

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a complex industrial structure, likely a power plant or refinery. The image is filled with a dense network of dark metal beams, pipes, and walkways. In the center, a person wearing a dark uniform and a bright orange safety helmet is visible, standing on a narrow walkway or ladder. The lighting is bright, creating strong highlights and deep shadows, which emphasizes the metallic textures and the intricate geometry of the facility. The overall tone is industrial and technical.

**IN-SITU EXPERIMENTAL
INVESTIGATION ON THE GROWTH OF
AEROSOLS ALONG THE ABSORPTION
COLUMN IN PCCC**

TNO innovation
for life

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CO2 CATCHER CARBON CAPTURE PLANT

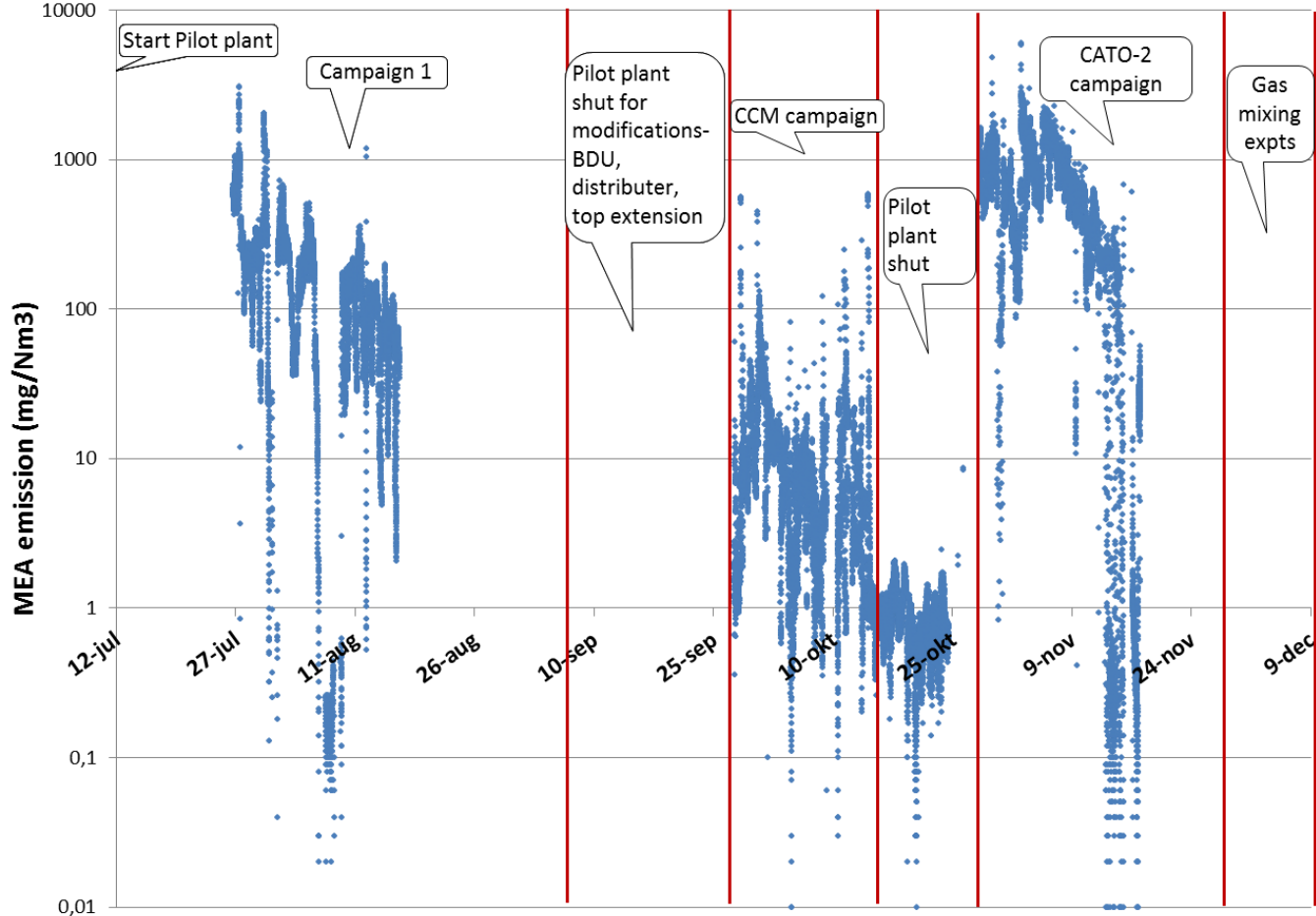


Hard coal fired power plant
Maasvlakte, Netherlands



50 cm diameter absorber,
capacity 6 ton of CO₂ captured per day

PILOT CAMPAIGN (CATO-2)



