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Hydrogen Blending into Natural Gas

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Study Group on Materials Testing and Qualification for Hydrogen Service
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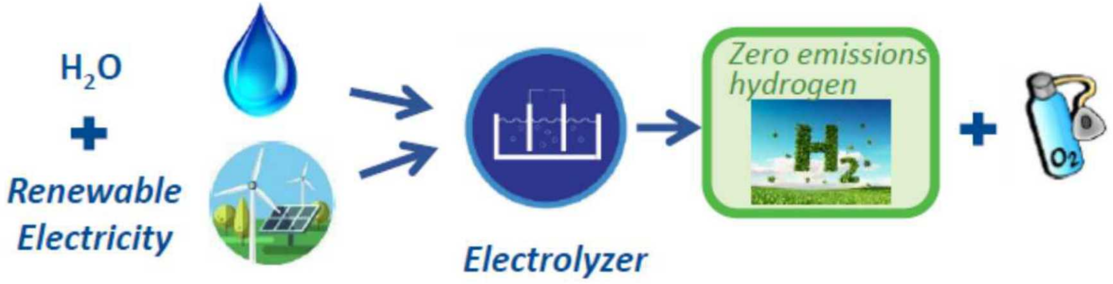
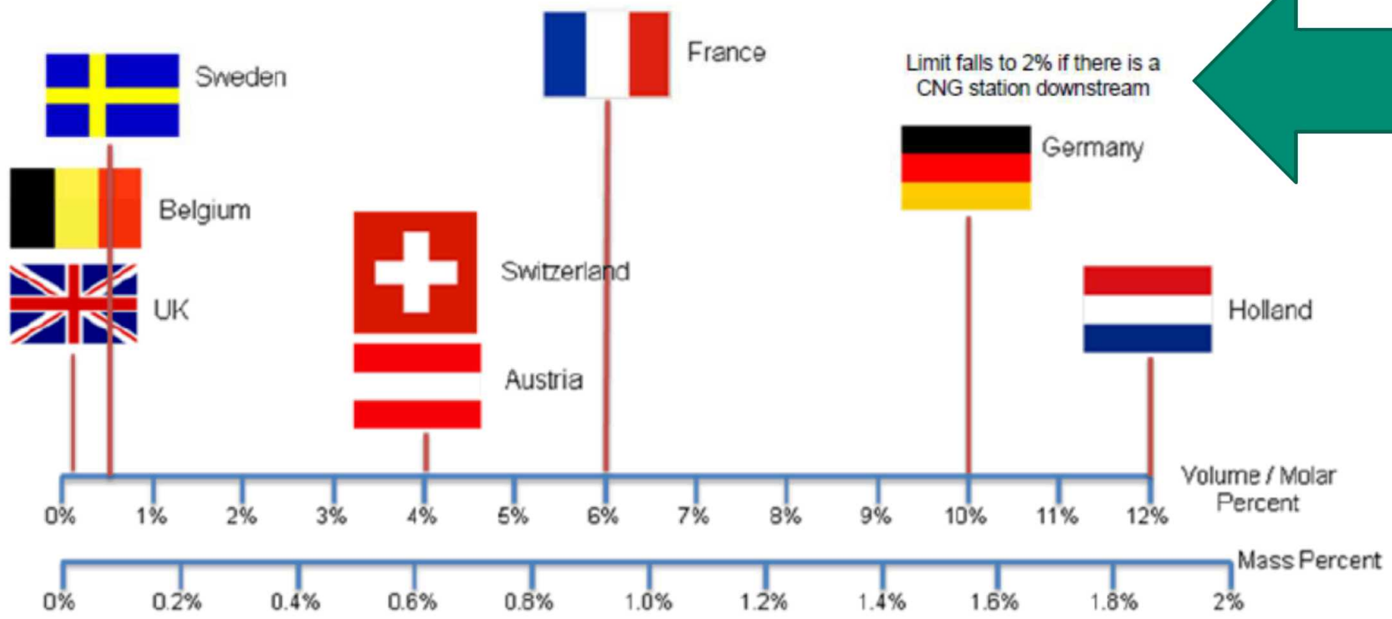
Growing interest in using hydrogen blends in natural gas to reduce carbon emissions

- Power-to-gas (P2G) using excess renewable electricity to produce hydrogen and inject into pipeline



EU Hydrogen Limits for Injection into the HP Gas Grid

Covered by a range of local laws and EU Directives



No harmonization of allowable hydrogen concentration in natural gas

Ref: George Minter, SoCal Gas "New Natural Gas Pathways for California: Decarbonizing the Pipeline" Presentation 2014.

Ref: SoCal Gas, "Hydrogen: Market Fundamentals, Trends and Opportunities", California Hydrogen Business Council, December 11, 2018.

