

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES ON TRIBOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF
RBD PALM OLEIN USING COPPER PIN

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TO MY BELOVED...

Husband (Muhammad Yazid Bin Che Mi)

Father (Muhammad Azmin Bin Ibrahim)

Mother (Normah Binti Zakaria)

Thanks for Your Support!!

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ABSTRACT

Lubricants have an important role in world industrial and economic development, mainly by reducing friction and wear in mechanical contacts. In the last 25 years, there has been an increasing interest in the use of biodegradable products due to environmental problems that have increased the need to limit pollution from lubricants and hydraulic fluids based on mineral oils. Therefore, vegetable oils are potential substitutes for petroleum-based oils according to their lubricating properties such as a high viscosity index, high lubricity, and low volatility. Other than that, vegetable oils also are environmentally friendly, renewable and less toxic. Thus, in this research, the tribological properties of refined, bleached and deodorized (RBD) palm olein were evaluated by determining the coefficient of friction, wear rate and wear scar diameter with different sliding speeds and applied loads. Besides that, the surface roughness and the surface wear of the cooper pin specimens were analysed lubricated with RBD palm olein for different sliding speeds and applied loads. The experiment is carried out by using pin-on-disk tester. The material used for pin specimen is copper and disk type SKD11. The lubricant used was supplied continuously on sliding surface of rotated disk at different sliding speeds from 1 m/s to 5 m/s and applied loads of 1 kg and 10 kg for one hour as recommended by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). From the analysis, the coefficient of friction and wear obtained lubricated with RBD palm olein was the lowest compared to SAE40 engine oil for both conditions of different sliding speeds and applied loads of 0.011 at 1 m/s for 10 kg load and $0.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mm}^3\text{m}^{-1}$ at 1 m/s for 1 kg load respectively. RBD palm olein shows better anti-friction and anti-wear performances compared to SAE40 engine oil in term of coefficient of friction and wear at different sliding speeds and applied loads. Therefore, palm oil has the possibility to be used as a lubricant by mating component.

ABSTRAK

Pelincir mempunyai peranan yang penting dalam pembangunan industri dan ekonomi dunia, terutamanya untuk mengurangkan geseran dan haus dalam kenalan mekanikal. Dalam tempoh 25 tahun yang lalu, terdapat minat yang semakin meningkat dalam penggunaan produk mesra alam kerana masalah alam sekitar yang telah meningkatkan keperluan untuk menghadkan pencemaran dari pelincir dan cecair hidraulik berasaskan minyak mineral. Oleh itu, minyak sayuran adalah pengganti berpotensi untuk minyak berasaskan petroleum mengikut sifat-sifat pelincir mereka seperti indeks tinggi kelikatan, pelinciran yang tinggi, dan turun naik yang rendah. Selain itu, minyak sayuran juga mesra alam yang boleh diperbaharui dan kurang toksik. Oleh itu, dalam kajian ini, sifat-sifat nilai pemalar geseran dan ciri haus bertapis, diluntur dan dinyahbau (RBD) olein sawit telah dinilai dengan menentukan pekali geseran, kadar haus dan diameter parut dengan kelajuan gelongsor yang berbeza dan beban yang dikenakan. Eksperimen ini dijalankan dengan menggunakan penguji pin-on-cakera. Bahan yang digunakan untuk spesimen pin adalah tembaga dan cakera jenis SKD11. Minyak pelincir yang digunakan dibekalkan secara berterusan pada permukaan cakera berputar gelongsor pada kelajuan gelongsor yang berbeza dari 1 m/s hingga 5 m/s dan beban adalah 1 kg dan 10 kg bagi satu jam digunakan seperti yang disyorkan oleh Persatuan Amerika untuk Ujian dan Bahan (ASTM). Dari analisis, pekali geseran dan kadar haus diperolehi dilincirkan dengan minyak kelapa sawit olein RBD adalah paling rendah berbanding dengan minyak enjin SAE40 untuk kedua-dua keadaan kelajuan gelongsor yang berbeza dan kadar haus ialah 0.011 dikenakan pada 1 m/s untuk beban 10 kg dan $0.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mm}^3 \text{ m}^{-1}$ pada 1 m/s untuk 1 kg beban. Minyak kelapa sawit olein RBD menunjukkan lebih baik anti-geseran dan anti-haus berbanding minyak enjin SAE40 dari segi pekali geseran dan kadar haus pada kelajuan gelongsor yang berbeza dan beban yang dikenakan. Oleh itu, minyak sawit mempunyai kemungkinan untuk digunakan sebagai minyak hitam dengan gabungan dua komponen.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RBD	-	Refined, Bleached and Deodorized
SAE	-	Society of Automotive Engineers
ASTM	-	American Society for Testing and Materials
COF	-	Coefficient of Friction
WSD	-	Wear Scar Diameter
CCD	-	Charge-Coupled Device
EVA	-	Ethylene-Vinyl Acetate
MPOB	-	Malaysia Palm Oil Board
VI	-	Viscosity Index
LVDT	-	Linear Variable Differential Transducer
RPM	-	Revolution Per Minute
mm	-	Milimeter
m/s	-	Meter Per Second
kg	-	Kilogram
N	-	Newton

