

LOCAFI+

Temperature assessment of a vertical member subjected to LOCAlised FIre Dissemination

1. State-of-the-art and reason for the project

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State-of-the-art : Performance-based fire



State-of-the-art : Localised fire

Currently two models are available in the EN1991-1-2 Annex C to describe the effects of localised fire to the structure:



For car parks structures, several experimental campaigns have been used to validate the **Hasemi model** as design tool able to reproduce with sufficient safety margin the temperature field in horizontal structural elements caused by burning cars.

Reason for the project



In this situation, column temperature is mainly governed by radiative fluxes. But how to tackle this?

Objectives of LOCAFI Project

- Providing scientific evidence about the thermal attack imposed on a steel column surrounded by a local fire or attacked by a local fire at a distance from the column (including verification of equations providing temperature along centreline of the source);
- Providing design equations that allow reproducing this thermal attack as well as temperatures induced in the column, publication of these equations and implementation in existing software (OZone, SAFIR,...);
- Providing rules that form the basis of the design equations in order to have them implemented in Eurocodes, which will make the models automatically accepted without any discussion by the authorities of the different Member States.



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2. Experimental tests and CFD calibration

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Tests performed by the University of Liège

Characterisation of heat fluxes received by elements engulfed into the fire



- 24 tests have been performed by the University of Liège varying:
 - The diameter of the fire (*5 diameters* : 0.6*m*, 1.0*m*, 1.4*m*, 1.8*m* and 2.2*m*)
 - The type of combustible (2 different combustible liquids (diesel and N-heptane) + 1 cellulosic fire load)
 - The presence of a column engulfed into the fire
- For each diameter and for the two combustible liquids:
 - One test without column into the fire
 - One test with a column at the centre of the fire source

Tests performed by the University of Liège General test set-up



- Two tanks filled of heptane and diesel were placed at higher height than the floor to allow the fuel to flow by gravity;
- The Rate of Heat Release of the pool fire was controlled by adjusting the flow of injected combustible by a simple manual valve;
- The basin was continuously fed with cold water in order to cool down the layer underneath the burning fuel and, thus to provide a more stable steady burning regime by avoiding water ebullition.

Tests performed by the University of Liège

Experimental measurements : temperature and fluxes





- Tests are performed until a steady-state configuration is reached (measurements of gas temperature and radiative heat flux are stabilised);
- In configuration with steel columns, thermocouples also provide evolution of steel temperature.

Tests performed by the University of Liège Experimental measurements : flame length



The mean flame length L is the distance above the fire source where the intermittency has declined to 0.5, where intermittency I(z) is defined as the fraction of time the flame lies above the fire source. This assessment was made using digital image analysis.



The difference between the experimental flame length and the flame length predicted by Heskestad is between +30% and -30% but this is in line with other pool fire investigations and mainly due to uncertainty about combustion efficiency and fuel density.

N. Tondini, J.M. Franssen, "Analysis of experimental hydrocarbon localised fires with and without engulfed steel members", Fire Safety Journal 92 (2017), 9-22

Tests performed by the University of Liège

Experimental measurements : temperature and fluxes



EN 1991-1-2 correlation provides a good assessment of temperatures both in the flame ($\theta_g \ge 500^{\circ}$ C) and the plume ($\theta_g < 500^{\circ}$ C).

Tests performed at the University of Ulster

Characterisation of heat fluxes received by elements outside the fire



- 58 tests have been performed by the University of Ulster varying:
 - The presence or not of a ceiling (37 tests without / 21 tests with)
 - The number of pool fires (*from 1 to 4*) and diameter of these pools (2 *diameters* : 0.7*m* and 1.6*m*)
 - The type of combustible (2 *different combustible liquids (diesel and kerosene)* + 1 *cellulosic fire load*)
- The 9mx9m structure is composed of three types of columns (*I-section*, *H-section and O-section*)
- The HRR varied with time (not controlled) and was measured by a calorimeter hood
- Flame length is assessed by video analysis and on the basis of the flame presence probability

Tests performed at the University of Ulster

Experimental measurements : temperature and fluxes outside the fire



Tests performed at the University of Ulster

Experimental measurements : results obtained from O8 test

- Number of Pan(s) : 1
- Diameter of the pan : 1.6 m
- Fuel type : Kerosene
- Fuel quantity : 60 L
- Pool-column distance : 0 m
- Gauges-column distance : 1.5m
- No ceiling







10

Time(min)