Many demonstration projects are being performed around the world

France – Dunkirk **6% up to 20% H_2** into buses and 200 residential homes

Italy – Snam **5% H_2** into gas transmission network

UK – H21 Leeds CityGate Project – converting existing NG network to **100% H_2**

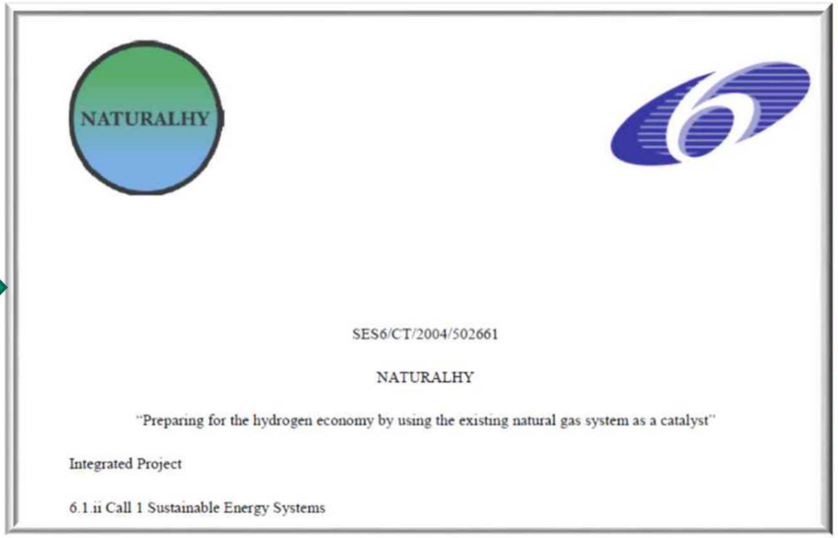
UK – HyDeploy at Keele University (up to **20% H_2** blend)

US – SoCalGas and UC Irvine – blending H_2 made from excess renewable electricity to campus pipeline

Germany – Trial of 170 customers supplied with up to **10% H_2** blend by E.ON Technologies

Netherlands – up to **20% H_2** blend injected in Amerland

Many references point to results from NaturalHy report, 2010


NATURALHY

SES6/CT/2004/502661

NATURALHY

"Preparing for the hydrogen economy by using the existing natural gas system as a catalyst"

Integrated Project

6.1.ii Call 1 Sustainable Energy Systems

https://www.engie.com/en/businesses/gas/hydrogen/power-to-gas/the-grhyd-demonstration-project/
https://www.azernews.az/region/148145.html
https://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/H21-Report-Interactive-PDF-July-2016.compressed.pdf
https://www.elp.com/articles/2016/12/socalgas-uc-irvine-test-hydrogen-energy-technology-to-store-renewable-energy.html

So how much hydrogen is allowed in natural gas?

A) 2%?

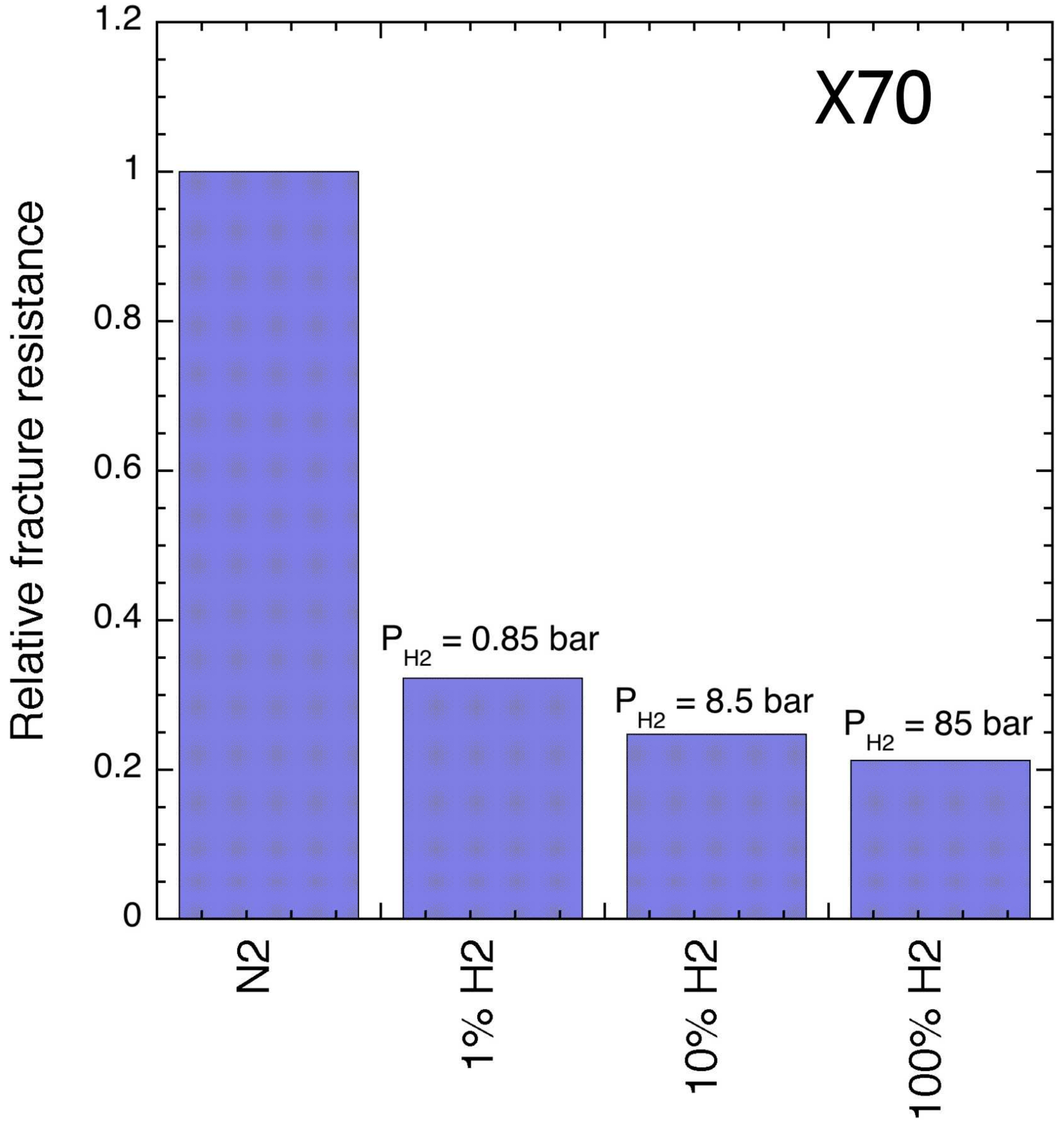
B) 5%?

