

Tribological Behaviour of C-Based Thin-Film Systems in Biofuels

Alternative diesel fuels

Rapeseed methyl ester (RME)
Soy methyl ester (SME)
Gas to liquid (LTL)
Biomass to liquid (BTL)

Alternative petrol fuels

Bioethanol
Compressed natural gas (CNG)

Doped DLC films (surface of fracture), REM

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Object of research:

- C-based thin films without / with doping (ta-C, a-C:H, a-C:H:Si, a-C:N, etc.)
Tetrahedral amorphous carbon: ta-C

Diamond-like bonds
(sp³ hybridisation)

Carbon atom

Graphite-like bonds
(sp² hybridisation)

(a)

Amorphous hydrogen-modified
carbon with Si doping: a-C:H:Si

Diamond-like bonds
(sp³ hybridisation)

Graphite-like bonds
(sp² hybridisation)

Carbon atom
Silicon atom
Hydrogen atom

(b)

- Raman spectroscopy on C-films
- Characterisation of different biofuels and interaction with C-films
- Investigation of the influence of stabilisers and additives
- High-temperature tribology

Key words

- C-based thin films
- PVD process
- PE-CVD process
- Biodiesel (e.g. RME, SME)

- Bioethanol
- Wear tests & transfer film formation
- Self-healing and smart effects

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Results:

- Stabilisers in biodiesel have an impact on the tribological behaviour
- Different biodiesel grades (different biomass raw materials, manufacturing technology, additives etc.) have an impact on degradation due to wear
- Interaction of doped a-C:H:X-films with water and other polar components of the biofuel has an impact on the friction coefficient

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