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Article

Emissions from Ethanol-Gasoline Blends: A Single Particle Perspective

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Abstract: Due to its agricultural origin and function as a fuel oxygenate, ethanol is being promoted as an alternative biomass-based fuel for use in spark ignition engines, with mandates for its use at state and regional levels. While it has been established that the addition of ethanol to a fuel reduces the particulate mass concentration in the exhaust, little attention has been paid to changes in the physicochemical properties of the emitted particles. In this work, a dynamometer-mounted GM Quad-4 spark ignition engine run without aftertreatment at 1,500 RPM and 100% load was used with four different fuel blends, containing 0, 20, 40 and 85 percent ethanol in gasoline. This allowed the effects of the fuel composition to be isolated from other effects. Instrumentation employed included two Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometers covering different size ranges for analysis of single particle composition, an Aethalometer for black carbon, a Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer for particle size distributions, a Photoelectric Aerosol Sensor for particle-bound polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) species and gravimetric filter measurements for particulate mass concentrations. It was found that, under the conditions investigated here, additional ethanol content in the fuel changes the particle size distribution, especially in the accumulation mode, and decreases the black carbon and total

particulate mass concentrations. The molecular weight distribution of the PAHs was found to decrease with added ethanol. However, PAHs produced from higher ethanol-content fuels are associated with NO_2^- ($m/z=46$) in the single-particle mass spectra, indicating the presence of nitro-PAHs. Compounds associated with the gasoline (e.g., sulfur-containing species) are diminished due to dilution as ethanol is added to the fuel relative to those associated with the lubricating oil (e.g., calcium, zinc, phosphate) in the single particle spectra. These changes have potential implications for the health effect impacts of particulate emissions from biofuel blends.

Keywords: ethanol; bio-fuels; aerosol time-of-flight mass spectrometer (ATOFMS); combustion aerosols

1. Introduction/Motivation

The use of ethanol to fuel motor vehicles dates back to at least Henry Ford's time [1]. Ethanol fell in and out of favor as an internal combustion fuel until the 1970's fuel crisis. At that time, ethanol, which can be manufactured from biomass, was reintroduced as a volume extender [2]. Recently ethanol has regained national interest due to its non-petroleum origin, its strength as a fuel oxygenate, and its octane-boosting properties. There is ongoing debate about its environmental benefits [3]. According to the Renewable Fuels Association [4], the volume of ethanol produced in the US (primarily for fuel) increased 22 fold between 1980 and 2005.

Several states currently mandate the use of ethanol in concentrations up to 10% in their fuels and some states have mandated 20% fleet average ethanol blends [5,6]. Additionally, flexible fuel vehicles are being sold that can run on ethanol gasoline blends from 0–85% ethanol. Flexible fuel vehicles allow car manufacturers to meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards more readily, which is a significant incentive for their manufacture [7].

Ethanol/gasoline mixtures have been extensively studied for their effects on gas-phase emissions from spark ignition (SI) engines [1,8-16]. Emissions of several important gas-phase species are known to be reduced as ethanol is added to gasoline; these include carbon monoxide and many hydrocarbon species, including benzene, toluene, and butadiene. Emissions of other gas-phase species may actually be increased; these include unburned ethanol, methane, total hydrocarbons, some aldehyde species and ethylene. Particle mass and number emissions have been shown to decrease with the addition of ethanol [17-20]. The effect of ethanol fuels on additional air quality parameters has also been examined [21].

Several different chemical markers have been identified that distinguish spark ignition engine exhaust from other aerosol sources. For example, Schauer and coworkers [22] were able to use a receptor-based source apportionment technique based largely on organic compounds analyzed by GC/MS to identify the contributions from gasoline powered engines in Los Angeles. Kim and coworkers [23] were able to use carbon fractions resolved by temperature in a positive matrix factorization technique to distinguish between diesel and gasoline emissions. Miguel *et al.* [24] found that diesel trucks emitted lower molecular weight PAHs than gasoline powered vehicles. Prather and

coworkers [25-28] have used single particle signatures as determined by Adaptive Resonance Theory 2-A (ART-2a) to separate contributions from combustion in Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle, Light-Duty Vehicles, and other combustion sources. The stability of the ratio of measured components is critical to the success of these methodologies.

Gasoline is a complex mixture of hundreds of different species [29,30]. When alcohols and gasoline are mixed, the concentration of aromatics in the fuel is typically reduced, as these are no longer required to maintain the octane rating [13,29]. Reducing aromatics also enhances the solubility of the ethanol in the gasoline [31]. Simultaneously, components of gasoline such as sulfur-containing compounds are proportionately diluted as ethanol is added. Given the dependence of particle formation processes on their synthesis conditions [32], these changes in fuel composition may result in exhaust particles with different physical and chemical properties.

Although particle mass concentrations are known to be reduced as ethanol is added [15-19], there is a dearth of information on the properties of particulate emissions. In this paper, measurements of the chemical and physical properties of exhaust particles produced from combustion of a systematic progression of ethanol-gasoline blends in a spark-ignition engine are described. The primary focus of the discussion is on chemical measurements obtained using single particle mass spectrometers. Complementary information on aerosol physical properties including mass concentrations, black carbon concentrations, and size distributions is also included.

