

* Fuel Chemistry *

* What is fuel ?

Ans:- A fuel can be defined as any combustible substance, containing carbon as main constituent, which on proper burning gives large amount of heat which can be used economically for domestic & industrial purpose.

During the process of combustion of fuel the atoms of carbon, hydrogen etc. combined with O₂ with simultaneous liberation of heat resulting in the formation of new compounds like CO₂, H₂O etc.



(more heat content)

The primary (or) main sources of fuels are coals or petroleum oils.

Classification of fuels :-

Fuels can be classified based on their occurrence.

1) Natural (or) Primary fuels :-

This fuels are found in nature.

Ex:- wood, peat, petroleum, Natural gas etc.

2) Artificial (or) Secondary fuels :-

These fuels are prepared artificially from primary fuels are called A.F.

Ex:- Coal, Kerosene oil, Coal gas etc.

On the basis physical state:-

- 1) Solid fuel
- 2) Liquid fuel
- 3) Gaseous fuel

Type of Fuel	Natural (or) Primary	Artificial (or) Secondary
1) Solid	wood, peat, lignite, coals anthracite coal.	charcoal, coke, etc.
2) Liquid	Crude oil	Petrol, diesel & various fraction of petroleum
3) Gases	Natural gases to find water gas etc.	coal gas, oil gas, bio-gas water gas etc.

Characteristics of Good fuel :-

- 1) High calorific value
- 2) Moderate ignition temperature
- 3) Low moisture content.
- 4) Low non-combustible matter
- 5) Moderate rate of combustion product
- 6) Harmless combustion products
- 7) Low cost
- 8) A fuel should burn in air with efficiency without smoke.

Calorific Value :-

The total amount of heat liberate from combustion
of a unit mass (or) volume of a fuel in air (or) oxygen

⇒ There are two types of calorific value in Indian

Lower calorific value (LCV) :-

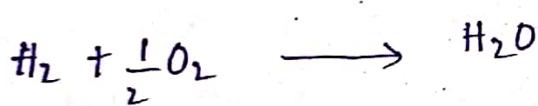
It is also termed as Net calorific value

(NCV) and it is defined as the heat produced when a unit quantity (mass or volume) of a fuel is burned completely and hot combustion products are allowed to escape. Then, it is called LCV (or) NCV.

Relation between LCV & HCV :-

$LCV = HCV - \text{Latent heat of } H_2O \text{ vapour formed}$

$LCV = HCV - \text{wt of hydrogen in fuel} \times 9 \times \text{latent heat of steam.}$



* The Gross calorific value of a fuel containing 8% hydrogen was found to be 9225.9 Kcal/kg. Find out the Net calorific value. If the latent of steam is 587 Kcal.

so:- $NCV \text{ (or) } LCV = GCV \text{ (or) } HCV - \text{wt of hydrogen} \times 9 \times \text{latent of } H_2O$

$$= 9225.9 - 9 \times \frac{8}{100} \times 587$$

$$= 8803 \text{ Kcal/kg}$$

Solid fuel :-

Solid fuel is refer to various type of solid material that are used as fuel to produce energy.

The primary fuel of solid commonly used are

(i) Wood :- Freshly cut wood contains 85-90% moisture which reduces to 10% after drying in air.

The average composition of wood is

C = 55.7% (fixed carbon) + calorific value is about

H = 6.7% + 3500 = 4500 kcal/kg

O = 38.1%

ash = 1.6%

It is difficult to analyse

(ii) Coal :- Coal is not easy to analyse but can

Analysis of coal involves the following steps

Proximate analysis

1) % of moisture

1) % of C

2) % of volatile matter

2) % of H

3) % of fixed carbon

3) % of N

4) % of ash

* 1) % of moisture = $\frac{[\text{loss in weight of sample}] \times 100}{\text{weight of sample taken}}$

2) % of volatile matter = $\frac{\text{loss in weight of coal sample taken}}{\text{weight of coal sample taken}} \times 100$

3) % of ash = $\frac{\text{weight of ash formed}}{\text{weight of coal sample taken}} \times 100$

4) % of fixed carbon = $\frac{\text{weight of residue left after removal of volatile matter}}{\text{weight of sample taken}} \times 100$

5) % of calorific value = $\frac{\text{calorific value of coal}}{\text{calorific value of standard coal}} \times 100$

6) % of moisture = $\frac{\text{loss in weight of sample}}{\text{weight of sample taken}} \times 100$

7) % of volatile matter = $\frac{\text{loss in weight of sample}}{\text{weight of sample taken}} \times 100$

8) % of ash = $\frac{\text{weight of ash formed}}{\text{weight of sample taken}} \times 100$

High calorific value:

Hydrogen is found to be present in almost all fuel. When the calorific value of hydrogen containing fuel is determined experimentally, the hydrogen is converted to steam if the product of combustion is exposed to the room temperature.

