

# CUTS – CRUDE OIL DATA MANAGER

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GENERALITIES.....	1
MULTIDIMENSIONAL REGRESSION.....	2
CHARACTERIZATION PROPERTIES.....	3
CRUDE DATA SOURCES .....	5
CRUDE ASSAY ESTIMATION.....	6
CRUDE RECUTTING.....	7
REPORTING .....	10

## GENERALITIES

**CUTS** is the tool of Prometheus DSS focused on crude oil characterization.

It handles crude oil data permitting to keep raw material information reliable and updated and builds a detailed characterization database useful for refinery processing calculations.

The information generated by this tool is used by planning and scheduling models to determine the yields and the properties of the oil fractions produced by the crude as well as by rigorous thermodynamic simulators to perform Vapour Liquid Equilibria Calculations useful for process design calculations.

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL REGRESSION

For an effective planning of Refinery operation it is necessary to dispose of reliable models calculating the actual yields of refinery units as well as the chemical physical properties of the intermediates produced by crude processing: then, the good characterisation of crude oils and intermediates fed to the refinery is fundamental to reach results adherent to reality.

CUTS makes available to its users a proprietary technology (multidimensional regression) specifically developed to elaborate Crude Assay data in order to produce a library of congruent data that can be queried for all the properties of any fraction, irrespective of the original source, form and consistency of the input assay.

CUTS characterises every Crude Oil as a mix of pure components (C5 minus) and “pseudo-components” (C6 plus), which overall cover the entire crude boiling range. Each pseudo component envelops pure components boiling in a narrow range of 10 °C.

Creating a distribution curve by multidimensional regression on assay data, CUTS calculates the values of appropriate quality characteristics for each pseudo component. The software distributes properties of the original assay, finding the best agreement between the natural curve shape and the input data. The algorithm is designed to calculate consistent values for contiguous pseudo components, while special operating parameters are available to harmonise the shape of the resulting curve, if necessary.

The multidimensional regression defines the property distribution curve accounting for the reliability assigned to each property value, applying endorsed blending rules (blending indexes are applied when necessary), considering the crude oil components yields and the shape of the resulting distribution.

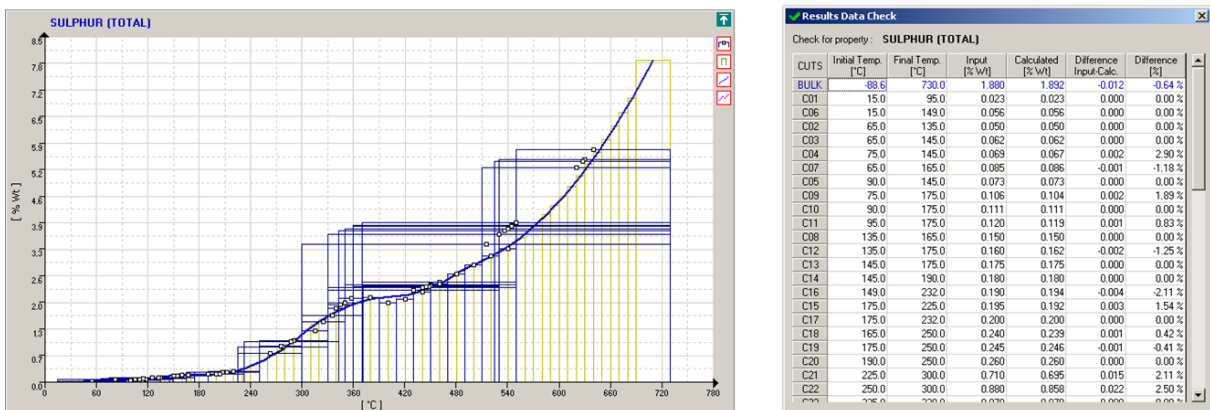


Figure 1 - Multidimensional regression of Sulphur content data

## CHARACTERIZATION PROPERTIES

Table 1 lists the fundamental properties (e.g. with property values estimated for each pseudo component through the above mentioned methods) managed by the current release, the relative blending rule and meaningful boiling range:

CUTS FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES			
PROPERTY	UNIT	Blending Rule	Boiling Range
Weight TBP Yield	% weight	Linear weight	Whole Crude
Volume TBP Yield	% volume	Linear volume	Whole Crude
Density@15°C	kg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Linear volume	Whole Crude
Sulphur Content	% weight	Linear weight	Whole Crude
Mercaptan Sulphur Content	% weight	Linear weight	Whole Crude
Kinematic Viscosity @50°C	cst	Index weight	Whole Crude
Kinematic Viscosity @100°C	cst	Index weight	Whole Crude
Acidity	mg KOH/gr	Linear weight	Whole Crude
Aromatics Content [FIA]	% volume	Linear volume	Gasoline
Naphthenic Content [FIA]	% volume	Linear volume	Gasoline
Paraffin Content [FIA]	% volume	Linear volume	Gasoline
Aromatics Content [Gas chromatography]	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Naphthenic Content [Gas chromatography]	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Paraffin Content [Gas chromatography]	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Octane Number Motor Method (MON)		Linear volume	Gasoline
Octane Number Research Method (RON)		Index volume	Gasoline
RON + Tetra Ethyl Lead 0.5		Index volume	Gasoline
RON + Tetra Methyl Lead 0.5		Index volume	Gasoline
Reid Vapour Pressure	PSIA	Index volume	Gasoline
Cyclopentane Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Cyclohexane Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
i-Hexanes Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
n-Hexane Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Benzene Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Methylcyclopentane Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
CC5 Content	% weight	Linear weight	Gasoline
Freezing Point	°C	Index volume	Mid Distillates
Cloud Point	°C	Index volume	Mid Distillates
Pour Point	°C	Index volume	Mid Distillates
Refraction Index @20°C		Index volume	Mid Distillates
Refraction Index @70°C		Index volume	Mid Distillates
Aniline Point	°C	Linear weight	Mid Distillates
Total Nitrogen Content	ppm weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Basic Nitrogen Content	ppm weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Ash Content	ppm weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Asphaltenes Content	% weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Conradson Carbon Residue	% weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Nickel Content	ppm weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Vanadium Content	ppm weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua
Wax Content	% weight	Linear weight	Mid Distillates and Residua

Table 1 - CUTS Fundamental Properties

Figure 2 shows some examples of property distribution curves calculated applying the multi-dimensional regression method to typical crude assay data:

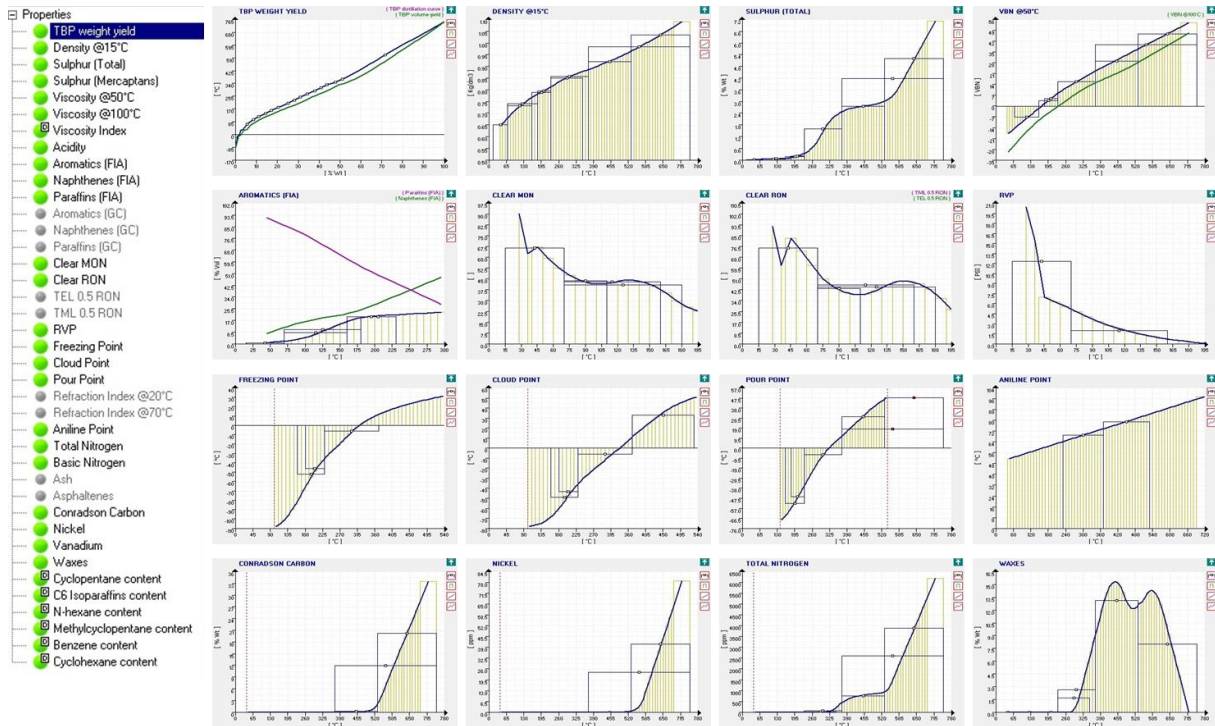


Figure 2 - Calculated distributions for various properties

The properties listed in Table 2 are estimated from the fundamental properties (through proprietary or published correlations) during the re-cutting process:

CUTS DERIVED PROPERTIES		
PROPERTY	UNIT	Boiling Range
Characterisation Factor UOPK		Whole Crude
Molecular Weight		Whole Crude
ASTM D86 Recovered @ 7 Test Temperatures	% volume	Whole Crude
ASTM D86 Distillation Curve Volume Basis	°C	Whole Crude
ASTM D2892 Distillation Curve (TBP) Volume Basis	°C	Whole Crude
ASTM D2892 Distillation Curve (TBP) Weight Basis	°C	Whole Crude
Refraction Index		Gasoline and Mid Distillates
Aromatics Content [ndM Method]	% weight	Mid Distillates
Naphthenic Content [ndM Method]	% weight	Mid Distillates
Paraffin Content [ndM Method]	% weight	Mid Distillates
Cetane Index		Mid Distillates
Smoke Point	millimetres	Mid Distillates
Viscosity Index		Mid Distillates and Residua
Flash Point	°C	Mid Distillates and Residua

Table 2 - CUTS Derived Properties

## CRUDE DATA SOURCES

CUTS foresees four alternative Crude characterization modes, depending of the type of data available:

- standard input from a crude assay;
- elaborate Field Data (recombining the analysis carried out on a distillation column of any kind);
- calculate crude blends;
- estimate crude properties from few data (applying an innovative data mining approach).

Furthermore the program can automatically import data from external databases and offers many utilities permitting to import data from other crude oils and elaborate them (for example for viscosity data elaboration and estimation).

CUTS permits to add to the database the oil fractions generated by crude re-cutting calculations (for example long residue or Vacuum Cuts). Resulting oil fractions data are therefore saved and treated like any other Crude Oil in the library.