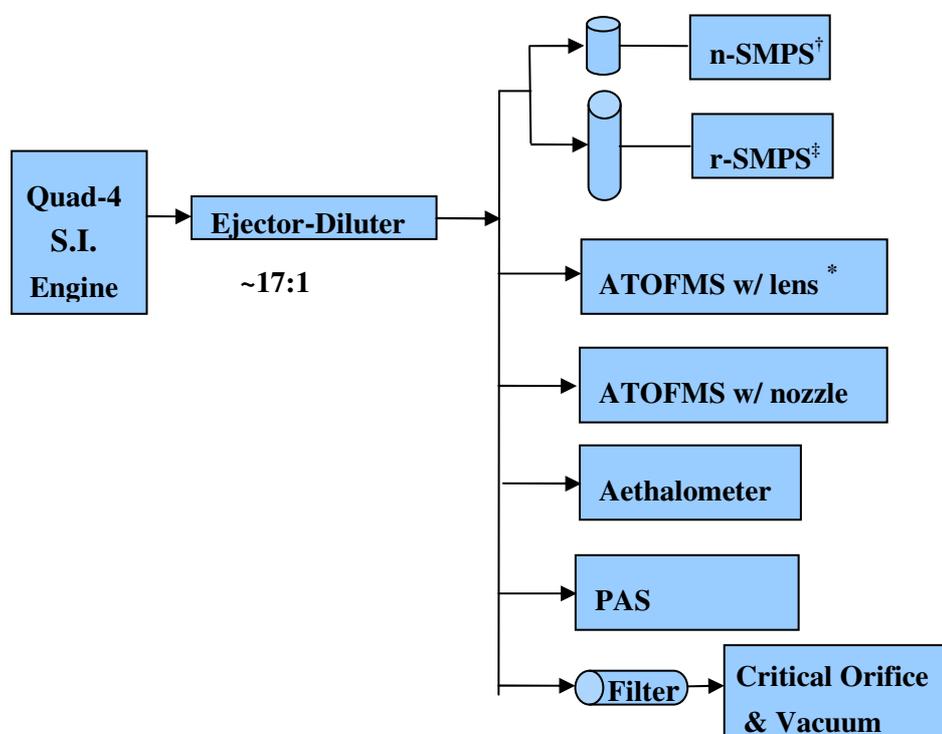
2. Methods and Models

The effect of ethanol concentration in the fuel of a spark ignition engine on the composition of the exhaust particles was studied using an engine dynamometer system. The primary instrument used in this test was the single particle mass spectrometer [33], with several other aerosol instruments used for additional information. All instruments sampled directly from an ejector-diluter system. A schematic of the experiment is shown in Figure 1. The engine operating conditions and the primary dilution parameters were constant through all fuel tests, effectively isolating the effects of the fuel.

2.1. Fuels

Four different fuel blends, E00, E20, E40, and E85, were studied (where EX indicates that the fuel contains X percent ethanol, by volume). E00, E10 and E85 were obtained from a supplier and used as supplied. The E20 and E40 were mixed from the E10 and E85, to ensure that the appropriate gasoline blend was used in all experiments. Each fuel type was tested multiple times and particle size distributions were monitored during all runs to ensure repeatability.

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental set-up. Appropriate transport flows were provided for all the instruments and secondary dilution was performed for the ATOFMS with the lens inlet to keep concentrations within the operating parameters.



* utilized “leaky-filter” style diluter as required

† nano-scanning mobility particle sizer

‡ regular-scanning mobility particle sizer

2.2. Apparatus

The engine used in these studies was a Quad-4, the first production, four-valve, Dual OverHead Cam (DOHC) four-cylinder engine built by General Motors. Its total displacement capacity is 2.3 liters [34]. Although this engine is no longer in production, it was a very common engine in the GM line, and was standard in car models such as the Grand Am and Cutlass. The engine used in our study was manufactured in 1994 and had 500–600 hours of run time. During this experiment, all measurements were carried out on an engine-dynamometer at 1,500 RPM and 100% load without aftertreatment. Particle emissions from spark ignition engines are extremely load-dependent with dramatic increases under high load [35–37]. These increases are associated with several factors but the main ones are fuel enrichment and loss of catalyst effectiveness [35,36]. Under most operating conditions, PM emissions from gasoline vehicles are extremely low. The main sources of PM are worn, high emitting vehicles, and vehicles operating under off cycle conditions that lead to very high emission rates and potential local emission hotspots. High load conditions like those used here are associated with hot spots such as some intersections and freeway on-ramps. The engine was operated without its normal 3-way catalyst after-treatment system because it was necessary to operate for relatively long time periods to collect ATOFMS data and continuous high load operation may damage

catalysts. The particle signature should not be dramatically changed by the absence of the catalyst because PM (mainly elemental and organic carbon) removal by a catalyst designed to remove relatively low molecular weight gas phase species is marginal at best, especially under high power conditions. The results are only applicable to other high-load conditions and should not necessarily be extrapolated to engines with after-treatment operating at light load and cruise conditions. Given that high load conditions produce disproportionate amounts of particulate emissions, it is essential to fully characterize emissions from this engine condition. Only one static condition was tested so that the effects of the changes in fuel composition could readily be isolated from other changes. Engine operating conditions used in this study are based on load, not on fuel consumption rates. The volume of fuel used per unit of time, for identical engine conditions, increases as ethanol is added because ethanol contains 34% less chemical energy per unit volume than gasoline [38].

2.3. Aerosol Sampling and Measurement

The engine exhaust was diluted with a primary dilution system capable of simulating particle formation and growth that would occur under initial atmospheric dilution conditions. The dilution system is capable of controlling aerosol bulk residence time, dilution ratio, relative humidity and dilution temperature [39,40]. Particle-free air with a very low relative humidity (<5%) was used for dilution. A 17:1 primary dilution ratio, as determined by pre and post dilution NO_x measurement, was maintained for all data presented in this work. The post dilution temperature was maintained below 40 °C. It should be noted that the results then are most applicable to similar temperature conditions. Ejector dilutors are an effective way to mimic the dilution and quenching that occurs downstream of the tailpipe under real operating conditions [39]. The residence time was held at a nominal 1 s. One of the single-particle mass spectrometers required secondary dilution, accomplished with a leaky filter-style diluter, to obtain particle concentrations within its operating range.

Two TSI 3800 Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometers (ATOFMS, TSI Incorporated, Shoreview, MN) were used to measure particle composition. One of these instruments was equipped with an aerodynamic lens inlet [41-43] optimized for the 50–500 nm aerodynamic diameter size range. The second ATOFMS was equipped with a nozzle inlet for larger particles (150–3,000 nm with a size-dependent efficiency). The laser used in the desorption/ionization step in both instruments has a wavelength of 266 nm, enabling detection of a wide variety of chemical components, and resulting in a high sensitivity to species which have a high absorptivity at that wavelength.

Black carbon concentration was measured using an Aethalometer (Magee Scientific, Berkeley, CA) [44]. This instrument uses the absorption of 880 nm light by filtered particles to assess the mass concentration of black carbon. Although this instrument allows for the application of source specific calibrations, the default calibration was used due to the magnitude of the range of potential results.

