

27 engine optimisation in the high load region is challenging due to the permissible cylinder pressure
28 constraint.

29 **Keywords:** dual fuel premixed combustion, two-stroke engine, simulation, performance and emissions,
30 engine knocking, engine optimisation.

31

32 **Highlights**

- A large marine two-stroke DF engine of premixed combustion was modelled
- The engine steady state performance/emissions were thoroughly investigated
- A parametric investigation was conducted for optimising the engine DF operation
- Potential simultaneous reduction CO₂ and NO_x emissions is possible
- Optimisation at high loads is challenging due to firing pressure restrictions

33

34 1. INTRODUCTION

35 Stringent environmental regulations have been implemented in the last decade by the involved
36 international and national regulatory bodies to control the shipping NO_x and CO₂ emissions as well as
37 the fuel sulphur content and consequently, the related SO_x emissions. Following the examples of the
38 automotive and power generation industries, there is a strong indication that the future regulations will
39 adopt stricter limits and will include additional pollutants (CO and PM). In this respect, Liquefied Natural
40 Gas (LNG) that is considered a clean fuel compared to the conventional liquid fossil fuels, has been
41 attracting the interest of the maritime industry as its use leads to the reduction of the greenhouse and non-
42 greenhouse gaseous emissions [1]. With the fuel sulphur global limit of 0.5% (on mass basis) coming
43 into effect on 1st January 2020 [2], the LNG fuel seems to be a viable solution for vessels sailing both
44 inside and outside Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs). At the same time the continuous rapid
45 expansion of the global LNG infrastructure along with the lower LNG fuel price levels, is advantageous
46 and renders LNG as an attractive green fuel alternative [3]. To address this and considering that marine
47 two-stroke engines are the most commonly used solution for large merchant ships [4,5], the marine engine
48 manufacturers have developed dual fuel (DF) versions of their engines which can operate either in diesel
49 or dual fuel mode.

50 Two different pathways have been followed by the major two-stroke engine manufacturers. These
51 include: a) the high-pressure direct injection of natural gas within the engine cylinders leading to the
52 diffusive gas fuel combustion concept [6] and, b) the low-pressure injection of the natural gas during the
53 compression process resulting in a premixed combustion process [7,8]. Compared to each other, the
54 former requires the use of exhaust gas after-treatment systems in order to fully comply with the
55 environmental regulations for NO_x emissions, whilst the low-pressure lean burn technology is sensitive
56 to problems such as knocking and methane slip [9]. In both cases, the computational investigation of the
57 engine operation in both modes is expected to provide insights for the engine characteristics, performance
58 and emissions as well as the turbocharger (TC) matching, which has to accommodate the two different
59 modes of operation.

60 Various modelling approaches have been extensively used for analysing the marine engines and ship
61 propulsion systems. Generally, and depending on the type of application, the most common ones include:

62 the cycle mean value engine models (MVEM), the zero- or one-dimensional models (0D/1D) and the
63 three-dimensional models (3D). Each of these approaches vary in terms of complexity, computational
64 time, expected accuracy, input data requirements and capabilities. Previous investigations using MVEMs
65 for marine engines are reported in [10-12]. Various versions of combined zero/one-dimensional, and
66 mean value/zero- dimensional engine models have been extensively used to investigate the performance
67 and emission characteristics of marine engines as reported in [13-18]. Such approaches are usually
68 preferred due to their trade-off between the needed model complexity, required input and computational
69 time. The one-dimensional models are mainly used to represent the flow inside intake and exhaust pipes,
70 pipe junctions and manifolds [19, 20]. Three-dimensional (3D) computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
71 modelling is also a more detailed method for simulating the engine operation typically used for the
72 engine components design as it focuses in greater detail on the in-cylinder processes, where other
73 approaches have limited applications. Examples of pertinent investigations that have developed 3D CFD
74 models to examine the effects of combustion on the engine performance and its emissions are reported
75 in [21-23].

76 With regard to the development of mathematical models for marine diesel engines, Theotokatos [11]
77 reported the development of an in-house MVEM in the MATLAB/Simulink environment and its usage
78 for studying the operation of a large marine two-stroke diesel engine. For the prediction of the steady-
79 state performance and transient response of various engine configurations including four-stroke, two-
80 stroke, Diesel, natural gas, turbocompound engines, etc., a detailed zero-dimensional code has been
81 developed and used for a number of years in [24, 25]. Scappin et al. [14] developed a zero-dimensional
82 model of a marine two-stroke low speed diesel engine to predict its performance and NO_x emissions.
83 Savva and Hountalas [26] developed a pseudo-multi-zone model applied on large-scale two and four-
84 stroke diesel engines for the prediction of NO_x emissions at various operating conditions. Guan et al. [27]
85 have developed a two-stroke engine model using a modular zero-dimensional simulation tool.
86 Raptotasios et al. [28] applied a phenomenological multi-zone combustion model on a marine two-stroke
87 diesel engine with the aim of predicting the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) effect on NO_x emissions
88 and engine performance and investigating the in-cylinder combustion and NO_x formation mechanisms.
89 Wang et al. [29], developed a 0D/1D model of a marine two-stroke diesel engine in the GT-Power

90 software and examined the effect of exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) combined with cylinder bypass (CB)
91 and exhaust gas bypass (EGB) on NO_x emissions. Cordtz et al. [30], developed a zero-dimensional multi-
92 zone combustion model, based on experimental pressure traces, of a large low speed two-stroke diesel
93 engine, to investigate the in-cylinder formation of gaseous sulphur trioxide (SO₃) by means of a detailed
94 reaction mechanism. The same model was used by Cordtz et al. [31] to simulate the in-cylinder
95 condensation of sulphuric acid and water vapour. Feng et al. [32], investigated the effect of EGR
96 combined with Miller-cycle methods on NO_x emissions by developing a combined 1D / 3D model of a
97 two-stroke marine diesel engine, using the AVL Boost and AVL FIRE simulation tools. In this
98 investigation the output of the one-dimensional model was used to determine the initial conditions for the
99 3D CFD calculations. Moreover, Wei et al. [33], investigated the influence of the swirl flow and oxygen
100 concentration on spray, combustion and emissions of a two-stroke marine diesel engine running on HFO,
101 by developing a 3D combustion and spray model in the CONVERGE CFD software. In addition, Sun et
102 al. [34] examined the effects of inlet pressure, EGR and start of injection (SOI) timing on NO_x emissions,
103 by developing a three-dimensional model of a marine two-stroke diesel engine in the CONVERGE CFD
104 software. Chryssakis et al. [21] developed a two-stroke diesel engine 3D model using the KIVA-3V code
105 to examine the effects of two water injection strategies on the NO_x emissions. Pang et al. [35], performed
106 three-dimensional computational fluid dynamics (CFD) studies of sulphur oxides and H₂SO₄ formation
107 processes in a large marine two-stroke diesel engine by using the STAR-CCM+ commercial code.
108 Kyriakides et al. [36], developed a two-stroke diesel engine 3D model using the KIVA-3V code to
109 investigate the effect of fuel properties on spray atomization by performing simulations in a constant-
110 volume high-pressure chamber. Goldsworthy [37] investigated the vaporization and combustion of heavy
111 residual based fuel oil in high-pressure sprays, in the context of marine diesel engines by developing a
112 simplified 3D CFD model using the StarCD code.

