



Entrained Flow Gasification of Municipal Solid Waste and Coal Mixture

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Introduction

- 1. Waste to energy is an emerging concept that raps on the abundant and steadily increasing municipal solid waste (MSW) due to urbanization and human development.
- 2. MSW generation is strongly correlated with human development averaging daily over 1kg in the underdeveloped economy to over 2kg in developed nations. MSW is huge (about 2Bt in 2021) and is increasing gradually, and it is projected that it reaches 2.2 and 4.2Bt by 2025 and 2050, respectively [1].
- 3. According to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), solid waste contributes to about 5% of the global greenhouse gases (GHGs), especially carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) [2].
- 4. Gasification is considered a mature and proven technology for a variety of feedstock including coal, biomass, auto-shredder residue, and fossil fuels. However, gasification of MSW or its segregated derivatives such as plastics is relatively recent, and is facing number of technical barriers [3].

Flow diagram of power generation from biomass gasification produced [4]

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- [2] UNEP. Solid waste management. 2019. <u>https://www</u>. unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/ what-we-do/cities/solid-waste-management. [Accessed 24January 2021].
 [3] Gershman, Brickner and Bratton, solid waste management consultants: Gasification of Non-Recycled Plastics From Municipal Solid Waste In the United States, The American Chemistry Council, GBB/12038-01 August 13, 2013, <u>www.gbbinc.com</u>
- [4] Koido K, Iwasaki T. Biomass gasification: a review of its technology, gas cleaning applications, and total system lifecycle analysis. Lignin Trends Appl., InTech; 2018.



Introduction

There is limited literature on MSW gasification compared to coal and their cogasification.

- 1. Alvarez et al. [1] studied plastic and biomass co-gasification, finding that adding plastic increased H_2 syngas fraction, with PP favoring H_2 production over PS [1].
- Armin et al. [2] simulated plasma co-gasification of MSW and coal, discovering 2. that higher H_2 production occurred at low equivalence ratios or high steam ratios. Maximum H_2 production was achieved with high amounts of coal and low steam to waste ratio (SWR) or high amounts of MSW and high SWR.
- Zaccariello et al. [3] analyzed fluidized bed gasification of plastic waste, woody 3. biomass, and coal blends, observing a reduction in hydrogen content from plastic gasification but enhanced CO, H_2 , and CO₂ production from woody biomass.
- Ding et al. [4] analyzed co-gasification of MSW with bituminous coal in a CO_2 4. atmosphere, finding improved gasification with the addition of MSW due to the easier gasification of MSW char compared to coal char.

[5] Muhammad Aziz, Arif Darmawan, Firman Bagja Juangsa, Hydrogen production from biomasses and wastes: A technological review, International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, Volume 46, Issue 68, 2021, Pages 33756-33781, ISSN 0360-3199,

1 ages 33730-33701,100N 0300-3133,	
[6] Society of Chemical Engineers Japan (SCEJ), Japan Institute of Energy (JIE). Biomass Process Handbook. 1st ed. Tokyo: Ohmsha; 20	112