A Photoelectric Aerosol Sensor [45] 2000 CE (PAS, EcoChem Analytics, League City, TX) was used to monitor qualitative trends in particle-bound PAHs. This instrument measures particle-bound PAHs by ionizing the aerosol with UV radiation and measuring the resultant electric charge. The particle size distribution, the presence of other volatile species, black carbon concentrations and the PAH molecular weight distribution can create bias in the measurement [46-48]. Thus, the signal is reported here in arbitrary units and is only used as an indicator of overall trends in PAH concentration.

Particle size distributions from 4.5–830 nm mobility diameter were measured after neutralization using a Po²¹⁰ using a nano-DMA (TSI 3085, TSI Incorporated, Shoreview, MN) [49] coupled with an ultrafine condensation particle counter (CPC, TSI 3025, TSI Incorporated, Shoreview, MN) [50] and a long column (regular) DMA similar in design to the instrument described by Knutson and Whitby [51] coupled with a CPC (TSI 3760, TSI Incorporated, Shoreview, MN) [52]. The nano-SMPS (n-SMPS) system was used to measure the particle size distribution from 4.5–50 nm, while the long column system (R-SMPS) was used to measure from 35–830 nm.

Mass concentrations were determined by collecting particles on 47 mm Pall Teflo filters (2 µm pore size with polyolefin support rings) after primary dilution. These filters were weighed using a CAHN C-31 microbalance (Cahn Instruments, Inc., Cerritos, CA) before and after sampling and equilibration. Sampling volumes were ~3.6 m³.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Mass and Black Carbon

Mass concentration results for the two extreme fuel conditions are shown in Table 1, which shows that exhaust particle mass concentrations drop significantly as ethanol is added to the fuel. A 60% drop in mass concentration is seen for the E85 fuel experiment compared to E00. This drop is likely due to ethanol's property as a fuel oxygenate. A similar trend is seen in the concentration of black carbon as measured by the aethalometer. While black carbon concentrations fall rapidly with the addition of 20% ethanol, there appear to be diminishing reductions with the E40 and E85 fuels, though the lack of a source-specific calibration and the presence of known interferences such as PAHs add uncertainty to these measurements. Black carbon concentration is an operationally defined quantity that corresponds to the extent to which particles deposited on a filter absorb light [53], and it is generally formed through incomplete combustion. The reduction of mass and black carbon is likely associated with the decreased tendency to form soot associated with oxygenated fuels like ethanol.

Table 1. Mass and black carbon concentrations and PAS readings. Note that the mass and black carbon co-vary while the PAS readings fall faster as ethanol content is increased. PAS response is known to be suppressed by the presence of volatile material on the particle surface leading to UV attenuation and increased likelihood recapture of photoelectrons. The error in mass concentration is estimated from propagation of error calculations while the error in black carbon (BC) concentration and PAS signal represents a standard deviation in measurements.

Fuel	Mass Concentration (µg/m ³)	BC ** Concentration (µg/m ³)	PAS Signal (mV)
E00	150 ± 22	150 ± 22	1940 ± 117
E20	*	78 ± 18	1472 ± 183
E40	*	74 ± 13	235 ± 52
E85	60 ± 22	71 ± 10	92 ± 40

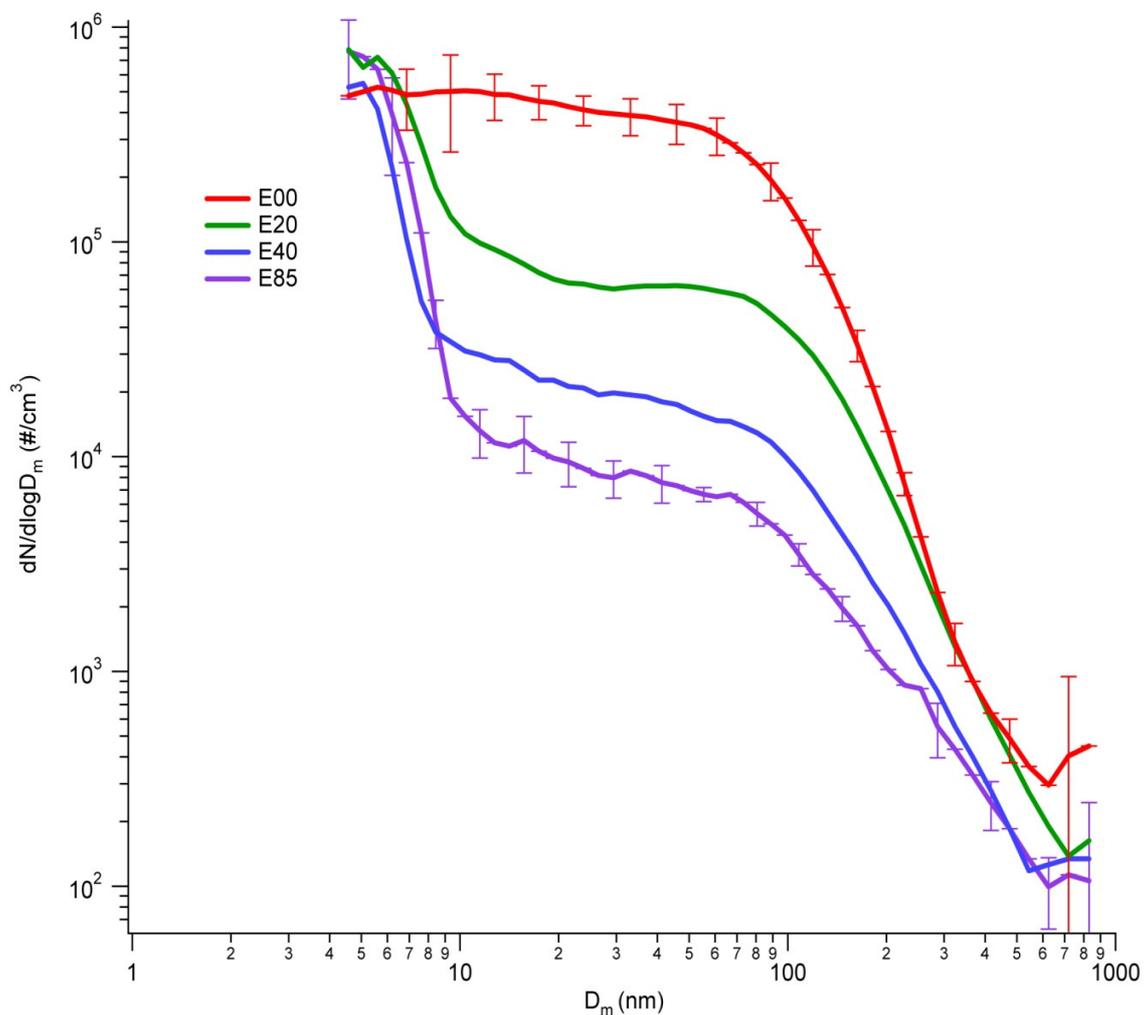
* data not obtained; ** The BC data should only be used as an indicator of trend and not an absolute concentration, due to the presence of interfering species and lack of a source-specific calibration.

