ENHANCING ENGINE OIL PERFORMANCE USING NANOPARTICLES AND BIO-LUBRICANTS AS ADDITIVES

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THE PROBLEM

Environmental pollution and depletion of fossil fuel reserves by internal combustion (IC) engines[1-3].

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Optimize lubrication to reduce friction, wear. Improve fuel consumption with reduced exhaust emissions.

METHODOLOGY

Formulation of a novel lubricant using nanoparticles and bio-lubricants as additives.

3 segments of experiments:

- Nanoparticle synthesis and characterization
- Blending lubricants
- Performance tests

SUMMARY

- The research findings revealed that, the blending of coconut oil and graphene (sample 24) showed the highest performance in reducing friction and wear under simulated IC engine condition.
- Agglomeration of nanoparticles within base stocks, poor cold flow (high Pour Point) and poor oxidative stability (Total Base Number, TBN) of coconut oil are substandard; thus, an optimization of these characteristics is currently underway.

RESULTS

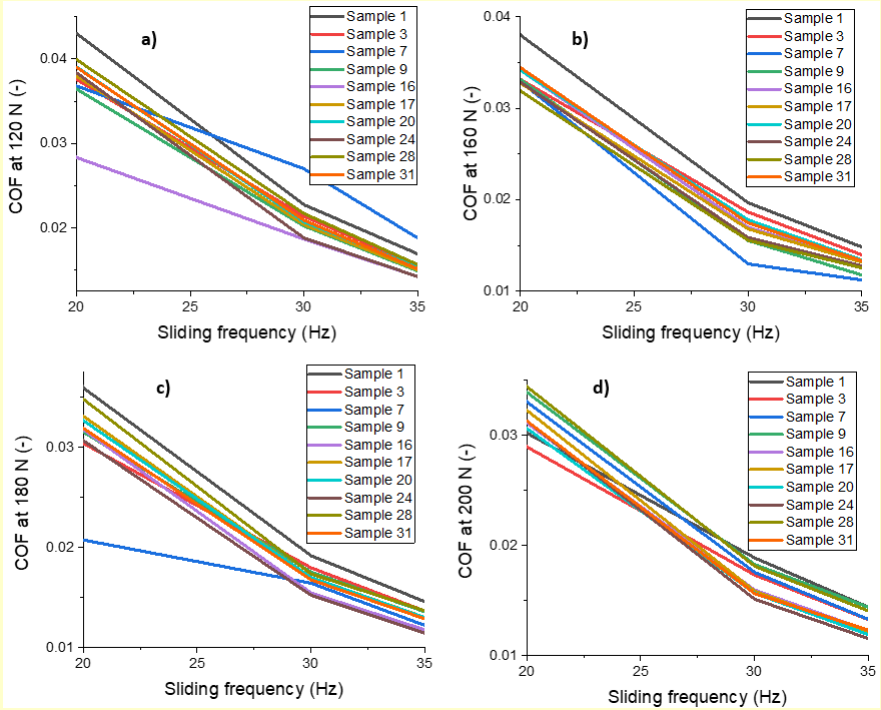

Figure 1: Friction tests phase II, using Linear Reciprocating Tribometer (LRT) with varying loads and sliding velocities @ 140^0 C for selected blends with optimum additive concentrations.

Sample 1 – Mineral oil (15W40; reference oil)
Sample 3 – 15W40 + n-Al_2O_3, 0.1 wt %
Sample 7 – 15W40 + n-TiO_2, 0.25 wt %
Sample 9 – 15W40 + graphene, 0.1 wt%
Sample 16 – 15W40 + Coconut oil 88 v/v %
Sample 17 – CCO + n-Al_2O_3, 0.1 wt %
Sample 20 – CCO + n-TiO_2, 0.1 wt %
Sample 24 – CCO + graphene 0.25 wt %
Sample 28 – 15W40 + n-TiO_2/graphene 0.05 wt %
Sample 31 – CCO + n-TiO_2/graphene 0.05 wt %

Sample name and lubricant formulation.
Key: n – nanoparticle, CCO – coconut oil

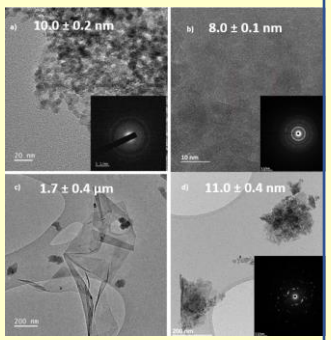

Figure 2: TEM and SAED (inset) images for a) n-Al_2O_3, b) n-TiO_2, c) graphene and d) n-TiO_2/r-GO

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors acknowledge the technical support and the experimental facilities at both LSBU and OU.
Further, the support is extended by the collaboration of DUCOM Instruments and BMS, College of Engineering, both in Bangalore (India) for LRT tests.

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