# **2021 DOE Vehicle Technologies Office Annual Merit Review**

### **Fuel Properties and Kinetics**

Principal Investigator: Gina M. Fioroni

Organization: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Project ID # FT094

June 24, 2021



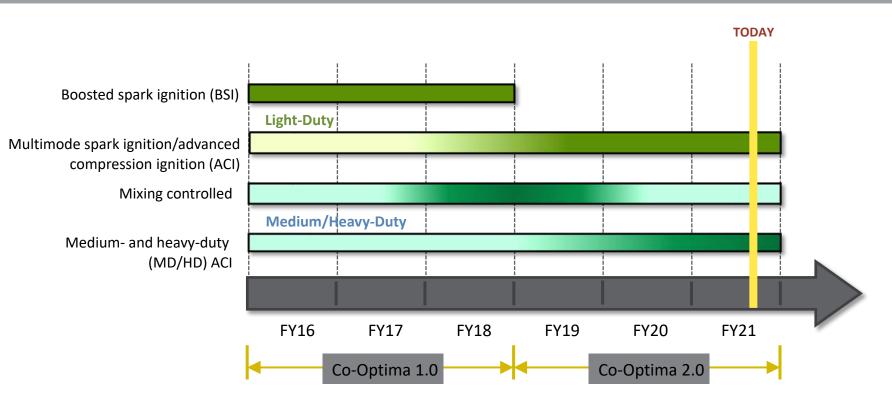
better fuels | better vehicles | sooner



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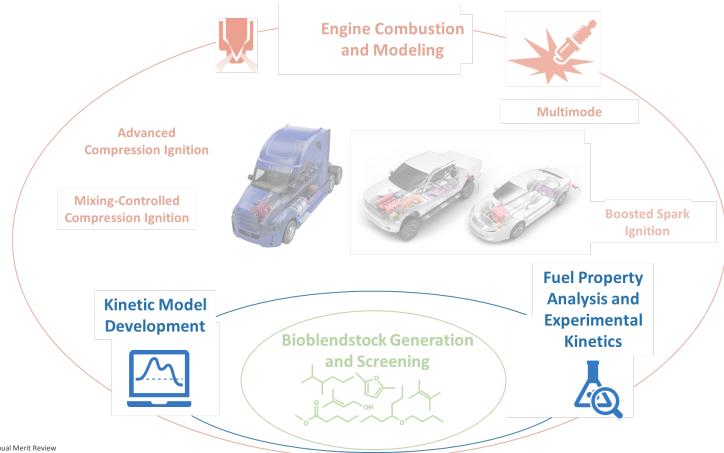
# Overview | Timeline





# Co-Optima Program Integrated to Deliver Better Engines Sooner





### Relevance: Fuel Properties and Experimental Kinetics



#### **Impact:**

 Advance underlying science needed to develop biomass-derived fuel and advanced engine technologies that will work in tandem to achieve significant efficiency, environmental, and economic goals

#### **Objectives:**

- Develop list of key fuel properties in collaboration with Advanced Engine Design (AED) team that enable advanced combustion strategies
- Bench-scale experimental measurement of key fuel properties (small-volume autoignition)
  - Advanced Fuel Ignition Delay Analyzer (AFIDA) and rapid compression machine (RCM) for autoignition metrics and measurement of key fuel properties
  - $\phi$ -sensitivity, research octane number (RON), octane sensitivity (S), and heat of vaporization (HOV)
  - Flow reactor studies for skeletal reaction mechanisms
- Development of kinetic simulations
  - Development of kinetic models for autoignition, NO<sub>x</sub>, flame speeds, and soot-precursor formation over a wide range of pressures, temperatures, equivalence ratios, and exhaust gas recirculation (EGR)

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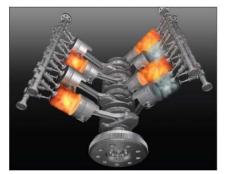


# Identifying Promising Blendstocks

# **Approach:** Development of Key Fuel Properties, Screening, and Characterization



### What Do Engines Want?





### Generate List of Properties

RON and S

\$\phi\$-sensitivity

HOV

Cetane number

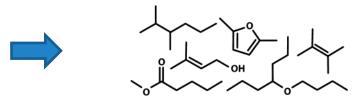
Flame speed



### **Tiered Screening**



### Most Promising Blendstocks



# Developed Fuel Property Database for Screening and Data Organization



- Fully searchable database with fuel property candidates supplied from multiple labs and researchers
- Used extensively for candidate screening
- Database updated on a regular basis as new data are received from researchers
- Thousands of pure components and mixtures included.

