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Influence of the turbulence model for channel flows with strong transverse temperature gradients

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The effects of a strong transverse temperature gradient on a turbulent Poiseuille flow are studied numerically using Reynolds-averaged Navier–Stokes (RANS) models. Such a situation is very common for numerous industrial applications. Since a large majority of industrial computations are based on the RANS approach, the aim of the present work is to investigate the ability of different RANS models to reproduce the main physical phenomena at the origin of the asymmetry of the flow and thermal fields. Comparison are performed with available direct numerical simulations (DNS) or large eddy simulation (LES) databases. With the prospect of future application of the models in the industrial context, models based on the widely used eddy-viscosity and simple gradient diffusion (SGDH) hypotheses are compared to more elaborate second-moment closures for the Reynolds stress and turbulent heat flux. The aim is to determine the closure level necessary to reproduce the influence of strong temperature gradients on the turbulent flow, for a wide range of wall-temperature ratios. Eddy-viscosity models prove able to correctly reproduce the asymmetry of the flow and the tendency toward relaminarization close to the hot wall, which are mainly due to the strong variations of the physical properties (namely the molecular viscosity and the density). Discrepancies in the predictions of the different closure levels only appear for the highest temperature ratios. Unfortunately, reliable reference data are lacking for these configurations, which calls for future DNS or refined LES studies.

Keywords: turbulent channel flow, transverse temperature gradient, flow asymmetry, relaminarization, elliptic blending

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Nomenclature

Latin symbols

c_P	specific heat capacity, J/(kg K)
h	height, m
k	turbulent kinetic energy, m^2/s^2
L	length, m
P	pressure, Pa
Pr	Prandtl number, –
R	individual ideal perfect gas constant, J/(K kg)
Re	Reynolds number, –
S_{ij}	strain tensor, 1/s
T	temperature, K
t	time, s
U_i	i^{th} component of velocity, m/s
x_i	i^{th} component of the position vector, m
y^+	distance to the wall in wall units, –

Greek symbols

δ_{ij}	Kronecker symbol, –
ε	turbulent dissipation, m^2/s^3
λ	thermal conductivity, W/(K m)
μ	dynamic viscosity, kg/(m s)
ν	kinematic viscosity, $1/(\text{m}^2 \text{ s})$
ρ	density, kg/m^3
τ	viscous tensor, Pa
ω	specific dissipation rate, 1/s

Subscripts and superscripts

1	cold wall
2	hot wall
\bar{X}	Favre average of the variable X
X'	Fluctuation of the variable X
b	bulk
h	homogeneous
m	mean
r	ratio
t	turbulent
w	wall

Acronyms

DFM	differential flux model
DNS	direct numerical simulation
EB	elliptic blending
GGDH	generalized gradient diffusion hypothesis
LES	large eddy simulation
RANS	Reynolds-averaged Navier–Stokes
RSM	Reynolds-stress model
SGDH	simple gradient diffusion hypothesis
SSG	Speziale–Sarkar–Gatski
SST	shear stress transport

1 Introduction

A better understanding and modeling of the physical mechanisms observed in turbulent flows with strong temperature gradients are important for many industrial processes, in particular for the design of high temperature solar receiver for concentrated solar power plants. These flows are characterized by strong variations of the fluid properties, such that, even in the forced convection regime, they significantly deviate from isothermal flows, with a possible tendency to relaminarize, which can significantly reduce heat transfer [1].

Since the Mach number is very low in such applications, the problem can be treated using the low-Mach-number approximation [2], which filters out the acoustics but preserves the variation of density with temperature. In order to investigate the performance, for variable property flows, of RANS models, which are the workhorses for industrial applications, the present paper focuses on turbulent channel flows with strong temperature gradients. A limited number of reference databases are available in the literature: indeed, most of the direct numerical simulation (DNS) studies of turbulent channel flows performed since the pioneering work of Kim *et al.* [3] are either isothermal [4–6], with temperature as a passive scalar [7–12] or include buoyancy effects [13–21], but not the variation of molecular viscosity and conductivity with temperature. Nicoud & Poinso [22] published the first computations with variable physical properties, for two different temperature ratios $T_r = T_2/T_1 = 1.01$ and 2 at the friction Reynolds number $Re_{\tau m} = 180$. Debusschere & Rutland [23] computed both turbulent Couette and Poiseuille flows, with $Re_{\tau m} = 160$ and 180, respectively, with imposed wall temperatures but only for $T_r = 1.01$. Eventually, Auléry *et al.* [24] extended the work of Nicoud & Poinso to turbulent Poiseuille flows at $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ and 395 and for $T_r = 1$ and 2. Very recently, Patel *et al.* [25, 26] performed similar computations for a different configuration, where the flow is internally heated.

At the same time, limitations due to the cost of DNS have led some authors to perform similar studies with LES: Wang & Fletcher [27] studied a non-isothermal channel flow with the temperature ratio $T_r = 3$ for $Re_{\tau m} = 180$; Lessani & Papalexandris [28] extended this work up to $T_r = 9$; Serra *et al.* [29] covered a range temperature ratios $T_r = 1, 1.01, 1.07, 2$ and 5, for $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ and 395. This work has been extended to higher friction Reynolds number by [30] but only up to $T_r = 3$. An overview of available results is given in table 1.

Table 1 – Available simulations for non-isothermal turbulent flows in plane channels

T_r		1	1.01	1.02	1.07	2	3	5	6	8	9
$Re_{\tau m} = 180$	DNS	[3, 9]	[22, 23]			[22, 24]					
	LES	[29, 31, 32]	[28–33]	[27]		[28–30, 32]	[27, 30]	[29, 30]	[28]	[28]	[28]
$Re_{\tau m} = 395$	DNS	[3, 9, 24]				[24]					
	LES	[29, 32]	[30]		[29, 32]	[29, 30, 32]		[29]			

Accounting for the variations with temperature of the molecular viscosity and conductivity of the fluid is necessary in the presence of strong temperature differences. In particular, many industrial applications of RANS models make use of Sutherland’s law [34] and similar relations for the conductivity, or tabulated values (*e.g.* [18, 35–37]). A large majority of these studies are concerned with flows in the vertical direction, with combined effects of buoyancy and variable properties of the fluid. In the configuration of strongly heated horizontal channel flows that are representative of the geometry of solar receivers, buoyancy does not affect the flow since the Richardson number is lower than 10^{-2} , and there is, to our knowledge, no RANS study of the appearance of asymmetric turbulent field due to variable properties of the fluid.

Consequently, the aim of the present work is to investigate the performance of different levels of turbulence closure, from simple eddy-viscosity and diffusivity hypotheses to sophisticated second-moment closures for the Reynolds stress and the turbulent heat flux. The performance indicator is the ability to reproduce the main physical phenomena at the origin of the asymmetry of the mean flow and the turbulent statistics in channel flows with strong temperature gradients. The equations of motion are written in the low-Mach-number approximation, with temperature-dependent physical properties of the fluid (density, viscosity and thermal conductivity). Since the wall layer is strongly modified, due to these variations of the physical properties, wall functions are not valid, such that near-wall turbulence models are selected. In order to compare the merits of different approaches, the widely used $k-\omega$ -SST model [38] is compared to an eddy-viscosity model of the elliptic relaxation/blending family, the $k-\varepsilon-\overline{v^2}/k$ model [39], both associated to the simple gradient diffusion hypothesis (SGDH) for the turbulent heat flux; and to the Elliptic Blending Reynolds-stress Model (EB-RSM) [40, 41], associated with the SGDH, the generalized gradient diffusion hypothesis (GGDH) or the differential flux model (DFM).

The paper is organized as follows: in section 2, the system of partial differential equations of the low-Mach-number approximation is recalled, with the associated variable physical properties, and the turbulence models are introduced. The geometry of the problem and numerical setup are presented in section 3. Section 4 is dedicated to the presentation of the results, and conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

2 Model

2.1 Conservation equations

For flows under consideration, the fluid can be treated as a non-weighting Newtonian fluid with temperature-dependent physical properties. The use of density-weighted (Favre) averaging to decompose the turbulent flow into mean and fluctuating motions simplifies the equations by avoiding the appearance of density fluctuations. Owing to the very low value of the Mach number in the targeted applications, the low-Mach-number approximation can be used, such that pressure is decomposed into hydrodynamic P and thermodynamic P_0 components [2]. DNS and LES databases used as references in the present paper were computed using this approximation [22, 24, 29]. In the turbulent regime, the variables are decomposed using Favre averaging $\overline{\cdot}$, and it is standard to neglect in the RANS equations the influence of the turbulent fluctuations of molecular viscosity and thermal conductivity [42], which leads to

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad (2.1a)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial t} + \rho \overline{U}_j \frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial \overline{P}}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\mu \left(\frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \overline{U}_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\mu \frac{\partial \overline{U}_j}{\partial x_j} \right) - \frac{\partial \rho \overline{U}'_i \overline{U}'_j}{\partial x_j}, \quad (2.1b)$$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial t} + \rho c_p \overline{U}_i \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial \overline{P}_0}{\partial t} + \overline{U}_i \frac{\partial \overline{P}_0}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\lambda \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_j} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\rho c_p \overline{U}'_i \overline{T}' \right), \quad (2.1c)$$

associated to the ideal perfect gas law for air,

$$\overline{P}_0 = \rho R \overline{T}. \quad (2.2)$$

ρ , μ and λ denote the Reynolds-averaged density, dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity, respectively; U_i denotes the components of velocity and T the temperature, and U'_i and T' their respective fluctuations in the Favre decomposition. c_p stands for the heat capacity at constant pressure.

A distinctive feature of the present study, necessary to reproduce the physical phenomena observed with strong temperature gradients, is that the mean dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity are dependent on the mean temperature. In accordance with existing databases [22, 24, 29], Sutherland's law, valid between 220 K and 1900 K, is assumed, and the heat capacity and the Prandtl number are considered constant, such that

$$\mu(T) = 1.461 \cdot 10^{-6} \frac{T^{1.5}}{T + 111}, \quad (2.3a)$$

$$\lambda(T) = \frac{\mu(T) c_p}{\text{Pr}} = \frac{1.468 \cdot 10^{-3}}{\text{Pr}} \frac{T^{1.5}}{T + 111}. \quad (2.3b)$$

2.2 RANS closure

Most of the industrial applications of the RANS approach make use of wall functions to avoid the resolution of the near-wall region. Nonetheless, in the cases under consideration herein, due to the temperature gradient and the related strong variations of the physical properties, turbulence does not comply with the standard law of the wall [24, 29], such that the recourse to wall functions must be avoided.

Among numerous models valid in the near-wall region, the $k-\omega$ – SST model [38] is one of the most widely used, such that it is selected here for comparison purposes. The most recent version of this standard model can be found in [43] and are not repeated here. However, for heat transfer prediction, the satisfaction of the two-component limit of turbulence is crucial, and the models derived from the elliptic relaxation concept of Durbin [44] have been successfully applied to many configurations (for instance, [39, 45–48]). The elliptic relaxation approach enforces the correct asymptotic behavior in the vicinity of the wall via the resolution of six additional equations for the pressure-strain correlation in second-moment closures. In order to reduce the number of equations and circumvent the numerical stiffness of the model, Manceau & Hanjalić [40] have introduced the elliptic blending strategy. In the present study, two models based on this approach are selected:

- The Elliptic Blending Reynolds-stress model (EB-RSM) [41].
- The $k-\varepsilon-\overline{v^2}/k$ eddy-viscosity model proposed by Billard & Laurence [39], which is an eddy-viscosity model derived from the EB-RSM.

2.2.1 EB-RSM

The EB-RSM is a second-moment closure derived from Durbin's elliptic relaxation approach [44, 49], which permits to migrate from a far-field model, the SSG Reynolds-stress model [50], to a near-wall model, which satisfies the asymptotic behavior of the redistribution term. The transport equations of the model write

$$\frac{d\rho\overline{U'_i U'_j}}{dt} = \rho\mathcal{P}_{ij} + \rho\phi_{ij} - \rho\varepsilon_{ij} + D_{ij}^\mu + D_{ij}^T, \quad (2.4a)$$

$$\frac{d\rho\varepsilon}{dt} = \frac{C'_{\varepsilon 1}\rho\mathcal{P} - C_{\varepsilon 2}\rho\varepsilon}{\mathbb{T}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left(\frac{C_\mu}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \rho\tau_{kl} \mathbb{T} \frac{\partial\varepsilon}{\partial x_l} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left(\mu \frac{\partial\varepsilon}{\partial x_k} \right), \quad (2.4b)$$

$$\alpha - \mathcal{L}^2 \nabla^2 \alpha = 1. \quad (2.4c)$$

The far-field (h) and near-wall (w) models for $\phi_{ij} - \varepsilon_{ij}$ are activated through the blending formula

$$\phi_{ij} - \varepsilon_{ij} = (1 - \alpha^3) (\phi_{ij}^w - \varepsilon_{ij}^w) + \alpha^3 (\phi_{ij}^h - \varepsilon_{ij}^h) \quad (2.5)$$

in the region far from the wall ($\alpha \rightarrow 1$) and close to the wall ($\alpha \rightarrow 0$), respectively. Complementary equations and values for the various constants are given in appendix B.

With such a model, since all the components of the Reynolds-stress tensor are accessible, several options are available to express the turbulent heat flux appearing in the energy equation (2.1c). In the present study, three closures are considered:

- The Simple Gradient Diffusion Hypothesis (SGDH)

$$\rho\overline{U'_i T'} = -\frac{\mu_t}{\text{Pr}_t} \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i}, \quad (2.6)$$

with $\mu_t = C_\mu \rho k^2 / \varepsilon$ and $C_\mu = 0.09$, $k = \overline{U'_i U'_i} / 2$ and $\text{Pr}_t = 1$, which is used here as a reference since most of the commercial CFD codes rely on this hypothesis, even for Reynolds-stress models.

- The Generalized Gradient Diffusion Hypothesis (GGDH), which introduces an anisotropic diffusion coefficient through the Daly–Harlow relation [51]:

$$\rho\overline{U'_i T'} = -C_\theta \rho \frac{k}{\varepsilon} \overline{U'_i U'_j} \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_j}, \quad (2.7)$$

with $C_\theta = 0.22$.

- A Differential Flux Model (DFM) [52], which solves a transport equation for the turbulent heat flux

$$\frac{d\rho\overline{U'_i T'}}{dt} = \rho\mathcal{P}_{i\theta}^U + \rho\mathcal{P}_{i\theta}^T + \rho\mathcal{G}_{i\theta} + \rho\phi_{i\theta}^h - \rho\varepsilon_{i\theta}^h + D_{i\theta}^T + D_{i\theta}^\mu. \quad (2.8)$$

Indeed, one of the objectives of the present study is to evaluate the potential benefit of using a full second-moment closure (for both the Reynolds-stress and the turbulent heat flux), compared to using a simple algebraic heat flux model in association with a Reynolds-stress model.

