Master Thesis project proposals Q3 2025



Power & Flow Department of Mechanical Engineering Eindhoven University of Technology



Preface

This is an overview of all the Master Graduation project proposals available in the Power and Flow section.

Please select 3 choices of different projects in order of preference and write a short motivation for your first choice to Giulia Finotello (<u>G.Finotello@tue.nl</u>). Something like:

- My first preference is project...because I am very motivated to work on...
- Second preference is...(no motivation needed)
- Third preference is.. (no motivation needed)

If you need more information on a proposal you can contact directly one of the supervisors (the emails are in each project proposal).

Supervisor	Asst. Prof. Claudia-F. López Cámara
2nd supervisor	TBD
Company supervisor	Prof. Hartmut Wiggers
Company	EMPI, University Duisburg-Essen
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Plasma synthesis of ultra-pure graphene for electrochemical applications

Claudia-F. López Cámara c.f.lopez.camara@tue.nl

Introduction

Electrochemical devices (e.g., batteries or sensors) depend on the rapid exchange of charges to achieve their optimum performance. Including reduced graphene oxide or carbon nanotubes as an additive on the nanomaterials used on these devices has shown to enhance their conductivity and therefore, overall performance [1,2]. However, scalability of high performance materials is still an issue. To overcome that, plasma synthesis is shown as a promising alternative for an industrially scalable production, with the advantage of operating in continuous mode and producing ultrapure free-standing few-layer graphene (FLG) [5-7]. Yet, the synthesis and testing of plasma-produced FLG for electrochemical applications is still limited.





Figure 1. Left: Reactive zone of the microwave plasma reactor at the University Duisburg-Essen. Right: Few-layer graphene as seen under the transmission electron microscopy.

Project description

The focus of the proposed project is on the production of ultra-pure few-layer graphene using gas-phase microwave plasma synthesis and its further characterization and preliminary testing for electrochemical applications.

Goals

- 1. Synthesize freestanding few-layer graphene via plasma reactor in a consistent and repeatable manner.
- 2. Characterizing the produced graphene and its attributes (by e.g., Raman, TEM, BET).
- 3. Preliminary testing of the synthesized graphene for future electrochemistry applications (e.g., batteries).

Requirements

- The experimental part of this work will be conducted at the University Duisburg-Essen (Germany). Thus, the student should consider commuting or living in Duisburg for most of the project period.
- The student should be motivated to learn and carry a hands-on project. No previous knowledge is required.

Benefits

The student will be working in a fast-paced collaborative environment and performing his/her work on industrystandard laboratories. S/he will be acquiring hands-on skills on:

- Operation of microwave plasma reactors.
- Safety regulations related to handling powder-form nanomaterials.
- Characterization techniques and analysis of the data.
- Basics on electrochemistry and nanomaterial electrochemical performance.

References

[1] L. Fu et al, Chem. Front. (2021)

- [2] D. Pandel et al., ACS Appl. Mater. & Interfaces (2022)
- [3] J. Gonzalez-Aguilar et al., J. Appl. Phys. (2007)
- [4] A. Dato et al., Nano Lett. (2008)
- [5] C.-F. López-Cámara et al., Combust. Flame (2023)
- [6] P. Fortugno, C.-F. López-Cámara et al., Appl. Energy Combust. Sci. (2023)
- [7] C.-F. López-Cámara et al., Carbon (2024)

Supervisor	Dr. Ir. Yunus Tansu Aksoy	
2nd supervisor		-
Company		
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	



Gentle collection of virus-laden droplets: Droplet impact on oblique surfaces suppressing splashing Yunus Tansu Aksoy e-mail: y.t.aksoy@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Quantification of infectious viruses in air and assessing their transmission potential via small or large respiratory droplets is crucial for risk assessments of pandemic outbreaks which is notoriously difficult to perform. Whether the air contains infectious virus in sufficient amounts to infect new hosts, and whether this virus is present in small or large droplets that stay dispersed in air for long versus short time periods respectively, is almost impossible to demonstrate (Coleman, 2021). Environmental factors such as temperature and humidity may change droplet dynamics, droplet sizes and number density (through evaporation or (Bourouiba, 2021) condensation) and virus infectivity very rapidly (Herfst, 2017). We want to collect those virus-laden droplets without changing their infectivity as gentle as possible. The collection process requires droplet impact on a solid substrate without harming the droplet. It is already known that the droplet impact dynamics significantly change when nanometer-sized particles are present in the fluid (Aksoy 2022). In this project, the student will study droplet impact on a solid substrate for droplet collection for virus quantification purposes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & APPROACH

The student will build an experimental setup for characterizing post-impact droplet dynamics via high-speed camera. The impact conditions will include several droplet release heights ,i.e., Weber numbers, different surface conditions, e.g., hydrophobic/hydrophilic, and different droplet sizes. Initially, milimeter-size droplets are foreseen, yet smaller droplets can be preferred to match real conditions in the final stages of the project. For safety reasons, we will use test fluids with colloidal particles to mimic virus-laden droplets. Tests with real viruses will be performed by our collaboration partners at the Viroscience Department of the **Erasmus Medical Center.**

REQUIREMENTS

Interest in

- Experimental work
- Fluid mechanics
- Motivation to carry on hands-on project

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this thesis is to identify the droplet impact conditions allowing users to gently collect the deposited droplets without harming the viruses inside.



REFERENCES

Aksoy (2022) Journal of Colloid and Interface Sciences 606 pp 434-443 Bourouiba (2021) Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics 53:1 pp 473-508 Coleman et al. (2022) *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 74:10 pp 1722-1728 Herfst et al. (2017) *Current Opinion in Virology* 22 pp 22-29

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Xiaoxing Li
2nd supervisor	Prof. Hans Kuerten
Daily supervisor	Xiaoxing Li
Company	Canon Printing Company
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Absorption and Evaporation of Ink in Paper Sheets

Xiaoxing Li, Hans Kuerten x.li5@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Inkjet printing technology is a common deposition technique with many applications, such as print-based advertising and books. A significant fluid dynamics challenge in inkjet printing is the absorption and evaporation of ink in paper [1-2]. Fast penetration of the ink is desirable to minimize the time droplets remain on the paper [3]. Additionally, fast evaporation can save time and improve efficiency. However, much uncertainty still exists about how to control the absorption and evaporation process of surfactant-laden ink liquid.

Our project has collaborations with Canon printing company.



GOALS

The objective of this research is to numerically simulate and study absorption and evaporation of surfactants-laden ink in thin paper sheets.

TASKS

- Develop the evaporation model in porous media.
- Integrate the evaporation model into existing models, which govern the absorption process and surfactant transport in unsaturated porous media.
- Write a computer program to solve the mathematical equations developed using the finite volume method in space and an explicit method in time.



STUDENT PROFILE

- Knowledge of MATLAB or similar programming languages.
- Knowledge of mass transport equations

REFERENCES

- Lohse, D. (2022). Fundamental fluid dynamics challenges in inkjet printing. Annual review of fluid mechanics, 54(1), 349-382.
- [2] Stenström, S. (2020). Drying of paper: A review 2000–2018. Drying technology.
- [3] Daniel, R. C., & Berg, J. C. (2006). Spreading on and penetration into thin, permeable print media: Application to ink-jet printing. Advances in colloid and interface science, 123, 439-469.

Supervisor	Dr. Yuriy Shoshin
2nd supervisor	Dr. Viktor Kornilov
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental



SYNTHESIS OF METAL OXIDE NANOPARTICLES BY METAL AEROSOL COMBUSTION

Yuriy Shoshin*, Viktor Kornilov

*E-mail: y.s.shoshin@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Nano-particles of metal oxides are widely used in industrial, biomedical, and other applications due to their high specific area and other unique properties. *The global market of metal-oxides nanoparticles is expected o grow by* ~ *9% a year and reach about US\$*, 10 billion by 2026.

There are multiple chemical and physical methods exist to produce nano-oxides, and each method has its own advantages and drawbacks. The current technologies face a dilemma: To achieve high purity and wellcontrolled nano-particle sizes, high energy consumption and expensive equipment are required. The Power & Flow Group is now exploring a more economical way to produce metal-oxide nanoparticles of high qualities— *Generate oxide nanoparticles from vapor condensation via directly burning metal powders in air or other oxidizing gases*.

Keywords: Metal combustion, nano-particles synthesis, metal oxides



Fig 1. **a)** Schematic of the electrodynamic burner. **b)** Al aerosol **c)** AI_2O_3 nano-particles generated by the flame.



Fig 2.

a) Iron aerosol micro-flame burning in oxygen. Combustion products (iron oxide nanoparticles) are illuminated with a green laser.
b) Hybrid propane-oxygen-zinc dust flame. The blue luminous zone is produced by the own thermoluminescence of

condensing ZnO nanoparticles.

GOALS

- To explore the possibility of synthesizing metal-oxide nanoparticles by direct combustion of (micrometric) metal powders. The prime focus is on iron oxide, while other metals can also be considered.
- To modify the existing micro-burner so that nanooxide synthesis in hybrid hydrogen-oxygen-metal aerosol flames can be studied.
- To determine the properties (e.g., morphology, size distribution, phase, and elemental composition) via material characterization techniques including X-ray Diffractometry (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscopy combined with Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS).

Achieving all the above goals is not necessary, while the proposed project assumes performing a significant step toward these goals. The proposed project is flexible and the concrete project plan can be adjusted to the preferences of a candidate.

BENEFITS

- Opportunity to get thorough training for material characterization—a highly demanded skill set by many industries.
- Well prepare you for a PhD research on combustion and material synthesis.
- International collaboration opportunities.

Supervisor	Tahsin Berk Kiymaz
2nd supervisor	Dr. ir. Nijso Beishuizen, Prof. Dr. Jeroen van Oijen
Company	BOSCH Thermotechniek
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

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Numerical Analysis of Pressure Effect on Hydrogen Flame Quenching

Tahsin Berk Kiymaz, Nijso Beishuizen, Jeroen van Oijen E-mail: t.b.kiymaz@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

There has been an increased interest in the research of hydrogen as a fuel in recent years since it is a promising alternative to fossil fuels with the aim of decarbonization. However, this transition comes with its own challenges. The characteristics of hydrogen are significantly different than conventional fuels such as hydrocarbons. During this transition, the essential point is to make hydrogen combustion safe. Our aim is to investigate the hydrogen flame characteristics and understand the quenching behavior numerically. To design safety equipment, it is essential to determine the quenching distances under pressurized environment. Additionally, it is important to understand the physics behind the change in quenching distances with pressure. These findings will be used to develop fully hydrogen-fueled domestic boilers.



Figure 1: Quenching process of a CH4-air flame for $\phi = 1$ at T = 300K**GOAL**

Modeling the quenching process of laminar hydrogen flames, with a focus on understanding how does pressure changes effects the flame quenching and establishing a relationship between fundamental flame properties and quenching distance.

TASKS

-Literature study on flame quenching and fundamental flame properties

-Modeling of laminar hydrogen flames using computational fluid dynamic (CFD) approach

-Building a numerical framework to obtain quenching distance of hydrogen flames with changing pressure

- Investigating the relationship between the pressure, flame thickness and laminar flame speed on quenching distance





REQUIREMENTS

- Basic knowledge on fluid dynamics and heat transfer
- Fundamental MATLAB/ Python skills

BENEFITS

-Understand the fundamentals of hydrogen combustion -Learn how to model reacting flows using CFD methods -Get hands-on experienced on one of the most widely used CFD software in the industry -Be a part of the clean energy transition -Get familiar with the fuel of the future

/ POWER & FLOW

Supervisor	Asst. Prof. Claudia-F. López Cámara
2nd supervisor	TBD
Company supervisor	Prof. Hartmut Wiggers
Company	EMPI, University Duisburg-Essen
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Spray-flame synthesis and performance testing of cathode materials for sodium ion batteries

Claudia-F. López Cámara c.f.lopez.camara@tue.nl

Introduction

Batteries are crucial for the energy transition and helping on creating a more sustainable future. Sodium ion batteries emerge as an alternative to lithium ion batteries. Moreover, the electrode materials in any battery play a critical role on the battery performance and feasibility, having shown that polyanion structures are promising cathode material for sodium ion batteries.

Given the potential large battery materials demand, industrially-scalable methods should be considered when creating electrode materials. Hence, spray-flame reactor processes are considered as a suitable method as they can produce polyanionic-based materials in a highly-reproducible and scalable manner, continuously, and in a cost-effective way. The standardized SpraySyn burner also permits for using a wider variety of reactants, facilitating the investigation of multiple polyanion-based compositions.



Figure 1. Top: Spray-flame from the University Duisburg-Essen. Bottom: T-battery for performance testing.

Project description

The focus of the proposed project is on the production, characterization, and testing of cathode material for sodium ion batteries using spray-flame synthesis.

Goals

- Synthesize polyanion-based materials in powder form via spray-flame reactor in a consistent and repeatable manner.
- 2. Characterizing the produced materials and its attributes (by e.g., BET, XPS, FTIR, Raman, TEM, BET).
- 3. Preliminary performance testing of the synthesized materials on T-cell batteries (e.g., capacity measurements and cyclic voltammetry).

