#### Automated Characterization of Heat Capacities and Heats of Gasification of Flammable Materials

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# Predicting Fire Growth

- To engineer safer:
  - Buildings
  - Products
  - Materials
- Accurate predictions require condensed phase pyrolysis models



# **Condensed Phase Challenges**



- Physics
  - Multiphase
  - Mechanical deformation
- Numerics
  - Gas phase coupling
  - Multiscale
  - Moving boundary
- Materials
  - Many parameters
  - Many materials

# How Many Parameters?

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial t} &= \dot{m}_i^{\prime\prime\prime}, \quad i = 1, \dots N\\ \rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial T} &= \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) + \dot{q}^{\prime\prime\prime}\\ \dot{m}_i^{\prime\prime\prime} &= -A_i \rho_i \exp\left(-\frac{E_i}{RT}\right), \quad i = 1, \dots, N\\ \rho c &= \sum_{i=1}^N \rho_i c_i\\ k &= f\left(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N, k_1, \dots, k_N\right)\\ \dot{q}^{\prime\prime\prime} &= -\sum_{i=1}^N \Delta h_i \dot{m}_i^{\prime\prime\prime}\\ \rho_i \left(t = 0\right) &= \rho_{0,i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

#### Neglecting

- Radiation
- Mass transport
- Charring
- Temperature
   dependence



At least ~6N material property parameters need to be quantified

# How many materials?

- NFIRS categorizes 38 distinct "types" of solid materials "First Ignited"
- These "types" are extremely broad categories such as "Plastic", "Rubber", and "Plywood"
- For example, Lyon and Janssens (2005) contains data on 50 common plastics
- Additional diversity due to processing variability, additives, blends, ageing, etc.

On the order of 10<sup>3</sup> distinct materials relevant to fire growth predictions



# Material Property Database



#### **Critical components**

- 1. Standard data formatting
- 2. Standard metadata
- 3. Calibration tools
- 4. Web-based user interface



Quality of **calibration tools** is ultimately determined in **model validation**—do the parameters predict fire growth?

#### **Global Approach**





### Calibration Method Requirements

- 1. Parameters predict data  $\rightarrow$  Accurate
- 2. Values agree with physics  $\rightarrow$  Realistic
- 3. Fast parameter evaluation  $\rightarrow$  Efficient
- 4. Can handle complex behavior  $\rightarrow$  Robust
- 5. Values do not vary  $\rightarrow$  **Stable**

## How to be Realistic



"With four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk."

~John von Neumann

- Appropriate physical models
- Experiments that isolate physical
- Update models and data as necessary!

Why be **realistic**? Confidence in vastly different scenarios

# How to be **Consistent**

For a given material, the method should always produce the similar parameters

- Solve well-posed problems
- Avoid free parameters
- Don not use random numbers



Parameter Value

# Analysis of TGA Data

How should we estimate pyrolysis kinetic parameters from raw TGA data?



Pyrolysis Model: Independent First-Order Reactions

Reactant 
$$\xrightarrow{k} \nu$$
Char +  $(1 - \nu)$  Gas  
 $k = \left(\frac{A}{\beta}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right)$   
 $m' \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}m}{\mathrm{d}T} = -(1 - \nu) \, km, \quad m(T_0) = m_0$ 

Appropriateness to be determined by ability to predict fire growth.

## **TGA Validation Summary**

#### 25 materials:

list of all current TGA test series tga tests = [ 'ABS Expt TGA N2 10K', 'BigBerry-Leaf\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'BigBerry-Stem\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'Chamise-Leaf\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'Chamise-Stem\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'Chaparral-Leaf Expt TGA N2 10K', 'Chaparral-Stem\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'DesertCeanothus-Leaf Expt TGA N2 10K', 'DesertCeanothus-Stem Expt TGA N2 10K', 'DouglasFir-Leaf\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'HDPE Expt TGA N2 10K', 'HIPS\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'Kydex\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'LodgepolePine-Leaf\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'LodgepolePine-Stem\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'MaCFP\_PMMA\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'PolyIso1 Expt TGA N2 10K', 'PolyIso2 Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'PolyIso05\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'POMGF Expt TGA N2 10K', 'XPSgreen\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K', 'XPSpink Expt TGA N2 10K'





# Analysis of MCC Data

How should we estimate individual reaction heats of combustion  $(\Delta h_{c,i})$  from raw MCC data?



