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1	Highlighting the "structure-reactivity" relationship
2	and the impact on the kinetics for the autoxidation
3	reaction of hydrocarbons
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9	KEY WORDS: autoxidation, PetroOXY, model molecule, structure-reactivity, kinetics
10	ABSTRACT
11	The interactions between heteroatomic species and the hydrocarbons present in Jet A-1 make the
12	determination of degradation mechanisms difficult to elucidate and predict. This study aims to
13	investigate the reaction mechanisms and kinetics of hydrocarbon molecules constituting jet fuel,
14	excluding molecules with polar species. Five model hydrocarbons were selected (n-dodecane and
15	its isomeric mixture, n-butylcyclohexane, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene and 1-methylnaphthalene) and
16	individually subjected to oxidation using the PetroOXY apparatus, focusing on the onset of
17	autoxidation ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 2$ to 10%). For the first time, an experimental protocol has been developed
18	for the monitoring of gas and liquid phase reagent consumption and the identification and
19	quantification of oxidation products formed in these phases. The results showed that oxygen
20	consumption was always higher than that of the initial hydrocarbons, suggesting competitive
21	reactions, with alkanes consuming more oxygen than aromatic molecules, as confirmed by

22 induction periods (IP), demonstrating the different reactivity depending on the structure of the

oxidized hydrocarbon molecule. A relationship between initial hydrocarbon structure and the type 23 and number of carbon atoms in oxidation products was also demonstrated. A gel, probably a 24 precursor deposit, was obtained after oxidation of the molecules, indicating a potential 25 precipitation of polar species due to the difference in polarity with the hydrocarbon molecules. In 26 addition, the overall kinetic and hydroperoxide dissociation constants of the reaction could be 27 calculated from tests carried out at different temperatures (140, 150 and 160 °C). The Arrhenius 28 parameter values were higher for alkanes than for aromatics, confirming the structure-reactivity 29 relationship of hydrocarbons. A strong correlation between the Arrhenius parameters and the 30 nature of the oxidized molecules was also demonstrated. This experimental study will be useful 31 for the calibration of future kinetic models according to the chemical structure of the oxidized 32 33 hydrocarbons and for the assessment of thermal stability behavior of 100 % Synthetic Alternative Fuels (SAF). 34

35 ABBREVIATIONS

ACN	Acetonitrile
ATR	Attenuated Total Reflectance
DFT	Density Functional Theory
FID	Flame Ionization Detector
FTIR	Fourier Transformed Infra-Red
GC	Gas Chromatography
GC-MS	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry
IP	Induction Period
k"	Kinetics constant of the hydroperoxide dissociation reaction
K	Global kinetic constant of autoxidation reaction
KPH	Ketohydroperoxide
μ-GC	Micro-Gas Chromatography
PV	Peroxide Value
ROOH	Hydroperoxide
SAF	Synthetic Alternative fuel
SMORS	Soluble Macromolecular Oxidation Reactive Species
TAN	Total Acid Number
TCD	Thermal Conductivity Detectors

THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TPP	Triphenylphosphine
TPPO	Triphenylphosphine Oxide

36

37 1. INTRODUCTION

One aviation concern is the jet fuel thermal stability. It is defined as the fuel's resistance to the 38 formation of deposits under the influence of temperature that can lead to clogging and failure of 39 the fuel injection system. These deposits are formed from soluble or insoluble precursors which 40 can be formed at moderate temperatures between 140 and 250 °C through autoxidation 41 phenomena. In this process, oxygen naturally dissolved in jet fuel (approximately 70 ppm) reacts 42 with the hydrocarbon molecules by a free radical mechanism. The process is described in the 43 literature as a three-step mechanism involving initiation, propagation (in two substeps) and 44 45 termination [1]. It results in the formation of three classes of species: primary oxidation products (hydroperoxides [4]); secondary oxidation products (soluble oxidation products [5-10]) and 46 Soluble Macromolecular Oxidation Reactive Species (SMORS) [11-14] or insoluble deposits 47 [2,13-21]. 48

It has been established that the thermal stability of jet fuel depends mainly on the operating 49 conditions. These are the thermodynamic conditions (temperature [23-25], pressure [26-29]), time-50 dependent parameters (residence time [22], flow rate [29]), geometrical and technological 51 characteristics (the nature of the materials [24,28,30-32] and the diameter [22,33,34] of the 52 functional element under consideration), and the specific operating conditions (transient, steady 53 state or shutdown phase) [35,36]. Beyond the conditions of use of jet fuel, several studies have 54 shown that the deposit formation is mostly the result of the intrinsic physico-chemical properties 55 56 of the fuel, such as its hydrocarbon composition and in particular the structure of the hydrocarbon molecules, as well as interactions with oxygen [16,17,23,30,37,38] or trace species, such as
heteroatomic species [39-49], dissolved metals [30,50-52] and additives [53,54]. These different
factors do not necessarily act independently of each other, making autoxidation a very complex
phenomenon.

Although the influence of these parameters has been reported in various studies, it is currently 61 62 difficult to define the origin of the formation of precursor deposits. Several hypotheses were put forwards in the literature to explain their formation. However, no study has been able to determine 63 the exact nature of the precursors and their formation mechanism. Recent investigations have 64 65 highlighted the potential polar nature of these species, which may be derived from polymerization reactions [21] of soluble species or the precipitation of SMORS [14,20]. Other studies suggest an 66 esterification reaction [15,16]. The formation of precursor deposits has also been proposed to be 67 related to the difference in polarity between the carbonaceous molecules and the oxidized 68 molecules formed, which would lead to demixing precipitation of the polar molecules formed [18]. 69 70 This phenomenon is more complex to understand when one considers the sulphur and nitrogen species in the jet fuel that may be involved in the deposit formation mechanism. Recent works 71 have demonstrated the contribution of tools such as Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations 72 73 in proposing mechanisms for the reaction of hydroperoxides with polar molecules such as phenols and sulphur and nitrogen compounds to form SMORS or deposits [55-59]. 74

To simplify the system and yet to better understand the autoxidation mechanisms of hydrocarbon species without sulphur and/or nitrogen species, it was proposed, in a previous work [10], to study the oxidation of n-dodecane, using the PetroOXY apparatus, for different advancements ($\Delta P/P_{max}$ = 0 to 10 %) and temperatures (140-160 °C). Under these conditions, it was possible to identify and quantify the different products resulting from its degradation in the gas and liquid phases. In

addition, this study allowed the determination of the degradation mechanisms and the related 80 kinetic constants for linear alkanes. The aim of the present work is to complete the study started 81 with n-dodecane using the same methodology, in order to better understand the degradation 82 mechanisms specific to each molecular structural category of which jet fuel is composed. Five 83 model hydrocarbons were selected: n-dodecane and its isomeric mixture, n-butylcyclohexane, 84 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene and 1-methylnaphthalene). They were oxidized individually using the 85 PetroOXY apparatus, focusing on the onset of autoxidation ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 2-10$ %) at a temperature 86 and initial oxygen pressure of 160 °C and 700 kPa, respectively, to monitor the evolution of the 87 oxidation products as a function of reaction time. The same work was then carried out at $\Delta P/P_{max}$ 88 = 10 %, an advancement sufficient to permit deposits, at three different temperatures (140, 150 89 and 160 °C) and an initial pressure of 700 kPa to determine the kinetic constants of degradation. 90 This methodology will allow to understand the behaviour of hydrocarbons under oxidative 91 conditions in the absence of sulphur and nitrogen containing molecules. This situation is likely to 92 become a reality as work is underway within the ASTM to approve the use of 100 % Synthetic 93

94 Alternative Fuels (SAF).

95 2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

96 2.1. Model molecules

97 Table 1 shows the characteristics of the 5 selected hydrocarbons.

Model compounds	Abbreviations	Molecular weight (g.mol ⁻¹)	Purity (%)	Structure
n-dodecane C ₁₂ H ₂₆	n-C ₁₂	170.34	99	~~~~~
n-dodecane isomers blend C ₁₂ H ₂₆	n-C ₁₂ IsoB	170.34	95	$\times \downarrow \times$

Table 1 - Properties of the selected hydrocarbon molecules

n-butylcyclohexane C10H20	n-BC	140.27	99	
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene C9H ₁₂	1,2,4-TMB	120.19	98	
1-methylnaphthalene C ₁₁ H ₁₀	1-MN	142.20	96	

98 2.2. PetroOXY device

99 The PetroOXY device (Anton Paar) is used to measure the oxidation stability of fuels and oils. 100 Measurements are compatible with ASTM D7525 [60], ASTM D7545 [61] (diesel, biodiesel and 101 fatty acid methyl esters) and EN 16091 [62]. This device is widely used [63,64] and is one of the 102 reference instruments for performing small scale rapid oxidation stability tests (RSSOT) on fuels. 103 Among its advantages are the low sample volume needed, good repeatability and versatility, since 104 it is possible to deviate from the standard conditions and vary a number of parameters (time, 105 temperature, pressure).

106 5 mL of hydrocarbon were poured into a glass crucible. In order to assure that oxygen is the only 107 dissolved gas, the fuel was degassed 2 min in an ultrasonic bath. The crucible was then introduced into a chamber hermetically closed. The tests were carried out at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %, at an initial static 108 oxygen pressure set at 700 kPa and at an initial temperature of 160 °C. Hydrocarbon degradation 109 110 is indicated by the consumption of oxygen resulting in a drop in the pressure measured in the chamber. The induction period (IP) is defined as the time required for the pressure to be 10 % 111 below the maximum test pressure. At the end of a test and after the apparatus was cooled, the gas 112 phase was collected via the exhaust gas port into a dedicated cell, and the liquid and solid phases 113 have been recovered after the cell was opened [65]. 114

All the samples were tested 4 times to verify the repeatability and to have enough oxidized liquidto characterize.

