



**2008 GT-SUITE European Conference**  
**Frankfurt am Main – October, 20th**

## **UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System Modelling and Integration to the Engine in the GT-SUITE environment**

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- Modelling of the UNIAIR actuator in the GT-SUITE environment

## Simulations vs experiments

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## Actuator model to Engine model integration

- Integration of the actuator model (GT-FUEL) to the engine one (GT-Power)

## Sample analysis using the integrated model

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- Final remarks and conclusions



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## • Activity objectives

- development of a model of the UNIAIR variable valve actuation system in the GT-SUITE environment
- integration of the actuator model to the engine one in a unique environment

## • Integrated simulations: why ?

- simulation, in engine applications characterized by additional cam lobes like internal EGR lobes and engine braking lobes, of the effect on the UNIAIR valve lift of the gas pressures, variable with engine speed and load

## • Integrated simulations: to do what ?

- internal EGR analyses
- engine braking analyses
- actuator design optimization



# The UNIAIR Actuator Technology (1/2)



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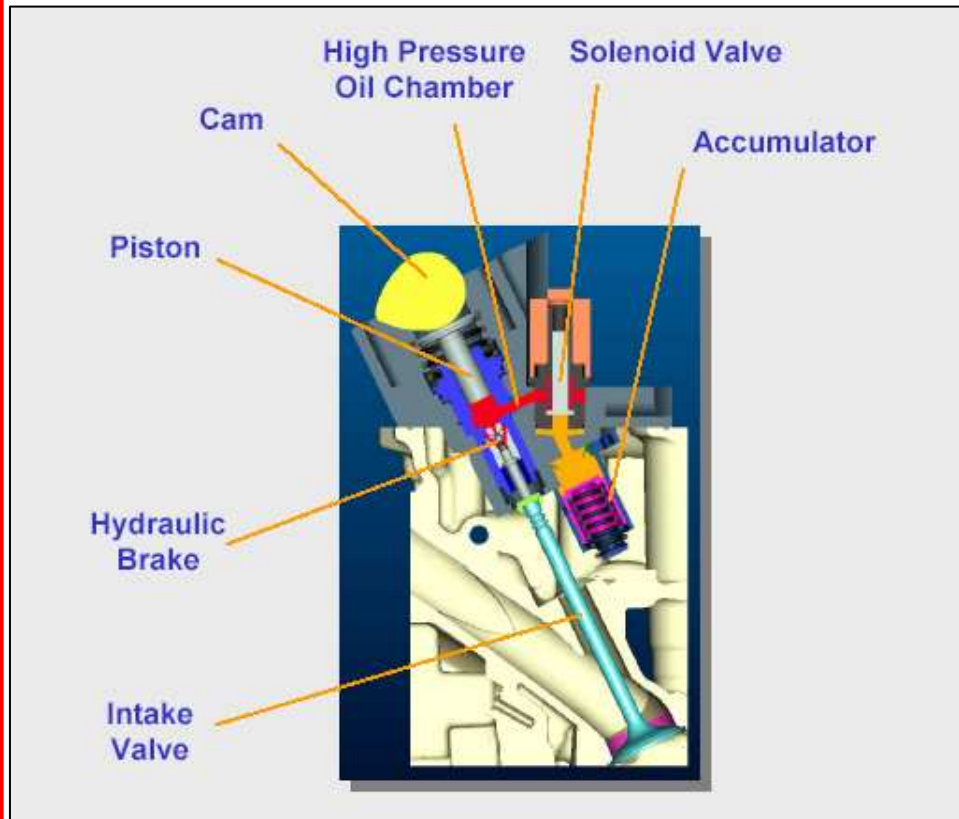
## GT-SUITE actuator modelling

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An oil volume is interposed between the cam and the valve

The piston acts as a pump, being its effective displacement controlled by a normally opened solenoid valve

The oil layout is divided in high pressure and medium pressure zones

The valve seating velocity is kept behind safe thresholds by the hydraulic brake orifices

An accumulator piston is provided in the medium pressure circuit for the actuator filling recovery after valve lift control (LIVO, EIVC)

The system communicates to the engine lubrication system for the fluid losses recovery



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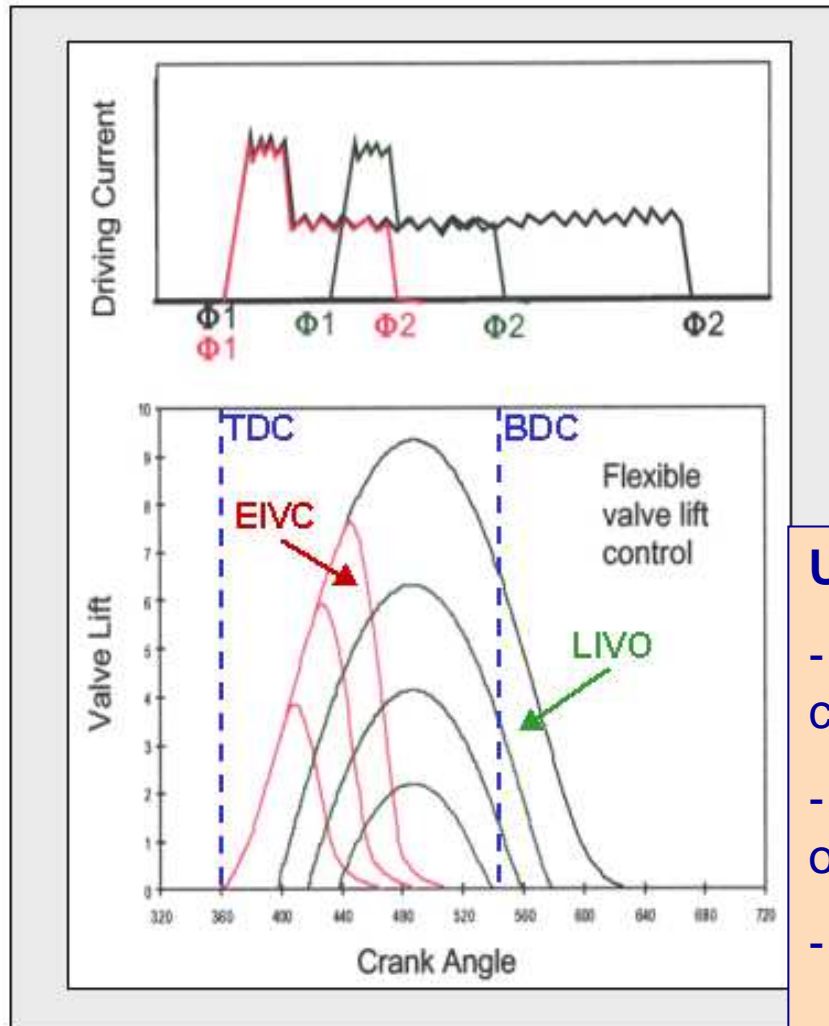
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## Valve lift controls

EIVC  $\leftrightarrow$  solenoid valve deactivated before the cam closing angle ( $\Phi 2$  control)

LIVO  $\leftrightarrow$  solenoid valve activated after the cam opening angle ( $\Phi 1$  control)

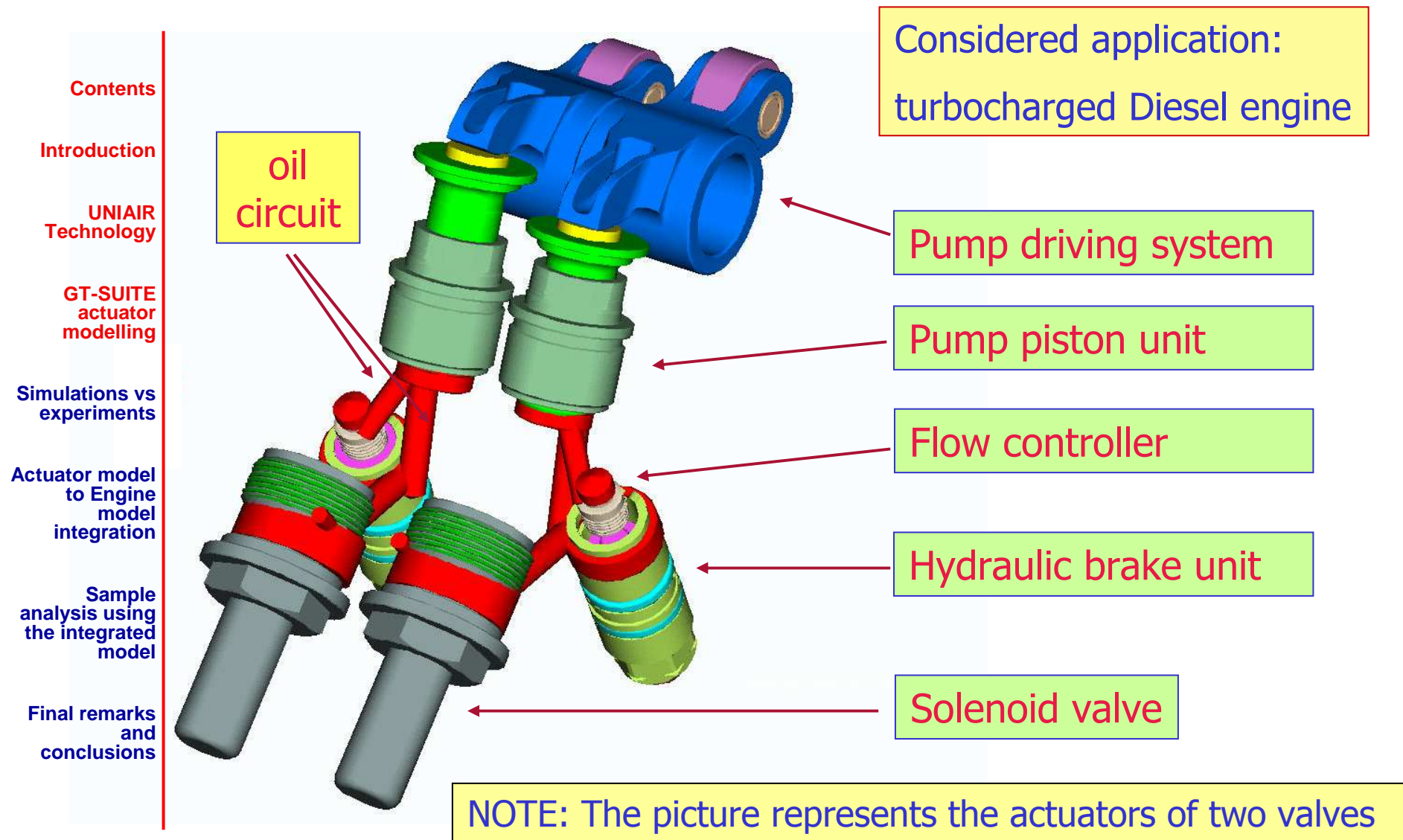
## UNIAIR system benefits

- 'cycle-by-cycle' and 'cylinder-by-cylinder' fully variable valve actuation
- volumetric efficiency optimization over the whole engine speeds range
- handling of a de-throttled engine
- handling of additional cam lobes



