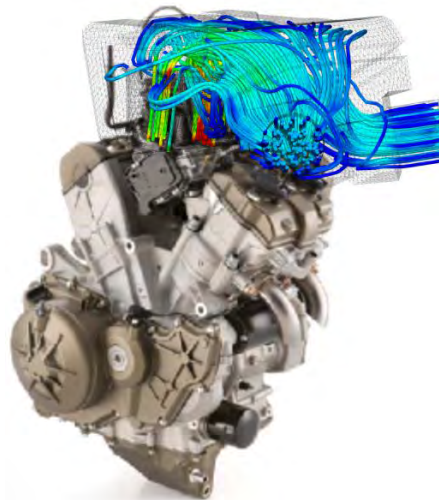


Modellazione CFD dei Motori a CI: dal Cilindro ai Sistemi di Aspirazione e Scarico



A. Onorati, G. D'Errico, G. Ferrari, G. Montenegro, T. Lucchini,
F. Piscaglia, T. Cerri, A. Montorfano, A. Della Torre [et al.](#)

Internal Combustion Engine Group
Department of Energy, Politecnico di Milano

The Internal Combustion Engine Group

Staff

Angelo Onorati, Full Professor
Gianluca D'Errico, Associate Professor
Gianluca Montenegro, Associate Professor
Tommaso Lucchini, Associate Professor
Federico Piscaglia, Associate Professor
Giancarlo Ferrari, Retired Professor

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Augusto Della Torre, RTDa, post-doc res.
Andrea Montorfano, RTDa, post-doc res.

PhD students

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Lorenzo Nocivelli	Ehsan Tamasebi
Isabella Verri	Yan Wu
Lorenzo Sforza	Javier Rubio
Filippo Giussani	Davide Paredi



MSc thesis

15 – 20 per year

Visiting PhD

Aalto, Sidney, KTH, Chalmers,
Freiberg, Valencia, etc.,

The Internal Combustion Engine Group



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Ehsan Tamasebi
Yan Wu
Javier Rubio
Davide Paredi

MSc thesis

15 – 20 per year

Visiting PhD

Aalto, Sidney, KTH, Chalmers,
Freiberg, Valencia, etc.,

Background

**Internal combustion engine development
will never stop!**

Efficiency increase

Downsizing

**Waste heat
recovery**

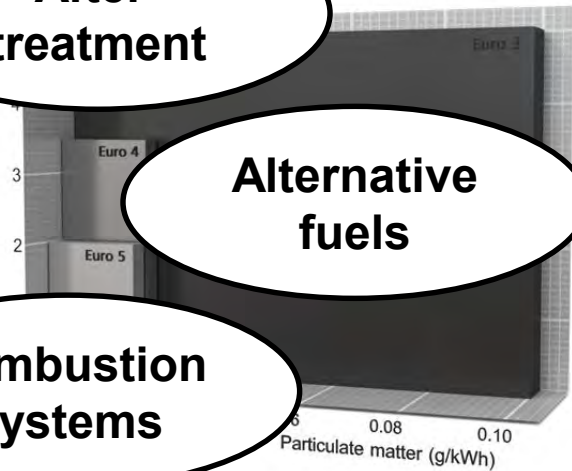
**Direct
injection**

Pollutant emission control

**After-
treatment**

**Alternative
fuels**

**Combustion
systems**

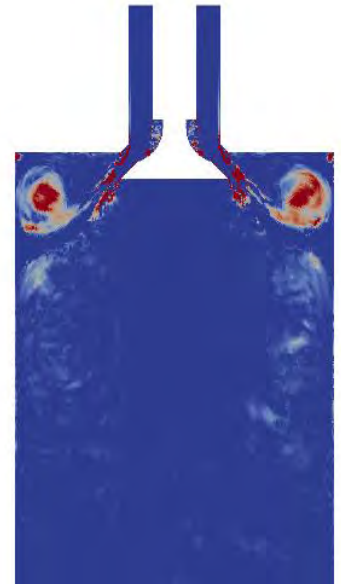
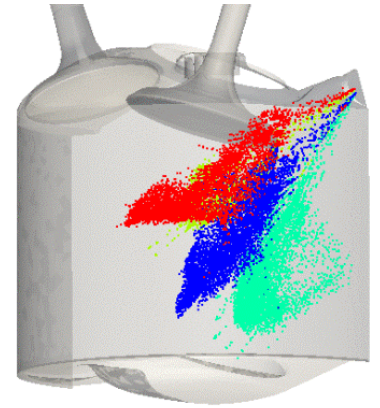


Research arguments at PoliMi

Main research topics

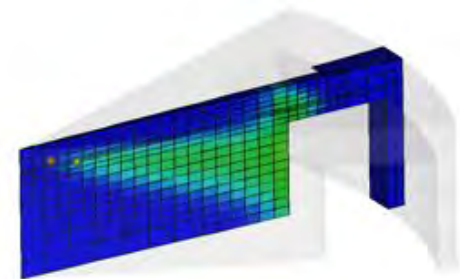
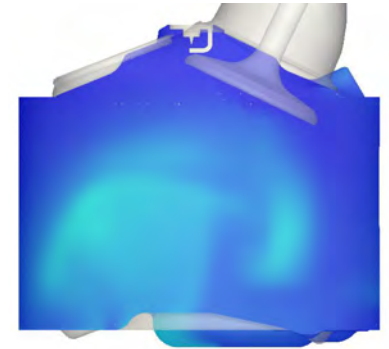
CFD simulation of IC engines:

- combustion and emissions;
- GDI and Diesel sprays;
- alternative fuels for I.C. engines;
- reacting flows and after-treatment devices (SCR, DPF);
- Large Eddy Simulation of engine-like geometries;
- integrated 1D-3D fluid-dynamic models;
- 1D thermo-fluid dynamic modeling;
- noise and acoustics.



CFD code: OpenFOAM/Lib-ICE

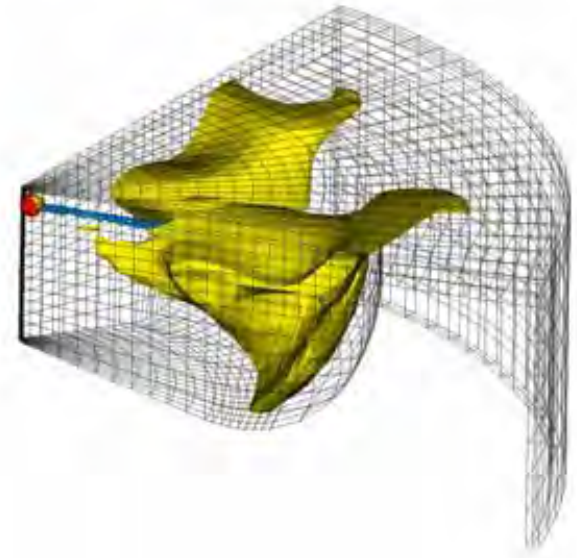
- **OpenFOAM** is a **free-to-use Open Source numerical simulation software** with extensive CFD and multi-physics capabilities, written in a highly efficient C++ object-oriented programming.
- Free-to-use, allows to exploit high parallelization with only hardware costs.
- Ideal platform for research collaborations.
- Very wide diffusion with 2000 downloads/week.
- We started to work with OpenFOAM in 2000. Our group is currently involved in several activities in Europe, concerning **OpenFOAM** development and applications.



CFD code: OpenFOAM/Lib-ICE

The ICE group of Politecnico di Milano has contributed to develop the engine library under **OpenFOAM** technology (Lib-ICE):

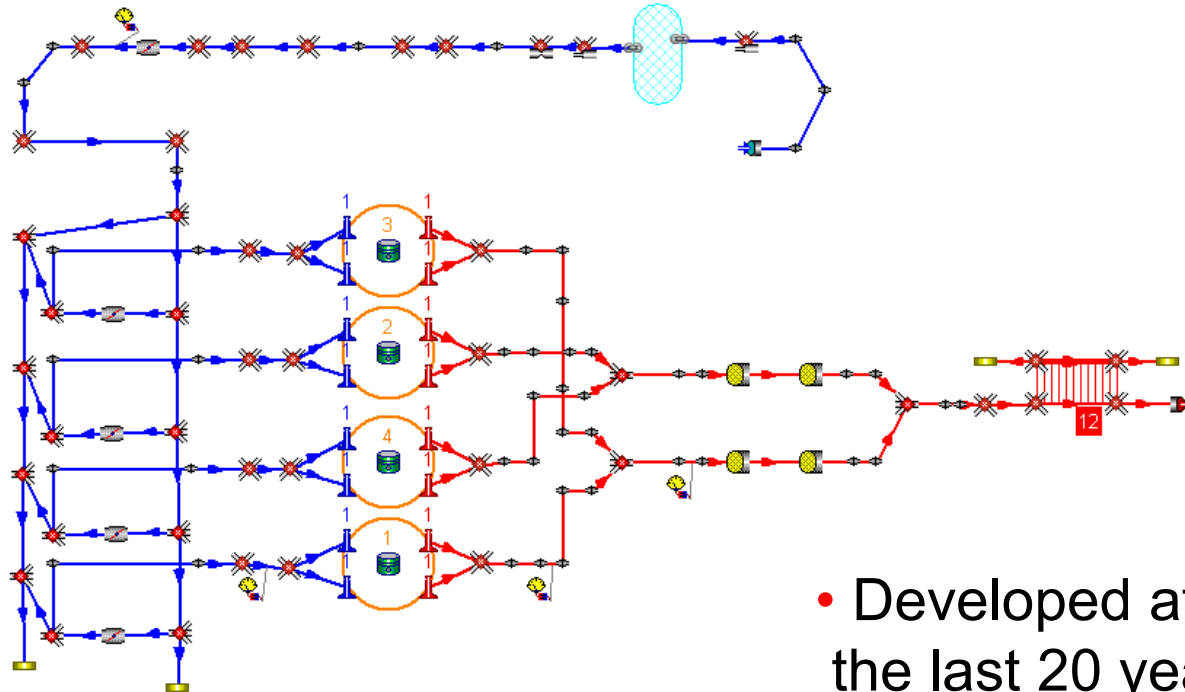
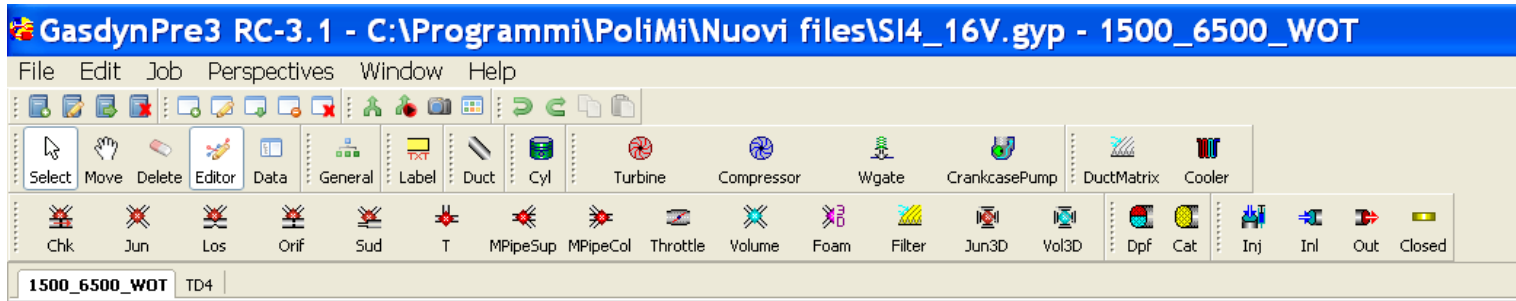
- Moving mesh algorithms
- Spray modeling
- Combustion process modeling
- DPF and SCR modeling
- 1D-3D coupling interface
- Non-linear acoustics modeling



Tool:

- in-house CFD libraries and solvers (**Lib-ICE**) developed under the **OpenFOAM®** technology.

1D simulation code: GASDYN



- Developed at PoliMi during the last 20 years.

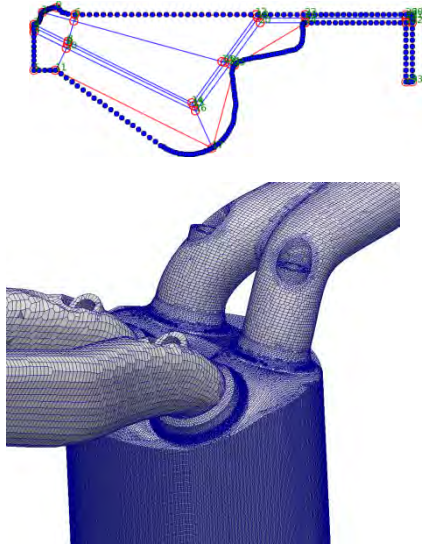
Academic collaborations



Argonne National Labs
Chalmers University
ETH - Zurich
Freiberg University
Istituto Motori - CNR Naples
Imperial College
KTH – Royal Institute of Technology
Lund University
Michigan Tech University
Ohio State University (CAR)
University of Bologna
University of Firenze
University of Genova
University of Valencia (CMT)

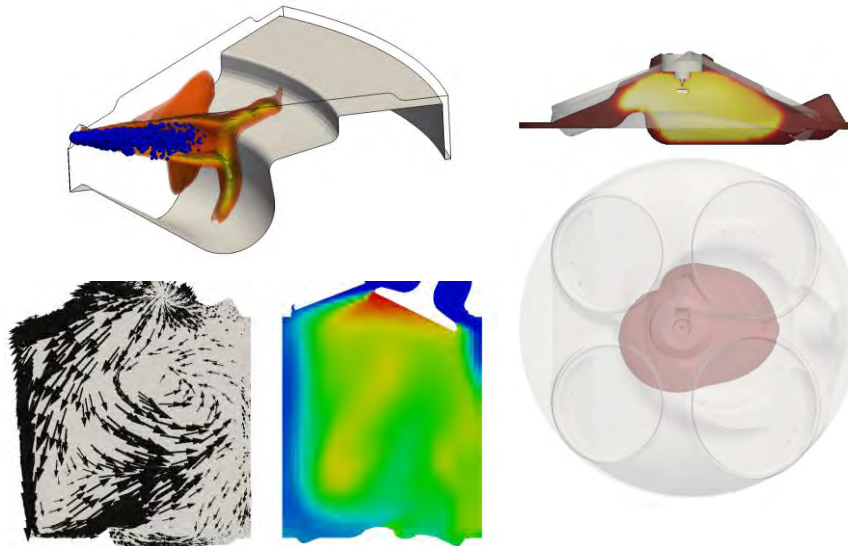
OpenFOAM at PoliMi (Lib-ICE)

Pre-Processing



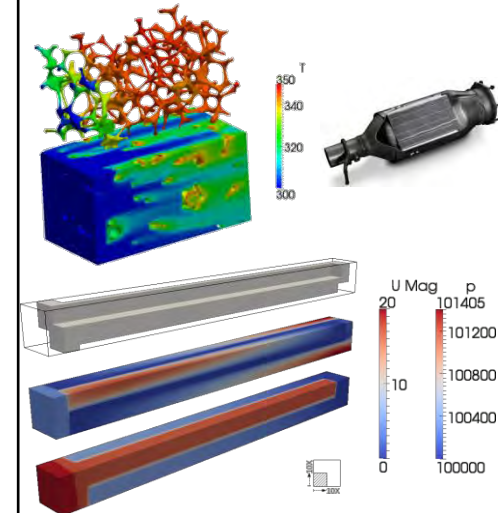
Automatic mesh generation

In-cylinder flows & combustion



Gas exchange, fuel air mixing
SI, CI, PCCI, HCCI combustion

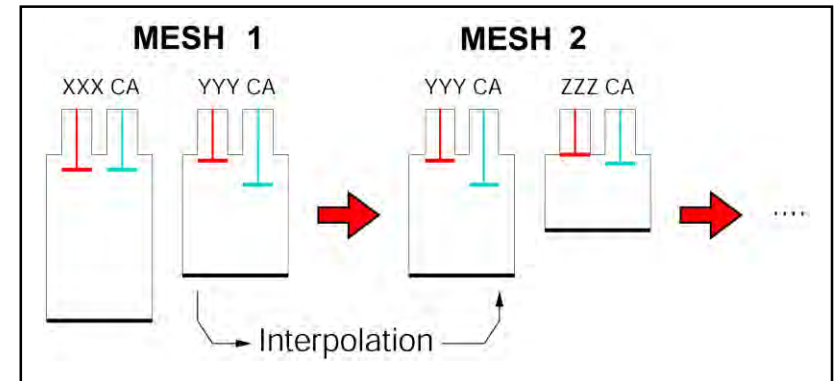
After-treatment



After-treatment modeling
SCR, DPF, TWC, DOC

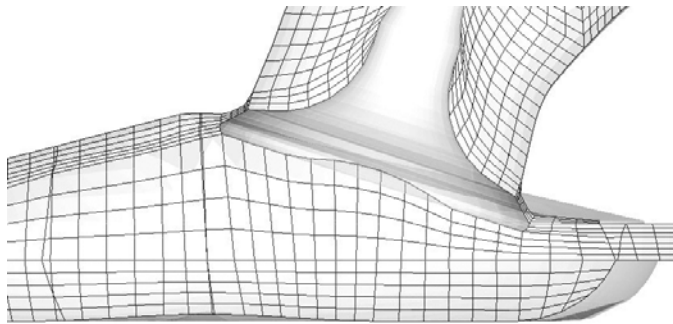
In-cylinder mesh management

- **Multiple meshes** cover the entire simulation (each mesh is valid for a certain crank angle interval).
- **Mesh to mesh interpolation** automatically performed.
- **Grid points** moved by means of an **automatic mesh motion solver**. Possibility to combine **automatic mesh motion** and **topological changes**.