Sl	Feedstock	Gasifier Type CO mole H ₂		H ₂ mole	Reference
number		fraction		fraction	
1	Coal/Biomass	Fixed-Bed	0.28	0.46	[3]
2	Coal/Plastics	Fluidized-Bed	0.32	0.42	[4]
3	Coal/Wood	Fixed-Bed	0.29	0.45	[5]
4	Biomass/Coal	Fluidized-bed	0.34	0.4	[6]
5	Biomass/Waste Plastic	Entrained-flow	0.33	0.41	[7]
6	Waste Plastic/ Biomass	Entrained flow	0.31	0.42	[8]
7	Coal/ Municipal Solid waste	Fixed-Bed	0.28	0.46	[9]
8	Biomass/Municipal Solid Waste	Fluidized-Bed	0.33	0.41	[10]
9	Coal/Biomass/Waste Plastics	Entrained-Flow	0.32	0.42	[11]
10	Fixed-Bed	Coal/Waste 0.3 0.44 Plastics		0.44	[12]
11	Fluidized-Bed	Coal/Miscanthus	0.35	0.39	[13]
12	Entrained-Flow	Coal/Municipal0.280.46Solid Waste		0.46	[14]
13	Fixed-Bed	Biomass/Plastics	0.33	0.41	[15]
14	Fluidized-Bed	Coal/Paper 0.32 Waste		0.42	[11]
15	Entrained-Flow	Coal/Wood	0.29 0.45		[16]
16	Fluidized-Bed	Coal/Rice Husk 0.35 0.39		[17]	
17	Entrained-Flow	Biomass/Paper Waste	0.33	0.41	[18]
18	Fixed-Bed	Coal/Miscanthus 0.34 0.4		[19]	
19	Fluidized- Bed	Biomass/Paper 0.31 0.42 Waste		0.42	[20]
20	Entrained-Flow	Coal/Municipal 0.3 0.44 Solid Waste		[21]	
21	Fixed-Bed	Coal/Rice Husk	Coal/Rice Husk 0.35 0.39		[22]
22	Fluidized-Bed	Biomass/Plastics	0.33	0.41	[23]
23	Entrained-Flow	Coal/Miscanthus	0.34	0.4	[24]
24	Fixed-Bed	Coal/Paper Waste	0.31	0.42	[25]

^[1] Jon Alvarez, Shogo Kumagai, Chunfei Wu, Toshiaki Yoshioka, Javier Bilbao, Martin Olazar, Paul T. Williams, Hydrogen production from biomass and plastic mixtures by pyrolysis-gasification, International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, Volume 39, Issue 21, 15 July 2014, Pages 10883-10891

^[2] Armin O, Mohammad R K, Babak S, Abel R, Eliseu M. Optimizing the operating conditions for hydrogen-rich syngas production in a plasma co-gasification process of municipal solid waste and coal using Aspen Plus, International Journal of Hydrogen Energy 47 (2022) 26891 e26900

^[3] Zaccariello L, Mastellone ML. Fluidized-Bed Gasification of Plastic Waste, Wood, and Their Blends with Coal. Energies. 2015; 8(8):8052-8068

^[4] Ding G and He B Process Simulation of Co-Gasification of Raw Municipal Solid Waste and Bituminous Coal in CO2/O2 Atmosphere Appl. Sci. 2020, 10, 1921; doi:10.3390/app1006192

Introduction

High fidelity modelling is mature tool to study a reactive complex flow. It requires accurate analysis of the kinetic data for both devolatalization/pyrolysis.

- 1. Lee et al have used CFD to numerically model the circulating fluidized bed gasifier for the plastic waste in an Eulerian-Granular approach [1]. Their attempt were more focus on the circulating of the particle while no gasification/reaction were considered. They however study the change of the fluidized velocity and the particle size circulation.
- Gao et al studied thermal degradation at inert gas conditions for HDPE sample using the two methods. Dynamic heating was conducted at five heating rates, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 20 °C /min, whereas the isothermal was carried at three different temperatures, 440, 450, and 460 °C. The reported activation energy for dynamic and isothermal are respectively 194.8 KJ/mole and 201.5 KJ/mole [2].
- 3. Manu et al investigated the thermal degradation of rice husk at temperatures ranging from 650° C to 750° C and steam to biomass ratio of 0.5–2. They reported that increasing the steam-to-biomass ratio (SBR) from 0.5 to 2 linearly reduces CO and increases *H*₂ to 45%. Both lower heating value (LHV) and thermal efficiency show positive trends with higher SBR. Introducing CO₂ increases CO in the syngas and decreases H₂. [3].
- 4. As a result, combining numerous feedstocks is an option that can improve the efficiency of the gasification process. The majority of co-gasification research mentions the usage of coal and biomass. [4,5].

