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Investigation of Heat Transfer and Combustion in the Advanced Fluidized Bed Combustor (FBC)

Technical Progress Report January 1998

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ABSTRACT

This technical report summarizes the research conducted and progress achieved during the period from October 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997.

Numerical simulation on the flow patterns/the velocity profiles was conducted and predicted. The test conditions and input boundary conditions are summarized.

The flow patterns of the side view/top view are predicted along with stream lines. When the flow reached to the secondary air input of the lower air injection nozzles, the flow pattern was changed from a laminar flow to a turbulent flow.

The velocity profiles at various locations of the combustor chamber were predicted. The velocity at the center of the combustor is greater than that of the wall region. The velocity of the top section is also greater than that of the lower section. The swirling velocity is reduced in both directions of the wall and the center of the combustor chamber. The velocity increased from the wall region to the center region at the top section of the secondary air injectors.

Numerical modeling/simulation will be continued to determine the species profiles, temperature profiles, mass fraction profiles, and heat flux and heat transfer coefficient profiles. In addition, experimental test on the hot combustor model will be conducted and analyzed to compare with the numerical simulation results.

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SECTION 1

NUMERICAL SIMULATION OF HOT COMBUSTOR MODEL

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the numerical simulation on the advanced swirling fluidized bed combustor (hot model) is to determine the hot flow patterns, pressure/velocity profiles, species concentration profiles, temperature profiles, and heat flux/ heat transfer coefficients. Basic governing equations, species conservation equations, and radiation heat transfer model were introduced in the previous report [1].

1.2 Test Conditions

The combustor chamber has the height of 73 cm, the inner diameter of 14 cm, the outer diameter of 17.6 cm. Two sets of secondary air nozzles are installed on the combustor wall at different levels of the height; 22.2 cm height for bottom nozzles and 41.6 cm height for top nozzles, respectively. Each nozzle is separated at 90 degree around combustor wall. The secondary air is injected into the combustor chamber from the nozzles with 45 degree of yam angle and zero degree of pitch angle. The fuel nozzle is installed at the bottom of the combustor. The primary air is provided to the bottom part of the combustor along with the fuel supply pipe.

The test conditions and input boundary conditions are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Test Conditions for Simulations

Combustor Inner Diameter(ID)	cm	14.0
Combustor Outer Diameter(OD)	cm	17.6
Combustor Height	cm	73.0
Top Secondary Nozzle	cm	41.6
Top Nozzle No.		4
Bottom Secondary Nozzle	cm	22.2
Bottom Nozzle No.		4
Nozzle Size (OD/ID)	mm	10/8.5
Nozzle Yam Angle	degree	45
Nozzle Pitch Angle	degree	0
Secondary Air Flow Rate	m ³ /min (total)	0.11
Primary Air Flow Rate	m³/min	0.0036
Fuel Supply Pipe (OD/ID)	mm	9.52/7.6
Height of Fuel Nozzle	cm	7.63
No. of Fuel Nozzle Holes		5
Hole Size of Fuel Nozzle	mm	1.8
Fuel Flow Rate	m ³ /min	0.0092
Type of Fuel	Natural Gas	CH4
For Input Air/Fuel;		
Temperature	С	22
Pressure	atm	1

SECTION 2

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1 The Flow Patterns

The flow patterns of the side view/top view on the advanced swirling fluidized bed combustor are shown along with stream lines in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The flow starts from the fuel nozzle and swirling flow along the combustor height. The diameter of the swirling flow increased as the gas flow moved upward along the combustor chamber axis.

When the flow reached to the secondary air input of the lower air injection nozzles, the flow pattern was changed from a laminar flow pattern to a turbulent flow pattern. When the flow reached to the secondary air input of the upper air injection nozzles, a horizontal flow circle was formed along the nozzles. These results showed the pressure balance in K direction where the swirling flow could reach to the combustor wall [2].

The stream lines at the bottom section of Figure 1 are same stream lines as the center zone of Figure 2. Similarly, the stream lines at the upper zone in Figure 1 are same stream lines as near the combustor wall in Figure 2. Four stream lines at the bottom/center zone sharply stretched out on the region where four nozzles are located along with a fuel injector. The results indicated that the flow patterns of radial velocity components at the fuel injection could be simulated by our test conditions.

