

A validation/uncertainty quantification analysis for a 1.5 MW oxy-coal fired L1500 furnace using a swirling boundary condition [☆]

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Abstract

The work described in this paper is part of the larger mission of the Carbon-Capture Multidisciplinary Simulation Center (CCMSC) (<http://ccmsc.utah.edu>) at the University of Utah. This paper focuses on a validation/uncertainty quantification (VUQ) study performed on the 1.5 MW L1500 furnace, an oxy-coal fired facility located at the Industrial Combustion And Gasification Research Facility at the University of Utah. The L1500 is part of the overall project because it includes many of the physics present in full-scale boilers without the complications of multiple burners and very large scales. Experiments and simulations under oxy-coal combustion conditions with a swirling burner have been done in the L1500 furnace with Utah SUFCO coal in order to perform a VUQ analysis. A six-step VUQ framework is used for studying the impact of model parameter uncertainty on the quantity of interest (QOI) for the overall project, heat flux. Parameters from both the char oxidation and ash deposition models are examined. This paper focuses on the first two steps of the framework. The first step is the selection of model outputs in the experimental and simulation data that are related to the QOI, heat flux. In step 2, an input/uncertainty

[☆]sensitivity analysis

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(I/U) map is developed and all the parameters are assigned a priority. A sensitivity analysis is performed on five parameters in order to reduce the number of parameters that must be considered in the remaining steps of the framework. The concept of an instrument model is also introduced.

Keywords: LES, oxy combustion, swirl, heat flux, coal, instrument models, sensitivity analysis

1. Nomenclature

ε	Surface emissivity	$[-]$
$q_{incident}$	Incident radiation	$[Wm^{-2}]$
R	Thermal resistance	$[Wm^{-2}K^{-1}]$
k_i	Thermal conductivity for layer i	$[Wm^{-1}K^{-1}]$
Δx_i	Thickness for layer i	$[m]$
m_c	Coal off gas mass flow	$[kgs^{-1}]$
m_p	Primary stream mass flow	$[kgs^{-1}]$
m_s	Secondary stream mass flow	$[kgs^{-1}]$
η	Mixture fraction see equation [2]	$[-]$
F_p	Mixture fraction see equation [3]	$[-]$
F	Mixture fraction see equation [4]	$[-]$
ρ	Gas density	$[kgm^{-3}]$
ϕ	Scalar	
u	Velocity in the flow direction	$[ms^{-1}]$
$ratio$	Ratio between Arches resolution and STAR-CCM+ resolution	$[-]$
q	Radiative heat flux	$[Wm^{-2}]$
Ω	Solid angel	
N_r	Number of rays	
I_r	radiative intensity in each ray	Wm^{-2}
θ_r		
θ	View angle	
T	Gas temperature	$[K]$

k	Gas absorption coefficient	$[m^{-1}]$
Δx	Resolution	$[m]$
I_o	Radiative intensity from a wall	$[Wm^{-1}]$
ε_w	Surface emissivity of wall	$[-]$
T_w	Wall temperature	$[K]$
σ	Stefan Boltzmann constant	$5.670373 \times 10^{-8} [Wm^{-2}K^{-4}]$
$Q_{removal}$	Heat removed by the cooling tubes	$[W]$
$r_{H,l}$	Volumetric reaction rate of char consumed from oxidizer l reaction	$[kgm^{-3}s^{-1}]$
A	Particle surface area	$[m^2]$
w	Particle number density	$[#m^{-3}]$
c	Mixture molar concentration	$[kmole m^{-3}]$
W	Mixture molecular weight	$[kg kmole^{-1}]$
k_l	Reaction rate coefficient for reaction l	$[ms^{-1}]$
W_H	Char molecular weight	$[kg kmole^{-1}]$
ϕ_l	Stoichiometric coefficient ratio for species l	$[kmole_{char} kmole_l]$
k_c	Mass transfer coefficient	$[ms^{-1}]$
$c_{O,l}^g$	Molar concentration of oxidizer l in the bulk	$[kmole m^{-3}]$
r_t	Total volumetric reaction rate	$[kg m^{-2} s^{-1}]$
Sh	Sherwood number	$[-]$
Re	Particle reynolds number	$[-]$
Sc	Schmidt number	$[-]$
d_p	Particle diameter	$[m]$
D_{om}	Mixture averaged diffusion coefficient of oxidizer	$[m^2 s]$
q_{net}	Net heat flux	$[WM^{-2}]$
T_{shell}	External temperature	$[K]$
$d_{deposit}$	Deposit thickness	$[m]$
$k_{deposit}$	Deposit thermal conductivity	$[Wm^{-1}K]$
\bar{v}	Ash deposition velocity	$[kg s^{-1}]$
t_{sb}	Soot blowing time	$[s]$

2. Introduction

The Carbon Capture Multidisciplinary Simulation Center (CCMSC) (<http://ccmsc.utah.edu>) at the University of Utah is demonstrating the use of exascale computing with verification, validation, and uncertainty quantification as a means of accelerating deployment of low cost, low emission, coal-fired power generation technologies. This effort employs a hierarchical validation approach to obtain simultaneous consistency between a set of selected experiments at different scales embodying the key physics components (large eddy simulations, multiphase flow, particle combustion and radiation) of a full-scale, oxy-fired boiler. Figure 1 presents the CCMSC validation hierarchy.

This paper presents validation and uncertainty quantification (VUQ) results for the 1.5 MW oxy-coal furnace brick in the laboratory scale validation level. This suite of oxycoal-fired experiments were conducted in the L1500, a 1.5 MW furnace at the University of Utah. Details about the L1500 furnace and the experimental data can be found in Fry et al [1].

A first VUQ cycle for the 0% swirl condition was presented in 2015 at the AFRC conference [2]. In this paper, the preliminary phase of a second VUQ cycle at 100% swirl conditions is presented. It focuses on simulations of the L1500 with a swirling burner, the collection/processing of the simulation data, and the results of a sensitivity analysis.

3. Description of VUQ Approach

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) group presented a framework for validation of computer models called Simulator Assessment and Validation Engine (SAVE), which consists of a six-step procedure[3]. These VUQ tools have been explored by Schroeder [4]. In his dissertation, Schroeder presents a theoretical basis for a VUQ methodology that employs the six-step SAVE framework with a consistency analysis methodology referred to as bound-to-bound consistency [5] applied in Step 5, model output analysis. A modified version of the SAVE framework is used in this VUQ analysis.