LIST OF NOMENCLATURE

μ	-	Coefficient of Friction
F	-	Friction Force
N	-	Normal Load
F_p	-	Rate of Angular Friction Force
F_N	-	Applied Normal Load
d_p	-	The Distance Between Center to the Pin
d_N	-	The Distance Between Center to Normal Force
Q	-	Wear Rate
Δv	-	Volume Loss
s	-	Sliding Distance
M	-	Mass Loss
ρ	-	Density
μ	-	Micro
R_a	-	Surface Roughness
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	Degree Celcius
ν	-	Kinematic Viscosity

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Wear and friction produced or created due to the two contact surfaces in relative motion. Based on engineering field, the components of engines or machines that continuously run in a long period of time will more severe. The mating components will damage caused by friction and wear. In order to overcome this problem, lubricant as a suitable candidate to be selected to reduce friction and wear of two contact surfaces. Consequently, the systems of engines or machines will operate with an extended time. In addition, adequate lubrication allows smooth continuous operation of equipment with only mild wear and without excessive stresses. Apart from that, the conventional lubricant from petroleum based had been used widely for so long times ago as lubrication oil. Nevertheless, by using petroleum based as lubricant it will cause environmental pollution from being disposed into the environment without undergo any treatment. As earth becomes more polluted, human tend to increase their awareness regarding environmental and health issue, society puts an extra effort to replace or reduce the usage of conventional petroleum based lubricant.

Nowadays, in a modern world technology development the industries are looking for efficient ways to reduce friction and wear while designing the new products. Other than that, the research and development in lubricant technology have been carried out by numerous researchers to find better ways to protect the environment or at least to reduce environmental pollutants is driven by public

demand, industry concerns, and governmental agency policies. Moreover, it is only natural that lubricant technology has advanced as a result of concerns for protecting and preserving the environment in all aspects of our lives. The negative impact of the spillage or leakage of lubricants has led to the development of oils and greases that are less detrimental to the environment if inadvertently spilled or leaked.

In Malaysia, the richness of the palm oil has potential to develop and used it as alternative lubricant. The palm oil is widely used in industrial applications for engines and machines. The widely production of palm oil in Malaysia has influenced numerous researchers to study on the palm oil as an alternative oil compared to the mineral oil. As a user and observant, we know that the source of mineral oil will become lesser in the future. That's the reason people are looking forward to palm oil, instead of current use in the food industry, it is very pleasant if the usage of palm oil could be extend to other field like machinery and heavy industry. Meanwhile, the palm oil is economical due to low cost. In addition, vegetable oil as the potential source of environmentally friendly lubricant regarding to their advantages which are non-toxicity, high biodegradability, renewable resources and good low temperature properties.

