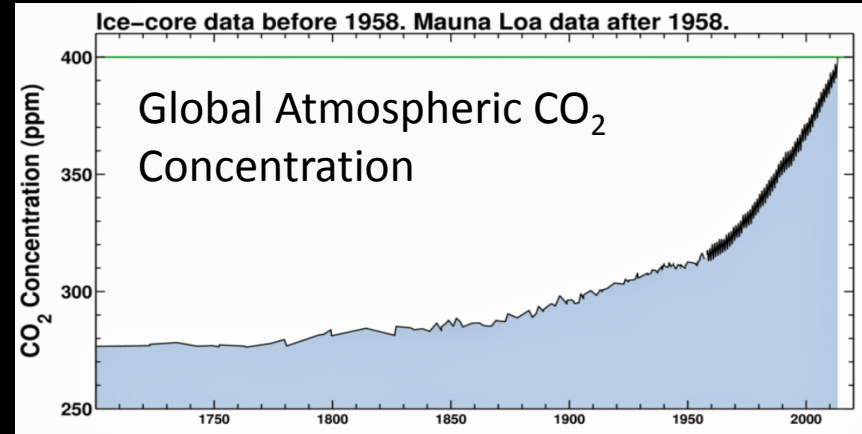
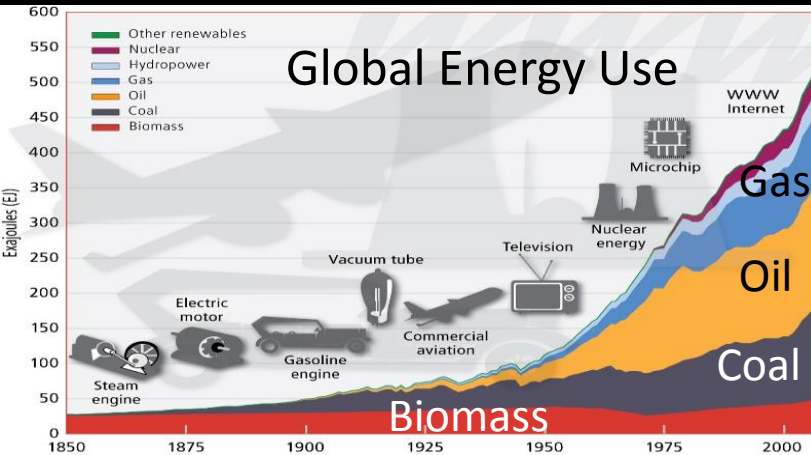
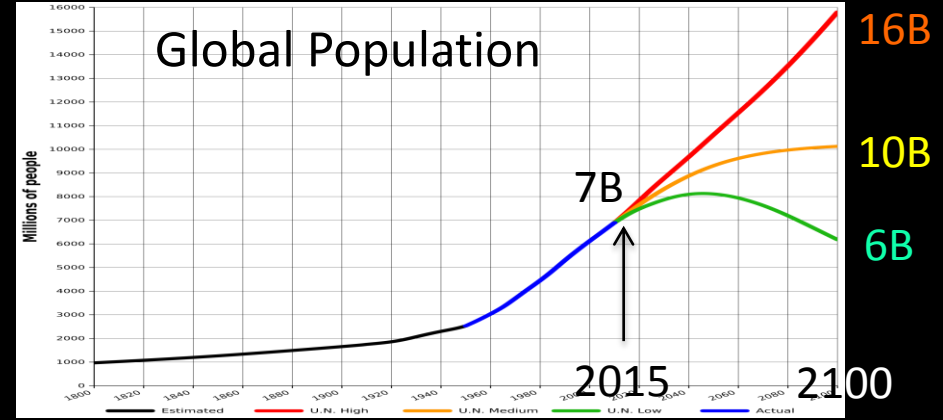
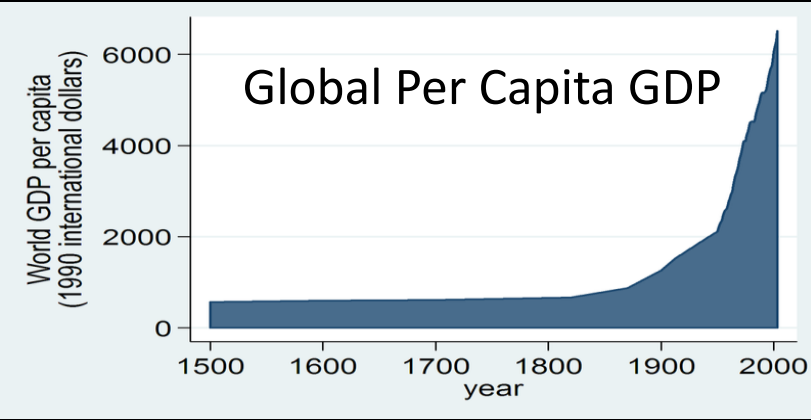


