

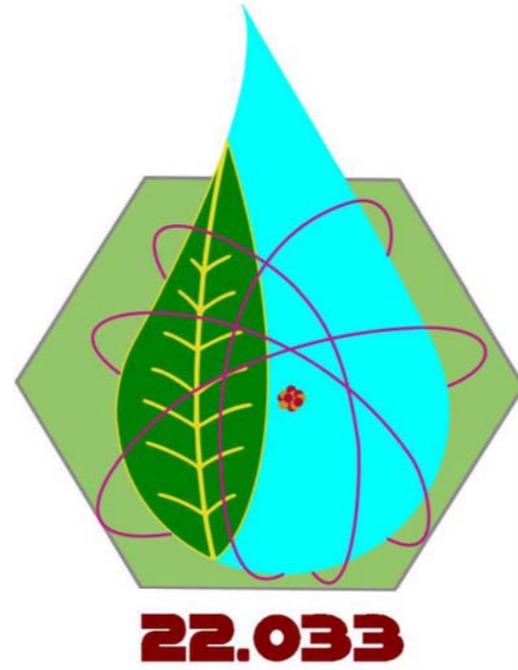
22.033 Design Course

Considerations in Designing a Nuclear Power Plant
with a Hydrogen and Biofuels Facility



Why this project?

- Green energy policy climate
- Oil quickly depleting
- Nuclear high energy/electricity output versus maintenance costs



Reactor Core



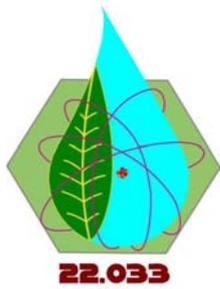
Outline

1. Goals
2. Overall Design of Reactor Core
3. Radial and Axial Overview of Core
4. Fuel
5. Heat Removal
6. Core Depletion
7. Secondary System
8. Turbines and Heat Exchangers
9. Future Work



Reactor Core Goals

- Provide enough electricity and process heat for hydrogen and biofuels production
- Choose and design a reactor that will operate at temperatures larger than what is in use
- Produce a unique and innovative reactor
- Final design must be feasible for electrical production



Core Designs Considered

- Supercritical H₂O
- Supercritical CO₂
- Traveling Wave Reactor
- Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor (SFR)
- Lead-Cooled Fast Reactor (LFR) (LBEFR)
- CANDU Reactor
- Molten Salt Reactor
- Gas-Cooled Fast Reactor
- Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR)
- Very High Temperature Reactor (VHTR)



Major Reactor Design Choices

- Lead-Bismuth Eutectic Cooled Fast Reactor (LBEFR)
 - High heat capacity
 - Operates at ~ atmospheric pressure
 - High power density
 - Natural convection
 - Self-shielding
 - Essentially no coolant voiding possible
- Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (S-CO₂) for Secondary Cycle
 - Brayton cycle
 - Single phase working fluid
 - Smaller turbines
 - Higher cycle efficiency

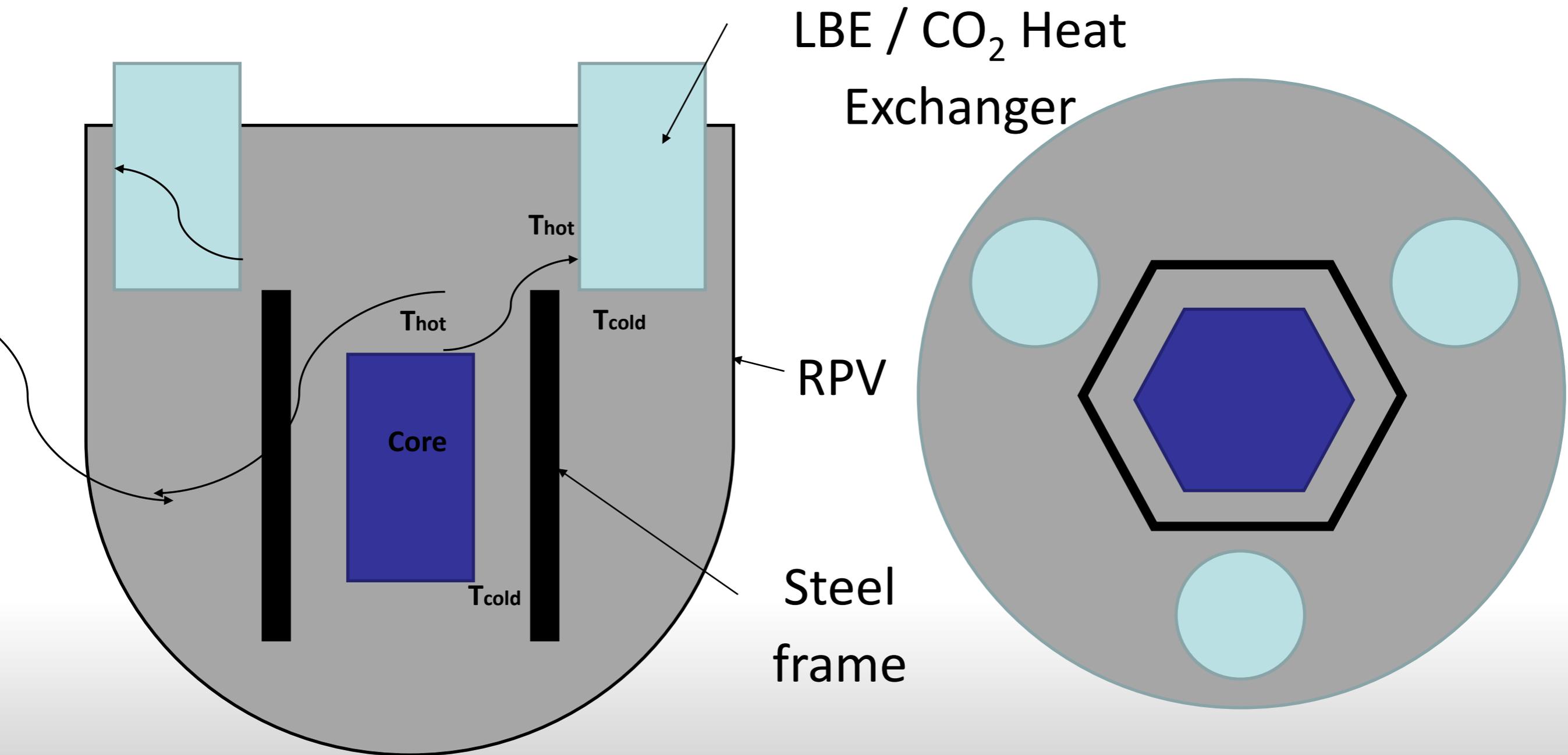


Reactor Core Final Design

- Lead-Bismuth Eutectic (LBE) Cooled Fast Reactor with Supercritical CO₂ Secondary Loop
- 3575 MWt (1500 MWe)
 - Limited by velocity of LBE (2.5 m/s) due to flow assisted corrosion
 - Will provide only 1000 MWe to grid, remaining energy will be used for hydrogen and biofuel production

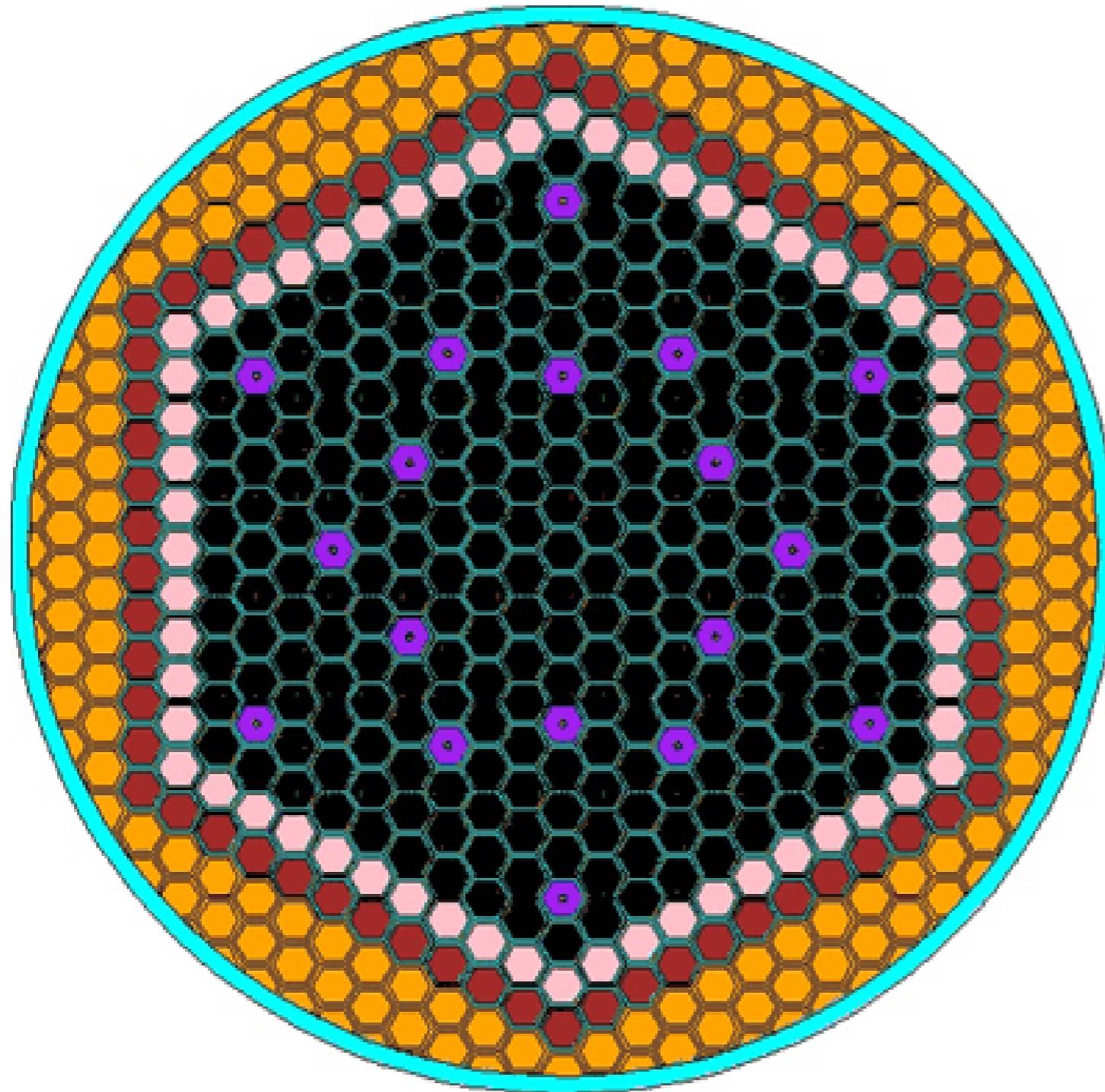


Core Overview





Radial Overview of Core



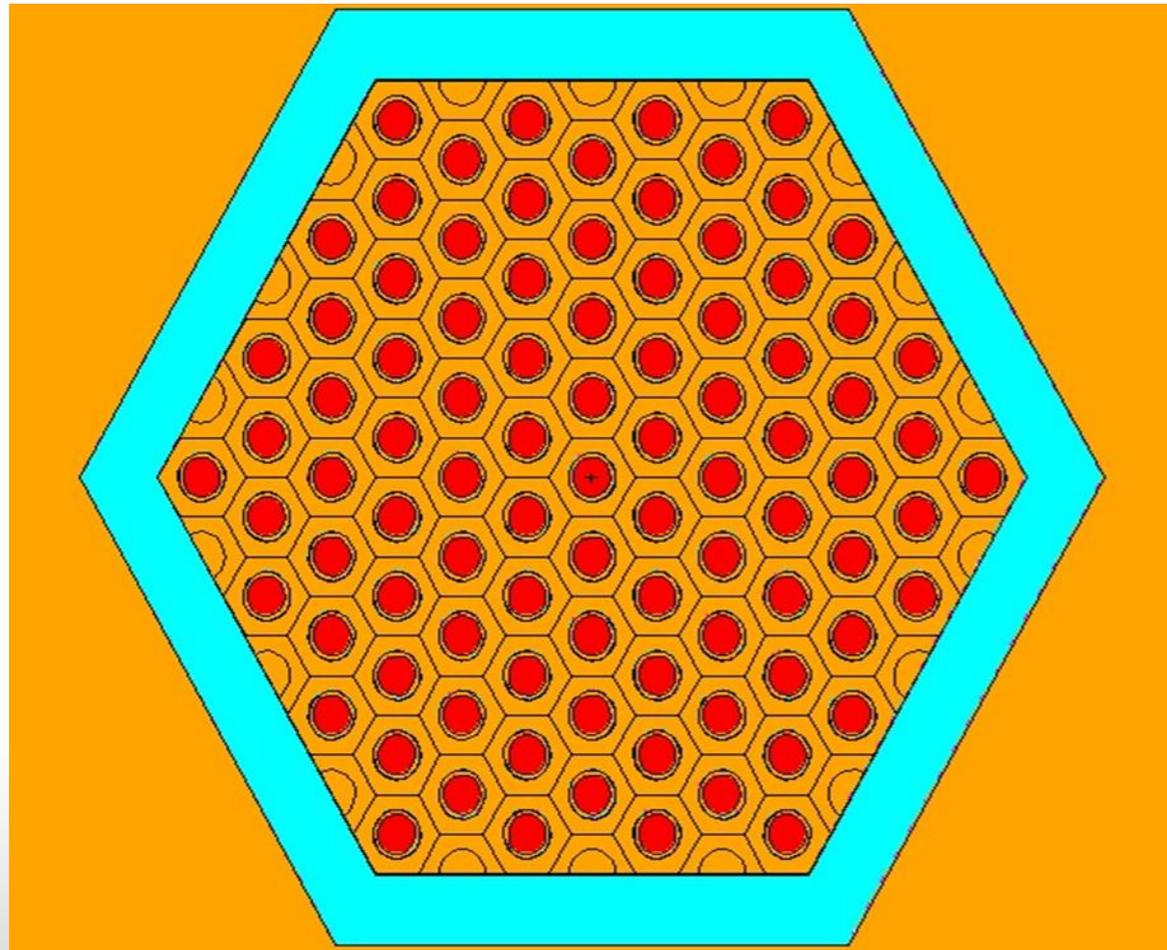
X-Y view of core

-  - Fuel Regions (UN)
-  - Control Rods (B_4C)
-  - Reflector (MgO)
-  - Shield (B_4C)
-  - Coolant (LBE)
-  - Cladding
(T91 stainless steel,
protective outer layer)



Fuel Assembly and Zoning

Pitch/Pin = 1.6



Axial and Radial Zoning

	Rings 1-4	Rings 5-10
Top 33%	10%	12.5%
Lower 67%	12.5%	15%



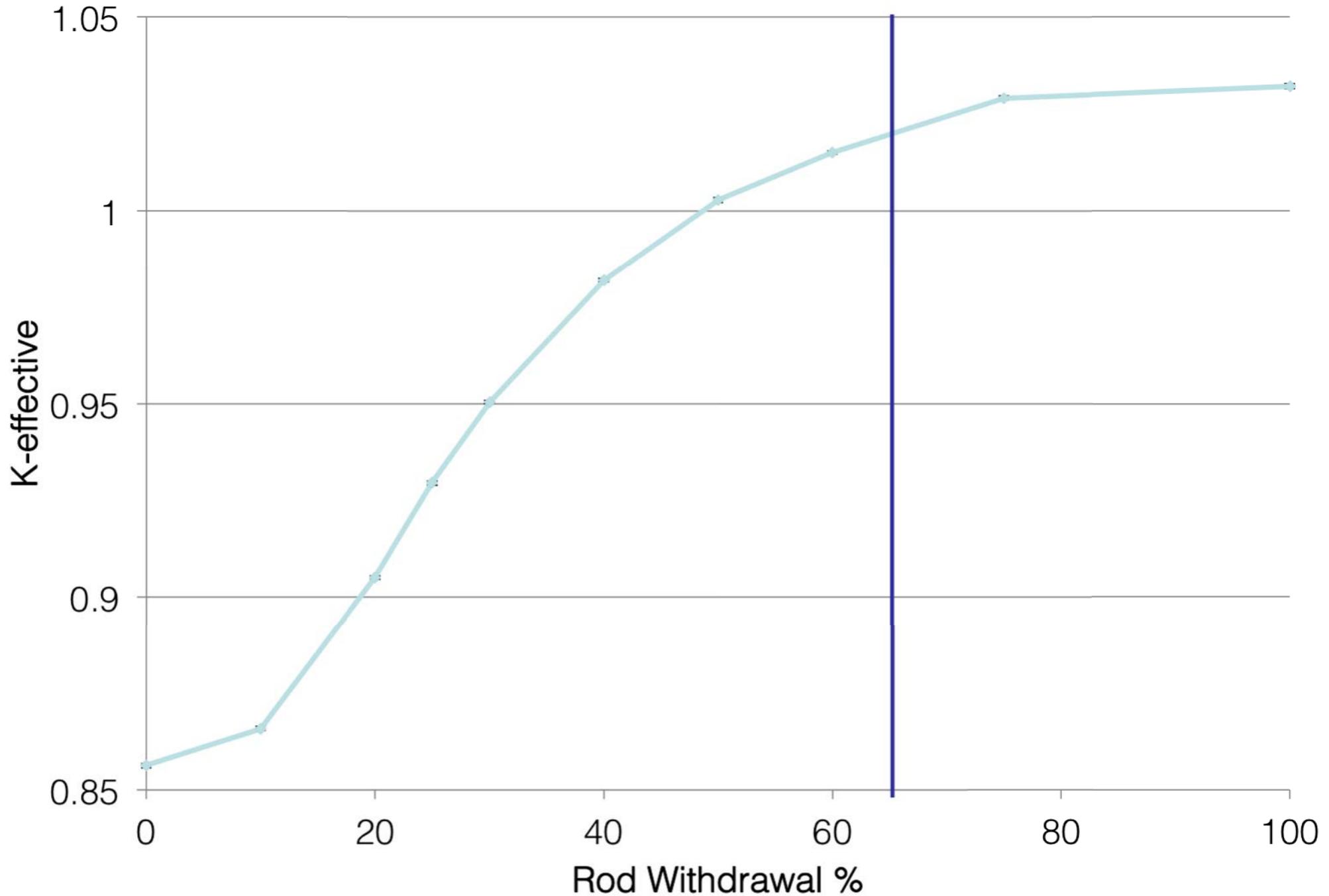
Reactor Core Final Design

Outlet Temperature	650° C
Inlet Temperature	484° C
Operating Pressure	Atmospheric
Full Power Operating Mass Flow Rate	143,600 kg/s
Max Fuel Enrichment	15%
Minimum Fuel Enrich	10%
Linear Heat Rate BOL	74.3 kW/m
Fuel Material	UN



Reactor Core Final Design

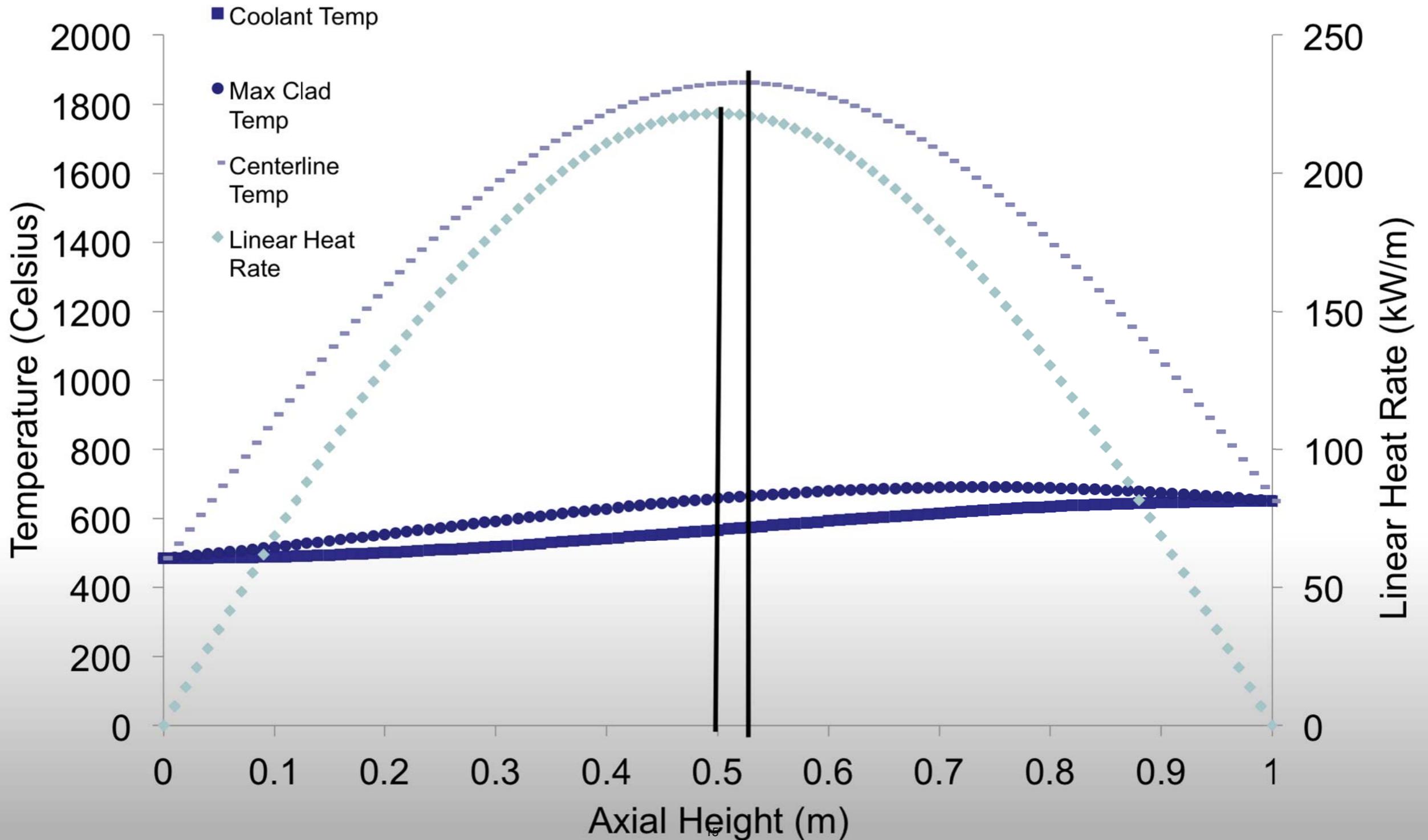
K-effective vs. Rod Withdrawal Percentage





Reactor Core Final Design

Selected Temperatures Over a 1 Meter Active Fuel Height at 3575 MW





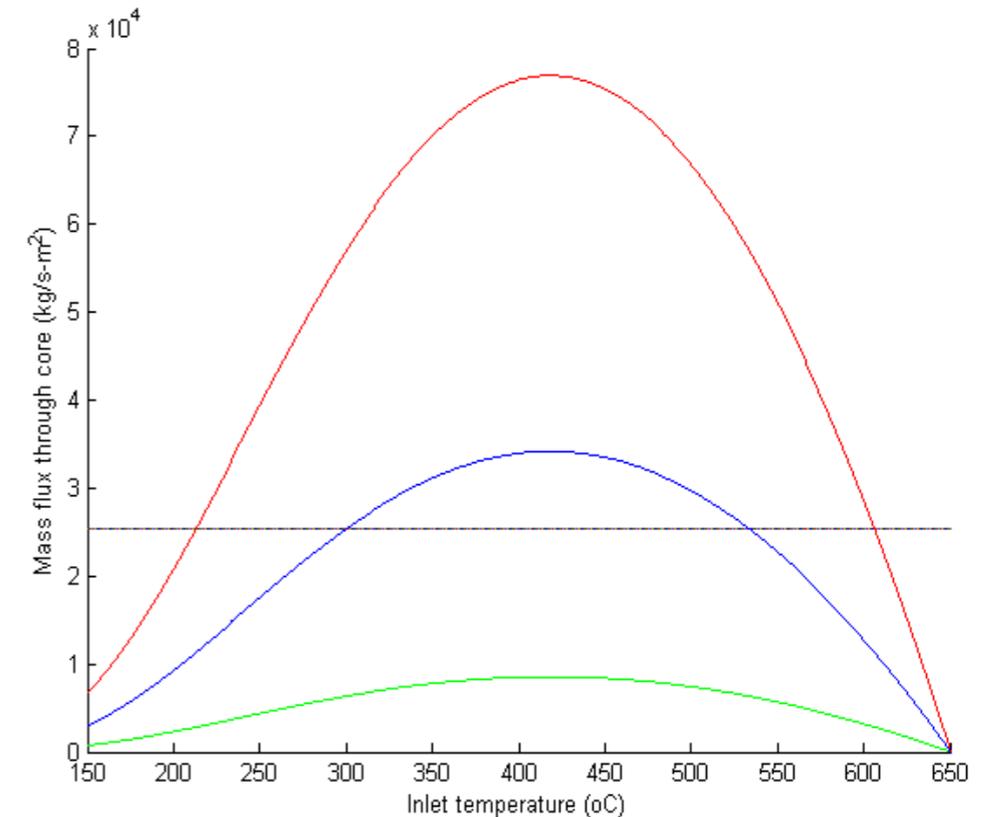
Comparison of UN and UO₂

	UN	UO ₂
Thermal Conductivity	21 W/mK	3-4 W/mK
Melting Point	2800° C	2800° C
Uranium Metal Density	13.60 g/cm ³	9.67 g/cm ³
Other	Need to enrich the nitrogen	Long and safe operating history



Natural Circulation

- Natural circulation appears sufficient for heat removal at full power.
- It is likely that pumping power/ extra heat insertion from the PCM will be needed to maintain flow during shutdown.
- Further analysis needed to determine benefits of laminar vs. turbulent regimes.



