

# Challenges in Combustion

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**Charles K. Westbrook**

*Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory*

GCEP Research Symposium  
***Meeting the Challenge of Reducing Global  
GHG Emissions Through Energy Research***

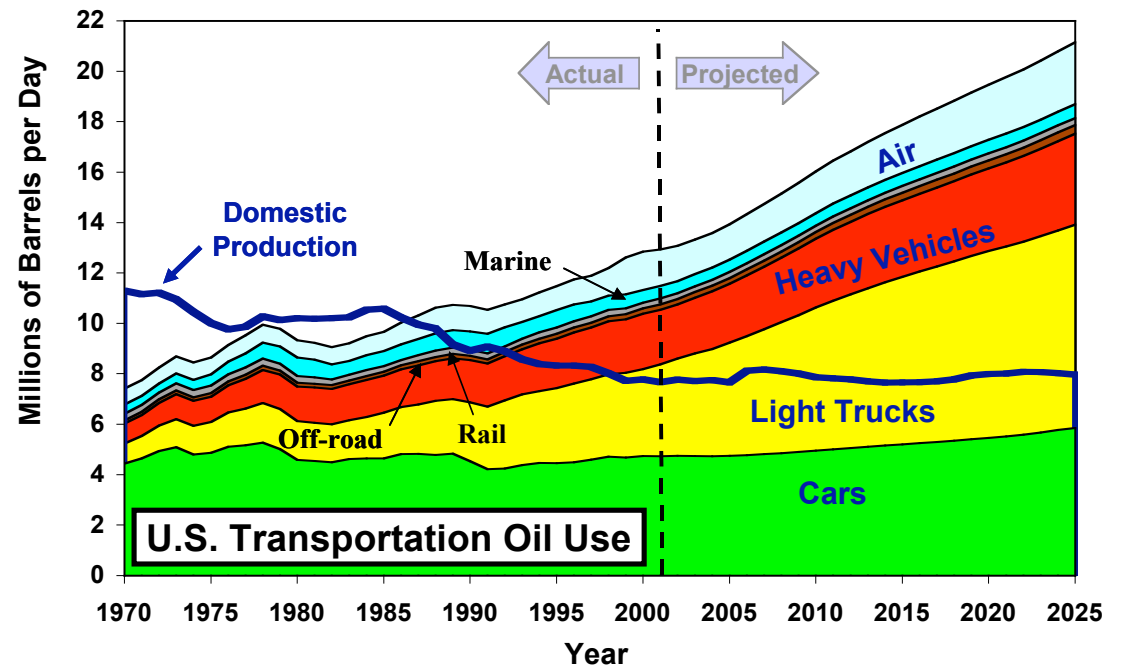
June 13-16, 2005

# Background: Greenhouse Emissions are Driven by Combustion and Transportation.

- Combustion accounts for 85% of all current power production in the United States
- Transportation accounts for 2/3 of our oil consumption.
  - Transportation consumption expected to increase 60% by 2025.
- Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gases.

Highway Carbon Emissions  
(million metric tons)

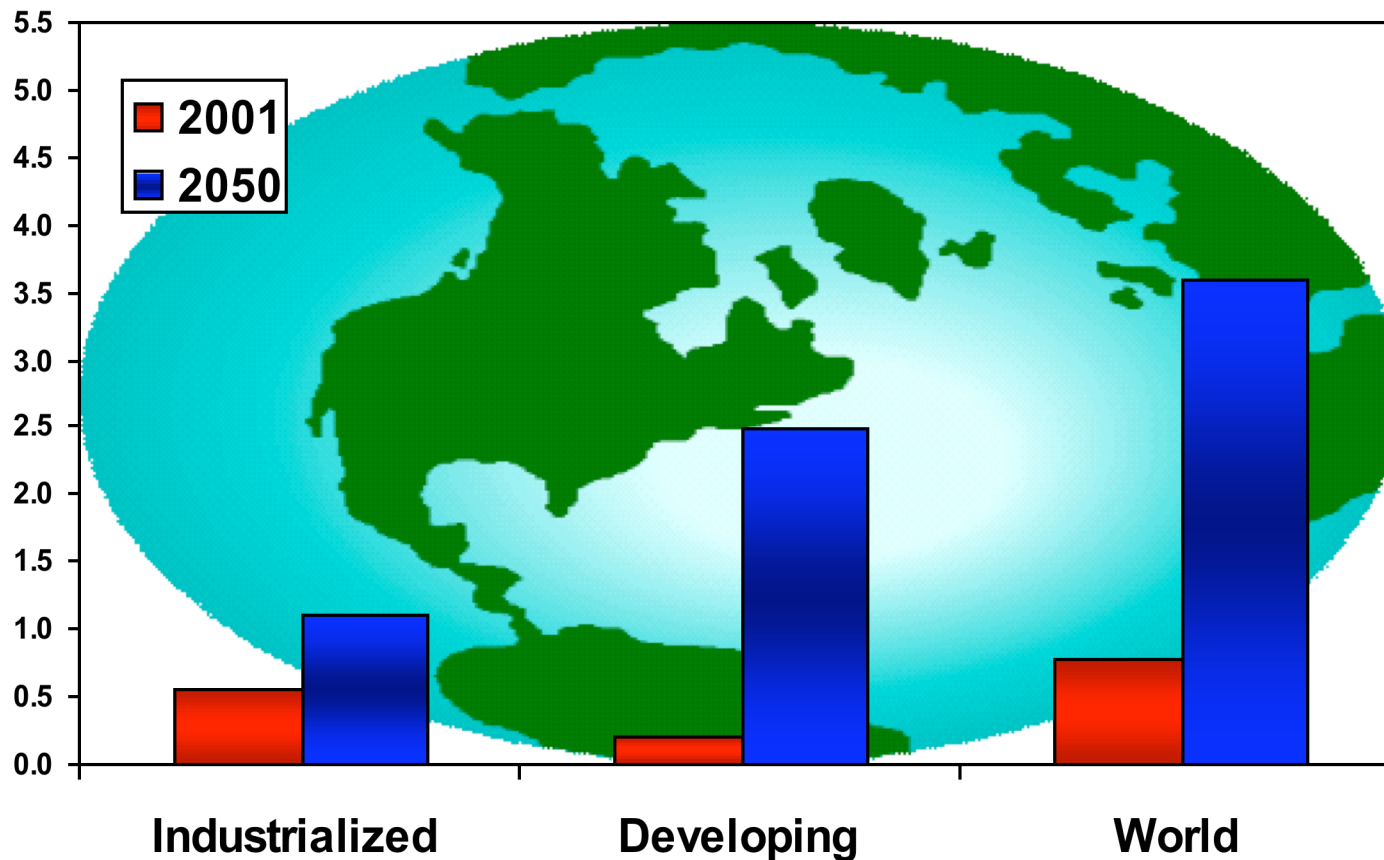
| 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|------|------|------|------|
| 325  | 381  | 489  | 592  |



Source: *Transportation Energy Data Book: Edition 22*, September 2002,  
and *EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2003*, January 2003

# Global Demand for Transportation is Expected to Increase Dramatically.

- Large increase in vehicle usage will increase demand for fuel.
- Increased carbon emissions - greenhouse gases.



# These Facts Place Serious Challenges on the Transportation Industry.

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- Engine manufacturers must simultaneously reduce:
  - Fuel Consumption
  - Carbon Emissions
  - Toxic Emissions:  $\text{NO}_x$ , Particulates (PM), Hydrocarbons (HC), & CO.

} Improved Engine Efficiency
- The demand for these improvements is worldwide.
- American diesel engine companies are major exporters.
  - Important contribution to American jobs and balance of trade.
- American automotive companies have worldwide operations.
  - Important for the overall strength of these companies.
- Strong international competition to build clean and efficient engines.
  - American companies must be competitive in this global market.

Combustion research  
was alive and well  
in the 1600's.

# F U M I F U G I U M:

O R,

The Inconvenience of the A E R,

A N D

S M O A K E of L O N D O N

D I S S I P A T E D.

T O G E T H E R

With some R E M E D I E S humbly proposed

By J. E. Esq;

To His Sacred M A J E S T Y,

A N D

To the P A R L I A M E N T now Assembled.

*Published by His Majesties Command.*

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Lucret. l. 5.

Carbonumque gravis vis, atque odor insinuat  
Quam facile in cerebrum?—

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L O N D O N:

Printed by W. GODDID, for GABRIEL BEDEL, and THOMAS  
COLLINS; and are to be sold at their Shop at the Middle  
Temple Gate, near Temple Bar. M.DC.LXI.

Re-printed for B. WHITE, at Horace's Head, in Fleet-street.

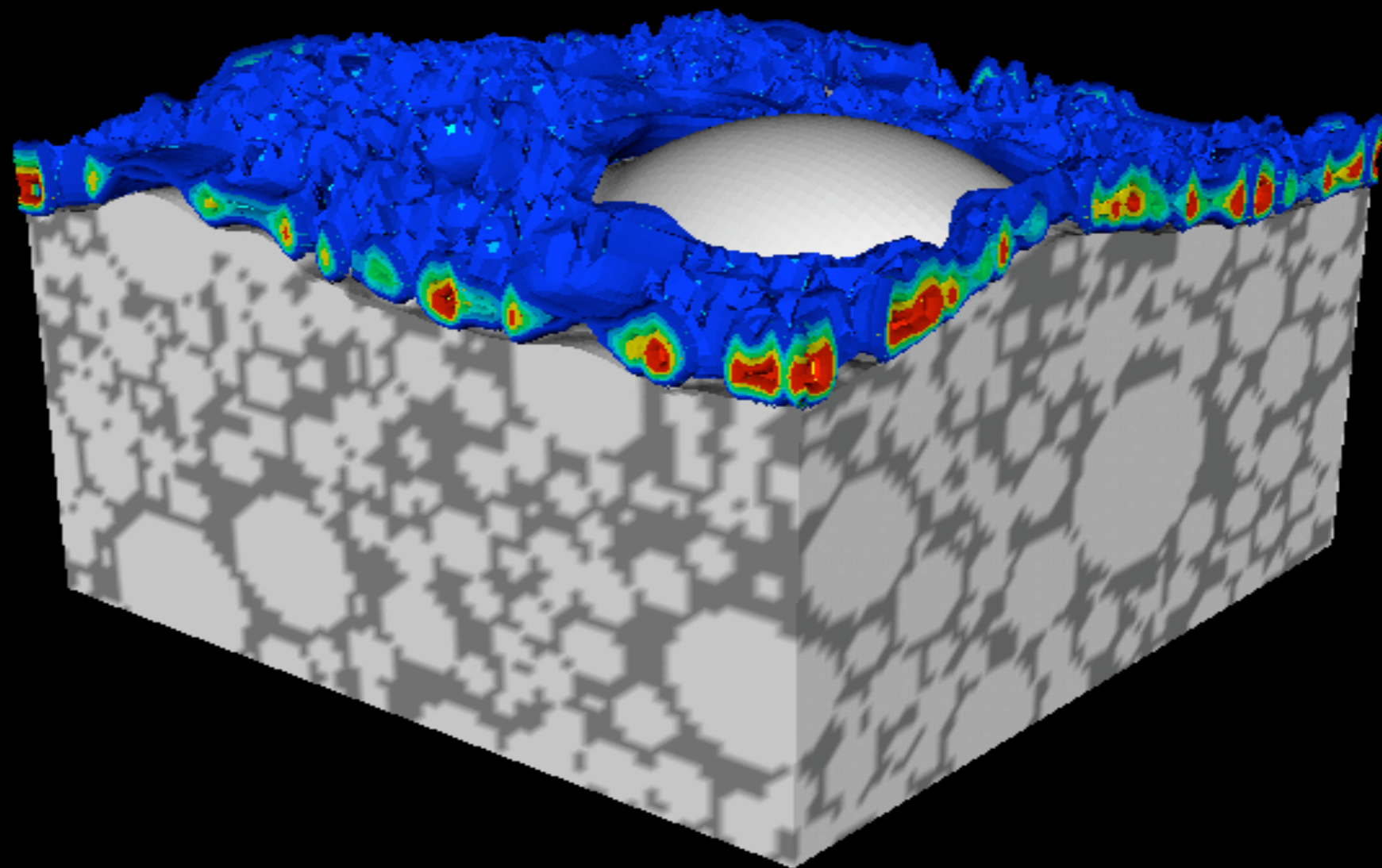
MDCCLXXII.

FIG. 1. Fumifugium by John Evelyn, London, 1661.

## Combustion science is evolving steadily

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- Computer simulation is becoming much more important
- Multiphysics submodels built into a 3D CFD framework is becoming common
- Massively parallel computing is having a big impact
- Many opportunities for “full system” simulations and direct comparisons with actual device experiments
- Corresponding need for greater fidelity in these submodels



## The dilemma of Canada's oil sands

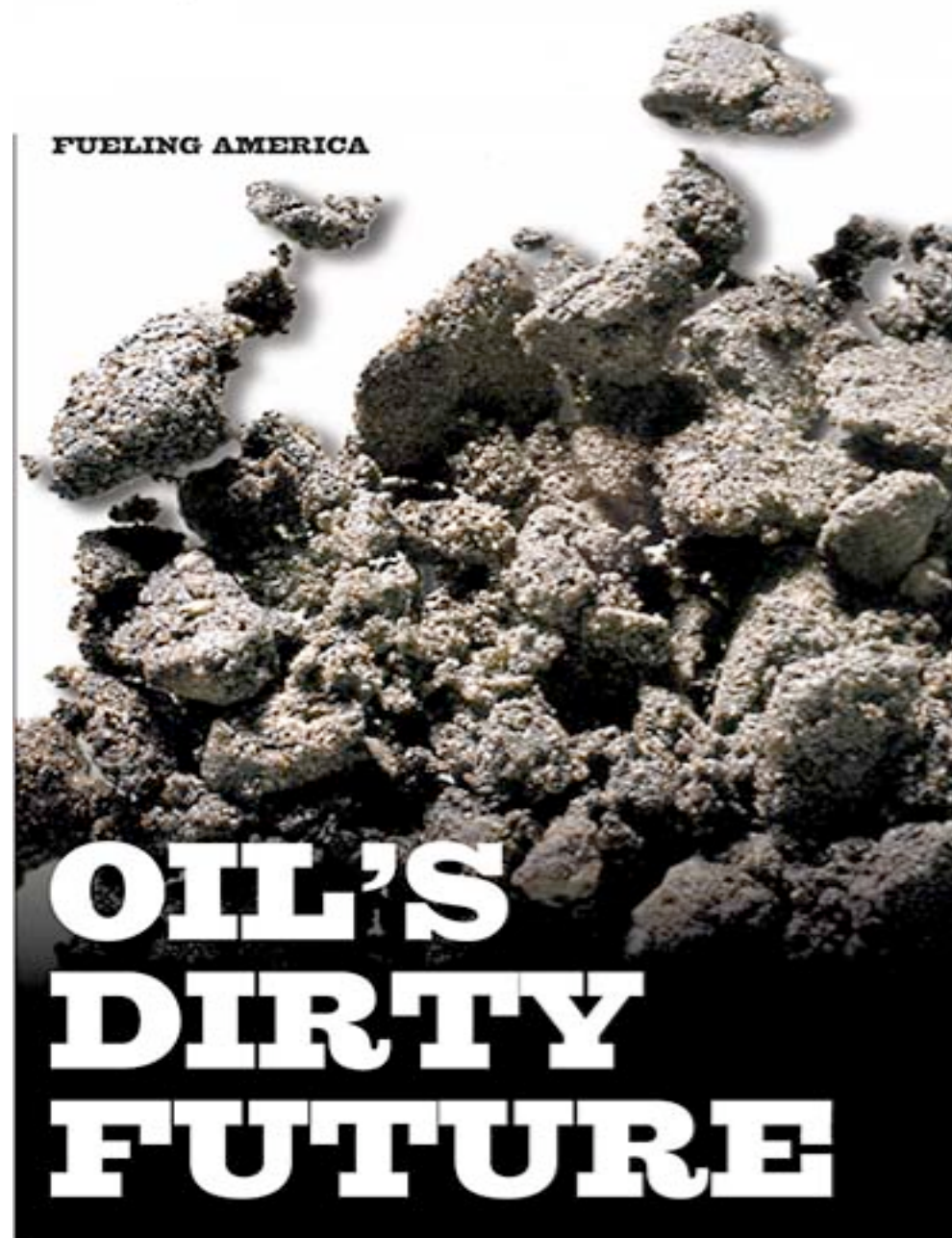


# Canadian oil sands

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- Second only to Saudi Arabia in proven oil reserves
  - Saudi Arabia 262 billion barrels
  - Canada oil sands 175 billion barrels
  - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 10 billion barrels (est)
- Currently largely strip mined
- Even production is a serious source of greenhouse gases
  - 2 tons of sand produce one barrel of oil
  - production of one barrel of oil = daily emissions from 4 cars
  - huge usage of natural gas for extraction

Articles and  
pictures from  
SF Chronicle  
May 22-23





Athabasca oil sands

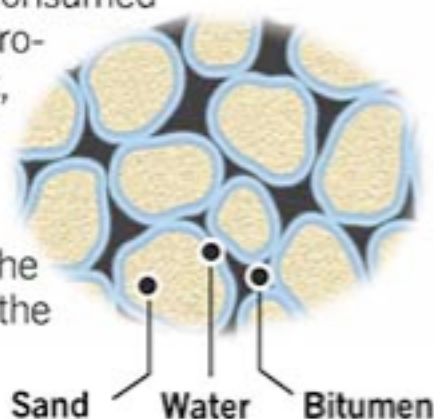


Chronicle / Brant Ward

Strip mining oil sands, using 400 ton capacity trucks

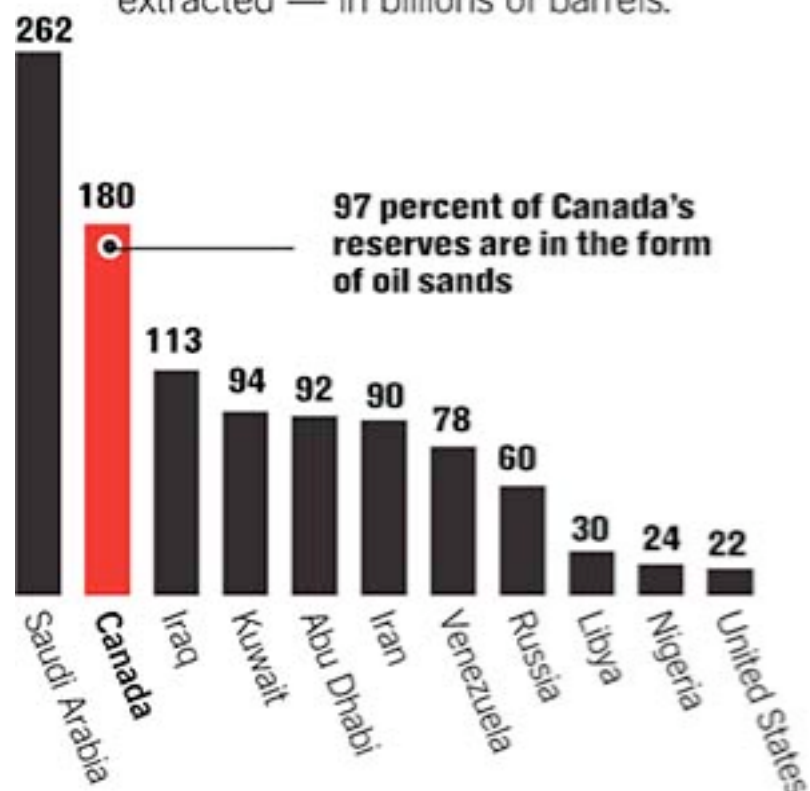
## WHAT ARE OIL SANDS?

