Impacts of Extreme Ambient Temperatures and Road Gradient on Energy Consumption and CO₂ Emissions of a Euro 6d-Temp Gasoline Vehicle

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Abstract: The EU aims to substantially reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in the following decades and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Better CO₂ estimates, particularly in urban conditions, are necessary for assessing the effectiveness of various regional policy strategies. In this study, we measured the CO₂ emissions of a Euro 6d-temp gasoline direct injection (GDI) vehicle with a three-way catalyst (TWC) and a gasoline particulate filter (GPF) at ambient temperatures from −30 °C up to 50 °C with the air-conditioning on. The tests took place both on the road and in the laboratory, over cycles simulating congested urban traffic, dynamic driving, and uphill driving towing a trailer at 85% of the maximum payloads of both the car and the trailer. The CO₂ values varied over a wide range depending on the temperature and driving conditions. Vehicle simulation was used to quantify the effect of ambient temperature, vehicle weight and road grade on the CO₂ emissions. The results showed that vehicle energy demand was significantly increased under the test conditions. In urban trips, compared to the baseline at 23 °C, the CO₂ emissions were 9–20% higher at −10 °C, 30–44% higher at ≈30 °C, and 37–43% higher at 50 °C. Uphill driving with a trailer had 2–3 times higher CO₂ emissions. In motorway trips at 50 °C, CO₂ emissions increased by 13–19%. The results of this study can help in better quantification of CO₂ and fuel consumption under extreme conditions. Additional analysis on the occurrence of such conditions in real-world operation is advisable.

Keywords: vehicle emissions; cold start; low temperature; real-driving emissions (RDE); traffic; air-conditioning; CO₂; road grade; CO₂MPAS

1. Introduction

The European Union (EU) has set targets to become carbon neutral by 2050 progressively. Interestingly, studies have suggested that low-carbon energy policies may improve air pollution [1,2]. The transport sector, in which road transport is the biggest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, is the only sector of the economy that has not achieved emissions reductions in the past decades [3]. Vehicle energy consumption and the resulting CO₂ or other greenhouse gas emissions are at the core of policy initiatives worldwide, as increasingly more countries commit to addressing global warming. In the EU, Regulation (EU) 2019/631/EC mandates, in addition to certification-based CO₂ targets, the monitoring of CO₂ emissions and energy consumption over real-world vehicle operation. This provision came as a response to previous evidence suggesting that the improvements in fuel consumption and carbon emissions of road vehicles, observed on official certification data, were not fully reflected in actual operation [4,5]. Recent estimates [6] suggest that moving to a new test procedure [7,8] has helped contain the problem at the EU level; however, the differences are still high. EU regulation requires active monitoring of the difference between official and actual emissions at the fleet level. For this purpose, new vehicles sold in the EU are equipped with on-board fuel consumption monitoring systems [9], and new
regulations are being implemented for communicating these values periodically, aiming to achieve maximum fleet coverage [10].

Contrary to laboratory test conditions, real-world driving exposes vehicles to extreme operating conditions such as very high or very low temperatures, intense road gradients, extreme congestion, or payload conditions outside the regular certification boundaries. Such factors need to be considered when analysing the nature and origins of the difference between laboratory real-world fuel consumption. In addition, it is crucial to address both vehicle CO₂ emissions and the energy needed to propel the vehicles. This last aspect becomes evident when considering the most prominent technologies for transport decarbonization, i.e., electrified vehicles, such as battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, or fuel cell vehicles. Energy consumption directly impacts well-to-tank emissions and vehicle range. The first may result in high CO₂ emissions in countries where primary energy is produced from carbon-intensive fossil fuels [11,12]. Range reductions may hamper the technology uptake as long as the refuelling network remains undeveloped [13].

Driving style, trip duration and distance, ambient conditions, road morphology, and traffic all affect the energy consumption of a vehicle and its CO₂ emissions and range [14–17]. A detailed study demonstrated the impact of different factors on the pollutant and CO₂ emissions of conventional light and heavy-duty vehicles [18]. In certain cases, electrified vehicles may even suffer more from extreme operating conditions, resulting in increased CO₂ emissions if the electricity used for battery charging originates from the combustion of fossil fuels. A study found a 50% reduction at −20 °C and 30% reduction at 40 °C ambient temperature [19]. For similar variation temperature ranges, the impact on CO₂ emissions of a conventional vehicle was reported to be much lower, ranging between 4 and 15% [14]. Similarly, road gradient may significantly contribute to the energy consumption, particularly when combined with congested or dynamic drive conditions [20] where the potential energy stored in the vehicle during uphill driving cannot be extensively recuperated during downhill driving. Several recent studies focus on factors such as ambient wind [21], road grade [22–24], or combinations thereof [25,26]. The studies of effect of various parameters on CO₂ emissions are done in the laboratory with type-approval or real world cycles [27]. Recently, with the introduction of portable emissions measurement systems (PEMS), actual on-road emissions under urban, rural, or motorway conditions are available [28,29]. Such experimental campaigns are costly and time consuming, and consequently, developing detailed simulation models either for emissions projections, transport systems optimization, or policy design is important [30,31].

