

From non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces to lean premixed combustion in gas turbines:

A comprehensive review, updates, and reflections on low-emission combustion applications and project management

Shanglong Zhu 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 Dutch Section of the Combustion Institute

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# Main content

1. Self introduction

2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces

3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines

4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines

5. Reflection

# **1. Self introduction**



- Since~1999, being involved in (renewable) energy field
- University (theory)  $\rightarrow$  Industry (practice)  $\rightarrow$  Academic (theory)  $\rightarrow$  Industry (practice)
- R&D of gaseous, solid and liquid fuels' utilization
- Driven by needs and interest; seize opportunities to learn

#### Dr. ir. MBA Shanglong Zhu

- ✓ Building Environment and Equipment Engineering (Bachelor)
- ✓ Computer Science and Technology (Bachelor)
- ✓ Thermal Engineering (Master)
- ✓ Thermal Engineering (PhD)
- ✓ EMBA
- ✓ Member of IC,ASME,IEEE,PAiE, etc.

# Main footprint 1999











# CCC (Clean Combustion Concept) projects

Executed in collaboration between universities in the Netherlands and industrial partners (2009-2014) Main sponsor: Technology Foundation STW

HiTAC – Heavy fuel-oil combustion in a HiTAC boiler

**XCiDE** – Crossing combustion modes in **diesel Engines** 

MILDNOx – NOx formation and fuel flexibility in dilute combustion

**ULRICO** – Ultra rich combustion of **natural gas** and **soot** formation

**BiOxyFuel** - Torrefied **biomass** combustion under oxy fuel conditions

**MoST** - Multi-scale modification of **swirling combustion** for optimized **gas turbines** 

ALTAS - Advanced low NOx flexible fuel gas turbine combustion, aero and stationary

**FlexFLOX** - **Flameless combustion** conditions and efficiency improvement of single- and multi-burner-FLOX<sup>®</sup> furnaces in relation to **changes in fuel and oxidizer** composition

# HiTAC – Heavy fuel-oil combustion in a HiTAC boiler

Collaboration of University Twente, TU Delft, Stork Technical Services and Shell Project leader: T.H. Van der Meer, U Twente

Laboratory experiments Light fuel oil

Laser diagnostics to study:

Atomization process Ignition Entrainment Burnout

Providing a database for validation

Model development and numerical simulations

Spray combustion models for light and heavy fuel oil Turbulence Heat transfer Emissions: NOx, CO and soot



UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

Field test

Heavy fuel oil

Water-steam cycles

analysis

CONDENSE

TURBINE

GENERATOR





#### the Dunning-Kruger Effect

Ouestioning whether you

Pretty damn sure you know a whole lot and feeling great about it C

# Self introduction

- Since~1999, being involved in (renewable) energy field



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# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces-peak T vs. avg T



(M. Khosravy el\_Hossaini, Review of the new combustion technologies in modern gas turbines, Process in Gas Turbine Performance (2013): 978-953)

# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces- flame type



(A. G. Rao and Y. Levy, A new combustion methodology for low emission gas turbine engines, in 8th HiTAC conference (2010))

# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces-- NOx



(Utkarsha Sonawane & Avinash Kumar Agarwal, Novel Internal Combustion Engine Technologies for Performance Improvement and Emission Reduction, 15 June 2021, pp 197–220)

# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces- liquid fuel



Experimental (left) and numerical (right) results from ethanol combustion

in cold co-flow (top) and hot co-flow (bottom)

(Shanglong Zhu, Artur Pozarlik, Dirk Roekaerts, Hugo Correia Rodrigues, Theo van der Meer, Numerical investigation towards HiTAC conditions in laboratory-scale ethanol spray combustion, Fuel, Vol. 211, 1 January 2018, pp 375-389)

# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces–T, NOx, CO, HC



# 2. Non-premixed combustion in industrial furnaces- diffusion vs. premixed



In gas turbine industry, premixed combustion is widely used to reduce NOx emissions



# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines



- 1791, John Barber introduced a design of GT;
- In 19<sup>th</sup> century, GT was under development, but no product yet;
- In 1900, Carnot, Gibbs and Maxwell established the laws of thermodynamics;
- In 1939, Brown Boveri Corporation designed, manufactured and operated the first industrial GT.

#### The World's First Industrial Gas Turbine Set at Neuchâtel (1939)



Layout of the single-stage gas turbine set without recuperator

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- ABB



(1939, **Brown Boveri Corporation** designed and manufactured the world's first industrial GT) Brown Boveri Corporation) : founded by Charles Brown(UK) and Walter Boveri (Germany) in 1891, and headquartered in Baden, Switzerland;



- In January 1988, Brown Boveri merged with ASEA to form Asea Brown Boveri (ABB). Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland; Asbestos case
- From 1998, ABB started to sell its main power generation business to Alstom.