The details of the calculations of the gasification rate and the conversion rates of reagents aredescribed elsewhere [10].

- 119 2.3. Characterization techniques
- 120 2.3.1. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

The gas, liquid and solid phases were analyzed by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy 121 (FTIR) using a Frontier spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer). The analysis of the gas phase was carried 122 out in transmission, recording 4 spectra in the 4000–1000 cm⁻¹ wavelength range, with a scanning 123 speed of 0.2 cm.s⁻¹ and a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹. For the liquid and solid phases, a drop was deposited 124 on a monoreflecting diamond and analyzed by Attenuated Total Reflectance (FTIR-ATR) 125 equipped with a Mercury-Cadmium-Telluride detector. The same acquisition parameters were 126 used as for the gas phase except that 5 spectra were recorded in the 4000–450 cm⁻¹ wavelength 127 128 range.

129 2.3.2. Micro-Gas Chromatography

130 The gas phase was also analyzed by micro-Gas Chromatography (μ -GC). The apparatus (Agilent

131 4900) is equipped with Thermal Conductivity Detectors (TCD) and 3 columns: Al_2O_3 (10 m \times

- 132 0.32 Internal Diameter (ID), T_{column} = 70 °C, P = 130 kPa), COx (1 m × 0.7 ID, T_{column} = 80 °C, P
- 133 = 150 kPa), CP sil-5CB (20 m, T_{column} = 50 °C, P = 150 ka). Helium and argon were vector gases.
- 134 Calibration was performed before each test for H₂, CO, CO₂, and the hydrocarbon molecules.

135 2.3.3. Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

The liquid phase was analyzed by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) with a 136 Varian 450 GC/320 MS. This apparatus is equipped with a CP-8410 automatic sampler, a 1177 137 split/splitless injector, a fused silica capillary column (phase type: VF-5 ms, length: 60 m, inner 138 diameter: 0.25 mm, phase thickness: 1 µm) with a column flow of 0.8 mL/min and a Flame 139 140 Ionization Detector (FID). The analysis was performed with helium as the vector gas. The injection 141 temperature was set to 250 °C. The thermal program was optimized for all molecules: 5 min at 50 °C; heating up to 175 °C (at a rate of 5 °C.min⁻¹) for 5 min then to 250 °C (10 °C.min⁻¹) for 45 142 min. Standards were prepared by mixing various volumes of hydrocarbons and *n*-decane (purity 143 > 99 %, Alfa Aesar) for alkanes and n-dodecane for aromatic model molecules. These standards 144 and the oxidized samples were injected 3 times and a deviation of less than 1 % was imposed. The 145 MS fragmentation was obtained by an electronic collision of 70 eV. 146

147 2.4. Quantification of the products formed

148 2.4.1. Identification of hydroperoxide species

The presence of hydroperoxide species has been demonstrated by the post reaction oxidation of triphenylphosphine (TPP) to the corresponding oxide Triphenylphosphine Oxide (TPPO) following the reaction [66,67]:

152 $ROOH + TPP \rightarrow TPPO + ROH$

For this purpose, 4 g of TPP (99 %, Acros Organics) and 0.3 g of fluorene (>98 %, Acros Organics) were dissolved in 50 mL of chloroform (\geq 99.8 %, Carl Roth). 250 µL of this solution were added to 1 mL of oxidized model molecules and stirred for 10 min before analysis by GC and GC-MS. The detection limit of this method is less than 0.002 mM.

157 2.4.2. Peroxide Value

Peroxide species formed during the test were back-titrated using a method similar to that described in the standard ASTM D3703 [68], based on the reduction of the iodide molecules formed during titration with sodium thiosulphate. The Peroxide Value (PV) was calculated according to Equation 1, where A and B are the volumes of a sodium thiosulphate solution of normality N added to a volume V of sample during the test and a blank test, respectively [67].

$$PV = \frac{((A - B) N \times 1000)}{V}$$
 Equation 1

163 Four solutions were prepared for the determination of hydroperoxides:

- (1) Revealing solution: 0.5 g of starch was dissolved in 50 ml of distilled water; the solution
 was brought to boil while stirring and then allowed to cool still stirring;
- (2) NaI solution: 14.3 g of NaI (purity ≥ 99 %, Sigma Aldrich) were dissolved in 10 mL of
 water under stirring;
- (3) Dissolution solution: 30 mL of acetic acid (100 % purity, Carl Roth) and 20 mL of
 chloroform (≥ 99.8 % purity, Carl Roth) were mixed;
- 170 (4) Titrant solution: sodium thiosulphate (0.005 M)

The protocol consists of mixing, in an Erlenmeyer flask, 1 mL of the oxidized sample with 36.5 mL of the dissolution solution. 500 μ L of the NaI solution were added while stirring. After 1 minute, stirring was stopped and the conical flask was placed in a black box for 5 minutes. 37.5 mL of iced water were then added as well as a few drops of the starch-revealing solution, used as a colour indicator, while stirring. The solution was titrated with the sodium thiosulphate solution using an automatic titrator with a precision of 2 μ L. 177 2.4.3. Total Acid Number

The Total Acid Number (TAN) is the mass of KOH required to neutralize the free acid molecules
present in 1 g of sample [69]. The method used to determine the TAN is based on the standard
ASTM D3242 [70]. It is an acid-basic titration, suitable in the range from 0.00 to 0.10 mg KOH/g.

181 Three solutions were prepared:

- (1) iPOH/toluene solvent: 500 mL of toluene (purity ≥ 99.8 %, Carl Roth) and 495 mL of
 isopropanol (iPOH, purity ≥ 99.5 %, Carl Roth) were mixed and stirred manually before
 adding 5 mL of pure H₂O;
- (2) Titrant solution: 900 mL of iPOH were added to 100 mL of a solution of KOH in
 isopropanol (0.1 N, Carl Roth);
- 187 (3) Revealing solution: 0.1 g \pm 0.01 g of solid phenolphthalein (J.T. Baker) were dissolved in 188 50 mL H₂O and 50 mL ethanol (\geq 90 %, ALCOgroup).
- 189 The exact normality of the titrant solution was determined by colorimetric titration with a190 biphtalate solution of known concentration.
- 191 The acid number was determined as follows. 700 μ L of the oxidized sample were poured into a 192 flask containing 40 mL of iPOH/toluene solvent and three drops of naphtholbenzeneine (CAS: 193 145-50-6, Fisher Chemical) were added. This solution was titrated with the titrant solution under
- an inert nitrogen atmosphere using an automatic titrator with a precision of 0.02 mL.

195 2.4.4. Water Content

196 The water content was determined by coulometric titration using a Karl-Fisher titrator (Mettler

197 Toledo C30 with a Pt electrode under 20 µA). HYDRANAL Coulomat AK and HYDRANAL

Coulomat CGK solutions Honeywell Fluka) were used as anolyte and catolyte, respectively. Theresults were automatically collected and processed by the LabX software.

200 For the analysis, 2 mL of oxidized sample were withdrawn with a syringe, weighted and placed

201 into the Karl Fisher apparatus.

202 **3. RESULTS**

3.1. Consumption of reagents

The selected molecules (Table 1) were oxidized using PetroOXY apparatus. As first, a temperature 204 and an initial pressure of 160 °C and 700 kPa, respectively, were set. The reaction was stopped at 205 206 low $\Delta P/P_{max}$ values (2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 %), in order to study the onset of the autoxidation process. Figure 1.a) shows the evolution of the pressure with reaction time for all the model molecules at 207 $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %. Except for 1-MN, for which the test durations are very long (3 to 10 h between 208 $\Delta P/P_{max} = 2$ and 10 %, respectively), the test durations for the other oxidized model molecules are 209 short and vary from 20 to 40 min for 2 to 10 %. This suggests that diaromatic molecules have far 210 the best oxidation stability among the selected model molecules. The IP deduced from these curves 211 all follow a linear increase with $\Delta P/P_{max}$ in the range 2 to 10 %, as shown in Figure 1.b). This 212 implies a constant rate of O_2 consumption within this $\Delta P/P_{max}$ range, regardless the nature of the 213 214 molecule being oxidized.

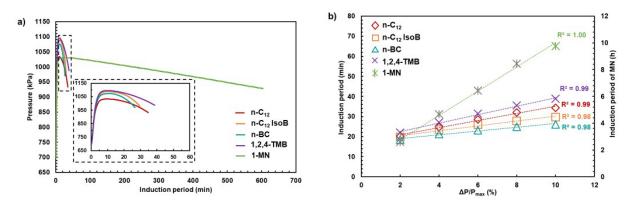
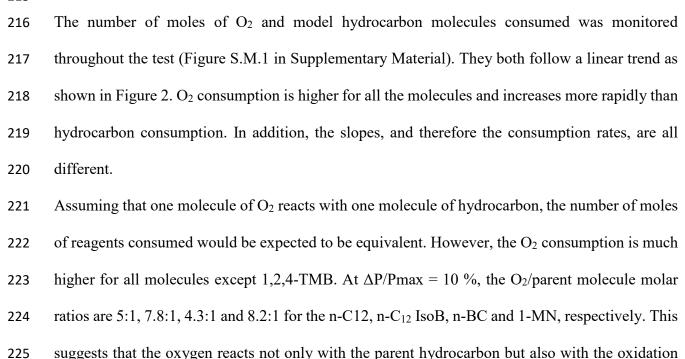


Figure 1 - Oxidation evolution of model molecules at 160 °C and $P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa with a) pressure versus duration time at $\Delta P/Pmax = 10$ % and b) induction period versus $\Delta P/Pmax$



- products. In contrast, for the oxidation of 1,2,4-TMB, the O_2 consumption is close to that of the
- reagent with a molar ratio of 1.4:1.

