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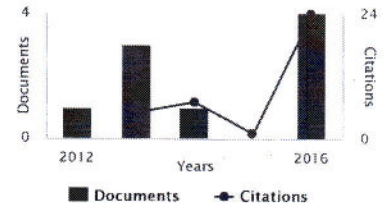
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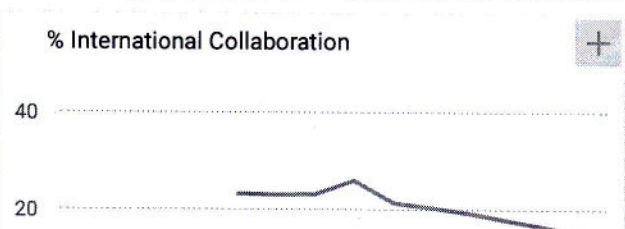
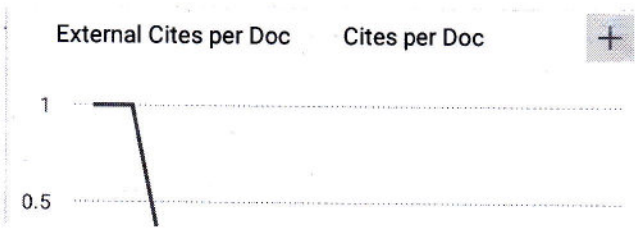
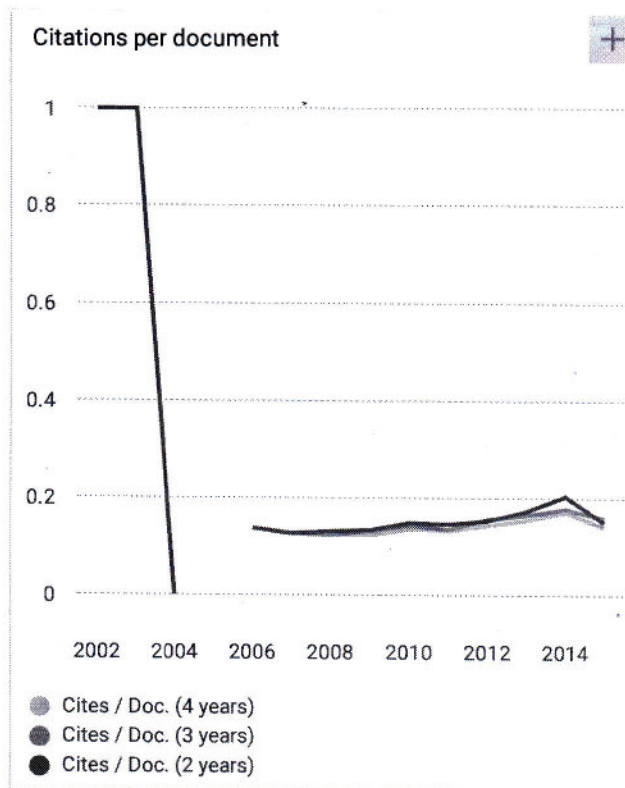
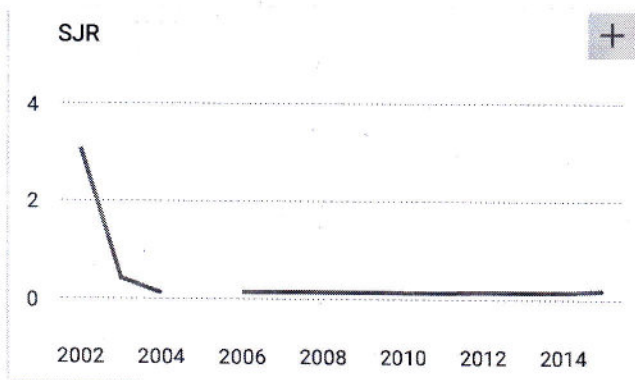


