

## Micro flow reactor with prescribed temperature profile

Toward fuel Indexing and kinetics study  
based on multiple weak flames

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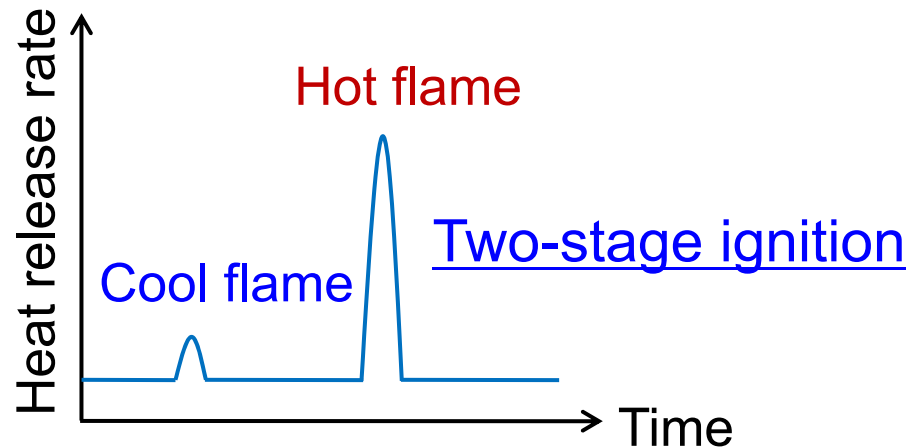


# Background and objectives

For understandings ignition and combustion characteristics of practical fuels...

Data from  
Shock tube and RCM  
have been extensively used

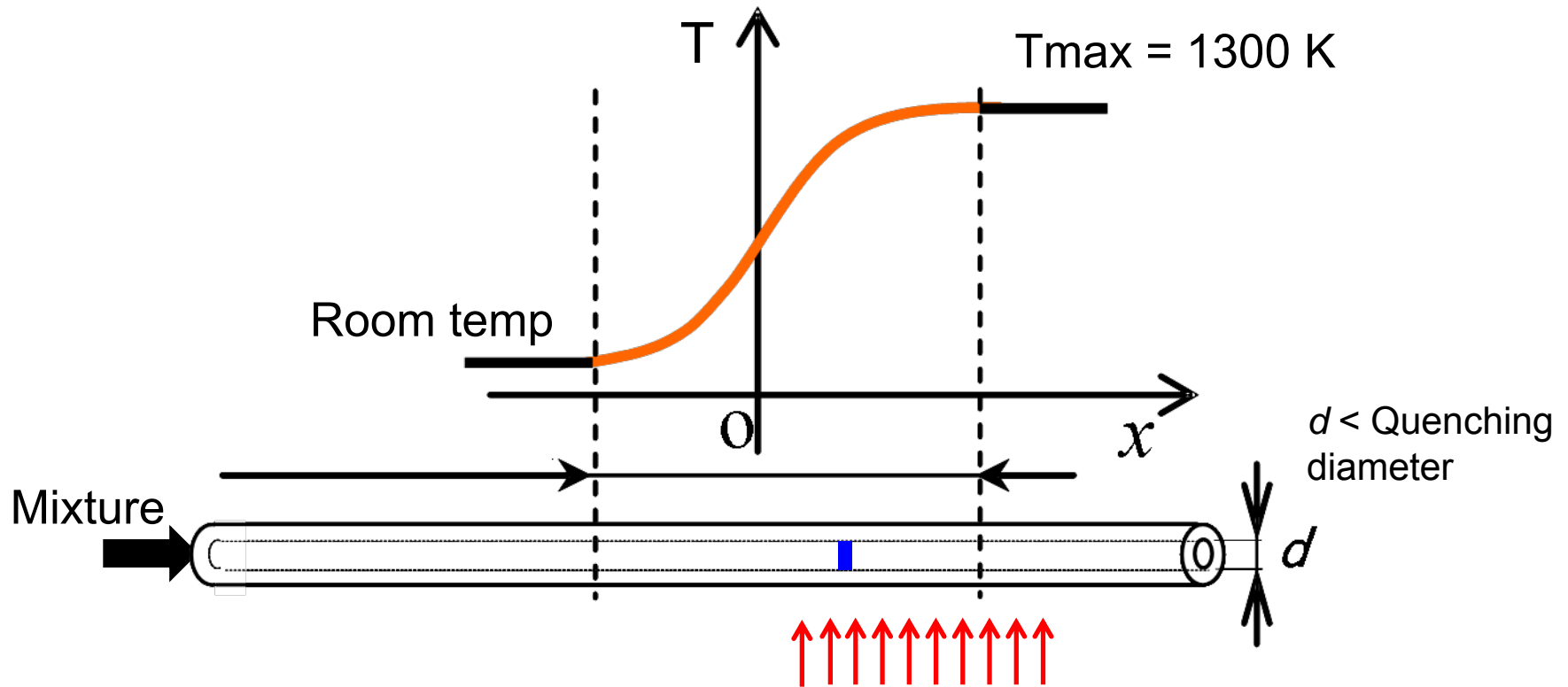
Ignition delay



Micro flow reactor with prescribed temperature profile

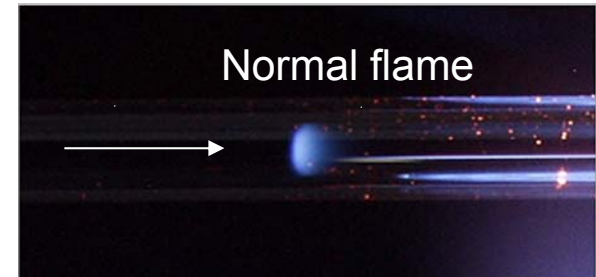
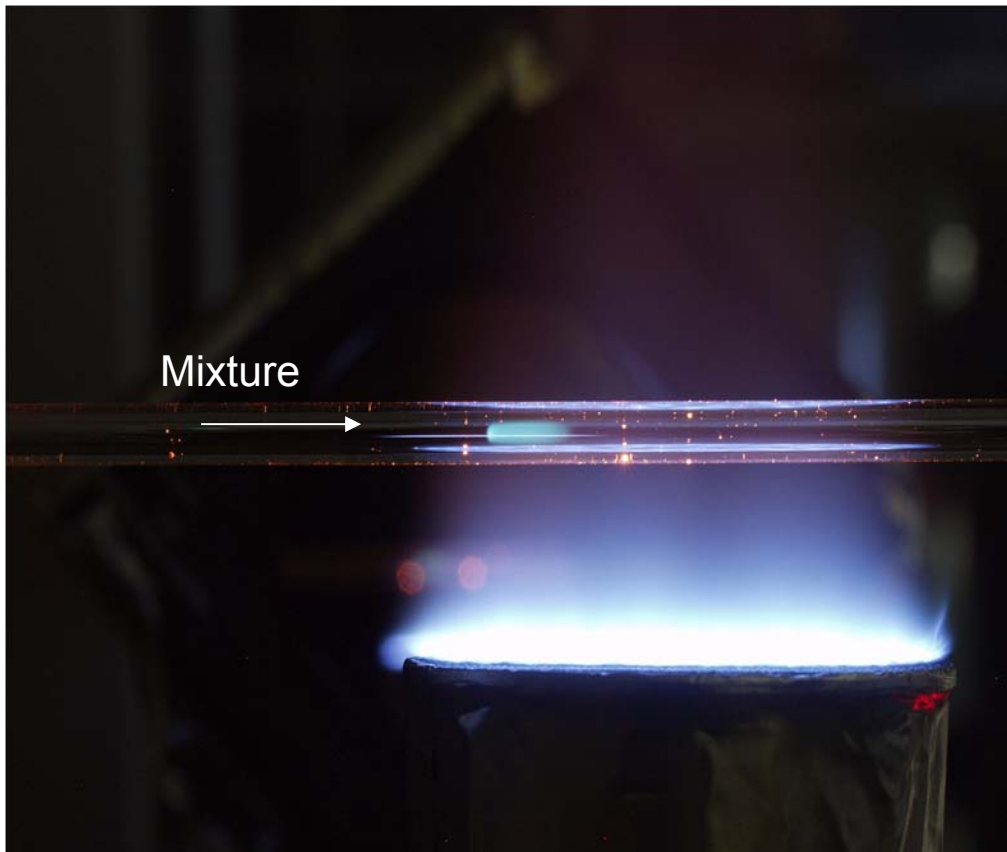
Single or multiple weak flames

# Micro flow reactor with prescribed temperature profile

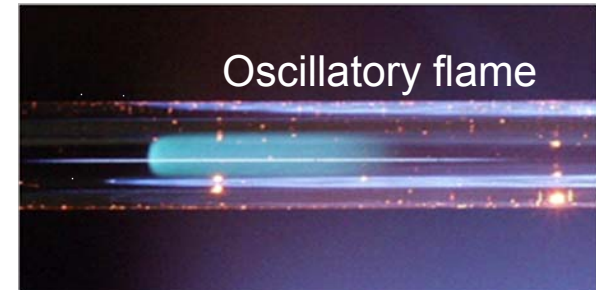


Stationary wall-temperature profile by an external heat source  
Inner diameter of the tube  $<$  conventional quenching diameter  
Gas phase temperature governed by wall temperature profile  
Laminar flow and constant pressure

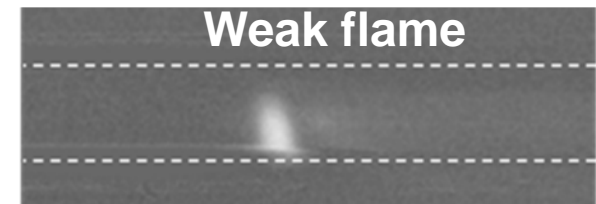
# Flame behaviors in a micro flow reactor with a prescribed temperature profile



