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Airflow Characteristics Investigation of a Diesel Engine for Different Helical Port Openings and Engine Speeds

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Novelty: Previous studies of intake airflow characteristics were mostly performed in a two-valve engine and there is a stark difference between the airflow of two-valve and four-valve engines. Moreover, more studies are needed to understand the effect of helical port opening. Therefore, the intake airflow of a four-valve diesel engine with varying helical port openings was investigated.

Highlight:

- Variation of engine speeds and helical port openings do not cause a significant change in the location of the swirl center.
- Higher engine speed increases the turbulence intensity. However, it reduces the swirl ratio.
- Disruption of airflow with larger helical port opening reduces both the swirl ratio and the turbulence intensity.
- Trends of the swirl ratio and turbulence intensity are more evident when observed during the compression stroke.

Abstract. Intake airflow characteristics are essential to the performance of the diesel engine. However, previous investigations for the airflow characteristics were mostly performed in the two-valve engine despite the difference between the airflow of two-valve and four-valve engines. Therefore, in this study, particle image velocimetry investigations were performed in a four-valve diesel engine. The investigations were conducted under different engine speeds and helical port openings using a swirl control valve (SCV). The results suggest that the position of the swirl center does not significantly shift with different engine speeds and helical port opening as the dynamics of the flow remains closely similar. The trends for the airflow characteristics may be observed during the compression stroke. Higher engine speed increases the angular velocity of the engine more compared to the increase of the airflow velocity and resulted in a lower swirl ratio of the flow. On the other hand, higher engine speed brings higher mean velocity and the variation of the velocity that resulted in the larger turbulence intensity of the flow. Increasing the helical port opening brings a reduction in the swirl ratio

43 and turbulence intensity as more airflow from the helical port disturbs the airflow
44 from the tangential port.

45 ***Keywords:** airflow; particle image velocimetry; swirl control valve; swirl ratio;*
46 *turbulence intensity*

47 **1 Introduction**

48 Diesel engines are the most commercially used land-based vehicles due to their
49 higher thermal efficiency in comparison with gasoline engines [1]. Over the
50 recent years, the increased demand for energy due to the rise in the population
51 [2], the overreliance in fossil fuels [3], and the need to decrease the negative
52 emissions [4-6] have put more stringent regulations in the design of engines.
53 Several methods have been devised to improve the emissions of diesel engines
54 which include the use of biofuel [7,8], manipulating the intake air mass and
55 temperature [9], as well as generating swirl and tumble motion in the airflow.

56 In a diesel engine, swirl flow may be generated using a helical intake port and it
57 is considered to be more essential than the tumble motion [10]. Swirl flow
58 promotes turbulence characteristics in the airflow for better mixing of the fuel-
59 air mixture through the disintegration of the molecule of the fuel [11,12]. Swirl
60 flow reduces ignition delay in the combustion process that leads to reduced soot
61 and NOx emissions [13,14] despite simultaneous Soot and NOx emissions
62 reductions are usually considered difficult to achieve as there is a trade-off
63 between them [1]. Swirl flow was also found to reduce the burning duration,
64 increase flame speed, extend the flammability limit, increase the thermodynamic
65 heat transfer, and improve the thermal efficiency in a combustion process [15,16].

66 Several studies have been performed to understand the parameters that affect the
67 swirl and turbulence characteristics of the airflow in the combustion chamber.
68 Dawat and Venkitachalam [17] conducted a numerical investigation of swirl flow
69 generated by various geometries and orientations of a helical port in a four-valve

70 engine. The study suggested that the design and orientation of the helical port
71 affect the swirl ratio and the turbulent kinetic energy. They also found that under
72 similar helical intake port design, faster engine speed decreases the swirl ratio
73 and larger variation of swirl ratio is found at higher engine speed. Catania and
74 Spessa [18] conducted a study using a helicoidal intake port to generate a
75 counterclockwise swirl flow in a two-valve high-squish engine under differing
76 engine speeds of 600 to 3000 RPM. They concluded that, for a two-valve engine,
77 an intense high-frequency turbulence production occurs in the intake stroke and
78 starts to decay at the end of intake stroke/start of the compression stroke. They
79 also suggested that the trend for mean velocity, turbulence intensity, and mean-
80 velocity fluctuation that scale with the engine speed can be observed during most
81 of the compression stage.

