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K.A. Sallam, Z. Dai and G.M. Faeth Department of Aerospace Engineering The University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2140

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BREAKUP OF TURBULENT LIQUID JETS IN STILL GASES

K. A. Sallam,^{*} Z. Dai[†] and G. M. Faeth[‡] The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2140

ABSTRACT

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An investigation of the breakup lengths of turbulent liquid jets in still gases is described. Different breakup modes were visualized and mean and fluctuating breakup lengths were measured for round turbulent free jets of water and ethanol in still air at standard temperature and pressure. Jet exit conditions were limited to non-cavitating flows with long length/diameter ratio constant area injector passages and jet exit Reynolds numbers of 6,000-140,000. Two turbulent liquid column breakup modes were observed: a turbulent primary breakup mode observed at small Weber numbers and a bag/shear breakup mode observed at large Weber numbers. The turbulent primary breakup mode was successfully associated with existing theories of this process as the condition where drop sizes resulting from turbulent primary breakup are comparable to the diameter of the liquid column itself. The bag/shear breakup mode was observed when liquid turbulence caused large deformations of the liquid column, placing portions of the column in cross flow; this caused bag or shear breakup of the liquid column as a whole which was successfully associated with existing theories of bag and shear breakup of nonturbulent round liquid jets in cross flowing gases.

NOMENCLATURE

C _{bs}		bag/shear breakup coefficient		
C_{c}	=.	turbulent liquid column breakur		
	et et ge	coefficient		
C _{sx}	=	turbulent primary breakup coefficient		
d	; =	jet exit diameter		
$\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{h}}$	·	jet exit hydraulic diameter		

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Department of Aerospace Engineering.

[†]Engineering Research Associate, Department of Aerospace Engineering.

L _c	= mean liquid jet breakup length
Lc	= rms fluctuating liquid jet breakup
	length
Re	$=$ jet exit Reynolds number, $u_0 d_h / v_f$
Oh	= Ohnesorge number, $\mu_f / (\rho_f d_h \sigma)^{1/2}$
SMD	= Sauter mean diameter
t _{bs}	= bag/shear breakup time
u	= streamwise velocity
We _{fd}	= Weber number based on jet exit
	hydraulic diameter, $\rho_f d_h u_o^2 / \sigma$
We _f	= Weber number based on jet exit radial
	(cross stream) integral length scale,
	$\rho_{f} \Lambda u_{o}^{2} / \sigma$
x	= streamwise distance
Λ	= radial (cross stream) integral length
	scale
μ	= molecular viscosity
ν	= kinematic viscosity
ρ	= density
σ	= surface tension

Subscripts

f

g

0

liquid propertygas property

jet exit property

INTRODUCTION

The breakup length of turbulent liquid jets in still gases was studied experimentally. This breakup process is related to turbulent primary breakup which can dominate spray formation for a variety of industrial and natural phenomena, e.g., spray atomization, liquid jets, plunge pools, bow sheets, breaking waves and water falls, among others.¹⁻¹² Breakup lengths are of interest for spray modeling efforts because the breakup location signals the end of the "so-called" dense spray region and the start of the generally dilute dispersed-flow region.¹³ Liquid breakup lengths also are of interest for gaining insight about the properties of turbulent primary breakup along liquid surfaces. Experimental methods used during this study were similar to past

[‡]A.B. Modine Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Fellow AIAA.

