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2023 MUNICH

25–27 October
SCIENCE CONGRESS CENTER, MUNICH

Numerical simulation of Laser Ignition of Metallic Rods under Oxygen Pressure

PhD Thesis (2023-2026) - Samy TOUZOUIRT

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- Context of the study.
- Multiphysical Model.
- Primary results.
- Discussion.
- Conclusion and perspectives.

- The ability of metals to sustain or not a self-sustaining combustion in a pure oxygen atmosphere is essential to the design of oxygen systems. In order to classify metals according to this ability, the **standard test method ASTM G124-18** has been developed and is widely used.
- The goal of this thesis is to first develop a multiphysical model to be used as a numerical equivalent for the standard ASTM test. A second part will include sensitivity calculations in order to determine which parameters controls the combustion process, these parameters will then be estimated using a dual experimental/numerical approach and implemented into the numerical model for its experimental validation.



Before



After

Heat transfer

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho C_p (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T) - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (k \vec{\nabla} T) = (q_{\text{abs}} - q_{\text{loss}}) \cdot \delta + S$$

Hydrodynamics

$$\rho \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \rho (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{u} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot (-p \vec{I} + \vec{K}) + \vec{F} + \rho \vec{g} \beta (T - T_{\text{fus}})$$

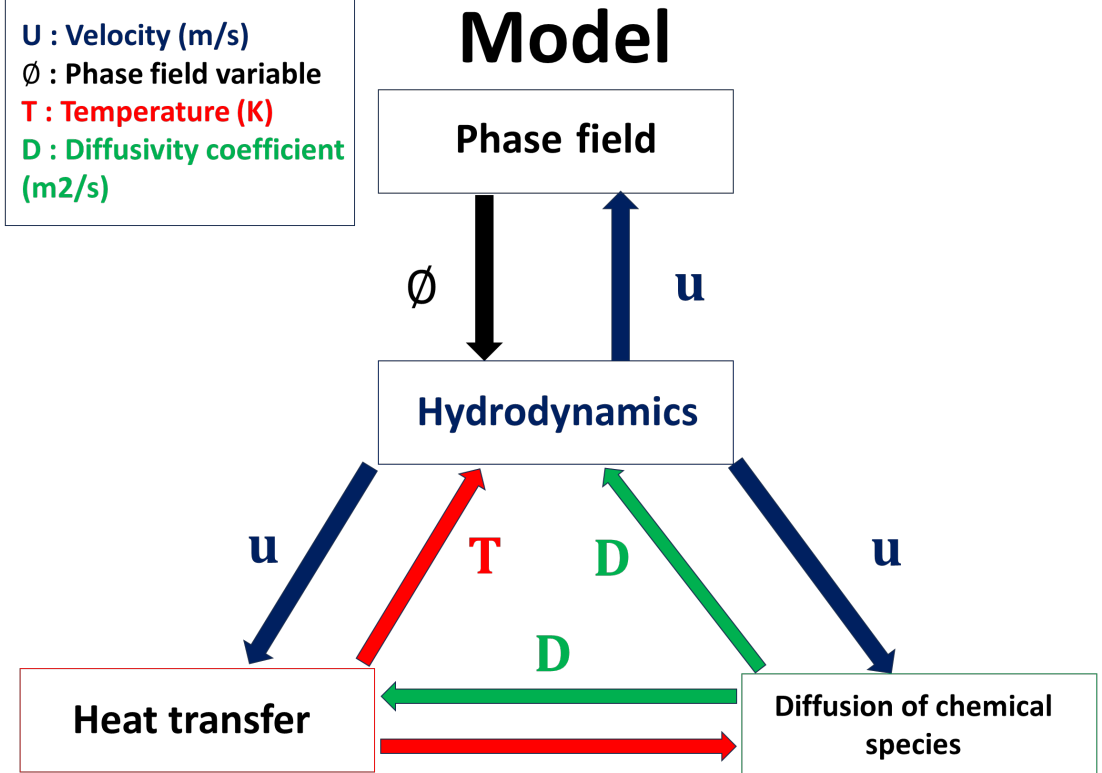
Diffusion of chemical species

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} c = R$$

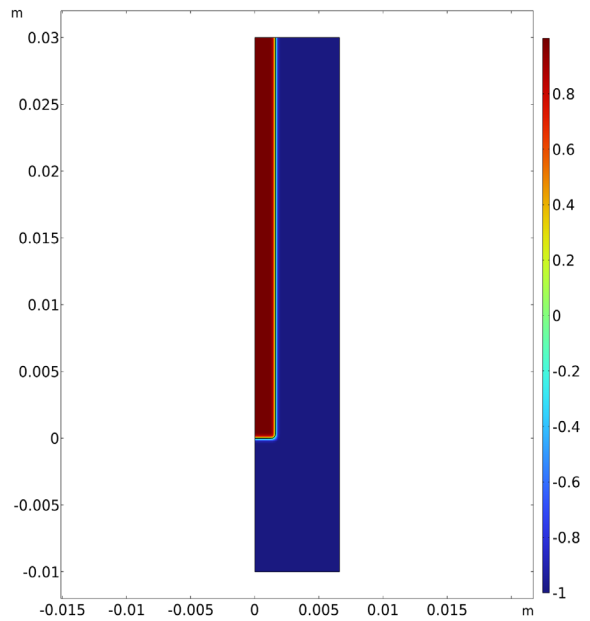
Phase-field

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \phi = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{2\sqrt{2}} \sigma \epsilon \chi \vec{\nabla} \Psi \right) \\ \psi = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\epsilon^2 \vec{\nabla} \phi) + (\phi^2 - 1) \phi \end{cases}$$

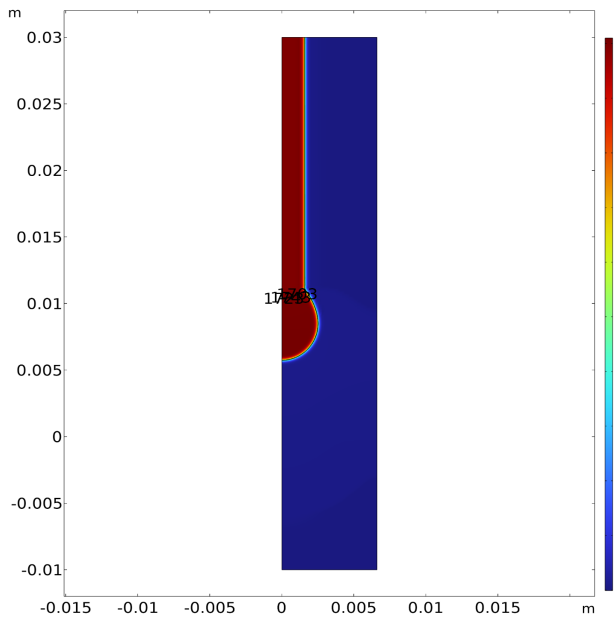
U : Velocity (m/s)
ϕ : Phase field variable
T : Temperature (K)
D : Diffusivity coefficient (m²/s)