Most models use speed, acceleration, and vehicle specific power (VSP) [32–39]. Correlations between driving style, aggressivity, or eco-driving to tailpipe emissions or fuel consumption have also been reported [40–42]. In previous studies [14,43], we have explored the impact of various factors on the fuel consumption gap, highlighting the importance of driving dynamics and route profile, ambient conditions and weather, and vehicle operating configuration. All of the latter directly influence resistances and energy consumption, resulting in varying fuel consumption. One of the main findings was the lack of up-to-date data relevant to EU vehicles reported over standardised and non-standardised test conditions. To this end, the present study provides an update on the influence of extreme ambient temperatures and road gradients on modern gasoline vehicle energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. In this study, a Euro 6d-temp gasoline vehicle is assessed on the road and in the laboratory with various cycles simulating “normal driving”, congested traffic, uphill and towing up to 85% of both the trailer and the vehicle payloads at a temperature range of −30 °C to 50 °C. In a previous thorough review [14], a gap in the specific type of tests and literature data had been identified. Despite the fact that the real-world vehicle CO₂ emissions performance concerns several scientists, few studies had been performed for assessing such a performance at extreme conditions. According to our knowledge, this is the first study to cover a so broad range of temperature and driving conditions, going well beyond the boundaries of certification cycles and real driving emissions test procedures. Furthermore, simulations quantify the contribution and importance of each
parameter across a comprehensive range of combinations. Scientists and researchers working on (i) real-world CO₂ emissions of vehicles, (ii) development of new standards for measuring real-world emissions as part of Real Driving Emissions or similar protocols, and (iii) modellers dealing with real-world emissions monitoring and inventorying will find instrumental evidence and quantified results in the present publication.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Experimental Setup, Vehicle, Cycles

The tests took place in the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) vehicle emissions laboratory (VELA 8). For all tests conducted, regulated gaseous emissions were measured in the full dilution tunnel in real-time with an AMA i60 bench (AVL, Graz, Austria). Details can be found in a companion paper that assessed the particle emissions of the vehicle [44]. Here the necessary information for the understanding of this paper will be repeated.

A Euro 6d-Temp-Evap-ISC 2019 model-year passenger car was tested with 24,130 km on the odometer. It had a 135 kW four-cylinder, in-line 2.0 L direct-injection gasoline engine, with a close-coupled three-way catalyst (TWC) and an underfloor uncoated gasoline particle filter (GPF) as aftertreatment devices. The fuel was market gasoline (E10). The vehicle air conditioning (A/C) system was on at 21.5 °C for all tests.

Initially, the vehicle was driven on the road with two different routes according to type 1A type approval on-road procedure (RDE road) with portable emissions measurement system (PEMS) (MOVE from AVL). These tests will be called RDE road 1 and 2, respectively (Table 1). Other RDE-like cycles were driven on the chassis dynamometer. One of them was a one-hour duration test with urban (timeshare 53%), rural (28%), and motorway conditions (19%) and road slope (range −9.6% to 9.2%) (called RDE short). The other one was a two-hour cycle recreating the most dynamic drive possible within the RDE boundaries with 90% payload, including road slope (range −8.1% to 6.5%). The urban/rural/motorway timeshares were 66%/20%/15% (called RDE boundary).

Some other cycles driven on the chassis dynamometer (Table 1) included the urban traffic TfL (Transport for London urban interpeak) and the motorway with frequent and sharp accelerations BAB 130 (Bundesautobahn, Federal highway). A cycle simulating uphill driving towing trailer was driven twice: (i) uphill driving with a 5% constant slope, while towing an 800 kg trailer (uphill tow 35%) (ii) uphill driving with a 5% constant slope, car loaded to 85% payload, and towing a 1700 kg trailer (85% of max trailer weight) (uphill tow 85%). Finally, the Type 1 type approval cycle WLTC (worldwide harmonized light vehicles test cycle) was tested. As urban part, the low and medium phases were considered as in the RDE regulation, while as motorway part the extra high phase.

The road load coefficients declared on the CoC (Certificate of Conformity) of the vehicle were used to conduct the road load derivation on the chassis dynamometer for the WLTC. For the rest laboratory cycles, the coefficients were adjusted depending on the simulated conditions (e.g., slope, extra weight etc.).

The TfL, BAB, and RDE short cycles were run at ambient temperatures of −30, −10, −7 °C, 5, 23, and 50 °C to investigate the effect of temperature in various cycles. The challenging (high fuel consumption and CO₂) cycles RDE boundary and the uphill cycles were driven only at −7 °C and/or −10 °C as these are the most challenging temperatures at or slightly above the RDE limit in the EU regulation 2017/1151. The WLTC was run as required in the regulation at 23 °C. The ambient temperature of the on-road tests was 17–20 °C. The −30 °C and 50 °C temperatures were selected because these temperatures are far from the conditions at which the vehicle is calibrated.

The WLTC was conducted twice with the difference between the two cycles <0.5 g/km (<0.2%). The rest cycles were conducted only once, and thus we have no variability of the results; nevertheless, it should be small in the order of 1 g/km for the cycles in the laboratory. The on-road tests have higher variability because they cannot be identical. We expect a 5% variability.
Table 1. Characteristics of the complete cycles conducted on the chassis dynamometer except RDE Road 1 and Road 2.

|                     | Complete | WLTC   | RDE Short | RDE Boundary | RDE Road 1 | RDE Road 2 |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| **Trip characteristics** |          |        |           |              |            |            |
| Duration (s)        | 1800     | 3600   | 7088      | 6812         | 6630       |            |
| Distance (km)       | 23       | 50     | 100       | 96.4         | 99.0       |            |
| Mean speed (km/h)   | 46.5     | 49.5   | 50.9      | 50.9         | 53.7       |            |
| Max speed (km/h)    | 131      | 120    | 136       | 149.6        | 135.2      |            |
| Cold start          | Yes      | Yes    | Yes       | Yes          | Yes        | Yes        |
| Temperatures \(^1\) (°C) | 23       | all    | \(-10\)°C | all          | 20         | 17         |
| **Test mass**       | Inertia (kg) | 1817 | 1817 | 2150 | 1930 | 1930 |
| **Road load coefficients** \(^2\) | F0 (N) | 221 | 221 | 253 | - | - |
|                       | F1 (N/(km/h)) | -0.224 | -0.224 | -0.224 | - | - |
|                       | F2 (N/(km/h\(^2\)) | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | - | - |
| **Slope range**     | No       | -9.6 to 9.2% | -8.1 to 6.5% | -7.3 to 9.2% | -9.8 to 10.6% |           |

\(^1\) All refers to \(-30, -10, 5, 23, \) and 50 °C. \(^2\) The road-load coefficients (F0–F2) correspond to the road coefficients. The RDE road mass includes the PEMS, the driver, and the co-pilot.

