

# Thermodynamics Aspects of Hydrogen Storage in Metals

Guy Joël Rocher

Mech 6661

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

# Outline

- Introduction
- Thermodynamics of H<sub>2</sub> Fuel Cells
- Thermodynamics of H<sub>2</sub> storage
- Concluding Remarks

# 1. Introduction

# Introduction

- Why Hydrogen Energy?

1. Reduction in GHG emission
2. Reduction of oil dependency
3. Energy efficiency increase (conv. 20% → elec. 45%)

A. Lulianelli, A. Basile, Catal. Sci. Technol., 2011

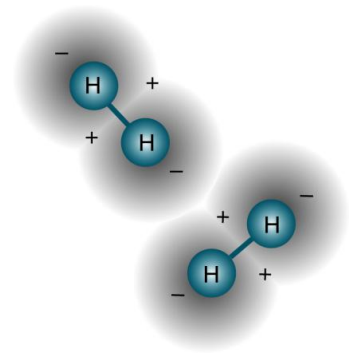
- What is Hydrogen Energy?

- H<sub>2</sub> is an Ultra High performance battery (Energy carrier)
- **Hydrogen = Electrification**

- When?

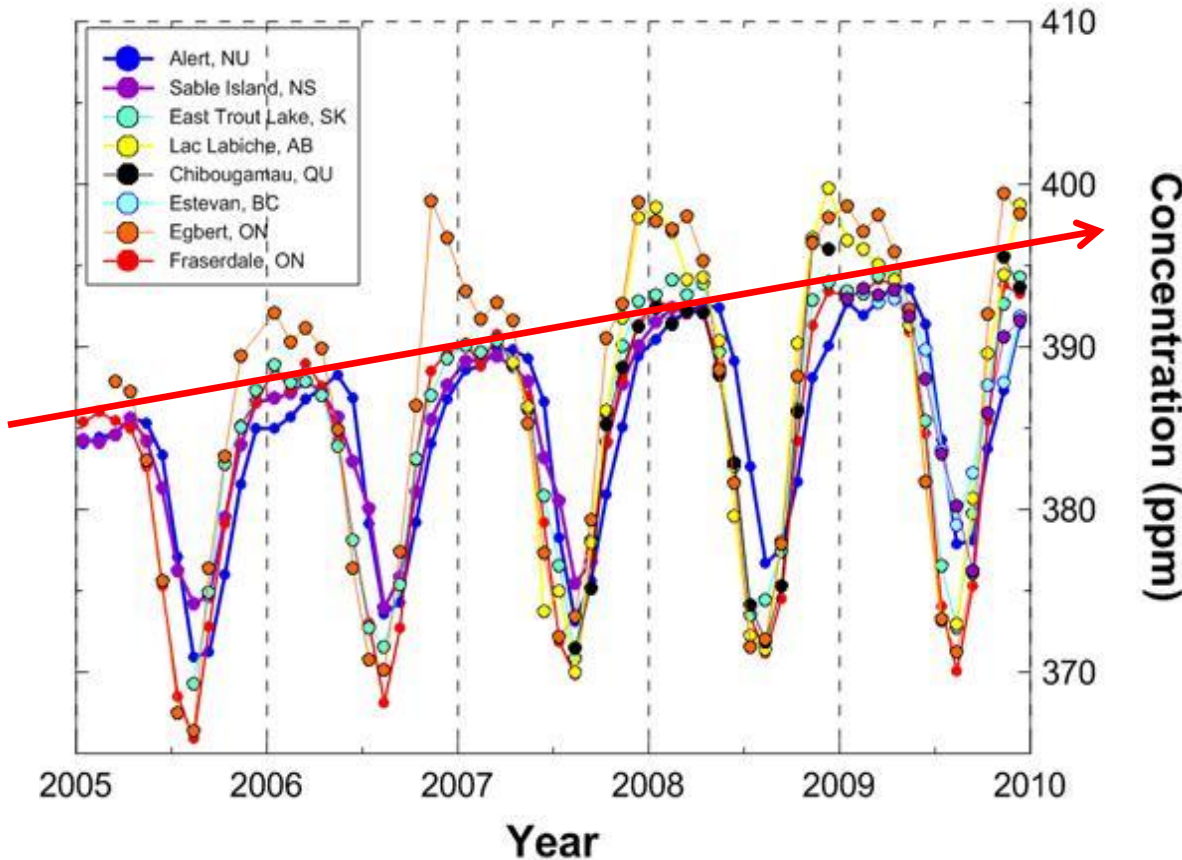
- 2015 → 100 000 electric cars target in Europe

