



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**PERFORMANCE OF ANIMAL FAT-BASED BIODIESEL ON
MICRO-GAS TURBINE**

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TURBINE**

By

NASER A Z S ALRASHIDI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science**

February 2019

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DEDICATIONS

*This work is dedicated to my Father and my late Mother and my wives and my
kids*

My dear Brothers, Sisters and Family, for all their support

*Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Hairuddin and Prof. Ir. Dr. Nor Mariah bt. Adam, for their
guidance and relentless support during this journey*

My friends who stood with me throughout this journey



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

PERFORMANCE OF ANIMAL FAT-BASED BIODIESEL ON MICRO-GAS TURBINE

By

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February 2019

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Biodiesel is a fuel that produced from several bio-materials such as waste cooking oil, vegetarian oil, animal fats (tallow's) etc. The present study is about using a biodiesel that produced from animal tallow's to operate a small jet engine. The jet engine has been specially designed to test and investigate the effect of biodiesel from animal tallow on the thermal efficiency of the jet engine. Measure the power of engine in all of the situations and the amount of emissions extracted from turbine using fossil diesel, kerosene, B20, B50, B75 and B100 respectively. These biodiesel fuel properties were analysis based on the international standard. Also, the amount of emissions and the operating performance (temperature and pressure) of micro gas turbine were conducted. A control unit has been designed to ensure a stable operation. The jet engine was tested under 3 levels of load (low, medium, high). A primary and secondary fuel cycle is used to change from using fossil fuel to biodiesel.

The results of the biodiesel fuel were found that they are within the acceptable range of the international standard. Also, the results showed that the amount of oxygen emission changes between 16.4% and 16.8%, and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions in the biodiesel blends (B20, B50, B75 and B100) change between 0.04% and 0.18%. The emission of carbon dioxide in B100 and diesel fuel is the same and the kerosene fuel is the lowest in all stages of operation in the production of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission changes from 2.7% to 3.0%, reduction in nitrogen oxides (NO_x) compared to fossil fuels. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is low in operation high load of B50, B20, B75 but in B100 it is too high emission changes between 4 ppm to 15 ppm. The performance of micro gas turbine based on the biodiesel fuel was found better than the fossil fuel in general. The results found in this study indicated that the biodiesel blends used is applicable and demonstrated great potential to be used as an alternative fuel to operate small engine with B20 was economically and less polluting the environment.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PRESTASI BODIESEL BERBASIS HATI PADA TURBINE MICRO-GAS

Oleh

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Biodiesel adalah bahan bakar yang dihasilkan daripada beberapa bahan bio seperti minyak masak sisa, minyak vegetarian, lemak haiwan (tallow's) dan lain-lain. Kajian ini adalah mengenai penggunaan biodiesel yang dihasilkan dari tallow haiwan untuk mengendalikan enjin jet kecil. Enjin jet telah direka khas untuk menguji dan menyiasat kesan biodiesel dari hewan hewan pada kecekapan terma enjin jet. Ukur kuasa enjin dalam semua situasi dan jumlah pelepasan yang diekstrak dari turbin menggunakan fosil diesel, minyak tanah, B20, B50, B75 dan B100 masing-masing. Ciri-ciri bahan api biodiesel ini berdasarkan analisis standard antarabangsa. Juga, jumlah pelepasan dan prestasi operasi (suhu dan tekanan) turbin gas mikro telah dijalankan. Unit kawalan telah direka untuk memastikan operasi yang stabil. Enjin jet diuji di bawah 3 tahap beban (rendah, sederhana, tinggi). Kitaran bahan api primer dan sekunder digunakan untuk menukar penggunaan bahan api fosil kepada biodiesel.

Hasil bahan bakar biodiesel didapati bahawa mereka berada dalam lingkungan standard yang dapat diterima. Juga, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa jumlah pelepasan oksigen antara 16.4% dan 16.8%, dan pelepasan karbon monoksida (CO) dalam campuran biodiesel (B20, B50, B75 dan B100) berubah antara 0.04% dan 0.18%. Pembebasan karbon dioksida di B100 dan bahan api diesel adalah sama dan bahan api minyak tanah adalah yang paling rendah dalam semua peringkat operasi dalam pengeluaran perubahan pancaran karbon dioksida (CO₂) dari 2.7% hingga 3.0%, pengurangan nitrogen oksida (NO_x) berbanding dengan bahan api fosil. Nitrogen dioksida (NO₂) adalah rendah beroperasi beban tinggi B50, B20, B75 tetapi dalam B100 ia adalah perubahan pancaran yang terlalu tinggi antara 4 ppm hingga 15 ppm. Prestasi turbin gas mikro berdasarkan bahan bakar biodiesel didapati lebih baik daripada bahan bakar fosil secara umum. Keputusan yang terdapat dalam kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa campuran biodiesel yang digunakan adalah sesuai dan menunjukkan potensi yang besar untuk digunakan sebagai bahan

bakar alternatif untuk mengendalikan enjin kecil dengan B20 secara ekonomi dan kurang mencemarkan alam sekitar.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/NOMENCLATURES

