

# Comparison of LNT catalyst performance with in-cylinder regeneration techniques

**Jim Parks, Sean Huff, Matt Swartz, Brian West**  
**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**  
**Fuels, Engines, Emissions Research Center**

**CLEERS Workshop**  
**May 2, 2007**  
**Dearborn, MI**

**Sponsor: U.S. Department of Energy, OFCVT**  
**Program Managers: Ken Howden, Gurpreet Singh, Kevin Stork**

# Three LNT Catalysts Characterized on Engine Platform

- **LNT Catalysts:**

- **Umicore GDI LNT (“CLEERS” LNT)**
- **Low Ba**
  - $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Pt}/\text{Ba}$  LNT
  - Pt Loading is 100 g/ft<sup>3</sup>
  - BaO: 8% by weight on washcoat
- **Medium Ba**
  - $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Pt}/\text{Ba}$  LNT
  - Pt Loading is 100 g/ft<sup>3</sup>
  - BaO: 20% by weight on washcoat

	Umicore*	Low Ba	Med Ba
BaO	29 g/l	~11 g/l	~27 g/l
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	160 g/l	~137 g/l	~137 g/l
CeO <sub>2</sub>	98 g/l	---	---

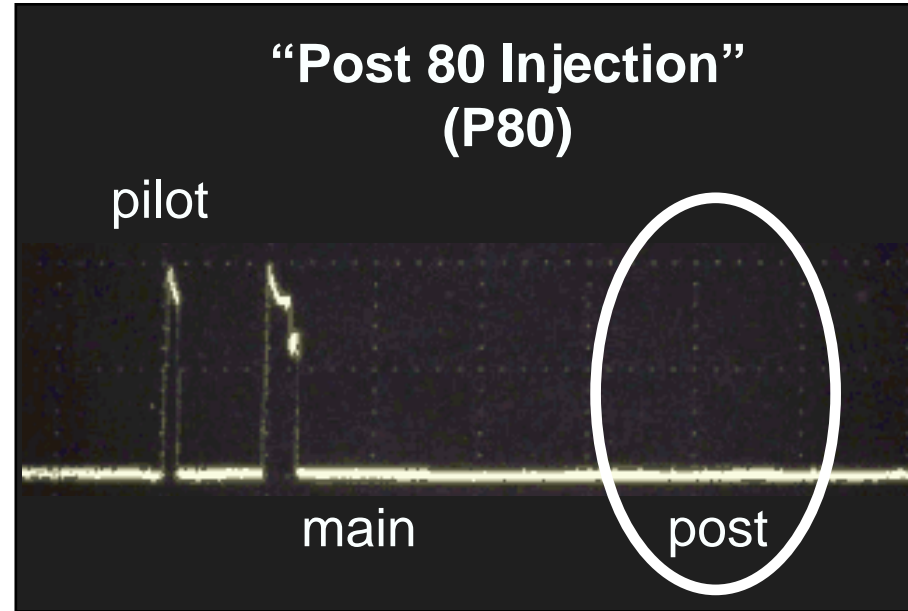
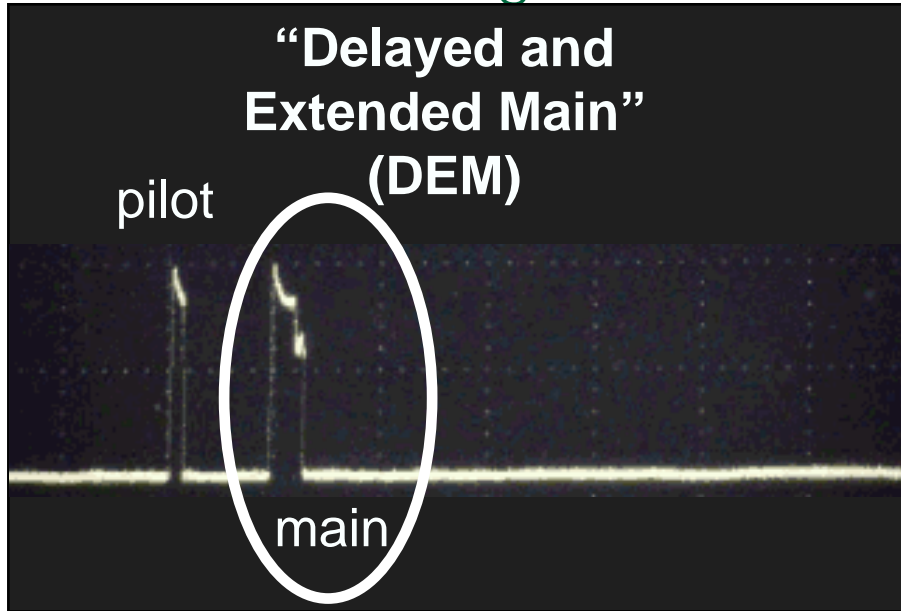
- **Catalysts evaluated on ORNL Mercedes light-duty diesel engine platform**

- 1.7-liter Mercedes A-class engine
- BP15 fuel
- Experiments conducted at 1500 RPM, 5 bar BMEP (~50 ft-lb), LNT inlet temperature of ~300°C

- **DOC Catalyst Upstream of LNT (same DOC for all LNTs)**

\*Rohr, et.al., *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental* 56 (2004) 187–198

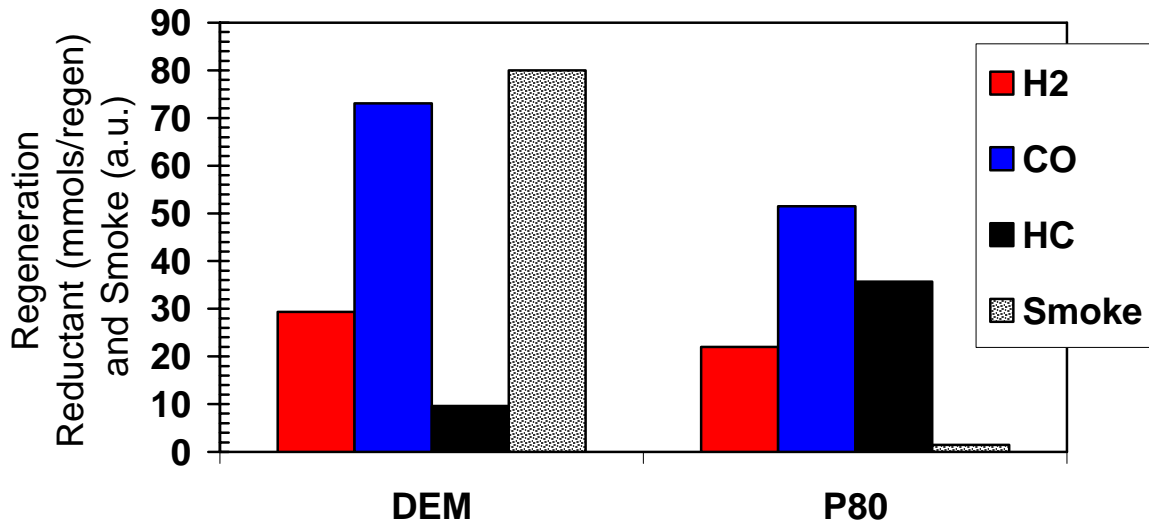
# Two engine control strategies for achieving intermittent rich combustion for regeneration of LNT



## Two LNT Regeneration Strategies Chosen Based on Difference in Chemistry

- **Delayed and Extended Main (DEM):**
  - Throttle for reduced air flow
  - Extra fuel injected near main injection timing to achieve rich conditions
- **Post 80 Injection (P80):**
  - Throttle for reduced air flow
  - Extra fuel injected after main injection later in cycle to achieve rich conditions

# Two engine control strategies for achieving intermittent rich combustion for regeneration of LNT

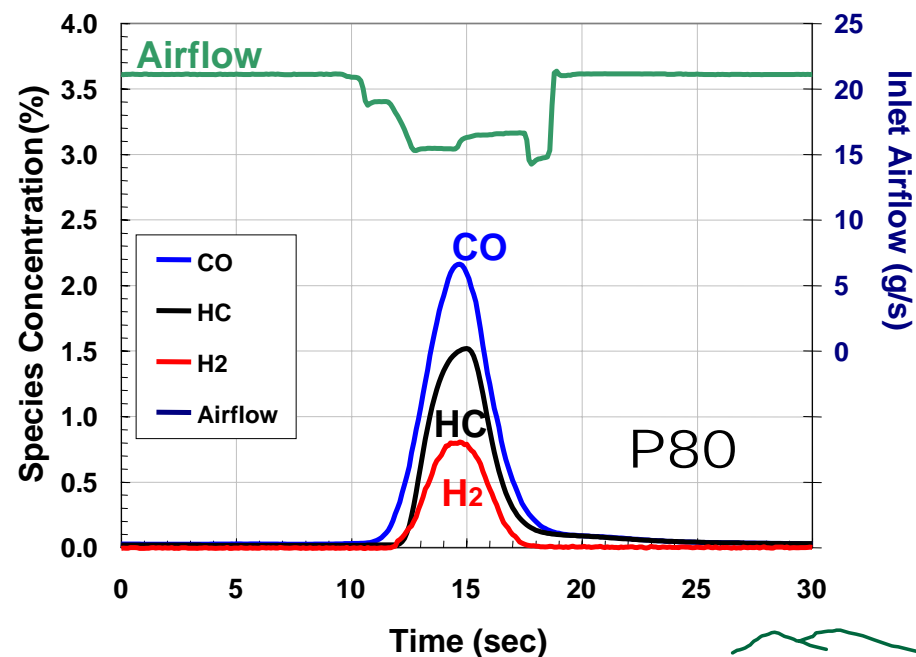
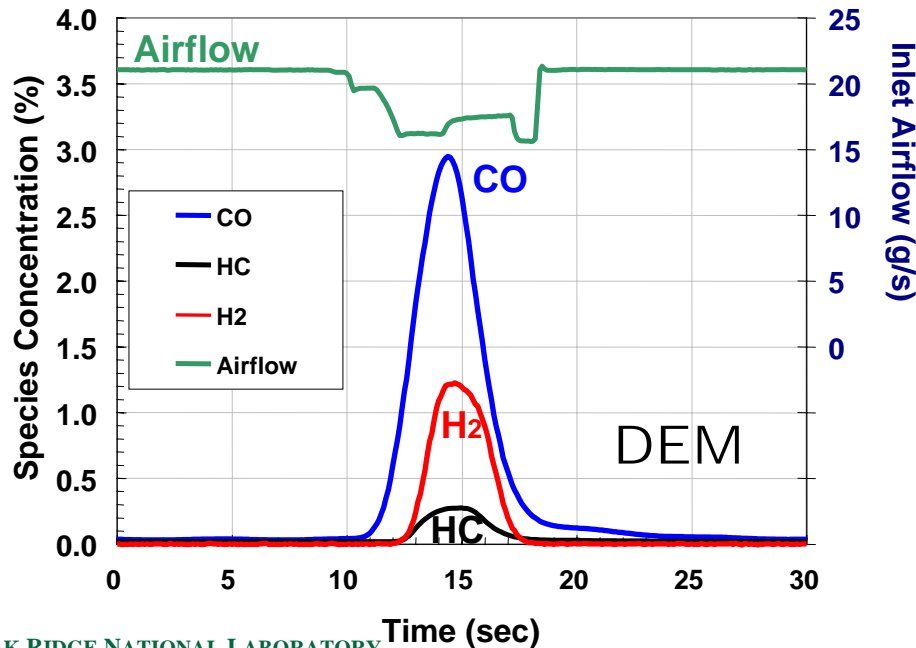