82 Other than the engine speed, the SCV (swirl control valve) also plays a role in the
83 quality of the intake airflow. Kim et al. [19] investigated the effect of SCV in the
84 tangential port to the flow characteristics at a distance 37 mm away from the
85 engine head of a four-valve diesel engine. They found an increase in the swirl
86 ratio by applying SCV closing in the tangential port. However, they also found
87 that the mass flow rate decreases with SCV closing due to the reduced area of the
88 intake port. Matsushita et al. [20] applied SCV in a helical port of SI engine and
89 found an increase in the combustion performance due to the high swirl ratio in
90 closed SCV at partial load. Under full load condition, SCV allows the engine to
91 consistently have high performance.

92 While the generation of swirl and turbulence flows in combustion cylinders have
93 been studied extensively, the effect of swirl flow generated by helical intake port
94 in four-valve diesel engines has not received much attention [17]. Kim et al. [19]
95 have suggested that the airflow characteristics between two-valve and four-valve
96 engines are exceptionally contrasting, indicating the necessity to investigate the

97 airflow of a four-valve engine. Furthermore, the effect of various SCV openings
98 on the helical intake port paired with a fully opened tangential intake port has not
99 been comprehensively investigated as well. Therefore, in this study, the swirl
100 ratio and the turbulence intensity in the combustion chamber of a four-valve
101 diesel engine were investigated using PIV (Particle Image Velocimetry)
102 technique under various engine speeds and opening of the helical intake port.

103 **2 Methods**

104 The experiment was conducted using an optical four strokes single-cylinder
105 diesel engine with four valves. The bore and the length stroke of the engine are
106 85 mm and 96.9 mm, respectively. The cavity diameter of the chamber is 51.6
107 mm and the engine has a compression ratio of 16.3. One helical and one tangential
108 intake ports were used in this study as this combination generates a higher swirl
109 ratio compared to two tangential or two helical ports [21]. The location of the
110 ports as seen from the top of the cylinder, and the coordinate axes in the x , y and
111 z directions are shown in Figure 1. Laser Nd:YAG double-pulse 532-nm
112 (Continuum, Mesa-PIV) with pulse generator (FLOWTECH RESEARCH,
113 VSD2000) was used to generate a laser sheet. The laser sheet has a thickness of
114 1 mm and was irradiated perpendicularly to the center axis of the cylinder and
115 positioned 60 mm from the top of the cylinder to develop a two-dimensional plane
116 ($z = 60$ mm). Particle images from the reflection of the mirror were taken from
117 the bottom of the engine with a high-speed camera (Photron, FASTCAM SA5)
118 at a resolution of 696 x 704 pixels and a time resolution of 15 kHz. One pair
119 image per two °CA (Crank Angle) was taken in an interval of 20 μ s. Tracer Silica
120 particles (SiO_2) with an average particle size of 4.65 μ m were mixed into the
121 intake air using generator seeding (PIVTECH GmbH) and air compressor
122 (EARTH MAN, ACP-25SLA).

Particle images were analyzed using PIV (Flowtech Research FtrPIV) analysis software with a direct cross-correlation algorithm [22]. The inspection area was set to 16 pixels and the search area was set to 33 pixels. The setup has been used by the author in a previous study [23] and other research group has used a similar setup to investigate the airflow characteristics in a combustion cylinder [24]. The photograph and the schematic of the experimental setup are provided in Figure 2.

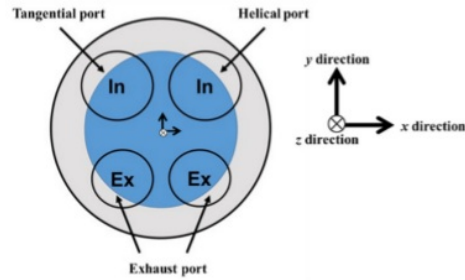


Figure 1 Ports location as seen from the top of the combustion cylinder.