C) 10%?

D) It depends on your operating conditions and your definition of the word “allowed”.

Often times these values (2,5,10% H_2) are based on performance of burners, not measurements of material compatibility with hydrogen

Low pressure H_2 has substantial effect on fracture resistance of pipeline steels

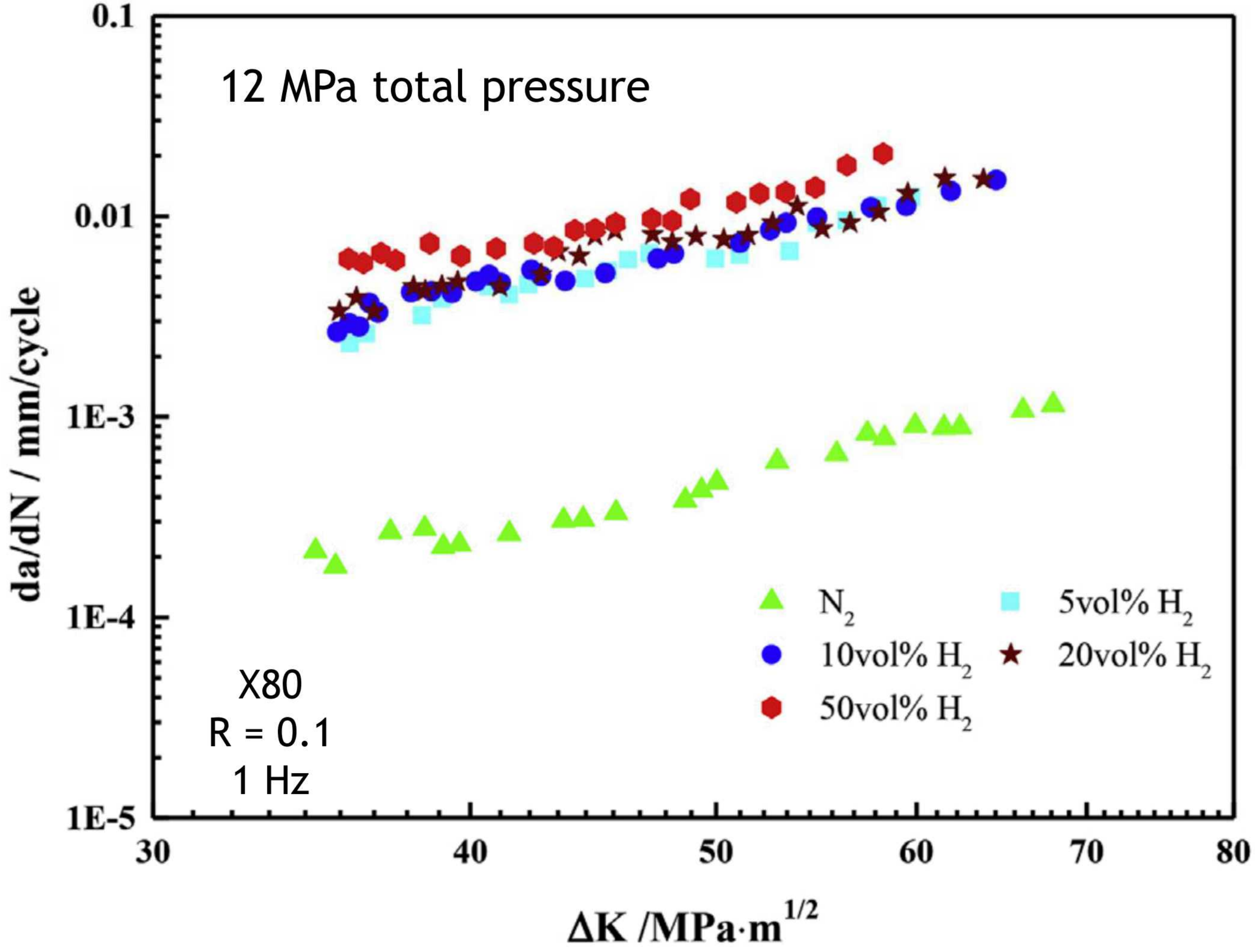


- **Measurements of fracture resistance in gaseous mixtures of H2 and N2 show substantial effects of H2**
- **1% H2 is only modestly different than 100% H2**
- **Total pressure = 85 bar**

<1 bar of H2 reduces fracture resistance

From: Briottet et al, ASME PVP-2018 conf.

