

Application and validation of combustion models for SI engines operating with diluted mixtures

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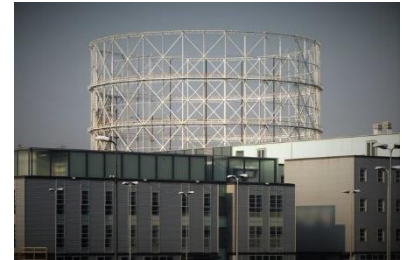
Takayuki Hori, Taisuke Shiraishi
Nissan Motor Co. (Japan)



NISSAN



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**



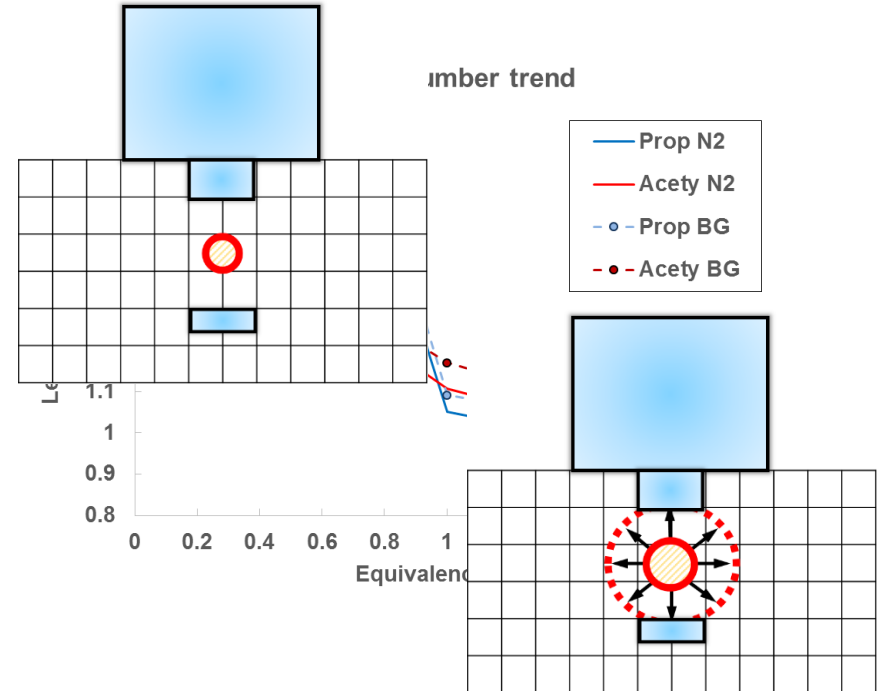
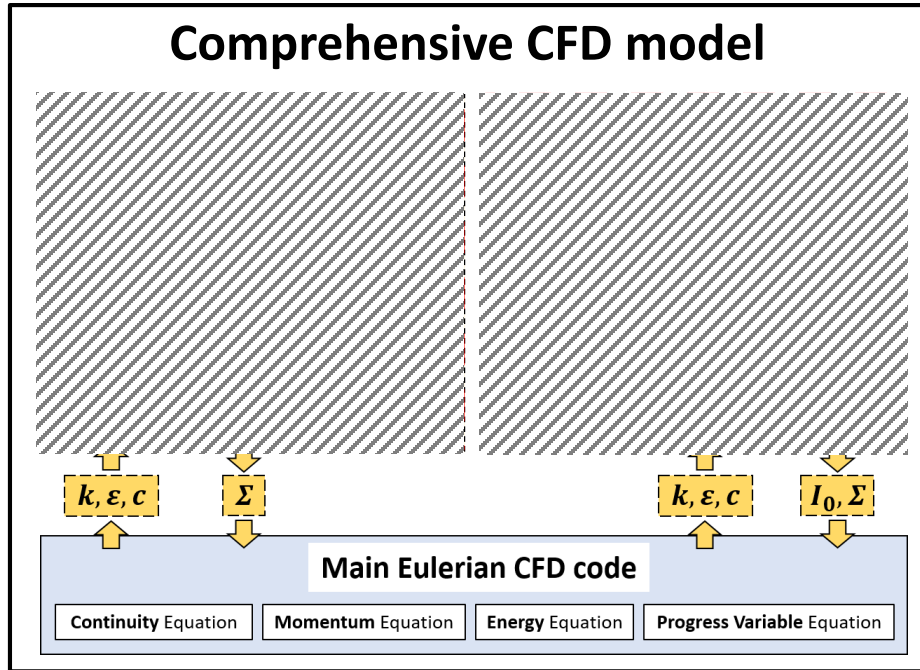
Outline

- 1) **Modeling approaches for SI combustion** developed using the Open-FOAM[®] technology
 - a) *Eulerian-only*
 - b) *Lagrangian-Eulerian*

- 2) **SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures**
 - a) *Applications*
 - b) *Validations*

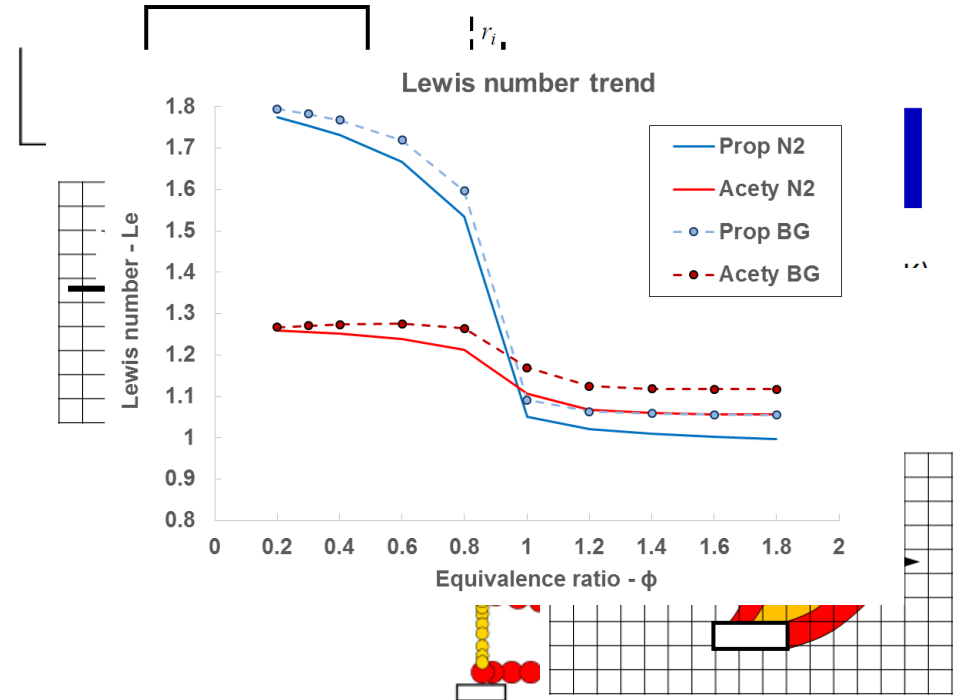
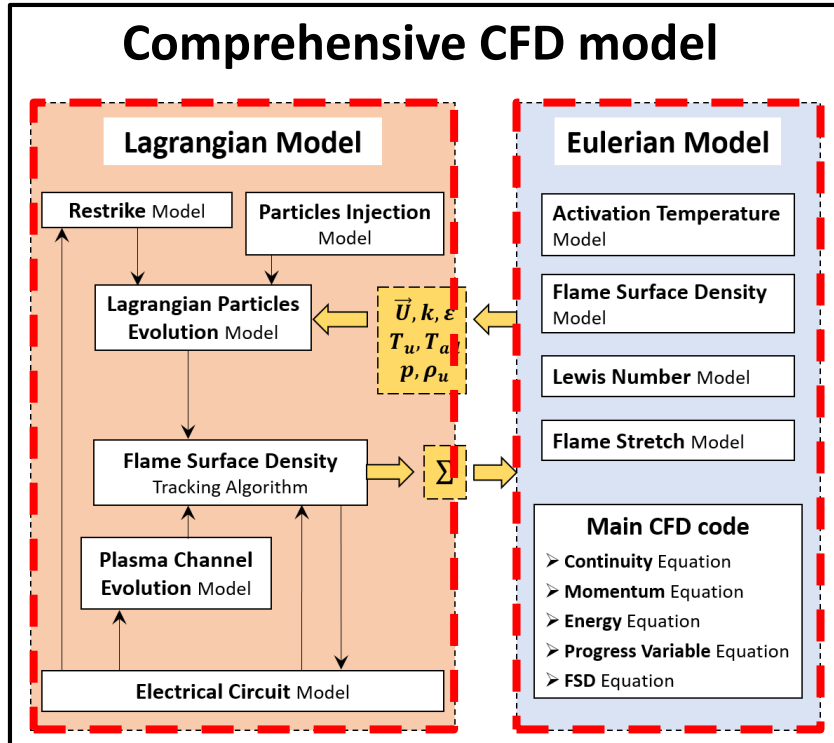
The *Eulerian-only* model for SI combustion

