

# The Basics of Hydrogen Technology

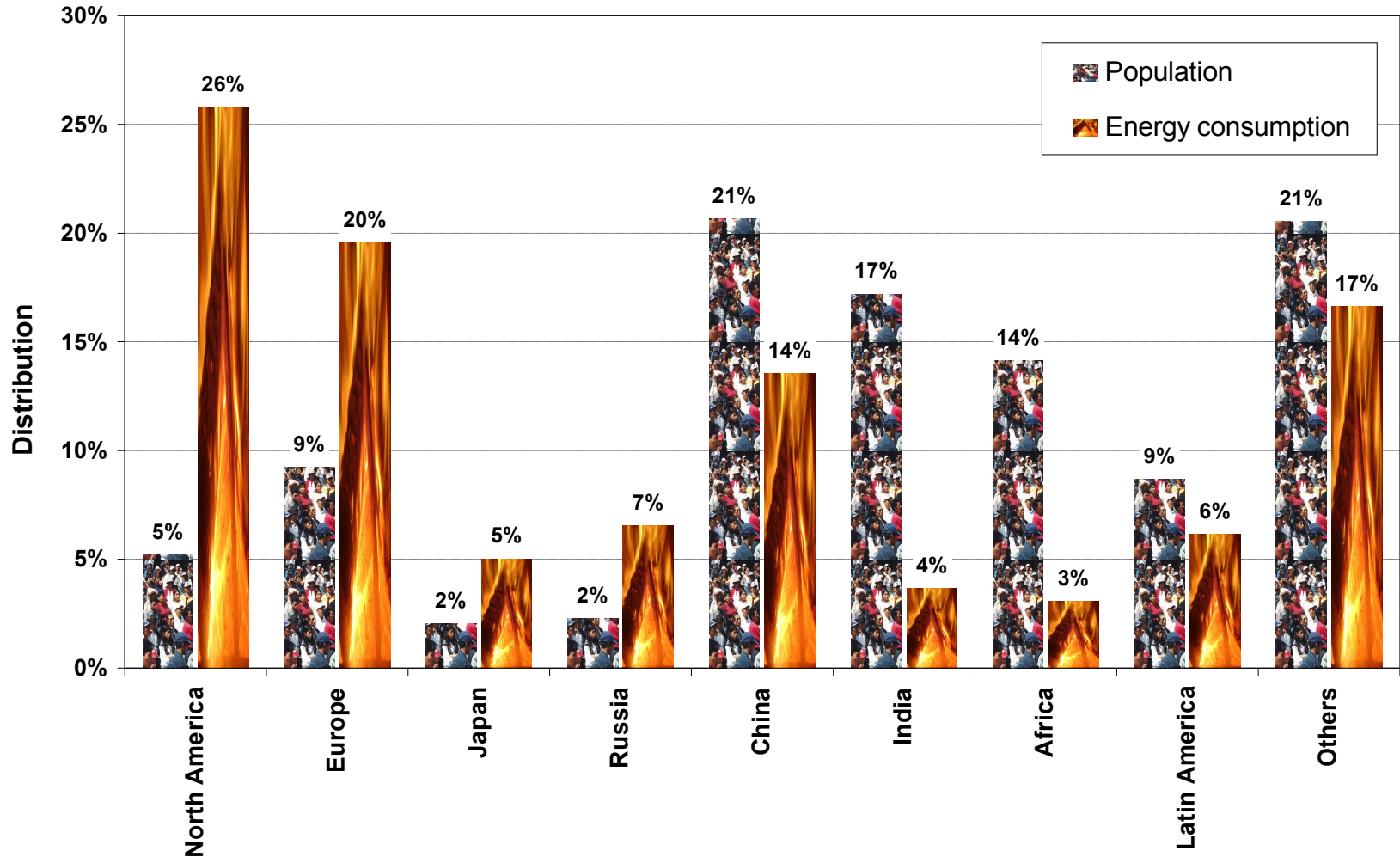
Summer School  
Graz, 2009

# Why do we need innovations in traffic?

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- EU's Dependency on energy imports
  - some (politically) unreliable suppliers or supply routes
  - influence on trade balance
- Poor efficiency of internal combustion engines
- No practical solution for energy storage in vehicles
- High prices for fossil fuels in the long term

**⇒ Can hydrogen technology bring a solution?**

# Use of primary energy, 2004



# Content

- Properties of hydrogen
- Production
- Storage
- Transport
- Conversion into mechanical energy
- Advantages & disadvantages, problems
- Overall efficiency

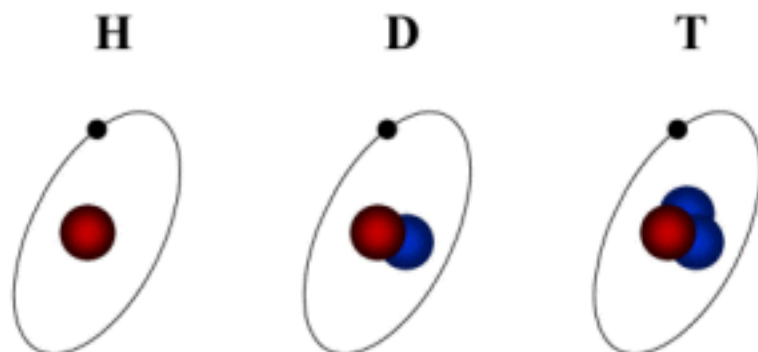
# Properties of hydrogen

- Net calorific value: 119,97 MJ/kg = 33,33 kWh/kg
- Gross calorific value: 141,89 MJ/kg = 39,41 kWh/kg
- Density: 0,084 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (20 °C, 1.013 hPa)
- Melting point: -259,15 °C
- Boiling point: -252,76 °C
- Odourless, tasteless, invisible, nontoxic, highly volatile, neutral to environment
- One of the nine most common (mass) elements in upper lithosphere, mass fraction: 0,74 %
- Easily flammable, ignition limits: 4-75 %<sub>vol</sub>
- Flame is invisible but emits UV radiation
- Extremely explosive mixture with air: “oxyhydrogen”

# Chemical and physical data

formula	H <sub>2</sub>	
molecule mass	2,0159 kg/kmol	
critical temperature	33,19 K	
critical pressure	1,325 MPa	
critical density	30,12 g/dm <sup>3</sup>	
critical compressibility factor	0,307	
acentric factor	-0,215	
tripel point	13,957 K	(7,2 kPa)
melting point	13,95 K	(101,3 kPa)
boiling point	20,39 K	(101,3 kPa)
density, liquid	70,96 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	(20,39 K, 101,3 kPa)
density, gaseous	1,331 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	(20,39 K, 101,3 kPa)
	0,0899 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	(0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
enthalpy of vaporisation	899,1 J/mol	(20,39 K, 101,3 kPa)
specific heat, isobaric	28,59 J/molK	(gasförmig, 0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
dynamic viscosity	8,34 · 10 <sup>-6</sup> Pas	(gasförmig, 0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
	13,3 · 10 <sup>-6</sup> Pas	(flüssig, 20,39 K, 101,3 kPa)
compressibility factor	1,00042	(0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
net calorific value	119,93 MJ/kg	(25 °C, 101,3 kPa)
	10,78 MJ/m <sup>3</sup>	(0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
gross calorific value	241,8 kJ/mol	(25 °C, 101,3 kPa)
	141,8 MJ/kg	(25 °C, 101,3 kPa)
	12,74 kJ/m <sup>3</sup>	(0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
	285,85 kJ/mol	(25 °C, 101,3 kPa)
diffusion coefficient in air	0,61 · 10 <sup>-4</sup> m <sup>2</sup> /s	(0 °C, 101,3 kPa)
inversion temperature	193 K	(2,5 MPa)

# Appearance (isotopes, isomers)



Hydrogen (Protium,  $^1\text{H}$ )

Deuterium (D,  $^2\text{H}$ )

Tritium (T,  $^3\text{H}$ )

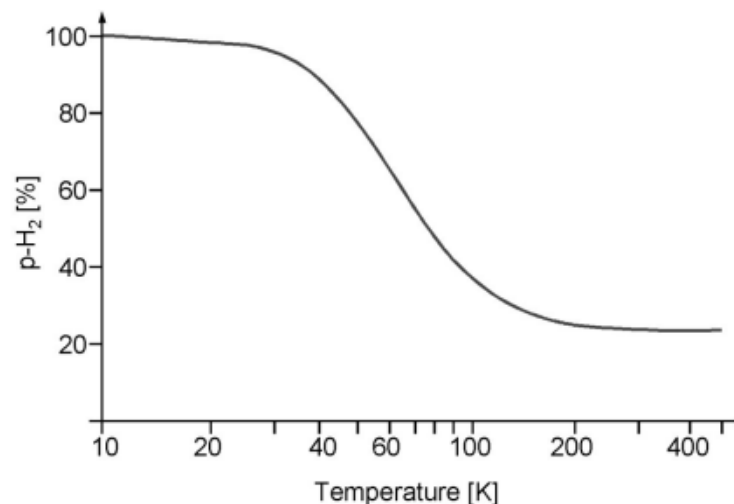
Spin isomers:

o- $\text{H}_2$  (ortho-hydrogen)

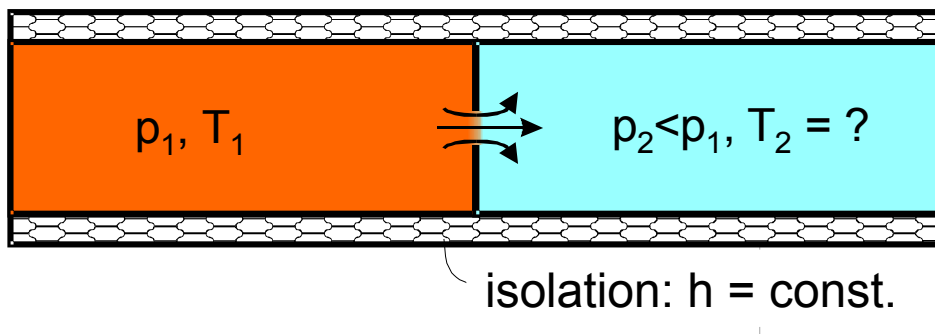
p- $\text{H}_2$  (para-hydrogen)

e- $\text{H}_2$  (equilibrium hydro.)

**n- $\text{H}_2$**  (normal hydrogen)

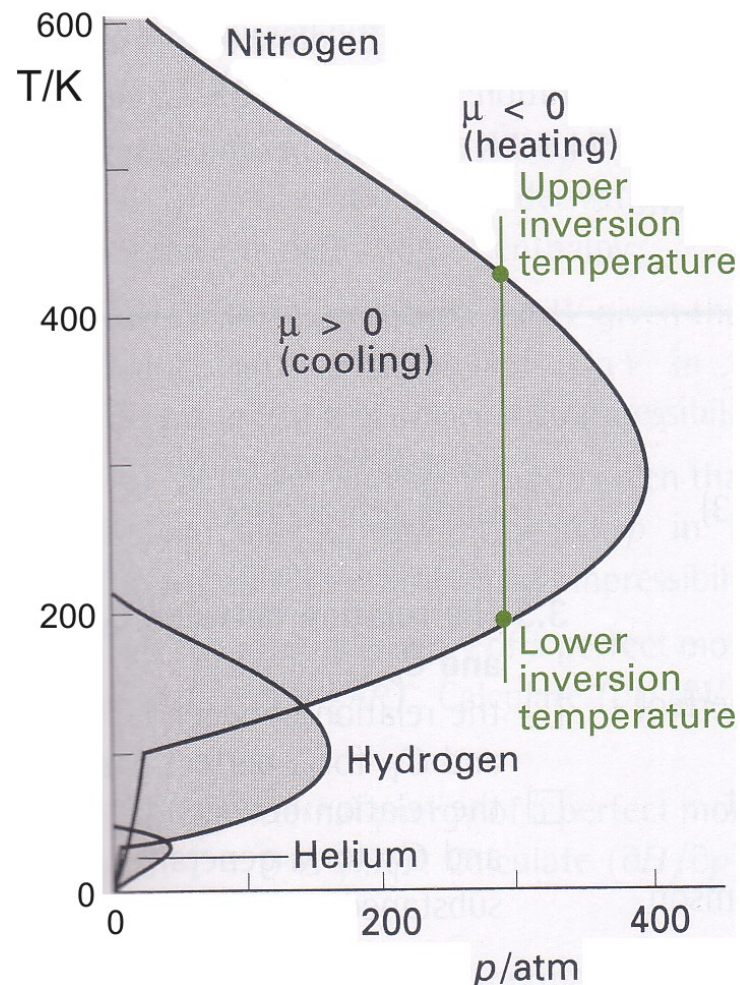


# Joule-Thompson effect



$$\mu = \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial p} \right)_h$$

At temperatures  $>202$  K  $H_2$ -gas is cooling down when compressed!





# Net and gross calorific value (heating value)



gaseous product (steam at 25 °C)



liquid product (water at 25 °C)

... heat of condensation is released!

**⇒ gross calorific value > net calorific value**

# Production of hydrogen

## Electrolysis

Steam reforming

Partial oxidation

Gasification process (coal, **biomass**, lignite)

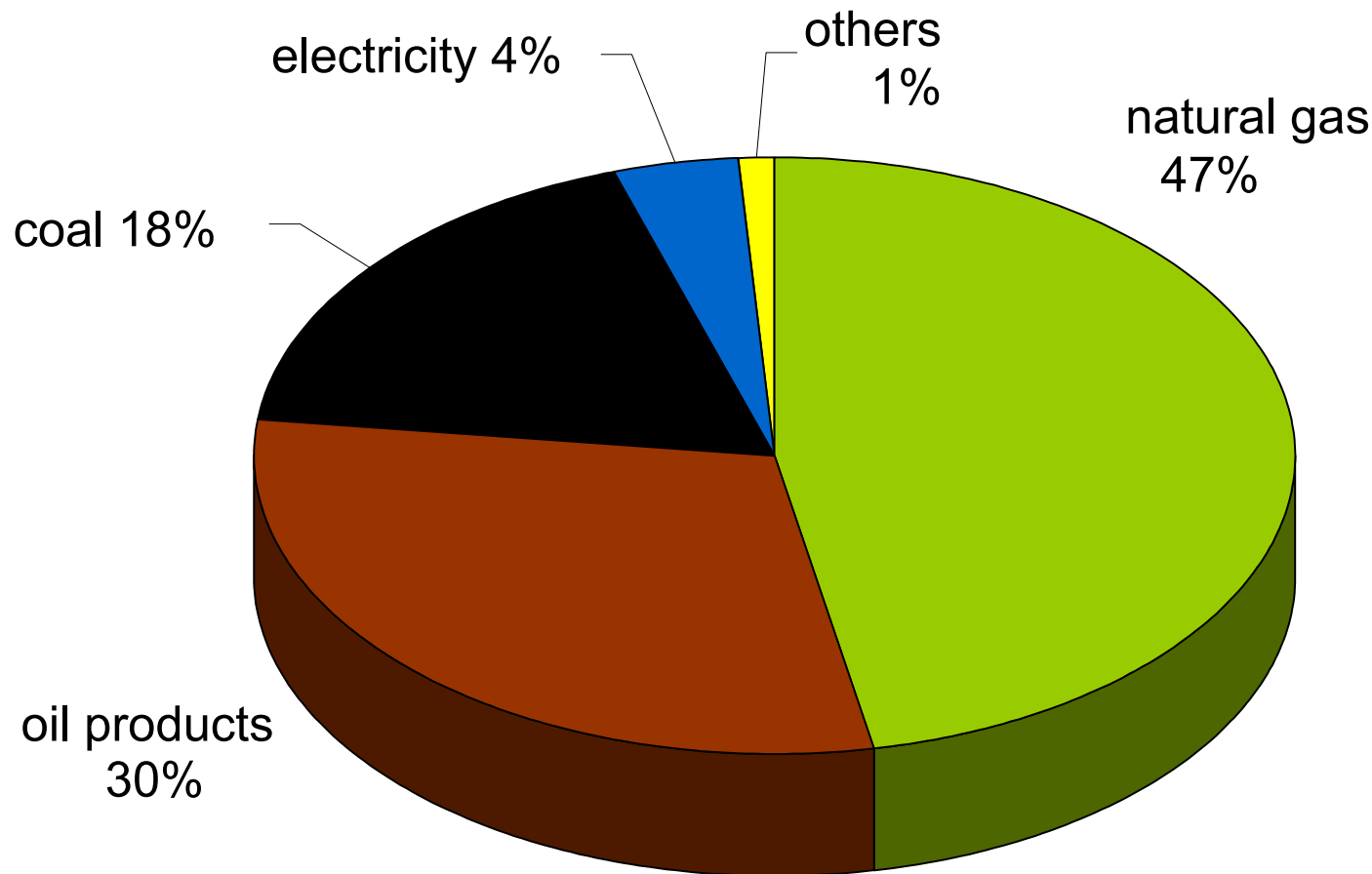
Kvaerner process (CB&H)

Chemical processes (Chloralkali electrolysis, ...)