2.2. Vehicle Simulation

Vehicle simulations were performed with CO\(_2\)MPAS model, a vehicle simulator developed for vehicle certification purposes in the EU [45]. It incorporates vehicle technical specifications and recordings from a test (mainly OBD signals) to calibrate different vehicle components such as the gearbox, electric system, and engine efficiency models. It can predict fuel consumption over different conditions using limited input, such as the velocity profile, road gradient, vehicle condition, and others. Studies have assessed its capacity, proving its accuracy in simulating both laboratory [45] and on-road tests [46].

For the simulation, the laboratory tests, the roadload coefficients, the test masses, and the road gradient applied by the dyno were used as inputs in the tool (see Tables 1–3). For the on-road tests, the vehicle mass used was the actual mass, with the addition of a mass of 150 kg to account for the two passengers, plus 120 kg, to account for the PEMS instrumentation. The roadload coefficients used were those declared by the manufacturers. The F0 was normalized to the on-road test mass. Auxiliary losses of 300 W were applied to all the tests simulated to account for electric auxiliaries. For the on-road tests, the value increased to 450 W to account for the additional steering-pump losses.

Table 2. Characteristics of the urban cycles (TfL, uphill) and the urban parts of the RDE tests and the WLTC (low and medium phases). All tests conducted on the chassis dynamometer except RDE Road 1 and 2 which were done on the road.

| Urban     | WLTC  | TfL    | Uphill 35% | Uphill 85% | RDE Short | RDE Boundary | RDE Road 1 | RDE Road 2 |
|-----------|-------|--------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Duration (s) | 1022  | 2310   | 1110       | 1110       | 1850      | 4540         | 4478       | 4179       |
| Distance (km) | 7.9   | 8.9    | 9.2        | 9.2        | 12.7      | 38.0         | 35.8       | 34.8       |
| Mean speed (km/h) | 27.6  | 14.0   | 29.3       | 29.1       | 24.7      | 30.1         | 28.8       | 30.0       |
| 95th v \times a (m\(^2\)/s\(^3\)) \(^1\) | 10.9  | 7.5    | 8.7        | 8.5        | 10.1      | 18.7         | 8.8        | 9.9        |
| Cold start   | Yes   | Yes    | Yes        | Yes        | Yes       | Yes          | Yes        | Yes        |
| Temperatures \(^2\) (°C) | 23 °C | All    | \(-10\)°C | \(-7\)°C | all       | \(-10\)°C  | 20         | 17         |
| Inertia (kg) | 1817  | 1817   | 2617       | 3570       | 1817      | 2150         | 1930       | 1930       |
| F0 (N) \(^3\) | 221   | 221    | 1592       | 2172       | 221       | 253          | -          | -          |
| F1 (N/(km/h)) | -0.224 | -0.224 | -0.224     | -0.224     | -0.224    | -0.224       | -          | -          |
| F2 (N/(km/h\(^2\)) | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | 0.03147    | 0.03147    | 0.03147   | 0.03147      | -          | -          |

\(^1\) The limit is 0.136 v + 14.44, where v is the mean speed. \(^2\) All refer to \(-30, -10, 5, 23, \) and 50 °C. \(^3\) The road-load coefficients (F0–F2) correspond to the road coefficients. The RDE road mass includes the PEMS, the driver and the co-pilot.
Table 3. Characteristics of the motorway cycle (BAB), the extra-high part of WLTC and the motorway parts of the RDE cycles. All tests conducted on the chassis dynamometer except RDE Road 1 and 2 which were done on the road.

| Motorway | WLTC | BAB | RDE Short | RDE Boundary | RDE Road 1 | RDE Road 2 |
|----------|------|-----|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Duration (s) | 323 | 800 | 700 | 1091 | 881 | 1054 |
| Distance (km) | 8.3 | 25 | 19.1 | 32.2 | 29.0 | 34.2 |
| Mean speed (km/h) | 94.0 | 112.7 | 98.5 | 106.3 | 118.4 | 116.8 |
| Max speed (km/h) | 131.3 | 130 | 121 | 138 | 148.8 | 135.2 |
| 95th v * a (m²/s³)¹ | 15.1 | 43.5 | 13.7 | 26.7 | 24.9 | 21.5 |
| Cold start | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Temperatures (°C) | 23 | all | all | −10 °C | 20 | 17 |
| Inertia (kg) | 1817 | 1817 | 1817 | 2150 | 1930 | 1930 |
| F0 (N)³ | 221 | 221 | 221 | 253 | - | - |
| F1 (N/(km/h)) | -0.224 | -0.224 | -0.224 | -0.224 | -0.224 | - |
| F2 (N/(km/h)²) | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | 0.03147 | - | - |
| Slope range (%) | No | No | −5.1 to 6.4% | −5.0 to 5.3% | −6.6 to 6.2% | −7.2 to 5.8% |

¹ The limit is 0.0742 v + 18.966, where v is the mean speed. ² All refer to −30, −10, 5, 23, and 50 °C. ³ The road-load coefficients (F0–F2) correspond to the road coefficients. The RDE road mass includes the PEMS, the driver, and the co-pilot.