High velocity region

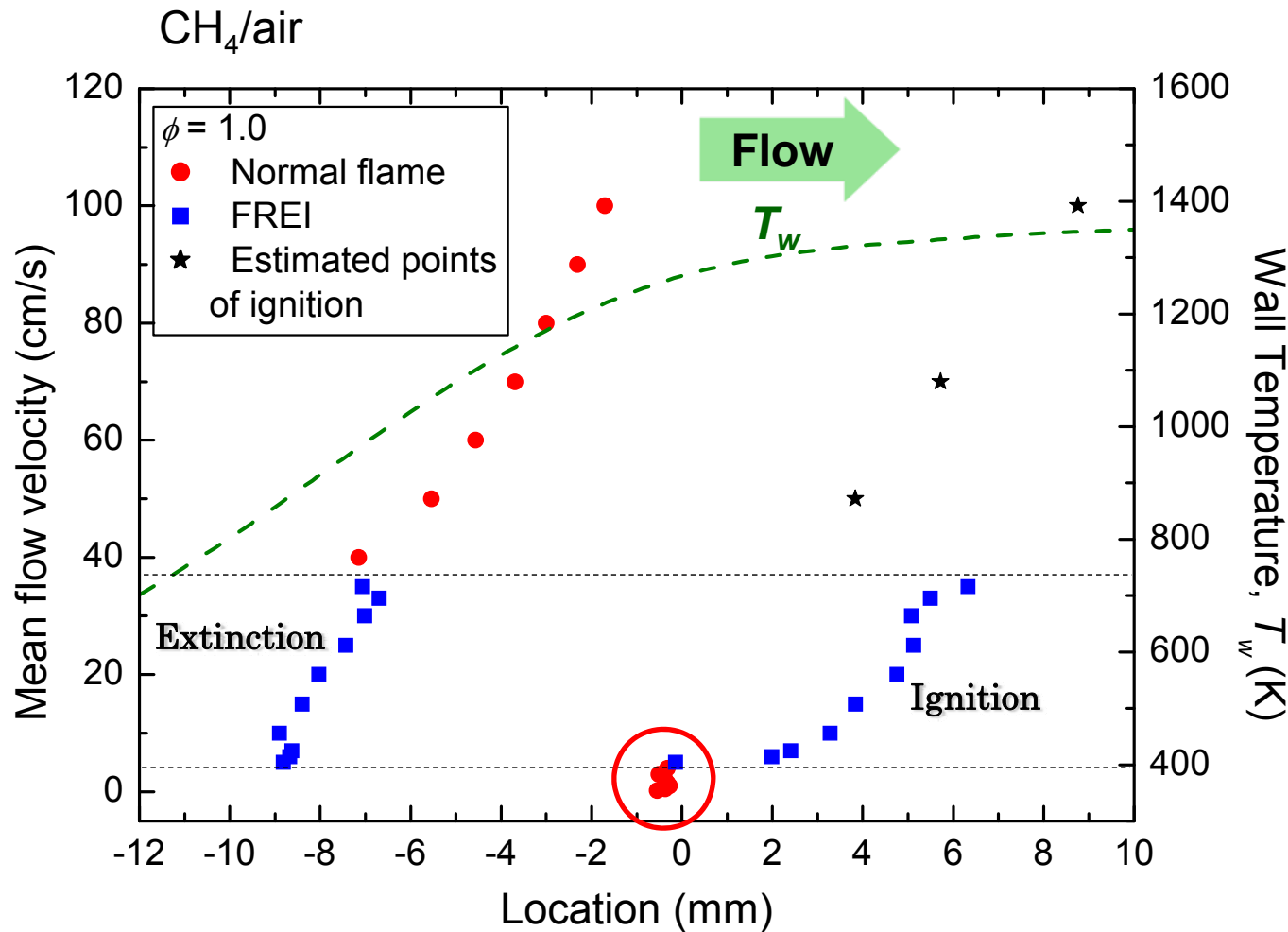


Intermediate velocity region



Low velocity region

# Three kinds of flame responses

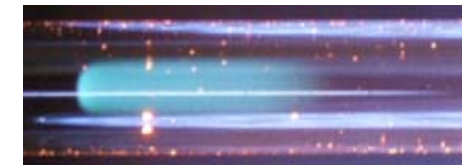


(1) Normal flame



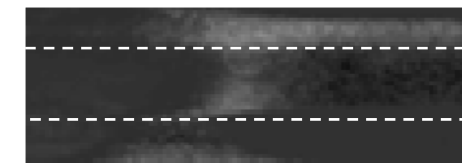
V=50cm/s

(2) Oscillatory flame



V=20cm/s

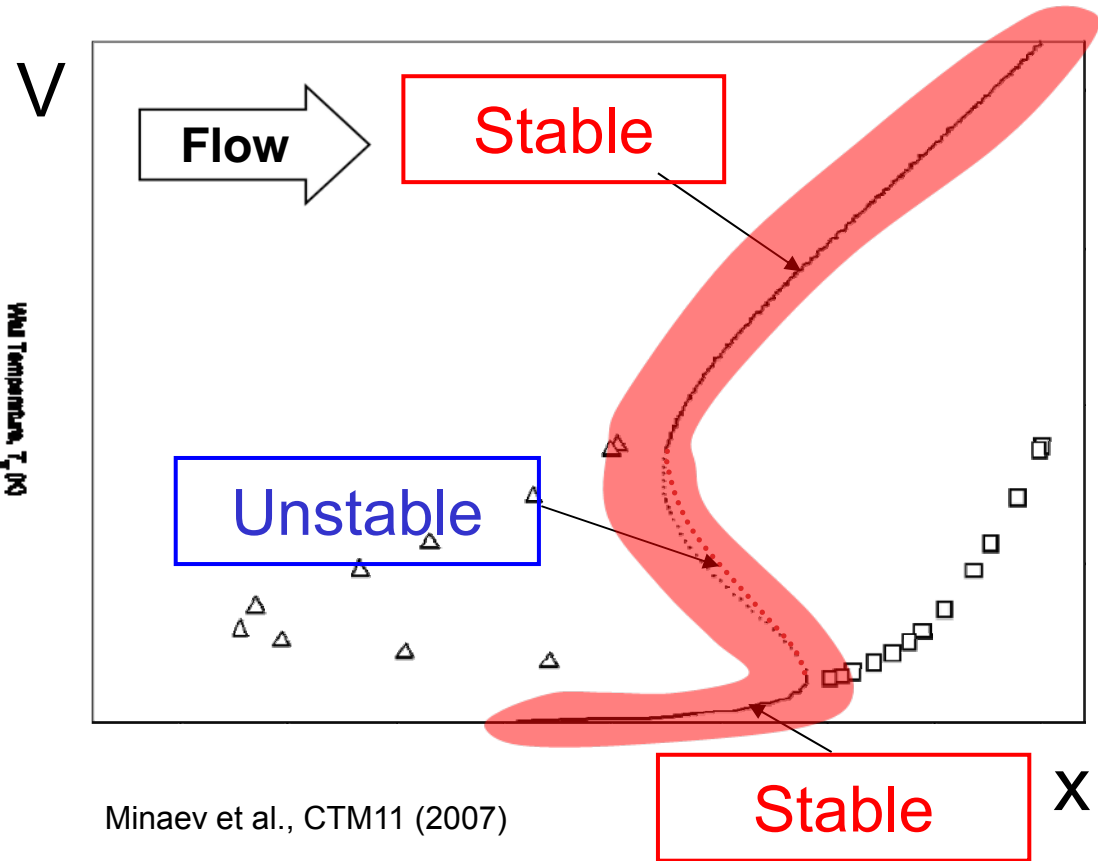
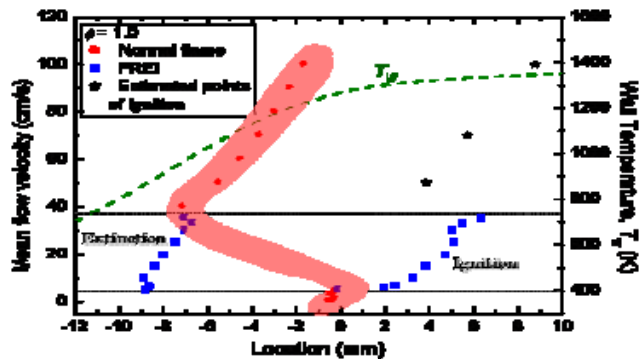
(3) Weak flame