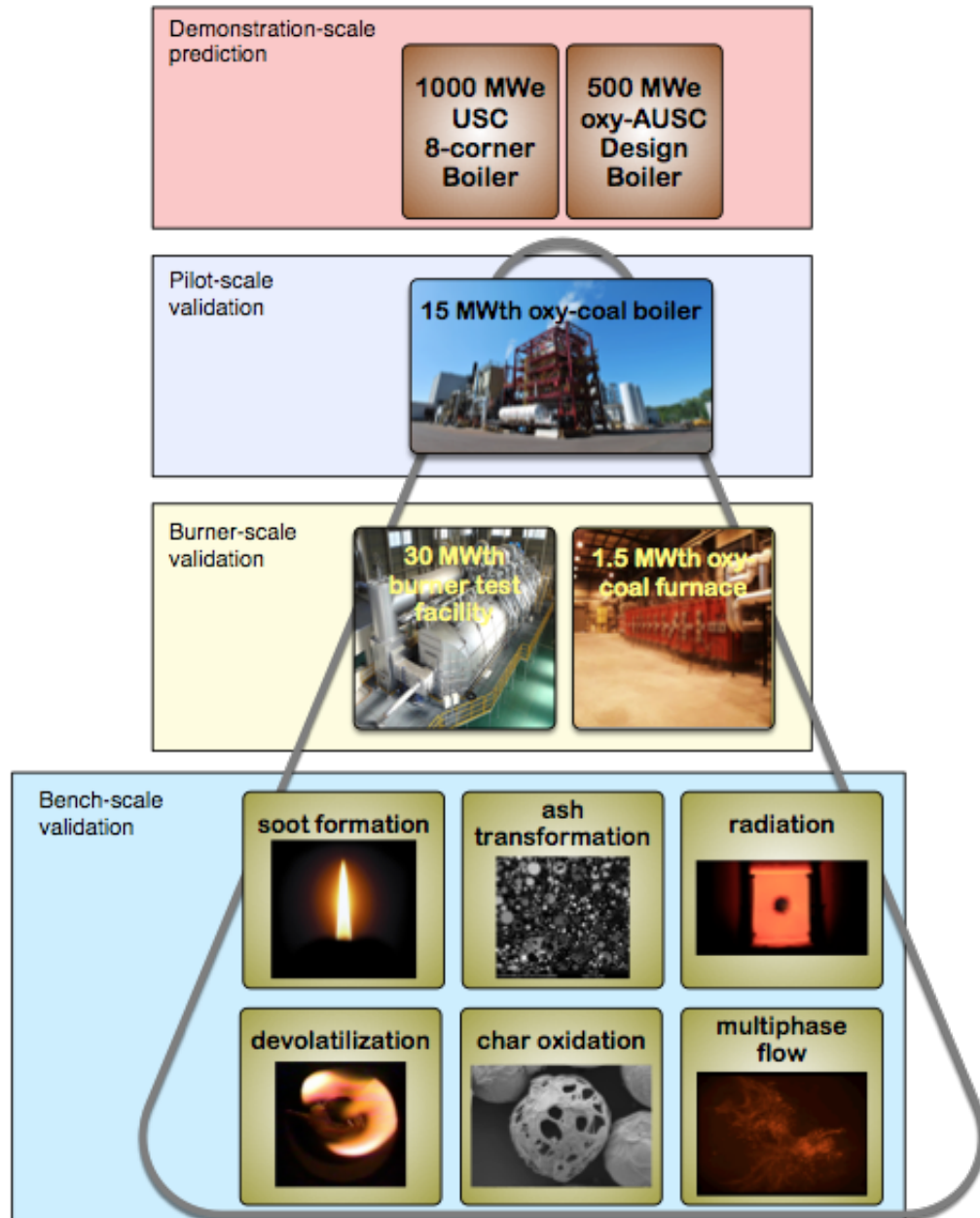


Figure 1: Validation Hierarchy for CCMSC

In step 1, model output(s) are selected as evaluation criteria or quantities of interest (QOIs). This step ideally involves researchers from both the simulation and experimental teams so that the QOIs can be reasonably obtained given the available facilities and instrumentation. In step 2, a list of parameters (model, scenario, and numerical) that may have an impact on the QOIs is created and refined. This list, which also includes the parameter uncertainties, is known as the input/uncertainty (I/U) map. A determination of the impact of each parameter (e.g. priority) on the QOIs is made based on prior knowledge and/or sensitivity analysis. Depending on the QOIs, instrument models may be required to process the simulation output for the sensitivity analysis; see 6.3. Parameters with high priority are selected as active while low priority parameters are fixed, and the active parameters are investigated further. Assuming that the uncertainty is a probability distribution, the uncertainty of the active parameters is then propagated through the model.

Step 3 is the collection of both experimental and simulation data. Step 3 is closely tied to step 1, selection of the QOIs, and step 4, surrogate model development. The data that is collected in Step 3 must allow the direct measurement or the calculation of the QOIs (through an instrument model) and the simulations that are performed are determined by the requirements of the surrogate model. Step 4, model approximation or surrogate model development, is required when running the computer model is expensive. Step 5, analysis of model outputs, can be performed using various methodologies. The NISS group [3] framework is partially based on the Kennedy and O'Hagan Bayesian methodology [6]. The main task is the computation of the posterior distribution, which is the product of the likelihood probability distribution (assumed to be a Gaussian distribution function of the discrepancy between the model and the experimental data) and the prior distribution functions for the parameters. Another methodology, bound-to-bound consistency, was developed by Michael Frenklach and Andrew Packard at the University of California Berkeley [5]. The basic concept of this consistency analysis boils down to comparing model outputs with experimental data. If their difference is less than the error in the experimental measurement,

the simulation and experimental data are consistent. If the data are not consistent, the simulation scientist must reassess whether the models and model parameter ranges are appropriate for the system being studied and the experimentalist must reevaluate the experimental methods and data to see if there are unaccounted for errors that might increase the uncertainty. Step 6 is feedback and feed-forward. In this step, a review of the I/U map is performed based on the results, corrections are made to the model or new capabilities are added, uncertainty in the parameters is reevaluated, and the evaluation criteria are reviewed to see if new data should be incorporated in a new VUQ cycle.

This paper details steps 1 and 2. Future work will include the completion of the remaining steps (data collection, development of surrogate models, consistency analysis, and feedback/feed forward). This analysis was performed on the L1500 oxy-coal furnace brick seen in Figure 1. The experiments and simulations are described next, followed by a description of how steps 1 and 2 are applied to this particular case.

4. L1500 Experiments

The L1500 can be operated in air-fired or oxy-fired modes and can burn solid, liquid, or gaseous fuels. In oxy-fired mode, recycled flue gas (RFG) is brought from the exit of the convective section back into the burners primary/secondary oxidant registers. Oxygen is supplied to the secondary and primary RFG streams just prior to entering the burner. More information about this reactor and burner can be found in [7] and [8].

A week-long experimental campaign was carried out in the L1500 where both 0% swirl and 100% swirl operating conditions were tested. The L1500 reactor is 15.5m long with a 1x1m² transversal area as shown in Figure 2. It is divided into 10 sections, and each section has several ports through which a variety of measurements can be taken. The reactor has eight sets of water-cooled tubes that remove heat from the first four sections. Additionally, there is a water-cooled steel grid at the furnace exit to reduce the temperature of the



Figure 2: Photo of the L1500 reactor located at the Industrial Combustion And Gasification Research Facility [1].

combustion gases prior to entering the convection section.

4.1. Coal Characterization

A Sufco Utah coal was used in the experimental campaign. The ultimate analysis for this coal is presented in Table 2.

95 To determine the particle size distribution (PSD) of the Sufco coal, the bags of coal to be burned during the experimental campaign were sampled at different depths. Both a sieving analysis and a Beckman-Coulter diffraction analysis were performed on the collected samples. As seen in Figure 3, data from both methods were fitted to a Rosin-Rammler distribution. From this
 100 analysis, it was concluded that the PSD distribution could be approximated by three particle sizes: $15\mu m$, $60\mu m$, and $200\mu m$, with mass weights of 57.4%, 26.2% and 16.4% respectively. Assuming that the particle velocities were the same as the gas velocity, these mass weights were converted to particles per cubic meter using a coal density of $1300kg/m^3$ and the volume corresponding
 105 to each particle size.

Table 2: Ultimate analysis for the Sufco Utah coal. Data are averaged and normalized from the analysis of five samples.

Sufco Coal	% Mass
C	66.89
H	4.51
N	1.17
S	0.36
O	13.6
Ash	7.88
H2O	5.58
HHV [J/kg]	27364.93

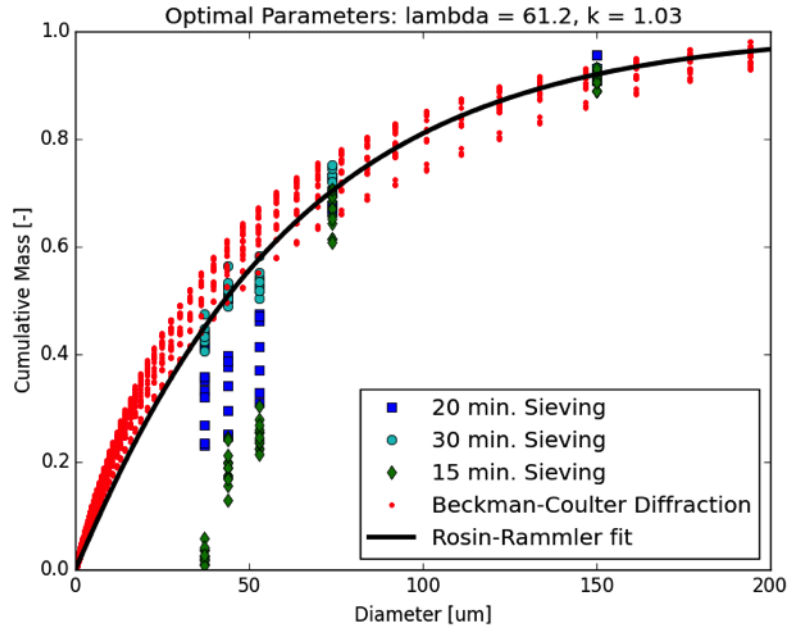


Figure 3: Experimental PSD and fitted Rosin-Rammler PSD. Sieving was performed for different times to determine the effect on the resulting PSD. Based on this analysis, only the 30-minute sieving data was used for the Rosin-Rammler fit.

Table 3: L1500 operating conditions

Stream	Mass flow [kg/s]	Temperature [K]
Coal (ash and moisture free)	0.03534	338
Primary	0.07103	338
Inner Secondary	0.05899	533
Outer Secondary	0.23515	533
Mass Fraction	Primary	Inner and Outer Secondary
O_2	0.1684	0.2412
CO_2	0.6464	0.6114
H_2O	0.1314	0.0965
SO_2	0.0009	0.0009
N_2	0.0529	0.0500

4.2. Operating Conditions

The L1500 operating parameters are shown in Table 3. These inputs were computed from the mass flow of the RFG to the primary and secondary registers, the oxygen mass flow to the primary and secondary inlets, the coal mass
110 flow rate, the gas temperatures for each of these streams, and the composition of the RFG. All of these parameters were recorded and controlled during the experimental campaign.

These operating conditions were generally stable during the experiment. However, there was an air leak in the RFG stream as evidenced by the out-
115 let CO_2 concentration being lower than expected. To compensate for this air leak in the simulations, an overall mass balance was performed on the furnace. The leaked air and the coals moisture are included in the RFG composition shown in Table 3.

In scoping simulations, it was determined that simulation results (specifi-
120 cally radiative heat flux and wall temperatures) were not sensitive to the shell temperature of the furnace. Therefore, constant values were used for each of the four sides of the furnace. Table 4 presents the values of shell temperature used

Table 4: Shell temperatures averaged over all measurements made on a side

Location	Shell Temperature [K]
Quarl	434
Main chamber south side	362
Main camber north side	396
Main chamber bottom side	362
Main chamber top side	427.2

in the simulations. These values were measured using a surface thermocouple during the experimental campaign.

