



Materials Science & Technolog y

### Electron microscopic analysis of metal-bearing particle emissions from diesel engines

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### <u>Outline</u>

- Brief Introduction on ash PM
- Analytical techniques for the study of ash
- Sampling methods/setup
- Two case studies:
- *i.* Ash depositions in diesel particulate filters
- *ii.* Ash sampled directly from the exhaust stream
- Summary Conclusive remarks

### ASH: Non-combustible PM in diesel exhaust

**Chemical component** 

Mechanically transported fragments

Metal additives in lubricating oil

Metal additives (traces) in fuel Metal fragments (engine wear)

### Analytical techniques

### Methods (macro-, micro-, nano-scale):

- Macroscopic study (on dissected DPFs)
- Optical microscopy
- X-ray diffraction analysis
- Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) EDX
- Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) EDX

Morphology (surface features, shape, size), chemical composition  $\Longrightarrow$ 

Health effects (epidemiological / toxicological)  $\Longrightarrow$ 

Important for validating and developing mitigation measures/strategies

### Sampling methods / setup

Ash depositions in diesel particulate filters
Ash sampled directly on TEM grids



### Disassembling the DPF









## Embed filter segments into epoxy to stabilise loose particles

#### without epoxy





**INFLOW** 

## Sampling of PM directly from the exhaust stream on TEM grids



## Sampling of PM directly from the exhaust stream on TEM grids

**DPF** casing Electrostatic particle sampler Sampling site The TEM grid holder is heated/under high voltage

### RESULTS: Ash deposits in DPF: channels start filling up with ash from the plugged ends toward the inflow



Section of a filter segment parallel to the flow direction – ca. 3-5 cm (ca. 15% of the effective filter volume) from the plugged ends are filled up with ash.

### **Diesel Particulate Filter - Assembly**



#### Ash aggregates consist predominantly of Ca,P,Mg,Zn,O,S,Al,Fe-bearing phases and of fragments detached from the DOC

#### TEM-image of ash aggregates



DOC substrate with Pt particles (bright) (Pt: 40-5nm)

17th ETH-Conference on Combustion Generated Nanoparticles



## Ash aggregates (Ca,P,Mg,Zn,O,S,AI) with dispersed Pt-particles (without their substrate)



#### **TEM-image of ash aggregates**

## Ash particle constituents of aggregates have sizes of ~170-60nm, down to ~7nm



TEM images (STEM, BF mode) of individual ash particles

### Summary for ash depositions in DPF

- Ash forms powdery aggregates (a few µm to 100s of µm large), deposited at the rear part of the DPF and on channel walls along the DPF.
- Ash consists of Ca,P,Zn,Mg,S (lube oil-related), Fe,Cr,Ni,Cu (engine wear), noble metals: Pt,Pd (DOC), AI,Mg,Si (DOC, intumescent mat).
- The primary particle constituents of the ash aggregates range in size between ~170-60nm, down to ~7nm.

### **RESULTS FROM SAMPLING DIRECTLY ON TEM GRIDS**



- DPF was new before the experiment; efficiency>99%
- SiC, uncoated
- Degreened Loaded with soot for ~2000 km (speed: 70km, 5<sup>th</sup> gear)
- Sampling: normal operating conditions, at steady state operation.



## Soot agglomerates that escape the DPF are usually large and ash-bearing





SEM images of samples collected downstream of the DPF (5-10 min sampling time – undiluted).

## TEM-element mapping of aoot agglomerate with attached ash (S,Mg,Si,Ca,Zn,Fe,Mn)



## Ash aggregates not attached onto soot can escape the DPF



SEM images of ash collected downstream of the DPF



#### S,O,Zn,(Mn,Fe,Cr,Ni)



TEM images of ash collected downstream of the DPF

## Fe-oxide nanoparticles can form by in-cylinder melting of steel fragments



CFD simulations on steel fragment transport: steel fragments, 10-20µm in size, dislodged from the piston surface or from the fuel nozzle can be transported to hot areas of the combustion chamber where they can melt.

#### Time spent by the steel fragments at T≥1800 K in O-rich conditions



[Liati, Pandurangi, Boulouchos et al. (ES&T in press)]

## Summary for ash collected directly from the exhaust stream

- Ash aggregates escape even high efficiency DPF (>99%); escaping ash aggregates are commonly attached onto large soot agglomerates
- Size of ash aggregates escaping filtration: 0.2-2µm; size of primary ash particles: 20-400nm.
- The DPF can promote breakout of large (ash bearing) soot agglomerates



## Summary for ash collected directly from the exhaust stream

- Trace amounts of steel fragments can detach from the piston surface and/or fuel nozzle, melt and form new Fe-oxide nanoparticles.
- Environmental concern also for cars other than diesel

# Thank you for listening!

### Soot agglomerates may block filter wall pores and increase the $\Delta P$ between inlet and outlet channel



SEM – BSE images from the channel wall

#### Biofuel (RME) produces very little soot



DPF operating with 100% biofuel (RME) shows most ash deposition besides lube oil also biofuel contributes to ash production



 Mainly Ca, S and part of P derive from biofuel;
Part of Ca,S,P, as well as Mg, Zn from lube oil;

Na,K, part of Al from transesterification