

ANALYSIS OF STEREOSCOPIC PIV MEASUREMENTS OF IN-CYLINDER FLOWS USING PROPER ORTHOGONAL DECOMPOSITION

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Abstract

In the present work, the Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) was applied in the identification of coherent structures in the in-cylinder flow of an Internal Combustion engine. The flow field was obtained by means of Stereo Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) performed in a fixed cylinder cross section. We have observed that the principal eigenvector contains up to 80% of the time averaged kinetic energy. Also, a high energy content in the subsequent modes correlates well with high oscillations in the flow angular momentum.

Keywords: *proper orthogonal decomposition, stereo PIV, coherent structures, turbulent flow, IC engines.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In the development of intake ports for the cylinder head of spark-ignited internal combustion engines, the characterization of coherent flow structures generated during induction - the most usual being tumble and swirl motions - is an important issue for combustion acceleration.

The flow field will directly affect the mixture formation and hence the spatial fuel distribution inside the combustion chamber. A spatially non-homogeneous mixture leads to changes in flame behavior in terms of heat release, propagation speed, etc. The characteristics of the combustion will then depend strongly on local variations of the mixture and also on the length-scale of these variations. The effects are not well understood and have motivated the research reported in numerous studies (Haworth et al., 2000; Jiménez et al., 2002; Pasquier et al., 2007; Hélie and Trouvé, 2000; Xiong and Roberts, 2002).

In a general way, higher turbulence levels during flame development reduce combustion duration. A common strategy to achieve these higher turbulence levels consists of disintegrating large flow structures into turbulence near the spark release event. In this way, the kernel formation will depend on the local equivalence ratio and temperature around the spark plug. The flow field might also advect the initial kernel and the local turbulence will influence its evolution to a turbulent flame. The turbulent flame for the premixed thin reaction sheet will grow faster than the laminar flame due to the large scale turbulence ($l_t/\delta_L^0 > 1$, where l_t is the integral length scale and δ_L^0 is the laminar flame thickness (Poinsot and Veynante, 2005)). A faster combustion event is desired because it will increase the efficiency of converting chemical energy to piston work. Therefore, the majority of combustion strategies will attempt to create such desirable high turbulence levels near the ignition.

For this purpose, the creation of a strong swirling flow inside the combustion chamber is often studied. The idea is to store a great amount of kinetic energy in large structures during the intake stroke. These larger structures will last until the ignition event when they will break up into smaller ones, increasing the turbulence level. If a strong swirling structures is not formed during the intake stroke, the flow kinetic energy will dissipate faster with the enhancement of friction due to turbulence.

Furthermore, the formation of this strong swirl flow will also be influenced by the engine cycle-to-cycle variations, what might render the engine operation difficult. Thus, not only the magnitude of the swirling motion is important, but also its regularity. The knowledge of the mean motion in the cylinder and the level of fluctuation is then of great importance for the improvement of engines.

The objective of the present work is the study of the statistical properties of the flow induced by the intake ports in four different cylinder heads using proper orthogonal decomposition (POD). In order to obtain the velocity flow field, the stereo particle image velocimetry (PIV) was performed in a specific cylinder cross section. This technique enables spatially resolved measurements of the three instantaneous components of the flow velocity field within a very short time and allows the detection of large and small scale spatial structures. Once the velocity field was acquired, the POD was applied in order to know how the flow energy was stored. This statistical analysis suggests to be a promising tool in the design of intake ports.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP AND MEASUREMENTS

The PIV is a non-intrusive optical technique widely used in fluid mechanics to determine the velocity flow field. This is performed by adding small tracer particles (seeding) to the flow. The region under investigation is illuminated at least twice by a thin pulsed laser. The light scattered by the particles is recorded by a high-resolution camera. The velocity field is obtained from the displacement of the particle images between two consecutive light pulses. Standard PIV makes use of a single camera, which allows one to obtain only two components of the velocity vector. In order to obtain all the three velocity components it is required a recording of an additional view of the field (Stereoscopic PIV - SPIV).