The model was used for the first time to simulate extreme operating conditions, so the following additional adaptations were introduced or expanded: lower torque converter efficiency at lower temperatures, start and stop functionality, A/C consumption at high temperatures, different engine combustion strategies at high loads and temperatures >40 °C. None of the adaptations were made to be cycle or condition-specific, but they were introduced to capture specific underlying behaviours that were not previously modelled.

The vehicle tested was automatic with a torque converter. The torque converter components rotate inside a housing filled with fluid; therefore, its efficiency is impacted by its viscosity [47] with the latter depending on the operation temperature [48]. Literature sources show a trend of oil viscosity versus oil temperature, stabilizing after 40 °C [49]. To capture this behaviour, an additional efficiency loss was attributed as a function of the gearbox temperature that CO₂MPAS calculates; the efficiency decrease was assumed to follow the increase of oil viscosity, in a reversely proportional way, starting with a 20% extra efficiency loss in −40 °C, and declining to 0% in 40 °C.

The vehicle’s start-and-stop functionality did not operate over the tests in the extreme ambient temperatures (both cold and hot). This behaviour over warm conditions could be explained by the high auxiliary power demand for cabin cooling. In cold conditions, warm-up strategy probably forces the deactivation of start and stop to quickly achieve catalyst light off conditions. This behaviour has a significant impact when the share of vehicle stop in the cycle is not negligible. For example, 25% of TfL cycle time the vehicle was stopped, especially in the first phase of the cycle. The vehicle did not enter the start and stop mode if the driver did not manually put the vehicle in neutral gear, so braking was the only way from keeping the vehicle from moving forward. This is an additional consumption for automatic transmission vehicles during the stop period without start and stop activated. To address both issues, the maximum allowed warm-up duration was extended to span over the entire cycle duration. Not putting neutral gear resulted in higher engine loads due to torque converter losses, as explained above. The OBD engine load signal was overlapped to the simulated engine power output during the stop phases to capture the additional load introduced by the torque converter. The difference was translated to 1 kW of additional losses in stop phases.

A simple model was created based on literature to capture the additional power demand for cooling. For simplicity, in the present study, the air-conditioning (A/C) load was assumed to be a linear function only in function of the average ambient temperature (test cell or environment). The assumptions were that up to 19 °C there was no need for A/C cooling; at 23 °C, the power consumption was 600 W, and the maximum electric power consumption of the A/C was 2.2 kW. The values of 600 W and 2.2 kW were based
on the experimental data and theoretical estimations in the literature [50–53]. In particular, the high cut off point corresponds to high cooling loads that could reach up to 6–7 kW to allow quick cooling of the passenger cabin [54]; considering a coefficient of performance (COP) of 2.5, such cooling load translates to 3 kW of compressor load.

A fuel enrichment of 20% was assumed for ambient temperatures above 40 °C and engine loads above 50%. The resulting combustion efficiency reduction from the fuel enrichment and very low lambda values was based on experimental data that showed very high CO spikes at high loads over all tested high-temperature cycles [55]. With high loads and exhaust gas temperatures, typically, fuel enrichment takes place to protect the components from overheating; the fuel enrichment increases fuel consumption and emissions. Furthermore, it could be that the 50 °C conditions had not been optimized or fully calibrated as they rarely occur in the EU. Some additional losses could be explained by the continuous operation of the engine cooling system.

After validation of the simulation tool with the experimental data, it was used to assess the influence of temperature, vehicle mass, and road slope on the results. Details will be given in the relevant sections. The validation of the simulation model versus the experimental data can be found in the Appendix A.

2.3. Simulation Equations

The fuel energy [kWh] is calculated from the consumed fuel and the lower heating value (LHV) and then divided as follows:

\[ \text{Fuel energy} = \text{Engine losses} + \text{Engine out} \]

\[ \text{Engine out} = \text{Cycle demand} + \text{Aux} + A/C + \text{Rest} \]

\[ \text{Rest} = \text{Gear box} + \text{Clutch} + \text{Alternator} \]

\[ \text{Cycle demand} = \text{Rolling Resist.} + \text{Aerodynamic Resist.} + \text{Inertia} + \text{Slope} \]

where the cycle demand work [kWh] is calculated as follows:

\[ \text{Cycle demand} = \sum P_{i,+}/3600 \]

\[ P_i = F_i \frac{v_i 0.001}{3.6} \]

\[ F_i = F_{0R_{RR}} \cos \theta + F_{2R_d} \frac{v_i^2}{3600} + (TM + m_r) a_i + TM g \sin \theta \]

where \( P_{i,+} \) [kW] is the positive motive power; \( F_i \) [N] is the motive force; \( F_{0R_{RR}} \) [N] and \( F_{2R_d} \) [N/(km/h)^2] are the tyre rolling resistance loss and aerodynamic drag, respectively; \( v \) [km/h] is the vehicle speed; \( TM \) [kg] is the test mass of the vehicle; \( m_r \) [kg] is the rotational mass (approximately 3% of TM); \( \theta \) is the road grade (fractional); and \( a \) [m/s^2] is the acceleration.

