

Fundamental Processes Controlling Ash Accumulation in Diesel Particulate Filters and Impacts on DPF Performance

*2012 DOE Crosscut Workshop
on Lean Emissions Reduction Simulation*

May 2, 2012

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M. Bahr, E. Cross, J. Kroll*

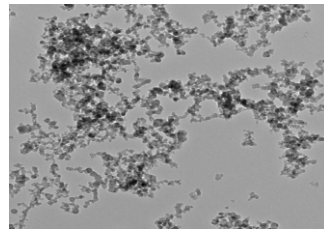
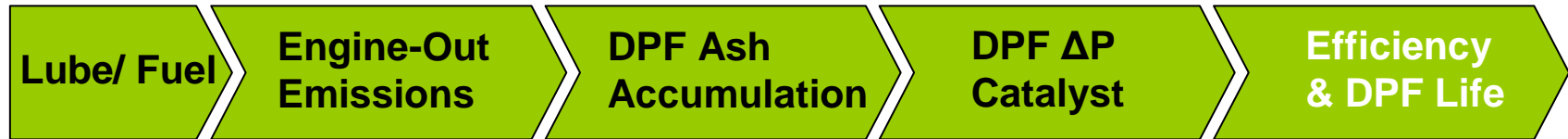
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sloan Automotive Laboratory

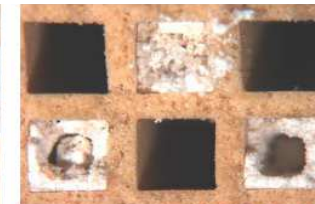
Cambridge, MA

Ash Accumulation Reduces DPF Life and Engine Efficiency

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Engine-Out Ash Emissions



Source: K. Aravelli

CORNING

More Ash than Soot in DPF!

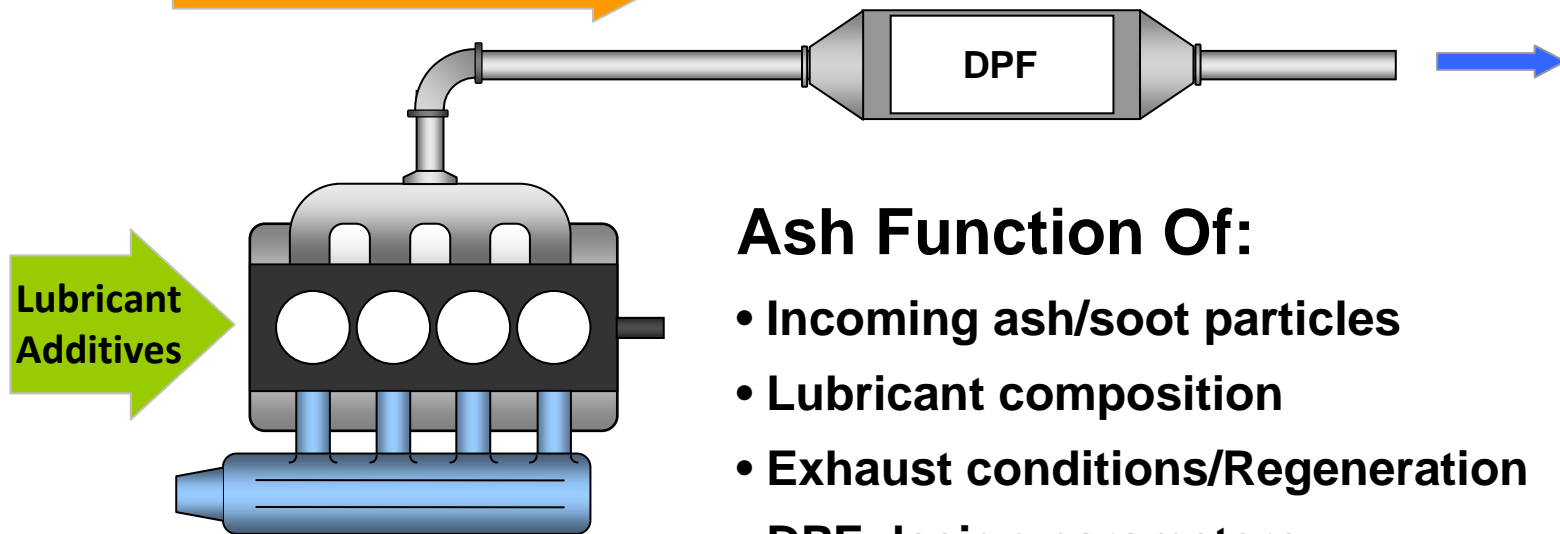


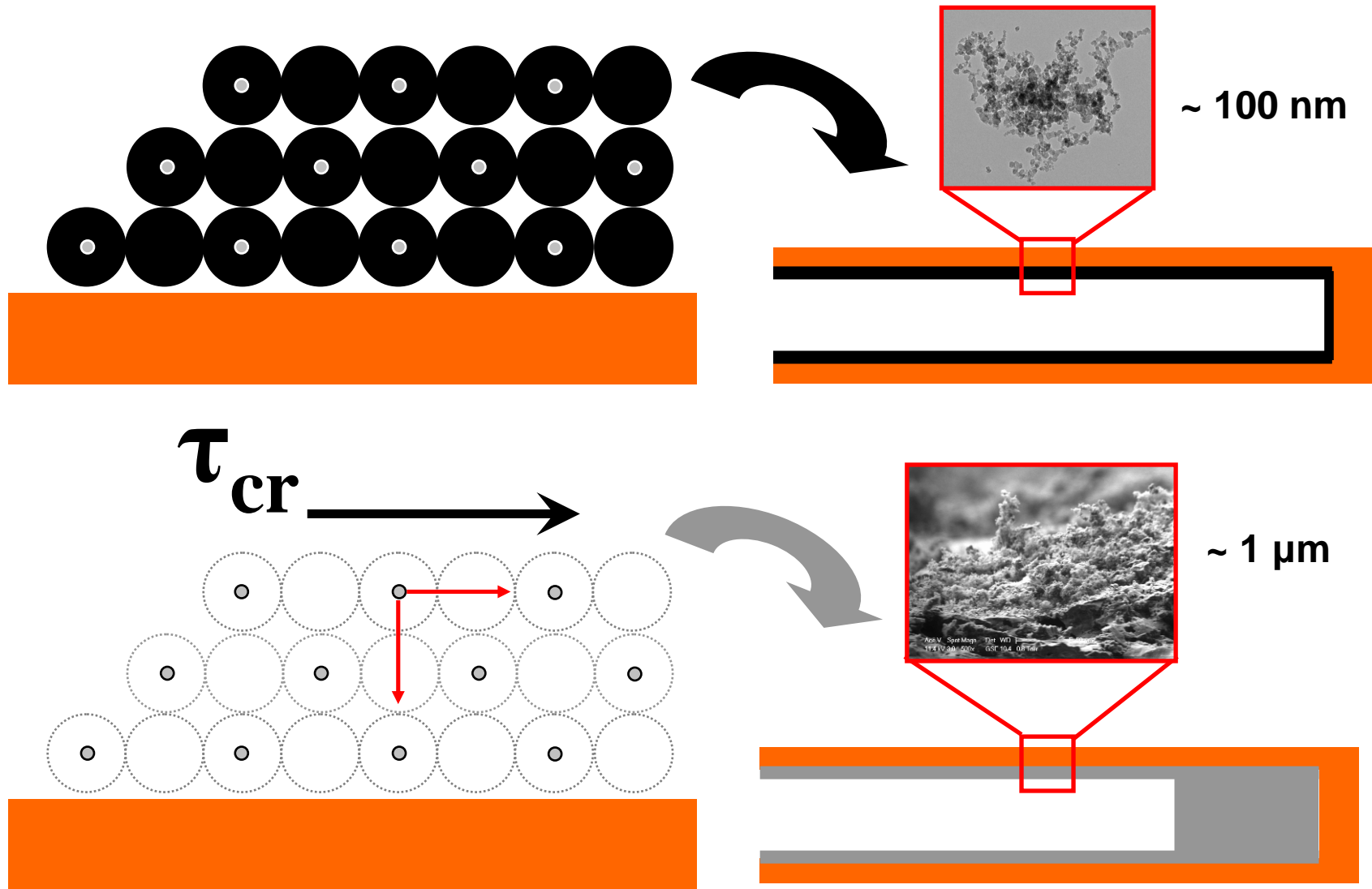
Image: Adapted from ORNL

Ash Function Of:

- Incoming ash/soot particles
- Lubricant composition
- Exhaust conditions/Regeneration
- DPF design parameters
- DPF operating history

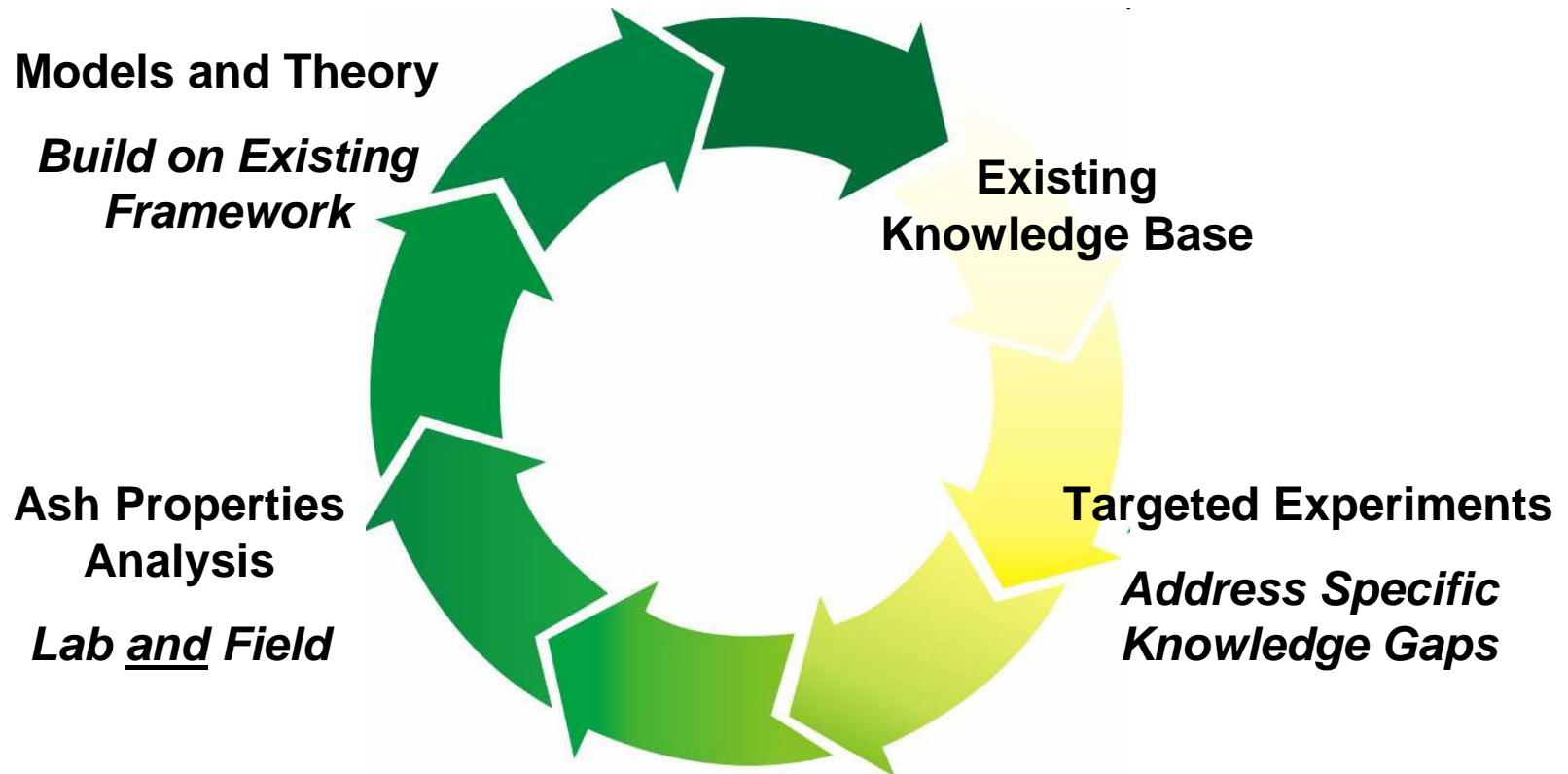
Ash Accumulation and Deposit Formation Differs from PM!

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Program Approach & Consortium Activities

“Holistic approach considering lubricant chemistry, engine operation, and aftertreatment design through combination of focused experiments and theoretical models.”



Enhance fundamental understanding of key parameters controlling ash properties and impact on aftertreatment performance.

Experimental Facilities

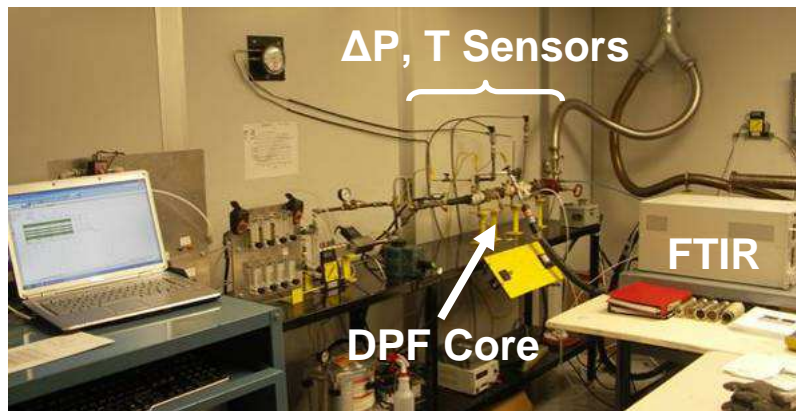
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Cummins ISB 300

- ❑ Variable geometry turbocharger
- ❑ Cooled EGR
- ❑ Common rail fuel injection
- ❑ Fully electronically controlled
- ❑ Gaseous and PM emissions measurement systems

DPF Bench Reactors



Accelerated Ash Loading ⁵

Center for Materials Science (CMSE)

- **Materials Analysis**

- FTIR, Raman, XPS, Optical Microscopes

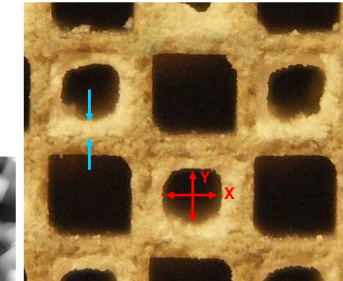
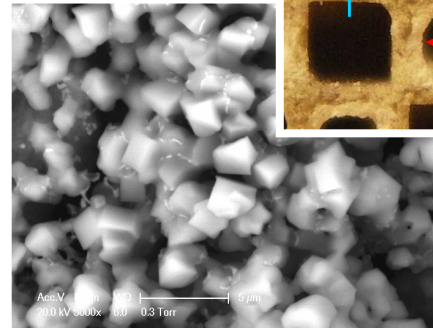
- **Thermal Analysis**

- TGA, ICP-OES

- **Electron Microscopy**

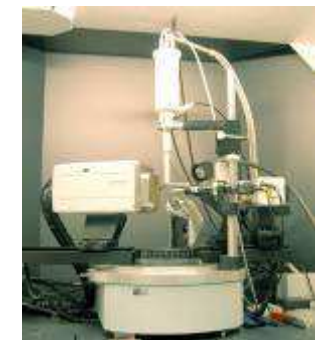
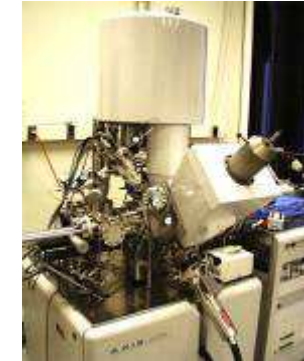
- SEM – EDX, TEM, FIB

- **X-Ray Diffraction**



Ash Exposed to Elevated Temperatures

***Extensive and increasing use as part of DPF
post-mortem analysis and ash characterization***



Engine-Out Ash Emissions and Transport

- *Form of ash in exhaust/feed gas entering DPF; ash trapping efficiency*

Ash Deposit Accumulation and Build-Up in the DPF

- *Agglomerate formation and ash mobility/distribution in DPF*

Ash Impact on DPF Pressure Drop Response

- *Ash composition and properties relevant to DPF performance*

Sensitivity of DPF Design Parameters to Ash Accumulation

- *Substrate materials, pore size & distribution, porosity*

Role of Engine Control Strategies and Exhaust Conditions

- *Temperature, flow, and feed gas conditions affecting ash deposits*

Regeneration Processes

- *Real-time optical studies of ash formation and mobility*

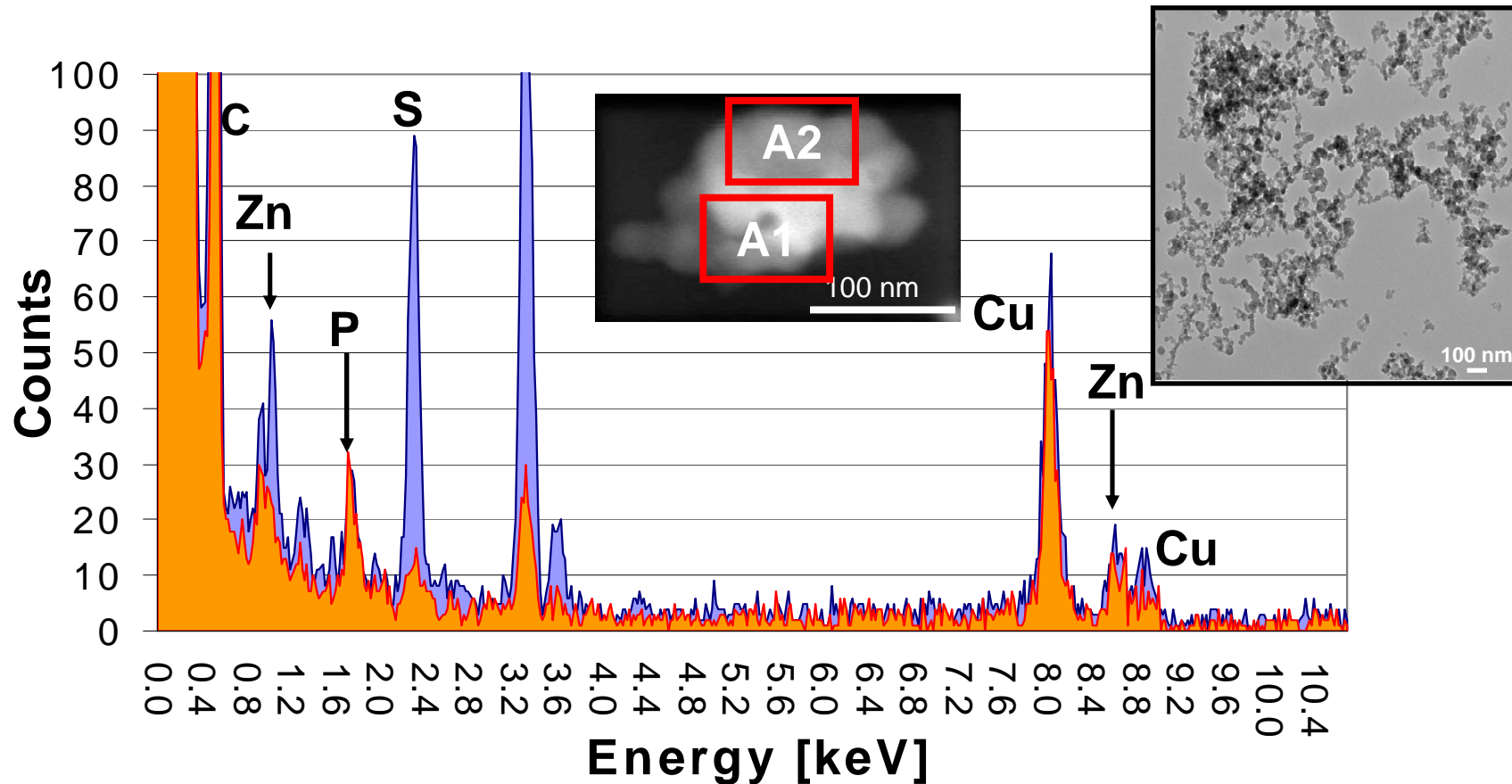
Ash – Catalyst Interactions

- *Chemical and physical interactions of ash and catalyst/washcoat*

Lubricant-Derived Ash Precursors Bound to PM

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SAE 2007-01-0318



❑ Lubricant-derived ash transported to DPF bound to carbonaceous PM

- ❑ Size of ash precursors of same order or smaller than PM agglomerates
- ❑ No lubricant-derived ash particles found separate from PM
- ❑ Cu peaks due to background from copper TEM grid

Nearly All Metallic Ash Components Trapped in DPF

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Measured elemental trapping efficiency in DPF

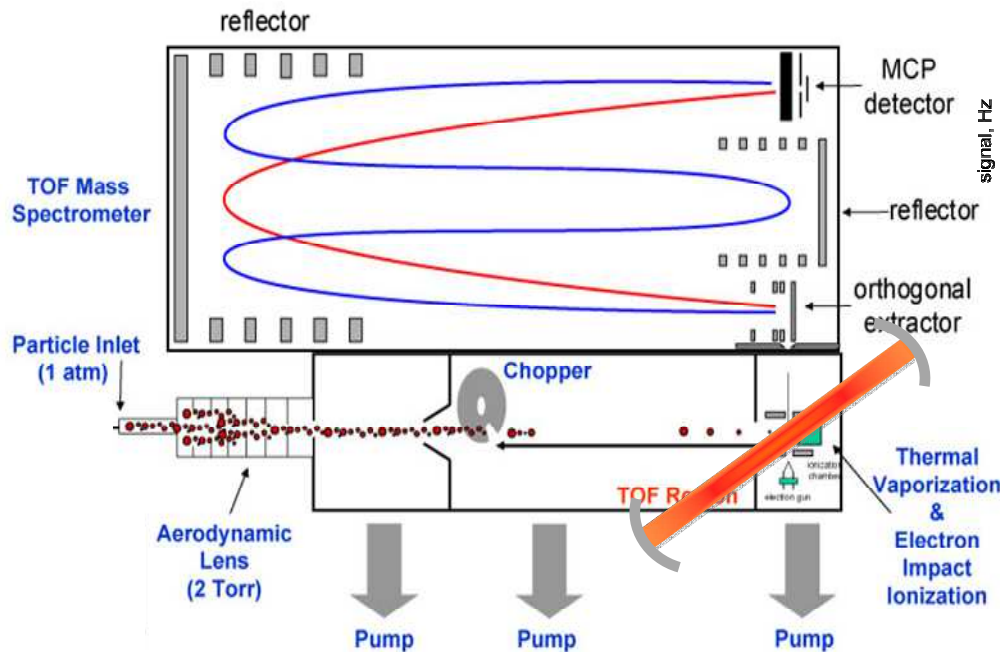
	Ca	Fe	Mg	P	S	Zn
Trapping Efficiency	99.87%	92.43%	98.01%	85.09%	64.89%	99.67%

