#### **Experimental analysis of** hydrogen combustion @IMFT MINISTÈRE NSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

**Thierry Schuller** 

Institut de Mécanique des Fluides de Toulouse Université Paul Sabatier **OLIVIER HOUDÉ** Institut Universitaire de France Administrateur de l'IUF

#### **Contributions:**

G. Oztarlik, S. Marragou, H. Magnes, T. Yahou, H. Pers, H. Paniez, E. Flores-Montoya, M. Durand, M. Lenninger, A. Teixera, D. Güleryüz, M. Hamdaoui T. Guiberti, T. Poinsot, L. Selle

ET DE LA RECHERCHE

Liberté

Égalité

Fraternité

H2 week, IMFT, February 27, 2024



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**Direction générale** de l'enseignement supérieur et de l'insertion professionnelle professionnelleIntitulé do la diroction institut gnes universitaire





## Low carbon hydrogen production and its final use



A widespread of low carbon H2 is only possible with abundant and cheap electricity



# Develop numerical tools and validate to design safe and reliable H2 power units



erc

Established by the European Commission





These technologies cannot be designed without **new fundamental science for H2 combustion** 

## H2 combustion issues studied @ IMFT









#### Noise

#### Thermoacoustics





## Hydrogen combustion lab

6 test benches adapted to optical diagnostics and acoustic characterization









## IMFT test rigs are designed and instrumented for CFD

#### Upstream boundary conditions

• Hotwire: mean, rms, time resolved

Air/N2 injection

Tu =300 - 700 K

 $250 \text{ nm}^3/\text{h}$ 

- Pressure drop
- Acoustic impedance
- Acoustic modulations

~1 bar

Flow field analysis: up to 10 cm x 10 cm

- 2D stereoscopic PIV: mean, rms, phase synchro.
- OH-PLIF : flame front, burnt gases
- CH\* OH\* : line of sight (high speed)

#### Walls:

- Temperatures: pyrometers, thermocouples, IR camera, LIP
- Heat flux

## Downstream boundary conditions

- Velocity: PIV
- Temperature: radiative corrected thermocouples
- Species concentrations:
  O2, CO2, CO, CH4, H2
  NO, NO2
- Acoustic impedance
- Acoustic modulations

Zoomed diagnostics: Down to 2 mm x 2 mm

- Hot wire, PIV: u, urms
- PIV OH-PLIF: flow, flame
- Raman scattering (mixing)
- Schlieren

Fuel injection conditionsIgnitionCH4, C3H8, H2• Spark $P_i = 1 - 5$  bar,  $T_i = 300 - 700$  K• Laser80 kW

# 1. Operability of multi perforated laminar premixed burners

## **Domestic boiler burners**

#### Aniello et al. IJHE (2022) 47:33067

#### Nominal operation with Natural Gas

 $\begin{array}{l} 1.15 \leq \lambda \leq 1.55 \\ 0.65 \leq \phi \leq 0.85 \end{array}$ 

Turndown ratio : 3 kW – 30 kW

$$P = 3 \text{ kW}$$
  
 $\phi = 0.6$   
 $\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = 0.4$ 





Radiant mode

Burner 2



Adiabatic mode



## **Burner 1 operating map**

#### Aniello et al. IJHE (2022) 47:33067

Fixed thermal power P = 3 kW



Air excess ratio needs to be increased with H2 content in the fuel (higher pressure drop)

Hydrogen injection increases flashback propensity at low power

## Demixing induced by preferential diffusion





DNS A. Aniello @ IMFT

For lean H2/air mixtures Le<1,  $\phi$  increases in the wake of the injection hole

## **Delayed blow off**

#### Aniello et al. IJHE (2022) 47:33067



Blow off is not an issue for H2/air flames

## **Analysis of flashback**

#### Aniello et al. IJHE (2022) 47:33067



## **Flashback dynamics**

#### Pers et al. IJHE (2023) 48:10235

Burner 2 with optical acccess from the top





#### Before flashback



#### After flashback



#### High speed OH\* emission during flashback, $\phi$ =0.75, X<sub>H2</sub>=0.95, T<sub>w</sub>=1050 K 16 kHZ



#### Pers et al. IJHE (2023) 48:10235

- (1) Hemispherical expansion
- (2) Flame accelerationwith flame fingersalong hot walls
- (3) Flame propagation in the bulk with thermo-diffusive instabilities