Mass concentrations of semi-volatile matter may be affected by the temperatures at which the primary dilution was performed and by the temperatures at which particle collection was done. Thus, in cooler winter conditions, the partitioning of semi-volatile compounds from the gas phase to the particles might increase, increasing the mass, although the solid elemental carbon component of the mass would be unchanged by dilution conditions.

3.2. Mobility Distributions

Figure 2 shows that the addition of ethanol leads to a systematic decrease in concentrations of particles larger than 10 nm. Below 10 nm, number distributions of the ethanol blends rise sharply with decreasing size to values that equal or exceed those measured for E00. In all cases, the sub 10-nm particles are likely produced by nucleation when the hot exhaust gases mix with the cool dilution air. Nucleation of semi-volatile materials becomes more likely as the concentration of particles in the accumulation mode and thus surface area available for adsorption decreases.

Figure 2. Particle mobility size (D_m) distributions measured with the SMPS system (~40 C) as a function of fuel ethanol content. Error bars (± 1 standard deviation) were calculated based on repeated runs. Error bars are shown only for E00 and E85 fuels, for ease of visualization, and are of comparable magnitude for E20 and E40 fuels.

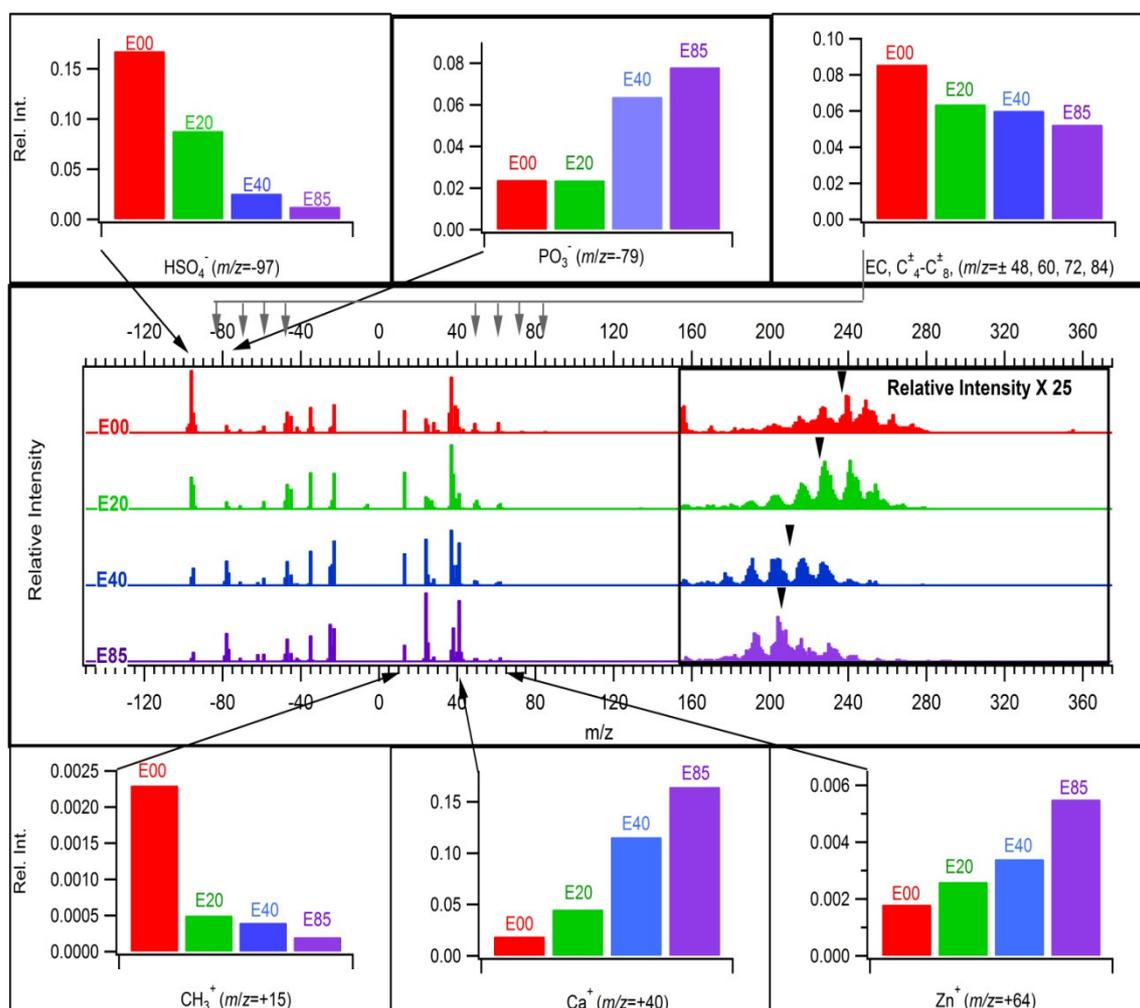


3.3. ATOFMS Measurements

The average composition of the particles produced through the combustion of each fuel mixture is shown in Figure 3. This figure shows the average composition of particles produced by each fuel as measured by the ATOFMSs. These arithmetic averages each represent between 5,000 and 20,000 particles. No scaling factors to correct for particle detection efficiency have been applied, given the similarity in the sample sources and thus the particle matrices. A few trends are particularly relevant and are illustrated in the associated bar graphs. The most obvious is the systematic reduction in the relative area of the peak associated with sulfate (HSO_4^- , $m/z=97$) as a function of ethanol content. Given that the most significant source of sulfur is as a contaminant in the gasoline, the trend in this peak represents the dilution of sulfur in the gasoline by the ethanol. Though it was not measured in this work, other research has confirmed that gas-phase oxides of sulfur are also reduced [54,55]. A reduction in the average relative area of peaks associated with elemental carbon (C_n^\pm , $m/z \pm 12 \times n$, where $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) is also seen as a function of increasing fuel ethanol content, consistent with the decrease in black carbon mass determined with the aethalometer with increasing fuel ethanol content. The rate of decrease of the average relative area of elemental carbon peaks is dependent on the choice of peaks used to represent elemental carbon. Here C_4^\pm – C_8^\pm are used, to equally represent peaks observed in the positive and negative spectra and to utilize peaks with minimal interferences. A relative increase in species associated with the lubricating oil (calcium, phosphate, zinc, *etc.*) [56] is observed as fuel ethanol content increases. This does not indicate that more oil-associated species are being emitted; just that these are proportionately increased in the particle mass spectra as products of incomplete combustion are reduced. These species are associated with the larger nucleation or coarse particle modes. This shift in particle composition and size distribution has implications for both health impacts and source apportionment.