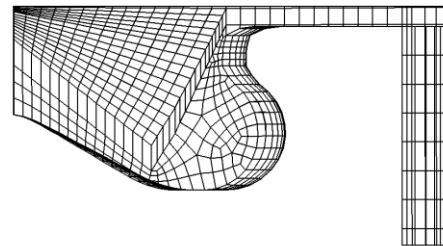
Automatic mesh motion

$$\nabla^2(\gamma \mathbf{u}) = 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_{new} = \mathbf{x}_{old} + \mathbf{u} \Delta t$$

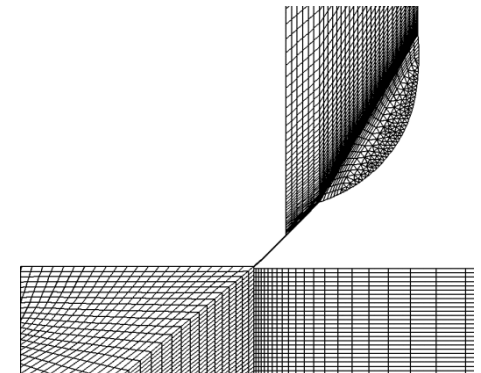


Topological changes

Dynamic layering



Sliding interface

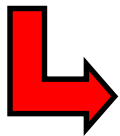
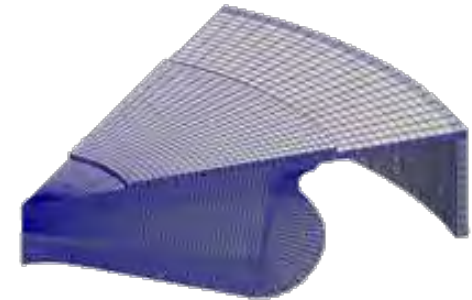
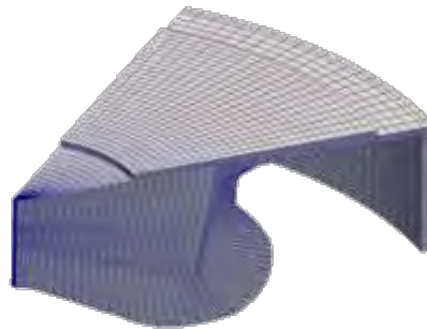
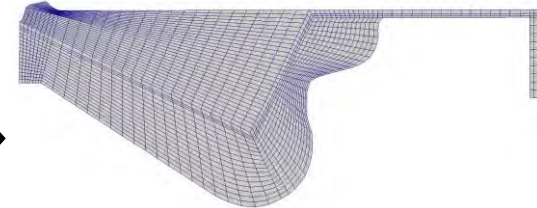
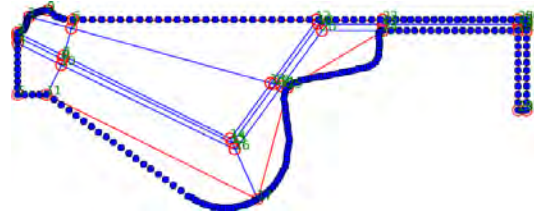
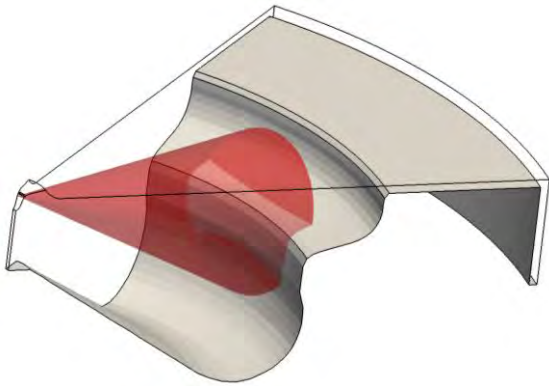


Automatic mesh generation

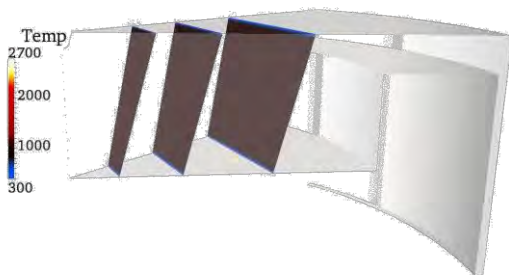
Combustion chambers for Diesel Engines

Input data:

- Piston bowl points
- Injection angle

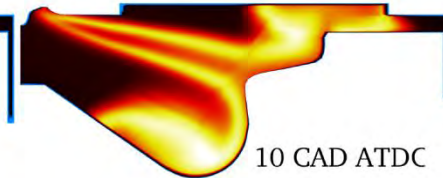
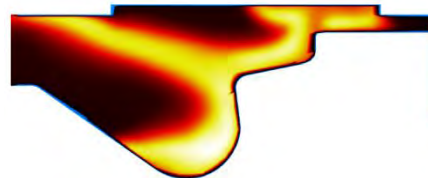


Fully-hexahedral spray-oriented mesh



Cartesian mesh

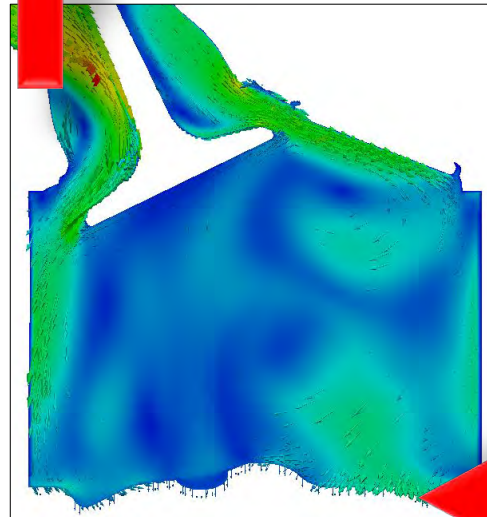
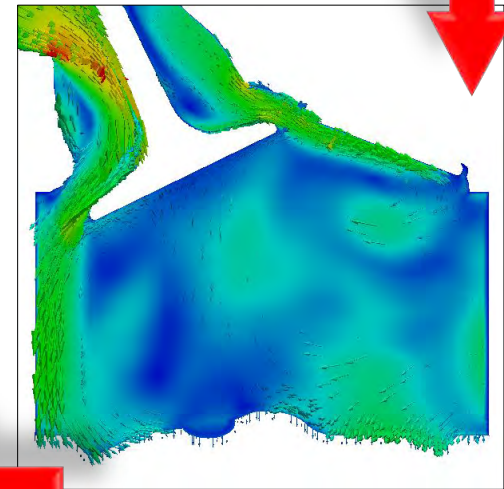
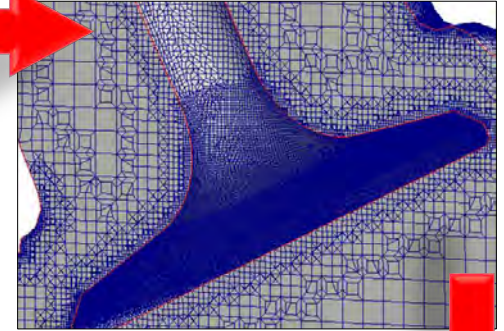
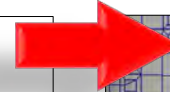
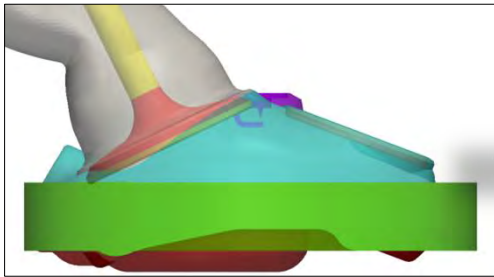
Spray-oriented mesh



10 CAD ATDC

Automatic mesh generation

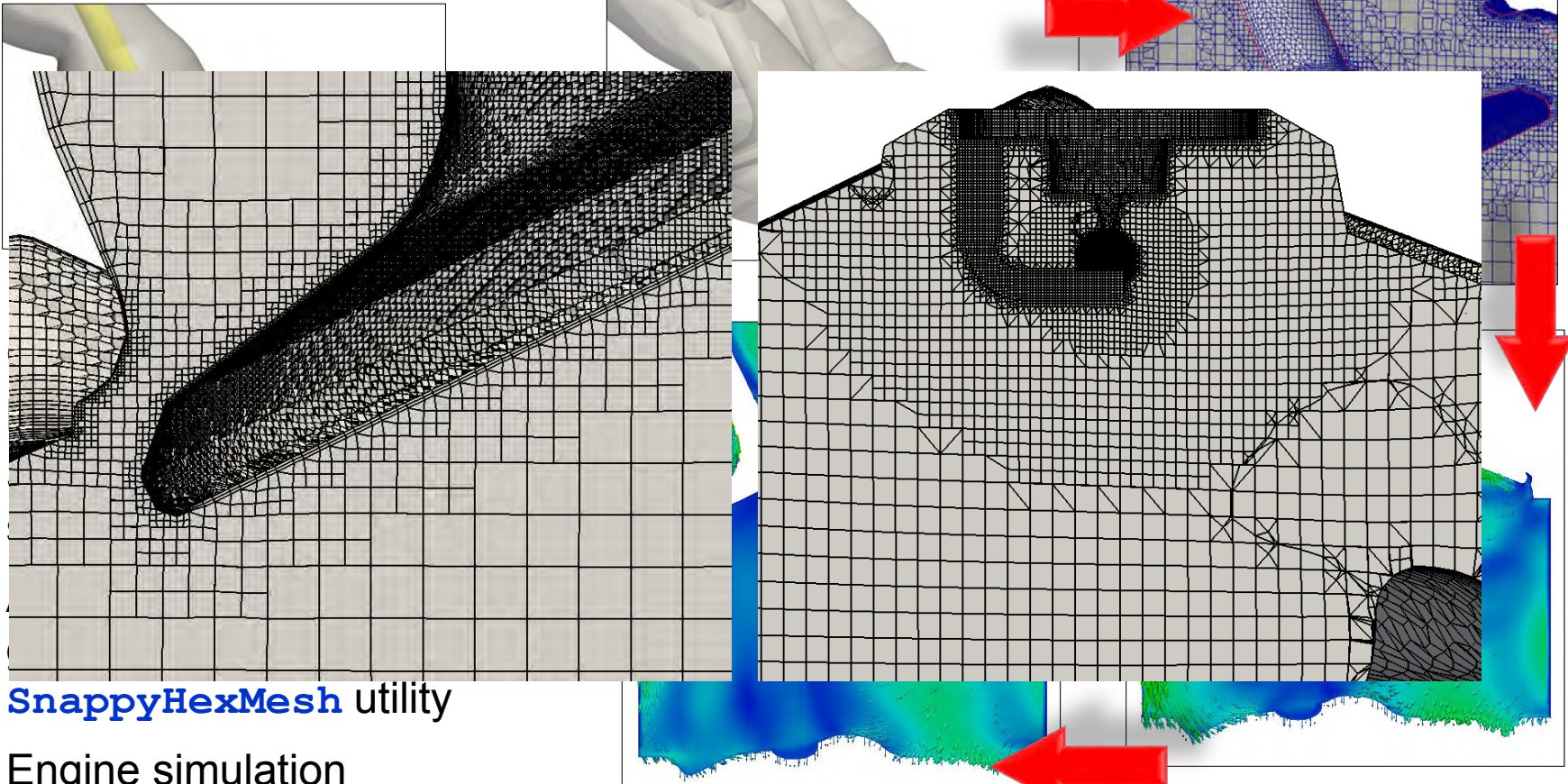
Combustion chambers for S.I. engines



- CAD geometry pre-processing
- STL mesh building at specified target CAD
- Automatic finite volume mesh generation with **SnappyHexMesh** utility
- Engine simulation

