

# The treatment of the throttling effect in incompressible 1D flow solvers

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# The throttling effect of a tunnel fire

- Fire increases the aerodynamic resistance of the tunnel
- Important for ventilation system design
- Various treatments in different software packages
- Limited literature available
- Objectives
  - identify mechanisms of throttling effect
  - understand how they are modelled

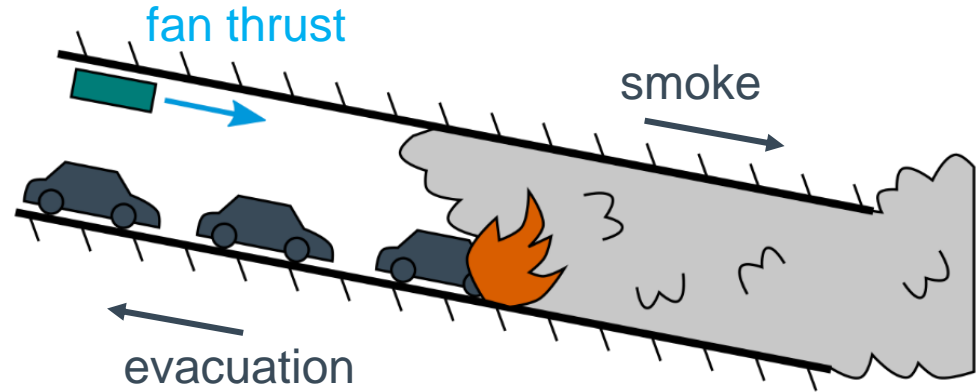
# Outline

- Overview of throttling effect
- Consider some throttling mechanisms
  - Wall friction & local losses
  - Momentum change at fire
- Demonstration
  - User-defined fire pressure drop (IDA Tunnel 1.1)