- Elemental emission rates determined from ICP analysis
- Post-DPF PM sampling 20 hours for sample size of 2-3 mg

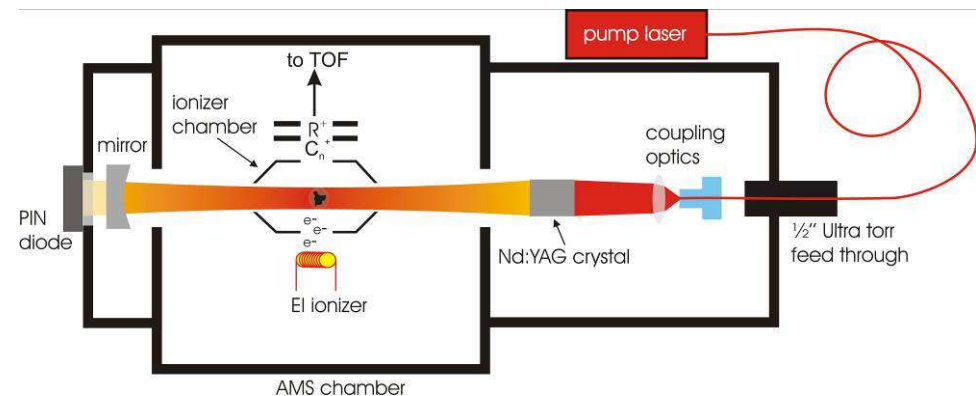
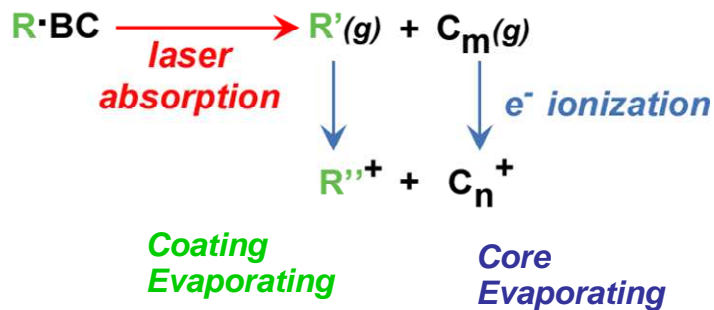
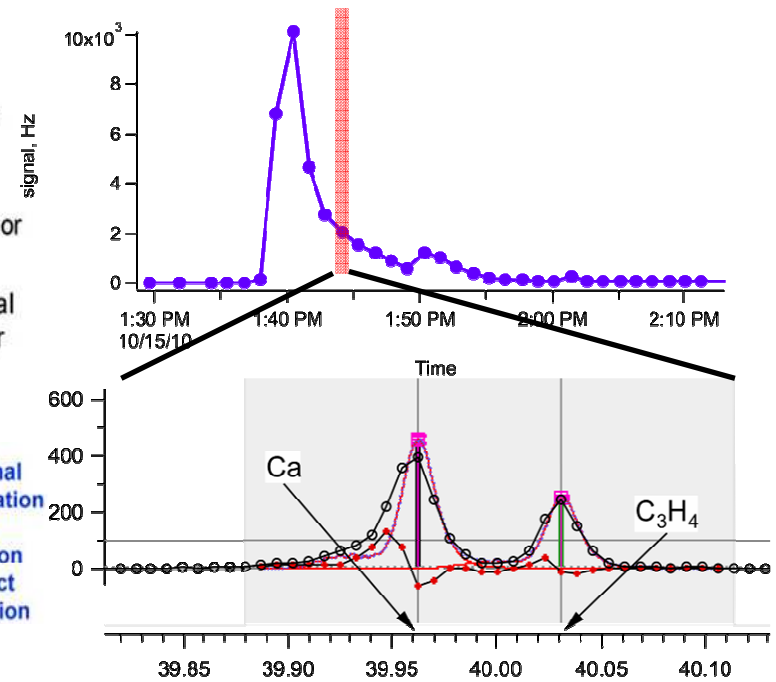
Particle Mass Spectrometer for Ash Measurements

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ASME ICEF2011-60100



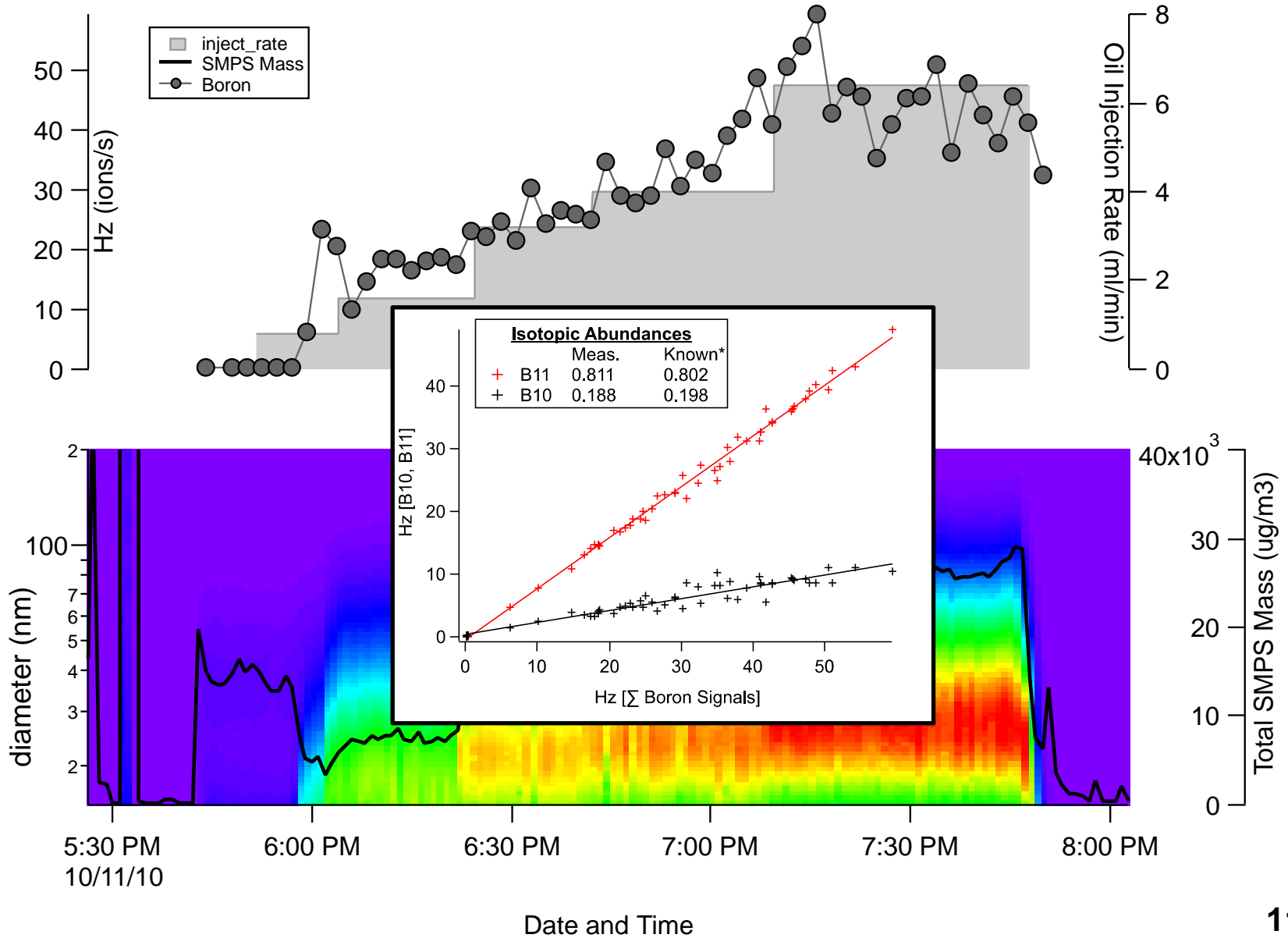
Time-Resolved Mass-Spec



Real-Time Measurement of Exhaust Ash Emissions (I)

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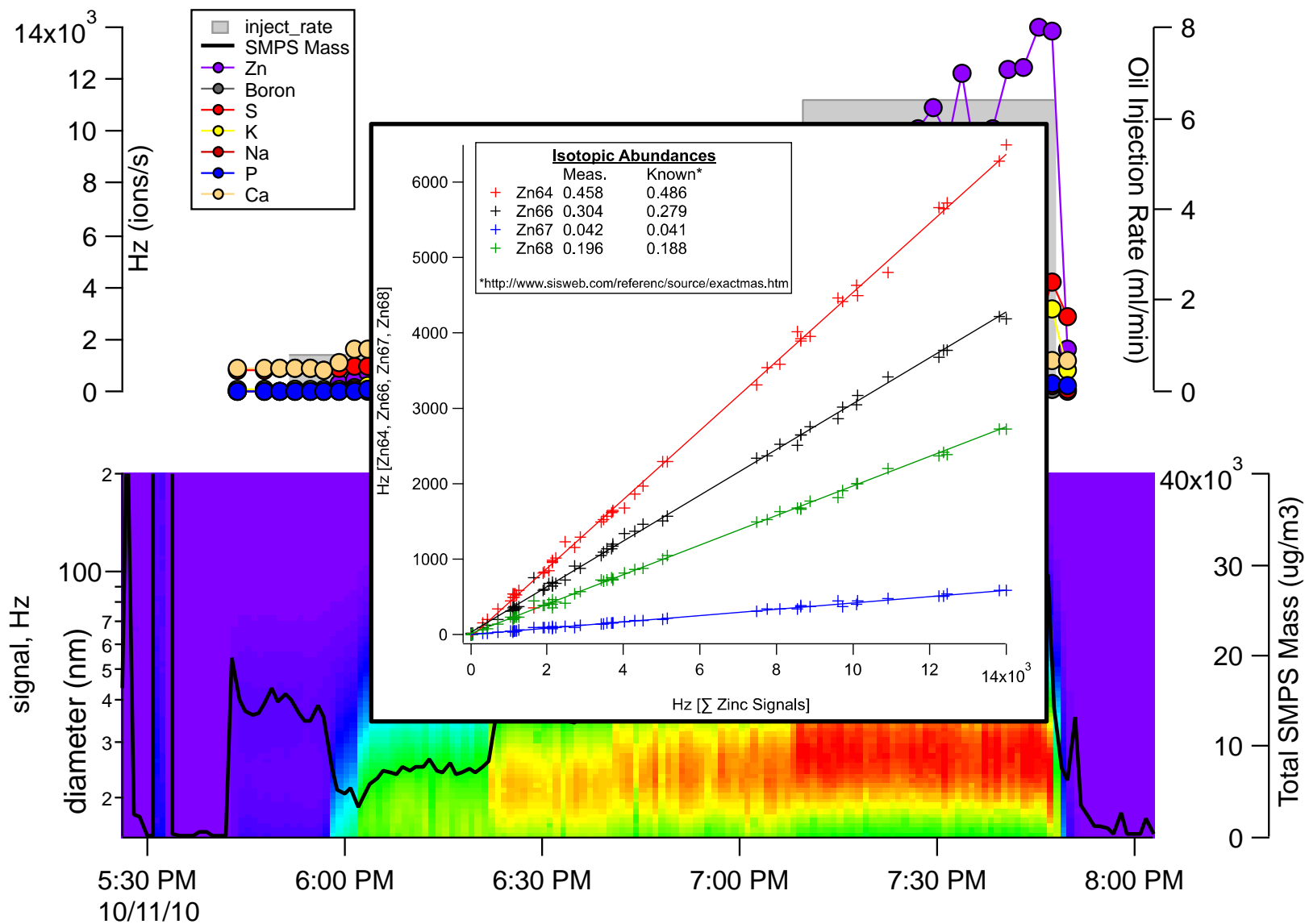
ASME ICEF2011-60100



Real-Time Measurement of Exhaust Ash Emissions (II)

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ASME ICEF2011-60100



Date and Time

Key Parameters Controlling Ash Deposits and DPF Impacts

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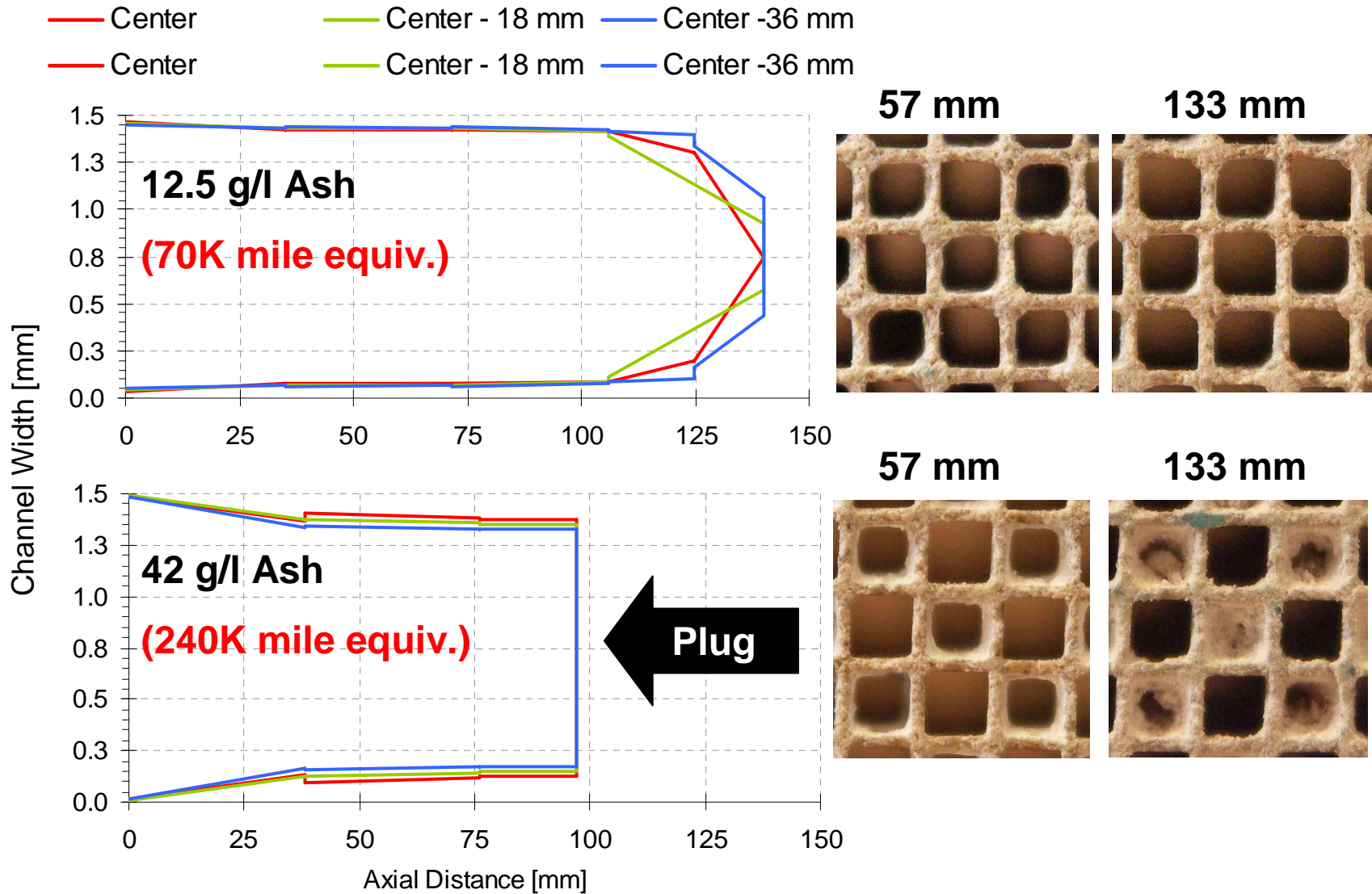
Regeneration Processes

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Ash – Catalyst Interactions

- *Chemical and physical interactions of ash and catalyst/washcoat*

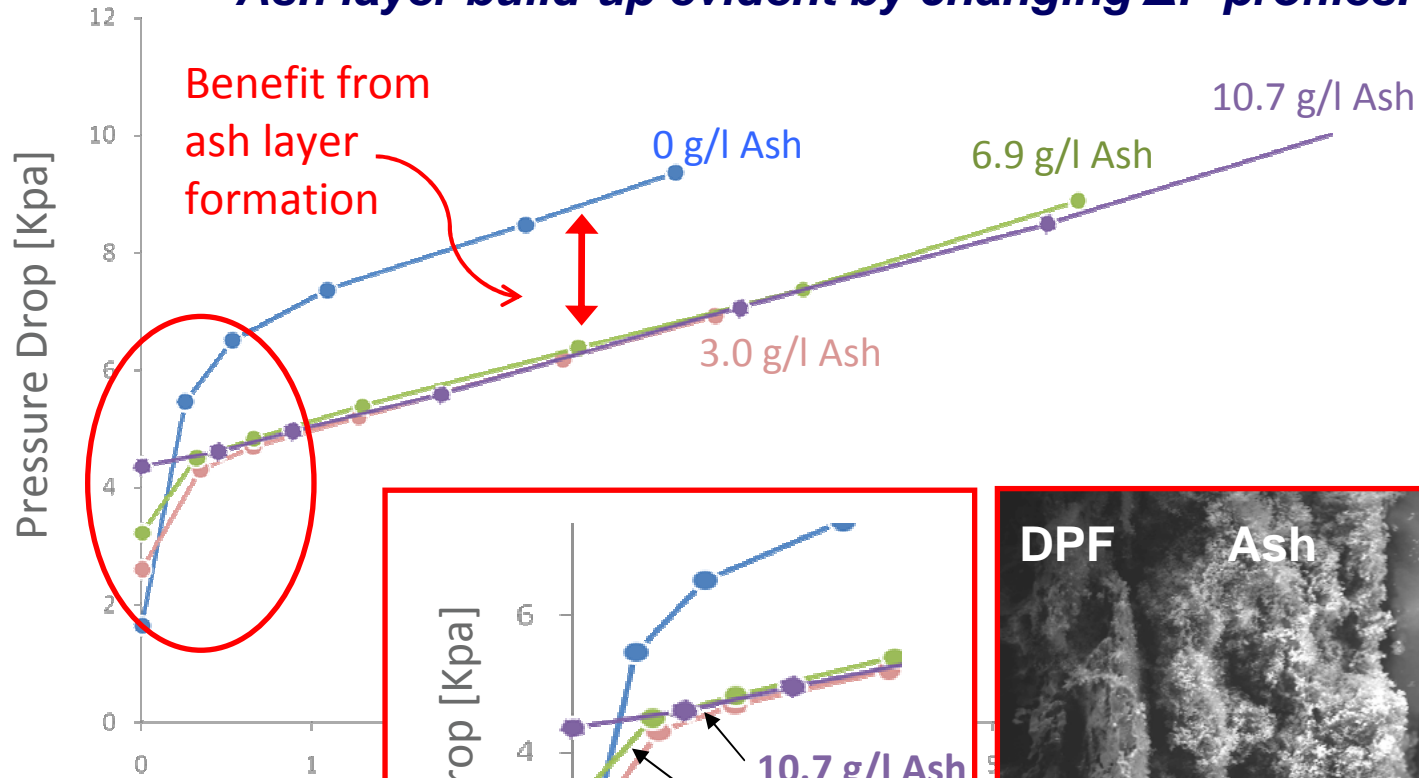
Ash First Accumulates Along DPF Channel Walls



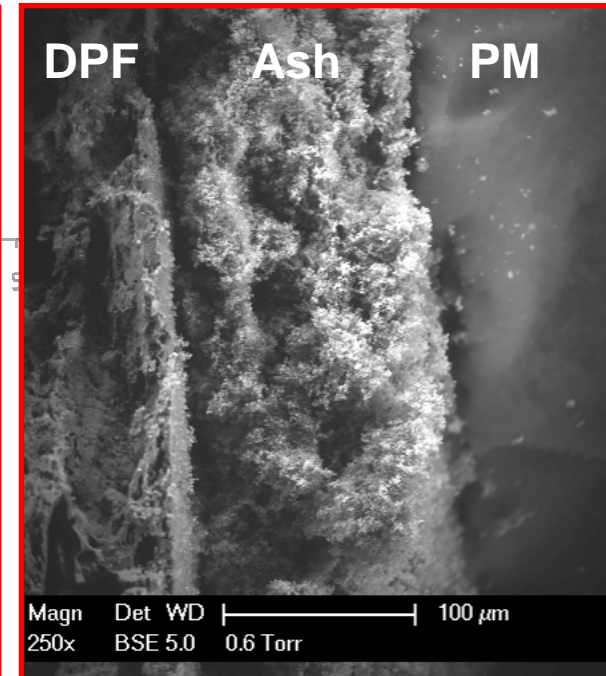
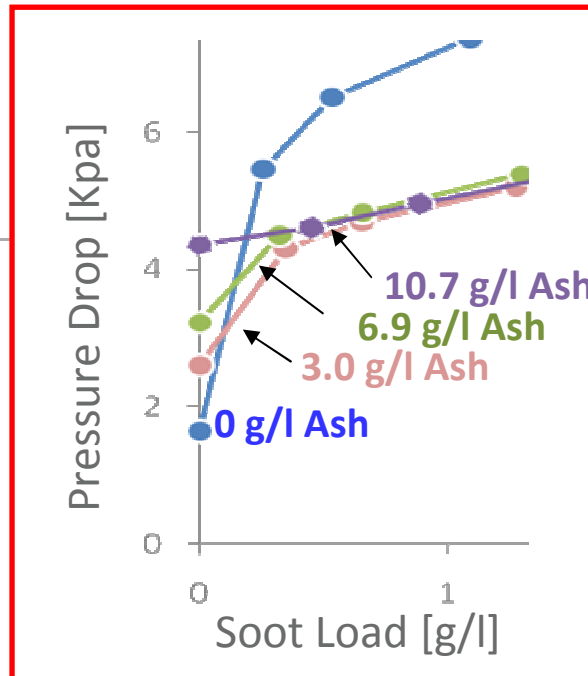
➤ Ash accumulation reduces DPF volume and affects pressure drop

Initial Ash Deposition and Layer Formation

Ash layer build-up evident by changing ΔP profiles.