125 The L1500 walls are composed of one layer of refractory material (Greencast -
94 Plus) with thickness $\Delta x = 0.2032m$ and thermal conductivity $k = 2.36 \frac{w}{mK}$,
and three layers of insulation material: Insboard 3000 ($\Delta x = 0.0508m$, $k =$
 $0.19 \frac{w}{mK}$); Insboard 2600 ($\Delta x = 0.0254m$, $k = 0.1475 \frac{w}{mK}$); Insblock $\Delta x =$
 $0.0508m$, $k = 0.104 \frac{w}{mK}$). Using the physical properties of these materials ob-
130 tained from the manufacturer, the thermal resistance was computed using equa-
tion 1. The average thermal resistance for the wall is $R = 1.02 \frac{w}{m^2K}$.

$$R = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{\Delta x_i}{k_i}} \quad (1)$$

5. L1500 Simulation Strategy

The L1500 has a swirling burner that can operated in a range of modes from
0% swirl, where all-axial flow can be achieved, to 100% swirl, where flow with
135 a $60m/s$ tangential velocity and $40m/s$ axial velocity can be obtained. For the
experiments used in this validation study, coal was fed with the primary stream
at a rate of $0.0324 kg/s$ in order to produce 1 MW of heat, and the burner was
set for 100% swirl.

The simulation data were obtained from the coupling of Large Eddy Simu-
140 lation (LES) of the burner and of the main chamber (see Figure 4). Because
the low-NOx burner is equipped with swirl blocks and has a complex geometry,

the commercial software package STAR-CCM+ was used to build a mesh and perform numerical simulations of the burner. The average velocity profile at the burner tip was then extracted, filtered, and used as the boundary condition (e.g. handoff file) for the Arches simulation of the main chamber. Arches is an LES
145 research code developed by this paper’s authors and other CCMSC researchers.

5.1. STAR-CCM+ Simulations

The low-NOx burner was resolved with STAR-CCM+. This software could represent the complex geometry of the L1500 burner using an unstructured
150 mesh. A CAD file used in burner fabrication was imported into STAR-CCM+. The following process was used to fix the CAD geometry to the CFD model. First, the flange holes and swirl adjustment rod were removed from the CAD assembly and imported into STAR-CCM+. Next, the inlets were taped and the internal volume was extracted. Finally, a box measuring $1m \times 1m \times 4m$ with
155 a smaller box at the outlet was added to the geometry to represent the furnace itself (see Figure 5). The simulation was run with the operating conditions presented in Table 3.

An LES approach was used for turbulence, and the subgrid scales were modeled with the WALE model [9]. The energy equation was solved with properties
160 of the gases computed assuming non-reacting, multi-component ideal gas mixtures. Only the gas phase was resolved. The burner was assumed adiabatic, a second-order implicit time solver with fixed time step of 5×10^{-5} was used, and a y^+ wall treatment approach was employed.

The computational domain had approximately 47 million cells. The burner
165 simulations were run on a linux machine, Ash, owned by the Institute for Clean and Secure Energy and operated by the Center for High Performance Computing at the University of Utah. The simulations were run on 3,600 cores for two weeks, which is long enough to obtain 3 s of physical time. Data were averaged over an interval of 1 s to obtain a velocity profile. This interval was
170 much shorter than the averaging interval for furnace data because of the short residence time/high velocity through the burner.

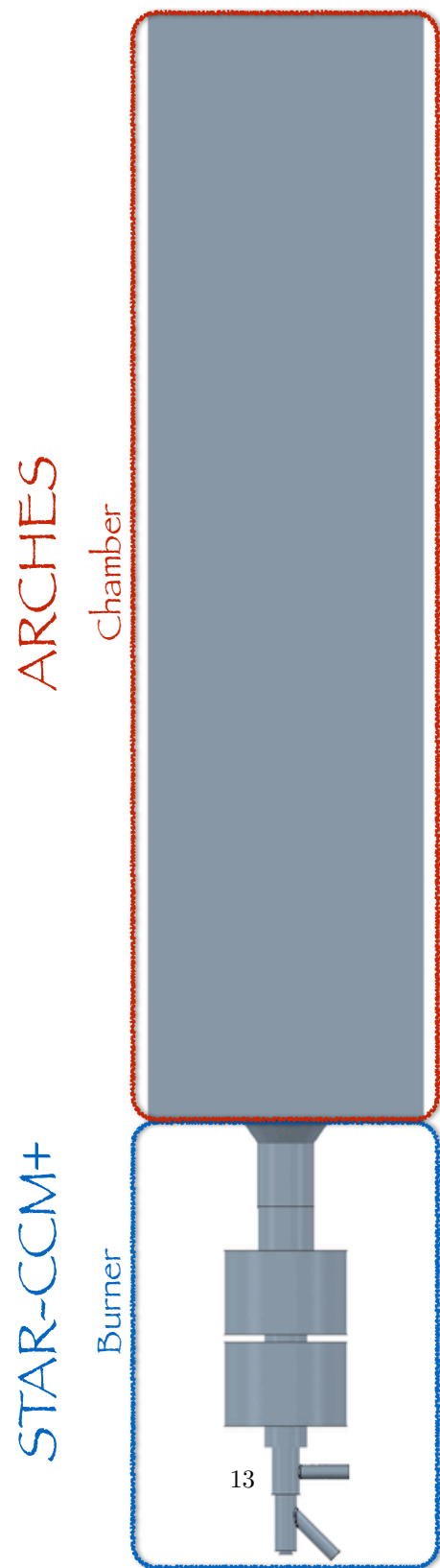


Figure 4: L1500 simulation coupling between Arches and STAR-CCM+

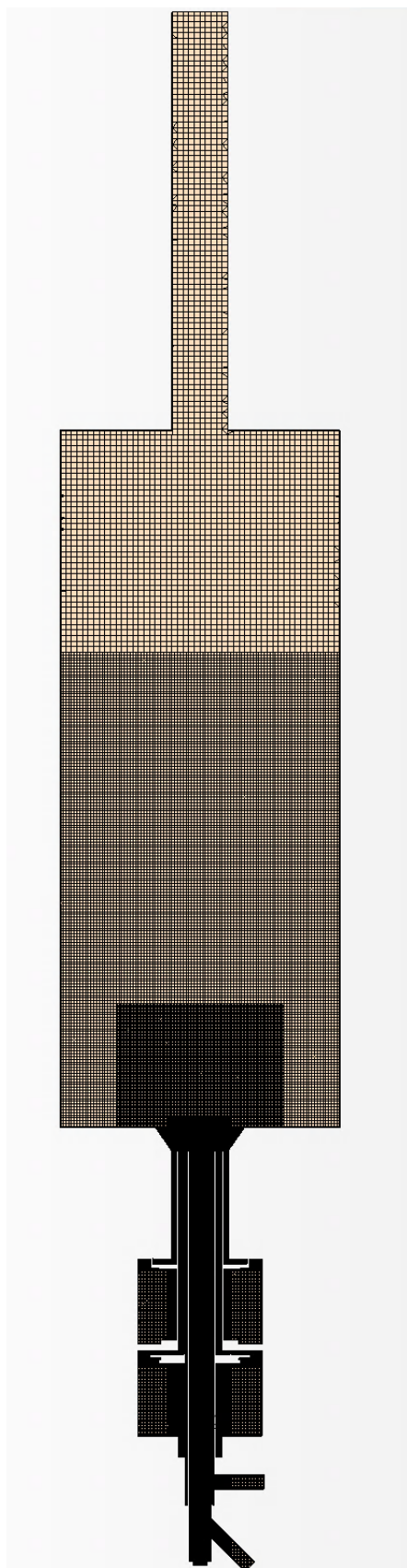


Figure 5: STAR-CCM+ mesh. Burner and an extra volume are resolved.

5.2. Arches Simulations

The simulations of the L1500’s main chamber were performed with Arches, a component of the Uintah software suite [10]. Uintah is a solver for partial
175 differential equations on structured grids using hundreds to thousands of processors.

In Arches, the turbulent flow is resolved by the filtered Navier-Stokes equations [11, 12, 13]. In this LES approach, the large scales are resolved, and the subgrid scales are modeled with the dynamic Smagorinsky model. For the
180 LES simulations described in this paper, first order discretization in time and a hybrid convection scheme (upwind and central differences) were used [14], .

The solid (coal) phase was modeled using the direct quadrature method of moments (DQMOM) with three environments [15]. The internal coordinates were the raw coal mass, the char mass, the particle enthalpy, maximum particle temperature, and the particle velocity (in x, y, and z coordinates). In
185 addition, the weights for the three environments were solved. An upwind discretization scheme was used to solve the equations for the internal coordinates and for the weights. The particle phase was coupled with the gas phase through source terms in the equations for momentum, heat and mass. More detail about the DQMOM implementation in Arches is presented in [13]. The coal particle
190 physics models included a new devolatilization model based on the Chemical Percolation Devolatilization (CPD) model [16] and the char oxidation model discussed below in the subsection 5.3. More detailed information about this new devolatilization model can be found in [4].

