





# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts



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**Empa**

Materials Science and Technology



Focus Event: Effect- and toxicity-based assessment of exhausts

Empa, March 16, 2018

# Road vehicles on earth

From 0.1 to 1 billion in 60 years

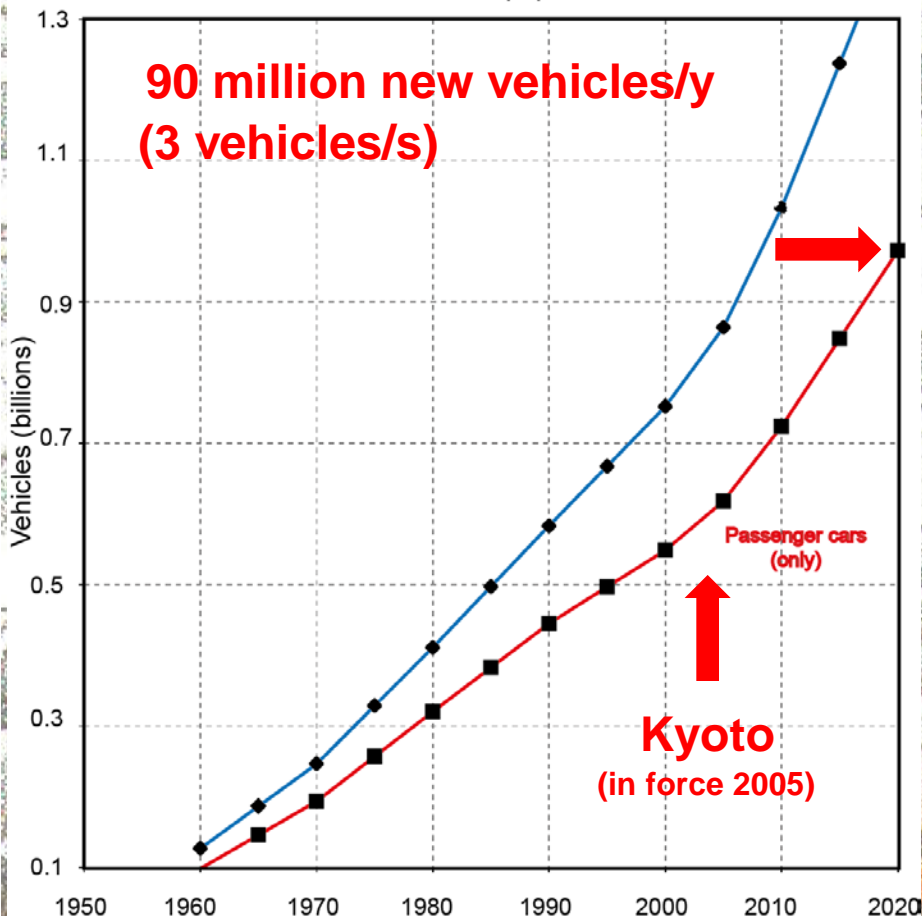
(3800 as I spoke, 86'000 today)

(10 x)

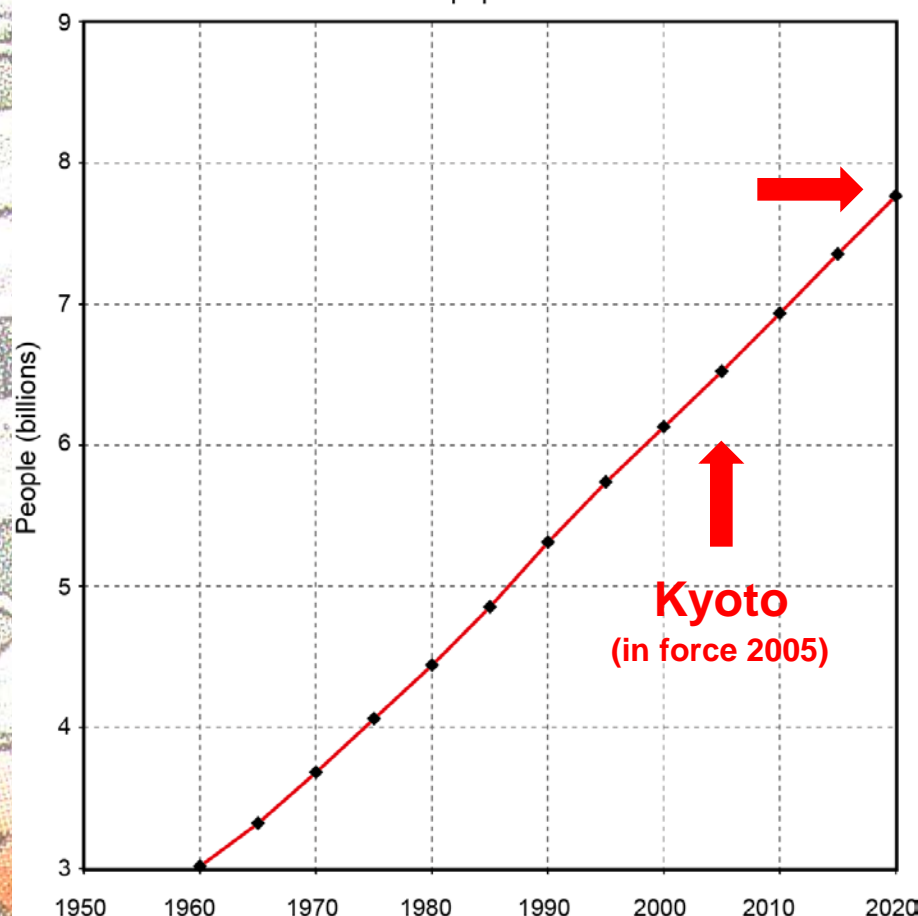
From 3 to 8 billion in 60 years

(3 x)

World vehicle population



World population





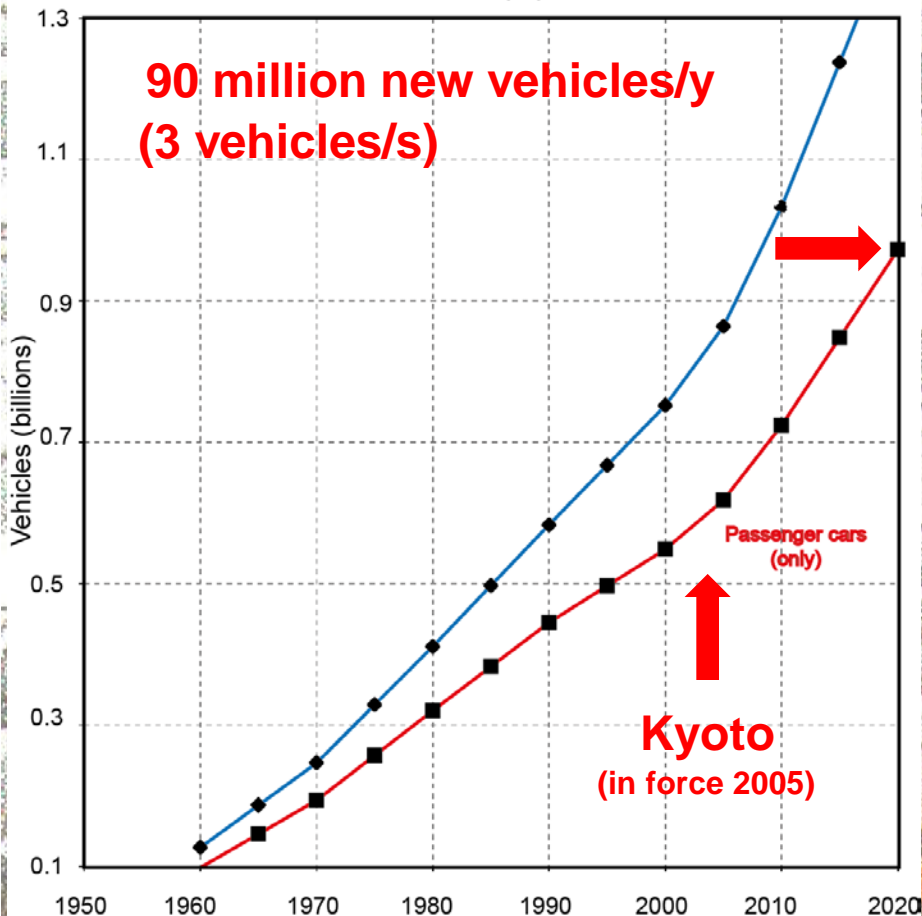
# Road vehicles on earth

From 0.1 to 1 billion in 60 years

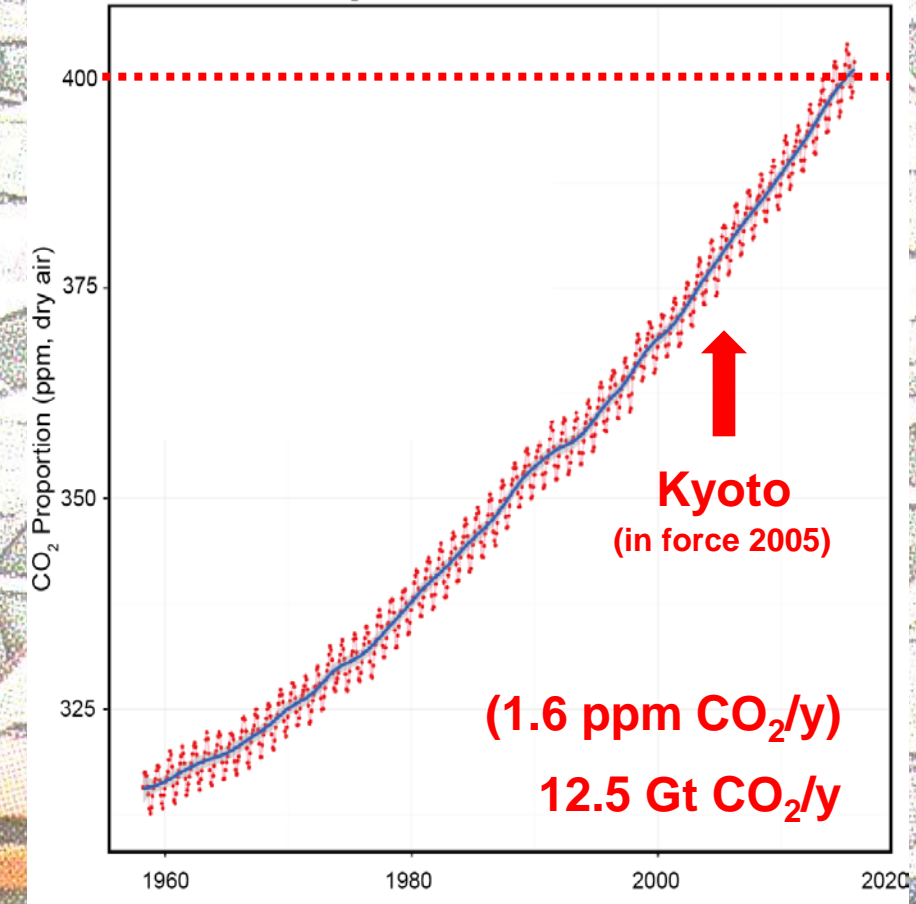
(3800 as I spoke, 37'000 this morning) (10 x)

From 300 to 400 ppm in 60 years

World vehicle population



Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration (Mauna Loa, monthly mean)



**$10^9 \text{ vehicles} \times 10^4 \text{ km/y} \times 200 \text{ g CO}_2/\text{km} = \text{additional } 2 \text{ Gt CO}_2/\text{y}$**

# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts

Combustion of fossil fuels is pure chemistry

The chemistry of fuels

(What you feed is what you get!)

The sooting problem

(Soot is bad news at the nanometer scale)

Combustion exhaust, ia a toxic cocktail

(Many ways for intoxication)

Mass spectrometry is the tool for HAP identification and quantification

# The chemistry of fuels

What you feed is what you get, not one atom is lost!



# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn fossil fuels you get lots of CO<sub>2</sub> and water in the best case

## Combustion of fossil fuels

- Carbon contents 85-87% (850'000-870'000ppm)
- Alkanes (C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>2x+2</sub>) are major fuel constituents of CNG, LPG, gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, heating oil.
- Alkyl benzenes (C<sub>6+x</sub>H<sub>6+2x</sub>) important constituents of gasoline
- Alkyl naphthalenes (C<sub>10+x</sub>H<sub>8+2x</sub>) constituents of gasoline, jet & diesel fuels
- Alkyl PAHs constituents of jet & diesel fuels

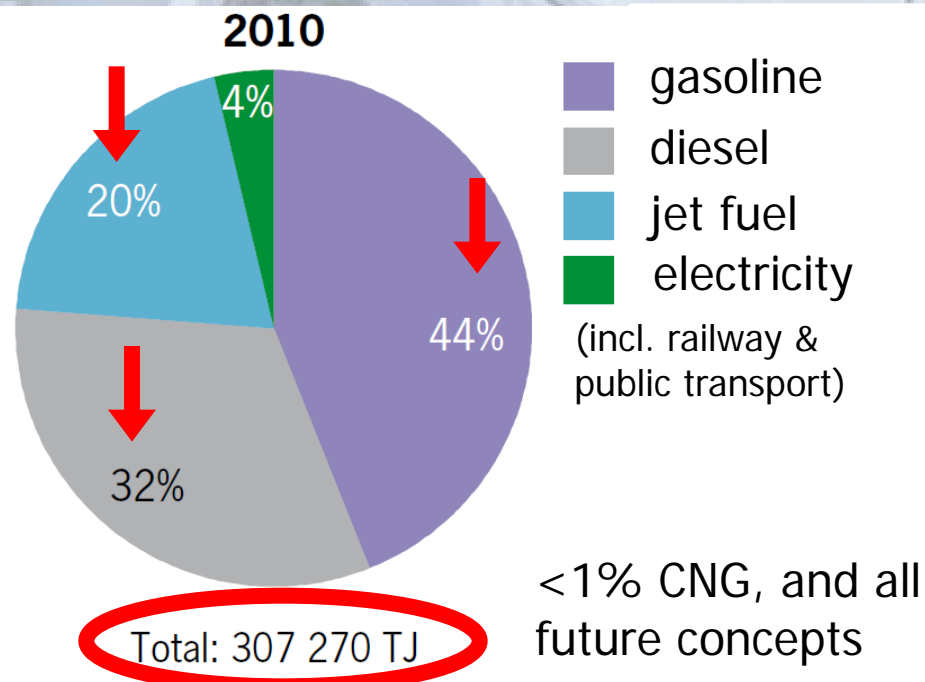
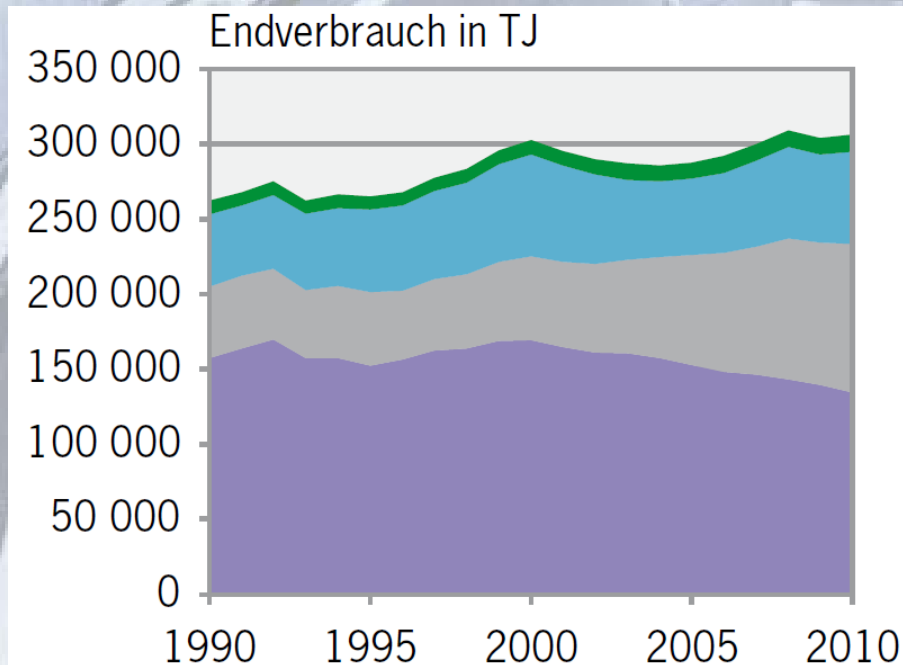
**Fossil fuels are complex mixtures of >1000 compounds (except CNG & LPG)**

# Energy consumption of Swiss traffic

Consumption of gasoline, diesel and jetfuel?

Energy consumption traffic (TJ)

96% based on fossil fuel!



