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Next Generation PPE for Real-time Inactivation of Airborne Biological Threats, Part II: Multi-physics computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulation

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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- Past PPE has used filtration to remove disease vectors.
- Filtration impacts breathability of these devices.

UV disinfection:

- Does not impact breathing,
- Inactivates rather than filters out disease vectors,
- Can inactivate unknown future micro-organisms.



Dyson Zone review: an absurd pair of air purifying ANC headphones - The Verge

Fluence Rate Field Modeling

- UV Modeling has been applied to water disinfection where transmittance can vary between 70-90%.
- Models seek to simulate fluence field in a reactor.
- Past methods include Discrete Ordinate (DO), Multiple Point Source Summation (MPSS), Line Source Integration (LSI).



Disinfection Modeling

Modeling disinfection is a Multiphysics problem involving:

- 1. Optical UV irradiance,
- 2. Computational fluid dynamics,
- 3. Inactivation kinetics
- For low transmittance media (e.g. water), reflectivity is less significant.
- For air, reflectivity can greatly impact disinfection
- Past methods were not originally designed for systems with high photon recycling.
- Optical ray tracing is an accurate way to simulate these systems





Fig. 7. The received dose of 25 random microorganisms along the motion path.

Images from Heidarinejad et al., Journal of Water Process Engineering (2020)

Optical UV Modeling

- Optical ray-tracing simulations carried out with Photopia and Ansys Speos.
- Numerical analysis using integrating sphere. Analytical solution with Sumpner's Principle below.
- Ray-tracing inputs include:
 - Solid mesh discretization,
 - Number of rays,
 - Number of ray interactions.

$$E=\frac{\Phi}{\pi D^2}\frac{r_\Phi}{1-r_\Phi}$$



Integrating Sphere Model

Integrating Sphere Summary

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- Optical ray-tracing matches Sumpner's principle well
- There is a consistent residual in the data
- Compared to 80% reflectivity, we see a 4x increase at 90%, 7x at 97%, and 21x at 99%
- Reflective material may greatly increase disinfection potential.



Test Reactor

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- A Simplified test reactor was created to test multiple light sources (Nichia LEDs, Ushio LPMs)
- UV fluence rate field measured in the laboratory and compared to simulations

Reactor Modeling



UV Modeling Results

- Irradiance greatly increased with reflectivity, but not to the degree of the integrating sphere.
- Average fluence rate increased up to 7x for 99% reflective vs no reflectivity.
- Photons escaped out open ends, expect higher dose increases with optical baffles.
- Average dose ~18 mJ/cm2 for resting breathing rate.





Second Iteration Prototype



- Optical, flow and dose modelling of reactor pod prototype
- Porex PMR20 97% reflective material
- Ushio GPX5 1.2W UV output lamp



CFD Modeling of Prototype

- Flow velocity path lines and contours at 90 l/min inhalation flow
- Lagrangian particle tracking for reactor







Optical Ray-Tracing Simulation

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- Planar Irradiance results for the reactor pod (Maximum 68.8 mW/cm2)
- Pathline irradiance profile from the start of the reactor









Dose Distribution at 90 L/min



- Combination of residence time and irradiance profile to determine dose distribution
- Minimum dose delivered was >2 mJ/cm2

Prototype Progression





By numerical prototyping, we were able to rapidly progress from a concept (photon recycling), to a simplified prototype, to an advanced prototype, without the need to generate intermediate physical prototypes.

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Questions?