^[1] Ji Eun Lee, Hang Seok Choi, Yong Chil Seo, Study of hydrodynamic characteristics in a circulating fluidized bed gasifier for plastic waste by computational fluid dynamics modeling and simulation, Journal of Material Cycles and Waste Management, October 2014, Volume 16, Issue 4, pp 665–676 [2] Gao, Z., I. Amasaki, and M. Nakada, A thermogravimetric study on thermal degradation of polyethylene. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis,. 67,1, (2003), 1-9.

^[3] J. Manu, Vasudeva Madav, Numerical modeling of rice husk gasification in fluidized bed gasifier for sustainable biofuel production, Case Studies in Thermal Engineering, Volume 39, 2022, 102429, ISSN 2214-157X

^[4] G. Ding, B. He, Process simulation of Co-gasification of raw municipal solid waste and bituminous coal in CO2/O2 atmosphere, Appl. Sci. 10 (2020) 1921.

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Objectives

-It should be emphasize that despite the progress made to date on both experimental and modeling studies of MSW gasification, a wide range of research and development program is lacking on this subject. Current implementations are extended set of reactions covering the devolatilization, combustion, water and gas shifts beside the sensible heating.



-Gasification of MSW blends is an emerging technology as this source will continue to grow that requires strong need for detailed gasification investigations covering the different plastic types and their mixtures.

- This work addresses this need by:
 - ✓ Assessing the proximate and ultimate analyses of the coal and MSW blend
 - ✓ Carry out Thermodynamic Equilibrium Approach (TEA): Determine species & metrics at different coal/MSW ratios
 - ✓ Conduct TGA/DSC analysis to infer the devolatilization kinetics of reaction.
 - ✓ Carry out high fidelity inside an entrained flow gasifier simulated in a drop tube reactor environment.

Materials and Method: Material characterization

- Reduce the MSW into the 4 main components: paper, wood, LDPE, and textile [1] and individually crush and sieve in Retsch-zm200 mills, then subject the to proper weight mixing using high precision scale (±µg: Metteler Toledo USA).
- Carry out Thermo-Gravimetric and elemental analyses on coal as baseline and MSW and Kentucky coal mixtures: 30% MSW and 70% Kentucky coal, 20% MSW and 80% Kentucky coal, and 10% MSW and 90% Kentucky coal using TGA proximate & ultimate/elemental analyses using STDQ600 and FLASH 200, respectively as well as bomb calorimeter.
- Setup Equilibrium based stochiometric gasification model and carry out temp sweep analysis.
- Evaluate chemical kinetics of the devolatilization from the TGA using various model: Arrhenius and Redfern
- Setup up high fidelity reactive flow model using optimal conditions in 3 and kinetics of 4.

Equation:	Description	Mathematical/Stoichiometric Formula
1	Element Carbon Balance	$\sum_{i=rect}^{n of species} C_i = \sum_{i=prod}^{n of species} C_i$
2	Element Hydrogen Balance	$\sum_{i=rect}^{n of species} H_i = \sum_{i=prod}^{n of species} H_i$
3	Element Oxygen Balance	$\sum_{i=rect}^{n \ of \ species} O_i = \sum_{i=prod}^{n \ of \ species} O_i$
4	Heat balance	$\sum_{i=rect}^{n of species} nh_i = \sum_{i=prod}^{n of species} nh_i + Q$
6	Equilibrium: Methanation	$C + 2H_2 \Leftrightarrow CH_4 - 75MJ/Kmol$
7	Equilibrium: CO shift	$CO + H_2O \Leftrightarrow CO_2 + H_2 - 41MJ/Kmol$
8	Equilibrium: Steam Reforming	$CH_4 + H_2O \Leftrightarrow CO + 3 H_2 + 206MJ/Kmol$
9	Product mole sum	$\sum_{i=nrod}^{n of species} X_i = 1$

