

Advanced CFD for the Modeling and Optimization of Opposed Piston Combustion Systems

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Achates Power Inc.

November 12th 2014

Acknowledgements: Achates CFD Team, Achates Leadership Team

achatesPOWER[™] Fundamentally Better Engines[®]

Outline

- **Company and Technology Overview**
- **Achates CAE Tools and Computing Environment**
- **Achates Combustion System Design Process**
- **Combustion System Development with Advanced CFD**
 - ❖ Multi-cylinder scavenging simulations
 - ❖ Single-cylinder combustion simulations
 - ❖ Combustion Optimization (DOEs and Genetic Algorithms)
 - ❖ Piston Thermal Modeling
- **Potential Applications of HPC for OP Combustion Modeling**
- **Summary**

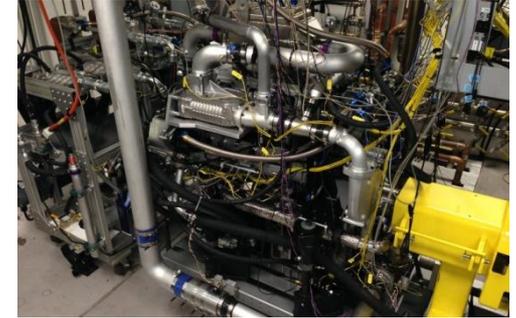
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Company Overview

Clean, more efficient, lower cost engines

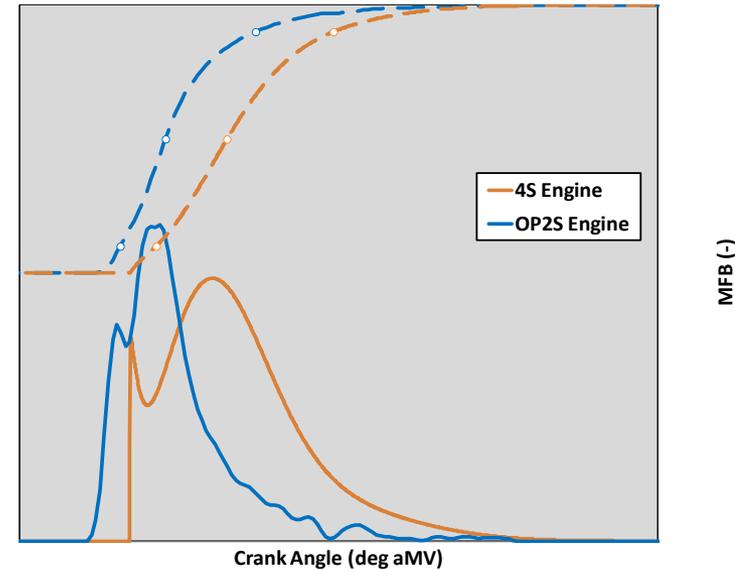
- Founded in 2004 by Dr. James Lemke and the late John Walton
- More than \$100 million of capital invested
- State-of-the-art facilities and analytical tools
- Demonstrated and customer validated results based more than 6,000 dynamometer test hours
 - Clean: meets the most stringent standards
 - Dramatically more efficient:
 - 20+% versus the most efficient engines (CI)
 - 50+% versus the most common engines (SI)
 - Lower cost, mass and complexity
 - Multi-fuel capable
- Comprehensive, global IP portfolio with more than 2,000 claims in 57 issued and 105 pending patents
- World class team (~70 and growing)



OPE Technology: Fundamental Efficiency Enablers

Versus four-stroke engines

- Lower heat transfer
- Leaner combustion
- Optimally phased and faster combustion at equivalent pressure rise rate
- Lower pumping work



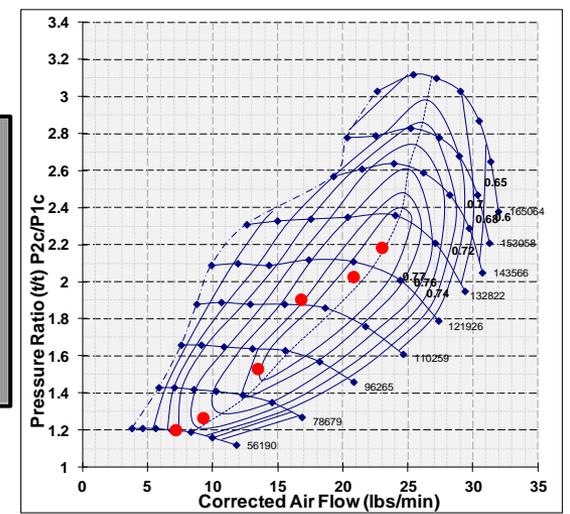
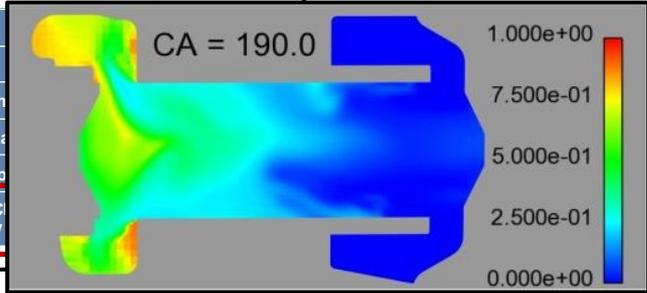
Four-Stroke (4S) Engine

Engine	4S
Cylinders	6
Trapped Volume/Cylinder	1.0 L
Stroke/Bore Ratio	1.1
Trapped Comp. Ratio	15:1
Combustion Chamber Surface Area / Volume (mm ⁻¹)	0.28

Opposed-Piston, Two-Stroke (OP2S) Engine

Engine	OP2S
Cylinders	3
Trapped Volume/Cylinder	1.0 L
Stroke/Bore Ratio	1.1
Trapped Comp. Ratio	15:1
Combustion Chamber Surface Area / Volume (mm ⁻¹)	0.18

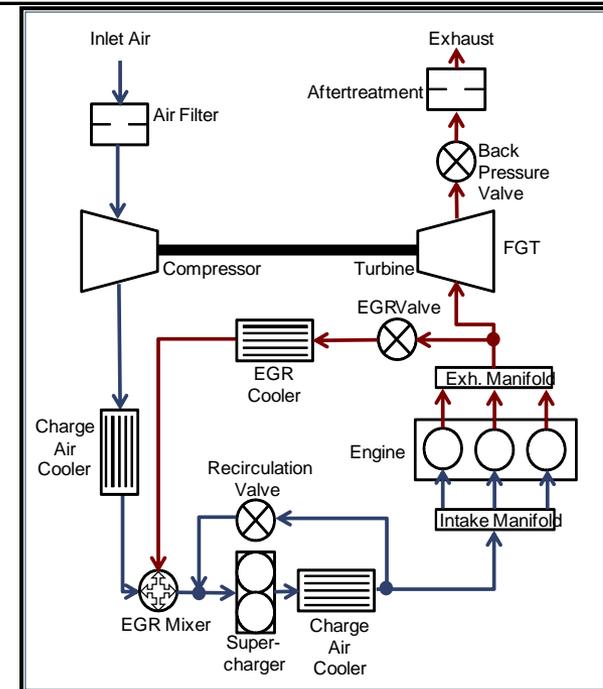
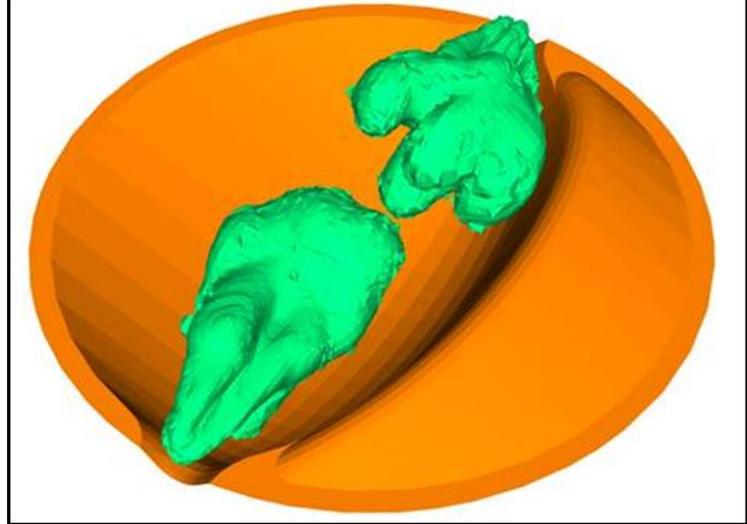
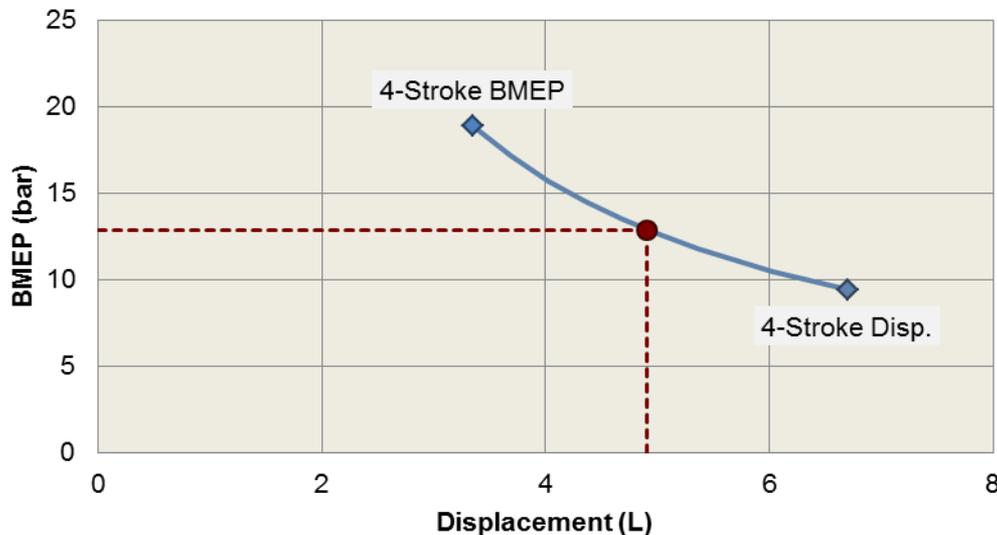
36% Reduction