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investigations of turbulent primary breakup by the present authors and their associates.¹⁴⁻¹⁹

Earlier studies of the length of turbulent liquid jets in still gases have been mainly limited to round jets and include the experimental studies of Chen and Davis,⁵ Grant and Middleman,⁶ Phinney,⁷ and McCarthy and Malloy.⁸ Using available data, Grant and Middleman,⁶ developed a reasonably effective correlation of existing measurements of mean liquid jet lengths based on dimensional analysis. Subsequently, Wu and coworkers¹⁴⁻¹⁷ reported a more mechanistic approach for correlating the mean length of round turbulent liquid jets in still gases. This approach was based on phenomenological analysis of turbulent primary drop breakup along the liquid surface, assuming that drops were formed from turbulent eddies of comparable size for conditions where the eddies responsible for drop formation were in the inertial and large-eddy subranges of the turbulence spectrum. This approach yielded effective correlations for the onset and end of drop formation and for drop sizes as a function of distance along the surface for turbulent primary breakup.^{14,17} These results showed that drop sizes progressively increased with increasing distance along the surface and suggested that the end of the liquid core was reached when the diameters of drops formed by turbulent primary breakup were roughly equal to the initial diameter of the liquid jet itself.¹⁴ Subsequent evaluation of this concept for round liquid jets was promising,¹⁷ based on measurements using present methods as well as earlier measurements due to Chen and Davis⁵ and Grant and Middleman.6

One concern about the previous finding involved potential aerodynamic effects that were known to affect turbulent primary breakup properties due to the merging of primary and secondary breakup for some operating conditions.¹⁵ Another concern was potential effects of weakly-developed turbulence when jet exit Reynolds numbers were small.¹⁶ Thus, the objectives of the present investigation were to complete additional observations of the breakup lengths of turbulent liquid jets in order to assess the earlier findings, and to carry out measurements where aerodynamic and small Reynolds number effects were anticipated in order to help resolve both the properties and limitations of the turbulent liquid column breakup mechanism. Present observations were limited to round liquid jets in still air at standard temperature and pressure with jet exit conditions limited to non-cavitating flows with large length/diameter ratio constant area injector passages.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

Apparatus

Pressure injection was used to feed the test liquid from a cylindrical storage chamber into a round nozzle directed vertically downward as illustrated in Fig. 1. The storage chamber had an inside diameter and length of 190 and 305 mm, respectively. The nozzle had a smooth rounded entry (radius of curvature equal to the nozzle passage radius) followed by round, constant-area passages having length-to-diameter ratios greater than 40:1 to help ensure fully-developed turbulent pipe flow at the jet exit, see Ref. 16 and references cited therein.

Liquid was placed in the storage chamber through a port with premature outflow prevented by a cork in the nozzle exit. The liquid was forced through the nozzle, ejecting the cork, by admitting high-pressure air to the top of the storage chamber through a solenoid valve. A baffle at the air inlet prevented undesirable mixing between the air and the test liquid. The high pressure air was stored in an accumulator having a volume of 0.12 m³ on the upstream side of the solenoid valve, with provision for accumulator air pressures up to 1.9 MPa. The test liquid was captured in a baffled tub. The nozzle assembly could be traversed vertically with an accuracy of 0.5 mm using a linear bearing system in order to accommodate rigidly-mounted optical instrumentation.

Injection times of 100-400 ms were long compared to flow development times of 6-70 ms. Present optical measurements required less than 0.1 ms for triggering and data acquisition which did not impose any limitations on flow times. Jet velocities were calibrated in terms of nozzle pressure drop by measuring liquid surface velocities using doublepulse shadowgraphs as discussed later.

Instrumentation

Instrumentation consisted of single- and double-pulse shadowgraphy using an arrangement similar to Dai et al.¹⁸ Two frequency-doubled YAG lasers were used for the light sources; their operation could be controlled to provide pulse separations as small as 100 ns. The shadowgraphs were recorded using a 100 \times 125 mm film format with magnification of these records ranging up to 7:1. The photographs were obtained with an open camera shutter under darkroom conditions so that the 7 ns pulse duration controlled the exposure time and was sufficiently short to stop liquid surface motion.

Several images were averaged in order to find mean and rms fluctuating liquid column breakup lengths with experimental uncertainties (95% confidence) less than 5 and 20%, respectively, mainly dominated by sampling limitations. Measurements of liquid surface velocities were based on the motion of particular points along ligaments and other surface irregularities while summing over 40-200 points to find surface velocities with experimental uncertainties (95% confidence) less than 10%, also mainly dominated by sampling limitations.