Requirements

- The experimental part of this work will be conducted at the University Duisburg-Essen (Germany). Thus, the student should consider commuting or living in Duisburg for most of the project period.
- The student should be motivated to learn and carry a hands-on project.
- No previous knowledge on flame synthesis, cathode materials, or batteries is required.
- No previous experimental experience is required.

Benefits

The student will be working in a fast-paced collaborative environment and performing the experimental work on industry-standard laboratories. By the end of the project, the student will be:

- Capable to operate a spray-flame reactor equipped with a SpraySyn burner.
- Familiar to high-standards on safety regulations.
- Competent on nanomaterial characterization techniques and analysis of the data.
- Knowledgeable on the basics on battery electrochemistry and testing of electrochemical performance.

Supervisor 2nd supervisor	Xander Seykens (TNO, TU/e) Bart Somers (TU/e)	Available for ME-SET-AT
Company Internal / External Starting date	TNO External 1/9/2024	TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	

Development and validation of a phenomenological H2-HPDI Combustion Model





INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen is considered as an important (future) fuel for heavy duty combustion engines for mobility and power generation. The hydrogendiesel High Pressure Direct Injection (HPDI) combustion concept is considered as a feasible combustion concept with high performance potential (power output, load response). This combustion concept is driven by the direct injection of hydrogen which is ignited using a small pilot fuel (e.g. diesel) injection. For engine optimization, fast-computing models with predictive capabilities ("phenomenological model") simulating the HPDI combustion process are desired. These models allow performing iterative engine simulations for systematic optimization, engine concept and controls/diagnostics development. Main focus is on simulating incylinder pressure, heat flows and NO emissions. Currently, a base H2-HPDI fuel injector and a H2-HPDI in-cylinder combustion model, built in the Matlab[®] environment, are available. These models will serve as the starting point of this assignment.



Figure 1: High Pressure Direct Injection of hydrogen is a promising hydrogen engine concept.

OBJECTIVES

 Development and validation of a phenomenological Hydrogen High Pressure Direct Injection Injector and combustion model. Extension of the model with NOx emission formation.

APPROACH

- Literature study on HPDI (hydrogen) injection and combustion¹
- Get acquainted with the available H2-HPDI injector and combustion model
- Linking HPDI injector model to the HPDI combustion model and validate simulation results against measurements
- Identify possible model improvements and design, implement and validate solutions
- Extend validated H2-HPDI model with NO formation model
- Validate H2-HPDI model for NOx emissions using available measurement data
- HPDI combustion model sensitivity study towards optimizing efficiency and emissions
- Writing report and presenting results

REQUIREMENTS

- Affinity with combustion engines and numerical work
- Good Matlab modellig skills

LOCATION AND SUPERVISION

The master thesis work will be executed at TNO Powertrains Department located on the Automotive Campus in Helmond. You will be assigned a TNO and TU/e supervisor.

REFERENCES

1. Literature on high pressure direct injection combustion, E.g. consult the SAE Mobilus database

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Xander Seykens	Available for ME SET AT
2nd supervisor	Bart Somers	Available for ivie-set-Al
Company	TNO	
Internal / External	External	
Starting date	01/09/2024	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical, Experimental	



Aftertreatment for hydrogen internal combustion engine

EMAIL: X.L.J.SEYKENS@TUE.NL

INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen is considered as an important (future) fuel for heavy duty combustion engines for mobility and power generation. Hydrogen internal combustion engines (H2-ICE) have high potential for ultra-low engine-out NOx emissions. However, for certain applications, aftertreatment technology is anticipated to be used for first generation of hydrogen engines. The impact of hydrogen on the performance of available aftertreatment technology is not fully clear. At TNO measurements on hydrogen combustion engines with and without aftertreatment have been performed. The goal of this assignment is twofold: On the basis of this data, the impact of hydrogen can be quantified. Next to this, the aftertreatment models used as part of current aftertreatment controls needs to be updated based on these findings.

OBJECTIVES

 Updating available aftertreatment component models and controls to capture main impact of the use of hydrogen as fuel in a heavy duty internal combustion engine



Figure 1: Hydrogen internal combustion engine and use of aftertreatment.

APPROACH

- Literature study on hydrogen as fuel for combustion engines and aftertreatment technology¹
- Review of available aftertreatment component models
- Evaluation of available measurement data on aftertreatment components used on an heavy duty H2-ICE
- Updating available aftertreatment component models to capture main impact of hydrogen fuel
- Model validation on basis of available
 measurement data
- Assessment of impact use of hydrogen on aftertreatment controls with use of updated aftertreatment component models
- Verification of available the performance of aftertreatment controls using updated aftertreatment component models
- Writing report and presenting results

REQUIREMENTS

- Affinity with combustion engines and aftertreatment technology
- Interest in numerical work and hands-on experience with Matlab-Simulink[®]

LOCATION AND SUPERVISION

The master thesis work will be executed at TNO Powertrains department at the Automotive Campus in Helmond. You will be assigned a TU/e and TNO supervisor.

REFERENCES

 Literature on high pressure fuel injection systems and measurements of fuel injection rate, mass and momentum. E.g. consult the SAE Mobilus database

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Dr. Ir. Yunus Tansu Aksoy	
2nd supervisor	Tess Homan	
Company		EINDHOVEN
Internal / External	Internal	UNIVERSITY OF
Starting date	Any time	TECHNOLOGY
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	



Gentle collection of virus-laden droplets: Droplet impact on oblique surfaces suppressing splashing Yunus Tansu Aksoy e-mail: y.t.aksoy@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Quantification of infectious viruses in air and assessing their transmission potential via small or large respiratory droplets is crucial for risk assessments of pandemic outbreaks which is notoriously difficult to perform. Whether the air contains infectious virus in sufficient amounts to infect new hosts, and whether this virus is present in small or large droplets that stay dispersed in air for long versus short time periods respectively, is almost impossible to demonstrate (Coleman, 2021). Environmental factors such as temperature and humidity may change droplet dynamics, droplet sizes and number density (through evaporation or condensation) (Bourouiba, 2021) and virus infectivity very rapidly (Herfst, 2017). We want to collect those virus-laden droplets without changing their infectivity as gentle as possible. The collection process requires droplet impact on a solid substrate without harming the droplet. It is already known that the droplet impact dynamics significantly change when nanometer-sized particles are present in the fluid (Aksoy 2022). In this project, the student will study droplet impact on a solid substrate for collection for virus quantification droplet purposes.

REQUIREMENTS

Interest in

- Experimental work
- Fluid mechanics
- Motivation to carry on hands-on project

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this thesis is to identify the droplet impact conditions allowing users to gently collect the deposited droplets without harming the viruses inside.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & APPROACH

This experimental project starts with a literature study. Based on the motivation and literature knowledge, the student will build an experimental setup for characterizing post-impact droplet dynamics via high-speed camera. The impact conditions will include several droplet release heights ,i.e., Weber numbers, different surface conditions, e.g., hydrophobic/hydrophilic, and different droplet sizes. Initially, milimeter-size droplets are foreseen, yet smaller droplets can be preferred to match real conditions in the final stages of the project. No real virus will be used during the experiments due to safety reasons!



Typical experimental setup (Aksoy, 2022)

REFERENCES

Aksoy (2022) Journal of Colloid and Interface Sciences 606 pp 434-443 Bourouiba (2021) Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics 53:1 pp 473-508 Coleman et al. (2022) Clinical Infectious Diseases 74:10 pp 1722-1728 Herfst et al. (2017) Current Opinion in Virology 22 pp 22-29

Supervisor	Xander Seykens (TNO)	Available for ME_SET_AT
2nd supervisor	Bart Somers (TUe)	Available for IVIE-SET-AT
Company	TNO	
Internal / External	External	- Innovation
Starting date	01/09/2024	L U EVICE for life of
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental, numerical	



Modeling of exhaust water recovery model for H2-ICE

XANDER SEYKENS EMAIL: X.L.J.SEYKENS@TUE.NL

INTRODUCTION

The Hydrogen internal combustion engine is expected to play an important role in realizing sustainable heavy duty transport and meeting 2050 climate goals. At TNO, located on the Automotive Campus in Helmond, research and development on hydrogen internal combustion engines is on-going. For lean burn Spark-Ignited hydrogen engines the use of port water injection, in which water is injected into the intake ports of the engine, is an attractive solution to mitigate NOx emissions and maintain combustion stability during dynamic engine operation. The high exhaust water content of hydrogen engines offers the possibility to realize a self-sustaining system, using water recovered from the exhaust gases for the port water injection. This assignment targets the further development of a phenomenological model of the exhaust water recovery system that allows sizing of such system and development of dedicated water recovery/injection strategies. As a starting point you will use a base model built in the Matlab[®] simulation environment. Initial focus will be on the further development of a water condenser model including modeling of two-phase flow and liquid water extraction/collection.

figure 1: Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine research and development using single-cylinder research engine at TNO [1].

OBJECTIVES

• Further development of a phenomenological exhaust water recovery system model enabling system sizing and water injection strategy development.

APPROACH

- Short literature study on hydrogen combustion engines, water injection and water recovery
- Review of available model and identification of required model extensions.
- Develop and implement model extensions
- Functional demonstration of extended model capabilities on a selected use-case and demonstration of main sensitivities
- Writing report and presenting results

REQUIREMENTS

- Affinity with combustion engines
- Good understanding of thermodynamics
- Experience with Matlab®

PERIOD

Start possible from September 2024. This Master thesis assignment can be converted into 14 week internship.

LOCATION

The project will be executed at TNO Powertrains department at the Automotive Campus in Helmond. You will be assigned a TU/e and TNO supervisor.

REFERENCES

- 1. TNO, <u>https://www.tno.nl/en/focus-areas/traffic-</u> <u>transport/roadmaps/sustainable-traffic-and-</u> <u>transport/sustainable-vehicles/how-hydrogen-can-</u> <u>accelerate-energy-transition-in-the-transport-sector/</u>
- 2. Literature on hydrogen combustion engines. E.g. consult the SAE Mobilus database

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	dr. Roy Hermanns	
2nd supervisor	dr. Xiaocheng Mi	Availa
Company		
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	

Available for ME-AT

e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Impact of oxygen entrainment on the laminar burning velocity of hybrid iron flames

Contact and more info : Roy Hermanns Email: r.t.e.hermanns@tue.nl

Introduction

Metal fuels can be used to store and transport renewable energy. By combusting iron powder, heat is released that can be utilized in industrial processes. To make this process an efficient one, the combustion of iron powder should be examined thoroughly. In this case, a lab-scale burner is used to create a stable 1D hybrid iron-methane-air flame to investigate its laminar adiabatic burning velocity.



A deeper knowledge of the burning behavior is indispensable in building the iron burners of tomorrow. This Master project involves a redesign an existing burner having a stable hybrid iron flame surrounded by a co-flow.

Keywords: Iron Power, metal fuels, burning velocity

Project description

The goal of this project is to redesign the Heatflux burner with a co-flow to control the oxygen entrainment in the exhaust gas. This means that Heatflux burner will change from an open system to a closed system. The key element of the project will be the measurement of laminar burning velocity of hybrid flames (e.g methaneiron, or biogas-iron) and assess the collected iron oxides at different co-flow oxygen levels. The required design choices need to be well substantiated and the design and build need to be well documented. The project layout can also include numerical work with existing models to validate the design changes.

Tasks

- Literature study with a focus on flame propagation of hybrid iron powders as a fuel and its properties and challenges for application in a the Heatflux burner.
- Design study to convert this Heatflux burner.
- Order parts and execute the conversion itself.
- Determine the energy fluxes of the system (if possible).
- Test the converted Heatflux burner, collecting data on laminar burning velocities and collected iron oxides.

Student profile

A highly motivated Master student interested in energy transition, alternative fuels and affinity with experimental work is desired.

- Combustion background knowledge.
- Motivated with a hands-on mentality, preferably experienced in mechanical work.
- MATLAB, programming, & data analysis skills

The following are potential benefits for you from this project:

- Improved knowledge in combustion.
- Involved in a breakthrough energy transition technology
- Development of analytical and writing skills.
- Opportunity to publish obtained results.

Contact

Roy Hermanns, r.t.e.hermanns@tue.nl



Heatflux burner.

Supervisor	Dongliang Liu	
2nd supervisor	Dr. Yuriy Shoshin	
Starting date	Anytime	
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	

Power & Flow

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Experimental Investigation on Hydrogen Flame Propagation Pattern in a Confined and Tapered Channel

Dongliang Liu, Yuriy Shoshin

E-mail: d.liu2@tue.nl

Introduction

Hydrogen is a promising clean and renewable energy source. One benefit of hydrogen fuel is that its combustion product is water vapor, which has fewer environmental impacts.

However, using hydrogen as a fuel presents technical challenges and safety concerns. One challenge in a hydrogen burner design is flashback. **Flame Quenching** is an important aspect in preventing flashback processes, representing the minimum channel size that allows a flame to pass. Understanding the quenching process is essential for designing safer hydrogen combustion systems.