- **Delayed and Extended Main (DEM):**

- High H<sub>2</sub> and CO
- Low HC
- High PM

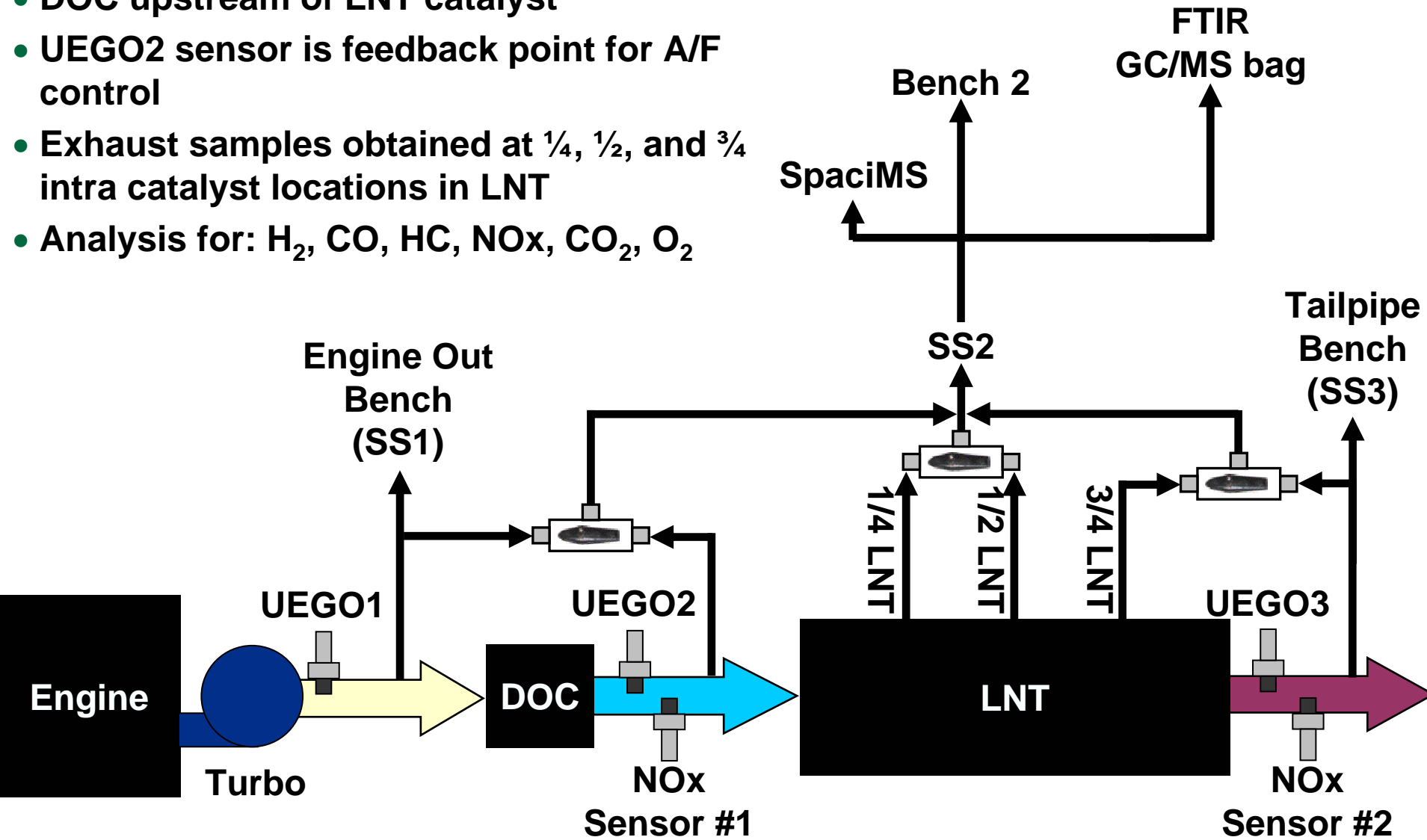
- **Post 80 Injection (P80):**

- Moderate CO and H<sub>2</sub>
- High HC
- Low PM

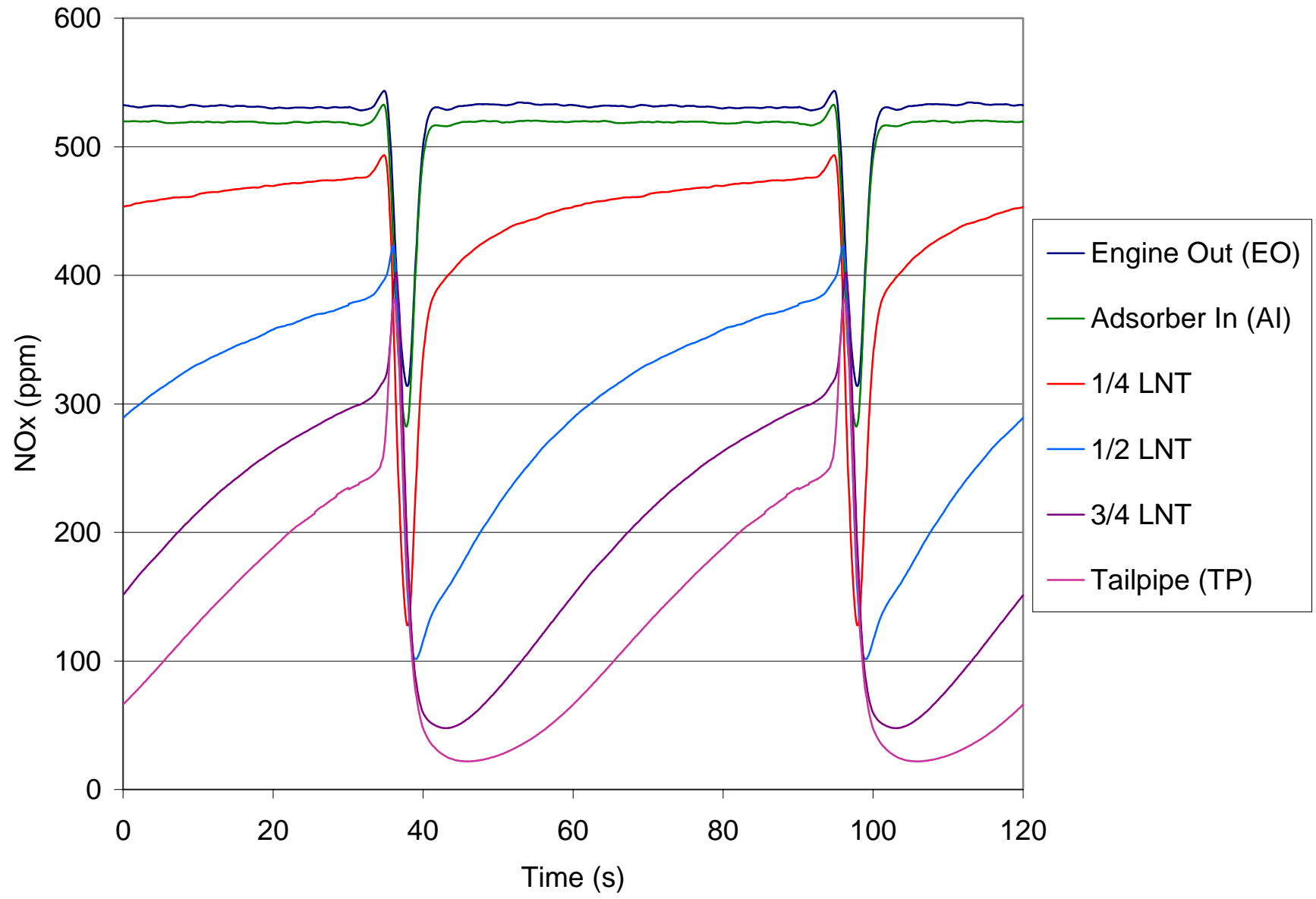


Experimental setup allows full exhaust species characterization throughout the catalyst system

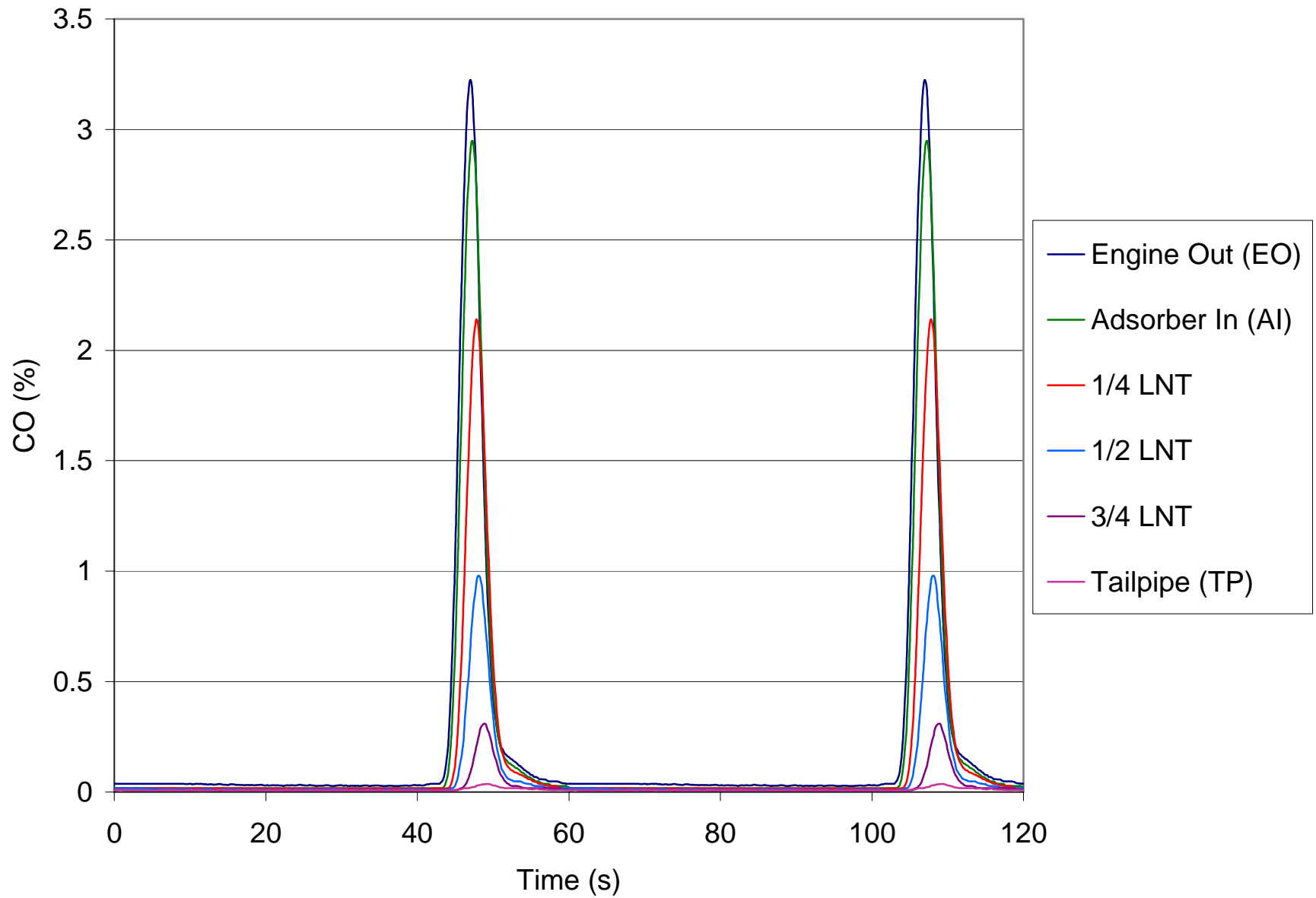
- DOC upstream of LNT catalyst
- UEGO2 sensor is feedback point for A/F control
- Exhaust samples obtained at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{4}$  intra catalyst locations in LNT
- Analysis for:  $H_2$ , CO, HC, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>