ISSUE AT HAND

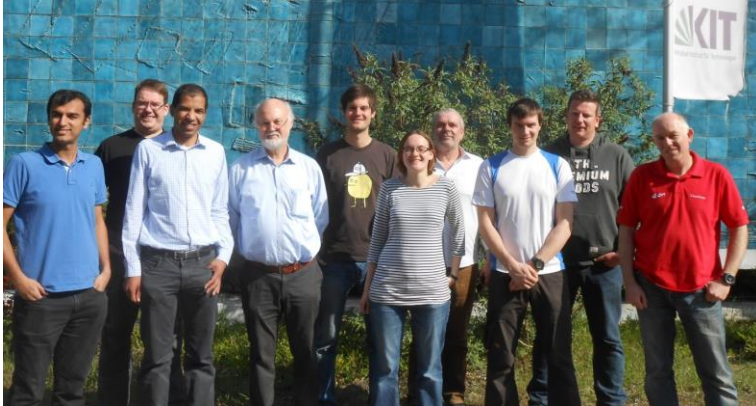


Volatile emission



Aerosol emission

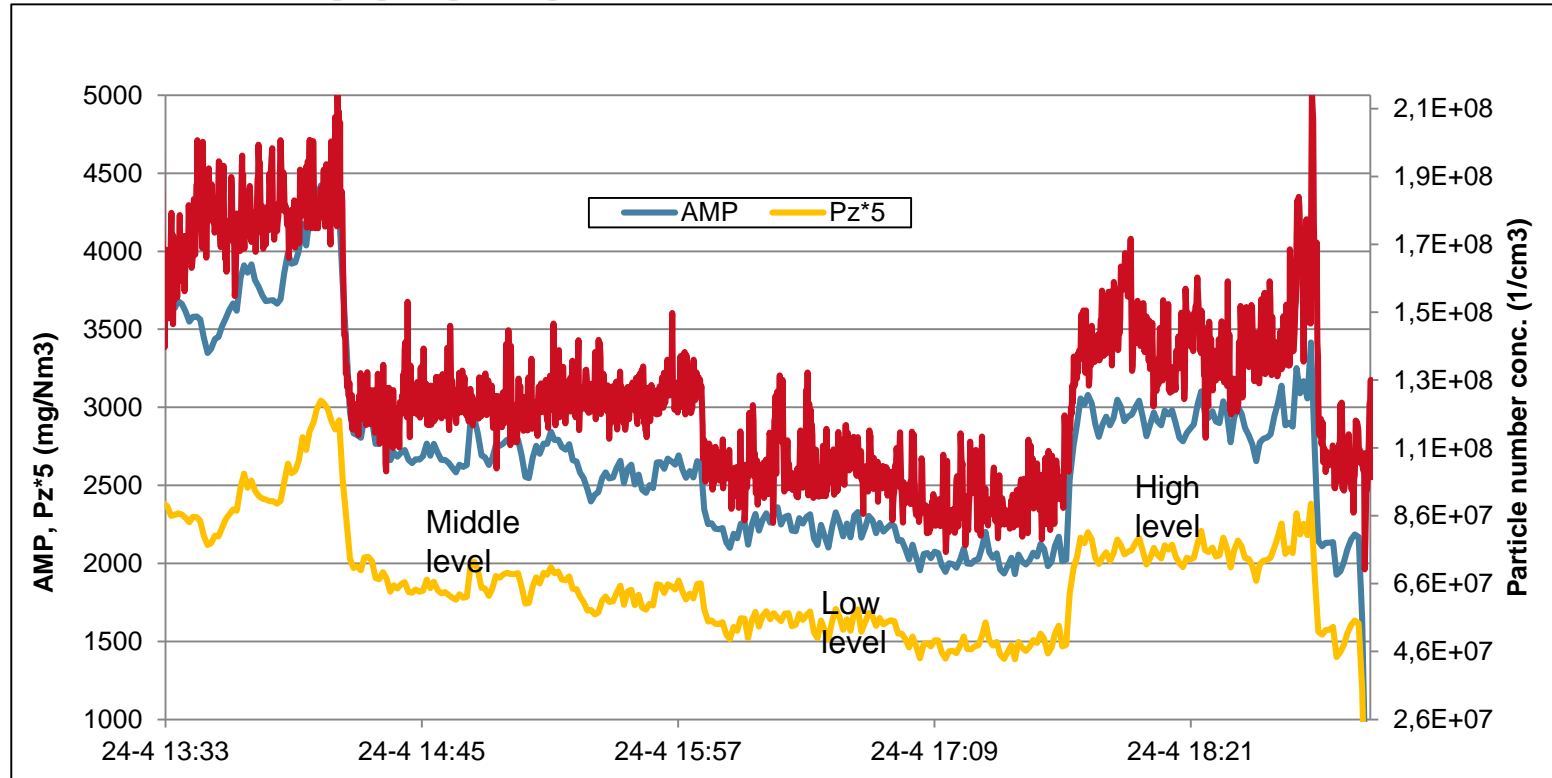
Karlsruhe testing campaigns - CATO



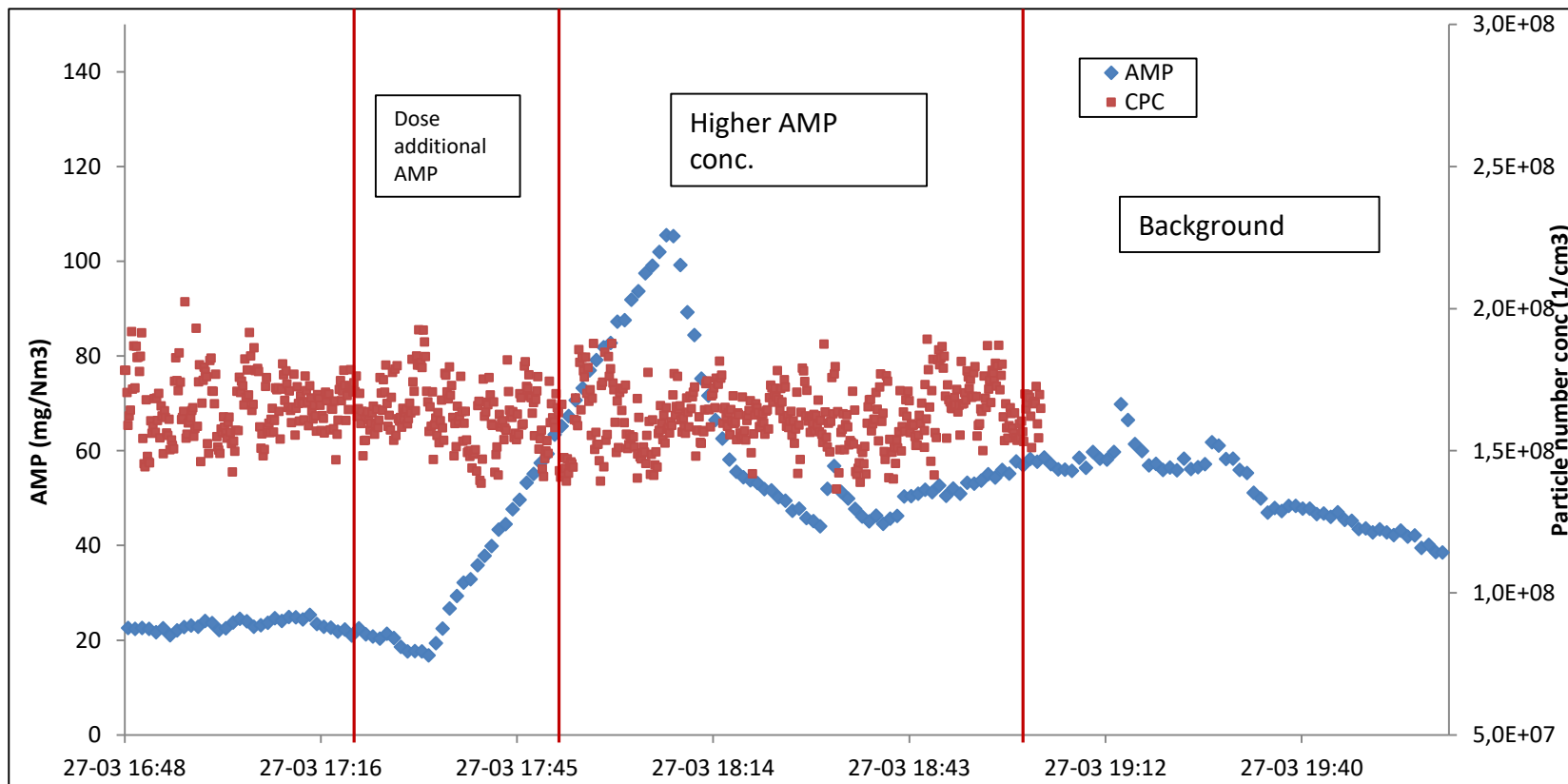
Effect of H₂SO₄ aerosols



EFFECT OF H₂SO₄ AEROSOLS ON AMP-PZ EMISSIONS



AMP KTAURATE



EXTENSIVE TEST CAMPAIGNS

TNO innovation
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Unique facilities:
Fully controlled SO₃
and soot spiking in flue
gas before capture

