

# Gas Turbine Combustion of Alternative Fuels

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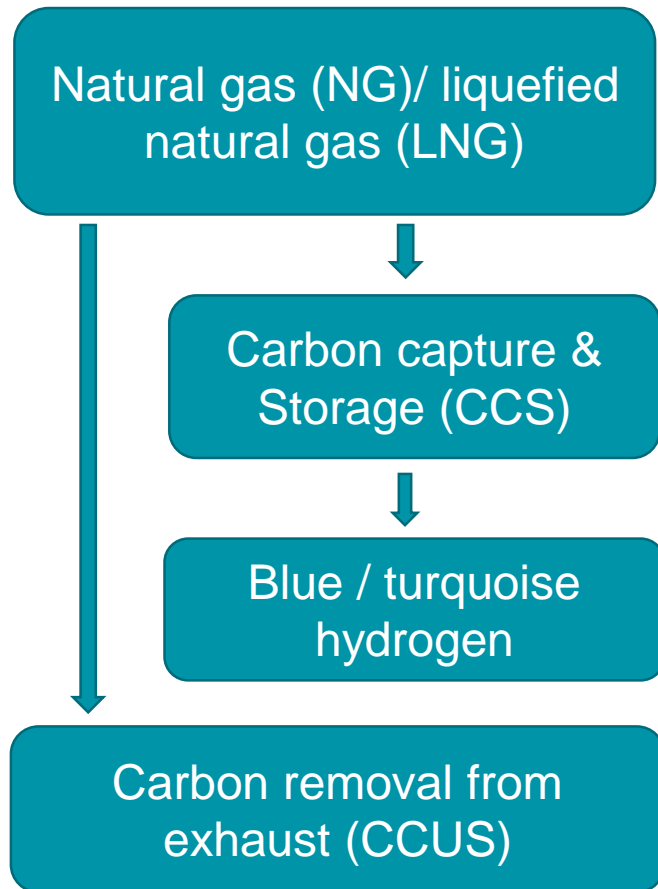


- Introduction: Why do we need alternative fuels? What kind of alternative fuel exists?
- Combustion fundamentals
  - Combustor requirements
  - Classification of flames
  - Flame stabilization
  - Combustor concepts
  - Pollutant formation –  $\text{NO}_x$
  - Chemical and physical characteristics of alternative fuels
  - Technical Challenges related to alternative fuels – example  $\text{H}_2$
- GT combustion systems
- Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels
- Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

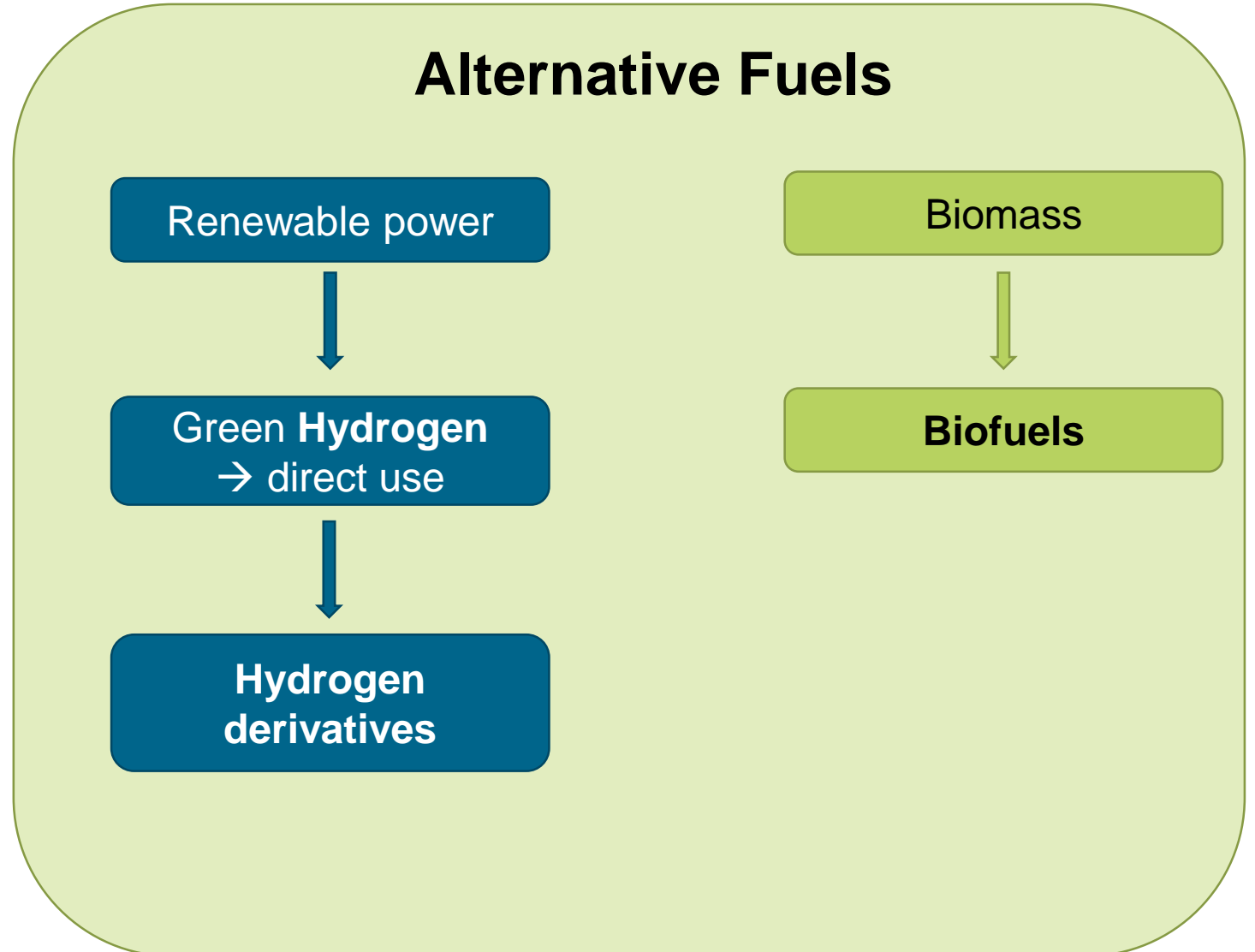
# Why do we need alternative fuels?

→ Decarbonizing gas turbines for power generation

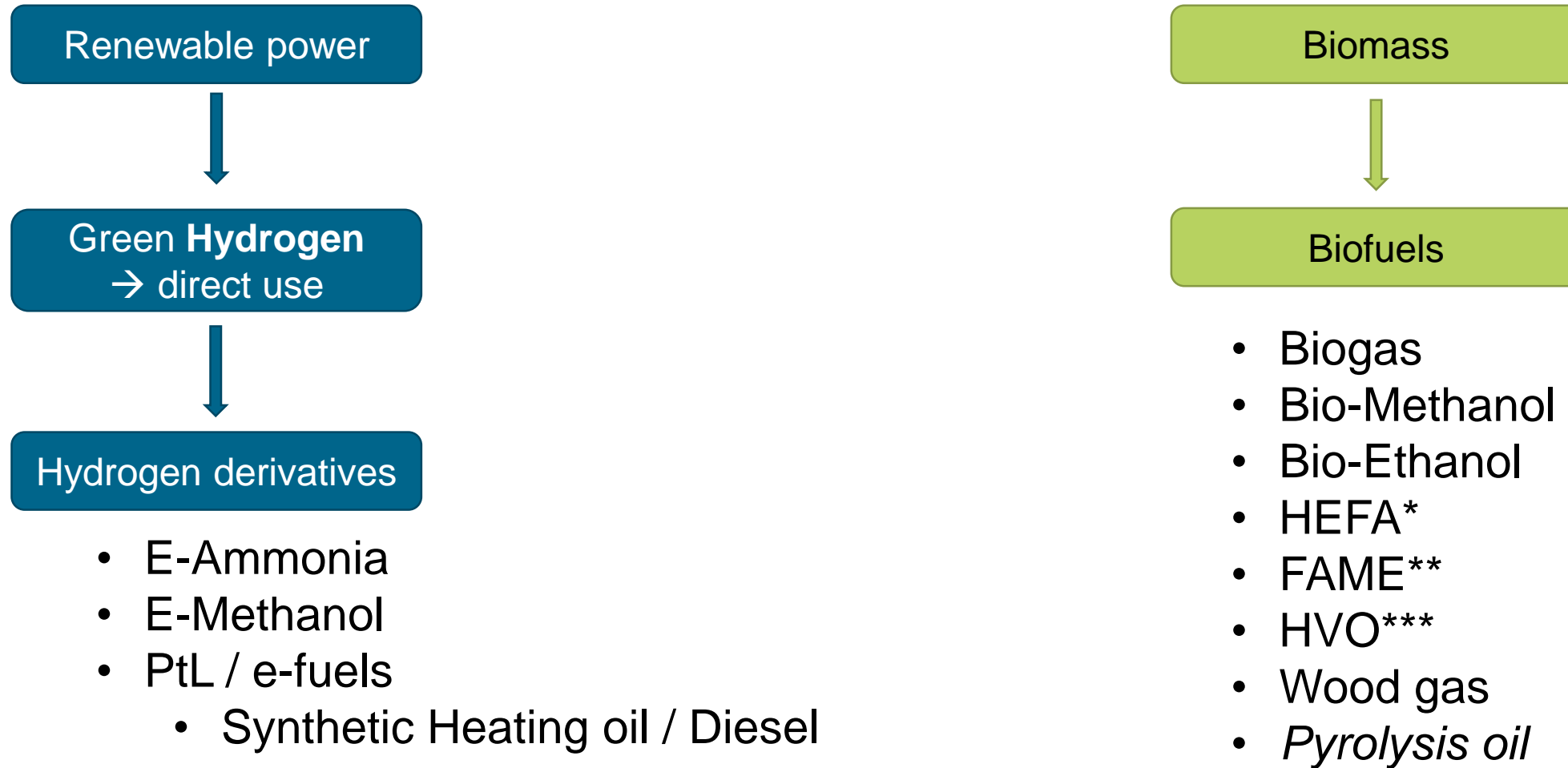
## Carbon Capture



## Alternative Fuels



# What kind of Alternative Fuels exists?



\* Hydroprocessed Esters and Fatty Acids; \*\* Fatty acid methyl ester; \*\*\* Hydrogenated / hydrotreated vegetable oils

# Combustion fundamentals

## Combustor requirements



- High combustion efficiency (“complete” combustion)
- Wide stability limits (including combustion instabilities, lean blow out, emissions at part load, etc.)
- Low pressure loss
- Reliable ignition
- Suitable temperature profile @ outlet → system efficiency & turbine lifetime
- Low emissions
- Design for minimum costs and ease of manufacturing
- Durability
- Maintainability

# Combustion fundamentals

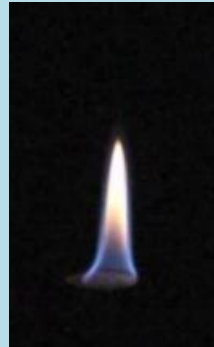
## Types / shape of flames

non-premixed  
(flame glow: soot formation  
under rich conditions and  
oxidation)

premixed

laminar

turbulent







+ quiet  
+ steady state

+ power  
- noise

# Combustion fundamentals

## Types / shape of flames

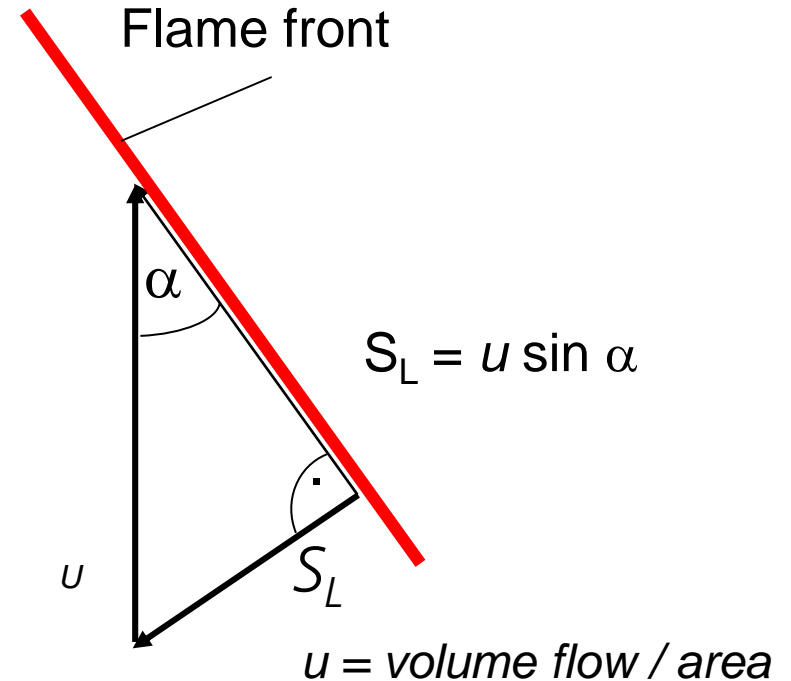
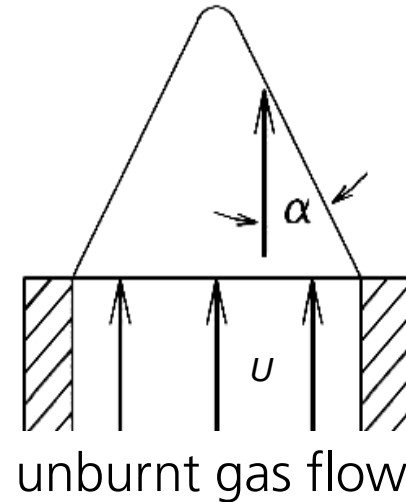
	laminar	turbulent	
non-premixed (flame glow: soot formation under rich conditions and oxidation)			+ safety + reliability - soot - NO <sub>x</sub>
premixed			+ less pollutants - risk of flashback



# Combustion fundamentals

## Stabilisation of the flame – laminar flames

- Example Bunsen burner: max. speed  $u$



Flame stabilises where

Flame velocity  $S_L =$  Incoming flow velocity perpendicular to the flame front



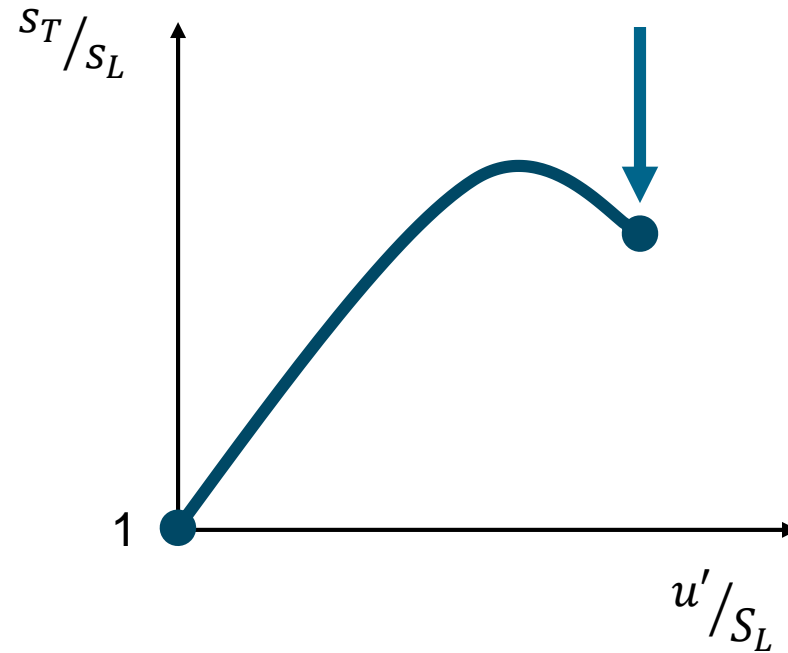
# Combustion fundamentals

## Flame stabilisation - Turbulent flame

### ■ Example Bunsen burner

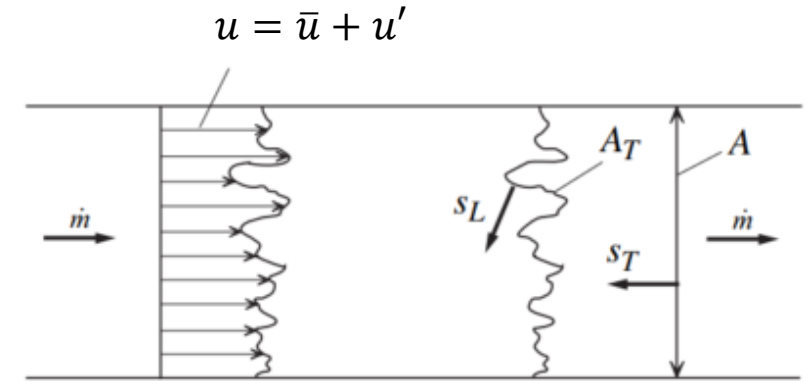


Flame extinction due to excessive turbulence



→ Increase in **power density** by increasing the flame area:

$$10 < s_T/s_L < 20$$



$$A_T/A = s_T/s_L$$

For Bunsen burner flame:

$$A_T/A \propto u'/s_L$$

**Indices:**

T... turbulent L... laminar

According to Damköhler from [Peters, N.: Turbulent Combustion, Cambridge University Press, 2000]

### Flame stabilisation (self-sustained combustion):

Specific generation of flow areas in which there is a balance between flow velocity and flame velocity

- Areas with
  - low velocity → diffusive transport of temperature and intermediate products
  - **Small and large-scale recirculation of hot exhaust gas & intermediate products** → diffusive and convective return transport of temperature and intermediate products

# Combustion fundamentals

## Burner concepts

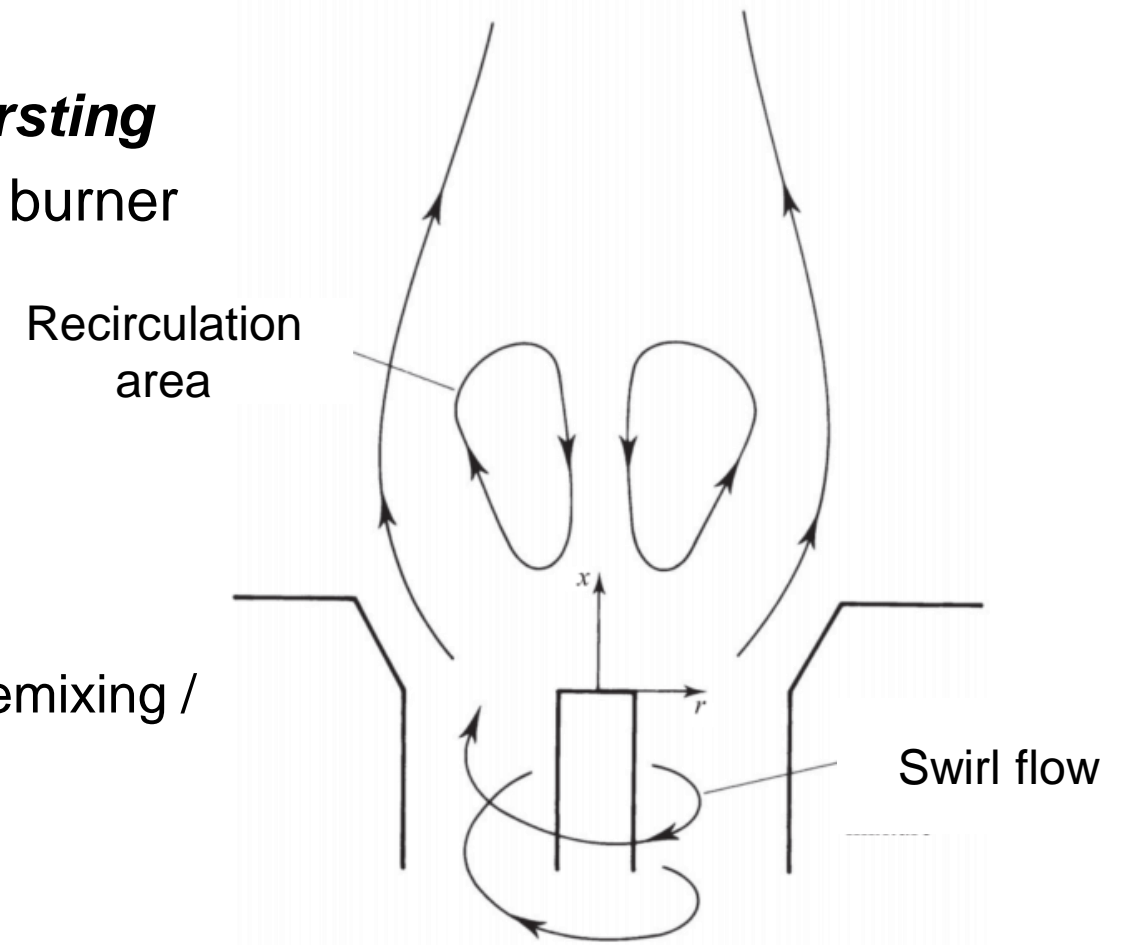


- Which burner concepts do you know?
  - Flame holder: bluff body, baffle disc
  - **Swirl stabilised burner**: swirled pipe or annular flows
  - **Jet-stabilised burner**
  - **Micromix combustor**

# Combustion fundamentals

## Burner concepts - Swirl stabilised burner systems

- Principle: **swirling flow** creates a **wide bursting flow** with intensive backflow / mixing in the burner outlet
- Advantages:
  - Short, compact burnout
  - High specific power densities
  - Less temperature peaks - depending on premixing / mixing quality
- Disadvantage:
  - Higher risk of flashback (fuel flexibility)

