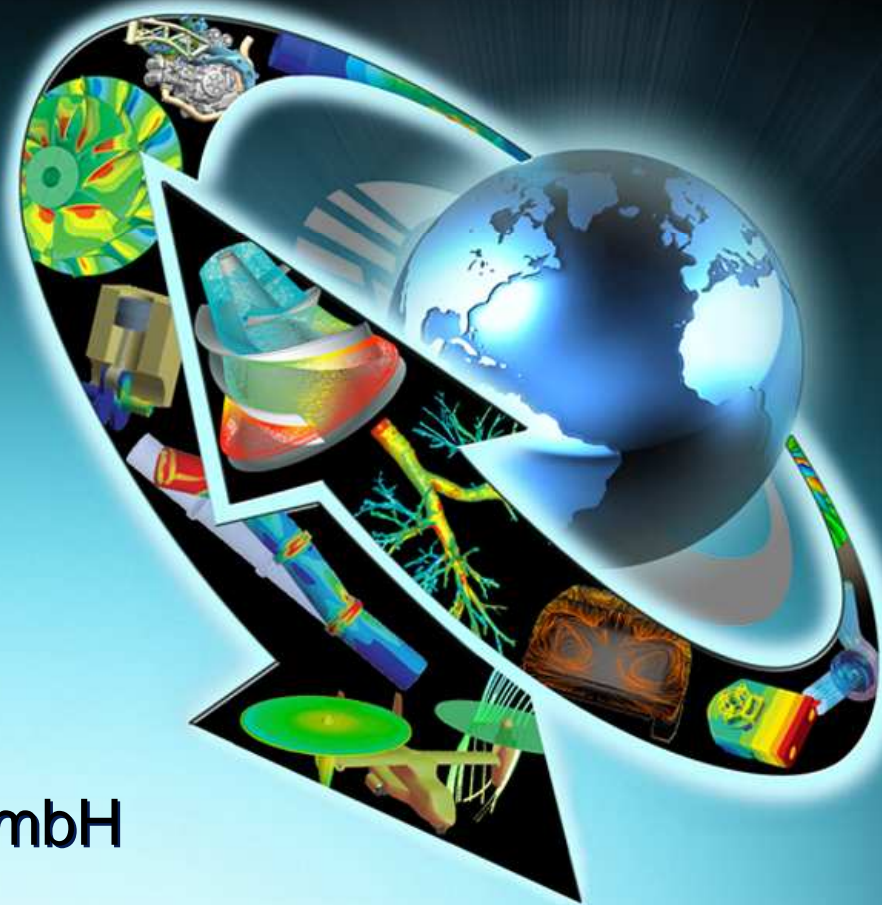




Coupling of Thermodynamic Equilibrium Libraries with a Multidimensional CFD Solver - Application and Potential -



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- Motivation
- Efficient Coupling of CFD-Tools
- Biomass Boiler Simulation
 - Ash Deposition Modeling
 - Implementation into FLUENT
- Summary
- Potential Applications

- Process simulation with
 - relevant local thermo-chemical effects
 - relevant convective transport due to hydrodynamics
 - use: **CFD-Tools (like FLUENT)**
- Chemical kinetic of species
 - quite often not known sufficiently
 - but partial equilibrium can be assumed
 - use: **Equilibrium Solvers (like ChemApp)**
- Key to connect both
 - **Efficiency**
of equilibrium calculations in each CFD grid cell