Plot of mass flux vs. inlet temperature given an outlet temperature of 650° C for varying down channel diameters.
R = 3m. B = 2m. G = 1m



Core Depletion

- Analysis done by comparison to previous cores: EISY, STAR & 2400MWt MIT design
- 24000 MWt achieved 1800 days lifetime with $k_{\text{eff}} = 1.02$ at BOL with rods removed.
- Likely that our reactor can achieve longer given greater fertile inventory and $k_{\text{eff}} = 1.04$ at BOL with rods removed.
- Needs formal core depletion code analysis

	Zone 1 (kg)	Zone 2 (kg)	Zone 3 (kg)	Total (kg)
BOL Pu	3342	2807	1982	8131
EOL Pu	3375	2849	2044	8268
% change	0.99	1.50	3.13	1.68
BOL U	19356	16254	11476	47086
EOL U	17935	14568	10154	42657
% change	-7.34	-10.37	-11.52	-9.41
BOL MA	516	433	306	1255
EOL MA	423	316	214	953
% change	-18.02	-27.02	-30.07	-24.06

Estimated inventory changes from 2400MWt MIT core after 1800 days



Core Reactivity Coefficients

- Estimated again from ELSY, STAR and MIT cores
- Doppler coefficient was found to be -0.111 ± 0.03 for MIT core
 - Hard spectrum makes this less negative than other LMFBR cores
- Temperature coefficient was found to be $+0.131 \pm 0.052$ for MIT core
 - Reactivity insertion at low lead densities not countered by increased scattering and leakage cross sections at higher temperatures.
- Needs to be explicitly calculated for our core. Use of MgO reflector has reduced our required enrichment which may change these values significantly based on work by Driscoll et al.



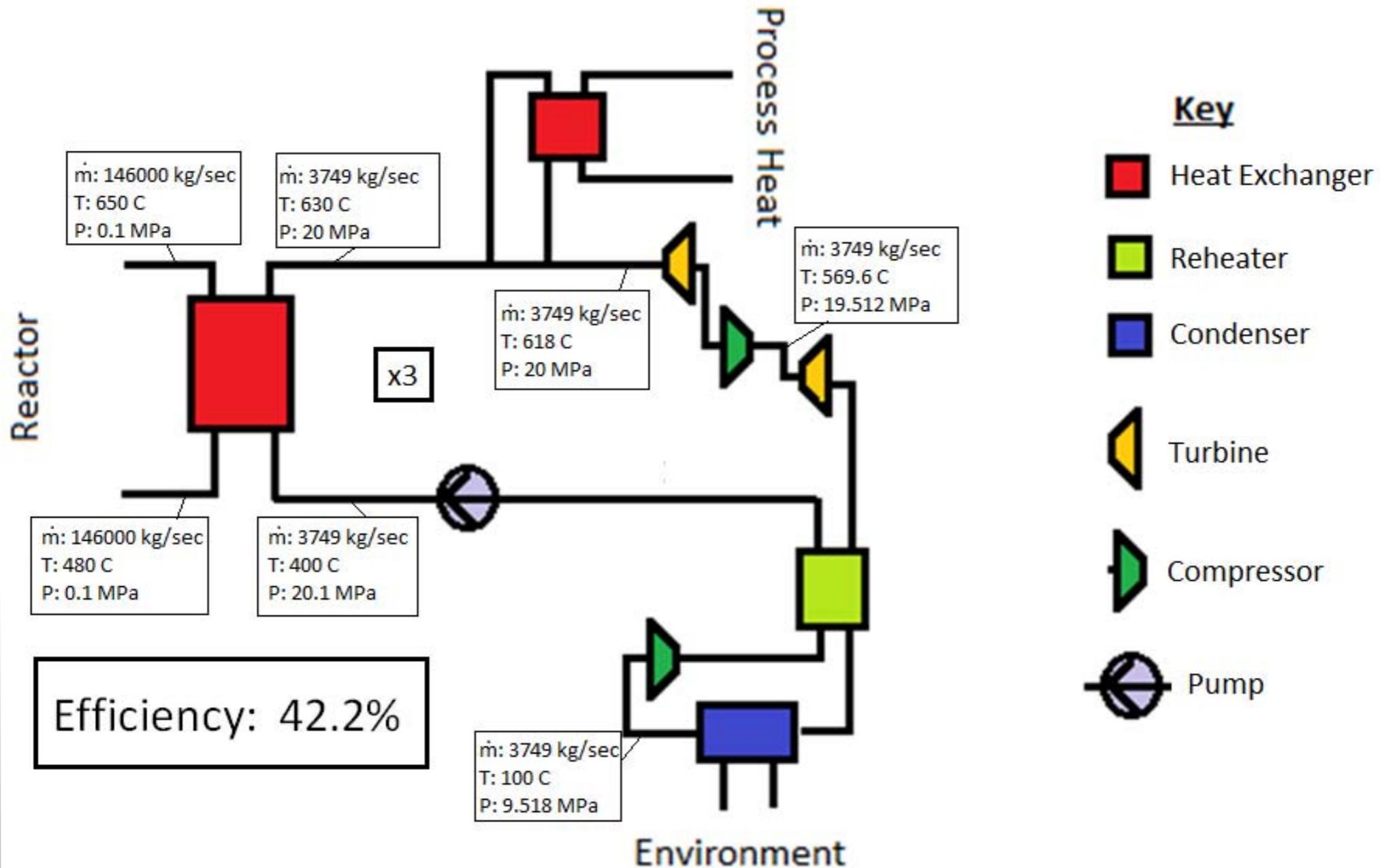
Outlays of the System

- Electric Power
 - 1000 MWe
- Plant Power
 - 500 MWe
- Process Heat
 - 315 MWt



Secondary System

S-CO₂ Secondary Loop





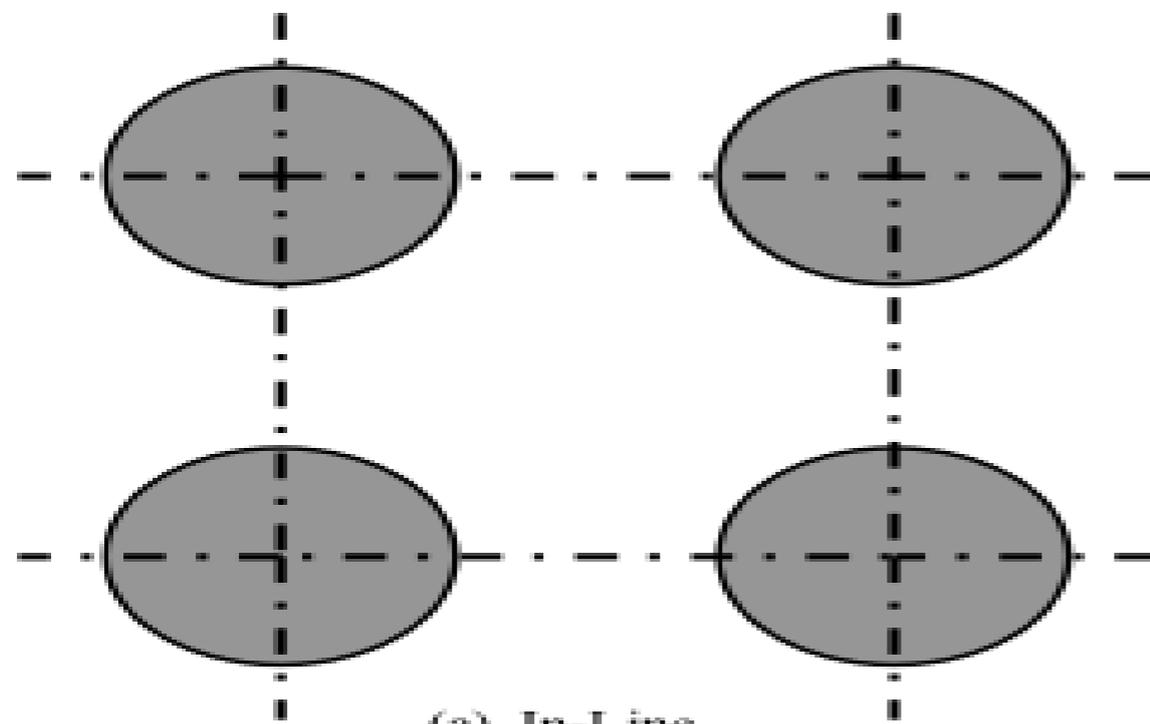
Secondary System

- Modeled in EES
 - Temperature and mass flow calculations
 - Allows for faster optimization
 - Database provided enthalpy information for S-CO₂
- Second turbine added to allow for greater efficiency
- Energy diverted to the Process Heat group does not significantly affect the secondary system (efficiency changes from 45.8% to 42.2%)

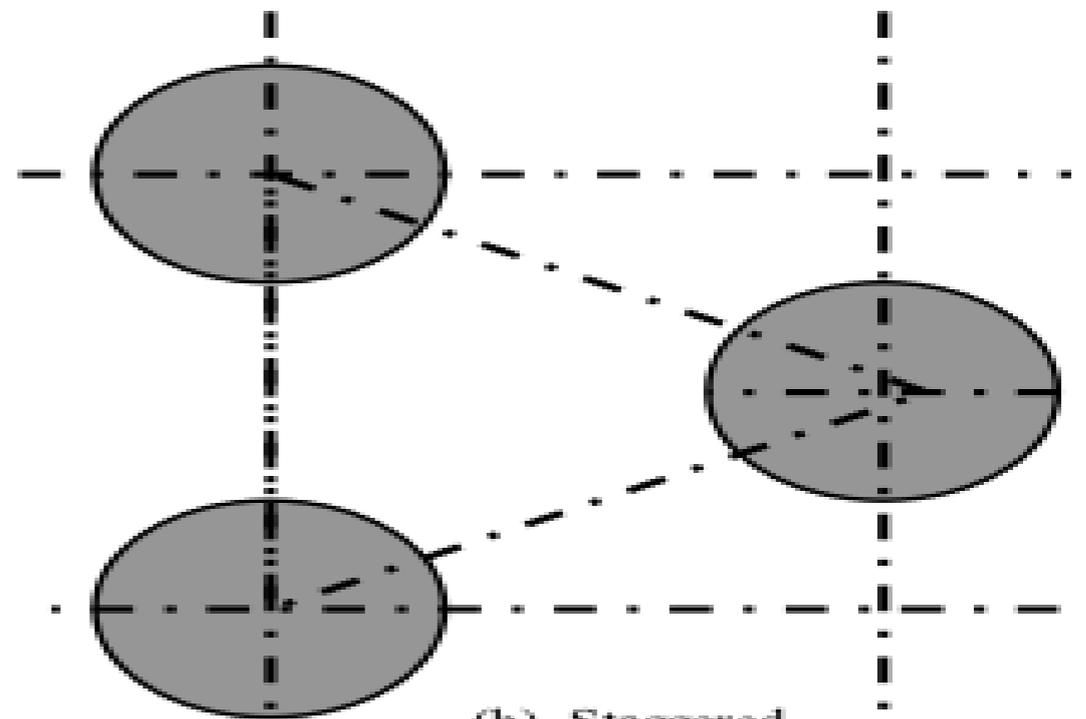


Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger

- Simple design (easy to make, low cost, etc.)
- Larger than PCHE
- Friction effects of LBE reduced



(a). In-Line

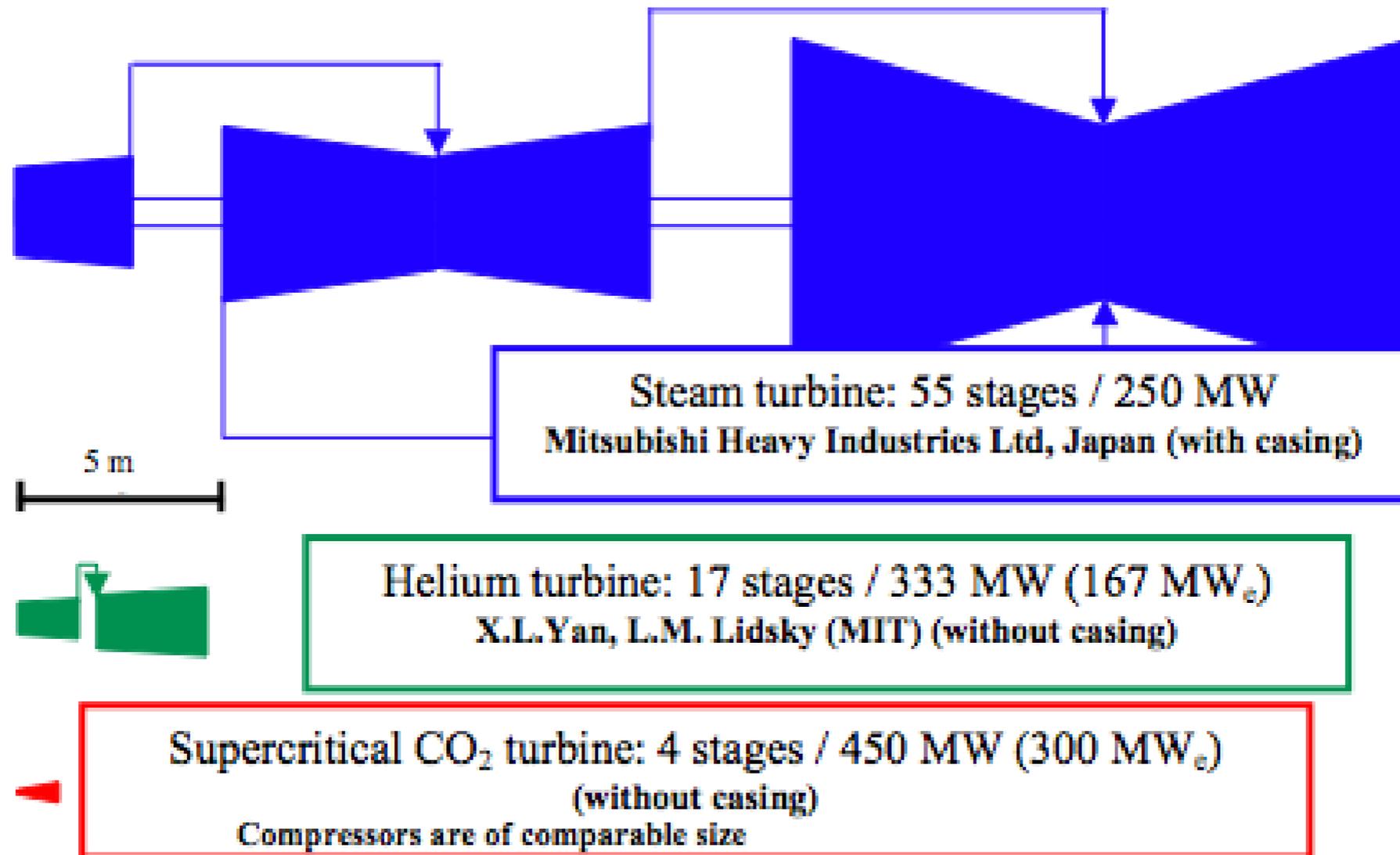


(b). Staggered



Turbines

- Compact due to Brayton Cycle
- Reduces size of turbomachinery

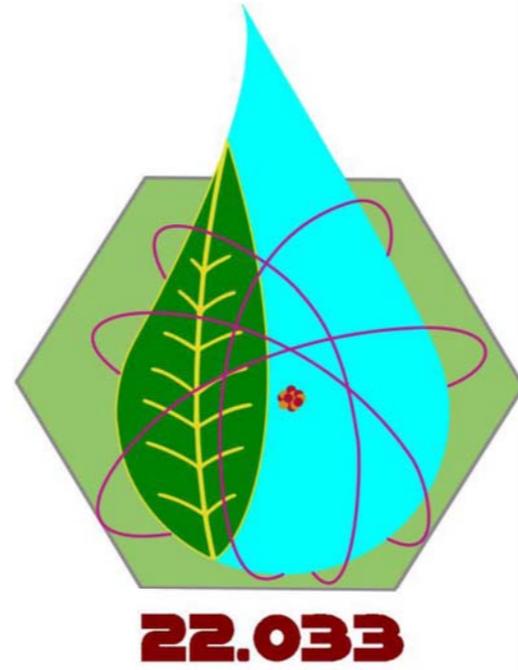


Source: Dostal, V. "A Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Cycle for Next Generation Nuclear Reactors." MIT Sc. D. Thesis, January 2004.



Future Work for Core

- Switch to alternate clad material or lower operating temperature OR both.
- Look at efficiency improvements in secondary system.
- Look at Uranium Carbide as alternate fuel.
- Full depletion and kinematic calculation.
- Determine if decay natural convection possible.