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology



The *Lagrangian-Eulerian* model for SI combustion

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

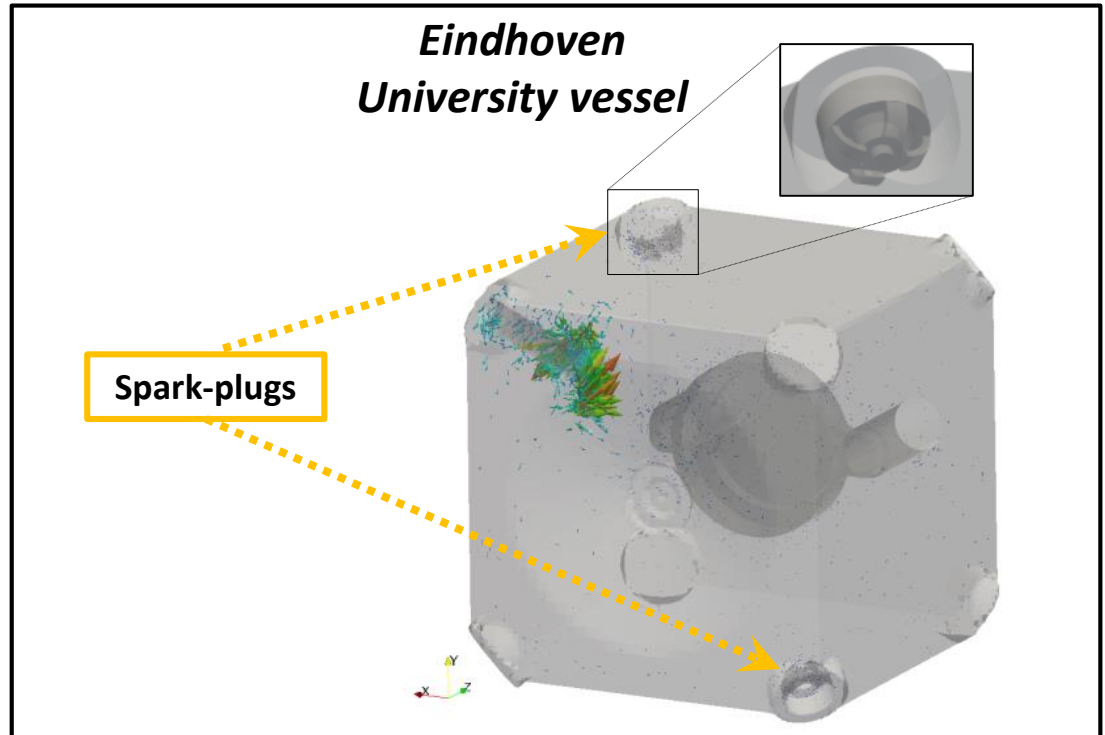
SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Applications

- Pressurized vessels
- Multi-ignition systems
- Fan-generated flow velocity and turbulence fields at the spark-gap
- Research engines

TU/e Technische Universiteit
Eindhoven
University of Technology

FPT
POWERTRAIN TECHNOLOGIES



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

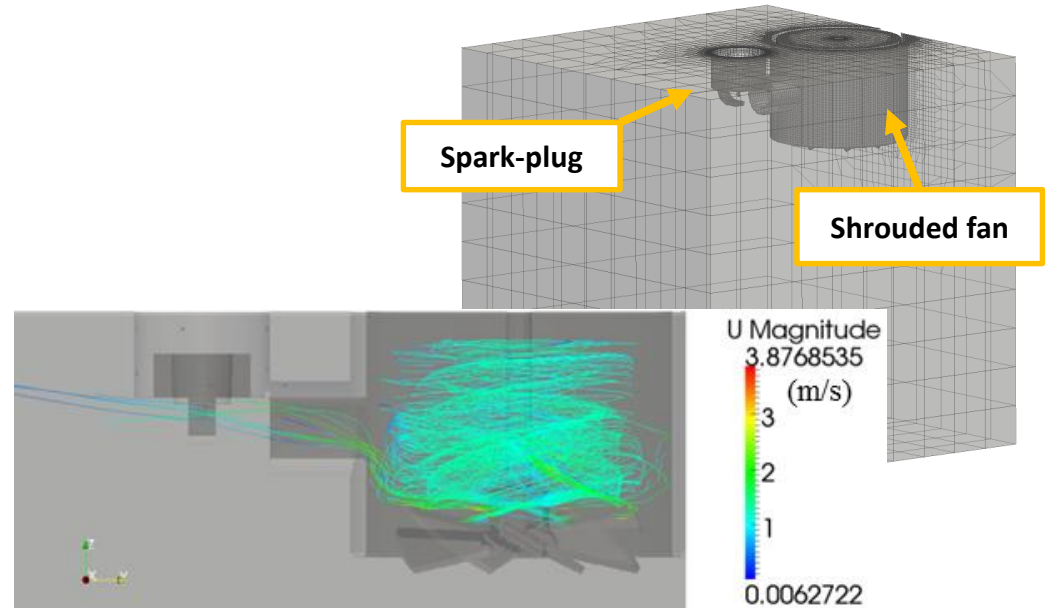
Applications

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Michigan
Technological
University