2.2.2 $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$

The $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ model [39] is an eddy-viscosity model, based on the standard Boussinesq relation

$$\rho\overline{U'_i U'_j} = -\mu_t \left(\frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \overline{U}_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial \overline{U}_k}{\partial x_k} \delta_{ij} \right) + \frac{2}{3} \rho k \delta_{ij}. \quad (2.9)$$

The main particularity of this model is that the turbulent viscosity μ_t is modeled as

$$\mu_t = C_\mu \rho \varphi k \min(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{T}_{\text{lim}}), \quad (2.10a)$$

$$\mathbb{T} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{k}{\varepsilon} \right)^2 + C_T^2 \frac{\nu}{\varepsilon}}, \quad (2.10b)$$

$$\mathbb{T}_{\text{lim}} = \frac{0.6}{\sqrt{6} C_\mu \varphi \sqrt{\underline{S}:\underline{S}}}, \quad (2.10c)$$

in which a new scale $\varphi = \overline{v^2}/k$ is introduced, such that φk characterizes the energy of the wall normal turbulent fluctuations. Similar to the EB-RSM, the redistribution in the φ equation is modeled using an elliptic blending of near-wall (f_w) and far-field (f_h) terms involving the parameter α that makes the model implicitly sensitive to the distance to the wall:

$$\frac{d\rho k}{dt} = \rho\mathcal{P} - \rho\varepsilon + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\frac{\mu}{2} + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k} \right) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \right] - C_{\varepsilon 3}(1 - \alpha)^3 \rho \frac{k}{\varepsilon} 2\nu\nu_t (\partial_k \partial_j \overline{U}_i) (\partial_k \partial_j \overline{U}_i), \quad (2.11a)$$

$$\frac{d\rho\varepsilon}{dt} = \frac{C_{\varepsilon 1}\rho\mathcal{P} - C_{\varepsilon 2}^*\rho\varepsilon}{\mathbb{T}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\frac{\mu}{2} + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k} \right) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \right], \quad (2.11b)$$

$$\frac{d\varphi}{dt} = (1 - \alpha^3)f_w + \alpha^3 f_h - \mathcal{P} \frac{\varphi}{k} + \frac{2}{k} \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_k} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\frac{\nu}{2} + \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_\varphi} \right) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} \right], \quad (2.11c)$$

$$\alpha - \mathcal{L}^2 \nabla^2 \alpha = 1. \quad (2.11d)$$

Note that, here, ε is defined as the homogeneous part of the dissipation rate, following Jakirlić & Hanjalić [53]. This explains the presence of the factor 1/2 in the molecular diffusion term. Further details and coefficients are available in appendix C.

3 Problem description

3.1 Configuration

A turbulent Poiseuille flow in a bi-periodic plane channel with a (possibly strong) temperature gradient is considered, as depicted in figure 1.

The following parameters are introduced, in accordance with the available literature:

$$\text{Re}_{\tau m} = \frac{\text{Re}_{\tau,1} + \text{Re}_{\tau,2}}{2} \quad (3.12a)$$

$$\text{Re}_{\tau,1} = \frac{\rho_{w,1} U_{\tau,1} h}{\mu_{w,1}} \quad (3.12b)$$

$$\text{Re}_{\tau,2} = \frac{\rho_{w,2} U_{\tau,2} h}{\mu_{w,2}} \quad (3.12c)$$

$$\text{Re}_b = \frac{\rho_b U_b h}{\mu_b} \quad (3.12d)$$

$$U_b = \frac{1}{2h} \int \overline{U}(y) dy \quad (3.12e)$$

$$T_m = \frac{1}{2h} \int \overline{T}(y) dy \quad (3.12f)$$

$$T_r = \frac{T_2}{T_1} \quad (3.12g)$$

$$U^+ = \frac{\overline{U}}{U_\tau} \quad (3.12h)$$

$$U_\tau = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_w}{\rho_w}} \quad (3.12i)$$

$$\tau_w = \mu_w \left. \frac{d\overline{U}}{dy} \right|_w \quad (3.12j)$$

$$T^+ = \frac{\overline{T} - T_w}{T_\tau} \quad (3.12k)$$

$$T_\tau = \frac{\lambda_w \left. \frac{d\overline{T}}{dy} \right|_w}{\rho_w c_p U_\tau} \quad (3.12l)$$

with Re_τ the friction Reynolds number based on the channel half-height h , ρ_b and μ_b the bulk density and dynamic viscosity, ρ_w , μ_w and λ_w the density, dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity at the wall, respectively. The indices 1 and 2 indicate if the term is computed at the cold (1) or hot (2) wall.

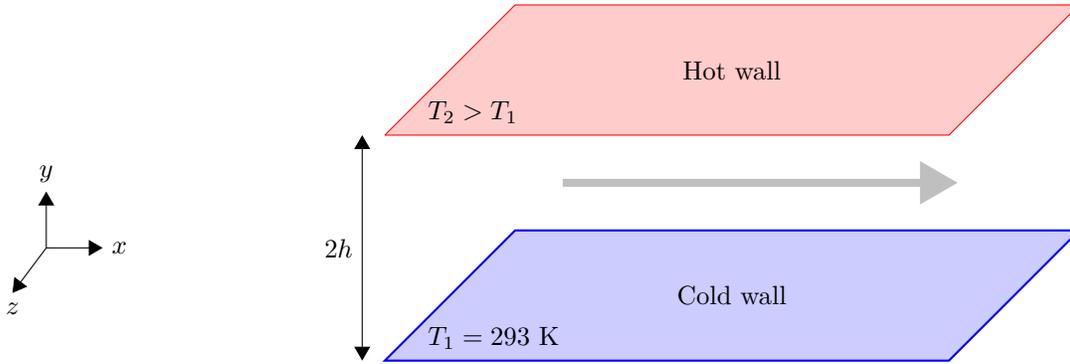


Figure 1 – Description of the studied configuration

The periodicity hypothesis in the streamwise direction requires an additional source term in the right-hand side of the momentum equation (2.1b), to account for the constant streamwise pressure gradient,

$$\beta = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} = \frac{\tau_{w,1} + \tau_{w,2}}{2h}, \quad (3.13)$$

which is adapted all along the computation to target a given Re_{τ_m} .

The half-height of the channel h is 0.15 m. Two mean friction Reynolds numbers $\text{Re}_{\tau_m} = 180$ and 395 and five temperature ratios $T_r = 1, 1.01, 1.07, 2$ and 5 are considered in the present study.

3.2 Numerical method

The open-source CFD code Code_Saturne [54], based on the finite volume method, has been used to perform the present calculations. Concerning the spatial discretization, a second order linear upwind (SOLU) scheme is applied for the convective terms and an iterative reconstruction is used, together with an arithmetic interpolation, for the diffusive and gradients terms. Finally, the pressure-velocity coupling is based on the standard SIMPLEC algorithm and the temporal integration is performed with the implicit Euler method.

The models under consideration require a cell center located at $y^+ \approx 1$ to correctly describe the viscous sublayer. As shown in figure 2, in order to account for the expected unequal friction velocity between the two walls, an asymmetrical mesh is generated in three steps, for each side: i) a first zone (a) is composed of regular cells contained in the low-Reynolds number region ($y^+ < 20$), ii) a second zone (b) involves irregular cells whose characteristic size obeys a geometrical expansion, iii) a third zone (c) contains regular cells that connect the two partial meshes extruded from both sides.



Figure 2 – Asymmetric mesh construction

4 Results

Since the aim of the paper is to evaluate the capability of different RANS models, using either first-moment or second-moment closures for the Reynolds stress and the turbulent heat flux, to reproduce the effects due to a transverse temperature gradient in a channel flow, comparisons are made with the few DNS databases available in the literature, which are summarized in Table 2. However, our purpose is to investigate the response of different RANS models over a wide range of parameters, with wall-temperature ratios up to 5, for which DNS data are missing. Since Serra *et al.* [29] have performed a systematic LES study for the two Reynolds numbers $\text{Re}_{\tau,m} = 180$ and 395, with temperature ratios ranging from 1 (isothermal) to 5, their LES database will be used for comparison purposes, although it will become clear in the next section that these computations are under-resolved, such that they will only provide qualitative indications.

Table 2 – Presentation of the selected references, DNS (✓) and LES (%), used for RANS results benchmarking

References	180-1	180-1.01	180-2	180-5	395-1	395-1.07	395-2	395-5
Kim <i>et al.</i> [3]	✓							
Moser <i>et al.</i> [4]					✓			
Nicoud & Poinso [22]		✓	✓					
Serra <i>et al.</i> [29]	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Auléry <i>et al.</i> [24]			✓				✓	

4.1 Isothermal case

For the isothermal case (temperature ratio $T_r = 1$), the physical properties of the fluid are constant and the flow is symmetric. The comparison of DNS, LES and RANS results makes possible an initial evaluation of the accuracy of the different models in this standard channel flow configuration. In figure 3, the longitudinal velocity is plotted, non-dimensionalized by either the maximum velocity or the friction velocity, along the transverse direction. The profiles, in particular when plotted in wall units, exhibit significant discrepancies with the DNS results. All the RANS models correctly reproduce the flow at $Re_\tau = 180$, but the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ under-predicts the mean velocity at $Re_\tau = 395$. The most striking feature is the significant over-prediction of the flow rate by the LES, in particular for the higher Reynolds number, which is due to the under-resolution in the transverse direction [29, section "Validation", p. 513]. It is therefore worth mentioning that comparisons with LES will mainly focus on the qualitative evolution of the flow features with the temperature gradient and not on the quantitative values of the variables.

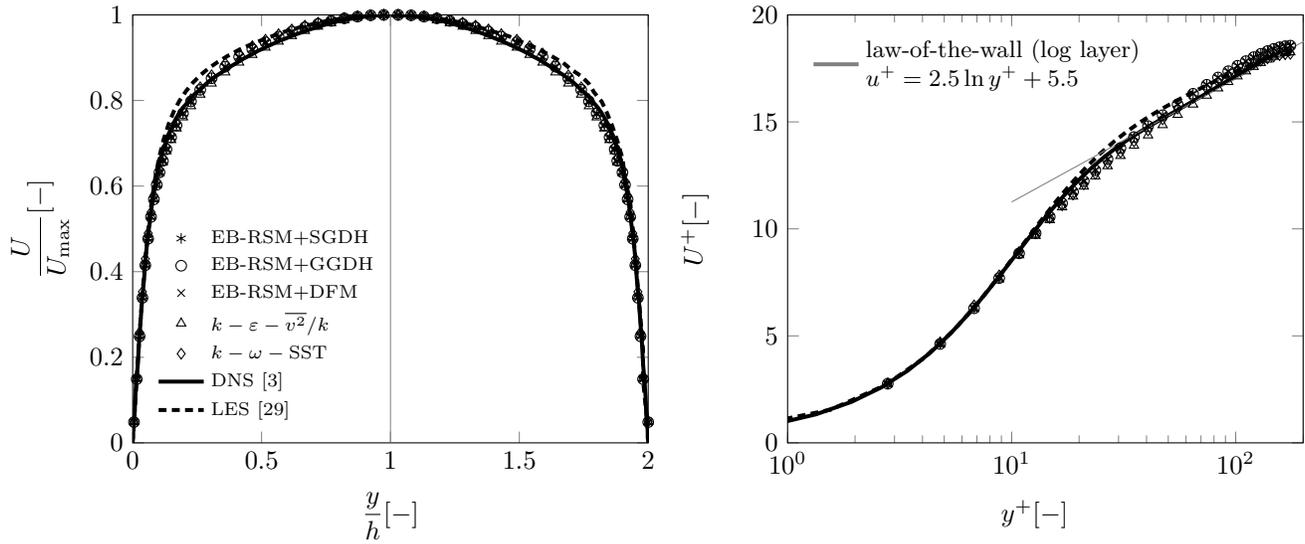
4.2 Non-isothermal cases

As mentioned above, two friction Reynolds numbers and five temperature ratios are investigated. Before examining the mean velocity, mean temperature and turbulent fields in sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3, section 4.2.1 provides an overview of the evolution with the temperature ratio of the bulk quantities and the friction Reynolds numbers at the two walls. The corresponding values obtained using RANS models are given in Appendix A for all cases in tables 3 to 7, in comparison with values given by DNS [22] and LES [29] simulations (in blue and red, respectively), when available.

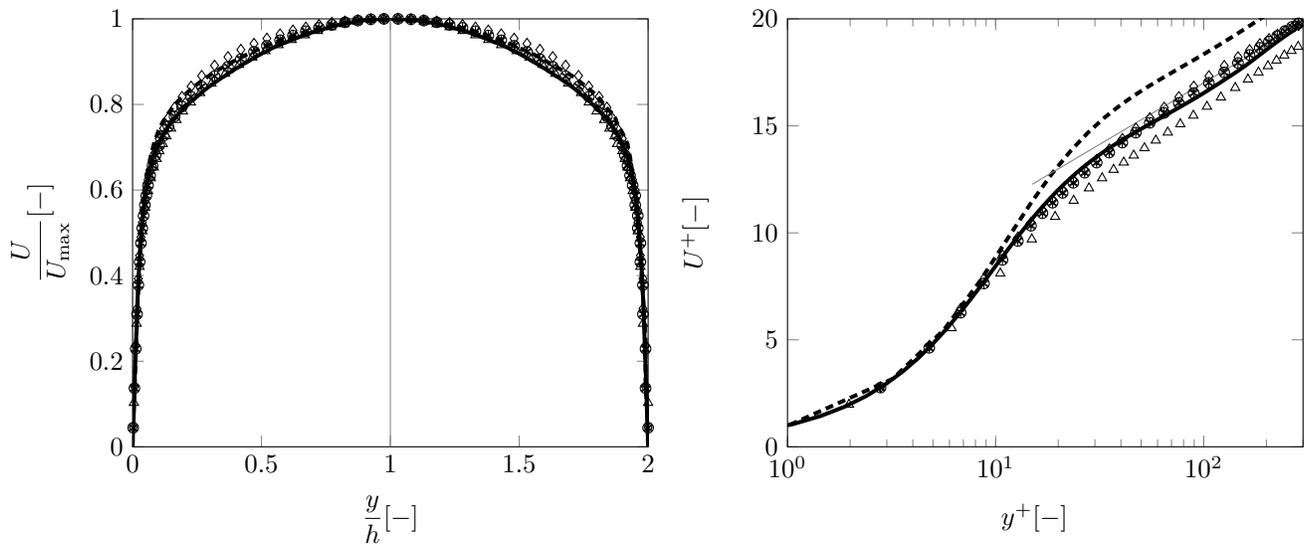
4.2.1 Evolution of the global quantities

The bulk Reynolds number and velocity as a function of the temperature ratio T_r are first shown in figures 4 and 5. As expected [28], the bulk Reynolds number decreases with the temperature ratio, and the different models, including LES, give very similar results, for both values of the averaged friction Reynolds number $Re_{\tau m}$. In contrast, the bulk velocity grows with the temperature ratio, which means that the other term involved in the Reynolds number definition, that is to say the term $\frac{\mu_b}{\rho_b}$ is strongly increased, as can be seen in figure 6. Moreover, it can be seen that large discrepancies appear for the prediction of U_b between the first-moment and second-moment closures, as well as with the available LES results, for large values of T_r . However, the results are less scattered for the bulk Reynolds number than for the bulk velocity, which suggests that the dynamics of the mean flow is mainly governed by the evolution of μ/ρ with T_r . It is noted that for the present fully-developed flows, the left hand sides of the mean conservation equations (2.1b) and (2.1c) are zero, such that the ratio μ/ρ is mainly related to the relative weights of the viscous and turbulent transport terms in the equations.

The evolution of the cold and hot side friction Reynolds numbers, *i.e.* for the lower and upper walls, is now considered. As shown in figure 7, the two friction Reynolds numbers take rather different values when the temperature gradient increases, which is still in conformity with previous observations [24, 28, 29, 55]. Moreover, it is worth noticing that for the highest temperature ratios, the friction Reynolds number for the hot wall can become very low, which suggests a tendency towards a laminar flow [29, 56, 57]. Eventually, in figure 8, the mean temperatures are plotted for the two friction Reynolds numbers. The same graph also shows the linear evolution of the mean temperature that would be observed for a flow with constant physical properties, whose profile would be symmetrical. In the case of variable properties, the behavior is very different in laminar and turbulent regimes. For laminar flows, since the thermal conductivity increases with the temperature, the mean temperature should be above this line in order to maintain a constant heat flux, in order to satisfy the energy balance. However for turbulent flows, the trend is inverted [3, 22, 24], as predicted by the RANS models (see section 4.2.3) and contrary to LES. Concerning the RANS results, a significant discrepancy between the models can be observed, especially for the lower friction Reynolds number.