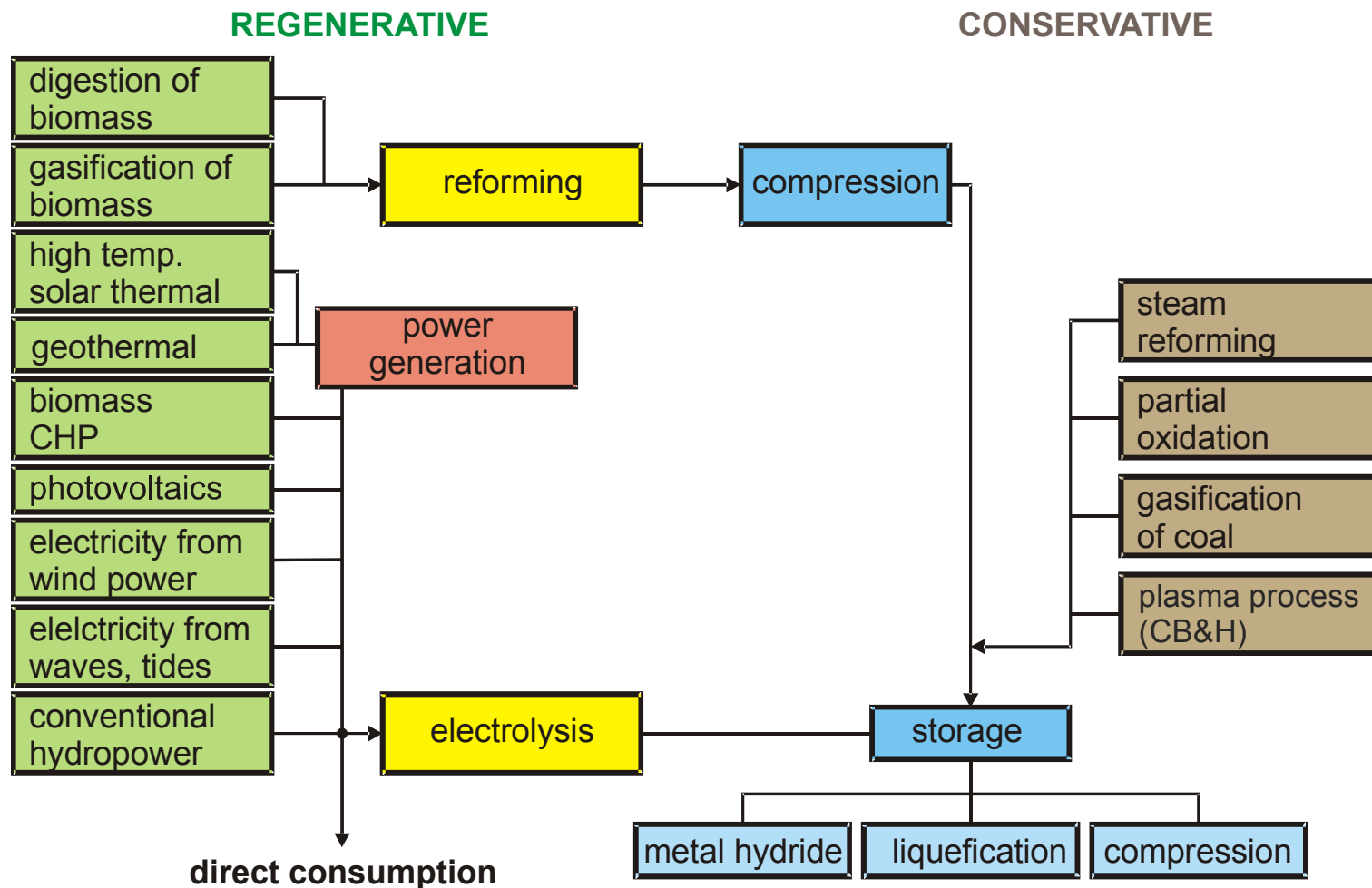
Thermal dissociation (in development)

**Biological processes** (in early development)

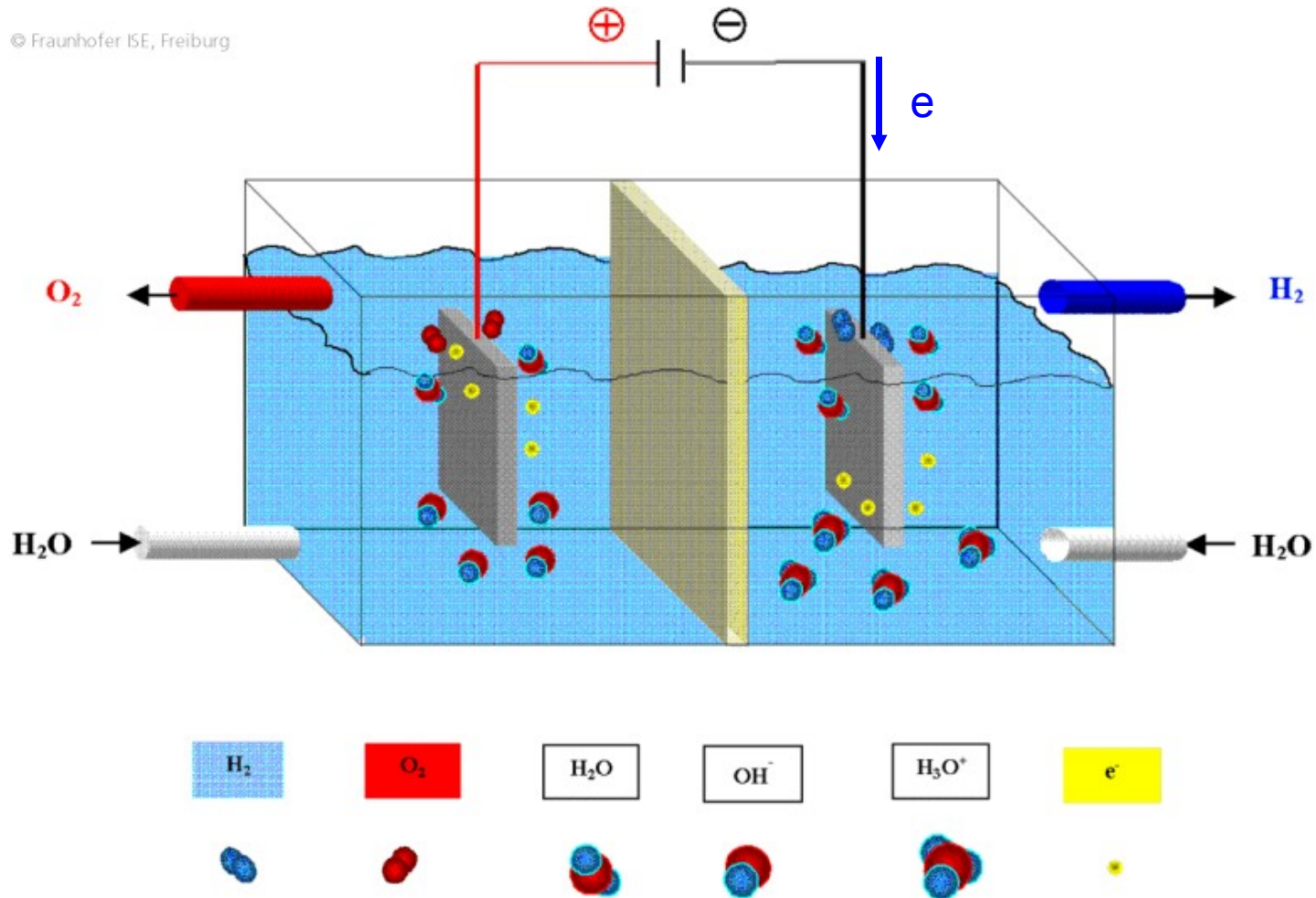
# Primary energy for production of H<sub>2</sub>



# Possible processes for the production of H<sub>2</sub>

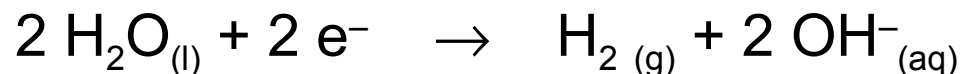


# Electrolysis

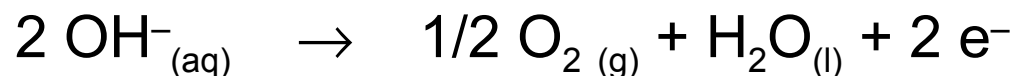


# Electrolysis: reactions

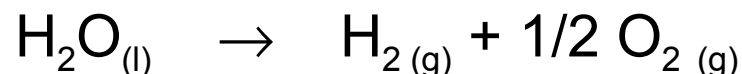
Cathode (negative electrode):



Anode (positive electrode):



Overall reaction



$$\Delta H_R = 285,8 \text{ kJ/mol (25 °C)}$$

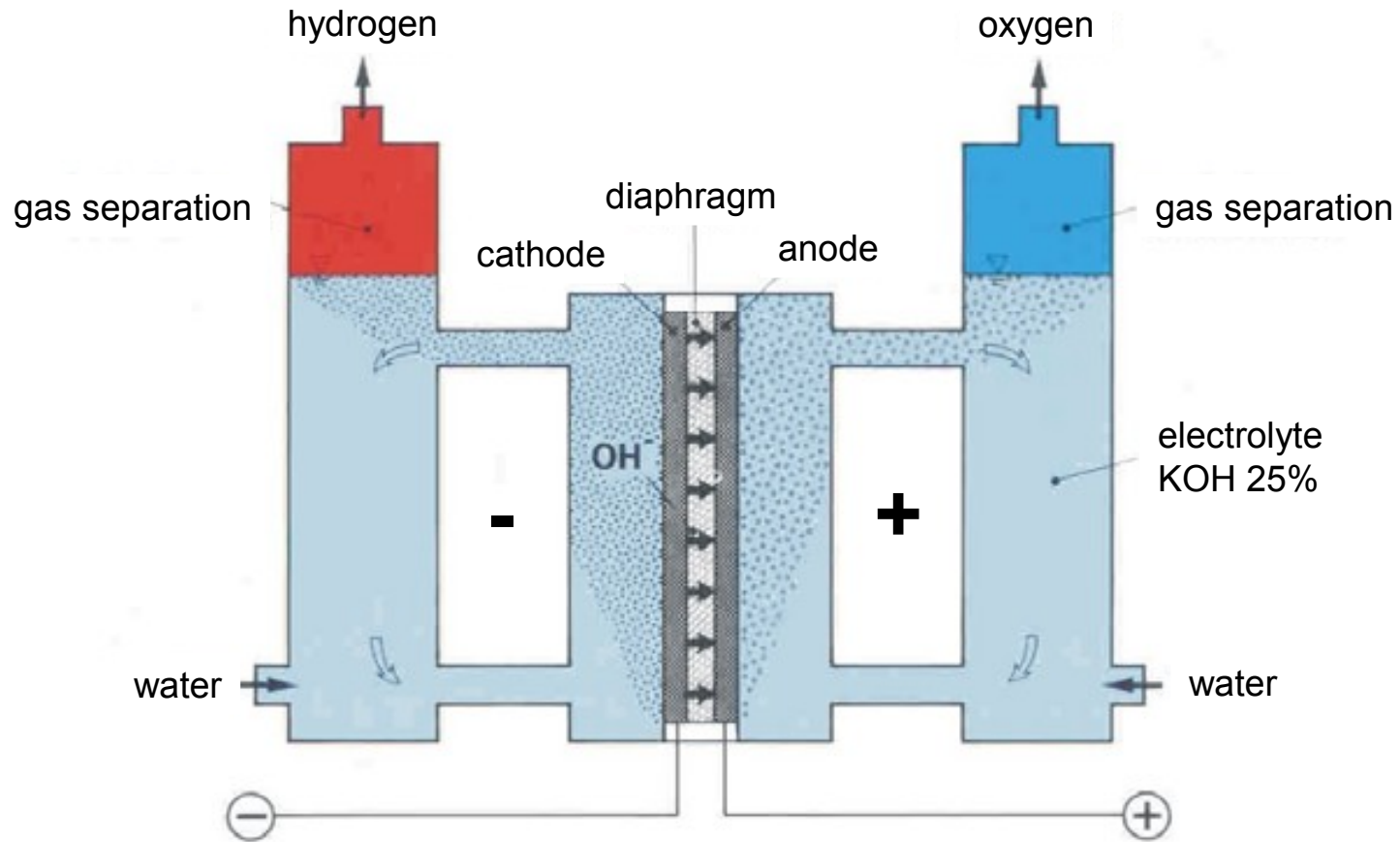
$$\Delta G_R = 237,1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

$$\Delta S_R = 163,3 \text{ J/(mol K)}$$

$$\Delta H = \Delta G + T \cdot \Delta S$$

electricity + heat

# Alkaline electrolyser



schematics of an alkaline electrolysis cell

# Electrolysis: cell voltage

$$\Delta G_R^0 = W_{\text{el,min}} = F \cdot n \cdot U_{\text{rev}}$$

$\Delta G_R^0$  ..... free enthalpy of reaction / Gibbs free energy of reaction (237,13 kJ/mol)

$W_{\text{el,min}}$  ... minimum electrical energy for electrolytic separation of water

$F$  ..... Faraday constant (96.495 As/mol)

$n$  ..... charge number ( $n = 2$ )

$U_{\text{rev}}$  ..... reversible cell voltage (cell potential)

$T$  ..... temperature of reaction

$$U_{\text{th}} = \frac{\Delta H_R^0}{n \cdot F} = \frac{\Delta G_R^0 + T \cdot \Delta S_R^0}{n \cdot F} = 1,48 \text{ V}$$

$$\eta = \frac{U_{\text{th}}}{U_{\text{real}}}$$

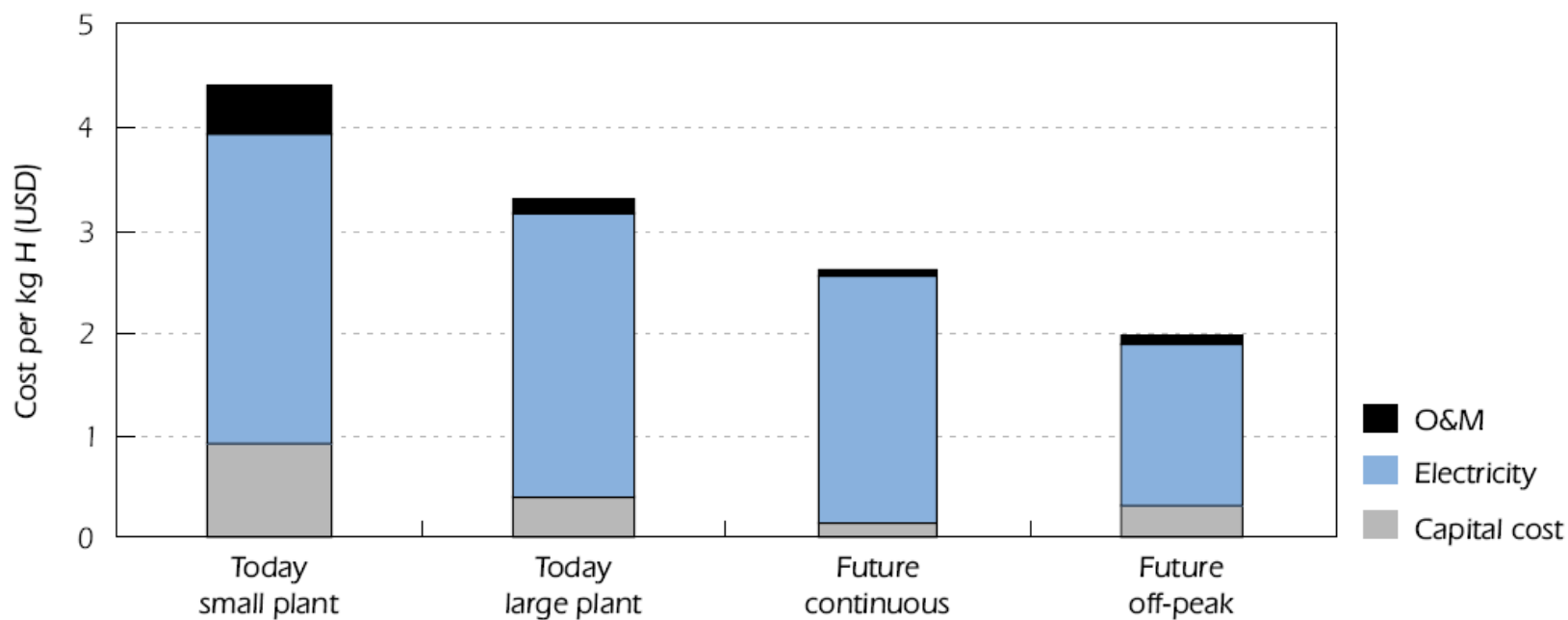
$U_{\text{th}}$  ..... theoretical cell voltage (cell potential)

$T$  ..... temperature of reaction (298 K)

**practical voltage:  
(1,65) 1,85-2,05 V**

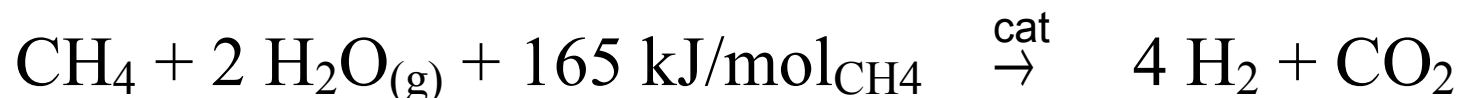
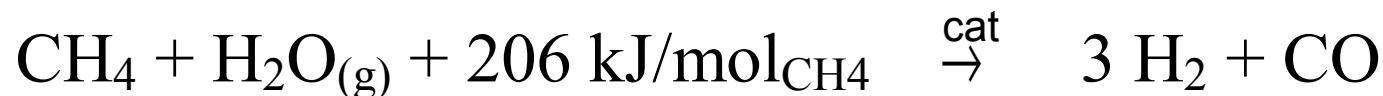


# Electrolysis: costs

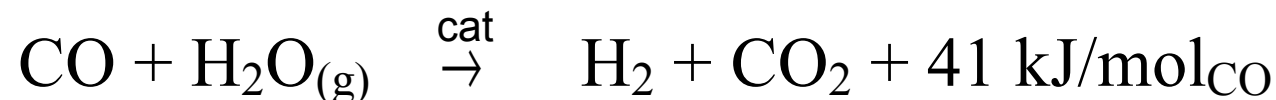


... mainly depending on price for electricity!

