Numerical simulation of condensation of sulfuric acid and water in a large two-stroke marine diesel engine - DTU Orbit (26/01/2019)

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In the present study, three-dimensional (3D) computational fluid dynamics simulations are performed to examine the process of sulfuric acid (H2SO4) and water (H2O) condensation in a large two-stroke marine diesel engine. A skeletal n-heptane chemical mechanism is coupled with a sulfur (S) subset to simulate the combustion process as well as the formation of sulfuric oxides (SOx) and H2SO4. The condensation process is simulated using a fluid film model which is coupled with the in-cylinder gas phase. Prior to the engine simulations, the fluid film condensation model is validated using the experimental data of sulfuric acid condensation rate in a laminar pipe flow. Next, the engine model is validated against the experimental sulfur dioxide (SO2) to sulfur trioxide (SO3) conversion obtained from the corresponding test engine. Both of the validation studies show a good agreement with the experimental data. The engine model is then utilized to simulate condensation for different operating conditions. The engine simulation results reveal that the fluid film has a significant effect on the total mass of sulfuric acid vapor and a marginal effect on the total mass of water vapor. A close to linear correlation is found between the fuel sulfur content and the total condensed mass of sulfuric acid. The level of humidity of the scavenging air does not affect the condensation of sulfuric acid considerably, relative to the humidity increase, but it has a high impact on water condensation. The study of the scavenging pressure level reveals a counter intuitive behavior where the condensation rates decrease with higher scavenging pressures due to the flow regime and flame size. Next, increasing the cylinder liner temperature decreases significantly the water condensation contrary to the sulfuric acid condensation which is marginally affected. The increase in lubricant film thickness results in a decrease for both the sulfuric acid and water condensation with a more pronounced reduction for water. Finally, a comparison between the high and low load operating conditions reveals a small drop in the total condensed mass of sulfuric acid and water for the low load conditions.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Mechanical Engineering, Fluid Mechanics, Coastal and Maritime Engineering, Thermal Energy, MAN Diesel & Turbo
Contributors: Karvounis, N., Pang, K. M., Mayer, S., Walther, J. H.
Pages: 1009-1020
Publication date: 2018
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Applied Energy
Volume: 211
ISSN (Print): 0306-2619
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2019): Indexed yes
BFI (2018): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 8.44 SJR 3.162 SNIP 2.765
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 7.9
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 7.78 SJR 3.011 SNIP 2.61
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 7.182
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 6.4 SJR 2.835 SNIP 2.593
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 5.746
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 6.93 SJR 3.158 SNIP 3.218
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 5.613
Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes
BFI (2013): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 6.59 SJR 3.06 SNIP 3.346
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 5.261
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 5.69 SJR 2.778 SNIP 3.076
Web of Science (2012): Impact factor 4.781
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes
BFI (2011): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2011): CiteScore 5.5 SJR 2.416 SNIP 2.827
Web of Science (2011): Impact factor 5.106
ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2011): Indexed yes
BFI (2010): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2010): SJR 1.531 SNIP 2.259
Web of Science (2010): Impact factor 3.915
Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes
BFI (2009): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2009): SJR 0.992 SNIP 1.85
Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes
BFI (2008): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2008): SJR 0.95 SNIP 1.206
Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2007): SJR 1.168 SNIP 1.704
Web of Science (2007): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2006): SJR 0.95 SNIP 1.277
Scopus rating (2005): SJR 1.02 SNIP 0.988
Web of Science (2005): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2004): SJR 0.67 SNIP 0.844
Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2003): SJR 0.713 SNIP 0.775
Scopus rating (2002): SJR 0.589 SNIP 0.779
Web of Science (2002): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2001): SJR 0.368 SNIP 0.567
Scopus rating (2000): SJR 0.154 SNIP 0.498
Scopus rating (1999): SJR 0.181 SNIP 0.443
Original language: English
DOIs: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2017.11.085
Research output: Research - peer-review › Journal article – Annual report year: 2018