V=0.2cm/s

Normal flame, oscillatory flame, weak flame

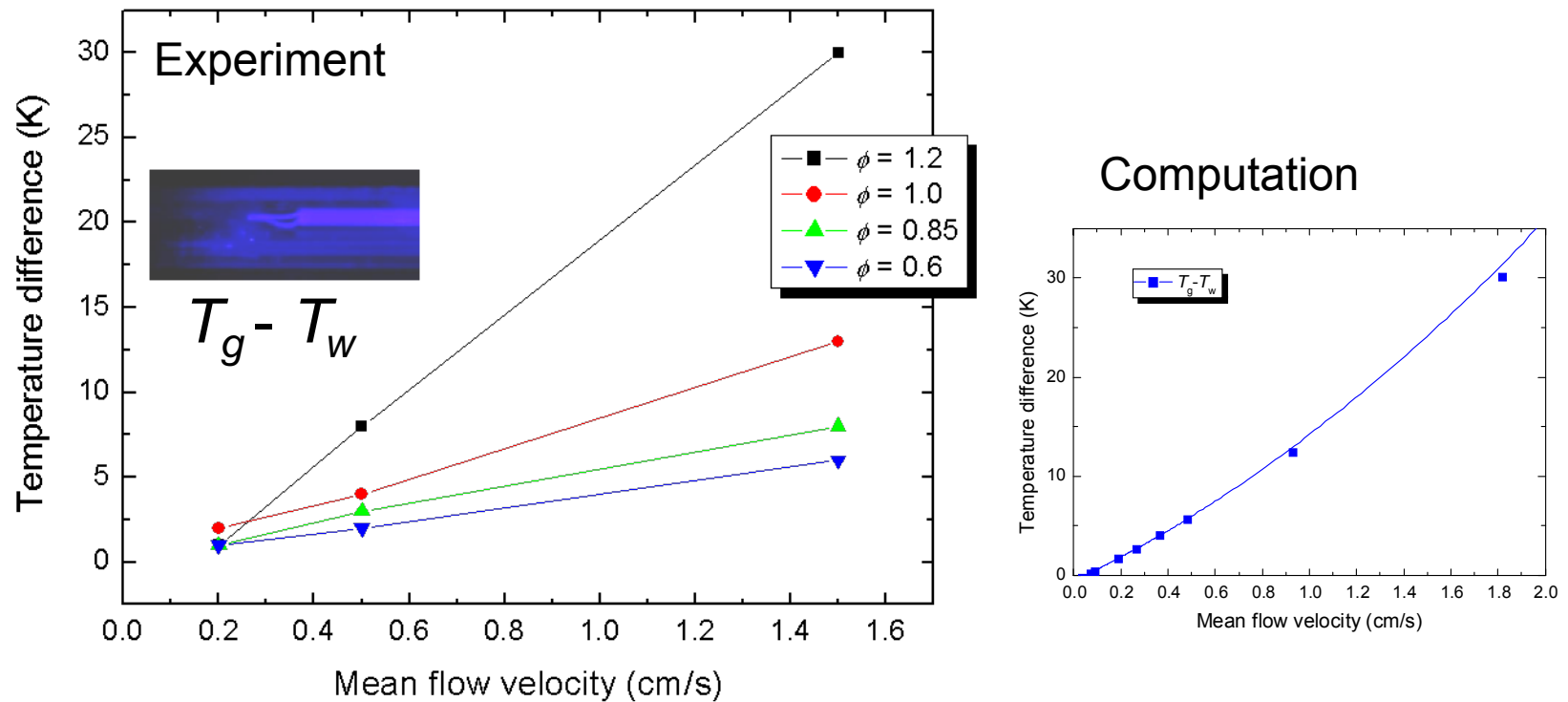
# Theoretical S-shaped response



Minaev et al., CTM11 (2007)

Two stable and one unstable solutions  
predicted theoretically →  
Weak flame corresponds to ignition branch

# Lower limit of weak flames identified



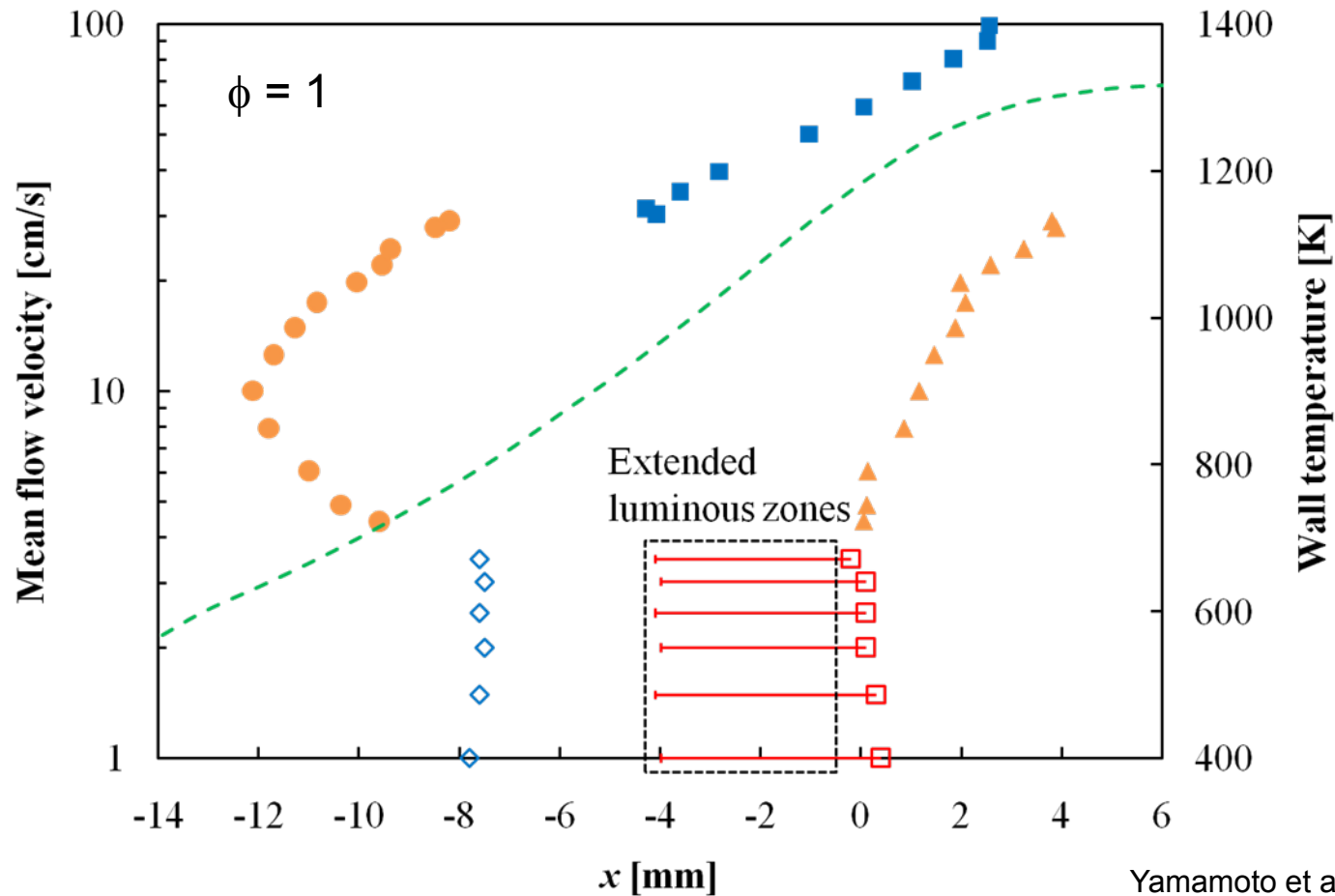
At  $V = 0.2$  cm/s,  $T_w = 1225$  K,  $T_g - T_w < 2$  K for  $\text{CH}_4/\text{air}$  mixture

Extremely small temperature increase near lower limit

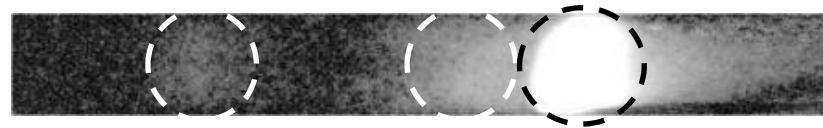
Flame position close to the ignition limit

Weak flame location  $\rightarrow$  Ignition temperature

# Triple weak flames, n-heptane



Yamamoto et al., PCI33 (2011)



$U = 3$  cm/s

Triple stationary weak flames observed  
Weak flame location (temp.) insensitive to flow velocity



# Computations (one-dimensional plug flow)

Code     PREMIX with small modification

Gas-phase energy equation

$$\dot{M} \frac{dT}{dx} - \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \lambda A \frac{dT}{dx} \right) + \frac{A}{c_p} \sum_{k=1}^K \rho Y_k V_k c_{pk} \frac{dT}{dx} + \frac{A}{c_p} \sum_{k=1}^K \dot{\omega}_k h_k W_k - \frac{A}{c_p} \frac{4\lambda Nu}{d^2} (T_w - T) = 0$$

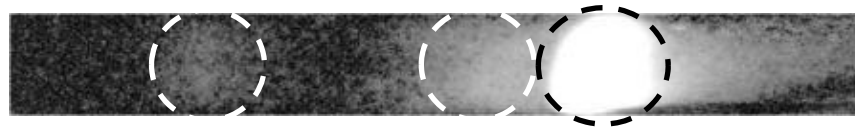
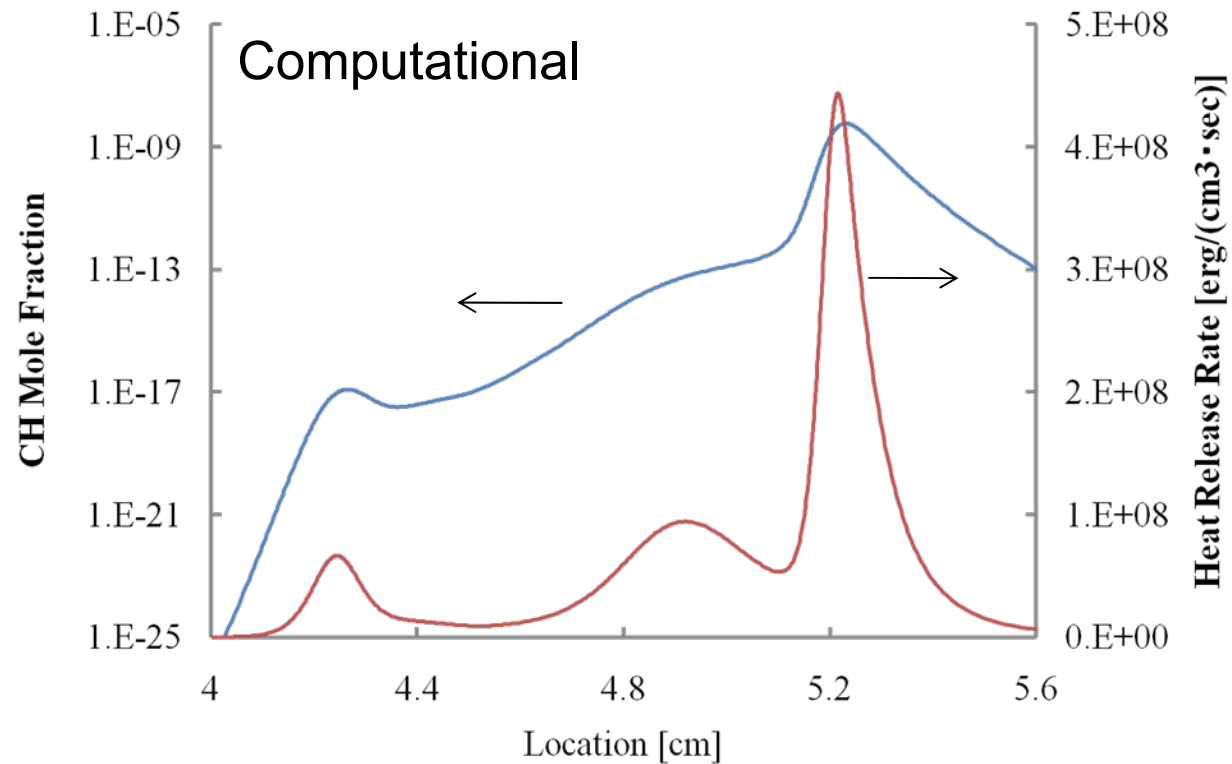
Heat transfer with the wall