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Alstom



- In 1928, Alsthom was established in France by the merger between the electric engineering division of Société Alsacienne de Constructions Mécaniques (Als) and Compagnie Française Thomson-Houston (thom), with its headquarters in Paris;
- In 1932, acquired Electricite de France; in 1976, acquired Atlantic Shipyard; in the late 1980s, acquired part of Belgium's ACEC;
- In 1989, a merger with parts of the British General Electric Company formed GEC Alsthom;
- In 1998, Alstom was listed on the Paris Stock Exchange and changed its name to Alstom in the same year.

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Alstom



- In 1999, to compete with GE, Alstom and ABB formed joint venture APP, and developed the GT24 and GT26 gas turbine generator sets with the largest power (240,000 kilowatts) and the highest design efficiency (54%) in the world at that time;
- In 2000, Alstom acquires all shares in the power generation business from ABB; Design accident
- From 2003, financial difficulties;
- In 2013, the United States arrested Alstom Vice President
  Pierucci. GE and Siemens bid for Alstom;
- In 2015, GE's acquisition of the power and grid sector was obtained, after Alstom sold its heavy-duty gas turbine business (GT26&GT36 and US Power System Manufacturing PSM Company) to Ansaldo Energia.
- In 2021, Ansaldo Energy sold its Ansaldo Thomassen and
  PSM to Hanwha Group (South Korean).

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Ansaldo



- In1853, Ansaldo was founded in Genova, Italy;
- > Business after the acquisition of ATH and PSM in 2014:
  - **GE** Frame 5 6B 9E
  - Alstom GT26/36
  - **AE** V94.2, 64.3, 94.3
  - Mitsubishi 501F 701F GE 6F 9F etc.

Туре	ISO power (MW)		Frequency (Hz)
	Simple cycle	Combined cycle (depending on configuration)	
GT36-S5	560+ (43.0%)	760÷1,525	50
GT26	370 (41.0%)	540÷1,083	50
AE94.3A	340 (40.3%)	495÷992	50
AE94.2	191 (36.8%)	287÷578	50
AE64.3A	80 (36.4%)	120÷243	50/60

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- GE



- In 1949, the world's first gas turbine for power generation was put into commercial operation at the power station in Bell Island, Oklahoma, USA. This Frame3 gas turbine was designed and manufactured by GE, with an output of 3.5MW (actually larger);
- In 1951, the two-shaft intercooled regenerative gas turbine was introduced;
- In 1953, the first reheated intercooled regenerative gas turbine was put into commercial use;
- In 1960, the first CCGT station was put into commercial use;
- In 1968, the first LM light GT was introduced (J79 aeroengine → LM1500);
  In 1969, LM2500;
- In 1970, the Frame5 and Frame7 series came out, and GE cooperated with Alstom to develop the Frame9 single-shaft gas engine (BBC launched GT11 and GT13 at the same time);
- In 1971, the first E-class (7E) gas turbine was unveiled;
- In 1972, Frame7B (51.8MW) came out;
- In 1975, Frame9B (80.7MW) came out;
- In 1978, the first 6B-class gas turbine came out (DLN was introduced in 1991);
- In 1988, LM6000 came out;
- In 1990, the first 7F was put into operation (in the same period, Westinghouse cooperated with Mitsubishi to launch the 501F gas turbine in 1989;
- Siemens launched the V94.3 gas turbine in 1991; ABB launched the GT24 at the end of 1991 (60 Hz)/GT26 (50 Hz) gas turbine);
- In 1992, the first 9F gas turbine came out;
- In 2003, GE released its first 9H-class gas turbine;
- In 2005, Frame 6C came out;
- In 2014, GE launched HA-class gas turbines. Turbine vapor cooling OUT

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-aeroengine

# Frank Whittle - Britain

- Patent 1930
  - First Practical Form Of Modern Gas Turbine
  - Publsihed 1932
- ♦ First Engine
  - Development 1935/6
  - ♦ Test 1939
  - ♦ W-1 Turbojet Engine
  - Shipped To US
- ◆ First Flight May 15, 1941
  - Gloster E.28/38
  - Shipped To US
- National A & S Museum



(RAE, Frank Whittle) (in 1941, first flight of Glouster E28/39, powered by W-1)

- In 1930, Frank Whittle (British) registered a patent, and the W-1 gas turbine/engine first flew in 1941;
- In 1937, the first test device by German Hans von Ohain ran on externally supplied hydrogen, later developed to power the world's first flyable all-jet aircraft, the Heinkel He 178 (He 178 V1) in August 1939;
- Ernst Heinrich Heinkel, a famous German aircraft designer and manufacturer. The He-111, which first flew in 1935, became the main bomber of the Luftwaffe.
- In 1935, he cooperated with rocket expert von Braun and began to develop rockets.





# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Westinghouse



- In the early 1940s, the American Westinghouse Electric Corporation (founded in 1886) began theoretical research on aeroengines and gas turbines;
- In 1942, Westinghouse received a contract from the U.S. military for two X19 engines;
- In 1943, its first aero engine, WE19A, began testing -> WE19B;
  1944, J30 (FH-1 fighter);
- In 1945, Westinghouse began to design and develop industrial gas turbines based on its J30 experience;
- In 1948, Westinghouse's first industrial gas turbine W21
  (2000 horsepower, single shaft) was launched;
- In 1952, W81 came out (5.7MW, 21% efficiency) -> W201,
  W31 (2.2MW), W121 (9MW) -> W171, W191 (18MW);
- In 1954, the first 3600rpm gas turbine W201 came out (18MW);
- ➢ 1968, W501 (45MW);
- ➤ 1976, W501D5 (95MW);
- ➤ 1981, W501D5 (107MW);
- 1993, W501F (160MW, using 3D computer code);
- ➤ 1995, W501D5A (118MW);
- In 1998, Westinghouse was acquired by Siemens;
- > W501F→SGT6-5000F; W501G→SGT6-6000G.

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Siemens





- In 1847, Werner von Siemens founded the company;
- In 1942, the JUMO 004 aircraft engine designed under the leadership of Anselm Franz made its first flight and became the first mass-produced aircraft engine (the turbine was based on the steam turbine technology of Berlin-based AEG Company). He himself immigrated to the United States after World War II, but in 1948 group member Rudolph Friedrich stayed in Germany to work on gas turbines at the Siemens factory;
- In 1948, Siemens began to get involved in gas turbines, but was limited to theoretical research due to restrictions;
- In 1950, Siemens was approved to develop gas turbines and developed VM1 (1.5MW) and VM3 (2.8MW, efficiency 26%) based on JUMO 004;
- > In 1956, the development of VM5 (5.6MW, efficiency 29%, 1956-1998) began;
- In 1962, VM80 was put into operation (23.4MW, efficiency 32%);
- In 1969, Siemens cooperated with AEG to establish KWU and acquired it entirely in 1977;
- In the 1970s, Siemens developed the V94.2 and V84.2 gas engines (symmetrical two combustion chambers); →V94.3 (SGT5-4000F); V84.3 (SGT6-4000F) and V64.3;
- After acquiring Westinghouse in 1998, SGT5-8000H (340MW; multi-tube) was developed;
- In 2017, SGT5-9000HL (545MW), SGT6-9000HL (374MW) and SGT5-8000HL (453MW) were launched.

# 3. A brief introduction of the history of gas turbines-- Mitsubishi



- In 1948, Westinghouse's first industrial gas turbine W21 (2000 horsepower, single shaft) was launched;
- In 1963, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries purchased the patent license from Westinghouse and manufactured the first 730°C rated MW-171 gas turbine;
- In 1976, the 1000°C grade M701B gas turbine was developed by digesting and absorbing Westinghouse technology, but it was only factory tested and not officially commercialized;
- In 1984, based on Westinghouse technology, the world's first 1150°C grade M701D heavy-duty gas turbine using a premixed combustor was successfully launched;
- In 1986, independently developed and produced the 1250°C grade MF-111 industrial gas turbine;
- In 1987, M501F was jointly developed with Westinghouse until Westinghouse was acquired by Siemens in 1998; M501F→M701F (F3, F4, F5)→M501G starting from 1993
- In 1988, H25 was commercially launched; in 1991, H15; in 2010, H100;
- From 1997 to 2010, M501G was tested at the experimental power station; in 1999, M701G;
- Since 2004, the Japanese government has funded the research and development of key component technologies for 1700°C ultra-high temperature gas turbines;
- In 2010, M501J began product validation testing and longterm commercial assessment operations;
- > In 2015, M701J put into operation;  $\rightarrow$  M501J AC and M701 JAC.

# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– Brayton Cycle

# **Brayton Cycle**

A thermodynamic cycle that describes the workings of the gas turbine engine

- 1-2 Isentropic compression 2-3 Isobaric heat addition
- 3-4 Isentropic expansion 4-1 I

4-1 Isobaric heat rejection



# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– Brayton Cycle



#### 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- Brayton Cycle



# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- Brayton Cycle



# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- Brayton Cycle

Relevant factors to the real efficiency:

- P2/P1
- T3/T1

Note:

The pressure ratio at max. efficiency is different from the pressure ratio at max. specific work



a & a':  $T_3 = 1000 \text{ K} = 727 \text{ °C}$ b & b':  $T_3 = 1200 \text{ K} = 927 \text{ °C}$ c & c':  $T_3 = 1400 \text{ K} = 1127 \text{ °C}$ d & d':  $T_3 = 1600 \text{ K} = 1327 \text{ °C}$ 

- Material's tolerance to high temperature, etc:
  - Cooling
  - Hot gas path parts' maintenance, etc.