(a) $Re_\tau = 180$



(b) $Re_\tau = 395$

Figure 3 – Non-dimensional longitudinal velocity for isothermal flows ($T_r = 1$)

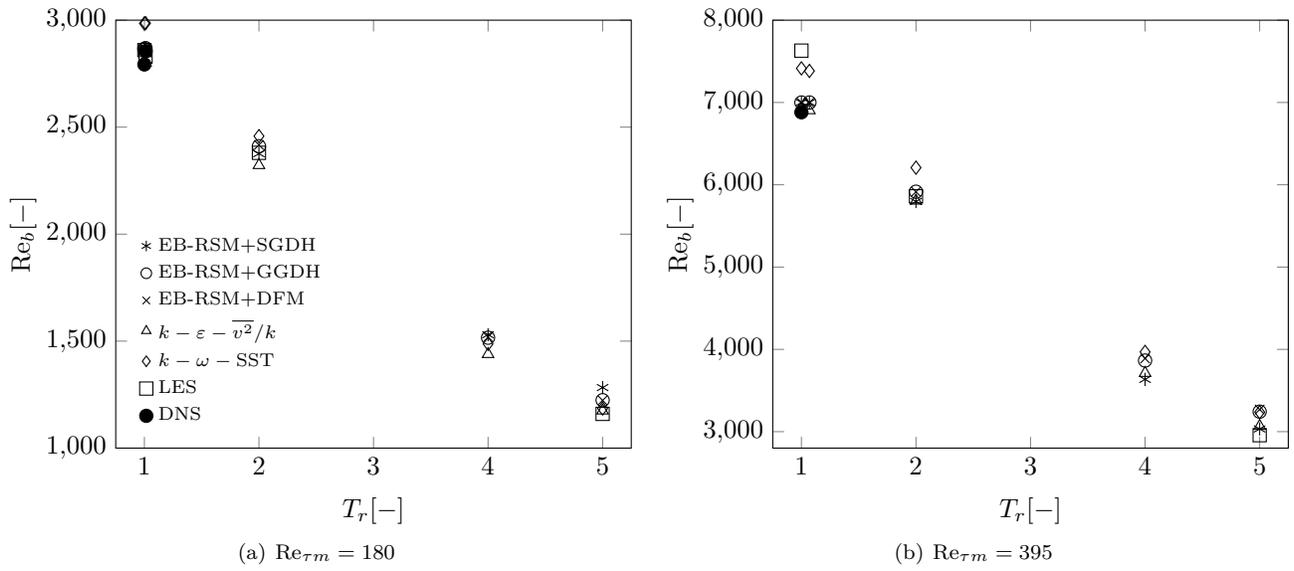


Figure 4 – Evolution of the bulk Reynolds number as a function of the temperature ratio T_r

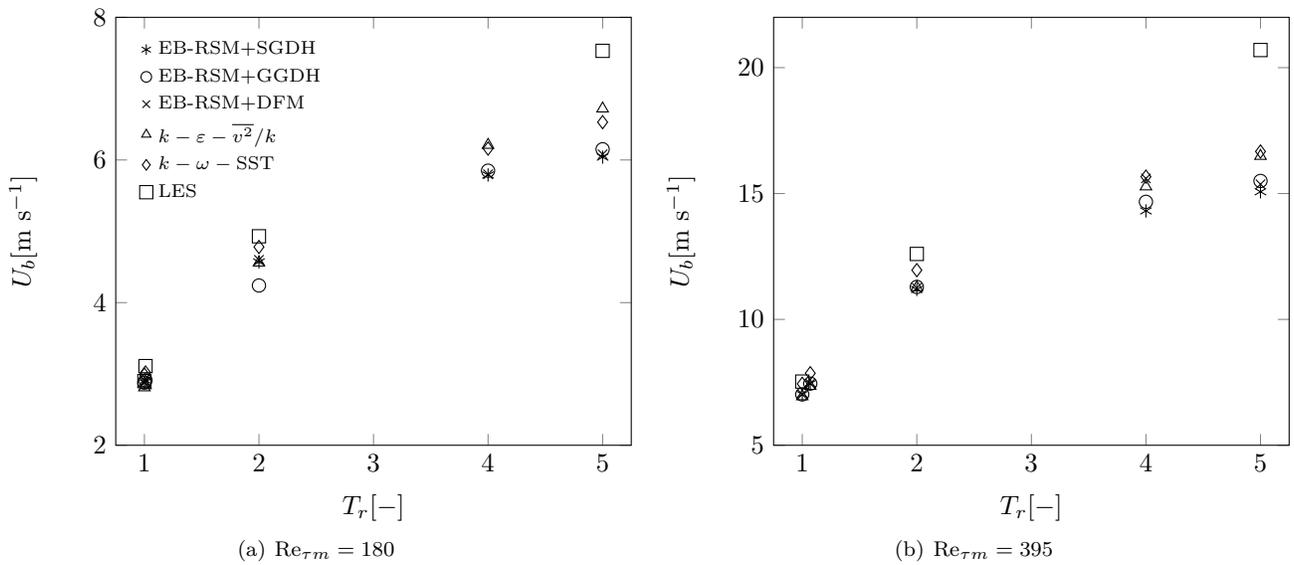


Figure 5 – Evolution of the bulk velocity as a function of the temperature ratio T_r

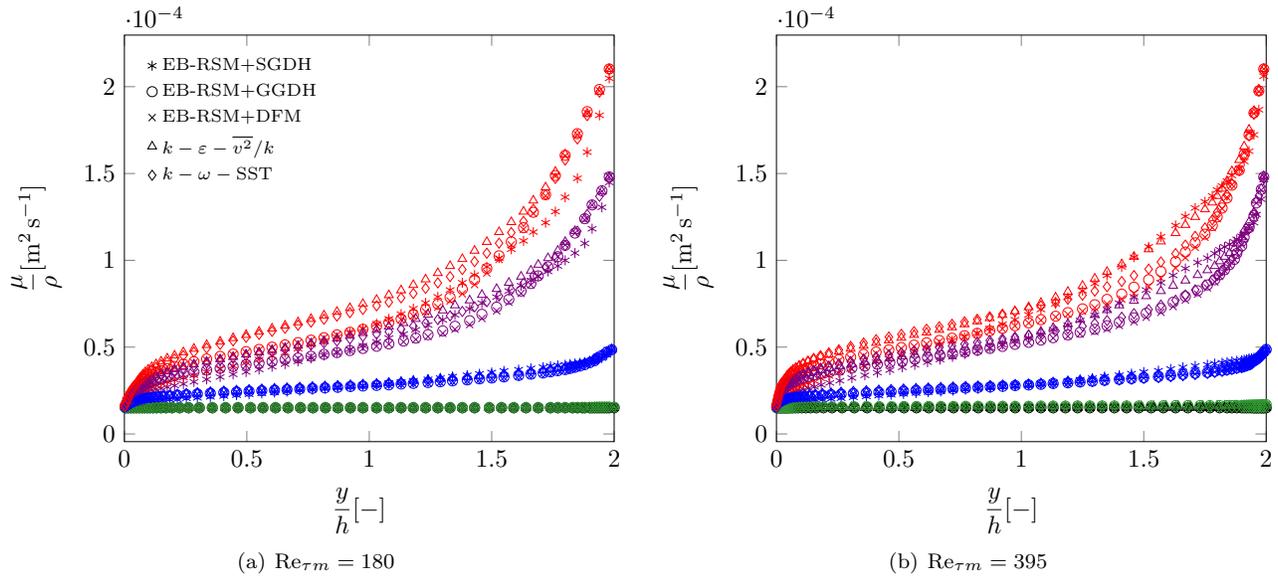


Figure 6 – Evolution of the ratio of the molecular viscosity with the density between the two plates at the two friction Reynolds numbers $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for the four temperature ratios $T_r = 1$ (black), $1.01/1.07$ (green), $1.07/1.01$ (blue) and 5 (red)

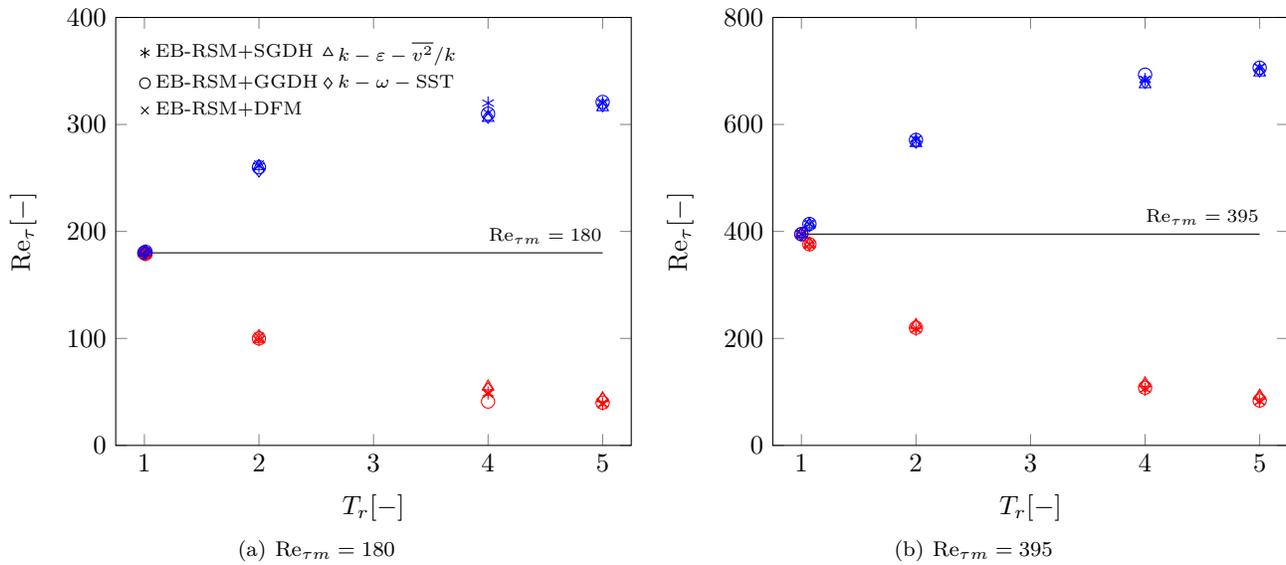


Figure 7 – Evolution of the friction Reynolds numbers for the cold wall (1, blue) and the hot wall (2, red) as a function of the temperature ratio T_r

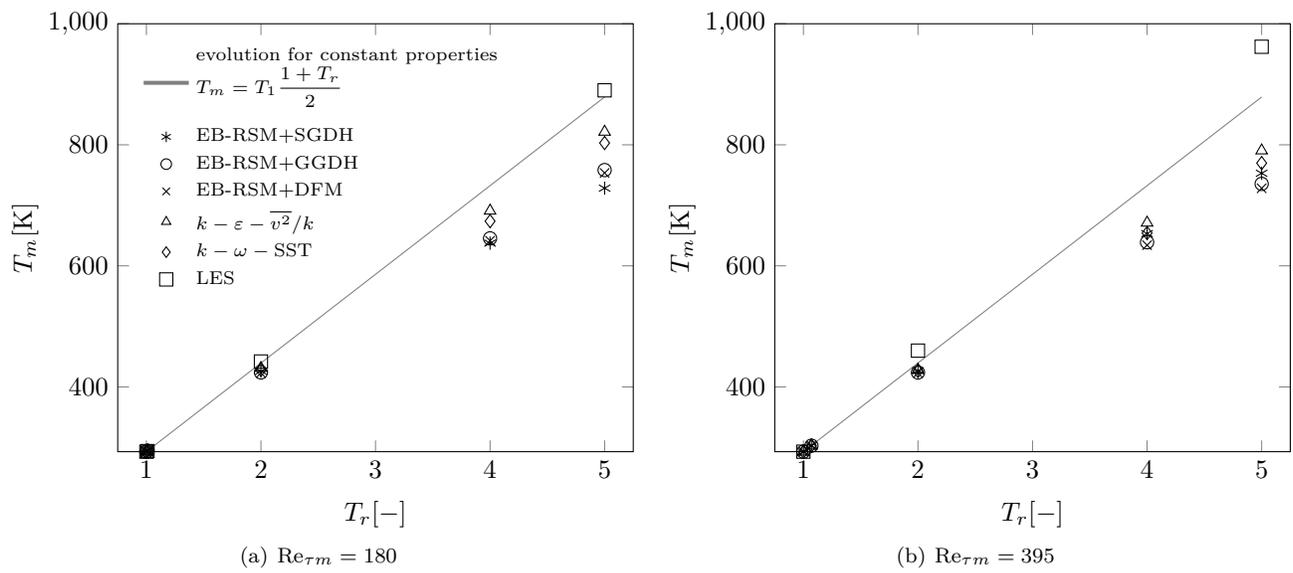


Figure 8 – Evolution of the mean temperature as a function of the temperature ratio T_r

4.2.2 Velocity field

Now, the evolution of the mean velocity with transverse temperature gradients is investigated. In order to highlight the main phenomena and also to further understand the underlying mechanisms, a theoretical analysis is first performed for the case of a laminar flow.

Thereby, a fully developed Poiseuille flow is considered, with a transverse temperature gradient. This problem obeys the Poisson equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\mu(T) \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} \right) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i}. \quad (4.14)$$

For the fully developed case, the flow is one-directional and oriented along the x -axis, and gradients are in the transverse direction, such that

$$\frac{d}{dy} \left(\mu(T) \frac{dU}{dy} \right) = \psi, \quad (4.15)$$

where y stands for the distance to the wall. By integrating across the channel, one gets

$$\mu(T) \frac{dU}{dy} = \left(\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} - \frac{y}{h} \right) \tau_w, \quad (4.16)$$

such that the shear stress varies linearly across the channel, as shown in figure 9. In the case of a constant viscosity, integrating equation (4.16) leads to:

$$U_{2h} = U_0 + \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^{2h} \left(\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} - \frac{y}{h} \right) \tau_w dy = \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^{2h} \left(\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} - \frac{y}{h} \right) \tau_w dy. \quad (4.17)$$

Since the velocity is zero on the upper wall, the integral must cancel, which means that the surface under the curve (see figure 9(a)) vanishes. Consequently, this corresponds to a symmetrical situation, with $\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} = 1$, *i.e.* the surfaces on either side of the zero crossing location compensate for each other.

In the present case where the temperature increases with y and given the Sutherland law (2.3a), the dynamic viscosity also with y . Thus, the integration of (4.16) now reads

$$U_{2h} = \int_0^{2h} \frac{1}{\mu(y)} \left(\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} - \frac{y}{h} \right) \tau_w dy. \quad (4.18)$$

Due to the variable viscosity in the integrand, the weight of the left part of the surface will be increased compared to the weight of the right part. Therefore, to guarantee that $U_{2h} = 0$, $\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w}$ must be less than unity in order to reduce the left surface and increase the right surface, as can be seen in figure 9(b). This implies that, for a laminar flow, the location of the maximal velocity, which corresponds to the point where the shear stress is zero, is shifted towards the left, that is to say towards the cold wall. Figure 10 illustrates this shifting of the velocity profile for increasing temperature ratios.