# Tunnel fire

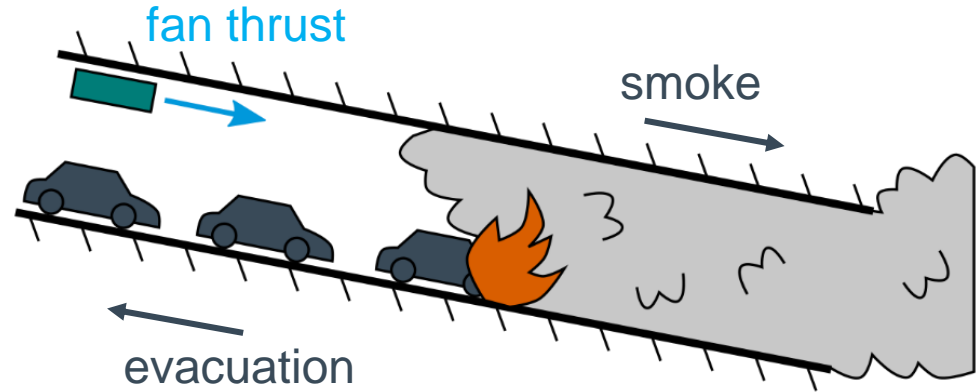
## Longitudinal ventilation system

- Self-rescue
- Fire-fighting



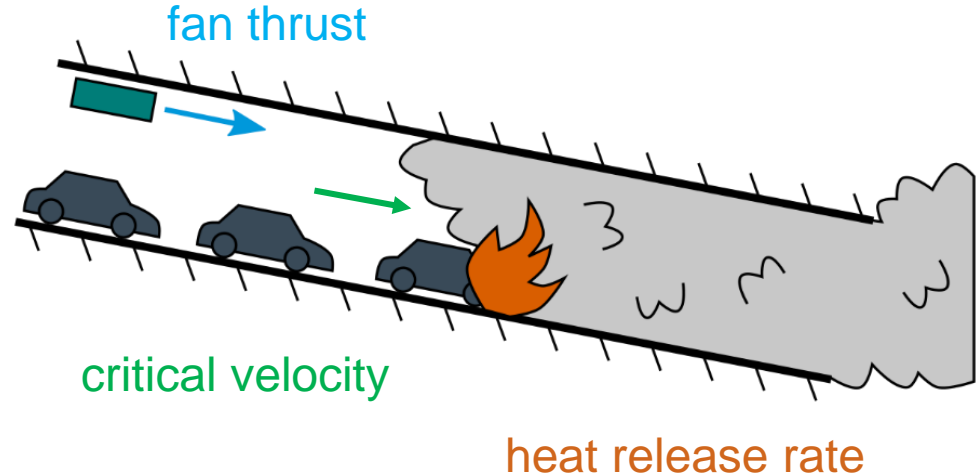
# Ventilation system design

- Achieve critical velocity
- Overcome aerodynamic resistance, e.g:
  - buoyancy
  - vehicle drag
  - wall friction & local losses
  - momentum change
  - portal pressure difference
- Iterative numerical method