215

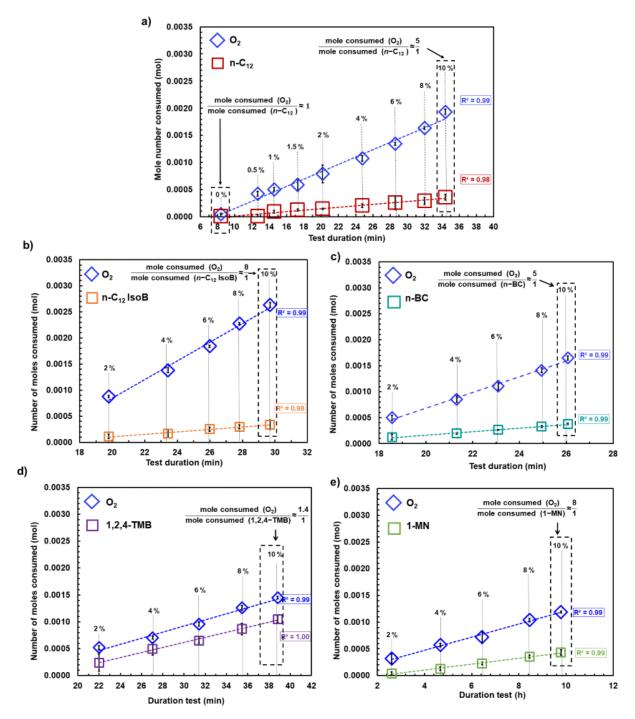
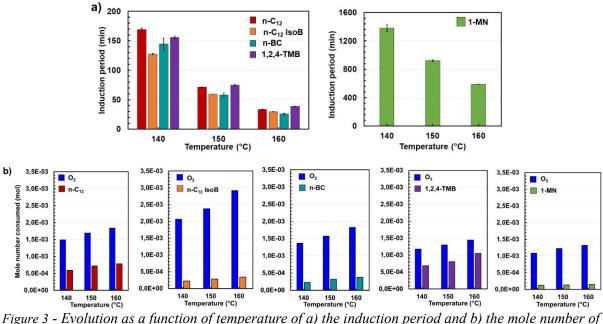


Figure 2 - Mole number of O_2 and model molecules consumed, with a) $n-C_{12}$, b) $n-C_{12}$ IsoB, c) n-BC, d) 1,2,4-TMB and e) 1-MN, as a function of the duration test (T = 160 °C, PO2,i = 700 kPa, $\Delta P/Pmax = 10 \text{ \%}$)

A second series of tests was conducted at three temperatures: 140, 150 and 160 °C at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ % with an initial O₂ pressure of 700 kPa. The pressure evolution during the reaction shows similar

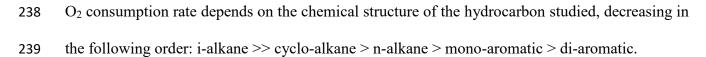
230 profiles. However, the maximum pressure reached increases with temperature while the time to

reach the target $\Delta P/Pmax$ decreases. (Figure S.M.2). Figure 3.a) shows the evolution of the Induction Period as a function of temperature for the five hydrocarbons molecules. As expected, the higher the temperature is, the shorter the IP is, confirming the influence of temperature as a kinetic factor. Reagent consumption was also followed as a function of temperature increasing with temperature (Figure 3.b). The O₂ consumed is always higher than that of the model molecule, but the ratio varies depending of the hydrocarbon oxidized.



Argure 3 - Evolution as a function of temperature of a) the induction period and b) the mole number of O_2 and model molecule consumed ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %, $P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa)

237



240 For the model hydrocarbon molecules, their consumption rates follow the order: mono-aromatic >

- 241 n-Alkanes > i-alkanes > cyclo-alkane > di-aromatic. This demonstrates the relationship between
- the structure and the sensitivity of hydrocarbon differences to oxidation (Table S.M.3).
- 243

The quantitative analysis carried out in this study shows that the oxygen conversions at 140 and 244 160 °C are not identical for a fixed $\Delta P/P_{max}$. Due to the temperature difference, the maximum 245 pressure (P_{max}) obtained in the batch system is not the same. This affects the calculation of ΔP and 246 therefore the amount of oxygen consumed. To show the real effect of temperature, the tests should 247 have been performed at iso-conversion of oxygen, *i.e.* at the same oxygen consumption and not at 248 the same $\Delta P/P_{max}$. Using the previously calculated oxygen consumption rates, it is easy to estimate 249 the additional time required. Note that this assumption was confirmed by performing tests with 250 corrected induction periods and iso-conversion of oxygen in the case of n-C₁₂.[10] The corrected 251 252 IP are given in Table 2 and further used for the kinetic study.

Table 2 - IPs values obtained experimentally for different temperatures at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ % and after mathematical correction ($P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa).

	Temperature (°C)	140	150	160
1-MN	Experimental IP (min)	1379	924	587
	Corrected IP (min)	1676	993	587
1,2,4-TMB	Experimental IP (min)	156	75	39
	Corrected IP (min)	192	83	39
n-BC	Experimental IP (min)	145	58	26
	Corrected IP (min)	193	67	26
<i>n</i> - <i>C</i> ₁₂	Experimental IP (min)	169	71	33
	Corrected IP (min)	209	78	33
n-C ₁₂ IsoB	Experimental IP (min)	127	59	30
	Corrected IP (min)	180	73	30

3.2. Analysis of the products formed

3.2.1 Gas phase

255 FTIR spectroscopy was first used to analyze the gas phase. Figure 4 shows the FTIR spectra of the

- whole gas phase produced by the oxidation of the model molecules at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ % for
- temperature and pressure fixed at 160 °C and 700 kPa, respectively.
- 258 Irrespective of the type of hydrocarbon, these spectra show:

259	• a band between 3500 and 3800 cm ⁻¹ due to the stretching vibration v(O-H) characteristic
260	of alcohols and carboxylic acids;
261	• vibrational bands of the CH_2 and CH_3 groups, v(C-H), at 2850, 2935, 2970 as well as at
262	1220, 1365 and 1455 cm ⁻¹ , indicating the presence of carbon chains, which can be attributed
263	both to the non oxidized molecules of interest and their oxidation products;
264	• a band at 2750 cm ⁻¹ attributed to the δ (C-H) deformation vibration characteristic of
265	aldehydes;
266	• a double band between 2300 and 2400 cm ⁻¹ indicating the formation of carbon dioxide;
267	• a double band of the stretching vibration $v(C=O)$ at 2120 and 2170 cm ⁻¹ indicating the
268	formation of carbon monoxide;
269	• a band at 1730 cm ⁻¹ characteristic of the stretching vibration $v(C=O)$ due to ketone,
270	carboxylic acid and aldehyde species.
271	Finally, a weak band at 3030 cm ⁻¹ -and at 1680 cm ⁻¹ , is observed, characteristic of the ν (C-H) and
272	v(C=C) stretching vibrations of methane and alkenes, respectively.
273	The intensity of all these bands increases as the reaction progresses from $\Delta P/P_{max} = 2$ to 10 %
274	(Figure S.M.4.1.1.) and as the temperature increases from 140 to 160 °C (Figure S.M.4.1.2.). Note
275	that the intensity of the bands at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ % is relatively similar for all model molecules except
276	for n-C ₁₂ IsoB for which it is tenfold greater. This indicates that the amount of products oxidized
277	in the gas phase is largely promoted for branched alkanes.

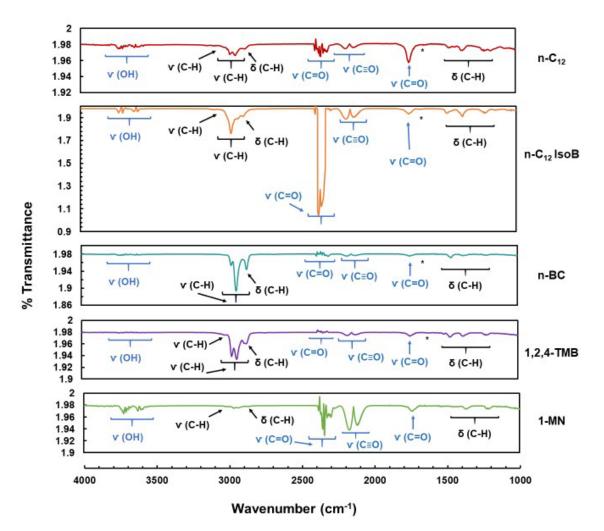


Figure 4 - FTIR spectra of the gas phase after model fuel oxidation; * corresponds to the stretching vibration $v_{(C=C)}$ characteristic of alkenes at 1680 cm⁻¹ ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 10\%$, T = 160 °C, $P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa)

The gas phase was further analyzed by μ -GC for specific identification of the molecules formed. The results indicate the formation of H₂, CO₂, CO, CH₄, C₂-C₅ alkanes and alkenes as well as polar molecules such as water, formaldehyde, alcohols (methanol, ethanol, propanol) and acetone. This is in line with the FTIR results. All these molecules start to form at an early stage, $\Delta P/Pmax = 2$ % and their quantity increases as the reaction progresses (Figure S.M.4.2.1.). The chromatograms obtained for experiments performed at different temperatures (Figure S.M.4.2.2.) show these same molecules with an intensity that increases with temperature. The volume of gaseous species detected on the CO_x and Al_2O_3 columns has been quantified. Overall, regardless of the parameter considered, a linear evolution of the gaseous products formed is observed (Figure S.M.4.2.3.). Figure 5 shows the volume percent gas results obtained at P/P_{max} = 10 % and at fixed temperature and pressure of 160 °C and 700 kPa, converted to ppm concentration, CO_2 , H_2 and CO in Figure 5.a) and CH_4 , alkanes and alkenes in Figure 5.b). All the gases formed and identified are due to the formation of oxidation products in the liquid phase.

