

# Study on the influence of some ventilation parameters on dust dispersion in heading face coal mine using CFD numerical model

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**Abstract:** Coal dust is one of the environmental factors that seriously affects the health of workers as well as the mining equipment in underground coal mines. At present, coal dust is commonly generated during drilling, blasting, excavation, and transportation processes in mining operations. During mining blasting processes, coal dust is generated with varying particle sizes and high concentration levels. High concentrations of dust will affect mining operations and increase the ventilation time required for mining faces. In addition, coal dust exists in suspended form in the air mine and is harmful to human health, especially fine dust particles that have a negative impact on work efficiency. To improve ventilation efficiency and eliminate coal dust, this article presents a CFD-DPM numerical modeling method that integrates a DEM collision model based on the finite element method to analyze the motion characteristics of airflow and dust particles in the mine tunnel considering collisions between particles and between particles and walls. The article analyzes the distribution of wind speed, the dispersion of dust in the space around the roadway, dust concentrations at distances of 1m, 3m, and 6m from the working personnel and at a position 1.5 m above the roadway floor, corresponding to the breathing zone of the workers, with varying parameters such as velocity and duct position. The results indicate that with a wind velocity of  $V = 18$  m/s and an air duct height  $h = 3.0$  m, the best dust reduction results are achieved, and provide theoretical guidance for selecting and optimizing ventilation parameters in dust control.

**Keywords:** Dust coal, CFD, heading face, velocity of air mine, duct location, underground coal mine

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## 1. Introduction

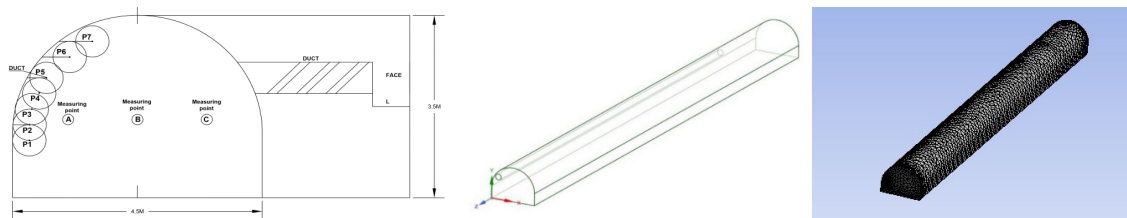
Coal mining is one of the important industries and plays a significant role in the national economy of Vietnam. According to the development plan for the coal industry, coal production is projected to be 51–54 million tons by 2025 and 55–57 million tons by 2030. Consequently, the increasing coal production has led to significant challenges in environmental and occupational health aspects due to the expansion of large-scale mining operations. Vietnamese underground coal mines commonly employ the drilling and blasting method for roadway construction, as this approach is well-suited to geological conditions and offers cost savings. However, a high concentration of dust is generated during the blasting process. The high concentration of coal dust is the primary cause that not only affects the progress of tunnel construction and safety but also poses a serious threat to the workforce. Coal dust arises during drilling, blasting, and transportation phases in the construction of tunnels. The majority of dust emissions result from the blasting process, with dust particle sizes varying widely and differently, leading to air pollution within the mining environment and posing a significant impact on the health of workers. Furthermore, coal dust also exists in the form of suspended particulates in the mine air, comprising fine

particles, especially those with sizes smaller than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . These particles have the potential to penetrate deep into the respiratory tract and come into contact with the lungs, leading to respiratory issues and other health-related concerns. Workers operating in prolonged mining environments are at risk of contracting respiratory diseases, such as lung inflammation, due to exposure to dust. Currently, the number of cases of pneumoconiosis among underground coal miners in the Quang Ninh region is 1,228 individuals, and it is projected to rise to over 1,400 individuals in the future without effective dust control measures. Hence, researching the ventilation parameters that influence the dispersion pattern of dust during blasting in tunnels and controlling the elimination of coal dust is highly essential. In Vietnam, several studies have been conducted: Author [1, 2] conducted research and designed a dust control system using an air and water mixing box to generate fine water droplets. [3] The authors proposed a solution involving mist spraying to protect laborers. However, the dust dispersion pattern in tunnels has not been determined, thus the effectiveness of the dust reduction solution has not been high. In recent years, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) has become a pivotal technology in simulating and analyzing dust dispersion in mining environments. CFD modeling allows for the detailed study of air and dust particle movements within tunnels. Notable international research includes analyses of dust concentration distribution and particle sizes at mechanized coal mining faces, numerical simulations of airflow patterns, and the dust distribution in tunnel excavations using solid-gas flow equations such as: Torano [4] and Geng [5]. Using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) to study the movement patterns of dust in coal mines, [6] analyzed the distribution of dust concentration and particle sizes at the fully mechanized coal mining face. Kanaoka conducted numerical simulations on airflow patterns and the distribution of dust concentration within constructed tunnels [7]. Rao conducted simulations of airflow patterns within tunnels with long blind headings using three-dimensional (3D) numerical simulation technology, obtaining a preliminary correlation between airflow patterns and dust movement [8]. Jiang simplified the similarity criteria in the simulated tunnel excavation process using an approximate modeling method employing the two-phase solid-gas flow equations, and subsequently determined the dust distribution pattern during excavation through experiments [9]. Some studies suggest that dust distribution is influenced by various factors, such as dust concentration [10, 11], particle size [12], and moisture content [9]. Hu conducted a similar investigation with different velocities [13]. Guoliang Zhang simulated the dust motion trajectory of a plateau mine based on FLUENT [14]. Lichao Zhang analyzed the spatial distribution of the dust concentration and particle size at the fully mechanized coal mining face [15]. Sa [16] based on the theory of gas-solid two-phase flow through simulation using Fluent software, studied the change in dust concentration after blasting, and thereby derived reasonable ventilation parameters. In summary, the primary focus of these studies has been on simulating dust within mechanized construction of tunnels, with limited tunnel space in the modeling based on CFD technology. However, during the simulation, the forces acting on dust particles are simplified, and the processes of particle-to-particle and particle-to-wall collisions are rarely taken into account. In the context of mining conditions in Vietnam, predominantly involving drilling and blasting operations, this paper presents a CFD modeling method based on the finite element approach to analyze the movement of air and dust particles within my tunnels. The particle collisions have been considered, including particle-to-wall collisions and the forces acting on particle motion, which have been established in the DEM model. These collisions are integrated into the DPM. This method allows for the study of factors influencing the distribution of coal dust concentration in the mining environment, including wind velocities with four velocity models of the air duct ( $V = 9 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $V = 12 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $V = 15 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $V = 18 \text{ m/s}$ ) and the placement of ventilation outlets at different heights (with heights  $h = 1.1 \text{ m}$ ,  $1.4 \text{ m}$ ,  $1.7 \text{ m}$ ,  $2.3 \text{ m}$ ,  $2.7 \text{ m}$ ,  $3.0 \text{ m}$ ). The findings from this research will help determine the impact of ventilation parameters on dust concentration within tunnels and the dispersion of dust over time, thereby supporting management efforts to mitigate dust and protect the health of workers.

## 2. Modeling Geometry and Meshing

The simulation was based on the basic parameters of the roadway level -250 seam L7-2 of Mong Duong coal mine, Quang Ninh province: the length of roadway  $L = 50$  m; the height of the roadway  $y = 3.5$  m, the width of the roadway  $b = 4.5$  m). The -250-level transport road uses the forced ventilation method with the following parameters ( $\varphi_{\text{duct}} = 0.6$  m,  $h_{\text{duct}} = 2.3$ ,  $V = 9$  m/s), the distance from the duct opening to the face is 8 meters, the humidity of air is 85%, the air pressure in the tunnel is 100678 (Pa) measured on-site. The air in the tunnel was treated as an incompressible fluid. Dust used in this study is coal-high value dust. The transportation equipment employs scraper conveyors, which are positioned close to the ground and have minimal influence on the simulation outcomes. As a result, the model has been simplified by excluding the conveying equipment and the tunnel parameters explained above. Given that the largest source of dust emission is from blasting, other sources of dust have not been considered. Mainly, the focus is on the dust generated during the blasting process. Dust measurements are obtained using measuring devices (such as particle counting, and dust concentration kanomax). The measurement results: particle diameter:  $1e^{-4}$ – $1e^{-6}$  m. From that, the article builds six positions of duct models (height of duct  $y = 1.1$  m; 1.4 m, 1.7 m; 2.3 m; 2.7 m; 3.0 m). The positions corresponding to P1-P7 shown in Figure 1 have the following coordinates: (P1(0.3; 1.1); P2(0.3; 1.4); P3(0.35; 1.7); P4(0.48; 2.0); P5(0.61; 2.3); P6(1; 2.7); P7(1.4; 3)). The wind speed is determined by the airflow demand supplied to the tunnel. After calculating, the airflow ranges from 150 to 306 m<sup>3</sup>/min, corresponding to wind speeds from 9 to 18 m/s. Therefore, the study simulates with four velocity models of the air duct ( $V = 9$  m/s; 12 m/s; 15 m/s; 18 m/s). Based on the parameters, a 3D geometric model was built using ANSYS Fluent 20 R1 software with corresponding dimensions as mentioned above. After completing the construction of the 3D geometric model, we will proceed with meshing with a total of 315,915 cells, with an average mesh quality of 0.876. The number of boundary layers is 2.