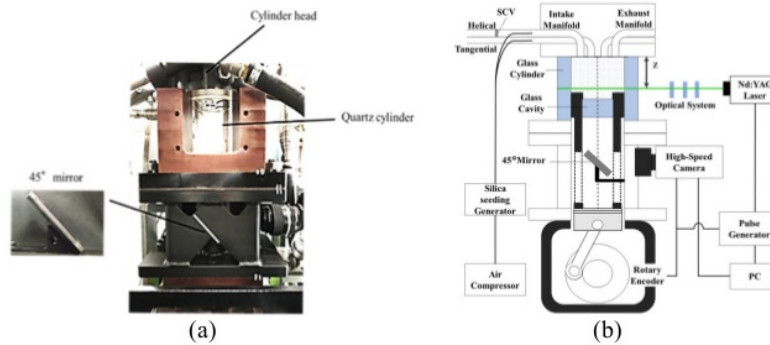


Figure 2 (a) Photograph of the experimental setup and (b) schematic of the experimental setup.

In this study, two sets of experiments were performed. The first set was conducted under various engine speeds for fully opened tangential and helical ports, which corresponds to 100% SCV opening. The second experiment was conducted under constant engine speed with the various opening of the helical port to modify the

SCV opening. This is in contrast with the study by Kim et al. [19] where the SCV was applied in the tangential port instead. For this study, the percentage of SCV opening was defined by the velocity of the flow that passes through the ports. Summary of the experimental conditions for the first and second sets of experiments are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 1 Parameters for the first set of experiments.

Tangential Port Opening	Helical Port Opening	SCV Opening	Engine Speed
100%	100%	100%	1000 RPM
100%	100%	100%	1200 RPM
100%	100%	100%	1500 RPM

Table 2 Parameters for the second set of experiments.

Tangential Port Opening	Helical Port Opening	SCV Opening	Engine Speed
100%	25% (1/4 Helical)	25%	1000 RPM
100%	50% (1/2 Helical)	50%	1000 RPM
100%	75% (3/4 Helical)	75%	1000 RPM
100%	100%	100%	1000 RPM

For both sets of experiments, the engine was operated under naturally aspirated condition. The Stokes number was set to 0.00354, 0.00425, 0.00531, for an engine speed of 1000 RPM, 1200 RPM, 1500 RPM, respectively. The number of cycles measured is 32 consecutive cycles for all conditions with 0 °CA is defined as the TDC of the intake stroke. The experiment was performed for two replications and the average of the results was taken as the mean velocity. The measured mean velocity was used to calculate the swirl ratio and turbulence intensity. The swirl ratio is defined as the normalized average angular velocity of the rotating flow in the measured plane, as mathematically described in Eq. 1. The turbulence intensity is defined as the resultant of the standard deviation of the velocity, as mathematically described in Eq. 2. More emphasis on the results are put in crank angles of 110, 180, and 250 °CA which correspond to condition

160 during the intake stroke, the end of the intake stroke/start of the compression
 161 stroke, and during the compression stroke, respectively.

$$162 \quad S_R = \frac{1}{\omega_{engine}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N \left[\frac{v_{i,j} \cos \theta - u_{i,j} \sin \theta}{r_{i,j}} \right]_l \quad (1)$$

163 Where S_R is the swirl ratio, ω_{engine} is the angular velocity of the engine, N is the
 164 total number of discretized points of the plane, θ and $r_{i,j}$ are the angle and cartesian
 165 coordinate of a point, respectively, while $u_{i,j}$ and $v_{i,j}$ are the velocity in the
 166 horizontal and vertical directions, respectively.

$$167 \quad T_I = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N \sqrt{[(U_{rms})^2 + (V_{rms})^2]}_l \quad (2)$$

168 Where T_I is the turbulence intensity, U_{RMS} is the root-mean-square of the velocity
 169 in the x-direction, and V_{RMS} is the root-mean-square of the velocity in the y-
 170 direction.