1.2 Problem Statement

Vegetable oils as potential source of environmentally favourable lubricants, due to combination of biodegradability, renewability and excellent lubrication performance. Based on the potential source, vegetable oil is desirable to be chosen as a replacement for conventional lubricant. In addition, vegetable oil is one of alternatives to be considered substituting petroleum based lubricant for any application related such as industrial and transportation activities. However, there are some limitation of vegetable oil that need to be considered that such as low oxidation and thermal stability, poor low-temperature properties and narrow range of available viscosities. Furthermore, some vegetable oil tends to solidify when goes below, then room temperature and some of vegetable oil are readily in solid state even at room temperature. It became crucial issue and problems when down to the application.

Lubricant need to be in a liquid state when in application because need to heat first before used.

Apart from that, the palm oil is used as an alternative oil in tribological test is conducted in order to verify the ability of palm oil to replace mineral oil, since our country was rapidly growth and developed in the palm oil industry. Meanwhile, palm oil has been widely used in industrial applications for engines and machines. Thus, the physical properties and characteristics of the palm oil also are studied in order to understand the limitations and benefits of palm oil compared to the mineral oil. Therefore, the tribological test is conducted in this research to study the lubricity performance of lubricant in terms of friction and wear created. Hence, the types of lubricant used in this study is varying such as SAE40 engine oil and RBD palm olein. Besides that, pin-on-disk tribotester machine are used as a tool of measurement in order to determine wear and frictional force. However, the contact surface between pin and rotating disk will create and produce friction and wear, but it is limited to the small contact area surface.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- i. To determine the coefficient of friction value of RBD palm olein tested with different sliding speeds and applied loads.
- ii. To determine the wear rate value and the wear scar diameter of RBD palm olein tested with different sliding speeds and applied loads.
- iii. To analyse the surface roughness and surface wear of the tested lubricants under different sliding speeds and applied loads.

1.4 Scope of Research

The study is done to highlight the behaviour and performance of RBD palm olein under the different sliding speed and applied load. The scopes of the study are:

- i. Different sliding speeds from 1 m/s to 5 m/s are applied in this study.
- ii. Two different loads of 1 kg and 10 kg are applied in this study.
- iii. Refined, bleached and deodorized (RBD) palm olein and SAE40 engine oil as lubricant tested.
- iv. The material of pin is Copper and the material of disk is SKD11.
- v. The lubricants are continuously supplied during the experiment.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The research study is planned systematically in order to get the desired and successful results. Hence, the theoretical framework of the research is made by referring the Figure 1.1. The theoretical framework can be clearly seen on how the research study is carried out.