Reaction scheme     *n*-heptane, reduced mechanism from LLNL  
(159 species, 1540 steps)     Seiser et al., PCI 28 (2000)

Conditions     Stoichiometric gaseous *n*-heptane/air mixture  
Experimental wall temperature profile was provided as  $T_w(x)$

Flame position     Peaks of heat-release-rate (HRR) [W/cm<sup>3</sup>] profile

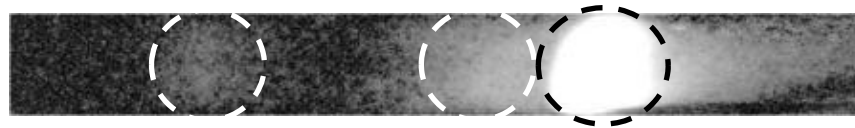
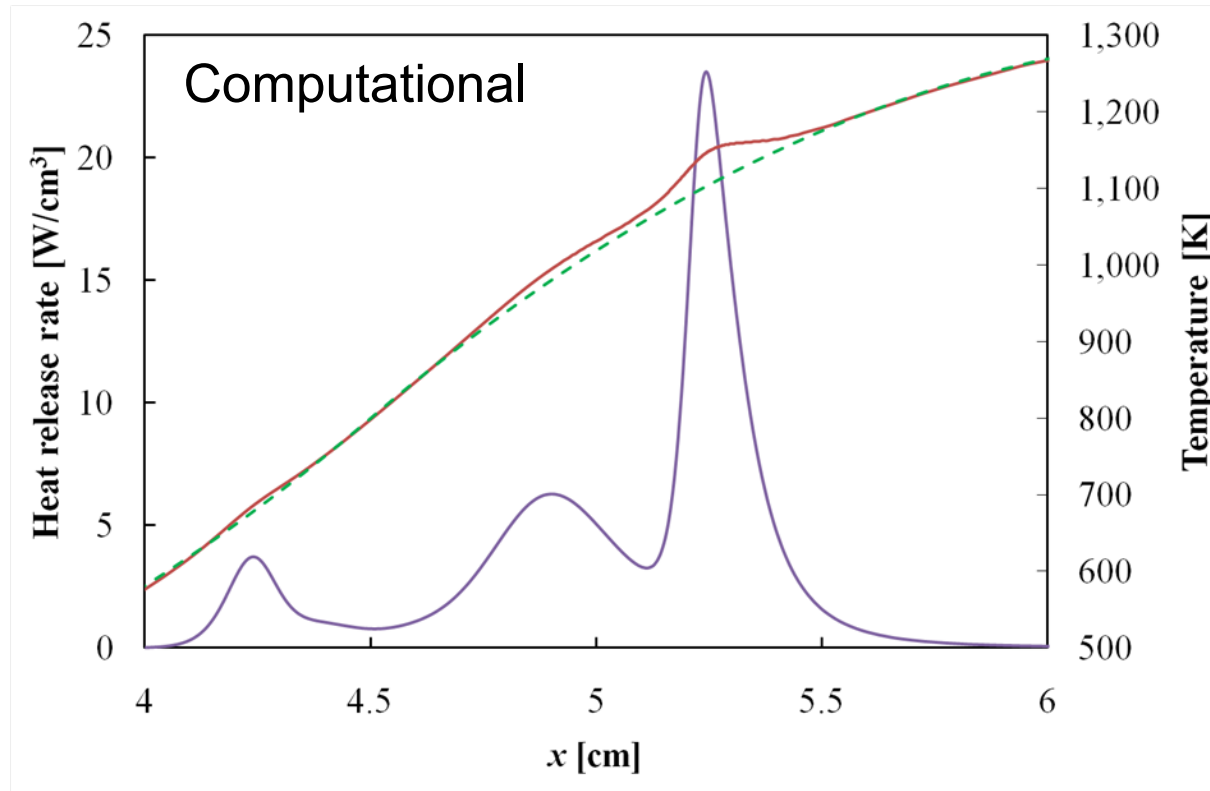
# Triple weak flames, n-heptane