The experiments were carried out by means of a 3D-PIV test bench for visualization of intake port generated flow field. The Figure 1 presents a schematic set-up of the flow test rig. This Stereoscopic PIV system consists of the follow components: (1) A double pulsed Nd:YAG laser (New Wave Solo XT 120) that outputs a maximum energy of 120 mJ per pulse with a wavelength of 532 nm into a beam with diameter of 5 mm and a pulse duration of 4 ns. The light sheet was shaped with thickness of about 2 mm. (2) Two PCO.1600 double shutter CCD cameras with resolution of 1600x1200 pixel and 14-bit quantization, and two Canon EF 35mm lenses. The two CCD cameras were positioned symmetrically at two sides of the cylinder and inclined at 45° with respect to the horizontal measurement plane under the cylinder head face. This arrangement permits the most accurate determination of the out-of-plane displacement (Raffel et al., 2007). The camera bodies were tilted with respect to the optical axis of their lenses. This is done to satisfy the Scheimpflug condition, i.e., to focus over the whole imaged measurement plane, as shown in Fig. 1. (3) A controller (ILA GmbH) guarantees the synchronization between generated laser pulses and image acquisition. (4) A ILATEC 40 seeder operating with Di-Ethyl-Hexyl-Sebacate (DEHS) as the seeding material for generating tracer particles with mean diameter of 1 μm. (5) For image acquisition it was used the CamWare software. Stereoscopic calibration and data evaluation were realized by VidPIV 4.6 XP (ILA GmbH) software. (6) A test cylinder head without the piston. The cylinder head is mounted on top of a Plexiglas cylinder with the same inner diameter as the engine bore and 300 mm length. The test bench is equipped with an universal valve-adjusting device which allows for the valve lift positioning in steps of 1 mm.

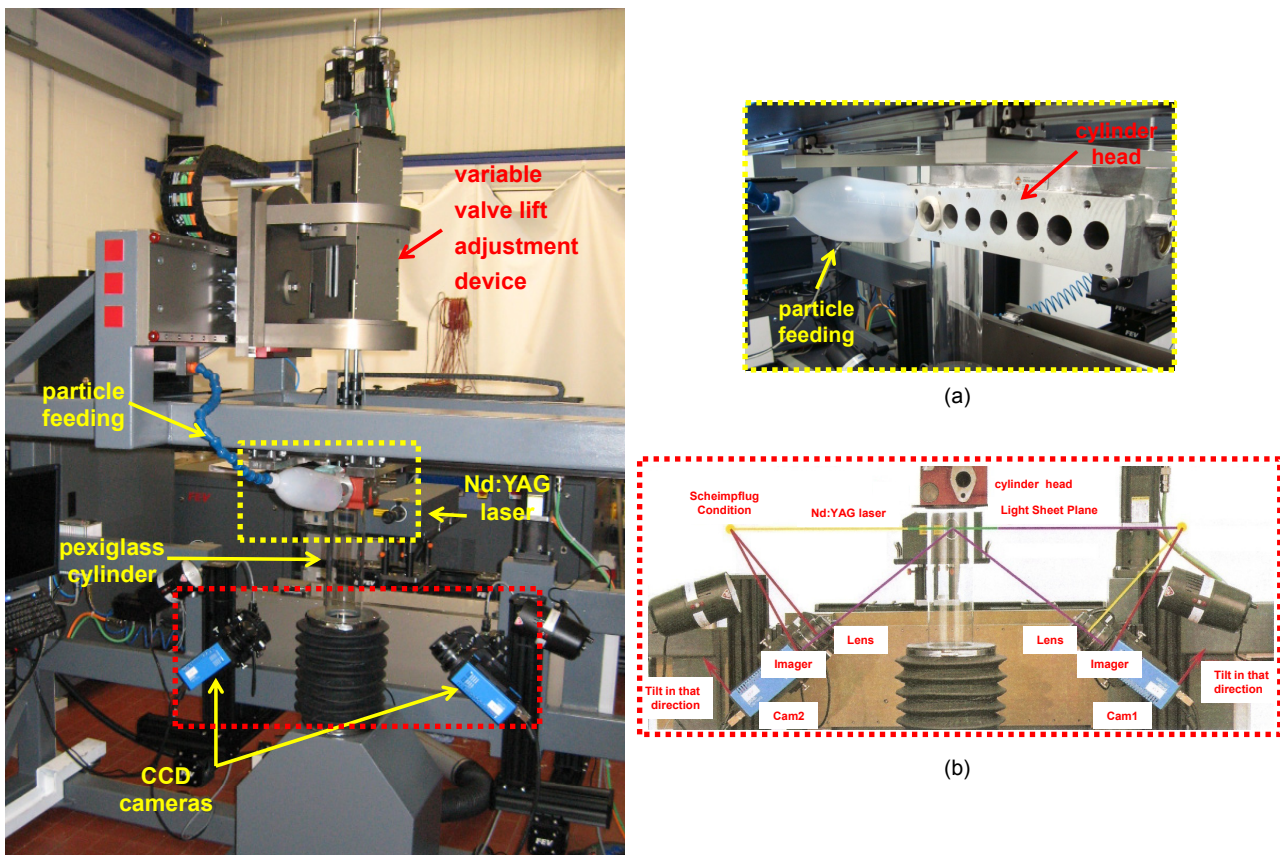


Figure 1. Stereoscopic PIV test bench. (Left) Stereo PIV system; (Right) (a) Positioning of the particle feeding, (b) Scheimpflug configuration.