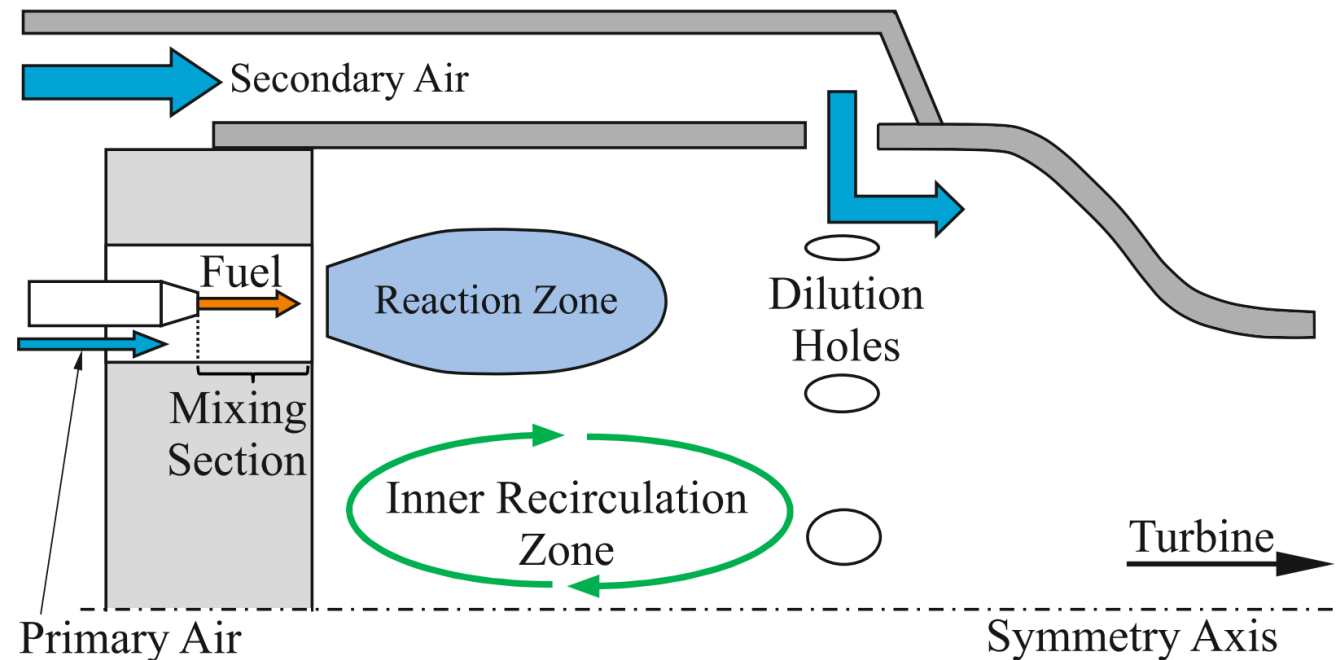


from Turns, S.: An Introduction to Combustion, McGraw Hill, 4th edition, 2021

# Combustion fundamentals

## Burner concepts - Jet-stabilised burner systems

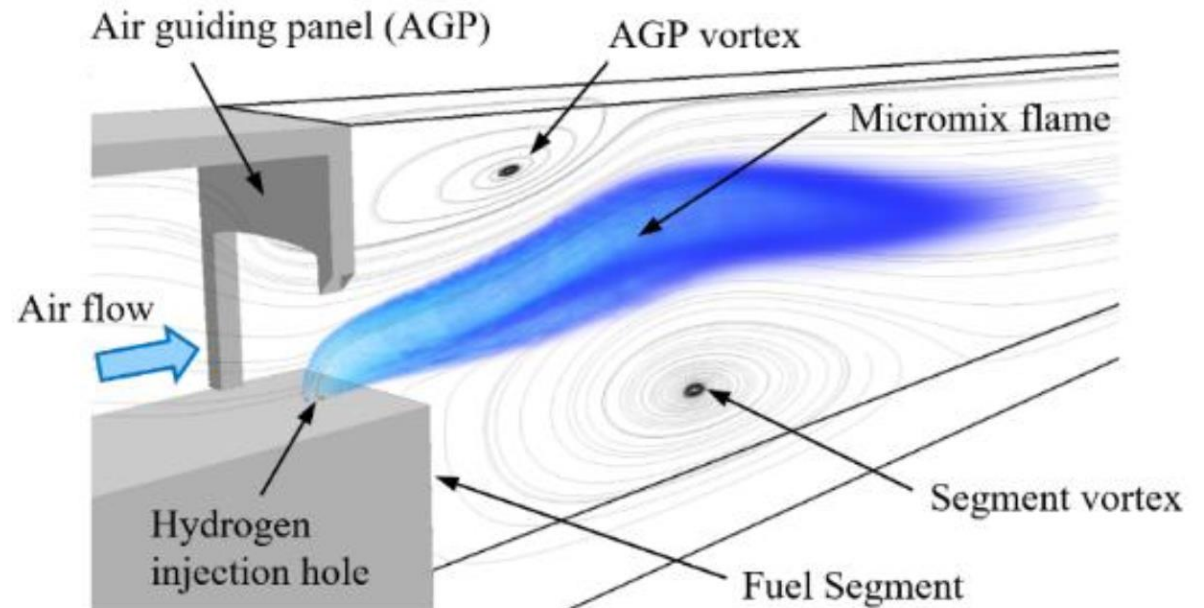
- Principle: **Fuel and air jets** arranged in a circle **with high momentum**, untwisted and partially premixed create a **distributed reaction zone** through intensive mixing
- Advantages:
  - No temperature peaks
  - Fuel-flexible (→ hydrogen)
  - Low flashback risk
  - Suitable for high inlet temperatures
  - Wide operating range
- Disadvantage:
  - Likely higher burnout volume



# Combustion fundamentals

## Burner concepts – Micromix combustor

- Principle: Large number of **miniaturized non-premixed-type flames** with jet in cross flow based fuel injection and air guiding panel forming **a inner and outer vortex pair**
- Advantages:
  - Fuel-flexible (→ hydrogen)
  - Low flashback risk
  - Reduced residence time
  - Suitable for high inlet temperatures
- Disadvantage:
  - Larger combustion volume



S. Aoki et. al., DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AND MICROMIX COMBUSTOR FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE GAS TURBINE OF KAWASAKI, Proceedings of ASME

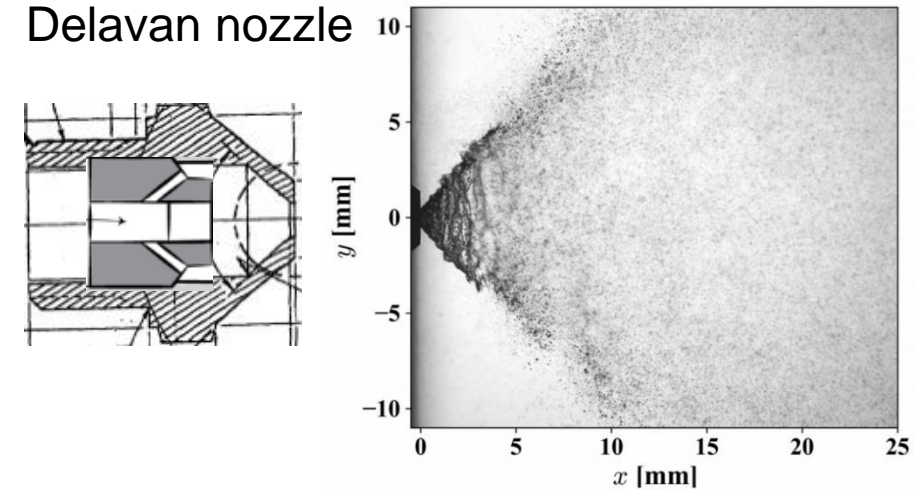
Turbo Expo 2024, June 24-28, 2024, London, UK, GT2024-121073

# Combustion fundamentals

## Liquid fuels – fuel treatment

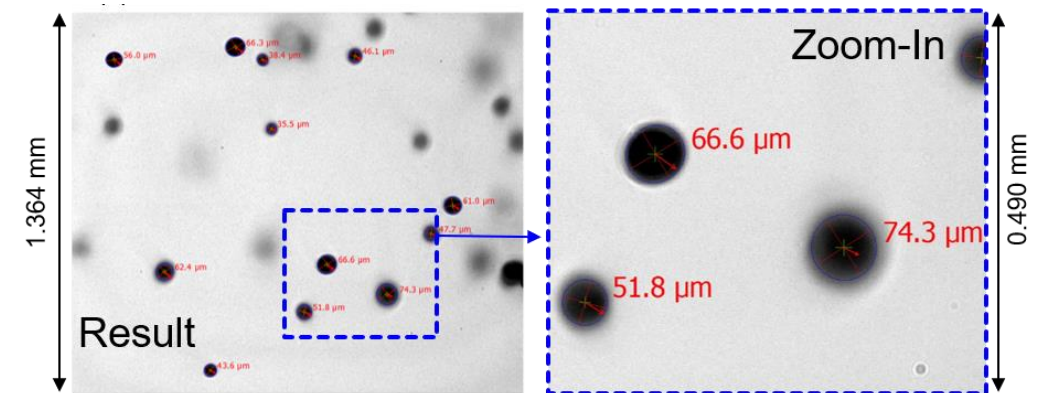
### Combustion in the homogeneous gas phase

- Atomisation: Optimisation of the mixing and evaporation behaviour by increasing the surface area
    - Primary / secondary decay of the spray
  - Vaporisation
- Complex subject area: analysing the processes
- in the liquid phase and
  - at the boundary layers of the phases
  - Additionally: turbulent flow field



Yin, Z., et al. "Experimental Investigations of Superheated and Supercritical Injections of Liquid Fuels." ASME. *J. Eng. Gas Turbines Power*. April 2021; 143(4): 041016

### Laser shadow imaging with a remote microscope





# Combustion fundamentals

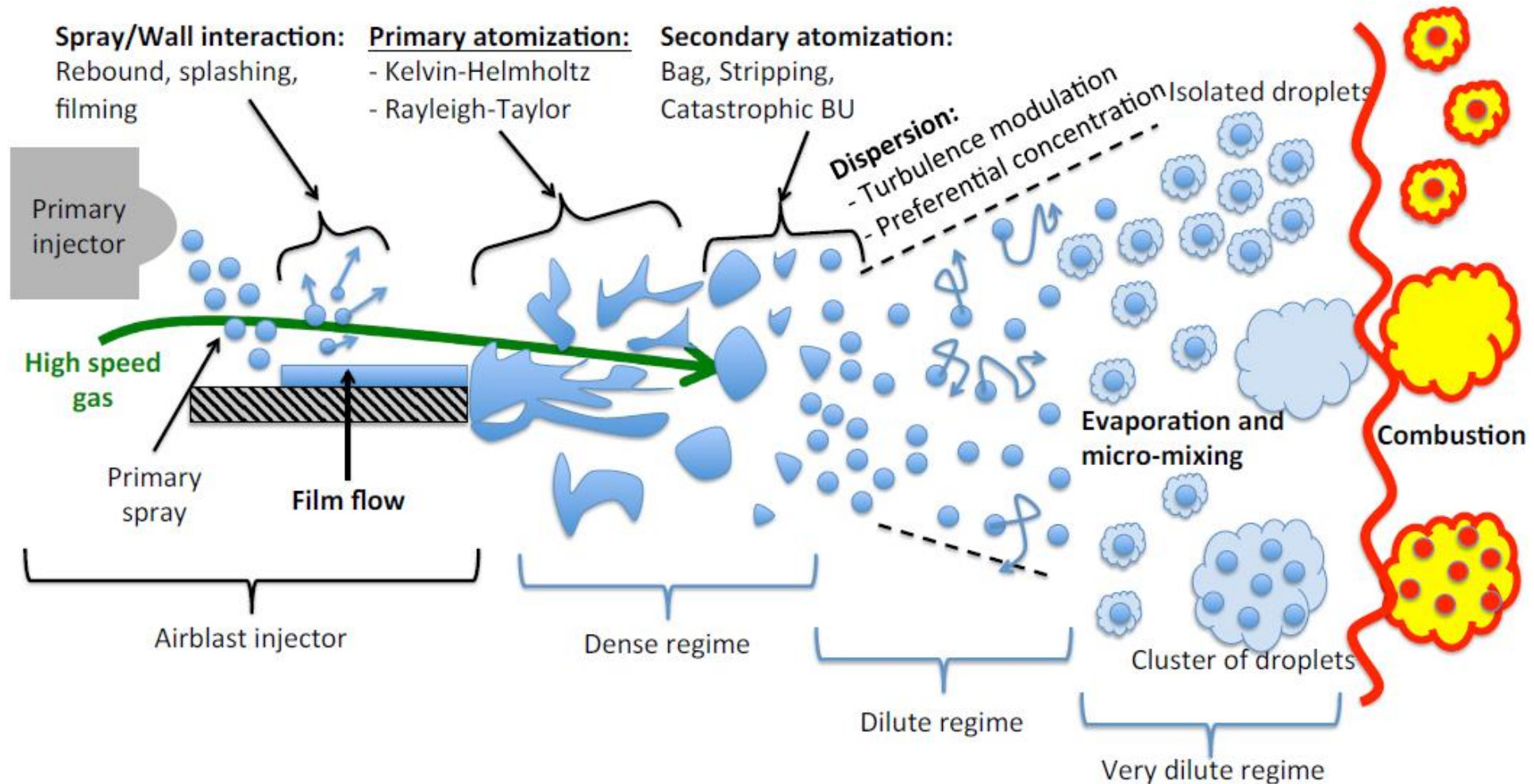
## Liquid fuels – fuel treatment



DLR-VT: Pressure  
Swirl Injector using  
JetA1 (0.5 g/s)

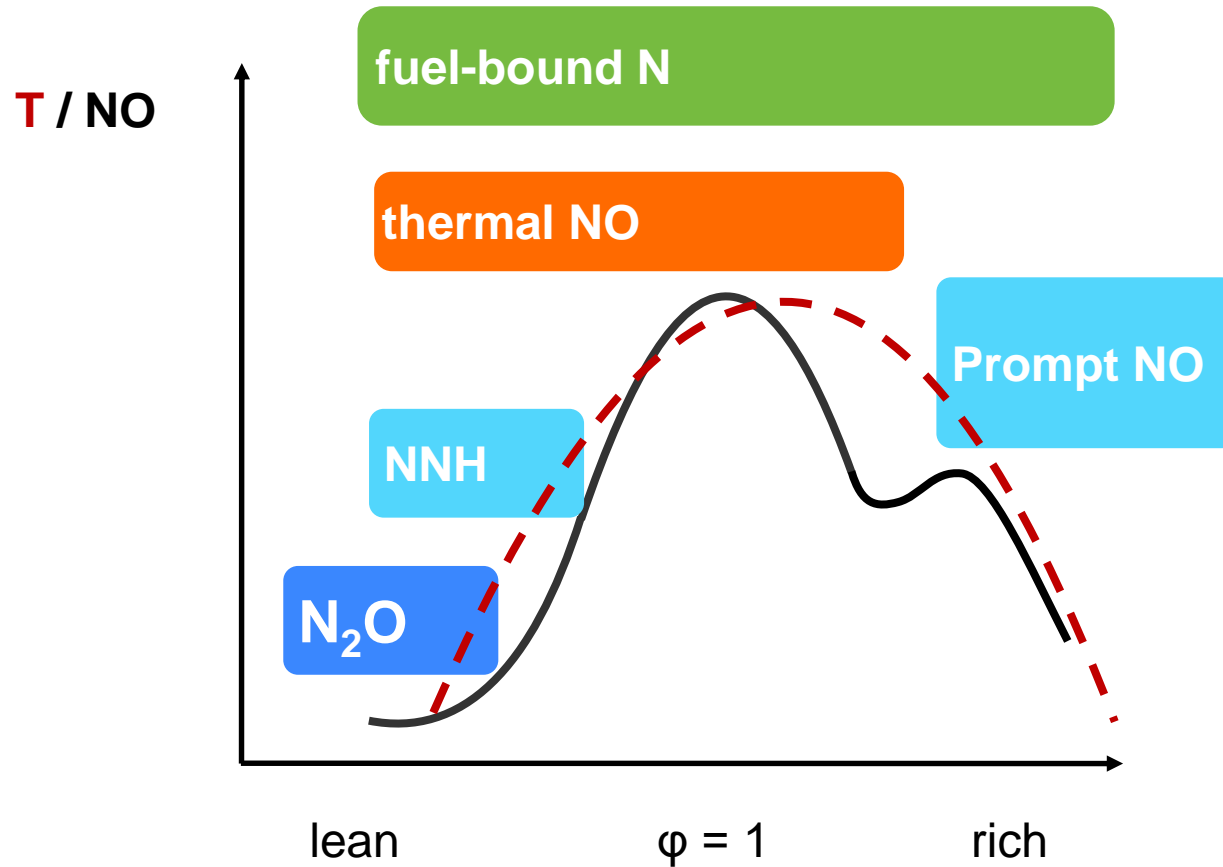
# Combustion fundamentals

## Liquid fuels – fuel treatment / film layer

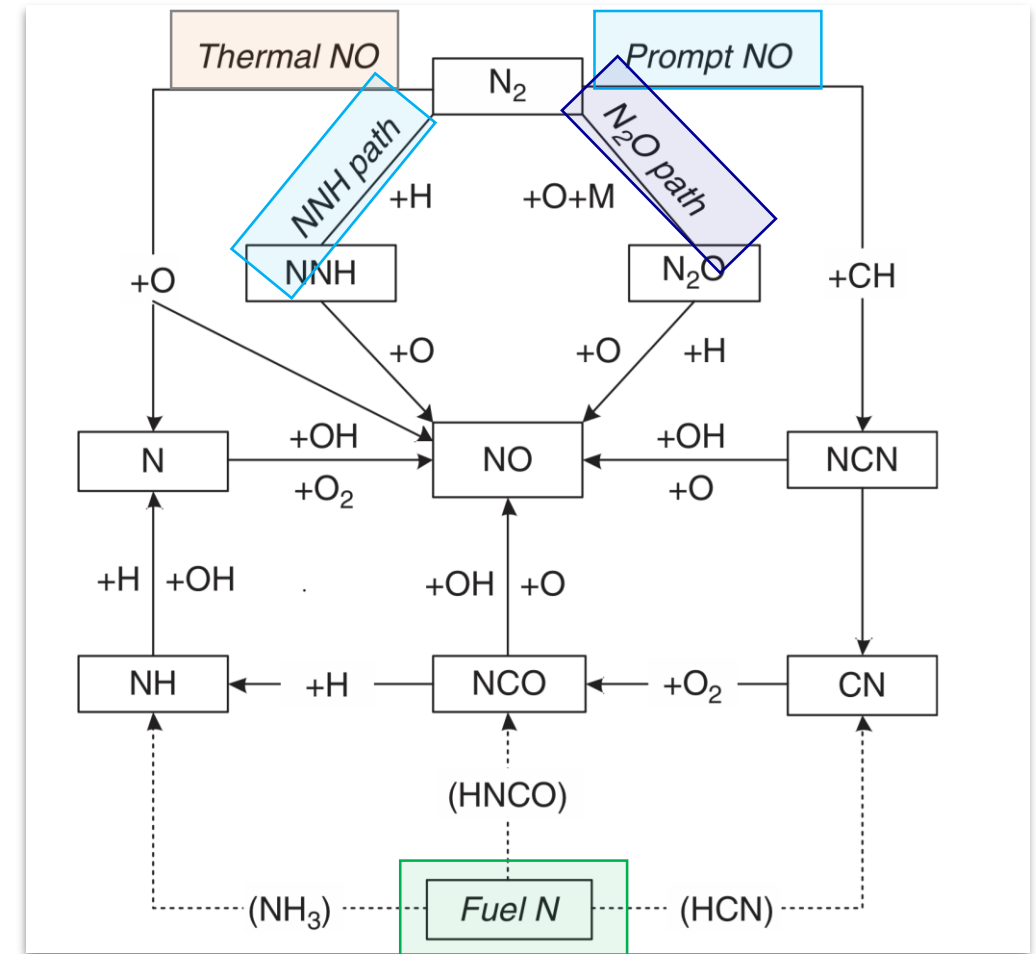


# Combustion fundamentals

## NO<sub>x</sub> - emissions

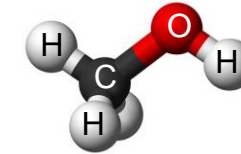
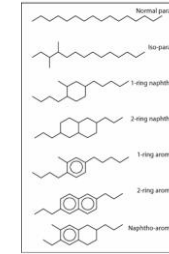
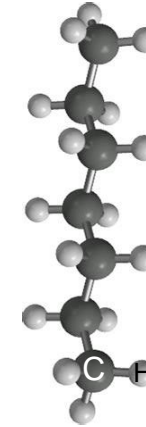
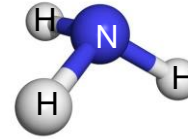
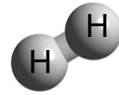
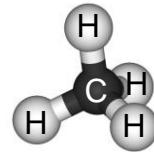


Own illustration, based on Joos, F., Technische Verbrennung, Springer-Verlag, 2006



Lieuwen, T.C., Yang, V., Gas Turbine Emissions, Cambridge University Press, 2013

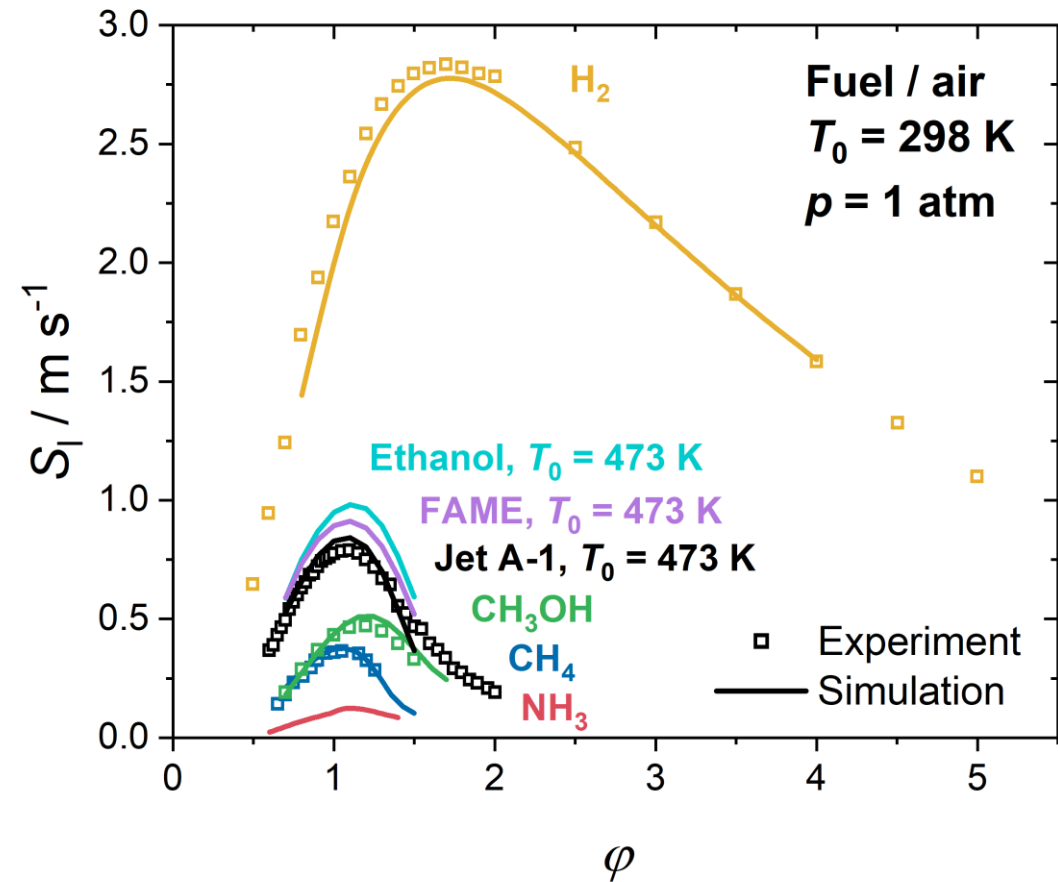
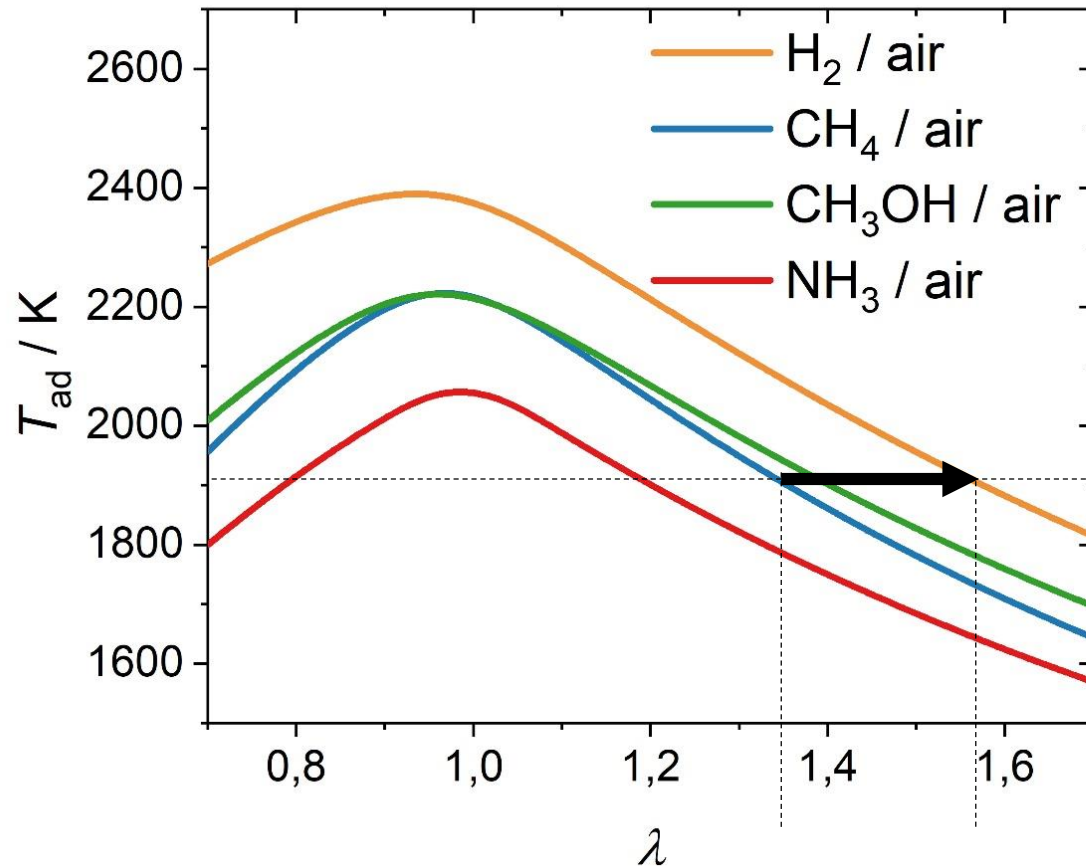
# Combustion properties of alternative fuels