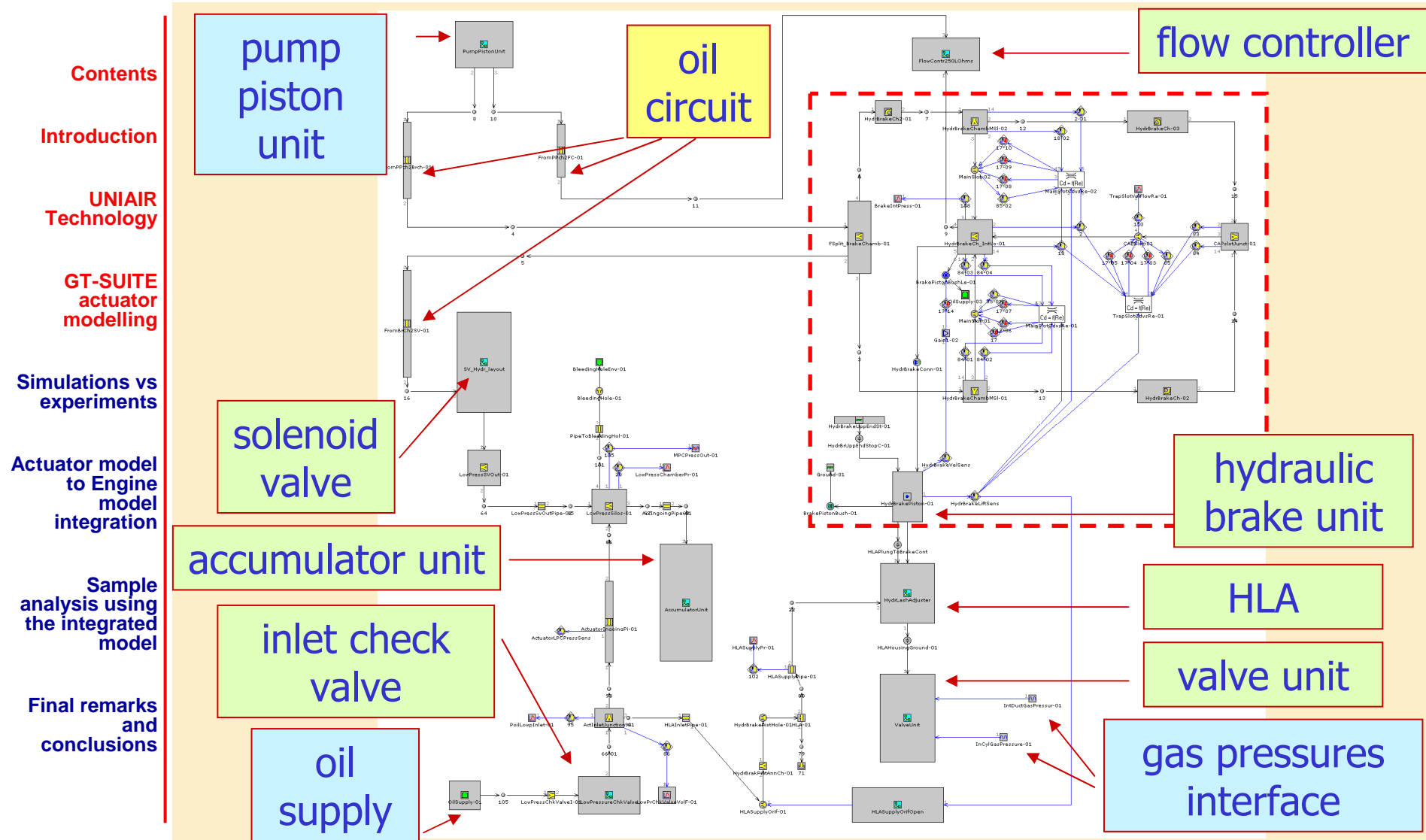
# UNIAIR system – Actuator architecture overview

## High pressure circuit





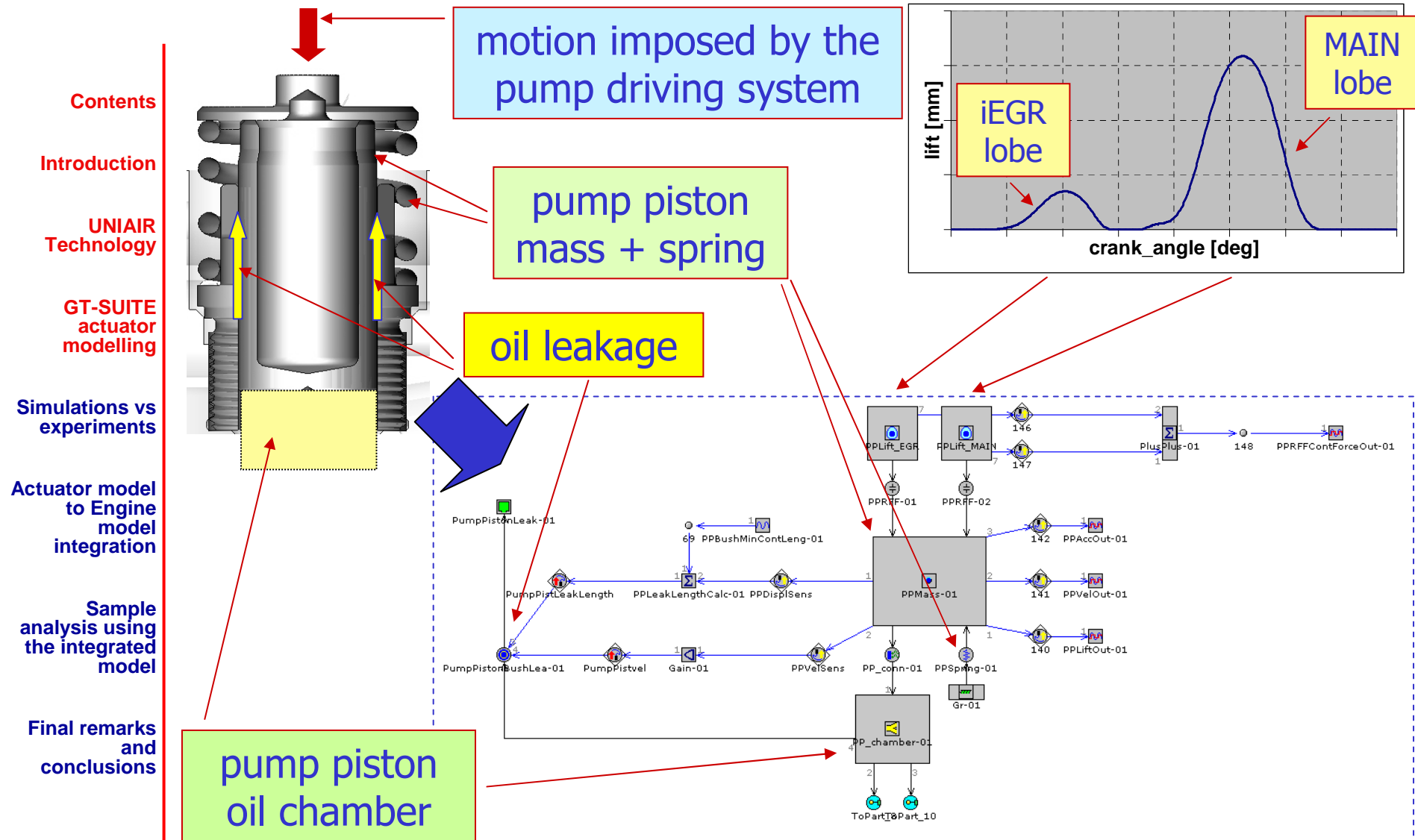
# GT-SUITE sketch of the UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System





# GT-SUITE sketch of the UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System

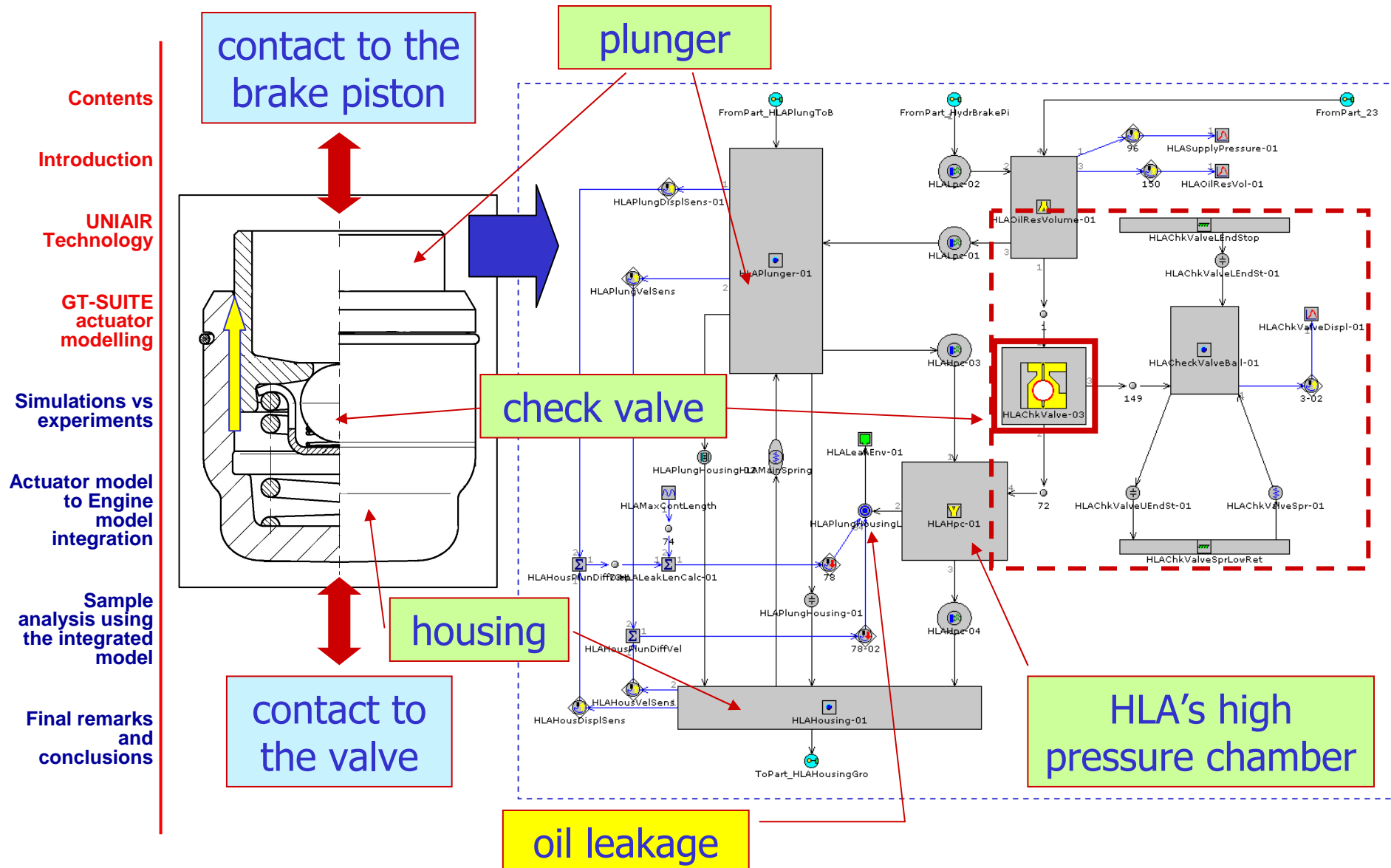
## Details on the pump piston unit modelling