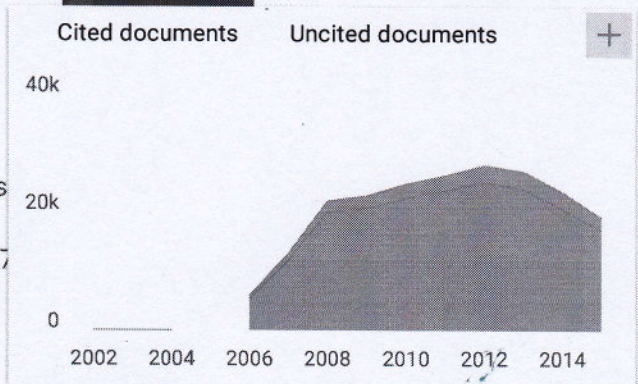
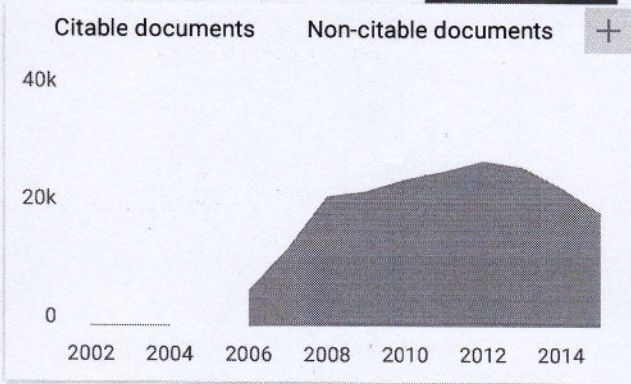
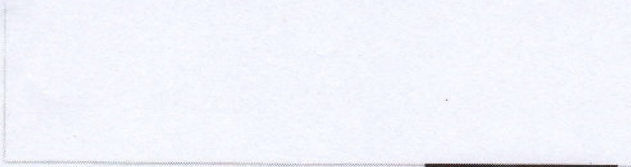
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The aims of this joint conference are to increase internationalization activities and enhance collaborative relationships between universities, disseminate information, technology, engineering, performance and the latest scientific discoveries in the field of engineering at the international level and provide information and exposure to the industry and other institutions on the progress and opportunities for collaboration in research and consultancy hence strengthen networking between academicians, scientists, engineers and technologists at regional and international levels.

More than 85 papers were submitted to ICE-SEAM 2015 and around 69 papers are accepted for the conference after peer reviewed by reviewers drawn from the scientific committee, external reviewers and editorial board depending on the subject matter of the paper. Reviewing and initial selection were undertaken electronically. After the peer-review process, the submitted papers were selected on the basis of originality, significance, and clarity for the purpose of the conference.

We would like to thank the Rector of UNS for financial supporting, the keynote speakers, the program chairs, organization staff, the members of the committees and our sponsors for their work. Thanks also go to all those who have contributed to the success of ICE-SEAM 2015.

Hopefully, all participants and other interested readers benefit scientifically from the conference.

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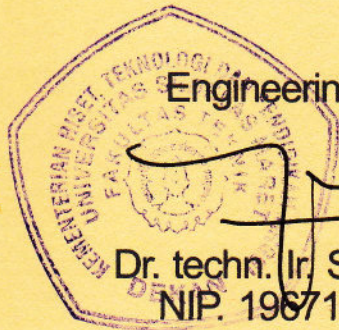
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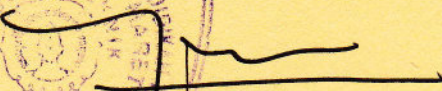
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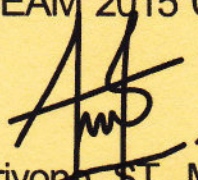
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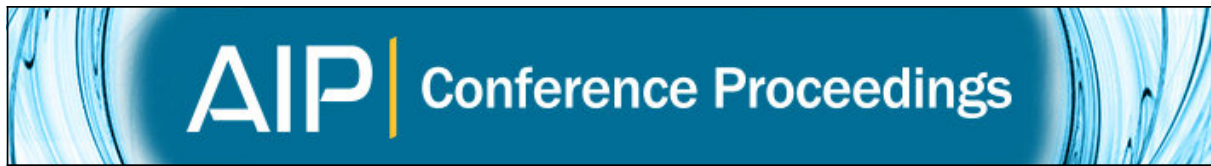