Very little gas is formed (< 60,000 ppm *i.e.* 0.06 %) for all the oxidized model molecules. CO_2 is the main gas formed, whatever the oxidized molecule is (Figure 5.a). The other gases identified, in decreasing order, are: H₂, CO, CH₄, the alkenes and then alkanes; their gas volume never exceeds 0.01 %. (Figure S.M.4.2.3.)

 CO_2 is produced in increasing amounts during oxidation of 1,2,4-TMB < n-BC < n-C₁₂ < 1-MN < 295 n-C₁₂ IsoB (Figure 5.a). The branched alkane molecule gives off 40 times more CO₂ than the mono 296 aromatic molecule. Moreover, the amount of CO₂ formed for 1-MN is at least twice that for n-C₁₂ 297 and n-BC. This indicates a different oxidation reactivity depending of the molecule chemical 298 299 structure. The influence of chemical structure is further confirmed by the results presented in Figure 5.b, showing that the amount of CH₄ produced by aromatic molecules (mono- and di-) is 300 significantly higher than that produced by alkane molecules (linear, branched and cyclic). Thus, 301 aromatic molecules tend to form more CH₄ while alkane molecules give gaseous alkenes. 302

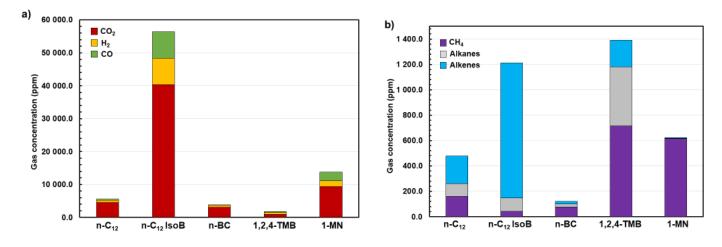


Figure 5 - Comparison of the amount of gas formed during the oxidation of the model molecules and determined from the quantitative analysis by μ -GC ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 10\%$, T = 160 °C, $P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa)

303 3.2.2 Liquid phase

The liquid phase was analyzed by FTIR spectroscopy. The results obtained at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %, for 304 a temperature and pressure set at 160 °C and 700 kPa respectively, are shown in Figure S.M.5.1. 305 Except for the diaromatic molecule (1-MN), which shows no difference before and after oxidation, 306 the other spectra show a band between 1710 and 1720 cm⁻¹, which can be attributed to the v(C=O)307 stretching vibration characteristic of oxidized species of the ketone, aldehyde and/or carboxylic 308 acid type. In addition, in the case of 1,2,4-TMB, further bands are observed at 3478 and 1334 cm⁻ 309 ¹ which can be attributed to v(OH) and δ (OH) respectively, and two further bands at 1212 and 310 1231 cm⁻¹ corresponding to v(C-O) stretching vibrations of alcohols and carboxylic acids. 311

To identify more precisely the oxidation products, the liquid phase was analyzed by GC-MS. The products formed are identical and their quantity increases with test duration (Figures S.M.5.2.a. to e.).

Figure 6.a.1. shows the peak of the unoxidized diaromatic molecule 1-MN with molecular mass M = 142 g/mol at 40 min retention time and a series of peaks of variable molecular mass (from 162 to 174 g/mol), due to initial impurities (1-MN purity = 96 %). Most of the oxidation products

formed appear at retention times between 41 and 52 min (Figures S.M.5.3.a.1. and a.2.). These molecules include alcohols, aldehydes, and carboxylic acids. Two intense peaks are observed at 45 and 47 min with molecular masses of 156 and 158 g/mol, respectively, which are attributed to 1-naphthalaldehyde and 1-naphthalene methanol, respectively. Two further peaks with molecular masses of 172 g/mol, observed between 50 and 51 min, are assigned to 1 and 2-naphthalene carboxylic acids.

As for unoxidized 1,2,4-TMB, it is detected at a retention time of 27 min together with other lower 324 peaks (molecular masses between 120 and 134 g/mol) corresponding to the initial impurities 325 326 (Figures S.M.5.3.b.1. and b.2.). Five main oxidation products are formed (from 34 to 38 min.). Three are attributed to dimethyl-benzaldehyde molecules and two to phenyl methanol compounds 327 (molecular masses 134 and 136 g/mol, respectively). A very low intensity peak attributed to 328 dimethyl-benzoic acid (M = 150 g/mol) was also observed as well as three intense peaks, between 329 40 and 41 min, corresponding to products with molecular masses of 152 g/mol each, which could 330 be hydroperoxides species. 331

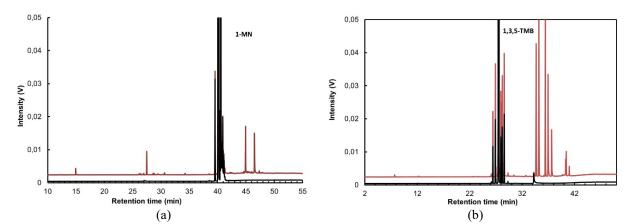


Figure 6 - Chromatograms obtained by GC-MS of the liquid phase before and after the oxidation of a) 1-MN and b) 1,2,4-TMB, with unoxidized molecules in black and oxidized molecules at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10\%$ in red (T = 160 °C, $P_{O2,i} = 700 \text{ kPa}$)

Several classes of compounds with different chain lengths are detected after the oxidation of alkane
molecules (Figure 7). For n-BC oxidation, the molecules formed with a retention time of less than

28 min have a lower number of carbon atoms than the parent hydrocarbon (Figure S.M.5.4.a.1. to 334 a.3.). The molecules identified are aldehydes, carboxylic acids, 2-ketones (m/z = 58), secondary 335 alcohols (m/z 45 and 59). Primary and tertiary alcohols were also identified (fragments m/z 31 and 336 87, respectively) but in smaller amounts. Molecules detected between 34 and 38 min were mostly 337 alcohols and ketones with the same carbon number as n-BC: X-butyl-cyclohexanol and X-butyl-338 cyclohexanone. No X-butyl-cyclohexanal or X-butyl-cyclohexanoic acid was detected. This does 339 not mean that they were not formed: the boiling temperature of these species is very high (230 and 340 288 °C, respectively) and they may not evaporate during the GC injection. Finally, about ten peaks 341 between 40 and 45 min show the m/z 139 fragment. These peaks are attributed to X-butyl-342 cyclohexane hydroperoxides. 343

The oxidation of n-C₁₂ gives molecules with a retention time below 34 min, corresponding to 344 shorter carbon chains than the parent hydrocarbon (Figure 7.b). As for n-BC, for a fixed chain 345 length, three types of compounds were identified: a ketone, an aldehyde and a carboxylic acid 346 (Figures S.M.5.4.b.1. to b.3.). Most of the ketones identified show the m/z 58 fragment 347 characteristic of 2-ketones. Alcohols are also observed and most of them have the m/z 45 and 59 348 fragments which are characteristic of secondary alcohols. Smaller amounts of primary alcohols 349 (m/z 31) and dodecanal were also identified. The molecules detected at retention times between 350 42 and 46 min have the same chain length as n-C₁₂. These are alcohols and ketones, X-dodecanol 351 and X-dodecanone with positions X = 1 to 6 [10,71]. Finally, peaks close to 53 min with m/z 169 352 characteristic of hydroperoxide species [M - •OOH]⁺ [72] were detected. In a previous study it was 353 confirmed that these were dodecyl hydroperoxide isomers [10]. 354

For the branched alkane C_{12} IsoB, the compounds detected at retention times below 27 min have shorter chain lengths (C_1 to C_8) than the model molecule (Figure 7.c). As for the linear alkanes,

the compounds identified for these low retention times are 2-ketones (m/z 58), secondary alcohols 357 in the majority (m/z 45), some tertiary alcohols (m/z 59 and 87) and carboxylic acids in very small 358 quantities. No aldehyde-type molecules were detected. The peaks between 22 and 33 min 359 correspond to the approximately forty isomers constituting n-C12 IsoB mixture (Figure 360 S.M.4.4.c.1. to c.2.). In this same retention time range, many fragments previously absent for the 361 non-oxidized n-C₁₂ IsoB are observed, thus characterizing the oxidized products formed. These 362 include products such as primary (m/z 31) and secondary alcohols (m/z 45, 59 and 73), ketones 363 (m/z 43 and 58), aldehydes (m/z 44, 75 and 31) and carboxylic acids (m/z 60). This suggests that 364 alcohol, aldehyde, and carboxylic acid molecules are present but co-eluted. Most species with 365 retention times above 40 min are primary alcohols (m/z 31) and hydroperoxide species [M -366 •OOH]⁺ (m/z 169). 367

