

# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

Clean, green ammonia  
engines for maritime

## Hydrogen in the heavy-duty transport sector

Dr Vikas Sharma  
Advanced Engineering Centre,  
University of Brighton

28 June 2023, 10:15 am



The partnership



Funded by



# Outlines

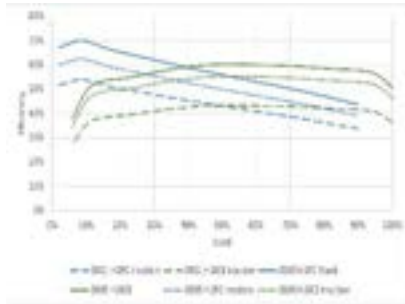
# MariNH<sub>3</sub>

Clean, green ammonia engines for maritime

## ❖ Introduction



## ❖ H2 potential for heavy duty engine



## ❖ H2 combustion and emissions analysis



## ❖ Split-cycle engine (SCE)

## ❖ Conclusion

# Research group at University of Brighton

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Green ammonia  
for maritime



**Dr Penny Atkins**



**Prof Cyril Crua**



**Prof Robert Morgan**



**Dr Guillame de Sercey**  
(Teaching and research Fellow)



**Dr Vikas Sharma**  
(Research Fellow)

# Many heavy-duty vehicles have high power and energy which make electrification challenging

## Urban applications



### Volvo FL electric, GVW 16T

Modular battery, 200 – 300 kWh

Up to 300 km range

Estimated battery cost £18k - £27k

(pack cost \$125/kWh)