Low pressure H_2 has substantial effect on fatigue crack growth of pipeline steels

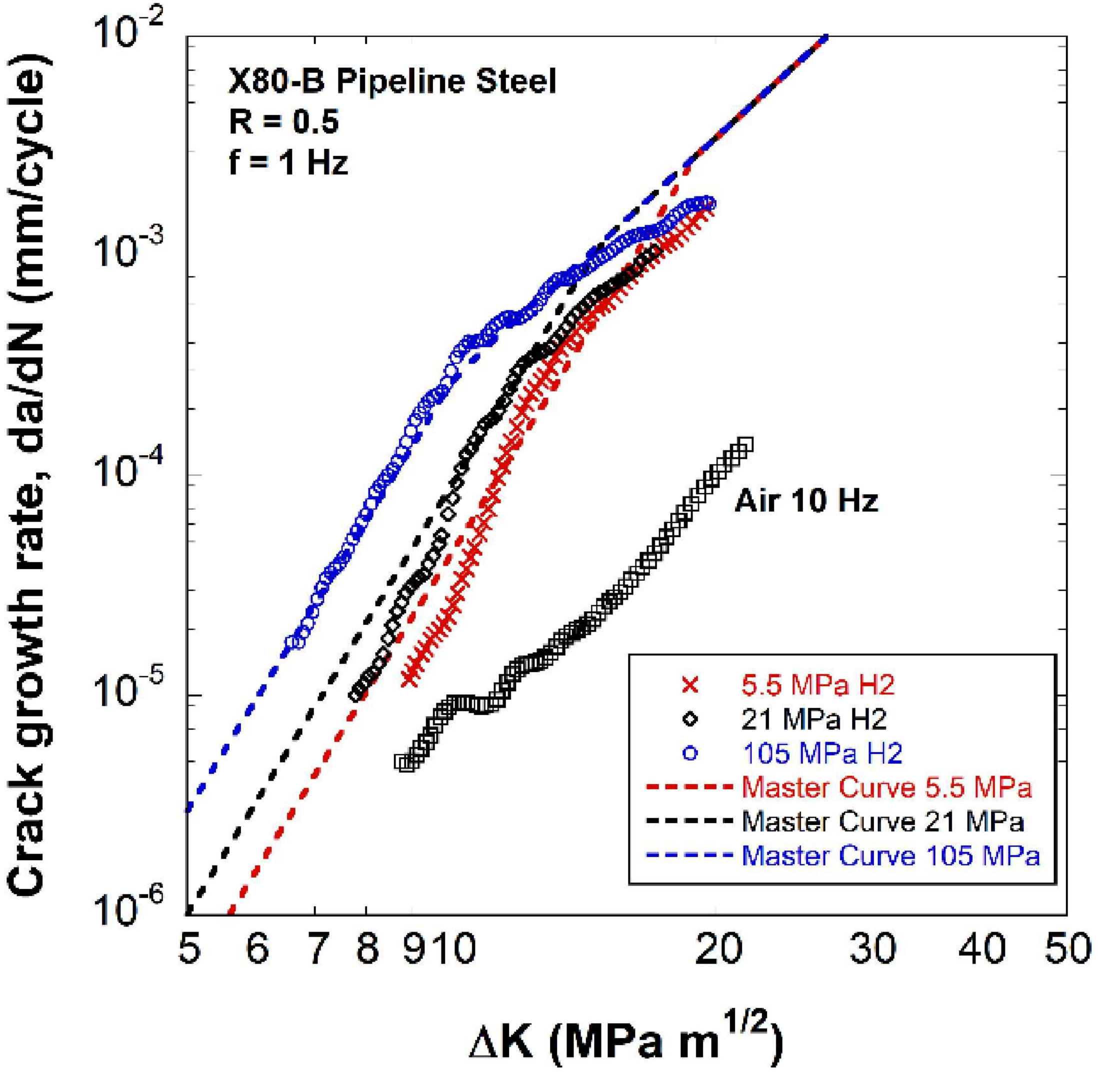


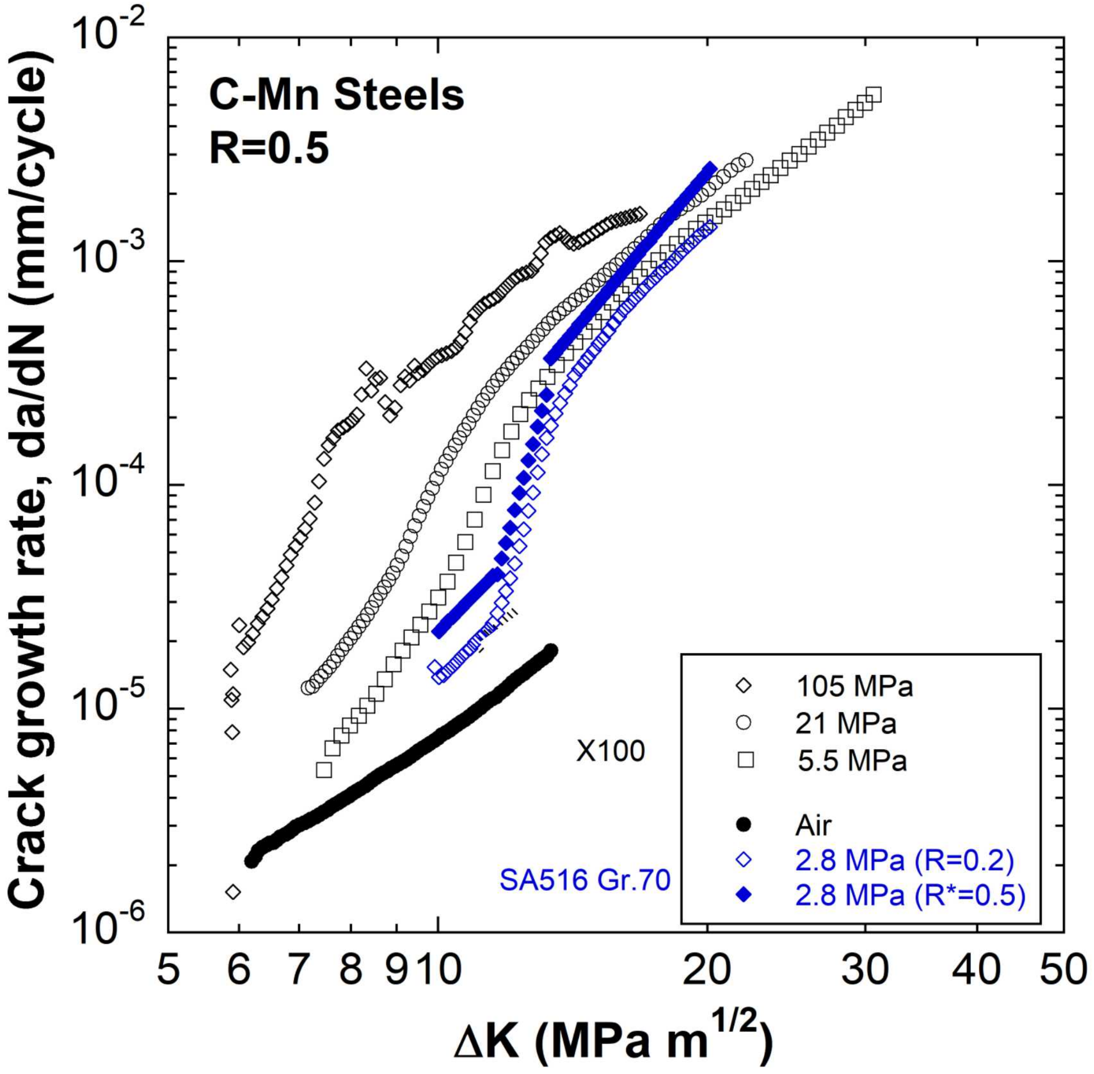
From: Meng et al, *IJ Hydrogen Energy* **42** (2017) 7404.

- **Measurements in gaseous mixtures of H2 and N2 show acceleration of fatigue crack growth rate with 5% H2**
  - **But little additional acceleration with higher H2 content**

