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## The oxidation of 2-butene: A high pressure ignition delay, kinetic modeling study and reactivity comparison with isobutene and 1-butene

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#### Abstract

Butenes are intermediates ubiquitously formed by decomposition and oxidation of larger hydrocarbons (e.g. alkanes) or alcohols present in conventional or reformulated fuels. In this study, a series of novel ignition delay time (IDT) experiments of trans-2-butene were performed in a high-pressure shock tube (HPST) and in a rapid compression machine (RCM) under conditions of relevance to practical combustors. This is the first IDT data of trans-2-butene taken at engine relevant conditions, and the combination of HPST and RCM results greatly expands the range of data available for the oxidation of trans-2-butene to higher pressures (10–50 atm), lower temperatures (670–1350 K) and a wide range of equivalence ratios (0.5–2.0). A comprehensive chemical kinetic mechanism has simultaneously been developed to describe the combustion of trans-2-butene. It has been validated using the IDT data measured here in addition to a large variety of literature data: jet-stirred reactor (JSR) speciation data, premixed flame speciation data, flow reactor speciation data and laminar flame speed data. Moreover, the reactivity of trans-2-butene is compared to that of the other two isomers, 1-butene and isobutene, and these comparisons are discussed. Important reactions are highlighted via flux and sensitivity analyses and help explain the differences in reactivity among the butene isomers.

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Keywords: Trans-2-butene; Shock tube; Rapid compression machine; Chemical kinetics; Ignition delay time

#### 1. Introduction

Alkenes are important intermediates formed by the combustion of larger hydrocarbons, e.g., alka-

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nes and alcohols. Moreover, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) produced during oil refining contains significant amount of olefins, particularly propene and butenes [1], with gasoline fuel containing butenes, pentenes and hexenes in various amounts. Butene is the shortest alkene with structural isomers, namely 2-methylpropene (isobutene), which is a branched isomer, and 1-butene, cis-2-butene

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 $(c-2-C_4H_8)$  and tran-2-butene  $(t-2-C_4H_8)$ , which are three linear isomers.

Recently, there have been some hightemperature and low-pressure experimental and kinetic modeling studies performed on trans-2-butene combustion, including pyrolysis and oxidation, speciation [2–4], flame speed [2,5], ignition temperature [5], etc., Table S1 of the Supplemental material. However, there is a lack of experimental data available in the literature at engine relevant, high-pressure and low-temperature, conditions. In addition, few studies have been specifically concerned with reactivity effects of the isomeric fuel structures.

In view of the above considerations, we have measured ignition delay times in a high-pressure shock tube (HPST) and in a rapid compression machine (RCM) under conditions of low temperatures (600-1000 K) and at high pressures (>10 atm), which are conditions of direct relevance with respect to gasoline, diesel, and low-temperature combustion (LTC) engine technologies. A comprehensive chemical kinetic mechanism to describe trans-2-butene oxidation has been developed including detailed low- and high-temperature reaction pathways specific to unsaturated fuel chemistry, and it is validated against the experimental results. An ignition reactivity comparison of three butene isomers (trans-2-butene, 1-butene and isobutene) has been performed, and a detailed chemical kinetic mechanism (AramcoMech 2.0) has been developed to explain the reactivity dif-

Table 1	
Detailed mixture compositions (%).	

	*	· · ·		
	Fuel	O <sub>2</sub>	Diluent	$\varphi$
	1.72	20.64	77.64	0.5
t-2-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	3.38	20.29	76.33	1.0
	6.54	19.63	73.83	2.0
c-2-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	3.38	20.29	76.33	1.0

ferences which account for the isomeric structure effects on ignition/reactivity properties.

#### 2. Experiment

Experiments were performed in the NUI Galway HPST and RCM facilities as described previously [6,7]. All fuels were acquired from Sigma Aldrich at 99.5% purity. Oxygen, nitrogen, argon and carbon dioxide were acquired from BOC Ireland at high purity ( $\geq$ 99.5%).

Table 1 shows that identical experimental conditions at  $\varphi = 1.0$  for cis- and tran-2-butene were selected (p = 10, 30 and 50 atm), and Fig. 1 shows the IDT measurements for these two isomers and they are identical. Therefore, they will be named as 2butene in the following text. Typical pressure-time traces and original experimental data are shown in the Supplemental material, Fig. S1 and Tables S3–S17.

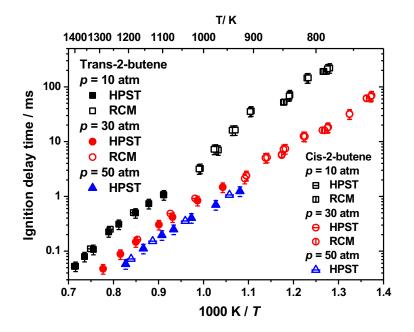


Fig. 1. IDT measurements for trans/cis-2-butene at  $\varphi = 1.0$  and p = 10, 30, 50 atm.

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