

# The Effect of Impurities on Oxidation in Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> at 750°C

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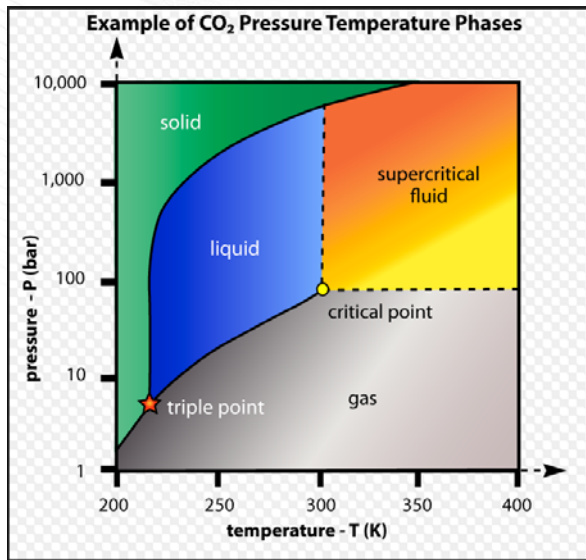
ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle  
for the US Department of Energy



# Acknowledgments

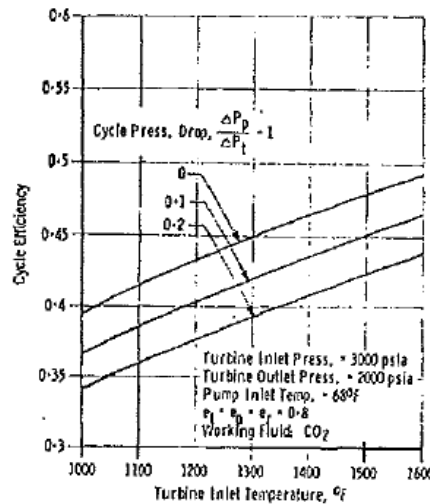
- Funding from DOE Solar Energy Technology Office
  - SunShot Initiative, SuNLaMP award number DE-EE0001556
- Funding from DOE Fossil Energy Program
  - Vito Cedro (NETL) project monitor, Regis Conrad (DOE) program manager
- GDOES, Michael Lance
- TEM, Kinga Unocic
- ORNL technicians
  - Mike Howell
  - Mike Stephens
  - Tracie Lowe (SEM/ImageJ)
  - George Garner
  - Tyson Jordan

# Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (sCO<sub>2</sub>) has high efficiency potential for several power generation applications



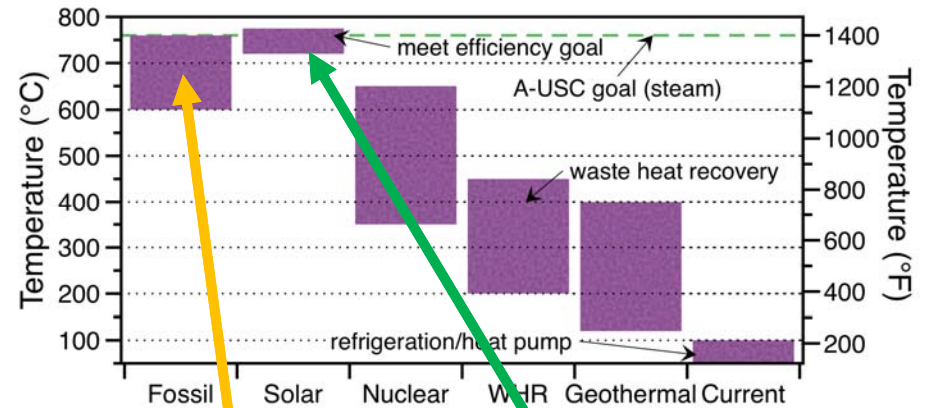
**Critical Point:**  
31°C, 74 bar

**50% eff @  
>720°C**



**Feher, 1965**

## Temperature range estimates for various applications



**Fossil bottoming cycle**



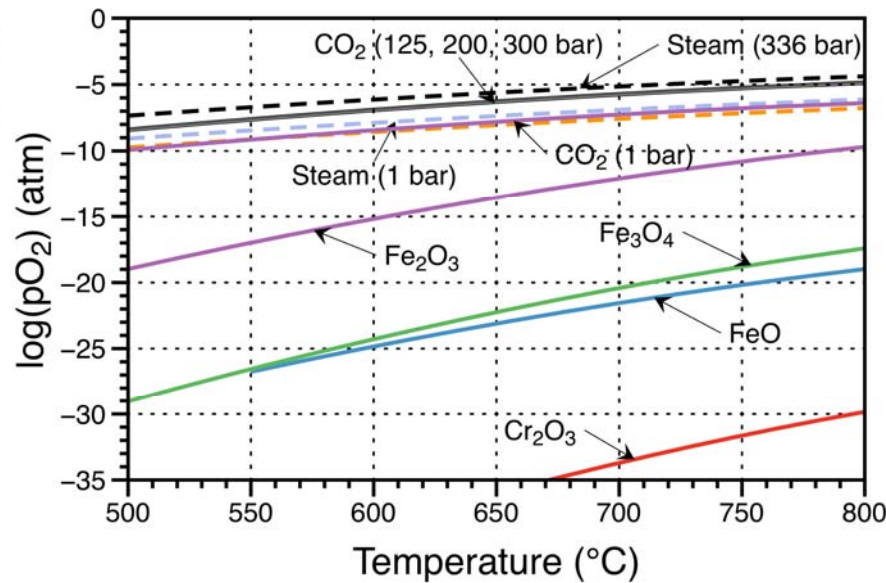
Courtesy: Business Wire

**ORNL National Laboratory**

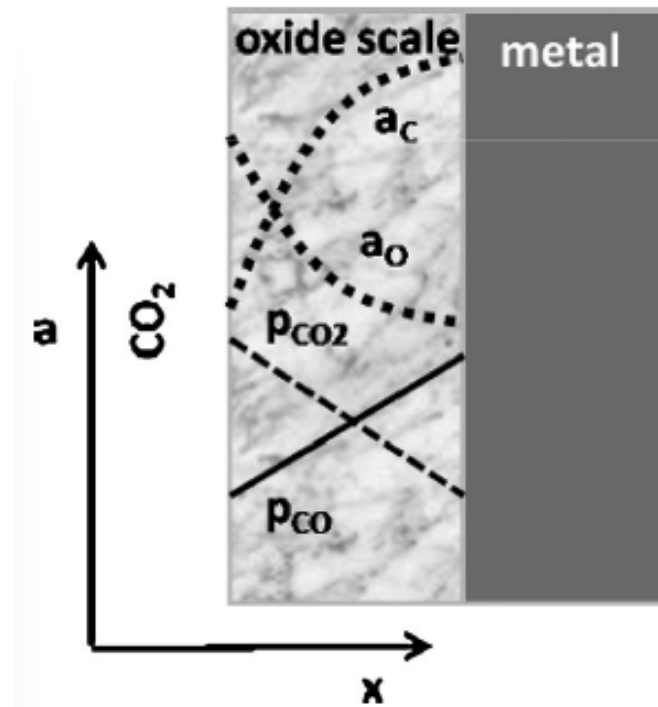
- High density
  - Like a liquid
- Flexible
  - small turbomachinery

# Thermodynamics: Oxygen levels similar in steam/CO<sub>2</sub>

## Concern about high C activity at m-o interface



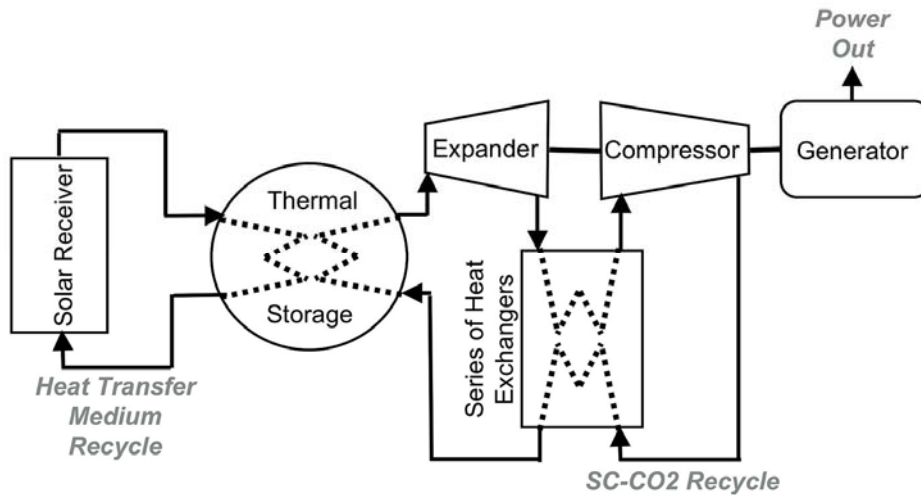
Factsage calculations



From Young et al. 2011  
 Also Fujii and Muessner, 1967

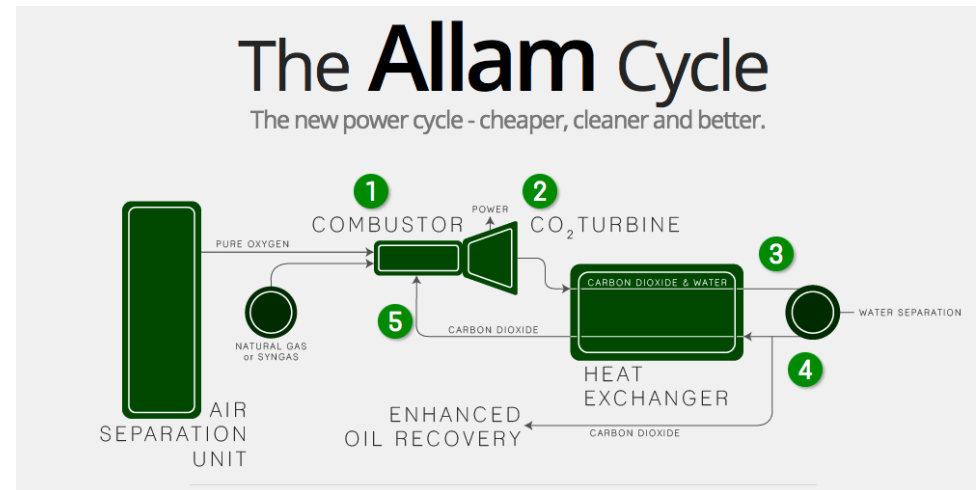
# Indirect- vs. direct-fired sCO<sub>2</sub> systems (i.e. closed vs. open)

**Closed cycle (indirect-fired):  
“pure” CO<sub>2</sub> 100-300 bar**



**DOE SunShot funding**

**Open cycle (direct-fired):  
sCO<sub>2</sub> + impurities (O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O...)**



**DOE Fossil Energy funding**

# Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Allam cycle: first clean fossil energy?