Automatic mesh generation

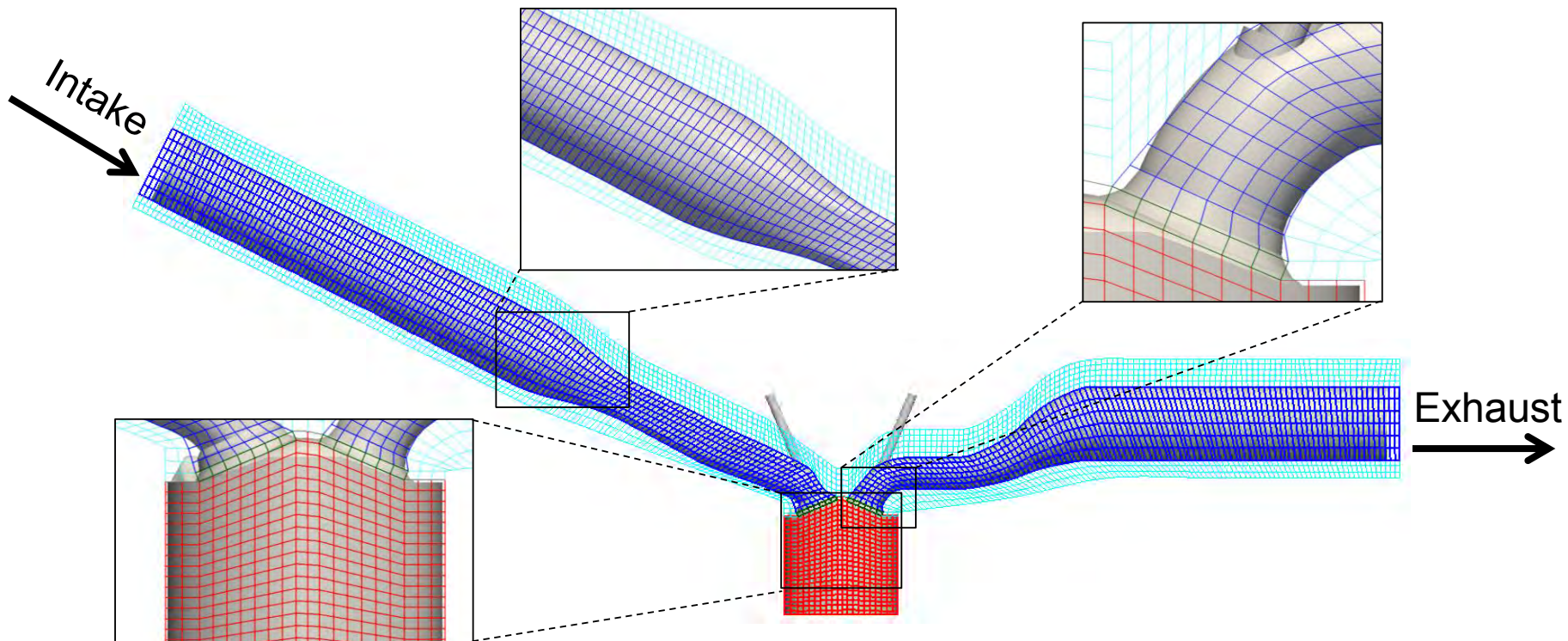
Combustion chambers for S.I. engines



Automatic mesh generation

Validation: Darmstadt engine

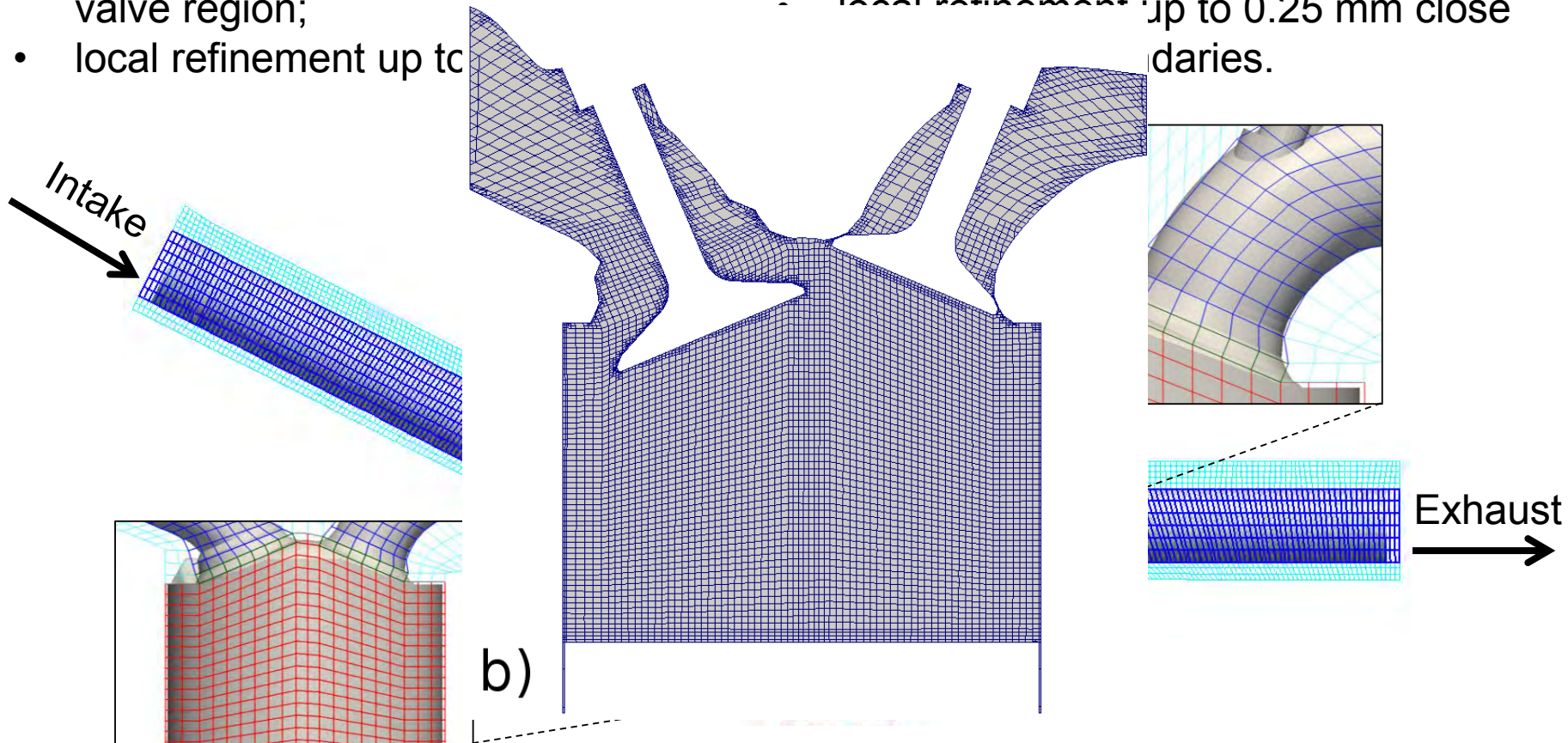
- 4 mm mesh size in the ducts region;
- 2 mm mesh size in the cylinder and valve region;
- local refinement up to 1 mm close to cylinder head, piston and liner boundaries;
- local refinement up to 0.25 mm close to the valve boundaries.



Automatic mesh generation

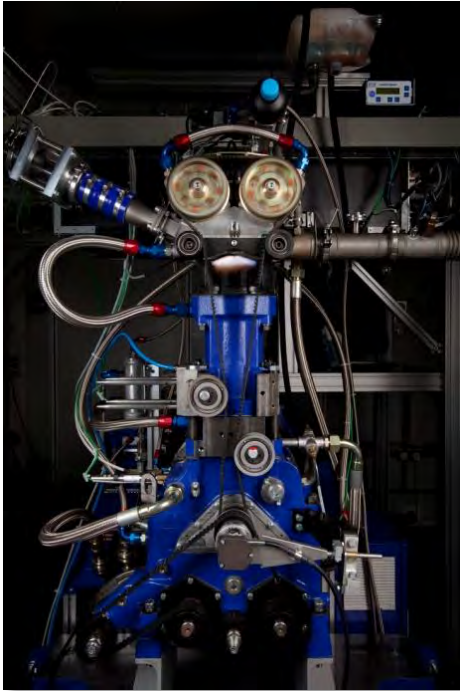
Validation: Darmstadt engine

- 4 mm mesh size in the ducts region;
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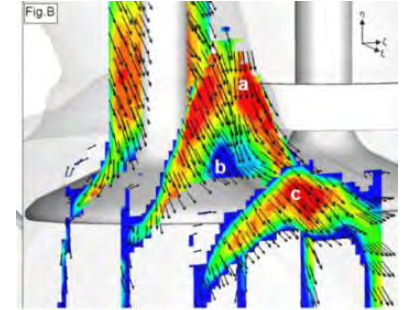
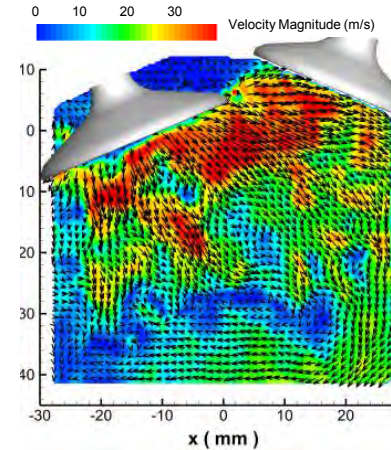
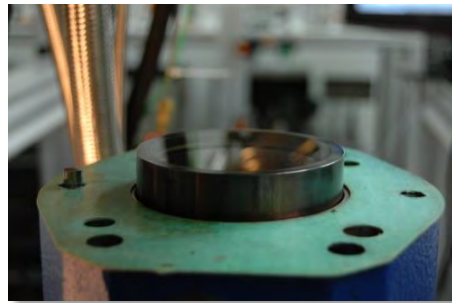


Automatic mesh generation

Validation: Darmstadt engine



Four-valve engine, fully optically accessible.



- PIV measurement techniques:
 - low repetition rate planar PIV
 - high-speed PIV (HS-PIV)
 - stereoscopic PIV (SPIV)
 - tomographic PIV (TPIV).

for a detailed characterization of the average in-cylinder flow-field and related fluctuations.

Acknowledgments: Dr. Brian Peterson, Dr. Benjamin Böhm, PhD student Carl-Philipp Ding and prof. Andreas Dreizler (TU Darmstadt)

Automatic mesh generation

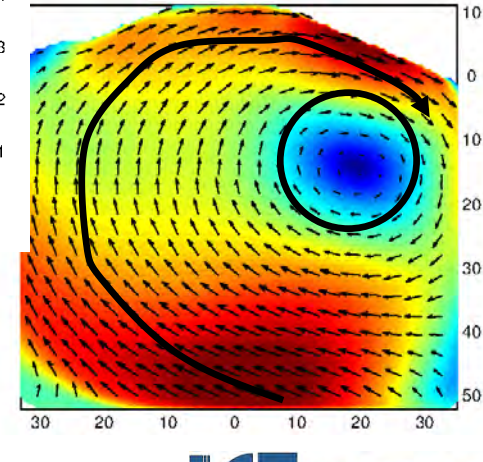
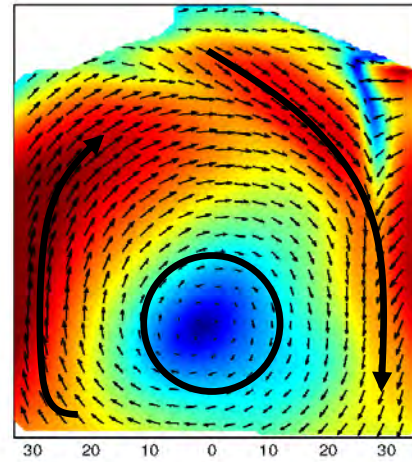
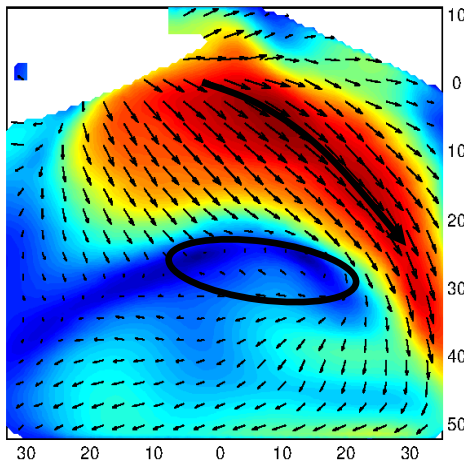
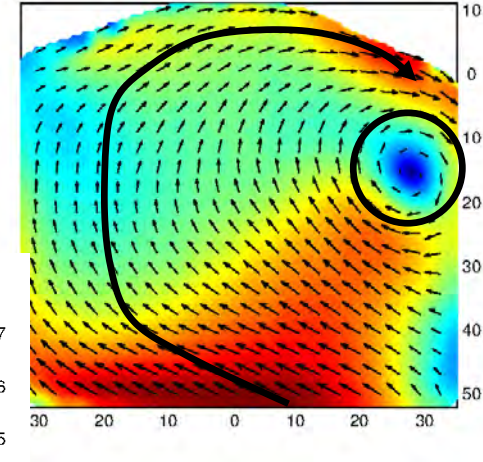
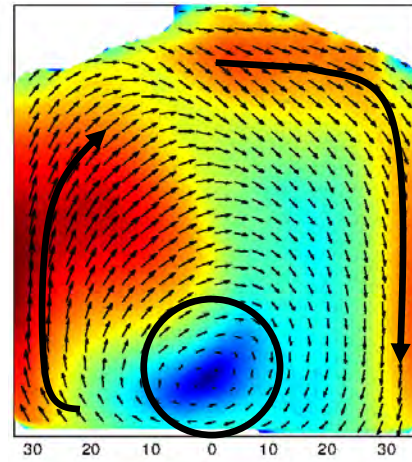
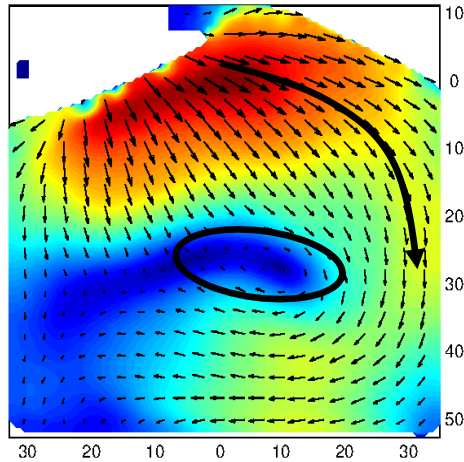
Validation: Darmstadt engine

450 CAD

540 CAD

630 CAD

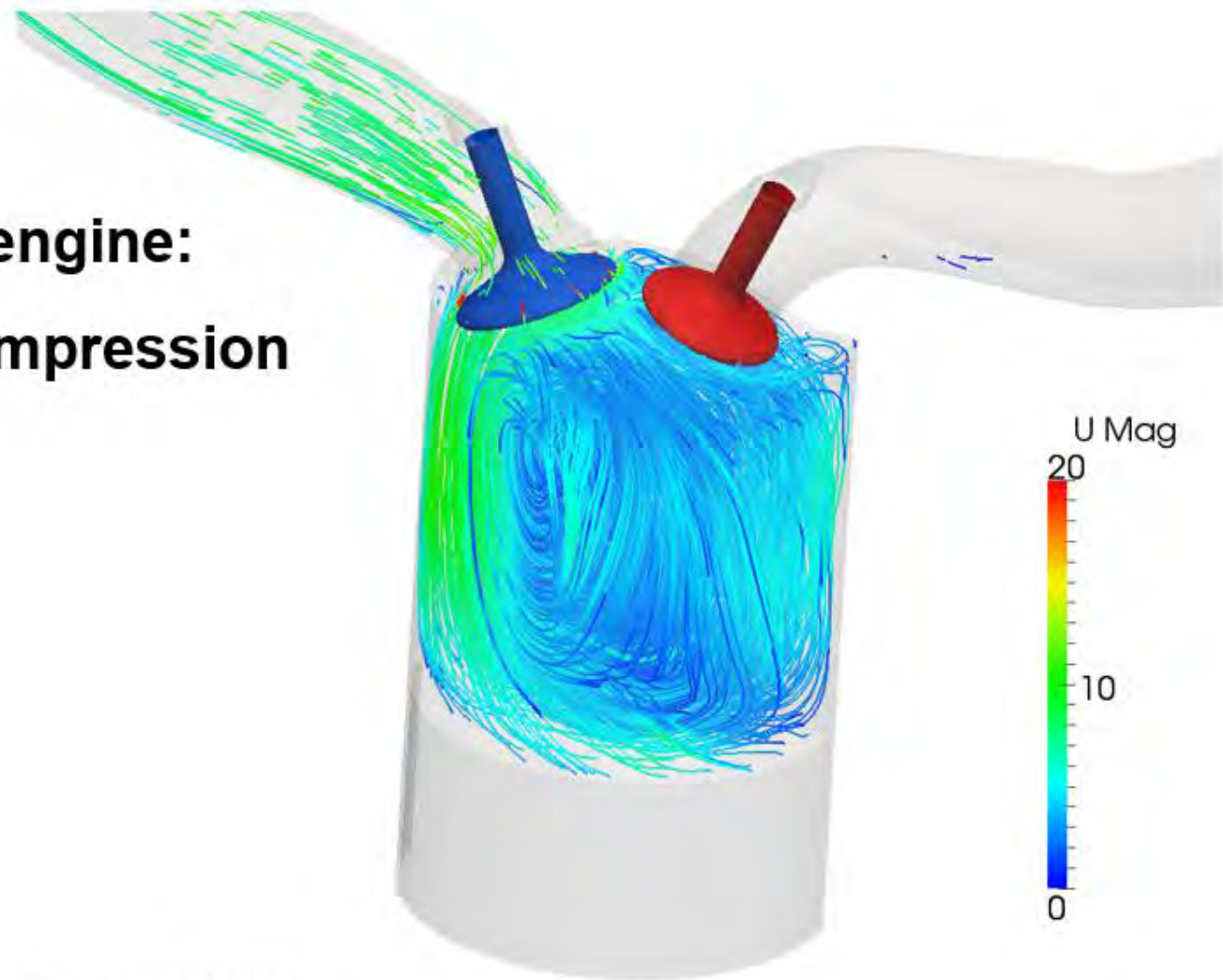
Exp.