5

- GG1- 1m

•••••• GG1- 2m

15



Tests performed at the University of Ulster

Experimental measurements : flame temperature

	TESTS O8, I9		TEST O10		TESTS	01,02	TESTS	03,04	TEST O14	
HEIGHT	(KEROSENE, D1.6M)		(DIESEL, D1.6M)		(KEROSENE, D0.7M)		(DIESEL, D0.7M)		(WOOD CRIBS)	
	EN	TEST	EN	TEST	EN	TEST	EN	TEST	EN	TEST
1M	900	949	900	899	900	686	900	652	900	527
2M	900	810	900	660	845	223	697	208	900	440
3M	900	515	900	339	381	90	325	89	640	317
4M	730	312	663	235	228	-	198	-	391	185
5M	479	179	440	146	157	-	139	-	271	159

These tests confirm that Heskestad correlation (EN 1991-1-2) over-estimates temperatures in the flame ($\theta_g \ge 500^{\circ}$ C) and the plume ($\theta_g < 500^{\circ}$ C) domains.













Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software Objectives

- The number of tests is limited and the measurements made during these tests are limited too.
- Due to the dimensions of the building/lab where the experimental tests have been undertaken, it was not possible to cover the full range of localised fires (Annex C of EN 1991-1-2 applies until D = 10 m and Q = 50 MW)

 \rightarrow After validation of the model(s), CFD modelling is a cost-effective and powerful tool able to provide a very large set of results for further validation of analytical calculation methods

• **FDS software** is a free software, developed by NIST, and widely-used by the community of fire engineers

Calibration of FDS models was processes by reproducing a selection of 5 tests chosen on the basis of the following criteria

- Tests performed under constant and controlled conditions (Liège) and free conditions (Ulster)
- Tests exhibiting long stable and steady-state results
- Different types of fuels, small and large pool diameters, with and without ceiling,...

Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software Calibration parameters

The most influencing parameters adjusted during the calibration process are :

- Turbulence model (Smagorinski, C_s = 0.1)
- Fuel properties, including soot yield, taken from literature (overventilated conditions)
- Number of Radiation Angles (200)
- Radiative loss fraction (range of 0.2-0.5, mainly depending on fuel type and fire diameter)
- Wind effects (based on measurements)
- Mesh grid dimensions (based on characteristic length and measure of turbulence resolution)



Example of flux variations due to an insufficient number of Radiation Angles

Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software

Test ULG 06 (D = 1m, Heptane, no column)

Average fuel flow q _{fuel}	0.98 l/min
Fuel density ρ	675 kg/m ³
Soot yield y _{soot}	0.037
Ideal heat of combustion $\Delta H_{c,ideal}$	44600 kJ/kg
Heat of combustion $\Delta \mathbf{H}_{c}$	41200 kJ/kg
RHR computed with $\Delta \mathbf{H}_{c,ideal}$	491.7 kW (626.1 kW/m ²)

- Dimension of the CFD domain : 5.75m x 3m x 4m
- Grid size : 5cm x 5 cm x 5 cm
- Wind speed : 0.22 m/s
- Radiative loss fraction : 0.45 (SFPE)



Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software Test ULG 06 (D = 1m, Heptane, no column)







Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software Test Ulster O29 (D = 0.7m, Diesel, with ceiling at 3.5m)

Fuel density ρ	823 kg/m ³
Soot yield y _{soot}	0.10
Ideal heat of combustion $\Delta H_{c,ideal}$	44000 kJ/kg
Heat of combustion $\Delta \mathbf{H}_{c}$	41200 kJ/kg
RHR computed with $\Delta \mathbf{H}_{c,ideal}$	491.5 kW (1277.1 kW/m ²)

- Dimension of the CFD domain : 7m x 7m x 3.5m
- Grid size : 5cm x 5 cm x 5 cm
- Wind speed : 0.76 m/s
- Radiative loss fraction : 0.45 (SFPE)



Calibration of a CFD model using FDS software

Test Ulster O29 (D = 0.7m, Diesel, with ceiling at 3.5m)



French tests (not in the scope of LOCAFI+) Tests initiated by LCPP in a large volume :

- Main hall : 300 m x 50 x 17 m
- 2 kinds of combustibles : wood pallet / kerosen
- Fire tests repeated
- Highly instrumented : thermocouples, gauge heat flux, videos (IR and normal)







