

Soot Nanostructure: Definition, Quantification and Implications

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Soot Macrostructure: Aggregate Size and Morphology







Soot Nanostructure: Definition using HRTEM Images of Primary Particle (Internal) Structure



Amorphous (Benzene)

Fullerenic (Ethanol)

Graphitic (Acetylene)



Statistical Properties Extracted from HRTEM Images (of soot nanostructure)





Soot Nanostructure: Quantification via Fringe Analysis

Algorithm-Optimas® Version 6.5

Operations:

- 1. Switches 256 grayscale image to binary
- 2. Removes all pixels not above threshold
- 3. Removes remaining pixels and groups of pixels that do not form extended lines
- 4. Uses position of pixels within lines to determine length, curvature, etc. of fringes



Soot Nanostructure: Quantification via Fringe Analysis

- * Image refinements To overcome HRTEM image limitations
 - Region of interest
 - Spatial filtering
 - Binary thresholding
- * Other inputs
 - Maximum join distance
 - Minimum fringe length





Comparison of Input (HRTEM) and Output (Binary-Fringe) Images



Selected samples of heat-treated carbon black



Fringe Analysis Output Data - Fringe Length Histograms





Comparison to Benchmark Methods

Raman Spectra of Heat Treated Soot

E_{2g} or (G) peak at 1580 cm⁻¹ (Graphitic)

- A_{1g} or (D) peak at 1360 cm⁻¹ (Disordered)
- Intensity ratio have been used to measure in-plane dimensions





Ratios of Integrated Raman Intensities for Heat-Treated Carbon Soots





Soot Nanostructure and Implications: Reactivity

TEM images of partially oxidized benzene soot





Oxidation Analysis

Shrinking Spheres Model

Soot Burnout Rate Expression

$$\omega(kg / m^2 s) = \frac{\rho r_0}{t} (1 - \frac{r_t}{r_0}) = \frac{1}{A} \frac{dm}{dt}$$



Carbon Soot Nanostructure



- Soot oxidation rates are different. What is the cause?
- Previous studies ignored nanostructure.
- Graphitic carbons are less reactive than amorphous carbons.
- Is it just fringe length?





Nanostructure and Implications: Reactivity

Fringe Separation Histograms

Acetylene





Average [ω/ω_{NSC}] 17.9 Ethanol 6.7 Acetylene



Diesel Engine Soots

(courtesy Sandia Nat. Labs)

Reference Fuel - n-hexadecane + heptamethylnonane (CN 45-020926B)







Diethylene glycol diethyl ether (DGE)





Conclusions

Soot Nanostructure: (Definition)

* Soot Nanostructure refers to carbon lamella (layer plane) length, orientation, separation and tortuosity.

* Nanostructure is variable, dependent upon temperature, residence time and fuel identity.

Fringe Analysis Algorithm: (Quantification)

* Lattice fringe analysis can be used to analyze HRTEM image data and quantify carbon nanostructure through statistical analysis.

Oxidation Rates: (Implications)

* Oxidation rates are dependent upon nanostructure - suggests using nanostructure to control (accelerate) oxidation.

- * Source apportionment via analysis of nanostructure?
- * Health consequences related to nanostructure?
- * Environmental impact dependent upon nanostructure?