



# Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines

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SAE High Efficiency Internal Combustion Engine Symposium

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**Goal:** better  
fuels and better  
vehicles  
sooner



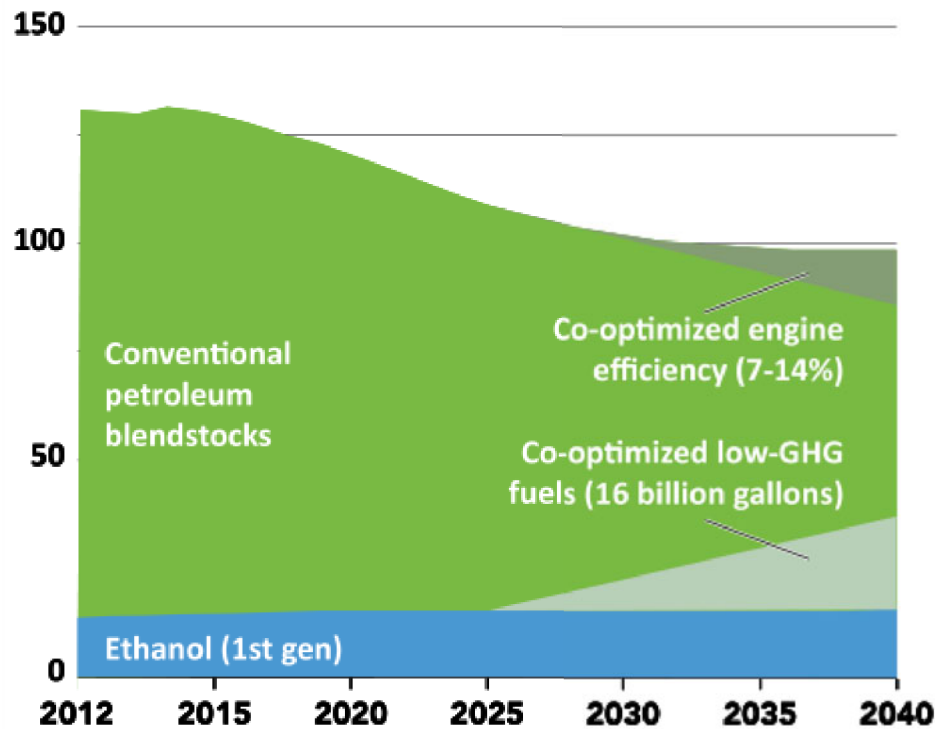
## Fuel and Engine Co-Optimization

- What fuel properties maximize engine performance?
- How do engine parameters affect efficiency?
- What fuel and engine combinations are sustainable, affordable, and scalable?

**30% per vehicle  
petroleum  
reduction via  
efficiency and  
displacement**



**Light duty fuel consumption (billion gallons/year)**





# Governing Co-Optima hypotheses:

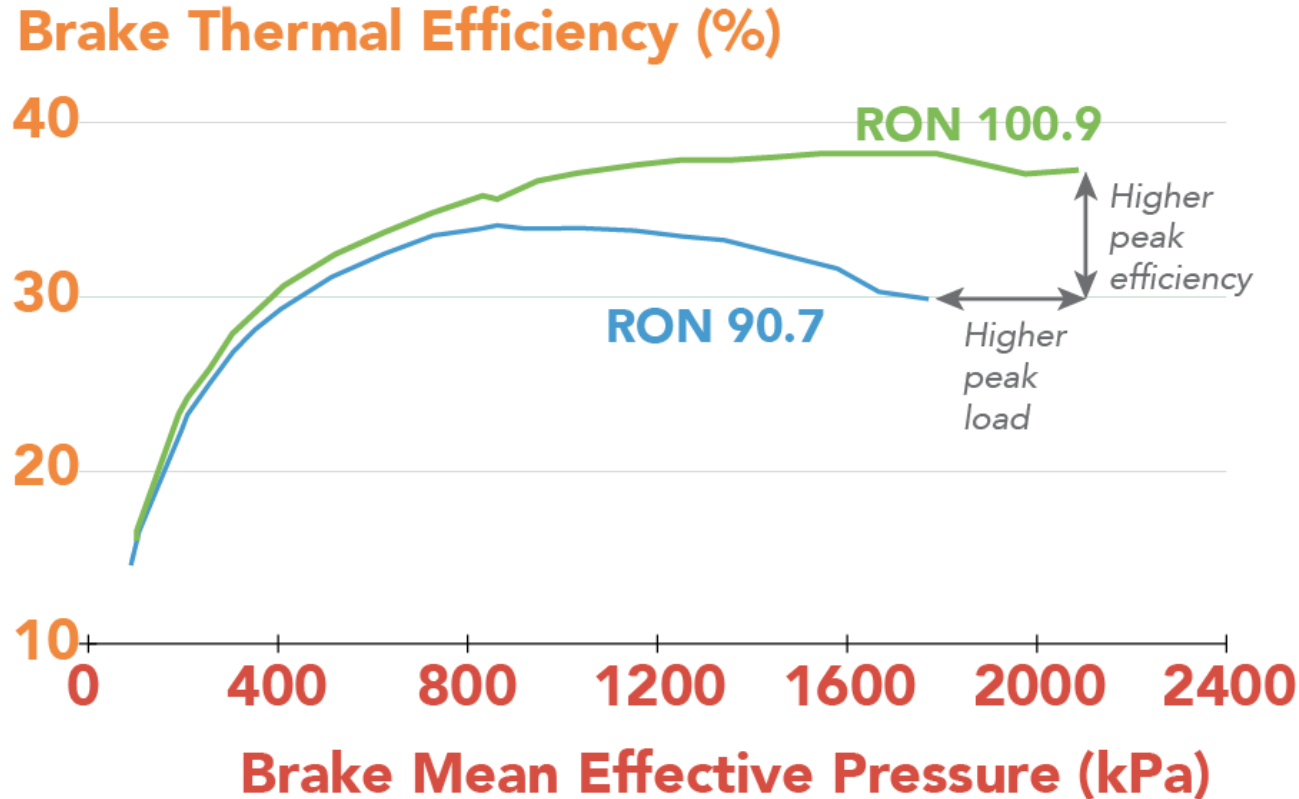
There are engine architectures and strategies that provide higher thermodynamic efficiencies than available from modern internal combustion engines; new fuels are required to maximize efficiency and operability across a wide speed/load range

If we identify target values for the critical fuel properties that maximize efficiency and emissions performance for a given engine architecture, then fuels that have properties with those values (regardless of chemical composition) will provide comparable performance



# Current fuels **constrain** engine design

5



Engine: Ford Ecoboost 1.6L 4-cylinder, turbocharged, direct-injection, 10.1 CR source: C.S. Sluder, ORNL

**RON** viscosity **MON**  
 bulk modulus of compressibility Wobbe index cloud point  
 sensitivity heat of vaporization heating value  
 soot precursor formation **PMI** flammability limits  
 smoke point  
**cetane number** **T50**  
 heat of combustion flame stretch ignition limits  
**C/H ratio** strain sensitivity  
 density specific heat ratio  
 naphthene level **Markstein length**  
**T10** surface tension flash point  
 exergy destruction olefin level **T90**  
 energy density sulfur level  
 laminar burning velocity  
 diffusivity drivability index **flame speed**  
**aromatics level** oxygenate level

Fuel is more  
than just  
octane





Leveraging expertise  
and facilities from 10  
national labs



**Integrated  
multi-lab teams  
with significant  
external  
stakeholder  
engagement**



13

Light and heavy  
duty vehicle  
manufacturers



10

Oil companies/  
refiners



8

Biofuel  
companies



4

Regulatory  
agencies



2

End consumer  
organizations

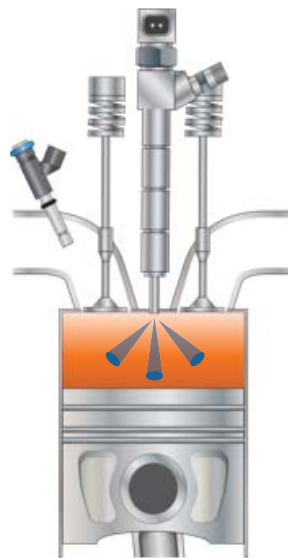
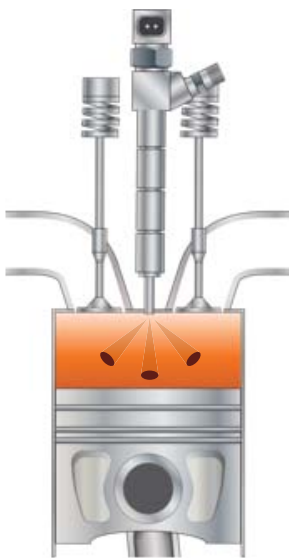
# Parallel efforts are underway

Thrust I: Spark Ignition  
(SI)

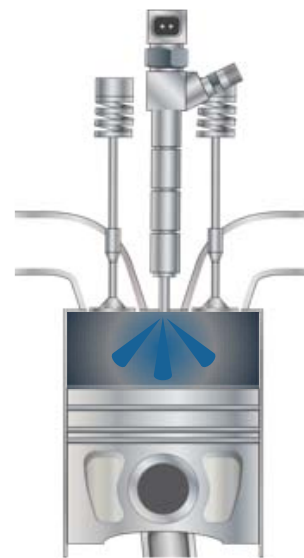


Low reactivity fuel

Thrust II: Advanced Compression Ignition (ACI)  
kinetically-controlled and compression-ignition combustion



