



Article Modeling the Performance of a New Speed Adjustable Compound Supercharging Diesel Engine Working under Plateau Conditions

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Abstract: In order to improve the diesel engine performance under plateau (high altitude) conditions, a new Speed Adjustable Compound (SAC) supercharging method is proposed. A simulation model based on a six-cylinder V-type turbocharged intercooler diesel engine is built on the GT-POWER platform, and then simulation-based research is carried out. A genetic algorithm (GA) is used to identify the best operation parameters, including the supercharger speed and fuel injection quantity under steady state conditions. Transient performance is obtained through starting process simulation of a vehicle with SAC engine on the MATLAB/Simulink GT-POWER co-simulation platform. Both the steady and transient performance of the SAC engine are compared with those of the original engine. Results show that the torque of the SAC engine at full load is significantly increased when the engine speed n < 1600 r/min. The increment of the maximum torque can reach up to 31% at 1000 r/min compared to that of the original engine, while the peak torque is increased by 9%. The fuel consumption deterioration is restricted within 5%. What's more, the SAC engine can help reducing the acceleration time by 20% during tip-in pedal events during the vehicle starting process.

Keywords: diesel engine; GT-POWER; genetic algorithm; co-simulation; plateau conditions

1. Introduction

The air pressure and air density experience sharp declines at high elevation, which causes a large drop in the air intake flow of diesel engines [1,2]. Many aspects of the performance of the traditional turbocharged diesel engine are deteriorated as a result, such as power, fuel consumption and emissions [3,4]. The compressor may experience surge or over-speed problems. Besides, the turbo lag problem can't be ignored when engine exhaust energy is lacking [4].

In recent years, many supercharging technologies have been applied to improve the plateau performance of diesel engines. Li [5] applied a turbocharged system with waste gate in a CA6110/125Z1A2 diesel engine. The results showed this method could improve the torque performance during low engine speeds and avoid over-speed problems of the compressor at high engine speeds, but it had poor full load torque at high engine speeds and bad economic performance because part of the exhaust gas was released at high engine speeds. Zhang [6] did some simulation research on a M11-C300 turbocharged diesel engine with a Variable Geometry Turbocharger (VGT). According to the simulation results, the VGT had high efficiency and could effectively solve the problem of turbo lag, but the increase of engine power at high altitudes was insufficient due to the compression ratio limitations. Liu et al. [7] did some research on a 6 V diesel engine with two stage turbocharged systems and found that at 4500 m altitude, this charging system could improve the

engine power to 85% of its level at sea level, but the problem of turbo lag still existed in the two stage turbocharged system.

Electric supercharging has the advantages of fast acceleration and can provide very high spontaneous boost pressure while the car is pulling away at low revolutions. This was demonstrated by Audi in the Audi RS 5 TDI concept [8].

Mechanical compound supercharging was previously explored by various groups [9–11] and firstly applied by Volkswagen to improve the torque performance of gasoline engines. A 1.4 L Twin-charger Stratified Injection (TSI) engine could have the same output power as a 2.31 L Natural Aspiration (NA) engine, but the fuel consumption was increased [12]. The system structure adopted a roots-type supercharger and a turbocharger in series. The transient characteristics of the engine were improved by the supercharger, and the pressure ratio was improved by the compound charging system.

Because the transmission ratio between the supercharger and engine are fixed, it is impossible to optimize the engine intake performance according to the working characteristics, which may lead to higher fuel consumption. In addition, the air flow rate and compression ratio of the roots-type supercharger are directly related to size and weight. The engine will demand high flow rates and compression ratios at high altitudes. This means much more size and weight increment for the roots-type supercharger [12]. Compared to the roots-type supercharger, the centrifugal supercharger is much smaller and more efficient. Related studies have shown that the intake pressure of a centrifugal supercharger driven by a motor can be optimized throughout the whole engine operation range [13,14]. In this study, the SAC system is introduced to solve the problems of turbo-lag and enhance the engine performance at plateau. The SAC system only needs to install a supercharger in front of the single stage turbocharged diesel engine.