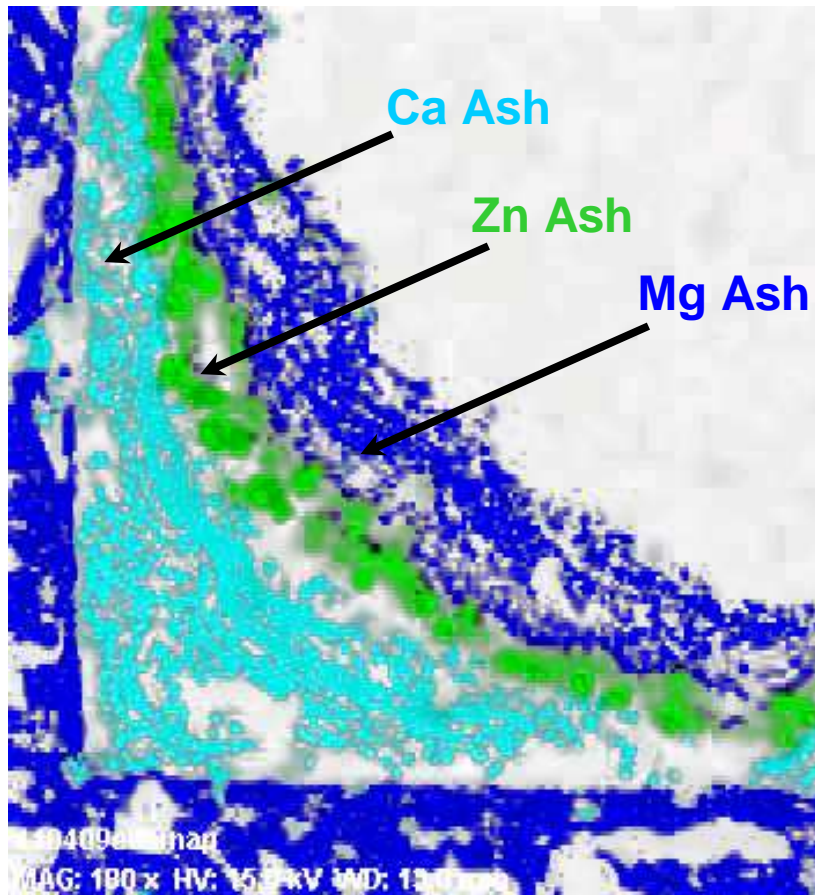
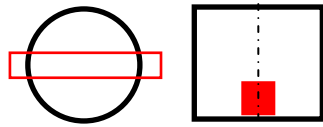
Ash layer not fully established until 10 g/L or ~ 50,000 miles



Application of Tracer Produces Stratified Ash Layers

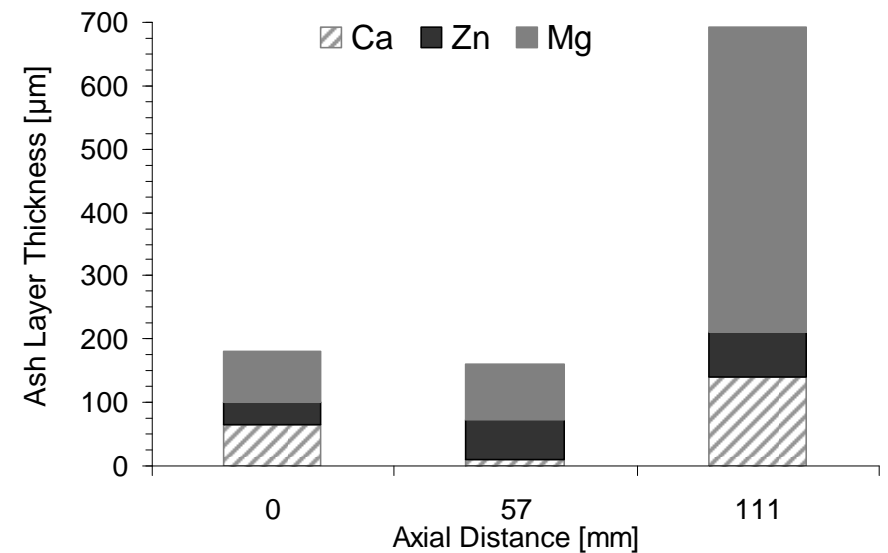
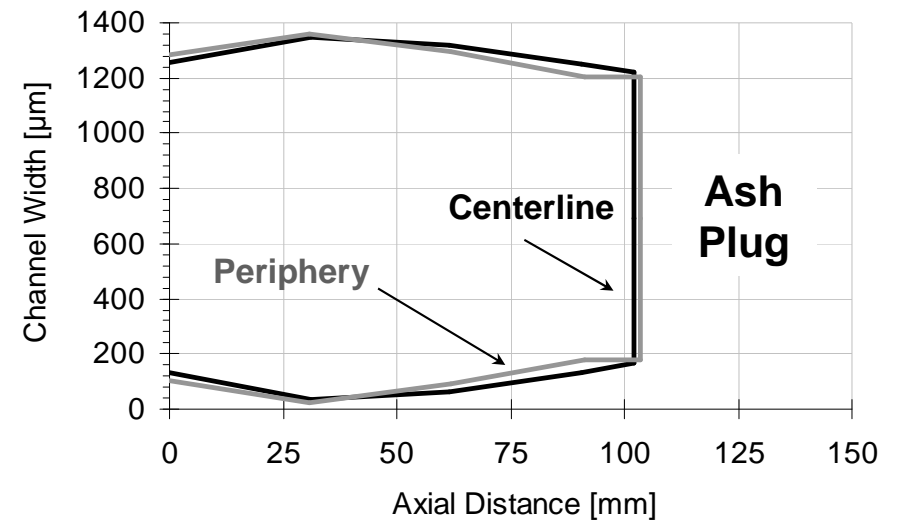
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DPF Substrate

Ash Thickness and Distribution

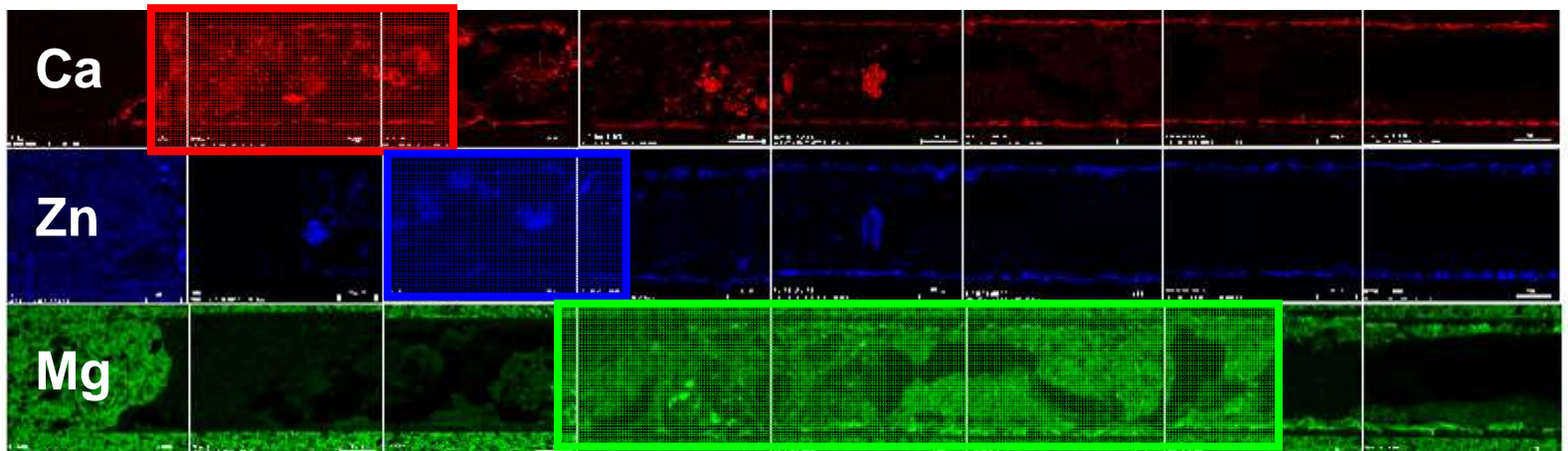
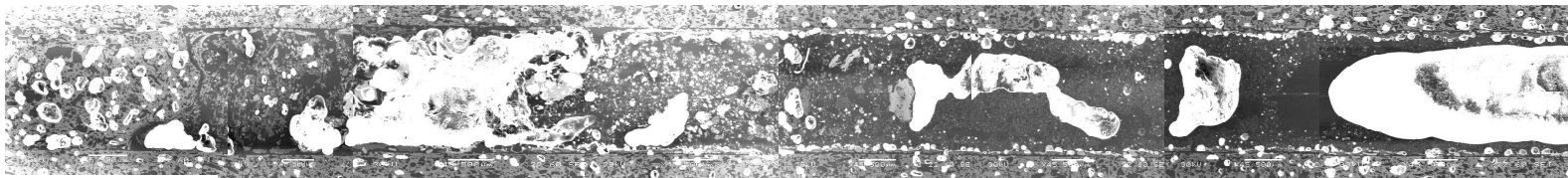


Voids in Ash Plug – Opportunities to Improve Packing

Voids may explain
low ash packing
density...

*Large voids
throughout ash layer*

*Start of plug and
ash layer*



Key Parameters Controlling Ash Deposits and DPF Impacts

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Additive Chemistry Impact on Ash Properties

Lubricant matrix all formulated to 1% sulfated ash, except base oil.

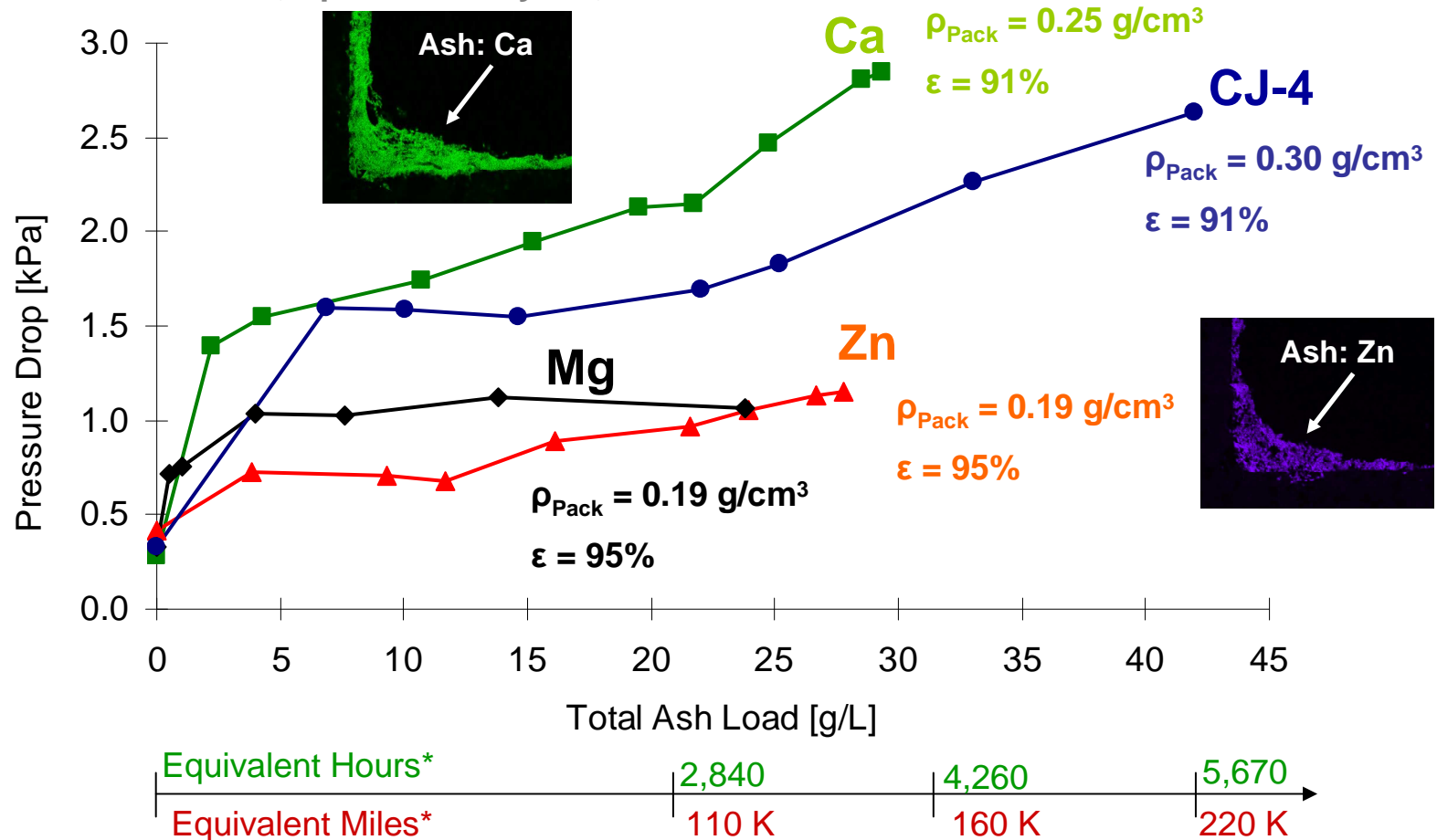
Lubricant	Ca ppm	Mg ppm	Zn ppm	P ppm	S ppm	B ppm	Mo ppm
Base	<1	<1	<1	8	60	1	<1
Base + Ca	2,928	5	<1	2	609	3	<1
Base + Mg*	<1	2,070	<1	<1	460		<1
Base + ZDDP	<1	<1	2612	2,530	6,901	1	<1
Base, Ca+ZDDP*	2480	<1	1280	1,180	2,750		<1
Base, Mg+ZDDP*	<1	1730	1280	1,180	2,840		<1
Commercial CJ-4	1,388	355	1,226	985	3,200*	586	77

Composition of ash directly related to lubricant additive chemistry.

Major Ash Components	Density g/cm ³	Melting Point °C	Description
CaSO ₄ Calcium Sulfate	2.96	1,460	Sinters/Decomposes ~1,250 °C
CaZn ₂ (PO ₄) ₂ Calcium Zinc Phosphate	3.65		
Zn ₂ (P ₂ O ₇) Zinc Pyrophosphate	3.75		Sintering begins ~ 800 °C
Zn ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ Zinc Phosphate	4.00	900	Sintering begins ~ 800 °C
Zn ₂ Mg(PO ₄) ₂ Zinc Magnesium Phosphate	3.60		
MgO Magnesium Oxide	3.58	2,832	
MgSO ₄ Magnesium Sulfate	2.66	1,124	Decomposition 900-1,100 °C

Ca Ash Shows 2X Increase in ΔP Over Zn & Mg Ash

Flow Bench @ 25 °C, Space Velocity: 20,000 hr⁻¹

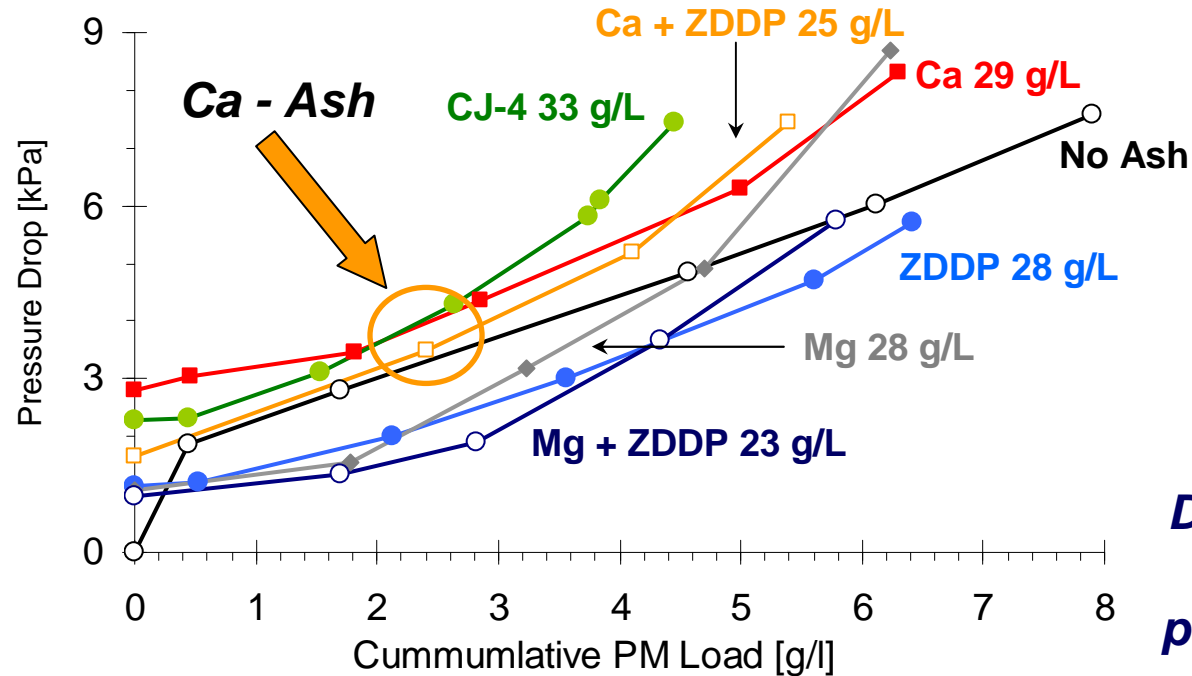


- Lubricant additive chemistry affects ash properties and pressure drop
- Ca-based ash shows much larger effect on pressure drop than Zn ash



* Assumes: 15 g/hr avg. oil consumption, avg. speed of 40 mph, and full size DPF of 12 L volume

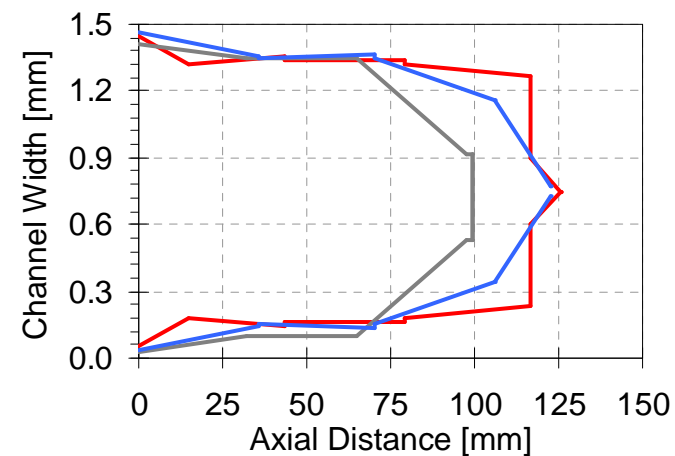
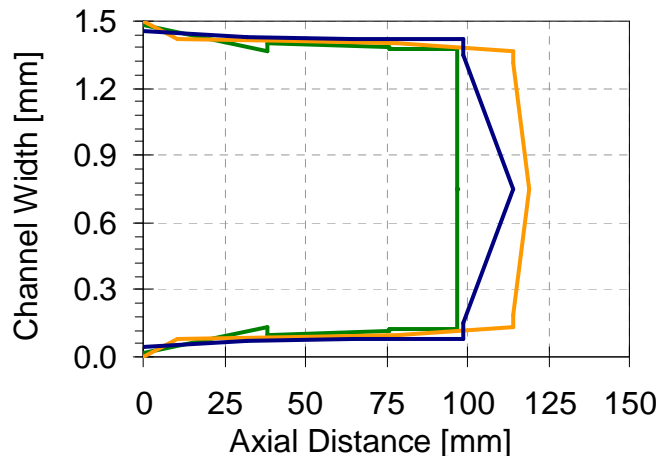
Ash Chemistry Impacts Ash Properties and DPF ΔP



Cordierite 200/12

*Differences in DPF
 ΔP due to ash
properties (ρ , ϵ , D_p)*

Ash Distribution Profiles



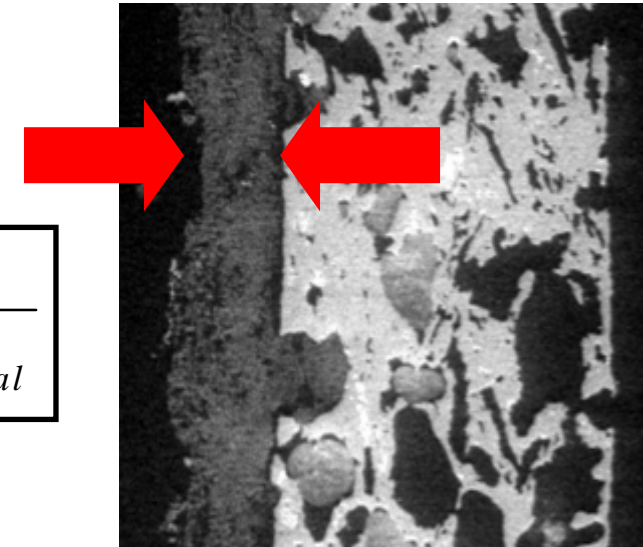
Detailed Understanding of Ash Properties Required