The latent heat of condensation also get included in the result which is called HCV.

Definition of HCV:

The total amount of heat is liberated when unit mass (or) volume of fuel has been burned completely and the product of combustion is cooled to room temperature.

* H.C.V is also known as 'Gross calorific Value'.

fixed carbon

$$= 100 - \text{s. of } (\text{moisture} + \text{volatiles})$$

Problem:

A sample of coal is analyzed as follows exactly. A sample of coal was weighed into a silica crucible. After heating for 1 hour at 100°C , the residue weighed 1.5 gm. The crucible containing coal was then covered with a lid and heated for exactly 5 min at $950 \pm 20^{\circ}\text{C}$. The crucible weighed 1.415 g. The crucible was then strongly heated until a constant weight was obtained. The last residue was found to have weight 0.254 gm.

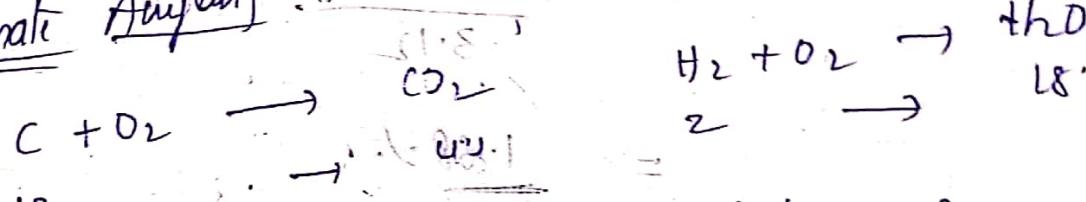
~~AN~~ % of moisture = $\frac{1.5 - 1.415}{1.5} \times 100 = 5.62$ (in %)

% of volatile = $\frac{1.45 - 0.528}{1.5} \times 100 = 55.1$ (in %)

% of ash = $\frac{0.0254}{1.5} \times 100 = 16.93$ (in %)

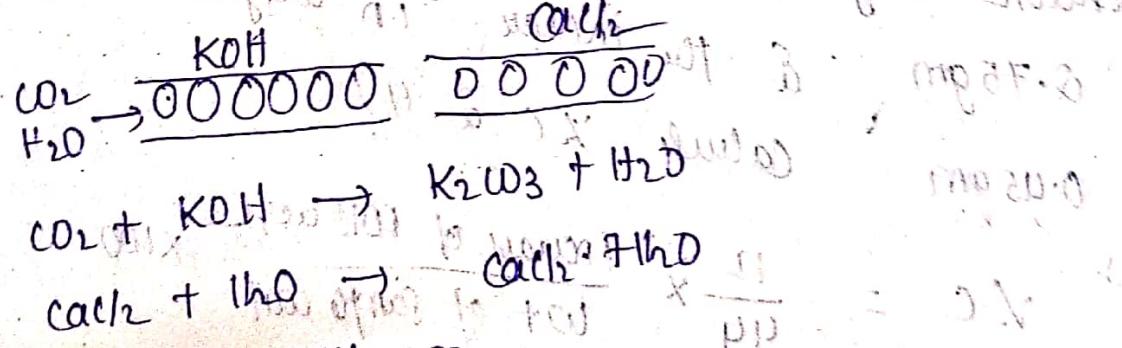
% fixed carbon = $\frac{1.45 - 0.0254}{1.5} \times 100 = 86.1$ (in %)

Ultimate Analysis: $\frac{1.0 \times (251 - 02)}{1.5}$

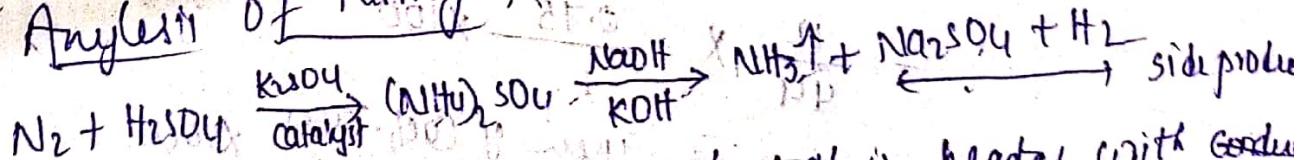


% of Carbon = $\frac{\text{increase wt of KOH tube} \times \frac{12}{44} \times 100}{\text{initial wt of coal sample taken to imp}}$