# Options to Decarbonize our Energy System

Arun Majumdar  
Stanford University

# Global Exponentials



How can we decarbonize our energy system and continue economic growth?

With  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
Capture



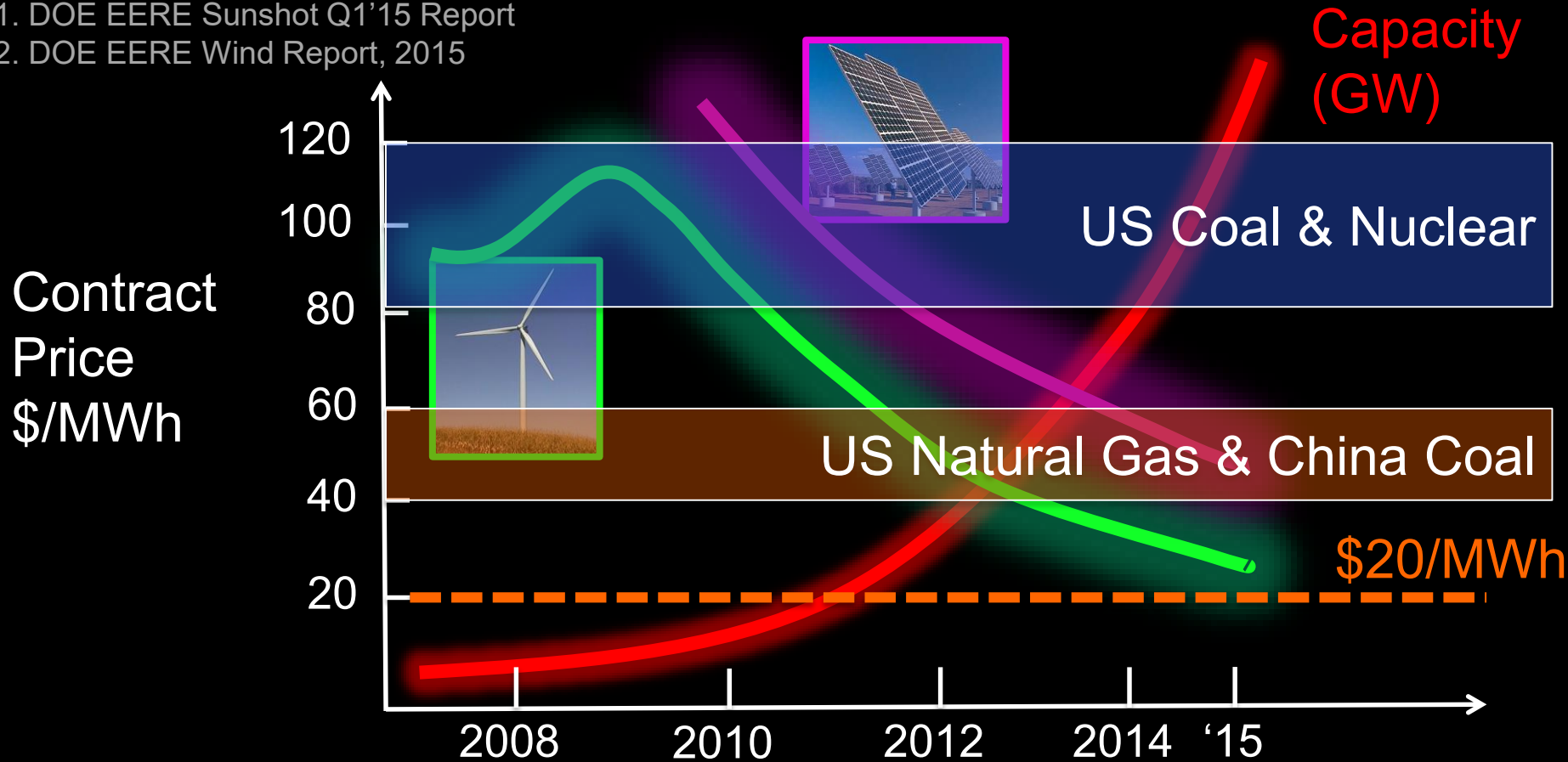
Energy  
Dense  
Fuel



# Carbon-Free Electricity

Source

- 1. DOE EERE Sunshot Q1'15 Report
- 2. DOE EERE Wind Report, 2015



Contract Price  
\$/MWh

Capacity  
(GW)