Process Heat



Outline

1. Goals
2. Heat Exchangers
3. Piping
4. Heat Storage
5. Future Work



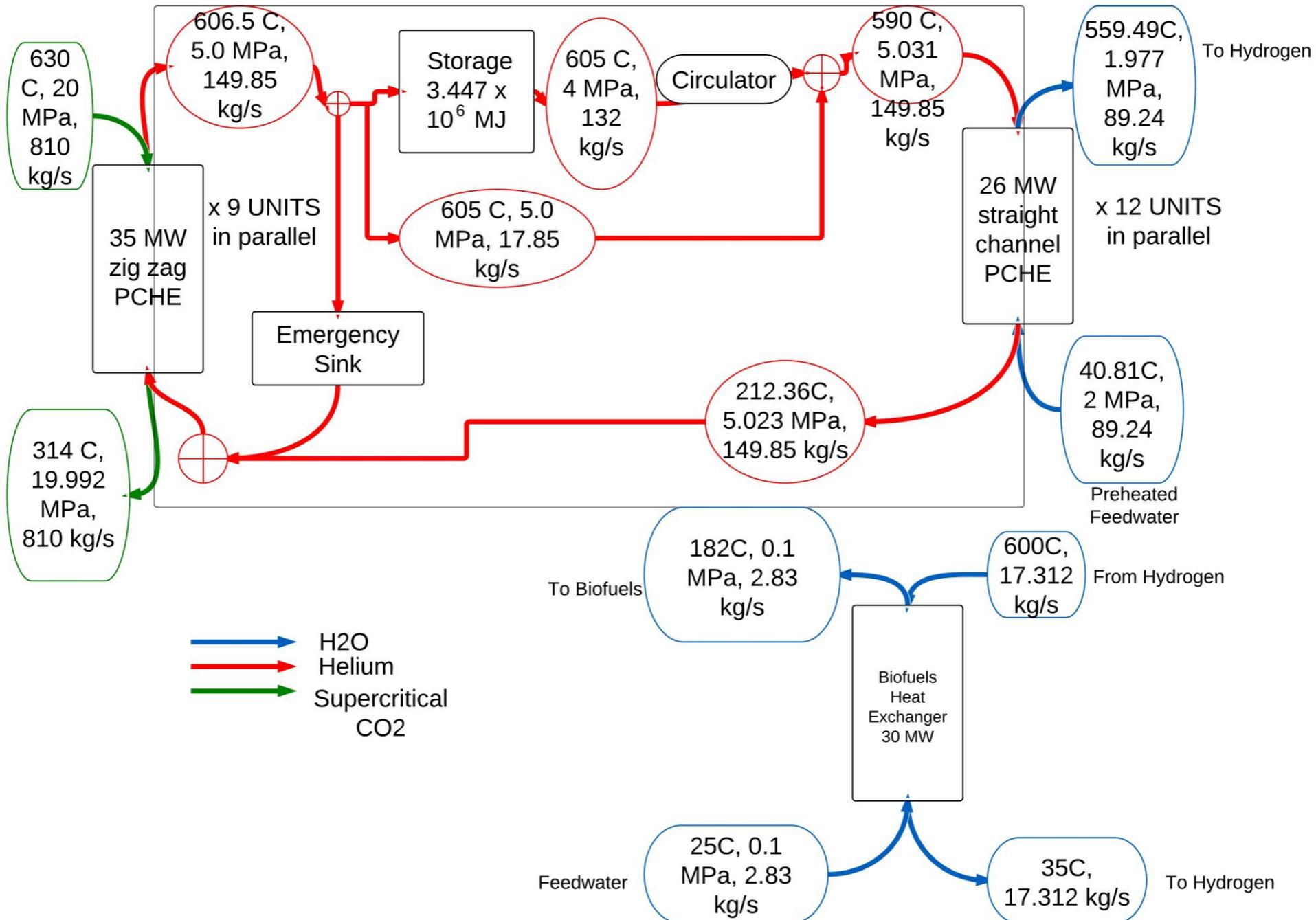
Process Heat Goals

- Draw heat from the Core to provide steam to the Hydrogen and Biofuels plants
- Keep the LBE melted during reactor outage
- Design system for operation at high temperatures and pressures



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System Layout





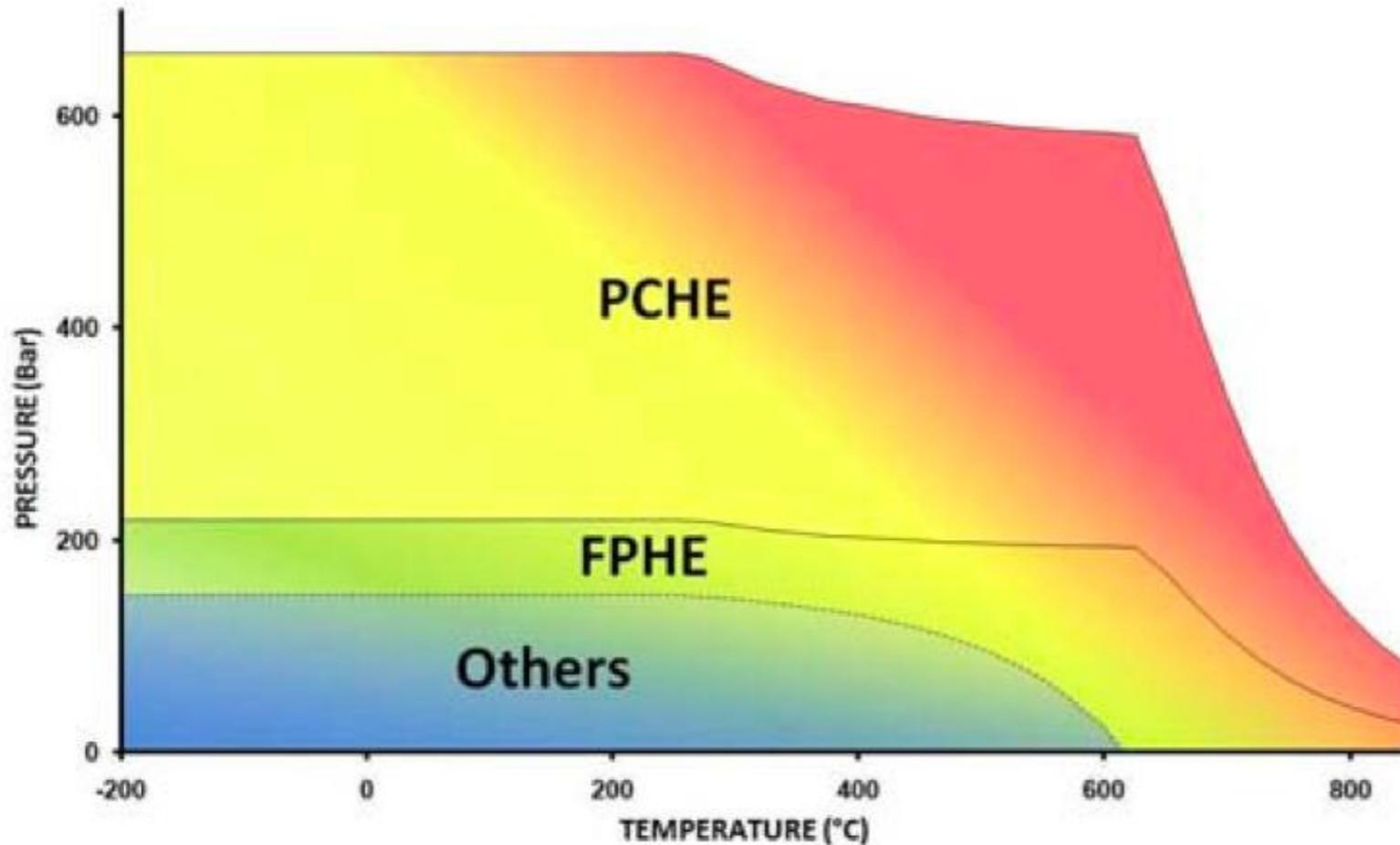
System Pressure and Temperature Drops

System component	Pressure drop [kPa]	Temperature change [° C]	
PCHE1	Hot side	8.043	-316
	Cold side	23.749	+405.47
PCHE2	Hot side	9.812	-388
	Cold side	13.874	+518.67
Heat storage	1000	-1.5	
Piping (30m)	2.047	-0.041	



Heat Exchangers

$$T_{\text{high}} = 630^{\circ} \text{ C}$$
$$P_{\text{high}} = 20 \text{ MPa}$$



PCHEs chosen for their:

- High operating temperatures
- Small volumes
- High effectiveness

Fig. 1 (pg. 218) from D. Southall and S. J. Dewson, "Innovative Compact Heat Exchangers." Published in ICAPP 2010, San Diego, CA, June 13-17, 2010. © American Nuclear Society and the authors. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/fairuse>.



Working Fluid: Helium

Fluid at 5MPa [200° C, 700° C]	Heat Capacity [J/kg-K]	Viscosity [Pa-s]
Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	1079.5, 1237.8	2.337 10 ⁻⁵ , 4.064 10 ⁻⁵
Water/Steam (H ₂ O)	4476.1, 2351.5	1.35 10 ⁻⁴ , 3.678 10 ⁻⁵
Helium (He)	5188.9, 5190.6	2.74 10 ⁻⁵ , 4.533 10 ⁻⁵

***data from webbook.nist.gov



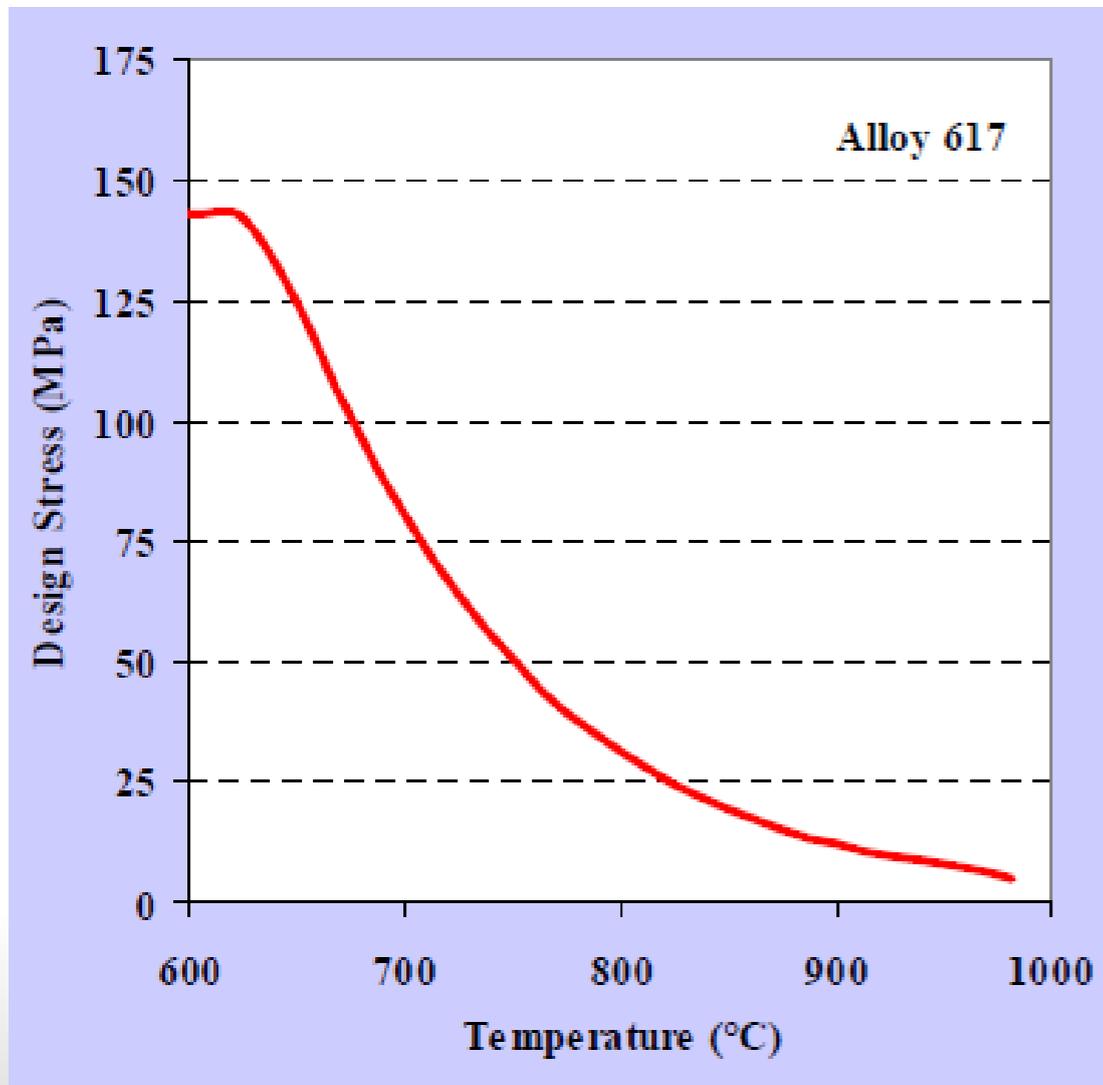
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PCHE Material: Alloy 617

Reasons for choosing Alloy 617:

- Tensile strength
- Thermal conductivity
- Thermal expansion
- Corrosion resistance
- Ease of manufacturing
- Design life of up to 60 years

PCHEs will operate well below design stresses at all points in system



Source: Li, Xiqing., et al. "Alloy 617 for the High Temperature Diffusion-Bonded Compact Heat Exchangers." Published in ICAPP 2008, Anaheim, CA, June 8-12, 2008. © American Nuclear Society and the authors. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/fairuse>.



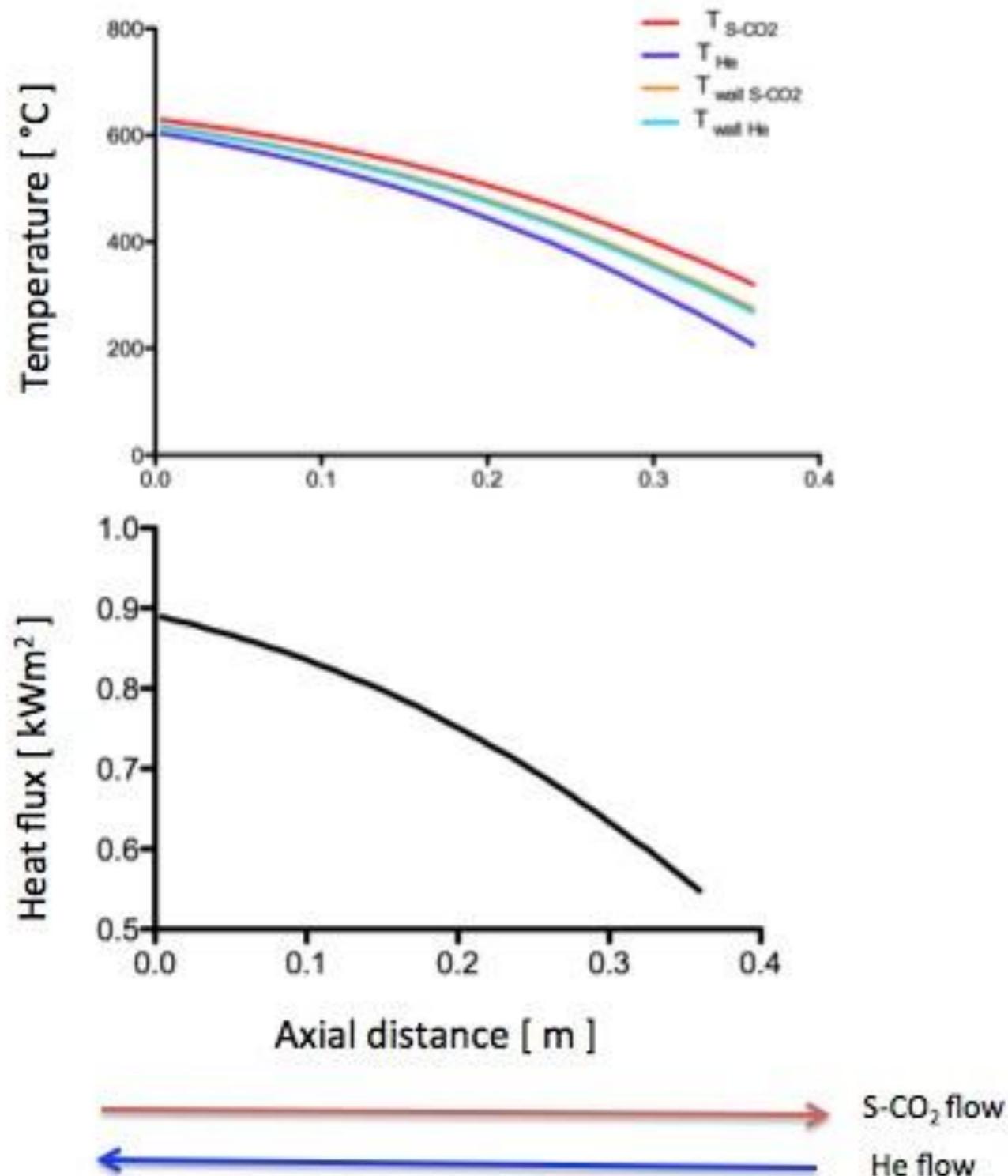
Process Heat PCHEs

Parameter	PCHE1	PCHE2
Heat rate/unit	35 MW	26 MW
Number of units	9	12
Total heat rate	315 MW	312 MW
Hot fluid	S-CO ₂	He
Cold fluid	He	H ₂ O
Channel configuration	zigzag	straight
location	S-CO ₂ loop	Hydrogen plant
Total htc	1087.71 W/m ² K	735 W/m ² K
Volume	8.25 m ³	15.6 m ³

*HEATRIC's quote for steel \$/kg cost used



PCHE1: Temperature and Heat Flux Profiles

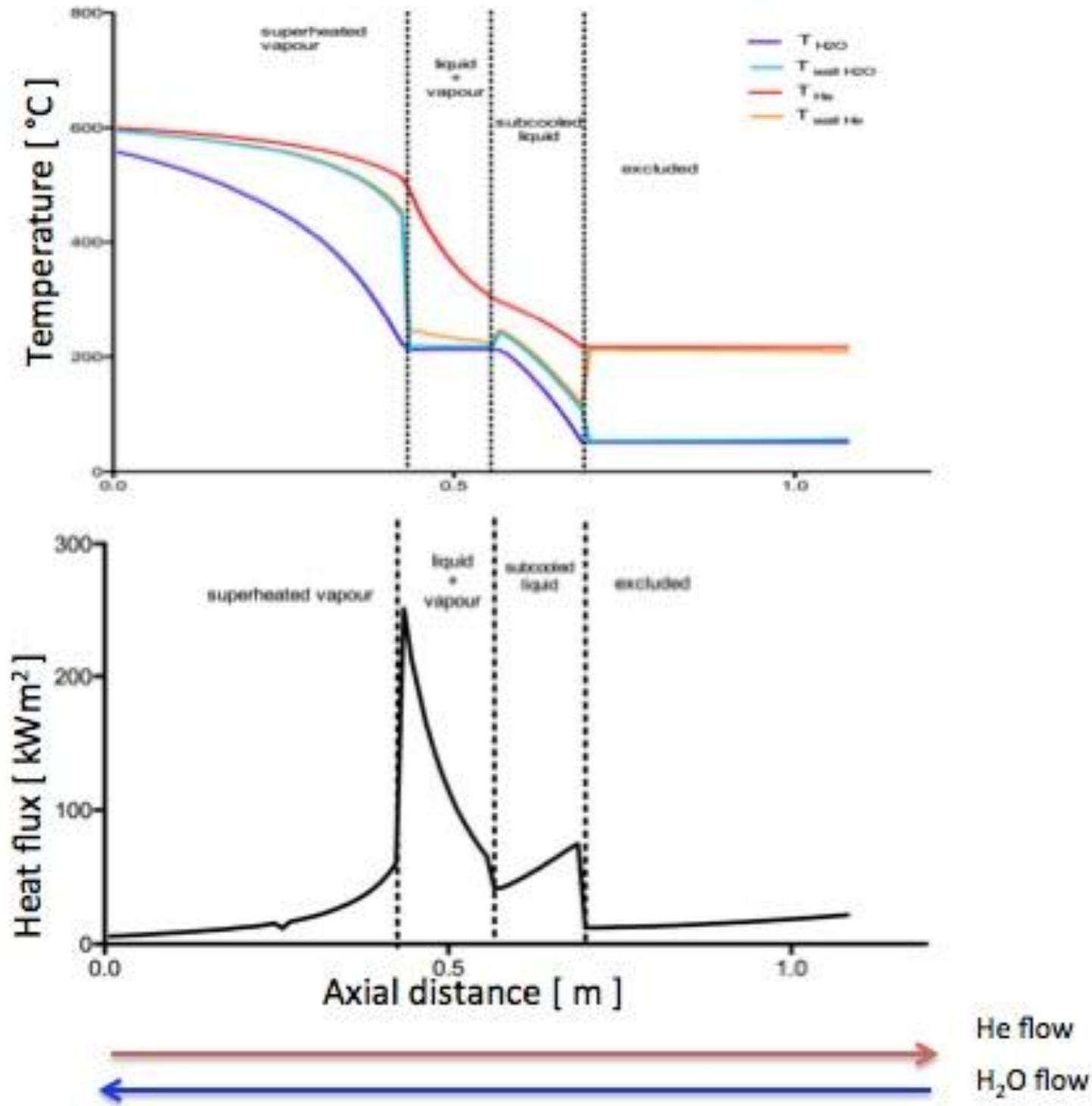


- Zigzag flow channels
- Counterflow
- Single-phase forced convection
- No swings in temperature or heat flux
- S-CO₂: turbulent
- He: laminar



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PCHE1: Temperature and Heat Flux Profiles



- Straight channels
- Counterflow
- Two-phase flow
- Unphysical behavior to the left of $x=0.68\text{m}$
- Exclude this region
- Both fluids laminar
- Large swings in temperature and heat flux!
- Design as three separate HXs?



Fouling and Design Life

Fouling affects heat rate and pressure drops

PCHE operation up to 500 – 660 hours:

- no change in effectiveness
- 55% increase in pressure drop!

18 month fuel cycle = ~12,960 hours

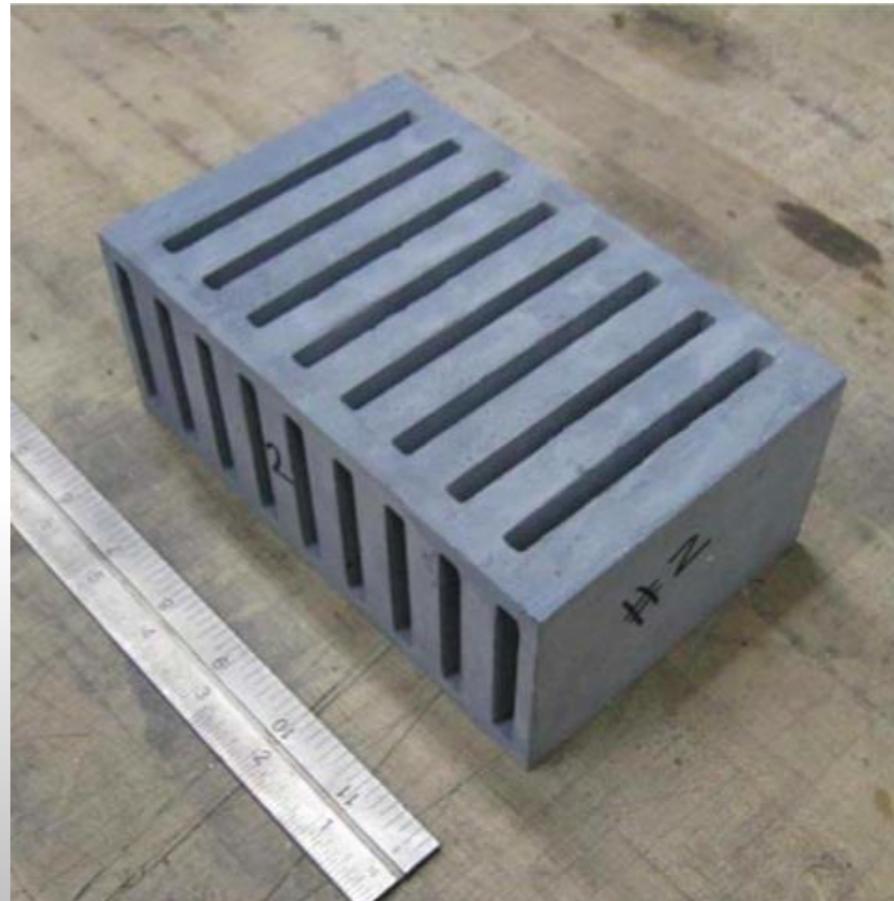
Solutions:

- Installation of redundant units
- Addition of CI to fluid streams to reduce biofouling



Biofuels Heat Exchanger

- Recover heat from $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2$ and O_2 streams at the Hydrogen plant
- Produce steam at 182°C and 0.1MPa for Biofuels
- Highly oxidative and reductive environment!
- Prospective materials: RBSiC and SiSiC

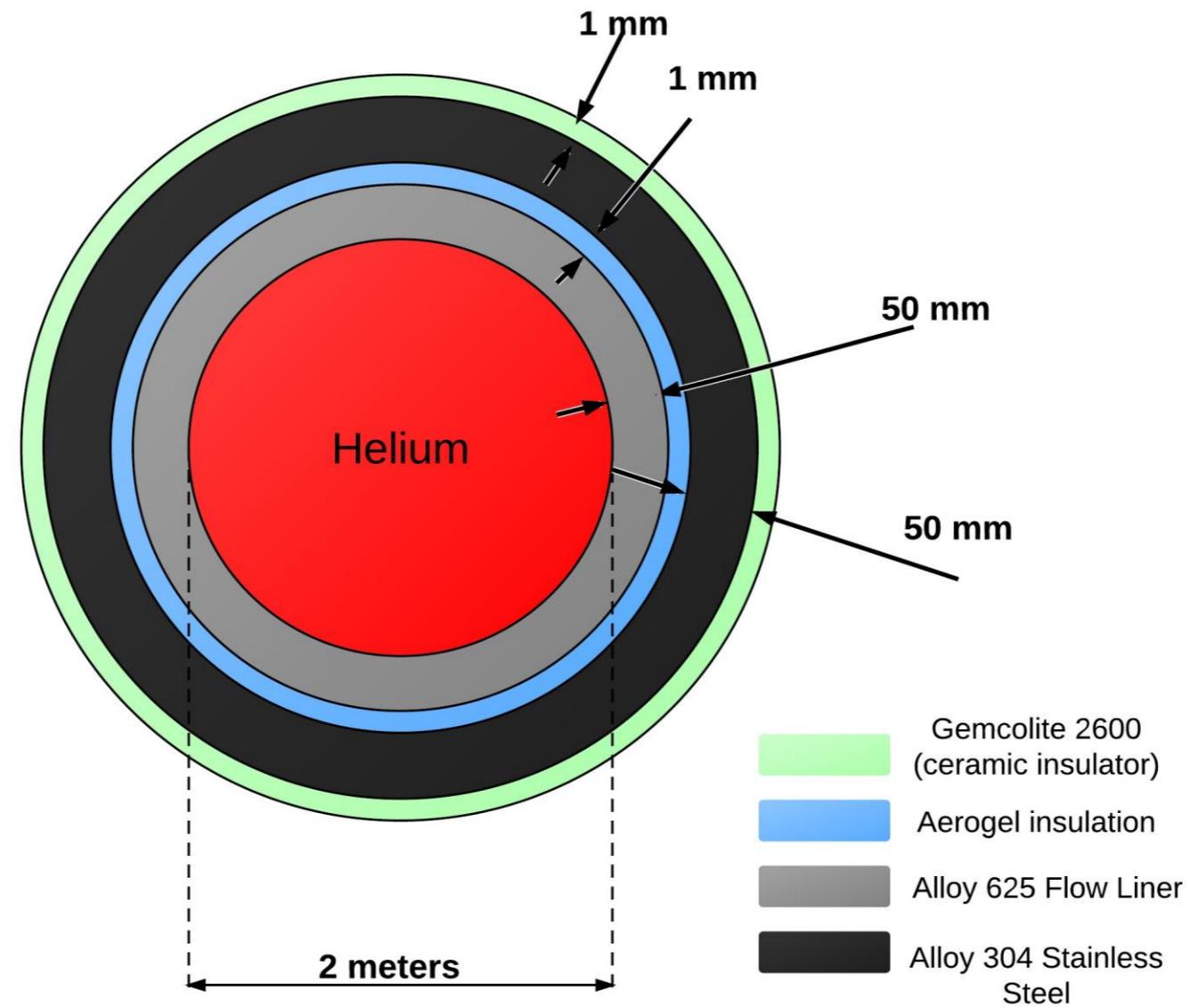


Courtesy of Acumentrics Corporation. Used with permission.