Calc.

Automatic mesh generation

**Darmstadt engine:
intake & compression
phases**

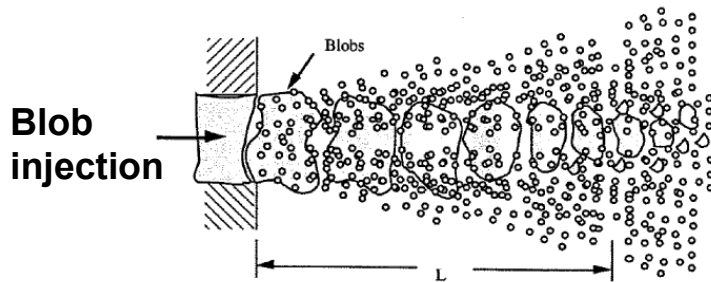


Time: 566.300000

Spray and wall-film modeling

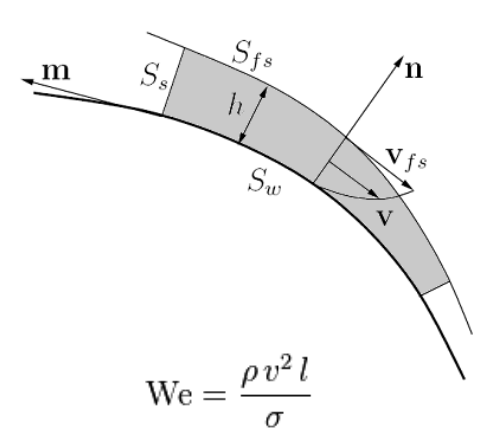
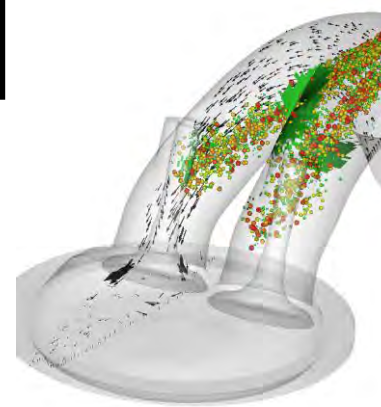
New sub-models for multi-hole nozzles

- **Injection:** Huh, Reitz-Bracco, Nurick
- **Atomization:** Huh-Gosman, Bianchi
- **Breakup:** KHRT
- **Wall-interaction:** Bai and Gosman, Stanton and Rutland
- **Evaporation:** based on Spalding mass number



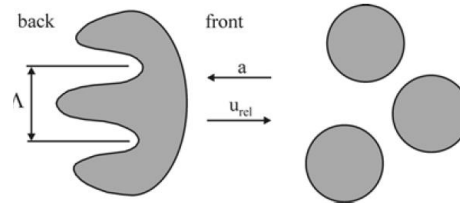
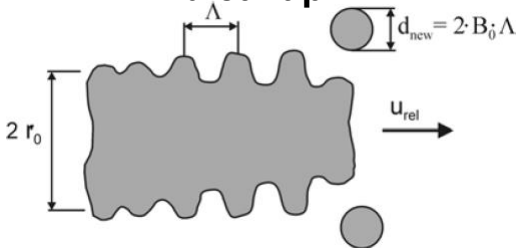
Wall-film model (finite-area)

- Mass, momentum and energy equations for the liquid film solved on mesh boundary.



KH breakup

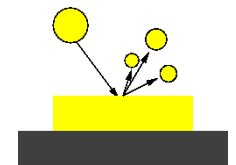
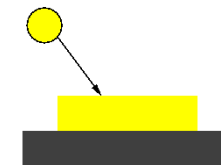
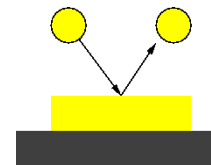
RT breakup



Rebound

Adhesion

Splash



$$We < 5.0$$

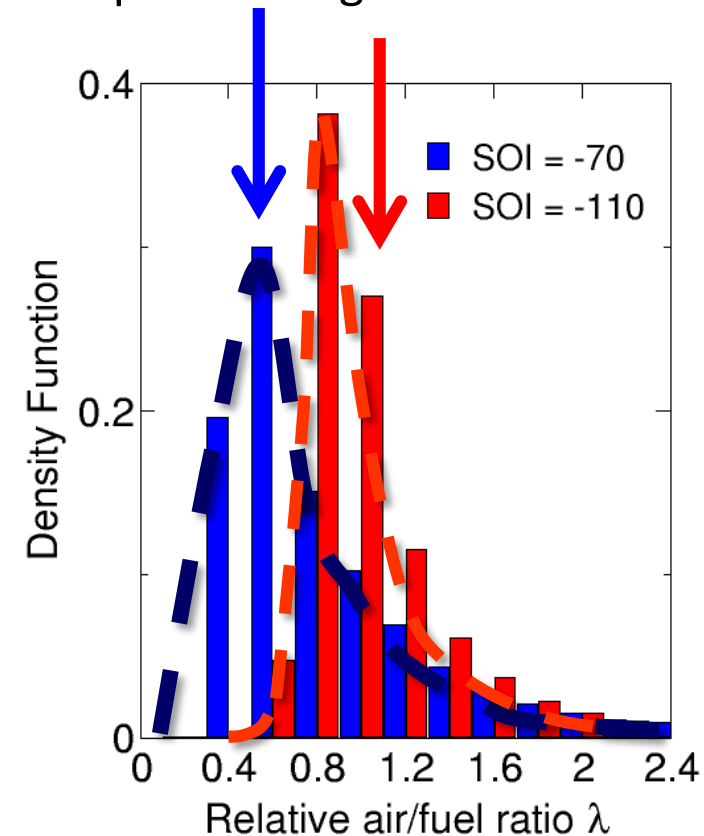
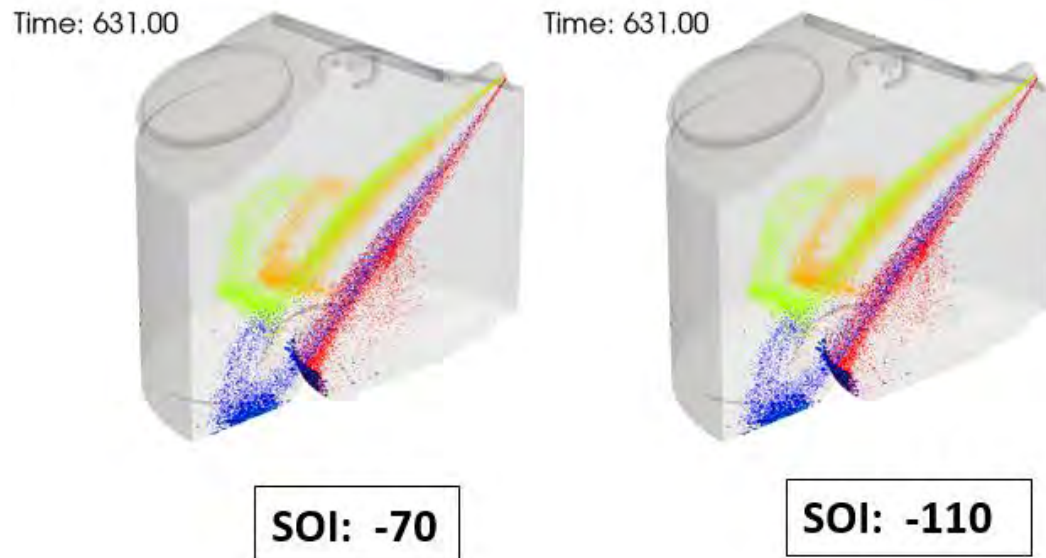
$$We > 5.0$$

$$We > 2600 \cdot La^{-0.18}$$

GDI engine case study

Fuel-air mixing modeling: stratified charge GDI engine, spray and wall film evolution at 100 bar

- SOI effect on relative air/fuel ratio distribution at spark-timing



Acknowledgments: Dr. Vaglieco, Ing. Sementa, Dr. Allocca, Ing. Montanaro (CNR-IM)

GDI engine simulations

Full-cycle simulation of GDI engines



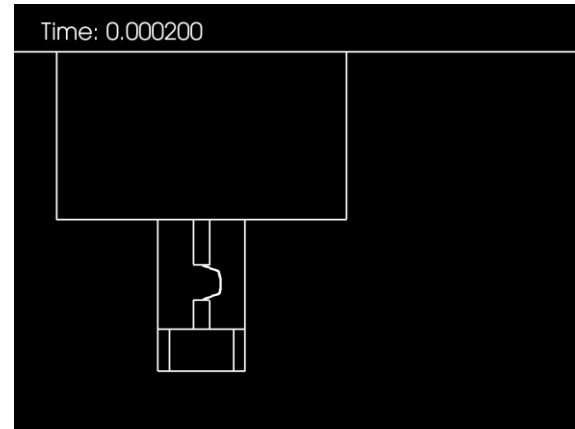
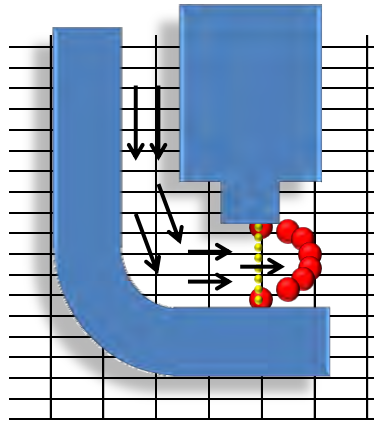
This work was sponsored and carried out in collaboration with



Acknowledgments: Ing. Di Gioia, Dr. Bonandrini, Ing. Venturoli (Magneti Marelli)

Spark-ignition combustion models

- Detailed description of the **flame kernel growth process via Lagrangian approach** and suitable sub-models (breakdown, electrical circuit, wrinkling)
- **Coherent flamelet model** for flame propagation in the **Eulerian phase** (gas)
- Strict coupling between **Eulerian and Lagrangian phases**.



Coherent Flamelet Model (CFM) for combustion:

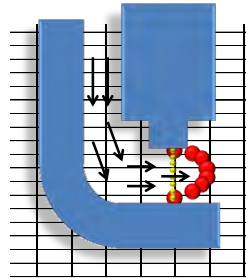
$$\frac{\partial \rho \Sigma}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho u_i \Sigma}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\frac{\mu}{Sc} + \frac{\mu_t}{Sc_t} \right) \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial x_i} \right] + P \cdot \Sigma - D \cdot \Sigma + P_k$$

(Flame surface density transport equation)

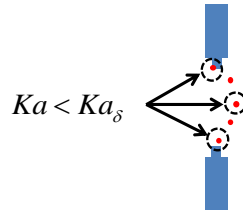
Spark-ignition combustion models

Comprehensive model from flame kernel formation to turbulent combustion

- 1) The spark channel is represented by a set of Lagrangian particles, convected by the mean flow.



- 2) Flame kernels are launched at the particle locations satisfying the ignition criterion (Karlovitz). For each particle mass and energy equations are solved.

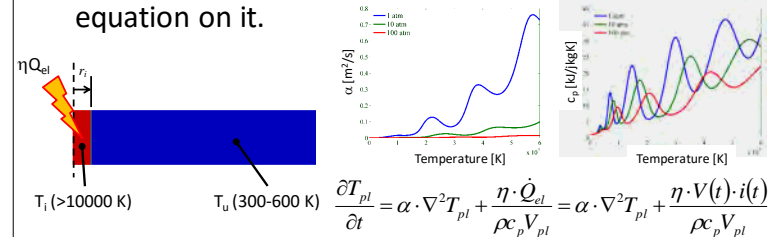


$$\frac{dm_p}{dt} = 4\pi r_p \rho_u \left(s_i + \frac{\rho_p}{\rho_u} s_{plasma} \right) \quad \frac{dT_p}{dt} = -\frac{m_p}{\dot{m}_p} (T_p - T_b) + \frac{\eta \cdot \dot{Q}_{spk}}{m_p \cdot c_{p,p}}$$

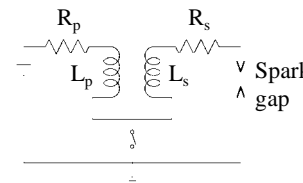
- 3) Flame surface density distribution reconstructed from particle distribution and their size.

$$\Sigma_{spk} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \Xi_i \cdot S_i}{V_{cell}}$$

- 4) Initial thermal transient of the plasma channel correctly described by solving the heat conduction equation on it.



- 5) Simplified model for the secondary circuit to estimate the amount of energy transferred to the gas phase



$$\begin{cases} \frac{dE_s}{dt} = -R_s \cdot i_s(t)^2 - V_s(t) \cdot i_s(t) \\ i_s(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{L_s}} \\ V_s(t) = V_{ac} + V_{gc}(l_{spk}) \\ \dot{Q}_{spk} = V(t) \cdot i(t) \end{cases}$$

- 6) Ignition source term included in the flame surface density transport equation:

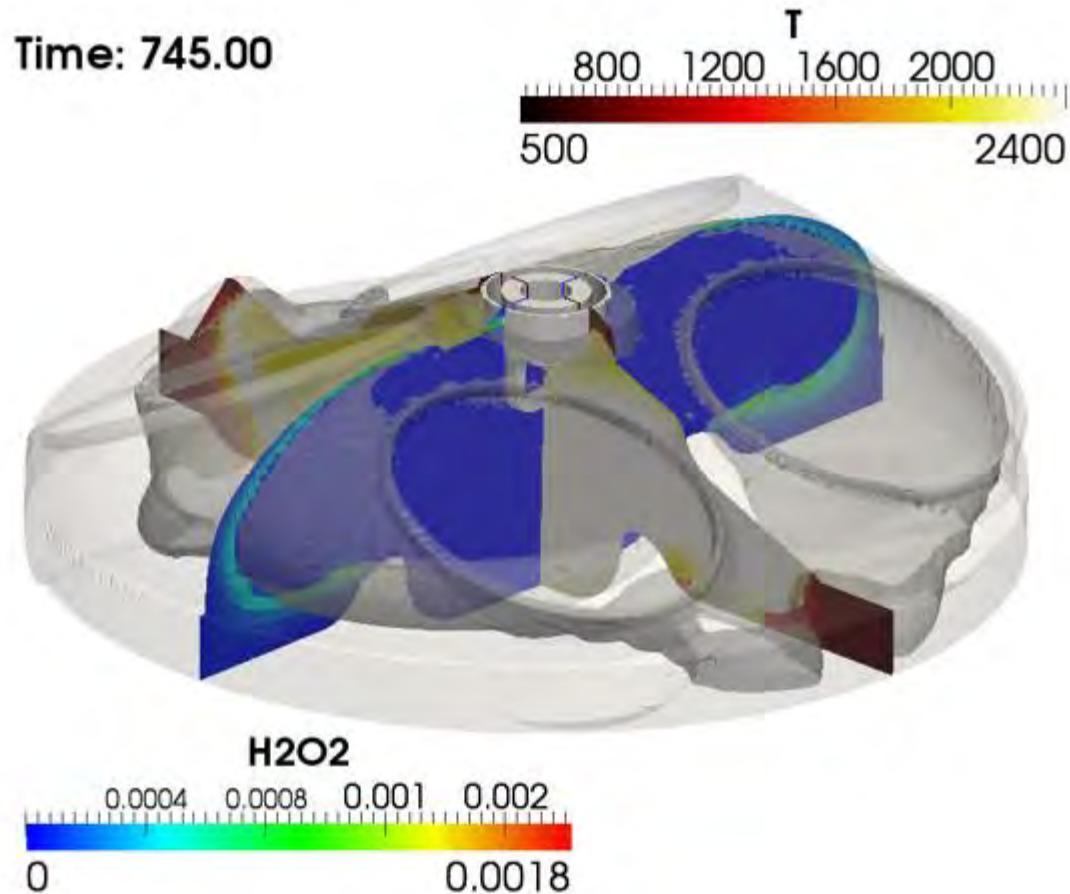
$$\frac{\partial \rho \Sigma}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho u_i \Sigma}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\frac{\mu}{Sc} + \frac{\mu_t}{Sc_t} \right) \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial x_i} \right] + P \cdot \Sigma - D \cdot \Sigma + P_k$$

Possibility to choose different expressions for P and D depending on the selected FSD approach.