US Coal & Nuclear

US Natural Gas & China Coal

\$20/MWh

# Why Hydrogen?

About \$100B industry

45 million tons worldwide production



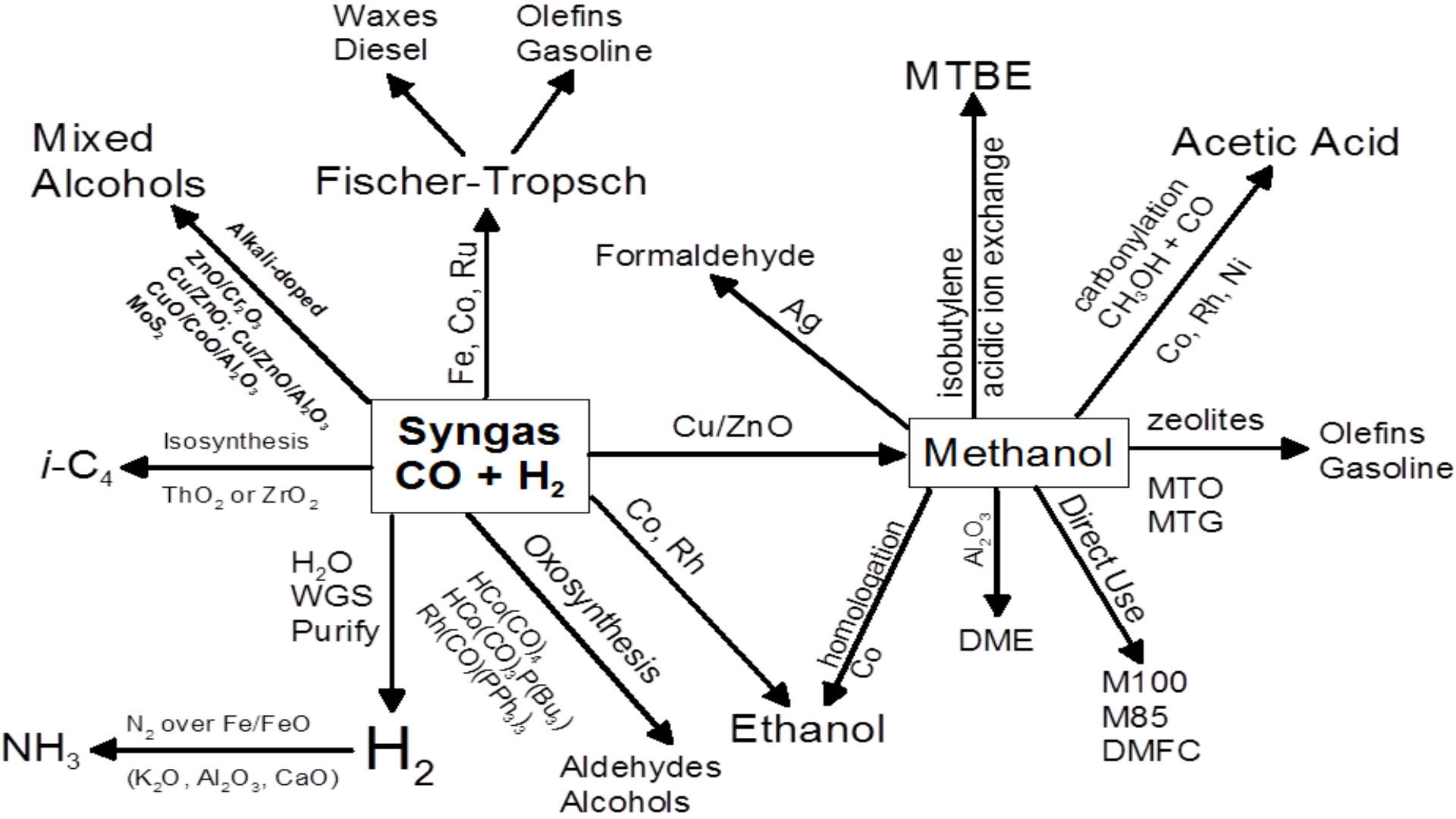
H<sub>2</sub>

O<sub>2</sub>

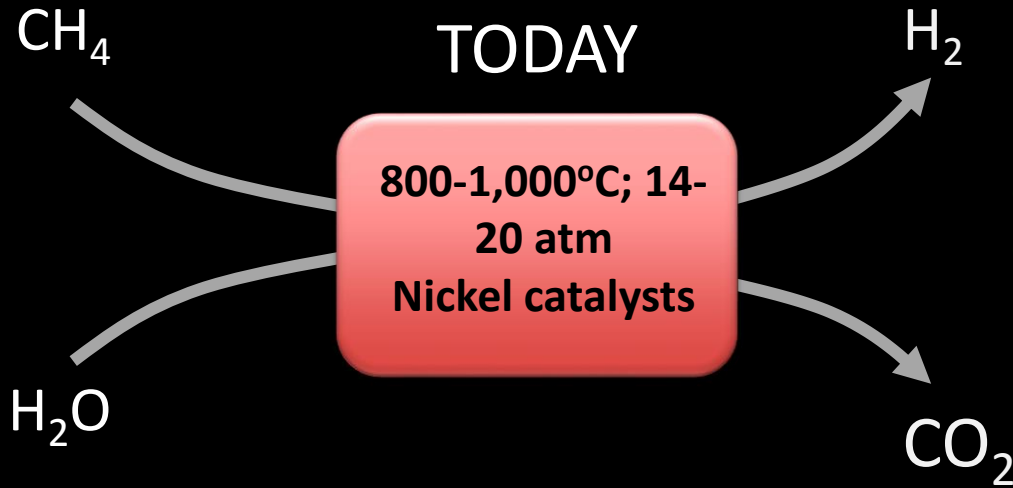
- Displace fossil fuels - direct use in vehicles using fuel cells
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> into chemicals and fuels
- Electricity storage and generation
- **NH<sub>3</sub>**
- **Refinery hydrogenation**



