Energetic and Exergetic Performance Analysis of a CI Engine Fuelled with Diesel-Blended Plastic Pyrolytic Oil

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Abstract In this work, plastic oil derived from the kaoline catalyzed pyrolysis of waste polypropylene plastics are used as alternate fuels along with diesel in CI engine. The performance characteristics of the plastic oil blended with 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50% diesel are analyzed and compared with diesel fuel operation. Experiments have been carried out to analyze the Energy and Exergy characteristics of diesel engine fuelled by plastic oil blended diesel fuel. The energetic and exergetic performance of waste plastic oil blended diesel is found higher than the diesel fuel operation.

Graphical Abstract The schematic diagram explains the consumption of air-fuel mixture fed to a diesel engine and extraction of useful work from the engine. It also quantifies different losses of energy in different media associated with the engine during power generation.

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Keywords Catalytic pyrolysis · Waste plastics · Plastic oil · Diesel · CI engine Energy analysis \cdot Exergy analysis

Nomenclature

W The net work rate $ω$ Angular velocity *T* Torque

1 Introduction

The extensive uses of fossil derived fuels are considered unsustainable as such fuel resources are destined to deplete and cause environmental hazards during their uses [\[1\]](#page-14-0). Hence, many investigators have been trying to explore various alternate energy resources and improve efficiency of energy consuming device to sustainably meet the growing global energy demands while minimizing the environmental pollutions [\[2\]](#page-14-1). On the other hand, the disposal problems of waste plastics and its sustainable utilization is becoming more and more significant in the present scenario. The catalytic pyrolysis of plastic waste to liquid fuel is one of the remarkable ways to recycle the plastic waste and the plastic pyrolysis oil has the matching characteristics and requisition with that of diesel, and thus acts as a substitute of diesel oil in terms of engine performance and energy output [\[3\]](#page-15-0).

The engine performance in terms of energy output can be understood through energy and exergy analysis. Study on the energetic and exegetic performance of diesel engine under different operational conditions is reported in the literature [\[4\]](#page-15-1). Energy analysis done based on the first law of thermodynamics is not sufficient to understand the sustainability of fuel as the limitations of second law of thermodynamics is not considered. However, another quantity exergy being calculated based on the both first and second laws of thermodynamics is closely related to the concept of renewability and sustainability. Exergy analysis is a robust technique for understanding the unsteadiness of a thermodynamic system for energy conversion. Currently, it has become a popular technique to manage with the problems related to the widespread utilization of different energy resources and their subsequent environmental issues [\[5\]](#page-15-2). Exergy analysis is also used by researchers to evaluate and optimize the performance of internal combustion (IC) engines running on different (non-renewable and renewable fuels and their blends) fuels [\[6](#page-15-3)[–9\]](#page-15-4) and extensively reported recently and summarized as follows.

Canakci and Hosoz studied the performance of a four-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine using different biodiesels and petro diesel fuel and compared the performance based on their exergy analysis [\[10\]](#page-15-5). The energy and exergy analysis of a diesel engine running with diesel, soybean oil methyl ester, and high-oleic soybean oil was done by Caliskan et al. [\[11\]](#page-15-6). Da Costa et al. investigated the performance of a dualfuel diesel engine running on natural gas and diesel [\[12\]](#page-15-7). Exergetic performance assessment of a diesel engine running on oliveepomace oil biodiesel, diesel fuel, and their mixtures was reported by Lopez et al. [\[13\]](#page-15-8). Aghbashlo et al. reported the improvement of exergetic performance of a diesel engine using expanded polystyrene as an additive [\[14\]](#page-15-9). Caliskan et al. reported an increase in the exergetic efficiency with decreased dead state temperature in a diesel engine fuelled with soybean biodiesel