$U = 3 \text{ cm/s}$

## Three-stage heat release

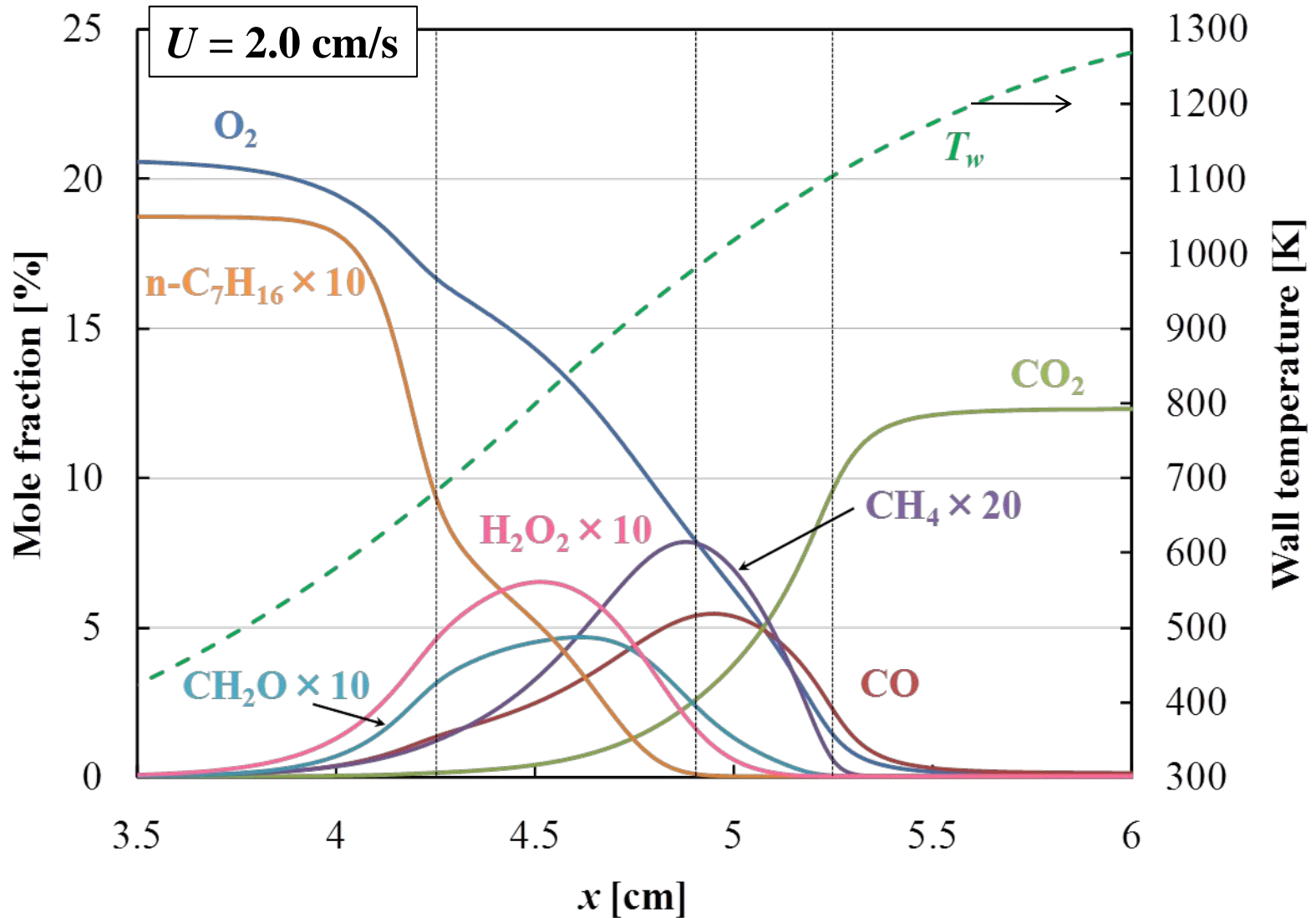
# Triple weak flames, n-heptane



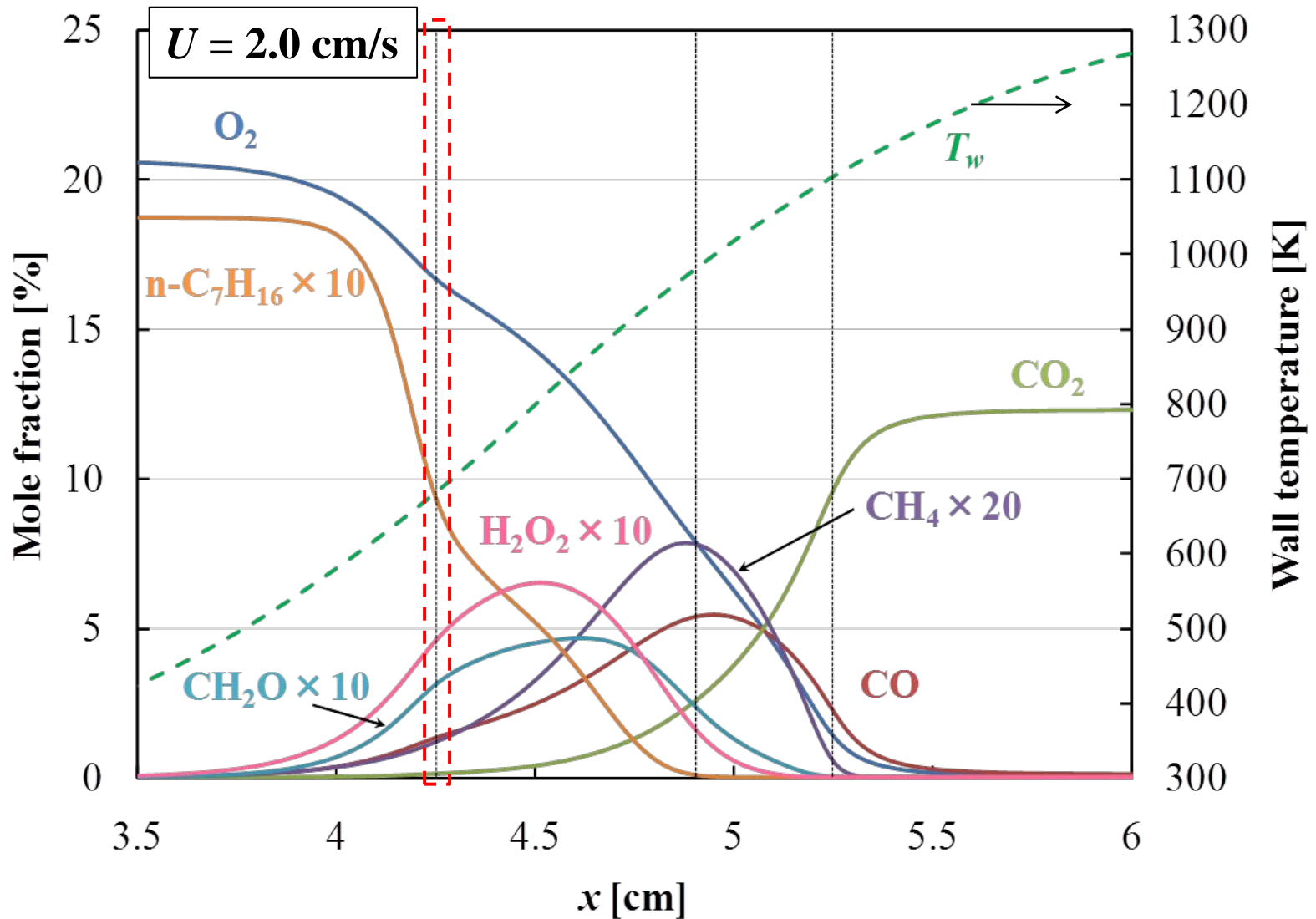
$U = 3 \text{ cm/s}$

Three-stage heat release

# Computational species profiles

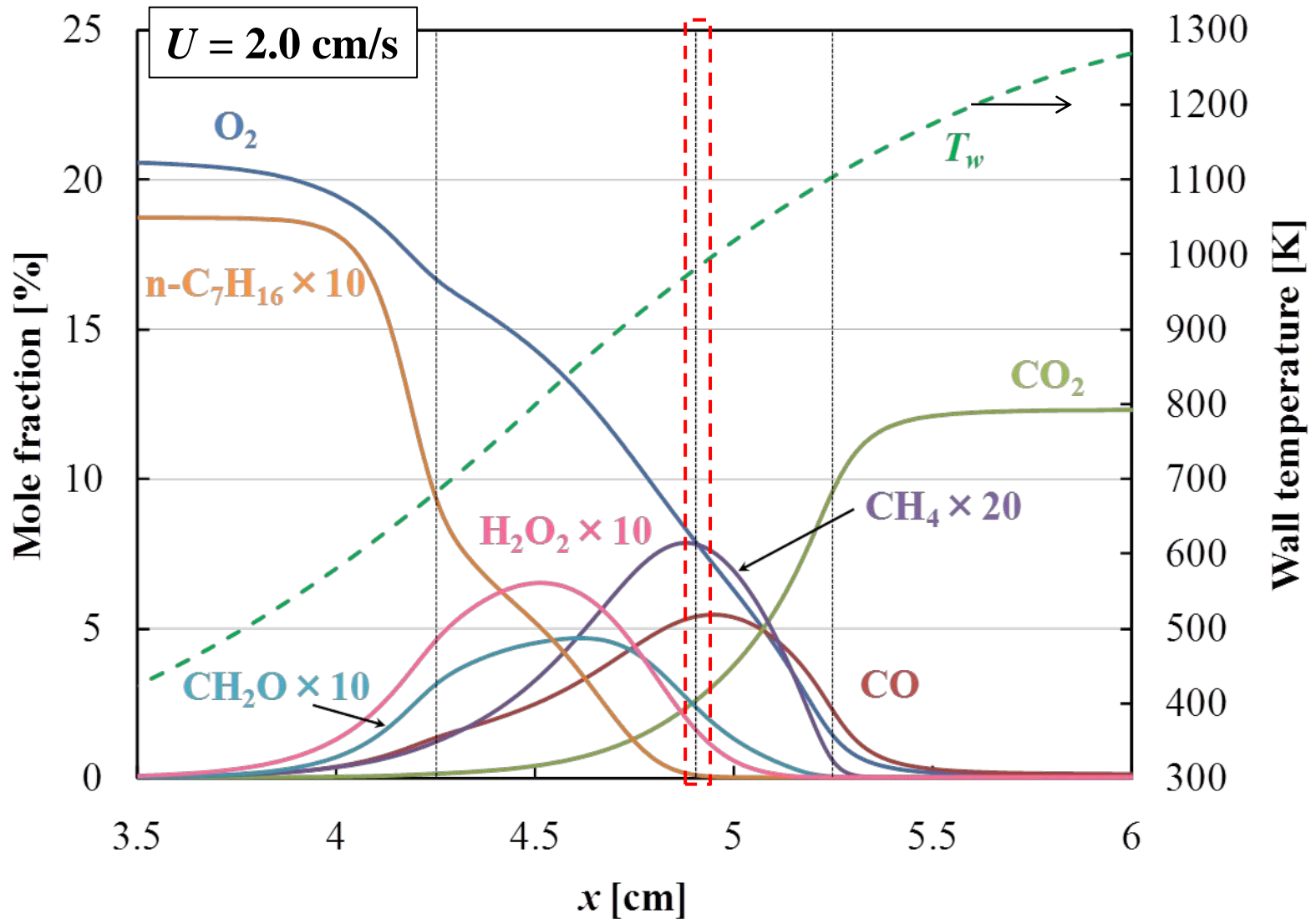


# Computational species profiles -1st weak flame-

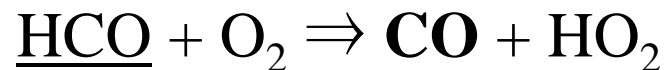
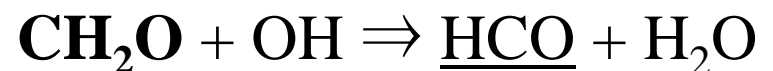
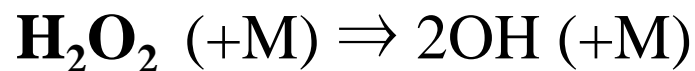


LTO:  $CH_2O$ ,  $H_2O_2$ ,  $CO$ ,  $CH_4$  produced

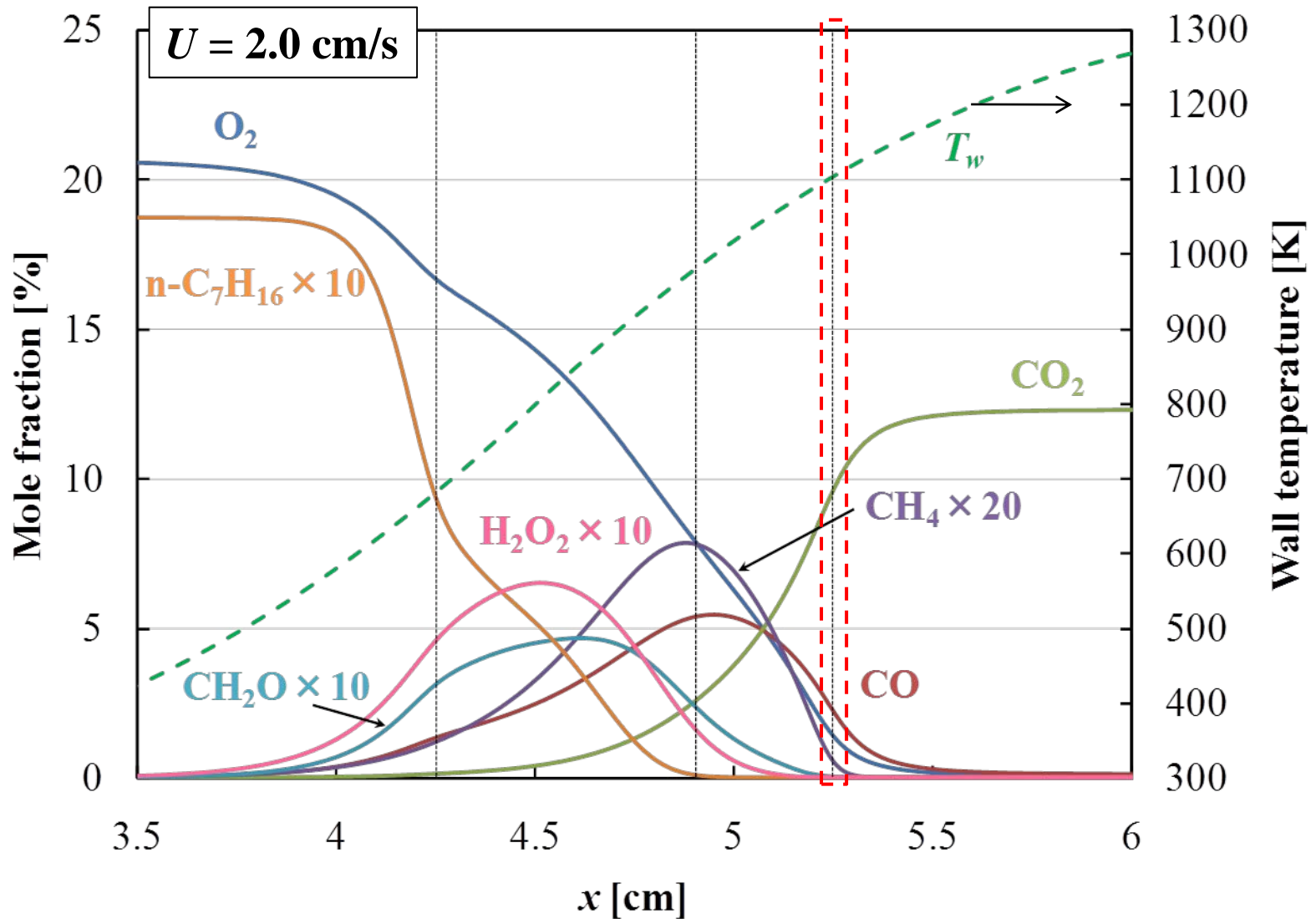
# Computational species profiles -2nd weak flame-