Ceramic monolith for a cross flow HX fabrication



Piping Insulation



Adapted from tests and design in "Conceptual Design for a High Temperature Gas Loop Test Facility." Idaho National Laboratory Report INL/EXT-06-11648, 2006



PCM: Lithium Chloride (LiCl)

Property	Value
Melting Point	605° C
Δh° fusion	470 kJ/kg
c_p (solid)	1.132 kJ/kg-K





Containment Material: Alloy 20

Nickel-Chromium-
Molybdenum alloy

Resistant to chloride
ion corrosion

MP >1380° C

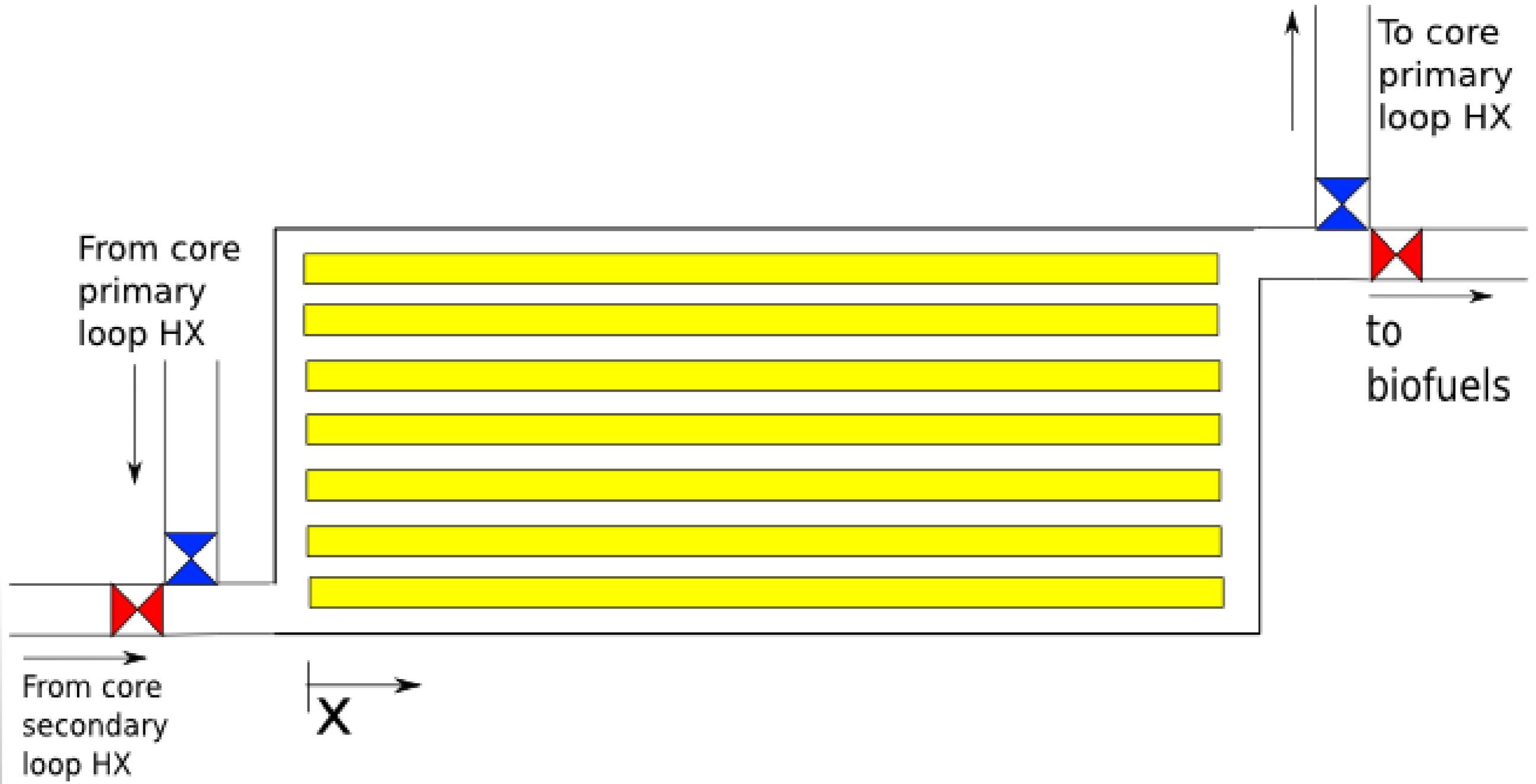
k = 18.15 W/m-K

	Min (%)	Max (%)
Nickel	32.5	35.0
Chromium	19.0	21.0
Molybdenum	2.0	3.0
Manganese	0.0	2.0
Copper	3.0	4.0
Silicon	0.0	1.0
Carbon	0.0	0.06
Sulfur	0.0	0.035
Phosphorus	0.0	0.035
Niobium	1.0	none
Iron	0.0	balance



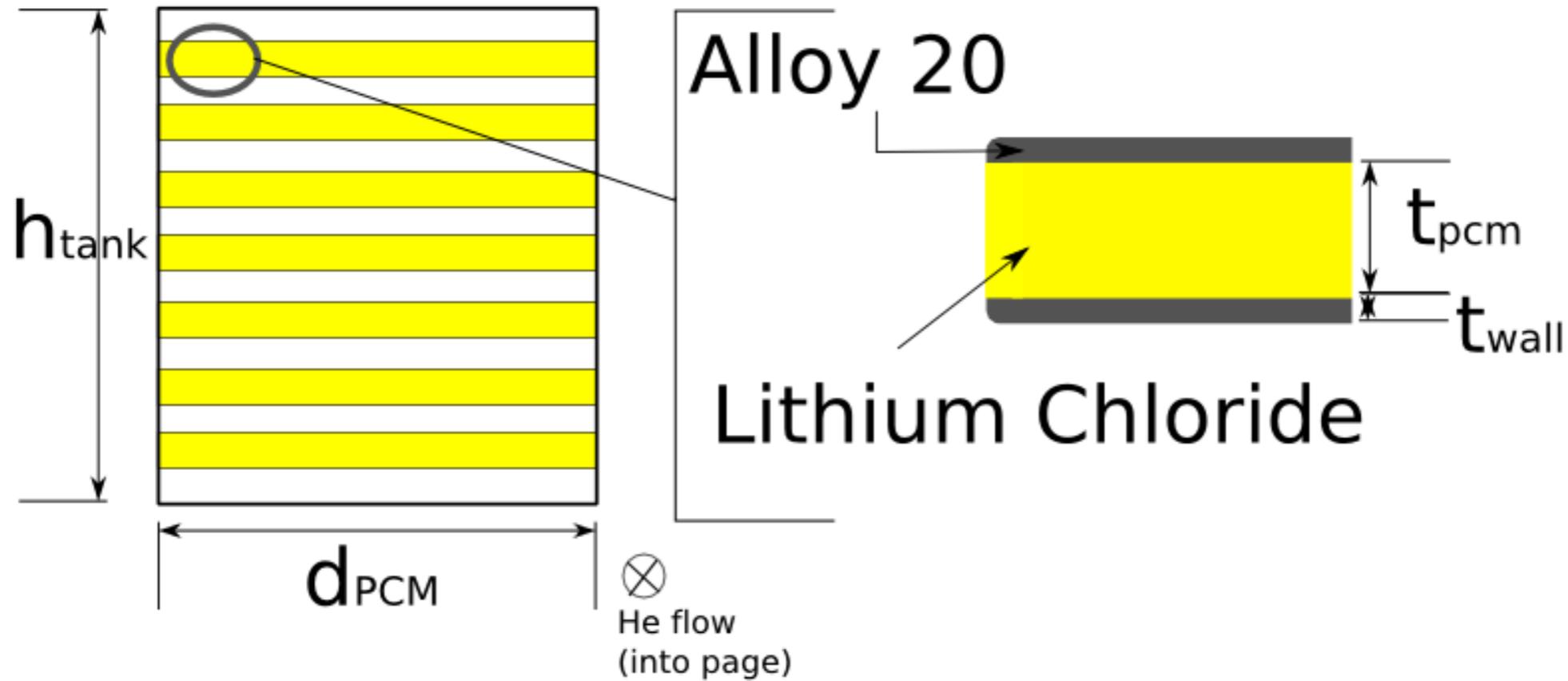
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Storage – Heat Exchanger





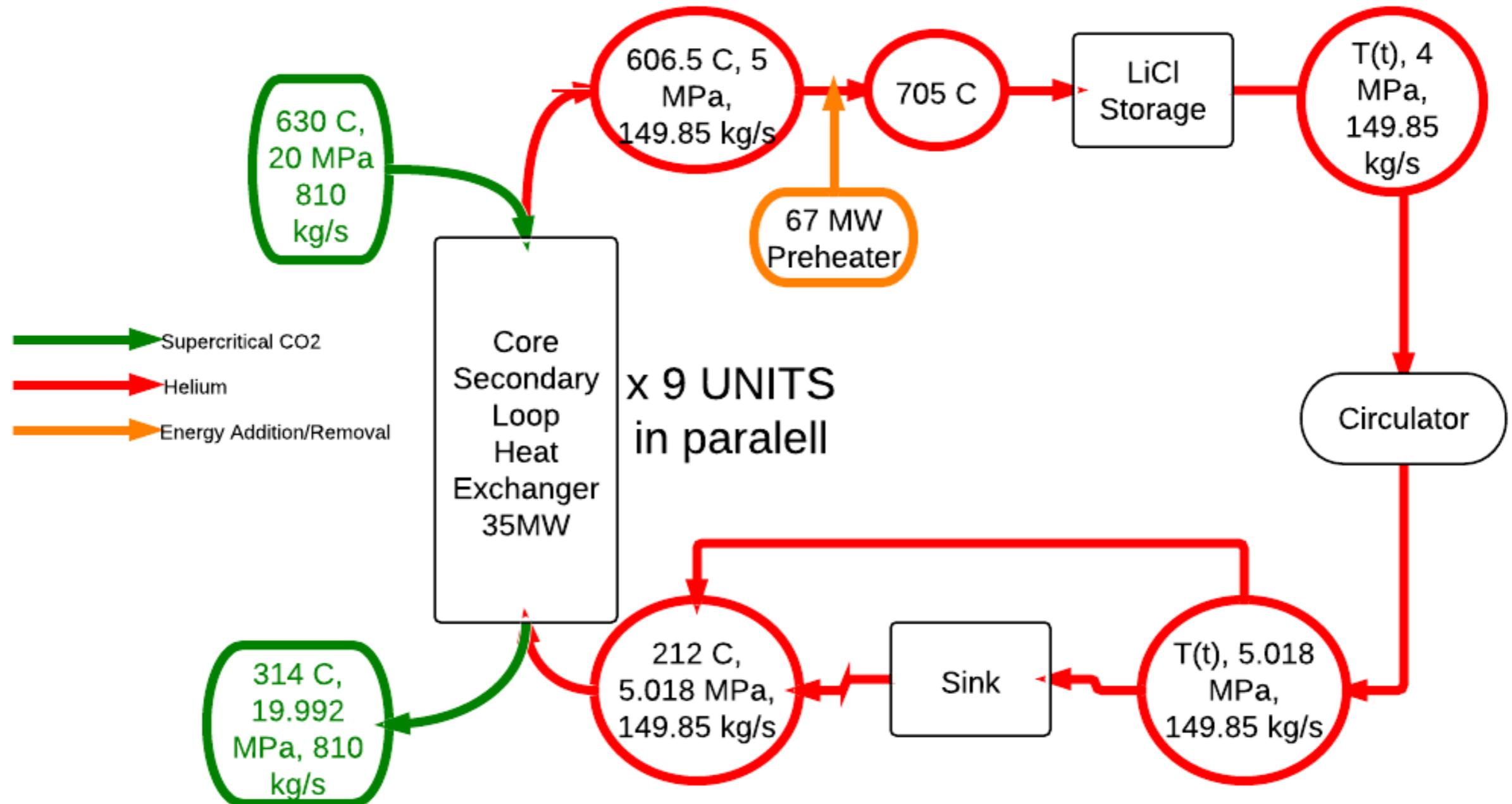
Storage – Heat Exchanger



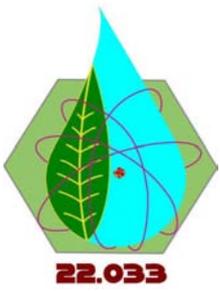
Dimension	Value
h_{tank}	11.41 m
d_{PCM}	18 m
t_{PCM}	1.13 m
t_{wall}	1 cm
Length of tank	20 m
Gap height	1 cm



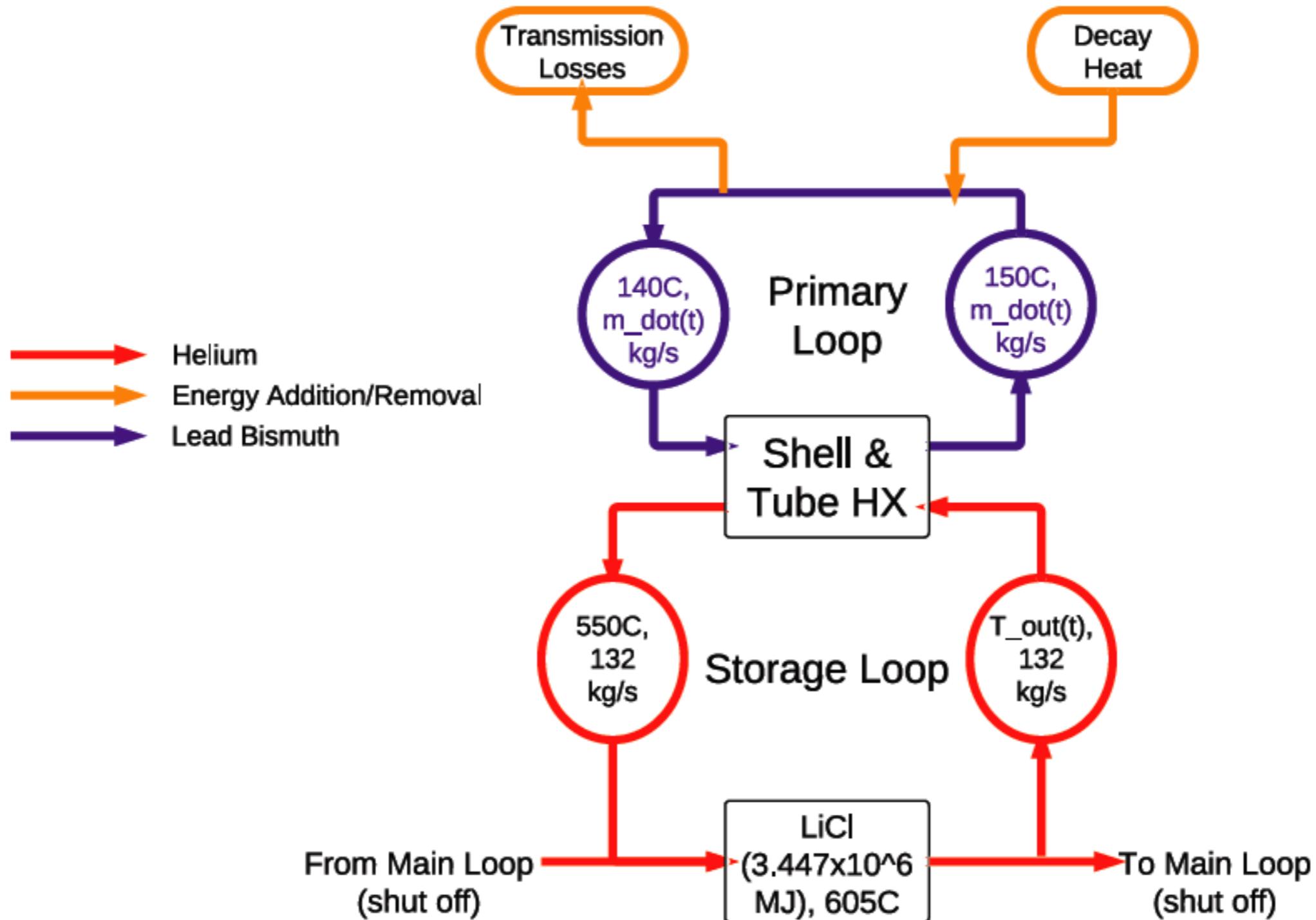
Charging Layout



Charging Time (with 67 MW preheater): 33 days, 12 hours



Discharging Layout





Emergency Scenarios

Storage: LiCl leak

- Reroute He flow around storage and compressor

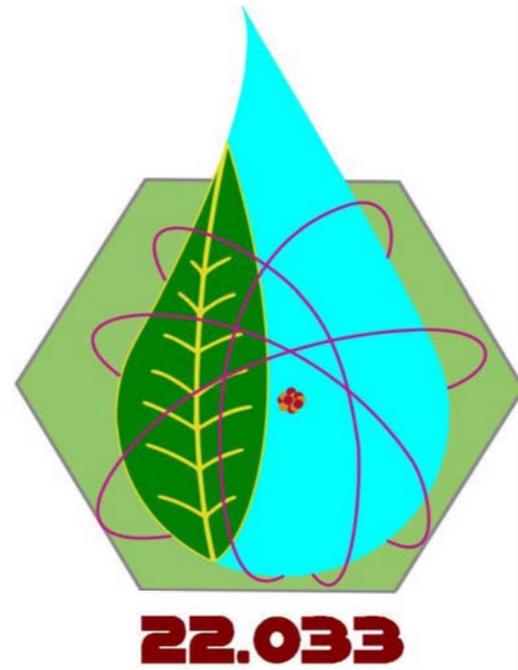
Heat Sink

- Average Decay Heat from core → process heat 1 hr after shutdown: 5MW
- Maximum temperature change of water : 10° C
- Volumetric flow rate of seawater : 455 gallons/second
- Ti plate type HX specifically for marine applications
- Outlet diffusers to reach thermal equilibrium quicker/minimize environmental impact



Future Work: Process Heat

- Compare PCHEs with Shell and Tube designs
- Split PCHE2 into multiple stages
- PCHE fouling factors
- Correction factors for determining CHF values for semi-circular channels
- $\dot{m}_{\text{dot}}(t)$ of LBE
- Ensure that ΔT of 10° C is enough to keep LBE molten even for lowest \dot{m}_{dot}
- Effects of a support system on He flow
- Insulation: steady state and during shutdown



Hydrogen Production Plant



Outline

1. Engineering Objectives

2. Options for Hydrogen Production

3. UT-3

- Plant Diagram

4. HTSE

- Plant Diagram
- Materials

5. Future Work



Engineering Objectives

- Meet biofuel's hydrogen requirement
- Maximize use of process heat
- Minimize electricity use
- Zero greenhouse emissions



Options for Hydrogen Production

Process	Materials	Temp [°C]	Efficiency [%]	Feasibility
ES	Water, Electrolytes, Anode/Cathode	~100	25-45	Drastic scaling required
HTSE	Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell	>500	90-95 (at 800°C)	Only small scale
SI	Ceramics	>850	34-37	Commercially viable, but too high temp
SMR	Ni catalyst	700-800	60	Commercially viable, but polluting
UT-3	Ceramics, chemical reactants	760	>40	Commercially viable

ES: Water Electrolysis

HTSE: High Temperature Steam Electrolysis

SI: Sulfur-Iodine Process

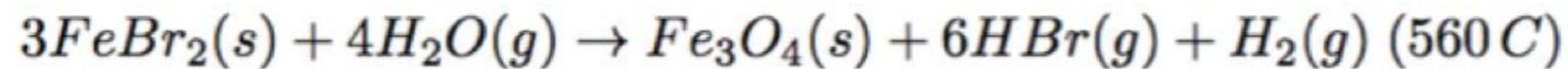
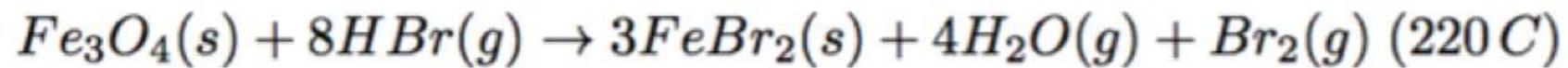
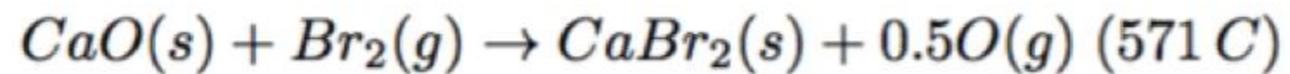
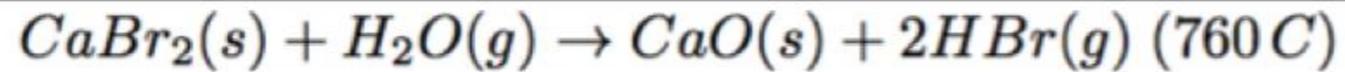
SMR: Steam Methane Reforming

UT-3: University of Tokyo-3

(Ca-Br-Fe Thermochemical Cycle)



UT-3 Hydrogen Production Process¹



- Bromination of calcium oxide, acidity, leads to material concerns.