In this paper, our research on modeling and simulation of the Speed Adjustable Compound supercharging diesel engine working at plateau is presented. The main features of the work are as follows: first, a simulation model of the SAC diesel engine is set up based on experimental data of an original turbocharged diesel engine. The influence of the supercharger speed is analyzed; Second, steady state operation parameters including supercharger speed and cycle fuel injection quantity of the SAC diesel engine are optimized to improve the engine performance at 4500 m. Third, transient performance of the SAC engine is tested by simulating the vehicle starting process. The main purpose of this paper is to illustrate the significant advantages of the SAC system in improving power and transient performance of diesel engine at 4500 m altitude.

2. System Modeling and Parametric Analysis

2.1. System Description

The SAC system consists of one turbocharger and one supercharger. The turbocharger is always in operation, and the supercharger operates in the low and middle speed region of the engine. A bypass valve is arranged next to the supercharger.

When the supercharger is stopped, the bypass valve will open to maintain a normal air flow. To reduce the complexity of the system, only one intercooler is arranged in the rear of the compressor of turbocharger. A system schematic is shown in Figure 1. The supercharger has lower inertia and is driven by a motor, so it can accelerate fast and provide a high intake pressure during any situation lacking engine exhaust energy. The driving motor is connected to supercharger using the driving belt. The rotation speed of the driving motor can be adjusted from 0 r/min to 90,000 r/min continuously. Table 1 shows the main parameters of the supercharger drive system.



Figure 1. System schematic of SAC system.

Table 1. Parameters	s of the S	C driven	system.
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Parameter	Value
Belt driven ratio	1.4
Belt type	V-type
Motor speed	0~6000 rpm
Motor power	20 Kw
Drive ratio of SC	7.5
Max drive efficiency of SC	0.97

The turbocharger operates throughout the complete operational range. The original turbocharger is retained in this paper. One thing to note is that a compressor driven by an electric motor, namely a relatively low supercharging pressure and high current consumption, that's why influence of supercharger speed was analyzed below.

2.2. System Model

The analysis is based on a previously validated [15] GT-POWER engine model of a V-type six-cylinder turbocharged intercooled diesel engine, which employs a mechanical diesel pump and a turbocharger. The parameters of the engine are listed in Table 2.

Parameter	Value
Bore	132 mm
Stroke	145 mm
Compression ratio	17:1
Maximum torque	1980 N.m@1300 r/min
p_{max}	160 bar
Maximum of Tex	1023 K

[a]	ble	e 2.	Engine	parameters.
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The combustion process is described using a zero dimension (0-D) Predictive combustion model based on neural network (NN) and three Wiebe functions. This combustion model was proposed by Galindo et al. [16], and Serrano et al. [17,18]. Five operation factors—the outlet air temperature of the intercooler, the outlet air pressure of the intercooler, the fuel injection quantity, the injection timing and engine speed—which are related to the combustion process were chosen as the input parameters of the NN. The NN training data is obtained from experiments in a plateau environment simulation cabin covering the engine speed range from 1000 r/min to 2100 r/min, load range from 10% to 100%, 17.5° injection timing, 4500 m altitude, and intercooler temperature range from 40 °C to 90 °C. Nine parameters of the three Wiebe functions were chosen as the output parameters of the NN.

The main procedures to establish the 0-D Predictable combustion model are explained in [19]: first, the rate of heat release was extracted through an analysis of the in-cylinder pressure experimental data. Second, the three Wiebe functions were used to describe the rate of heat release and the training data under different working conditions were obtained. Third, the RBF neural network was trained to build the relationship between the five operating parameters and nine three Wiebe function parameters.