Partial oxidations:



# Computational species profiles -3rd weak flame-

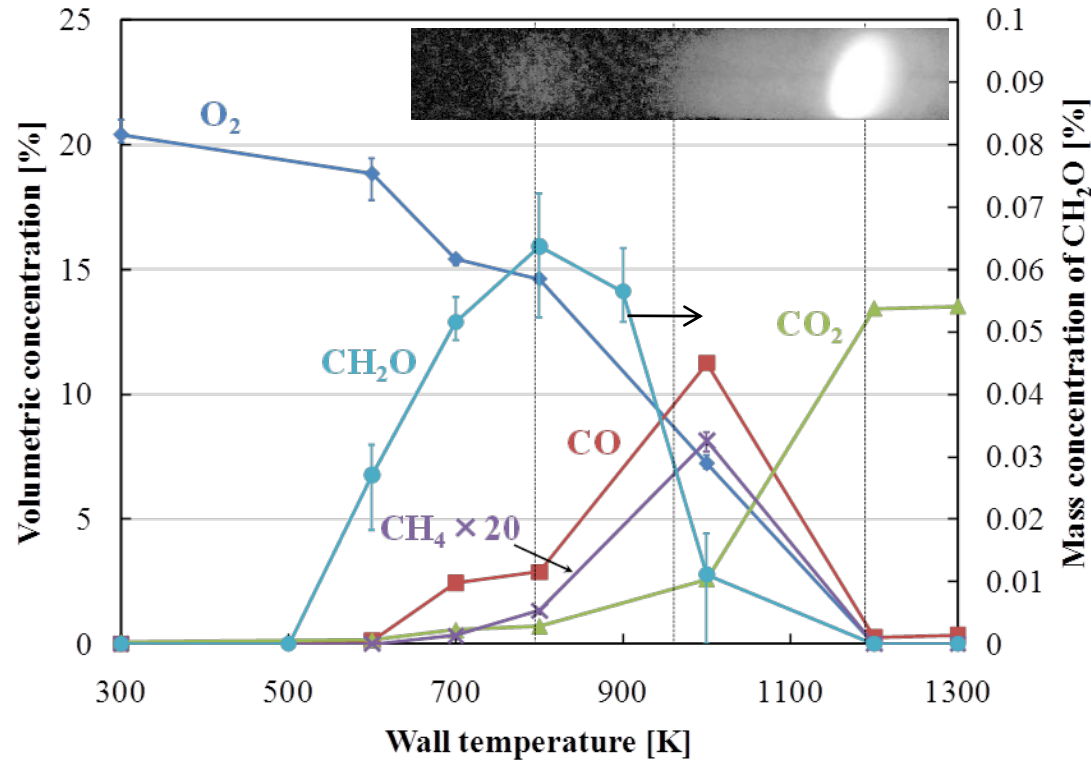


Full oxidations:  $CO + OH \Rightarrow CO_2 + H$

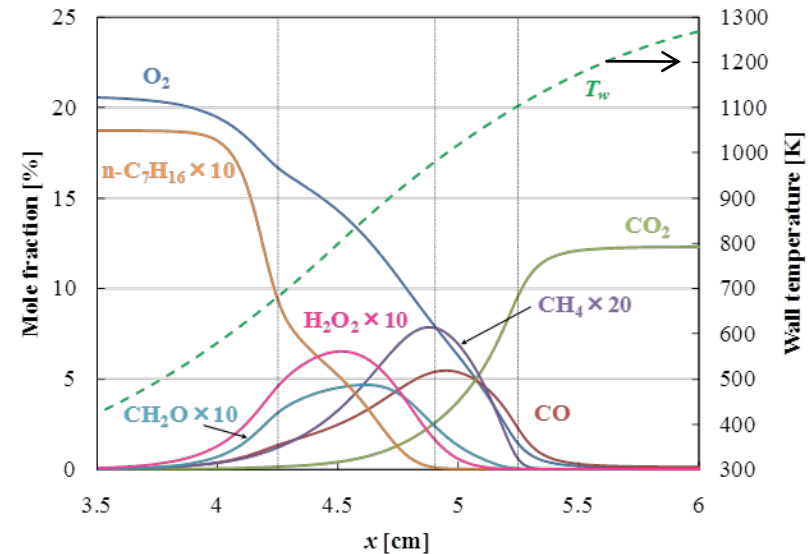
# Comparison: measurements and computations

( $U = 2.0$  cm/s)