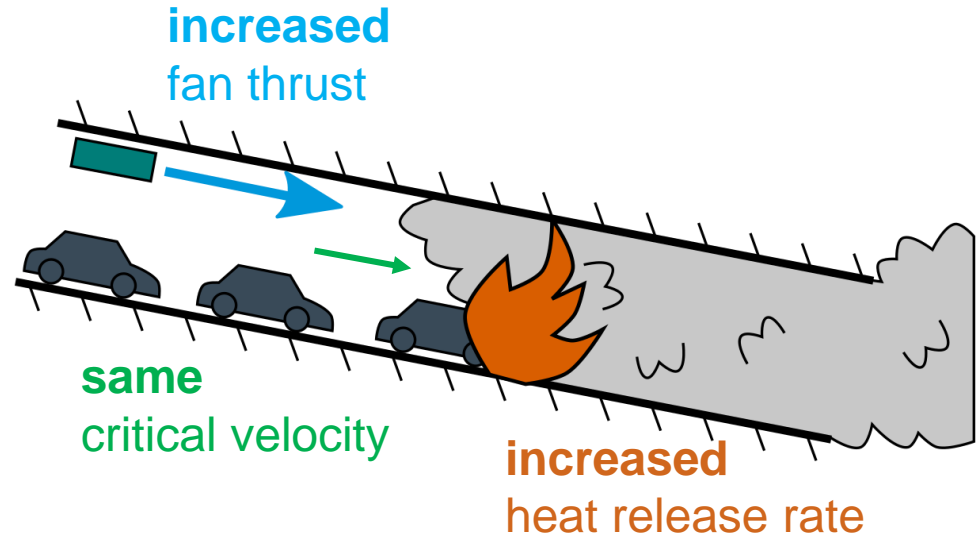
# System resistance

Some losses are temperature-dependent



# System resistance

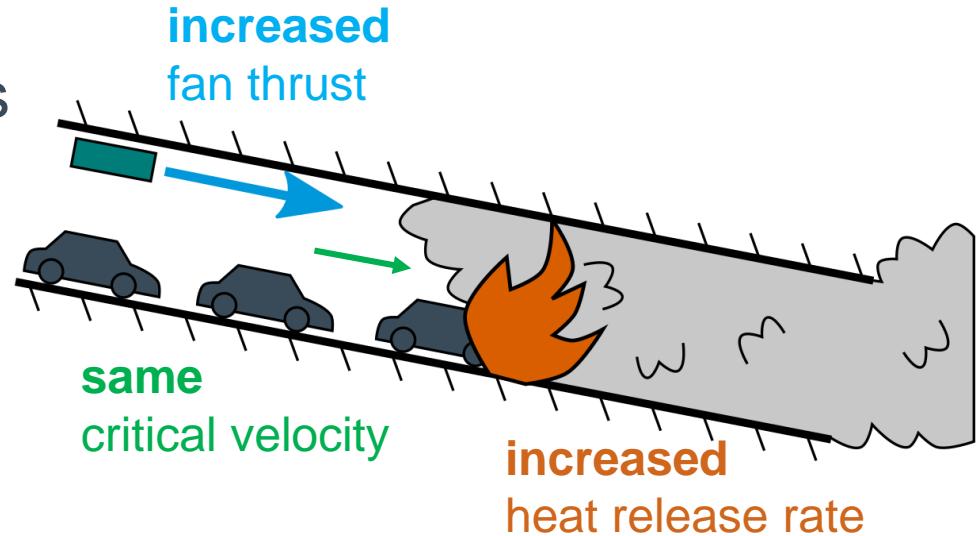
Some losses are temperature-dependent



# System resistance

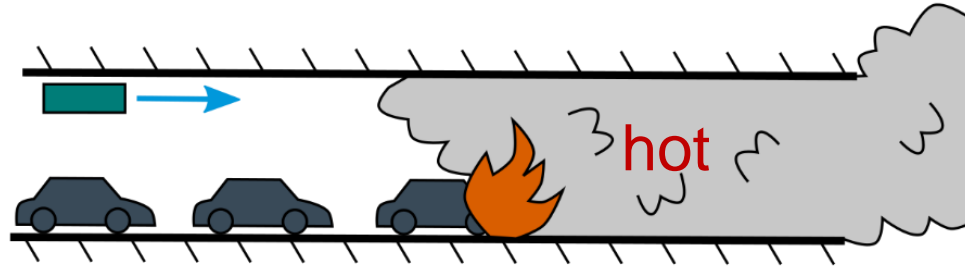
Some losses are temperature-dependent

- buoyancy
- wall friction & local losses
- momentum change





# Wall friction & local losses



Losses depend on dynamic pressure

$$\Delta p_{\text{friction}} = \frac{\lambda L}{D} \times \frac{1}{2} \rho u^2$$

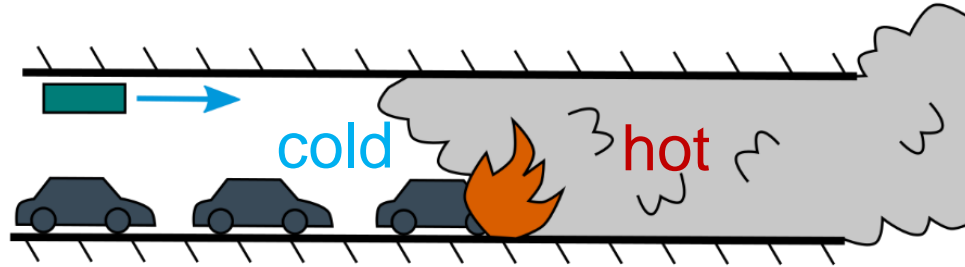
$$\Delta p_{\text{exit}} = K_{\text{exit}} \times \frac{1}{2} \rho u^2$$

Dynamic pressure is proportional to temperature

$$\frac{1}{2} \rho u^2 \propto T$$

Flow is compressible!

# Wall friction & local losses



Ideal Gas Law

$$\rho = \frac{p}{RT}$$
$$\rho_h = \rho_c \frac{T_c}{T_h}$$

Continuity

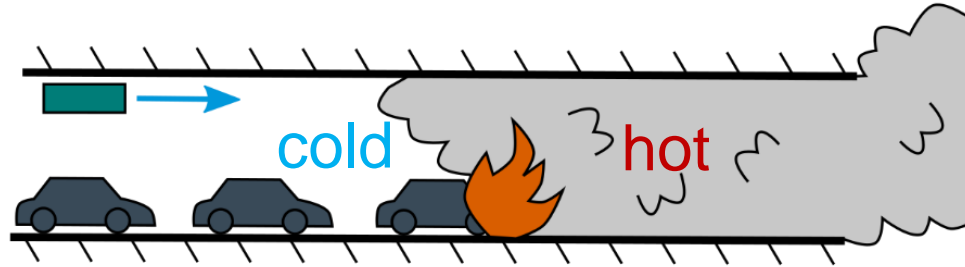
$$\dot{m} = \rho u A = \text{const.}$$

$$u_h^2 = u_c^2 \frac{T_h}{T_c}$$

Corrected dynamic pressure

$$\frac{1}{2} \rho_h u_h^2 = \frac{1}{2} \rho_c u_c^2 \times \frac{T_h}{T_c}$$

# Wall friction & local losses



Pressure losses now expressed  
in terms of known variables,

$$\rho_c, u_c, T_h$$

$$\Delta p_{\text{friction}} = \frac{\lambda L}{D} \times \frac{1}{2} \rho_c u_c^2 \frac{T_h}{T_c}$$

$$\Delta p_{\text{exit}} = K_{\text{exit}} \times \frac{1}{2} \rho_c u_c^2 \frac{T_h}{T_c}$$