¹H.Kameyama and K. Yoshida. Br-ca-fe water decomposition cycles for hydrogen production. Proc. 2nd, WHEC., pages 829–850, 1978.



Complications

- Necessary steam temperature could no longer be provided.
- Electric power required larger than reactor output.
- New hydrogen production design required



High Temperature Steam Electrolysis

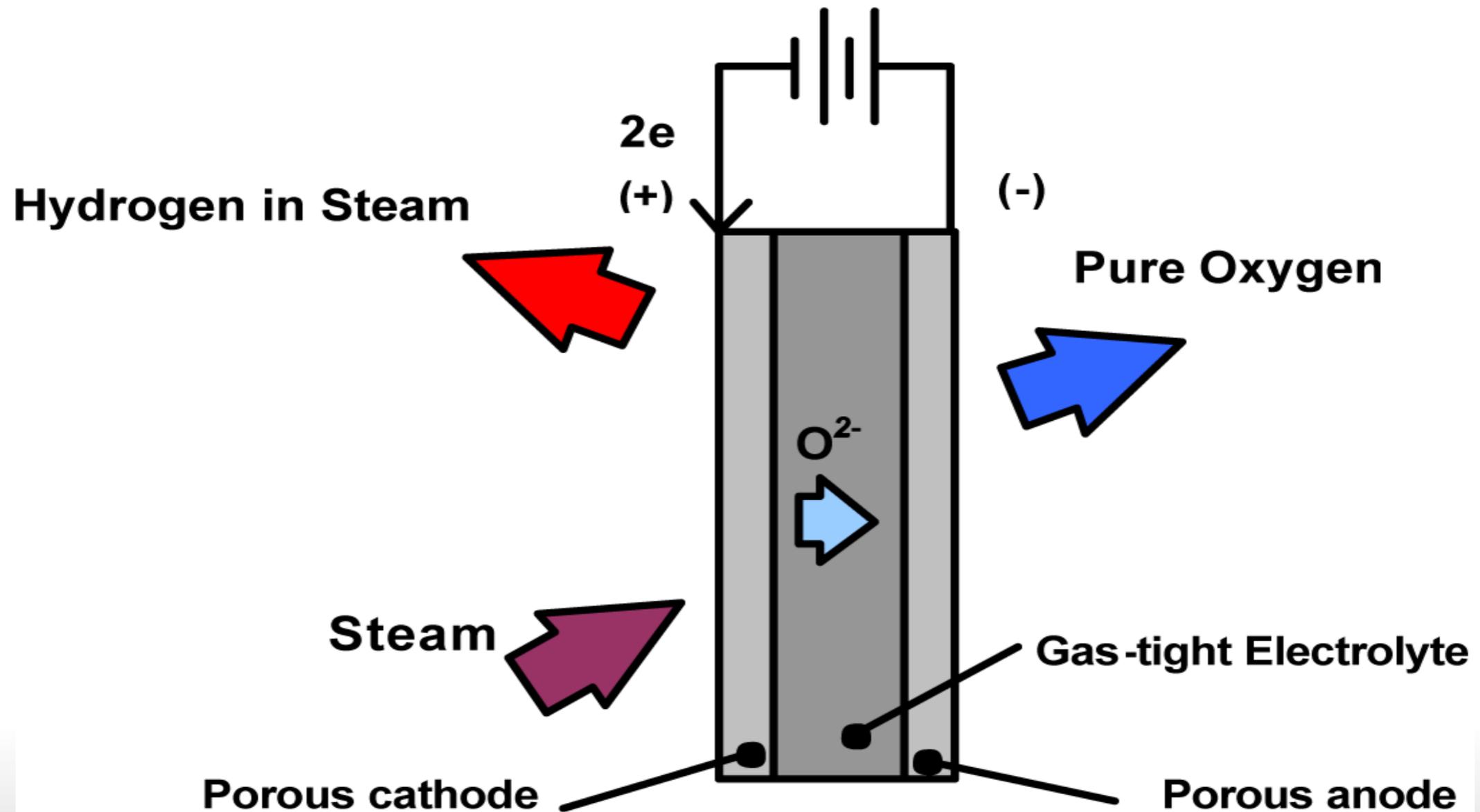
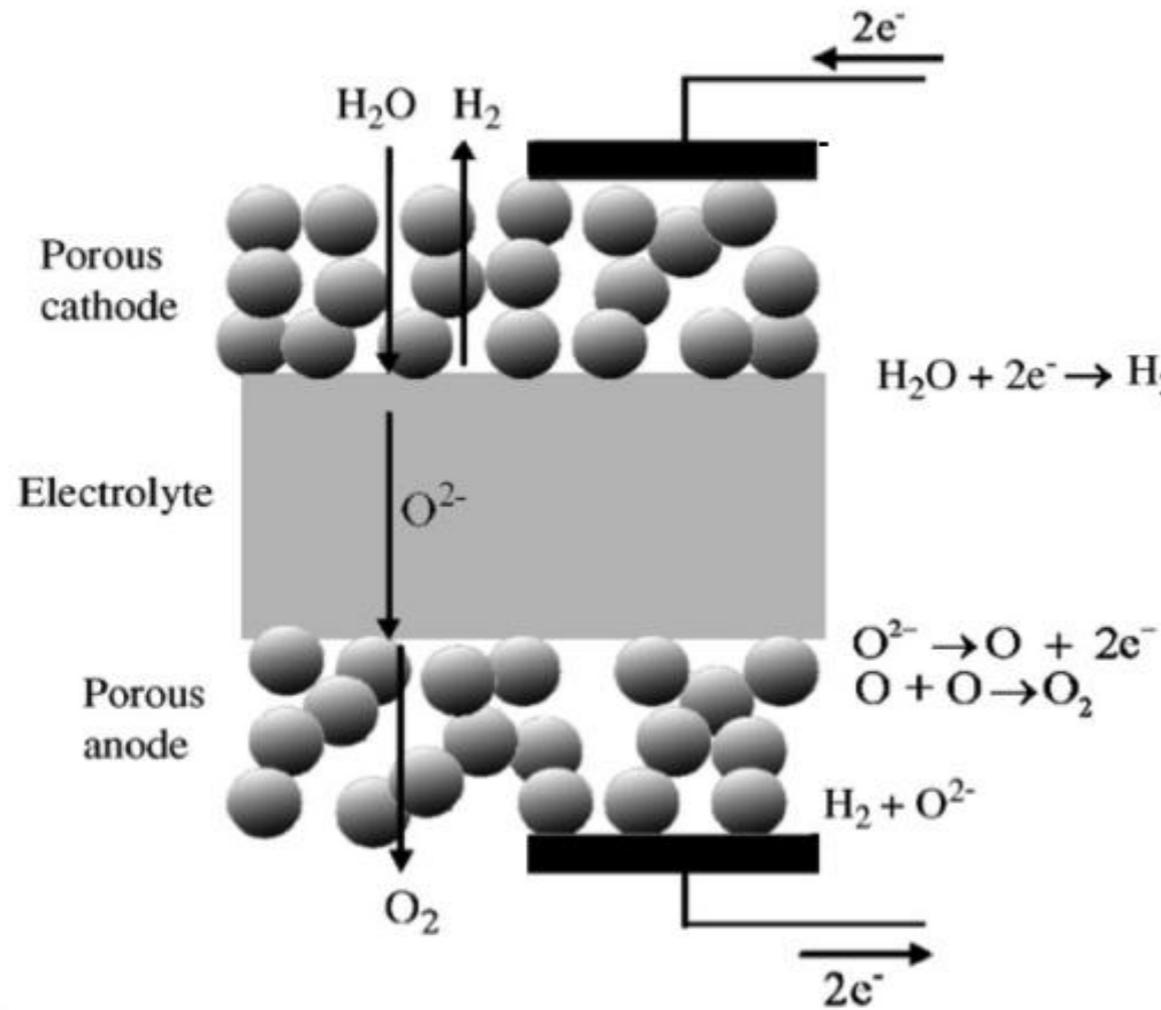


Image from: U.S. DOE fact sheet for high-temperature electrolysis



Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell (SOEC)



Material Requirements

Electrolyte:

- Dense
- Chemically stable
- High ionic conductivity
- Gas-tight (no H-O recombination)
- Thin (minimize Ohmic resistance)

Electrodes:

- Porous, allows gas transportation
- Similar thermal expansion coefficient to electrolyte

Courtesy of Elsevier, Inc., <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. Used with permission.

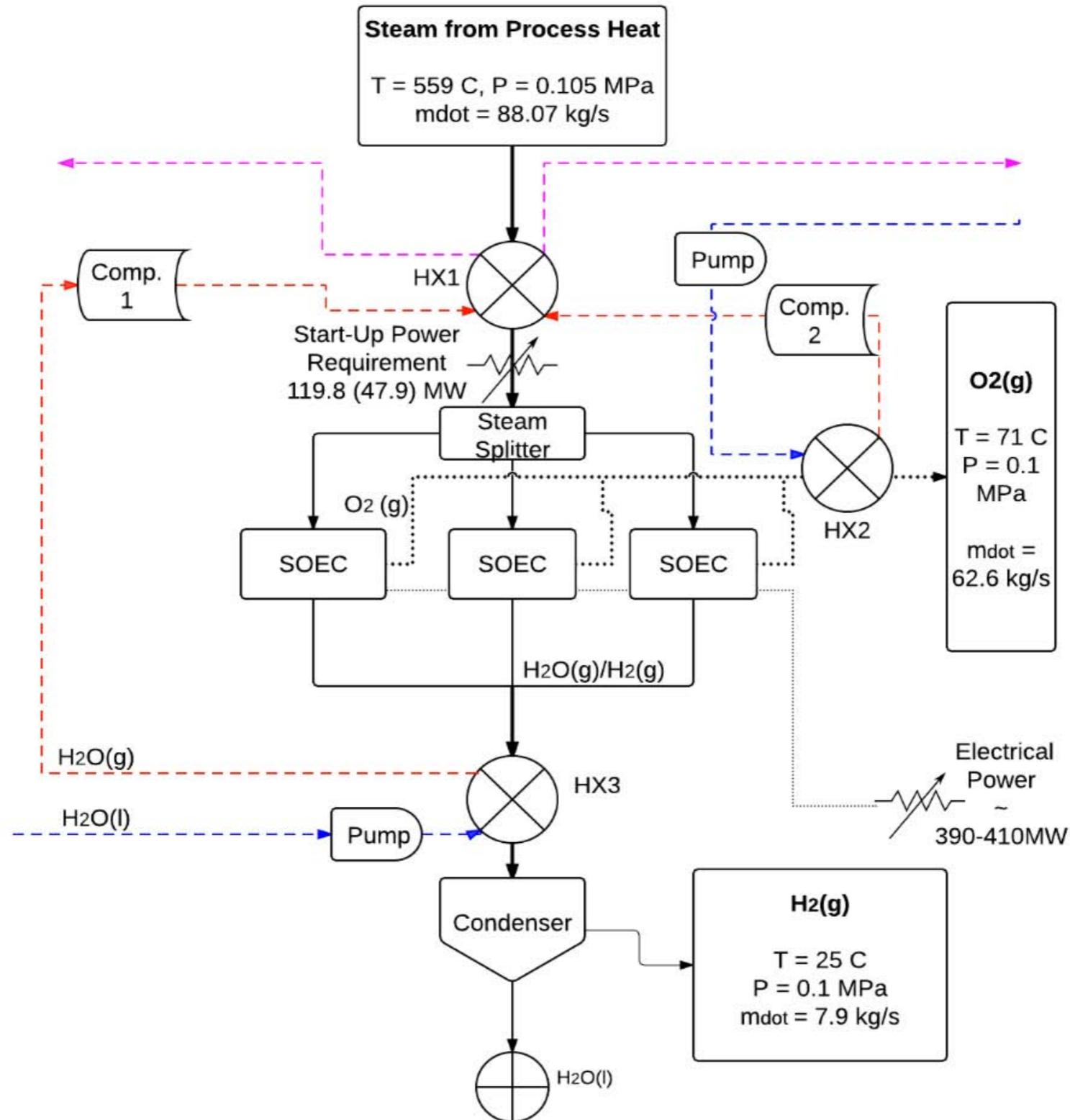


Electrolyte Material

Name	Type	Ionic Conductivity (S/cm)	Optimal Temperature (K)	Comments
YSZ	Stabilized zirconia	0.13	1273	Overall best choice
ScSZ	Stabilized zirconia	0.18	1273	Exorbitant cost
LSGM	Doped LaGaO ₃	0.17	973	Requires reduced operating temperature; problematic reaction between LSGM and Ni
GDC	Ceria-based oxides	0.10	1073	Chemically unstable
SDC	Ceria-based oxide	0.08	1073	Chemically unstable
BaCeO ₃	Proton-conducting electrolyte	0.08	1073	Low conductivity



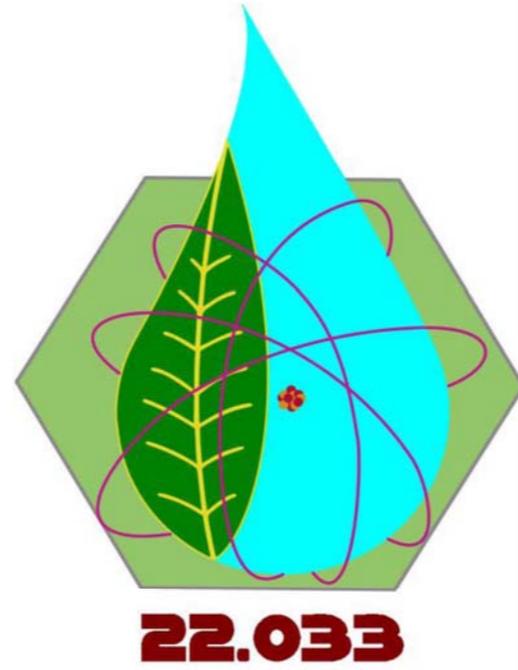
HTSE with Regenerative Heating





Future Work: Hydrogen Plant

- Determine electrical requirement to better accuracy.
- Possibly simulate HTSE plant to address efficiency.



Biofuels Production Plant



Outline

1. Goals
2. Overall Design of Biofuels Plant
3. Switchgrass
4. Gasification
5. Acid Gas Removal
6. Fischer-Tropsch Reactor
7. Distillation and Refining
8. Final Products and Concluding Thoughts

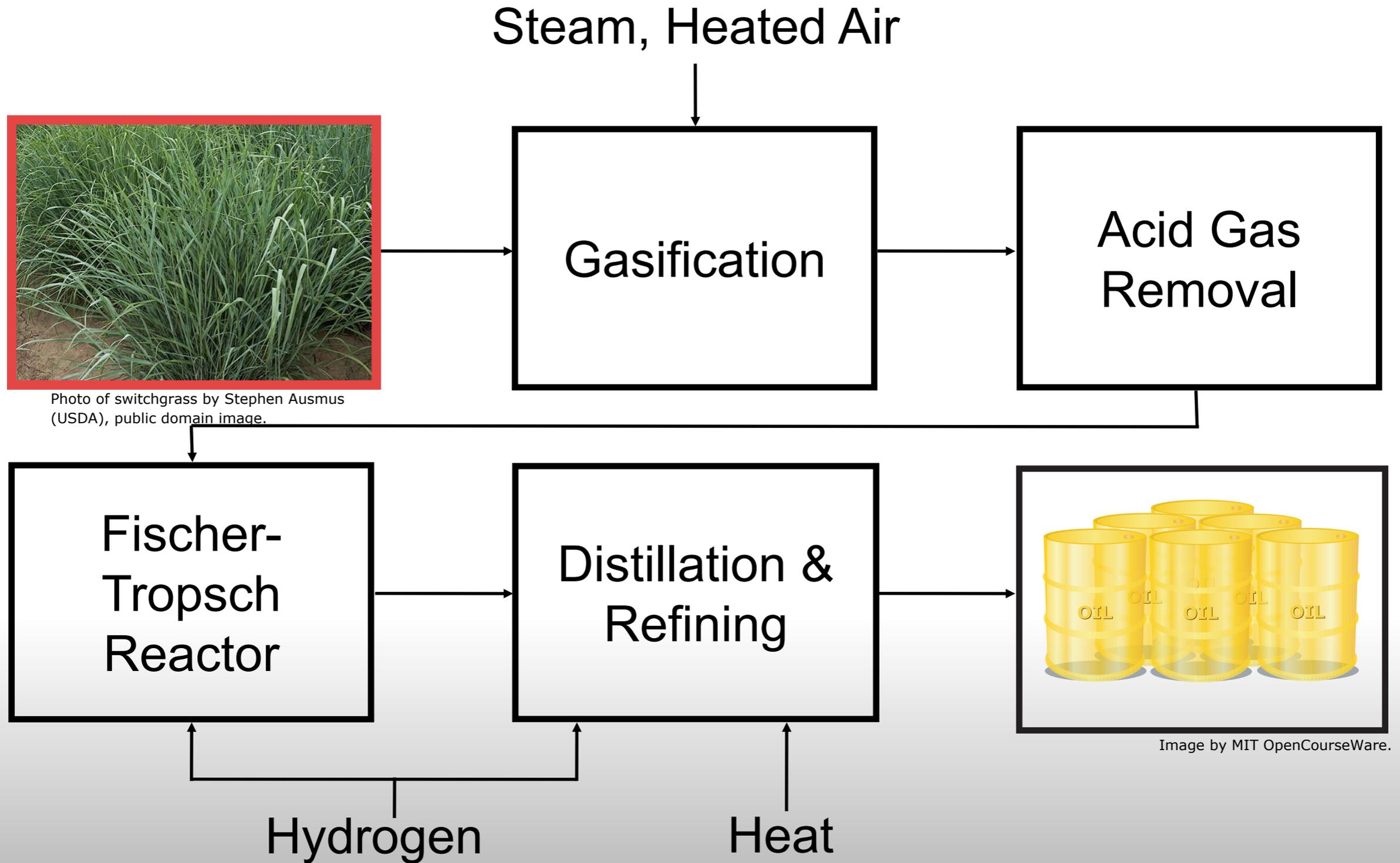


Biofuels Production Plant Goal

- Produce biofuels
- Large scale
- High quality
- Use nuclear power plant
 - Process heat
 - Electricity
- Hydrogen production plant



Biofuels Process Overview





Choice of Biomass

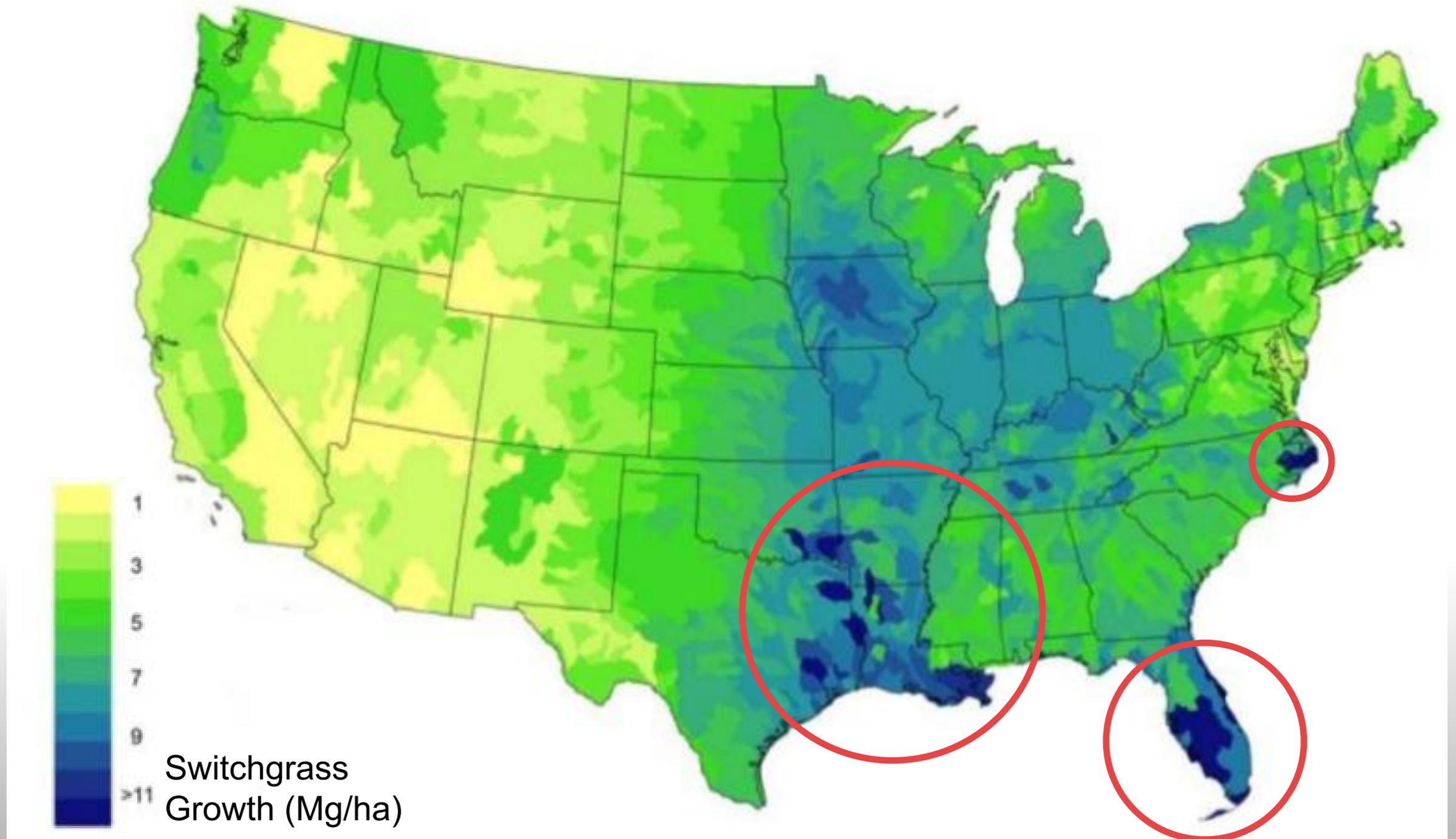
Feedstock Comparison

	Current Cost (\$/ton)	Energy Density (MJ/kg)	Agriculture Yield (tons/acre)	Food Source?
Switchgrass	\$40	17	11.5	no
Sorghum	\$40	17	20	yes
Energy Cane	\$34	13	30	no
Sugar Cane	\$34	13	17	yes
Corn	\$40-50	13.5	3.4	yes
Algae			58700 L/ha	no



Switchgrass

Optimal Growing Locations in U.S.