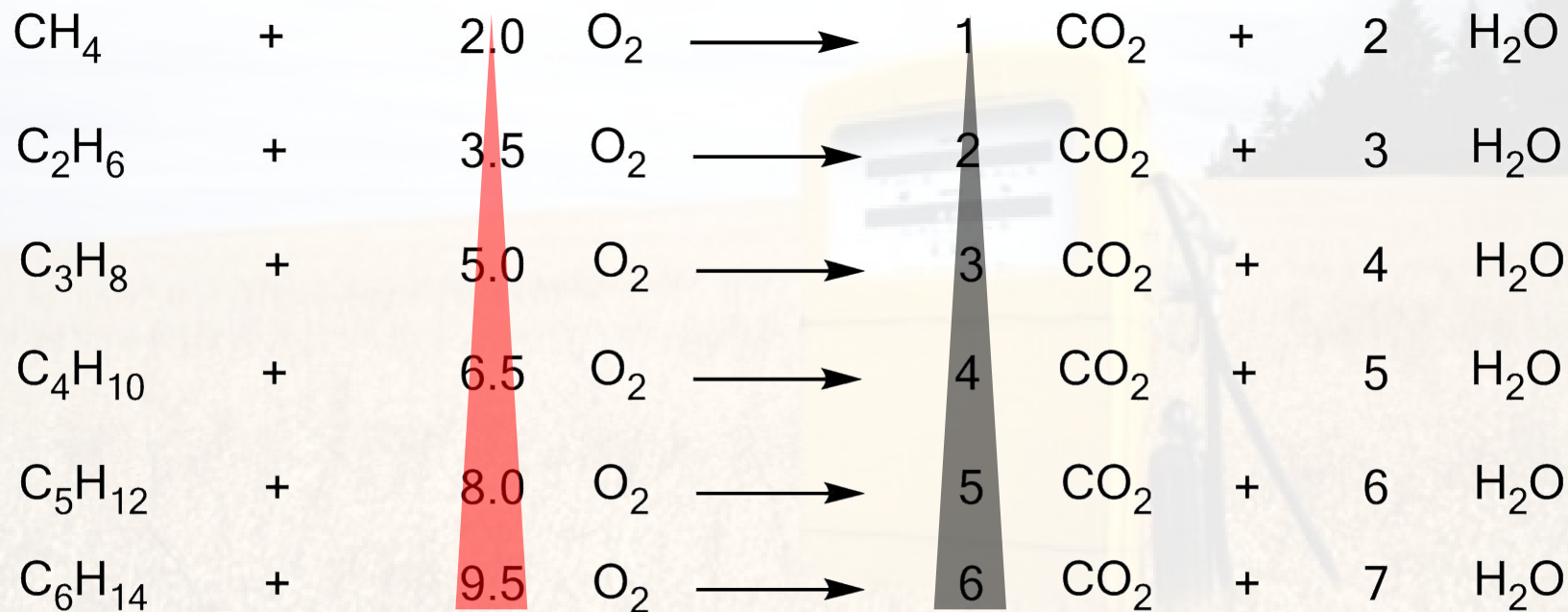
Traffic accounts for 34% of total Swiss energy consumption(2010)



# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn fossil fuels you get lots of CO<sub>2</sub> and water, but stoichiometry matters

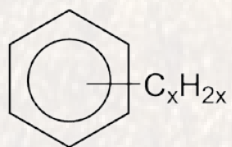
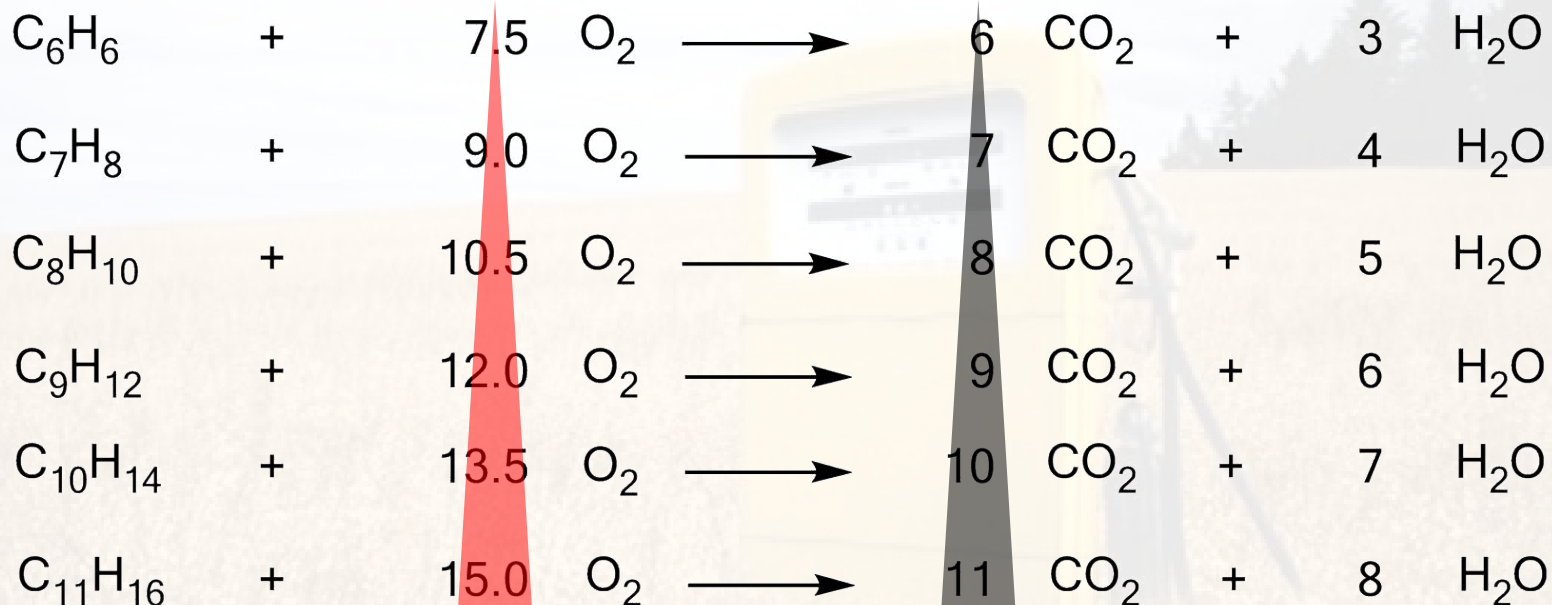
## Stoichiometric combustion of alkanes:



# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn fossil fuels you get lots of CO<sub>2</sub> and water, but stoichiometry matters

## Stoichiometric combustion of alkyl benzenes:

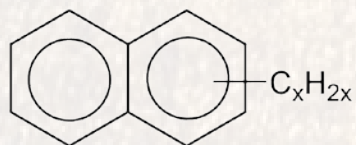
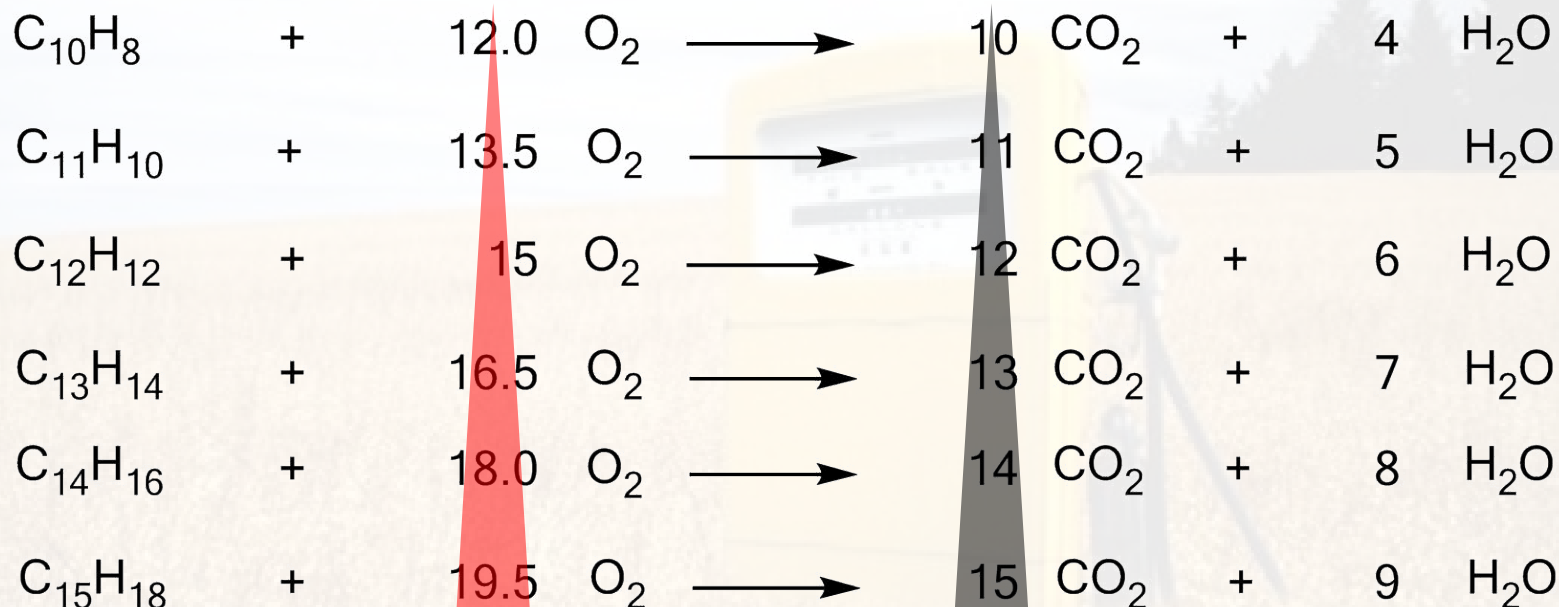




# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn fossil fuels you get lots of CO<sub>2</sub> and water, but stoichiometry matters

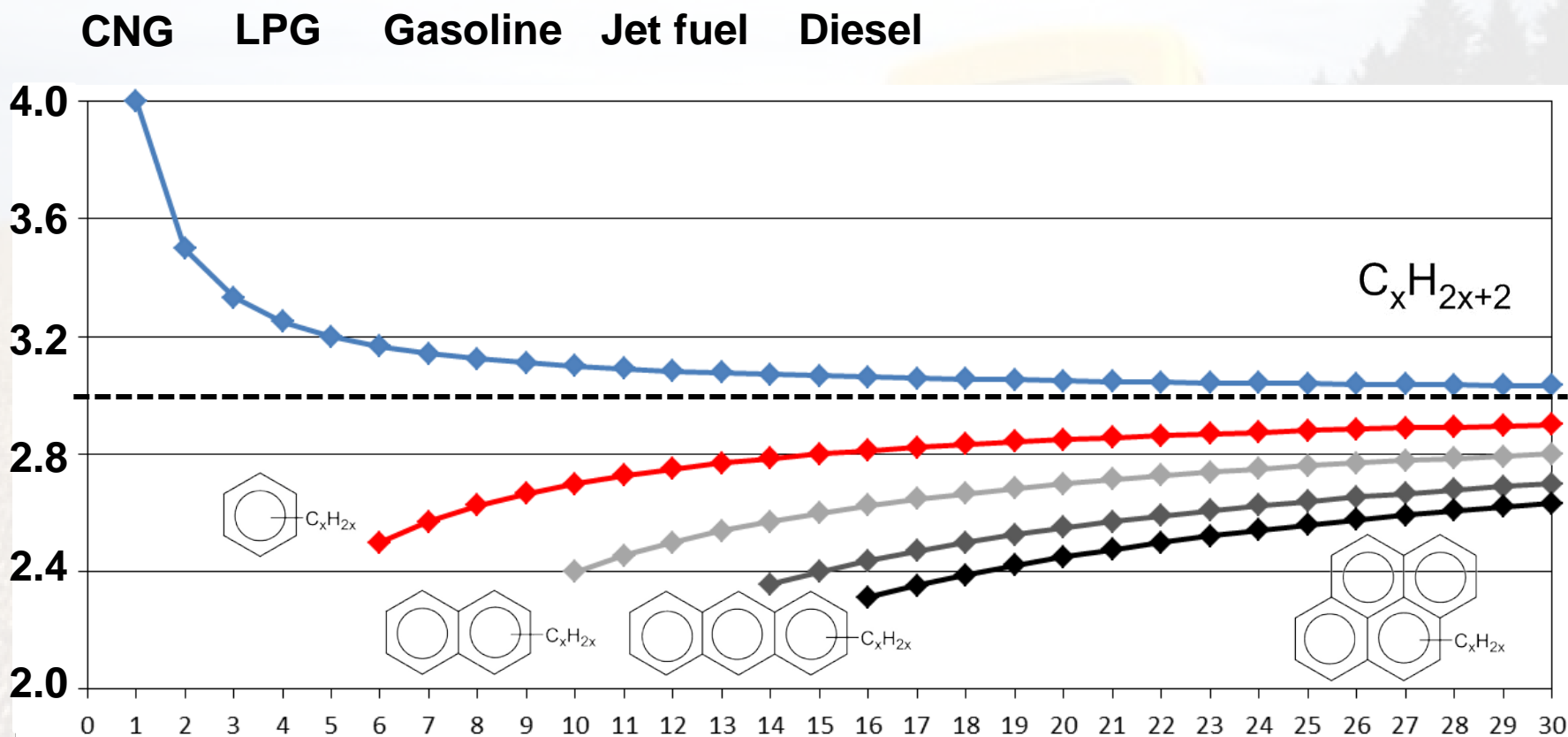
## Stoichiometric combustion of alkyl naphthalenes:



# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn mixtures, stoichiometric combustion is difficult to maintain!

Oxygen to carbon ratio (O/C):

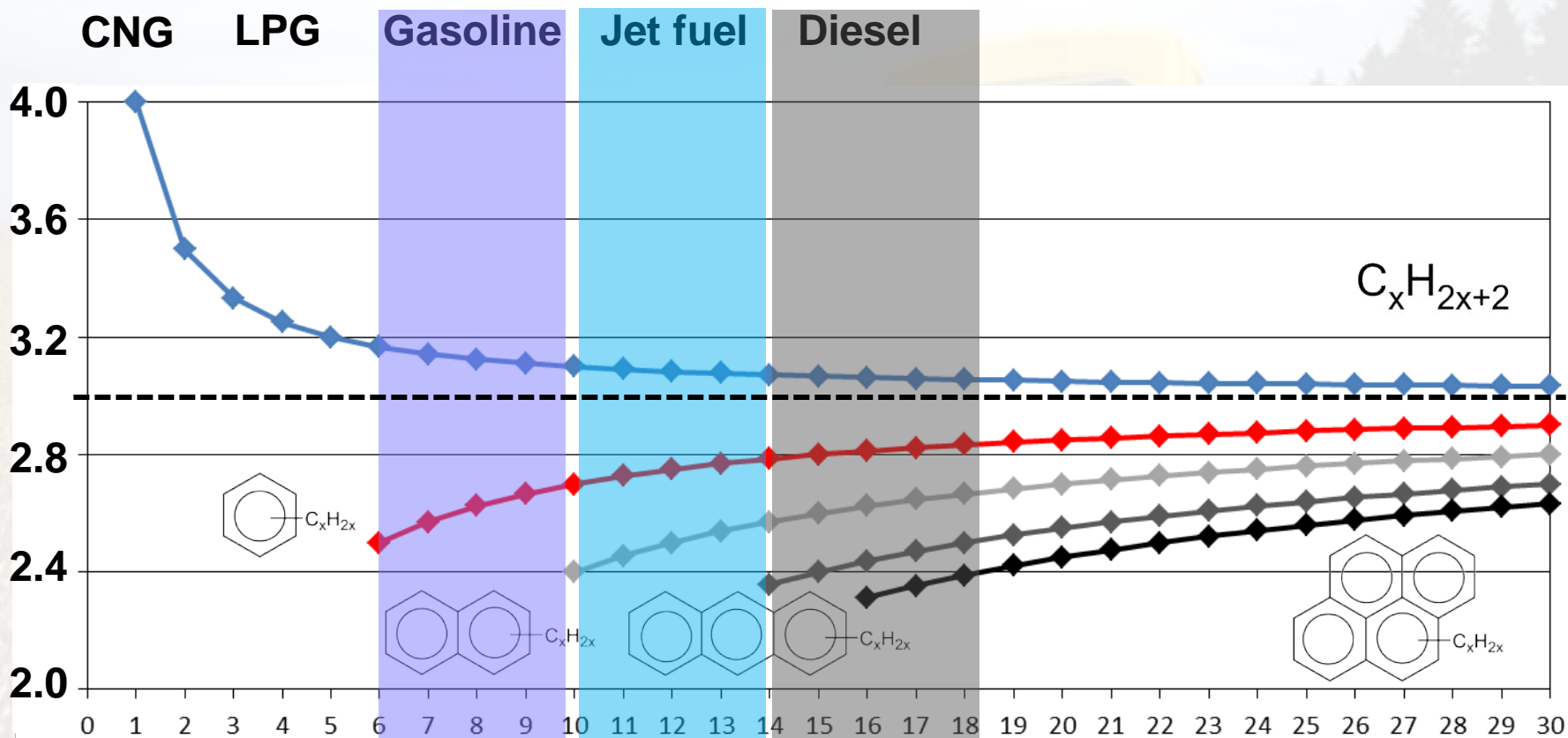




# The chemistry of fuels

Sub-stoichiometric combustion results in sooting!