Fifty-million years ago, huge deposits of oil were pushed up through the Earth in what is now Canada. Bacteria consumed much of the lighter hydrocarbons, leaving a thick, sticky mixture of heavy petroleum called bitumen mixed with water and sandstone. The deposits cover an area the size of Florida.



## GLOBAL CRUDE OIL RESERVES

Estimates of “proven” oil reserves — known existing deposits that can be profitably extracted — in billions of barrels.



Source: Suncor Energy Inc., Petroleum Communication Foundation, Oil and Gas Journal

## **DOE recently hosted a conference to assess current knowledge about transportation uses of these fuels**

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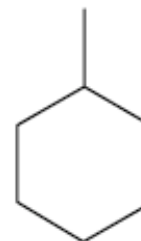
- Conference in Edmonton earlier this month, attended by Canadian and US researchers, emphasis on “upstream” and refining
- US is already blending small fractions of oil sands-derived fuels with diesel fuel
- Concern about combustion characteristics, as well as environmental impacts

# Diesel fuels derived from oil sands present combustion challenges that require research

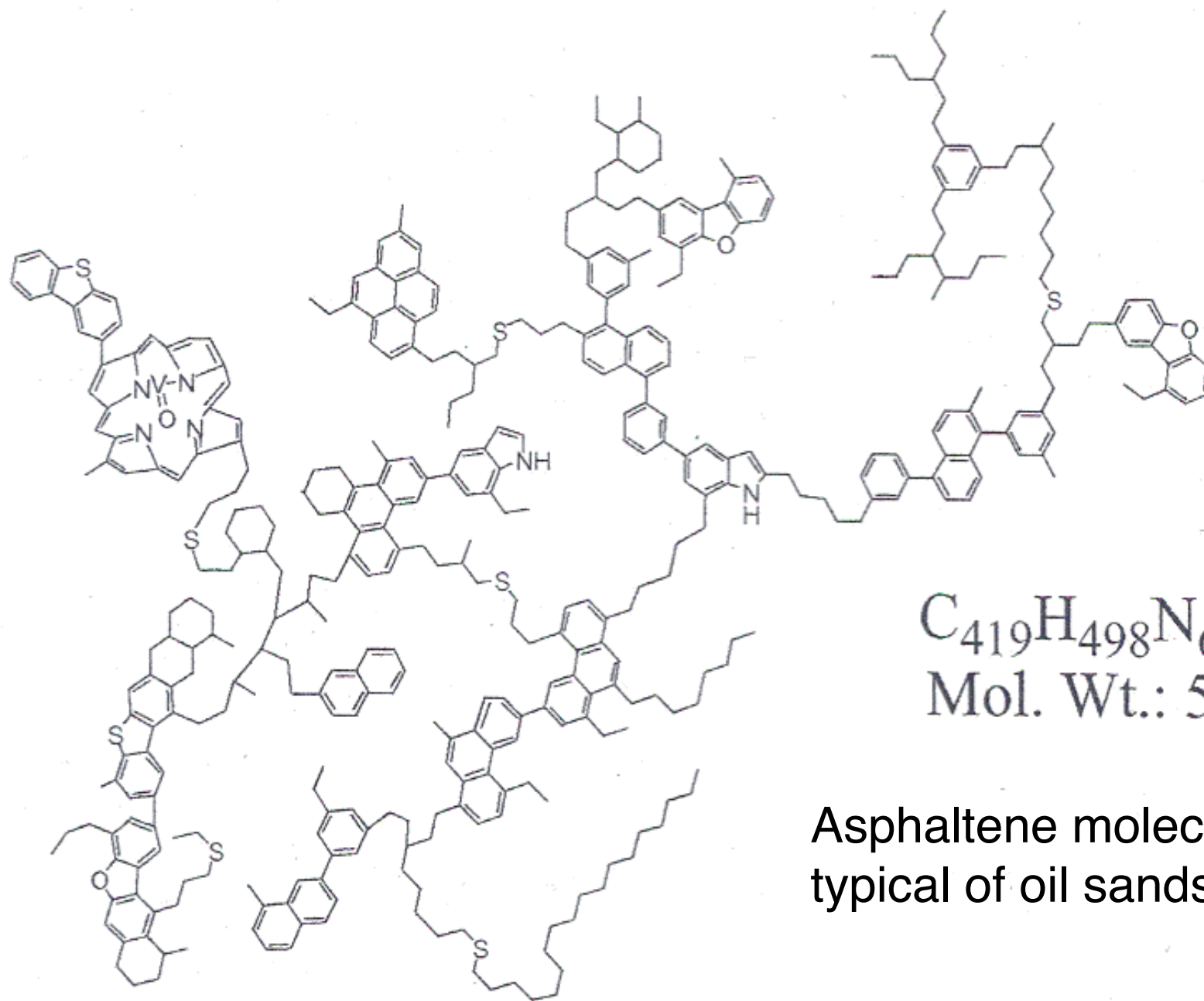
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- Derived diesel fuel is rich in cyclic alkanes

- e.g., methyl cyclohexane



- Most of these are rather large, complex cyclic alkanes
- Very little scientific research has been done on any cyclic alkanes
- Preliminary practical experience suggests that these species are important in determining ignition and soot production in diesels

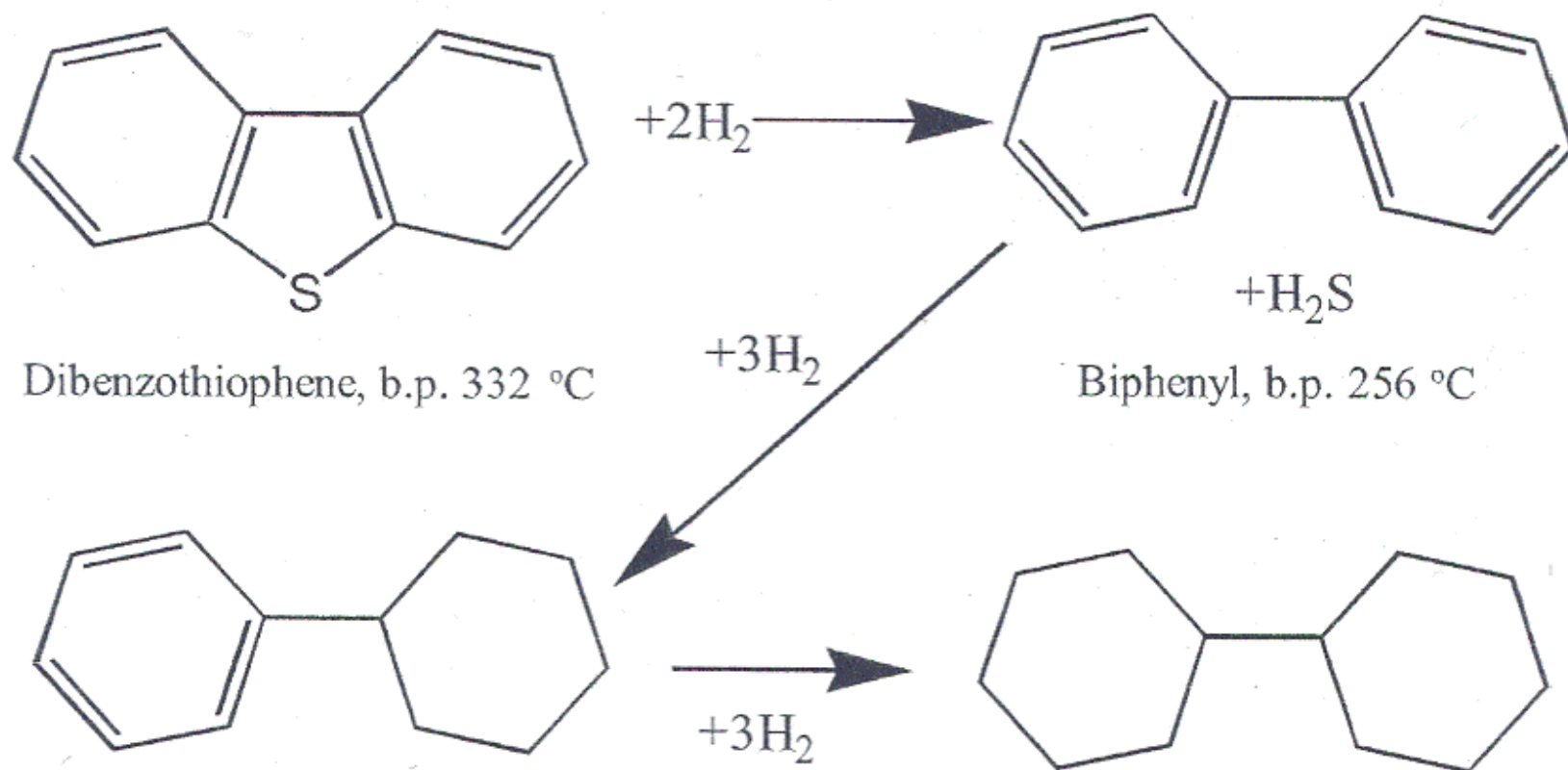


$C_{419}H_{498}N_6O_4S_8V$   
Mol. Wt.: 5989.94

Asphaltene molecule  
typical of oil sands

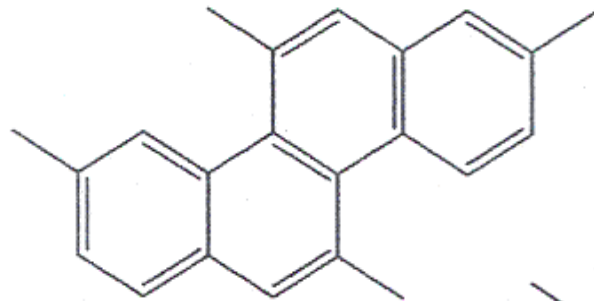
# Benefits of Hydrotreating and Aromatic Saturation

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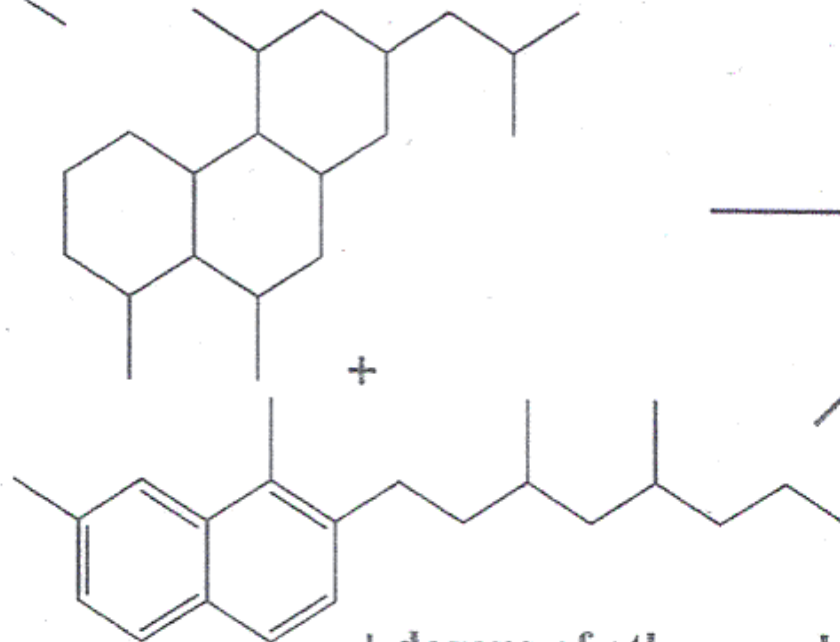


# Hydrocracking Gas Oil

Vacuum gas oil component



Hydrogenation + Cracking  
+ Isomerization



+ dozens of other product types

Further  
cracking to  
diesel-range  
products



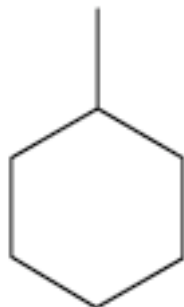
After Quann and Jaffe, 1992



## The only cycloalkane for which we currently have a good kinetic model is methyl cyclohexane

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- How representative is this for actual cycloalkane constituents of fuel composition?



Current answer is: unknown, but further fuel chemistry study is needed

# Methyl cyclohexane may be a suitable surrogate for cyclic paraffin hydrocarbons

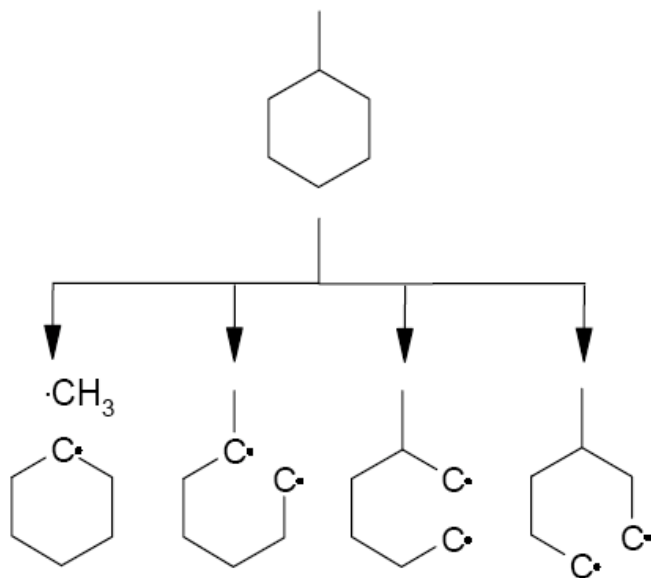


Figure 4: Unimolecular decomposition of MCH

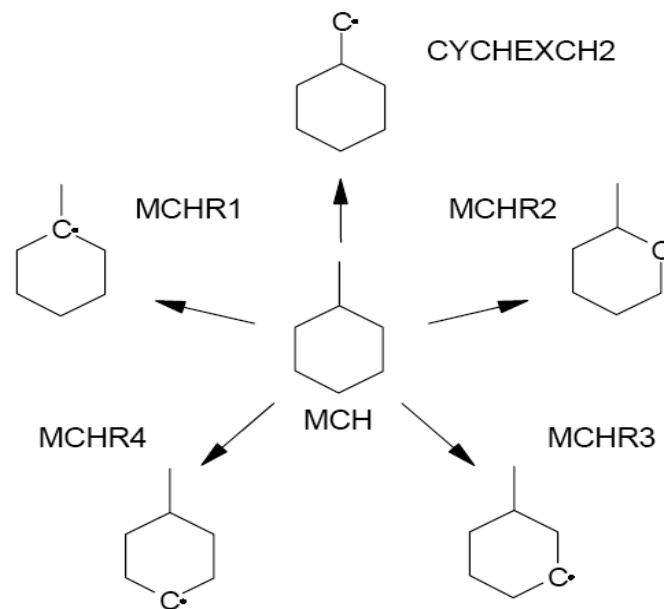
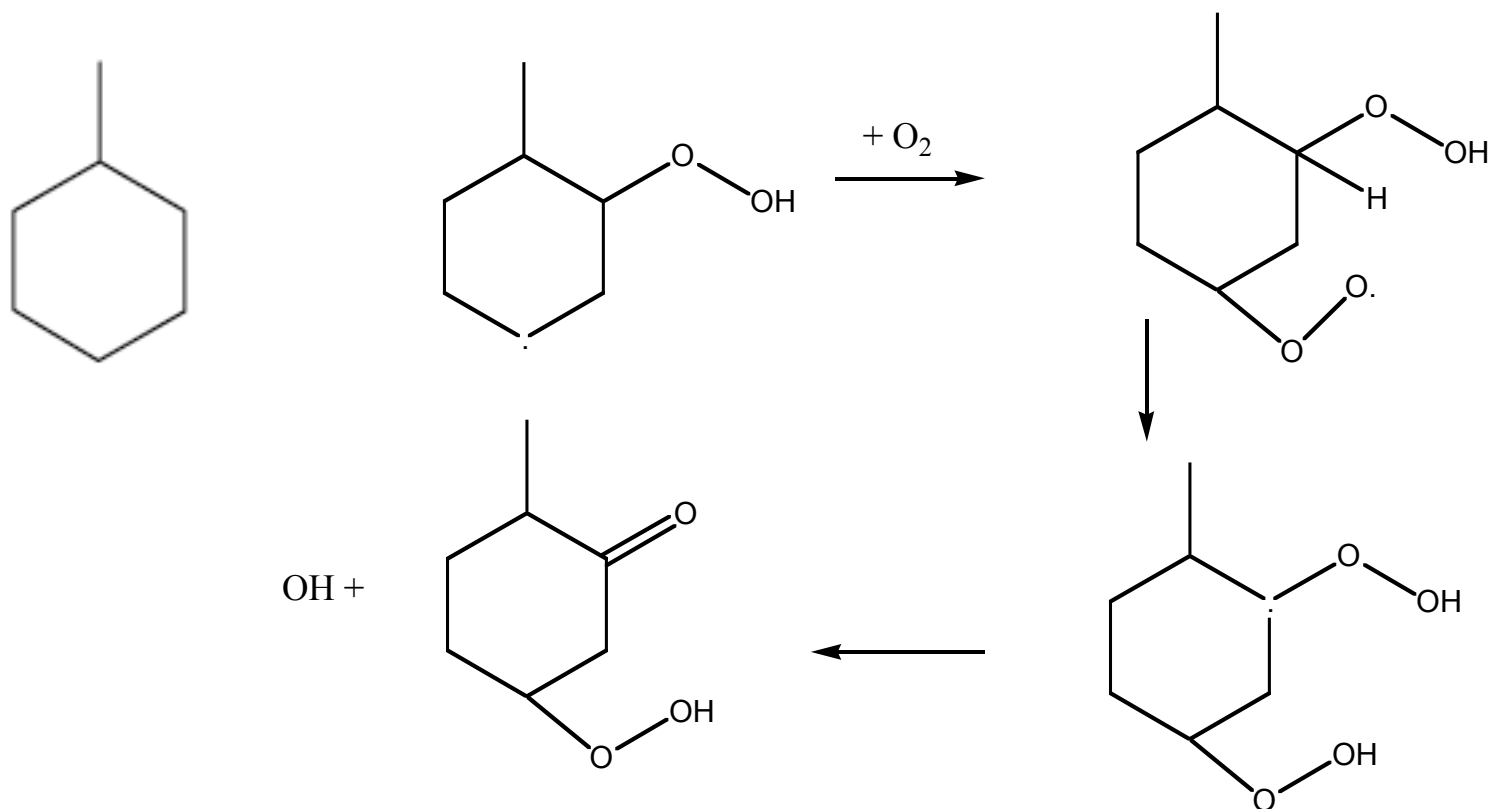