Michigan Tech University vessel



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

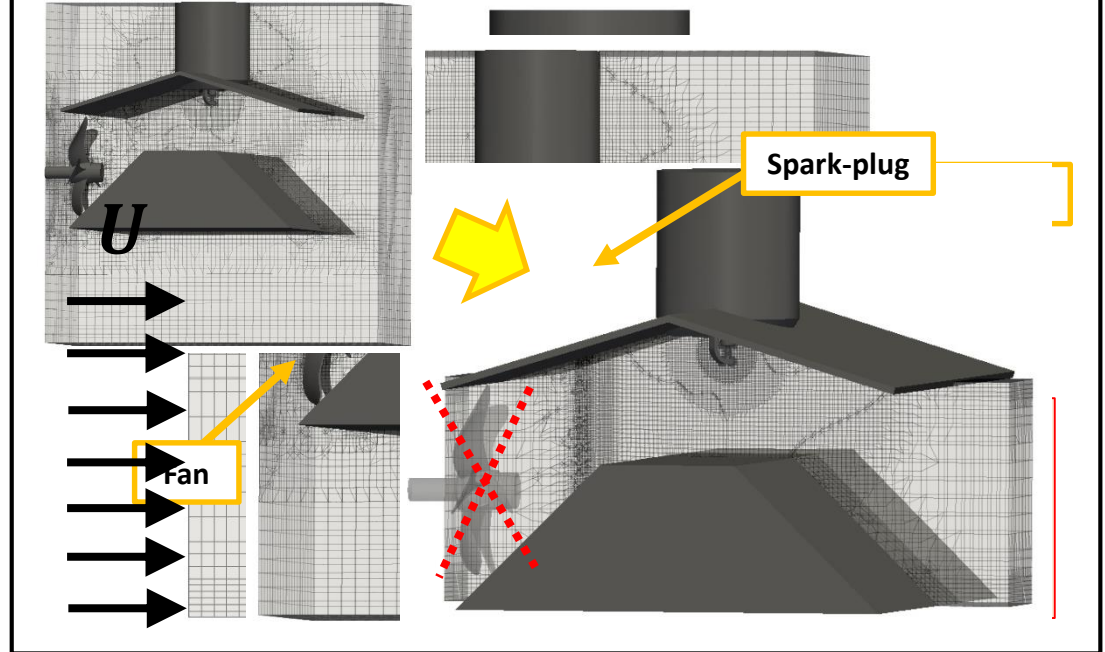
Applications

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- Multi-ignition systems
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NISSAN

Chiba University vessel



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

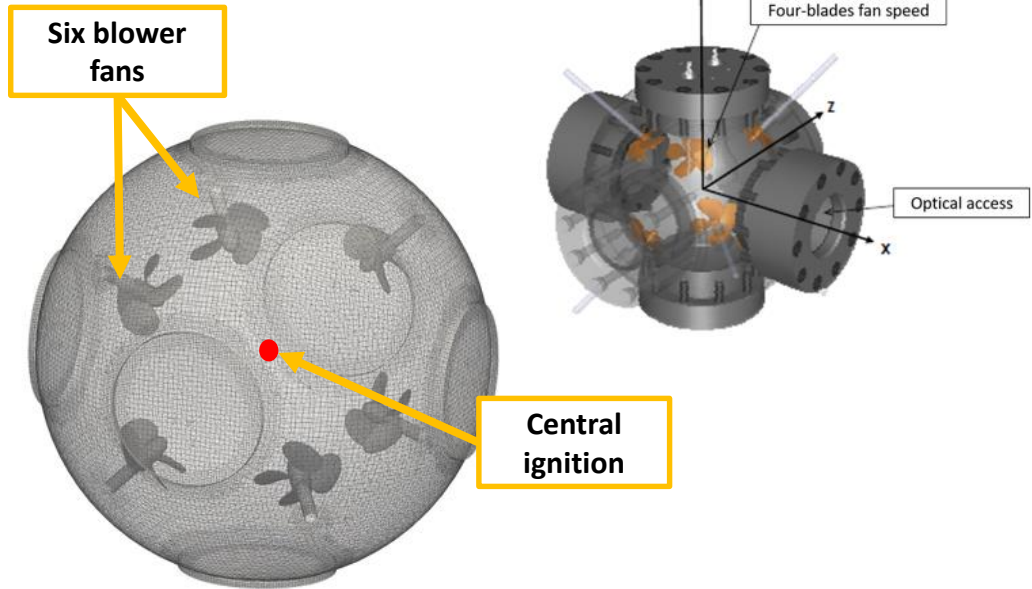
SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Applications

- Pressurized vessels
- Multi-ignition systems
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- Research engines



Orleans University vessel



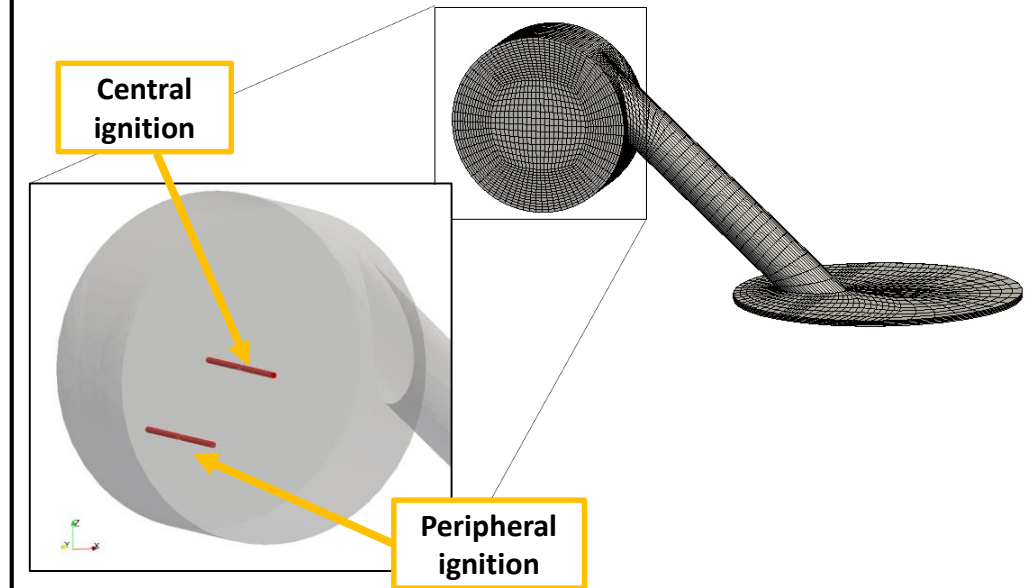
SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Applications

- Pressurized vessels
- Multi-ignition systems
- Fan-generated flow velocity and turbulence fields at the spark-gap
- Research engines

Herweg-Maly side chamber



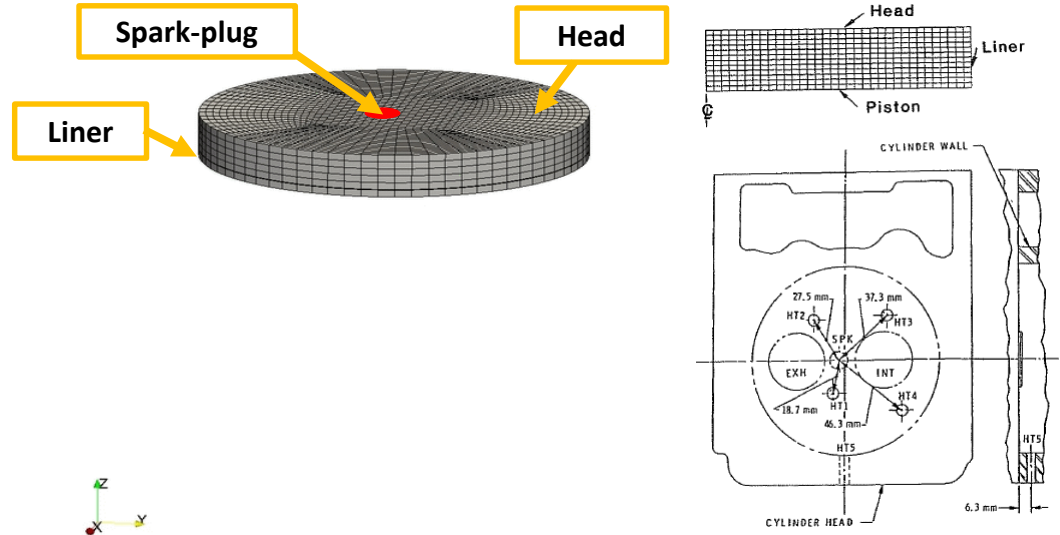
SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Applications