Range of fuel properties TBD



High reactivity fuel

Applicable to

**light, medium, and heavy-duty** engines  
**hybridized and non-hybridized** powertrains



**Identify and  
mitigate  
barriers to  
wide-scale  
deployment**



# National goal:

## 80%

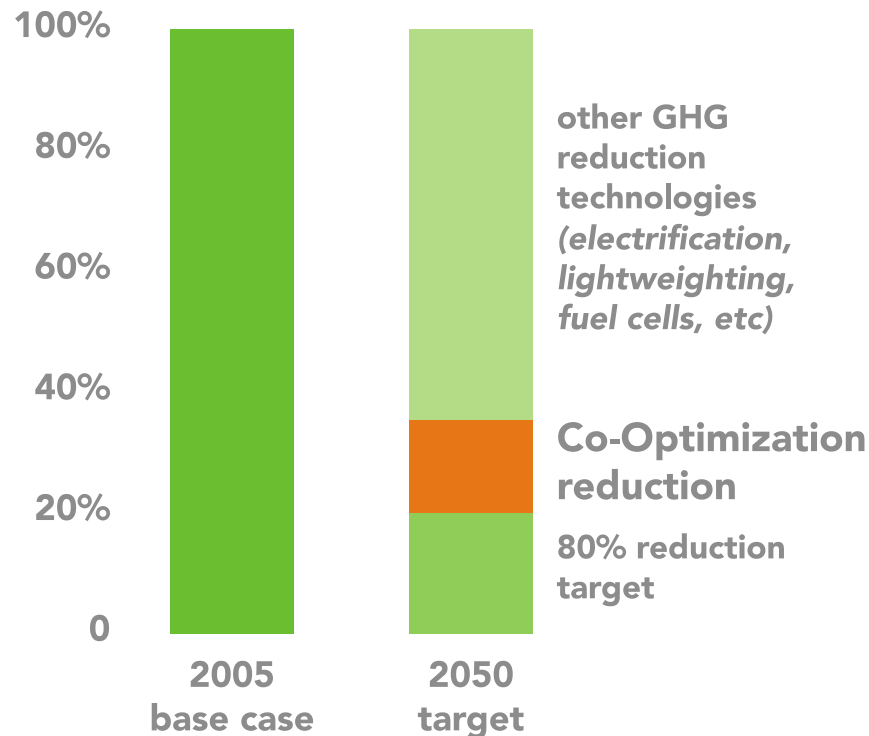
reduction in transportation GHG by

## 2050

### Co-Optimization:

## 9-14%

GHG reduction  
(beyond “business as usual”)





# Six integrated teams



Low Greenhouse  
Gas Fuels



Advanced Engine  
Development



Fuel Properties



Modeling and  
Simulation Toolkit



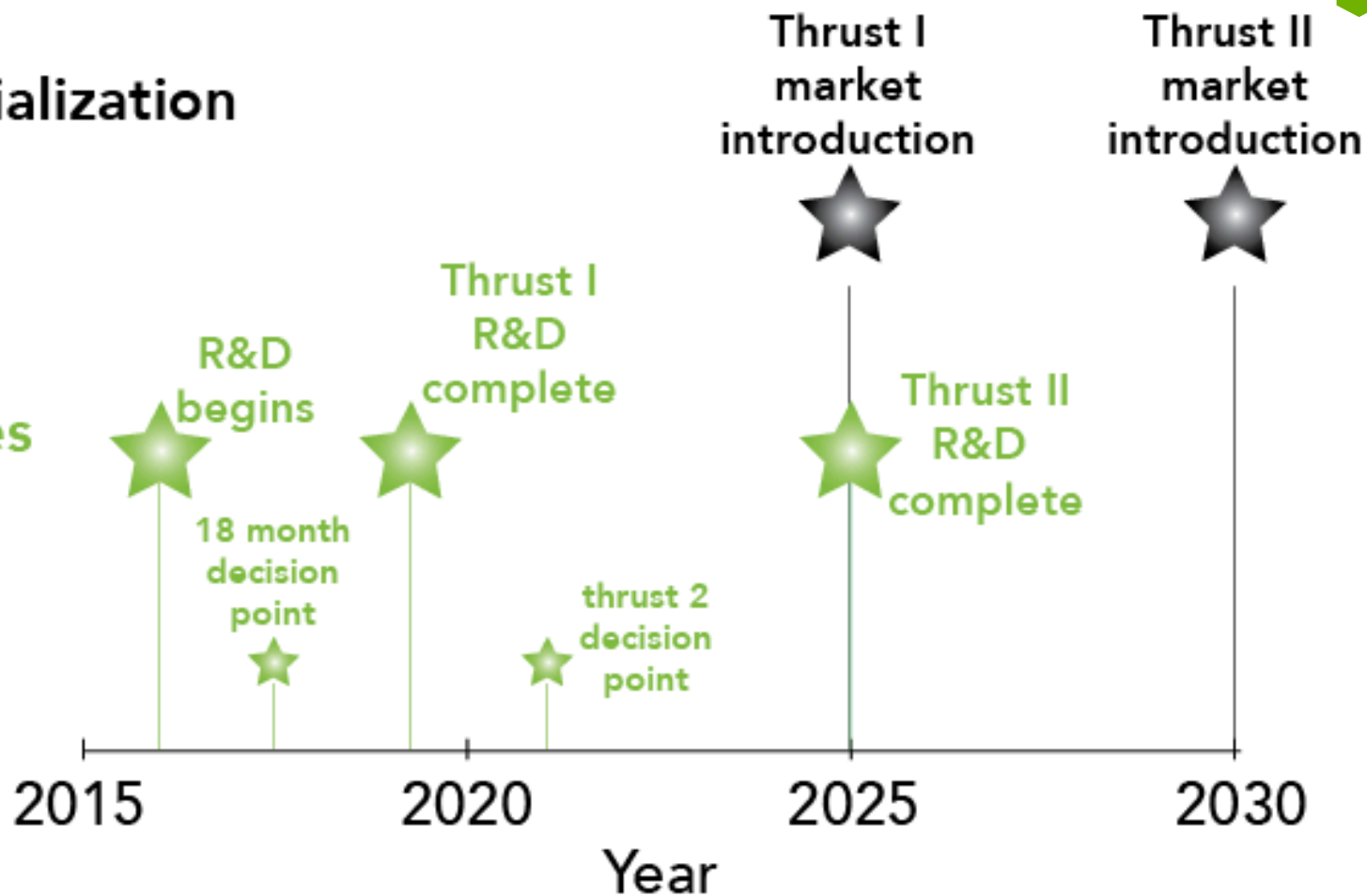
Analysis of Sustainability,  
Scale, Economics, Risk,  
and Trade