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$$\Delta P_{Wall / Ash / Soot} = \left(\frac{\mu}{K_P} \right) \cdot v_w \cdot W$$

$$K = f(\varepsilon, \bar{D}_P)$$

$$\varepsilon = 1 - \frac{\rho_{Packing}}{\rho_{Theoretical}}$$

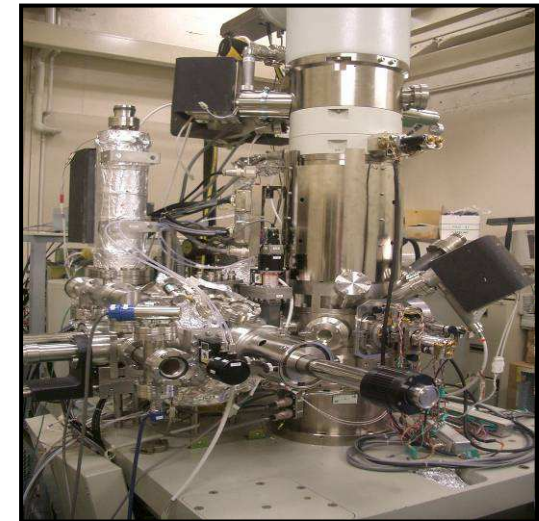


Ash Properties

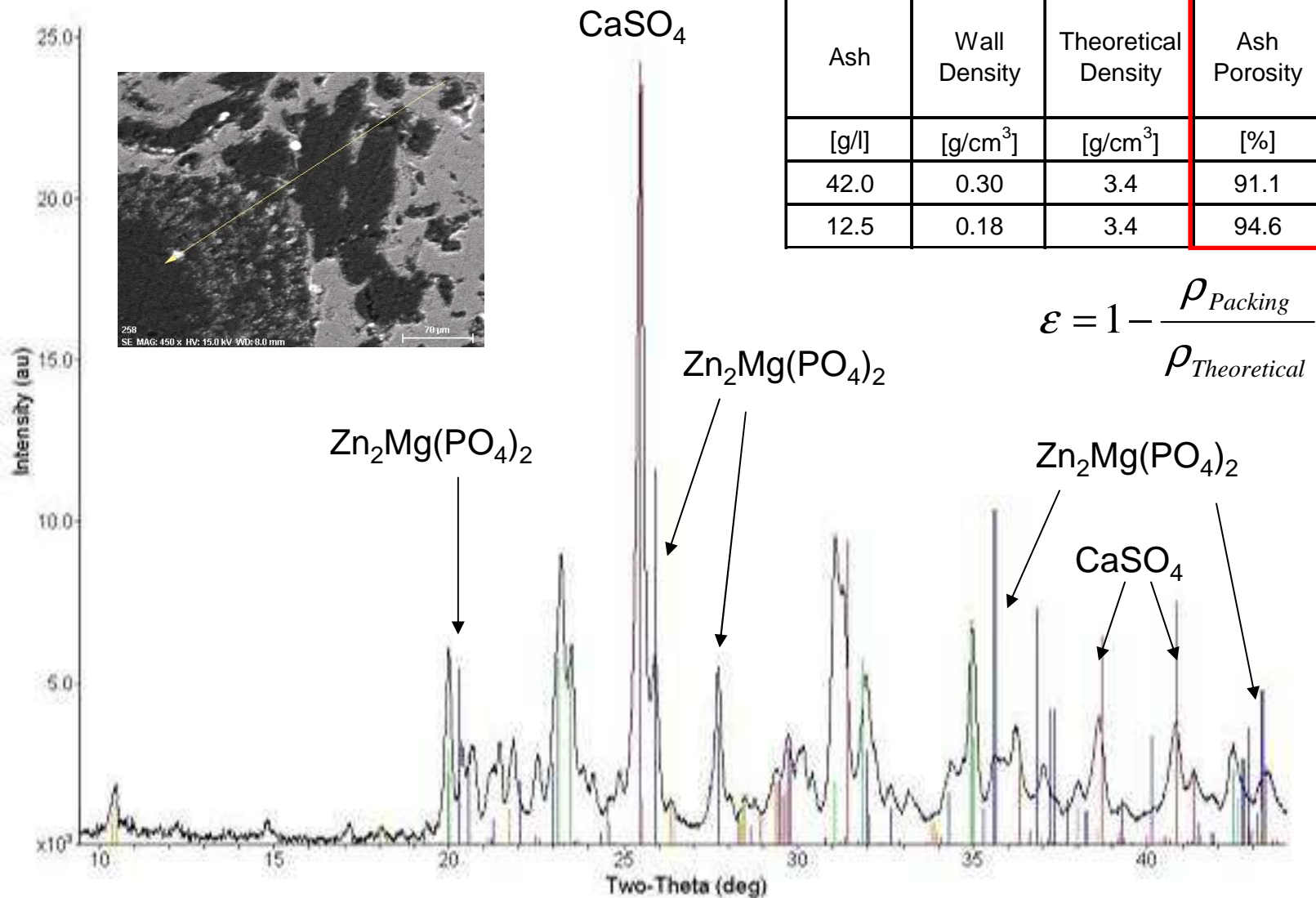
- Provide critical information to explain fundamental differences in ΔP
- Complex mixture of metal oxides, sulfates, phosphates
- Characterization of particle morphology, physical, chemical properties challenge

New Techniques and Diagnostics

- C. Kamp Presentation (12/2010)

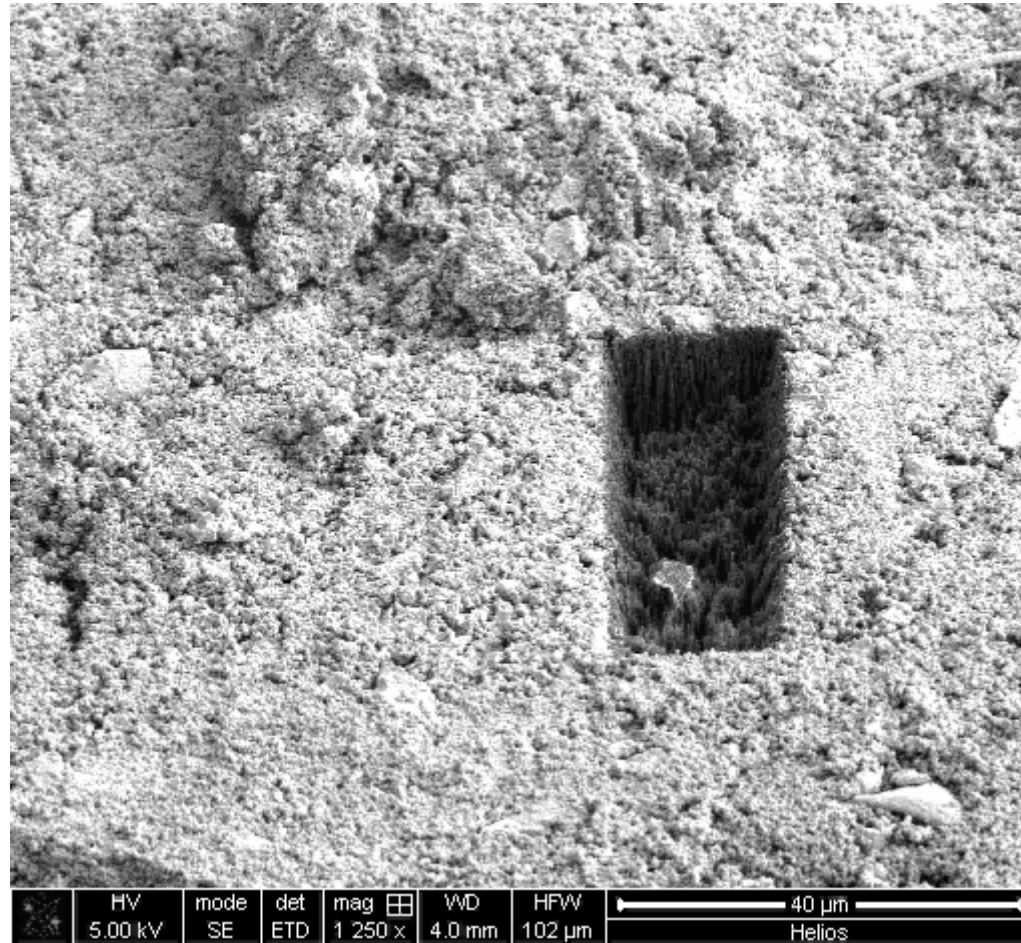


CJ-4 Ash Composition and Porosity



Ash – PM Layer Interface Clearly Defined

Focused Ion Beam (FIB) Milling Coupled with SEM



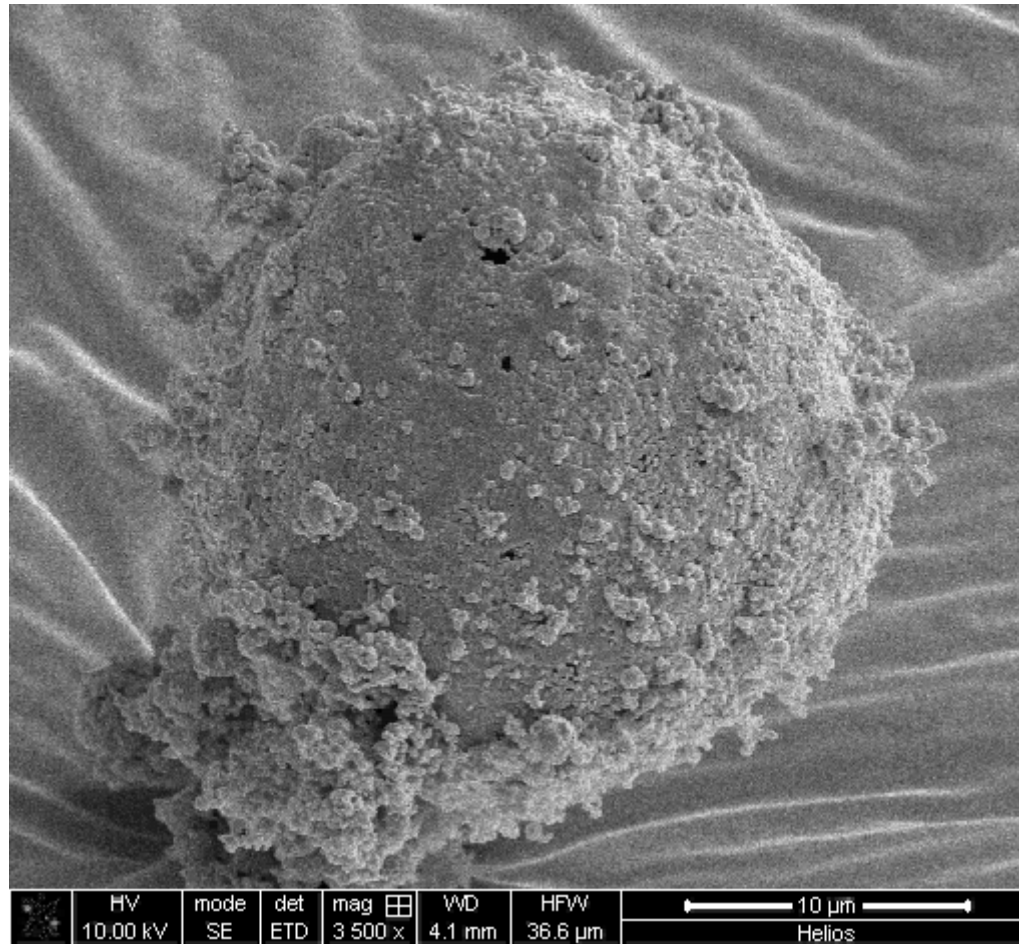
Unlike PM depth filtration in DPF surface pores, very little soot penetrates into ash layer.

Individual Ash Particles Also Porous

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Focused Ion Beam (FIB) Milling Coupled with SEM

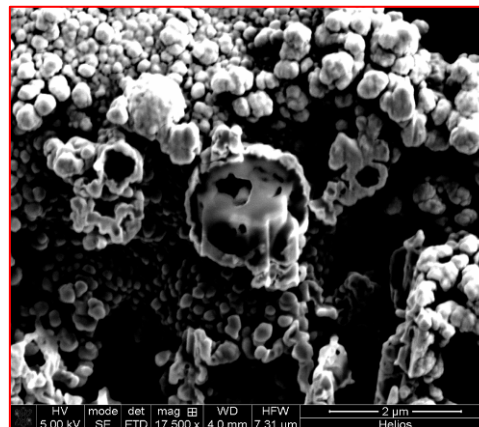
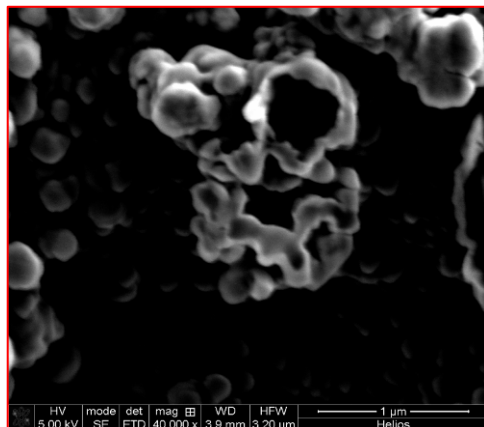
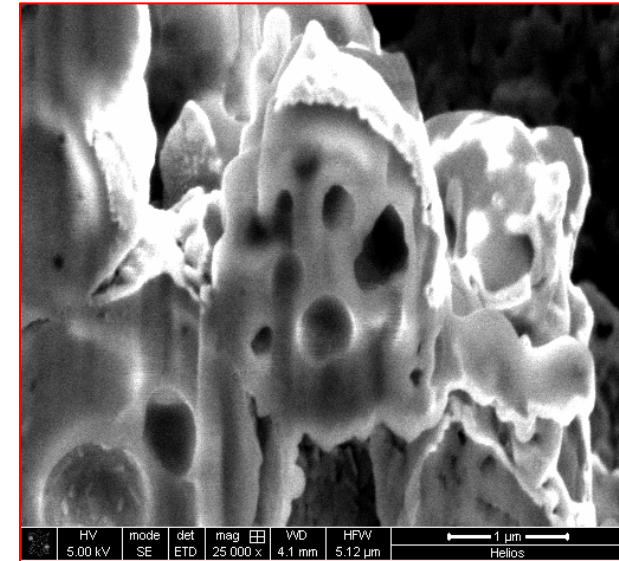
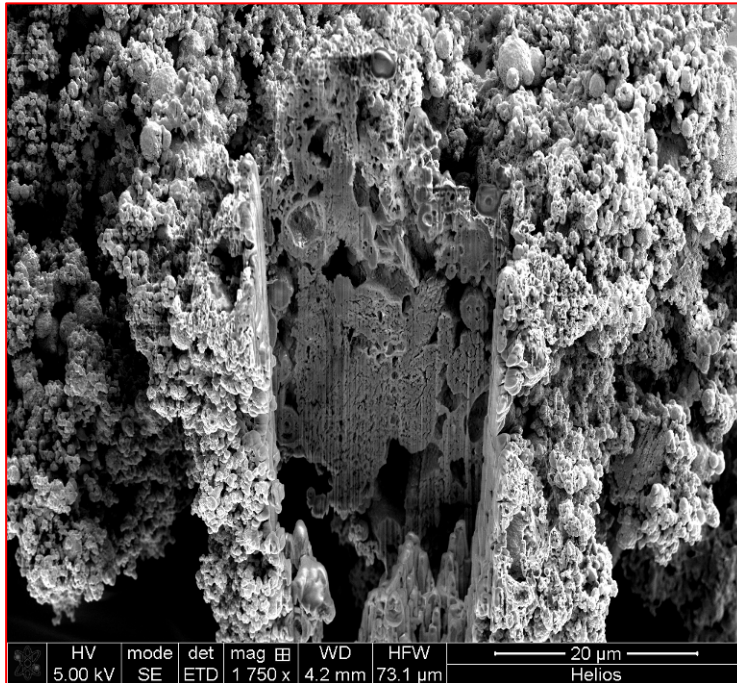


Particle most likely formed from sintering/agglomeration of ash precursors.

Ash Particles and Agglomerates Porous Shells!

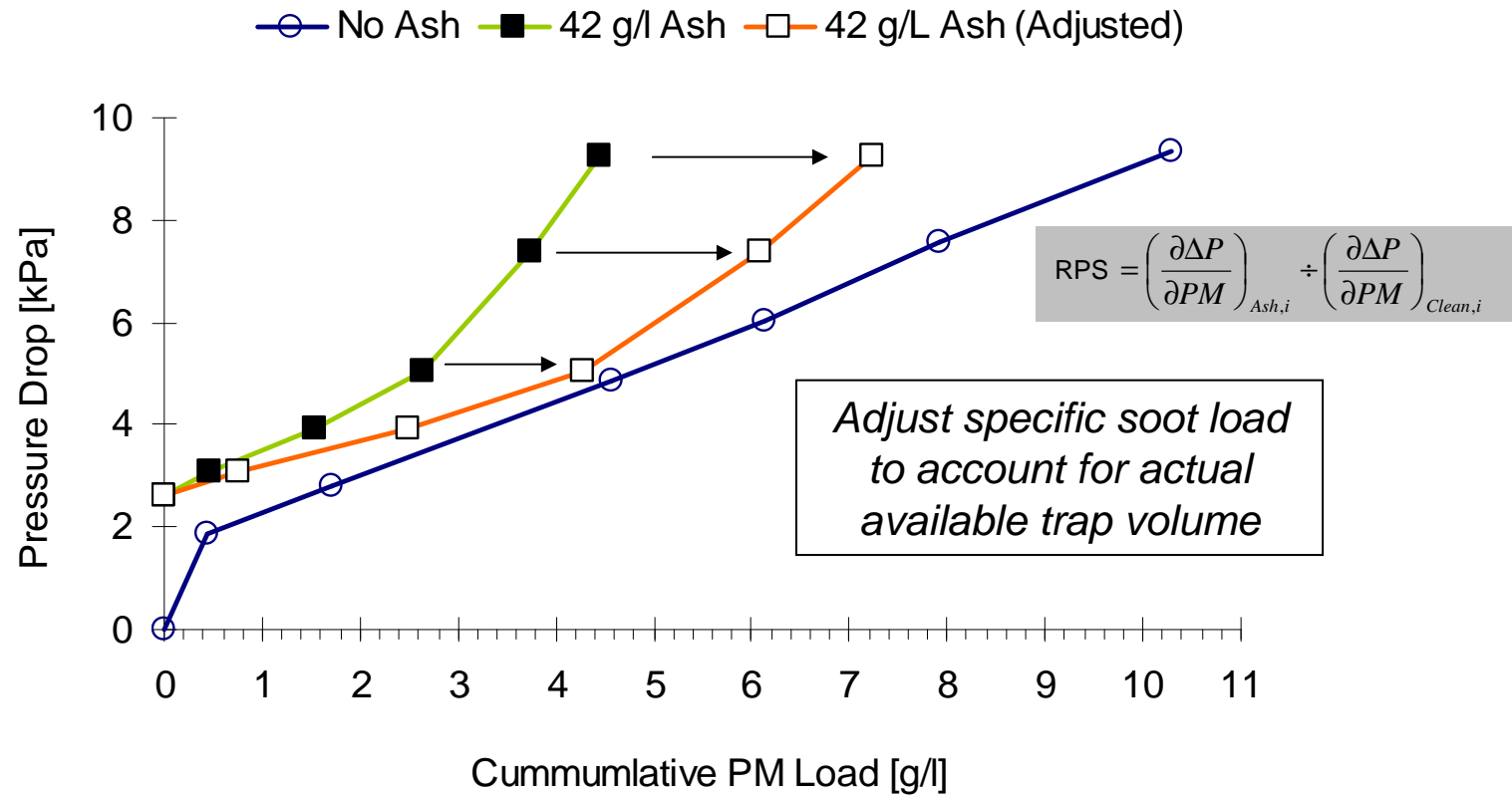
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- Ash agglomerates consist of porous particles
- Consistent with low packing density and high porosity measurements

Ash Accumulation Also Influences Soot Properties



Ash deposits displace soot in DPF – higher local soot loads



Variation in PM Layer Properties with DPF Flow Well-Known

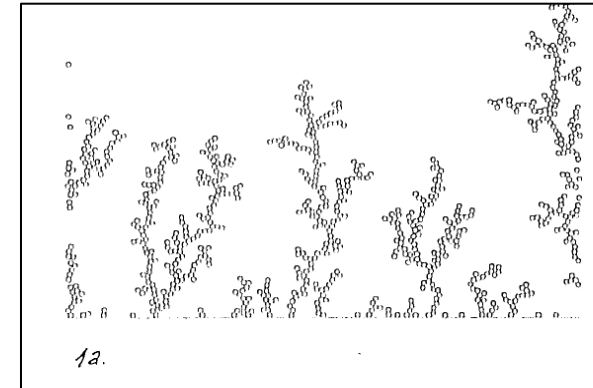
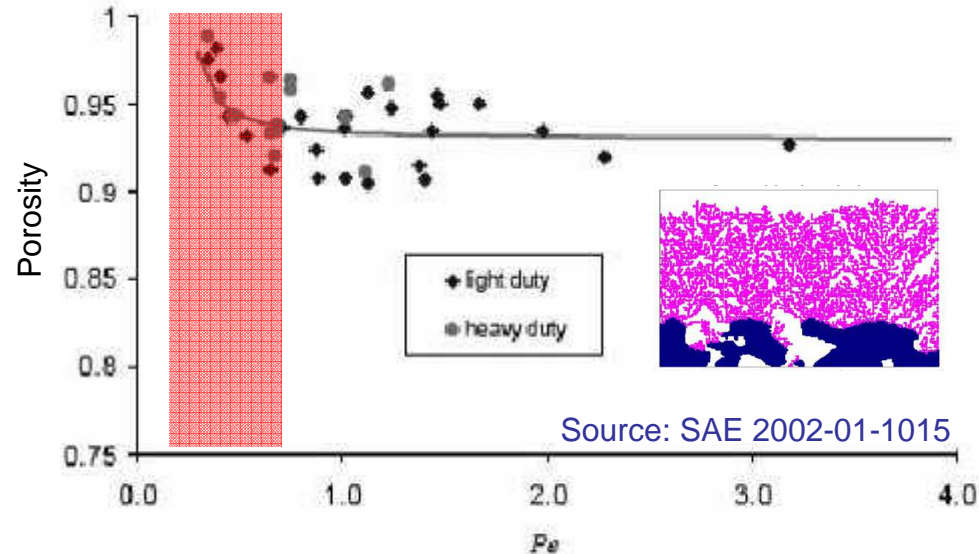
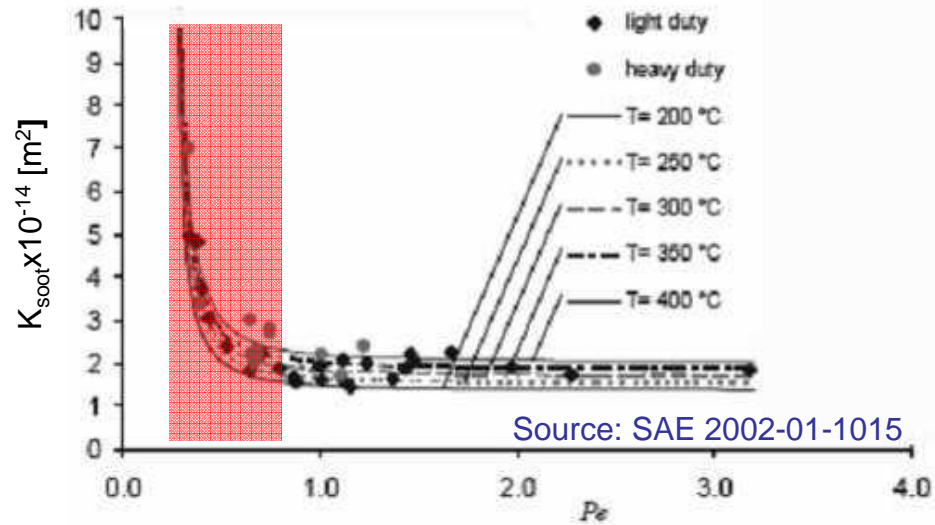