# **MCC** Validation

#### 12 materials:

# list of all current MC test series
mcc\_tests = [
 'BigBerry-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'BigBerry-Stem\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'Chamise-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'Chaparral-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'Chaparral-Stem\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'DesertCeanothus-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'DesertCeanothus-Stem\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'DouglasFir-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'LodgepolePine-Leaf\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'LodgepolePine-Stem\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_10K',
 'MaCFP\_PMMA\_Expt\_MCC\_N2\_60K',



### FACT: Flammability data Automated Calibration Tools

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### Example: Polyisocyanurate Board Insulation



#### **Replicate TGA Data Files:**





#### (base) Scripts \$ python average\_tga\_series.py PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K

Reading data from:

PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r7.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r6.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r4.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r5.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r2.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r3.csv PolyIso2\_Expt\_TGA\_N2\_10K\_r8.csv

Number of data sets in series = 7





#### Example: Lodgepole Pine Stems



fact/Materials/metadata/LodgepolePine-Stem.json



#### Replicate MCC Data Files:



#### Pyrolysis Kinetics from TGA

#### Average MCC Data





🔲 🔢 Material Flammability 🛛 🗙 🕂

#### **Material Flammability Database**

This database contains data from the Materials database. The data is organized by material and the kinetic parameters is available for download in the form of a csv file.

Material		
Chamise-Stem	× *	
ABS	i	
BigBerry-Leaf		
BigBerry-Stem		
Chamise-Leaf		
Chamise-Stem		
Chaparral-Leaf Acquired		Ŧ
Description	Thin (<0.75 mm) flat slices of small branches picked from a series of randomly selected individual Desert Chamise plant	s
Categories	Vegetatio	n

TGA	MCC	
Chamise-Stem_Expt_TGA_N2_1 × *	Chamise-Stem_Expt_MCC_N2_1 × •	
Kinetic Params		

Name	Units	Values
Pre-exponential Factor	1/s	2.732E+07, 7.219E+10, 1.474E+01
Activation Energy	kJ/mol	1.008E+05, 1.507E+05, 5.022E+04
Normalized Mass of Reaction	-	1.409E-01, 2.608E-01, 2.915E-01
Heat of Combustion	J/g	1.145E+04, 9.040E+03, 1.823E+03



Not syncing 🔊

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# Analysis of DSC Data

How should we estimate component specific heat capacities  $(c_{p,i})$  and heats of gasification  $(\Delta h_i)$  from raw DSC data?



# Modeling DSC





Assumptions:

- No spatial variations in temperature and composition
- No work

## **Normalized Model**

Divide energy equation by initial mass,  $m_0$ 

$$\mu c_p \frac{dT}{dt} = q - q_r$$

where

$$\mu \equiv m/m_0$$
$$q \equiv Q/m_0$$
$$q_r \equiv Q_r/m_0$$

# Material and Reaction Models

- Consistent with TGA analysis
- Mass information from pyrolysis kinetics
- 2N<sub>r</sub> + 1 unknown material properties

Char Specific Reactant  
Heat Specific Heat 
$$N_r$$
  
 $\mu c_p = \mu_c c_{p,c} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_r} \mu_i c_{p,i}$   
 $q_r = \sum_{i=1}^{N_r} \Delta h_i \left(-\frac{d\mu_i}{dt}\right)$   
Heats of  
Gasification

### Linear Problem—Heat Flow



# Integral Heat Flow Form

**Hypothesis**: total heat absorbed by material is more important for predicting flame spread

### Linear Problem—Total Heat Flow



- $N_{\rm d}$  equations for  $2N_{\rm r} + 1$  unknowns
- Linear least-squares problem is wellposed\* → unique solution exists

### **DSC: Single Reaction Verification**



- Markers: simulated data using assumed specific heats and heats of gasification
- Lines: fits using calibrated parameters

### **DSC: Two Reaction Verification**



# Validation: HIPS



Based on 7 replicate DSC experiments at 10 K/min

Property	Calibrated Value	Stoliarov and Walters (2008)
Specific Heat Capacity (J/g-K)	1.61	2.0
Heat of Gasification (J/g)	818	1000