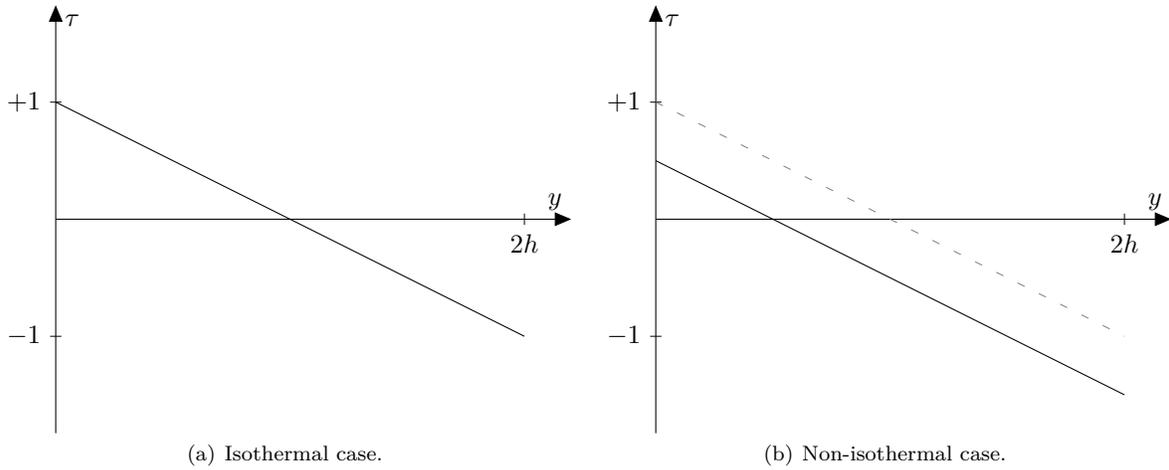


Figure 9 – Evolution of the shear stress along the transverse direction in the laminar case

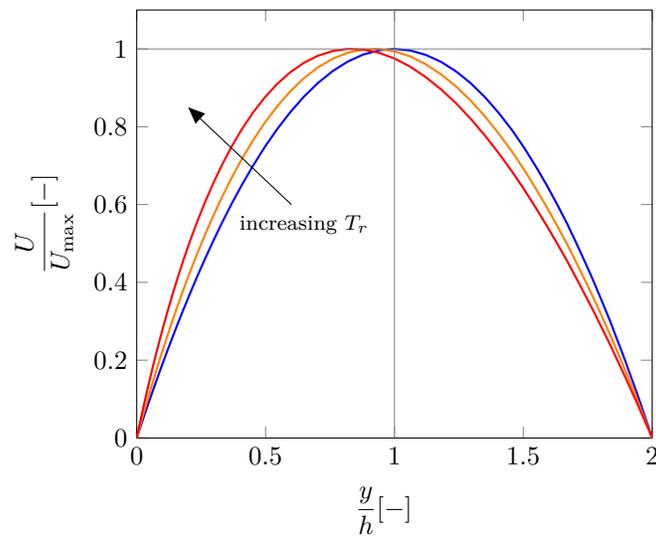


Figure 10 – Influence of the temperature gradient on the longitudinal velocity in laminar flows

In figure 11, the longitudinal velocity is depicted for all the friction Reynolds numbers and temperature ratios. The RANS results fairly represent the DNS data up to a temperature ratio $T_r = 2$. For the highest temperature ratio, *i.e.* $T_r = 5$, one can see that discrepancies occur between the RANS and the LES results. However, as mentioned above, LES are not sufficiently accurate and are only shown here for qualitative comparison, since no DNS data are available. Furthermore, it can be noted that all the RANS models give very similar results except for the case $Re_{\tau_m} = 395$ and $T_r = 5$.

Besides, it is worth mentioning here that the maximum shift is now on the hot side, which means that the behavior is completely different from the laminar regime. Once again, this is in accordance with already existing conclusions [28, 29]. Finally, the asymmetry of the velocity profile is more pronounced for higher temperature ratios, specifically for the lower friction Reynolds number.

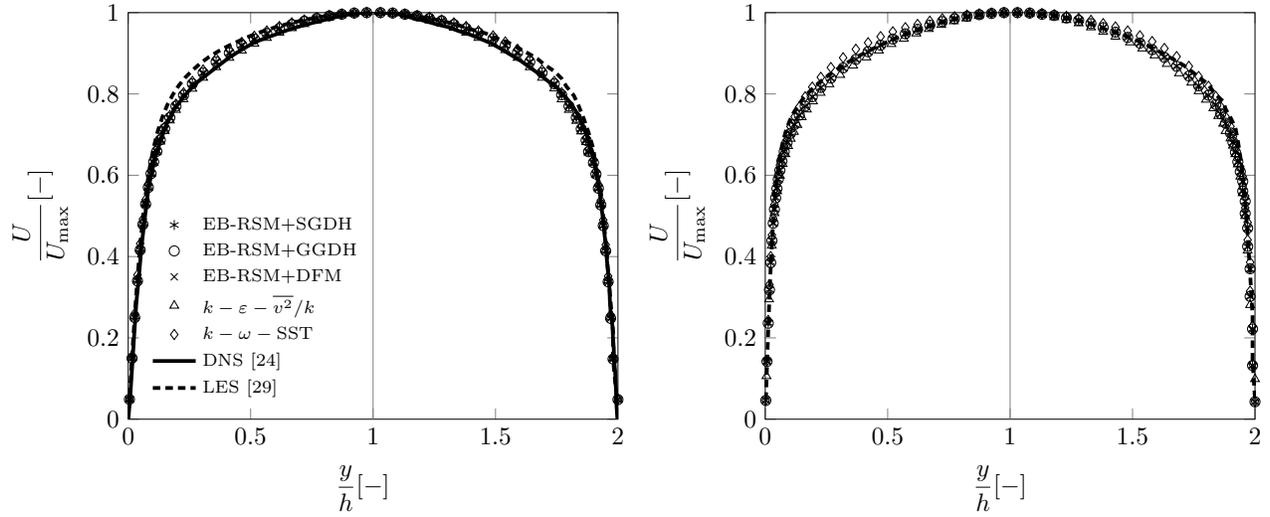
To explain the different behavior observed in laminar and turbulent flows, the dynamic viscosity and density are plotted along the transverse axis (*i.e.* from the cold to the hot wall) in figures 12 and 13. It can be observed that the molecular viscosity varies between fixed values at the walls, directly linked to the temperature ratio, due to the Sutherland law (2.3a) which only depends on temperature. From the cold to the hot side, the value varies significantly, up to a factor of about 2.75. However, one observes discrepant profiles away from the walls, specifically for the highest temperature ratio. Implicitly, this also means that the temperature profiles present some differences for the various RANS models. Since the averaged thermodynamic pressure \bar{P}_0 is a constant in the present case, density is directly proportional to the reciprocal of the temperature and reaches values at the wall independent of the RANS model, as observed in Figure 13. The combined increase of the viscosity and decrease of the density lead to strong variations of the ratio μ/ρ , as mentioned in section 4.2.1.

Moreover, the molecular viscosity is smaller than the turbulent viscosity by one or two orders of magnitude, depending on the Reynolds number, such that its influence is limited to very narrow regions close to the walls. Then, the turbulent viscosity shows a behavior very different from the molecular viscosity. This can be seen in figure 12, where the turbulent viscosity is plotted for all the models. For the EB-RSM, the eddy-viscosity concept is not used to model the Reynolds stress. For comparison with eddy-viscosity models, the plotted quantity is $(\rho \overline{U_1' U_2'}) / \frac{d\overline{U_1}}{dy}$. This quantity can go to infinity if the velocity gradient and the turbulent shear-stress do not vanish at the same location, which occurs when the profiles become asymmetric. Then, one can see that it is strongly reduced near the hot wall, while the molecular viscosity is increased. It can be seen in figure 12(c) to 12(e) that, the higher the temperature ratio and the smaller the turbulent Reynolds number, the larger the gap between the cold and hot sides. In line with the previous discussion for the laminar regime, the velocity profile is determined by:

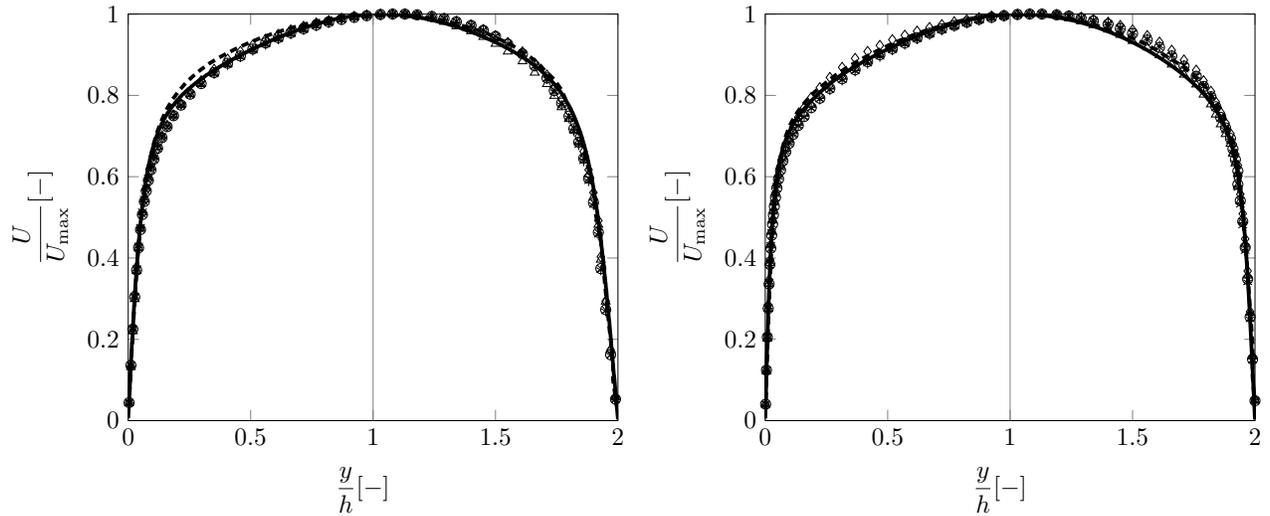
$$\bar{U}_{2h} = \int_0^{2h} \frac{1}{\mu + \mu_t} \left(\frac{\tau_{w,1}}{\tau_w} - \frac{y}{h} \right) \tau_w dy \quad (4.19)$$

Yet, in the turbulent regime, the turbulent viscosity dominates the flow behavior and therefore, given the previous remark, the asymmetry of the turbulent viscosity leads to a shift of the maximum of velocity towards the hot side, as can be seen in figure 11, in contrast with the laminar case. Eventually, the turbulent viscosity being significantly reduced near the hot wall, the extent of the region where the molecular viscosity is not negligible increases with the temperature ratio. Thus, this could explain the possible relaminarization of the flow mentioned near the hot wall [28, 29]. For the sake of completeness, the profiles for the turbulent kinetic energy and the dissipation rate are furnished in figures 18 to 19 in the appendix.

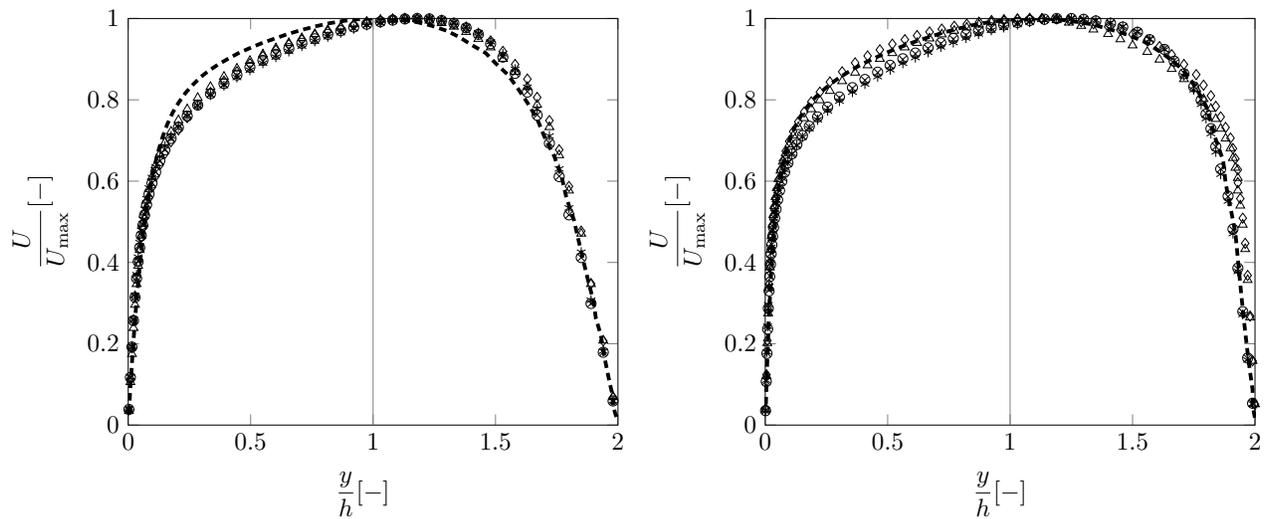
The last characteristic to be analyzed is the non-dimensional longitudinal velocity U^+ , which is depicted in figure 14. For moderate temperature ratios, see figure 14(a), there are virtually no difference between the cold and hot sides (therefore only one side is exploited) and the results agree only for the smaller Reynolds number case. Then, only the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ model underestimates the velocity in the log layer. When the thermal gradient becomes strong, *i.e.* when $T_r \geq 2$ (see figures 14(b) and 14(c)), then the flow behavior is different at the cold and the hot side, correlatively to what was seen before for the friction Reynolds number in figure 7. Besides, it is even more interesting to note that profiles do not follow anymore the standard (isothermal) law-of-the-wall, as pointed out by other studies [1, 24, 28, 55, 58]: on the cold side, the slope of the velocity profile is higher, whereas for the hot side it is lower, in particular for the lower friction Reynolds number and the higher temperature ratio. Furthermore, the comparison with the available DNS results is satisfactory for all models, contrary to the LES for the cold side. Moreover, for the lower friction Reynolds number, all RANS models are in close agreement except for the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ on the cold side for the higher temperature ratio. For the higher friction Reynolds number, some discrepancies appear between the Reynolds-stress and eddy-viscosity models. Unfortunately, in the absence of reliable reference data, no general conclusion can be drawn concerning the relative performance of the models.



(a) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ & $T_r = 1.01$ (left) and $Re_{\tau_m} = 395$ & $T_r = 1.07$ (right)