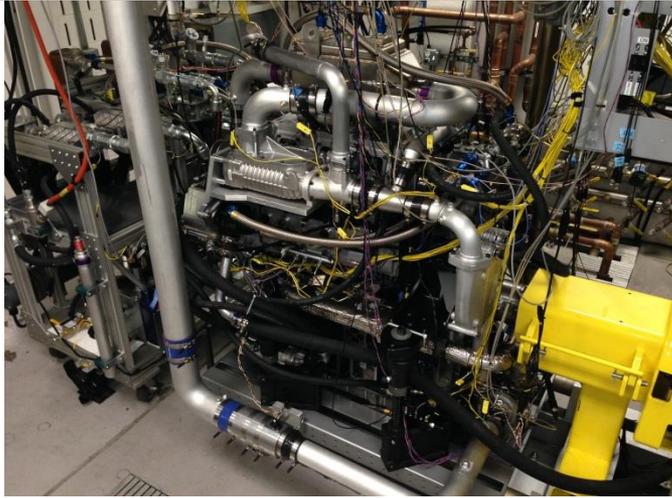
OPE Technology: Fundamental Emissions Enablers

Versus four-stroke engines

- Lower BMEP
- Proprietary combustion system
- Dual injector
- Inherent internal EGR capability and flexible charge control

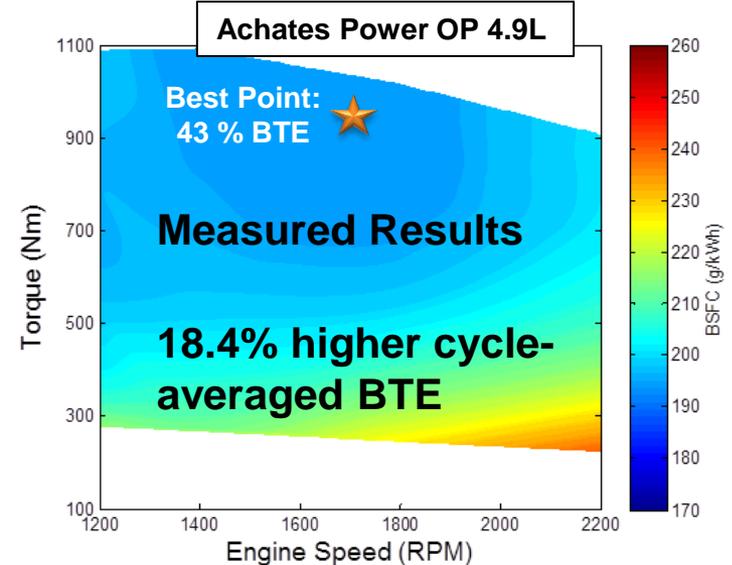
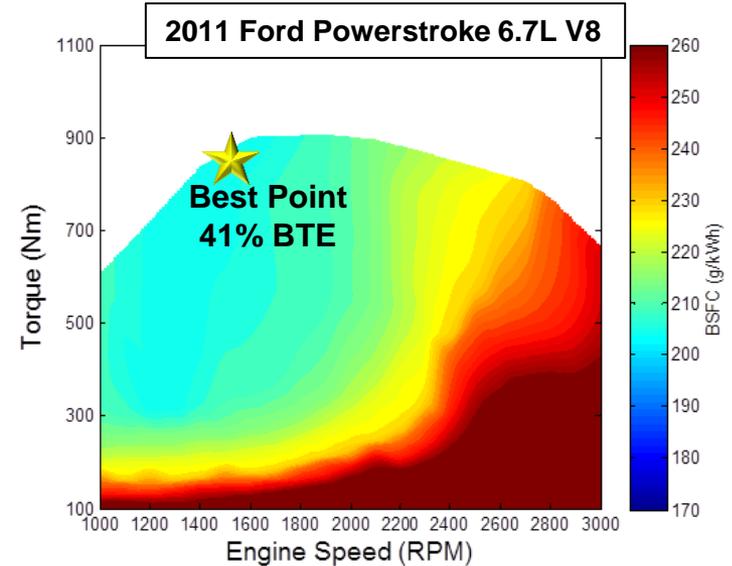
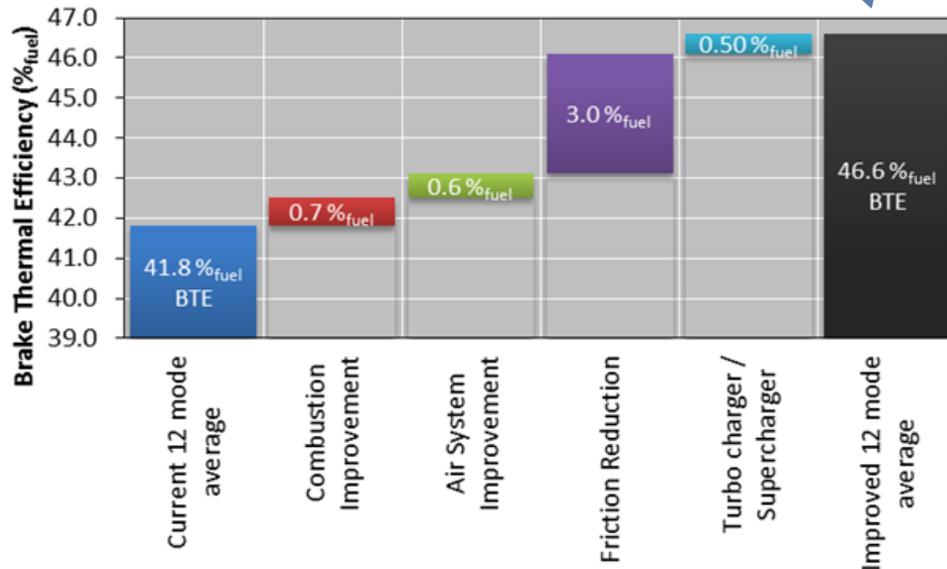


OPE Technology: Demonstrated MCE Results & Roadmap



API 4.9L 3-cylinder research engine

*CAE predicted
roadmap to
46.6% cycle
averaged BTE*



Announced Commercial Contracts

Fairbanks Morse Engine

Large Engines for Marine and Power Generation

- Has manufactured OP engines since 1937
- Selected as technology development partner
- Licensee of Achates Power patents
- Improved efficiency while meeting Tier4 Final



TARDEC Next Generation Combat Engine

- \$4.9M contract awarded December 2012
- 2+ year program; partnered with AVL
- High power density (70 HP/L) with low heat rejection
- Follow-on programs planned



Several development programs with customers in NA, Japan, India and China spanning LD, MD and HD market segments

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Achates CAE Tools and Computing Environment

CFD

Analysis-led Approach

CAE

CONVERGE



- Custom user routines and features for the simulation of OP engines
- Multi-cylinder scavenging simulations
- Single-cylinder combustion simulations
- Genetic Algorithm and DOE optimization