Aerosol testing done

At power plants:

- Maasvlakte
- Electrabel Nijmegen
- ENBW Heilbronn
- RWE Niederaussem

At waste incinerator

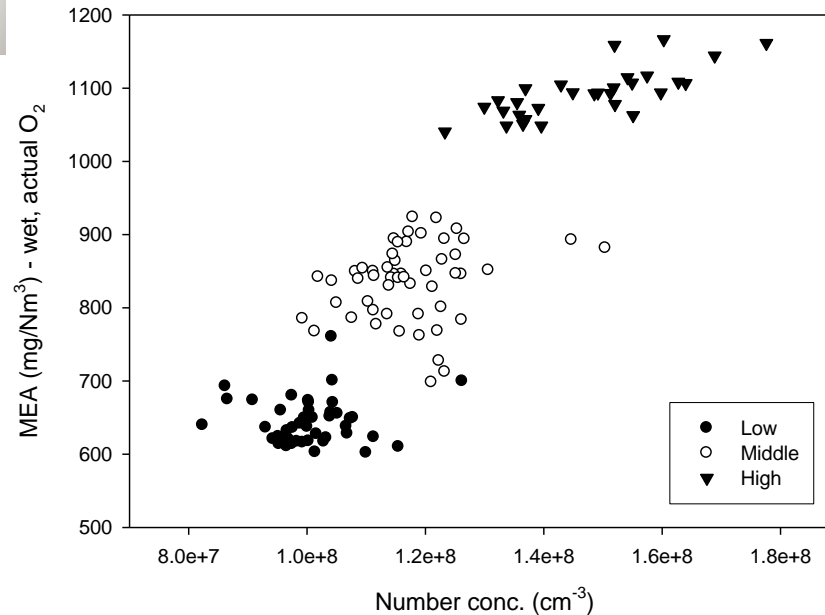
- AVR

At dedicated aerosol
generator setups

- Karlsruhe

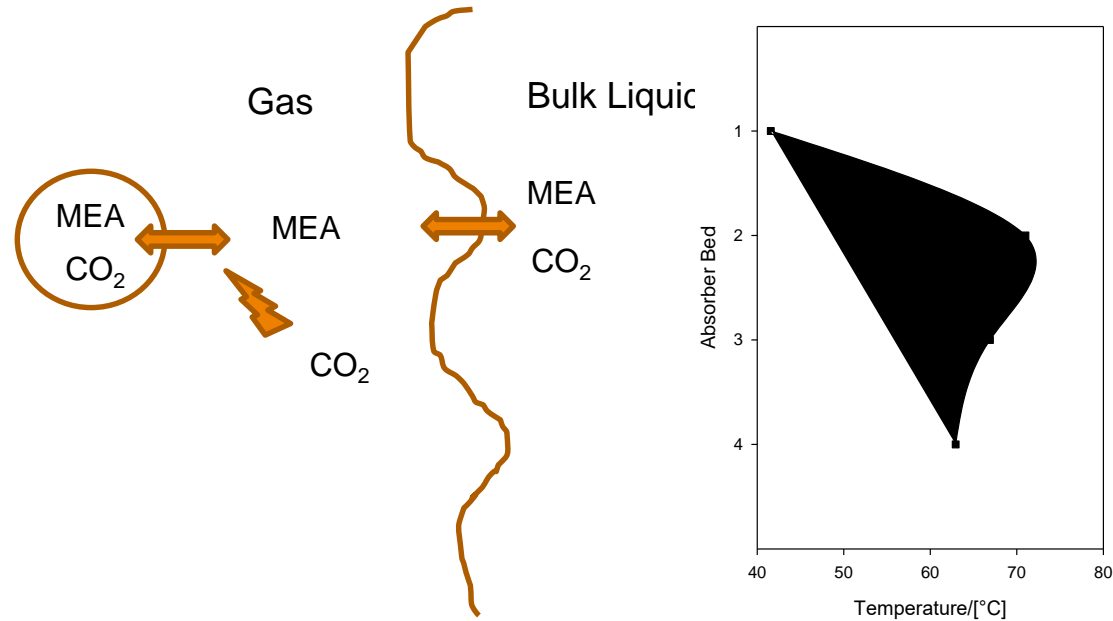
Aerosol research:

- Determined relation between flue gas quality and emission
- Detailed models constructed