 $CH_{x}N_{y}O_{z}S_{p} + \underline{mO_{2}} + \underline{nH_{2}O} \iff \underline{x_{1}CO + x_{2}H_{2} + x_{3}CH_{4}} + \underline{x_{4}H_{2}O + x_{5}CO_{2}} + \underline{x_{6}C(s) + x_{7}O_{2} + pSO_{2} + \frac{y}{2}N_{2}$







Results: TGA

Sample: 25 mg and HR=20 °C/m TGA and STA plot for the 100% Coal/MSW and mixtures of 30%, 20% and 10% MSW with Kentucky coal



	Kentucky coal	Paper	Plastic (PE)	Wood	Textile	MSW
Moisture	0.027	-	-	-	-	
VM	0.396	0.7614	0.9944	0.7587	0.8269	0.858
FC	0.511	0.1166	0.0008	0.1729	0.1375	0.094
Ash	0.066	0.122	0.0048	0.0684	0.0356	0.048

Proximate Analysis of Coal and MSW

Ultimate Analysis of Coal and MSW

Kentucky coal						MSW
	Formula CH _{0.822} N _{0.026} S _{0.005} O _{0.081}	Paper	Plastic (PE)	Wood	Textile	Formula CH _{1.611} N _{0.012} S _{0.001} O _{0.322}
С	0.819	0.4562	0.8622	0.5135	0.5408	0.633
0	0.089	0.0601	0.1297	0.0639	0.0584	0.272
Н	0.056	0.4778	0.0073	0.405	0.3809	0.085
Ν	0.025	0.0034	0.0008	0.0159	0.017	0.009
s	0.011	0.0022	0.0005	0.0018	0.0022	0.002
HHV (MJ/	kg) 32.00	17.608	44.427	19.771	23.260	28.848

[1] Green, A. and S. Sadrameli, Analytical representations of experimental polyethylene pyrolysis yields. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis, 2004. 72(2): p. 329-335.

Results: Equilibrium modeling

The cold gasification efficiency for the mixture of MSW were estimated based on the expression given by Skodras et al. [1].



Results: Kinetic study

- Devolatalization reaction may proceed under the constrain of conservation of mass and energy:
- TGA/DTG experimental From data devolatilization reaction is modeled as:

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = Ae^{-E/RT} (1-X)^n \quad or \quad \frac{dX}{(1-X)^n} = \beta Ae^{-E/RT} dT$$

Arrhenius method: Direct extraction of E from the slope of the linear fit of log [dw/dt/w] versus 1/T via eq:

 $\log[dw/dt/w] = \log A - E/2.303RT$

Coats and Redferm: E is determined from the slope of $\ln [g(x)/T^2]$ versus 1/T plot as:

 $ln\left(\frac{g(x)}{T^2}\right) = ln\left(\frac{AR}{\beta E}\right) - \frac{E}{RT}$

Representation of Arrhenius model and 1st and the 3rd order Coats-Redfern model data for 70% coal/MSW mixtures:



Results: Kinetic study (Cont'd)

The evaluated kinetic data for the LDPE, PP and PS based on Arrhenius, and Coats-Redfern, 1^{st} , 2^{nd} and the 3^{rd} order models.