ANSYS Mechanical



FLUENT/CFX

FEMFAT



PISDYN

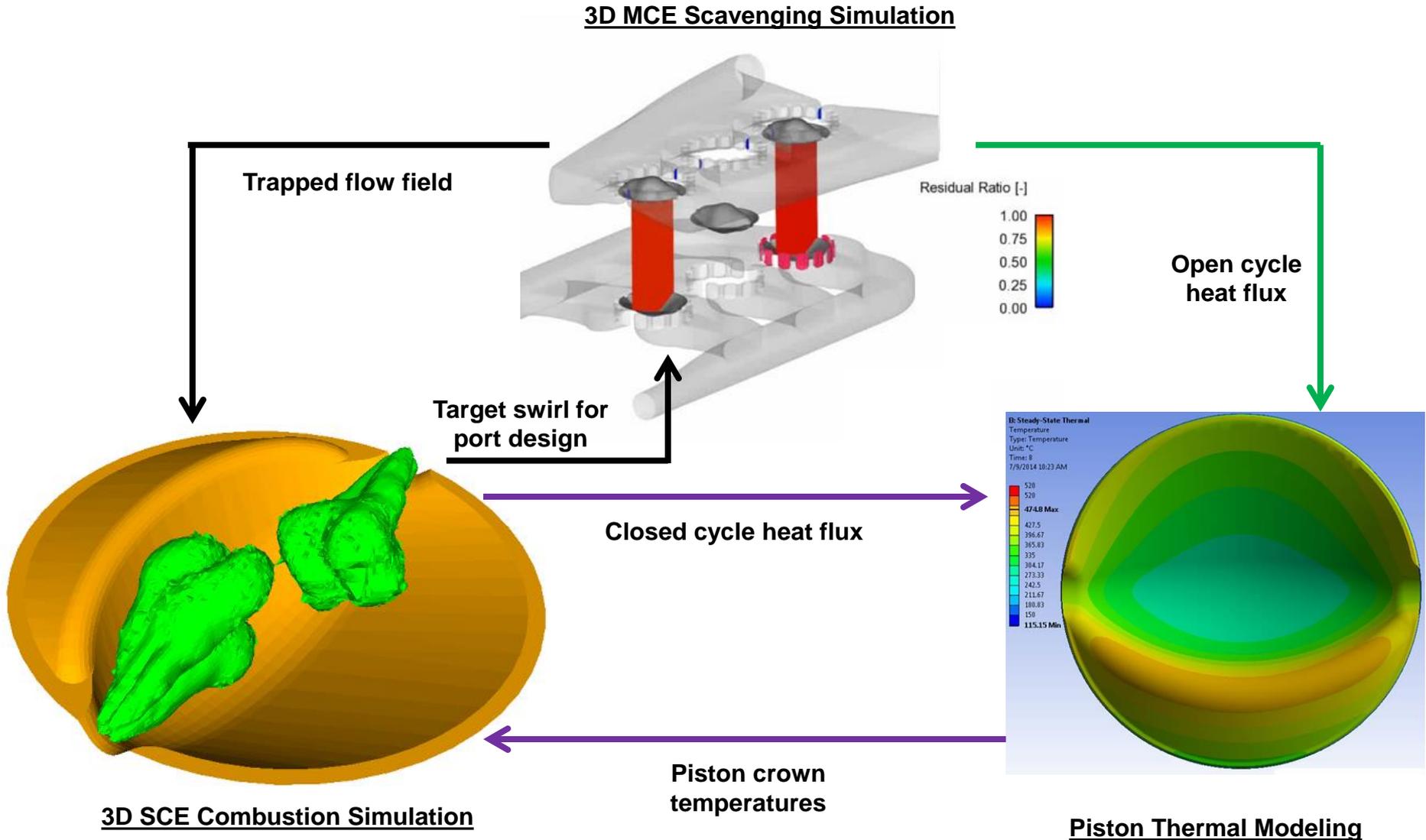


Proprietary tools

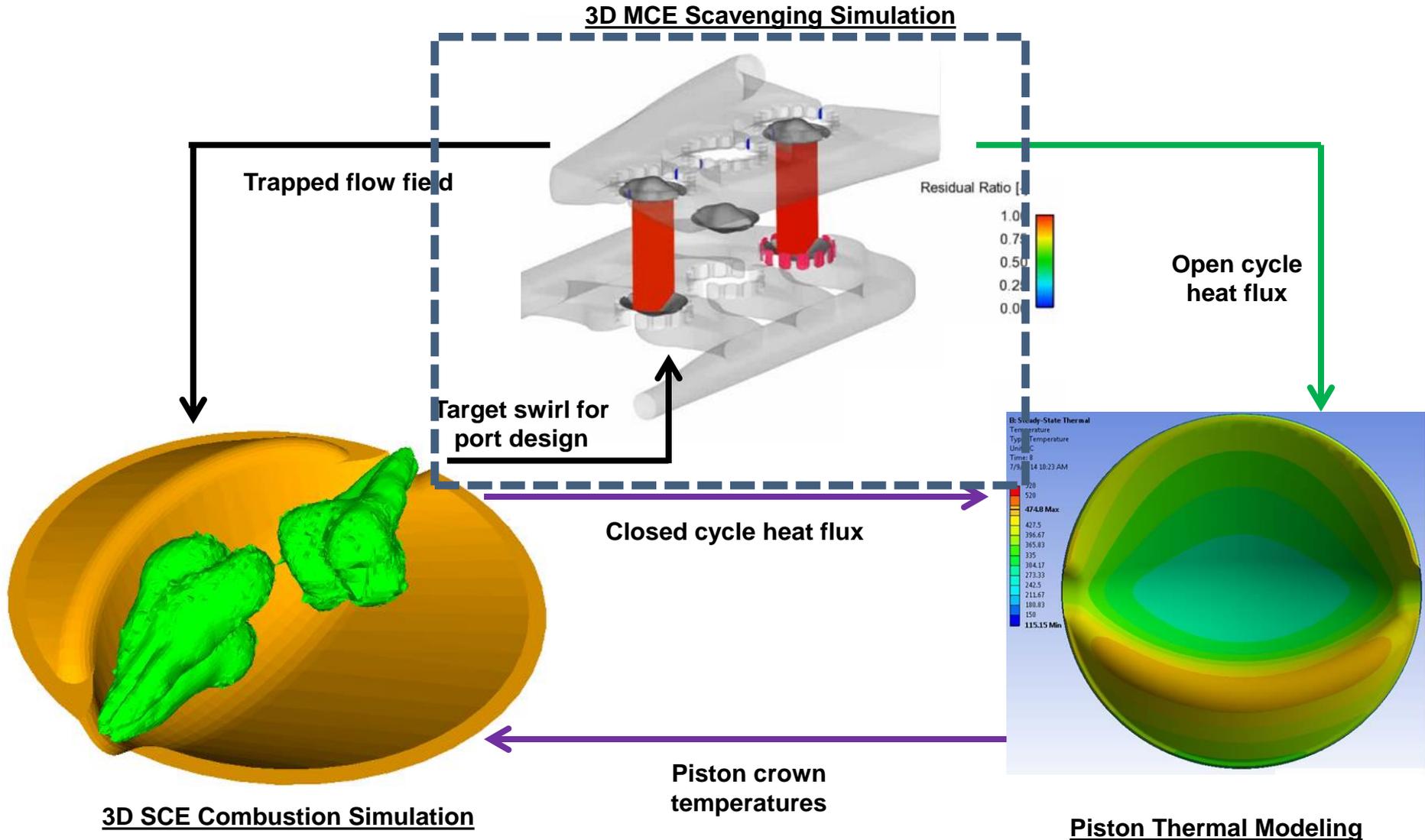
Computing Environment

- 192 total cores
- 6 boxes 2x Intel E5-2670 @2.6GHz, 2 boxes 2x Intel E5-2690v2 @3.0 GHz
- QDR Infiniband (40 Gbps)

Achates Combustion System Design Process

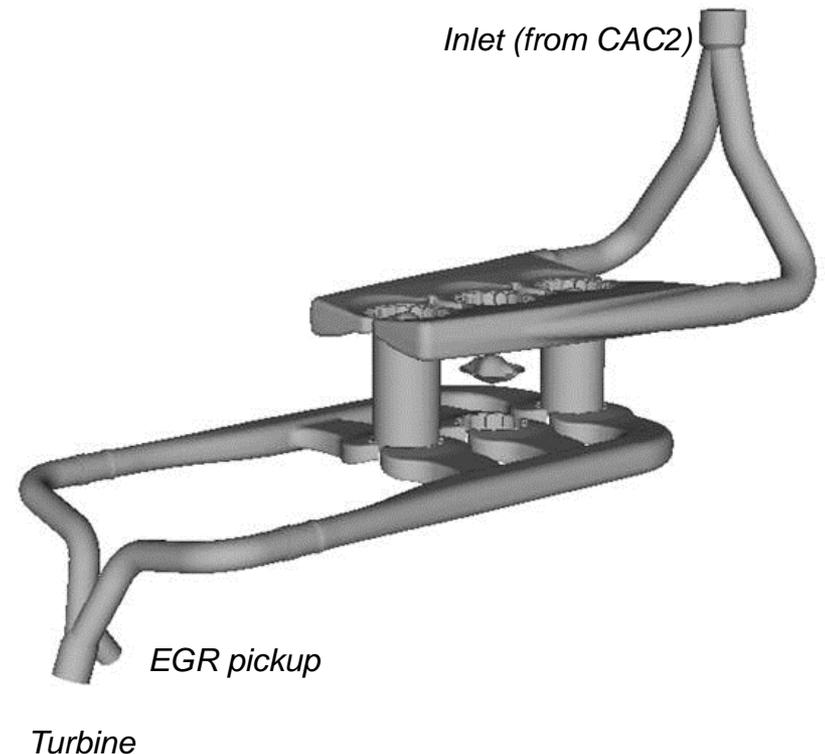


Achates Combustion System Design Process

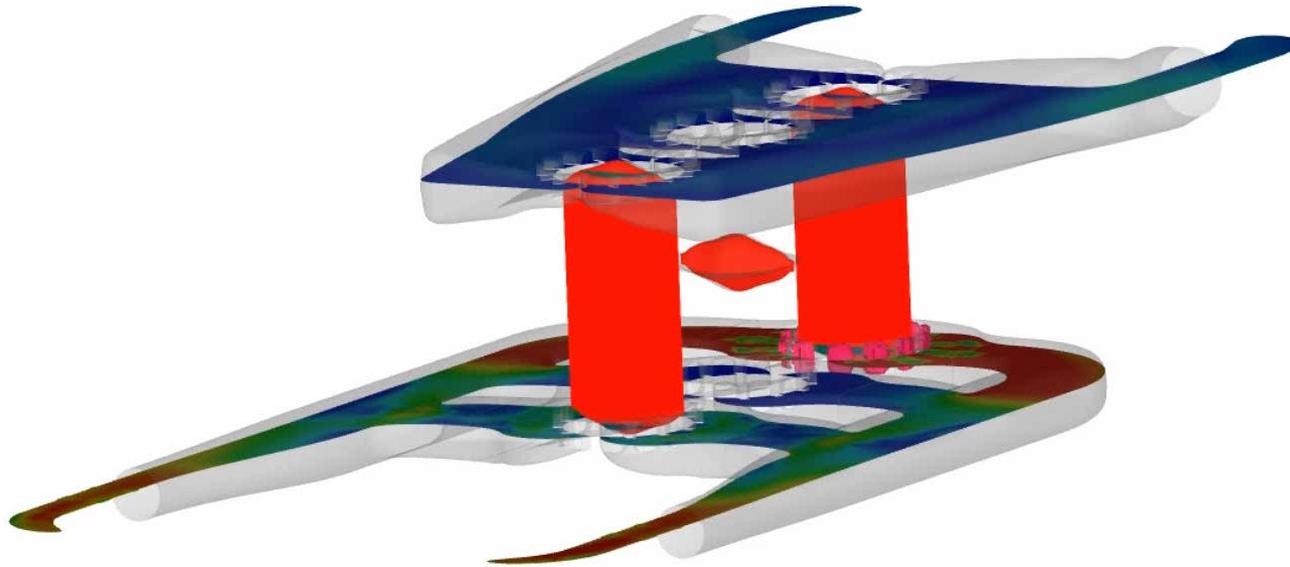


Multi-cylinder Scavenging Simulations

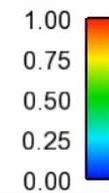
- 3-cylinder simulations with imposed source heat to match cylinder pressure trace.
- Entire length of intake and exhaust runners modeled to accurately capture wave dynamics.
- Model size ~800,000, typically 16 cores, 5-6 days wall time for 3 consecutive cycles.
- Multiple operating points simulated.
- Provide trapped flowfields for in-cylinder combustion simulations.
- *HPC can enable 3-cylinder simulations with detailed chemistry.*



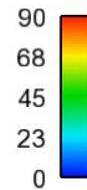
Multi-cylinder Scavenging: Rated Power



Residual Ratio [-]

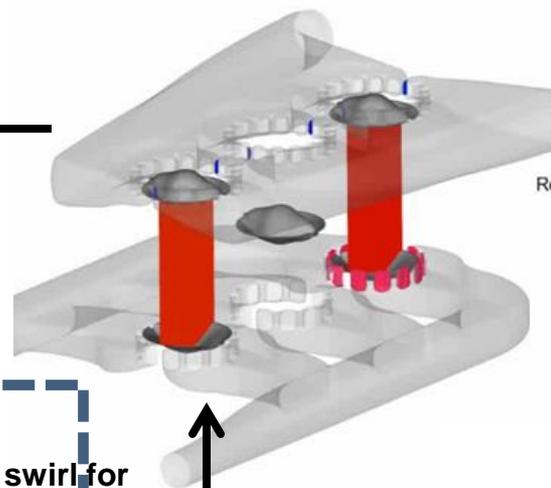


Velocity [m/s]