The first step before starting the PIV experiment is the calibration that determines the metric on the measured plane, which is performed as follows. The horizontal laser sheet was aligned with a flat calibration target placed on top of the cylinder. After imaging the target a Tsai model (Tsai, 1987) was used to mapping pixel to real coordinates for each CCD camera. This model is based on pinhole camera model and describes radial lens distortions using nonlinear expression.

Although the Tsai model employs more complex mapping function, it determines the position of CCD cameras for later reconstruction of the three-dimensional vector field. As the laser and the CCD cameras are installed on a three-axis traversing bench, different cross sections of the cylinder can be measured without requiring additional recalibration.

During the experiments, the pressure drop inside the cylinder has been kept constant at 4.9 kPa by means of a blower bypass. The air flow is measured by a roots meter with simultaneous measurement of air temperature and pressure drop at the metering device.

The PIV measurements were taken on a cross section at distance D (cylinder diameter) bellows cylinder head face. A total of 100 frames pairs were recorded for each CCD camera at a frequency of 8 Hz with a time interval between laser pulses of $10 \mu\text{s}$. The statistical sample size (100 frames) showed be enough for a precise flow decomposition.

The tracer particle feeding was displaced close to the intake port of cylinder head and the particle flow has been adjusted until it was seen roughly 10 to 20 tracer particles in a typical 64×64 pixel interrogation area, as shown in Fig. 2.

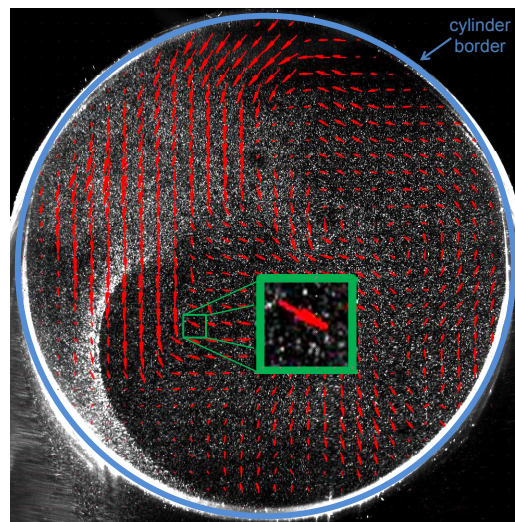


Figure 2. PIV sample image showing the calculated velocity field vectors over a cross section of an in-cylinder. Green square highlights a given interrogation area of 64×64 pixel. White dots are tracer particles.

The PIV images were post-processed using multi-pass correlation to provide higher resolution vector data. A first correlation was started with a 64×64 pixel interrogation size with 50% overlap followed by an adaptive cross-correlation with a final 32×32 pixel interrogation size with 50% overlap. A median filter was applied in order to filter out outlier vectors. An interpolation algorithm based on a weighted mean technique was employed to replace the filtered velocity vectors. Finally, the perspective vector maps from each CCD camera were combined to obtain the third component velocity and to improve accuracy for the other two components.

3. PROPER ORTHOGONAL DECOMPOSITION - SNAPSHOT METHOD

The characterization of coherent structures is an interesting issue in the study of turbulent flows and it is the subject of vast literature (Heywood, 1988; Cosadia et al., 2006; Cazemier, 1997; Bergmann and Cordier, 2003, Hung and Hien, 1998; Boree, Maurel and Bazile, 2002; Li Y. et al., 2004). However, the mathematical definition of such structures is not necessarily standard and might differ depending on context. One possible way is the Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) (Lumley, 1967), which establishes a criterium based on maximum energy content.

For optimizing the operation of an internal combustion engine, as previously mentioned in Section 1, the characterization of flow main structures is fairly important and the POD demonstrates to be an useful tool for their identification. As a favourable point, the efficiency of the decomposition increases with flow inhomogeneity such as those in the strong swirling flows sought in engine application.

The main definitions used in the derivation of POD formulation are summarized below. Details of the theory might be found in Griffel (2002). Let's consider a set of N observations (snapshots) of the flow velocity field denoted by $\{\mathbf{U}_s : (1 \leq s \leq N) \in Z, \mathbf{U}_s \in \Omega\}$, where Ω is the flow domain. \mathbf{U}_s is the velocity field, a vector formed by the three velocity components $\mathbf{U}_s(\mathbf{x}) = (u_1(\mathbf{x}), u_2(\mathbf{x}), u_3(\mathbf{x}))$. Due to the physical meaning of the velocity field, it is assumed that $\mathbf{U}_s \in L^2(\Omega)$, where $L^2(\Omega)$ is the Hilbert space of the square-integrable functions (Riesz and Sz.-Nagy, 1990).

The observations can be the result of experimental measurements or computer simulations. These results may be not necessarily the flow velocity, but any of the flow properties. Furthermore, each observation must be taken in a different instant of time. In the present work, one observation is made up of the full procedure required by the PIV technique (as described in the Section 2) to provide the velocity field in some instant of time. The frames are taken at different times equally spaced and each event is assumed linearly independent.