Year	Users	Guests
2016	626	385
2017	1,753	1,401
2018	2,119	1,881
2019	2,168	2,056
2020	2,174	2,003
2021*	606	595

<sup>\*</sup> Through May 8, 2021

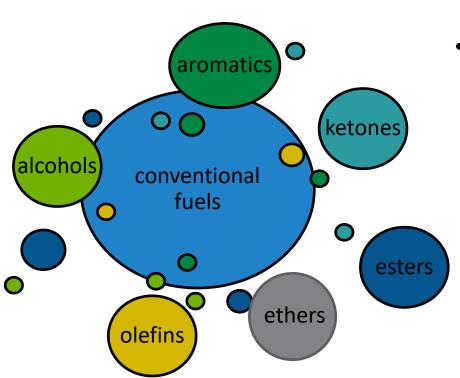




# Highlights: Combined Experimental and Kinetic Model Development for Key Fuel Property Metrics

### Kinetic Mechanism Development





- Kinetic models developed for conventional fuels and oxygenates
- Kinetics required to include combustion into large-scale models

"Co-Optima" model:

~4,200 species

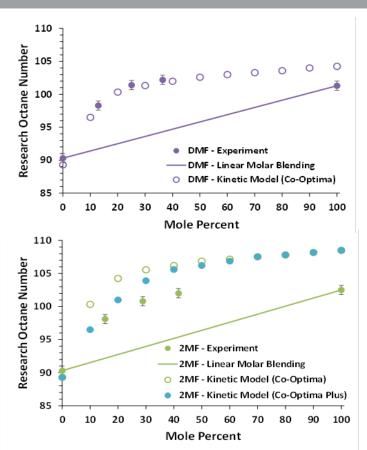
~19,100 reactions

### **Key fuel properties from kinetics:**

- RON prediction
- ф-sensitivity
- Autoignition and soot precursors
- NO<sub>x</sub> effects (EGR)
- Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)/ soot

# Kinetic Simulations for RON Prediction Led to Detailed Understanding of Key Low-Temperature Reactions





- RONs for several blendstocks blended into gasoline were predicted using the Co-Optima mechanism
- Mechanism was interrogated to reveal key reactions responsible for nonlinear blending behavior
- Utilized density functional theory to calculate key reaction rates
- Updated kinetic model with new reaction rates for improved RON prediction.

#### **Gasoline surrogate**

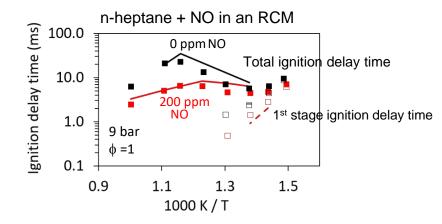
Manuscript in preparation

Species	Volume	Mass	Mole
	fraction	fraction	fraction
Isooctane	0.55	0.519	0.469
Toluene	0.25	0.296	0.331
n-Heptane	0.15	0.140	0.144
1-Hexene	0.05	0.046	0.056

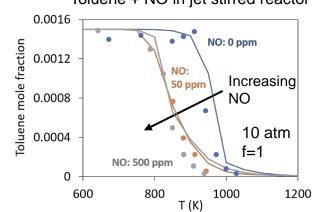
# Predict NO<sub>x</sub> Promotion/Inhibition of Autoignition of Gasoline Surrogate Components



- Nitric oxide (NO) in EGR can affect engine knock and ACI combustion phasing
- Ignition promoting: example: NO+HO<sub>2</sub>=NO<sub>2</sub>+OH
- Ignition inhibiting, R = fuel radical: example: RO<sub>2</sub>+NO=RO+NO<sub>2</sub>
- Extended NO<sub>x</sub> kinetics to more surrogate components:
  - iso-pentane (new)
  - cyclopentane (new)
  - 1-hexene (new)
  - n-heptane, updated
  - toluene, updated



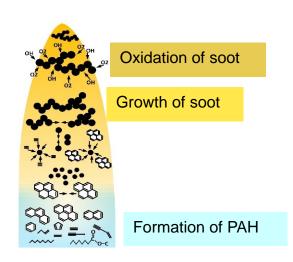
Toluene + NO in jet stirred reactor

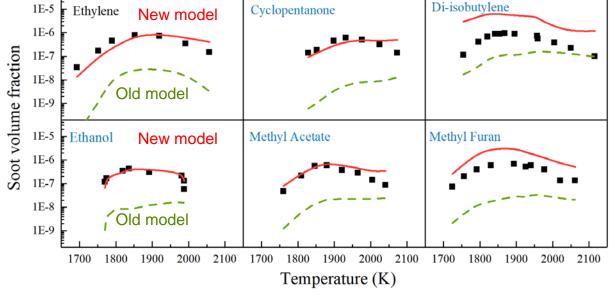




### Improved PAH Model Helps Accurately Predict Soot Formation







https://thomsonlab.mie.utoronto.ca/detailed-and-fundamental-modeling-of-soot-formation/