The position of the duct is arranged in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Tunnel model, mesh and air duct suspension positions.

## 3. Numerical model

### 3.1. Mathematical model

The mathematical model for simulating gas and dust flow (two-phase gas-solid) in ANSYS software includes the Discrete Phase Model (DPM), the Eulerian model... The Discrete Phase Model belongs to the Euler-Lagrange method. It requires the particle volume to be not too large [17]. By computing the velocity and turbulent kinetic energy of the continuous flow field, we can observe the trajectories of particles. Currently, the study of particle trajectories generated from the blasting process in the heading face in continuous flow using the DPM model of the Euler-Lagrange method [18], the Discrete Phase Model(DPM)-Discrete Element Model (DEM) was constructed based on the gas-solid two-phase flow theory, the dust pollution characteristics of the shuttle transfer stage were numerically simulated [19].

In this paper, the Euler-Lagrange model is utilized to calculate the flow field and the trajectory of dust particles within the tunnel. The Euler-Lagrange method considers the fluid as a continuous phase and applies Newton's second law to track the fluid stream.

The variation characteristics of dust concentration and particle size distribution are simulated and analyzed using DPM. A pressure-based solver is utilized, wind velocity and turbulent kinetic energy of the flow are computed using the SIMPLE algorithm.

The fundamental governing equations for the particle trajectory, flow field, and dust movement in the field are as follows [19].

The gas phase continuous equation in the two-phase solid-gas flow is as follows:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(pu_i)}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (1)$$

The conservation equation of momentum is:

$$\frac{\partial(pu_i)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(pu_i u_j)}{\partial x_j} = \frac{\partial T_{ij}}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + pg_i - F_i \quad (2)$$

The equation  $k$  is:

$$\frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho k u_i)}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[ \mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k} \right] + G_k - \rho \varepsilon \quad (3)$$

The equation  $\varepsilon$ :

$$\frac{\partial(\rho \varepsilon)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho \varepsilon u_i)}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[ \mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \right] + c_{1\varepsilon} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} G_k - C_{2\varepsilon} \rho \frac{\varepsilon^2}{k} \dots \quad (4)$$

Where:

$$G_k = \mu_t \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right] \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j}, \mu_t = \rho C_\mu \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon} \quad (5)$$

Here,  $t$  represents time,  $s$ ;  $\rho$  is the gas density  $\text{kg/m}^3$ ;  $T_{ij}$  is the reynolds stress tensor;  $g_j$  is the acceleration of gravity,  $\text{kg/m}^2$ ;  $F_i$  is the particle flow resistance,  $\text{N}$ ;  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  are the coordinates in the  $X$ ,  $Y$  directions;  $u_i$  and  $u_j$  are the velocities in the  $X$ ,  $Y$  directions ( $\text{m/s}$ );  $k$  is the turbulent kinetic energy,  $\text{m}^2/\text{s}^2$ ;  $\mu$  is the laminar viscosity coefficient;  $\mu_t$  is the viscosity coefficient for turbulent flow,  $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ;  $G_k$  is the rate of turbulent energy production caused by the mean velocity gradient,  $\text{kg}/(\text{s}^3\cdot\text{m})$ ;  $\varepsilon$  is the dissipation velocity of the turbulent kinetic energy,  $\text{m}^2/\text{s}^3$ ;  $C_{1\varepsilon}$ ,  $C_{2\varepsilon}$ ,  $C_\mu$ ,  $\sigma_k$ , and  $\sigma_\varepsilon$  are empirical constants ( $C_{1\varepsilon} = 1.44$ ,  $C_{2\varepsilon} = 1.92$ ,  $C_\mu = 0.09$ ,  $\sigma_\varepsilon = 1.3$ , and  $\sigma_k = 1.0$ ).

Equation for particle phase control:

Equation for controlling the motion of dust particles. During the calculation of the trajectory of blasting dust particles in the tunnel. The governing equation for the motion of dust particles. During the calculation of the trajectory of dust particles in the tunnel explosion, this model is based on the Euler-Lagrange method, which treats air and dust as the coupling of two continuous phases of the flow and tracks the movement of dust inside the tunnel over time by solving the differential equation. Specifically, air is defined as the primary phase and dust particles are defined as the secondary phase. The equation of motion for the dust particles is [20]:

$$\frac{du_p}{dt} F_{D(u-u_p)} + \frac{g_x(\rho_p - \rho)}{\rho_p} \quad (6)$$

$$F_D = 0.75 \frac{C_{D\rho|u_p-u|}}{\rho_p d_p} \quad (7)$$

where:  $F_{D(u-u_p)}$  is the drag force on the particle per unit mass,  $\text{N}$ ;  $C_D$  is the drag force coefficient;  $u$  is the fluid phase velocity,  $\text{m/s}$ ;  $u_p$  is the particle velocity,  $\text{m/s}$ ;  $\rho_p$  is the particle density,  $\text{kg/m}^3$ ;  $d_p$  is the particle diameter  $\text{m}$ ;  $F$  - the addition forces, Including particle-

particle collisions, particle-wall collisions, Saffman force, and Magnus force, the DPM model in Fluent integrates DEM-collision to account for the impact interactions between particles and with walls. The contact forces between particles describe direct interactions among particles, particle-surface interactions, and torque forces. The contact force between particles  $i$  and  $j$ , denoted as  $F_{n,ij}$ , is expressed by the formula [21].

$$F_{n,ij} = \frac{4}{3} Y^* \sqrt{R^*} \delta_{n,ij}^{\frac{2}{3}} - F_{n,ij}^d \quad (8)$$

$$F_{n,ij}^d = -\sqrt{\frac{5}{6}} \frac{\ln e}{\sqrt{\ln^2 e + \pi^2}} \sqrt{S_{n,ij}} m^* v_n \quad (9)$$

$$S_{n,ij} = 2Y^* \sqrt{R^* \delta_{n,ij}} \quad (10)$$

where:  $F_{n,ij}$  - normal force between particles;  $Y^*$  - is the equivalent Young's modulus;  $m^*$  - is the particle mass;  $R^*$  - is the equivalent radius;  $\delta_{n,ij}$  - is the normal overlap;  $S_{n,ij}$  - is the normal stiffness;  $V_n$  - is the normal component of the relative velocity, and  $e$  is the coefficient of restitution.

The tangential force  $F_{t,ij}$  depends on the tangential overlap;  $\delta_{t,ij}$  and the tangential stiffness  $S_{t,ij}$ , and limited by Coulomb friction  $\mu_s F_{n,ij}$ , where  $\mu_s$  is the coefficient of static friction and  $G^*$  is the shear modulus.

$$F_{t,ij} = -\delta_{t,ij} S_{t,ij} - F_{t,ij}^d \quad (11)$$

$$F_{t,ij}^d = -2\sqrt{\frac{5}{6}} \frac{\ln e}{\sqrt{\ln^2 e + \pi^2}} \sqrt{S_{t,ij}} m^* v_t \quad (12)$$

$$S_{n,ij} = 8G^* \sqrt{R^* \delta_{n,ij}} \quad (13)$$

The torques generated by the forces can be written as:

$$T_{t,ij} = L_{ij} n_{ij} \cdot F_{t,ij} \quad (14)$$

$$T_{t,ij} = -\mu_T L_{ij} \left| F_{n,ij} \right| \frac{\omega_{ij}}{\left| \omega_{ij} \right|} \quad (15)$$

Where:  $L_{ij}$  - is the distance from the center of particle  $i$  to the contact plane with particle  $j$ ;  $n_{ij}$  represents the normal unit vector between two contacted particles and  $\omega_{ij}$  is the angular velocity vector of the object at the contact point.