In order to investigate detailed chemical changes upon the addition of ethanol to the fuel, we have paid careful attention to the PAH region, given their known health effects and utilization in source apportionment techniques. Species other than PAHs contribute little signal in the mass spectral region from +154–+300, so we have made the approximation that the signal in this range is due PAH ions. Thus, we use the summation to represent the total peak area due to PAH ions. Trends in the PAH region of the mass spectra (m/z 154–300) as a function of fuel ethanol content are also illustrated in Figure 3. The average molecular weight of the ions detected in the PAH region (indicated by arrowheads in the figure) decreases with increasing fuel ethanol content. Although the ATOFMS cannot distinguish between different PAH congeners [57], these data show clearly that the distribution of observed PAH species is changing with fuel composition. de Abrantes and coworkers [58] observed a similar trend when analyzing emissions for 16 specific PAH species from spark ignition vehicles burning various ratios of ethanol and gasoline. As shown in the PAS data in Table 1, the concentrations of particle bound PAHs also decrease sharply with added ethanol.

Figure 3. Average single-particle mass spectra for each fuel type. The PAH region is magnified. The arrows in the magnified PAH region show the arithmetic average molecular weight of observed PAHs. Trends in the relative peak areas of certain key species as a function of fuel ethanol content are shown in bar graphs, and labeled by fuel type.



In order to delve more deeply into the chemical nature of the detected PAH species, the single-particle data was examined to elucidate relationships between PAH species and nitrate ions. In Figure 4 each data point represents the intensity due to NO_2^- ($m/z=46$) or NO_3^- ($m/z=62$) versus the summed intensities from the entire PAH region (m/z 154–300) from the spectrum of a single particle. Data is shown for E00 and E85 fuel conditions, although the trend is consistent across all fuel types. It can be seen that the particles that contain significant PAH peak area frequently contain peaks due to NO_2^- , but not NO_3^- . This trend suggests that either the PAHs are associated with nitrate in the particles, which in turn is the source of the NO_2^- ion, or that there are nitro-PAHs present. Given the lack of signal due to the NO_3^- ion, which is routinely observed in combination with signal from the NO_2^- ion in spectra from particles known to contain nitrate, the most likely explanation is the presence of nitro-PAHs, which contain an NO_2 group covalently bound to a ring carbon, but which do not contain an NO_3 group. ATOFMSs are not currently capable of being fully quantitative given the variety of particle types and matrices, and nitro-PAHs are notoriously difficult to sample and analyze

accurately. These results should not be interpreted to indicate that the mass concentration of nitro-PAHs is necessarily increasing in emissions from high ethanol fuels, but rather that the PAHs that do result from high ethanol fuels maybe more nitrogenated.

Figure 4. NO_2^- , NO_3^- and PAH relative peak area scatter plots. Each point represents data from the mass spectrum of a single particle detected in the E00 and E85 experiments, as indicated below.