## Long haul applications

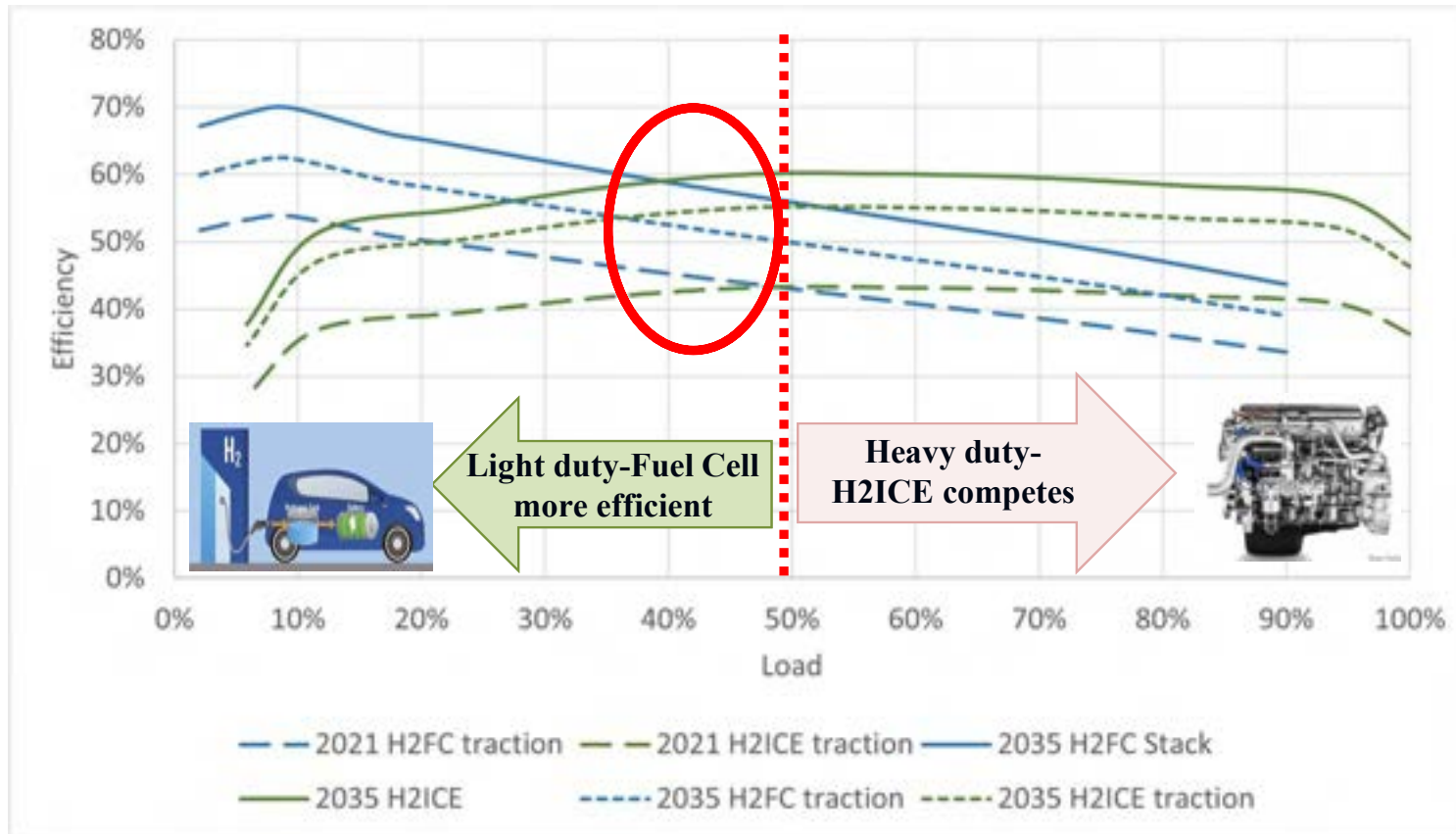


Overhead charging  
1MW/km assuming 10  
trucks per km



Rampion  
windfarm, 116  
turbines, 400MW  
**= 400 km road, 10  
trucks/km**

# Load efficiency profiles for PEM fuel cells and hydrogen ICE suggests that they might be suitable for different applications



# Hydrogen fuelled engines could provide an alternative to PEM fuel cells, accelerating the uptake of hydrogen in this sector

- BMW offered limited volumes of 7 series powered by a hydrogen internal combustion engine in 2005-2007
- Increasing research and development on this technology in Japan, China and Europe
- Could offer faster route to market than fuel cells – industry view that H<sub>2</sub> ICE could be on the market by 2025
- Announcements by JCB, Cummins and Toyota

Modified piston, compression ratio, valves, valve seat, piston rings

Package injectors for PFI or DI fuelling, ignition system

Modified control system



Turbocharger and aftertreatment

H<sub>2</sub> safety measures – eg crank case ventilation

Powertrain system must meet market needs for power output and driveability

Must have zero impact NOx emissions

# Problem Statements

- Hydrogen is the lowest energy cost sustainable fuel, but is still expensive so efficiency is important
- Hydrogen engines produce high NO<sub>x</sub> at stoichiometric AFR but very low NO<sub>x</sub> when running lean
- Hydrogen also has a low ignition energy so knock can be a problem, compromising compression ratio and therefore efficiency and power density