Turbocharged GDI engine

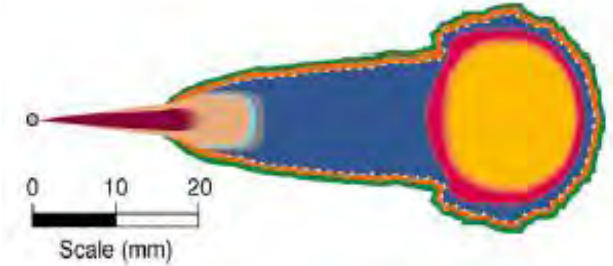
Coherent Flamelet Model (CFM), flame surface density transport equation.

Kinetic Mechanism: Jia et al. (reduced) for I-C₈H₁₈, 37 species, 59 reactions



Diesel combustion

Objective: to describe **auto-ignition** and **mixing controlled combustion** under different modes (conventional, multiple injections, HCCI, PCCI) using **realistic kinetic mechanisms** and accounting for **turbulence-chemistry interaction**.



Well-mixed model

- Each cell is a well-stirred reactor
- ODE stiff solver computes reaction rates

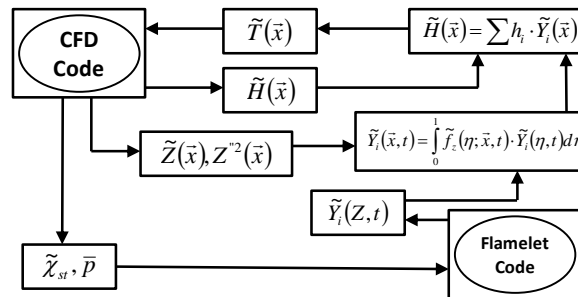
$$Y_i^*(t + \Delta t) = Y_i(t) + \int_t^{t+\Delta t} \dot{\omega}_i \frac{W_i}{\rho} dt'$$



$$\dot{Y}_i = \frac{Y_i^*(t + \Delta t) - Y_i(t)}{\Delta t}$$

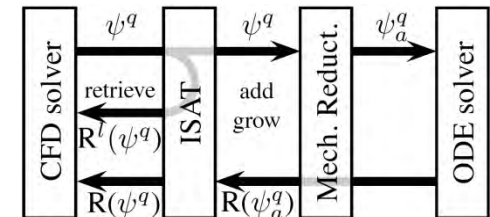
MRIF model

- Diesel flame is an ensemble of multiple unsteady diffusive flamelets



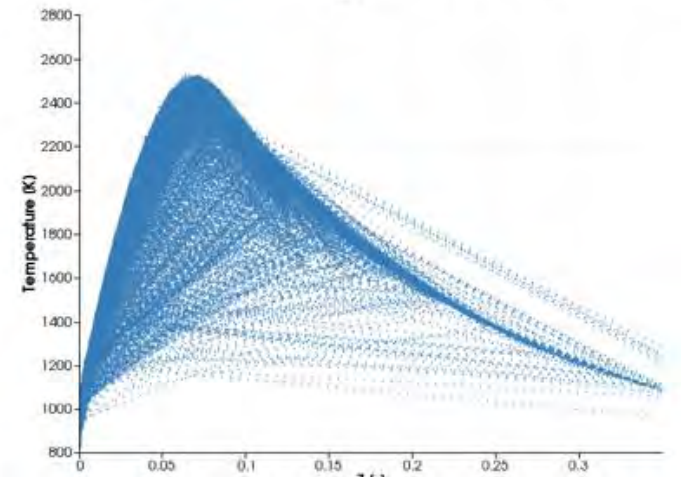
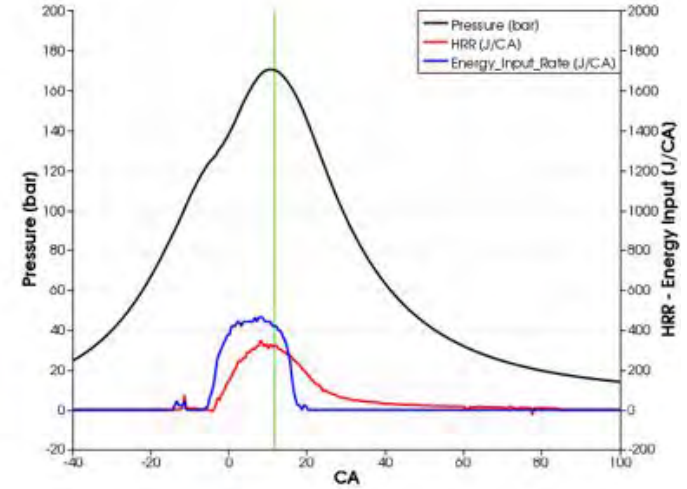
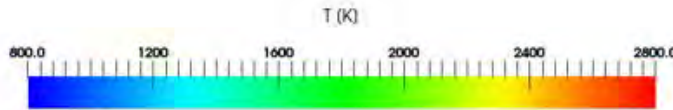
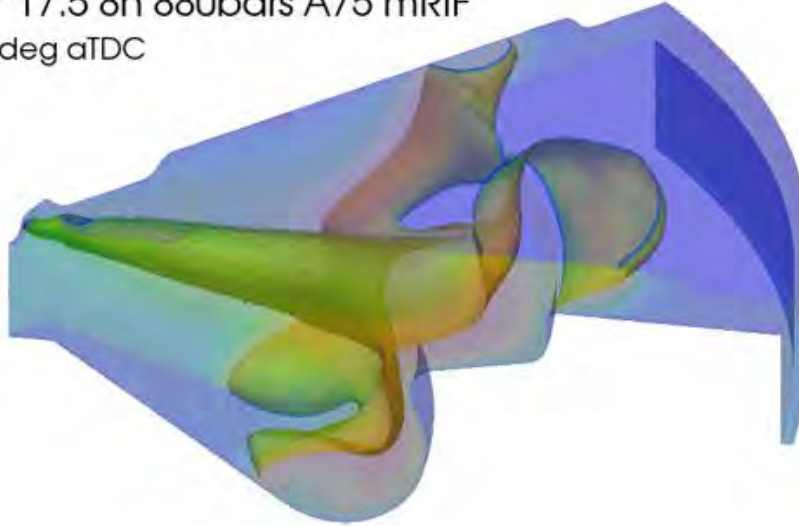
TDAC

- On-line tabulation and mechanism reduction techniques to reduce the CPU time



HD engine operating point: mRIF model

C11 H17 17.5 8h 880bars A75 mRIF
CA: 11.5 deg aTDC

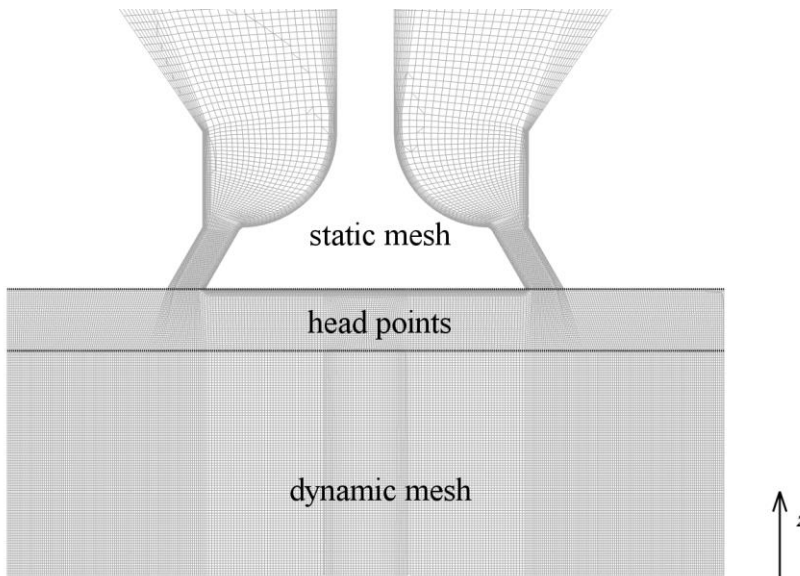


This work was sponsored and carried out in collaboration with FPT – Arbon (CH)

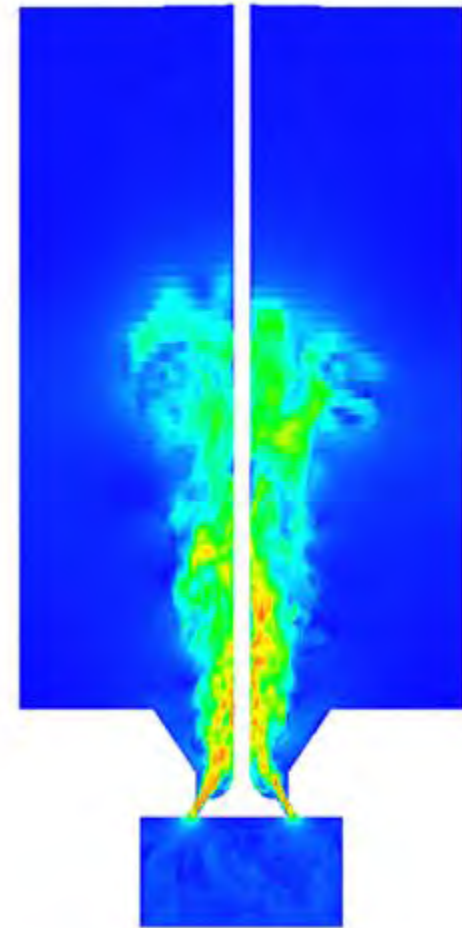
Acknowledgments: Dr. Gilles Hardy

LES of cylinder-like geometries

Subgrid scale (SGS) models implemented in OpenFOAM/Lib-ICE: dynamic Smagorinsky, Whale, Sigma, ...

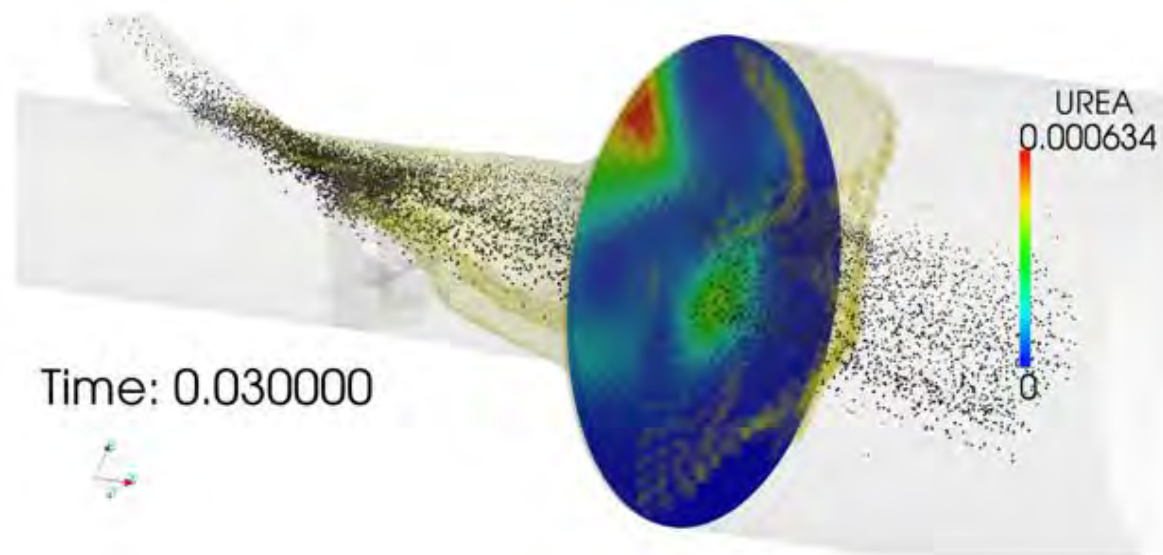


Grid used for the simulations:
4.8 million hexahedral elements,
including the plenum.



After-treatment: SCR

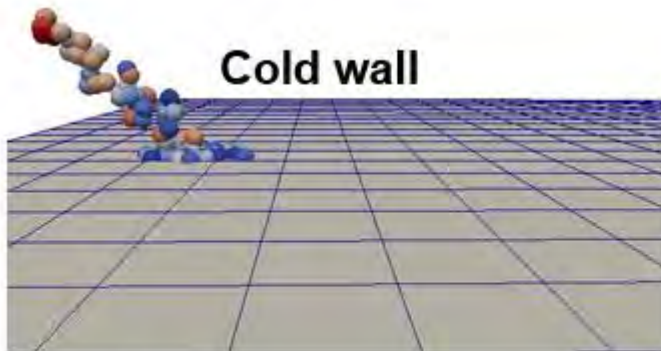
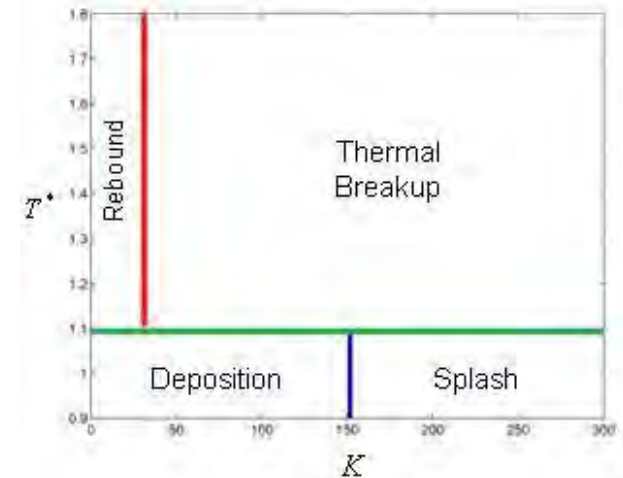
- Unsteady flow solver with Lagrangian tracking of particles.
- Multi-component liquid mixture and homogeneous chemical reactions (Urea thermal decomposition).
- Wall film formation and evaporation.



