

Single Zone, Zero Dimensional Model of Diesel Multiple-Injection

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Abstract

A detailed single zone, zero dimensional model of diesel multiple-injection system was developed from first principle, for compression, combustion and expansion processes for direct injection diesel engine. Equilibrium equation of Extended Zeldovich Mechanism (EZM) for NO_x formation was incorporated to predict NO_x emission. A different approach was assumed for the equilibrium temperature. An approach of using the average cycle temperature within NO_x formation region was used in the EZM equilibrium equation. The model codes were implemented in MATLAB. This model is developed to investigate the effects of both single and multiple-pulse fuel injection strategies on engine performance and NO_x emissions. The results obtained from the model were validated with experimental data available in the literature. Results obtained showed that the use of average cycle temperature within the NO_x formation temperature region could be useful in predicting NO_x formation with reasonable degree of accuracy. Injection timing, mass ratio of injected fuel, and dwell between pulses have significant effects on the NO_x emission and engine performance. The results also show that as the number of pulses increases, NO_x emission and engine performance decrease. For optimal balance between NO_x and engine performance, mass of the pilot injection should be between 10 and 25% of the total mass of fuel used per cycle.

Keywords

Multiple Injection, Diesel Engine, Emission

1. Introduction

There have been steadily growing concerns on the use of diesel-powered engines because of its emissions [1], despite its excellent thermodynamic efficiency and fuel con-

version to power compared to spark ignition engines [1]-[5]. The major challenge for the acceptance of diesel engines is solely on further reduction on its major emissions, which are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), unburned hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM) to meet the increasingly stringent environmental regulations. The use of particulate trap and catalytic converters currently is not adapted to meet the current tailpipe emissions regulations. Pollutants emitted from diesel-powered engines are detrimental to the human health and environment; efforts have gone into developing high efficiency and low emissions techniques [3] [4].

The diesel engine is a typical representation of compression ignition combustion process and it operates on a variable overall lean air-fuel ratio principle; the injected fuel has little time to mix with air before it auto-ignites; therefore, the air-fuel mixture is heterogeneous and consists of rich and lean mixture zones. The overall heterogeneous mixture results in incomplete combustion and formation of soot and NO_x . In a convectional diesel engine combustion process, part of the air-fuel mixture is premixed and burns stoichiometrically. The rest of the mixture forms rich-fuel region and high temperature flame region: because the time scale of mixture break-up, evaporation and diffusion is larger than the chemical time scale of mixing [6]. Generally, in the rich fuel region a large amount of soot is formed due to the absence of oxygen and the high temperature region favours NO_x formation. Soot is oxidised under higher temperatures. Soot formation is enhanced under higher temperatures but not at the same rate as soot oxidation [7]. The in-cylinder combustion temperature of a convectional diesel engine is about 2700 K. NO_x formation is temperature dependent; however, the rate of its formation is sensitive to temperature and increase exponentially with the reaction temperature [8].

Several ways are available for reducing the emissions from diesel engine combustion all based on the principle of exhaust gas after-treatment, blending of fuel or advanced fuel-injection strategy [5]. These technologies are applied side by side in some cases. Often it is seen as a better engineering practice not to produce emissions at all, rather than attempting to control it when it has been produced; however, the most proficient way of combating emission is at its source. A major challenge in reducing emission in diesel engine is the presence of NO_x -soot trade-off; this condition exists, when an attempt made to reduce net soot formation inside the cylinder results to increase in NO_x production and *vice-versa* [2] [5] [9]. In practical terms, advancing the time of injection or extending the ignition delay time will reduce soot production but enhance NO_x production and retarding the time of injection or reducing the ignition delay time will enhance soot formation but reduce NO_x production [7].

The aim of this work is to investigate the effects of different multiple-pulse fuel injection strategies on diesel engine performance and NO_x emissions.

2. Multiple-Pulse Injection

Fuel injection in conventional diesel engine is implemented in a single pulse very close to the top dead centre of the cylinder. This means of injection leads to high temperature

combustion and favours the formation of some pollutants and noise in diesel engine. Multiple-pulse injection is a means of splitting the total mass of injection into a number of pulses, starting the injection process earlier before top dead centre (BTDC) and spreading it through after top dead centre (ATDC) such as to achieve controllability of the combustion process. The objectives of multiple-pulse injection and its control are as follows [9]:

- To attain homogenous fuel-air mixture before ignition occurs by extending the ignition delay time. This is achieved by commencing injection earlier BTDC.
- To control the width of the injection pulse such as to limit fuel spray penetration to ensure no spray impact on the cylinder liner.
- To ensure control over the combustion temperature by promoting separate or joint combustion of different fuel pulse.

