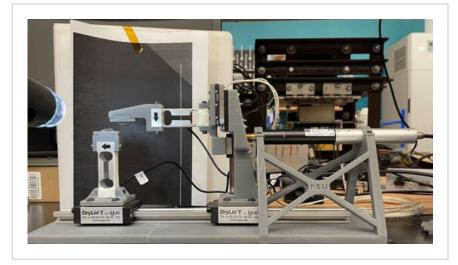
Characterization of Mechanical Biomass Particle-Particle and Particle-Wall Interactions ID# 2023-5609





Inter-particle mechanics tester

Technology Summary

The inventors have developed an interparticle mechanics tester (IPMT) capable of accommodating biomass particles and a test protocol to determine friction and adhesion properties. This allows one to be able to determine which components of feedstock may need to be removed or reduced to achieve the desired flow characteristics. Another asset of this technology is the ability for one test run to produce multiple measurements, alleviating the requirement to conduct separate tests to determine friction and adhesion properties. The tester is easily adjustable to handle particle sizes or shape that are typical for milled biomass.

Application & Market Utility

Crop residue is a viable biomass source due to its abundance and use in integrated biorefineries. Corn stover is an example of such crop residue left after corn has been harvested. There is a current desire to implement biofuel technologies at an industrial scale. This poses a financial risk due to the misrepresentation of physical, chemical, and mechanical variabilities in effective lignocellulosic biomass handling and feeding. As of 2016, total biofuel production only reached 7% of the expected 58 billion gallons per year design capacity. The challenges in handling biomass contribute to this shortfall significantly. These challenges arise from variations in particle interactions within and among the fractions of different feedstocks or tissue types. There is a need for understanding interparticle mechanics associated with each corn stover fraction as it provides valuable information for understanding the overall poor flow behavior of milled corn stover. Furthermore, the information will help identify fractions that may be responsible for the poor flowability behavior of comingled corn stover. Addressing the challenges related to handling biomass is crucial to adopt biomass as feedstocks for biofuel production at an industrial scale.

Next Steps

Next steps include licensing with the possibility of follow-on research on different feedstock and variations therein, such as moisture content/particle size, etc.



Invent Penn State is a Commonwealth-wide initiative to spur economic development, job creation, and student career success. Invent Penn State blends entrepreneurship-focused academic programs, business startup training and incubation, funding for commercialization, and university-community collaborations to facilitate the challenging process of turning research discoveries into valuable products and services that can benefit Pennsylvanians and humankind. Learn more at invent.psu.edu.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL

Seeking

Licensing | Research

Keywords

- Biomass
- Interparticle mechanics
- flow characteristics
- interparticle mechanics tester

Researchers

Hojae Yi, PhD

Assistant Research Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

James Slosson

Research Assistant

Other Researchers

Originating College

College of Agricultural Sciences

Office of Technology Management Contact

Doug Gisewhite drg206@psu.edu 814-863-1122

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.