Palcan Energy, Canada

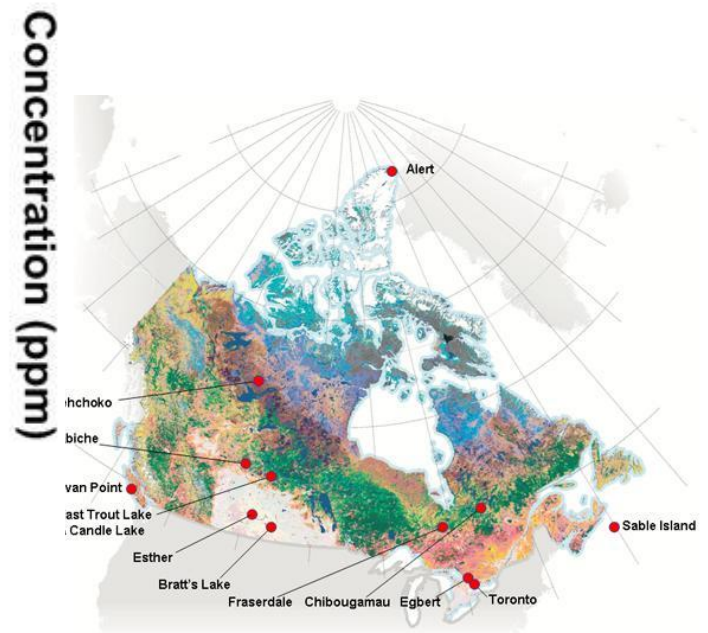


# Canadian Interest in H<sub>2</sub>

- 18,608,297 cars in 2005 Canada (620/1000) Natural Resources Canada 2011



Environment Canada, 2011

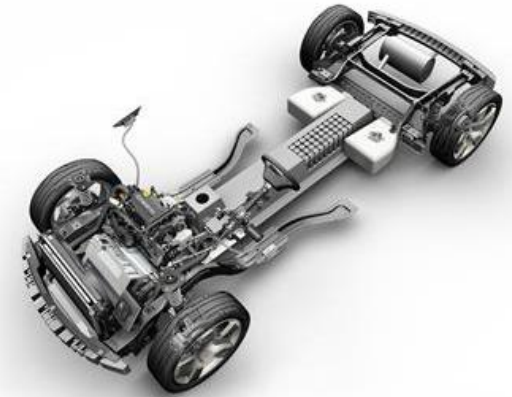


Environment Canada, 2011

# Electric Vehicles Classification (EV)

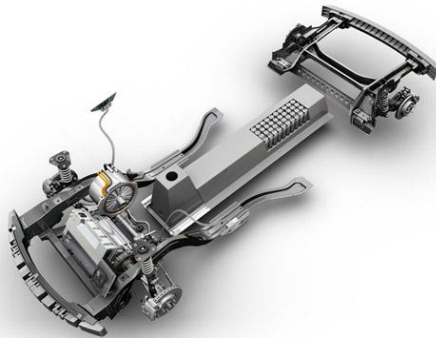
- HEV: Hybrid Electric Vehicle

**Electric Motor + ICE + Battery**  
**3-50KW**



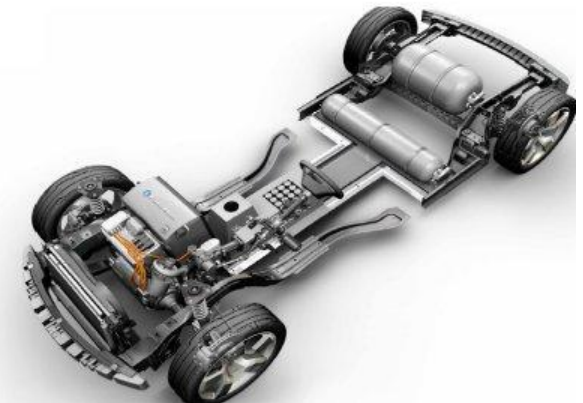
- PHEV: Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicle

**Large Battery + Electric Motor 100+KW**



- FCEV: Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle

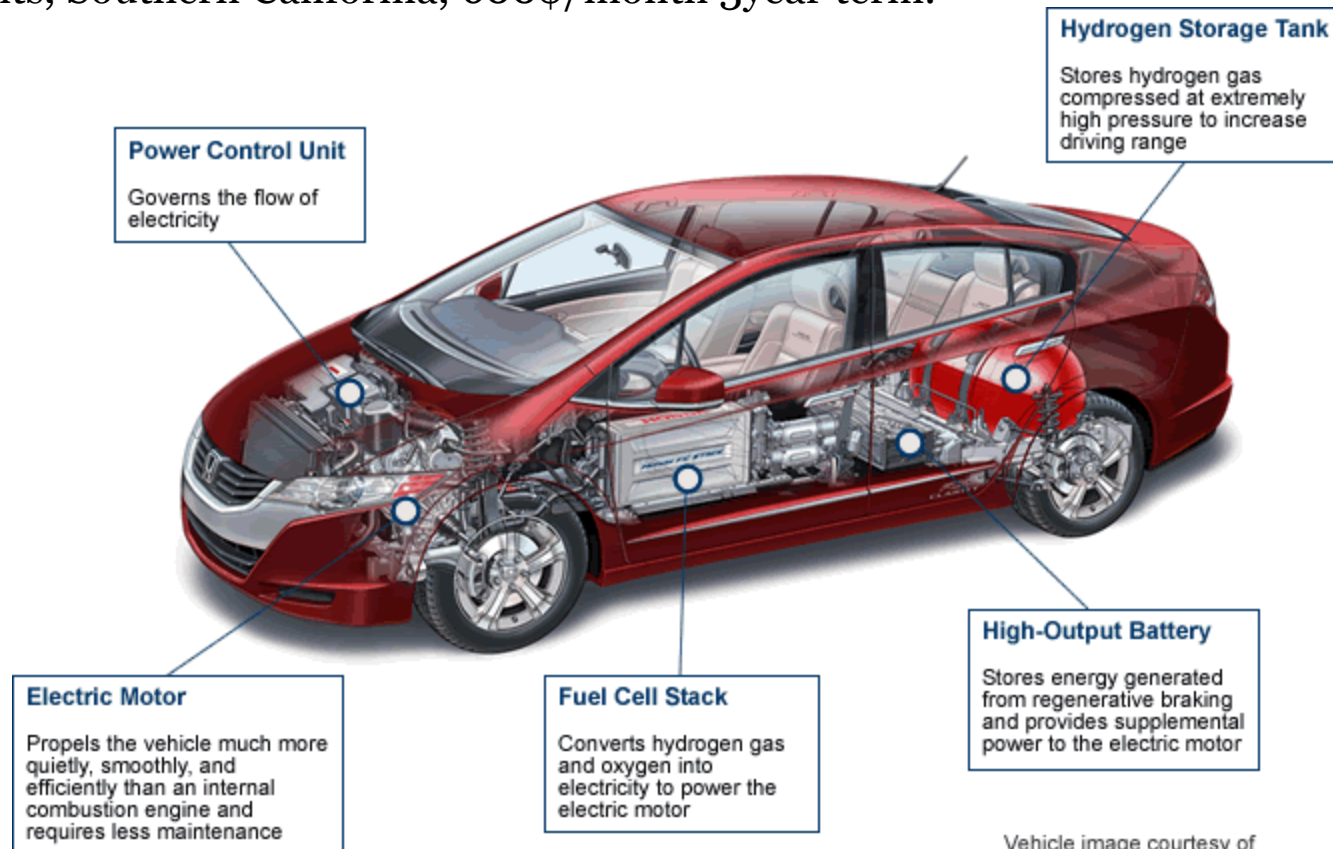
**H<sub>2</sub> Tank + Fuel Cell + Small Battery**  
**Electric Motor 75 KW**



# H<sub>2</sub> Powered Vehicles (FCEV)

- 2011 Honda FCX Clarity

200 units, Southern California, 600\$/month 3year term.