by energy exergy analysis [\[15\]](#page-15-10). The performance of a four-cylinder SI engine using three different research octane numbers gasoline fuels was studied by Sayin et al. by energy and exergy analysis [\[16\]](#page-15-11). Wiley Sekmen and Yilbasi compared the energetic and exergetic performance of diesel and soybean biodiesel in a four-cylinder, direct injection diesel engine [\[17\]](#page-15-12). The effect of compression ratio and injection timing on energy and exergy potential of a palm oil methyl ester run diesel engine was studied by Biplab et al. [\[18\]](#page-15-13). A comparative performance of a diesel engine with mahua biodiesel blended diesel by energy and exergy analysis was reported by Panigrahi et al. [\[19\]](#page-15-14). Energy and exergy analyses diesel engine for 20% blends of neem oil methylester diesel fuel is carried out by Panigrahi et al. and the blended fuel is found to have low exhaust gas energy loss, higher rate of heat transfer and shows similar trends of energetic and exergetic performance with diesel fuel [\[20\]](#page-15-15). From the above studies, it can be concluded that, energy and exergy analysis could help understanding the performance of an alternate fuel, identifying optimum operating condition including fuel blends and engine parameters to design more cost-effective and eco-friendly operations. The objective of the present work is to evaluate the performance of the CI engines fuelled with plastic oil blended diesel.

2 Experimental Investigation

The waste plastic oil used in this experiment is obtained from the kaolin-catalyzed pyrolysis of waste polypropylene at 500 $^{\circ}$ C with plastics to catalyst ratio 3:1 using a batch reactor reported in our work [\[3\]](#page-15-0). The GC-MS composition and physical properties of the plastic oil is summarized in Tables [1](#page-4-0) and [2](#page-5-0) respectively. The result indicates the presence of different hydrocarbons, mostly alkenes and alkenes along with some fraction of oxygenated organic compounds, such as alcohols and ketones with C_{10} -C₁₂, in the boiling range of 68–346 °C, which infers the presence of a mixture of different oil components equivalent to gasoline, kerosene, and diesel in the oil [\[3\]](#page-15-0).

The engine performance was carried out on a compression ignition test engine and is well calibrated to reduce the possible errors during experiment. The diagrammatic representation of the test engine setup is shown in Fig. [1](#page-6-0) and the research engine specification and parameters details are given in Table [3.](#page-5-1) The engine is subjected to different conditions and the performance was measured. The load testing has been conducted using a brake drum dynamometer. A required A/F ratio is maintained for better consumption of the fuel. The air box and U-tube manometer is associated as an integral part of air intake system allows excess air to the engine manifold. The mass flow rate of fuel supplied to the engine is measured with the help of a burette and stop watch. The inlet and outlet temperature of water used in the cooling system, the exhaust gas temperature and ambient air temperature was measured using Chomel-Alumel thermocouple displayed with digital temperature indicator. In addition to this, Automatic emission analyser (AVL analyser) and digital smoke meter was used to measure the exhaust emission and Smoke emitted in the engine.

Peak	Retention	Molecular	Peak	Retention	Molecular
	time	formula		time	formula
$\mathbf{1}$	3.071	$C_{12}H_{24}$	19	9.144	$C_{13}H_{28}O$
$\overline{2}$	3.900	$C_{10}H_{20}$	20	9.264	$C_{13}H_{28}O$
3	4.683	$C_{11}H_{24}$	21	9.382	$C_{11}H_{24}O$
$\overline{4}$	4.744	$C_{10}H_{22}$	22	9.761	$C_{12}H_{24}$
5	5.483	$C_{12}H_{24}$	23	11.618	$C_{12}H_{24}$
6	5.543	$C_{12}H_{24}$	24	12.007	$C_{13}H_{28}O$
7	5.771	$C_{12}H_{24}$	25	14.152	$C_{12}H_{24}$
8	5.836	$C_{14}H_{30}O$	26	14.427	$C_{12}H_{24}$
9	6.118	$C_{12}H_{24}$	27	14.503	$C_{12}H_{26}O$
10	6.318	$C_{12}H_{24}$	28	14.527	$C_{12}H_{24}$
11	6.388	$C_{10}H_{20}O$	29	14.878	$C_{12}H_{24}$
12	6.518	$C_{12}H_{24}$	30	16.410	$C_{18}H_{36}$
13	6.617	$C_{13}H_{28}O$	31	18.452	$C_{18}H_{36}$
14	8.261	$C_{10}H_{22}O$	32	18.832	$C_{12}H_{24}$
15	8.739	$C_{12}H_{24}$	33	19.131	$C_{12}H_{24}$
16	8.843	$C_{11}H_{22}$	34	20.312	$C_{18}H_{36}$
17	8.944	$C_{12}H_{22}$	35	22.607	$C_{18}H_{36}$
18	9.081	$C_{11}H_{22}$	36	24.145	$C_{18}H_{36}$