Used PAH kinetic model + sectional model for soot

Measurements: University of Central Florida shock tube

New model: New LLNL PAH mechanism Old model: Literature PAH mechanism



# Highlights: Fuel Property Bench-Scale Measurements

# Developed Bench-Scale Experiments for Kinetic Model Validation and to Measure Key Fuel Properties



Bench-scale measurements enable research on small volumes of fuel and rapid screening of fuel candidates

### Key Fuel Properties:

- RON/S
- HOV
- \$\phi\$-sensitivity (new property)

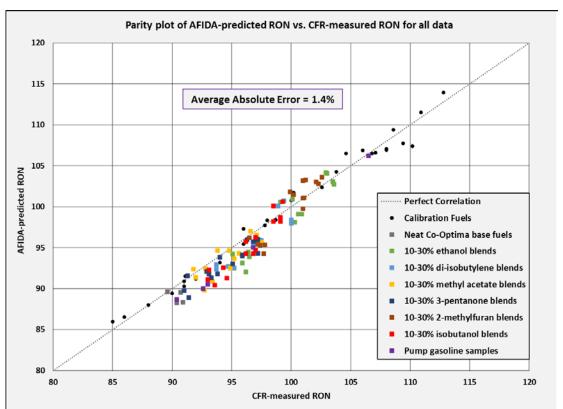
#### Bench-Scale Instruments:

- AFIDA
- RCM
- Differential scanning calorimeter (DSC)/ thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA)/ mass spectrometer (MS)
- Flow reactor



# Bench-Scale Fuel Candidate Screening Development: RON and S



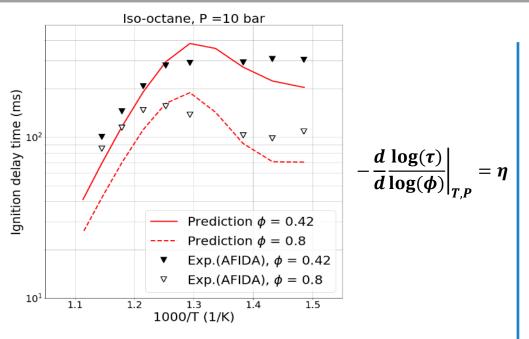


- AFIDA-based small-volume (~40-mL) rapid screening (~1-hour) methodology accurately predicts RON and S over a wide variety of chemistries
- Enabled fast screening for candidate compounds as well as determining blend behavior.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2021.120969

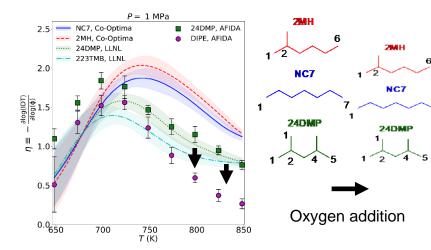
### AFIDA Bench-Scale Measurement: Phi-Sensitivity





Temperature sweeps of ignition delay across different  $\phi$  and pressures expanded development of new  $\phi$ -sensitivity metric

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combustflame.2019.12.019 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combustflame.2020.11.004  This new definition was applied to compounds with developed kinetic mechanisms and compounds of interest (without mechanisms) to study molecular structure effects on φ-sensitivity, coupled with EGR species

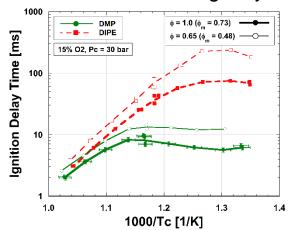


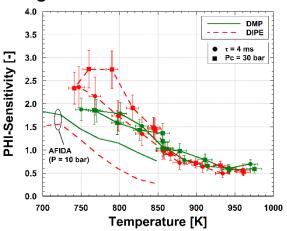
Pls: Bradley T. Zigler, Jon Luecke, NREL, and Seonah Kim, CSU

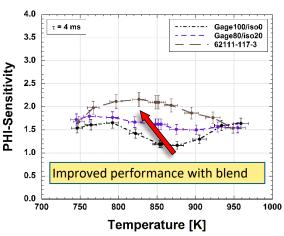
# RCM: Development/Application of Multi-Mode/ACI Fuel Quality Metric



- Investigated various ways to define/measure phi-sensitivity, using the RCM and engine data to quantify blended fuel behavior
- Conducted tests with 2,4 dimethyl pentane and diisopropyl ether in collaboration with NREL to refine phi-sensitivity definition and compare against AFIDA measurements at P = 10 bar
- Conducted tests with PNNL dimethyl-hexene-rich olefin blendstock + full boiling range gasoline to verify phi-sensitivity improvement at 20% v/v blend level. Improvements are confirmed with single-cylinder engine tests.

