

# Chemistry of the NOx trap technology



8<sup>th</sup> VERT Forum: Combined particle filter and deNOx-technologies  
Dübendorf, March 17, 2017

# Blue Technology: Not green enough yet



# Blue Technology: Not green enough yet

GDCh/DECHEMA-Sonderkolloquium,

Frankfurt, 14. Januar 2016

**“Stickoxide: Ist der Diesel noch zu retten?”**

7<sup>th</sup> VERT-Forum,

Dübendorf, March 18, 2016

**“Can diesel solve its NO and NO<sub>2</sub> problem in time?”**

6<sup>th</sup> Freiburger workshop,

Freiburg i.B., 6. Juni 2016

**“Europe’s NOx problem, a consequence of inefficient diesel-converters and bad exhaust legislation”**

20<sup>th</sup> ETH conference on CGN,

Zürich, June 13-16, 2016

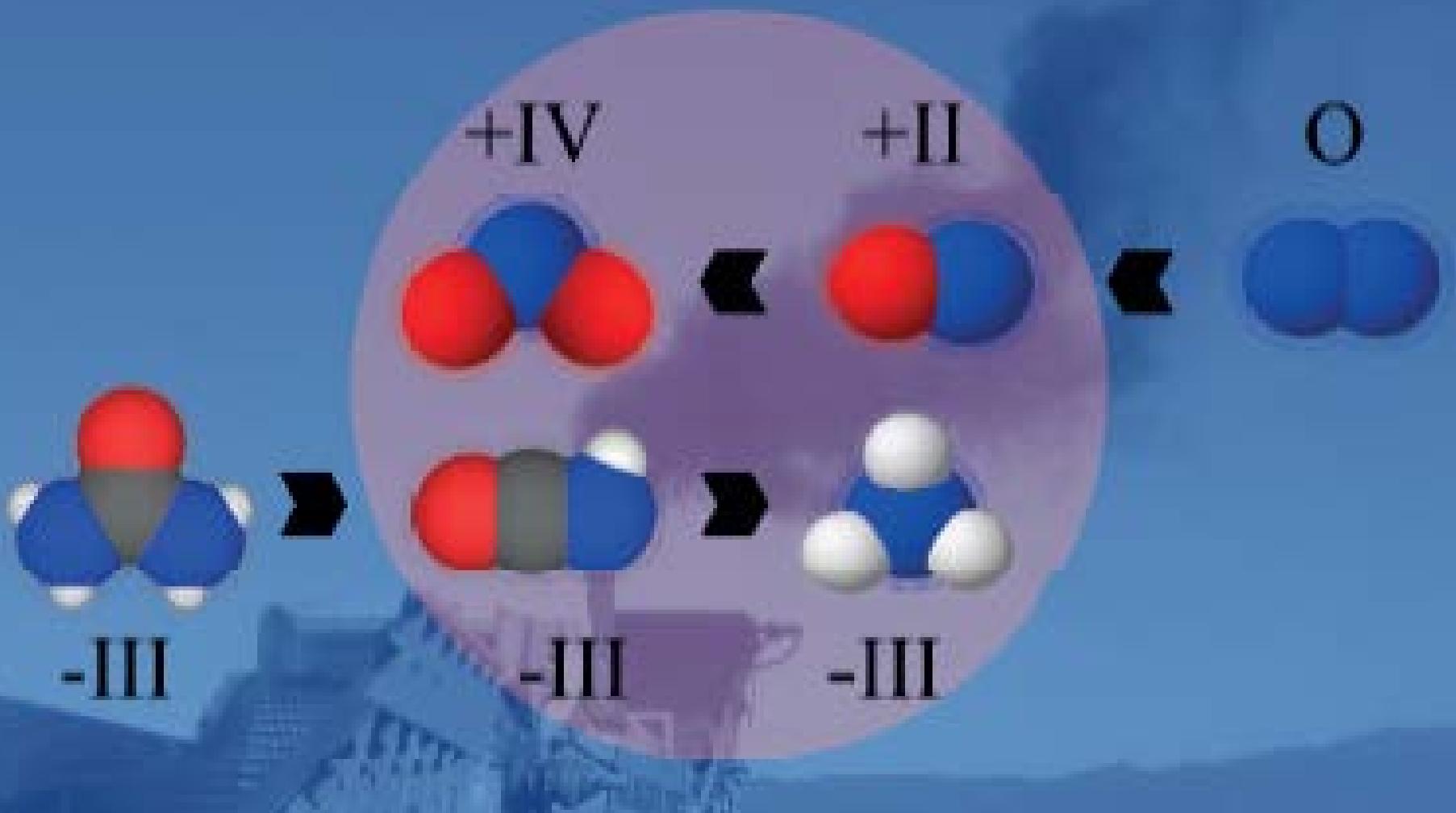
**“The particle-NOx trade-off: Two decades of diesel converter technologies have not settled both issues?”**

GDCh/DECHEMA/VDI-Expert Forum

Frankfurt, 5-6. December 2016

**“Efficient filter & deNOx for diesel and GDI vehicles?”**

# Blue Technology: Not green enough yet



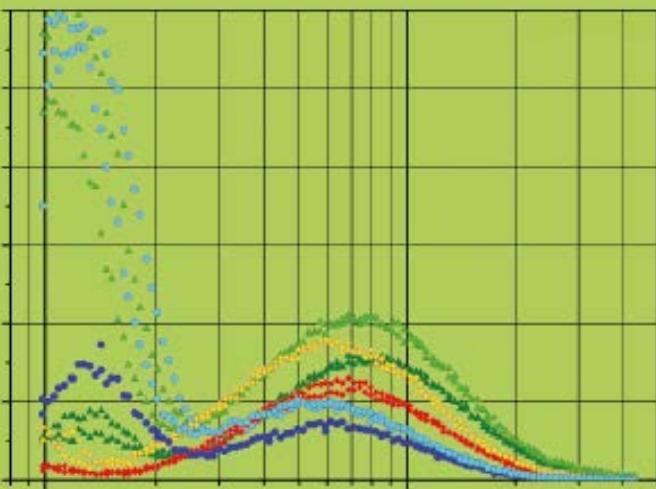
“Will blue technology be green enough in the future?”

# Blue Technology: Not green enough yet

Invitation and call for papers to the

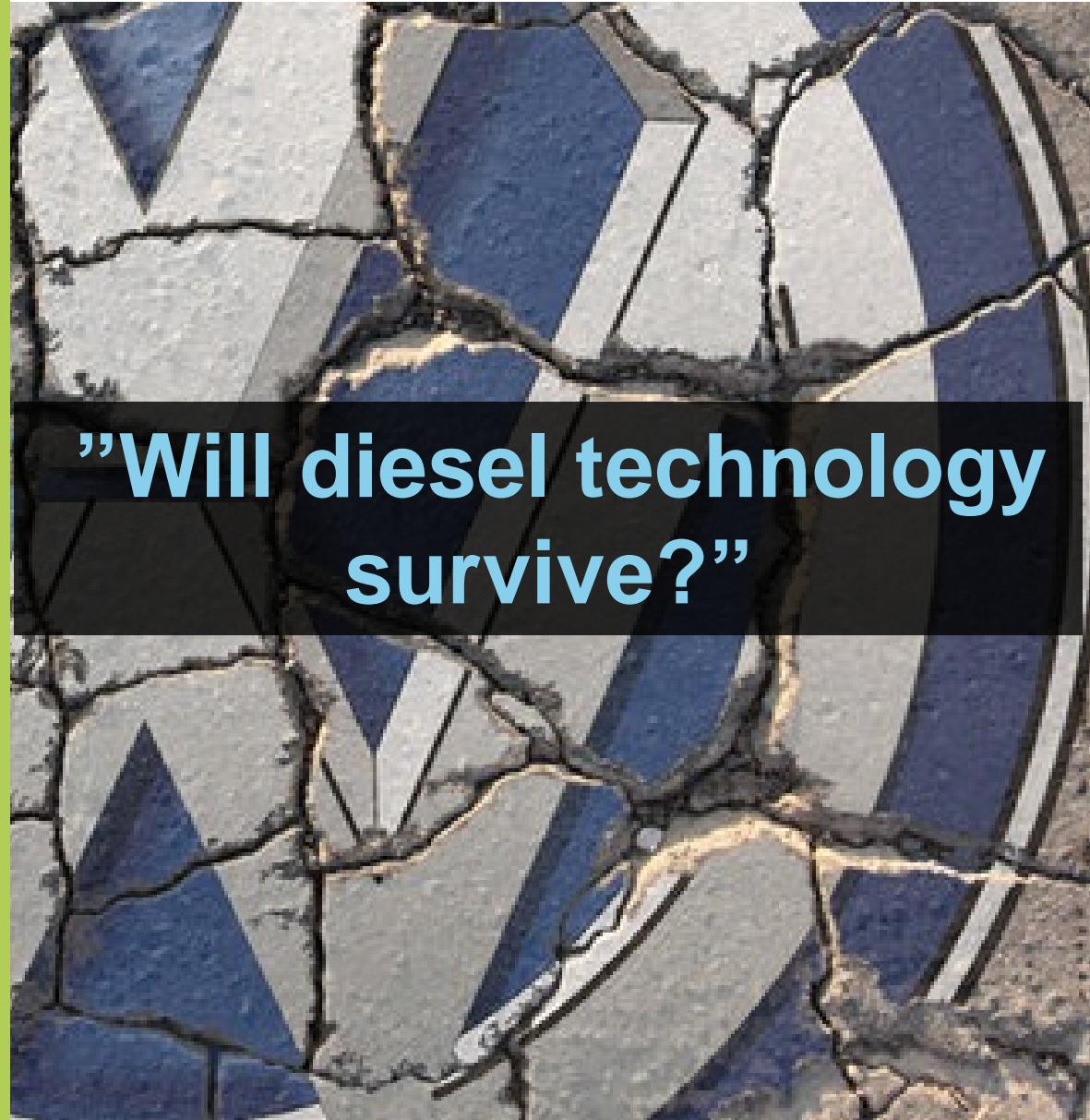
21<sup>st</sup> ETH-Conference on  
Combustion Generated  
Nanoparticles

Focus Event:  
**Will Diesel Technology Survive?**

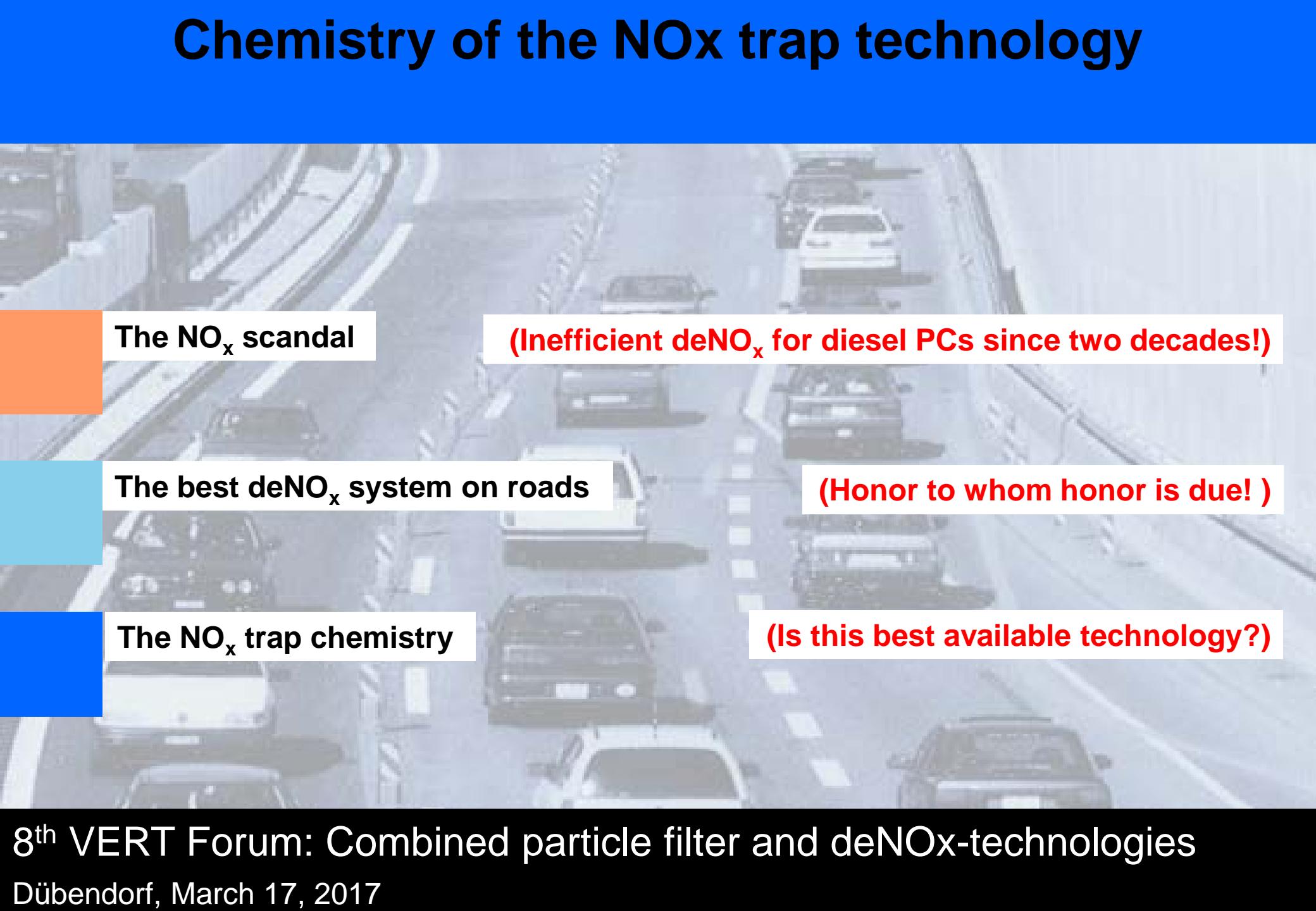


A scatter plot showing the size distribution of combustion-generated nanoparticles. The x-axis represents size, and the y-axis represents concentration or density. Multiple data series are plotted, showing peaks at different sizes. A red oval highlights the text "Focus Event: Will Diesel Technology Survive?".

June 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
ETH Zurich, Switzerland  
[www.nanoparticles.ethz.ch](http://www.nanoparticles.ethz.ch)



# Chemistry of the NOx trap technology



The NO<sub>x</sub> scandal

(Inefficient deNO<sub>x</sub> for diesel PCs since two decades!)

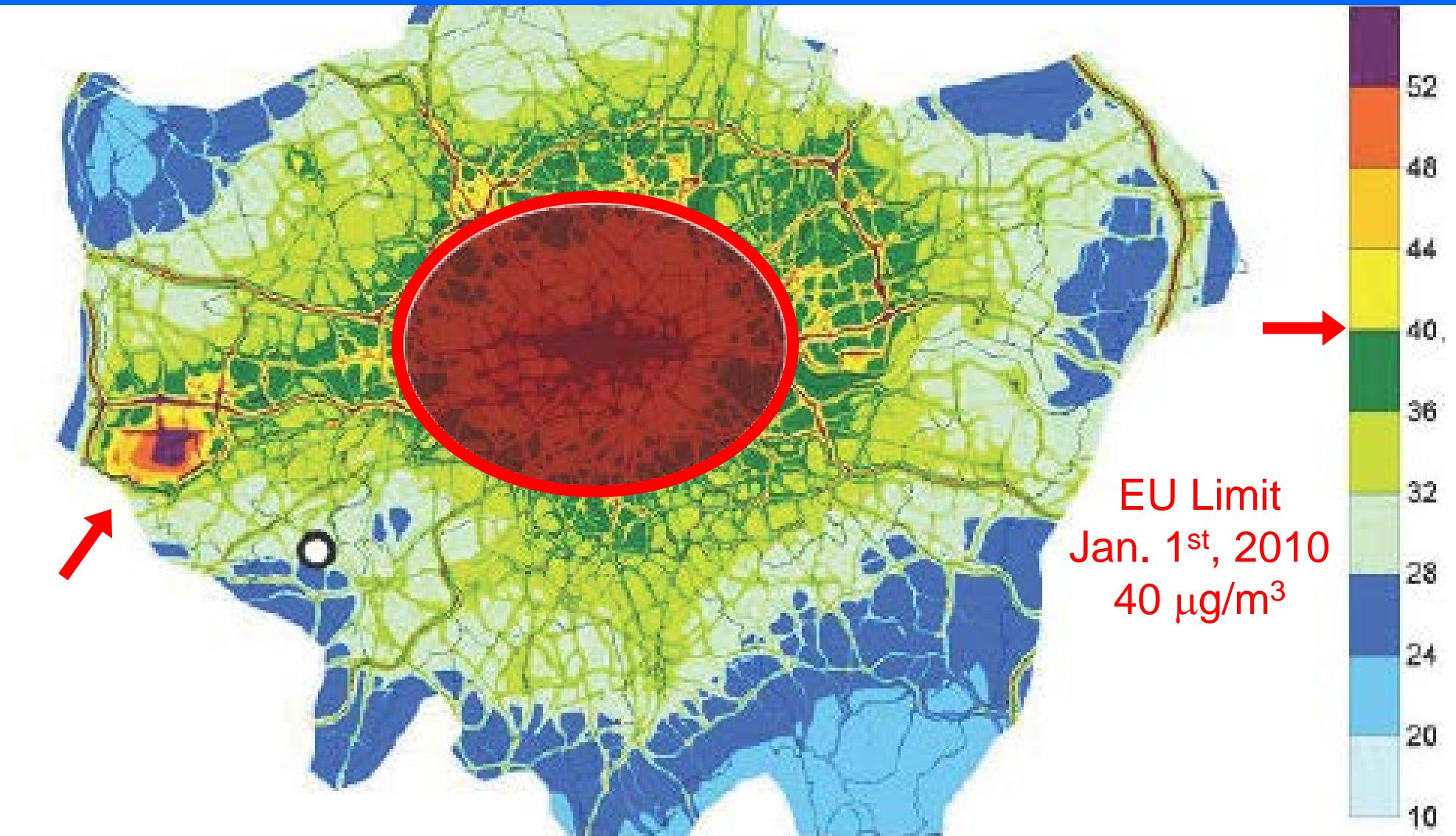
The best deNO<sub>x</sub> system on roads

(Honor to whom honor is due! )

The NO<sub>x</sub> trap chemistry

(Is this best available technology?)