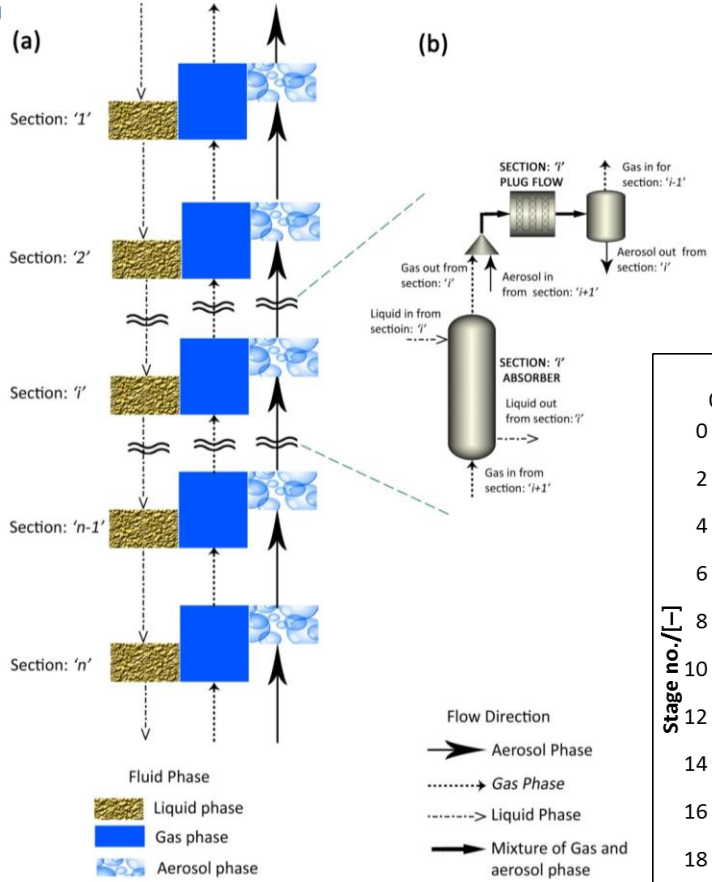
MECHANISM FOR AEROSOL EMISSIONS

Volatility and reactivity is key

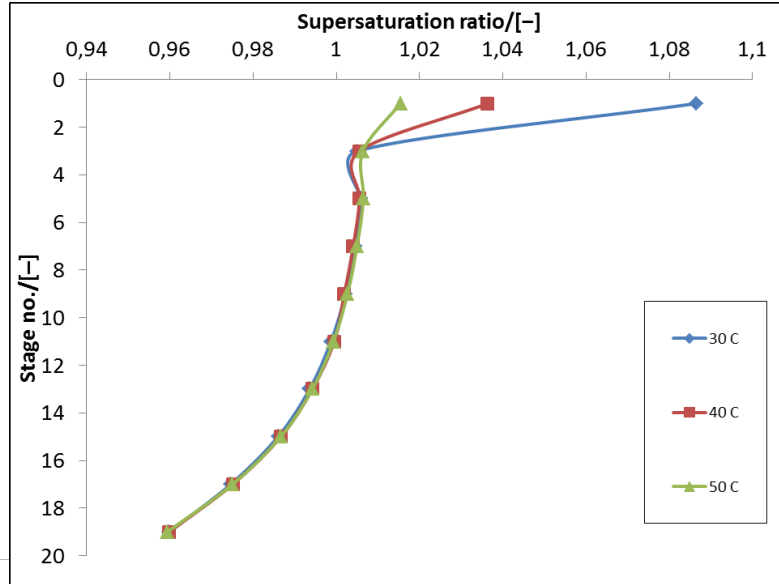


$$S = \frac{P_C (T, y_1, y_2 \dots y_n)}{P_{CS} (T, y_1, y_2 \dots y_n)}$$

Eq (1)