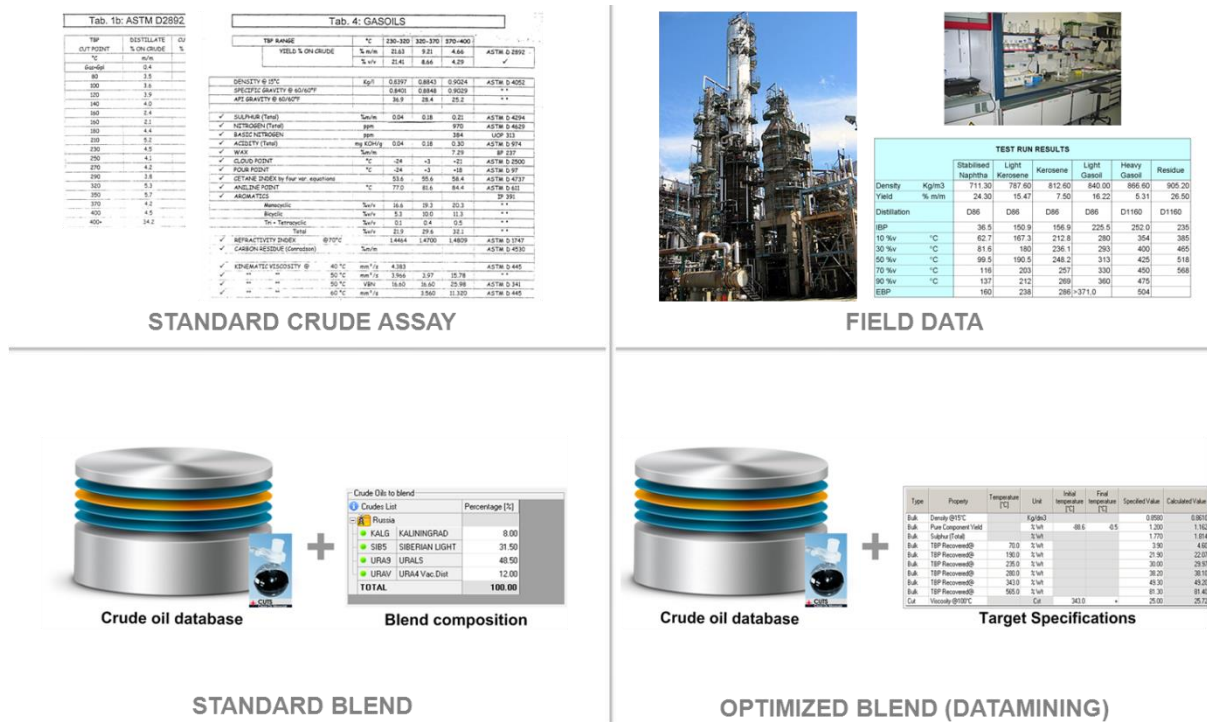


Figure 3 - Alternative Crude Oil Data Sources

## CRUDE ASSAY ESTIMATION

CUTS is able to generate a complete crude assay starting from a limited set of characterization data with the “Optimized Blend” feature.

The process is carried out through two steps:

- Selection of the set of crude oils contained in the database that will provide information during the data mining analysis. This step must be handled carefully since it determines the quality ranges that will be allowed for each specification during the analysis. The crude oils of the library must be properly filtered in order to assure a feasible range for any input specification and to control at the same time the degrees of freedom left to the algorithm.
- Run of the data mining analysis targeting the characterization data available (e.g. Density, Sulphur Content, TBP distillation) and production of the set of pseudo-components best representing the current feedstock.

The result is a comprehensive set of congruent data ready to reproduce exhaustively the behaviour of the feedstock in the following calculation modules (planning, scheduling, process design).

The consistency of the characterization data produced by this approach is assured by the integrity of the information associated to each crude oil (or crude oil fraction) represented in the database that has been previously pre-processed by CUTS multidimensional regression.

Figure 4 summarises the results of a test carried out to check the algorithm: the results obtained inputting few specifications of a known crude assay are compared with the crude assay itself.

The table on the left hand side compares the estimated results with the original assays. The seven values highlighted in the “base” column (Bulk Density, Sulphur, TBP Points, Atmospheric Residue Viscosity) constitute the algorithm input. The radar chart on the right hand side shows, for each input specification the ranges of the crude oils used for the analysis, the input value and the corresponding results.

The library which have been selected to carry out this exercise based on URAL crude oil was composed of 12 components and precisely of 9 crude oils from the same country (Russia) and three oil fractions.



PROPERTY	UNIT	BASE	RESULT
<b>Bulk</b>			
Initial temperature	°C	-88.6	-88.6
Final temperature	°C	700.0	710.0
Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.8682	0.8679
Sulphur (Total)	% Wt	> 1.343	1.334
Sulphur (Mercaptans)	ppm		
Viscosity @50°C	Cst	5.62	5.59
Viscosity @100°C	Cst		1.93
Acidity	mg KOH/g	0.170	0.169
Total Nitrogen	ppm	1804	1799
Basic Nitrogen	ppm	500	500.0
Ash	ppm		131.0
Asphaltenes	% Wt		0.64
Conradson Carbon	% Wt	1.79	1.67
Nickel	ppm	18.0	17.7
Vanadium	ppm	41.4	42.5
Waxes	% Wt	10.2	8.2
TBP Recovered@100°C	% Wt	6.62	6.92
TBP Recovered@150°C	% Wt	> 12.73	12.95
TBP Recovered@200°C	% Wt	21.58	21.78
TBP Recovered@250°C	% Wt	> 30.77	31.27
TBP Recovered@300°C	% Wt	40.15	40.53
TBP Recovered@350°C	% Wt	49.14	49.23
TBP Recovered@370°C	% Wt	> 52.60	52.60
TBP Recovered@420°C	% Wt	61.07	60.77
TBP Recovered@475°C	% Wt	69.41	69.26
TBP Recovered@525°C	% Wt	> 76.41	76.41
TBP Recovered@565°C	% Wt	81.33	81.59
<b>FR Naphtha [C5-150]</b>			
Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.707	0.709
<b>Kerosene [150-250]</b>			
Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.807	0.807
Sulphur (Total)	% Wt	0.22	0.22
Freezing Point	°C	-52	-51
<b>Diesel [250 - 370]</b>			
Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.866	0.866
Sulphur (Total)	% Wt	1.03	1.04
Cloud Point	°C	-0.1	-0.4
Viscosity @50°C	Cst	3.95	3.94
<b>Atm.Residue [370 + ]</b>			
Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.961	0.960
Sulphur (Total)	% Wt	2.28	2.27
Viscosity @50°C	Cst	> 613.6	610.9