NetPower 25 MWe demo plant (Texas)  
Exelon, Toshiba, CB&I, 8Rivers Capital: \$140m

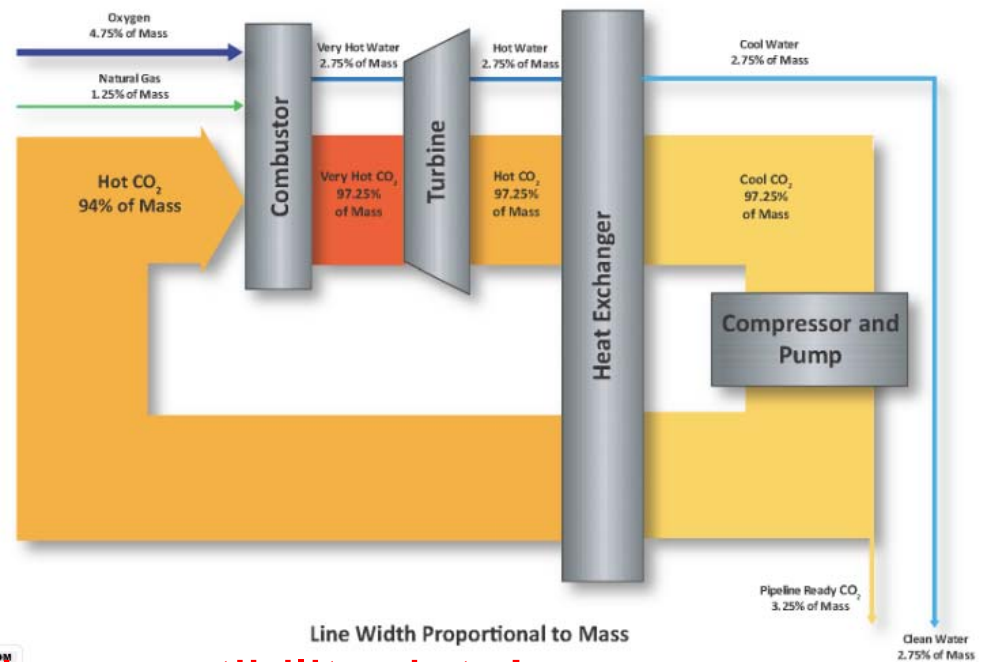


The prototype NET Power plant near Houston, Texas, is testing an emission-free technology designed to compete with conventional fossil power.

CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON

**Reported 95+% complete**

Material challenges:  
Combustor: 1150°C (!?!)  
Turbine exit: 750°C/300 bar



**Moving forward with limited compatibility data!  
As audacious as Eddystone in 1960**

## Project goal is to study $O_2+H_2O$ effects on $sCO_2$ compatibility

- Conflicting literature on effect of impurities (U.Wisc., EPRI)
  - BUT, we can't easily pump impurities into flowing  $sCO_2$  fluid
  - AND can't monitor  $H_2O$  or  $O_2$  level at pressure
- 1) 1 bar dry air,  $CO_2(99.995\%)$ ,  $CO_2+0.15\%O_2$ ,  $CO_2+10\%H_2O$  (2014-15)
  - 2) Compare 1 & 300 bar: industrial vs. research grade  $CO_2$  vs. lab air
    - Test matrix nearly complete, creating a baseline for understanding #5
  - 3) Study 1 & 25 bar RG  $CO_2$  vs.  $CO_2+10\%H_2O$  vs.  $CO_2+10\%H_2O+0.1\%SO_2$ 
    - 500 h exposures completed at  $700^\circ$  and  $800^\circ C$
  - 4) Study 1 & 43 bar RG  $CO_2$  at  $640^\circ C$  to compare to gas-cooled reactors
  - 5) **Constructed rig for 300 bar/ $750^\circ C$  testing with  $1\%O_2+0.25\%H_2O$** 
    - First experiment completed in February

# Two sCO<sub>2</sub> projects at ORNL

## DOE Fossil Energy

- 750°C/300 bar: 500-h cycles
- Focus on impurity effects for direct-fire
  - Baseline research grade (RG) CO<sub>2</sub>
  - New autoclave with controlled O<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O
- Alloys
  - 310HCbN (HR3C, Fe-base SS)
  - 617
  - 230
  - MarM247 (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-forming superalloy)
  - Haynes 282 (Heat #1)
  - 740H, Special Metals

## DOE SunShot (CSP)

- 750°C/300 bar: 500-h cycles
  - Including 750°C/1 bar, 10-h cycles
- Focus on industrial grade (IG) CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Indirect fired (closed loop)
- Alloys
  - Sanicro 25 (Fe-base SS)
  - 625
  - 740H, Special Metals
  - Haynes 282 (Heat #2)

Cooperative test matrix:

|         | Air     | RG CO <sub>2</sub> | IG CO <sub>2</sub> | FE: CO <sub>2</sub> +O <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O |
|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 bar   | 5,000 h | 5,000 h            | 4,000 h            | —   |
| 300 bar | —       | 4,500 h            | 5,000 h            | 500 h   |



# CO<sub>2</sub> compatibility evaluated three ways at 700°-800°C

**Autoclave: 300 bar sCO<sub>2</sub>  
500-h cycles**



Correct temperature and pressure

**Tube furnace: 1 bar CO<sub>2</sub>  
500-h cycles**



Same cycle frequency as autoclave

**"Keiser" rig:  
500-h cycles, 1-43 bar CO<sub>2</sub>**



Study impurities at 1-43 bar

Baseline of research grade (RG) CO<sub>2</sub>:  $\leq 5$  ppm H<sub>2</sub>O and  $\leq 5$  ppm O<sub>2</sub>  
industrial grade (IG) CO<sub>2</sub>:  $18 \pm 16$  ppm H<sub>2</sub>O and  $\leq 32$  ppm O<sub>2</sub>

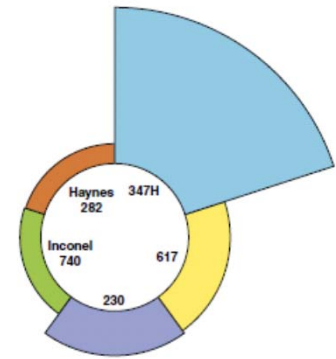
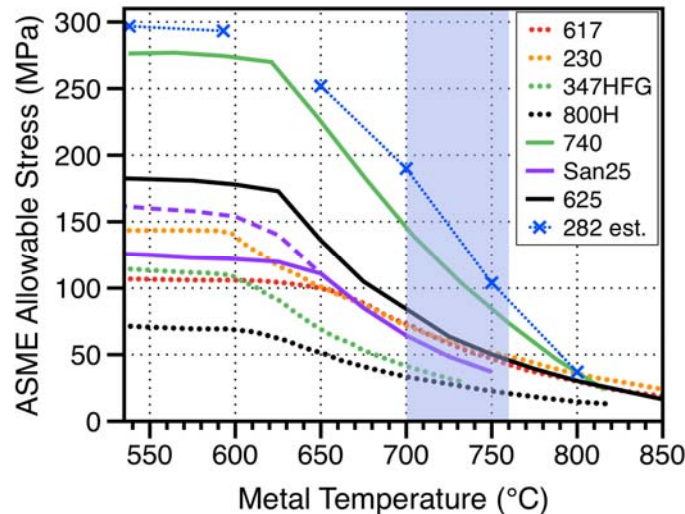
# Four alloys selected for SunShot study

- Composition analyzed by ICP-OES and combustion analyses

| Alloy                                | Fe   | Ni   | Cr   | Al   | Co   | Mo  | Nb  | Ti   | Mn   | Si   | Other                            |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----------------------------------|
| Sanicro 25<br>(Sandvik)              | 42.6 | 25.4 | 22.3 | 0.03 | 1.5  | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.02 | 0.5  | 0.2  | 3.5W, 3.0Cu, 0.2N<br>0.068 C     |
| Haynes 282<br>(Haynes International) | 0.2  | 57.1 | 19.6 | 1.6  | 10.6 | 8.6 | <   | 2.2  | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.059 C<br>(< is less than 0.02) |
| Inconel 740H<br>(Special Metals)     | 0.1  | 49.7 | 24.5 | 1.4  | 20.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.4  | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.027 C                          |
| 625<br>(industry selection)          | 4.0  | 61.0 | 21.7 | 0.12 | 0.1  | 8.8 | 3.5 | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.06W, 0.09Cu, 0.016C            |

**ASME Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code allowables:**

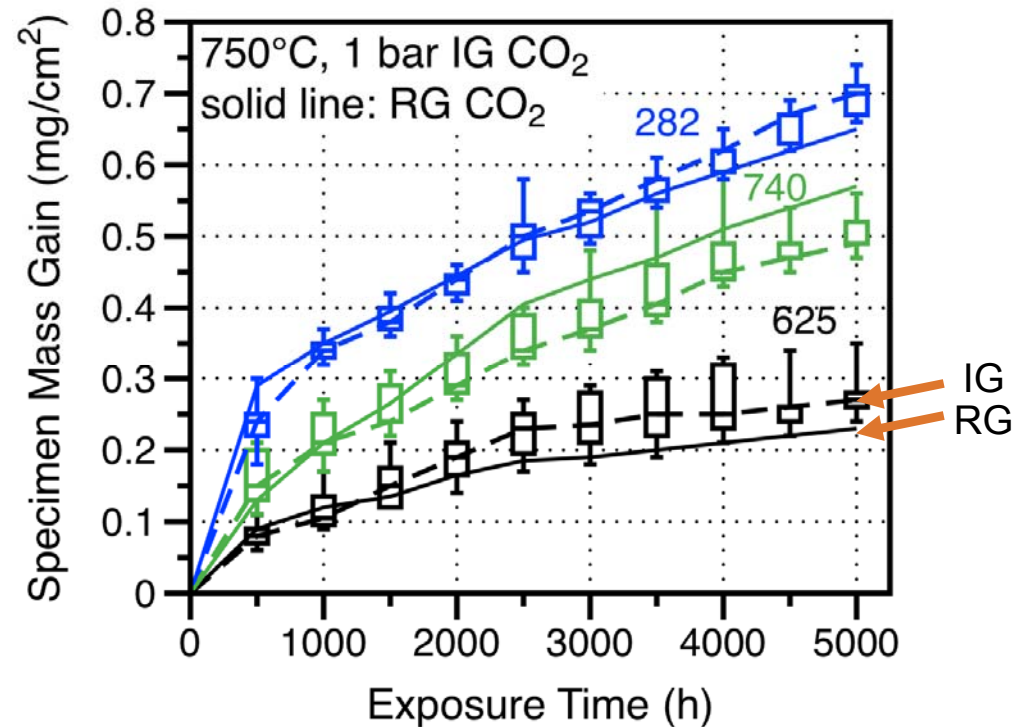
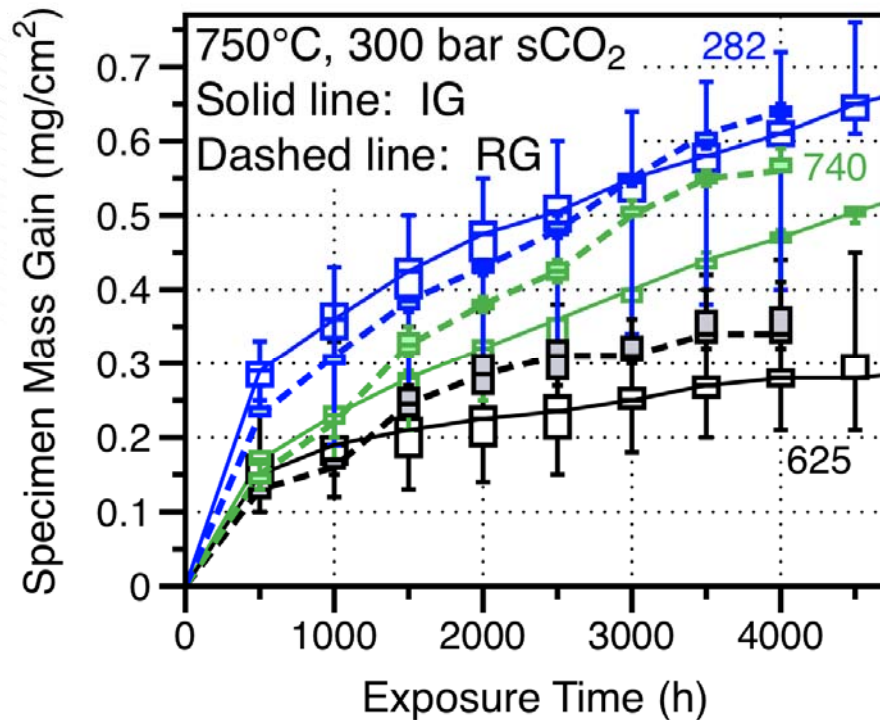
**Precipitation-strengthened ( $\gamma'$ ) Ni-base alloys**