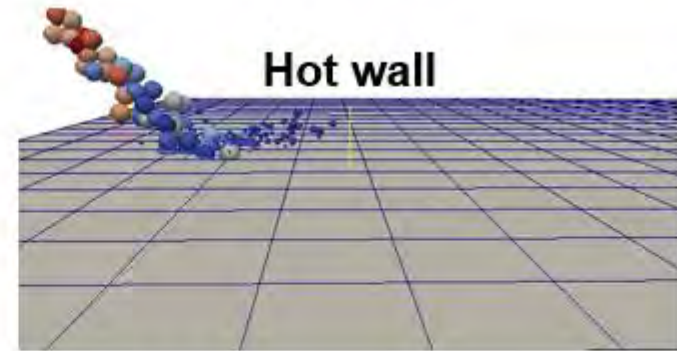
SCR modeling: injection of AdBlue

- Multi-component liquid mixture customized properties for Urea along with multi-component liquid film.
- Temperature dependence of the spray-wall interaction and wall cooling effect.

Absolute $We = 264$
Normal $We = 137$



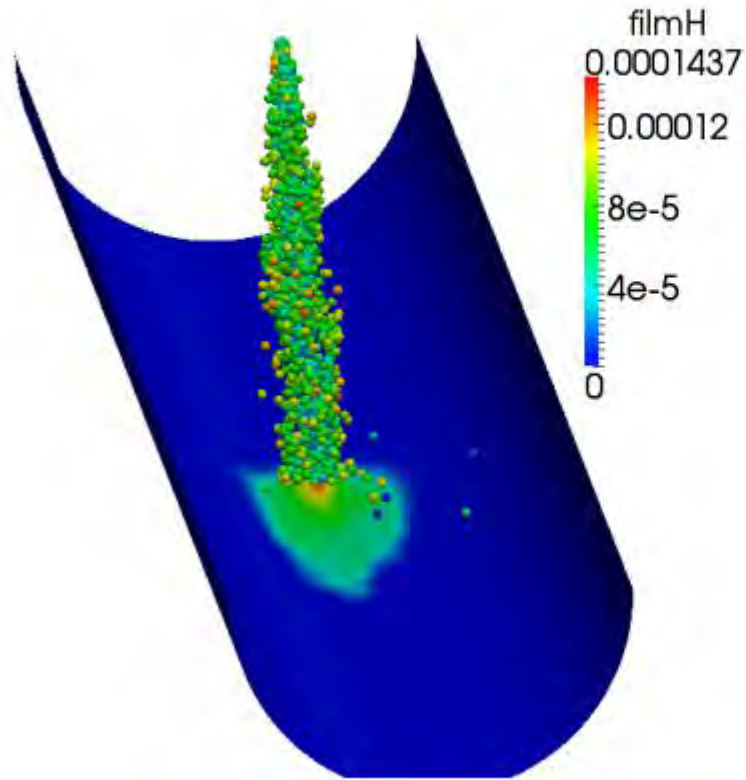
$T^* = 0.8$



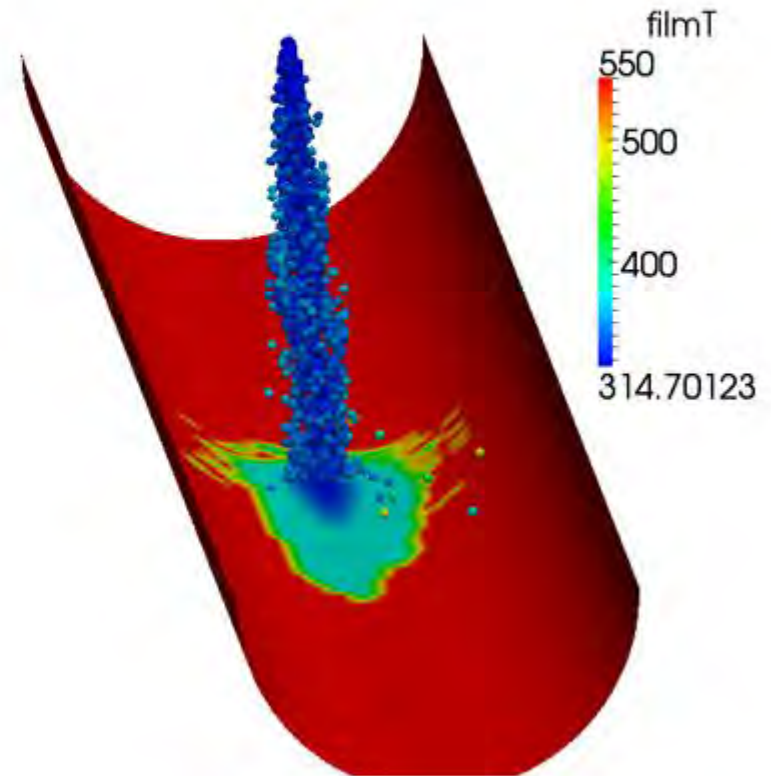
$T^* = 1.2$

SCR: wall film modeling

Film thickness

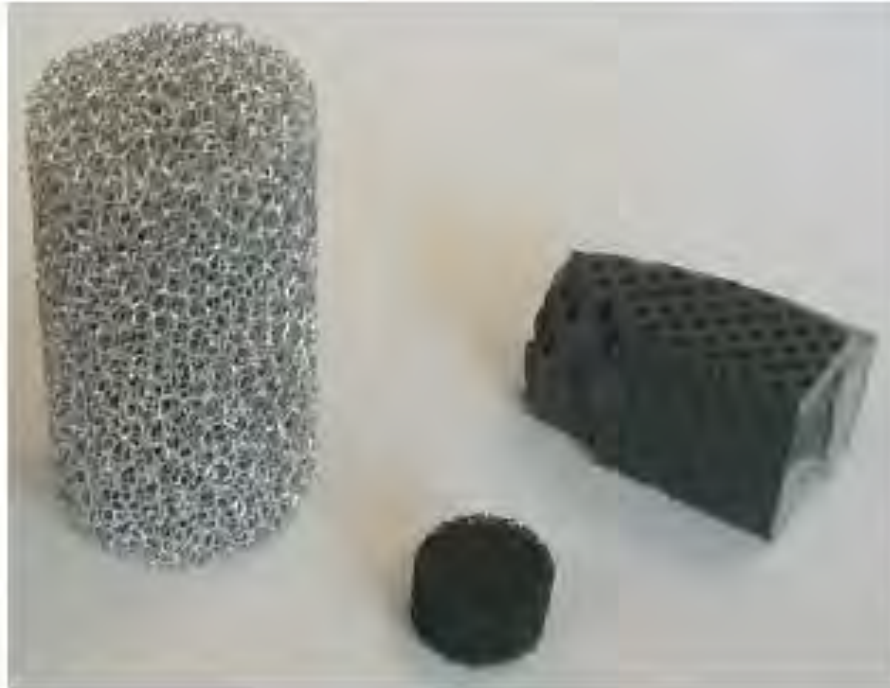


Film temperature



After-treatment: open-cell foams

CFD simulation of open-cell foams

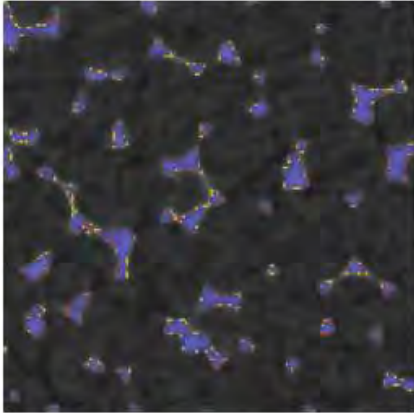


Foam samples

Micro-CT: image processing

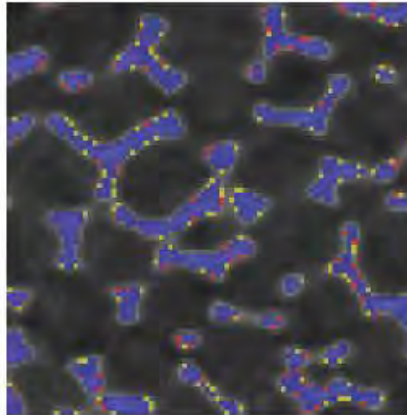
Al foam

porosity: 95-97%



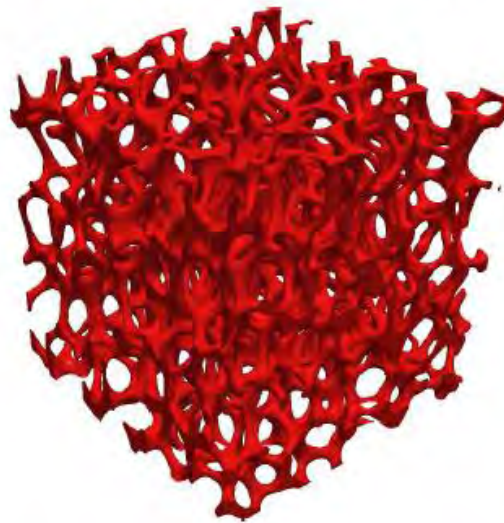
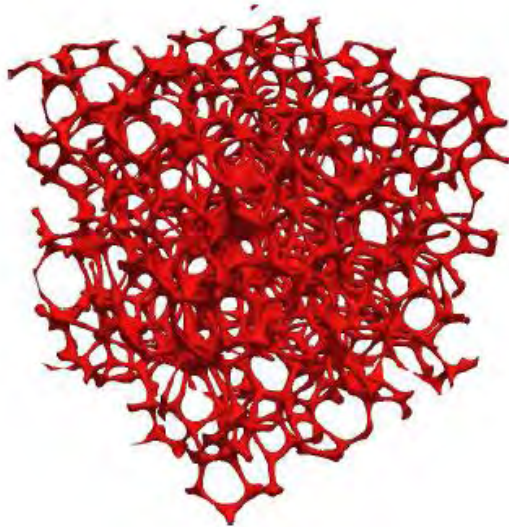
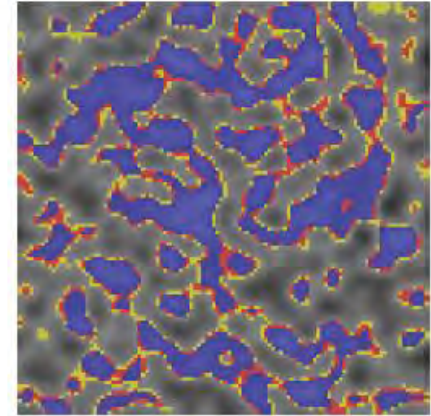
SiC foam

porosity: 85-90%



Cordierite

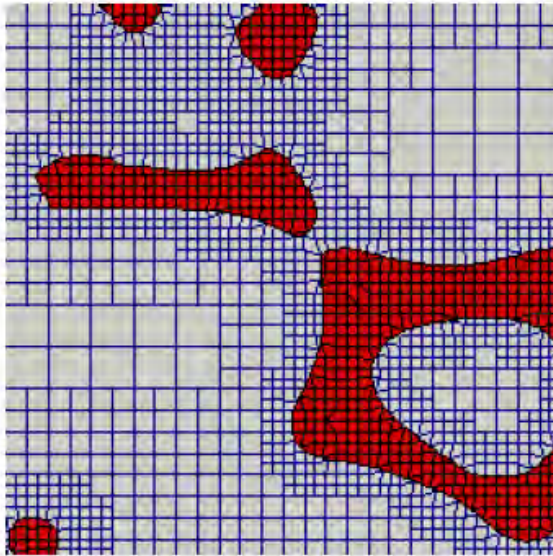
porosity: 45-55%



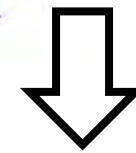
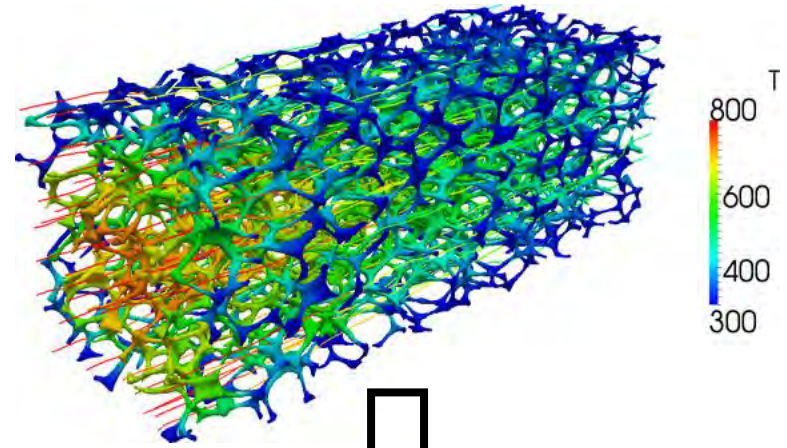
Reacting flows in porous media

From micro-scale to full scale simulation of after-treatment systems:

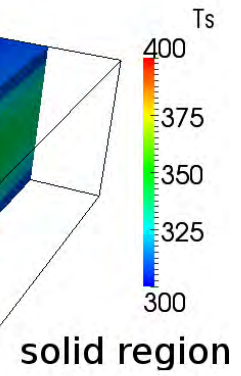
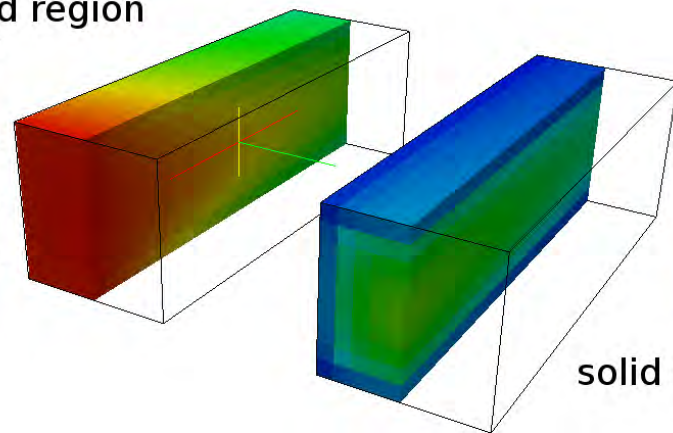
snappyHexMesh