Reverse Water Gas Shift Reaction

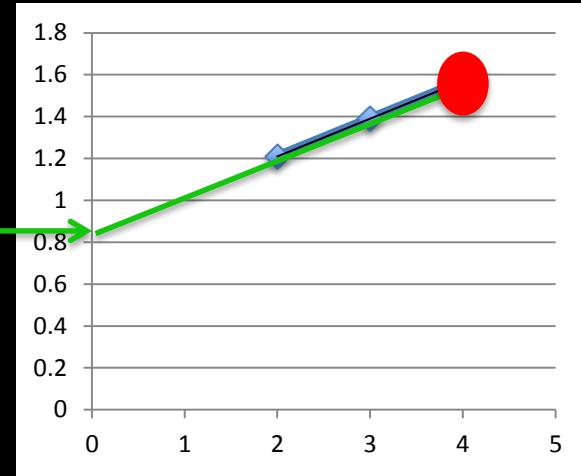


# H<sub>2</sub> production: Steam Reforming of Natural Gas



\$/kg-H<sub>2</sub>

Levelized  
Capital  
Cost

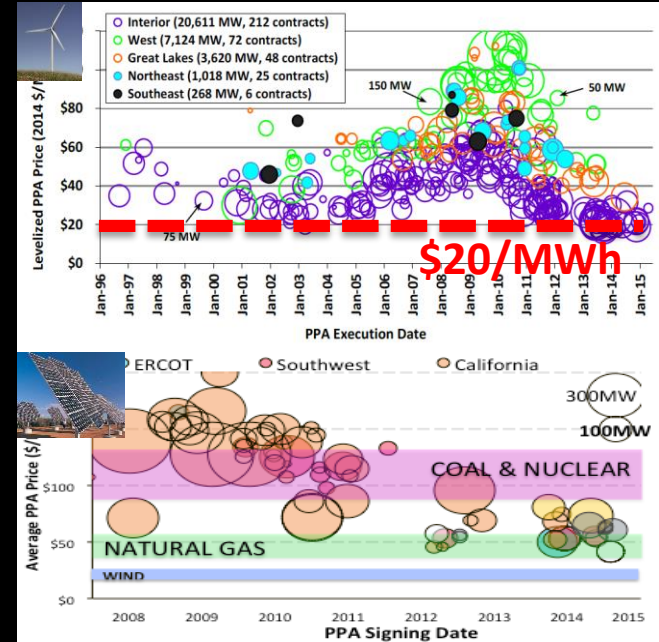
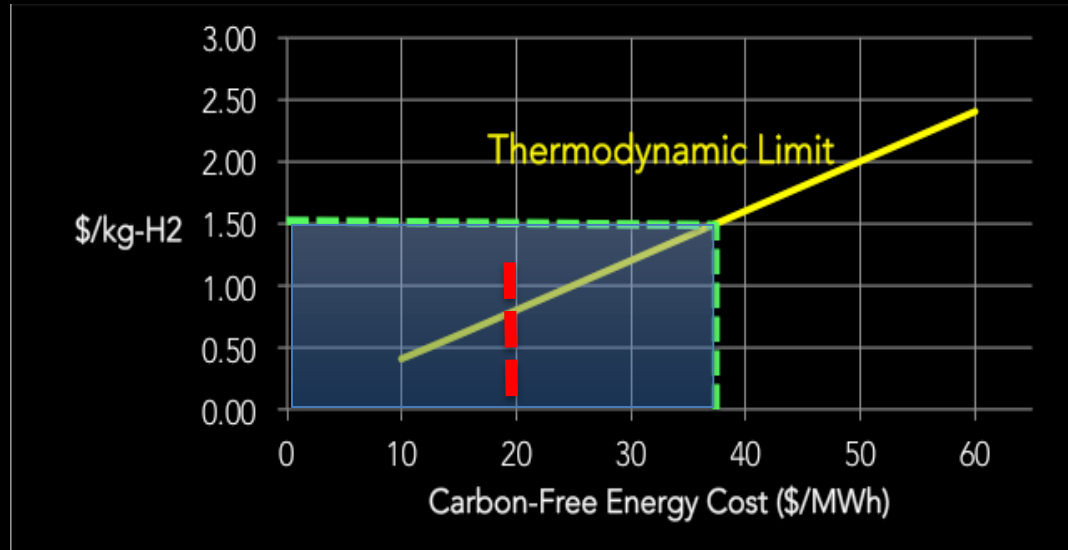
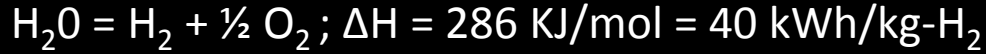


NG Cost \$/MMBTU

How do we produce carbon-neutral H<sub>2</sub> at <\$2/kg at scale?