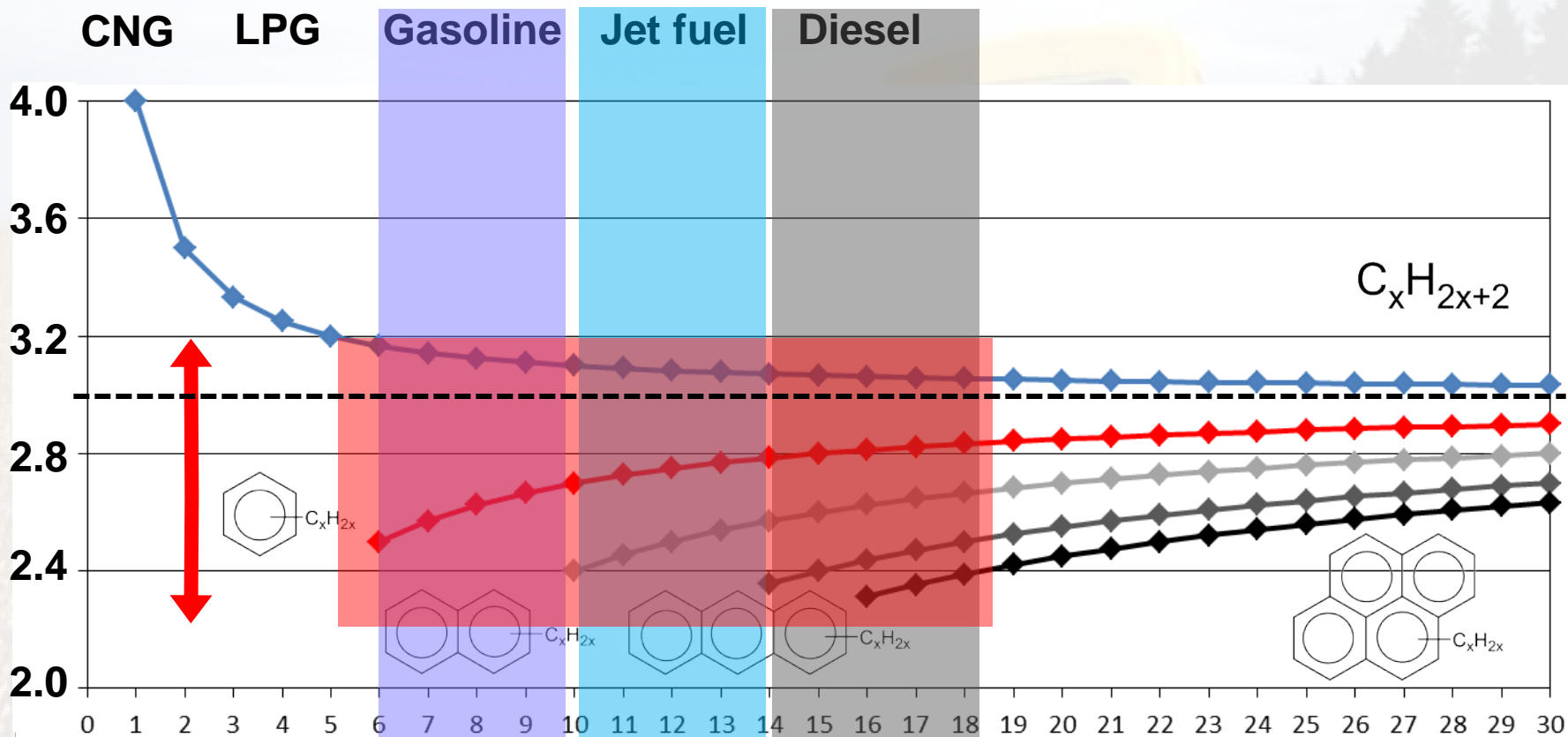
Oxygen to carbon ratio (O/C):



# The chemistry of fuels

If you burn mixtures, stoichiometric combustion is difficult to maintain!

Oxygen to carbon ratio (O/C):





# The sooting problem

**The result of too low oxygen level, temperature or too short combustion time**



# The sooting problem of diesel engines

The result of too low oxygen level, temperature or too short combustion time



# The sooting problem of GDI vehicles

## GDI fleet properties: Mean GDI fleet (n=7)

GDI-1: Mitsubishi Carisma (1.8 L)

GDI-2: VW Golf (1.4 L)

GDI-3: Opel Insignia (1.6)

GDI-4: Volvo V60 T4F (1.6 L)

GDI-5: Opel Zafira (1.6 L)

GDI-6: Citroën C4 Cactus (1.2 L)

GDI-7: VW Golf VII (1.4 L)

Euro-3

Euro-4

Euro-5

Euro-5

Euro-5

Euro-6

Euro-6

## Diesel benchmark (with DOC+DPF, EGR)

DI: Peugeot 4008 (1.6 L)

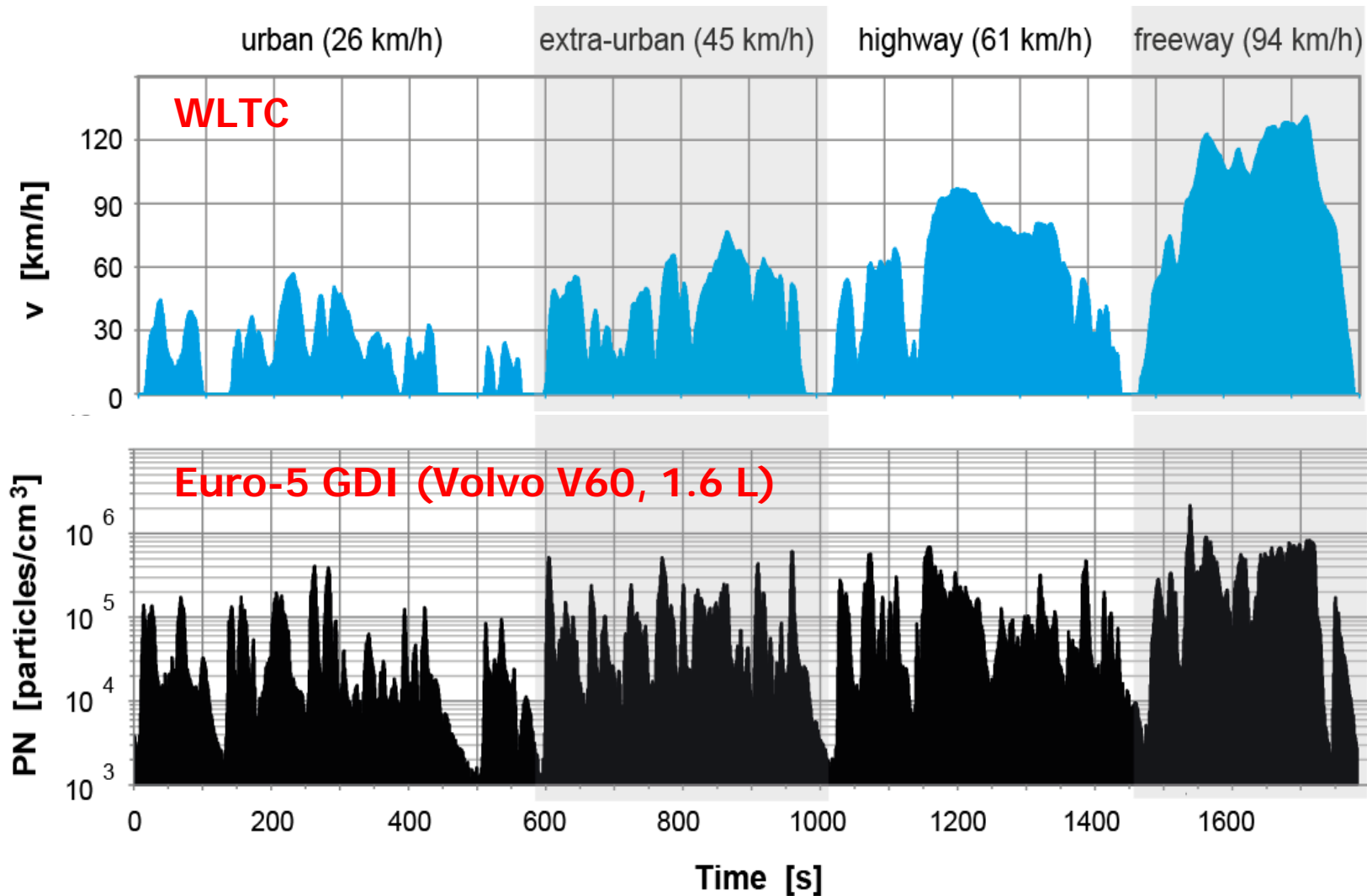
Euro-5





# The sooting problem of GDI vehicles

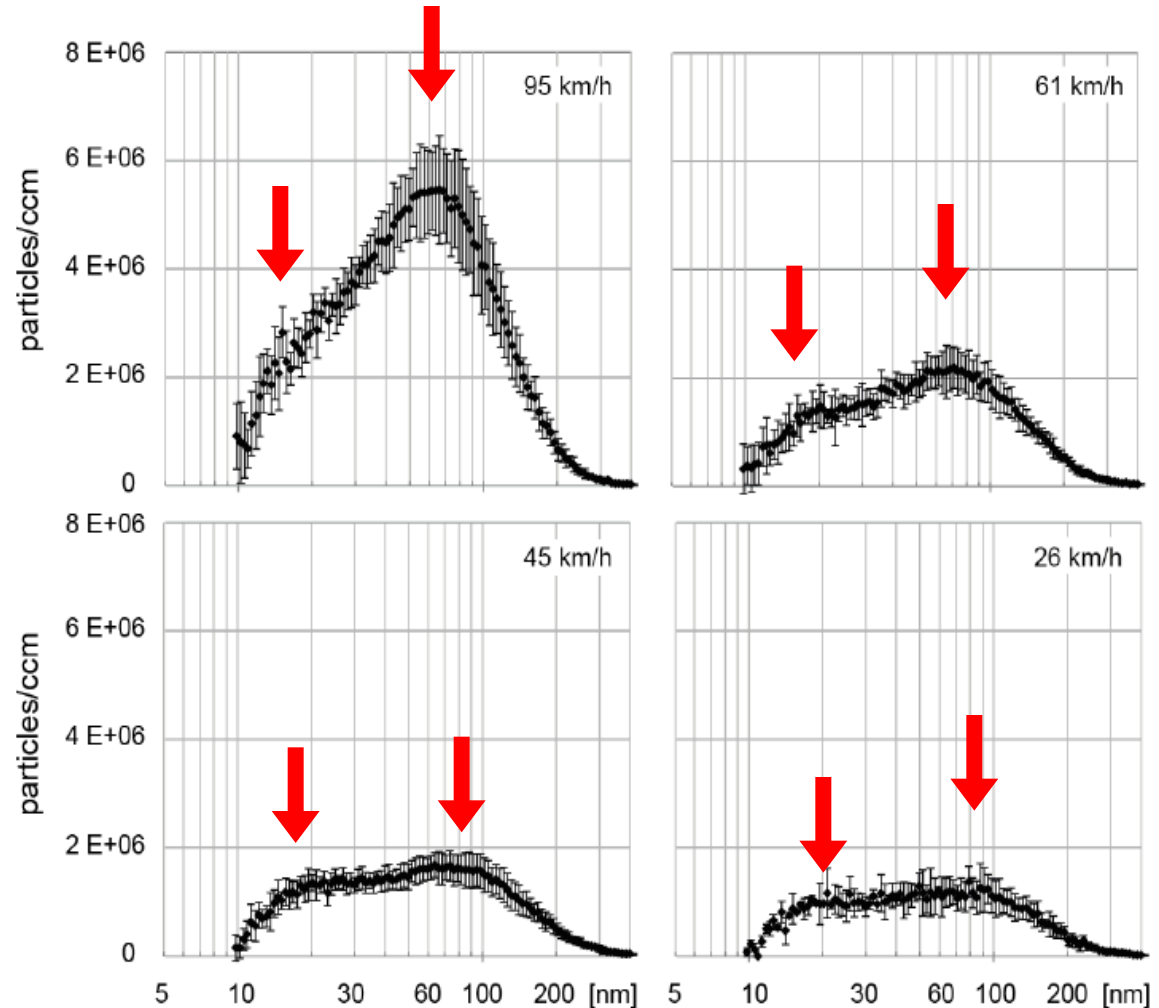
Each transient induces the release of nanoparticles



# Nanoparticle emissions of GDI vehicles

- GDI particles are nano!
- Bimodal distribution
- Maxima at 20 & 80nm

**GDI particles indeed are nanoparticles of 10-200 nm**



**Millions of new «sooting stars» are born every year now!**

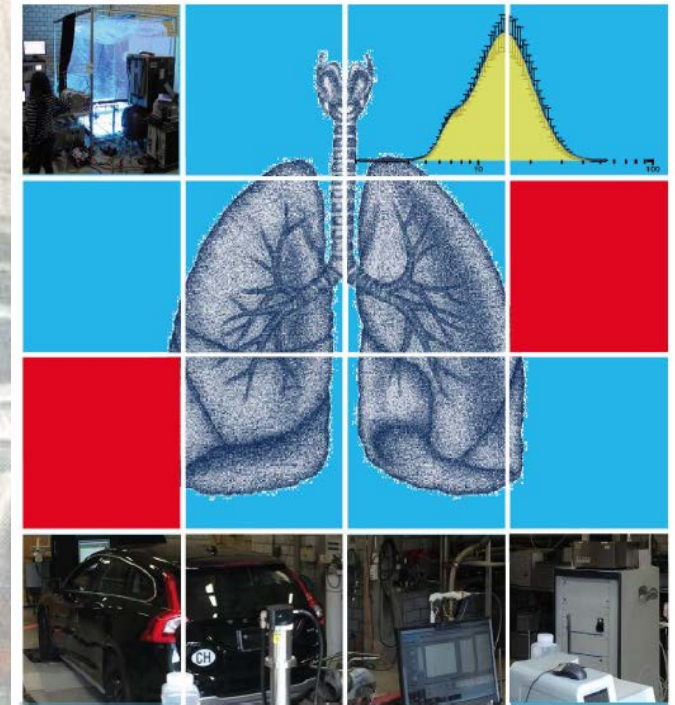
# Nanoparticle emissions of GDI vehicles

Europe is flooded with soot nanoparticles of GDI vehicles

## GDI vehicles on the rise

- 53 mio GDI vehicles in Europe (2010-2020)
- 30% of the EU fleet will be GDI in 2020

**GDI vehicles, on average, release:  
700 x more nanoparticles  
and 17 x more genotoxic PAHs  
than a Euro-5 diesel vehicle with DPF!**



**GASOMEPEP: Current Status and New Concepts of Gasoline Vehicle Emission Control for Organic, Metallic and Particulate Non-Legislative Pollutants**

Authors: P. Comte, J. Czerwinski, A. Keller, N. Kumar, M. Muñoz, S. Pieber, A. Prévôt, A. Wichser, N. Heeb

**Before you buy a GDI vehicle, please read the GASOMEPEP report  
(<https://www.empa.ch/web/s604/soot-particles-from-gdi>)**



# Combustion exhausts are toxic cocktails

Many ways to get intoxicated, mostly chronic diseases, only CO kills quickly



**toxic?**

**Acute toxicity:** - CO, reactive nitrogen compounds (RNCs)

**Chronic toxicity:** - oxidative stress

- inflammation

- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Genotoxicity:** - mutations

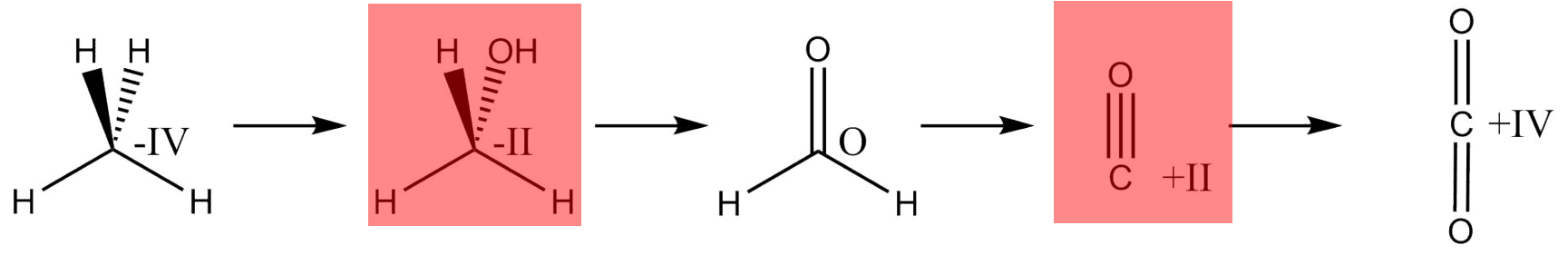
- cancer

**How toxic are combustion exhausts, what can chemical analysis tell us?**

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

The simple oxidation of methane can lead several toxic intermediates

## Problem: Acute toxicity



non-reactive (persistent)  
green house gas  
(56 x CO<sub>2</sub> in 20 years)

acute toxic  
blindness, death  
future syn-fuel?