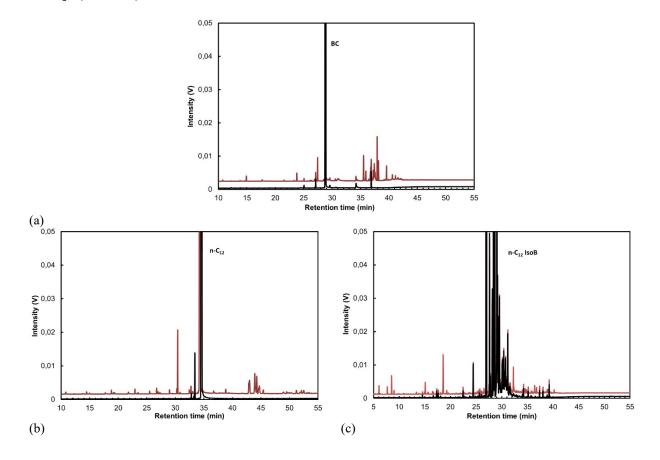


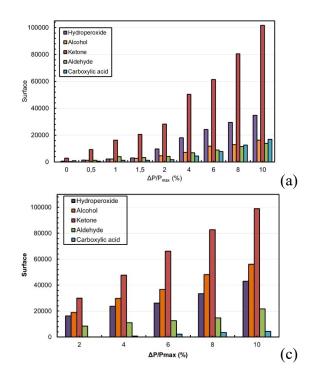
Figure 7 - Chromatograms obtained by GC-MS, of the liquid phase before and after the oxidation of a) n-BC, b) n-C₁₂ and c) C₁₂ IsoB, with unoxidized molecules in black and oxidized molecules at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10\%$ in red (T = 160 °C, P_{O2,i} = 700 kPa)

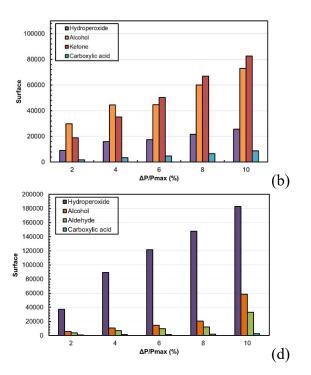
Consequently, as for n-C12 experimental study [10], GC-MS analysis revealed the presence of 368 fragments with m/z ratios attributable to hydroperoxide species $[M - \bullet OOH]^+$ [72]. In the case of 369 the aromatic molecules, there is one for 1-MN and three for 1,2,4-TMB. In the case of alkane 370 371 molecules, there are 8 for n-BC and 6 for n- C_{12} . To confirm their presence, an indirect assay based on their reduction to alcohols with TriPhenylPhosphine (TPP) was carried out. The intensity of the 372 alcohols should increase as the TPP is oxidized to TriPhenylPhosphine Oxide (TPPO) if the peaks 373 present in Figure 6 and Figure 7 correspond to hydroperoxides. This is exactly what is observed, 374 confirming the peaks assignments to hydroperoxides of the oxidized model molecules (Figure 375 S.M.5.5.). 376

For aromatic molecules there is one peak for 1-MN and three peaks for 1,2,4-TMB. Given the initial chemical molecule structures, it is possible to correlate the number of peaks attributed to hydroperoxides with the number of branched methyl groups in the molecules.

For alkane molecules, the same correlation can be made between the number of peaks assigned to hydroperoxide isomers and the molecule chemical structures. In the case of n-BC, 8 peaks are observed, indicating the presence of 8 X-butyl cyclohexane hydroperoxides and for n-C₁₂, 6 peaks associated with 6 X-dodecyl-hydroperoxides are observed.

For the branched alkane molecule (C_{12} IsoB), the complexity of the isomeric mixture meant that it was not possible to assign all the hydroperoxides formed. However, GC-MS analysis revealed the presence of several fragments characteristic of primary alcohols (m/z 31) (Figure 7.c.). The oxidation of hydroperoxides by TPP exacerbated peaks present in this region (Figure S.M. 5.6) which can therefore be attributed to alcohols. All these elements support the presence of several hydroperoxides, which could not be detected due to a co-elution phenomenon. 390 To perform a quantitative GC analysis it is necessary to use standards. There are too many products formed in the liquid phase to be able to calibrate all of them. A semi-quantitative analysis was 391 therefore carried out by comparing peak surface areas. The cumulative surface area of each family 392 of compounds was measured and plotted for increasing $\Delta P/P_{max}$ (Figure 8). The amount of primary 393 (hydroperoxides) and secondary (alcohols, ketones, carboxylic acids...) oxidation products 394 formed varies depending on the nature and structure of the hydrocarbon molecule oxidized. For 395 alkane molecules, Figure 8.a. to c. shows that the products are formed in the following proportions: 396 ketone > alcohol and hydroperoxides > aldehydes and carboxylic acids. For 1,2,4-TMB, 397 hydroperoxides are formed in majority while it is the opposite for 1-MN. The trend is reversed for 398 the alcohols and aldehydes formed. Moreover, whatever the aromatic molecule structure is, the 399 amount of acid molecules formed is very small. 400





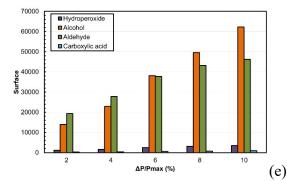


Figure 8 - Evolution of the oxidation products formed in the liquid phase obtained by GC of a) n-C12 [10], b) n-C12 Iso B,c) n-BC, d) 1,2,4-TMB and 1-MN at different advancements (T = 160 °C, $PO_{2,i} = 700 \text{ kPa}$)

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405

- 402 Peroxide Value (PV), Total Acid Number (TAN) and water content titrations were performed to403 confirm the semi-quantitative GC results (Figure 9).
- 404 The PV increases linearly and significantly for the model molecules between $\Delta P/Pmax = 2$ and
- 406 that the PV varies depending on the nature of the model molecule oxidized and the amount of

10%, except for n-BC and n-C12 IsoB for which it follows a logarithmic trend (Figure 9. a.). Note

407 hydroperoxide formed follows this order: $1 - MN < n - C_{12}$ IsoB $< n - C_{12} \sim n - BC < 1, 2, 4 - TMB$.

The TAN results (Figure 9.b) confirm an increasing amount of acid species as the reaction progresses. Furthermore, n-C₁₂ IsoB gives the highest quantity of carboxylic acids (~ 6 mg KOH/g at $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %), while the other molecules form almost twice as few acids (TAN < 2.5 mg KOH/g). The TAN values evolve following the order: 1,2,4-TMB < 1-MN < n-BC < n-C₁₂ << n-C₁₂ IsoB.

The amount of water produced increases significantly for all oxidized molecules. The molecule that forms the largest amount of water is the 1,2,4 -TMB (508 to 1780 ppm between $\Delta P/P_{max} = 2$ and 10 %). For the other molecules, the water content is always less than 500 ppm and the amount formed varies in the following order: n-C₁₂ IsoB < n-BC < 1-MN < n-C₁₂ << 1,2,4-TMB.

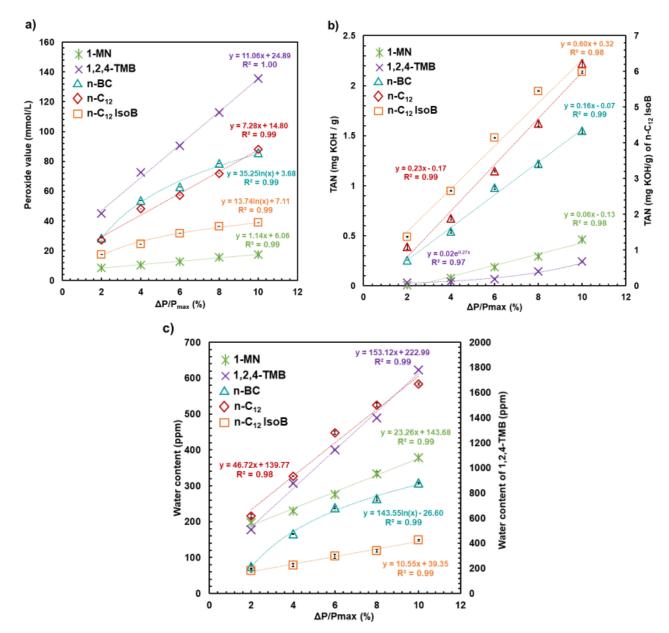


Figure 9 – Evolution of a) Peroxide Value (PV), b) Total Acid Number (TAN) and c) water content, formed in the liquid phase by oxidation of the model molecules at different $\Delta P/P_{max}$ (T = 160 °C, $P_{O2,i}$ = 700 kPa)

Overall, the hydroperoxide, acid and water contents are related. This was particularly observed for alkane molecules (linear, branched and cyclic): when the hydroperoxide concentration is high, the acid content is low but the water content is high. In addition, the acid content depends on the number of primary carbon atoms in the molecule. The aromatic molecules have different patterns of hydroperoxide formation and consumption depending on the number of rings they have, which

417

has a direct impact on the amount of secondary products. Typically, the di-aromatic molecule showed a lower amount of primary oxidation products compared to the mono-aromatic molecule, indicating a higher hydroperoxide consumption rate. This rapid conversion of primary oxidation products should involve a significant amount of secondary oxidation products, namely aldehydes, carboxylic acids and water molecules. This is highlighted by the higher TAN measured. However, the water content does not follow this reasoning. Indeed, for the di-aromatic molecule, the water content is 5 times lower than for the mono-aromatic molecule.