	Methane	Hydrogen	Ammonia	Diesel	Methanol	HVO
LHV [MJ/kg]	50	120,1	18,8	42,5	19,7	44
Flammability limit [equival. ratio / vol.%]	0,5 - 1,7 / 5-14,3	0,1 - 7,1 / 4-75	0,63 - 1,4 15-28	0,6-5,5	0,55 - 2,9 6-36	0,6-7,5
Auto-ignition temperature [K]	810	844	924	498	743	477
Minimum ignition energy [mJ]	0,28	0,011	8	0,24	0,14	-
Density (g/L)	0,657	0,082	0,77	830	787	770-790

# Combustion properties of alternative fuels

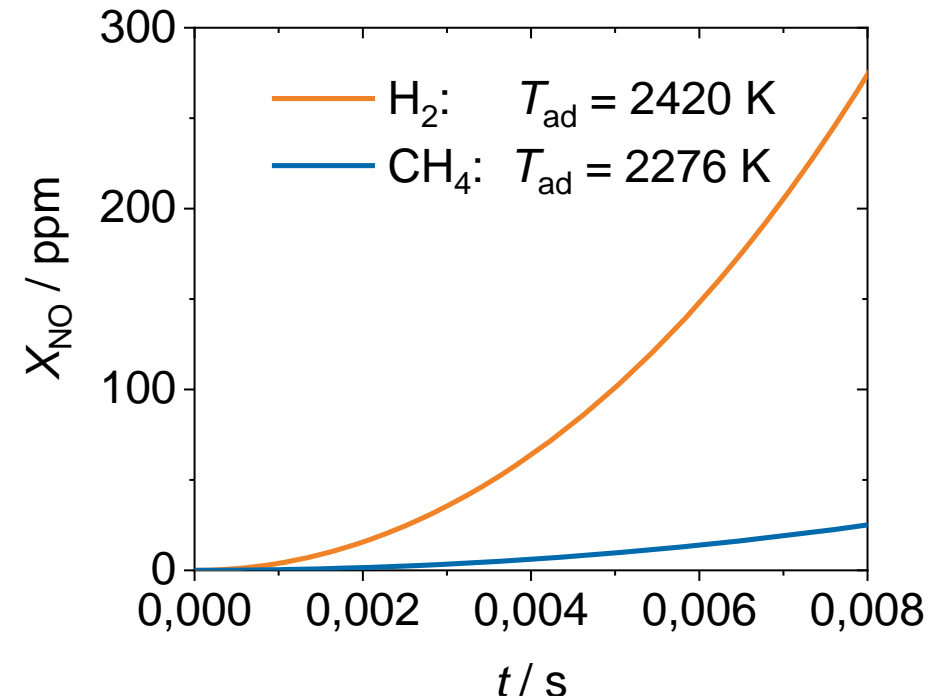
## Adiabatic flame temperatures & flame speeds



# Combustion properties of alternative fuels

## Example: Hydrogen

- Adiabatic flame temperature increases with hydrogen
- Temperature (and residence time) have a strong effect on thermal  $\text{NO}_x$  formation



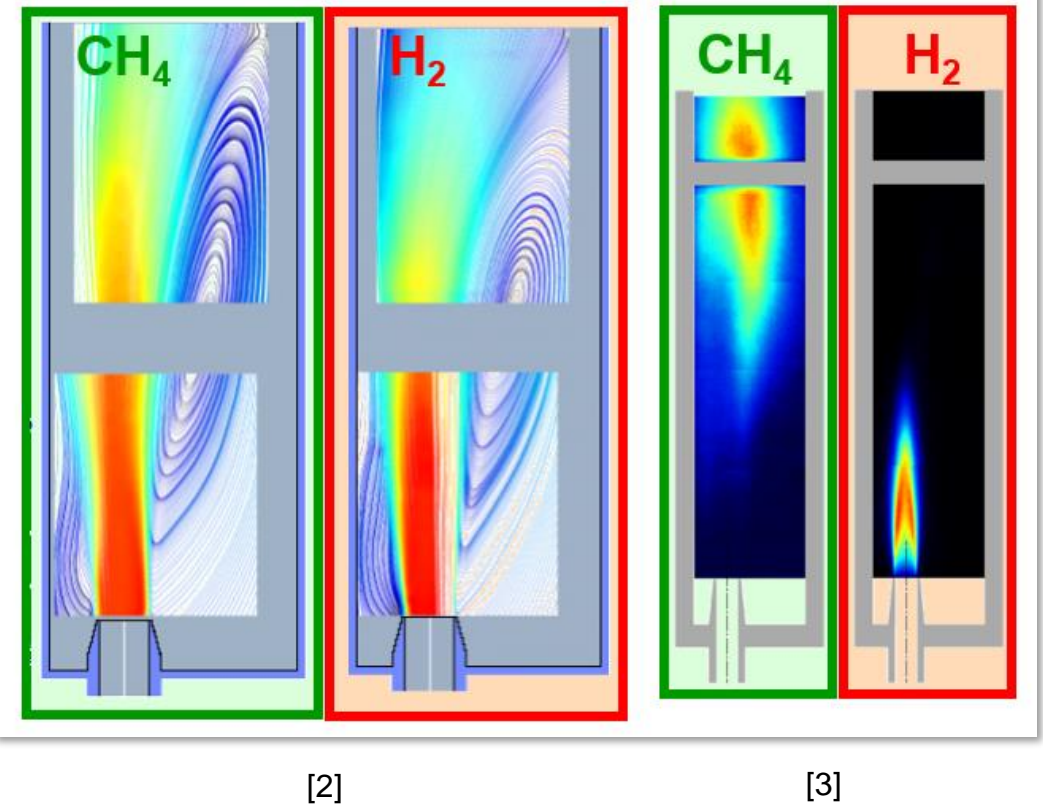
$$T_0 = 400 \text{ K}, p = 1 \text{ atm}, \lambda = 1$$



# Combustion properties of alternative fuels

## Example: Hydrogen

- Adiabatic flame temperature increases with hydrogen
- Temperature (and residence time) have a strong effect on thermal  $\text{NO}_x$  formation
- In principle,  $\text{NO}_x$  formation can be hindered by leaner premixed combustion and / or reduced residence time
- But chemical kinetic effects like
  - increasing burning velocities and



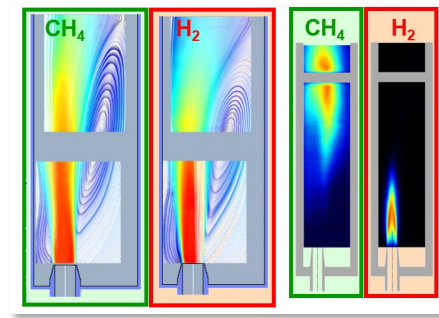
[2] Lammel et al., Investigation of Flame Stabilization in a High-Pressure Multi-Jet Combustor by Laser Measurement Techniques, Proc. ASME Turbo Expo 2014, GT2014-26376

[3] Lammel et al., Experimental Analysis of Confined Jet Flames by Laser Measurement Techniques, J. Eng. Gas Turbines Power 134 (2012) 041506

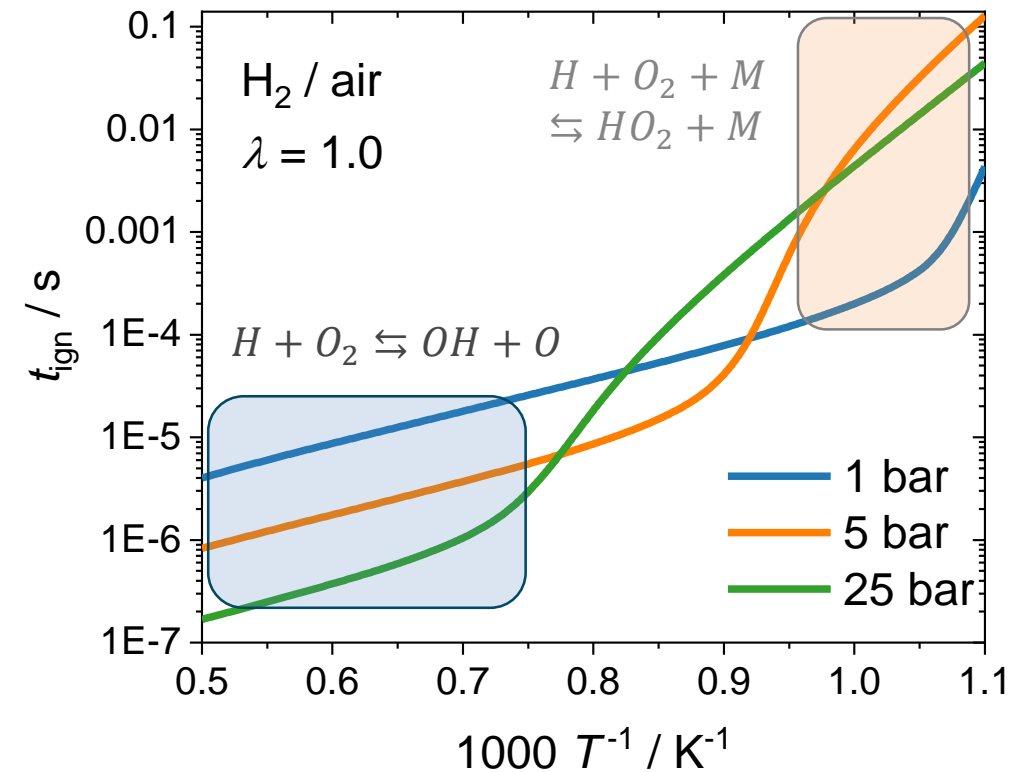


# Combustion properties of alternative fuels

## Example: Hydrogen



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- In principle,  $\text{NO}_x$  formation can be hindered by leaner premixed combustion and / or reduced residence time
- But chemical kinetic effects like
  - increasing burning velocities and
  - pressure effect on ignition delay timehas to be considered in combustion systems to prevent flash back

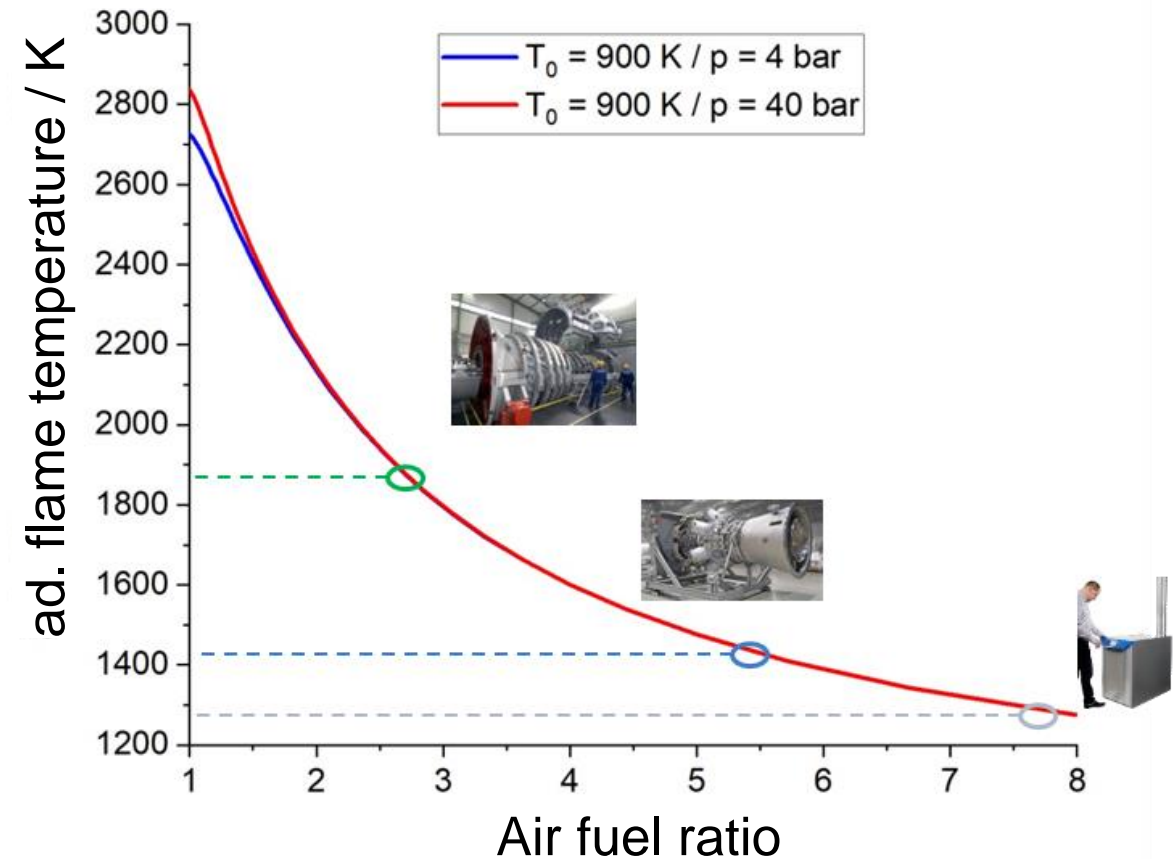


[www.dlr.de/VT/mechanisms](http://www.dlr.de/VT/mechanisms)

# Combustion properties of alternative fuels

## Different challenges depending on gas turbine size

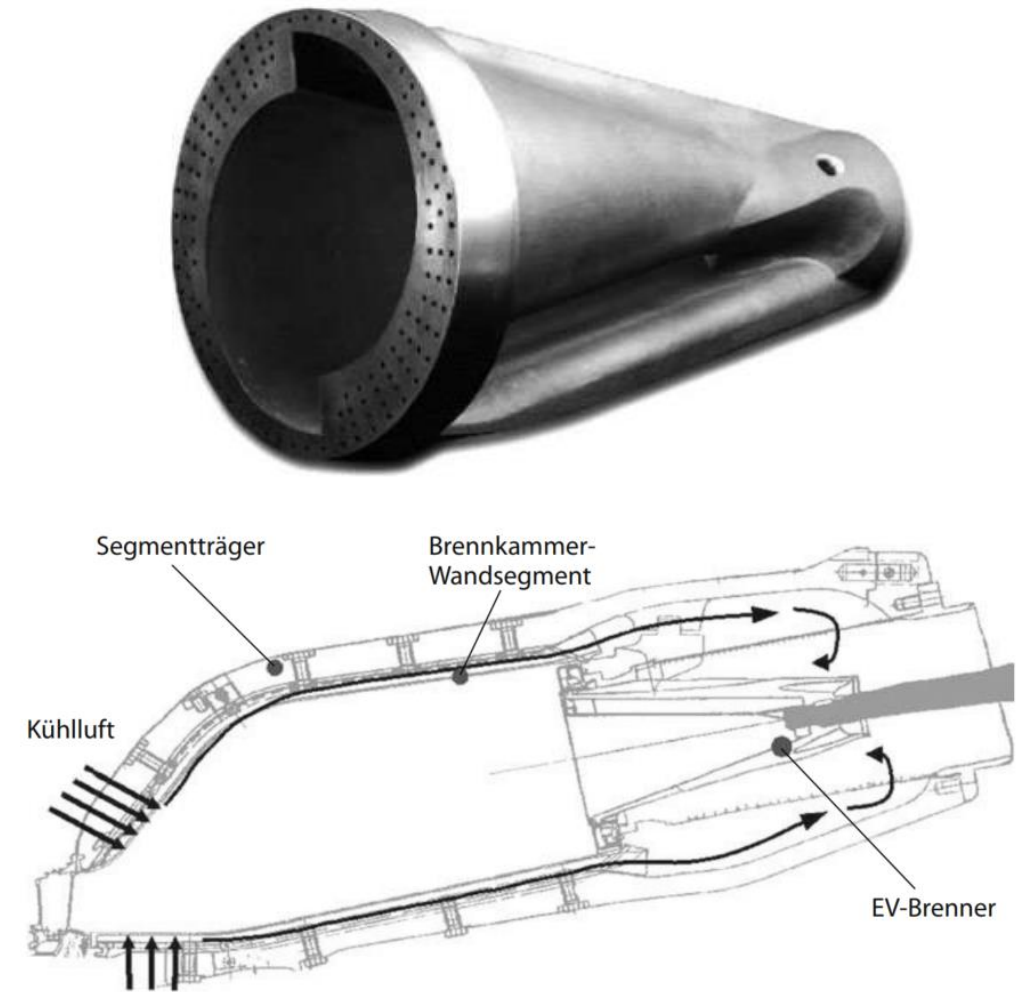
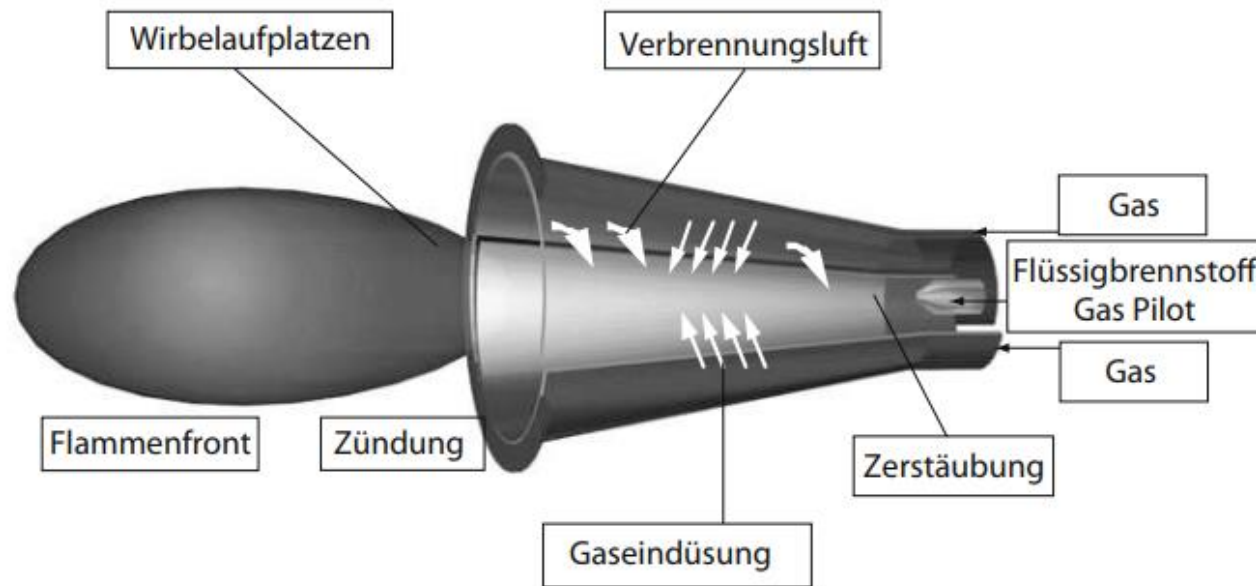
- Efficiency of heavy duty gas turbines depends on high combustion temperature  
→ reduced residence time could be an option for low  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions
- Industrial gas turbines could benefit from lean premixed combustion systems with high air / fuel ratios
- Very small gas turbines (recuperated cycles) face the challenge of combustor inlet temperatures higher than self ignition temperature of hydrogen / air mixtures