The terms \( F_{0R_{RR}} \) and \( F_{2R_d} \) have been produced using the manufacturer declared road load coefficients (F0, F1, F2) in the Certificate of Conformity. The F0–F2 are based on the European Type approval procedure for the road load coefficient derivation through physical coast down tests (Regulation (EU) 2017/1151). F1 is set to a desired value, and then, F0 and F2 are readjusted by applying a new quadratic fitting curve with only F0(A) and F2(C) coefficients to each set of road loads [56]. To attribute the vehicle deceleration forces to the tyre rolling resistance and aerodynamic losses, a similar procedure was used setting F1 to 0. The F0(A) and F2(C) are then directly assigned to \( F_{0R_{RR}} \) and \( F_{2R_d} \), respectively. More details about the calculation steps are presented in [57]. This procedure allows to attribute the cycle energy demand [kWh] to physical quantities (tyre rolling resistance, aerodynamics, inertia, and slope). In contrast, the declared F1 coefficient was negative, and this would result to artificial negative forces.
The distance related cycle energy $\text{DrCE} \ [\text{kJ/m}]$ [58] is calculated from the following equation and is practically the cycle demand divided by distance.

$$\text{DrCE} = \sum P_{i,+} / \sum v_i$$

(8)

3. Results

3.1. Real Time Example

Figure 1a gives, as an example, the cumulative CO$_2$ emissions for the TfL (Transport for London) and BAB (Bundesautobahn, Federal highway) cycles for various ambient temperatures. In general, two sets of curves can be seen, the $-10 \degree \text{C}$ to $23 \degree \text{C}$ curves and the $-30 \degree \text{C}$ and $50 \degree \text{C}$ curves, which are higher.

![Figure 1a](image1a.png)

Figure 1a: Cumulative CO$_2$ emissions for the TfL and BAB cycles at different ambient temperatures ($-30 \degree \text{C}$ to $50 \degree \text{C}$).

Figure 1b plots the cabin temperature, measured with a thermocouple. At the extreme temperatures of $-30 \degree \text{C}$ and $50 \degree \text{C}$, there is a 4$\degree$ temperature difference between set ambient (cell) temperature and inside the cabin temperature. For the remaining temperatures, the difference is smaller (within 2$\degree$). The temperature approaches the set point of $21.5 \degree \text{C}$ approximately at 1000 s for positive ambient temperatures, but more than 2000 s at negative ambient temperatures.

![Figure 1b](image1b.png)

Figure 1b: Cabin temperature at different ambient temperatures ($-30 \degree \text{C}$ to $50 \degree \text{C}$).

Figure 2a shows the cumulative CO$_2$ emissions of various urban cycles at $-10 \degree \text{C}$ and $-7 \degree \text{C}$. It should be recalled (Table 2) that the urban TfL is a 8.9 km long; the urban part of the RDE short is 12.7 km, while the dynamic RDE boundary and the actual RDE on-road cycles are around 36 km long. The uphill cycles towing a trailer are 9 km long.
The time that is needed to reach approximately 9 km is also shown. It is around 1100 s for the uphill and RDE boundary cycles, but 2300 s for the TfL cycle. For the same time and distance (e.g., 1100 s), the higher power demand cycles (e.g., driving uphill towing a trolley 85% of the payload) have higher CO₂ emissions. On the other hand, a specific amount of CO₂ (e.g., 2500 g) can be reached at different times (from 400 s to 2300 s).

Figure 2b shows the cumulative CO₂ emissions of the previous cycles in function of the cumulative positive power. The asterisks indicate a distance of 9 km. The urban part for the RDE boundary continues until 45.7 kW. After that TfL, the motorway cycle BAB continues.

**Figure 2.** Various cycles at −7 °C and −10 °C. Asterisk indicates the point at which a distance of approximately 9 km is covered (a) in function of time and (b) in function of cumulative positive power.

### 3.2. Urban and Motorway Emissions

Figure 3 presents the CO₂ emissions of the vehicle for the urban and motorway cycles. Starting with CO₂ of urban cycles (Figure 3a), for the same cycle (e.g., RDE short or TfL), the emissions in function of the ambient temperature showed a bathtub-like curve. They were the lowest in the 5 °C to 23 °C range and increased at lower and higher ambient temperatures. The percentages give the CO₂ increase compared to the 23 °C case, for cycles that different ambient temperature tests were available (TfL and RDE short). For example, at 50 °C, the CO₂ was 43% higher compared to the 23 °C test for the TfL and +37% for the RDE short. The higher emission at low and high temperatures reflects the additional fuel consumption due to the use of the air-conditioning (A/C) system, while
for the uphill cycles, additionally, the higher power demands due to the road grade and towing of the trailer. It should be mentioned that the road load coefficient F2 (a proxy for the airdrag coefficient) that was used with the chassis dynamometer was not corrected for the differences of air density at different temperatures. The effect should be negligible for the urban cycles.

For the same temperature (e.g., −10 °C and −7 °C) the highest values were noted for the uphill cycles towing a trailer, which required high engine power. Note that the uphill cycle with 85% towing (big symbol) had higher emissions than the 35% towing, even though the temperature was 3 degrees higher. The dynamic cycle RDE boundary and the congested traffic cycle TfL followed. RDE short had the lowest values. A similar trend was noted at 23 °C, but the cycles were more similar in terms of power demand (RDE road, RDE short).

Figure 3b summarises the motorway results. The differences were much smaller, within experimental uncertainties at the −30 °C to 23 °C temperature range. It should be mentioned though that the road load coefficients were not increased at lower temperatures (10% at −7 °C) as typically required in the regulations, and thus, the presented CO2 emissions at lower temperatures are underestimated. At 50 °C, there was a significant (around 15%) increase of the CO2.

