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A Spectroscopy Study of Gasoline Partially Premixed Compression Ignition Spark Assisted Combustion

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20 **ABSTRACT**

21 Nowadays many research efforts are focused on the study and development of new combustion
22 modes, mainly based on the use of locally lean air-fuel mixtures. This characteristic, combined with
23 exhaust gas recirculation, provides low combustion temperatures that reduces pollutant formation
24 and increases efficiency. However these combustion concepts have some drawbacks, related to
25 combustion phasing control, which must be overcome. In this way, the use of a spark plug has shown
26 to be a good solution to improve phasing control in combination with lean low temperature
27 combustion. Its performance is well reported on bibliography, however phenomena involving the
28 combustion process are not completely described. The aim of the present work is to develop a detailed
29 description of the spark assisted compression ignition mode by means of application of UV-Visible
30 spectrometry, in order to improve insight on the combustion process.

31 Tests have been performed in an optical engine by means of broadband radiation imaging and
32 emission spectrometry. The engine hardware is typical of a compression ignition passenger car
33 application. Gasoline was used as the fuel due to its low reactivity. Combining broadband luminosity
34 images with pressure- derived heat- release rate and UV- Visible Spectra, it was possible to identify
35 different stages of the combustion reaction. After the spark discharge, a first flame kernel appears and
36 starts growing as a premixed flame front, characterized by a low and constant heat-release rate in
37 combination with the presence of remarkable OH radical radiation. Heat release increases
38 temperature and pressure inside the combustion chamber, which causes the auto-ignition of the rest
39 of the unburned mixture. This second stage is characterized by a more pronounced rate of heat release
40 and a faster propagation of the reactions through the combustion chamber. Moreover, the measured
41 UV-Visible spectra show some differences in comparison with the other stages. The relative intensities
42 in of spectra from different combustion radicals have also been related to the different combustion
43 phases.

44 **KEYWORDS:**

45 PPC, Spark assistance, Gasoline fuel, Optical Investigation, Combustion description

46

47 **HIGHLIGHTS**

- 48 • PPC combustion combined with spark assistance and gasoline fuel on a CI engine
- 49 • Chemiluminescence of different chemical species describes the progress of combustion
- 50 reaction.
- 51 • Spectra of a novel combustion mode under SACI conditions is described.
- 52 • UV-Visible spectrometry, high speed imaging and pressure diagnostic were employed for
- 53 analysis.

54 **NOMENCLATURE**

55	<i>CI</i>	Compression Ignition
56	<i>ICE</i>	Internal combustion engine
57	<i>EGR</i>	Exhaust gas recirculation
58	<i>PPC</i>	Partially premixed combustion
59	<i>SACI</i>	Spark assisted compression ignition
60	<i>ROHR</i>	Rate of heat release
61	<i>CAD</i>	Crankangle degree
62	<i>ACV</i>	Apparent combustion velocity

63

64 1. INTRODUCTION

65 Nowadays the automotive scientific community focuses part of their efforts on the investigation
66 of new combustion modes [[1]] with the aim of reducing fuel consumption and emissions in CI
67 (Compression Ignition) diesel engines [2, [2]]. These modes are mainly characterized by taking place
68 under homogeneous locally lean conditions which, combined with high exhaust gas recirculation rates,
69 provide low combustion temperatures. As a consequence, NO_x and soot formation are reduced while
70 fuel consumption and efficiency improve [4].

71 In spite of their benefits, these combustion concepts present some challenges that must be
72 overcome before their practical implementation in ICEs. The main limitation is obtaining a proper
73 combustion phasing and control over a wide range of engine load and speed. Highly-premixed
74 combustion modes in CI engines are dominated by chemical kinetics, which are directly dependent on
75 temperature and chemical composition of the mixture. As a consequence, achieving the proper
76 ignition conditions requires both adequate mixing and temperature of the charge. To solve this
77 problem, different strategies have been proposed [5-7]. Temperature can be controlled by intake air
78 heating or modifying the compression ratio. Other strategies like control of EGR rate [27] or the
79 amount of trapped combustion gases also modifies mixture composition. Multiple injection strategies
80 and combinations of different fuels have also been investigated. However, the majority of the
81 techniques mentioned cannot provide precise control over the combustion phasing, since they require
82 time scales too large to achieve cycle-by-cycle control.

83 All previous actions try to compensate the high chemical reactivity of the diesel fuel that does not
84 provide enough mixing time before the start of combustion. Thus, recent studies have tried to
85 overcome these disadvantages by using fuels with different reactivities. PPC (Partially Premixed
86 Combustion) is a novel combustion strategy with the main characteristic being the use of a low
87 reactivity fuel [[7], [8], [9]]. This combustion mode is in transition between normal diffusion
88 combustion in CI engines and Premixed Charge Compression Ignition (PCCI). It allows a high degree of
89 fuel-air mixing before ignition but the charge is not completely homogeneous [[10], 12]. Nevertheless,

90 while all these solutions provide some control of the combustion phasing, they still cannot deliver the
91 required cycle-to-cycle control capability of these partial or fully premixed combustion processes.
92 Moreover, when a very low reactivity fuel is used [13, 28], it is not possible to achieve stable engine
93 operation for light and mid load conditions.