113 From the preceding analysis, it can be deduced that the marine two-stroke and four-stroke diesel engines
114 have been investigated in a great extent. However, very few studies have been published focusing on the
115 modelling/simulation of marine DF engines, which differ from the conventional diesel engine models in
116 terms of combustion and knocking characteristics. Examples of pertinent investigations dealing with the
117 experimental and numerical analysis and settings optimisation for marine DF four-stroke engines as well

118 as their control during fuel transitions have been reported in [38-41]. Furthermore, Theotokatos et al. [42]
119 developed a 0D/1D four-stroke engine model in the GT-Power software, to evaluate the performance and
120 emission characteristics of a large marine four-stroke engine. Ritzke [43] developed a combined 0D/1D
121 and 3D CFD model to simulate the operation of a four-stroke dual fuel marine engine in the AVL Boost
122 and FIRE simulation tools. The 0D/1D engine model was used to generate information regarding the
123 initial and boundary conditions, and subsequently these conditions were used for the 3D CFD model.
124 Sixel et al. [44] developed a 0D/1D model for a four-stroke gas-diesel engine using the GT-Power
125 software in order to predict its performance characteristics and calibrated the combustion sub-models
126 based on an experimental investigation for two DF single cylinder engines of different size. The
127 developed model was considered capable of being used in the development of dual fuel or gas-diesel
128 engines at a preliminary stage. Moriyoshi et al. [45] performed a 3D CFD simulation of the combustion
129 process of a four-stroke natural gas engine in order to analyse the combustion process and increase the
130 thermal efficiency. Yang et al. [46] examined the combustion instabilities of a four-stroke pre-mixed
131 lean-burn dual fuel engine by following a 3D CFD modelling approach to represent the in-cylinder
132 processes. This investigation included the analysis of the effect of gas injection timing on the combustion
133 system complexity.

134 In a recent publication, Ott et al. [47] described the technology development of the premixed
135 combustion large marine engines and provided experimental data from the engines type approval tests.
136 Notwithstanding the above, apart from a preliminary study of the authors [48], studies for marine two-
137 stroke DF engines have not been reported in the available literature, possibly due to the recent
138 development of such engines and the unavailability of data. Hence, such studies are quite valuable for
139 obtaining a better understanding of the engine operation as well as the involved processes of these
140 engines. In this respect, to the best of authors' knowledge, this is the first comprehensive study focusing
141 on the modelling and parametric investigation of a large two-stroke marine DF engine operating on the
142 low-pressure lean burn technology, which is currently one of the two industry available technologies not
143 only for LNG carriers but for ocean-going LNG-fuelled vessels [49]. The engine model is set up in the
144 GT-Power computational tool. Following the model validation, the engine operation in both modes and
145 at various loads is investigated and the results are analysed and discussed for comparing the engine

146 performance and emissions as well as the turbocharger matching in the both engine modes. Furthermore,
 147 a parametric investigation is carried out with the aim of optimising the engine settings in the DF mode in
 148 order to further reduce the NO_x and CO₂ emissions and improve the engine efficiency, which reveals the
 149 trade-offs between the engine settings and the engine performance/emissions parameter.

150

151 2. ENGINE MODELLING

152 2.1 Investigated Engine

153 In this study, the 5RT-flex50DF engine, from Winterthur Gas & Diesel [50] was investigated. This
 154 engine has been designed for large merchant vessels such as LNG carriers, handysize tankers and bulk
 155 carriers, as well as feeder container vessels. It is a camshaftless low-speed, two-stroke DF engine
 156 consisting of five cylinders connected in an in-line arrangement, one turbocharger unit, one air cooler
 157 unit and two auxiliary blowers. It employs a common rail diesel fuel injection system and gas injection
 158 at low pressure during the compression phase of each cylinder. The engine can operate in the diesel
 159 mode by using heavy fuel oil or marine diesel/gas oil. In the DF mode, natural gas is used as the main
 160 fuel while diesel fuel is utilized as pilot fuel in order to commence the combustion ignition. When
 161 running in the DF mode, the engine is fully compliant with the International Maritime Organisation
 162 (IMO) Tier III NO_x emission limits [51] without requiring the use of exhaust gas after-treatment
 163 systems. The main engine characteristics are reported in Table 1.

164

Table 1 Engine main characteristics

MCR power (kW)	7200
MCR speed (rpm)	124
BMEP at MCR (bar)	17.3
BSFC at MCR – Diesel mode (g/kWh)	182.1
BSEC at MCR – DF mode (kJ/kWh)	7122
Bore (mm)	500
Stroke (mm)	2050
No. of cylinders (-)	5
Auxiliary Blowers (-)	2
Turbocharger units (-)	1

165

MCR: maximum continuous rating; BMEP: brake mean
 166 effective pressure; BSFC: brake specific fuel consumption;
 167 BSEC: brake specific energy consumption

168 **2.2 Engine Model Set-up and Calibration**

169 The GT-Power software [52], which is a renowned 0D/1D simulation program for engine modelling
170 and analysis, was employed for the engine simulation. To set up the engine model, various components
171 and reference objects were selected from the software library and interconnected by using available
172 connectors, so that the engine layout is represented in an adequate level.

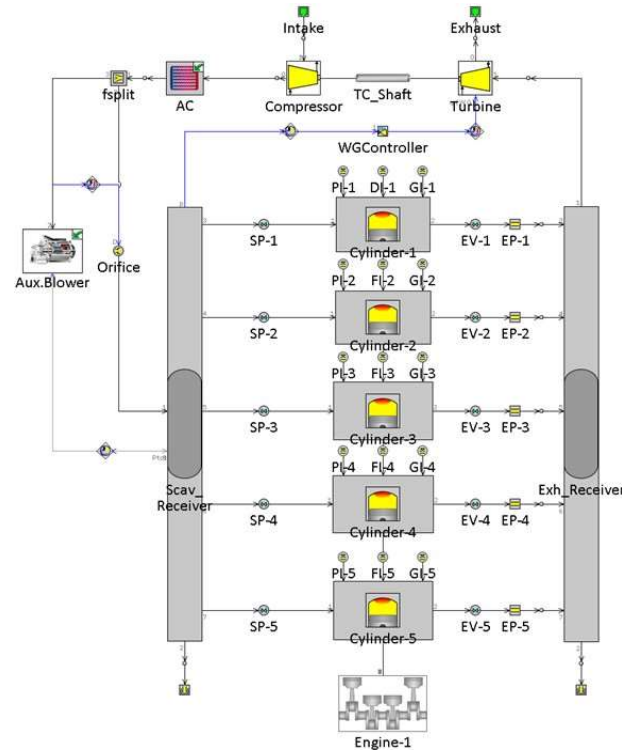
173 The modelling process was initiated by setting up and validating one single cylinder block in diesel
174 mode and subsequently modifying it to cover the dual fuel mode by adding an additional gas injector
175 and pilot fuel injector. The model was then extended to cover the entire engine layout as presented in
176 Fig. 1. As depicted in Fig. 1, the developed engine model includes blocks for the cylinders, scavenging
177 receiver, scavenging ports (SP), exhaust valves (EV), exhaust ports (EP), exhaust receiver, turbocharger
178 (TC), waste gate (WG), air cooler (AC), auxiliary blower, exhaust pipes (EP) and receivers. Injector
179 elements for the liquid (FI) and gas fuels (GI) as well as for the pilot fuel (PI) are connected to each
180 engine cylinder block.

181 To develop and calibrate the model for adequately predicting the engine performance and emission
182 characteristics, various sets of input data were acquired and used. Collecting, deriving or evaluating
183 such data is vital for the successful model setting-up. The main sources used to derive the required input
184 data were: the engine operation manual [50], two separate 3D models of the intake and exhaust system,
185 a similar zero-dimensional engine model built in the MATLAB/Simulink environment [27] and data
186 provided directly by the manufacturer. In specific, the data required for the modelling process included
187 the engine geometry, the scavenging ports and exhaust valve profiles, the fuels injection timing, the
188 heat release rate for each engine load, the compressor and turbine performance maps, the air cooler
189 characteristics, the auxiliary blower characteristics and the waste gate valve geometry, measured
190 parameters from the engine trials as well as the engine manufacturer performance data available in [53].

191 Appropriate sub-models for representing the entire engine operating envelope were selected and
192 calibrated. For modelling the engine cylinders processes, combustion, heat transfer, scavenging,
193 friction, NO_x emissions and knocking sub-models were appropriately identified and used.

194 The modified version of the Woschni heat transfer model [52], which closely imitates the classic
195 Woschni correlation [54], calibrated for two-stroke engines, was selected and used to calculate the in-

196 cylinder gas to wall heat transfer coefficient. The main difference between the classic and the modified
 197 Woschni correlation lies in the treatment of the heat transfer coefficients during the exhaust valve
 198 overlap period, where the cylinder exhaust valves are open and the heat transfer is increased by the
 199 inflow velocities through the scavenging ports [52]. Furthermore, the Chen-Flynn engine friction model
 200 [55-57] was used and its constants were calibrated based on the experimental data for the engine
 201 mechanical efficiency.