Figure 5: H-atom abstraction from MCH

# A mechanism for methyl cyclohexane includes both high and low temperature chemistry

- Estimated thermodynamic parameters for 110 new species and rate constants for 260 new reactions



# A start has been made on understanding cycloalkane species combustion

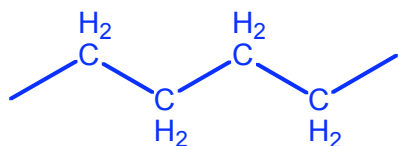
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- Sooting and cetane effects of methyl cyclohexane on diesel fuel can be estimated
- Actual fuel composition is much more complex than this simple cycloalkane molecule
  - mixed cycloalkanes and aromatics
  - multicyclic paraffins
- Lots of chemistry theory, laboratory experiments, and engine experiments will be needed to enable meaningful simulations and impacts on real applications

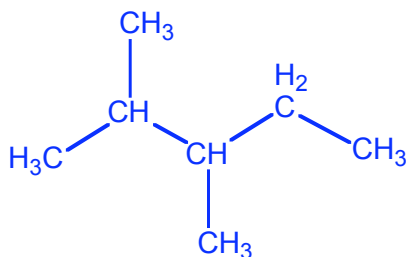
# Classes of hydrocarbons in transportation fuels

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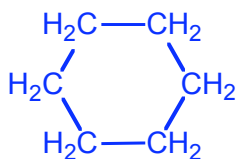
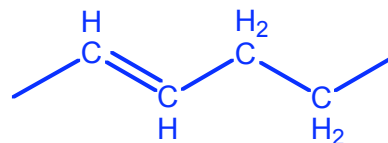
n-paraffin



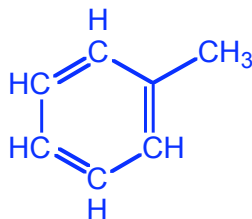
iso-paraffin



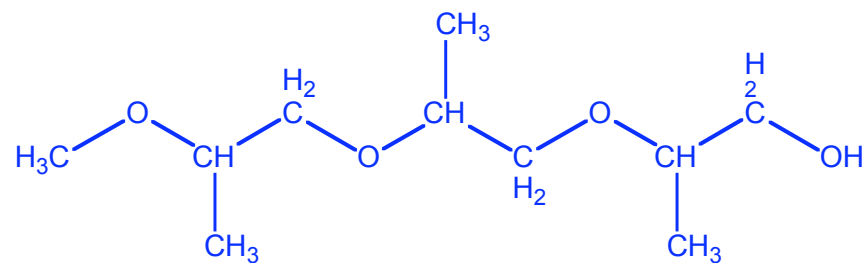
olefin



cyclo-alkane



aromatic



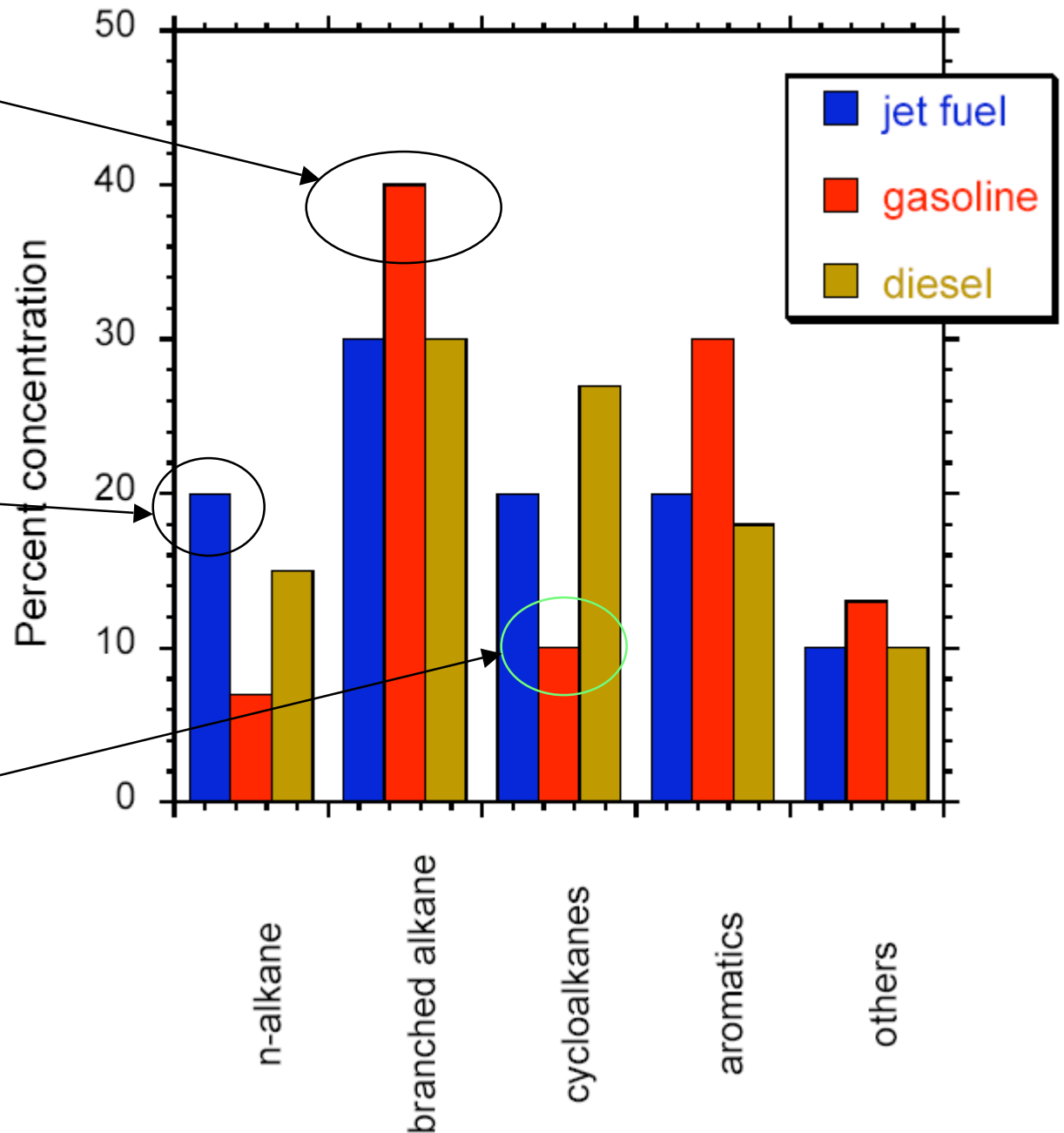
oxygenate

Each class has unique combustion characteristics

Gasoline has many branched alkanes

Jet fuel has the highest n-alkane

Gasoline is lower in cycloalkanes



## Variability of real transportation fuels

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- Composition of gasolines at different gas stations on a single day is often quite different
- Composition of same gas station will vary every day
- Same is true of diesel and jet fuels
- Quantity used to test fuels is often not very demanding or specific (e.g., ON, CN)

Example:  
levels of different  
hydrocarbons in  
samples of 3 types  
of jet fuel (JP-8,  
Jet A and JP-5)

|                                |        |        |        |                                  |        |        |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Iso-Nonene                     | 4.00   | 8.73   | 2.06   | 2,2-Dimethyl Octane              | 29.59  | 32.22  | 19.33  |
| 2,2,4-Trimethyl Hexane         | 0.00   | 1.46   | 0.00   | 2,4-Dimethyl Octane              | 27.45  | 20.14  | 16.91  |
| 2,3,5-Trimethyl Hexane         | 6.41   | 5.20   | 2.49   | Isodecane                        | 0.00   | 6.38   | 1.50   |
| 2,2-Dimethyl Heptane           | 7.22   | 0.00   | 0.00   | 1-Methyl-4-Isopropyl Cyclohexane | 3.65   | 2.71   | 2.67   |
| cis 1,2-Dimethyl Cyclohexane   | 3.32   | 13.66  | 5.37   | s-Butyl Cyclopentane             | 13.08  | 28.59  | 13.99  |
| 2,4-Dimethyl Heptane           | 29.10  | 4.90   | 3.75   | 2,6-Dimethyl Octane              | 23.57  | 28.04  | 11.37  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 32.04  | 22.11  | 11.47  | 2,5-Dimethyl Octane              | 74.50  | 78.06  | 79.83  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 43.24  | 30.41  | 17.23  | Isodecane                        | 10.88  | 21.48  | 11.69  |
| Unidentified                   | 6.28   | 5.71   | 1.75   | Butyl Cyclopentane               | 12.93  | 17.87  | 6.46   |
| Ethyl Cyclo-Hexane             | 266.85 | 175.68 | 140.31 | Propyl Cyclohexane               | 22.75  | 35.18  | 26.79  |
| 2-Methyl-4-Ethyl Hexane        | 3.50   | 2.03   | 0.00   | Isodecane                        | 0.00   | 16.27  | 9.11   |
| 2,6-Dimethyl Cyclohexane       | 91.75  | 61.64  | 47.64  | 3,5-Dimethyl Octane              | 51.42  | 89.34  | 70.09  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 0.00   | 8.35   | 0.00   | 1-Methyl-2-Ethyl Cyclohexane     | 24.76  | 18.15  | 20.74  |
| 1,1,3-Trimethyl Cyclohexane    | 88.04  | 105.67 | 64.05  | Isodecane                        | 6.83   | 6.11   | 8.63   |
| Nonene                         | 25.45  | 20.80  | 10.54  | Isodecane                        | 5.57   | 29.31  | 10.88  |
| 2,5-Dimethyl Heptane           | 86.97  | 48.78  | 23.50  | n-Propyl Benzene                 | 55.70  | 70.21  | 69.12  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 34.41  | 9.67   | 6.26   | 3,6-Dimethyl Octane              | 36.82  | 63.33  | 50.22  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 0.00   | 13.95  | 6.48   | 3-Methyl-5-Ethyl Heptane         | 0.00   | 12.57  | 6.60   |
| 3,3-Dimethyl Heptane           | 10.84  | 25.34  | 11.52  | Isodecene                        | 6.33   | 18.01  | 10.24  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 5.26   | 14.82  | 6.01   | Isodecene                        | 5.11   | 11.47  | 5.66   |
| Ethyl Benzene                  | 105.97 | 74.18  | 70.47  | meta Ethyl Toluene               | 83.33  | 72.54  | 74.71  |
| 1,2,4-Trimethyl Cyclohexane    | 15.52  | 32.00  | 20.47  | para Ethyl Toluene               | 46.13  | 64.58  | 50.25  |
| Isononene                      | 65.71  | 83.73  | 30.32  | 1,3,5-Trimethyl Benzene          | 123.63 | 140.06 | 111.93 |
| 2,3,4-Trimethyl Hexane         | 3.48   | 5.60   | 4.72   | 2,3-Dimethyl Octane              | 3.20   | 14.85  | 1.40   |
| Isononene                      | 2.48   | 0.00   | 0.00   | Isodecane                        | 1.81   | 22.95  | 13.16  |
| 3,3,4-Trimethyl Cyclohexane    | 3.43   | 10.54  | 1.63   | 5-Methyl Nonane                  | 19.22  | 48.92  | 21.85  |
| meta-Xylene                    | 439.45 | 134.95 | 160.21 | 4-Methyl Nonane                  | 37.93  | 85.43  | 54.49  |
| para-Xylene                    | 124.56 | 45.32  | 47.37  | 2-Methyl Nonane                  | 41.16  | 91.11  | 53.04  |
| 2,3-Dimethyl Heptane           | 69.23  | 38.37  | 35.94  | ortho Ethyl Toluene              | 23.71  | 26.83  | 43.66  |
| 3,5-Dimethyl Heptane           | 8.73   | 6.46   | 3.60   | 3-Ethyl Octane                   | 3.78   | 3.73   | 4.12   |
| 3,4-Dimethyl Heptane           | 39.46  | 21.67  | 19.49  | Napthene                         | 9.66   | 28.20  | 13.57  |
| 3-Methyl-3-Ethyl Hexane        | 18.52  | 19.40  | 8.82   | Isodecane                        | 2.44   | 5.22   | 9.43   |
| Isononene                      | 2.54   | 7.41   | 2.96   | Isodecane                        | 2.28   | 0.00   | 0.00   |
| 4-Methyl Octane                | 88.02  | 65.70  | 37.01  | 3-Methyl Nonane                  | 48.31  | 105.77 | 66.17  |
| 2-Methyl Octane                | 117.21 | 87.71  | 49.14  | Isodecane                        | 0.00   | 23.16  | 20.20  |
| Iso-Nonene                     | 17.61  | 17.20  | 11.67  | Isodecene                        | 8.04   | 10.99  | 3.79   |
| 3-Ethyl Heptane                | 36.82  | 45.69  | 20.15  | Isodecane                        | 15.59  | 31.17  | 26.52  |
| 3-Methyl Octane                | 126.82 | 130.04 | 64.67  | Isodecane                        | 4.82   | 14.17  | 8.20   |
| 1,2,4-Trimethyl Cyclohexane    | 0.00   | 3.21   | 2.66   | 1,2,4-Trimethyl Benzene          | 103.36 | 116.35 | 114.54 |
| 1,1,2-Trimethyl Cyclohexane    | 0.00   | 13.38  | 0.00   | Isodecane                        | 16.85  | 41.84  | 33.94  |
| ortho-Xylene                   | 235.28 | 82.34  | 112.71 | Isodecane                        | 11.77  | 33.82  | 33.89  |
| Isononene                      | 0.00   | 14.75  | 10.17  | Isodecane                        | 18.24  | 42.34  | 40.71  |
| Isononene                      | 1.73   | 17.32  | 5.58   | Isobutyl Cyclohexane             | 1.98   | 16.90  | 10.48  |
| Isononene                      | 3.79   | 3.65   | 1.69   | Isodecane                        | 4.34   | 7.71   | 9.02   |
| Isononane                      | 22.13  | 47.40  | 33.14  | Isodecane                        | 2.22   | 14.52  | 10.88  |
| 1-Ethyl-4-Methyl Cyclohexane   | 90.36  | 98.14  | 58.69  | Decene-1                         | 2.23   | 8.96   | 7.61   |
| Isononane                      | 73.47  | 60.57  | 43.02  | Isodecane                        | 1.75   | 2.41   | 3.42   |
| Nonene-1                       | 1.85   | 8.98   | 6.97   | C10 Aromatic                     | 5.74   | 18.07  | 14.39  |
| Isobutyl Cyclopentane          | 6.51   | 17.66  | 9.59   | Napthene                         | 14.80  | 23.20  | 28.46  |
| Isononane                      | 0.00   | 1.70   | 0.00   | 1-Methyl 2-Propyl Cyclohexane    | 0.00   | 3.76   | 0.00   |
| cis Nonene-3                   | 22.68  | 10.99  | 9.51   | n-Decane                         | 179.98 | 281.60 | 379.89 |
| Isononane                      | 0.00   | 4.60   | 1.77   | Iso-undecane                     | 0.00   | 2.06   | 2.14   |
| n-Nonane                       | 449.86 | 313.15 | 290.63 | Iso-undecane                     | 2.26   | 1.71   | 3.24   |
| trans Nonene-2                 | 60.82  | 78.13  | 47.69  | Iso-undecane                     | 0.00   | 5.59   | 2.35   |
| Isononene                      | 4.16   | 0.00   | 30.68  | Iso-undecane                     | 1.51   | 1.87   | 1.81   |
| 1-Methyl-2-Propyl Cyclopentane | 31.60  | 24.13  | 23.01  | 1,2,3-Trimethyl Benzene          | 43.58  | 55.87  | 77.07  |
| C10 Iso-paraffin               | 0.00   | 0.00   | 3.68   | Iso-undecane                     | 4.98   | 15.21  | 16.31  |
| Isopropyl Benzene              | 22.23  | 19.95  | 26.85  | para-Isopropyl Toluene           | 8.90   | 13.40  | 20.89  |
| t-Butyl Pentane                | 2.25   | 2.86   | 0.00   | Iso-undecane                     | 8.34   | 26.23  | 23.52  |
| Isononene                      | 7.92   | 11.35  | 6.15   | Iso-undecane                     | 2.33   | 5.65   | 5.32   |
| Isononene                      | 44.66  | 56.22  | 49.60  | Iso-undecane                     | 1.07   | 8.14   | 6.66   |
| Isopropyl Cyclohexane          | 40.39  | 37.42  | 36.42  | Indan                            | 13.49  | 34.27  | 30.80  |
|                                |        |        |        | Iso-undecane                     | 2.24   | 7.84   | 10.14  |
|                                |        |        |        | Isobutyl Cyclohexane             | 34.20  | 87.01  | 130.81 |
|                                |        |        |        | Iso-undecane                     | 0.00   | 0.00   | 2.35   |
|                                |        |        |        | Iso-undecane                     | 2.31   | 1.72   | 3.64   |
|                                |        |        |        | ortho-Isopropyl Toluene          | 6.94   | 19.90  | 15.78  |

