

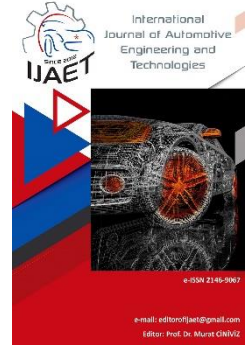


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Original Research Article

### Determination of the effects of the simultaneous use of ethanol-diesel emulsion as the main fuel and post-injection fuel in a diesel engine on engine performance and emissions

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#### ABSTRACT

In this article, the effects of heated ethanol diesel blend on emissions were investigated experimentally. Additionally, the effect of post-injection strategies on emissions in the AVL Boost model engine, which has the same characteristics as the experimental engine running with ethanol-diesel emulsion fuel, was investigated as a simulation. In a special designed mixer, the ethanol-diesel emulsion (E10) formed with 10% ethanol and 2% isopropyl was stirred at 40 °C. The emulsion temperature was kept constant between 35-40 °C during the experiments. The homogeneous residence time of the blended fuel improved with increasing temperature. Post-injection strategy tests at 2 different crank angles were mathematically analyzed separately for ethanol diesel emulsion as a post-injection fuel in the simulation software. NOx emissions decreased with E10 fuel at low speeds compared to E0 fuel. Slightly increased NOx emissions in the Bpi2 strategy compared to the Bpi1 strategy. In addition, soot emissions reduced with Bpi1 at all engine speeds. The brake specific fuel consumption with the E10 blend increased by 4.36% compared to E0. However, the brake specific fuel consumption was slightly reduced in the Bpi1 and Bpi2 injection strategies tests compared to the E10 experiment.

**Keywords:** Heated emulsion, ethanol , post injection, diesel engine

#### 1. Introduction

Since the problems related to global warming have increased in recent years, the necessity of eliminating the causes that increase global warming has become more acceptable. Fossil fuels are the most important factor that increases global warming, which has serious damage to human health and the environment [1]. Although the transportation sector, where mostly fossil fuel derivatives are used, causes too much greenhouse gas emissions, it still continues to meet its energy needs mostly with

diesel and gasoline [2, 3]. For these reasons, emission standards continue to be updated to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions [4]. NOx emissions, which is the most important greenhouse gas, occur too much due to the high temperatures created by diesel combustion [5]. Light alcohols such as ethanol are important alternative renewable fuels to reduce NOx emissions [6, 7]. Although ethanol is not used directly in diesel engines due to its low cetane number, high autoignition temperature and high heat of vaporization, it can be used with mixing, emulsification, fumigation and dual fuel

methods [8-11]. In addition, since the viscosity of ethanol is low, the atomization of the fuel blended with diesel sent to the cylinder improves and provides a better mixture with air [12].

The mixture and emulsion methods are more advantageous than the fumigation method because a new fuel system, electronic control unit and engine design change are necessary [13]. However, alcohols and diesel fuel don't mix homogeneously due to their polar structures and problem of stability and separation of blends [8]. Even so, the solubility of anhydrous ethanol in diesel is better than that of aqueous ethanol [14-16]. In the emulsion method, an emulsifier should be added to the ethanol diesel mixture to prevent phase separation, increase the solubility of ethanol in diesel and provide homogeneous mixture [17-19]. Therefore, since diesel fuel is nonpolar, it is possible to obtain thermodynamically more stable a mixture by adding heavy polar alcohols with different molecular structure such as propanol, butanol, isopropyl, as emulsifiers and solvents [20]. Furthermore, heating the emulsion increases the homogeneously residence time of the mixture [21]. The use of ethanol in diesel engines increases the ignition delay time [22]. Long ignition delay causes NO<sub>x</sub> molecules to increase and HC molecules to fall [23]. In addition, ethanol is an important renewable energy resource for the European Parliament Directive 2009/28 / EC, which encourages to meet 10% of energy by using renewable energy sources [24, 25].

Rakopoulos et al. [26] they investigated the effects of different ratios of ethanol blends on emissions and engine performance in a diesel engine. They used a 5%, 10% and 15% (by volume) ratio ethanol blend. As a result of the tests, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions were decreased and HC emissions increased due to the decrease in thermal efficiency. Rossomando et al. [27] investigated the effects of ethanol diesel mixtures on emissions and performance by combustion modeling. They identified a reduction in soot particulate matter and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, but some increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emission. Huang et al. [28] investigated the effects of ethanol on emissions at different load and different engine speeds in a diesel engine. They reported that with the increase in ethanol ratio in