In a conventional diesel engine, premixed and diffusion combustion occur but a stoichiometric diffusion flame controls the whole combustion process [2] [10]-[12]. Multiple pulse injection strategy has been studied by different people as a means to enhance the homogeneity of in-cylinder medium during prior to combustion.

Su *et al.* [10] experimentally investigated multi-pulse fuel injection and concluded that large advance of injection timing is an effective approach to the preparation of homogenous mixture and a combined combustion mode of premixed homogenous and lean diffusion combustion is a feasible means of achieving HCCI combustion [9]. Investigated the impact of multiple-pulse injection in the preparation of homogenous mixture, and conclude as follows: at low loads, multiple injection strategy allowed for the preparation of a near lean homogenous mixture before combustion thereby simultaneously reducing soot and NO_x formation without the use of EGR. At higher loads, it was able to achieve a homogenous mixture with EGR dilution. Pierpont *et al.* [13] investigated experimentally and concluded that the mass fraction of pilot/first pulse is of great significance on soot and NO_x emissions, and that optimum soot reduction is obtained when 50% of fuel injected per cycle is supplied in pilot pulse. Meloni *et al.* [14] model results show that the pollutant emissions minimization has been obtained for schemes injecting 65% and 70% of fuel for both two and three split strategies, but for different values of dwell. Badami *et al.* [15] in their experiment compared double injection approach (pilot-main injection) with two triple injection approach (pilot-pilot-main and pilot-main-post). The results showed that: the pilot-pilot-main approach can be more effective in reducing fuel consumption and combustion noise than the pilot-main injection approach, but higher values emissions will be the outcome. It was noted that pilot-main-after approach can be very effective in soot reduction, but adequate injection timing has to be selected properly. Mendez and Thirouard [16] experimentally investigated multiple injection in diesel engine combustion, their results concluded that increasing the number of separate injections lengthens the combustion, decreases cycle efficiency, that means higher fuel consumption and soot emissions increases as the number injection increases.

2.1. Effect of Multiple-Pulse Injection on Diesel Engine Performance and Emissions

The pulses in multiple injection is most times categorised based on the time of injection with respect to crank angle degree (CAD). The pulses in multiple injection is most times categorised based on the time of injection with respect to crank angle degree (CAD). **Pilot Injection:** The effect of pilot injection is to reduce the ignition delay of the second or main injection therefore leaving time for the mixture to attain homogeneity. Pilot injection also produces internal EGR gases to suppress NO_x formation in the main fuel injection. As the quantity of pilot injection increases and the earlier the pilot injection timing is advanced, NO_x emissions increased and soot emissions decreased [7]. **Main Injection:** Main injection controls the combustion phase in multiple injections. The mass and injection timing of the main injection determines the performance and emission characteristics in multiple injection strategy. Advancing the injection timing of main injection leads to high temperature combustion and enhanced engine performance, its effect on emissions depends on other engine variables as well. **Post or After Injection:** Post injection normally reduces soot emissions if implemented appropriately. [7] and [17] reported that late post injection can increase soot emissions substantially and post injection close to main injection can increase soot emission drastically.

2.2. Path to Emission Reduction

High temperature enhances NO_x and soot formation and increases soot, hydrocarbon and CO oxidation. NO_x formation is also enhanced by excess air/lean mixture, therefore the underlying mechanism to achieving low NO_x in diesel engine combustion is maintain absence of high temperature region and appropriate equivalence ratio within the combustion chamber.

Figure 1 shows a pathway for simultaneous reduction in soot and NO_x emission in diesel engine while **Figure 2** depicts an ideal combustion region that escapes NO_x , soot, CO and HC production zones.

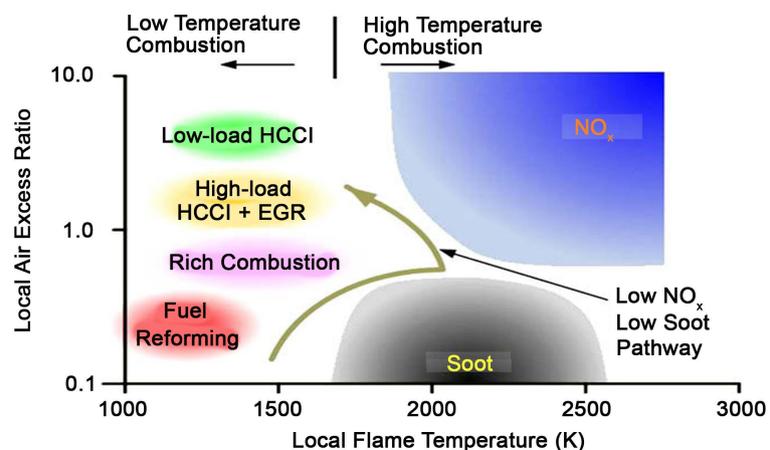


Figure 1. Pathway for simultaneous NO_x and soot reduction [9].

