HEAT REJECTION AVOIDANCE IN COMBUSTION ENGINES

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ABSTRACT

Heat rejection to a cold reservoir is inherent of thermal machines operation. One of them, the engine cycle, aims to deliver liquid power and its efficiency increases directly proportional to the hot reservoir and inversely proportional to the cold reservoir. Most of the studies for increasing engine efficiency leads to increase the hot reservoir. This research instead, instigates the discussion of a better use of energy and heat rejection avoidance on internal combustion engines systems. It demonstrates the principle that the heat rejection improvement using liquid instead of air ran against the real objective that should have been using it better. The paper shows feasible design steps with physical, energetic and economical approach to implement an engine gas recirculation system, which uses tail pipe gases, through a supersonic Laval nozzle parallel to intake line after charge air cooler. It also purposes waste heat recovery from engine liners as heat source for a Rankine cycle. All calculus and simulations are done based on a real engine data submitted to an European Transient Cycle.
INTRODUCTION

The studied engine is an inline 4 cylinder, 4.5 liter, 4 stroke, turbocharged, water cooled, reciprocating diesel engine. It uses overhead valves and a common rail with 1800bar injection pressure for compression ignition (Figure 1). The choice of a 4 cylinder engine for this study was due to high load factor that this hardware is subjected to. As it leads to a high heat rejection amount, in terms of percentage, it is expected to reach more energy recovery than on a 6 cylinder engine with higher volume and lower load factor. In addition, the choice is also strategically better, since low packaging available will protect the design for bigger Engines. The base data for this study was obtained from a ETC objective measurement.

The most common waste heat recovery studies are related to the exhaust gases. For example, BORGWARNER, (2014) uses an organic Rankine cycle with exhaust pipes and engine recirculation systems as main Energy sources. CUMMINS, (2008) presented a complete study in the 2008 DEER (Diesel Engine Efficiency Emissions Research) demonstrating through test benches analysis that it would be possible to decrease the fuel consumption in ca. 10% by using organic Rankine cycle to recover energy from exhaust gas streams. However, with the current legislation EURO 5-CONAMAP7, resolution 403/2008, and the new legislation EURO 6 (current in EUROPE), the opportunity to use this energy is getting lower because the after treatment emissions processes are demanding high temperatures to allow the chemical reactions that decreases emissions level.

Based on a real engine measurement submitted to an ETC cycle, it is possible to notice that a high amount of energy is lost through the cooling process. As soon as a conventional Rankine Cycle shows efficiency about 30 % and assuming to recover 10% of the energy lost on the cooling system, the heat balance for the actual proposal is capable to recover up to 10 kW of liquid power.

A mathematical analysis has been performed using GT Power software enable simulations of different kind channels profiles and disposition around combustion chamber. For the EGR system without EGR cooler, a complete ETC cycle was calculated with Excel and VB. It was possible do demonstrate that the use of an supersonic Laval nozzle would be a feasible solution for mixing gases from low pressure line to the high pressure line on intake clean air flow.

The super heater for the Rankine cycle will assume some the dimensional boundary conditions from the available engine. As the conduction area will be decreased on the liners
walls (Figure 9), the heat transfer area “lost” for the forced convection cavities will need to be compensated in order to keep the internal combustion chamber temperature.

The application of this mechanism brings potential to suppress the conventional cooling system or at least downsize it. The concept of this super heater is developed together with the definition of a fluid that matches the proposed Rankine cycle.

The energy recovered using this system, converted into decrease of fuel consumption, will need to overcome the investments to worth it the Customer TCO (Total Cost of Ownership).

The development of this energy recovery system is being supported from a known commercial vehicle OEM in Brazil. All theory studies were done using a 4.5 Liter Engine.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

All results presented in this chapter are based in a real ETC cycle of an 4 cylinder 4.5 liter diesel engine that is currently in production. Circa of 18.000 measurement points were analyzed. No confidential strategy data is showed in the results and the specific know how is registered on the patent request number BR102019002884.

1.1 Baseline Engine Energy Consumption

Thermal machines presents low efficiency. Reciprocating combustion engines are not different and heat is wasted on the conversion of the chemical energy into mechanical. The most explored recovering alternatives are related to the exhaust gases, but this work intends to demonstrate the feasibility of recovering energy from the cooling system, that is nowadays it is barely explored from scientific community.