the blend, thermal efficiency decreased and CO emission reduced at medium and high loads, but increased at low engine load. As seen in the literature, the application of ethanol by emulsion method in diesel engines has a significant contribution to reducing pollutant emissions. However, the fuel consumption and pollutant emission rate are largely due to fuel spray form, fuel evaporation, combustion processes and fuel injection strategies [29]. For example, pilot injection is very effective in reducing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, while post - injection reduces soot emissions [30]. Padala et al. [31] investigated the effects of different proportions of ethanol blends and different injection times on diesel combustion and emissions. In single spray tests, they determined that NO<sub>x</sub> emissions increased with increasing ethanol content in the blend, but CO emissions decreased. Also, they found that the maximum pressure inside the cylinder increased with increasing ethanol content in the blend. Arrègle et al. [32] applied different post-injection strategies to reduce soot emissions in the diesel engine. They concluded that they significantly reduced post-injection soot emissions. Lopez et al. [33] applied different injection times and different emission improving methods to reduce soot emissions. Soot emission decreased with delay of post injection start time. Tsurushima et al. [34] in their study examining the effects of post injection, they stated that HC, CO and particulate matter emissions decreased with post injection. The main reason for this reduction was the combustion of the remaining fuel from the main injection with post injection into the combustion chamber.

Due to the difficulty of applying experimental studies and the high costs, it is possible to obtain mathematical results for many possible situations by using many different conditions in the models created with simulation programs. In this way, steps that are more accurate can be taken in experimental studies to avoid unnecessary time and cost loss. Nabi et al. [35] modeled a naturally aspirated diesel engine in a simulation program and examined the effect of many parameters such as different injection times, different engine speeds and different compression rates on combustion and performance. As a result of simulation tests, they found that with increasing injection time,

brake specific fuel consumption increased and engine torque decreased. Tutak et al. [36] using the CFD method, they investigated the effects of ethanol-diesel mixture with high ethanol content and injection timing on emissions. Also AVL sample models were used for emissions models. They found a reduction in soot emissions and an increase in NO emissions. They also discovered that NO emissions increased and soot emissions decreased when post-injection time was postponed and used high proportion of ethanol blend.

In this study, ethanol-isopropyl-diesel emulsion, the temperature of which was kept constant between 35-40 °C during each experiment, was experimentally investigated by injecting it into the inlet of the diesel engine with a gasoline injector. At the other stage, unlike other studies in the literature and ours, the effects of directly injecting this high-temperature ethanol diesel emulsion into the cylinder as a post fuel instead of ethanol or diesel fuel as the final (post) fuel were mathematically investigated in the simulation software.

## 2. Experimental methodology

This study was carried out in four steps. In the first stage, the engine map and operating characteristics of the 3-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine, the characteristics of which are shown in Table 1, were determined experimentally by using diesel fuel. Then, under the same conditions, the ethanol-diesel mixture containing 10% ethanol was injected directly into the cylinder, and the engine characteristics and emission values were experimentally determined. In the second step, the test engine model was created with AVL BOOST 2016v software. The experimental data obtained using diesel and E10 fuel were validated by tests with this model engine. Also, the mean effective pressure obtained as a result of the real experiments carried out with E10 fuel and the ME10 mean effective pressure data curve obtained with the simulation model engine were compared in Figure 1. It was determined that the simulation and real experiment mean effective pressure curves almost completely overlapped and the results were very close level to each other. Thus, the model engine constructed with AVL Boost software was calibrated for post injection tests and its reliability was found to be

acceptable. In the third step, injector model of the engine was created in addition to the same model engine. Moreover, post-injection tests were mathematically carried out using 10% ethanol-diesel blend fuel (E10) for post and main injection in the simulation model engine. In the last step, the experimental data were compared with the model and post-injection test results.

Table 1. Properties of experiment engine

Parameters	Descriptions
Engine Volume	2.9 L
Cylinder Number	3
Aspiration	Turbocharge
Compression Ratio	17:1
Bore x Stroke	104 x 115mm
Rated Speed	2450 rpm
Maximum Output	36 kW
Cooling System	Water Cooled

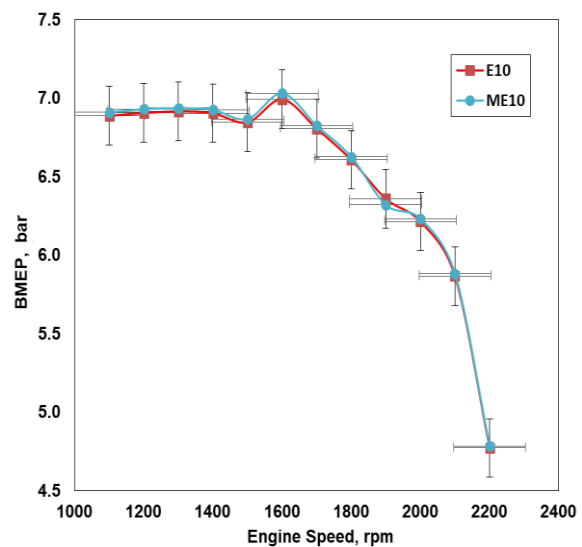


Figure 1. Comparison of simulated and real test curves of mean effective pressure