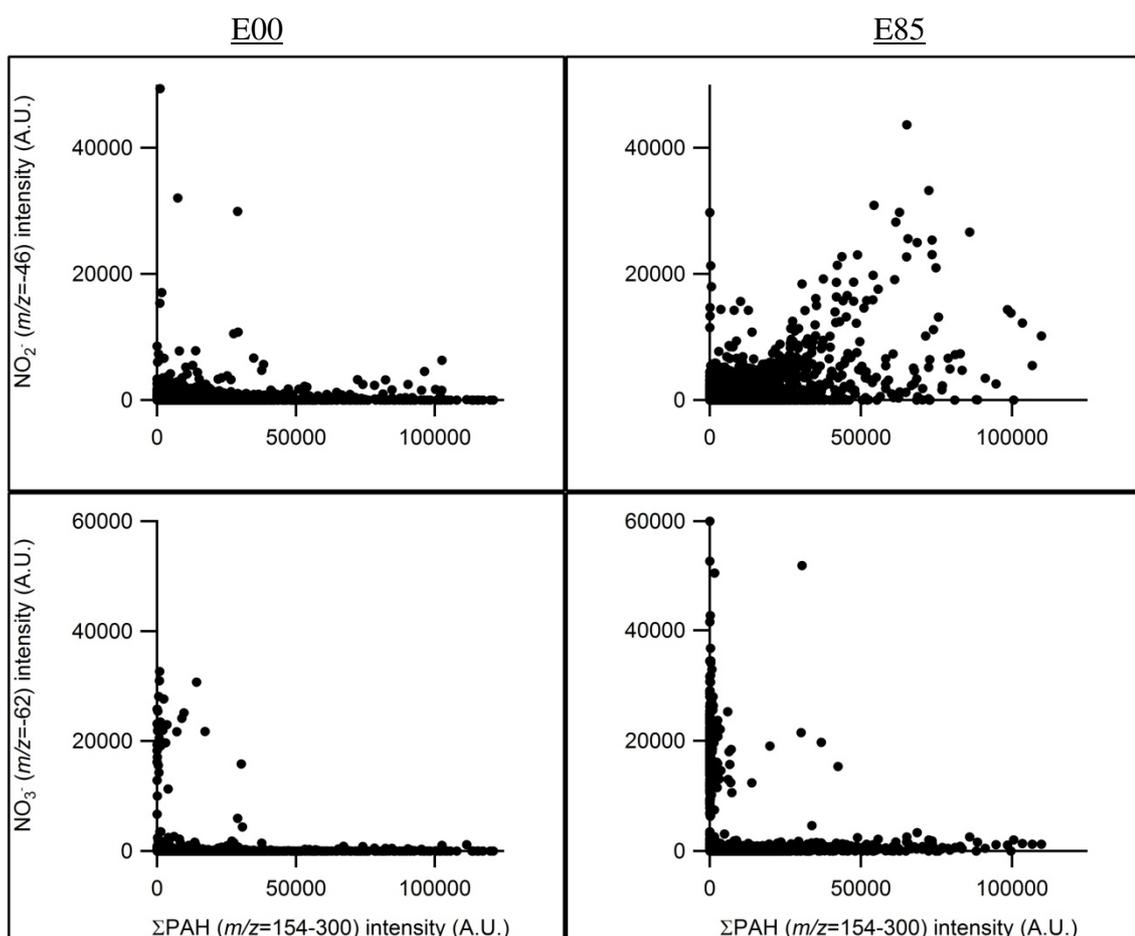
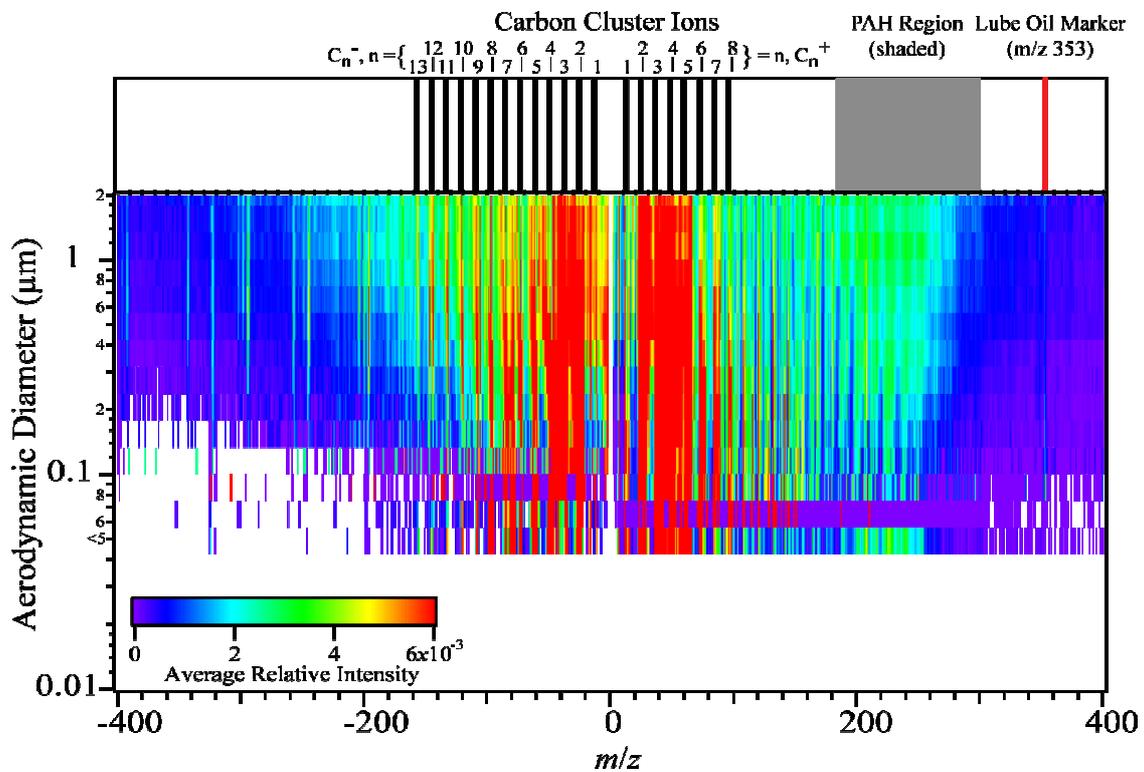


Figure 5 shows the average particle composition as a function of aerodynamic particle size for the E85 fuel. Similar trends are observed for the other fuels examined. The data from both ATOFMS instruments have been combined, to show results over the whole size range. The ATOFMS measures aerodynamic size by measuring size-dependent particle velocities [59,60]. The relationship between size and velocity is typically obtained by calibrating with polystyrene latex (PSL) spheres. The lasers used to measure these velocities cannot detect PSL spheres smaller than ~ 100 nm. Our measurements of particle velocities indicated that significant numbers of particles smaller than 100 nm were present. Because calibrations are not possible below 100 nm, a model [42] was used to extend the calibration to lower sizes. Therefore, it is likely that there are significant sizing uncertainties below 100 nm, but the trends with size are correct. It is clear from these data that low aerodynamic particle sizes are associated with elemental carbon (note the relatively simple spectral pattern corresponding to carbon cluster ions at low aerodynamic sizes), which is consistent with its low effective density [61]. In

contrast, PAHs are more strongly associated with larger aerodynamic particle sizes (which are found in the region indicated with shading). Incomplete combustion is known to be the dominant source for both elemental carbon and PAHs; it is possible that they are found in different size particles because they are formed and condense at different points in the combustion and exhaust cycles. In all the fuels tested, the average molecular weight of the ions detected in both the positive and negative mass spectra decreases as the aerodynamic size decreases. The contribution of species known to originate from lubricating oil (e.g., calcium, zinc, phosphate) is more significant in aerodynamically larger particles. The inclusion of these species adds complexity to the spectra at mid and high aerodynamic sizes.

Figure 5. Average single particle mass spectra as a function of aerodynamic size for E85. The average relative intensity of the ions is indicated on the color-scale. Specific ions or regions of interest are indicated at the top of the figure.



3.4. Clustering Results

In order to investigate the particle population on a number basis, all spectra detected from all the fuel types obtained with the two mass spectrometers were combined and then the data were clustered using the K-means algorithm implemented in Enchilada [62]. Eight clusters were found to be sufficient to represent the most prevalent particle types, based on composition, in all fuel types. These are shown along with the distribution of particles among these clusters for each fuel type in Table 2 and Figure 6. These clusters contain 100% of the particles analyzed. The eight cluster centers are described as (1) PAHs & Lubricating Oil & Nitrates, (2) Potassium, (3) Organic Carbon & Phosphate, (4) High Mass Elemental Carbon, (5) High Mass EC & PAHs & nitrates, (6) PAHs & Nitrates, (7) Elemental Carbon & PAHs, and (8) Low Mass Elemental Carbon & Calcium. The relative distribution of these particle types may be affected by the test conditions and may be slightly different in cooler winter conditions.