# GT combustion systems

## Lean combustion of gaseous fuels - DLE

### ■ Ansaldo Energie – GT 26: EV Burner



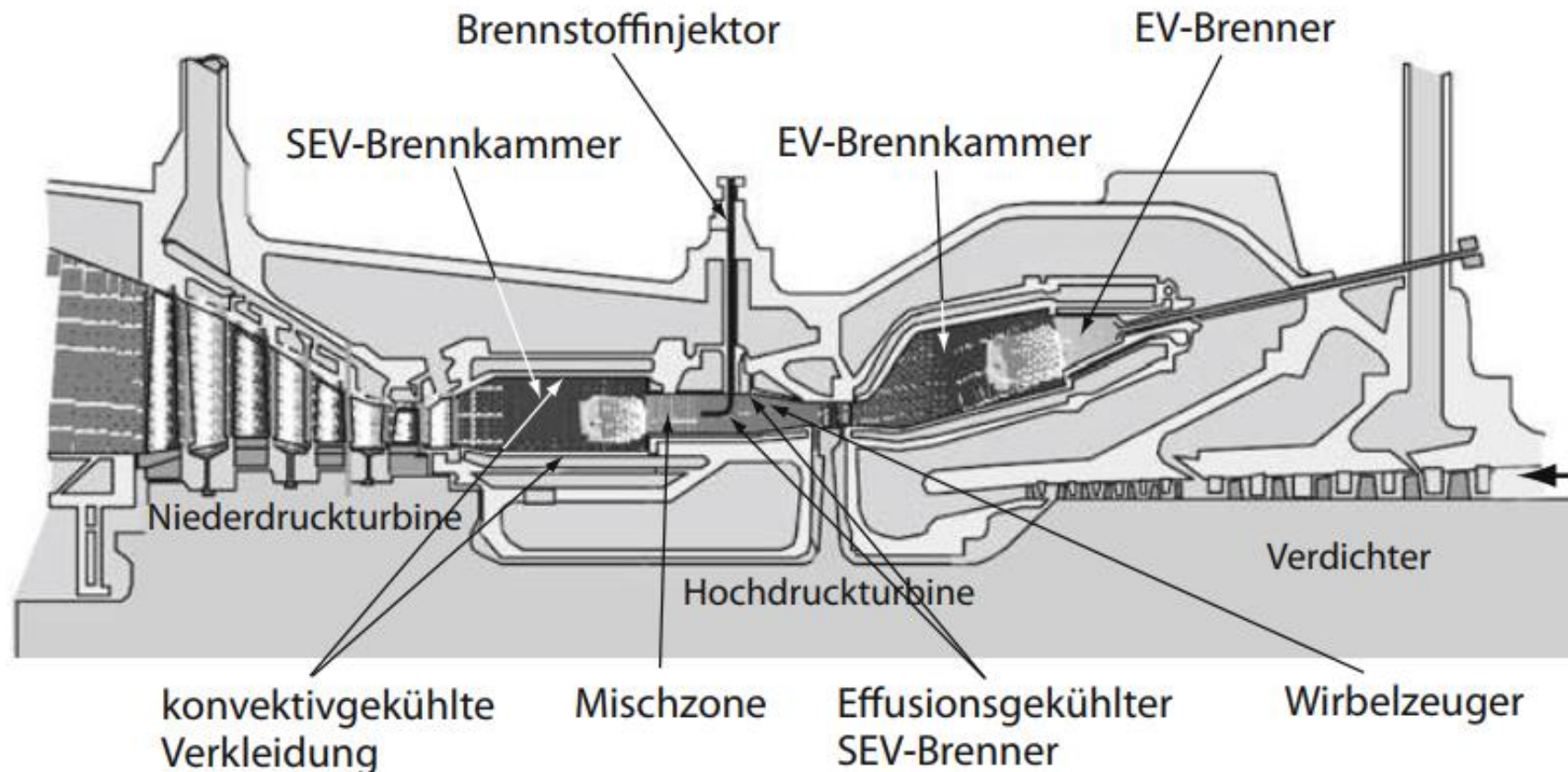
From: Lechner, C., Seume, J., Stationary Gas Turbines, 2nd edition, Springer, 2010

Closed convective cooling (cast iron with cooling fins)

# GT combustion systems

## Lean combustion of gaseous fuels - DLE

- Ansaldo Energie – GT 26: Special case: two-stage combustion chamber with high-pressure turbine in between

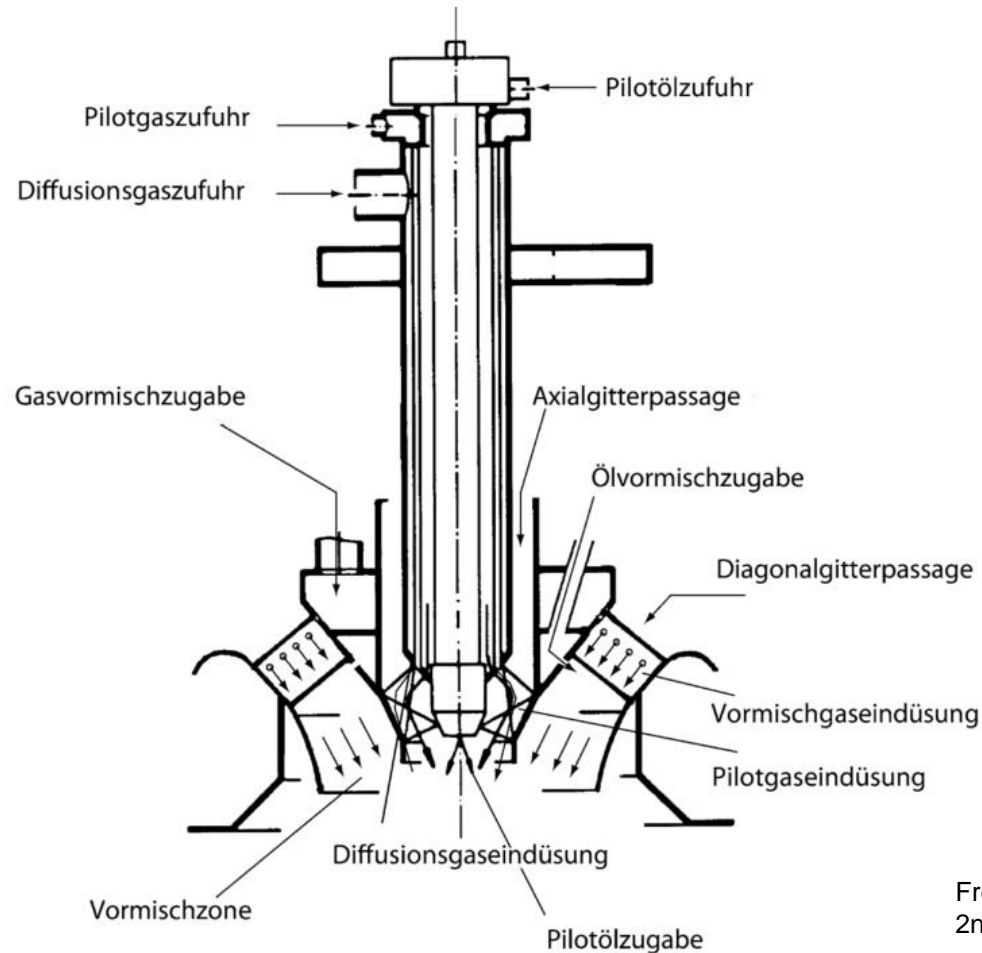


From: Lechner, C., Seume, J., Stationary gas turbines, 2nd edition, Springer, 2010

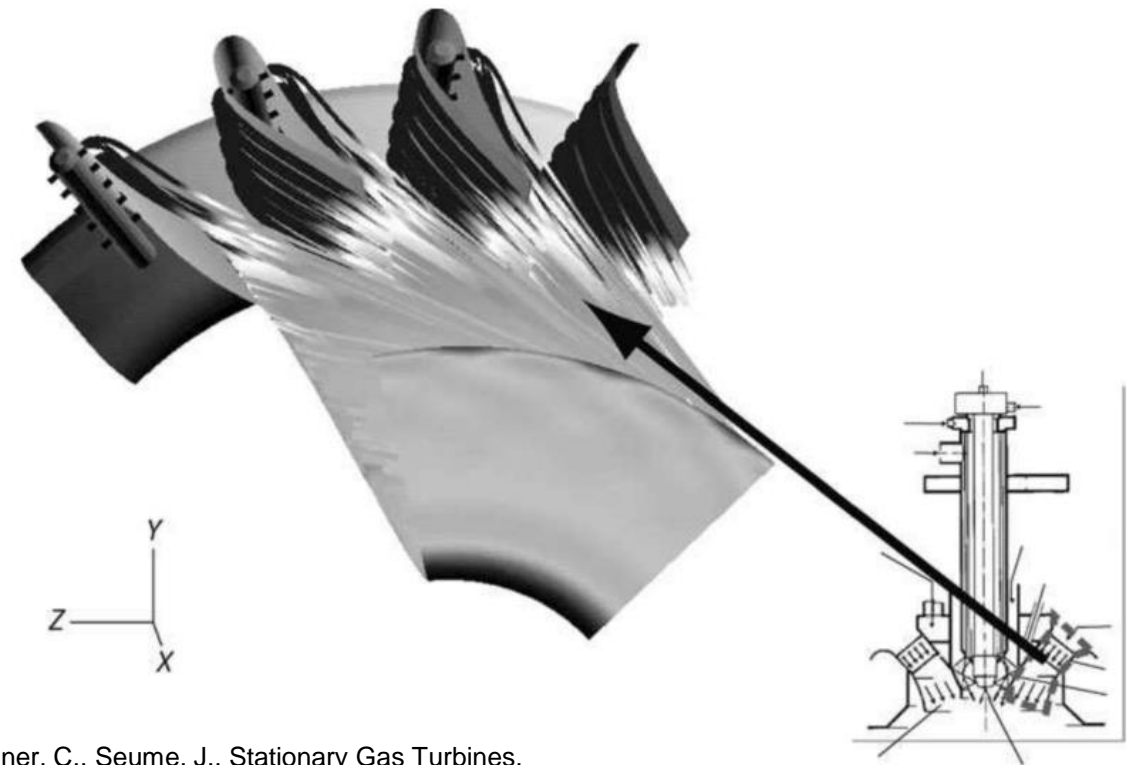
# GT combustion systems

## Lean combustion of gaseous fuels - DLE

- Siemens - Hybrid burner HR3



Fuel-air mixture in the diagonal grid passage of the HR3 burner

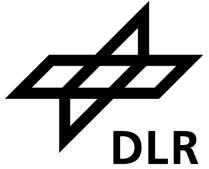


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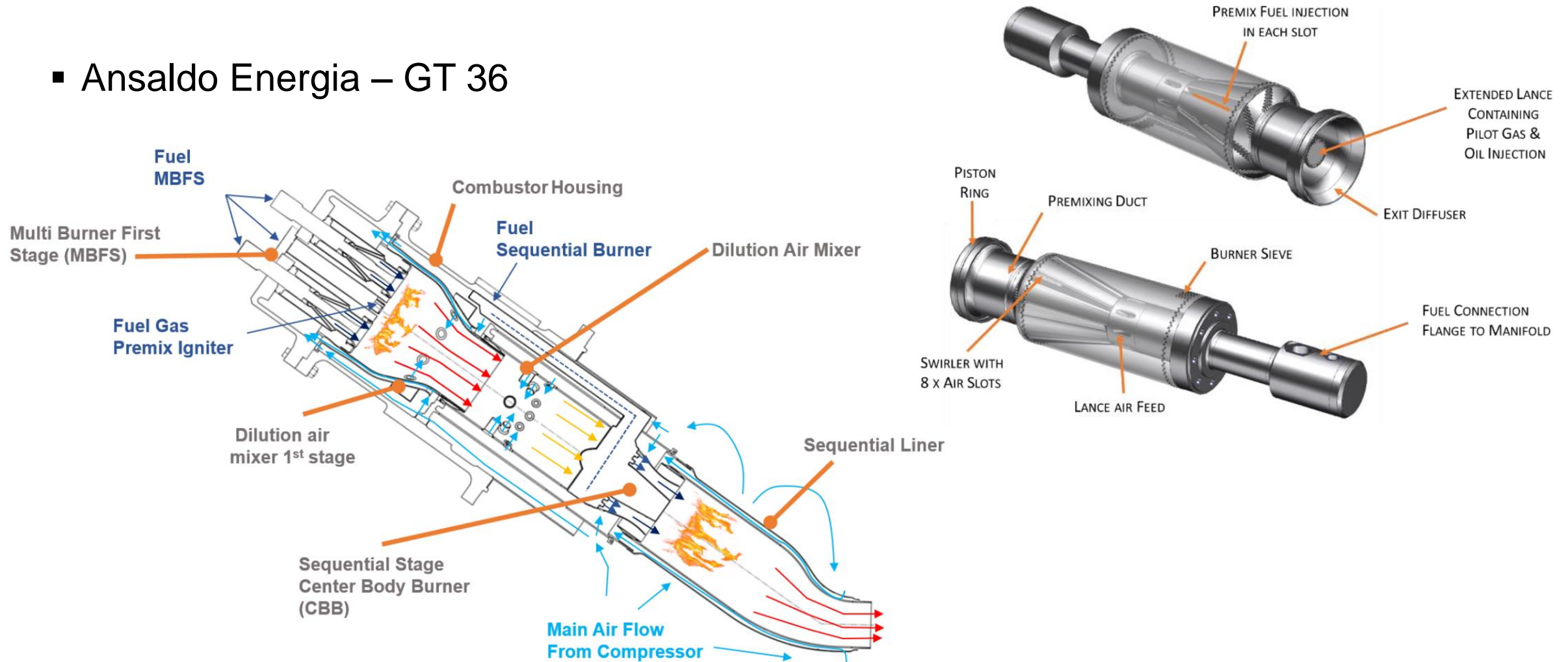


# GT combustion systems

## Lean combustion of gaseous fuels - DLE



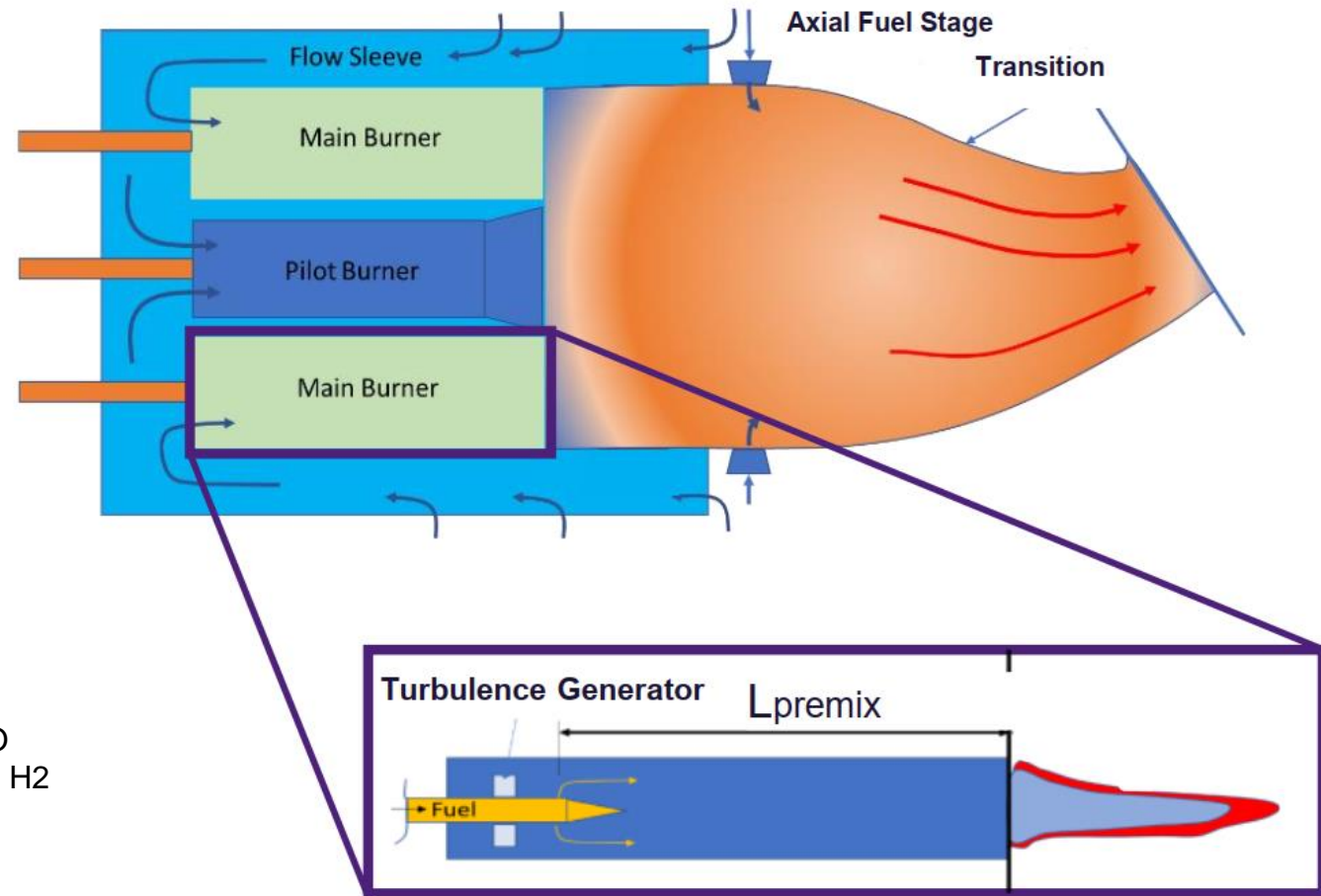
### ■ Ansaldo Energia – GT 36



# GT combustion systems

## Lean combustion of gaseous fuels - DLE

- Siemens – Advance combustion technology with jet-stabilized burner with axial stage

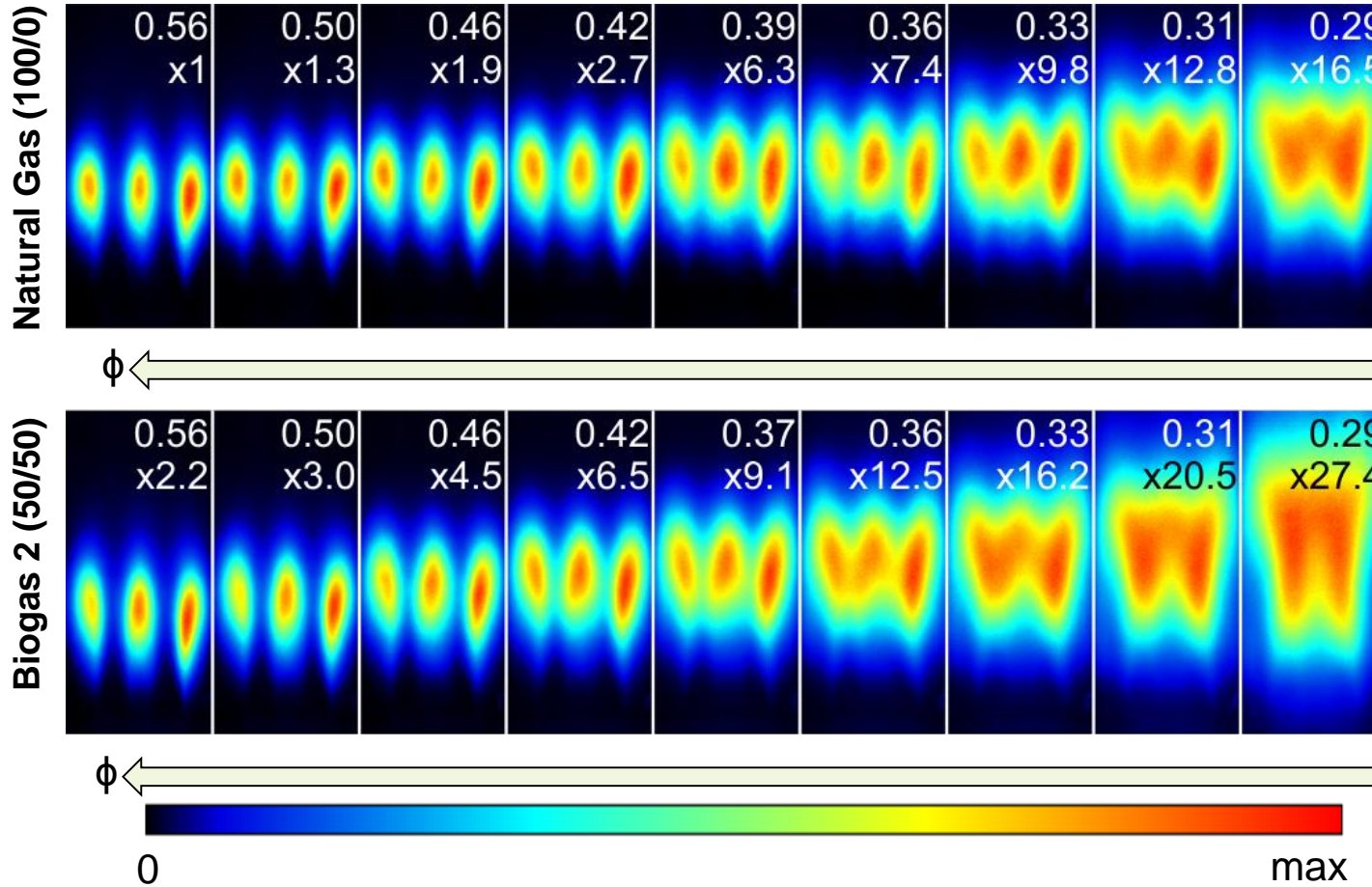


N. Parsania et. al., HYFLEXPOWER PROJECT:  
DEMONSTRATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL POWER-TO-H<sub>2</sub>-TO  
POWER ADVANCED PLANT CONCEPT WITH UP TO 100% H<sub>2</sub>  
IN AN SGT-400 GAS TURBINE, Proceedings of ASME Turbo  
Expo 2024, June 24-28, 2024, London, UK, GT2024-124016



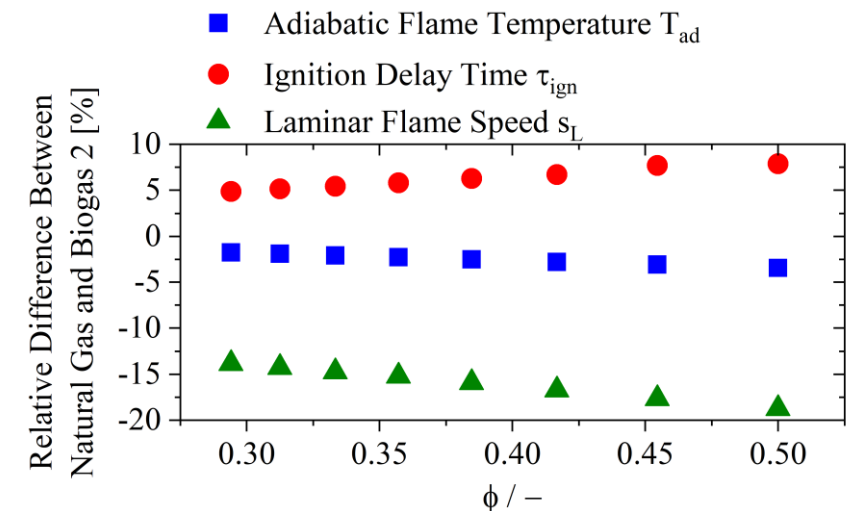
# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Biogas - Flame Shape - Jet stabilized burner