94 Spark assisted combustion phasing and control has been investigated for controlled auto-ignition
95 (CAI) implementation in port fuel injection SI engines. The spark plug has been used to supply the
96 necessary energy for achieving a controlled auto-ignition process with a method referred to as Spark
97 Assisted Compression Ignition (SACI). In this mode, the combustion process is composed of a first
98 growth of a reaction kernel, due to the energy supplied by the spark, which leads to the start of a
99 propagating flame. The flame propagation combustion consumes part of the fuel, releasing energy
100 that increases the mixture temperature and provokes its auto-ignition. Since flame propagation is
101 generally slower than auto-ignition, this mechanism reduces the overall heat release rate. Previous
102 experimental work using spark ignition engine architecture [14, 15] and moderate reactivity fuels
103 suggests that this method can provide good combustion phasing while the response time is short
104 enough for cycle-by-cycle application[16, 17].

105 In the present work, combustion phasing control by means of a spark plug ignition system is
106 integrated on a CI engine working in partially a premixed combustion (PPC) mode, when a very low
107 reactivity fuel is used. On the one hand, the spark plug offers a cycle-to-cycle control over PPC
108 regardless of thermodynamic conditions. On the other hand the CI engine, which is not common in the
109 SACI literature, allows to overcome some previously reported problems related to the use of high
110 octane fuels, like misfiring under light load engine conditions. Experiments have been performed in
111 an optical engine, with a diesel-like compression ratio and geometry, equipped with a common rail
112 injection system enabling high-pressure injection, EGR and temperature control. Moreover, the
113 experimental work was carried out using gasoline, because of its low reactivity. Since the investigation
114 was performed in an optical engine, different tools were combined in the study: in-cylinder pressure
115 analysis, combustion broadband imaging and emission spectrometry. The latter has been proven as a
116 powerful tool for analysis of new combustion modes, so it is used to develop a detailed description

117 and improve the existing knowledge about the phenomenology of the gasoline partially premixed
118 combustion compression ignition mode with spark assistance. Therefore, the main objective of the
119 work is the improvement of the fundamental understanding of this combustion process.

120

121

122 **2. EXPERIMENTAL TOOLS AND MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE**

123 **2.1. Engine**

124 The experimental work was performed at a low load-operation mode on a 4-stroke DI diesel single
125 cylinder optical engine (Fig.1) with the specifications listed in Table 1. It is equipped with an elongated
126 piston and a cylindrical bowl, with dimensions of 45 x 18 mm (diameter x depth), allowing optical
127 access to the combustion chamber through a sapphire window located at its bottom. Below the piston
128 bowl an elliptical UV mirror is placed at 45°, aligned with the piston axis.

129 The cylinder head is a modified 2.2 HSDI 4 valve diesel cylinder head. One of the exhaust valves
130 was removed in order to install a spark plug. This modification does not strongly affect air
131 management, due to the low operating engine speed and the skip fire methodology used in this work.
132 The engine is equipped with a conventional common rail injection system. The injector is positioned
133 at the center of the combustion chamber and oriented so that one of the jets passes through the spark
134 electrodes. Tests were conducted in skip-fire mode to prevent fouling of the optical access and
135 minimize thermal engine gradients; thus, only one injection is performed every 30 cycles. This
136 methodology ensures repetitive engine conditions between fired cycles.

137 In-cylinder pressure is measured, and thermodynamic analysis is performed with a one-zone
138 model CALMEC [20, 22]. This diagnosis tool uses the measured in-cylinder pressure as the main input
139 and other engine parameters as boundary conditions of the test. The model's main result is the Rate

140 of Heat Release (ROHR). Time resolution for these variables depends on the crank angle encoder
141 configuration (0.2 CAD).

142 All the tests were carried out under the same engine conditions. Engine speed was set to 750 rpm.
143 This low regime offers long cycle and combustion duration, which are optimum conditions to check
144 the viability of the combustion mode. Intake air temperature and pressure were set to 303 K and 1.6
145 bar respectively. This intake pressure, which is a common value for this engine under HCCI combustion
146 conditions, has been selected in order to avoid wall impingement. O₂ concentration inside combustion
147 chamber is controlled using a synthetic EGR system, where EGR gases are substituted only by N₂. For
148 this study, X_{O₂} was fixed at 18%. Fuel was commercial gasoline with 95 octane number (RON) and 765
149 kg/m³ density. The start of injection was located 19 crank angle degrees before top dead center,
150 injecting 20.6 mg of fuel per cycle, which results in an average 0.35 equivalence ratio. Due to the low
151 reactivity of the fuel, no ignition occurs under these operating conditions when no spark plug discharge
152 is performed. The spark discharge was located at -10 CAD, coinciding with the end of injection, while
153 the local air-fuel mixture around the spark plug is still rich enough and thermodynamic conditions are
154 adequate for ignition. To enable an adequate mixture preparation in the spark plug zone within the
155 required time scales, injection pressure was set to 600 bar. This pressure is higher than the usual range
156 offered by commercial direct injection gasoline systems, so a common rail Bosch-Piezo system was
157 used.

