An Online Fast GC for Gasoline Blending: Experience to Date at One Refinery

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Talk Outline

Background

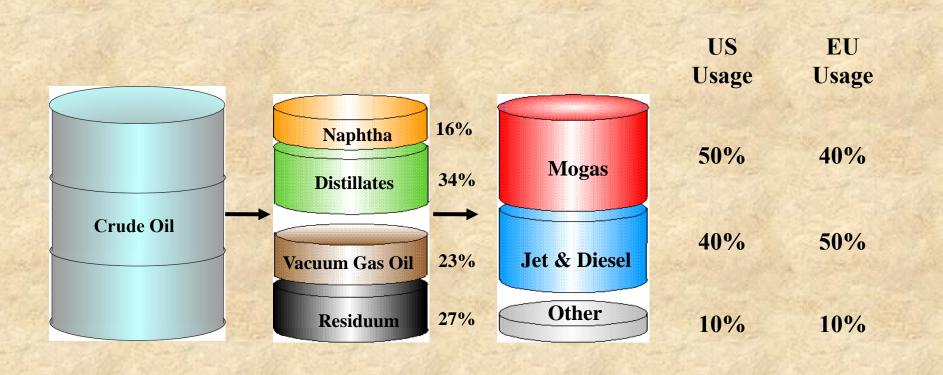
The System

Performance

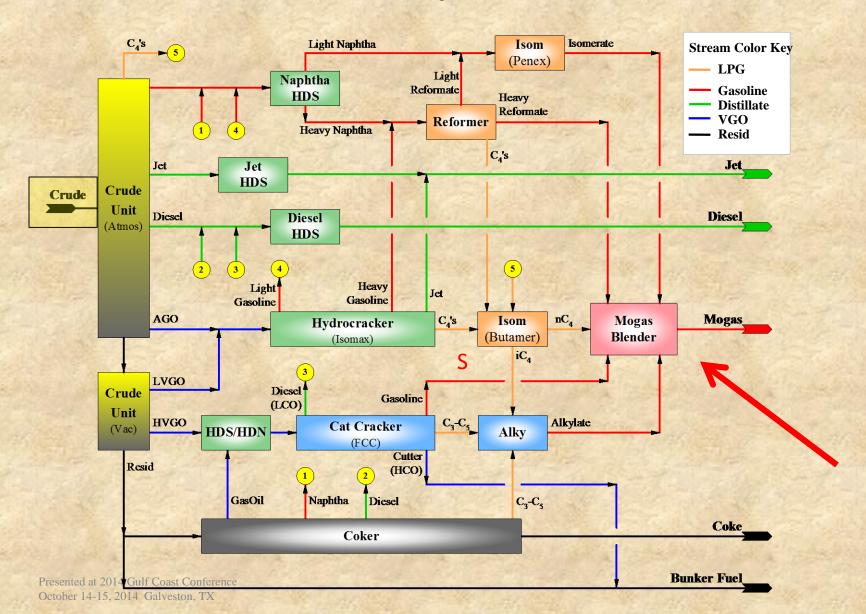
Challenges

Conclusion

Products from Crude Oil



Refinery Streams



The Compact, Fast System

A modular design is essential for the system to be usable and serviceable in the variety of potential applications area from lab, to process line, to field.

The system used in this work consists of:

Falcon Analytical, Inc.'s

Calidus GC

Justice Laboratory Software's

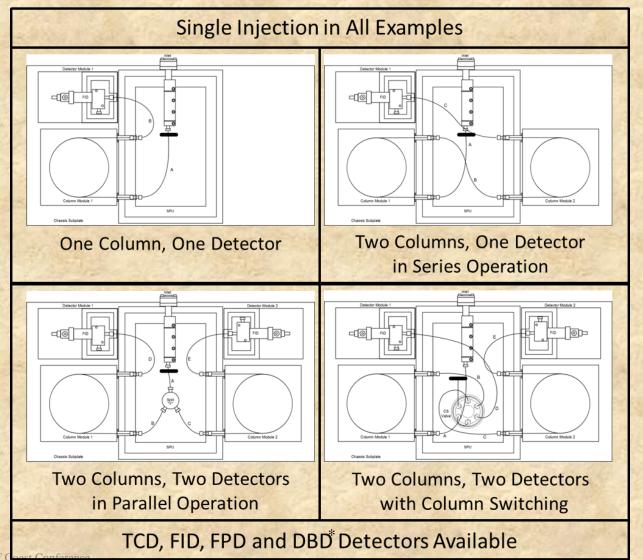
Chromperfect 7 software

Infometrix Inc.'s

LineUp software

Modular Calidus GC

Single injector Configurations



Presented at 2014 Gulf Coast Confer October 14-15, 2014 Galveston, TX

Process GC Installation

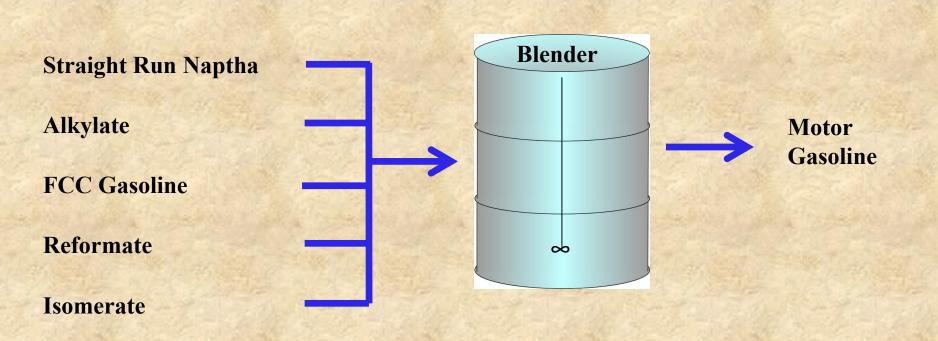




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Project Objective

Streams that Feed the Blender



ASTM D86 Distillation

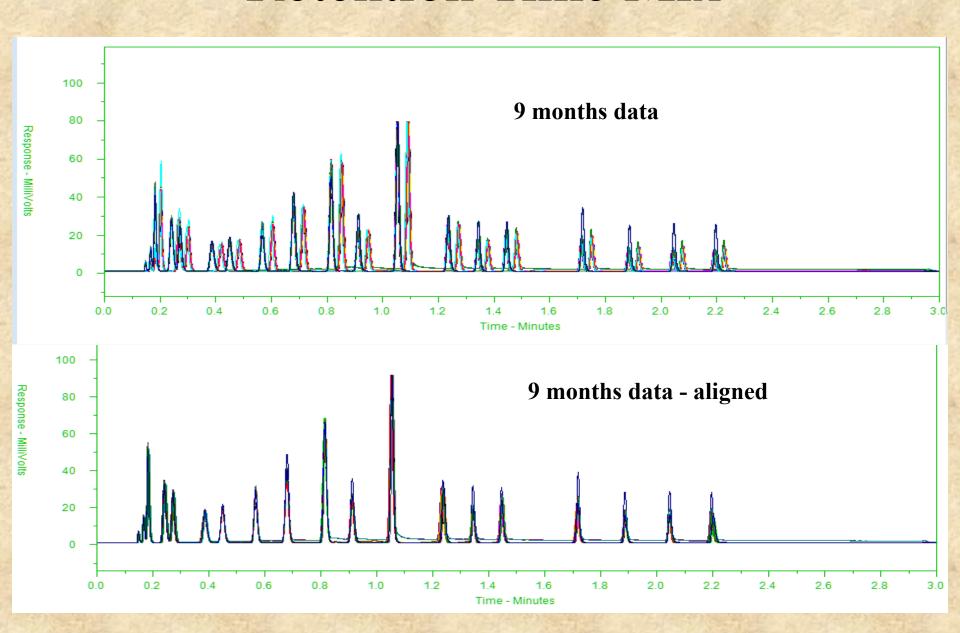
- Physical distillation under standard conditions
- First approval of method tentative in 1921, published in 1930
- Current version updated in 2012
- Frequently used in product specifications with custody transfer implications
- Automated systems available for both lab and on-line applications

D86 compared to Fast GC

	D86 Analyzer	Falcon Calidus GC
Analysis Time, min	~ 45 min (on-line) ~ 15 min (lab mini)	< 4 min
Sample size, mL	100 mL (on-line) ~ 6 ml	< 1 uL (on-line) ~ 1 mL (lab)
Repeatability	1.0-1.2 °C (@50% toluene)	1.05-1.3 °C (ASTM D7798)
Reproducibility	1.8-2.9 °C	n/a (ASTM D7798)
Measurement units	Vol%	Weight%