Fig. Images of lean hydrogen flame propagating in a narrow channel (F. Veiga-López, et al., "Unexpected Propagation of Ultra-Lean Hydrogen Flames in Narrow Gaps," May 2020)

Objectives

The primary objective of this master's project is to *investigate* the flame propagating behavior and quenching behavior in a converging flat channel (where the wall distance gradually reduces). Specific goals include:

 Conduct a literature review on hydrogen flame propagation in confined spaces, hydrogen flame quenching, and hydrogen flame visualization techniques.

- Modify an experimental setup to visualize the flame propagation pattern in a converging channel. While the (optically accessible) converging channel has already been manufactured, your task is to identify and deploy the most effective measurement technique.
- Investigate the hydrogen flame propagating behavior and the quenching behavior.

Achieving all the outlined goals is not mandatory, but the proposed project aims to make substantial progress toward these objectives. The project plan is adaptable and can be adjusted according to the candidate's preferences.



Fig. The tapered converging propagating channel.

Your Profile

We are looking for a motivated student:

- The ideal candidate will possess some experience in fluid dynamics, combustion processes, and experimental techniques.
- Additionally, the candidate should have good problemsolving skills, the ability to work independently.

This project offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the advancement of hydrogen combustion technology, with the potential to significantly impact the development of safer and more efficient hydrogen fuel systems.

General information	
Supervisor	Nico Dam
Mentor	Youri van den Brink
Internal/External	Internal
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental / Design



Design and testing of an acoustic measurement tank

Youri van den Brink*, Nico Dam *E-mail: y.v.d.brink@tue.nl



INTRODUCTION

As the adverse effects of microplastics on both the environment and human health increasingly come to light, it becomes desirable to prevent the introduction of these tiny particles into the ecosystem. Wastewater streams serve as critical sites for the elimination of microplastics before their release into surface waters. Yet, an examination of existing technologies [1] highlights a deficiency in methods that can effectively eliminate small plastic particles (< $100 \mu m$).

One possible method of capturing small microplastics is the use of high frequency acoustics energy to manipulate the particles. This technique leverages an acoustic standing wave to manipulate the position of microplastic particles, guiding them towards pressure nodes for subsequent collection (see Figure 1).

Generating a strong and controlled acoustic field requires detailed knowledge of the transducers, materials and system design. To ensure optimal performance, a precise method for testing and comparing these parameters is necessary.

TASKS & GOALS

In this project, you will be tasked with developing a test methodology and setup to measure acoustic devices. This includes performing a detailed analysis of system requirements and the design of a measurement tank for optimal accuracy, usability, and cost. Additionally, you may be involved in testing and evaluation of the various acoustic filter components. The project consists of:

- Developing a testing methodology and setup for measuring acoustic components.
- Designing and optimizing a measurement tank through experiments and/or simulations to balance accuracy, usability, and cost.
- Testing and evaluating various acoustic filter components. If time allows.



Figure 1: Microplastics focusing to a central line once high frequency acoustics are introduced.

REFERENCE [1] Talvitie et al., (2017), Water

[1] Talvitie et al., (2017). Water Research, 123. DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2017.07.005.

Supervisor	Boyan Xu
2nd supervisor	R.J.M.Bastiaans
Daily supervisor	Boyan Xu
Company	N.A.
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



The Effect of Conjugate Heat Transfer on Near Lean Blow-off Bluff-body Stabilized Flame

Boyan Xu b.xu1@tue.nl

Keywords: Turbulent combustion, Heat transfer, Emission

INTRODUCTION

Current simulation results based on bluff body stabilized $NH_3/H_2/N_2$ flame show that lean blow-off is very sensitive to the thermal boundary condition of bluff body. The conjugate heat transfer(CHT) of the bluff body needs to be considered for predicting accurate extinction.



Figure1. a) Schematic of the bluff-body burner with transient flame surface; b) The comparison between experimental measurement and current simulation result(time averaged)

GOALS

 Revise the current 3-D simulation model with including CHT and explore whether CHT plays an important role on the near lean blow-off NH3/H2/N2 flame.

TASKS

- Learn the using of CONVERGE CFD(Similar to FLUENT) software and its setting about Conjugate Heat Transfer(CHT) and implement it on current simulation case.
- Process the simulation data and export them to picture or movie with Paraview/MATLAB/Python.
- Compare the flame characteristics and predict lean blow-off with CHT & without CHT.
- Implement FGM combustion model and analyze emission.

BENEFITS

- Freedom for further researches to you interest
- Potential to participate in scientific paper writing

REFERENCES

[1] Su, T., Xu, B., Bastiaans, R. J. M., and Worth, N. A. "Lean Blow-Off Behaviour of Premixed Bluff-Body Stabilized Hydrocarbon-Air Flames and Ammonia/Hydrogen/Nitrogen-Air Flames." ASME. J. Eng. Gas Turbines Power. November 2024; 146(11): 111011.

[2] G. Generini et.al. COMBUSTION MODELLING OF THE T100 MICRO-GAS TURBINE BURNER INCLUDING THE INFLUENCE OF THE STRETCH AND HEAT LOSS/GAIN EFFECTS ON THE FLAME, Proceedings of ASME Turbo Expo 2024.

Supervisor 2nd supervisor	Xander Seykens (TNO) Bart Somers (TUe)	Available for ME-SET-AT
Company Internal / External	TNO External	THIS innovation
Starting date Exp./Num./Design	01/09/2024 Experimental, numerical	for life



Modeling lean burn SI H2-ICE with water injection for NOx reduction in H2-ICE

XANDER SEYKENS EMAIL: X.L.J.SEYKENS@TUE.NL

INTRODUCTION

The Hydrogen internal combustion engine is expected to play an important role in realizing sustainable heavy duty transport and meeting 2050 climate goals. At TNO, located on the Automotive Campus in Helmond, research and development on hydrogen internal combustion engines is on-going. The sparklean burn ignited hydrogen engine is characterized by extremely low engine-out NOx in steady state operation. Main NOx dominantly results from dynamic engine operation. Here, the use of port water injection is an attractive solution to reduce combustion temperatures and reduce NOx formation Furthermore, reduction of in-cylinder rates. temperature is a means to stabilize the combustion process avoiding uncontrolled combustion (knock, pre-ignitions). This internship targets to model the impact of the injected water on the combustion process and more specifically on the NOx formation rates and tendency towards unstable combustion. Starting point is a base phenomenological Spark Ignition (SI) Hydrogen combustion model simulating in-cylinder heat release. Matlab® will be used as the modelling environment. Measurement data is available to support model development.



figure 1: Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine research and development using single-cylinder research engine at TNO [1].

OBJECTIVES

• Extend the available PFI SI In-cylinder hydrogen combustion model to include the impact of water injection on NOx emission formation and to quantify the tendency towards unstable combustion.

APPROACH

- Short literature study on hydrogen combustion engines and water injection
- Analysis of available model and measurement data
- Develop and implement a model for the inclusion of the impact of water injection on NOx emissions and combustion stability.
- Functional demonstration of extended model capabilities and demonstration of main sensitivities
- Writing report and presenting results

REQUIREMENTS

- Affinity with combustion engines
- Good understanding of thermodynamics
- Experience with Matlab®

PERIOD

Start possible from September 2024. This Master thesis assignment can be converted into 14 week internship.

LOCATION

The project will be executed at TNO Powertrains department at the Automotive Campus in Helmond. You will be assigned a TU/e and TNO supervisor.

REFERENCES

- 1. TNO, <u>https://www.tno.nl/en/focus-areas/traffic-</u> <u>transport/roadmaps/sustainable-traffic-and-</u> <u>transport/sustainable-vehicles/how-hydrogen-can-</u> <u>accelerate-energy-transition-in-the-transport-sector/</u>
- 2. Literature on hydrogen combustion engines. E.g. consult the SAE Mobilus database

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Michel Cuijpers	Available for ME
2nd supervisor	Noud Maes	Available for ivie
Company	TU/e & Progression Industry	
Internal / External	Internal/external	
Starting date	TBD	
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	



Progression - Industry "GREEN" out of the box technologies Investigating and programming injection strategy possibilities using an open ECU on a single-cylinder CI research engine

Michel Cuijpers, Noud Maes



Introduction

The energy transition from fossil- to E-fuels (renewable fuels produced by clean energy) and biobased fuels will not be an overnight transition. While a future energy surplus from sustainable sources is expected, the availability of E-fuels is still limited to small batches. This means that the world will have to wait for the availability of these fuels, but the engines need to be ready! In this work, particular focus will be given to a newly-commissioned single-cylinder CI research engine, equipped with a so-called open (programmable) ECU. This ECU will allow for modifying the injection strategy towards the fuels of interest.

Subject

The open ECU is used to investigate several fuels regarding combustion properties and emissions by optimizing injection strategy. The student will investigate functions of the Motec M142 open ECU, which is connected to a single cylinder CI engine.

Experimental apparatus

Newly commissioned Hatz 1D90E 4-stroke CI engine with an open ECU to control injection strategy.





Initial activities

- Literature study, familiarization with subject: what are important combustion properties?
- Assist regular experiments, learn to use the set-up (including safety aspects)
- Understanding ECU variables
- · Determine data acquisition possibilities
- · Initial test runs to check data-acquisition
- Get familiar with Design of Experiments (DoE) for creating an efficient measurement matrix
- · Baseline and future fuels testing
- Data analysis

Where

TU/e, Mechanical Engineering, Power and Flow

Туре

Experimental project

Keywords

Future fuels – Injection strategy – Combustion parameters – Open ECU

Contact

Michel Cuijpers, m.c.m.cuijpers@tue.nl



/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor 2nd supervisor	DAF supervisor Xander Seykens (TU/e)	Available for ME-SET-AT
Company	DAF	DAE
Internal / External	External	
Starting date	1/06/2024	A PACCAR COMPANY
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	

Diesel and Hydrogen ICE SCR deNOx NH3 virtual sensing embedded model for ultra-low NOx

XANDER SEYKENS EMAIL: X.L.J.SEYKENS@TUE.NL

INTRODUCTION

The research it about development of robust SCR controls for Diesel and Hydrogen ICE exhaust gas aftertreatment systems that are capable of meeting EPA 2027 NOx and NH3 slip requirements. What improvements can be done to get more robust control design over 650 kmile emission life time?

Embedded models for the SCR deNOx system are using systems (virtual) sensors, e.g. temperature, exhaust flow and NOx sensors system in and out. Ultra low emission legislation EPA 2027 require NOx emission levels in tailipipe ranging 0-2 ppm, while the NOx sensor has an accuracy of +/- 5 ppm. Meeting these requirements is a challenge from model and control perspective and requires fundamental understanding of SCR catalyst dynamics flow and temperature, chemistry and ageing behaviour.

Since mid 2023 a proof of concept is running and first sensitivity studies are performed on the engine dynamometer. These test data can be used and applied in current SCR embedded model (Sfunction) simulation environment to assess the system capabilities and determine further model and control improvements to make the system more accurate on NOx and NH3 slip prediction and applying DEF (NOx reductant) compensations to correct for system biases.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this assignment is the development of robust SCR model for virtual sensing of NH3 storage and control objective to meet EPA 2027 35mg/bhph NOx emission requirements.

/ POWER AND FLOW

APPROACH

The complete assignment comprises 3 phases of which phase 1 is considered as part of the (extended) internship assignment.

Phase 1 (internship or master thesis):

- Literature study on deNOx aftertreatment technology, modelling (virtual sensing) for diesel and hydrogen combustion engines
- Literature/IP study on control algorithm and sensor architecture for SCR deNOx aftertreatment
- Propose improved model and control design
- Provide preliminary simulation results to fund the proposed control design

Phase 2 + 3 (master thesis):

- Design Rapid Prototyping SCR model and Controls in Matlab-Simulink[®]
- Vehicle demonstrator

REQUIREMENTS

- Affinity with combustion engines and aftertreatment technology
- Interest in numerical work and hands-on experience with Matlab-Simulink[®]

LOCATION AND SUPERVISION

The master thesis work will be executed at DAF Trucks in Eindhoven. You will be assigned a TU/e and DAF supervisor.

Further information

- Marc van Aken Principal Engineer Aftertreatment Systems – Paccar Global Engines
- E-mail: Marc.van.Aken@Paccar.com
- Phone: +31 (0)40 214 3964

REFERENCES

1. Literature on Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) deNOx Catalysts, SCR dosing controls, model-based control E.g. consult the SAE Mobilus database

Supervisor	dr.ir. Noud Maes
2nd supervisor	dr.ir. Michel Cuijpers, Zhongcheng Sun, Benjamin Haefele (Shell), Tom Lewis (Shell)
Company	Shell
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental

Available for ME-AT

Ue EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Ultra-clean engines using sustainable bio-fuel blends

Noud Maes, Michel Cuijpers, Zhongcheng Sun, Benjamin Haefele*, Tom Lewis* *Shell Global Solutions (Deutschland) GmbH

Introduction

The energy transition from fossil- to bio-fuels (and eventually E-fuels produced by clean oversupply energy) will not be an overnight transition. While a future energy surplus from sustainable sources is expected, the availability of E-fuels is still limited to small batches. On the shorter term, the share of bio-fuels needs to be investigated to facilitate a faster decarbonization rate. In this work, particular focus will be given to different biofuel blends which have a lower CO₂ impact when compared to the standard EN590 B7 fuel that passenger cars, light-duty transport, but especially heavy-duty trucks currently use. In initial tests, however, some of these fuels showed opposite effects on other emissions such as soot (PM vs PN) and NO_x. Using a design-ofexperiments (DOE) approach, the optimum between blend ratios for reduced global emissions (CO_2) , and local emissions (soot and NO_x) should be determined.