Key Technology for Efficiency

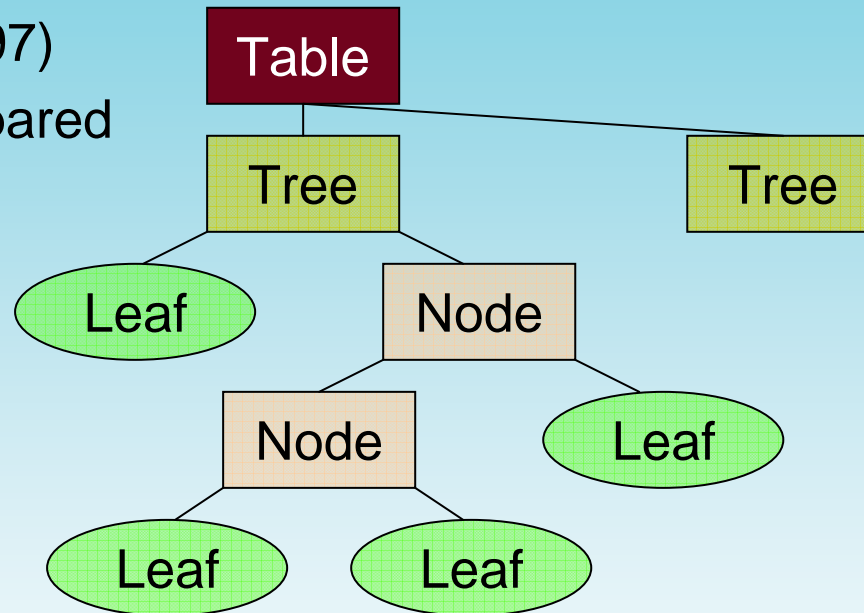


- In-Situ Adaptive Tabulation of equilibrium calculation results using ISAT (St. Pope)
- Possible speedup for complex systems:
factor 10 – 100
- Tabulated function f:
mass of phase constituents = f(mass of elements)
(ChemApp) (FLUENT)