Table 1 GC-MS composition of oil obtained by the catalytic pyrolysis of polypropylene at 500 °C

Blended oils (consists of Diesel and 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50% of WPO) were used for testing in the engine. The properties of the blended oil were summarized in the Table [2.](#page-5-0) These diesel blend waste plastic oil are denoted as 10% BWPO, 20% BWPO, 30% BWPO, 40% BWPO, and 50% BWPO, with the numbers indicating the percentage of WPO in the blend. Higher blends were not used due to detonation in the engine.

The analysis was carried out both quantitatively and qualitatively with an assumption of control volume in the combustion chamber. The experiment was also conducted under constant ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure conditions. The test fuel was subjected to complete combustion assuming no emission loss in the form of C, H_2 , CO, H_2O , or free O_2 as the product.

2.1 Energy Analysis

The energy analysis is carried out to determine the physical significance of thermodynamics laws to access the amount of energy released during combustion. The concept of control volume attributes the significance of the supplied energy and utilized energy in the system. The analysis is well clarified with the following assump-

Properties	Plastic oil	Diesel	10% BWPO	20% BWPO	30% BWPO	40% BWPO	50% BWPO
Density @ 30° C in (g/cc)	0.7771	0.84	0.83371	0.82742	0.82113	0.81484	0.80855
Boiling point range $(^{\circ}C)$	68	150	141.8	133.6	125.4	117.2	109
Gross calorific value (kcal/kg)	11,256	10,162	10,271.4	10,380.8	10,490.2	10,599.6	10,709
Kinematic viscosity, cSt @ 30 °C	2.27	5.3	4.997	4.694	4.391	4.088	3.785
Cetane number	51	55	54.6	54.2	53.8	53.4	53
Flash point $(^{\circ}C)$	-12	58	51	44	37	30	23
Fire point $({}^{\circ}C)$	-12	68	60	52	44	36	28
Pouring point (°C)	-45	$\overline{}$	-4.5	-9	-13.5	-18	-22.5
Cloud point $(^{\circ}C)$	-45	$\overline{}$	-4.5	-9	-13.5	-18	-22.5

Table 2 Physical properties of plastic oil

Table 3 Specification of diesel engine used in the experiment

Fig. 1 Schematic representation of the experimental setup

tions; engine operates under steady state conditions, the working medium both in the engine and dynamometer assumed under control volume, the gaseous medium in the engine inlet and outlet considered as an ideal gas mixture, potential energy, and kinetic energy of the fluids throughout the flow is neglected. This analysis gives both the amount of energy present and also discusses about the losses of energy in the system.

Figure [2](#page-7-0) explains the mechanism of energy transfer in the form of heat transfer and work transfer in different state of the working fluid. The engine is introduced with a mixture of fuel and ambient air in a required proportion and being ready for combustion. This combustible mixture evolves power which can be encountered as shaft work with some form of energy losses to ambient as exhaust gas emission and heat losses to coolant. The following parameters are taken into consideration for energy calculations.

For any thermodynamic open system [\[21,](#page-15-16) [22\]](#page-15-17).

Mass balance equation is given by,

$$
\dot{m}_{\rm in} = \dot{m}_{\rm out} \tag{1}
$$

Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of energy flow system in a thermodynamic system

According to steady flow energy equation (SFEE) is given by,

$$
\dot{E}_{\rm in} - \dot{E}_{\rm out} = \frac{\mathrm{d}E_{cv}}{\mathrm{d}t} \tag{2}
$$

$$
\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} - \dot{W}_{\text{out}} + \dot{m}_{\text{in}} \bigg[h_i + \frac{V_i^2}{2} + g Z_i \bigg] - \dot{m}_{\text{out}} \bigg[h_e + \frac{V_e^2}{2} + g Z_e \bigg] = \frac{dE_{cv}}{dt} \tag{3}
$$