The original engine model is built, and then the SAC engine is modeled by modifying the original model. One thing to note is that the engine power used in this paper is the net power (P_{net}) which is obtained by deducting the power consumption of the supercharger from the engine power. The BSFC is calculated using this 'net power'.

2.3. Influence of Supercharger Speed

It is obvious that a higher supercharger speed n_{sc} means a higher pressure ratio to the engine, thus P_{net} , the turbine inlet temperature T_{ex} , AFR and the peak pressure p_{max} of the engine will change accordingly. Results of numerical simulations at the operating point with 1500 r/min, 167 mg per cycle in one cylinder and 4500 m altitude of the engine, and with n_{sc} ranging from 44,200 r/min to 94,600 r/min are shown in Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 2. The influence of n_{sc} to p_{max} , T_{ex} , AFR, and p_{in} .



Figure 3. The influence of n_{sc} to P_{net} and P_{sc} .

With the increase of n_{sc} , p_{in} and p_{max} and AFR increase monotonously at the rate of 4.0×10^{-5} bar/(r/min), 7.3×10^{-4} bar/(r/min) and 2.8×10^{-4} 1/(r/min), respectively. Meantime T_{ex} decreases at the rate of 4.410^{-3} K/(r/min). In addition, the engine net power P_{net} rises from 44,200 r/min to 67,000 r/min and then declines from 67,000 r/min to 94,600 r/min. As n_{sc} increases, p_{in} increases which can help to improve thermal efficiency; however, as can be seen from Figure 3, the power consumption of the supercharger will be high when n_{sc} is too large, that's why the power decreases then.

3. Steady Optimization and Simulation

3.1. Optimization Aim

Base on related reference and analysis in Section 2, the rotation speed of the supercharger and cycle fuel injection quantity are two main factors that affect the engine power and BSFC, so the next stage is to optimize these two factors, as well as to keep the engine at maximum effective output power and operating stably. The ranges for the two parameters are specified in Table 3.

Table 3. Input parameters for optimization.

Parameter	Minimum	Maximum
Fuel injection quantity (mg/cycle/cyl)	20	220
Supercharger speed (r/min)	0	90,000

3.2. Performance Boundaries

The following constraints should be considered and defined in advance in order to provide realistic and reasonable results:

- 1. Supercharger speed constraint: less than 90,000 r/min.
- 2. Turbocharger speed constraint: less than 130,000 r/min.
- 3. Maximum cylinder pressure: less than 162 bar.
- 4. Maximum turbine inlet temperature: less than 1023 K.
- 5. Minimum AFR: more than 17.

3.3. Optimized Algorithm

The research problem in this section corresponds to a global non-linear optimization problem with multiple constraints. The genetic algorithm (GA) fulfills the role of global search particularly well, and is increasingly being applied. The design process of a GA mainly includes three aspects: selection, crossover and mutation. The selection process is regarded as the "natural selection law" in the genetic processes, expressing the optimization targets through the fitness function. A fitness function should be designed according to the feature of specific objects. An appropriate fitness function is critical to ensure the GA will run correctly and effectively [20].

3.3.1. Fitness Function

The static penalty functions are employed in this paper, and the magnitude of punishment depends on the violation degree. The violation degree h is defined as follow:

$$h_p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{P_{max}(\mathbf{x})}{162} - 1 \tag{1}$$

$$h_T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{T(\mathbf{x})}{750} - 1 \tag{2}$$

$$h_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{n(\mathbf{x})}{130000} - 1 \tag{3}$$

where *h* is the assessment of the violation degree, subscripts of *h* stand for violation object such as p_{max} , T_{ex} and n(x). The vector x[x1, x2] stands for optimization parameters. x1 stands for the supercharger speed. x2 stands for fuel injection quantity. The fitness function is expressed in Equation (4).

$$FITNESS(\mathbf{x}) = P(\mathbf{x}) - \sum K_i \times \max(h_i(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{0})$$
(4)

where *P* stands for the engine net power. *K* represents the penalty parameters. If p_{max} or T_{ex} or n(x) exceeds the constraint, the penalty term in Equation (4) will work. A bigger fitness function value means the individual adapts the survival rules better. The genes of this individual are more likely to be used.

