

PERFORMANCE AND EMISSION TESTS OF BIODIESEL FUELS USING A
CONVENTIONAL DIESEL ENGINE

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ABSTRAK

Penggunaan bahan api biodisel berasaskan minyak kelapa sawit telah dicadangkan sebagai bahan api alternatif untuk enjin diesel di Malaysia. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji prestasi dan tahap keluaran ekzos beberapa campuran biodisel iaitu *neutralized palm oil methyl ester* (NPOME) dari enjin diesel kecil yang tidak diubah seterusnya membandingkan biodisel tersebut dengan bahan api diesel Malaysia peringkat 2 (D2). Ujikaji prestasi enjin, tahap keluaran ekzos, tekanan silinder, tekanan salur bahan api, kadar pembebasan haba dan lengah pencucuhan telah dilakukan terhadap beban enjin pada kelajuan enjin yang berlainan. Perbandingan antara D2 dan biodisel terhadap penggunaan bahan api tentu brek (BSFC), kecekapan terma brek, pembebasan haba, tekanan silinder, lengah pencucuhan, karbon monoksida (CO), karbon dioksida (CO₂), nitrogen oksida (NO_x), hidrokarbon tidak terbakar (uHC), bahan partikel (PM) dan asap ekzos telah dilakukan di dalam kajian ini. Perbandingan antara D2 dan biodisel terhadap pembentukan karbon di muncung penyuntik juga dilaksanakan. Di dalam kajian ini, simulasi telah dilakukan untuk menilai prestasi bahan api diesel dan biodisel dalam enjin diesel. Enjin tersebut telah dimodel dengan menggunakan perisian *GT-Power* bagi menghasilkan simulasi prestasi dan tahap keluaran ekzos. Berdasarkan simulasi yang telah dibuat, keputusannya dibandingkan adalah hampir sama dengan ujikaji. Di dalam ujikaji enjin, didapati bahawa bahan api biodisel berasaskan minyak kelapa sawit adalah hampir sama dengan D2 dari segi prestasi (penggunaan bahan api dan kecekapan terma) dan kadar pembebasan haba. Kualiti asap adalah lebih baik apabila dibandingkan dengan hasil keluaran dari bahan api diesel pada keadaan operasi yang sama. Pembentukan karbon di muncung penyuntik berkurangan apabila biodisel digunakan pada enjin. Tahap keluaran CO, CO₂, HC dan PM juga berkurangan dengan penggunaan bahan api biodisel, manakala keluaran NO_x meningkat dibandingkan dengan bahan api D2.

ABSTRACT

The use of palm oil-based biodiesel fuel has been proposed as an alternative fuel for diesel engines in Malaysia. The main purpose of this study is to investigate the performance and exhaust emissions of several biodiesel blends of neutralized palm oil methyl ester (NPOME) in a small-unmodified direct injection diesel engine, and to compare them to that of a Malaysian grade 2 diesel fuel (D2). Experimental measurements of engine performances, exhaust emissions, cylinder pressure, fuel line pressure, rate of heat release and ignition delay were performed as a function of engine load at different engine speeds. Comparisons between D2 and the biodiesel blends on the brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC), brake thermal efficiency, heat release, cylinder pressure, ignition delay, carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), unburned hydrocarbon (uHC), particulate matter (PM) and exhaust smoke were carried out in this study. A comparison between D2 and the biodiesel fuels on the injector tip deposit was also studied. In this study, simulations were performed to evaluate the diesel and biodiesel fuels performance in a diesel engine. The simulation was modelled using *GT-Power* software in order to simulate the performance and emissions. Based on the simulation, the results were comparable to the experimental results. In the engine experiment, it was found that the palm oil-based biodiesels behaved comparably to the D2 in terms of performance (fuel consumption and thermal efficiency) and rate of heat released. Smoke quality showed a better result when compared to that emitted by the diesel fuel (D2) operating under similar conditions. The injector tip deposit was lower when biodiesel fuels were used in the engine when compared to the diesel fuel (D2). The emissions of CO, CO₂, HC and PM were also lower using biodiesel fuels, while NO_x emissions were higher when compared to D2.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	Area
A_o	Orifice area
A_T	Curtain Area
B	Bore
C_D	Orifice discharge coefficient
CR	Compression ratio
D	Valve head diameter
d_o	Orifice plate diameter (airbox)
F	Force
g	Acceleration due to gravity
h	Height
i	i^{th} measurement
L	Valve lift
l	Connecting rod length
m	Mass
\dot{m}_a	Air mass flow rate
\dot{m}_f	Fuel mass flow rate
\dot{m}_{exh}	Exhaust mass flow rate
N	Engine speed
n	Total number of repeated measurement made.
n_c	Number of cylinder
N_m	Minimum engine speed at which measurements are required
n_s	Constant (1 for 2-stroke and 2 for 4-stroke engine)
n^*	Constant derived from chemical equation of fuel combustion
P	Pressure
P_a	Ambient pressure