Small amounts of hydrogen can have substantial effect on fatigue and fracture

In lower ΔK range, lower pressures still exhibit sizeable increases in FCGR

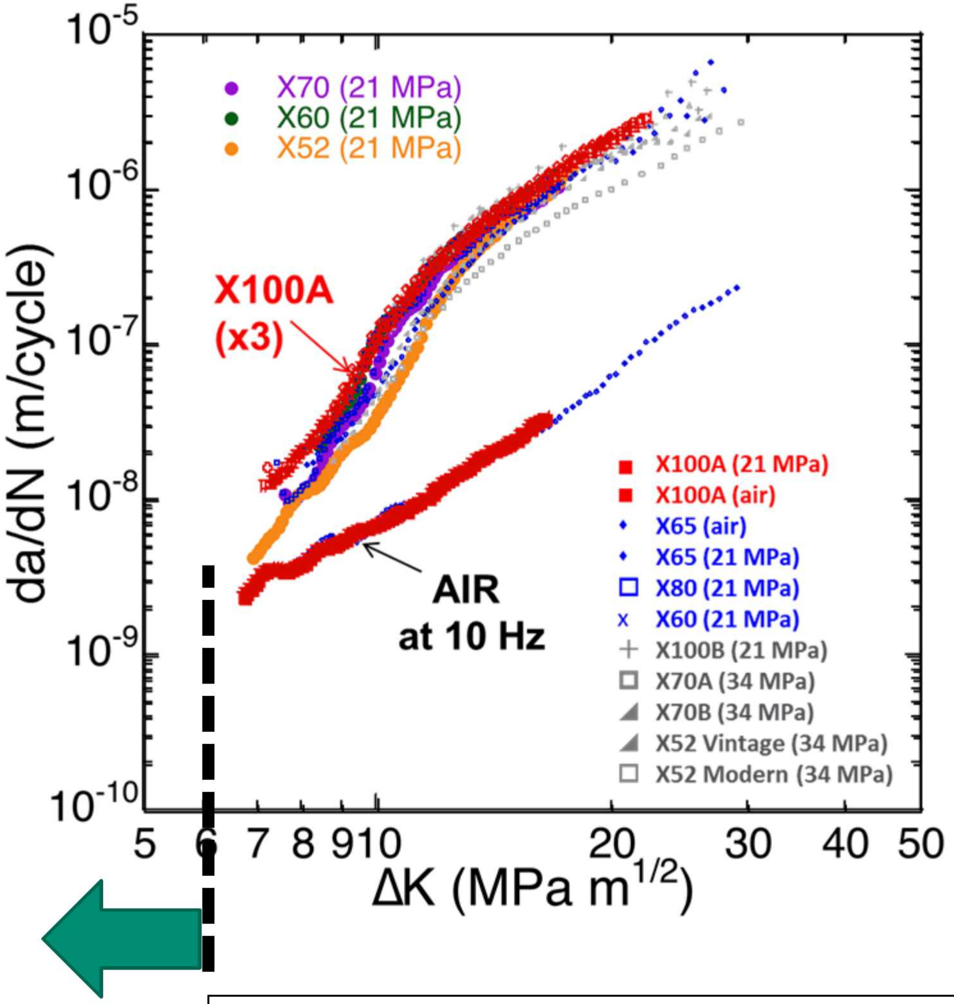




SNL data (taken from various published and unpublished)

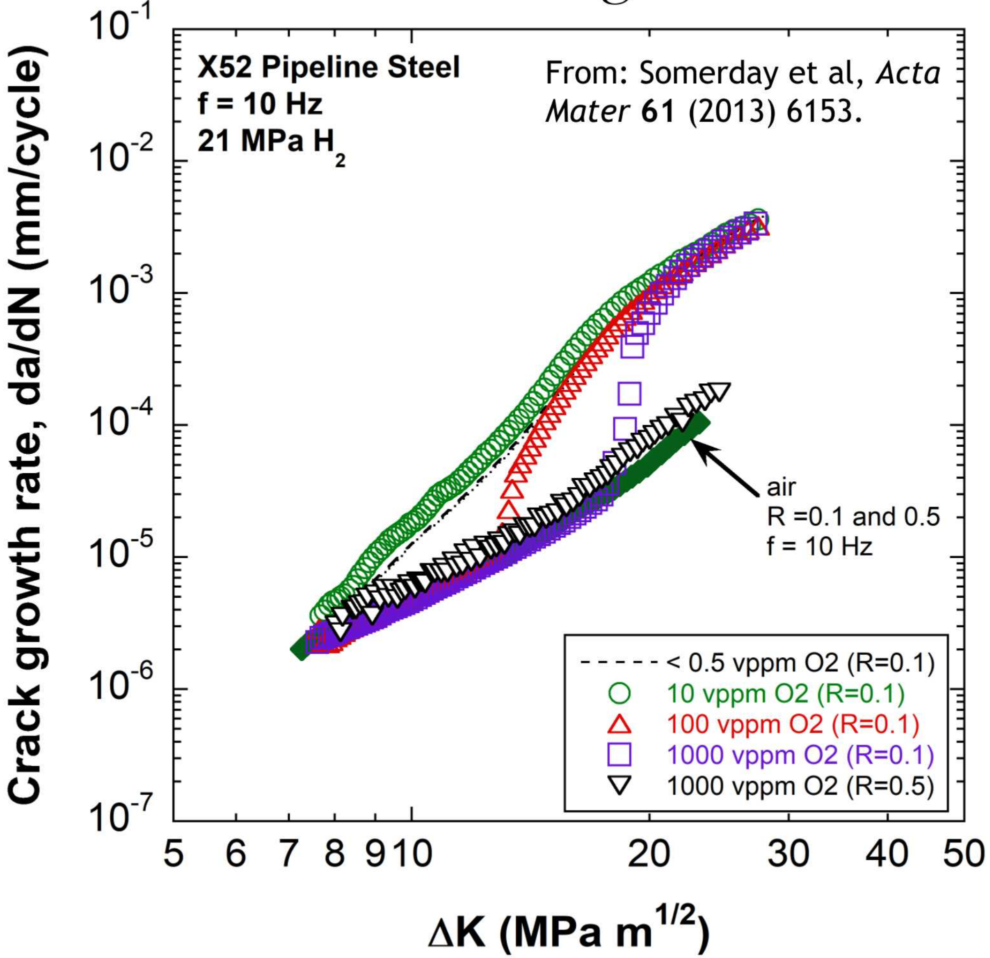
How to reduce effects of hydrogen degradation in blended pipelines from HA-FCG?