171 3 Results and Discussion

172 3.1 Swirl Ratio and Turbulence Intensity Under Various Engine 173 Speeds (First Set of Experiment)

174 Figure 3 shows the mean velocity profile for various engine speeds at different
 175 crank angles. In this figure, the swirl center can be identified as the epicenter of
 176 the vectors and have very low mean velocity. At 110 °CA, the swirl center resides
 177 near the tangential port (upper left) for all engine speeds experimented. For 180
 178 °CA, the swirl center resides near the left exhaust port (lower left) for all engine
 179 speeds investigated. For 250 °CA, the swirl center is in the vicinity of the right
 180 exhaust port (bottom right) for all engine speeds investigated. These results
 181 suggest that the increase in engine speed does not cause a dramatic change in the
 182 swirl center. This is because the higher engine speed leads to a similarly larger
 183 proportion of mass flow and mean velocity of the flow for both intake ports, and
 184 therefore does not significantly alter the dynamic of the flow within the chamber.

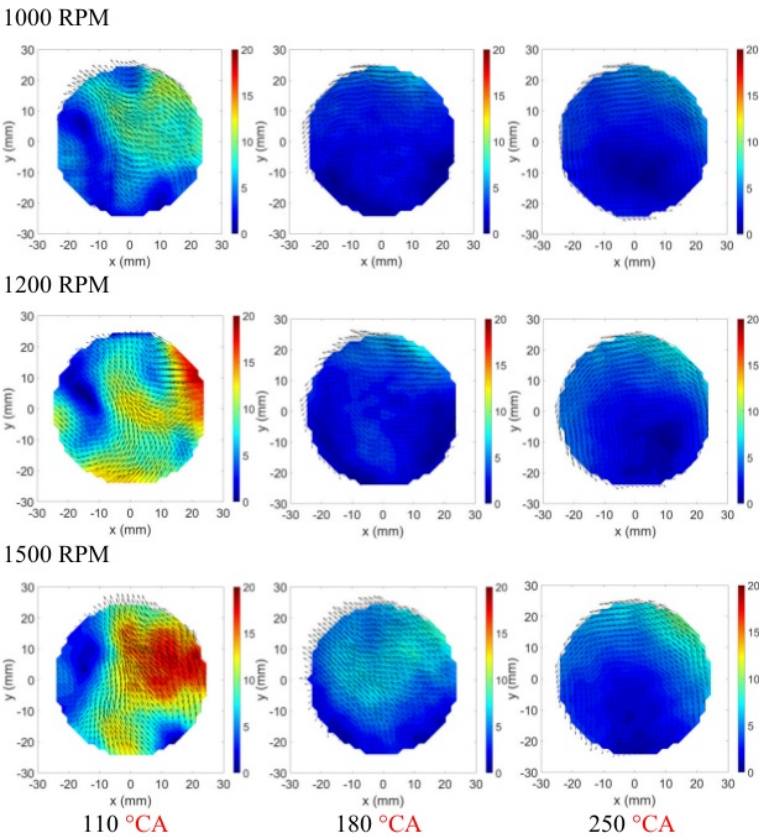
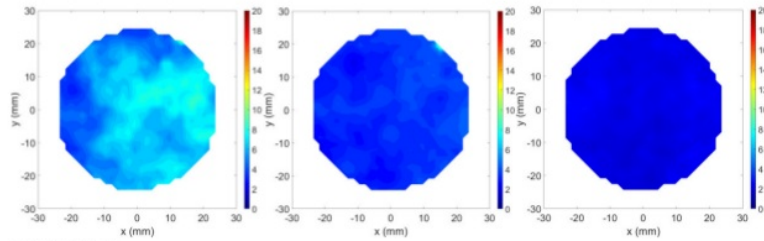


Figure 3 Mean velocity profile (in m/s) of the airflow under various engine speeds for 110, 180, and 250 °CA.