Project description

- 1. Investigate properties of different bio-components
- 2. Determine combustion properties of selected fuels
- 3. Follow measurement matrix based on DOE
- Focus on post-processing of existing and new data, including repeatability and error analysis

Contact

Noud Maes, <u>n.c.j.maes@tue.nl</u> Michel Cuijpers, m.c.m.Cuijpers@tue.nl



Photograph of the MX13 test engine

Experimental apparatus

The goal of this project is to conduct experiments on a dedicated single-cylinder research engine. This engine is equipped with a state-of-the-art fuel-flexible injection system, pressure- & temperature sensors, and advanced emission analysis systems. The power generated by the engine is delivered back to the electricity grid via an electric motor. This motor is used both as a dynamometer and to motor the test cylinder when no fuel is injected.

Tasks

- Literature study, getting familiar with the fuels, engines, combustion properties, and analytic methods
- Involvement with preparing the engine setup
- Benchmark engine testing using conventional fuels
- Benchmark engine testing using different blends
- Analysis of the data to write a concise report, with the goal of publishing the final result

Requirements

- Affinity with experimental work & combustion engines
- Background knowledge on internal combustion engines
- Motivation and a hands-on mentality
- Matlab programming & data analysis skills



Supervisor	Rob Bastiaans
2nd supervisor	
Company	N.A.
nternal / External	Internal
Starting date	2025
Exp./Num./Design	Theoretical & numerical

Available for ME-SET-AT-AIES

EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Finding a usable entropy of turbulence information

Project number: 2025 Q3-01

Rob Bastiaans, EMAIL: r.j.m.bastiaans@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

From his Stanford 2023 summer research your supervisor on premixed turbulent combustion kernels he conjectured the existence the associated phenomenon of 'white holes', [1]. Of course, this was applied to a carbon free fuel and using DNS with detailed chemistry to reveal the truth.



Figure 1: Snapshot of a section of an ideal turbulent field. Colors indicate the velocity in perpendicular direction.

Your task will be to investigate the concept of entropy of the turbulence connected to the conjecture as proposed in the article. You will take an ideal turbulent case from a DNS simulationas a first step.

figure 2: Leonardo da Vinci detected it but how can we define this complex information, in a single scalar?

APPROACH

- You will study information in an earlier MSc study [2]
- You will study associate literature, e.g. [3]
- The intention is to find a suitable definition and associated algorithm for turbulence entropy.
- Possibly connect turbulence information to the thermodynamic entropy in combustion

PREFERENCES

- Interested in complex phenomena
- Familiarity with turbulent phenomena
- No freight of mathematics

REFERENCES

[1] R.J.M. Bastiaans & X. Liu, Turbulent, premixed, spherical NH_3/H_2 combustion; Simulation optimalization and the existence of 'white holes'. CTR Annual rResearch Briefs 2023, Stanford, pp 69-82.

[2] R. van Ginkel, Analytical and Numerical Analysis of Entropy, Structures, and Turbulence Dynamics, MSc thesis, To appear 2024.

[3] H. Yao, P.K. Yeung, T.A Zaki & C. Meneveau, Forward and Inverse Energy Cascade in Fluid Turbulence Adhere to Kolmogorov's Refined Similarity Hypothesis, PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 132, 164001 (2024).

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Rob Bastiaans	Available for
2nd supervisor	Xiaocheng Mi	Available 101
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	??/??/2024	
Exp./Num./Design	Theoretical & numerical	Project number: 2025 Q3-01

Available for ME-SET-AT-AIES

EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Estimating the effect of interparticle radiation in iron combustion

Rob Bastiaans, Xiaocheng Mi EMAIL: r.j.m.bastiaans@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

In combustion of iron particles, which is a promising carbon free and circular energy provider, the effect of interparticle radiation on heat transfer is yet not researched in detail. We will start the research with looking at the total ensemble of possible interparticle distances if they are randomly distributed. Later also possible iron particle size distributions should be involved. It is possible to test the theory and assumptions in 3D simulations as well as a condensed version in 1D CFD approaches.



figure 1: Schematic depiction of the metal fuel cycle. Green energy from wind and solar can be used to reduce metaloxides into metals. Which can be used as an energy transport and storage medium. When energy is demanded, the metals can be burned without CO2emissions, and the heat can be used for various purposes. The combustion product - metal-oxides - should be captured and re-used, creating a closed cycle.



figure 2: Randomly distributed particles



Figure 3: Randomly distributed particles with differences in size and only consideration of thermal conductivity. The burning particles are indicated by the red reaction layer at their surface. The gray color indicates the temperature of the gas, and the dashed line an arbitrary thermal isoline to indicate the local curvature of the flame front when defined by thermal isolines.

APPROACH

- You will study information of a PhD study [1]
- You will look into the distance distribution of randomly located particles using the associated Poisson distribution.
- You will look to iron particle size distribution as well.
- Comparison with CFD approaches

PREFERENCES

- Interested in complex phenomena
- No freight of mathematics

REFERENCES

[1] M.R. Hulsbos, The Heat Flux Method for Flat Hybrid Iron-Methane-Air Flames. PhD thesis, Eindhoven University of Technology, 2024, To appear.

Supervisor 2nd supervisor	Noud Maes Michel Cuijpers	Available for ME
Company Internal / External Starting date	Progression Industry and TU/e Internal and external TBD	TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	Project number: 2025



Progression - Industry "GREEN" out of the box technologies

Bio-based future fuels for CI engines

Michel Cuijpers, Noud Maes EMAIL: <u>M.C.M.Cuijpers@tue.nl</u>



Source

Introduction

The energy transition from fossil- to biomass fuels (renewables) will not be an overnight transition. The availability of suitable biomass is still insufficient and therefore, mixtures of bio- and fossil fuels, that meet (emission) legislation requirements, are being pursued as an intermediate step.

Subject

Designing future fuel solutions by optimizing combinations of bio-mass derived products with conventional transportation fuels. Determine fuel- and combustion- properties of the designed fuels.

Experimental apparatus

Rheometer MCR 302, Turbiscan Lab expert, Flash 2000 elemental analyzer and a Combustion research unit (CRU).



Challenge

Target

First weeks action

- literature study, reading into subject, what are important fuel- and combustion- properties
- Assist regular experiments, learn to use set-up including safety aspects
- · Blending, preparation bio-based fuels
- Analyses
- Improvement
- Possible engine testing, if above properties are within range.

Where

Eindhoven university of Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Dept. Power and Flow

Туре

Experimental project

How

Analyzing fuel properties with help of available analyze equipment

When

Negotiable

Keywords

Biomass – Energy transition –Fossil fuels-Stability - Lubricity

Skills

Hands on mentality, experimental interest

Note

Experimental approach based on literature

Contact

Michel Cuijpers, m.c.m.cuijpers@tue.nl / POWER AND FLOW



Supervisor	Boyan Xu
2nd supervisor	R.J.M.Bastiaans
Daily supervisor	Boyan Xu
Company	N.A.
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Modelling bluff-body stabilized flame with FGM model

Boyan Xu b.xu1@tue.nl

Keywords: Turbulent combustion, FGM

INTRODUCTION

- Current Large eddy simulation for bluff body stabilized premixed $NH_3/H_2/N_2$ flame needs long simulation time(5+days for a 50ms case).
- Flamelet-Generated Manifolds(FGM) model uses a lookup table to quickly retrieve thermochemical information therefore reduce computational time(order-of-magnitude speedups).

TASKS

- Learn the using of CONVERGE CFD (ANSYS-FLUENT like commercial software, easier)
- Build 1-D flamelet(FGM table) for premixed NH3/H2/N2/O2 flame.
- Implement FGM based on original case. Make records for the simulation time.
- Compare the result(flow field & flame position) with previous simulation/experiment.

BENEFITS

- Freedom for further associated researches to you interest
- Potential to participate in scientific paper writing

REFERENCES



Figure 1. Schematic of the bluffbody burner.



Figure 2. Simulation result(timeaveraged) with detailed chemistry model.

[1] Su, T., Xu, B., Bastiaans, R. J. M., and Worth, N. A. "Lean Blow-Off Behaviour of Premixed Bluff-Body Stabilized Hydrocarbon-Air Flames and Ammonia/Hydrogen/Nitrogen-Air Flames." ASME. J. Eng. Gas Turbines Power. November 2024; 146(11): 111011.

Supervisor	Rob Bastiaans
2nd supervisor	MohammadReza Kohansal
Mentor	-
Company	N.A.
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	01 Sep 2025
Exp./Num./Design	Experiment & Simulation

Available for ME-SET-XX

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Laminar Burning Velocity Measurement of NH3/H2 using Heatflux Burner

MohammadReza Kohansal, Roy Hermanns, Rob Bastiaans *E-mail: m.kohansal@tue.nl

KHAT IS IT ABOUT?

AmmoniaDrive is a project that introduces an innovative power system, integrating a Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC) with an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE). This hybrid system operates on renewably produced NH3/H2. To design and optimize an internal combustion engine, fundamental chatacteristics of the fuel are needed.

Laminar Burning Velocity is one of the most important combustion properties. It is essential for calculating turbulent properties, e.g., turbulent flame velocity. More importantly, it is used for validating and optimizing chemical mechanisms.

In this Master's project, laminar burning velocity of NH3/H2 is measured using **Heatflux Burner** method to be used by our colleagues in the **AmmoniaDrive** project for designing the integrated Internal Combustion Engine.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

- i. Measuring Laminar Burning Velocity of NH3/H2 using Heatflux Burner
- ii. Performing simulation using Chem1d/Cantera
- iii. Comparison of experiments and simulations results

🔍 WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- i. Passionate about science (Combustion preferably ;))
- ii. Basic knowledge of coding (if not, we will learn together!)
- iii. Prior experience with experimental measurement is a plus

Modeling is essential for designing/optimizing industrial combustion processes

Chemical Mechanism is needed for modeling combustion

No global mechanism

Optimized mechanisms for specific conditions

Importance of chemical mechanism in combustion processes



Heatflux burner setup. Images are taken from Mark Hulsbos PhD thesis



- i. You are a part of big AmmoniaDrive project
- ii. With close supervision, learn how to start and continue a research project, e.g., literature review, finding research gap, etc.
- iii. Aquire fundamental knowledge of combustion related to Laminar Burning Velocity
- iv. Gain experience working with a experimental setup
- v. Learn more coding
- vi. Solidify your expertise in combustion doing experiment and simulation

Supervisor	Conrad Hessels
2 nd /3 rd supervisor	Noud Maes, Nico Dam
Company	N.A.
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental

Available for ME, AT, SET

EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Measuring the temperature field of a high-pressure H₂ injector using spontaneous Raman scattering.

C.J.M. Hessels*, N.C.J. Maes, & N.J. Dam *E-mail: c.j.m.hessels@tue.nl



Background

During the last decades, the need for efficient and clean combustion has been growing steadily. With increasing emission legislation and sustainability in mind, hydrogen, along with other renewable fuels, seems viable for the internal combustion engines of the future.



Figure 1: Schematic layout of the Argon Power Cycle.

To increase the efficiency for all these renewable fuels, the revolutionary Argon Power Cycle is investigated. Using Argon instead of air as the working fluid, the cycle efficiency could increase by about 25%, reaching values above 80%!

Working together with Noble Thermodynamic Systems (Berkeley, CA, USA) and IFP Energie nouvelles (Paris, France), non-intrusive temperature measurements of a modified Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) injector need to be investigated. Earlier research (inverse-LIF & Rayleigh scattering) indicated the importance of compressibility effects inside the jet.



Objective

The decompression of high-pressure hydrogen (during injection) into a lower pressure environment will lead to a drop in temperature and pressure in the barrel shock until the Mach disk is reached. These temperature/density effects influence the mass flow through the nozzle and characterizing them can lead to valuable insights in the needed assumptions/corrections for various optical diagnostics, i.e., Rayleigh scattering (TU/e) and inverse LIF (IFP+TU/e). Raman scattering is selected to perform non-intrusive temperature measurements in the jet.



Figure 3: Classical model by Ewan and $Moodie^1$ on the injection of a compressible fluid.

