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Nanoparticle formation in modern Diesel vehicle exhaust:

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Talk given at 13 ETH conference on Combustion Generated Nanoparticles, Zürich, 22-24 June 2009

Nanoparticle formation in modern Diesel vehicle exhaust: New insights from innovative exhaust measurements of key precursor gases

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For more information see

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Modern Diesel vehicles equipped with after treatment systems (DOC + DPF)



- Semi-volatile particles (D=10 nm) are present in large concentrations

Diesel exhaust : with after treatment (DOC + DPF)



- Semi-volatile particles (D=10 nm) are present in large concentrations
- Must be formed downstream of DPF
- Requires presence of nucleating gases (N) and condensing gases (C)

Diesel exhaust : with after treatment (DOC + DPF)



Diesel exhaust : with after treatment (DOC + DPF)



Nucleation particles (NUP)

- Mechanism of formation and chemical nature only poorly understood
- NUP precursor gases not known

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- di-acids are conceivable candidates (have low saturation vapor pressures due to efficient hydrogenbonding)

Experiments at MAN engine test lab (Nuernberg)

- NUP precursor gas: measurements (acids)
- Measurement method: IMR-ITMS (developed by MPIK Heidelberg)
- **On-line :** heated exhaust
- **Off-line :** sampling on stainless steel surface, followed by thermodesorption
- Heavy duty Euro 4 Diesel vehicle engine:
 - MAN 323 kW , 6 cylinder turbo charged common rail
 - displacement: 10.6 l, torque: 2220 Nm
- Parameters varied during measurements : FSC , ATS , EL

On-line measurements

Sulfuric acid

Example of an on-line measurement of gas-phase H2SO4 in heated Diesel exhaust



H2SO4 formation increases with:

- Fuel sulfur content FSC
- Engine load EL
- Aftertreatment system ATS

"Fuel sulfur conversion fraction F"

- Diesel engine without ATS : F < 1%
- Diesel engine with ATS : F < 20-30 %

Comparison: Air craft exhaust plumes

Sulfur conversion efficiency

"Fuel sulfur conversion fraction F"

- Diesel without ATS : about 1%
- Diesel with ATS : about 20-30 %
- Jet air craft : about 2-4 %

Diesel vehicle exhaust:

Di-carboxylic acids

Di-carboxylic acids

- Various DCA have been observed
- DCA are correlated with H2SO4

Off-line measurements

• Sampling

of exhaust components on heated stainless steel surface

• Thermodesorption

stepwise increase of temperature (to 420 C)

IMR-ITMS measurement

of desorbed gases

Example of sampler measurement



Example of an off-line measurement of gas-phase H2SO4 and SO3



Thermodesorption of H2SO4

- H2SO4 condensate is more stable than H2SO4/H2O condensate
- H2SO4 condensate does not seem to be ammonium sulfate ! (measured desorbed NH3 is much less than H2SO4)

Di-carboxylic acids

Relative abundances of thermodesorbed acids (for T= 120 C)

Ion Identification

- High precission mass measurements
- Fragmentation studies of mass selected ions:
 - for different collision energies
 - for different collision gas atoms (He, Ar)

Fragmentation studies

Example: Adipic acid C6H10O4

Adipic acid

MS-MS mass spectrum: parent ion C6H9O4- ; colission gas He ; CE = 30 eV



Aerosol formation and growth

Conclusions

- H2SO4 increases with EL
- H2SI4 increases with FSC
- H2SO4 increases whith ATS
- Strong H2SO4 store and release effects

Summary and Conclusions

- H2SO4 increases with EL
- H2SI4 increases with FSC
- H2SO4 increases whith ATS
- Strong H2SO4 store and release effects
- Organic acids correlated with H2SO4
- NUP conc. increases with H2SO4
- NUP diameter increases with H2SO4
- NUP volume conc. încreases with H2SO4
- NUP occasionally correlated with acids other than H2SO4
- For more information see paper in preparation (contact: frank.arnold@mpi-hd.mpg.de

ThankYou for your interest