A DC electric dynamometer was used to load the experiment engine. In-cylinder pressures were measured with pressure transducer (AVL GH14P) combined with a data acquisition system and a charge amplifier (Kistler 5018A). To obtain the heat release rate (HRR), a single-zone model was used, assuming that the air fuel mixture and the temperature were homogeneous over the entire cylinder volume. In addition, in the AVL Boost program, heat transfer coefficient and heat release rate (HRR) were calculated using Woschni correlation with thermodynamics and cylinder pressure data according to the first law of the Woschni 1978 heat transfer model [37, 38]. The Woschni model is shown in Eq. 1 [39].

$$a_w = 130 \cdot D^{-0.2} \cdot p_c^{0.8} \cdot T_C^{-0.53} \cdot \left[ C_1 \cdot C_m + C_2 \cdot \frac{V_D \cdot T_{C,1}}{P_{C,1} \cdot V_{C,1}} \cdot (P_C - P_{C,0}) \right]^{0.8} \quad (1)$$

In Eq. 1,  $C_1 = 2.28 + \frac{0.308C_u}{C_m}$ ,  $C_m$  is the average piston speed and  $C_u$  is the circumferential speed. Coefficient is taken as 0.00324 in direct injection engines.  $V_D$  represents the displacement volume per cylinder,  $D$  represents the diameter of the cylinder,  $P_{C,0}$  indicates the pressure in the cold cycle,  $P_{C,1}$  indicates the pressure value when the suction valve is closed,  $T_{C,1}$  indicates the temperature value when the suction valve is closed. In addition, HRR was calculated by using the analysis model created in the matlab program and Eq. 2 [40, 41].

$$\frac{dQ_{net}}{d\theta} = \frac{k}{k-1} p \frac{dV}{d\theta} + \frac{1}{k-1} V \frac{dp}{d\theta} \quad (2)$$

Where:  $k$  is ratio of the specific heats,  $p$  is in-cylinder combustion pressure,  $V$  is in-cylinder volume,  $\theta$  is crank angle (CA) deg,  $Q_{net}$  is net heat released during combustion.

Gas emissions containing NO<sub>x</sub>, HC, CO and CO<sub>2</sub> were measured with the AVL Dicom 4000 exhaust emission analyzer. Also, smoke was measured with the AVL 415S filter paper smoke meter. K-type thermocouples were used for fuel temperature, exhaust gas temperature and radiator water temperature measurements.

Due to the difference in density of ethanol and diesel, the mixture is heterogeneous. The mixtures made with these fuels have a clearly visible phase separation within a few minutes. Emulsifier should be added to diesel-ethanol mixtures to prevent heterogeneous structure and phase separation. When fuels (ethanol and diesel) and a solvent are sprayed into a vessel in a pressurized manner, the phase separation time of the mixture is considerably prolonged. However, as the ethanol content in the mixture increases, this time is shortened again in minutes. Therefore, the mixture made with heated ethanol becomes easier and faster homogeneous structure. [14, 42]. Before starting the experiments, phase separation times were examined by heating ethanol diesel mixtures prepared in tubes with different proportions of ethanol. Thus, optimum temperature and mixing ratio for the blends were determined. Table 2 shows the time taken for partially heterogeneous

crystalline states and completely heterogeneous phase separation states of emulsions prepared with different ratios of ethanol, diesel and isopropyl alcohol as emulsifier at different temperatures. The phase separation of emulsion fuel samples with high ethanol content was observed by video recording method for 5 hours. The phase separation times of the emulsions with ethanol mixing ratios between 5% and 30% are shown in Figure 2. Temperature of the emulsions used in the experiments, it was increased to 40 °C. This temperature was kept constant at average temperature of 35 °C with a thermostat during the experiment. The proportion of isopropyl alcohol used in all blends is 2% (v / v). The solubility of fuels depends on the water content of ethanol, the hydrocarbon molecule and temperature of the fuels [43]. Thence, ethanol with a purity of 99.9% was used in blended fuels for the experiments.

