# THERMO ANALYTICS

#### Balancing Range and Occupant Thermal Comfort for Mass Transit Applications

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### Agenda

- 1. The Importance of Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions
- 2. Range Vs. Cabin Conditioning
- 3. Electric Buses
- 4. Integrated Systems Modeling
- 5. Cabin Simulation Options
- 6. Integrated Modeling Workflow
- 7. Integrated Model Setup
- 8. Environmental Metrics
- 9. Thermal Sensation
- 10. Thermal Comfort
- 11. Integrated Model Results
- 12. Energy and Occupant Perception
- 13. Conclusions



#### The importance of Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

Current

warming rate

**Climate uncertainty** 

for 1.5°C pathway

1.75

1.25

1.00

- Greenhouse gas emissions are causing a rise in global ۲ temperatures
- Reduction and mitigation strategies are being aggressively pursued in all sectors
- Electric busses are one part of this solution



## Range Vs. Cabin Conditioning

- Air conditioning significant energy consumer
  - 2013 fleetcarma database
    - ~35% in Winter, ~25% in Summer
  - 2020 NAF winter testing of 20 vehicles:
    - Average range reduction by about 10-30%
  - TI Fluid Systems measurement
    - -10°C: High PTC heater consumption
    - 25°C: A/C almost idle
    - 38°C: Cooling cabin and battery





Typical thermal driving cycles were recorded

GT Suffe Conference 2020 - Detailed Model of an Electric Series Production Vehicle

#### **Electric Buses**

- Municipalities around the world are seeing electric buses as critical for future urban mobility
- Fully electric busses have no waste heat to condition the cabin with
  - Heating is critical in many parts of the world
    - 60-70% of the time in Western-Europe
  - HVAC consumption can be 60% of battery capacity
  - HVAC energy consumption adversely affects range
- Buses offer unique challenges compared to commercial vehicles
  - Multiple Occupants
  - Time on vehicle varies
  - Doors opening and closing



## Integrated System Modeling

- Electrification is driving a shift to integrated systems modeling
  - Complex Component and System Interactions
  - Limited energy capacity
- Integrated modelling provides:
  - Earlier understanding of systems interactions
  - Lower cost and faster turn around than physical testing
  - Increased numbers of design iterations



#### **Cabin Simulation Options**

Number of Fluid Volumes		Real Time Simulation	Controls Simulation	Long Transient Simulation	Predictive Capability
1		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
1-10		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
1k-10k		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	+
1M+	EAR	X	X	X	+ +

## **Cabin Simulation Options**

- Simulation method has been validated on several published cases
  - Toyota Motor Europe
  - Volvo Cars
- Many unpublished validation cases



#### Initial results – Air temperature

Model shows good prediction, but accuracy near cabin flow inlets to be improved







Time [min]

## Integrated Modeling Workflow

- Unique technology allows fast, 3D-resolved cabin simulation
  - Including physiology-based comfort simulation
  - CFD results are automatically mapped to coarser-grid GT-SUITE solution
  - GT-Converge can be used for easy and fast 3D-CFD simulation



## Integrated Modeling Workflow

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  - Including GT Converge
  - CFD resu
  - GT-Conve

# CFD tool of choice



- GT-Converge: Integrated CFD solution allows early-stage investigations with detailed flow results
- Seamless integration within the GT-SUITE and TAITherm coupling process
- Automatically generate data for fast drive-cycle simulation
  - Varying blower speeds
  - Varying outlet vent configuration



Fluid temperature Species propagation I nermal structure solution Passenger comfort/sensation

solution

**TAITherm** 

Flexible platform allows testing of different system combinations and topologies under varying boundary conditions



Flexible platform allows testing of different system combinations and topologies under varying boundary conditions



Fast running fluid simulation solves for local air temperature

- Flow solver uses mapped CFD data for advection field
- Temperatures are calculated based on inlet conditions
- Orders of magnitude faster than CFD solution

Flexible platform allows testing of different system combinations and topologies under varying boundary conditions



Flexible platform allows testing of different system combinations and topologies under varying boundary conditions

#### Correlation used for exterior convection

- Save simulation time by not simulating exterior • flow
- Accurate correlation for A-B design studies ۰
- External flow data can be used to improve ٠ accuracy



HeatPump

System

Flexible platform allows testing of different system combinations and topologies under varying boundary conditions



Human Thermal Physiology Manikins

- Consistent assessment of occupant thermal state
- Accurate predication of thermal sensation and comfort enabled by industry leading human thermal physiology model



- Switch complete topologies
- Switch Refrigerant Fluids (R134a, CO2, R260...)
- Switch components (heat exchanger selection)

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#### Integrated Model Use-Case

Simulation task: evaluate heat-pump system control strategies

- Heat-pump with air PTC heater
- Heat-pump with air PTC heater + local heater

System configuration:

- City bus
- Non-reversing CO2 heat-pump system
  - Air flaps switch between cooling and heating mode
- -10°C ambient temperature



#### **Environmental Metrics**



Equivalent Homogenous Temperature = f(MRT, Tamb)

- EHT measures environmental conditions
- Can be used as design target
- Can be related to occupant sensation



#### **Thermal Sensation**



Berkley Sensation = f(Tsk, Tcore, DTsk/dT, DTcore/dT)

• Sensation measures how warm or cold a feeling is



#### **Thermal Comfort**



Berkley Sensation = f(sensation)

• Comfort is a measure of how good or bad a sensation feels



#### **Integrated Model Results – Heat Pump Performance**



#### **Energy and Occupant Perception**

• Heat pump systems can be used to reduce the bus energy consumption

- Energy savings can be used to extend range
- Occupant comfort is unchanged



**Driver Comfort** 

30

Time (min)

40

50

60

2

0

-2

-4 📕

10

20

Comfort

#### Conclusions

- Emissions Management is a driving factor in electrification
  - Commercial vehicles are an important part of the solution



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  - Commercial vehicles are an important part of the solution
- Integrated system simulation provides unprecedented insights in system performance
  - Rapid, low-cost, accurate design explorations
  - Links design targets (range) with design requirements (occupant comfort)
  - Coupled GT-SUITE and TAITherm simulation offer optimal simulation times for various model fidelities



#### Conclusions

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  - Commercial vehicles are an important part of the solution
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  - Links design targets (range) with design requirements (occupant comfort)
  - Coupled GT-SUITE and TAITherm simulation offer optimal simulation times for various model fidelities
- Heat pumps can be used to reduce energy consumption
  - Extends vehicle ranges
  - Maintains occupant perception





#### THERMO ANALYTICS

#### Thank you

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#### **Human Thermal Physiology Modeling**