The gas-phase reactions in the system were modeled using a three-stream
195 mixture fraction approach. The three streams were the primary stream (m_p), the secondary stream (m_s), and the coal off gas (m_c). The mixture fractions based on these three streams are defined in equations [2], [3] and [4].

$$\eta = \frac{m_c}{m_p + m_s + m_c} \quad (2)$$

$$F_p = \frac{m_p}{m_p + m_s + mc} \quad (3)$$

$$F = \frac{m_p}{m_p + m_s} \quad (4)$$

Transport equations were solved for η and F_p ; F was computed from the
 200 other two mass fractions. A lookup table based on equilibrium chemistry assumptions was tabulated a priori as a function of these three mixture fractions and of the system enthalpy.

The discrete ordinates (DO) method was used to compute radiation in the simulation. For the cases in this paper, S8 quadrature, representing 40 discrete
 205 directions, was used. The radiation equations were solved every 20 iterations.

The L1500 simulations were run on two linux machines: Ash, mentioned above, and Syrah, a machine operated by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. With a 15mm mesh resolution, the computational domain had 2,255,610 cells. The simulations were run on 217 cores long enough to obtain 30 s of physical time. On ash, this required 100 hours of run time. The simulations were
 210 run with the operating conditions presented in Table 3.

5.3. Char Oxidation

The char oxidation model implemented in Arches includes heterogeneous reaction at the particle surface, mass transport of oxidizer from the bulk gas
 215 to the particle surface, and mass transport of devolatilization and oxidation products away from the particle surface. It computes the volumetric reaction rate of char consumed by the oxidizer in global reaction l using equation [5].

$$r_{H,l} = \frac{(Aw)^2 cW k_l W_H \phi_l k_c c_{O,l}^g}{Aw cW (k_l + k_c) + rt} \quad (5)$$

For the L1500 simulation, two global reactions were considered: one oxidation and one gasification reaction. The oxidation reaction with O_2 as oxidizer
 220 was $C_s + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$. The reaction constant in Arrhenius form was $k_l = A_l e^{\frac{-E_l}{RT}}$.

The two parameters in this equation were A_{O_2} and E_{O_2} . The gasification reaction with CO_2 as oxidizer was $C_s + CO_2 \rightarrow 2CO$. As with the oxidation reaction, the reaction constant k_l had two parameters, A_{CO_2} and E_{CO_2} . The mass transfer coefficient k_c is obtained using a Sherwood number correlation
225 with a correction factor as shown in equation [6].

$$Sh = 2 + 0.6Re^{1/2}Sc^{1/3} = \frac{k_c d_p}{D_{om}} \quad (6)$$

5.4. Ash Deposition

Arches uses equation [7] as a boundary condition for the walls. In this equation, T_w is the internal (hot face) temperature of wall and T_{shell} is the external (cold face) temperature. For the refractory wall, T_{shell} is the outside
230 wall temperature and for the cooling tubes, it is the water temperature inside the tubes. Also, R is the thermal resistance, ε is the emissivity of the ash deposit, and $q_{incident}$ is the incident heat flux. In this model, T_w is solved with a Newton solver every time step.

The thermal resistance R is compute with equation [8]. In this equation, the
235 first term is the resistance produced by the refractory and insulation layers in the furnace wall or by the metal in the cooling tube. The second term is the resistance caused by the ash layer. The thermal conductivity of the deposit, $k_{deposit}$, is an input parameter, and deposit thickness, $d_{deposit}$, is computed with the ash deposition model represented by equation [9]. In this model, the
240 ash deposition velocity (\bar{v}) is computed from a probability model [17] and t_{sb} , the time since the last soot blowing, is an input parameter. This deposition model uses three regimes . The first regime is when T_w is lower than the ash fusion temperature T_{slag} ; the deposit thickness $d_{deposit}$ is computed with the ash deposition model [9]. If T_w is equal to or greater than T_{slag} , $d_{deposit}$ is
245 computed with equation [10]. If the computed value of $d_{deposit}$ is greater than zero, then T_w is equal to T_{slag} and the model is in regime 2. If the computed value of $d_{deposit}$ is less than zero, $d_{deposit} = 0$ and T_w is computed with equation [7] and the model is in the regime 3.

$$q_{net} = \frac{(T_w - T_{shell})}{R} = \varepsilon(q_{incident} - \sigma T_w^4) \quad (7)$$

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{layer}} \frac{\Delta x_i}{k_i} + \frac{d_{deposit}}{k_{deposit}} \quad (8)$$

$$d_{deposit} = \bar{v} t_{sb} \quad (9)$$

$$d_{deposit} = k_{deposit} \frac{T_{slag} - T_{shell}}{q_{net \max} - R_{wall}} \quad (10)$$

Where $q_{net \max}$ is computed from equation [15] with T_w replaced with T_{slag} and R_{wall} replaced with $\sum_{i=1}^{N_{layer}} \frac{\Delta x_i}{k_i}$.

5.5. Handoff Plane

Because of the difference in grid size between the STAR-CCM+ and Arches simulations, the velocity field computed in STAR-CCM+ needed to be filtered for use in Arches. This filtering process has seven steps.

- 255 • First is to extract the velocity vectors from STAR-CCM+ on a structured grid using nearest interpolation. The number of points in the extracted grid depends on the desired ratio (an integer) between the STAR-CCM+ and Arches resolutions (here this value is 30) and the final resolution of the Arches simulation ($15 \times 10^{-3} m$). These choices result in structured grid of 419x 419 points with a resolution of $5 \times 10^{-4} m$.
- 260 • Second is to map the STAR-CCM+ information to a 2-D array, adding zeros to the array where data was not extracted (outside of the burner).
- Third is to create a 2-D array for the fraction of the primary stream, \bar{F}_p , with the condition $\bar{F}_p = 1$ for $r \leq 0.0387m$ (radius of the primary inlet) and $\bar{F}_p = 0$ for $r > 0.0387m$.
- 265 • Fourth is to obtain density, $\bar{\rho}$, from the equilibrium chemistry lookup table described above using \bar{F}_p and assuming that there is no heat loss in the burner.

- Fifth is to compute the components of the velocity in the flow (\bar{u}) and the tangential (\bar{v} and \bar{w}) directions. To do this, the mass flux at the inlet, ρu (units of $\frac{kg}{m^2s}$), is filtered using equation [11], where $\phi = 1$ for u , $\phi = v$ for the v component, $\phi = w$ for the w component, and ρu is the product of the gas density and velocity in the flow direction extracted from STAR-CCM+. In order to obtain \bar{u} , $\overline{\rho u}$ is divided by $\bar{\rho}$. For \bar{v} and \bar{w} , $\overline{\rho uv}$ and $\overline{\rho uw}$ are divided by $\overline{\rho u}$.
- Sixth is to write the filtered velocities \bar{u} , \bar{v} and \bar{w} to an input (handoff) file that is read by Arches. This entire process is illustrated by the velocity fields shown in Figure 6. On the left are the three velocity components from the STAR-CCM+ simulation at the exit plane of the burner. On the right are the filtered velocity components used in the Arches simulation.
- Seventh is to create input (handoff) files for F_p and *enthalpy* at the exit plane of the burner to be used in the Arches simulation. These files are obtained using the lookup table. For the DQMOM inlet conditions, the velocity of the particles is assumed equal to the gas velocity and a constant coal mass flow rate is assumed for each cell.

$$\overline{(\rho u \phi)}_{i,j} = \sum_{n=j*ratio}^{(j+1)ratio} \sum_{m=i*ratio}^{(i+1)ratio} \frac{(\rho u \phi)_{m,n}}{ratio^2} \quad (11)$$

5.6. Domain Size and Mesh Resolution

In previous simulations of the entire furnace geometry at a resolution of 16mm for the 0% swirl case, it was determined that gas temperatures, velocities and chemical compositions were relatively constant after section 6 [2]. Also, differences between simulation results from the full length (15.5m) and from simulations using a shortened domain (7m) were minimal. Hence, the computational geometry for the analysis that follows is 7m.

The impact of mesh resolution was also tested by performing an Arches simulation with 12mm resolution. While the differences in the wall temperature

