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# **Pulsating combustion of ethylene in** micro-channels with a controlled temperature gradient

# The aim of our study

- Growing need to improve knowledge in the field of **small-scale combustion** for engineering applications (MEMS [1]).
- The new system can afford the study of the **combustion characteristic of** different fuels in very-lean conditions at micro-scale.

## The new device

A cylindrical quartz tube was set between three heat sources and heated by hydrogen/oxygen flames. The temperature profile along the outer side of the reactor was measured by a FLIR A655sc infrared camera Twall

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# Equivalence ratio effect

## and FREI dynamics

Flame position defined at the wall temperature as a function of the mixture flow velocity at various equivalence ratios: 0.3 (grey), 0.4 (blue), 0.7 (orange), 0.9 (red), 1 (black), 1.1 (green), 1.3 (purple), 1.5 (pink).



with an emissivity correction factor. A spectroscopy EMCCD camera (ProEM 1600) with a CH\* band-pass filter was used to detect the flame positions.  $C_2H_4$ /air mixtures were supplied in a 1 mm internal diameter reactor at atmospheric pressure.



## **Flame Visualization**

Using the Fourier function on the spectral cross-section of the CH signal, it is possible to determine the **flame frequencies**. The results obtained with  $CH_4$ /Air in a 1 mm internal diameter reactor are also reported.



- **Stable flames** (a) have flat profiles due to t he narrow reactor section. Unstable flames (b), named **FREI** (flames with repetitive extinction and ignition [2]) are present in the middle-range of the flow velocity.
- The ignition occurs at the downstream and the extinction at upstream.
- Weak flames (c), typical of mild combustion [3], were observed for very low velocities.
- **Oscillating weak flames** (d) and **Oscillating FREI** (e), fluctuating with very small amplitude and high frequency, were observed in **very-lean** and **lean conditions** [4].



# Results: very-lean conditions ( $\phi = 0,3$ )

Only weak flames and oscillating weak flames were observed.



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9.15 ms

The presence of **multiple CH**\* peaks was detected during FREI propagation at high equivalence ratio ( $\phi \ge 1$ ): this is probably due to the combustion of remaining unburned species behind the main flame front. Previous studies [5, 6] confirms the existence of **splitting flames** for methane/air mixtures.

0.03

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