

Selection Criteria for Sustainable Fuels for High-Efficiency Spark-Ignition Engines with Examination of their Storage Stability, Impact on Engine Knock, and Fine Particle Emissions

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Team Members and Collaborators

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Drivers for Higher Efficiency in Transportation

- The US still imports as much or more petroleum as during the 1970s energy crisis today it is about 25% of consumption
- This remains a national security issue and a threat to the US economy



And in spite of what some people are saying.....

Anthropogenic carbon emissions are having a dramatic effect on earth's climate



Record low sea ice



Deglaciation



Sea Level Rise

practicalaction.org/climate-changeimage-gallery



Desertification

Goal: better fuels and better vehicles sooner





- What <u>fuel properties</u> maximize engine performance?
- How do <u>engine parameters</u> affect efficiency?
- What <u>fuel /engine combinations</u> are sustainable, affordable, scalable, and compatible?

Factors affecting SI engine efficiency

Engine Knock

- Knock occurs when unburned fuel/air mixture auto-ignites

 Essentially a small explosion in the engine
 - $\,\circ\,$ If severe can damage the engine

 $_{\odot}$ Higher octane number fuel is more resistant to auto-ignition



- Modern engines sense the onset of knock and retard spark timing or limit load
- Spark timing retard (sparking later) reduces peak T and P – avoiding knock
- However this also reduces efficiency
- Engine knock with current fuels limits most high efficiency engine strategies

Octane Index

- Two different octane numbers are measured in engine tests: Research and Motor
 - Different trajectories in P-T space
 - Comparison to reference fuel knock levels
- Pump octane, AKI = (RON + MON)/2 older engines operated between RON and MON



Octane index concept OI = (1-K) * RON + K * MONOI=RON-K * SS = RON - MONFor RON test K=0, for MON test K=1 ➢ OI = AKI K=0.5 For downsized-boosted engines K < 0</p> Physical meaning of K? An empirical parameter that characterizes location of P-T trajectory Defined by engine geometry and operating conditions – not a fuel property

Engine Operating Space Contours are constant fuel consumption, g/kW-hr Lowest fuel consumption at low-speed, high-load Engine Load (IMEP), kPa 뛇 Approximate knock limit for 87 AKI gasoline 2009 GM LNF 2.0L turbocharged direct injection gasoline engine NREL, unpublished data Speed, rpm

Factors limiting engine efficiency

Strategies to improve efficiency



Lowers temperature, increasing knock resistance of fuel

Screening of potential SI engine biofuels

McCormick, R.L., Fioroni, G.M., Fouts, L., Christensen, E., Yanowitz, J., Polikarpov, E., Albrecht, K., Gaspar, D.J., Gladden, J., George, A. "Selection Criteria and Screening of Potential Biomass-Derived Streams as Fuel Blendstocks for Advanced Spark-Ignition Engines" *SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr.* <u>10</u>(2):2017, doi:10.4271/2017-01-0868

Co-Optima Initiative Tiered Screening Process



Critical properties for high efficiency SI engines: RON, S, and heat of vaporization (HOV)

Screened over 400 potential bioblendstocks

Criteria

- Pure component
 - T_M < -10°C and 20°C < T_B < 165°C
 - Solubility, corrosivity, toxicity, biodegradability, safe handling
 - 98 RON minimum
- Blend with hydrocarbon blendstock
 - RON>98, S>8
 - RVP not greater than ethanol
 - Distillation, meets gasoline requirements, no greater effect than ethanol
 - Meets oxidation stability in blend

Representative bioblendstocks with desirable LDSI properties:

- Ethanol
- 1-propanol
- Isopropanol
- Isobutanol
- Diisobutylene (mixture of isomers)

High HOV

- Furan mixture (stability)
- Cyclopentanone (stability)
- Bioreformate (aromatics)

Oxidative stability of alkyl furans

- Dimethylfuran and 2-methylfuran oxidize on standard gasoline stability test – and produce large amounts of gum

 ASTM D525: 100°C/690 kPa O₂
 240 min minimum before break
- Mechanism is revealed using density functional theory calculations
- Can be slowed by antioxidant but requires high treat rate for 10 to 30 vol% furanic compound blends
- May preclude economical use as a gasoline blendstock



Furan

Methylfuran



Ethylfuran

Christensen, E., Fioroni, G.M., Kim, S., Fouts, L., Gjersing, E., Paton, R.S., McCormick, R.L. "Experimental and Theoretical Study of Oxidative Stability of Alkylated Furans Used as Gasoline Blend Components" *Fuel* <u>212</u> 576–585 (2018)