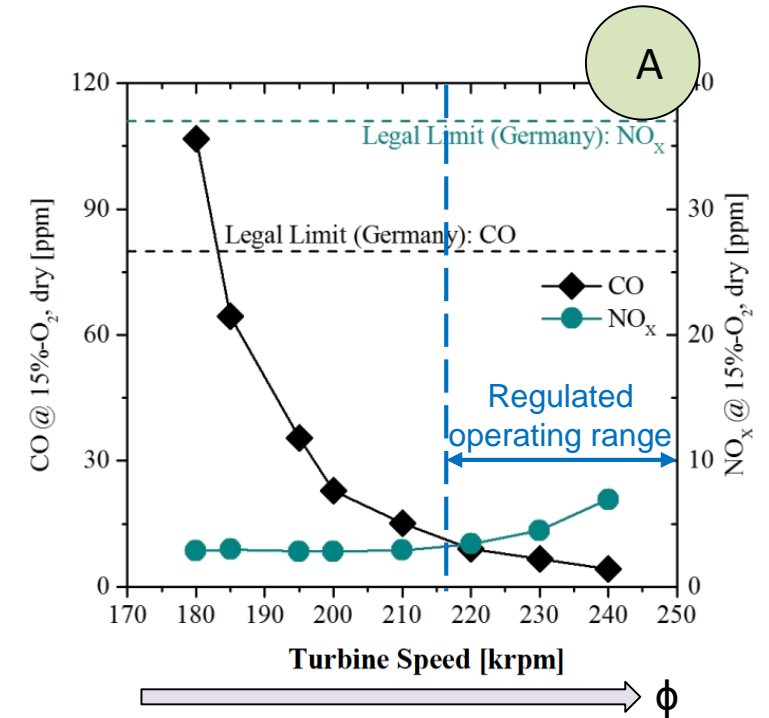
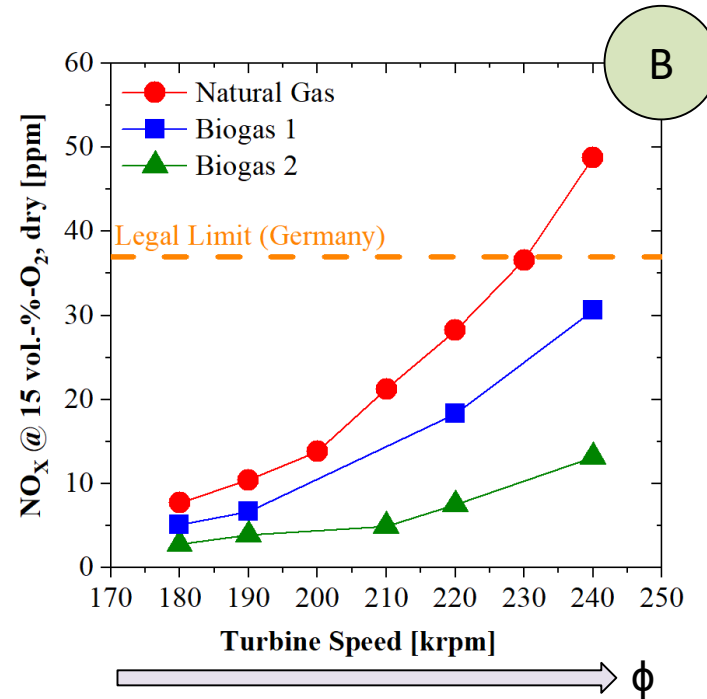
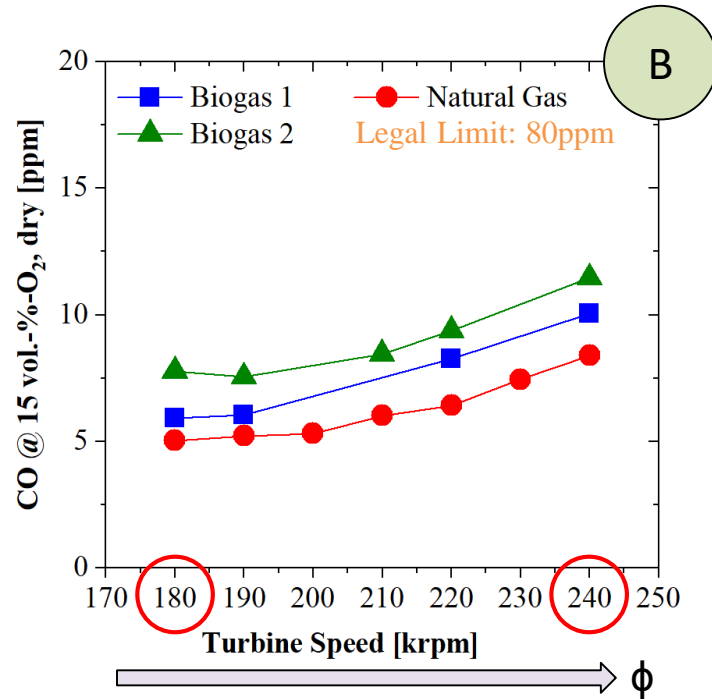
H. Seliger-Ost et al., (2021) [Experimental Investigation of the Impact of Biogas on a 3 kW Micro Gas Turbine FLOX®-Based Combustor](#). Journal of Engineering for Gas Turbines and Power, 143 (8), 081020. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). doi: [10.1115/1.4049927](https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4049927). ISSN 0742-4795

- With decreasing  $\phi$ 
  - Flame transforms from single flame to distributed flame regime
  - Influence of  $\text{CO}_2$  admixture increases  
→ leads to an even more distributed flame



# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Biogas – Emissions of MGT - Jet stabilized burner



- Similar trends as for atmospheric conditions
  - Very low CO emissions
  - NO<sub>x</sub> emissions with natural gas slightly exceeds legal limit
- Slight adjustment of air split necessary ( $\Delta\phi \approx 0.05$ )

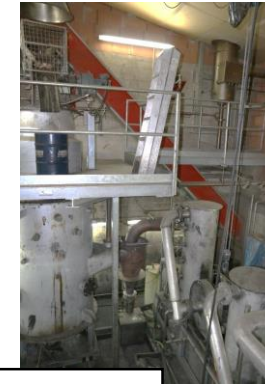
- Split adjustment can achieve CO and NO<sub>x</sub> levels below the legal limit

# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

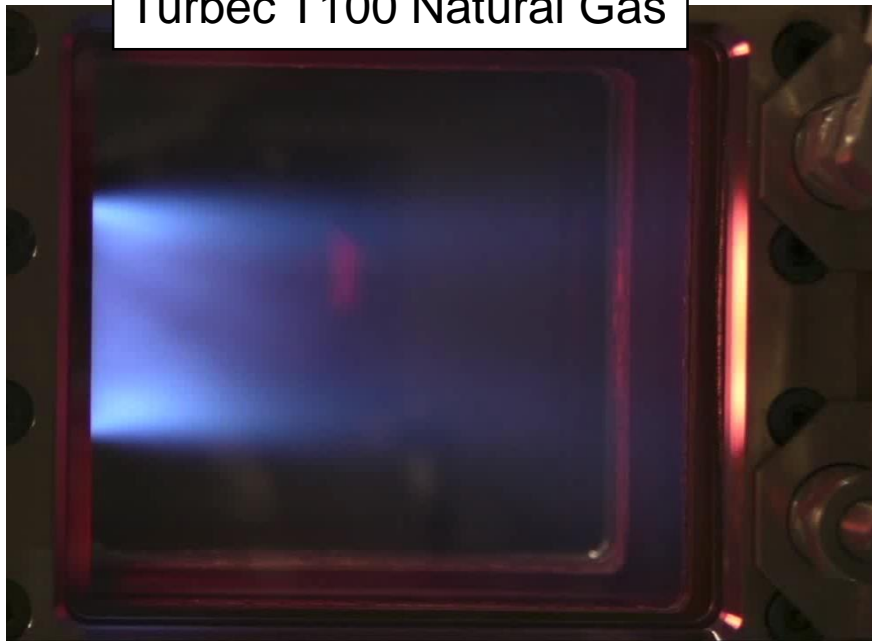
## Wood gas – Flame shape



- Engine test with optical combustion chamber

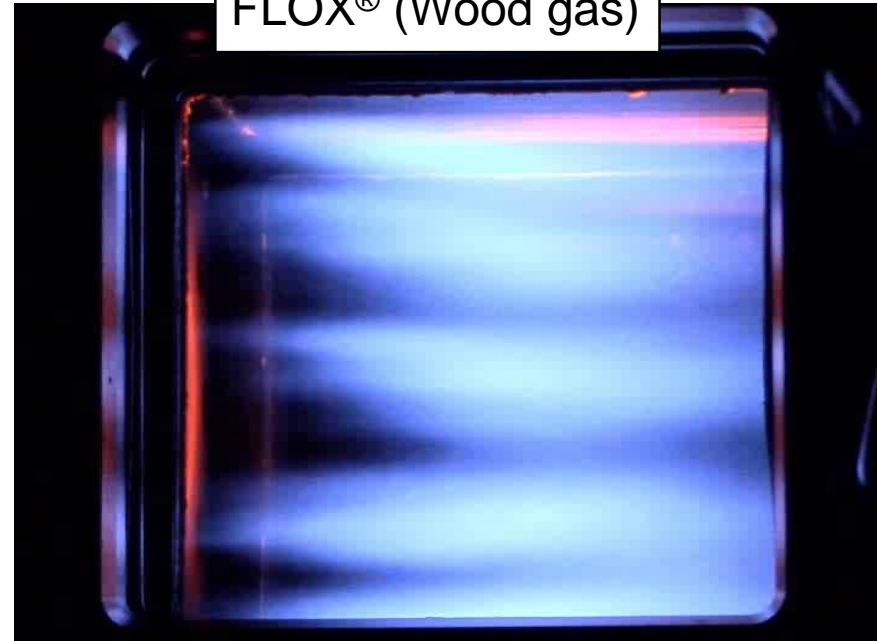


Turbec T100 Natural Gas

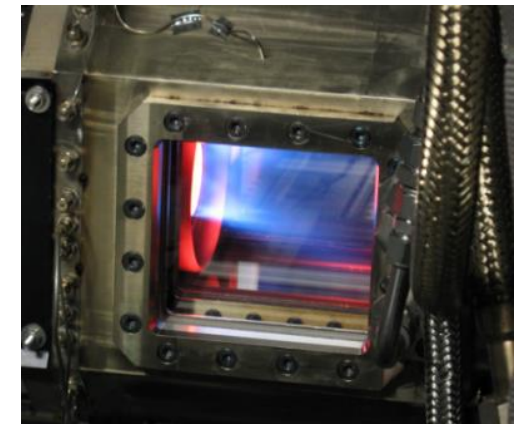


ca. 90 % rotational speed

FLOX<sup>®</sup> (Wood gas)

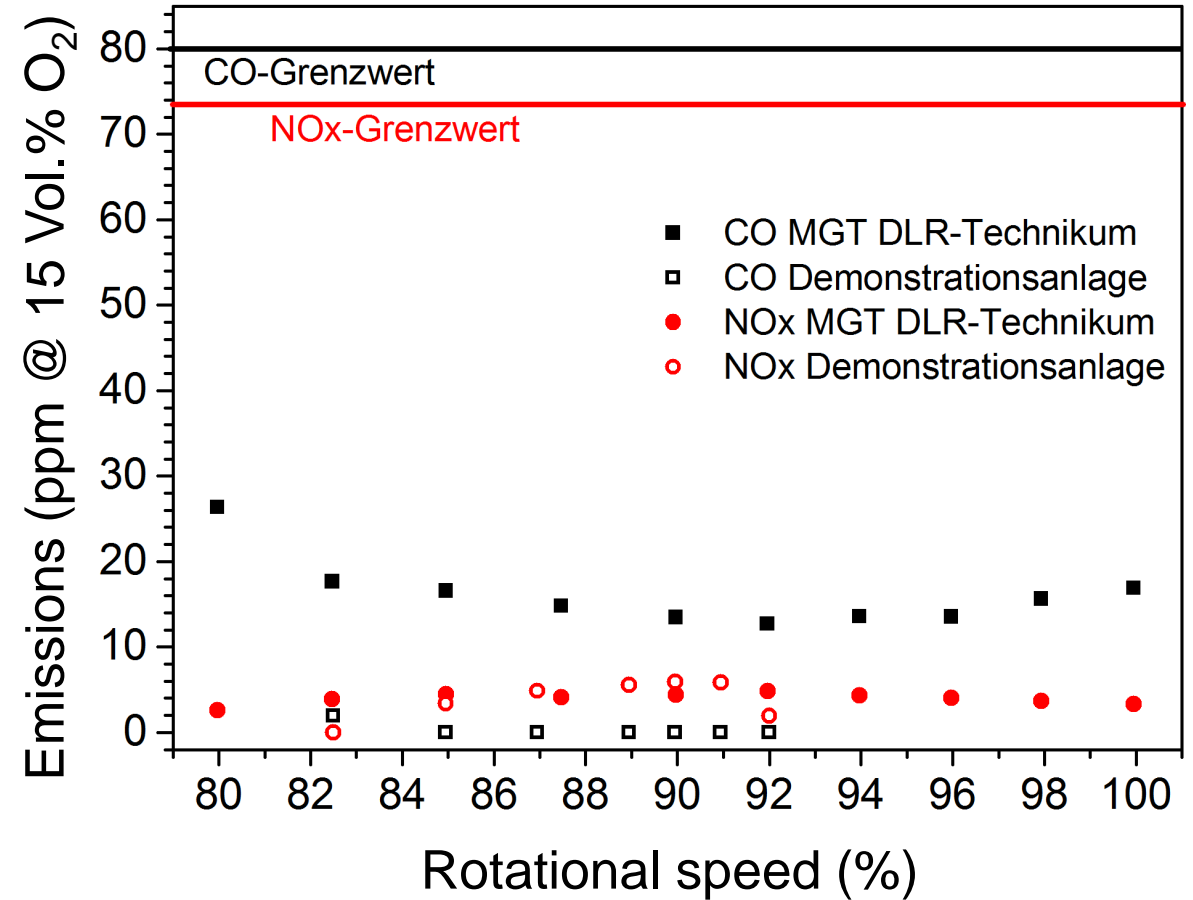
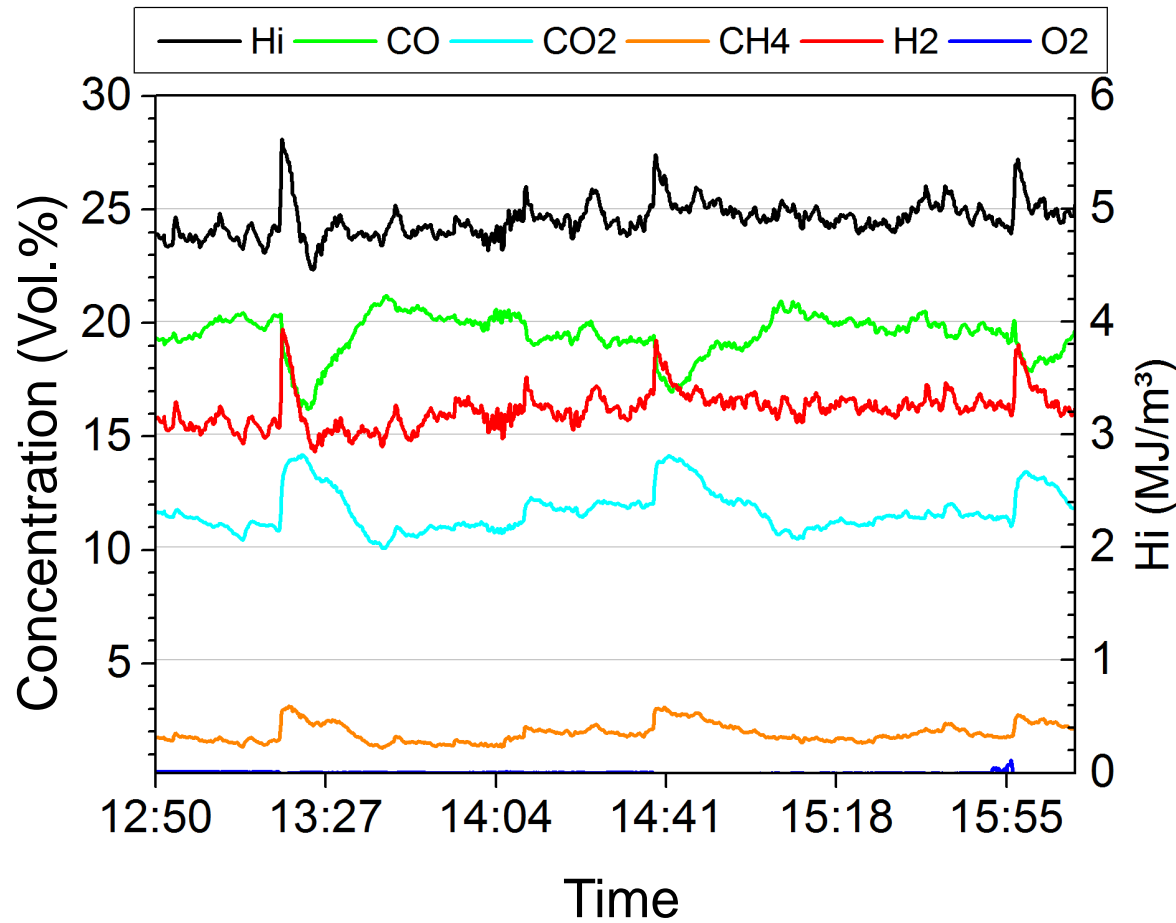


90 % rotational speed



# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Wood gas – Emissions of MGT - Jet stabilized burner

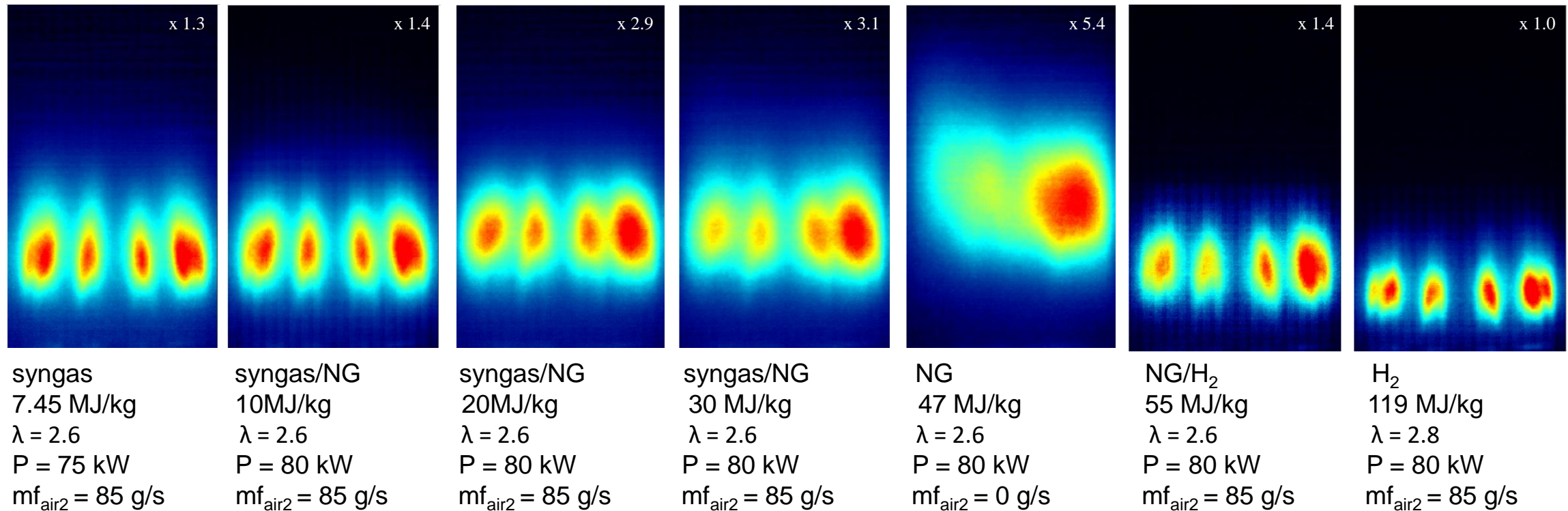




# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Fuel flexibility – from syngas to natural gas to hydrogen

- Flame shape and position - Jet stabilized burner:

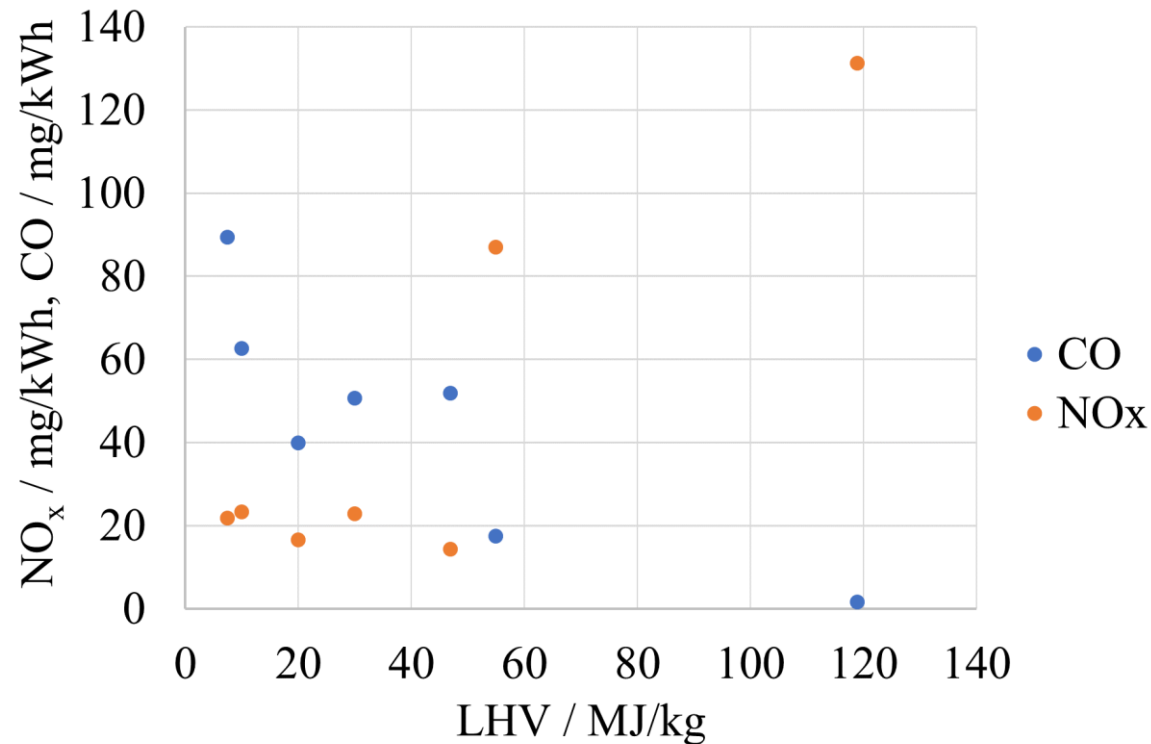


- Lifted flame for all mixtures, no flashback observed
- Stable combustion for all fuels, except natural gas (instabilities at some burner air numbers)

# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Fuel flexibility – from syngas to natural gas to hydrogen