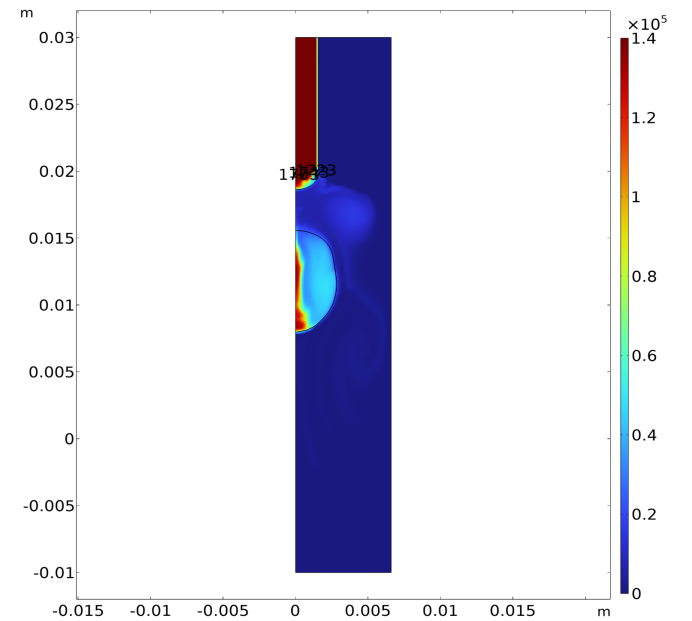
Model evolution



Phase Field + Heat Transfer



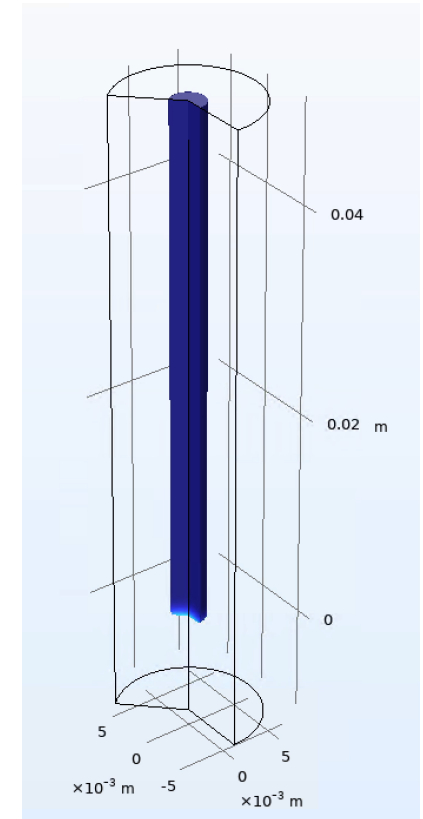
Phase Field + Heat Transfer + Fluid flow



Phase Field + Heat Transfer + Fluid flow + Oxidation

- **Simulation results for the rod combustion model**

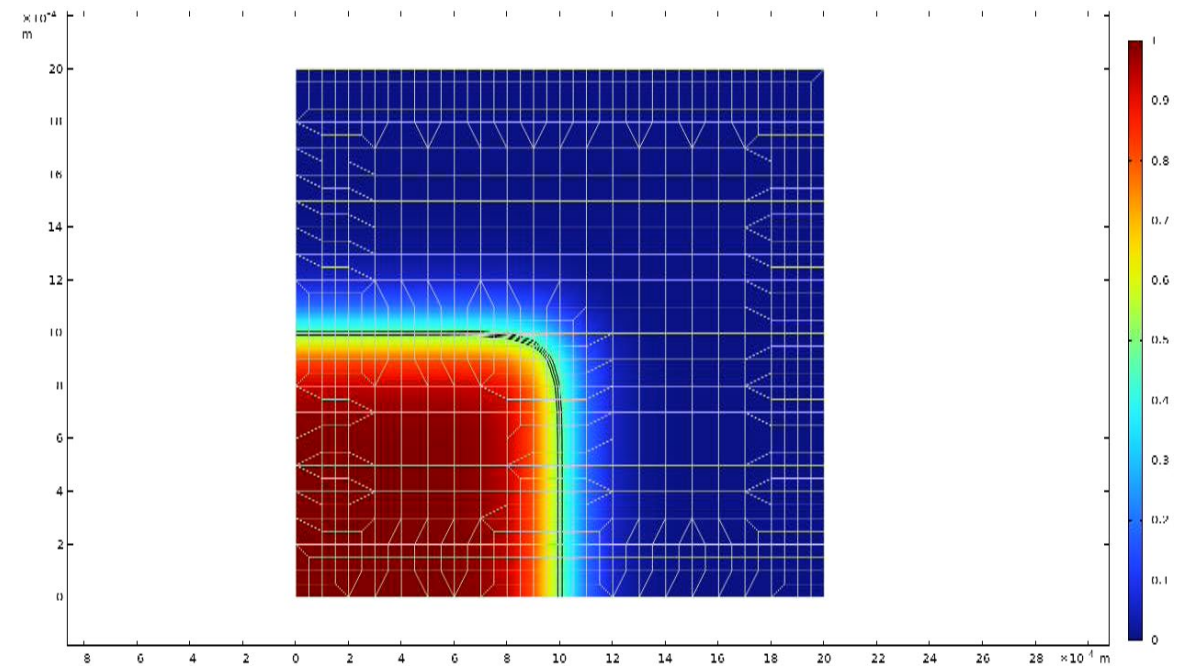
- ❖ Accurate reproduction of the rod combustion process.
- ❖ Good management of the morphological changes of the interface, including the drop formation and detachment.