Small test : ~ 20 palets Medium test : ~ 60 palets Huge test : ~ 110 palets









HRR ~ 30 MW





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3. Analytical method and validation

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3.1. Concept of Virtual Solid Flame

Step 1: The surface of the fire is transformed into an equivalent discus

$$D_{fire} = \sqrt{\frac{4.S}{\pi}}$$

Step 2: The evolution of Heat Release Rate is calculated according to EN 1991-1-2 Annex E (growing phase, plateau, decaying phase)

Step 3: The flame length L_f is calculated by application of EN 1991-1-2 Annex C

 $L_f(t) = -1.02 D_{fire} + 0.0148 Q(t)^{0.4}$

Step 4: The action of the fire is represented by a virtual solid flame, conic or cylindric, defined by D_{eq} and L_f



3.1. Concept of Virtual Solid Flame Modelling of the flame





3.1. Concept of Virtual Solid Flame Modelling of the flame

If the flame does impact the ceiling $(L_f > H_{ceiling})$



3.2. Geometrical method for exchanged heat fluxes <u>Assessment of radiative heat fluxes</u>

The radiative heat flux leaving a given radiating surface dA_1 and received by a surface dA_2 is :



$$\phi_{dA_1 \to dA_2} = \alpha_2 \varepsilon_1 \sigma. T^4 \frac{\cos(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2) dA_1 dA_2}{\pi r^2}$$

- the emissivity ε_1 (of the emitting surface) is assumed equal to 1 for flames
- the absorptivity α_2 depends on the receiving surface properties
- Kirchoff Law : absorptivity (α) = emissivity (ϵ)
- For steel, $\varepsilon = \alpha = 0.7$

3.2. Geometrical method for exchanged heat fluxes Modelling of the vertical member

Concave sections imply shadow effect \rightarrow As a simplification, heat fluxes are calculated on a convex perimeter

For I- or H-sections, the structural member is transformed into a rectangular-shape tubular section (in line with EN 1991-1-2 Annex G)

Then, the perimeter surface is sub-divided into faces



3.2. Geometrical method for exchanged heat fluxes <u>Numerical integration</u>



$$F_{d1-2} \simeq \frac{-1}{\pi} \sum_{i} \frac{(\vec{S}.\vec{n_1})(\vec{S}.\vec{n_2})}{S^4} \Delta A_i$$

- Each "individual" radiative exchange is calculated (at each time step).
- Requires a program for real applications.
- Allows applying non-uniform conditions (radiative fluxes) on the section perimeter.

3.3. Simplified model

Factor view between an infinitesimal surface and a cylinder



3.3. Simplified model

Factor view between an infinitesimal surface and a ring



$$F_{dA_1 \to A_2} = \frac{H}{2} \left(\frac{H^2 + R_2^2 + 1}{\sqrt{(H^2 + R_2^2 + 1)^2 - 4R_2^2}} - \frac{H^2 + R_1^2 + 1}{\sqrt{(H^2 + R_1^2 + 1)^2 - 4R_1^2}} \right)$$
$$H = h/l$$
$$R = r/l$$

Valid only if $l > r_2$!

3.3. Simplified model

Sub-division of the flame into cylinders and rings

If the flame does not impact the ceiling $(L_f < H_{ceiling} \text{ or no ceiling})$ If the flame does impact the ceiling

 $(L_f > H_{ceiling})$



<u>Note</u> : the contribution of the ring is really low, except if the member is situated in the ring

3.3. Simplified model

Sub-division of the flame into cylinders and rings (Adaptation 1)



! By neglecting the contribution of rings, we underestimate the received flux and could even obtain a received flux equal to 0 above the fire !

3.3. Simplified model

Sub-division of the flame into cylinders and rings (Adaptation 2)



! The formula for cylinder is not valid if the receiving surface intersect the cylinder !

3.3. Simplified model

Sub-division of the flame into cylinders and rings (Adaptation 2)



In this case, initial cylinder transformed into a modified cylinder in the visible zone

3.3. Simplified model

Sub-division of the flame into cylinders and rings (Adaptation 3)



A portion of rings is « hidden » by the cylinder situated above \rightarrow A reduced zone should be considered (safe-sided to ignore this reduction...)