### ■ Emissions - Jet stabilized burner:

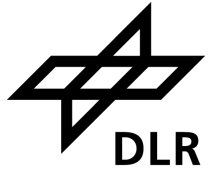


- Order of LHV values corresponds to order of OH\* chemiluminescence images
- Highest CO emissions for syngas
- Zero for pure hydrogen
- Increasing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for high hydrogen content
- Emissions indicate that optimal operation range differs for each fuel composition
  - proven by variation of burner air number
  - especially for hydrogen optimal range at higher burner air number, reaching single digit NO<sub>x</sub> values



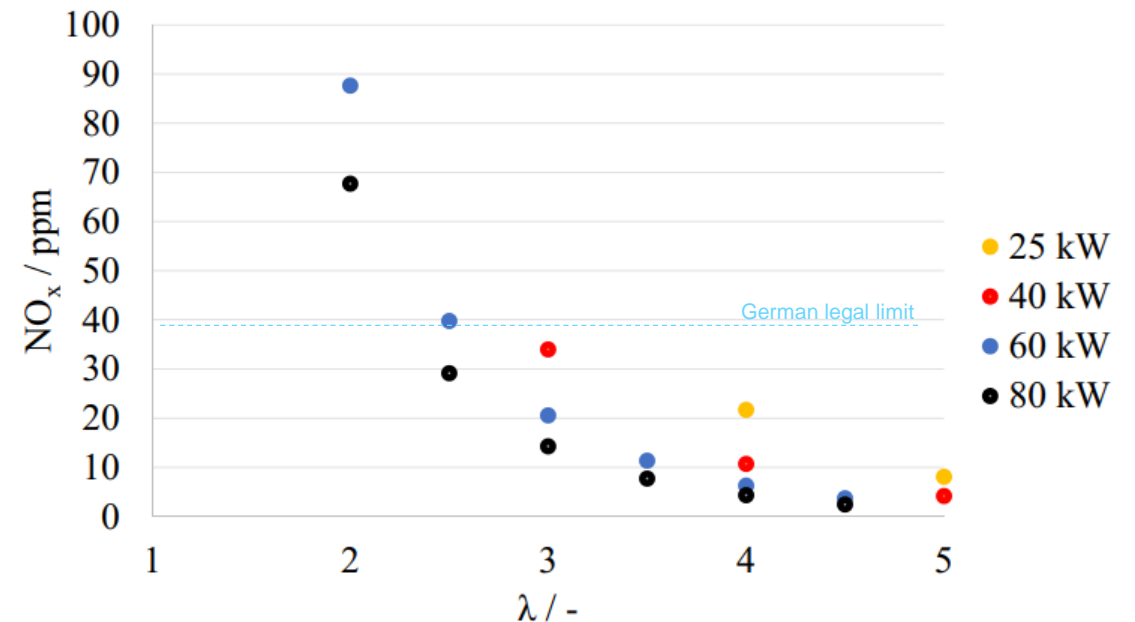
# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Hydrogen – variation of thermal power and burner air number



### NO<sub>x</sub> emissions @ 15 vol.% O<sub>2</sub>

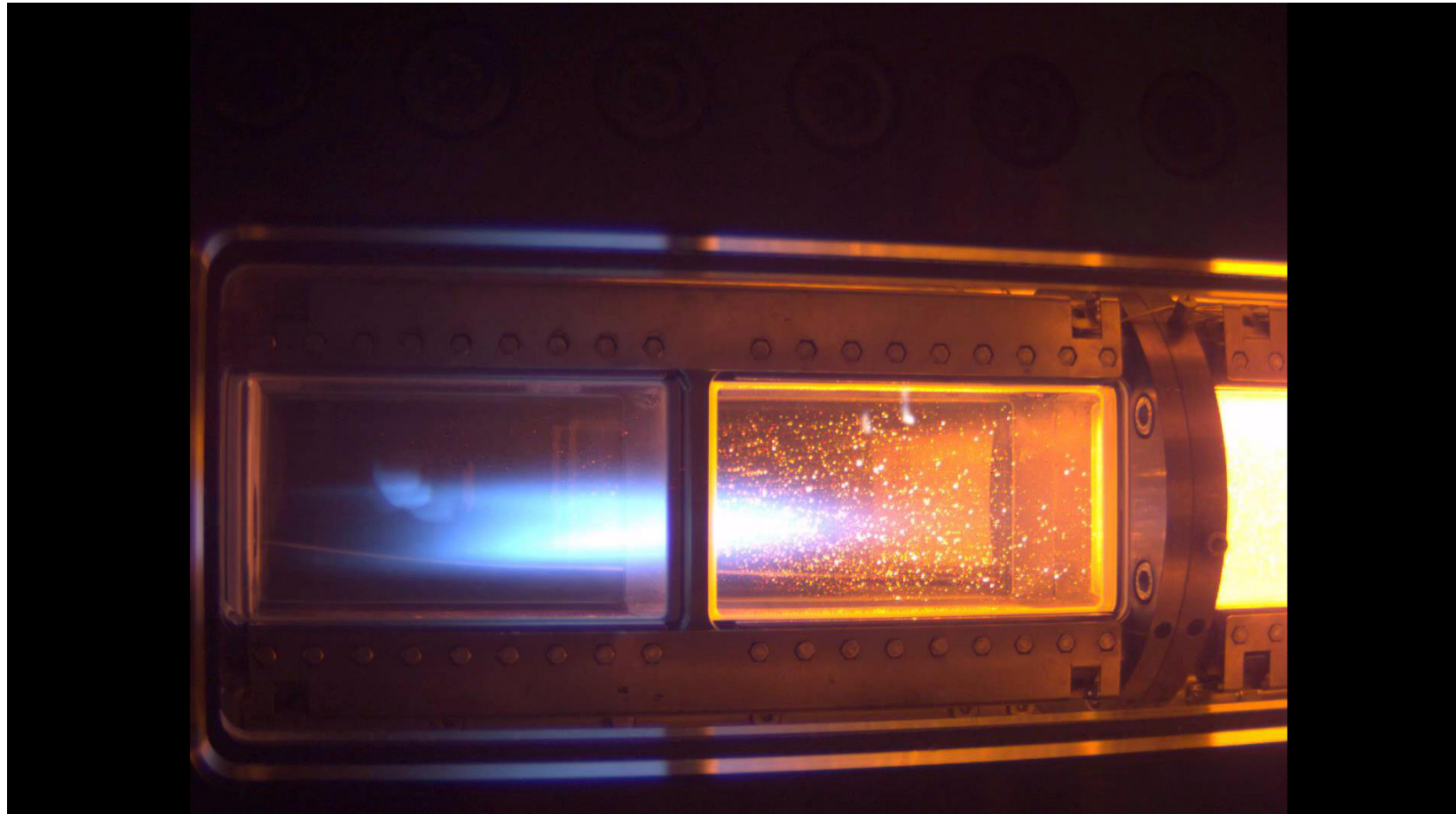
- High NO<sub>x</sub> emissions at rich conditions
- Decreasing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions with increasing  $\lambda$
- NO<sub>x</sub> emission increase with decreasing thermal power input
  - Lower velocities
  - Less distinctive recirculation zones lead to less homogenous temperature field
  - Hot spots and higher peak temperatures



# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

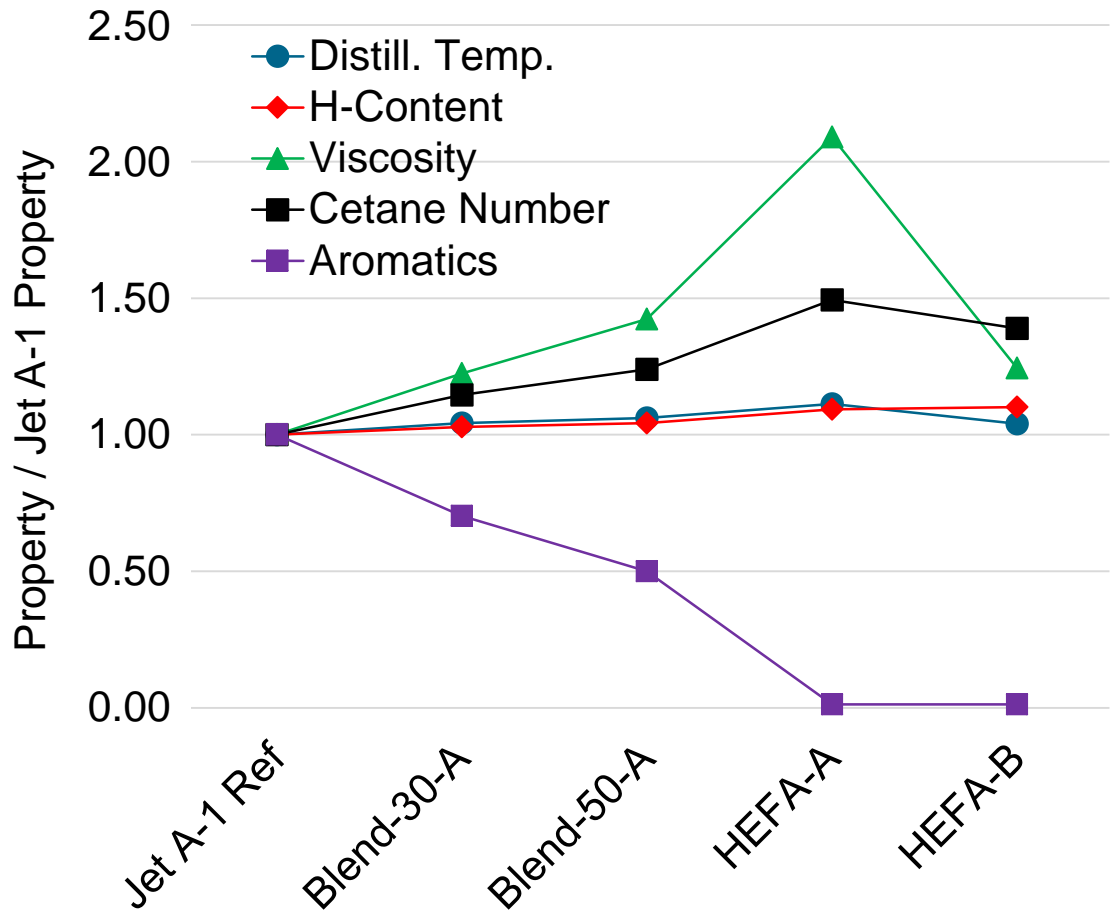
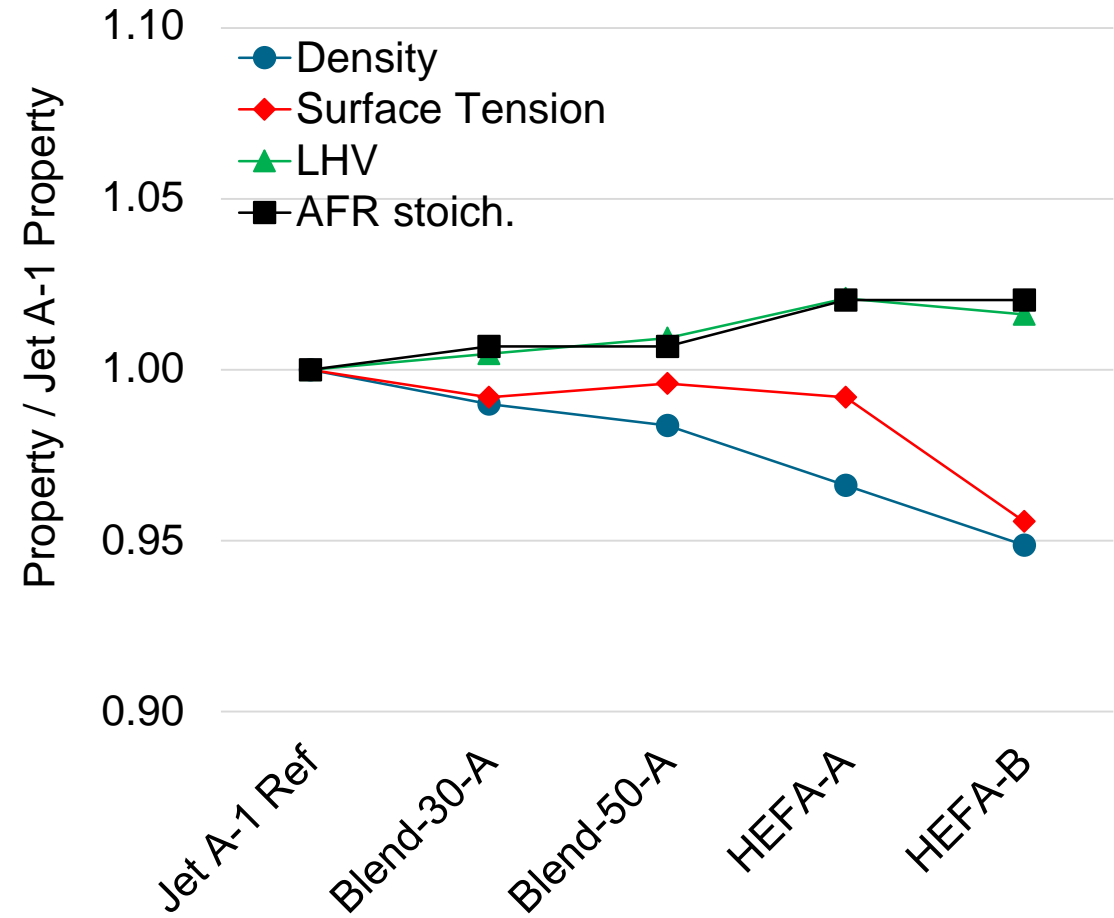
Fuel flexibility – from natural gas to hydrogen

- High pressure tests @ HBK-S: - Jet stabilized burner



# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Liquid fuels - Selected Fuel Properties

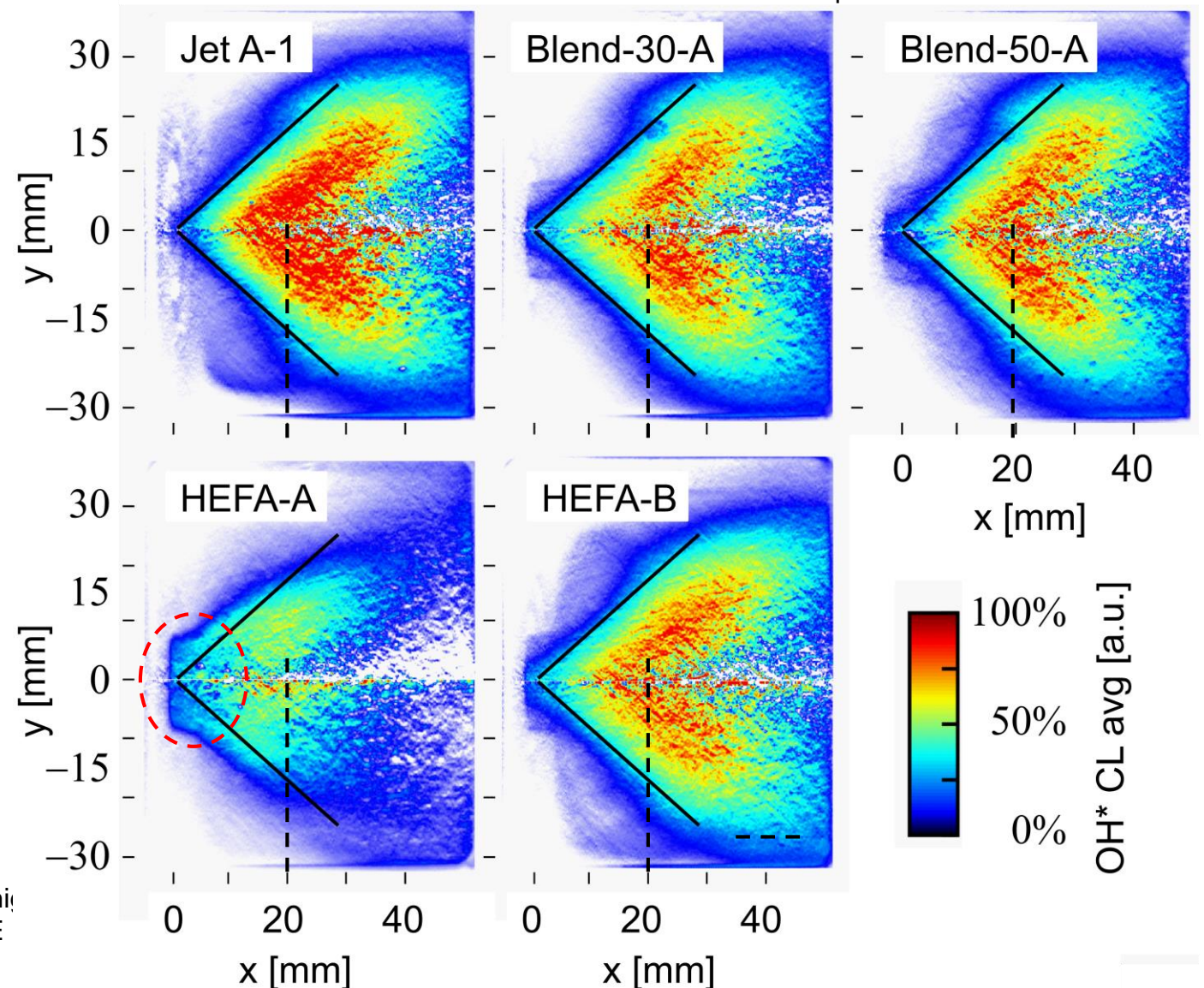


# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Liquid fuels - Heat Release Zone

$P = 10 \text{ bar}$ ,  $T_a = 673 \text{ K}$ ,  $\Phi_{pz} = 0.71$

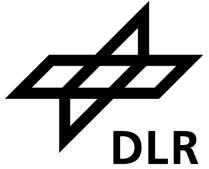
- Primary heat release zone not strongly affected by fuel type
- With increasing HEFA content, modestly advanced reaction onset
- Can be attributed to:
  - Higher fuel loading in the central region
  - Higher Cetane number 44 to 66





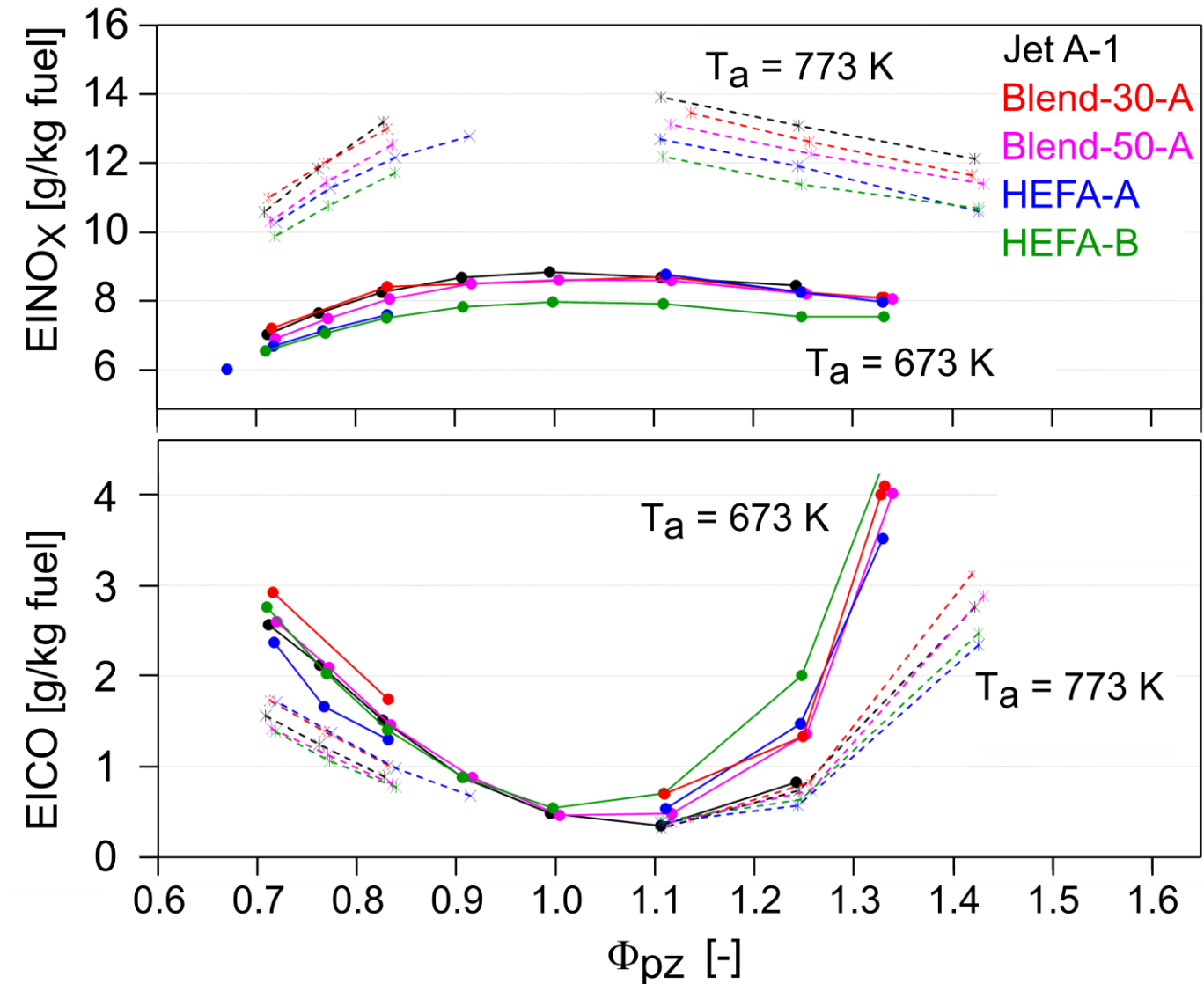
# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Emission Index



$P = 10 \text{ bar}$ ,  $T_a = 673 \text{ and } 773 \text{ K}$

- Higher  $T_a$  yields lower CO emissions due to enhanced burn-out
- Higher  $T_a$  yields higher  $\text{NO}_x$  due to thermal formation pathway
- Gaseous emissions ( $\text{NO}_x$  & CO) only modestly fuel dependent
- $\text{NO}_x$  emission reduce modestly with increasing HEFA blending