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The influence of CO₂ in biogas flammability limit and laminar burning velocity in spark ignited premix combustion at various pressures

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The Influence of CO₂ in Biogas Flammability Limit and Laminar Burning Velocity in Spark Ignited Premix Combustion at Various Pressures

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Abstract. Biogas is an alternative energy source that is sustainable and renewable containing more than 50% CH₄ and its biggest impurity or inhibitor is CO₂. Demands for replacing fossil fuels require an improved fundamental understanding of its combustion processes. Flammability limits and laminar burning velocities are important characteristics in these processes. Thus, this research focused on the effects of CO₂ on biogas flammability limits and laminar burning velocities in spark ignited premixed combustion. Biogas was burned in a spark ignited spherical combustion bomb. Spherically expanding laminar premixed flames, freely propagating from spark ignition in initial, were continuously recorded by a high-speed digital camera. The combustion bomb was filled with biogas-air mixtures at various pressures, CO₂ levels and equivalence ratios (ϕ) at ambient temperature. The results were also compared to those of the previous study into inhibitorless biogas (methane) at various pressures and equivalence ratios (ϕ). Either the flammable areas become narrower with increased percentages of carbon dioxide or the pressure become lower. In biogas with 50% CO₂ content, there was no biogas flame propagation for any equivalence ratio at reduced pressure (0.5 atm). The results show that the laminar burning velocity at the same equivalence ratio declined in respect with the increased level of CO₂. The laminar burning velocities were higher at the same equivalence ratio by reducing the initial pressure.

INTRODUCTION

Biogas is an alternative source of energy that is sustainable and renewable. The main sources of biogas are organic animal waste that when broken down by anaerobic bacteria forms biogas in digestion tanks, where the humidity and temperature are controlled, to optimize biogas production. Biogas contains over 50% methane, other impurities or inhibitors are carbon dioxide and nitrogen, as well as small amounts of H₂, O₂, H₂S and others. Inhibitors are defined as substances that reduce laminar burning velocity [1]. A previous study found that carbon dioxide effects biogas combustion by reducing its flame speed [2]. However, the effects of carbon dioxide in biogas flammability limits and laminar burning velocities, as the most important fundamental combustion characteristics of the fuel, have not been studied yet. Thus, the aim of this paper is to investigate the influence of CO₂ in biogas flammability limits and laminar burning velocities in spark ignited premix combustion at various pressures.

The world energy council has stated that energy demand will increase along with economic growth. BP similarly projected that by 2035 global energy consumption would increase by 37%. Consequently, energy supply and source have become increasingly important. Energy can be divided into two different types, conventional energy and unconventional energy (renewable energy). Renewable energy demand is growing fast at 6.3% annually [3].

As a fuel, the methane component of biogas has both technical and environmental advantages and it can reach high temperatures similar to those of hydrocarbon fuels but generates fewer emissions [4-6]. Biofuels as both liquids and gases have become the subject of much interest and research throughout the world. As fossil fuel costs have risen ever higher, it has become an important potential form of fuel, particularly to developing countries with high fossil fuel import costs. In addition, biofuels have the potential to fulfill demands for replacing fossil fuels in order to reduce emissions but requires an improved fundamental understanding of its combustion processes. Flammability limits and laminar burning velocities are the most important characteristics in the combustion process. Thus, this research was conducted to uncover the flame characteristics in biogas spark ignited premixed combustion. The spark ignited premixed combustion characteristics (flammability limits and laminar burning velocities) are important to several biogas combustion applications especially for internal combustion engines. In addition to biogas use in its internal combustion engines, there has been research into combustion and emissions characteristics for use in dual fuel engines. These dual fuel engines consume two types of fuel, gaseous fuel known as primary fuel and liquid fuel known as pilot fuel and methane, the main component in biogas, produces far lower emissions of NO_x when burnt than other hydrocarbon fuels [1,2,5,7,8].