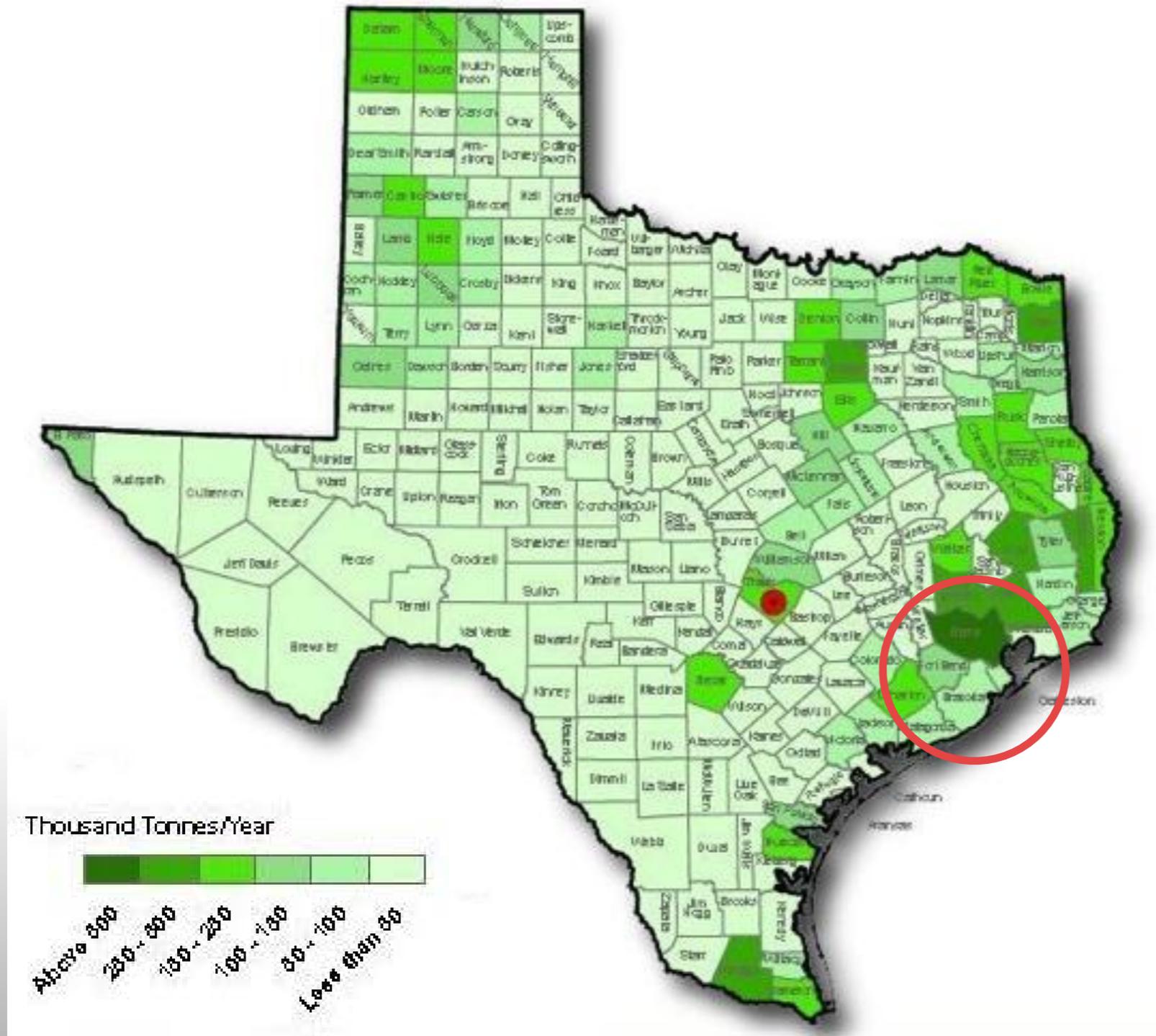


Map courtesy of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy.



Switchgrass

Optimal Growing Location in Texas



Map produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.



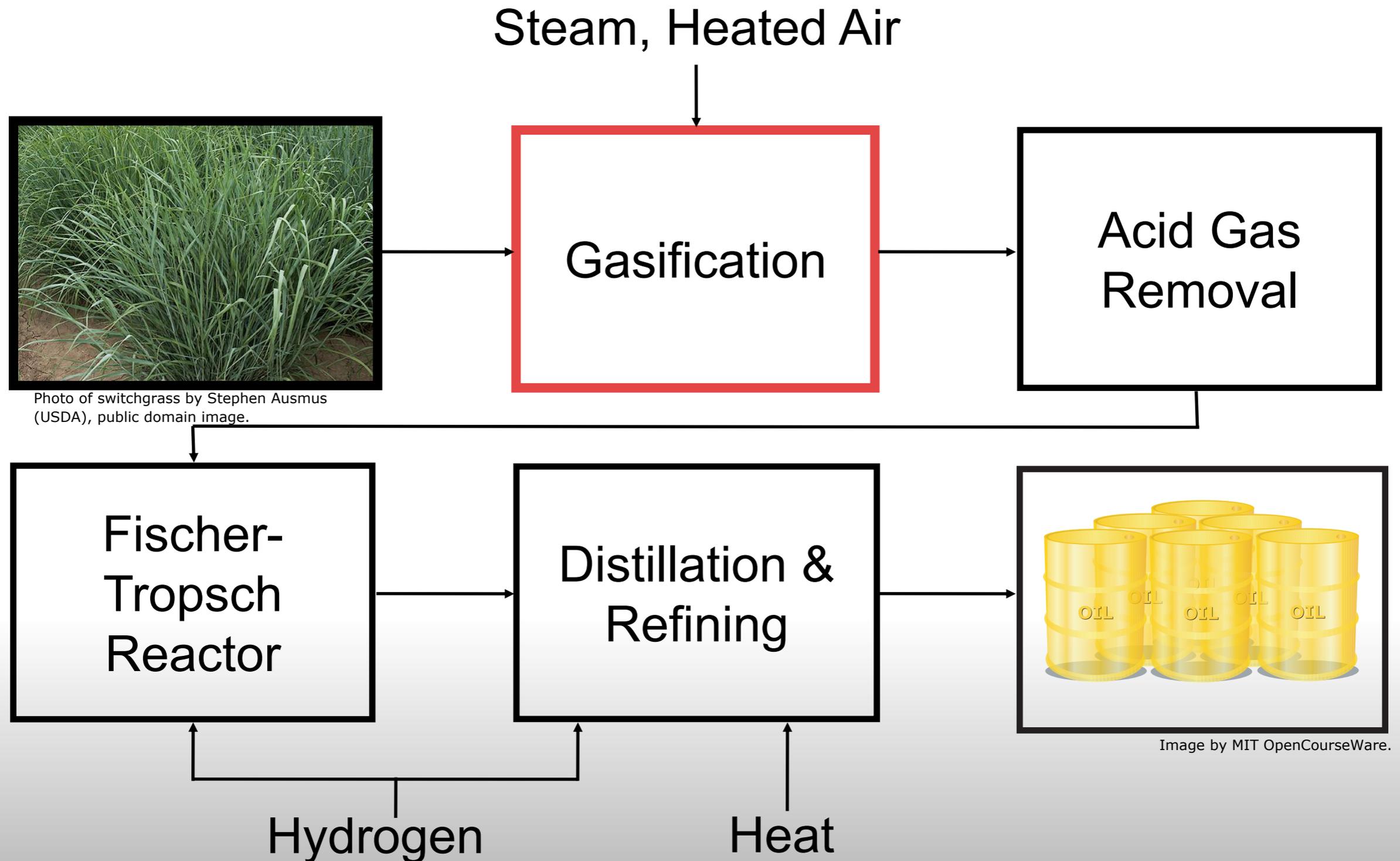
Switchgrass

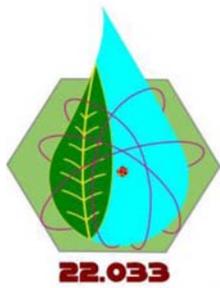
Growth and Transportation

- Outsource to local farmers → job creation
- Quantity: 2903 tons/day →
 - 85 flat bed trucks/day carrying 33.3 tons each
 - 13 closed hopper cars at full capacity
- Pelletize to 1300 kg/m³



Biofuels Process Overview

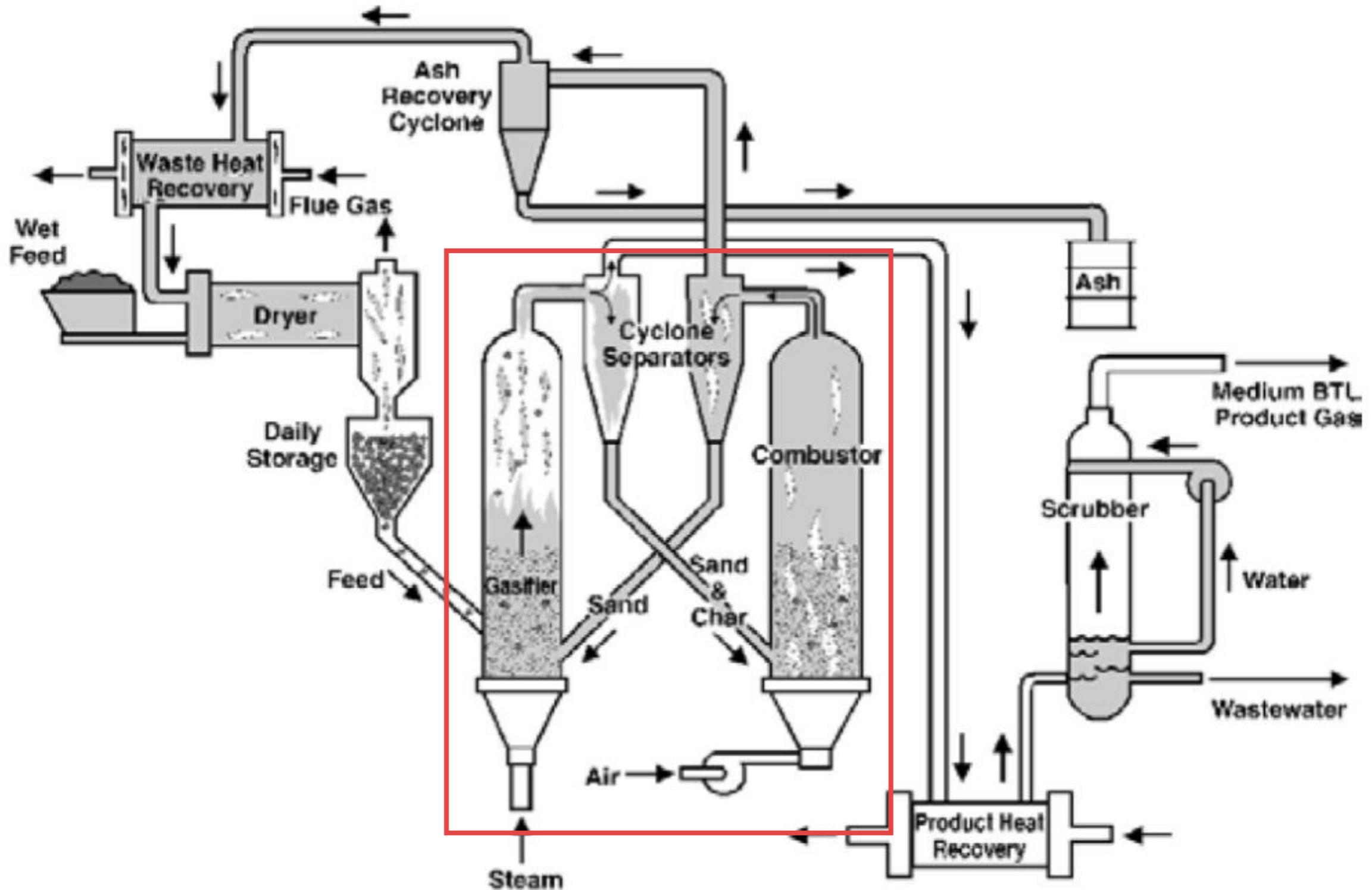




22.033

Gasification

Rentech Silvagas Dual Fluidized Bed Cycle



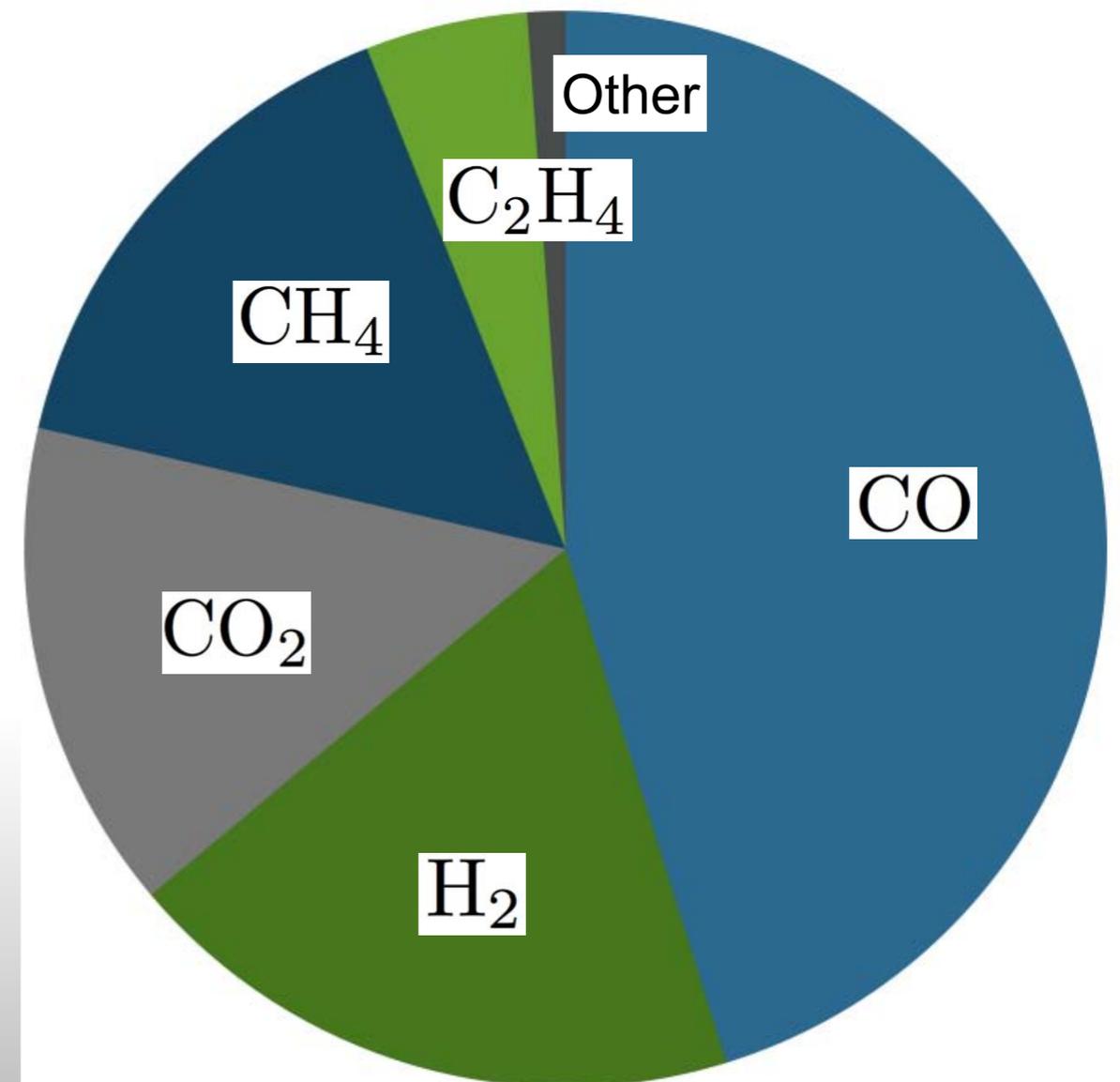


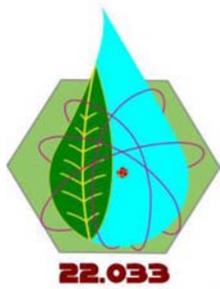
Gasification

Inputs and Outputs

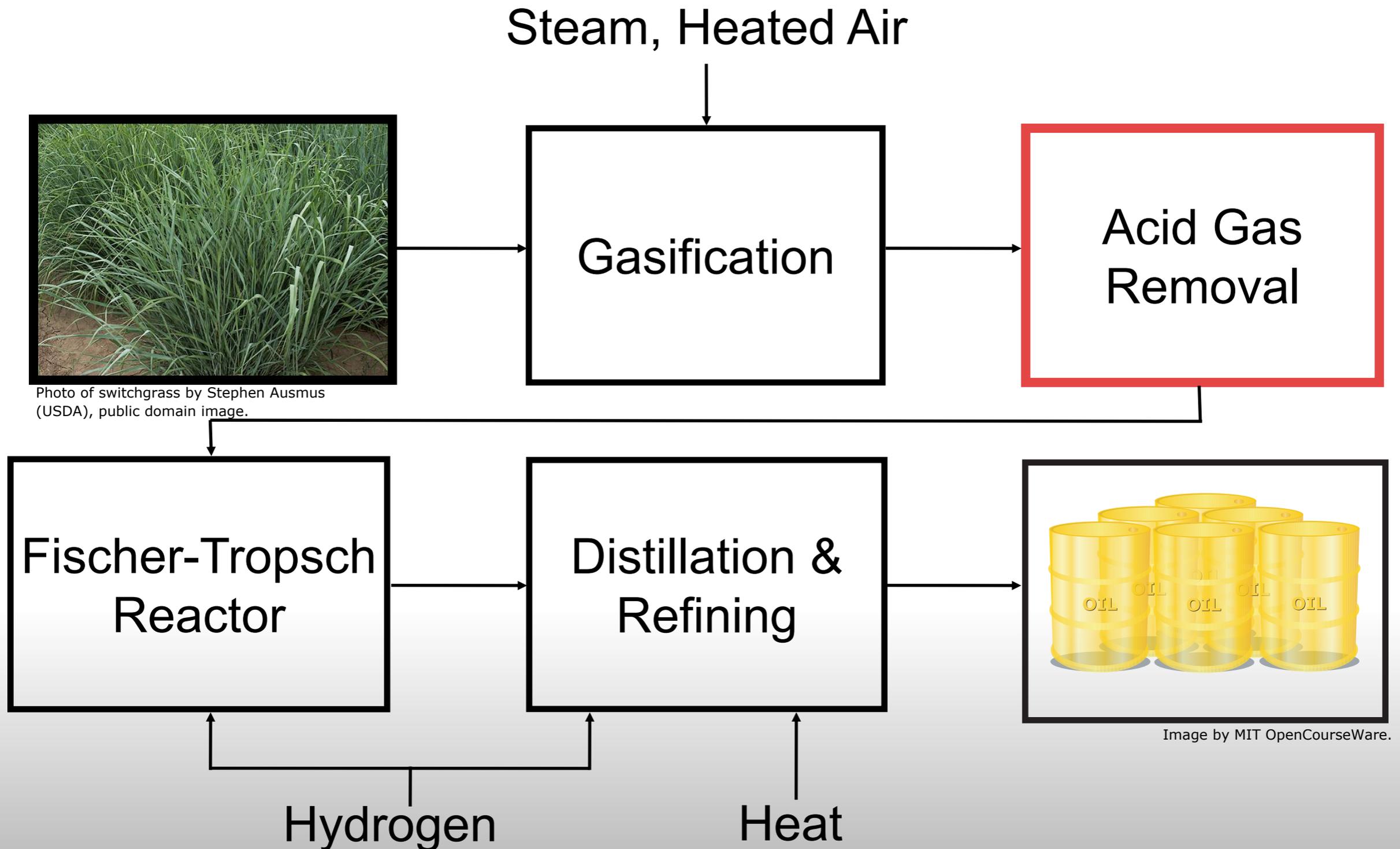
	Mass flow (kg/s)	Temperature (° C)
Biomass In	24.4	25
Steam In	2.6	182
Air In	11.9	354
Syngas Out	19.9	862
Flue Gas Out	19	916

Composition of Syngas (by volume):