# Umicore LNT: NOx vs. Time

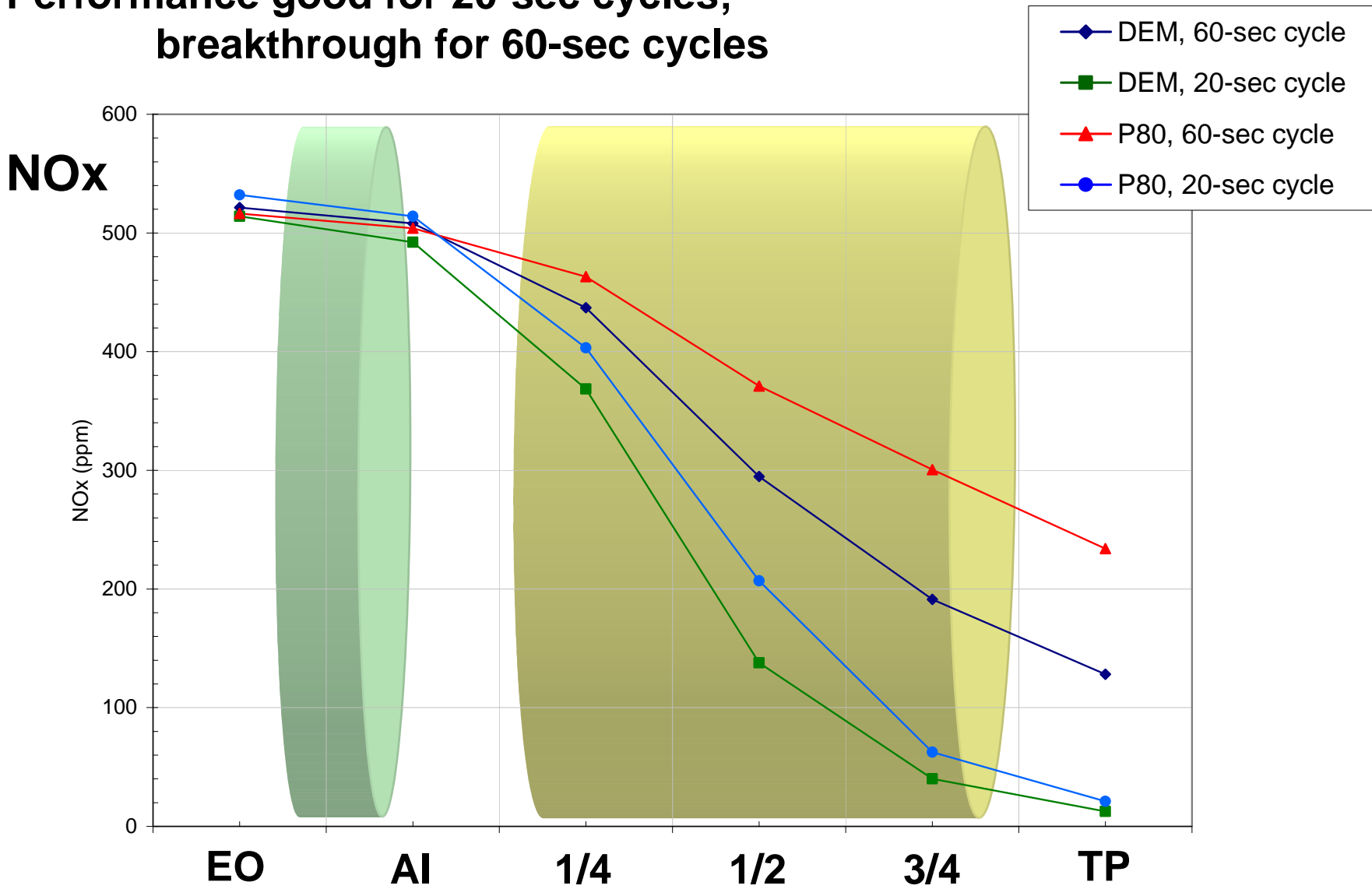


# Umicore LNT: CO vs. Time



# Umicore LNT: Cycle-Average NOx vs. Catalyst Position

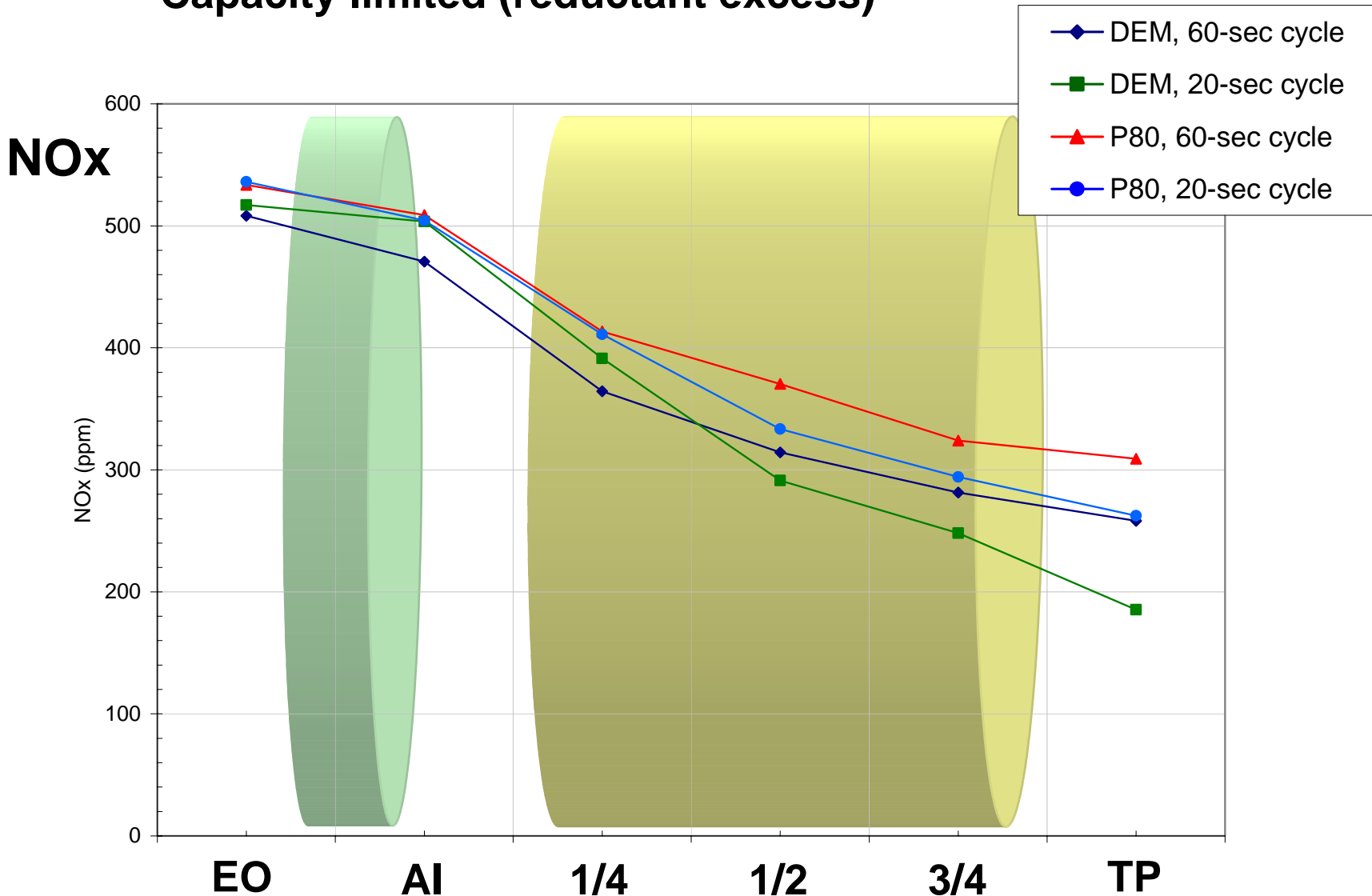
**Performance good for 20-sec cycles;  
breakthrough for 60-sec cycles**





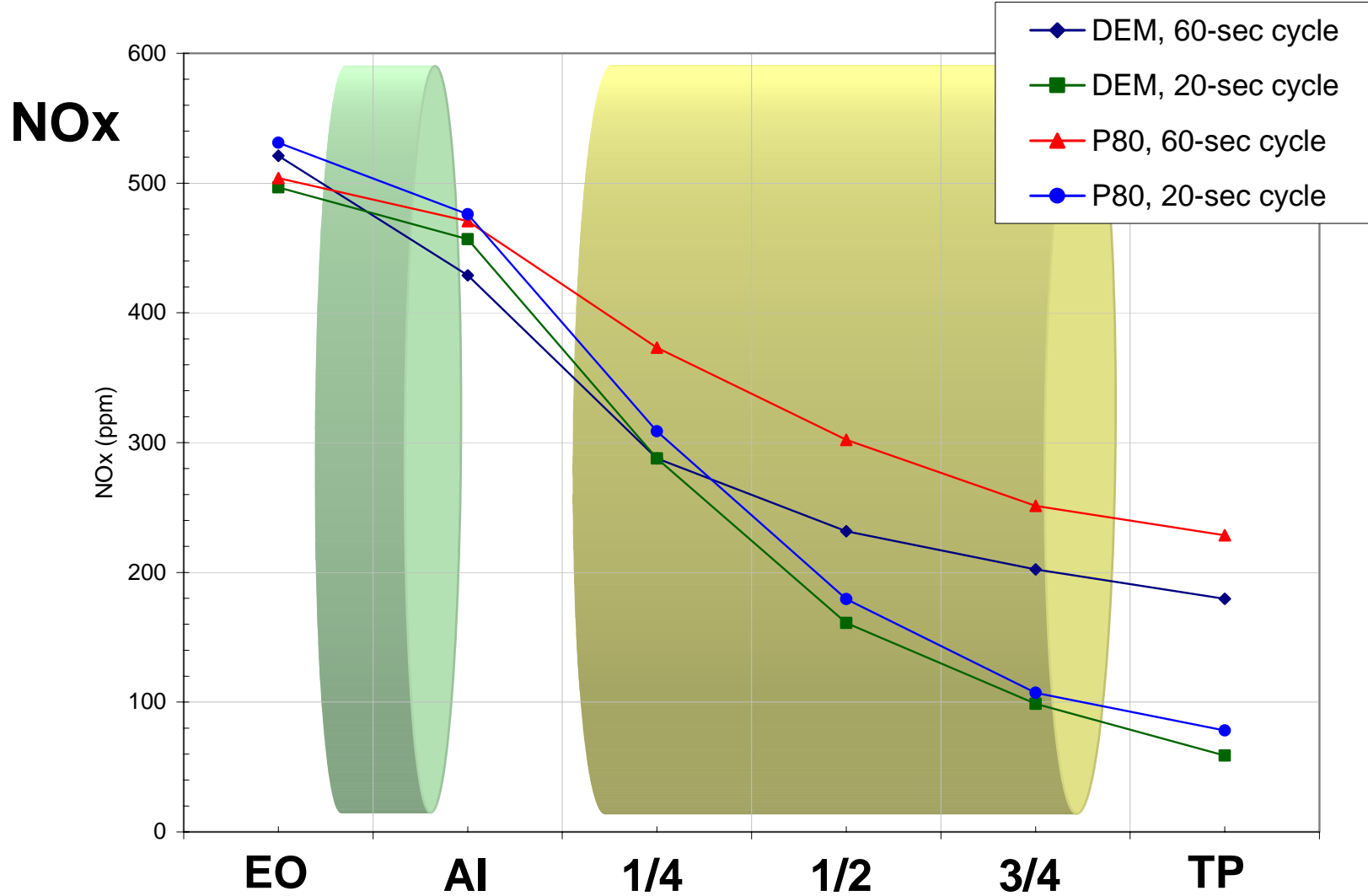
# Low Ba LNT: Cycle-Average NOx vs. Catalyst Position