# GT-SUITE sketch of the UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System

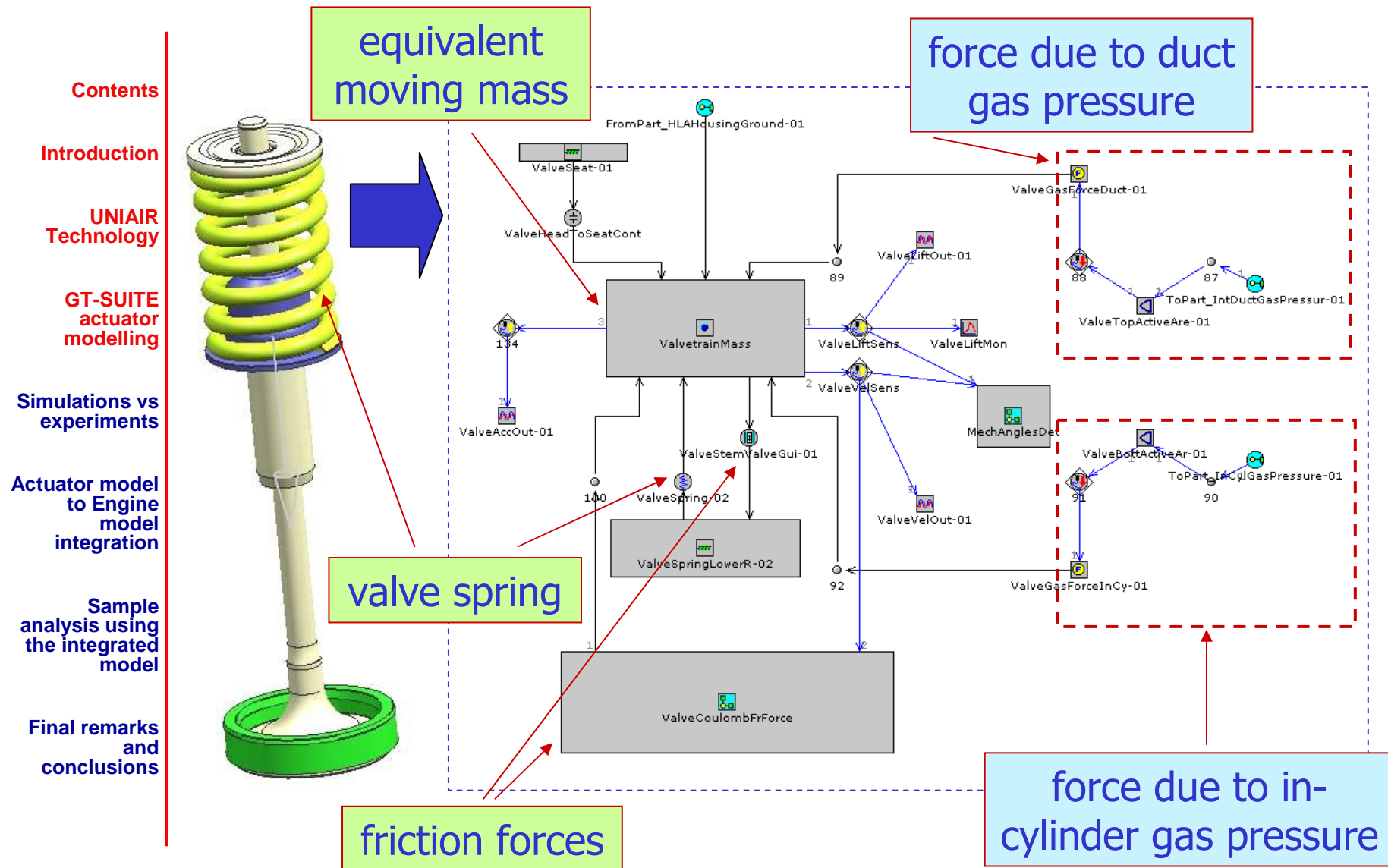
## Details on the hydraulic lash adjuster modelling





# GT-SUITE sketch of the UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System

## Details on the valve unit modelling





# GT-SUITE sketch of the UNIAIR Variable Valve Actuation System

## General notes



### Contents

- model developed with the aim to implement the physics of the system

### Introduction

- geometry of the oil circuit modelled with an high level of detail

### UNIAIR Technology

### GT-SUITE actuator modelling

- evolution of the system considered as adiabatic (heat transfer multiplier of pipes and flowsplits set to zero)

### Simulations vs experiments

- global stiffness of the system modelled as superposition of the hydraulic contribution (oil + free air + oil vapour) and the mechanical one (deformation of the pump driving system, pumping of the oil circuit boundaries, ...)

### Actuator model to Engine model integration

### Sample analysis using the integrated model

- the flow behaviour of fixed and variable opening orifices has been handled developing a dedicated compound template which estimates the discharge coefficient as a function of the instantaneous flow regime (laminar, turbulent)

### Final remarks and conclusions

- the developed model refers to the actuator of one intake valve of a selected engine cylinder



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- the comparison between simulation results and experimental data acquired at the motored test bench is shown in the following slides in two forms:
  - instantaneous patterns of valve lift and oil pressure in the high pressure chamber
  - actuator characteristic maps (valve opening and closing angles plotted against the solenoid valve electrical control angle  $\Phi 1$  or  $\Phi 2$ )
- hot oil temperature and different engine speeds and valve controls are considered
- the parameters set of the model comes from a preliminary identification



# Comparison between simulation results and experimental data

## Instantaneous patterns



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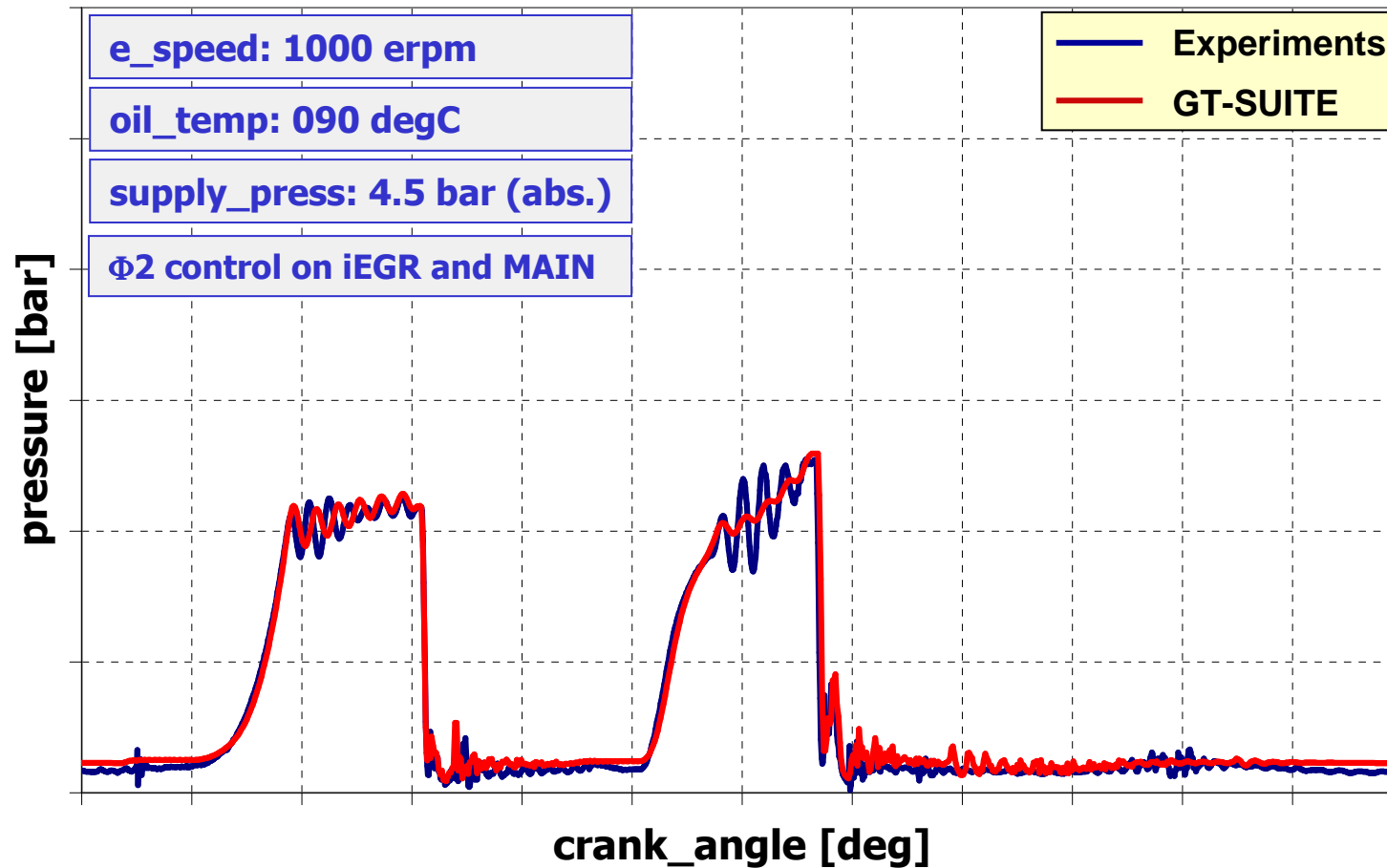
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### High pressure chamber pressure pattern