Shingledecker ~2011

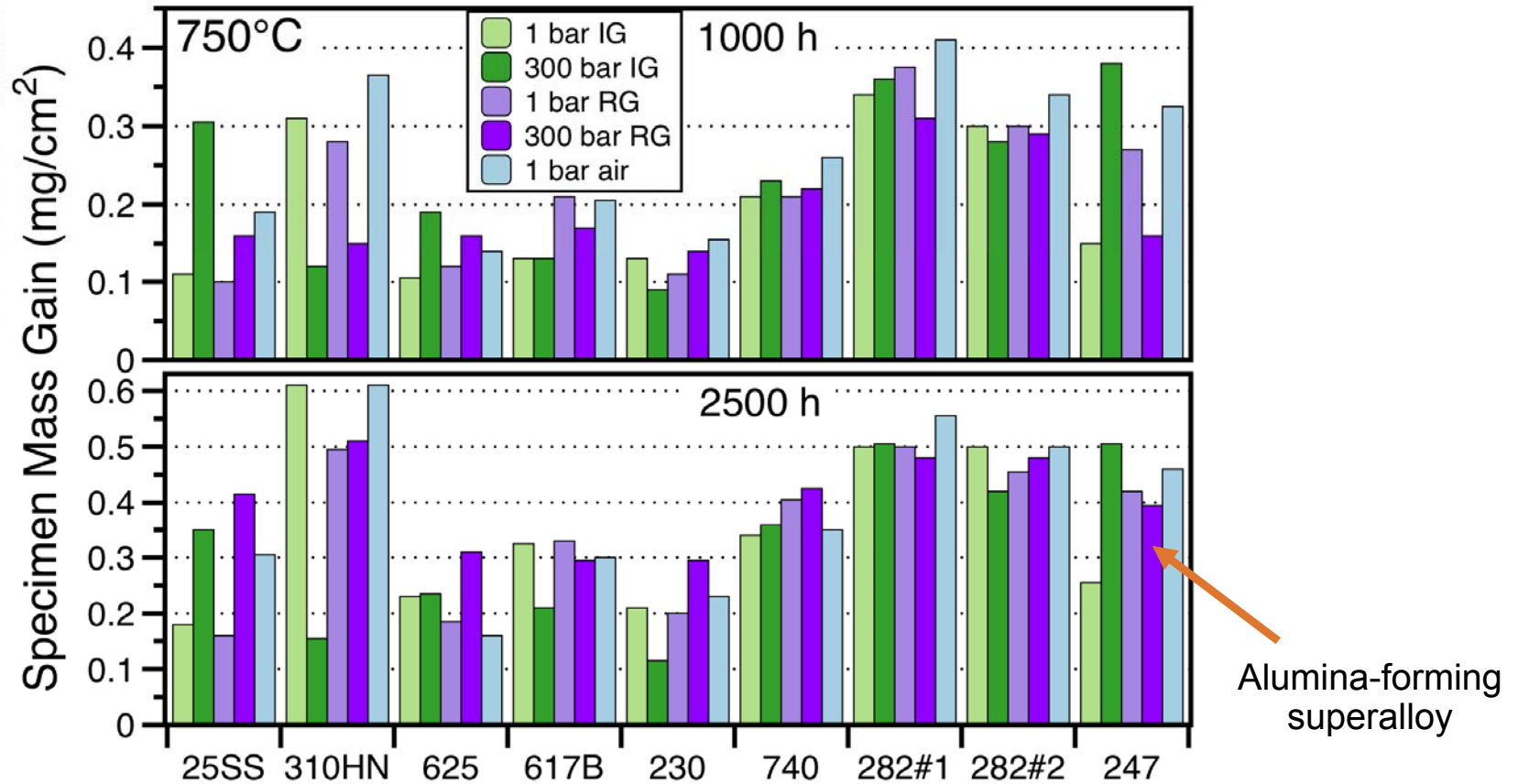


# No major differences in mass change at 750°C between IG and RG CO<sub>2</sub> at 300 and 1 bar



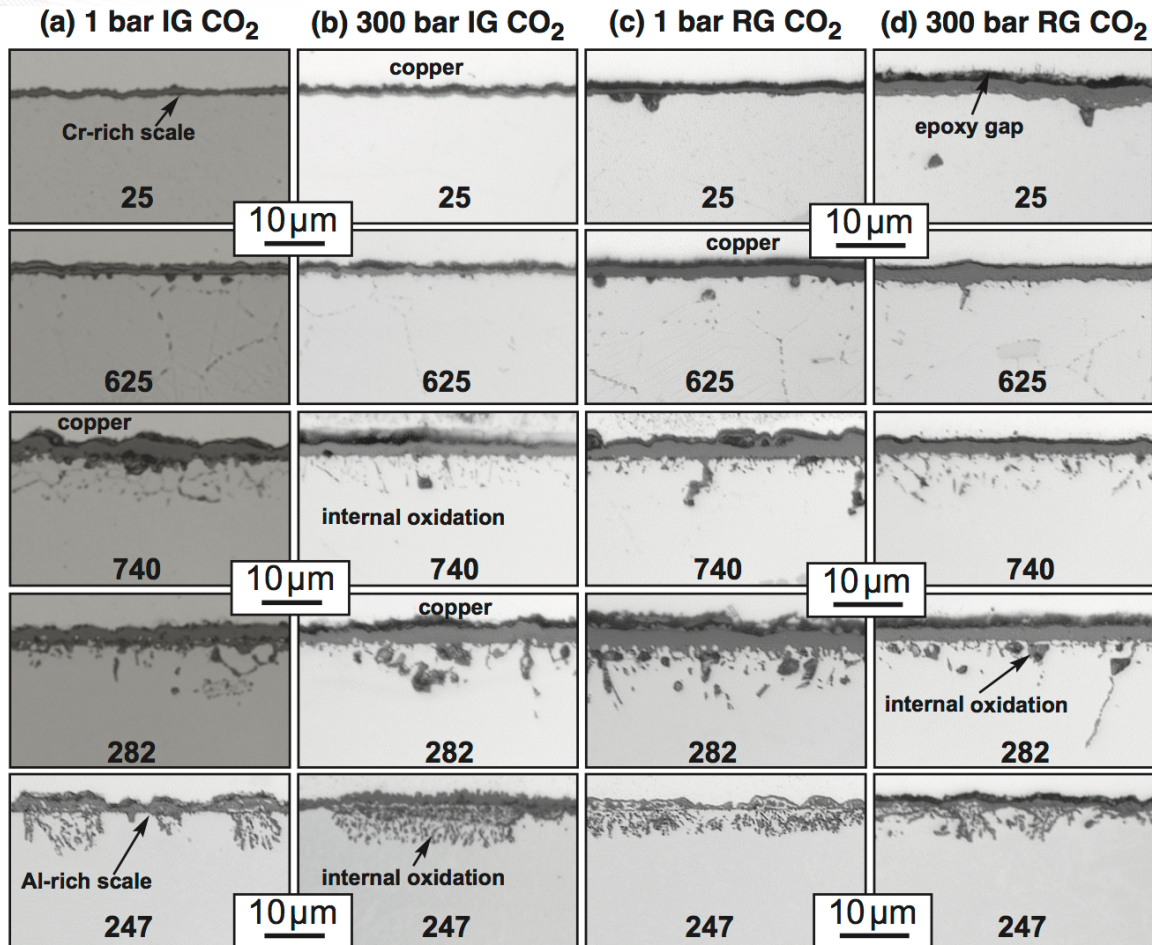
Line: median values      Box: 25-75%      Whiskers: min./max.  
 5-10 specimens per condition

# All conditions: not much different from lab. air exposure



Fe-based alloys show largest variations

# Minor differences observed after 2,500 h exposures at 750°C



Fe-22Cr-25Ni-4W-3Cu  
Lower-cost steel

Ni-22Cr-9Mo-4Nb-0.1Al-0.2Ti

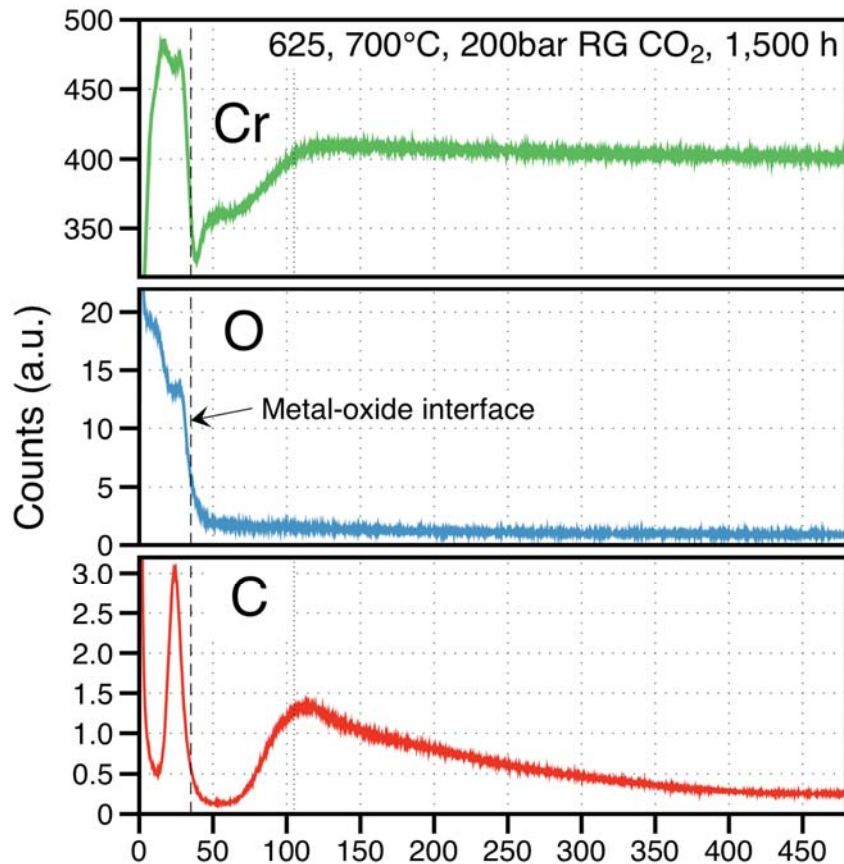
Ni-25Cr-20Co-2Nb-1.4Al-1.4Ti

Ni-20Cr-10Co-9Mo-1.6Al-2.2Ti

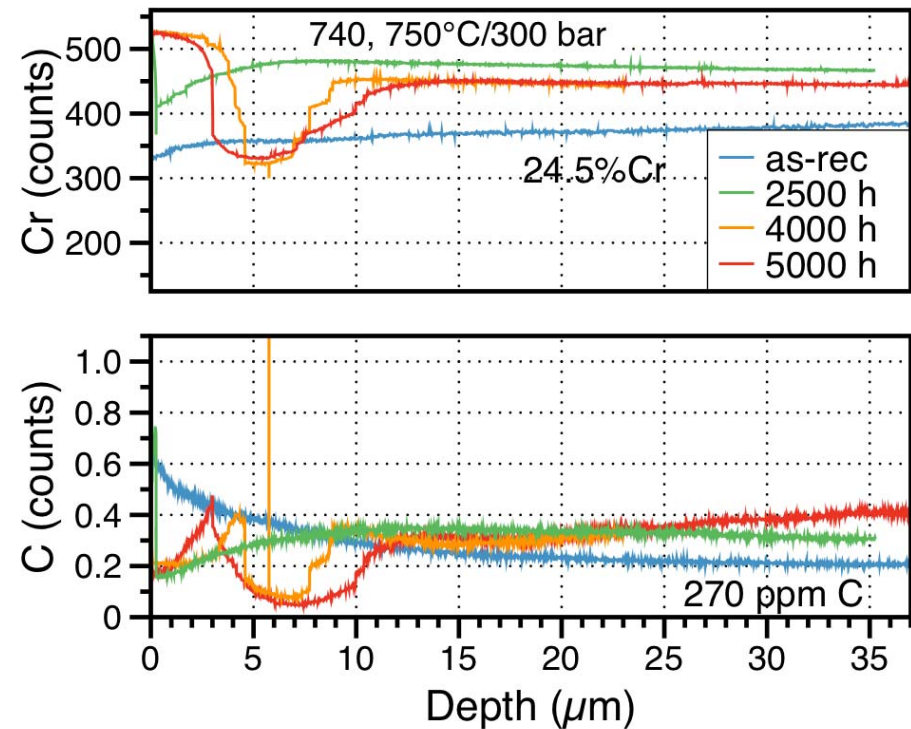
Ni-8Cr-10Co-10W-6Al-1Ti-3Ta-1Hf  
Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-forming superalloy