**Low Ba LNT performance more similar for different strategies**  
**Capacity limited (reductant excess)**



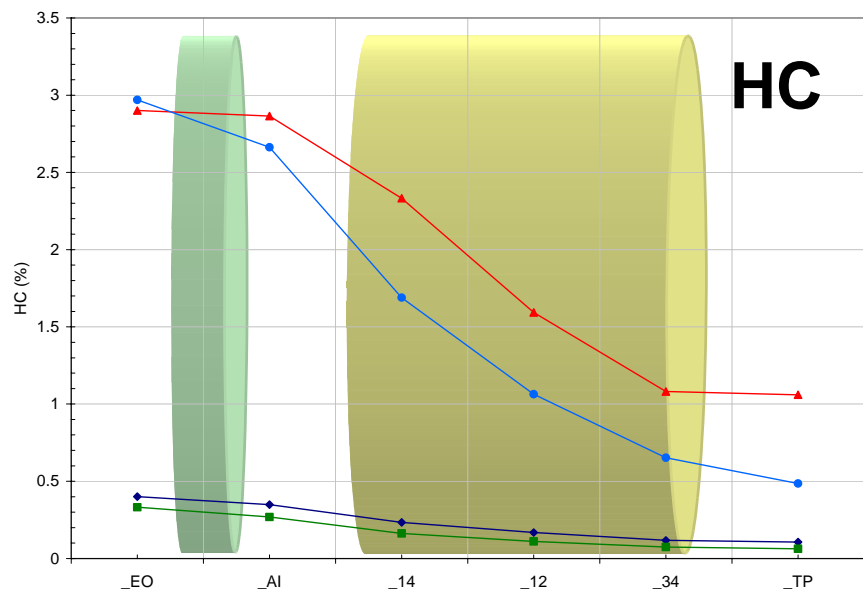
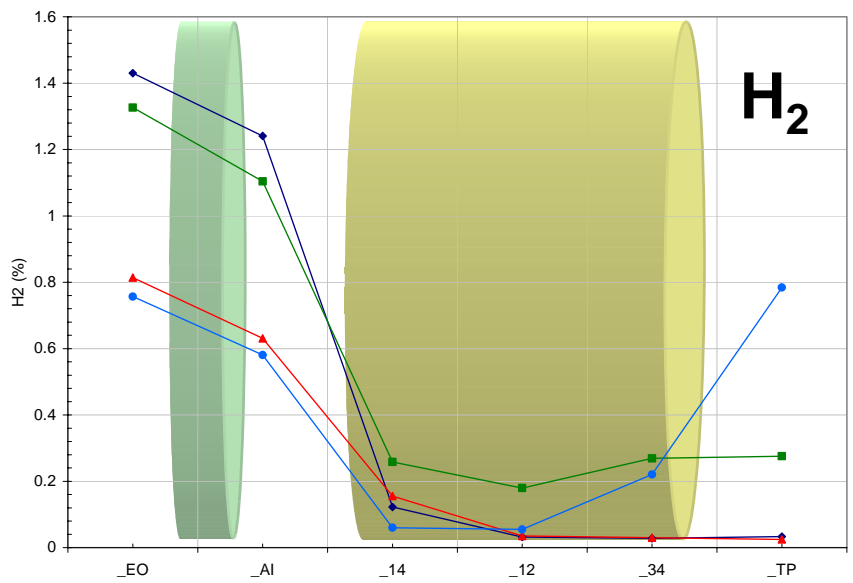
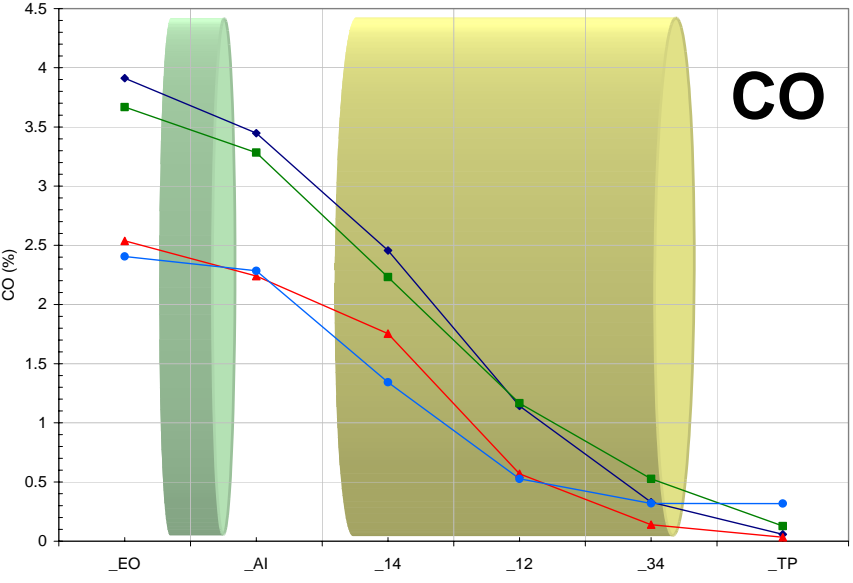
# Medium Ba LNT: Cycle-Average NOx vs. Catalyst Position

## Medium Ba LNT performance similar to Umicore LNT



# Umicore LNT: Reductants vs. Catalyst Position

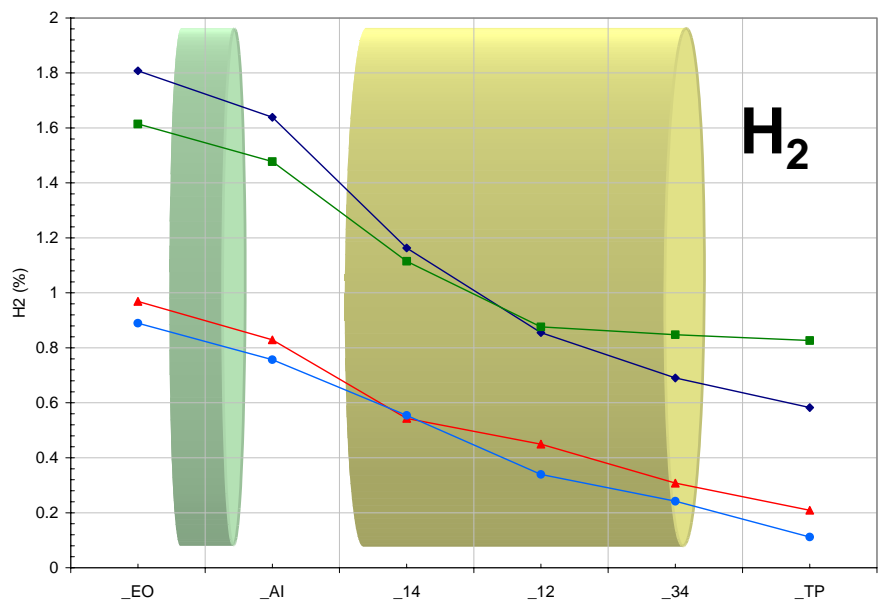
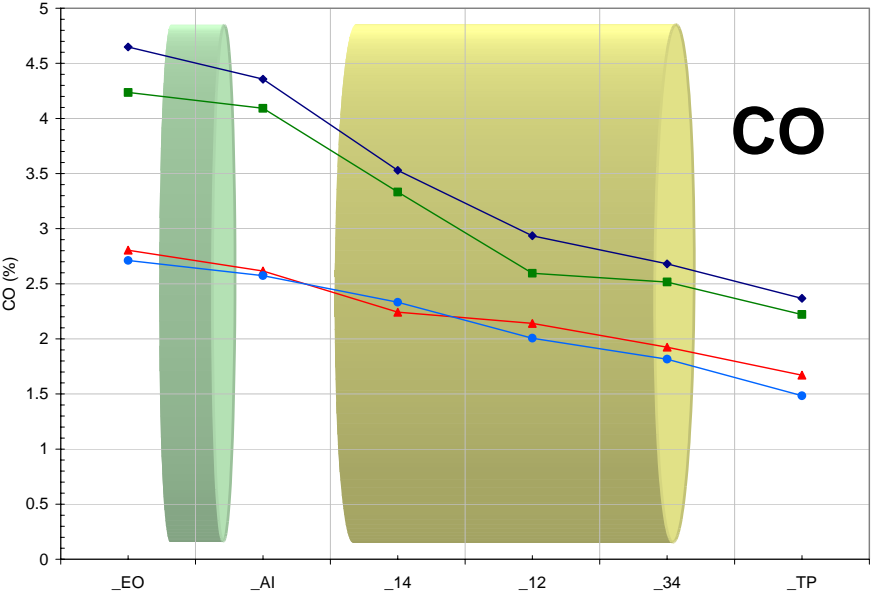
## Reductants → 3-sec Average During Regeneration



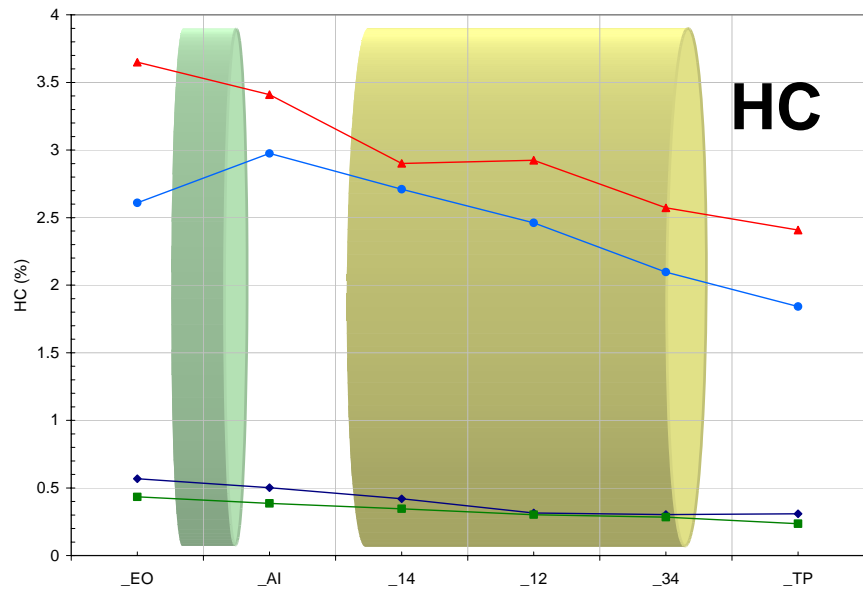
- ◆ DEM, 60-sec cycle
- DEM, 20-sec cycle
- ▲ P80, 60-sec cycle
- P80, 20-sec cycle