# Validation: POMGF



Based on 7 replicate DSC experiments at 10 K/min

Property	Calibrated Value	Stoliarov, Lyon, and Linteris (2012)
Specific Heat Capacity (J/g-K)	2.27	1.88
Heat of Gasification (J/g)	1720	1570

## **DSC** Validation Cases

#### 11 materials:

list of all current DSC test series dsc\_tests = [ 'ABS\_Expt\_DSC\_N2\_10K', 'HDPE Expt DSC N2 10K', 'HIPS Expt DSC N2 10K'. 'Kydex Expt DSC N2 10K', 'MaCFP PMMA Expt DSC N2 10K', 'PolyIso1 Expt 10K'. Ν2 'PolvIso2 Expt 'PolyIso05 Expt DSC 10K'. 'POMGF Expt DSC N2 10K', 'XPSgreen\_Expt\_DSC\_N2\_10K', 'XPSpink\_Expt\_DSC\_N2\_10K'



# Next Steps

- Phase changes: get both kinetics and enthalpy changes from DSC
- Negative specific heats:
  - Improve pyrolysis kinetics, or
  - Get more data
- Consider non-constant specific heats

HDPE Calibration:



# Summary

- **Predicting** fire growth requires material properties
- To obtain material properties:
  - Small-scale tests (TGA, MCC, DSC, etc.)
  - Calibration algorithms
- A new calibration algorithm is presented for obtaining specific heat capacities and heats of gasification from DSC data
- Algorithm performs well with simulated data and DSC for several thermoplastics
- Future work is needed to
  - Characterize phase change energetics
  - Eliminate negative specific heat capacities (not realistic)
  - Allow for temperature dependent specific heat capacities

# **TGA Calibration Method**



- Based on iterative analysis of reaction peaks
- Peaks found from conditions on derivatives of data
- Two free parameters:
  - 1. Tolerance on what counts as a peak
  - 2. Critical peak width for smoothing



Characteristic temperature and mass changes:

$$\Delta T \equiv \frac{m_{\rm p}}{-m_{\rm p}'}$$
$$\Delta m \equiv m_0 \left(1 - \nu\right)$$

Analysis of peak condition yields:

$$E = \frac{RT_{\rm p}^2}{\Delta T}$$
$$A = \frac{\beta}{\Delta T} \exp\left(\frac{T_{\rm p}}{\Delta T}\right)$$



# Some Details

- Smoothed data derivatives are found using Savitzky-Golay filter
- 2. "Small" mass loss rate peaks are neglected
- 3. Algorithm corrects for overlapping reactions
- 4. Mass changes corrected to conserve mass



# **TGA Fit Verification**

- 1. Assume kinetic parameters
- 2. Generate simulated TGA data
- 3. Use algorithm to find assumed parameters

#### **Purpose:**

- 1. Check implementation
- 2. Test validity of approximate solution

## **Single Reaction Verification**



## **Single Reaction Verification**

#### ΔT = 10 K:

Kinetic Parameter	Specified Value	Calibrated Value
<i>T</i> <sub>p</sub> (K)	650	649.4
$\Delta T$ (K)	10	9.99
ξ	0.01538	0.01539
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	60.91	60.90
E (kJ/kmol)	$351.3 \times 10^{3}$	$350 \times 10^{3}$

#### ΔT = 20 K:

Kinetic Parameter	Specified Value	Calibrated Value
<i>T</i> <sub>p</sub> (K)	650	649.4
$\Delta T$ (K)	20	19.07
ξ	0.03077	0.02935
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	27.71	29.34
E (kJ/kmol)	$175.6 \times 10^{3}$	$184.1 \times 10^{3}$

#### ΔT = 40 K:

Kinetic Parameter	Specified Value	Calibrated Value
<i>T</i> <sub>p</sub> (K)	650	649.4
$\Delta T$ (K)	40	36.
ξ	0.06154	0.05563
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	10.77	12.59
E (kJ/kmol)	$87.8 \times 10^{3}$	97.1×10 <sup>3</sup>