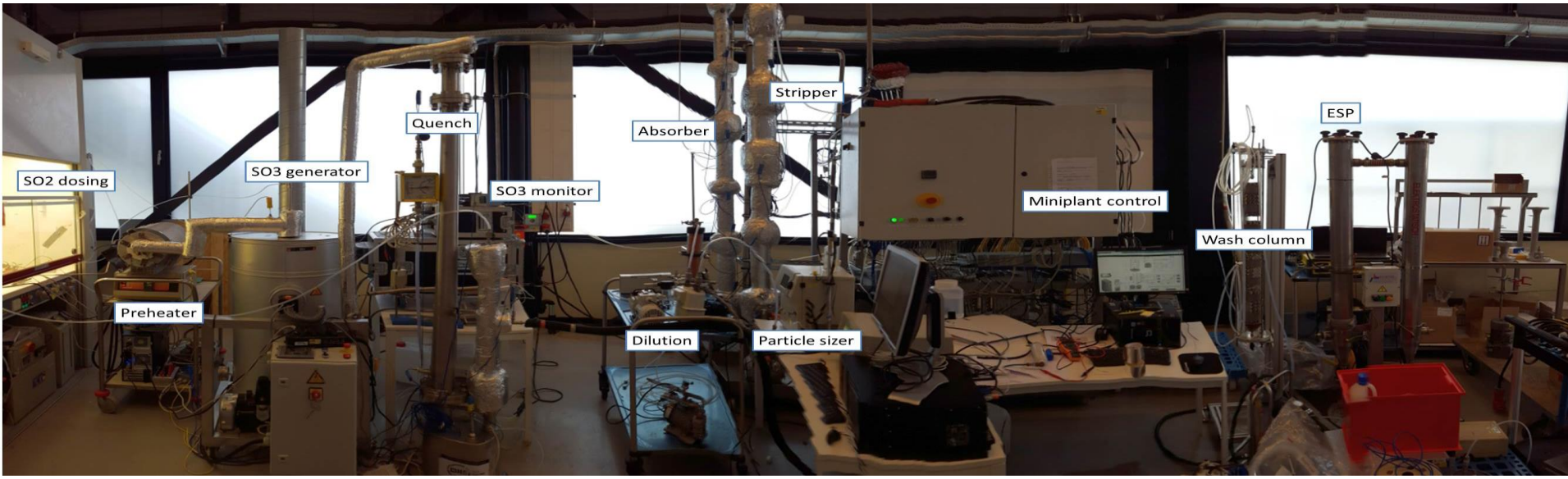


Supersaturation > 1, indicates area for excessive aerosol growth

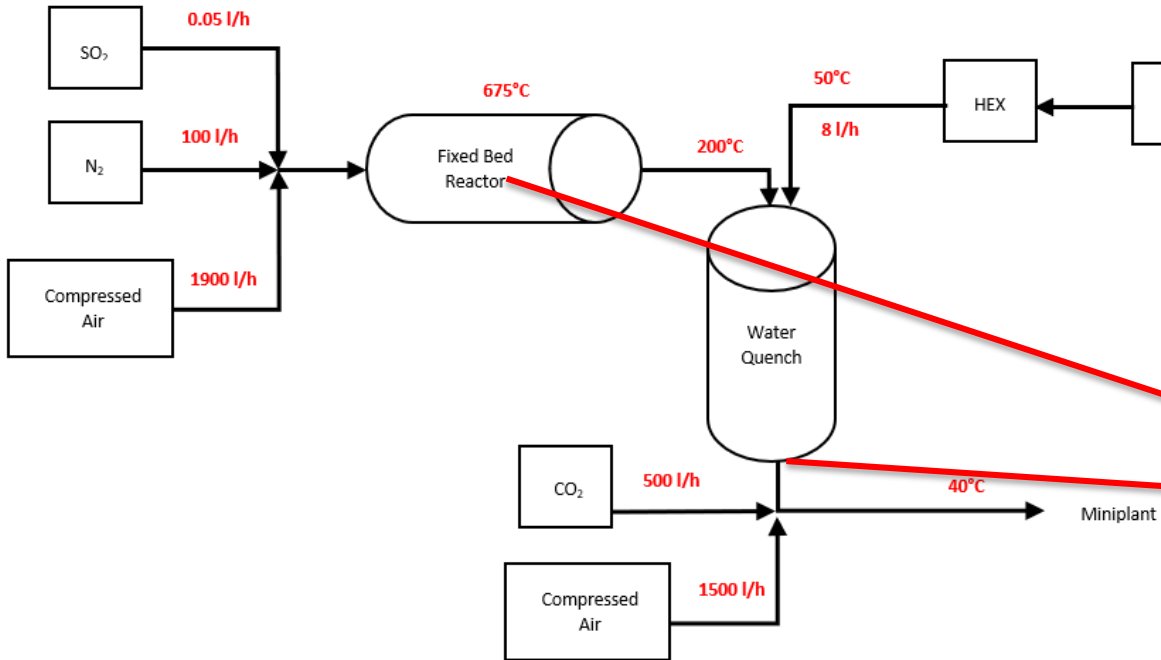


TEST EQUIPMENT

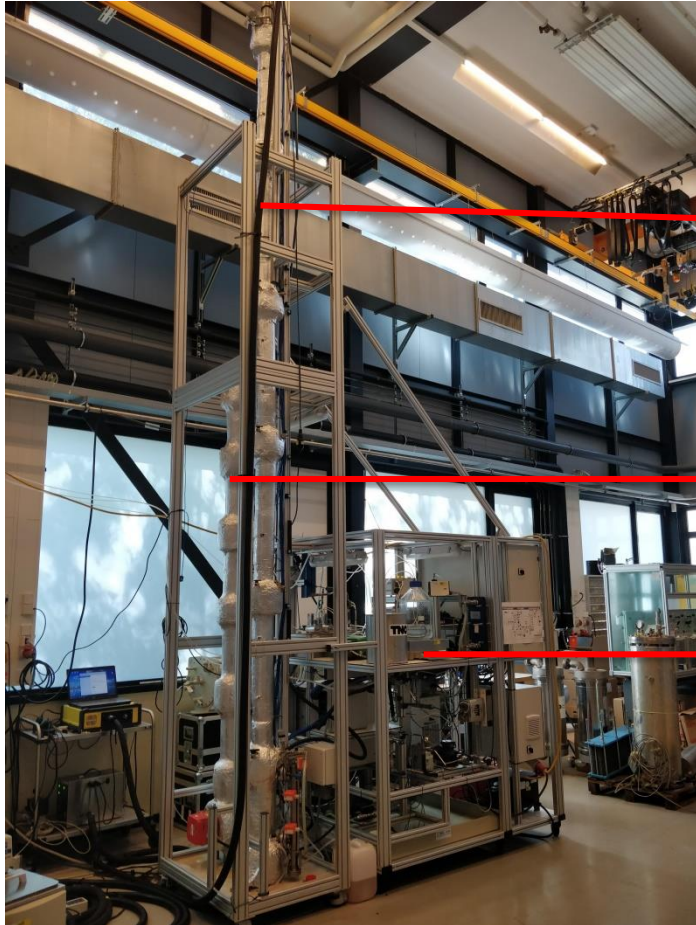
- › TNO has recently developed infrastructure to generate H_2SO_4 aerosol droplets in-house, simulating the aerosols as