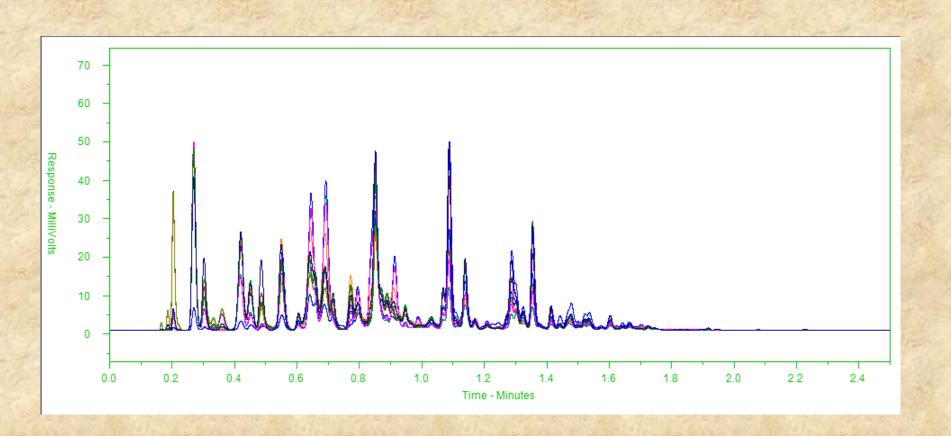
GCs tend to give lower IBPs and higher FBPs than D-86 analyzers.

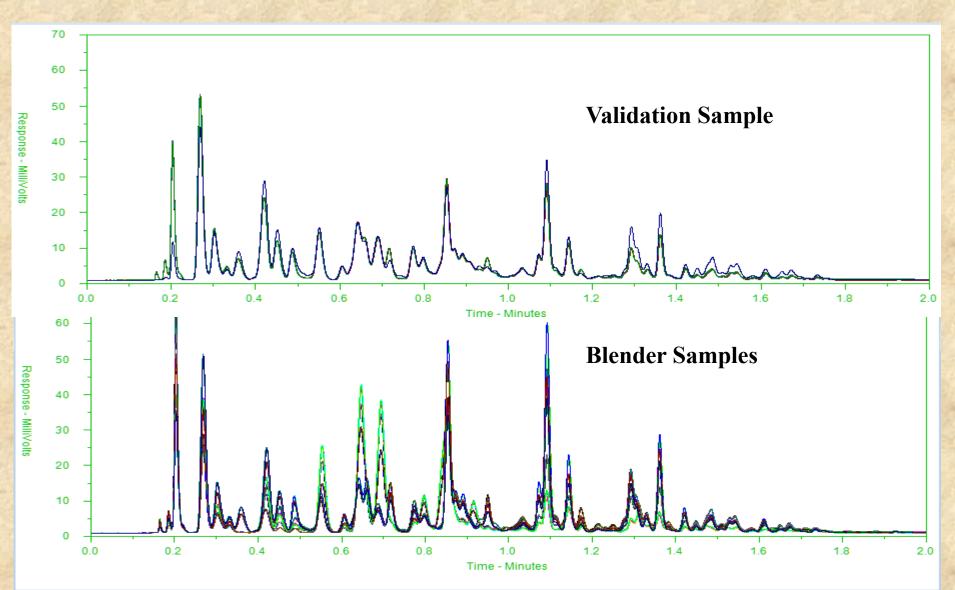
Retention Time Mix



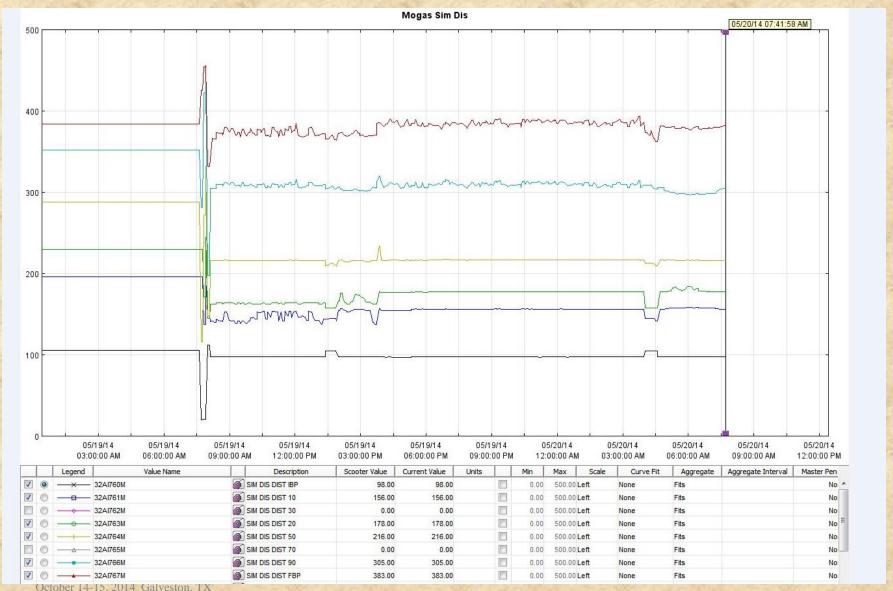
Validation Sample

(Composition changed 3X)