Test Conditions

Present test conditions are summarized in Table 1. The test liquids were water and ethanol with 1.9 and 4.8 mm initial jet diameters. Other experimental parameters can be summarized as follows: u_o of 3-54 m/s, Re_{fd} of 6000-136,000, We_{fd} of 200-300000, Oh_d of 0.0015-0.0053 and L_o/d of 50-300. The Reynolds number range implies that the present results were dominated by effects of turbulent primary breakup, except as noted later. The small jet exit Ohnesorge numbers imply that direct effects of liquid viscosity on liquid breakup were small. Present measurements were also supplemented by the earlier results of Chen and Davis,⁵ and Grant and Middleman,⁶ as noted later.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Turbulent Breakup Process

Two types of turbulent liquid column breakup were observed, as follows: one at moderate Weber numbers, denoted the turbulent breakup process, associated with turbulent primary breakup along liquid surfaces similar to the observations of Chen and Davis,⁵ Grant and Middleman,⁶ and Wu and Faeth;¹⁷ the other at relatively large Weber numbers, denoted the bag/shear breakup process, associated with aerodynamic effects analogous to the secondary breakup of drops²⁰⁻²² and the primary breakup of nonturbulent liquid jets in gaseous cross flows.²³⁻²⁴ Flow visualization and phenomenological analysis to develop breakup length correlations will be considered for each of these mechanisms in the following.

The typical appearance of the turbulent liquid jets and the turbulent breakup process at moderate values of We_{fd} are illustrated in Fig. 2. This condition yields a liquid column whose surface is distorted by turbulence with the liquid column breakup process associated with liquid disturbances having characteristic dimensions comparable to the

diameter of the liquid column itself. Thus, liquid column breakup at these conditions appears to involve the turbulent primary breakup mechanism proposed by Wu et al.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Turbulent primary breakup when aerodynamic effects are small, proposed by Wu et al.,^{14,16} involves the formation of drops at the surface of a turbulent liquid. This mechanism of drop formation results from the distortion of the liquid surface by turbulent eddies, leading to the formation of drops of comparable size, given sufficient turbulence energy to supply the surface tension energy of the corresponding drop and sufficient time for the eddy to deform the surface to the extent needed to form a drop.^{14,16} Past measurements of drop sizes formed by this primary breakup mechanism are plotted in Fig. 3 as suggested by phenomenological analysis of the turbulent primary breakup process. Measurements shown in the figure include results for turbulent round free jets,14 turbulent plane free jets, 19 and turbulent plane wall jets,¹⁸ Also shown on the plot is a correlation of round turbulent liquid column breakup lengths developed using dimensional analysis by Grant and Middleman,⁶ as follows:

$$L_c/d = 8.51 \ We_{fd}^{0.32}$$
 (1)

where the range of L_c/d shown on the figure results from the variation of We_{fd} over the range of the measurements of Wu et al.^{14,16}

Two trends of the measurements and correlations illustrated in Fig. 3 are of interest for gaining a better understanding of turbulent primary breakup. First of all, drop sizes after turbulent primary breakup (represented by the SMD) progressively increase with increasing distance along the surface. This behavior comes about because larger drops require progressively more time to form, and thus travel a larger distance along the surface as they convect for their drop formation time. Another effect supporting this behavior is that smaller eddies. which create smaller drops, decay away before the larger drops can form. The second observation of interest is that the drop sizes resulting from turbulent primary breakup become comparable to the diameter of the liquid column itself for the range of conditions where the correlation of Grant and Middleman,° predicts liquid column breakup.