# Pressure loss at fire

## Momentum change

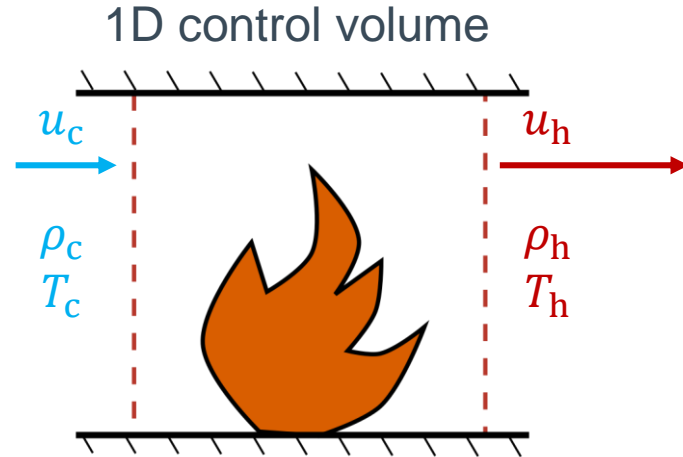
(Hwang & Chaiken, 1978)

$$\Sigma F_{CV} = \dot{m}(u_c - u_h)$$

$$u_h = u_c \frac{T_h}{T_c}$$

$$\Delta p_{\text{fire}} = \rho_c u_c^2 \left( 1 - \frac{T_h}{T_c} \right)$$

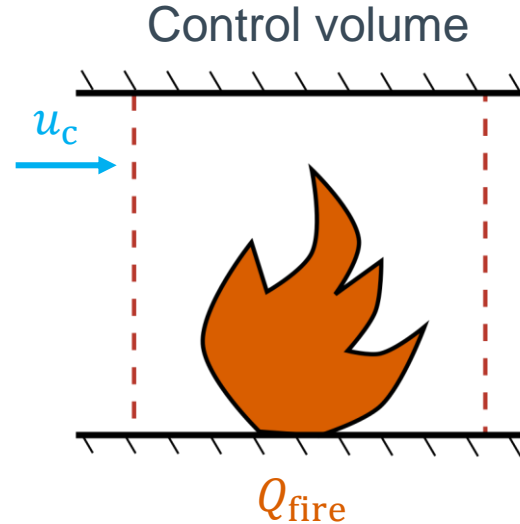
'HC78'



# Pressure loss at fire

**Empirical formula** via 3D CFD  
(Dutrieue & Jacques, 2006)

$$\Delta p_{\text{fire}} = \frac{Q_{\text{fire}}^{0.8} u_c^{1.5}}{D^{1.5}} C \quad \text{'DJ06'}$$



# Implementation

Some flow solvers require user input

- e.g. IDA Tunnel – general fire pressure loss

$$C_{\text{fire}} = \frac{\Delta p_{\text{fire}}}{Q_{\text{fire}}}$$

## Proposed use of IDA Tunnel

1. Calculate  $\Delta p_{\text{fire}}$  manually
  - $\Delta p = 0$
  - HC78 or DJ06
2. Calculate  $C_{\text{fire}}$  manually
  - Input to IDA Tunnel
3. IDA Tunnel simulation
  - Solve for  $u_c, T_h$