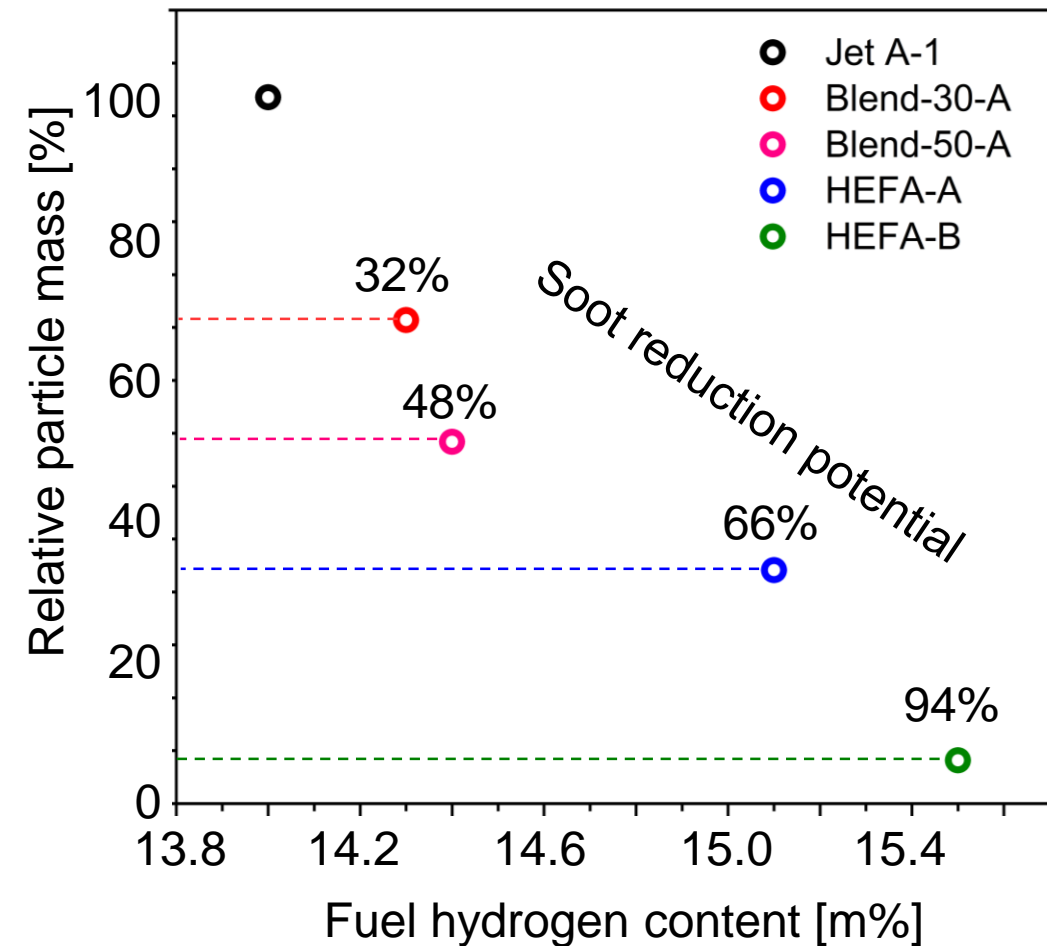
# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Soot Emissions Index



$$P = 7.5 \text{ bar}, T_a = 673 \text{ K}, \Phi_{pz} = 1.66$$

- Emission index for particle mass decreases with increasing hydrogen / lower aromatic fuel
- “Green” HEFA offers distinct CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> emission saving potential

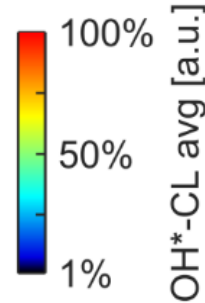
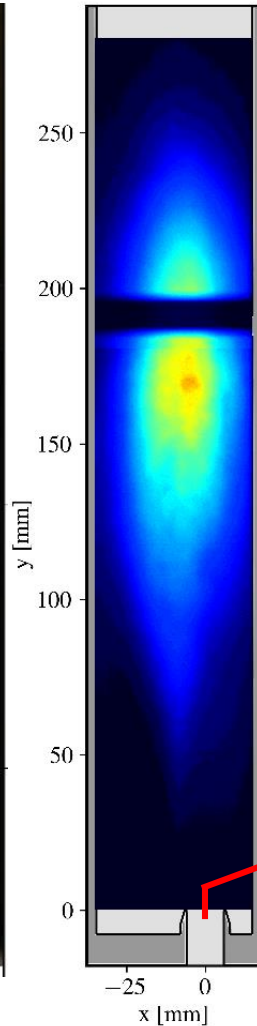
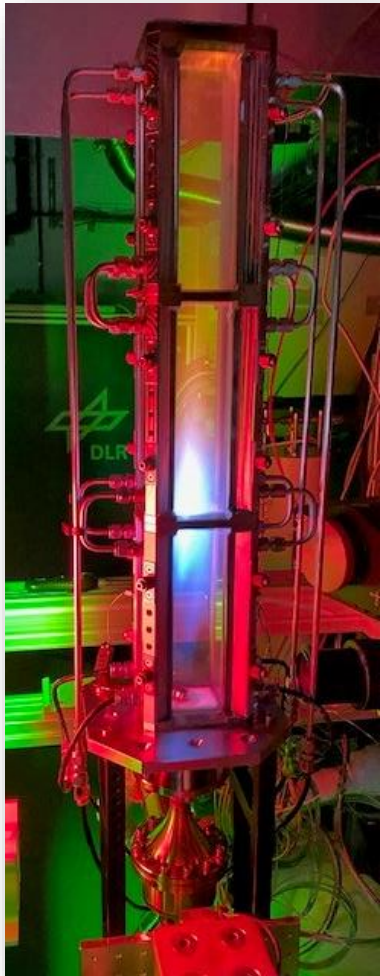




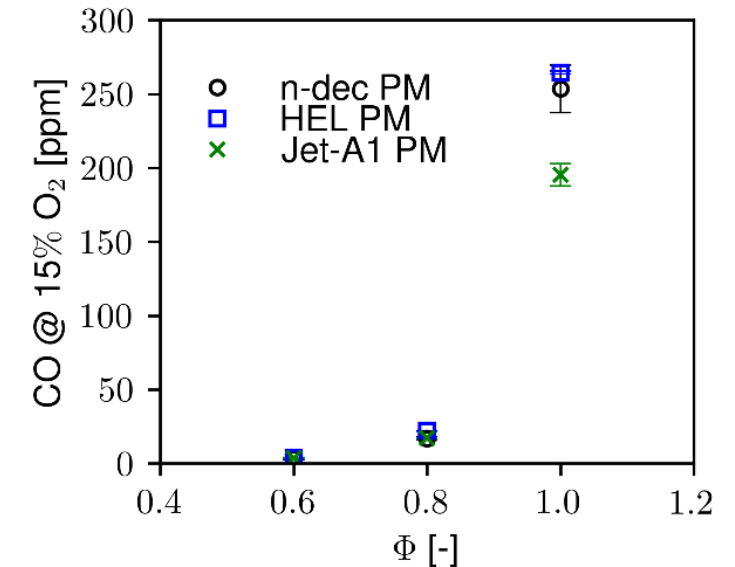
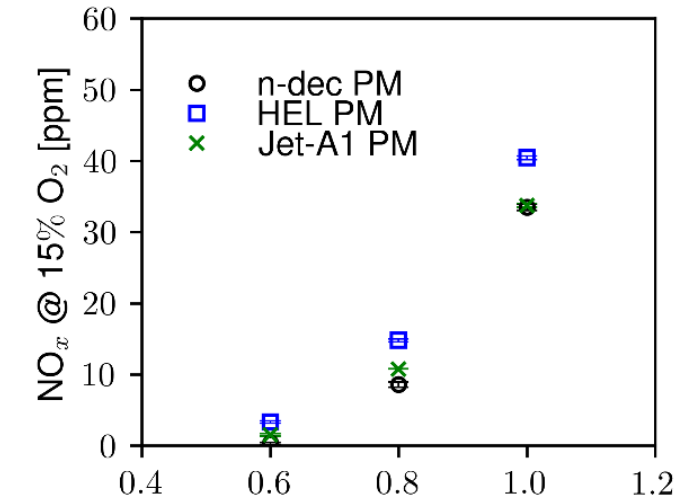
# Studies of GT combustors using alternative fuels

## Liquid fuels - DLR Airblast Injektor

→ Lean, premixed and pre-vaporised combustion

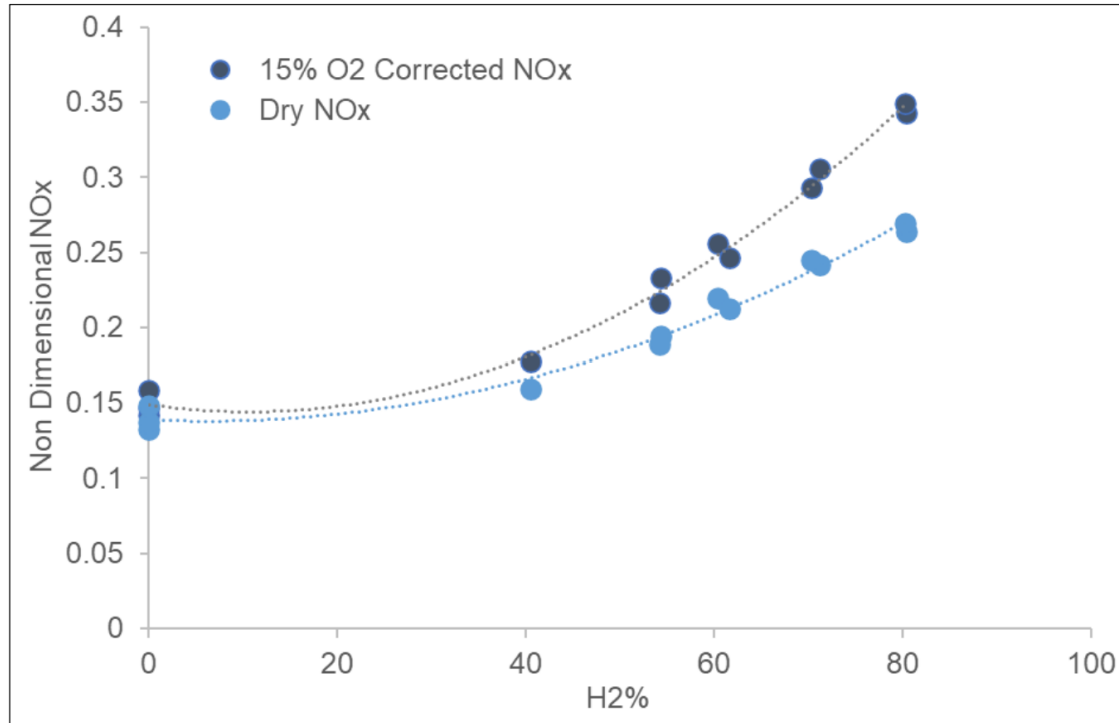
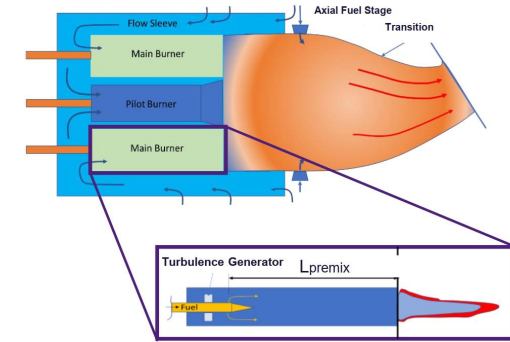


12 [mm]

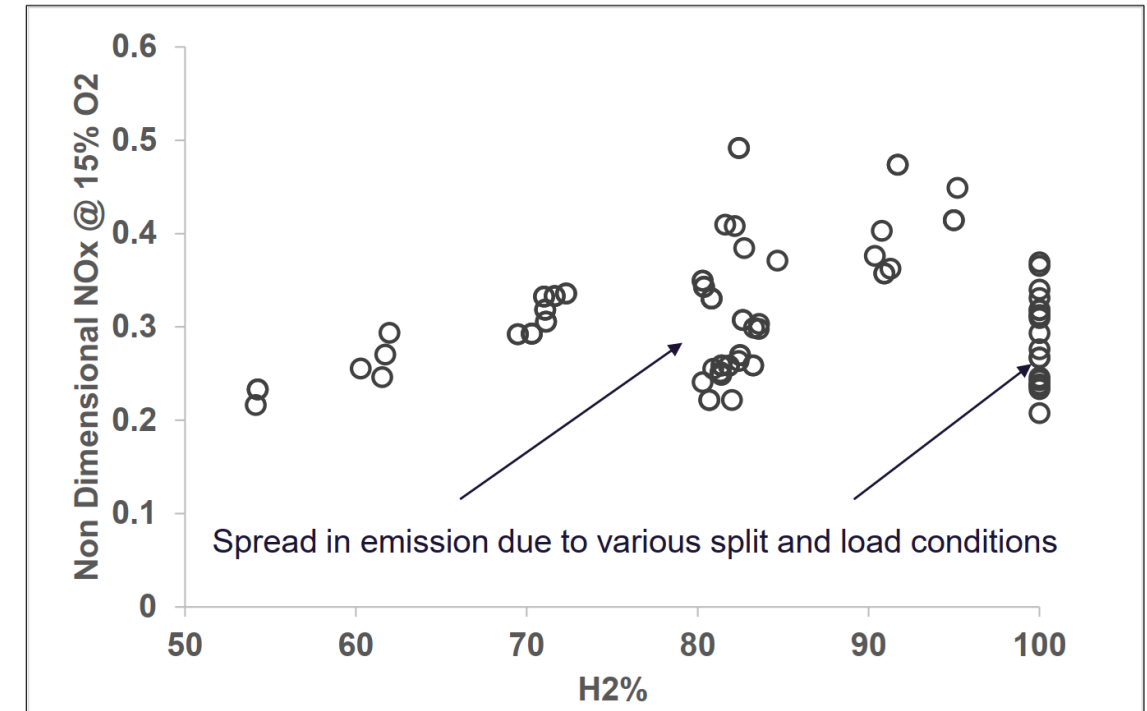


# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Siemens – Hyflexpower Project – SGT-400



### NO<sub>x</sub> emissions @ multiple load and fuel splits

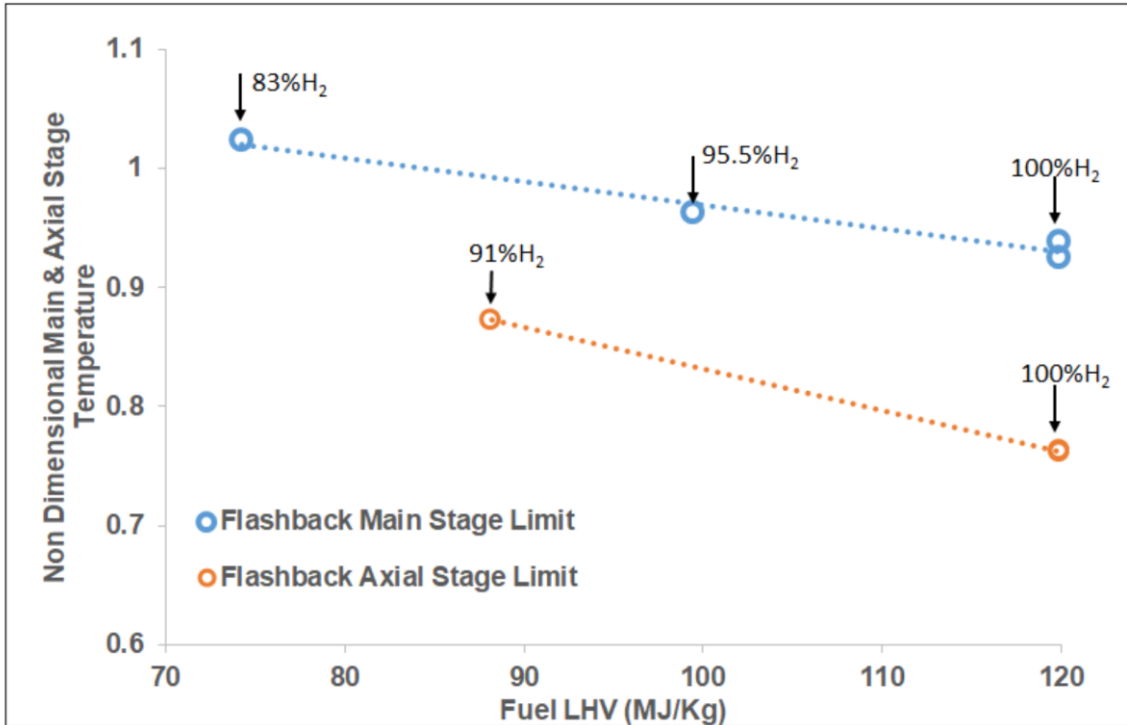
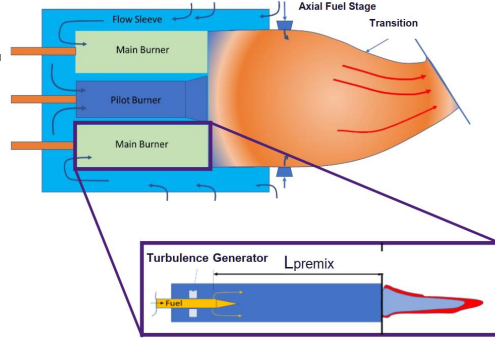
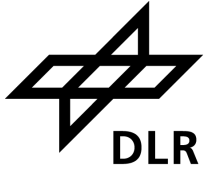


### NO<sub>x</sub> emissions @ constant

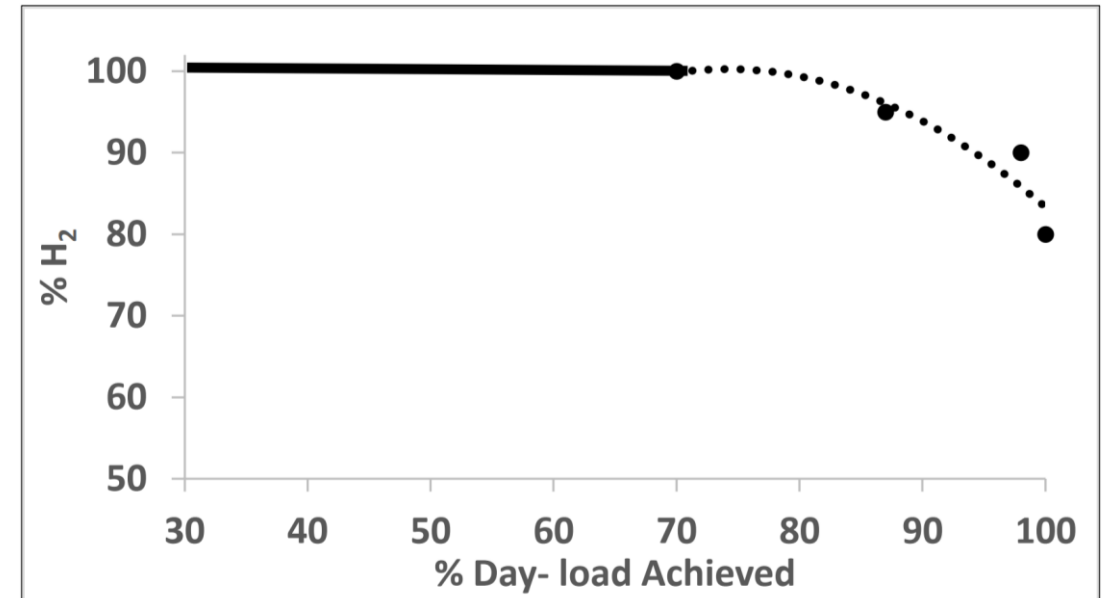
- Load / TET
- Fuel split

# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

Siemens – Hyflexpower Project using H<sub>2</sub> – SGT-



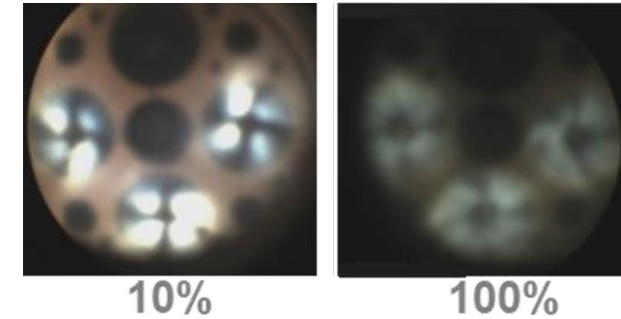
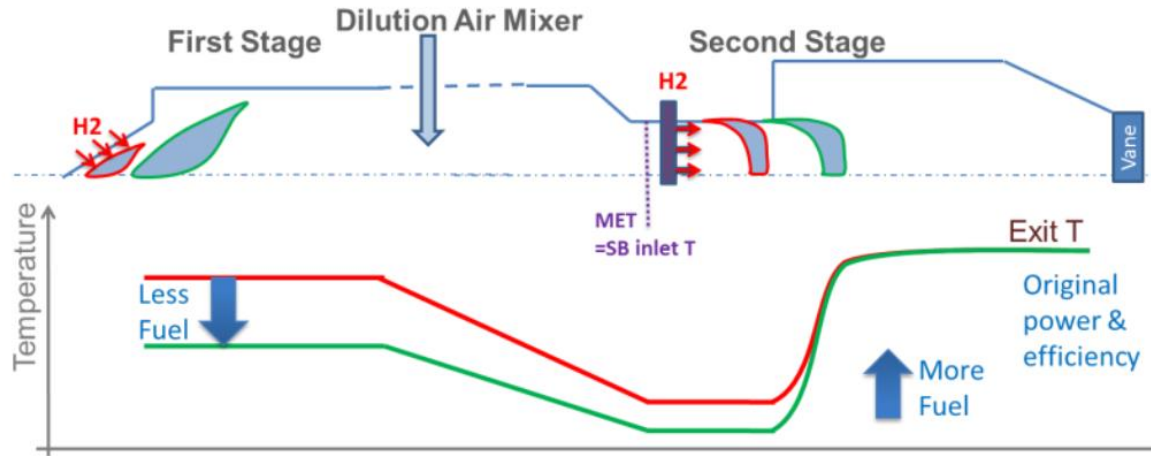
Operational limits maintaining flashback limits with safety tolerance



Flashback limits of main and axial stage depend on stage temperature

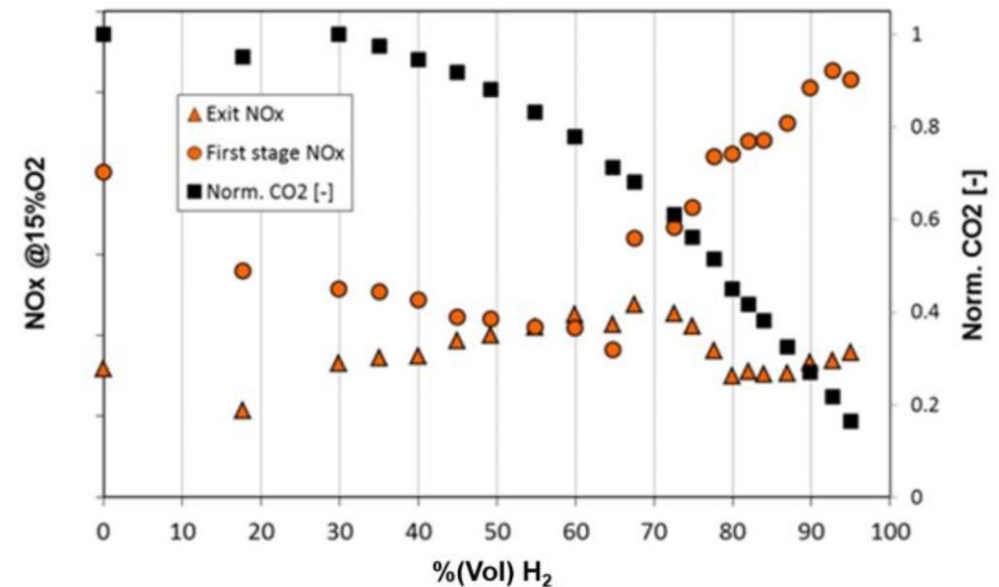
# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Ansaldo – Load and fuel flexibility using H<sub>2</sub> - GT36