The proper orthogonal decomposition consists in decomposing the set of observations in an orthonormal basis which ensures an extra condition for its elements (or modes, the nomenclature used hereafter). Thus, the velocity field can be represented by a series expansion in terms of the modes:

$$\mathbf{U}_s(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^N b_j^s \Phi_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad (1)$$

where b_j^s is the time-dependent amplitude coefficient and the $\Phi_j(\mathbf{x})$ is the set of vectors generating the POD basis. Each mode might be understood as a coherent structure.

These functions will be the most similar to the members of \mathbf{U}_s on average if the normalized average projection of \mathbf{U}_s onto Φ is maximum:

$$\max \left\{ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s=1}^N |(\mathbf{U}_s, \Phi)|^2 \right\} \quad \text{with} \quad (\Phi, \Phi) = \|\Phi\|^2 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi \in L^2(\Omega), \quad (2)$$

where (\cdot, \cdot) denotes the inner product associated with the norm $\|\cdot\|$. The inner product of two vector fields \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{G} is defined as $(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}) \equiv \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{G} dS$, and the norm by $\|\mathbf{F}\| = \sqrt{(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F})}$.

If it is made the assumption of linearly independent observations, the Φ functions might be written as a linear combination of them:

$$\Phi_s = \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^s \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}). \quad (3)$$

The maximisation, Eq. (2), would be solved if all the coefficients a_j^s in Eq. (3) were determined. For this purpose, let's define an integral operator \mathbf{R} with kernel \mathbf{K} given by:

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s=1}^N \mathbf{U}_s(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{U}_s(\mathbf{x}') \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{R}\Phi \equiv \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \cdot \Phi(\mathbf{x}') dS', \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{K} = \sum_{s=1}^N (u_i u_j)_s$ is a tensor of second rank (a three-by-three matrix) and $\mathbf{R}\Phi$ is a vector of three components. Both are composed of $L^2(\Omega)$ functions. As mentioned previously, from the physical nature of the velocity field, the elements of \mathbf{K} satisfy:

$$\int_{\Omega} |k_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')|^2 dS < \infty. \quad (5)$$

In this case, for a measure space Ω , the linear integral operator on $L^2(\Omega)$ with kernel \mathbf{K} is compact if $\int_{\Omega} |K(\mathbf{x})|^2 d\mathbf{x}$ converges.

Performing some algebraic manipulation, it is possible to show two properties of \mathbf{R} : non-negativeness and self-adjointness. The follow equation shows the non-negativeness of \mathbf{R} :

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Phi) &= \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{R}\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \Phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \Phi(\mathbf{x}') dS' \Phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}') \Phi(\mathbf{x}') dS' \Phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |(\mathbf{U}_i, \Phi)|^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Now, Equation (7) shows the self-adjointness of \mathbf{R} :

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Psi) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \cdot \Phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \right) \cdot \Psi(\mathbf{x}') dS' = \int_{\Omega} \left(\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \cdot \Psi(\mathbf{x}') dS' \right) \cdot \Phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \\ &= (\Phi, \mathbf{R}\Psi) \quad \text{for all } \Phi, \Psi \in L^2(\Omega). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

With these two properties of \mathbf{R} , the problem of maximizing Eq. (2) is thus equivalent to a Rayleigh quotient e.g. if λ is the largest eigenvalue of a positive self-adjoint compact operator, \mathbf{A} , on a Hilbert space $L^2(\Omega)$, $\lambda = \max \{ \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{x} \in L^2(\Omega) \}$ where $\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})/(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x})$, then:

$$(\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Phi) = \lambda \quad \text{with} \quad \|\Phi\| = 1. \quad (8)$$

Thus, the Equation (8) can be rewritten by the follow way:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Phi) &= \lambda \|\Phi\|^2; \\ (\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Phi) &= \lambda (\Phi, \Phi). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

As λ is a real positive eigenvalue: $\lambda (\Phi, \Phi) = (\lambda\Phi, \Phi)$. So:

$$(\mathbf{R}\Phi, \Phi) - (\lambda\Phi, \Phi) = 0. \quad (10)$$

Applying the additivity property of an inner product on the Eq. (10) we have:

$$(\mathbf{R}\Phi - \lambda\Phi, \Phi) = 0. \quad (11)$$

According to Eq. (2), Φ can not be zero because its norm equals one. Therefore:

$$\mathbf{R}\Phi = \lambda\Phi. \quad (12)$$

Replacing the Eq. (3) and Eq. (4) on the Eq. (12) we obtain:

$$\int_{\Omega} \left[\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \right] \cdot \left[\sum_{j=1}^N a_j^s \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}') \right] dS' = \lambda_s \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^s \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}). \quad (13)$$

Applying the dyadic product property $(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w})\mathbf{u}$ in Eq. (13):