The observations just discussed in connection with Fig. 3 suggest associating turbulent liquid column breakup with conditions where drop sizes after turbulent primary breakup are comparable to the diameter of the liquid column.¹⁷ This can be done using the correlation for drop sizes after turbulent primary breakup obtained from phenomenological analysis, as follows:¹⁹

$$SMD/\Lambda = C_{sx}(x/(\Lambda We_{f\Lambda}^{1/2}))^{2/3}$$
 (2)

where $C_{sx} = 0.65$ based on the measurements of Wu et al.¹⁴ Then assuming that SMD ~ d at liquid column breakup, where $x = L_c$, Eq. (2) yields:

$$L_c/d = C_c We_{fd}^{1/2}$$
 (3)

where C_c is an empirical parameter on the order of unity. The similarity between Eq. (2), based on dimensional analysis of earlier measurements of turbulent liquid column breakup lengths, and Eq. (3) based on consideration of turbulent primary breakup processes, is encouraging. Thus, Eq. (3) was explored as a more mechanistic way of correlating turbulent liquid column breakup lengths.

Bag/Shear Breakup Process

When values of We_{fd} exceed the upper end of the range of measurements considered by Chen and Davis,⁵ and Grant and Middleman,⁶ the turbulent liquid column breakup mechanism changes. A low magnification photograph of the new large Weber number breakup process is illustrated in Fig. 4. In this case, large-scale turbulence distorts the liquid column to a much greater degree than during the turbulent liquid column breakup process at moderate Weber numbers illustrated in Fig. 2. Then for the conditions illustrated in Fig. 4, bag-like structures appear along the deformed liquid column that are similar to the bag-like structures formed near the onset of the secondary breakup of drops due to shock-wave disturbances²⁰⁻²² and the breakup of nonturbulent round liquid jets in cross flowing gases.^{23,24} This behavior suggests a somewhat surprising aerodynamic effect on breakup of the liquid column as a whole; namely, as transition to nonturbulent liquid column breakup in cross flow as opposed to an effect related to merging of primary and secondary breakup as seen for turbulent primary breakup along surfaces.¹⁵

A closer view of aerodynamic liquid column breakup of turbulent liquid jets can be seen in the pulsed shadowgraph photographs of Figs. 5-7. Figure 5 is an illustration of the cross stream distortion just prior to aerodynamic liquid column breakup. Typical of turbulent primary breakup, the small-scale liquid surface distortions due to smallscale eddies, seen nearer to the jet exit (e.g., Fig. 2) are absent because all the small-scale eddies have decayed. Thus, all that remains are large-scale distortions of a nearly nonturbulent liquid column. This places most liquid column elements in cross flow which leads to modes of breakup similar to those observed during the breakup of a nonturbulent liquid column in a gaseous cross flow,^{23,24} e.g., the bag-type breakup seen in Fig. 4. Two types of breakup of the liquid column in this manner were observed as illustrated in the close up photographs of Figs. 5 and 6; namely, bag-type column breakup (Fig. 5) and shear-type column breakup (Fig. 6). Notably, both these modes of liquid column breakup were observed by Mazallon et al.²⁴ for nonturbulent liquid column breakup in cross flowing gases; thus, the mechanism is clearly associated with an aerodynamic effect.

A simplified phenomenological analysis can provide some insight about the bag/shear breakup process and a convenient way of correlating these breakup lengths. First of all, by analogy to the secondary breakup of drops, the time required for bag or shear breakup of the liquid column is given by:²⁴

$$t_{bs} = C_{bs}(\rho_f / \rho_g)^{1/2} d/u_o$$
 (4)

where C_{bs} is an empirical parameter on the order of unity. Based on past findings for secondary drop breakup, the value of C_{bs} is not expected to differ very much with changes of the specific breakup mode, e.g., bag-type or shear-type breakup.²⁰⁻²² Now assume that the point of breakup corresponds to the streamwise distance reached by the column while moving at the mean jet exit velocity for a time, t_{bs} , as follows:

$$L_{c} = u_{o}t_{bs}$$
 (5)

Combining Eqs. (4) and (5) yields an expression for the bag/shear breakup length, as follows:

$$L_c/d = C_{bs}(\rho_f/\rho_g)^{1/2}$$
 (6)

where it is also required that the flow leaving the jet exit is turbulent. This result suggests that L_c/d first increases with increasing We_{fd} according to Eq. (3) and then becomes independent of We_{fd} at large values of this parameter (at conditions specifically governed by ρ_f/ρ_z).