- Pressurized vessels
- Multi-ignition systems
- Fan-generated flow velocity and turbulence fields at the spark-gap
- Research engines

GM "pancake" engine



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Lagrangian-Eulerian model
for SI combustion

Analyzed conditions

➤ Fuel: *Propane*

➤ $k - \omega$ SST turbulence model
with **RANS** approach

Lean mixtures with EGR

Test	Charged gas	P (bar)	T (K)	ρ (kg/m ³)	n (rpm)
2	$\Phi = 0.7$ $EGR = 20\%$	8	453	6.21	3000
3	$\Phi = 0.7$ $EGR = 20\%$	8	453	6.21	6000
6	$\Phi = 0.7$ $EGR = 20\%$	16	453	12.42	3000
9	$\Phi = 0.9$ $EGR = 20\%$	8	453	6.33	6000

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Analyzed conditions

Test	Charged gas	P (bar)	T (K)	ρ (kg/m ³)	n (rpm)
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Investigation target

Assessing the model behavior under **variations of:**

- a) Turbulence intensity u' b) Equivalence ratio ϕ c) Pressure P

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Analyzed conditions

Test	Charged gas	P (bar)	T (K)	ρ (kg/m ³)	n (rpm)
2	$\Phi = 0.7$ <i>EGR = 20%</i>	8	453	6.21	3000
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Investigation target

Numerical investigation on:

a) *Flame front position*

b) *Burnt mass*

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Analyzed conditions

Test	Charged gas	P (bar)	T (K)	ρ (kg/m ³)	n (rpm)
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Annotations: A red dashed arrow points from test 2 to test 3. A red box highlights the text "↑ flame speed" in the middle of the table. Another red box highlights the text "↑ flame speed" in the column for test 2. A red arrow points from the highlighted text in the middle to the highlighted text in the column for test 2.

Expected behaviors

Form experimental observations and well known knowledge, an \uparrow **flame front velocity** is achieved under:

- a) $\uparrow u'$ b) $\uparrow \phi$ c) $\uparrow P$

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

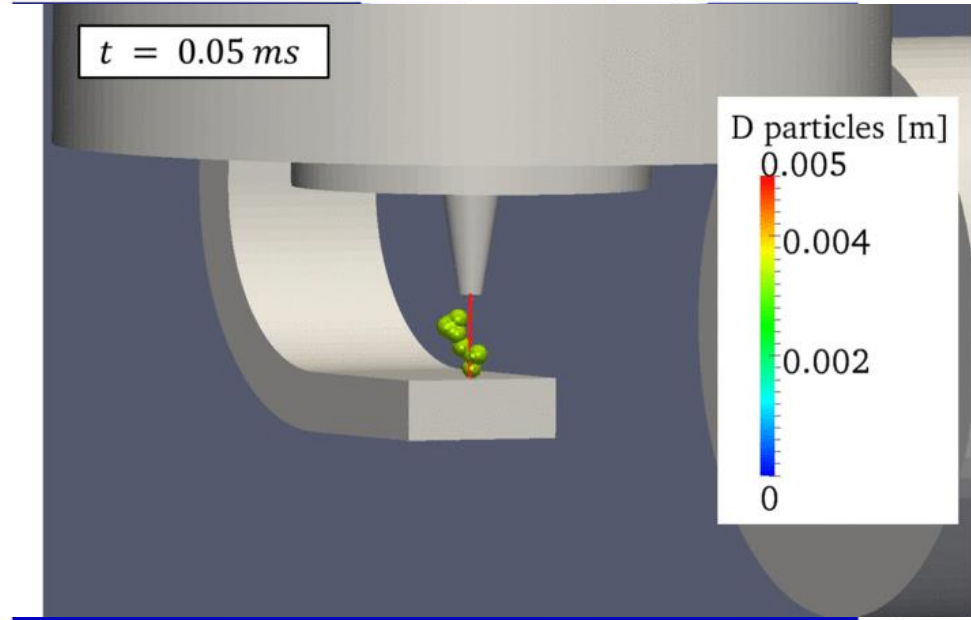
Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

- Lagrangian particles dimension artificially decreased by a factor of 10, simulation



Chance to appreciate the **effects of local flow field on channel geometry**



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

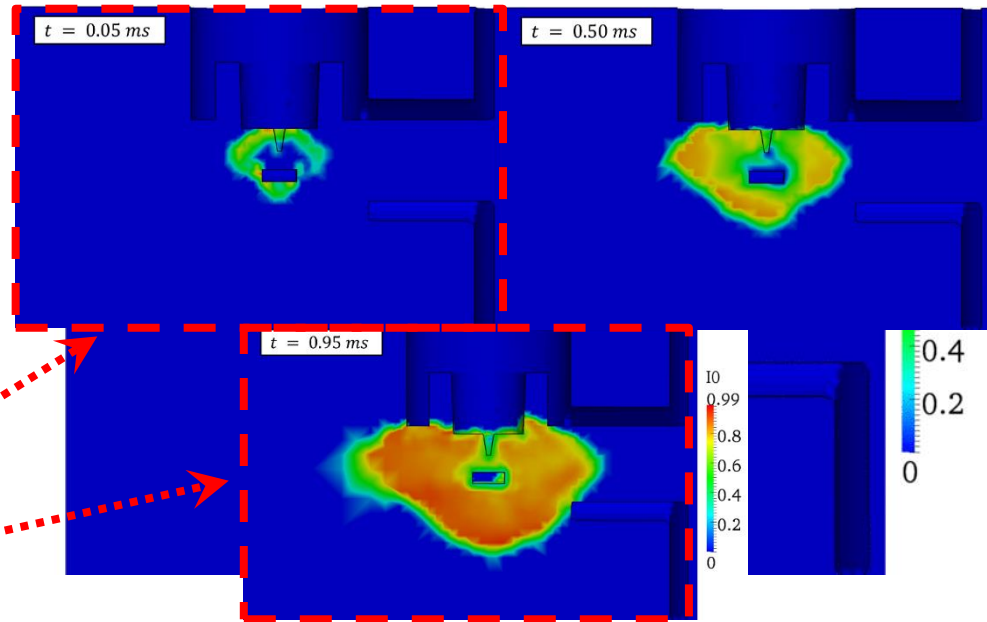
- Michigan Tech University vessel
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- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Definition

$$I_0 = \frac{S_u}{S_{u0}}$$

- Important contribution during flame stretch
- Self-sustained flame front ($I_{0,max} \approx 0.0$)