\bar{P}	Average cylinder pressure
p_{sr}	Standard reference saturated water vapor pressure
p_{st}	Ambient saturated water vapor pressure during test
p_t	Ambient total barometric pressure during test
\dot{Q}	Heat release rate
Q_{HV}	Heating value
R	Specific gas constant for air
r	Crankshaft throw
$relH$	Relative humidity
r_{hc}	Ratio of hydrogen to carbon in fuel
S	Stroke
S_m	Standard error of the mean
T	Temperature
T	Torque
T_a	Atmospheric temperature
T_t	Ambient air thermodynamic temperature during test
\bar{T}	Average cylinder temperature
u	Specific internal energy
V_{box}	Airbox volume
V_c	Clearance volume
V_d	Engine displacement volume
V_s	Swept volume
\dot{W}	Rate of work
X_{mean}	Mean Value
ρ	Density
η_{tb}	Brake Thermal Efficiency
β	Hydrogen percentage in fuel
	Empirical factor
γ	Oxygen percentage in fuel
	Ratio of specific heats
δ	Nitrogen percentage in fuel
v	Velocity

τ_I	Ignition delay
ϕ	Equivalence ratio
Ω	Non-dimensional crank angle,
x_D	Diffusion burning
x_P	Pre-mix burning
ϕ_e	Engine operating equivalence ratio
θ	Angle
ϕ_t	Ambient relative humidity during test
ρ_a	Air density
ρ_{man}	density of manometer liquid fluid
Δp	Pressure drop across the orifice plate

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFR	Air Fuel Ratio
BDC	Bottom Dead Center
BMEP	Brake Mean Effective Pressure
BP	Brake Power
BSFC	Brake Specific Fuel Consumption
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DI	Direct injection
EGR	Exhaust Gas Recirculation
EVC	Exhaust Valve Closing
EVO	Exhaust Valve Opening
HC	Hydrocarbon
IDI	Indirect Injection
IVC	Intake Valve Closing
IVO	Intake Valve Opening
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
rpm	Revolution Per Minute
TDC	Top Dead Center
PM	Particulate Matter
IC	Internal Combustion
MPOB	Malaysian Palm Oil Board
uHC	Unburned Hydrocarbon
NPOME	Neutralized Palm Oil Methyl Ester
D2	Malaysian Diesel Grade-2

B10	Biodiesel (10%)
B20	Biodiesel (20%)
B50	Biodiesel (50%)
SOF	Soluble Organic Fraction
H ₂ O	Water
B100	Biodiesel (100%)
B2	Biodiesel (2%)
SME	Soybean Methyl Ester
RME	Rapeseed Methyl Ester
RBDPO ₀	Refined, bleached and Deodorised Palm Olein
AD	Analogue to Digital
CH ₄	Methane
O ₂	Oxygen
SAE	Society of Automotive Engineers
THC	Total Hydrocarbon
DAQ	Data Acquisition System
BSCO	Brake Specific Carbon Monoxide
BSCO ₂	Brake Specific Carbon Dioxide
BSHC	Brake Specific Hydrocarbon
BSNO _x	Brake Specific Nitrogen Oxides
ppm	Parts per Million
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamic
CA	Crank Angle
CAI	Crank Angle Ignition
BDUR	Burn Duration

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The greatest world summit was held in Kyoto, Japan on environmental issues in the year 1997. The main agenda of the discussion was on the need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere which causes global warming. One of the main causes is the combustion of hydrocarbon-based fuel. The fuel crises of the 1970s and 1980s have focused the world attention on the desire to develop alternative fuels and decrease the dependency on fossil fuel. The efforts have been directed towards alternative fuels for the internal combustion (IC) engines. The vegetable oil appears to be the most suitable candidate for diesel engines.