The equation governing the trajectory of the particle is [22]:

$$\frac{du_p}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau_p} \left[ \bar{u} + u'(t) - u_p \right] \quad (16)$$

where:  $\tau_p$  is the relaxation time of the particle, s;  $\bar{u}$  is the average velocity, m/s;  $u'(t)$  is the pulsation velocity, m/s.

### 3.2. The setting of the simulation parameters and boundary conditions

Based on relevant literature on dust transport characteristics in blasting within the heading face, related studies [23, 24], from the on-site data collected by sensors, wind Speed Measurement Device PA-2008, Pressure and Differential Pressure Meter MCRC-1 Kanomax dust concentration measuring devices, particle counting was conducted over the course of one week during shift 1 [25]. We obtained the parameters of the discrete

phase model, injection source parameters, and boundary conditions, velocity of speed are depicted in Table 1.

The simulation settings and methods are presented in the following table: the  $k-\varepsilon$  equation is used to simulate the fluid phase motion of the forced ventilation system, while the discrete phase of dust is simulated using the Discrete Phase Model (DPM) in combination with the continuous phase. The boundary conditions are established as follows:

**Table 1.** Fluent model configuration parameters.

Parameter Name	Parameter Setting	Parameter Name	Parameter Setting
Solver	Pressure-based solver	Min. particle diameter	1e-6 (m)
Viscous model	$k - \epsilon$ model	Max. particle diameter	0.0001 (m)
Inlet boundary type	Velocity inlet	Median diameter	1.5e-5 (m)
Inlet velocity	9 m/s; 12 m/s; 15 m/s; 18 m/s	Distribution index	3.5
Outlet boundary type	Pressure outlet	Mass flow rate	0.0012 kg/s
Material	Coal - hv	Height of the air duct	1.1 m, 1.4 m, 1.7 m, 2.3 m, 2.7 m, 3.0 m
Diameter distribution	Rosin-rammler	Injection type	Surface
Number of timesteps for transient simulation	600 s	Material	Coal - HV
Drag law	Spherical	Physical models; Saffman Lift force	DEM Collisiom
DPM-boundary type	Reflect	Discrete Phase model	Interaction: interaction with continuous phase; particle treatment: unsteady particle tracking; Stochastic tracking: discrete random walk model

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. Analysis of gas flow distribution at different wind speeds

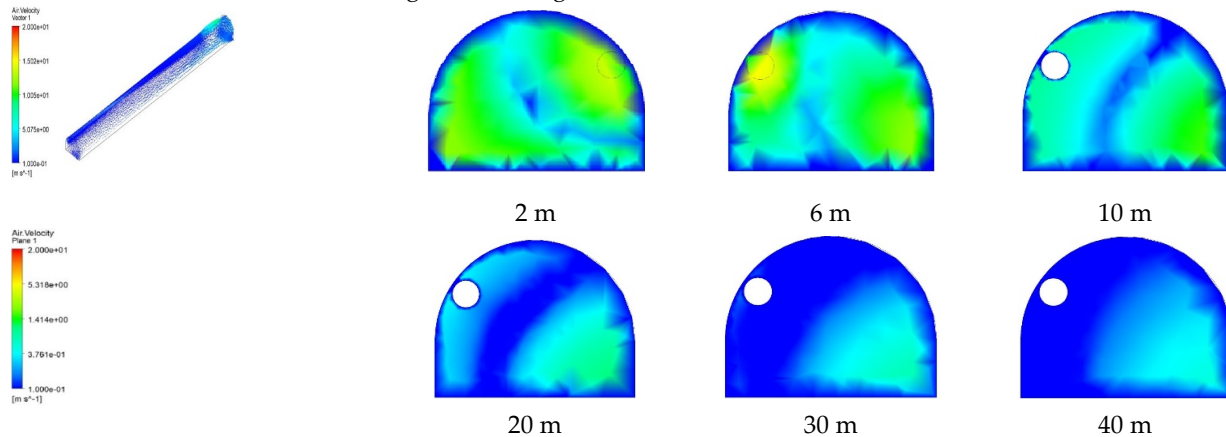
The process of dust movement after blasting occurs within the continuous gas phase and is influenced by the distribution of wind velocities within the spatial and temporal dimensions of the tunnel. To study the dust dispersion process within the tunnel, we need to investigate the flow field within the tunnel using the following wind velocity parameters:  $V = 9$  m/s, 12 m/s, 15 m/s, and 18 m/s, with the height of the ventilation outlet at 2.3m and the distance from the outlet to the tunnel wall  $L = 8$  m, which are actual data from the Mong Duong coal mine tunneling area.

The results of the wind velocity distribution within the tunnel are as follows. Wind exits the ventilation duct with the specified velocities as mentioned above. The arrangement of ventilation ducts on the tunnel wall, based on the actual conditions of the coal mine, shows that the wind exits the ventilation ducts at a high speed, moves towards the face, changes direction, flows back into the tunnel, and finally exits on the opposite side of the tunnel. Observing the cross-sectional profiles at positions 2 m, 6 m, 10 m, 20 m, 30m, 40 m on Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, it is evident that the wind velocity distribution on the tunnel face is distinct, creating two zones with high wind velocities: the area where wind exits the ventilation outlet and the area opposite, adjacent to the tunnel wall. The remaining central area exhibits lower wind velocities.

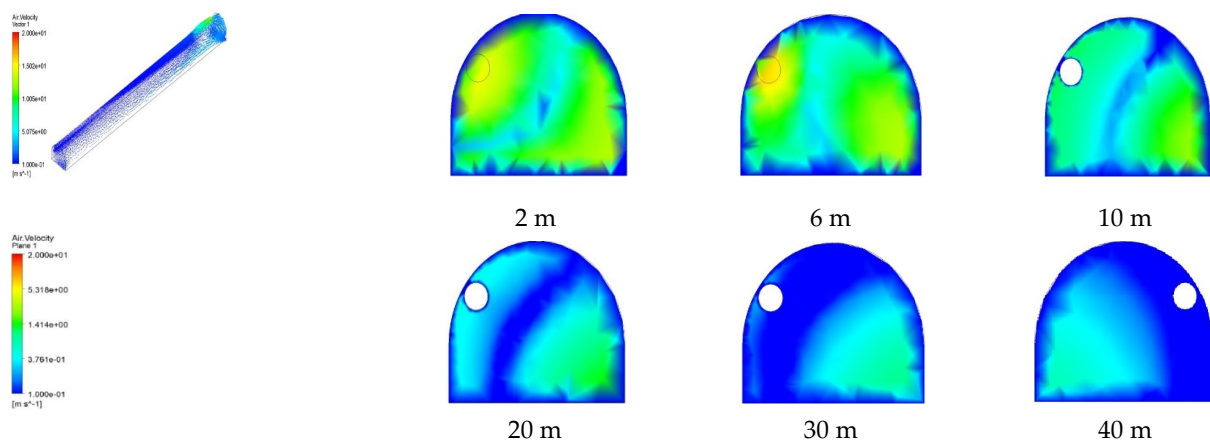
Subsequently, the wind continues to move, and the wind velocity in the section near the ventilation outlet gradually decreases to a stable level. Meanwhile, the higher wind velocity occupies the other side of the tunnel, covering approximately half of the tunnel's cross-sectional area, as shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Figure 2, based on longitudinal cross-sections along the tunnel, demonstrates that within approximately 20 m from the tunnel's back, an uneven wind distribution exists.