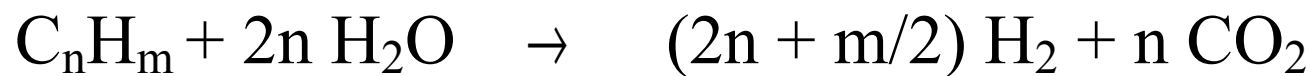
## Steam reforming (allothermal)



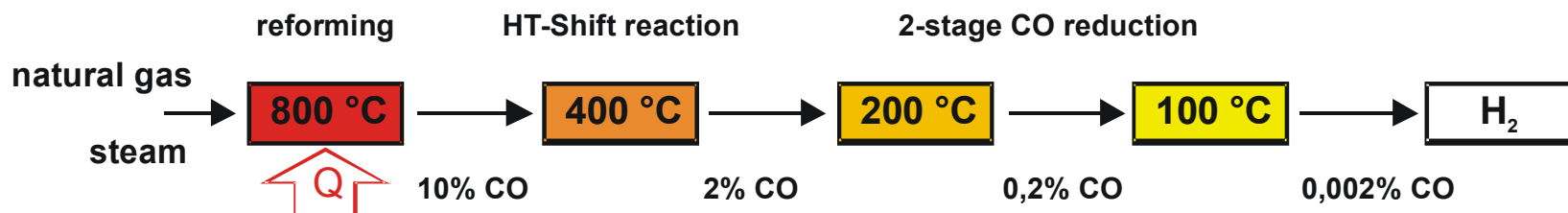
water-gas shift reaction (Dussan reaction):



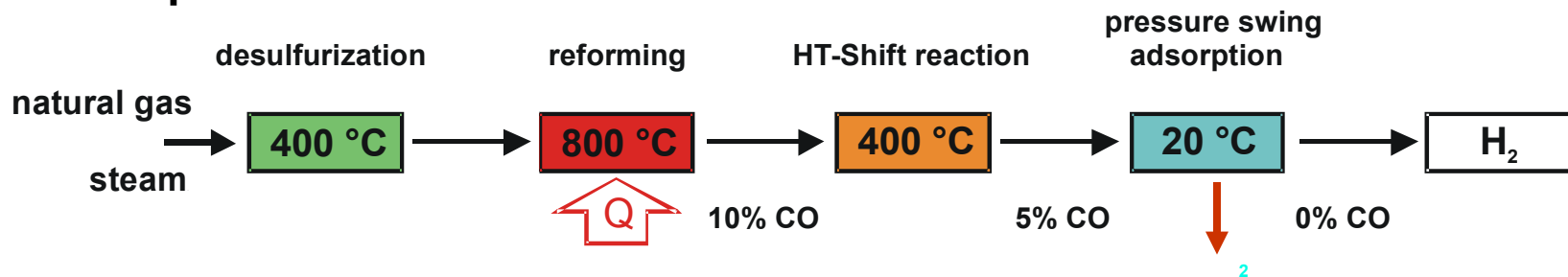
Overall reaction for hydrocarbons:



# Schematics of steam reforming process



## Standard process:



endothermic, 15 – 30 bar

process (with modifications) applicable for natural gas, petrol, methanol, ...

## Partial oxidation

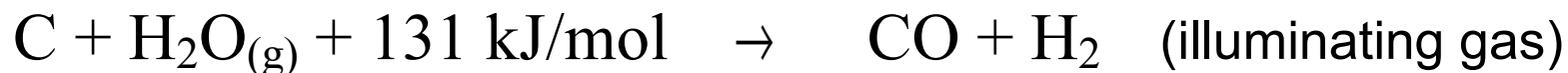


exothermic, 1200-1650 °C, 30-150 bar

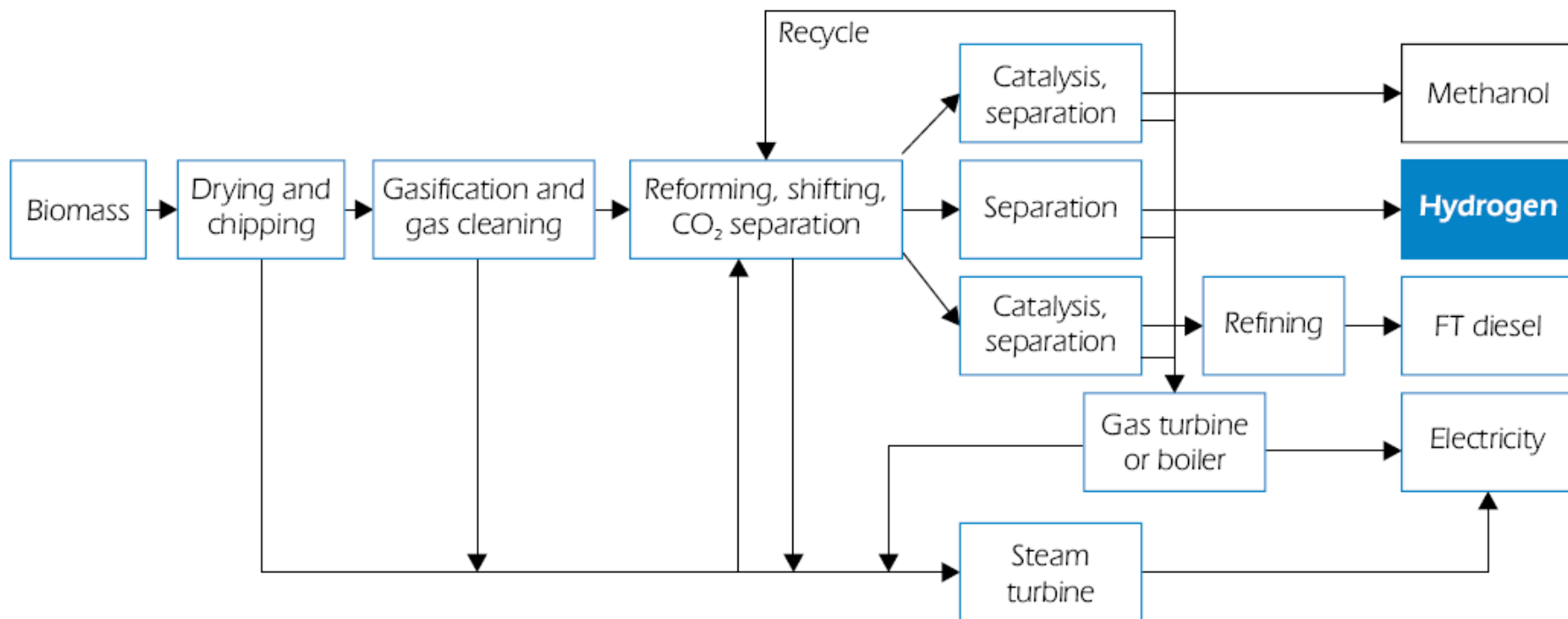
## Autothermal reformer



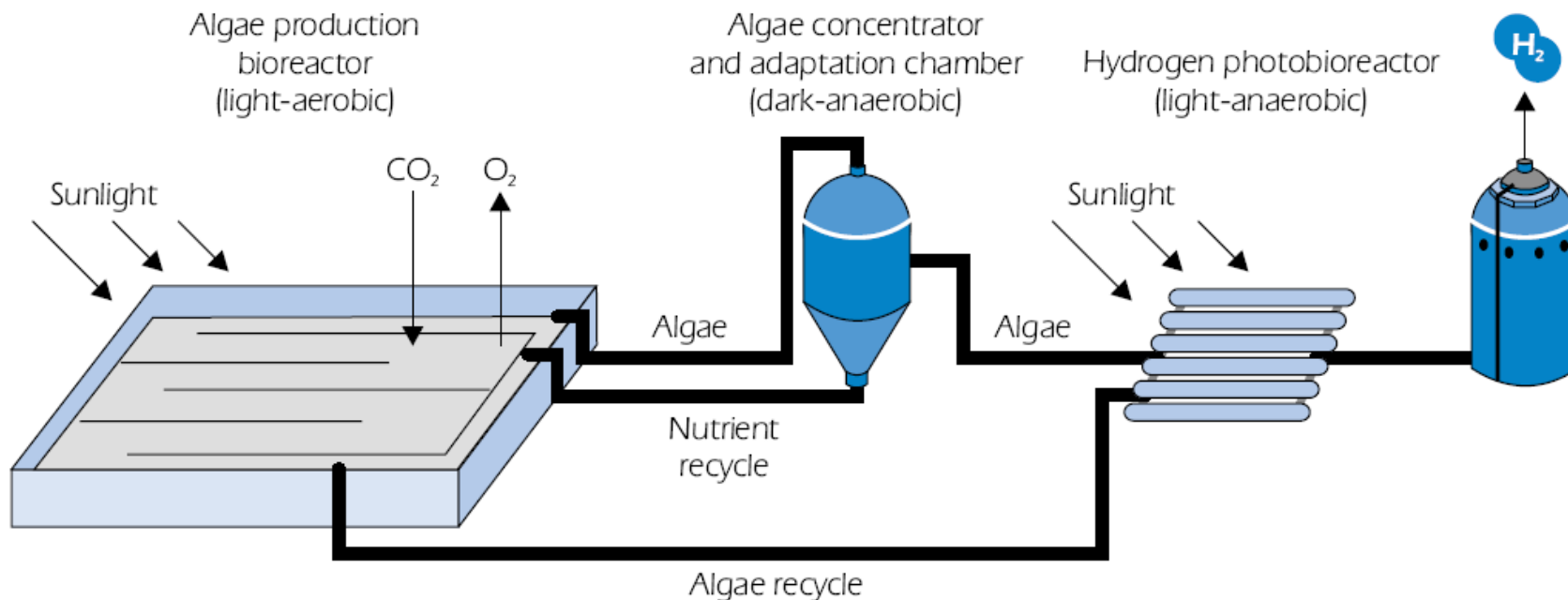
## Coal gasification



# Gasification of biomass



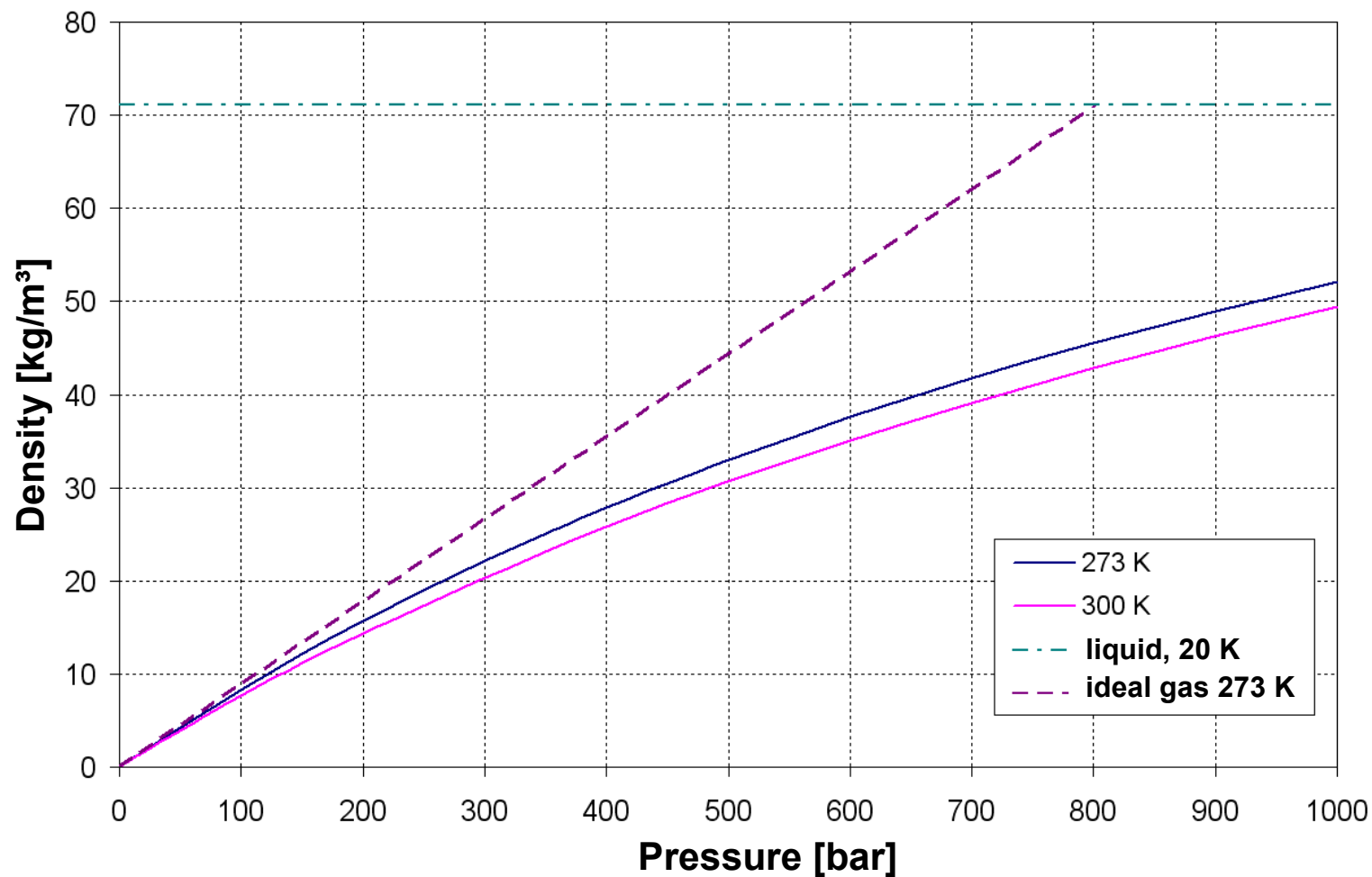
# Photobiological production of H<sub>2</sub>



# Storage of hydrogen

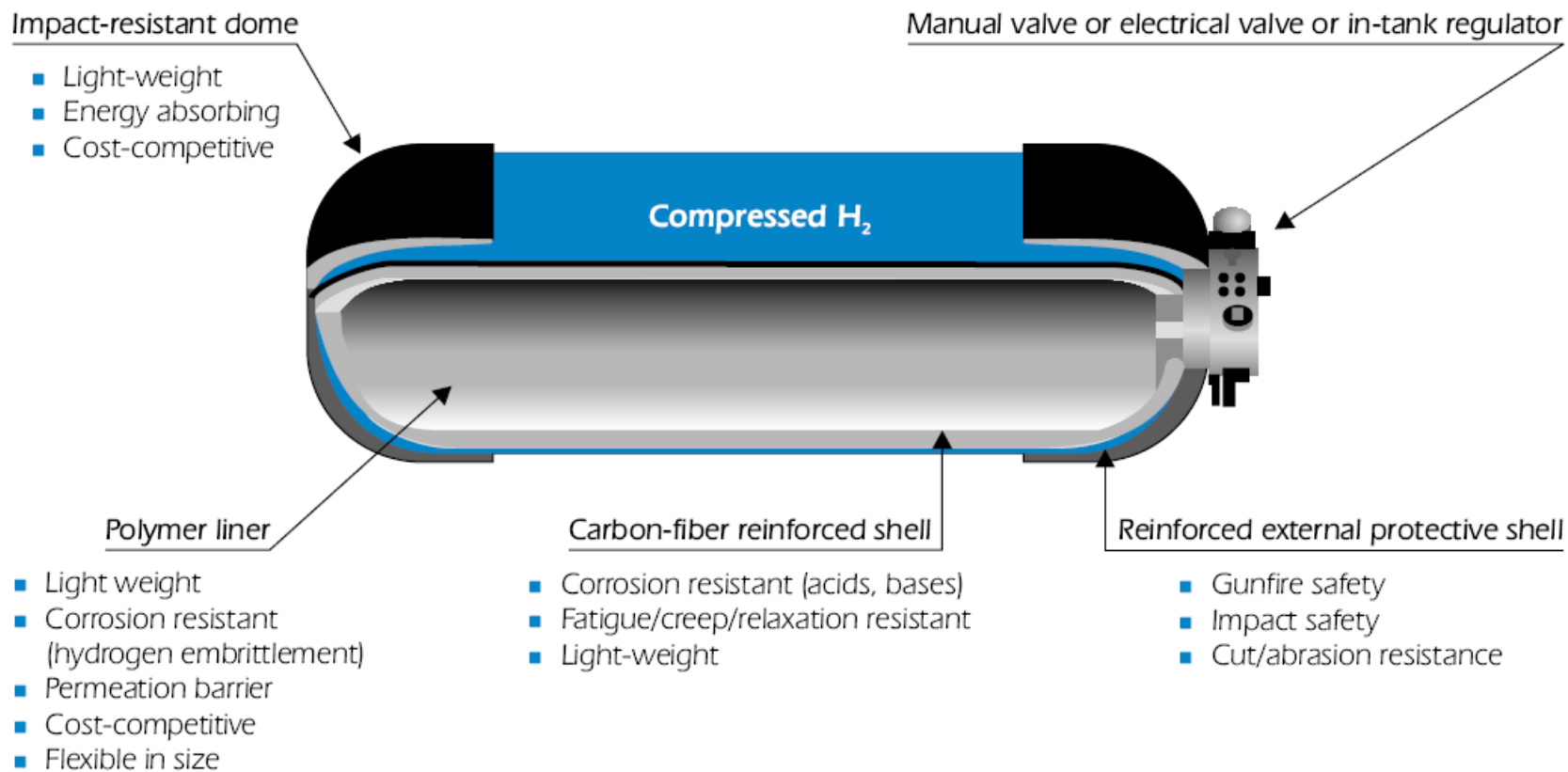
- **High pressure storage**
- **Cryogenic liquid storage**
- **Metal hydrides**
- (Carbon nanostructures)
- **Chemical compounds (molecules)**

# Density of storage

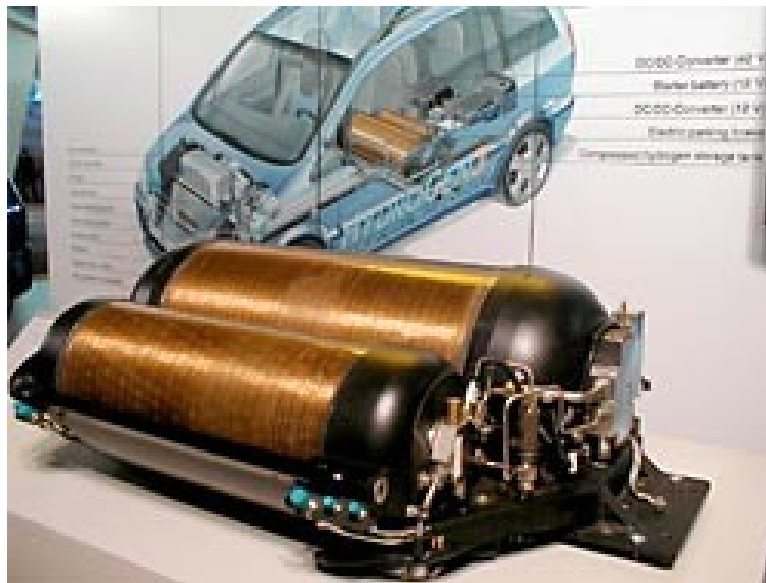




# Tank for pressurized hydrogen



# Tanks for pressurized hydrogen (2)



# Theoretical work of compression

$$W_{1,2} = p_1 \cdot V_1 \cdot \ln \frac{p_2}{p_1} = \frac{m}{MG_{H_2}} \cdot R \cdot T \cdot \ln \frac{p_2}{p_1}$$