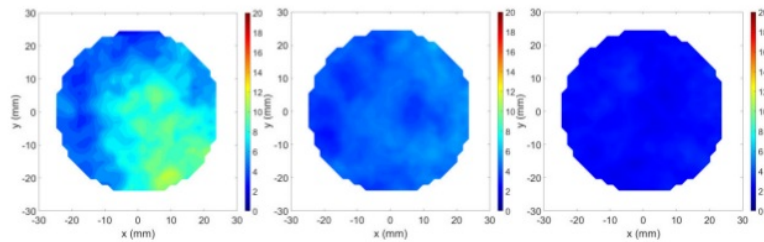
Figure 4 shows the turbulence intensity profile of the cylinder under various engine speeds and crank angles. Unlike the swirl center, it is difficult to pinpoint the maximum turbulence intensity from the figures; therefore, the coordinates for the largest turbulence intensity under various engine speeds and crank angles are given in Table 3. The overall trend indicates that the turbulence intensity reduces with lower engine speed and higher crank angles. The location for the maximum

195 turbulence intensity varies between engine speeds and crank angles with no clear
 196 trend. However, it is observed that for all the conditions except 1000 RPM and
 197 250 °CA, the location of the highest turbulence intensity tends to be on the right
 198 side near the vicinity of helical or right exhaust ports. This is expected as the
 199 helical port generates swirl flow in its vicinity that lead to a large variation of
 200 velocity and therefore large turbulence intensity.

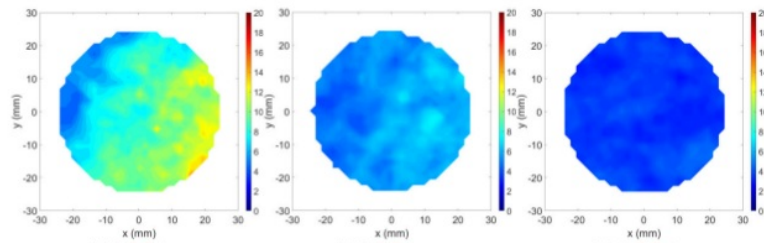
1000 RPM



1200 RPM



1500 RPM



110 °CA

180 °CA

250 °CA

Figure 4 Turbulence intensity profile (in m/s) of the airflow under various engine speeds for 110, 180, and 250 °CA

Table 3 Coordinates of the maximum turbulence intensity (in mm) under various engine speeds for 110, 180, and 250 °CA.

Parameters	110 °CA	180 °CA	250 °CA
1000 RPM	x = 13.2 y = 21.0	x = 14.9 y = 19.3	x = -23.4 y = 1.8
1200 RPM	x = 9.9 y = -18.7	x = 13.3 y = 19.3	x = 20.2 y = 12.4
1500 RPM	x = 15.8 y = -19.0	x = 13.3 y = -1.5	x = 21.0 y = -12.1

To further analyze the results, the swirl ratio and the turbulence intensity were plotted for the entirety of the crank angle observed. Figure 5(a) shows the swirl ratio as a function of the crank angle for various engine speeds. Near 110 °CA (during the intake stroke), the swirl ratio reached its peak and afterwards dramatically decreases with the increase of crank angle to near 180 °CA (end of intake stroke/start of compression stroke). At near 180 °CA, the swirl ratio starts to increase up to 250 °CA (during the compression stroke). An exception was found in the 1000 RPM where the dip of the swirl ratio occurred earlier (~140 °CA) and therefore the increase of the swirl ratio also starts earlier (~150 °CA). The clear trend of the swirl ratio can be observed at the compression stroke (180 to 250 °CA) with the swirl ratio tends to be inversely proportional to the engine speed. The reason behind this can be traced in the mathematical definition of swirl ratio in Eq. 1. While the velocity of the flow, which is proportional to the swirl ratio, increases with engine speed, the angular velocity of the engine, which is inversely proportional to the swirl ratio, also increases. However, when the velocity of the flow increases, the airflow interferes with the cylinder and the friction increases. From the above, the increase of the velocity of the flow is less than the increase of the angular velocity of the engine and therefore higher engine speed reduces the swirl ratio.

Figure 5(b) shows the turbulence intensity as a function of the crank angle under various engine speeds. There is a clear trend of the turbulence intensity

throughout the observed crank angle. The flow tends to be highly turbulence during the intake stroke and decreases as it goes towards the compression stroke. The results also suggested that the turbulence intensity is proportional to the engine speed as higher engine speed leads to a higher mean velocity that instigates the variation of the velocity and the turbulence behavior of the airflow.