158

159 2.2. Optical Apparatus

160 Digital imaging and spectroscopic analysis in the UV-Visible range were performed. Light emitted
161 by the combustion process is reflected by the UV Mirror and guided to both a high speed camera and
162 a spectrograph. The optical set-up is shown in Fig. 2.

163 In order to register temporal and spatial evolution of broadband radiation from the combustion
164 process a Photron Fastcam Ultima APX camera was employed. This High Speed CMOS camera was used
165 to record at 6000 fps with a 512 x 512 pixels resolution. The exposure time was fixed at

166 166.7 μs (approx. 0.75 CAD), ensuring a good dynamic range although soot emission could saturate
167 the images. The lens used is a Zeiss 100mm f/2 ZF Makro-Planar, keeping the aperture constant for all
168 the tests. This element restricts the bandwidth of light recorded to the visible range. The whole optical
169 system provides an effective resolution of 0.17mm/pixel for the images.

170 A Jovin Yvon Horiba Triax 180 spectrograph was used to decompose the light emitted by
171 combustion in the UV-Visible range, which was coupled with a LaVisionDynamight intensified CCD
172 camera. A grating with 300 groove/mm was used which, combined with the 512 x 512 pixels of the
173 ICCD camera, allows detecting a wavelength bandwidth of 170 nm. Two different configurations were
174 chosen, the first one with the grating centered at 350 nm (265-435 nm) for the UV range and the other
175 one centered at 450 nm (365 – 535 nm) for the visible range. The entrance slit width was set to 0.3
176 mm and the exposure time of the ICCD camera was 500 μs (approx. 2.25 CAD). A UV-Lens (\varnothing 25.4 - 100
177 mm focal length) was used to focus the light inside the spectrograph.

178

179 2.3. Image Processing

180 A processing routine was applied to the high speed camera images, to obtain numerical
181 information about the size and shape of the combustion area for further analysis. Each image was
182 binarized considering a fixed threshold value, so pixels corresponding to the flame (higher intensity
183 than threshold) are assigned a value of 1, while pixels of the background (lower intensity than
184 threshold) are assigned a value of 0. Flame area is defined as the addition of all pixels set to 1. In a
185 second step, the contour of the flame was obtained from the binarized image. Fig. 3 presents an
186 example of the different processing steps.

187 For the analysis of the flame propagation velocity, a geometrical magnitude was defined. Fig. 8
188 shows that flame shape changes during the combustion cycle. The first steps of the reaction are
189 characterized by a geometrically continuous flame, there is a middle stage when the flame shrinks and
190 breaks into different parts. In order to characterize this behavior, the time derivative of the ratio

191 between flame area and contour length is obtained. In this way, not only a change of flame area is
192 characterized but also its fragmentation due to a reaction slowdown. From now on, this magnitude
193 will be named as apparent combustion velocity (ACV).

194

195 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

196 **3.1. Analysis of combustion repeatability**

197 In the subsequent sections, the description of the SACI combustion sequence will be presented in
198 terms of a single cycle results (Figs. 8 and 9). This approach will be justified in the present section,
199 where cycle-to-cycle scattering will be evaluated to show that combustion is repeatable.

200 On the one hand, Fig 4 shows a comparison between the cycle-to-cycle variation of the rate of heat
201 release (shadowed area) and the cycle that will be used to describe combustion events (thick black
202 curve). There is consistency among the entire set of cycles and the one chosen to analyze within the
203 article, so this cycle should be considered as representative of the combustion process. A more
204 detailed analysis is included in the Figure 5. In order to represent the combustion phasing variability,
205 the starting and end point of the two main phases of the combustion process (premixed and
206 autoignition length) have been obtained from the RoHR of each cycle. Moreover, the maximum RoHR
207 value at each of these phases has been registered. SoC refers to the start of combustion, while End of
208 Premixed and Autoignition Phase correspond to the ending CAD of different combustion phases.
209 Variability of both combustion phasing and heat released during the combustion process are reduced.
210 Thereby, this confirms that all the cycles that conforms this work have a very similar combustion
211 evolution along the engine cycle compared to the reference one.