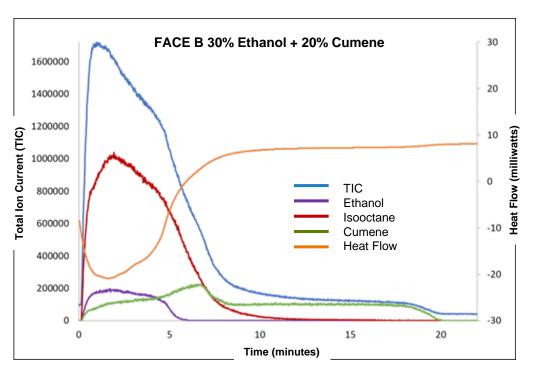






### Development of HOV Measurement Utilizing DSC/TGA/MS





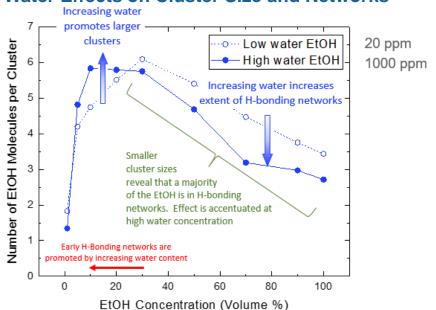
- Coupled MS to DSC/TGA to track species evolution during evaporation
- Highly accurate method for measuring HOV of gasoline and gasoline blends
- Shows heat effects during alcohol evaporation as well as suppression of evaporation of aromatic components
- Coupling with molecular dynamics and multicomponent spray droplet vaporization simulations to translate the impact of azeotropic solutions, water, and increased HOV on mixture stratification due to spray evaporation

PI: Gina M. Fioroni, NREL

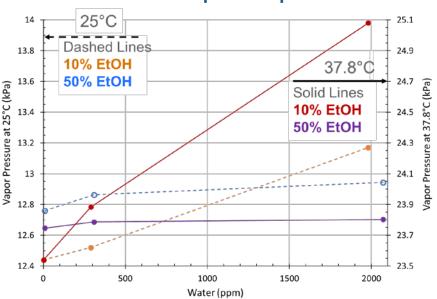
### Impact of Water on Alcohol Clustering and Vapor Pressure



#### Water Effects on Cluster Size and Networks



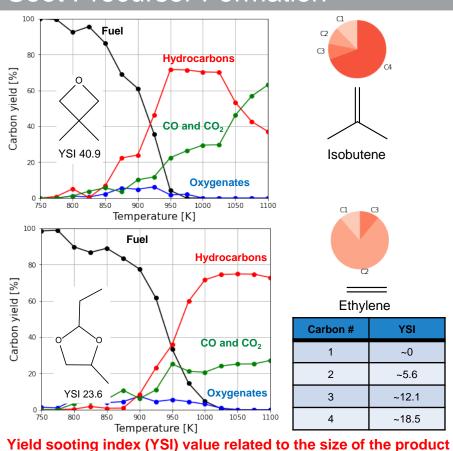
#### **Water Effects on n-Heptane Vapor Pressure**



- Diffusion measurements and molecular dynamic simulations reveal effect of water on cluster size distribution and vapor pressure changes
- Utilized in combination with DSC/TGA/MS experiments and multicomponent spray droplet vaporization simulations to understand the impact of clustering on mixture stratification due to spray evaporation.

# Flow Reactor Experiments Reveal Key Species Responsible for Soot Precursor Formation

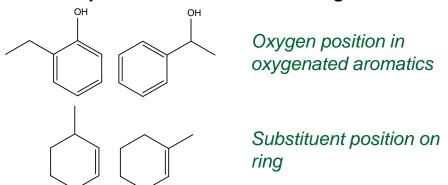




molecule from high-temperature reaction

- Combined quantum mechanical and experimental approach has led to development of multiple sootprecursor and autoignition kinetic models:
   Significant knowledge gained in structural impacts
- Recent experiments highlight structural impacts of ethers on sooting tendency.

Multiple Structural Motifs Investigated



Pls: Gina M. Fioroni, NREL and Seonah Kim, CSU

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proci.2020.06.321 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proci.2020.06.072

### Remaining Challenges and Barriers and Future Work



- Fuel-engine experiments and high-fidelity simulations cannot generate enough data to discover hidden fuel properties using unsupervised learning (data mining)
  - Create a framework to fairly compare the benefits of different multimode strategies and fuel combinations.
- There is a need to develop kinetic models for new, low-carbon-intensity fuels for MD/HD
- Ethers represent promising blendstocks for MD/HD, but there remain barriers to their adoption in the market

### Summary



#### Relevance:

 Further underlying science needed to develop biomass-derived fuel and advanced engine technologies that will work in tandem to achieve significant efficiency, environmental, and economic goals through diversification

### Approach:

 Utilize combined expertise from across national laboratories, universities, and industry to develop unique testing capabilities and modeling analysis competencies

# Technical Accomplishments:

 Created tools to screen, characterize, and identify the most attractive bio-blendstocks to enable various combustion strategies

- Developed several kinetic mechanisms, including the Co-Optima mechanism and kinetics to both predict key fuel properties and describe PAH/soot formation chemistry
- Designed experiments to measure key fuel properties to inform structure property relationships and provide rapid screening of fuel candidates