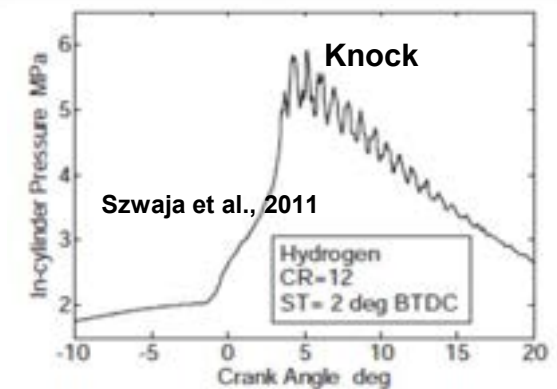
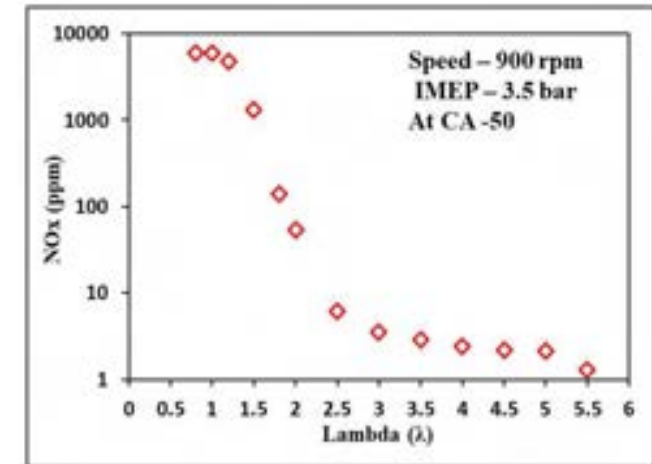
■ Question 1 – Can stable ignition be achieved in a heavy-duty engine lean enough mixtures to produce ultra-low NO<sub>x</sub>?

■ Question 2 – What needs to be done to predict and control knock?

■ Question 3 – Can the high conversion efficiencies needed to make sustainable fuels economic be achieved?

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7

# Engine Performance Combustion and Emission

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# Our research group has investigated hydrogen DI engine technology for heavy duty truck applications with Ricardo

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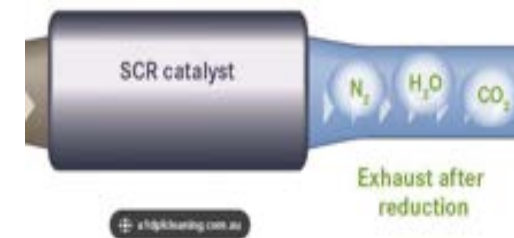
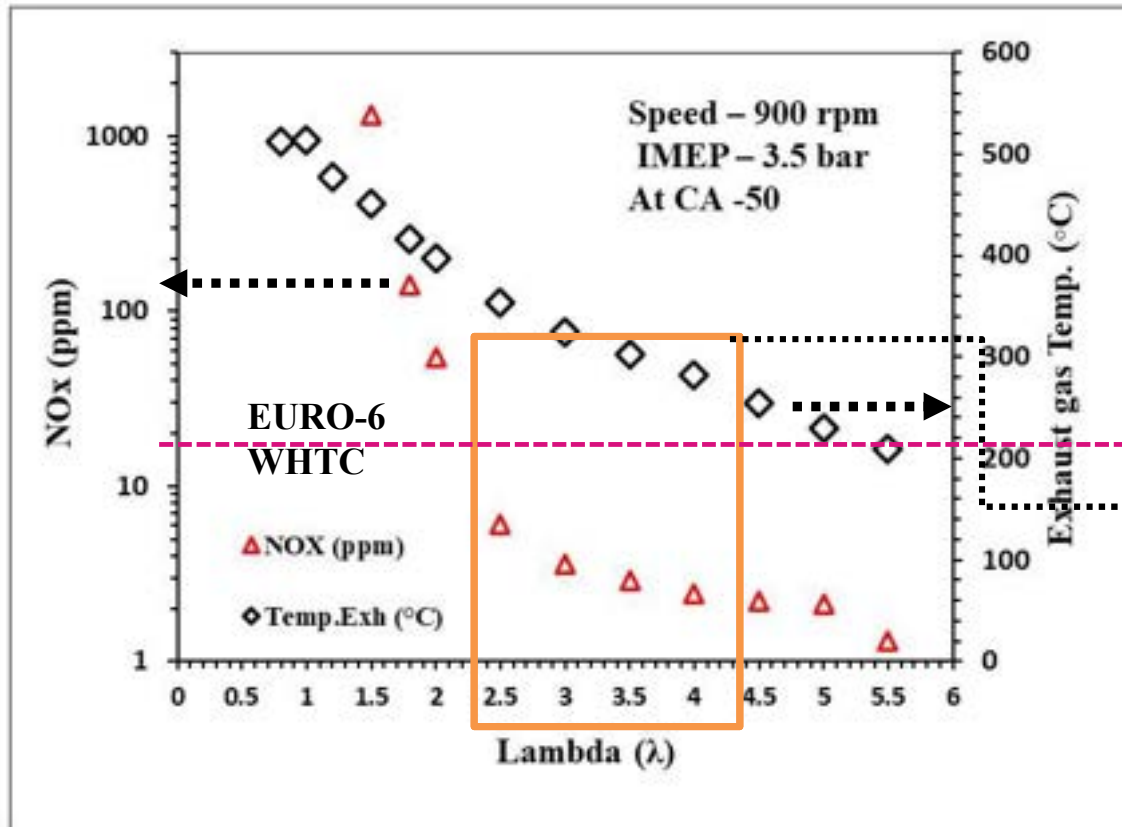
## Hydrogen heavy duty engines