# A 5-component surrogate can represent gasoline

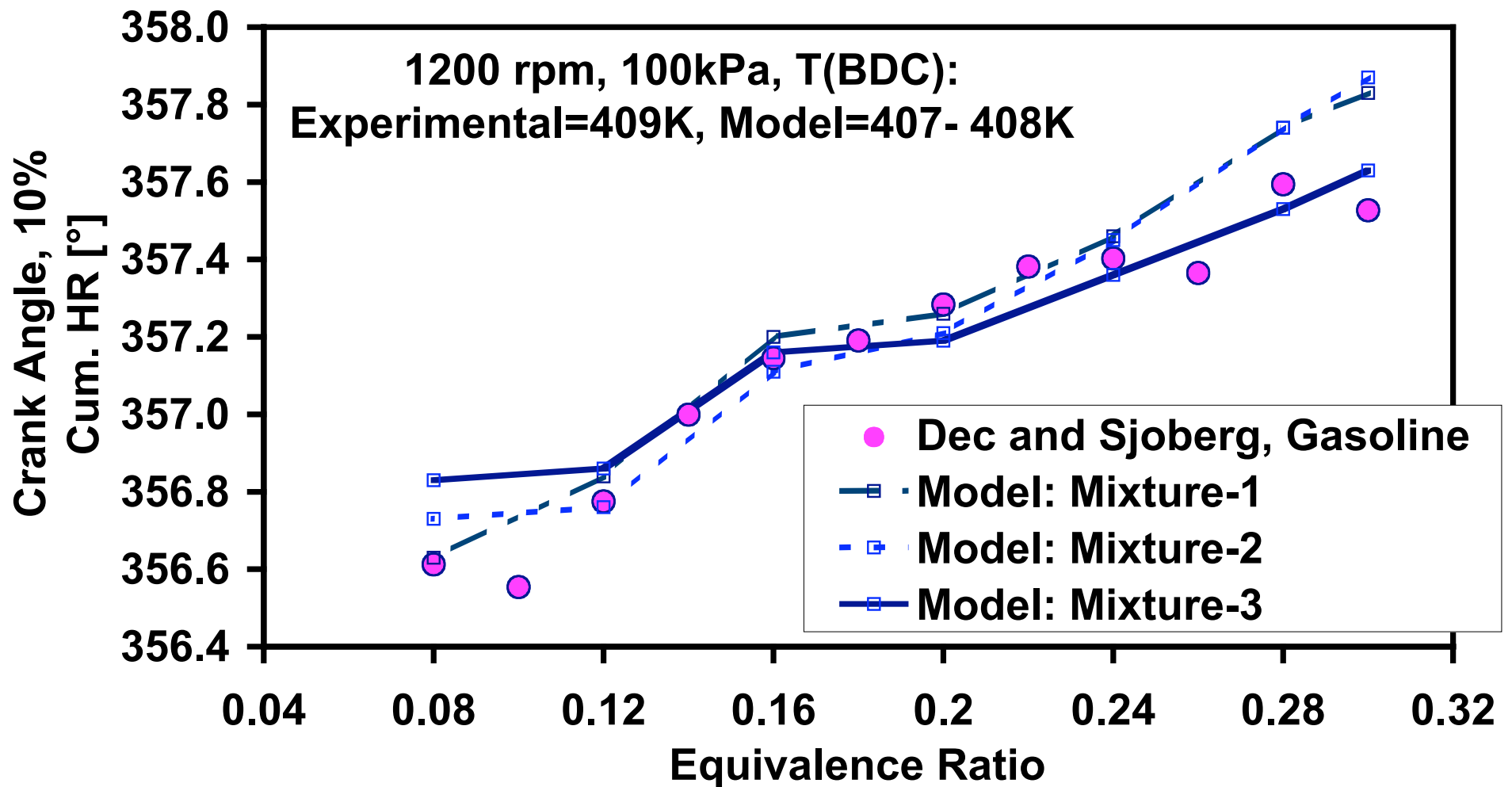
- n-heptane (straight chain alkanes)
- iso-octane (branched alkanes)
- 1-pentene (alkenes)
- toluene (aromatics)
- methylcyclohexane (cycloalkanes)
- One representative of each fuel class

# Surrogate fuel compositions examined:

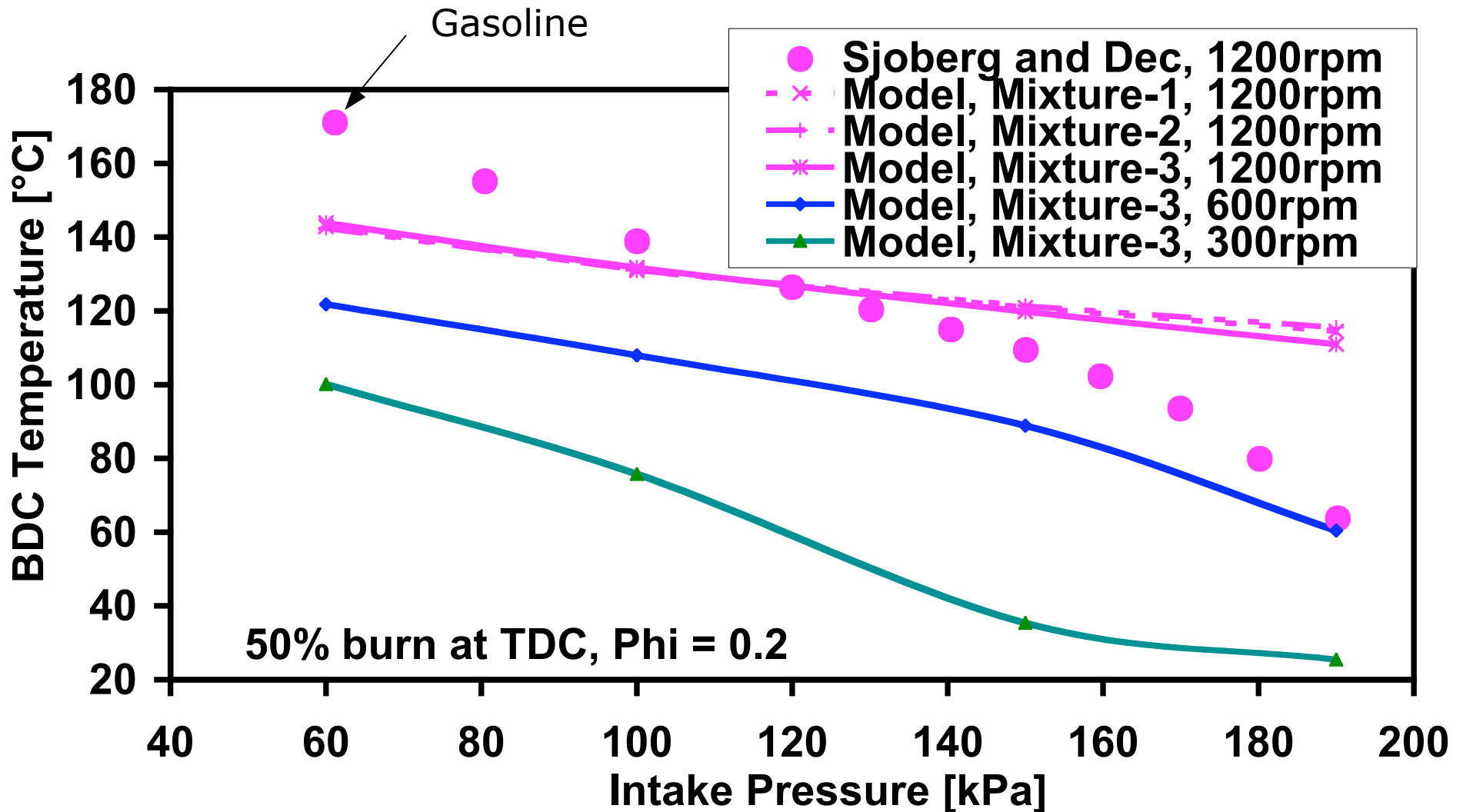
- n Mixture 1: Five components to represent the different classes of compound in gasoline at the typical level.
- n Mixture 2: Match the octane number of gasoline based on *blended* octane numbers.
- n Mixture 3: Increase the low temperature chemistry by adding more n-heptane

| % molar composition | Mixture 1 | Mixture 2 | Mixture 3 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| iso-Octane          | 60        | 40        | 40        |
| n-Heptane           | 8         | 10        | 20        |
| Toluene             | 20        | 10        | 10        |
| Methyl cyclohexane  | 8         | 40        | 30        |
| 1-Pentene           | 4         | 0         | 0         |
| RON (linear)        | 93.7      | 81.7      | 83.7      |
| MON (linear)        | 90.6      | 79.3      | 79.8      |
| RON (blend)         | 99.2      | 94        | 87.6      |
| MON (blend)         | 94.5      | 84.8      | 82        |

## Effect of equivalence ratio on timing for start of combustion



# Effect of intake pressure on temperature required to maintain TDC timing: effects of pressure on kinetics are not yet correct



# Comparisons to shock tube data on gasoline surrogates:

Stanford data: Gauthier, Davidson and Hanson,  
Combust. Flame 139 (2004) 300-311

- RD387 Gasoline (GM Research)

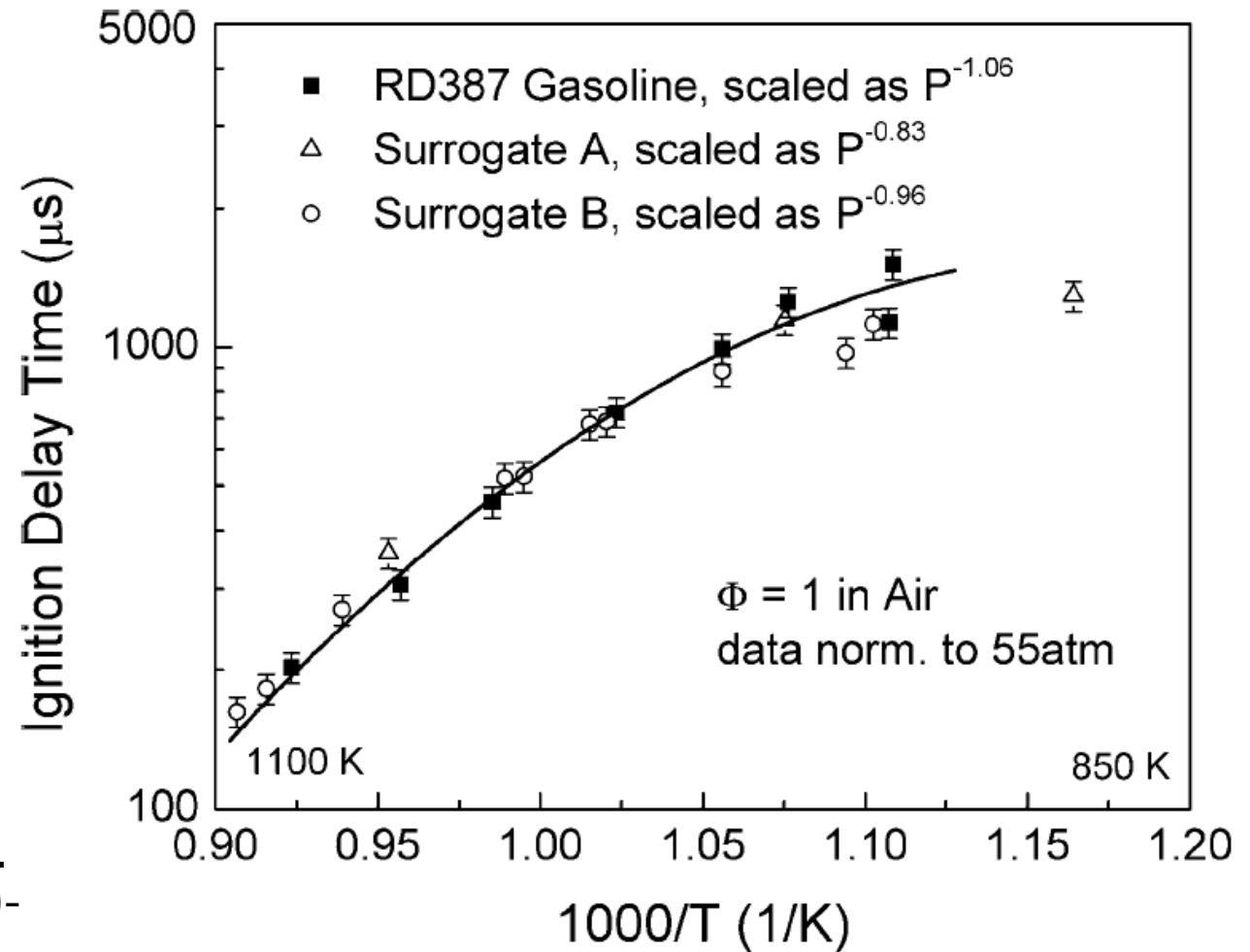
- Surrogate A:

63% iso-octane/20% toluene/17% n-heptane

- Surrogate B:

69% iso-octane/14% toluene/17% n-heptane

Both surrogates A and B compare well with gasoline under shock tube conditions



(Gauthier, Davidson  
and Hanson, Combust.  
Flame 139 (2004) 300-  
311)

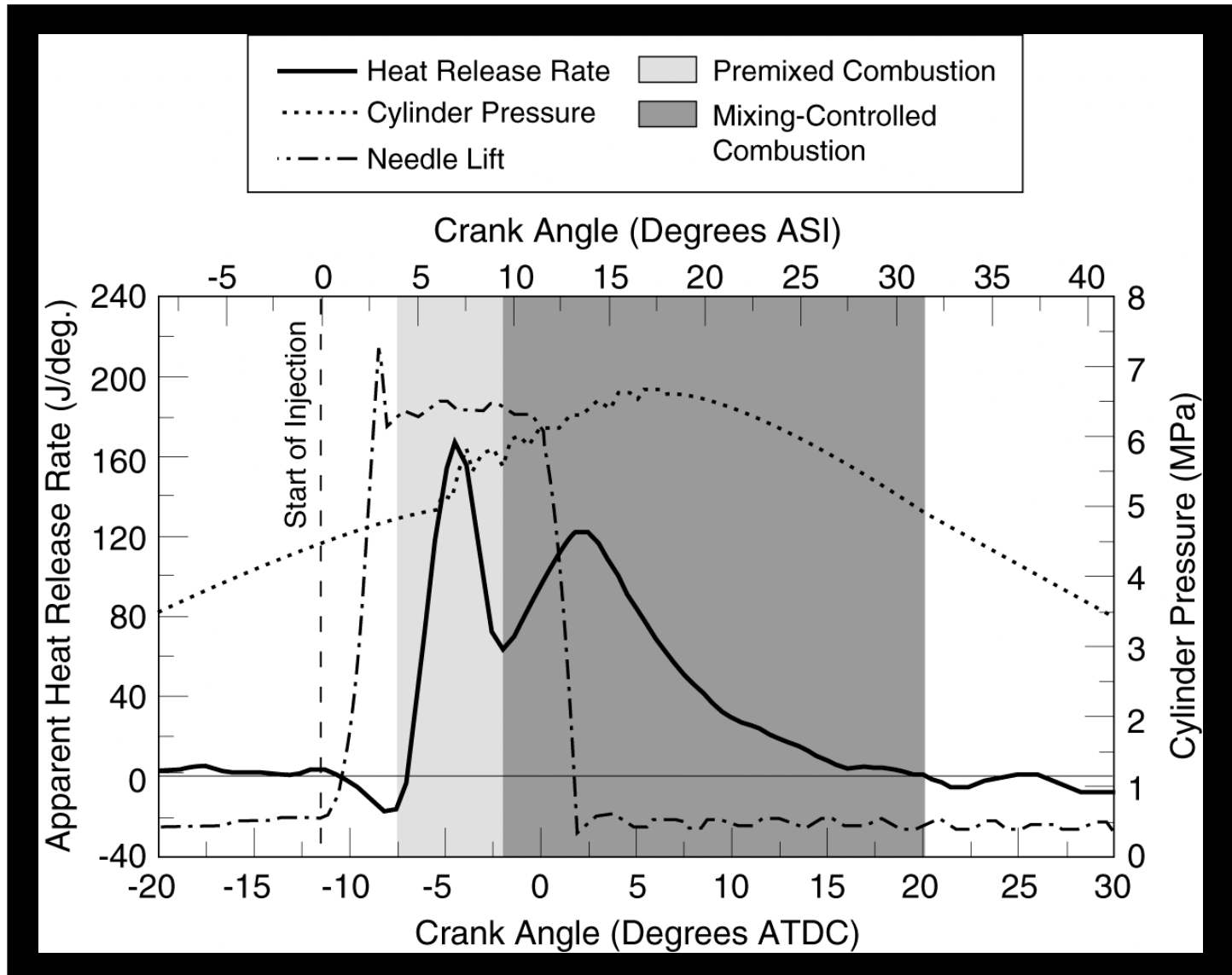
## More detail is needed for surrogate fuels