Combustion can be defined as an exothermic chemical reaction between fuel, oxidizer and igniter. In this experiment, biogas was employed as the fuel, oxygen as the oxidizer and a spark as the igniter. The experiment was conducted at both ambient temperatures and atmospheric pressures using the stoichiometric standard. The equivalence ratio (ϕ) is commonly used to determine whether the fuel-oxidizer mixture is stoichiometric ($\phi=1$), lean ($\phi<1$), or rich ($\phi>1$). Stoichiometric condition is useful for some applications. This application can also reduce the exhaust emissions and improve thermal efficiency. For most kinds of fuel, the lean mixtures have slower flame speed than rich mixtures [9].

Flame diffusion or propagation plays a vital role in the success of combustion ignition. For instance, the flame speed data is used to specify the internal combustion chamber material and other parts that are directly connected to the chamber. During a methane explosion, theoretically, the biogas combustion compresses the medium in front of the flame front surface and creates a compression wave. Due to the chemical reaction, the flame propagates very fast. As a result, the pressure, density, and temperature rise sharply to establish a detonation wave [10-11].

EXPERIMENT METHODS

A Spherical spark ignited premixed combustion bomb was used for the biogas combustion research as mentioned in the previous studies [1-2,5,12-17], the combustion bomb is filled with fuel-air mixtures with the various carbon dioxide compositions (25% and 50%) in biogas. All the experiments were conducted at various pressures (atmospheric pressure (1 atm) and reduced pressure (0.5 atm)), various equivalence ratios (from lower flammability limits to upper flammability limits) and ambient temperatures. The experimental results were also compared to those of the previous study on methane (inhibitorless biogas) at various pressures and various equivalence ratios. The schematic diagram of the combustion bomb system is shown in Fig. 1. The laminar burning velocity of a spherically expanding flame was deduced from the high speed camera images, the procedures to find the laminar burning velocities can be found in the previous studies[1-2,5,12-17].

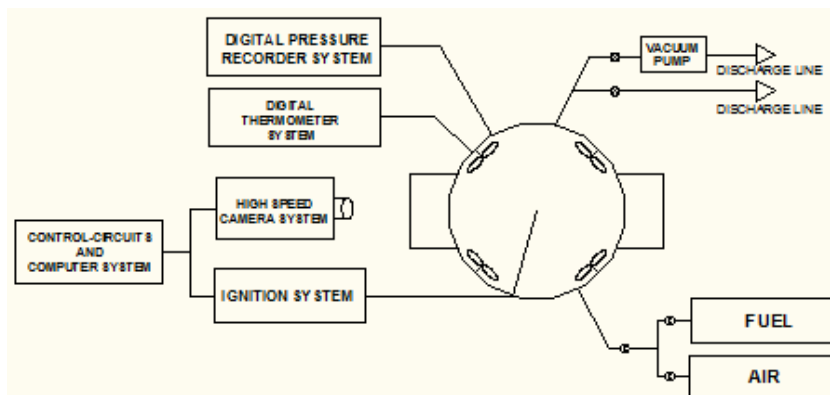


FIGURE 1. Schematic diagram of the combustion bomb system

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The fuel (biogas with 25%CO₂)-air mixtures produced propagating flames at atmospheric pressure for the equivalence ratios of 0.6, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2 and 1.3. The mixtures were centrally ignited and the resulting flame propagation was recorded at 2500 frames/second by a high speed camera. The images of the spherical flame flaring within the combustion chamber with 150 mm diameter windows are laid out in Fig. 2. At ambient temperatures and atmospheric pressure, no flames were propagated from the rich ($\phi=1.4$) and lean fuel-air mixtures ($\phi=0.50$). As seen from the prior experimental investigations to find the laminar burning velocities [1-2,5,12-17], the laminar burning velocities of biogas-air mixtures premixed combustion has been found for biogas with 25% CO₂ at atmospheric pressure, ambient temperature and various equivalence ratios as shown in Table 1.