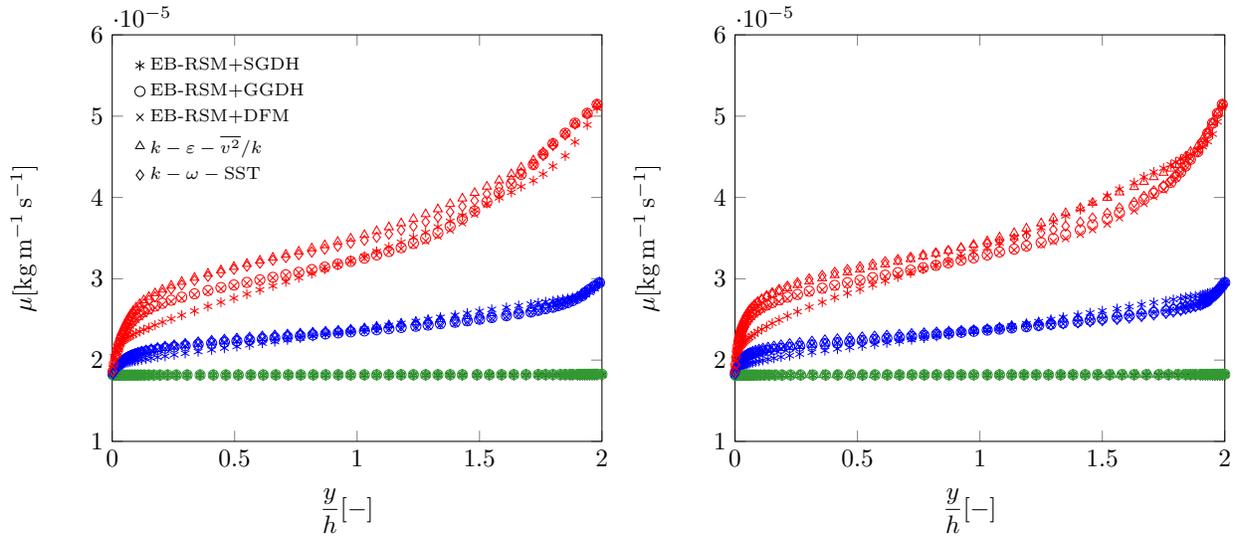


(b) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 2$

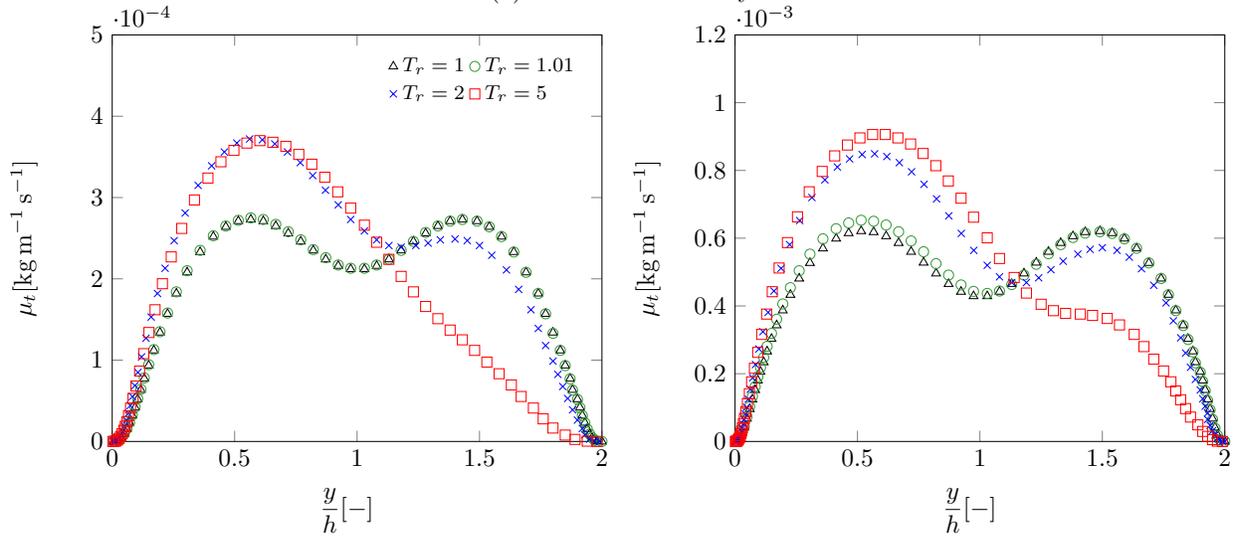


(c) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 5$

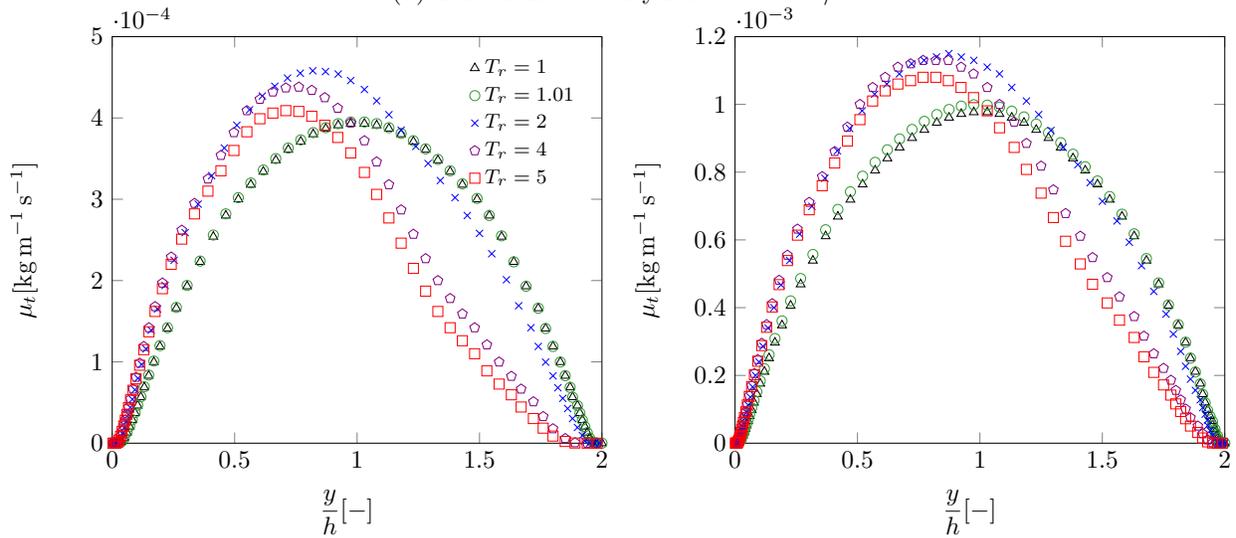
Figure 11 – Non-dimensional longitudinal velocity U/U_{\max} along the non-dimensional transverse direction y/h



(a) Molecular viscosity

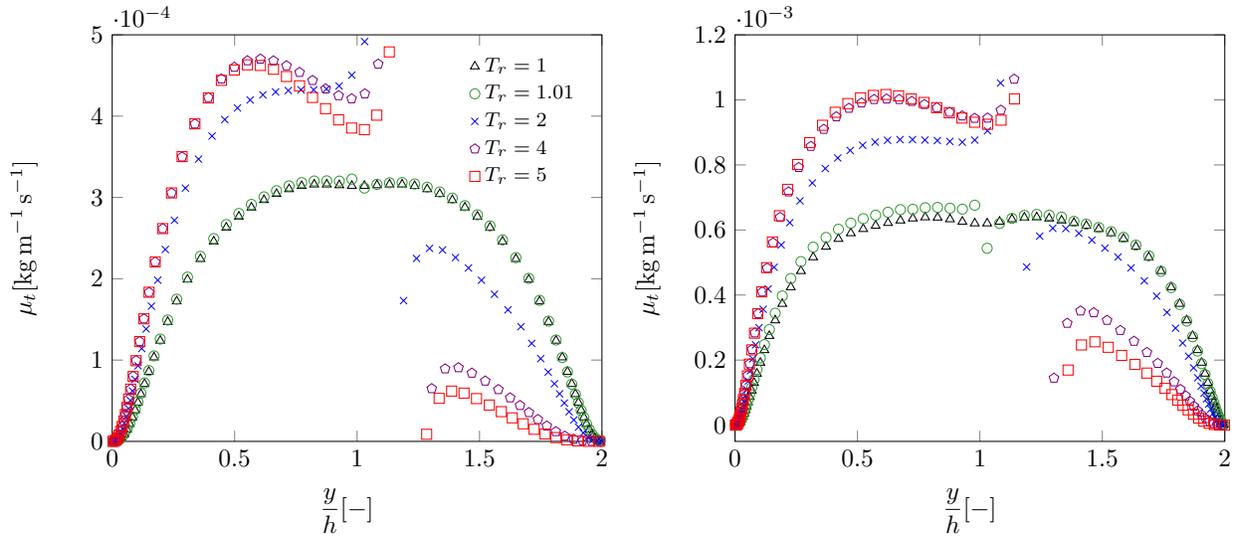


(b) Turbulent viscosity for $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$

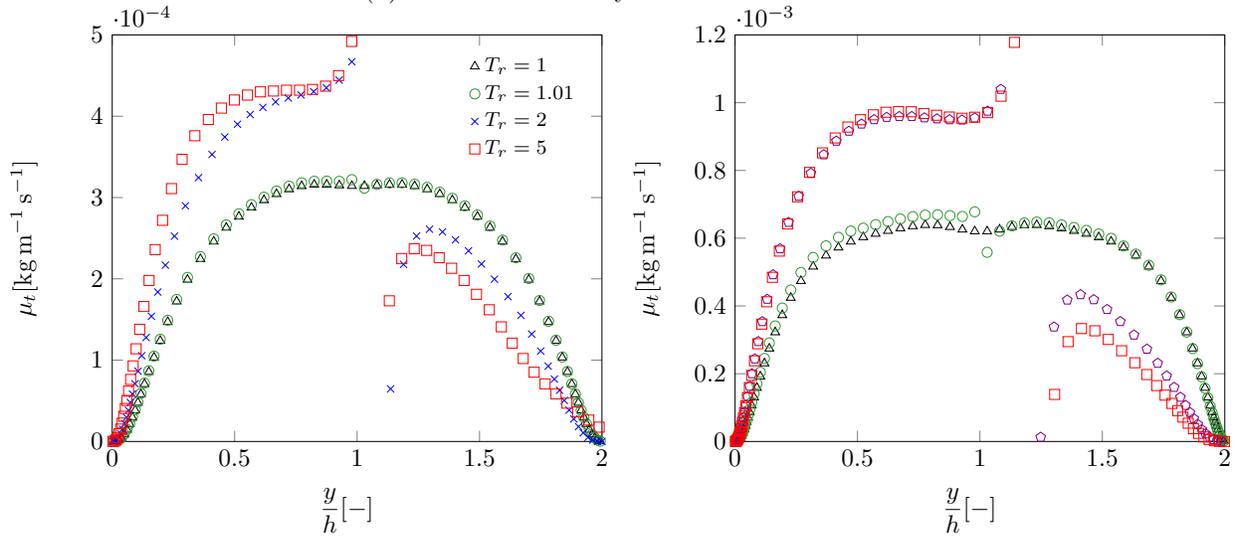


(c) Turbulent viscosity for $k - \omega - SST$

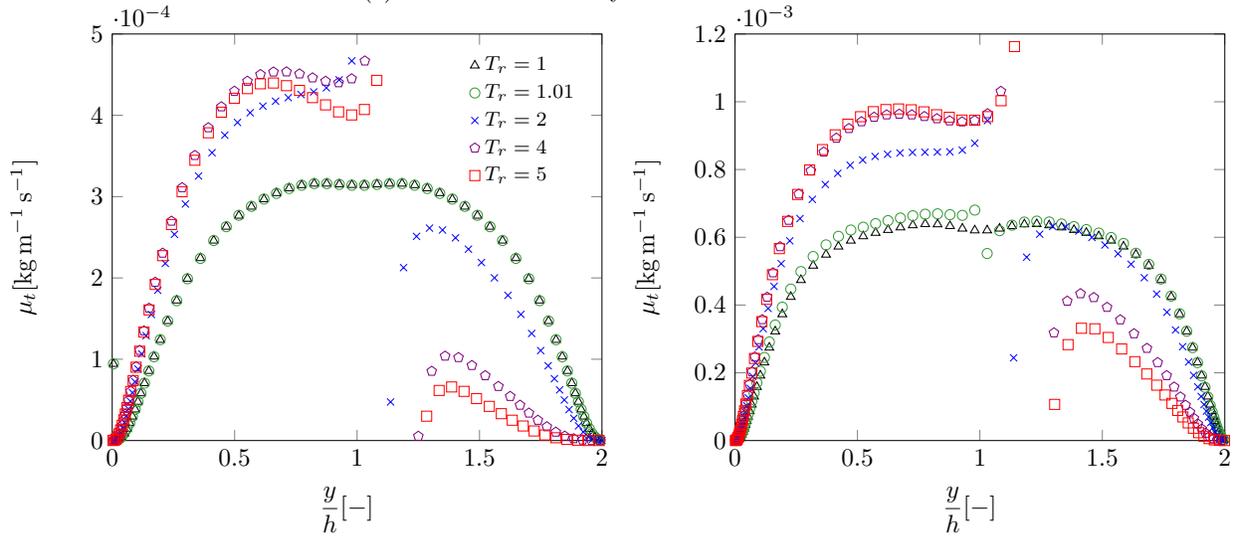
Figure 12: see below...



(d) Turbulent viscosity for EB-RSM+SGDH



(e) Turbulent viscosity for EB-RSM+GGDH



(f) Turbulent viscosity for EB-RSM+DFM

Figure 12: Evolution of the dynamic viscosities between the two plates at the two friction Reynolds numbers $\text{Re}_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for various temperature ratios T_r

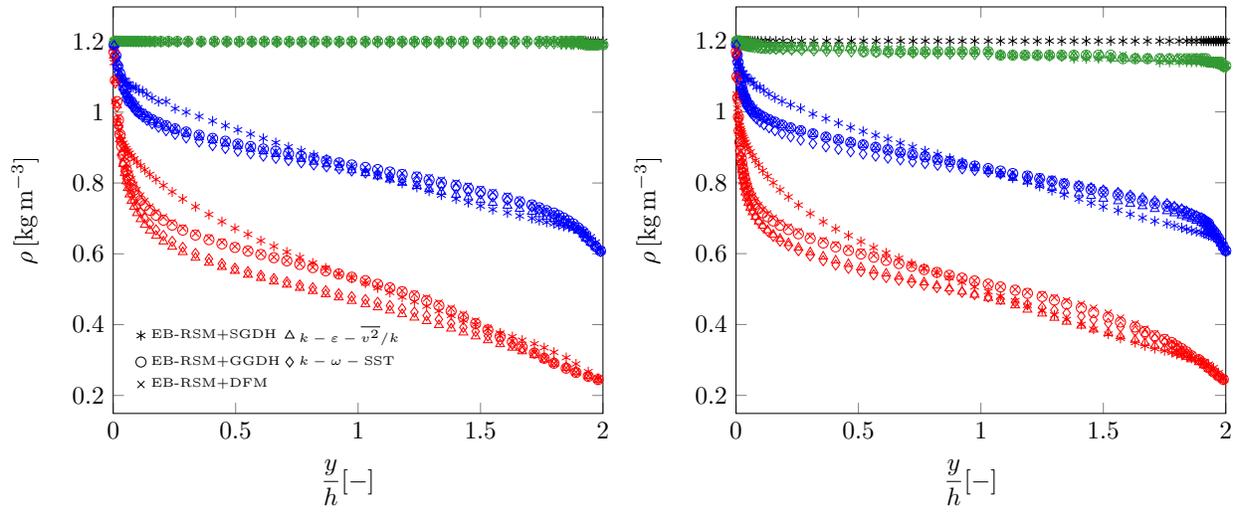
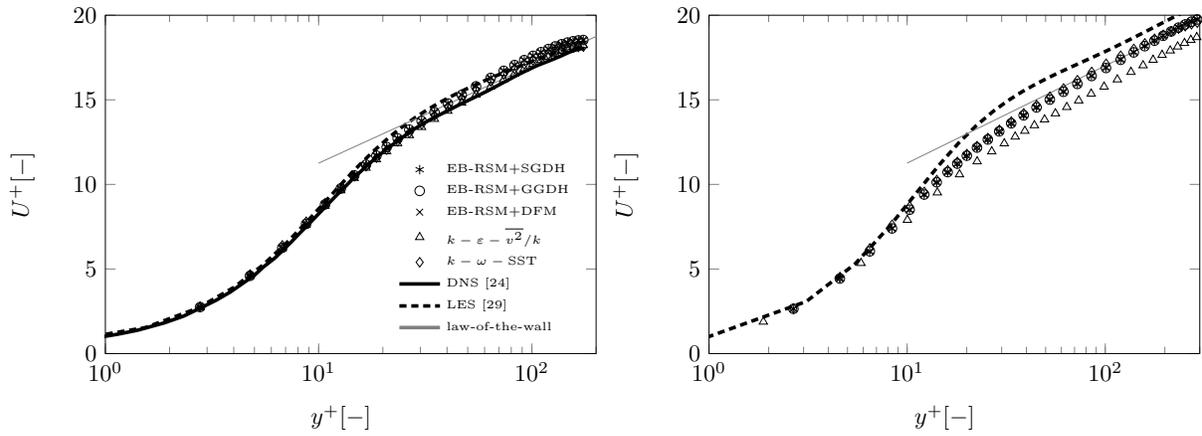
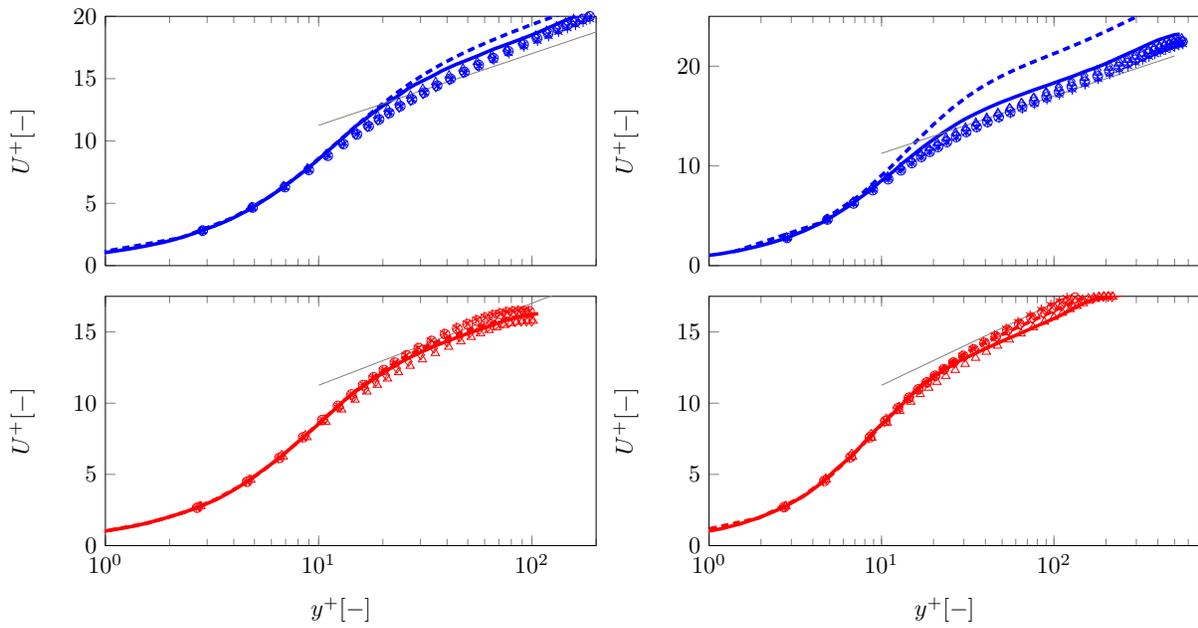