430 Based on the previous observations, water molecules could be formed by:

- the decomposition of hydroperoxides;
- the oxidation of aldehydes to carboxylic acids;
- the reaction of elimination of hydrogen from a methyl group substituting the aromatic rings.

434 *3.2.3 Solid phase*

Except for n-C12, a residual gel was observed at the bottom of the vial after the oxidation tests (Figure 10). The aspect of the deposit varies according to the initial nature of molecule: droplets for the alkane molecules (n-C₁₂IsoB and n-BC) and a thin layer for the aromatics molecules (1,2,4-TMB and 1-MN).

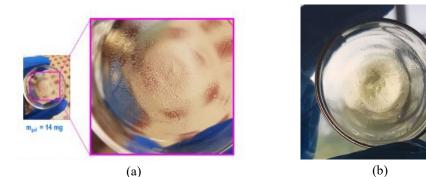


Figure 10 – Gel formed after n-C₁₂ IsoB (a) and MN-1 (b) oxidations (T = 160°C, $P_{02} = 700$ kPa, $\Delta P/P_{max} = 10$ %)

Due to the small quantity available, it was only possible to characterize the gels by FTIR after 439 dissolution in acetonitrile (ACN). By comparing the spectra of each oxidized molecule with those 440 of the gel dissolved in ACN, the appearance of additional bands was observed (Figure S.M.6.). 441

In the case of alkane molecules ($n-C_{12}$ IsoB and n-BC), the results showed three additional bands: 442

at 1150 cm⁻¹ attributed to the stretching vibration $v_{(C-O)}$ characteristic of carboxylic acids;

443

•

444

at 1640 cm⁻¹ attributed to the stretching vibration $v_{(C=C)}$; •

445

a large band between 3200 and 3700 cm⁻¹ attributed to the stretching vibration $v_{(O-H)}$ characteristic of alcohols and carboxylic acid functions. 446

These results indicate that the gels formed for n-C12 IsoB and n-BC are composed of significant 447 amounts of acidic species (Figure S.M.6.1). This may explain why a low TAN value was measured 448 in the liquid phase. It can be assumed that this gel is composed of acid molecules that have 449 precipitated at the bottom of the crucible due to the polarity difference [18]. It is also clear that 450 451 oxidized products such as ketones and carboxylic acids can be further oxidized. This is even more likely if the carbon chain of the selected alkane molecules is long and this could lead to esters, 452 453 lactones, furanones, etc. This gel could be a precursor of the deposit.

In the case of 1,2,4-TMB and 1-MN, a thin gel layer was observed and this gel was in higher 454 amounts than for alkanes (Figures S.M.6.2 and S.M.6.3). The presence of polar species of carbonyl 455 type such as possibly carboxylic acids or hydroperoxides was also highlighted. Indeed, bands 456 characteristic of the stretching vibrations $v_{(O-H)}$, $v_{(C=O)}$ and $v_{(C-O)}$ at 3476, 1738 and 1213 cm⁻¹, were 457 observed. and an intense band around 800 cm⁻¹, which can be associated to a polymerization 458 reaction based on the literature results [79-82], was detected. Although it was difficult to precisely 459 assign this band to a functional group, several literature references suggest that it could be: 460

an off-plane deformation band of the aromatic C-H bonds (between 750 and 870 cm⁻¹ for 461 mono-substituted C-H, 815 cm⁻¹ for di-substituted C-H and 750 cm⁻¹ for a quadruple 462 substitution). This is the most likely explanation because stretching vibrations $v_{(C-H)}$ are 463 observed around 3030 cm⁻¹. This assignment would suggest that the gel obtained would be 464 mainly composed of aromatic molecules with a carboxylic acid function. Furthermore, the 465 quantitative results showed that the acid species are present in very small quantities in the 466 liquid phase. It can therefore be assumed that the benzoic acids formed in the liquid phase 467 precipitated at the bottom of the vial to form a gel; 468

a characteristic band of the C-O-C bond. Many literature references [79,80,85,86] indicate
that this bond, combined with the stretching vibration v_(O-H) at 3476 cm⁻¹, is visible during
a polymerization reaction and could explains the gel texture [81]. The polymerization
mechanisms are shown in Figure S.M.6.4.1. ;

a stretching vibration v₍₀₋₀₎ characteristic of the peroxo group, which can be attributed to
hydroperoxide type molecules [82,87]. This would imply that the gel formed for 1-MN
results from hydroperoxide molecules precipitation formed in the liquid phase. This is not
probable for 1,2,4-TMB because the liquid quantitative analysis showed a significant
amount of hydroperoxides. However, it is possible to envisage a polymerization reaction
between an alkyl peroxide radical and an alkyl radical R• or between two carboxylic acid
molecules linked together by an O-O bond (Figure S.M.6.4.2.).

All these elements suggest that the recovered gel contains polar compounds (especially carbonyl functions) in significant quantities. Consequently, the precipitation of polar molecules can be assumed, which could generate a polymerization reaction in the gel [18]. This result also shows

that the formation of SMORS or insoluble deposits do not require the presence of molecules 483 containing sulphur or nitrogen atoms. 484

4. **DISCUSSION** 485

4.1. Highlighting chemical structure influence on autoxidation mechanism reactivity 486

In the liquid phase, the oxidation products formed are identical within a class of oxidized model 487 molecules and their quantity increases as the reaction progresses. This implies that for any degree 488 of advancement within the range considered ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 2$ to 10 %), the mechanisms involved are 489 also identical. 490

491 For all oxidized model molecules, hydroperoxides species are always formed. The secondary oxidation products vary according to the structure of the initial molecule, *i.e.* depending whether 492 it is linear, branched, cyclic or aromatic. In the case of alkane molecules, the oxidized products 493 494 formed are primary and secondary alcohols, ketones, aldehydes, and carboxylic acids. The same applies to aromatic molecules but without the secondary alcohols and ketones. Based on these 495 findings, it is possible to divide the products formed into different classes according to the initial 496 497 structure of the model molecules. In the case of aromatic molecules, we distinguish them into two classes: hydroperoxides and oxidized products with a carbon chain equal to that of the initial 498 499 molecule. In the case of alkane molecules, a third class of oxidation products is observed: products 500 with a shorter carbon chain.

501

4.1.1 The hydroperoxides

Hydroperoxides result from the propagation step, which is divided into two sub-steps. The first 502 sub-step involves the reaction between an alkyl radical R• and an O₂ molecule to form a peroxide 503 radical RO₂•, followed by a second sub-step, in which the latter can remove a hydrogen atom from 504 a hydrocarbon molecule RH present in the environment to form hydroperoxide species (ROOH). 505

Based on the experimental results, it has been established that, for a given hydrocarbon molecule, 506 the available H atoms induce a number of possibilities for O₂ attacks to form a peroxide radical. 507 This has been demonstrated in particular in the case of the oxidation of aromatic molecules, where 508 TPP results have shown a direct correlation between the number of methyl groups present in the 509 initial molecule and the hydroperoxides formed. Similarly, for alkane molecules, the number of H 510 511 atoms in the carbon chain can also be used to predict the number of hydroperoxides formed, provided that the symmetry elements attributed to the chemical structure of these molecules are 512 taken into account. 513

514 *4.1.2. Oxidized products with carbon chain length equal to the initial hydrocarbon molecule*

The hydroperoxides formed will decompose into alkoxy radicals RO• and hydroxyl radicals OH•.
These species will then react with the other molecules to form alcohols and water, according to
Reaction 1 and Reaction 2.

$RO^{\bullet} + RH \rightarrow ROH + R^{\bullet}$	Reaction 1
$OH^{\bullet} + RH \rightarrow H_2O + R^{\bullet}$	Reaction 2

This mechanism is consistent with the results obtained as it can explain the decomposition of 518 hydroperoxides into alcohols as well as the formation of water. Depending on the nature of the 519 carbon attacked, the ROOH species formed will lead to the formation of a primary, secondary or 520 tertiary alcohol. If a primary alcohol is formed (hydrogen attack at the end of the chain), oxidation 521 522 continues, leading to the formation of an aldehyde and then a carboxylic acid. If a secondary alcohol is formed, it oxidizes to a ketone. The mechanisms of formation of these oxidation products 523 have been described in detail in a previous paper [10]. In addition, the oxidation products formed 524 will have a chain length with a number of carbon atoms equal to the chain length of the initial 525 model molecule. 526

For alkane molecules, namely for n-BC and n- C_{12} , the oxidation products are a mixture of primary 527 and secondary alcohols, ketones, aldehydes, and carboxylic acids. The amount of secondary 528 alcohols is higher than that of primary alcohols as shown in Table 3. It is interesting to note that the 529 area ratio of the primary to secondary alcohols does not vary much with the reaction temperature. 530 For n- C_{12} , if the probabilities of formation of each alkyl radicals from n-dodecane are equivalent, 531 532 1/6 of the total alcohols produced should be primary and 5/6 secondary alcohols. Thus, the expected area ratio of primary to secondary alcohols should be 0.20; the experimental values 533 obtained are very close, between 0.16 and 0.18. For n-BC, 1/10, 8/10 and 1/10 of the alcohols 534 should be primary, secondary and tertiary alcohols respectively, if an equivalent probability of 535 formation of alkyl radicals was observed. Thus, the theoretical ratio of the surface areas of the 536 primary/secondary alcohols expected should be 0.125 and that of the tertiary/other alcohols 0.135. 537 Again, the experimental values obtained are very close, *i.e.* 0.12 to 0.14 for the first ratio and 0.11 538 to 0.13 for the second one (Table 3). 539

540 In the case of the branched alkane molecule (n-C₁₂ IsoB), it was difficult to determine the nature

of the molecules formed by GC-MS due to a co-elution phenomenon.