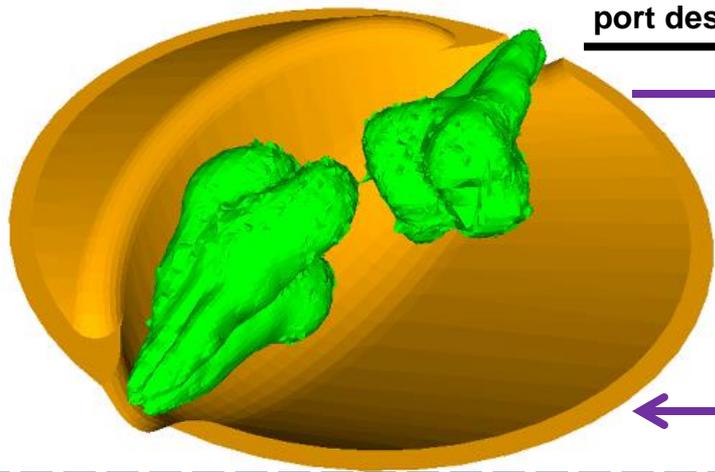


Achates Combustion System Design Process

3D MCE Scavenging Simulation

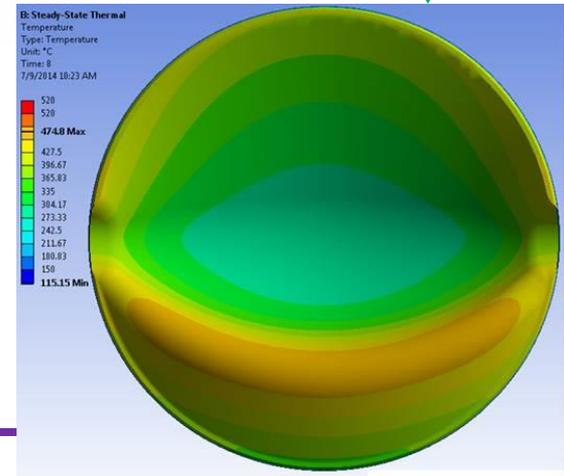


Open cycle heat flux



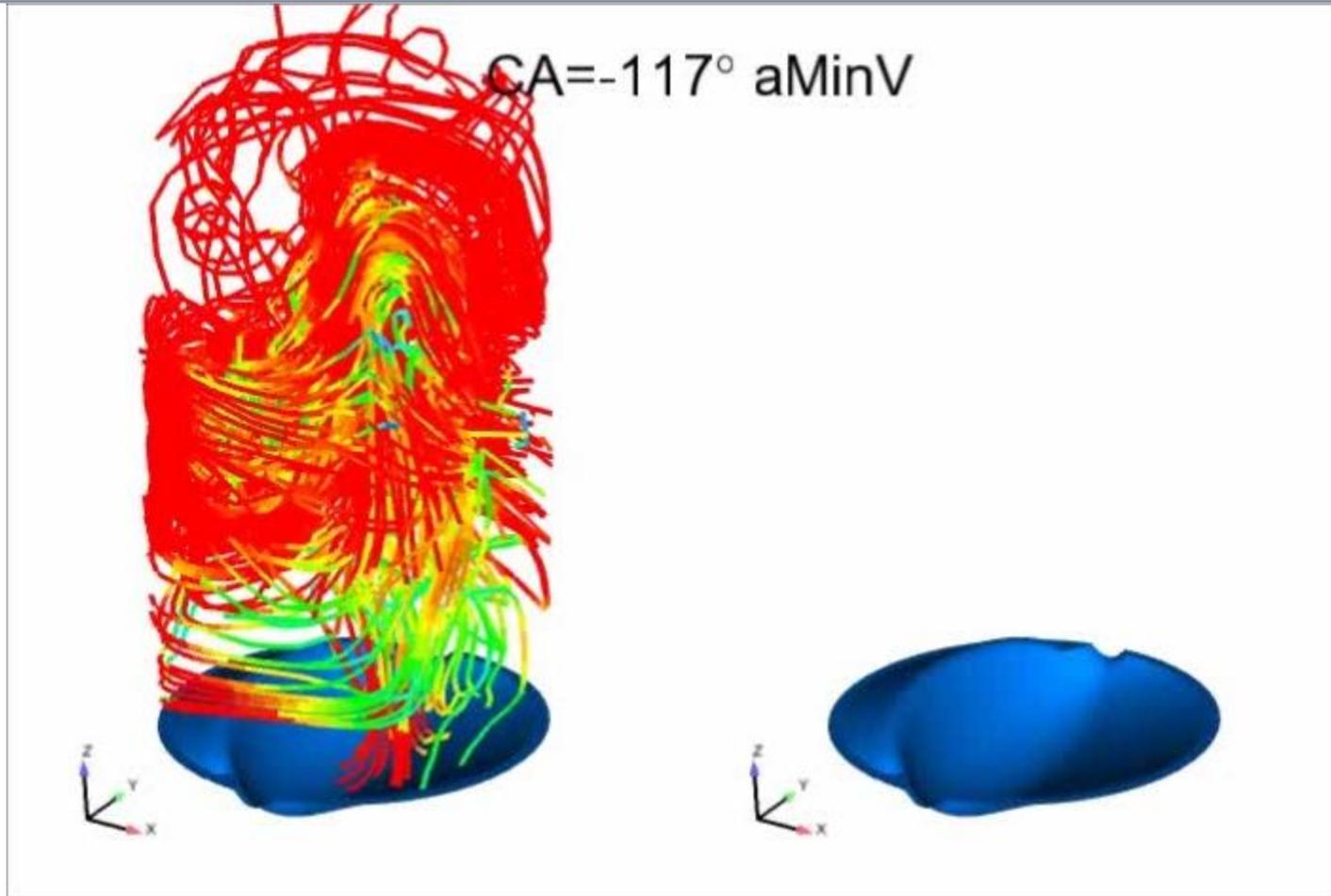
Closed cycle heat flux

Piston crown temperatures



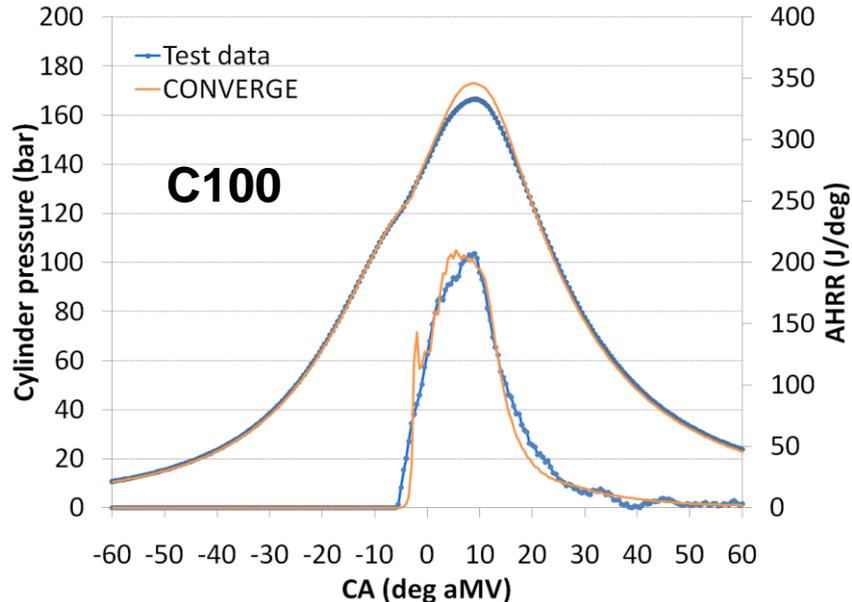
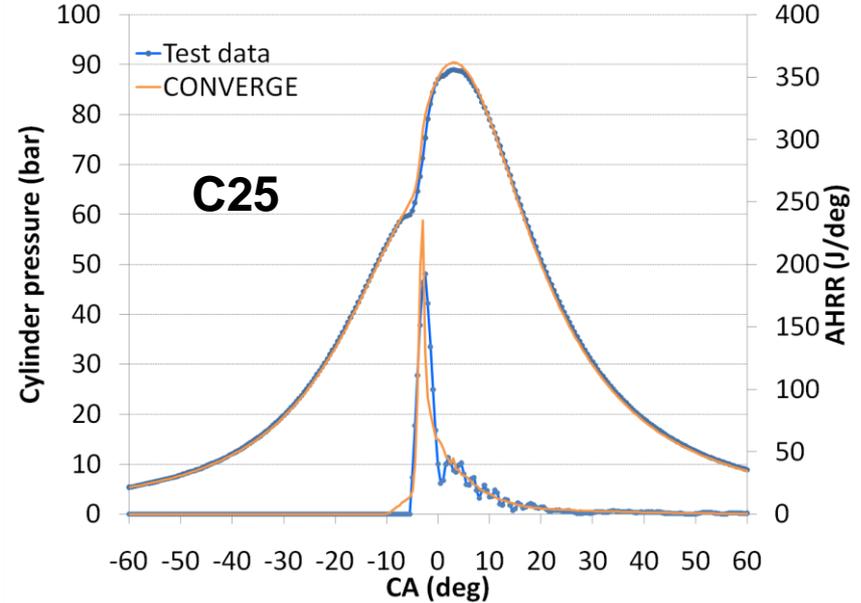
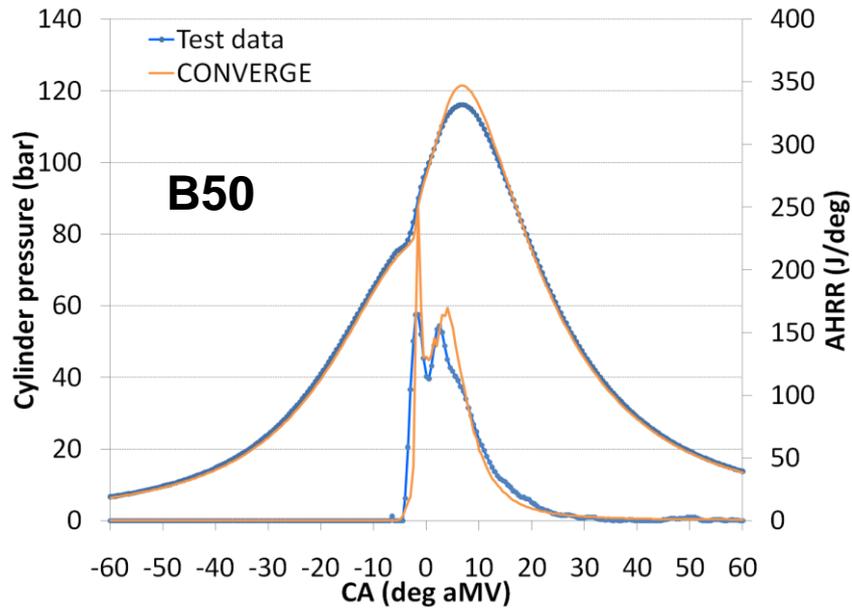
Piston Thermal Modeling

Single-cylinder combustion simulations



- CONVERGE detailed chemistry model, state-of-the-art spray breakup and atomization models.
- Typical model size (100,000-250,000), typically run with 8 cores.