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
B100	Pure biodiesel
B25	25% biodiesel and 80% fossil kerosene
B50	50% biodiesel and 50% fossil kerosene
B75	75% biodiesel and 25% fossil kerosene
CH ₄	Methane
CHP	Combined heat and power
CN	Cetane Number
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CP	Cloud Point
DMRT	Duncan's multiple range test
FFAs	Free fatty acids
FP	Flash Point
H ₂	Hydrogen
H ₂ O	Water
HC	Unburned hydrocarbons
ICE	Internal combustion engines
KISR	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
KOH	Potassium hydroxide
MPOC	Malaysian Palm oil Council
MS	Mean square
N ₂	Nitrogen
NaOCH ₃	Alkali catalyst
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen oxide
O ₂	Oxygen
PKO	Palm kernel oil
PM	Particulate matter
PP	Pour Point
TMAH	Tetramethylammonium hydroxide

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Smaller gas turbines have a capacity of about 20 kVA to 750 kW, and can be as small as a standard refrigerator. Usually, Natural gas or diesel is used as fuel with fuel efficiency of approximately 32%. The usual interval between main maintenance is Two years. DC power supply is usually used, with an inverter to produce AC power. AC synchronous generation is not suitable for these turbines since the speed of the turbine is very high, usually about 70,000 rpm. Use the AC synchronous generator will require either a gearbox (which reduces efficiency) or specially designed high-speed generator (which would be unreasonably high). The DG unit costs almost as much as \$ 700 per kilowatt (Smith *et al.*, 2016).

Microturbines integrated packages consisting of multiple microturbine generators are available up to 1,000 kW, and such multiple units are commonly installed at sites to achieve larger power outputs. Microturbines are able to operate on a variety of fuels, including natural gas, sour gas (high sulfur, low Btu content), and liquid petroleum fuels (e.g., gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, and heating oil), Design life is estimated to be 40,000 to 80,000 hours with overhaul. Low NO_x combustion when operating on natural gas; capable of meeting stringent California standards with carbon monoxide, Compact and light weight, 2.3-2.7 cubic feet and 40-50 pounds per kW (Darrow *et al.*, 2015).

Air quality regulation agencies need to account for this technological innovation. Emission control technologies and regulations for distributed generation system are not yet precisely defined. However, control technologies that could reduce emissions from fossil-fueled components of a distributed generation system to levels similar to other traditional fossil-fueled generation equipment are already available. A typical micro-gas-turbine works with diesel fuel. The main components of diesel emissions are carbon monoxide (CO), unburned hydrocarbons (HC), NO_x and particulate matter (PM). The concentration of these gases varies with speed of engine, rate of fuel combustion and composition of air fuel mixture. An ideal combustion of diesel fuel (Figure 1.1) produces water (H₂O) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) as it is a mixture of hydrocarbons (HC). Thus for an ideal case the volumetric concentration of diesel combustion is as follows.

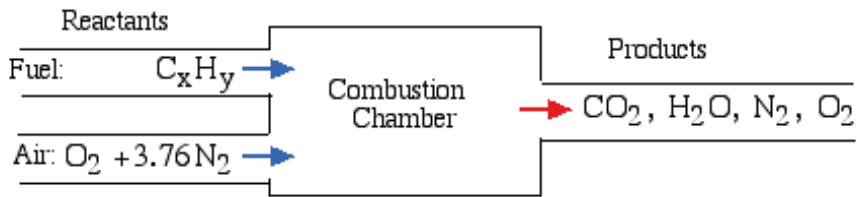


Figure 1.1: Ideal diesel combustion

Variation of these compositions can take place according to the change in engine load. The volumetric concentration of oxygen (O_2) may decrease and H_2O , CO_2 will increase. Any of the components or change in compositions is not causing an adverse effect in human or environment. When the process becomes non-ideal the pollutions are formed. A non-ideal process can be the following:

- Incomplete combustion
- Combustion of engine lubricating oil
- Combustion of oil additives
- Combustion of non- hydrocarbon components of diesel
- Reactions of fuel mixture and components
- Presence of impurities in the diesel fuel.

One of these reasons can cause the formation of HC, NO_x , CO and PM. The volumetric concentration of these components in a non-ideal combustion is illustrated in Figure 1.2.