Mixing Exit temperature (MET) = controllable parameter for

- fuel flexibility
- optimum load CO & NO<sub>x</sub> performance

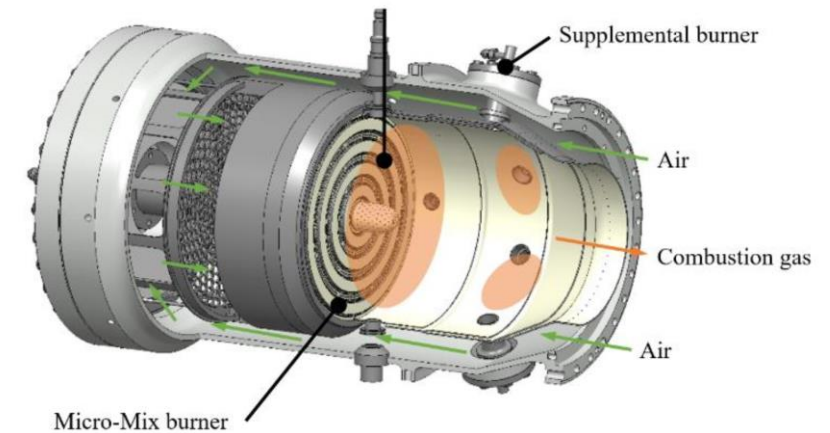
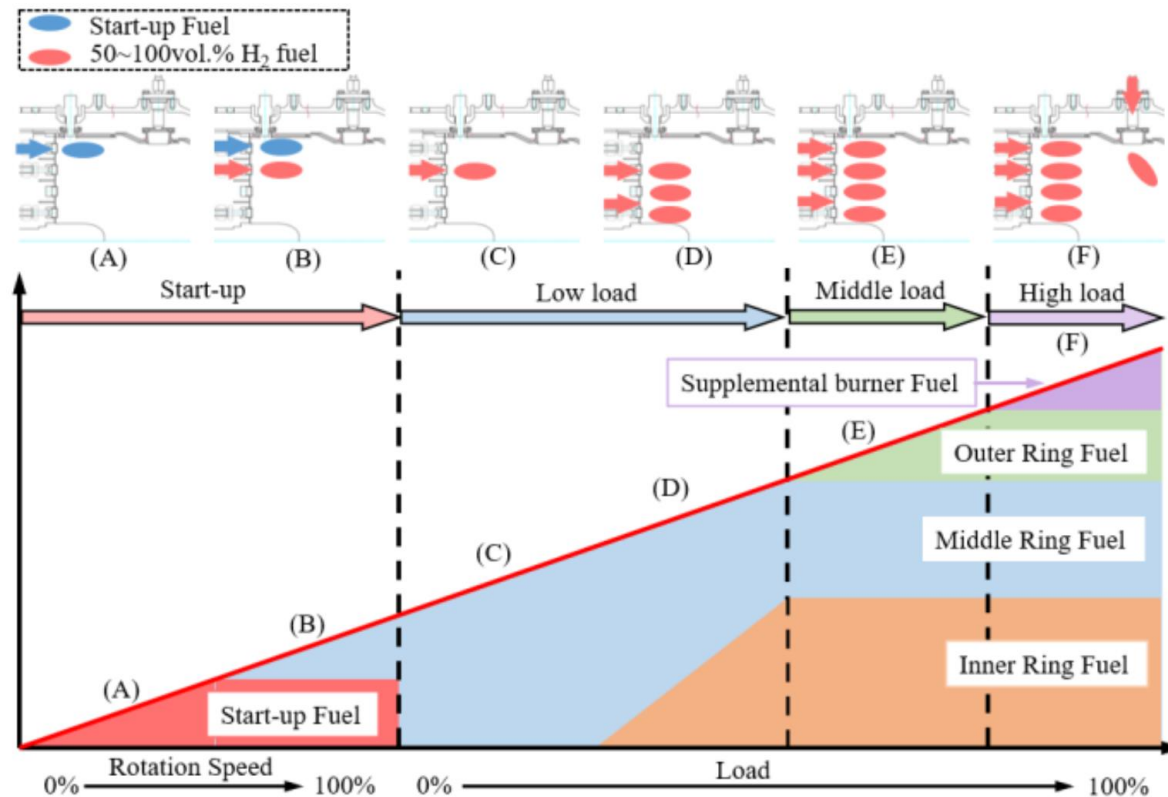


High-pressure full load single can validation

# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Kawasaki – Load and fuel flexibility using H<sub>2</sub> – M1A-17

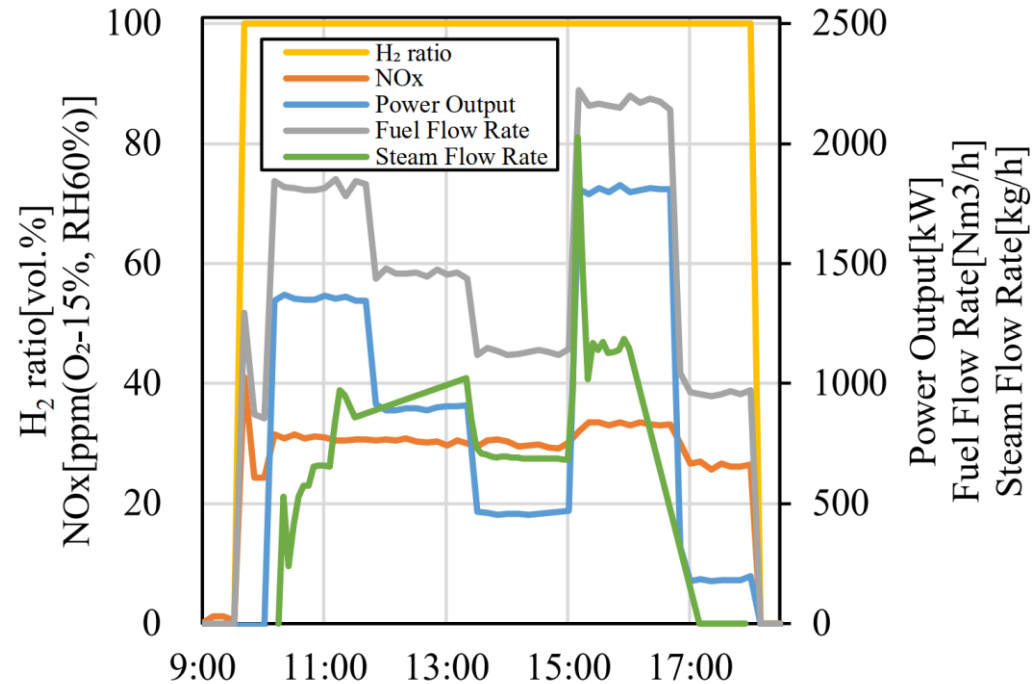
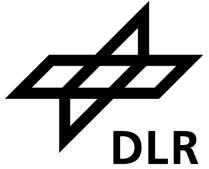
- Fuel flexibility by fuel staging of inner, middle and outer micromix ring and supplement burner → Ignition and load ramping procedure using NG as start up fuel



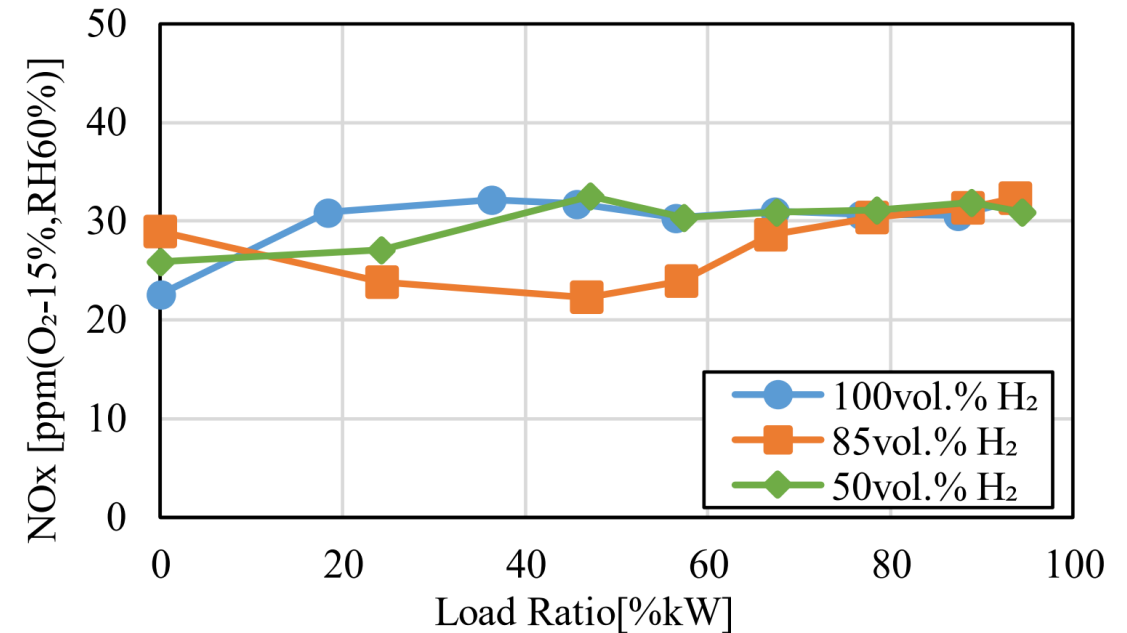


# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Kawasaki – Load and fuel flexibility using H<sub>2</sub> – M1A-17



Operational proceedings of demonstration test for 100 Vol.% H<sub>2</sub>



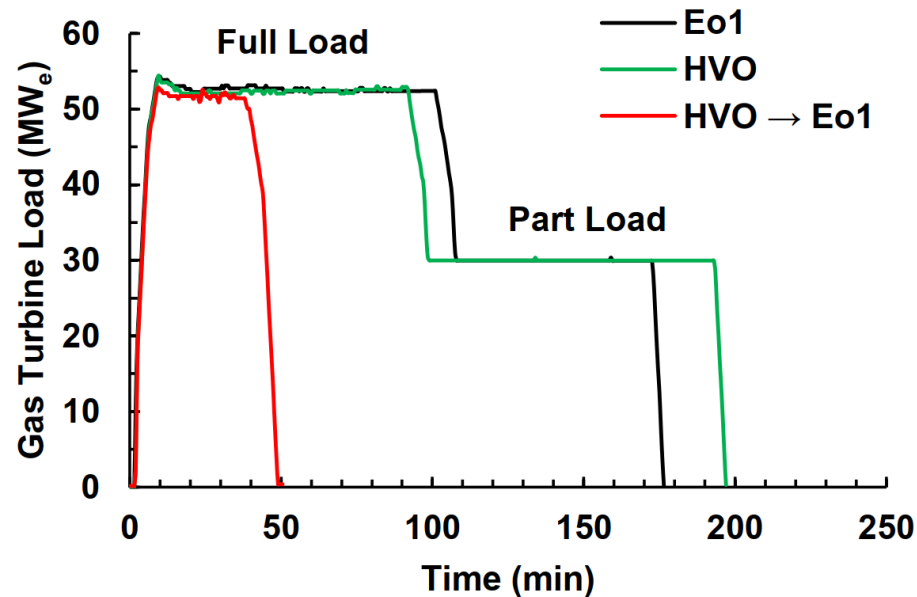
NO<sub>x</sub>-emissions for H<sub>2</sub> fuel blends and natural gas



# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Uniper – Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil – Siemens V93.0

- Peaker unit with silo combustors (diffusion flames) and water injection
- HVO suitable drop-in fuel



(a) Eo1 – Full Load



(b) HVO – Full Load



Parameter (X, mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> )	HVO (X <sub>HVO</sub> / X <sub>Eo1</sub> )
Dust	0.81
NO <sub>x</sub>	1.02
CO	0.83
SO <sub>2</sub>	0.02
O <sub>2</sub>	1.01
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.96

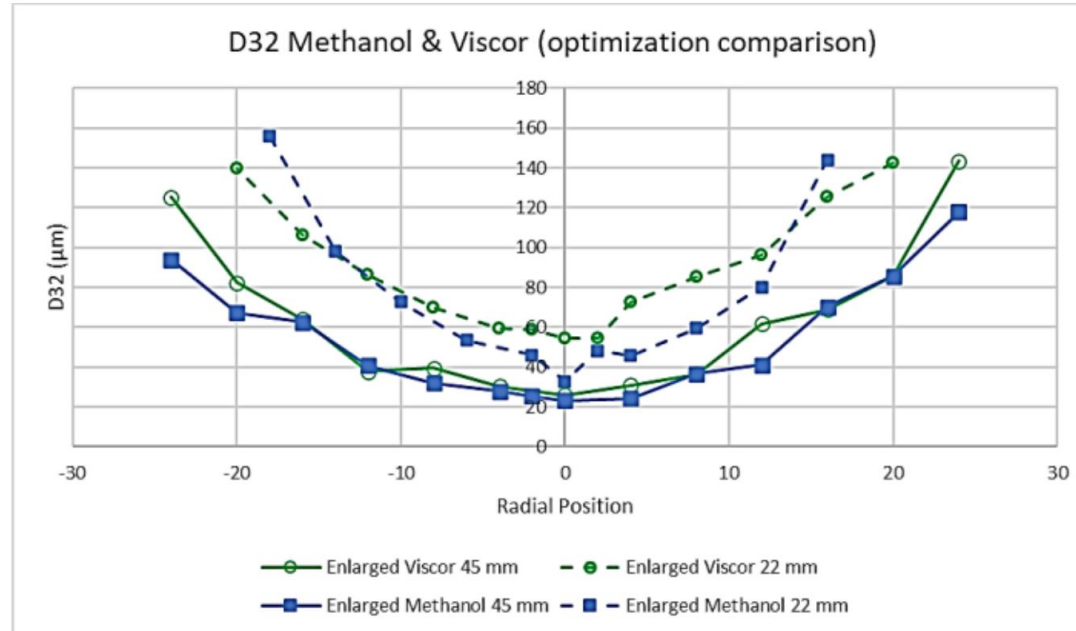
HVO emissions at full load conditions  
(normalized by fuel oil)

# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

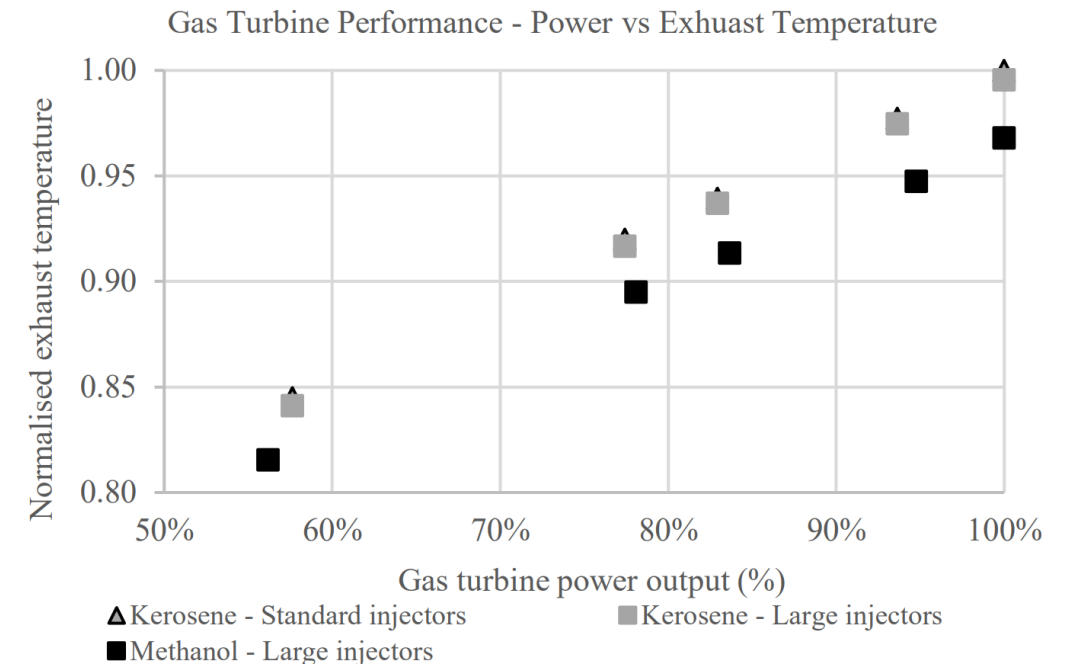
## Siemens – Bio-Methanol – SGT-A20



- Doubling of the flow capacity of the standard dual fuel injectors required



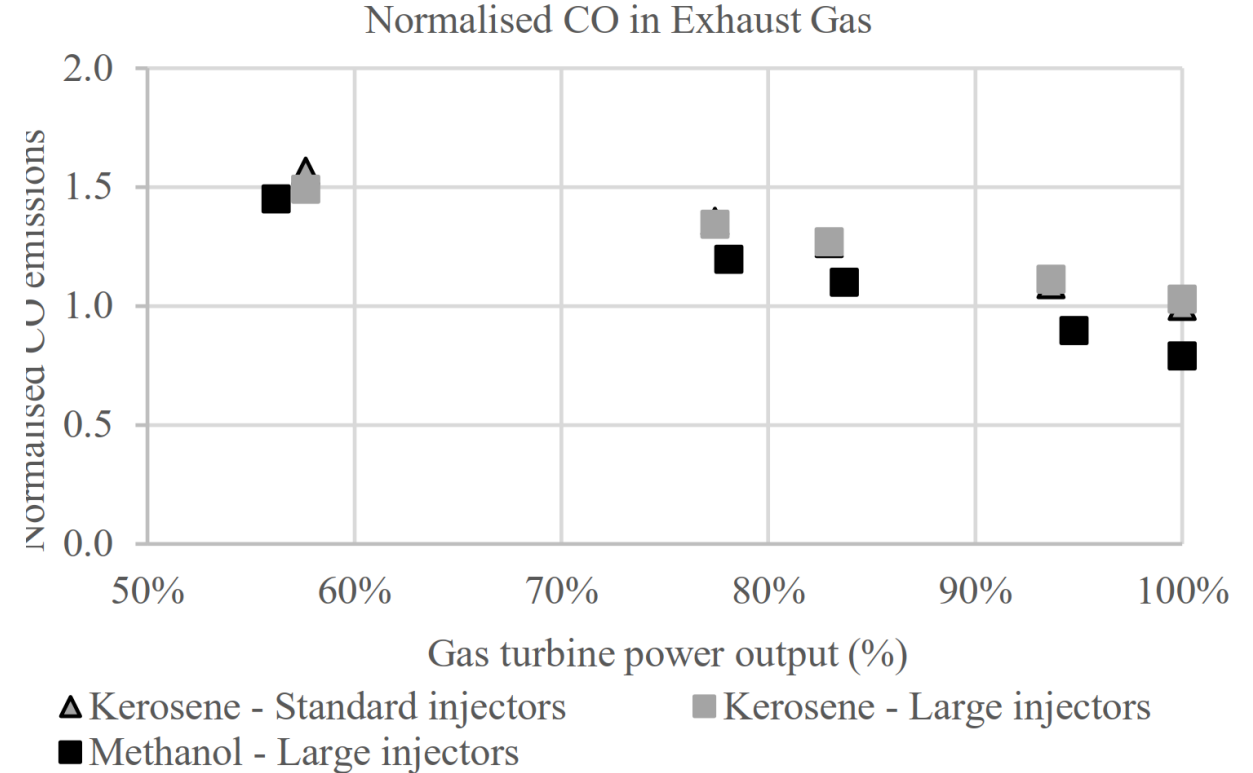
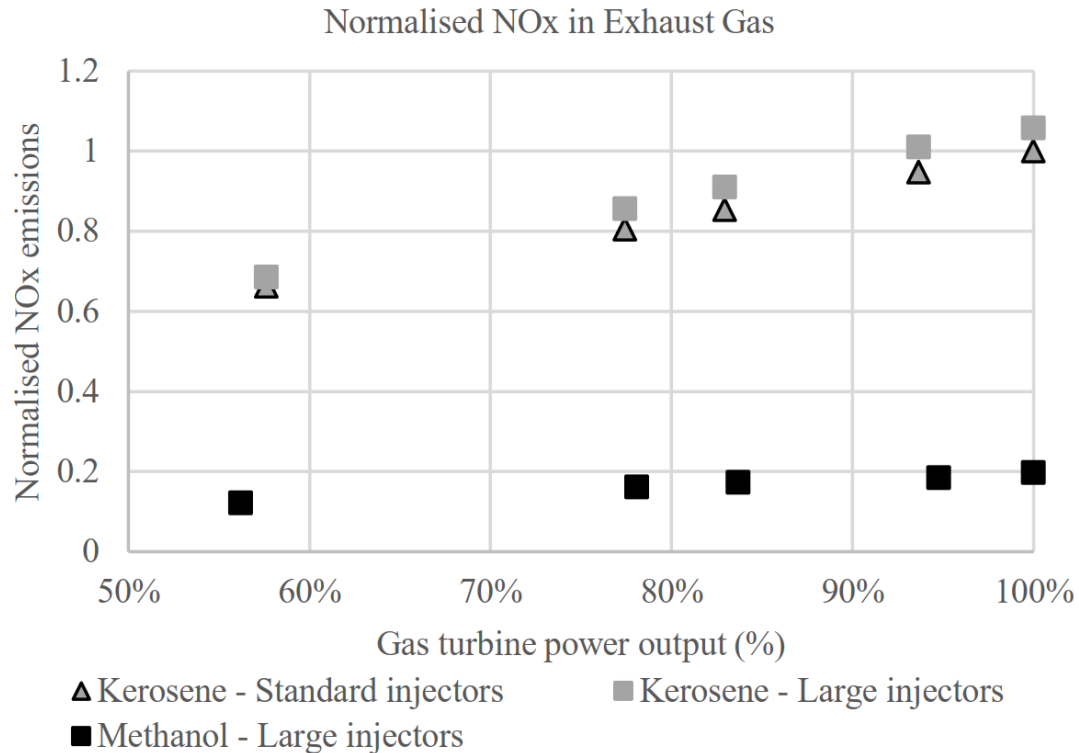
Sauter mean droplet diameter for increased flow capacity injectors for methanol and viscor (calibration fluid) with 22 / 45 mm distance from injector



→ Methanol could provide a performance improvement by an increase in power and thermal efficiency

# Examples of GTs using alternative fuels

## Siemens – Methanol – SGT-A20



- Lower NO<sub>x</sub> emissions due to lower flame temperatures
- Lower soot emissions



# Stuttgart, Germany