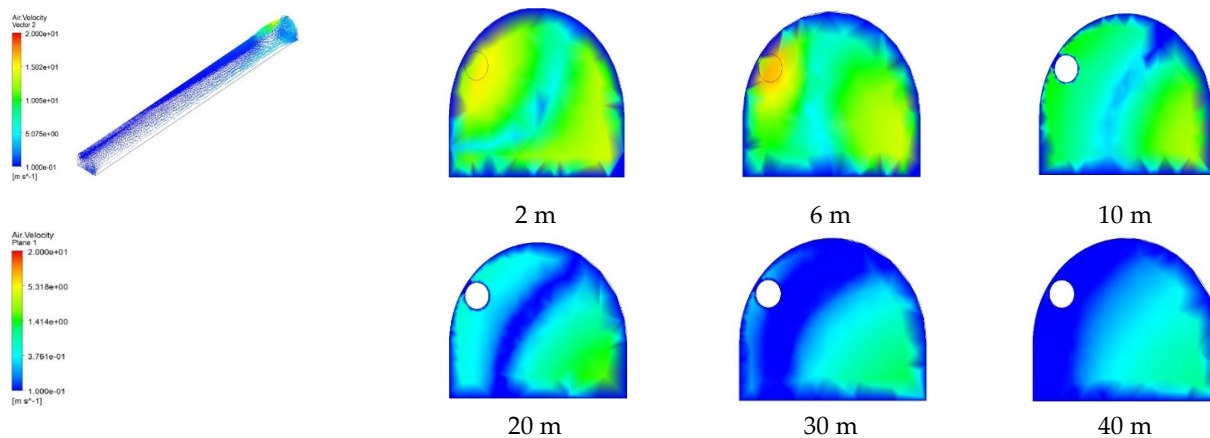
Higher wind velocities are concentrated on the right side of the tunnel, while lower velocities are found on the left side. The central portion experiences the lowest wind velocity within this distance. This indicates that the wind flow becomes more stable, reducing small variations. This is attributed to the influence of the wind flow rebounding after colliding with the tunnel wall and the wind exiting the ventilation outlet, which generates a vortex region, resulting in lower wind velocities within this area.



**Figure 2.** Velocity distribution on longitudinal cross-section along the heading face with  $V = 9$  m/s.

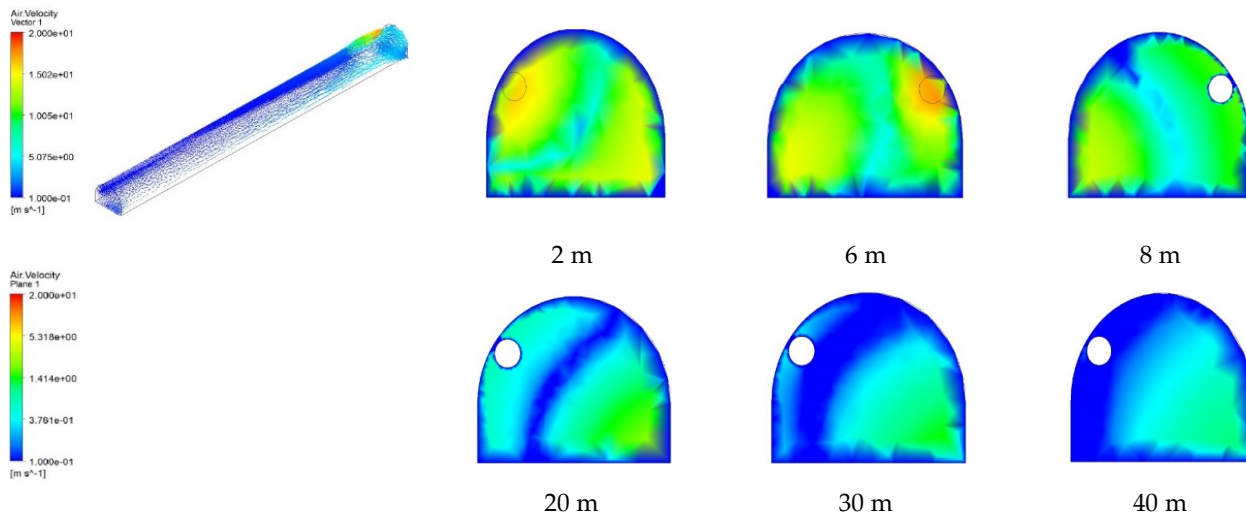


**Figure 3.** Velocity distribution on longitudinal cross-section along the heading face with  $V = 12$  m/s.

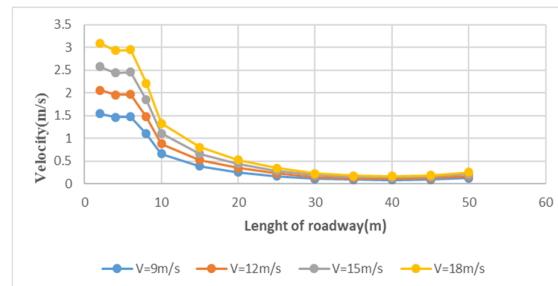


**Figure 4.** Velocity distribution on longitudinal cross-section along the heading face with  $V = 15$  m/s.





**Figure 5.** Velocity distribution on longitudinal cross-section along the heading face with  $V = 18$  m/s.



**Figure 6.** Graph depicting the average wind velocity across longitudinal cross-sections along the heading face.

In Figure 6, we can observe that all four wind velocity models consistently indicate that after wind exits the ventilation outlet, the wind velocity gradually decreases. Upon collision with the tunnel, the wind reverses its direction within approximately 10 meters from the tunnel's face. At this point, the wind velocity experiences a sharp decrease, followed by a gradual and stable reduction.

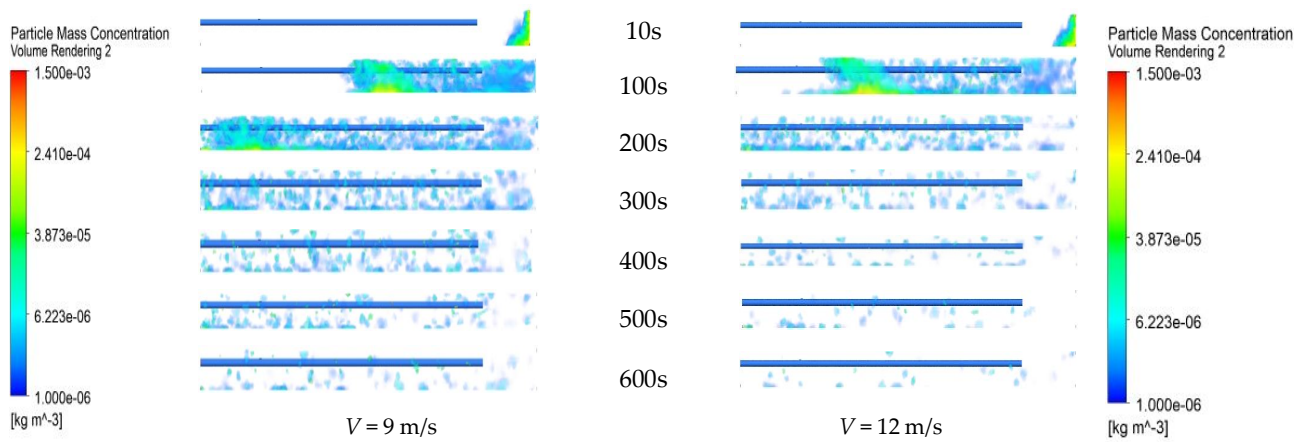
#### 4.2. Influence of wind velocity on dust distribution in the heading face

In this study, dust is described over a period of 600 seconds after the explosion to analyze its dispersion over time and space within the roadway. As evident from Figures 7, 8, and 9, the influence of wind velocity within the ventilation outlet on dust dispersion over time and throughout the entire tunnel is apparent. Initially, after the explosion, a high concentration of dust is emitted from the tunnel's face, forming a dense dust cloud concentrated near the tunnel's face for approximately 10 seconds. Subsequently, due to the interplay between the initial dust velocity and the wind velocity circulating within the tunnel, the dust disperses along the tunnel.

For a wind velocity of 9 m/s (Figure 7), it takes about 150 seconds for the dust to disperse throughout the entire tunnel. The trend of dust concentration decreasing over time is evident from Figure 7, as larger particles settle and dust escapes from the tunnel. Similarly, for a wind velocity of 12 m/s, it takes about 110 seconds for full dust dispersion, while for 15 m/s (Figure 8), it takes 90 seconds, and for 18 m/s, it takes about 80 seconds.