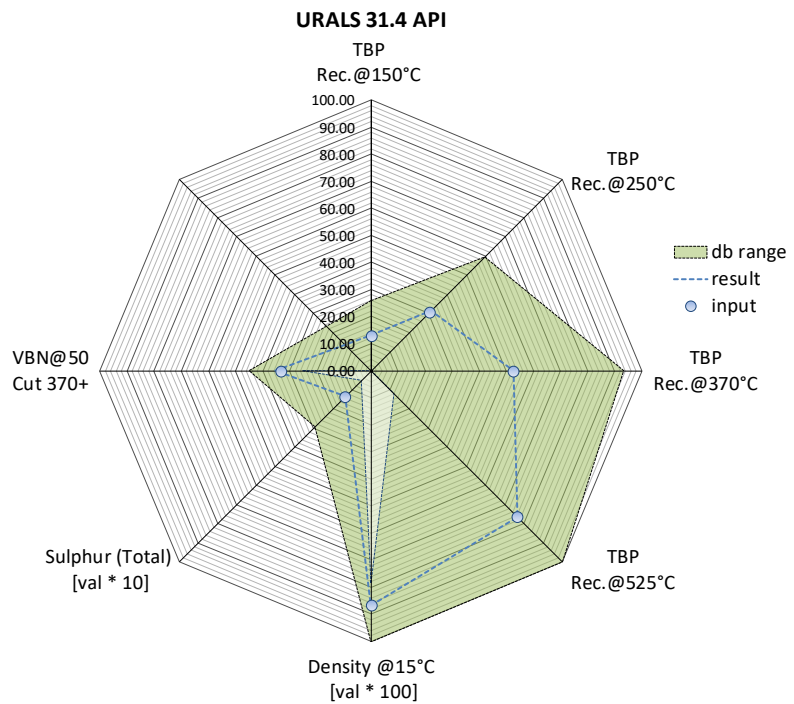


Figure 4 - Estimation of Ural 31.4 API Crude Assay

## CRUDE RECUTTING

The narrow cuts characterisation permits reliable re-cutting of crude assay to any requested format: during this process it is possible to set the desired degree of fractionation reproducing either the quality obtainable in the laboratory and in the real unit.

The CDU Simulation feature permits to calculate the quality of the streams produced by complex distillation systems accounting for the real fractionation capability experienced in each distillation column.

The calculation permits to consider the actual fractionation performance of the modelled fractionation system (setting the fractionation indexes) and to specify quality targets (like viscosity or cold properties) instead of End Points.