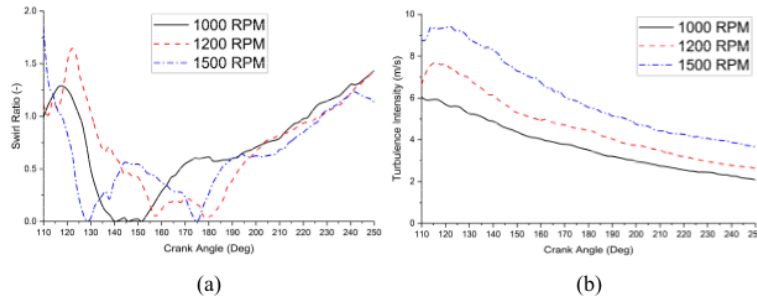
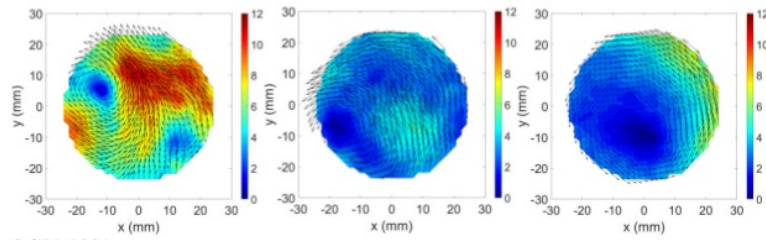


Figure 5 (a) Swirl ratio and (b) turbulence intensity of the airflow as a function of crank angle under various engine speeds.

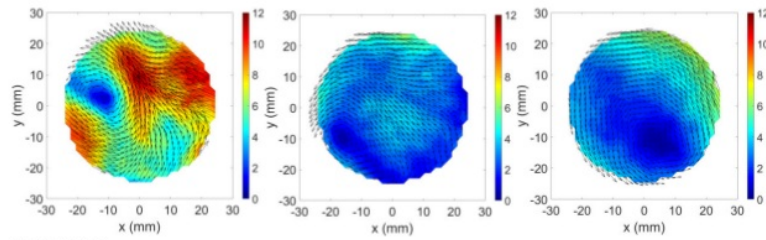
3.2 Swirl Ratio and Turbulence Intensity Under Various SCV Openings (Second Set of Experiment)

Figure 6 shows the mean velocity for various helical port openings (percentage of SCV) and crank angles. For 110 °CA, the swirl center is located near the tangential intake port (upper left) and the variation of SCV openings does not cause a significant shift in the location of the swirl center. Similarly, for 180 and 250 °CA, the SCV openings do not vary the location of the swirl center that is located in the vicinity of the left exhaust port (lower left) and right exhaust port (lower right), respectively. While smaller SCV opening reduces the intake flow area of the helical port, it merely leads to lower mass flow rate and higher mean velocity of the flow without significantly altering the dynamics of the flow inside the chamber.