212 On the other hand, the scattering among cycles in the natural luminosity images has also been
213 analyzed. For that purpose, flame area and accumulated intensity evolution have been chosen. Fig. 6
214 and Fig. 7 show the flame area and total intensity for the 30 cycles employed on the RoHR cycle-to-
215 cycle variation study. Both figures present a grey curve and a shadowed area, which indicate the

216 average \pm one standard deviation as calculated from the single cycles of accumulated intensity and
217 flame area. The black curve represents the corresponding evolution for the cycle employed on the
218 description of the combustion process. It can be seen that scattering, in both cases, is higher than the
219 one presented for RoHR. However, the trend along combustion cycle is well defined and the one
220 included in the subsequent sections for analysis follows the average behavior. According to these
221 results, as well as to the information from the heat release curves, the information selected for the
222 description of the combustion cycle is representative of engine behavior.

223

224 3.1. Analysis of flame radiation images

225 A first description of the phenomena involved in partially premixed compression ignition spark
226 assisted combustion can be obtained from the analysis of the natural luminosity released by reaction
227 Fig. 8 shows a crankangle resolved sequence of images of the reference combustion cycle. For brevity,
228 only every other recorded image is shown. After the spark discharge (-10.0 CAD), a high luminosity
229 area is observed around the spark plug (-10.3 CAD). This active site shifts towards the combustion
230 chamber wall, and later on slightly reduces in size but it does not change in position. At -7.4 CAD,
231 however, the luminous area is seen to have expanded, but its appearance is different: the original high
232 intensity spot from the spark discharge still exists, but it is surrounded by a much larger compact zone
233 with dimmer intensity. This zone seems to be expanding to the rest of the combustion chamber but,
234 after -4.6 CAD, it reduces in size again, becoming less compact in appearance. This reduction phase
235 finishes at -0.3 CAD, from which a second increase in luminous area is observed. During this phase, the
236 luminous area progresses towards the rest of the combustion chamber, with a relatively low intensity
237 appearance except for some locally bright spots that will be discussed below. After 7.0 CAD, the
238 radiation zone starts to reduce again, but this time it leads to the extinction of the reaction zone.

239 The previous qualitative sequence can be analyzed in terms of quantitative variables derived from
240 in-cylinder pressure and image processing as shown in Fig. 9. The evolution of the combustion area is
241 in agreement with the previous images: spark discharge occurs at -10.0 CAD, and no large increase in

242 area occurs until approximately -8.0 CAD, as shown in the ACV evolution. During that interval, only the
243 spark generated radiation occurs. From -8.0 CAD to approximately -2.0 CAD (minimum value in area
244 after the first maximum) the phase of the compact radiation area evolution occurs. From -2.0 CAD
245 onwards, a second combustion period occurs with the corresponding increase in area. Both phases are
246 marked by a corresponding ACV peak. It is noticeable that all three periods can also be observed to be
247 approximately coincident with those observed in the pressure-derived heat release rate, namely a first
248 phase without heat release from spark timing to -9.0 CAD, a second period with a sustained heat
249 release until -1.0 CAD, after which a third period with a noticeable peak in heat release occurs. Both
250 differences between second and third phases in heat release values and, to a lower extent, in area and
251 ACV, indicate that the last one is faster than the second one.

252 Previous analysis of quantitative parameters makes it possible to define three different stages
253 during the combustion process. After the spark discharge, a growth of an early flame kernel takes place
254 with negligible heat release. The kernel phase it is followed by a flame front propagation under
255 premixed conditions. Energy released by premixed reaction causes an increase in temperature and
256 pressure in the combustion chamber, leading to the autoignition of the rest of the mixture. The mean
257 difference between autoignition and premixed combustion phases is the propagation rate and, as a
258 consequence, the maximum values attained by the rate of heat release. Moreover, it can be seen that
259 reaction is not uniform along the combustion chamber. While the premixed combustion takes place
260 around the spark plug, the auto-ignition phenomenon extends to the whole field of view. The
261 description obtained is consistent with the work of other authors, such as Natarajan and Tornatore
262 [17, 23].

263

264

265

266 3.2. Analysis of radiation spectra

277 Spectral analysis is useful in order to better investigate the combustion process. In the literature,
278 different chemical species and radicals are identified as good tracers of the stages of a hydrocarbon
279 combustion reaction. Thus their presence changes radiation emission spectra and helps describe the
280 evolution of the reaction.

281 Due to optical apparatus limitations, spectra were registered at different locations along the
282 combustion chamber in order to obtain good spatial resolution. For the analysis, the combustion
283 chamber was divided into nine regions of interest (Fig. 10). The size of each region is 79 x 16 pixels and
284 had an area of 13.5 x 2.7 mm. Each region is labeled according to the horizontal (1,2,3) and vertical
285 (T,C,B) location.

286 The different spectra registered during the combustion process are presented in Fig. 11 to Fig. 14.
287 All of them correspond to central location in the chamber (1C, 2C and 3C). Results in other locations
288 are similar. Each figure shows instantaneous spectra from two different engine cycles, as two
289 recordings were done for each of the visible and UV wavelength ranges, however both overlap in the
290 400-440 nm interval. Representative timings are shown for the following combustion phenomena: 1.
291 Spark discharge and flame kernel appearance (Fig. 11); 2. Flame growth under premixed conditions
(Fig. 12); 3. Auto-ignition combustion (Fig. 13); Fig. 14 corresponds to the late combustion phase.