# Implementation

Some flow solvers require user input

- e.g. IDA Tunnel – general fire pressure loss

$$C_{\text{fire}} = \frac{\Delta p_{\text{fire}}}{Q_{\text{fire}}}$$

Some flow solvers do not require user input

- e.g. SES v4.1 solves HC78 momentum change

## Proposed use of IDA Tunnel

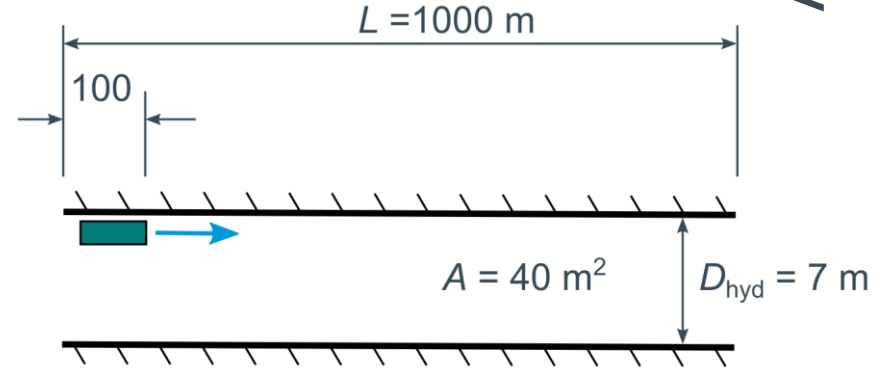
1. Calculate  $\Delta p_{\text{fire}}$  manually
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  - Input to IDA Tunnel
3. IDA Tunnel simulation
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# Demonstration

## Trivial case

- Verify agreement of IDA Tunnel 1.1 and SES v4.1
  - verify jet fan
  - verify wall friction

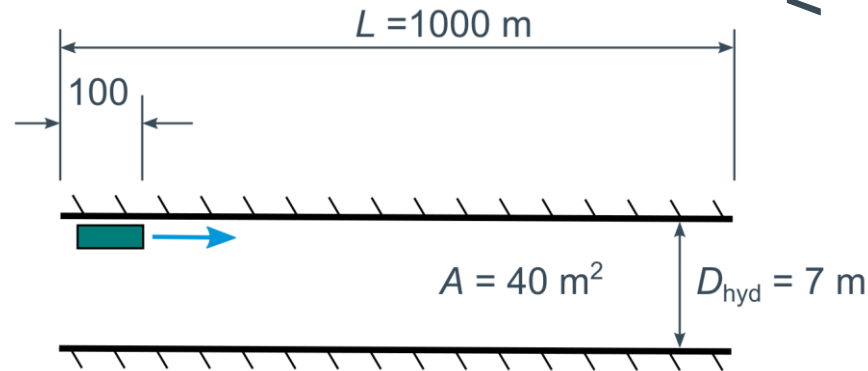




# Demonstration

## Trivial case

- Verify agreement of IDA Tunnel 1.1 and SES v4.1
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## Results

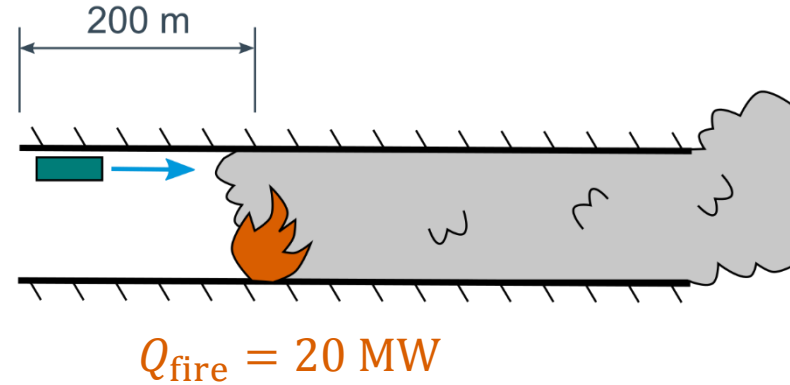
- Good agreement

Solver	$u \text{ [m/s]}$	$\Delta p_0 \text{ [Pa]}$
IDA Tunnel	3.702	19.704
SES v4.1	3.701	19.670

# Demonstration

## Fire pressure loss in IDA Tunnel

- Test models
  - $\Delta p_{\text{fire}} = 0 \text{ Pa}$
  - $\Delta p_{\text{fire}} = \text{DJ06}$  (empirical)
  - $\Delta p_{\text{fire}} = \text{HC78}$  (momentum change)
- Vary fire size