The Bernoulli equation (Eq. 3) was used to determine the amount of fuel injected into the cylinder based on the crank angle degree (CAD) [44]. The exit velocity of the fuel through the injector nozzle hole is obtained using Eq. 4 [45]. The injector was modeled for post-spraying at two different times. The first blend post-injection (Bpi1) was applied after 3 CAD in the end of main injection, and the second blend post injection (Bpi2) was applied at the same proportions after 7 CAD.

$$\frac{V_1^2}{2} + \frac{P_1}{\rho} + gZ_1 = \frac{V_2^2}{2} + \frac{P_2}{\rho} + gZ_2 \quad (3)$$

$$V_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta P}{\rho}} \quad (4)$$

The variables  $P_1$ ,  $V_1$ ,  $Z_1$  refer to the pressure, height and speed of the fluid at point 1 (nozzle inlet), whereas the variables  $P_2$ ,  $Z_2$ ,  $V_2$  refer to the speed, pressure, and height of the fluid at point 2 (nozzle outlet).  $\rho$  is density.

### 3. Result and Discussion

In this section, the experimental results of the effects of E0 (diesel) and E10 (10% ethanol blend) fuels on pollutant emission and performance are presented below. The test results of the model created in AVL Boost program are presented. Also, the model simulation results of Bpi1 (1. Post-injection) and Bpi2 (2. post-injection) post-injection strategies are given.

Table 2. Effect of temperature on phase separation times of emulsions

Temperature		E5	E7.5	E10	E15	E20	E30
7 °C	Crystal structure	4. min	4. min	4. min	2. min	4. min	1. min
	Phase separate	8. min	8. min	7. min	5. min.	5. min	1.5. min
25 °C (3 day)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	5. hours	2. hours	1.5 hours
	Phase separate	3. day	3. day	12. hours	6. hours	2.5. hours	1.5 hours
30 °C (5 hours)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Phase separate	no	no	no	no	no	yes
35 °C (5 hours)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Phase separate	no	no	no	no	no	yes
40 °C (5 hours)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	no	no	no
	Phase separate	no	no	no	no	no	no
45 °C (5 hours)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	no	no	no
	Phase separate	no	no	no	no	no	no
50 °C (5 hours)	Crystal structure	no	no	no	no	no	no
	Phase separate	no	no	no	no	no	no