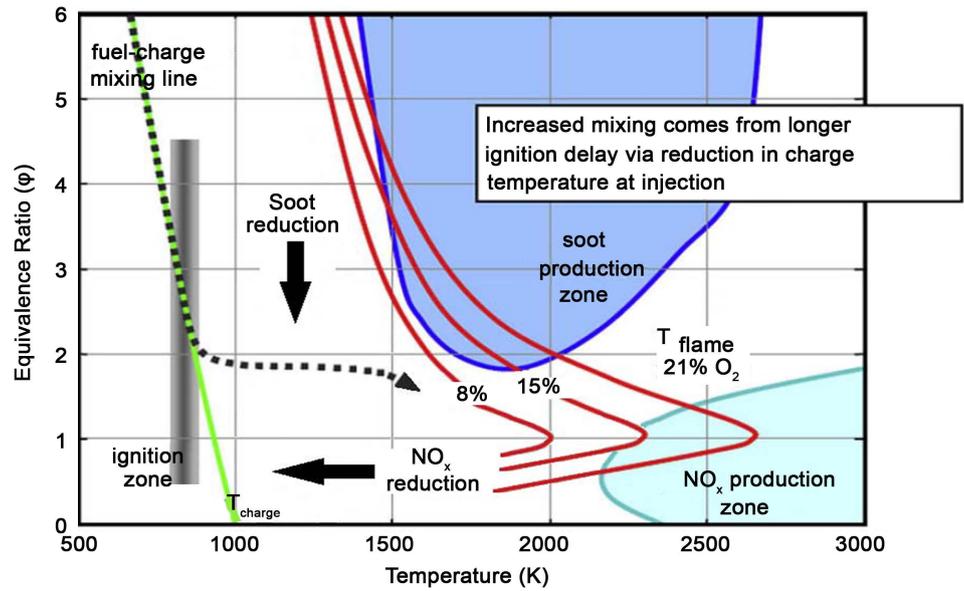


Figure 2. Emission pathway for simultaneous reduction in NO_x, soot, CO and HC production zones [14].

3. Model Development and Description

Table 1 shows the parameters of the single-cylinder air cooled four stroke diesel engine, direct injection combustion system used in the model.

3.1. Volume Model

Volume change is the main boundary condition applicable to reciprocating engine behaviour. The change in volume (*V*) in a reciprocating engine is a periodic function, having time (*t*) and angular velocity (*ω*) as the independent variables or arguments across the cyclic process.

$$V = f(\omega, t) \tag{1}$$

$$V(t) = V_s \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}\omega t\right) + \frac{1}{(r_c - 1)} \tag{2}$$

where *r_c* is the compression ratio. In this model, the increment in volume is analysed using Equation (2) The engine speed (*N*) is taken to be constant in this model; as a result, the Crank Angle Degree (CAD) at any given speed was derived as follows;

$$CAD = \frac{360N}{60} \times t \tag{3}$$

3.2. Compression Process

The compression process adopted is modified form of Chang model [18]. The compression process is divided into two processes:

- Compression without fuel injection.
- Compression with fuel injection.

Table 1. Test and modeled engine condition.

Engine parameter	Designations
Bore	86 mm
Stroke	70 mm
Displacement	406 cm ³
Compression ratio	19.3
Maximum load (at 3600 rpm)	7 kW
Maximum torque (at 2000 rpm)	35 Nm
Engine speed	1600 rpm
Start of injection	5 CAD
Mass of injection per cycle	6.0 mg

The actual compression process in diesel engine operation is non-adiabatic therefore; in this model, compression is taken to be a polytropic process.

In modelling for compression when there is no fuel injection, isentropic equations (laws) were used replacing the empirical isentropic index (k) with the polytropic index (n). From basic thermodynamic theories, it is known that the polytropic exponent (n) is a function of temperature, which is dependent on the variation on the amount of heat in the in-cylinder working medium [18].

$$\frac{w}{q} = \frac{k-1}{k-n} \quad (4)$$

During compression, (q) is heat and work (w) is done on the fluid therefore, $w < 0$. Also at the start of compression, the medium/fluid temperature is lower than the temperature of the encapsulating walls of the cylinder and the medium is heated. Equation (4) shows that $n > k$.

The temperature of the in-cylinder medium rises with increase in pressure during compression; the in-cylinder medium receives lesser amount of heat when compared with initial stage of compression until the medium temperature is equal to the temperature of the encapsulating walls of the cylinder. At this stage, there is no exchange of heat between the medium and the cylinder wall, adiabatic process occurs, and $n = k$. At further compression, the medium temperature would be greater than the cylinder wall temperature and heat will be transferred from the medium to the cylinder wall, at this point $q < 0$, and $n < k$ this process will continue until combustion commences.