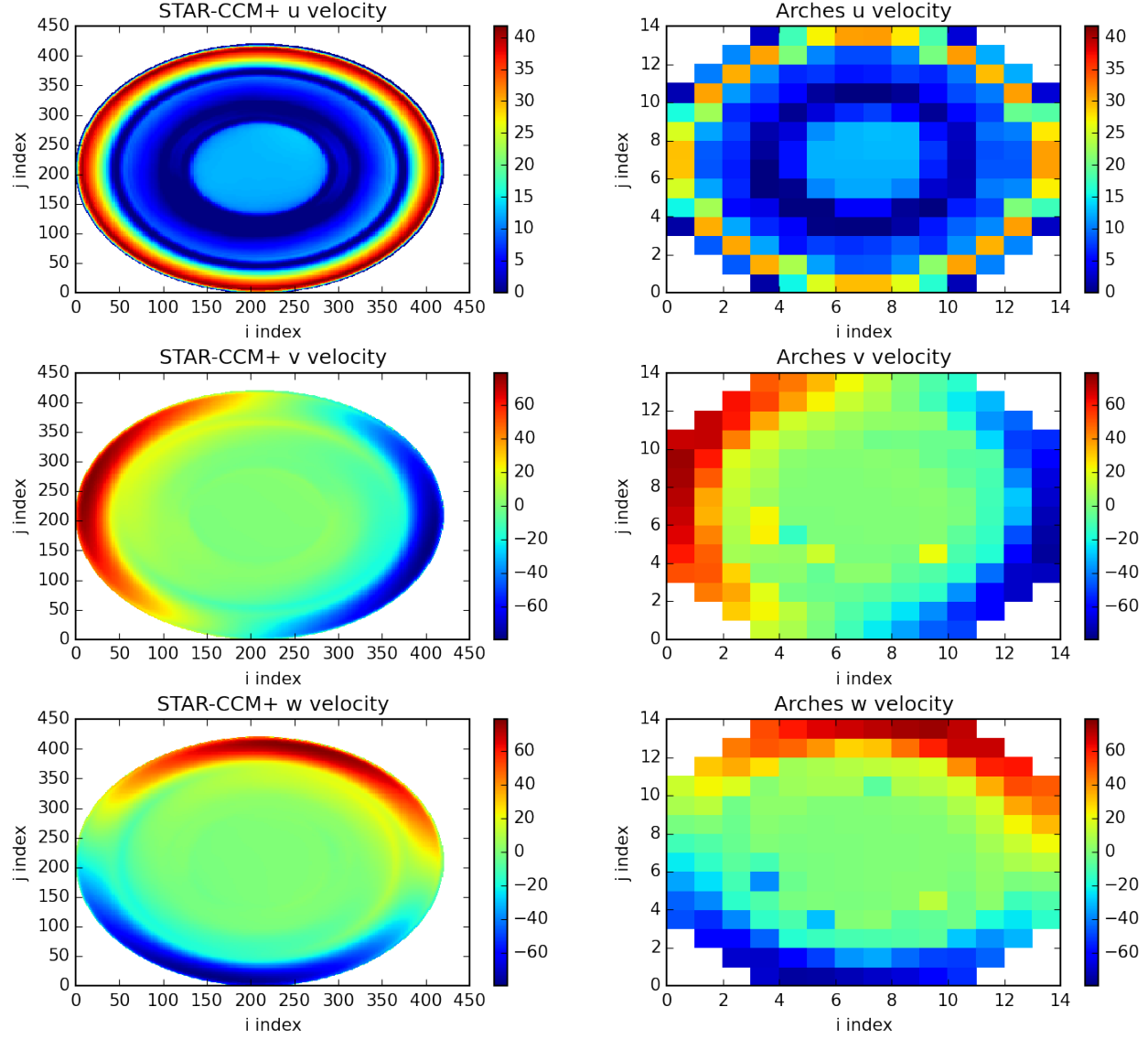


Figure 6: Velocities at plane of the burner tip; left is STAR-CCM+ with a resolution of $0.5 \times 10^{-3} m$, right is Arches with a resolution of $15 \times 10^{-3} m$; ratio 30

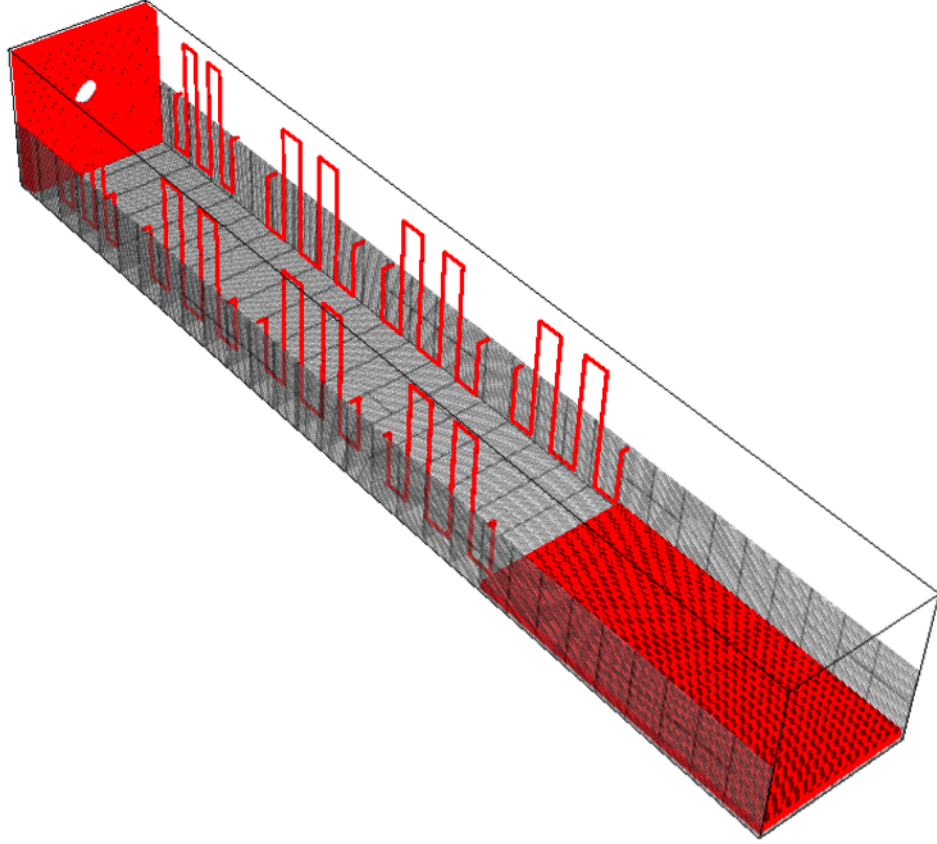


Figure 7: Shortened geometry for the L1500 simulations including the quarl, the eight sets of cooling tubes, and the step change in the reactor floor. Resolution is $12mm$.

295 profiles for the $12mm$ and $16mm$ resolution cases were small, there were larger differences in gas temperatures near the burner. Therefore, a $15mm$ resolution has selected for the sensitivity analysis discussed in this paper and a resolution of $10mm$ for the yet-to-be completed consistency analysis.

300 The shortened geometry of the L1500 with a $15mm$ resolution is presented in Figure 7; this geometry includes the cooling tubes and the $10cm$ step up in the bottom of the furnace between sections 4 and 5. The surface area of the cooling tubes in the computational mesh was adjusted to match the actual surface area of the tubes.

6. VUQ Analysis

305 6.1. Quantities of Interest

To perform a VUQ analysis, the quantity (or quantities) of interest (QOI) and the system parameters (scenario, model, numerical) that have a first order impact on the QOIs are identified. In this experimental dataset, the QOIs all relate to heat flux. The QOIs are heat flux measurements from three narrow
310 angle radiometers (sections 1, 2, and 3), five wall temperature measurements (sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6), and heat removal from eight cooling tubes.

During the experimental campaign, radiative heat flux was measured through the center port of sections 1, 2, and 3 using a narrow-angle radiometer. A cold plate serving as a heat flux gauge was installed in the port opposite to
315 the radiometer to measure total heat flux to the wall and to provide a known boundary condition for the radiometer measurements. In practice, the cold surface became coated with radiating particles, introducing uncertainty into the radiometer measurement.

Wall temperature measurements were taken in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8
320 using Type B thermocouples encased in ceramic sheaths that were then inserted into small holes in the furnace ceiling located in the middle of each section (see Figure 8). Each sheath was inserted until it was flush with the inside wall of the furnace.

The heat removal by the cooling tubes was determined by the experimentally-
325 measured mass flow rates and inlet/outlet temperatures of the water flowing through the eight cooling tubes in the first four sections.

6.2. I/U Map for Char Oxidation and Ash Deposition Models

For this study, we desired to know the impact of the two models described previously on the QOIs: the char oxidation model and the ash deposition model.
330 The parameters and their associated uncertainty ranges used in these models are presented in Table 5. In this table, the overall priority means the relative importance of that parameter on the QOIs. Because of the computational cost

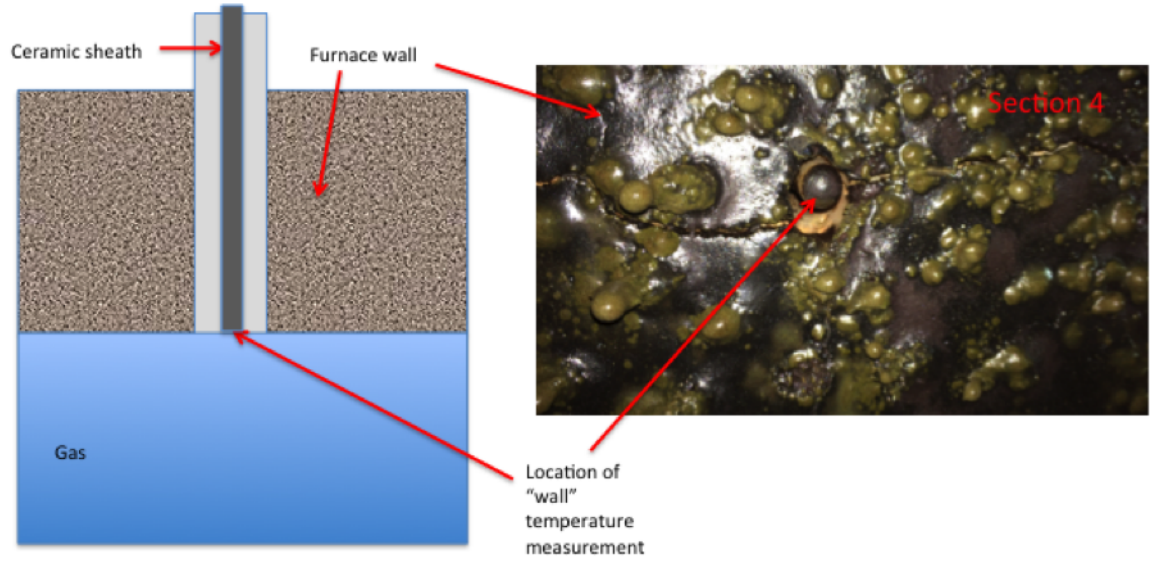


Figure 8: Thermocouple placement in furnace wall. Section 4 is shown but the placement is similar for all thermocouple measurements.

of an LES simulation, we must select the most important parameters for further study in the sensitivity and consistency analyses.