# Low Ba LNT: Reductants vs. Catalyst Position

## Reductants → 3-sec Average During Regeneration



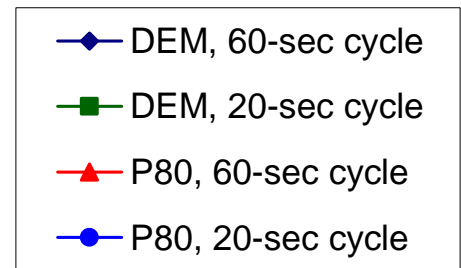
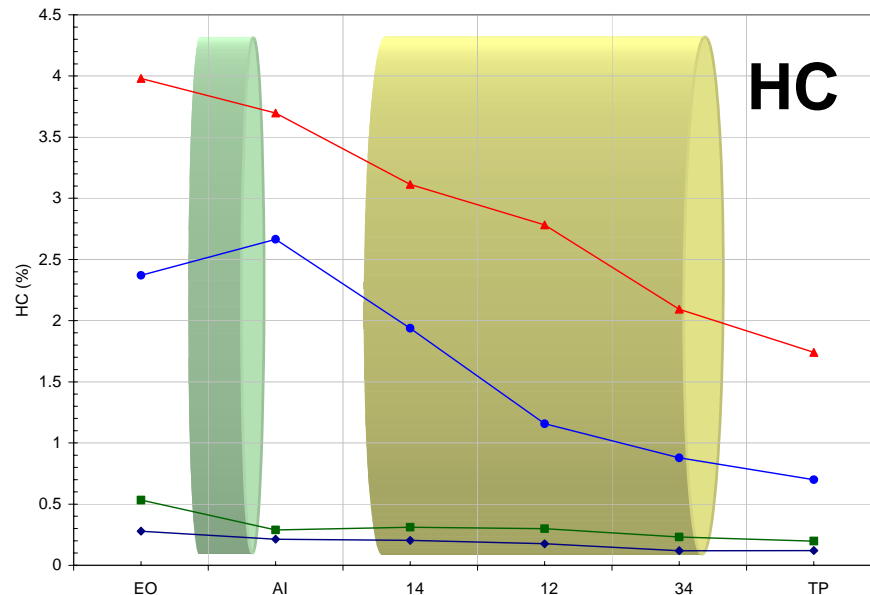
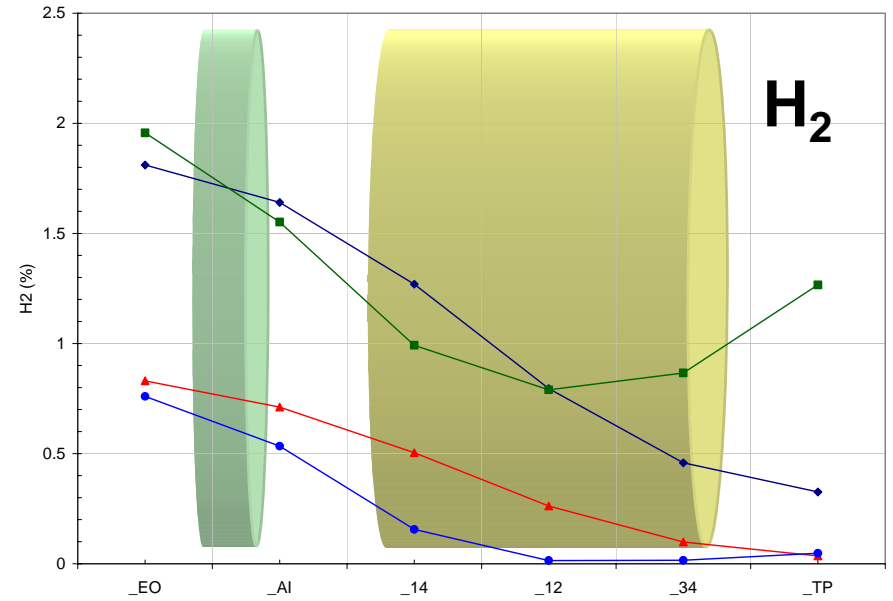
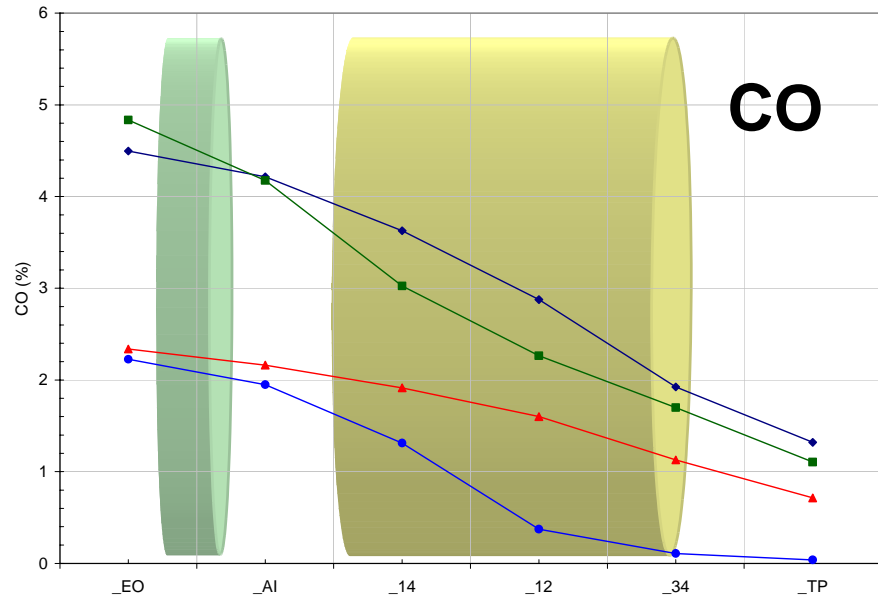
**Reductant slip out of LNT (over regeneration)**



- ◆ DEM, 60-sec cycle
- DEM, 20-sec cycle
- ▲ P80, 60-sec cycle
- P80, 20-sec cycle

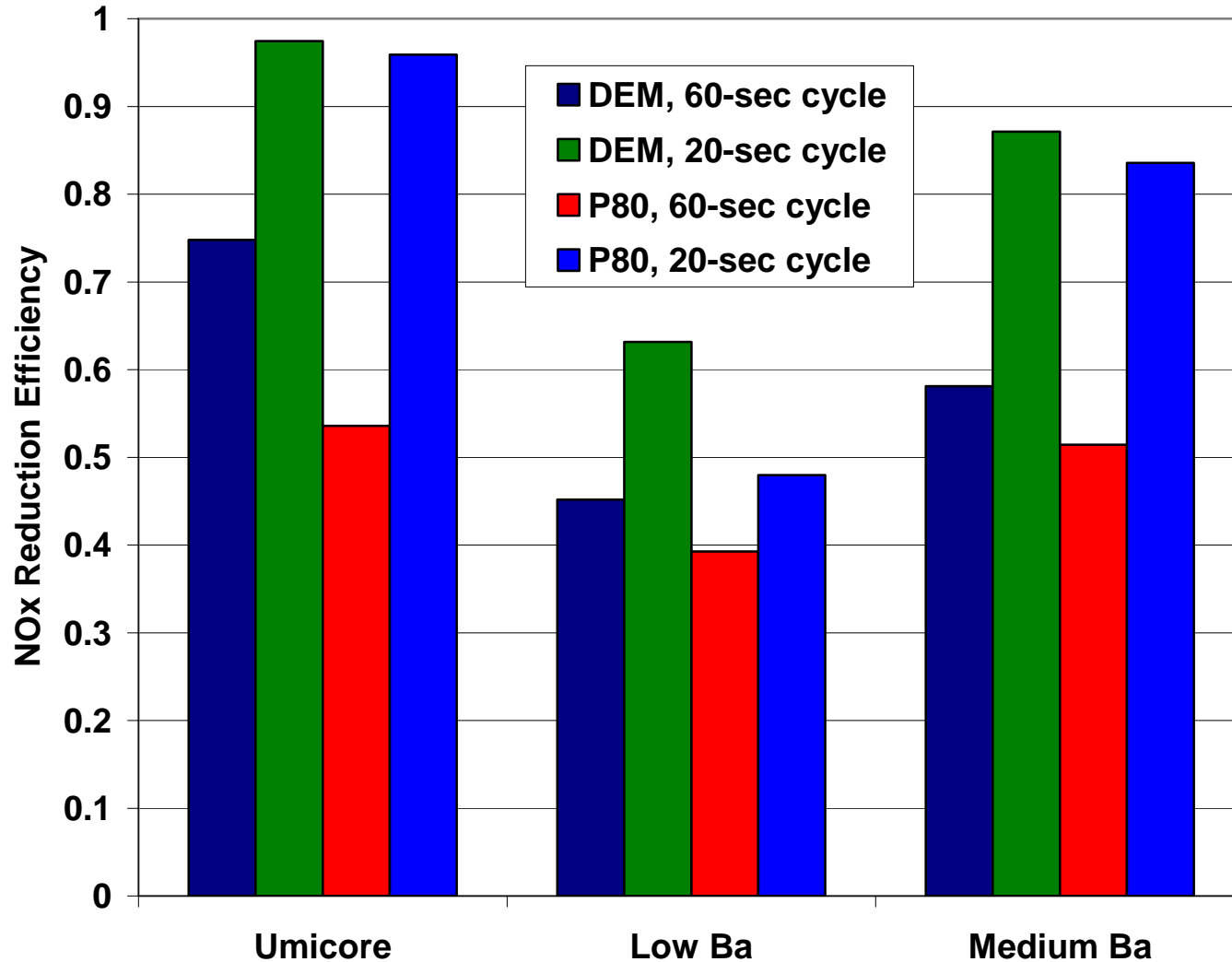
# Medium Ba LNT: Reductants vs. Catalyst Position