acute toxic  
irritant, neurotoxic  
genotoxic  
class B1 carcinogen

acute toxic  
12800 ppm deadly

non-reactive  
green house gas

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

CO limit 1000 mg/km for gasoline vehicles results in ~1300 mg/m<sup>3</sup> exhaust

## Problem: CO intoxication

ppm (mg/m<sup>3</sup>)

35 (44)

- headache, dizziness in 6-8 h

100 (125)

- headache, dizziness in 2-3 h

200 (250)

- headache, dizziness in 2-3 h, loss of judgment

400 (500)

- frontal headache, in 1-2 h

800 (1000)

- dizziness, nausea, convulsion in 45 min in 6 h **Euro-4,-5,-6**

1600 (2000)

- dizziness, nausea in 20 min, death <2h

**1000 mg/km**

3200 (4000)

- dizziness, nausea in <10 min, death <30 min

**Euro-2**

**2200 mg/km**

6400 (8000)

- dizziness, convulsion, respiratory arrest, death <20 min

12800 (16000)

- unconsciousness after 3 breath, death <3 min

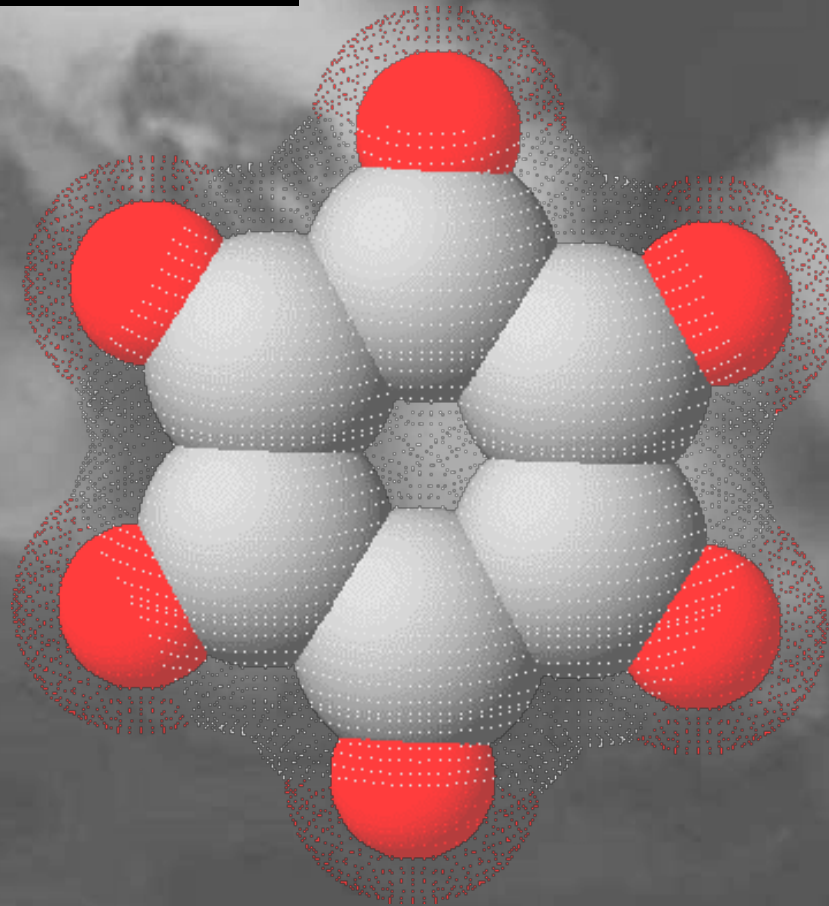
2x



# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

Benzene, carcinogenic fuel and exhaust constituent

**Problem: benzene toxicity**

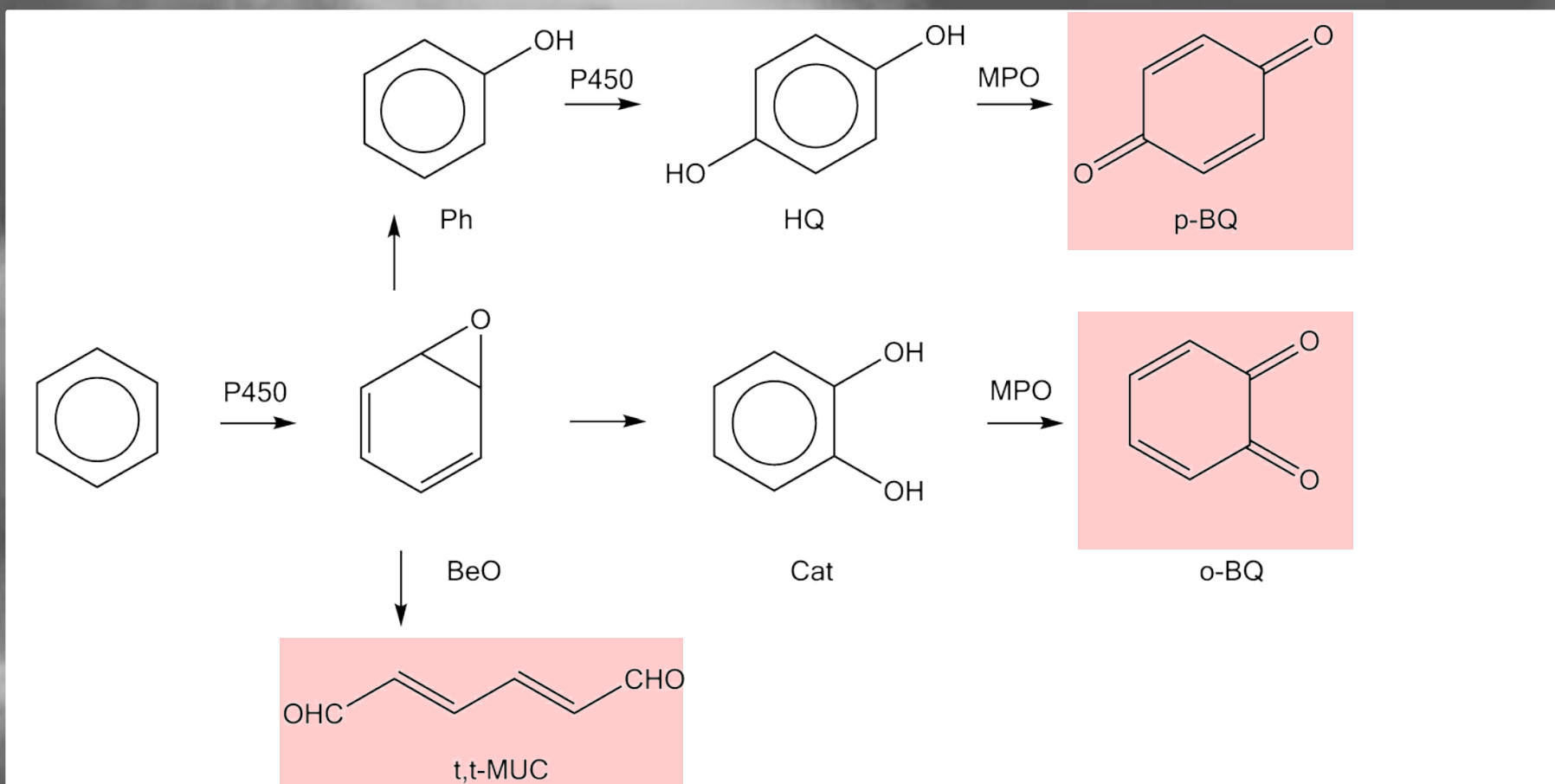


**Ambient air EU limit Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, 1  $\mu\text{g}$  benzene/m<sup>3</sup>**

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

Metabolic activation leads to several toxic and reactive intermediates

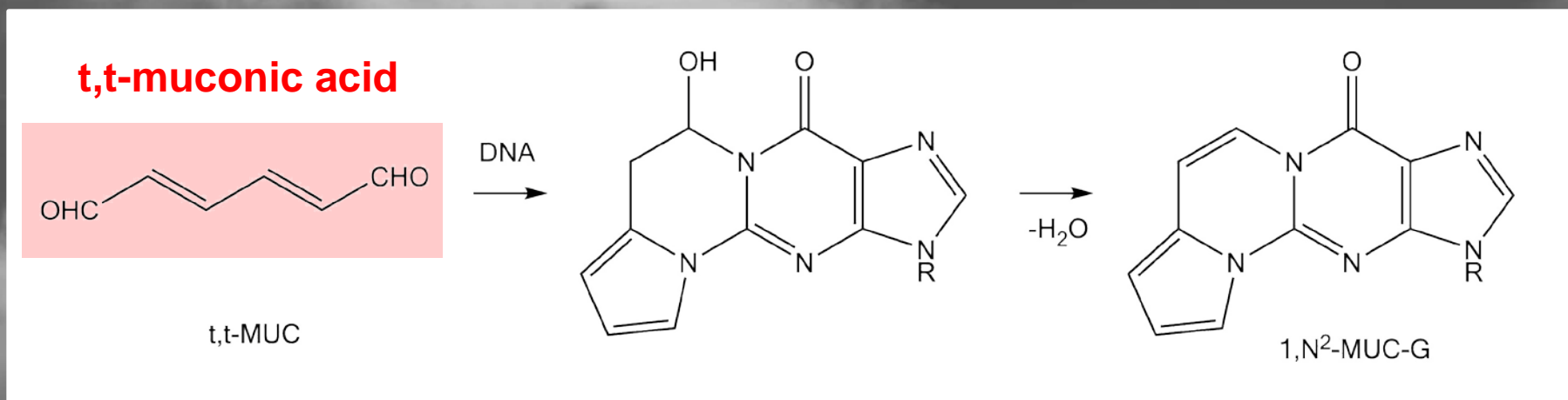
## Benzene activation with human myeloperoxidase (MPO):



# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

Metabolic activation leads to reactive intermediates and DNA adducts

## DNA adducts from activated benzene metabolites:



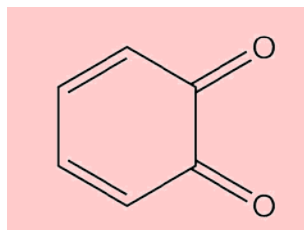


# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

Metabolic activation leads to reactive intermediates and DNA adducts

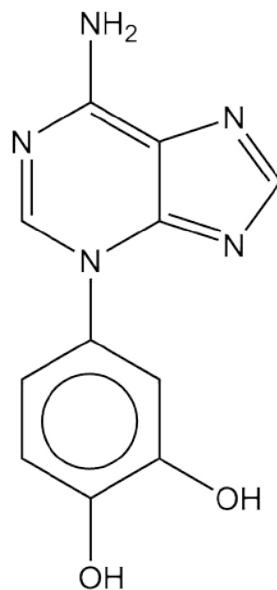
DNA adducts from activated benzene metabolites:

**o-benzoquinone**



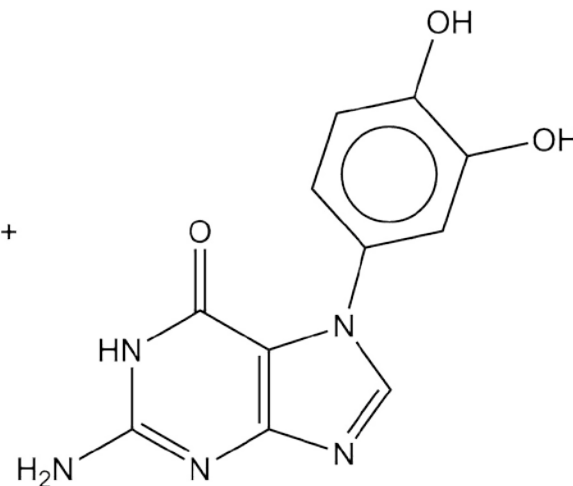
o-BQ

DNA  
→



CAT-4-N<sup>3</sup>-A

+



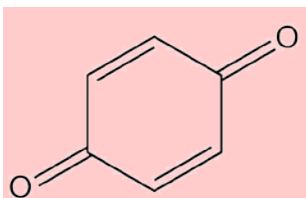
CAT-4-N<sup>7</sup>-G

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

Metabolic activation leads to reactive intermediates and DNA adducts

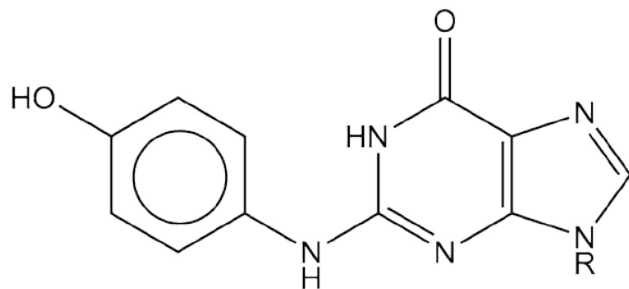
DNA adducts from activated benzene metabolites:

**p-benzoquinone**

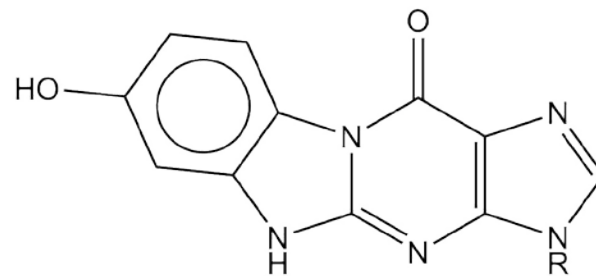


p-BQ

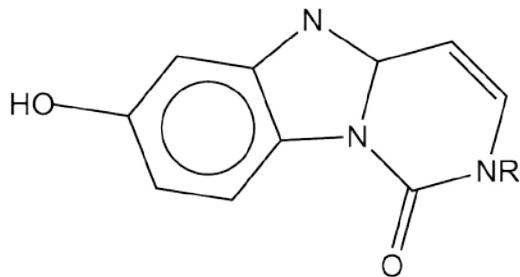
DNA  
→



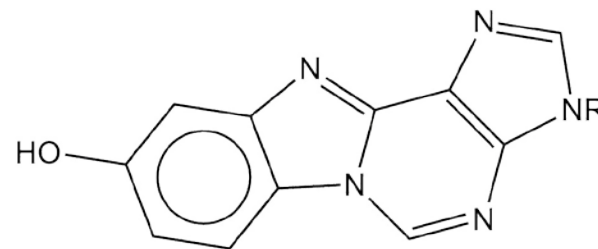
4-HOPh-N<sup>2</sup>-G



pBQ-G



pBQ-C



pBQ-A

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

1 precursor, 3 reactive metabolites, 9 DNA adducts

DNA adducts from activated benzene metabolites:

1 precursor



3 metabolites



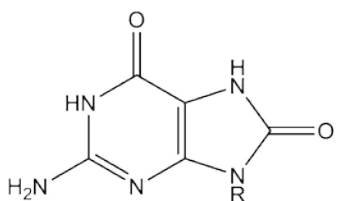
9 DNA adducts to be repaired



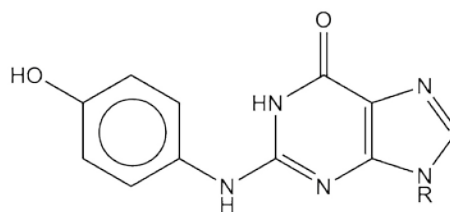
mutagenesis



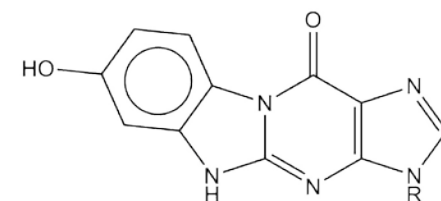
leukemia



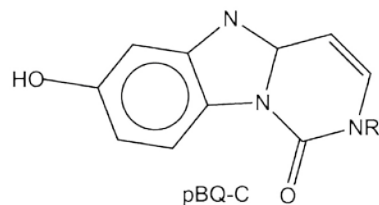
8-Oxo-G



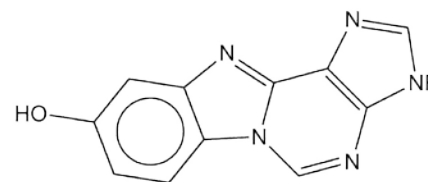
4-HOPh-N<sup>2</sup>-G



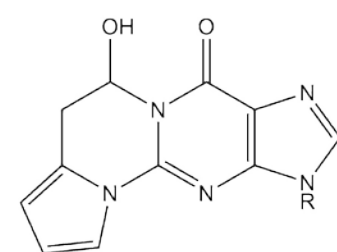
pBQ-G



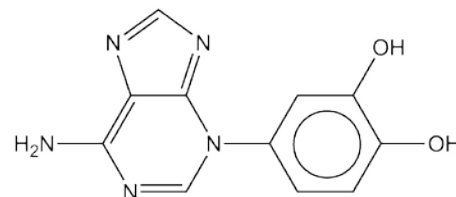
pBQ-C



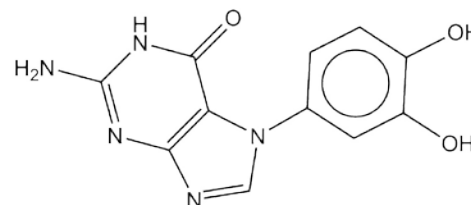
pBQ-A



1,N<sup>2</sup>-MUC-G



CAT-4-N<sup>3</sup>-A

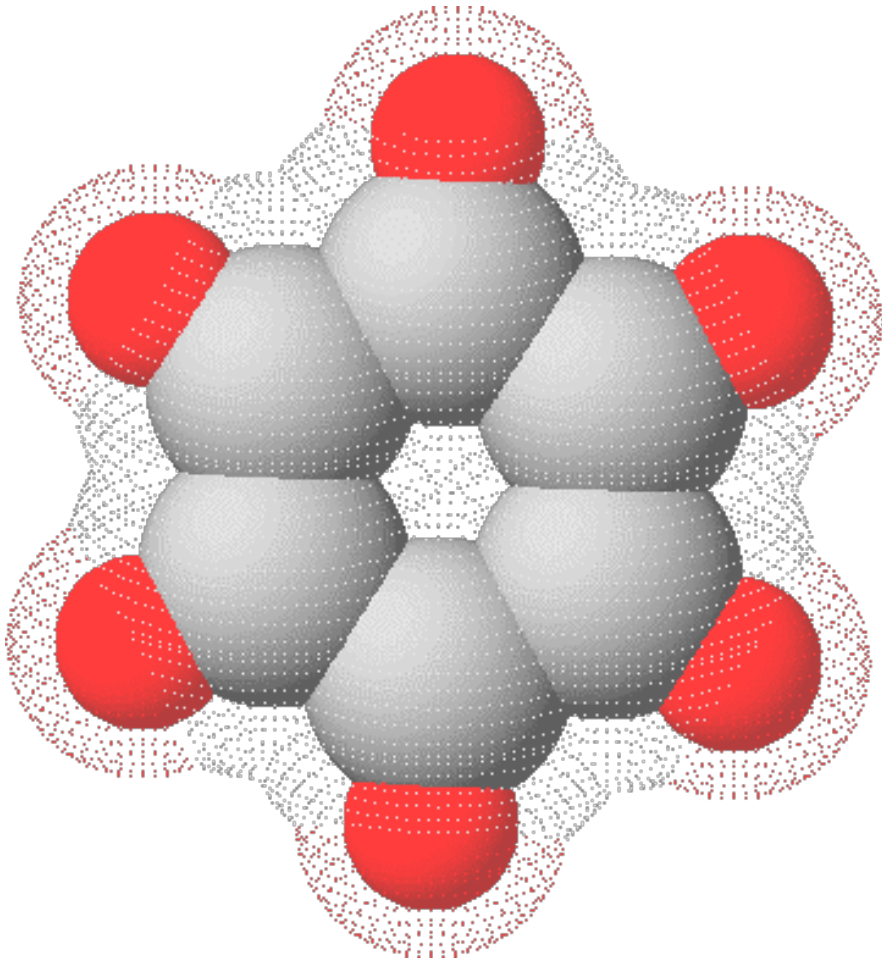


CAT-4-N<sup>7</sup>-G

# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

The good thing about benzene - it is volatile, you might be able to exhale it!

**Problem: benzene intoxication**

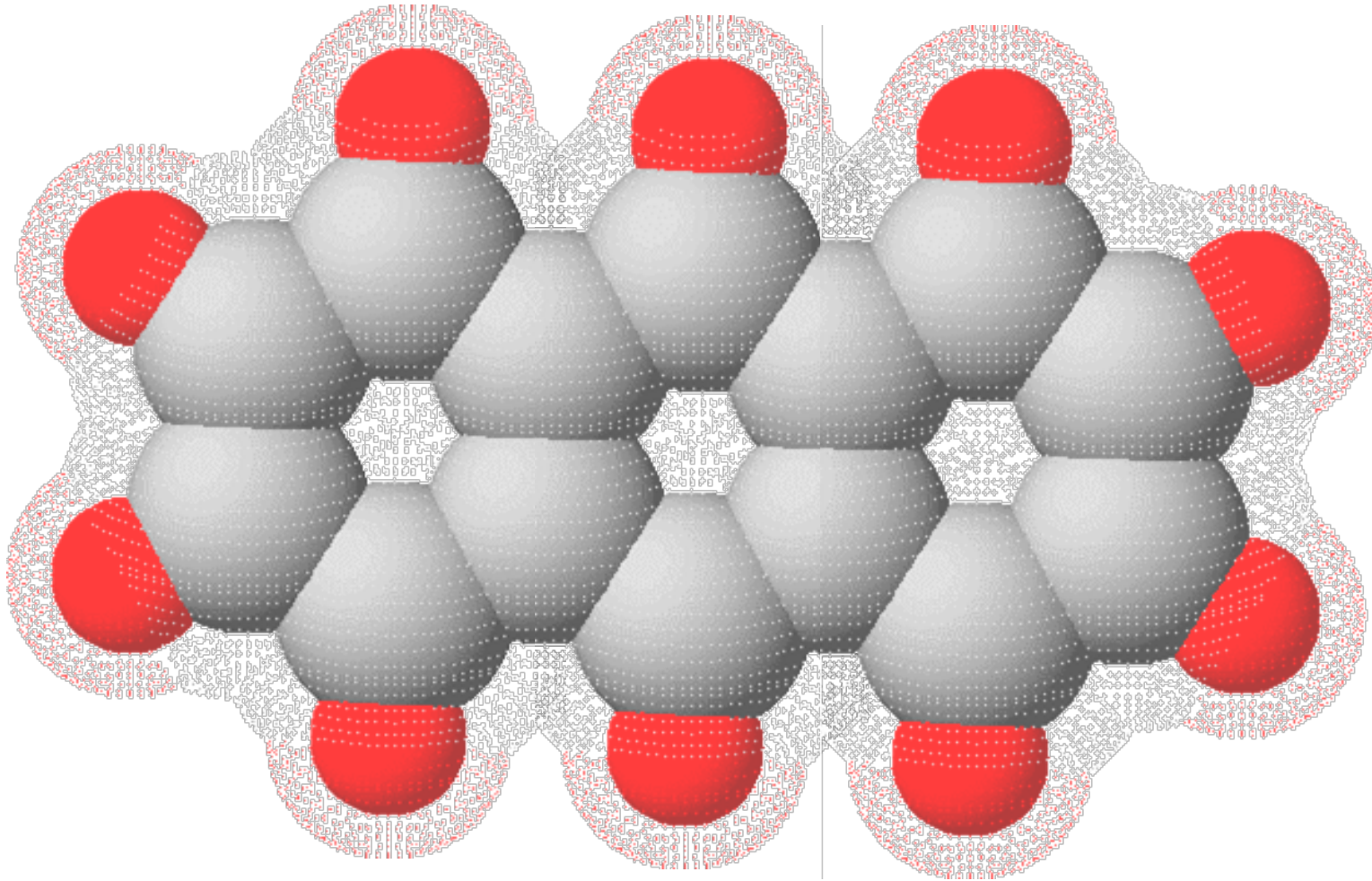




# Adverse health effects of combustion exhausts

The bad thing about PAHs - you can't exhale them if they are bound to particles!

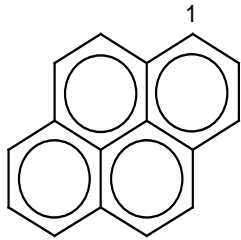
**Problem: anthracene toxicity**



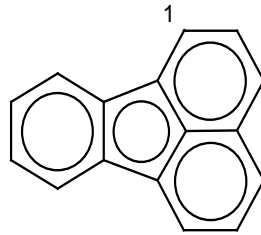
# Genotoxic PAHs

Several PAHs are carcinogenic according to the WHO

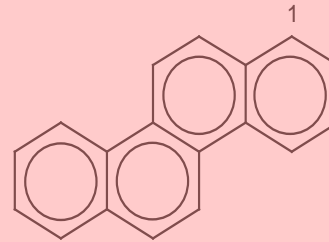
## Carcinogenic PAHs



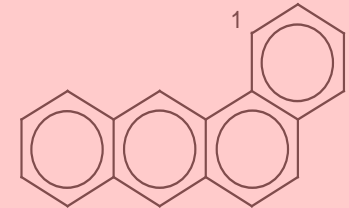
Pyrene



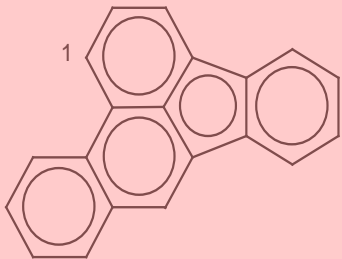
Fluoranthene



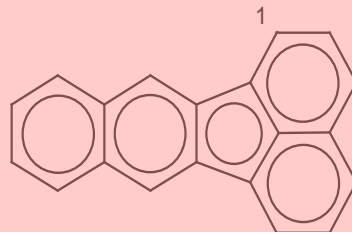
Chrysene



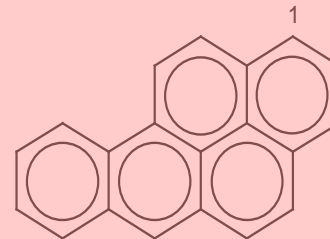
Benz(a)anthracene



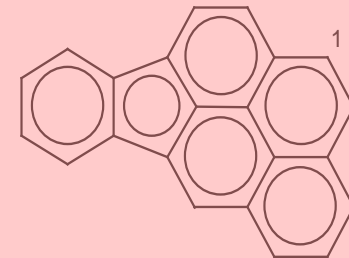
Benzo[b]-  
fluoranthene



Benzo[k]-  
fluoranthene



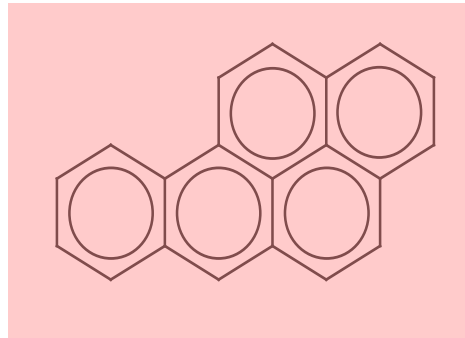
Benzo[a]-  
pyrene



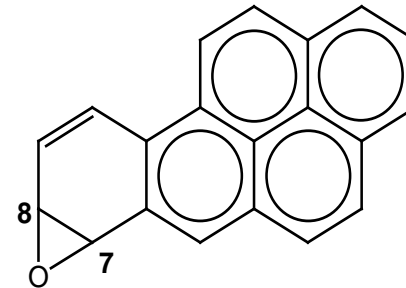
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)-  
pyrene

# Carcinogenesis from benzo(a)pyrene

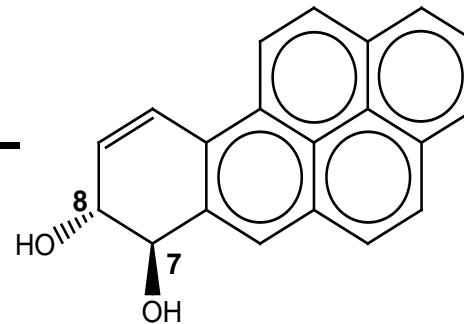
## Oxidative metabolic activation of benzo(a)pyrene



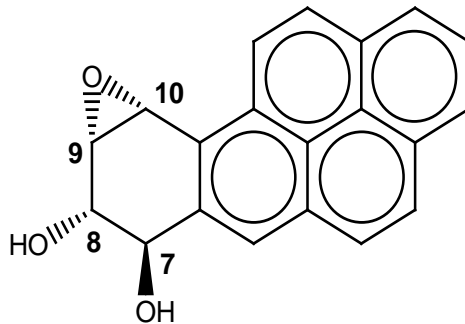
**Benzo(a)pyrene (BP)**



**(+/-) 7,8 BP-oxide**



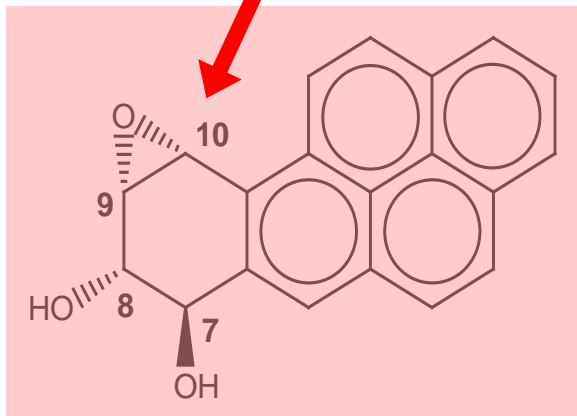
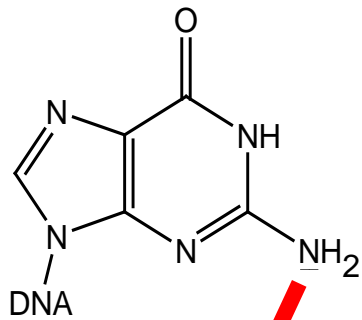
**(+/-) 7,8 BP-dihydrodiol**



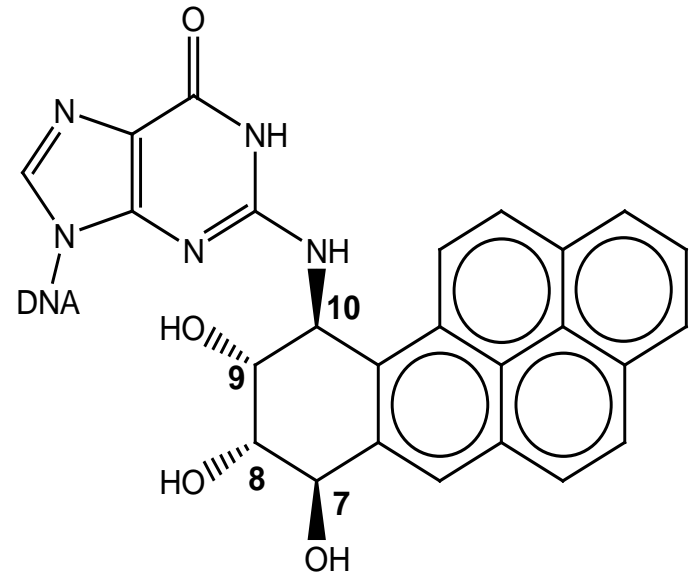
**(+) anti 7R,8S,9S,10R-BP-dihydrodiol-epoxide**