### **Collaborations:**

 Nine national laboratories, 20+ universities, two DOE offices, industry, and stakeholders



# Thank you!

### **Contributors to this presentation:**

S. Scott Goldsborough

**Bradley T. Zigler** 

**Robert L. McCormick** 

**Cameron K. Hays** 

Seonah Kim

William J. Pitz

Goutham Kukkadapu

Jon Luecke

**Scott Wagnon** 

**Chiara Saggese** 

Matthew J. Mcnenly

**Marco Arienti** 

# Acronyms



ACI AED AFIDA ANL BSI CFR Co-Optima CSU DSC EGR FACE FY HOV	advanced compression ignition Advanced Engine Design Advanced Fuel Ignition Delay Analyzer Argonne National Laboratory boosted spark ignition Cooperative Fuel Research Co-Optimization of Fuels & Engines Colorado State University differential scanning calorimeter exhaust gas recirculation fuels for advanced combustion engines Fiscal Year heat of vaporization	PAH  PM  PMI  PNNL  ppm  RCM  RON  RVP  S  SI  SNL  T	polyaromatic hydrocarbons phi (equivalence ratio) particulate matter particulate matter index Pacific Northwest National Laboratory parts per million rapid compression machine research octane number Reid vapor pressure octane sensitivity (S = RON - MON) spark ignition Sandia National Laboratories tau, ignition delay time
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	τ TGA	thermogravimetric analyzer
MCCI	mixing-controlled compression ignition	YSI	yield sooting index
MD/HD	medium/heavy duty		y.e.a eeemig maex
MS	mass spectrometer		
$NO_x$	oxides of nitrogen		
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory		24



# **Special Note**

This presentation is a part of a series that gives an overview of the 6-year **Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines** initiative, and therefore does not adhere to the standard Annual Merit Review presentation guidance





# Technical Back-Up Slides

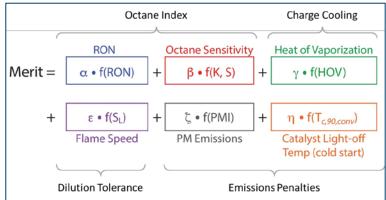
### **Boosted Spark-Ignition Screening Results**

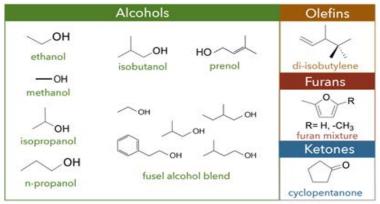




### Defining what SI engines want

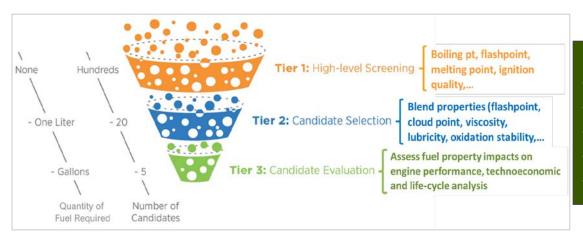
- Tiered screening process
- Can it be a fuel?
- Determine key fuel property metrics
- Design bench-scale measurements
- Develop kinetic models





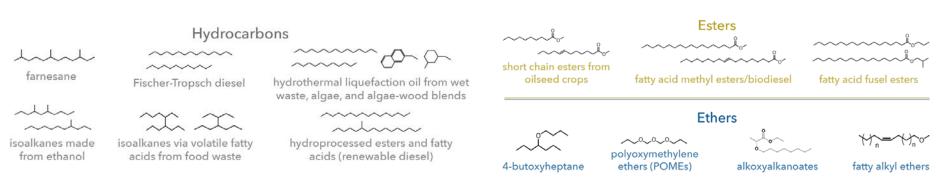
## Mixing-Controlled Compression Ignition Screening Results





Defining what MCCI engines want

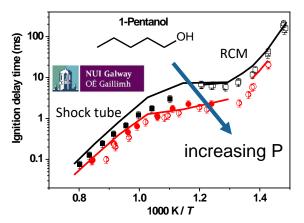
- Tiered screening process
- Can it be a fuel?
- Determine key fuel property metrics
- Design bench-scale measurements
- Develop kinetic models



# Kinetic Model Development: Co-Optima Blendstocks

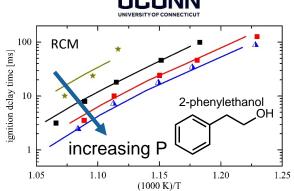


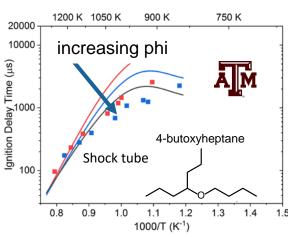
#### PI: William Pitz, LLNL



Coordinating with Labbe group for new alcohol ab initio rate constants

Additional 2-phenylethanol data on binary blends with nheptane (not shown)





Additional 4-butoxyheptane data from a flow reactor now available (NREL).