An interesting way to observe the heat balance is analyzing the complete vehicle. [2] describes it in his paper and concludes that ca. of 62% of the fuel demand is converted in Thermal Energy (Figure 2), which, nowadays is wasted. This is exactly why the researches about WHR are so intensive at this moment.
For the engine in study, the coolant system rejects less heat. Figure 3 organizes the energy distribution showing the corresponding spent at cruise speed of 1750 rpm with full load. It shows that 28% from the Energy generated by the fuel combustion is rejected through the radiator.

28% of rejection on the radiator corresponds to 105 kW. This is the result of the calculation based on the inlet and output temperatures of the Charge Air Cooler (CAC). For the current situation, the relation $Q = m\cdot c\cdot \Delta T$ is determinated from:

$$Q_{Rad} = \text{Energy rejection on the Radiator (28\% of the fuel energy generation)} = 105 \text{ kW}$$

$$Q = Q_{H} = 105 \text{ kW}$$

$\text{m} = 270 \text{ kg of coolant per minute}$

$c = 3,74 \text{ kJ/kg.K (From coolant at working temperature – data provided from supplier)}$

$\Delta T = 6.2 \text{ K}$

It is important to notice that at this point (CAC), the coolant flows at high rates, which leads to a high surface coefficient on forced convection. This convection receives the heat from engine coolant chamber also at high rates. On this region (around liners) the temperature gradient is extremely high showing a big chance of waste heat recovery.

1.2 Heat Recovery from Linners

As the research assumes the combustion chamber temperature as an important boundary condition, the heat transfer flow must kept, as well as the material behavior due to thermal fatigue. With this system, it is possible to generate work using the engine liners as a steam generator for a Rankine cycle. A side effect will also be noticed: it possible at least to downsize the original cooling system or even suppress it.
Figure 5 shows that the average temperature from exhaust gases are around 405°C reaching peaks of 630°C. The exhaust manifold itself reaches temperatures above 500°C.

Analyzing the cylinder walls, the path of the exhaust gases and its heat transfer to the coolant is showed in Figure 6. The Bottom Dead Center (BDC) wall temperature is considered 100°C and the highest temperature of 500°C is the contact between exhaust manifold and engine head. This path means the complete flow of exhaust gases inside the engine (crankcase and cylinder head). Notice that there is not a linear model to simulate forced convection from Exhaust gases to cylinder wall and from cylinder wall to the coolant. The cylinder temperature gradient needs to be considered on the simulation.

Notice in Figure 7 that the combustion chamber walls faces a permanent energy flow that comes from the chamber to the coolant galleries. The combustion chamber walls can reach temperatures up to 250°C. As the coolant evaporation temperature is around 110°C on the max system pressure, the external chamber wall cannot be over this temperature ($T_s$). The
estimated temperature distribution through the liners walls in a specific thickness position is shown in Figure 9. Assuming that the engine combustion chamber temperatures cannot be impacted from the project, the chamber heat extraction must always be kept independently on the way it is extracted from the walls.

If $Q_S$ could eventually assume the $Q_H$ value, it would mean completely suppressing the conventional coolant system. This schema is part of the hole project conclusion and can be seen in Figure 29. The heat extraction from engine liners will be limited by the heat rejection from the material and channel profile used around the liners (heat exchanger). The construction of the super heater would also influence on the heat transfer. The concept of a liner with internal channel could Figure 9.

To evaluate if an alternative heat extraction could eventually substitute the complete cooling system, an analysis of the coolant galleries was performed. The engine coolant galleries are represented in Figure 10.

Assuming the engine as a control volume, the mass flow (in/out) is 270kg per min. It flows constantly through the galleries with a complete heat exchange surface of 4.4 m2. Despite the losses through convection around the engine and periphery, the heat transferred to the coolant in the engine in study is 105 kW which would mean roughly 23.86 kW per m2. It is clear that not all the surface is in contact with a high heat source, but considering the turbulence and high speed flow, this estimation is a confident value for the objective in discussion.
For the simulation, round section channels (Figure 11) were considered around the liners with thermal conductivity equal to the current crankcase cast iron. The heat transfer with phase transfer inside a circular tube is defined by [24]:

\[
\frac{d}{hq} = 0.683 \left( \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_l} \right)^{0.11} (1 - \chi)^{0.8} (F) + 105 \left( \frac{\Delta T}{T_{0}} \right) (1 - \chi)^{0.8},
\]

or

\[
\frac{d}{hq} = 1.136 \left( \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_l} \right)^{0.45} (1 - \chi)^{0.8} (F) + 667 \left( \frac{\Delta T}{T_{0}} \right) (1 - \chi)^{0.8},
\]

\[0 < \chi < 0.8\]

The liner temperature profile is shown in Figure 12. The OEM design proposal for the super heater itself cannot be yet shown in this thesis due to rights protection, but the simulations confirm the feasibility of this proposal, which has already been tried and registered on other patents [23]. The consideration for internal flow into circular tubes are based on Figure 13.