3.3. Simplified model

Additional remarks

- Recommended width of cylinder is 50 cm
- For elements situated below the ceiling, convection should be added \rightarrow Hasemi
- For several fires, the fluxes received from each fire must be added. The total received flux is limited to 100 kW/m^2 $\dot{h}_{tot} = min(\dot{h}_{rad_section} + \dot{h}_{conv}; 10000)$ [W.m⁻²]
- The member temperature is calculated by stating the thermal balance of the member

$$\rho C_p(T) \frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{A_m}{V} \left[\dot{h}_{z_j} + \alpha_c (20 - \theta) + \varepsilon \left(\sigma (293^4 - (\theta + 273)^4) \right) \right]$$
[W.m⁻²]

$$\rho, C_{p_i} \text{ and } A_m / V \text{ are density [kg.m-3], specific heat [J.kg-1.K-1]}$$

and massivity [m⁻¹] of the member

3.3. Simplified model

Model validation based on Liège tests (and FDS modelling)

- Gauge situated at 3.75 m from the fire source (height : 1.75 m)
- Orientation of the gauge : perpendicular to the fire-gauge axis



3.3. Simplified model

Model validation based on Ulster tests (and FDS modelling)



3.3. Simplified model

Model validation based on Ulster tests (and FDS modelling)



Gauge location					
Height	Distance	Experiment mean	FDS Simulation	Cylindric flame	Conic flame
m	m	kW/m ²	kW/m ²	kW/m ²	kW/m ²
1.0	<u>0.5</u>	30.6	28.5	74.0	39.0
1.0	<u>1.0</u>	13.8	12.9	33.2	17.9
1.0	<u>1.6</u>	5.9	5.5	15.5	8.5
1.0	<u>1.8</u>	4.2	3.8	10.8	6.0
2.0	<u>0.5</u>	6.2	11.2	22.0	5.9
2.0	<u>1.0</u>	4.5	5.9	14.1	5.5
2.0	<u>1.6</u>	3.0	3.7	8.8	4.1
2.0	<u>1.8</u>	2.3	2.6	6.7	3.3

3.3. Simplified model

Model validation based on Ulster tests (and FDS modelling)



Gauge location		Fyneriment	Simulation	Cylindric	Conic	
Height	Distance	mean	mean	flame	flame	
m	m	kW/m ²	kW/m ²	kW/m ²	kW/m ²	
1.0	<u>1.0</u>	31.0	26.6	66.3	37.4	
1.0	<u>1.0</u>	24.3	21.6	62.0	34.6	
2.0	<u>1.0</u>	15.0	17.7	40.9	16.2	
2.0	<u>1.0</u>	13.0	13.6	38.5	15.9	
Gauge	location	-				
Height Distance		Experiment mean	Simulation mean	Cylindric flame	flame	
m	m	kW/m²	kW/m²	kW/m²	kW/m²	
1.0	<u>1.5</u>	37.6	33.6	53.9	38.9	
2.0	1.5	26.5	24.5	55.2	29.7	

3.3. Simplified model

Model validation for large diameters (LCPP tests)



3.4. Contour plots

- Provide a new set of results for validation of SAFIR and OZone implementations
- Provide quick and safe results for a wide range of configurations (predesign) and an interpolation method to apply it to a much wider range of configurations
- Provide a set of reference results for validation of implementation of analytical methods by practitioners (spreadsheets or software)



D = 2m, RHR = 500 kW/m², θ = 0° (left) or θ = 90° (right)

3.4. Contour plots

- Each nomogram is characterised by :
 - the diameter of the fire (m)
 - the RHR (kW/m^2)
 - the orientation of the receiving surface (°)
- > Nomograms only account for radiation. Not used :
 - Inside the fire \rightarrow HESKESTAD
 - At the ceiling level \rightarrow HASEMI
- Assumes that the flame emissivity is 1.0



D

Finite Surface 1 : $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ Finite Surface 2 : $\theta = 90^{\circ}$

3.4. Contour plots

Case	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D (m)	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
HRR (kW/m ²)	250	500	1000	1500	250	500	1000	1500	250	500	1000	1500
Power (MW)	0.8	1.6	3.1	4.7	1.8	3.5	7.1	10.6	3.1	6.3	12.6	18.8
Case	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
D (m)	6	6	6	6	8	8	8	9	9	9	10	10
HRR (kW/m ²)	250	500	1000	1500	250	500	1000	250	500	750	250	500
Power (MW)	7.1	14.1	28.3	42.4	12.6	25.1	50.3	47.7	15.9	31.8	19.6	39.3

Scope of application of the method (idem Annex C of EN 1991-1-2) : $D \leq 10 \text{ m}$; $Q \leq 50 \text{ MW}$