Cyclopentanone Oxidation



- Addition of cyclopentanone (CP) to commercial gasoline shows oxidation on the stability test
- However, there is no reaction in isooctane – requires the presence of an olefin
- Current work is focused on understanding the mechanism of this reaction and if it can be prevented

Heat of Vaporization Measurement for Full Boiling Range Gasolines

- Evaporative cooling of the fuel-air charge is a primary advantage of direct injection
 - Increasing the knock resistance of the by the equivalent of 5 ON units
- Heat of vaporization of the fuel is therefore an important property
- Two approaches have been developed:
 - Calculate from detailed hydrocarbon analysis (DHA)
 - \circ Measure by DSC/TGA
- Good agreement between DHA and DSC/TGA

Chupka, G.M., Christensen, E., Fouts, L., Alleman, T.L., Ratcliff, M., McCormick, R.L. "Heat of Vaporization Measurements for Ethanol Blends Up To 50 Volume Percent in Several Hydrocarbon Blendstocks and Implications for Knock in SI Engines" *SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr*. <u>8</u>(2):251-263, 2015, doi:10.4271/2015-01-0763





Instantaneous Heat of Vaporization (iHOV)

- Instantaneous HOV: DSC-derived heat flow (J/s) divided by TGA-derived mass loss rate (g/s)
 - Constant T of 25°C
- FACE A gasoline (1% aromatics)
 - Show flattening of HOV at a high level that is sustained until ethanol evaporates
 - Ethanol paraffin azeotrope?
 - Note spike caused by mismatch in time response of DSC and TGA measurements during rapid transient
- Gasoline with more typical level of aromatics shows different behavior
- Using DSC/TGA/MS to investigate composition of evaporating gas



Biofuel Screening Summary

- Based on fuel properties a limited number of fuels were selected from over 400 proposed
- Poor oxidation stability was observed for alkyl furans and cyclopentanone
 - QM simulations revealed the mechanism of alkyl furan instability, additional research is required to resolve this issue
 - Cyclopentanone oxidation appears to require the presence of olefin, mechanism is being investigated now
- New methods developed for full boiling range HOV measurement, ongoing research on iHOV

HOV effect on engine knock

Ratcliff, M., Burton, J., Sindler, P., Fouts, L., Fioroni, G.M., McCormick, R.L. "Effects of Heat of Vaporization and Octane Sensitivity on Knock-Limited Spark Ignition Engine Performance" SAE Tech Pap 2018-01-0218. Sluder, C.S., Szybist, J.P., Ratliff, M., McCormick, R.L., Zigler, B.T. "Exploring the Relationship between Fuel Heat-of-Vaporization and Sensitivity" *SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr.* <u>9</u>(1):80-90, 2016, doi:10.4271/2016-01-0836.

Motivation and background

- Evaporative cooling clearly produces increased fuel knock resistance in DI engines
 - For hydrocarbon fuel, increases effective ON by 5 units, allowing CR to be increased by 1 unit
- Studies also show additional cooling for high HOV ethanol blends
- Yet there are conflicting results on whether this results in additional increase in knock resistance
 - Octane sensitivity and HOV are covariant in some studies
 - Possibly because evaporative cooling is captured in the RON measurement?

Engine Test Platform

GM LNF Engine Modified to Single Cylinder

- Direct injection with alternate upstream injector
- 75-hp AC dynamometer
- Independent control of fuel injection timing, spark timing, fuel pressure, etc.
- Combustion analysis (high speed cylinder pressure data)
- Critical flow orifice air system
- High-pressure fuel cart
- Emission measurement
 - CAI raw regulated emissions bench
 - TSI Fast Mobility Particle Sizer (FMPS) w/ Dekati diluter & thermodenuder for PN
 - AVL Micro-soot sensor and dilution system for PM mass

All experiments at 1500 RPM

Start of injection at -280° aTDC, based on prior NREL study showing this minimized PN, a likely indicator of low fuel impingement (which can change K)





Fuel Matrix

Fuel	RON	S	HOV (kJ/kg)	Oxygenate (vol%)	Oxygen (wt%)
Isooctane	100	0	303	0	0
TSF99.8	100.4	11.3	390	0	0
E20 + TRF88 (E20)	101.1	9.4	472	19.7	7.4
E40-TRF69 (E40)	99.2	12.2	595	39.4	14.0

- Fuels all nominally RON = 100
- Highs S fuels nominally S = 11, however some variation
- HOV ranges from 300 to 600 kJ/kg
- Knock limited load measured at a range of intake air temperatures for both direct injection and upstream fuel injection