#### Decreasing $\Delta T$ Increasing accuracy

## **Two Reactions Verification**



#### **Closer fit for more separated reactions**

# Validation

#### Purpose:

1. Test algorithm with real TGA data

#### **Test Materials:**

- 1. Nylon 6,6
- 2. Flexible polyurethane (PU) foam
- Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

#### **Procedure:**

- In nitrogen
- Samples: 3-5.5 mg
- Isothermal heating for 20-30 min
- Dynamic heating at 10 K/min

## Validation: Nylon 6,6



Kinetic Parameter	Reaction 1
<i>T</i> <sub>p</sub> (K)	716.3
$\Delta T$ (K)	22.11
$\Delta m$	0.9754
ξ	0.03087
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	27.50
E (kJ/kmol)	192.9×10 <sup>3</sup>

## Validation: Polyurethane Foam



Kinetic Parameter	Reaction 1	Reaction 2
<i>Т</i> р (К)	562.7	648.5
$\Delta T$ (K)	14.50	13.69
$\Delta m$	0.2511	0.7280
ξ	0.02577	0.02112
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	34.34	42.95
E (kJ/kmol)	$181.5 \times 10^{3}$	$255.3 \times 10^{3}$

## Validation: PVC



Kinetic Parameter	Reaction 1	Reaction 2	Reaction 3
<i>Т</i> р (К)	568.5	731.7	588.1
$\Delta T$ (K)	12.15	22.39	9.62
$\Delta m$	0.4200	0.2238	0.1999
ξ	0.02138	0.03060	0.01636
$\ln[A(s^{-1})]$	42.49	27.78	57.06
E (kJ/kmol)	221.1×10 <sup>3</sup>	$198.8 \times 10^{3}$	298.8×10 <sup>3</sup>



Multiple Reactions  

$$\dot{Q}(T) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm r}} \dot{m}_i(T) \Delta h_i$$
1) Linear System:  $N_{\rm r}$  equations,  $N_{\rm r}$  unknowns  

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm r}} \dot{m}_i(T_{{\rm p},j}) \Delta h_i = \dot{Q}(T_{{\rm p},j}), \ j = 1, \dots, N_{\rm r}$$

2) Multiple Linear Regression:  $N_{d}$  data points  $\sum_{i=1}^{N_{r}} \dot{m}_{i} (T_{k}) \Delta h_{i} = \dot{Q} (T_{k}), \ k = 1, \dots, N_{d} > N_{r}$ 

# MCC Fit Verification

- 1. Assume kinetic parameters and heats of combustion
- 2. Generate TGA data
- 3. Use TGA fit algorithm to find kinetic parameters
- 4. Use TGA predictions and MCC data to find heats of combustion

#### **Purpose:**

- 1. Check implementation
- 2. Test validity of approximate solution

## MCC: Single Reaction Verification



Solid: Simulated Data Dash: Total HRR/mass Dash-Dot: Peak Match Dot: Simple Average • TGA Data – 10 K/min

– 
$$T_{\rm p}$$
 = 650 K

MCC Data – 60 K/min

$$-\Delta h = 30 \text{ kJ/g}$$

## **MCC: Single Reaction Verification**

Scenario	Δh (kJ/g) (Total HR/mass)	Method 1: Peak Ratio Δh (kJ/g)	Method 2: Simple Average Δh (kJ/g)
ΔΤ = 10 Κ	30.026	30.792	30.849
ΔΤ = 20 Κ	29.997	28.731	29.556
ΔΤ = 40 Κ	29.997	26.949	28.291

- Total HR/mass not applicable to multiple reaction
- Method 2 performs better than Method 1

### **MCC: Two Reactions Verification**



## MCC: Two Reactions Verification

		-∆h <sub>1</sub> (kJ/g)	-Δh <sub>2</sub> (kJ/g)	-Δh <sub>total</sub> (kJ/g)
Specified Value		15	45	21
ΔΤ = 10 Κ	Simple Integration			20.998
	Linear Regression	14.854	44.085	21.021
ΔΤ = 20 Κ	Simple Integration			20.998
	Linear Regression	14.953	43.973	21.061
ΔΤ = 40 K	Simple Integration			20.998
	Linear Regression	15.415	42.304	21.501

- Accuracy decreases with "broader" reactions
- Future work: correct individual reaction values to force match of total value