Single-cylinder combustion: multi-mode correlation



- Strong emphasis on multi-mode correlated models (up to 9 modes).
- Allows exploration of multiple modes for combustion hardware optimization.
- *HPC can enable multimode combustion optimization.*

Combustion Optimization: Genetic Algorithms

Independent variable
Hole size for top injector
Hole size for bottom injector
Spray angle for top injector
Spray angle for bottom injector
Number of holes for top injector
Number of holes for bottom injector
Swirl ratio

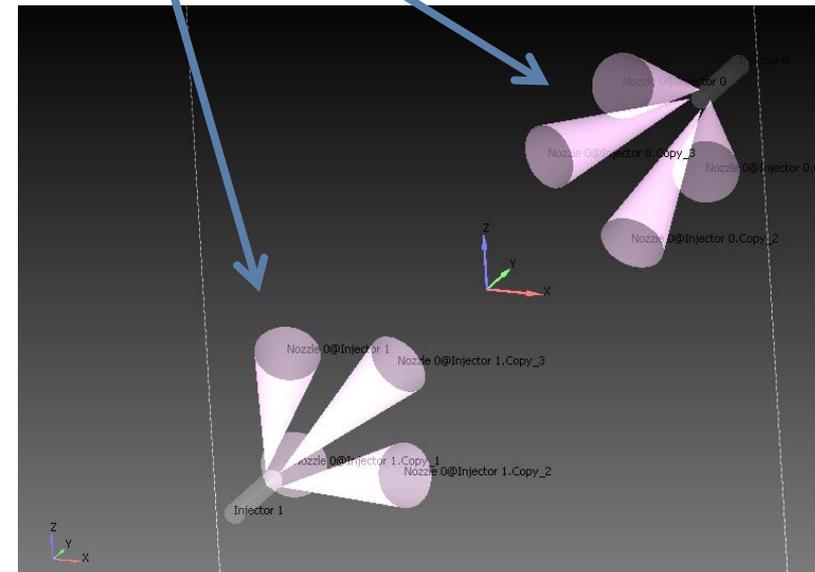
- 32 cores, 2 weeks model setup and calibration time, 2 weeks run time.
- 300+ designs simulated

Each injector of the twin injector configuration is uniquely optimized (for a piston bowl shape and operating condition)

$$\text{Merit} = C_1 (\text{CCW}) - C_2 (\text{fn}(\text{Piston_hot_spot_area}))$$