![Figure 3. CO2 emissions of in function of ambient temperature: (a) urban cycles (TfL, uphill) or urban parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC low and medium phases); (b) motorway cycle (BAB) or motorway parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC extra high phase).](image)

Figure 4 presents the correlation of CO2 with the mean speed for the urban cycles and the motorway cycles (Figure 4b). For urban cycles (Figure 4a), the emissions increase as the mean cycle speed decreases. However, there is still a temperature effect, as discussed previously. Most importantly there are a few points that do not follow the trendline: the uphill and dynamic cycles. For the motorway cycles (Figure 4b), there is no clear trend (note also the much smaller y-axis range). For the motorway cycles, the mean speed was between 95 km/h and 120 km/h. For the same ambient temperature, higher mean speed had slightly higher CO2 values (around +20 g/km), as expected due to the rapid increase in aerodynamic losses. With the exception of the 50°C tests, the rest results (−10 °C to 23 °C) for the same cycle (and mean speed) varied within a range of 10–20 g/km. The on-road tests, which had a mean speed close to 120 km/h had 20–30 g/km lower CO2 emissions than the BAB cycles. These results indicate an additional strong dependence on cycle dynamicity (e.g., aggressiveness of the cycle).
Figure 4. CO₂ emissions in function of mean speed: (a) urban cycles (TfL, uphill) or urban parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC low and medium phases); (b) motorway cycle (BAB) or motorway parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC extra high phase). The ambient temperature of each test is indicated next to each test.

Figure 5 presents the correlation of CO₂ with the 95th percentile of speed times acceleration (v × a). The left panel present the urban cycles, while the right panel the motorway cycles. This indicator is used in the RDE regulation to prevent extremely dynamic driving, that might have an impact on the emissions. Quite often, it is used as indicator of the trip dynamics. Figure 5 shows that for different urban cycles, v × a and CO₂ do not have any correlation. One of the reasons is that v × a does not include road gradient, additional payload, or the use of air-conditioning (A/C), which have an impact on CO₂ emissions. For the motorway cycles, for the same ambient temperature (e.g., −10 °C), the correlation is weak.

Figure 5. CO₂ emissions in function of 95th percentile of speed times acceleration (v × a): (a) urban cycles (TfL, uphill) or urban parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC low and medium phases); (b) motorway cycle (BAB) or motorway parts of the rest cycles (RDE short, RDE boundary, RDE road, and WLTC extra high phase). The dashed line presents the approximate limit from the RDE regulation. The ambient temperature of each test is indicated next to each test.
Figure 6a plots the cumulative CO₂ emissions as a function of the positive work at the wheels as calculated from Equation (6), for different cycles and their phases (urban, rural, motorway). There is a linear correlation between the two variables for the different cycles, even though the scatter of some points (e.g., TfL) around the mean is quite large.

Figure 6b plots the CO₂ emissions as a function of the distance related cycle energy (DrCE). Practically it is similar to Figure 6a, dividing every point with the distance of the specific test. However, the correlation does not improve compared to Figure 6a, but slightly gets worse. It should be recalled that the work and DrCE practically reflect the cycle demands (see Equations (5) and (8)), while the CO₂ emissions correspond to the fuel consumed, which depends, in addition to the cycle demands, on auxiliary and air conditioning power demands and the combustion (engine) losses. The contribution of each parameter will be analysed in the Discussions section.

Figure 7. CO₂ emissions in function of the distance related cycle energy (DrCE). Solid symbols are the urban cycles; open symbols are the rural cycles; symbols with frame are the motorway cycles. For RDE short, BAB, and TfL, there are five points for the five tested temperatures (−30 °C to 50 °C). The ambient temperatures of the tests that are further away from the rest points are indicated in the graphs.

4. Discussion

This study assessed the CO₂ emissions of a Euro 6d-temp gasoline vehicle with TWC and GPF, focusing on extreme temperatures and driving conditions. The major contribution of this study is the extension to extreme ambient temperatures (−30 °C and 50 °C) and driving conditions (congested traffic, dynamic driving, towing 85% of the max trailer load). In many cases, the correlation of CO₂ cycle emissions to various parameters (e.g., average speed [38,39], speed times acceleration [59]) was weak in agreement with other researchers. To better understand the results, simulations were performed to quantify the contribution of various parameters on energy consumption and CO₂.

4.1. Fuel Energy Shares

Figure 7 presents the relative contribution of various parameters to the final energy consumption (fuel energy), based on the simulation tool. Each cycle at each temperature is presented separately. Figure 7a plots the motorway cycle BAB or the motorway parts of the other cycles. The lost energy is 69–75%, with the highest values at the 50 °C tests. This has to do with the more frequent fuel enrichments under these conditions. The contribution of rolling resistance losses (F₀R₀) was on average 7% and of aerodynamic resistance (F₂R₂) 12%. The slope contribution was 8% for the RDE short and 2% for the RDE road. BAB had no slope. The contribution of A/C was slightly higher than 2% for the 50 °C tests and half (around 1%) for the 23 °C tests. The reason is that the air-conditioning load was minimum.
below 20 °C and was increasing with higher ambient temperatures. The rest losses were 1.4–4.1% (higher for low ambient temperatures).