Image: Menelaos, T., Ph.D. Thesis, Yale, 1991.

$$Pe = \frac{U_w \cdot d_{Primary}}{D}$$

$$Pe = \frac{Inertia}{Diffusion}$$

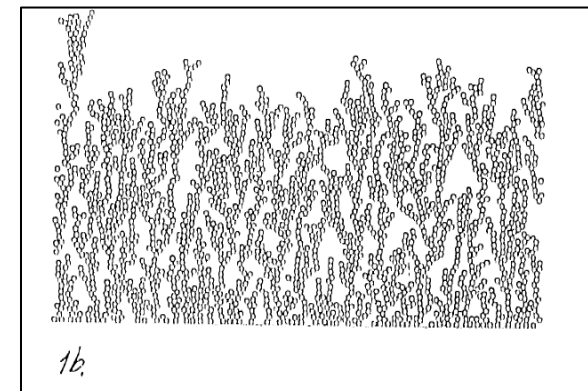
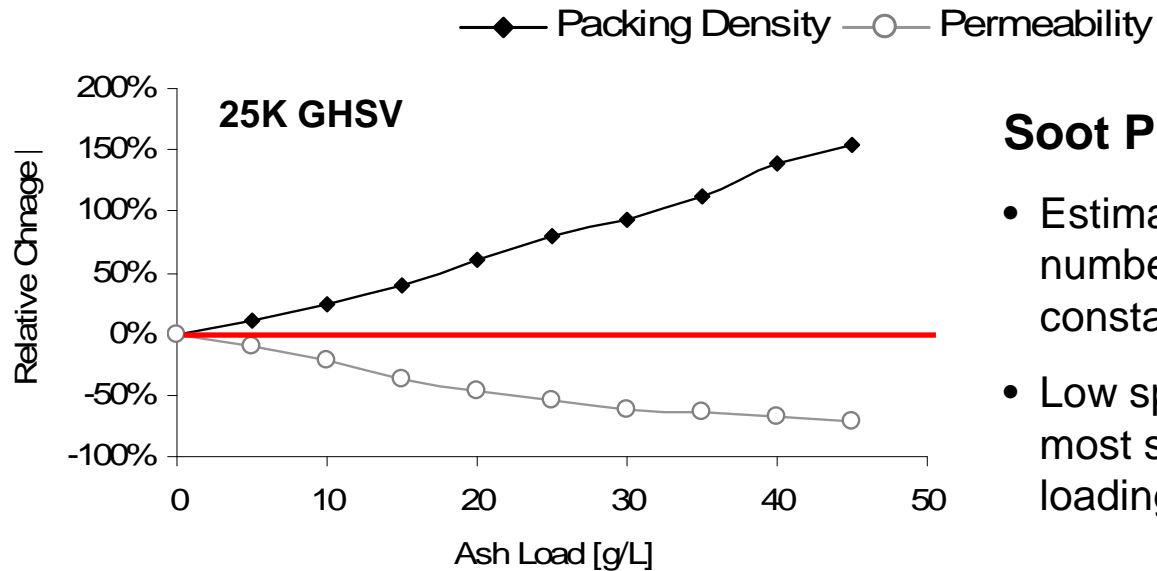


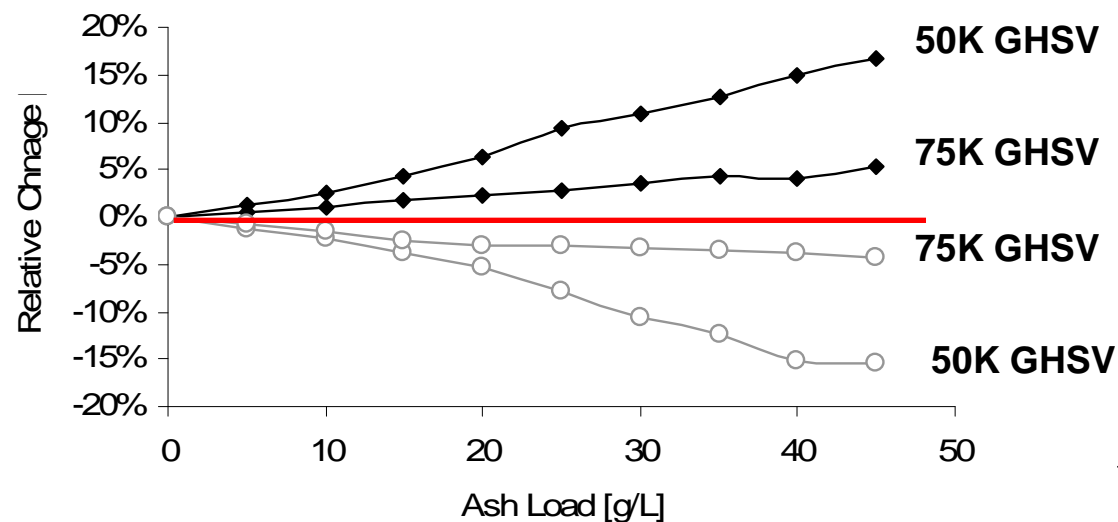
Image: Menelaos, T., Ph.D. Thesis, Yale, 1991.

Variation of Soot Properties Due to Ash Deposits



Soot Properties

- Estimated from empirical Pe number correlations for constant flow rate
- Low space velocity conditions most strongly affected by ash loading



Soot deposited at flows > 75K 1/hr insensitive to ash loading

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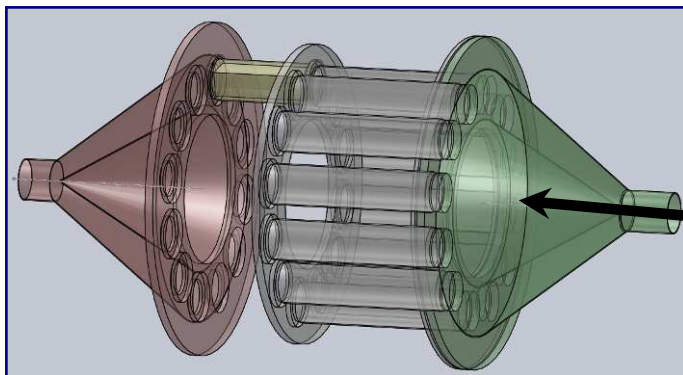
Sensitivity of DPF Design Parameters to Ash

Matrix	Porosity	Mean Pore Size
1 st Trial	<u>Low</u> High	Low
2 nd Trial	High	<u>Low</u> High
3 rd Trial	Moderate	Low

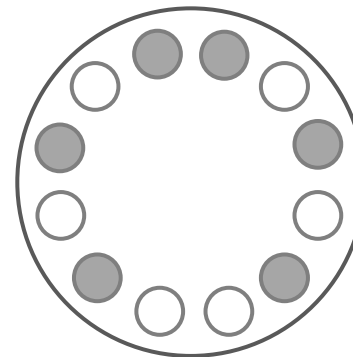
Additional DPF Parameters

- Filter/substrate materials
- DPF coatings and catalysts
- Filter geometry and cell configuration

Multi-Cartridge Filter Holder



12 DPF
Segments

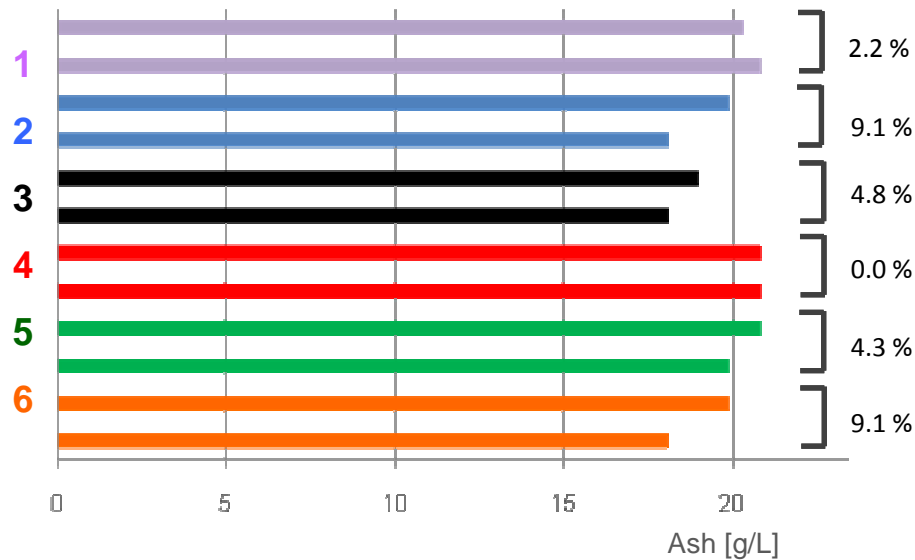


Ash Loading

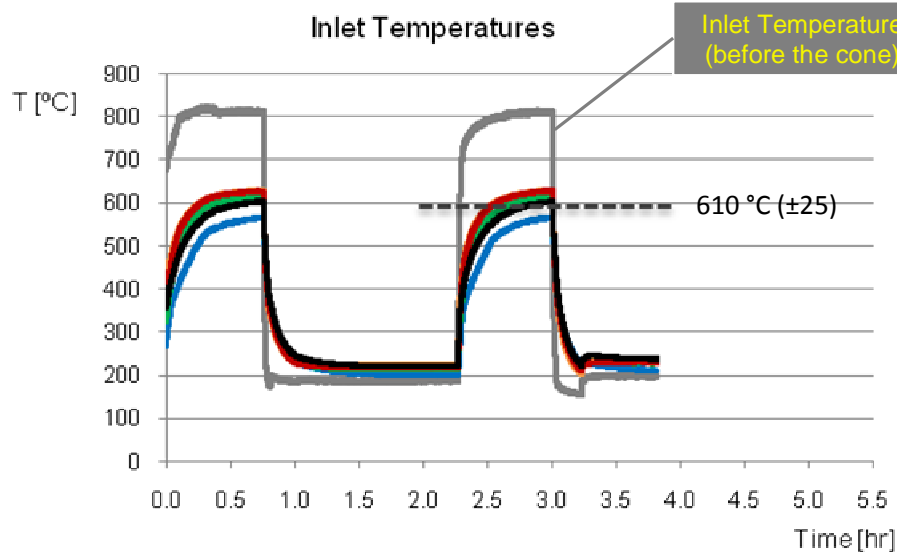


DPFs Experience Even Ash Loading and Temperatures

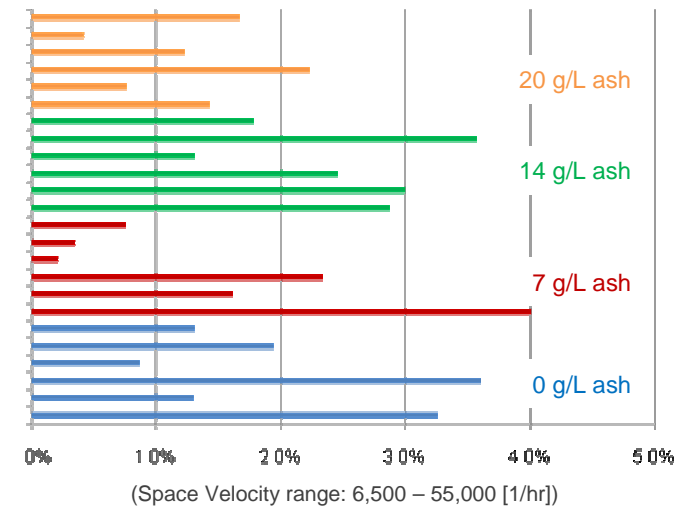
Average Ash Deposition after 60 hrs of operation: 20 g/L



- Ash evenly distributed in core samples
- Little ΔP variation between duplicate samples

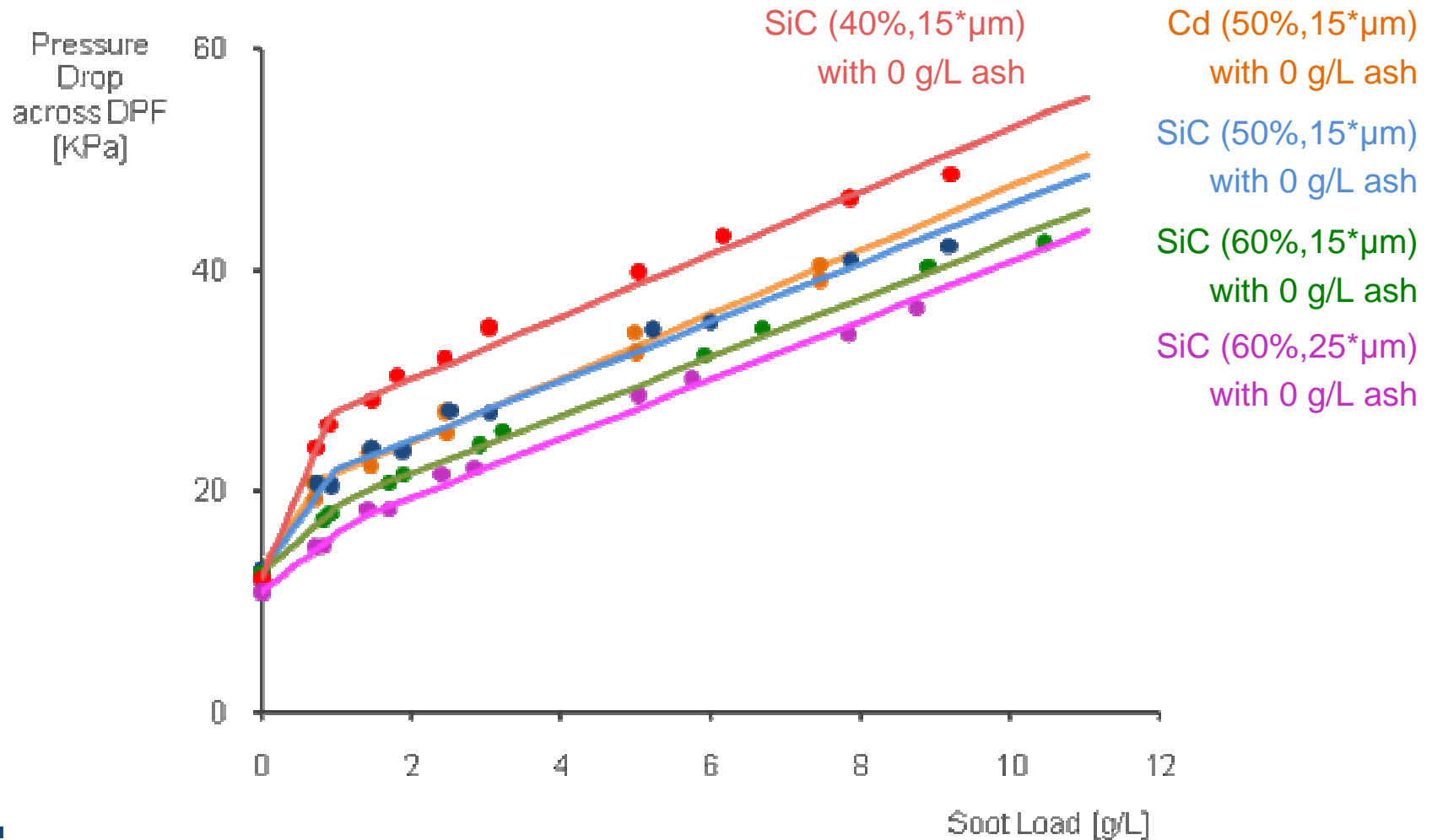


Pressure Drop Variation

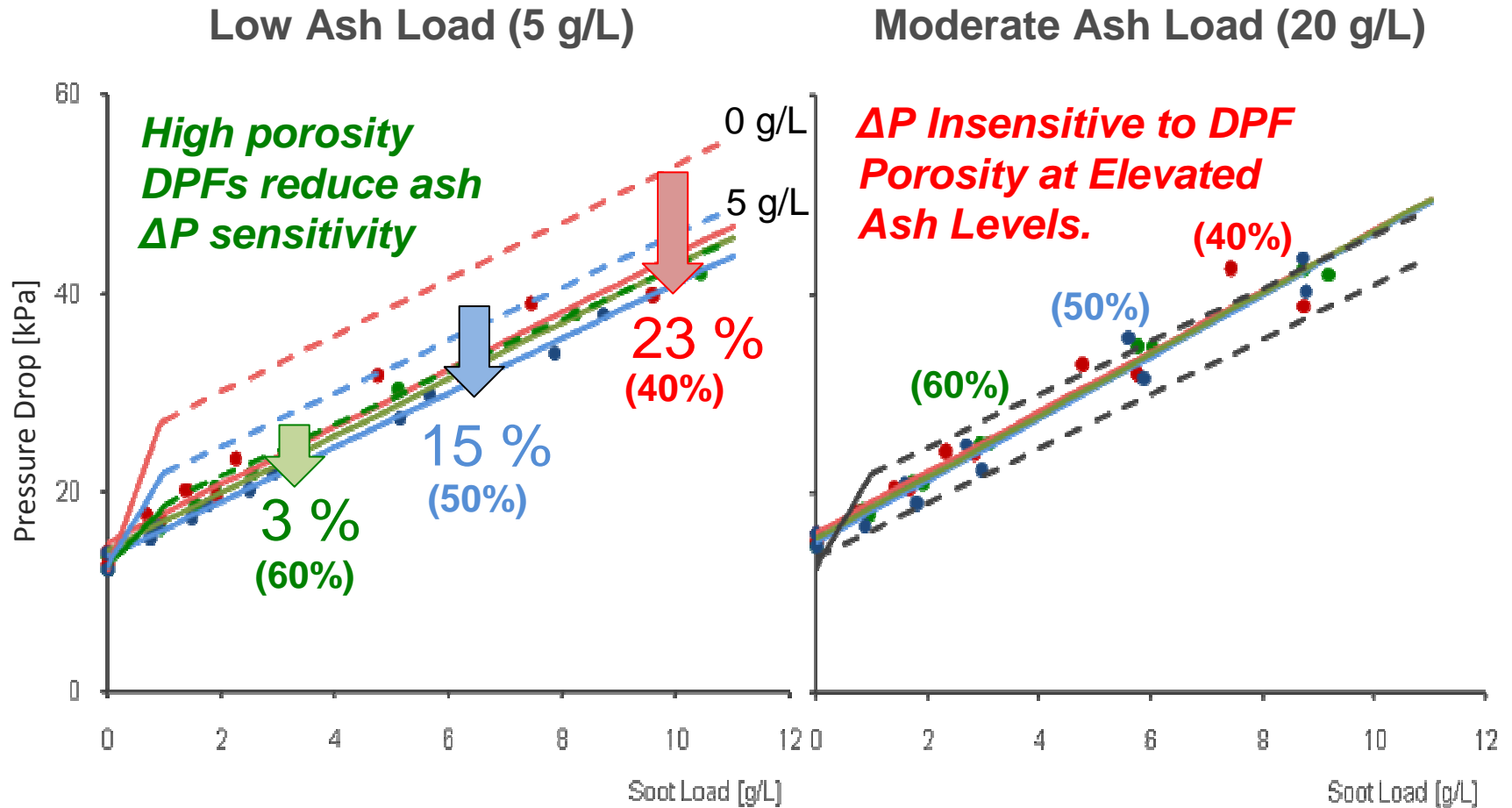


Similar ΔP Response to PM Accumulation for All DPFs

DPF Pressure Drop Response 0 g/L Ash



Sensitivity of DPF Porosity to Ash Accumulation Varies



- Sensitivity of ΔP to ash accumulation increases with decreasing DPF porosity at low filter ash levels
- At high ash loads, ash dominates ΔP , which is insensitive to initial DPF porosity of filter, over range tested