Vehicle image courtesy of  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

## 2. Thermodynamics of Fuel Cells



# Electrochemical Cell “Engine”

- Open System with Mass Flow, Work and Heat
- Classical Thermodynamics crucial for design & control of the system.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Thermodynamics

$$\Delta U = Q - W$$

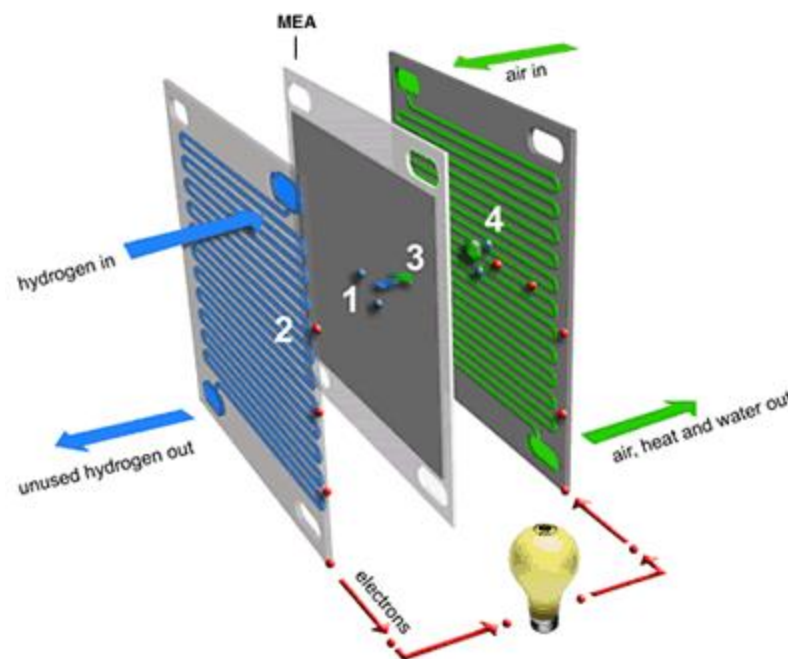
$\Delta U$  = Internal Energy

$Q$  = Heat Added

$W$  = Work Done



Chemical reactions: Operating Conditions,  
Material development, etc.



<http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/technology/fuel-cells/>

# Fuel Cells Operation

- At system level: Irreversible conversions

Chemical E.  $\rightarrow$  Electrical E.  $\rightarrow$  Mechanical E.

2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics

$$dS \geq \delta q/T$$

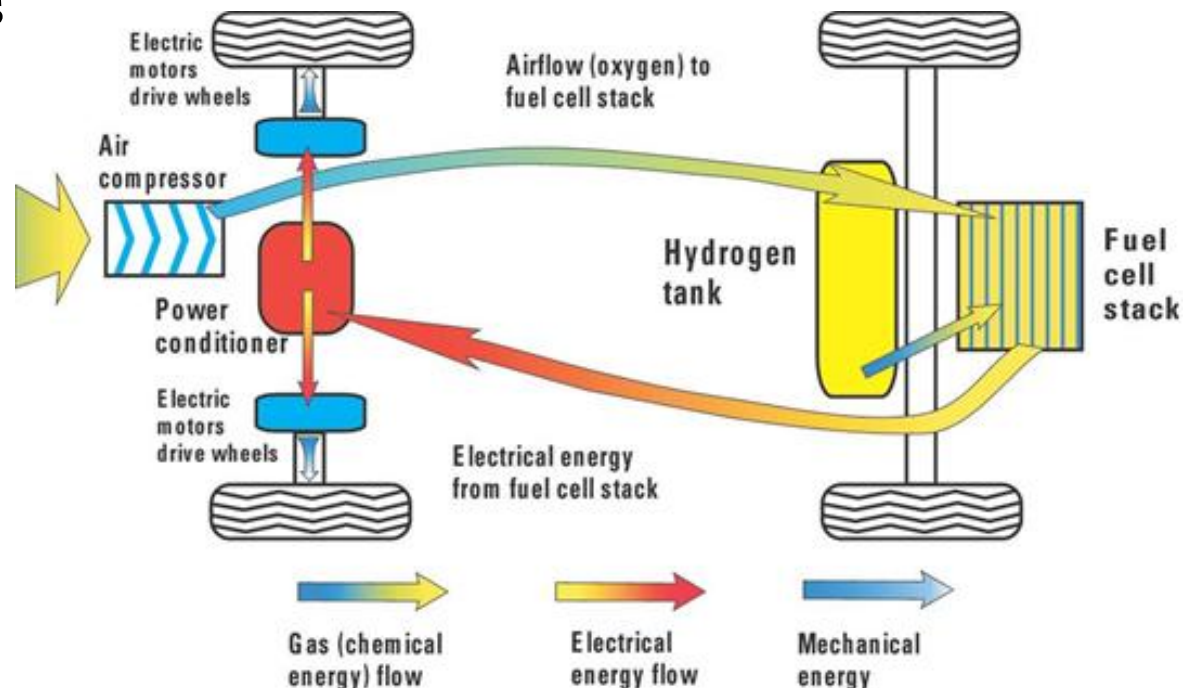
S = Entropy

$\delta q$  = Heat Added

T = Temperature



Operating Conditions,  
Material development, etc.