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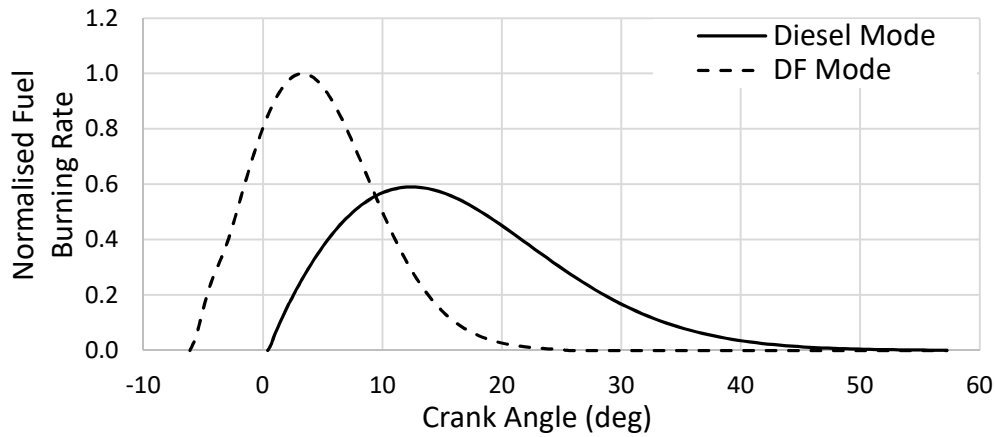
Fig. 1 Engine model layout

204 The combustion processes in the diesel and DF modes were modelled by using single and triple Wiebe
 205 functions, respectively. The three parts of the considered triple Wiebe function correspond to the
 206 premixed combustion of approximately half of the pilot fuel, the diffusive combustion of the remaining
 207 pilot fuel and the rapid burning of the gaseous fuel as well as the tail combustion of the cylinder residuals
 208 respectively, as reported in [58]. In this respect, the fuel burning rate for the DF mode is calculated
 209 according to the following equation [52]:

210

$$x_b(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \left[\left(\frac{FF_i}{\sum_{i=1}^3 FF_i} \right) x_{b,i}(\theta) \right] \quad (1)$$

211 The combustion model parameters were calibrated for 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% loads to match the
212 heat release rates as provided by the engine manufacturer. The resultant heat release curves used to
213 simulate combustion in the diesel and DF modes for 75% engine load are illustrated in Fig. 2.



214

215 Fig. 2 Normalised fuel burning rates in diesel and DF modes at 75% engine load

216 The amount of each fuel (diesel and natural gas) injected per cycle was calculated by considering each
217 fuel specific energy consumption and lower heating value, respectively. The injection delay was
218 estimated for the diesel mode according to the Sitkei equation as described in [59], whereas the ignition
219 delay for the DF mode was approximated by using the equations and data reported in [44, 60].

220 The scavenging process was modelled in GT-Power by using a two-zone model [52, 61], the setting
221 up of which requires as input the relationship between the in-cylinder gas residual ratio and the residual
222 ratio of the exhaust gas exiting the cylinder. The former is the ratio of the burned gas mass in the cylinder
223 to the total mass in the cylinder, whereas the latter corresponds to the ratio of the burned gas mass
224 exiting the cylinder to the total mass exiting the cylinder. As no data was available for approximating
225 this relationship, an existing in-house simulation tool developed in the MATLAB/Simulink
226 environment, was used for simulating the operation of one-cylinder block in the diesel mode and thus
227 estimating the required scavenging process parameters [27]. Both models consider two zones (one of
228 pure air and one containing exhaust gas) within the engine cylinder during the scavenging process. For
229 qualitatively validating the scavenging model, the calculated scavenging efficiency versus delivery ratio
230 plot was compared to results derived by using CFD analysis for a similar engine [62, 63], for an
231 operating point with a similar scavenging pressures. The model results were comparable with the CFD

232 results reported in [63], which indicates that the model is adequate for representing the scavenging
 233 process.

234 A two-zone model was also used to represent the cylinder closed cycle. According to this, the
 235 combustion chamber is subdivided into two zones; the unburned zone which contains unburned mixture
 236 (i.e. air and fuel) and the burned zone which contains burned mixture. Both zones states are described
 237 in terms of pressure, temperature, volume, air-fuel ratio and species concentration. These parameters
 238 are calculated by solving at each time step (in each zone) the energy conservation equation, the
 239 continuity equation and the ideal gas equation considering the chemical kinetics, the working media
 240 properties and the cylinder volume along with its change.

241 To predict the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions, the extended Zeldovich mechanism [52] was used
 242 and calibrated at 75% load, according to which the nitrogen monoxide (NO) concentration is calculated
 243 by using the following equation:

$$244 \quad \frac{d[NO]}{dt} = 4.7 \cdot 10^{13} [N_2][O_2]^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{67,837}{T}\right) \quad (2)$$

245 The NO concentration is assumed to approximate the NO_x concentration as the former is considered
 246 the predominant nitrogen oxide produced inside the engine cylinder. As the thermal NO_x formation
 247 takes place in the burned zone, the burned zone temperature was used as input in the NO_x model.

248 For evaluating the engine combustion stability, the Worret knocking criterion [64] was considered,
 249 according to which the probability of the engine cylinders knocking is calculated. In this model, the
 250 probability of knocking is estimated by means of an induction time integral (I_K) and a constant
 251 parameter K , which are calculated according to the following equations, as reported in [59]:

$$252 \quad I_K = \left(\frac{1}{6n} \frac{1}{c \cdot 10^{-3}} \int_{\theta_{CS}}^{\theta_K} p^a e^{\left(\frac{b}{T}\right)} d\theta \right) \left(\frac{\theta_{75} mfb + 6}{\theta_{75} mfb_{ref} + 6} \right)^{a_{IK}} \quad (3)$$

$$253 \quad K = k_{ref} \left(\frac{\theta_{50} mfb + 8}{\theta_{50} mfb_{ref} + 8} \right)^{a_k} \left(\frac{b_k - c_k \lambda}{b_k - c_k \lambda_{ref}} \right) \quad (4)$$

255 The former takes into consideration the pressure-temperature history in the combustion chamber,
 256 whereas the latter represents a quotient of the combustion progress between the start of knocking and
 257 the entire combustion duration whilst it accounts for the combustion chamber space, which depends on
 258 different quantities (e.g. change motion level, combustion chamber space etc.). To obtain I_K and K , the
 259 following parameters need to be considered: a) a set of reference parameters including the crank angles
 260 at 75% and 50% of the burned fuel mass fraction, the air-fuel ratio and a reference K -value (that are
 261 calculated for a known cycle in the knocking boundary), b) the model constants that depend on the
 262 selected combustion model and, c) the unburned zone temperature. Then, the knocking sub-model
 263 calculates at each operating point, the crank angle (θ_E), based on the calculated K -value, as well as the
 264 crank angle (θ_K) at which I_K becomes equal to one. The former is calculated according to the following
 265 equation:

$$266 \quad \theta_E = \theta_{SOC} + K\Delta\theta_{CD} \quad (5)$$

267 Knocking occurs when the following inequality holds: $\theta_K < \theta_E$. However, I_K and K have a dispersion
 268 range of 15% and 5%, respectively. In this respect, the knocking probability is calculated according to
 269 the following equation:

$$270 \quad P(k) = 100 \left(a_{kp} + b_{kp} \ln \left(\frac{\Delta\theta_{KDR,max}}{2} \right) \right)^{\Delta\theta_{KDR}} \quad (6)$$

271 where $\Delta\theta_{KDR}$ is the crank angle range, resulting from the superimposition of the I_K and K dispersion
 272 ranges.

273 Considering the above, to calibrate the model parameters, an engine operating point in the knocking
 274 boundary needs to be modelled. As the operating window is always narrower at high engine loads [47,
 275 65], proper calibration of the knocking model parameters at this load region would ensure that no
 276 abnormal combustion would occur at lower loads. Hence in the present study, the 100% engine load
 277 was used as a reference point for the calibration of the knocking model by considering a pilot injection
 278 timing, which would lead to an operating point lying on the knocking boundary.