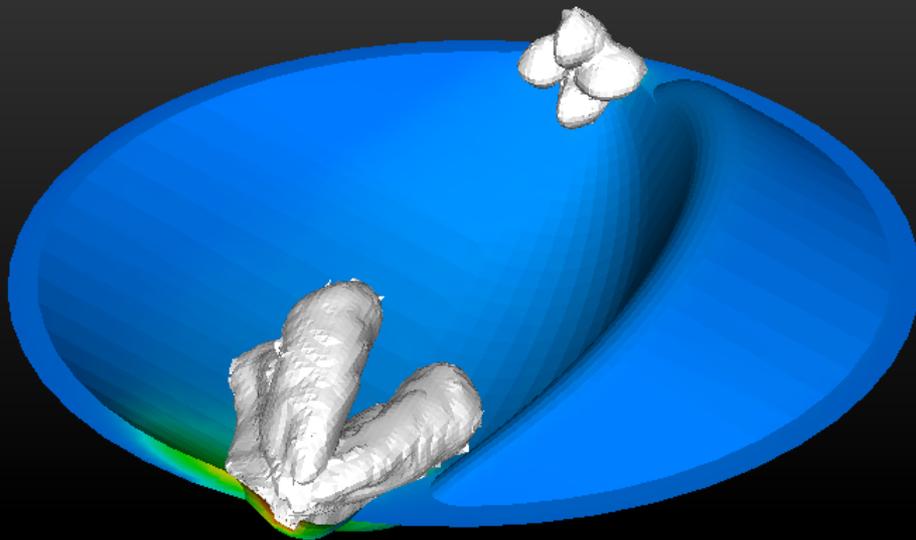
Performance term

Piston thermal management term

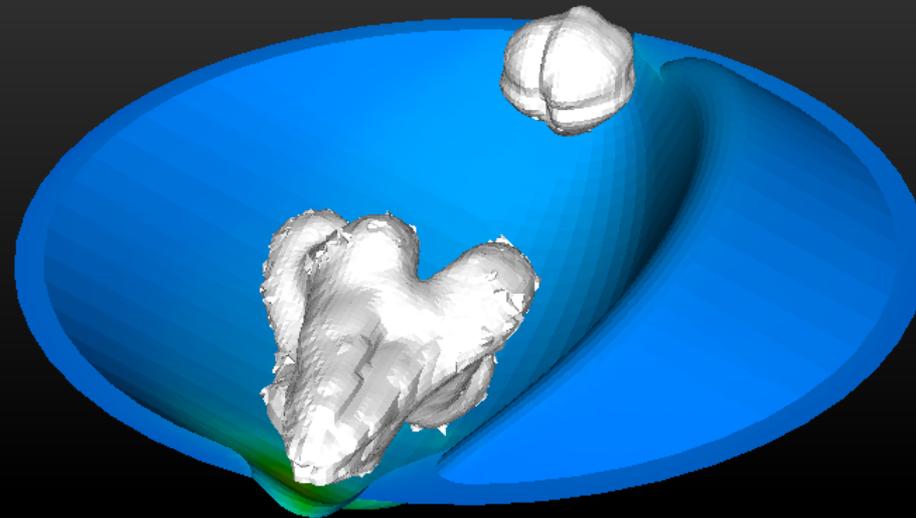


Combustion Optimization: Genetic Algorithms

CA = 3 deg aMV



Baseline



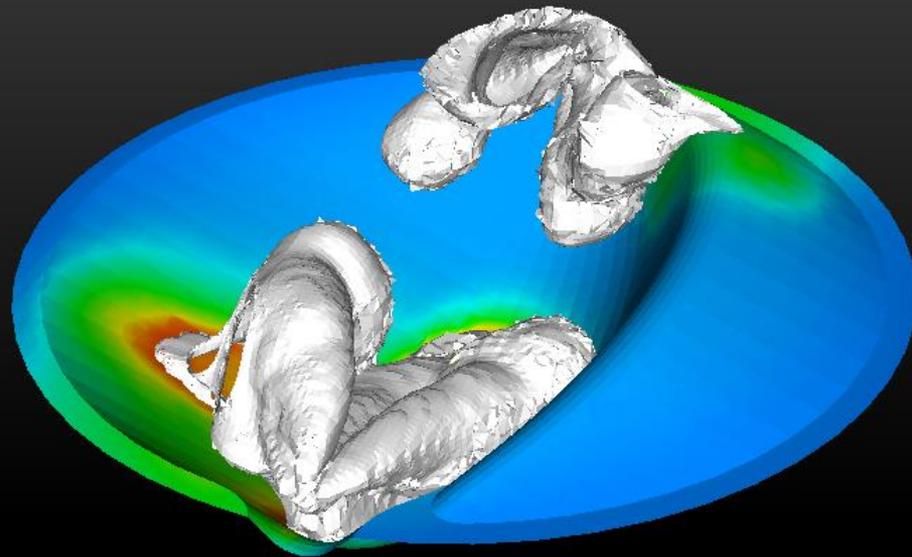
GA Best

temp
2.800e+003
2.250e+003
1.700e+003
1.150e+003
6.000e+002

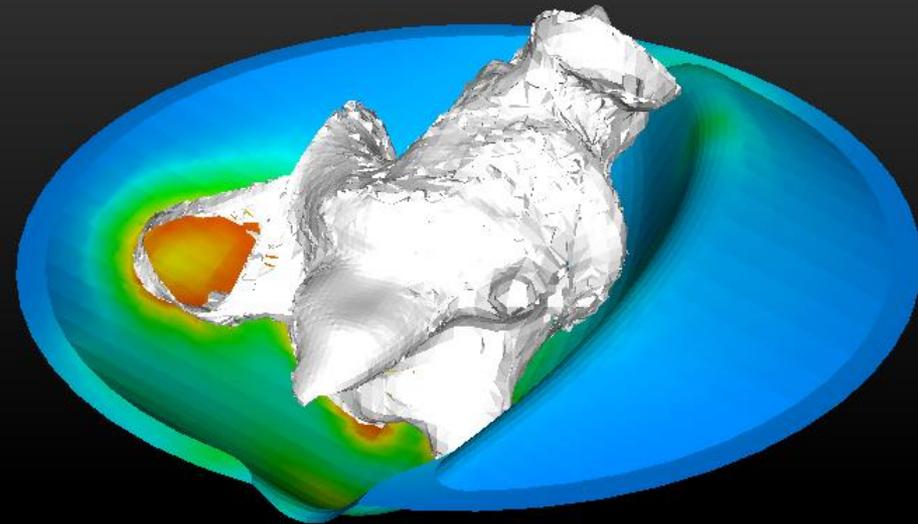


Combustion Optimization: Genetic Algorithms

CA = 11 deg aMV



Baseline



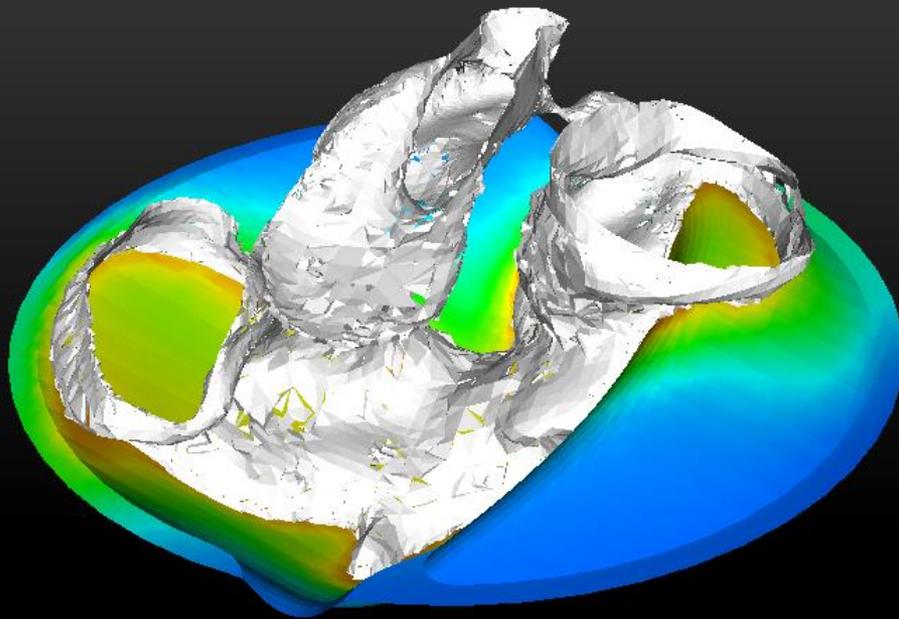
GA Best

temp
2.800e+003
2.250e+003
1.700e+003
1.150e+003
6.000e+002

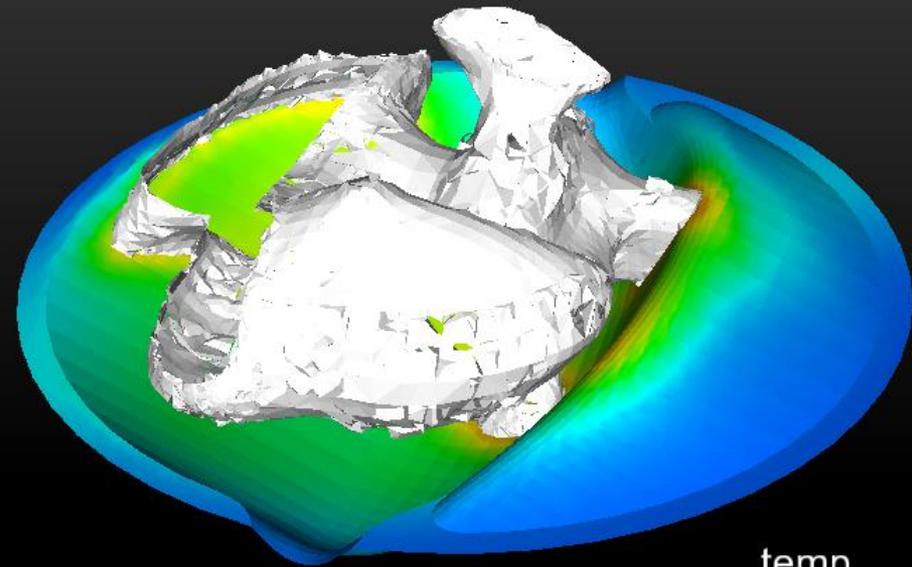


Combustion Optimization: Genetic Algorithms

CA = 23 deg aMV



Baseline



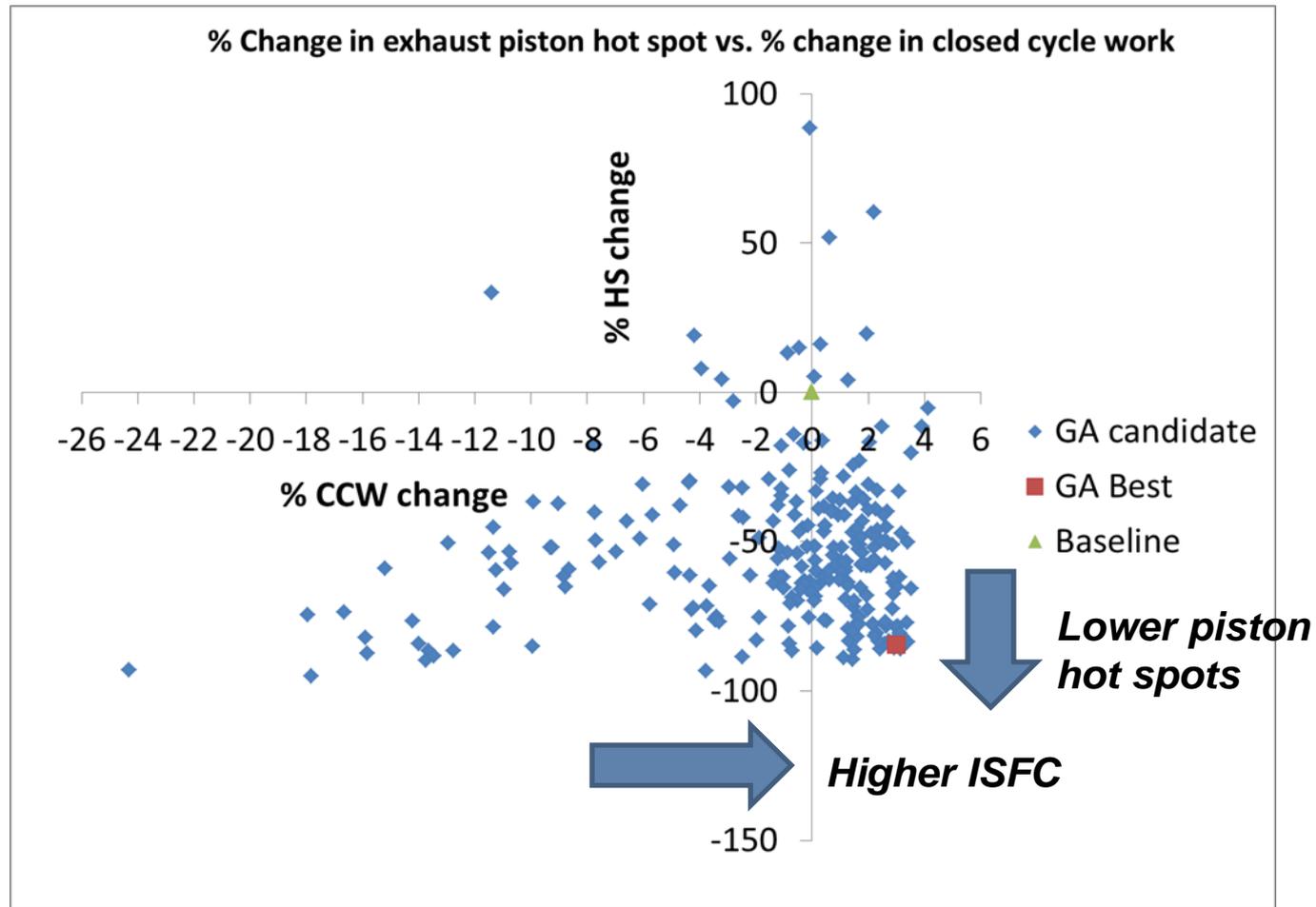
GA Best

temp

2.800e+003
2.250e+003
1.700e+003
1.150e+003
6.000e+002



Combustion Optimization: Genetic Algorithms



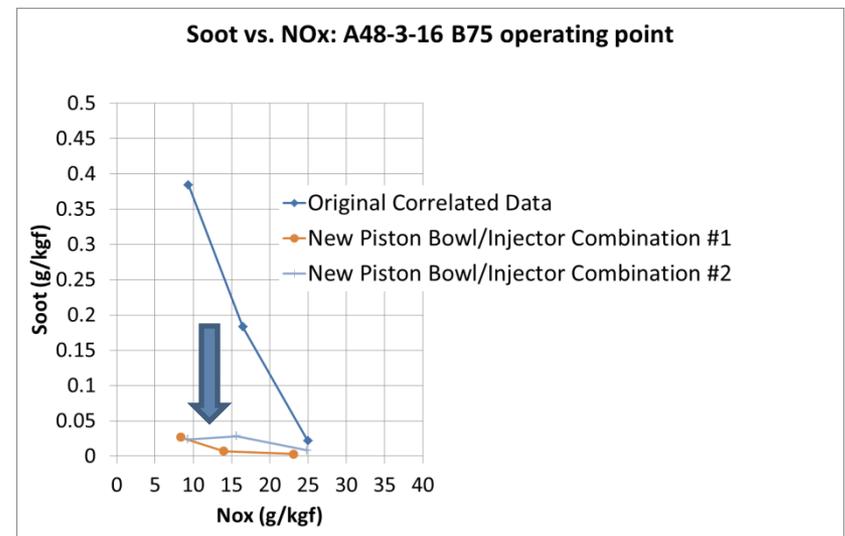
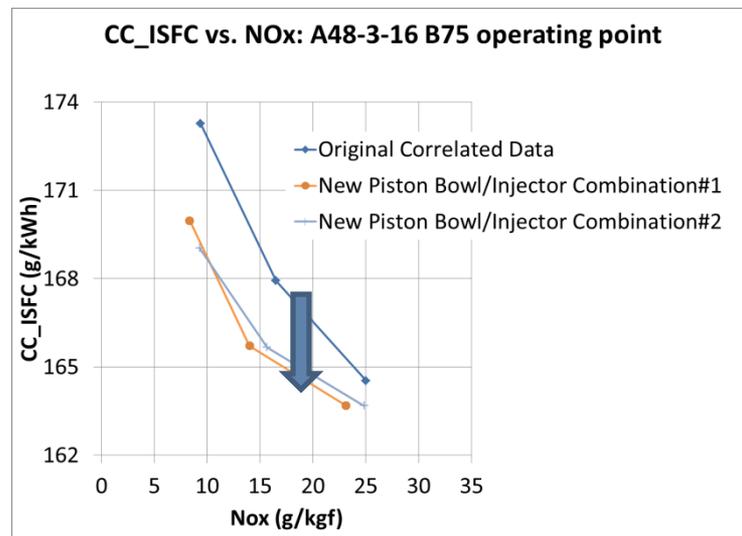
- GA best achieves a significant reduction in the exhaust piston hot spot area (weighted average of lip and overall piston) along with an increase in closed cycle work.