292 Fig. 11 shows spectra recorded between -10.8 and -8.5 CAD, which corresponds approximately to
293 the interval between spark discharge and start of heat release. Light is mainly produced by the plasma
294 generated around the spark plug terminals (zone 1C). The early interactions between excited
295 hydrocarbon species and the air are represented by the presence of CN and NH peaks, according to
296 the literature [23]. Moreover, the corresponding spectrum also shows two weak peaks from OH and
297 CH emission (310 and 430 nm). Both radicals are indicators of combustion chemical reactions
298 associated with the formation of an early flame kernel. Due to the low reaction rate during the first
299 stage of combustion, no evidence of radical or chemical activity was detected in the rest of the
300 combustion chamber, so no information is shown for zones 2C and 3C.

292 Spectra between -5.5 and -3.2 CAD correspond to the second phase of the heat release rate, where
293 the premixed combustion reaction is progressing. These are shown in Fig. 12. The spectrum around
294 the spark plug (1C) is similar to blackbody continuum emission. A noticeable peak of OH (310 nm) is
295 also present. Both characteristics are a consequence of combustion occurring in fuel rich zones, with
296 soot particles forming as a result of the accumulation of fuel close to the combustion chamber wall. At
297 position 2C (injector), the spectra are composed only of chemiluminescence radiation. Apart from the
298 intense OH and CH peaks (310 and 430 nm), there is also a continuum band, starting at 270 nm and
299 extending into the visible range. This band is usually attributed to HCO (Vayda bands, from 270 to 410
300 nm [24]) and HCHO radiation (Emelus bands, from 340 to 523 nm [24]). Both radicals are
301 representative of the transition from low to high temperature combustion. According to the radiation
302 images (Fig. 8) the reaction has reached position 2C, and therefore the recorded spectra correspond
303 to a premixed front progressing towards the unburned mixtures. At position 3C, it was not possible to
304 identify either radicals or chemical reactions due to the low emission levels, so spectra are not shown.

305 Fig. 13 shows spectra recorded during the 2 to 4.3 CAD interval, when the main auto-ignition
306 process is underway. At location 1C the OH peak is still present, but the continuum spectrum of soot
307 is more doubtful. Instead, spectra suggest the presence of CO as a broadband radiation between 420
308 and 490 nm. Both facts are consistent with the final stages of a combustion process, when soot
309 radiation has almost disappeared, and radiation of late occurring species like CO appears [23, 24]. On
310 the other hand, at position 2C the auto-ignited combustion is taking place. Here the recorded spectra
311 are governed by broadband continuum emission and an intense peak of OH (310 nm). Radiation images
312 (Fig. 8) also indicate very strong luminosity in the injector area. Both diagnostics hint at the presence
313 of soot particulates (bright spots). This interpretation is consistent with fuel leakages observed from
314 the injector, which ignite as a consequence of local high temperatures and, due to the lower mixing
315 rate, form a diffusion flame. Finally, at position 3C CH and OH peaks (430 and 310 nm) can be identified,
316 and HCO and HCHO background emission is also present. Both indicate a relatively similar emission as
317 in location 2C, from -5.5 to -3.2 CAD, except for the stronger CH and weaker OH in this case compared

318 to -5.5 to -3.2 CAD spectra. Such differences can be explained by the different combustion regime
319 (premixed at 2C from -5.5 to -3.2 CAD vs auto-ignition at 3C from 2 to 4.3 CAD).

320 Finally, Fig. 14 shows the spectra during the interval from 5.8 to 8.0 CAD when the combustion
321 process is nearing completion. The spectrum measured at position 3C shows a weak OH peak at 310
322 nm and a broadband component, which extends to the visible range, characteristic of CO-O produced
323 from the oxidation of HCO and HCOH. This emission overlaps possible peaks of other radical like CH at
324 430 nm. This spectrum is common in the major part of the combustion chamber at this stage except
325 around the injector (2C), where the influence of fuel leakages is still present and spectra show a more
326 intense OH peak and soot broad-band emission.

327

328 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

329 Direct visualization and spectroscopic analysis of natural radiation has been combined with the
330 analysis of the Rate of Heat Release to provide a description of the combustion process occurring in a
331 Partially Premixed Spark Assisted Compression Ignition mode using gasoline. Three different stages of
332 combustion have been identified. The process starts with the spark discharge, which produces a flame
333 kernel around the spark plug that later evolves to a premixed flame front. This premixed flame front
334 heats unburned mixture and progresses into an auto-ignition combustion that burns out the rest of
335 the charge.

336 Spectra of the combustion process change as the process evolves. During the first step of the
337 reaction (-10.8 CAD), the main radiation comes from the spark discharge and the early flame kernel
338 formed around the spark plug. The spectra is characterized by the emission due to early interaction
339 between excited hydrocarbons and air, but also by the appearance of the first reactions denoted by
340 weak peaks of OH and CH. No heat release is observed at this time.