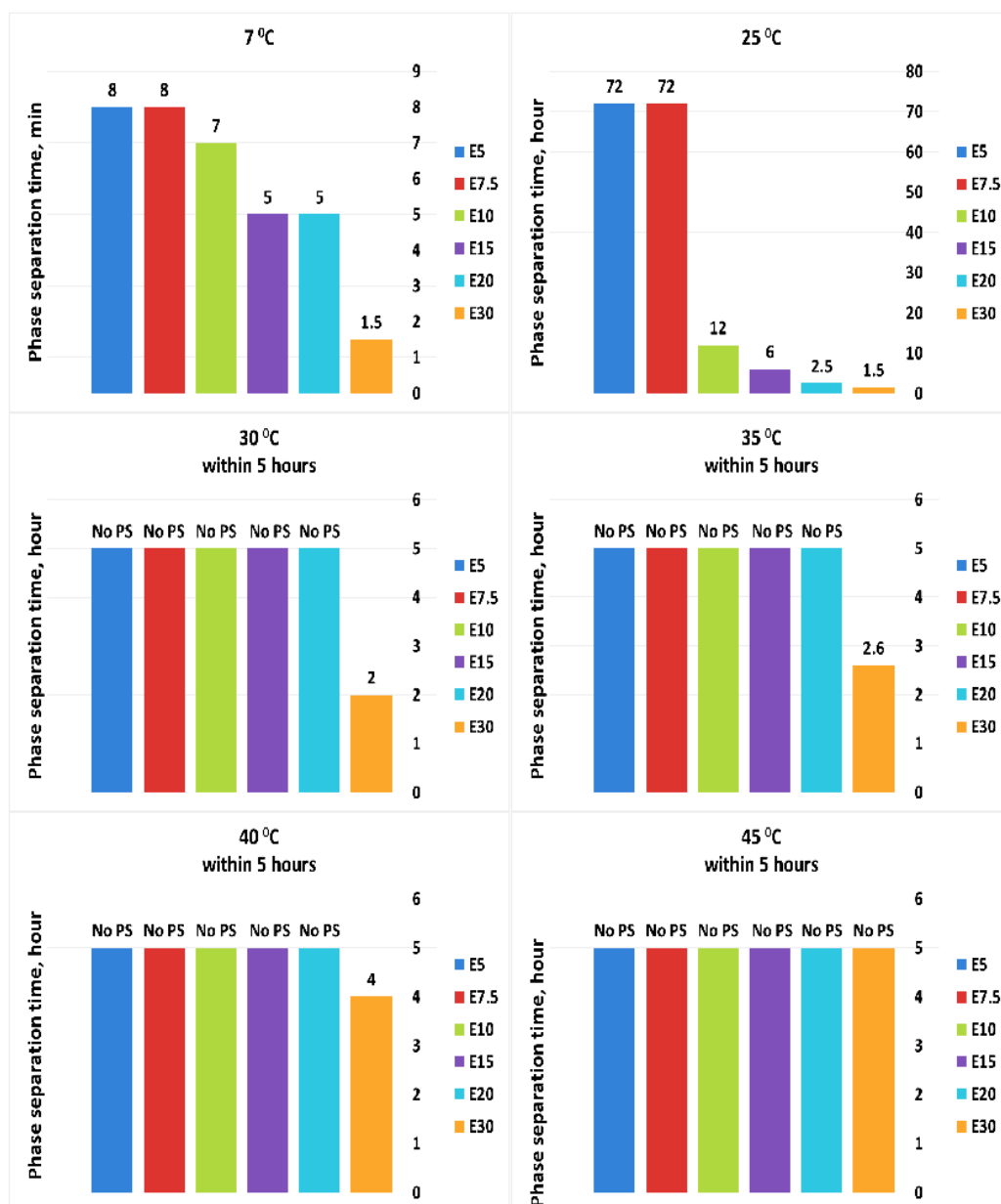


Figure 2. The phase separation times of ethanol diesel emulsions within 5 hours

All maps in Figures 3-5 show the engine map of NOx, soot and brake specific fuel consumption, respectively. The graphs show the experimental

and model results of E0 and E10 fuels and the simulation results of Bpi1 and Bpi2 strategies. NOx emissions decrease with E10 fuel at low



