

Temperature Distribution Measurement on Combustion Chamber Surface of Diesel Engine -Experimental Method

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Abstract

Combustion chamber modification in diesel engine is much important than petrol engine, because the combustion chamber profile imparts squish and swirl effects for better mixing of air and fuel. While modifying the profile of combustion chamber of diesel engine, it is important to relocate the hot spot regions on the combustion chamber surface which supports combustion initiation. With these hot spot regions on combustion chamber surface regulates/controls ignition delay period which results in controlled detonation. In diesel engines, controlled detonation which in turn improves engine performance and reduced emissions. Therefore, to include the hot spot regions at proper locations, it is required to measure the temperature values at different locations/coordinates with the help of thermocouples on the surface exposed to combustion chamber.

Keywords: Temperature Distribution, Diesel engine combustion chamber, Temperature on cylinder head.

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1. Introduction

Diesel engines are being extensively used for rail and road transportation, agriculture applications and power generation. Increasing demand and depleting fossil fuels have lead to research and development on production of energy efficient engines. Minimizing the energy losses in the engine definitely improves the power output and efficiency of the engine. In order to improve that performance of the engine, many experimental and theoretical investigations have been carried out elucidating the heat transfer characteristics of compression ignition engines. Proper design of the combustion chamber is at least as important in the CI engine as in the SI engine. In the SI engine, a nearly homogeneous mixture enters the cylinder, is compressed, and the ignited by means of a spark plug. The fuel and air are mixed in the carburetor. In the CI engine, on the other hand, only the air is compressed in the cylinder and the fuel is injected during a period of 30 to 35 degrees of crank angle. In this short period of time, the fuel and air must be mixed. In essence, the mixing portion of the SI engine carburetor's duties is performed within the combustion chamber in a CI engine. Consequently, the combustion chamber in a CI engine must be designed to provide for this mixing of fuel and air.

NO_x emission increases with increase in in-cylinder temperature and the peak NO_x level occur at combustion peak temperatures which occur between start of combustion and in-cylinder peak pressure [1].

Burned zone temperature (localized in-cylinder temperature) is significantly higher than the global/average in-cylinder temperature during the combustion. The reason for this significant difference is due to localized phenomenon i.e., the in-cylinder temperature varies with respect to spatial coordinates in the combustion chamber [2].

The combustion temperature was not sufficiently high to make soot inception or to continue their growth in most regions, except for several high-temperature regions. This is analogous to the inverse diffusion flame, where the nascent soot particles can be transported away from the flame front by thermophoretic force toward lower temperature regions [3-6]. It is noted that an individual soot particle experiences the process of evolution and oxidation along the diesel spray flame axis and in the radial direction during conventional diesel combustion [7, 8], even though partially premixed combustion could be achieved in low temperature combustion.

NO_x forms in the lean mixture zone where flame temperature is above 2200 K, whereas soot forms in the rich mixture zone above 1800 K. Conventional combustion overleaps the formation zones of NO_x and soot, but LTC techniques like HCCI and PCCI avoid these zones and reduce NO_x and soot simultaneously [9-11]. Interestingly they observed that even on higher EGR, higher biodiesel content showed lowest ignition delay and they suggested that



Fig. 4. Cylinder Head with fabricated sleeves for fixing thermocouples.

Figures 5 and 6 show the cylinder head fitted with thermocouples through sleeves fabricated.

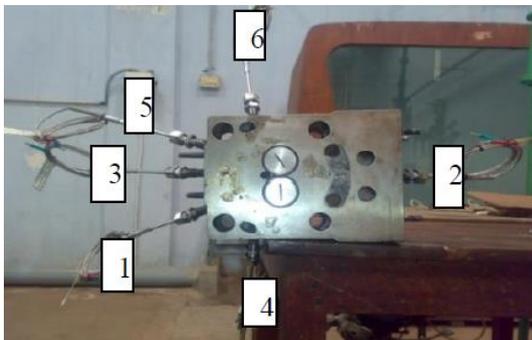


Fig.5. Cylinder Head with Fitted Thermocouples.

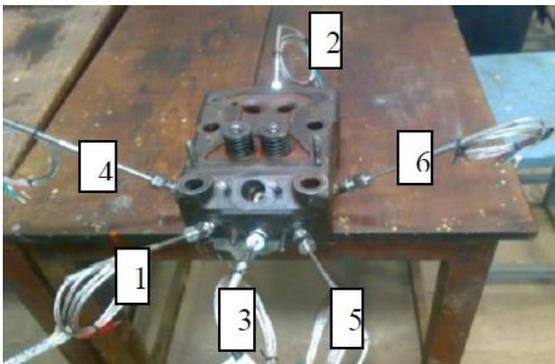


Fig. 6. Cylinder Head with Fitted Thermocouples.