Numerical simulation of metallic rod combustion

Droplet model

- ❖ Low calculation Costs.
- ❖ Easily validated experimentally.
- ❖ Particularly useful for the characterization of oxidation and parameter estimation.



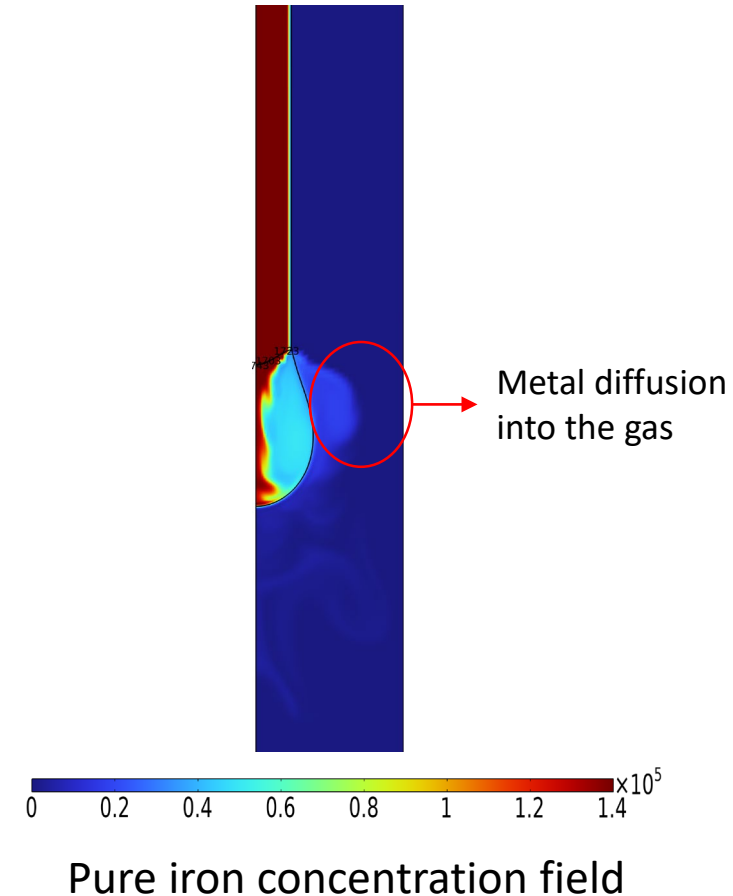
Numerical simulation of the droplet model

Non-physical diffusion of metal inside the gas

- ❖ Formulation of the diffusivity coefficients using phase indicators (pf.VF1 and pf.VF2)

$$D = (D_{metal} \cdot Pf.VF_1) + (D_{gas} \cdot Pf.VF_2)$$

- ❖ The use of numerical penalties to restrict the oxydation reaction to the metal only



Conclusion

- ❖ The Eulerian Phase-Field approach is well suited for our application as it reproduces accurately the rod combustion process.
- ❖ The process includes a high number of parameters and requires thus sensitivity calculations to determine which parameters are of major interest.
- ❖ The droplet model is more suited for sensitivity calculation and parameter estimation.
- ❖ A more detailed formulation is needed for the diffusivity coefficients to avoid non-physical diffusion.

Next Steps

- ❖ The development of a complete formulation for the diffusivity coefficients including the solubility and other oxidation kinetics.
- ❖ Implementation of a second conditioned phase field representative of the apparition of the oxide.
- ❖ Carrying out sensitivity calculations and parameter estimation using a dual numerical/experimental approach.
- ❖ Experimental validation of the numerical model using the estimated parameters.

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