341 As the flame front expands (-5.5 CAD), OH radiation grows and becomes very intense, and the
342 chemiluminescence spectra also shows the presence of CH, HCO and HCHO. The resulting spectrum is

343 characteristic of premixed combustion, which is consistent with previously observed RoHR and flame
344 propagation. Soot radiation is only present at the original location where ignition occurred and close
345 to the injector, due to fuel leakages.

346 After the period of premixed combustion, a transition occurs to an auto-ignition phase induced by
347 compression heating, with a more intense RoHR. Spectra show similar radicals such as HCO and HCOH,
348 while the corresponding OH peak is weaker and CH peaks are more visible than in the previous phase,
349 as a consequence of the change in the combustion regime.

350

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355

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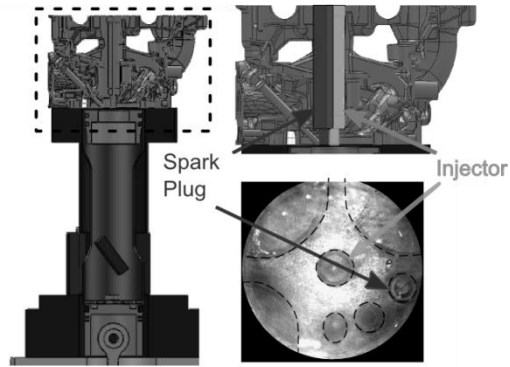
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433 Figure 1



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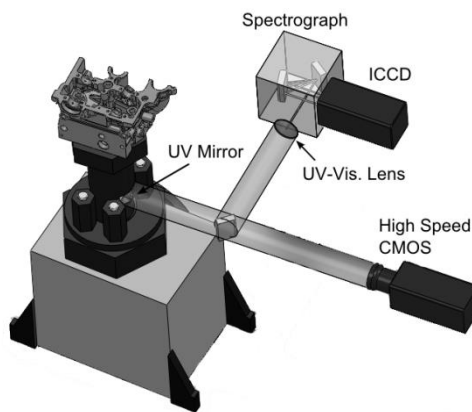
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Fig. 1 – Sketch of the single cylinder optical engine and the modified cylinder head.

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438 Figure 2

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Fig. 2 – Optical set-up scheme for registering natural radiation from the combustion reaction

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444 Figure 3



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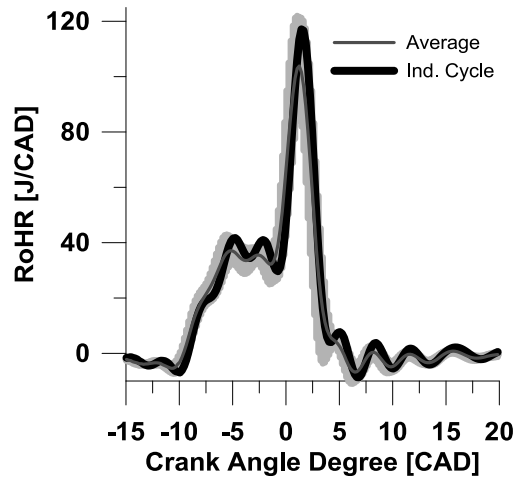
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Fig. 3 – Scheme of processing steps. From left to right: original image, binary image of the flame area and binary image of the flame contour

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450 Figure 4



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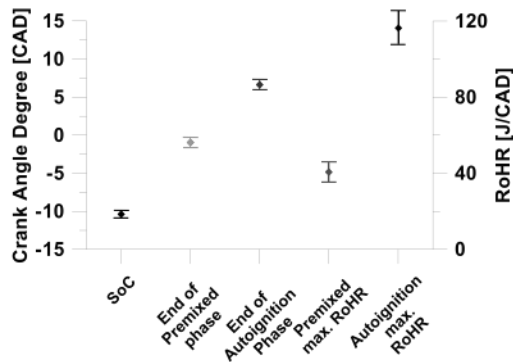
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Fig. 4 – RoHR dispersion for 30 SACI cycles. The shadowed area represents mean RoHR \pm std. deviation. Thick black curve represents cycle employed on result discussion.

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456 Figure 5



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Fig. 5 – Dispersion of two main combustion phases, considering both phasing and maximum heat released.