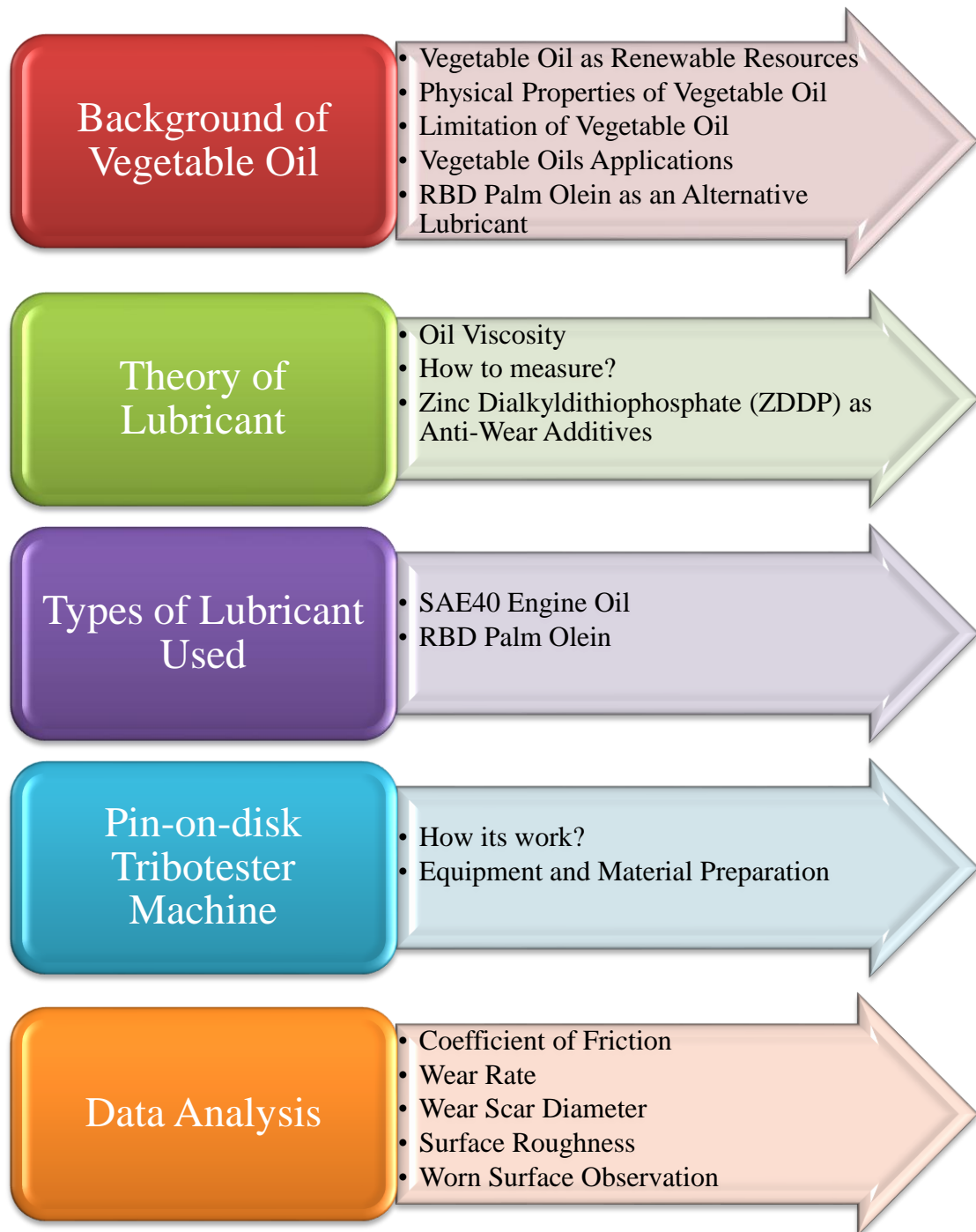


Figure 1.1: Theoretical Framework of the research

1.6 Research Outline

This research consists of five main chapters where each chapter will focus on the topics as follows:

Chapter 1 is an introduction to the research study where it describes briefly the background of the research, the problem statement, the research objectives, the research scope and the theoretical framework.

Chapter 2 of the research contains a literature review for the purpose of understanding the topic of the research in detail. Moreover, in this chapter also presents the physical properties of the vegetable oil as a renewable resource. Furthermore, limitation and application of vegetable oil also has been included. In addition, the experiment on pin-on-disk conducted by numerous researchers is being studied in detail in terms of the parameter and method carried out.

Chapter 3 describes the methodology adopted for the research. Also describes about on how the equipment and material preparations of the experiment are made. Meanwhile, the procedure of experimental on pin-on-disk tribotester and data collection of the research methodology also are focussed.

In chapter four, the final result discusses the results obtained from the study. The discussion to be made based on the result obtained. Hence, the results are being analyzed in this chapter as well. The arguments and evidences on the results also have been discussed.

The last chapter as chapter five will formulate the overall conclusion and findings obtained from this research study. This chapter starts by restating the objective of the study and the outcome of the research. The conclusions will be made based on the methodology selected for this research and the results obtained. To reinforce the outcome of this project, some recommendations were made at the end of this chapter where the propose future studies to be carried out.

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