TC) ;
%    V_t_2 = TC_vel_2.*sin(theta_TC) ;
%
%    V_t_total = (V_t_1+V_t_2)./2 ;
    nans = isnan(V_t_total) ;
    Check = find(nans==0);
    V_t = mean(V_t_total(Check)) ;
    Theta_degree_ave = mean(theta_TC_degree) ;

%    TC_vel_1_avg                    =
(dist_1(count2)./1000)./(lag1_avg)*Hz ; %m/s Velocity from Termocouple
measurements
%    TC_vel_2_avg                    =
(dist_2(count2)./1000)./(lag2_avg)*Hz ; %m/s Velocity from Termocouple
measurements
%
```

```

%          theta_TC_avg          = atan(TC_vel_1_avg./TC_vel_2_avg)
;% average Angle of flow vector in radians
%          theta_TC_degree_avg   = theta_TC_avg*180./pi() ;
%average angle in degrees

          count2                  = count2 + 1
;% This number corresponds to the spacing 05, 10, 15, 20, 25
end
a                                  = a+1
;
end

toc
% Prints CPU runtime to command window

%% End Script
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

```

# Appendix 2: Poster from the WPI Annual Showcase of Graduate Research 2008

## 59-Frequency and Spatial Dependence of Thermocouple Cross Correlation Velocimetry



**WPI**

Scott Rockwell- Department of Fire Protection Engineering  
WPI Advisor: Professor Ali Rangwala



**Introduction**

This study analyzes the frequency and spatial dependence of Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV) towards measurement of fire induced flows. CCV uses temperature time records from a pair of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, cross-correlated to determine the flow's velocity and is based in principle on the "frozen eddy" concept in turbulent flows. In between 1975 and 1980 Cox et al. [1-2] performed a series of experiments that showed that spatial and temporally resolved velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV. These types of velocity measurements are crucial in understanding ceiling jets, the role of sprinkler activation, and also in macro-gravity fire induced flows that conventional techniques cannot measure. The CCV probe's accuracy is most sensitive to the thermocouple wire diameter, separation distance, and speed of data acquisition (sampling frequency). This study presents a parameter sensitivity analysis that includes the measurement of axial and radial components of velocity in a heated turbulent smoke jet with velocities between 0.1 – 4 m/s. This velocity range is separated into three categories: 1) 0.1 – 0.5 m/s; 2) 0.5 – 1.5, and 3) 1.5 – 4 m/s. The three velocity ranges correspond to the stages typically observed in a compartment fire—fire growth (incipient stage), pre-flashover, and post-flashover. Testing is done on increments of ~0.2 m/s with the sampling frequency, and probe separation distance adjusted independently at each point in the range of flow velocities.

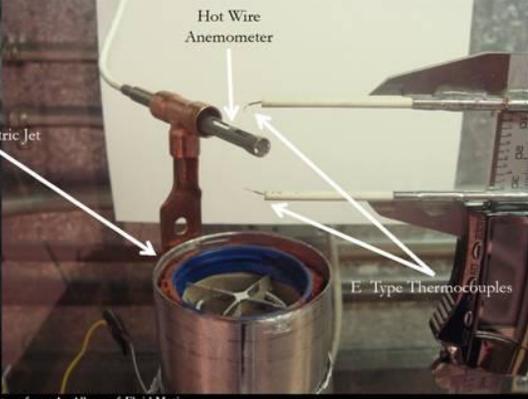
**References**

Cox, G., Fire and Mat. 1, 116-122 (1970).  
Cox, G. & Clary, R. Combust. Flame 39, 191-209 (1980).

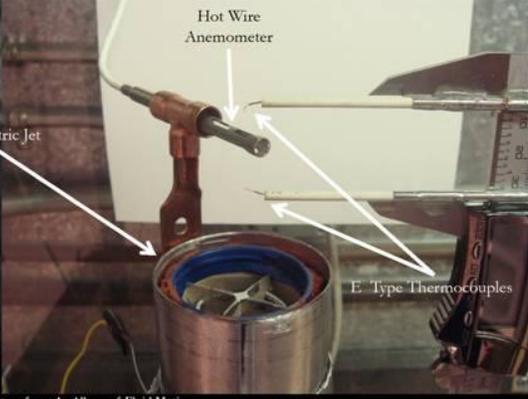
**Factors Affecting Measurement:**

1. Sampling Frequency
2. TC Separation Distance
3. TC Response Time
4. Turbulence Eddy Size

**Hot Wire Anemometer**



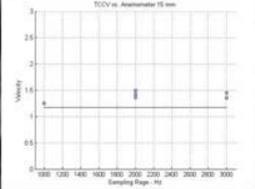
**E- Type Thermocouples**



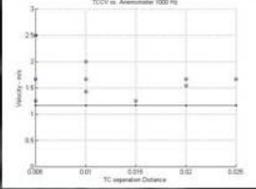