## Reductants → 3-sec Average During Regeneration

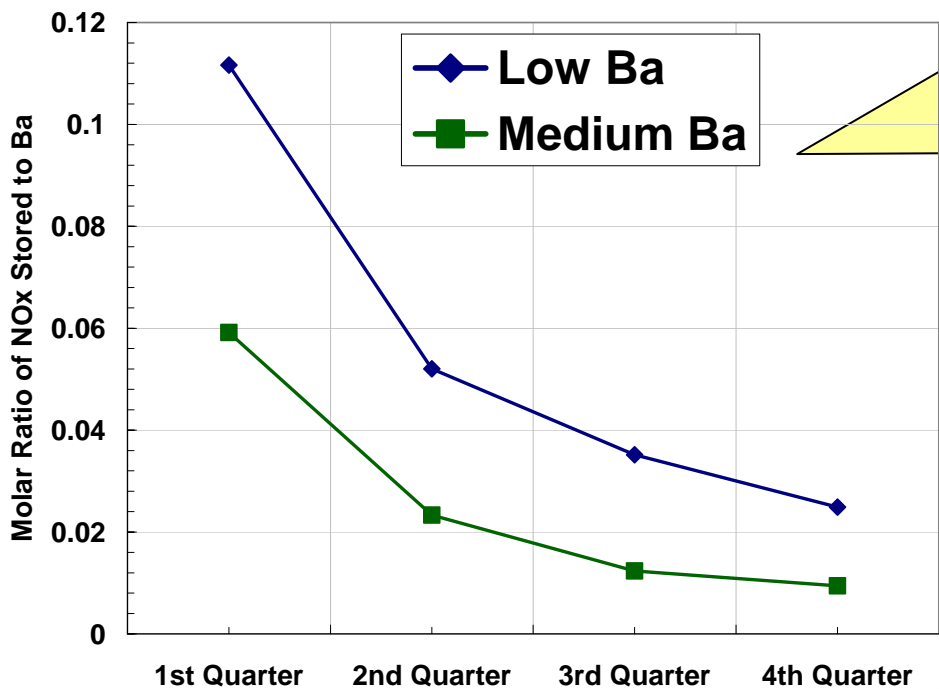


# NOx Reduction Efficiency

- Umicore LNT has best performance followed by Medium Ba LNT
- Trend in strategies the same, but differences smaller for Low Ba LNT



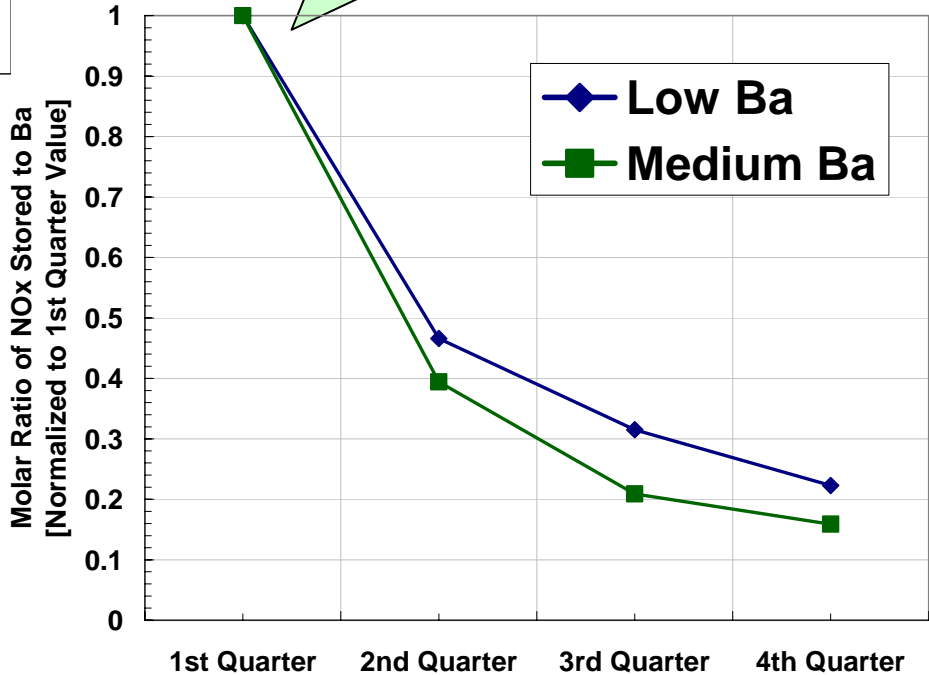
# Efficiency of Ba for Model Ba LNTs [DEM, 60-sec cycle]



**Analysis:**

- (1) Determined moles of NOx stored in each quarter of LNT
- (2) Calculated moles of Ba in each quarter of LNT
- (3) Obtained molar ratio of NOx stored per Ba

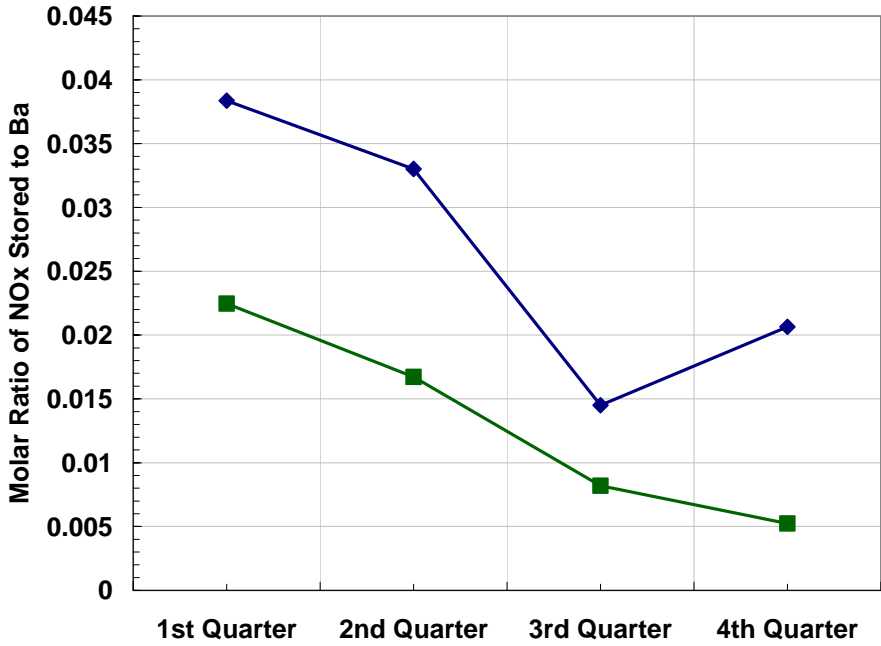
Normalized to 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Value



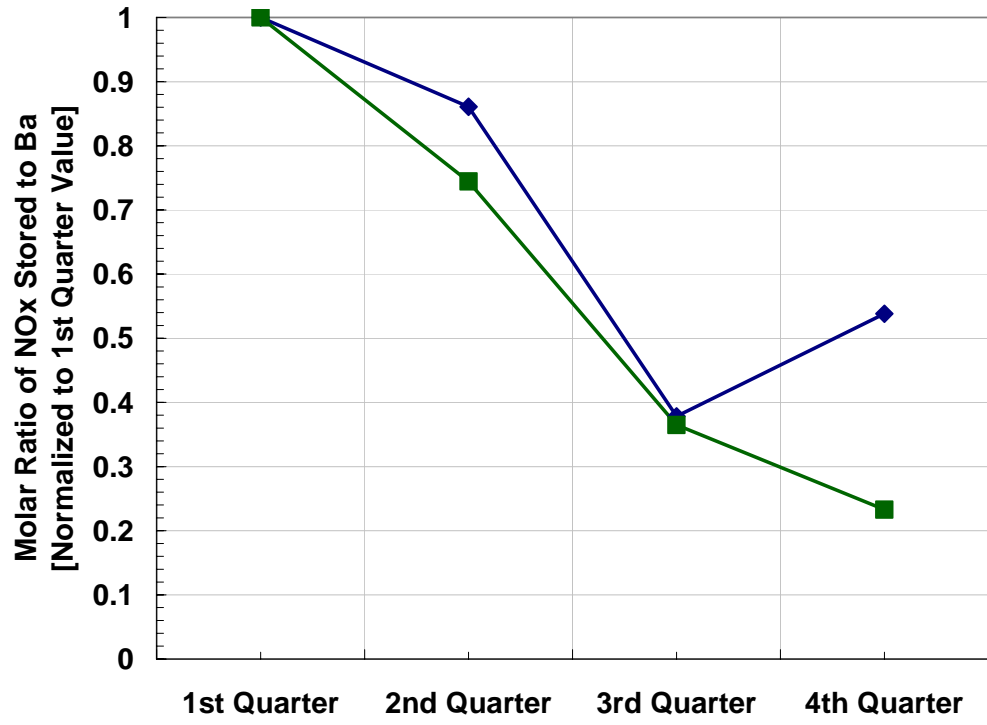
•Ba sorbate component of Low Ba LNT is more efficient than Medium Ba LNT

•However, normalized data shows similar trend of NOx storage along catalyst flow axis