The oils, from rapeseed, linseed, cottonseed, palm oil, soybean, sunflower, castor, peanut, coconut, pal and others are candidates for alternative fuels for diesel engines. During the Second World War many vehicles, primarily in southern France, used vegetable oil as fuel substitutes (Andrzejewski and Sapinski, 1991).

Most vegetable oils are able to be substituted directly as diesel fuel, but may create a variety of practical problems resulting from incomplete combustion and also causing the injector nozzle coking and even failure, excessive engine deposits, lubricating oil dilution, piston ring sticking, scuffing of the cylinder liners and even lubricant failure due to polymerization of the vegetable oil (Knothe *et al.*, 1992). Other operational factors such as poor cold starting, unreliable ignition and misfire and reduced thermal efficiency (with certain oils) have added to the general

avoidance of unmodified vegetable oils as a long term diesel fuel replacement, especially in direct injection (DI) diesel engines and small capacity indirect injection (IDI) diesel engines where the detrimental effects have been greatest. It has been shown that one hundred percent vegetable oil cannot be used safely in DI engine but can be used in an IDI engine. The direct injection engines are more dependent on the degree of fuel atomization than the indirect injection engines. One of the solutions to this problem is to do blending of various proportions of the oil with petroleum based diesel fuel known as biodiesels.

The general definition of biodiesel is a domestic, renewable fuel for diesel engines derived from natural oils like soybean oil, and which meets the specifications of ASTM D 6751. The technical definition for biodiesel is a fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100, and meeting the requirements of ASTM D 6751. The technical definition for biodiesel blend is a blend of biodiesel fuel meeting ASTM D 6751 with petroleum-based diesel fuel, designated BXX, where XX represents the volume percentage of biodiesel fuel in the blend.

Biodiesel can be used in any concentration with petroleum based diesel fuel in existing diesel engines with little or no modification. Biodiesel is not the same thing as raw vegetable oil. It is produced by a chemical process which removes the glycerin from the oil. Biodiesel is typically produced by a reaction of a vegetable oil or animal fat with an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol in the presence of a catalyst to yield mono-alkyl esters and glycerin, which is removed.

1.2 Background of the problem

Malaysia is fortunate to have plenty reserve of crude oil supplies. This source of energy is expected to contribute to the larger share of the commercial energy requirements of the nation. However, the increase in price of petroleum fuels, stringent emission regulations and foreseeable future of depletion of petroleum

reserves force us to search for new technologies to meet human's demands for cleaner environment and new energy. At the current rate of production, the average life for Malaysia's oil reserves is 17 years. If no new discoveries of oil wells are made, Malaysia will be a net importer of petroleum oil before 2020 because our consumption is double with economic growth and thus alternative renewable fuel need to be sought immediately (Yamin Vong, 2004).

The petroleum diesel demand is expected to increase steadily to keep pace with the industrialization and growth of the economy. As such, if renewable energy sources could be found to supplement the needs of these sectors, then the country would be moving in the direction towards self-sufficiency in energy. In this context, the prospect of a renewable source from biodiesel fuel of palm oil based is promising. It is also in line with our government policy to source for renewable fuel.

Therefore, in this study, the biodiesel blend fuels supplied by Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) have been tested on the direct-injection (DI) diesel engine in order to examine the effect of engine performance and exhaust emission and also to know the capability of the fuel on the diesel engine.

1.3 Malaysia's Biodiesel Initiatives

Malaysia started work on biodiesel two decades ago, but the idea of using palm oil on a large scale was introduced in the middle of 2005. The Malaysia's experience in using palm oil as fuel dated back to the 1980s. The palm diesel was produced by transforming crude palm oil into palm oil methyl esters. This was then evaluated as diesel fuel substitute from 1983 to 1994 at MPOB. The palm oil methyl esters (palm diesel) was tested in the laboratory evaluation, stationary engine testing and field trials on a large number of vehicles.

The Government recently announced that the use of biodiesel blend from palm oil will be one of the action plans considered to reduce the country's reliance on petroleum fuels. The Government was very interested because this was an

opportunity to diversify the use of palm oil and to use as the price stabilizing mechanism in palm oil industry. Several Asian countries including Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia announced initiatives for commercial production of biodiesel. The commercial interest in palm oil methyl esters has also been intense from within the country and also from Korea, Hong Kong, Colombia and Turkey.