279 The validation of the knocking model predictive capabilities was performed for all the investigated
 280 engine loads in the DF mode and was based on the fact that the examined engine does not face knocking
 281 problems at any operating condition, as indicated by the engine manufacturer [50]. Subsequently, the

282 calibrated model was used to characterise combustion by using the calculated knocking probability for
283 the investigated operating points during the parametric investigation process, where various
284 combinations of engine settings could increase the probability of knocking.

285 In the DF mode, the exhaust gas waste gate opening is controlled by using a proportional-integral (PI)
286 controller to adjust the combustion air to fuel equivalence ratio by regulating the scavenge air receiver
287 pressure. By this means, combustion instabilities including knocking and misfiring are prevented. In
288 addition, turbocharger overspeed at high engine loads in diesel mode can be avoided.

289 To setup the air cooler model, a configuration of pipes and Y-junctions was used according to a one-
290 dimensional compressible fluid dynamics consideration to represent the flow and heat transfer in the
291 flow components of the engine system. In this respect, the desired outlet temperature of the air cooler
292 was estimated by adjusting the heat transfer rate of the pipe objects. The pressure drop across the air
293 cooler was simulated based on data from similar DF engines.

294 Finally, to simulate the engine operation at loads below 40%, an auxiliary blower model had to be set
295 up and calibrated by providing as input the blower characteristic curve (pressure increase vs flow rate).
296 At such loads, the air required for the operation of the engine is solely provided through the auxiliary
297 blower, whilst when the auxiliary blowers are deactivated the scavenge air receiver flaps are shut-off to
298 prevent the air back-flow. Hence, a deterministic logic controller that employs conditional programming
299 into the model was developed and used to activate or deactivate the auxiliary blower and isolate or free
300 the auxiliary blower air path.

301 **3. Results and Discussion**

302 **3.1 Engine operation investigation**

303 The engine operation under steady state conditions was examined by performing simulation runs
304 in a load range from 25% to 100% of the maximum continuous rating (MCR) point. Preliminary
305 calibration of the model constants was performed for a reference point (75% engine load) and simulation
306 runs were conducted. Subsequently, the fine tuning of the model constants was performed at the
307 reference point for obtaining results of adequate accuracy. Next, simulation runs at the other operating
308 point were performed by considering the previously calibrated models constants and recalibrating the

309 combustion model. The derived percentage errors between the measured and predicted parameters are
 310 reported in Table 2.

311
 312

Table 2 Predictions percentage error

Engine Load (%MCR)	100	75	50	25
	Diesel mode – Error (%)			
Brake Power	-3.6	-2.6	-1.5	-1.5
Cylinder Maximum Pressure	-0.7	-1.5	-0.9	-0.6
Cylinder Compression Pressure	-3.2	-1.6	1.7	3.0
Scavenging Receiver Pressure	0.2	1.3	2.4	0.6
Exhaust Receiver Temperature	3.6	3.2	2.4	2.6
NOx emissions	1.4	0.06	0.8	1.4
	Dual fuel mode – Error (%)			
Brake Power	-2.0	-1.7	-2.3	-2.3
Cylinder Maximum Pressure	1.0	0.3	1.5	0.4
Cylinder Compression Pressure	-1.8	-0.4	1.4	1.1
Scavenging Receiver Pressure	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4
Exhaust Receiver Temperature	2.1	1.8	0.8	2.2
NOx emissions	0.3	-0.9	0.8	-1.5

313
 314 From Table 2, it can be inferred that the simulation results are of acceptable accuracy as the obtained
 315 maximum error was around $\pm 3.6\%$. The maximum deviation of the simulation results from the
 316 measured data provided by the engine manufacturer was found at the exhaust gas temperature.
 317 However, this parameter is challenging to be accurately measured in practice and thus such a deviation
 318 was expected; even though it is still within the acceptable levels of adequate accuracy. Therefore, the
 319 developed model can be considered a reliable tool for representing the engine steady state behaviour
 320 and as a result, it can be used with fidelity for the subsequent engine parametric investigation.

321 A set of the derived simulation results including the engine performance parameters, the compressor
 322 and turbine efficiencies, the NOx and CO₂ emissions, the cylinder pressure and temperature diagrams
 323 as well as the compressor operating points superimposed on the compressor map is shown in Fig. 3. In
 324 this figure, the manufacturer data derived by using the General Technical Data (GTD) program [53] are
 325 also presented. The comparison of the simulation results and the engine manufacturer data also verifies
 326 the preceding observation with regard to the simulation results adequate accuracy.

327 The engine power output and the brake mean effective pressure (BMEP) were found to be similar in
 328 both diesel and DF modes. In the DF mode, the indicated mean effective pressure (IMEP) increases

329 slightly due to the obtained higher in-cylinder pressures caused by the advanced start of injection (and
330 consequently the earlier start of combustion as it can also be inferred from the cylinder pressure and
331 temperature diagrams). This setting for the pilot fuel injection was used in order to avoid knocking. As
332 a consequence, the friction mean effective pressure slightly increases, as it depends on the maximum
333 cylinder pressure.

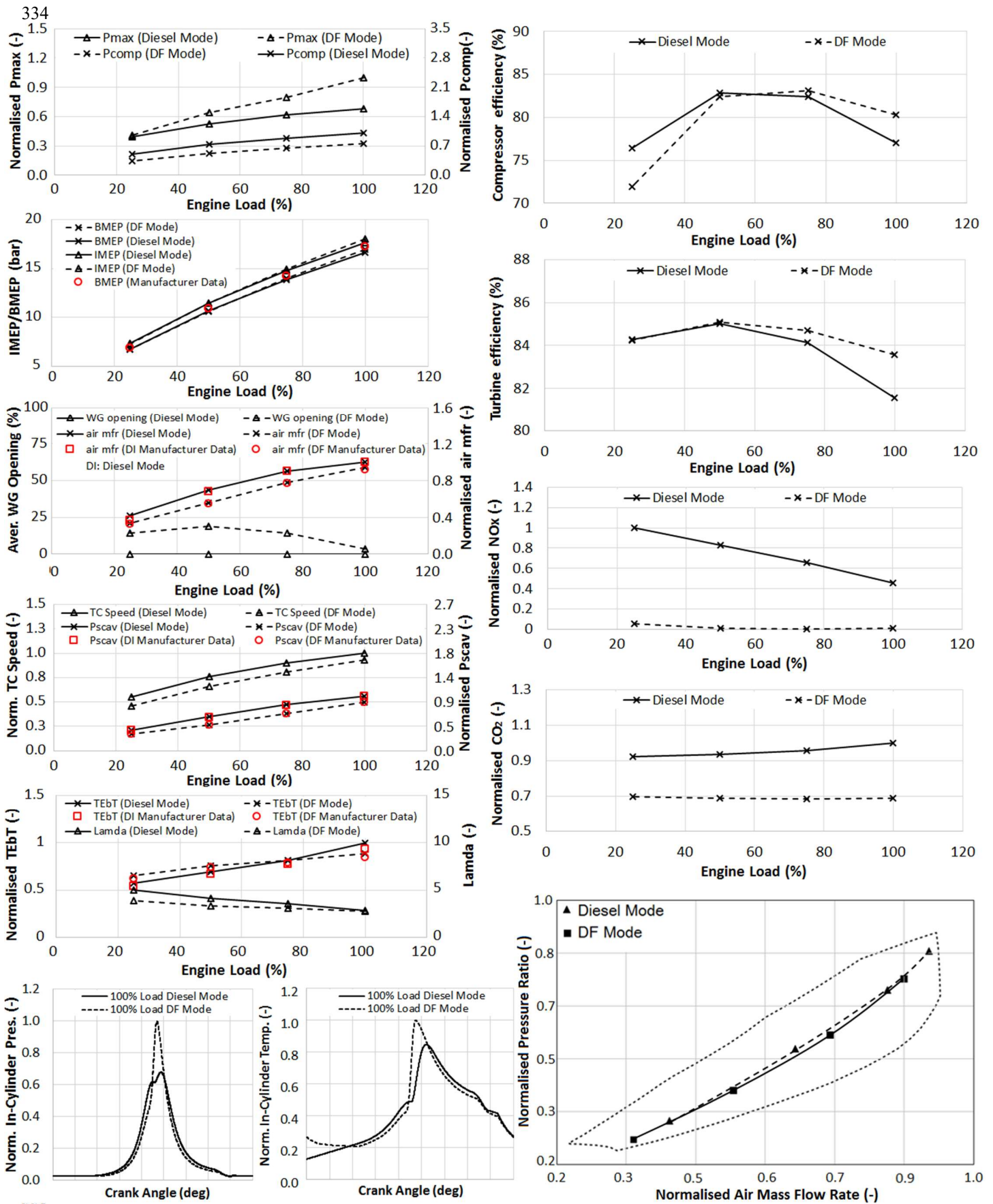


Fig. 3 Simulation results (steady state conditions)

