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# Passive control of thermoacoustic instabilities by heat exchangers

Workshop on Analytical methods in thermo- and aeroacoustics



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## **Outline of Talk**

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# How? What?, Why? & Where? Passive control of thermoacoustic instabilities by heat exchangers

By use of

- Background Thermoacoustic Instability
- Control Strategies Active and Passive
- Motivation Use of Heat exchangers
- Applications

Background Thermoacoustic Instability Imperial College London

# What?, Why? & Where? Passive control of thermoacoustic instabilities by heat exchangers

- What physical phenomenon are we looking at?
- Why is this important?
- Where does this occur?

#### Background WHAT is Thermoacoustic Instability?

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- Simple thermoacoustic device
  - Rijke tube

Sound generated



Courtesy: Prof. Maria Heckl Keele University

#### Background WHAT is Thermoacoustic Instability?

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- Simple thermoacoustic device
  - Rijke tube
- Thermo + Acoustics

Sound waves perturb flame

Flame generating sound waves

Courtesy: Prof. Maria Heckl, Dr. Sreenath Malamal Gopinathan Keele University

#### Background WHAT is Thermoacoustic Instability?

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- Simple thermoacoustic device
  - Rijke tube
- Thermo + Acoustics
  - Positive Feedback



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#### Sound waves perturb flame


Flame generating sound waves

Courtesy: Prof. Maria Heckl, Dr. Sreenath Malamal Gopinathan Keele University

#### Background WHY Thermoacoustic Instability?

- Positive Feedback
  - Increasing pressure amplitudes  $\rightarrow$  Thermoacoustic Instability
  - Damage to structure



Damaged and undamaged burner assembly

Y. Huang and V. Yang, "Dynamics and stability of lean-premixed swirl-stabilized combustion", *Progress in Energy and Combustion Science*, Vol. 35, Issue 4, pp 293-364, (2009)







High amplitude pressure fluctuations

#### Background WHERE does this occur?

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Confined Heat source (or sink) + Acoustics







# How? Passive control of thermoacoustic instabilities by heat exchangers

How can we control this?

### Control Strategies Active and Passive

Actuator

- Break positive feedback
  - Active Control or Passive Control

Sensor

Active Control

Flame

Combustion

products



Δir

Air

Fuel

#### Control Strategies Passive control

- Other passive control devices
  - Acoustic liners





Dissipative mechanism in liners

The jet engine, 5th Ed., Rolls-Royce plc, Derby, UK, (1996)

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**Motivation** 



# Passive control of thermoacoustic instabilities

# by heat exchangers

By use of

What is so special about heat exchangers?

#### Motivation Heat Exchanger

- Heat exchangers
  - Integral component of combustion systems
    - No additions needed
  - Act as both *heat sink* and *acoustic scatterer/ dissipator* 
    - Active/passive acoustic element
  - Positive feedback  $\rightarrow$  Thermoacoustic instability







# Summary

- Thermoacoustic instability
  - Characterised by high amplitude pressure fluctuations
  - Often lead to structural damage
  - Caused by positive feedback







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# **Summary**

- Thermoacoustic instability
  - Characterised by high amplitude pressure fluctuations
  - Often lead to structural damage
  - Caused by positive feedback
- Control Strategies
  - Active and Passive





# Summary

- Thermoacoustic instability
  - Characterised by high amplitude pressure fluctuations
  - Often lead to structural damage
  - Caused by positive feedback
- Control Strategies
  - Active and Passive
  - Passive: Acoustic liners





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# Summary

- Thermoacoustic instability
  - Characterised by high amplitude pressure fluctuations
  - Often lead to structural damage
  - Caused by positive feedback
- Control Strategies
  - Active and Passive
  - Passive: Acoustic liners
- Heat exchangers
  - Heat sink and Acoustic dissipator
  - Active acoustic element

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# **Applications...**

#### WHERE does this occur? Domestic Boilers

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Confined Heat source (or sink) + Acoustics





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# Prediction of thermoacoustic instabilities in domestic boilers

#### Collaborators

Maria A. Heckl

Luck Peerlings Susann Boij Hans Bodén

Avraham Hirschberg Naseh Hosseini (also Bekaert)

Joan Teerling





BEKAERT

# Outline

- Modelling of Boiler
- Heat exchanger modelling
- Solution methodology
- Stability predictions
- Summary & Conclusions

#### Modelling of Boiler Idealised system

- Domestic boilers
  - Burner + Heat exchanger





Courtesy: Wolf (http://en.wolf-heiztechnik.de)

#### Modelling of Boiler Idealised system

- Domestic boilers
  - Burner + Heat exchanger
  - Radially symmetric







Courtesy: Wolf (http://en.wolf-heiztechnik.de)

# Burner + Heat exchanger Radially symmetric

**Idealised** system

**Modelling of Boiler** 

Domestic boilers





Courtesy: Wolf (http://en.wolf-heiztechnik.de)

#### Modelling of Boiler Assumptions

- 1-D acoustic waves, perpendicular to the rods
- Acoustically compact heat source
  - Heat source thickness  $\ll$  acoustic wavelength
- Heat exchanger : Heat sink + Acoustic scatterer
- Inlet open end and Outlet closed end