Market  
Transformation

## commercialization targets

## R&D milestones



# FY16 Activities



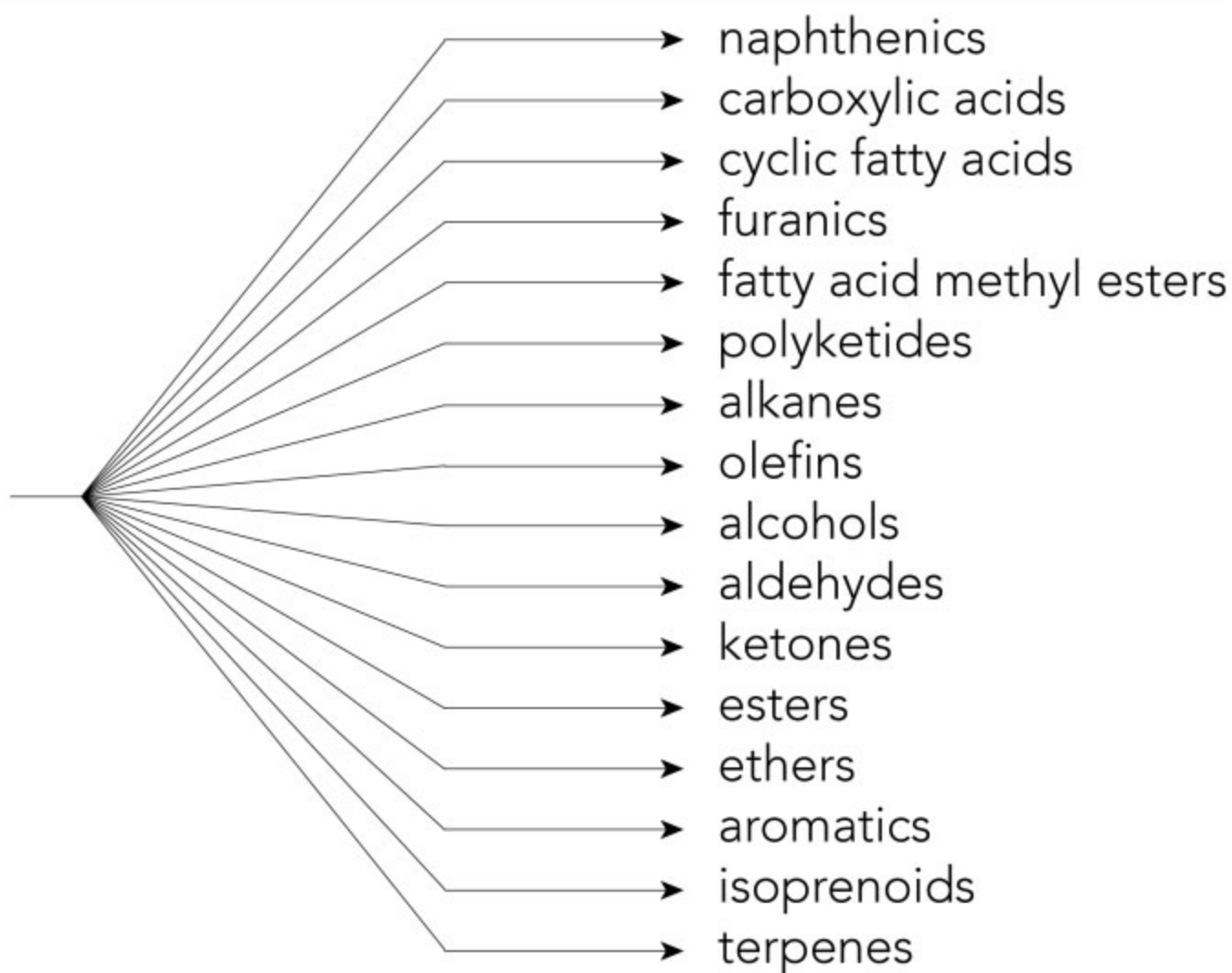


**What fuels can we make?**

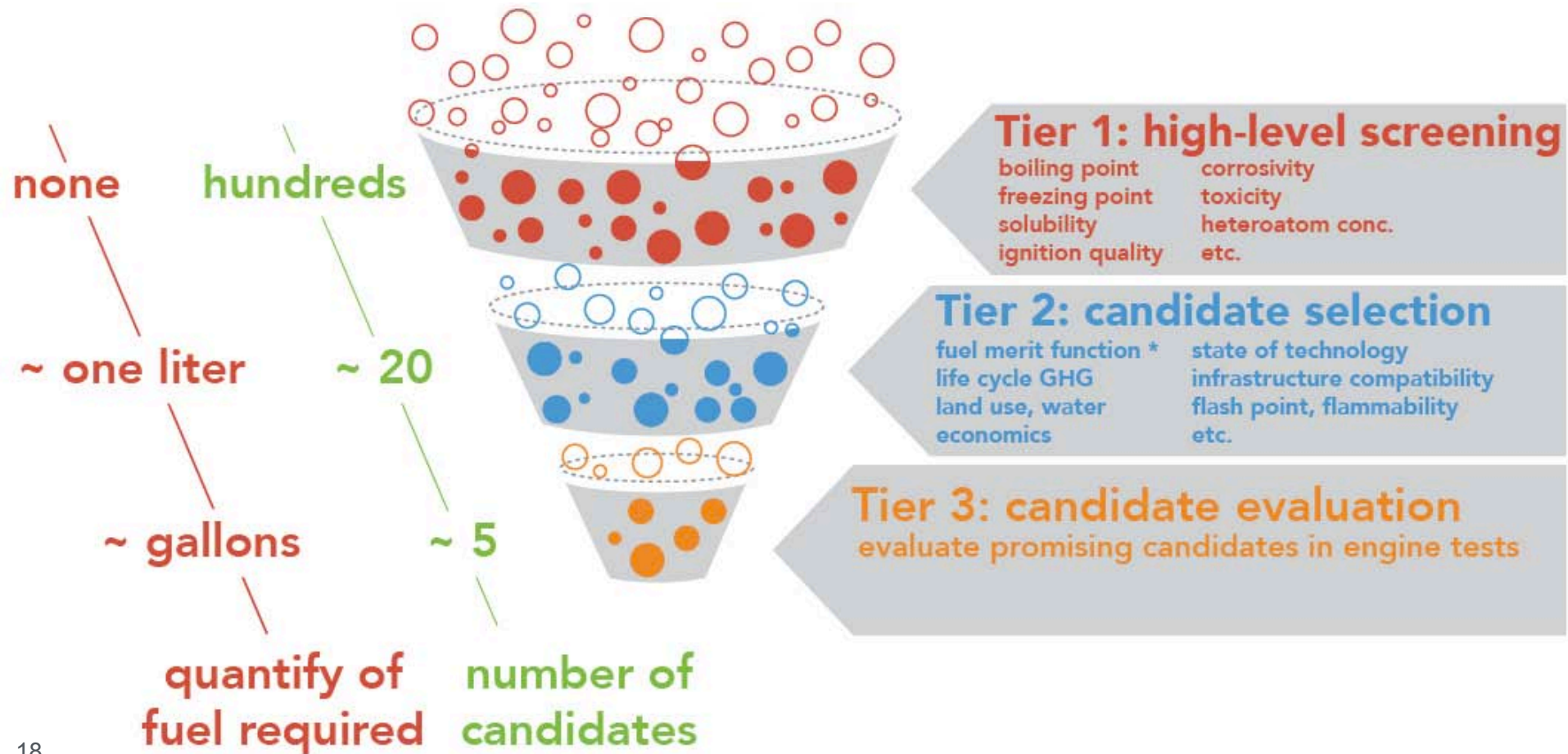
biomass



oil crops  
algae  
oleaginous  
yeast



# Fuel selection criteria (“decision tree”)



# Thrust I decision tree results



## Hydrocarbons

Normal paraffins  
Iso-paraffins  
Cycloparaffins  
Aromatics  
Multi-ring aromatics  
Olefins

## Carbonyls

Ketones  
Aldehydes

## Esters

Simple/volatile fatty acid esters  
Fatty esters

## Carboxylic Acids

## Alcohols

## Ethers

Cyclic/furanics  
Linear

YES

Normal paraffins  
Iso-paraffins  
Cycloparaffins  
Olefins  
Alcohols

YES FOR  
SOME

Aromatics  
Ketones  
Simple/volatile fatty acid esters  
Cyclic ethers/furanics  
Linear ethers

NO

Multi-ring aromatics  
Aldehydes  
Fatty esters  
Carboxylic acids



# Database of critical fuel properties of bio-derived and petroleum blendstocks

366 molecules, 12 mixtures (at present)

## 25 database fields for fuel properties

## Will add capability for fully blended fuels

Data from experiment and literature or  
calculated/estimated (where needed)

## Shared resource for team and public

Found Pure Compound

Correct or Update this record

IUPAC name<sup>required</sup>

1,4-Pentanediol

Molecular Weight

104.15

Molecular Formula


C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

CAS#

626-95-9

Functional Group

Drop an image of the Structure here

The image shows the chemical structure of 1,4-pentanediol. It is a five-carbon chain with hydroxyl groups (-OH) attached to the first and fourth carbons. The structure is drawn in a skeletal format with 'OH' labels for the functional groups.





# Identification of Thrust I candidates

## Tier I criteria

Melting point/cloud point below  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$

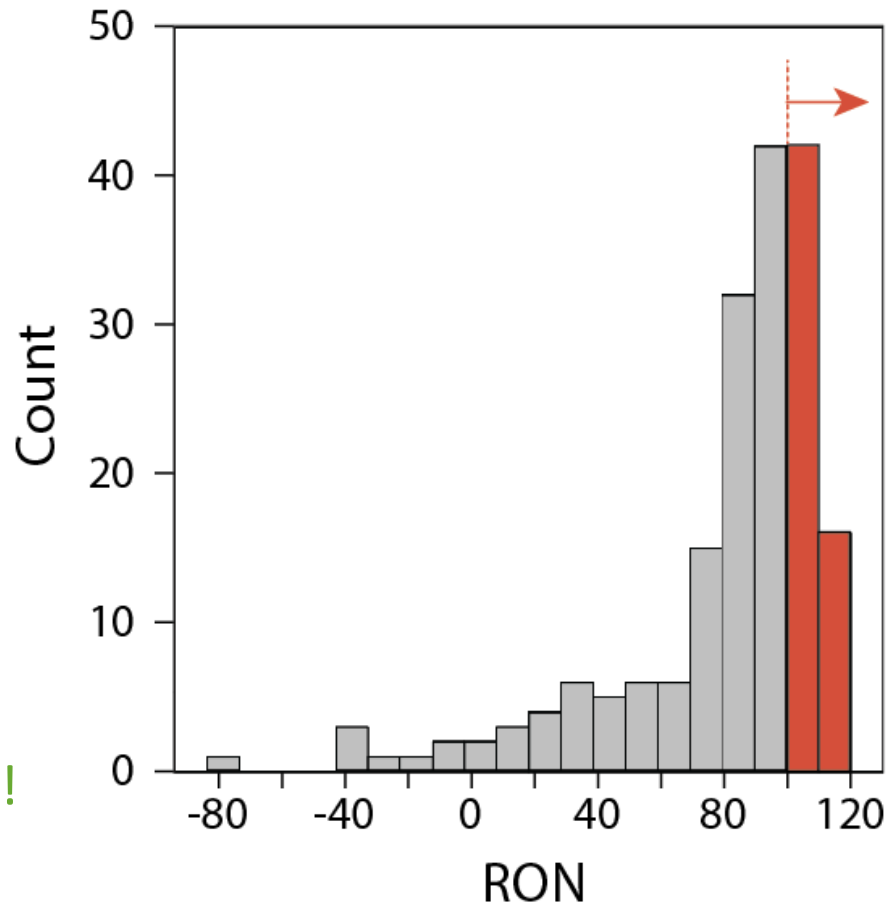
Boiling point between  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $165^{\circ}\text{C}$

Measured or estimated RON  $\geq 98$

Meet toxicity, corrosion, solubility,  
and biodegradation requirements

34 promising bio-blendstocks from  
many functional group classes

Not final – this is an iterative process!