- Advanced Engineering Centre is working with Ricardo to understand the potential for H<sub>2</sub> ICE in heavy duty trucks
- Single cylinder direct injection hydrogen Proteus running in Advanced Engineering Centre test cell
- Work will investigate hydrogen combustion for an HD engine, particularly potential for very low NO<sub>x</sub> combustion



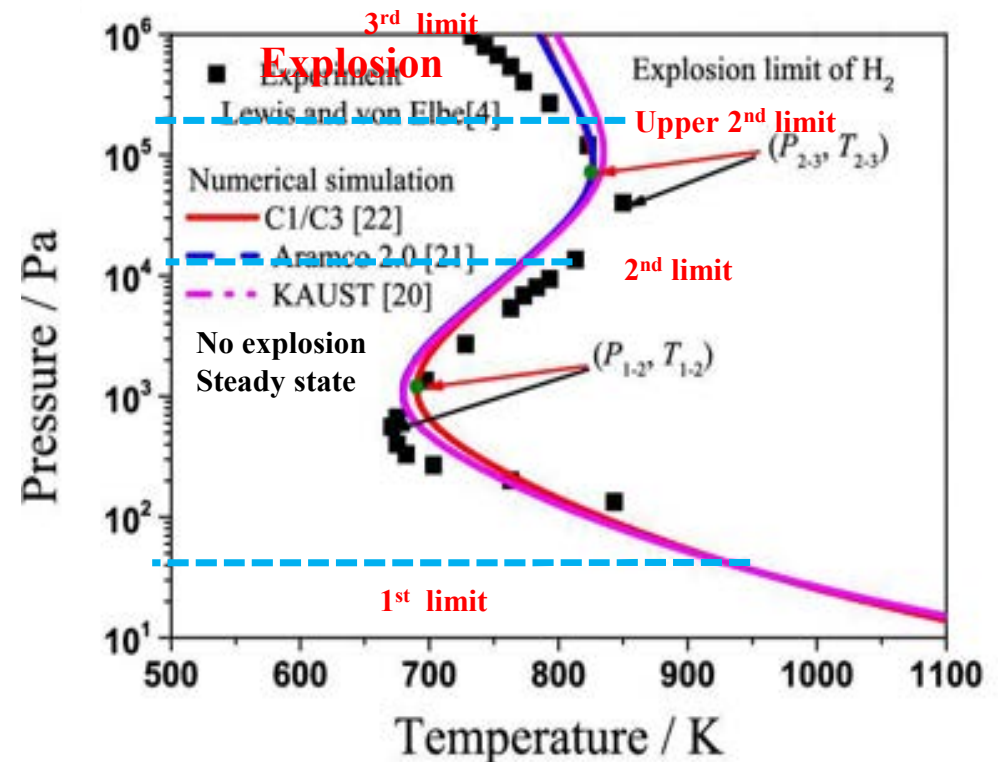
9

# Question 1: Very low, effectively zero NOx can be achieved by operating lean



## Question 2: The fundamental reaction mechanisms need to be better understood to predict and control knock

- The second explosion limit is bounded by two turning points, 2<sup>nd</sup> and upper 2<sup>nd</sup> limit.
- The turning point 2<sup>nd</sup> limit indicates the thermodynamic state that separates the first and second limits,