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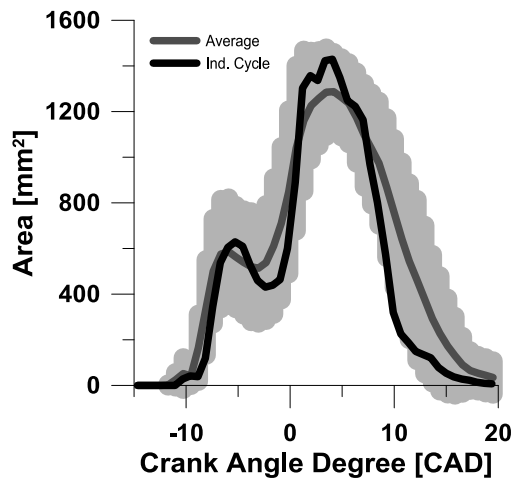
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468 Figure 6



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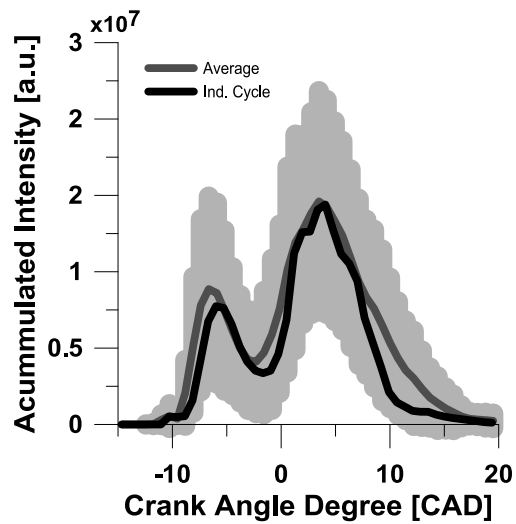
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474 Figure 7

Fig. 6 – Flame area dispersion for 30 SACI cycles. The shadowed area represents mean Flame area \pm std. deviation. Thick black curve represents cycle employed on result discussion.



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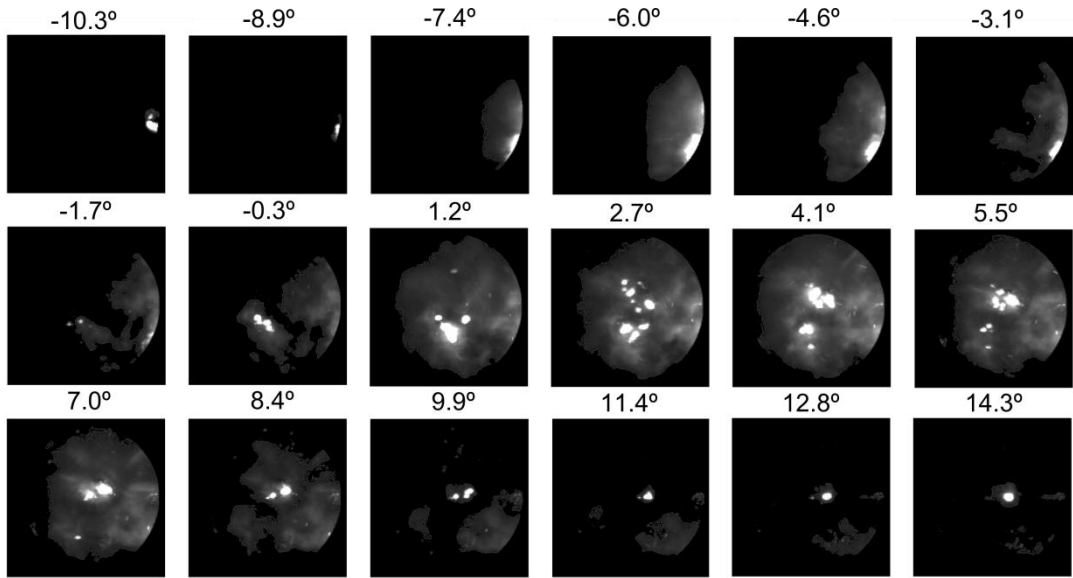
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485 Figure 8

Fig. 7 - Flame area dispersion for 30 SACI cycles. The shadowed area represents mean Flame area \pm std. deviation. Thick black curve represents cycle employed on result discussion.

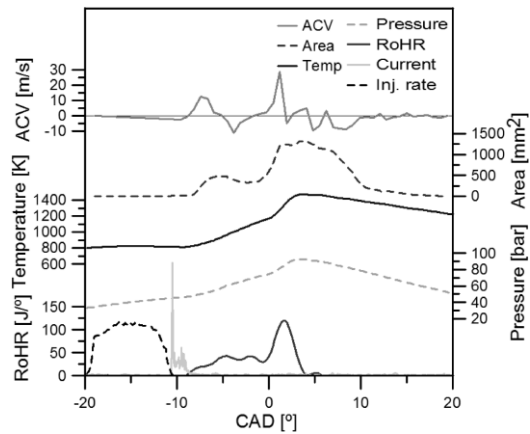


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487 **Fig. 8– Time evolution of natural luminosity inside the combustion chamber.**

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489 **Figure 9**



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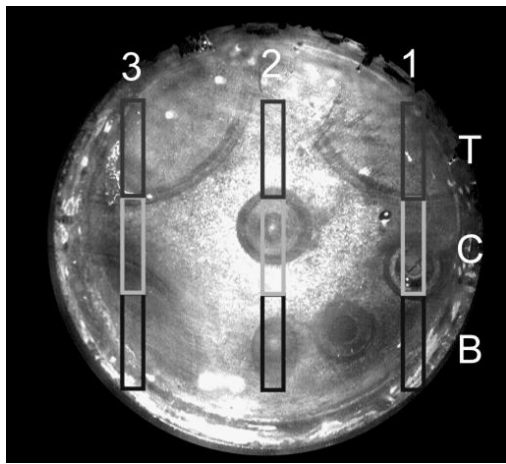
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500 **Figure 10**

Fig. 9 – Crankangle evolution of different variables. From top to bottom: image processed variables (ACV and apparent combustion area), in-cylinder pressure analysis (temperature, pressure and hear release rate), injection rate and spark discharge intensity.