3.3.2. Penalty Parameters K

Penalty parameters *K* described in Equation (4) have a great influence on the fitness function. The selection of *K* has great effect on convergence of the optimization result. Zhu [21] has promoted a useful way to select *K* which is called 'Fitness Equal to Zero at the Worst Point'. The main view is to restrict the elements of x fairly and reduce the impact of x value ranges. The biggest penalty should be imposed on operating points violating constraints most severely. That is to make the fitness function equal to zero. This way has been proved and is used in this paper.

Under a certain operating condition, the ranges of x[x1, x2] are expressed as $x1 \in [x1\min, x1\max]$ and $x2 \in [x2\min, x2\max]$. The peak pressure p_{max} appears at the point A $[x1\max, x2\max]$, with the maximum supercharger speed and cycle fuel injection quantity. The maximum T_{ex} and maximum n_{tc} both appear at the point B $[x1\min, x2\max]$, with minimum supercharger speed and fuel injection quantity. The fitness function is set to zero at the points A and B. This is shown in Equations (5) and (6):

$$FITNESS(\mathbf{A}) = 0 \tag{5}$$

$$FITNESS(\mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{6}$$

3.3.3. Convergence Conditions

Once the value of the fitness function and x meet Equations (7) and (8) in 20 consecutive generations, the optimization results is considered convergent. The subscript i (i = 1, 2 in this paper) stands for the dimension of x, and subscript j stands for the generation of the GA. The err stands for the error limits of convergence:

$$\left|\frac{FITNESS_{j} - FITNESS_{j-1}}{FITNESS_{j-1}}\right| < err$$
(7)

$$\left|\frac{x_{i,j} - x_{i,j-1}}{x_{i,j-1}}\right| < err \tag{8}$$

3.4. Optimization Realization

To make it easier for optimization, the GT-POWER engine model is integrated into a co-simulation environment with MATLAB m-file, and the corresponding system block diagram can be seen in Figure 4. Simulation parameters are transmitted from MATLAB to GT-POWER, and then the engine numerical model is run. When the GT-POWER simulation is finished, GT-POWER will transmit the results such as P_{net} , p_{max} , T_{ex} and n_{tc} back to MATLAB. Using these simulation results, Equations (1)–(8) are calculated to judge whether the optimization is converged, if not, the genetic processes will continue until it converged. GA input parameters are specified in Table 4.

Table 4. Parameters of GA.

Parameter	Value
Population size	20
Crossover proportion	0.98
Mutation rate	0.01
Error limit (e)	0.005



Figure 4. System block diagram.

3.5. Simulation Results

3.5.1. Torque

Figure 5a shows the torque output of the SAC engine at full load under various engine speeds. The torque has a certain improvement compared to the original engine when the engine speed n < 1600 r/min, when the engine speed n > 1600 r/min, the torque of the original engine is higher than that of SAC. That is why at the supercharger operation is stopped. The peak torque point is moved from 1400 r/min to 1300 r/min and has a significant increment of 9%. What's more, the torque at 1000 r/min has increased by 31% compared to that of the original engine. However, the torque of SAC system is virtually identical with that of the original engine when n > 1600 r/min. The reason is that the same turbocharger is used in these two schemes. Figure 5a,b show that the torque and fuel injection quantity have the same varying tendency. The increment of air mass flow (Figure 5c) leads to much more fuel injection which helps to increase the torque and power. Figure 5d shows the variation of n_{sc} .



Figure 5. Full load optimization results: (a) Torque; (b) Fuel; (c) Air mass flow; (d) *n*_{sc}.