# GDOES can detect C ingress (when it occurs)

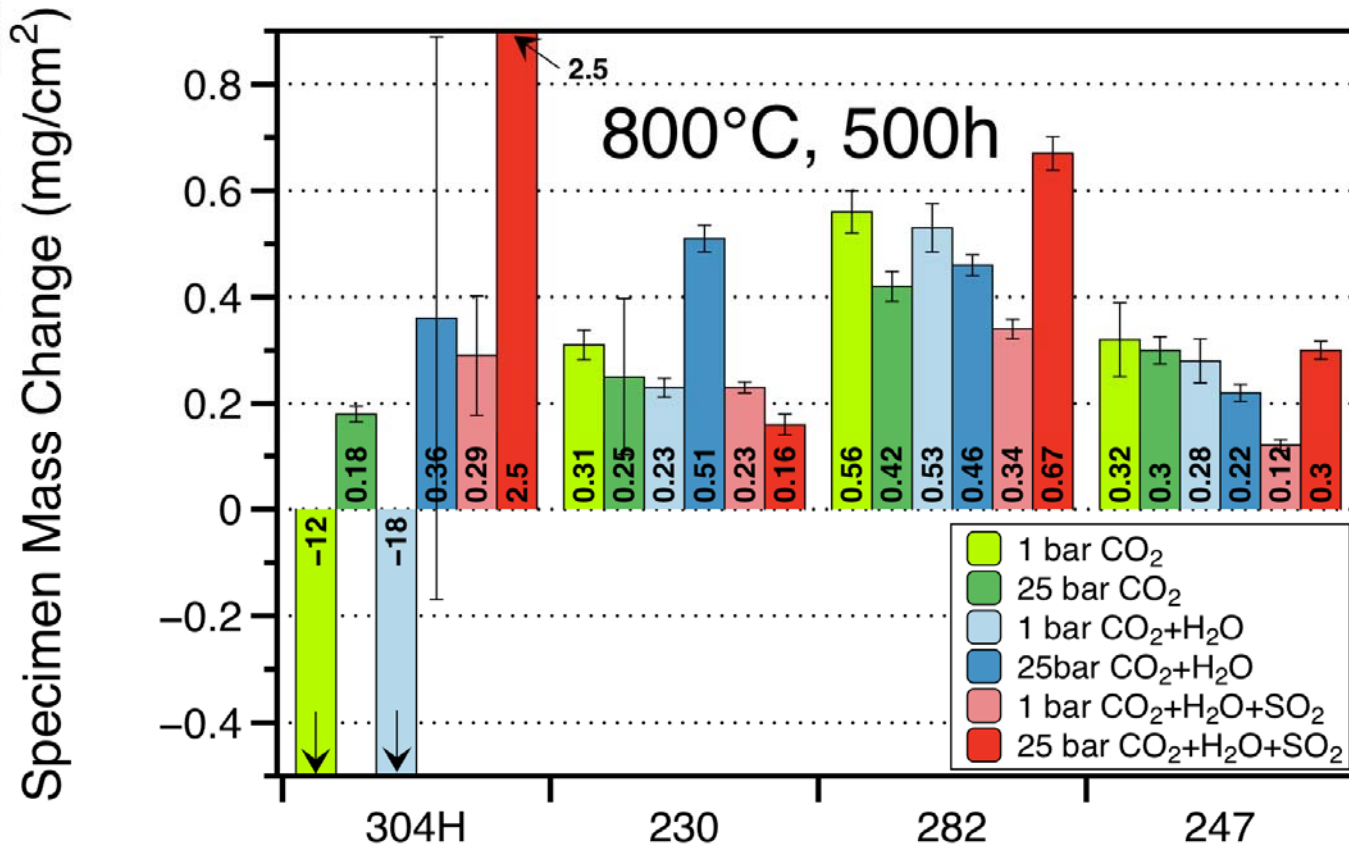
GDOES: glow discharge, optical emission spectroscopy



No C detected in 740H at 750°C/300 bar

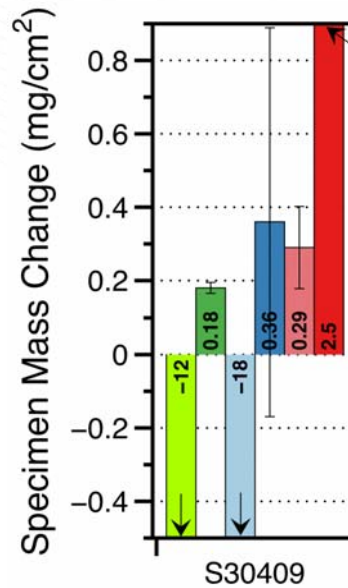


# Effect of impurities and pressure (NACE Corrosion 2018) 800°C 500h: strong variations for 304H (steel “canary”)



# 800°C light microscopy: strong variations observed for 304H

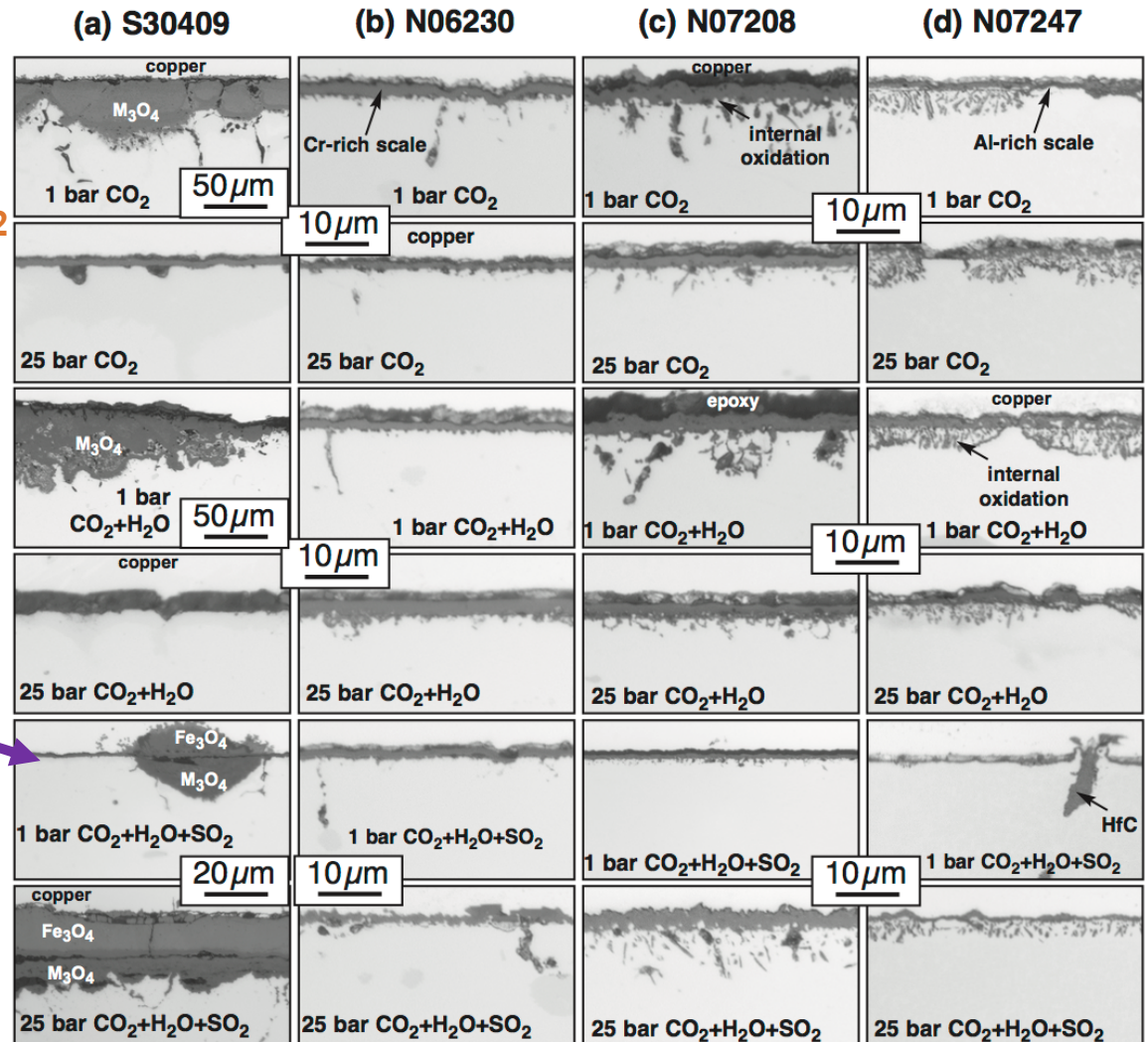
RG CO<sub>2</sub>



+10% H<sub>2</sub>O

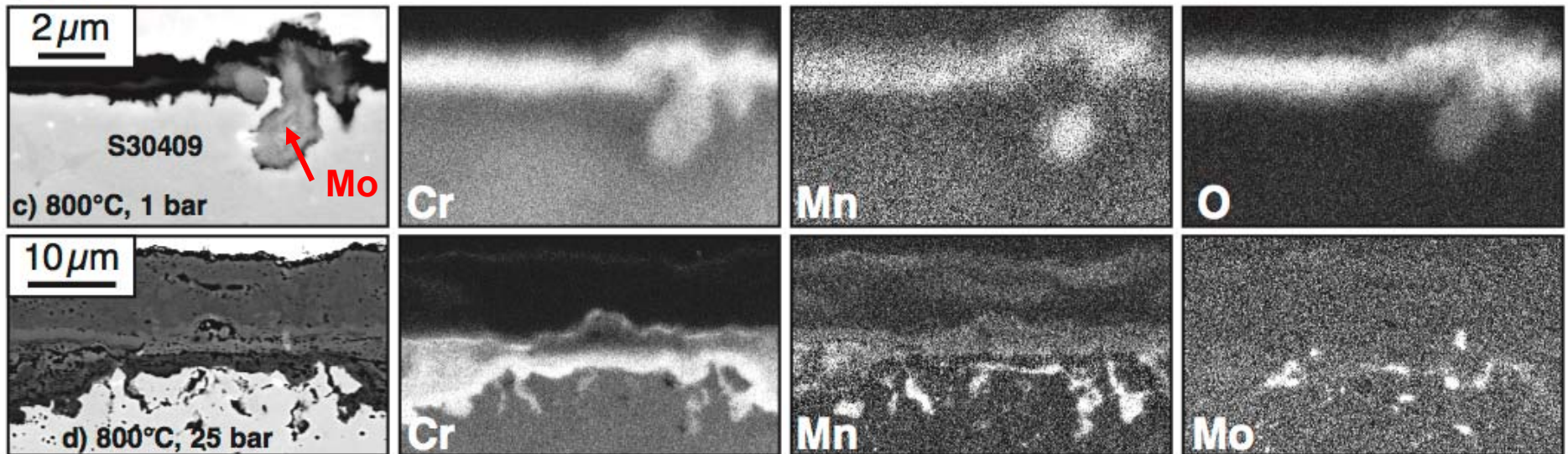
Almost Protective!