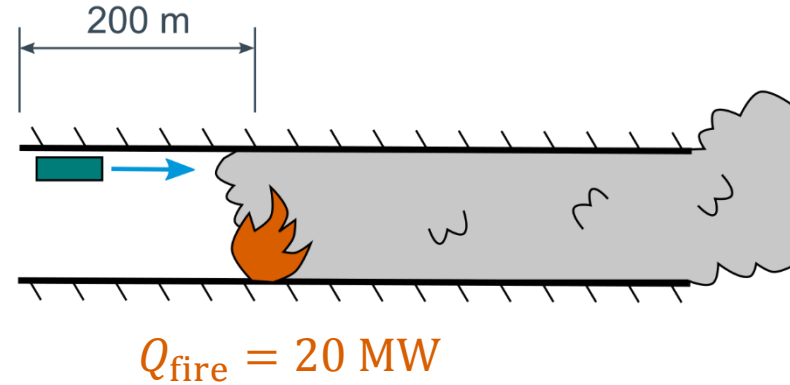


# Demonstration

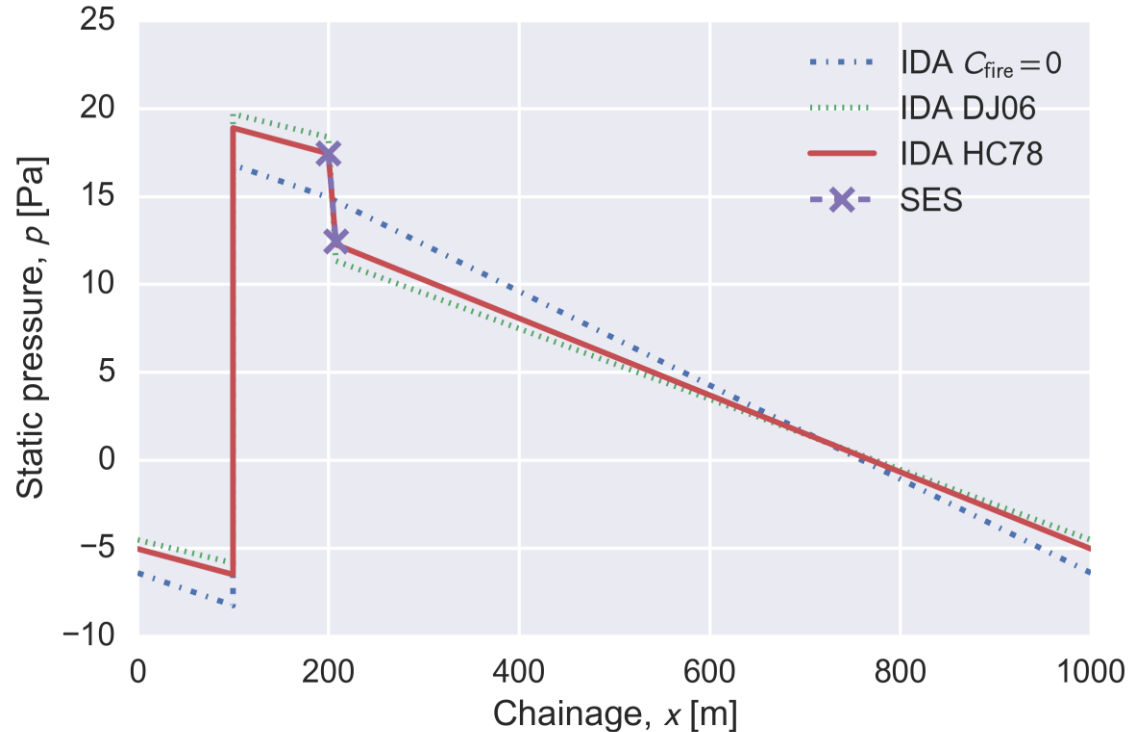
## Assumptions

(to isolate fire pressure drop)