Finally, the installed thermocouples with Kirloskar diesel engine is tested for temperature measurement over cylinder head surface exposed to combustion chamber. The engine with installed thermocouples is as shown in figure-7 below.



Fig. 7. Kirloskar Diesel Engine with installed Thermocouples.

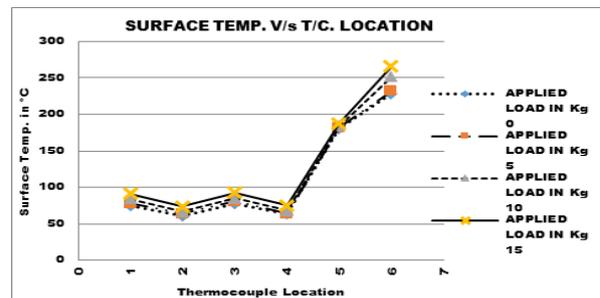
4. Results and Discussion

The measured values of temperatures on cylinder head surface at different loads of 0 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg and 15 kg using thermocouples with their locations from the exhaust valve centre were tabulated as shown below.

Table 1. Measured values of Temperatures at different loads using thermocouples and their locations from exhaust valve centre.

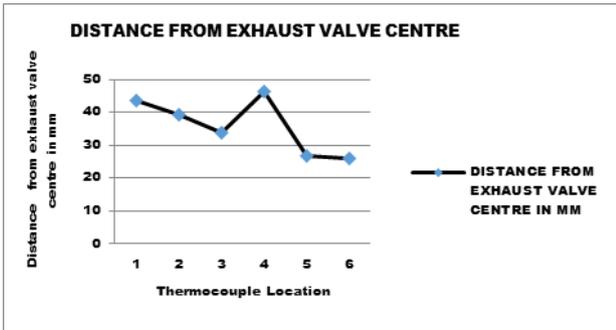
Applied Load in kg	T/C. Location-1	T/C. Location-2	T/C. Location-3	T/C. Location-4	T/C. Location-5	T/C. Location-6
0	75	61	78	63	181	228
5	78	64	81	64	182	232
10	84	67	85	68	184	252
15	91	74	93	75	188	266
Distance From Exhaust Valve Centre in mm	43.7925	39.4924	33.6987	46.5321	26.6946	25.9921

The measured values of temperature at different loads of 0 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg and 15 kg are plotted with respect to their positions from the exhaust valve centre shown in graph-1 below.



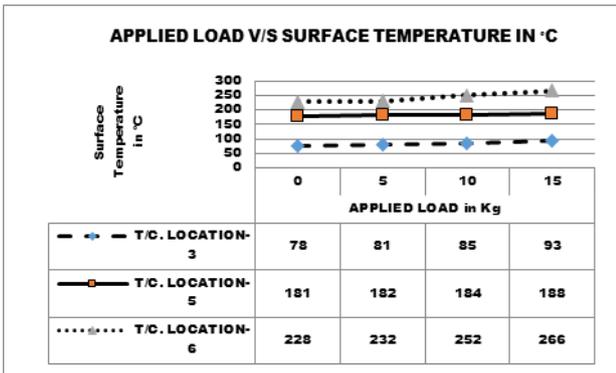
Graph. 1. Measured Temperature Values at different loads 0 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg and 15 kg.

The positions of various thermocouples from exhaust valve centre are plotted with graph-2 as shown below.



Graph 2. Distance of Thermocouple points from Exhaust Valve Centre.

From the above graph, it is clear that the thermocouple locations 3, 5 and 6 are nearest to the exhaust valve centre and the measured values of temperature at these locations for different loads of 0 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg and 15 kg are plotted shown in graph-3 below.



Graph 3. Measured Temperature Values from Thermocouple locations-3,5 and 6 for different applied loads of 0 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg and 15 kg.

4. Conclusions

From the obtained values of temperature on cylinder head surface exposed to combustion chamber of diesel engine, it is possible to modify the surface profile of combustion chamber by imparting the hot spot regions at proper locations which support complete combustion in order to improve its performance and also to control/reduce the harmful emissions from diesel fuel combustion. Also the modified profile of combustion chamber impart swirl and squish effects by keeping in mind the hot spot regions, results in better performance and reduction in harmful emissions.

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