+10% H<sub>2</sub>O  
+0.1% SO<sub>2</sub>

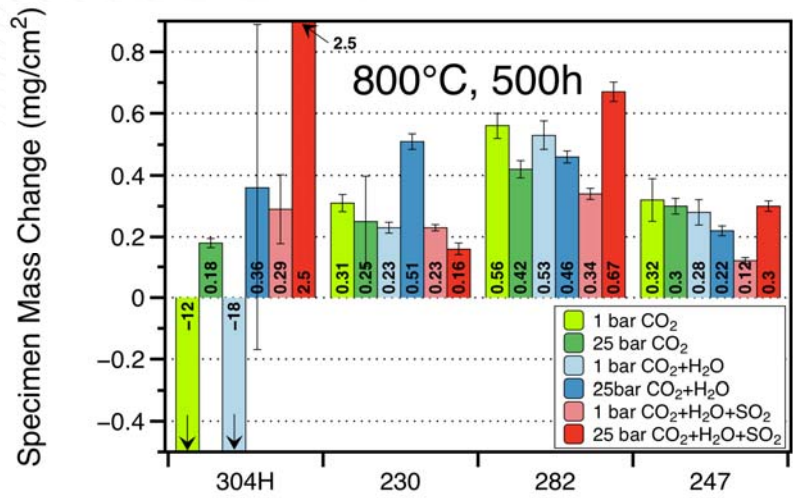




# SEM/EDX 304H: w/SO<sub>2</sub> at 1 bar formed thin protective scale (no good S maps)



# 800°C light microscopy: variations observed with pressure and SO<sub>2</sub>

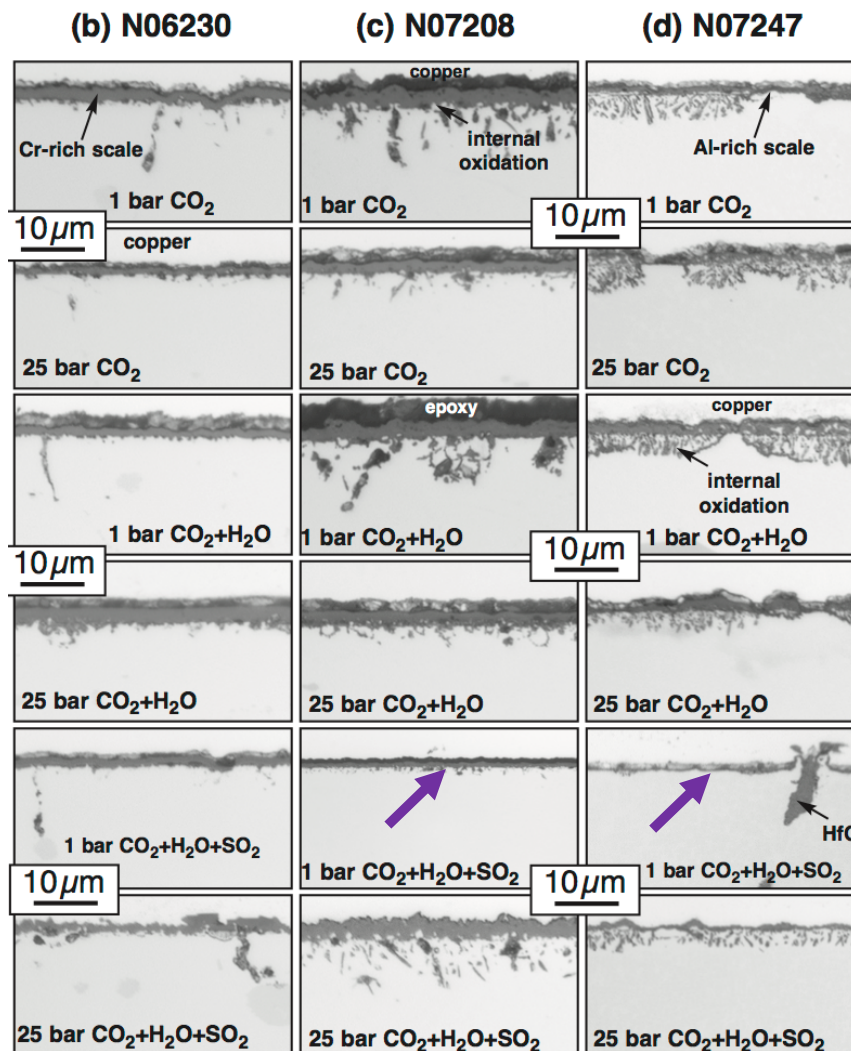


RG CO<sub>2</sub>

+10% H<sub>2</sub>O

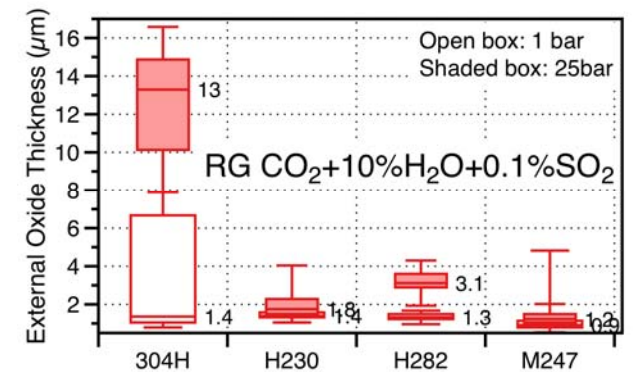
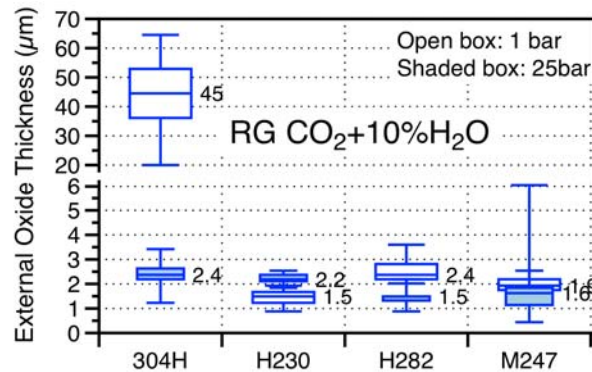
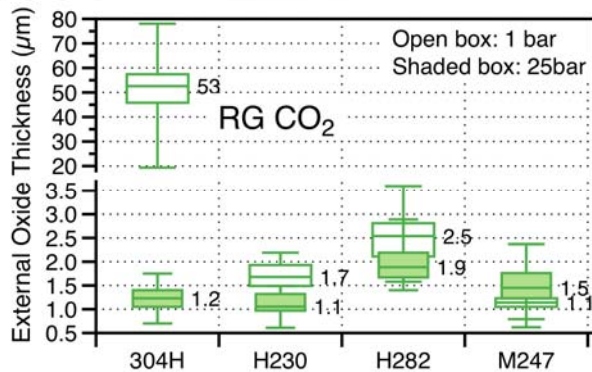
Minimal IO

+10% H<sub>2</sub>O  
+0.1% SO<sub>2</sub>



# 800°C Scale Quantification: thinner scale at 25 bar (in some cases)

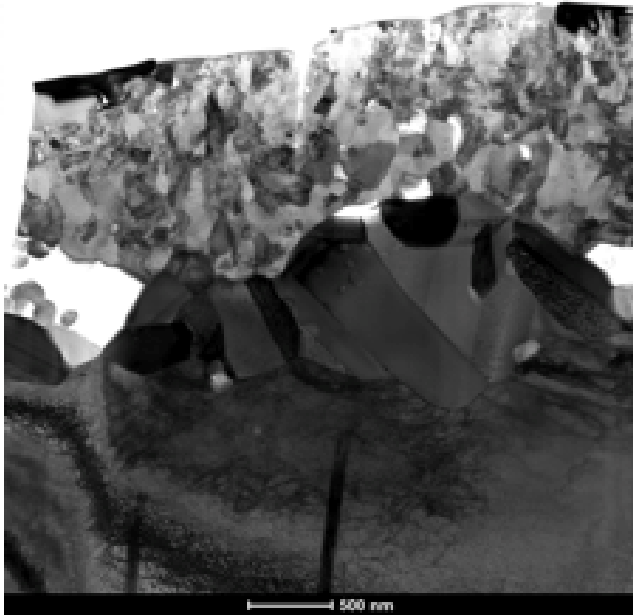
~30 measurements per condition



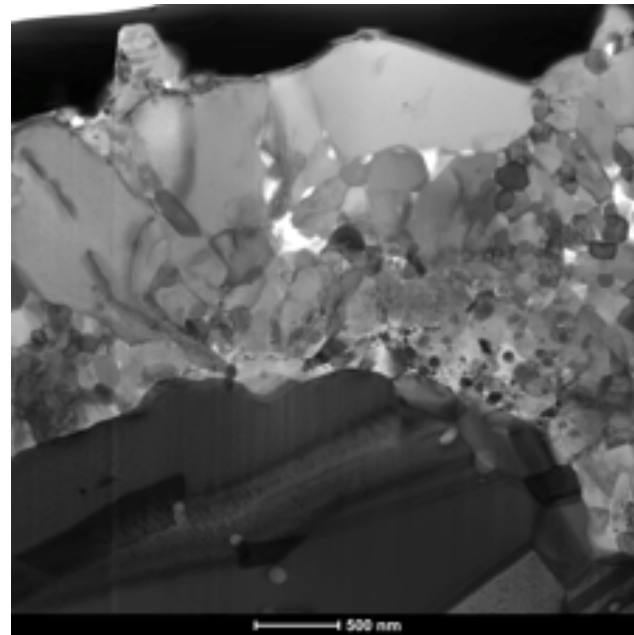
Does higher P promote a denser (fewer voids/cracks) scale?  
 Except with SO<sub>2</sub>: inhibits C/OH effects at 1 bar  
 25 bar increases p<sub>S<sub>2</sub></sub> resulting in a negative effect

# TEM used to study porosity in scale formed on alloy 625 at 750°C

IG CO<sub>2</sub> 1 bar, 5,000 h

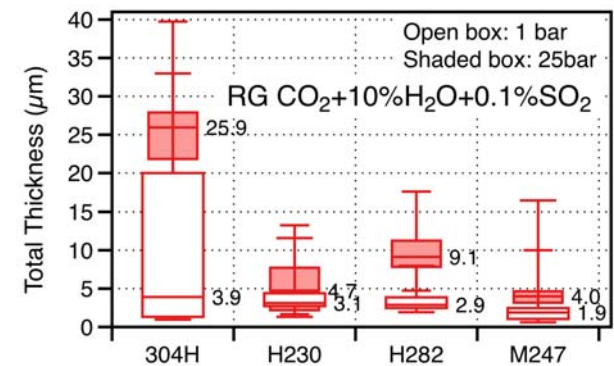
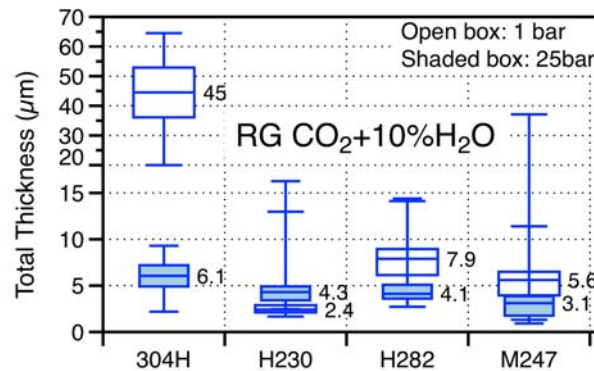
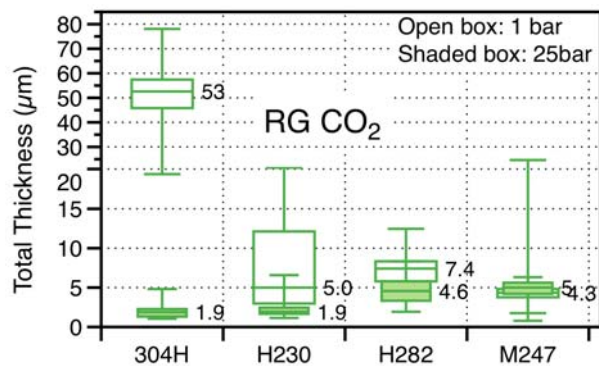


