# Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Transportation Fuels through Computational Modelling

Markus Kraft

http://www.conserve-energy-future.com

- Founded in 1999
- Head Prof. Markus Kraft
- Currently 20 members (PhDs, PDRAs)
- Theme: Modelling across the length scales



Welcome from the Computational Modelling Group



Welcome to the website of the CoMo Group. We develop and apply modern numerical methods to problems arising in Chemical Engineering. The overall aim is to shorten the development period from research bench to the industrial production stage by providing insight into the underlying physics and supporting the scale-up of processes to industrial level.

The group currently consists of 26 members from various backgrounds. We are keen to collaborate with people from both within industry and academia, so please get in touch if you think you have common interests.

The group's <u>research</u> divides naturally into two inter-related branches. The first of these is research into mathematical <u>methods</u>, which consists of the development of stochastic particle methods, computational fluid dynamics and quantum chemistry. The other branch consists of research into <u>applications</u>, using the methods we have developed in addition to well established techniques. The main application areas are reactive flow, combustion, engine modelling, extraction, nano particle synthesis and dynamics. This research is <u>sponsored</u> on various levels by the UK, EU, and industry.

Markus Kraft - Head of the CoMo Group





#### Emphasis: Combustion

- Particulate processes (nanoparticles, soot)
- Emissions from Internal Combustion Engines





#### Methods:

- Quantum chemistry
- Population balance modelling
- Computational Fluid Dynamics
- Process optimisation











- **Emissions** from internal combustion engines:
- Stochastic Reactor Model
- CO, uHC, NOx, etc. through detailed chemical kinetics
- Soot through detailed population balance models









#### **Process Informatics:**

- Effective use of cost-intensive experimental data through **data standardisation**
- Robust model development through systematic optimisation, accounting for uncertainties
- Design of experiments









### Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>







# **Typical Oil Refinery**

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mk306@cam.ac.uk

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## **Blending to Specifications**

#### Table of key specifications for commercial gasoline, as set out by EN-228

Property	Units	Minimum	Maximum	]
Density at 15°C	$kg/m^3$	720	775	
Research Octane Number		95		Chamical
Motor Octane Number		85		Chemical
Summer Vapour Pressure	kPa	45	60	
Distilation (1013 mbar)	%vol	20	48	
Distillation Residue	%vol		2	
Final Boiling Point	°C		210	
Copper Strip Corrosion (3h at 50°C)	Rating	Class 1		Dhysiaal
Oxidation Stability	hrs	6		Physical
Olefins	% vol		18	-
Aromatics	% vol		35	
Benzene	% vol		1	
Oxygen	% wt		2.7	-
Ethanol	% vol		5	
Tert-butyl alcohol	% vol		7	
Sulphur	% vol		10	













## **Choice of Chemical Surrogates**











## **Chemical Kinetic Fuel Model**



1.05

mk306@cam.ac.uk

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#### **Mechanism Reduction**



**Toluene Flux: Skeletal Mechanism** 







### **Fuel Model Optimisation**

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mk306@cam.ac.uk

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# Modelling Octane Number

Industrially, octane number determined using engine test.
Model used to predict octane number from fuel composition.



45 40 35 Experimental Results (Coetzer et al. 2006) 30 srm 25 20 10 .20 -10 10 20 30 50 60 Crank Angle

Pressure against Crank Angle

• Engine test required to predict octane number accurately.



COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING GROUP



## Further Work