Coal 100%	Slope	Intercept	R2		E (KJ/mol)	A (1/sec) *
Arrhenius	-2239.900	0.876		0.841	42.888	1.252E-01
Coats-Redfern 1st	-3950.100	-8.511		0.989	75.633	5.139E-11
Coats-Redfern 2nd	-4158.900	-8.098		0.986	79.631	1.330E-10
Coats-Redfern 34d	-4376.000	-7.667		0.983	83.788	3.590E-10
MSW 100%	Slope	Intercept	R2		E (KJ/mol)	A (1/sec) *
Arrhenius	-2088.200	1.255		0.224	39.983	3.000E-01
Coats-Redfern 1st	-5736.800	-4.322		0.975	109.843	7.937E-07
Coats-Redfern 2nd	-7080.300	-1.787		0.976	135.568	2.724E-04
Coats-Redfern 3rd	-8643.500	1.154		0.968	165.498	2.376E-01
MSW 30%	Slope	Intercept	R2		E (KJ/mol)	A (1/sec) *
Arrhenius	-2376.500	1.309		0.794	45.503	3.395E-01
Coats-Redfern 1st	-4713.400	-6.770		0.988	90.248	2.830E-09
Coats-Redfern 2nd	-5207.100	-5.828		0.989	99.701	2.479E-08
Coats-Redfern 3rd	-5738.500	-4.816		0.989	109.876	2.549E-07
MSW 20%	Slope	Intercept	R2		E (KJ/mol)	A (1/sec) *
Arrhenius	-2243.500	1.021		0.797	42.957	1.750E-01
Coats-Redfern 1st	-4530.900	-7.225		0.991	86.754	9.928E-10
Coats-Redfern 2nd	-4939.900	-6.443		0.992	94.585	6.012E-09
Coats-Redfern 3rd	-5375.700	-5.611		0.991	102.929	4.081E-08
MSW 10%	Slope	Intercept	R2		E (KJ/mol)	A (1/sec) *
Arrhenius	-2115.900	0.732		0.787	40.513	8.986E-02
Coats-Redfern 1st	-4319.200	-7.748		0.995	82.700	2.976E-10
Coats-Redfern 2nd	-4650.600	-7.113		0.995	89.046	1.285E-09
Coats-Redfern 3rd	-5000.400	-6.444		0.993	95.743	5.996E-09

Results: Reactive flow



Results: Reactive flow (cont'd)



Geometry configuration and gasifier boundary conditions

Numerical solution approach for gasification [1]

Results: Reactive flow (cont'd) Mesh Sensitivity Studies, Scale Effect and Model Validation



The 2D and 3D mesh structure

Details of the 2D meshes used for sensitivity analysis						
Mesh Type	Number of Cells	Number of Faces	Number of Nodes			
Coarse	13,210	25,593	14,038			
Baseline	68,680	135,686	70,355			
Fine	142,525	282,294	145,282			



Results: Reactive flow (cont'd) Main species and temperature



The isothermal Temperature contours for the coal and the three mixtures (in K)

Conclusion

- 1. Co-gasification of coal has been considered as mitigation environmental strategy for the increasing landfilling of municipal and industrial waste (M&ISW).
- The different proportion and composition of M&ISW, however, can compromise the gasification metrics and may possess processing challenges.
- 3. Here, two level of modeling are pursued to assess the gasification of coal and MSW mixture, the plug flow equilibrium-based model (EM) and the continuous high-fidelity reactive flow model (RFM).
- 4. Result shows maximum attained efficiency is 82.54% at 1250 °C the conditions when the 20% MSW and 80% coal mixture completely converted and resulted in syngas molar fractions X_{CO} = 0.57 and X_{H2} = 0.39.
- 5. Owing to higher volatile of the considered MSW composition these values surpassed the single coal gasification values which respectively 76.4%, 1150 °C, X_{CO} = 0.63 and X_{H2} = 0.30.
- 6. Using these conditions high-fidelity reactive flow model is developed that accounts for the reactor geometry and the devolatilization kinetics and deploys extended set of reactions covering the devolatilization, combustion, water and gas shifts, and outwards beside sensible heating.
- 7. Kinetics of devolatilization first is evaluated using the TGA thermographs for the mixtures as well as the coal. The model reveals that the gasification reaction is not instantaneous as suggested by lower fidelity models, but rather takes a certain length of residence time.
- 8. Asymptotic and steady species formation was seen around halfway downstream of the drop tube reactor, and the temperature curve shows a growing trend toward the center. Lower syngas output results in reduced performance at lower temperatures (<<1000 °C), and higher temperatures (1550 °C) were unfavorable because more heat is needed to get the gasifier wall up to the desired temperature.
- 9. Overall, both models demonstrate the feasibility of co-gasification of Coal and MSW and hence deployment of this process not only produce another energy source, but also help in reducing landfilling and their growing footprint



Thank You

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