# Mean annual NO<sub>2</sub> levels: City of London



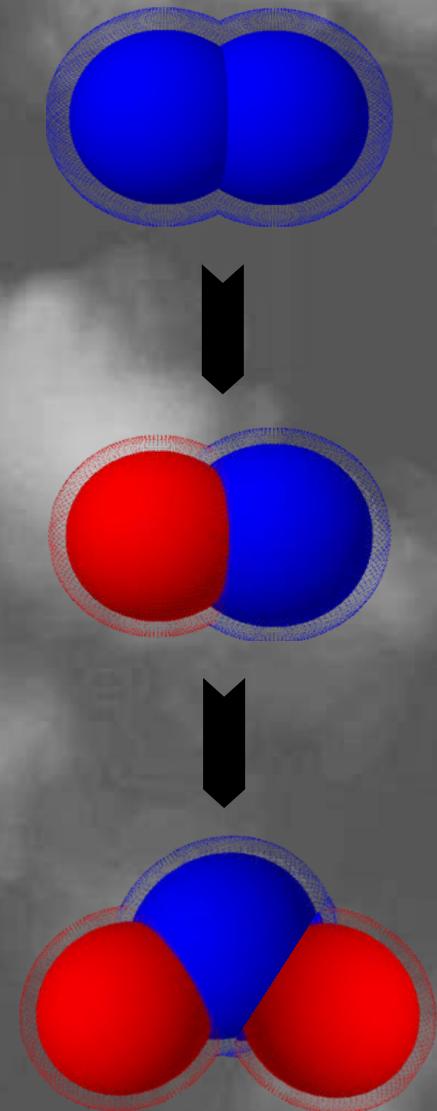
DOCs and hox-DPFs substantially contribute to the NO<sub>2</sub> problem

# Adverse health effects of diesel exhaust

## Reactive nitrogen compounds

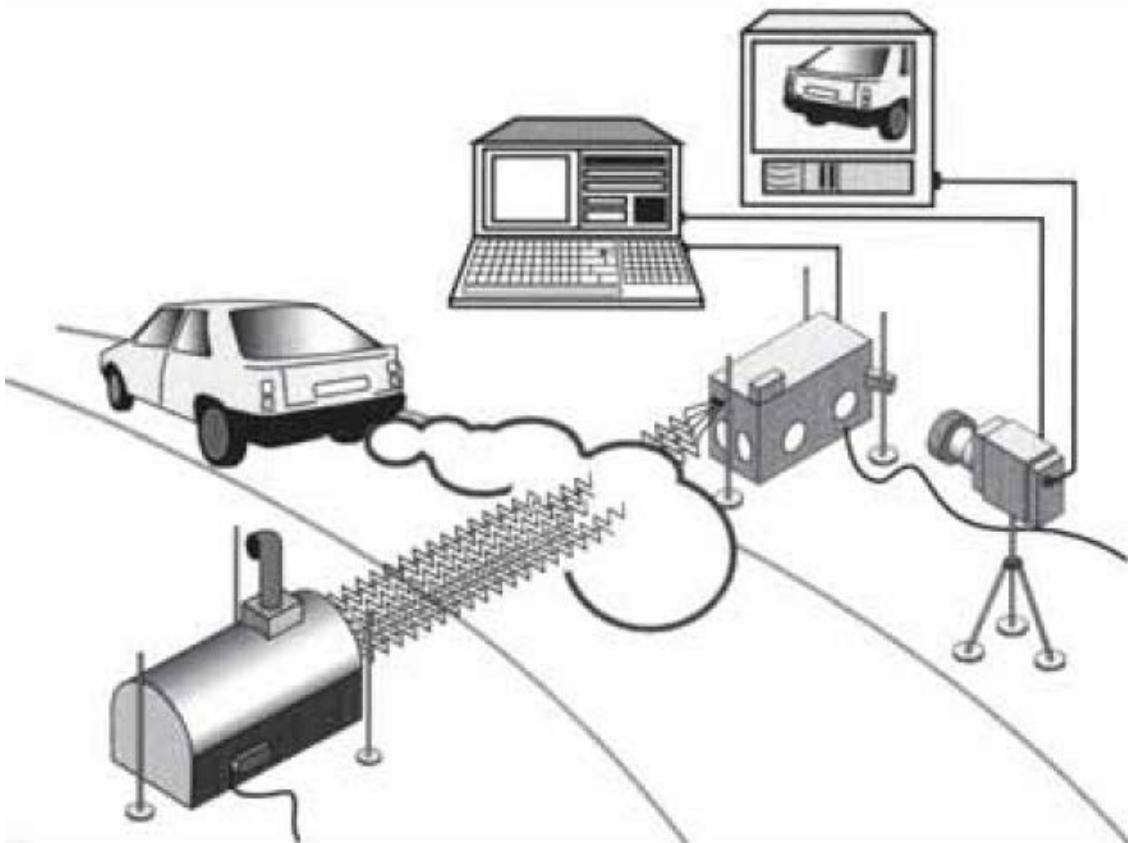
- $\text{NO}_2$  is highly toxic (acute and chronic) (induces oxidative stress, inflammation chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Diesel vehicles with DOCs and hox-DPFs are high  $\text{NO}_2$  emitters!

One reason for better de $\text{NO}_x$  systems is the increase of  $\text{NO}_2$  emissions due to secondary formation in DPFs



# From chassis dynamometers to on-road measurements

For example with an FT-IR at the curbside



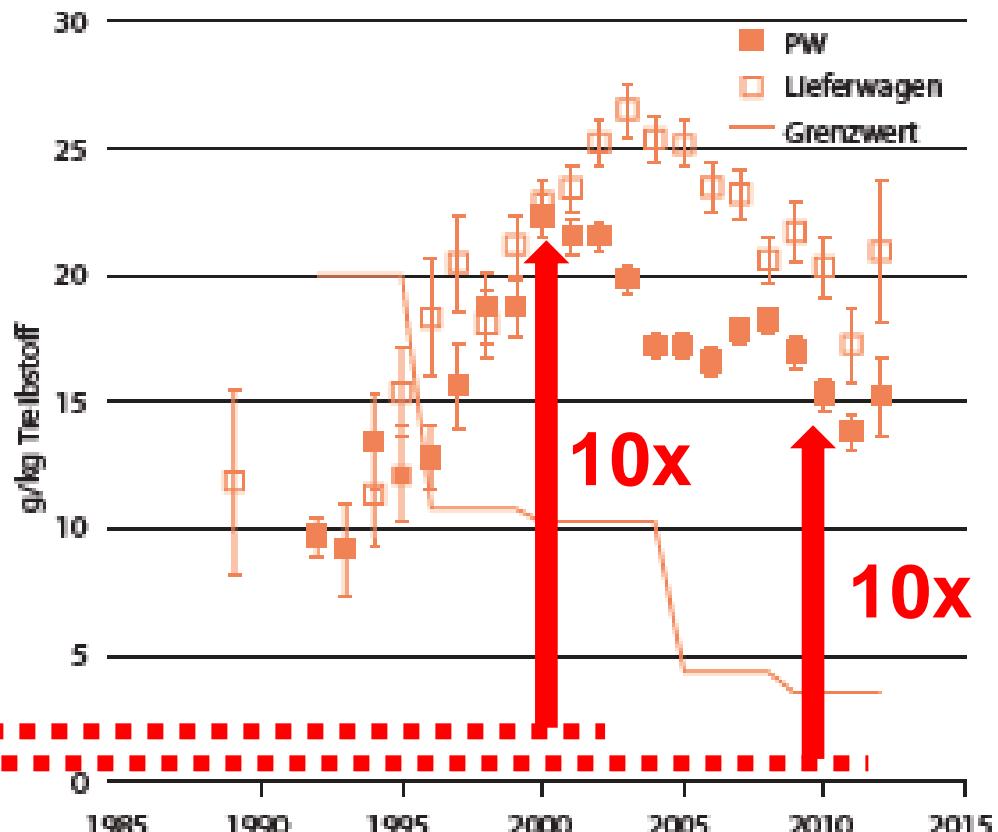
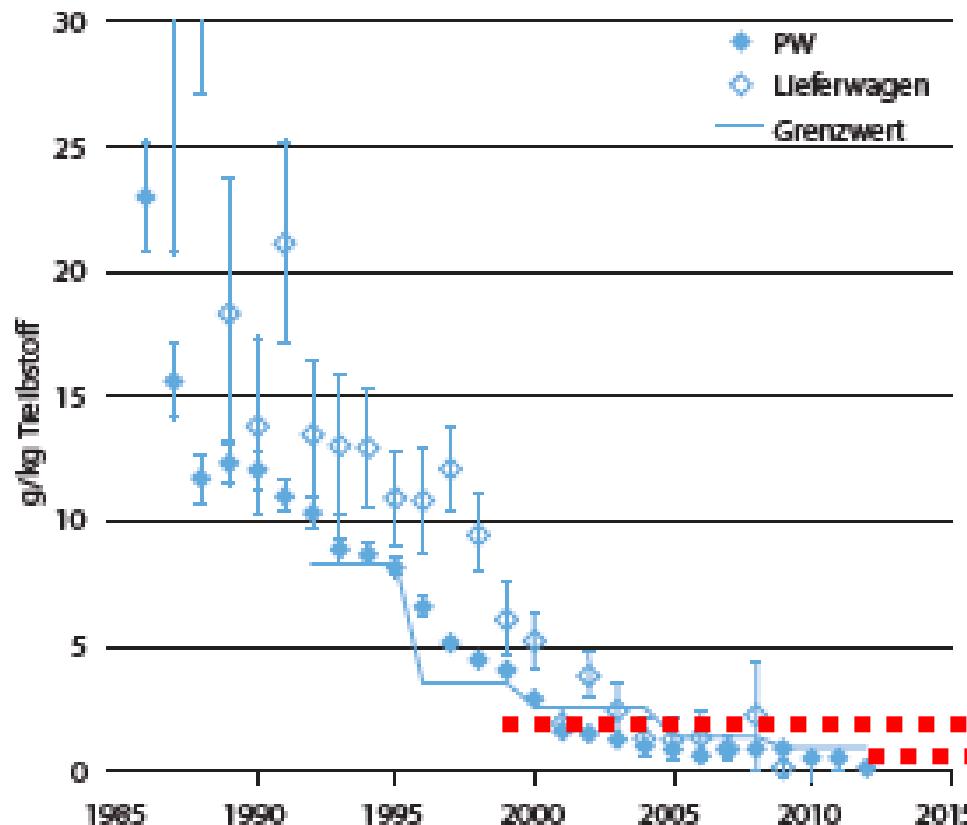
- Remote Sensing
- Emissions of individual vehicles
  - NO, CO, HC, CO<sub>2</sub>
- 15 years, 500'000 vehicles
- Licence plate recognition
- Technology assignment
- Detection of high emitters
- Field inspection and control

# From chassis dynamometers to on-road measurements

Appearance and reality are far apart! Diesel NO<sub>x</sub> 10x higher than gasoline vehicles

## NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of gasoline & diesel vehicles

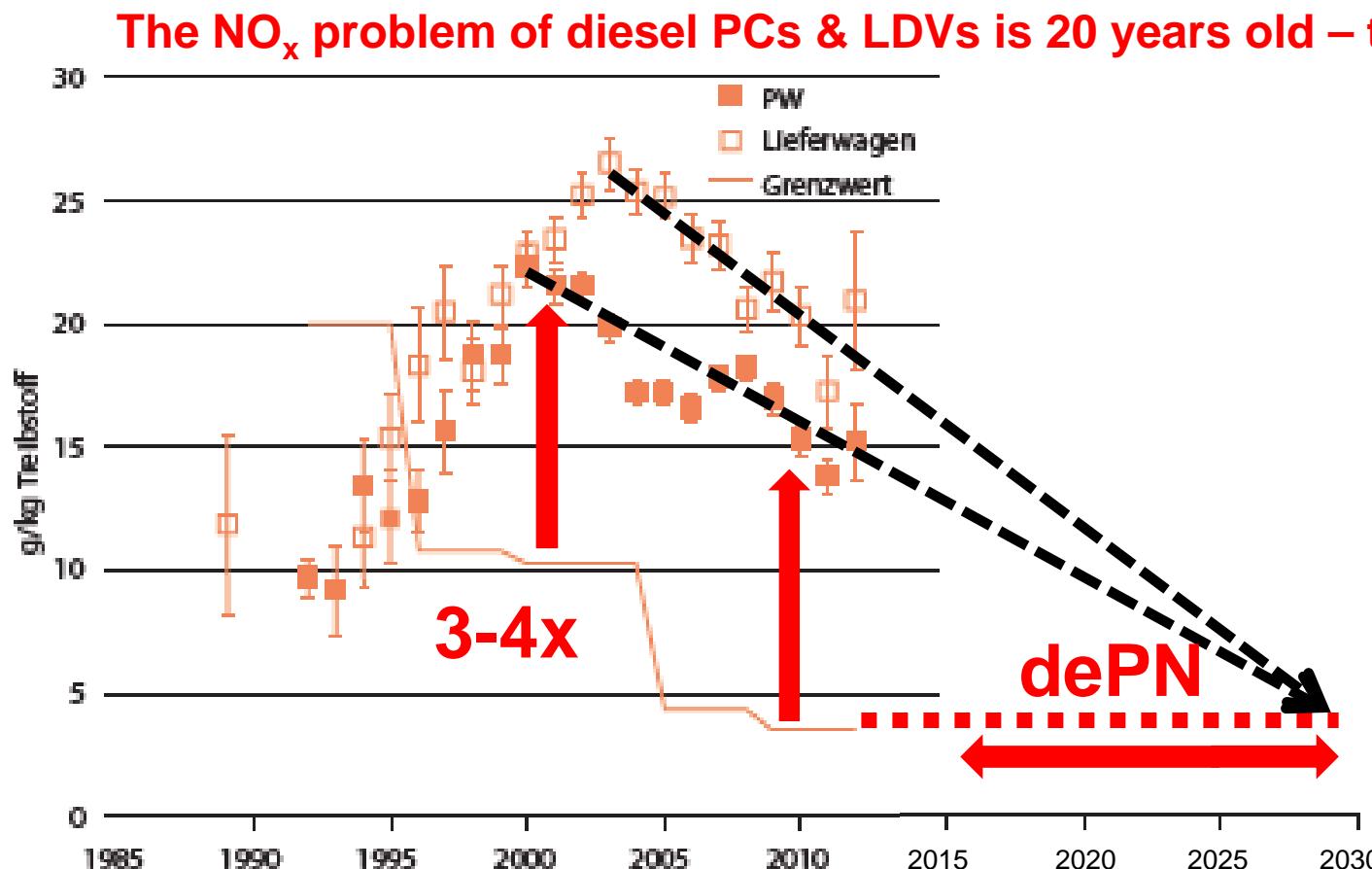
The NO<sub>x</sub> problem of diesel PCs & LDVs is 20 years old – that's the scandal



# Can diesel solve its NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emission problem in time?

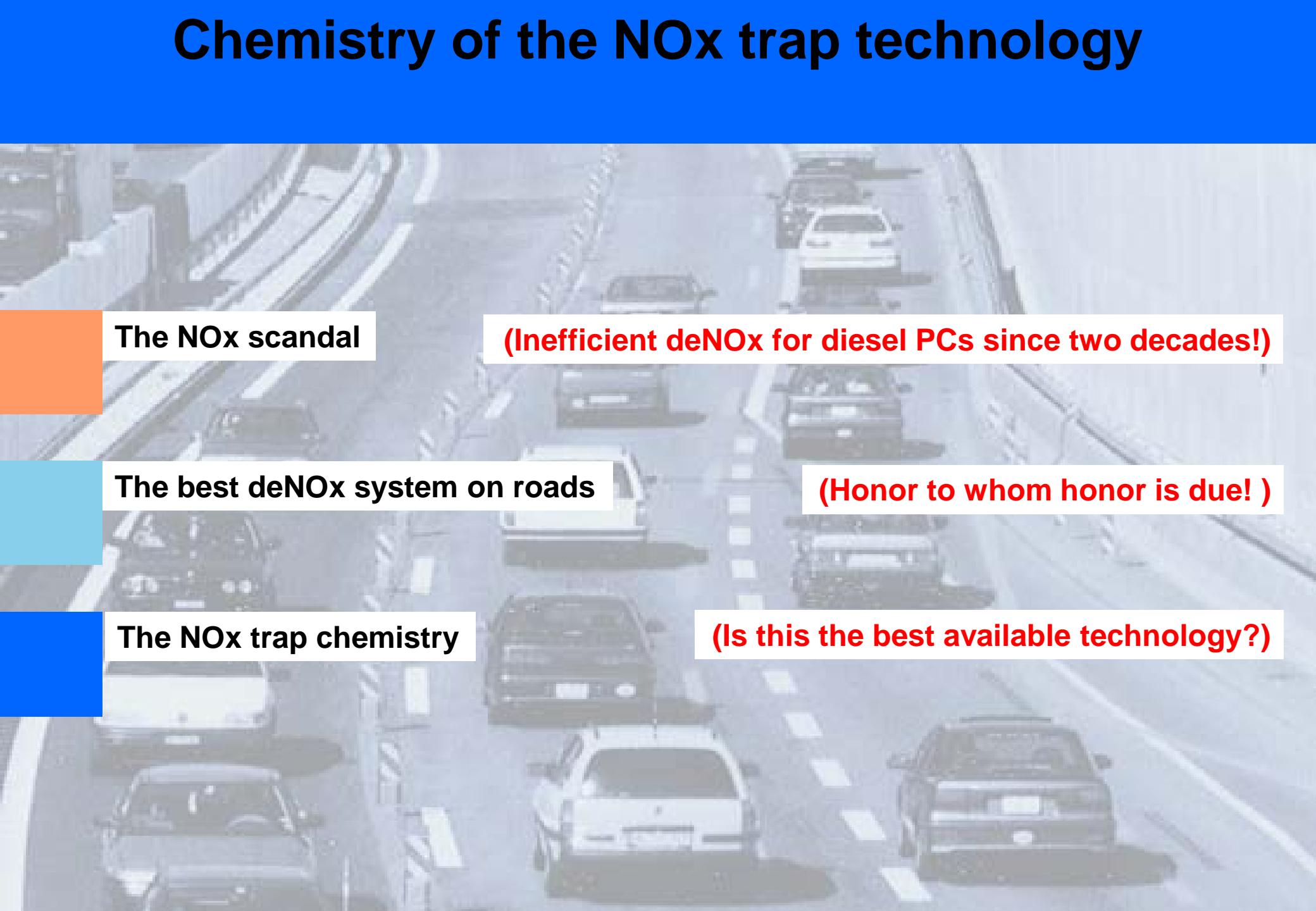
Appearance and reality are far apart! Another 15 years to wait?

## NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of diesel vehicles



Is it really 2030  
when diesel  
PC and LDV  
reach the  
Euro-6 level  
introduced  
in 2009?

# Chemistry of the NOx trap technology



The NOx scandal

(Inefficient deNOx for diesel PCs since two decades!)

The best deNOx system on roads

(Honor to whom honor is due! )

The NOx trap chemistry

(Is this the best available technology?)

# The best deNO<sub>x</sub> system on European roads

Honor to whom honor is due

**Vehicle:**

- BMW 318 (1.8 l, 1995, Euro-1, mileage 70'000 km)

**Fuel:**

- 95 RON gasoline (specification CEF RF-08-A-85)

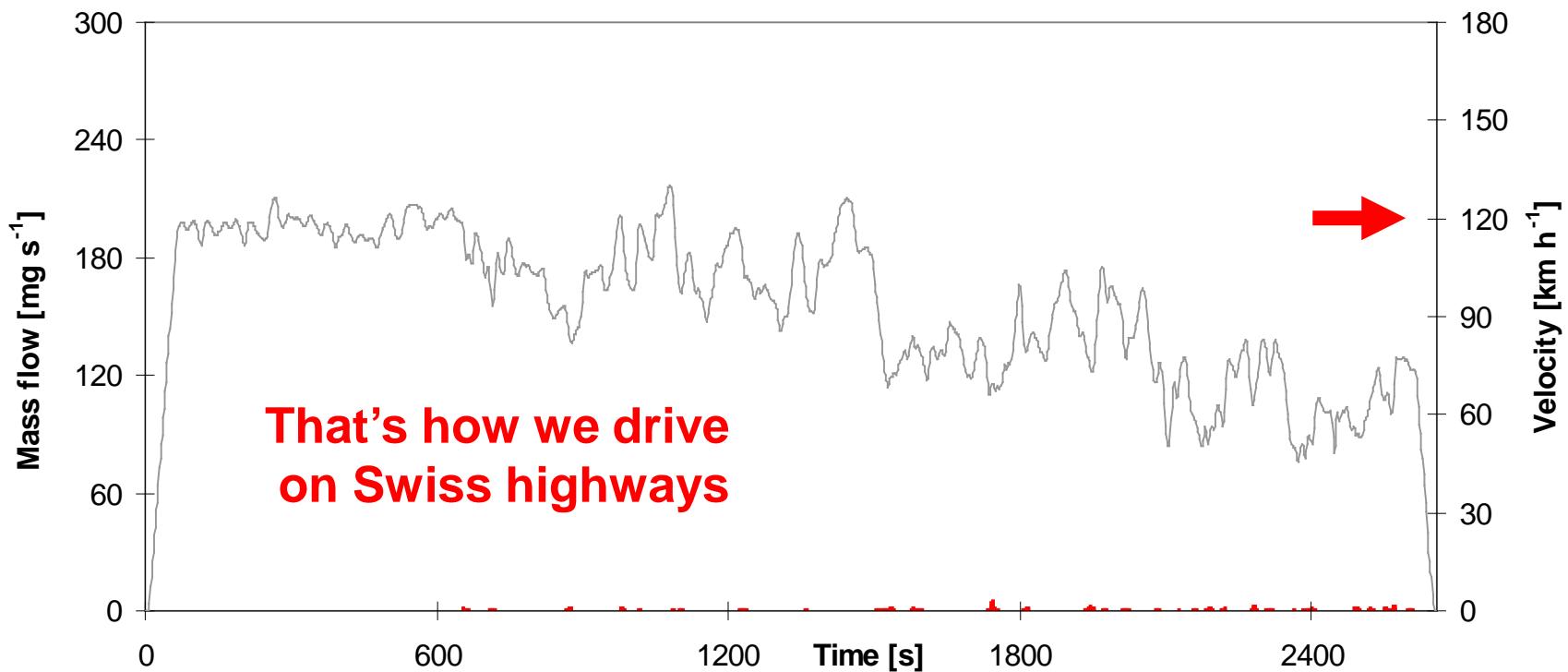
**Catalyst:**

- New, original spare part TWC
- Two-layered Pd-CeO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Rh-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> structure

# DeNO<sub>x</sub> am Pd/Rh-TWC

Speed limit 120 km h<sup>-1</sup>

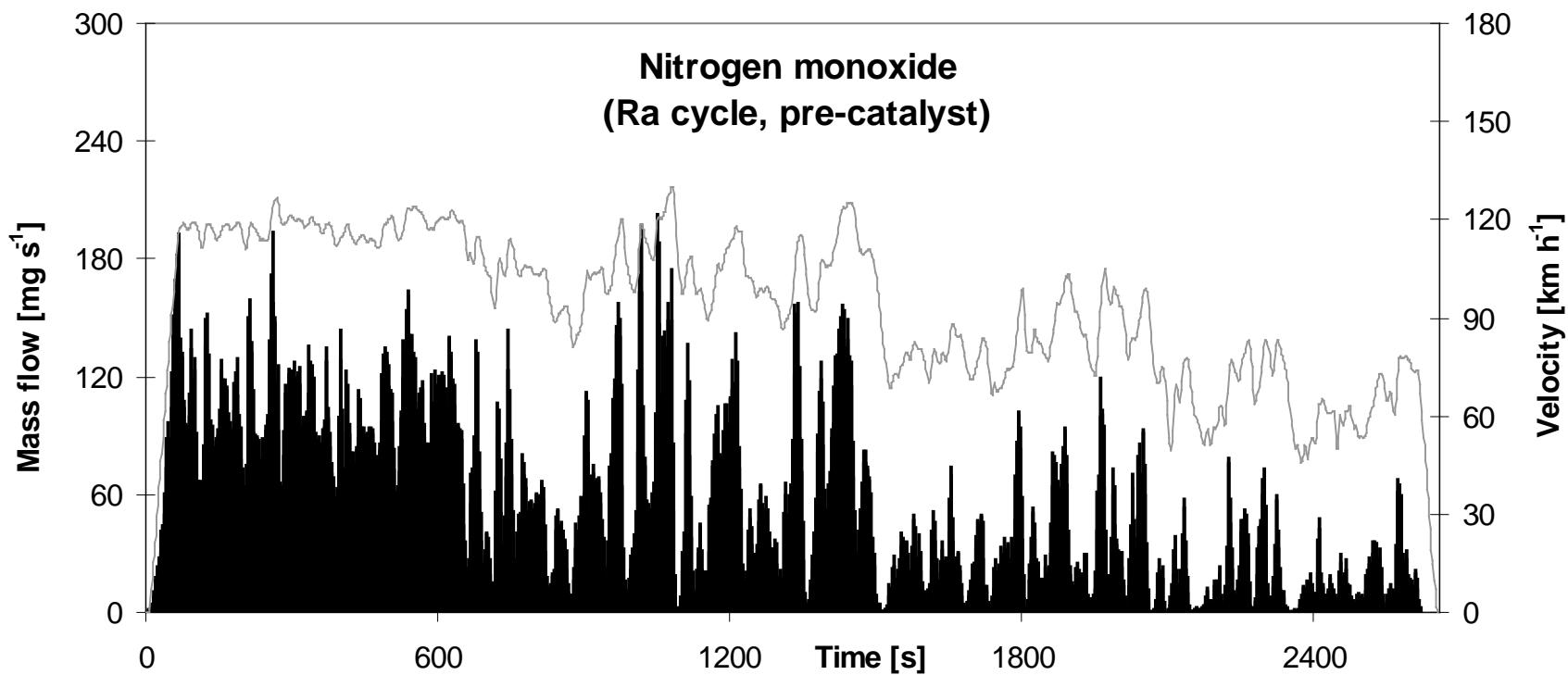
NO emission (BMW, 1.8 l, 1995, EURO-1)



# DeNO<sub>x</sub> in Pd/Rh-TWC

Pre-catalyst NO up to 200 mg s<sup>-1</sup> at transient highway driving

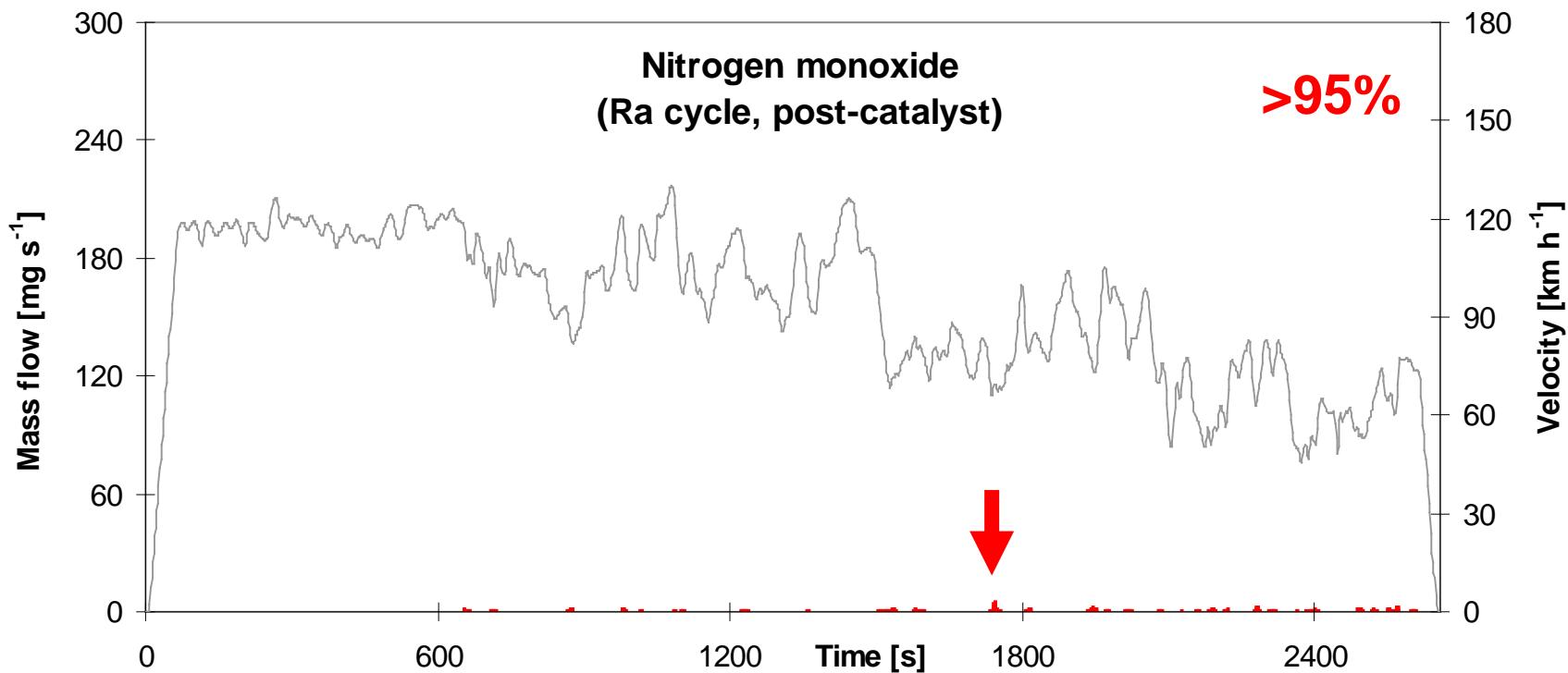
NO emission (BMW, 1.8 l, 1995, EURO-1)



# DeNO<sub>x</sub> am Pd/Rh-TWC

Post catalyst less than 6 mg s<sup>-1</sup>

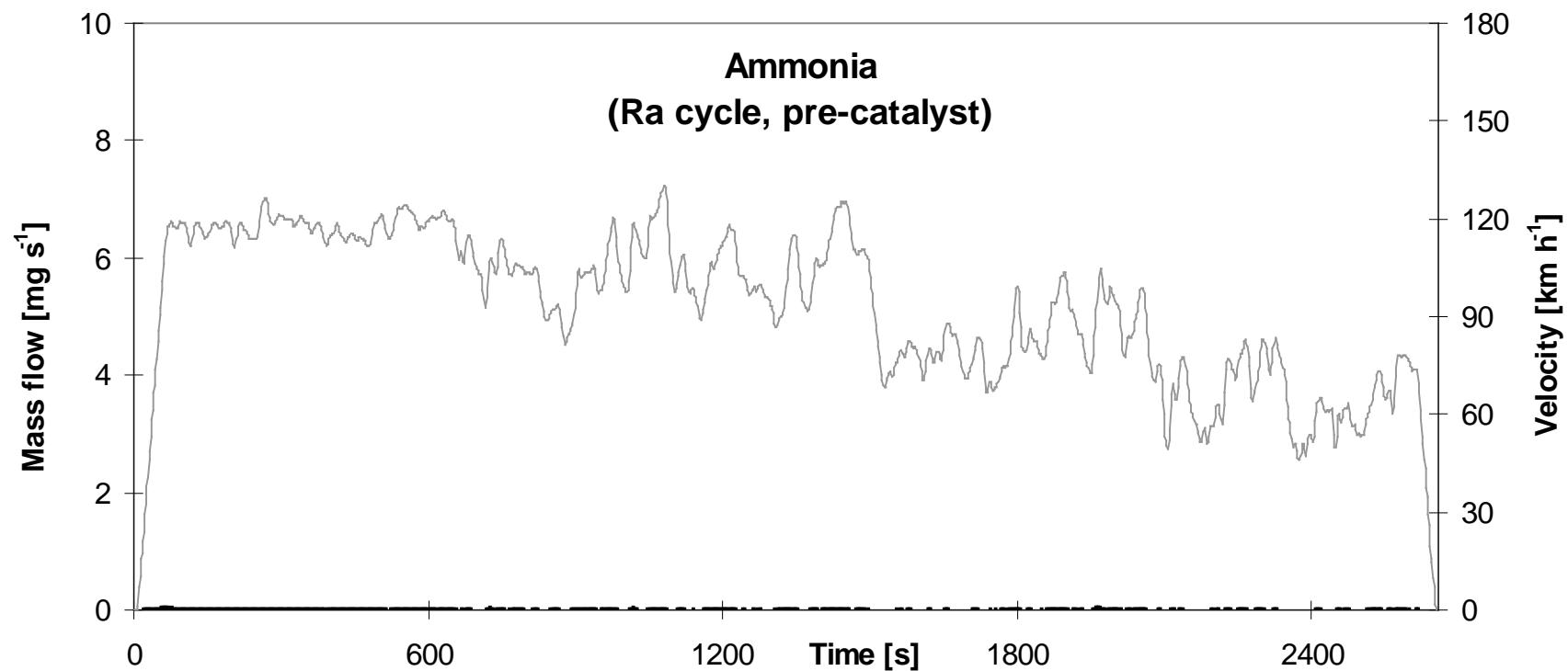
NO emission (BMW, 1.8 l, 1995, EURO-1)