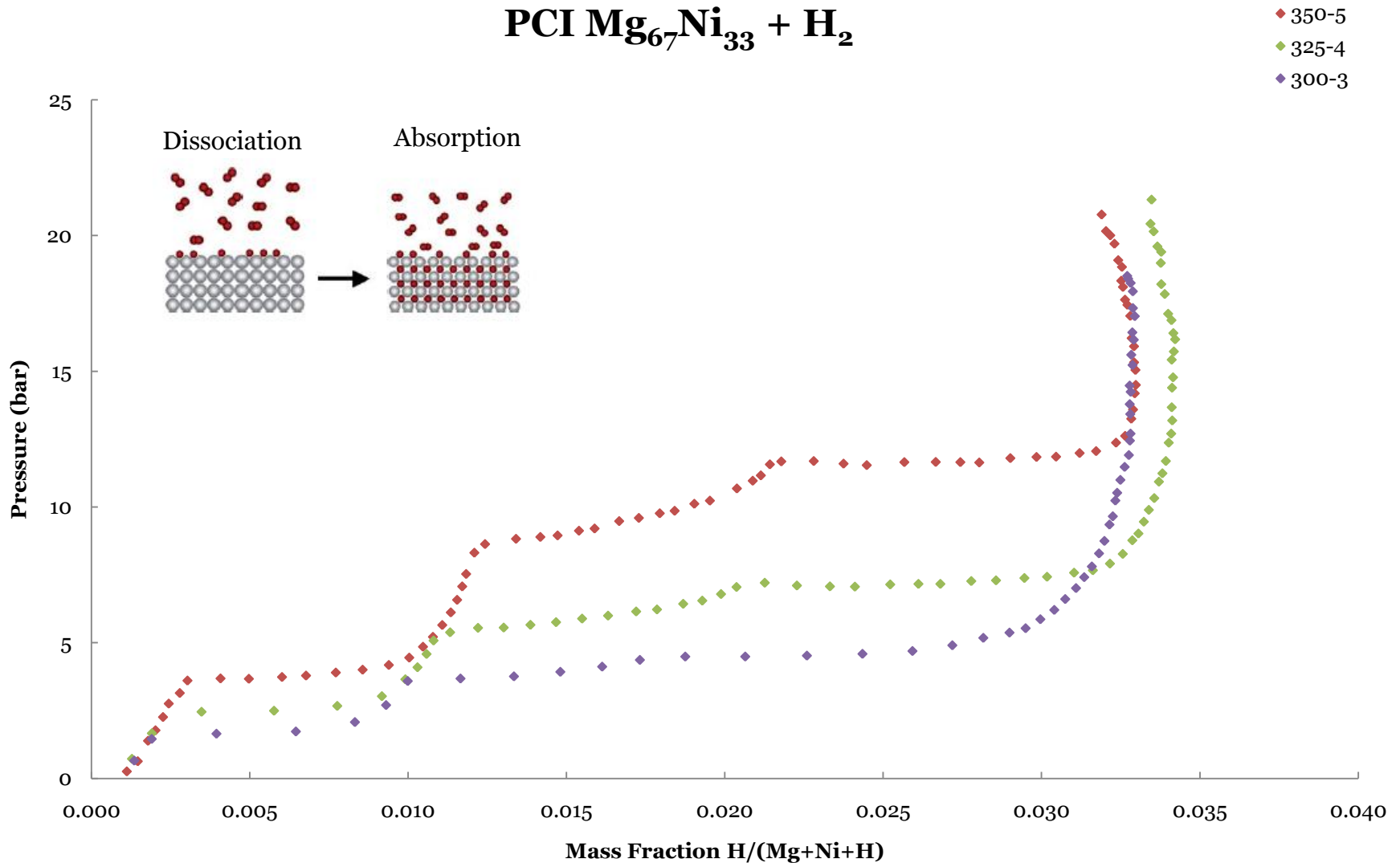
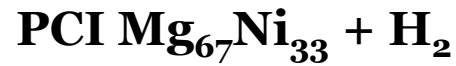
# 3.