The high and low mass elemental carbon distinction is made on the basis of the mass-to-charge ratios of the carbon cluster ions observed in the cluster center spectra. The “High Mass EC & PAH & Nitrates” cluster observed in the E40 data includes particles of the types found in both the “High Mass EC” cluster observed in the E20 data and the “PAH & Nitrates” cluster found in all fuels. The fact that these particle types are merged in this cluster in E40 could be due to the relatively small contribution of the “High Mass EC” particle type, which is not found at all in E85, and the fact that most of the “High Mass EC” particles were also found to contain PAH ions. The clearest trends are an increase in the percentage of particles in the “Low Mass Elemental Carbon & Calcium” cluster as fuel ethanol increases and the simplification of the aerosol composition as fuel ethanol is increased. The lubricating oil identification is based on peaks at m/z 141, 155, and 353 that are seen in lubricating oil standards analyzed by ATOFMS (data shown in Figure 7). The m/z 353 peak is an excellent tracer for lubricating oil as it seems to be unique to this source, it is conserved through the combustion process, and it appears in a part of the spectrum with few interferences. Fewer different particle types result from the high ethanol fuel than from the low ethanol fuel. This is consistent with the fact that high ethanol fuels are more homogeneous. It could also indicate that, due to decreases in the size of the accumulation mode as the ethanol content increases, there is less surface area for adsorption of heavy organics and ash and more of these materials either remain in the gas phase or end up in particles too small to detect.

Figure 6. Cluster centers and relative particle populations (by number) as a function of fuel type for the combined data from both ATOFMS instruments.

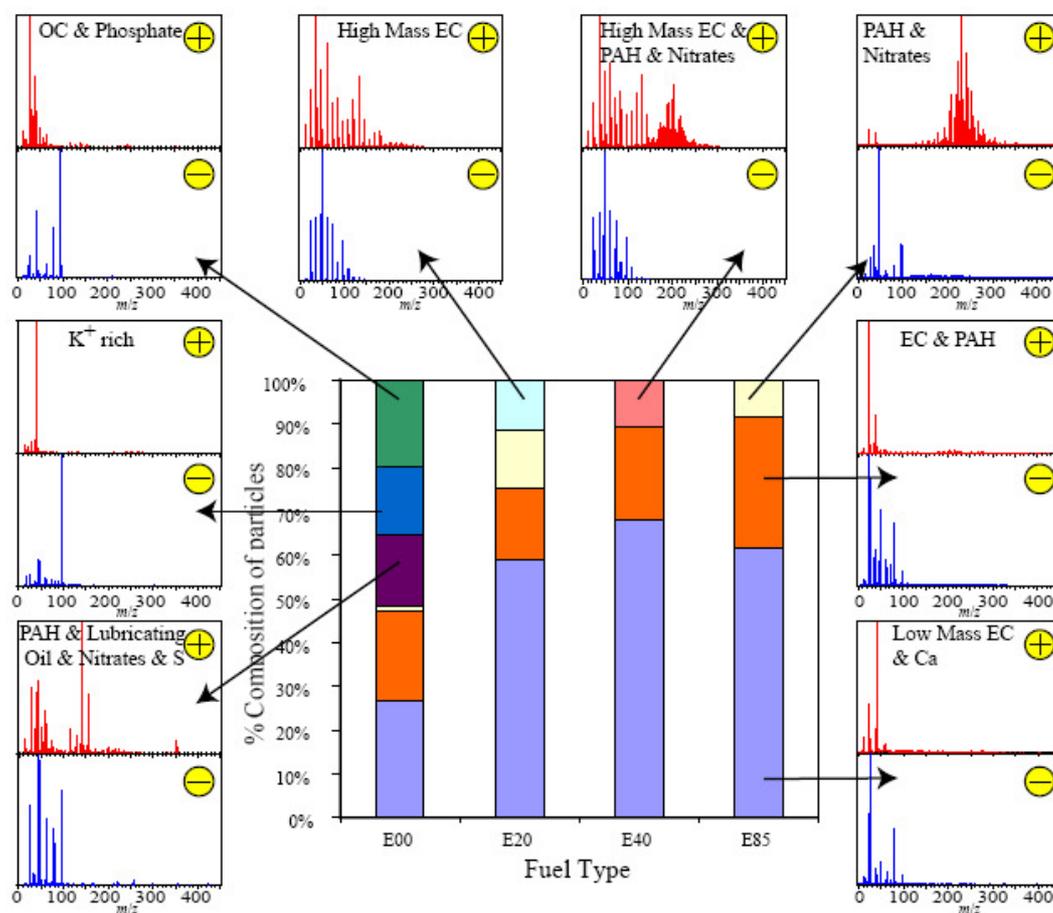
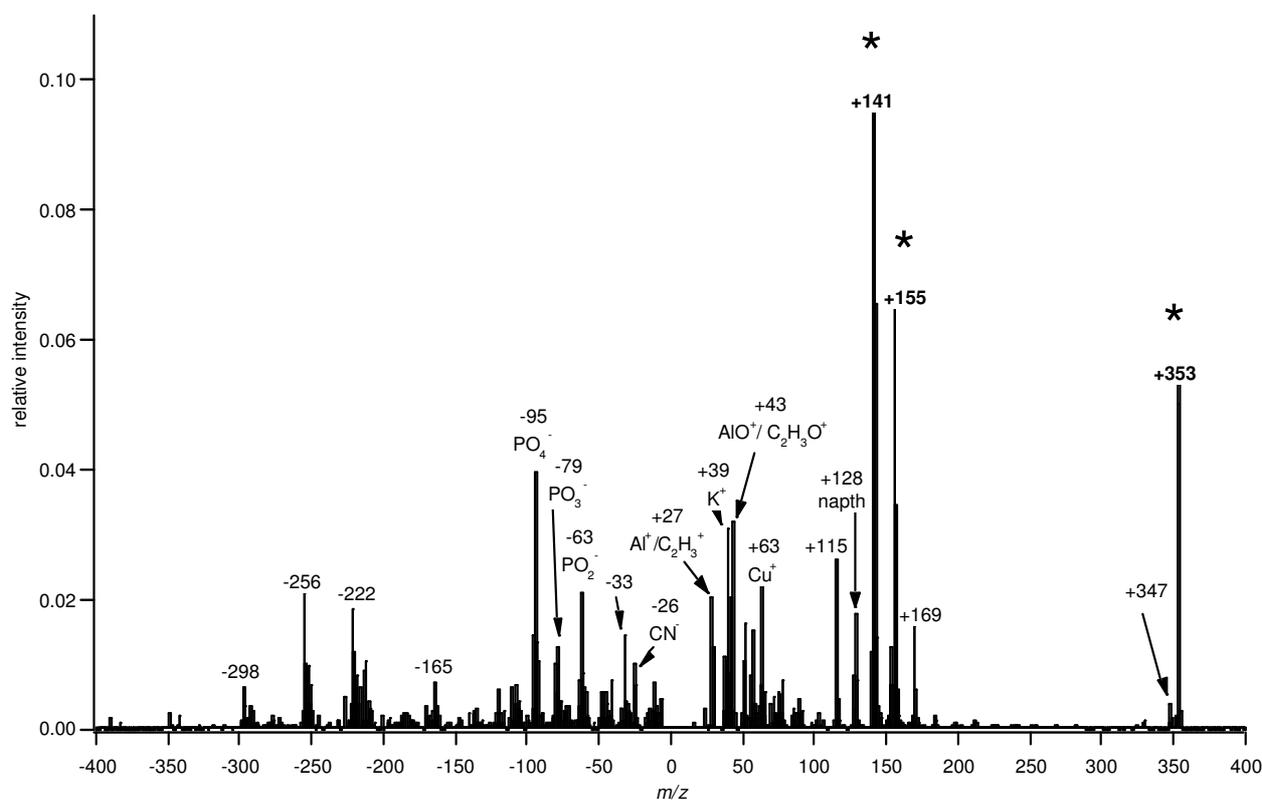