IG CO<sub>2</sub> 300 bar, 5,000 h



**Thin scales observed with less (?) porosity in sCO<sub>2</sub>**

# 800°C Total Reaction (including internal oxidation): reduced in 25 bar except with 0.1%SO<sub>2</sub>



**0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> 1 bar: inhibited negative CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O effect, especially for 304H**  
**Similar result for Young (CO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O) and Quadakkers (H<sub>2</sub>O) on Fe-Cr**  
**Like SO<sub>2</sub> poisoning of metal dusting**  
**0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> 25 bar: sulfidation attack with 25X higher p<sub>S<sub>2</sub></sub>**

# Oxford CO<sub>2</sub> lifetime model for UK gas-cooled reactors

## We need to determine relevance to industrial grade sCO<sub>2</sub>

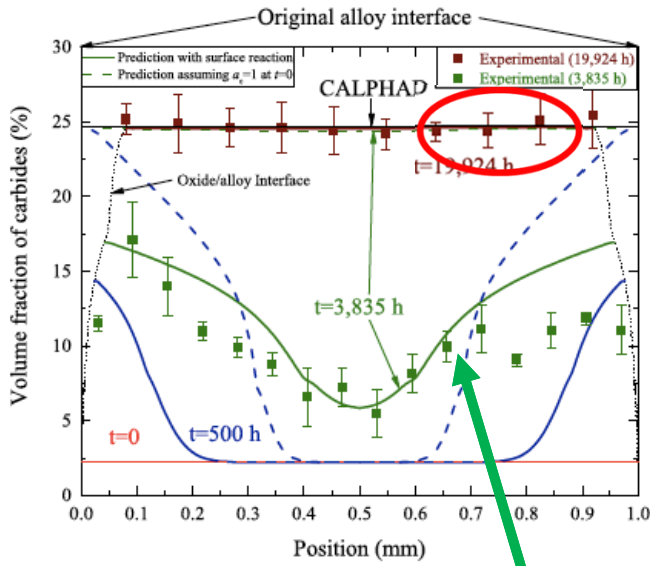


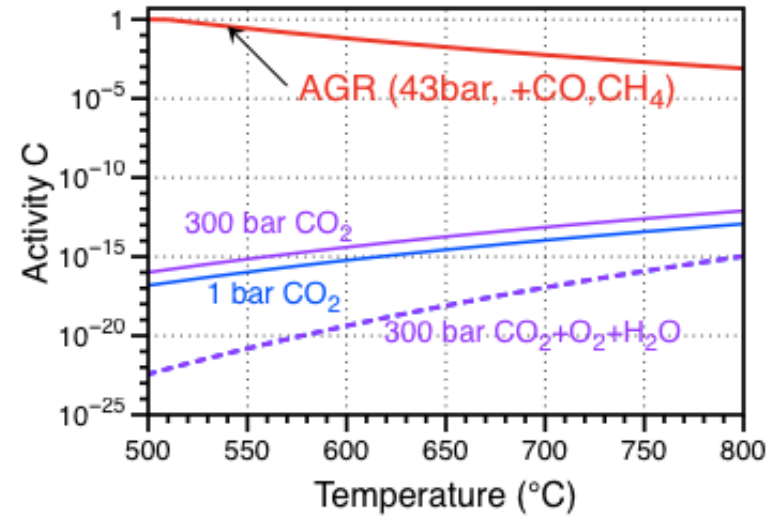
Fig. 8. Predicted profiles of volume fraction of carbides for a 1 mm fin exposed to experimental gas conditions at 600 °C at 0, 500 h, 3835 h and 19924 h, in comparison with measurements corresponding to black box marked in Fig. 1(b); simulations were conducted by 1D-DiCTra as described in § 3.2 treating migration of oxide/alloy interface and non-steady state carburisation with  $\alpha_{\mu,C} = 1.2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ mol m}^{-1} \text{ J}^{-1}$  (solid lines) or fixed  $a_c = 1$  at the oxide/alloy interface (dashed lines).

Gong, Young...Reed,  
Acta Mater. 2017



Grade 9 steel fins:  
Fe-9Cr-1Mo

But the 600 psi CO<sub>2</sub> in  
AGR is very carburizing



Experimental data (80-200 kh!) 580°-640°C: Cr tied up as carbides

# Initial results show less mass gain in RG CO<sub>2</sub>

Gong et al. 2017 Figure 3:

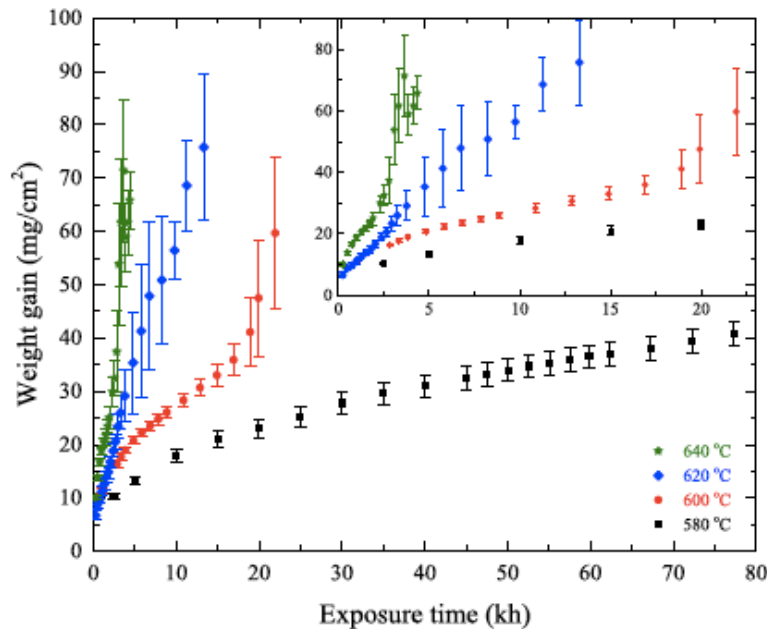
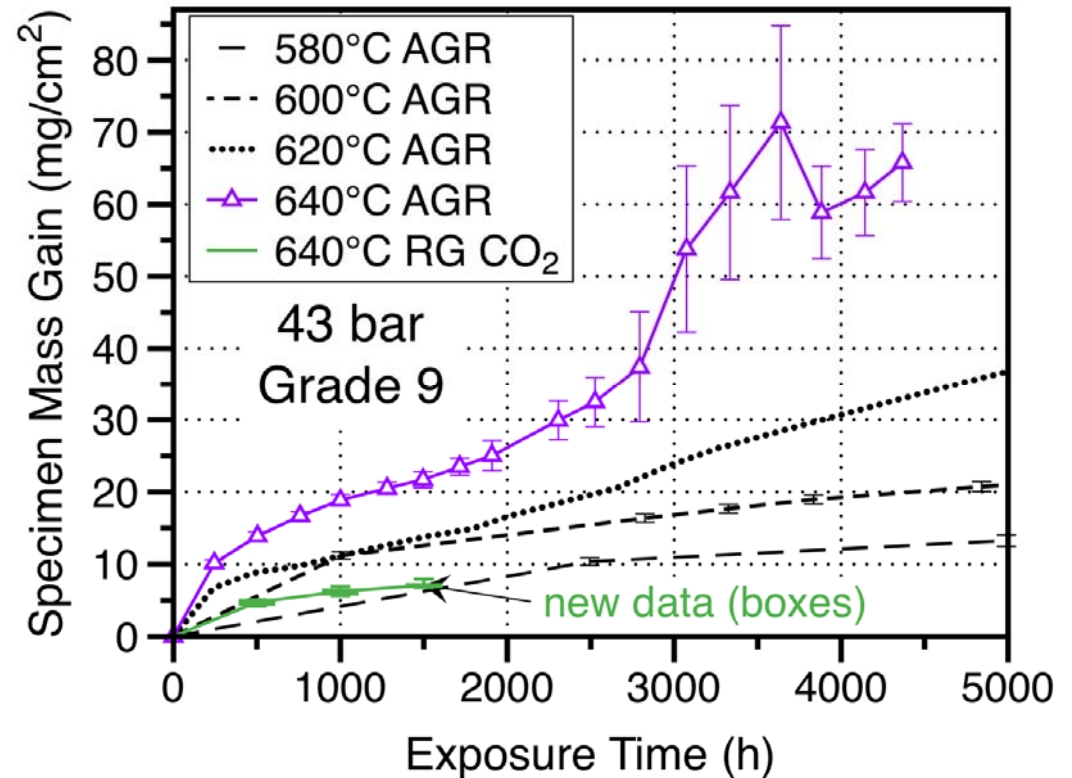


Fig. 3. Weight gain changes of experimental samples exposed at 580 °C (black), 600 °C (red), 620 °C (blue) and 640 °C (green) with gas compositions of 100 vppm H<sub>2</sub>, 300 vppm CH<sub>4</sub>, 1 vol% CO, 300 vppm H<sub>2</sub>O and balance CO<sub>2</sub> at gas pressure of 600 psig (42.38 bar); one stand deviation from repeated tests is used to evaluate uncertainties. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

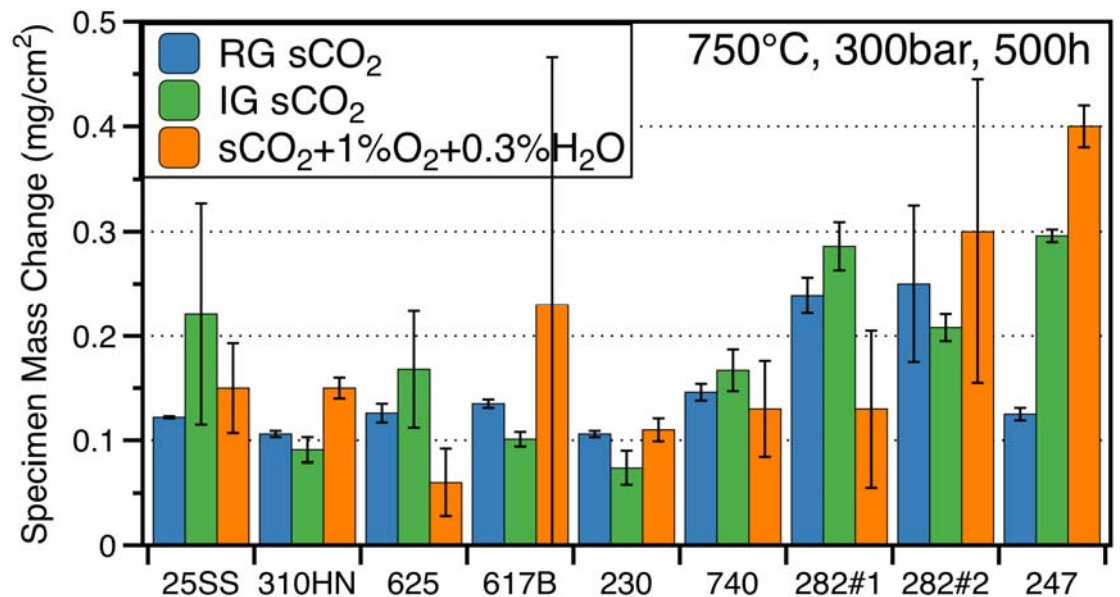
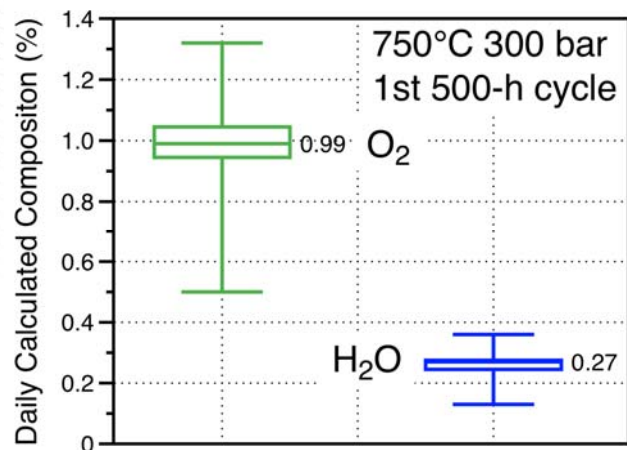


Thanks to EDF, Y. Gong and R. Reed for providing mass change data

# First 300 bar impurity data obtained

## New rig completed first cycle in February 2018

## Second cycle completed March 27



**Goal: 1%O<sub>2</sub>+0.25%H<sub>2</sub>O**  
(industry suggestion)

**Not easy to control at 300 bar**

**Average of 3 specimens in first experiment**

**No plans to add SO<sub>2</sub> to autoclave**



## Summary: impurity and pressure effects

- Want to study impurities in sCO<sub>2</sub> for direct-fired clean energy concept **at 750°C**
  - Several studies at 1, 25 and 300 bar while waiting for 300 bar sCO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O+O<sub>2</sub> autoclave tests
  - Comparison of industrial and research grade CO<sub>2</sub> at 1 and 300 bar
    - Symposium paper
  - Effect of H<sub>2</sub>O and 0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> at 1 and 25 bar
    - Corrosion 2018 paper
  - 43 bar test to compare to extensive UK reactor database
  - Initial results at 300 bar sCO<sub>2</sub>+1%O<sub>2</sub>+0.25%H<sub>2</sub>O
- Minor effects comparing IG and RG sCO<sub>2</sub>
  - Similar mass gains in laboratory air
- Low SO<sub>2</sub> levels may be acceptable in sCO<sub>2</sub>
  - More work needed to understand supercritical conditions
  - Beneficial “poisoning” effects of SO<sub>2</sub> may disappear at high pressure (S level set by coal)
- Current hypotheses
  - Higher P = denser, more protective scale
    - More characterization of thin scales required
  - SO<sub>2</sub> suppresses C & OH effects (Young & Quadackers): can we take advantage?