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Regeneration Processes

- *Real-time optical studies of ash formation and mobility*

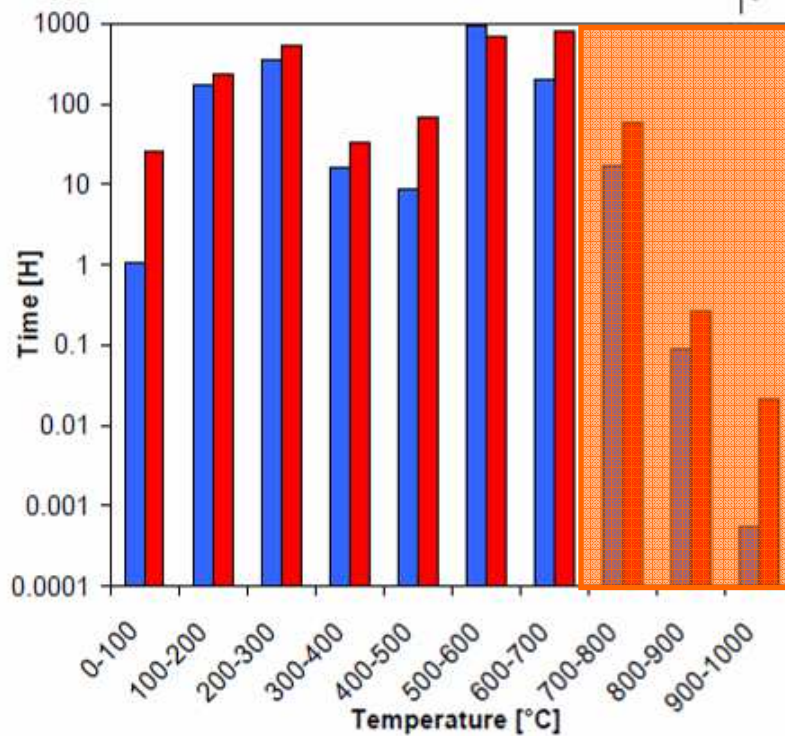
Ash – Catalyst Interactions

- *Chemical and physical interactions of ash and catalyst/washcoat*

Exhaust Conditions Are Continually Changing

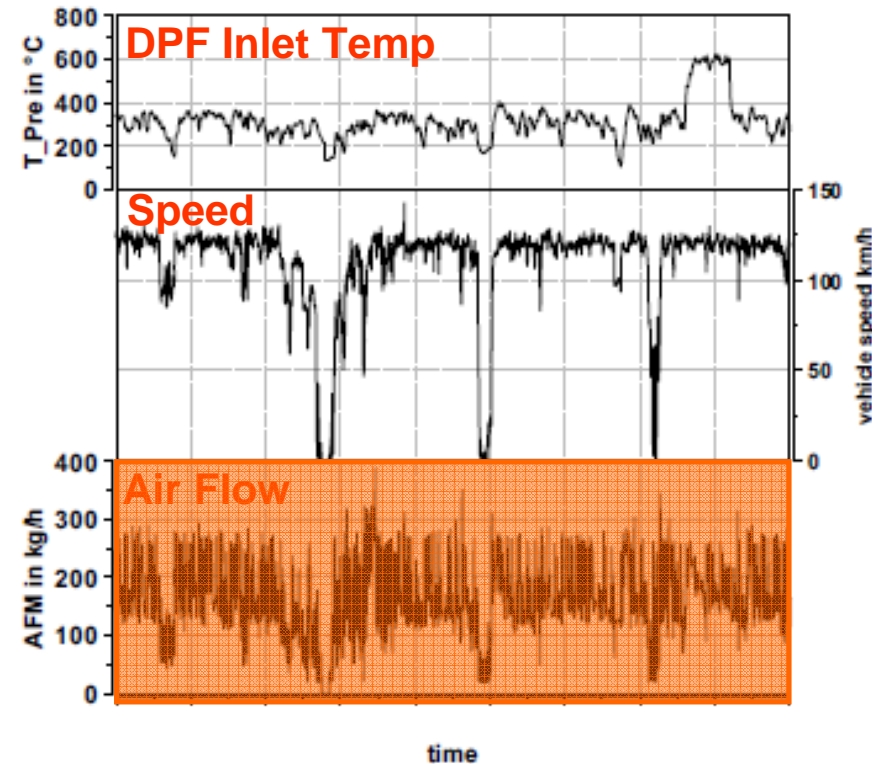
DPF Temperature Distribution

(300-420K Miles, HD Diesel)



Corning Deer 2006

Typical Highway Drive Cycle



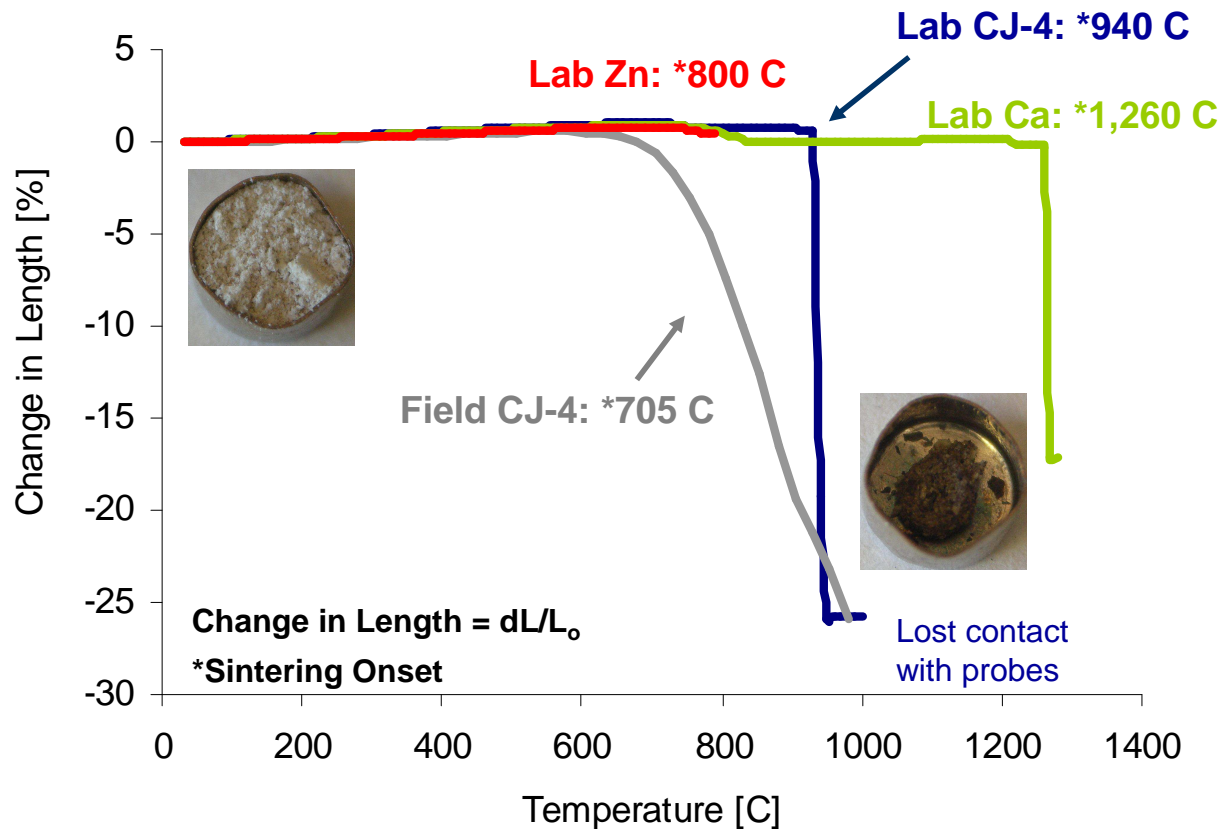
SAE 2009-01-1262

- Potential for short excursions above 700 °C over DPF operating history
- Exhaust flow rates also vary considerably, even over highway drive cycle 36

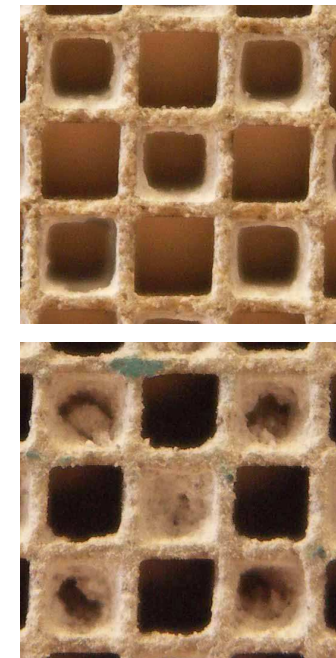
Exhaust Temperature Significantly Affects Ash Volume

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SAE 2012-01-1093



**Competing Effects
on ΔP Based on
Ash Distribution**

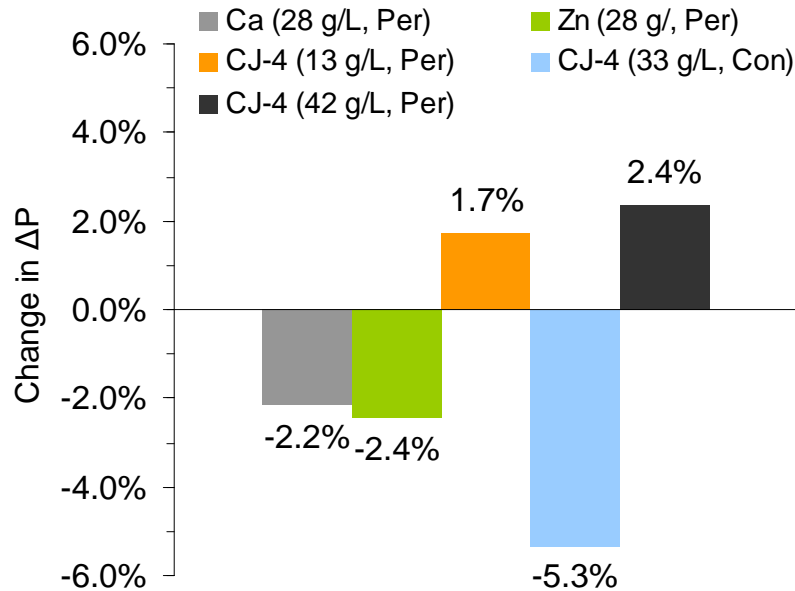


- **Large decrease in ash volume for temperatures over 700 °C**
 - Reduction in ash weight over temperature ranges less than 10%
 - Typical ash porosities 85% - 95% means large potential to reduce volume

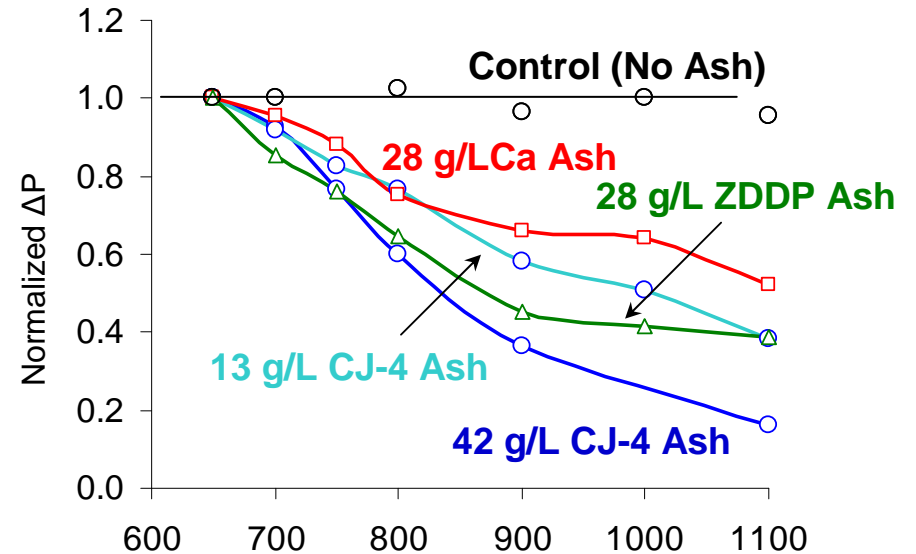


Elevated Temperatures Exert Large Effect on Ash Packing

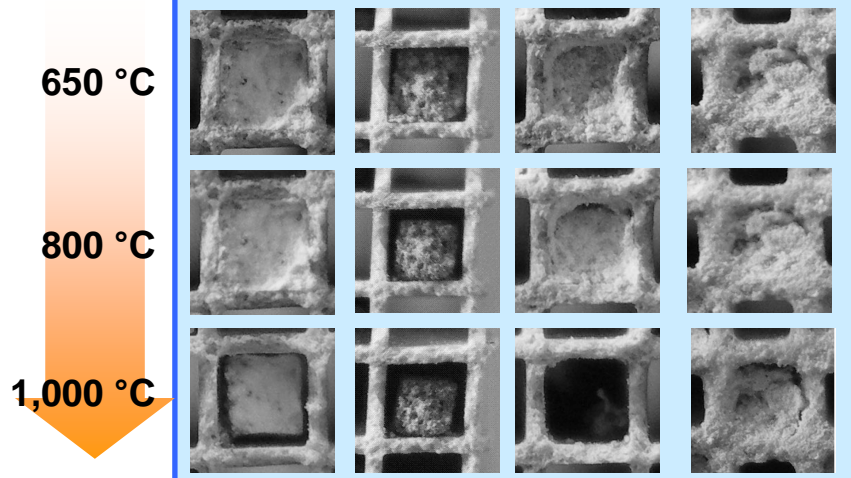
High Flow Exposure to 200,000 hr⁻¹



High Temperature Exposure

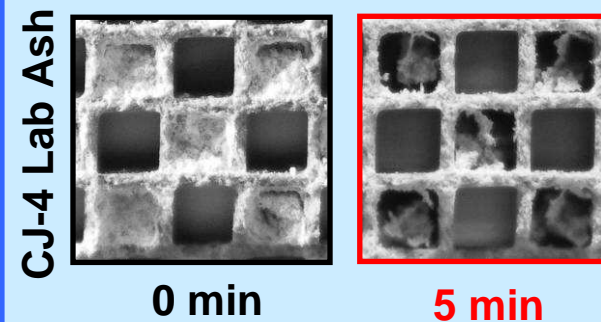


Lab Ca Field Lab CJ4 Field



Ash Volume Reduction Fast

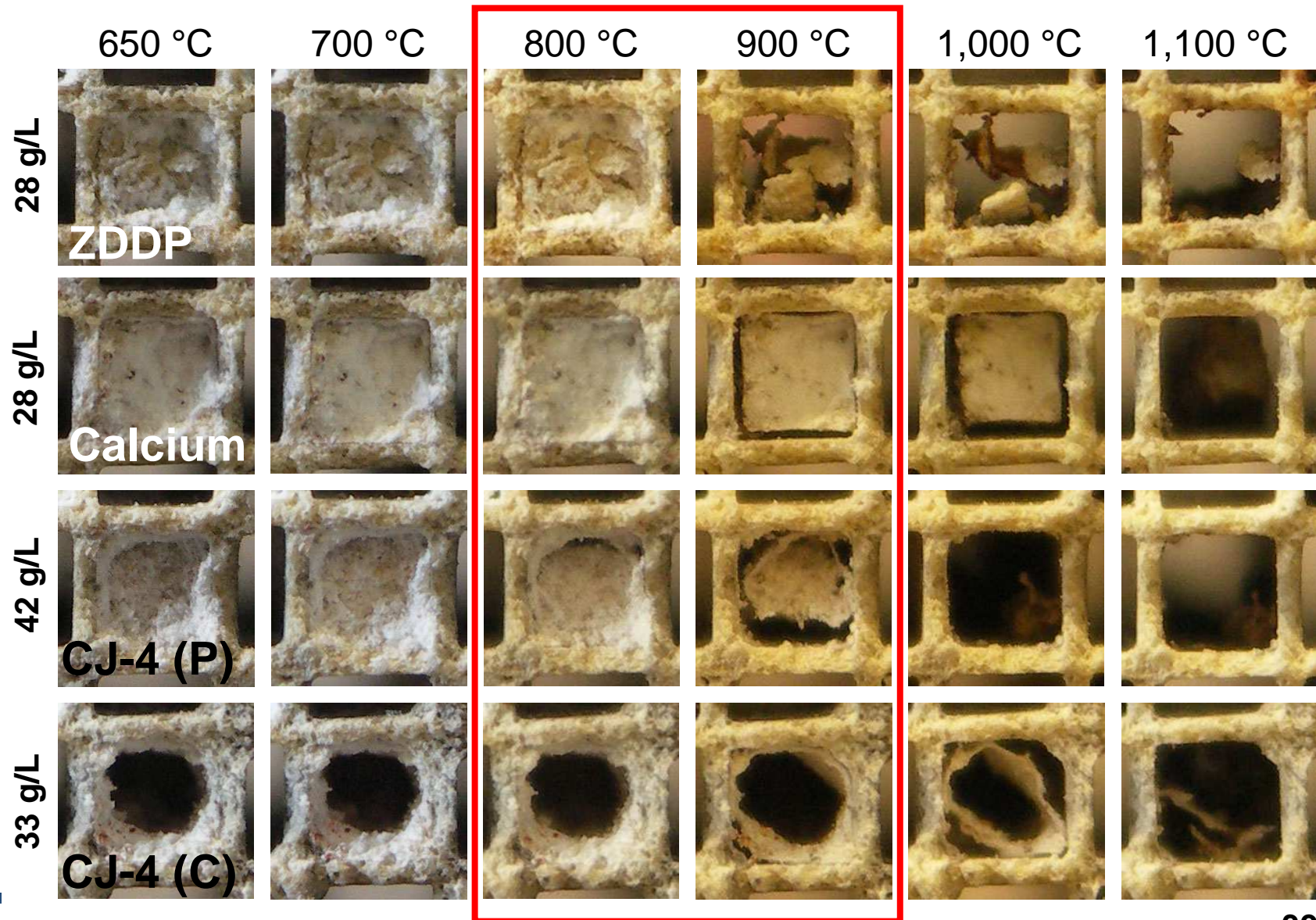
DPF core heated to 880 °C in 5 min, then quenched.



Large Reduction in Ash Volume at Elevated Temperatures

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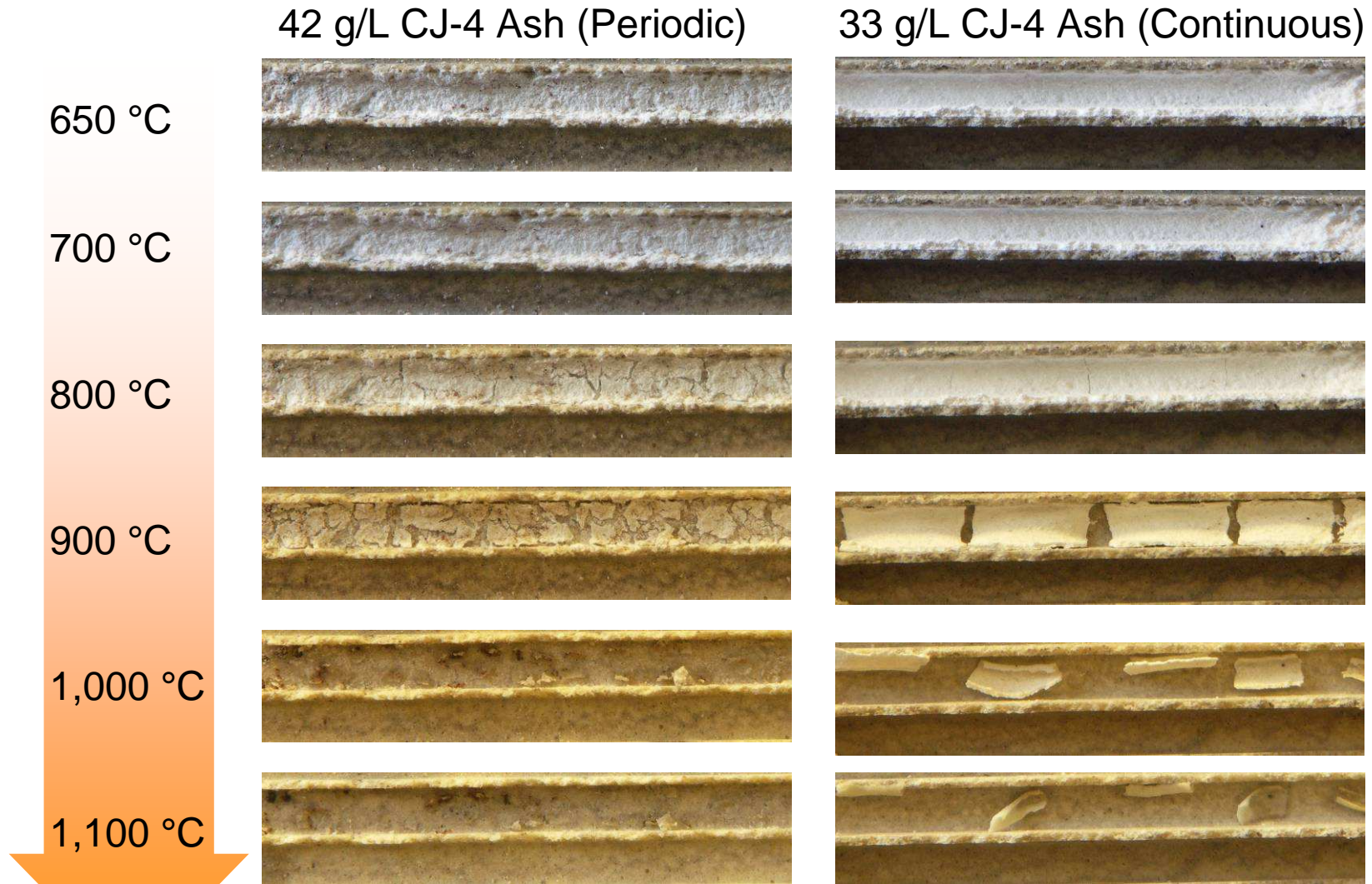
SAE 2012-01-1093



High Temperatures Cause Ash Layer Cracking/Shrinking

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SAE 2012-01-1093

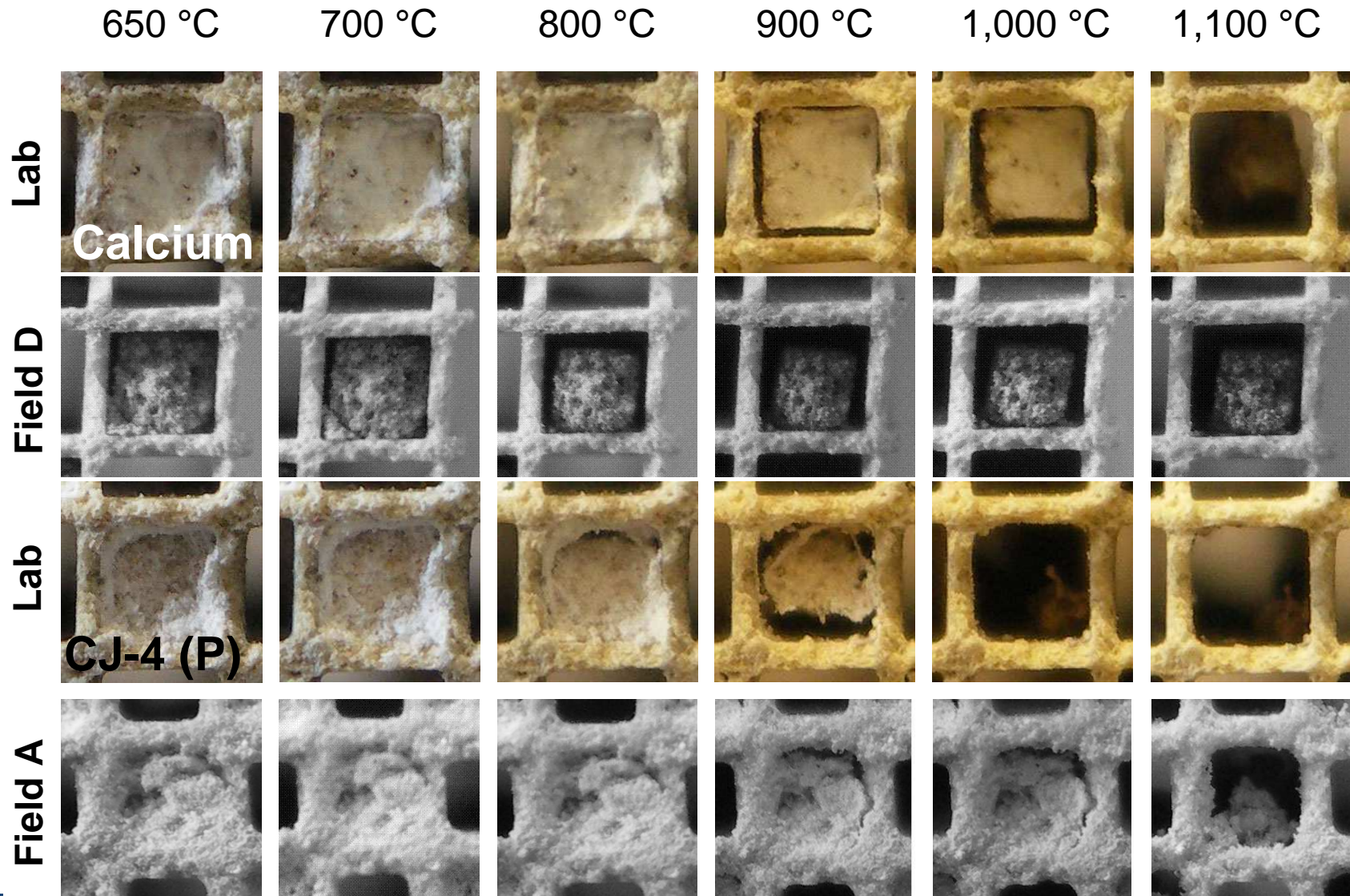


Despite large volume reduction, ash weigh change < 7%

Similar Behavior in Lab/Field Ash May Be Due to Chemistry

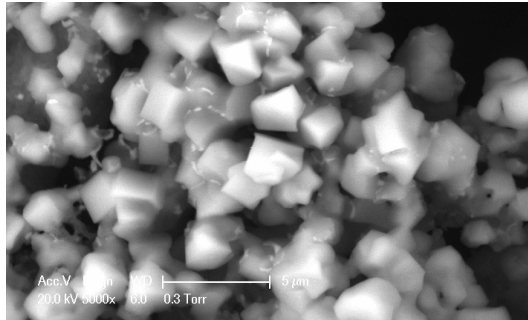
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SAE 2012-01-1093

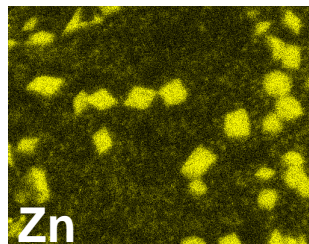
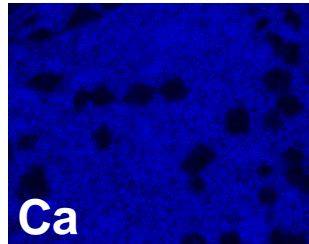
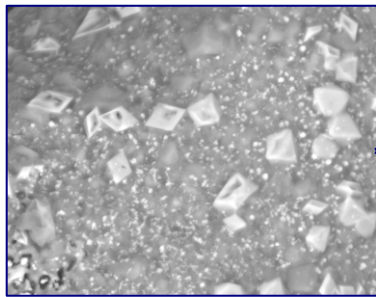


Chemical and Physical Changes in Ash at High Temps.