# Thermodynamics & Cost Limits



## Biomass

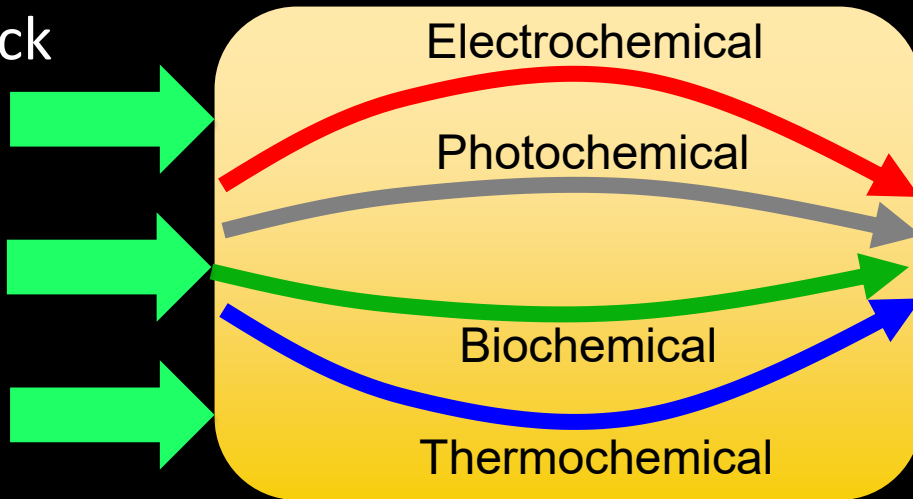
- Calorific Value: 7000 BTU/lb = 15400 BTU/kg = 4.50 kWh/kg-bm
- Cost = \$65/ton = \$0.065/kg-bm
- Energy Cost = \$15/MWh

# A grand challenge in decarbonization...

CO<sub>2</sub> feedstock  
at \$/tC

H<sub>2</sub>O

Carbon-free  
energy at  
\$/kWh



Methanol  
Ethanol  
Hydrogen  
Hydrocarbon  
(\$/kg; \$/L)



Can we combine  
pathways?

# Path-Independent Techno-Economics

## Energy Cost (Energy Efficiency)

Thermodynamic Limit

= 40 kWh/kg-H<sub>2</sub>

Realistic  $\approx$  50 kWh/kg-H<sub>2</sub> (within 80% of limit)

Energy cost =

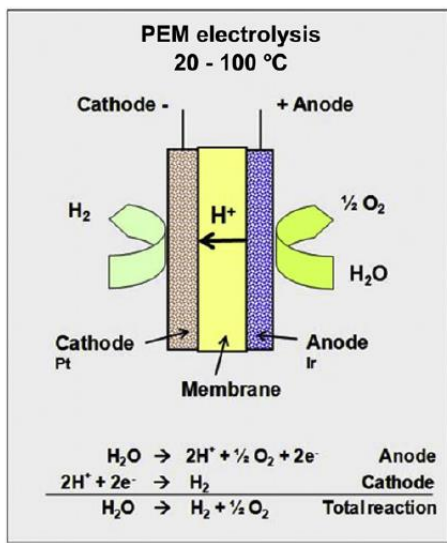
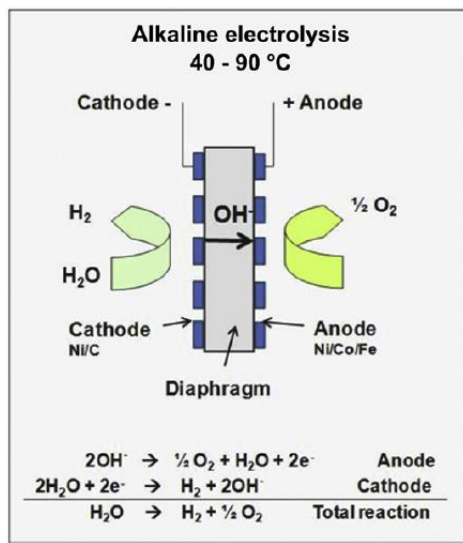
50 kWh/kg x \$0.02/kWh = \$1/kg-H<sub>2</sub>