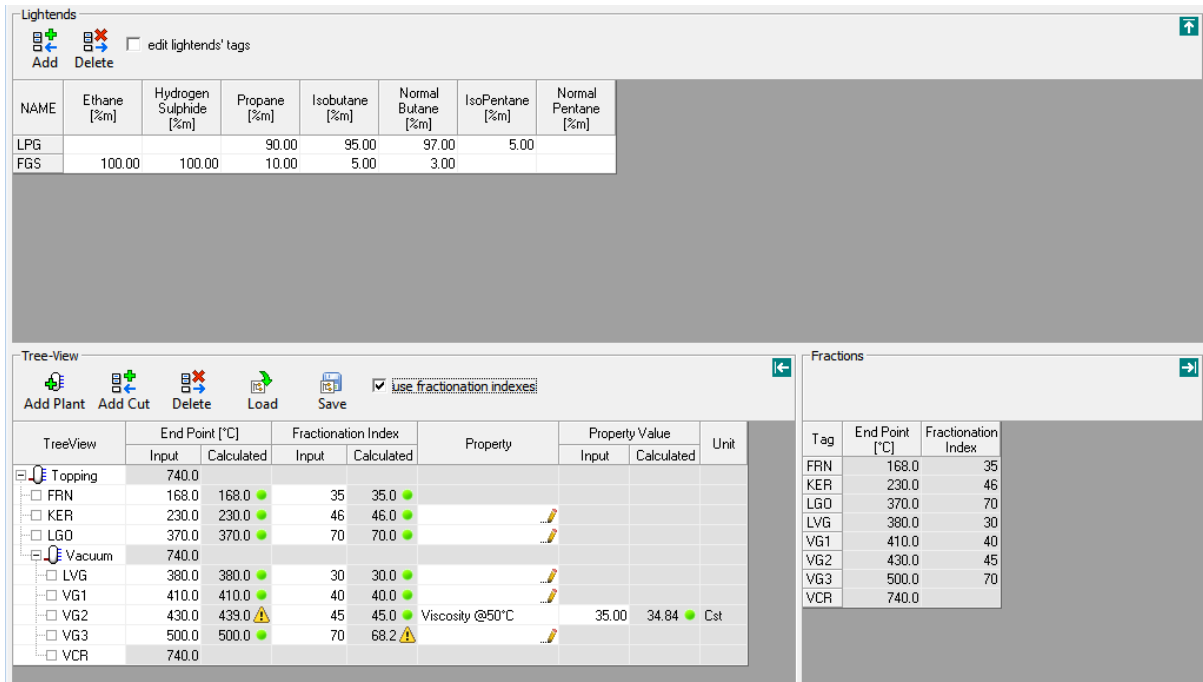


Figure 5 - CDU Simulation Input Panel

Basing in the fractionation indexes values CUTS calculates how pseudo component are distributed over the oil fractions produced by the distillation system and calculates yields and qualities accordingly.

This approach permits to fine tune the results of the calculation to the actual performance of existing units in order to produce more reliable planning and scheduling predictions.

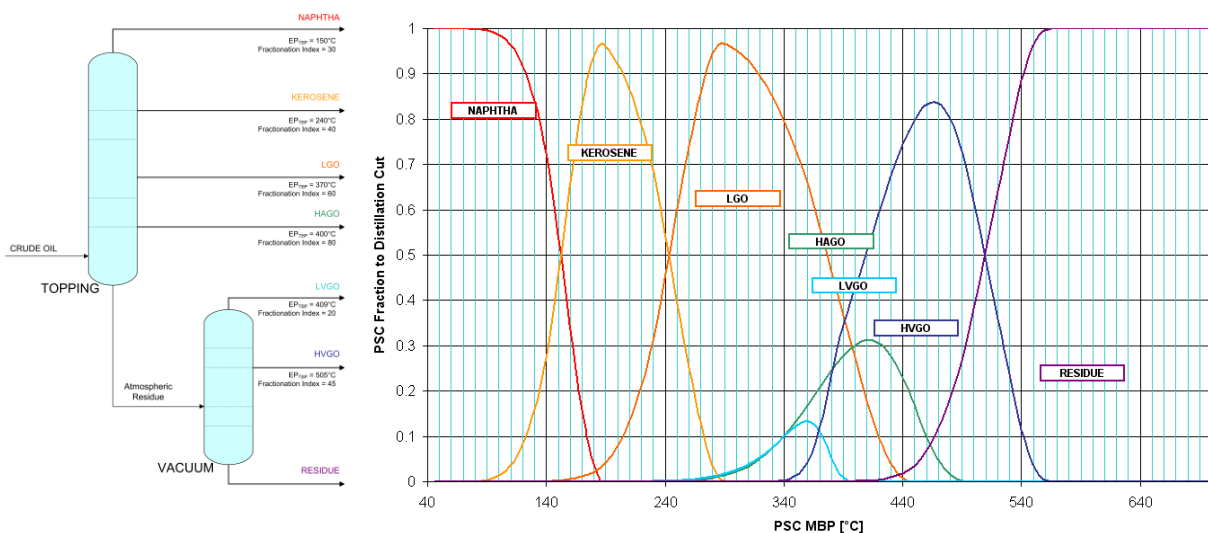


Figure 6 – Pseudo component distribution over cuts in CDU Simulation



The crude re-cutting feature permits to calculate the properties of a set of oil fractions for a group of selected crude oils. In this case the re-cutting profile is completely free and it is possible to calculate during the same run also overlapping boiling fractions.

Through the same intuitive panel (see Figure 7) the user selects the crude oils, defines the list of target cuts and the reporting options.

The screenshot shows the 'Recutting' software interface. On the left is a 'Libraries' panel with a list of crude oils and their properties. The main area displays a table of 'CRUDE ASSAY DATA' for three selected crudes: SA Arab Heavy, SA Arab Light, and SA Arab Medium. Below this is a 'CUTS SECTION' table showing initial and final temperatures for various cuts. On the right is a 'Template' panel with options for visualization and reporting, including a list of target cuts.

PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	ARHV	ARLT	ARMD
<b>CRUDE ASSAY DATA</b>					
Crude's description			SA Arab Heavy 27.4	SA Arab Light 33.4	SA Arab Medium 31.0
Crude's country			Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia
Crude's date			15/10/1986	24/11/1976	01/04/1991
Last calculation date			30/11/2016	04/07/2013	20/03/2002
<b>Bulk</b>					
<b>CUTS SECTION</b>					
<b>TINI Initial temperature</b>		<b>°C</b>			
CUT 1TINI	CUT 1 [ 15.0 to 80.0 ] [°C]		27.9	27.9	27.9
CUT 2TINI	CUT 2 [ 80.0 to 150.0 ] [°C]		80.0	80.0	80.0
CUT 3TINI	CUT 3 [ 150.0 to 220.0 ] [°C]		150.0	150.0	150.0
CUT 4TINI	CUT 4 [ 150.0 to 250.0 ] [°C]		150.0	150.0	150.0
CUT 5TINI	CUT 5 [ 220.0 to 360.0 ] [°C]		220.0	220.0	220.0
CUT 6TINI	CUT 6 [ 220.0 to 380.0 ] [°C]		220.0	220.0	220.0
CUT 7TINI	CUT 7 [ 250.0 to 370.0 ] [°C]		250.0	250.0	250.0
<b>TFIN Final temperature</b>		<b>°C</b>			
CUT 1TFIN	CUT 1 [ 15.0 to 80.0 ] [°C]		80.0	80.0	80.0
CUT 2TFIN	CUT 2 [ 80.0 to 150.0 ] [°C]		150.0	150.0	150.0
CUT 3TFIN	CUT 3 [ 150.0 to 220.0 ] [°C]		220.0	220.0	220.0
CUT 4TFIN	CUT 4 [ 150.0 to 250.0 ] [°C]		250.0	250.0	250.0
CUT 5TFIN	CUT 5 [ 220.0 to 360.0 ] [°C]		360.0	360.0	360.0
CUT 6TFIN	CUT 6 [ 220.0 to 380.0 ] [°C]		380.0	380.0	380.0
CUT 7TFIN	CUT 7 [ 250.0 to 370.0 ] [°C]		370.0	370.0	370.0
<b>WBAL TBP weight yield</b>		<b>% wt</b>			
CUT 1WBAL	CUT 1 [ 15.0 to 80.0 ] [°C]		3.760	4.609	4.643
CUT 2WBAL	CUT 2 [ 80.0 to 150.0 ] [°C]		8.000	9.934	9.232
CUT 3WBAL	CUT 3 [ 150.0 to 220.0 ] [°C]		9.080	12.359	10.923
CUT 4WBAL	CUT 4 [ 150.0 to 250.0 ] [°C]		13.010	17.800	15.175
CUT 5WBAL	CUT 5 [ 220.0 to 360.0 ] [°C]		21.025	24.950	22.968

Figure 7 – Crude re-cutting Input Panel

## REPORTING

Either program Input (Crude Assay) and Output data (Distribution Curves, Re-Cutting Results, Crude Oil Mixtures Characterisation) can be exported to MS Excel workbooks and used for further elaboration; the format of the output is fully customizable in order to release data in the format required by the client application.

CRUDE ASSAY DATA													
Crude's description		SA Arab Light 33.4											
Crude's country		Saudi Arabia											
Crude's date		24/11/1996											
Last calculation date		14/03/2003											
PROPERTIES VALUES													
PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	Bulk	LPG	FGS	FRN	KER	LGO	LVG	VG1	VG2	VG3	VCR
ITNI	Initial temperature	°C		-42.1	-42.1	27.9	168.0	230.0	180.0	380.0	380.0	462.8	473.4
TFIN	Final temperature	°C		27.9	-0.5	168.0	230.0	370.0	380.0	380.0	462.8	473.4	720.0
WBAL	TBP weight yield	% Wt		1.165	0.095	17.562	11.107	24.819	3.789	0.971	9.044	1.520	25.988
VBAL	TBP volume yield	% Vol		1.762	0.087	21.006	12.006	25.079	3.735	0.933	9.482	1.593	26.094
ISPG	Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.8580	0.5672	0.5460	0.7173	0.7937	0.8491					
IAFV	Aromatics (FIA)	% Vol		0.00	0.00	10.01	21.01						
INPV	Naphthenes (FIA)	% Vol		0.00	0.00	14.65	23.74						
IPAV	Paraffins (FIA)	% Vol		100.00	100.00	75.34	55.25						
IARG	Aromatics (GC)	% Wt		0.00	0.00								
INAG	Naphthenes (GC)	% Wt		0.00	0.00								
IPAG	Paraffins (GC)	% Wt		100.00	100.00								
INAW	Aromatics Content (NDM)	%m		0.00	0.00		8.86	17.98					
INAV	Naphthenes Content (NDM)	%m		0.00	0.00		22.56	17.65					
IPAV	Paraffins Content (NDM)	%m		100.00	100.00		68.58	64.37					
ITNT	Total Nitrogen	ppm		765.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	68.8				
IBNT	Basic Nitrogen	ppm		250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	37.9				
IASH	Ash	ppm		0.0	0.0								
ICTI	Detane Index												
ICLD	Cloud Point	°C					-42.1	3.4					
ICDN	Conradson Carbon	% Wt		3.600	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.227	0.227				
FLSH	Flash Point	°C					98.8	113.5					
IFRE	Freezing Point	°C					-45.0	0.7					
INIK	Nickel	ppm		3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
IPOR	Pour Point	°C					-46.1	-2.5					
IFON	Clear FON			96.93	99.53	45.09							
IMDN	Clear MDN			92.02	94.03	45.66							
IRVP	RVP	PSI		75.78	115.49	3.79							
IVAN	Vanadium	ppm		13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					

PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	VALUE
CRUDE ASSAY DATA			
Crude's description		SA Arab Light 33.4	
Crude's country		Saudi Arabia	
Crude's date		24/11/1996	
Last calculation date		14/03/2003	
Bulk			
ISPG	Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.8580
ITNT	Total Nitrogen	ppm	765.0
IBNT	Basic Nitrogen	ppm	250.0
ICDN	Conradson Carbon	% Wt	3.600
INIK	Nickel	ppm	3.3
IVAN	Vanadium	ppm	13.5
IV50	Viscosity @50°C	Cst	6.04
IV99	Viscosity @100°C	Cst	2.32
ISUL	Sulphur (Total)	% Wt	1.770
IACI	Acidity	mg KOH/g	0.060
IASP	Asphaltenes	% Wt	1.000
IWAX	Waxes	% Wt	3.90
CUTS SECTION			
CUT: FGS [ -88.6 to -0.5 ] [°C]			
FGSTINI	Initial temperature	°C	-42.1
FGSTFIN	Final temperature	°C	-0.5
FGSVBAL	TBP weight yield	% Wt	0.095
CUT: LPG [ -42.1 to 27.9 ] [°C]			
LGPTINI	Initial temperature	°C	-42.1
LGPTFIN	Final temperature	°C	27.9
LPGVBAL	TBP weight yield	% Wt	1.165
CUT: FRN [ -42.1 to 168.0 ] [°C]			
FRNTINI	Initial temperature	°C	27.9
FRNTFIN	Final temperature	°C	168.0
FRNVBAL	TBP weight yield	% Wt	17.562
FRNVBAL	TBP volume yield	% Vol	21.006
FRNIFSG	Density @15°C	Kg/dm3	0.7173
FRNIAFV	Aromatics (FIA)	% Vol	10.01
FRNINPV	Naphthenes (FIA)	% Vol	14.65
FRNIDAV	Paraffins (FIA)	% Vol	75.34
CUTS SECTION			
ITNI Initial temperature °C			
FGSTINI	FGS [ -88.6 to -0.5 ] [°C]		-42.1
LGPTINI	LPG [ -42.1 to 27.9 ] [°C]		-42.1
FRNTINI	FRN [ -42.1 to 168.0 ] [°C]		27.9
KERTINI	KER [ 168.0 to 230.0 ] [°C]		168.0
LGOTINI	LGO [ 230.0 to 370.0 ] [°C]		230.0
LVGTINI	LVG [ 720.0 to 380.0 ] [°C]		180.0
VG1INI	VG1 [ 380.0 to 410.0 ] [°C]		380.0
VG2INI	VG2 [ 410.0 to 430.0 ] [°C]		380.0
VG3INI	VG3 [ 430.0 to 500.0 ] [°C]		462.8
VCRTINI	VCR [ 500.0 to 720.0 ] [°C]		473.4
TFIN	Final temperature °C		
FGSTFIN	FGS [ -88.6 to -0.5 ] [°C]		-0.5
LGPTFIN	LPG [ -42.1 to 27.9 ] [°C]		27.9
FRNTFIN	FRN [ -42.1 to 168.0 ] [°C]		168.0
KERTFIN	KER [ 168.0 to 230.0 ] [°C]		230.0
LGOTFIN	LGO [ 230.0 to 370.0 ] [°C]		370.0

Figure 8 - Customized report example