% of Hydrogen = $\frac{\text{increase wt of coal sample tube} \times \frac{2}{18} \times 100}{\text{initial wt of coal sample taken to imp}}$



Analyse of Nitrogen



About 0.1gm of equivalent weight powder coal is heated with 0.1gm of conc. H_2SO_4 along with K_2SO_4 (in long neck flask). After the soluble conc. H_2SO_4 is removed, the residue of KOH & NaOH & liberated NH_3 become clear. It is treated with excess of KOH & NaOH & liberated NH_3 is collected over a known volume of standard acid solution. The excess acid is titrated with Ba(OH)_2 .

* 3.12gm of coal was taken & heated in a long-necked flask and NH_3 gas then evolved coal absorbed in 50ml of 0.1 (N) H_2SO_4 . After absorption, the excess acid required 12.5 ml of 0.1 (N) NaOH for neutralization. Determine the % N in the sample of coal.

Ans:-

$$\% \text{ N} = \frac{\text{Volume of acid used} \times \text{Normality}}{\text{wt of sample coal}} \times 1.4$$

$$= \frac{(50 - 12.5) \times 0.1}{3.12} \times 1.4$$

$$= \underline{1.68 \%}$$

COAL IS FIRST BURNED TO
WEIGHED: Coal sample was burnt
* 1 gm of accurately weighed coal sample was burnt
in a current of O_2 in a combustion apparatus & all
of the coal was converted to CO_2 & H_2O respectively which
was then absorbed separately in KOH & Ca(OH)_2 tube of
known weight. increase in weight of KOH tube was
0.75 gm & the increase in weight of Ca(OH)_2 tube was
0.45 gm

Sol:- $\% \text{ C} = \frac{12}{44} \times \frac{\text{increase of KOH weight}}{\text{wt of sample coal}} \times 100$

$$= \frac{12}{44} \times \frac{0.75}{1} \times 100 = 75\%$$

$$\% \text{ H} = \frac{2}{18} \times \frac{\text{increase of Ca(OH)}_2 \text{ weight}}{\text{wt of sample coal}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{1}{9} \times \frac{0.45}{1} \times 100 = 5\%$$

Liquid fuels :-

Liquid fuels are fuel oil & kero

*Table (1-5)

Cracking :-

fuel	Percentage of composition				Calorific value kcal/kg
	C (%)	H (%)	O (%)	Moisture (40°C) %	
Blood	50	6.0	43.5%	25	4000 - 4500
Peat	57.0	5.7	35.3	25	4125 - 5400
Lignite	67.0	5.0	26.5	20	6500 - 7100
Sub-bituminous coal	77.0	5.0	16.2	11	7000 - 7500
Bituminous coal	83.0	5.0	10.0	9	8000 - 8500
Semi-Bituminous	90.0	4.5	4.0	1	8350 - 8500
Anthracite	93.3	3.0	3.0	1.5	8650 - 8700

Carbonization of coal :- The process of converting of coal into coke is called

Fraction's name	Hydrocarbon atoms	Uses
1) Uncondensed gas	C ₁ - C ₄	Used as domestic fuel (LPG)
2) Petroleum ether	C ₅ - C ₇	Solvent for fats, dry cleaning, motor fuel, dry cleaning
3) Gasoline (1) petrol (1) motor spirit	C ₅ - C ₉	Paints, varnishes, dry cleaning,
4) Naphtha (1) solvent spirit	C ₉ - C ₁₀	Fuel, Stoves, jet engine fuel,
5) Kerosene oil	C ₁₀ - C ₁₆	Diesel engine fuel
6) Diesel oil	C ₁₅ - C ₂₀	Fuel ship, metallurgical furnace
7) Heavy oil	C ₁₇ - C ₃₀	Crude oil by products
8) Residue	C ₃₀ above	A fuel moulding cement

Liquid fuels:-

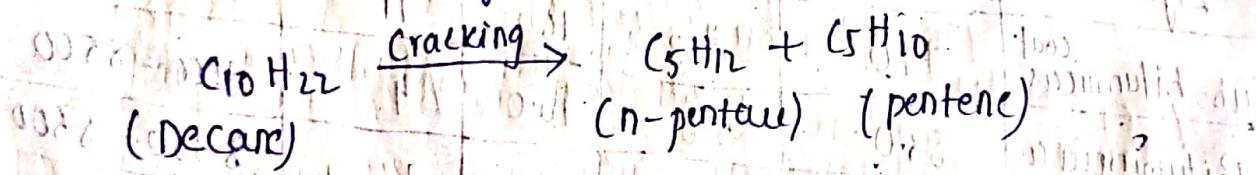
- The largest source of liquid fuels is petroleum.
- The calorific value of petroleum is 40000 KJ/kg.