## Levelized Non-Energy Cost

- Capital cost for plant
- O&M
- Cost of capital
- Depreciation
  
- \$0.50/kg-H<sub>2</sub> at scale

# Electrochemical Pathway

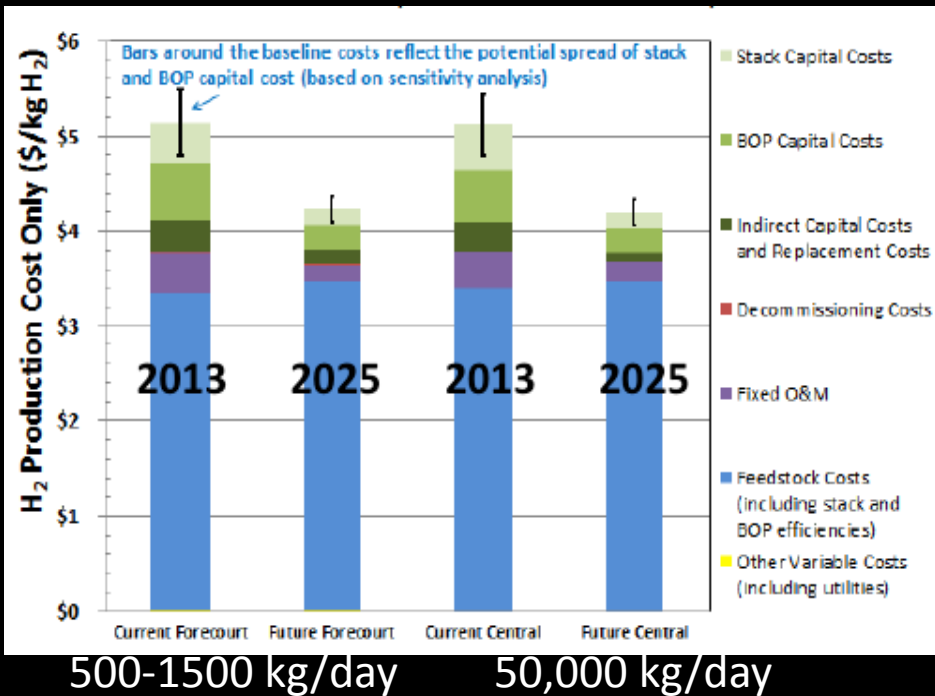
Can one achieve economies of scale in non-energy cost



$$\Delta H = 55 \text{ kWh/kg-H}_2$$

TODAY: \$5/kg-H<sub>2</sub>

OPTIMISTIC LIMIT: \$2/kg-H<sub>2</sub>



How can one achieve \$1.50/kg-H<sub>2</sub> limit at scale with new system design?

# Thermochemical Pathway – Materials & Systems

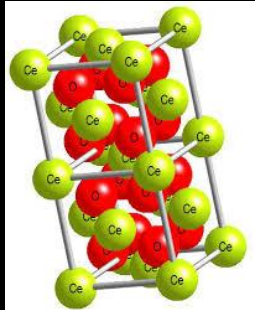
## STATE-OF-THE-ART

Medium = 600 °C

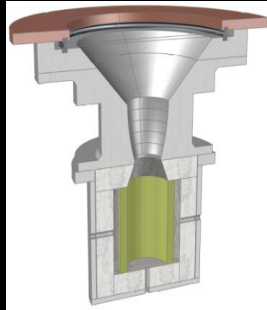
Hot = 1,500 °C

CeO<sub>2</sub>

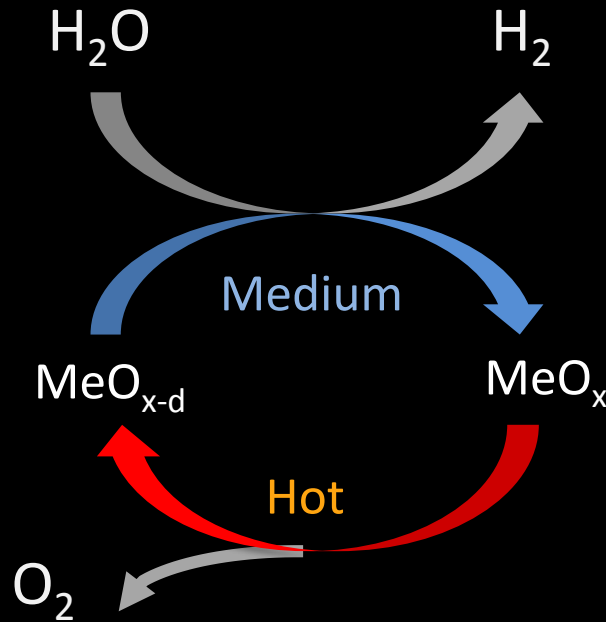
< 1%  $\eta_{\text{Carnot}}$



Material



Reactor



$$\Delta T = \frac{-2\Delta G_{f, T_{GS}}^{H_2O} - T_{GS} \Delta S}{S_{T_{TR}}^{O_2} + 2\Delta S_{\text{reduction}}}$$