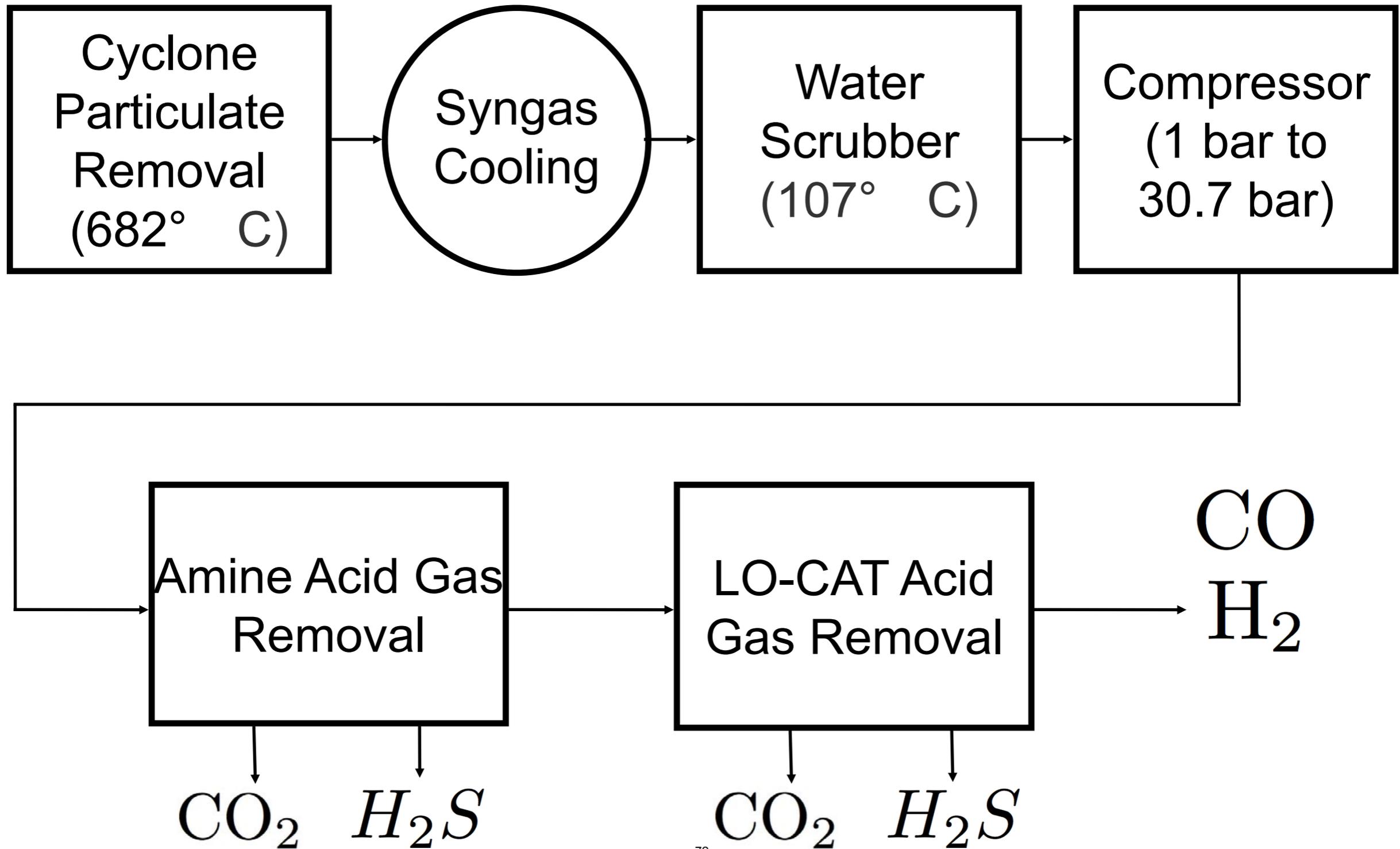


Biofuels Process Overview





Acid Gas Cleanup Process



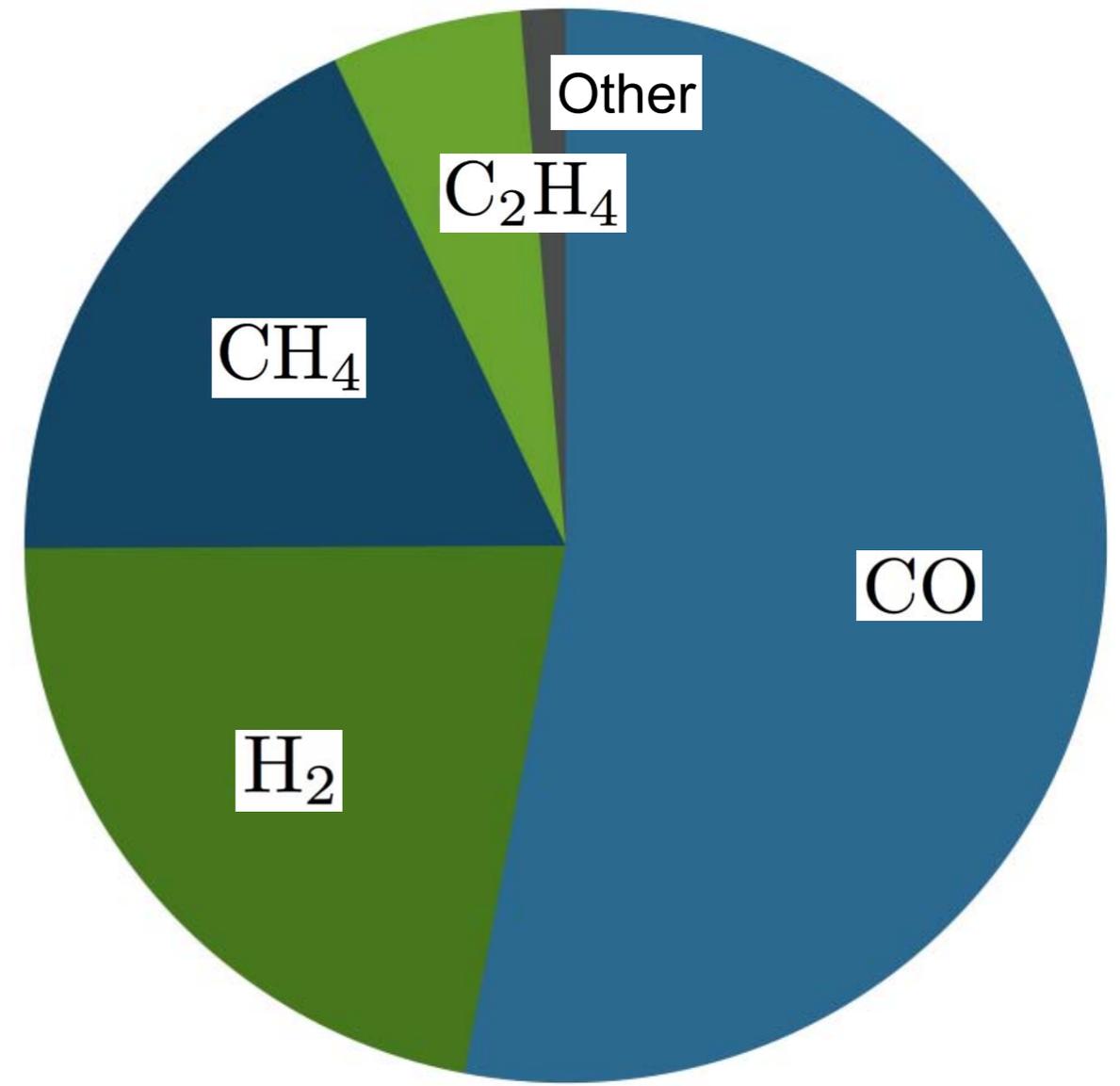
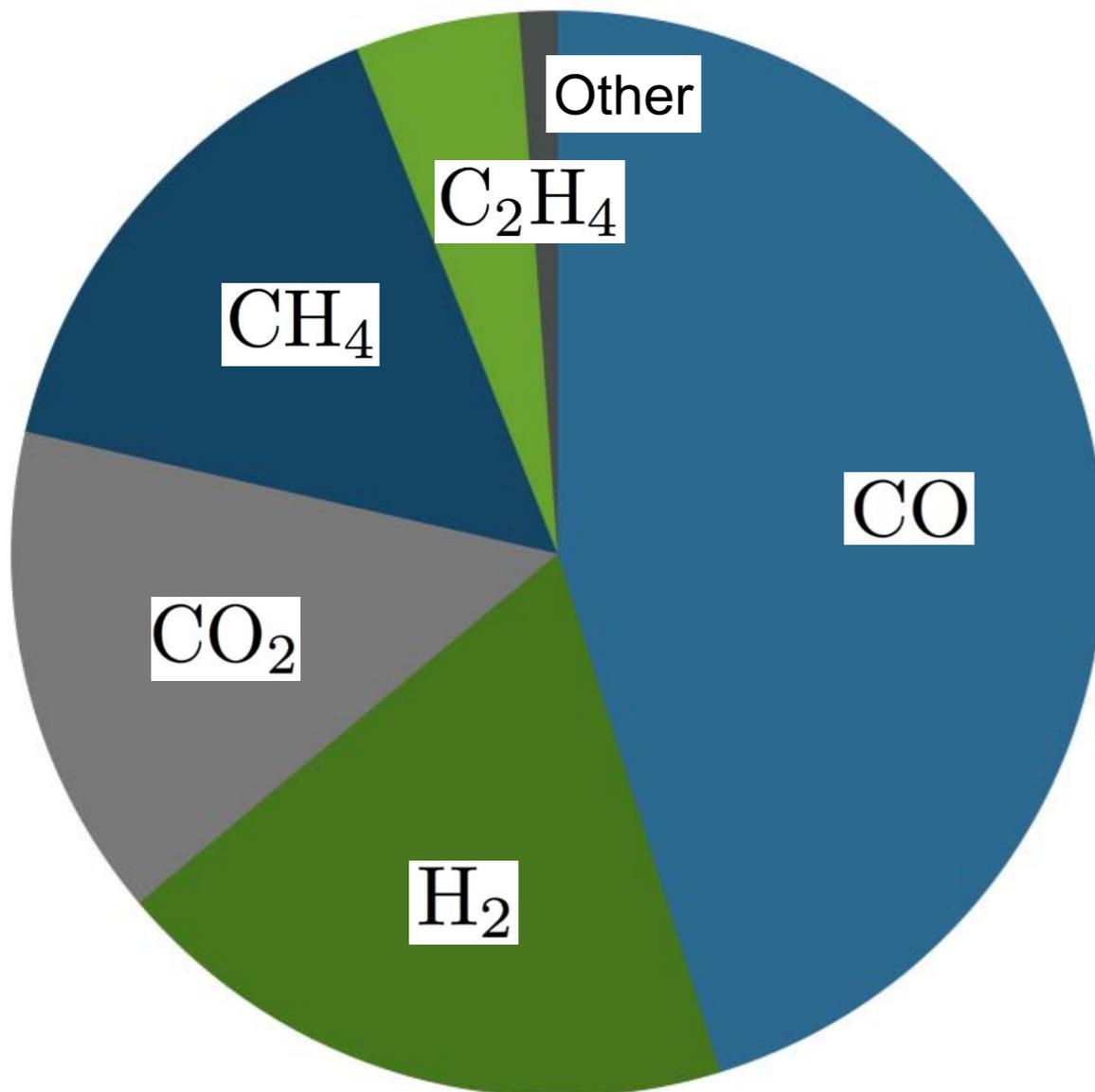


Acid Gas Removal Output

Composition of Input to F-T Reactor

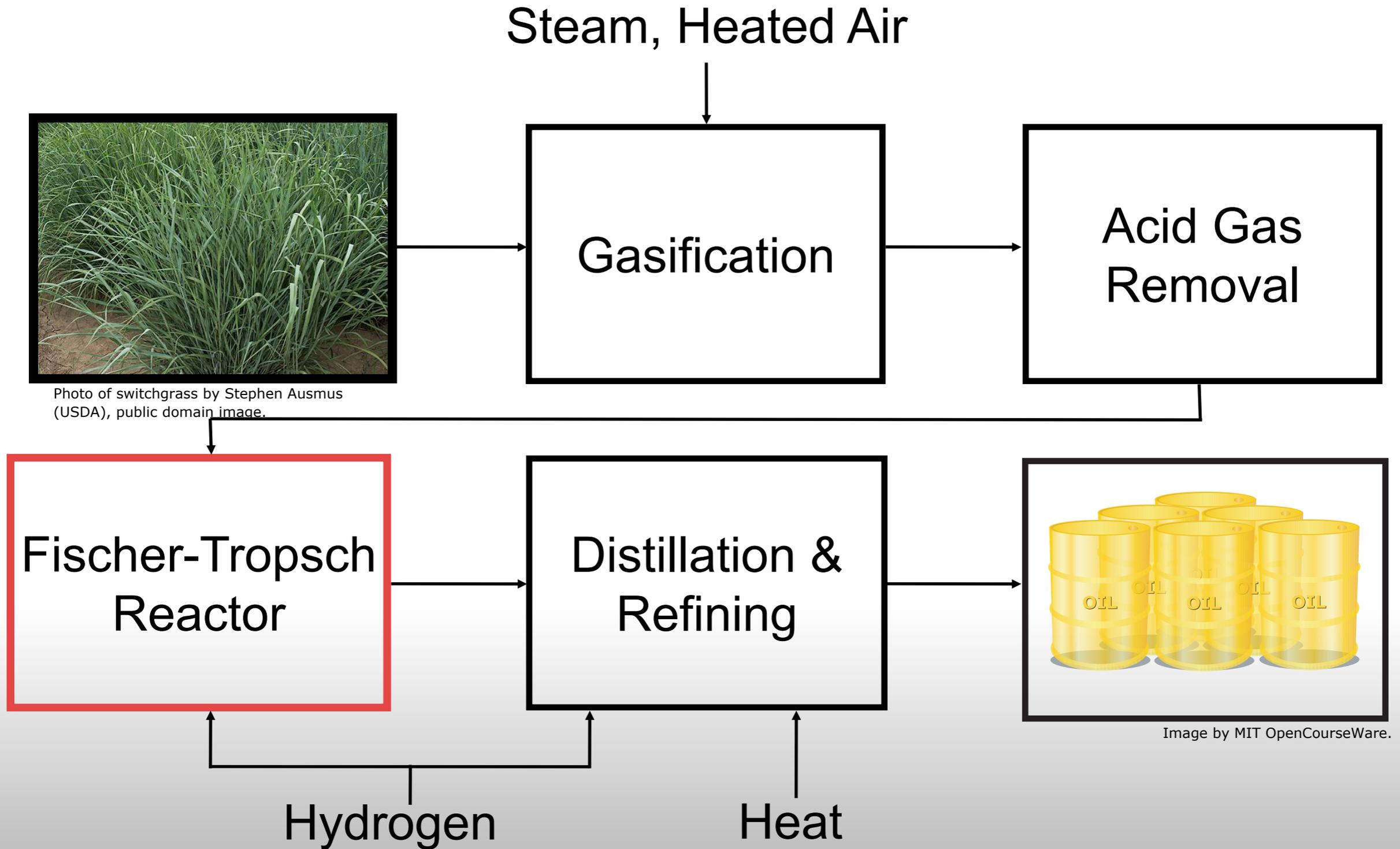
After gasification:
19.9 kg/s

After acid gas removal:
14.6 kg/s





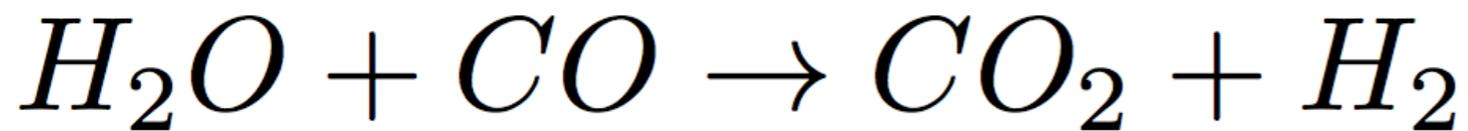
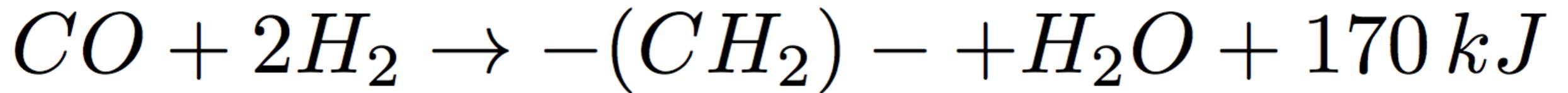
Biofuels Process Overview



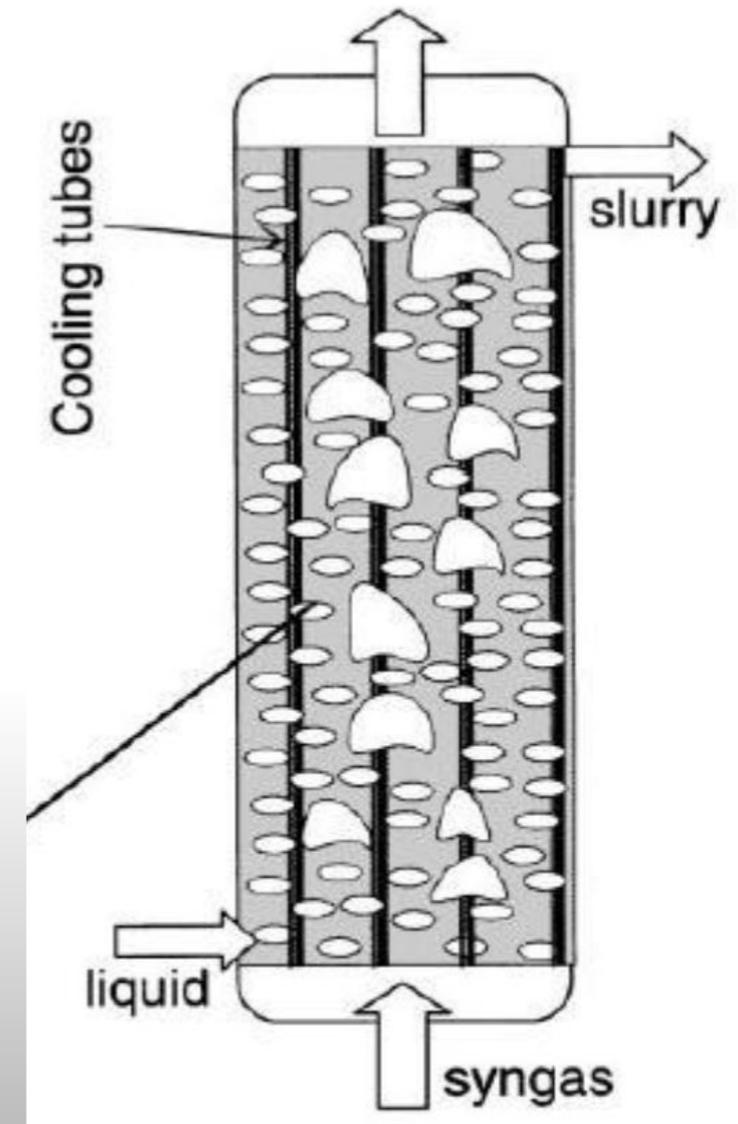


Fischer-Tropsch Reactor

Slurry Phase Bubble Column Design



- Fe catalyst
- Heat generated: 21.8 MW

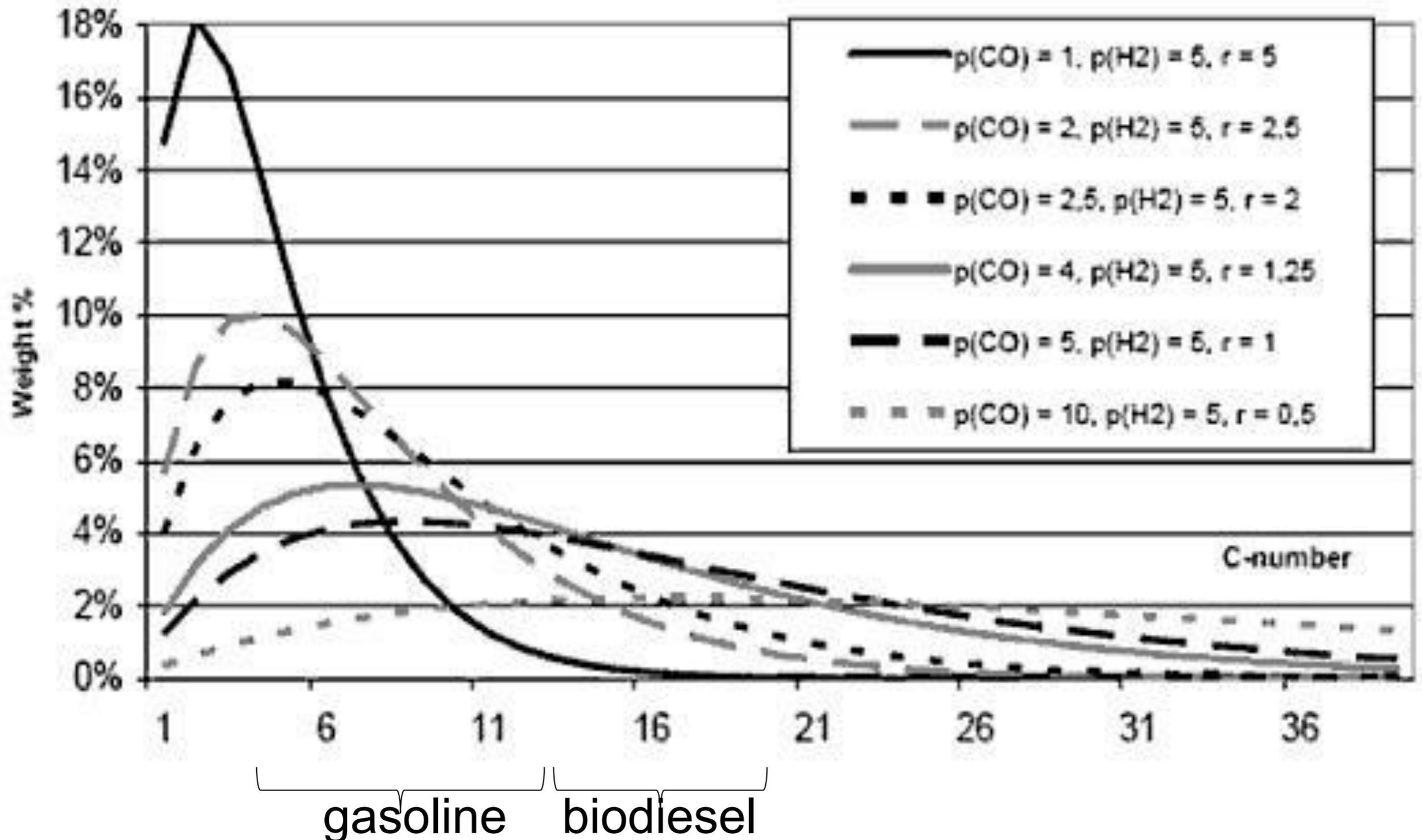


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Fischer-Tropsch Reactor

Product Selectivity





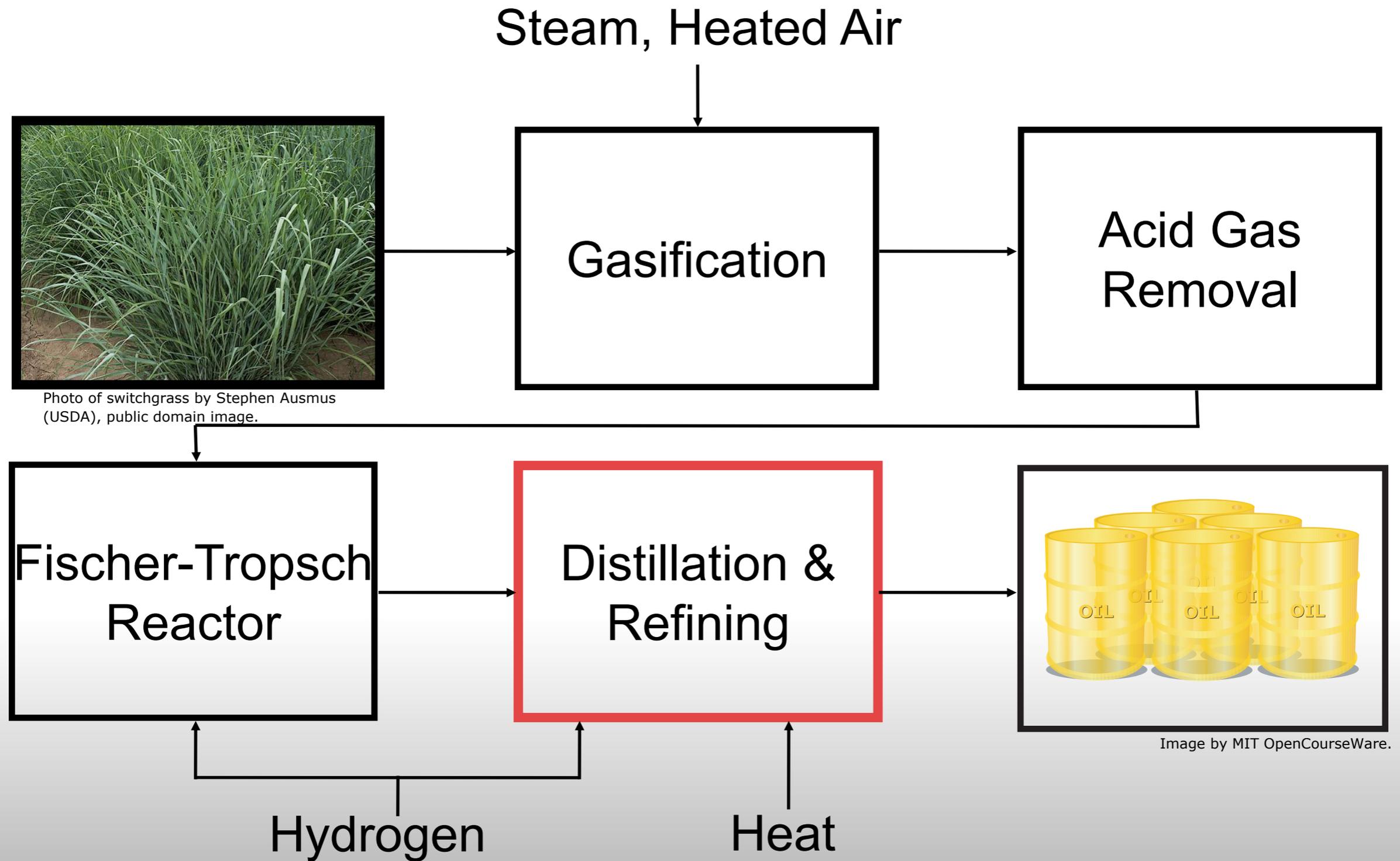
Fischer-Tropsch Reactor

Reactor Outputs

Carbon Content	Product Classification	Mass Flow (kg/s)
$C_1 - C_5$	Light Gas	2.02
$C_5 - C_{12}$	Naphtha (Gasoline)	5.09
$C_{12} - C_{20}$	Distillate (Biodiesel)	2.65
C_{20+}	Heavy wax	1.46