Figure 7. Average mass spectrum from a lubricating oil standard diluted in methyl ethyl ketone and atomized directly into the ATOFMS. Specific peaks that are conserved through combustion and used as lubricating oil tracers are identified with a ‘*’.



These clustering results reflect particle types within the data set and indicate results on a number basis, unlike Figure 3 in which results are based on average relative intensities of peaks within the mass spectra. Thus, the combined results from Figures 3 and 6 indicate that, while a greater number of E00 particles have a simple lubricating oil signature, the average intensity of that signature is lower than in particles generated from fuel with a high ethanol content, which is again indicative that more homogeneous fuels produce more homogeneous particles.

3.5. Source Apportionment Implications

The changes in the physical and chemical properties of the exhaust aerosols will have a significant impact on source apportionment profiles used previously to identify spark ignition contributions when high ethanol fuels are utilized. For example, the shift in PAH molecular weight distributions could potentially lead to high ethanol fuel exhaust being misidentified as diesel exhaust [24] and the change in both EC and OC fractions along with probable change in their thermal profile could change the results from techniques that rely on those markers [23]. Eiguren-Fernandez and Miguel [63] successfully used the ratio of specific PAHs to EC to identify spark ignition sources. We showed a significant shift in the molecular weight distribution of emitted PAHs with added ethanol. We also showed a reduction in EC concentration, further complicating the application of this or similar techniques. These and other similar methods would require substantial refinement in order to be

applicable to SI sources burning high ethanol fuels. Markers and chemical ratios that have been reliably used to identify spark ignition vehicles burning gasoline will not be applicable to the same vehicles burning high ethanol fuels.

3.6. Health Effect Implications

Changing the ethanol content of the fuel is shown to change several exhaust aerosol properties that are known to have health effect implications. Particulate mass concentration emissions were reduced with added ethanol. Particle mass and number concentrations are known to positively correlate with deleterious human health effects including increased morbidity and mortality [64-66]. In addition to the change in particle mass and number concentration, the composition of the particles also changed. The concentration of black carbon and PAHs dropped nonlinearly, with the greatest decreases resulting from the change from E00 to E20 and lesser changes from further additions of ethanol. Black carbon and PAHs are associated with particles of significant mobility but low aerodynamic sizes [67-69]. Thus, these particles are likely to deposit deeply into the respiratory tracts when inhaled [70]. Given the carcinogenic properties of many PAH species [71], increases in ethanol fuel concentration may result in the deposition of fewer carcinogenic particles into the lungs. Since the deleterious health effects of PAHs are more strongly associated with larger molecular weight PAHs [72], the PAHs associated with the higher ethanol content fuel may be less significant from a health standpoint. However, this is potentially counteracted by the increased proportion of nitrogenated PAHs. This class of compounds is known to be associated with very strong genotoxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic properties [73], and thus, further exploration of ethanol-gasoline fuel mixtures as a source of nitro-PAHs would be appropriate. Without further tests to establish how the mass concentration and speciation of the nitro-PAHs changes and/or direct in vivo or in vitro tests, it is impossible to be certain about the potential health implications of ethanol-containing fuel emissions. This work points to a potentially important research direction.

4. Conclusions

Two ATOFMSs, two SMPSs and additional supporting instrumentation were used to examine the physical and chemical properties of combustion aerosol produced by a spark ignition engine burning fuels that ranged from no ethanol to 85% ethanol. Our results show that mass and black carbon concentrations drop significantly, which is consistent with less elemental carbon formation with the oxygenated fuel. The mobility distribution measurements are also consistent with this result, showing sharp decreases in particle number concentrations in the accumulation mode with added fuel ethanol.

Single particle mass spectra show that species known to originate from gasoline, such as sulfur, decrease as ethanol is added to the fuel, while species known to originate from lubricating oil are accentuated. This suggests that as we move to cleaner fuels and combustion systems, emission from lubricating oil species, mainly metallic ash and certain heavy hydrocarbons will become relatively more important. A decrease in the molecular weight of PAH species is observed with added ethanol as well, and PAH containing particles are more likely to be associated with NO₂ but not NO₃, strongly indicative of nitro-PAHs. Further study of this possibility, in a variety of engines operating at a range of conditions, with a sensitive technique capable of speciating these compounds would be appropriate,

given the potential health-implications of these compounds. The ATOFMS results also demonstrate the potential pitfalls of relying on signatures from spark ignition engines burning little or no ethanol in future source apportionment work, as the fuel burned by the vehicle fleet changes to include a higher fraction of ethanol.

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