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) is working to establish the biodiesel system. The MPOB has decided to export biodiesel since the experiments have proven it to be a viable effort. There are European companies buying the supply from MPOB to run their trains, and the logo in front of the locomotive is testimony to the collaboration that the train is using palm oil methyl esters.

With the strong demand, MPOB is designing and building a modular palm diesel (palm oil methyl esters) plant, which can be packed and shipped to overseas for installation. The design is based on the MPOB-Petronas patented technology, a palm diesel pilot plant that produces 3,000 tonnes annually, which located at MPOB headquarters in Bangi. The demonstration plant with capacity of 60,000 tonnes of fuel per annum is expected to be ready by June 2006.

By the end of 2005, the Government has announced that the state-owned diesel vehicles, army trucks and the plantation vehicles were requested to use biodiesel blend on a trial basis starting from 1st January 2006. The composition of biodiesel blend will be 5 % of RBD palm olein (refined, bleached and deodorised) and 95 % petroleum diesel, and it is known as B5 fuel. The year 2006 will be a trial period to identify any problems of biodiesel blend before it is fully commercialized and ready for use from 1st January 2007. Around the country, major plantation companies have also drawn up plans to venture into biodiesel. Selected public buses, taxis and army trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles will use biodiesel.

In January 2006, the Government had agreed to supply the B5 for free for the whole of 2006 to Ministries and government agencies that volunteer to try it out. The B5 will be launched in peninsular Malaysia first, before being eventually supplied to Sarawak and Sabah. The 12 months trial periods will be used to determine the effect

of the new biodiesel on engine systems and general performance of the vehicles before it is introduced for public use nationwide.

1.4 The Objectives and Scopes of Research

The objectives of this study is to investigate the effect of a various biodiesel blends fuels on a 0.296 litres DI diesel engine. The main research area was to examine the performance and emission of diesel engine using several proportions of biodiesel fuel (neutralised palm oil methyl ester) with diesel fuel that were prepared by Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB). The comparative works were also studied between these biodiesel blends against a standard Malaysian diesel fuel.

The research detailed activities include understanding the concept of engine diesel operation, identifying the chemical species of emissions, methods of performance and emissions testing, literature reviews on major work in the same area, identifying scope of work, engine servicing, laboratory preparation, fabrication process, running the engine test, presentation of experimental results, produce engine model for simulation, comparison between experimental and simulation results and discussion on the outcome of the overall studies.

In this research, the work was done on the engine test bed for evaluation of diesel fuel and blended biodiesel fuels. The engine was installed on the test bed and coupled to a dynamometer. The instrument that was used to measure air flow rate induced by the engine was developed using airbox and manometer tube, while to measure the fuel flow rate, a burette tube was installed immediately after the fuel tank. The engine cylinder head was drilled to install the in-cylinder pressure transducer. The fuel line pipe was modified in order to place the fuel line pressure transducer. The crank angle encoder was mounted at dynamometer shaft in order to measure the crank angle of the engine. Data acquisition system was used to record the pressures and crank angle signal during the experiment. The thermocouples were installed in the intake pipe, exhaust pipe and in the dynamometer water outlet respectively. The details on the experimental setups were discussed in chapter three.

The scopes of this research cover the effects of engine parameters i.e. engine load and speed of the DI diesel engine, the performance and the exhaust emission. The brake power, the air and fuel consumption were measured to determine the performance of the engine and its thermal efficiency. For the exhaust emissions, nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and unburned hydrocarbon (uHC) were measured. The measurement of exhaust smoke and the qualitative study on injector tip carbon deposit were also included in this research work. Other measurements of in-cylinder and fuel line pressure were also carried out in order to compare the maximum pressures produced between reference diesel fuel and blended biodiesel fuels. The heat release rate and the ignition delay for biodiesel blends were calculated based on the in-cylinder and fuel line pressure data and were compared to reference fuel.

Throughout the study, four test fuels were used including the grade 2 Malaysian diesel designate as the reference fuel (D2). The other three fuels were the biodiesel blends between neutralized palm oil methyl ester (NPOME) and D2 at several volumetric proportions. The neutralized palm oil means that this palm oil is neutral and it has no acid content. These biodiesel blends are designated as B10, B20 and B50 (denotes 10%, 20% and 50% of NPOME in petroleum diesel) respectively. In this study also, the engine simulation model for DI diesel engine was developed using software tools called *GT-PowerTM*. This engine model was used to simulate the engine performance and emissions of biodiesel blends and diesel fuel.

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