## FUTURE

Medium = 600 °C

Hot = 800 °C

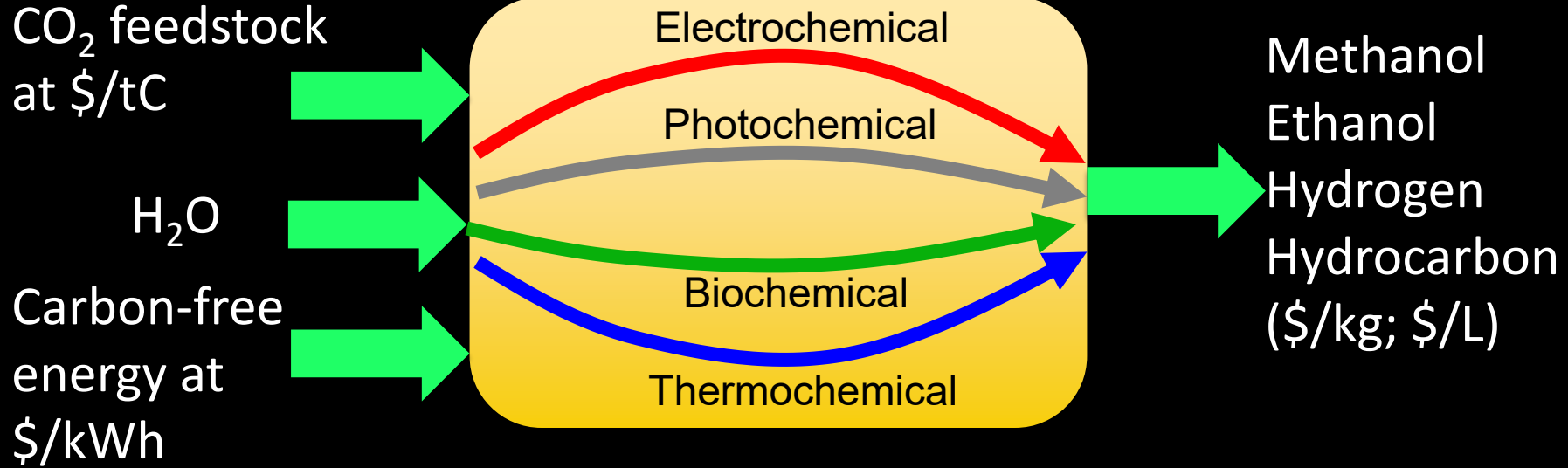
Fluidized bed reactor?

- Matching heat input to chemistry
- Heat recuperation

Non-Energy System Cost = \$0.50/kg-H<sub>2</sub> at scale doable?

How can we achieve 50 kWh/kg-H<sub>2</sub> in energy efficiency?

# Zero-Net Carbon Fuels – Science to Systems



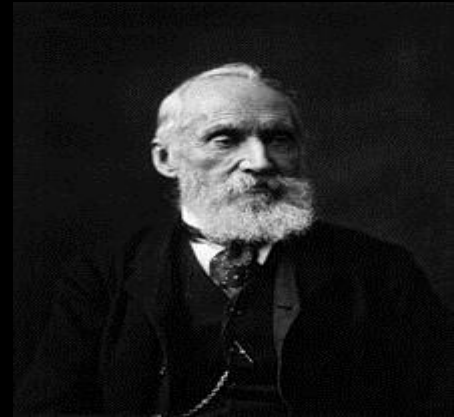
## (In)Famous Predictions from the Past

**“Radio has no future”**

**“X-rays will prove to be a hoax.”**

**“Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible”**

Lord Kelvin in 1890s



# (In)Famous Predictions from the Past

**“Man will not fly for 50 years.”**

Wilbur Wright in 1901





Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

**Arthur C. Clarke**