$W_{1,2}$ ..... work for **isothermal compression**  
of an ideal gas from pressure  $p_1$  to pressure  $p_2$

$p_1$ ..... initial pressure

$p_2$ ..... final pressure

$V_1$ ..... initial volume

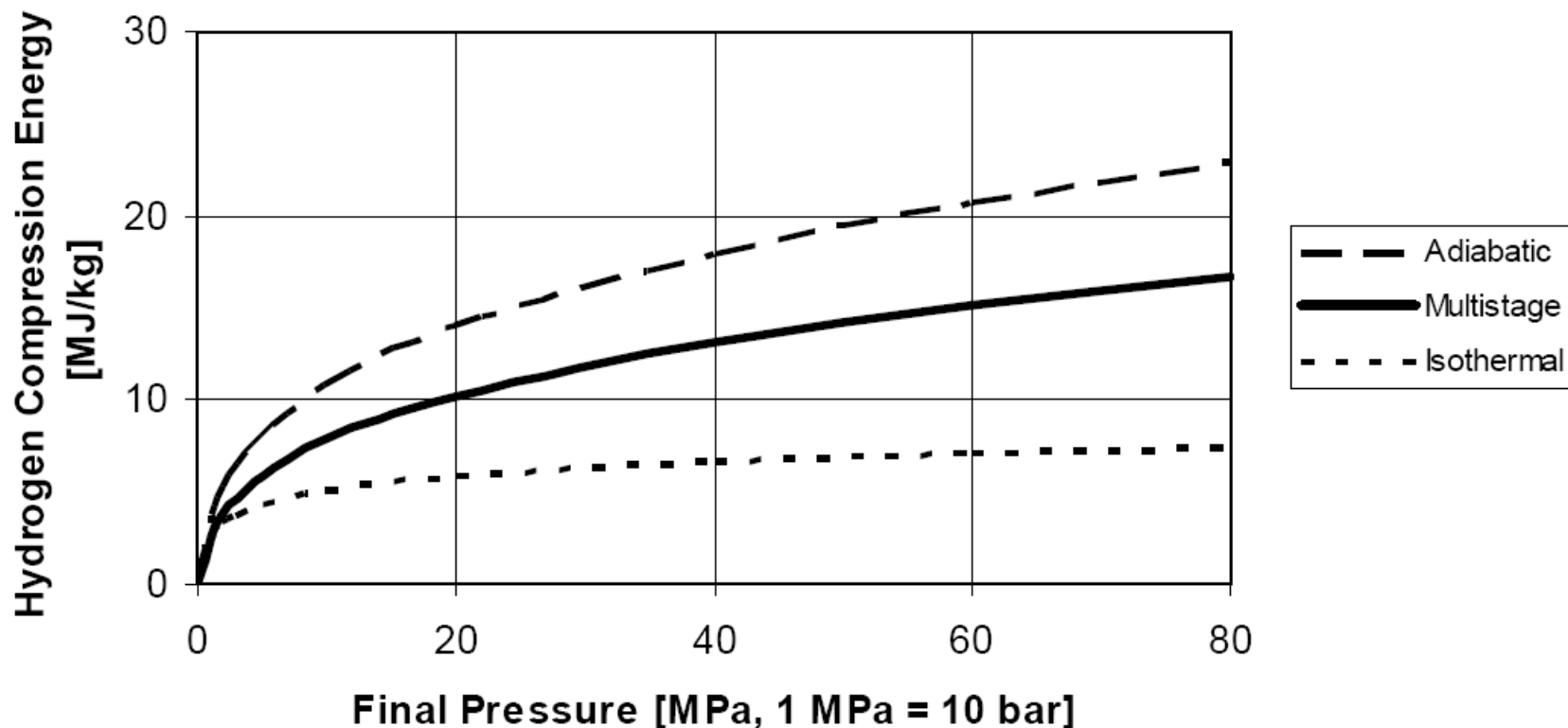
$m$ ..... mass of gas

$R$ ..... gas constant

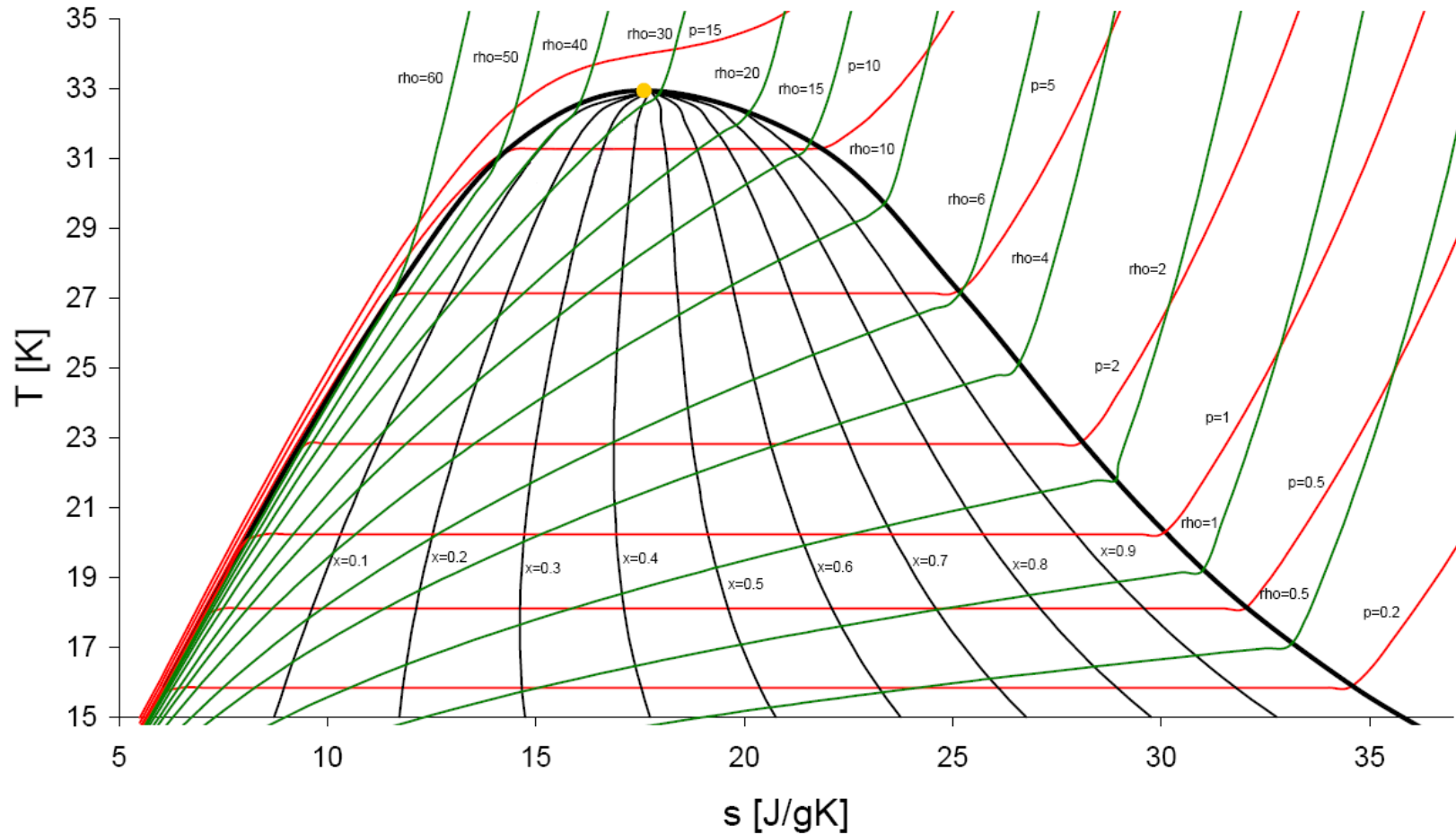
$T$ ..... temperature

$MG_{H_2}$ ..... molecular weight

# Energy demand for compression



# Liquid hydrogen



# Vessels for liquid hydrogen



# Liquefaction plants in Western Europe

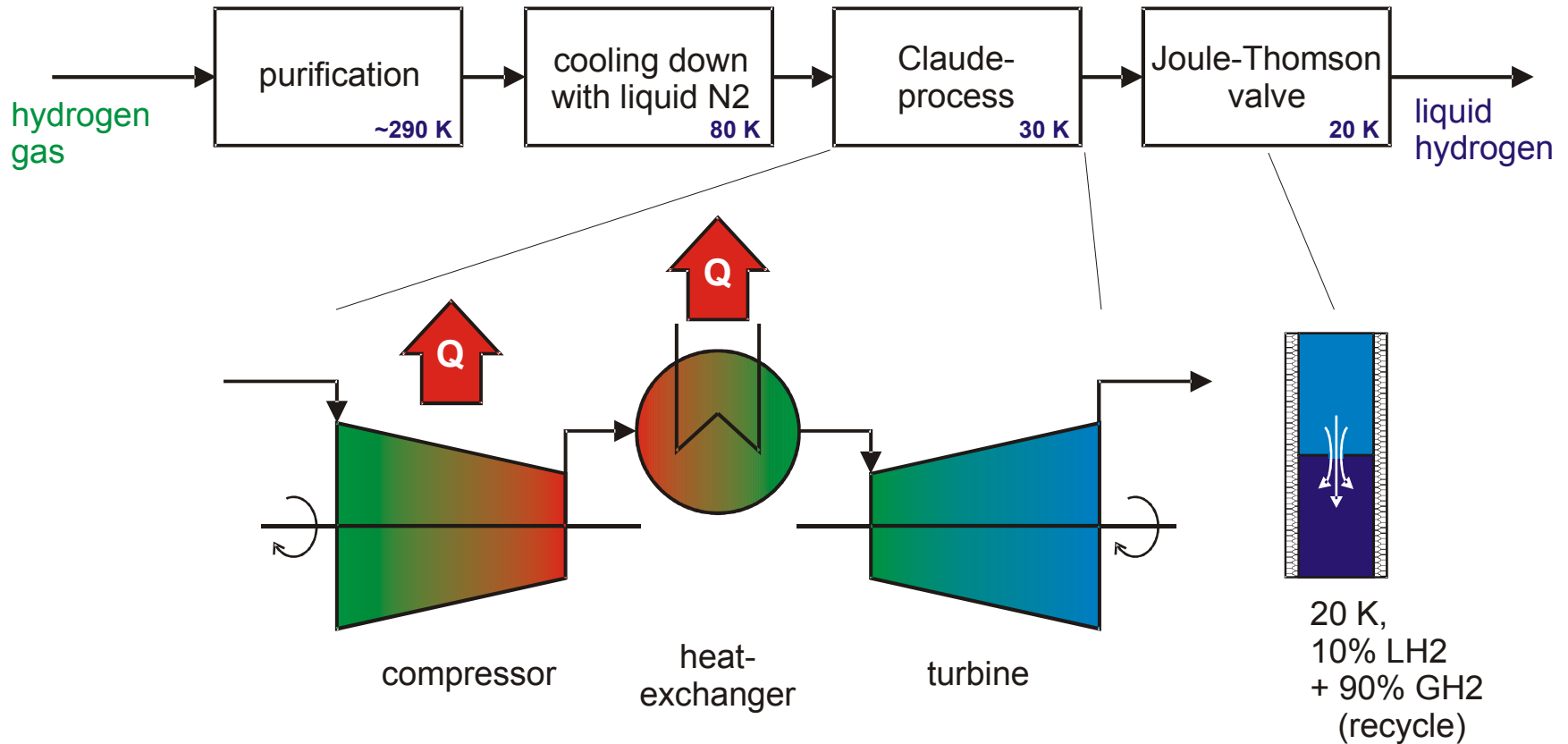
<b>operator</b>	<b>city</b>	<b>start of operation</b>	<b>capacity</b>
Air Products	Rozenburg (Netherlands)	1987	5,0 t/d
L'Air Liquide	Wazier (France)	1988	10,5 t/d
Linde	Leuna (Germany)	2007	5,0 t/d
Linde	Ingolstadt (Germany)	1992	4,4 t/d
		<b>total</b>	<b>24,9 t/d</b>

# LH2 Tank

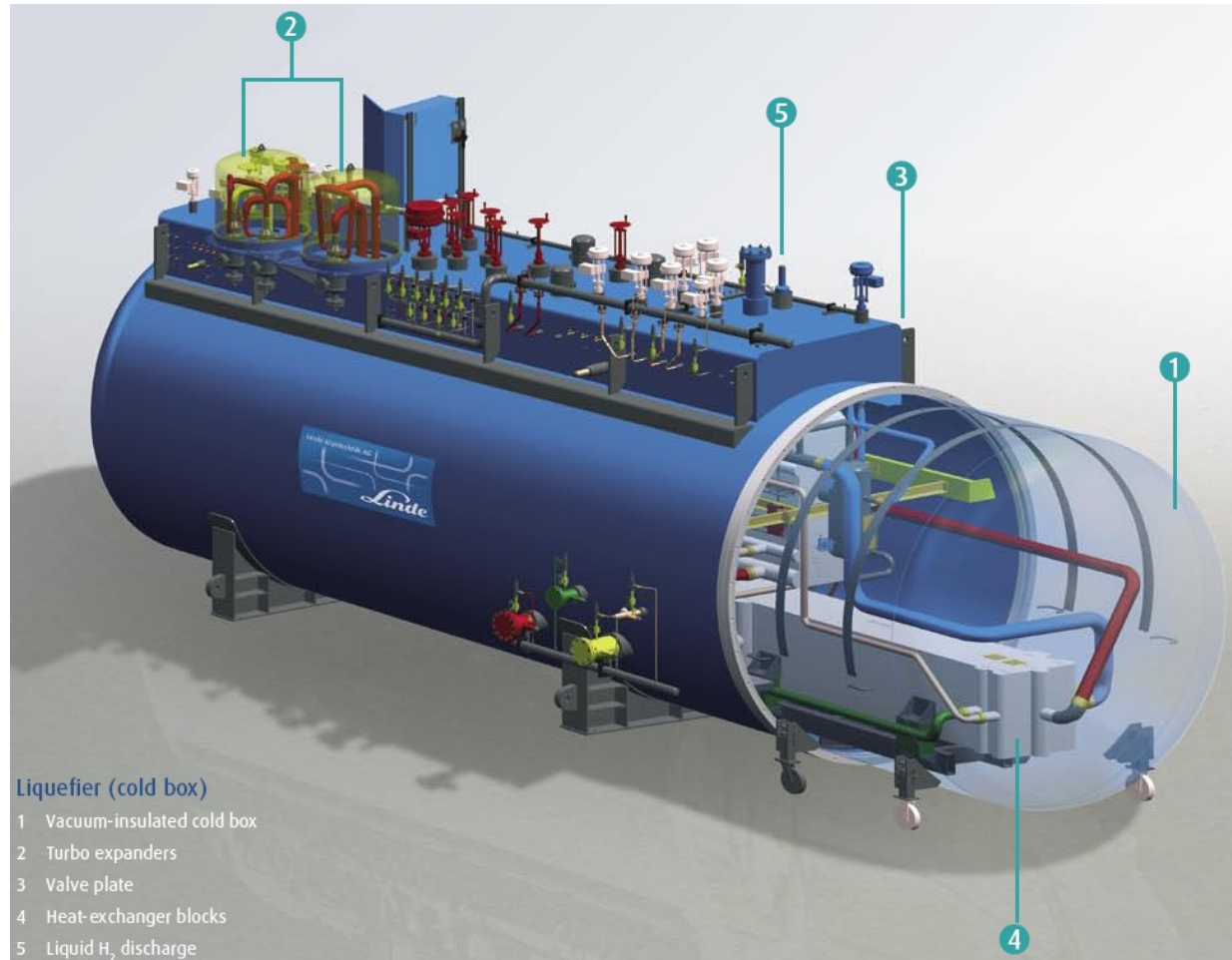




# Liquefaction of hydrogen



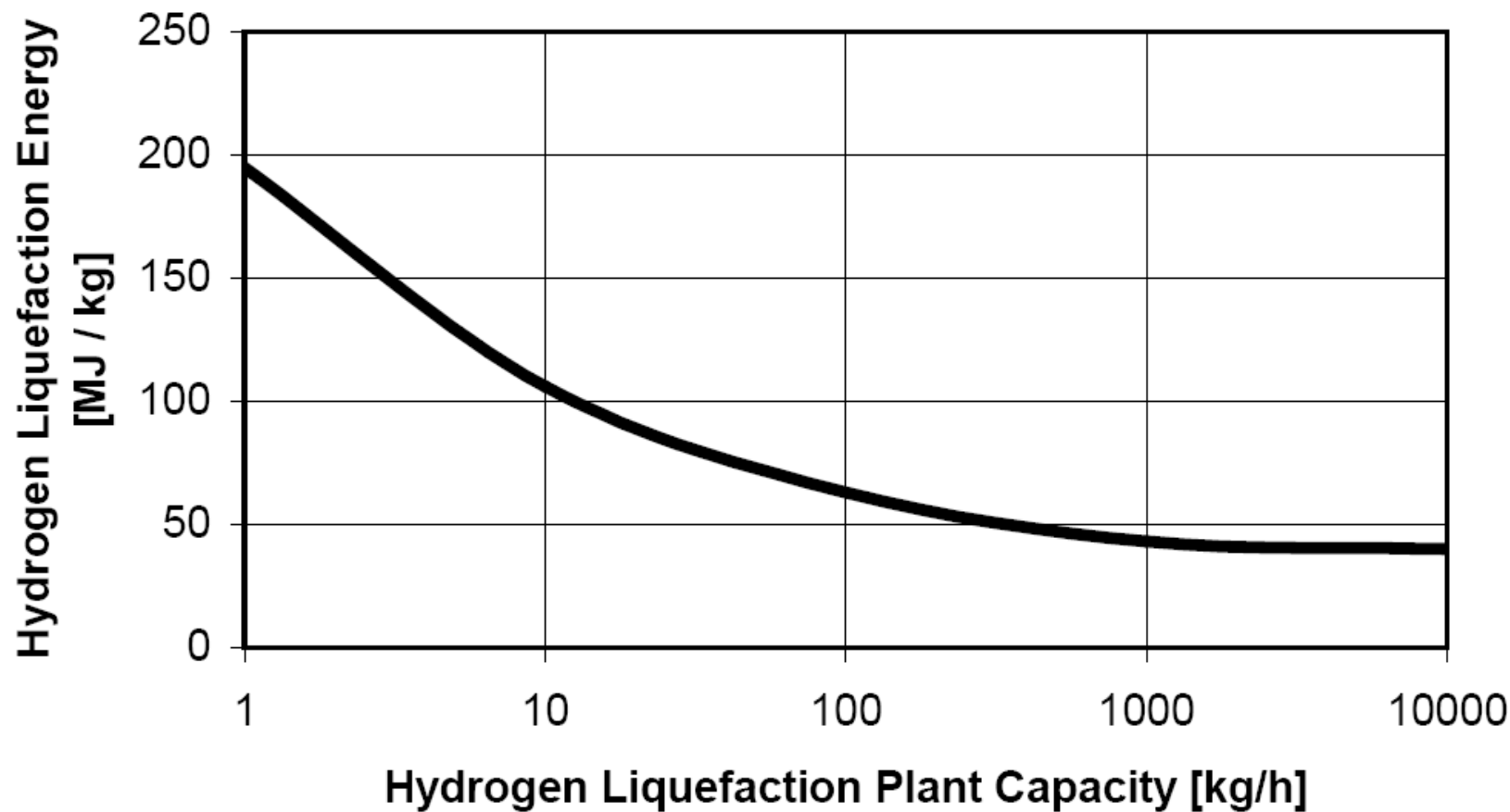
# Liquefaction unit



## Liquefier (cold box)

- 1 Vacuum-insulated cold box
- 2 Turbo expanders
- 3 Valve plate
- 4 Heat-exchanger blocks
- 5 Liquid H<sub>2</sub> discharge