# Efficiency of Ba Component for Model Ba LNTs

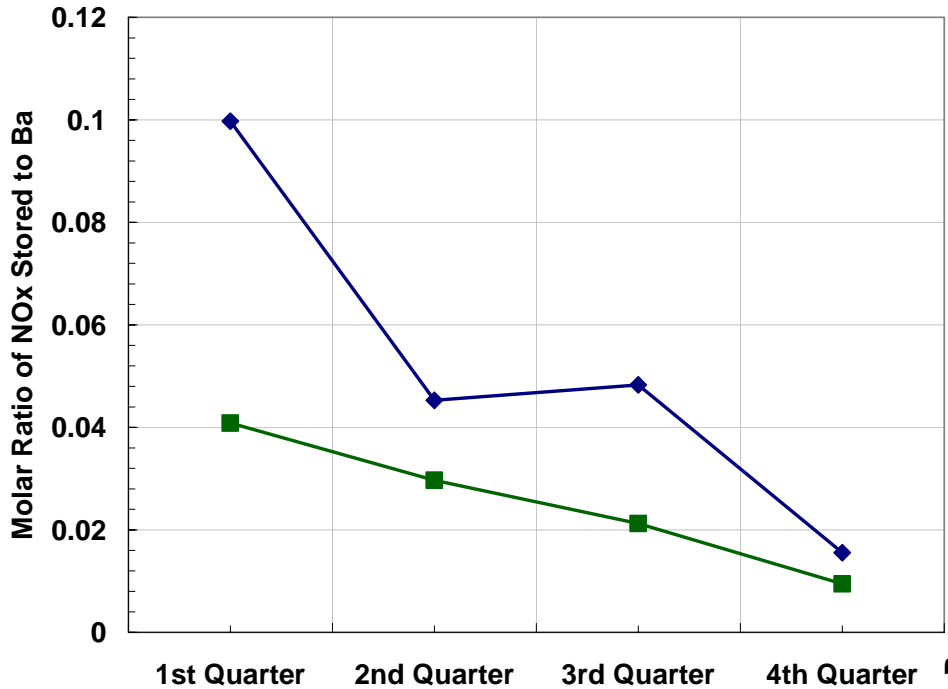


## DEM, 20-sec cycle

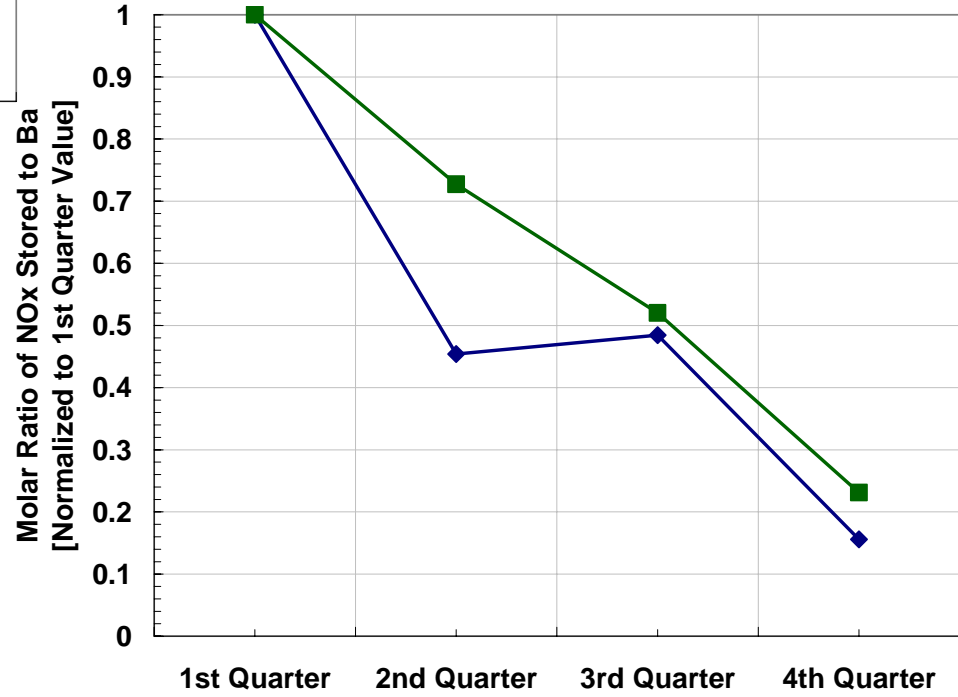




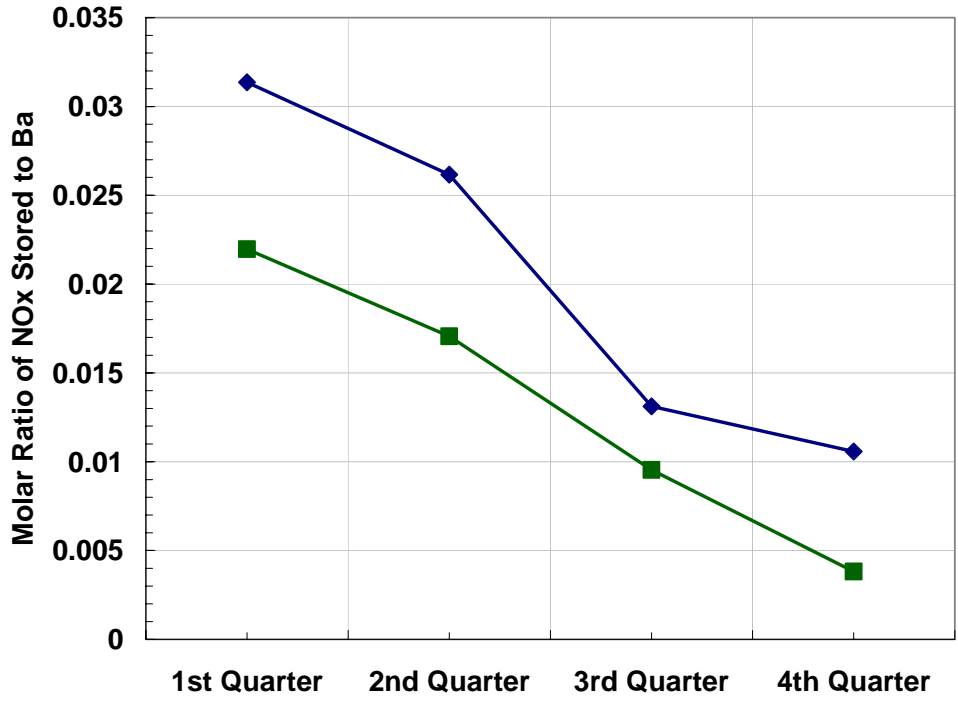
# Efficiency of Ba Component for Model Ba LNTs