# Cost and environmental impact analyses



High-level LCA, TEA,\*

feedstock availability analyses

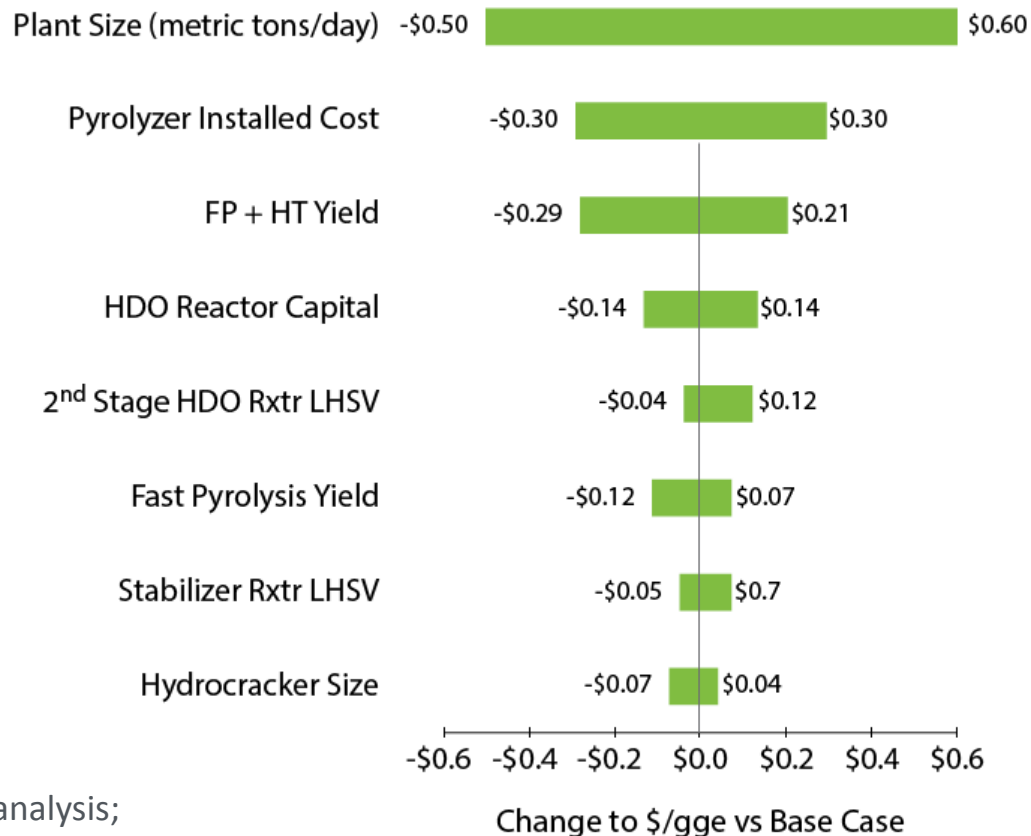
Identify cost/environmental/scale attributes

Fifteen key metrics identified

GHG, water, economics, TRL

Evaluation of 20 Thrust I

blendstocks underway



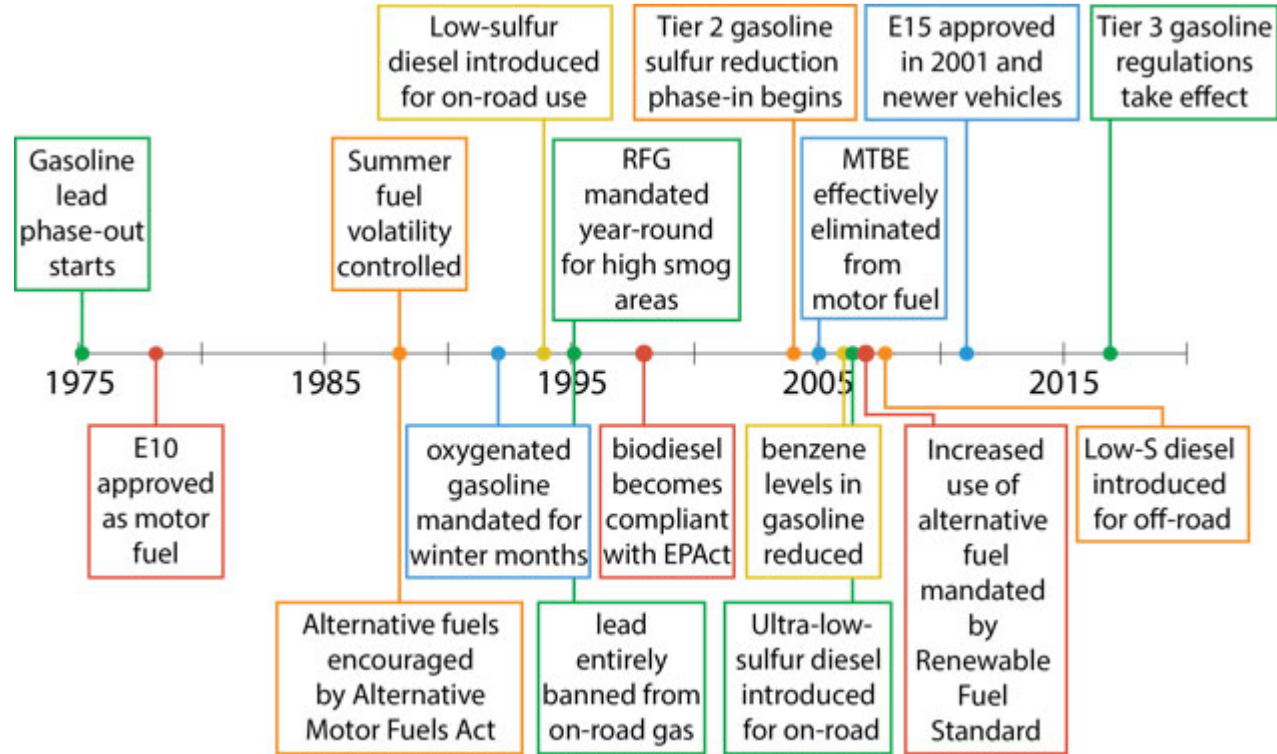
\* LCA = Life cycle analysis; TEA = techno-economic analysis;  
TRL = technology readiness level

# Identifying/mitigating market barriers

Identify and mitigate challenges of moving new fuels/ engines to markets

Historical analysis of new fuel and vehicle introduction

Engage stakeholders across value chain



Adapted from S. Przesmitzki



# Fuel-related tasks

Topic	Lead PI (Lab)
Fuel Component and Blendstock Studies	
Development of Fuel Screening Criteria	McCormick (NREL), Gaspar (PNNL) Szybist (ORNL), Miles (SNL)
High-level TEA, LCA, feedstock implication analyses for 20 candidate blendstocks	Biddy (NREL), Jones (PNNL) Dunn (ANL)
Development of Fuel Property Database	McCormick/Fioroni (NREL)
Heat of Vaporization Measurement	Fioroni (NREL)
Fuel Property Blending Model and Structure-Property Correlations	McCormick (NREL), Mueller (SNL) Bays (PNNL)
Measurement of Autoignition Properties with Small Volumes (experiment and modeling)	Fioroni/McCormick (NREL) McNenly (LLNL) Goldsborough (ANL)
Chemical Kinetic Mechanism Development	Pitz (LLNL)
Chemical Kinetic Measurements	Goldsborough (ANL) - RCM Zigler (NREL) - IQT

# Fuel-related tasks (continued)



Topic	Lead PI (Lab)
<b>Fuel Component and Blendstock Studies</b>	
Development of Fuel Blending Model for Calculating Simulation Inputs	Grout (NREL)
Input Parameters for Numerical Simulation	Grout (NREL)
Extreme Mechanism Reduction for SIDI based on Uncertainty Quantification	Lacaze (SNL)
Fuel Surrogate Optimizer	Whitesides (LLNL)
Enhanced Models for Modeling Kinetic Laboratory Experiments	McNenly (LLNL)
Develop downselect metrics, definitions, guidance related to sustainability, economics, scale, and feedstocks	Dunn (ANL)
Combined feedstock supply system analysis and risk and trade/opportunity analysis	Searcy (INL)
Guidance document on fuel infrastructure barriers	Moriarty (NREL)
Guidance document on feedstock market evolution	Shirk (INL)