## Measurement by GC



## Computations

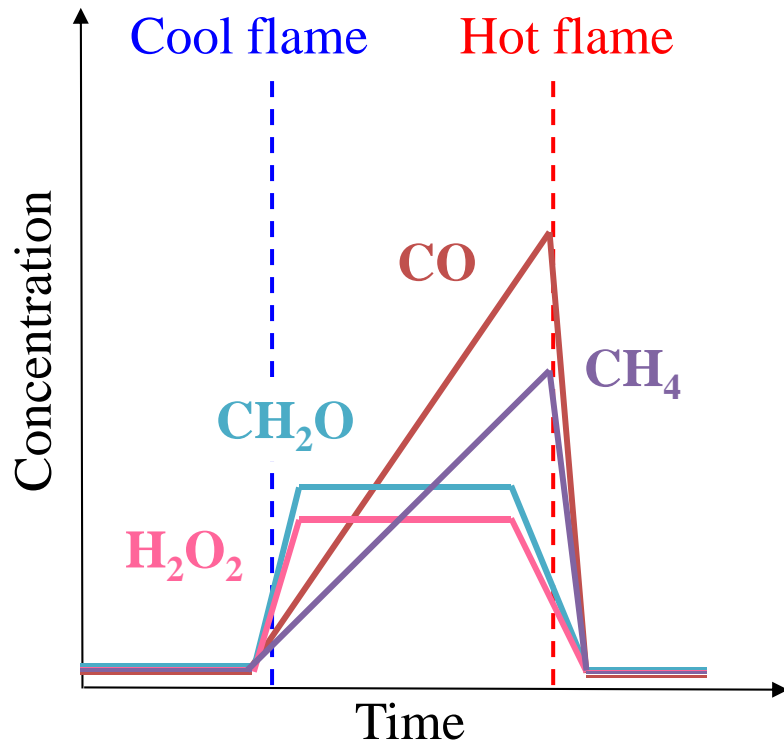


Three-stage oxidation process was experimentally confirmed by gas sampling

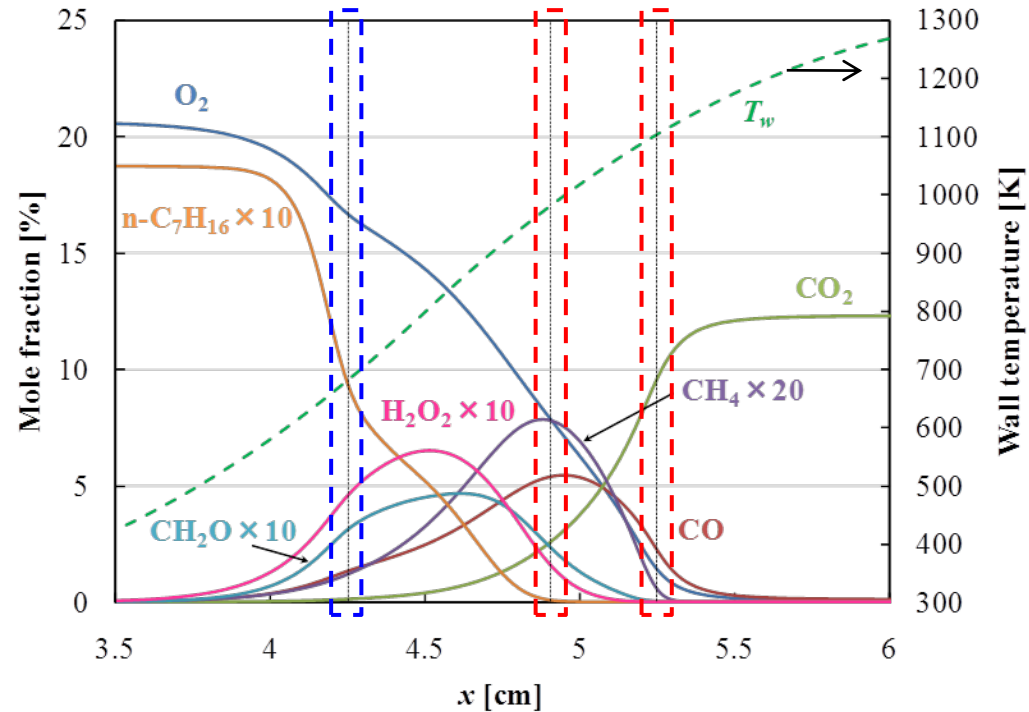


# Interpretation of triple weak flames in MFR

Typical two-stage oxidation



Present three-stage oxidation

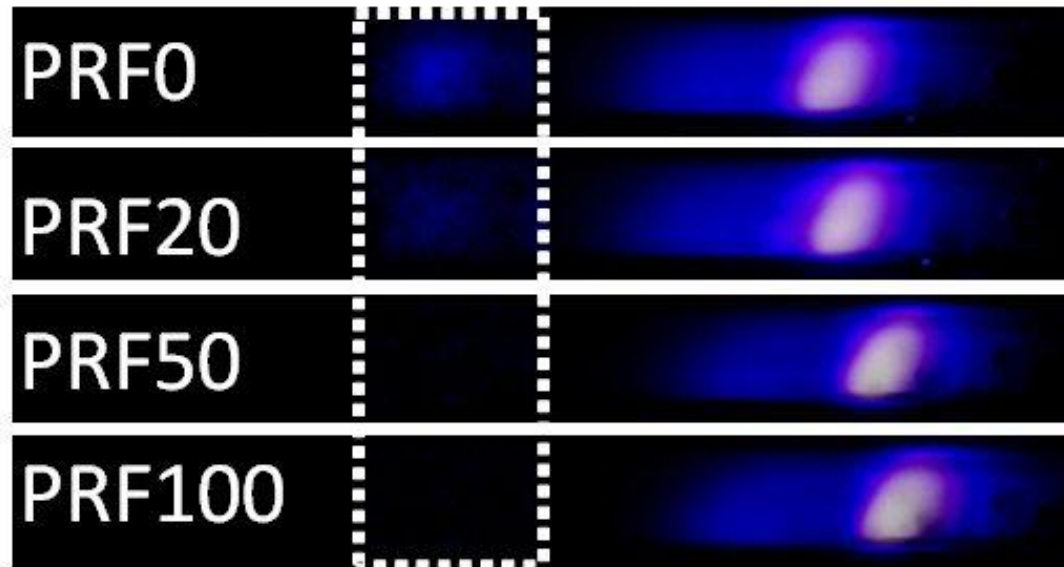


Typical two-stage oxidation: **Cool flame** + **Hot flame**

Three-stage oxidation: **Cool flame** + **Separated hot flames**  
(Blue flame & Hot flame)

# MFR applied for gasoline PRF

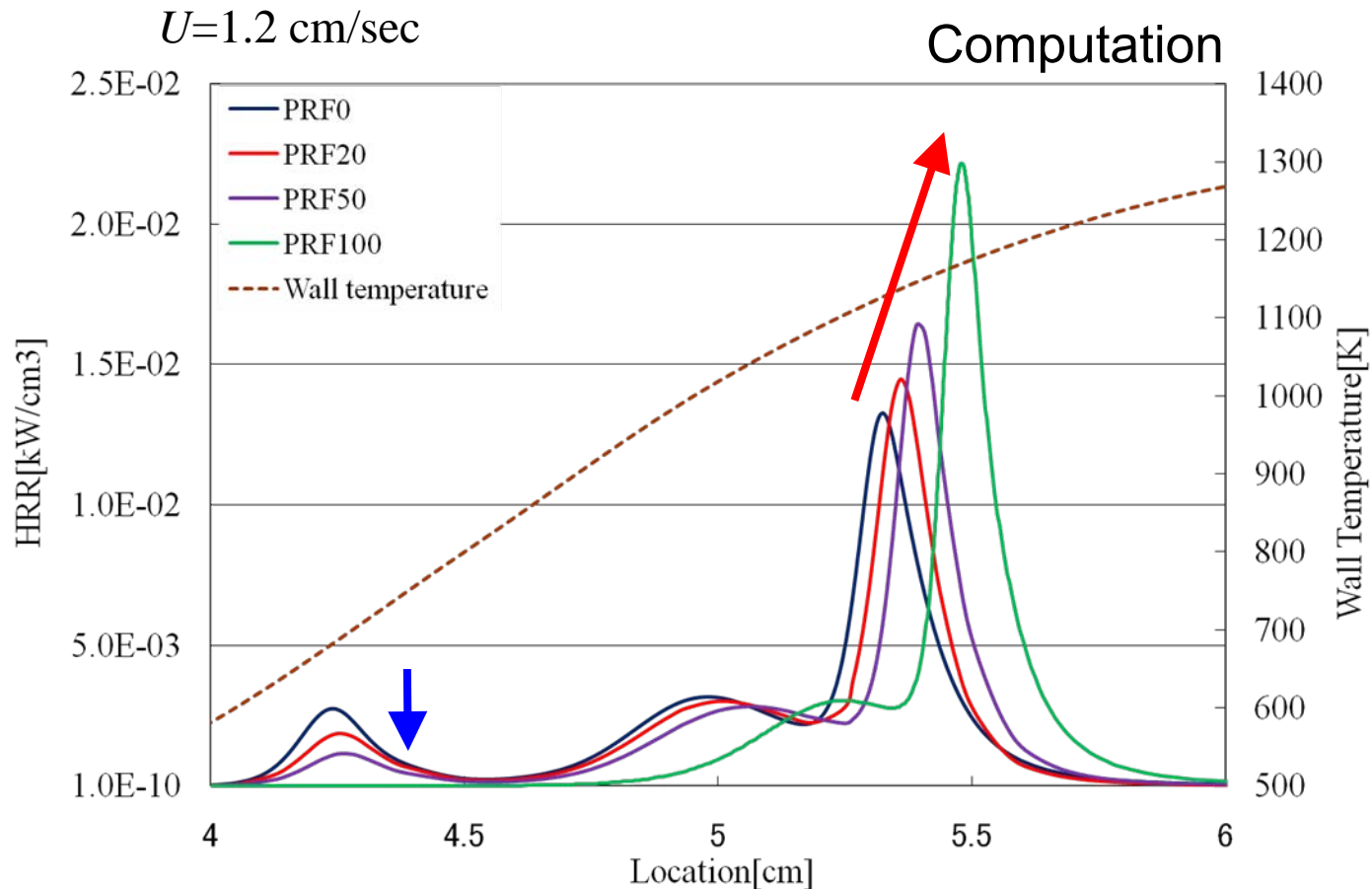
*n*-heptane + *iso*-octane (PRF)



Appearances of multiple weak flame  
represent Research Octane Number



# Weak flames at different RON



Significant LTO in smaller RON  
Weak flame behaviors reproduced

# Weak flames at elevated pressures

PRF0 / air,  $U=2.0$  cm/sec

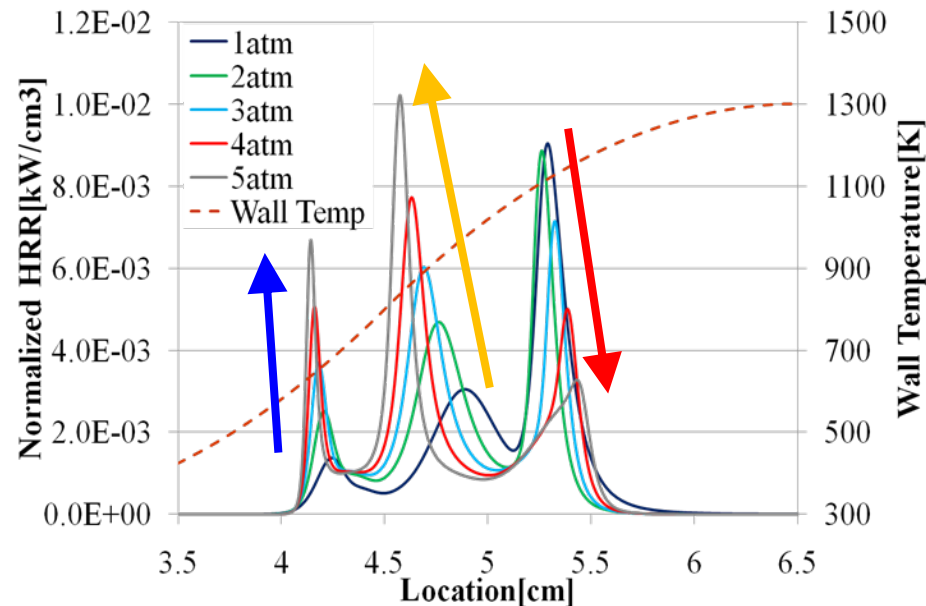
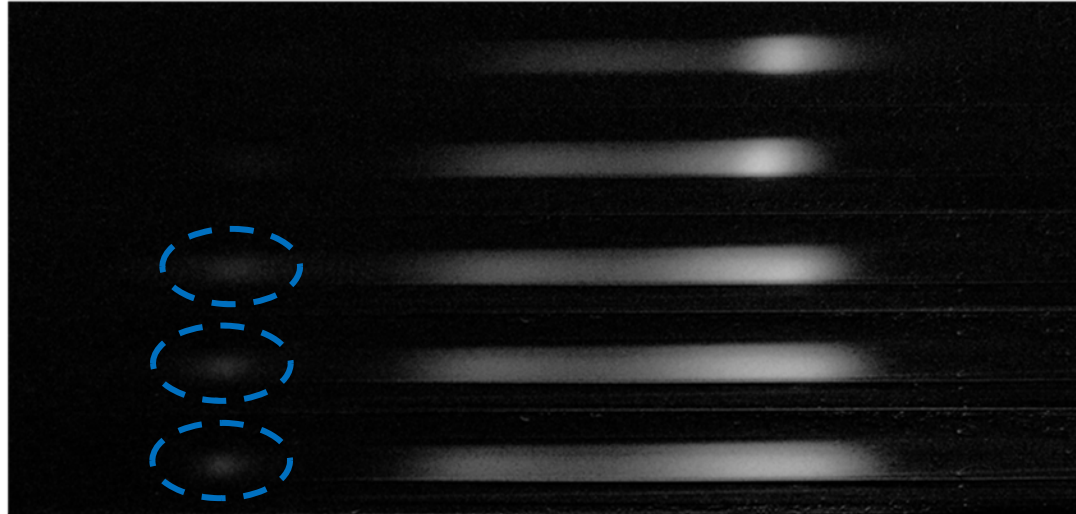
1 atm