## Thermodynamics of H<sub>2</sub> Storage

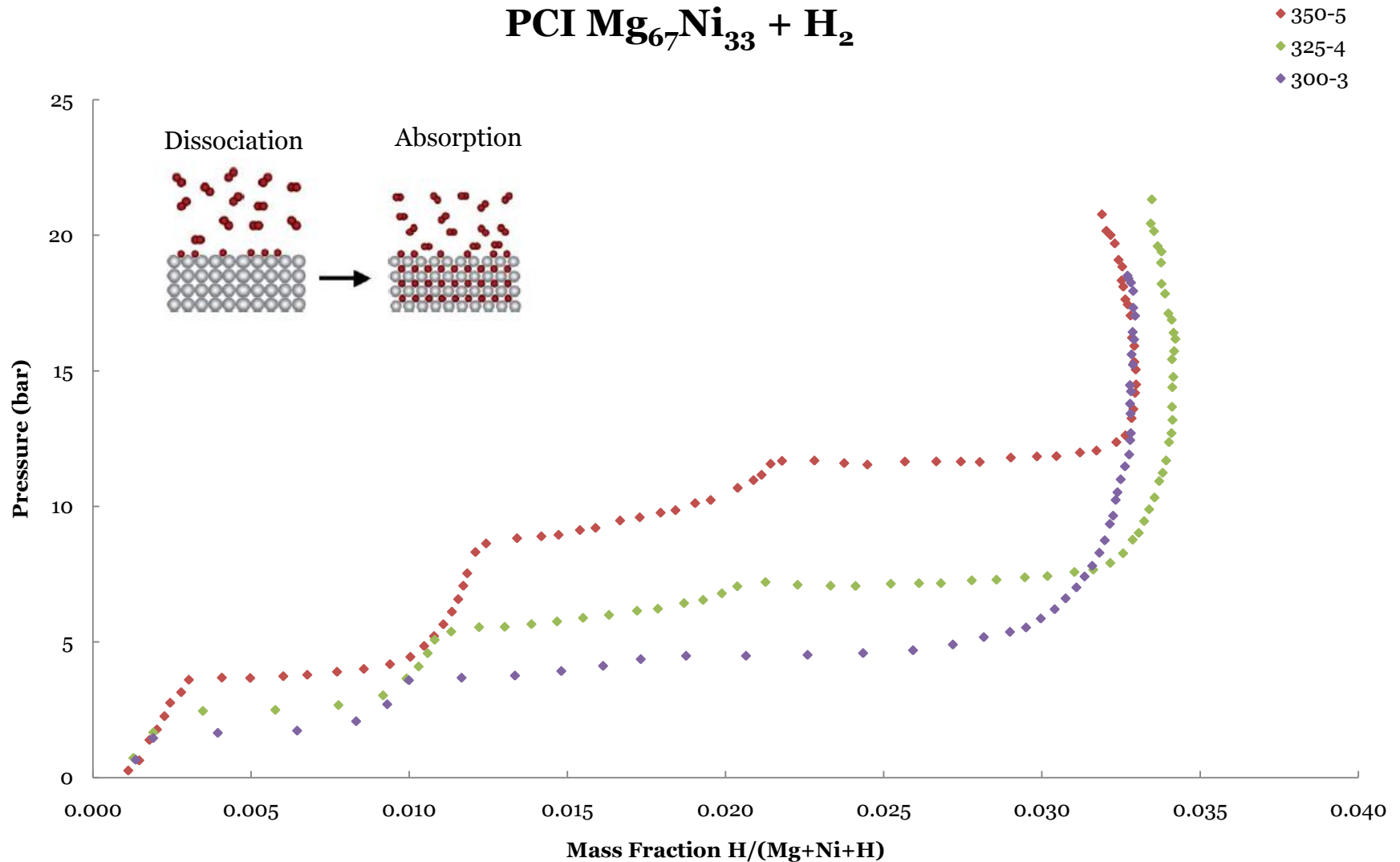
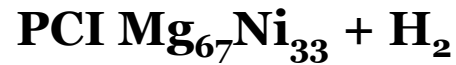
# Thermodynamics of H<sub>2</sub> Storage

- Compressed Gas → Internal Energy Change
- Liquid H<sub>2</sub> → Phase Change
- Adsorption → Weak Physical Bonding
- Metal/Complex Hydrides → Chemical Bonding
- Chemical Reactions → Product Generation