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^N \left[\int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}) dS' \right] a_j^s \right\} \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda_s \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^s \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}).$$

A sufficient condition for the equality to hold is:

$$\left[\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x}) dS' \right] a_j^s = \lambda_s a_j^s. \quad (14)$$

This expression can be written in matricial form according to the definitions below:

$$\mathbf{C}_{N \times N} \mathbf{A}_{N \times 1} = \lambda \mathbf{A}_{N \times 1}, \quad (15)$$

$$\text{where } C_{ij} = \frac{1}{N} \int_{\Omega} [\mathbf{U}_i(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{U}_j(\mathbf{x})]_{N \times N} dS'.$$

Each eigenvector of Eq. (15) will provide the a_j^s coefficients of a POD basis element Φ_s , which can be obtained by computing Eq. (3). Each eigenvalue λ_s represents the time average kinetic energy of the correspondent mode. For notation purposes, the modes are ordered by the decreasing eigenvalue, so that the average energy content of Φ_1 is greater than Φ_2 and so on.

Due to the optimality condition imposed by the POD, Eq. (2), the convergence of the energy spectrum is faster than any other possible decomposition (in the sense of the average and the inner product defined in this paper).

The data provided by the PIV system consists of a regular 2D mesh with measured values positioned at grid nodes. Since the POD analysis will require surface integration, the nodes were grouped in triangular cells created by the Delaunay algorithm. The node values were then linearly interpolated to cell geometric centers and the surface integral of a property over a cell was computed from the following simple approximation,

$$\int_{\Omega_i} \phi(\mathbf{x}) dS \approx \phi(\mathbf{x}_{CG}) S. \quad (16)$$

After performing the integrations and having the matrix C (Eq. (15)), the computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors is performed with the opensource library SciPy.

4. RESULTS

The flow field of four different intake ports, namely *Head 1*, *2*, *3* and *4*, were measured in the stereoscopic PIV test bench for one valve lift fixed at 12 mm. Further, the flow field of Head 1 and 4 were also measured for a valve lift of 2 mm.

The Figure 3 shows the content of time average energy in modes. The energy fraction content in each mode is presented by Fig. 3(a). The Figure 3(b) shows the cumulative energy when the modes are grouped from Φ_1 to Φ_{100} . For higher valve lifts, the flow field is more organized in the sense that more energy is stored in fewer modes. Only the first mode, Φ_1 , contains up to 80% of the total energy (see the zoom of the Fig. 3(a)). Moreover, from the 30th mode, the energy decreases following an exponential decay. The exponential law is given by $E(k) \approx a_1 e^{a_2 k}$, $k \geq 30$. The exponential constant (a_2) is in the interval of $[-0.031, -0.023]$ for all cases.

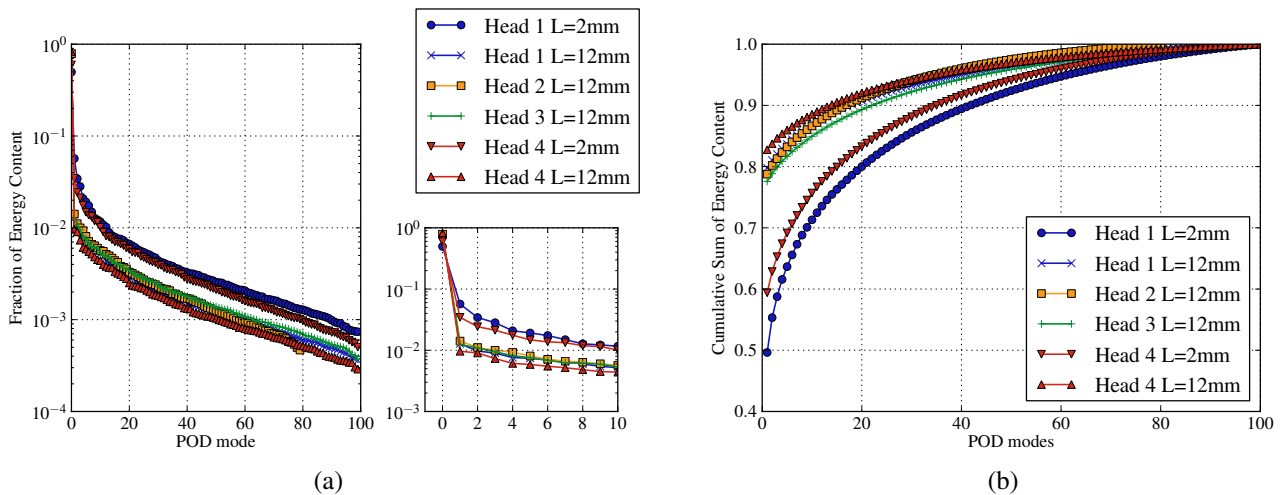


Figure 3. (a) Fraction of energy in each mode for all tested heads. The small frame is zooming the interval of $[0, 10]$. (b) Cumulative energy, that is, the sum of the contributions from Φ_1 to some Φ_k .