Figure 7b plots the urban cycles or the urban parts of the RDE cycles. The lost energy is 70–84%, with the highest values in the low ambient temperature tests, due to the higher contribution of cold start (lower efficiency in the gearbox, torque converter, extended warm up phase). The TfL had also higher losses than the rest cycles. The urban cycles’ relative energy loss was higher than the motorway cycles (Figure 7a). In urban cycles, cold start was the contributing factor, while in motorway cycles, the fuel enrichment. For this reason, the trend was the opposite: urban cycles had higher lost energy with decreasing temperature, while motorway cycles, high ambient temperature. The contribution of rolling resistance losses (F0RR) was on average 3.4% and of aerodynamic resistance (F2Rd) 0.6% (due to the low speeds). The contribution of A/C was 5–7% for the 50 °C tests. For the uphill tests, the contribution of slope was around 15%, it being the dominant source of energy consumption. For the rest cycles the contribution was much smaller (2% for RDE sort, 4.5% for RDE road).

![Fuel energy share of various parameters: (a) motorway cycles; (b) urban cycles.](image)

The indicative engine efficiency, defined as the ratio of the positive engine work to the fuel energy content, can be calculated from the data above as one minus the engine losses. It was on average about 30% for the motorway cycles, while for the urban cycles, on average, 23% exhibited high cycle dependency. The complete cycles had an efficiency ranging from 24% to 30%, with an average of 27%. Analysing the chassis dyno test results, we see that the average indicative vehicle efficiency of the different cycles, i.e., the ratio between the
total energy at the wheel and the total fuel energy content, is of the order of 25%, a value relatively high compared to past literature values. This positive finding reflects an overall improvement of vehicle and powertrain efficiency. Modelling results for WLTP indicate similar vehicle efficiency (26%) and average engine efficiency of approximately 31%. A 3–5% difference between indicative vehicle and engine efficiencies can be explained by the additional work provided by the engine for auxiliaries (e.g., A/C), which is not considered when calculating vehicle-related values.

4.2. Sensitivity Analysis

Figure 8a presents the CO2 sensitivity to ambient temperature for various cycles, keeping the rest parameters the same (as described in the experimental part). The 23 °C were considered the basis in the comparison. There is a significant increase (10% at 35 °C and 30% at 45 °C) due to the A/C use and the enrichment at high loads. The scatter of the differences at a specific temperature (e.g., 27–35% at 45 °C) has to do with the speed profile and duration of the cycles. At lower temperatures, there is an increase in CO2 emissions (between 5 and 20% at −25 °C), mainly due to the higher contribution of cold start. Studies have reported a 25% increase of CO2 from 23 °C to −7 °C in the urban part of the type approval cycle (NEDC), while for the complete cycle the effect was 17% [60]. Another study with Euro 6 vehicles found changes ranging up to 23% [61].

Many studies have found higher emissions due to lower ambient temperatures [62]. The main reason of higher emissions is high viscosity and friction; but excess fuelling contributes as well [63]. A study found +100 to +400 g CO2 when the temperature decreased from 23 °C to −20 °C [64]. In our tests, an increase of 30–44% (78–140 g/km CO2) was measured when the ambient temperature changed from 23 °C to −30 °C, even though the road load coefficients remained the same.

At high temperatures, in addition to the fuel enrichment, the energy consumption from the A/C is significant. In one study, switching on the A/C resulted on average +40 g/km (12%) extra CO2 emissions [65]. Furthermore, the higher the ambient air temperature, the higher the CO2 emissions were. Most studies in the literature showed a 15–25% increase with the use of A/C [66]. A dedicated study found +30 g/km or +10% as the contribution of A/C when the ambient temperature was 37°C instead of 23°C in an urban cycle [65]. That was the average of five cars; the maximum increase was +82.7 g/km (+26%). In another study, the increase from A/C use was 90% while idle, and it decreased from 35% to 9% at constant speed as speed increased [51]. An effect of up to 28% has also been shown for hybrid vehicles [67].

Figure 8. Simulation results of the effect of various parameters on CO2 emissions. The base is the test at 23°C. (a) Ambient temperature; (b) vehicle total mass.
Figure 8b plots the effect of additional or less mass on the CO₂. The effect is linear with a slope of 3% every 100 kg. This increase is in line with the findings of another simulation based study [68,69]. Several studies exist in the literature about the impact of the additional mass in CO₂. One study reports less impact [70] and others higher. For example, a 230 kg increase (+17%) resulted in 10–20% higher CO₂ emissions [71]. In a review paper, 5–7% increase of the CO₂ for every 100 kg increase of the vehicle mass was found [66].

Figure 9a summarizes the simulation results modifying the original slope by up to ±70% for the RDE short cycle with slope simulated by the dyno or the actual on-road tests RDE road. These two RDE cycles had a natural variable positive and negative slope over the trip, while the TlL and WLTC had no slope. For the last two cycles, a constant slope was added or subtracted for the simulations (±2%) (Figure 9b). A +50% for the RDE means 50% increase of the actual positive slope, e.g., 5% slope would be 7.5%, but a −5% slope in the same trip would be −7.5%. A −50% for the RDE means 50% decrease of the actual positive slope, e.g., 5% slope would be 2.5%, but a −5% slope in the same trip would be −2.5%.

The effect on the RDE (short and road) cycles was ±10% (Figure 9a), while for the rest cycles with a fixed slope addition the effect was up to ±30%. For the limited variations of road gradient simulated here, the effect on CO₂ emissions was almost linear. The literature suggests a 5–9% increase for a 1–1.5% slope [14], and 40–100% for a 5% slope [20,72,73].

![Figure 9](image-url)

**Figure 9.** Effect of road slope on CO₂ emissions based on the simulation tool. (a) Percentage change of actual road slope; (b) addition of slope.