## **Flashback mechanisms**

Pers et al. IJHE (2023) 48:10235

 $\phi$  = 0.60, PH2 = 100%, 3 kW  $\phi$  = 0.78, PH2 = 65%, 3 kW **Hydrodynamics Auto-ignition** HY-FB **AI-FB** wall initiation hole  $t = 0.062 \ ms$ t = 0.062 ms

#### Flashback can be initiated from a hole or from a hot solid surface

## **FB-HY: Hydrodynamic flashback**



## **FB-AI: Flashback induced by auto-ignition**



Auto-ignition takes place when residence time is larger than autoignition time



Crossover temperature  $T_c$ 

Sanchez & Williams PECS (2014)

Above  $T_c$ , chain branching explosion leads to a sudden drop of ignition delay

## Impact of hole size

Pers et al. CNF (2024) in revision



Reducing the hole size does not reduce flashback propensity

## 2. Jet flames ignition dynamics

## Ignition is a critical issue in many combustors

#### Courtesy of C. Mirat EM2C



#### **Good ignition**

- Systematic ignition of flammable mixture
- Smooth transition of flame kernel to burner stabilized flame with the desired shape
- Limited pressure overshoot

#### Chamber pressure evolution



## Ignition dynamics of CH4/H2/air mixtures





The chamber back pressure can be increased with perforated plates at the combustor exhaust

#### Yahou et al. (2024) JEGTP, 146:011023

Impact of ignition sequence:

- Fuel first/spark after
- Spark first/fuel after
- Variation of pre-fueling time

With H2, transient flashback can occur over a broad part of the operability domain



#### **Pressure overshoot**

#### Yahou et al. (2023) PCI, 39:4641





For the same pressure overshoot, H2 flames have a higher propensity to flashback

## Flame displacement speed



 $U_{b}$ = 5 m/s, S<sub>L</sub>=0.25 m/s, U<sub>b</sub>/S<sub>L</sub>=20



H2 flames have higher resistance to strain rate Thermodiffusive effects increase H2 flame speed Yahou et al. (2024) Submitted Int. Symp. Comb., 2024 Yahou et al. (2024) CNF, in revision 5 kHz PIV / OH-PLIF



# 3. Partially premixed model gas turbine burner

## Aerojet gas turbine MICROMIX concept



**Convential chamber** 

Micromix chamber

Disruptive technology with a deep modification of combustion chamber architecture

## MICROMIX injectors : many small hydrogen jets in air cross-flow



hydrogen injectors

## Structure of lean premixed CH4/H2 swirled flame



## Effect of H2 add. on premixed flame stabilization

Guiberti et al. (2015) PCI, 35:1385 Mercier et al. (2016) CNF, 171:42

#### $\phi$ =0.79, P=4 kW, OH\* chemiluminescence + Abel inversion



As the H2 content increases, elongated V-flames transit to compact M-flames with an additional reaction layer stabilized in the OSL

Hydrogen enriched premixed flames are more compact and more resistant to aerodynamic strain and enthalpy losses leading to increased thermal stress on the burner

## Fully premixed H2-air swirled burner

#### S. Marragou PhD IMFT





Turbulent lean premixed H2-air swirled flames are extremely sensitive to flashback

## HYLON : Hydrogen Dual Swirl Low NOx burner

- Late hydrogen injection
- Swirled hydrogen injection







Richard, Viguier, Marragou, Schuller, FR Patent No FR21111267, 2021



## Impact of S<sub>i</sub> on H2/air mixing rate

#### S. Marragou PhD IMFT







Cold flow velocity field (PIV) a) 1.5 S = 0.0





Swirling hydrogen improves the mixing rate at the burner outlet

Well mixed limit

#### **Two stabilization regimes**

Marragou et al. (2022) IJHE 47: 19275



#### Stabilization chart @ p=1 bar, T=300 K

Magnes et al. GT2023-103192



## Analysis of flame re-anchoring



# Reduction of the hydrogen injection velocity *U<sub>i</sub>*



### High speed image of flame re-anchoring

Line of sight OH\* visualization (16 kHz)