The link between energy content and the flow organization is supported by the observation of the mode velocity field presented in Fig. 4. Here, the vector magnitudes are normalized according to the same norm defined in Eq. (2). It is possible to notice that the motion organization decreases in the higher order modes. Furthermore, these modes presents several vortical structures while the first mode contains one major swirling structure. It will be shown later that Φ_1 contains the greatest amount of the angular momentum.

So far, only the time averaged energy has been discussed. However, if the b_j^s coefficients from Eq. (1) are computed, the energy time history is recovered. The Figure 6 presents the energy history for the first mode and the set of the first ten modes ($\Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \dots + \Phi_{10}$). It is seen that the first mode is in general more oscillatory when viewed separately in the gray line. This is rather consistent since energy transfers between the modes are expected from the nonlinearity of the Navier-Stokes equations. The energy decrease in the first mode possibly increases the energy of some other mode in the set and the other way around. This energy transfer reduces the oscillations of the set.

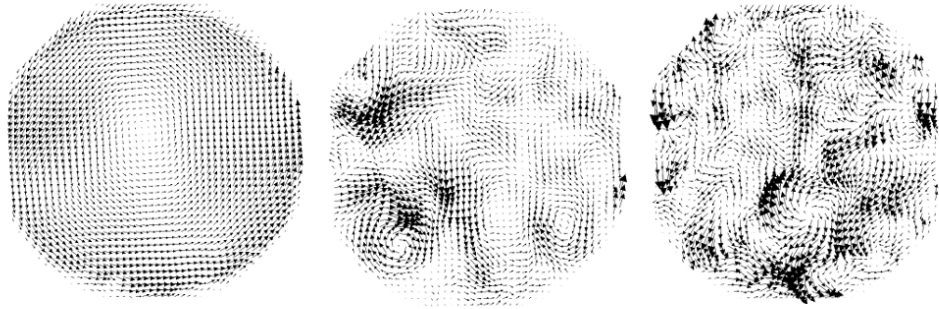


Figure 4. Velocity fields of Head 2: Φ_1 (left), Φ_{15} (center) and Φ_{30} (right).

The Figure 7 shows the contribution of each mode to the angular momentum around the cylinder axis. It is observed that the first mode contains the main swirling motion and the subsequent modes correspond to the oscillations shown in Fig. 4. As one could expect, the low valve lift of 2 mm did not clearly define a swirling motion because of the great magnitude oscillations.

As showed in Fig. 6, the results (c) and (d) have a similar energy history level in the first mode and for the set of ten modes. It means that the Heads 2 and 3 distribute the energy in a similar way. This same trend is also observed in the energy spectra (see Fig. 3). However, the angular momentum is quite different as presented in Fig. 7 by the plots (c) and (d). Comparing the results of the first mode velocity field presented by Fig. 5, we see that the Head 3 velocity field is composed by a two-vortex structure against only one big vortex in the Head 2. This would explain the different angular momenta.

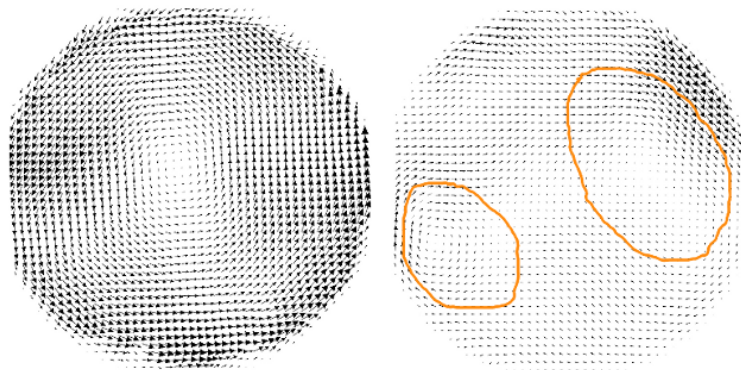
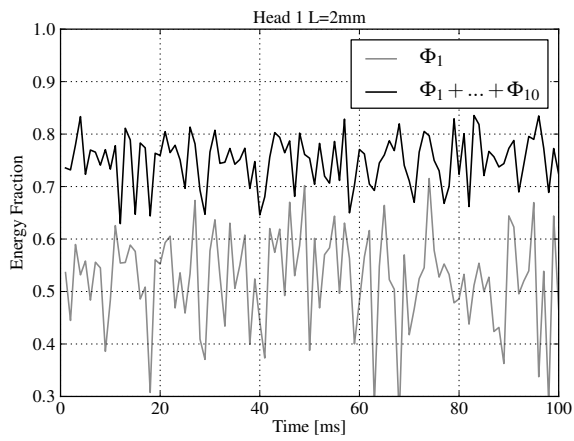
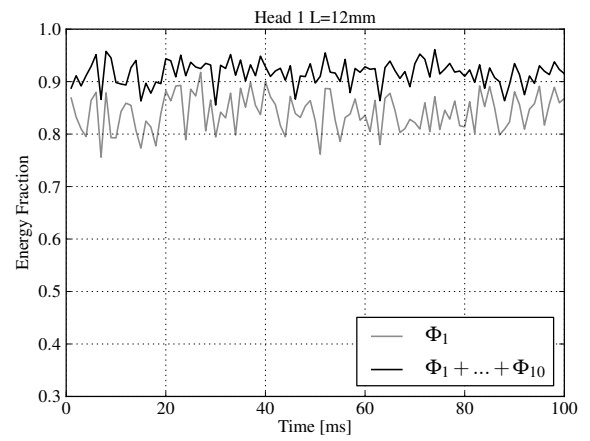