When compression is carried out simultaneously with fuel injection as it is done in multiple injections, the thermodynamic variables will be the outcome of analyses using both isentropic laws with polytropic exponent, first law of thermodynamics and ideal equation of state of working medium. The effect of fuel injection and combustion on the thermodynamics variables are added up to its (thermodynamics variables) effects due to polytropic compression whenever there is fuel injection. At any point of injection during compression, the thermodynamics variable due to injection is computed

taking its boundary conditions as the thermodynamic variable due to polytropic compression at that same point or step.

3.3. Fuel Injection and Combustion

Dissociation level of the in-cylinder combustion products is small, and heat losses caused by this effect would be neglected. The first law of thermodynamics expressions were used in computing for the combustion process, the injection time and dwell between subsequent injections are adjusted from the volume rate/CAD sub-model, but the number of injections and variation in the quantity of fuel injected is controlled in the combustion sub-model.

$$\delta Q = dU + \delta W + \delta Q_w \quad (5)$$

where δQ = heat loss or gain through the cylinder wall, W is work, Q is heat, U is internal energy. In modelling for the combustion heat loss, assumption was made, that combustion occurs in a complete and absolute manner; therefore, the amount of unburned fuel is small and can be neglected. The model took into account, the convective heat loss or heat gain prediction through the cylinder during compression and expansion process using a temperature wall function model [19]. This model is derived from the one-dimensional energy conservation equation and accounts for the effect of thermodynamic variations of gas density and the increase of the turbulent Prandtl number in the boundary layer. The advantages of this model include the ability to use a relative smaller stepwise at the wall with accurate heat transfer predictions. T_w is the wall temperature. Hsu model [20] estimated the amount of heat loss during close cycle operation to be less than 15% of the total heat input.

3.3.1. Expansion Process

The same processes that take place in compression are applicable to expansion process; Injection variables during expansion, that is, the number of injections and variation in the quantity of fuel injected is controlled in the combustion sub-model.

The variation of polytropic exponent during expansion is different from compression process; in the expansion process heat transfer occurs from the medium to cylinder walls all through the expansion process, $w > 0$ and $q < 0$. As the rate of heat exchange increases during combustion, the absolute value of the polytropic exponent would be lower [18]. At maximum pressure point $n = 0$. The heat release continues until the temperature approaches its maximum, which can be taken as an isothermal process, at this point $n = 1$. The quantity of the heat released during expansion is more than that of the absorbed heat during compression, therefore there would not be a time when thermal equilibrium will occur in the expansion process, and hence $n < k$ all through the expansion process [18].

3.3.2. NO_x Sub-Model

Thermal NO_x formation is the predominant means of NO_x formation in diesel engine combustion, in the NO_x model only thermal NO_x formation is considered using the extended Zeldovich mechanism.

NO_x formation in diesel engine is a dynamic process and is normally modeled with kinetic equations rather than with equilibrium equations [12]. But the choice to model a system with dynamic or equilibrium equation is dependent on the controlling chemical reaction time constant, when the time constant is short compared to the change rate of the systems condition, the system can be modeled to be in equilibrium. In this case, the temperature and pressure are the system conditions. It will be an approximate method to say that the time constant is short when compared to changes in temperature and pressure when combustion and NO_x process is decoupled at maximum pressure and temperature. At the above condition (decoupling of combustion and NO_x process), we can approximate the concentrations of nitrogen and oxygen by their equilibrium values [12]. The NO_x formation rate equation and equilibrium constant used in this model are adopted from [12].

$$\frac{d[\text{NO}]}{dt} = \frac{A}{T^{1/2}} \exp\left(\frac{B}{T}\right) [\text{O}_2]_e^{1/2} [\text{N}_2]_e \text{ mol/cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \quad (6)$$

$$A = 6 \times 10^{16} \quad \text{and} \quad B = -69090.$$

The equilibrium concentration of oxygen and nitrogen molecules is obtained from the following expression.



$$K_{\text{NO}} = \frac{[\text{NO}]_e^2}{[\text{O}_2]_e [\text{N}_2]_e} \quad (8)$$

$$K_{\text{NO}} = 20.3 \exp(-21650/T) \quad (9)$$

O₂ and N₂ molar concentrations of 0.21 and 0.79 mol/cm³ respectively were used in Equation (8) to determine the equilibrium concentration of O₂ and N₂, since the model does not make use of EGR and air intake is atmospheric. Simple assumption can be to calculate the peak thermodynamic temperature and relate it to NO_x formation, but NO_x formation takes place in the flame zone (combustion flame temperature), which cannot be a representative of peak average cycle temperature [20]. A close approximation to “combustion flame temperature” is to consider the whole cycle temperature history of the engine, when the whole cycle temperature is considered in stepwise terms. In actual combustion of diesel engine cycle, the average temperature at any point is a result of the initial mixture temperature of the portion of air-fuel mixture that combusted immediately afterwards [20]. Local flame temperature behaves in the same manner with the average cycle temperature; therefore, can be related to NO_x formation.