Intake Valve Closing Temperature

• Intake valve closing temperature:

 $T_{IVC} = PV/nR$

- Measured cylinder pressure
- Known volume at given crank angle
- Measured air and fuel mass flows
- *T_{IVC}* is how evaporative cooling is captured in P-T simulation
- Fuel-air charge cooling is:

T_{IVC} - T_{INTAKE}

- Greater cooling at higher T_{INTAKE}
- Significant additional cooling estimated for E20 vs E0, but only slightly more for E40



P-T Trajectories

- P-T trajectories generated from:
 - Measured cylinder pressure
 - Known volume at given crank angle
 - Intake valve closing temperature, $T_{IVC} = PV/nR$

$$T = \left(\frac{T_{IVC}}{P_{IVC} VIVC}\right) P V$$

- P-T trajectories for all IAT sweep experiments were beyond RON
 - For UI, all fuels have the same trajectory no HOV effect
 - For DI, fuels with higher HOV are further "beyond RON"
 - Even though T_{IVC} was not much lower for E40
- Evaporative cooling reduces K in DI engines it is not only a function of engine operating conditions



RON trajectory (Szybist & Splitter, C&F 2017)

Evaporative Cooling on the RON Test

- Kolodziej and Wallner show 'beyond RON' P-T for RON measurements with E30
- For high HOV fuels, the requirement that K=0 for RON measurement is not satisfied
 - HOV effects may appear to be captured in the measurement if K=0 is assumed – when it's not
 - K can be range from -0.2 to -0.4 for E40 to E85 blends



HOV Effect on Knock Limit Key Insights

- K is not a fuel property, but it is affected by the fuel HOV in DI engines and cannot be assumed constant with fuel
- $K \neq 0$ for RON tests with fuels having HOV > HOV_{HYDROCARBON}

Oxygenate effects on particle emissions

Ratcliff, M.A., Burton, J., Sindler, P., Christensen, E., Chupka, G.M., Fouts, L., McCormick, R.L. "Knock Resistance and Fine Particle Emissions for Several Biomass-Derived Oxygenates in a Direct-Injection Spark-Ignition Engine" *SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr*. <u>9</u>(1):59-70, 2016, doi:10.4271/2016-01-0705.

Burke, S., Ratcliff, M., McCormick, R.L., Rhoads, R., Windom, B. "Distillation-based Droplet Modeling of Non-Ideal Oxygenated Gasoline Blends: Investigating the Role of Droplet Evaporation on PM Emissions" *SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr.* <u>10</u>(1):69-81, 2017, doi:10.4271/2017-01-0581.

Motivation and background

- Direct injection brings evaporative cooling, improved transient response, and is necessary for engine downsizing
- Yet many studies show increased emissions of particles for DI
- Fuel spray may impinge on cylinder wall or piston top
 - Low vapor pressure/high boiling components burn in diffusion flame
- How is are fine particle emissions affected by fuel chemistry and properties?



GDI (gasoline) GDI (M15) PFI (gasoline) PFI (M15)

5.00E+011

0.00E+000



Fatouraie, M., Wooldridge, M. and Wooldridge, S., SAE Int. J. Fuels Lubr. 6(1):2013, doi: 10.4271/2013-01-0259

B. Liang et al. / Journal of Aerosol Science 57 (2013) 22-31

Particulate Matter Index (PMI)

Based on detailed hydrocarbon analysis of the base fuel and the quantity of added oxygenate:



 Wt_i = Weight fraction of compound

Aikawa, K., Sakurai, T. and Jetter, J.J. Development of a Predictive Model for Gasoline Vehicle Particulate Matter Emissions. SAE International 2010-01-2115. Aikawa, K., Jetter, J.J. Impact of Gasoline Composition on Particulate Matter Emissions from a Direct-Injection Engine: Applicability of the Particulate Matter Index. Int. J. Eng. Res. <u>15(</u>3):298-306, 2013

Does PMI Breakdown for Ethanol Blends?