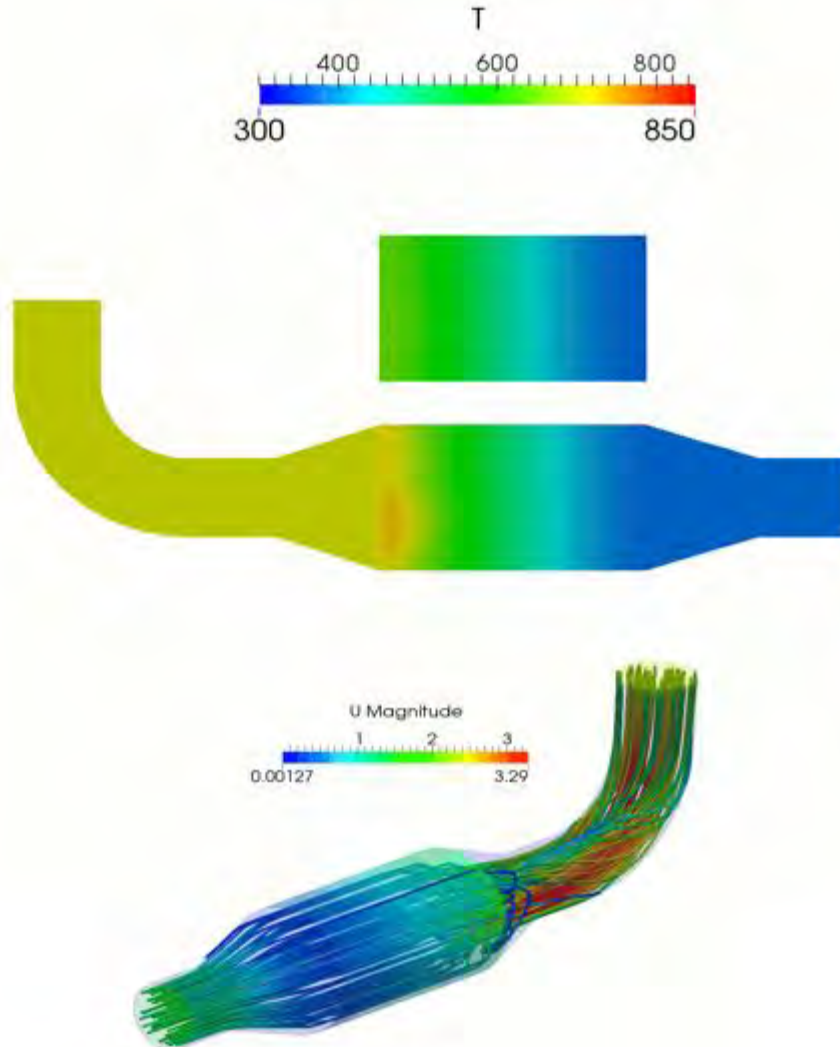
2.1 mln cells
93% hex - 7% pol



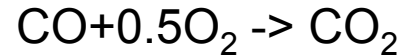
fluid region



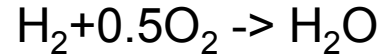
Application example: TWC



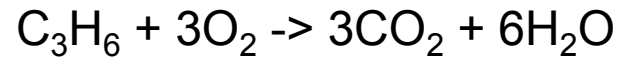
CO oxidation



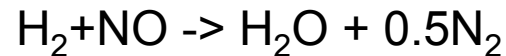
H₂ oxidation



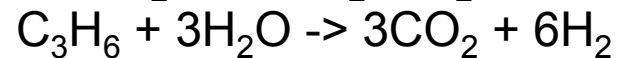
HC oxidation



NO_x reduction

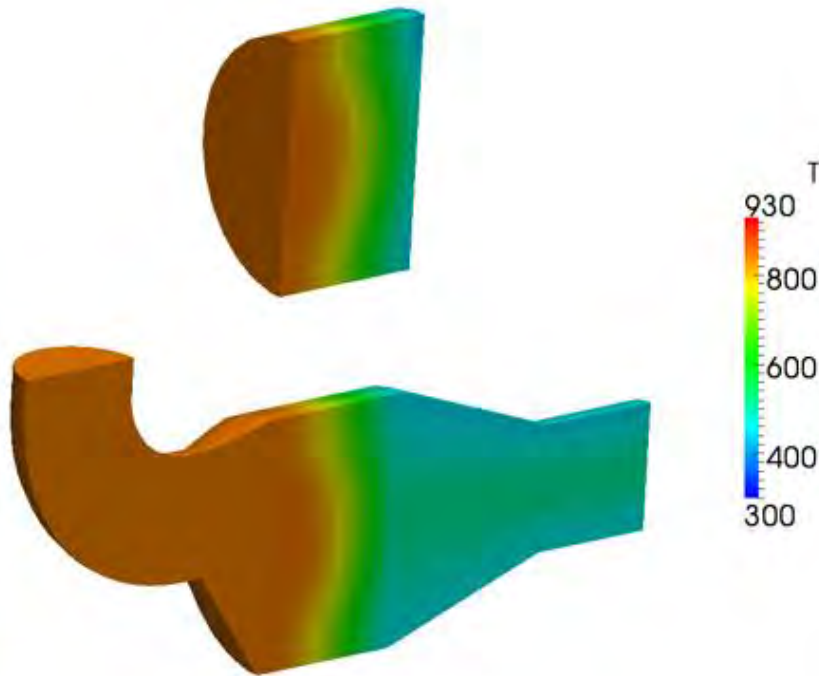


Steam water reforming



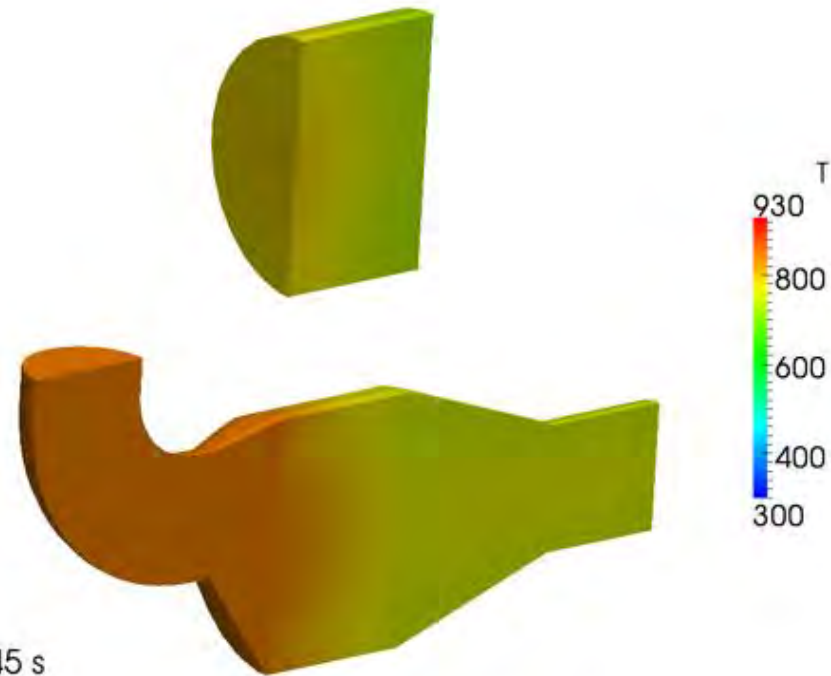
Full scale: honeycomb vs open cell foam

NEDC cycle of a 2.0 L engine (4 Cyl, naturally aspirated) simulated imposing the measured exhaust gas T and mass flow at the engine flange.



HONEYCOMB

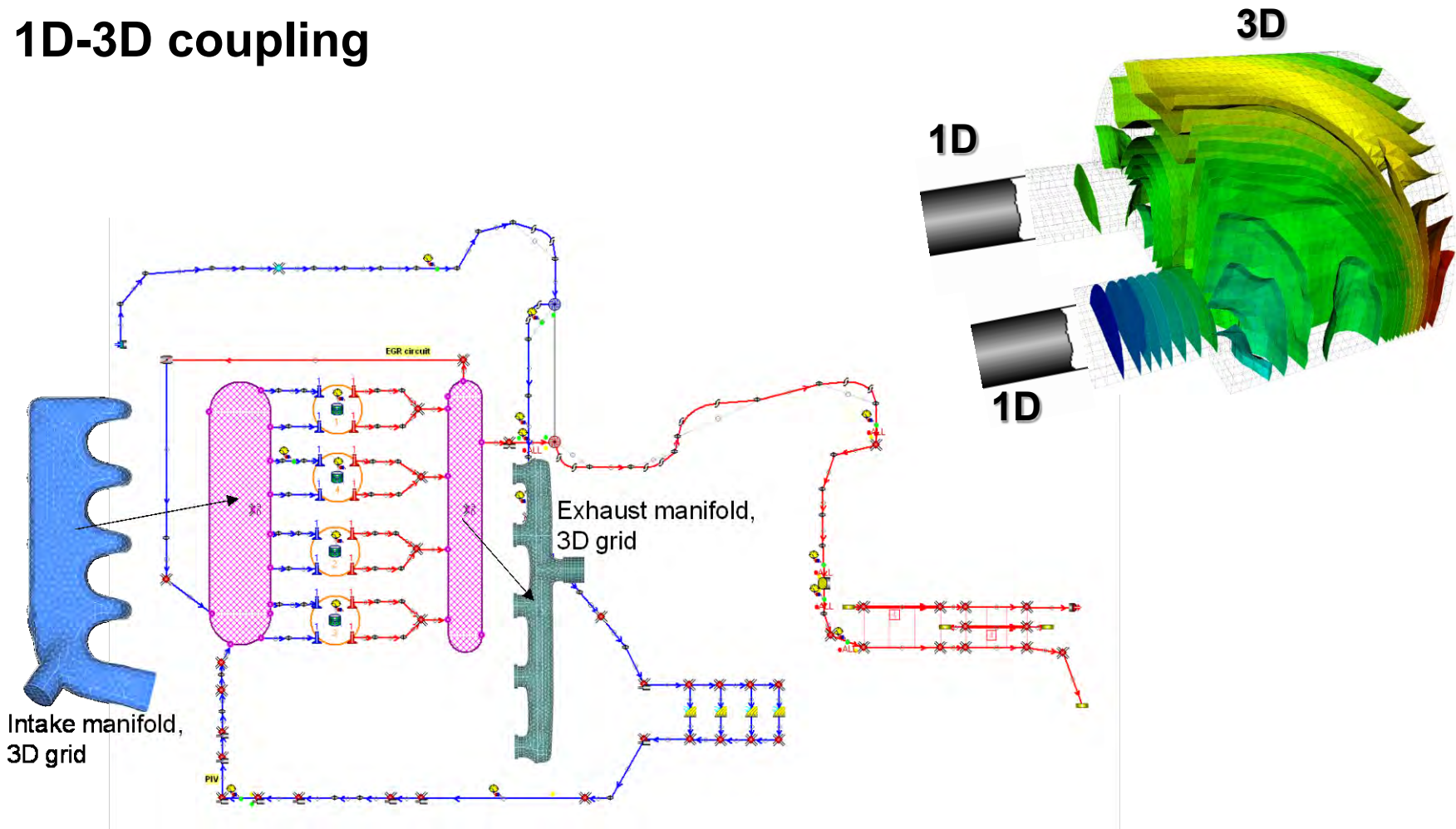
Time: 45 s



OPEN CELL FOAM

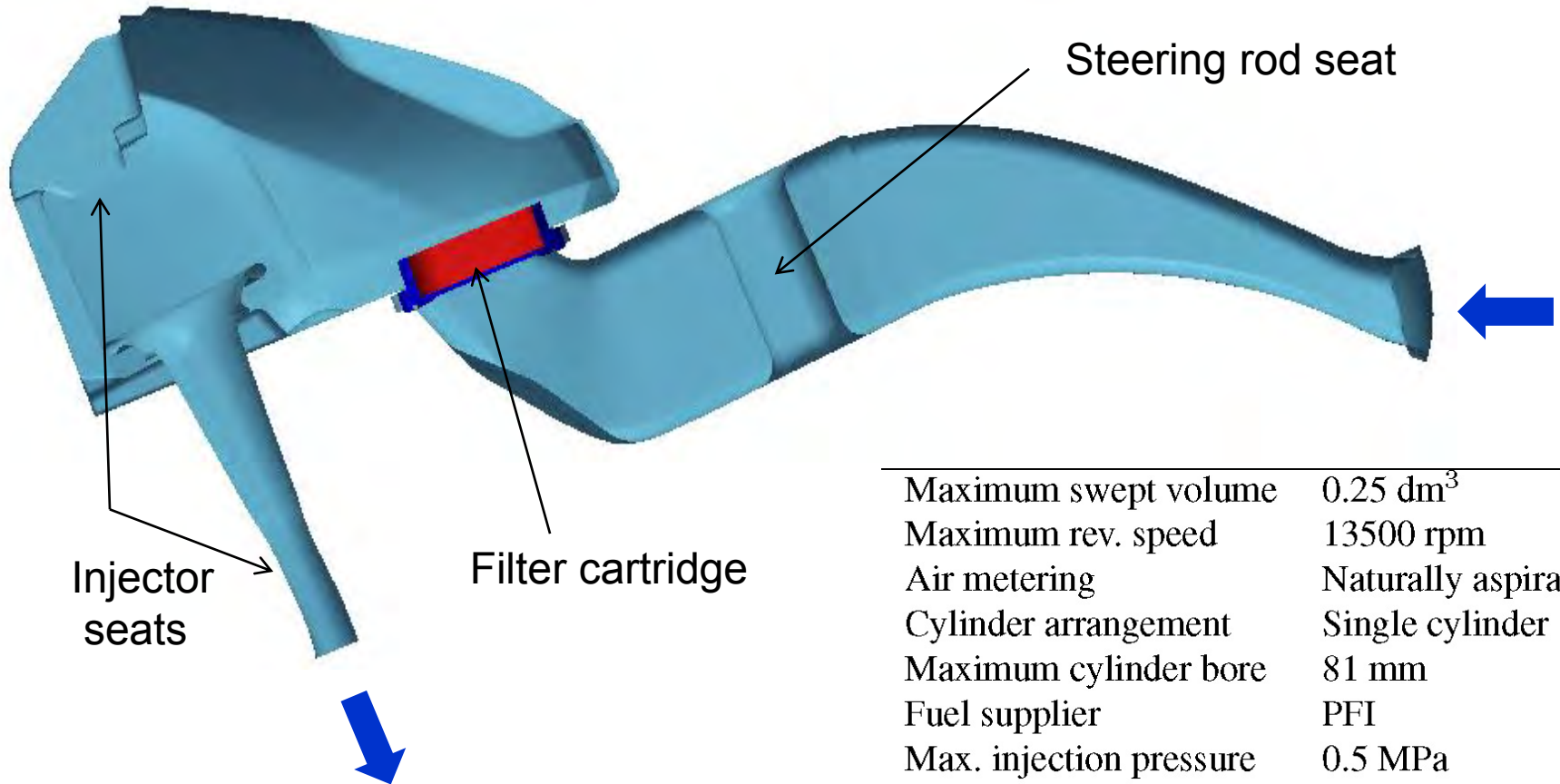
Coupled 1D-3D simulations

Unsteady flows in intake and exhaust systems:
1D-3D coupling



1D-3D schematic of a single cylinder engine

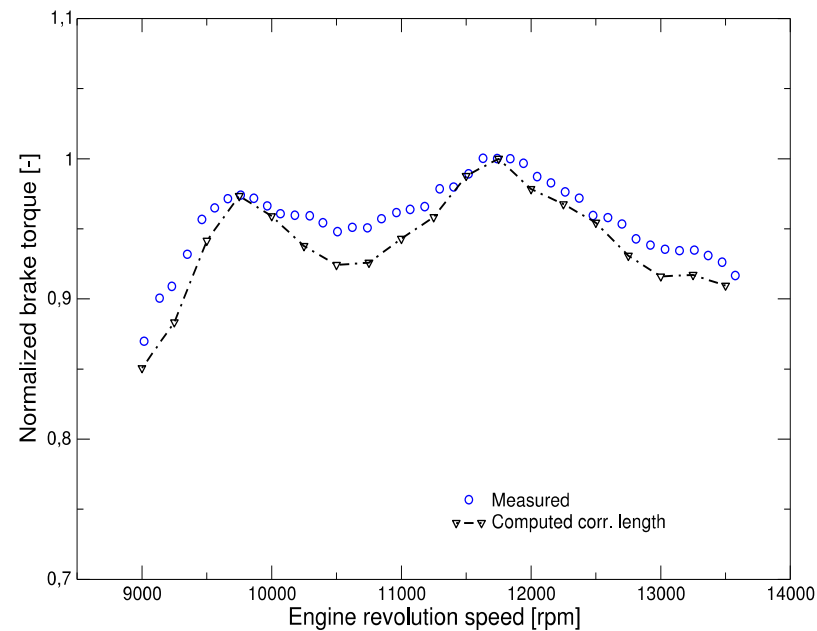
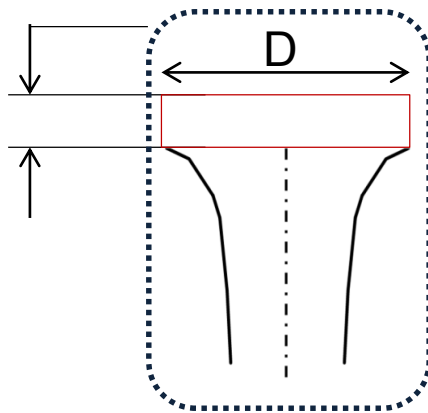
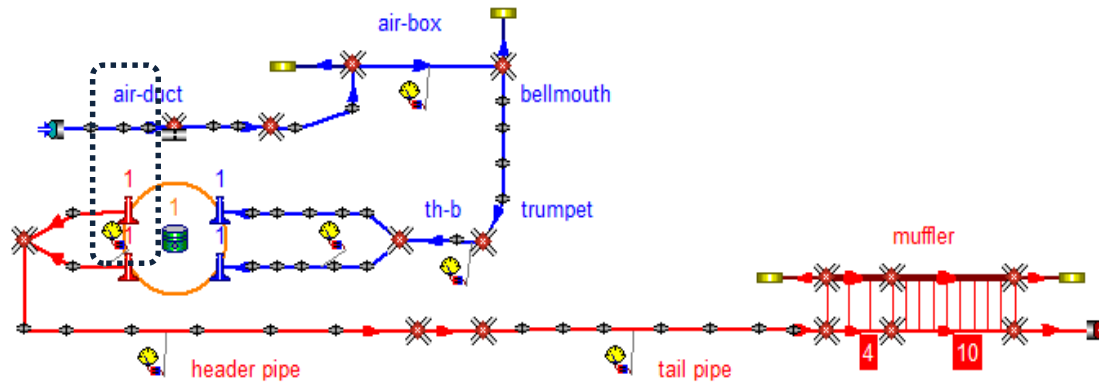
MOTO3, Mahindra racing