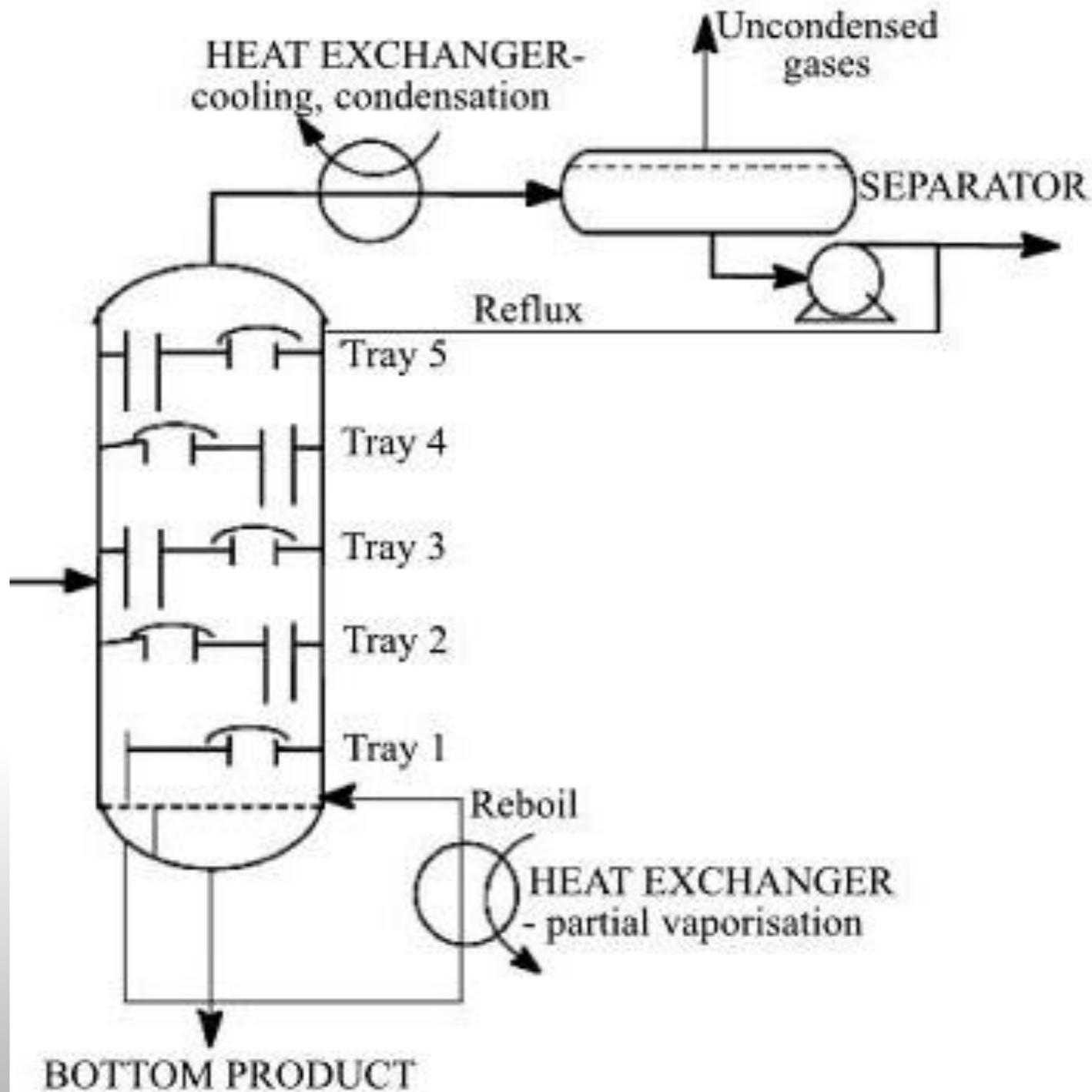


Biofuels Process Overview





Distillation

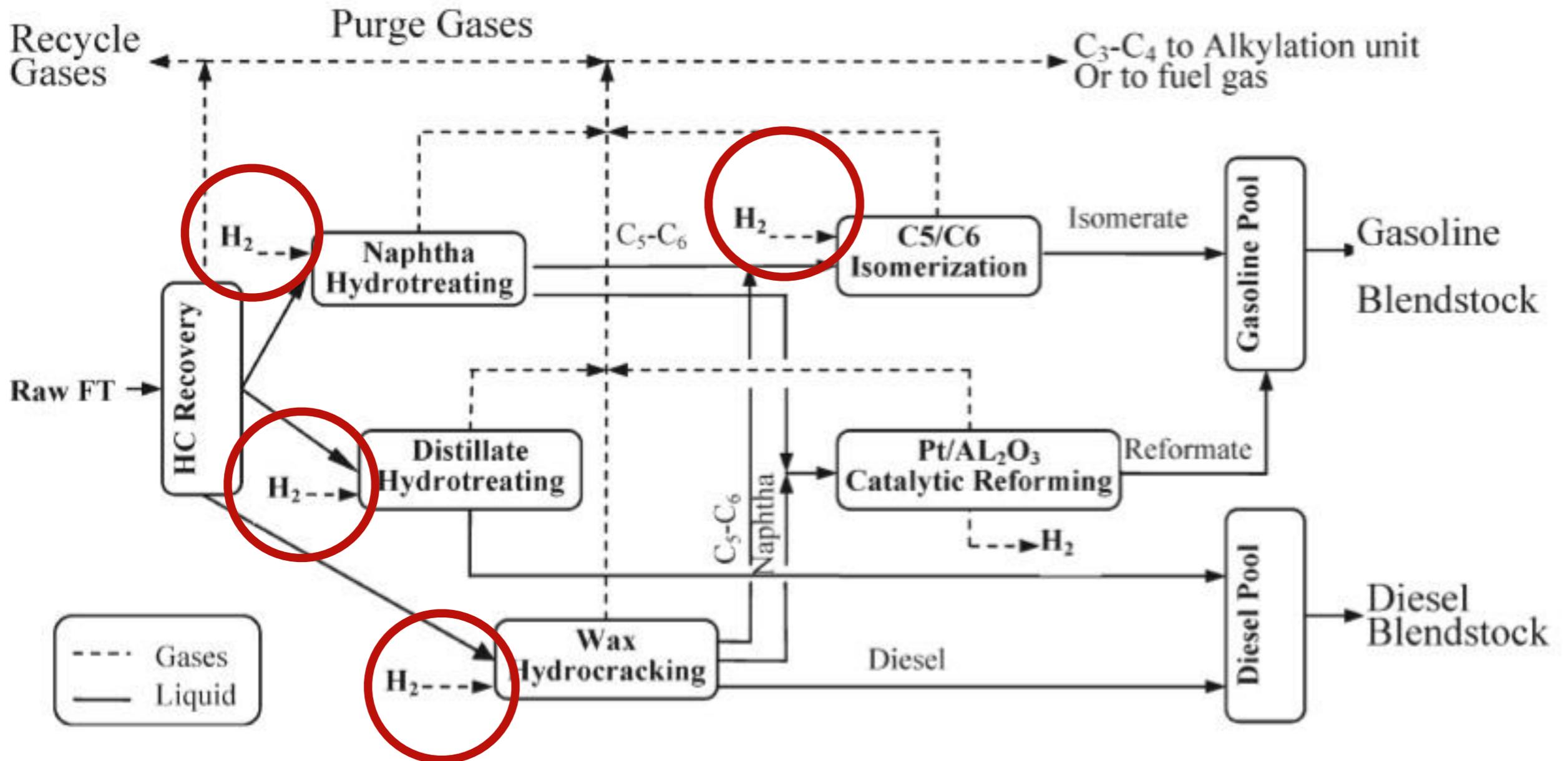


Fraction	Boiling Point (° C)
Light Gases	< 40
Light Naptha	30-90
Heavy Naptha	90-200
Distillate	200-300
Heavy Wax	300-350



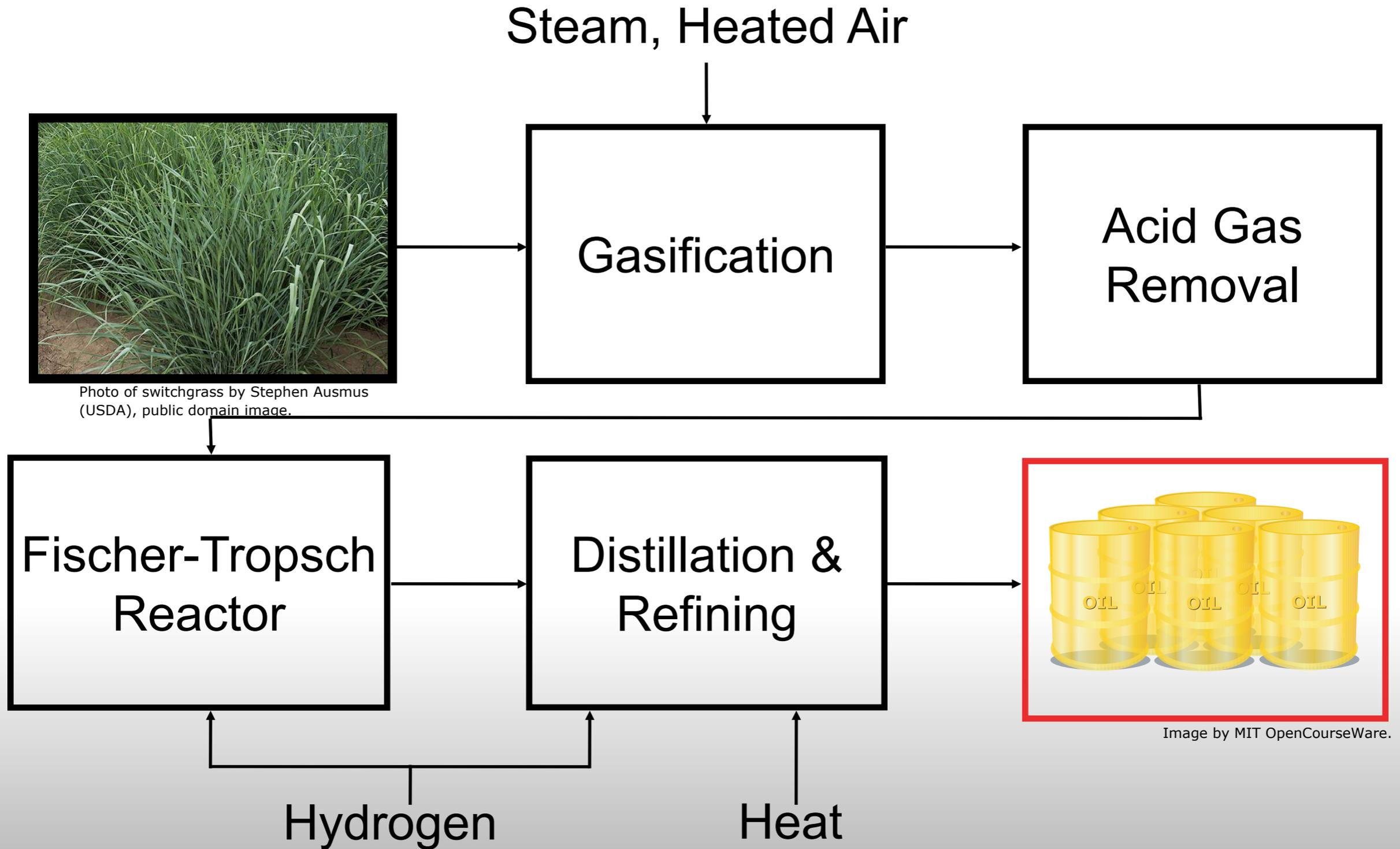
Refining

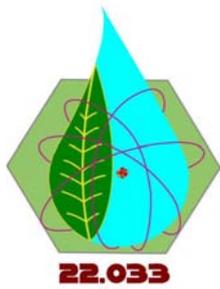
Hydrogen Inputs





Biofuels Process Overview

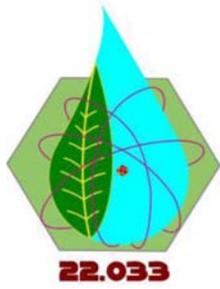




Final Products

Product Classification	Mass Flow (kg/s)	Mass Flow (barrels/day)
Light Gas	2.02	---
Diesel	2.87	1874
Gasoline	6.33	4780
Total Diesel and Gasoline	11.22	6654

- Expected revenue from: > \$1.7 million/day
- Assuming 15 gal/tank, this amount of gasoline and diesel can fill over 18,500 cars/day
- Compare to U.S. 2011 demand of 9.12 million barrels/day



Carbon Sequestration

CO₂ management

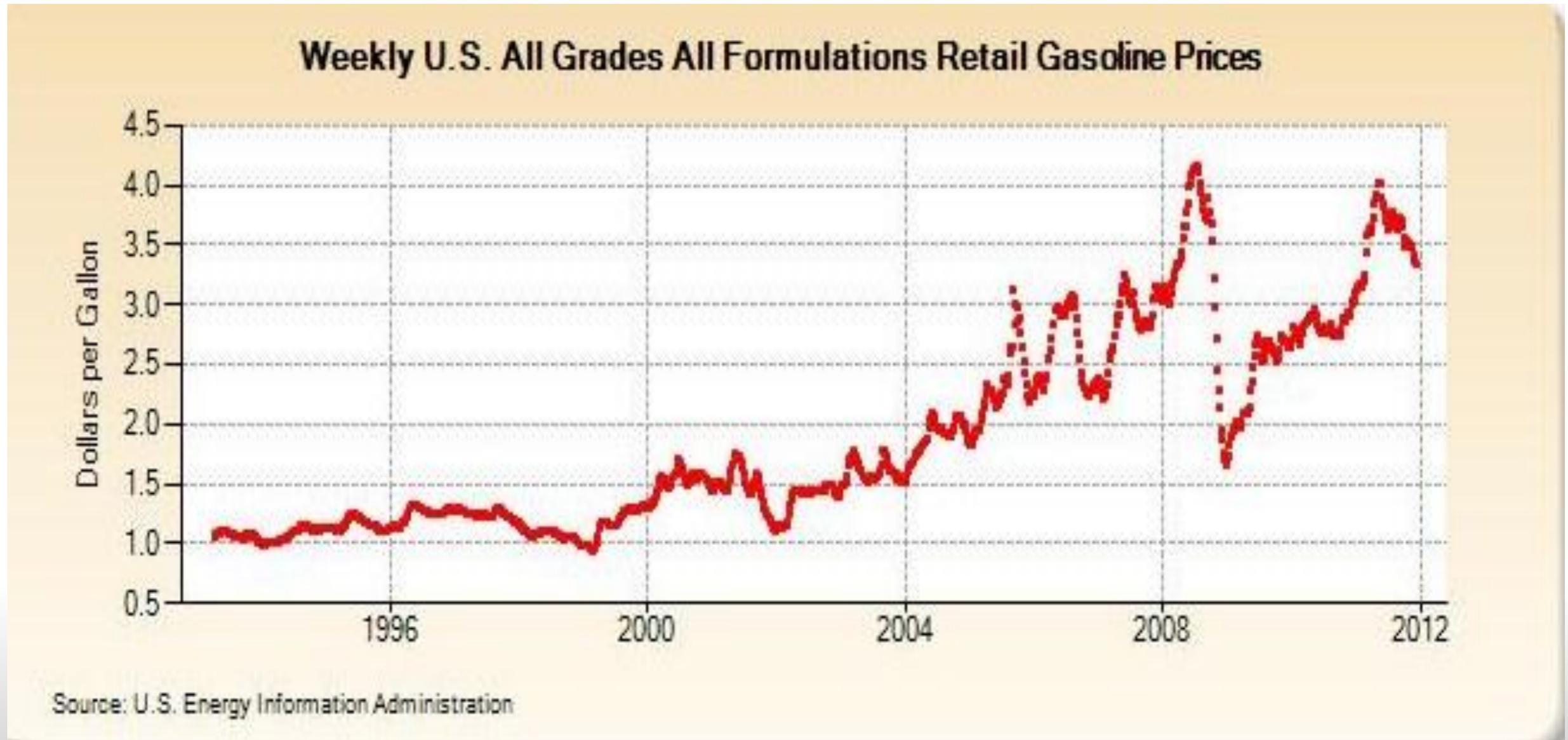


Pump spotlight:
Re-injection pilot

- Options:
 - Recycle
 - Sell
 - Underground storage
 - Deep ocean dissolution
- CO₂ liquifies at 300kg/m³
- Compress to 20 MPa with in-line integrally geared compressor and DDHF multistage barrel pump



Looking Forward

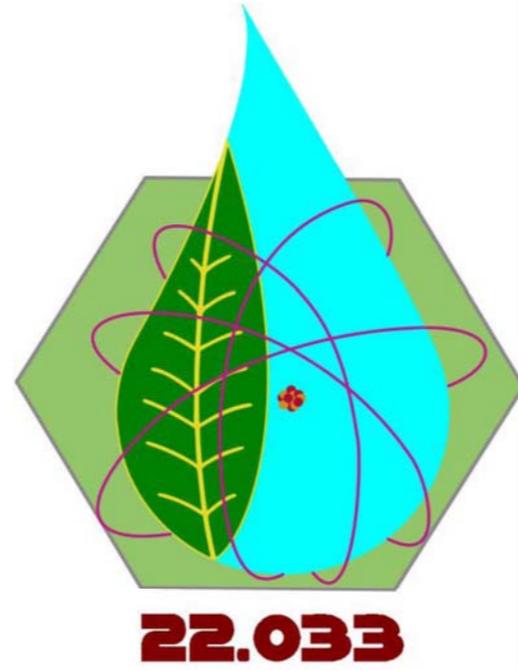


Public domain image



Future Work and Economics

- Potential improvements
 - scale up
 - use oxygen from H₂ plant in gasification step
 - recycle flue gas, H₂S, CO₂ wastes
- Jobs generated: farmers, drivers, plant workers
- Total daily profit: \$1.4 million/day
- Total profit selling only electricity: \$0.83 million/day



Concluding Thoughts



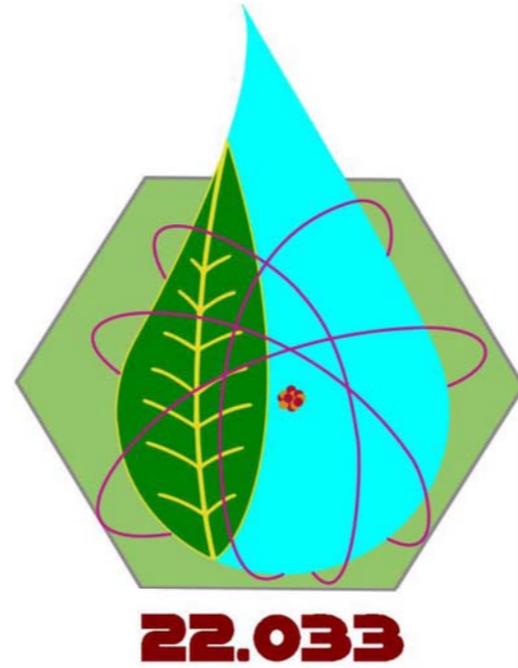
Implications

- This facility design can feasibly produce green electricity, biodiesel, and biogasoline
- Minimal carbon emissions
- Nuclear reactor produces 1000 MWe to grid and powers hydrogen and biofuel plants
- Biofuels produces enough alternative fuels for 18,500 cars/day



Acknowledgments

- Dr. Short
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- Professor Forsberg
- Professor Driscoll
- Professor Todreas



Questions & Discussion

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22.033 / 22.33 Nuclear Systems Design Project
Fall 2011

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