observed in a power plant. A wide range of H_2SO_4 concentrations and thus, particle number and size distribution can be obtained from this setup.



SO3 GENERATION SYSTEM



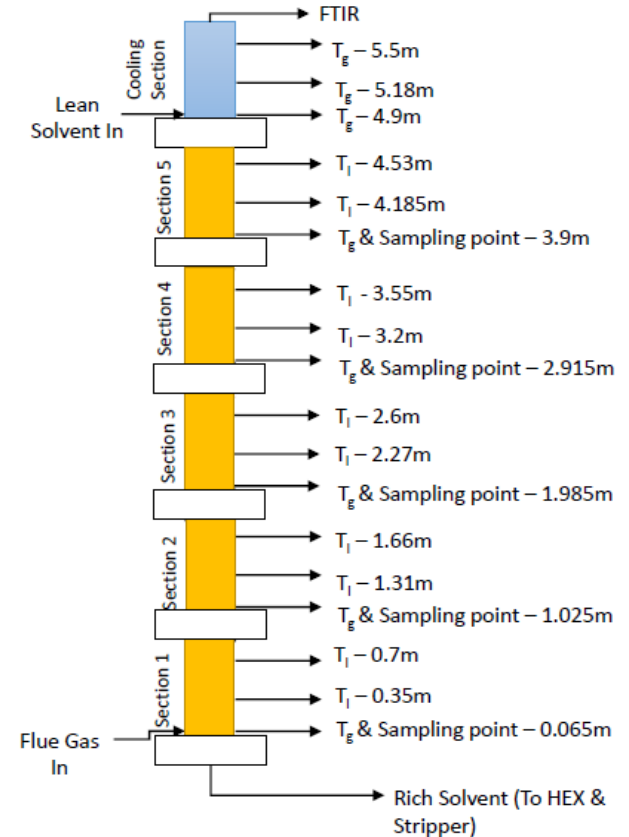
CO2 CAPTURE MINI-PLANT



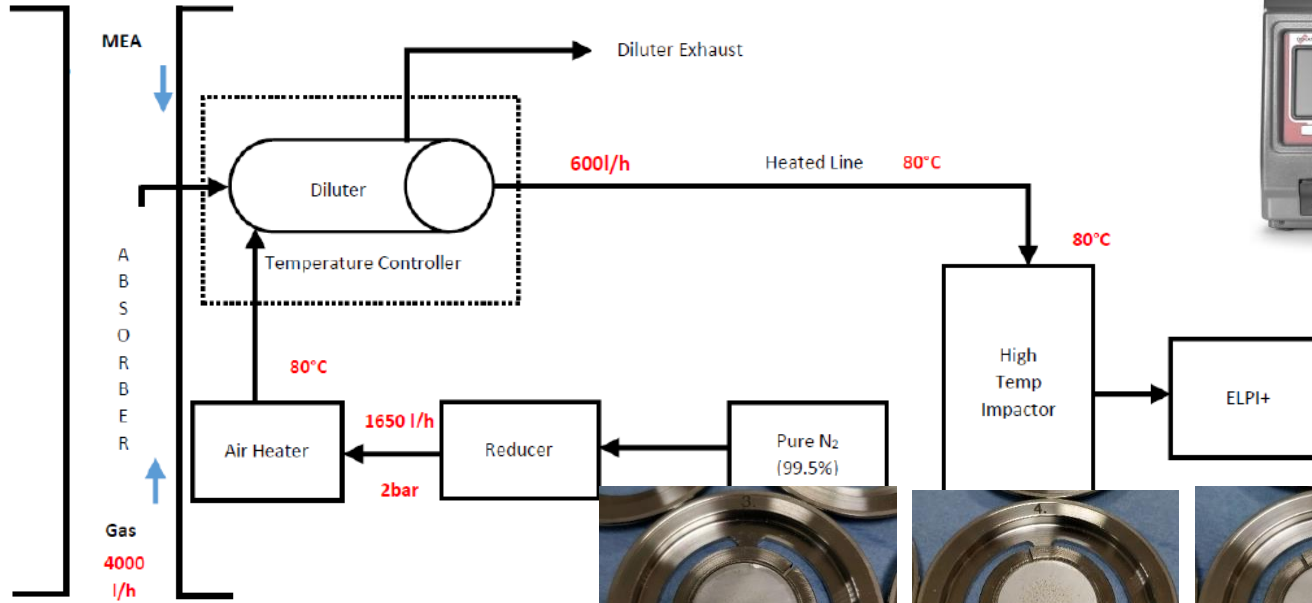
Absorber

Stripper

Heat exchangers, pumps, ...