# Heat of vaporization (HOV): complex mixtures

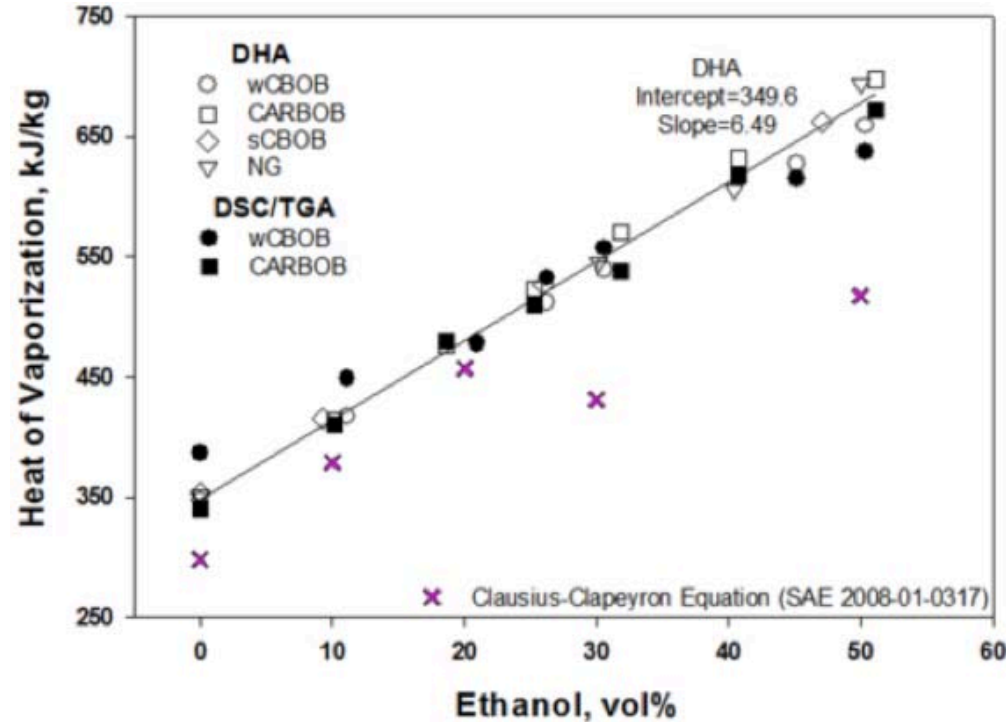


Pure compound approach not applicable to gasoline

True HOV underestimated

Approach: directly measure HOV by DSC/TGA\* and calculate via detailed hydrocarbon analysis

Very similar HOV for wide range of gasolines and ethanol blends



\* DSC = differential scanning calorimetry;

TGA = thermogravimetric analysis

Fioroni et al., NREL

# Kinetics and SI autoignition behavior

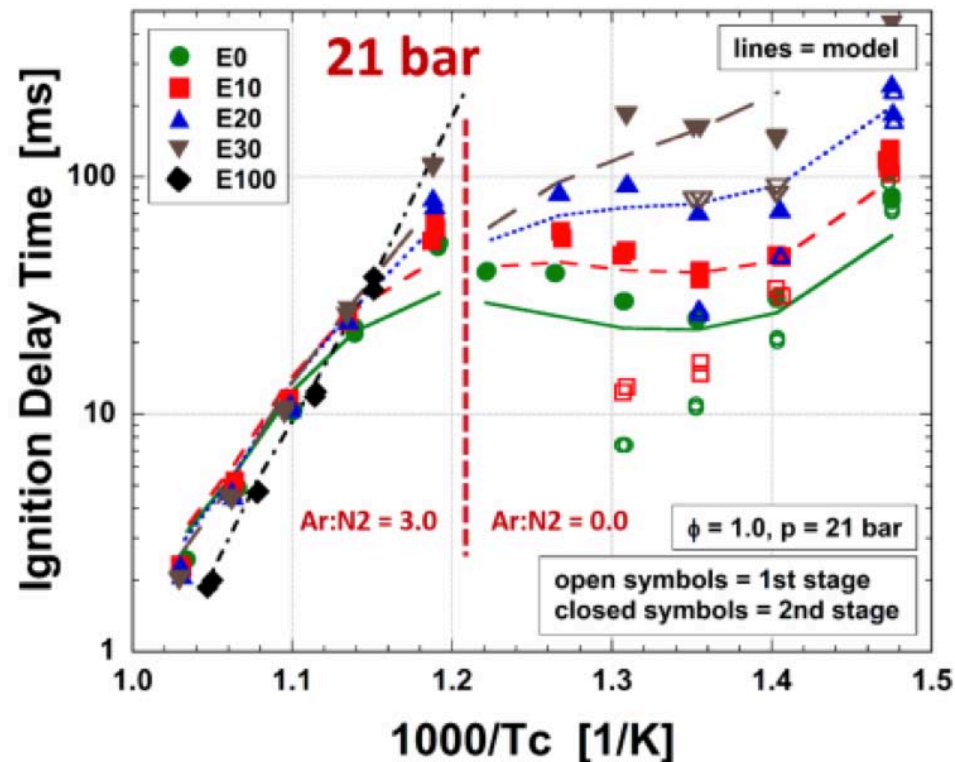


Rapid compression machine study  
of CRC FACE-F / ethanol blends  
(E0–E30, E100)

Data to validate LLNL gasoline  
surrogate kinetic mechanism

Bench-scale autoignition studies  
combined with engine experiments

Data from customized IQT to validate  
LLNL kinetic mechanisms Zigler (NREL)



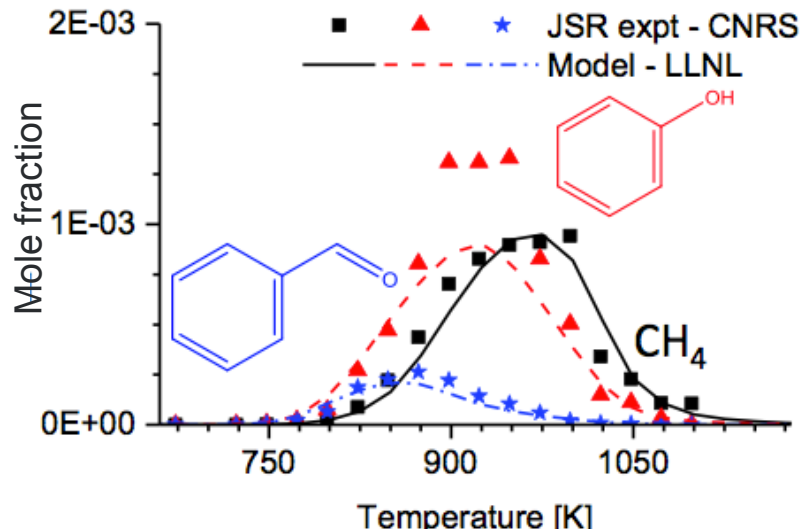
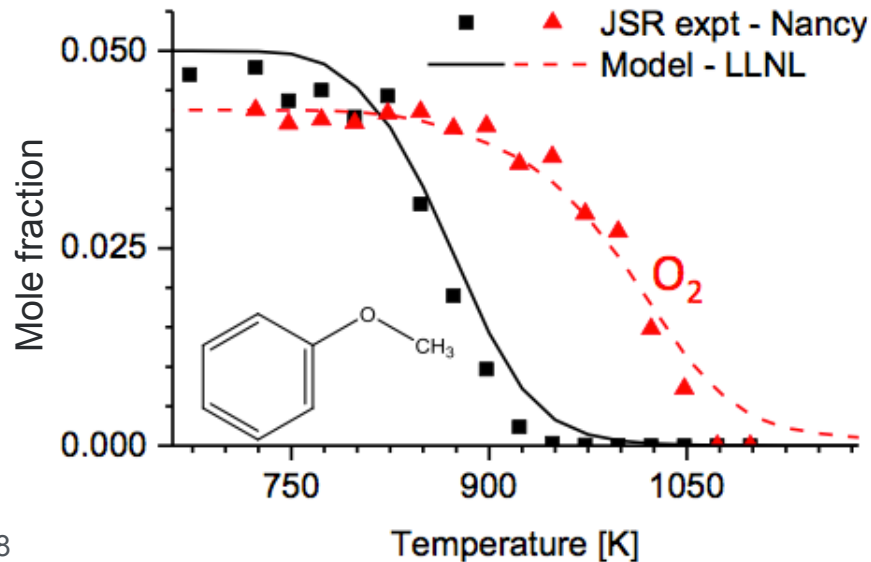


# Kinetic mechanism development

Develop archival mechanisms for representative bio-blendstocks and surrogates

Validate against high-fidelity experimental data

Anisole - surrogate for methylated phenolics from biomass (Pitz et al., LLNL)





# Thrust I tasks



Topic	Lead PI (Lab)
Thrust I	
Merit Function Definition	Miles (SNL) et al.
Efficiency Benefits of High Octane Fuels	Sluder (ORNL)
Effects of RON, HoV, and Octane Sensitivity	Ratcliff (NREL)
	Kolodziej/Ickes (ANL)
Dilution Limits on SI Combustion	Szybist (ORNL)
	Kolodziej/Wallner (ANL)
Fuel Effects on LSPI	Splitter (ORNL)
Advanced LD SI Engine Fuels Research	Sjöberg (SNL)
CFD of Thrust I Experiments	Som (ANL)

# Engine performance merit function



Provides systematic ranking of blendstock candidates on engine efficiency when multiple fuel properties are varying simultaneously

Allows fuel economy gains to be estimated based on fuel properties

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Merit} = & \frac{(RON_{mix} - 92)}{1.6} - K \frac{(S_{mix} - 10)}{1.6} + \frac{0.01[ON / kJ / kg](HoV_{mix} - 415[kJ / kg])}{1.6} \\ & + \frac{(HoV_{mix} - 415[kJ / kg])}{130} + \frac{(S_{Lmix} - 46[cm / s])}{3} \\ & - LFV_{150} - H(PMI - 2.0)[0.67 + 0.5(PMI - 2.0)] \end{aligned}$$

RON = research octane number  
K = engine-dependent constant  
S = sensitivity (RON-MON)  
ON = effective octane number  
HoV = heat of vaporization  
 $S_L$  = flame speed  
LFV = liquid fuel volume at 150°C  
H = Heaviside function  
PMI = particle mass index