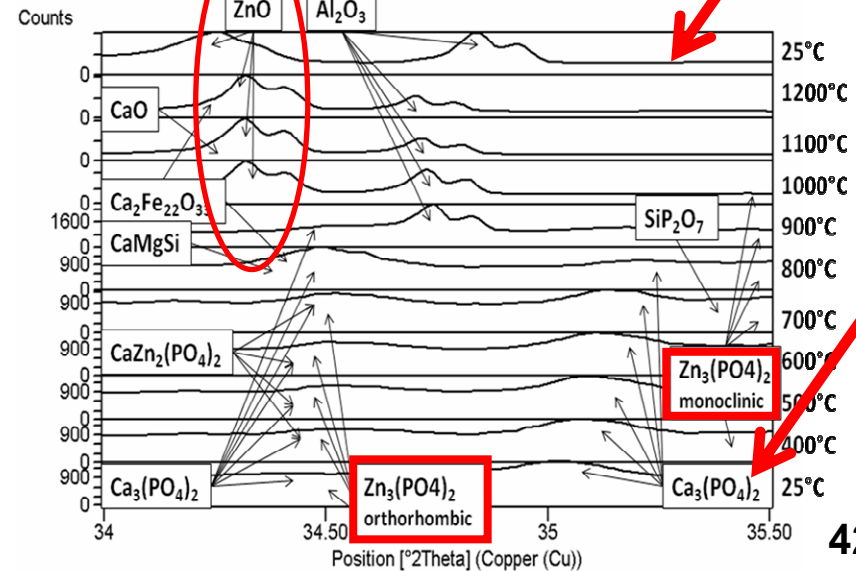
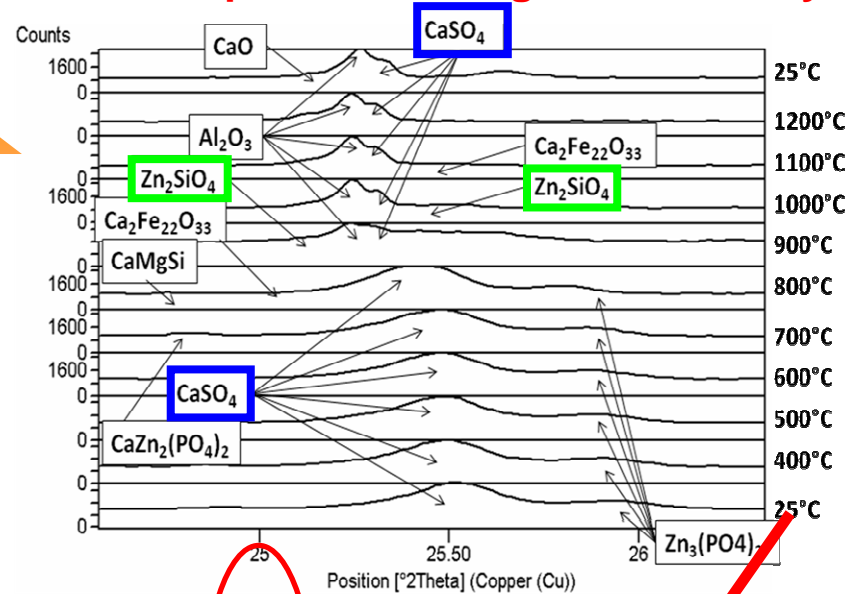
Equilibrium Crystal Structures formed at High Temperatures



$$\min(\int \gamma_s dA_s)$$



Ash Composition Changes Irreversibly

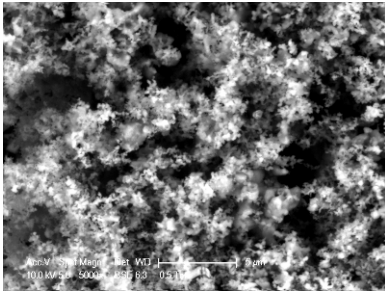


Applications to Understand Field DPF History

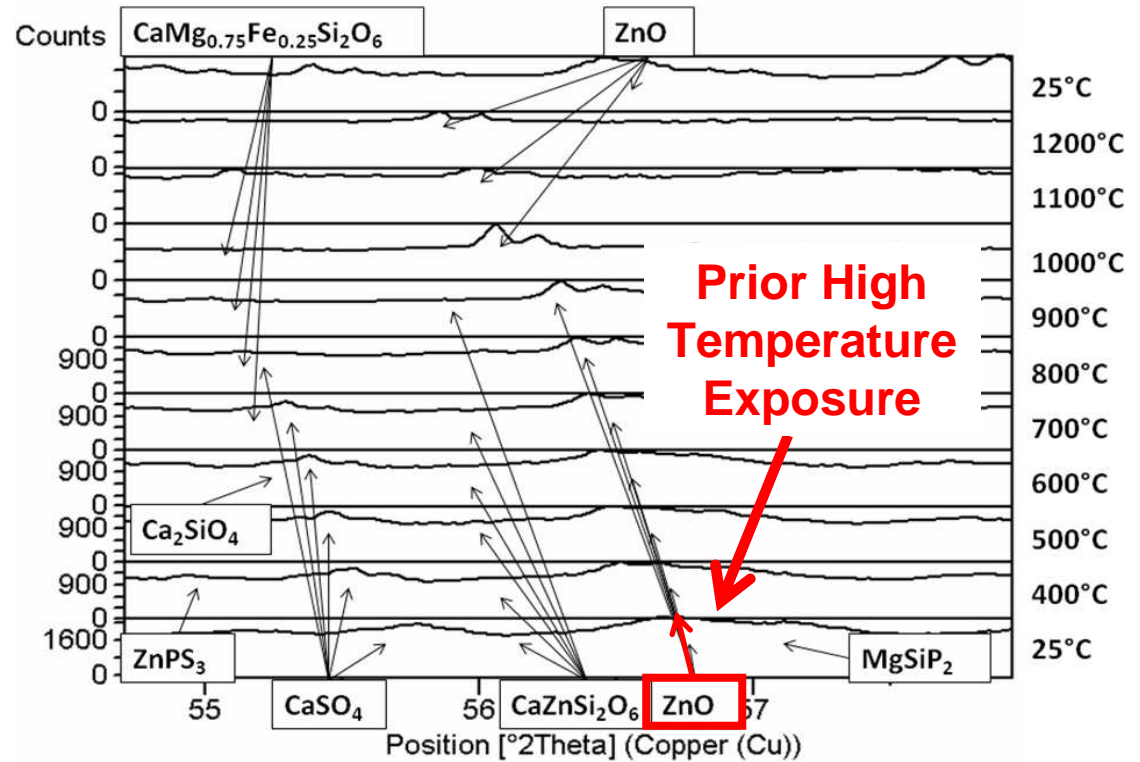
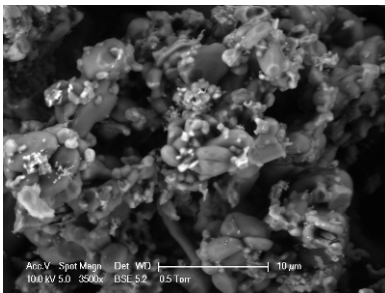
SLOAN AUTOMOTIVE
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SAE 2012-01-1093

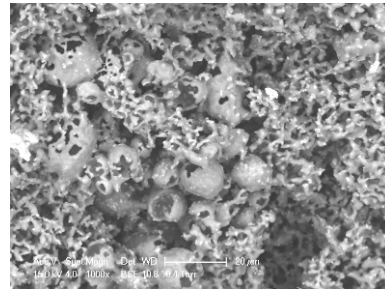
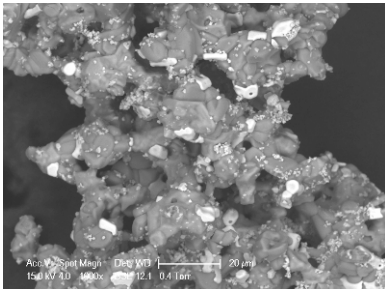
“Normal” Field Ash



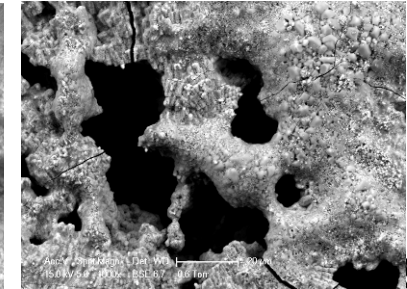
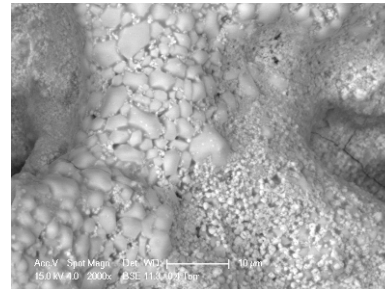
Field Ash Exposed to Thermal Event



Ash Necking & Agglomeration

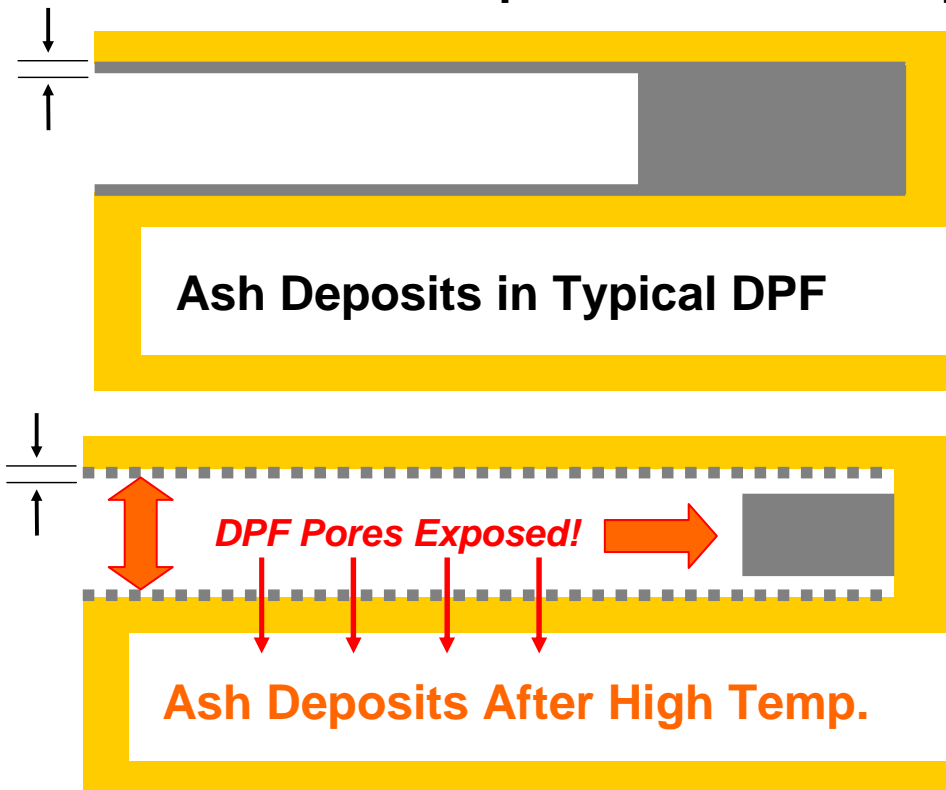


Wetting on Substrate



Conceptual Description of Temperature Effects on Ash

Possible Effect of Temperature on Ash Deposits



Competing Processes Require Detailed Understanding

- Elevated temperatures result in significant ash volume reduction
- Location of ash deposits (channel vs. wall) plays a large role in impact on ΔP
- Deterioration of ash cake layer could result in increased ΔP with soot

Key Parameters Controlling Ash Deposits and DPF Impacts

Engine-Out Ash Emissions and Transport

- *Form of ash in exhaust/feed gas entering DPF; ash trapping efficiency*

Ash Deposit Accumulation and Build-Up in the DPF

- *Agglomerate formation and ash mobility/distribution in DPF*

Ash Impact on DPF Pressure Drop Response

- *Ash composition and properties relevant to DPF performance*

Sensitivity of DPF Design Parameters to Ash Accumulation

- *Substrate materials, pore size & distribution, porosity*

Role of Engine Control Strategies and Exhaust Conditions

- *Temperature, flow, and feed gas conditions affecting ash deposits*

Regeneration Processes

- *Real-time optical studies of ash formation and mobility*

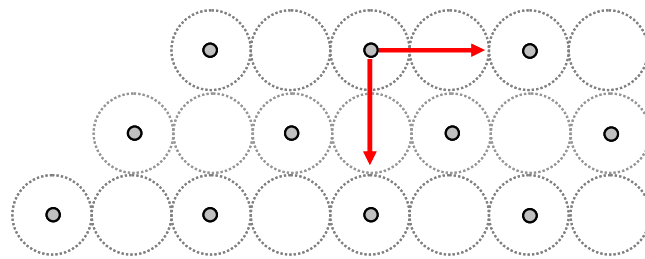
Ash – Catalyst Interactions

- *Chemical and physical interactions of ash and catalyst/washcoat*

Optical Access System for DPF Regeneration Studies

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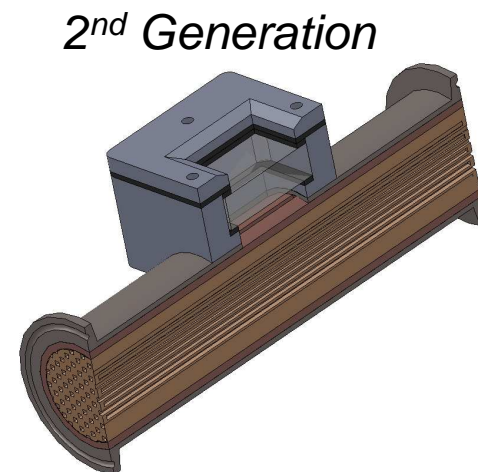
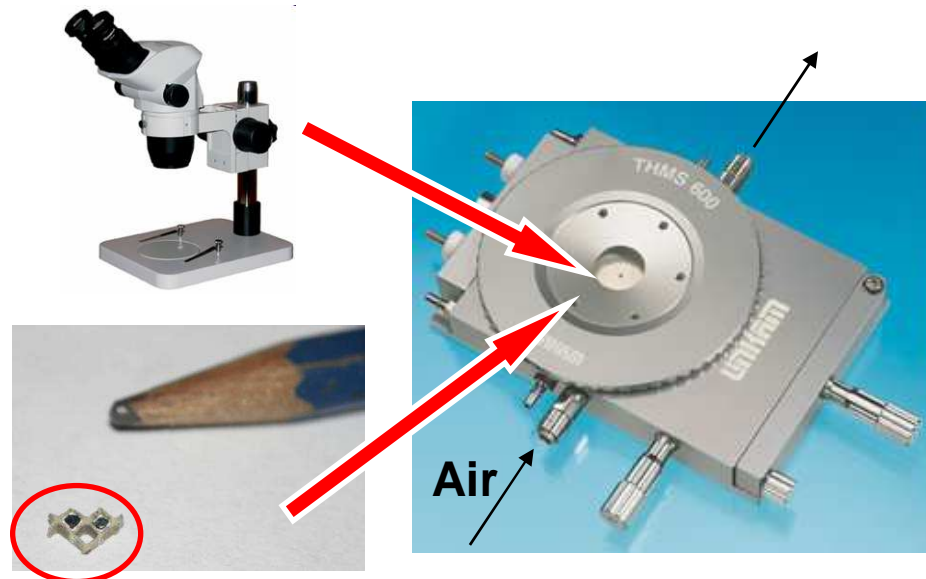
- **Understand Influence of Regeneration on Ash Properties**
 - Active/Passive strategies may impact ash agglomeration and mobility
 - Role of soot interactions with ash during regeneration important



DPF Substrate

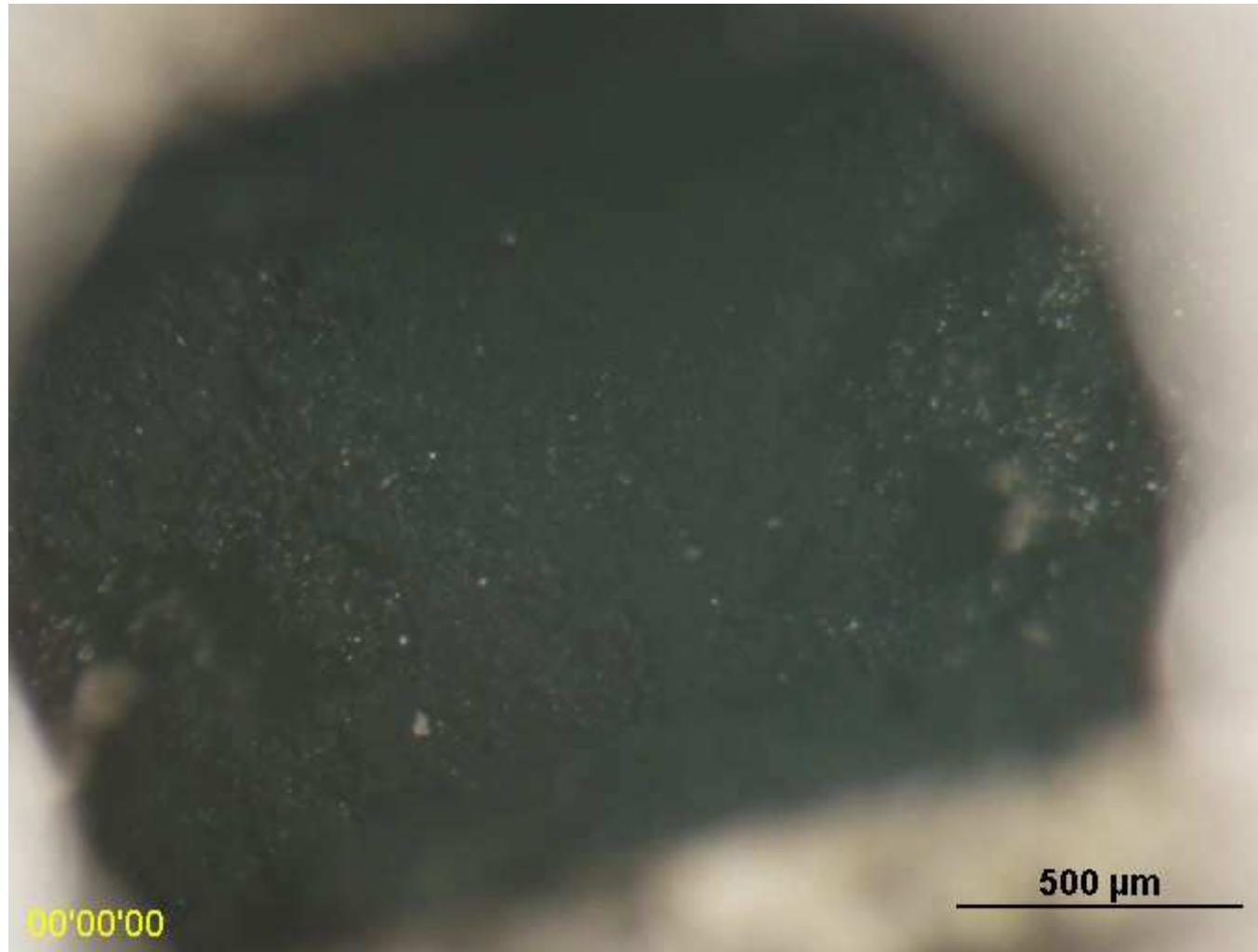
Regeneration Parameters

- Thickness of PM Layer
- Role of NO₂ from DOC vs. CDPF
- Temperature and flow conditions
- Catalysts interactions