# Carcinogenesis from benzo(a)pyrene

## Stereoselective formation of benzo(a)pyrene-DNA-adducts



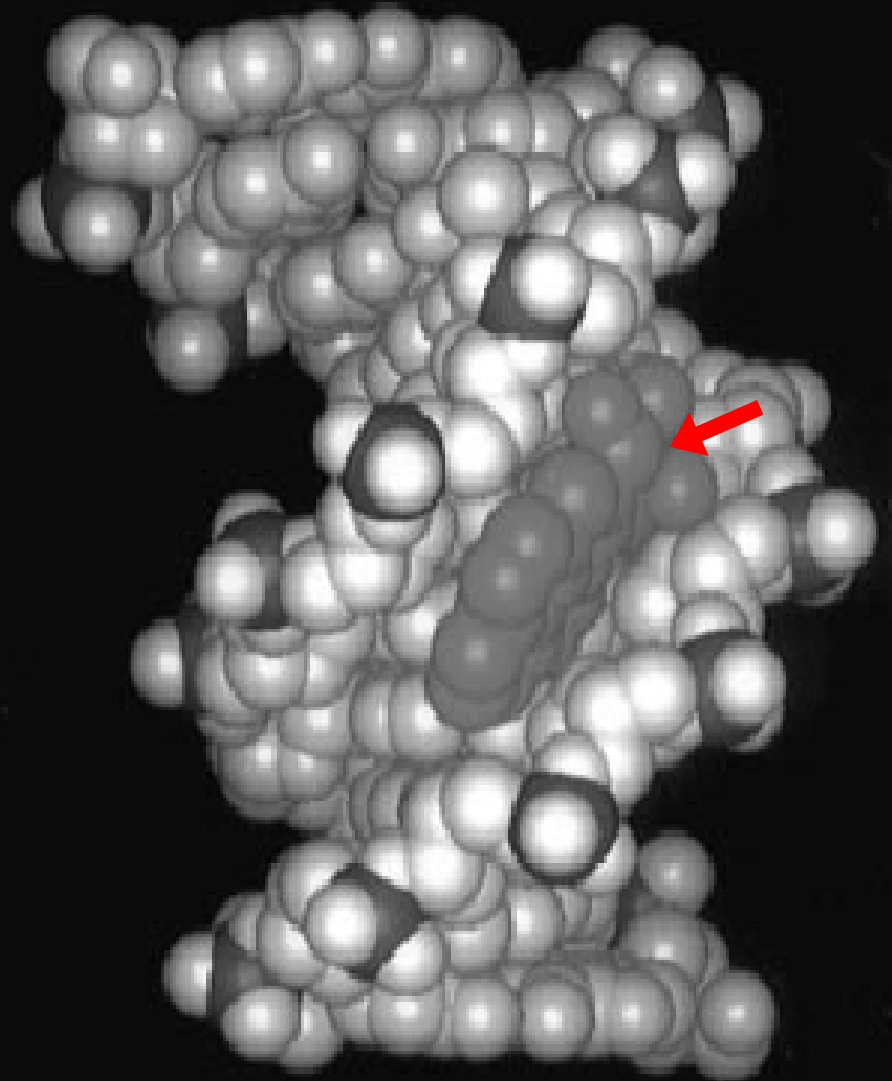
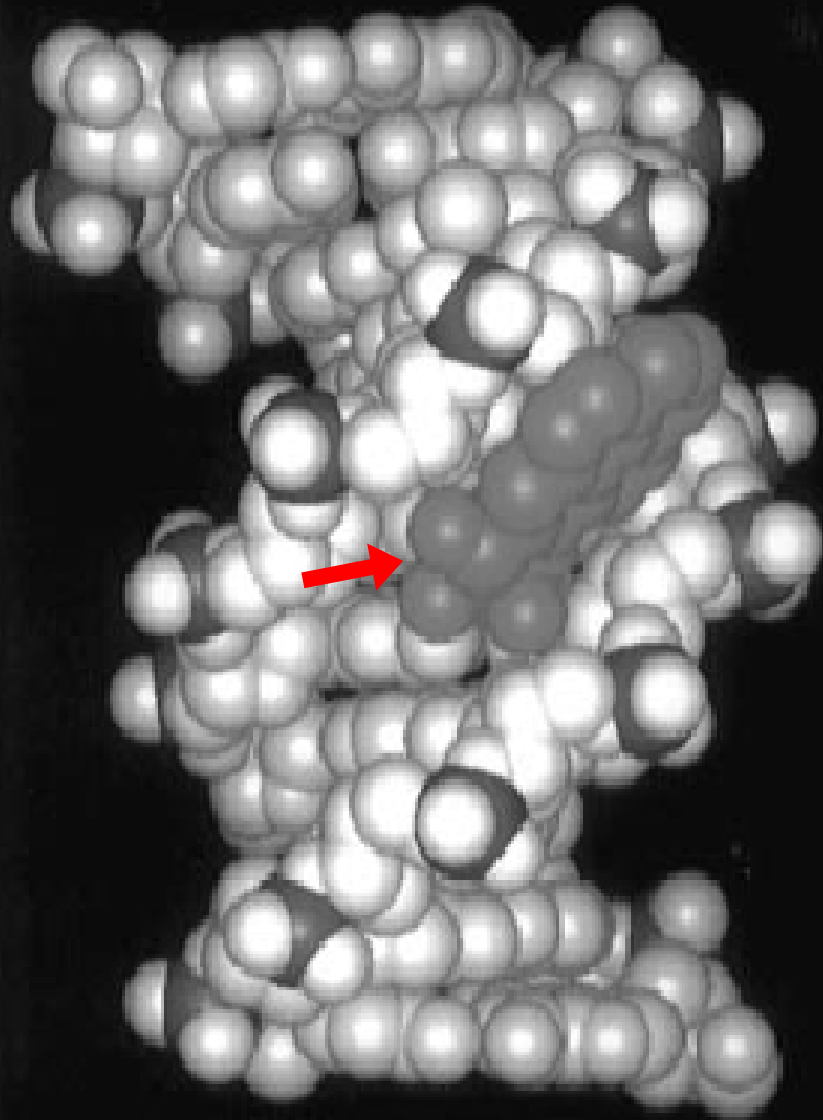
**(+) anti 7R,8S,9S,10R-BP-dihydrodiol-epoxide**



**(-) 10R trans-anti-[BP]-triol-N<sup>2</sup>-deoxy-guanosine-adduct**



# Carcinogenesis from benzo(a)pyrene



# Diesel and GDI nanoparticles act as Trojan horses for genotoxic compounds

## Problem: Trojan horse effect

- Nanoparticles penetrate cell membranes (alveoli, placenta, blood cells) acting like a Trojan horse

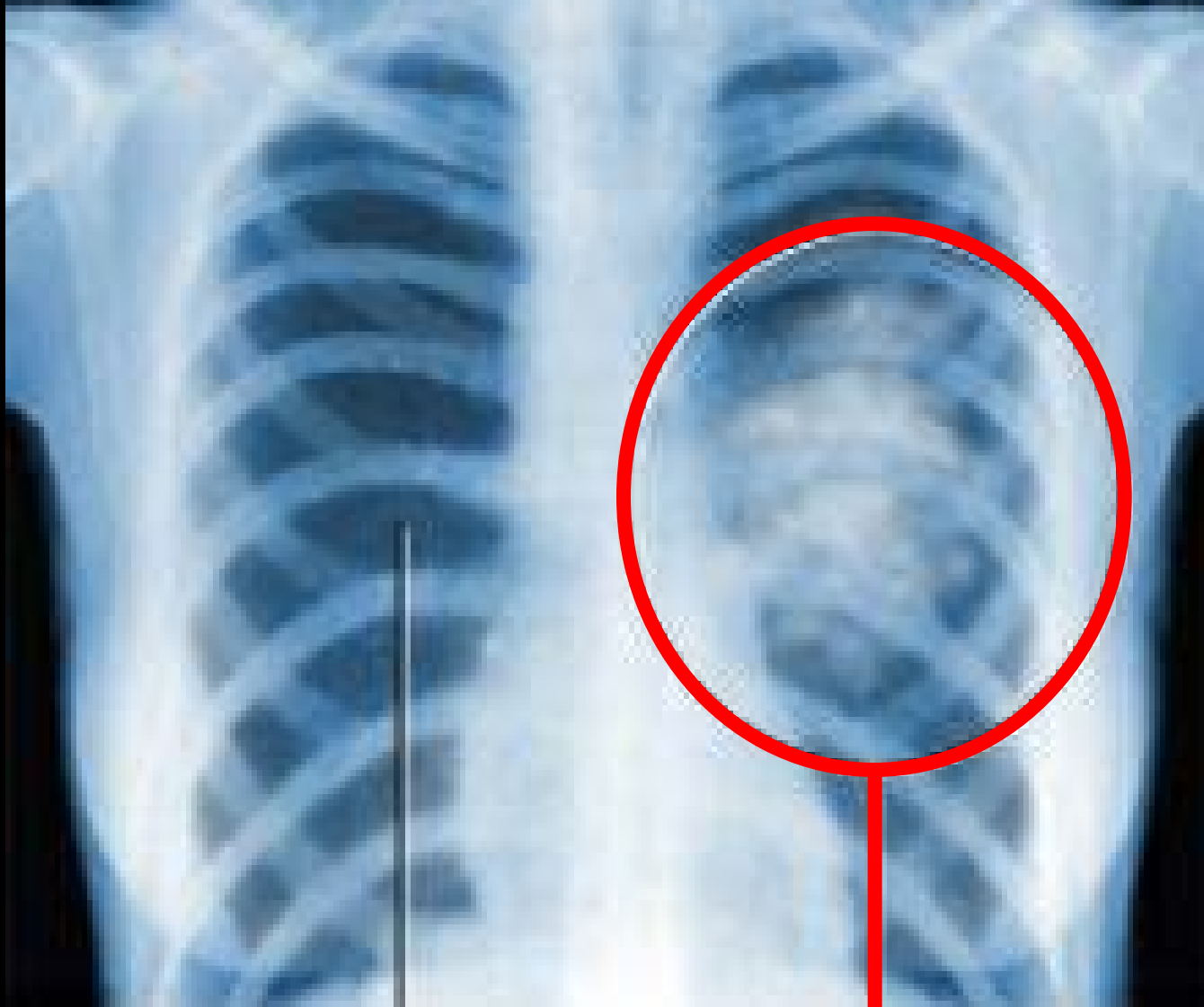


Trojan horse, Harbour of Canakkale, Turkey

**World Health Organization, IARC**

**Diesel engine exhaust: A group 1 carcinogen**

Diesel engine exhausts cause cancer in humans



# World Health Organization, IARC

## Diesel engine exhaust: A group 1 carcinogen

Diesel engine exhausts cause lung cancer in humans

International Agency for Research on Cancer



PRESS RELEASE  
N° 213

only 125 years after  
Rudolf Diesels patent!

12 June 2012

### IARC: DIESEL ENGINE EXHAUST CARCINOGENIC

Lyon, France, June 12, 2012 -- After a week-long meeting of international experts, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO), today classified diesel engine exhaust as **carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)**, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.

Group 1

#### Background

In 1988, IARC classified diesel exhaust as *probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A)*. An Advisory Group which reviews and recommends future priorities for the IARC Monographs Program had recommended diesel exhaust as a high priority for re-evaluation since 1998.

There has been mounting concern about the cancer-causing potential of diesel exhaust, particularly based on findings in epidemiological studies of workers exposed in various settings. This was reinforced by the publication in March 2012 of the results of a large US National Cancer Institute/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study of occupational exposure to such emissions in underground miners which showed an increased risk of death from lung cancer in exposed workers (1).

Lung cancer  
in exposed workers



# World Health Organization, IARC Diesel engine exhaust: a group 1 carcinogen

## Diesel engine exhaust cause cancer in humans

### The Diesel Exhaust in Miners Study: A Nested Case-Control Study of Lung Cancer and Diesel Exhaust

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**Background** Most studies of the association between diesel exhaust exposure and lung cancer suggest a modest, but consistent, increased risk. However, to our knowledge, no study to date has had quantitative data on historical diesel exposure coupled with adequate sample size to evaluate the exposure-response relationship between diesel exhaust and lung cancer. Our purpose was to evaluate the relationship between quantitative estimates of exposure to diesel exhaust and lung cancer mortality after adjustment for smoking and other potential confounders.

**Methods** We conducted a nested case-control study in a cohort of 12315 workers in eight non-ferrous mining facilities, which included 198 lung cancer deaths and 562 incidence density-sampled control subjects. For each case subject, we selected up to 10 control subjects, individually matched on mining facility, sex, ethnicity, and birth year (within 5 years), from all workers who were alive before the day the case subject died. We quantified diesel exhaust exposure, represented by respirable elemental carbon (REC), by job and year, for each subject, based on an extensive retrospective exposure assessment at each mining facility. We conducted both categorical and continuous regression analyses adjusted for cigarette smoking and other potential confounding variables (eg, history of employment in high-risk occupations for lung cancer and a history of respiratory disease) to estimate odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). Analyses were both unlagged and lagged to exclude recent exposure such as that occurring in the 15 years directly before the date of death (case subjects)/reference date (control subjects). All statistical tests were two-sided.

**Results** We observed statistically significant increasing trends in lung cancer risk with increasing cumulative REC and average REC intensity. Cumulative REC, lagged 15 years, yielded a statistically significant positive gradient in lung cancer risk overall ( $P_{trend} = .001$ ); among heavily exposed workers (ie, above the median of the top quartile [ $REC \geq 1005 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{-y}$ ]), risk was approximately three times greater ( $OR = 3.20$ , 95%  $CI = 1.33$  to  $7.69$ ) than that among workers in the lowest quartile of exposure. Among never smokers, odd ratios were 1.0, 1.47 (95%  $CI = 0.29$  to  $7.50$ ), and 7.30 (95%  $CI = 1.46$  to  $36.57$ ) for workers with 15-year lagged cumulative REC tertiles of less than 8, 8 to less than 304, and 304  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{-y}$  or more, respectively. We also observed an interaction between smoking and 15-year lagged cumulative REC ( $P_{interaction} = .086$ ) such that the effect of each of these exposures was attenuated in the presence of high levels of the other.

**Conclusion** Our findings provide further evidence that diesel exhaust exposure may cause lung cancer in humans and may represent a potential public health burden.

12315 workers,  
198 lung cancer death  
(16 in 1000)

diesel exhaust exposure:  
a potential public health burden

# Swiss Clean Air Act (LRV): List of carcinogenic compounds

Luftreinhalte-Verordnung  
(LRV)

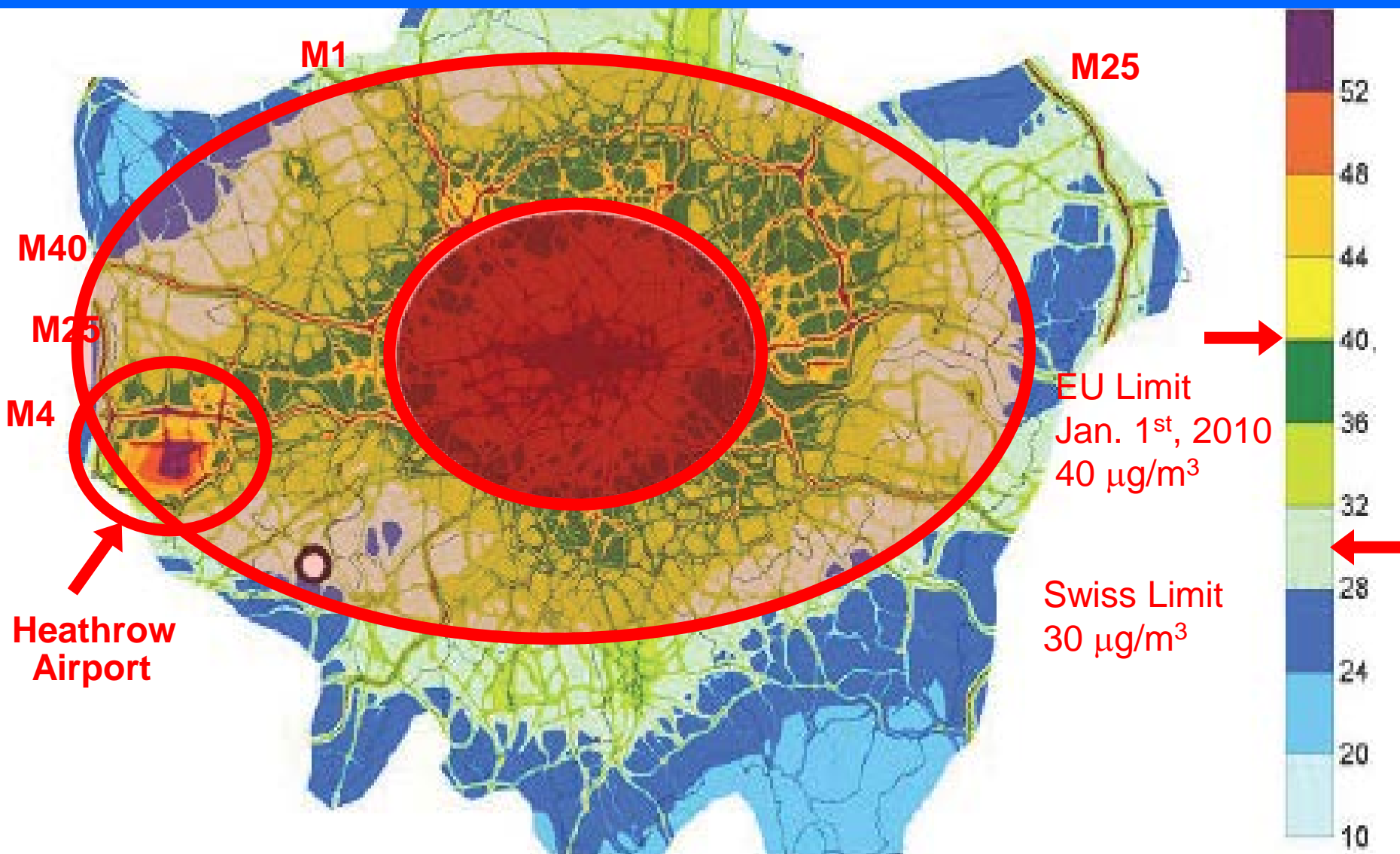
814.318.142.1

## 83 Tabelle von krebserzeugenden Stoffen

Stoff	Summenformel	Klasse
Benzo(a)pyren	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	1
Benzol	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	3
Dibenz(a, h)anthracen	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>14</sub>	1
1,2-Dibromethan	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Br <sub>2</sub>	3
1,4 Dichlorbenzol	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	3
1,2-Dichlorethan	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	3
Dieseleruss		3
Diethylsulfat	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub> S	2