- Next aromatics are naphthalene and xylene
- Next cycloalkanes are ethyl cyclohexane, cyclopentane, and multicyclic alkanes
- Include diisobutylene as additional olefin
- Include multiple species in each of the 5 or 6 classes of fuels in a given surrogate
- Need suitable surrogates for each practical fuel  
diesel, gasoline, jet fuel, natural gas, etc.
- Need different surrogate for same fuel in different applications  
gasoline in SI engines, HCCI engines

# Constituents of surrogate fuels

- Each species requires basic research
- Each species needs experimental data over a wide range of experimental parameters
  - shock tubes
  - flow reactors
  - rapid compression machines
- Each species requires kinetic modeling research, thermochemistry
- These are major research tasks

# Diesel engine combustion: A revolution

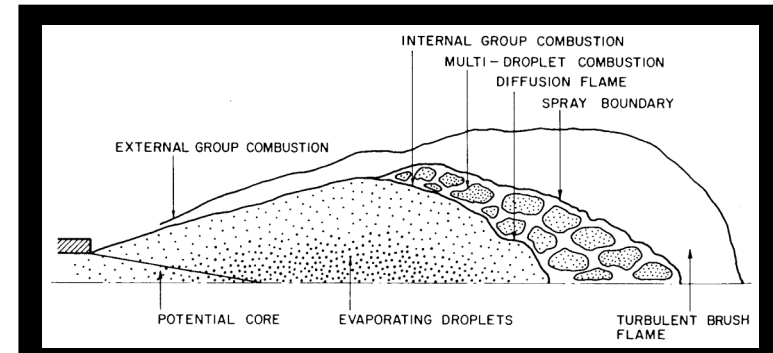


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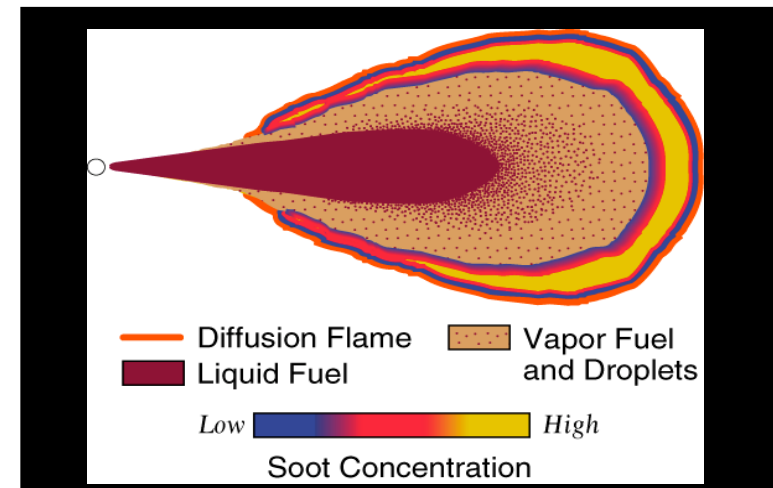
# Prior to Laser-Sheet Imaging



- Autoignition and premixed burn were thought to occur in near-stoichiometric regions.
- The "quasi-steady" portion of Diesel combustion was thought to be adequately described by steady spray combustion theory.
- Appeared to fit most available data.
- This "old" description was never fully developed into a conceptual model.  
A "representative" schematic is given.



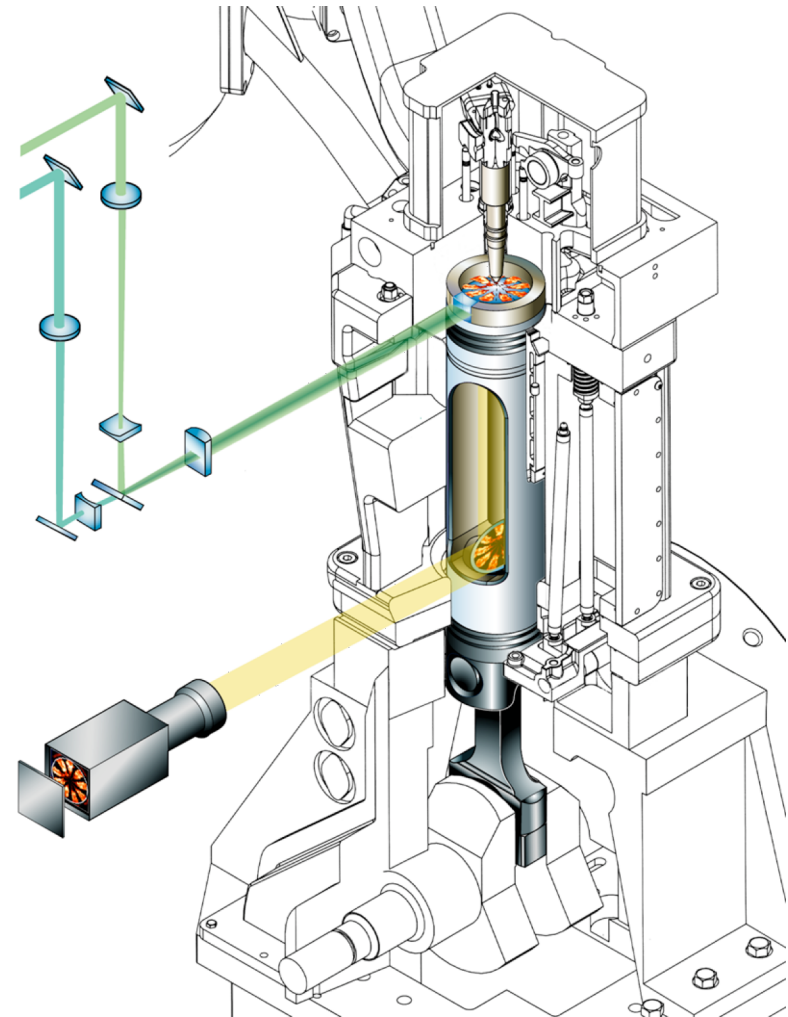
Schematic of group combustion for a fuel spray.  
*From Kuo, as adapted from H. Chiu and Croke*



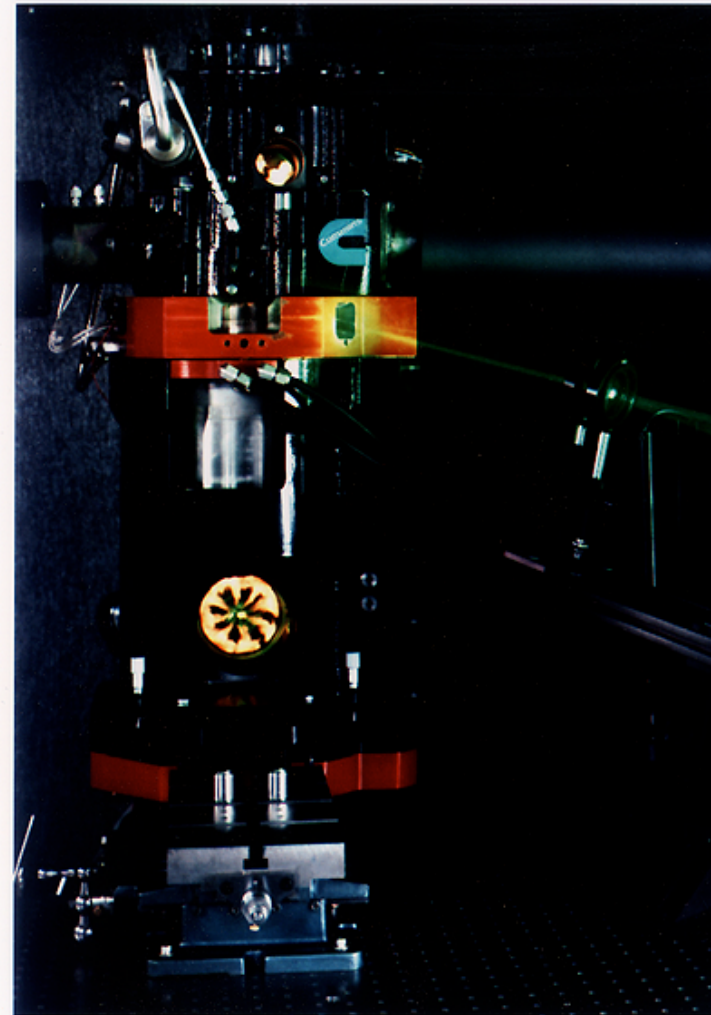
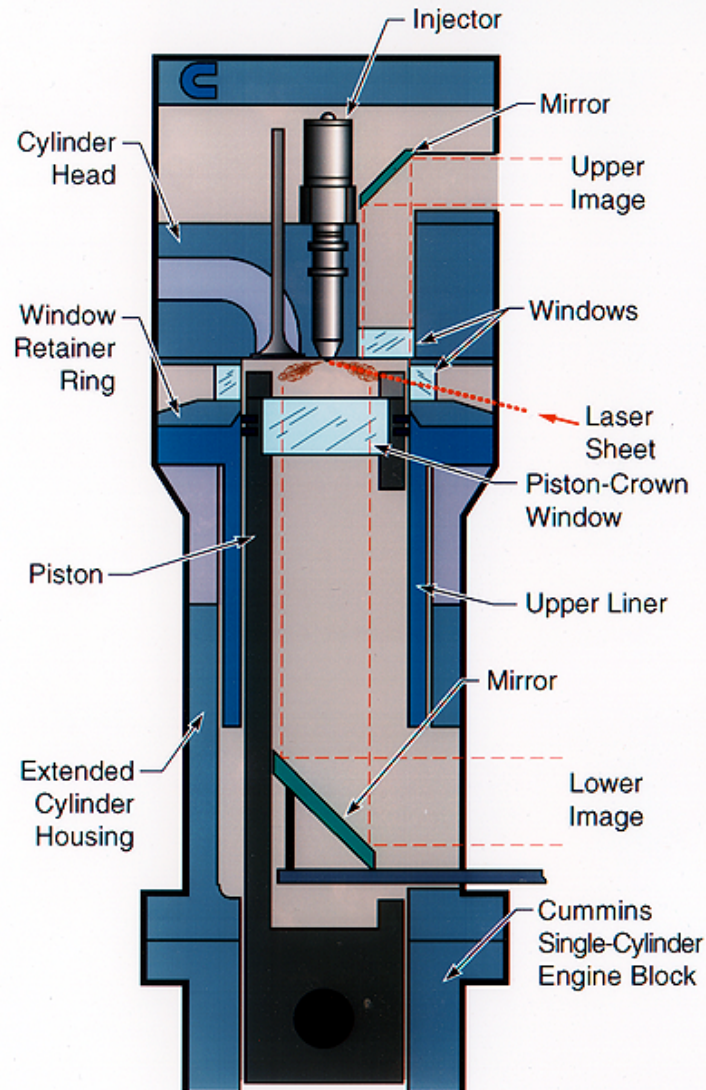
Old description of DI Diesel combustion.

# The DOE Engine Combustion Research Program at Sandia's CRF played a major role in solving the diesel "mystery".

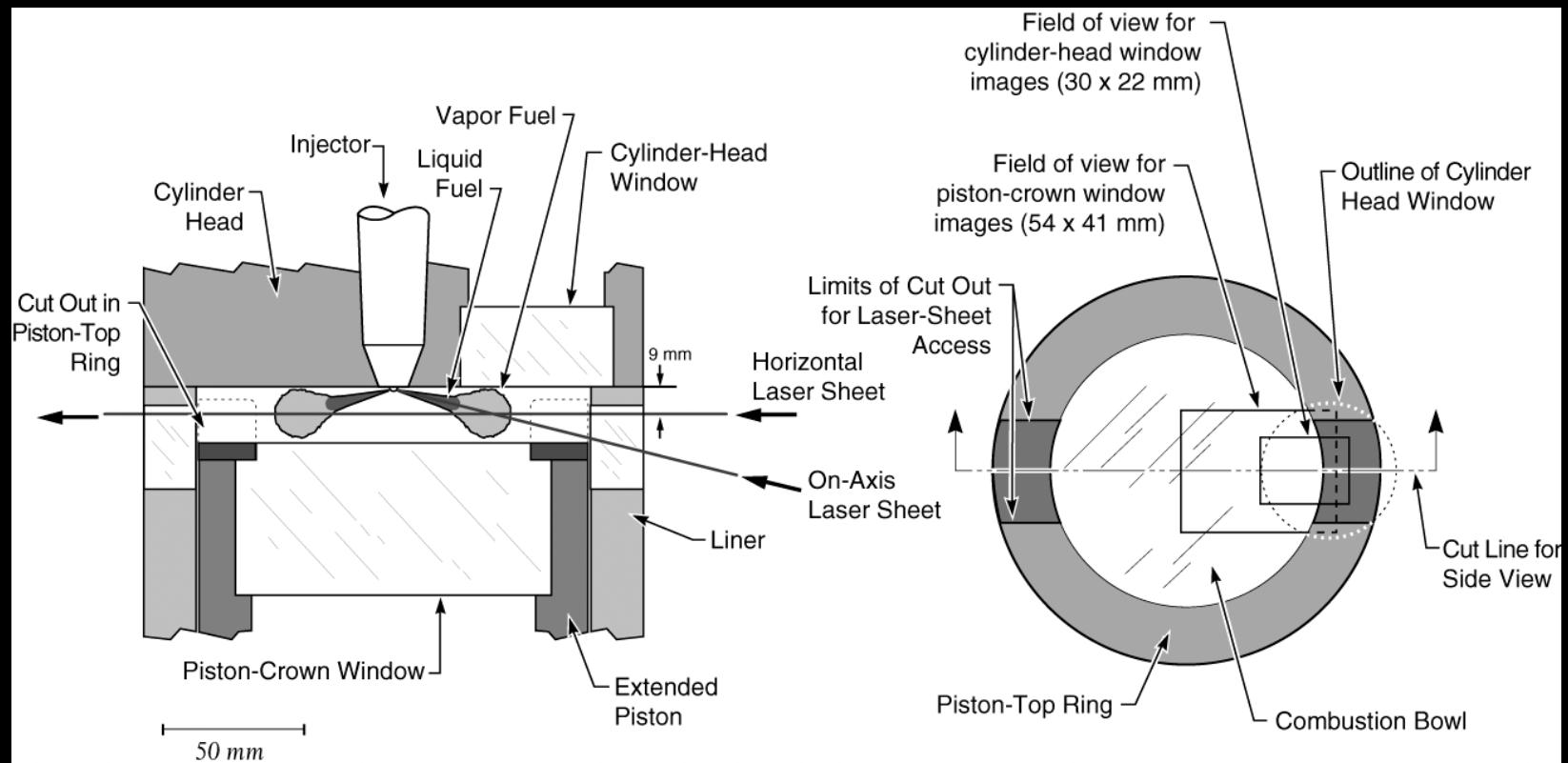
- n **Mission** - Develop the science-base for in-cylinder combustion and emissions processes.
  - Help U.S. manufacturers reduce emissions & improve performance.
- n **Approach** –
  - Strong interaction and collaboration with industry.
  - Optical diagnostics.
  - Realistic engine geometries with optical access through:
    - > *pistons*
    - > *cylinder liner*
    - > *spacer plates*
    - > *exhaust ports*



# Sandia/Cummins Diesel Engine



# Optical Setup



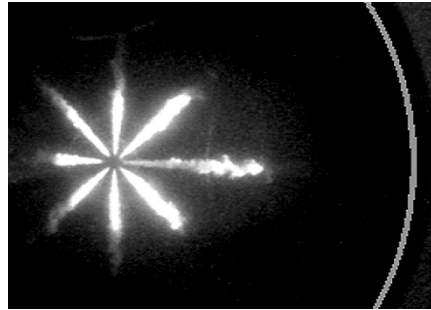
**Side View of Combustion Chamber**

**Top View of Piston**

# Laser-Sheet Imaging Data - 1

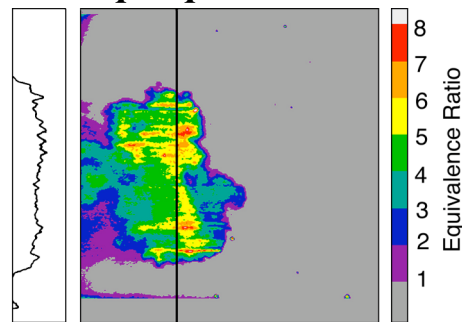


*Liquid-phase Fuel*



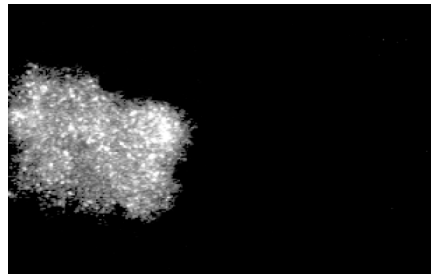
- Liquid fuel images show that all the fuel vaporizes within a characteristic length (~1 inch) from the injector.

*Vapor-phase Fuel*



- Vapor fuel images show that downstream of the liquid region, the fuel and air are uniformly mixed to an equivalence ratio of 3-4.

*Chemiluminescence*



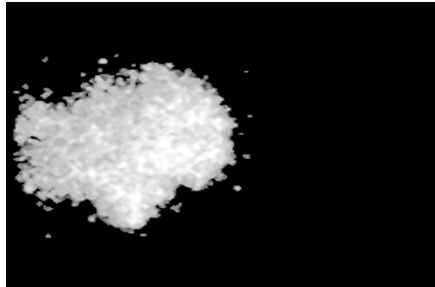
- Chemiluminescence images show autoignition occurring across the downstream portion of the fuel jet.