Flame stretch



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

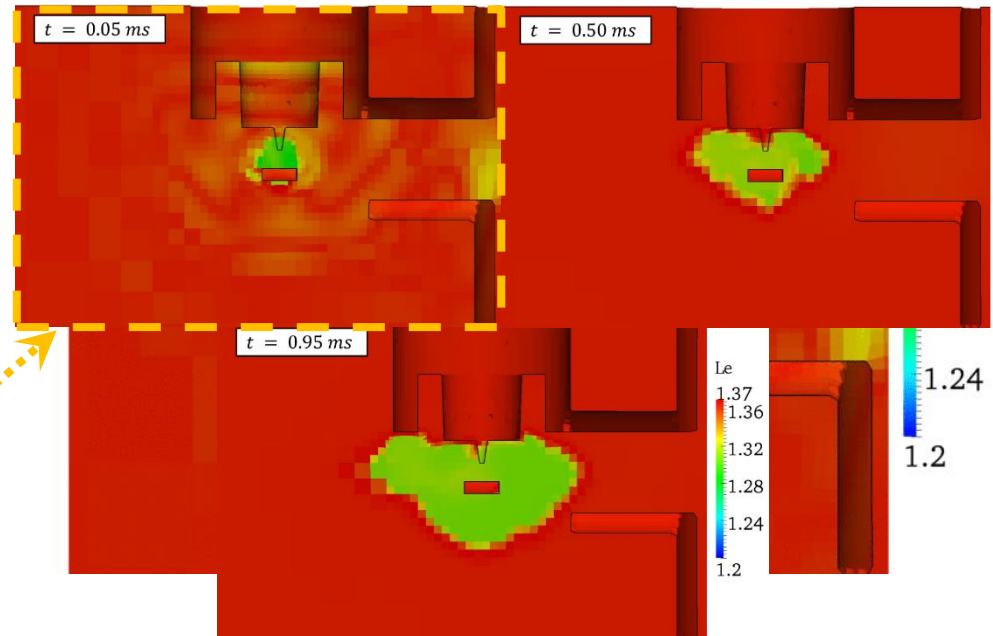
- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

➤ Intermediate values between

a) $Le_{C_3H_8} \approx 1.8$

b) $Le_{Air} \approx 1.0$

Lewis number



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

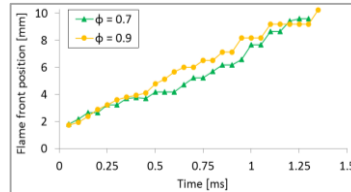
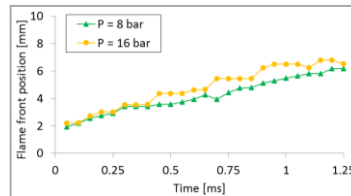
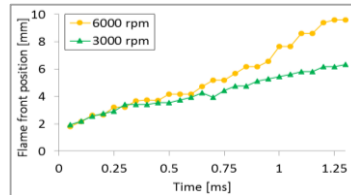
Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

↑ *flame speed* is achieved with
↑ u' , ↑ ϕ and ↑ P

Flame front position

Numerical

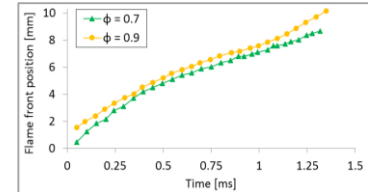
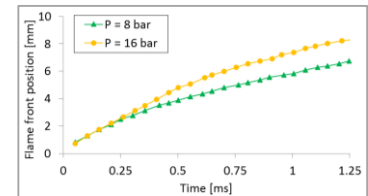
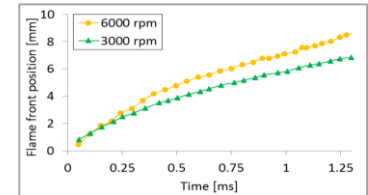


u'
variation

P
variation

ϕ
variation

Experimental



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

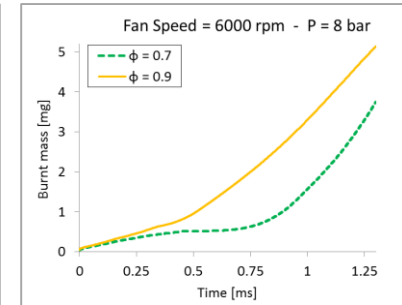
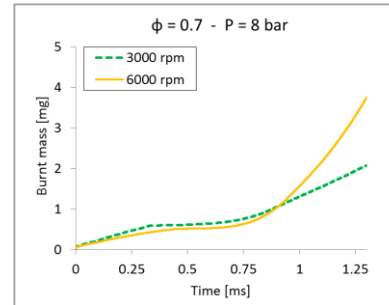
Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Same trends are confirmed

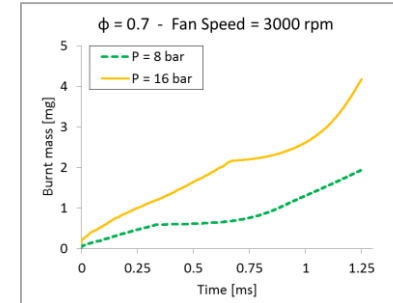
Burnt mass

u'
variation



ϕ
variation

Numerical
results only



P
variation

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Lagrangian-Eulerian model
for SI combustion

Analyzed conditions

- Fuel: *Propane*
- $P = 2 \text{ bar}$
- $\vec{U}_{\text{spark-gap}} \approx 10 \text{ m/s}$
- $T \approx 300 \text{ K}$
- $k - \omega \text{ SST}$ turbulence model with **RANS** approach

Stoichiometric mixture with EGR

- $\phi = 1$
- $EGR = 30\%$
(hypothesis of 100% N_2)

Lean mixture

- $\phi = 0.7$
- $EGR = 0\%$
(hypothesis of 100% N_2)

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Investigation target

Experimental imposition of:

- the *secondary current* i_s trend
- a **variation** in **initial secondary current value** i_s



Numerical prediction of:

- Voltage* V_s trend
- Plasma channel shape*
- Flame area* after 1 ms from spark onset

Expected behaviors

From several experimental observations, an $\uparrow i_s$ corresponds to:

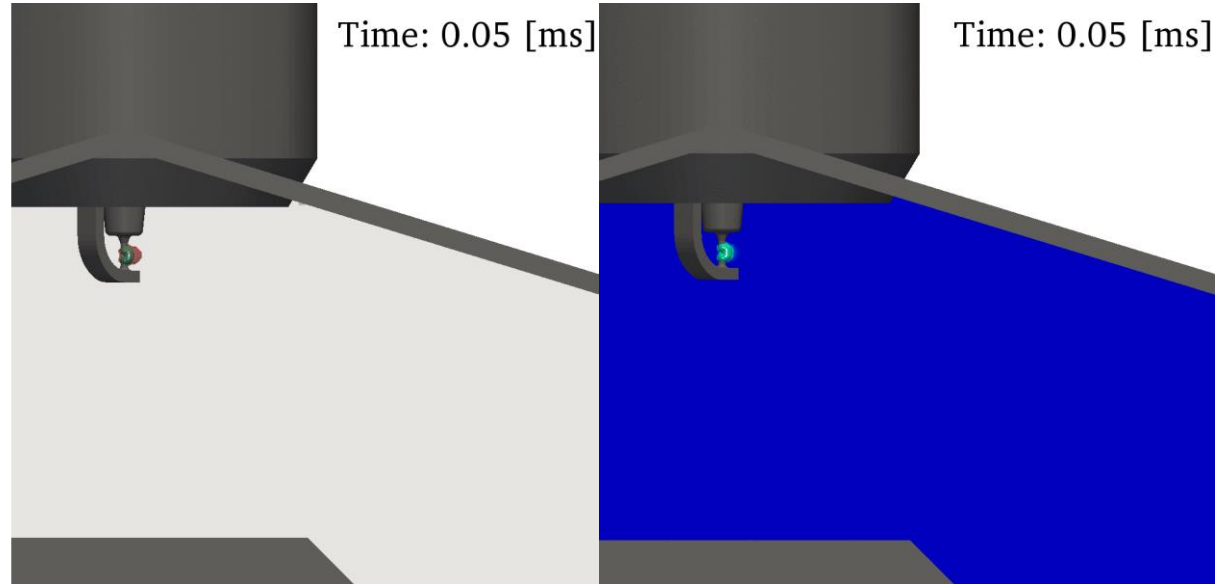
- $\downarrow dV_s/dt$, with a consequent longer 1st discharge duration
- $\uparrow l_{channel}$ and $\uparrow d_{channel}$
- \uparrow **flame area** after 1 ms from spark onset