Simulations of the RDE cycles were performed across the full range of ambient temperature (as in Figure 8a) and for changes of the slope up to ±70% (as in Figure 9a). The different slopes resulted in a different average positive motive power across the trips. Based on these results, we introduce in Figure 10 a 3-dimension presentation of the simulated CO₂ percentage difference from the 23 °C WLTC value as a function of the ambient temperature and the change of the mean positive power at the wheel (WLTC taken as reference). Only the RDE cycles performed in the laboratory and on road were simulated because they had a realistic elevation pattern. Thus, Figure 10 is a combination of Figures 8a and 9a but within the entire temperature and slope simulated range.

RDE short (laboratory) and RDE road 1 (on-road) with the original slope had on average 25% higher positive motive power than on WLTC test. RDE road 2 (test on-road) had an average difference of 35% due to its trip characteristics. Smaller differences (but still positive) were simulated with the “negative” slope. Overall, the difference of the positive motive power from WLTC ranged from 5 to 60% and maintained a quasi-linear profile. The additional CO₂ increase ranges from 15 to 30% with the additional positive power.

A second order polynomial model was selected to fit the additional CO₂ as a function of the ambient temperature, with its minimum at 14 °C (11–15% depending on the trip)
for the base simulation (use of original slope). The lowest CO₂ difference at 14 °C can be justified due to the reduced needs for cabin heating and cooling and the fact that the official WLTP CO₂ emissions certification value is declared after being corrected for 14 °C conditions. The highest difference in the original slope was seen at the highest ambient temperature (45 °C, 50% average difference from WLTC) caused by the excessive needs for air-conditioning (A/C) and other reasons described previously. In the lowest ambient temperature, the increase was again significant (−25 °C, 22% average difference from WLTC). The message from this figure is that the slope or ambient temperature effects are not only cycle dependent (as it was shown in Figures 8a and 9a), but there is a combined effect (e.g., higher slopes at higher temperatures might need more fuel enrichment). The fit is given in Equation (9). The R² value was 0.813, which implies an acceptable correlation.

\[
\Delta \text{CO}_2 = (c_1 \cdot \Delta P_+ + c_2) \cdot (c_3 \cdot T_{\text{amb}}^2 + c_4 \cdot T_{\text{amb}} + c_5)
\]  

(9)

where \(\Delta \text{CO}_2\) [%] is the CO₂ difference from WLTC (values 0–100), \(\Delta P_+\) [%] is the mean positive motive power difference from WLTC (values 0–100), \(T_{\text{amb}}\) [°C] is the mean ambient temperature. The constants are \(c_1 = 0.0001269\), \(c_2 = 0.003989\), \(c_3 = 2.467\), \(c_4 = -11.74\), and \(c_5 = 1487\).

![Figure 10](image-url)

**Figure 10.** Red points are the simulated RDE trip CO₂ percentage difference from WLTC (ΔCO₂) in function of the mean trip ambient temperature (Tₐₘ₉) and the mean positive motive power percentage difference from WLTC (ΔPₚ) resulted from road slope change. The green points are the experimental data. The blue surface corresponds to the fit of the points: linear on the mean positive power difference, second order on the ambient temperature (Equation (9)).

5. Conclusions

A Euro 6d-Temp gasoline direct injection (GDI) vehicle was tested on the road and in the laboratory with cycles simulating congested urban traffic, uphill driving towing a trailer at 85% of the maximum payload of the car and the trailer, and dynamic driving at ambient temperatures between −30 °C to 50 °C. In urban trips, compared to the baseline at 23 °C, the CO₂ emissions were 9–20% higher at −10 °C, 30–44% higher at −30 °C, and 37–43% higher at 50 °C. Uphill driving with trailer had 2–3 times higher CO₂ emissions. In motorway trips, the CO₂ was higher 13–19% only at the 50 °C ambient temperature. The CO₂ emissions did not show any particular trend in function of trip average speed because the contributions of the ambient temperature and payload were higher. The simulations of the trips with CO₂MPAS were on average within ±5%, with a few exceptions (50 °C and uphill driving with trailer) where the differences were 5–12%. The simulation tool was used to predict the effect of ambient temperature, vehicle mass, and road grade on
the CO₂ emissions. The simulations gave an almost linear and proportional effect of 3.5% every 100 kg increase of the vehicle weight, and a 12–14% increase for every grade of slope. The temperature effect was not linear, but with small uncertainties, an increase of 15 °C or a decrease of 15 °C of the ambient temperature resulted in a 7–15% increase of the CO₂ emissions, with the higher values at traffic and high ambient temperatures.

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**Appendix A**

Figure A1 plots the model error as function of the ambient temperature for various cycles at urban (Figure A1a), motorway (Figure A1b), rural (Figure A1c) parts, and complete trip (Figure A1d). In general, there is a good agreement between experimental and modelled results, giving confidence about the assumptions made. The mean difference is −1.2% (±4.7%) for the urban cycles, 2.1% (±3.8%) for motorway cycles, −1.1% (±3.3%) for rural cycles, and 0.7% (±3.2%) for the complete trips. The higher differences were found for the high temperature (50°C) tests and the uphill cycles. The higher differences for the uphill cycles come from the first 200 s, because the model could not predict accurately the engine coolant temperature. At high ambient temperatures, there is a slight CO₂ underprediction in the urban parts (Figure A1a) and overprediction in the motorway parts (Figure A1b). Still, in RDE short that incorporates a rural part, the model had a good agreement (Figure A1c,d). Overall, the models created to capture the high temperature tests show reasonable error figures, pointing out the need for further improvements in the A/C operation and the fuel enrichments.

![Figure A1](image-url)
Figure A1. Model error at (a) urban cycles (TfL, uphill) or urban parts of other cycles, (b) motorway cycles (BAB) or motorway part of other cycles, (c) rural parts, and (d) complete cycle.

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