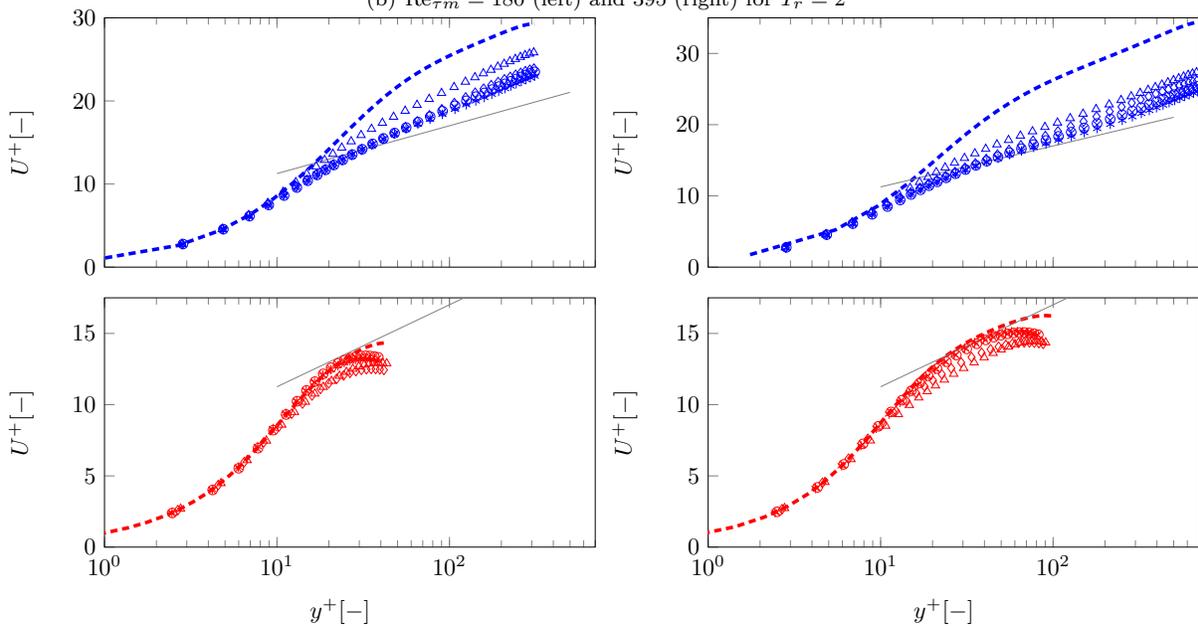
Figure 13 – Evolution of the density between the two plates at the two friction Reynolds numbers $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for the four temperature ratios, from top to bottom: $T_r = 1$ (black), 1.01 & 1.07 (green), 2 (blue) and 5 (red)



(a) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ & $T_r = 1.01$ (left) and $Re_{\tau_m} = 395$ & $T_r = 1.07$ (right)



(b) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 2$



(c) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 5$

Figure 14 – Non-dimensional longitudinal velocity U^+ on the hot (red) and cold (blue) walls in function of y^+

4.2.3 Temperature field

After the study of the velocity, this part is now focused on the temperature profiles obtained with the various RANS models. In figures 15 and 16, the temperature profiles are made non-dimensional either by the temperature difference between the cold and the hot wall or by the friction temperature in order to emphasize the behavior of the fluid at the center or near the walls, respectively.

The first remark to be made concerns the results obtained with the SGDH closure associated with the EB-RSM: it clearly fails to reproduce even the qualitative characteristics of the flow, as can be seen in both figures. These discrepancies can go up to 20% to 40% compared with the other models. Indeed, since it is a second-moment closure, the EB-RSM does not make use of any eddy viscosity. However, such a parameter has been shown to be needed in the formulation (2.6) for the SGDH, so an eddy viscosity has to be defined and computed. The scalar turbulent diffusivity involved in the model indeed writes:

$$\alpha_t = \frac{\nu_t}{\text{Pr}_t} \quad (4.20)$$

where, for the EB-RSM, ν_t is evaluated as:

$$\nu_t = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\overline{U'_i U'_i}^2}{\varepsilon}. \quad (4.21)$$

As initially mentioned by [52], this relation is not correct in the near-wall region. This is the main motivation for the development of the $\overline{v^2} - f$ family of models [44] in which $\overline{v^2}$, the characteristic scale of the energy of the wall-normal turbulent fluctuations, is introduced to correct the expression for the turbulent heat flux.

The corresponding behavior for the turbulent viscosity is thus depicted in figure 17. Due to the use of this incorrect relation, the SGDH leads to erroneous results for the thermal field when used with the EB-RSM. In contrast, if one now looks at the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ model, it appears that relation (2.10a) can be injected into formulation (2.6) that can be written as

$$\overline{U'_i T'}_{k-\varepsilon-\overline{v^2}/k\text{-SGDH}} = \frac{C_\mu}{\text{Pr}_t} \varphi k \min(\mathcal{T}; \mathcal{T}_{lim}) \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i}. \quad (4.22)$$

In the present case, the stagnation correction is not active, such that

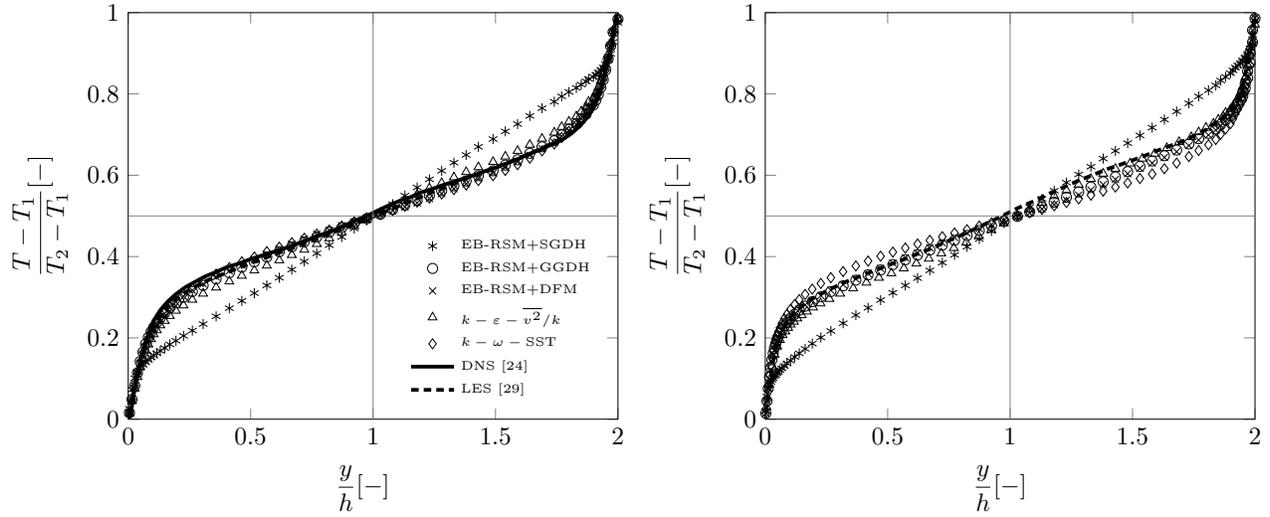
$$\overline{U'_i T'}_{k-\varepsilon-\overline{v^2}/k\text{-SGDH}} = \frac{C_\mu}{\text{Pr}_t} \varphi k \sqrt{\frac{k^2}{\varepsilon^2} + C_T^2 \frac{\nu}{\varepsilon}} \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i}. \quad (4.23)$$

Except in the viscous sublayer, the second term under the square-root is low compared to the first one, so one gets:

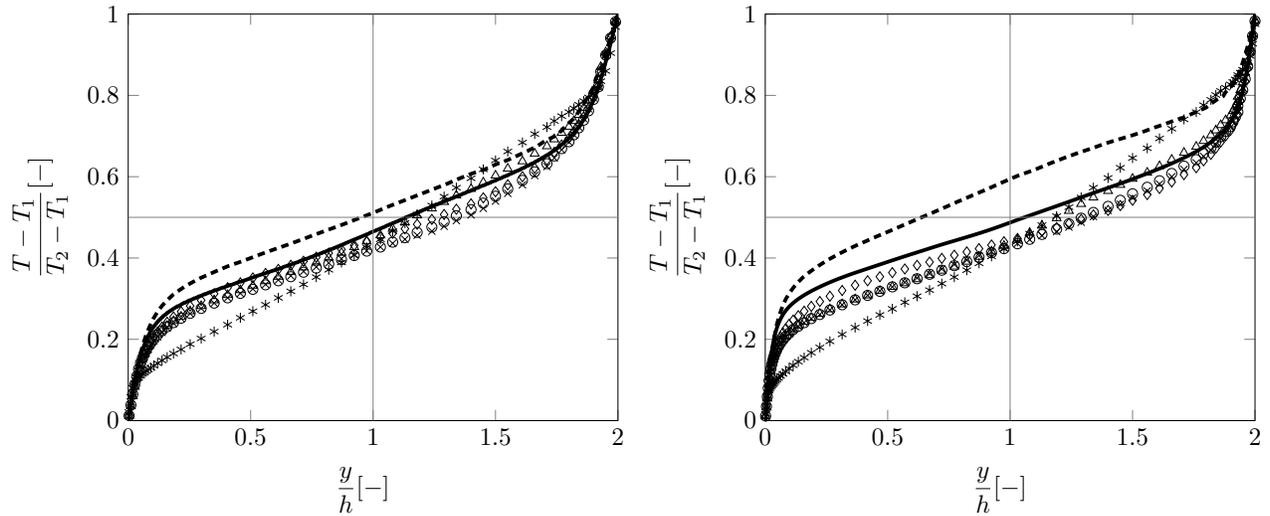
$$\overline{U'_i T'}_{k-\varepsilon-\overline{v^2}/k\text{-SGDH}} = \frac{C_\mu}{\text{Pr}_t} \varphi k \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i} = \frac{C_\mu}{\text{Pr}_t} \frac{\overline{U'_i U'_i} k}{\varepsilon} \frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial x_i} \quad (4.24)$$

Consequently, it appears that, due to the use of a specific scale in the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ model, the SGDH expression is similar to the GGDH one defined by relation (2.7). This implies that the choice for an eddy diffusivity relation for second-moment closures, which intrinsically do not need it, is of great importance when performing thermal simulations, and the SGDH must be excluded.

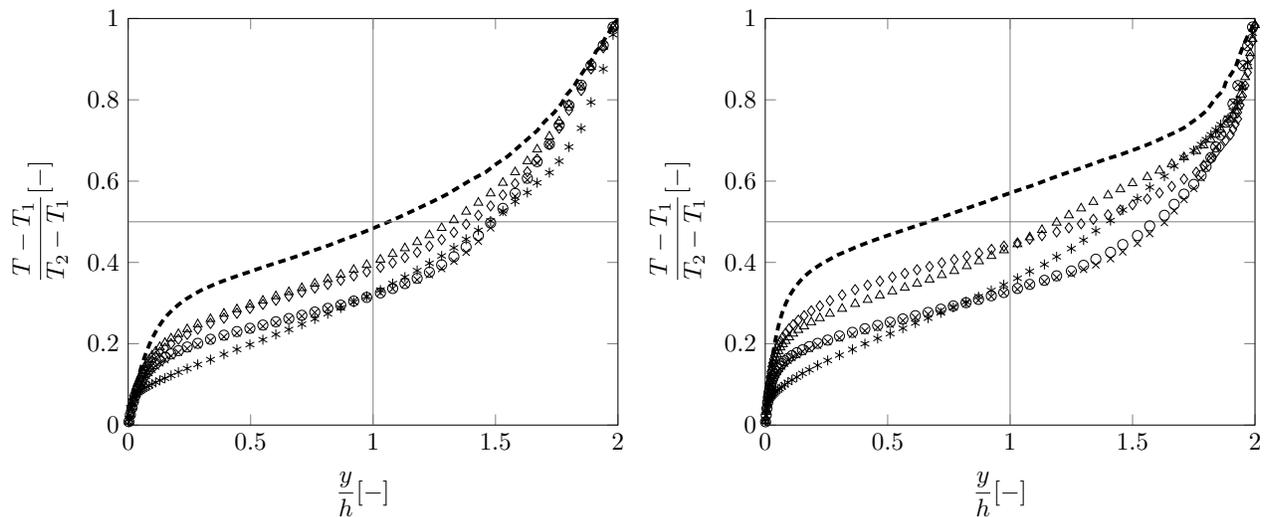
Secondly, it can be seen that, for weak temperature ratios, models very well reproduce the quasi-symmetric temperature profiles except for the LES as can be seen in figure 16(a). Moreover, it is observed in figure 15(b) that LES predicts an increase of the temperature at the center of the channel, whereas all RANS models predict a decrease, in accordance with DNS. Besides, one can note a clear difference between the first-moment closures, on the one hand, and the second-moment closures, on the other hand. When comparing with the available DNS results, a good agreement is obtained on the hot side, yet it seems that first-moment closures are slightly better on the cold side. Finally, discrepancies between RANS models become more pronounced for the highest temperature ratio, specifically on the cold side, as can be observed in figures 15(c) and 16(c).