For a steady flow system,

$$
d\dot{E}_{\text{System}} = 0 \tag{4}
$$

$$
\dot{E}_{\rm in} = \dot{E}_{\rm out} \tag{5}
$$

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}E_{cv}}{\mathrm{d}t} = 0\tag{6}
$$

Using Eqs. [4,](#page-7-1) [5](#page-7-2) and [6](#page-7-3) in Eq. [3](#page-7-4) and ignoring the potential energy and kinetic energy being small,

$$
\dot{Q}_{\rm in} - \dot{W}_{\rm out} = \dot{m}(h_e - h_i) \tag{7}
$$

The energy balance per mole of the fuel may be expressed as [\[23\]](#page-15-18),

$$
\frac{Q_{\text{in}}}{\dot{n}_{\text{F}}} - \frac{W_{\text{out}}}{\dot{n}_{\text{F}}} = \overline{h p} - \overline{h r} = \sum_{\text{product}} n_{\text{out}} (\overline{H_{f}^{0} + \Delta H})_{\text{out}} - \sum_{\text{reactant}} n_{\text{in}} (\overline{H_{f}^{0} + \Delta H})_{\text{in}} \tag{8}
$$

where

$$
\Delta H = H(T) - H(T_{\text{ref}}) \tag{9}
$$

The heat input energy Q_{in} to the diesel engine is the amount of fuel energy content in the supplied fuel and is given by (Eq. [10\)](#page-8-0),

$$
Q_{\rm in} = m_f \text{.} \text{LHV (kW)} \tag{10}
$$

The shaft work can be evaluated by,

$$
\dot{Q}_s = \frac{2\pi NT}{6000} \text{ (kW)}\tag{11}
$$

Rate of Energy loss in cooling water is given by,

$$
\dot{Q}_W = m_w C_{pw} [T_{c2} - T_{c1}] \text{ (kW)} \tag{12}
$$

Rate of energy loss in Exhaust gas is given by,

$$
\dot{Q}_e = [m_a + m_f]_{\text{mix}} C_{pe} [T_{e2} - T_{e1}] \text{ (kW)} \tag{13}
$$

 C_{pe} may be found by equating \dot{Q}_w and \dot{Q}_e , and given by

$$
C_{pe} = \frac{m_w C_{pw} [T_{c2} - T_{c1}]}{[m_a + m_f]_{mix} [T_{e2} - T_{e1}]} \tag{14}
$$

Rate of Unaccounted Energy losses is given by,

$$
\dot{\mathcal{Q}}_u = \dot{\mathcal{Q}}_{\text{in}} - \left[\dot{\mathcal{Q}}_{\text{in}} - \left\{ \dot{\mathcal{Q}}_s + \dot{\mathcal{Q}}_w + \dot{\mathcal{Q}}_e \right\} \right] \tag{15}
$$

2.2 Exergy Analysis

The performance of an engine can be well evaluated by its qualitative and quantitative approach. The exergy associated with energy is a quantitative assessment of its usefulness or quality. Exergy analysis acknowledges that although energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can be degraded in quality, eventually reaching a state in which it is in complete equilibrium with the surroundings and hence of no further use for performing tasks. The assumptions for exergy analysis are:

- Exergy change of potential, kinetic, electromagnetic and electrostatic are insignificant.
- Steady flow engine system.
- Available energy is from finite energy source.
- The kinetic and potential exergies being small were ignored as compared to total exergy value.

For a direct injection diesel engine, the exergy balance equation can be written as

$$
\dot{E}_{xa} + \dot{E}_{xf} = \dot{E}_{xg} + \dot{E}_{xw} + \dot{E}_{xc} + \dot{E}_{xl} + \dot{E}_{xdes}
$$
 (16)

The exergy flow rate of the air to diesel engine can be expressed as follows:

$$
E_{x_a} = m_a \bigg[C_{p,a} \bigg(T_a - T_o - T_o \ln \bigg(\frac{T_a}{T_o} \bigg) + RT_o \ln \bigg(\frac{P_a}{P_o} \bigg) \bigg) \bigg] \tag{17}
$$