1) Design / operate conservatively



Ensure that operating envelope is at low ΔK where curves converge

2) Make use of impurities which can mitigate effects



Impurities in H_2 can have substantial effects on in-service performance

Natural Gas streams contain impurities such as Oxygen

- Maximum allowable levels of oxygen range from 0.1 to 0.2% (1000 – 2000 vppm)

→ Well above what is needed to mitigate HA-FCG (in specific operating conditions)

Typical Composition of Natural Gas

Methane	CH_4	70-90%
Ethane	C_2H_6	
Propane	C_3H_8	0-20%
Butane	C_4H_{10}	
Carbon Dioxide	CO_2	0-8%
Oxygen	O_2	0-0.2%
Nitrogen	N_2	0-5%
Hydrogen sulphide	H_2S	0-5%
Rare gases	A, He, Ne, Xe	trace

However, these are maximums NOT minimums so can they guarantee a minimum level of oxygen?

http://naturalgas.org/overview/background/

Summary: The role of mixed hydrogen gas environments and impurities should be considered carefully

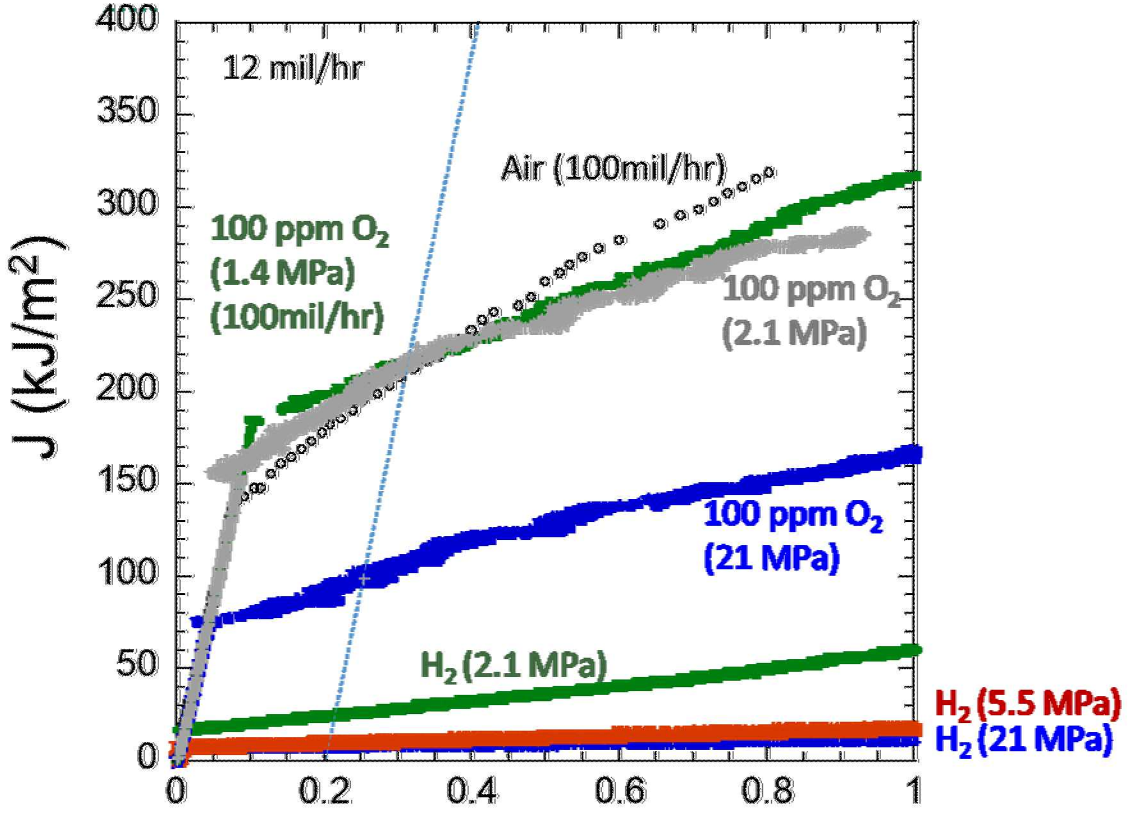
- Small partial pressure of gaseous H2 can have substantial effects on fracture and fatigue of steels
- Oxygen can mitigate effects of H2 in ferritic steels
  - Sensitive to mechanical and environmental variables
  - Other passivating species can have similar effects
- Structural integrity of pipelines carrying mixed gases will depend sensitively on the details
  - NG has many impurities, which can mitigate H2 effects
  - Pure methane is inert and even small additions of H2 can be significant

Materials compatibility for hydrogen containment structures depends on the application and the design

Back up slides

Oxygen moderated hydrogen-assisted fracture

- In 21 MPa pure H_2, fracture toughness K_{JIH} values decreased by 80%.
- In 21 MPa mixed gas, fracture toughness decreased by only 30%.
- At lower pressures (1.4-2.1 MPa) in mixed gas, no effect of hydrogen was measured (e.g. K_{JIH} in air ~ K_{JIH} in mixed gas
- At lower pressure, test rates of 0.3 and 2.5 mm/hr resulted in similar K_{JIH} ~ air