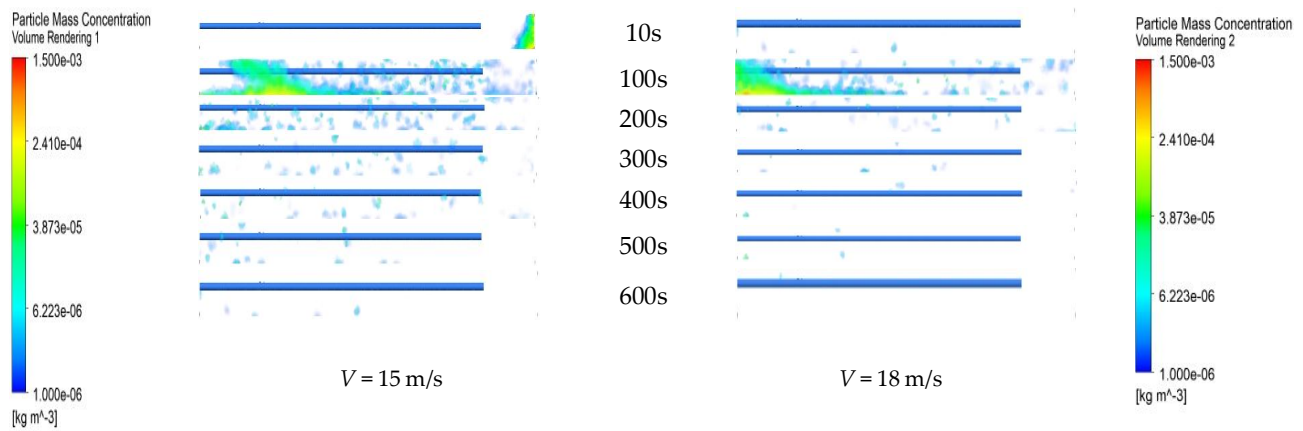
With a wind velocity of 18 m/s (Figure 8), dust disperses more rapidly, and the dust concentration decreases more quickly compared to the other models. Higher wind velocities lead to a significant reduction in dust concentration.





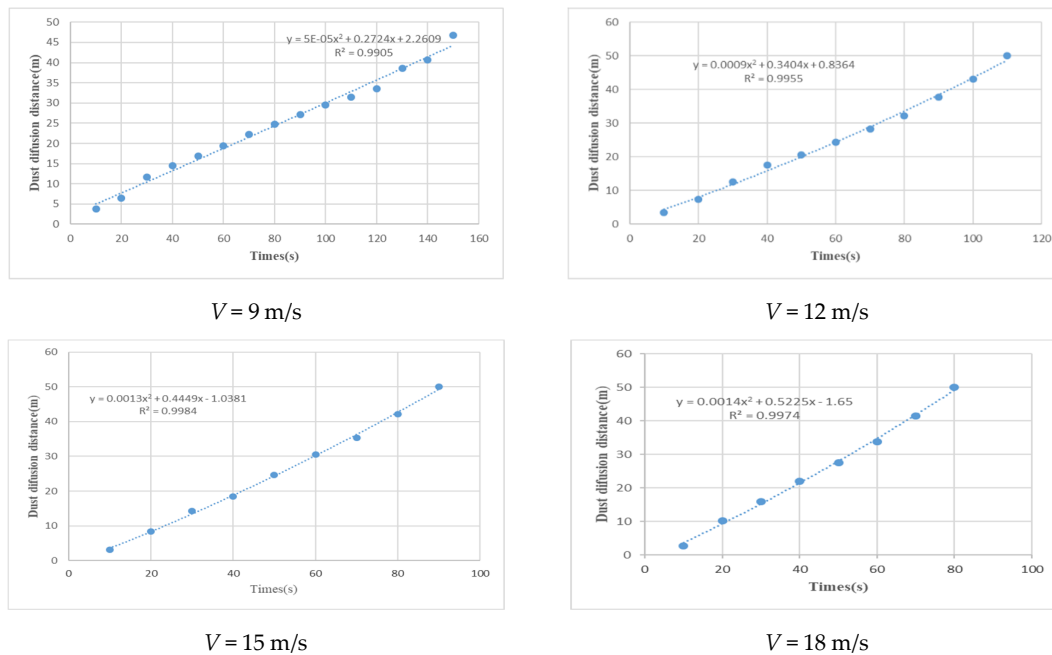
**Figure 7.** Dust dispersion results in the tunnel space-time domain for  $V = 9$  m/s and  $V = 12$  m/s.

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**Figure 8.** Dust dispersion results in the tunnel space-time domain for  $V = 15$  m/s and  $V = 18$  m/s.

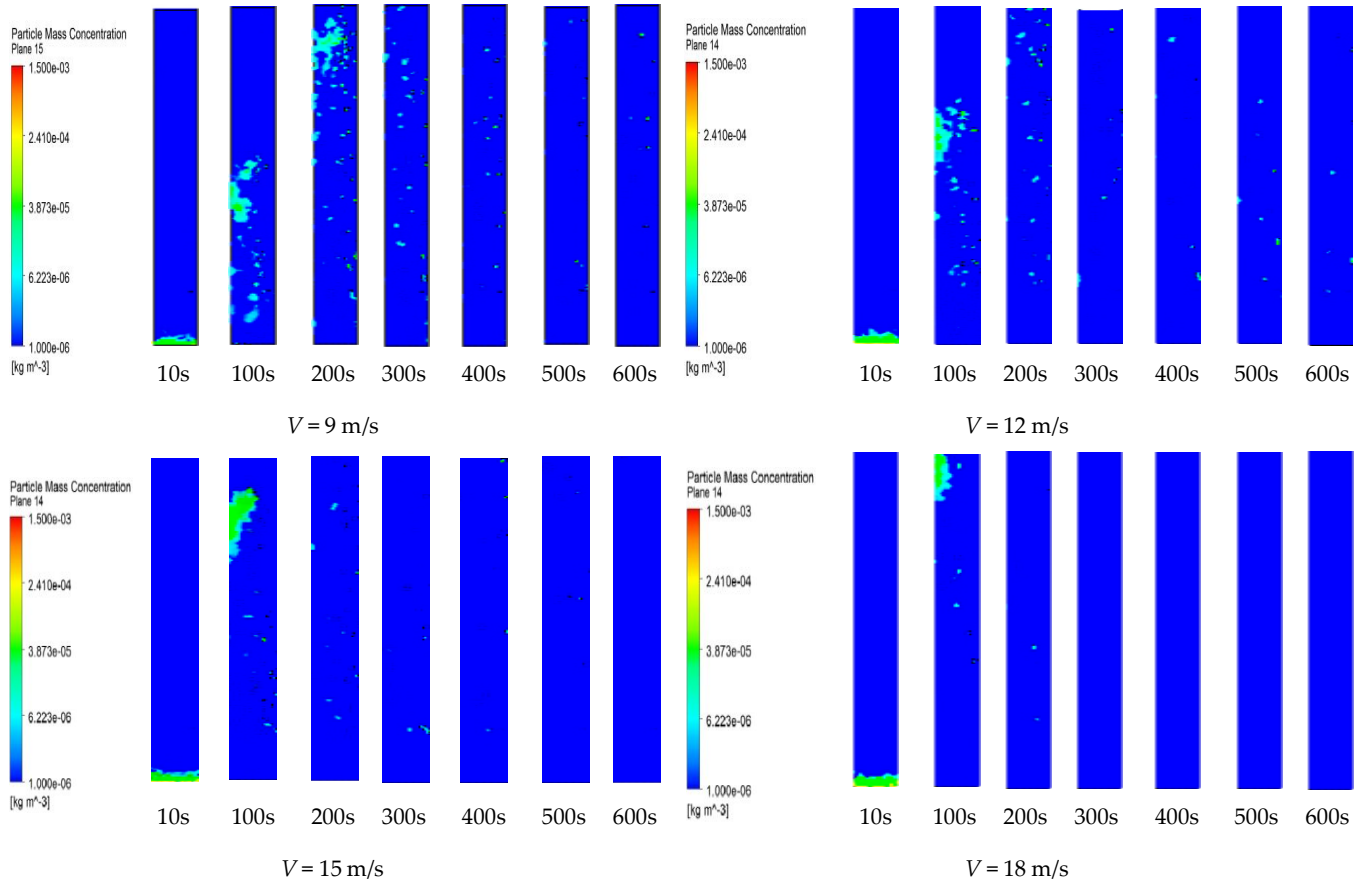
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**Figure 9.** Dust diffusion graph in time and space.

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In Figure 9, the graph illustrates the relationship between the distance of dust diffusion within the tunnel over time with various velocity parameters. This relationship is represented by a quadratic function. Higher wind velocities result in faster and more extended dust diffusion within the same time.



**Figure 10.** Dust distribution on the cross-section at a distance of  $y = 1.5$  m from the tunnel floor (respiratory zone height).