TEST SETUP



ELPI – Particle
Measurement



From top left: Stage 3 (0.0265 μ m), Stage 4(0.0485 μ m), Stage 5 (0.087 μ m) and Stage 6 (0.147 μ m)

TEST PLAN

- A first “empty column” test was conducted to understand survival of particles across the column and understand sampling methodology related influences.
- This was followed by a test in the absence of H₂SO₄ aerosol in flue gas
- Test with H₂SO₄ aerosol in flue gas is termed as “Benchmark test”
- Once the CO₂ capture unit is stable, perform particle measurement and measure gas composition at 5 different gas sampling points across the column – **FTIR & ELPI** (5-8 mins at every sampling point)

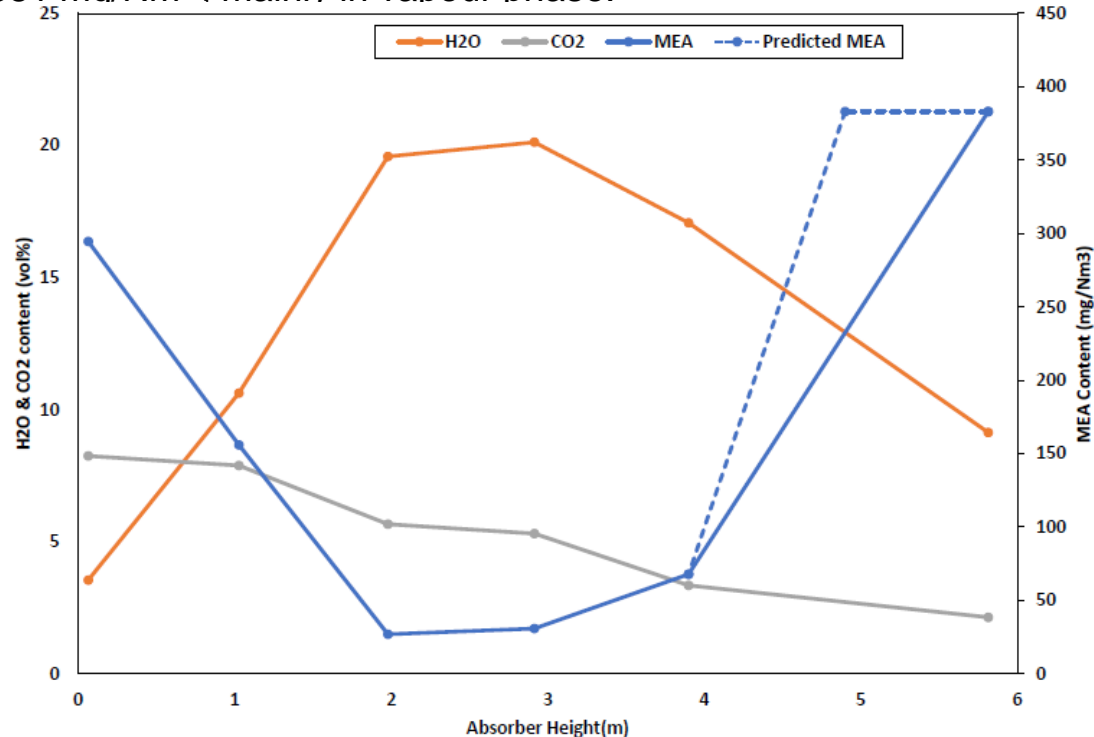
Benchmark test parameters

Test no	Total Particle Number
1	Measurements in absence of solvent flow → Empty column test
2	Absence of H ₂ SO ₄ aerosol in flue gas
3	Benchmark test

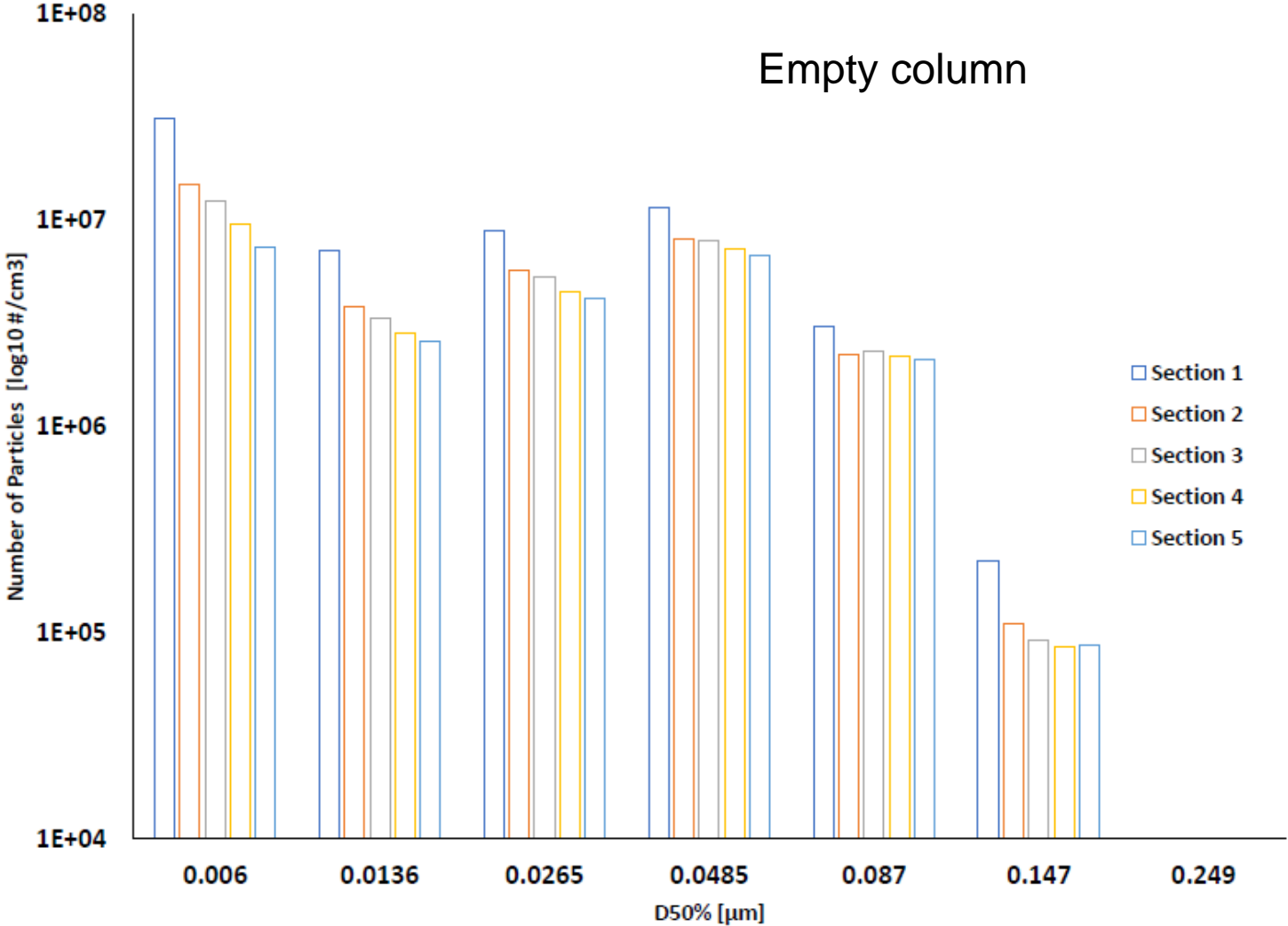
Parameter	Value
Flue Gas Flow Rate	4 m ³ /h
CO ₂ in Flue Gas	12.5 vol.%
Flue Gas Temperature	40°C
SO ₃ in Flue Gas	5.25 ppm