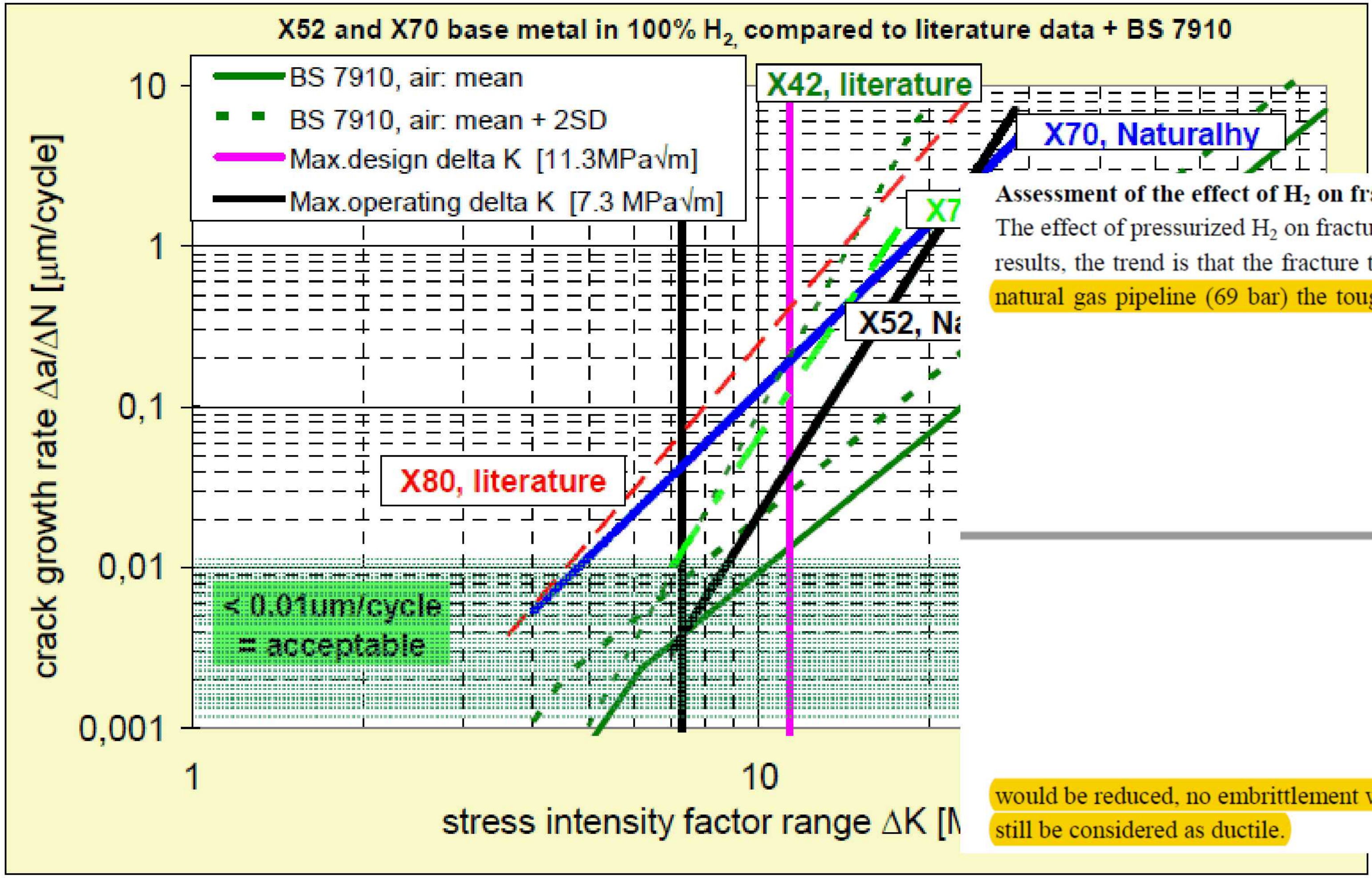


Sample ID	Environment	Test Pressure (MPa)	Actuator rate (mm/hr)	da/dt (mm/s)	K_{JIH} (MPa $m^{1/2}$)
X100-5	H2	21	0.3	8.5E-4	43
X100-6	H2	5.5	0.3	3.6E-4	47
X100-7	H2	2.1	0.3	1.7E-4	75
X100-51	Air	-	2.5	5.0E-4	217
X100-52	Air	-	2.5	1.4E-4	202
X100-53	H2 + 100 ppm O2	21	0.3	1.1E-4	151
X100-55	H2 + 100 ppm O2	2.1	0.3	7.4E-5	222
X100-56	H2 + 100 ppm O2	1.4	2.5	1.0E-4	222

Lower pressure fracture toughness similar to tests in air

Ronevich, PVP2019

NaturalHy report states…



Assessment of the effect of H_2 on fracture toughness of steels

The effect of pressurized H_2 on fracture toughness performance is not fully clarified yet. Although wide variation results, the trend is that the fracture toughness decreases with increasing H_2 pressure. At a typical pressure of a natural gas pipeline (69 bar) the toughness can decrease by 30 -50%. However, even if the fracture resistance

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would be reduced, no embrittlement was noticed, and the mechanical behaviour of the X52 and X70 steels can still be considered as ductile.

Figure 5.1 Fatigue crack growth of X52 and X70 base materials in 100% H_2.

Reports often focus on performance of burners rather than Material Compatibility