3.5.2. Fuel Consumption

Figure 6 shows fuel consumption comparison between the SAC engine and original engine. The BSFC of the SAC engine is higher than that of the original engine when 1000 r/min < n < 1300 r/min (the maximum increment is restricted within 5%). This is because a significant amount of effective power is consumed by the supercharger. The phenomenon changes as the engine speeds up, due to the rise in efficiency both of the supercharger and turbocharger. This can be seen from Figure 7a,b, respectively.



Figure 6. Full load optimization results: BSFC.



Figure 7. Full load optimization results. (a) Supercharger; (b) Turbocharger.

3.5.3. Turbine Inlet Temperature

In the plateau environment, the air mass flow decreases leads to an increase of the turbine inlet temperature T_{ex} . T_{ex} is one of the important effects that limit the increasing of fuel injection at plateau [21]. Figure 8 shows that T_{ex} rises with engine speeds up at full load conditions, except 1300 r/min.



Figure 8. Full load optimization results. Turbine inlet temperature *T*_{ex}.

This is mainly because that fuel injection quantity is increased as the engine speeds up and the engine has the maximum fuel injection quantity and smallest AFR (21 as can be seen from Figure 9) at 1300 r/min. The supercharger operation is stopped when the engine speed is larger than 1600 r/min and T_{ex} falls with the decrease of fuel injection quantity.



Figure 9. Full load optimization results. AFR.

3.5.4. Rotate Speed MAP of the Supercharger

The rotation speed MAP of the overall working conditions is shown in Figure 10. There is a very clear line which divides the overall area into 'STC mode' and 'SC mode'. The n_{sc} increases with the increasing load under STC mode.



Figure 10. *n_{sc}* of overall working conditions.

4. Transient Simulation

In this section, a vehicle model is built with this SAC diesel engine, and then a 'tip-in' simulation during the vehicle starting process is run to test the transient performance of the SAC engine.

4.1. Simulation Setup

Vehicle model is built on the GT-Power platform. Figure 11 shows the model architecture including the engine, the SAC system, ECU and equivalent moment of inertia of the vehicle J' and torque resistance from the wheel. Ignoring the elastic damping element of drive train, J' can be calculated using Equations (9)–(11) and expressed by Equation (12):

$$\frac{1}{2}m_G\nu^2 = \frac{1}{2}J\omega^2\tag{9}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}\eta J_1 \omega_{in}{}^2 = \frac{1}{2} J_2 \omega_{out}{}^2 \tag{10}$$

$$i = \frac{\omega_{in}}{\omega_{out}} \tag{11}$$

$$J' = J_e + \frac{J_t}{\eta_t i_t^2} + \frac{J_f + J_W + m_G r_{tire}^2}{\eta_f i_t^2 i_f^2}$$
(12)

where m_G is entire vehicle mass, ν is driving speed, ω is angular velocity, J is moment of inertia of converted by vehicle quality, J_1 is moment of inertia of input shaft, J_2 is moment of inertia of output shaft, ω_{in} is angular velocity of input shaft, ω_{out} is angular velocity of output shaft, η is transmissionefficiency, J_e is moment of inertia of engine crankshaft, J_t is moment of inertia of gearbox, J_f is moment of inertia of main reducing gear, J_W is moment of inertia of the wheels, r_{tire} is radius of the tire, i_t is transmission ratio of first gear, i_f is transmission ratio of main reducing gear, η_t is efficiency of gear box, and η_f is efficiency of main reducing gear.

The relationship between resistance torque T' on the crankshaft and running resistance F can be expressed using Equation (13) where ϕ_A is proportion of engine accessory energy consumption. The specifications of the car are shown in Table 5 and J' is approximately 11 kg·m².

$$T' = \frac{Fr_{tire}}{i_t i_f \eta_t \eta_f (1 - \phi_A)}$$
(13)

Table 5. Vehicle Specifications.