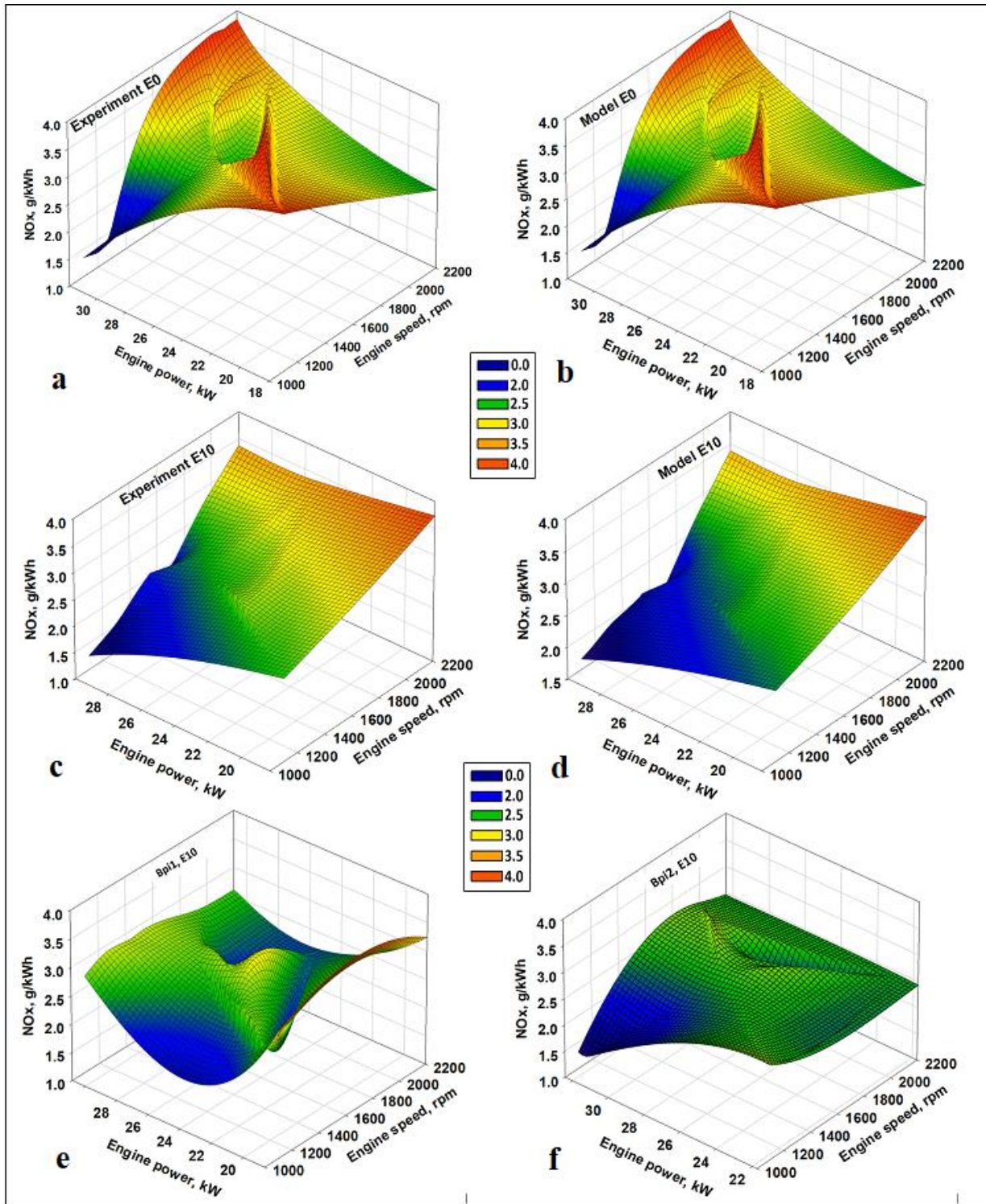


Figure 3. Emissions maps of NO<sub>x</sub> using a) Exp. E0 b) ME0 c) Exp. E10 blend d) ME10 blend e) Bpi1 inj. and f) Bpi2 inj.

speeds compared to E0 fuel. However, it can be seen that fuel E10 produces higher NO<sub>x</sub> emissions at high speeds. This increase may be due to the temperature rise in the cylinder depending on the high evaporation temperature of ethanol, the autoignition temperature of the mixture and the proportion of ethanol in the emulsion [46, 47]. In addition, with the addition of ethanol to the mixture, a decrease in NO<sub>x</sub>

emissions can be observed with the lower calorific value of the emulsion fuel [12]. Overall, given the map of Figure 3 f, there was some increase in NO<sub>x</sub> emission in the Bpi2 strategy compared to the Bpi1 strategy. If there is an excessive delay post-injection without changing the spray amount, a reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emission may be observed [48].