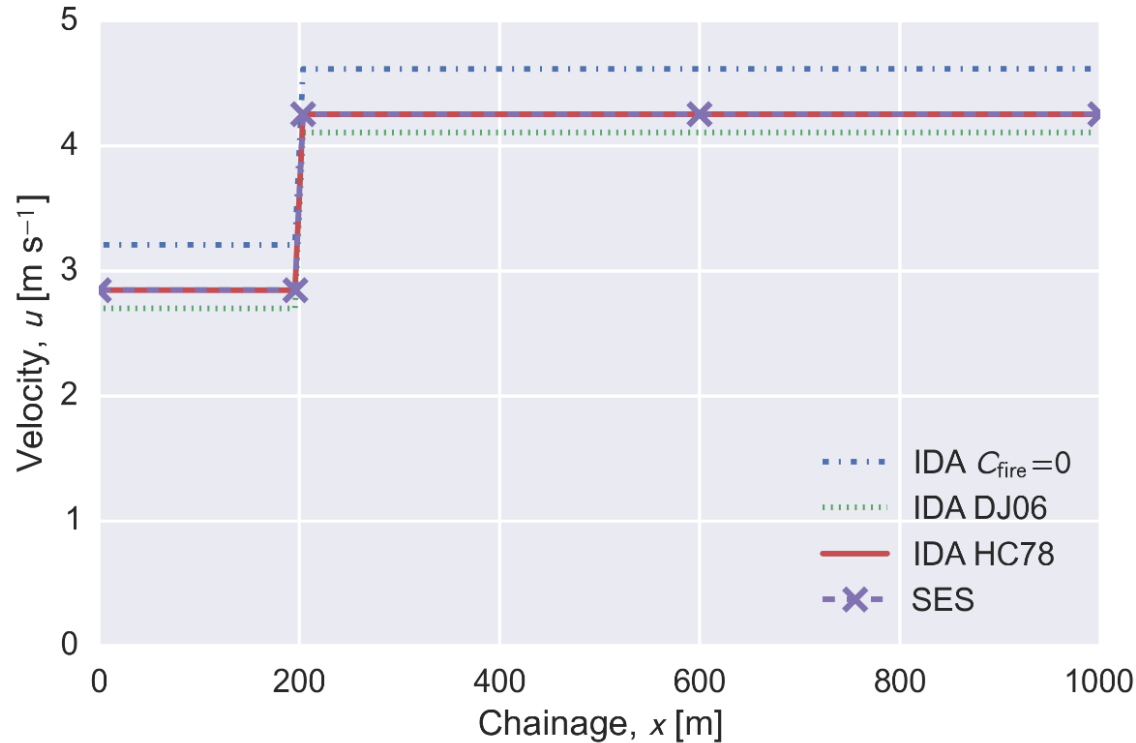
- No wall heat transfer
- No entry/exit loss