(a) $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ & $T_r = 1.01$ (left) and $Re_{\tau m} = 395$ & $T_r = 1.07$ (right)

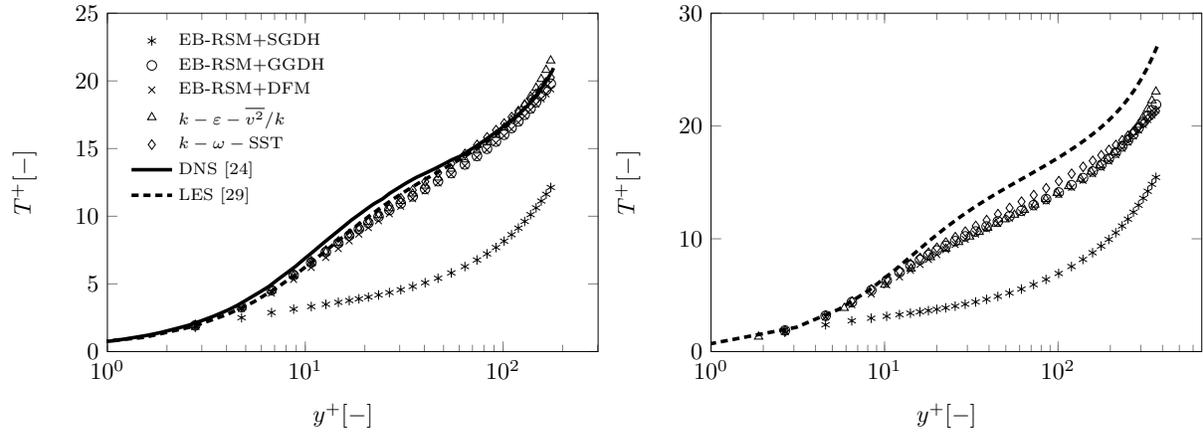


(b) $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 2$

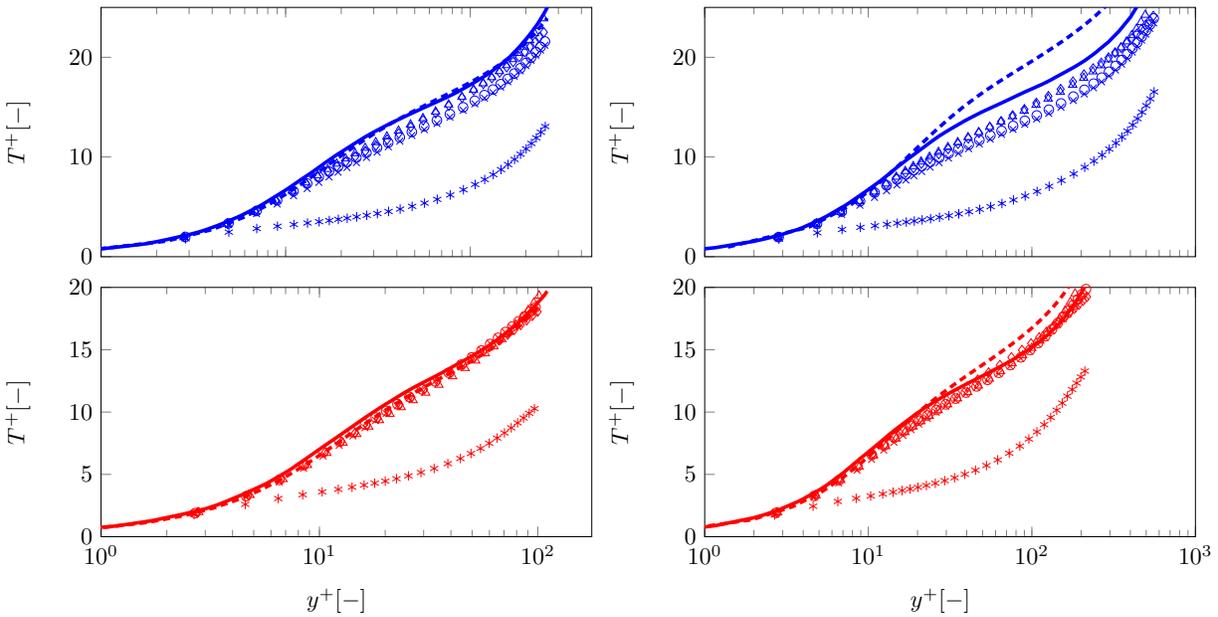


(c) $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 5$

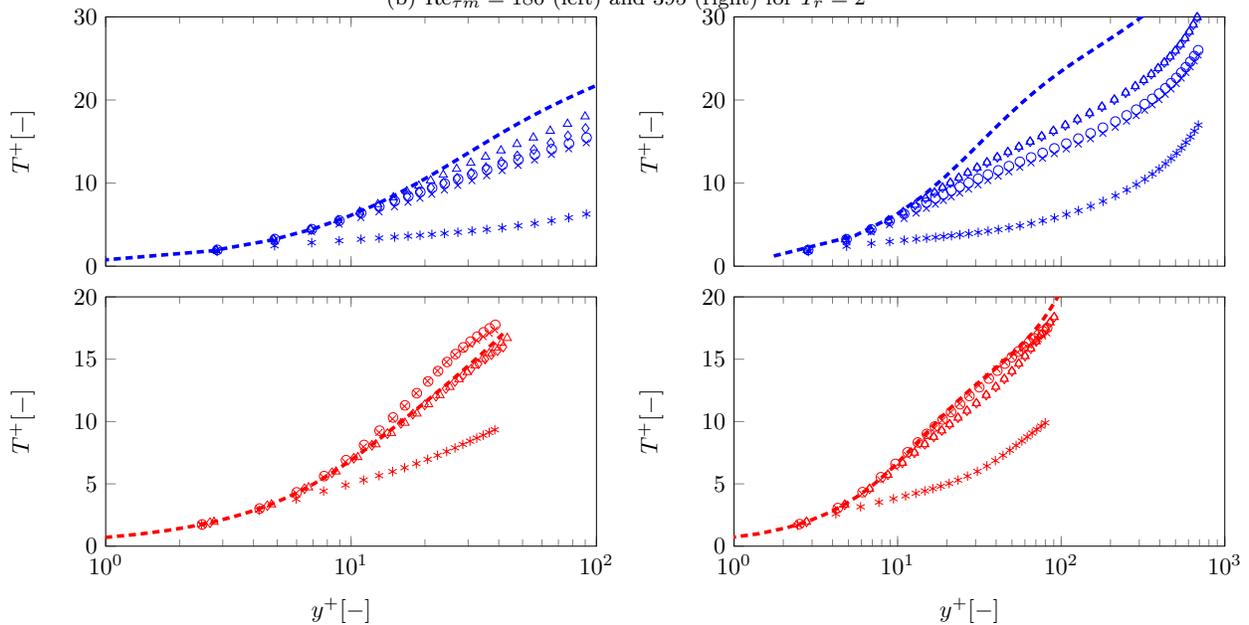
Figure 15 – Non-dimensional temperature $(T - T_1)/(T_2 - T_1)$ along the non-dimensional transverse direction y/h



(a) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ & $T_r = 1.01$ (left) and $Re_{\tau_m} = 395$ & $T_r = 1.07$ (right)



(b) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 2$



(c) $Re_{\tau_m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for $T_r = 5$

Figure 16 – Non-dimensional temperature T^+ on the hot (red) and cold (blue) walls in function of y^+

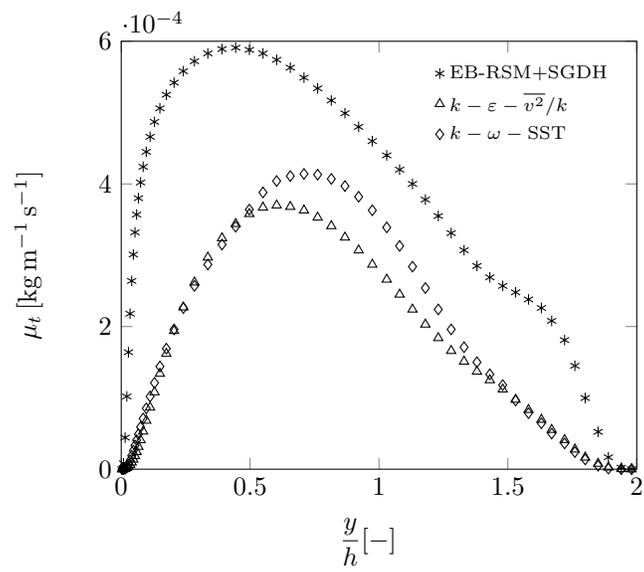


Figure 17 – Comparison of the eddy viscosities for case 180-5.

5 Conclusion

The present paper is concerned with computations of turbulent Poiseuille flows in the presence of a transverse temperature gradient with so-called low-Reynolds number RANS models, which avoid the use of wall functions, namely the EB-RSM and both the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ and $k - \omega - SST$ eddy-viscosity models. The objective is manifold: i) testing the capabilities of RANS models to reproduce the main features of the flow predicted by DNS and/or LES computations in such situations, ii) comparing Reynolds-stress and eddy-viscosity models, iii) studying the influence of the model for the turbulent heat flux associated with the Reynolds-stress model (SGDH, GGDH or DFM). Comparisons are performed for two friction Reynolds numbers and five temperature ratios.

The first conclusion concerns the capability of the RANS models to reproduce the main characteristics of the flow, especially the asymmetric velocity profiles. Due to the temperature gradient, the molecular viscosity and the density of the fluid strongly vary between the cold and the hot wall, and the turbulent viscosity exhibits significantly asymmetric profiles. In contrast with the laminar case, since turbulent transport is dominant, the presence of a temperature gradient leads to a shift of the maximum velocity towards the hot side, in accordance with available DNS results. Furthermore, RANS computations are able to predict the departure of the velocity profiles in wall units from the standard law-of-the-wall. It is noted that the particular choice of the turbulent heat flux model associated to the EB-RSM does not significantly affect the prediction of these velocity profiles. The tendency of the flow to relaminarize, observed in the literature when the temperature ratio increases, is also obtained.

The influence of the turbulence model is in contrast very influential for the prediction of the temperature profiles. When associated with the EB-RSM, the generalized gradient diffusion hypothesis (GGDH) and differential flux model (DFM) for the turbulent heat flux give very similar results, but the simple gradient diffusion hypothesis (SGDH) fails to reproduce the temperature field correctly. All models produce satisfactory results for temperature ratios up to $T_r = 2$, for which DNS data are available. For $T_r = 5$, the temperature profiles predicted by the different models exhibit significant discrepancies, especially on the cold side, and a clear distinction appear among Reynolds-stress and eddy-viscosity models.

Eventually, the present study highlights that low-Reynolds number RANS models have good prospects for the computation of industrial flows where strong transverse temperature gradients are involved. It is unfortunately not possible at the present time to discriminate between the Reynolds-stress and eddy-viscosity models, which illustrates the necessity for further DNS studies for high friction Reynolds number and/or temperature ratios.

Acknowledgments

The authors want to warmly acknowledge Dr. Auléry, Dr. Toutant and Pr. Bataille for providing the DNS data used for the comparisons of the non-dimensional profiles.

A Characteristics of the various cases for each RANS models

Table 3 – Characteristics of the $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ calculations

Case β	T_2	T_r	$Re_{\tau,2}$	Re_b	$U_{\tau,2}$	U_b	$T_{\tau,2}$	T_m	y_2^+
	T_1		$Re_{\tau m}$		$U_{\tau,1}$		$T_{\tau,1}$		y_1^+
180-1	293	1	180	2793	0.180	2.81	\emptyset	293	0.900
	2.62		180	2800	0.180		2.90		\emptyset
180-1.01	296	1.01	179	2855	0.183	2.84	0.0687	295	0.894
	2.65		180	2800	0.182		3.11		0.0677
180-2	586	2	99	2322	0.341	4.56	8.2	431	0.899
	5		293		261		2380		0.256
180-4	1176	4	55	1439	0.555	6.21	29.8	691	0.899
	293		306		0.307		12.1		0.873
180-5	1465	5	44	1175	0.638	6.72	41.6	821	0.888
	7.4		293		316		1160		0.318
395-1	293	1	395	6881	0.396	6.94	\emptyset	293	0.900
	12.62		395	6915	0.396		7.53		\emptyset
395-1.07	313	1.07	376	6904	0.425	7.35	0.424	303	0.859
	12.78		293		413		0.415		0.405
395-2	586	2	225	5806	0.742	11.27	7.54	428	0.897
	24		293		565		5860		0.567
395-4	1176	4	116	3712	1.17	15.3	27.7	671	0.835
	293		675		0.677		11.7		0.886
395-5	1465	5	93	3068	1.34	16.49	39.2	790	0.892
	34.4		293		697		2957		0.699

Table 4 – Characteristics of the $k - \omega - SST$ calculations

Case β	T_2	T_r	$Re_{\tau,2}$	Re_b	$U_{\tau,2}$	U_b	$T_{\tau,2}$	T_m	y_2^+
	T_1		$Re_{\tau m}$		$Re_{\tau,1}$		$U_{\tau,1}$		$T_{\tau,1}$
180-1 2.62	293	1	180	2793	0.181	2.84	\emptyset	293	0.900
	293		180	2825	0.181		2.90		\emptyset
180-1.01 2.65	296	1.01	179	2855	0.183	2.86	0.0735	295	0.894
	293		181	2829	0.182		3.11		0.0740
180-2 5	586	2	102	2329	0.337	4.53	8.9	429	0.886
	293		257	2380	0.258		4.93		5.7
180-4	1176	4	53	1415	0.535	5.89	32.0	676	1.057
	293		307		0.308		13.4		
180-5 7.4	1465	5	42	1137	0.615	6.26	44.9	802	0.855
	293		317	1160	0.318		7.53		16.6
395-1 12.62	293	1	395	6881	0.397	7.06	\emptyset	293	0.901
	293		395	7040	0.397		7.53		\emptyset
395-1.07 12.78	313	1.07	377	7019	0.425	7.47	0.469	303	0.859
	293		413		0.414		0.450		
395-2 24	586	2	223	5890	0.735	11.37	8.40	427	0.888
	293		567	5860	0.569		12.6		5.33
395-4	1176	4	112	3742	1.14	15.0	30.8	660	1.080
	293		678		0.680		12.5		
395-5 34.4	1465	5	90	3083	1.29	16.0	43.4	773	0.862
	293		700	2957	0.703		20.7		15.4

Table 5 – Characteristics of the EB-RSM+SGDH calculations

Case β	T_2	T_r	$Re_{\tau,2}$	Re_b	$U_{\tau,2}$	U_b	$T_{\tau,2}$	T_m	y_2^+
	T_1		$Re_{\tau m}$		$U_{\tau,1}$		$T_{\tau,1}$		y_1^+
180-1	293	1	180	2793	0.181		\emptyset	293	0.900
	293		180	2867	2.88				
180-1.01	293	1.01	180	2855	0.183		0.121	295	0.894
	293		181	2871	2.91		0.121		
180-2	586	2	99	2376	0.326		15.81	426	0.858
	293		262	2380	0.262	4.93	9.56		
180-4	1176	4	49	1529	0.499		60.3	638	0.807
	293		311		0.313		22.8		
180-5	1465	5	40	1282	0.569		83.7	728	0.791
	293		320	1160	0.321	7.53	27.8		
395-1	293	1	395	6881	0.396		\emptyset	293	0.900
	293		395	7000	7.02				
395-1.07	313	1.07	376	7000	0.424		0.644	303	0.857
	293		415		0.416		0.614		
395-2	586	2	217	5797	0.712		12.3	427	0.862
	293		573	5860	0.575	12.6	7.47		
395-4	1176	4	105	3635	1.06		51.6	653	0.753
	293		684		0.687		19.0		
395-5	1465	5	82	3033	1.18		75.7	753	0.786
	293		707	2957	0.710	20.7	23.8		

Table 6 – Characteristics of the EB-RSM+GGDH calculations

Case β	T_2	T_r	$Re_{\tau,2}$	Re_b	$U_{\tau,2}$	U_b	$T_{\tau,2}$	T_m	y_2^+
	T_1		$Re_{\tau m}$		$Re_{\tau,1}$		$U_{\tau,1}$		$T_{\tau,1}$
180-1	293	1	180	2793	0.180		\emptyset	293	0.900
	2.62		180	2866	2.88				
180-1.01	293	1.01	180	2855	0.180	2.90	\emptyset	293	0.900
	2.65		180	2869	2.91				
180-2	296	2	179	2855	0.183		0.075	295	0.894
	4.89		180	2410	4.24				
180-4	293	4	260	2380	0.261	4.93	5.65	442	0.919
	1176		41	180	1516	5.85		645	0.680
180-5	293	5	310		0.312		12.54	758	0.888
	1465		40	180	1224	6.15	44.6		
395-1	293	1	321	1160	0.322	7.53	15.3	890	0.917
	293		395	6881	0.396		\emptyset	293	0.900
395-1.07	293	1.07	395	7000	0.396	7.03	\emptyset		
	12.62		395	7630	7.53				
395-2	313	2	376		0.424		0.424	303	0.856
	12.78		395	7000	7.45				
395-4	293	4	414		0.416		0.438	639	0.943
	586		220	5916	11.29				
395-5	293	5	571	5860	0.572	12.6	5.19	460	0.911
	1176		108		1.09		31.4	735	0.775
395-5	293	5	395	3243		15.50			
	32.1		293	706	2957	0.709	20.7	14.7	