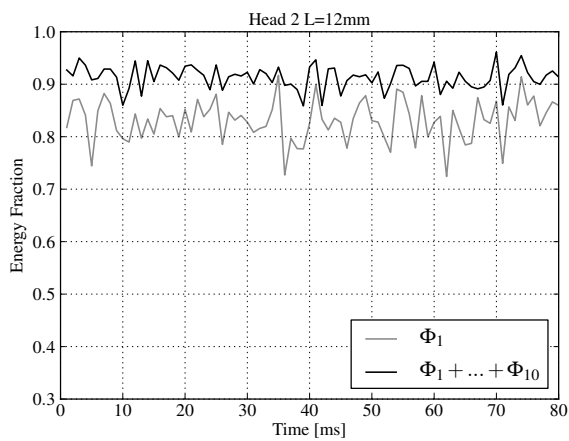
Figure 5. Velocity field of the first mode (Φ_1) for the Heads 2 (left) and 3 (right). The orange lines highlight the two vortex structure formed by the Head 3 in contrast to the one big vortex of Head 2.



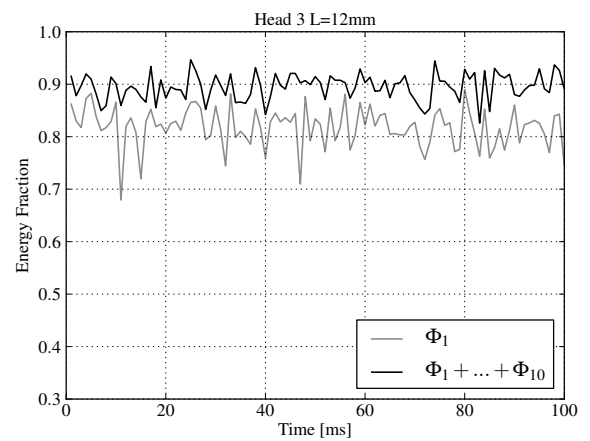
(a)



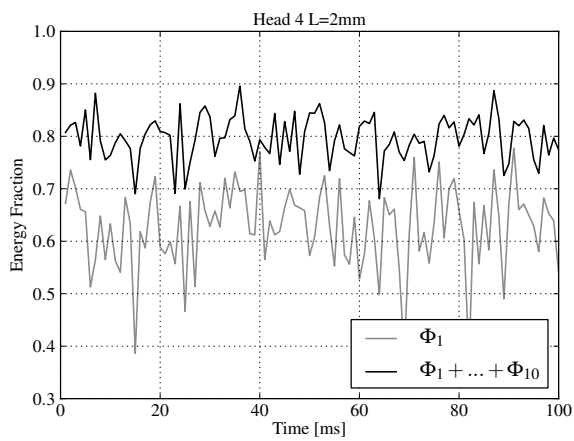
(b)



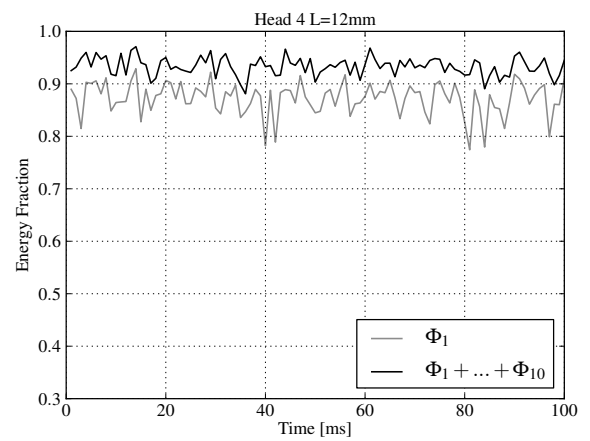
(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Figure 6. Energy history for Φ_1 (gray line) and for $\Phi_1 + \dots + \Phi_{10}$ (black line).