Parameter	Value
Car mass (kg)	16,000
Wheel radius (mm)	300
Rolling resistance coefficient	0.05
Power consumption ratio of accessory	0.15
First gear ratio	2.68
Main reducer's gear radio	4.74
Gearbox transmission efficiency	0.92



Figure 11. Vehicle simulation model.

4.2. Simulation During the Vehicle Starting Process

4.2.1. Vehicle Starting Process Analysis

Simulation results during the vehicle starting process are shown in Figures 12–15. The initial engine speed is 800 r/min. The clutch engagement process is finished at 1.7 s and then the accelerator pedal is pushed from 0% to 100% within 0.8 s. The engine speed decreases from 800 r/min to 500 r/min at 2.1 s, after that the vehicle starts to speed up until it reaches steady-state.

During the process, the SAC system enters STC mode at 2.7 s while the bypass valve is closed, and then the intake pressure starts to increase. The engine speed speeds up to 1600 r/min at 4.4 s. After that, the SAC system begins switching from STC mode to TC mode. The switching process is finished at 5.4 s. The mode-switch process is marked by an inlet reflux phenomenon which is caused by opening time of the bypass valve. This phenomenon will cause the decrease of intake air mass flow of the compressor which made it tend to surge, and this can be seen from Figure 15a.



Figure 12. Vehicle starting process simulation results. *n_{sc}*, bypass valve, pedal, clutch.



Figure 13. Vehicle starting process simulation results. Torque, Fuel injection and Intake pressure.



Figure 14. Vehicle starting process simulation results. Engine speed and AFR.





Figure 15. Vehicle starting process simulation results: (a) Compressor; (b) Supercharger.

4.2.2. Comparison with Original Engine

A similar vehicle model with an original engine is built and run to make a comparison. Comparison results are shown in Figures 13 and 14. The SAC engine speeds up faster than the original one and can reduce the acceleration time by 20%. What's more, the SAC engine has much higher intake pressure which allows much more fuel to be injected into the cylinder (Figure 14). That is why the torque of the SAC engine is higher than that of the original engine.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, a Speed Adjustable Compound (SAC) supercharging system is proposed to improve performance of the diesel engine working under plateau conditions. The engine simulation model is built based on a zero dimension (0-D) predictable combustion model. The main results of this paper are summarized as follows:

- (1) The SAC system is easy to implement and there is no need to change the original boosting system scheme. The speed of the supercharger can be adjusted according to the engine requirements, and high intake pressure is allowed in any situation lacking exhaust energy.
- (2) A genetic algorithm (GA) is used to optimize the supercharger speed and fuel injection quantity to improve steady state performance of the engine at 4500 m.
- (3) Steady state performance of the SAC engine working at 4500 m has a significantly improvement compared to that of the original engine when the engine speed n < 1600 r/min, whereby the peak torque is increased by 9%. The maximum increment of brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC) is no more than 5%.
- (4) Transient simulation shows that the SAC engine can help to reduce the acceleration time of the vehicle by 20% compared to that of the original engine. The SAC engine has better transient performance than a turbocharged diesel engine and has potential to improve the vehicle transient performance and drivability under plateau conditions.

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Conflicts of Interest: All authors declare no conflict of interest.

Nomenclature

n _{sc}	Rotate speed of supercharger [r/min]
p _{in}	Intake pressure [bar]
Pnet	Engine net power [kW]
P_{sc}	Power consumed by the supercharger [kW]
n_{tc}	Rotate speed of turbocharger [r/min]
T_{ex}	Turbine inlet temperature [K]
<i>p_{max}</i>	Peak pressure [bar]
0-D	Zero Dimension
SC	Supercharging
GA	Genetic Algorithm
NN	Neutral Network
AFR	Air Fuel Ratio
SAC	Speed Adjustable Compound
BSFC	Brake Specific Fuel Consumption
п	Engine speed
TSI	Twin-charger Stratified Injection
VGT	Variable Geometry Turbocharger
NA	Natural Aspiration
STC	Supercharging and Turbocharging

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