Approach

You will:

- Study literature and get familiar with Raman scattering on underexpanded jets and earlier performed research.
- Start with Nitrogen through an always-open fuel injector, using an existing & documented setup. (HPVB²)
- Perform experiments on hydrogen jets and process and analyze the measured data using (existing) MATLAB routines.
- Compare the results with literature and existing Rayleigh & inverse-LIF measurements.

Recommended courses:

- Optical diagnostics for combustion and fluid flow (4BM40)
- Clean engines and future fuels (4AT020)
- Experimentation for Mechanical Engineering (4BM20)

References

1) Structure and velocity measurements in Underexpanded Jets, Ewan & Moodie [1986] 2) Spectroscopy on the verge of soot formation, Robin Doddema [2023]

Supervisor	Giulia Finotello
2nd supervisor	Wen Jin
Company	N.A
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental

Power & Flow

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Ultrasonic Atomization for Efficient and Sustainable Metal Powder Production in 3D Printing

Wen Jin*, Giulia Finotello, Joris Remmers, Niels Deen w.jin@tue.nl

Introduction

Ultrasonic atomization has gained significant attention due to its potential to produce high-quality metal powders for additive manufacturing (AM). The idea assumes that the ultrasonic vibrations are used to disintegrate the molten metal and create fine metal or metal alloy droplets, which later, after the solidification, form fine and spherical powder particles. However, little is known yet about atomization mechanisms and droplet/powder size prediction in the ultrasonic atomization of liquid metal because of significant challenges, both in terms of feasibility and safety due to high temperatures and reactivity.



Figure 1. Ultrasonic atomization set-up



Figure 2. Droplets near the atomizer tip

Tasks

- Investigate the Effects of Liquid Properties: Analyze how non-Newtonian behavior influences the dynamics of droplet formation during ultrasonic atomization. Examine the effect of varying flow rates on droplet velocity, size uniformity, and spray patterns, identifying optimal operating conditions for atomization.
- 2. Study Secondary Breakup Mechanisms: Explore the second stage of the spray, focusing on secondary breakup phenomena caused by aerodynamic forces and liquid inertia. Investigate the coalescence of droplets during flight and its effect on particle size distribution. Analyze the evolution of particle velocities and sizes as the spray progresses, identifying key factors influencing overall spray behavior.
- 3. Particle Size Prediction: Develop empirical correlations to predict particle size distribution, considering factors such as liquid film thickness and atomization tip shape, to advance the optimization of ultrasonic atomization techniques for molten metals.

Goals

- Analyze how varying operating parameters affect droplet characteristics and spray patterns.
- Investigate fundamental ultrasonic atomization mechanisms, focusing on capillary waves and cavitation.
- Conduct preliminary testing of liquid properties for future molten metal applications and develop predictive models.

Benefits

- Gain expertise in high-speed imaging and ultrasonic atomization techniques, valuable for metal powder production.
- Build a strong foundation for advanced research or a PhD in metal processing and materials science.
- Opportunity to collaborate with industry experts and advance metal powder technologies.

Supervisor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
2 nd supervisor	N.A.	A
Mentor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	

Available for ME

EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Machine learning for scale interaction in turbulent flow

Stein Stoter E-mail: k.f.s.stoter@tue.nl

Keywords: Machine-learning, Finite element method, Scale interaction

INTRODUCTION

With the finite element method, we can approximate solutions to partial differential equations. These can be interpreted as 'coarse-scale' representations of the true solution, and the approximation error can be interpreted as the missing 'fine-scale' contribution. For transport equations, the effect of the fine scales must be taken into account (modeled) while computing the coarse scales to obtain stable results. The quality of this scale interaction model dictates the quality of the coarse-scale approximation, as seen in the figure below. The ultimate application area of this research lies in the multiscale modeling of turbulent flow (Fig 1.)

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The scale interaction can be computed exactly but this costs a lot of computational power, making it unfeasible to do so during the simulation of transport phenomena. Instead, one could learn the scale interaction with a machine learning algorithm during a training phase, and then use the machine learning model during the simulation of the transport problem.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Perform a literature study to learn about the state-of-theart of machine learning for scale interaction, and about the types of machine learning techniques used for similar tasks.
- Develop a code that can compute the exact scale interaction function.
- Develop a machine learning code that can predict these functions.
- Study the effectiveness of the machine-learned model of the scale interaction.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who has:

- · Affinity towards (advanced) numerical solution methods,
- Strong interest in programming and eager to improve upon their existing programming skills (e.g., Python).

REFERENCES

 Stoter, S.K.F. et al. (2022). Discontinuous Galerkin methods through the lens of variational multiscale analysis, Computer Methods for Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 388, 114220.



Supervisor	Rob Bastiaans	Available for ME SET AT ALES
2nd supervisor		Available for ivie-Self-Al-Ales
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	2025	
Exp./Num./Design	Theoretical and numerical	Project number: 2025 25-02



LES subgrid scale analysis and using FGM from DNS for premixed turbulent combustion

Rob Bastiaans EMAIL: r.j.m.bastiaans@TUE.NL

INTRODUCTION

Turbulent combustion is a very common large scale energy generation method, e.g. in gas turbines. Nowadays we concentrate on the combustion of carbon free fuels, here NH_3/H_2 mixtures. Design is very difficult as experiments are always small scale and expensive. Therefore, we try to simulate these events efficiently, though accurately. Reduction of grid sizes with large eddy simulation (LES) is inevitable. Academically we perform direct numerical simulations (DNS) of canonical cases to establish a reference 'truth', by resolving everything. In LES modelling one must model subgrid scale (SGS). See figure 1 for the different approaches.



Figure 1: Results of ways to simulate turbulence.

Currently we are interested in SGS conributions of subgrid species fluxes compared to the chemical source term contribution. Additionally, we are interested in anisotropy of these fluxes and ways to take this into account in LES. This might be important in e.g. boundary layers and boundary layer flash back events. For a DNS result of a turbulent combustion kernel see figure 2.



Figure 2: Turbulent premixed NH₃/H₂ combustion kernel.

OBJECTIVES

- Find good literature on SGS modelling of turbulent premixed combustion
- Analyse DNS simulations with respect to hypothetical SGS by filtering (convolution)
- Make a combustion manifold from the DNS and try to use it.
- Propose LES SGS modelling approaches

Candidate

- Has knowledge of combustion and CFD
- Has analytical skills
- Is interested in fundamental research

REFERENCES

[1] T. Poinsot and D. Veynante, Theoretical and numerical combustion. 2022

/ POWER AND FLOW

Supervisor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
2 nd supervisor	N.A.	Available for ME
Mentor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	



The sound of turbulence

Stein Stoter E-mail: k.f.s.stoter@tue.nl

Keywords: Turbulence modelling, Fourier representation

INTRODUCTION

Turbulent flow is characterized by the interaction between large-scale and small-scale flow structures, which together govern the transfer of energy and momentum. These structures often exhibit repeating, periodic patterns, providing an opportunity to better understand the flow by "listening" to its dominant frequencies.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Search for available turbulent flow datasets.
- Analyze a suitable turbulent flow datasets, perform a discrete Fourier Transform, and search for the prevalent modes.
- Investigate how well a hand-full of modes can reproduce the important characteristics.



Fig 1: Turbulent flow decomposed into its dominant mode shapes.

Project description

In this project, you will dig into a turbulent flow solution to obtain the fundamental modes that make up the flow field. By you will transfer this information to a sound profile. Performing different band-pass filters, enables you to intuitively investigate the intensity and characteristics of specific frequency components within the flow-induced sound. This approach allows for a clearer understanding of the relationship between flow structures and their acoustic signatures.

Next, you investigate how only a few acoustic modes can preproduce most of the sound of the turbulent flow. This opens the door to model reduction in turbulence models.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who has:

- Affinity towards Fluid Mechanics.
- Interest in programming.

REFERENCES

[1] Pope, S.B. (2000). Turbulent flows

/ POWER & FLOW

Supervisor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
2 nd supervisor	N.A.	Available for ME
Mentor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	



A turbulence modeling framework for means and oscillating flow fields

Stein Stoter E-mail: k.f.s.stoter@tue.nl

Keywords: Turbulence modelling, RANS, Fourier representation

INTRODUCTION

Turbulence modeling frameworks based on the Reynoldsaveraged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations are the main workhorse in CFD-industry turbulent flow solvers. Their popularity stems from computational efficiency and ease of use. Yet they lack in predictive capability, i.e., accuracy. This is due to the underlying models, which necessarily replace the unknown turbulence quantities with expressions based on mean quantities.

Project description

In this project, you will develop a new RANS framework, that not only aims to retrieve the mean quantities, but also the lower-order oscillations of the turbulent flow field. The expectation is that this fuller description of the complete physics alleviates the model deficiencies of classical RANS models.



Fig 1: RANS simulation with clear low-frequency oscillation components.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Perform a literature study to learn about the advanced RANS models.
- Develop a suitable model based on the RANS equations for the means and oscillations.
- Implement this model in an in-house turbulent flow solver, for turbulent channel flow (see below).
- Analyze the accuracy of the obtained solutions in comparison to a typical eddy-viscosity RANS model.



Fig 2: Main testcase: turbulent channel flow

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who has:

- Affinity towards (advanced) numerical solution methods,
- Strong interest in programming and eager to improve upon their existing programming skills (e.g., Python).

REFERENCES

[1] Pope, S.B. (2000). Turbulent flows

Master Thesis Project Proposals Q3 2024-2025



Energy Technology & Fluid Dynamics Department of Mechanical Engineering Eindhoven University of Technology



Preface

This is an overview of all the Master Graduation project proposals available in Energy Technology & Flow Dynamics.

Please select 2-3 choices of different projects in order of preference and write a **short motivation** for your first choice to Azahara Luna-Triguero (a.luna.triguero@tue.nl).

Example:

- My first preference is project... because I am very motivated to work on...
- Second preference is... (no motivation needed)
- Third preference is.. (no motivation needed)

If you need more information on a proposal you can contact directly one of the supervisors (the emails are in each project proposal).

Supervisor	Dr. Maja Rücker, Dr. Thijs de Groot
Mentor	Maja Rücker
Company	MPIP (Physics of Interfaces, Prof. Hans Jürgen Butt)
Internal / External	External (Mainz Germany) or internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental design

Available for ME-SET

EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF

Project number:

The impact of flow dynamics on electrification and alteration of porous electrodes

Maja Rücker*, Thijs de Groot, Hans Jürgen Butt

*E-mail: m.rucker@tue.nl

Porous Electrodes for Electrolysis

Compared to conventional electrodes, porous electrodes show high specific surface areas enhancing the generation of gas bubbles due to water electrolysis. Following the generation, those bubbles travel through the electrode in complex patterns known to hinder reactant transport or induce surface alteration, reducing electrode performance of electrodes. An in-depth understanding of the behaviour of bubbles in porous electrodes is hence, of great importance. [1]

Slide electrification

Previous observation of water drops sliding over an insulated hydrophobic surface, like a raincoat or Teflon pan, have shown that moving fluid-fluid interfaces can cause charge separation. When placing an electrode through the drop in contact with the surface, we can measure a small current [2]. This raises the question about the contribution of slide electrification due to fluid dynamics in the porous electrode to the processes observed during electrolysis: How does it contribute to surface alteration? How does it influence the motion of the fluid? How does it impact the efficiency?

The idea

In this study, we investigate the relevance of fluid dynamics [3] and associated slide electrification on the electrode performance. By developing а new experimental set-up in which we control the ratio and velocity of the flow of two fluids through a porous electrode with and without grounding, we can explore the variation different settings have on slide electrification and hence provide insight into its significance for electrode performance.

Tasks

In this project, you will be expected to complete the following tasks:

Reviewing the relevant literature on multiphase flow in porous media, slide electrification and alteration of porous electrodes

- Developing an experimental set-up allowing to assess slide electrification in a porous substrate at controlled flow conditions
- · Conduct experiments, compare results and develop recommendations to improve porous electrodes for electrolysis

Benefits

In this project, you will benefit from:

- · Improving your laboratory skills and learning how to design and carry out experiments.
- Gaining knowledge on fluid dynamics in porous substrates, slide electrification effects and its impact on energy applications such as electrolysis.

water

Figure 1: Bubbling H2 from an electrode





Figure 2: Experimental set-up for slide electrification in a drop [2]

Figure 3: Proposal for an experimental set-up for slide electrification in a porous substrate





Figure 3: Fluid dynamics In a porous substrate [3]

References

^[1] Wu, R., Hu, Z., Zhang, H., Wang, J., Qin, C., & Zhou, Y. (2023). Bubbles in Porous Electrodes for Alkaline Water Electrolysis. Langmuir, 40(1), 721-733. [2] Stetten, A. Z., Golovko, D. S., Weber, S. A., & Butt, H. J. (2019). Slide electrification: charging of surfaces by moving water drops. Soft matter, 15(43), 8667-8679.

^[3] Heijkoop, S., Rieder, D., Moura, M., Rücker, M., & Spurin, C. (2024). A Statistical Analysis of Fluid Interface Fluctuations: Exploring the Role of Viscosity Ratio. Entropy, 26(9), 774.