337 Furthermore, both the turbocharger shaft speed and as a result, the scavenge air receiver pressure are
338 greater when the engine operates in the diesel mode, hence, the in-cylinder pressure during the
339 compression process in the DF mode is reduced compared to the diesel mode operation. This is owing
340 to the opening of the waste gate bypass valve, which is employed for controlling the combustion air-to-
341 fuel ratio in the DF mode. However, the firing (maximum) pressure in the diesel mode is much lower
342 (compared to maximum pressure obtained in the DF mode) as a result of the retarded start of combustion
343 and the longer combustion duration. This results in a slightly lower indicated power in diesel mode
344 which along with the lower friction leads to an almost retained brake power in both modes of operation.

345 It must be noted that the respective diesel version of the investigated engine reaches a cylinder
346 maximum pressure similar to the one attained in the DF mode. In order for the investigated engine to
347 accommodate the combustion of the gas fuel (in the DF mode), the engine was derated to avoid
348 knocking issues (by using a lower compression ratio and by the opening of the exhaust gas waste gate
349 valve). In addition, in order for the engine to comply with the Tier II NO_x emissions limit when
350 operating in the diesel mode, the start of injection is retarded resulting in a much lower cylinder
351 maximum pressure as shown in Fig. 3 (compared to the maximum pressure of both the DF mode and a
352 diesel engine of similar size). This implies that it is the DF mode which primarily defines the required
353 engine settings to render the stable engine operation, whilst the diesel mode engine settings are adjusted
354 to allow the compliance with the engine NO_x emissions limits.

355 From Fig. 3, it can be observed that the exhaust gas receiver temperature in the DF mode is greater
356 (than the respective parameter in the diesel mode) for loads up to 75%, whereas it is less for loads above
357 75%. This is attributed to the fact that the exhaust gas receiver temperature is affected by the in-cylinder
358 temperature at the exhaust valve opening (which depends on the combustion heat release rate and air-
359 fuel ratio) and the exhaust gas mass flow rate (which depends on the turbocharger speed and waste gate
360 opening). In the DF mode, the waste gate opening increases as the engine load reduces to match the
361 targeted scavenge air receiver pressure, and as a result the air flow rate takes lower values than the ones
362 in the diesel mode.

363 From the preceding, it can be inferred that the turbocharger performance characteristics will differ as
364 the turbocharger speed, pressure ratio and flow rate are considerably reduced in the DF mode throughout

365 the entire operating region due to the waste gate valve opening. In this respect, it can be observed that
366 both the turbine and the compressor efficiencies vary depending on the operating mode. For engine
367 loads in the range from 50% to 75% in both modes of operation, both the compressor and turbine
368 efficiencies are high enough but with slight variations as indicated in Fig. 3. Additionally, in the engine
369 loads range from 75% to 100%, both the compressor and turbine efficiencies reduce in both modes of
370 operation. Attention has to be taken at the lowest and highest engine load regions. This is due to the fact
371 that in low engine loads (below 40%), the turbocharger becomes unable to provide the engine cylinders
372 with the required amount of air for combustion due to the limited available exhaust gas energy. Thus,
373 the auxiliary blower is activated to provide the required air flow rate.

374 In the diesel mode, the operating point of the compressor is closer to the surge line when the engine
375 operates at high engine loads (close to 100%) and the turbocharger speed is very close to its maximum
376 value. However, the waste gate opening can prevent a potential turbocharger overspeed. Despite the
377 differences in the turbocharger operation at the two engine operating modes, it can be concluded that
378 the selected turbocharger unit effectively matches the engine as it provides sufficient air quantities with
379 high efficiencies at all loads in both engine operating modes and additionally provides sufficient surge
380 margin. Noticeable is also that all the operating points lie on a single operating line, which is as expected
381 for two-stroke engines [66].

382 The NO_x emissions strongly depend on the in-cylinder temperature, pressure and trapped oxygen (O₂)
383 concentration, which are affected by the engine settings and the trapped air-fuel ratio. The maximum
384 in-cylinder temperature and pressure values are greater in the DF mode; however due to the shorter
385 combustion duration, the in-cylinder temperature and pressure reduce more rapidly compared to the
386 diesel mode. This along with the DF lean premixed combustion implies that the NO_x formation rate
387 will be effectively less in the DF mode, compared to the diesel mode as also indicated from the results
388 of Fig. 3. In addition, higher values of the specific NO_x emissions are obtained as the load reduces,
389 which is also reported in [67, 68]. In fact, the NO_x emissions for the diesel mode comply with Tier II
390 limits, whereas the Tier III limit requirements are satisfied by the DF [47].

391 The CO₂ emissions in the DF mode are also reduced by 28% in average compared to the diesel mode.
392 This is due to the lower carbon to hydrogen ratio of the natural gas compared to the respective one of

393 the diesel fuel. Noticeable is also the greater reduction of CO₂ emissions at high loads where the
394 efficiency difference between the DF and diesel mode is greater. In summary, it can be concluded that
395 the NO_x and CO₂ emissions significantly reduce when the engine operates in DF mode as expected
396 from the results reported in the literature.

397

398 **3.2 Parametric runs**

399 Having simulated the performance and emission characteristics of the investigated engine in steady
400 state conditions, a parametric study for optimising the engine settings in the DF mode was performed
401 with the aim of simultaneously reducing the NO_x and CO₂ emissions. The latter are proportional to the
402 engine brake specific energy consumption (BSEC) and inversely proportional to the engine brake
403 efficiency.

404 The parametric investigation was initiated by conducting a sensitivity study. In this respect, multiple
405 simulation runs were performed, each time by manually altering a predetermined parameter of the
406 engine model in order to identify the parameters which significantly affect the NO_x and CO₂ emissions.
407 The following engine settings changes (from their respective reference values) were considered for each
408 operating point: pilot fuel injection timing (-3, 0 and +3 degrees crank angle (CA)), exhaust valve profile
409 shift (-5, 0 and +5 degrees CA), scavenging air receiver pressure (-5%, 0% and +5%) and compression
410 ratio (-5%, 0% and +5%). In total, 81 different parametric runs at each engine operating point were
411 conducted.