# Comparison between simulation results and experimental data

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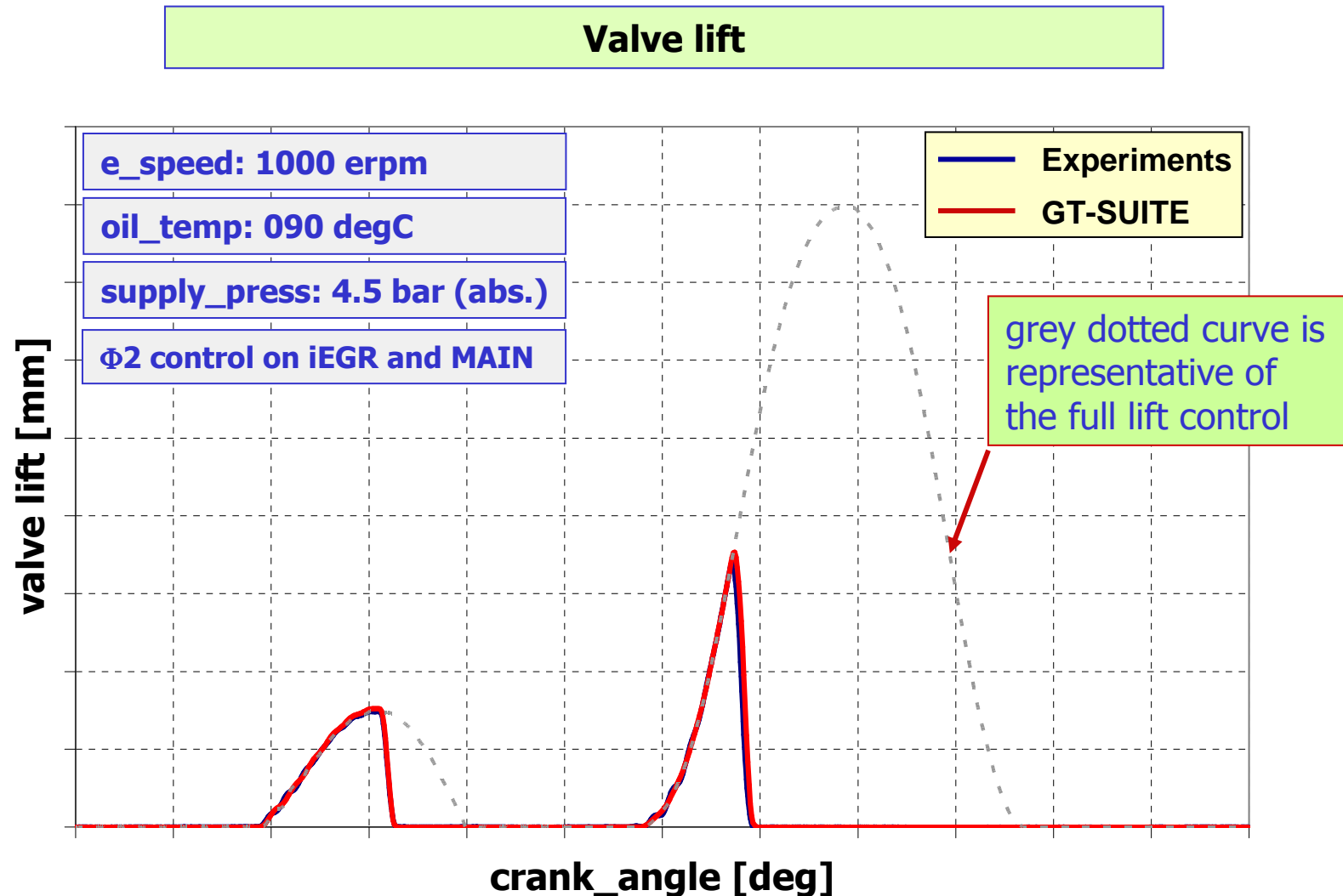
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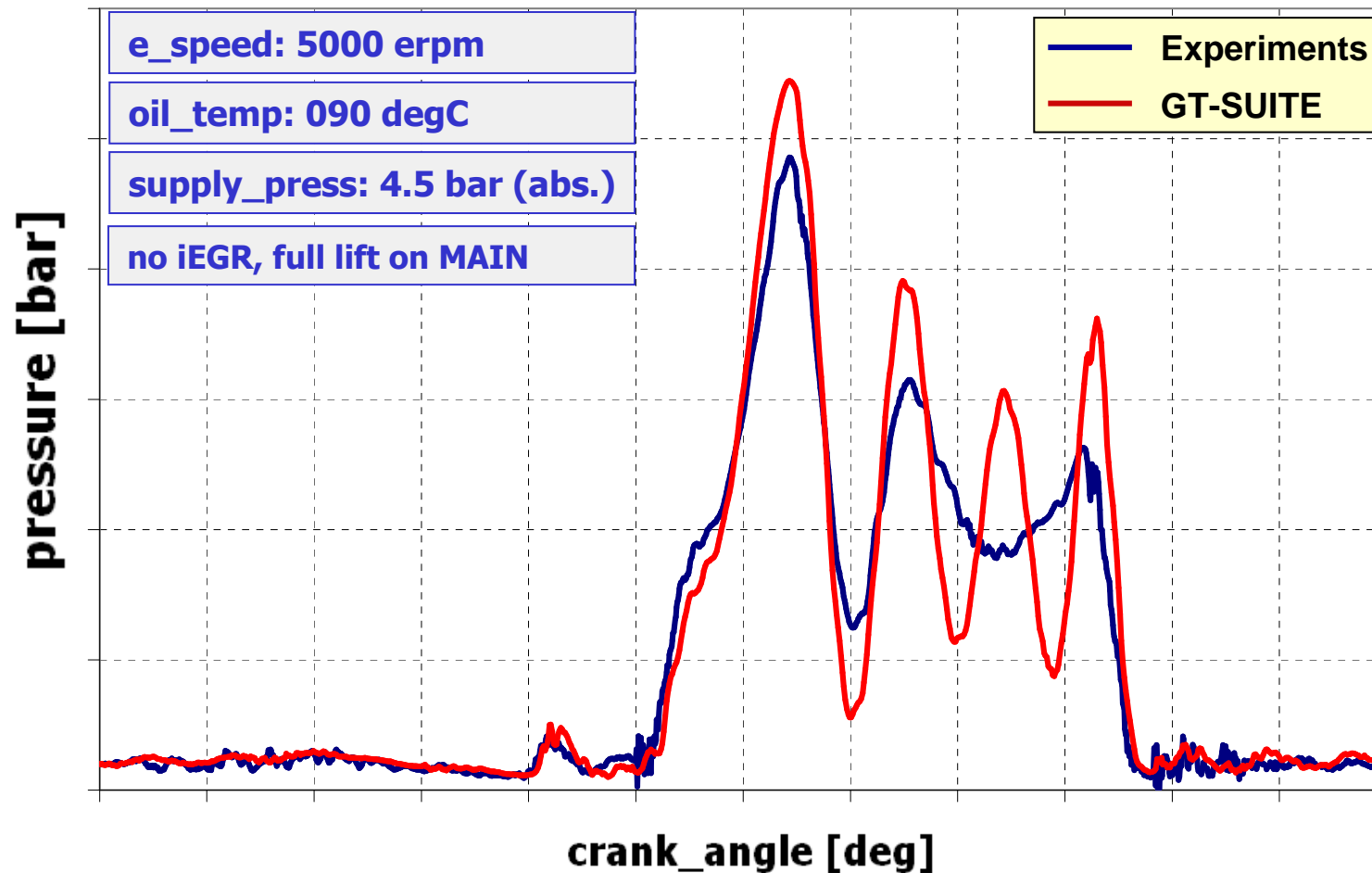
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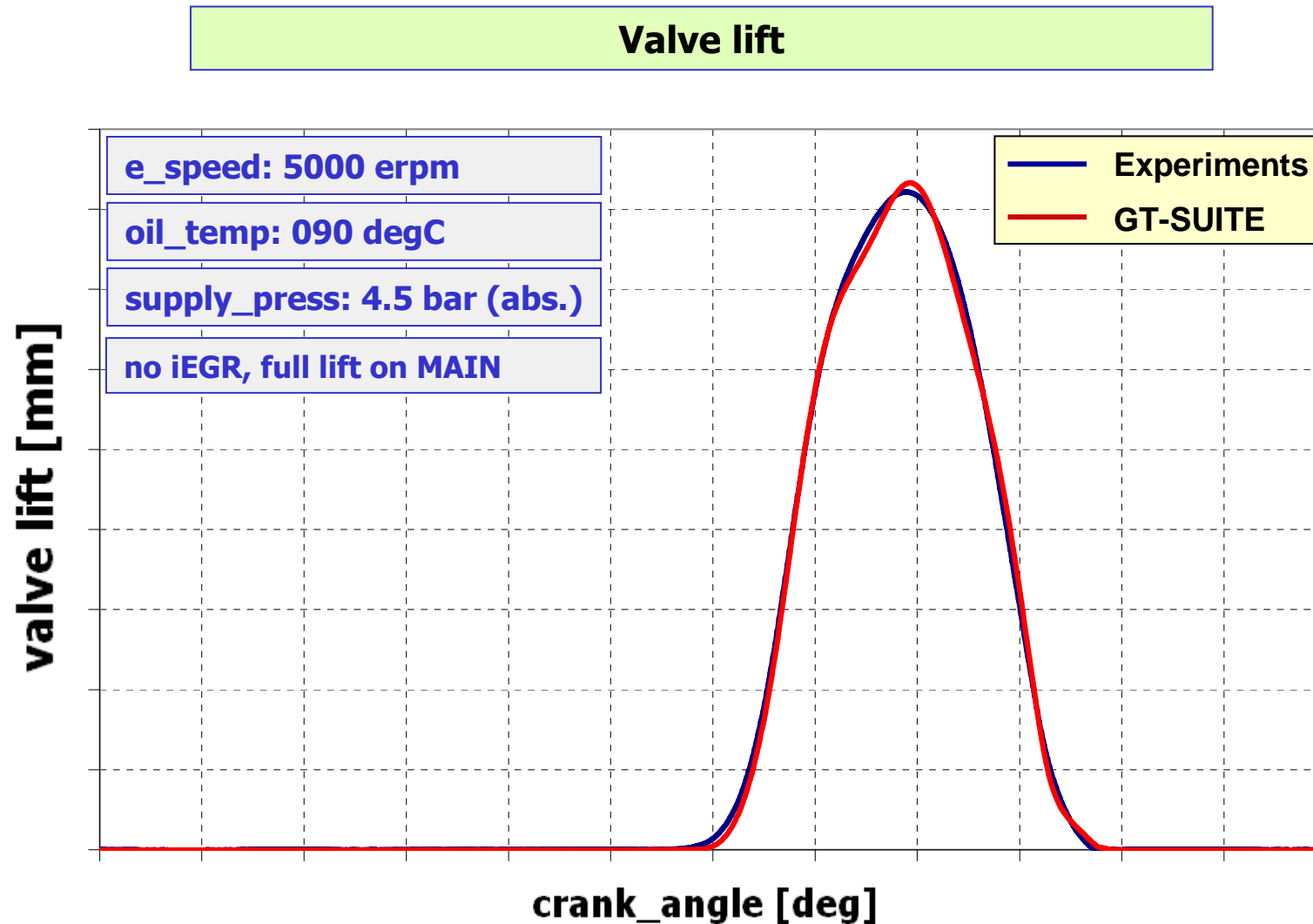
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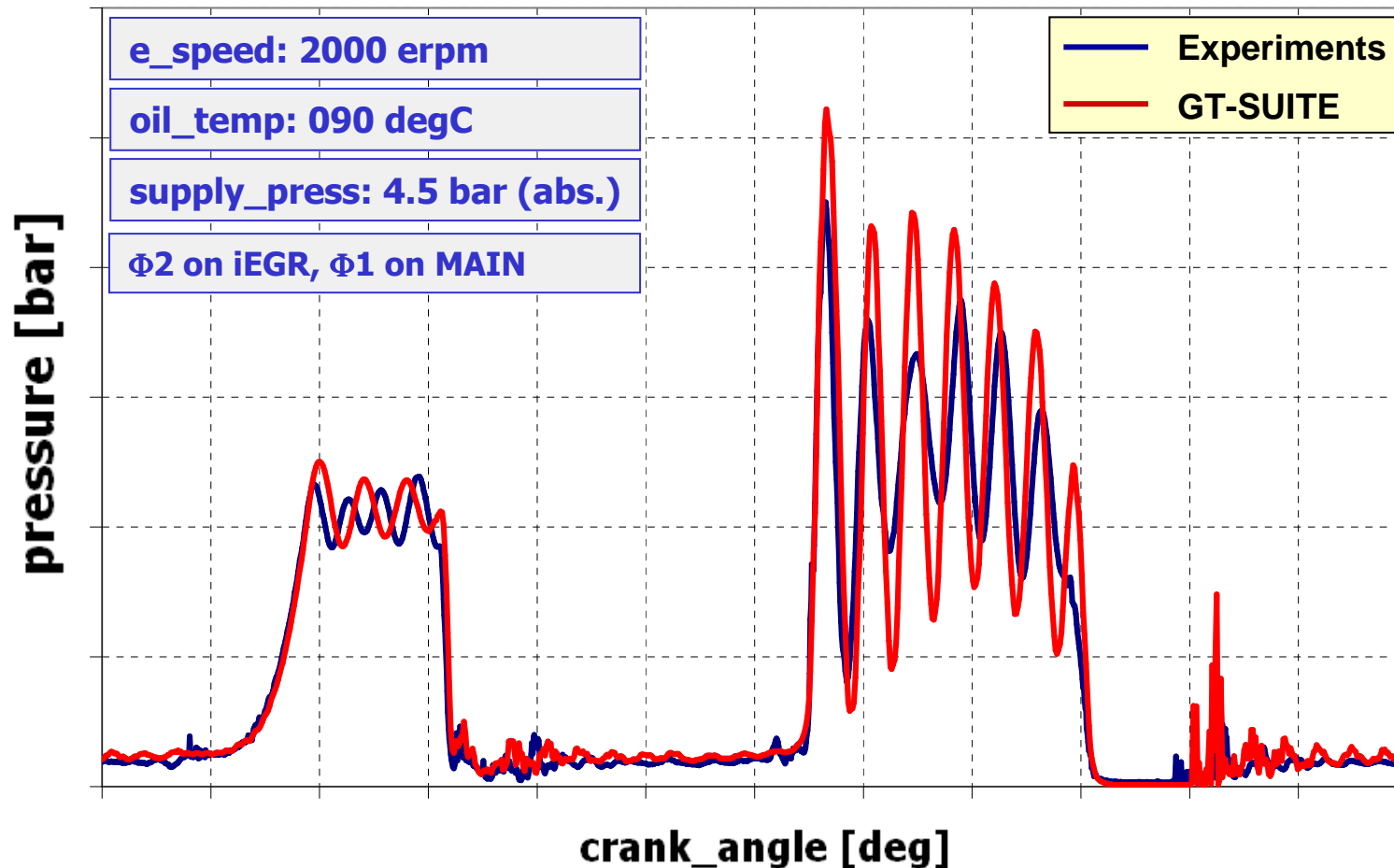
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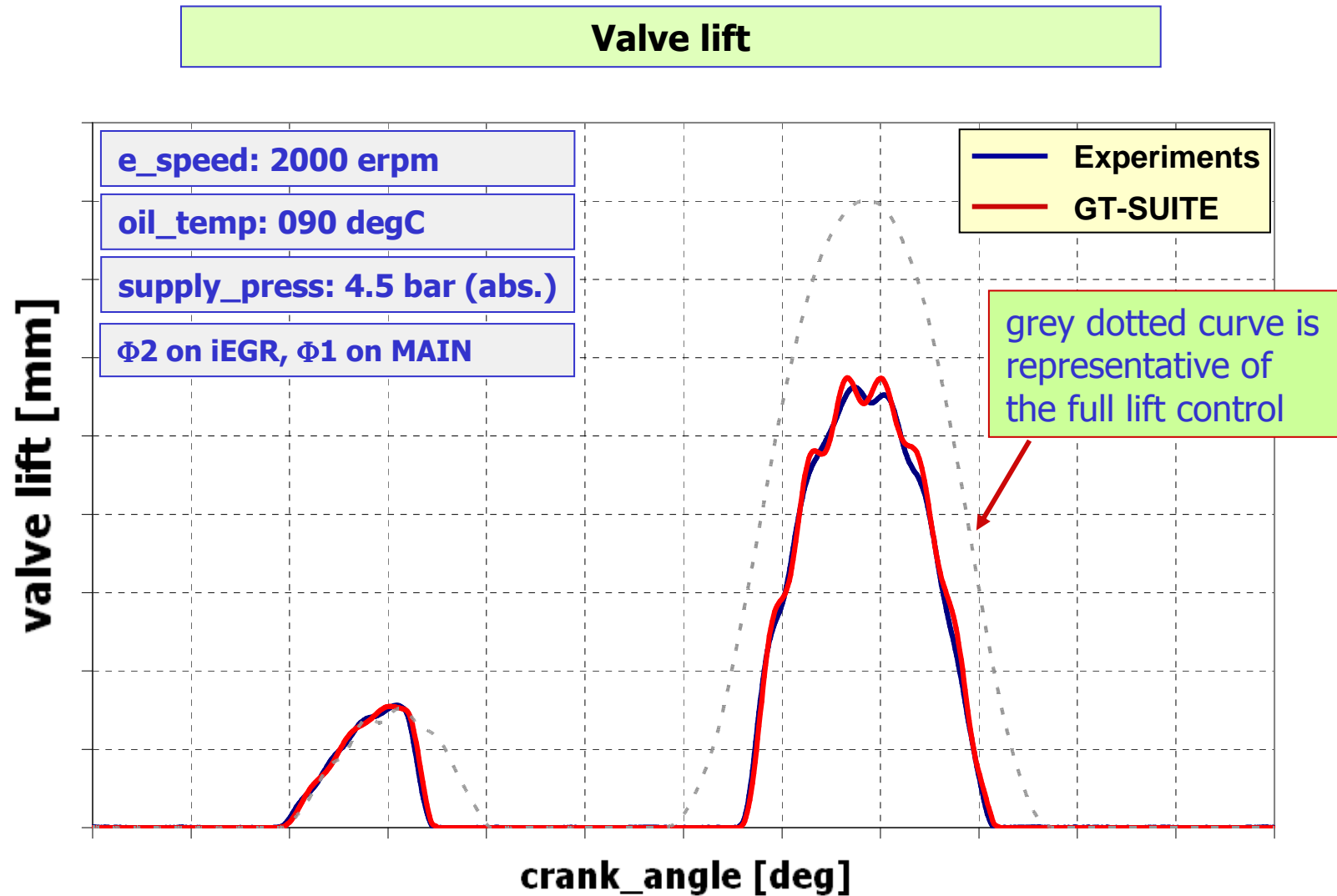
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### Valve lift