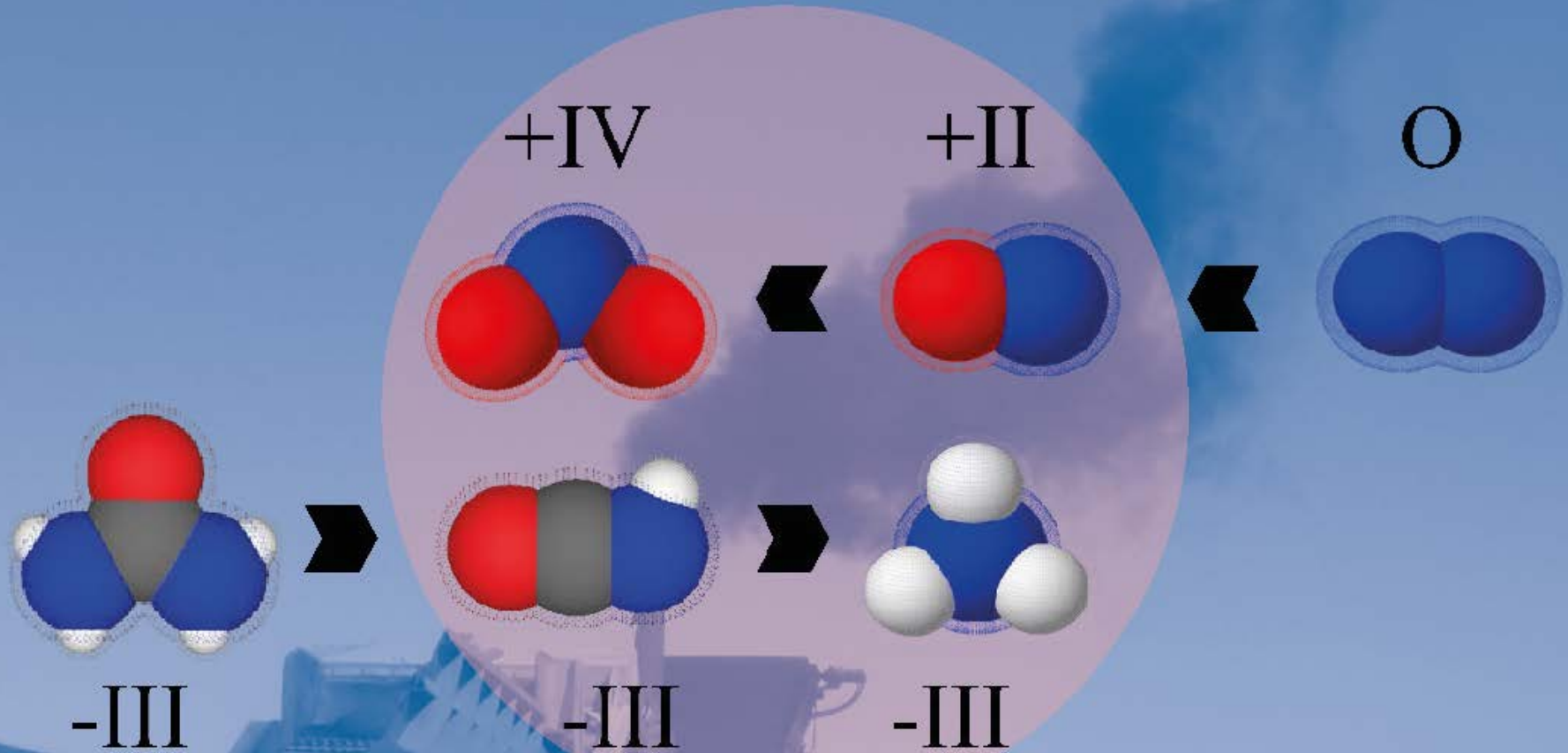
EU ambient air limit Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 1 ng benzo(a)pyrene/m<sup>3</sup>

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



**From a Swiss perspective, the Brexit did not solve the problem!**

# Reactive nitrogen compounds in combustion exhausts



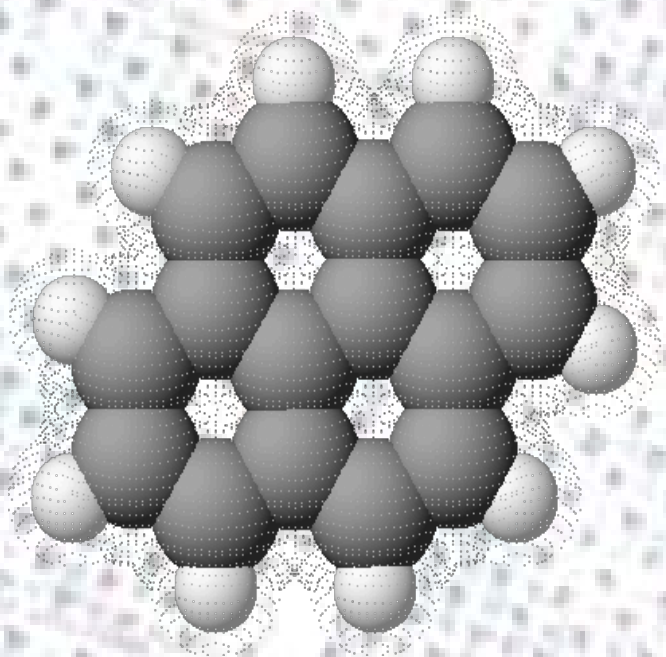
**Converter technologies strongly affect RNC levels, but not always to the better**



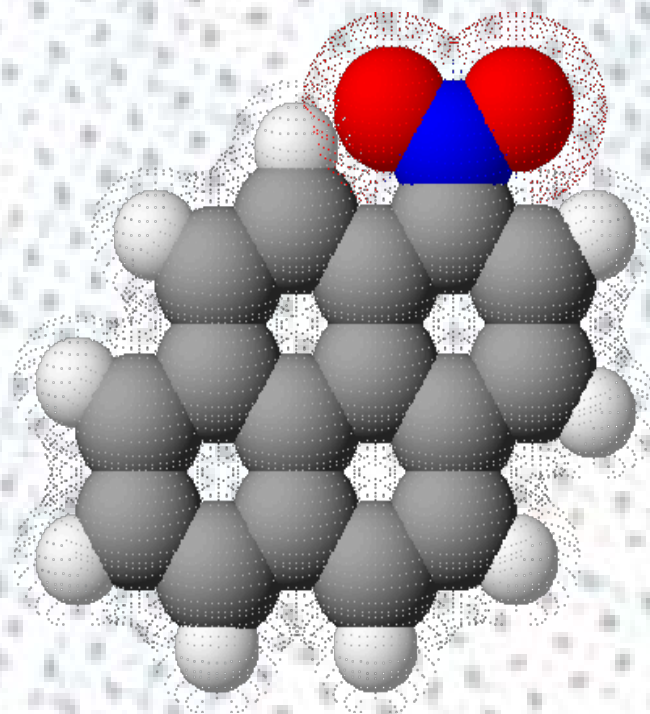
# The DPF – a chemical reactor

In one step from a harmless precursor to a mutagen?

## Nitration of PAHs



pyrene

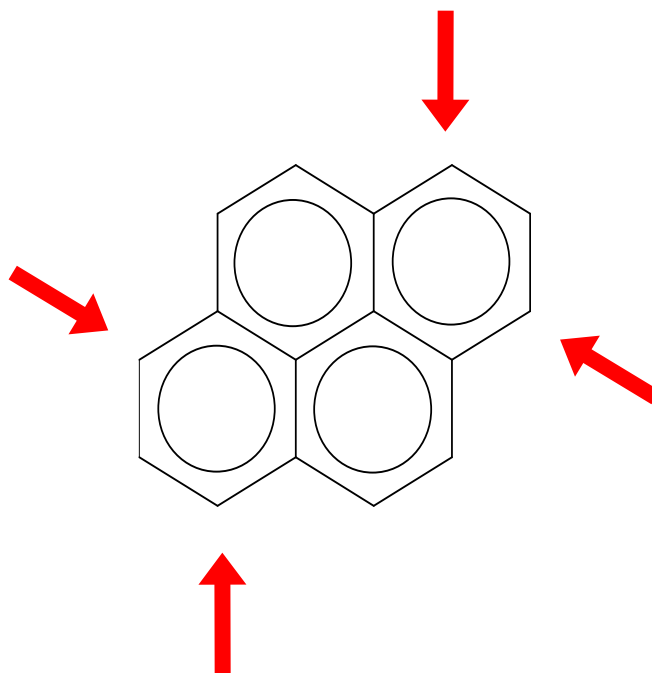


1-nitropyrene

# The DPF – a chemical reactor

Nitration in alpha-position?

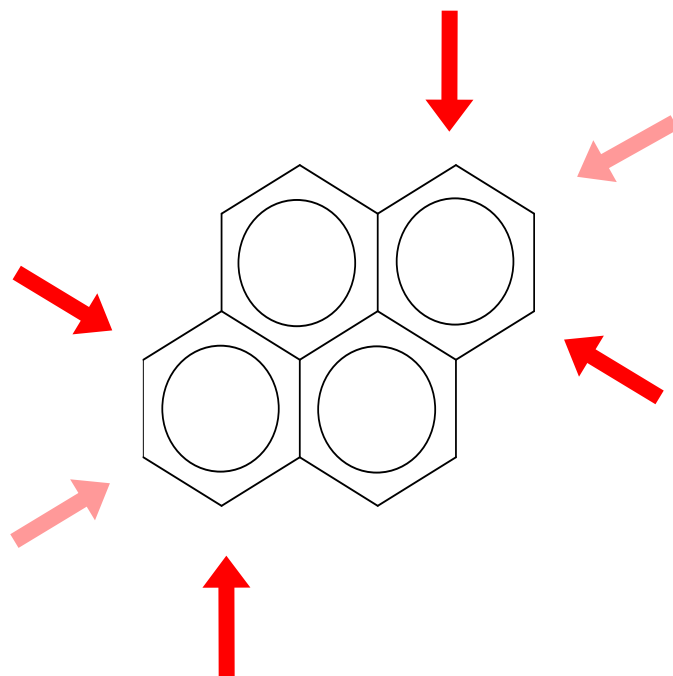
**Regioselective nitration of pyrene**



# The DPF - a chemical reactor

or in beta-position?

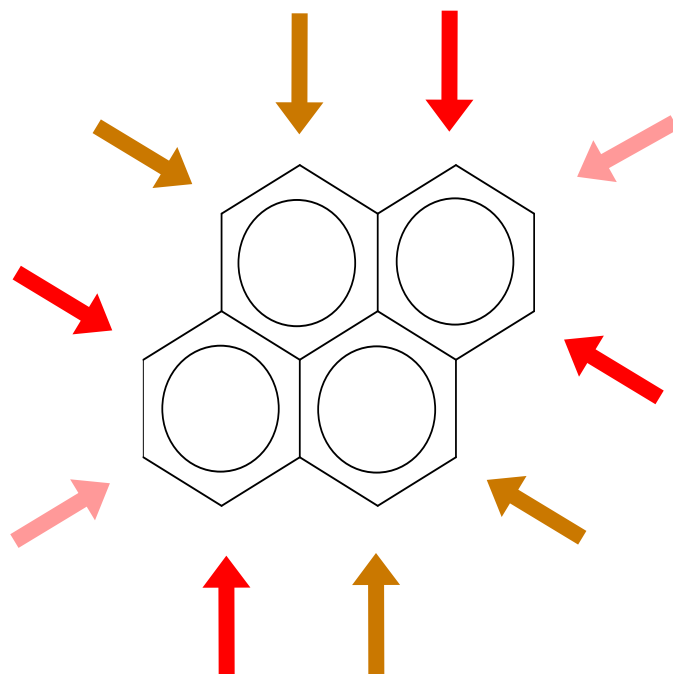
## Regioselective nitration of pyrene



# The DPF - a chemical reactor

or in gamma-position?

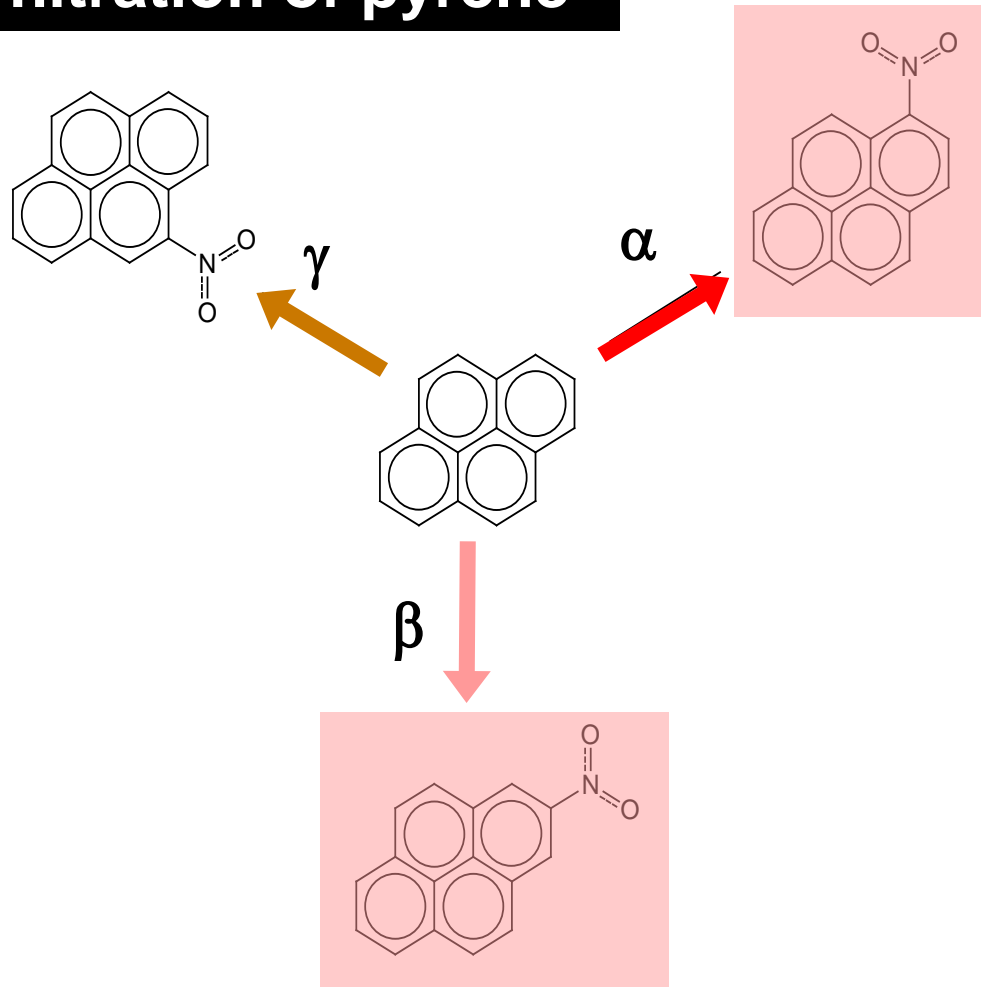
## Regioselective nitration of pyrene



# The DPF - a chemical reactor

Two of the three isomers are mutagenic.