## My hero was rich and famous, long before the era of type and hype

"When I want to discover something, I begin by reading up everything that has been done along that line in the past - that's what all these books in the library are for. I see what has been accomplished at great labor and expense in the past. I gather data of many thousands of experiments as a starting point, and then I make thousands more."

- Thomas Alva Edison

# Four alloys selected for this study

- Composition analyzed by ICP-OES and combustion analyses

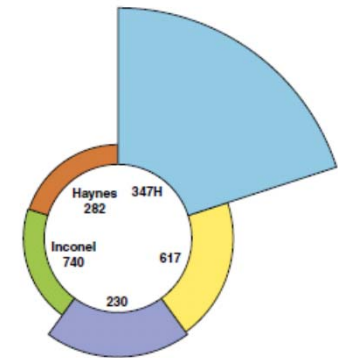
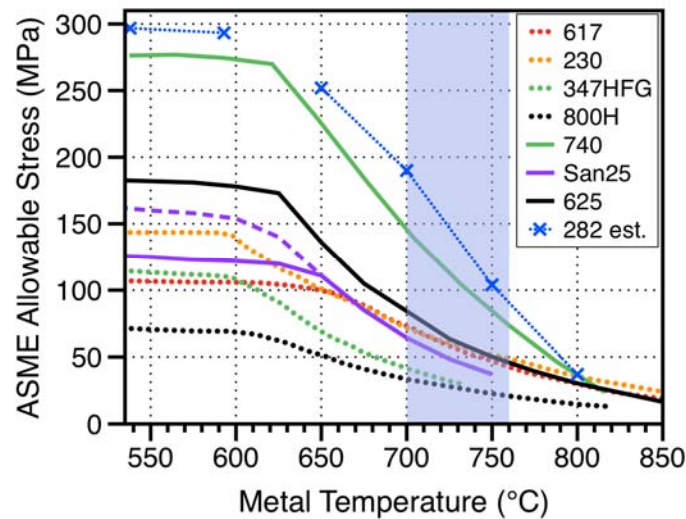
| Alloy      | Fe   | Ni   | Cr   | Al  | Co   | Mo  | Ti  | Mn   | Si   | C    | Other            |                         |
|------------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 304H       | 70.4 | 8.4  | 18.4 |     | 0.1  | 0.3 |     | 1.6  | 0.3  | 0.06 | 0.4Cu,0.07N      | steel "canary"          |
| 230        | 1.0  | 60.0 | 21.6 | 0.4 | 0.2  | 1.2 |     | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.10 | 14.6W, 0.02La    | solid-solution          |
| Haynes 282 | 0.2  | 58.0 | 19.3 | 1.5 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 2.2 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.06 |                  | $\gamma'$ -strengthened |
| MarM247    | 0.1  | 59.5 | 8.5  | 5.7 | 9.8  | 0.7 | 1.0 | <    | 0.03 | 0.16 | 9.9W,3.1Ta,1.4Hf | turbomachinery          |

(< is less than 0.02)

$Al_2O_3$ -former

ASME Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code allowables:

Precipitation-strengthened ( $\gamma'$ ) Ni-base alloys

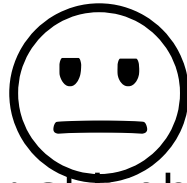


Shingledecker ~2011



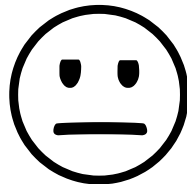
# Many variables can be considered

- Temperature



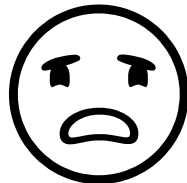
- $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  better C barrier at higher T (?)
- Steels more T limited than in steam

- Pressure



- No strong effect of increasing P

- Thermal cycling



- Stainless steel attacked at 700°-750°C

- Oxygen

- ORNL & UW different results

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

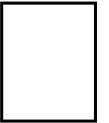
- Negative, especially for steels

- CO

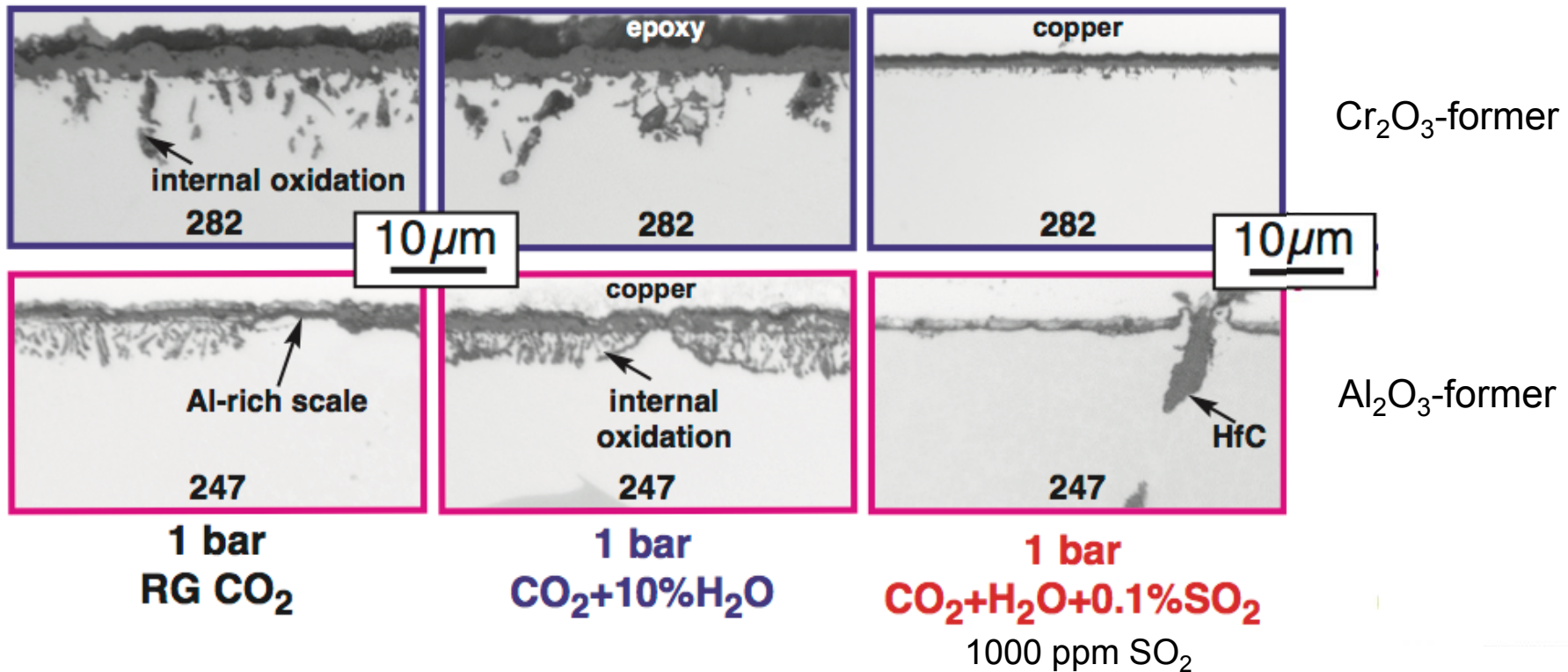
- UW 1%CO results

- $\text{SO}_2$

- Complicated...

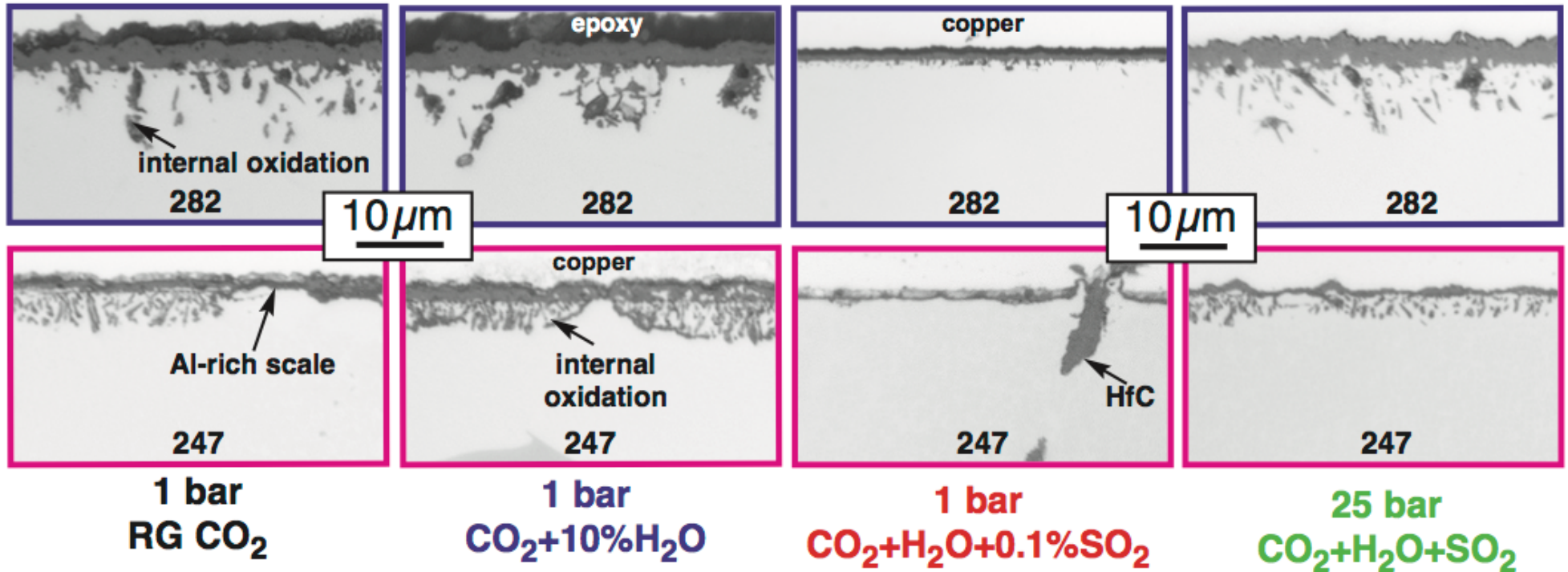


# 500h at 800°C: SO<sub>2</sub> suppressed internal oxidation at 1 bar



Similar results for SO<sub>2</sub> reported by Young (UNSW) and Quadakkers (Jülich)