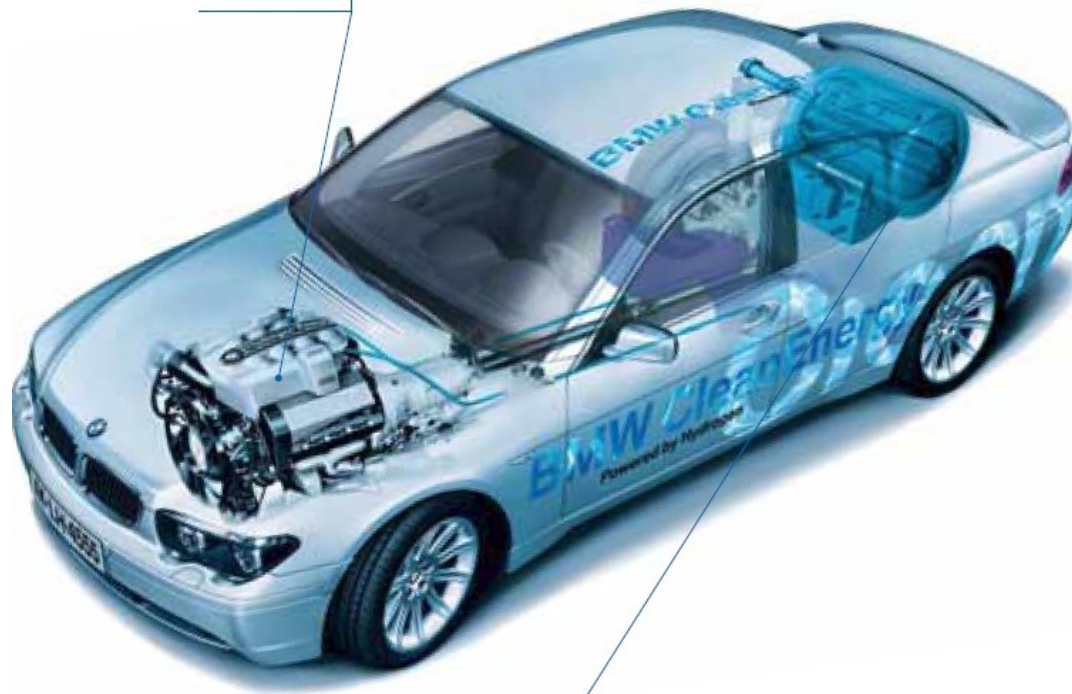
# Energy demand for liquefaction



# LH2 powered vehicle

Der Motor: Der Verbrennungsmotor sorgt für kraftvolle Dynamik und die reine Freude am Fahren.

The engine: the internal combustion engine provides dynamic power and pure driving pleasure.



Der Wasserstoff-Tank: Hier wird der Wasserstoff flüssig gespeichert.

The hydrogen tank: here the liquid hydrogen is stored.

# Comparison: LH<sub>2</sub> vs. GH<sub>2</sub>



Name: **HydroGen3**

Type: Opel Zafira Minivan with fuel cell (electric power train)

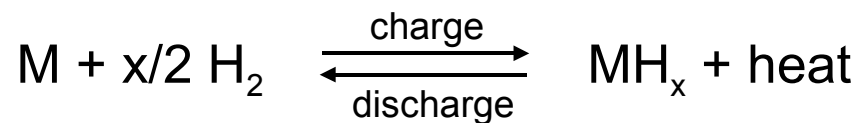
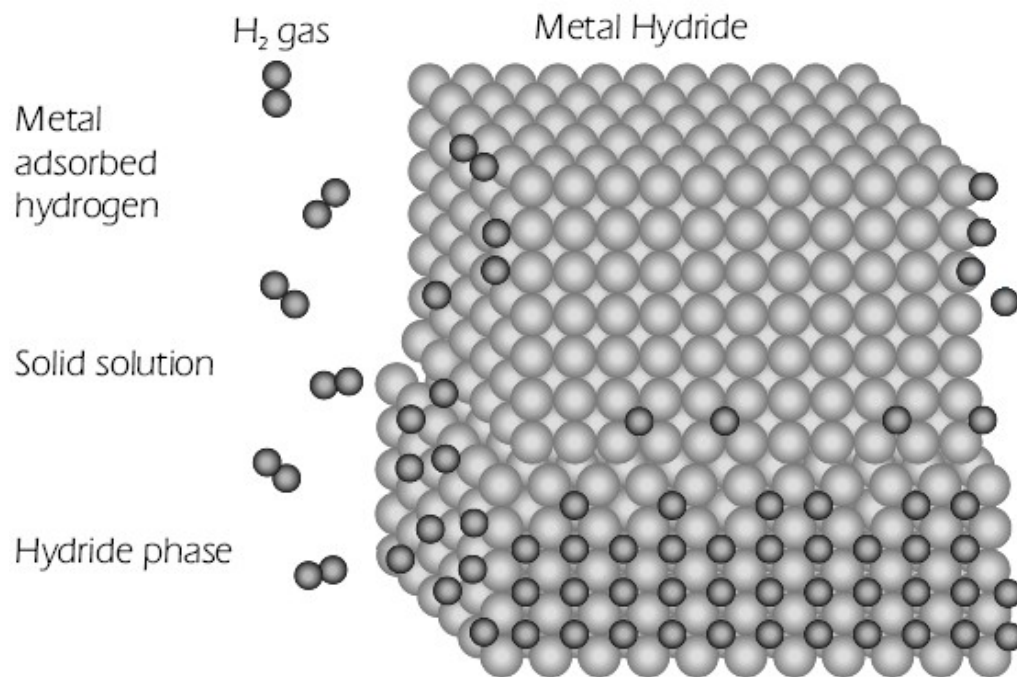
Seats: 5

Velocity: 160 km/h

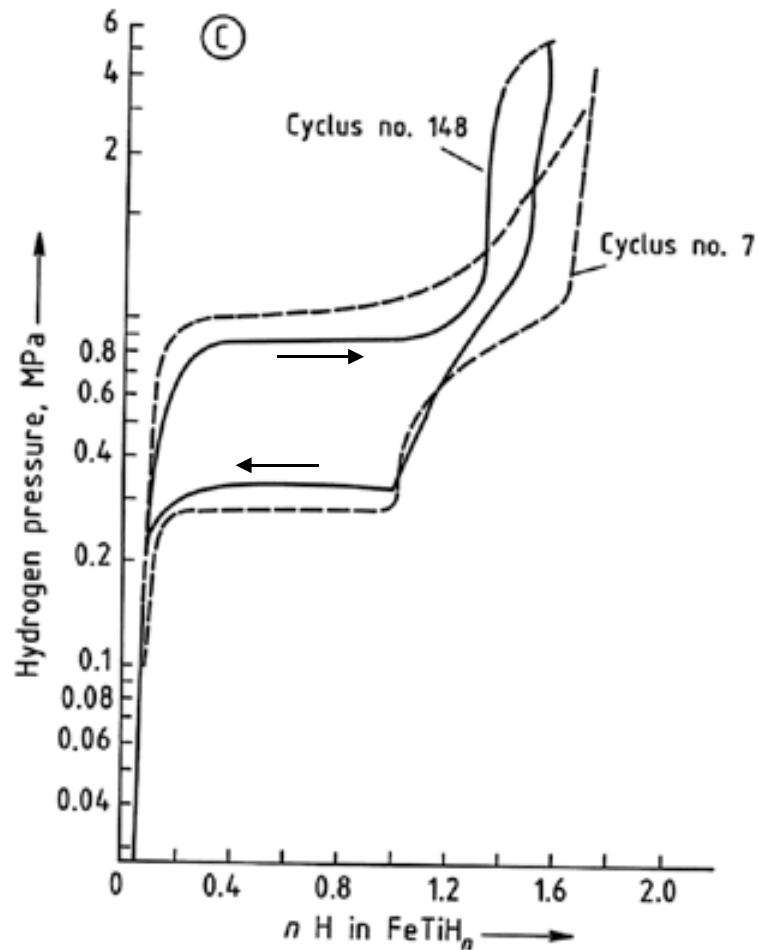
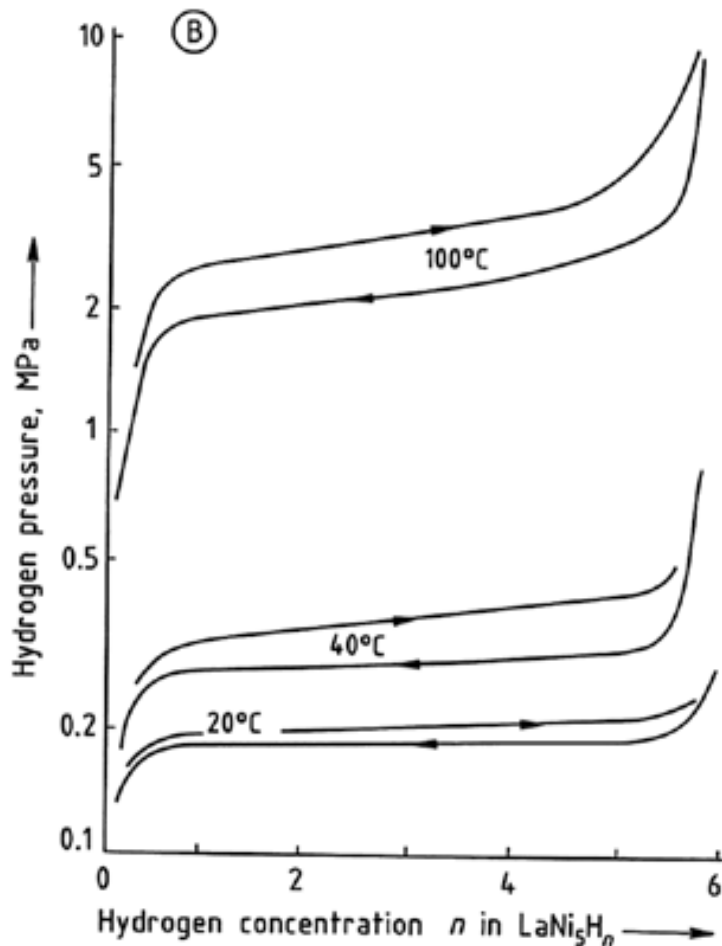
Tank system: **4,6 kg LH (20 K)**

**3,1 kg CH<sub>2</sub> (700 bar)**

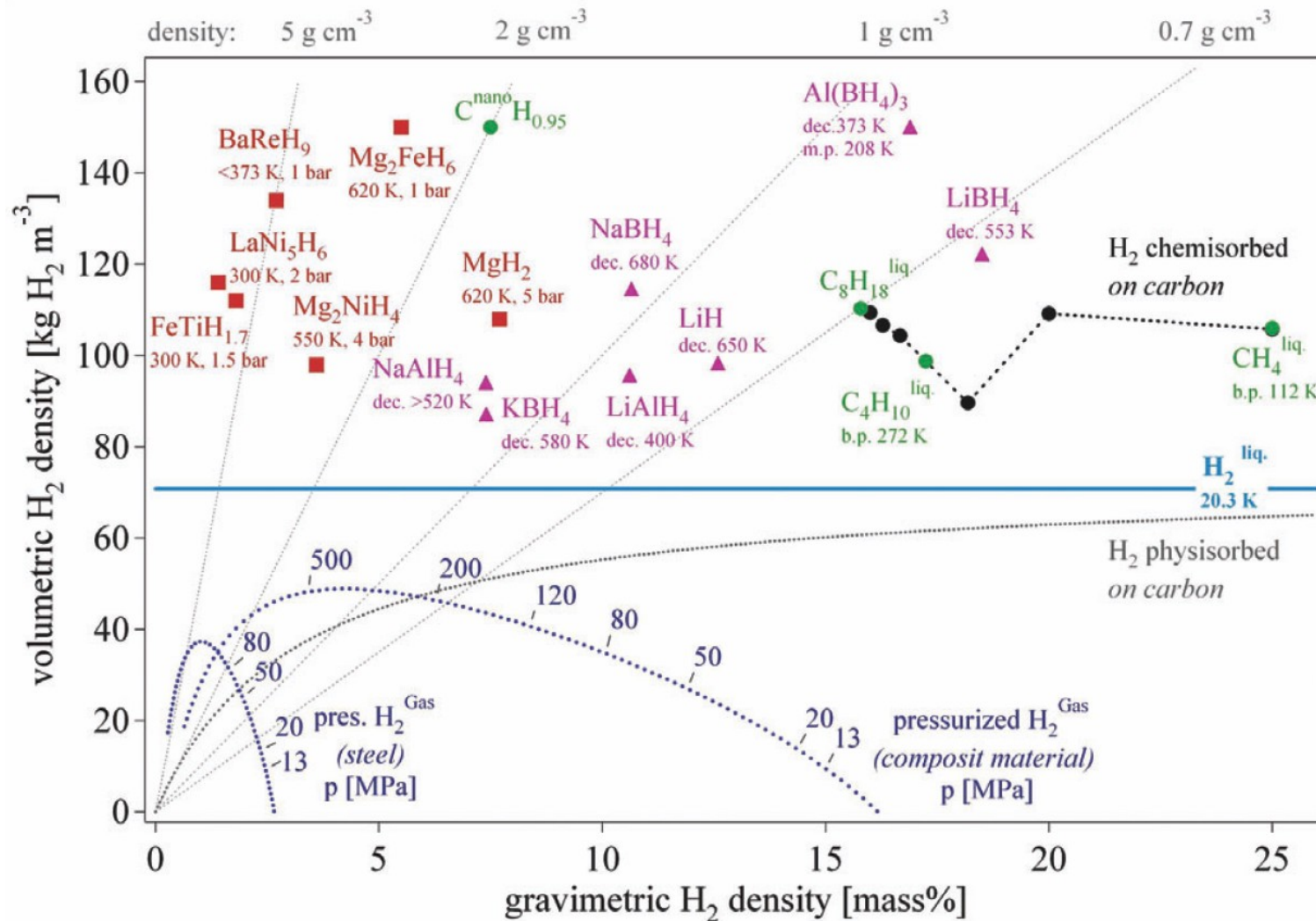
# Metal hydrides



# Metal hydrides: charging and discharging



# Metal hydrides: Storage density





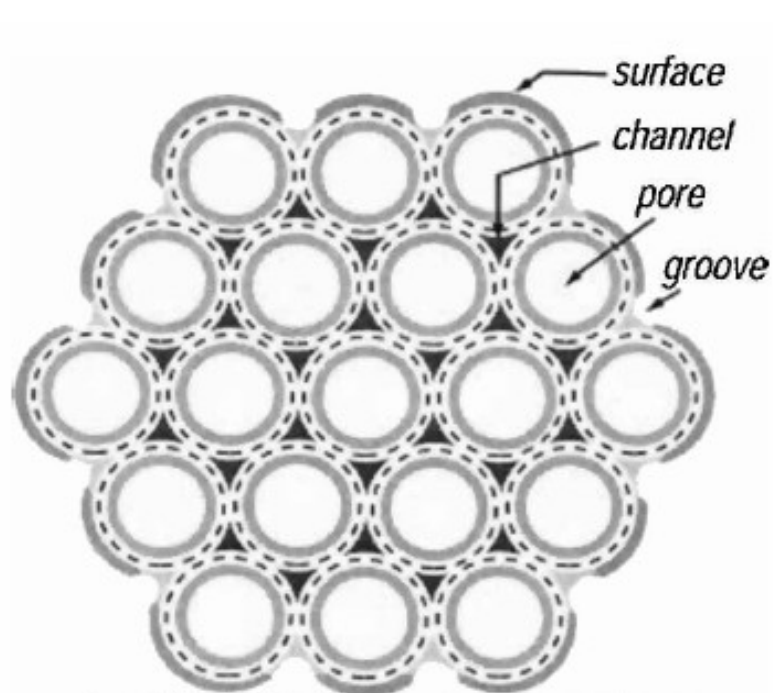
# Metal hydrides: application



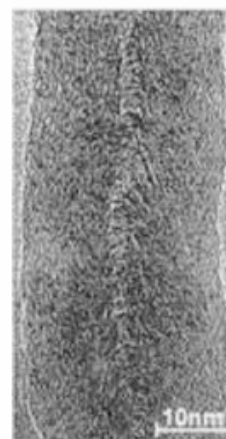
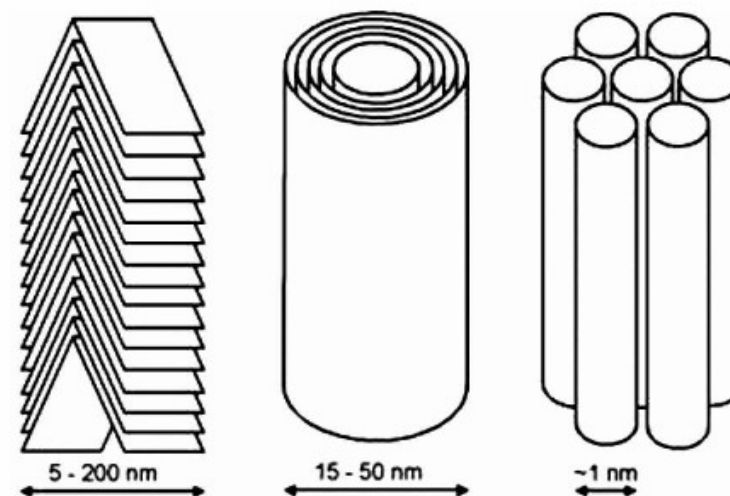
Submarine  
Type 214 (212A)