- High heat of vaporization increased evaporative cooling may hinder evaporation of high boiling aromatics, increasing PM emissions
 - Alcohols only
 - Hypothesis in EPA EPAct study which found ethanol increasing PM (PFI engines)



Fuel Matrix to Quantify HOV and Aromatics Effects

- Base fuel: FACE B gasoline (low boiling, low aromatics)
- Blending specific aromatics at 10 – 20 vol%
- Ethanol blended at 0 30 vol%
- Aromatic content constant with ethanol blending



Component	Tb, °C	VP@443K, kPa	Yield Sooting Index (unified)	Structure
Cumene	153	152	187	CH ₃ CH ₃
p-Cymene	177	85	330	CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₃
t-Butyl toluene	191	58	411	H ₃ C

 Factorial design intended to allow separation of ethanol (cooling) and aromatic dilution effects
 Goal to modify PMI to accommodate evaporative cooling

Engine Study Results – PM Mass Emissions

Comparison of E0 vs E30 at constant t-Butyl toluene content (vol%) shows ethanol (HOV) increasing PM



PM Study Analysis

- Linear regression model of factorial design x1 + x2 * {EtOH%} + x3 * {Aro%} + x4 * {Aro VP@443K}
 - X2 (EtOH) = 0.044
 - − X3 (Aro) = 0.34 ← Much larger effect
 - X4 (VP) = -0.031
- Note large scatter in PM data
- Data intended to quantify competition between aromatic dilution and HOV effects for ethanol blending
- Use of model equation indicates that splash blending (ethanol dilutes aromatics) would eliminate PM effect





Improved Models

- Combinations of variables capture effect interactions
- Regularized regression approach reveals improved model

$$x1 + x2 * \left\{ \frac{EtOH\% * Aro\%}{Aro VP@443K} \right\} + x3 * \left\{ \frac{Aro YSI * Aro\%}{Aro MW} \right\}$$

• Expansion of analysis to literature data suggests modification to PMI:

$$\log PM \sim a \
ho + b \ T_{70} + c \sum_{i}^{n} rac{YSI_{i} \Delta H_{vap,i}}{P_{vap,i} (443K)} x$$



Distillation and droplet evaporation simulations

- Our results do not prove that evaporative cooling increases PM cause and effect not established
- Advanced distillation curve data were acquired by Burke and Windom for use as input to droplet evaporation simulations
- Distillation shows suppression of aromatic evaporation to higher temperatures if ethanol is present
- PM emission impact may be a combination of cooling and non-ideal VLE effects



Burke, S., et al., SAE 2018-01-0361

PMI Modification Summary



- Ethanol blending appears to cause increased PM for high boiling aromatics under some conditions – if aromatics are not diluted by the ethanol
 - Regression model predicts that if aromatics are diluted by ethanol, PM will not increase
- This might be caused by higher evaporative cooling, non-ideal vapor-liquid equilibrium effects, or both
- Preliminary modification to PMI incorporating HOV/ethanol effects developed

FY18-FY19 Research

Focus on autoignition and PM precursor formation mechanisms, finish SI knock and PM study, and expand to diesel, mixed-mode, and gasoline compression ignition combustion



Liftoff Length **Engine combustion**



NO.

Develop screening criteria for diesel, gasoline compression ignition blendstocks



Set up new research SCE with 300 bar capability for advanced combustion studies

Flow reactor studies of autoignition and PM precursor formation

studies with representative LDSI blendstocks

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Thank you

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Global transportation demand by fuel

- Gasoline demand peaks in 2020-2030 and then declines
- Demand for distillate (diesel + jet) continues to increase
- Decades will pass before full electric cars dominate market
 - Battery range
 - Sustainable generation buildout
- Can gasoline powered cars be dramatically more efficient?



MBDOF

ExxonMobil Outlook for Energy, 2017 http://corporate.exxonmobil.com/en/energy/energy-outlook

Why are SI engines more efficient at low-speed and high load?

Work, W (or power) from an engine:

 \mathbf{W}_{qross} = theoretical output of the engine

$$\mathbf{W}_{brake}$$
 (or \mathbf{W}_{net}) = $\mathbf{W}_{gross} - \mathbf{W}_{pump} - \mathbf{W}_{friction}$



 \mathbf{W}_{pump} is the thermodynamic cost of moving air into and out of the cylinder

- Higher at low to medium loads because of throttling
- Engine constrained to use stoichiometric amount of air for exhaust catalyst functionality

 $\mathbf{W}_{friction}$ is the cost of getting work out of the engine

- Contact friction, alternator, fuel pump, belts, etc.
- Increases with engine speed

Strategies to improve efficiency

Engines are poorly efficient at light and medium loads, and at high speeds. They are knock limited at high load.