In Figure 10, at the level of  $y = 1.5$ , which corresponds to the breathing height of workers, it is evident that higher wind speeds lead to a significant and rapid reduction in dust concentration. Within the first 10 seconds following the blasting event, larger-sized dust particles quickly settle down or are captured due to gravitational forces, resulting in a rapid decrease in dust concentration. From the contour plot of dust concentration in the horizontal plane at the height of  $y = 1.5$ , it can be concluded that dust concentration decreases as wind speed increases.

Figures 11, 12, 13, and 14 show the largest variations in dust concentration at positions 1 m, 3 m, and 6 m from the mirror, which are areas where workers are concentrated performing tasks during the furnace excavation process. The figures also indicate that for these three positions, at wind speeds of  $V = 18$  m/s, the dust concentration is the lowest, followed by  $V = 15$  m/s,  $V = 12$  m/s, and finally  $V = 9$  m/s. Considering the relationship between wind speed and dust concentration at the positions 1 m, 3 m, and 6 m, and at a height of 1.5 m above the ground, Figures 11, 12, 13, and 14 show that initially, higher wind speeds create areas of high dust concentration and chaotic movement. With  $V = 18$  m/s, the highest average dust concentration occurs around 20 s, resulting in higher dust concentrations than the models with other speeds shown in Figures 11 and 12. However, after this time, the dust concentration tends to decrease more rapidly with increasing wind speed. Figures 13 and 14 show that over the entire research period, dust removal efficiency

on the furnace road improves with increasing wind speed. The results of dust concentration at positions 1 m, 3 m, 6 m, and  $y = 1.5$  indicate that a model with  $V = 18\text{m/s}$  provides the best dust reduction efficiency.

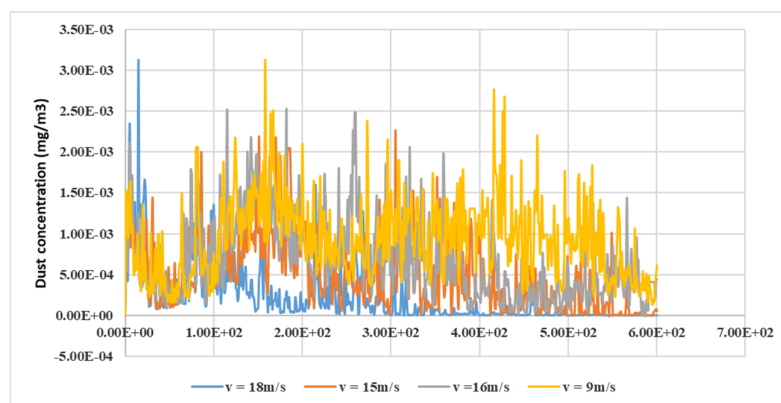


Figure 11. Dust concentration at  $y = 1.5$  m.

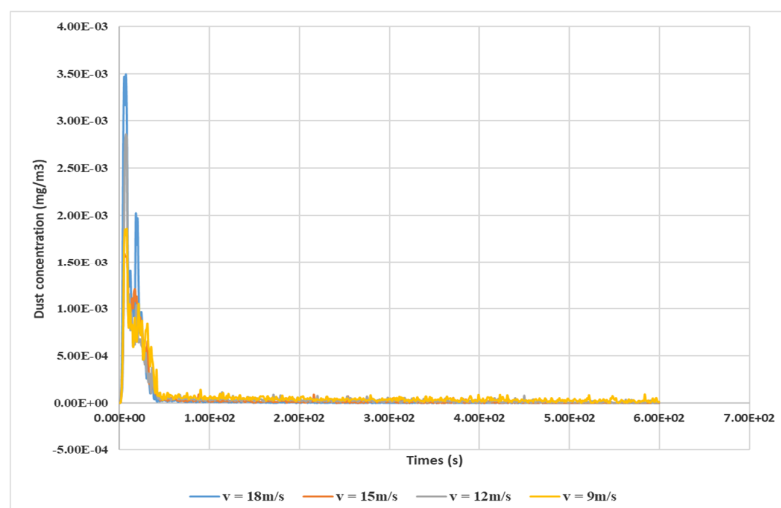


Figure 12. Dust concentration at a distance of 1 m from the face.

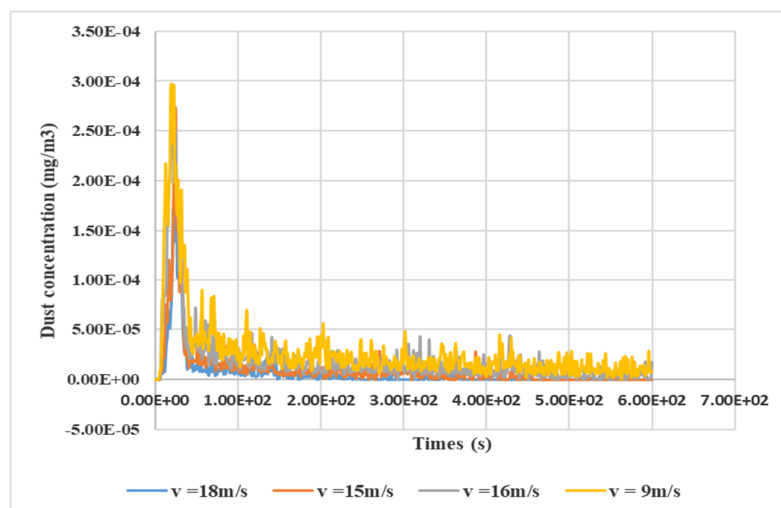
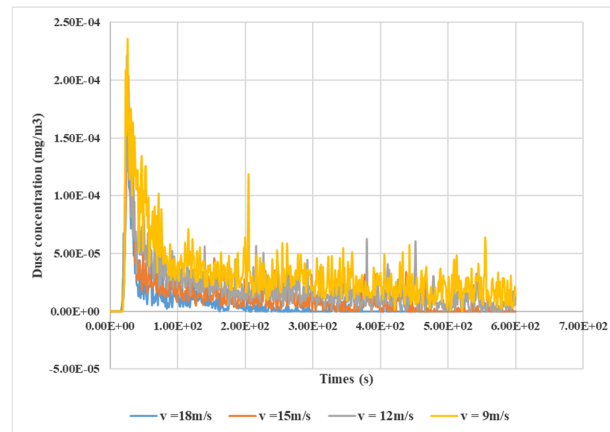


Figure 13. Dust concentration at a distance of 3 m from the face.



**Figure 14.** Dust concentration at a distance of 6 m from the face.

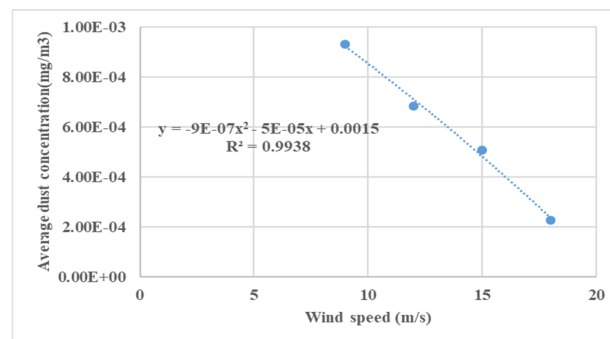
Figure 11 the highest dust concentration results at the position  $y = 1.5$  for different wind speeds. The highest average dust concentration over time at a speed of  $V = 9$  m/s is  $930 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 1-200s the dust concentration is  $974 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 201-400s it is  $972 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and from 401-600s it is  $844 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , with dust concentrations exceeding  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , which can affect workers' health. At  $V = 12$  m/s, the highest average dust concentration is  $682 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 1-200s it is  $914 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 201-400s it is  $788 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and from 401-600s it is  $346 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . For  $V = 15$  m/s, the highest average dust concentration is  $508 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 1-200s it is  $788 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 201-400s it is  $568 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and from 401-600s it is  $169 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . For  $V = 18$  m/s, the highest average dust concentration is  $227 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 1-200s it is  $227 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 201-400s it is  $486 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , from 401-600s it is  $182 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and from 401-600s it drops to  $12.3 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , taking 522s to reduce the dust concentration below  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

Figures 12, 13, 14 the highest average dust concentration results at positions 1 m, 3 m, and 6 m from the face within the 600s study period are as follows: at 1m from the face with wind speed  $V = 9$  m/s, the dust concentration is  $79 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 12$  m/s it is  $63.1 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 15$  m/s results in  $54.5 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ; and  $V = 18$  m/s it is  $44.3 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