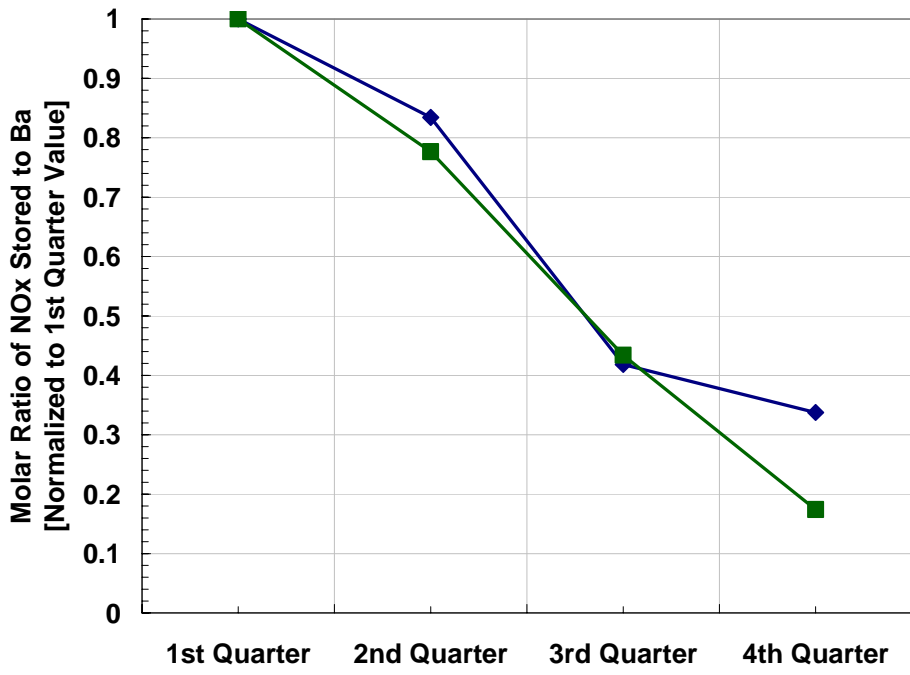
## P80, 60-sec cycle



# Efficiency of Ba Component for Model Ba LNTs

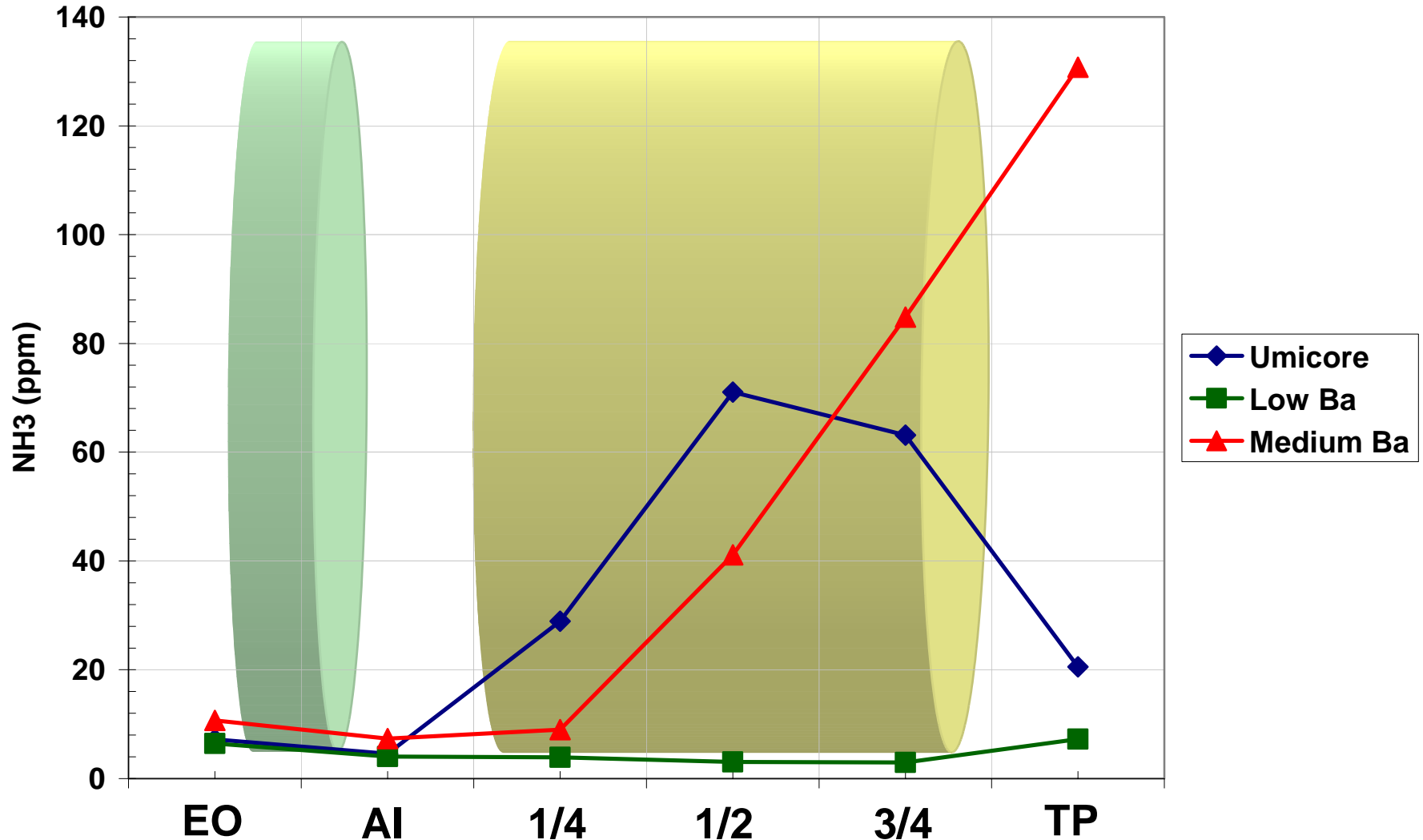


## P80, 20-sec cycle



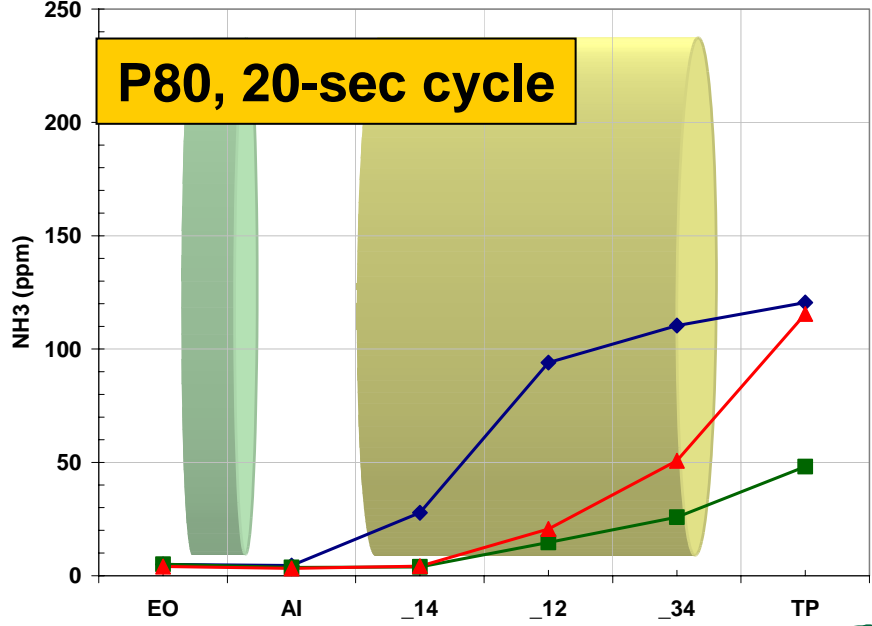
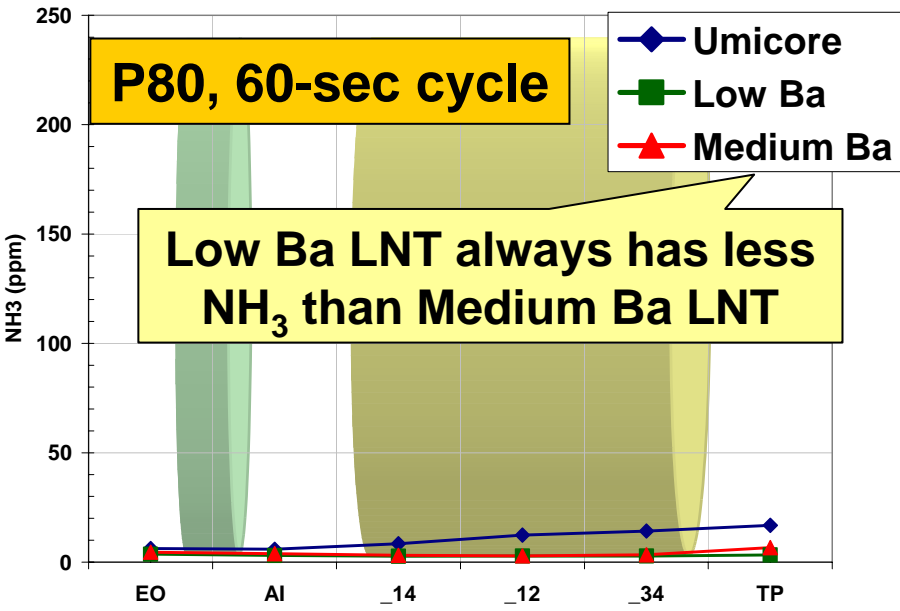
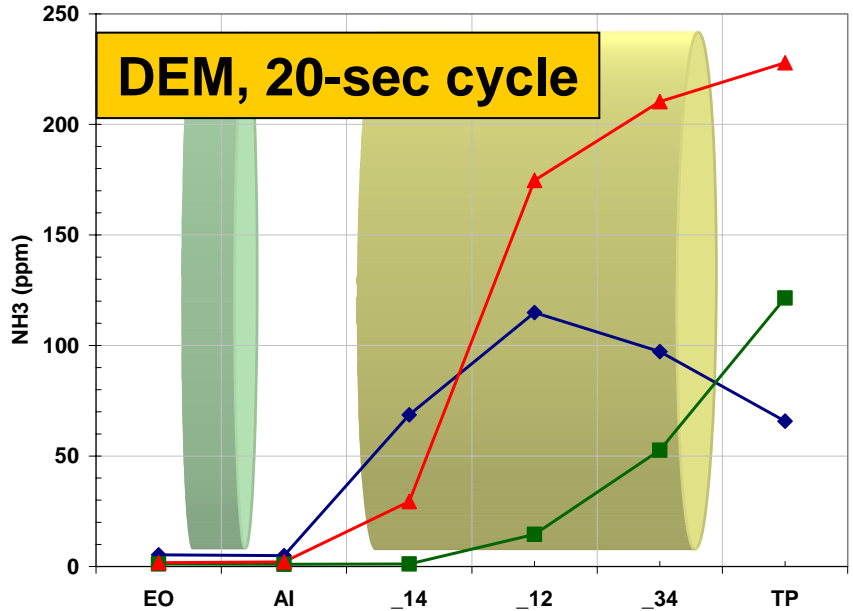
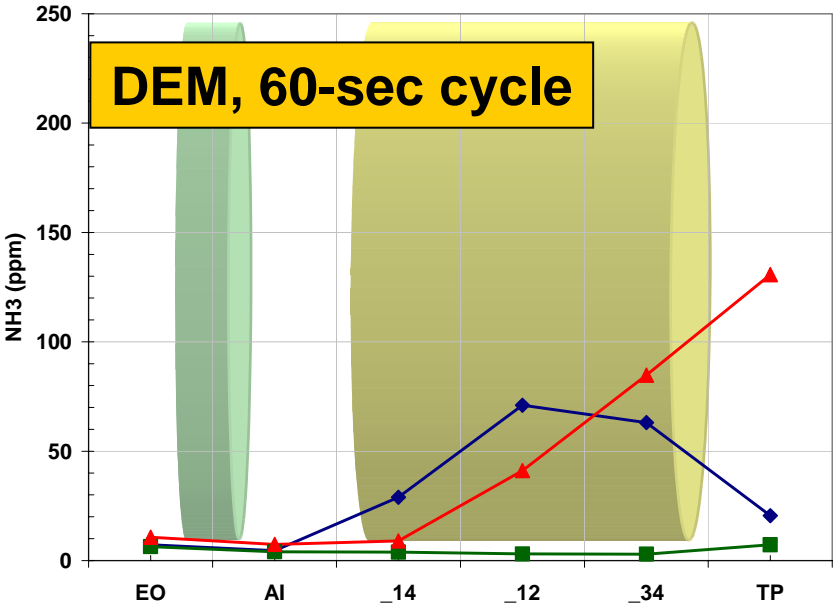
# NH<sub>3</sub> vs. Catalyst Position for DEM, 60-sec Cycle

- Lower Ba loading results in lower NH<sub>3</sub> formation\*
- NH<sub>3</sub> level decreases in downstream half of LNT for Umicore LNT



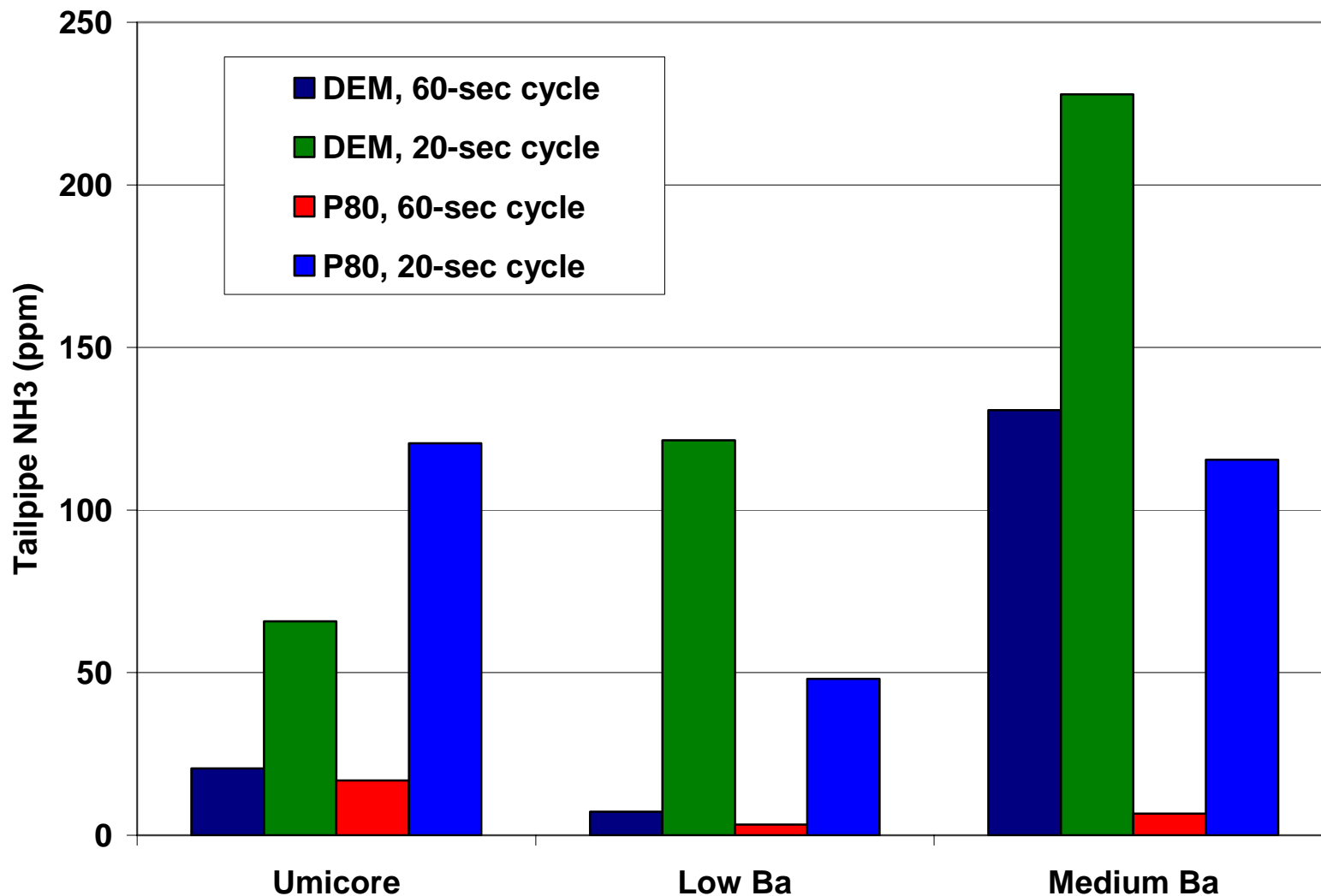
\*Consistent with Castoldi, et.al., *Catalysis Today* 96 (2004) 43–52

# NH<sub>3</sub> vs. Catalyst Position for All Four Strategies



# Tailpipe NH<sub>3</sub> Comparison

- Low Ba LNT generally gives lowest NH<sub>3</sub> formation
- All LNTs have loading/regeneration conditions that cause NH<sub>3</sub>



# Summary

- **Three LNT catalysts studied on engine platform with different regeneration strategies and lean-rich cycle periods**
- **NOx Reduction Performance**
  - Umicore LNT gave best performance
  - Model Ba LNTs showed NOx capacity proportional to Ba loading
- **Storage Site Efficiency**
  - Lower Ba loading resulted in higher efficiency of NOx storage per Ba on a molar basis
  - However, saw similar trend in molar NOx storage per Ba along catalyst flow axis
- **N<sub>2</sub> Selectivity**
  - Lower Ba loading led to less NH<sub>3</sub> formation (higher N<sub>2</sub> selectivity)
  - NH<sub>3</sub> formed in 1<sup>st</sup> half of Umicore LNT was consumed in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of LNT
    - Suspect oxygen storage of CeO<sub>2</sub> component a factor

## Other Notes

- **Data will be posted on CLEERS website in similar format to previous data sets from Mercedes platform**
- **Data from Sulfur Study (presentation at December 2006 CLEERS teleconference) has been posted to CLEERS site**
  - **[www.cleers.org](http://www.cleers.org)**
  - **CLEERS Home > Databases > Test Stand/Vehicle Component Data > Mercedes 1.7l – DOC – LNT Sulfation/deSulfation study with intracatalyst speciation**
- **Current studies on engine platform focusing on LNT performance with High Efficiency Clean Combustion (HECC) engine combustion modes**