Jet-stirred reactor planned,

N. Hansen

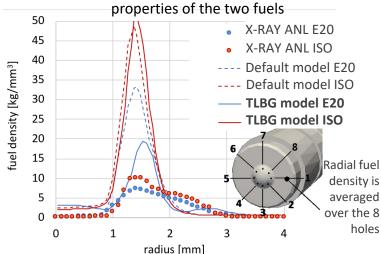
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# Improving Sensitivity of Computational Fluid Dynamics Flash-Boiling Models to Fuel Thermophysical Properties

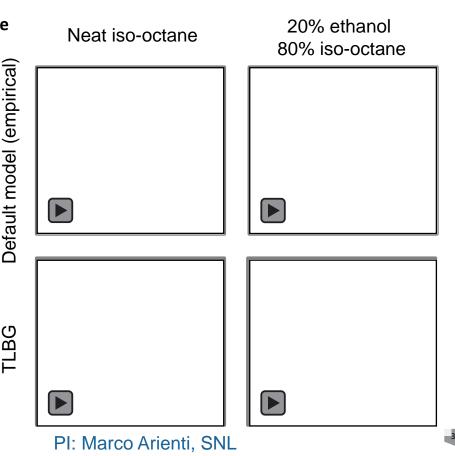


New thermally limited bubble growth (TLBG) model helps distinguish the effect of fuel composition on spray cone angle

E20 vs. iso-octane example: The change in fuel radial mass distribution is due to the different thermophysical



- The new TLBG model was made available in CONVERGE as a userdefined function
- In collaboration with Convergence Science Inc., work continues in modeling liquid fuel behavior at pressures lower than saturation.

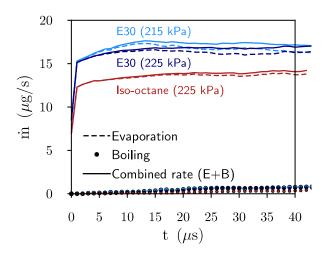


# Predictive Film Evaporation/Boiling at Engine Conditions



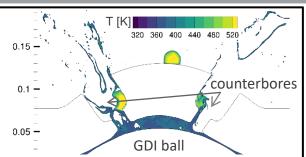
### Enabled study of phase-change behavior for newly developed fuels in realistic engine environments

Demonstration calculation for droplet near hot surface (573 K): quantification of changing boiling/evaporation of E30 as a function of ambient pressure



#### DNS captures GDI's end-ofinjection dribbling phenomenon (2019)<sup>1</sup>

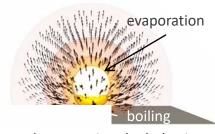
- Based on advanced interfacecapturing methodology
- Differentiates evaporation from cavitation



# Fuel phase change near hot surface (2020)

- Achieved accurate prediction of evaporation and boiling of real fuels (as generated by the REFPROP library) without need of empirical correlations<sup>2,3</sup>
- Applied to tip wetting, this type of results can be used to predict film drying

E30 vapor mass fractions: Y = 0.55, 0.75, 0.90, and 0.97 (outermost to innermost)

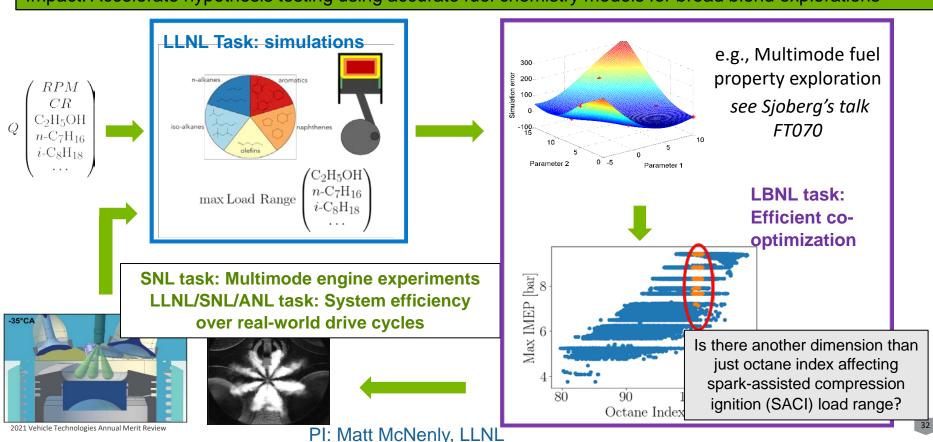


- This implementation establishes the framework to examine the behavior of surrogate components (end of 2021)
- .. Arienti et al., "Effects of detailed geometry and real fluid thermodynamics on Spray G atomization," Proceedings of the Combustion Institute 2021.
- 2. Wenzel and Arienti, "A new approach for the modeling and simulation of liquid/vapor phase change at engine-relevant conditions," Proceedings of the 31st ILASS-Americas, May 2021.
- 3. Wenzel and Arienti, "A conservative framework for the modeling and simulation of evaporation in compressible flow systems," in preparation for submission to J. Comput. Phys.