The liquid jet breakup length correlation of Eq. (6) is identical to early correlations of liquid jet breakup lengths measured at large pressures by Hiroyasu et al.²⁵ and Chehoudri et al.²⁶ Their test

conditions, however, imply relatively small values of L_c/d where distortion of the entire liquid column in the manner illustrated in Figs. 4-7 is improbable. Instead, the high-pressure aerodynamic mechanism is much more likely to involve merging of turbulent primary breakup and secondary breakup of ligaments protruding from the liquid surface, as discussed by Wu et al.¹⁵ This mechanism only appears for pressures somewhat greater than atmospheric pressure,¹⁵ however, and was not a factor during the present investigation.

Mean Breakup Lengths

In order to assess ideas about the turbulent and bag/shear liquid column breakup processes, present and past measurements of L_c/d are plotted as a function of We_{fd} in Fig. 8. Measurements shown on this plot include results from Chen and Davis,⁵ Grant and Middleman,⁶ and the present investigation. Several correlations of the measurements are also shown on the plot, as follows: (1) the correlation of Eq. (1) due to Grant and Middleman,⁶ based on the measurements of Refs. 5 and 6 for We_{fd} of $10^2 - 10^5$; (2) the best fit correlation of turbulent breakup theory based on Eq. (3),

$$L_{\rm c}/d = 2.1 \ {\rm We_{fd}}^{1/2}$$
 (7)

where the standard deviation of the coefficient is 0.2, based on the present measurements for We_{fd} of 700-30,000; and (3) the best fit correlation of bag/shear breakup theory based on Eq. (6),

$$L_c/d = 11.0(\rho_f/\rho_g)^{1/2}$$
 (8)

where the standard deviation of the coefficient is 0.3, based on the present measurements for ethanol with We_{fd} greater than 100,000. Another correlation illustrated on the plot is for bag/shear breakup of water jets computed from Eq. (8).

Present measurements, and those of Chen and Davis⁵ and Grant and Middleman,⁶ of L_c/d in Fig. 8 are in excellent agreement for the range of conditions where they can be compared. The Grant and Middleman,⁶ expression for L_c/d given by Eq. (1) is also seen to provide a good correlation of the measurements over the range of We_{fd} that they considered. Closer examination, however, suggests that this performance may be an artifact of transition from turbulent breakup to different breakup mechanisms at the large and small We_{fd} ranges of the measurements. For example, at small We_{fd}, jet Reynolds numbers become small, approaching values of 2000 so that effects of weakly-developed turbulence become a factor; this is supported by transitional-like behavior where the measurements shift from the Grant and Middleman,⁶ correlation for We_{fd} smaller than 400 to the present turbulent breakup correlation for We_{fd} larger than 800 (the corresponding transitional range of Re is 5000-25000 which is supportive of effects of weakly-developed turbulence¹⁶). Additional evidence of an effect of laminar-like behavior at small We_{fd} was obtained by direct flow visualization using pulsed shadowgraphy; not surprisingly, these photographs showed that breakup involved regular Rayleigh-like breakup of a smooth liquid column for the smallest We_{fd} considered in Fig. 8.

At the other extreme, L_c/d proved to be relatively independent of We_{fd}, as suggested by Eq. (8) for an extended range of We_{fg} of 30,000-300,000 in agreement with the bag/shear breakup mechanism. In fact, the variation of density ratio over the present test range also does not have a significant influence on liquid column breakup lengths compared to experimental uncertainties. With these changes, the intermediate region, Wefd of 600-30,000, is seen to be in reasonably good agreement with behavior expected for the turbulent breakup mechanism from Eq. (7). Finally, the various correlations all seem to be reasonable, with C_c in Eq. (3) on the order of unity and values of C_{bs} in Eq. (6) comparable to the earlier measurements of Hiroyasu et al.25 and Chehroudi et al.²⁶ In addition, the best fit correlation of the turbulent breakup mechanism also properly indicates liquid column breakup when drop sizes resulting from turbulent primary breakup are comparable to the initial liquid jet diameter; this behavior can be confirmed easily by comparing the Grant and Middleman,⁶ correlations in Figs. 2 and 8.