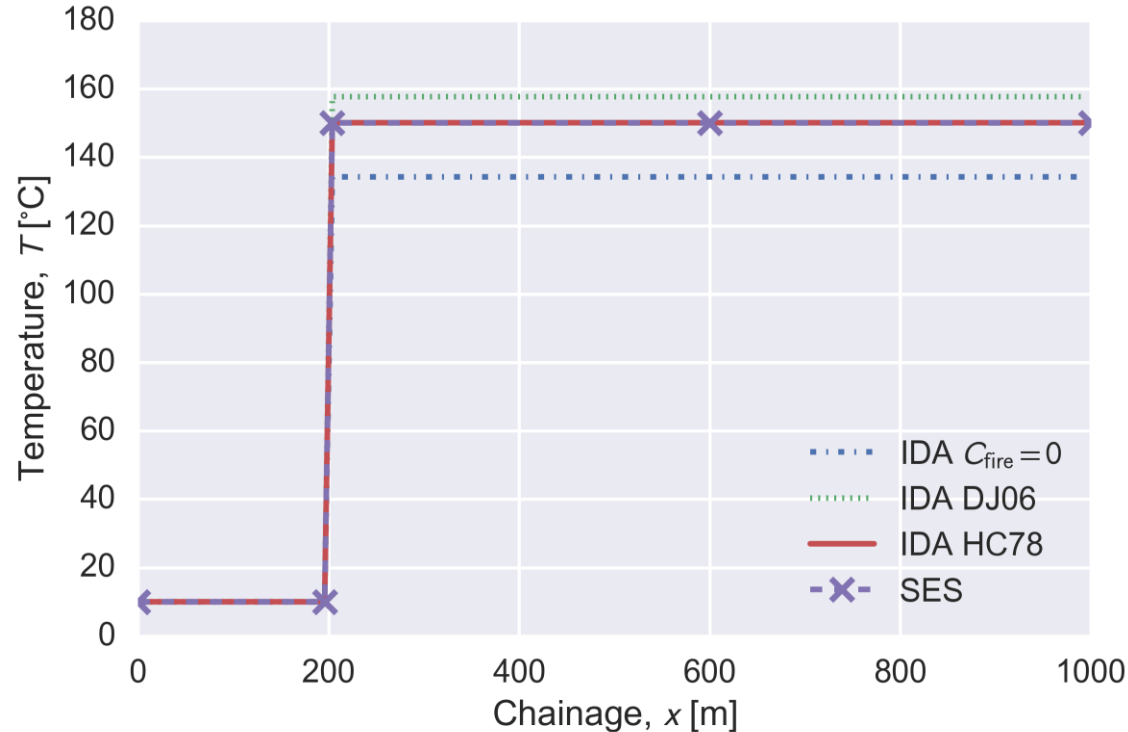
# Demonstration - pressure



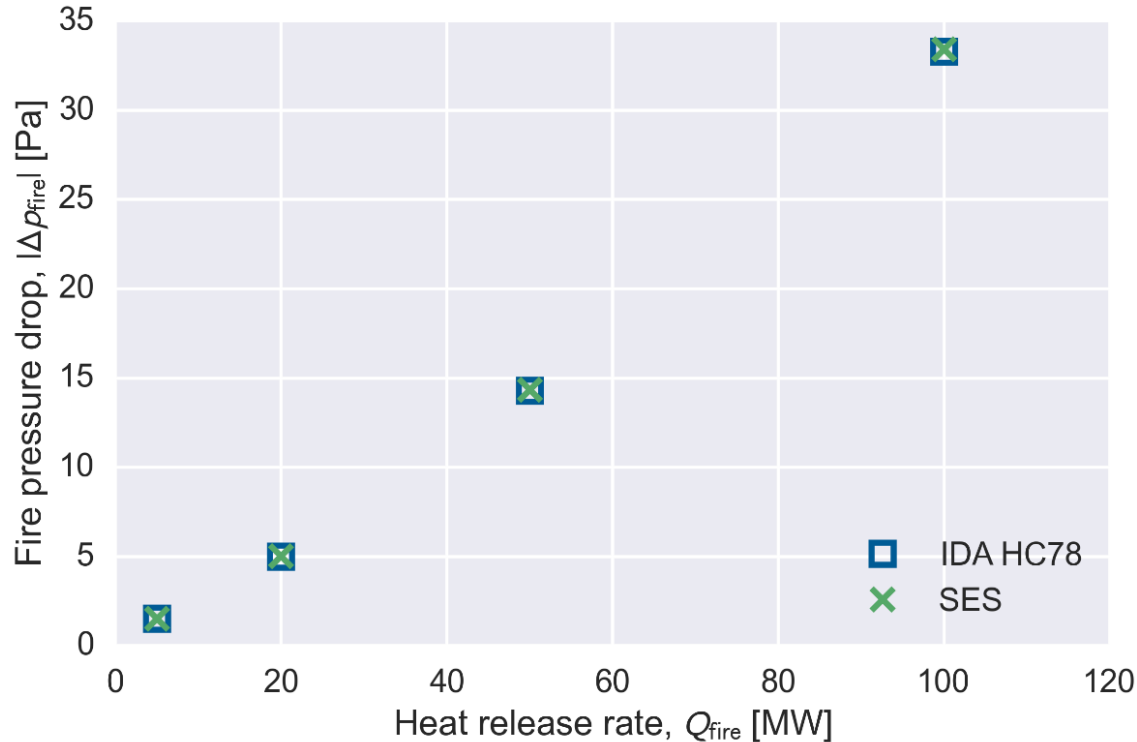
# Demonstration - velocity



# Demonstration - temperature



# Demonstration – vary fire size



# Conclusions

## Overview of throttling effect

- Focussed on
  - wall friction & local losses
  - momentum change

## Suggested method for user-defined momentum change

## Demonstrated method using IDA Tunnel



# Thank you

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