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

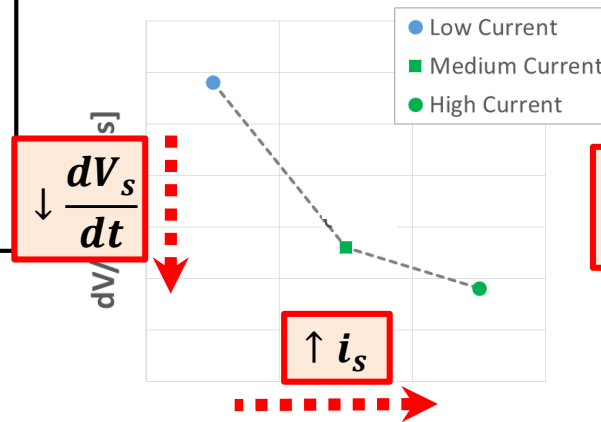
- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
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Stoichiometric mixture
with EGR

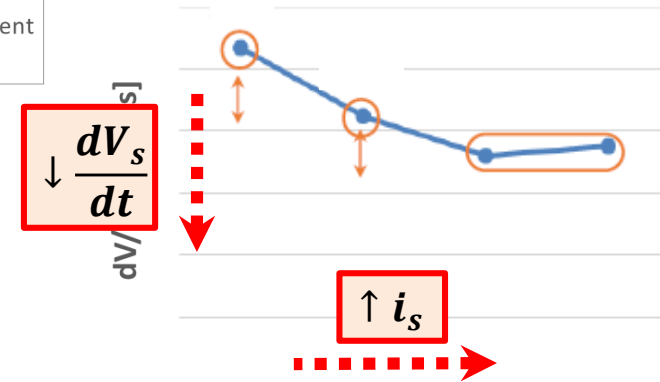
$\phi = 1$ **EGR = 30%**
(hypothesis of 100% N_2)

Voltage trend

Numerical



Experimental



Initial $\uparrow i_s$ corresponds to $\downarrow dV_s/dt$

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

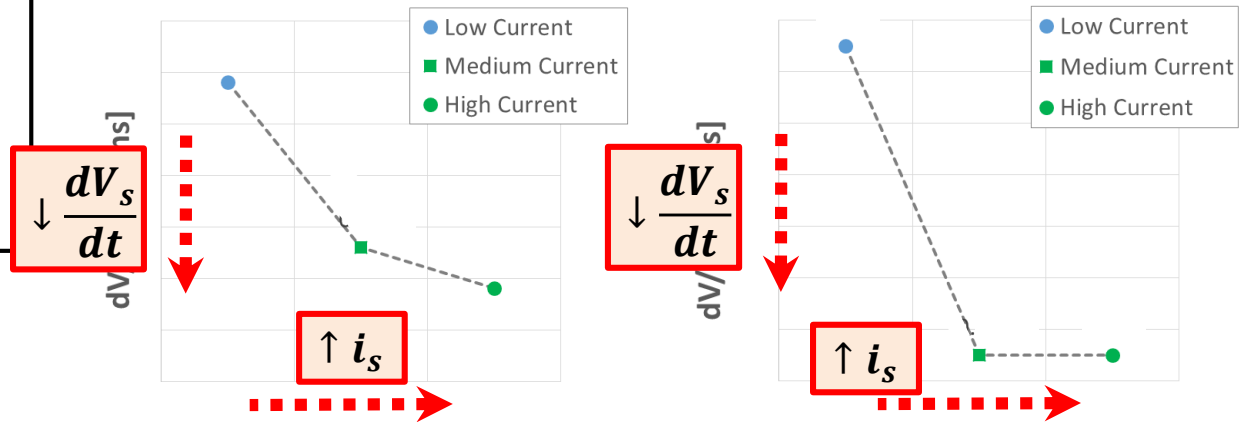
- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Numerical results

Voltage trend

Stoichiometric mixture with EGR

Lean mixture



Same trend is confirmed

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

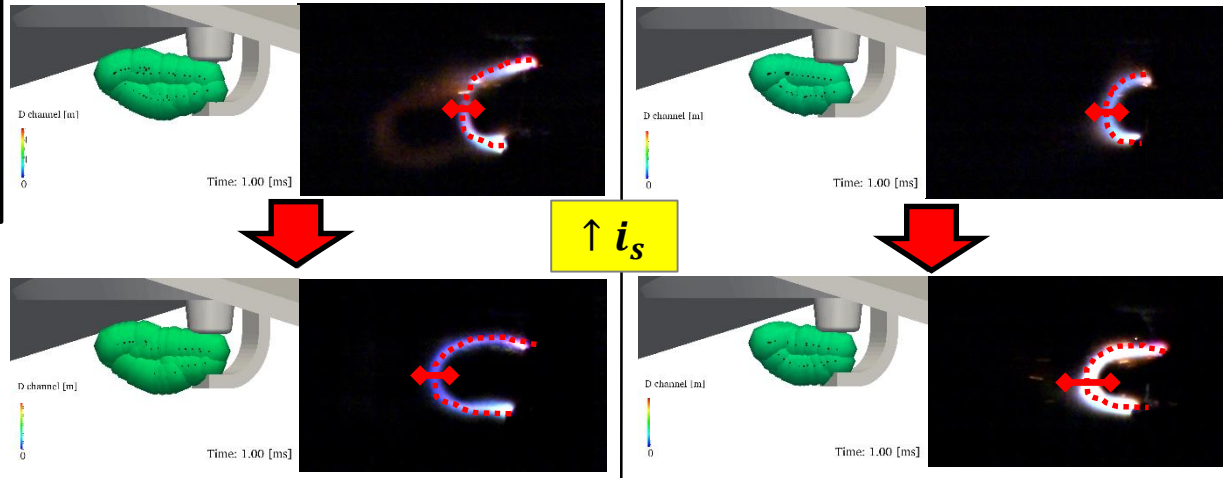
Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
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- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Plasma channel shape

Stoichiometric mixture with EGR

Lean mixture



$\uparrow l_{channel}$ and $\uparrow d_{channel}$

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

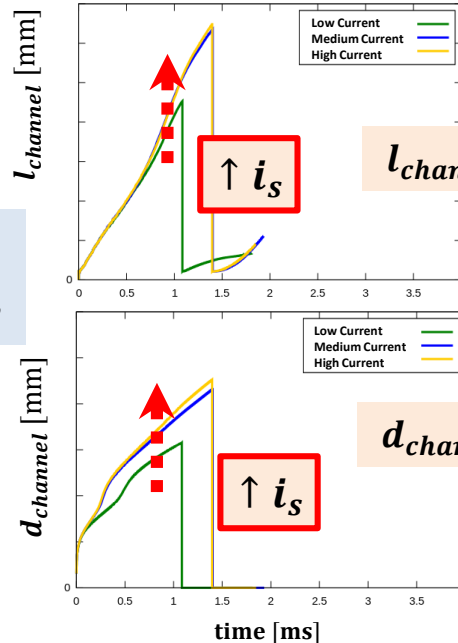
- Michigan Tech University vessel
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Numerical results