#### Modelling of Boiler Heat Source

- Infinitesimally thin, acoustically compact heat source
- Obeys "Simple"  $n \tau$  law

$$\hat{Q}_{f}(x,\omega) = n u_{1}(x) e^{i\omega\tau} \delta(x - l_{f})$$



Courtesy: Dr. O. J. Teerling, Bekaert Combustion Technology



#### **Modelling of Boiler** Heat Exchanger

Heat Sink + Acoustic Scatterer Acoustic transmission Heat Sink and reflection • Spaced infinitesimal distance  $(\Delta x)$  apart (2)(3)Heat sink - Transfer function  $p_2^+$ 91616 Acoustic scattering - Quasi-steady model Net scattering behaviour x = L $x = l_{*}$ • Combine both and let  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$  $\Delta x$ Heat Source Heat Exchanger (1)(2) $R_L$ Piston 318181818  $p_{2}^{+}$  $R_0$ (4) $R_n$  $x = l_f$ x = Lx = 0

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4

#### Modelling of Boiler Cavity backed Heat Exchanger

 $\blacksquare Rigid end \rightarrow Cavity backing$ 

$$R_L = R_u + \frac{T_{d \to u} T_{u \to d} R_p e^{2ik_4 l_c}}{1 - R_d R_p e^{2ik_4 l_c}}$$
$$\Delta_L = 1 - |R_L|^2$$

- $R_L$  : effective reflection coefficient at x = L
- Heat exchanger scattering coefficients :  $T_{u \rightarrow d}, R_u, T_{d \rightarrow u} \& R_d$



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#### Modelling of Boiler Cavity backed Heat Exchanger

 $\blacksquare Rigid end \rightarrow Cavity backing$ 

$$egin{aligned} R_L &= R_u + rac{T_{d 
ightarrow u} T_{u 
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ho e^{2ik_4 l_c}}{1 - R_d R_
ho e^{2ik_4 l_c}} \ \Delta_L &= 1 - |R_L|^2 \end{aligned}$$

•  $R_L$  : effective reflection coefficient at x = L

• Heat exchanger scattering coefficients :  $T_{u \rightarrow d}, R_u, T_{d \rightarrow u} \& R_d$ 



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#### Heat exchanger modelling Heat sink

Transfer Function (HTF) : complex quantity

$$egin{aligned} HTF &= rac{\hat{Q}_h/ar{Q}_h}{\hat{u}_2/ar{u}_2} \ \hat{Q}_h &= \left(u_2^++u_2^-
ight)\left(ar{Q}_h/ar{u}_2
ight)\left\{\left|HTF
ight|e^{i\Phi(HTF)}
ight\} \end{aligned}$$

- Obtained from numerical simulations
- Approximated using Least squares







#### Heat exchanger modelling Acoustic scattering



Surendran, A., Heckl, M. A., Peerlings, L., Boij, S., Bodén, H., and Hirschberg, A., "Aeroacoustic response of an array of tubes with and without bias-flow", *Journal of Sound and Vibration*, Vol. 434, pp. 1–16, (2018). Imperial College

#### Heat exchanger modelling Total Scattering Matrix



#### Solution methodology Eigenvalue problem



# Solution methodology

Eigenvalue problem



# Solution methodology

Eigenvalue problem



- *l<sub>c</sub> l<sub>f</sub>* plane
- Time lag :  $0 < \tau < T_{period}/2$ 
  - Unstable (Rayleigh criterion)





Surendran, A., Heckl, M. A., Hosseini, N., and Teerling, O. J., "Corrigendum - Passive control of instabilities in combustion systems with heat exchanger', *International Journal of Spray and Combustion Dynamics*, Vol. 10, Issue 4, pp 393–398, (2018).



 $I_c$  -  $I_f$  plane Influence of frequency



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Piston

 $R_p$ 

London

Heat Exchanger

 $R_L$ 

(4)

2

Heat Source

(1)

 $R_0$ 

 $I_c - I_f$  plane Influence of cavity length

> Stable region



2 (1) $R_L$ 9,9,9,9,9,6 Piston  $R_0$ (4) $R_p$ 

Heat Source

Cavity length  $(l_c)$  [m]

Heat so

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Heat Exchanger

 $I_c$  -  $I_f$  plane Influence of velocity



Cavity length  $(l_c)$  [m]

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Piston

 $R_p$ 

London

Heat Exchanger

 $R_L$ 

(4)

2

Heat Source

(1)

 $R_0$ 

 $I_c$  -  $I_f$  plane Influence of velocity



Cavity length  $(l_c)$  [m]

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Piston

 $R_p$ 

London

Heat Exchanger

 $R_L$ 

(4)

2

Heat Source

(1)

 $p_1^-$ 

 $R_0$ 



# **Summary & Conclusions**

- Aim: To study the passive instability control potential of heat exchangers
- Crucial parameters
  - Cavity length and Mean velocity
  - Also depends on the dominant phenomenon
- Outlook:
  - Aimed at clean and compact combustion units with hex
  - Improved design flexibility



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# THANK YOU