#### Aniello et al. (2023) CNF, 249:112585



### **TFUP : Triple Flame Upstream Propagation zone**

**TFUP zone:**  $u_t < S_d$ Marragou et al. PCI (2023) 255:112908

Triple flame displacement speed  $S_d = S_L^0 \left( \rho_u / \rho_b \right)^{1/2}$ 

#### Flame stabilization deduced from

- cold flow PIV:  $u_t$
- cold flow Raman scattering: Z<sub>0</sub> Marragou et al. CNF (2023) 39:4345



## Flame re-anchoring prediction

 $U_i$ : hydrogen velocity at which transition to anchored flame takes place

Magnes et al. JEGTP (2024) 146:051004

Impact of air preheating, p=1 atm,  $S_i=0.6$ 

Marragou et al. CNF (2023) 39:4345 Impact of swirl, p=1 atm,  $T_0$ =300 K


### High pressure test @ ONERA



High pressure ONERA Palaiseau Micado test rig





#### G. Pilla, ONERA

Test at engine relevant thermodynamic conditions







#### **NOx emissions**

#### Magnes et al. JEGTP (2024) 146:051004



# NOx scale with adiabatic flame temperature and residence time

At high power, NOx are independent of thermal power

# **Blow off**

#### Magnes et al. ASME Turbo Expo, June 2024, London



Flame front fragmentation at the tip (local extinctions) at very lean operating conditions



#### Interplay between unburnt and NOx emissions



*Compromise between NOx and unburnt emissions. Combustion efficiency increases with preheat temperature.* 

# **Combustion noise**

Marragou, Paniez

#### P = 7.5 kW, $\text{Re}_{\text{D}}$ =25000, $\phi$ ~0.5 HYLON DFDS version PH20 (H2+CH4/air) PH100 (H2+air)





Combustion roar noise peaks at higher frequencies with hydrogen

### **Thermo-acoustic stability**

#### Paniez PHD IMFT



Higher H2 content results in (1) broader conditions experiencing TAI (2) emergence of high frequency TAI

# **High frequency instabilities**

c)

Paniez et al. Sub



#### Spinning pressure wave











# Conclusion

Efforts to characterize hydrogen flames at IMFT will be pursued with its partners



Thermoacoustics

Ignition, combustion noise, hydrogen gaseous leaks, flame wall interactions

#### **High pressure**











*P* < 10 bar <100 kW

# **Francazal and HYROPE**

#### Francazal H2 techno campus 2025

200 m<sup>2</sup> combustion lab
6 new slots for experiments
2 high pressure test facilities







P < 10 bar (2026)



# Conclusion

- Decarbonization requires high volumetric fractions of (green) hydrogen in the fuel mixture
- Fuel injectors and block gas regulation systems need to be adapted to fuel blends with reduced Wobbe index and reduced calorific value
- In premixed systems, large air excess ratio are needed to limit NOx emissions and flashback but generate in turn higher pressure drops
- Injector nozzle thermal stress and flashback are the main issues due to high flame displacement speed and high resistance to strain of H2 flames
- Growing number of hydrogen injectors are tested worldwide in order to improve burner reliability and operability with limited NOx

### Conclusion

- Decarbonization requires high volumetric fractions of (green) hydrogen in the fuel mixture
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### But many issues need to be addressed

- Ignition is more violent with hydrogen
- Higher autoignition risk due to lower ignition delay
- Turbul
   Therm flames
- Hydrogen fueled flames are more receptive to incoming flow disturbances
- H2 kinetics needs to be improved to predict pollutant concentrations (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Near wall H2 chemistry is not well known
- ..