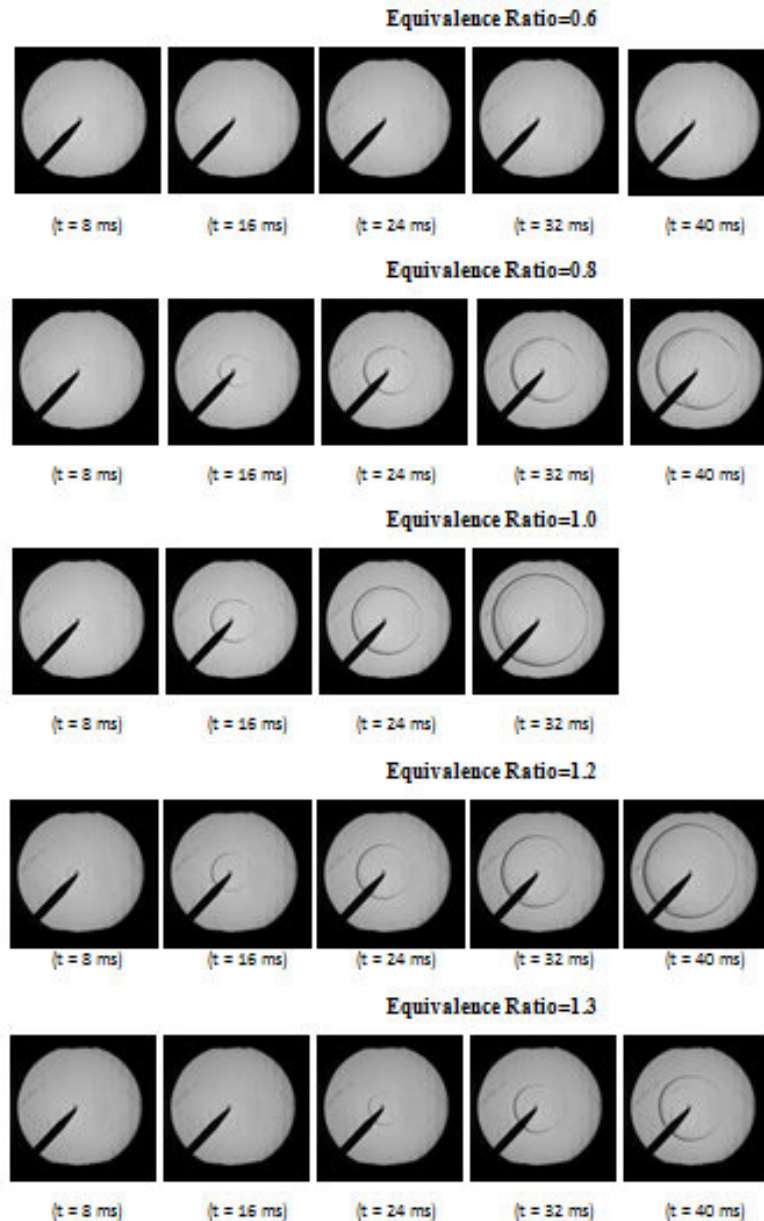


FIGURE 2. The biogas with 25%CO₂ flame propagation at atmospheric pressure

TABLE 1. Laminar burning velocities of biogas with 25% CO₂ at atmospheric pressure

Equivalence Ratio	Laminar Burning Velocity (m/s)
0.5	No Propagation
0.6	0.080
0.8	0.229
1.0	0.289
1.2	0.236
1.3	0.144
1.4	No Propagation

The fuel (biogas with 50%CO₂)-air mixtures produced propagating flame at atmospheric pressure for the equivalence ratios of 0.6, 0.8, 1.0 and 1.2. At ambient temperatures and atmospheric pressure, no flames were propagated from the rich ($\phi=1.3$ and $\phi=1.4$) and lean ($\phi=0.5$) fuel-air mixtures. The images of the spherical flame flaring within the combustion chamber with 150 mm diameter windows are laid out in Fig. 3. As seen from the prior experimental investigations to find the laminar burning velocities [1-2,5,12-17], the laminar burning velocities of biogas-air mixtures premixed combustion has been found for biogas with 50% CO₂ at atmospheric pressure, ambient temperature and various equivalence ratios as shown in Table 2.