# Relationship between sensitivity and HOV



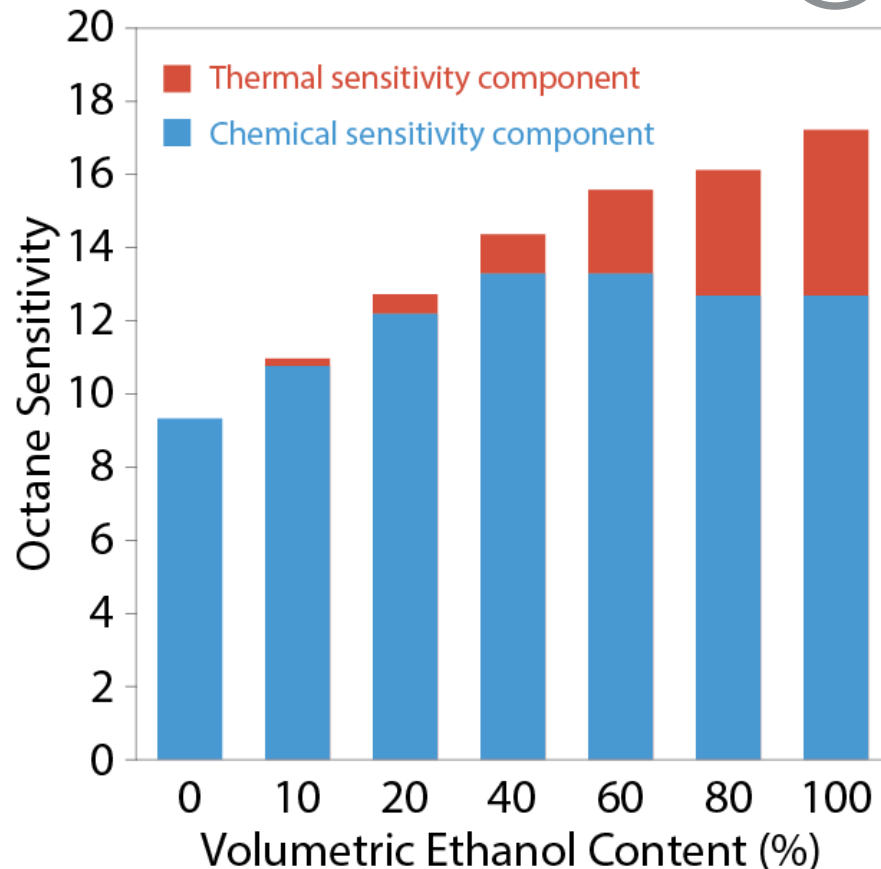
Inconsistencies in literature regarding  
HOV impact on knock

HOV effect only been observed when  
covariant with octane sensitivity

Main conclusion: HOV is a thermal  
contributor to sensitivity

Consistent with vaporization effects in  
RON and MON tests

HOV appears to improve performance  
at elevated intake air temperatures



# Fuel effects on EGR and lean dilution limits



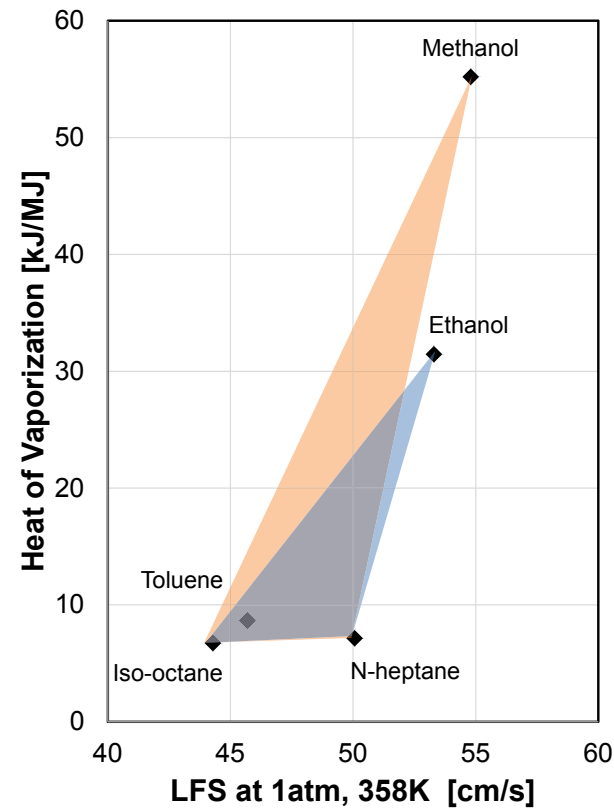
Quantify relative fuel impact on dilution tolerance and compare vs engine parameters

Fuel properties: flame speed, HOV

Engine: tumble, ignition energy, etc.

Hypothesis: laminar flame speed predicts dilution tolerance (lean and EGR) of an SI fuel

Preliminary results confirm positive correlation



# Fuel effects on EGR and lean dilution limits

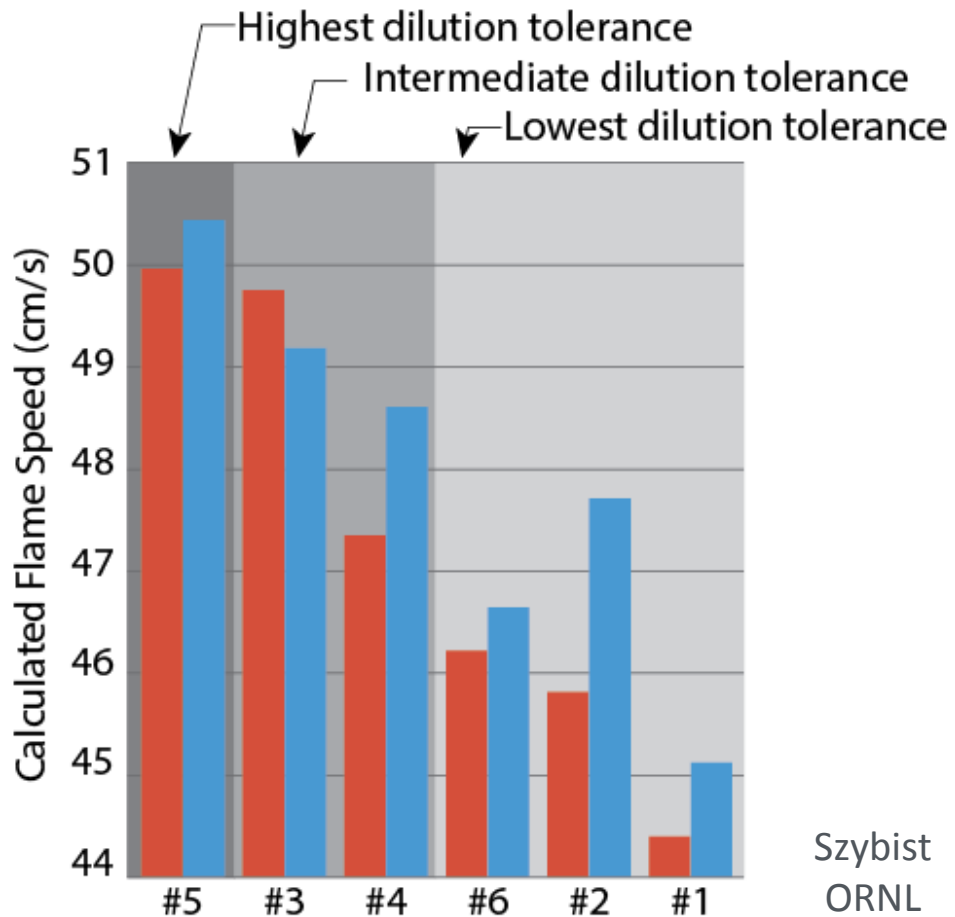


Single cylinder version of GM

Ecotec 2.0L, 9.2: CR

Dilution tolerance correlates to  
laminar flame speed

Flame speed at ignition provides  
good indication of spark-to-CA5,  
combustion stability



# Thrust II tasks



Topic	Lead PI (Lab)
Thrust II	
Evaluate Thrust I Fuel Compatibility with ACI Strategies	Dec (SNL) - LTGC
	Ciatti (ANL) - GCI
	Curran (ORNL) - GCI
Accelerate ACI Combustion System Development	Curran (ORNL) - RCCI
	Musculus (SNL) - RCCI
	Mueller (SNL) - LLFC
High-throughput spray chamber	Pickett (SNL)
X-ray imaging of GDI sprays with alcohol blends	Powell (ANL)
PMI refinement - extension to bio-blendstocks	Ratcliff (NREL)
PM formation fundamentals	Storey (ORNL)
Fuel effects on gaseous emission control	Toops/Pihl (ORNL)