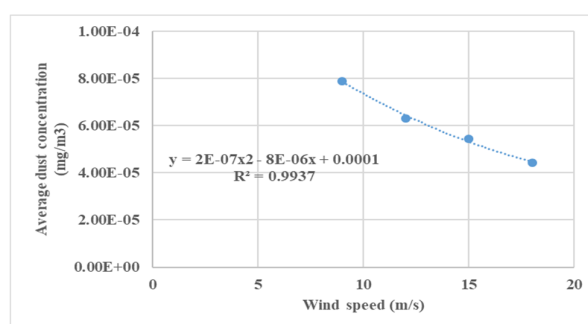
At 3 m from the mirror with wind speed  $V = 9$  m/s, the dust concentration is  $27.9 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 12$  m/s it is  $19.2 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 15$  m/s results in  $11.2 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ; and  $V = 18$  m/s it is  $6.98 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

At 6 m from the mirror with wind speed  $V = 9$  m/s, the dust concentration is  $32.8 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 12$  m/s it is  $20.3 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ;  $V = 15$  m/s results in  $12.4 \text{ mg/m}^3$ ; and  $V = 18$  m/s it is  $6.75 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

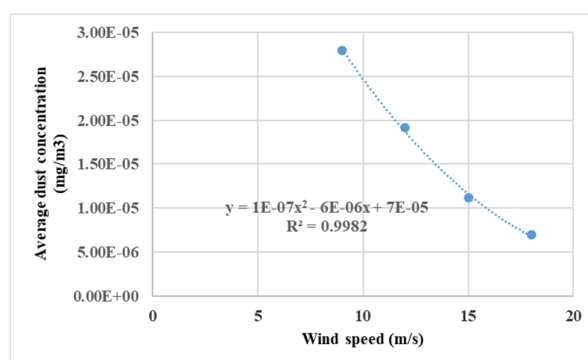
Figures 15, 16, 17, 18 depict the relationship between average dust concentration and wind speed over the 600s study period.



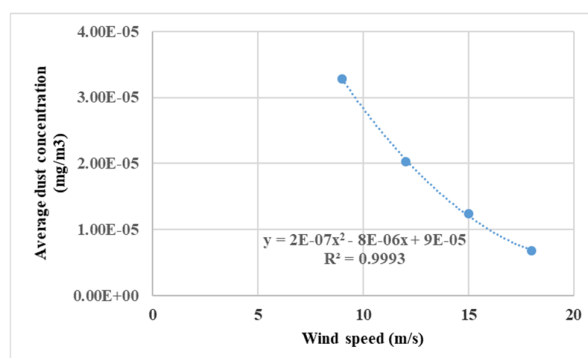
**Figure 15.** The relationship between the average concentration and wind speed at position  $y = 1.5$  m.



**Figure 16.** The relationship between the average concentration and wind speed at a position 1 m away from the face.



**Figure 17.** The relationship between the average concentration and wind speed at a position 3 m away from the face.



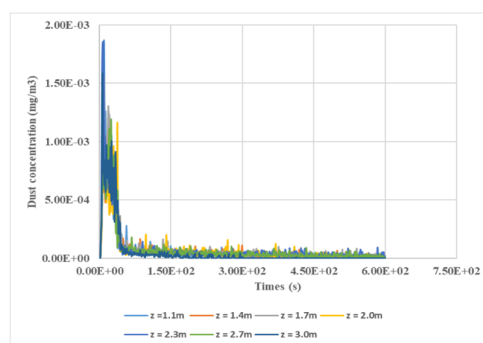
**Figure 18.** The relationship between the average concentration and wind speed at a position 6 m away from the face.

#### 4.3. Influence of ventilation duct position on dust dispersion

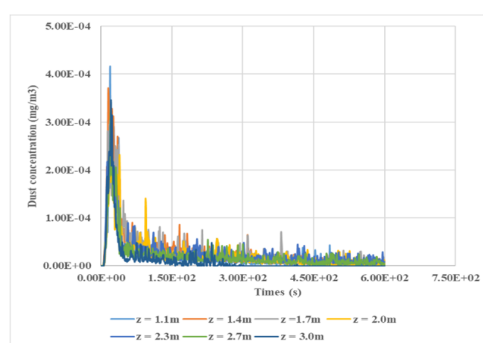
The study was conducted at 7 different vertical positions along the height of the tunnel ( $h = 1.1$  m, 1.4 m, 1.7 m, 2.0 m, 2.3 m, 2.7 m, 3.0 m) to determine the dust concentration distribution at cross-sections located at distances of 1 m, 3 m, 6 m from the tunnel wall và vị trí cách nền lò 1.5 m. These sections correspond to the working areas where laborers are engaged in construction activities within the tunnel over time. The average breathing height of tunnel workers in Vietnam was taken into consideration.

Furthermore, to assess the influence of the ventilation duct's position on the dust dispersion pattern, the dust dispersion law was determined at different positions along the tunnel's height over corresponding time intervals.

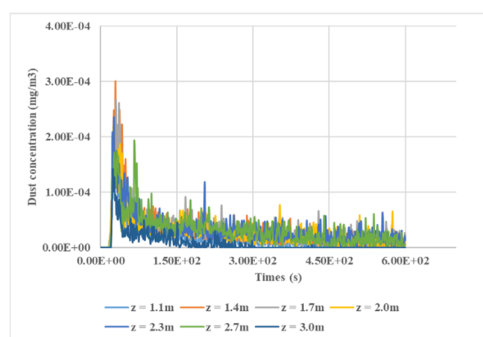
The results of the maximum dust concentration at various positions are shown in the following figure:



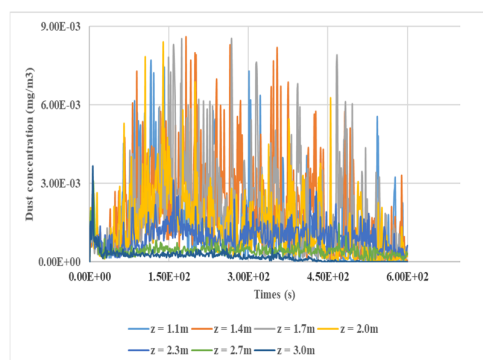
**Figure 19.** The maximum dust concentration at a position 1 m from the face corresponds to the location of the air duct.



**Figure 20.** The maximum dust concentration at a position 3 m from the face corresponds to the location of the air duct.



**Figure 21.** The maximum dust concentration at a position 6 m from the face corresponds to the location of the air duct.



**Figure 22.** The maximum dust concentration at a position 1.5 m from floor corresponds to the location of the air duct.

Figure 19 reveals that at a distance of 1.0 m from the source, dust concentration is prominently generated within approximately 10 seconds. Among the models with different heights ( $h = 1.1$  m to  $h = 3.0$  m), the model with  $h = 1.1$  m exhibits the highest dust concentration, reaching around  $1344 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , while the lowest concentration is observed in the  $h = 3.0$  m model at  $631 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . During the period of 10–100 seconds, dust concentration sharply declines due to rapid dispersion within the tunnel. From 100–600 seconds, the concentration gradually decreases as particles settle and diffuse outside the tunnel. For models  $h = 1.1$  m to  $h = 2.7$  m, it takes around 450–480 seconds for the dust concentration to fall below  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , whereas the  $h = 3.0$  m model achieves this level within about 300 seconds. Throughout the total simulation time, the average concentration at  $h = 1.1$  m was  $71.9 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.4$  m the average concentration was  $71.2 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.7$  m the average concentration was  $83.4 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.0$  m the average concentration was  $67.3 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.3$  m the average concentration was  $86.2 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.7$  m the average concentration was  $74.7 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and at  $h = 3.0$  m the average concentration was  $53.6 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . The results indicate that the position at  $h = 3.0$  m provides better dust reduction, while the dust concentrations at other positions do not show significant differences.