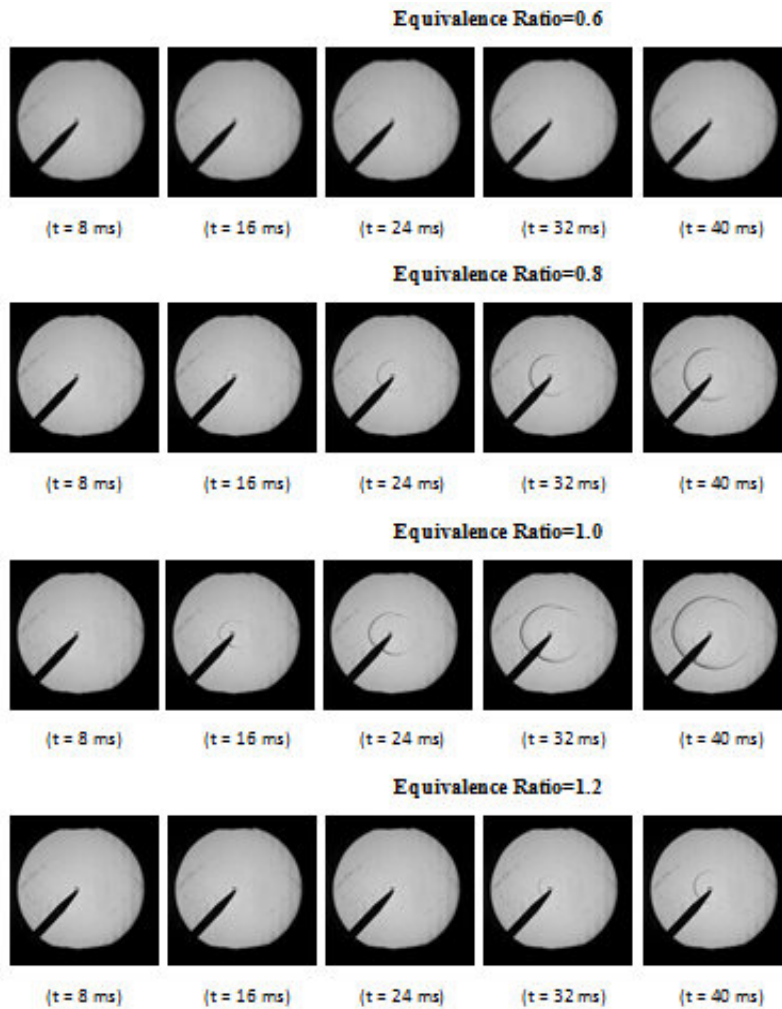


FIGURE 3. The biogas with 50%CO₂ flame propagation at atmospheric pressure

TABLE 2. Laminar burning velocities of biogas with 50% CO₂ at atmospheric pressure

Equivalence Ratio	Laminar Burning Velocity (m/s)
0.5	No Propagation
0.6	0.061
0.8	0.154
1.0	0.189
1.2	0.117
1.3	No Propagation
1.4	No Propagation

The fuel (biogas with 25%CO₂)-air mixtures produced propagating flame at reduced pressure (0.5 atm) for the equivalence ratios of 0.7, 0.8 and 0.9. At ambient temperatures and reduced pressure, no flames were propagated from the rich ($\phi=1.2$, $\phi=1.3$ and $\phi=1.4$), stoichiometric ($\phi=1.0$) and lean ($\phi=0.5$ and $\phi=0.6$). The images of the spherical flame flaring within the combustion chamber with 150 mm windows are laid out in Fig. 4. As seen from the prior experimental investigations to find the laminar burning velocities [1-2, 5, 12-17], the laminar burning velocities of biogas-air mixtures premixed combustion has been found for biogas with 25% CO₂ at reduced pressure, ambient temperature and various equivalence ratios as shown in Table 3.