The ultimate analysis shows that average composition of petroleum

Element	C	H	S	O	N
Percentage	80-87	11-15	0.1-3.5	0.1-0.9	0.4-0.9

Cracking of petroleum:-

Cracking is a process in which complex high molecular weight of organic compound [Petroleum] is broken into smaller molecules by application of with (or) without catalyst.



* 50% of today's gasoline is obtained by cracking.

Thermal cracking :-

When heavy oils are subjected to high temperature & pressure in the absence of catalyst is called T.C.

- liquid phase thermal cracking.
- vapour phase thermal cracking

Catalytic cracking:

Heavy oils are subjected to low temperature & pressure in the presence of catalyst. The catalyst is used in the form of zeolite [silica & alumina hydrated]

Synthetic petrol:-

The petrol which can be made by synthetic process.

1) Polymerization:-

In these process small molecules combine to form a heavier molecules ^(correct) resembling gasoline.

a) Thermal polymerization:

The polymerization process in which occurs at high temperature ($500-600^\circ\text{C}$) and pressure. The product is gasoline and gas oil which are separated by fractional distillation.

b) Catalytic polymerization:

The polymerization process in which occurs ^{even} in presence of catalyst like H_2PO_3^- , Al_2O_4^- etc. but the temperature is low. ($150-200^\circ\text{C}$)

2) Alkylation:

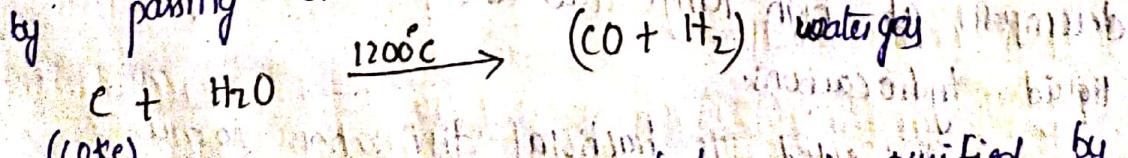
This method is used to convert olefins to gasoline.

Conversion of coal into liquid fuel:

(a) Fischer Tropsch method:-

In this method coke is converted into water gas

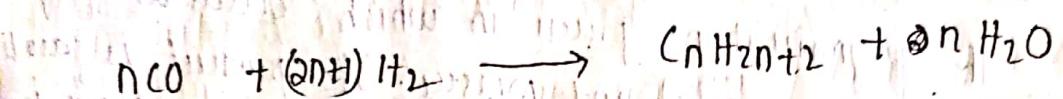
by passing steam over red hot coke



(coke)

- i) A mixture of water gas and hydrogen is purified by passing through Fe_2O_3 [to remove H_2S] and then again mixture through $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}_2\text{WO}_3$ [to remove organic sulphur compn]

- 2) The purified gas is compressed 5-25 atm and then passed through catalytic converter maintained about $(200-300^\circ)$.
- 3) The catalyst consists of mixture of cobalt, MgO , Th.-etc.
- 4) Finally mixture of saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon is formed. The reaction is exothermic reaction.



- 5) Then hydrocarbons is subjected to fractional distillation to yield gasoline, diesel oil and heavy oil.

- 6) The gasoline formed by Fischer-Tropsh method is rich in straight chain hydrocarbons.

(b) Bergius process :-

In this process subbituminous coals converted into liquid and gaseous fuels by hydrogenating them in presence of catalyst.

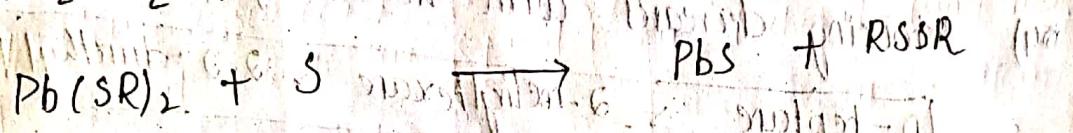
- 1) The coal is powdered and mixed with heavy oil and catalyst (Ni and Co oleate) to make a paste.
- 2) This paste is heated with hydrogen at $450^\circ C$ and $200-250$ atm pressure.
- 3) The coal undergoes hydrogenation to form saturated hydrocarbons that decompose at high temperature and pressure to give low-boiling liquid hydrocarbons.
- 4) This is subjected to fractional distillation to give.
- (i) gasoline (ii) middle oil (iii) heavy oil
- 5) The gasoline obtained contained 74% paraffins, 22% aromatic and 4% olefins.