Using the GT Power software with application of the chosen geometry and premises, 7 different scenarios were simulated trying to find a way to get super-heated fluid on the liners output. All cases were analyzed considering the cast iron thermal conductivity, ethanol as working fluid, same distance between the channels rings, 10 bar of pressure input, 800C of
temperature input, 400 discretization steps and same liner diameter. The term channel geometry is a composition of channel diameter with distance to chamber wall;

Figure 14: Liner evaporator: Case 1 [39]

Figure 14 shows case 1, which considered channel geometry 1 (R=68.5 mm and channel diameter of 3.5 mm). The mass flow is 1g/s. The simulation showed a laminar flow and low pressure loss, but low heat transfer (0.2 kW) and no evaporation.

The case 2 uses the same channel geometry from case 1, but higher mass flow (2g/s). The result was an almost completely evaporated output (1.74 kW). 9.9 bar output.

The case 3 used the same geometry from case 2, but increased mass flow to 5g/s. It resulted in less evaporation than case 2 (approximately 42%), but had a high heat output absorbed by the working fluid (2.61 kW). It would be an interesting condition to work in series downstream of one next evaporator. For example post after treatment system.

The case 4 can be good compared with 2, since the mass flow is also 2g/s and just the channel diameter was changed to 3 mm (Channel geometry 2). It leaded to a slightly better heat exchange (1.84 kW), but increased pressure drop (9.7 bar).

The case 5 increases mass flow to 5g/s keeping geometry 2. It improved heat exchange (2.67 kW at output) but showed higher pressure drop (9.1 bar output).

The case 6 is better comparable with case 4 because it changes just wall thickness to chamber assuming the channel geometry 3 and mass flow. It was noted a sensible improvement in heat transfer (1.94 kW) and complete phase change with superheated outlet. This condition is indicated for installation of expander in series upstream evaporator.
The case 7 kept channel geometry 3 and, in relation to case 6, the mass flow is increased to 3 g/s. A sensible improvement of heat transfer was observed.

Heat transfer ability increases progressively on the seven simulated steps, showing the influence of the channel geometry as well as the mass flow ratio.

Based on the data from case 7, the spring profile around the liners presents a 13.7 m long tube with 3 mm diameter and total shell area of 0.13 m². Considering the total heat transfer ability of 2892 W, the heat extraction is 22.2 kW/m².

Smaller channels diameter improves heat transfer at low and medium mass flows due to turbulent flow. Low wall thickness improves heat absorption of the working fluid, limitation by material strength. Liner evaporator is suitable for generation of steam or mixed steam for subsequent superheating in other evaporator in series. Considerable heat absorption into the working fluid. Smaller channels diameter increases pressure loss, especially in the superheated area. Limitation by the permissible wall temperature prevents overheating at higher pressures.

The mathematical model was simplified for a round section in order to use existing empirical data, but improvements on the profile and use of better conductivity materials can increase the potential transfer ability.

The evaporator to run a Rankine cycle must fulfill the dimensional boundary conditions from the available engine liners. As the conduction area will be decreased on the liners walls, like showed in the model from Figure 9, the heat transfer area “lost” for the forced convection cavity needs to be dimensioned in a way to compensate the Heat extraction from combustion chamber. This situation can potentially mean \( \text{QH} = \text{QS} \) (Figure 9) and is necessary to keep the internal combustion chamber temperature.

The working fluid for the purposed Rankine cycle shall be ideally the same from the cooling system, which shall be easily available on the market. Nevertheless, the fluid that matches this requirement (ethanol), brings a lot of concerns regarding safety of the system.

The use of ethanol in a Waste Heat Recovery (WHR) system from the OEM shows corrosion and performance effectiveness to support the decision of using it in a OCR cycle. A system, at this moment not integrated to the cooling, is now running tests, but unfortunately the specifications and safety features are non-disclosure at the moment.

With the definition of the cycle fluid, one positive displacement pump needs to be specified in order to control the working fluid flow and an expander can be defined based on the reached steam generation obtained from the mathematical model.