335 In the ideal case a sensitivity analysis should be performed to assign a priority value to the parameters in the IU map. However, running a sensitivity analysis with 14 parameters is too expensive for a LES simulation, even with a small case such as the L1500 coarse mesh described above. If we use two simulations for each dimension and combine all the parameters, a total of $2^{14} = 16384$ simulations are needed.

Consequently, we carried out a pre-selection of parameters to assign priorities. In Table 5, the most important parameters are assigned a priority of 6 and the least important a priority of 1.

345 In the char oxidation model, the parameters are the kinetic constants for the two reactions, an oxidation reaction and a gasification reaction (see subsection 5.3). Using prior knowledge about char oxidation, we assigned a priority of 6 to the oxidation reaction parameters and a priority of 3 to the gasification reaction

Table 5: Input/uncertainty map for char oxidation and deposition model

Parameter	Priority	Range		Nominal value	Basis/Comments
A_{O_2}	6	58	68		Pre-exponential factor for oxidation reaction $[gcm^{-2}s^{-1}atm^{-1}O_2]$
E_{O_2}	6	17	20		Activation energy for oxidation reaction $[kcal/mole]$
A_{CO_2}	3			1390	Pre-exponential factor for gasification reaction $[gcm^{-2}s^{-1}atm^{-1}O_2]$
E_{CO_2}	3			53700	Activation energy for gasification reaction $[kcal/mole]$
Initial deposit thickness	1			0	Deposit thickness $[m]$ at the start of the simulation
Erosion thickness	3			1 or 5	Maximum thickness: 1cm for cooling tubes, 5cm for everything else
t_s	6	120666	137322		Soot blowing time or time since ash was removed from cooling tubes $[s]$
T_{shell}	3				Average temperature inside cooling tube or external surface temperature of L1500
$\sum_{i=1}^{N_{layer}} \frac{\Delta x_i}{k_i}$	3			1.02	Thermal resistance in the L1500 walls $[Wm^{-2}s^{-1}]$
Ash density	3			1000	Constant $[kg/m^2]$
T_{slag}	3			1516.5	Ash fusion temperature $[K]$ for Sufco coal
$k_{deposit}$	6	0.1	1.8		Thermal conductivity for deposit $[Wm^{-1}K^{-1}]$
$wall_{emissivity}$	6	0.3	1		Surface emissivity $[-]$

parameters.

The remainder of the parameters in Table 5 relate to the ash deposition
350 model. The initial deposit thickness, set to 0 for the L1500 simulations, is
used in the simulation before the ash deposition model is turned on. While
this parameter could have an effect on the outputs of the simulation if the
simulation were not run for enough time to flush the initial condition, in this
case the simulation time was 30 s, which is four times the residence time of
355 approximately 7 s. Therefore, a priority of 1 was given to this parameter. The
erosion thickness, the maximum deposit thickness allowed in the simulation, was
given a priority of 3. It is difficult to assign a value to the soot blowing time
(t_s) because there was no soot blower in the L1500 and different conditions were
tested throughout the week of experiments. For these reasons, a priority of 6
360 was assigned to this parameter. The shell temperature (T_{shell}) is the exterior
temperature for the L1500 wall and the inside tube temperature for the cooling
tubes. This parameter was given a priority of 3 because the water temperature
did not change much in the cooling tubes and previous analysis has shown
that L1500 shell temperatures do not have a big impact on the internal furnace
365 temperature.

The thermal resistance ($\sum_{i=1}^{N_{layer}} \frac{\Delta x_i}{k_i}$) due to the refractory and the insu-
lation material was computed using an average thermal conductivity obtained
from the manufacturer's data; because it could be well-characterized, a priority
of 3 was assigned to this parameter. The ash density was kept constant for the
370 analysis. The effective thermal conductivity $k_{deposit}$ and T_{slag} were analyzed
in a VUQ study of a 15 MWth oxy-coal boiler. This study concluded that the
 T_{slag} parameter was well-represented by the ash fusion temperature. Therefore,
a priority of 3 was given to T_{slag} , and the ash fusion temperature for SUFCO
coal was used the nominal value. For the $k_{deposit}$ parameter, a priority of 6 was
375 assigned because of the lack of information about the thermal conductivity of
the ash deposits on the cooling tubes. The $wall_{emissivity}$ was given a priority of
6, because there is almost no information about this parameter in this reactor.

The active parameters for this analysis are the parameters with a priority

of 6. This set includes two parameters related to char oxidation, A_{O_2} and E_{O_2} ,
 380 and three parameters related to ash deposition, $k_{deposit}$, $wall_{emissivity}$, and t_s .
 The other parameters in Table 5 are fixed, and the nominal value is used in the
 simulations. A sensitivity analysis is performed to reduce the active parameter
 set from five to three for the consistency analysis.

The uncertainty ranges for the char oxidation parameters A_{O_2} and E_{O_2} ,
 385 which are the reaction parameters of the oxidation reaction $C + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$,
 were taken from Smoot and Smith [18]. Smoot and Smith reported small vari-
 ations in activation energy, E_{O_2} , for three U.S. coals (17-20 *kcal/mole*). In the
 case of A_{O_2} , the range of 58-68 $gcm^{-2}s^{-1}atm^{-1}O_2$ was selected based on the
 reported value of 60 $gcm^{-2}s^{-1}atm^{-1}O_2$ for Illinois No. 6 (similar coal type and
 390 composition).

The uncertainty ranges for the ash deposition model parameters were se-
 lected as follows. The range for $k_{deposit}$ was bounded by the maximum and
 minimum values of the experimental data presented by Rezaei and coworkers
 [19]. The $wall_{emissivity}$ range was bounded by the maximum and minimum
 395 values reported by Wall and coworkers [20, 21]. The parameter t_s is the interval
 of time without ash removal. Since the L1500 did not have a soot blower at the
 time of the experimental campaign, this value was computed as the number of
 hours that coal was fed to the reactor. The maximum value was the total coal
 feed time for the campaign (at night, the furnace was fired with natural gas),
 400 and the minimum value was the total time without soot blowing less the first
 day of experiments where the coal feed rate was lower.

6.3. Instrument models

6.3.1. Flux Measured by Radiometer

Three narrow-angle radiometers were used to measure the radiative heat
 405 flux in sections 1, 2 and 3 in the L1500. The simulation instrument model for
 the radiometer used a reverse-Monte Carlo ray tracing approach to compute
 the radiative heat flux by summing up the radiative intensities over all the
 rays comprising the field of view, θ of the radiometer as seen in equation [13] to

compute the solid angle Ω . The radiative intensity in each ray, I_r , was computed
 410 with equation [14]. For this analysis, $N_r = 1$; because of the coarseness of the
 computational mesh, one ray was sufficient to account for the narrow angle view
 of the radiometer [22].

In order to compute the radiative intensity with equation [14], the gas tem-
 perature T , the gas absorption coefficient k , and the mesh resolution Δx were
 415 obtained from the simulations. These values were extracted along one ray that
 extended from the wall opposite the radiometer to the radiometer lens.

Ash buildup on the cooled targets flush with the walls opposite the radiome-
 ters resulted in a surface condition that was unknown. To compute I_o , the
 intensity of the target, simulation values for wall temperature, T_w , and wall
 420 emissivity, ε_w , were used; see equation [15].

$$q = \Omega \frac{1}{N_r} \sum_{r=1}^{N_r} I_r \cos(\theta_r) \quad (12)$$

$$\Omega = 2\pi(1 - \cos(\theta)) \quad (13)$$

$$I_r = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \frac{\sigma}{\pi} T_j^4 \exp\left(-\sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \Delta x k_i\right) (1 - \exp(\Delta x k_j)) + I_o \exp\left(-\sum_{i=0}^N \Delta x k_i\right) \quad (14)$$

$$I_o = \varepsilon_w \frac{\sigma}{\pi} T_w^4 \quad (15)$$

More detailed information about the instrument model can be found in [22,
 23].