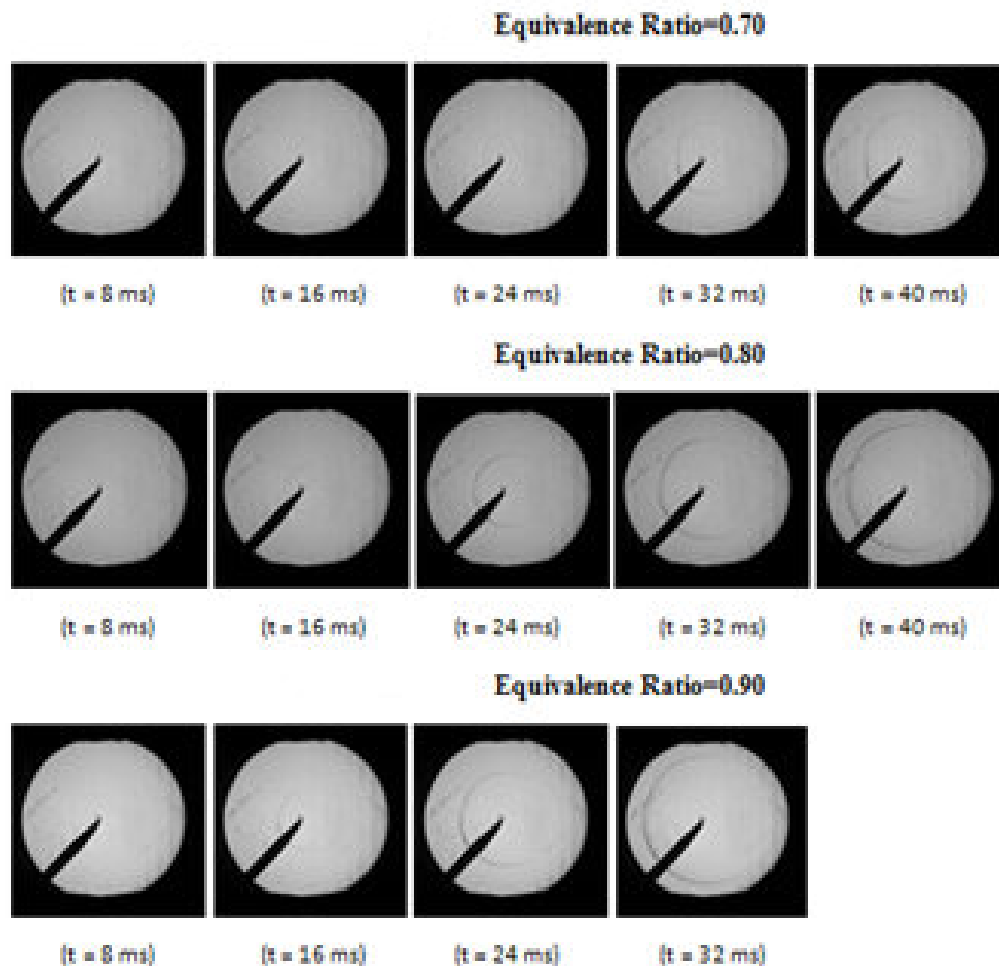


FIGURE 4. The biogas with 25%CO₂ flame propagation at reduced pressure

TABLE 3. Laminar burning velocities of biogas with 25% CO₂ at reduced pressure

Equivalence Ratio	Laminar Burning Velocity (m/s)
0.5	No Propagation
0.6	No Propagation
0.7	0.187
0.8	0.252
0.9	0.292
1.0	No Propagation
1.2	No Propagation
1.4	No Propagation

The fuel (biogas with 50%CO₂)-air mixtures at reduced pressure (0.5 atm) were shown no propagating flame for all various equivalence ratio and there are no flammable area for this fuel as shown in Table 4. For better understanding, the flammability limits and laminar burning velocities of various levels of CO₂ in biogas both at reduced pressure and atmospheric pressure are presented in Fig. 5.