TU/e Supervisors	Arjan Frijns, Max Beving
Company	tweaq
Starting date	a.s.a.p.
Exp./Num./Design	Num./Design (/Exp.)



Feasibility Study and System Design for Modular Heat Batteries in Climate Control Applications

INTRODUCTION

Efficient thermal energy storage is critical for optimizing climate control systems and reducing energy consumption. Heat batteries, particularly modular designs using technologies like PCM (Phase Change Materials) or TCM (Thermochemical Materials), have the potential to revolutionize energy-efficient heating and cooling. However, developing a reliable and scalable heat battery is complex, requiring significant time, resources, and expertise.

Our start-up focuses on developing software to optimize automation in systems like greenhouses, buildings, and water infrastructure. To support this innovation, we aim to integrate modular heat batteries into a *living lab*—a fully operational greenhouse—to explore their feasibility, design optimal control strategies, and assess energysaving potential.

TASKS

Market Research and Feasibility Study

- Identify and evaluate available modular heat battery technologies (PCM and TCM systems).
- Analyze their suitability for integration into the *living lab* **System Design**
- Develop a conceptual system design for integrating heat batteries into climate control infrastructure.
- Propose automation and control strategies to maximize energy efficiency.

Simulation and Energy Savings Assessment

- Model the energy performance of different heat battery options under various operating conditions.
- Estimate the climate impact, potential energy savings and environmental benefits.

System Testing (optional)

- Assist in sourcing and installing the selected heat battery
- Conduct initial testing to validate the design and evaluate system performance in the *living lab*.

GOALS

The primary goal is to deliver a feasibility study and system design that identifies the most suitable modular heat battery for the greenhouse test environment. The project will provide a clear roadmap for integrating and testing the selected system, laying the groundwork for optimizing automated climate control strategies.

STUDENT PROFILE

What we are looking for

A motivated and technically skilled MSc student with the following qualifications:

- Strong interest in sustainable energy systems, and automation technologies.
- Proficiency in simulation tools and programming experience (e.g. python/C#)
- Hands-on experience in prototyping and working with sensors is an advantage.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to work independently.
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities to work with multidisciplinary teams.

Why Work With Us?

Joining our team offers you the unique opportunity to bring your own ideas into practice and contribute to sustainable technology in a dynamic and innovative environment. You'll work hands-on with (energy) systems, including an operational greenhouse *living lab*, where theoretical concepts are put to the test in real-world applications. Our start-up culture values creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to solving pressing energy challenges. This project will not only deepen your expertise in energy storage , thermal- and automation systems but also provide valuable industry experience, preparing you for a successful career in sustainable engineering and technology.

Supervisor	Prof. David Smeulders	ETEN
2nd supervisor	Dr. Yukai Liu	
Daily supervisor	Dr. Yukai Liu	
Company	N.A	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Primarily experimental	

Experimental study of borehole Stoneley waves in multi-fractured formation

INTRODUCTION

The subsurface of the Earth can be used for hydrogen and CO2 storage, but the presence of fractured zones can significantly impact storage integrity by altering permeability and creating potential leakage pathways. Stoneley waves, acoustic waves propagating along boreholes, are highly sensitive to these fractured zones. While their application in reservoir characterization is well-established, research has primarily focused on single-fracture or homogeneous formations. This project aims to Stoneley experimentally investigate wave propagation within fractured zones containing multiple fractures, providing crucial data for their identification and characterization.



Fig. 1. Geological storage of CO₂ and Its potential leakage pathways (Xiao. T. et al., 2024)

TASKS

Task1: Build borehole models with different types of fractures (varying size, length, and spacing).

Task2: Perform borehole Stoneley wave measurements using the new borehole models, analyzing reflection, transmission, and attenuation coefficients.

/ ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND FLUID DYNAMICS



Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of Stoneley wave measurement in a multi-fractured formation.

RESEARCH GOALS

- 1) Characterize Stoneley wave propagation in fractured zones, focusing on transmission, reflection, and attenuation.
- Determine the influence of fracture geometry (spacing, aperture, number) on Stoneley wave responses.
- Understand the underlying physical mechanisms of Stoneley wave-fracture interaction.



Fig. 3. Photo of three rock samples with varying fracture apertures. (a) Closed fracture, (b) 4 mm fracture, and (c) 6 mm fracture

STUDENT PROFILE

- Interested in experimental studies.
- Pro-active attitude.

David Smeulders and Yukai Liu

Contact emails: d.m.j.smeulders@tue.nl y.liu3@tue.nl

Supervisor	Dr. Clemens Verhoosel
2 nd supervisor	N.A.
Mentor	N.A.
Company	N.A.
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

Available for ME

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Computational methods in Thermal Fluids Engineering

Clemens Verhoosel, Harald van Brummelen, Michael Abdelmalik or Stein Stoter

Keywords: Computational Mechanics

Fig 1: Multi-phase flow through porous material









Fig 2: Model order reduction



Fig 3: Explicit analysis of a shell-structure

INTRODUCTION

Computational method development plays a crucial role in advancing scientific research and engineering applications. As the complexity of real-world problems continues to grow, there is an increasing demand for efficient, accurate, and robust numerical methods to simulate, analyze, and predict complex systems.

Within this Computational Methods in Thermal Fluids Engineering consortium, we offer a broad scope of master thesis projects on solving complex problems across various scientific and engineering domains.

Project focus

The specific direction of the project can be tailored to your interests, allowing you to work on topics ranging from fluid dynamics and structural mechanics to machine learning and high-performance computing. If you're motivated to tackle challenging problems and eager to make a meaningful impact through computational innovation, we encourage you to reach out to one of the supervisors below to discuss ideas and potential project paths.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who has:

- Affinity towards (advanced) numerical solution methods,
- Interest in programming and eager to improve upon their existing programming skills (e.g., Python).

Contact





From left to right:

- Harald van Brummelen
- Clemens Verhoosel
- Michael Abdelmalik
- Stein Stoter

E.H.v.Brummelen@tue.nl CVerhoose@tue.nl M.Abdel.malik@tue.nl K.F.S.Stoter@tue.nl

Supervisor	Maja Rücker	ETEN
Partners TU Delft	Hanieh Bazyar, Georgia Kontaxi	EIFU
Daily supervisor	Gijs Wensink	
Company	Collaboration with TU Delft	
Starting date	Any time	TECHNOLOGY
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental	



Dynamic response of responsive microgel-coated membranes for CO2 detection in seawater

Gijs Wensink*, Maja Rücker**, Hanieh Bazyar, Georgia Kontaxi *g.j.wensink@tue.nl,**m.rucker@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Indirect ocean capture (IOC) is a negative emission technology which uses the capacities of the oceans to capture atmospheric CO_2 . Using electrodialysis [1], the pH of oceanwater can be altered to allow increase dissolution of CO_2 . These membranes can be functionalized with a CO_2 sensing layer to allow measuring dissolved CO_2 insitu. The goal of this project is to experimentally study the applicability of CO_2 -responsive etalon membranes for this purpose.



Figure 1. Left: Storage of CO_2 in oceanwater, right: CO_2 sensing concept **TASKS**

Tasks during the project:

- Prepare and experimental plan for studying dynamics of CO2-responsive microgels coated on membranes in flow conditions.
- Testing the experimental setup, consisting of an atomic force microscope equipped with a sample holder designed for in-flow measurements.
- Carrying out the experiments under varying conditions.
- Analysing the results with image processing software and statistical analysis.
- Comparing the data with interferometry measurements carried out by partners at TU Delft.

GOALS

The main goal of this project is to understand the dynamic behavior of microgel beads coated on a ceramic membrane under flow conditions. We are interested in:

- The swelling/response time after exposure to CO2 enriched water.
- The swelling rate/volume under different pH conditions
- Microgel layer thickness compared with interferometry measurements.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a student with interest in a project with experimental focus. The student will learn to use Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM), design and carry out experiments and analyse the results.



Figure 2: Schematic of AFM in-situ flow sample holder.

REFERENCES

[1] Eisaman, M. D., Parajuly, K., Tuganov, A., Eldershaw, C., Chang, N., & Littau, K. A. (2012). CO2 extraction from seawater using bipolar membrane electrodialysis. Energy & Environmental Science, 5(6), 7346–7352. https://doi.org/10.1039/C2EE03393C

[2] Kontaxi, G., Wensink, G., Sberna, P. M., Rücker, M., Garbin, V., Serpe, M. J., & Bazyar, H. (2024). Microgel-based etalon membranes: Characterization and properties. APL Materials, 12(9).

https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0227483/3312338

Supervisor	Paul Grassia
2nd/3rd supervisor	Maja Rucker/David Rieder
Starting date	Flexible
Exp./Num./Design	Modelling/Numerical



ERSITY OF

Paul Grassia, Maja Rucker, David Rieder p.s.grassia@tue.nl, m.rucker@tue.nl, d.r.rieder@tue.nl



Foamed Gas Flow in Porous Media for Energy Storage

U/

INTRODUCTION

There are many scenarios which involve gas displacing other fluids in porous media (e.g. soil/aquifer remediation, CO2 capture/storage, seasonal storage of green hydrogen). However the high mobility of gas in porous media leads to flow control issues (gas override, fingering and channelling phenomena). These can be overcome by foaming the gas, which reduces its mobility by orders of magnitude. Looking inside porous media to see how foamed gas distributes remains however challenging. Hence it is useful to have models describing both foamed gas mobility and how foamed gas flows. One additional challenge in the case of seasonal hydrogen storage is that stored gas eventually needs to recovered by flowing gas out of the medium again. Models suggest however that foamed gas flowing back out of a medium has an even lower mobility than foamed gas flowing in [1]. This impact of this upon how readily hydrogen can be recovered from porous media is not yet understood.

GOALS

The goal is to develop a computer simulation for foamed gas moving in porous media. The model will be used to design geological gas storage processes with a balance being sought between the amount of gas stored and the subsequent ease/rapidity of extracting it.



Figure 1: Seasonal storage of green hydrogen



Figure 2. Seasonal extraction of green hydrogen

BENEFITS

The project will contribute to the goals of energy transition. Technology already exists to generate green hydrogen from renewable sources (solar, wind), but challenges remain in storing it safely and in large quantities.

PROFILE

The project requires a student interested in porous media and multiphase flows. Experience with numerical methods for partial differential equations and with computer programming will also be an advantage.

REFERENCES

[1] M. Eneotu and P. Grassia. Foam improved oil recovery: Towards a formulation for pressure-driven growth with flow reversal. Proc. Roy. Soc. London Ser. A, 476:20200573, 2020 doi: 10.1098/rspa.2020.0573.

Supervisor	Maja Rucker
2nd/3rd supervisor	Paul Grassia/David Rieder
Starting date	Flexible
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental/Design



Visualising Foamed Gas Flow in Energy Storage

TU/

Maja Rucker, Paul Grassia, David Rieder m.rucker@tue.nl, p.s.grassia@tue.nl, d.r.rieder@tue.nl

NIVERSITY OF

INTRODUCTION

Geological porous media are candidates for seasonal storage of green hydrogen. Gas flows in media however face mobility control issues. fingering and channelling e.g. phenomena. Such phenomena are associated with low mobility fluids displacing higher mobility ones. For flowing gas into media at least, such issues can be solved by foaming the gas. At a foam front, a layer of very low mobility foamed gas is known to develop, leading to smooth displacement of any fluids already present in the medium. Applications involving seasonal hydrogen storage are distinct though from other gas in porous media applications (e.g. CO2 capture and storage), in that it is needed to extract the hydrogen again. During extraction, models now predict fluids originally present in the reservoir displacing very low mobility foam, not vice versa [1]. An open scientific question is then whether the aforementioned mobility control issues, avoided during storage, might simply arise during extraction, reducing how efficiently hydrogen can be recovered.

GOALS

The goal is to develop a laboratory experiment to visualise how foamed gas distributes during both gas storage and gas extraction processes. Mobility of foamed gas during storage and extraction will also be measured.



Figure 1: Unstable flow (fingering) of unfoamed gas



Figure 2. Foamed gas stable flow during storage; behaviour during extraction unknown

BENEFITS

The project will contribute to the goals of energy transition. Technology already exists to generate green hydrogen from renewable sources (solar, wind), but challenges remain in storing it safely and in large quantities within geological porous media.

PROFILE

The project requires a student interested in experimental studies on porous media and multiphase flows. Experimental skills and experience in designing and building experimental set ups are essential.

REFERENCES

[1] M. Eneotu and P. Grassia. Foam improved oil recovery: Towards a formulation for pressure-driven growth with flow reversal. Proc. Roy. Soc. London Ser. A, 476:20200573, 2020 doi: 10.1098/rspa.2020.0573.