# Carbon nanostructures



	$E_B = 0.119 \text{ eV}$ $\sigma = 45 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$		$E_B = 0.089 \text{ eV}$ $\sigma = 22 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$
	$E_B = 0.062 \text{ eV}$ $\sigma = 783 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$		$E_B = 0.049 \text{ eV}$ $\sigma = 483 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$



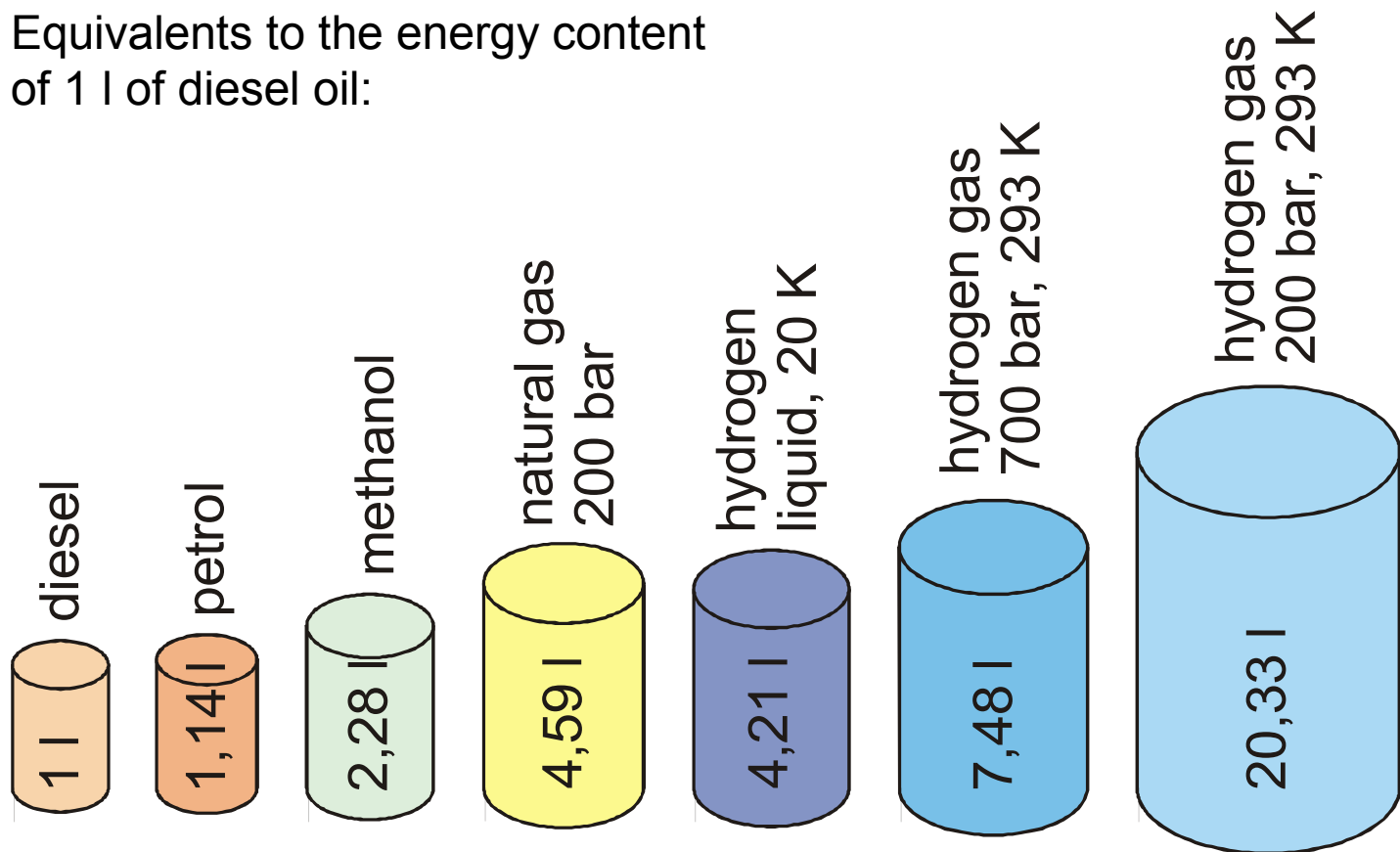
still under development ...

# Storage of H<sub>2</sub> in chemicals

Chemical	Formula	H <sub>2</sub> -fraction	Density	Vol. for 1 kg H <sub>2</sub>	Comments
		[% <sub>gew</sub> ]	[kg/dm <sup>3</sup> ]	[dm <sup>3</sup> /kgH <sub>2</sub> ]	
<b>Liquids</b>					
hydrazine	N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	12,58	1,011	7,8	highly toxic, carcinogenic
ammonia	NH <sub>3</sub>	17,76	0,67	9,3	toxic, corrosive
methane, liquid	CH <sub>4</sub>	25,13	0,415	9,6	cryogenic, -175 °C
ethanol	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	13,0	0,79	9,7	
Methanol	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	12,5	0,79	10,0	toxic
Hydrogen, liquid	H <sub>2</sub>	100	0,07	14,0	cryogenic, -252 °C
Sodium borohydride, sol. 30 %	NaBH <sub>4</sub> +H <sub>2</sub> O	6,3	1,06	15,0	expensive
<b>Hydrides</b>					
Titanium hydride	TiH <sub>2</sub>	4,4	3,9	5,8	
Lithium hydride	LiH	12,68	0,82	6,5	corrosive
Aluminium hydride	AlH <sub>3</sub>	10,80	1,3	7,1	
Beryllium hydride	BeH <sub>2</sub>	18,28	0,67	8,2	highly toxic
Calcium hydride	CaH <sub>2</sub>	5,0	1,9	11,0	corrosive
Silane	SiH <sub>4</sub>	12,55	0,68	12,0	instabile, toxic
Sodium hydride	NaH	4,3	0,92	25,9	corrosive, cheap
Potassium hydride	KH	2,51	1,47	27,1	corrosive
<b>Complex hydrides</b>					
Lithium borohydride	LiBH <sub>4</sub>	18,51	0,666	8,1	corrosive
Sodium borohydride	NaBH <sub>4</sub>	10,58	1,0	9,5	toxic, corrosive
Titanium iron hydride	TiFeH <sub>2</sub>	1,87	5,47	9,8	
Aluminium borohydrid	Al(BH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	16,91	0,545	11,0	
Palladium hydrid	Pd <sub>2</sub> H	0,47	10,78	20,0	

# Comparison of storage density

Equivalents to the energy content of 1 l of diesel oil:



# Transport of hydrogen



# Hydrogen transport in pipelines



Das Linde Wasserstoff-Rohrleitungsnetz in Mitteldeutschland (Leuna).

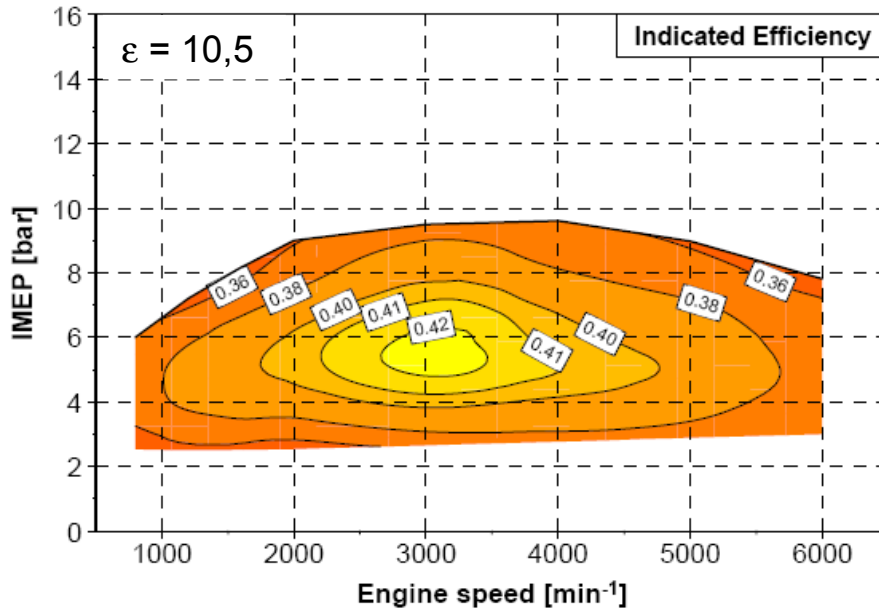


# Hydrogen engine

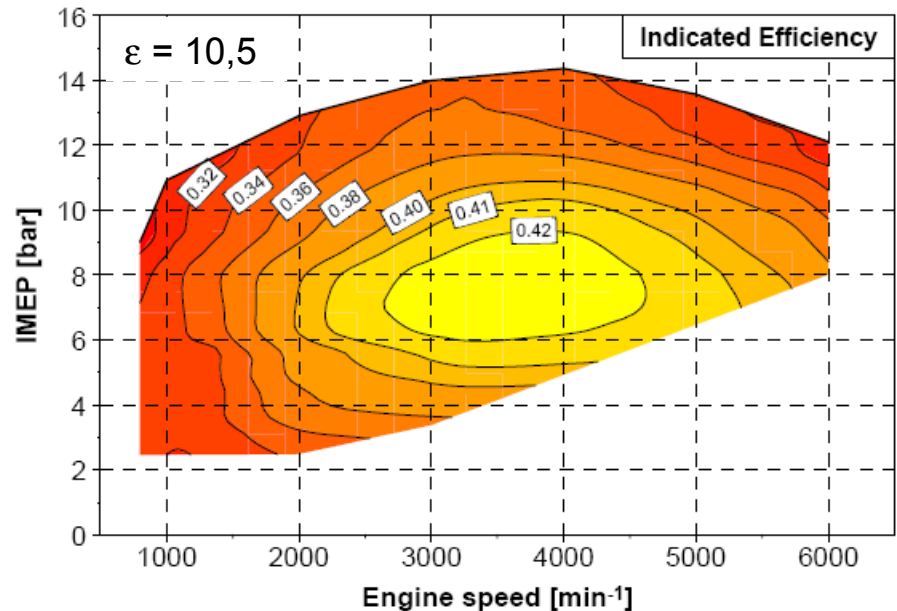


# Efficiency of hydrogen in engines

mixture in suction tube:  
(Otto engine)

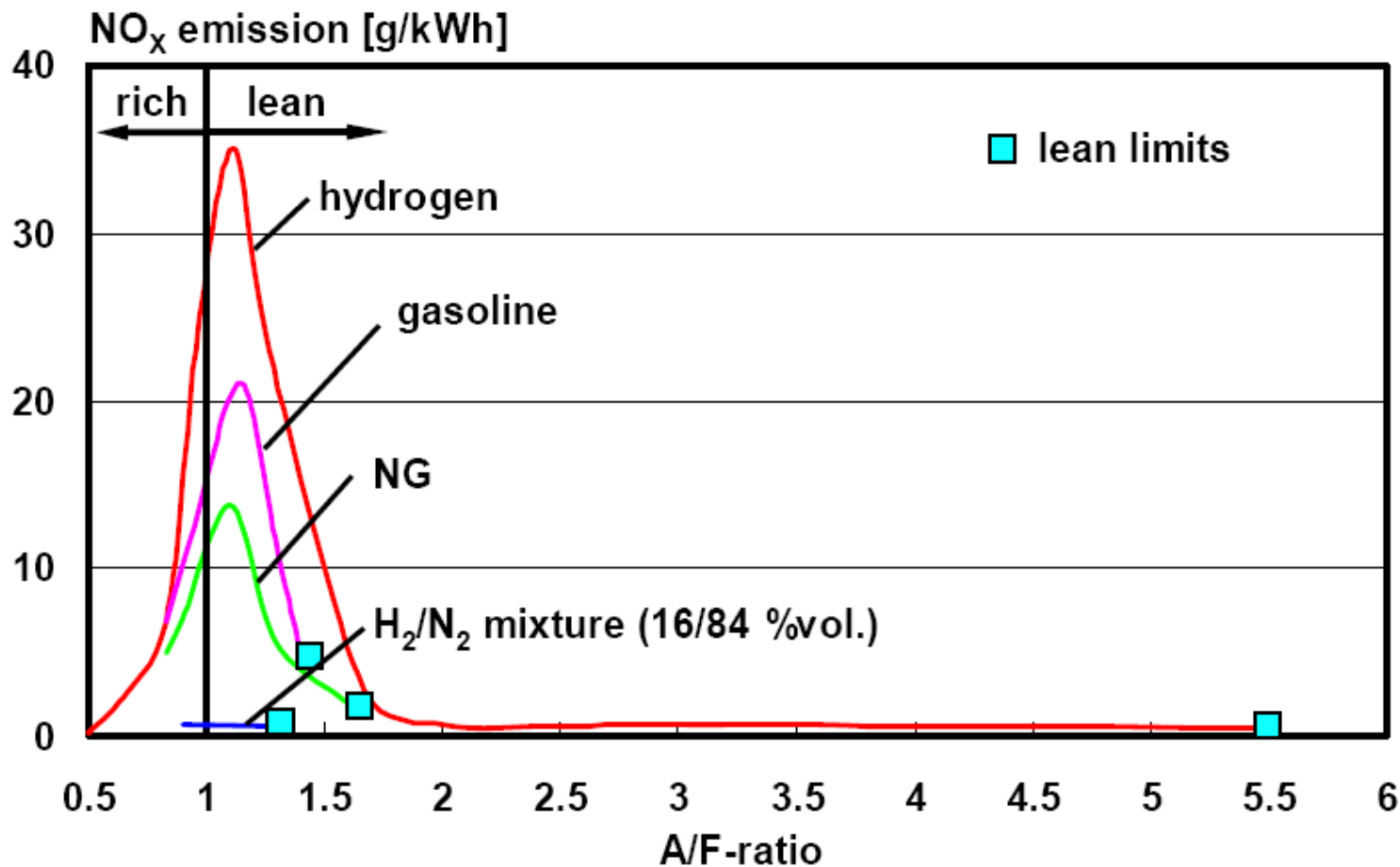


direct injection:  
(Diesel engine)

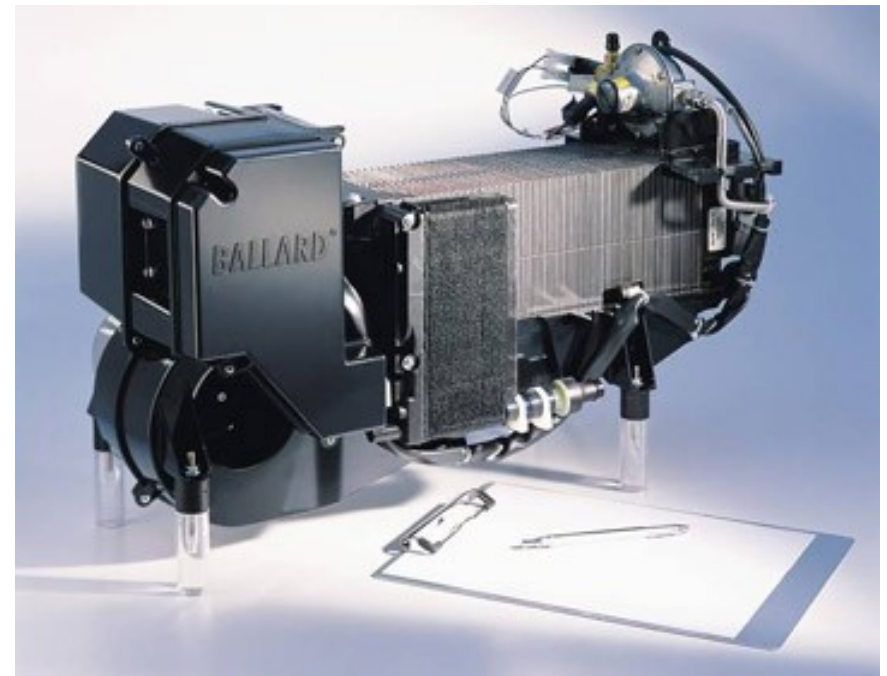
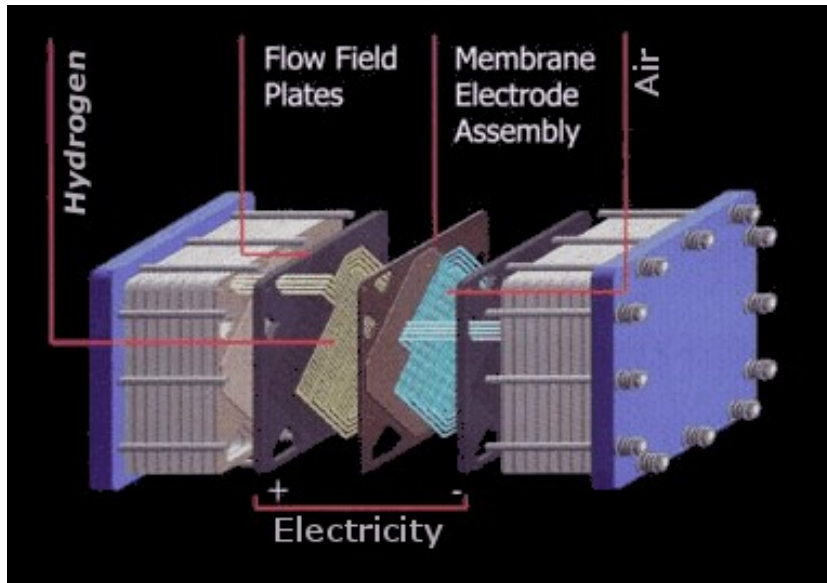
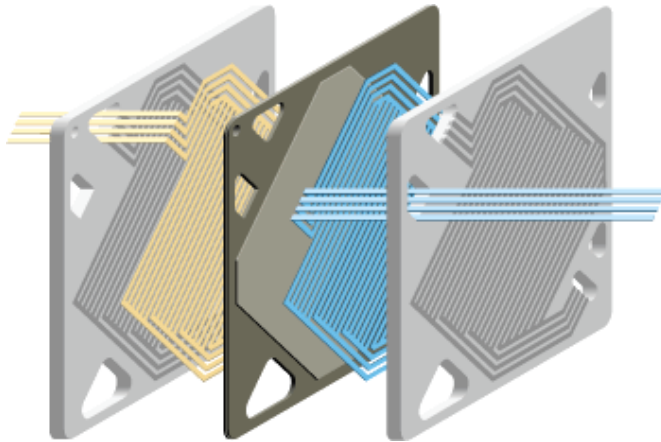