## Regioselective nitration of pyrene

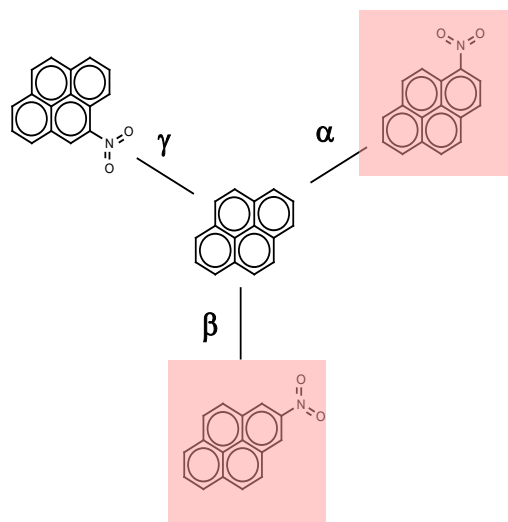




# The DPF - a chemical reactor

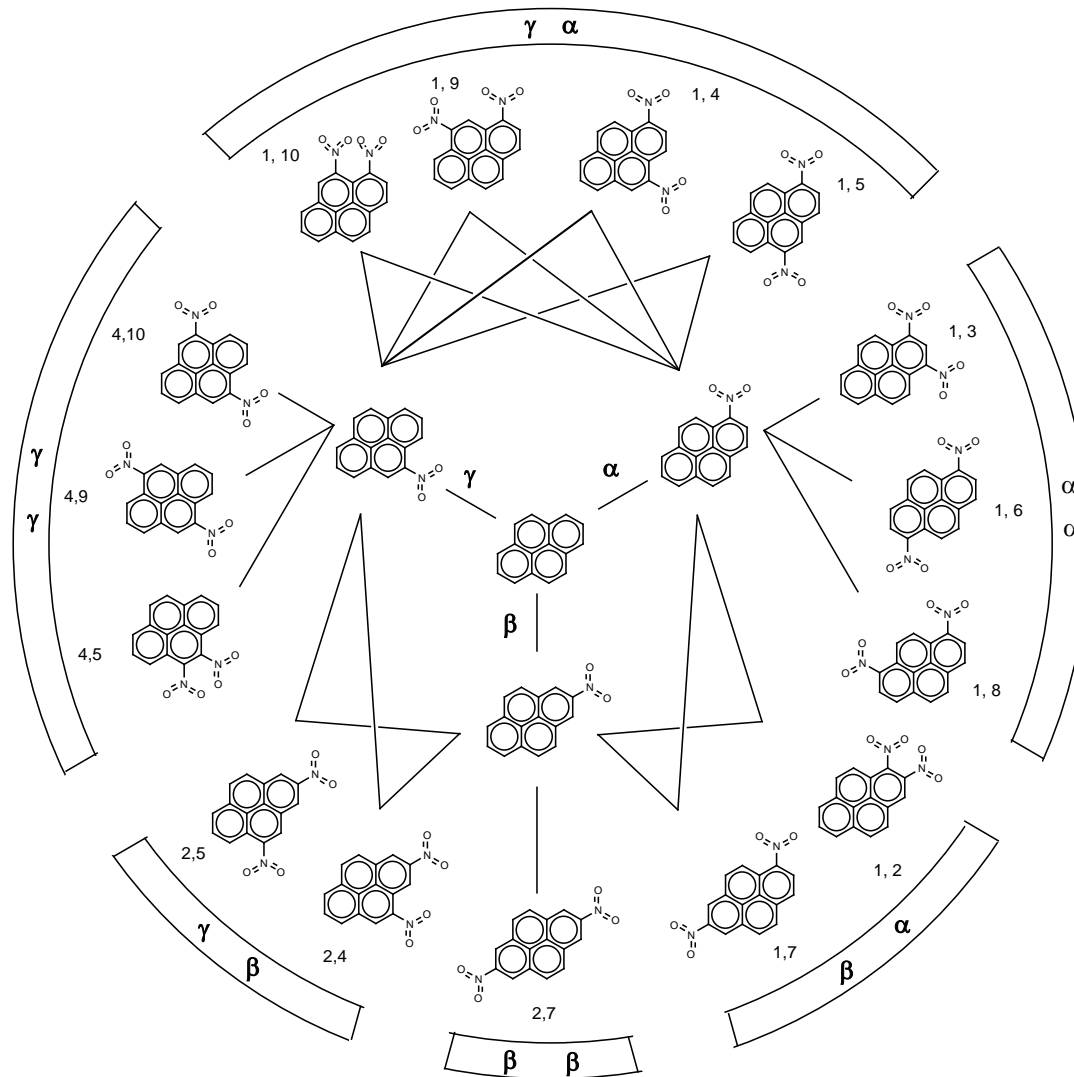
If nitration is possible ones, why not twice?

## Nitration of nitropyrenes



# The DPF - a chemical reactor

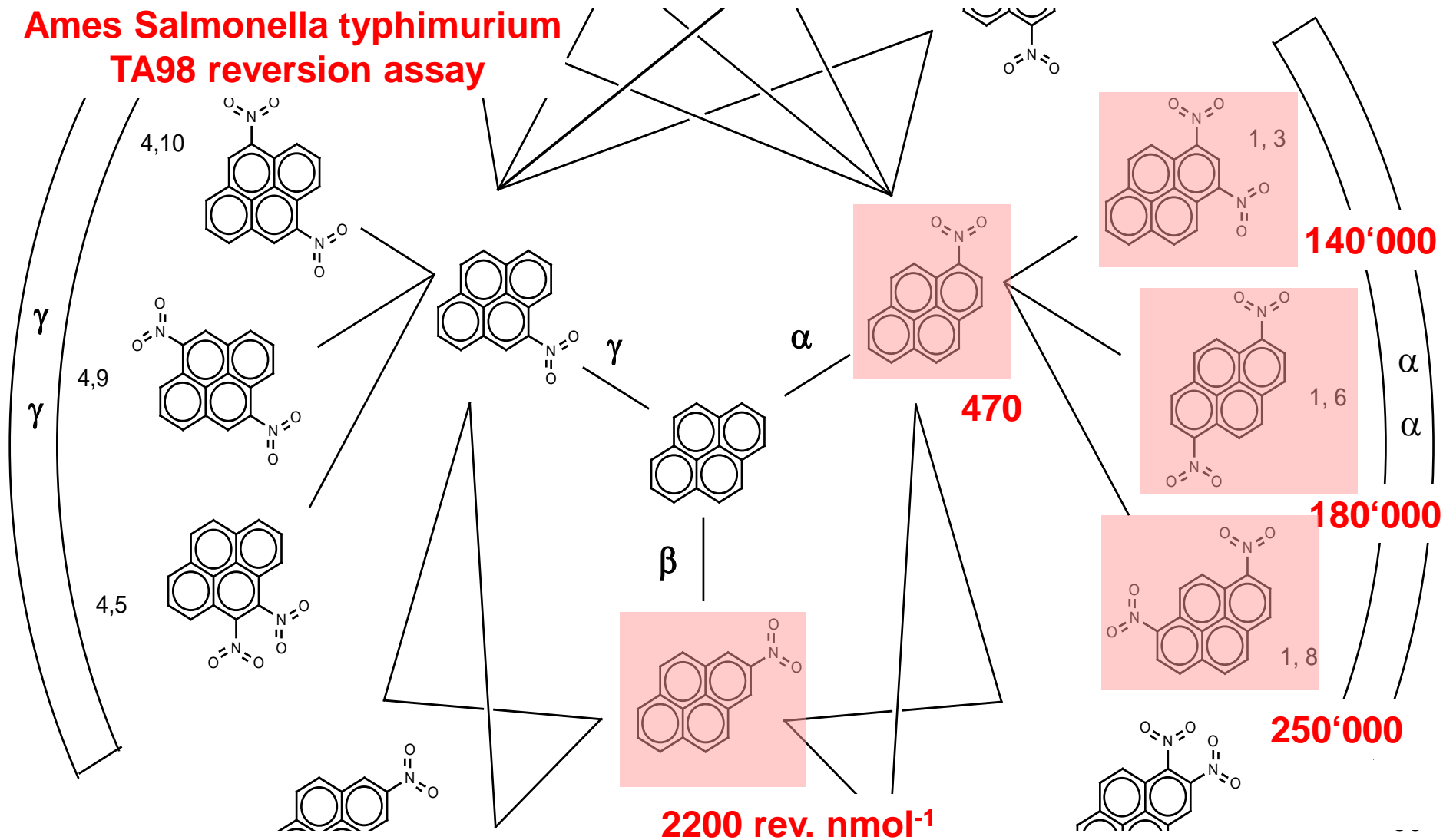
From one precursor to 3 nitropyrenes to 15 dinitropyrenes?



# The DPF - a chemical reactor

The most potent direct-acting mutagens known are dinitropyrenes

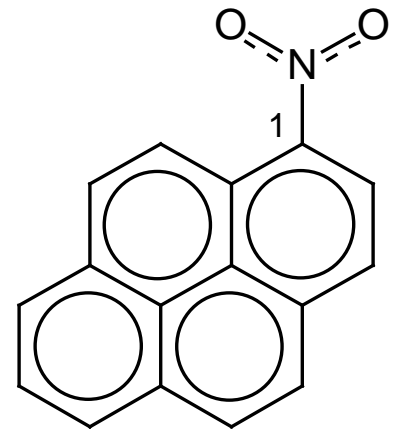
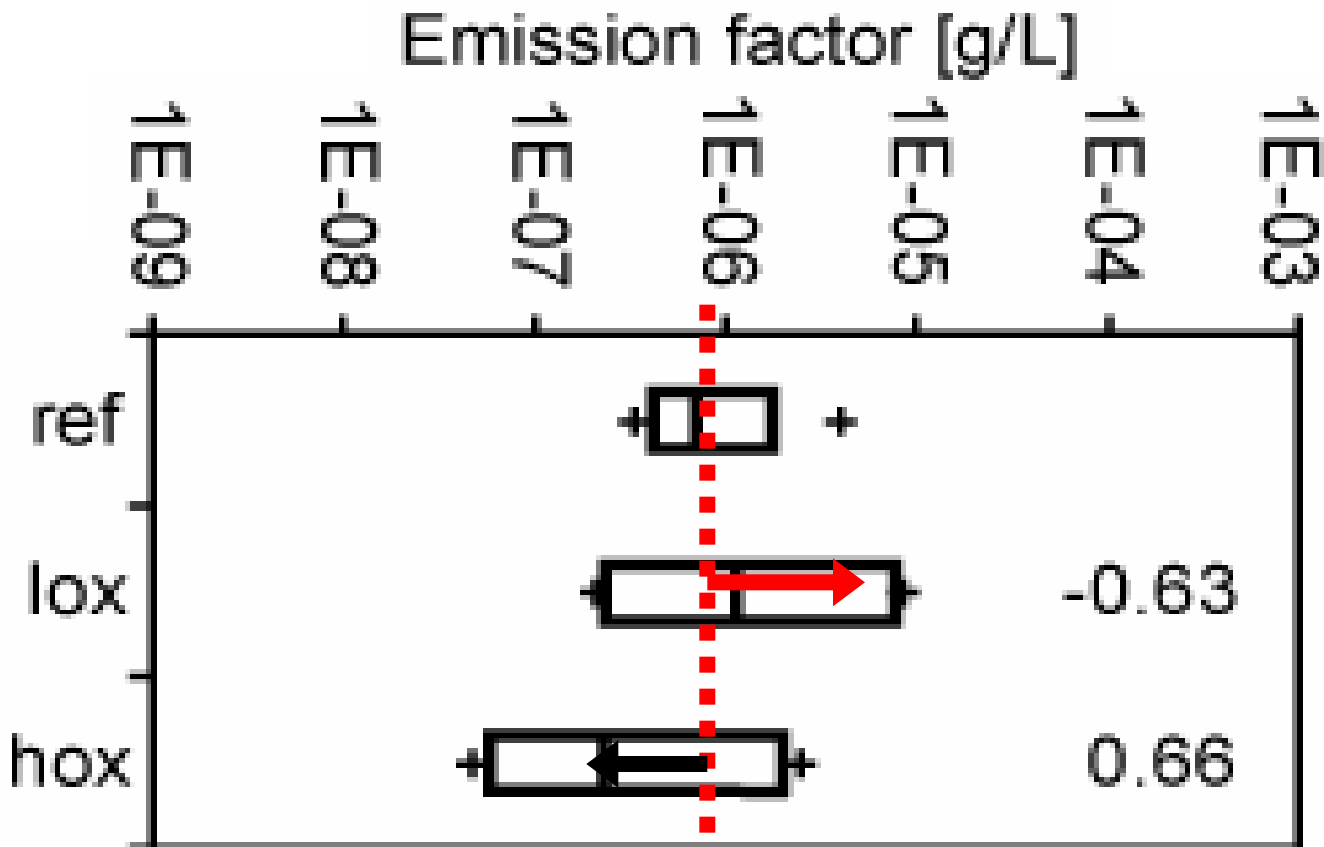
Ames *Salmonella typhimurium*  
TA98 reversion assay



# Genotoxic Nitro-PAHs

Low oxidation potential DPF can support 1-nitro-pyrene formation!

## DPF-induced nitration of PAHs



# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts

Combustion of fossil fuels is pure chemistry

The chemistry of fuels

(What you feed is what you get!)

The sooting problem

(Soot is bad news at the nanometer scale)

Combustion exhaust, ia a toxic cocktail

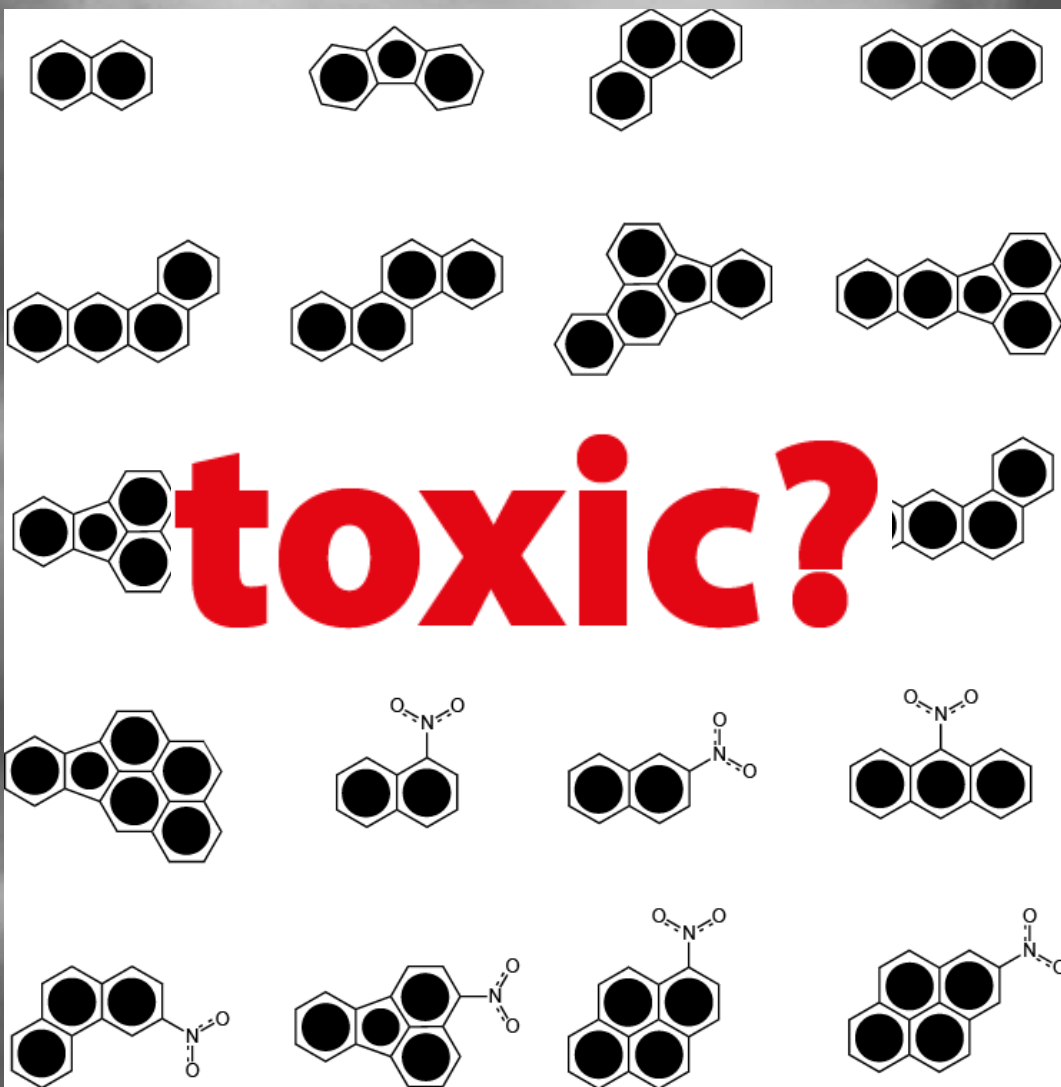
(Many ways for intoxication)

Mass spectrometry is the tool for HAP identification and quantification



# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts by HRMS, a powerful tool

HR-MS is all we need for chemical hazard assessment of exhausts



# High resolutions mass spectrometry: Is all we need for quantitative analysis at the pg-level

## GC-/ LC-HR-MS (Orbitrap)

**High sensitivity**

(both EI and NCI mode)

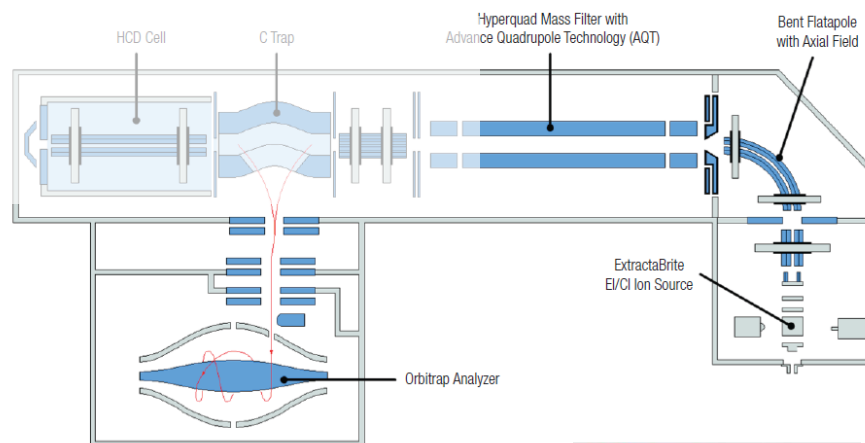
**Higher selectivity**

(chemical noise suppression, 120'000 resolution)

**Full scan mode – all in one run**

(shorter sampling times, less elaborate sample clean-up, better results )

**HR-MS is the ideal tool for chemical hazard assessment of exhausts**



Thermo  
SCIENTIFIC  
**ORBITRAP**

# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts by HRMS, a powerful tool

Hazard assessment of combustion exhausts by chemical analysis

*in vitro* cell culture tests are helpful too



# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts



**If we dare to expose miners to non-treated diesel exhausts for decades, we don't need animal tests**





# Chemistry-based assessment of combustion exhausts