2 atm

3 atm

4 atm

5 atm



PRF20, 50,  
100 similar  
Tendencies  
but weaker  
LTO

# Fuels addressed

methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ )



DME ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_3$ )



*n*-heptane ( $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{16}$ )

*iso*-octane ( $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}$ )

toluene ( $\text{C}_7\text{H}_8$  or  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_3$ )



methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ )

ethane ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ )

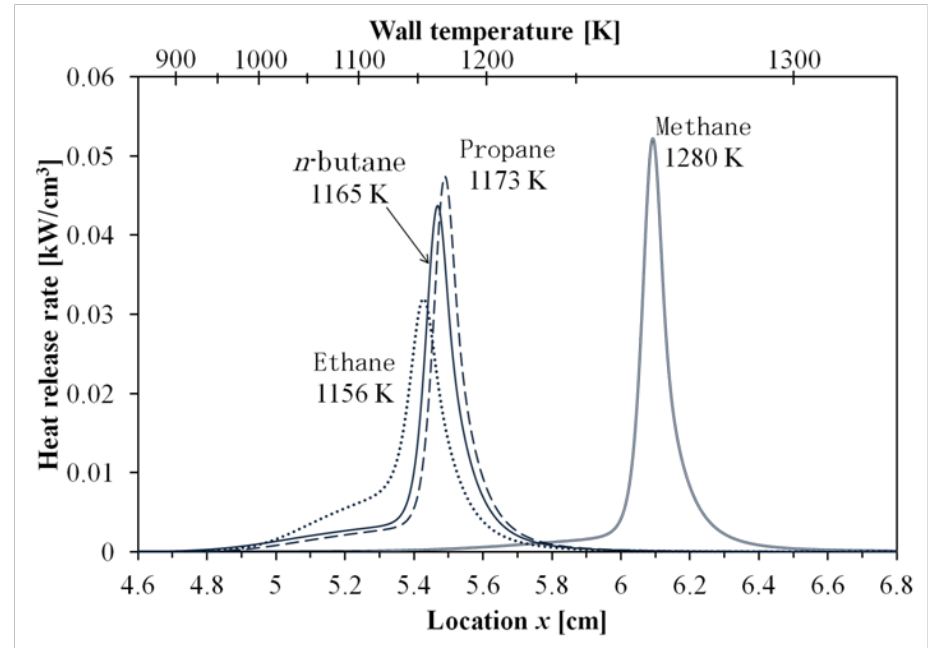
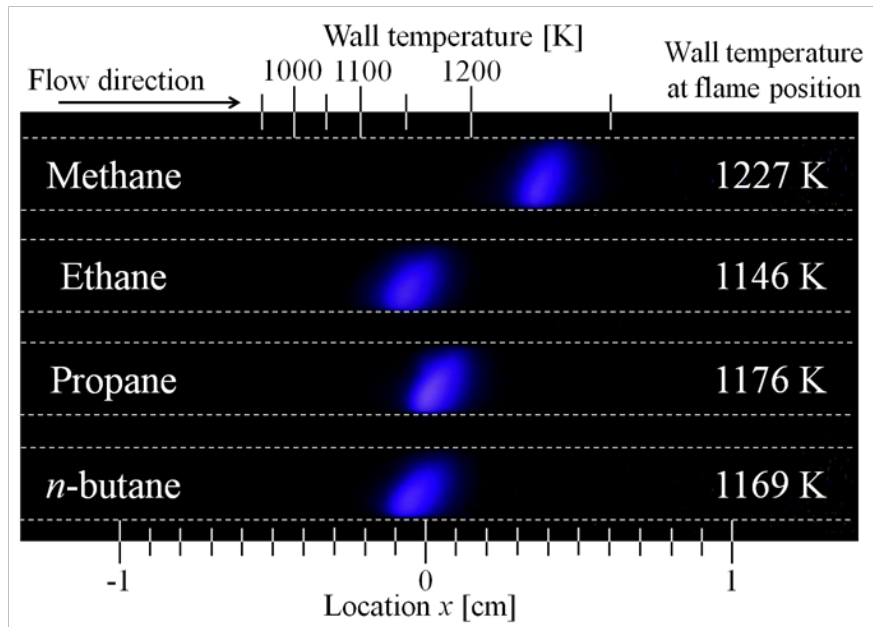
propane ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$ )

*n*-butane, *iso*-butane ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$ ) → (Kamada et al., WIPP)



# Natural gas components

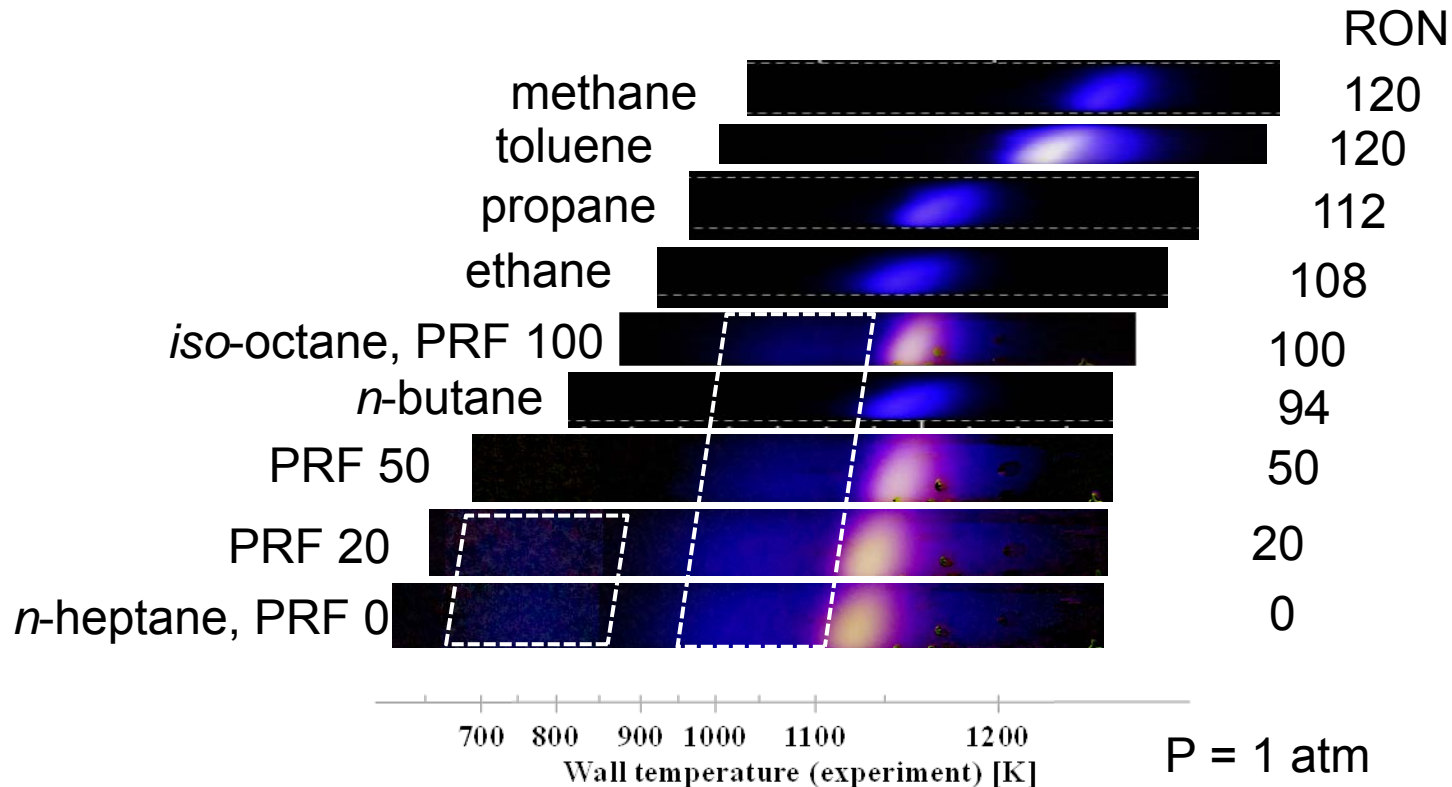
(Kamada et al., WIPP)



Similar single weak flame (hot flame) observed for each fuel  
Different flame locations  
Computations reproduced experimental observation

# Weak flames at various RON

Data collected at slightly different conditions,  
i.e., flow velocity, exposure time, temperature profile



3rd weak flame (main flame) location (temp.) monotonic function of RON

2nd weak flame (blue flame) observable when RON < 100

1st weak flame (cool flame) observable when RON < 20



# Conclusions and future, 1 of 2

Micro flow reactor with prescribed temperature profile was introduced

- Three kinds of flame response (S-shaped)
- Weak flame corresponds to ignition branch
- Multiple weak flame utilized for fuel characterization
- Multiple weak flames at elevated pressures
- Appearances of weak flame correlated with RON



# Conclusions and future, 2 of 2

## Diesel fuels and Cetane numbers

*n*-cetane (hexadecane,  $C_{16}H_{34}$ )

*iso*-cetane (2,2,4,4,6,8,8-heptamethylnonane,  $C_{16}H_{34}$ )

*n*-decane ( $C_{10}H_{22}$ )

$\alpha$ -methylnaphthalene ( $C_{11}H_{10}$ )  $\rightarrow$  (Suzuki et al., 5E06)

Ethanol  $\rightarrow$  (Nakamura et al., 1E02)

Syngas

Oxyfuel combustion  $\rightarrow$  (Li et al., WIPP)

Effect of surface reaction  $\rightarrow$  (Kizaki et al, WIPP)

PAH and soot

## Optical diagnosis

LIF, CRDS for precise species profile measurements

Higher pressures

High pressure chamber ( up to 20 bar) fabricated



# Acknowledgements

IHI, IIC, HONDA R&D, JAXA, NEDO, HITACHI, TG,  
MEXT



Micro flow reactor now commercially available