ISAT: Tree Structure

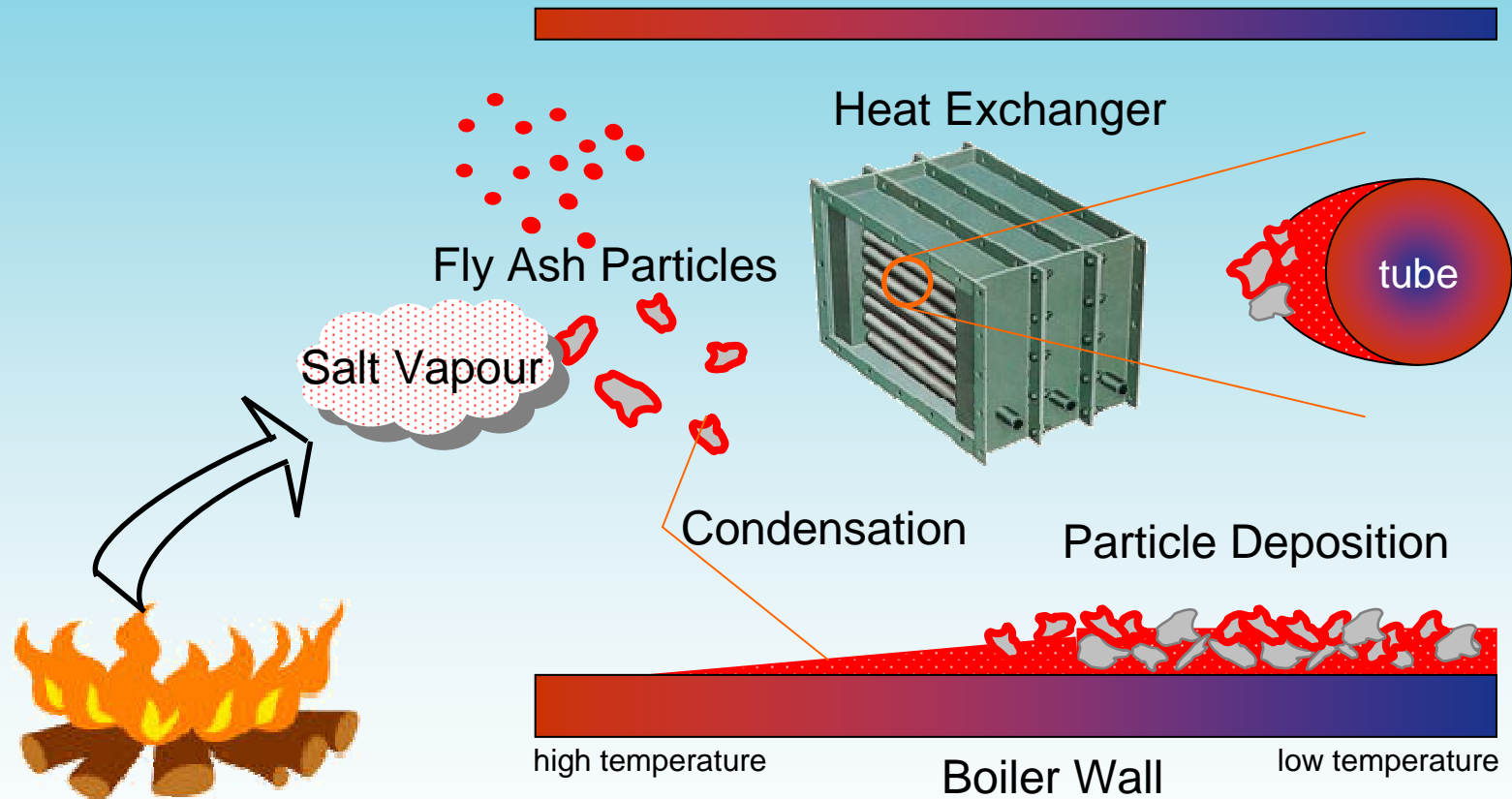


- developed by S.Pope (1997)
- searching a tree fast compared to function evaluation
- currently using version 5



Node = two half rooms separated with plane (x,p)
Leaf = stores the coordinate (x), function (f) and first derivative ($g = df/dx$)