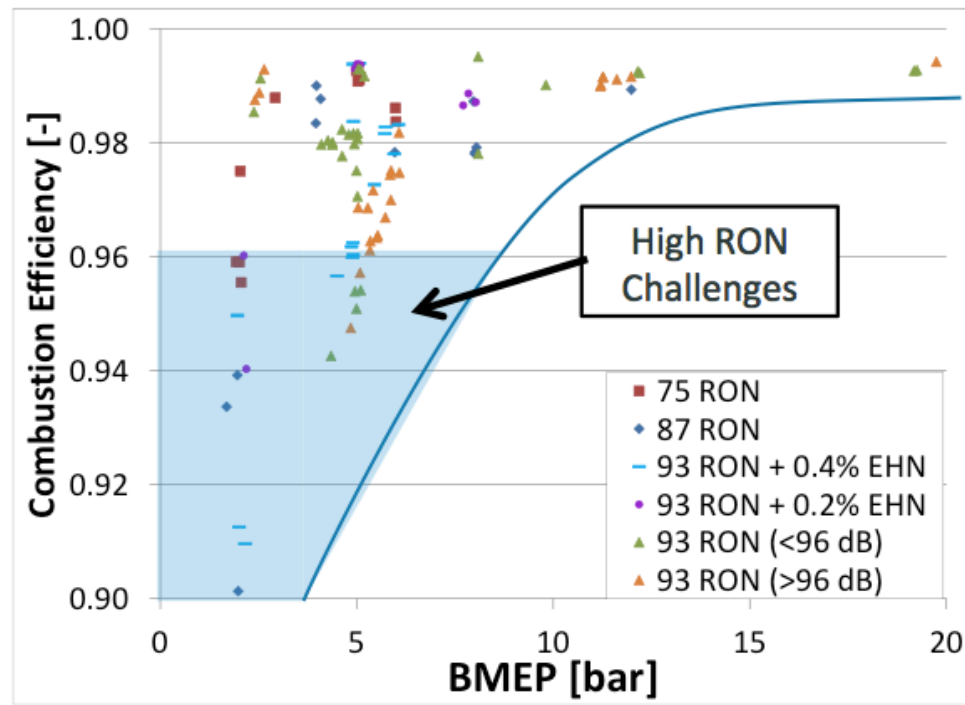
# Thrust I Fuel Behavior in GCI



Evaluate Thrust I fuel performance  
in GCI engine,

Particular focus: challenging low load  
operation

Identify relationships of fuel HoV,  
sensitivity with GCI combustion,  
emissions, and performance





# Multi-cylinder RCCI experiments

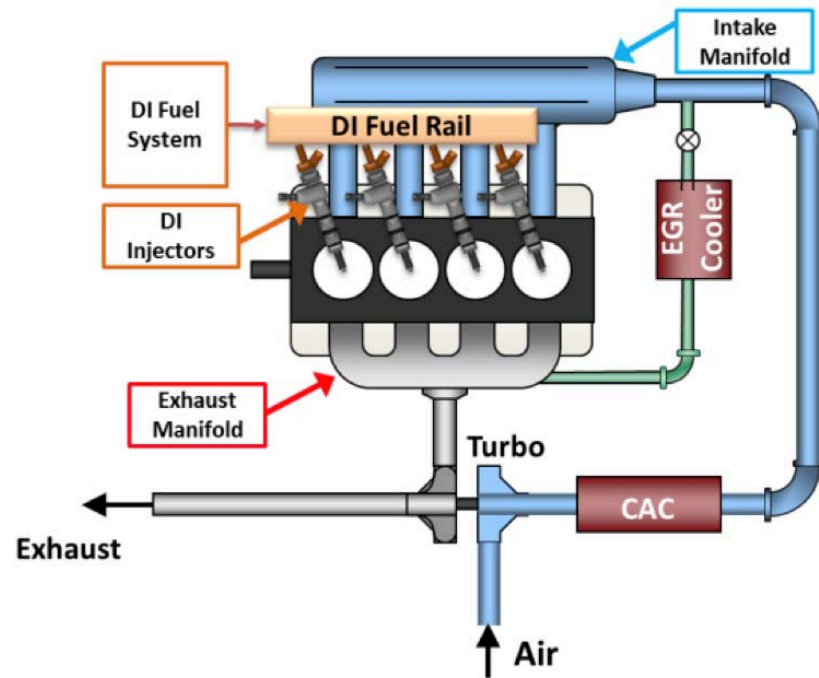
1.9L GM diesel engine platform with  
production viable hardware

Modified for both single- and dual-fuel  
LTC operation

Identify performance trends in CI/LTC  
strategies spanning RCCI + GCI

Vary reactivity differential between  
premixed and DI fuels

Matched experiments to optical work  
at SNL



ORNL RCCI Multi-Cylinder 1.9L GM (Curran)



# Optical diagnostics of RCCI



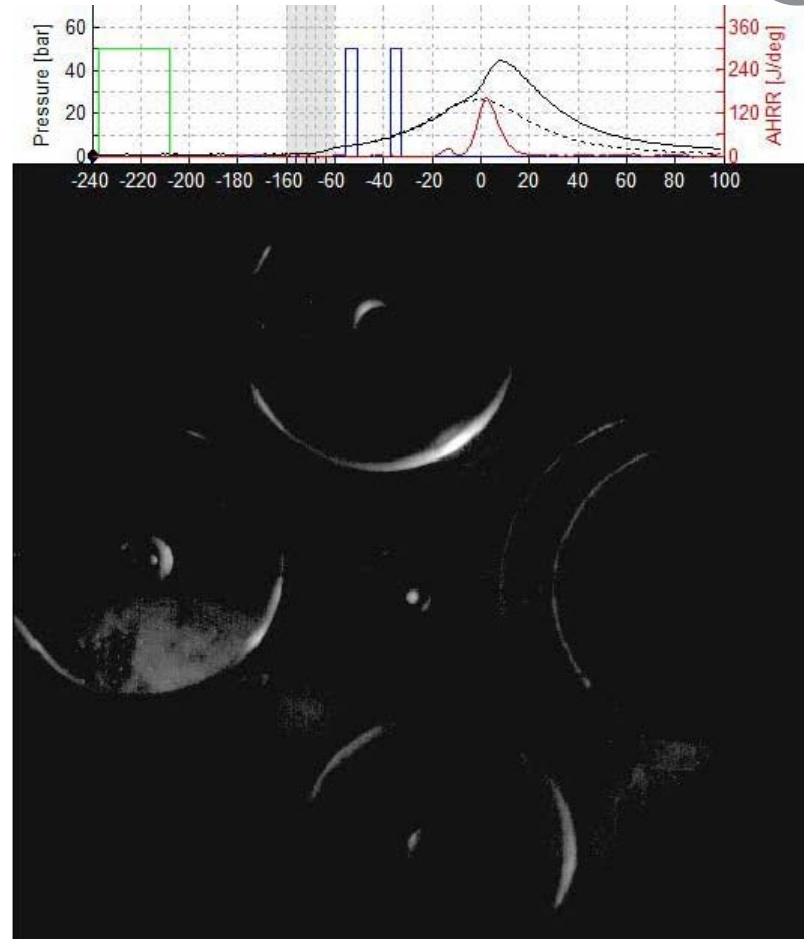
Measure in-cylinder mixing/ kinetics to  
optimize dual-fuel heat-release

Noise, efficiency, and load range

Understand mixing/ignition interaction  
for different reactivity combinations

Provides in-cylinder diagnostic for  
measuring reactivity stratification

Adds new insights for CFD as well

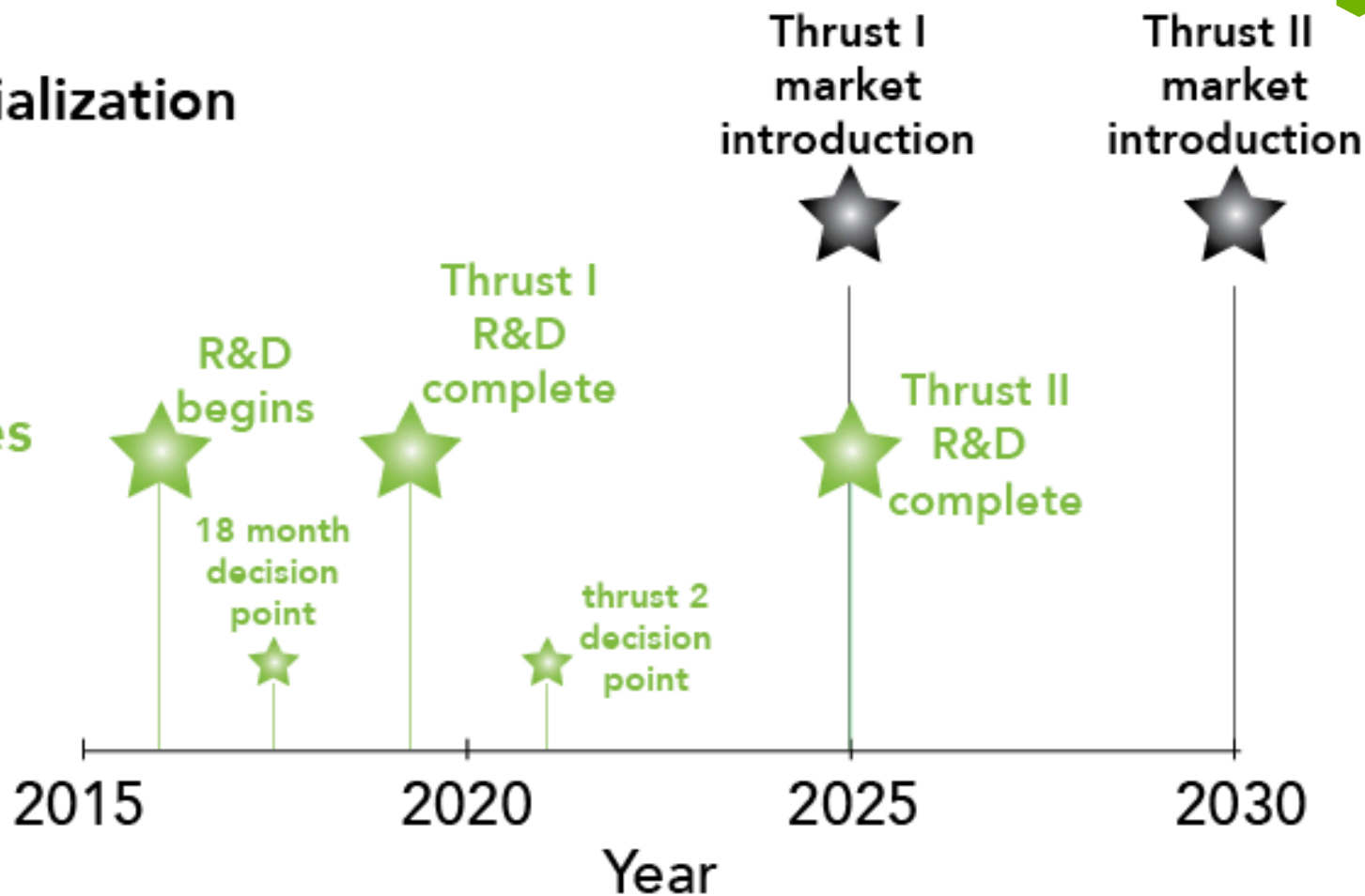


# 18 month decision point



## commercialization targets

## R&D milestones



# First major milestone: 18 month decision point

Marks completion fuel discovery efforts (i.e., candidate identification) for Thrust I (advanced spark ignition)