Table 7 – Characteristics of the EB-RSM+DFM calculations

Case β	T_2	T_r	$Re_{\tau,2}$	Re_b	$U_{\tau,2}$	U_b	$T_{\tau,2}$	T_m	y_2^+
	T_1		$Re_{\tau m}$		$U_{\tau,1}$		$T_{\tau,1}$		y_1^+
180-1	293	1	180	2793	0.181		\emptyset	293	0.900
	293		180	2867	2.87				
180-1.01	293	1.01	180	2860	0.181	2.90	\emptyset	293	0.900
	296		179	2855	0.182		0.078		
180-2	293	2	181	2830	0.182	3.11	0.075	293	0.906
	586		100		0.329		9.32		
180-4	293	4	180	2417		4.60		423	0.865
	1176		49		0.498		32.9		
180-5	293	5	310	2380	0.262	4.93	5.77	442	0.920
	1465		40		0.568		45.6		
395-1	293	1	180	1223		6.08		753	0.806
	293		320	1160	0.321	7.53	15.6		
395-1.07	293	1.07	395	6881	0.396		\emptyset	293	0.900
	293		395	7000	0.396	7.02			
395-2	293	2	395	7630	0.396	7.53	\emptyset	293	0.900
	313		376		0.424		0.470		
395-4	293	4	395	6999		7.45		303	0.858
	293		414		0.415		0.450		
395-5	293	5	586	219	0.722		8.57	423	0.873
	293		395	5915	0.572	12.6	5.32		
395-1.07	293	1.07	395	5860	0.572	12.6	5.32	460	0.909
	1176		107		1.08		32.2		
395-2	293	2	395	3889		14.6		634	0.771
	1465		84		1.21		45.6		
395-4	293	4	395	682	0.685		12.4	728	0.897
	293		395	3269	0.705	20.7	15.4		
395-5	293	5	395	3269	0.705	20.7	15.4	962	0.912
	293		705	2957	0.705	20.7	15.4		

B EB-RSM equations

$$\phi_{ij} = (1 - \alpha^3)\phi_{ij}^w + \alpha^3\phi_{ij}^h \quad (\text{B.25a})$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = (1 - \alpha^3)\varepsilon_{ij}^w + \alpha^3\varepsilon_{ij}^h \quad (\text{B.25b})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = C_L \max\left(\frac{k^{3/2}}{\varepsilon}; C_\eta \frac{\nu^{3/4}}{\varepsilon^{1/4}}\right) \quad (\text{B.25c})$$

$$\mathbb{T} = \max\left(\frac{k}{\varepsilon}; C_T \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{\varepsilon}}\right) \quad (\text{B.25d})$$

$$C'_{\varepsilon 1} = C_{\varepsilon 1} \left(1 + A_1(1 - \alpha^3) \frac{\mathcal{P}}{\varepsilon}\right) \quad (\text{B.25e})$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\nabla \alpha}{\|\nabla \alpha\|} \quad (\text{B.25f})$$

$$\phi_{ij}^h = -(C_1 \varepsilon + C_2 \mathcal{P}) a_{ij} + (C_3 - C'_3 (a_{kl} a_{kl})^{0.5}) k S_{ij} + C_4 k \left(a_{ik} S_{jk} + a_{jk} S_{ik} - \frac{2}{3} a_{kl} S_{kl} \delta_{ij}\right) \quad (\text{B.25g})$$

$$+ C_5 (a_{ik} \Omega_{jk} + a_{jk} \Omega_{ik}) \quad (\text{B.25h})$$

$$\phi_{ij}^w = -5 \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \left[\tau_{ik} n_j n_k + \tau_{jk} n_i n_k - \frac{1}{2} \tau_{kl} n_k n_l (n_i n_j + \delta_{ij}) \right] \quad (\text{B.25i})$$

$$\tau_{ij} = \overline{U'_i U'_j} \quad (\text{B.25j})$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij}^w = \frac{\overline{U'_i U'_j}}{k} \varepsilon \quad (\text{B.25k})$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij}^h = \frac{2}{3} \varepsilon \delta_{ij} \quad (\text{B.25l})$$

$$a_{ij} = \frac{\overline{U'_i U'_j}}{k} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \quad (\text{B.25m})$$

$$\Omega_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial \overline{U}_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (\text{B.25n})$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{ij} = -\overline{U'_i U'_k} \frac{\partial \overline{U}_j}{\partial x_k} - \overline{U'_j U'_k} \frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_k} \quad (\text{B.25o})$$

$$D_{ij}^T = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} \left(\rho \frac{C_\mu}{\sigma_k} \overline{U'_l U'_m} \mathbb{T} \frac{\partial \overline{U'_i U'_j}}{\partial x_m} \right) \quad (\text{B.25p})$$

And:

C_1	C'_2	C_3	C'_3	C_4	C_5	C_L	C_η	C_T	$C_{\varepsilon 1}$	A_1	$C_{\varepsilon 2}$	σ_ε
1.7	0.9	0.8	0.65	0.625	0.2	0.122	80	6	1.44	0.1	1.83	1.15

Table 8 – EB-RSM constants

C $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ equations

$$f_w = -\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{\varphi}{k} \quad (\text{C.26a})$$

$$f_h = -\frac{1}{\mathbb{T}} \left(C_1 - 1 + C_2 \frac{\mathcal{P}}{\varepsilon} \right) \left(\varphi - \frac{2}{3} \right) \quad (\text{C.26b})$$

$$C_{\varepsilon 2}^* = C_{\varepsilon 2} + \alpha^3 (C_{\varepsilon 4} - C_{\varepsilon 2}) \tanh \left(\left| \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_k} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \right)}{\varepsilon} \right|^{3/2} \right) \quad (\text{C.26c})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{C_L^2 \left(\frac{k^3}{\varepsilon^2} + C_\eta^2 \frac{\nu^{3/2}}{\varepsilon^{1/2}} \right)} \quad (\text{C.26d})$$

And:

$C_{\varepsilon 1}$	$C_{\varepsilon 2}$	$C_{\varepsilon 3}$	$C_{\varepsilon 4}$	σ_k	σ_ε	C_μ	C_T	C_L	C_η	C_1	C_2	σ_φ
1.44	1.83	2.3	0.4	1	1.5	0.22	4	0.164	75	1.7	0.9	1

Table 9 – $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$ constants

D $k - \omega - SST$ equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho k}{\partial t} + \overline{U}_j \frac{\partial \rho k}{\partial x_j} = \rho \mathcal{P}_k - \beta^* \rho \omega k + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\left(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k} \right) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \right] \quad (\text{D.27a})$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \omega}{\partial t} + \overline{U}_j \frac{\partial \rho \omega}{\partial x_j} = \frac{\gamma}{\nu_t} \rho \mathcal{P}_k - \beta \rho \omega^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\left(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\omega} \right) \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial x_j} \right] + 2(1 - F_1) \rho \sigma_\omega \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial x_j} \quad (\text{D.27b})$$

With :

$$\nu_t = \frac{a_1 k}{\max(a_1 \omega, SF_2)} \quad (\text{D.28a})$$

$$\mathcal{P}_k = \min \left(-\tau_{ij} \frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial x_j}, 10 \beta^* k \omega \right) \quad (\text{D.28b})$$

$$F_1 = \tanh \left[\left[\min \left[\max \left(\frac{\sqrt{k}}{\beta^* \omega y}, \frac{500 \nu}{y^2 \omega} \right), \frac{4 \rho \sigma_{\omega_2} k}{\text{CD}_{k\omega} y^2} \right] \right]^4 \right] \quad (\text{D.28c})$$

$$F_2 = \tanh \left[\left[\max \left(\frac{2\sqrt{k}}{\beta^* \omega y}, \frac{500 \nu}{y^2 \omega} \right) \right]^2 \right] \quad (\text{D.28d})$$

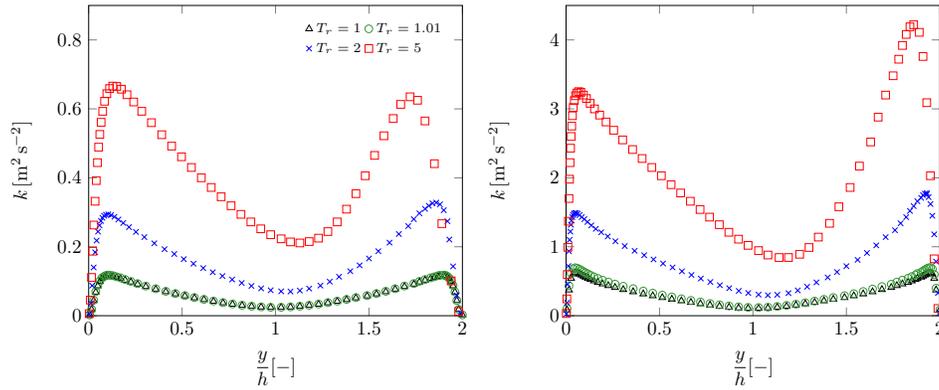
$$\text{CD}_{k\omega} = \max \left(2 \rho \sigma_{\omega_2} \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial x_i}, 10^{-10} \right) \quad (\text{D.28e})$$

The constant ϕ are computed from the constants ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 :

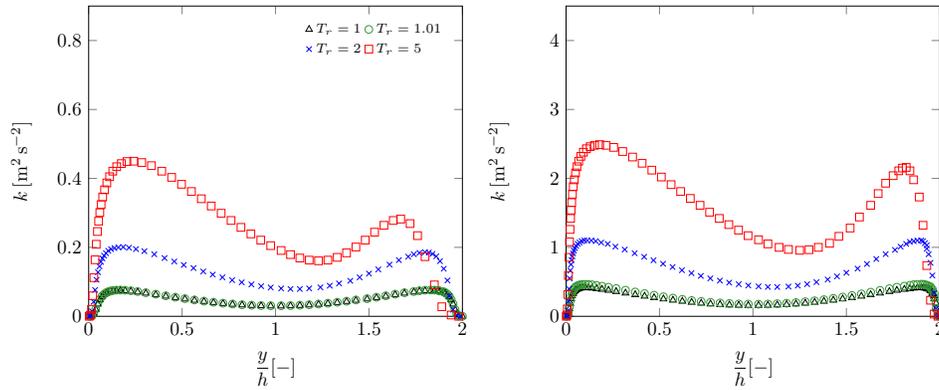
Table 10 – $k - \omega - SST$ constants

	σ_k	σ_ω	β	γ
ϕ_1	1.1765	2.0	0.075	0.54
ϕ_2	1.0	1.1682	0.0828	0.42

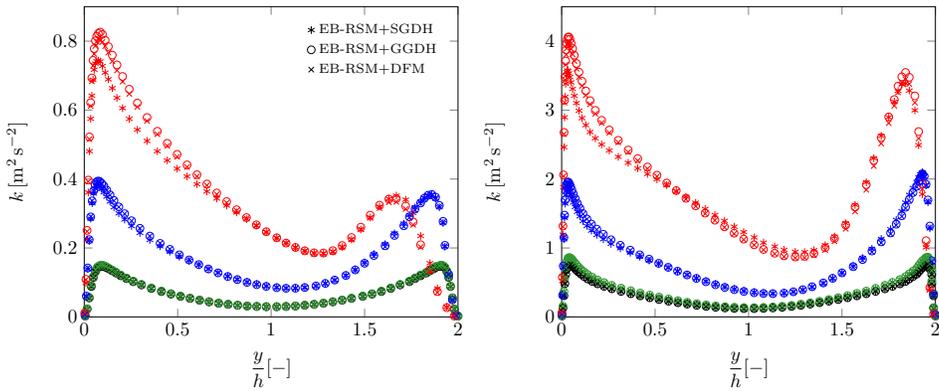
E Supplementary turbulent profiles



(a) $k - \varepsilon - \overline{v^2}/k$



(b) $k - \omega - SST$



(c) EB-RSM

Figure 18 – Evolution of the turbulent kinetic energy between the two plates at the two turbulent Reynolds numbers $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for the four temperature ratios $T_r = 1$ (black), 1.01 & 1.07 (green), 2 (blue) and 5 (red)

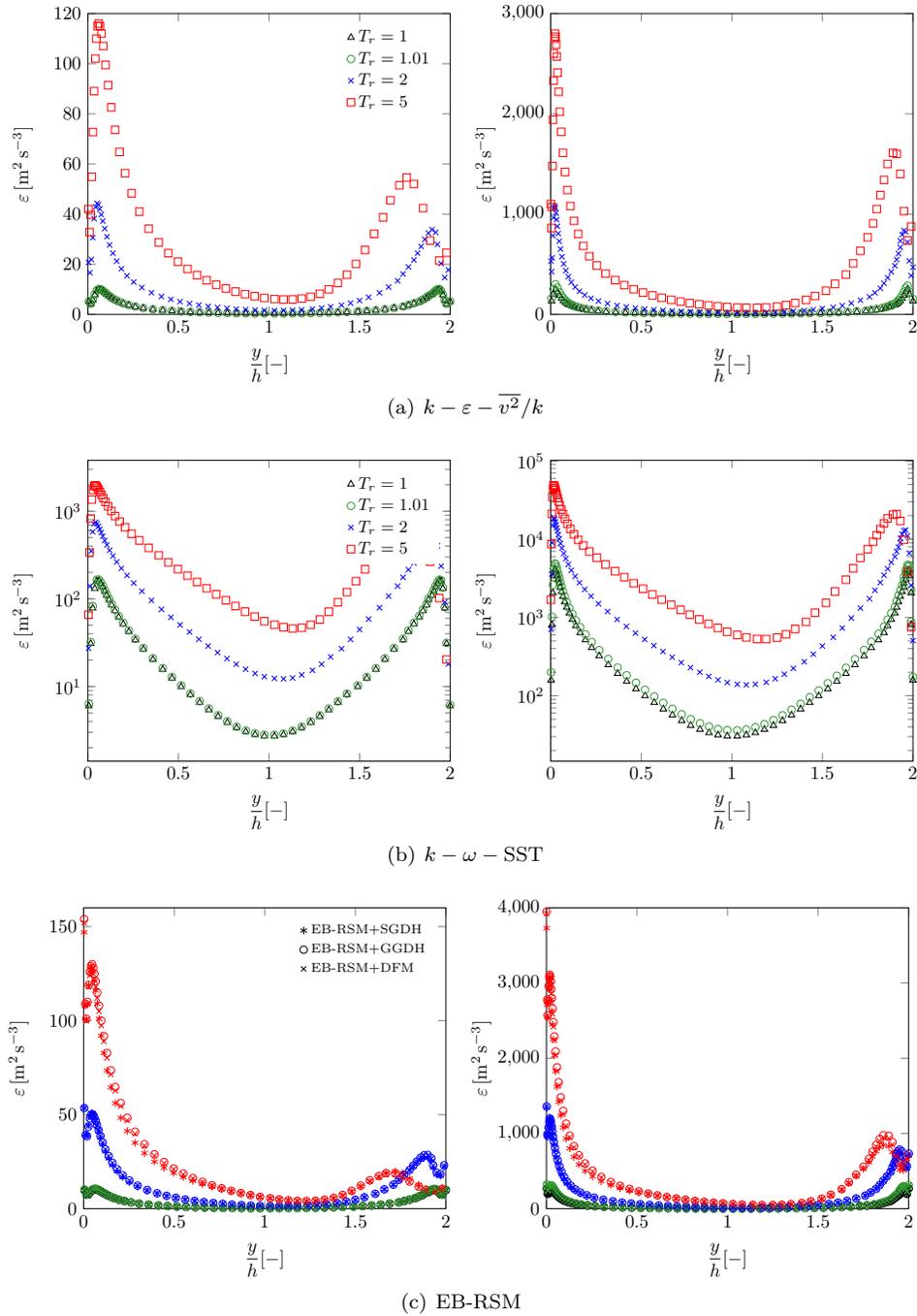


Figure 19 – Evolution of the turbulent dissipation rate between the two plates at the two turbulent Reynolds numbers $Re_{\tau m} = 180$ (left) and 395 (right) for the four temperature ratios $T_r = 1$ (black), 1.01 & 1.07 (green), 2 (blue) and 5 (red)

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