The swirling flow patterns in Figures 1 and 2 are very similar to the observed flow patterns [3] in the combustion test. During the experimental test, the fire flame patters and condi-

Figure 1 Flow Patterns of the Side View in the Combustor

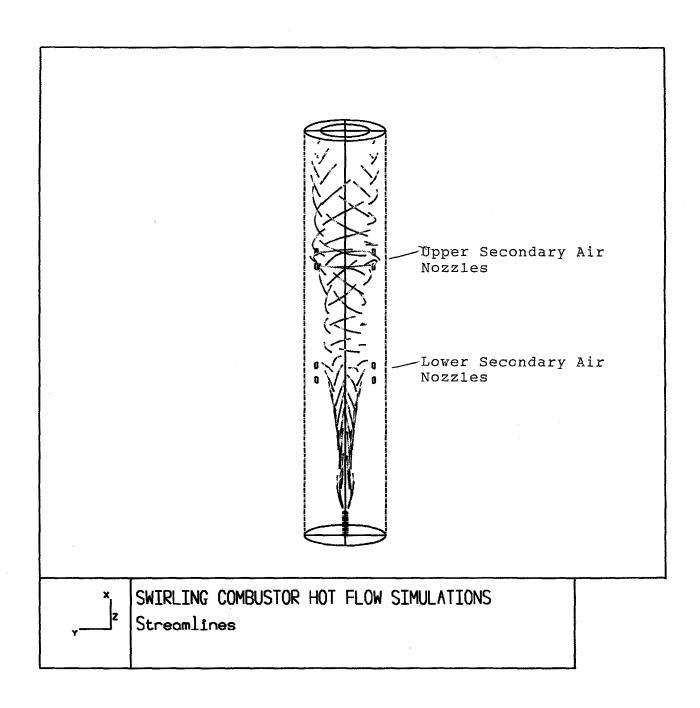
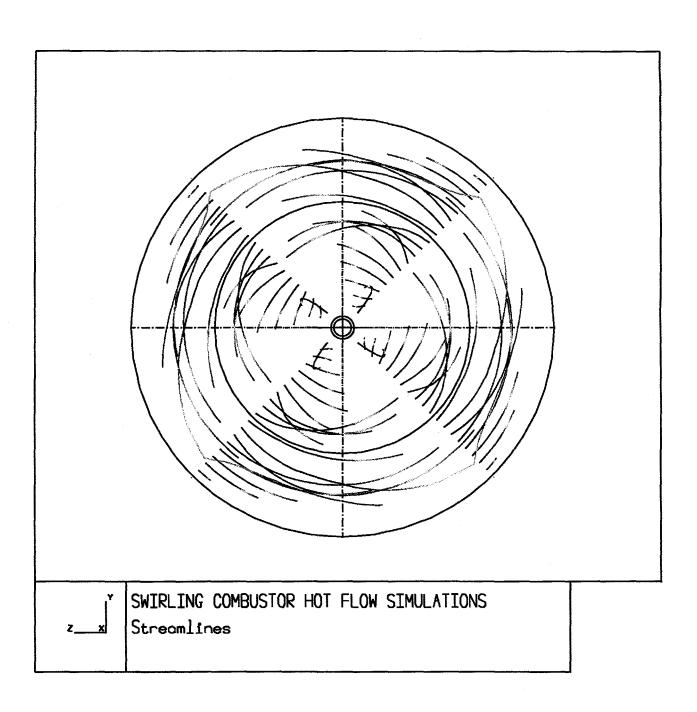


Figure 2 Flow Patterns of the Top View in the Combustor



tions are observed and recorded by VCR.

2.2 The Velocity Profiles

Figure 3 shows the side view of the velocity profile in the vertical direction. The velocity at the center is greater than that of the wall region. The velocity of the top section is also greater than that of the lower section.

Figure 4 shows velocity profiles at eight levels; K=6, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 [4]. Figure 5 shows the velocity profiles for the fuel nozzle injector at the level of K=10. Figure 6 shows velocity profiles of the lower secondary air nozzle at the level of K=30. Figure 7 shows velocity profiles of the upper secondary air nozzle at level K=50.

At level K=10, the velocity at near the wall is about 0.32 m/s. The velocity is reduced to about 3.77 m/s at near the center as shown in Figure 5. It is worth to note that the swirling velocity is reduced in both directions of the wall and the center of the combustor chamber. The highest velocity is about 4 m/s at near the wall.

At the secondary air injection levels, K=30 and K=50, the outside velocity is greater than that of the center as shown in Figures 6 and 7. The outside velocity is reduced to less than the center velocity in the level between the two secondary air injectors at K=40 as shown in Figure 4. In addition, the velocity increased from the wall region to the center region at the top section of the secondary air injectors.

At level K=30, the velocity of the secondary air nozzle

outlet is about 3.4 m/s. When the air injected into the combustor chamber, the velocity decreased rapidly. However, the whole chamber achieved the swirling flow with a core diameter as shown in Figure 6.