Quiescent Chamber, 1200 rpm,  $T_{TDC} = 1000 \text{ K}$ ,  $\rho_{TDC} = 16.6 \text{ kg/m}^3$

# Laser-Sheet Imaging Data - 2

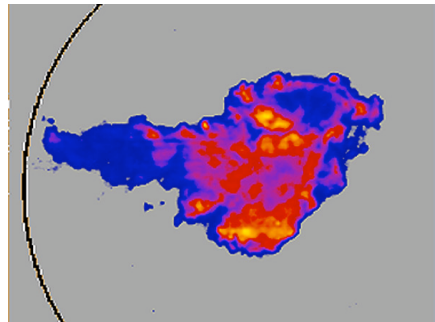


*PAH Distribution*



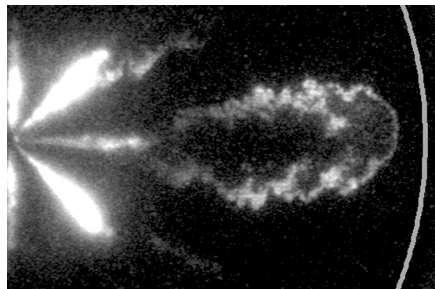
- PAHs form throughout the cross-section of the fuel jet immediately following fuel breakdown at the start of the apparent heat release.

*Soot Distribution*



- LII soot images show that soot forms throughout the cross-section of the fuel jet beginning just downstream of the liquid-fuel region.

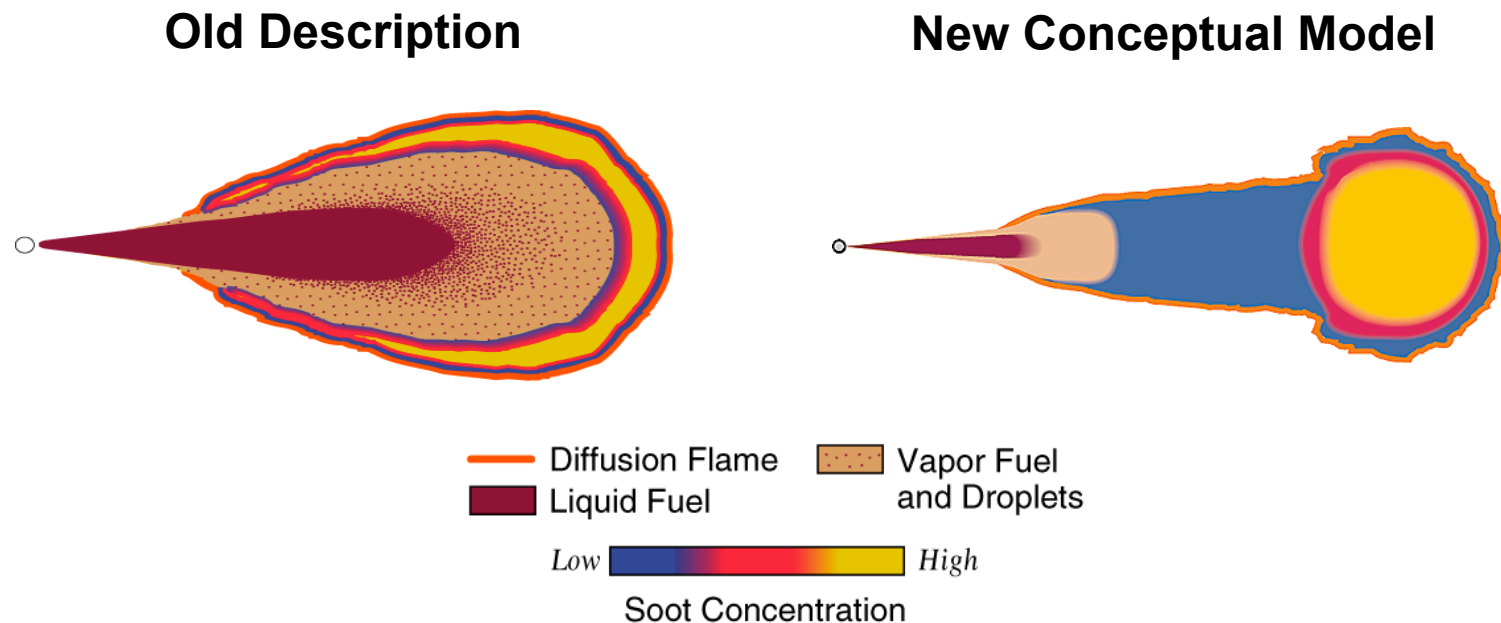
*OH PLIF Image*



- OH radical images show that the diffusion flame forms at the jet periphery subsequent to an initial fuel-rich premixed combustion phase.

Quiescent Chamber, 1200 rpm,  $T_{TDC} = 1000$  K,  $\rho_{TDC} = 16.6$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>

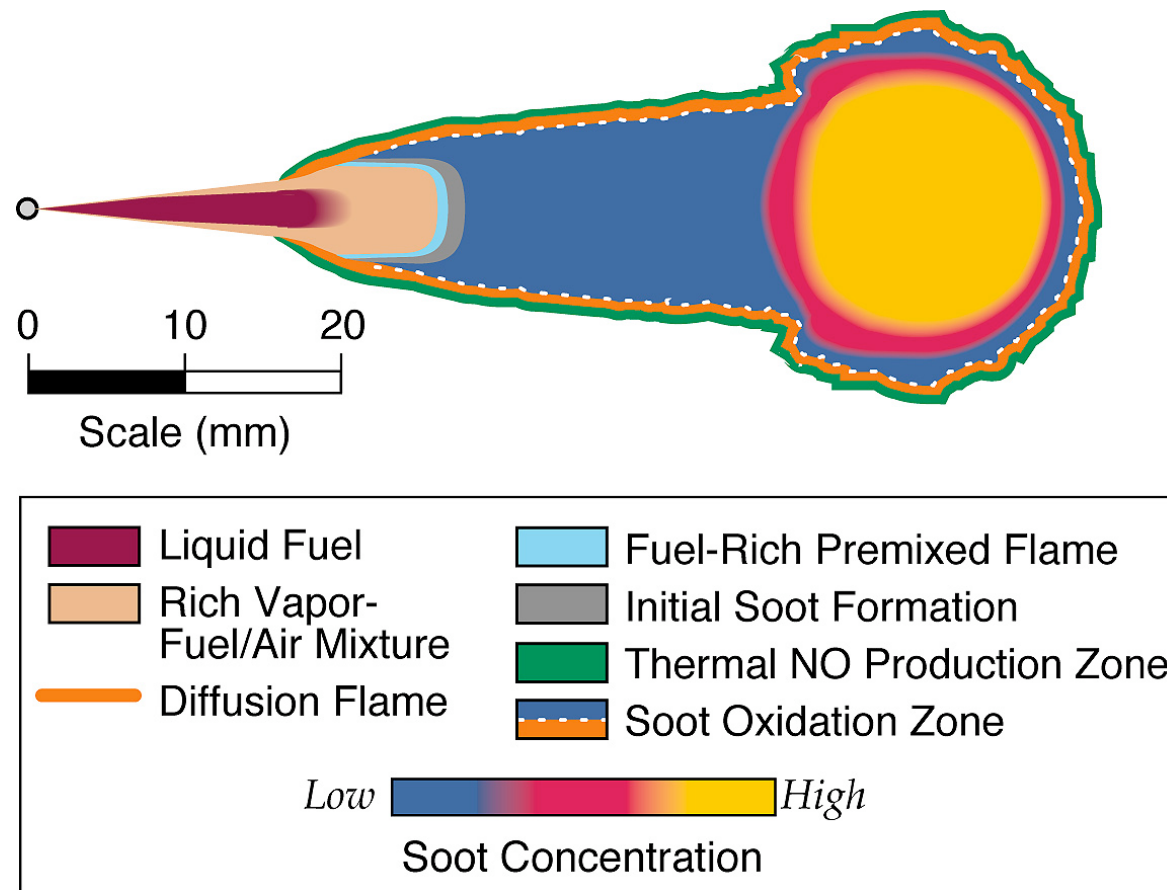
# Laser Sheet Imaging is Providing a New Understanding of DI Diesel Combustion



- The appearance is significantly different.
  - Regimes of Diesel combustion are different than thought. (flame standoff, upstream mixing, instantaneous vs. averaged).

# Typical Schematic: First Part of Mixing-Controlled Burn

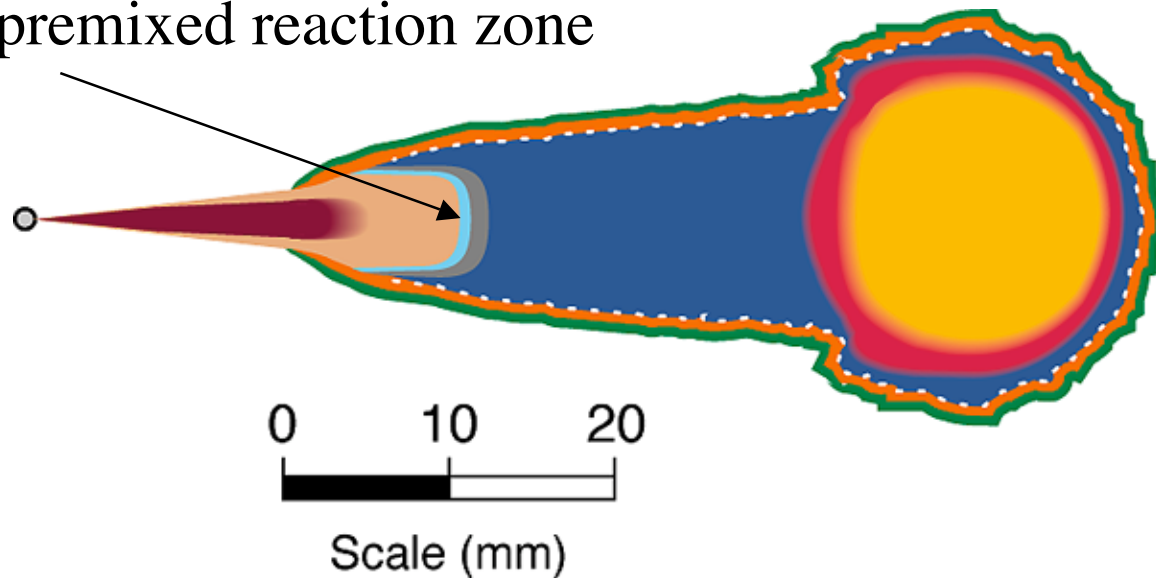
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## Predicting the soot precursors is one of the keys to predicting soot emissions from a Diesel engine

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Fuel-rich premixed reaction zone



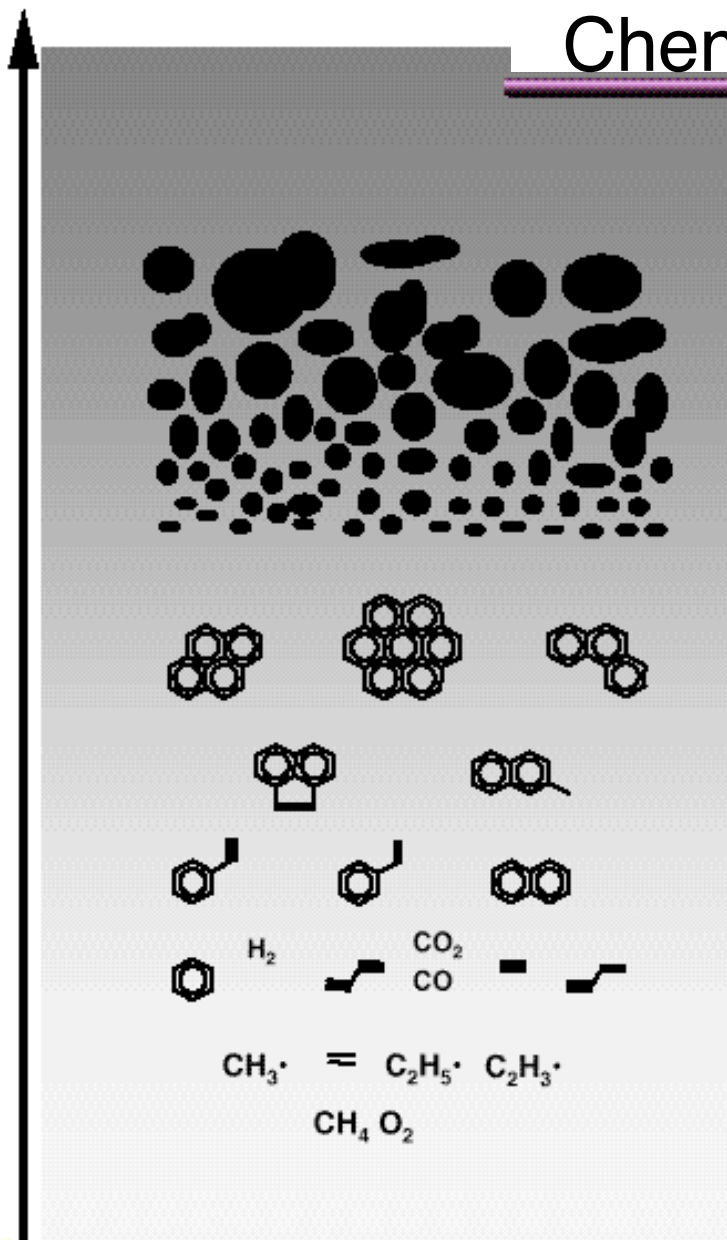
-  **Fuel-Rich Premixed Reaction Zone**
-  Initial Soot Formation
-  Thermal NO Production Zone
-  Soot Oxidation Zone

## Premixed ignition in Diesel combustion

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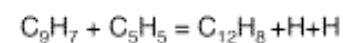
- Fuel-rich conditions ( $\Phi \approx 4$ )
- Relatively low temperature ( $T \approx 850$  K )
  - Source of cetane ratings in Diesel engines
  - Very similar to conditions of engine knock
  - Very complex chemical kinetic pathways
- Products are good producers of soot precursor species
- Ignition kinetics are the same as in engine knock in SI engines, driven by  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  decomposition

# Chemical evolution of soot

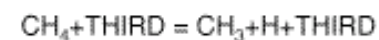
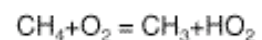
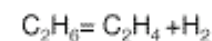
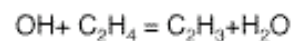
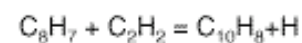


