

Multi-scale modeling of aerosol formation in pipe flow

C. Winkelmann¹, A.K. Kuczaj¹, S. Stolz^{1,2} and B.J. Geurts^{2,3}

¹Philip Morris International R&D, Philip Morris Products SA, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

²Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Twente, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands

³Department of Applied Physics, Eindhoven University of Technology, 5300 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Motivation

- Establish **computational multiphysics model** for prediction of aerosol composition and size
- Integrate and couple aerosol formation model into **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)** flow evolution simulations
- Development of **smoking products** with the potential to **reduce the risks of smoking-related diseases**
- Disease risk is related to **aerosol composition** and **deposition behavior** in the respiratory tract, related to **droplet size**

Multi-scale aerosol model strategy development

- In-silico computational platform** for development of new products
- Inclusion of physical phenomena specific to our applications**
- Requirements for the aerosol model implementation:**
 - Cope with dense aerosols
 - Small number of variables
 - Good computational efficiency
- Temporal aerosol multi-scale model:**
 - Time scale of nucleation-growth coupling is much faster than time scale of simulated flow
 - Sub-time-step model required for aerosol formation (nucleation and initial growth)
 - Larger time steps in simulations for the same accuracy of predictions

Computational Fluid Dynamics approach

Numerical simulations of Navier-Stokes equations for a multi-phase flow

Eulerian aerosol model coupled with a flow solver:

- Mass fractions for composition (gas phase Y_i and droplet phase Z_i)

- Number density N

$$\frac{d(\rho Y_i)}{dt} = -S_{nuc,i} - S_{growth,i}$$

$$\frac{d(\rho Z_i)}{dt} = S_{nuc,i} + S_{growth,i}$$

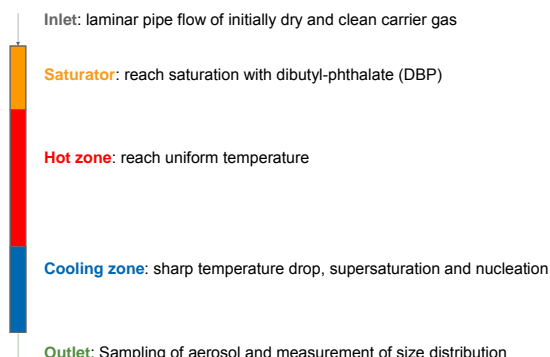
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = J_{nuc} - J_{coag} - J_{evap}$$

Mechanisms & assumptions:

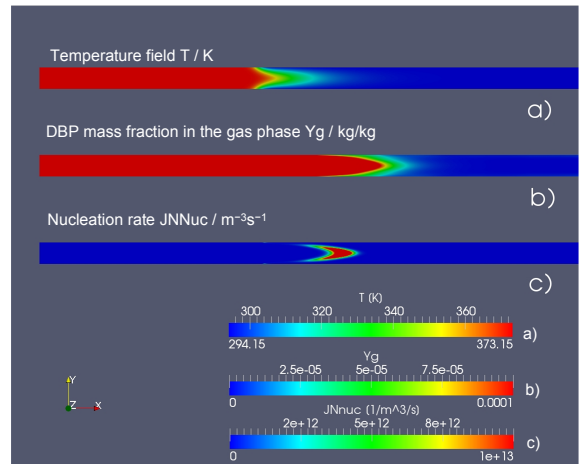
- Nucleation:** Classical **multicomponent nucleation theory** (Arstila et al.), no tuning parameters
- Growth:** Standard Condensation (and Evaporation) theory (Friedlander)
- Coagulation:** Coagulation theory for polydisperse aerosols (Lee & Chen)
- Assume log-normal size distribution with fixed geometric standard deviation

Aerosol formation in a laminar pipe flow

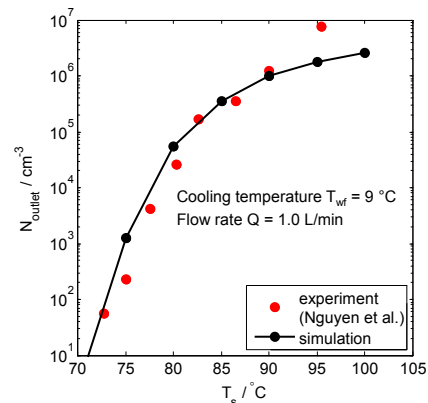
Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) aerosol formation and growth in a laminar cooled pipe flow (Nguyen)



Model validation



Snapshots from a laminar flow simulation of dibutyl phthalate (DBP)



Particle/droplet number density measured at outlet N_{outlet} as function of saturator temperature T_s

Model verification and validation:

- Convergence studies for single and multi-component systems
- Sensitivity to temporal and spatial resolution for CFD coupled simulations
- Various flow rates and cooling temperatures

Concluding remarks

Conclusions:

- Aerosol model with very small set of variables
- Integration of the model into CFD simulation platform
- Good reproduction of experimental results without tuning parameters

Outlook:

- Ongoing analysis of efficiency improvement by sub-time-step model
- Validation and application to multicomponent aerosol formation systems
- Influence of turbulence on aerosol generation and evolution

References

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