# Virtual Properties, Reduced Mechanisms, Blending of Kinetics, and Modeling of Fuel



Impact: Accelerate hypothesis testing using accurate fuel chemistry models for broad blend explorations

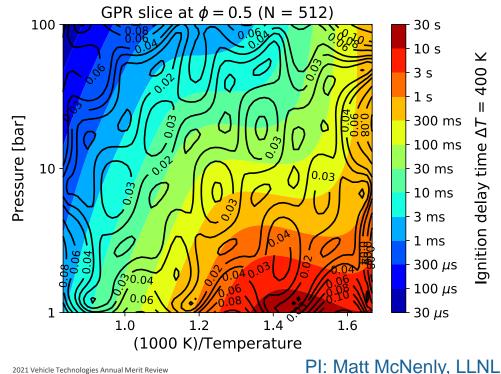


### Virtual Properties, Reduced Mechanisms, Blending of Kinetics, and Modeling of Fuel



Database of 10,000 different HPF+BOB blends created to rapidly explore new engine-chemistry metrics

### e.g., GPR model for E10 regular surrogate



- Six base BOBs (clustered at RON = 90.5 and MON = 85.4) using 9-hydrocarbon palette
- 17 bio-derived high-performance fuels (HPFs)
- All HPFs and HPF mixtures blended in the base BOBs at 10%, 20%, 30%, and 40% (v/v)
- Binary mixtures (25/75 and 50/50) of all 17 HPFs = **over 10,000 blends**
- Database stores a Gaussian process regression (GPR) model for log(autoignition)

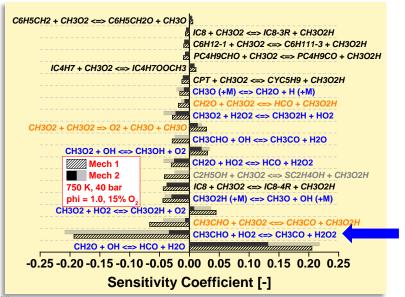
GPR model estimates local error, which is less than 6% (95% CI) at the resolution saved in the database (512 points)

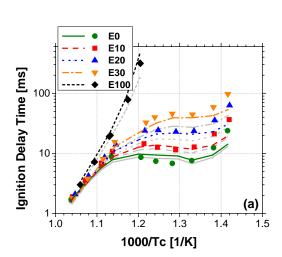
Rapid evaluation time allows many metrics to be tested and compared: 2.5 µs versus 11 s per point.

### RCM Kinetic Mechanism Development



- Developed novel computational approach to investigate fuel blending effects—identifying important controlling chemistry
- Demonstrated technique using gasoline/ethanol blends where critical intermolecular interactions were highlighted, and missing chemistry inferred, with significant improvements to LLNL's Co-Optima model compared against RCM database.



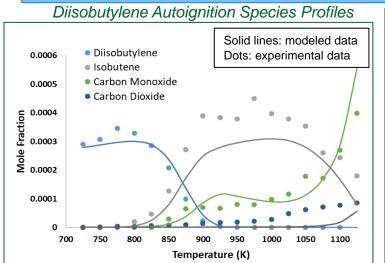


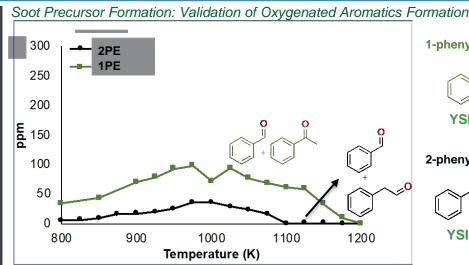
PI: S. Scott Goldsborough, ANL

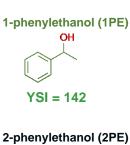
# Flow Reactor Autoignition Kinetic Mechanism Development and Validation

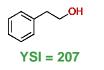


#### Flow reactor studies validate kinetic and soot precursor formation mechanisms









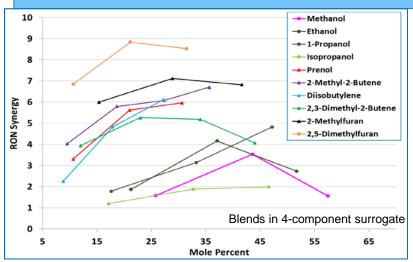
- Provided species profiles from flow reactor to validate kinetic mechanisms in collaboration with LLNL
  - o Diisobutylene isomers and the three isomers of methyl-butenes data utilized to improve kinetic models
- Utilized quantum mechanical (QM) calculations from Seonah Kim's group in conjunction with flow reactor experiments to explain differences in sooting tendency of different isomers of phenyl ethanols and ethyl phenols.