The specific heat capacity of the intake air can be calculated using the following equation:

$$
C_{p_a} = 1.04841 - 0.0003837T_a + \frac{9.45378T_a^2}{10^7} - \frac{5.49031T_a^2}{10^{10}} + \frac{7.92981T_a^2}{10^{14}} \tag{18}
$$

Considering the chemical exergy only for determining the energy flow rate of fuel,

$$
\dot{E}_{xf} = \dot{m}_f \cdot e_{xf} = \dot{m}_f \cdot \rho \cdot q_{LHV}
$$
\n(19)

The value of chemical exergy factor (ρ) of the fuel and can be calculated by knowing mass fraction of H, C, O, and Sas used in the following equation [\[21,](#page-15-16) [24\]](#page-15-19);

$$
\rho = 1.0401 + 0.1728 \left(\frac{H}{C}\right) + 0.0432 \left(\frac{O}{C}\right) + 0.2169 \left(\frac{S}{C}\right) \left[1 - 2.0268 \left(\frac{H}{C}\right)\right]
$$
\n
$$
q_{\text{LHV}} = \sum_{i} X_i q_{\text{LHV},i} \tag{21}
$$

The lower heating value of diesel and plastic fuel were considered to be 42,400 and 42,600 kJ/kg respectively Moreover, the chemical formula of diesel and plastic fuel were taken into account as $C_{12}H_{24}$ and $C_{12.66}H_{24.66}O_{0.25}$.

The summation of physical exergy and chemical exergy flow rates can produce exergy flow rate of the exhaust hot gas from engine.

$$
\dot{E}_{X_s}^{ph} + \dot{E}_{X_s}^{ch} = \dot{E}_{X_s} \tag{22}
$$

The physical exergy flow rate and chemical exergy flow rate of exhaust hot gas can be calculated using the following equation

$$
\dot{E}_{X_g}^{ph} = \left(\dot{m}_a + \dot{m}_f\right) \left[C_{p,g} \left(T_g - T_o - T_o \ln\left(\frac{T_g}{T_o}\right) + R' T_o \ln\left(\frac{P_g}{P_o}\right) \right) \right]
$$
(23)

The specific heat capacity of the exhaust hot gas can be specified as [\[25\]](#page-15-20),

$$
C_{p,g} = \sum_{i} y_i C_{P,i} \tag{24}
$$

where y_i and $C_{P,i}$ are the mass fraction and specific heat capacity of each component in the exhaust hot gas from diesel engine.

$$
\dot{E}_{X_g}^{ch} = \left(\dot{m}_a + \dot{m}_f\right) n \left(\sum_i x_i \in_i + RT_o \sum_i x_i \ln x_i\right) \tag{25}
$$

In order to calculate standard molar percentage of different components in the exhaust gas, it is required to calculate the chemical exergy.

The exergy rate of the shaft work generated is equal to the energy rate of net work

$$
E_{Xw} = \dot{W} = \dot{\omega}T\tag{26}
$$

The exergy loss rate because of heat transfer rate to the cooling water can be computed as:

$$
\dot{E}_{x_c} = \dot{m}_w C_{p,w} \left[\left(T_{w,o} - T_{w,\text{in}} - T_o \ln \left(\frac{T_{w,o}}{w, i} \right) \right) \right]
$$
(27)

The exergy loss rate to the environment as a result of heat transfer can be assessed as follows:

$$
\dot{E}_{X_l} = \dot{Q}_L \bigg(1 - \frac{T_O}{T_L} \bigg) \tag{28}
$$

The heat loss to the environment can be estimated using the energy balance equation (by equating total energy inputs to total energy outputs) as:

$$
\dot{Q}_l = \dot{m}_a (h_a - h_o) + \dot{m}_f q_{\text{LHV}} - (\dot{m}_a + \dot{m}_f) (h_g - h_o) \n- \dot{m}_w (h_{w,o} - h_{w,i}) - W \text{ Or}, \n\dot{Q}_l = m_a C_{p,a} (T_a - T_o) + \dot{m}_f q_{\text{LHV}} - (\dot{m}_a + \dot{m}_f) C_{p,g} (T_g - T_o) \n- \dot{m}_w C_{p,w} (T_{w,o} - T_{w,i}) - W
$$
\n(29)