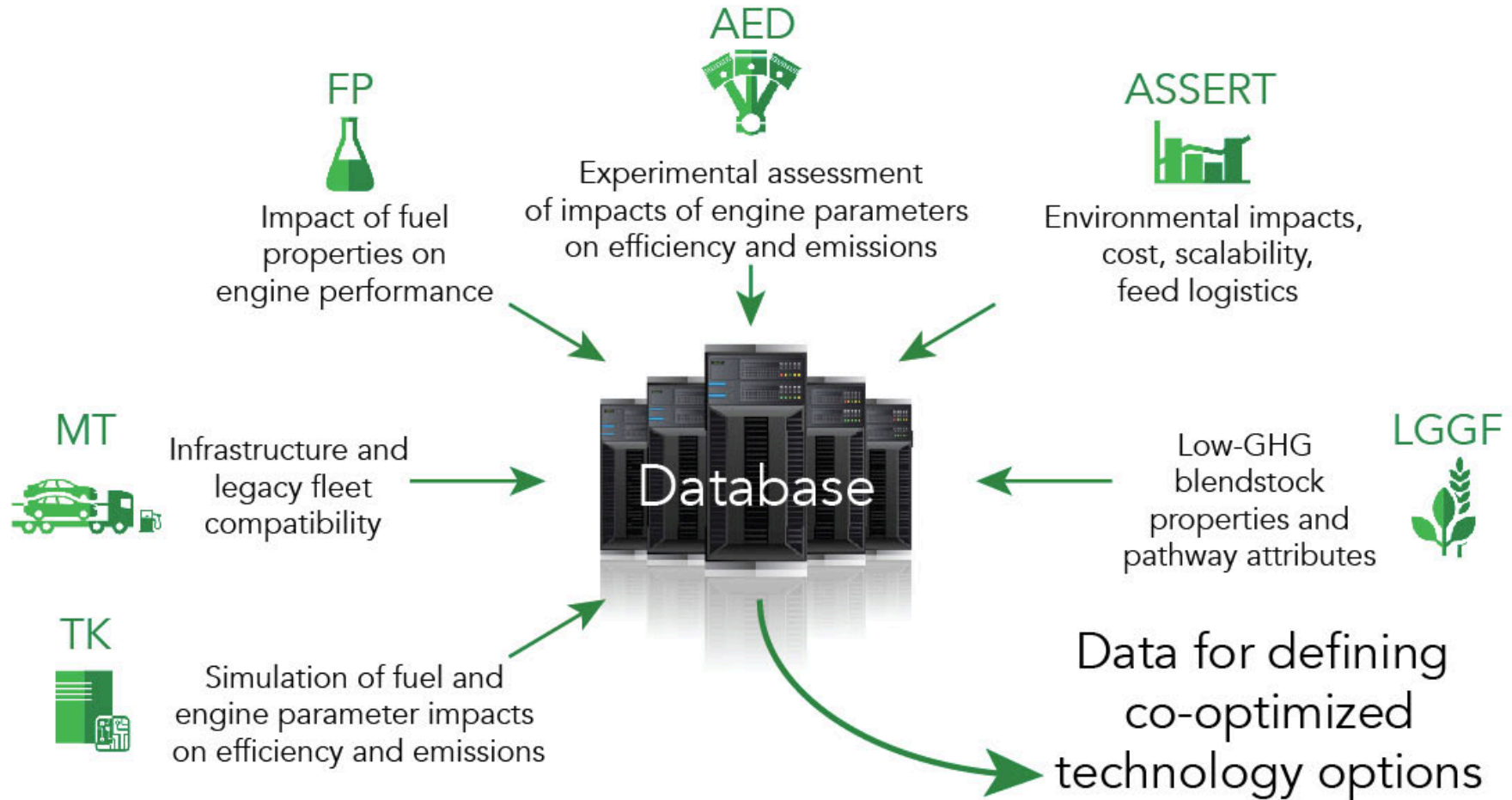
Will conduct rigorous assessment of fuel/engine options and identify promising\* low-GHG fuel/engine combinations

Will identify whether new low-GHG fuel candidates have been identified that require additional development work

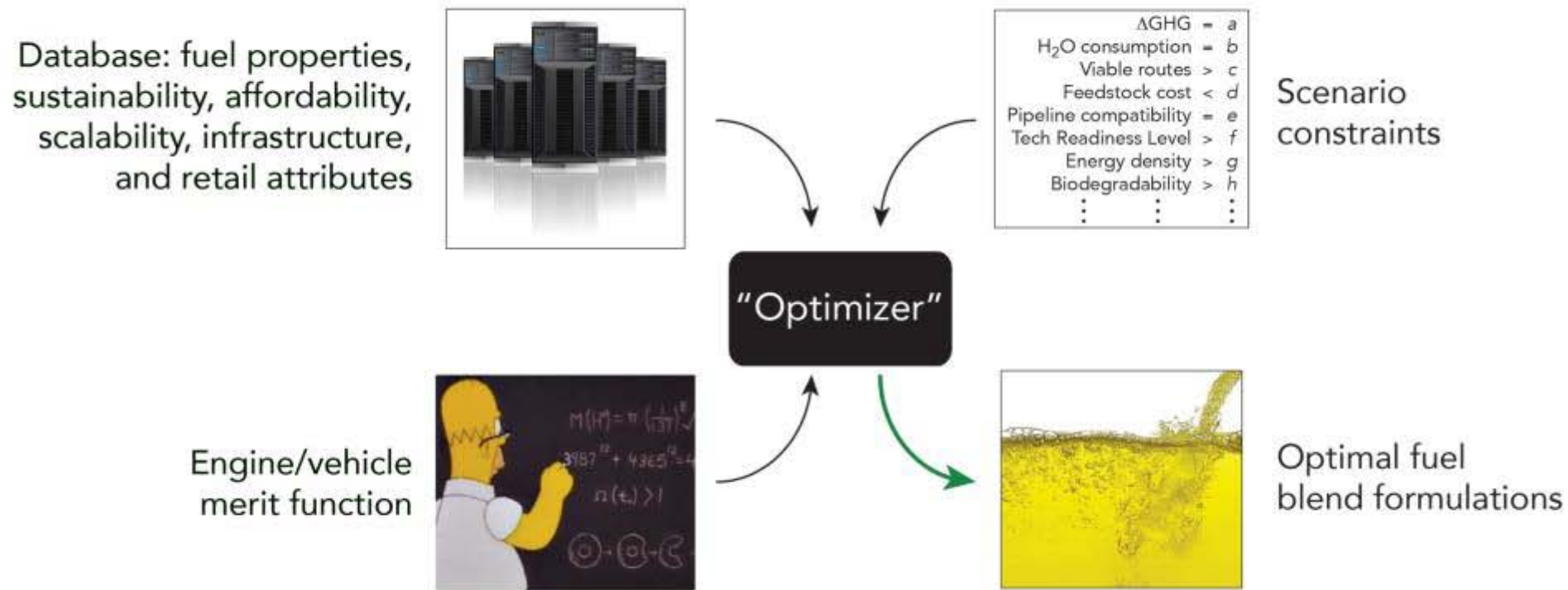
Outcome will dictate balance between Thrust I vs Thrust II work after 18 months

\* Sustainable, affordable, scalable

# The 18 months decision point



# Approach



Need to explicitly account for uncertainty

# Identifying options: a multi-objective optimization problem

Maximize:      Engine Efficiency ☒      Vehicle Fuel Economy ☐  
Minimize:      Number of blendstocks ☒      Other parameter ☐

	Base scenario			Alt scenario 1			Alt scenario 2		
Constraints:	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low
$\Delta$ GHG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H <sub>2</sub> O consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viable routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedstock cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipeline compatibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tech Readiness Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Solution set A			Solution set B			Solution set C		



# Status and next steps

Initiative started October 1 2016

FY16 budget: \$27M; FY17 budget request: \$30M

External advisory board formed

Active stakeholder engagement efforts underway (sign up!)



# Acknowledgements

## DOE Sponsors:

Alicia Lindauer (BETO)

Kevin Stork and Gurpreet Singh (VTO)

## Co-Optima Technical Team Leads:

Dan Gaspar (PNNL), Paul Miles (SNL), Jim Szybist (ORNL),  
Jennifer Dunn (ANL), Matt McNenly (LLNL), Doug Longman (ANL)

## Other Co-Optima Leadership Team Members:

John Holladay (PNNL), Art Pontau (SNL), Robert Wagner (ORNL)





**Thank You**