Combustion Optimization: Design of Experiments

DOE Structure

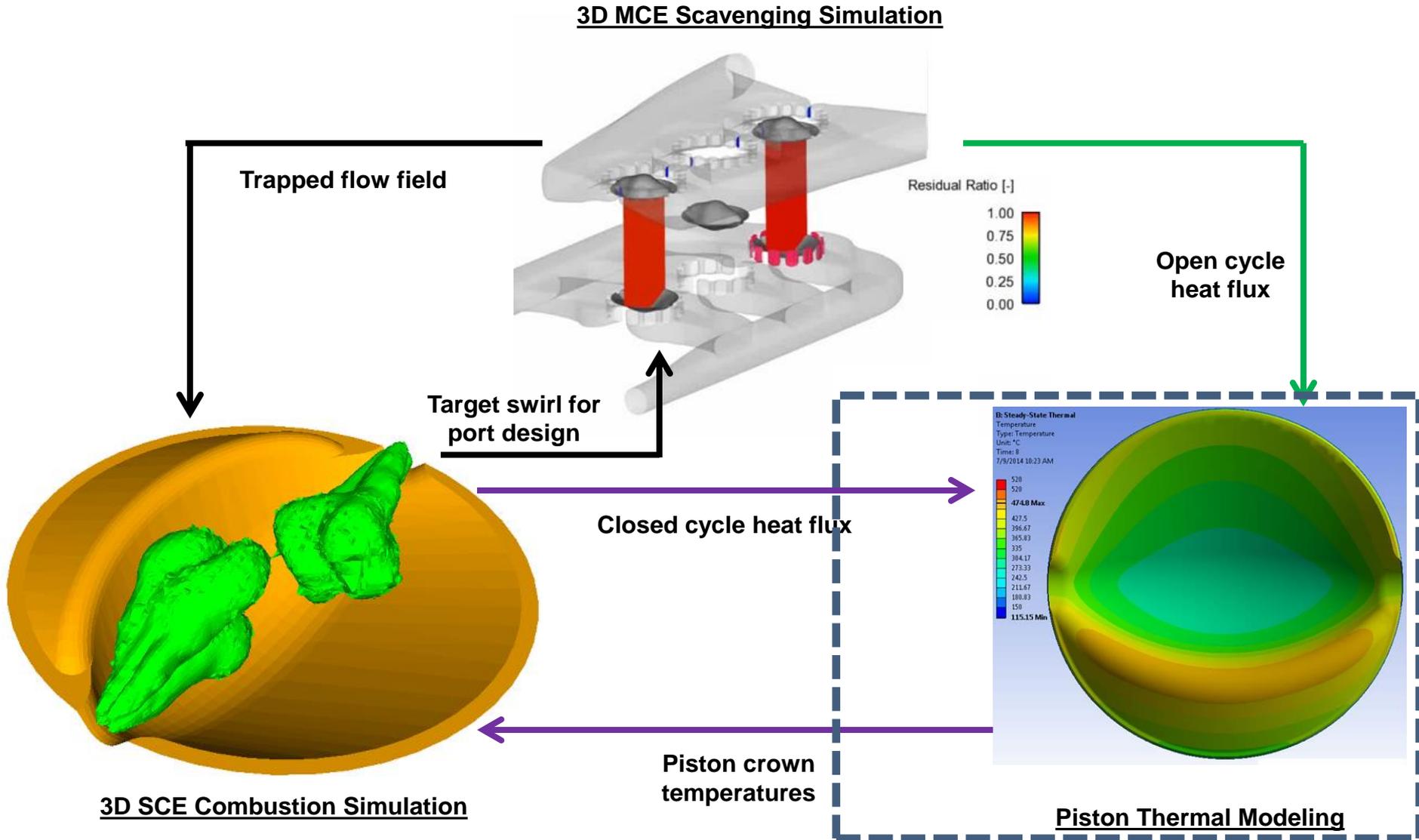
Lever	# levels
Bowl shape	18
SOI	3 (-10, -7, -4 degrees aMV)
Spray angle	2 (17.5 degree, 20.5 degree)
# Holes	2 (3-hole and 4-hole)
Total # cases, run time	216 cases, 16 cores, 8 days

- About 8 days of wall time per operating point.
- Spot checks of optimized hardware at multiple operating points.

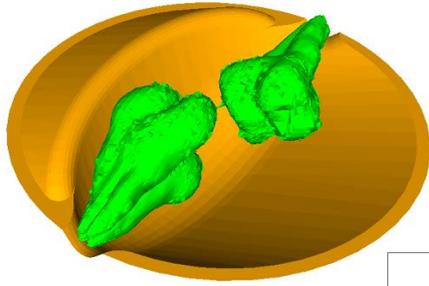


Significant improvements in performance and emissions tradeoffs achieved at multiple operating points

Achates Combustion System Design Process



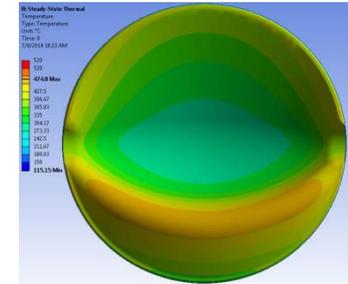
Piston Thermal Modeling Methodology



Spatially-resolved heat flux

Iterative process

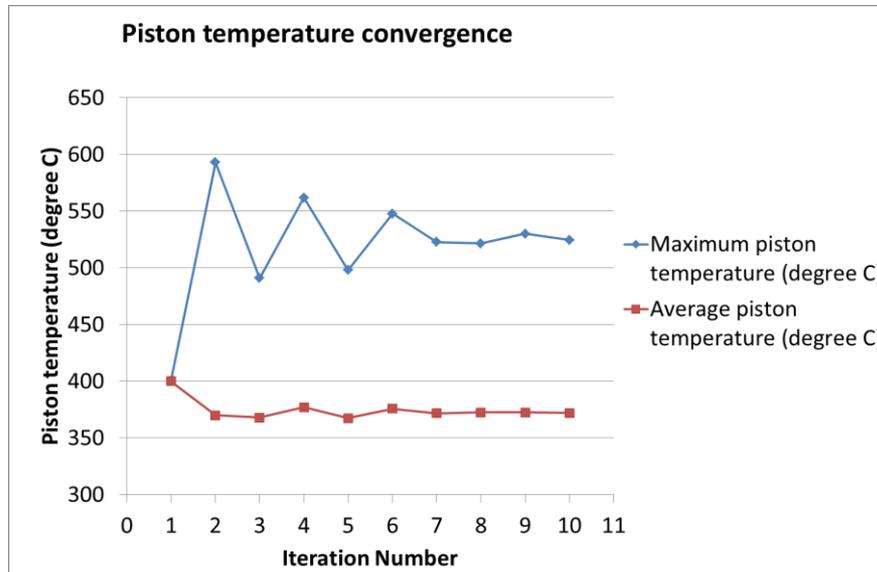
Spatially-resolved temperatures



Steady State Thermal Modeling

3D CFD Simulations

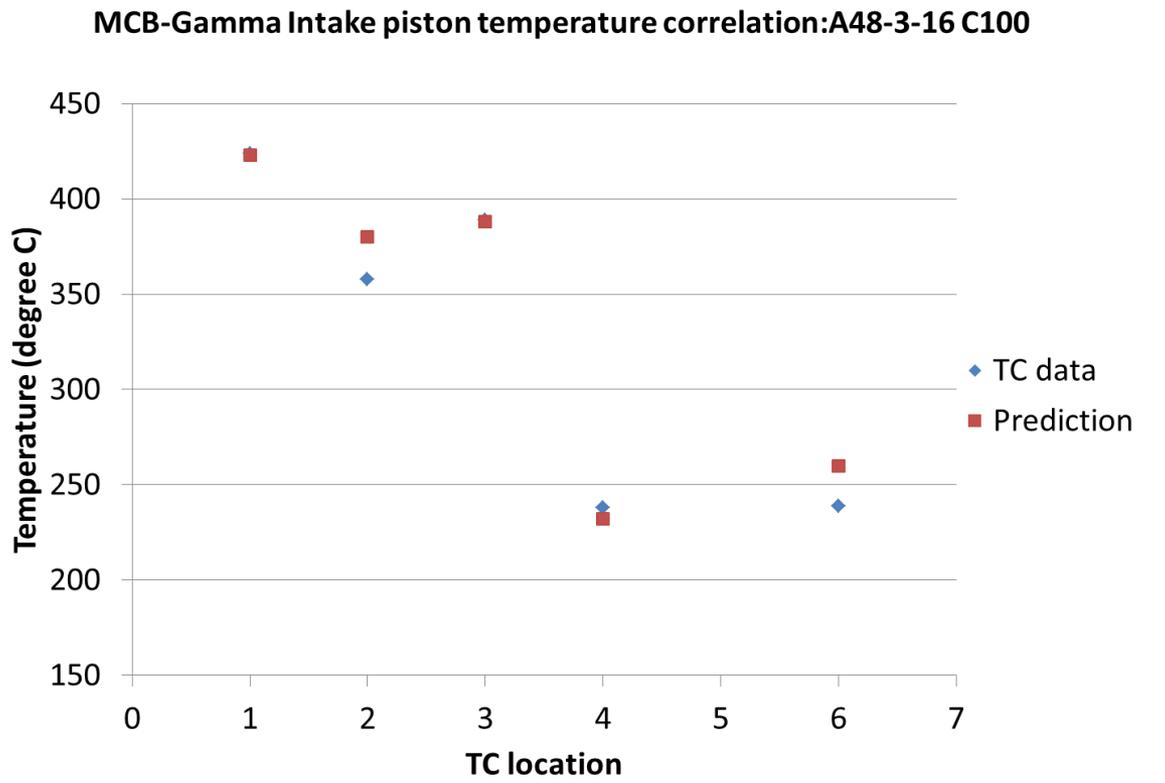
- Transient simulations of the open and closed cycles in CONVERGE.
- Accounts for the influence of trapped conditions, spray patterns and bowl shapes.
- Provides spatially-resolved and time-averaged heat flux on the piston crown.



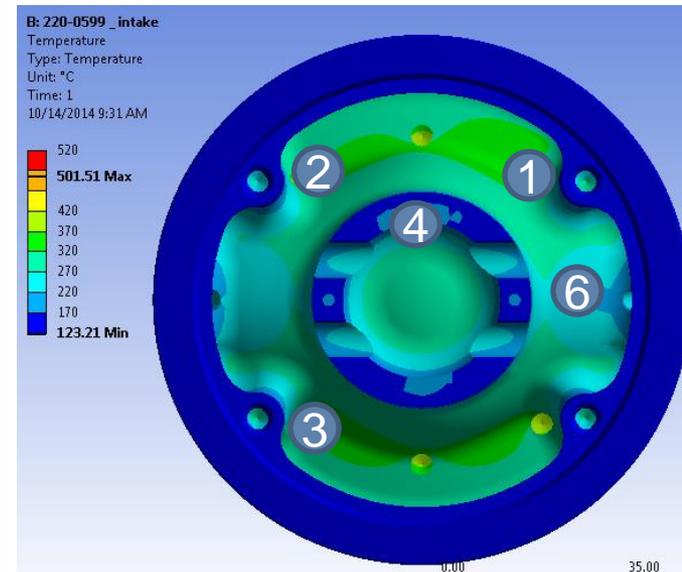
- Steady-state piston thermal modeling in ANSYS.
- Detailed cooling gallery modeled.
- Spatially-resolved hot side heat flux.
- Cold-side heat transfer coefficients imposed on all the surfaces; no CFD of oil flow to save computational time.