At level K=50, the velocity of the secondary air nozzle outlet is about 3.44 m/s as shown in Figure 7. The velocity formed the swirling flow with a core diameter, which is about half size at K=30.

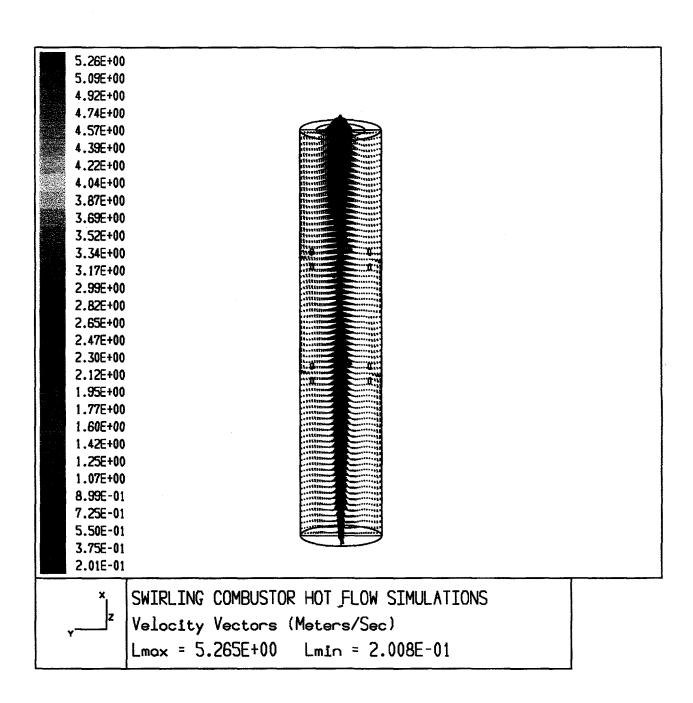


Figure 3 Velocity Profiles of the Vertical Direction in the Combustor

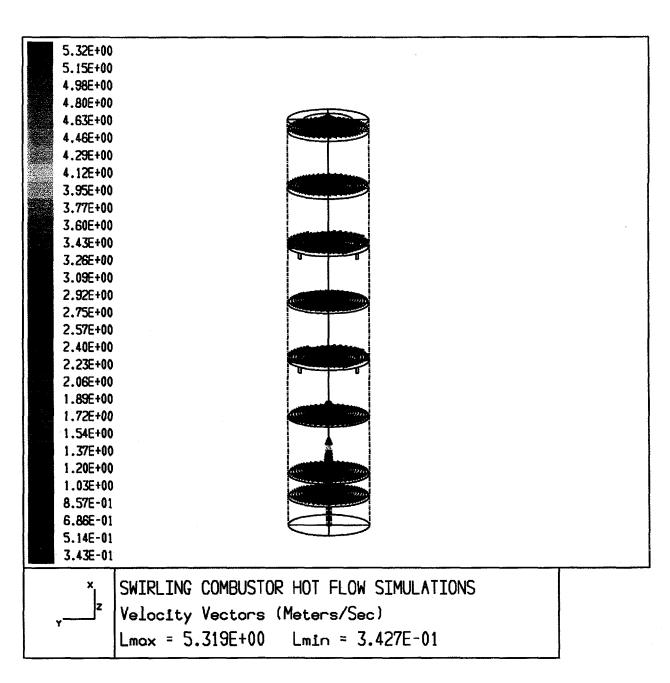


Figure 4 Velocity Profiles of the Vertical Direction at Different Levels (K=6, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 70)