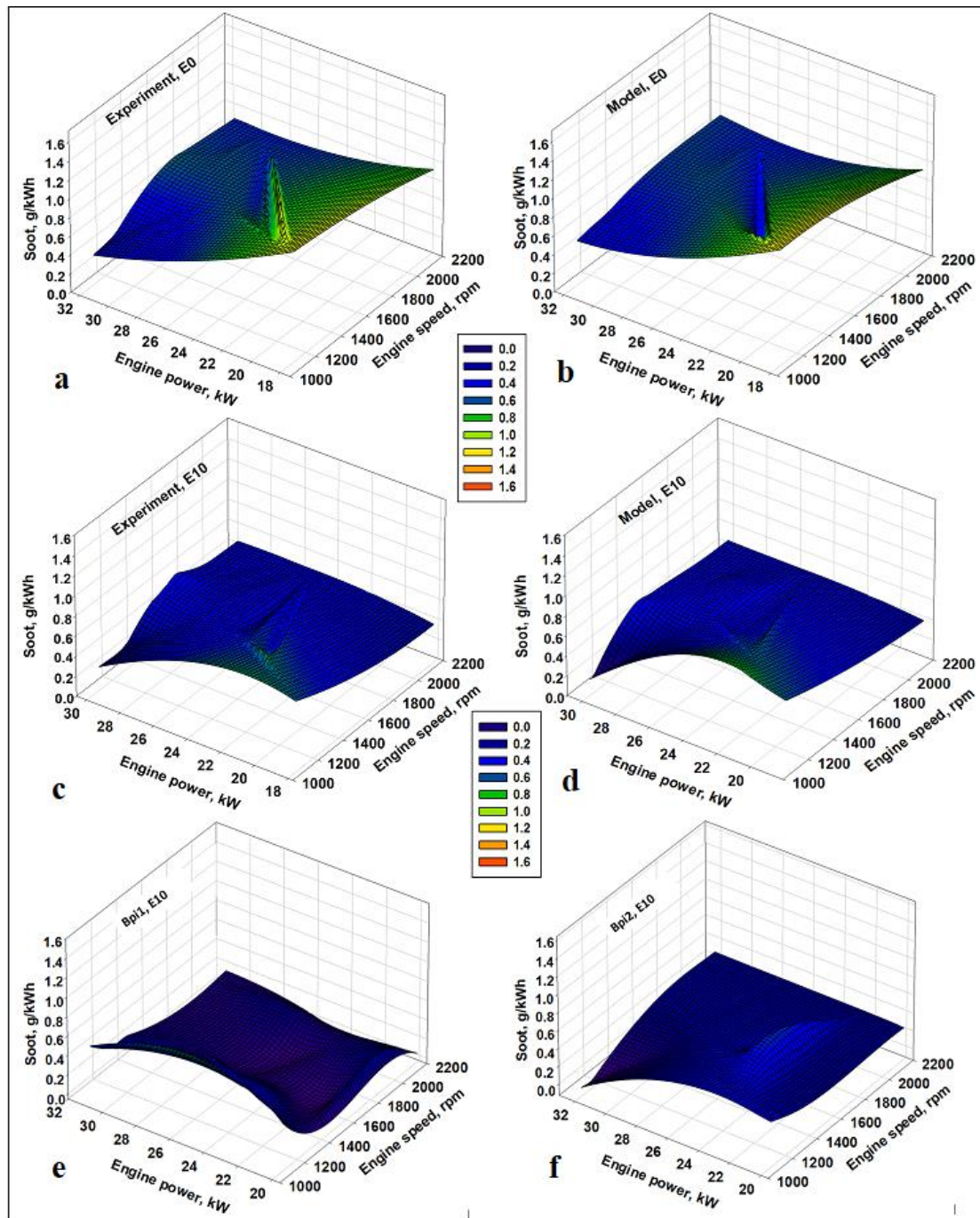


Figure 4. Emissions maps of soot using a) Exp. E0 b) ME0 c) Exp. E10 blend d) ME10 blend e) Bpi1 inj. and f) Bpi2 inj

The low volatility and high oxygen content in the biodiesel mixture, such as the ethanol-diesel blend, have been reported to be effective parameters to significantly reduce soot emissions [49]. Soot emission decreased with E10. Reducing the viscosity due to the increased temperature of the emulsion may have resulted in better atomization of the fuel and better combustion. Soot emissions reduced with Bpi1 at all engine speeds. Post injection near the end of the main injection is highly effective in reducing soot emissions because of acceleration of combustion in the last phase [50].

The brake-specific fuel consumption (BSFC) fields have a roughly parabolic shape. The best point consumption was 252-255 g/kWh with E10 blend between 1400-1600 rpm. When the total fuel consumption was evaluated, the brake specific fuel consumption with the E10 blend increased by 4.36% compared to E0. In Bpi1 and Bpi2 post injection strategies simulation tests, brake specific fuel consumption decreased by 1.04% and 3.06%, respectively, compared to the E10 experiment. This reduce in BSFC can be observed with the increase of green and blue areas in Bpi1 and Bpi2 maps.