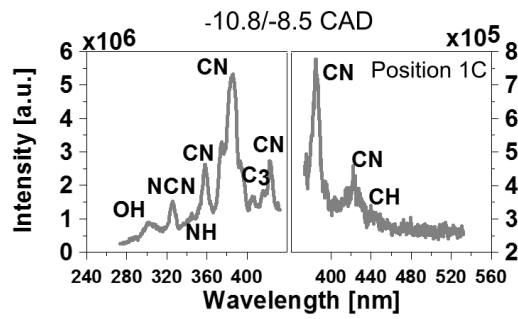
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Fig. 10 – Combustion chamber division for chemiluminescence measurements

504 Figure 11



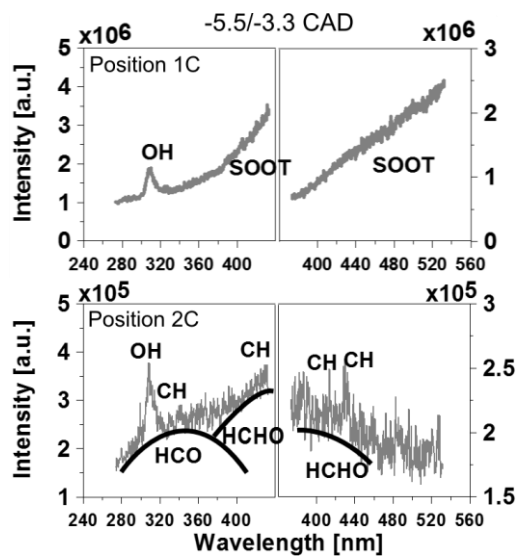
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Fig. 11 – Spectra registered at 1C between -10.8 and -8.5 CAD

508 Figure 12



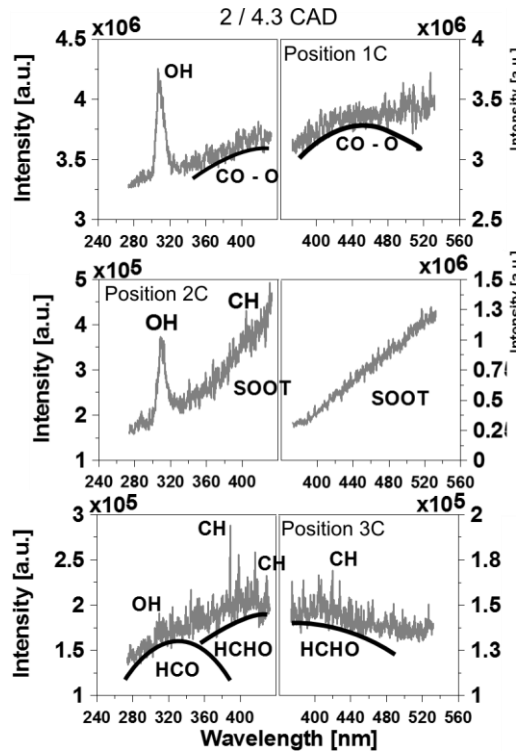
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Fig. 12 – Spectra registered at 1C and 2C between -5.5 and -2.3 CAD

512 Figure 13



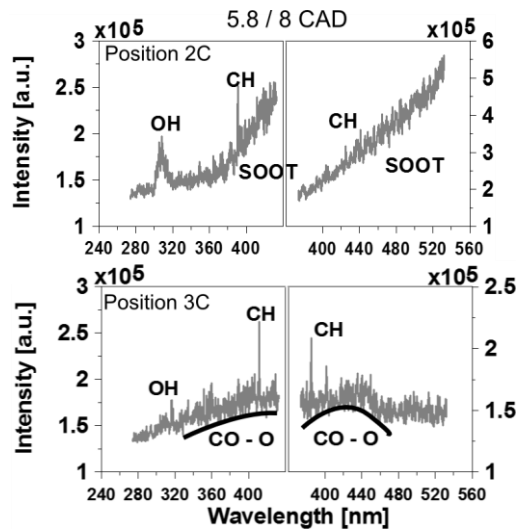
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Fig. 13 – Spectra registered at 1C, 2C and 3C between 2 and 4.3 CAD

516 Figure 14



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Fig. 14 -Spectra registered at 2C and 3C between 5.8 and 8 CAD

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