Increase Compression Ratio







- Fuel evaporative cooling
- Volumetric efficiency
- Power density
- Knock resistance

Illustration of load, CR, and octane effects



- Even a moderate increase in load steeply increases brake thermal efficiency
- Increasing compression increases BTE at low loads, but is dramatically limited for the low RON fuel
- Increasing CR actually reduces efficiency at higher loads because the engine is knock limited



- Fuels with the same RON show different behavior with increased load
- Higher S (lower MON) is better for downsized boosted engines (S = RON – MON)



Ratcliff, M., Burton, J., Sindler, P., Fouts, L., Fioroni, G.M., McCormick, R.L. SAE Tech Pap 2018-01-0218 (2018)

Coupling of Mass Spectrometer to DSC/TGA

- Coupled a high resolution mass spectrometer to the DSC/TGA
- Confirms higher ethanol content during plateau
- Next step is to examine co-evaporating species
- Approximate molar ethanol fraction can be calculated from HOV on plateau:
 - 0.45-0.5 for E10
 - 0.5-0.55 for E15
 - 0.6-0.65 for E30
 - In the range of binary azeotropes between ethanol and typical gasoline hydrocarbons





Re-Analysis of EPAct Study Data

- Analysis of EPAct study data (SAE 2015-01-1072)
 - Found ethanol caused PM emissions increase
 Highly controversial
- Our re-analysis based on regularized regression (data determines factors that are important) shows a modification to PMI is a better fit:

$$\log PM \sim a \rho + b T_{70} + c \sum_{i}^{n} \frac{YSI_{i} \Delta H_{vap,i}}{P_{vap,i} (443K)} x$$

- Utilized DHA of the 27 gasolines studied
- 15 cars, 2008 model year (port fuel injection)



Experiments to differentiate HOV and S effects on knock-limited performance

- Matched RON and S fuels with varying HOV produced similar knock-limited performance in load sweeps at intake air temperature (IAT) = 50°C
 - Consistent with concept that HOV is a thermal contributor to S
- Note high S fuels achieved much higher knock limited load indicating that *K* in the octane index equation is negative, even at the highest IAT
- E40 produced higher knock-limited loads at IATs > 50°C despite similar RON and S. Why?



Intake Valve Closing Temperature

- Three approaches to determining $T_{\scriptscriptstyle IVC}$
 - $-T_{ivc} = IAT$ assumed for UI experiments (no evap cooling)
 - Ideal Gas Law: $T_{ivc} = PV/nR$ from measured air and fuel mass flows for DI
 - Estimate T_{ivc} from fuel HOV and combustion stoichiometry for DI (adiabatic, maximum possible cooling effect)

•
$$\Delta T_{ad} = \left(\frac{m_{fuel} * HOV}{(m_{fuel} + mair) * Cp_{_mixture}}\right)$$

- Points above parity line are at highest IAT, colder than adiabatic case
 - Likely errors in fuel mass flow and assumed zero residual gases
- Lowest points are from lowest IAT cases, indicating less effective evaporative cooling
- Steep slope of data is consistent with hypothesis that the fraction of T_{ad} increases with IAT
 - i.e., faster DI fuel evaporation lessens opportunities for heat transfer



In-cylinder temperatures and K

K estimated using Kalghatgi equation:

 $K = 0.0049(T_{comp15}) - 0.135\lambda - 3.67$

• Compressing gas temperatures pinned to intake valve closing temperature (T_{ivc}):

$$T = \left(\frac{T_{ivc}}{P_{ivc} \, x \, Vivc}\right) x \, P \, x \, V$$

 T_{ivc} and consequently T_{comp15} and then K are affected by evaporative cooling



K and Octane Index

Ks derived from ideal gas based T_{ivc} yield OI values with good correlation to knock-limited loads

• $K = 0.0049(T_{comp15}) - 0.135\lambda - 3.67$



- Octane index describes fuel knock resistance well
- How is HOV affecting K and S?
- To some extent HOV is capture in RON, increasing S – however HOV also impacts K
- Because IVCT is affected by K, and IVCT is affected by HOV, K is changed by a fuel property for DI engines
- Generally not recognized in studies that focus only on hydrocarbon fuels NREL | 48

Does PMI Breakdown for Oxygenates?

1. Some oxygenates having a low energy path to soot precursors, for example:



Also secondary alcohols and certain esters

- High heat of vaporization increased evaporative cooling may hinder evaporation of high boiling aromatics, increasing PM emissions
 - Alcohols only
 - Hypothesis in EPA EPAct study which found ethanol increasing PM (PFI engines)



1.3

PM Index

1.1

SAE 2015-01-1072

2.3

0.5

0 +

Component	Tb, ℃	VP@443K, kPa	Yield Sooting Index (unified)	Structure
Cumene	153	152	187	CH ₃ CH ₃
p-Cymene	177	85	330	CH ₃ H ₃ C
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