

**OPTIMIZATION OF PROCESS PARAMETERS OF
FLUIDIZED BED BIOMASS COMBUSTOR USING CFD
MODELING**

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Degree of Master of Science

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University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

October 2018

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree Master of Science in fulltime research in Chemical & Process
Engineering

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Abstract

The present work is focused on mathematical modelling of fluidized bed combustion of biomass by means of computational fluid dynamics (CFD). Introducing a stable CFD solver for combustion of solid fuel with Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) turbulence modeling and diffusion corrective velocity is the novelty of this study. A great part of the work is devoted to development of a reliable algorithm to solve the fluidized bed combustion model and to improve the accuracy of simulation results. A three-dimensional transient model is developed with a special emphasis on the conservativeness property of energy and mass.

The second part of the work is devoted to development of C++ libraries for the open source CFD tool kit OpenFOAM for coupling fluidized bed model with gas phase combustion. The created CFD solver has capability to adept with wide range of application of fluidized bed combustion. The presented results contribute to better understanding of numerical modelling and simulation of fluidized bed combustion, especially optimizing of combustor geometries.

The performance of fluidized bed biomass combustor depends on the turbulence of freeboard. The optimum amount of secondary air ratio is 1.6%, which gives higher freeboard temperature while maintaining minimum emission. The optimum excess air ratio is 10% for 0.1125 kg/h. In the case of suspension combustion, maximum combustor temperature has been obtained for optimum airflow, which was 5.5 ms^{-1} of inlet air velocity for a 0.00171 kg/s of fuel feeding rate (65% amount of excess air).

Keywords

Computational Fluid Dynamics, fluidized bed, biomass, Large-Eddy Simulation, Combustion

Acknowledgements

I am thankful to my supervisor Dr. M. Narayana and co-supervisor Prof. A. D. U. S. Amarasinghe for their encouragement, guidance and time throughout my study. I am also thankful to Dr. S. H. P. Gunawardena, Head of the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering for allowing me to study for my M.Sc. in the department.

Finally, I should thank laboratory staff of Department of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa and my colleagues for their supports.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	viii
Nomenclature	ix
List Of Appendices	x
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 CFD modelling	1
1.2 Objectives and scope of the thesis.....	2
1.3 Report structure	3
2. Mathematical modeling	4
2.1 Computational approach	4
2.1 Particle motion (Lagrangian phase)	5
2.2 Governing equations	5
2.2.1 Momentum conservation	6
2.2.2 Mass conservation	7
2.2.3 Energy conservation	8
2.3 Heat transfer	8
2.4 Heterogeneous reactions	8
2.4.1 Drying.....	8
2.4.2 Pyrolysis	9
2.4.3 Char combustion.....	10
2.5 Homogeneous reactions	12
2.6 Turbulence modeling.....	13

3. Numerical solution technique	16
3.1 Introduction to finite volume method.....	16
3.1.1 Discretization schemes	16
3.2 OpenFOAM solver	17
3.3 OpenFOAM case.....	18
3.3.1 Fluidized bed biomass combustor	18
4. Model validation.....	20
4.1. Validation Case 1	20
4.2. Validation Case 2	22
4.3. Validation Case 3	25
5. Results & discussion.....	27
5.1. Prediction of system parameters	27
5.2. Optimization.....	29
5.1. Suspension combustion – case study	34
6. Conclusion & futher works.....	37
6.1 Conclusion.....	37
6.2 Further works	37
References.....	38
Appendix A: Publications	43
Appendix B: CFD Code.....	44

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Two computational approaches	4
Figure 2: Differential volume element (cell) and fluxes across its faces	6
Figure 3: Reaction front of a biomass particle	10
Figure 4: Difference between turbulence modeling approaches	14
Figure 5: Variation of a variable with respect to turbulence modeling	14
Figure 6: Fraction of OpenFOAM directory tree	17
Figure 7: Case directory tree	18
Figure 8: Diagram of combustor prototype	21
Figure 9: Combustor geometry	21
Figure 10: Flue gas temperature	22
Figure 11: Steady state temperature profiles at T1, T2 & T3	22
Figure 12: Particle flow pattern (A)	23
Figure 13: Particle flow pattern (B)	24
Figure 14: Particle flow pattern (C)	25
Figure 15: Product gas composition at exhaust	26
Figure 16: Sketch of experimental setup	28
Figure 17: Experimental setup	27
Figure 18: Combustor temperature at T1 & T3 with time	29
Figure 19: Eddies near secondary air inlet	30
Figure 20: Freeboard temperature and exhaust CO level for different excess air ratios	31
Figure 21: Freeboard temperature and exhaust CO level for different secondary air flow rates	31
Figure 22: Temperature profiles for different excess air ratios	32
Figure 23: CO profile for different excess air ratios	33
Figure 24: Freeboard temperature and exhaust CO level for different secondary air ratios (60% excess air)	32
Figure 25: Suspension combustor prototype	34
Figure 26: Steady state temperature profile	34
Figure 27: Steady state turbulent kinetic energy profile	35

Figure 28: Steady state particle size distribution	35
Figure 29: Steady state residence time distribution	36
Figure 30: Steady state CO profile.....	36

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Volatile gas composition	9
Table 2: Kinetic data for evaluation of surface reaction rates	11
Table 3: Kinetic data for evaluation of homogeneous reactions.....	13
Table 4: Boundary conditions	19
Table 5: Particle size distribution	21
Table 6: Proximate analysis	21

NOMENCLATURE

C_d	Drag coefficient
D_i	Effective mass diffusion coefficient for species i (m^2/s)
d	Particle diameter (m)
f_g	Drag force acting on particle (N)
f_p	Contact force acting on particle (N)
g	Gravitational acceleration (m/s^2)
h_s	Sensible enthalpy of gas phase (J/kg)
m_p	Particle mass (kg)
P	Pressure (Pa)
Re	Reynolds number
S_h	Enthalpy source term due to homogeneous reaction (W/m^3)
$S_{p,h}$	Enthalpy source term from particle phase (W/m^3)
$S_{p,mom}$	Momentum source term (N/m^3)
$S_{p,m}$	Mass source term ($kgm^{-3}s^{-1}$)
S_{p,Y_i}	Species source term from particle phase ($kgm^{-3}s^{-1}$)
S_{rad}	Radiation source term (W/m^3)
S_{Y_i}	Species source term due to gas phase reactions ($kgm^{-3}s^{-1}$)
T	Temperature (K)
u_g	Gas velocity (m/s)
v_p	Particle velocity (m/s)
V_p	Particle volume (m^3)
V_c	Correction velocity (m/s)
Y_i	Mass fraction of species i
ε_g	Volume fraction of gas
ρ_g	Gas density (kg/m^3)
τ_{eff}	Effective stress tenor (Pa)
α_{eff}	Effective thermal diffusivity ($kgm^{-1}s^{-1}$)
β	Inter-phase momentum exchange coefficient ($kgm^{-3}s^{-1}$)
μ	Viscosity ($kgm^{-1}s^{-1}$)

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix – A	Publications	43
Appendix – B	CFD Code	44