A bit different approach from Hsu’s is adopted in this model, the temperature used to calculate for the equilibrium concentrations of O₂ and N₂ and NO formation rate is the average cycle temperature within NO_x formation temperature region. According to data from [21], that NO_x formation rate at 760°C is very low or does not form at all. Therefore, the temperature used in this model in computing equations (7) and (9) is the average cycle temperature starting from 760°C up to the maximum temperature of the in-cylinder medium. The amount of NO_x formed is a function of its resident time at

high temperature [22] and from Equation (6). The resident time at the average-cycle NO_x temperature range is calculated from the volume sub-model. The thermodynamic performance of the cylinder is derived from the plot of pressure-volume diagram.

$$\text{Power} = \frac{W \times N}{n_c} \quad (10)$$

$n_c = 2$ number of engine revolutions per cycle for four-stroke engine and N , is the engine speed in rev/sec.

4. Results

The strategy for the injection is to maintain the pilot/first injection at 5 CAD BTDC and vary the second injection at different CAD ATDC for the three varied mass fraction injection schemes. Exponential lines were used to plot for line of best fit for NO_x scattered points, while linear lines of best fit are used for torque and exhaust temperature-scattered points. Pulse injection tends to degrade the thermodynamic performance in compression ignition engines, NO_x formation depends greatly on the equivalence ratio and temperature of the in-cylinder medium. The thermodynamic performance term is represented with the engine torque when comparing the simulated result and the experimental data. The exhaust temperature and NO_x emissions are also compared with experimental data. The experimental data is taken from [23]. The computational and experimental conditions of the engine used are presented in **Table 1**.

Two pulse injection strategy was adopted in response to what is available in the literature, with constant amount of fuel for every engine cycle. The amount of fuel injected per cycle is 6 mg but the fuel splitting between pulses at three different conditions are as follows:

- Case 1: 0.75 mg first injection, 5.25 mg second injection.
- Case 2: 1.5 mg first injection, 4.5 mg second injection.
- Case 3: 3.0 mg first injection, 3.0 mg second injection.

The time between injections varied between 0.4 and 2 ms (about 22 CAD) at an engine speed of 1600 rpm.

4.1. NO_x Prediction

Figures 3-6 show plots of the measured and predicted NO_x emissions under varying fuel masses and different injection scheme. Generally, NO_x emissions predicted by the model increases as injection timing advances, this trend is as expected since ignition timing advances with advancing injection timing and thus, the in-cylinder combustion temperature rises, therefore the trend of NO_x emissions with respect to different injection conditions are well predicted by the model.

[24] reported that the use of Zeldovich mechanism containing only three equations in predicting NO_x emission approximately gives an error of 50%. However, the predicted results from this model are well above that. The discrepancies observed and their reasons are discussed under each injection condition in the following sections. The discrepancy in modeled data and the experimental data observed in **Figure 3** may be

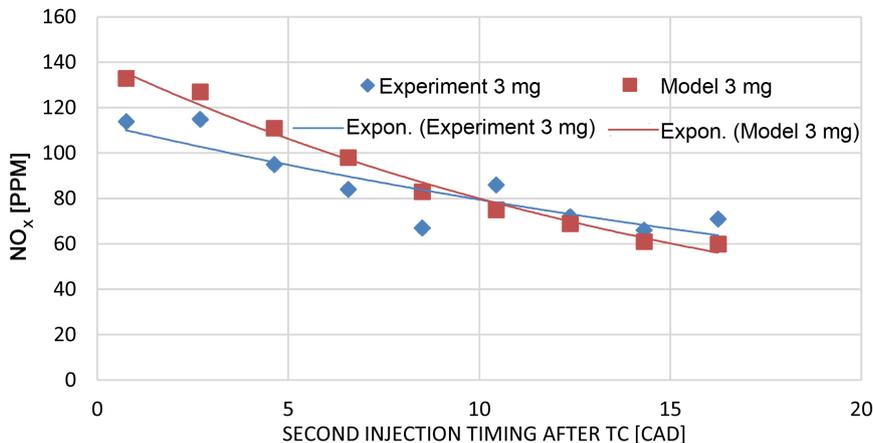


Figure 3. At 5 CAD BTDC, fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, injection pressure 400 bar (for experiment), engine speed 1600 rpm, 2 injections, first injection of 3.0 mg and second injection of 3.0 mg.