# TWC-induced formation of ammonia

No ammonia before catalyst

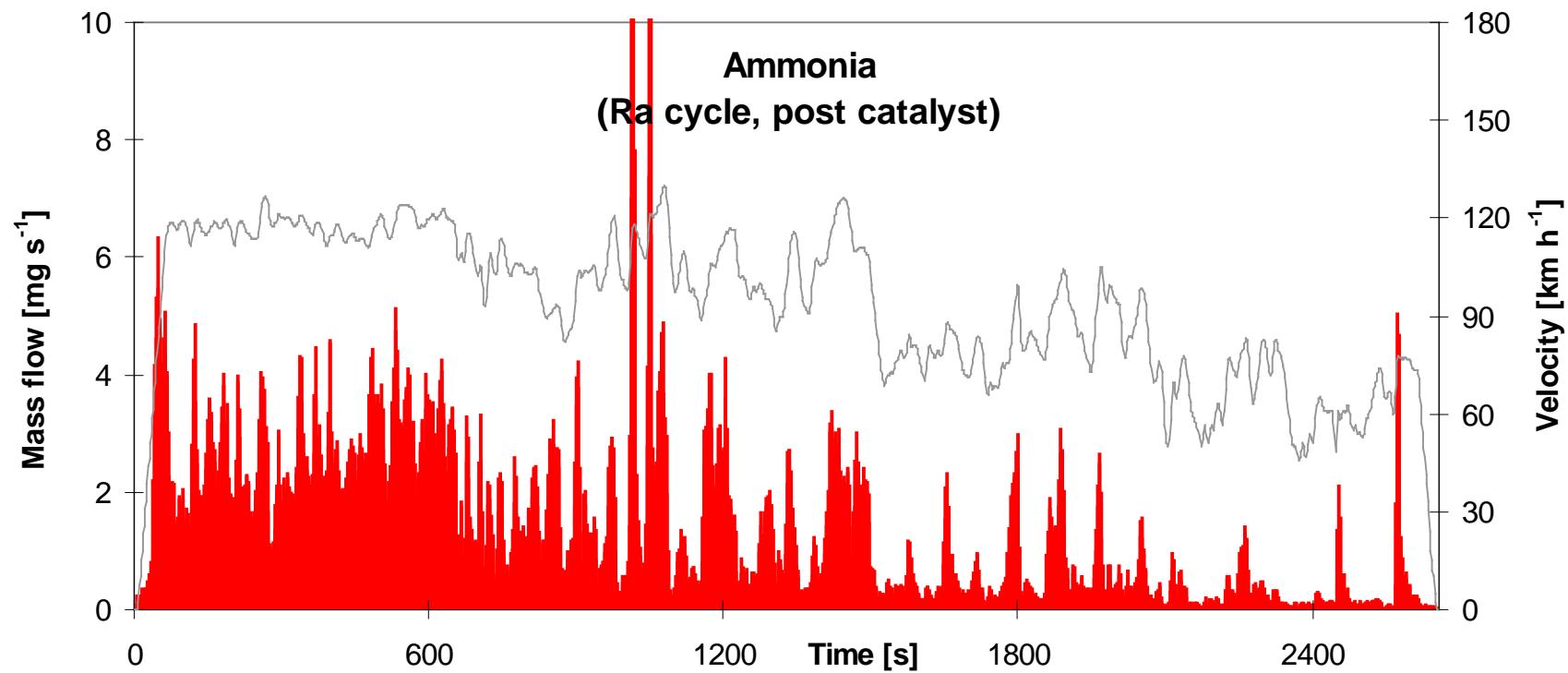
Ammonia emissions (BMW, 1.8 l, 1995, EURO-1)



# TWC-induced formation of ammonia

Relevant ammonia emissions post catalyst

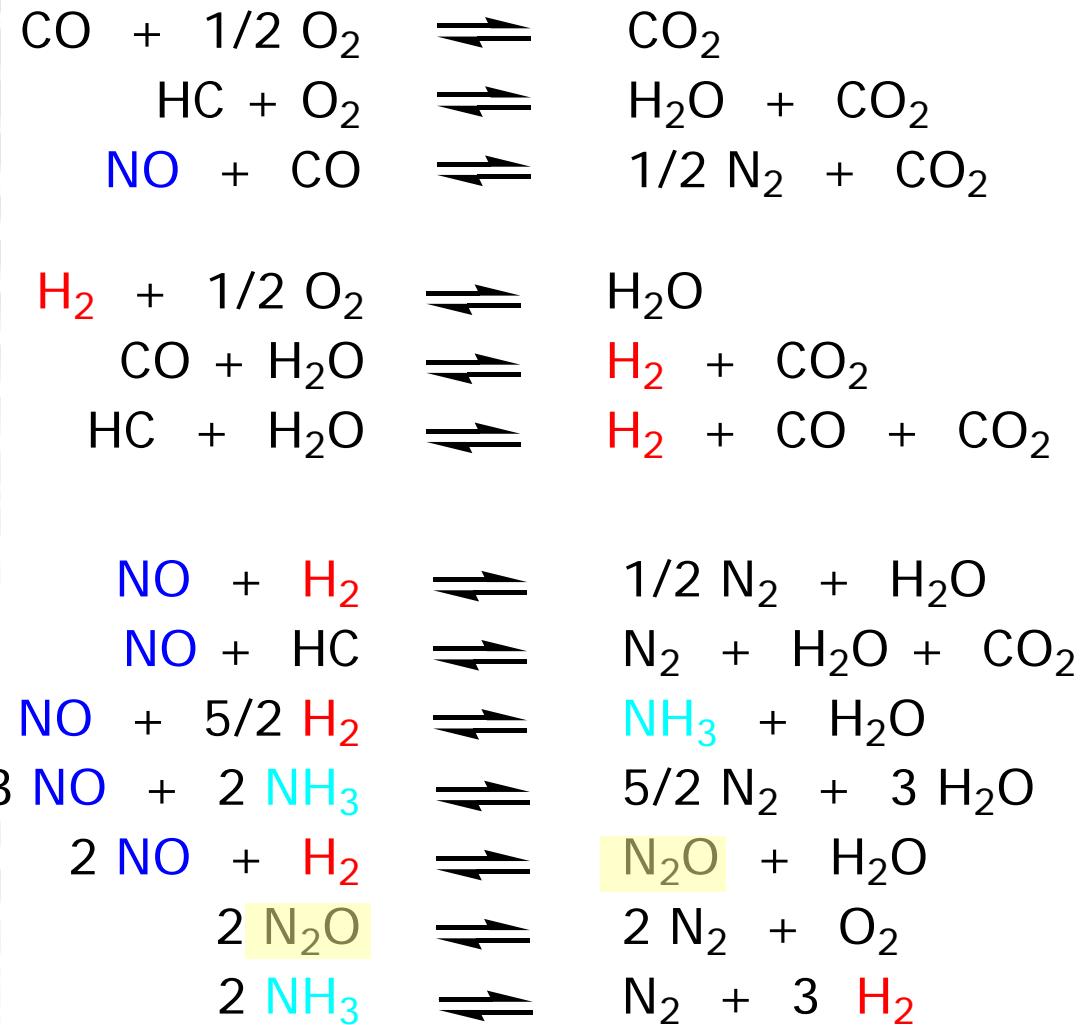
Ammonia emissions (BMW, 1.8 l, 1995, EURO-1)



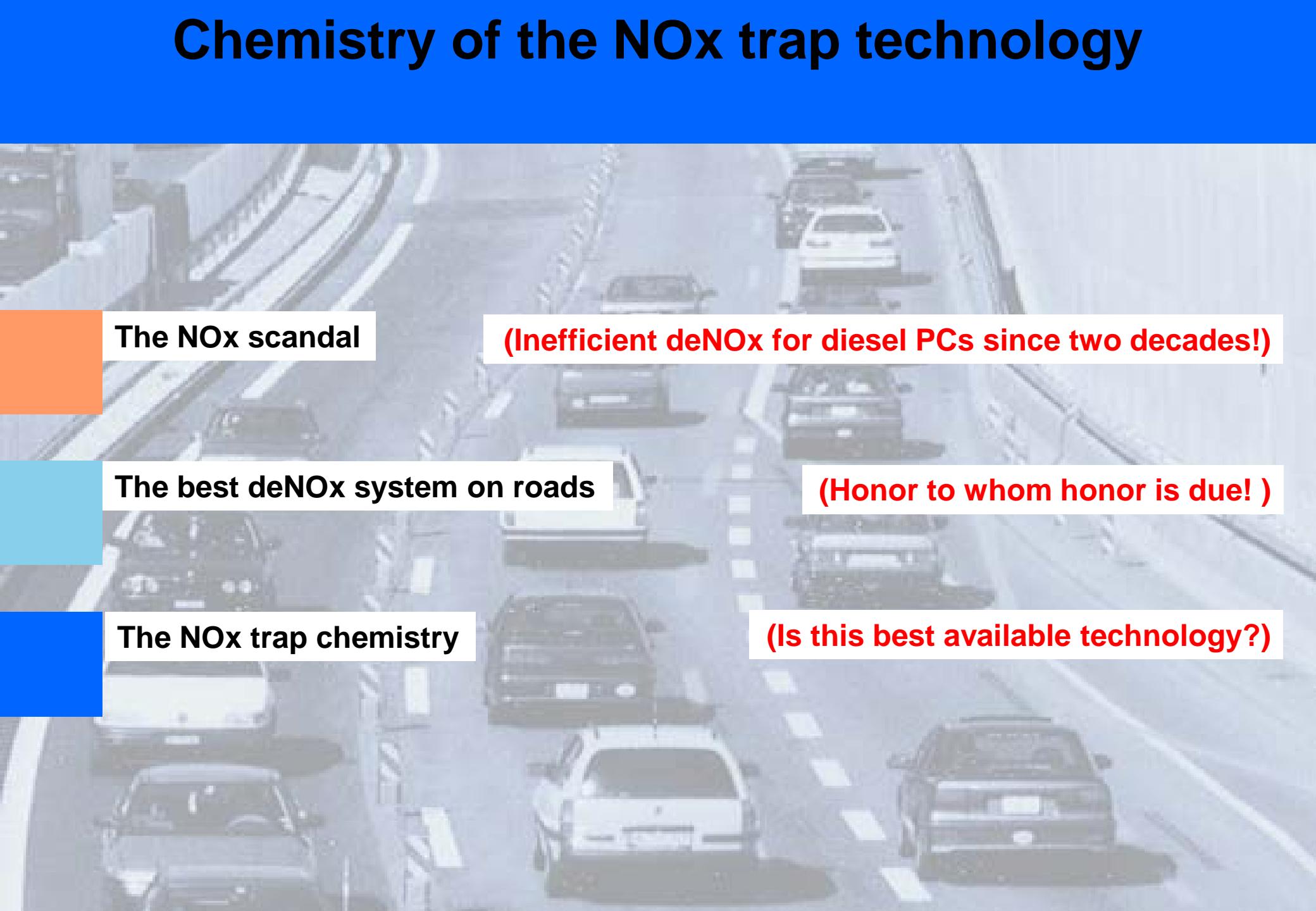
# TWC in real world application

- Why NH<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O?

- Which three ways to go?
- A new try incl. H<sub>2</sub>, water gas-shift-reactions and steam reforming
- Another try with H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>



# Chemistry of the NOx trap technology



The NOx scandal

(Inefficient deNOx for diesel PCs since two decades!)

The best deNOx system on roads

(Honor to whom honor is due! )

The NOx trap chemistry

(Is this best available technology?)

# NOx-trap technology

The first in-series GDI vehicle (Mitsubishi Carisma, 1.8 I, Euro-3) with NOx trap technology

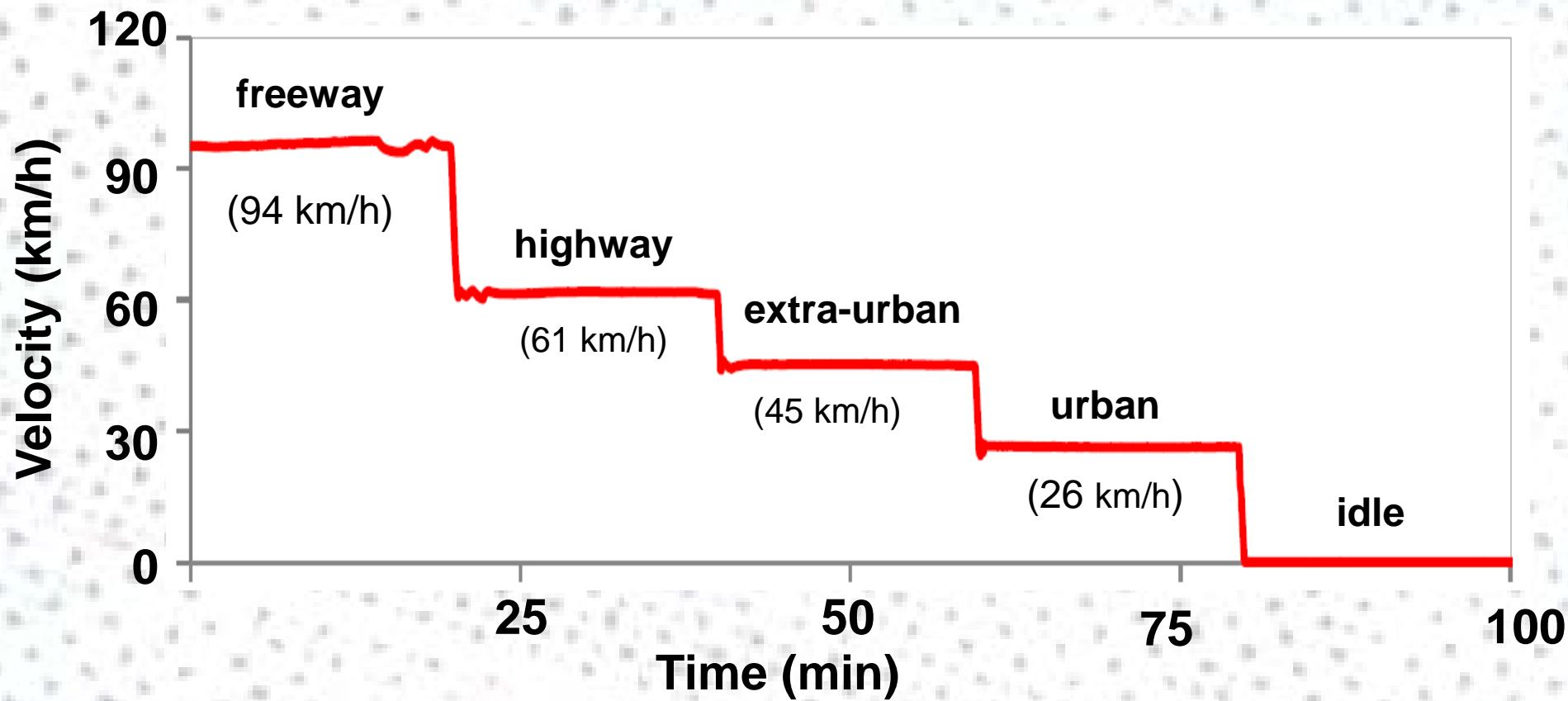
Vehicle	Mitsubishi Carisma 1.8 GDI
Engine code	4G93
Number and arrangement of cylinder	4 / in line
Displacement cm <sup>3</sup>	1834
Power kW	90 @ 5500 rpm
Torque Nm	174 @ 3750 rpm
Injection type	DI
Curb weight kg	1315
Gross vehicle weight kg	1750
Drive wheel	Front-wheel drive
Gearbox	M5
First registration	05.2001
Exhaust	EURO 3