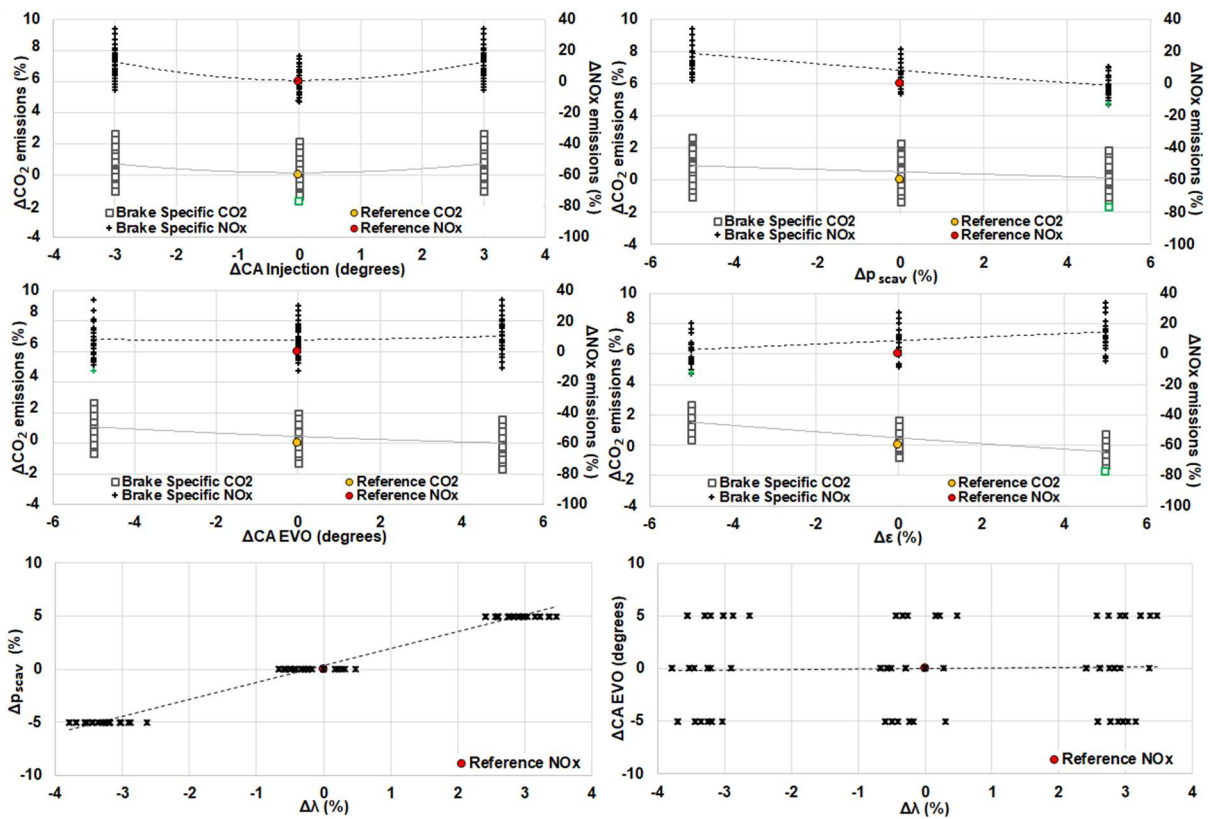
412 However, some slight modifications had to be made to the developed model in order to run the
413 parametric simulation cases. This is owing to the fact that the varying pilot fuel injection timing setting
414 affects the combustion process. Hence, it was assumed that the multi-Wiebe functions employed by the
415 combustion model would only be shifted according to the injection timing taking into account an
416 appropriate ignition delay calculation.

417 The derived results for the 75% load, which include the NO_x and CO₂ emissions trade-off, the cylinder
418 maximum pressure as well as the cylinder pressure maximum permissible value, are depicted in Fig. 4–
419 5. From these figures, it can be inferred that the greatest simultaneous reduction of CO₂ and NO_x

emissions is obtained for the reference value of the pilot fuel injection timing and therefore, it is concluded that this parameter has been optimised by the engine manufacturer.

The exhaust valve profile shifting towards later opening/closing results in a longer expansion stroke and a shorter compression period. This leads to a marginally greater engine efficiency and a rise of the in-cylinder temperature, respectively; the latter owing to the increased amount of residual exhaust gases remaining within the cylinder due to less effective scavenging (in comparison with the reference point). Therefore, the CO₂ emissions marginally reduce whilst the NO_x emissions slightly increase in this case.

427



428

429

Fig. 4 Effect of model parameters on emissions

The boost pressure increase setting, which can be obtained by reducing the waste gate valve opening, results in a greater turbocharger shaft speed and scavenging receiver pressure, which in consequence, provides more trapped air in the engine cylinders (leading to a leaner combustion) and a higher maximum pressure. As a result, both the NO_x and CO₂ emissions reduce at the expense of a greater air-fuel ratio and maximum pressure; the former may result in combustion instability (e.g. misfiring),

434

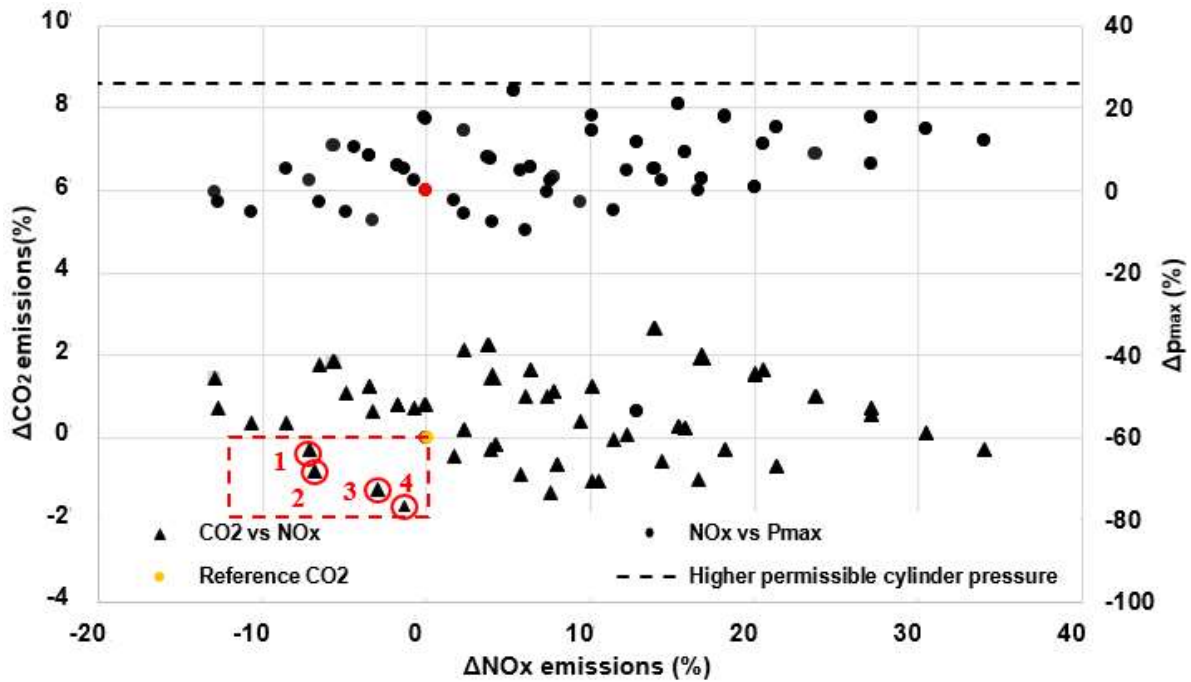
435 whereas the latter can lead to greater engine cylinder components mechanical loading and wear or a
 436 cylinder pressure above its permissible value.

437 The compression ratio increase results in lower CO₂ (i.e. higher efficiency) and greater NO_x
 438 emissions. This is owing to the fact that an increase in the compression ratio leads to a reduced cylinder
 439 clearance volume. Consequently, the in-cylinder pressure increases, resulting in greater piston forces,
 440 engine torque and power as well as increased mechanical loading of the engine components. Therefore,
 441 increasing the compression ratio improves the engine efficiency and thus, reduces the CO₂ emissions.
 442 However, the resultant greater in-cylinder pressures and temperatures lead to increased NO_x emissions
 443 formation.

444 To derive the optimal engine settings, the combined effect of all the investigated model parameters
 445 had to be taken into consideration. Furthermore, the estimated knocking probability as well as the
 446 maximum permissible cylinder pressure constraints were also taken into account as both knocking and
 447 the increased cylinder pressures can jeopardise the engine integrity. The maximum in-cylinder pressure
 448 value at 100% load was assumed to be the permissible limit herein, as no information was provided
 449 with respect to the engine capability of withstanding higher pressure values. The engine may withstand
 450 higher cylinder pressures when overloaded (at 110% MCR load); however, this scenario was not
 451 considered, mainly because it did not represent a normal operating condition at this increased load as
 452 in this case, the engine operation is usually limited to 1 hour per 12 hours of its normal operation [69].