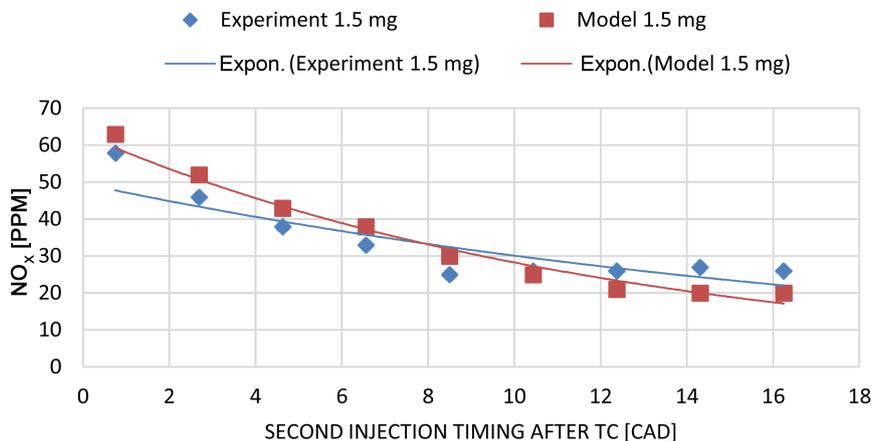


Figure 4. NO_x versus second injection timing, first injection at 5 CAD BTDC, fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, injection pressure 400 bar (for experiment), engine speed 1600 rpm, 2 injections, first injection of 1.5 mg and second injection of 4.5 mg.

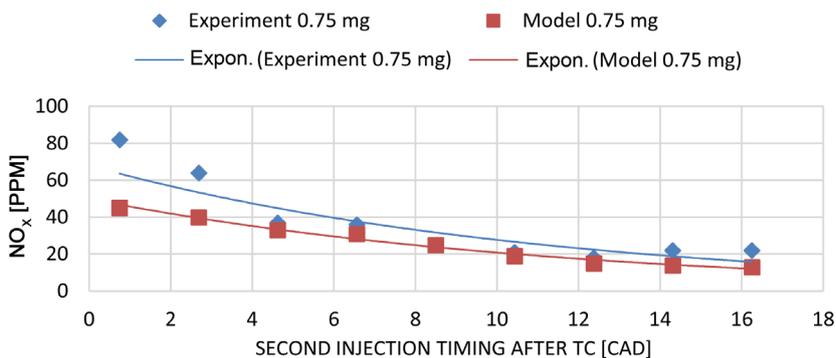


Figure 5. NO_x versus second injection timing, first injection at 5 CAD BTDC, fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, injection pressure 400 bar (for experiment), engine speed 1600 rpm, 2 injections, first injection of 0.75 mg and second injection of 5.25 mg.

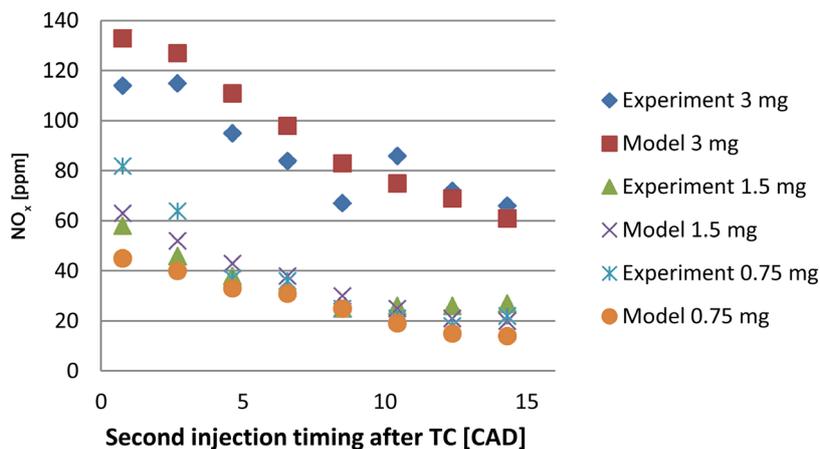


Figure 6. NO_x versus second injection timing, first injection at 5 CAD BTDC, fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, injection pressure 400 bar (for experiment), engine speed 1600 rpm, 2 injections, first injection of 0.75, 1.5 and 3.0 mg.

because of the equilibrium approach used in Zeldovich NO_x formation mechanism. The equilibrium assumption approach used in the model predicts the peak concentration of NO_x , at any given temperature because the assumption of immediate chemical equilibrium is made. Although with both equilibrium and dynamic approach, NO_x formation reactions have high activation energies; hence, NO_x rate of formation is kinetically controlled but the effect is prominent with equilibrium reactions at higher temperatures. This means that the level of NO_x produced in combustion flame are far below the levels predicted by Zeldovich mechanism equilibrium calculations at higher temperatures.