Temperature (°C)	140	150	160
$\mathbf{n-C_{12} \ area \ ratio} = \frac{surface \ of \ primary \ alcohol}{\sum surfaces \ of \ secondary \ alcohols}$	0.16	0.17	0.18
C_{12} IsoB area ratio = $\frac{surface \ of \ primary \ alcohol}{\sum surfaces \ of \ secondary \ alcohols}$	0.18	0.20	0.22
BC area ratio = $\frac{surface \ of \ primary \ alcohol}{\sum surfaces \ of \ secondary \ alcohols}$	0.12	0.12	0.14
BC area ratio = $\frac{surface of tertiary alcohol}{\sum surfaces of primary and secondary alcohols}$	0.11	0.12	0.13

Table 3 - Surface areas ratios obtained by GC for alcohols formed in the liquid phase for all model molecules ($\Delta P/Pmax = 10\%$, $P_{O2,i} = 700$ kPa).

The oxidation products of 1,2,4-TMB obtained in the liquid phase are of the following types: 543 benzene hydroperoxides, benzoic alcohols, benzaldehydes and benzoic acids. The structure of 544 TMB explains this result as only the hydrogen atoms of the 3 methyl groups can react with 545 dioxygen. This leads to the formation of three hydroperoxides, all of which are formed on primary 546 carbons, producing three primary alcohols, three aldehydes and three carboxylic acids. In addition, 547 548 the benzene ring is not opened and therefore does not undergo a chain breaking reaction. Therefore, no products are formed with a lower number of carbon atoms than TMB, only molecules of the 549 same size (*i.e.* 9 carbon atoms). 550

551 For 1-MN, most of the products are derived from the oxidation of the molecule at a preferential position: one of the hydrogen atoms of the methyl group. The resulting products are therefore: 1-552 methyl naphthalene hydroperoxide, a primary alcohol, 1-naphthalene methanol, an aldehyde, 1-553 naphthalaldehyde and a carboxylic acid, 1-naphthalene carboxylic acid. In total, the oxidation 554 products have the same size as the molecule of interest, *i.e.* 11 carbon atoms. Once again, the 555 aromatic structure of the molecule, and in particular the two benzene rings, is very stable and does 556 557 not allow for a chain breaking mechanism, which explains the reduced number of molecules formed, under the conditions of the tests. On this basis, and given the nature of the branching of 558 the aromatic molecules tested, it is not surprising that no ketone-type products were identified, 559 since there are no secondary carbons. It would therefore be interesting to carry out a more in-depth 560 study of the structure of the aromatic molecules to confirm the effect of branching on the oxidation 561 products formed. 562

4.1.3. Oxidized products with carbon chain length less than the initial hydrocarbon molecule
In the case of alkane molecules (linear, branched or cyclic), oxidized compounds (2-ketones,
aldehydes and carboxylic acids) with shorter chain lengths than the initial alkane molecule are

formed. It is important to note that their formation does not lead to the production of alcohols. 566 These short-chain oxidized molecules are the result of a different type of mechanism, resulting 567 from the formation of a ketohydroperoxide (KPH) [7] and subsequent carbon chain cleavage 568 reactions. These Korcek reactions are also observed in the case of oxidation reactions at 569 temperatures below 475 °C [73]. It should be noted that the reaction is also an interesting 570 alternative to explain the formation of short carboxylic acids and aldehydes or ketones [7]. These 571 mechanisms have been demonstrated in a previous study on n-C₁₂ [10]. In contrast, for mono- and 572 di-aromatic molecules, the stability of the benzene rings precludes the possibility of a ring-opening 573 574 mechanism. This has already been demonstrated by the small amount of gas obtained. The more branches a molecule is, the more carbon chain breaking reactions can take place. 575

576 4.1.4. Precipitation of polar species

The overall oxidation mechanism of the model molecules studied and the formation of the 577 associated products in the liquid phase are summarized in Figure 11. All oxidized products are 578 579 polar species. It is noteworthy that the formation of SMORS or insoluble deposits do not require the presence of molecules containing sulphur or nitrogen atoms. The precipitation of polar species can 580 result from two scenarios: (1) polar species formed during oxidation reactions precipitate due to 581 the difference in polarity with the hydrocarbon liquid phase [18]; (2) the polar species formed 582 583 react with each other to form SMORS which, due to their weight, precipitate at the bottom of the crucible. 584

The second scenario can be supported by the mechanism of Adams *et al.* [59], in which the authors, using DFT calculations, proposed two additional pathways to the SMORS formation mechanism: (a) a first mechanism in which a quinone can be formed via the decomposition of a tetra peroxide formed by the reaction of two keto-peroxyl radicals, leading to two reactive hydroxy radicals and

singlet oxygen; (b) the second via coupling between the quinone and electron-rich compounds, 589 such as indole-type species. The hydroxy radicals then undergo a hydrogen transfer reaction to 590 form the quinone and a p-chinole. In the present study, the quinone species involved in mechanism 591 (a) were not detected experimentally, so it is unlikely that they were formed under the operating 592 conditions used. However, it is conceivable that these products could be formed at $\Delta P/Pmax >$ 593 10% or in the presence of nitrogen or sulphur compounds. The second mechanism (b) is 594 conceivable in the presence of heteroatomic species. However, in the present study the 595 hydrocarbon species were oxidized alone, without any nitrogen or sulphur species. 596

597 Another mechanism given in the literature [57,93] for the gel formation involves the presence of 598 strong acids (sulphonic acid type) which may play a role in catalysing the formation of the deposits. 599 Indeed, the results of the oxidation and analysis of n-C12 IsoB and n-BC in this study revealed a 500 significant amount of acidic species, which, although lacking heteroatomic species, may also play 501 a catalyzing role.

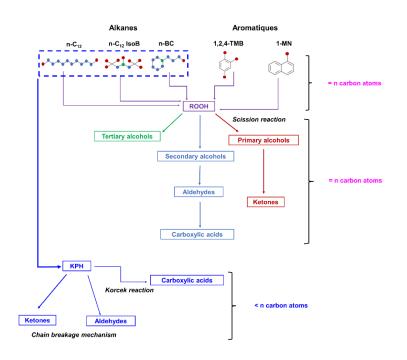


Figure 11 - Global diagram showing the different classes of oxidation products obtained for all model molecules of carbon chain length n

602 4.2. Kinetic study

603

4.2.1. Global reaction rate constant

Based on the same methodology presented in a previous work [10], it was possible to determine the overall oxidation reaction kinetic constants of the set of model molecules presented in this study. The mechanism and analysis of Bacha *et al.* [78] were used to determine the overall reaction rate parameters. However, we have corrected the experimental induction times to be at isoconversion of oxygen. Thus, the equation was modified to take into account these new elements, as shown in Equation 2, where $\Delta n(O_2)$ and $\Delta n(RH)$ are the number of moles of oxygen and hydrocarbon molecules consumed, respectively, IP_{corrected} is expressed in seconds.

$$\ln\left[\frac{\Delta n(O_2)}{\Delta n(RH)IP_{corrected}}\right] = -\frac{E_a}{RT} + \ln A$$
 Equation 2

The corrected induction periods were plotted as a function of 1/T (Figure S.M.7.1.). A linear regression was used for the determination of Ea and A values (Table 4). The rate constants k of the oxidation reaction of all model molecules derived from the Arrhenius regression are given in Table 5 for each test temperature.

By comparing the kinetic values obtained for all the model molecules, it is possible to divide theminto 2 categories:

- alkanes with high activation energy values (Ea > 120 kJ.mol⁻¹) and high pre-exponential
 factors (A > 10⁺¹²);
- aromatics with slightly lower activation energies (Ea < 110 kJ.mol⁻¹) and pre-exponential

620 factors (A < 10^{+09}).

 Table 4 - Activation energies values (Ea) and
 pre-exponential factors A for the oxidation

 Table 5 - Model molecules oxidation kinetic constants (k)
 determined using Arrhenius regression

	Ea (kJ.mol ⁻¹)	A (s ⁻¹)	
1-MN	80.03	1.25.10+06	
1,2,4-TMB	102.73	1.48.10+09	
n-BC	131.79	2.36.10+13	
n-C ₁₂	128.79	2.86.10+12	
n-C ₁₂ IsoB	128.36	1.42.10+13	

reaction of all model	molecules ($\Delta P/P_{max} =$
10% et $T =$	140 à 160°C)

Temperature (°C)	140	150	160
1-MN	9.65×10 ⁻⁰⁵ s ⁻¹	$1.61 \times 10^{-04} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$	2.83×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹
1,2,4-TMB	$1.49 \times 10^{-04} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$	$3.24 \times 10^{-04} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$	5.91×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹
n-BC	5.23×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	$1.22 \times 10^{-03} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$	3.08×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹
n-C12	1.49×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	3.61×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	8.39×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹
n-C ₁₂ IsoB	8.63×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	$1.92 \times 10^{-03} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$	4.85×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹

621

Taking into account the activation energy and the pre-exponential factor obtained, it was possible to plot ln(A) as a function of ln(Ea). The linear regression allows the Arrhenius parameters to be calibrated according to the structure of the molecule oxidized in the temperature range between 140 and 160 °C. (Figure 12).