Emissions

4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– T3

How do we reduce T for low emissions (thermal NOx), while the efficiency is still kept high (T3)?

- Peak T vs. avg T
- Diffusion vs. premixed









PREMIX FLAME



4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- firing T



### 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– IGV's



influence of the variable inlet guide vanes (IGV's)

# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- considerations for tuning

#### • Main Operating Constraints:

- Emissions NOx & CO
- Combustion Dynamics

#### Other Considerations:

- Lean Blow-out
- Flashback
- Auto-ignition
- Turn-down



#### Weather; Fuel components; Operating conditions; Hardware degradation; etc.

# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– DLN1 combustion modes



(L.B. Davis, S.H. Black, Dry Low NOx Combustion Systems for GE Heavy-Duty Gas Turbines, 2010, Schenectady, NY)

## 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- DLN1 parts



Lean combustion  $\rightarrow$  Combustion instability  $\rightarrow$  Thermoacoustics  $\rightarrow$  Combustion tuning (mixing condition)

# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines- DLN combustor evolution



Single

Multiple

Unit

([1] Asai T, GT2011-45295; [2] Steven R Hernandez, GT2008-50854; [3] William D York, GT2012-69913; [4] Penghua Qiu, J Energy Inst 103 (2022) 72-83; [5] Penghua Qiu, J Energy Inst 102 (2022) 100-117)

# 4. Lean premixed combustion in gas turbines– Thermoacoustic



(Deng Pan, Chenzhen Ji, Tong Zhu et al., Thermoacoustic phenomena test rig (non-premixed combustion), Tongji University, 2023)

# 5. Another topic of importance (reflection): communication

What is the fact?

Most of the time, we **assume** that other people **should** understand us without telling them our perspective.

High-context vs. low-context cultures

	Low-Context	High-Context
Example Countries	US, UK, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Norway	Japan, China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Spain
Business Outlook	Competitive	Cooperative
Work Ethic	Task-oriented	<b>Relationship-oriented</b>
Work Style	Individualistic	Team-oriented
Employee Desires	Individual achievement	Team achievement
Relationships	Many, looser, short-term	Fewer, tighter, long-term
Decision Process	Logical, linear, rule-oriented	Intuitive, relational
Communication	Verbal over Non-verbal	Non-verbal over Verbal
Planning Horizons	More explicit, written, formal	More implicit, oral, informal
Sense of Time	Present/Future-oriented	Deep respect for the past
View of Change	Change over tradition	Tradition over change
Knowledge	Explicit, conscious	Implicit, not fully conscious
Learning	Knowledge is transferable (above the waterline)	Knowledge is situational (below the waterline)



We are "designed" different!

Counter intuitive ways to take on another person's point of view



(https://www.reddit.com/r/im14andthisisdeep/comments/evhikm/boat\_vs\_land/?rdt=52766)



**Communication Funnel** 

(Qifeng, 2019. McKinsey Business Communication and Text Writing. China: Tianjin Science Technology Publishing House)







(Personal Leadership Course, RSM, 2018)

# 5. Reflection-technical, organizational and external complexity analysis



(Project management: mastering complexity, TUDleft online course)

# 5. Reflection– dynamic management



# 5. Reflection– project management

#### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRIANGLE**

- Classify target customer groups according to market needs;
- Declare strategic priorities at the organizational level to make the right choices when resources are insufficient, and
- Concentrate on solving important problems (the "Impossible Triangle" of project management)



# 5. Reflection-projects vs. operations

 The connection and difference between operations and projects/R&D, and the setting of related processes



(Operations Management course, RSM, 2019)

# 5. Reflection- supply chain, financial impact and talent strategy



Develop and cultivate long-term and stable **supply chain** partners (quality control and other uncertain factors ("bullwhip effect");



Timely assess the **financial impact** of the project on the organization from the perspective of profit and loss, assets and liabilities and cash flow;



**Talent** cultivation, especially compound talents, to cope with the uncertainty of the changing market and interface/communication problems commonly encountered in collaboration between different technical types of work, etc.

# 5. Reflection- team dynamics (keep in mind when you lead a team)



(Tuckman's stages of group development)

# 5. Reflection–learning



(https://www.plushnuggets.com/blog/2020/12/18/forms-learning-pyramid/)

# 5. Reflection-growth mindset vs. fixed mindset





(Ameet Ranadive, Fixed v. Growth Mindset, https://medium.com/leadership-motivation-and-impact/fixed-v-growth-mindset-902e7d0081b3)

Questions? Thanks for your attention!

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