When the dwell time between injections is small and the mass fraction of the pilot and main injection are closer, there will be joint combustion of the pilot and main injection; this joint combustion will lead to an exponential increase in temperature of the in-cylinder medium. This condition is seen when the second injections is advanced in **Figure 3** that is between (2 - 7) CAD. Therefore, the kinetically controlled process of NO_x formation at this higher temperature will over predict NO_x formation. As the dwell time increases between injections, the temperature of the in-cylinder medium reduces also the kinetically controlled nature of NO_x formation reduces, therefore the aptitude of the model over predicting NO_x formation decreases as well. At this stage, the experimental result and the simulated prediction start to get close. The rate of NO_x formation, on the other hand, is sensitive to temperature and increases exponentially with the reaction temperature.

The trend in NO_x emission is shown in **Figure 4**, when the first and second injections were 1.5 mg and 4.5 mg respectively. NO_x emissions predicted by the model increases as injection timing advances, this trend is as expected since ignition timing advances with advancing injection timing and thus, the in-cylinder combustion temperature rises. The same processes explained for **Figure 3** are applicable to the early injections ATDC in **Figure 4**.

As the dwell time increases between the pilot and main injection, when the mass

fraction of pilot injection is small compared to the main injection as in **Figure 4**, the high temperature produced by pre-mixed combustion from the pilot injection decreases. By the time the second pulse is injected the temperature increase due to the first injection must have faded away, that is separate combustion occurs, giving rise to lower temperature combustion for the second injection. This process explains the decline in NO_x formation rate seen in **Figure 4**. The low in-cylinder medium temperature caused by separate combustion of the pilot and main injections leads to lower rate of NO_x formation. This drop in temperature does not only lead to lower rate of NO_x formation, it will also lead a phenomenon called freezing: a condition where the in-cylinder medium temperature is not high enough to convert some of the formed NO back to its reactant species. The equilibrium equations do not take into account the freezing phenomenon and this will result that; the NO_x concentration modeled with equilibrium equations will drop when the temperature drops since the freezing phenomenon does not emerge in the equilibrium approach. The discrepancy in the model prediction and experimental data in **Figure 4** is due to the inability of the equilibrium equation to take into account the freezing phenomenon.

The discrepancy in model prediction and experimental data for **Figure 5** is a combined effect of the processes described in the analyses of **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**. In **Figure 5**, the mass fraction of the pilot injection is very small compared with the main injection therefore the effect of separate combustion and NO_x freezing will be very dominant. **Figure 6** shows a plot of NO_x formation when **Figures 3-5** are plotted on the same chart area; this is to have a general view of NO_x emission trend and the extent the mass fractions of the injected pulses can have on NO_x formation.

4.2. Two Pulse Injection Strategy

Table 2 presents the results obtained for two-injection scheme.

The following trends can be observed from the results:

- Smaller mass fraction of pilot or first injection will result in lower NO_x emission but the engine performance will deteriorate in all cases. This may be because as the mass of pilot injection increases, the turbulent intensity of the in-cylinder charge will

Table 2. NO_x and Torque prediction from the model for 2-pulse injection strategy, first injection at 5 or 2 CAD (BTDC), second injection at 2 or 5 CAD (ATDC), fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, engine speed 1600 rpm.

Time	0.5 and 5.5 (mg)		1.0 and 5.0 (mg)		1.5 and 4.5 (mg)		2.0 and 4.0 (mg)		3.0 and 3.0 (mg)	
(CAD)	NO _x (ppm)	Torque (Nm)								
-2, 2	36	28.2	37	28.6	54	29	91	29.3	152	30.4
-2, 5	11	27.5	15	27.8	29	28	54	28.6	124	29.4
-5, 2	24	30	37	28.4	58	28.9	71	29.4	129	30.3
-5, 5	11	27	15	27.6	43	28	63	28.6	111	29.5

increase as well, and the effect will be lower ignition time for the second pulse, the low ignition time will result in high temperature. Secondly, the limiting effect of premixed combustion phase will be dominant as the mass of pilot injection increases and mass of main injection decreases, which will result in high temperature combustion, noting that NO_x formation and engine's thermodynamic performance thrives at higher temperature.

- Increasing the dwell between injections or retarding the second injection reduces both NO_x formation and engine performance. The effect of increasing the dwell will be to ensure that separate combustion occurs between the first and second injection, and this will result in low temperature combustion.
- Conversely, advancing the second injection will result in joint combustion with the preceding injection. The effect of the joint combustion will be high temperature combustion that will result in high NO_x formation and enhanced engine performance.
- Advancing the start of pilot injection, results in high NO_x formation. In **Table 2**, advancing the start of pilot injection from -5 CAD to -2 CAD and keeping the start of second injection constant results in both high NO_x emission and better engine performance. The reverse effect will occur when start of pilot injection is delayed.