Supervisor	Prof. Harald van Brummelen		
2nd supervisor	Dr. Stein Stoter	Available for ME	
Mentor	Tom van Sluijs		
Company	N.A.		-
Internal / External	Internal		ЭF
Starting date	Anytime		Y
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	Project number:	



Analysis of droplet jetting and subsequent Rayleigh breakup in a Navier-Stokes Cahn-Hilliard framework

Tom van Sluijs*, Stein Stoter, Harald van Brummelen *E-mail: t.b.v.sluijs@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

The Cahn-Hilliard equations describe phase separation, such as water-air systems. The Navier-Stokes equations describe the motion of viscous fluids. Coupling these models gives the opportunity to describe the dynamics of multiphase flow. This Navier-Stokes-Cahn-Hilliard (NSCH) model is implemented numerically and used to simulate multiphase problems. See the figure below or this video for a typical result.

The main application area for this research is inkjet printing, where many problems—such as droplet dynamics, Rayleigh break-up, and jetting ink from a single nozzle—can be described with axisymmetric models. To achieve accurate and efficient simulations, a mathematically sound and numerically efficient implementation of the NSCH model is needed.

The goal of this project is to develop the mathematical formulation of an axisymmetric NSCH model, implement it numerically, and apply it to study relevant axisymmetric test cases.

TASKS

In this project, you are expected to do:

- Literature review, focused on multiphase flow, capillarity, the NSCH model and axisymmetry.
- Program a numerical implementation in our existing framework.
- Qualitative and quantitative assessment of the numerical results.
- Conclusion and advise on both modelling and the numerical implementation.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a motivated MSc student who:

- is curious about the mathematical modeling of fluid dynamics, in particular multiphase flow, interface phenomena and boundary conditions.
- is interested in theoretical modelling, numerical methods, and programming.
- is looking to develop his/her personal skillset: physical modelling, numerical methods, literature study, programming, and data analysis.



Figure 1: The velocity field (bottom left) and pressure field (top right) of a waterair flow in a porous medium.

REFERENCES

Abels, H., Garcke, H., & Grün, G. (2012). Thermodynamically consistent, frame indifferent diffuse interface models for incompressible two-phase flows with different densities. Mathematical Models and Methods in Applied Sciences, 22(3). doi: 10.1142/S0218202511500138

Van Brummelen, E. H., Demont, T. H., & van Zwieten, G. J. (2020). An adaptive isogeometric analysis approach to elasto-capillary fluid-solid interaction. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering(March), 1–22. doi: 10.1002/nme.6388 **Keywords**: Physical modelling, *Numerical methods, Finite Elements, Navier-Stokes, Cahn-Hilliard*

Stein K.F. Stoter, Tom B. van Sluijs, Tristan H.B. Demont, E. Harald van Brummelen, Clemens V. Verhoosel (2023) Stabilized immersed isogeometric analysis for the Navier–Stokes–Cahn–Hilliard equations, with applications to binary-fluid flow through porous media, Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 2023, 116483, ISSN 0045-7825, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cma.2023.116483.

Daily supervisor	Dr. David Rieder	ETED
Supervisor	Dr. Maike Baltussen	EIFU
Supervisor	Dr. Maja Rücker	
Starting date	asap	
Exp./Num./Design	Experimental & Numerical	



> D.R. Rieder*, M.W. Baltussen, M. Rücker *d.r.rieder@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Multiphase flows traditionally belong to the most relevant phenomena for the energyrelevant industry, i.e. hydrogen-formation in electrolyzers, brine-displacement during CCS or synthesis of liquid fuels. However, those flows also belong to the least understood phenomena, due to the complex material interaction at the interfaces.

Additionally, gaining insights into those phenomena via multiphase CFD is often limited by unsatisfying overlap with experiments. There, the material and system properties are often not included in the models or simply not known, e.g. wettability and contact angle [1].

In this collaborative project between ME & CEC, we aim to improve our understanding of flow simultaneously multiphase using advanced multiphase CFD in combination with 4D (3D + time) μ CT-imaging. Here, the droplet spreading inside a regular, idealized porous media will be studied and the experimental results compared with complementary simulations.

GOALS

You will design an idealized porous structure, conduct μ CT experiments, compare those results with high-fidelity multiphase CFD, schematically shown in fig. 1. Finally, you will critically analyze the results and evaluate the quality of the current state of the art of multiphase models.

Figure 1: Schematic Imaging setup and comparison with simulation data for the imbibition of a droplet in an idealized porous media

BENEFITS

Within this project you will:

- Acquire in-depth knowledge of advanced experimental techniques and numerical methods
- Work in an international team addressing the current challenges for the energytransition
- Advance our understanding of multiphase fluid dynamics
- Contribute to solving fundamental challenges for the transition to a sustainable energy sector

REFERENCES

[1] Rücker et. al The Origin of Non-thermal Fluctuations in Multiphase Flow in Porous Media doi: 10.3389/frwa.2021.671399

/ ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND FLUID DYNAMICS

Supervisor	Paul Grassia
2nd supervisor	Paul Grassia
Starting date	Flexible
Exp./Num./Design	Modelling/Numerical



Bubble Trains Flowing in a Channel

Paul Grassia* p.s.grassia@tue.nl,



There are many scenarios in which trains of bubbles flow along narrow channels (e.g. foam-based gas storage, foam-based soil remediation). As throughput is increased in such processes, there is a risk that viscous drag forces will break the train of bubbles apart. However it is also possible that the structure can stay together provided foam films between bubbles flatten out [1]. This project will explore the geometry of such flat film states.

GOALS

The goal is to develop models establishing limits on bubble sizes that can stack into a flat film state as a function of the number of bubbles within a train. This will in turn identify the domain of bubble sizes that admit rapid throughput within a channel or porous medium.

BENEFITS

You will be studying a system which admits a rich physical behaviour, but which simultaneously can be used in engineering practice. You will also be studying an unconventional class of models in which dynamics is largely replaced by geometry.







Figure 2. A flat film state that does not break

PROFILE

The project requires a student with an interest in foams and an understanding of and liking for geometry. Programming experience is also an advantage.

REFERENCES

[1] C. Torres-Ulloa and P. Grassia. Viscous froth model applied to the motion and topological transformations of two-dimensional bubbles in a channel: Three-bubble case. Proc. Roy. Soc. London Ser. A, 478:20210642, 2022 doi: 10.1098/rspa.2021.0642.

Sumam/isar	Michael Abdelmelik
Supervisor	Michael Abdelmalik
2 nd supervisor	Victorita Dolean (M&CS)
Company	N/A
Internal / External	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical

ETFD

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Neural Operators for Preconditioning Iterative Solvers

Michael Abdelmalik*, Victorita Dolean *E-mail:m.abdel.malik@tue.nl

Keywords: Machine Learning, Neural Networks, Partial Differential Equations, Preconditioners

INTRODUCTION

While partial differential equations (PDEs) play a fundamental role in the way we mathematically describe physical phenomena, the resolution of such equations is restricted by our capability of computing discrete solutions to the linearized system of equations. When the number of such equations becomes large, direct matrix inversion methods become prohibitively expensive, and the use of iterative methods becomes necessary. A key factor for effective use of iterative solvers is the availability of a *precondtioner* which approximates the action of the inverse.

TASKS

- Formulate suitable objective/loss function(s)
- · Generate training and validation datasets,
- Construct tailored Neural Operator architectures,
- Train and validate network
- Use neural operator to accelerate iterative solvers

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who is interested in:

- machine learning and neural networks,
- mathematical modelling of physical phenomena,
- practical algorithms for mathematical models,
- programming (e.g., Python) and improving coding skills.



Neural Operator for Parametric PDEs

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this MSc project is to explore architectures for neural operators that can approximate the solution operator to a PDE. Moreover, we aim to use such an (approximate) solution operator to i) construct a reduced-order/surrogate model which can provide generalized, accurate and fast solutions; ii) to construct precondtioners to accelerate iterative solvers.

REFERENCES

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[2] Variationally mimetic operator networks (2024). Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering.

Supervisor	David Rieder	ETFD
2nd supervisor	Revanth Sharma	
Starting date	Asap	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	



High-fidelity upscaling of gas flow in porous media – Stepping from kinetic gas theory to Pore Network Models

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INTRODUCTION

The performance of a variety of key technologies for the transition to a sustainable society is highly dependent on the flow in very narrow pore spaces, i.e. for carbon capture and storage, in electrodes of electrolyzers or application of supported catalyst. However, predicting gas flow in highly porous media is still riddled with uncertainties, besides decades of research [1].

Especially the influence of the contact of solid wall and gas molecules is considered to be the dominating effect in those small pores. Recently, highly performant state-of-the-art solvers allow for high-fidelity predictions of the gas flow under such regimes. This allows the study so called 'slip'-effects and their incorporation in application-scale pore network models.

A successful incorporation of those 'slip'effects then allows rapid upscaling for predicting gas flows in real applications and lays the foundation for the modeling of complex multiphase flows.

GOALS

Study the gas flow in nano- and mesopores with state-of-the art kinetic gas solvers and employ pore network models to derive continuum scale properties.



Figure 1 A porous material may be approximated by a network of pores and throats. Accurate predictions of flow in such porous media highly depends on the capturing the relevant transport phenomena, e.g. the wall contact.

BENEFITS

- You will be working with an international team of scientist on a highly challenging and relevant topic
- Gain insights into multiple models at different scales
- Contribute to the fundamental challenges of transitioning to a sustainable economy

PROFILE

We are looking for a highly motivated student who is not afraid to ask critical questions. Prior experience with modelling of porous media is a plus, but not a requirement. Do you feel up to such a challenge? Let's have a talk!

REFERENCES

[1] V. Pavan, L. Oxarango A New Momentum Equation for Gas Flow in Porous Media: The Klinkenberg Effect Seen Through the Kinetic Theory **2007** J. Stat. Phys. DOI:10.1007/s10955-006-9110-2

Supervisor	Camilo Rindt	
2nd supervisor		EIFU
Daily supervisor	Fatemeh Eftekhar	
Company	SolarTech	
Starting date	As soon as possible	
Exp./Num./Design	Simulation	



Fluent Simulation of a Building-Integrated Thermal Collector (BIT Collector)

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INTRODUCTION

Building-Integrated Thermal Collectors (BIT Collectors) are sustainable systems integrated into building structures to enhance energy efficiency by capturing and storing heat. Effective operation of BIT collectors relies on a thorough understanding of the fluid dynamics and heat transfer within the system. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations are essential for analyzing these characteristics [1]. However, to ensure that the simulations accurately reflect real-world conditions, experimental validation is necessary. This project aims to refine the CFD simulation model of a BIT collector and validate it with available experimental data, leading to a more accurate model for future system design and optimization.



Keywords: BIT collector, Thermal collector, CFD simulation, Fluent simulation, Ansys

TASKS

The main tasks of this project include:

3D Simulation Model Development:

- Expand Geometry: Build a model of the BIT collector that closely represents the physical experimental setup.
- Mesh Refinement: Apply high-resolution meshing techniques to improve accuracy, especially in complex heat transfer and fluid flow regions.
- Boundary Conditions and Solver Setup: Set boundary conditions and solver parameters that match

experimental conditions, ensuring stable simulation results [2].

Running and Analyzing the 3D Simulation:

- Simulation Execution: Run the CFD simulations and track key metrics such as temperature distribution and heat transfer efficiency.
- Post-Processing and Analysis: Analyze simulation data to evaluate performance, recognize trends, and understand system behavior under different conditions.

Validation and Comparison:

 Experimental Validation: Conduct laboratory experiments (in collaboration with a bachelor's student) to collect real-world data.



GOALS

- Develop an accurate CFD model that replicates realworld conditions for a BIT collector.
- Validate the simulation results with available laboratory data to ensure the model's accuracy.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a motivated MSc student with a background in energy technology and CFD modeling, particularly interested in renewable energy applications and sustainable building design. Some experience with CFD software such as Fluent or Comsol is recommended.

REFERENCES

[1] Logtenberg, S.A., Nijemeisland, M., & Dixon, A.G. (2018). Computational fluid dynamics simulations of fluid flow and heat transfer at the wall–particle contact points in a fixed-bed reactor. Chemical Engineering Science, 54(13-14), 2433-2439.

[2] Tagliafico, L.A., Scarpa, F., & De Rosa, M. (2014). Dynamic thermal models and CFD analysis for flat-plate thermal solar collectors – A review. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 30, 526-537.

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Supervisor	Dr. Azahara Luna-Triguero	
2nd supervisor	Dr. Monica E. A. Zakhari	EIFU
Mentor		
Company	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	

CHILLING WITH NANOFLUIDS: Atomistic Insights

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INTRODUCTION

The pursuit of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly refrigeration and heat transfer technologies has become paramount due to the escalating demands for cooling in various industrial, residential, and commercial sectors. Conventional refrigerants, such ลร hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), have raised significant environmental concerns due to their high global warming potential (GWP) and ozone-depleting properties. As a result, there is an urgent need to explore alternative approaches that can enhance cooling and heat transfer performance and mitigate the environmental impact of refrigeration systems.

One promising alternative in the quest for innovative refrigeration and heat transfer solutions involves the use of nanofluids [1]. Nanofluids are engineered suspensions of nanoparticles in conventional heat transfer fluids, such as water or refrigerants. Incorporating nanoparticles, particularly Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) and zeolites, into these fluids has garnered significant attention for their exceptional thermal properties and potential applications in advanced cooling systems. [2,3]

GOAL

Compute using molecular simulations and ML potentials relevant properties of nanofluids (Fig. 1) for cooling applications.