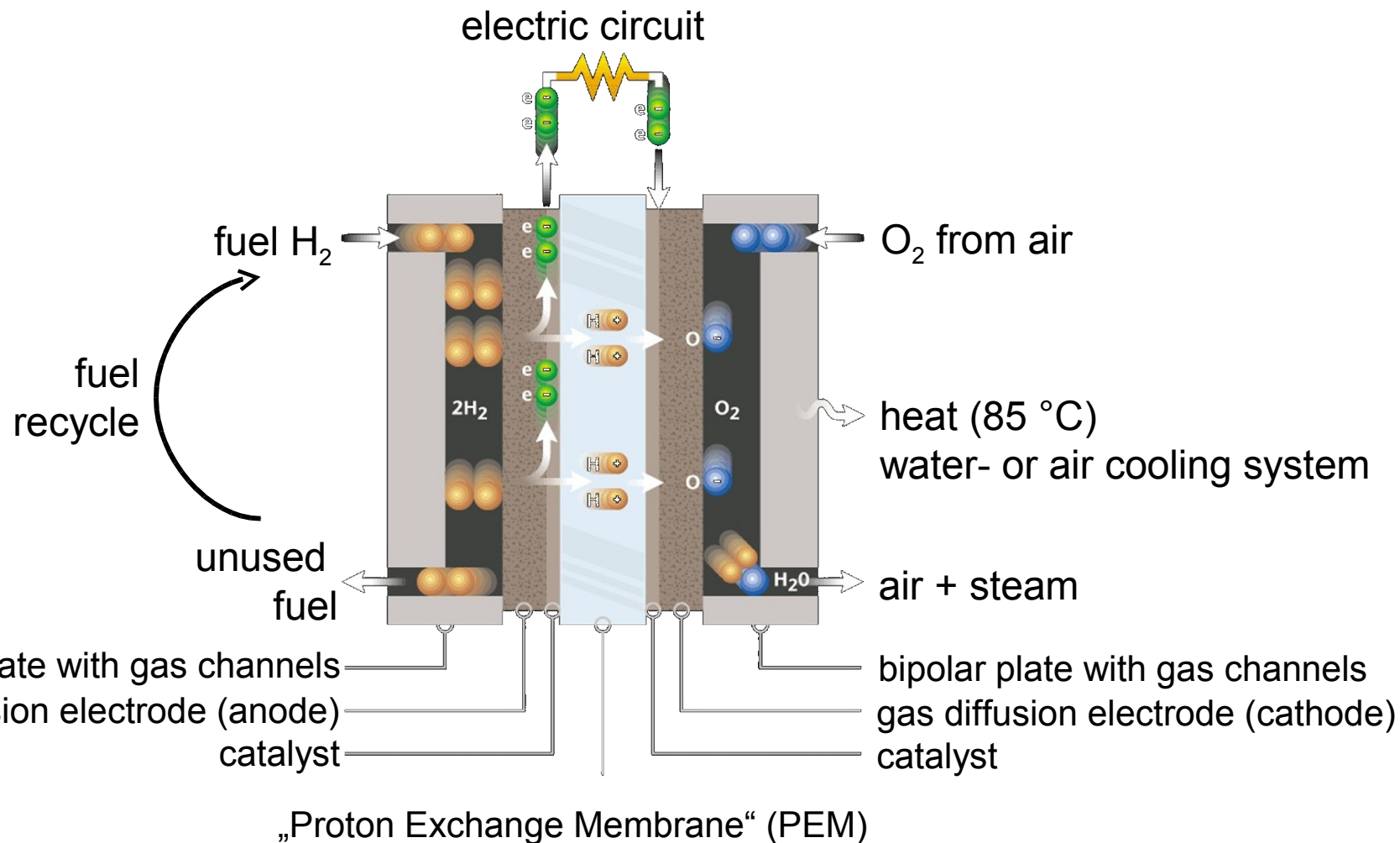
# Emissions in engines



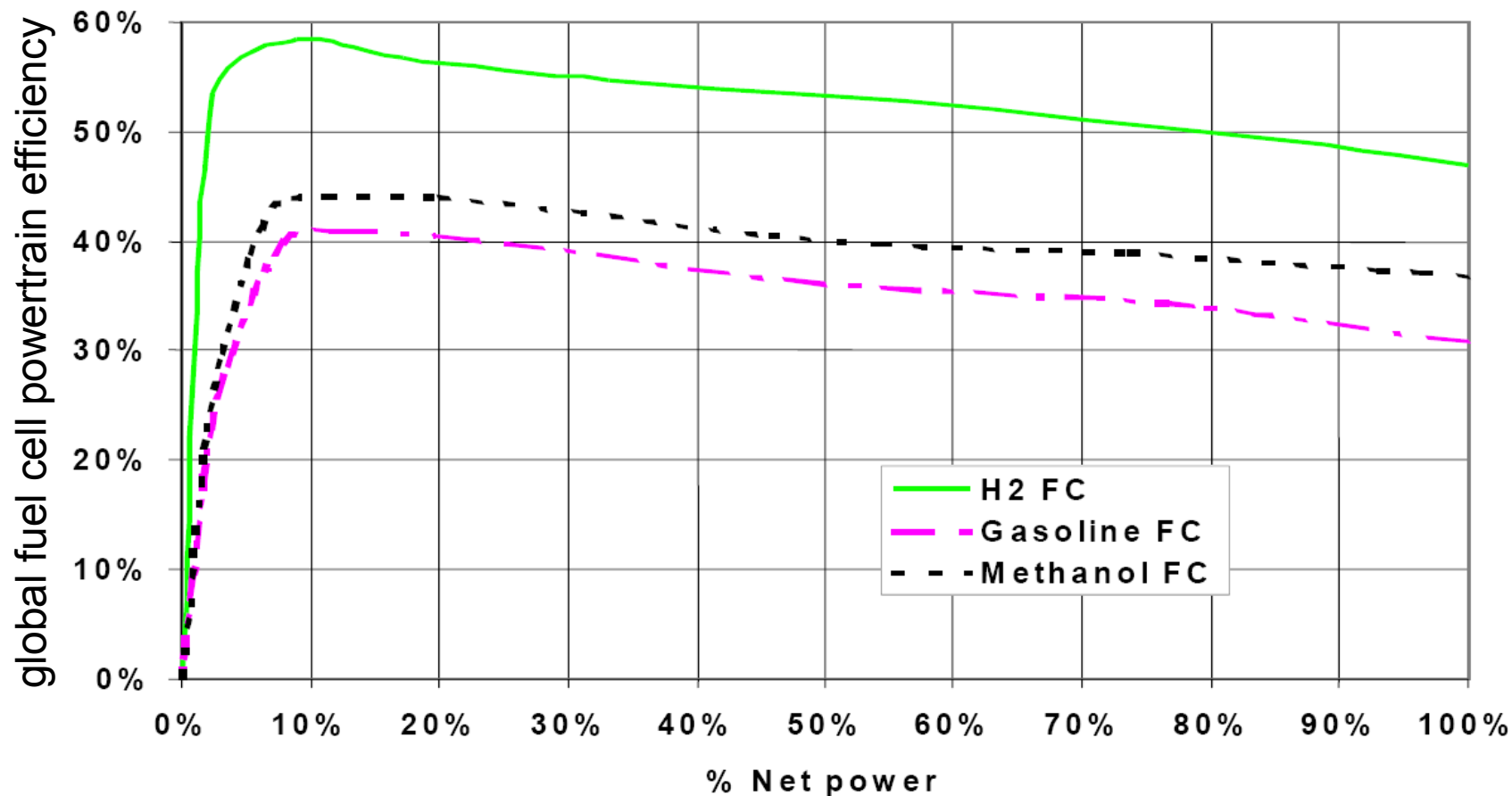
# Fuel cell stack



# Function of a PEM fuel cell



# Efficiency of fuel cells



# Properties of fuel cells

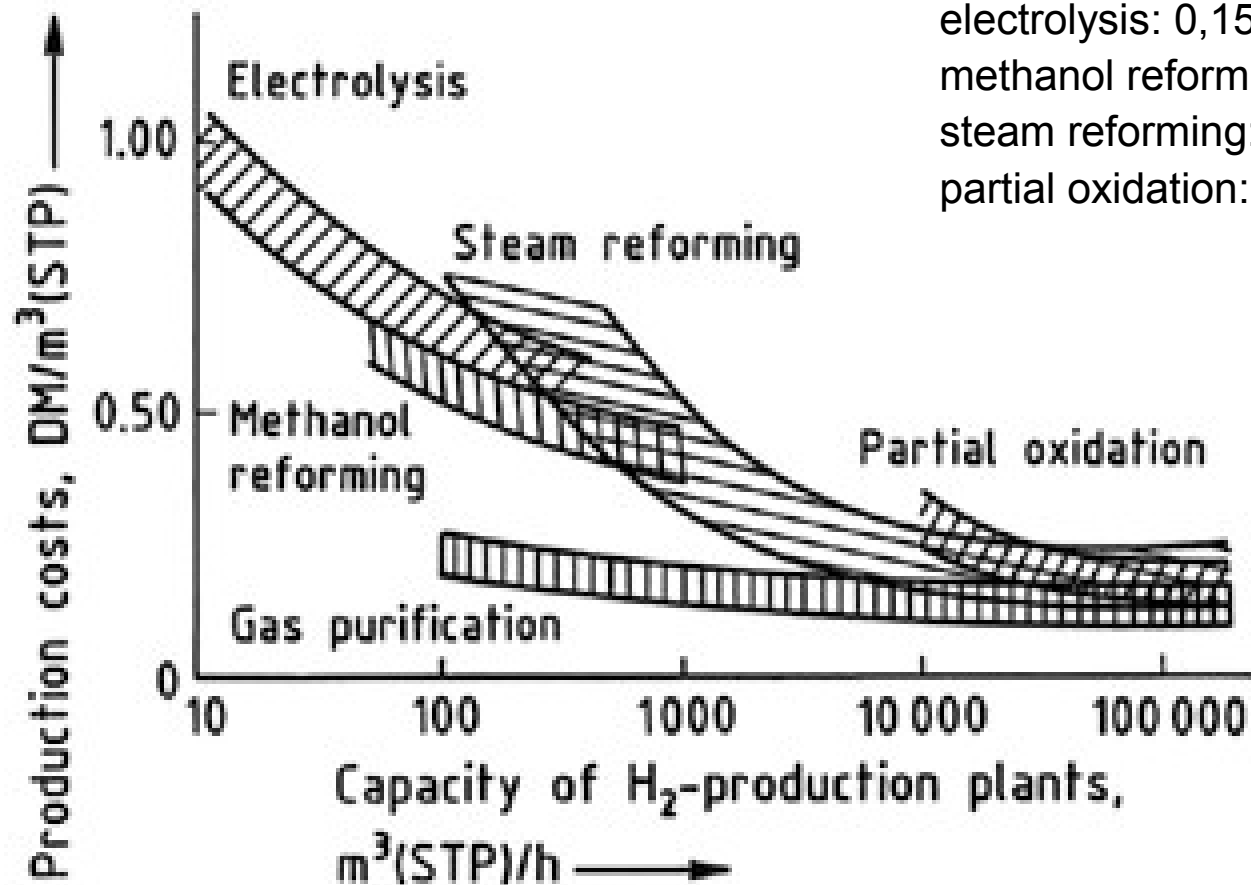
## Advantages

- + very high efficiency
- + good part load behaviour
- + very low emission levels
- + only few rotating parts
- + (theoretical) potential for low maintenance units

## Disadvantages

- high specific costs [€/kW]
- efficiency decreases with operation hours
- sensible for impurities in fuel and air
- lifetime still too short
- reasonable availability not demonstrated yet
- only few producers of stacks
- marketability not reached yet