- oxidation
- agglomeration
- growth
- inception/nucleation

particle zone



molecular zone

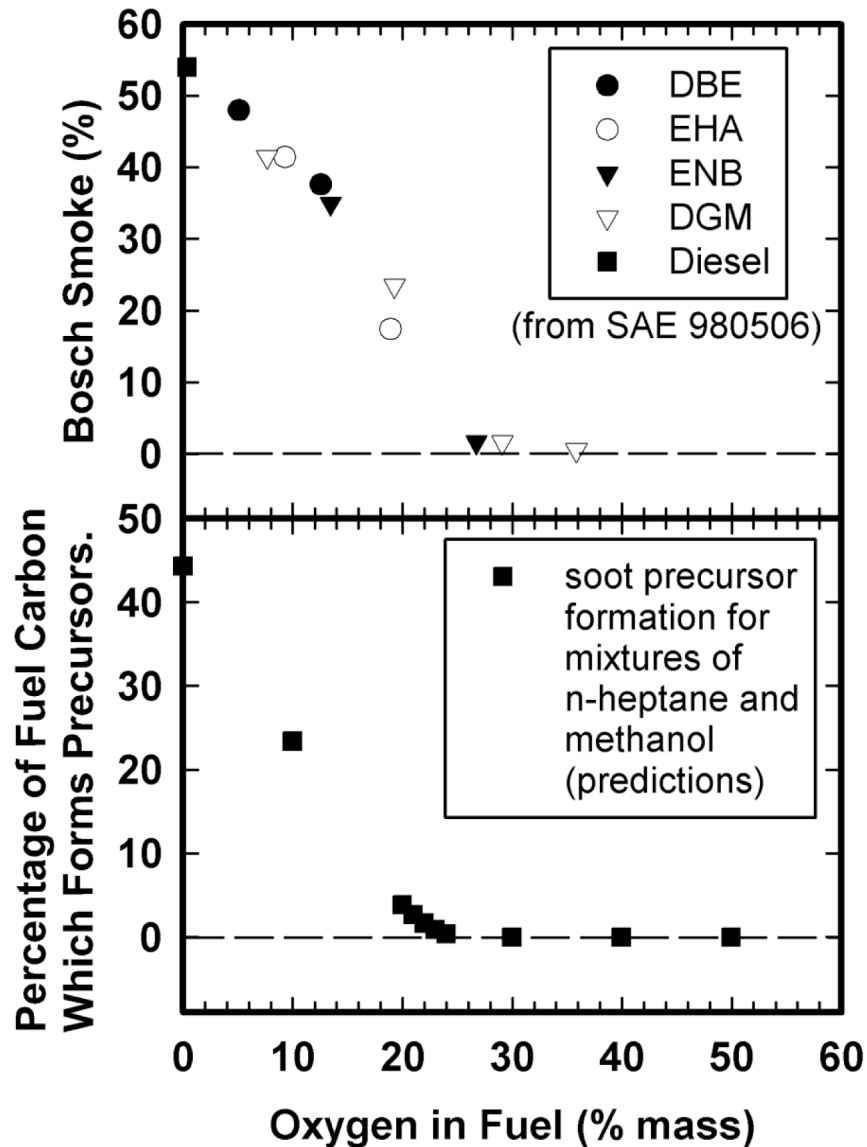


## Experimental background

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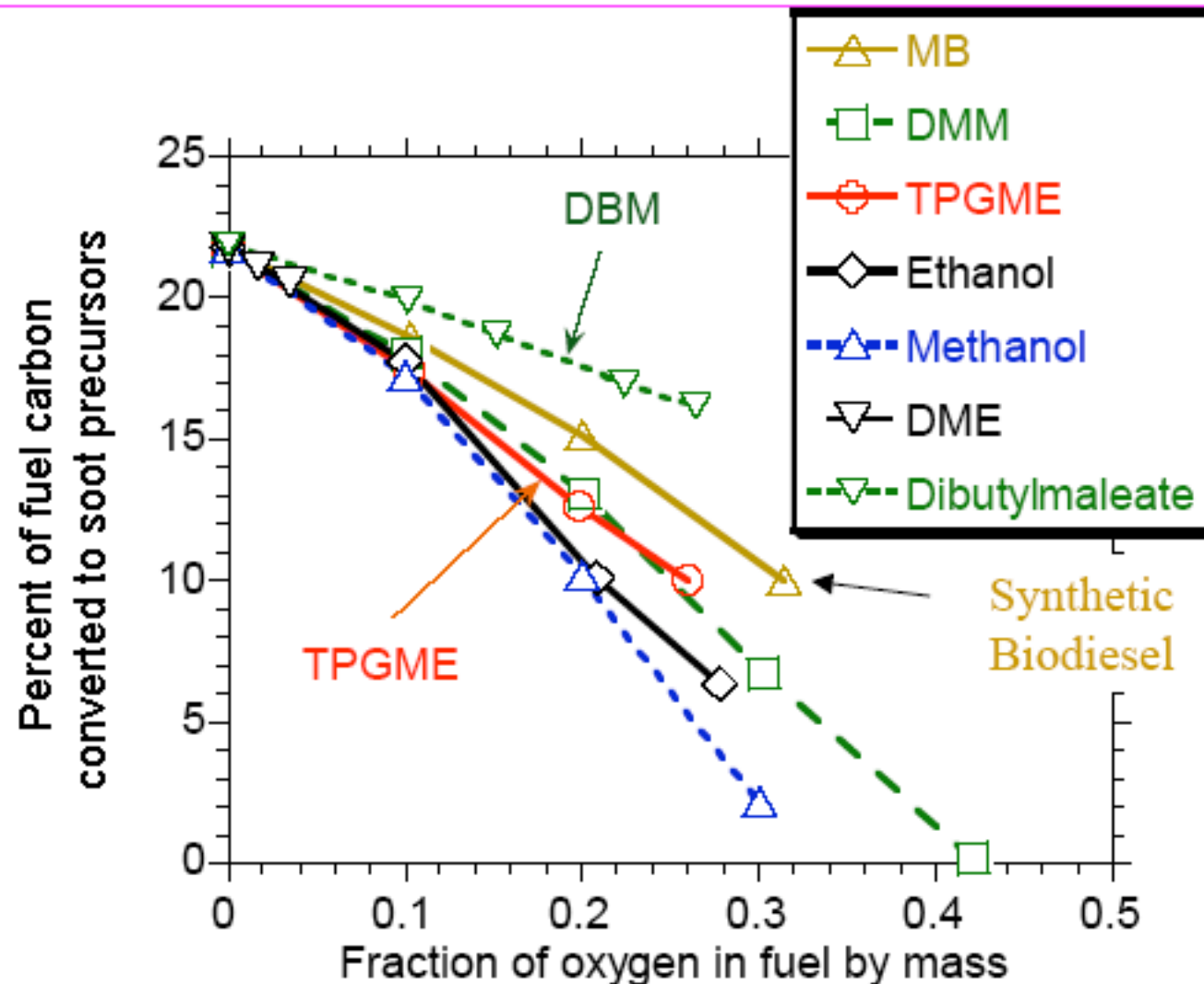
- Addition of oxygenated species reduces soot
  - Important possible oxygenates include biodiesel fuels
- Soot production correlates with post-ignition levels of selected chemical species
- Suggestions that this is due to presence of C - C bonds or total O concentrations
- Use kinetic model to examine these possibilities

## Predicted level of soot precursors correlates well with soot emissions from a Diesel engine



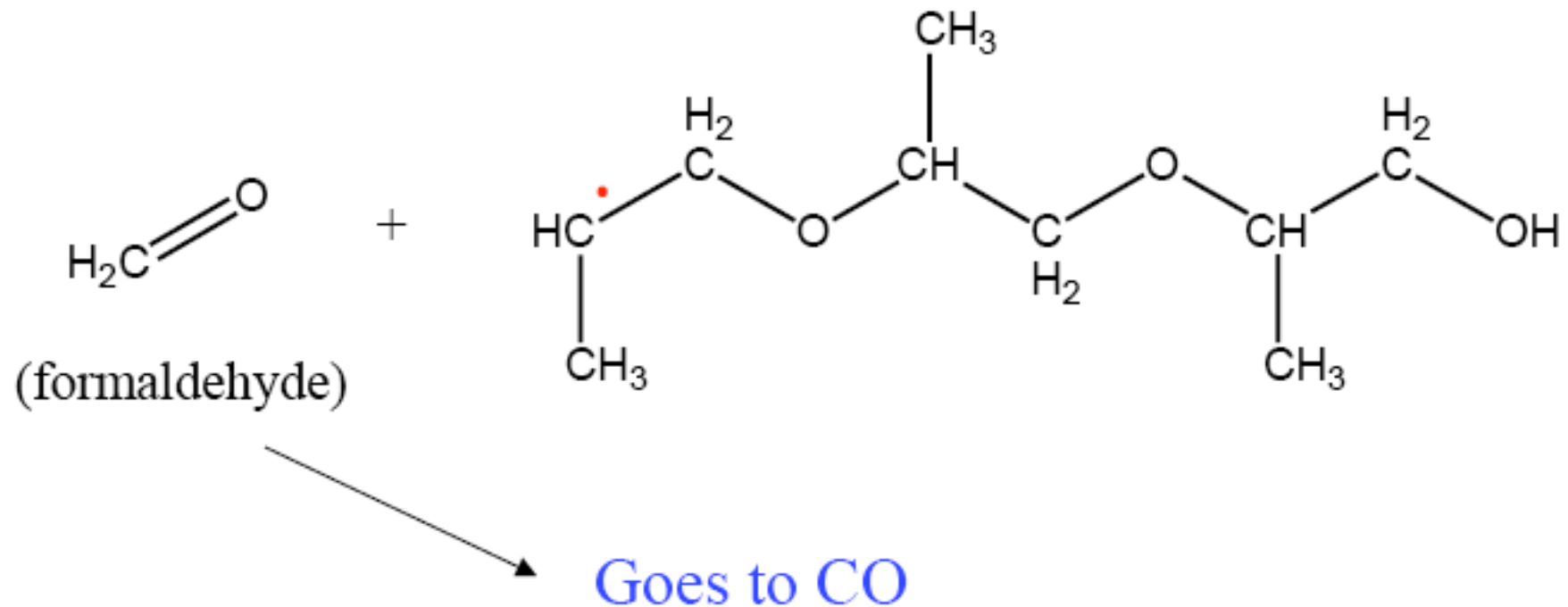
From:  
Flynn, Durrett,  
Dec, Westbrook, et  
al., SAE paper  
1999-01-0509

## How well an oxygenated fuel works depends on its molecular structure



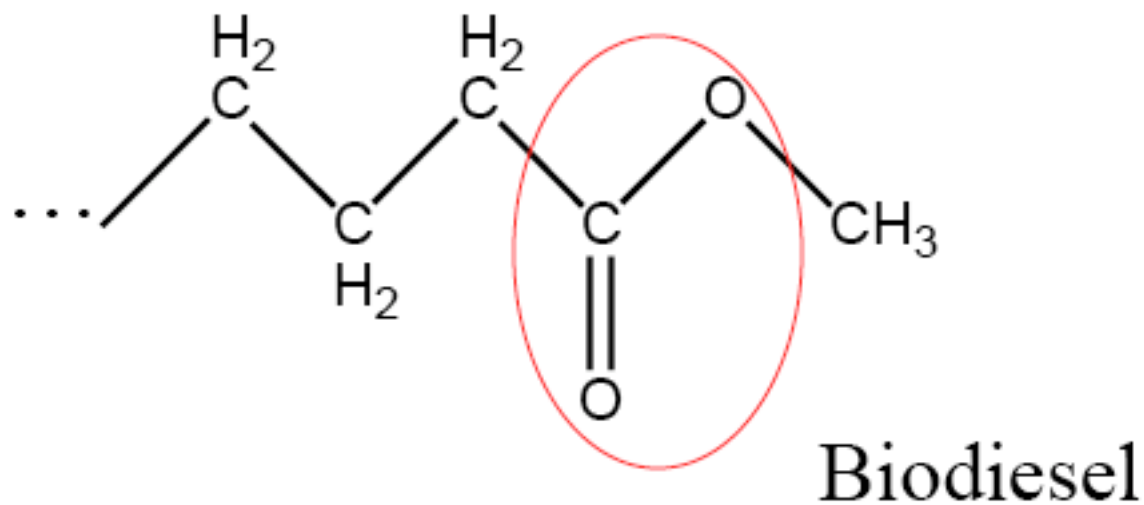
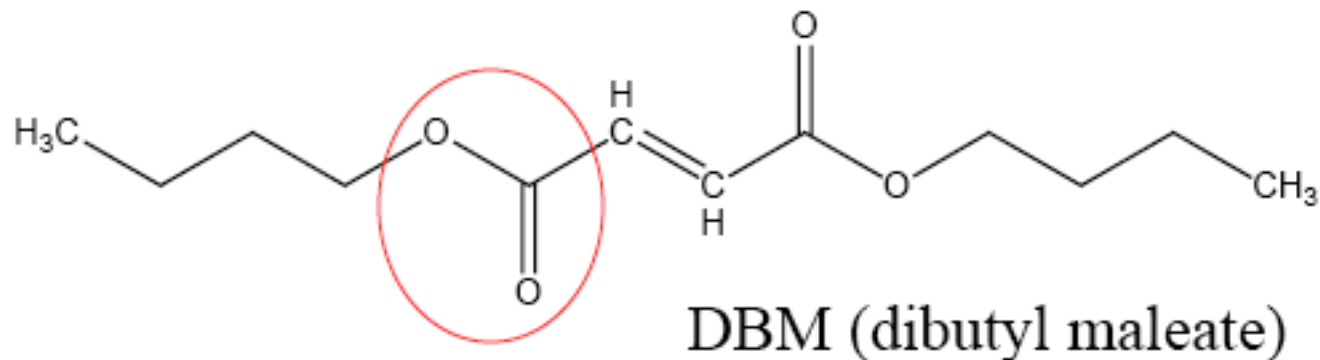
As the oxygenate is consumed, ideally each O atom should stay attached to one C atom to make CO

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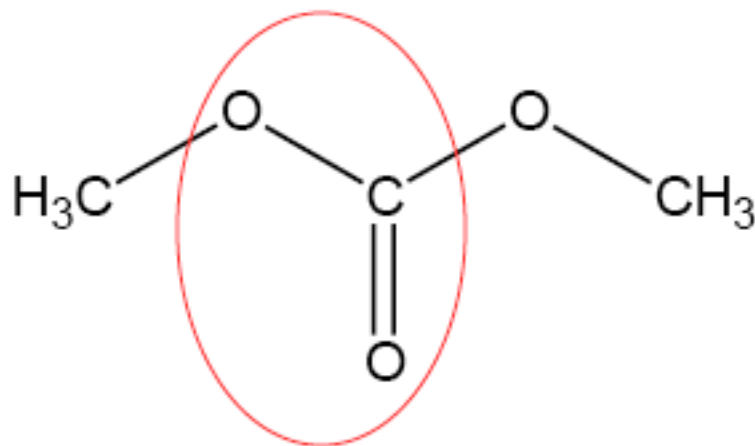
One large group of oxygenates have ester structures where one carbon atom is attached to two oxygen atoms

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One oxygen atom could be wasted

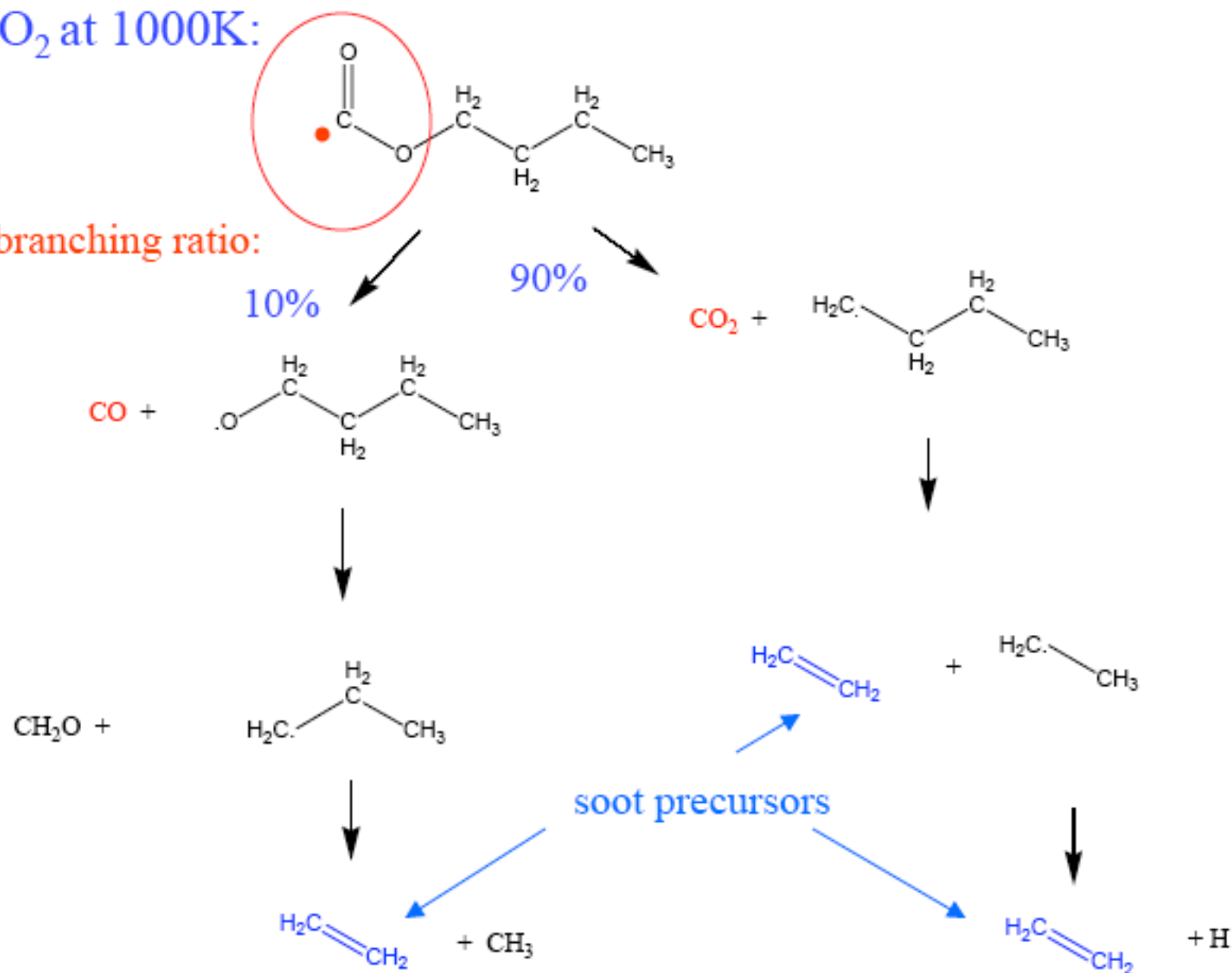
DMC (dimethylcarbonate) has ester structure



⇒study it, because it is a small, simpler molecule than the large DBM or biodiesel fuels and some experimental data was available

Based on new rates, 90% of key ester structure in DBM goes to  $\text{CO}_2$  at 1000K:

Key branching ratio:

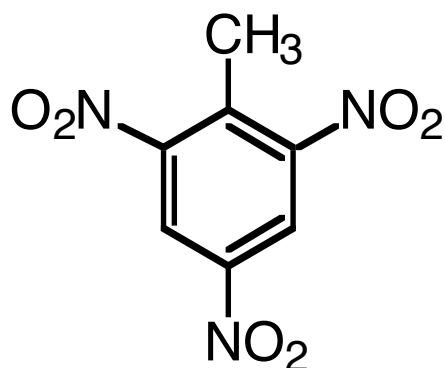


# **Molecular structure of oxygenated fuel additive determines its soot reduction properties**

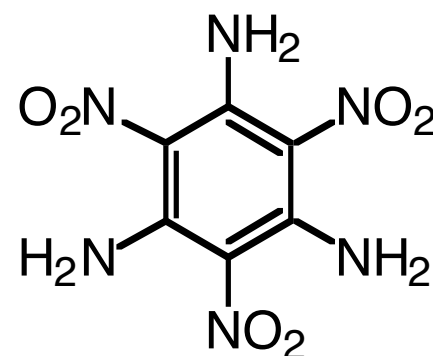
- Variability in soot precursor production observed computationally
- Before modeling approach was used, all oxygenates were believed to be equally effective at soot reduction
- Subsequent engine experiments consistent with model results
- Reaction pathways that lead to early CO<sub>2</sub> production “waste” available oxygen atoms in the oxygenate
- Same approach provided sooting estimates for oil sands fuel
- All analysis based on single-component “diesel fuel” surrogate
- Need for more thorough, multicomponent diesel simulations
- Opportunities for designing optimal oxygenated additives

Soot production in incineration of munitions can be described chemically in terms that are consistent with diesel combustion production of soot

TNT

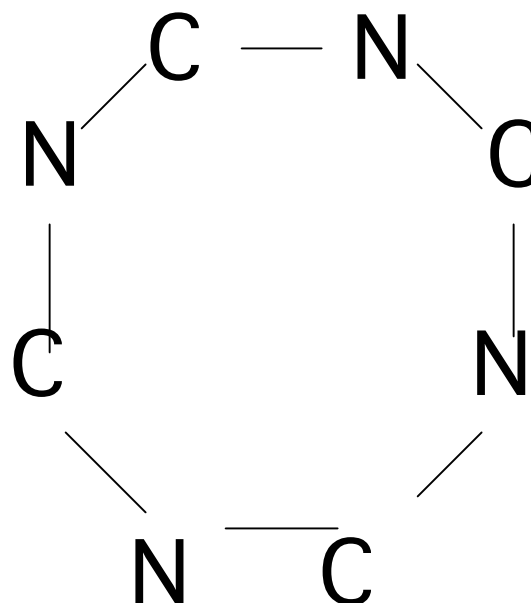
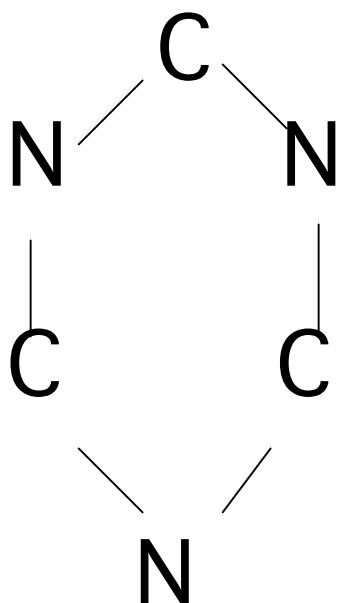


TATB



Presence of aromatic rings indicates explosive will lead to soot.