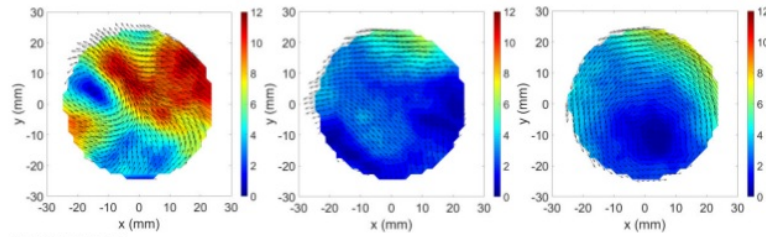
SCV 25%



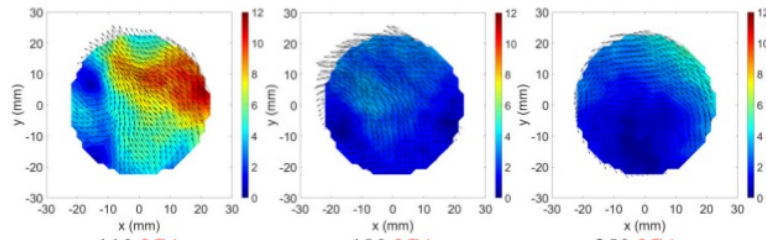
SCV 50%



SCV 75%



SCV 100%



110 °CA

180 °CA

250 °CA

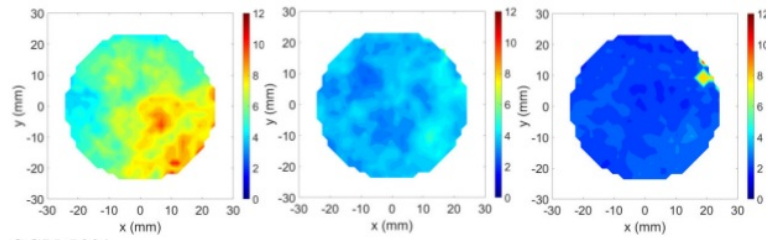
Figure 6 Mean velocity profile (in m/s) of the airflow under various SCV openings for 110, 180, and 250 °CA.

252 As for the turbulence intensity, Figure 7 shows the distribution of turbulence
253 intensity for various helical port openings (SCV openings) and crank angles with
254 Table 4 showing the coordinates for the maximum turbulence intensity. It can be
255 inferred that there is a clear trend of lower turbulence intensity with a larger crank
256 angle. However, in terms of location for the maximum turbulence intensity, the
257 effect of SCV openings does not have a clear trend. Similar to the first set of
258 experiments, the majority of the maximum turbulence intensity is located on the
259 right side; either near the helical port or the right exhaust port due to the swirl
260 flow generated by the helical port.

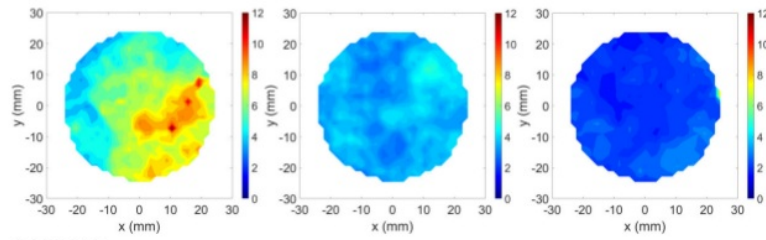
261 By observing the swirl ratio for all crank angles studied, as shown in Figure 8(a),
262 it was found that the swirl ratio is at its peak during the intake stroke and gradually
263 decreases with higher crank angle up to a certain angle. Near the start of the
264 compression stroke (~160 to 180 °CA), the swirl ratio increases until 250 °CA.
265 Similar to the first set of experiments, the trend of swirl ratio to crank angles for
266 different SCV openings is observed during the compression stroke. The swirl
267 ratio decreases with larger SCV opening as more mass flow originated from the
268 helical port disrupted the airflow coming from the tangential port, reducing the
269 velocity of the flow inside the chamber.

270 Figure 8(b) shows the turbulence intensity of the airflow for all crank angles
271 studied. The turbulence intensity shows a clear trend and the difference between
272 SCV openings with higher SCV opening leads to lower turbulence intensity. This
273 is due to the larger helical port opening that disrupts the airflow from the
274 tangential port and reduces the variation of the velocity and turbulence behavior
275 in the airflow of the chamber.