Refining of gasoline:

=> Refining of gasoline we have to refine following:

(a) Removal of Sulphur compound:

The process of removal of sulphur is called sweetening. It occurs due to by treating gasoline with sodium plumbite & also add Sulphur. The sulphur compound converted into PbS . This process is termed Doctor's process.



(b) Removal of Olefins:

Olefins are removed by percolating gasoline through the fuller's earth which preferentially absorbs coloony & Olefins.

(c) Stabilization of gasoline:

Impure gasoline may contain dissolved gases like CH_4 , ethane, propane & butane. The process of removal of these impurities called Stabilization.

(d) Blending:

Purified gasoline is blended with high octane number fractions.

Knocking:

The metallic sound similar to produced in internal combustion engine due to immature ignition of fuel air mixture.

Chemical structure and Knocking.

- 1) Knocking tendency decreases with increase in complexity of the molecule.
- 2) Knocking decreases with the increase in the no. of double bonds and rings.
- 3) Knocking decreases with increase in length of hydrocarbon chain.

n -butane < n -pentane < n -hexane [order of knocking]

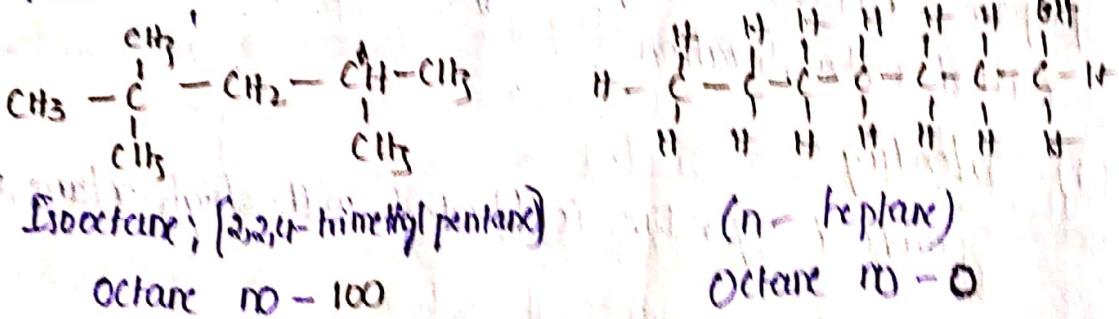
- 4) Knocking decreases with increase of branched in carbon.

n -heptane > α -methylhexane > α, β -dimethyl pentane

- 5) Aromatic such as benzene & toluene have very high anti-knock properties.

Octane rating (or) Octane number

The percentage of iso-octane in a mixture of iso-octane & n -heptane which has the same knocking characteristics as that of the fuel under same set of conditions.



Anti Knocking agents

The substance which is used to control knocking. It is called TML (Tetra methyl lead) & PMTML (Tetra ethyl lead) is used as anti-knock.

* Prevention of Knocking :-

- 1) High octane number fuel may be used.
- 2) Anti-knocking agents may be used.

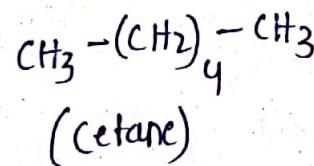
* Adverse effect of Knocking :

- 1) It results in decrease in efficiency.
- 2) It increases fuel consumption.
- 3) Driving and travelling become unpleasant.

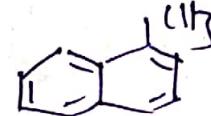
Cetane no

(Cetane rating / Cetane number) :-

The percentage of cetane [n-tetradecane] in a mixture of cetane and α -methyl naphthalene which will have the same ignition characteristics as the fuel under same conditions.



(Cetane no = 100)



α -methyl naphthalene.

(Cetane no = 0)

Order of Cetane:

n-alkanes > naphthalene > alkenes > branched alkenes > aromatic

Reforming :-

Reforming is the process of improving the antiknocking characteristics of gasoline by bringing about certain (mod) structural modification in it.

* Paraffins converted to isoparaffins
* Paraffins converted to naphthenes