# NOx-trap technology

An ideal cycle to study converter chemistry at its best

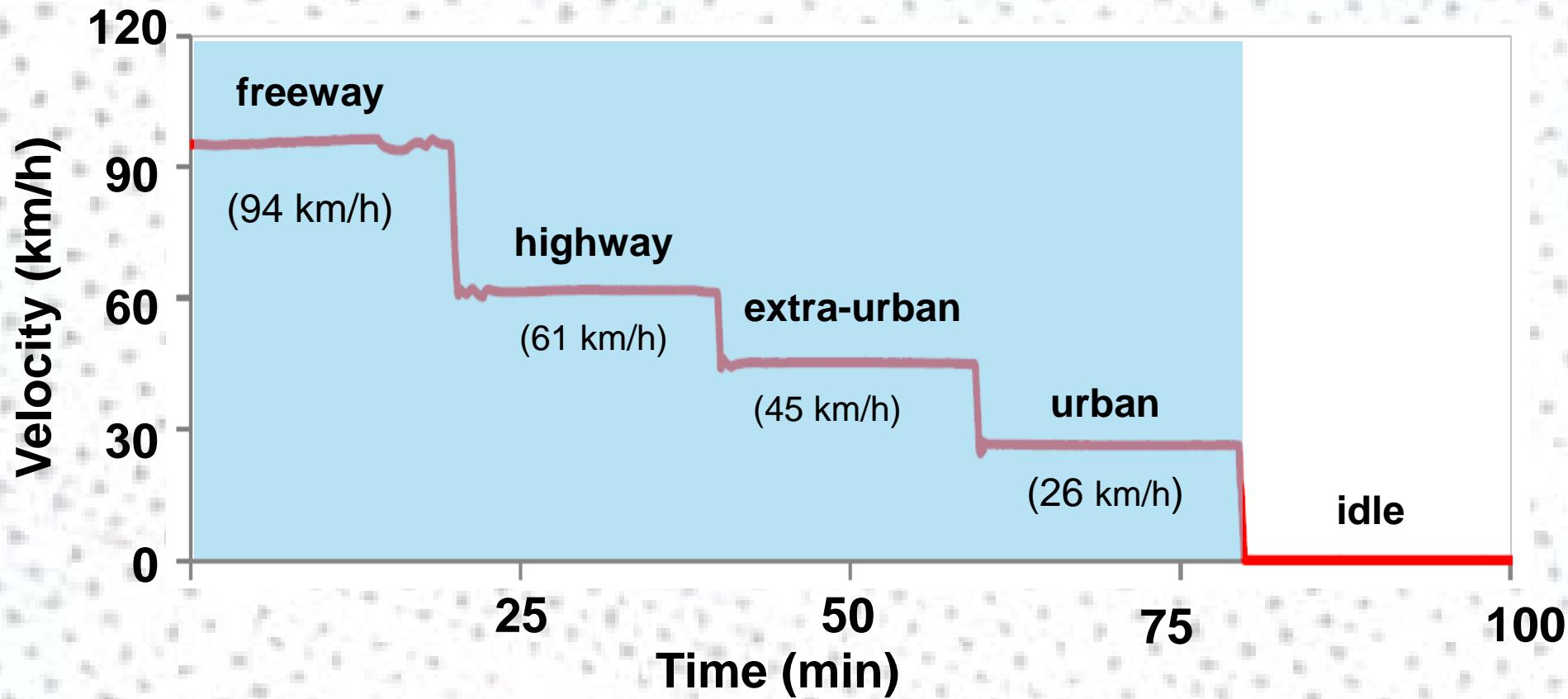
## NOx-trap activity in a SSC



# NOx-trap technology

An ideal cycle to study converter chemistry at its best

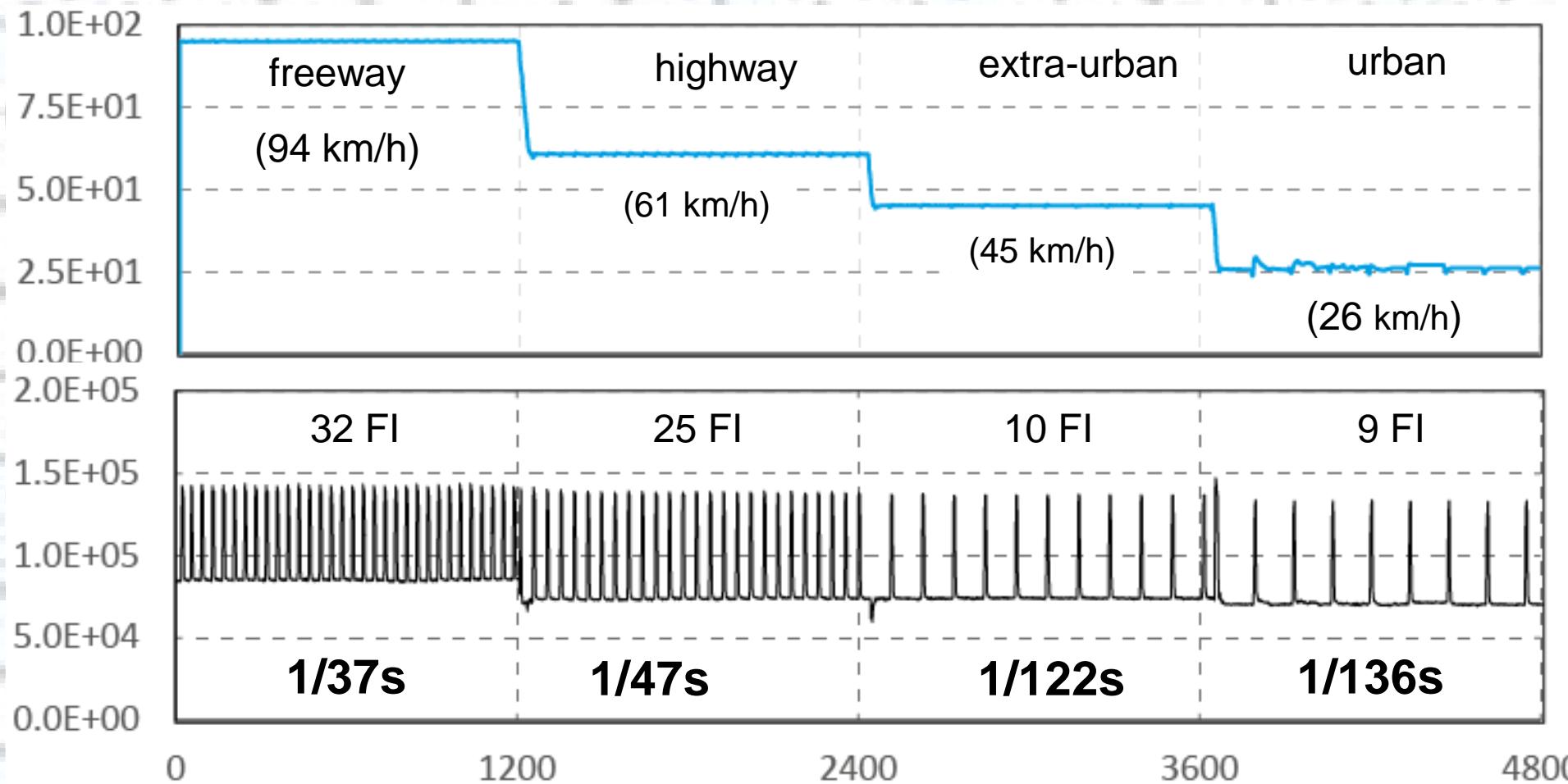
## NOx-trap activity in a SSC



# NOx-trap chemistry

Extra fuel injections (FI) about every minute!

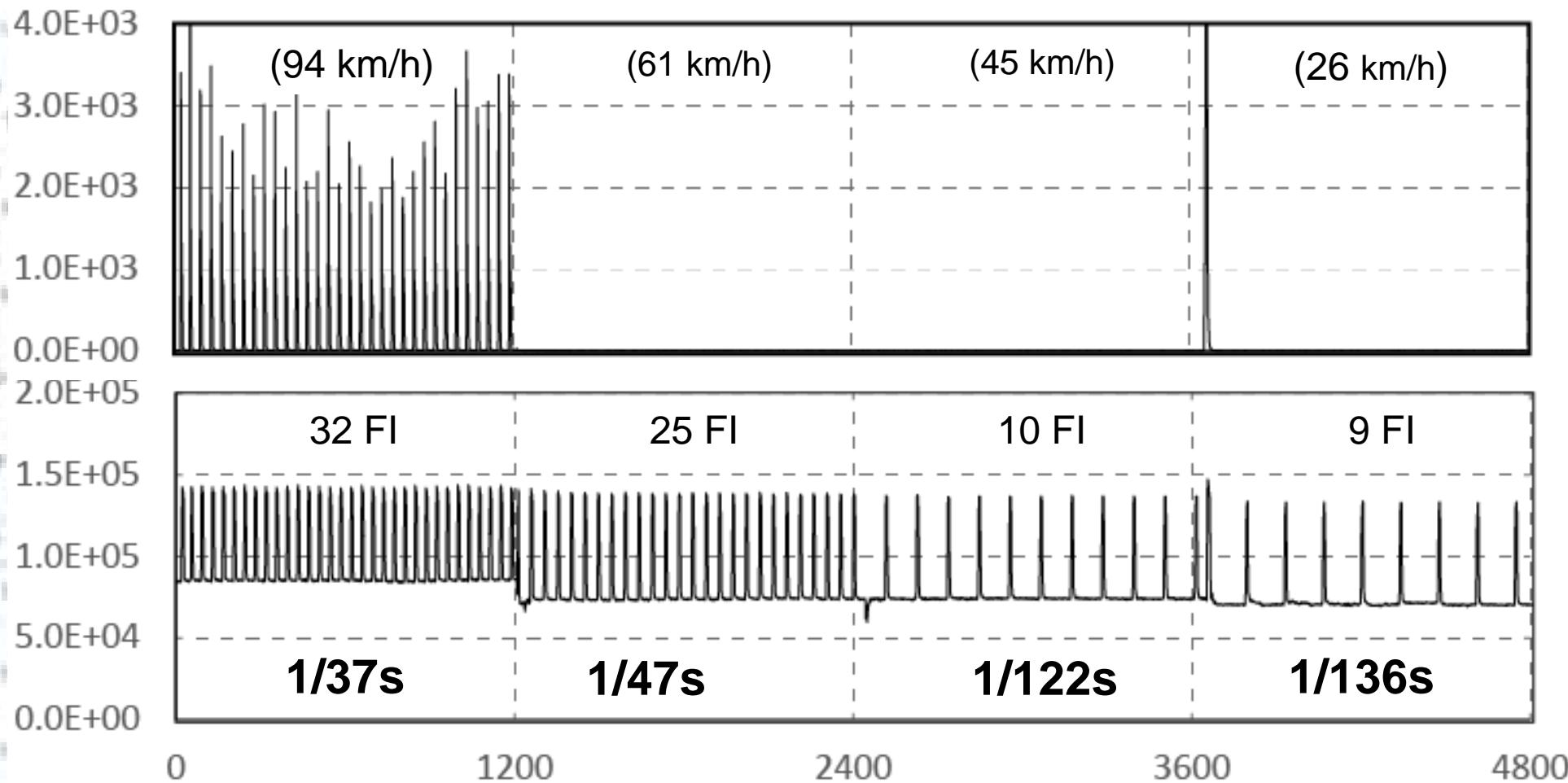
## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the SSC



# NOx-trap chemistry

Extra fuel injections result in extra CO emissions but only in phase 1

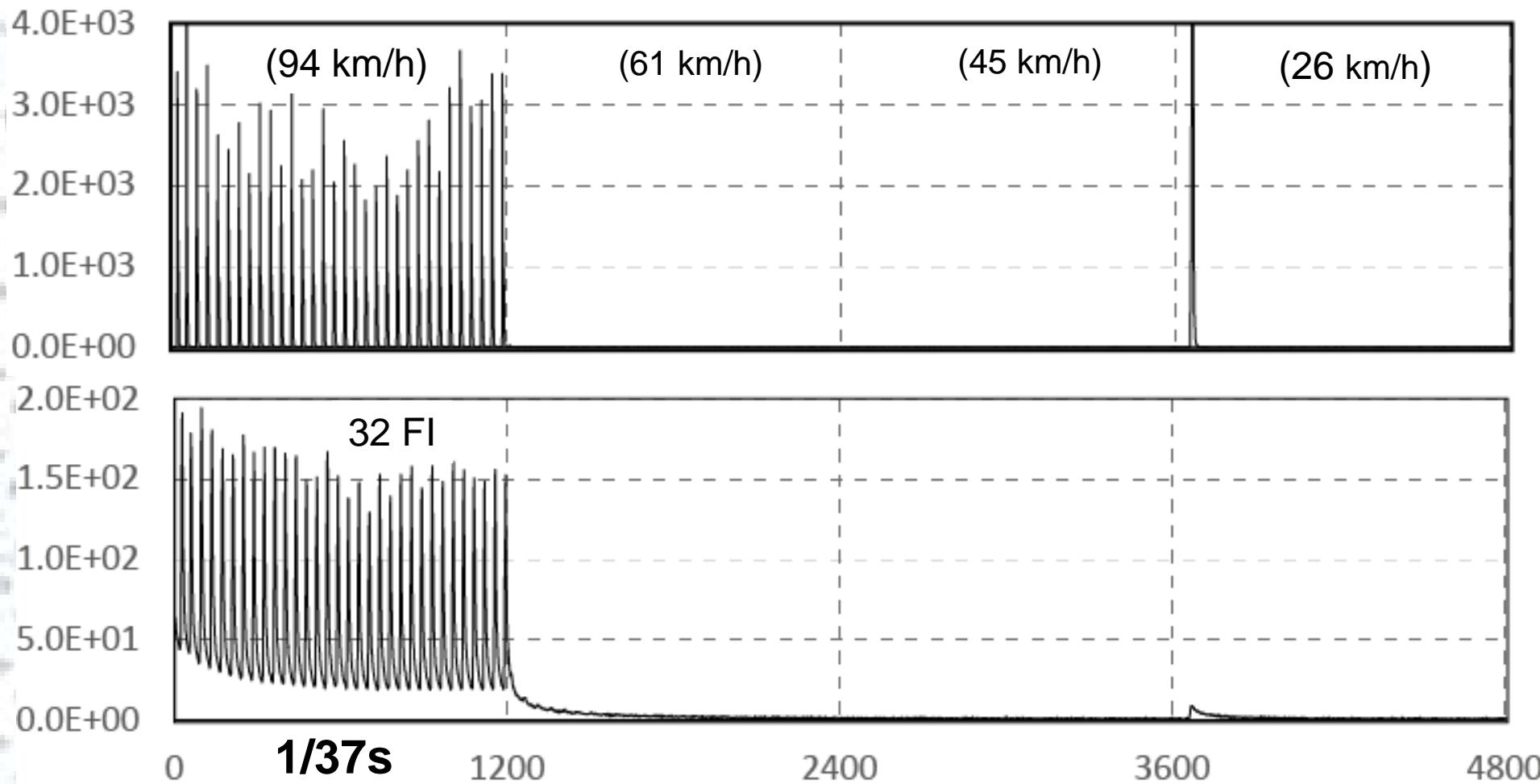
## CO and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# NOx-trap chemistry

Extra fuel injections result in extra CO and NH<sub>3</sub> emissions but only in phase 1