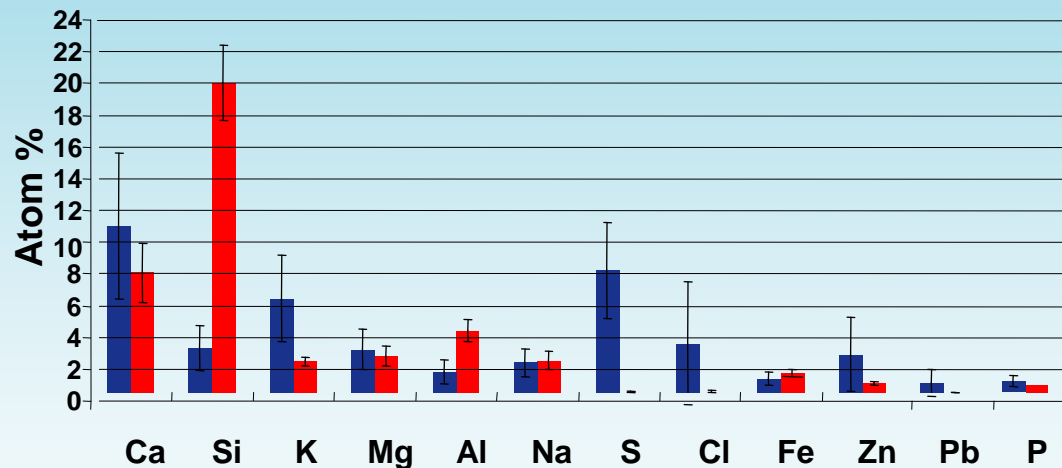
Deposition in Biomass Furnaces



Ash Deposit Chemistry

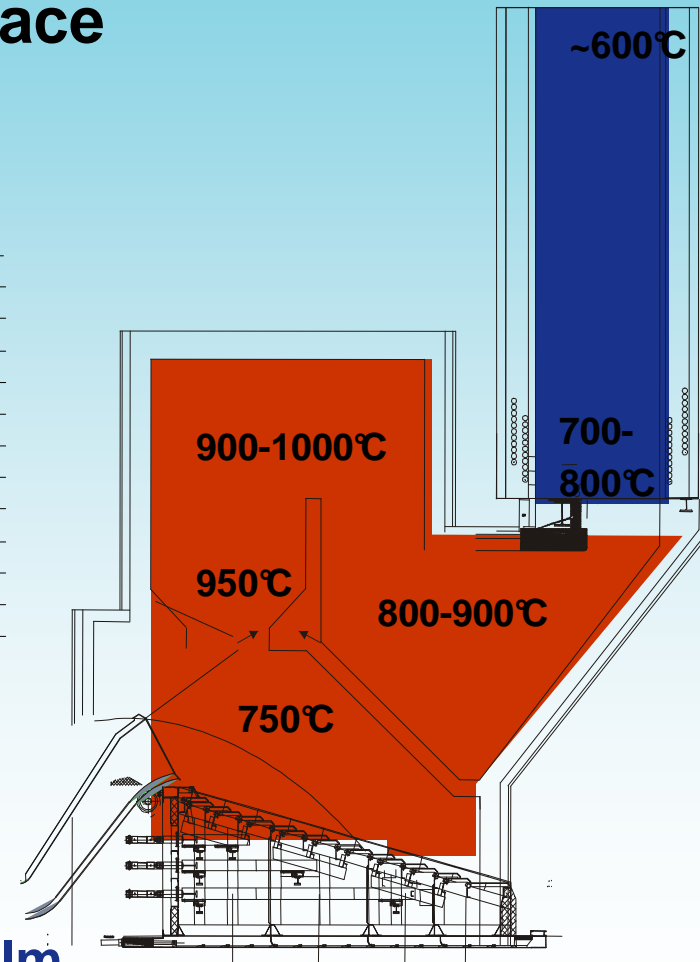


Comparison of deposits in the furnace and in the boiler section



Furnace => deposition of silicate particles

Boiler => condensation of salt vapour and sticking of particles on the liquid salt film



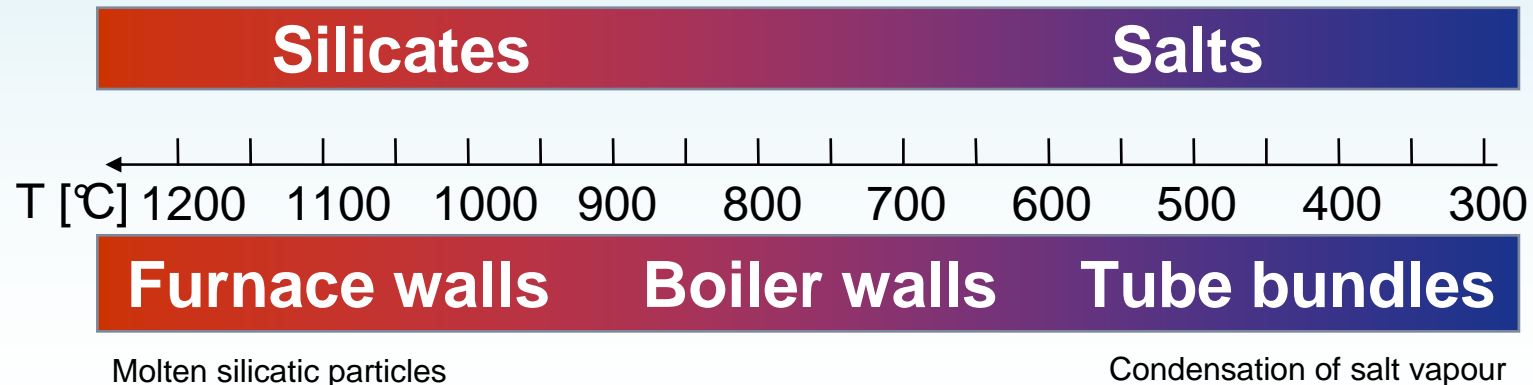
Source: Jonas Dahl (BIOS Graz)

Volatile components (Salts)

- K_2SO_4 , K_2CO_3 , KCl , Na_2SO_4 , Na_2CO_3 , $NaCl$, $CaSO_4$, $CaCO_3$,
- additional: $ZnSO_4$, $ZnCl_2$, $PbSO_4$, $PbCl_2$, $CaCl_2$

Particle only components (Silicates)

- SiO_2 , CaO , MgO , Al_2O_3 , Na_2O , K_2O , ZnO , P_2O_5



- Many salt anion/cation combinations possible
- Do not participate in combustion processes nor affect fluid flow.
 - ➔ Gaseous transport of ash vapour elements
- Evaluating of local multiphase equilibrium (ChemApp) to compute constituents of phases
 - gaseous, solid and/or liquid
- Simulation predicts:
 - gas condensation rates in each finite volume cell that has a wall