Axi-symmetric Jet



**CCV vs. Anemometer 15 mm**



**CCV vs. Anemometer 1000 Hz**



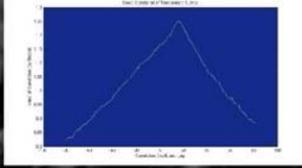
**Findings:**

1. Optimum Spacing at a velocity of 1.1 m/s measured by the hot wire Anemometer is 15 mm
2. Increasing Sampling Rate above 1000 Hz does not improve CCV measurement.

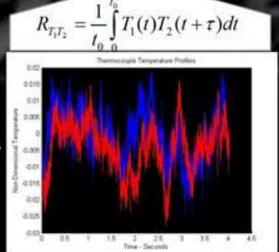
**Conclusion:**

1. Increasing the Sampling rate may increase effect of noise from the heating elements in the thermocouple temperature profiles.
2. After these experiments were completed it was found that the hot wire Anemometer was not correcting for temperature increase correctly, which may explain the larger than expected error associated with this measurement.

**Hot Wire Anemometer**



**Thermocouple Temperature Profiles**



$$R_{T_1 T_2} = \frac{1}{t_0} \int_0^{t_0} T_1(t) T_2(t + \tau) dt$$

Jet picture from A gallery of Fluid Motion; Back ground picture from: An Album of Fluid Motion

# Appendix 3: Poster presented at the International Association of Fire Safety Science (IAFSS) conference hosted at the University of Karlsruhe in Karlsruhe, Germany September 21-26, 2008 .



**WPI**

## Frequency and Spatial Dependence of Thermocouple Cross Correlation Velocimetry

S. Rockwell<sup>[1]</sup>, X. Wie<sup>[2]</sup>, A. Rangwala<sup>[1]</sup>, and A. Klein<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Department Fire Protection Engineering  
<sup>[2]</sup> Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA



**Introduction**

This study analyzes the frequency and spatial dependence of Cross Correlation Velocimetry (CCV) towards measurement of fire induced flows. CCV uses temperature-time records from a pair of thermocouples, one downstream of the other, cross-correlated to determine the flow's velocity and is based on the "frozen eddy" concept in turbulent flows. In between 1975 and 1980 Cox et al. [1-3] performed a series of experiments that showed spatial and temporally resolved velocity measurements could be achieved by means of CCV. These types of velocity measurements are crucial in understanding ceiling jets, the role of sprinkler activation, and also in micro-gravity fire induced flows that conventional techniques cannot measure. However, the high cost associated with expensive analogue correlators available those days caused the CCV technique to gradually phase out after the advent of the bidirectional probe which was significantly cheaper and more robust in design. There have been vast improvements in data acquisition techniques, digital signal conditioning, filtration of random noise, as well as post processing statistical packages which allow better and faster cross correlation of two random signals. This study is a first step towards applying these technological advantages to this outdated technique.

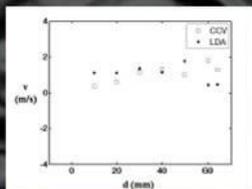