TASK

In this project, you are expected to:

- Review relevant literature on nanofluids MOFs@Rx pairs.
- Compute relevant properties of the species e.g. heat capacity and thermal conductivity.
- Assess the performance and efficiency of the systems.



Fig. 1. Nanoparticle suspension in refrigerant. Schematic representation.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a high-motivated MSc student who has:

- An interest in fundamental and computational work.
- Hands-on attitude toward new challenges.
- Analytical capacity
- Eager to participate as an active member of the group
- Experience with linux os and bash command lines is desired but not mandatory

REFERENCES

[1] McGrail, B. P., Thallapally, P. K., Blanchard, J., Nune, S. K., Jenks, J. J., & Dang, L. X. (2013). Metal-organic heat carrier nanofluids. Nano Energy, 2(5), 845-855.

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[3] Hu, J., Liu, C., Li, Q., & Shi, X. (2018). Molecular simulation of thermal energy storage of mixed CO2/IRMOF-1 nanoparticle nanofluid. International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer, 125, 1345-1348.

Supervisor	Dr. Clemens Verhoosel	
2 nd supervisor	Dr. Stein Stoter	Available for ME
Mentor	Dr. Stein Stoter	
Company	N.A.	
Internal / External	Internal	
Starting date	Any time	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	Project number: 2023 Q2-01

Trimmed explicit dynamics: a non-linear Kirchhoff-Love shell model

Clemens Verhoosel, Stein Stoter

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Keywords: Explicit dynamics, Trimming, Non-linear Kirchhoff-Love shell, Isogeometric analysis

INTRODUCTION

Explicit analysis forms the backbone of impact and crashtest simulation software (see Fig. 1). These simulations often involve shell-type components. Trimmed isogeometric analysis streamlines the design-to-analysis pipeline for these types of simulations. In isogeometric analysis, the CAD-based spline geometry representation of the shells is used directly in the analysis software.



Fig 1: Crash-test simulation. Credit: Cray Research Inc.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The trimming operation in CAD can lead to elements with very small support. In explicit dynamics, these small cuts may severely limit the permissible time step size. In our group, we have developed methods an analysis procedures for mitigating this adverse effect (see Fig. 2). In this MSc project, you will implement and investigate the performance of this approach for the non-linear variant of the Kirchhoff-Love shell model.

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WORK PACKAGE

- Develop a familiarity with shell models and explicit time-stepping methods.
- Extend the existing linear Kirchhoff-Love shell code to a code that can handle the non-linear variant.
- Study the effect of the proposed solution method.
- Depending on the students own learning goals, subsequent research may focus on a shift to the Reissner-Mindlin shell model, or efficient implementation



Fig 2: Error in the predicted displacement for the *linear* Kirchhoff-Love shell model, without and with the proposed solution method.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a MSc student who has:

- Affinity towards (advanced) numerical solution methods,
- Interest in programming and eager to improve upon their existing programming skills (e.g., Python).

REFERENCES

 Stoter, S.K.F. et al. (2022). Variationally consistent mass scaling for explicit time-integration schemes of lower- and higher-order finite element methods, Computer Methods for Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 399, 115310.

Supervisor	Dr David Rieder
2nd supervisor	Dr Maja Rücker
External Collaborator	Dr Catherine Spurin (Stanford Univ.)
Company	Internal
Starting date	Any time
Exp./Num./Design	Analysis



TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Catching CO₂ entrapment and abrupt permeability changes in partially saturated porous rocks using CFD and 3D in-situ measurements from the Swiss Light Source

David Rieder*, Maja Rücker, Catherine Spurin *d.r.rieder@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

The interaction of multiple fluids in the subsurface is a complex and multi-faceted problem of great importance due to its presence in a broad range of applications including carbon sequestration (Figure 1) and aquifer contaminant containment.



Figure 1: Subsurface CO₂ storage

Recent advances in X-ray imaging has allowed fluids to be imaged in-situ, and a range of flow phenomena have been identified [1-3] that will influence the propagation and trapping of fluids within a rock. These flow dynamics will control how much CO2 can be stored safely underground, or the necessary steps to remediate groundwater contamination.

A key parameter for flow dynamics is the viscosity ratio (this is the ratio of the viscosities of the fluids present). To understand how viscosity ratio controls the change in dynamics is of great importance, and provides the potential to engineer CO2 storage using novel injection strategies to maximize CO2 saturation and decrease the size of the CO2 plume in the subsurface. Fast X-ray imaging conducted at the Swiss Light Source (Villigen, Switzerland) was used to explore the role of the viscosity ratio of flow dynamics. For these experiments, two fluids were injected simultaneously into a carbonate rock sample. Then the viscosity of one of the fluids (the water) was altered to change the viscosity ratio (M). This led to a large change in the flow dynamics, qualitatively shown in Figure 2.

Quantifying the changes caused by the viscosity ratio in this state-of-the-art data set will provide a unique opportunity to understand how changes in viscosity cause flow patterns to evolve and what this means for potential trapping.

GOALS

Quantify the influence of the entrapments on the flow inside the rock by simulating the flow in OpenFOAM.

BENEFITS

- You will be working with an international team of scientists addressing current challenges for sustainable utilization of subsurface resources
- Gain experience in computational fluid dynamics and large data processing
- Advancing our understanding of fluid dynamics in porous systems



Figure 2: The distribution of the oil phase (rock and water transparent) for different viscosity ratios (M) at two different times t). Each connect region of oil has been assigned a different colour to show the connectivity.

REFERENCES

- [1] Spurin, C., Bultreys, T., Rücker, M., Garfi, G., Schlepütz, C.M., Novak, V., Berg, S., Blunt, M.J. and Krevor, S., 2020. Real-Time Imaging Reveals Distinct Pore-Scale Dynamics During Transient and Equilibrium Subsurface Multiphase Flow. Water Resources Research, 56(12), p.e2020WR028287.
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 From connected pathway flow to ganglion dynamics. Geophysical Research Letters, 42(10), pp.3888-3894.

Supervisor	David Rieder	
2nd supervisor	Maja Rücker	EIFU
Daily supervisor		
Company		
Starting date	asap	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical & Experimental	
and the second se		



Uncovering the perplexing effects of efflorescence on the drying processes of porous media

David Rieder, Maja Rücker *Email: d.r.rieder@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Drying is a critical step in a variety of industrial processes, either due to its inherently high energy demand or its impact on the product quality. Especially during drying of porous objects with a non-volatile dissolved component, the dynamics of the deposition inside the pore space may be the performance limiting influence. As an example, the longevity of bricks strongly depends on the salt deposition during drying, the cost of supported catalysts is heavily influenced by the distribution of the catalytic inside component its pellet and pharmaceutical products may never reach application due to lacking control over the drying step.

One of the still poorly understood aspects is the interplay between the change of the pore space and the progress of the drying, clearly visible in the form of efflorescence [1,2].

GOALS & TASKS

Your goal is to investigate the influence of mass-transport and precipitation during drying by use of a pore-network model. Further, you will evaluate your model by validation against complementary experimental data.

As part of this work you will:

- Develop a pore-network drying model
- Measure the change in pore space with state of the art 3D µCT machine



The quality of the salt deposition is heavily influenced by the drying condition. You will investigate this fascinating phenomena via pore network modeling and experimental tools. Images taken from [1] and [3]

STUDENT PROFILE

We are searching for a highly motivated student, who:

- wants to dive deeply into the challenging aspects of efflorescence
- is able to work independently
- has initial experience in formulating and solving transport models
- Has worked with Matlab, Python or C/C++ before

REFERENCES

 Gupta et al. Paradoxical Drying of a fired-clay brick due to salt-crystallization doi:10.1016/J.CES.2014.01.023
 Rieder et al. Modeling the drying process of porous catalysts - impact of viscosity and surface tension doi:10.1016/j.ces.2023.119261

[3] Eghbalmanesh et al. *CFD-validated pore network modeling of packed beds of non-spherical particle* doi:10.1016/j.ces.2023.119396

Supervisor	Camilo Rindt	
2nd supervisor		EIFU
Daily supervisor	Nikolaos Georgousis	
Company	VITO, EnergyVille	
Starting date	As soon as possible	
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical	



OPERATION INVESTIGATIONS OF PACKED-BED THERMAL STORAGE SYSTEMS: BUOYANCY FLOWS CRITERIA

Camilo Rindt and Nikolaos Georgousis c.c.m.rindt@tue.nl and nikolaos.georgousis@vito.be

INTRODUCTION

Packed-bed thermal storage (PBTS) systems are thermal energy storage (TES) devices and they typically constitute of a storage tank and a solid phase material, in the form of packing elements (PEs) for the storage of heat. Also, a heat transfer fluid (HTF), either liquid or gas, is used to exchange heat with the PEs^[1]. The efficient operation of a PBTS system is directly linked with the maintenance of the thermal stratification (separation) between the "hot" (T_h) and "cold" (T_c) temperature zones. However, there can be operational phenomena occurring that lead to the expansion of the temperature gradient zone between the T_h and T_c regions (thermocline). One of these phenomena that has received limited scientific attention are the HTF buoyancy flows which can be present at either vertical or horizontal oriented PBTS systems and during both the dynamic (charging or discharging)^[2,3] and stand-by phases.



Keywords: *PBTS systems, HTF buoyancy flows, numerical modeling, parametric investigation, thermocline*

TASKS

The main expectations of this MSc project are:

• Development of a numerical model in a Multiphysics software (preferably ANSYS) capable of capturing the HTF buoyancy flows.

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- Perform thorough parametric investigations, highlight the impact of HTF buoyancy flows on PBTS systems.
- Documenting on conditions under which buoyancy flows can significantly influence a PBTS system's operation.



GOALS

- Provide a deeper understanding of buoyancy flows impact on the temperature and HTF velocity profiles inside a PBTS system.
- Determine proper criteria for ensuring the limitation of buoyancy flows for a specific PBTS system.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for a highly motivated MSc student with interests in energy technology and numerical modelling for this quite unexplored scientific field. Knowledge of AMSYS or any other Multiphysics software is highly desired. (A 1D numerical model, coded in Python 3.11, can be provided for comparison with the Multiphysics software model results.)

REFERENCES

[1] McTigue JD *et al.* (2018), Performance of packed-bed thermal storage to cycle duration perturbations, Journal of Energy Storage, (19) 379-392.

[2] Marongiu F *et al.* (2019), Modelling of high temperature thermal energy storage in rock beds – Experimental comparison and parametric study, Applied Thermal Engineering, (163) 114355.

[3] Qu Y et al. (2023), Mixed convective heat transfer characteristics and mechanisms in structured packed beds, Particuology, (82) 122-133.

Supervisor	Guang Hu
2nd supervisor	Maja Rucker
Daily supervisor	David Rieder, Mohammad H. Khoeini
Company	Internal
Starting date	Anytime
Exp./Num./Design	Numerical & Experimental

ETFD

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Machine Learning for high efficiency analysis of complex chromatographs

Mohammad Hossein Khoeini*, David Rieder, Maja Rucker, Guang Hu *Email: m.h.khoeini@tue.nl

INTRODUCTION

Porous media are encountered almost everywhere to in science, industry and daily life, e.g. in batteries, chemical reactors, filters or concrete. Knowledge of their characteristic properties is crucial for a successful application design.

Gas chromatography allows the determination of a variety of the relevant properties [1]. However. classical evaluation of the chromatographs is often challenging, especially in the case of complex pore spaces with nonsurface properties. Either detailed ideal modeling and subsequent fitting have to be conducted or empirical behavior determined from multiple chromatographs.

We are currently developing methods for expanding the standard evaluation routines and intend to utilize machine learning to maximize the knowledge gain per experiment and increase the fidelity of the derived parameters.



Fig. 1. Schematic representation of using ML approaches in gas chromatography column (adapted from [2])

TASKS

almost As part of this work you will:

- Train a neural network on an existing database of chromatographs
- Build a computational model to compute ideal chromatographs
- Conduct a sensitivity analysis on the machine learning model

GOALS

Develop a machine learning model, which is able to analyze a chromatograph and process parameters and determine otherwise difficult to estimate properties, i.e.

- Isotherms
- Tortuosity
- Surface energy distribution

STUDENT PROFILE

We are searching for a highly motivated student, who has:

- · interest in possibilities of machine learning
- a hands-on mentality towards unexpected challenges
- Initial experience in formulating and solving transport models
- Experience with Matlab/Python is of advantage but not strictly necessary
- Analytical skills

REFERENCES

- H. Balard, Estimation of the Surface Energetic Heterogeneity of a Solid by Inverse Gas Chromatography, Langmuir 1997 13 (5), 1260-1269.
- [2] F.Qaderi, et. Al, A novel machine learning framework for predicting biogas desulfurization breakthrough curves in a fixed bed adsorption column, Bioresource Technology Reports, 2024, 25, 101702.