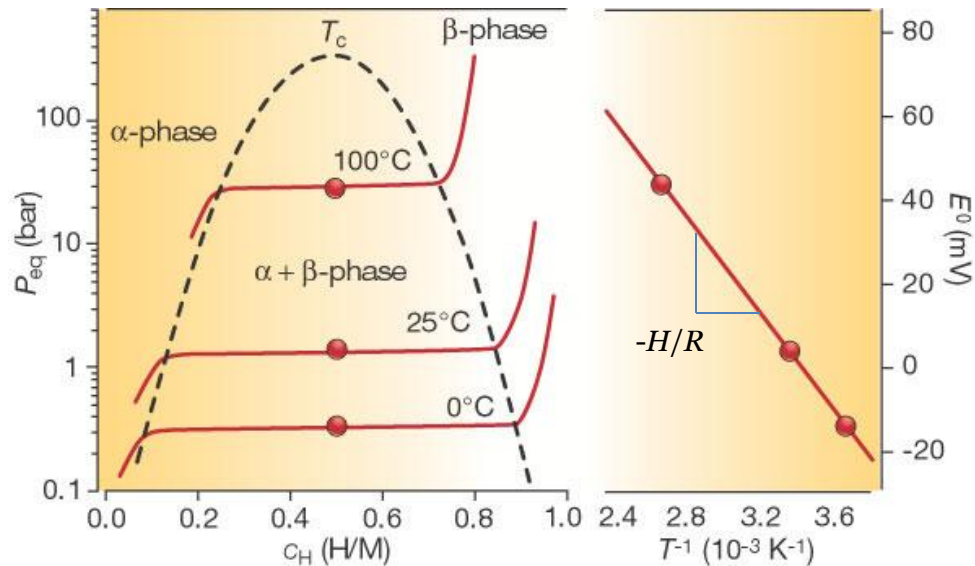
# Metal hydrides Theory



# Thermodynamic Modelling



# Thermodynamics Analysis Tools

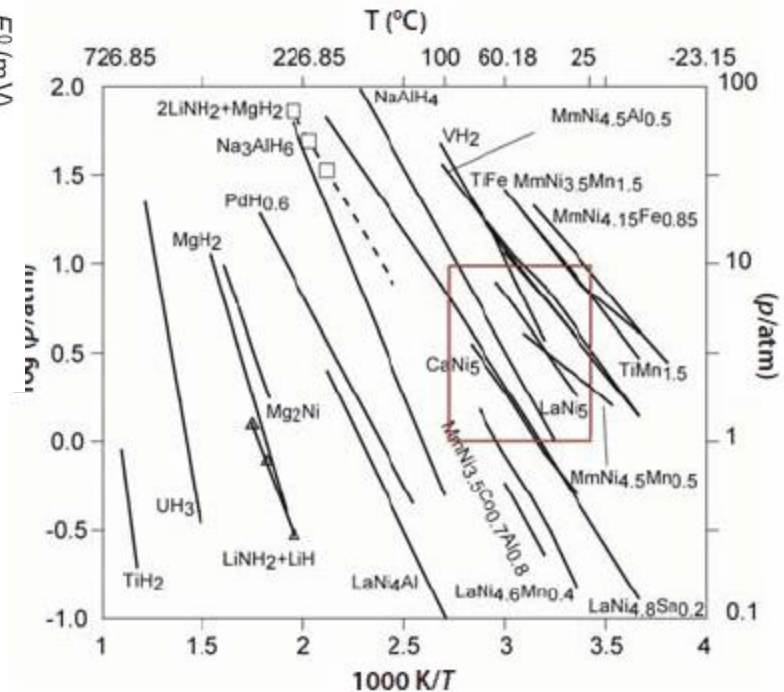


The Van't Hoff plot derived from the isotherms at various temperatures.

Nature 414, 353-358, 2001

The Van't Hoff equation

$$\ln(P_{eq}/P_{eq}^0) = (-H/R)(1/T) + S/R$$



A compilation of the Van't Hoff plots of selected elemental, classical, and complex hydrides.