# Costs of hydrogen production



**cost limits:**

electrolysis: 0,15-0,09 DM/kWh

methanol reforming: 525–400 DM/t

steam reforming: naphtha – natural gas

partial oxidation: HFO 300 DM/t,  
residue 100 DM/t

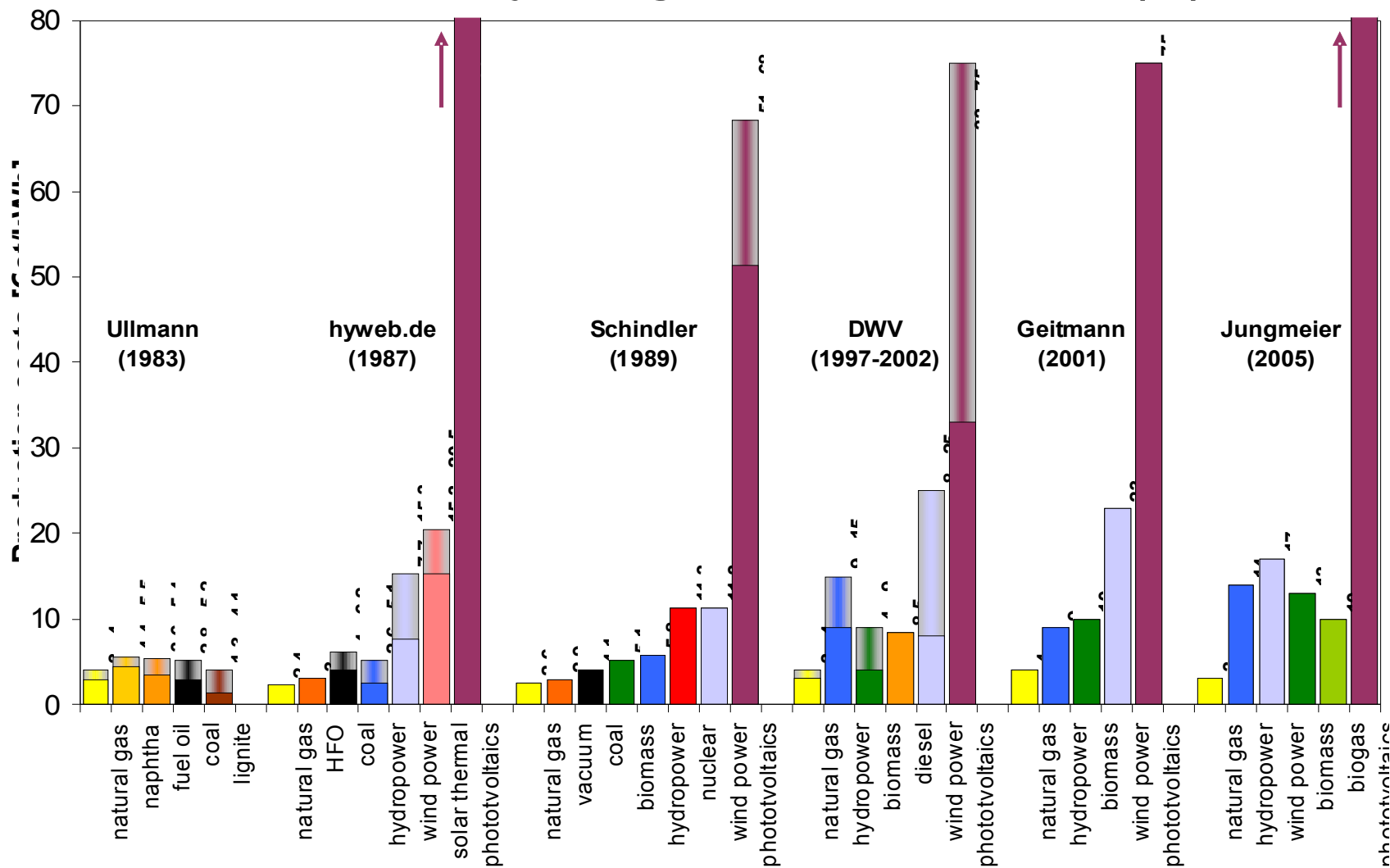
year: **1983, BRD**

natural gas: 8,5 DM/GJ<sub>HHV</sub>

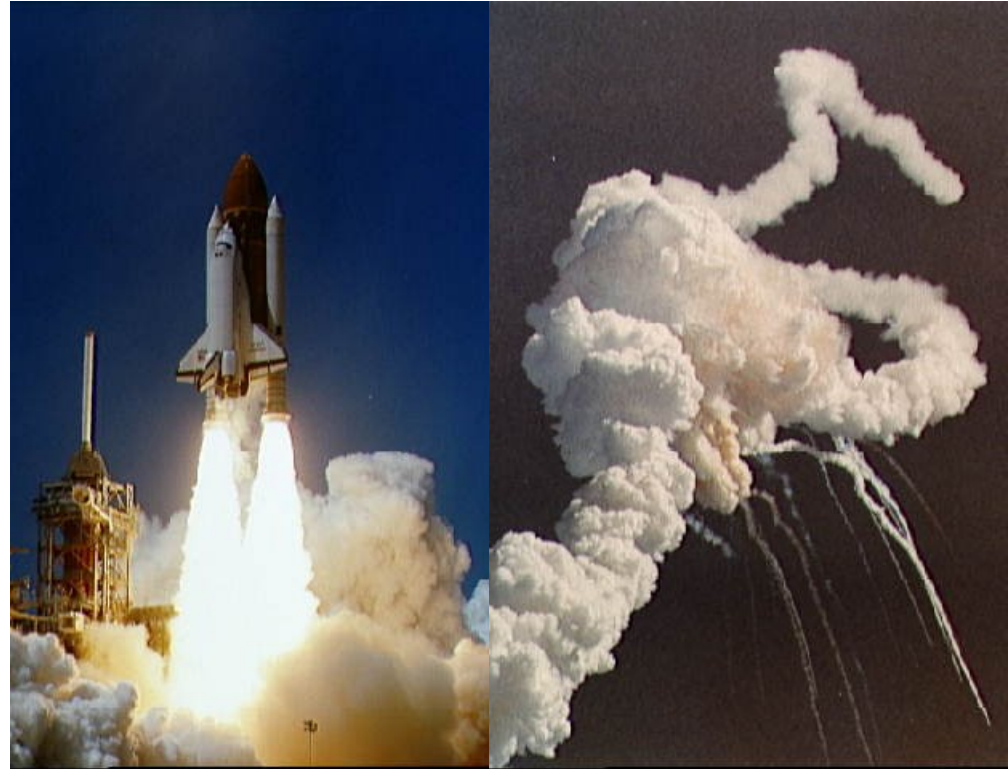
electricity: 0,09-0.15  
DM/kWh

naphtha: 650 DM/t

# Costs of hydrogen production (2)



# Safety risks of hydrogen?



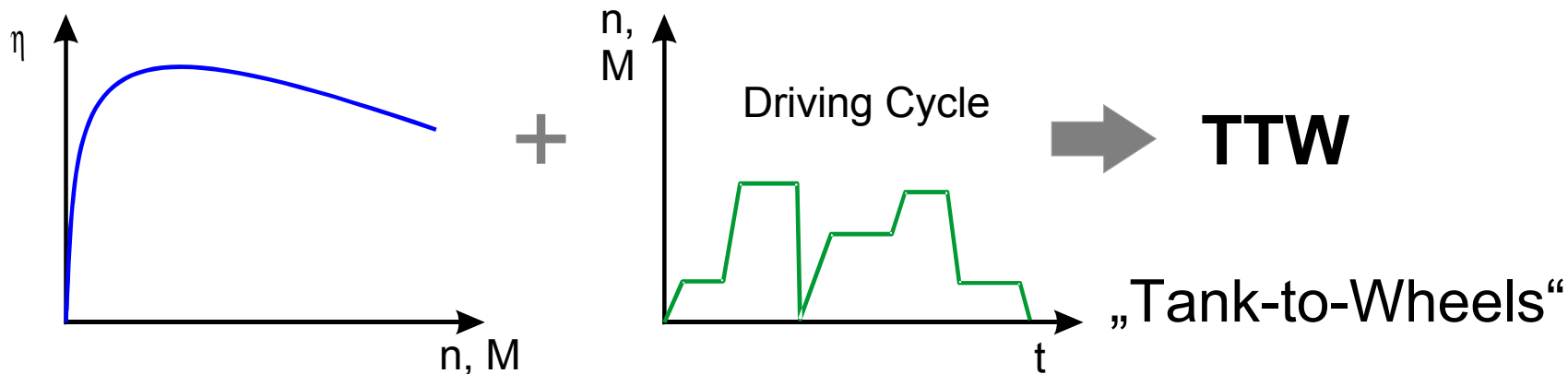


# Ignition behaviour

	Hydrogen	Methane	Propane	Gasoline
Density of gas at stand. cond., kg/m <sup>3</sup> (STP)	0.084	0.65	2.42	4.4
Heat of vaporisation, J/g	445.6	509.9	376.2	250–400
Lower heating value, kJ/g	<b>119.93</b>	50.02	46.35	44.5
Higher heating value, kJ/g	<b>141.8</b>	55.3	50.41	48
Thermal conductivity of gas at stand. cond., mW cm <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	1.897	0.33	0.18	0.112
Diffusion coefficient in air at stand. cond., cm <sup>2</sup> /s	0.61	0.16	0.12	0.05
Flammability limits in air, vol %	<b>4.0–75</b>	5.3–15	2.1–9.5	1–7.6
Stoichiometric composition in air, vol %	29.53	9.48	4.03	1.76
Minimum energy for ignition in air, mJ	<b>0.02</b>	0.29	0.26	0.24
Autoignition temperature, K	858	813	760	500–744
Flame temperature in air, K	2318	2148	2385	2470
Maximum burning velocity in air at stand. cond., m/s	<b>3.46</b>	0.45	0.47	1.76
Detonation velocity in air at stand. cond., km/s	1.48–2.15	1.4–1.64	1.85	1.4–1.7
Energy of explosion, mass-related, gTNT/g	<b>24</b>	11	10	10
Energy of explosion, volume-related, gTNT/m <sup>3</sup> (STP)	2.02	7.03	20.5	44.2

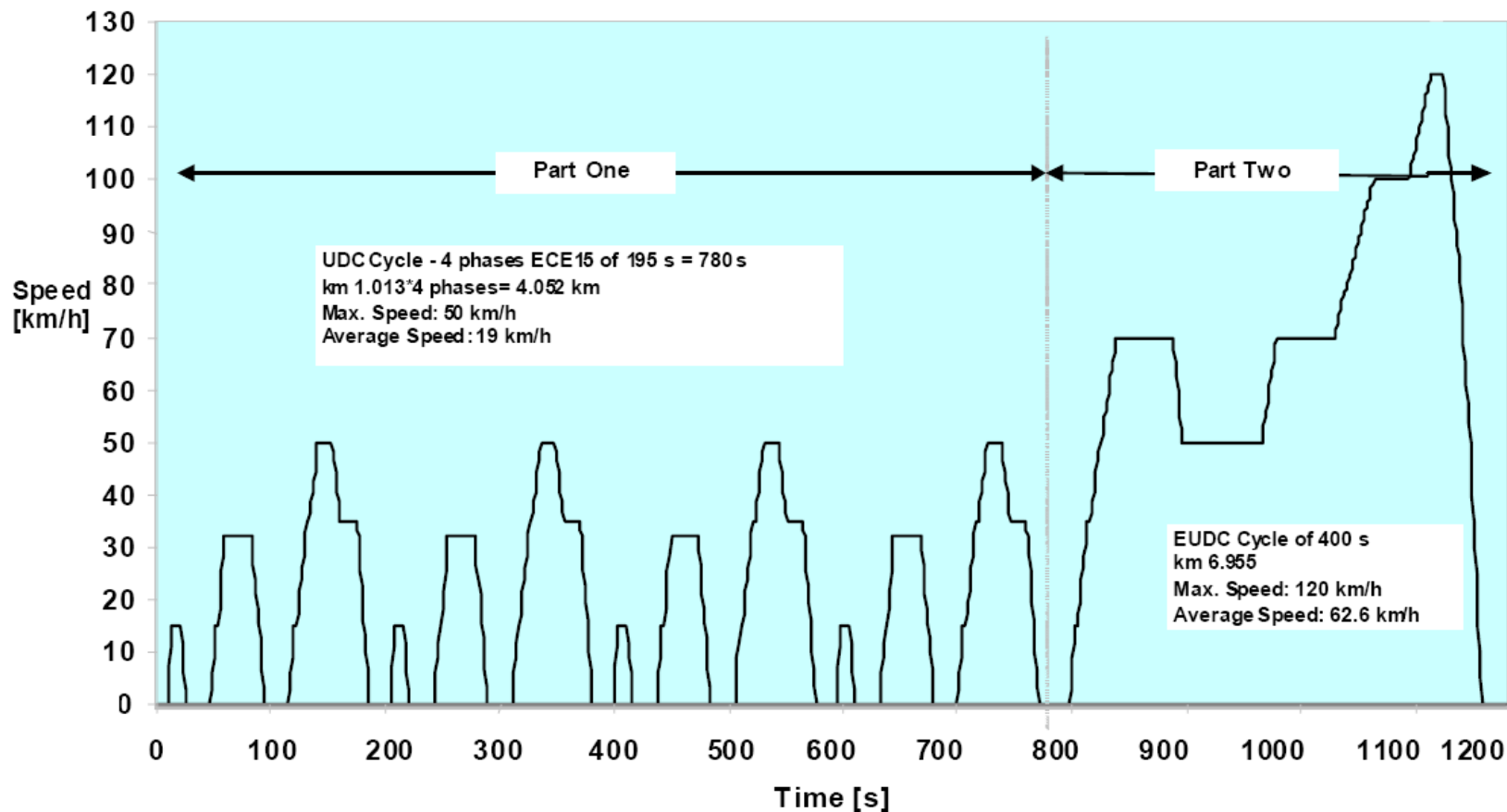
# Assessment of total system efficiencies

Production, storage, distribution  $\Rightarrow$  **WTT**  
 „Well-to-Tank“



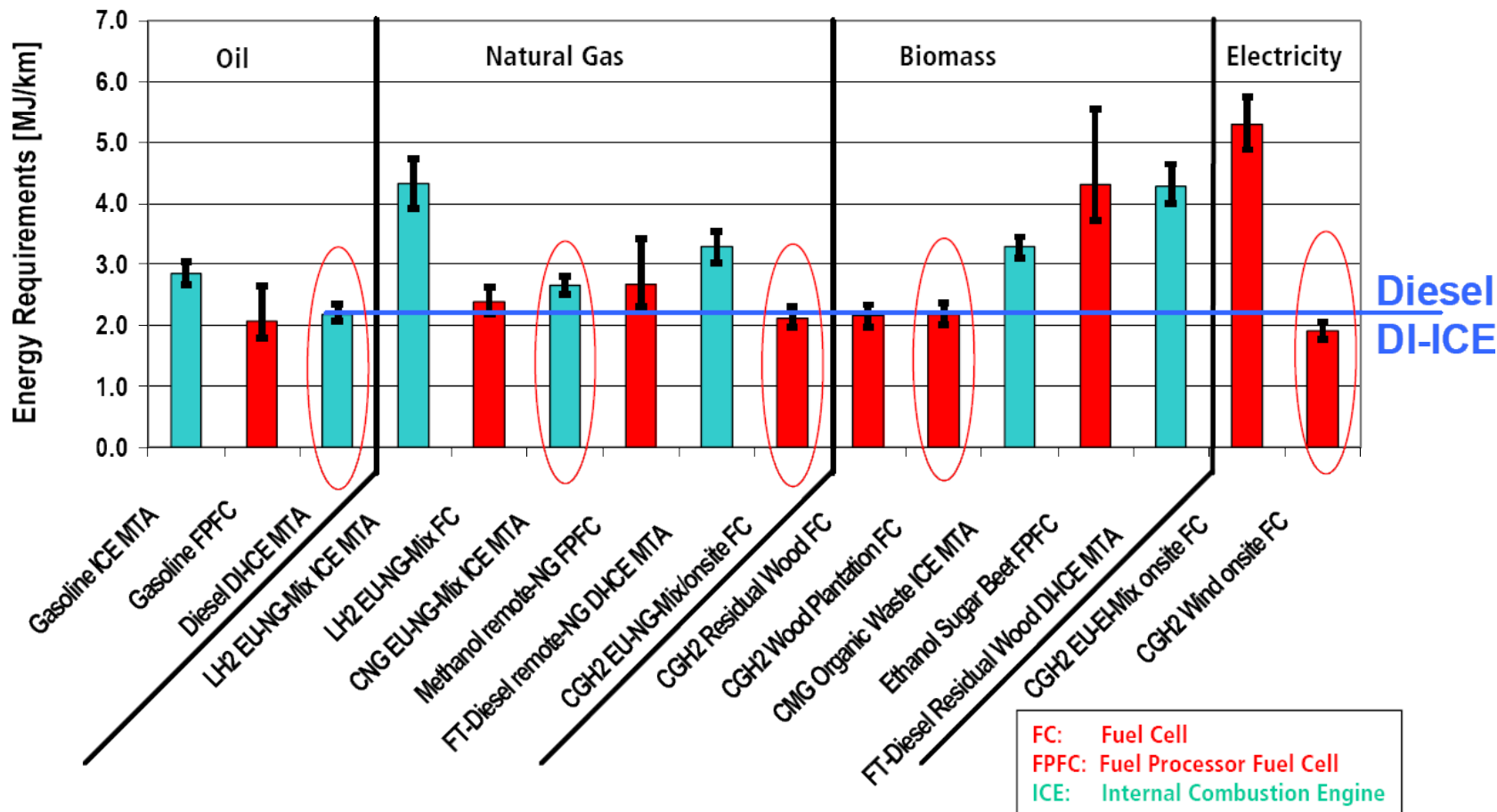
**WTT · TTW = WTW** „Well-to-Wheels“

# New European Driving Cycle (NEDC)



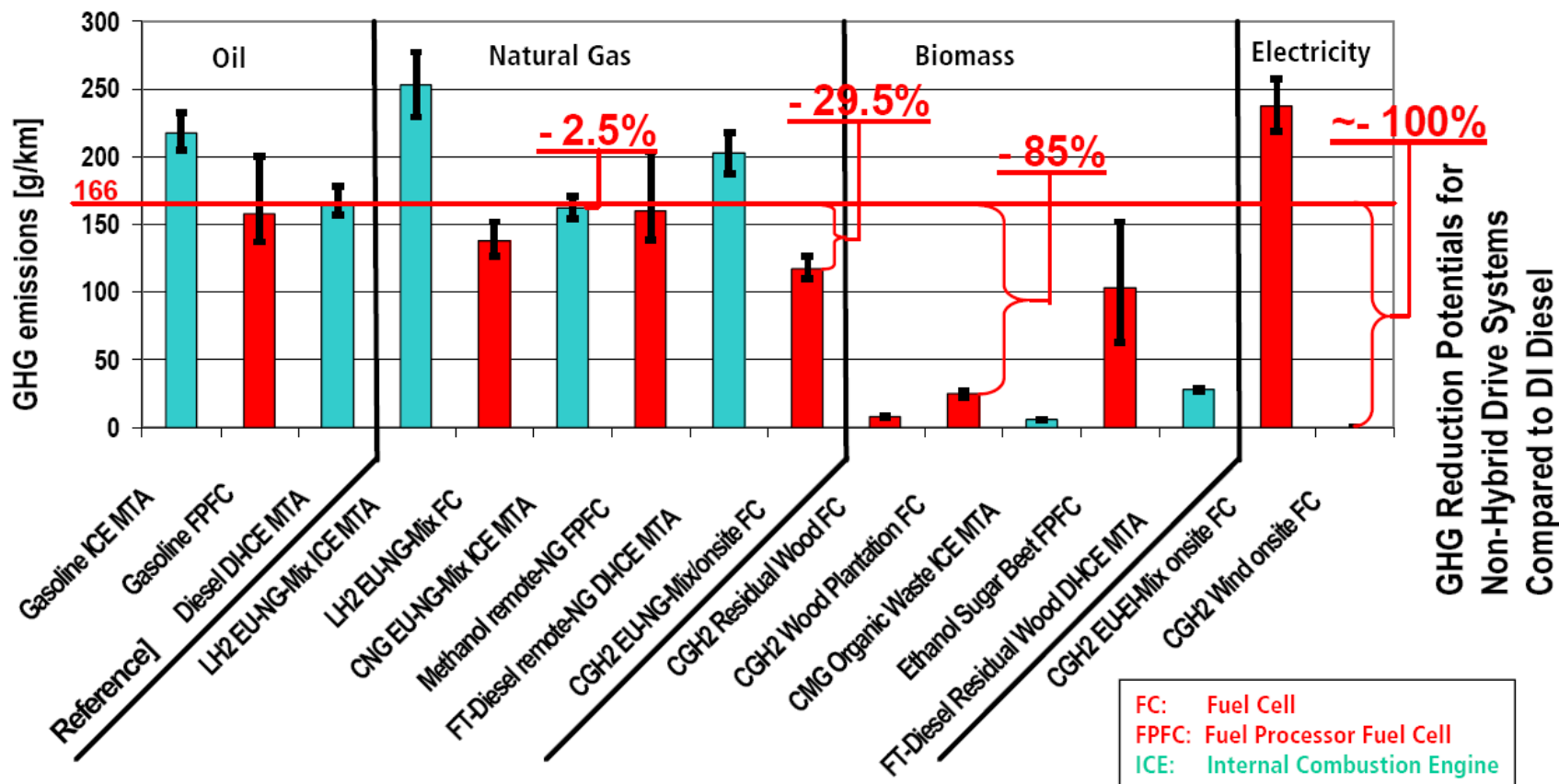
# Example: efficiency WTW

Vehicle: Opel Zafira



# Example: GHG-emissions WTW

Vehicle: Opel Zafira



# Is hydrogen technology a reasonable option?

Overall efficiency:

electrolysis → storage → fuel cell

– high pressure storage:

$$\eta_{ges} = \eta_{El} \cdot \eta_{Sp} \cdot \eta_{Br} = 0,85 \cdot 0,9 \cdot 0,55 = 42 \%$$

– cryogenic storage:

$$\eta_{ges} = \eta_{El} \cdot \eta_{Sp} \cdot \eta_{Br} = 0,85 \cdot 0,7 \cdot 0,55 = 32,7 \%$$

problems:

- **storage**
- **production**
- missing infrastructure
- safety

# Hydrogen technology: Conclusions

## Advantages

- + might be produced from renewable sources
- + CO<sub>2</sub>-free production from fossil sources possible
- + high efficiency in fuel cells
- + no local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- + nearly emission free traffic might be possible

## Disadvantages/Problems

- mainly produced from fossil sources in the mid-term
- purification of fuel (desulfurization)
- **storage**
- availability of **fuel cells**
- **overall efficiency**
- production costs
- safety

# Recommended literature

- **Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry**, Wiley-VCH, 2002.
- Jungmeier G., **Wasserstoff aus erneuerbarer Energie in Österreich – Ein Energieträger der Zukunft?**, Berichte aus Energie und Umweltforschung 40/2006, Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie, 2006.
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- Bossel U., **The Physics of the Hydrogen Economy**, European Fuel Cell News, Vol. 10, No. 2, Juli 2003.
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Thank you for your attention!