Take away message

# Urgent need of experiments for model and CFD validations

- Fundamental properties of H2/air flames
- Canonical laminar and turbulent configurations with detailled data
- Engine relevant thermodynamic conditions : T=1000 K, p=30 bar





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# Thanks to

- H. Pers
- H. Magnes

- L. Selle T. Poinsot
- T. Yahou T. Morinière
- A. Aniello
- S. Marragou
- E. Flores-Montoya



#### H2 combustion in porous media

#### Poster Enrique Flores Montoya





#### Poster of the HYLON flame



#### INSTITUT DE FRANCE Académie des sciences





**CŒUR DE FEU** 

Ine flamme esquissant un cœur, quoi de plus es atours romantiques. bilisation des flammes. ations allant des fournaises aux cées dans l'aéronautique

IMFT/CNR

CI

#### H2 combustion dynamics issues we are not able to predict





Flashback



Noise



Combustion instabilities



#### Burners powered by natural gas two examples

Domestic boilers p=1 atm

T= 20°C, ambiant air

Air excess ratio

 $\begin{array}{l} 1.15 \leq \lambda \leq 1.55 \\ 0.65 \leq \phi \leq 0.85 \end{array}$ 



Gas turbines

Laminar flames stabilized on perforates New boilers are ready for 20% H<sub>2</sub> p= 20-40 bar, T=700-900 K, swirling flames Some turbines already handle 50-70%  $H_2$  in the fuel blend

#### Systems powered by natural gas are challenged by H<sub>2</sub> injection

#### **Domestic boiler burners**



#### Impact of hydrogen in natural gas network



Wobbe Index [MJ/m<sup>3</sup>] WI =  $\frac{HHV}{\sqrt{d}}$ 

 $d = \frac{\rho_g}{\rho_a} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Relative gas density with} \\ \mbox{respect to air @ 15°C} \\ \mbox{and 1 atm} \end{array}$ 

Hydrogen reduces Wobbe index and calorific value of natural gas when mixed with it

# CH4/H2 fuel blends

$$X_{H_2} = \frac{n_{H_2}}{n_{CH_4} + n_{H_2}} \quad \begin{array}{l} {\rm H_2 \, volume \, fraction} \\ {\rm in \, the \, fuel \, mixture} \end{array}$$

Stoichiometric combustion

$$X_{CH_4}CH_4 + X_{H_2}H_2 + 2\left(O_2 - \frac{3}{2}X_{H_2}\right) \longrightarrow X_{CH_4}CO_2 + (2 - X_{H_2})H_2O$$

0

25



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Fraction of power originating from H2 combustion

$$\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = \frac{Y_{H_2}Q_{H_2}}{Y_{CH_4}Q_{CH_4} + Y_{H_2}Q_{H_2}}$$

Fuel Emission 55 Factor ( $gCO_2/MJ$ )

Decarbonization of combustion devices requires large volumetric fractions of  $H_2$  in the fuel mixture  $\frac{3}{3}$ 

### Decarbonization



Factor (gCO<sub>2</sub>/MJ)

Fraction of power originating from H2 combustion

$$\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = \frac{Y_{H_2}Q_{H_2}}{Y_{CH_4}Q_{CH_4} + Y_{H_2}Q_{H_2}}$$

Decarbonization of combustion devices needs large volumetric fractions of H<sub>2</sub> in the fuel mixture



# **CH4/H2-air mixture properties**

$$X_{H_2} = \frac{n_{H_2}}{n_{CH_4} + n_{H_2}}$$



For lean combustible mixtures ( $\phi < 0.8$ ), hydrogen injection does not alter  $T_{ad}$  for  $X_{H2} < 0.2$ , but drastically increases  $S_{L}^{0}$  for  $X_{H2} > 0.1$ 

# H2/air mixtures properties

Adiabatic flame simulations, UCSD chemistry, p=1 atm, T=300 K



# Flame speed of H2/air mixtures



H2/air - T=300 K, p=1 atm

Courtesy of Jean-Jacques Hok @ Cerfacs

#### Beeckmann et al, PCI (2017) 36:1531 Constant volume bomb experiments



Wide disparity of laminar burning velocity for lean H2/air flames

#### Thermo-diffusive instabilities of lean H2/air flames

Hok et al. ICDERS 2022



The displacement speed of lean hydrogen premixed flames is strongly altered by non equidiffusive transport properties

Berger et al. CNF (2022) 240:111935 Berger et al. CNF (2022) 240:111936

#### NOx formation pathways et emissions



**Fig. 17.** Schematic representation of the pathways, reactions and molecules involved in the NO formation for  $H_2$ /air combustion.