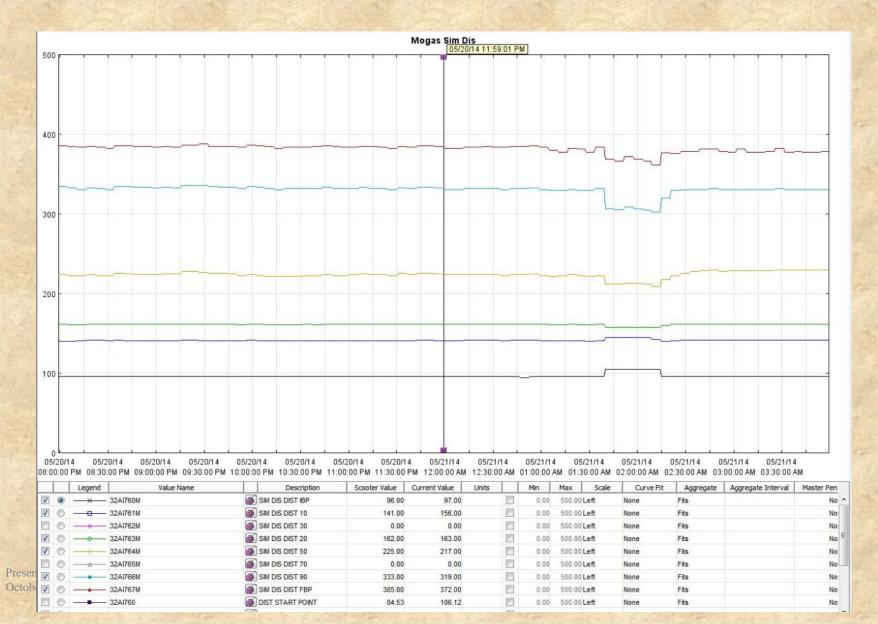




Plant Information System -1



Plant Information System -2



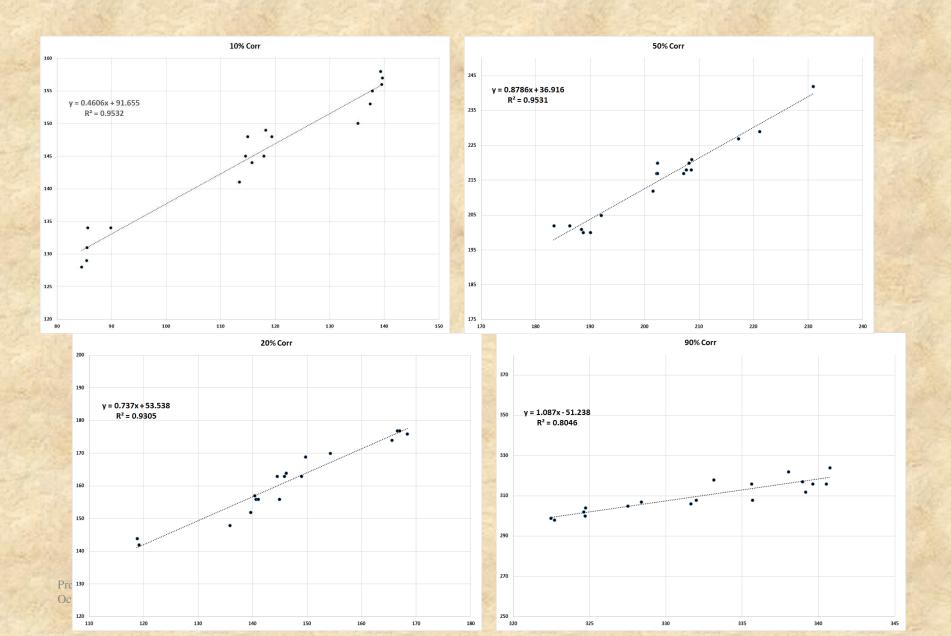
Plant Information System -3



Correlations

- STP 577 and API Procedure 3A3.2
- 1979 Agilent Application Note gives information on fine tuning correlation
- Good correlation albeit with limited data
- Known differences between ASTM D86 and D2887 results

Correlation SimDis to D-86 Distillation



Challenges

Technology is easy, people are difficult.

Information Protection

Crew Change-outs

Full plate syndrome

Summary

This presentation discussed the operation of a Falcon Calidus GC with Motor Gasoline Blender. Significant cycle time reduction was achieved compared to the existing process.

The speed of this system, nominally 10 times faster than conventional, research grade GCs, can be exploited to move from after the fact measurements to on-line control applications.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Refiner for allowing selected information to be presented, albeit without their name.