- and the point upper 2<sup>nd</sup> limit indicates the turning from the second limit to the third limit.
- The pressure decreases with an increase of temperature, indicating that at higher temperatures, explosion can be triggered with lower reactant concentrations.
- Experience on proteus shows you can get what you need



Jie Liu et al., ACS Omega 2020

11

# High Efficiency Split-Cycle Engine (SCE)

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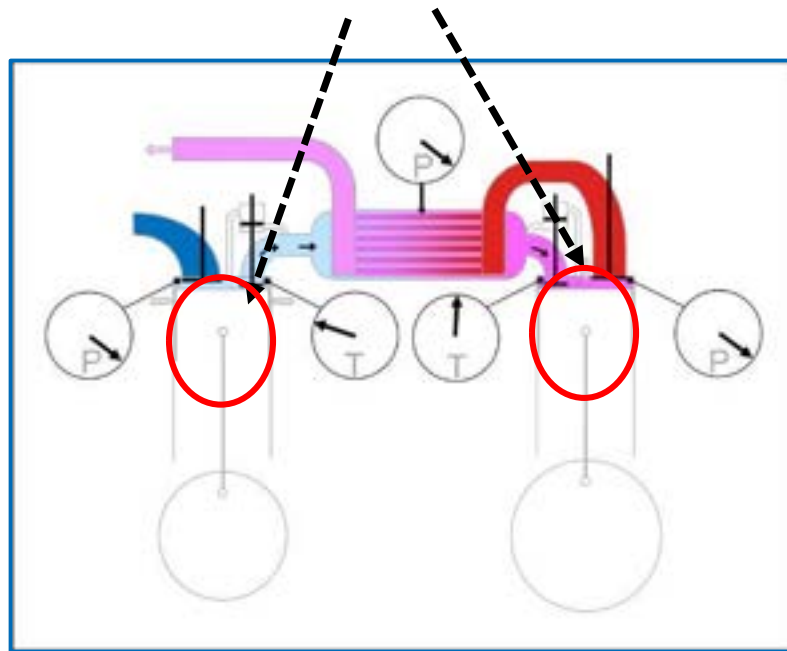
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# Question 3: How do you get high efficiency? Rethink the cycle!

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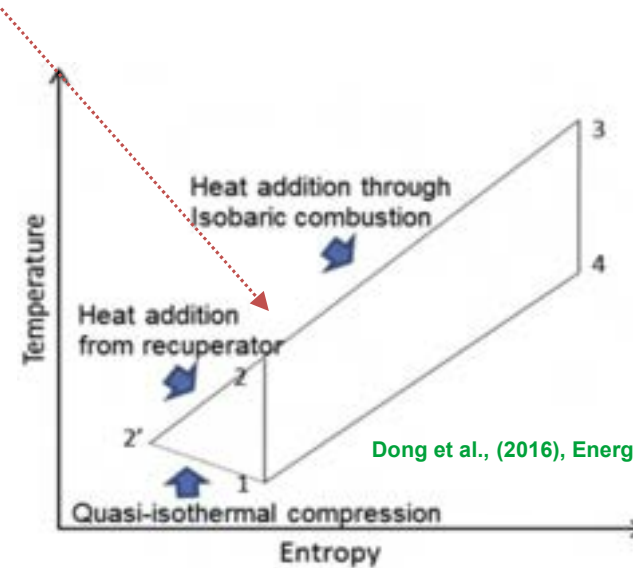
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Independent optimisation of the compression & expansion cylinders