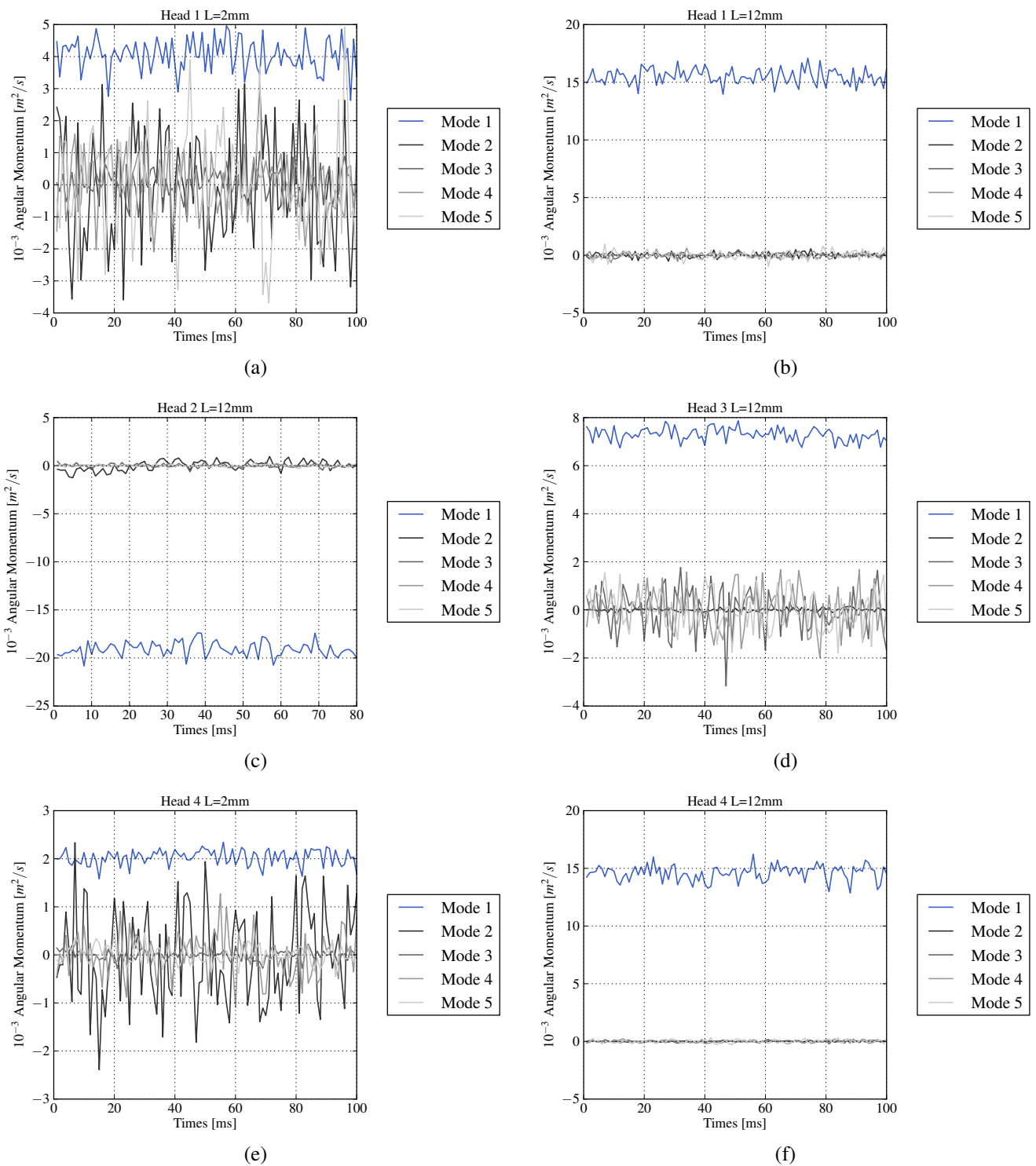


Figure 7. Contributions to angular momentum of the first five modes.

5. CONCLUSION

A mathematical tool called Proper Orthogonal Decomposition was used along with the experimental technique of stereoscopic PIV in the study of the in-cylinder flow generated by the intake ports of an internal combustion engine.

The results have shown that the first mode contains up to 80% of the time average kinetic energy of the flow field and have the major swirling structure. In what concerns the flow regularity, Fig. 7 shows that the first mode basically defines the average angular momentum, which is superposed by the contributions of higher modes with average angular momentum around zero. Looking for the differences from one port to another, Φ_1 is much more disturbed by higher modes in the case of Head 3. This implies in having more dispersed swirling structures in the engine when concerning the ensemble of different cycles. It is also notable the regularity of Head 4, for which all oscillations are rather small.

Even if a mean swirl is measured, we have shown that the structure of the mean flow is complex and difficult to interpret. Thus, POD has shown itself to be an important methodology to analyze the flow and an important tool in the design of the cylinder head.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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