e\_speed: 1000 erpm

oil\_temp: 090 degC

supply\_press: 4.5 bar (abs.)

sweep on  $\Phi 2$  MAIN

valve lift [mm]

crank\_angle [deg]

— Experiments  
— GT-SUITE

zoom on  
MAIN lift

threshold valve lift  
for the valve  
mechanical opening  
and closing angles  
determination



# Comparison between simulation results and experimental data

## Actuator characteristic maps - valve closing angle vs SV control



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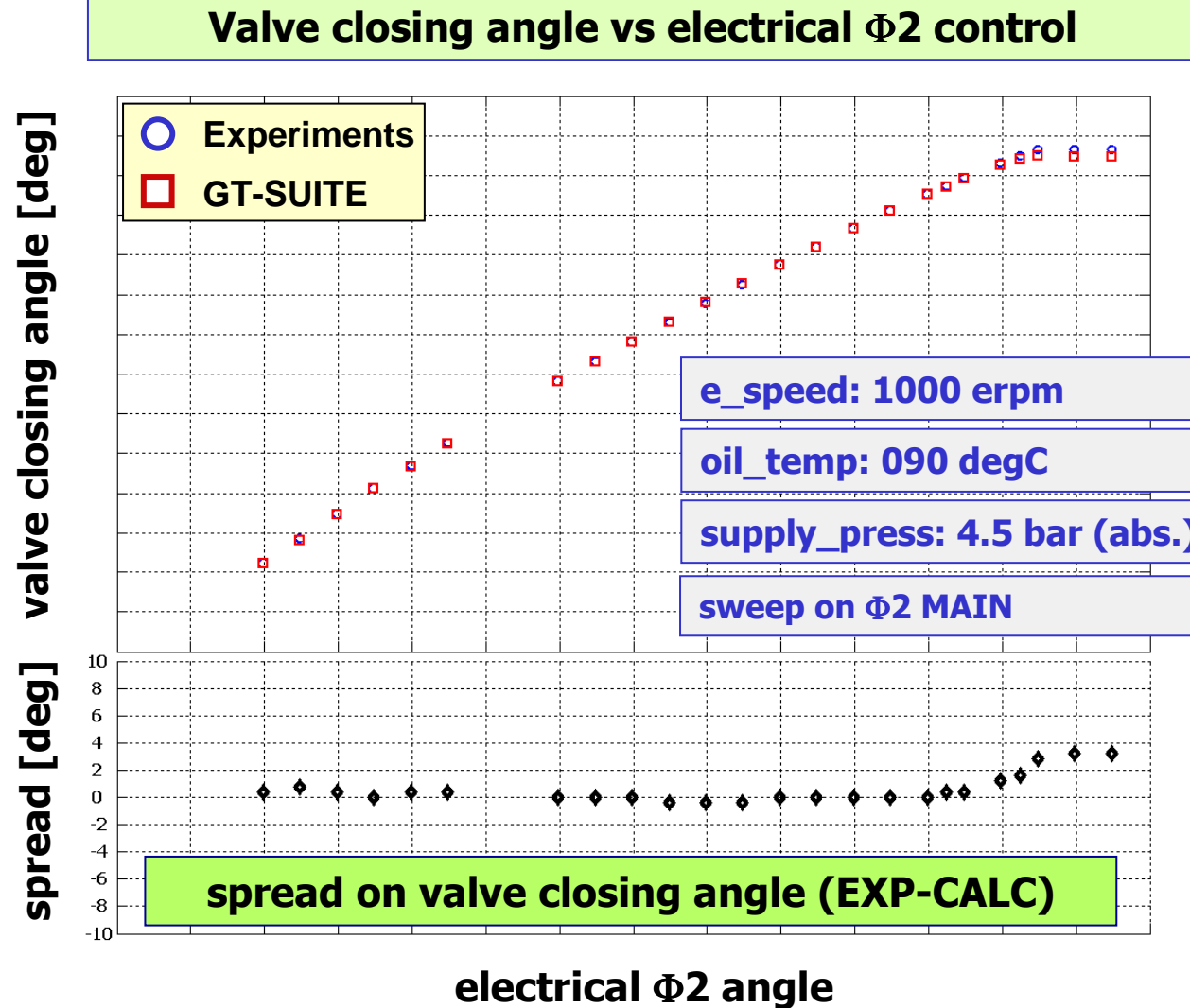
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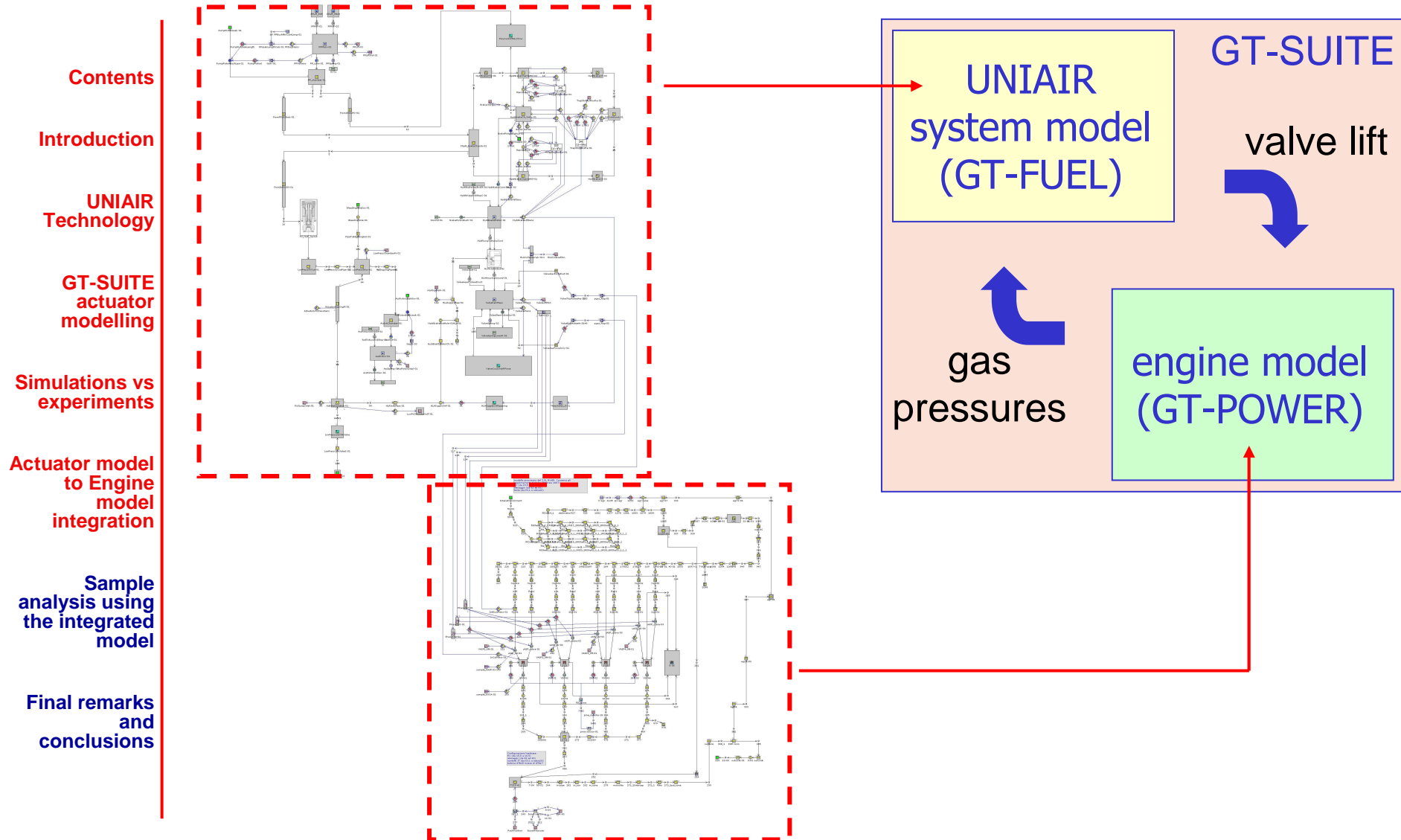
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# Engine model (GT-Power) and UNIAIR model (GT-FUEL) coupling





# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Gas pressures effect (1/4)



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- engine operating conditions: part load, 2000 erpm, hot oil condition
- iEGR lobe control follows the phasing variation

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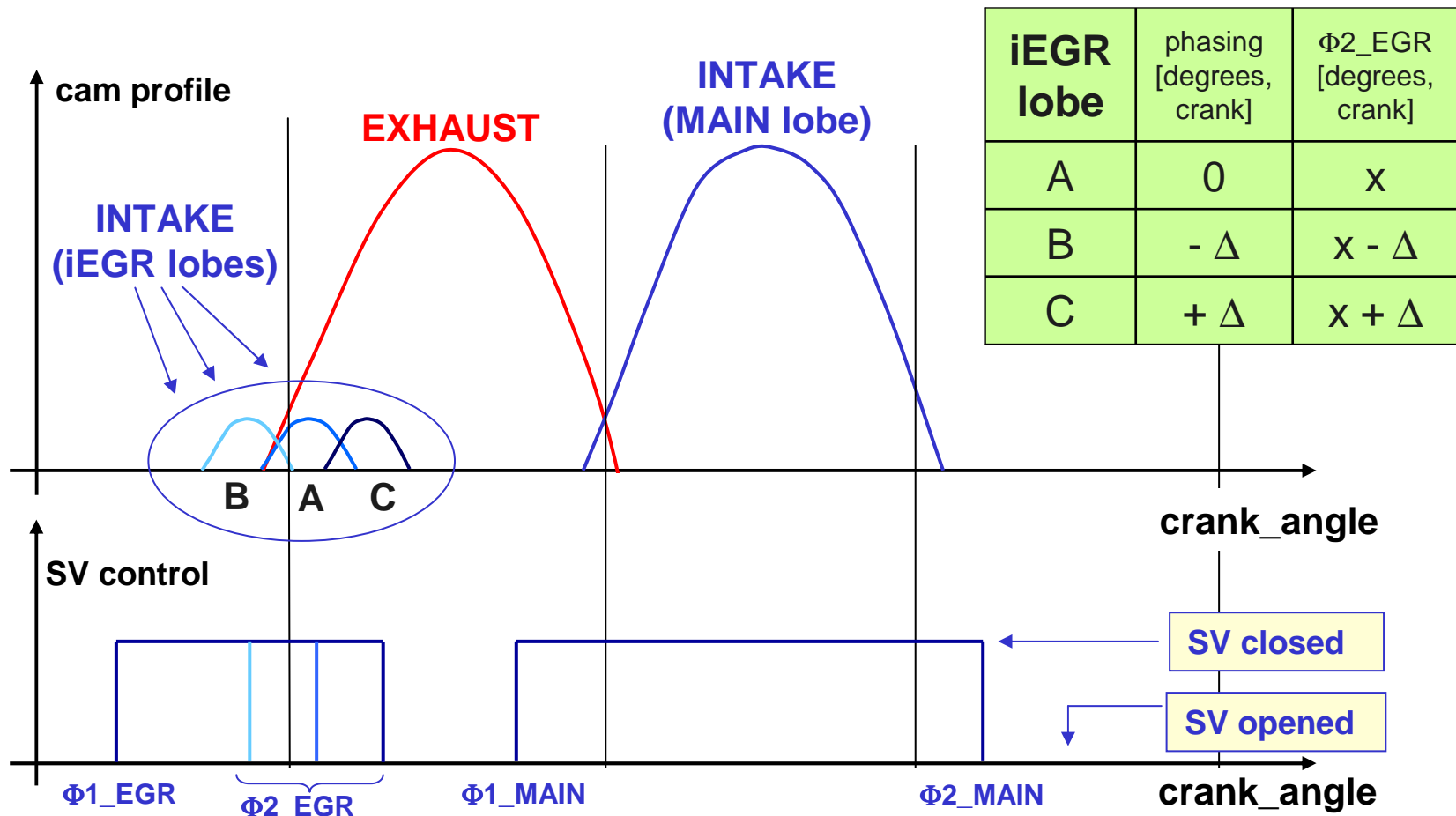
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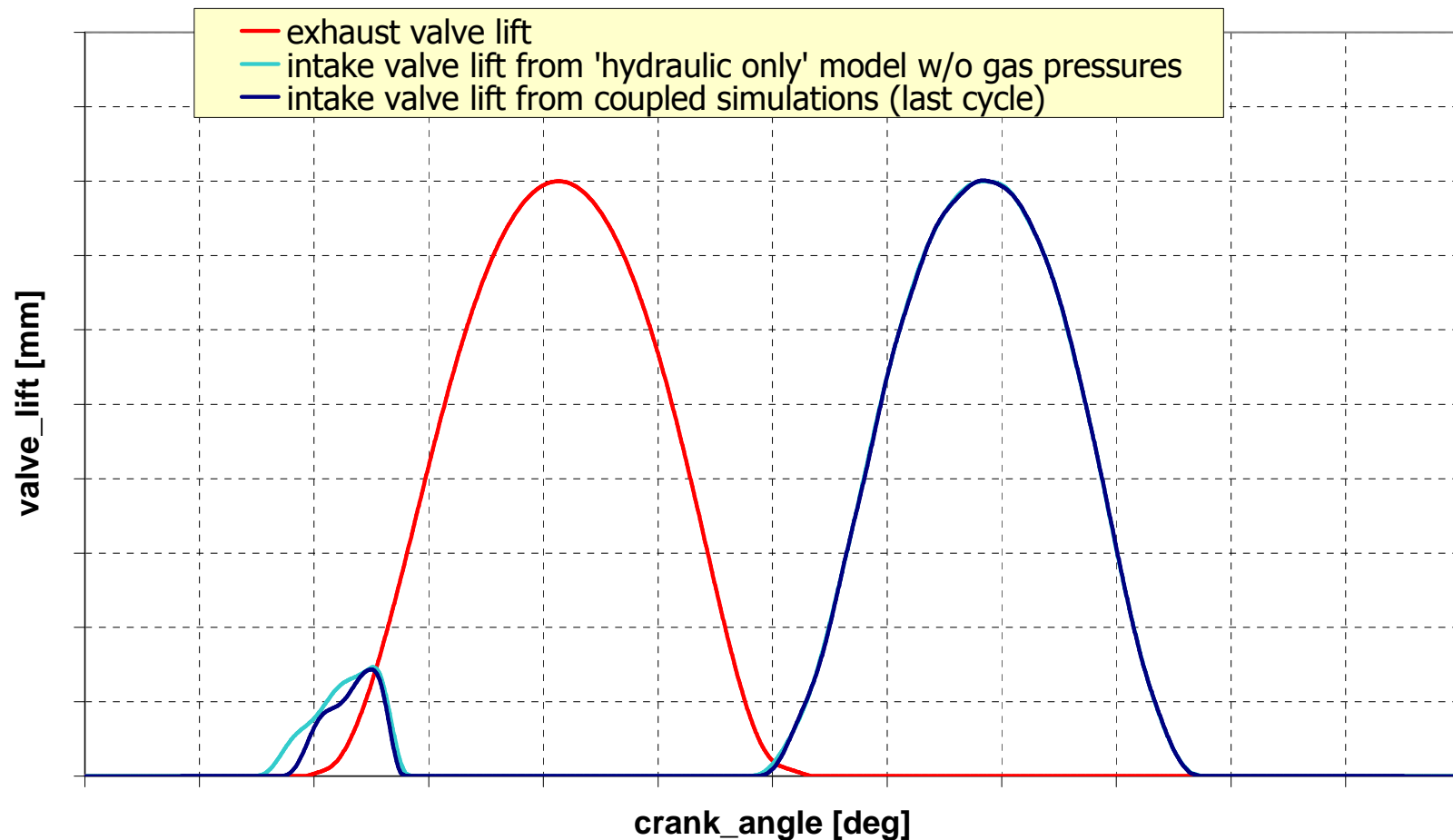


# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Gas pressures effect (2/4)



### Effect of the gas pressures for the anticipated lobe (lobe B) – valve lift



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# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Gas pressures effect (2/4)