**Recuperated Split Cycle Engine**

The temperature at the start of combustion can be precisely controlled



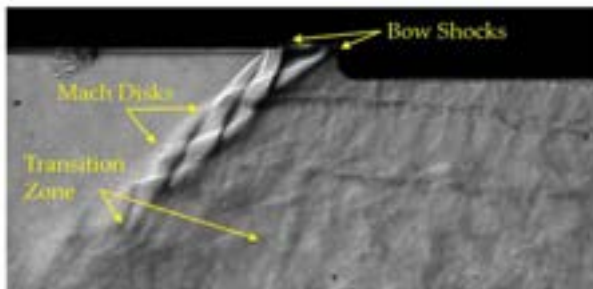
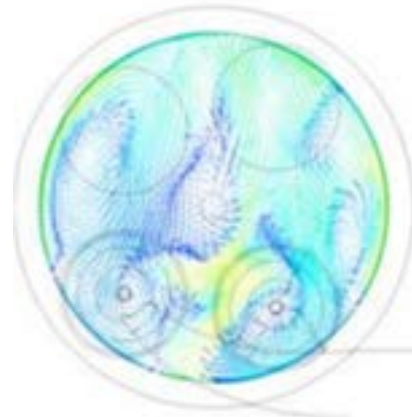
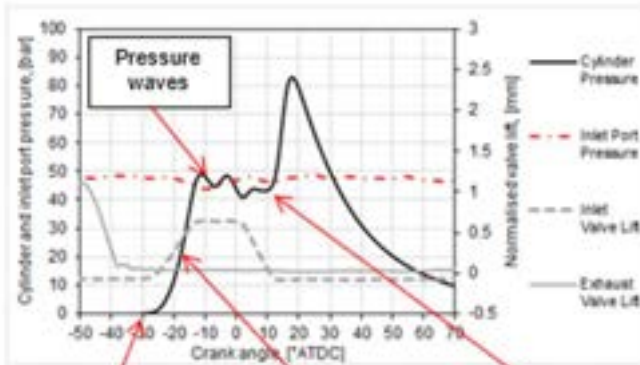
Dong et al., (2016), Energy 102 (2016) 576-585

- 1-2 Isothermal compression
- 2-3 Isobaric combustion
- 3-4 Expansion
- 4-1 Exhaust & heat recovery