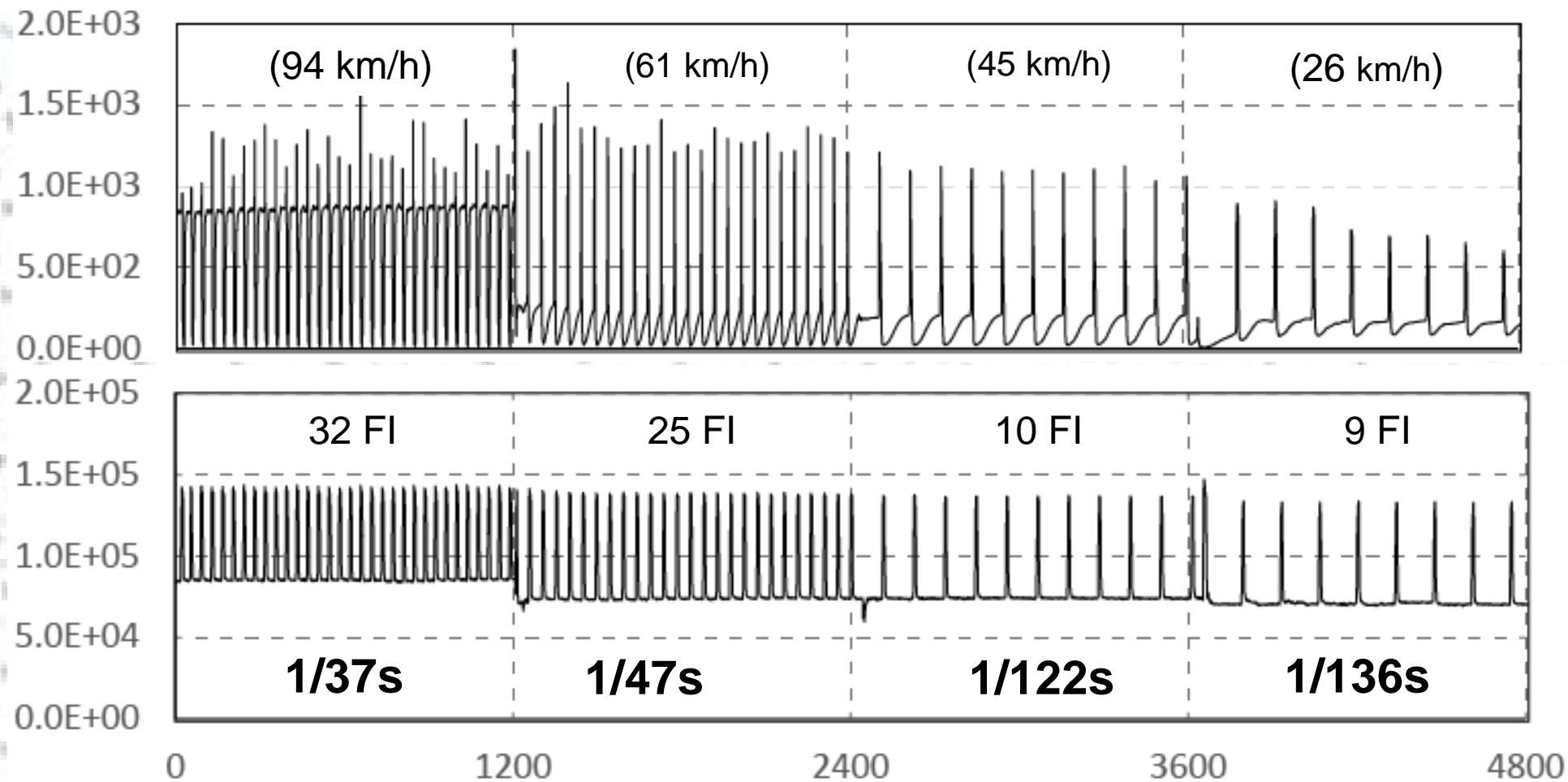
## NH<sub>3</sub> and CO emissions



# NOx-trap chemistry

NOx trap at work: extra fuel injections result in extra NO emissions

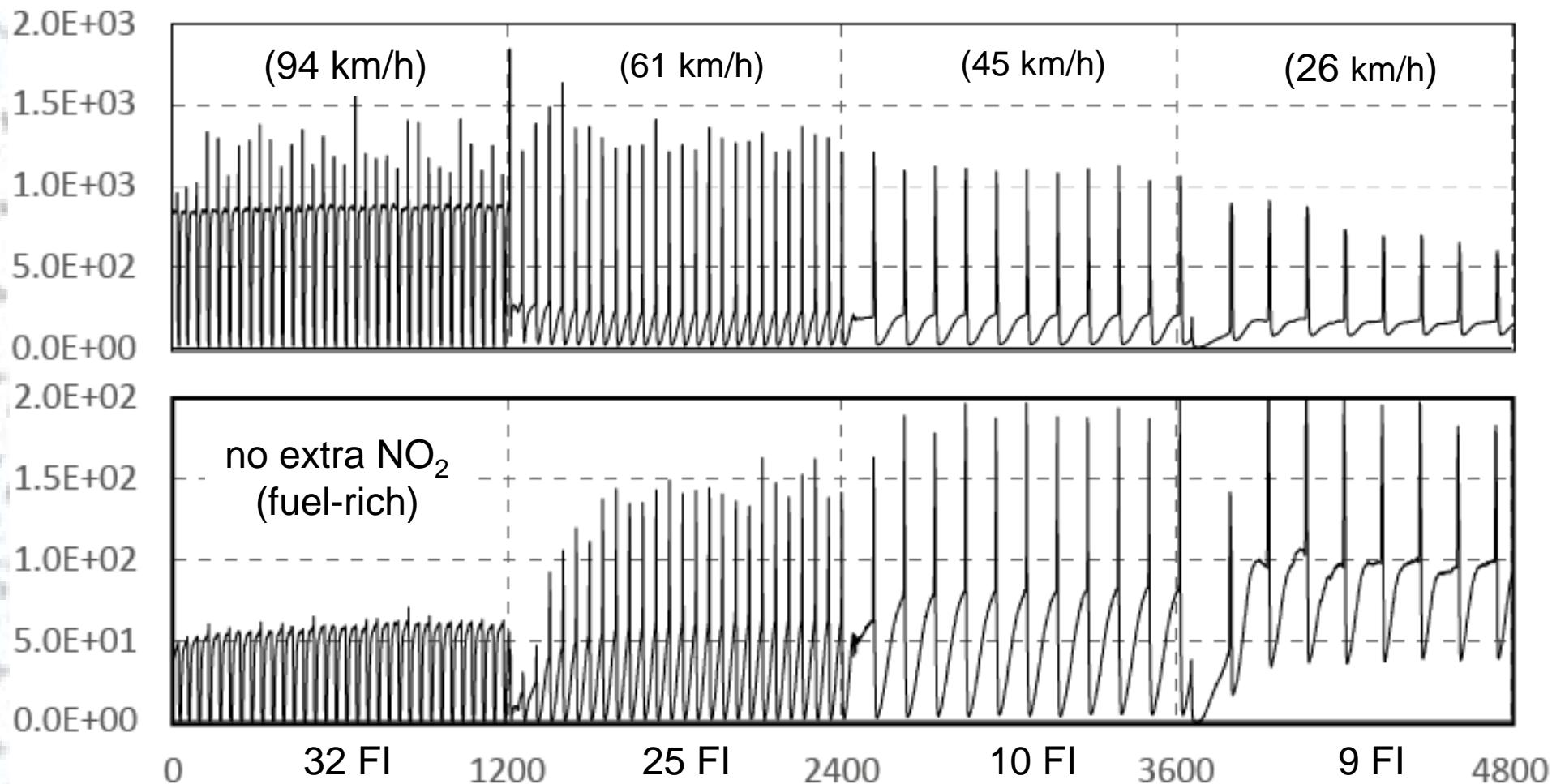
## NO and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# NOx-trap chemistry

NOx trap at work: extra fuel injections result in extra NO and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions

## NO and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# NOx-trap chemistry

NO<sub>2</sub> proportions lowest during extra fuel injections and high temperatures

NO<sub>2</sub> proportion

(94 km/h)

6 mol%

(61 km/h)

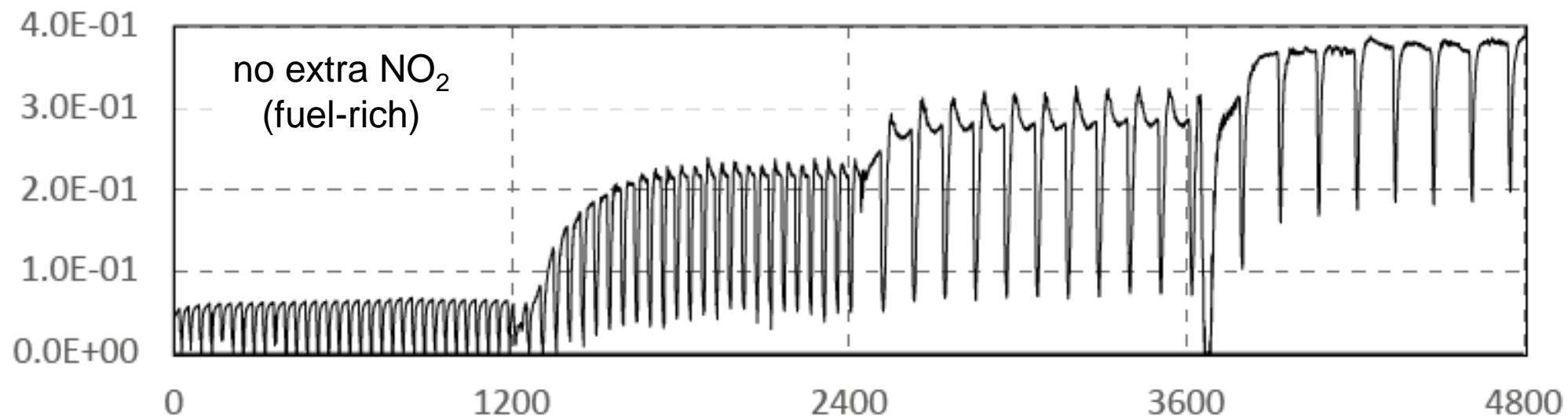
22 mol%

(45 km/h)

30 mol%

(26 km/h)

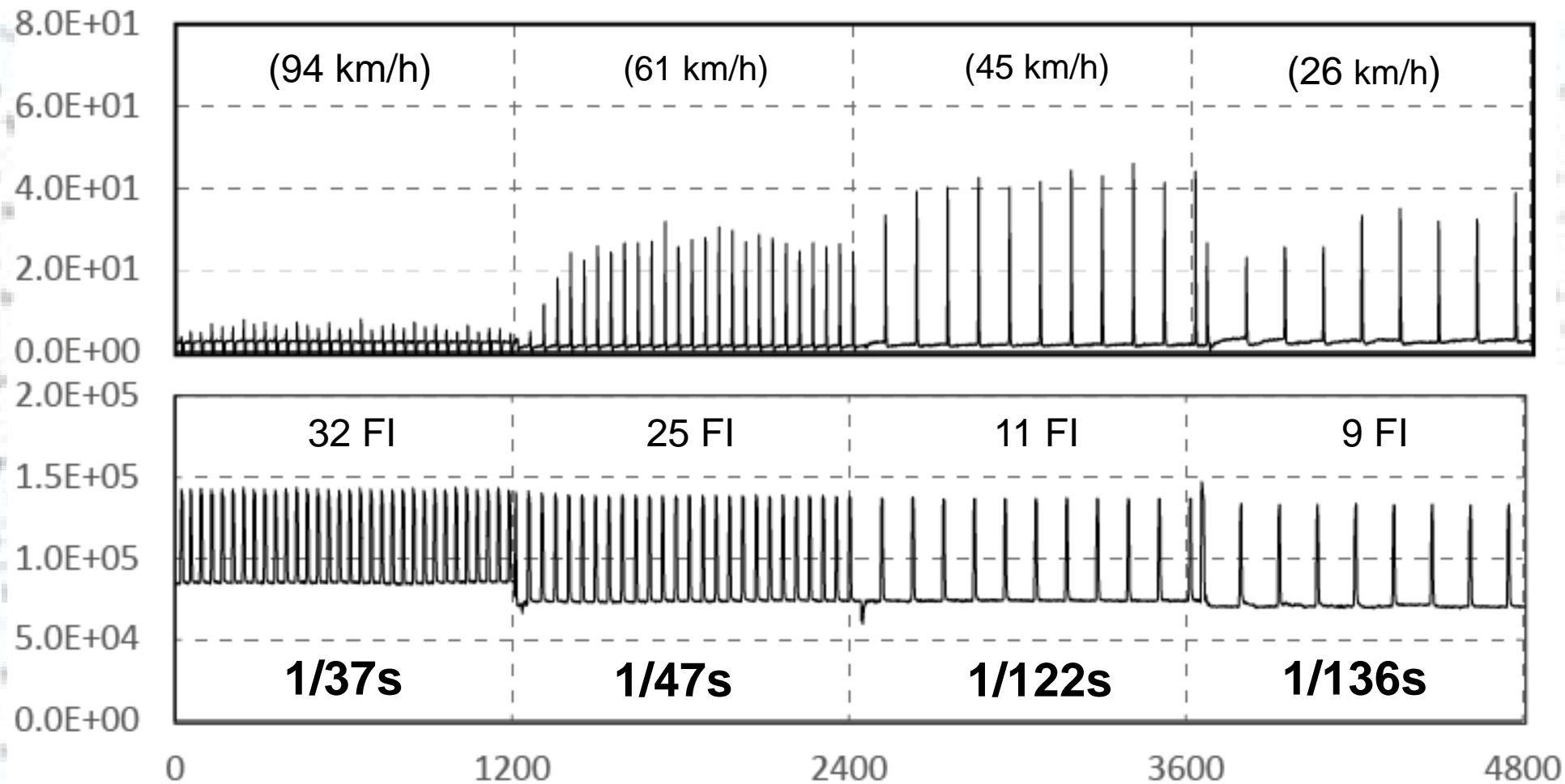
38 mol%



# NOx-trap chemistry

Not funny, extra fuel injections also result in extra N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

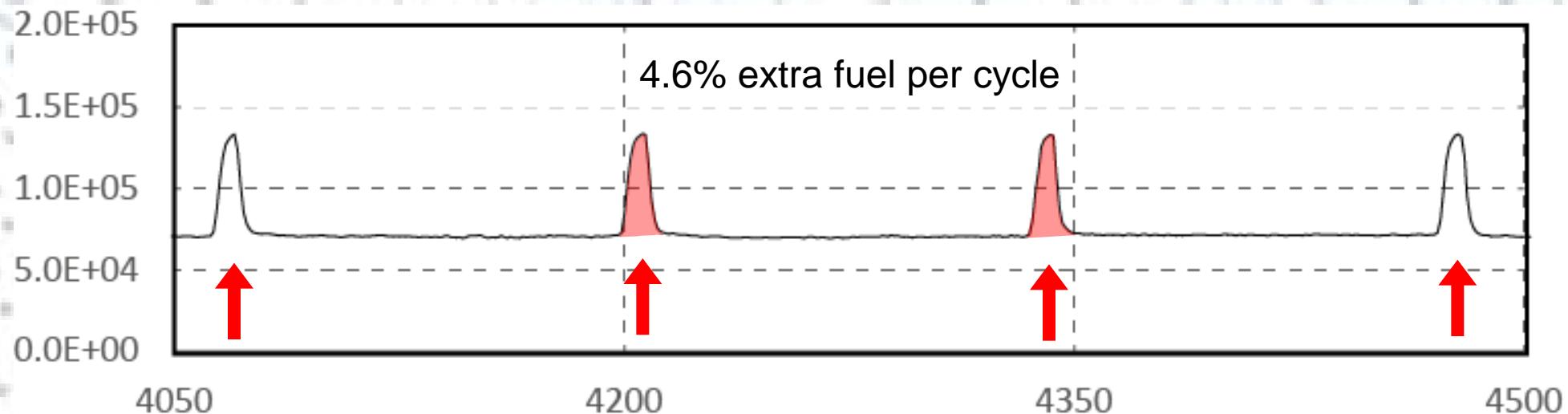
## N<sub>2</sub>O emissions



# NOx-trap chemistry

How much fuel penalty per injection or per store & release cycle?

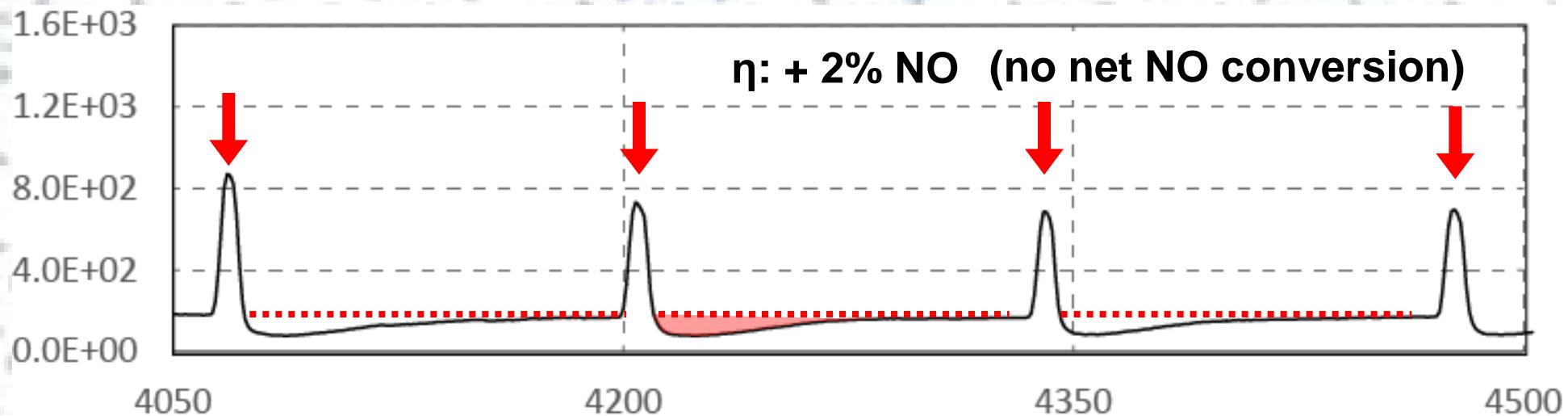
CO<sub>2</sub> at 26 km/h



# NOx-trap chemistry

How much deNO activity per injection

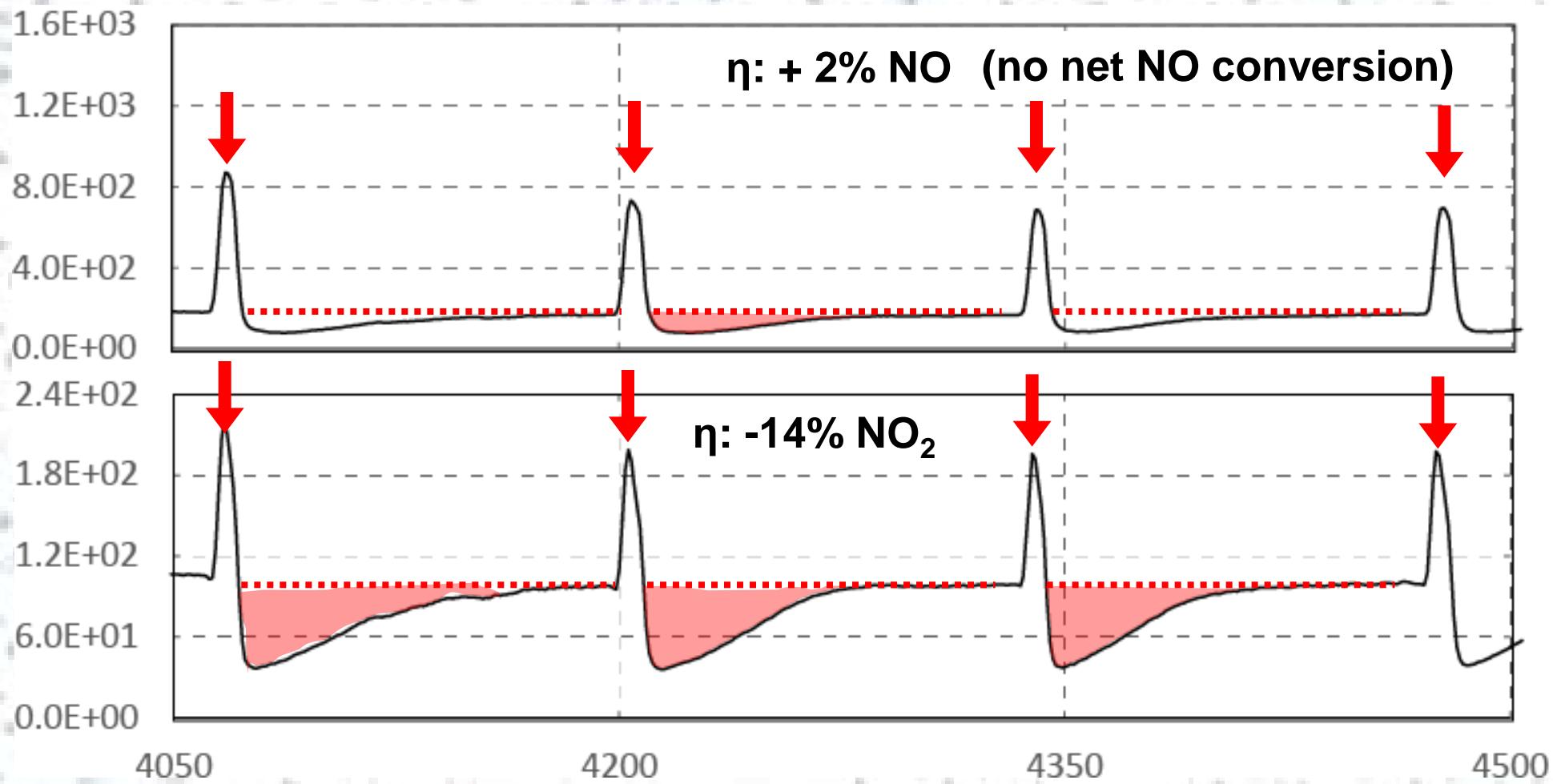
deNO activity at 26 km/h



# NOx-trap chemistry

How much deNO activity per injection

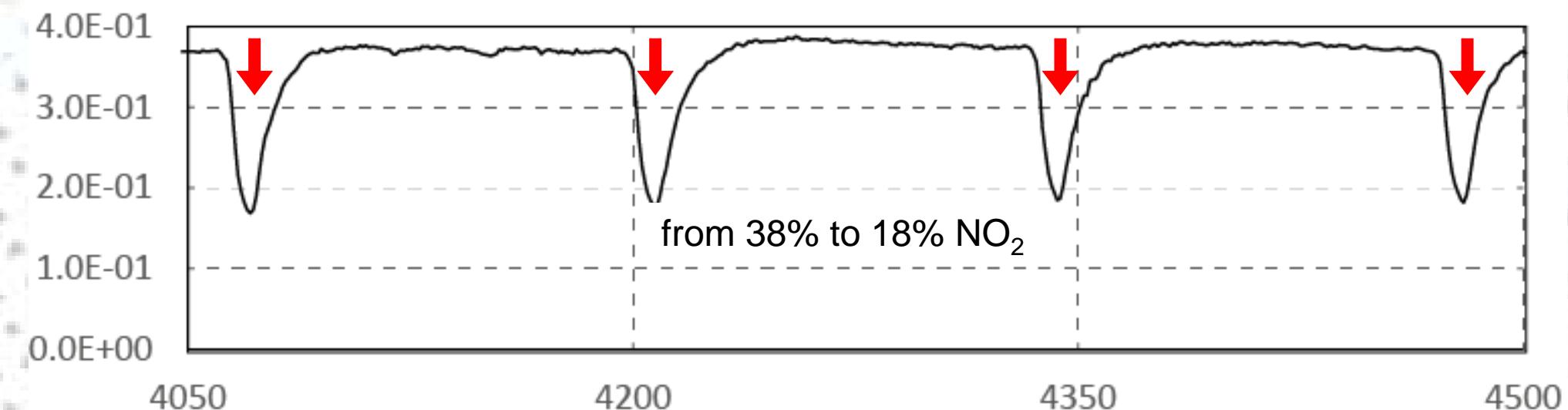
deNO and deNO<sub>2</sub> activity at 26 km/h