453 Table 3 Potential optimum settings for 75% load

Engine Settings				Results				
No.	ΔEVP (°CA)	Δp_{scav} (%)	$\Delta\epsilon$ (%)	ΔNO_x (%)	ΔCO_2 (%)	ΔP_b (%)	Δp_{max} (%)	P(k) (%)
1	0	5	0	-7.17	-0.29	0.31	2.55	0
2	5	5	0	-6.79	-0.80	0.81	0.19	0
3	0	5	5	-2.93	-1.28	1.32	7.90	5
4	5	5	5	-1.38	-1.69	1.69	4.95	0



454 Fig.5 Parametric study results for 75% load

455 From the parametric runs derived results at 75% load (presented in Fig. 5), four points with a
 456 favourable trade-off between CO₂ and NO_x emissions were identified. These points settings along with
 457 the output parameters percentage changes (from their reference values) are presented in Table 3. These
 458 results indicate that there is a combination of engine settings leading to a simultaneous reduction of the
 459 NO_x and CO₂ emissions. To select, however, the optimum settings, a compromise between the NO_x
 460 and CO₂ emissions must be made. As the current engine is fully compliant with the IMO Tier III
 461 standards when operating in DF mode, it is reasonable to assume that the final selection has to be in
 462 favour of reducing CO₂ emissions and consequently improving the engine efficiency. Therefore, point
 463 No. 4 is considered to provide a set of optimised settings at 75% load leading to 1.7% reduction of CO₂
 464 emissions and 1.4% reduction of NO_x emissions in comparison with the reference settings. This
 465 corresponds to shifting the exhaust valve profile by +5 degrees CA, 5% increase of the scavenge air
 466 pressure and 5% increase of the compression ratio. Noticeable is the slight percentage increase of the
 467 output brake power which in practice does not exactly correspond to the 75% engine load case.
 468 However, the engine load can be retained at its reference value by considering an almost equivalent
 469 percentage reduction of the injected fuel amount. Similar findings were derived by additionally

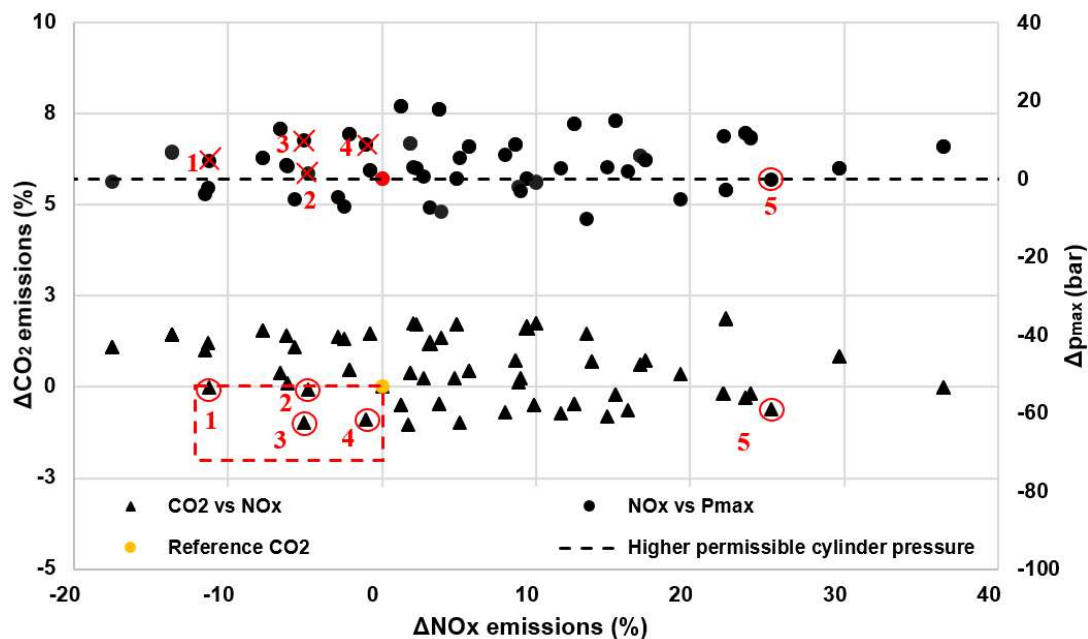
470 analysing the results at 50% and 25% loads (not presented herein) indicating an obtained CO₂ emission
 471 reduction by 2-3% and a NO_x emission reduction by 4-5%.

472 A similar set of results for the 100% engine loads is presented in Fig. 6. From these, it is inferred that
 473 the optimisation of the 100% load is the most challenging as the maximum pressure exceeded the
 474 permissible respective value in the majority of the investigated cases whilst the knocking probability
 475 considerably increased. Hence, an additional engine settings combination (point 5) had to be
 476 investigated. The selection of 5% increased compression ratio for all the other investigated engine loads,
 477 rendered this setting as the targeted option also for the 100% load operating point. However, as the
 478 maximum pressure exceeded the permissible value in the majority of the investigated points, point 5
 479 was identified as a potential option. In this point, the CO₂ emissions slightly reduced whereas the NO_x
 480 emissions considerably increased by around 25%.

481 Table 4 Potential optimum settings for 100% load

Engine Settings				Results				
No.	ΔE_{VP} (°CA)	Δp_{scav} (%)	$\Delta \epsilon$ (%)	ΔNO_x (%)	ΔCO_2 (%)	ΔP_b (%)	Δp_{max} (%)	P(k) (%)
1	0	5	0	-11.26	-0.01	0.02	4.57	3
2	5	5	0	-4.84	-0.07	0.08	1.21	0
3	0	5	5	-5.09	-0.98	1.00	9.83	16
4	5	5	5	-1.05	-0.89	0.92	8.65	7
5	5	-5	5	25.27	-0.62	0.60	-0.29	0

482



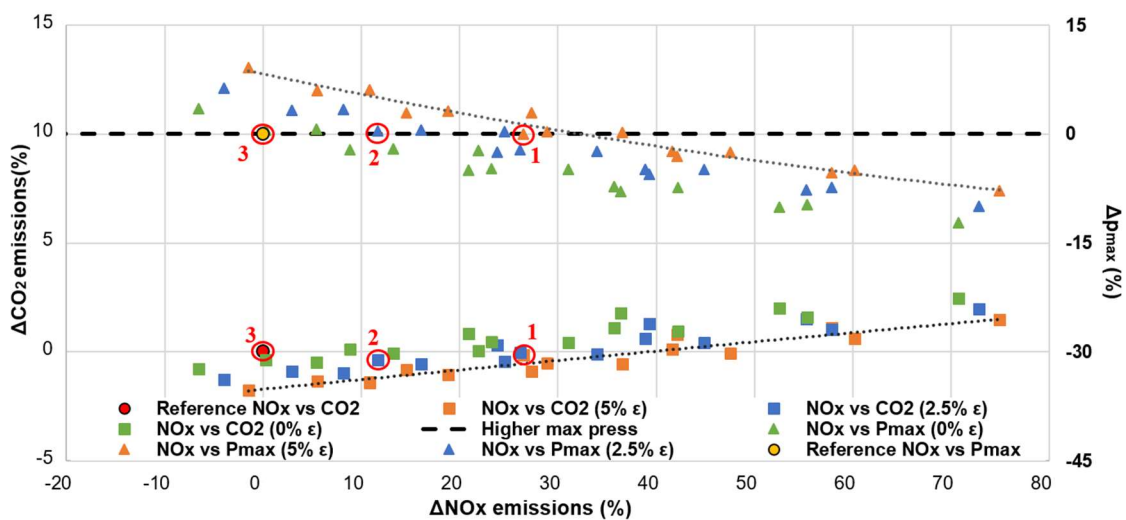
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Fig.6 Parametric study results for 100% load

485 Despite the significant percentage increase of the NOx emissions for point 5, the calculations
 486 performed for verifying the compatibility of the investigated engine with the IMO Tier III standards
 487 [70] revealed that the weighted NOx emissions according to E3 operating cycle [71] slightly increased
 488 by approximately 1% compared to the reference engine settings. This denotes that the engine is still
 489 compatible with the IMO Tier III standards. Notwithstanding the above, such a percentage increase may
 490 not be accepted by the market.