Figure 20 and figure 21 show that at distances of 3 m and 6 m from the face, the results also indicate that within approximately 10 seconds, the dust concentration is lower for the  $h = 3.0$  m model compared to the other positions. It takes about 270 seconds for the dust concentration to decrease to  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$  for the  $h = 3.0$  m model, whereas the remaining models require between 450–600 seconds. At the measurement location 3 meters from the face with a total time of 600 seconds the average concentration at  $h = 1.1$  m was  $19.5 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.4$  m the average concentration was  $29.5 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.7$  m the average concentration was  $28.9 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.0$  m the average concentration was  $24.6 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.3$  m the average concentration was  $27.9 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.7$  m the average concentration was  $22 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and at  $h = 3.0$  m the average concentration was  $12.6 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

At the measurement location 6 meters from the face, the average concentration at  $h = 1.1$  m was  $17.1 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.4$  m the average concentration was  $28.2 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.7$  m the average concentration was  $31.4 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.0$  m the average concentration was  $27.7 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.3$  m the average concentration was  $32.8 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.7$  m the average concentration was  $31.6 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and at  $h = 3.0$  m the average concentration was  $8.12 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

It is observed that at the positions 3 meters and 6 meters from the face,  $h = 3.0$  m yields the lowest average concentration, while the differences in concentration at other positions are not significantly large.

Figure 22 at the position  $y = 1.5$  m and  $h = 3.0$  m, it takes 513 seconds for the dust concentration to decrease below  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . For the remaining models with a total time of 600 seconds, the maximum dust concentration still exceeds  $10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ . This will adversely affect the health of the workers. The average concentration at  $h = 1.1$  m was  $1320 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.4$  m the average concentration was  $1930 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 1.7$  m the average concentration was  $1900 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.0$  m the average concentration was  $1330 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.3$  m the average concentration was  $928 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , at  $h = 2.7$  m the average concentration was  $422 \text{ mg/m}^3$ , and at  $h = 3.0$  m the average concentration was  $199 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

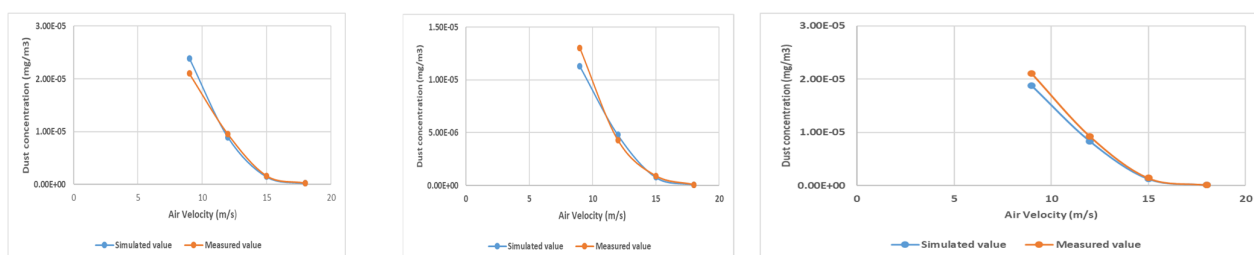
We can see that the differences in dust concentration are quite large between the positions, with the highest concentration at  $h = 1.4$  m, followed by  $h = 1.7$  m,  $h = 1.1$  m,  $h = 2.0$  m,  $h = 2.3$  m, lower at  $h = 2.7$  m, and the lowest at  $h = 3.0$  m.

Therefore, the results indicate that there is not a significant difference in average dust concentration at positions 1.0 m, 3.0 m, and 6.0 m from the face, with heights ranging from  $h = 1.1$  m to  $h = 2.7$  m. However, the position of  $h = 3.0$  m for the ventilation duct proves to be more effective in reducing dust concentration within the work area for laborers, as evident from the results. At a height of 1.5 m from the ground, it shows a very large difference in dust concentration. The dust reduction model is effective with heights of  $h = 3.0$  m.

#### 4.4. Model Validation Results



Based on the actual measurement results in various cases, the airflow speed in the duct varies with  $V = 9$  m/s, 12 m/s, 15 m/s, and 18 m/s. The average dust concentration results were measured at a cross-section located 1.0 m, 3.0 m, and 6.0 m from the mirror. Measurements were taken at three points A(1, 1.5), B(2.25, 1.5), and C(3.5, 1.5) arranged as shown in Figure 1, and the average concentration results were recorded. The measurements were taken at intervals between 9–10 minutes using a Knomax dust concentration meter. The actual and simulated measurement results are shown in Figure 23.



At the cross-section located 1.0 (m) from the face; At the cross-section located 3 (m) from the face; At the cross-section located 6(m) from the face

**Figure 23.** The maximum dust concentration at a position 1.5 m from floor corresponds to the location of the air duct.

From the data in Figure 23, it can be seen that the simulated dust concentration results are consistent with the actual measured results, with a relative error ranging from 4.89% to 14.7% and an average of 6.03%. Therefore, the numerical simulation results can accurately reflect the actual conditions in the Mong Duong coal mine.

## 5. Conclusion

The paper analyzes local airflow parameters such as wind velocity and the position of ventilation ducts that influence the flow field and dispersion characteristics of post-blasting dust over time and space within the tunnel. Based on theoretical studies of two-phase gas-solid flows and airflow simulation, the FLUENT software is employed to simulate dust concentration changes. The following conclusions can be drawn:

Within the scope of the study, wind speed significantly influences the dispersion and settling of dust in the tunnel. The paper has shown the relationship between wind speed and dust concentration, as well as the relationship between wind speed and the distance of dust dispersion in the roadway space, which follows a quadratic relationship. From this, it is evident that higher wind speeds lead to more effective dust reduction. At a wind speed of  $V = 18$  m/s, the dust removal efficiency is optimal.

The change in height of the ventilation duct significantly affects the dust concentration within the roadway space especially at a height of 1.5 meters above the ground, the respiratory height. Considering the dust distribution and dispersion characteristics, Therefore, the recommended layout of the air duct used on site is as follows: the air duct is hung on the side at a height of  $h = 3.0$  meters, the ventilation and dust extraction efficiency in the tunnel is optimal.

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<b>Abbreviations</b>		462
List of symbols:		463
$L$	the length of roadway (m)	464
$y$	the height of the roadway (m)	465
$b$	the width of the roadway (m)	466
$\varphi_{duct}$	air duct diameter (m)	467
$h_{duct}$	air duct height (m)	468
$V$	wind velocities using (m/s)	469
$t$	represents time (s)	470
$\rho$	is the air density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	471
$T_{ij}$	is the reynolds stress tensor	472
$g_j$	is the acceleration of gravity (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	473
$x_i$ and $x_j$	are the coordinates in the X, Y directions.	474
$u_i$ and $u_j$	are the velocities in the X, Y directions (m/s).	475
$F_i$	is the particle flow resistance (N)	476
$k$	is the turbulent kinetic energy (m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	477
$\mu$	the laminar viscosity coefficient	478
$G_k$	is the rate of turbulent energy production caused by the mean velocity gradient,	479
$\text{kg}/(\text{s}^3.\text{m})$		480
$\mu_t$	is the viscosity coefficient for turbulent flow, Pa.s	481
$\varepsilon$	is the dissipation velocity of the turbulent kinetic energy, m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>3</sup>	482
$C_{1\varepsilon}$ , $C_{2\varepsilon}$ , $C_\mu$ , $\sigma_k$ , and $\sigma_\varepsilon$	are empirical constants.	483
$F_{D(u-up)}$	is the drag force on the particle per unit mass (N)	484
$C_D$	is the drag force coefficient.	485
$u$	is the fluid phase velocity (m/s)	486
$u_p$	is the particle velocity (m/s)	487
$\rho_p$	is the particle density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	488
$d_p$	is the particle diameter (m)	489
$\tau_p$	is the relaxation time of the particle (s)	490
$\bar{u}$	is the average velocity (m/s)	491
$u'(t)$	is the pulsation velocity (m/s)	492
$F$	is normal contact force between particles	493
$Y^*$	is the equivalent Young's modulus	494

$M$	is the particle mass	495
$R^*$	is the equivalent radius	496
$\delta_{ij}$	is the normal overlap	497
$S_{n,ij}$	is the normal stiffness	498
$V_n$	is the normal component of the relative velocity	499
$F_{t,ij}$	is denotes the tangential force	500
$\delta_{t,ij}$	is the tangential overlap	501
$S_{t,ij}$	is the tangential stiffness	502
$\mu_s$	is the coefficient of static friction	503
$G^*$	is the shear modulus.	504
$L_{ij}$	is the distance from the center of particle i to the contact plane with particle j	505
$n_{ij}$	is the represents the normal unit vector between two contacted particles	506
$\omega_{ij}$	is the angular velocity vector of the object at the contact point	507

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