Split Cycle Engine

*Pre combustion waste heat recovery*

# Macro emissions measurements suggest the fuel burns lean and well mixed

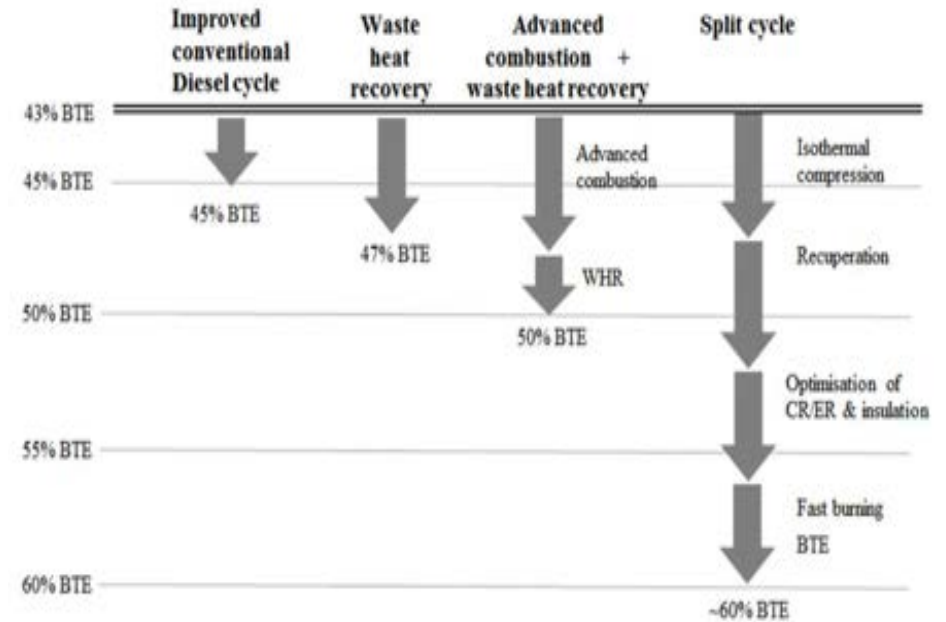
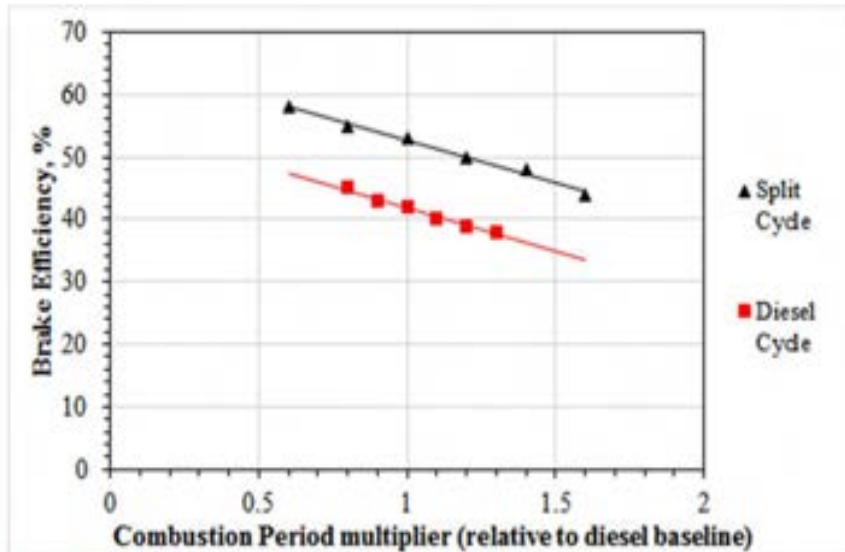


**energies**  
Starting to Unpick the Unique Air-Fuel Mixing Dynamics in the Recuperated Split Cycle Engine  
Stavros G. Menounos<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Evangelos Papadimitriou<sup>1,2</sup>, Constantinos de Souza<sup>1,2</sup>, William Sotgiu<sup>1</sup> and Robert G. Meegen<sup>1</sup>

- The pressure ratio across the inlet valves during the start of induction is higher than the critical ratio for the ‘nozzle’
- Cold steady state flow bench tests show evidence of shock waves in the air jet
- We think the air jet has dissipated before the start of fuel injection, but the in cylinder conditions are chaotic with very high levels of turbulence
- *Our hypothesis is the unique induction process in a split cycle engine promotes rapid mixing of the air and fuel*

# SEC Performance

## Brake efficiency



# Conclusion

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# Conclusions

- Long-range heavy-duty vehicles are challenging to electromobility
- PEM fuel cells are entering the marketplace, but industry consensus suggests maturity will be slow in heavy duty applications
- Hydrogen IC engines offer a more mature propulsion solution in the short term, accelerating demand for green hydrogen
- Experimental results shows that H<sub>2</sub> IC engine able to operate at lean-mixture to achieve ultra-Nox emissions without compromised thermal efficiency.
- Knock-Intensity could be controlled while running on lean-mixture
- Split-Cycle Engine could be a promising technology in future for H<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> combustion to achieve lower emissions and higher thermal efficiency.

# Thank you for listening

Thank you to the  
Research team for  
producing valuable results

Please contact me at  
[v.sharma2@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:v.sharma2@brighton.ac.uk)

<https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/profile/in/dr-vika...>





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