Magnes et al. GT 2023-103192



# NOx emissions remain under control, but why?

#### Laminar flame speed



#### Scheme validation for mixture used in DNS

#### Targeted mixtures

Table 1: Characteristics of the flammable mixtures

Fuel	$\phi$	$\delta_{\rm th}$	$S_1$	$T_{ad}$
-	-	mm	cm/s	Κ
$CH_4$	1.00	0.4449	36.41	2212
$H_2$	0.45	0.4467	40.09	1529

#### Thermodiffusive instabilities in turbulent H2 flames

Berger et al. (2022) CNF: 111935 & 111936



DNS, Tu=298 K, p=1 atm

The consumption speed of lean hydrogen premixed flames is strongly altered by thermodiffusive instabilities



#### Flashback during thermal transient



### **Thermoacoustic instabilities**



D. Durox, EM2C

#### Natural gas fueled domestic boiler



Boiler supplied with natural gas and equipped with an induction mixer. The metal enclosure "breathes" with flames that expand and contract periodically at very low frequency 10-20 Hz

# **Thermoacoustic instabilities**

#### H2 fueled domestic boiler





Strong tonal noise emission at high at f=1.8 kHz!

### **Ignition dynamics**

T. Yahou PhD IMFT/NTNU

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Fully premixed non-swirling jet burner  $U_b = 5 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $S_L = 0.25 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $U_b/S_L = 20$ 



Hydrogen powered systems have violent ignition dynamics possibly leading to a temporary reversal flow (flashback)

# Aerojet engine gas turbine

#### ..... are powered by kerosene



#### Hollow cone fuel spray injector



2x10<sup>5</sup> frames/s T. Morinière PhD IMFT

#### How to switch to hydrogen?

#### Premixed swirled CH4/H2-air flames


### **Flame stabilization**

P=10 kW S<sub>i</sub>=0.9 S<sub>e</sub>=0.7  $J = \frac{\rho_e u_e^2}{\rho_i u_i^2} \leftarrow \frac{CH_4}{Air mixture (\phi_e)}{H_2}$ 

$\mathcal{P}_{H_2}=0$	$\mathcal{P}_{H_2}=0.2$	$\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = 0.4$	$\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = 0.6$	$\mathcal{P}_{H_2}=0.8$	$\mathcal{P}_{H_2} = 0.98$
$\varphi = 0.70$	$      \phi = 0.67 \\       \phi_e = 0.56 \\       J = 172 \\       u_e = 26 \text{ m/s} \\       u_i = 7 \text{ m/s} $	$\phi = 0.65$	$\phi = 0.62$	$\phi = 0.60$	$\phi = 0.58$
$\varphi_e = 0.70$		$\phi_e = 0.42$	$\phi_e = 0.28$	$\phi_e = 0.14$	$\phi_e \sim 0.01$
$J = \inf$		J=42	J=18	J=10	J=7
$u_e = 26 \text{ m/s}$		$u_e = 25 \text{ m/s}$	$u_e = 25 \text{ m/s}$	$u_e = 24$ m/s	$u_e = 24 \text{ m/s}$
$u_i = 0 \text{ m/s}$		$u_i = 15 \text{ m/s}$	$u_i = 22 \text{ m/s}$	$u_i = 30$ m/s	$u_i = 36 \text{ m/s}$

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## Effect of pilot jet injection on NOx emissions

Oztarlik (2020) CNF 214



### **HYLON : NOx emissions**

Marragou et al. (2022) IJHE 47: 19275--19288



Lifted flames lead to reduced NOx emissions

#### Stabilization chart @ p=1 bar, T=300 K

Magnes et al. GT2023-103192



# Dual fuel dual swirl non-premixed injector

Swirling the fuel yields compact and lifted flames Degenève et al. (2019) JEGTP 141:121018