- Wall condensation mass flux [mol/m²s]

$$\dot{N}_{cond} = \beta \cdot (c_{\infty} - c_w)$$

- β ... mass transfer coefficient [m/s] from convective heat transfer coefficient (Lewis analogy)
- c_{∞} ... species free gas concentration [mol/m³]
- c_w ... species saturation concentration at the wall [mol/m³]

Computed with local equilibrium (ChemApp)

**Equili. calc. necessary for each wall face and each neighboured fluid cell.
For particle condensation this is necessary even in each fluid cell.**

Ash Particle Transport Modeling



- Lagrange approach for particle transport
- sticking probability of a particle on a surface:

$$P_{\text{stick}} = P_p + P_s - P_p P_s - \underbrace{k_c (1 - P_p) (1 - P_s)}_{\text{Erosion by non-sticky particles}}$$

Erosion by non-sticky particles

P_s = Ash Stickiness of Surface

P_p = Ash Stickiness of Particle

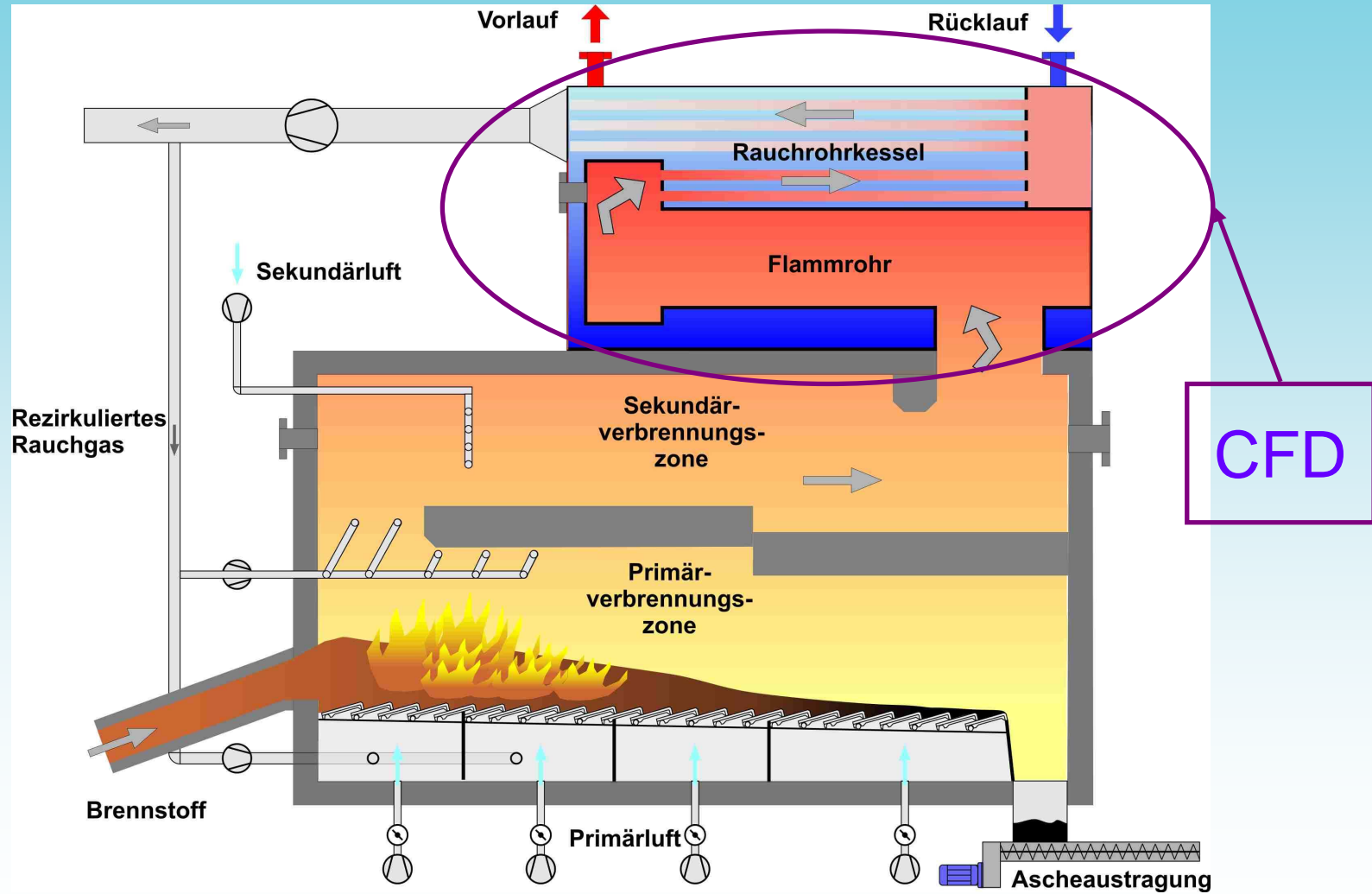


- Salts:
 - P_{Salt} = function of molten phase amount (10%-70%)
 - $P = 1$ (> 70%) calculated from [multiphase chemical equilibrium \(ChemApp\)](#)
- Silicates:
 - Urbain model (1981): $P_{\text{Sili}} = \min(1, \eta_{\text{ref}} / \eta)$
 - viscosity depending on composition
 - reference viscosity estimated from particle kinetic energy

Volume averaged stickiness for salt/silicate mixtures:

$$P = \frac{V_{\text{Sili}} P_{\text{Sili}} + V_{\text{Salt}} P_{\text{Salt}}}{V_{\text{Sili}} + V_{\text{Salt}}}$$

Boiler Simulation (400kW_{thermal})



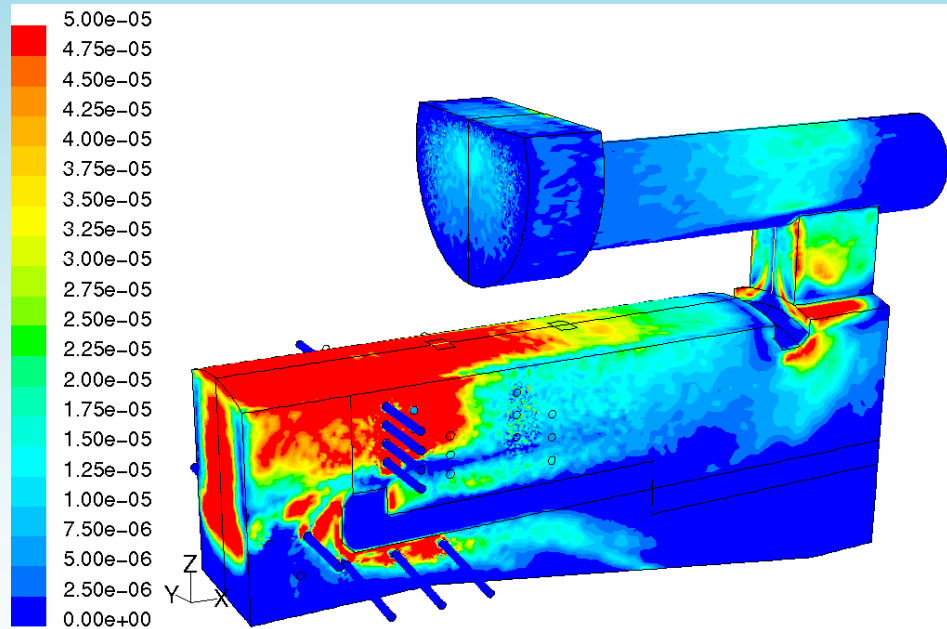
Source: R. Scharler (BIOS Graz)