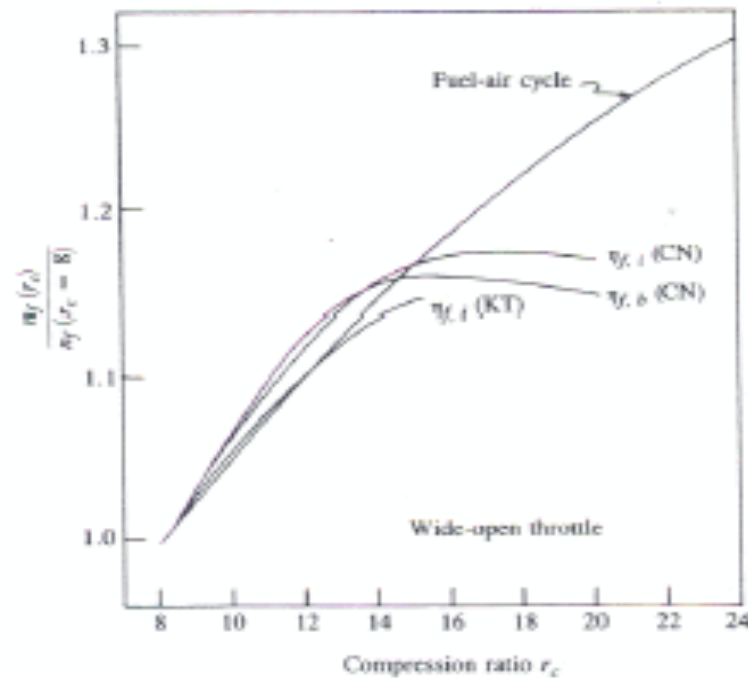
## RDX and HMX are based on non-aromatic rings



Note the absence of any C - C bonds or aromatic rings, and these explosives do not produce soot

SI engine efficiency increases with compression ratio

- curve of efficiency vs. compression ratio



But onset of engine knock limits compression ratio

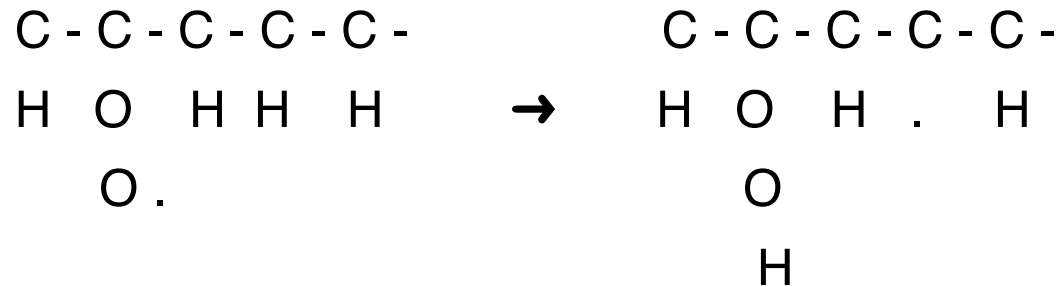
Knock tendency is measured by octane number, which is found to be a strong function of fuel molecule size and structure

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| <chem>CCCCCCCC</chem>   | RON<br>0 |
| <chem>CC(C)CCCC</chem>  | 42       |
| <chem>CCC(C)CC</chem>   | 52       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 93       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 81       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 83       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 91       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 65       |
| <chem>CC(C)C(C)C</chem> | 112      |

# **We have learned a lot about knock kinetics**

- Octane numbers of individual hydrocarbon molecules
  - placed 75 years of observations on a solid theoretical base
- Role of low temperature reaction pathways
  - identification of specific reactions that have the greatest influence
- Mode of action of antiknocks from TEL to MTBE
- But most quantitative details are still poorly understood

# Main reaction pathway is internal transfer of H



This chain branching reaction sequence has been studied experimentally and theoretically only for the ethyl peroxy radical

Major improvements in efficiency might be possible with better knowledge of intermediate temperature chain branching kinetic processes

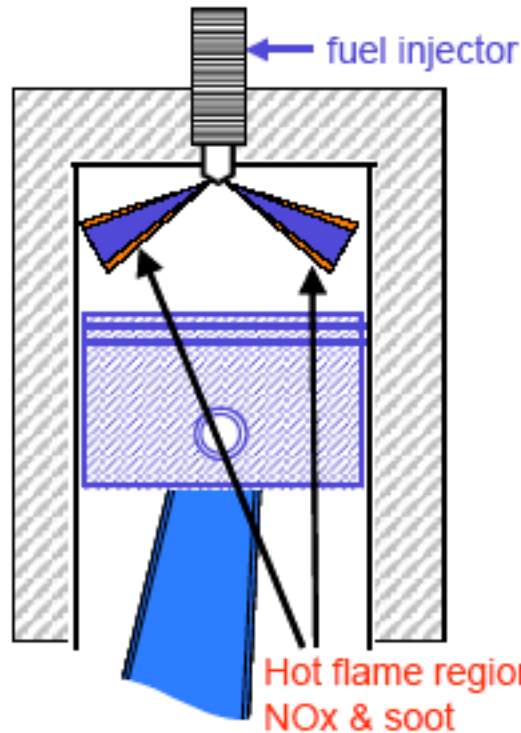
Better antiknock additives could improve efficiencies by delaying onset of engine knock

# The HCCI engine is a truly new engine concept

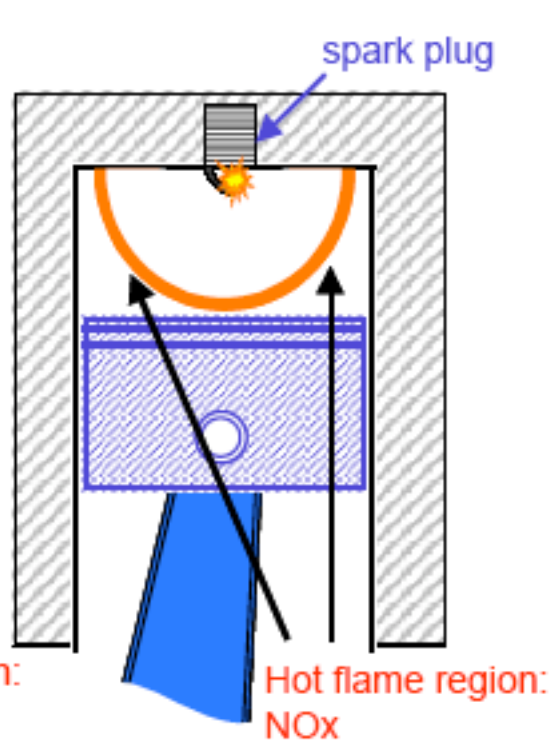
- Premixed gaseous mixture of fuel and air (similar to SI)
- Compression ignition (similar to diesel)
  - High compression ratio gives high efficiency
- New feature is overall very fuel-lean combustion
- Product temperatures too low to produce NO<sub>x</sub>
- Only way to increase load is to increase fuel fraction
- No flame propagation -- nearly homogeneous ignition
  - Too lean to support flame propagation
- Onset of ignition kinetically controlled, difficult to vary
- Only significant emission is unburned hydrocarbons from wall layers
  - Avoids NO<sub>x</sub> / UHC tradeoff

# What Is HCCI?

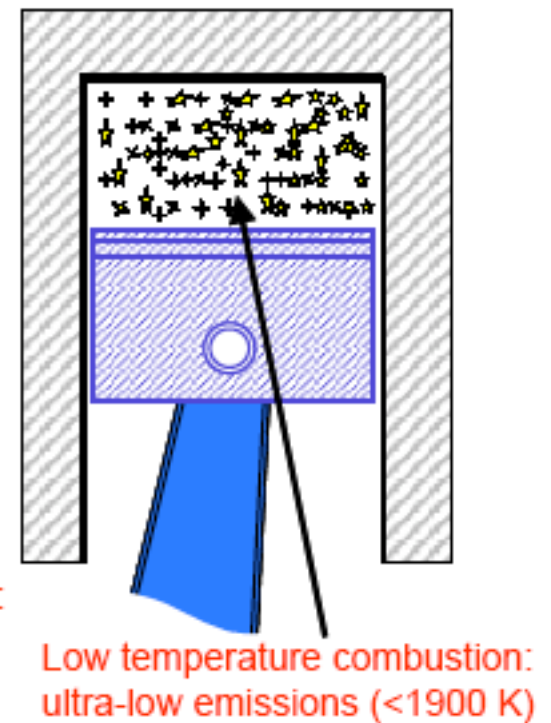
**Diesel Engine**  
(compression ignition)



**Gasoline Engine**  
(spark-ignition)

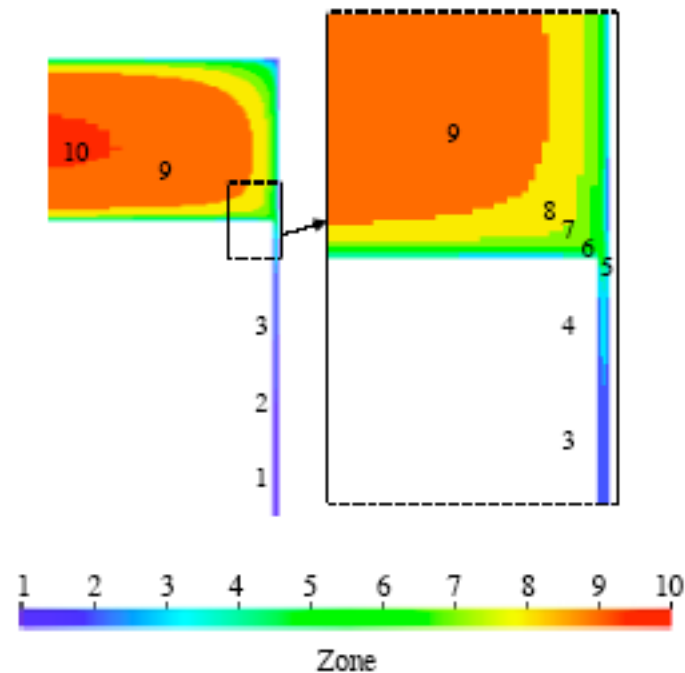


**HCCI Engine**  
(Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition)



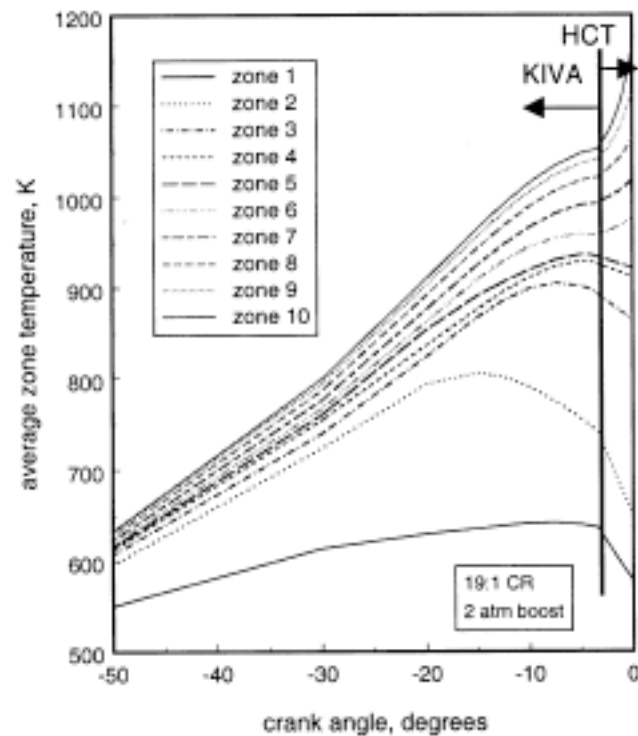
Drawing from Gerald Coleman, Caterpillar Inc.

A multizone simulation of HCCI combustion identifies regions of similar reaction histories and shows the sources of unburned fuel

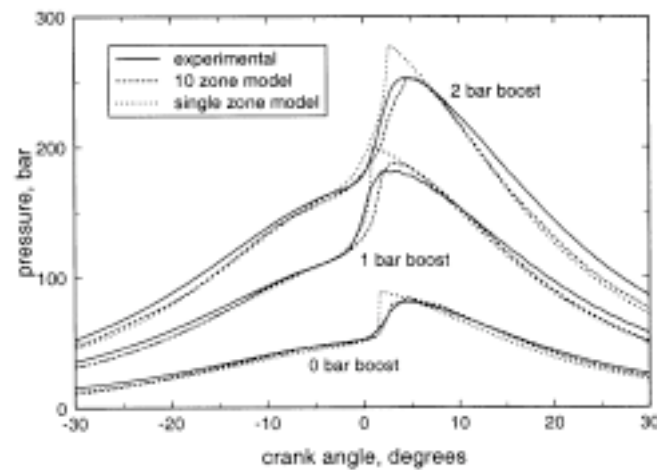


Quenching of reaction by heat transfer is the major source of incomplete reaction

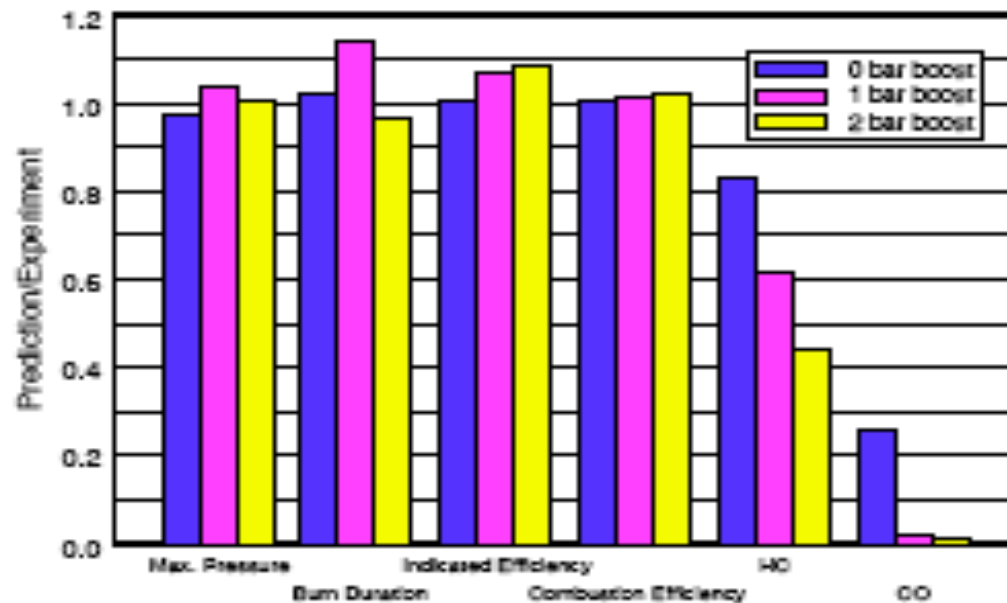
A small number of zones burn incompletely or not at all and produce unburned hydrocarbon emissions



A fairly simple 10 zone chemical model reproduces most of the features of the engine combustion



Most measured parameters are described well, but major emissions are not described properly



# Main research needs for HCCI combustion

- Low temperature unburned hydrocarbon catalyst
  - For lean mixtures, product temperature is unusually low
- An effective control system for ignition timing
  - Bowman group is a leader in this area
- A viable alternative to current design strategies of auto industry
  - HCCI over full range of speeds and loads is not best use of technology
  - Perhaps use HCCI as part of hybrid system
  - HCCI ideal for some applications with constant speed and load

# Technologies surveyed or excerpted

- Oil sands
- Surrogates for practical transportation fuels
- Diesel engines
- Laser sheet experiments to elucidate physical processes
- Diesel soot production
- Oxygenated diesel fuel additives for soot reduction
- Engine knock
- HCCI combustion principles

# Closing observations

- Combustion is major source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, so increased combustion efficiency provides huge opportunities for reduced emissions
- Many potential strategies for increased efficiency are being examined but further research is needed
- Past and current examples show that science-based improvements in combustion technologies can be very productive
- Role of computer simulations in modern combustion research has become extremely important
- Industry seems very willing to embrace technical advances from new experimental and computational techniques

# Acknowledgments

Thanks to William Pitz at LLNL and John Dec and Mark Musculus at Sandia Livermore for valuable input and slides for this presentation.

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