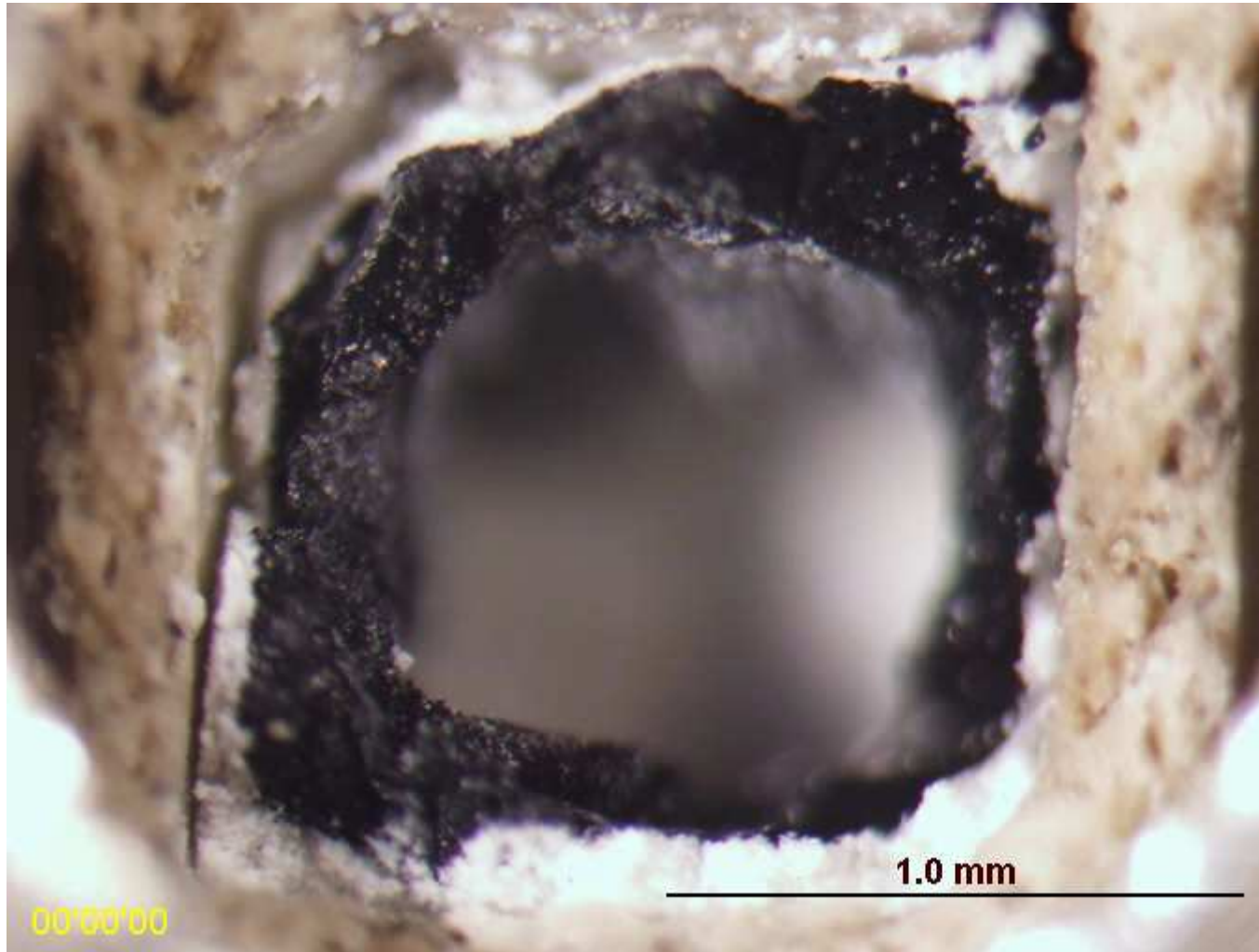
Video: PM Oxidation on Clean DPF Surface (Heavy PM)

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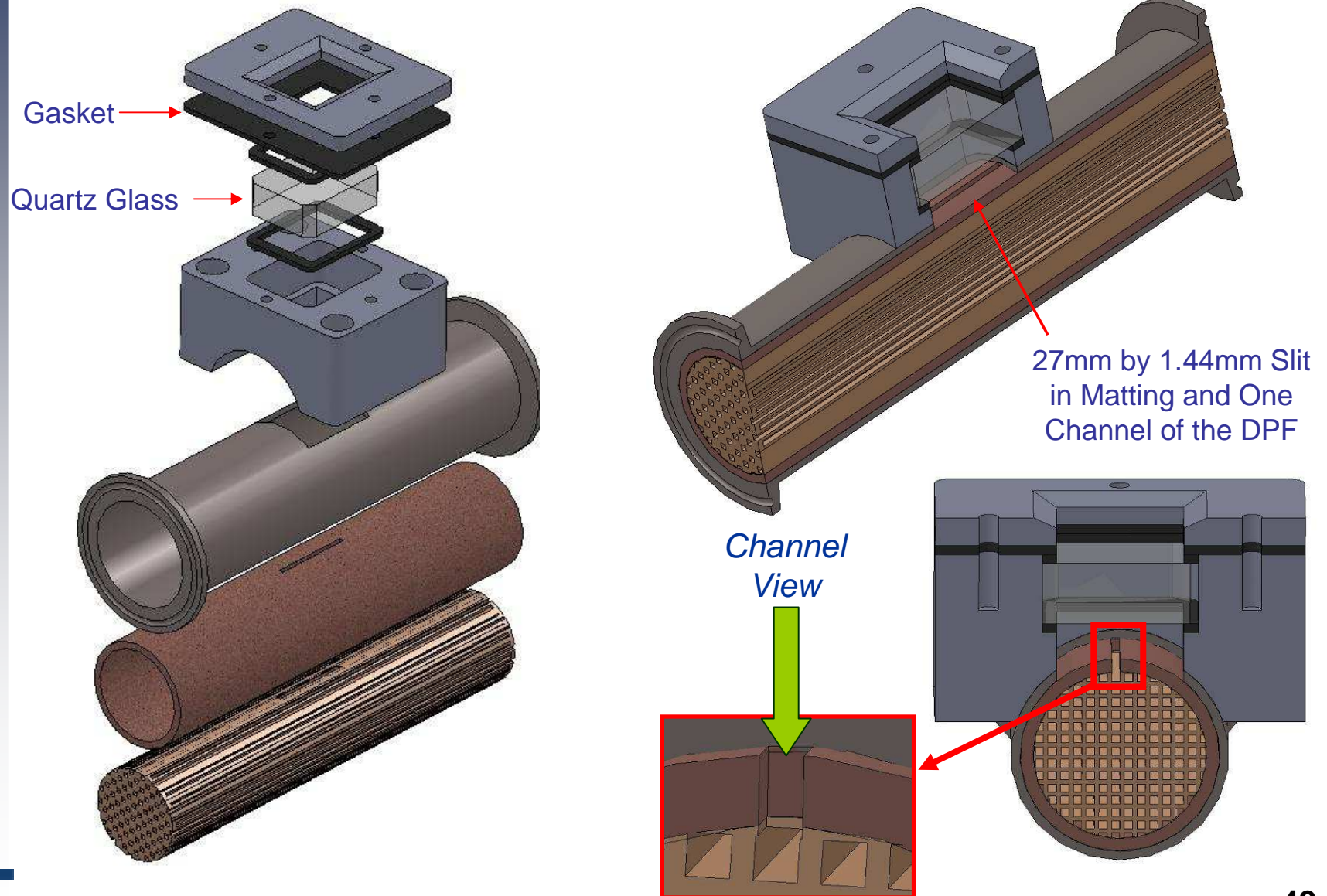
Video: PM Oxidation with Ash (DPF Cross Section)

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LABORATORY



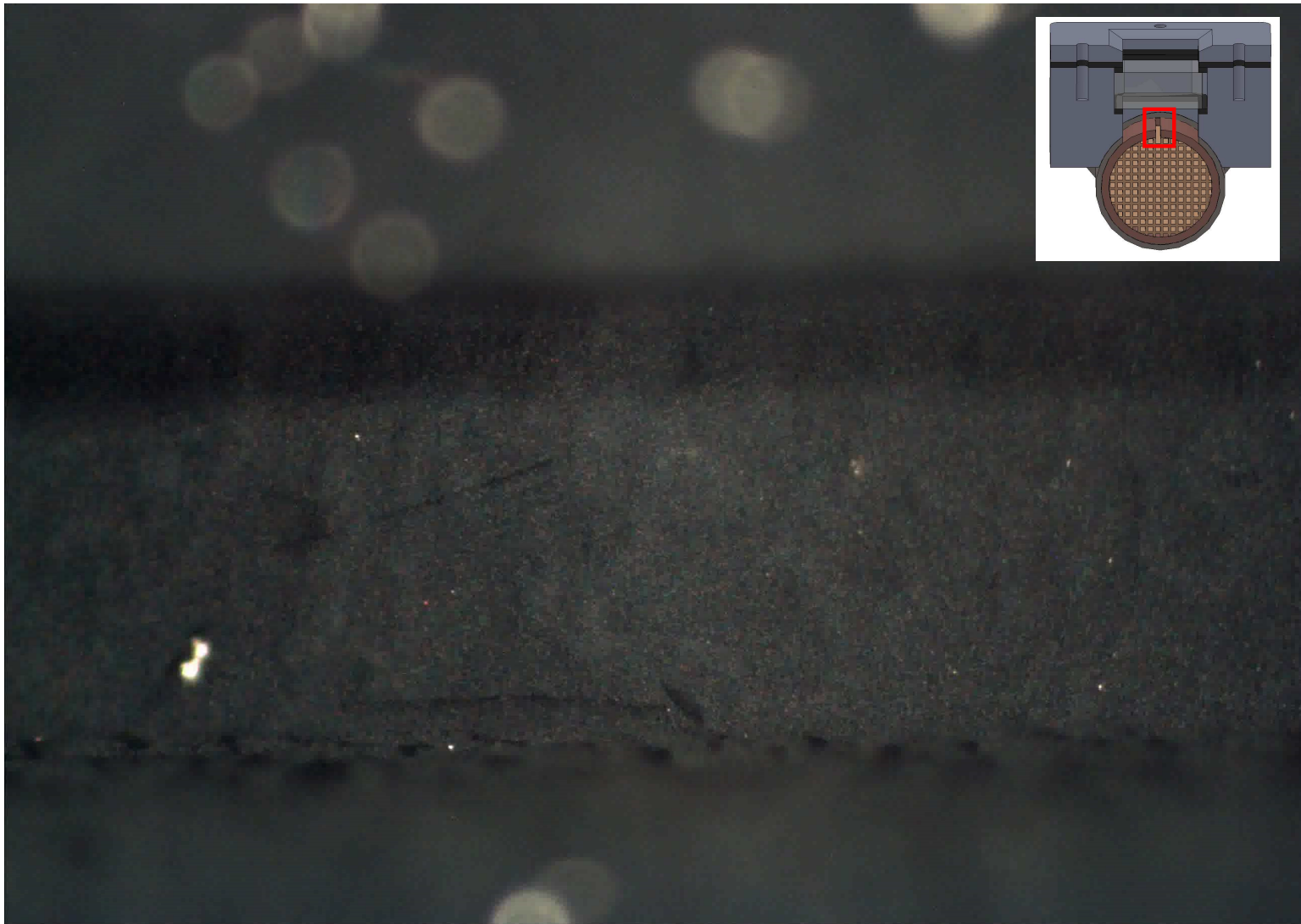
Current Optical Setup for Flow Reactor Testing

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LABORATORY



Video: PM Oxidation on Clean DPF Surface (Heavy PM)

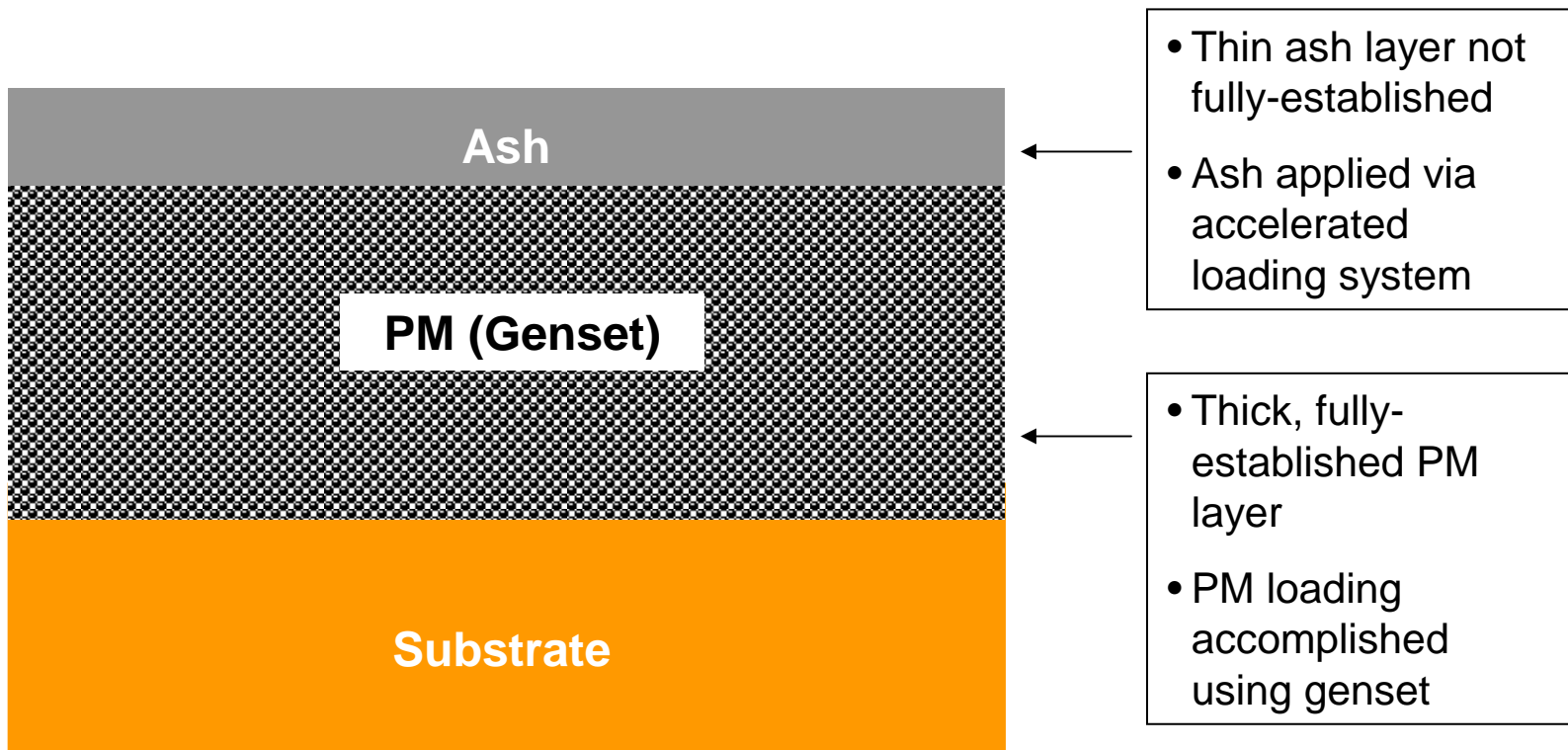
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Ash Deposition on Top of PM Layer: Regeneration

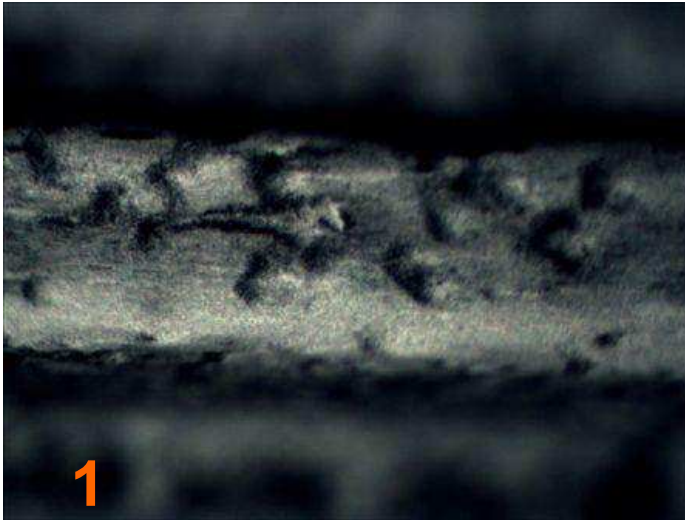
Coat surface of soot cake with thin layer of ash

- Allows for visualization of ash/PM mobility during regeneration
- Enables visualization of ash agglomerate formation



Ash Deposition on Top of PM Layer: Regeneration

Regeneration with thin ash layer covering PM surface



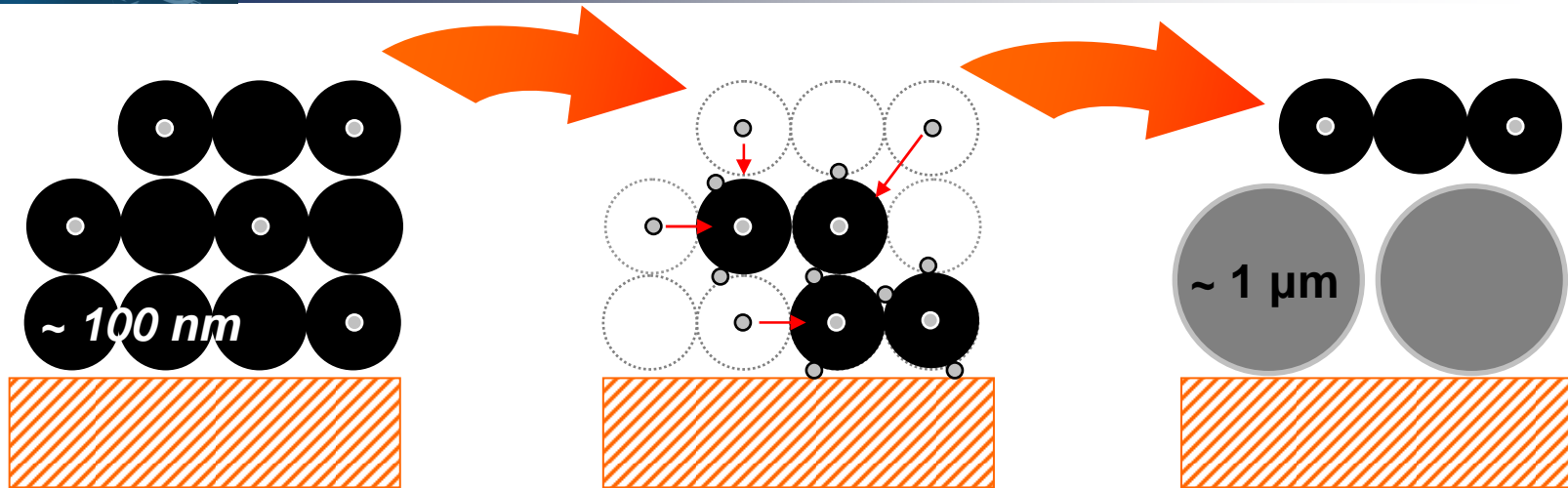
Video: Ash Deposited on Top of PM Layer

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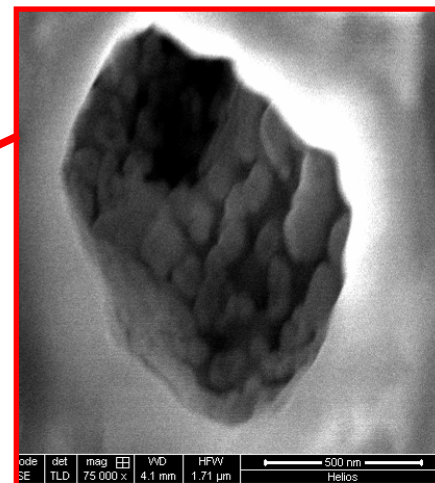
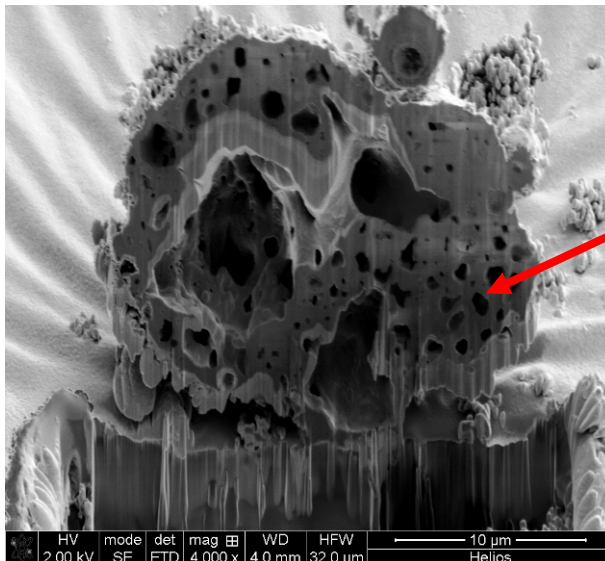


Ash Agglomeration Process During Soot Oxidation

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Ash residence time in DPF is long ~ 100,000 + Miles



Internal void
shows walls
composed of
~nm scale
particles

Key Parameters Controlling Ash Deposits and DPF Impacts

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Summary and Conclusions

Detailed understanding of all system parameters important to reduce impact of ash on DPF degradation and fuel efficiency.

- I. Ash Build-Up:** Ash loading of ~ 10 g/L or around 50,000 miles required to form fully-established ash layer.
- II. Ash Morphology:** Two porosity scales identified in ash layer and ash primary particles, which are themselves hollow.
- III. Lube Chemistry:** Ash properties and DPF pressure drop strong function of additive composition.
- IV. Exhaust Conditions:** Transient changes in temperature induce much larger variations in ash packing than high flow rates.
- V. DPF Parameters:** DPF pressure drop relatively insensitive to original substrate porosity following ash layer build-up.
- VI. Regeneration Effects:** Preliminary optical studies highlight importance of regeneration parameters but requires further study. 56

Acknowledgements

- Research supported by: MIT Consortium to Optimize Lubricant and Diesel Engines for Robust Emission Aftertreatment Systems
- We thank the following organizations for their support:

- Caterpillar - Chevron/Oronite - Cummins
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- Ciba - Ford - Lutek

- MIT Center for Materials Science and Engineering