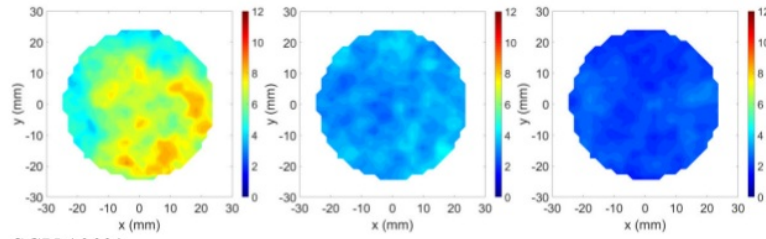
SCV 25%



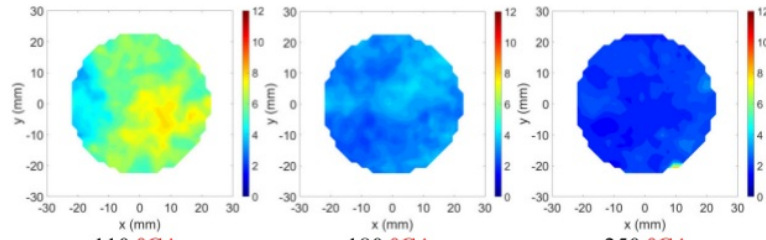
SCV 50%



SCV 75%



SCV 100%



110 °CA

180 °CA

250 °CA

Figure 7 Turbulence intensity profile (in m/s) of the airflow under various SCV openings for 110, 180, and 250 °CA

Table 4 Coordinates of the maximum turbulence intensity (in mm) under various SCV openings for 110, 180, and 250 °CA.

Parameters	110 °CA	180 °CA	250 °CA
SCV 25%	x = 10.3 y = -21.9	x = 17.2 y = 17.9	x = 18.9 y = 14.4
SCV 50%	x = 10.6 y = -7.3	x = 10.6 y = 11.7	x = 24.4 y = 4.8
SCV 75%	x = -4.0 y = -19.3	x = 18.4 y = -15.8	x = 15.0 y = 1.5
SCV 100%	x = 7.5 y = -5.1	x = 17.8 y = 13.9	x = 9.2 y = -20.7

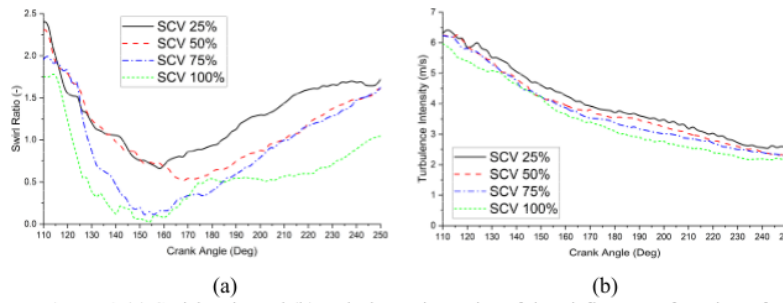


Figure 8 (a) Swirl ratio and (b) turbulence intensity of the airflow as a function of crank angles under various SCV openings

4 Conclusion

The airflow characteristics of the four-valve single-cylinder engine have been investigated using the PIV technique for various engine speeds and SCV (helical intake port) openings. The results suggested that the engine speed and SCV opening do not have a significant influence on the location of the swirl center as the dynamics of the flow inside the chamber remains closely similar. However, higher engine speed leads to lower swirl ratio as the angular velocity of the engine increases more in comparison with the velocity of the flow due to the friction between the flow and cylinder. On the other hand, higher engine speed brings higher turbulence intensity due to the increased mean velocity and the variation of the velocity in the flow. As for SCV opening, higher SCV opening leads to the reduction of both swirl ratio and turbulence intensity due to the increased mass

298 flow from the helical intake port. It disrupts the airflow coming from the
 299 tangential port and reduces the mean velocity as well as the variation of the
 300 velocity in the flow. Those trends that were found in the present study are more
 301 easily observed during the compression stroke.

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 308 Christian University, Indonesia, for the supports in this study.

309 Nomenclature

N	=	Total number of discretized points [-]
r_{ij}	=	Cartesian coordinate of a point [m]
S_R	=	Swirl ratio [-]
T_I	=	Turbulence intensity [m/s]
θ	=	The angle of a discretized point [rad]
U_{RMS}	=	Root mean square of the velocity in x-direction [m/s]
u_{ij}	=	Velocity in horizontal direction [m/s]
V_{RMS}	=	Root mean square of the velocity in y-direction [m/s]
v_{ij}	=	Velocity in vertical direction [m/s]
ω_{engine}	=	Angular velocity of the engine [rad/s]

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