# NOx-trap chemistry

NO<sub>2</sub> proportion drops during fuel injection

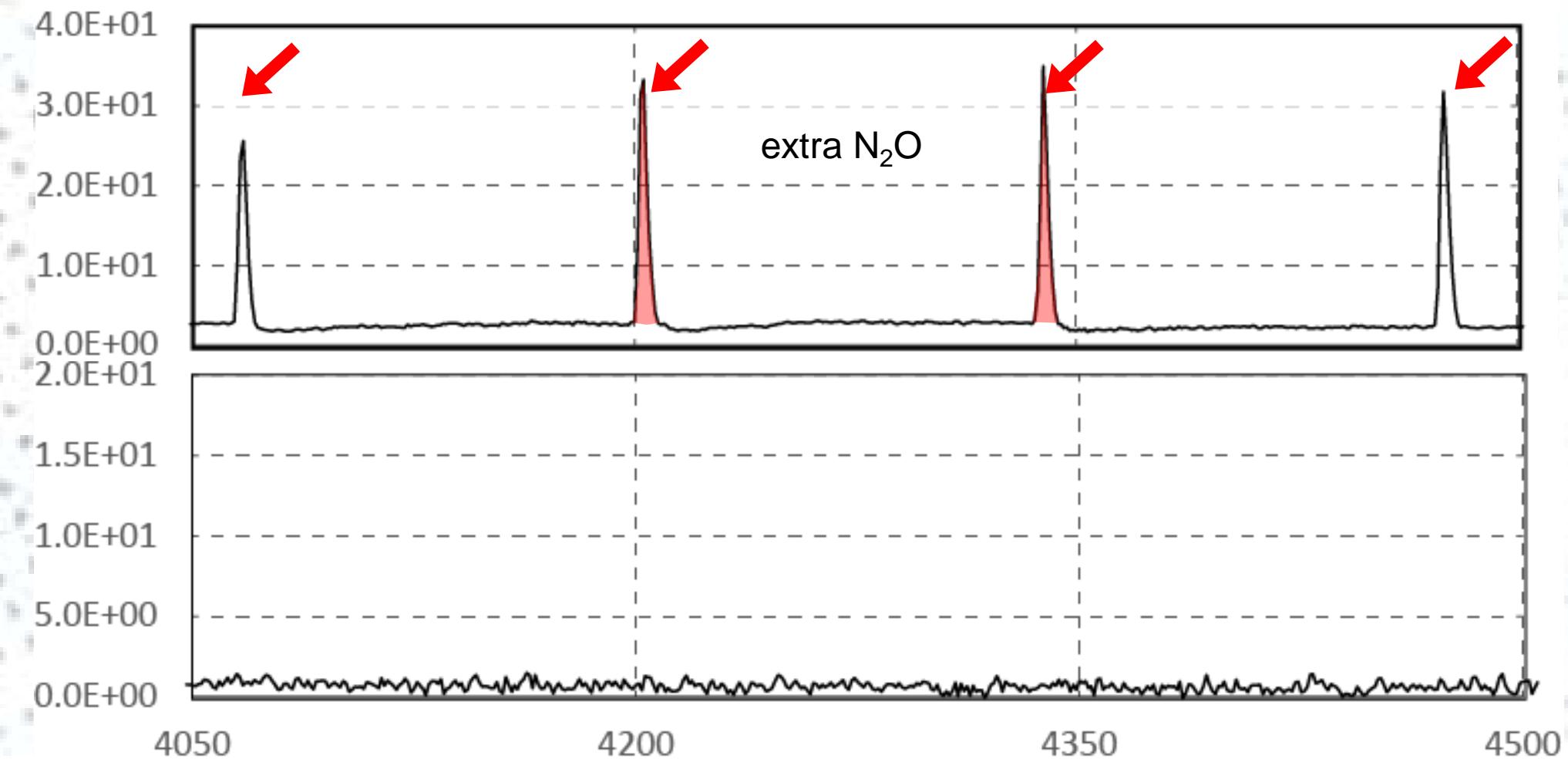
NO<sub>2</sub> proportion at 26 km/h



# NOx-trap chemistry

No  $\text{NH}_3$  formation, but secondary  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  formation during fuel injection

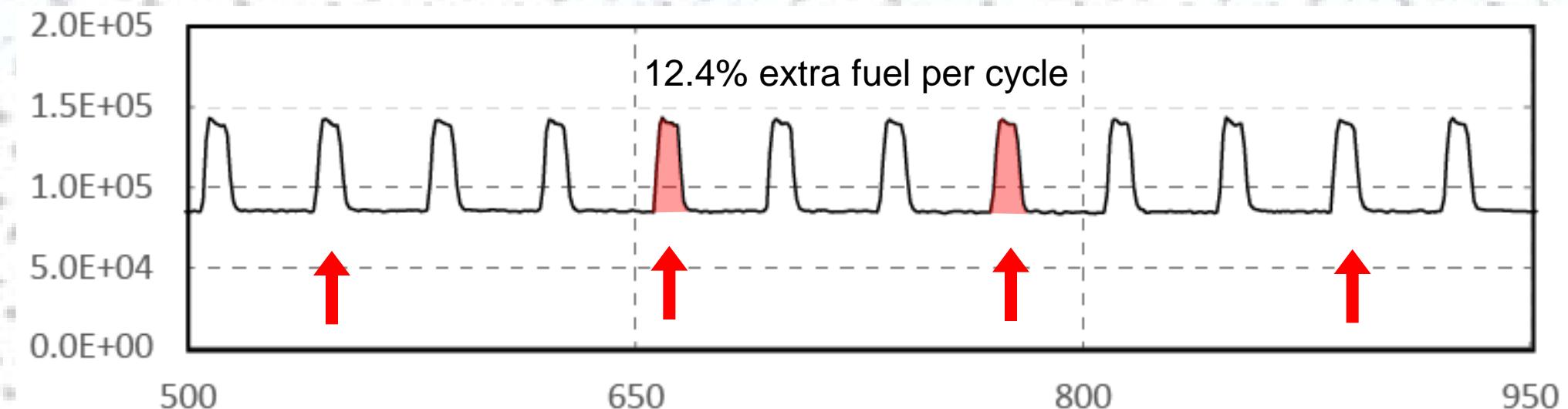
$\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  at 26 km/h



# NOx-trap chemistry

How much fuel penalty per injection

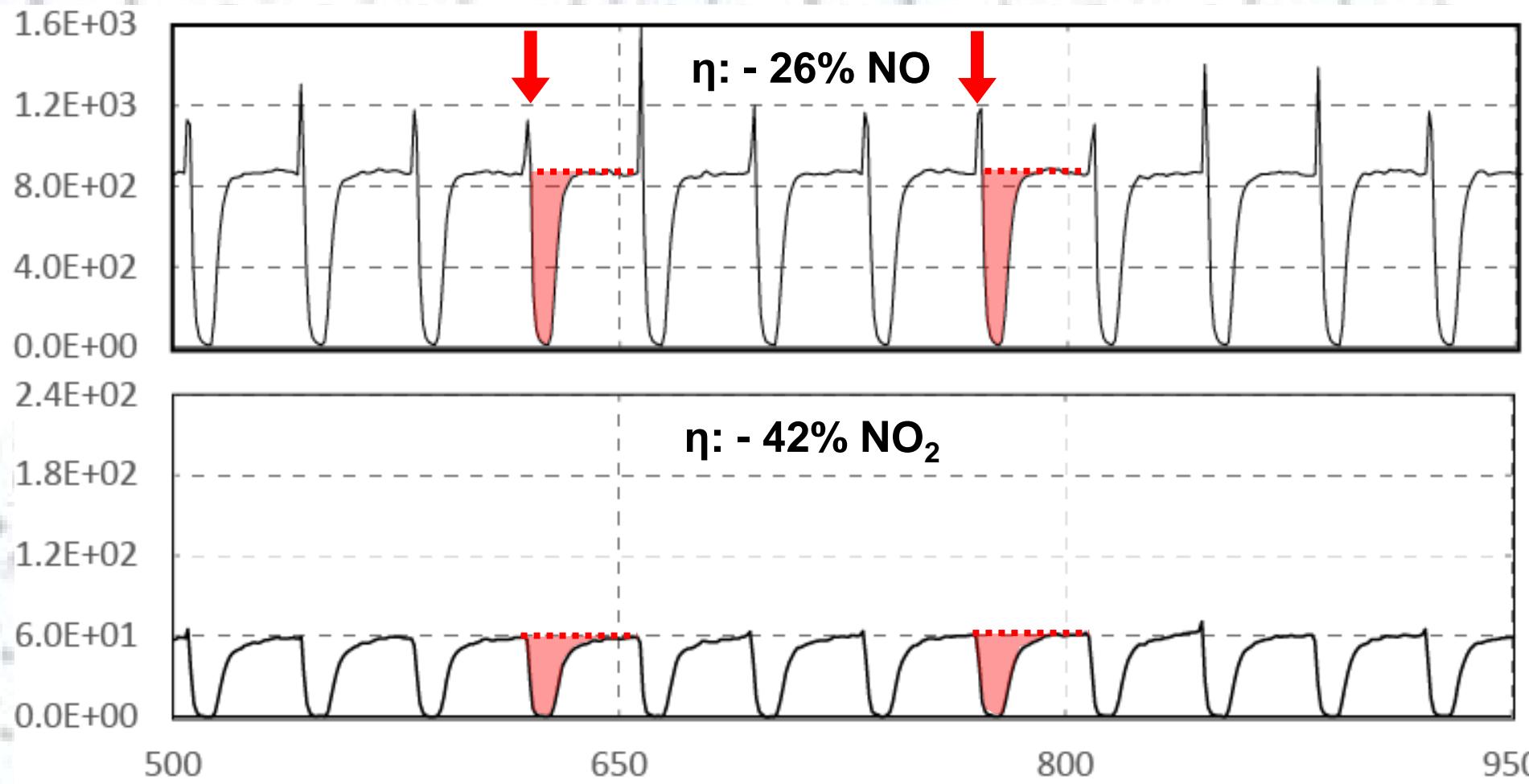
CO<sub>2</sub> at 94 km/h (fuel rich conditions)



# NOx-trap chemistry

How much deNO activity per injection

deNO and deNO<sub>2</sub> activity at 94 km/h



# NO<sub>x</sub>-trap technology

Low NO<sub>x</sub> storage capacity, not very sulfur tolerant, its more a SO<sub>x</sub> than a NO<sub>x</sub> trap

## NO<sub>x</sub>-trap cycle

$\lambda > 1$  (*lean*)

T: 150-450 °C

1. NO- & NO<sub>2</sub>-oxidation to NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

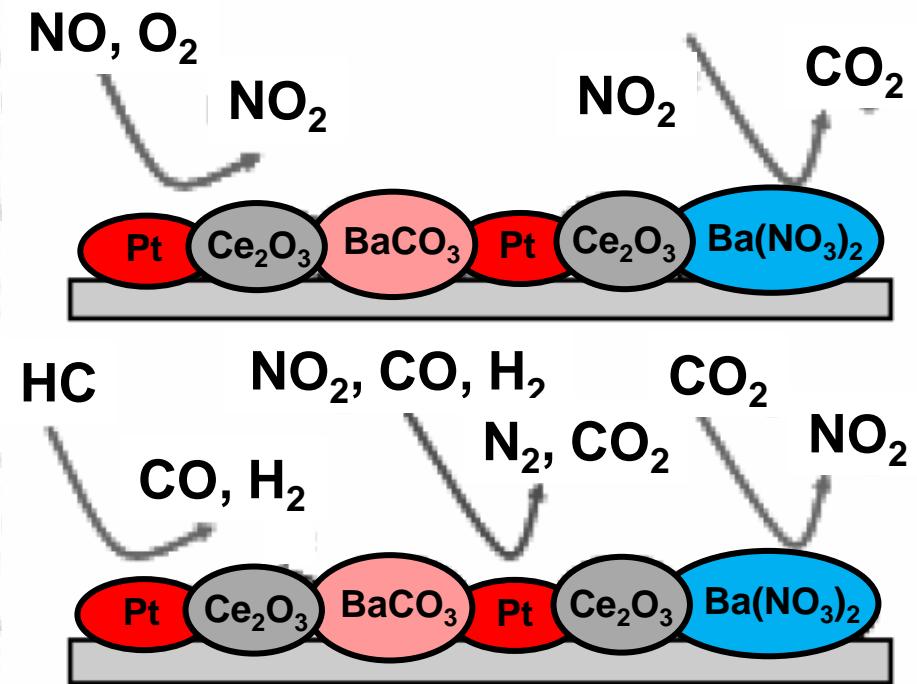
2. Store as Ba(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

$\lambda < 1$  (*rich*)

T: 200-500 °C

3. Post injections of fuel

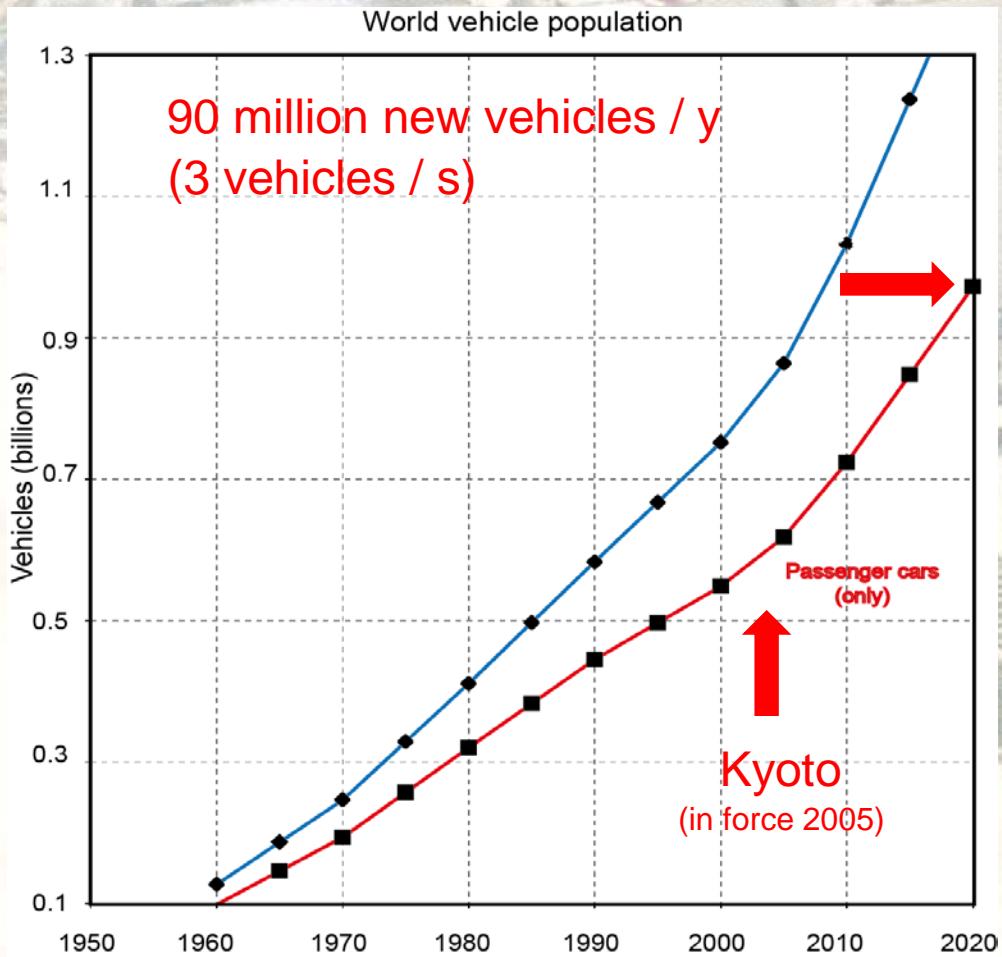
4. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> reduction with H<sub>2</sub>, HC etc.