The application of a system able to recovery energy from the cooling system has potential to substitute the conventional cooling system or at least downsize it. The concept of this super heater allows the application of an WHR without need of extra installation package that is one of the biggest challenges on the existing WHR vehicle proposals.
1.3 Cold Engine Gas Recirculation System

Using the exhaust gases parameters combined with the measured temperatures $T_{AGR\_VK}$ and $T_{AGR\_NK}$ (Figure 15), the first penalty on the energy balance is a consumption of 19.5 kW to cool down the exhaust gases before it comes back into the intake line. The second energy penalty is that the Exhaust gases that could be used for performance on the turbocharger are drained to supply the Engine Gas Recirculation (EGR) demand. It causes an intangible loss of performance when the gases that could drive the turbocharger are used to come back into intake line. This side effect is not calculated in this thesis.

![Figure 15: Measurement points from the ETC cycle [17]](image)

EGR systems are used to decrease combustion temperature at specific engine loads and consequently the NOx emissions. The Figure 16 shows the EGR demand in comparison with the engine intake fresh air. The EGR system from the base line engine (Figure 17) uses the inert gases from the exhaust manifold before the turbocharger. This point is directly connected to the intake manifold and on its way there is a control valve and a heat exchanger that decreases the exhaust gases temperature before mixing it with the fresh air.

In a conventional 4 cylinder Diesel Engine, decreasing exhaust gases temperatures from 600°C to 100°C can mean a sensitive loss of energy. Some concepts has been developed to decrease the inlet temperature, but most of them stops on the presence of particulate on the turbocharger compressor wheels.

The present work purposes a high flow variable valve to mix exhaust gases from vehicle tail pipe (lower possible temperature) with the pressurized fresh air on the intake line (after turbocharger) either before or after Charge Air Cooler (CAC). In order to study the possibility to the mix the low pressure line (Exhaust gases) with the high pressure line (fresh air), one ETC cycle measurement from the base line engine was done.
Notice that the EGR demand reaches peaks of 30% of complete intake air, but sensitively varies on the engine working cycle. The EGR rate average, in comparison with fresh air for the ETC cycle from Figure 16, is 19.27%.

Based on the data from Figure 18 it is possible to calculate that the average temperature before the turbocharger is 403°C reaching picks of more than 600°C. As it is necessary to spend energy to cool down those gases, an obvious solution for that would be capturing the exhaust gases from a lower temperature point. In a combustion engine vehicle, this point is known as tail pipe, which, in this case, reaches temperatures lower then 300°C maintaining an average of 253°C as showed in Figure 18.

Taking inert gases from this point would mean directly a 40% decrease of the EGR system heat rejection: 

\[(403°C \times 253°C)\]

Even the fuel consumption reduction estimation are not simple, if 6 kW heat rejection avoidance could be directly converted in useful power, it would mean 3.5% of the 164 kW power from the engine in study.

Unfortunately taking the inert gases from the tail pipe is not an easy task. Alternatives like Low Pressure EGR are possible solution, but the contact from the particulate with the compressor wheel from turbo charger are not desirable. The technical requirement for durable systems are very expensive and doesn’t worth it taking the EGR cooler out from the system.

Therefore, the proposal from this work is taking the inert gases from the tail pipe and mixing it with fresh air after the turbocharger compressor.
In Figure 19, it is possible to understand how different are the pressures from the tail pipe line and the fresh air line after turbocharger compression. Notice that more than 60% from 18,000 delta pressure points measured in this ETC cycle are under 1 bar. The remaining measured points works on 2bar or 3bar difference, 20% each.

![Figure 19: Delta pressure between low and high pressure lines.](image)

At the same time that the delta pressure is not constant, the EGR demand are also not. In Figure 20 the EGR demand 100% means 30% of the engine complete intake (fresh air + Recirculated gases).

![Figure 20: EGR demand distribution](image)

The combination of delta pressure and EGR demand is shown in Figure 21. A mechanism to mix those pressure lines must be developed to mix 100% of EGR demand.
As the Bernoulli principle works for all situations were uncompressible air flow increases, a system was designed to allow pressure drop by increasing air speed just when exhaust gases are necessary. This design enables the system to decrease the heat rejection in about 9kW, what means ca of 40% heat rejection avoidance.

The Figure 22 shows the temperature that would result from the mixture of the fresh air directly with the tail pipe exhaust gases. Note that this configuration does not consider recuperation of any energy post after treatment system. If such system is considered in parallel, the exhaust gases would have even lower temperatures.