6.3.2. Heat Removal by Cooling Tubes

For each computational cell in the simulated cooling tubes, the heat removal
 425 ($Q_{removal}$) was computed with equation [16] and then added over the whole
 cooling tube to obtain the total heat removal. Thus, in equation [16], A cor-
 responds to the surface area of the cell faces that are in contact with the gas,

T_w is the surface temperature of the cooling tube, $q_{incident}$ is the incident heat flux, and ε is the surface emissivity of the tube.

$$Q_{removal} = \sum_{n=0}^N \varepsilon (q_{incident} - \sigma T_w^4) A \quad (16)$$

430 6.3.3. Wall Temperature Measured by Thermocouple

In the Arches simulation, it was assumed that the incident heat flux at the location of the wall thermocouple was not affected by the thermocouple; that is, the thermal conductivity of the computational cell at the thermocouple location was the wall thermal conductivity. For this reason, a thermocouple instrument
435 model is needed to correct for the heat lost due to differences in material properties between the ceramic sheath and the wall as shown schematically in Figure 8. However, for the sensitivity analysis described below, the wall temperature computed in the simulation at the thermocouple location was used as output in the sensitivity analysis described in section 7.

440 7. Sensitivity Analysis

In the I/U map (Table 5), five variables were chosen as priority 6, which means these variables are active in this study. However, a five-dimensional study with Arches simulations is too expensive. Therefore, a sensitivity analysis was used to reduce the number of dimensions in this study.

445 The sensitivity analysis is done using the Uncertainty Quantification Toolkit (UQTk), a set of C++ tools with a python interface. It was developed by Debusschere and coworkers at Sandia National Laboratories [24]. UQTk uses the app `pce_sens` to compute total and main sensitivity indices using a polynomial chaos (PC) surrogate model.

450 7.1. Generating PC Surrogate Models

Using a PC surrogate model of order 1 with a full quadrature rule, a total of 32 Arches simulations (2^n where n is the number of dimensions) were needed for this study. UQTk app `generate_quad` generated 32 quadrature points of $\xi_i =$

+/- 0.57735027 with weights of $w = 0.0625$ for each dimension. The variable ξ_i is mapped to physical input space for the Arches simulations using equation [17], where a_i and b_i are the bounds in the uncertainty interval presented in the I/U map (Table 5).

$$\lambda_i = \frac{a_i - b_i}{2} + \frac{b_i - a_i}{2}\xi_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, d. \quad (17)$$

A set of Arches simulations was run at the 32 quadrature points. All the simulations were run for more than 30 s; average fields were computed in an interval of approximately 5 s.

The radiometer instrument model (subsection 6.3.1) uses the gas temperature and the absorption coefficient from the Arches simulation to compute the radiative heat flux. The average field for these two variables was extracted at the radiometer location and read it into a python script that computed the radiative heat flux. The radiative heat flux was the output used to generate the PC surrogate model.

The heat removed by the cooling tubes (subsection 6.3.2) was computed from Arches simulation output using the visualization tool Visit. In Visit, the total heat removal was calculated using the average fields of $q_{incident}$ and T_w . This output is used to generate the PC surrogate model.

The thermocouple instrument model (subsection 6.3.3) was not used in this sensitivity analysis. Rather, the average wall temperatures at the thermocouple locations were extracted from Arches and used to generate the PC surrogate model.

The coefficients of the PC surrogate model were then used to compute the main and the total sensitivity indices using the UQtk app `pce_sens`.

7.2. Results

In the Figure 9, the main sensitivity indices for the radiometer instrument model are presented. The two most sensitive parameters with respect to the radiometer measurements are $wall_{emissivity}$ and $k_{deposit}$; both parameters are part of the ash deposition model. It is interesting that the main sensitivity

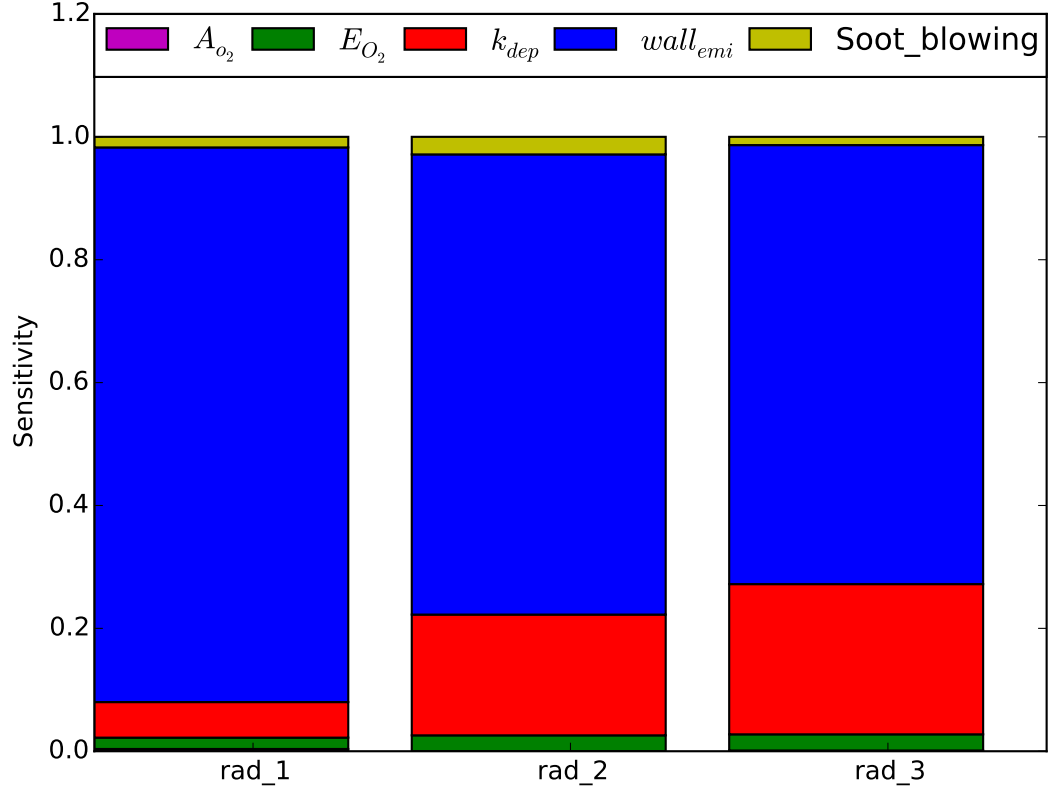


Figure 9: Main sensitivity index for radiative heat flux measured by the radiometers

index for t_s is low by comparison. The main sensitivity indices for the A_{O_2} and E_{O_2} are also low, meaning these parameters have little influence on the radiometer measurement. Thus, for the radiative heat flux measurement, the
485 five-dimensional (parameter) study can be reduced to a two-dimensional study.

In Figure 10, the main sensitivity indices for the heat removed by the cooling tubes are presented. The sensitivity indices have a similar behavior to those obtained in the radiometer analysis. The $wall_{emissivity}$ and $k_{deposit}$ parameters have bigger indices while the sensitivity index for t_s is small for the cooling
490 tubes. The sensitivities of the char oxidation parameters are small as well. Just

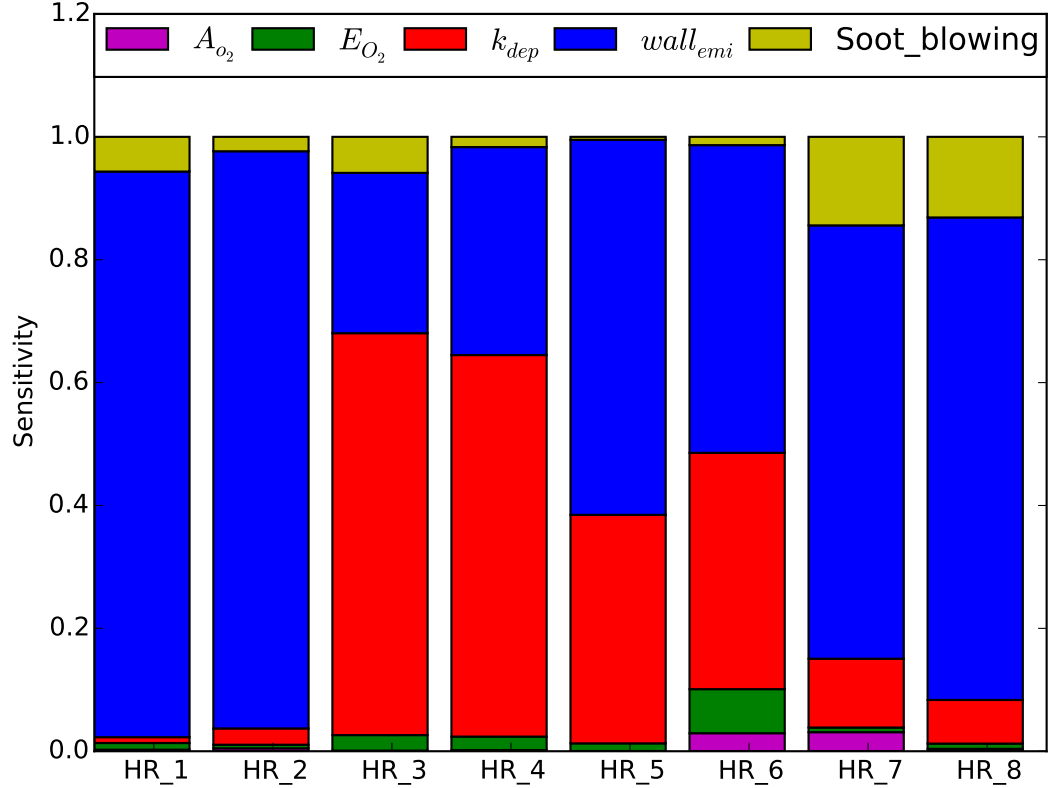


Figure 10: Main sensitivity index for the heat removed by the cooling tubes

as with the radiometer measurements, this analysis shows that for the heat removal measurements, the study can be reduced from five to two dimensions.