Material Matters, Volume 6, Article 2, 2011

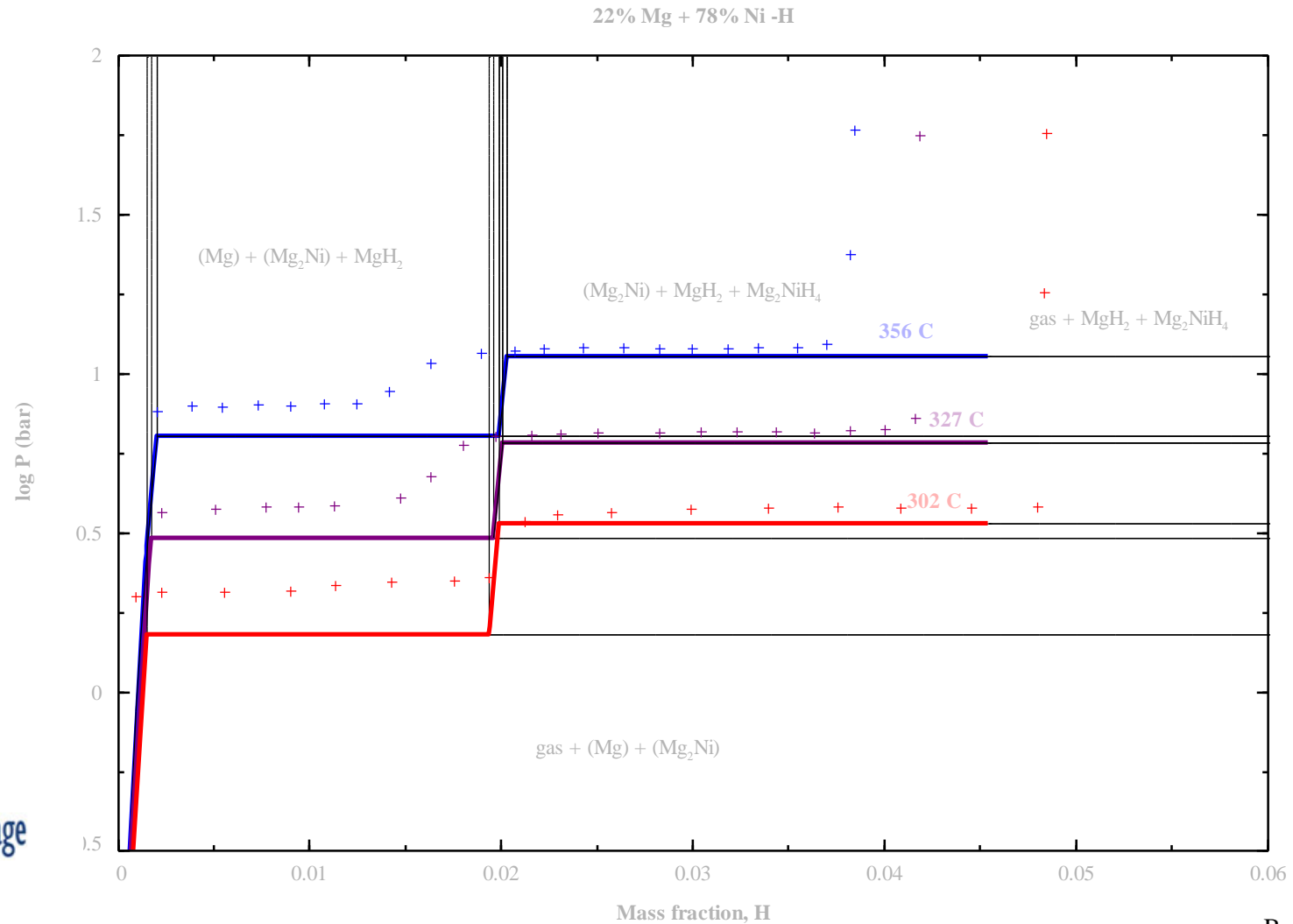
# Thermodynamic Modelling



- Why?
  - Experimental investigation time consuming
- Models:
  - Liquid → Quasi-Chemical
  - Solid Solution → Sublattice with random substitution
- Experiments provide:
  - $\Delta H_{\text{hydride}}$ , Solubility range, etc.



# Modelling vs Experimental data



## 4. Concluding Remarks

# Concluding Remarks

- Classical & Statistical Thermodynamics essential for Hydrogen technologies .
- Thermodynamic Modelling with key experiment allows to faster investigation.
- Multidisciplinary investigations linked through thermodynamics laws.
- Renewable & Sustainable Energy?

? ¿ Questions ¿?

THANK YOU 😊