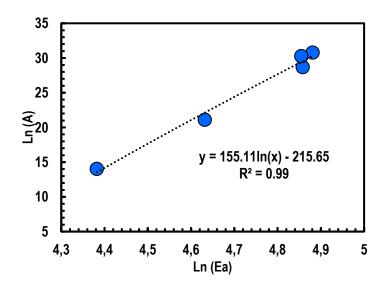


Figure 12 – Experimental calibration model of the Arrhenius parameters of all the model molecules oxidation ($\Delta P/P_{max}=10\%$, $P_{O2,i}=700$ kPa, T=140 to 160° C))

626 4.2.2. Hydroperoxide dissociation rate constant

Two main mechanisms have been proposed in the literature to explain the decomposition of
hydroperoxides: a self-reaction (Reaction 3) [49,[88] and a homolytic cleavage reaction (Reaction
Reaction 3 was discarded because the tests were carried out at the very beginning of the

autoxidation. This implies a low concentration of hydroperoxides in the solution, thus the
interaction between two molecules is very unlikely. The second is favoured by temperature and
can be considered at low conversion rates.

 $2 \text{ ROOH} \rightarrow \text{RO}^{\bullet} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{RO}_2^{\bullet}$ Reaction 3 ROOH $\rightarrow \text{RO}^{\bullet} + \text{HO}^{\bullet}$ Reaction 4

The hydroperoxide dissociation rate constant was determined. Taking into account the qualitative and quantitative results of the liquid phase of the present study, it can be suggested that the secondary oxidation products (alcohols, ketones, aldehydes and carboxylic acid) originate from the formation and decomposition of hydroperoxides [10]. Thus, using the peroxide values determined experimentally for each temperature, it is possible to establish the evolution of the hydroperoxide concentration as a function of the duration of the oxidation reaction (Table S.M.7.2.1).

Furthermore, according to the literature [78], the oxygen consumption can be expressed by Equation 4, where the previously determined kinetic constant k can be related to Equation 5. Inserting the kinetic constant k into Equation 6 and integrating it between t = 0 and t = IP gives the hydroperoxide dissociation rate. The kinetic constant k" can then be determined from the experimental data using Equation 7.

The kinetic constant of the hydroperoxide dissociation (k") obtained for each temperature tested
is given in Table 7 and ln (k") was plotted as a function of 1/T following the formalism of the
Arrhenius law (Figure S.M.7. 1).

$$-\frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = k[RO_2 \cdot][RH]$$
Equation 3
$$\frac{d[RO_2H]}{dt} = k'[RO_2^{\bullet}][RH] - k''[RO_2H]$$
Equation 4

$$k = k' [RO_{2}^{\bullet}] = A \exp^{-\frac{E_{a}}{RT}}$$
Equation 5

$$\frac{d[RO_{2}H]}{dt} = k'[RO_{2}^{\bullet}][RH] - k''[RO_{2}H]$$
Equation 6

$$k'' = k \frac{([RH]_{IP_{corrected}} - [RH]_{0})}{[RO_{2}H]_{IP_{corrected}}}$$
Equation 7

648

Table 6- Activation energies values (Ea") and preexponential factors A" of the hydroperoxide dissociation oxidation reaction for all model molecules

	100/ 57	1 (0) 1 (00 C)
$(\Delta P/P_{max} =$	10% et T =	140 à 160°C)

	Ea" (kJ.mol ⁻¹)	A" (s ⁻¹)	
1-MN	126.50	2.14.10+12	
1,2,4-TMB	98.58	5.56.10+09	
n-BC	69.25	$1.05.10^{+06}$	
n-C ₁₂	86.80	2.89.10+07	
n-C ₁₂ IsoB	116.17	$1.78.10^{+12}$	

Table 7 - Kinetic constants (k") of the hydroperoxide dissociation during oxidation of model molecules determined using Arrhenius regression estimates from Table 6 and the experimental peroxide values (PV)

Temperature (°C)	140	150	160
1-MN	2.12×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	5.34×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	1.16×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹
1,2,4-TMB	2.04×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	3.29×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	7.70×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹
n-BC	1.72×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	3.36×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	4.35×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹
n-C ₁₂	3.10×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	5.50×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹	9.96×10 ⁻⁰⁴ s ⁻¹
n-C ₁₂ IsoB	3.79×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	7.48×10 ⁻⁰³ s ⁻¹	$1.81 \times 10^{-02} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$

649 By comparing the values of the global constant k and the dissociation hydroperoxides constant k"

(Table 7), it can be seen that k < k''. This result confirms the experimental results obtained in this

study and indicates that the hydroperoxides are consumed very rapidly after their formation. The

values of the constant k" obtained in this work have been compared with those found in the

653 literature (Table 8) but it is difficult to draw conclusions since the latter are mainly average or

estimated values for modelling purposes and are already widely scattered.

 Table 8. Comparison of the kinetic constants of the hydroperoxide dissociation reaction obtained in the presents study with those reported in the literature.

Literature data	Molecule	$A(s^{-1})$	Ea (kJ/mol)	Kind of study
	Tetralin	$1.3 \times 10^{+11}$	121.3	
	α-Cumyl	$1.3 \times 10^{+11}$	121.3	
Thomas (1955)	n-Octyl	$1.0 \times 10^{+10}$	108.8	Experimental
[89]	2,2,4-Trimethylpentyl-2	$1.0 \times 10^{+10}$	108.8	Experimental
	t-Butyl	$1.2 \times 10^{+15}$	163.2	
	Cyclohexyl	$1.2 \times 10^{+13}$	142.2	
	Decalyl	8.5 ×10 ⁺¹³	133.9	

	Sec-Decyl	$1.0 \times 10^{+11}$	129.7	
Ervin <i>et al.</i> (1998) [90]	Jet A	$1.0 \times 10^{+15}$	154.80	Numerical
Zabarnick (1998) [91] Kuprowicz <i>et al.</i> (2004) [4]	Exxsol D-80	1.0 ×10 ⁺¹⁵	175.7	Experimental/Numerical, Numerical
Kuprowicz <i>et al.</i> (2007) [30]	Jet A-1, Jet A and JP-8	$1.0 \times 10^{+15}$	163.2	Numerical
West (2011) [74]	Exxsol D-80	$2.0 \times 10^{+8}$	104.6	Numerical
Aminane <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> (2021) [10]	n-C ₁₂	2.9 ×10 ⁺⁷	86.8	Experimental
Alborzi <i>et al.</i> (2021) [92]	n-C ₁₂	5 × 10 ¹³	138.1	Numerical

655 **5 CONCLUSION**

This study demonstrates the impact of the structure of the model molecules (n-alkane, i-alkane, cyclo-alkane, mono-aromatic and di-aromatic) present in the jet fuel during their autoxidation process in the liquid phase, using the PetroOXY apparatus. The experimental conditions were chosen at low advancement values ($\Delta P/P_{max} = 2-10\%$) in order to gain a better understanding of the initial stages of the reaction.

The robust experimental strategy employed allowed to qualitatively and quantitatively monitor the 661 consumption of the reactants (oxygen and hydrocarbons) as well as characterizing their 662 degradation products. Reagent monitoring showed that oxygen consumption was always higher 663 664 than that of the parent hydrocarbons, suggesting that oxygen is used in two types of competitive reactions: with the parent hydrocarbon and with the oxidation products. Although the overall 665 behavior of oxygen consumption is similar for all alkane molecules, for aromatics the behavior 666 667 varies according to their structure. The degree of branching of a molecule also affects its reactivity and the products formed. This is an important milestone: the nature and structure of the molecule 668 influences its oxidation rate and mechanism. 669

The structure-reactivity aspect was also highlighted by the identification and quantification of the 670 oxidation products in both the gas and liquid phases. The quantity of gaseous products isvery small 671 and linked to the breaking of the carbon chains of the hydrocarbons. CO₂ is the main product 672 formed and its quantity increases much more than the other molecules. The amount of gas formed 673 depends on the nature of the molecule and its chemical structure: the more branched a molecule 674 675 is, the more the carbon chain breaking reactions occur. In the liquid phase, the same oxidation products are detected for a given molecule, regardless of the progress of the reaction and 676 temperature. The elimination of the hydrogen atom to form the radical that reacts with the oxygen 677 678 can occur anywhere in the molecule except at the aromatic ring. This leads to the formation of all possible hydroperoxides isomers. The proportions of the products (primary, secondary and tertiary 679 alcohols, ketones and acids) are therefore directly dependent on this. Finally, a gel precursor 680 deposit was obtained after oxidation of the molecules, highlighting a potential precipitation of 681 polar species due to the difference in polarity with hydrocarbon molecules. 682

The results obtained at different temperatures were used to calculate the overall reaction constant and the dissociation constant of hydroperoxide. They also enabled to determine the consumption rates of the reactants, to follow the formation of the products over time, to confirm the choice of a mechanism and to determine the kinetic constants. These data are valuable to further model the autoxidation of the model molecules as a function of time, with the aim of reconciling the different experimental and simulation curves.

To gain a better insight of the degradation of a jet fuel, the next steps will also to (1) use the same methodology in the presence of sulphur or nitrogen species to evaluate their impact on deposit formation and (2) to mix all the families of molecules studied individually here in the proportions of a SAF to get closer to a surrogate. In this way, using the same approach and associating other

- 693 characterization techniques, such as GCxGC, it would be possible to determine the kinetic
- 694 parameters necessary to calibrate the numerical simulation models of deposits formation.
- 695 Moreover, it would be relevant to experimentally confirm the data obtained by DFT, using the
- same methodology as proposed in this study.
- 697

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