Maximum swept volume	0.25 dm ³
Maximum rev. speed	13500 rpm
Air metering	Naturally aspirated
Cylinder arrangement	Single cylinder
Maximum cylinder bore	81 mm
Fuel supplier	PFI
Max. injection pressure	0.5 MPa

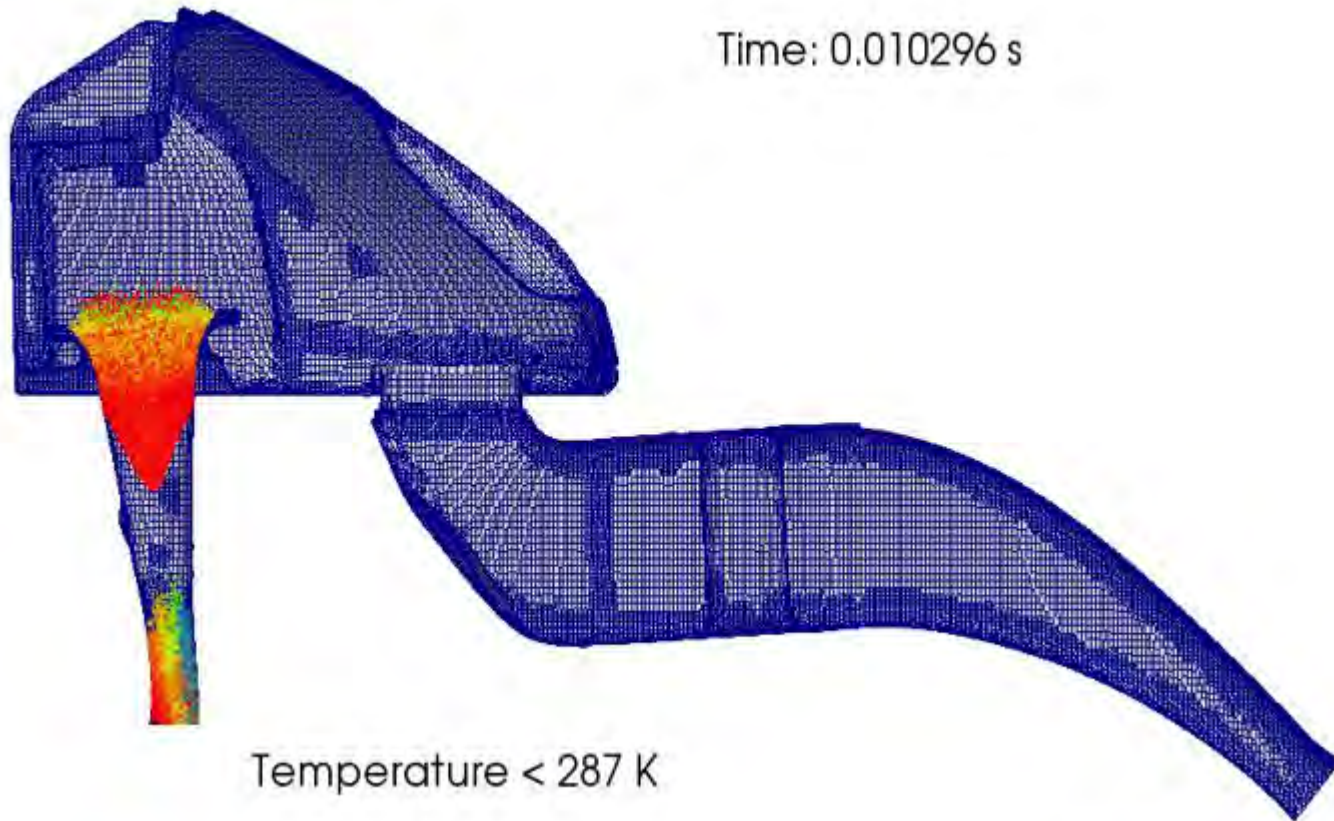
Baseline 1D model

1D engine schematic and brake torque comparison

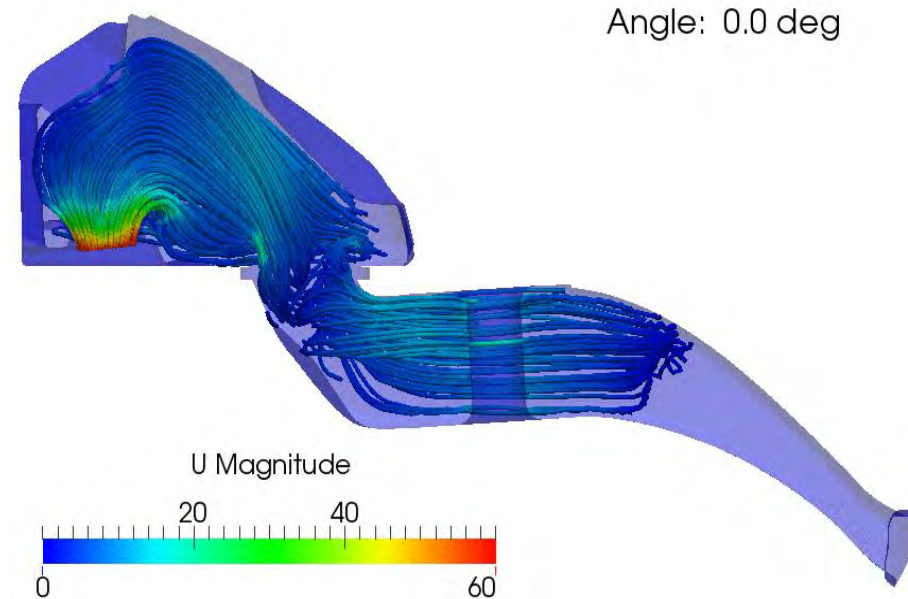
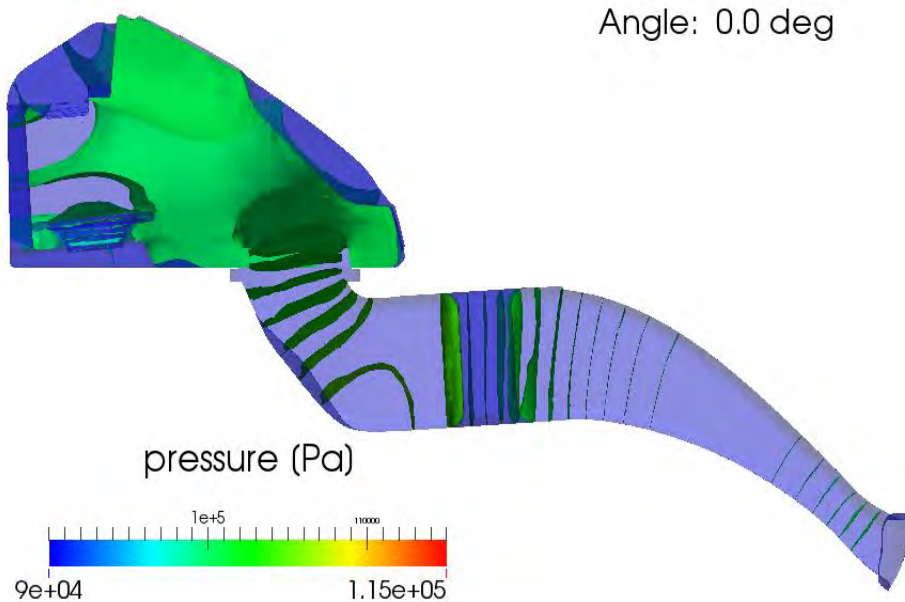


Modeling the effect of spray evaporation

Gasoline injection: lower and upper injectors



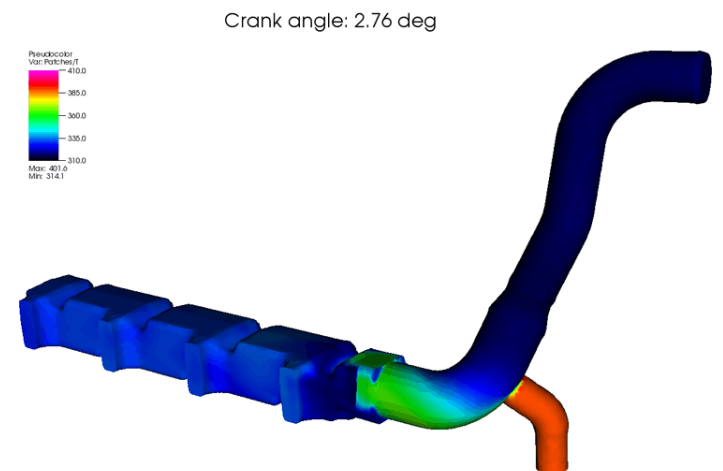
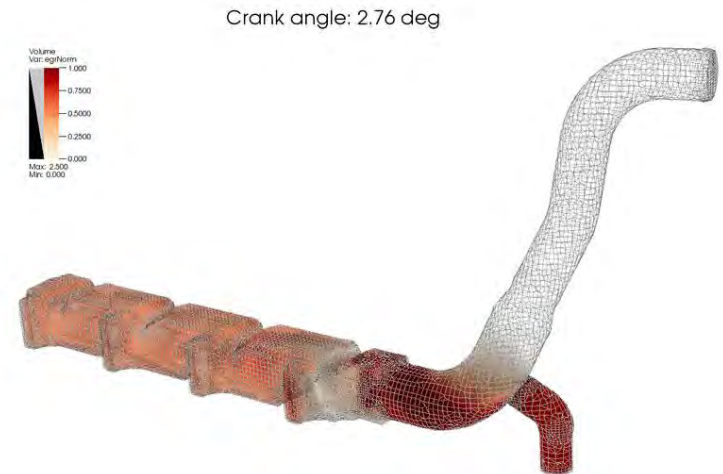
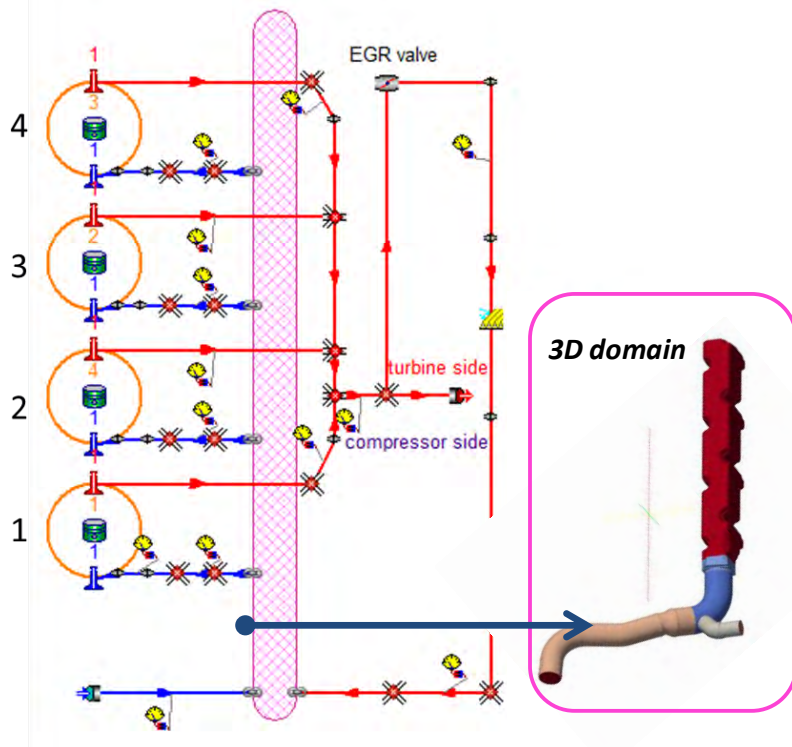
Pressure and velocity fields



- Visible resonance excited by longitudinal characteristic length.
- Steering rod seat gives some dynamic effects (pressure reflections) and steady state losses (pressure losses due to average flow).
- Intake pipe shows planar wave behaviour.

Simulation of EGR systems (1D-3D coupling)

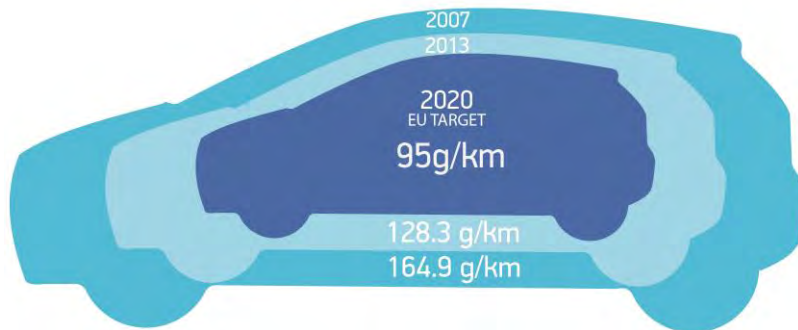
4-cylinder Diesel engine for agricultural applications:
full torque conditions with EGR



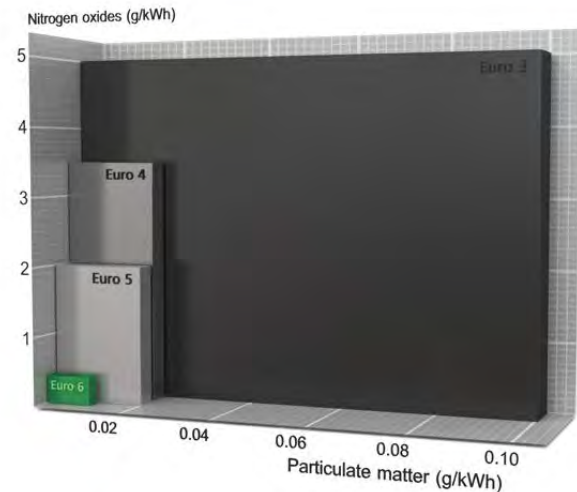
Conclusions

**Internal combustion engine development
will never stop!**

Efficiency increase



Pollutant emission control



Conclusions

**Internal combustion engine development
will never stop!**

**Research work will be required for the next generation
of 1D and 3D CFD simulation models...**