Fluctuating Breakup Lengths

The degree of the streamwise fluctuation of liquid column breakup length is illustrated in Fig. 9, based on present measurements. The values of L_c'/L_c are seen to progressively decrease from values of roughly 0.1 at We_{fd} of 10^2 to values of roughly 0.01 at We_{fd} of 10^5 . Referring to Fig. 8, it is evident that this change mainly comes about due to an increase of L_c ; with values of L_c remaining roughly constant over the present test range.

CONCLUSIONS

This investigation considered the breakup lengths of turbulent liquid jets in still air at standard temperature and pressure with jet exit conditions limited to non-cavitating flows having large length/diameter ratio constant area injector passages and jet exit Reynolds and Weber numbers of 5,000-140,000 and 100-300,000, respectively. Major conclusions of the study are as follows:

1. Available measurements of liquid jet breakup lengths due to Chen and Davis,⁵ Grant and Middleman,⁶ and the present investigation are in excellent agreement over the range of conditions where they overlap.

2. The Grant and Middleman,⁶ correlation of liquid jet breakup length, Eq. (1), provides a reasonably good correlation of available measurements for We_{fd} of 200-300,000 but this performance is largely an artifact of effects of transition to laminar jet exit conditions and Rayleigh breakup at small We_{fd} , and transition to aerodynamic bag/shear breakup at large We_{fd} .

3. At moderate We_{fd} of 600-30,000, liquid jet breakup is associated with the turbulent breakup mechanism, given by the correlation of Eq. (7), where liquid column breakup occurs when drop sizes resulting from turbulent primary breakup along the liquid surface become comparable to the diameter of the liquid column itself.

4. At large We_{fd}, greater than 30,000, liquid jet breakup is associated with the bag/shear breakup mechanism, given by the correlation of Eq. (8), where the liquid column is distorted in the cross stream direction and small scale turbulence disappears, and breakup occurs by the appearance of bag-like and shear-like structures, analogous to aerodynamic breakup of nonturbulent liquid jets in gaseous cross flows.

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Table 1 Summary of test conditions^a

Liquid	Water	Ethanol			
ρ_{f} (kg/m ³)	997	800			
₽ŗ∕₽g	860	690			
$\mu_{\rm f} imes 10^4$ (kg/ms)	8.94	16.0			
$\sigma \times 10^3$ (N/m)	70.8	24.0			
d (mm)	1.9, 4.8	4.8			
u _o (m/s)	3-25	23-54			
$\text{Re}_{\text{fd}} \times 10^{-3}$	6-136	57-129			
$We_{fd} \times 10^{-2}$	2-400	500-3000			
$Oh_d \times 10^4$	15-24	53			
L _c /d	50-300	200-300			

^aPressure-atomized injection vertically downward in still air at 99 \pm 0.5 kPa and 297 \pm 0.5 K ($\rho_g = 1.16$ kg/m³ and $\nu_g = 15.9$ mm²/s). Round injector with a rounded entry and a length-to-diameter ratio of 40:1.

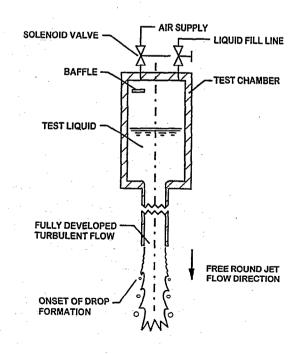


Fig.1 Sketch of the round jet apparatus

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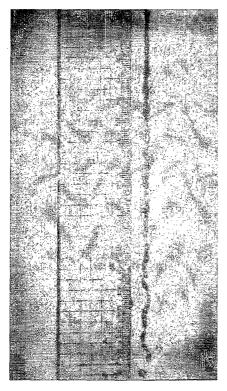


Fig.2 Photograph of round turbulent liquid jet breakup at small Weber number: water jet in still air, d = 1.9 mm, $We_{fd} = 1670$, Re = 13690.