4.3. Three Injection Strategy

Three pulse injection strategy using different fuel quantity at different CAD.

Table 3 presents the results obtained for three-injection scheme. The following trend could be observed from the result:

- All the characteristics observed in the case of double injection scheme apply to three-injection strategy.
- The timing and mass fraction of the main or second injection seems to have greater control on NO_x and engine's thermodynamic performance when compared to mass fraction and timing of the pilot and post injections.

Table 3. NO_x and Torque prediction from the model for 3-pulse injection strategy using different fuel quantity, first injection at -5 or -2 CAD (BTDC), subsequent injections at 2, 5 or 8 CAD (ATDC), fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, engine speed 1600 rpm.

Time (CAD)	0.5, 5.0, 0.5 (mg)		1.0, 4.0, 1.0 (mg)		1.0, 4.5, 0.5 (mg)		1.5, 3.0, 1.5 (mg)	
	NO_x (ppm)	Torque (Nm)						
-2, 2, 5	8	25.4	9	25.4	11	25.8	16	24.1
-2, 2, 8	10	24.8	11	24.9	15	25.2	17	23.5
-2, 5, 8	6	24.5	7	24.5	7	25.0	12	23.3
-5, 2, 5	8	24.1	9	24.3	12	24.8	18	23.2
-5, 2, 8	10	24.0	11	24.4	15	24.9	18	22.7
-5, 5, 8	4	23.8	7	23.1	7	23.9	13	22.5

- It can be observed that the bigger the mass fraction of the main injection is, the better the engine performance and more likelihood of higher NO_x formation.
- Advancing or retarding the start of pilot injection does not seem to have any significant effect on NO_x formation at lower mass fraction of pilot injection.
- As the number of injection increases, NO_x formation and engine performance decreases. This conforms to Mendez and Thirourd. [16] experimental result of multiple injections in diesel engine combustion.

4.4. Four Injection Strategy

Table 4 confirms that as the number of injection increases engine performance and NO_x formation decreases because of low temperature combustion. **Table 4** implies that increase in mass fraction of pilot injection leads to higher temperature combustion and higher NO_x formation.

5. Conclusions

The use of split injection strategies was investigated using a simplified zero dimensional thermodynamic mathematical model of a diesel engine in MATLAB environment, in order to observe how the thermodynamics variables and NO_x emission behave with respect to different injection schemes. The extended Zeldovich mechanism was used for NO_x prediction. For the validation of the mathematical model, simulations of two-pulse injection strategy were compared with real test data available in the literature. NO_x, temperatures and Torque were compared with the experimental data.

From the results obtained, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The thermodynamic behaviour of diesel engine and its NO_x emission characteristics were successfully predicted and the predicted results were in a relative good agreement with experimental test data considering the simplicity of the model.
- Average cycle temperature within the NO_x formation temperature region can be used to predict NO_x formation process with reasonable degree of accuracy.
- Injection timing of the main pulse is of great significance to NO_x and engine performance, retarding the injection reduces both the NO_x emission and engine performance.

Table 4. NO_x and Torque prediction from the model for 4-pulse injection strategy, first injection at -5 or -2 CAD (BTDC), subsequent injections at 2, 5 or 8 CAD (ATDC), fuel used per cycle 6.0 mg, engine speed 1600 rpm.

4 pulse injection strategy using different fuel quantity at different CAD								
Time (CAD)	0.5, 2.0, 3.0, 0.5 (mg)		0.5, 3.0, 2.0, 0.5 (mg)		1.0, 2.0, 2.0, 1.0 (mg)		1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.5 (mg)	
(CAD)	NO _x (ppm)	Torque (Nm)						
-2, 2, 5, 8	1.13	20.5	2.00	21.1	1.20	20.7	2.50	21.6
-5, 2, 5, 8	1.18	19.2	1.22	19.6	1.21	19.3	4.20	21.1

- As the mass fraction of fuel injection for the pilot and main injection closer to top dead centre increases, NO_x emission increases and engine performance improves.
- As the number of pulses increases, NO_x emission and engine performance decrease.
- As the dwell between injections increases, NO_x emission and engine performance decrease.
- Injecting equal mass fraction at every pulse with very close dwell between injections is not a good strategy in reducing NO_x emission.
- For optimal balance between NO_x and engine performance, mass of the pilot injection should be between 10% and 25% of the total mass of fuel used per cycle.
- Inlet temperature plays an important role in NO_x emission.

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