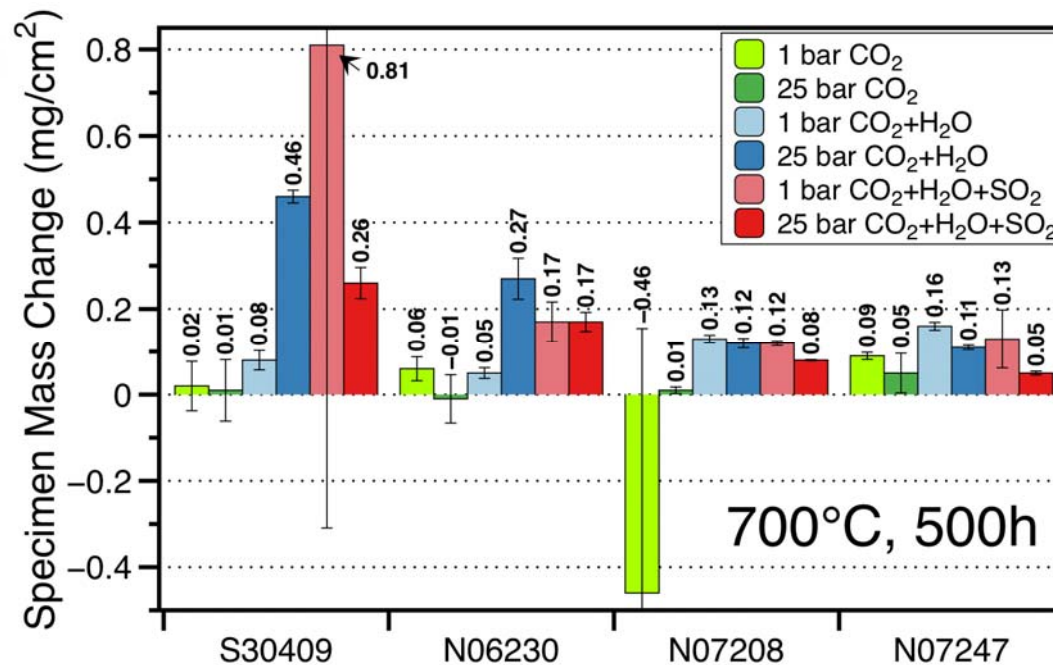
# 500h at 800°C: at 25 bar, 0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> resulted in more attack



Haynes 282: Ni-20Cr-11Co-9Mo-1.6Al-2.2Ti

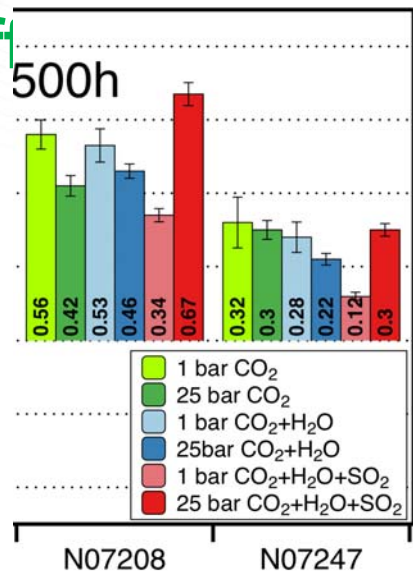
MarM247 superalloy: Ni-9Cr-10Co-1Mo-6Al-1Ta-3Ta-1.4Hf

# 700°C 500h: mainly small mass changes



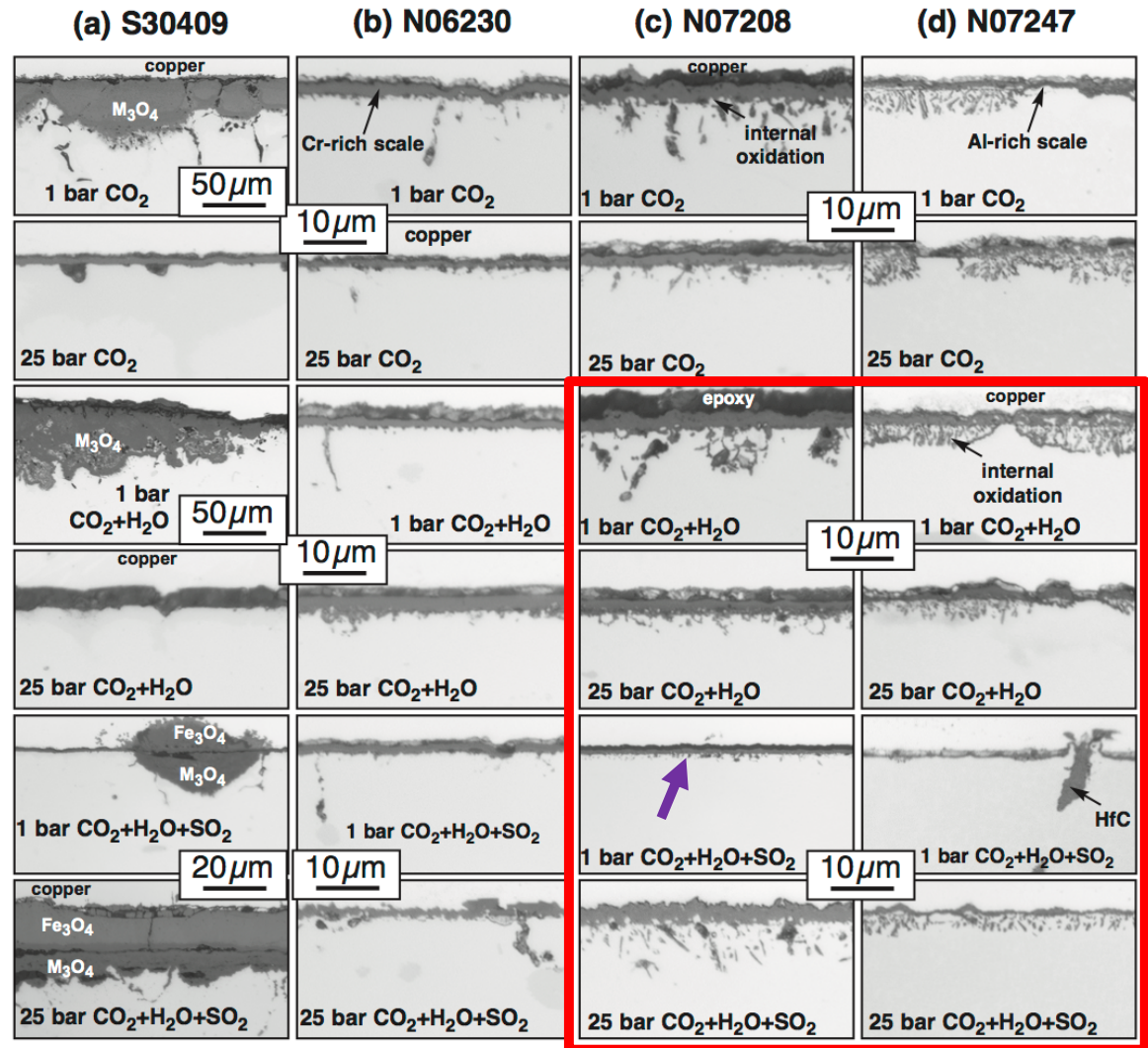
Average mass change for three specimens: whiskers show a standard deviation

800°C light microscopy:  
25 bar: less internal attack  
+SO<sub>2</sub>: opposite P  
eff



+10%H<sub>2</sub>O

+10%H<sub>2</sub>O  
+0.1%SO<sub>2</sub>





## Similar observation with 600°C ORNL study for staged pressurized oxy-combustion (SPOC):

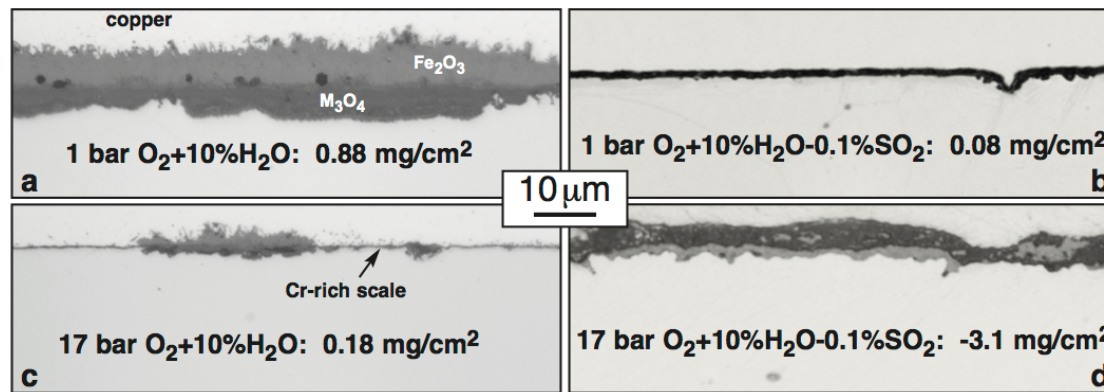
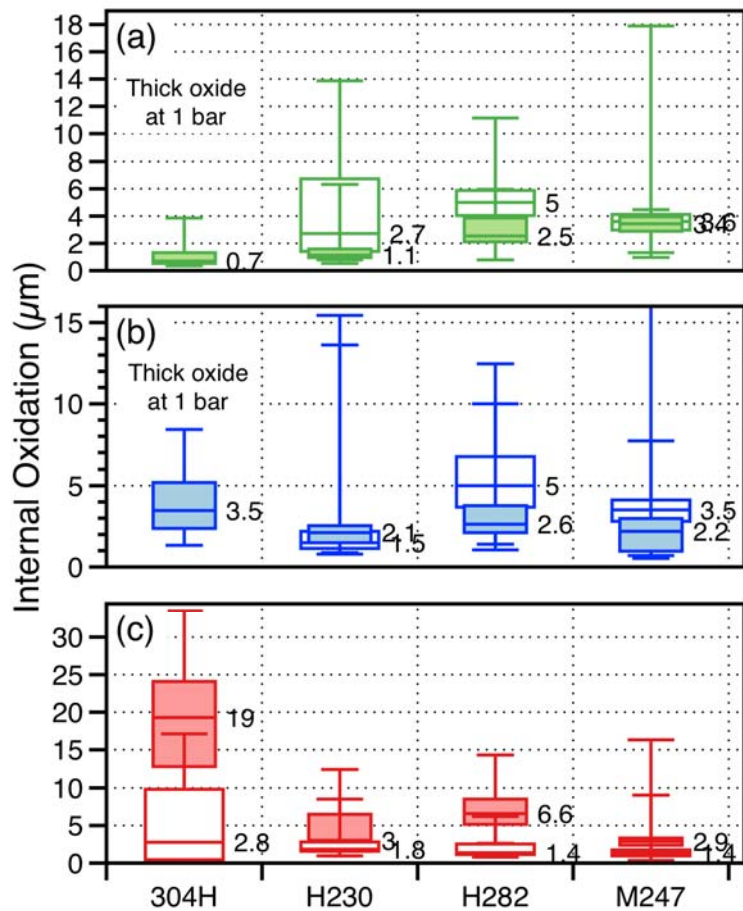


Figure 5: Light microscopy of S30409 specimens exposed at 600°C for 500 h in two environments and two pressures.

**No CO<sub>2</sub>  
in this  
study**

**O<sub>2</sub>-10%H<sub>2</sub>O: reduced attack at 17 bar compared to 1 bar**  
**0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> 1 bar: inhibited negative CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O effect (protective scale)**  
**Similar result for Young (CO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O) and Quadakkers (H<sub>2</sub>O)**  
**0.1%SO<sub>2</sub> 17 bar: sulfidation attack with 17X higher p<sub>S<sub>2</sub></sub>**

# 800°C internal oxidation: lower at 25 bar except with SO<sub>2</sub>



- Hypotheses
  - Higher P = denser scale
  - SO<sub>2</sub> suppresses C and OH effects (Young)
- How affect depth of internal oxidation?
  - Young also reported SiO<sub>2</sub> formation with SO<sub>2</sub>
- Is this a lasting benefit?
  - only 500 h exposure