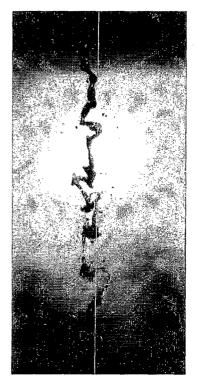


Fig.4 Photograph of round turbulent liquid jet breakup at a large Weber number: water jet in still air, d = 4.8 mm, $We_{fd} = 33100$, Re = 97100.

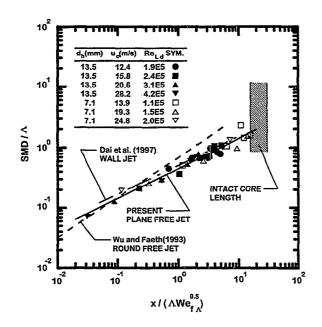


Fig.3 SMD after turbulent primary breakup as a function of distance along the surface. Measurements include results for round free jets from Wu and Faeth,¹⁴ plane wall jets from Dai et al.¹⁸ and plane free jets from Sallam et al.¹⁹ Intact core length correlation for round jets from Grant and Middleman.⁶

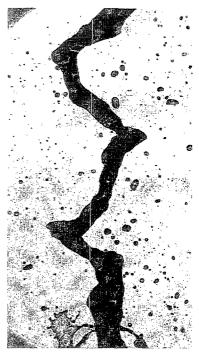
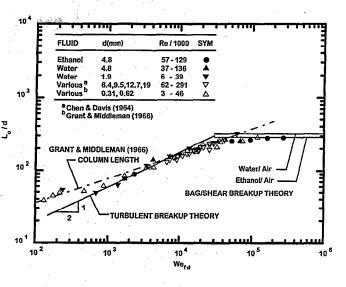
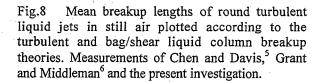


Fig.5 Photograph of large cross stream distortions near the tip of round turbulent liquid jets at large Weber numbers: water jet in still air, d = 4.8 mm, $We_{fd} = 33100$, Re = 97100 at a distance of 1010-1060 mm from the jet exit.



Fig.6 Photograph of the bag-like structures formed in large cross stream distortions near the tip of round turbulent liquid jets at large Weber numbers: water jet in still air, d = 4.8 mm, $We_{fd} = 33100$, Re = 97100at a distance of 1040 mm from the jet exit.





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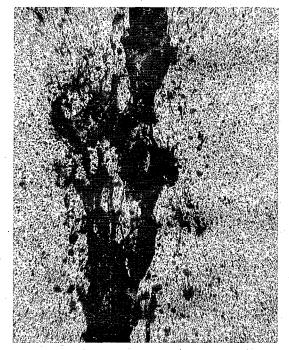


Fig.7 Photograph of shear-type breakup near the tip of round turbulent liquid jets at large Weber numbers: ethanol jets in still air, d = 0.8 mm, $We_{fd} = 271000$, Re = 129000 at a distance of 1300 mm from the jet exit.

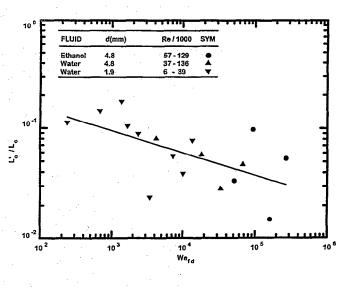


Fig.9 Normalized rms fluctuations of liquid column breakup lengths of round turbulent liquid jets in still air.