### Effect of the gas pressures for the anticipated lobe (lobe B) – valve lift

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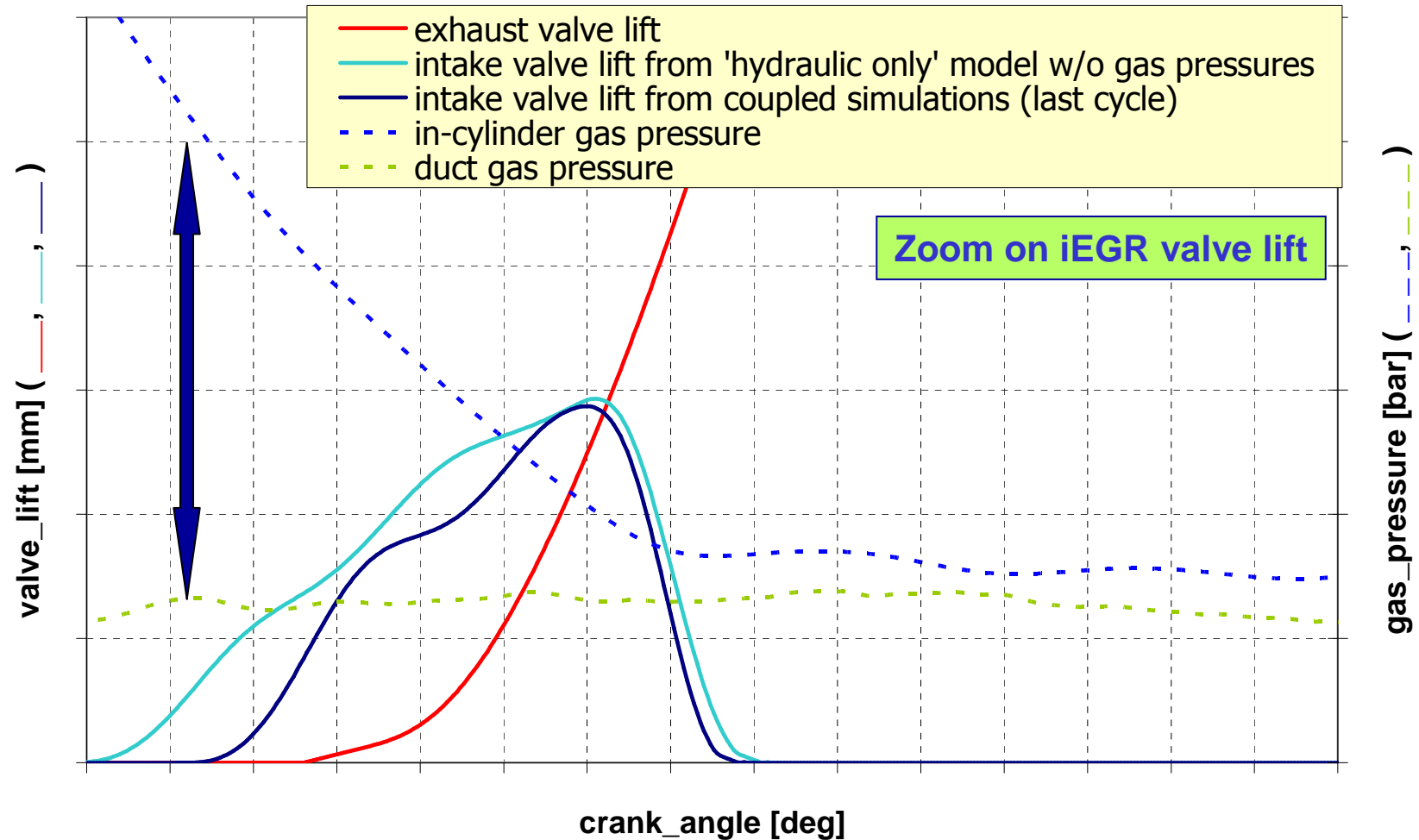
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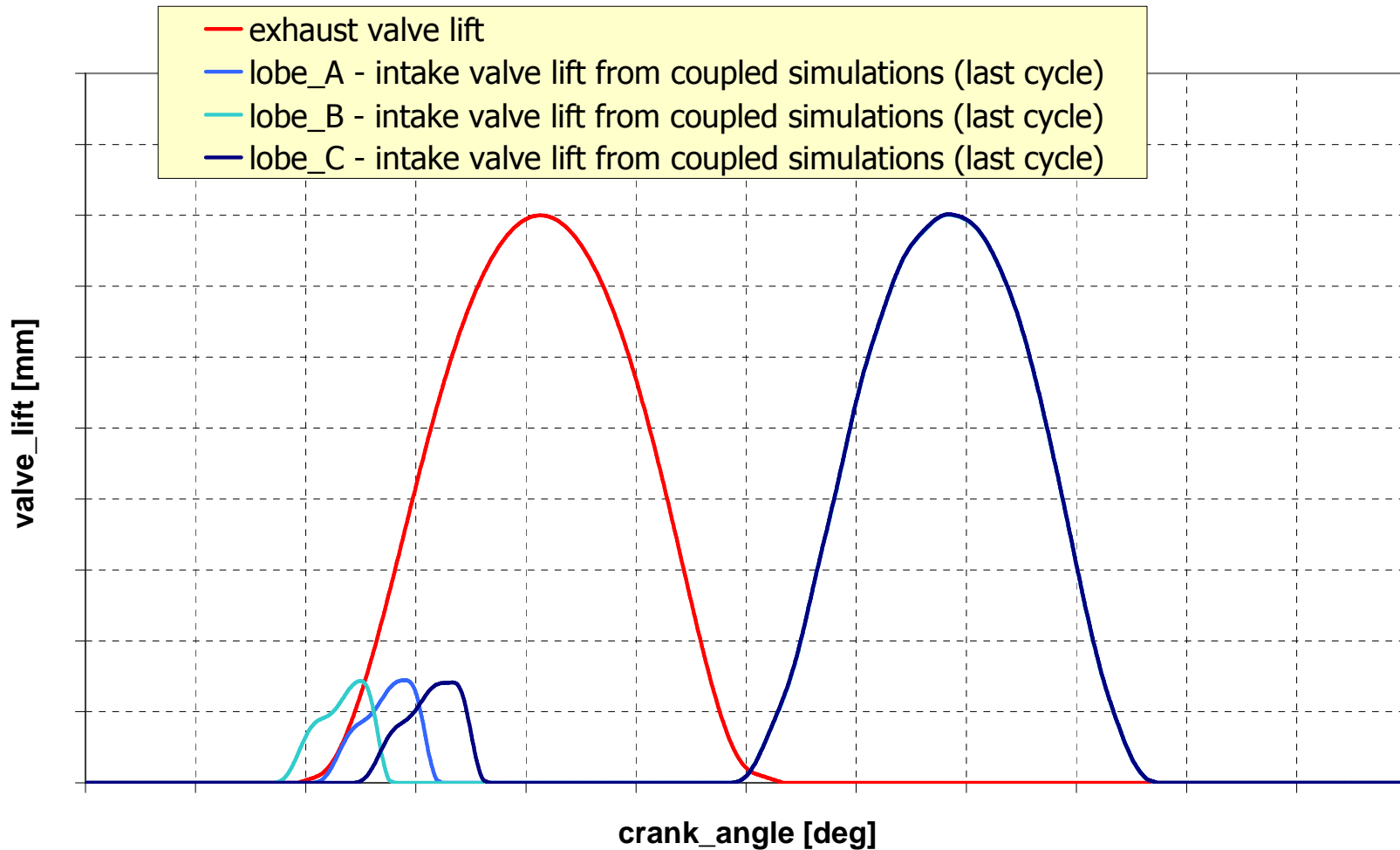


# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Gas pressures effect (3/4)



### Comparison between the 3 lobe phasings (coupled simulations results)



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## Gas pressures effect (3/4)



### Comparison between the 3 lobe phasings (coupled simulations results)

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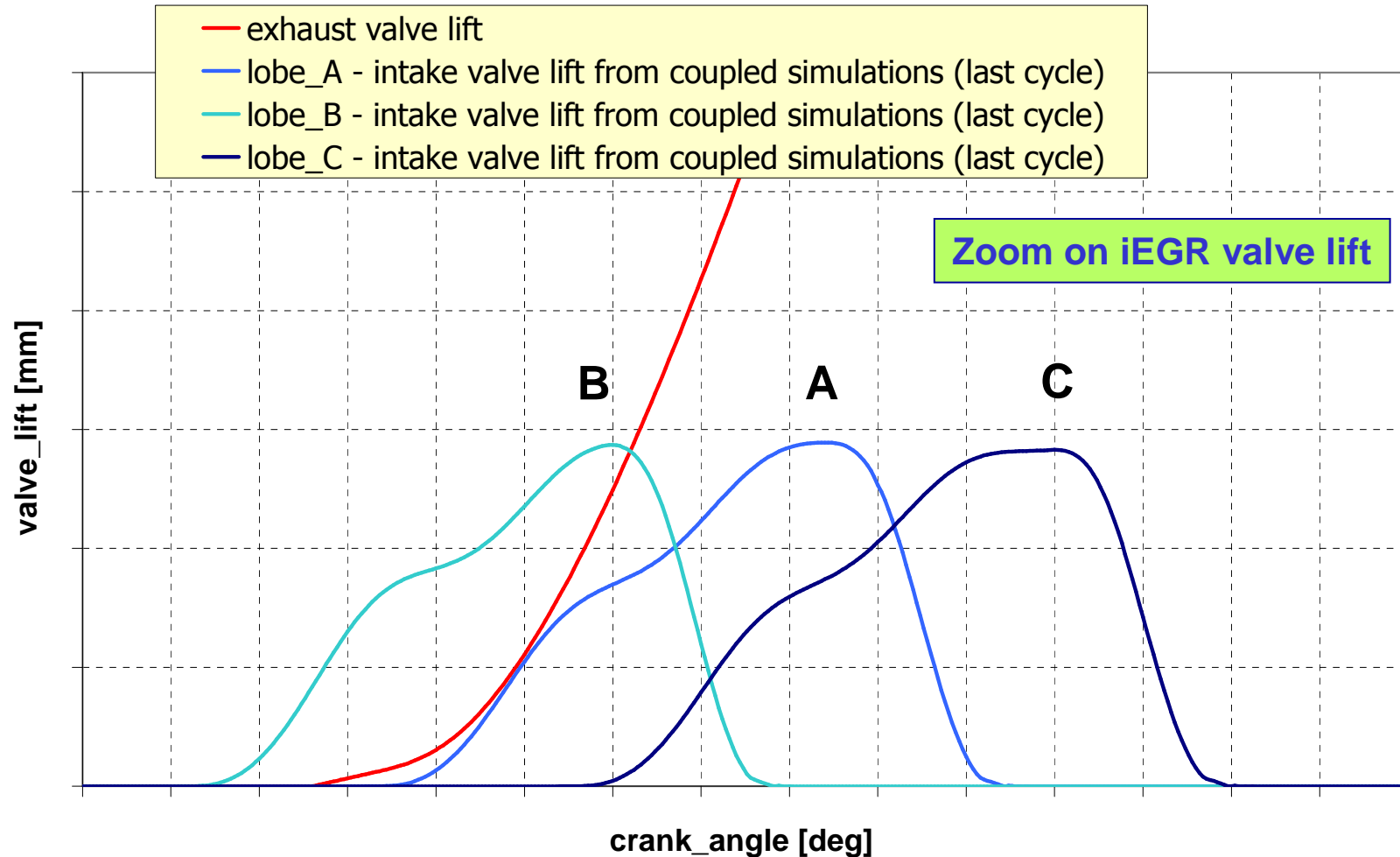
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# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Gas pressures effect (4/4)