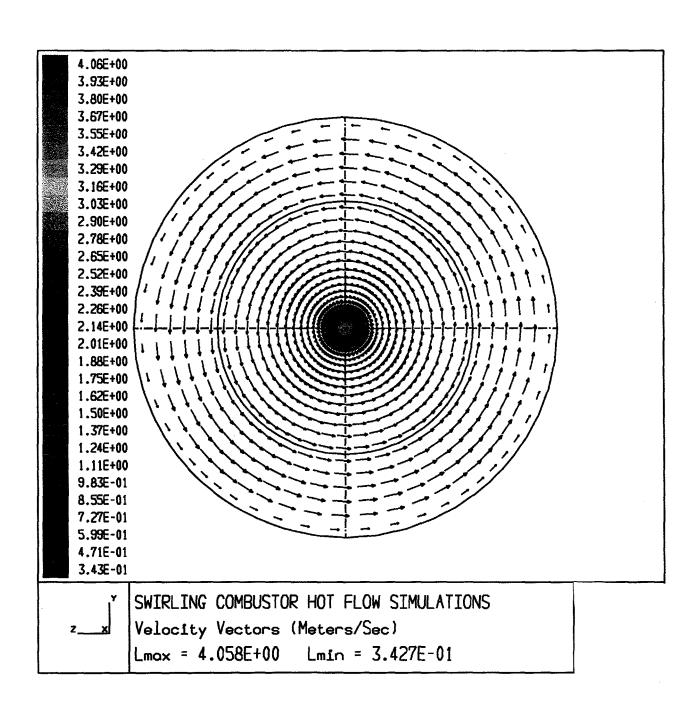


Figure 5 Velocity Profiles at Level K=10 in the Combustor

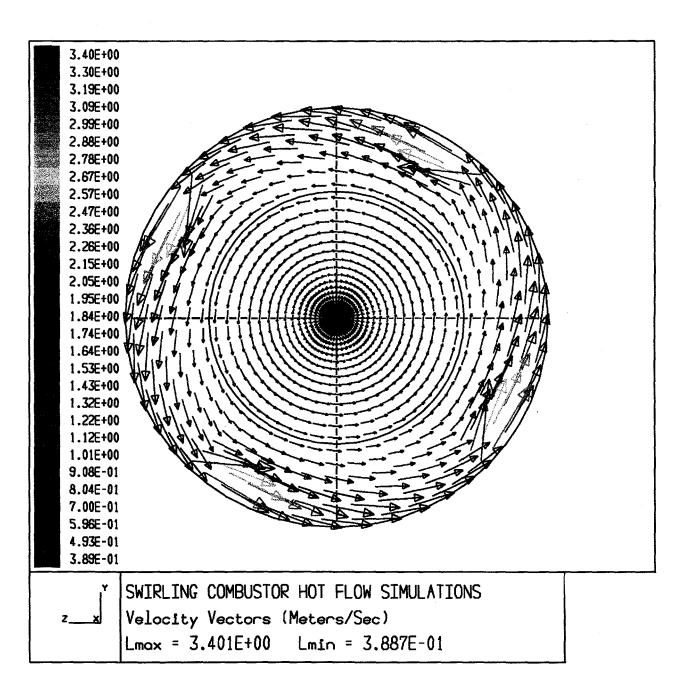


Figure 6 Velocity Profiles at Level K=30 in the Combustor

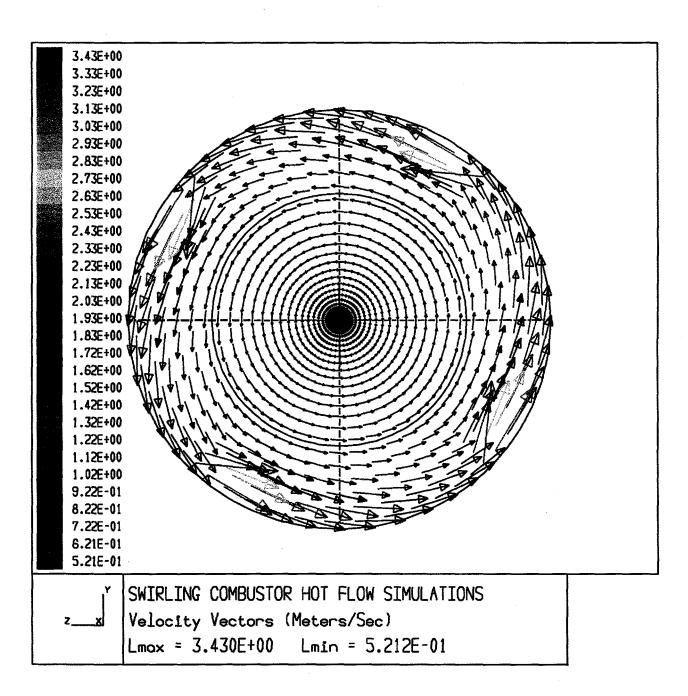


Figure 7 Velocity Profiles at Level K=50 in the Combustor

SECTION 3

CONCLUSIONS

Numerical simulation on the flow patterns and velocity profiles was conducted using a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) code, Fluent, which was loaded on to the Supercomputer Cray J916 of Morgan State University. The test conditions and input boundary conditions are summarized. The flow patterns of the side view/top view are predicted along with stream lines. When the flow reached to the secondary air input of the lower air injection nozzles, the flow pattern was changed from a laminar flow to a turbulent flow.

The velocity profiles at various locations of the combustor chamber were predicted. The swirling velocity is reduced in both directions of the wall and the center of the combustor chamber.

Numerical modeling/simulation will be continued to determine the species profiles, temperature profiles, mass fraction profiles, and heat flux/heat transfer coefficient profiles. The experimental test on the hot combustor model will be conducted and analyzed to compare with the numerical simulation results.

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