A conventional VENTURI system uses the Bernoulli principle increasing the flow speed in order to decrease the flow pressure and consequently mix the low pressure (Exhaust Tail pipe) with high pressure (Fresh Air) lines. The Figure 23 shows the involver pressures.
To reach 3 bar reduction on the fresh air intake line, it would be necessary to reduce the cross section in more than 50%. As can be observed in Figure 21, the full EGR demand is not necessarily coincident with high delta pressure demands, which leads to the conclusion that a conventional VENTURI installed in the intake line would cause unnecessary pressure drop throughout the engine map.

To avoid this condition, a “variable venture” concept was created. In Figure 24 there is a control valve on the fresh air track which controls the back pressure in order to derivate the flow to the line where the Venture is located. With this action, when EGR is not necessary, the control valve opens and the fresh air flows with no restriction.
For stationary conditions the pressure drop can be calculated as follows:

\[
(p_1 - p_2) = \frac{\rho}{2} \times \left(1 - \left(\frac{A_2}{A_1}\right)^2\right) \left(\frac{Q_1}{Q_2}\right)^2
\]

Although [22] shows that the venture equations are representative just for uncompressible flow. The identification of this transition is determinate by the flow speed. In Figure 25 both situations are showed.

Mach (M) is the number defined by the division from the current speed by the sound speed. This parameter leads to calculations for compressible flow in some points of the engine map in study. Notice in Figure 26 that the pressure drop between fresh air line and tail pipe cannot reach values over 1.5 bar. Over this limit, the speed inside the venture overcomes sound speed and its behavior cannot anymore be modelled with the conventional venture theory. There is also a risk of inverting the behavior. It means that instead of lowering the pressure, it could be even higher, like showed in Figure 25.
To overcome the technical restriction imposed from the uncompressible flow, the purposed system had the conventional venture concept substituted by a supersonic Laval nozzle that can be observed in Figure 27. It consists in a system which drops pressure and increases flow velocity. This system is commonly used in aircraft jet engines to increase speed. When the fluid starts a supersonic flow on the throat, the pressure drop will appear right after the throat and not directly on it.

![Figure 27: Laval nozzle temperature, pressure and velocity behavior [44]]

The calculation point by point on the ETC cycle shows that a Laval nozzle completely in series with the fresh air flow would need through diameters that varies between 13 mm and 21 mm. As the with 13 mm, the pressure drop is already enough to fulfill the hole map from Figure 21. Therefore, the project was dimensioned to reach $M=1$ on the throat at lowest air available intake flow. In Figure 28 it is possible to see the purposed supersonic Laval nozzle cross section and channels for the exhaust gases admission.

![Figure 28: Variable supersonic laval nozzle cross section]

1.4 Consolidated system

With a cold EGR and an evaporator around liners able to substitute the conventional cooling system, a complete new system shows feasibility to be built and can be observed in Figure 29.
The ETANOL would substitute the old coolant as working fluid. The CONDENSER would work in place of the old coolant radiator. The RECUPERATOR would be a heat exchanger liquid x air that would substitute the old charge air cooler air x air. The EVAPORATOR around the engine heat sources would substitute the complete engine coolant galleries.

CONCLUSION

EGR heat rejection was 19,5 kW with a delta temperature of 323 K (403-80). As this delta drops to 173k (253-80), the energy spent would be 10,4 kW, what means a heat rejection avoidance of 9,1 kW. It can be converted in a smaller radiator for the old system or to a smaller condenser on the purposed new one.

The conventional coolant system rejects 23,86 kW/m2 with coolant and the mathematical model of a evaporator with simple round cross section is able to extract 21,5 kW/m2. It was demonstrates that the coolant system can be completely substituted by evaporators around the “hot spots” in the engine. It would mean transferring 105 kW to the ORC working fluid.

By changing the dry charge air cooler to a wet one using the same ethanol line on it would mean extra 23,4 kW (measured data) transferred to the ORC for WHR.

WHR potential = (105 kW – 19,5kW) + (23,4 +10,4kW) = 119,3 kW

Conventional Rankine cycles doesn’t use to have more than 30% of efficiency. If this system can be able to recover between 10% and 30% of it, it would mean between 12 kW and 36 kW back to the power line. I would easy represent extra 10% of extra power or 10% less diesel consumption.

Note that the system has potential to be cheaper than the old system and will include one extra function: the heat recovery. Today the expander cannot still be clearly priced because there wasn’t until now large scale production of it. As constructively, it doesn’t differ a lot from an air conditioning compressor, it should not cost more than 50% more than the known part.
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