In Figure 11, the main sensitivity indices for the wall temperature at the thermocouple locations are presented. For all locations, the biggest sensitivity index is for $wall_{emissivity}$. However, the sensitivity index for $k_{deposit}$ is low at location 1 (WHT_1) compared with the much higher index values at the other locations. Thus, we conclude that the consistency analysis study can be reduced from five to two dimensions.

The insensitivity to t_{sg} (which determines deposit thickness) for all QOIs

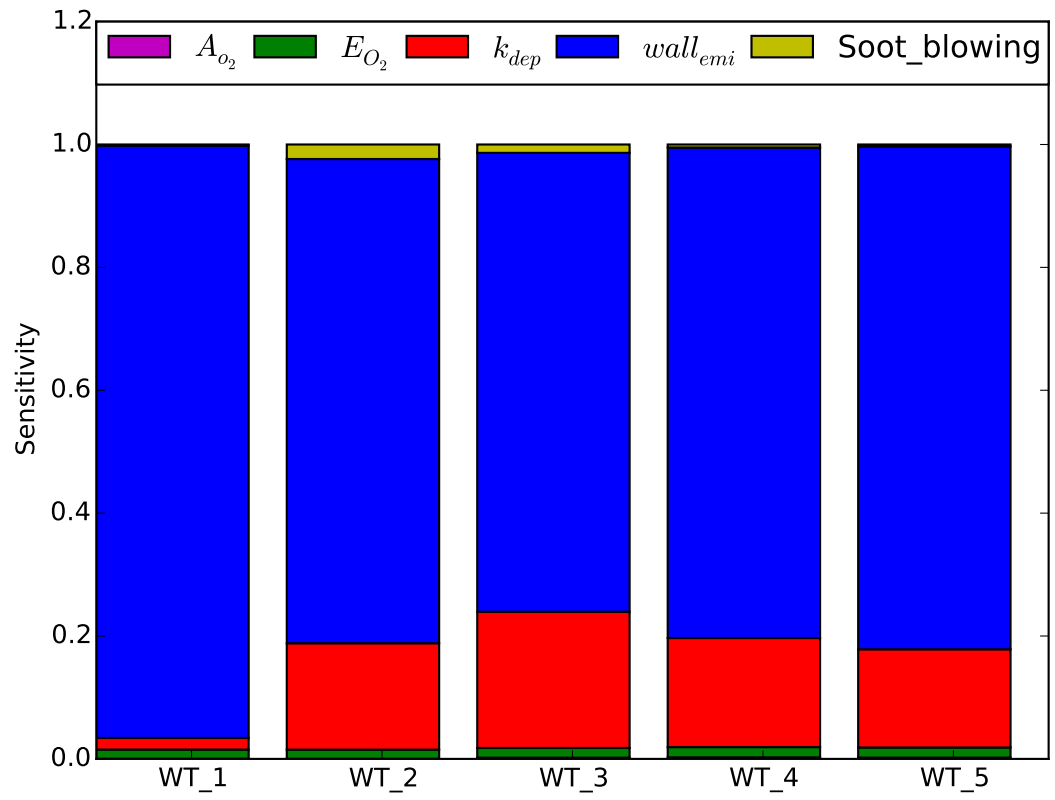


Figure 11: Main sensitivity index for wall temperature (thermocouple's location) computed with Arches

500 was unexpected, so the simulations were checked to look for an explanation. It was seen that the deposit thickness was zero for all the walls except for the cooling tubes. There are two reasons for this result. One, in all the simulations the wall temperature was higher than T_{slag} in sections 1 and 2, and for some simulations, wall temperatures exceeded T_{slag} for the entire length of the whole
505 reactor as presented in Figure 12. Consequently, at least the first two sections of the L1500 are in regime 3 of the ash deposition model where the ash deposit thickness is zero, meaning the deposit is slagging or evaporating due to high temperature. The second reason is that for the 100 % swirl operating condition, most of the ash deposition is expected in sections 1 and 2 where the model is in
510 regime 3.

In the Arches simulations, the only part of the furnace where the deposit thickness was greater than zero was on the cooling tubes. The influence of the cooling tubes deposits can be seen in the sensitivity index of the radiometers, where $k_{deposit}$ has the second largest effect after $wall_{emissivity}$ and the where its
515 index increases with the section (see Figure 9). This result means that the heat removal by the cooling tubes is being impacted by the ash deposition, which in turn impacts the gas temperature and thus the computation of the radiative heat flux. This impact of ash deposition is also seen in Figure 10. In sections 1 and 4, HR_1 , HR_2 , HR_7 , and HR_8 are the only QOIs where the sensitivity
520 indeces of t_s are greater than those of $k_{deposit}$. In section 2 (HR_3 and HR_4), $k_{deposit}$ has a bigger sensitivity index than $wall_{emissivity}$. Finally, in section 3, $k_{deposit}$ still has a strong influence.

8. Conclusions

The work described in this paper represents the first part of a consistency
525 analysis study of experimental measurements taken in the L1500 oxy-fired pulverized coal combustor at the University of Utah. For the experiments described in this paper, the burner was set at 100% swirl. The simulations performed in this study utilized a handoff strategy wherein the complex flow through the

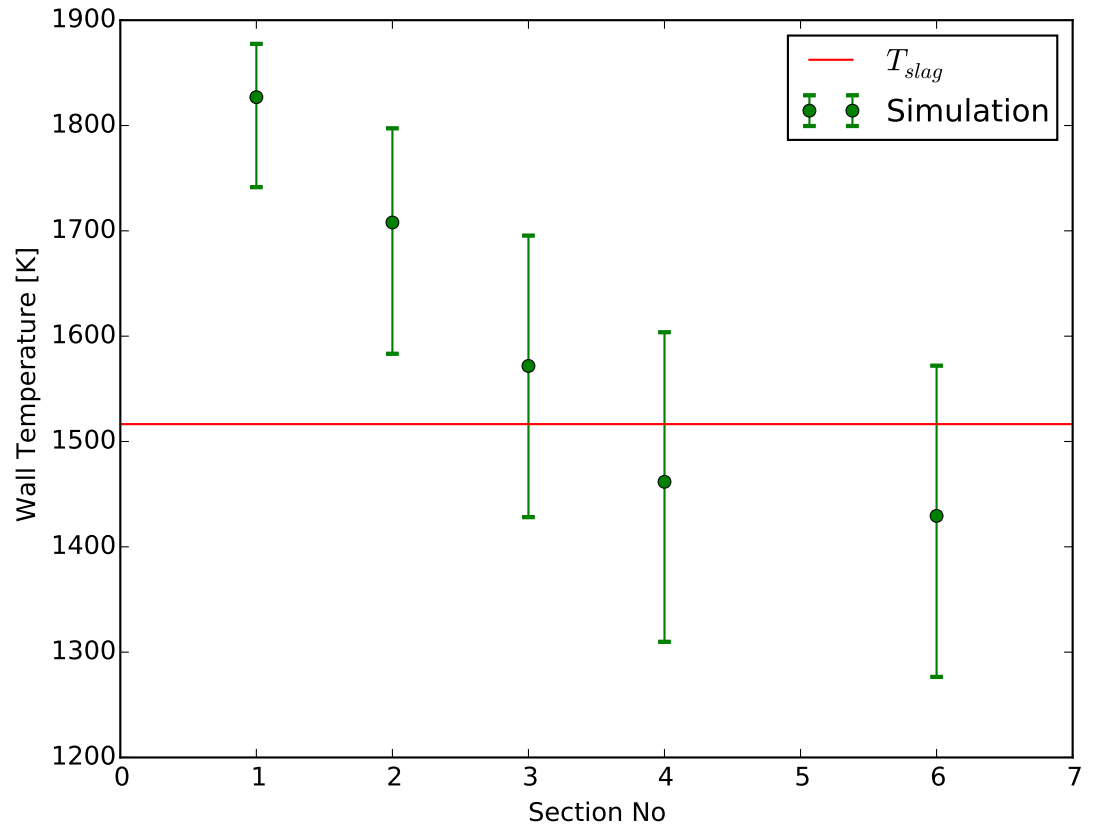


Figure 12: Wall Temperature (thermocouple's location) computed with Arches, horizontal red line is the T_{slag}

burner was computed using the commercial software Star-CCM+ and then provided as an input to the Arches simulations of the L1500 at the plane of the burner tip.

The first two steps of the VUQ analysis are discussed in this paper: (1) selection of QOIs and (2) creation of an I/U map and selection of active parameters (those with a priority of 6). The active parameter selection requires the development of instrument models to compute the QOIs from the simulation data and the performance of a sensitivity analysis to reduce the number of active parameters.

From the sensitivity analysis, it can be concluded that of the set of five active parameters in the I/U map, the most sensitive parameters across three different types of measurements (heat removal by cooling loops, heat flux measured by radiometers, and net heat flux at the wall) are $k_{deposit}$ and $wall_{emissivity}$. Therefore, for the consistency analysis, these two parameters will be used.

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