### Comparison between the 3 lobe phasings (coupled simulations results)

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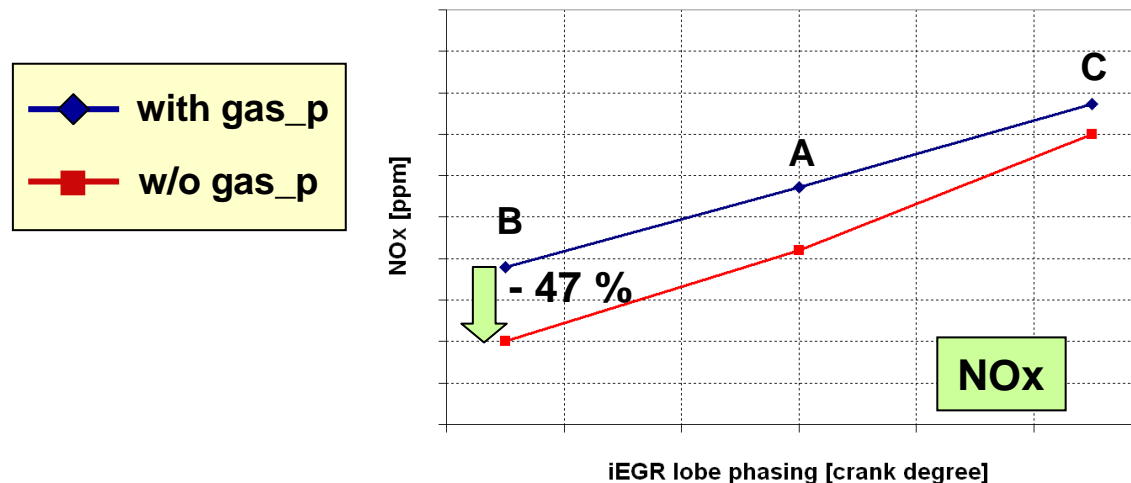
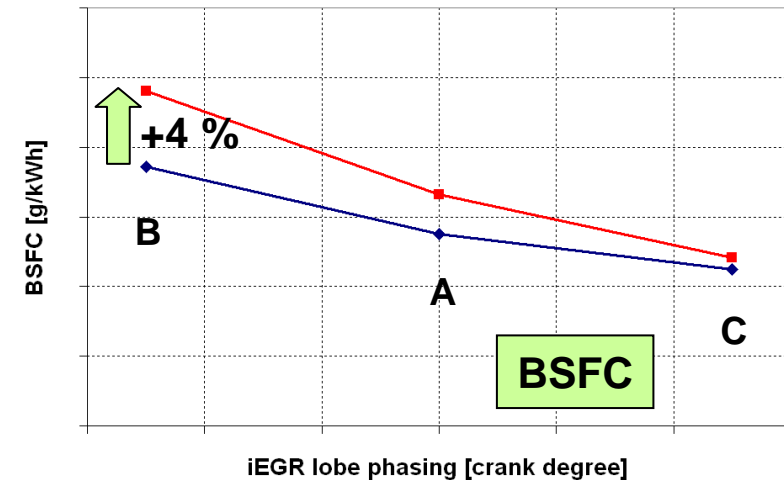
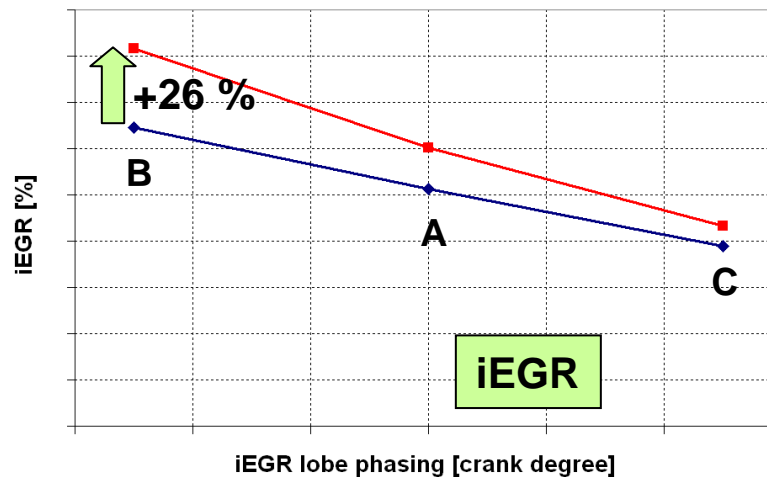
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# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Trade-off optimization 'BSFC-NOx' (1/2)



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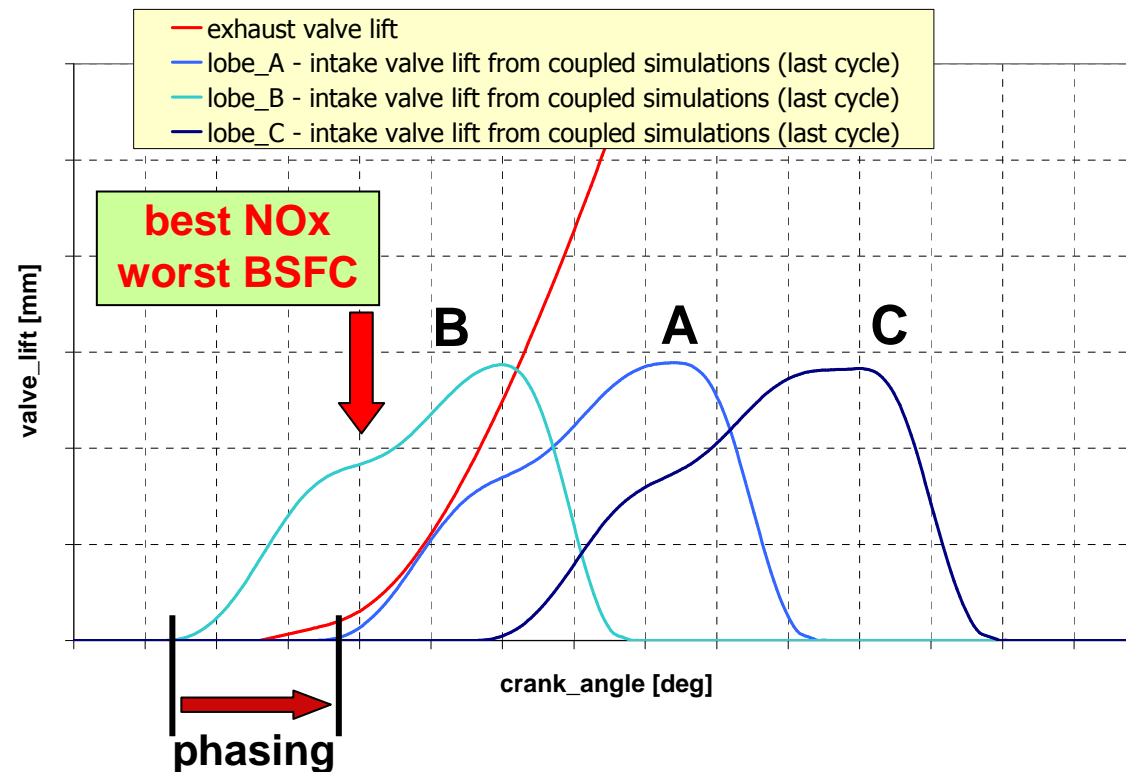
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- engine operating conditions: part load, 2000 erpm, hot oil condition
- iEGR lobe control follows the phasing variation



**Objective:** searching for an iEGR lobe phasing and relative control in order to improve the BSFC maintaining the NOx of case B



# Sample analysis using the integrated model

## Trade-off optimization 'BSFC-NOx' (2/2)



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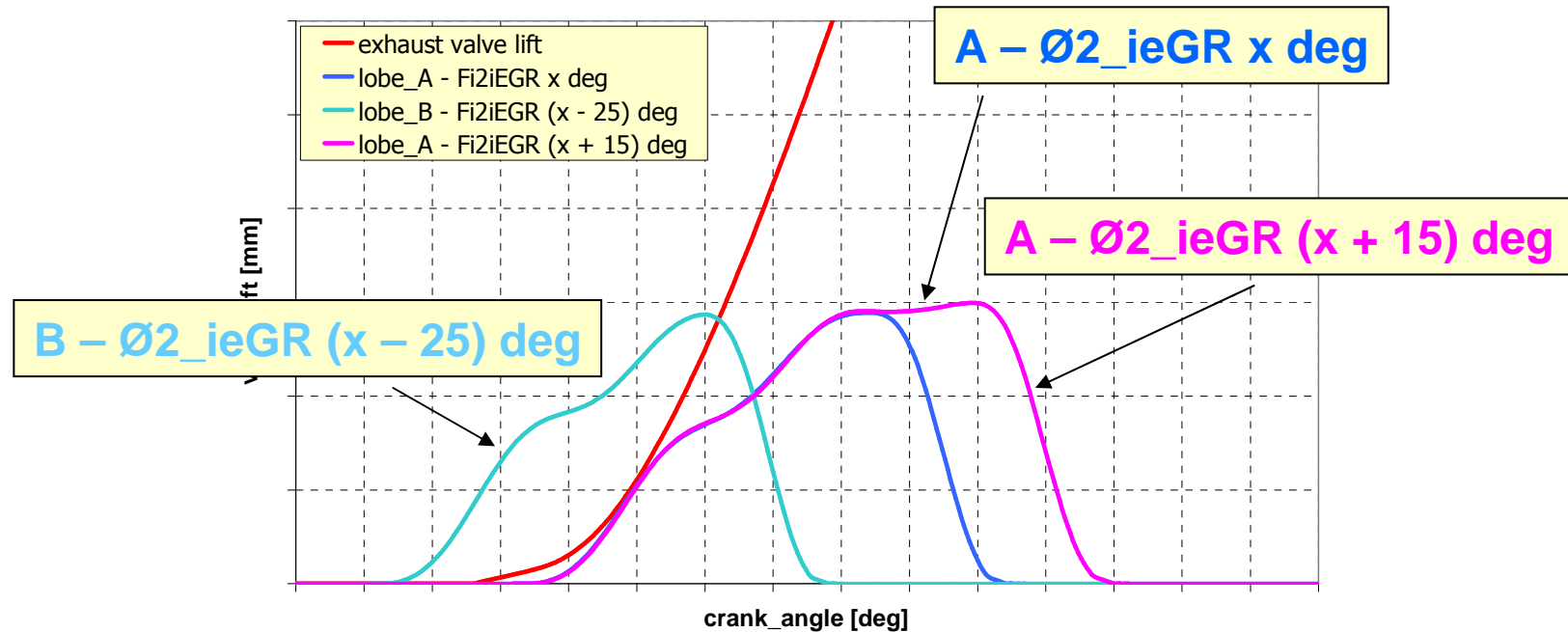
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iEGR lobe	Ø2_ieGR [deg]	% iEGR	BSFC	NOx
B	X - 25	ref.	ref.	ref.
A	X + 15	≅	- 2%	≅



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- a detailed model of the UNIAIR variable valve actuation system has been developed in the GT-SUITE environment
- the elaborated model shows a level of accuracy in the description of the real behaviour of the actuator which is generally good over the whole actuator operating range
- the model of the actuator (hydro-mechanical domain) has been integrated to the model of the engine (thermo-fluid dynamic domain) with the aim to perform integrated simulations in which the valve lift generated by the hydraulic network takes into account, speed by speed and load by load, the effect of the gas pressures
- the developed tool will allow to perform engine analyses focused on the optimization of additional cam lobes (internal EGR, engine braking)



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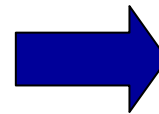
### Actuator model to Engine model integration

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### Final remarks and conclusions

- the state of the art integrated model is characterized by the following situation in term of computational time (one PC equipped with an AMD Dual Core Processor 4400+, 2 GB RAM):

engine speed: 2000 erpm  
oil temperature: 90 degC  
number of cycles: 70  
integrated model  
GT-SUITE 6.2 build 10



simulation time:  
~ 5 hours (~ 4.3 min/cycle)

- the model complexity reduction and/or the distributed computing feature offered by the GT-SUITE environment can be considered for the computational time reduction



# Questions ?

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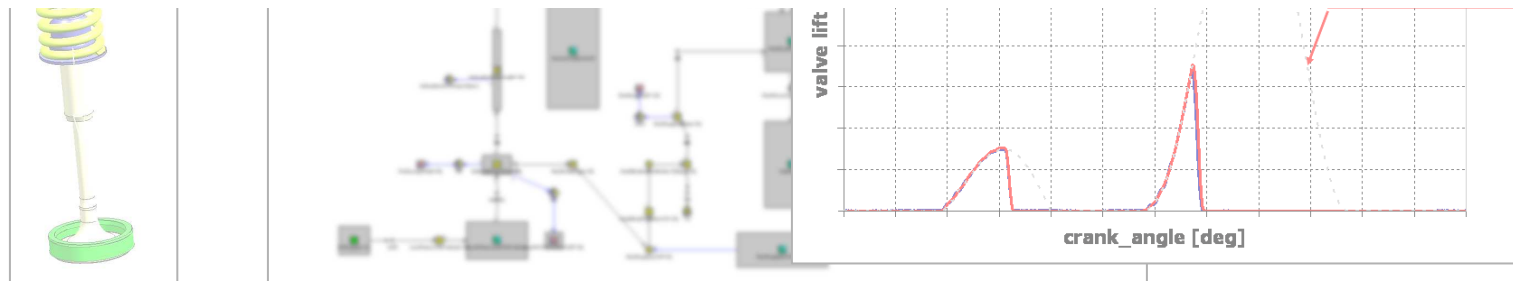
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***Thanks to Gamma Technologies and  
in particular to Shawn Harnish for the  
excellent support and ...***



***... thank you for your attention***