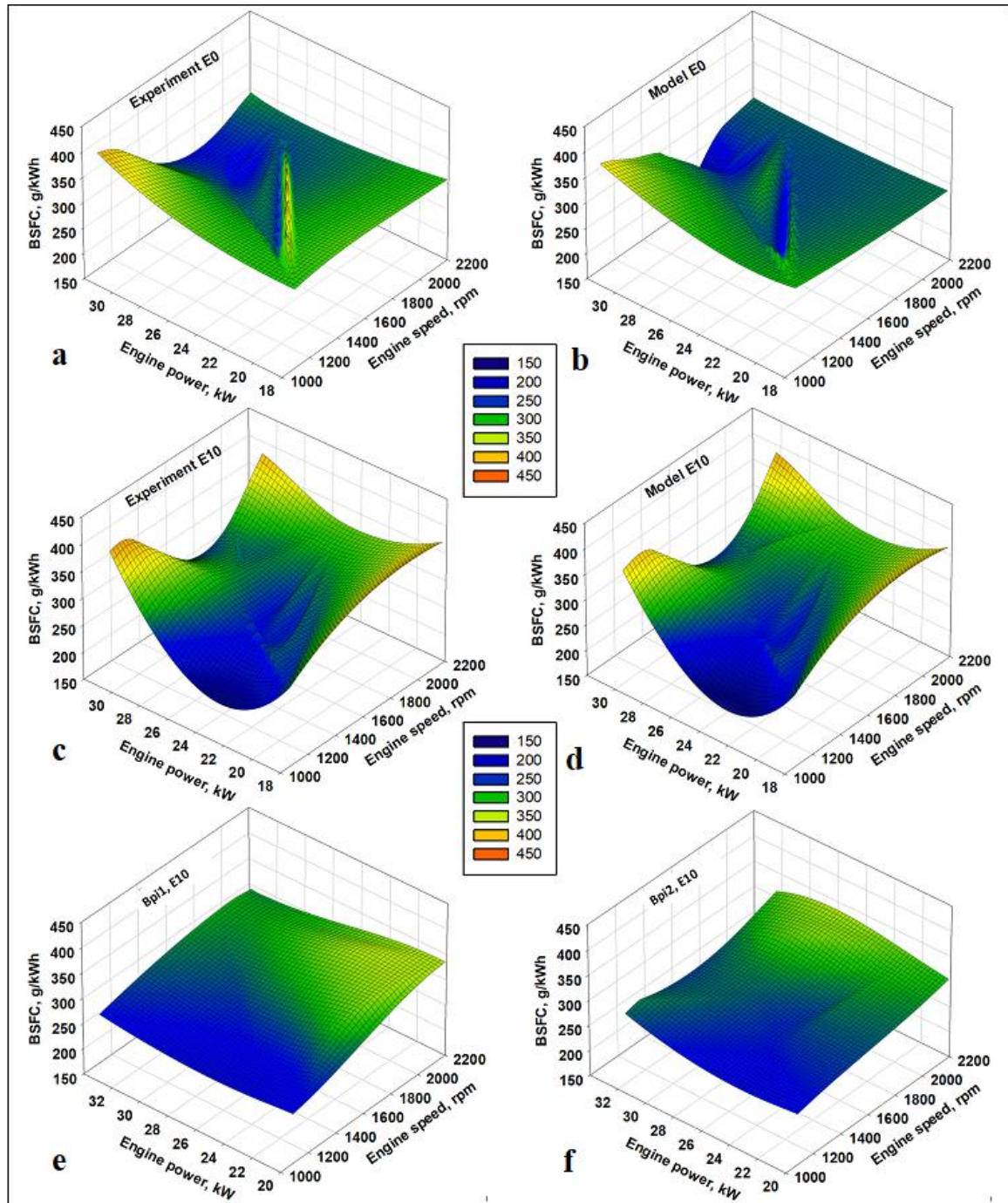


Figure 5. Maps of BSFC using a) Exp. E0 b) ME0 c) Exp. E10 blend d) ME10 blend e) Bpi1 inj. and f) Bpi2 inj.

Figure 6 shows the change in brake mean effective pressure (BMEP) according to engine speed. BMEP is a result of the air-fuel mixture. Thus, as engine speed increases, BMEP decreases. The BMEP increased at a speed of 1600 rpm, and then decreased over the entire engine speed range. However, BMEP increased significantly with post injections compared to E10 fuel.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this study, combustion characteristics, soot exchange and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of a diesel engine

operating with diesel and heated ethanol-diesel mixture were investigated experimentally. In addition, emulsion fuel was injected directly into the cylinder in different strategies as a post-injection fuel in the simulation model engine and its effects on pollutant emissions and performance were investigated.

The main results are summarized below: The use of ethanol diesel blend led to slightly reducing BMEP in comparison to diesel over the entire range of high engine speeds (1600 rpm to 2200 rpm), but with the mix, the BSFC increased slightly. Furthermore, BMEP was



increased with post injections (Bpi1 and Bpi2). Lost BMEP can be recovered by increasing the consumption of the diesel-ethanol blend or by applying multiple simultaneous post-injection strategies.

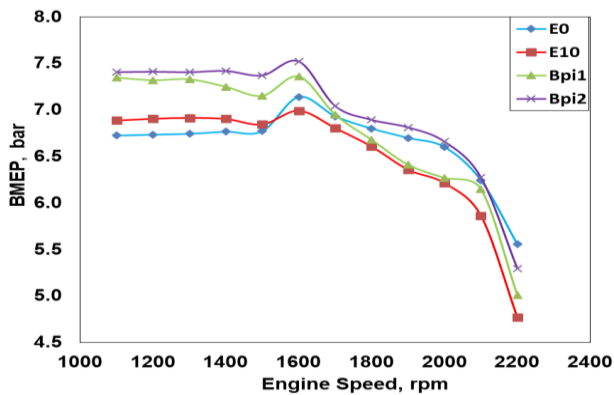


Figure 6. Effect of ethanol and injection strategies on brake mean effective pressure

NO<sub>x</sub> emission significantly reduced with E10 blend especially at medium and low engine speeds. In addition to this reduction, NO<sub>x</sub> emission was decreased very effectively with Bpi1 and Bpi2 post-injection strategies at all engine speeds in the model engine fueled with E10 emulsion. The use of ethanol with emulsion method in diesel engine decreased soot emissions. Soot emissions were much lower with Bpi1, but soot emissions increased slightly with Bpi2 compared to Bpi1.

In addition, engine performance and pollutant emissions can further improved by multi post-injection strategies. The positive results obtained with direct blend fuel in simulation post injection strategy applications showed that direct blend fuel can be applied at certain rates in real post injection experiments.

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