Ash Deposition Simulation

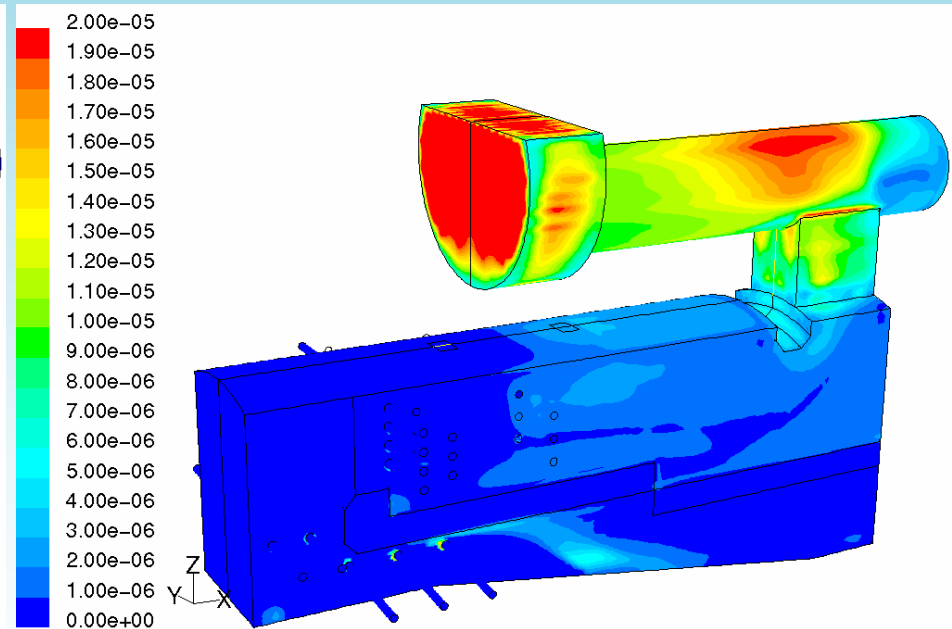


Deposition Mass Flux [kg/m²s]

Ash Particle Deposition (Silicates)



Vapour Condensation (Salts)

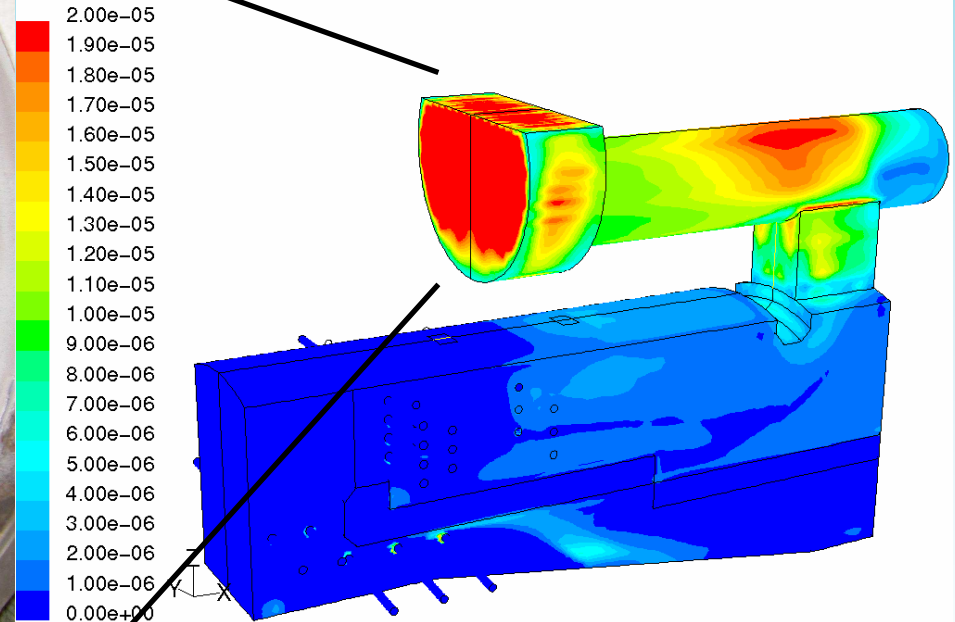


Source: R. Scharler (BIOS Graz)

Ash Deposition Simulation



Vapor Condensation Mass Flux
[kg/m²s]



Source: R. Scharler (BIOS Graz)

- We heavily use local equilibrium calculations to reduce the number of transported species during the deposition of fly ash in biomass furnaces
 - We consider the influence of salt and silicate components to the particle wall interaction
 - Reduction of calculation time using ISAT, enables highly sophisticated chemical equilibrium calculations within a CFD environment
- ➔ Bringing science to engineering business

Potential Applications



Tabulation technology enables all CFD simulations using

- equilibrium calculations
- or any complex function evaluation in each CFD grid cell.

Examples:

- Segregation of molten metal phases (steel industry)
- Local material property lookup (glass industry)
- ...