 \rightarrow The chosen configurations cover the field of application of the calculation method

3.4. Contour plots



3.5. Conclusions

- LOCAFI project introduces the new concept of Virtual Solid Flame.
- The distribution of temperature on the perimeter of the Virtual Solid Flame is based on existing equations of EN 1991-1-2 Annex C (Heskestad, Hasemi).
- The exchange of radiative fluxes is based on the configuration factor of EN 1991-1-2 Annex G.
- The simplified model is based on mathematical equations providing the radiative flux received by an infinitesimal surface from cylinders and rings.
- The convective fluxes must be calculated separately. However, convective heat fluxes have a significant effect only in configurations already covered by EN 1991-1-2 Annex C (members engulfed into fire or situated at the ceiling level).

3.5. Conclusions





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4. Software

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4.1. OZone



http://sections.arcelormittal.com/download-center/design-software/fire-calculations.html

File Tools View	Help							
Compartment Fire: Localised Fire:	 Annex E (EN 19 Localised Fire 	991-1-2) 🔘 User Def	ined Fire					
Number of fires:	1			Select fire:	1 •			
Fire	Diametre	Pos X	Pos Y		Time	RHR		
	[m]	[m]	[m]		[min]	[MW]		
Fire 1	3	2.5	1.25	Point 1	0	0	E	
Fire 2		1 .	· · ·	Point 2	5	1		
Fire 3	Diamet	er and posi	tion of	Point 3	10	2		Evolution of
Fire 4	the l	ocalised fir	e(s)	Point 4	15	2.5		
Fire 5				Point 5	20	1.5		KHK
		Geometrical Data		Point 6	25	0		
l y		Coiling Height:		Point 7				J
	_	Celling Height.	3.5	Point 8				
	Fire	Distance on Axis (x):	0 m	Point 9				
		Height on Axis (z)	3.4 m	Point 10				
		(L).		Point 11				
		The target (co	lumn,) is	Point 12				
		always on the	axis y = 0	Point 13				
		(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	$dx_{13}y = 0.$	Point 14				
		it is recomme	nded to set	Point 15				
	x	it on x	t = 0	Point 16				
				Point 17				
				Point 18				
				Point 19				
				Point 20			-	
						ОК	Cancel	







🤊 OZone v3.	.0 - test		🗩 💷 💌 🌮 S	teel Temperature - test	t			
File Tools	View Help		File	Tools View Help				
🗋 New 👌	Pyrolysis Rate Data RHR Data	≱port Name:			S	Steel Temperature		
$\overline{\bigcirc}$	Pyrolysis Rate Computed RHR Computed	Thermal Analysis		240				
eta	Hot Zone Temperature Cold Zone Temperature Heat Flux			180				
<u>B</u>	Zones Interface Elevation Fire Area	Heating	ature PCI	120				
0.3	Hoor Pressure Oxygen Mass Report	Steel Profile Openings Badation Through Closed Openings: Badation Through Closed Openings:	0.8 (0-1)	-				
с. С		Physical Characteristics of Compartmen Initial Temperature:	10.7 11 293 K	60				
Zone	Strategy	Initial <u>Pressure</u> : Parameters of Wall Material Convection Coefficient at the <u>Hot</u> Surf	100000 Pa	0	5	10 15	20	25
O	*8	Convection Coefficient at the Cold Su Calculation Parameters	7200 res	lax:227℃ At:23m	nin	i ime [min]		
test.ozn		Compartment Fire Ime Step for Printing Results: Maximum Time Step for Calculation:	60 sec					Print Close
		Extended Results Fire Design Partial Safety Factor Y M, fi :						

4.2. SAFIR® Localised fire

<u>Cylinder flame</u> (touching the ceiling)



- Geometrical method has been implemented into SAFIR (direct heat exchange between finite surfaces).
- This generates non-uniform distributions of temperature in the analysed sections.
- Each fire source is described by position (x, y, z), shape (cylinder or cone), vertical position of the ceiling, evolution of diameter according to time, evolution of RHR according to time.
- In case of several fires, contributions are summed up and limited to 100 kW/m^2

Franssen, J.-M., & Gernay, T. (2017). Modeling structures in fire with SAFIR®: Theoretical background and capabilities. Journal of Structural Fire Engineering, 8(3), 300-323.

4.2. SAFIR® Localised fire

- In a concave section, shadow effect is automatically considered if the section is outside the fire.