The CCV probe's accuracy is most sensitive to the thermocouple wire diameter, separation distance, and speed of data acquisition (sampling frequency). This study presents a parametric sensitivity analysis that includes the measurement of axial and radial components of velocity in a heated turbulent smoke jet with velocities between 0.1 - 4 m/s. This velocity range is separated into three categories: 1) low velocity, 0.1 - 0.5 m/s; 2) medium velocity, 0.5 - 1.5; and 3) high velocity, 1.5 - 4 m/s. Testing is done on increments of -0.2 m/s with the probe separation distance adjusted at each point in the range of flow velocities (thermocouple wire diameter is kept constant). A Laser Doppler Anemometer (LDA) is used as the reference velocity measurement. Due to the LDA's non-intrusive measurement technique both CCV and LDA measurements are taken simultaneously. Accuracy at the optimum separation distance on the order of ± 5% is sought based on previous research [3].

**References**

- Cox, G. Fire and Mat. 1, 116-122 (1976).
- Cox, G. & Chitty, B. Combust. Flame 39, 191-209 (1980).
- Motzallil, V., Mark, C. H., McCaffrey, B. J., *Journal of Heat Transfer, transactions of the ASME* (1992).
- Motzallil, V., *A study of the Characteristics of Small-Scale Unconfined Fire Induced Ceiling Jets*, in M.S. 1989, University of Maryland, College Park.

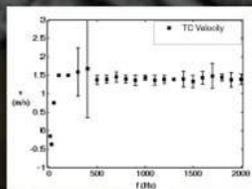
**Factors Affecting CCV Measurement:**

- Sampling Frequency
- TC Separation Distance
- TC Response Time
- Turbulence Eddy Size
- Equality of TC Response time
- Sampling Time
- Soot Accumulation



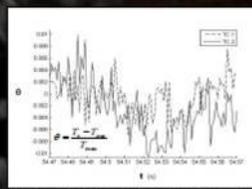
**Velocity (v) vs. Thermocouple Separation Distance (d)**

Separation distances of 30-40 mm produced the most consistent measurements between the LDA and CCV measurements for a bulk flow velocity of approximately 1.8 m/s.

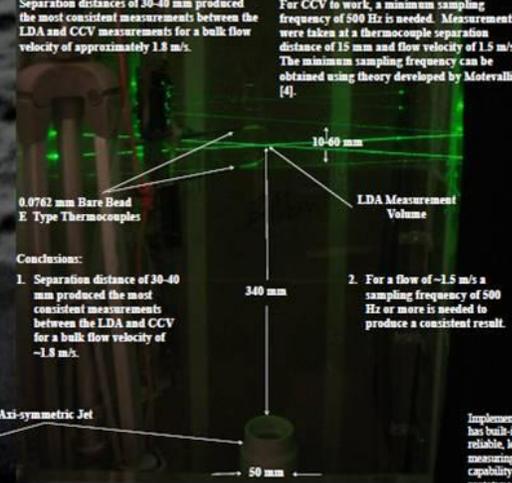


**Velocity (v) vs. Thermocouple Sampling Frequency (f)**

For CCV to work, a minimum sampling frequency of 500 Hz is needed. Measurements were taken at a thermocouple separation distance of 15 mm and flow velocity of 1.5 m/s. The minimum sampling frequency can be obtained using theory developed by Motzallil [4].

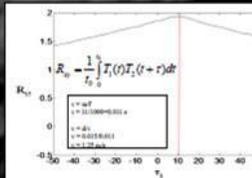


**Nondimensional temperature (θ) vs. time (t)** for a pair of CCV thermocouples at a separation distance of 15mm and a sampling rate of 1000 Hz.



**Conclusions:**

- Separation distance of 30-40 mm produced the most consistent measurements between the LDA and CCV for a bulk flow velocity of ~1.8 m/s.
- For a flow of ~1.5 m/s a sampling frequency of 500 Hz or more is needed to produce a consistent result.



**Cross correlation coefficient ( $R_{cc}$ ) vs. sample lag ( $\tau$ )** for an experiment with a thermocouple separation distance of 15 mm and a sampling frequency (f) of 1000 Hz.  $\tau = \tau_c / f = 0.011$  seconds,  $v=d/\tau=1.25$  m/s.

**Next Step**

Implementation of the correlation algorithm on an Intel Mote platform that also has built-in wireless transmitter on board. This will allow construction of a reliable, low-cost, robust, and highly accurate probe capable of simultaneously measuring temperature and velocity in fire induced flows along with the capability of wireless data transfer. The figure above shows a work in progress prototype board that is currently being used to test the technique. The final probe coupled with the electronic hardware will be the size of a standard USB key.



Jet photos from a gallery of Field Movies; Bulk ground photos from: An Album of Field Movies