

! Blending gases based on the Wobbe index.

When you turn on your gas stove (or gas turbine if you are in industry) each morning and you set the dial to "5", you would like to get the same amount of heat from the burner from one day to the next, even though the composition of the "natural" gas feeding your appliance may vary from day to day.

If the Wobbe index of the gas remains constant from day to day then the heat output of your appliance will remain the same from day to day. The Wobbe index is a measure of the heat content of the gas that flows through an orifice of constant size under constant pressure per unit of time.

Based on elementary physics, Goffredo Wobbe in 1927 deduced that said heat content is a) proportional to the heat content of a cubic foot (or meter) of gas at standard temperature and pressure (STP), and b) inversely proportional to the square root of the density (or specific gravity) of the gas.

I.e., at STP, lighter gas flows through the orifice faster than heavier gas;

! Keywords: Blending, BTU, Energy content, Fuel, Gas blending, Heat content, LINGO, Natural gas, Specific gravity, STP, Turbine, Wobbe index;

sets:

gas: btupcf, spg, avail, x;

endsets

data:

! The gases of interest, their heat content in  
BTU per cubic foot, and specific gravity  
relative to air, cubic feet available per unit time;

gas,	btupcf,	spg,	avail=
argon	0	1.38	10
hydrogen	325	0.07	10
helium	0	0.138	45
methane	1012	0.55	120
ethane	1773	1.04	235
propane	2522	1.52	827
butane	3225	2.01	395
natgas	1025	0.65	690
co2	0	1.52	150
nitrogen	0	0.97	80

;

! We want the Wobbe index in this interval;

WOBL = 1500;

WOBU = 1600;

enddata

submodel Wobbe:

! Availability limits;

@for( gas(i):

x(i) <= avail(i);

);

! batch size;

blendtot = @sum( gas(i): x(i));

! Total heat content;

heattot = @sum( gas(i): btupcf(i)\*x(i));

! Total weight in spg;

spgtot = @sum( gas(i): spg(i)\*x(i));

! spg per cf at STP;

spgcf = spgtot/blendtot;

! heat content per cf at STP;

heatcf = heattot/blendtot;

! Wobbe index;

wobbei = heatcf/(spgcf^0.5);

! bounds on the Wobbe index;

wobbei >= WOBL;

wobbei <= WOBU;

! A plausible objective is to maximize the energy content;

max = heattot;

endsubmodel

CALC:

! Set some parameters before the solve;

@SET( 'TERSEO',1); ! Output level (0:verbose, 1:terse, 2:only errors, 3:none);

@SET( 'IPTOLR', 0.0001);! Set IP ending relative optimality tolerance(Should be >0);

@SET( 'TATSLV', 900); ! Solver time limit in seconds (0:no limit) for @SOLVE's;

@SET( 'GLOBAL', 0);! 0:Do not use Global solver, 1:Use the Globasolver;

@SOLVE( Wobbe); ! Solve a specified submodel;

ISTAT = @STATUS();! 0: Optimal to tolerance. 1: infeasible, 2: unbounded,  
3: undetermined, 4: Feasible, 5: Infeasible/unbounded in

preprocessor,

6: Local optimum, 7: locally infeasible, 8: Objective cutoff

reached,

9: numeric error;

@WRITE( 'Solution Status = ', ISTAT, @NEWLINE( 1));

! Display a very simple solution report;

@WRITE( @NEWLINE( 1), ' A Simple Customized Solution Report', @NEWLINE( 1));

@WRITE( 'Objective= ', heattot, @NEWLINE(1));

@WRITE( ' Gas Amount to use ', @NEWLINE(1));

@FOR( gas( i) | x( i) #GT# 0:

! Can format output if desired;

@WRITE( @FORMAT( gas( i),'10s'), ' ', @FORMAT( x, '12.3f'), @NEWLINE(1));

);

ENDCALC