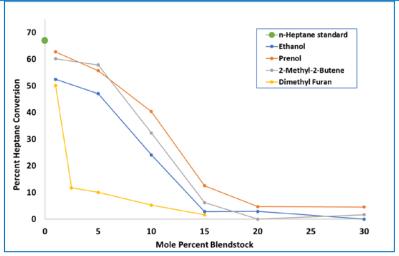
Impact: A simple yet powerful tool for validating kinetic simulations and soot precursor mechanisms that can be rapidly applied to a wide range of systems

# Mechanistic Basis Low and Intermediate Temperature Autoignition



#### Flow reactor studies allow for understanding of the chemical basis for nonlinear blending effects





Flow reactor conditions: 600 K 6-second residence time  $\phi = 0.25$ 

RON Synergy = D2699 measured RON – RON linear blending model

- Implemented new RON synergy metric to describe nonlinear blending behavior of various blendstocks
- Utilized flow reactor to investigate RON synergy observations and to examine intermediate species responsible for nonlinear blending trends-added FTIR to quantitate aldehyde species
- Currently working with simulations team at NREL to understand how blendstocks are affecting radical species concentrations
- Working to upgrade flow reactor to observe radical species to provide full picture of nonlinear blending behavior.

### Selected Publications and Presentations (1 of 4)



#### **Selected Publications:**

- 1. Mueller, J., Kim, N., Lapointe, S., McNenly, M., Sjoberg, M., and Whitesides, R., "Optimization of fuel formulation using adaptive learning and artificial intelligence," In J. Badra, P. Pal, Y. Pei, and S. Som (Eds.) *Al and Data Driven Optimization Techniques for Internal Combustion Engines*, Elsevier, 2021 (in review).
- 2. Dong, S., Aul, C., Gregoire, C., Cooper, S. P., Mathieu, O., Petersen, E. L., Rodriguez, J., Mauss, F., Wagnon, S. W., Kukkadapu, G., Pitz, W. J., and Curran, H. J., "A Comprehensive Experimental and Kinetic Modeling Study of 1-Hexene," *Combustion and Flame*, accepted, 2021.
- 3. Wang, M., Kukkadapu, G., Fang, R., Pitz, W.J., and Sung, C.-J., "Autoignition Study of iso-Cetane/Tetralin Blends at Low Temperature," *Combustion and Flame*, accepted, 2021.
- 4. Pitz, W. J., Liang, J., Kukkadapu, G., Zhang, K., Conroy, C., Bugler, J., and Curran, H. J., "A Detailed Chemical Kinetic Modeling and Experimental Investigation of the Low- and High-Temperature Chemistry of n-Butylcyclohexane," *International Journal of Chemical Kinetics* 53(3), 2021.
- 5. Lokachari, N., Wagnon, S. W., Kukkadapu, G., Pitz, W. J., and Curran, H. J., "An Experimental and Kinetic Modeling Study of Cyclopentane and Dimethyl Ether Blends," *Combustion and Flame* 225: 255-271, 2021.
- 6. Nagaraja, S. S., Kukkadapu, G., Panigrahy, S., Liang, J., Lu, H., Pitz, W. J., and Curran, H. J., "A Pyrolysis Study of Allylic Hydrocarbon Fuels," *International Journal of Chemical Kinetics*, 2020 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/kin.21414">https://doi.org/10.1002/kin.21414</a>.
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- 16. Cheng, S., Goldsborough, S. S., Saggese, C., Wagnon, S., and Pitz, W. J., "New Insights into Fuel Blending Effects: Intermolecular Chemical Kinetic Interactions Affecting Autoignition Times and Intermediate-Temperature Heat Release," *Combustion and Flame*, 2021 (accepted).
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#### **Selected Presentations**

- M. McNenly, "Virtual Fuel Property Exploration: Optimizing BOBs and Discovering the Origins of Phi-Sensitivity," presented at the Advanced Engine Consortium (AEC) Program Review Meeting, Aug. 2020.
- 2. N. Killingsworth, M. McNenly, M. Sjoberg, N. Kim, R. Vijayagopal, S. Sarvaiya, and J. Mueller, "Fuel Effects on Fuel Economy for a Vehicle with a Multimode Engine a Progress Update," presented at the Advanced Engine Consortium (AEC) Program Review Meeting, Feb. 2021.
- 3. Chiara Saggese, "Experimental and kinetic modeling study of ignition and combustion behavior of n-pentanol," American Chemical Society Virtual Spring Meeting, April 2021.
- 4. Chiara Saggese, "An improved detailed chemical kinetic model for C3-C4 linear and iso-alcohols and their blends with gasoline at engine-relevant conditions," 38th International Symposium of Combustion, Jan. 2021.