- Not doing CFD on the cold-side results in significant computational time savings.
- Simplified approach above yields reasonable accuracy and predictive capability.
- CONVERGE's super-cycling feature (v2.2) currently under exploration.
- *HPC can enable full-blown CHT for piston thermal modeling.*

Piston Thermal Model Correlation



Thermocouple locations on the Intake piston

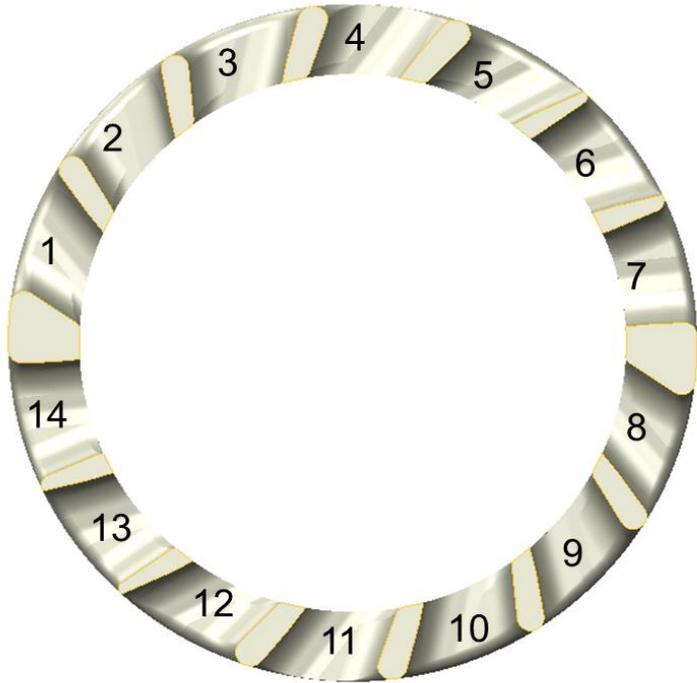


- Model predicts temperatures at the thermocouple locations reasonably well.
- The piston thermal model is applied predictively to investigate effects of calibration levers, injection patterns and bowl shapes on piston thermal management.

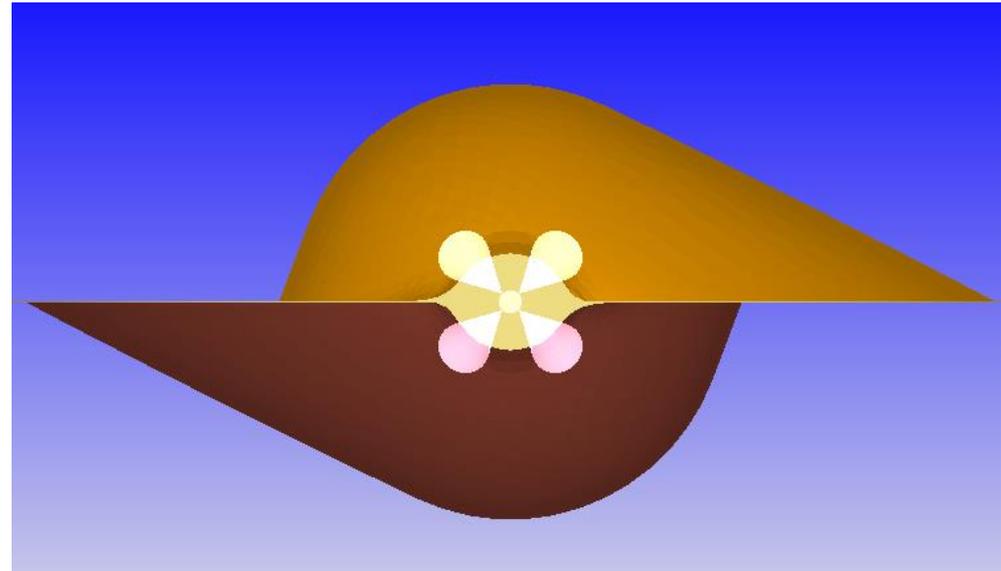
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HPC for OP Combustion Optimization



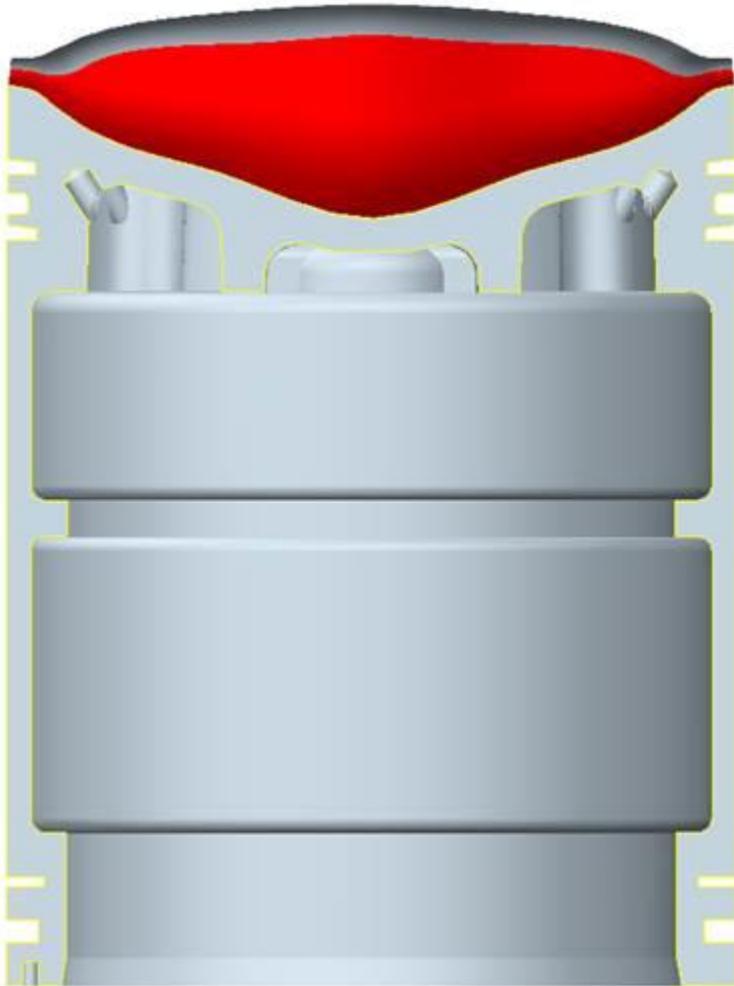
*For an OPE, open and closed cycles are very strongly coupled and result in a very large optimization space
Need for fully coupled optimization to optimize ports and combustion system for optimum performance, emissions and thermal management*



Optimization design levers

- **Ports** – port shape and vane angles ~ 10 independent parameters
- **Bowl shape** parameters (features, aspect ratio) ~ at least 3 independent parameters
- **Spray parameters** – spray angle, hole size, hole number, clocking angle for each injector ~ at least 8 independent parameters
- **Total of at least 21 independent Hardware parameters.**

HPC for OP Conjugate Heat Transfer



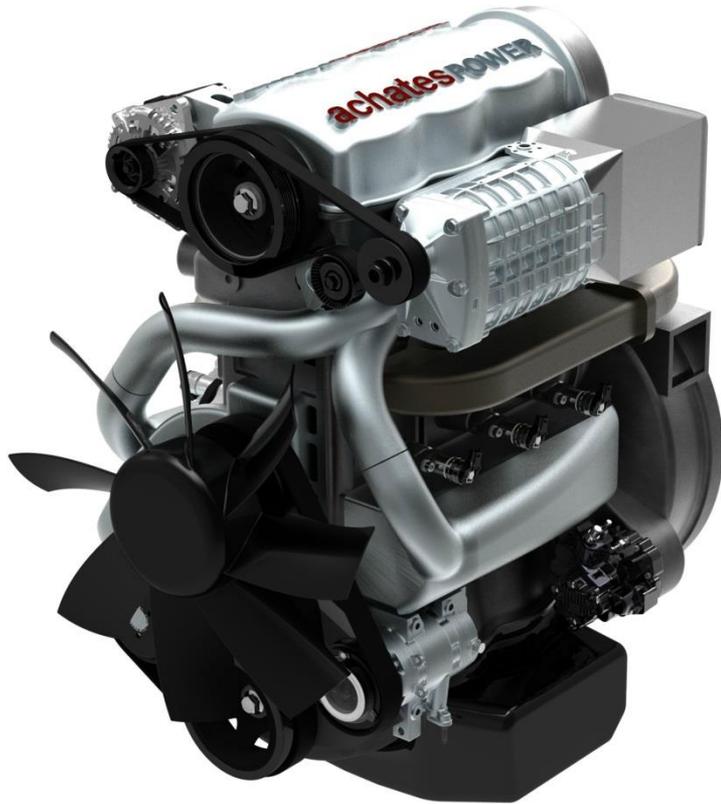
Piston Thermal Management Levers

- **Hot-side:**
 - ❖ Piston bowl geometry
 - ❖ Injection and spray parameters
 - ❖ Charge motion – swirl/tumble ratio
 - ❖ Calibration – SOI, Rail Pressure, A/F, EGR
- **Cold-side:**
 - ❖ Gallery size and shape parameters
 - ❖ Gallery fill ratio
 - ❖ Impingement jet cooling parameters
 - ❖ Inlet and outlet hole sizes

HPC can enable a DOE of CHT simulations to build a piston thermal modeling database for simpler uncoupled approaches

Summary

- Achates Power is employing state-of-the-art CFD / CAE tools to predictively design and develop *highly efficient, clean and durable* opposed-piston engines.
- The *high degree of design flexibility* of OP combustion systems presents unique opportunities for HPC applications.



Thank You

Acknowledgements

CFD Team

Leadership Team



Energy Security Prize - First Runner-Up 2013



Bloomberg Businessweek
25 Companies to Watch in Energy Tech

achatesPOWER™ Fundamentally Better Engines®

arpa-e
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FINALIST