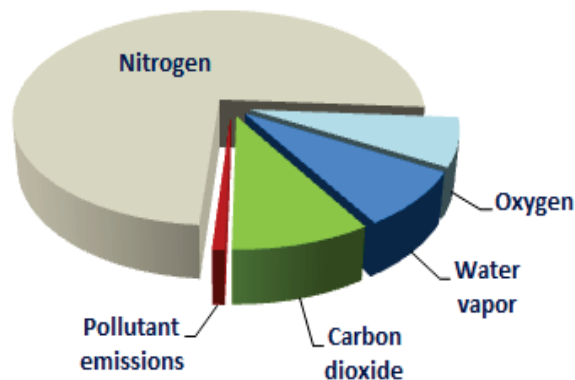


Figure 1.2: Volumetric concentration of pollutants in diesel emission
(Balat, 2011; Bankovic-Ilic et al., 2014; Feddern, 2011)

Furthermore, the presence of catalytic converter in micro-gas-turbine running by diesel fuel can also cause toxic pollutions usually in a small concentration.

In some cases, the presence of metals is also formed due to the wear or by volatilization of solid at high temperature. Carbon monoxide (CO), aldehydes and hydrocarbons (HC) are formed in the diesel emissions due to the presence of incomplete combustion. All these limits the usage of diesel fuels in the operation of micro-gas-turbines.

Nowadays, energy is a very important factor for human endeavors and it is needed for economic growth and basic human needs such as food and health (Medina, 2013). In recent years, the world is faced with energy crisis due to increased population growth, increased in the consumption of energy and depletion of energy resources (Budzianowski, 2016; Bankovic-Ilic *et al.*, 2014). Biomass is one of the most common and important renewable sources of energy that can be obtained from wood, animal waste, plants, and municipal waste (Budzianowski, 2016). Therefore, there is a strong need to replace fossil fuels with more sustainable and readily available renewable energy such as biodiesel.

Recently, biodiesels have been used in the operation of micro gas turbines. Among the most commonly used biodiesels is animal fats. Commonly used animal fats include tallow, choice white grease or lard, and chicken fat (Balat, 2011; Bankovic-Ilic *et al.*, 2014; Feddern, 2011). Compared to plant crops, these fats frequently offer an economic advantage because they are often priced favorably for conversion into biodiesel (Balat and Balat, 2010; Balat, 2011). Animal fat methyl ester has some advantages such as high cetane number, non-corrosive, clean and renewable properties, this fat tend to be low in free fatty acids (FFAs) and water (Balat and Balat, 2010; Abbasi *et al.*, 2012). Thus, the use of animal fat in the operation of micro-gas-turbines becomes a potential viable substitute for petrol or diesel fuels.

1.2 Problem Statement

When operating a micro turbine using diesel fuel, CO particles are formed and are accumulated in the air. The presence of CO in the air causes headache, lethargy and dizziness. Besides that, diesel fuel has high levels of CO₂ emissions (Alshehry and Belloumi, 2015). The presence of hydro carbons causes irritations and choking sensations to human eye. When the temperature and pressure in the combustion process are high, NO_x are formed. This mainly composed of NO_x and small fraction of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The presence of NO_x in the atmosphere causes smog. Sulfur dioxide is formed in the diesel exhaust because the presence of sulfur content in the fuel. Sulfur content of a fuel has an effect on engine wear and deposits. Sulfur in the fuels is harmful for environmental and human health, and it also affects emission values. Sulfur content must be maximum 10 ppm for EN 14214 and it has two standard values as S15 and S500 for ASTM D6751. S15 sulfur content standard allows maximum to be 15 ppm, whereas S500 sulfur content standard allows maximum to be 500 ppm. The oxidation of sulfur dioxide causes the formation of sulfur trioxide and the chances of acid rain are high. Sulfur oxides have more impact on atmosphere by being the major reason of acid rain.

Particulate matter is a solid waste or soot formed after the emission. It causes heart or respiratory diseases in human beings. Particulate matter is the primary reason for black smoke from the diesel engine.

Basically, the effects of diesel emissions on human beings are acute and chronic. Acute exposures can cause itching and irritations to the eye. In chronic cases mostly, the duration a person is in contact with diesel emissions are more. Since the diesel emissions are part of air particles, these particles go deep in to the lungs while breathing and may cause lung cancer. In addition to the effect on human, diesel emissions causes global warming and also increases the temperature of atmosphere, which is an important fact to be considered for sustainable environmental future. Generally, studies show that the after effect of biodiesel is much lesser than the effects caused by diesel emissions (Palash *et al.*, 2013; Özener *et al.*, 2014).

Since many animal meat processing facilities, rendering companies collecting and processing of animal mortalities, large food processing and service facilities create large amount of animal fats, it can be a great opportunity to obtain biodiesel from these very cheap raw materials. The use of animal fats in the operation of micro turbines eliminates the need of their disposal, besides contributing to the supply of biodiesel (Bankovic-Ilic *et al.*, 2014). Generally, a comparison costs of traditional transesterification of vegetable oils (are around US\$ 0.6–0.8 per liter) and animal fats (about US\$ 0.4–0.5 per liter) (Centrec Consulting Group, 2014). Currently, the cheapest option is biodiesel production from animal fats. Though the use of animal fats for biodiesel production has helped to reduce the biodiesel price, yet more investigations and technological development is still required.