The exergy efficiency (Ψ) of the DI diesel engine can be evaluated as follows [\[26\]](#page-15-21),

$$
\Psi = \frac{\dot{E}_{X_w}}{\dot{E}_{X_a} + \dot{E}_{X_f}}\tag{30}
$$

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 Brake Thermal Efficiency

The brake thermal efficiency of an engine depends upon engine loads and blend ratio and their variation in the present experiment as shown in Fig. [3.](#page-11-0) The thermal efficiency found decreasing with increase in blend ratio at full load conditions. It can be observed from Fig. [3](#page-11-0) that the thermal efficiency is 20.83% at full load for diesel. In addition to this, the brake thermal efficiency of the waste plastic oil blend found closer or slightly higher to diesel up to 80% load. This may be due to higher calorific value of WPO–diesel blend than diesel.

3.2 Brake-Specific Fuel Consumption

Brake-specific fuel consumption (BSFC) is a more consistent criterion to signify the performance of an engine for blended fuels due to difference in their density and calorific values. Brake-specific fuel consumption of different WPO–diesel blends with diesel is summarized in Fig. [4.](#page-12-0)

It can be observed from Fig. [4](#page-12-0) that the increase in load results the decrease in BSFC for both diesel and various blended fuels. In addition to this, the BSFC is found decreasing within the variation of an increase of concentration of WPO in

Fig. 3 Brake thermal efficiency of different fuels at different loads

Fig. 4 Brake specific fuel consumption of different fuels at different loads

WPO–Diesel blend. The high calorific value of WPO causes lesser consumption of blended fuel by the engine.

3.3 Energy Analysis of Tested Fuels

The useful energy and energy losses of WPO–diesel blend in comparison with diesel is shown in Fig. [5.](#page-13-0) The fuel energy generated by WPO–diesel blend is observed very close to diesel at 20% BWPO. The shaft work produced in diesel is found more than WPO. This may be due to higher thermal efficiency of diesel than WPO blend. The heat lost in the cooling water for both fuels are found very close to each other. Energy lost in the form of exhaust emission is found higher in diesel than WPO–diesel blend. This may be due to higher calorific value of diesel than WPO–diesel blend at lower proportion.

3.4 Exergy Analysis of Tested Fuels

The different values of exergy of different fuels are calculated (Eq. [30\)](#page-10-0) and the analysis reveals that the fuel exergy are becoming higher than the corresponding fuel energy inputs.

Fig. 5 Energy distribution of WPO in comparisons with diesel

Fig. 6 Exergy analysis ofWPO in comparison of diesel.Where FE—fuel exergy, SE—shaft exergy, HLE—exergy due to heat loss to water, EGE—exhaust gas exergy, ED—exergy of destruction

Due to lower specific heating value of diesel, the fuel exergy of diesel is found lower than that of WPO–diesel blend as explained in Fig. [6.](#page-13-1) The trend is continued for shaft exergy as the brake thermal efficiency of diesel is higher than the blend. In addition, due to higher calorific value of WPO, the exhaust gas exergy is less than diesel.

3.5 Energetic and Exergetic Efficiency of Tested Fuels

Energetic efficiency of the tested fuels agrees at a point and it is resembled with the brake thermal efficiency as shown in Fig. [7.](#page-14-2) It has been observed that exergetic

Fig. 7 Comparison of energetic and exergetic efficiency

efficiency of WPO is found more than that of diesel. This may be due to higher BSFC of WPO–diesel blend in comparison to diesel.

4 Conclusion

From the study of conducting performance test using waste plastic oil and diesel on a DI diesel engine, it has been observed that the engine was able to run with maximum 50% of waste plastic oil–diesel blends. The engine is found deteriorating its performance beyond this blend ratio due to knocking and showed better performance up to 30% blend. Brake thermal efficiency of blend is found to be almost the same or marginally higher than diesel up to 80% load and somewhat lower at full load. Exhaust gas temperature is found marginally higher with WPO–diesel blend than diesel operation. Brake specific fuel consumption of WPO is found marginally higher than that of diesel fuel for same rated power. The same trend is followed for destructive exergy of the oil.

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