TABLE 4. Laminar burning velocities of biogas with 50% CO₂ at reduced pressure

Equivalence Ratio	Laminar Burning Velocity (m/s)
0.5	No Propagation
0.6	No Propagation
0.7	No propagation
0.8	No Propagation
0.9	No Propagation
1.0	No Propagation
1.2	No Propagation
1.4	No Propagation

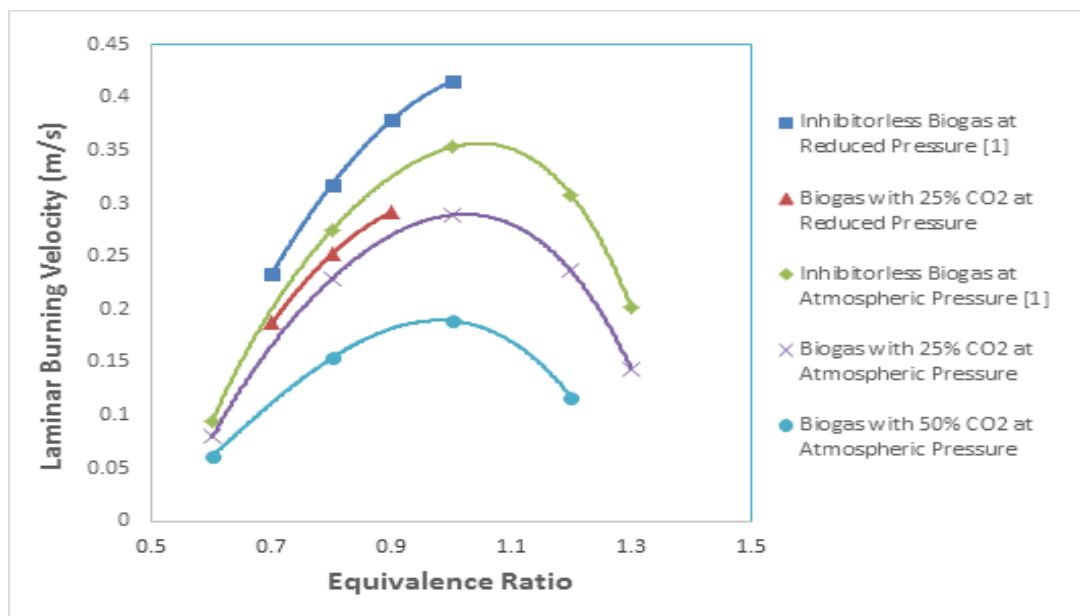


FIGURE 5. The Biogas Flammability limits and laminar burning velocities of various levels CO₂

Carbon dioxide inhibits laminar burning velocity by diluting the concentration of reactive species in the biogas-air mixtures for a given equivalence ratio, and also by absorbing some of the heat thus reducing both the flame temperature and chemical reaction rates. The effect of CO₂ is more pronounced due to the relatively higher proportion of this inhibitor. At lower pressures, laminar burning velocities are higher, as lower pressures cut back diffusion times, raise residence times and thermal diffusivity which lowers reaction times and thus increases laminar

burning velocities. In biogas with a 25% content of CO₂ at lower pressures, the flame propagates within a very narrow range of equivalence ratios, whereas, biogas with 50% CO₂ at reduced pressures has no propagating flame for all the equivalence ratios. For at this level, the inhibition of CO₂ is enhanced to such an extent that the extremely low reaction heat energy is only enough for burning the mixtures within a very limited range of equivalence ratios.

CONCLUSION

The flammable areas become narrower with increasing percentages of carbon dioxide or lowering pressure, there was no flame propagation of biogas with 50%CO₂ content at reduced pressure (0.5 atm) and various equivalence ratios. The results show that the laminar burning velocity at the same equivalence ratio declined in respect with the increased level of carbon dioxide. The laminar burning velocities were higher at the same equivalence ratio by reducing the initial pressure.

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