Initial $\uparrow i_s$ corresponds to
 $\uparrow l_{channel}$ and $\uparrow d_{channel}$

Plasma channel shape

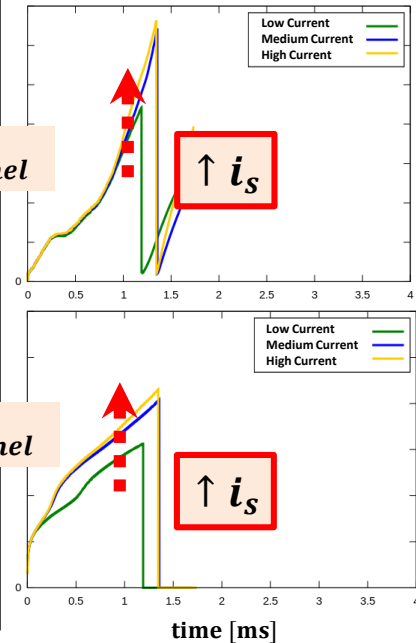
Stoich.
mixture
with EGR



$l_{channel}$

$d_{channel}$

Lean
mixture



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

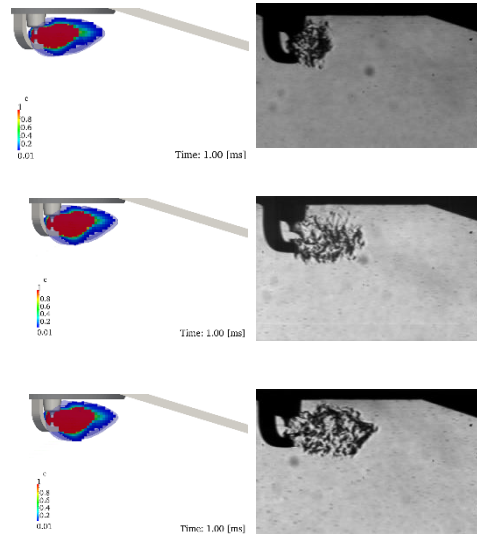
- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

“Visual” comparison

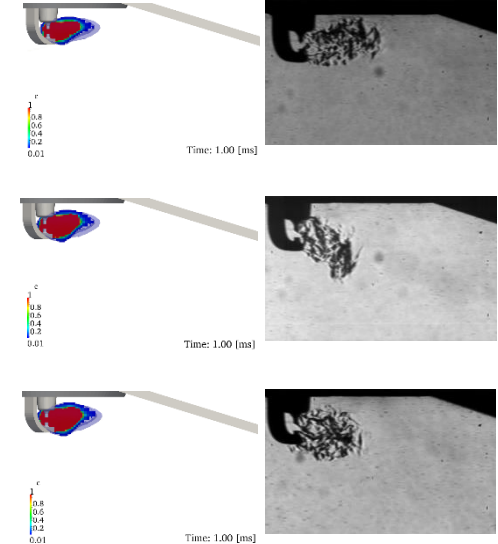
Numerical results seem to agree with *experimental findings*

Flame area after 1 ms from spark onset

Stoichiometric mixture with EGR



Lean mixture



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

$\uparrow i_s \rightarrow \uparrow$ released energy

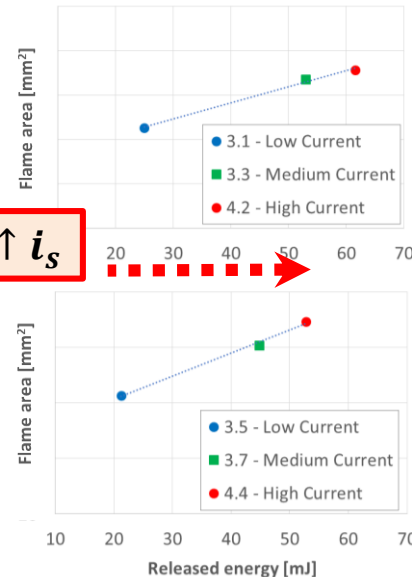
Initial $\uparrow i_s$ corresponds to \uparrow flame area after 1 ms from spark onset

Stoich.
mixture
with EGR

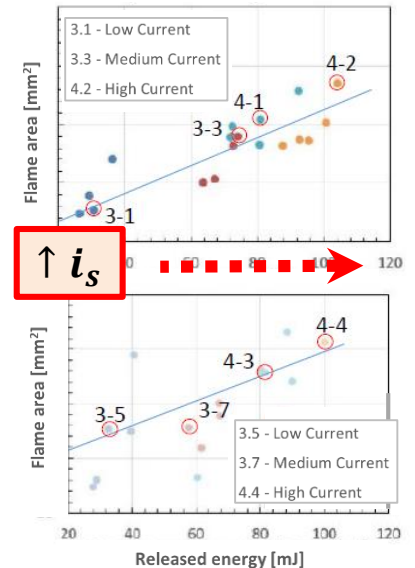
Lean
mixture

Flame area after 1 ms from spark onset

Numerical



Experimental



SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

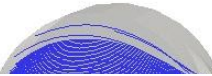
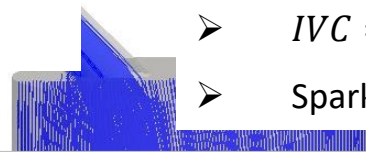
SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Eulerian-only model
for SI combustion

Analyzed conditions

- 
- Fuel: *Propane*
 - $P_{spark-timing} = 5 \text{ bar}$
 - Ignition location:
central, peripheral
 - $T_{IVC} \approx 300 \text{ K}$
 - $k - \omega$ SST turbulence model with **RANS** approach
 - $IVC = -168 \text{ CAD}$
 - Spark-timing = -10 CAD
- 

Lean to stoichiometric mixtures

- $\phi = 0.67, 0.77, 1$
- **EGR** = 0% (hypothesis of 100% N_2)
- **speed** = 300, 500, 750, 1000, 1250 rpm

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Ing. Federico Clerici
M.Sc. thesis work

Investigation target

Assessing the model behavior under **variations of:**

- Equivalence ratio ϕ
- Turbulence intensity u'
- Ignition **location**



Numerical investigation on:

- Cold-flow, in order to evaluate U and u' prediction
- Flame burnt volume

Expected behaviors

Form experimental observations and well known knowledge, an \uparrow **flame front velocity** is achieved under:

- $\uparrow u'$
- $\uparrow \phi$

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures



SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

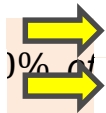
- Michigan Tech University vessel
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M.Sc. thesis work

Legend:

- Num. data 
- Exp. data 

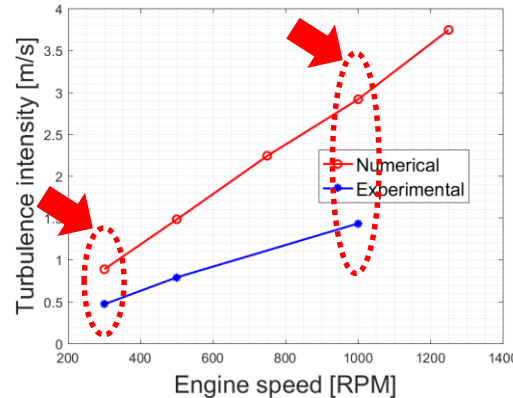
If ↑ rpm
If ↓ rpm



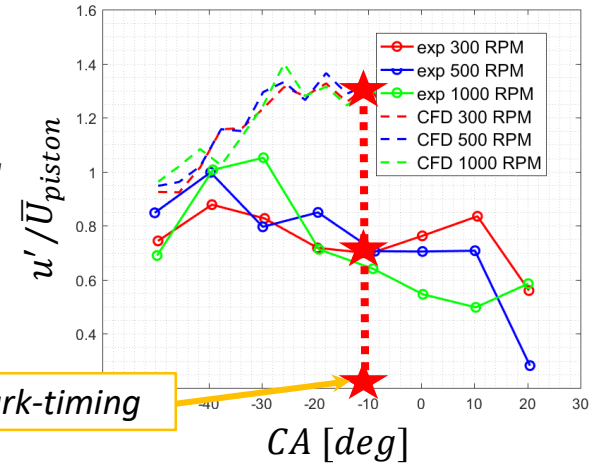
$$\begin{aligned} & \uparrow (u'_{num} - u'_{exp}) \\ & \downarrow (u'_{num} - u'_{exp}) \end{aligned}$$

↑ numerical flame front speed
↓ numerical flame front speed

Cold flow



Normalized u'



Spark-timing

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

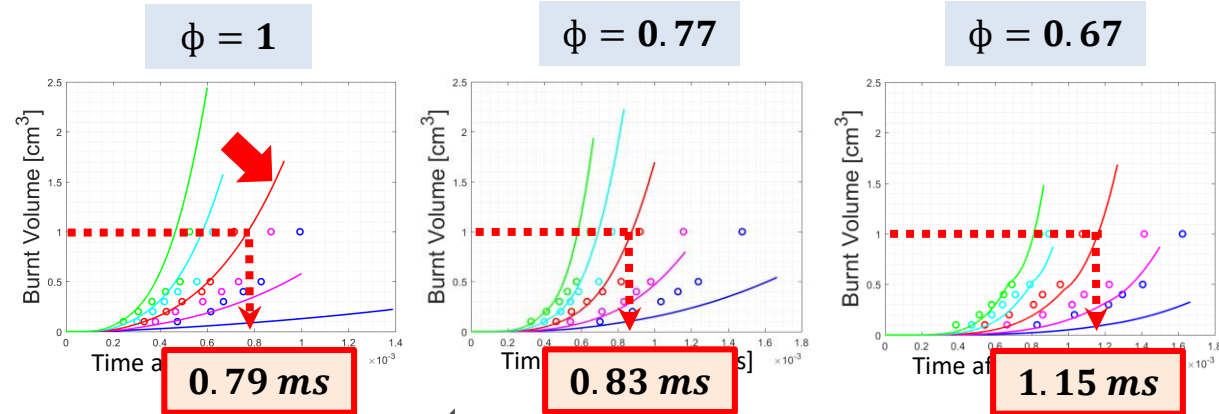
Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

Ing. Federico Clerici
M.Sc. thesis work

Model calibration at:
 $\phi = 1$ *speed = 750 rpm*

Flame burnt volume



Model calibration at:
 $\phi = 1$ *speed = 750 rpm* ved
under an $\uparrow \phi$

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

- Michigan Tech University vessel
- Chiba University vessel
- Herweg-Maly side chamber

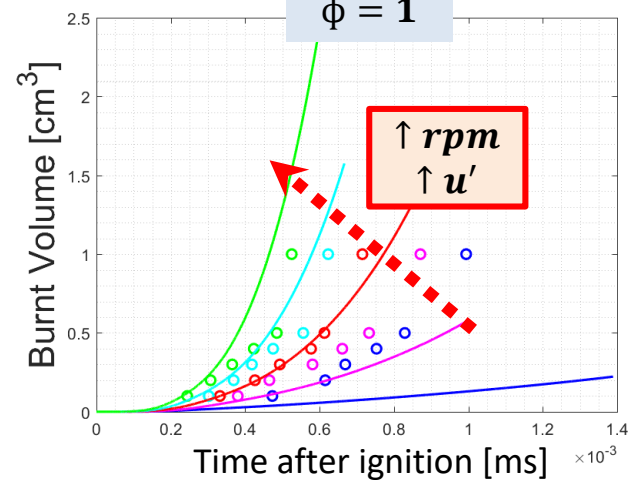
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M.Sc. thesis work

Legend:

- Num. data
- Exp. Data
- 300 RPM
- 500 RPM
- 750 RPM
- 1000 RPM
- 1250 RPM



Flame burnt volume



Model calibration at:
 $\phi = 1$ speed = 750 rpm

As expected,
if $\uparrow rpm$

As expected, if $\uparrow rpm$ \Rightarrow $(u'_{num} - u'_{exp}) \uparrow$ \Rightarrow \uparrow numerical flame front speed

SI combustion simulation of diluted mixtures

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

Validations

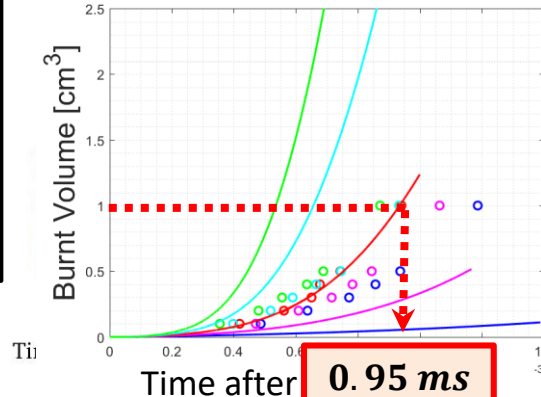
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M.Sc. thesis work

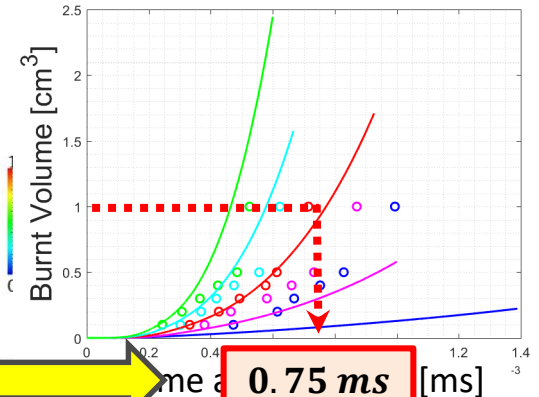
Model calibration at:
 $\phi = 1$ *speed = 750 rpm*

Flame burnt volume

Central ignition



Peripheral ignition



↑ flame front velocity is achieved going to peripheral ignition,
because ↑ u' when ↑ $r_{side\ chamber}$

Conclusions

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

- The developed **modeling approaches** for SI combustion allow to **model with different complexities the ignition stage**

a) ↓ detail → *Eulerian-only* model

b) ↑ detail → *Lagrangian-Eulerian* model



Useful to fulfill
different requests

- The proposed approaches are **validated** for **simulating diluted mixture conditions**

Future developments

SI combustion engine modeling using the Open-FOAM® technology

- The **Lagrangian-Eulerian model** is **ready** to be tested on research engines conditions, in order **to study innovative**:

a) *Ignition strategies*

b) *Combustion modes*



Strongly diluted and stratified mixtures

- The **Eulerian-only model** can be exploited to provide **more insight on innovative Air-Fuel mixtures combustion**:

a) *with low computational costs*

b) where the *first target* is to understand the *turbulent combustion stage*

Low-carbon fuels

Thank you for your attention!

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