Studies relating with biodiesel production from animal fats have been published by many authors. Most of these works are focused on the production of biodiesel on the laboratory scale (Adewale *et al.*, 2015; Banković-Ilić *et al.*, 2014; Alptekin *et al.*, 2014; Awad *et al.*, 2013). However, only a few papers described the production of biodiesel in larger scales. In their pilot-plant study, Alptekin *et al.* (2014) used chicken fat and fleshing oil as animal fats to produce methyl ester in a biodiesel. In their study, sulfuric acid was used as catalyst and methanol was used as alcohol in the pretreatment reactions. Cunha Jr *et al.* (2013) studied biodiesel production from a pilot plant using beef tallow and methanol (1:6), and potassium hydroxide (KOH) (1.5.00% w/w) as an alkali catalyst. From the results, it is clear that they produced high-quality biodiesel with a good conversion rate. The acid number of the feedstock ranged from 1.2 to 1.8 mg KOH. Torres *et al.* (2013) compared the results obtained in the laboratory with the results from the pilot-scale experiments in their article. However, to the best of currently, there is limited study on the use of animal fats in the operation of micro-gas-turbine. This knowledge back is a serious setback for the advancement of micro-turbine operations and sustainable climate and environmental conservation.

1.3 Objectives

The main objective of this study is to investigate the biodiesel produced from animal fat and applied them to operate micro turbines. Thus, in order to achieve this main objective, the following specific objectives were set:

1. To analyses the properties of fuel types used in this study based on the international standard.
2. To analyses the amount of emissions extracted from turbine using fossil diesel and biodiesel from animal fat.
3. To determine the effect of operating performance (temperature and pressure) at different part of gas turbine such combustion chamber, inlet turbine as using fossil diesel and biodiesel from animal fat.

1.4 Scope and Limitations

The study was conducted in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training – Kuwait. In this study, the design and fabrication of micro-turbine operating with biodiesel from Animal fats Produced from animal fat for sheep and camels from domestic slaughterhouses in Kuwait. The study will also be limited to the performance of the micro turbine based on power, pressure and temperature of the engine. Besides that, the types of fuels will be used here are including kerosene, diesel and biodiesel (B20, B50, B75 and B100).

Biodiesel is most commonly used as a blend with petroleum diesel. At concentrations of up to 5% (B5) in conventional diesel fuel, the mixture will meet ASTM D975 diesel fuel specification at concentrations of 6% to 20% (B6 to B20), biodiesel blends can be used in many applications that use diesel fuel. Commonly used blends are limited to B20 in the USA because this level provides a good balance between material compatibility, cold weather operability, performance, and emission benefits. B20 is also the minimum blend level allowed for compliance with the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAAct). Higher blend levels such as B50, and B100 require special handling and may require equipment modifications (Alleman *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, in this study, biodiesel with B20, B50, B75 and B100 were used in order to study the effect of operating performance in the micro-turbine based on these fuel types.

1.5 Significance

Micro gas turbine represents the leading energy system through which electric power generation has currently being deployed. In 2014, Alptekin *et al.* stated that animal fat is a low cost feedstock for biodiesel production compared to high-grade vegetable oils. The huge animal fats wastes can be producing biodiesel, for example, in 2013 the number of chicken consumption was about 1200 million in Turkey. If it is assumed that 25% of chicken amount are sent to rendering process and the fat contents of rendering products are 10–12%, there will be about 100 million kg of chicken fat per year. This present study explores the feasibility of utilising biodiesel produced from animal fats in

operating micro gas turbine. Therefore, the findings from this study could be useful as input in the development of micro-turbine operations and sustainable climate and environmental conservation.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The thesis consists of five chapters, and each chapter was divided into several sub-sections. Chapter one gave information about the background of the research, problem statement, specific objectives and the scope of the study. The first part of chapter two covered the literature review of micro-gas-turbine. This chapter discussed the principle, types, efficiency and limitation of micro-gas-turbine. Also, chapter two discussed the different biodiesel plants and animals with more focused on animal fats. Chapter three focused on methodology used in the investigation of the operation performance and emission gasses of micro-gas-turbine. The methodology of micro-gas-turbine was used fossil diesel and biodiesel, including samples preparation, laboratory analysis, and statistical methods. Meanwhile, chapter four presented the findings of the research with some discussion explaining the results. Finally, the conclusions and recommendations are presented in chapter five.

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BIODATA OF STUDENT

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journals

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