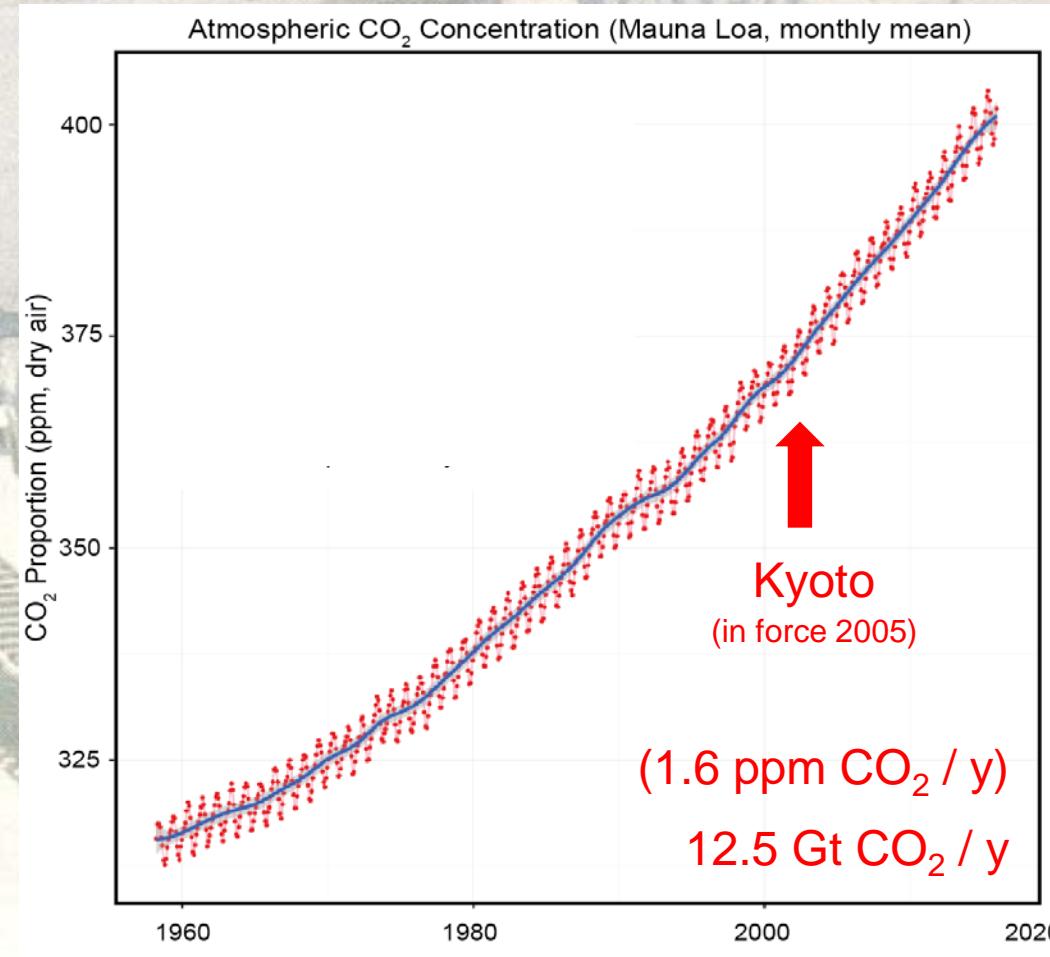
Similar chemistry in the NO<sub>x</sub> trap with  
Secondary formation of N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>

# Road vehicles on earth

From 0.1 to 1 billion in 60 years  
(3800 as I spoke, 37'000 this morning)

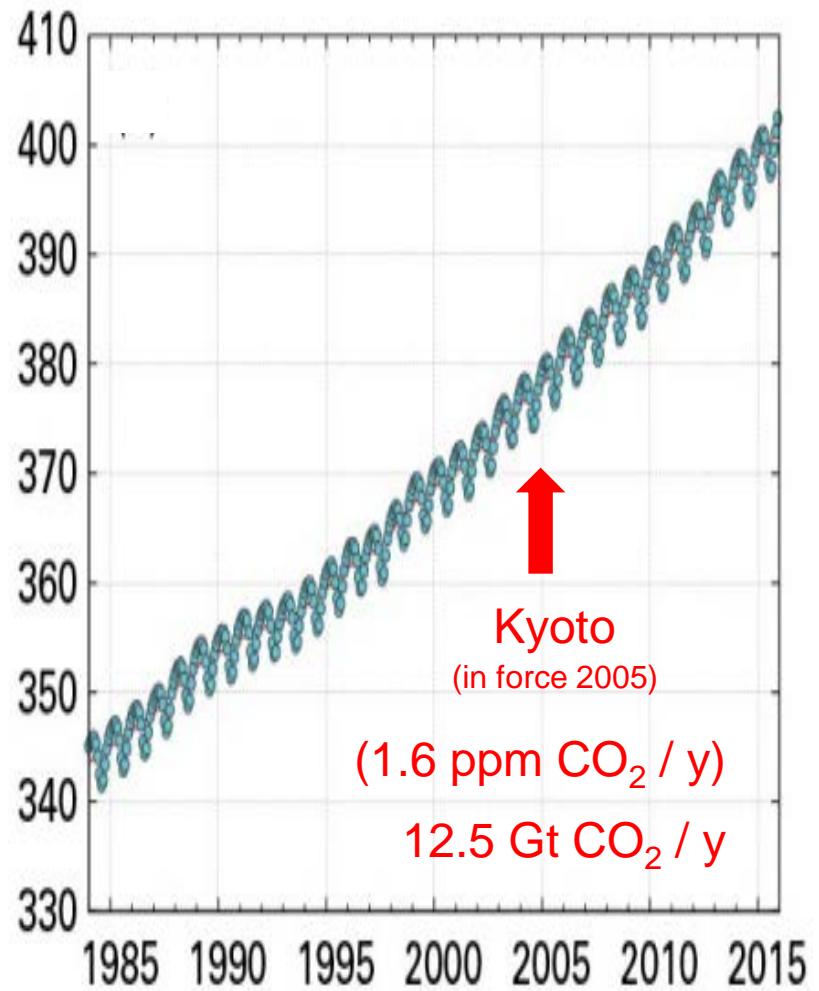


From 310 to 410 ppm in 60 years

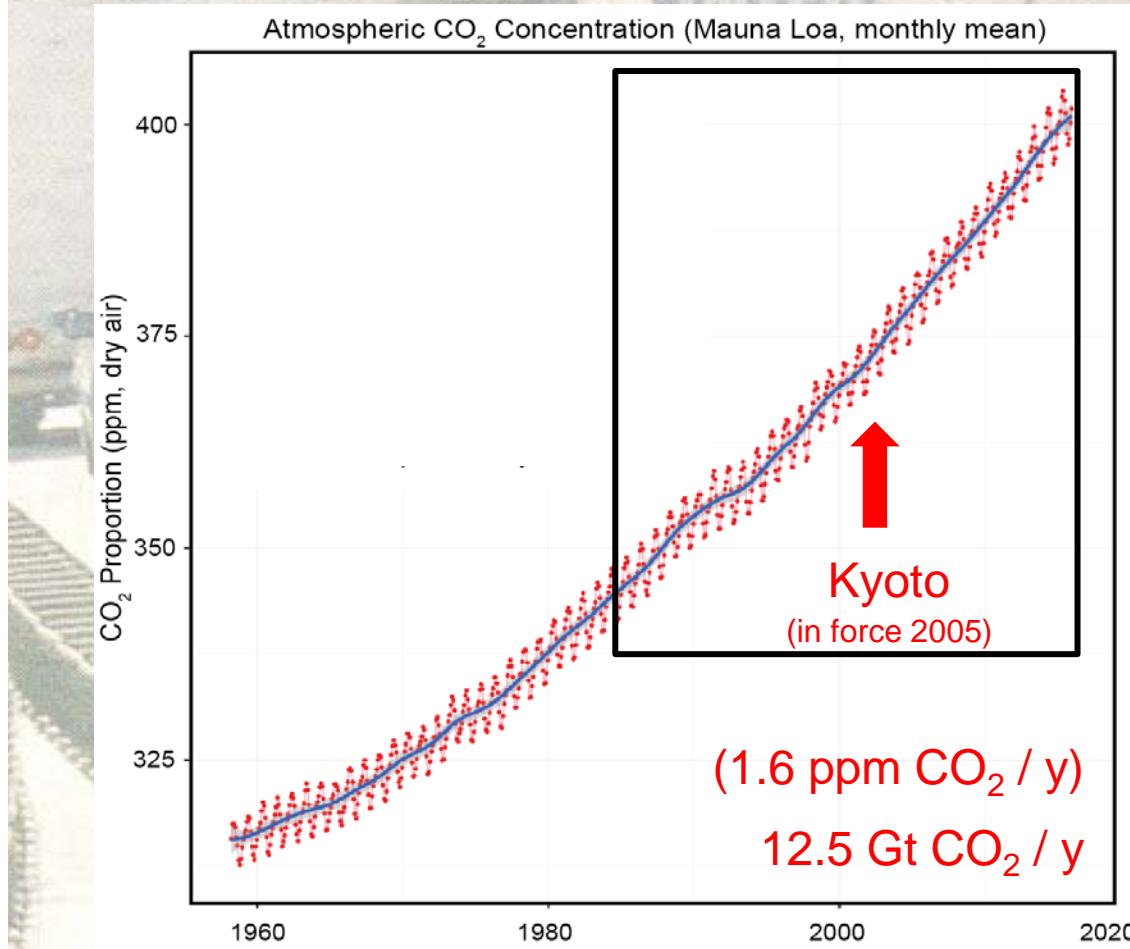


# CO<sub>2</sub> in earth atmosphere

From 345 to 400 ppm in 30 years

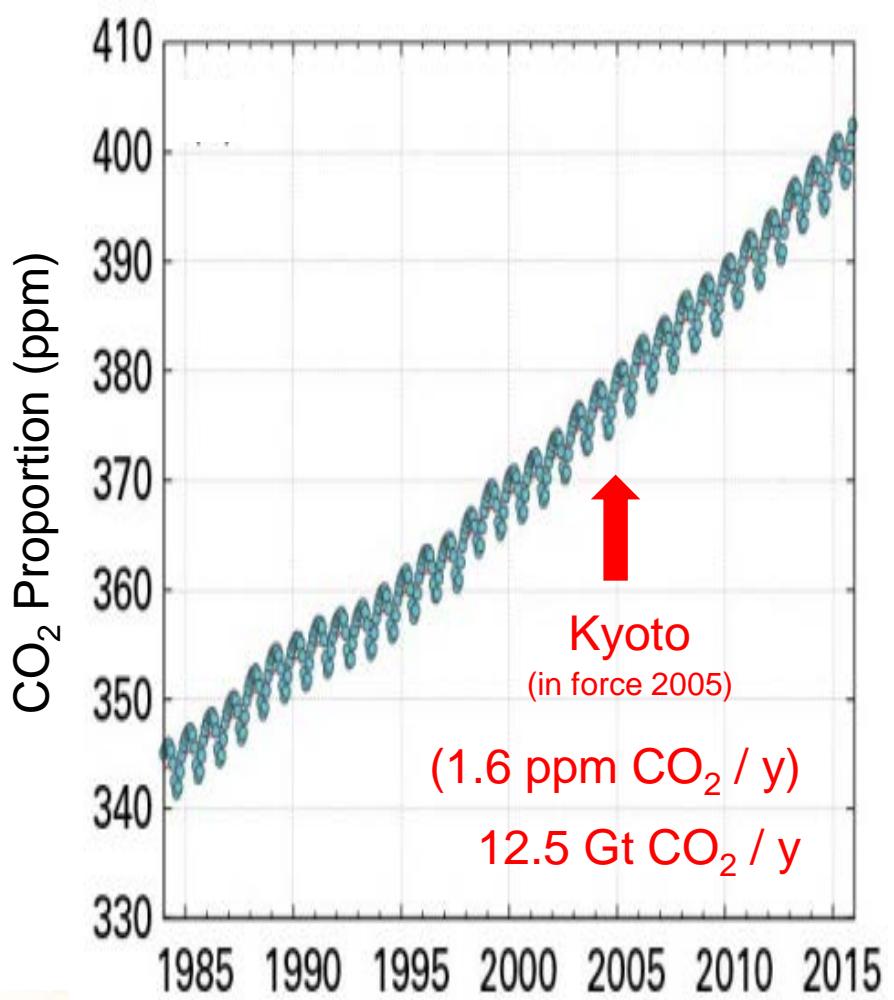


From 310 to 410 ppm in 60 years

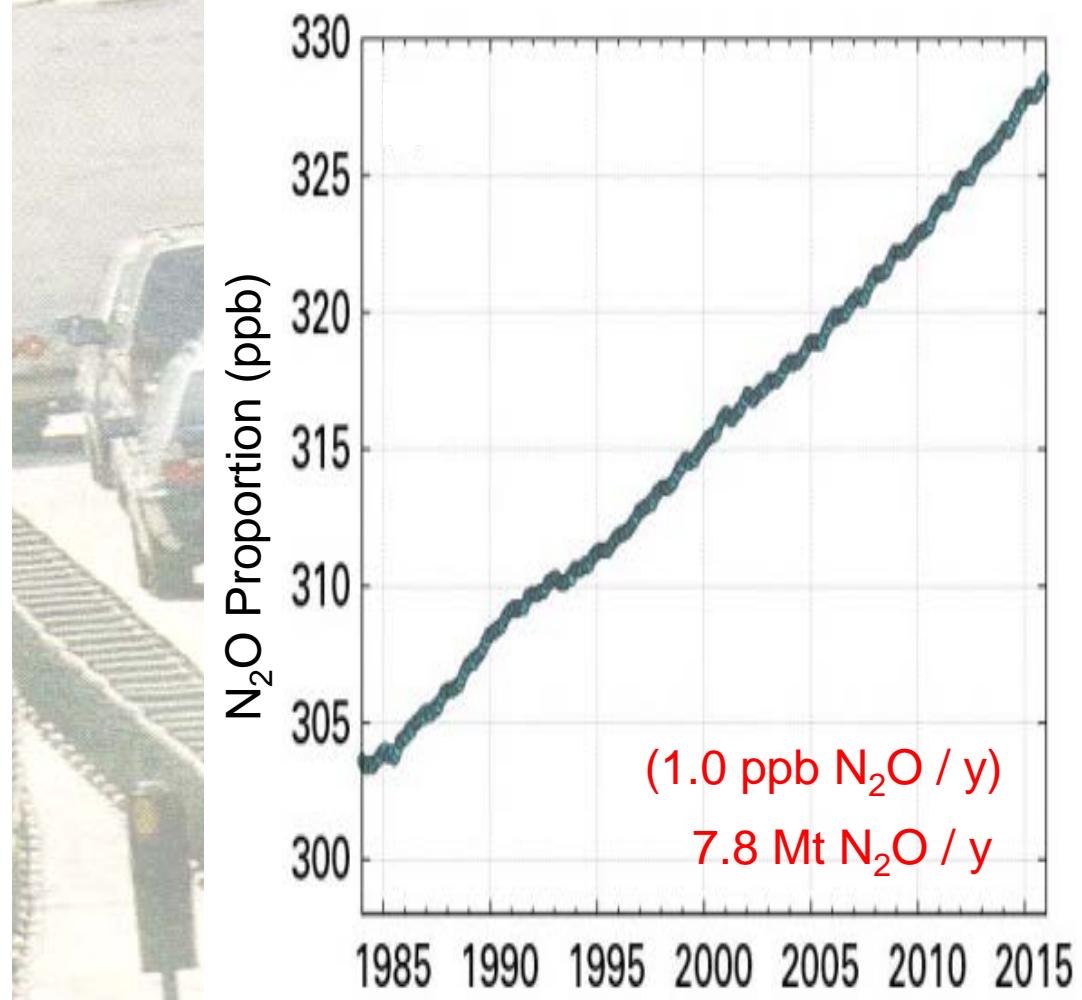


# $\text{CO}_2$ and $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ in earth atmosphere

From 345 to 400 ppm in 30 years



From 303 to 328 ppb in 30 years



# Blue Technology: Not green enough yet



**“Will blue technology be  
green enough in the future?”**

**There's quite some work  
ahead of us!**

# GASOMEP: Current status and new concepts of gasoline vehicle emission control



## ■ Thanks to

- Davide Bleiner, Lukas Emmenegger, Regula Haag, Peter Honegger, Joachim Mohn, Maria Munoz, Juanfernando Angel Ramelli, Cornelia Seiler, Peter Schmid, Heinz Vonmont, Adrian Wichser, Kerstin Zeyer, Empa
- **Jan Czerwinski, Pierre Comte, Benjamin Fröhlich, Stefan Germann, Philipp Wili, Yan Zimmerli, Adrian Braun, Thomas Egli, Joel Delgado, Elia Limarzo, UASB**
- Heinz Burtscher, Alejandro Keller, UASNWS
- Urs Baltensberger, Andre Prevot, Simone Pieber, Nivedita Kumar, PSI
- Urs Debrunner, Hans Jäckle, Intertek
- Andreas Mayer, TTM



Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz  
Hochschule für Technik