491 Hence, additional parametric runs were performed at 100% load to identify potential alternative
 492 engine settings, which would lead to reduced NOx emissions and a lower maximum pressure. In this
 493 respect, the following engine settings changes (from their respective reference values) were considered
 494 at 100% load: exhaust valve opening (-10, -5, +5 and +10 degrees CA), exhaust valve closing (-10, -5,
 495 +5 and +10 degrees CA) and compression ratio (0%, 2.5% and +5%). The derived results shown in Fig.
 496 7 imply that even a slight increase of the compression ratio would lead to higher NOx emissions
 497 compared to the reference engine settings. This can be verified by considering the points 1 and 2 of Fig.
 498 7; the former corresponds to a retardation of the exhaust valve closing by 5 degrees CA, the reference
 499 exhaust valve opening, a 5% decrease of the scavenge air pressure, and a 5% increase of the
 500 compression ratio, whilst the latter corresponds to the reference exhaust valve profile, a 5% decrease of
 501 the scavenge air pressure and a 2.5% increase of the compression ratio. In both cases, the maximum
 502 firing pressure is within the limits however, the NOx emissions increased by 26.5% and 11.7%,
 503 respectively.



504

505

Fig. 7 Parametric investigation at 100% load for additional engine settings

506 Hence, the only alternative solution in order simultaneously reduce the NO_x and CO₂ emissions at all
507 engine loads is to set the compression ratio at its reference value. By doing so, the NO_x-CO₂ emissions
508 trade-off will be in favour of NO_x emissions, whilst the CO₂ emissions and the engine efficiency will
509 remain approximately unchanged (as shown in Tables 3 and 4).

510 By considering all the preceding, it can be inferred that an increase of the compression ratio may aid
511 the simultaneous reduction of the NO_x and CO₂ emissions at all engine loads if the engine could
512 withstand a substantial firing pressure increase at high engine loads. Certainly, these settings cannot be
513 applied yet due to the in-cylinder pressure limitations; however, they shall be regarded as a future option
514 with the evolution of the engine design to operate at higher pressures, which is currently being
515 investigated by the engine manufacturer [72]. Alternatively, the adaptation of the variable compression
516 ratio system as the one proposed in [73] can facilitate the optimisation of the engine settings in the
517 various loads leading to further reduction of both CO₂ and NO_x and the engine environmental footprint.

518

519 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

520 In the present study, a marine two-stroke DF engine was thoroughly investigated by using the GT-
521 Power software to reveal its performance and emission characteristics in both the diesel and DF modes
522 as well as to further optimise the engine settings in terms of NO_x and CO₂ emissions trade-off by
523 conducting parametric runs. The main findings of this research are summarised as follows:

524 • Despite the vast software and 0D/1D modelling capabilities, the engine model set-up is
525 considered to be a challenging task. Hence, an in-depth understanding of the engine operation, design
526 and components, as well as the various software capabilities and their corresponding input requirements
527 is essential for developing a reliable engine model.

528 • The simulated results exhibited sufficient accuracy ($\pm 3.6\%$ max. error), thus ensuring the
529 fidelity of the developed 0D/1D engine model.

530 • The engine power output was found to be the same in both the diesel and DF modes, however
531 the indicated power in gas mode is slightly increased as the higher in-cylinder pressures lead to slightly
532 greater friction power and indicated power.

533 • The cylinder compression pressure reduces in the DF mode as both the boost pressure and the
534 air mass flow rate are lower than the respective values of the diesel mode due to the waste gate valve
535 opening, which is utilised to control the air to fuel ratio and hence prevent knocking and misfire.

536 • To avoid knocking, the pilot injection timing is advanced, the engine compression ratio is lower
537 and the engine was derated (compared to the respective diesel engine version). This leads to an advanced
538 start of combustion, which along with the shorter combustion duration, results in a firing (maximum)
539 pressure significantly higher in the DF mode compared to the diesel mode operation.

540 • This results in higher engine efficiencies and hence lower CO₂ emissions, which are further
541 reduced due to the low carbon to hydrogen ratio of natural gas. The CO₂ emissions were found to be
542 28% lower on average in DF mode compared to diesel mode. Greater reduction is obtained when the
543 engine operates at the high load region due to the greater difference between the engine efficiency values
544 of the DF and diesel modes.

545 • The turbocharging unit, matches the engine effectively as it provides sufficient air quantities
546 with high efficiencies at all loads in both operating modes. In the diesel mode, the turbocharger operates
547 close to the maximum speed limit when the engine operates at loads close to 100% of MCR. However,
548 the waste gate opening control can prevent a potential turbocharger overspeed.

549 • The NO_x emissions were calculated to be on average 97% lower in the DF mode compared
550 with the diesel mode. The diesel mode complies with the Tier II limits, whereas Tier III limits are met
551 when the engine operates in the DF mode.

552 • During the engine design phase, it is DF mode that primarily defines the majority of the required
553 engine settings to render the stable engine operation, whilst the diesel mode engine settings are adjusted
554 to achieve the targeted engine NO_x emissions limits.

555 • The parametric study results analysis revealed that a simultaneous further reduction of NO_x
556 and CO₂ emissions can be obtained if the compression ratio is increased by 5%. However, this cannot
557 be implemented in the current engine version as the compression ratio increase leads to an increased
558 firing pressure, which the engine cannot withstand. However, the increased compression ratio can be
559 an option for future engine versions, in which higher firing pressure can be achieved

560 • The NO_x-CO₂ emission trade-off will be in favour of NO_x emissions by selecting a set of
561 engine settings where the compression ratio is kept at its reference value.

562 In conclusion, the present study provides the basis for the engine optimisation and the results
563 contributed to the better understanding of the interplay between the engine settings and the performance
564 -emissions parameters. In this respect, the developed model is proved to be a useful tool that can be
565 employed in the design phase for the marine DF engine development. However, it must be noted that
566 an engine optimisation experimental verification is necessary for finalising the optimal engine settings.

567

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572

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780

781 **ABBREVIATIONS**

0D	: Zero-dimensional
1D	: One-dimensional
3D	: Three-dimensional
BMEP	: Brake mean effective pressure
BSEC	: Brake specific energy consumption
BSFC	: Brake specific fuel consumption
CA	: Crank angle
CFD	: Computational fluid dynamics
CO	: Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	: Carbon dioxide
DF	: Dual fuel
EGR	: Exhaust gas recirculation
EP	: Exhaust pipes
EV	: Exhaust valve
EVP	: Exhaust valve profile
FI	: Fuel injector
GI	: Gas fuel injector
IMEP	: Indicated mean effective pressure
IMO	: International maritime organisation
LNG	: Liquefied natural gas
MCR	: Maximum continuous rating
MVEM	: Mean value engine model
NO	: Nitric oxide
NO _x	: Nitrogen oxides
PI	: Pilot fuel injector
	: Proportional-Integral
PM	: Particulate matter
SECA	: Sulphur emission control area
SO _x	: Sulphur oxides
SP	: Scavenging ports
TC	: Turbocharger
WG	: Waste gate

782

783 **NOMENCLATURE**

a_{kp}	: model parameter [-]
b_{kp}	: model parameter [-]
b	: model parameter [-]
b_k	: model parameter [-]
c	: model parameter [-]
c_k	: model parameter [-]
exh	: exhaust gas
FF	: fraction of fuel per Wiebe curve [-]

I_k	: induction time integral [-]
k	: model constant [-]
K	: model constant [-]
mfr	: mass flow rate [kg/s]
n	: engine speed [r/min]
N_2	: Nitrogen concentration [mol/cm ³]
NO	: Nitric oxide concentration [mol/cm ³]
O_2	: Oxygen concentration [mol/cm ³]
p	: pressure [bar]
P	: Power [kW]
$P(k)$: probability of knocking [%]
T	: Temperature [K]
TEbT	: Temperature of exhaust gas before turbine [-]
x_b	: burned fuel rate [-]

784

785 **Subscript**

1	: Zone 1
2	: Zone 2
50mfb	: 50% mass fraction burned fuel
75mfb	: 75% mass fraction burned fuel
b	: brake
comp	: compression
i	: index number of each Wiebe curve
max	: maximum
ref	: reference
scav	: scavenging

786

787 **Greek Symbols**

α	: Model constant [-]
α_k	: Model constant [-]
β	: Model constant [-]
γ	: Model constant [-]
Δ	: Change [-]
ε	: Compression ratio [-]
θ	: Crank angle [degrees]
θ_{CD}	: Combustion duration [degrees]
θ_{CS}	: Crank angle at calculation start [degrees]
θ_{SOC}	: Crank angle at start of combustion [degrees]
θ_K	: Describes thus the degree of crank angle, at which the critical pre-reaction level is reached [degrees]
λ	: Air-fuel ratio [-]

788