ABSENCE OF H₂SO₄ AEROSOL IN FLUE GAS

- Gas phase FTIR measurements across different sections are as expected for CO₂ and water vapour.
- MEA emissions of 381 mg/Nm³, mainly in vapour phase.

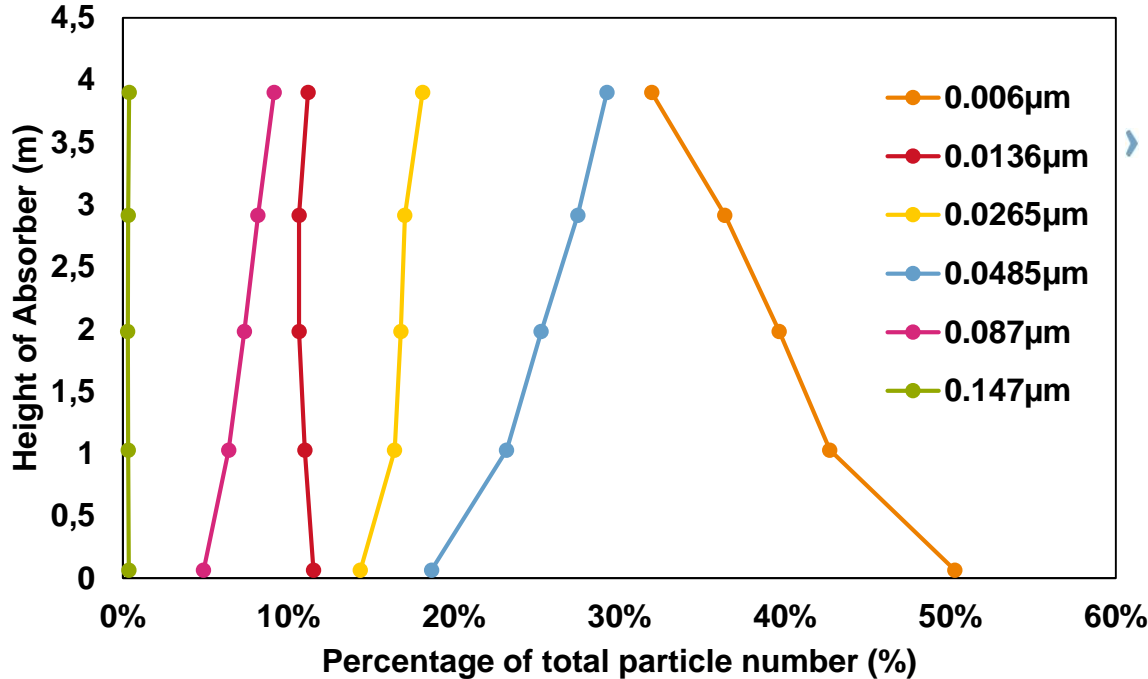


Empty column



Kill ratio: ~70%

RESULTS- BENCHMARK TEST



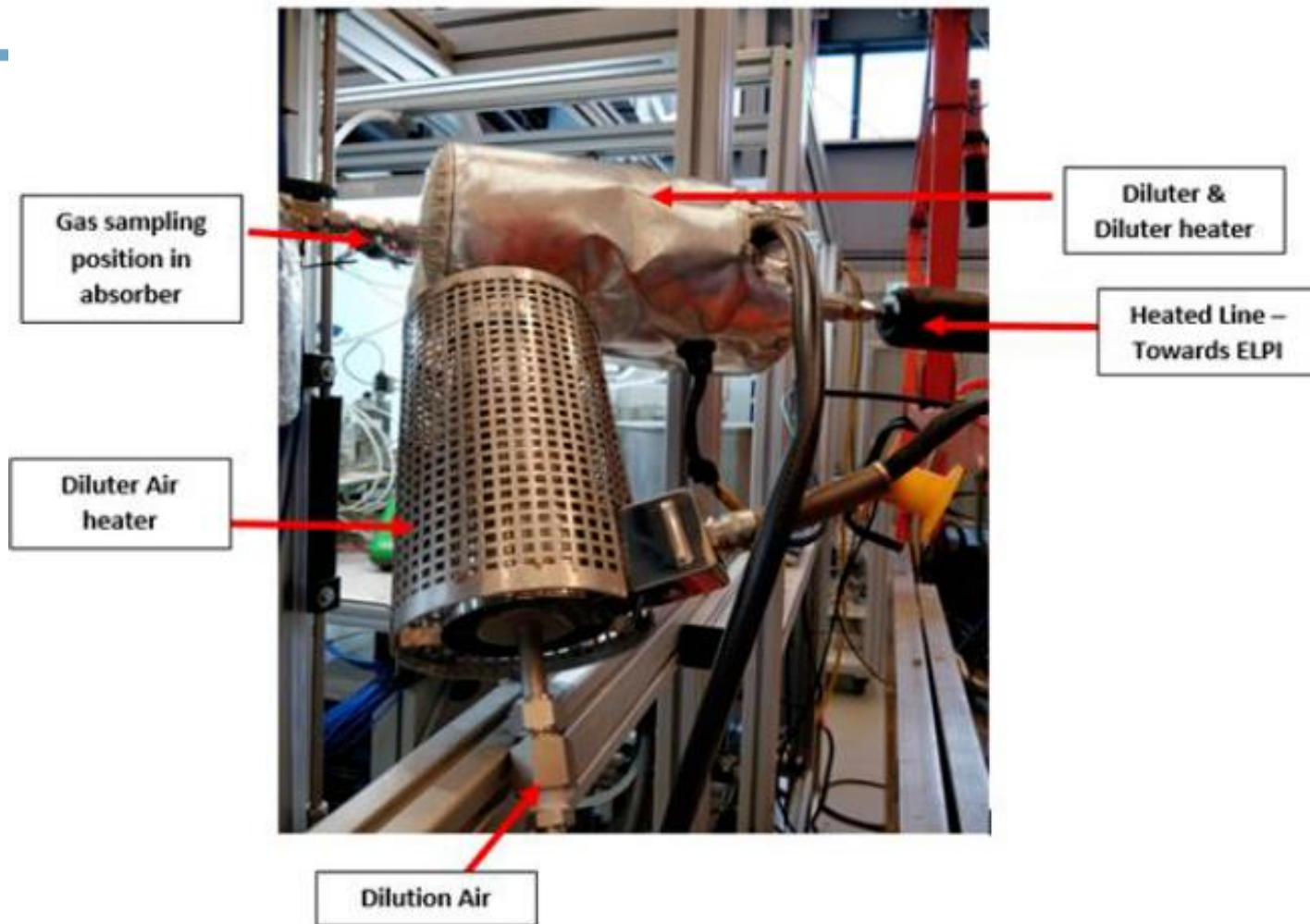
- › Reduction in contribution of 0.006 & 0.0136 μm to total number along the column
- › Increase in contribution of 0.0265, 0.0485, 0.087 & 0.147 μm to total number

Shift in Particle Size Distributions towards right (Larger Particles):

Growth of Aerosols

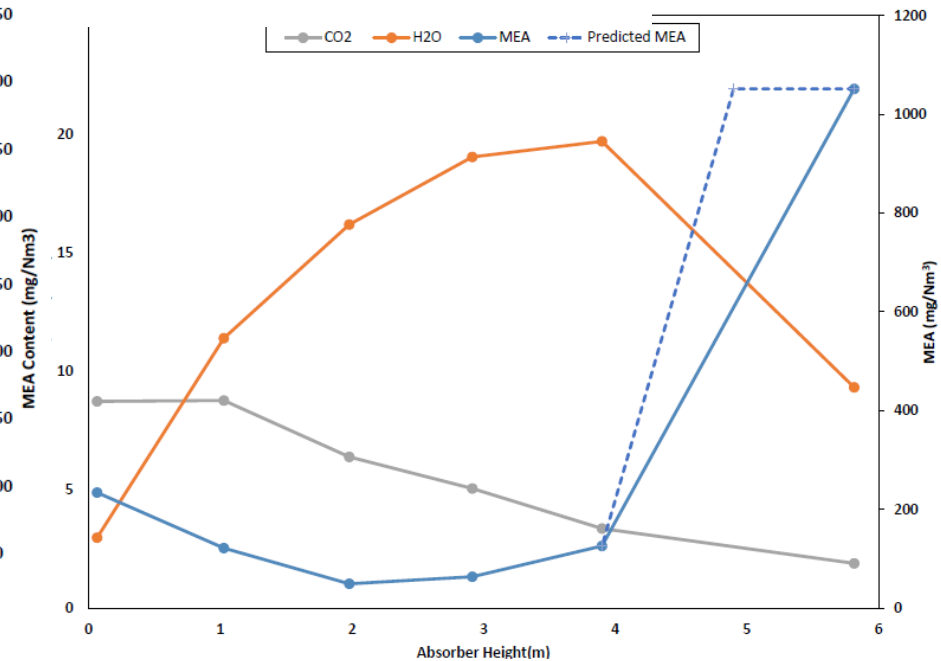
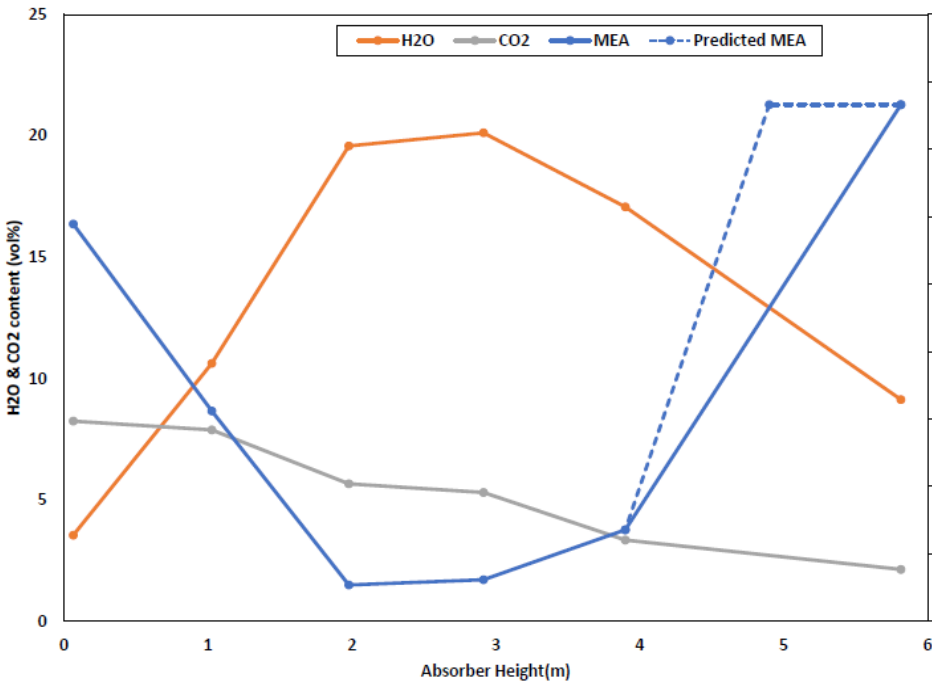
BENCHMARK TEST

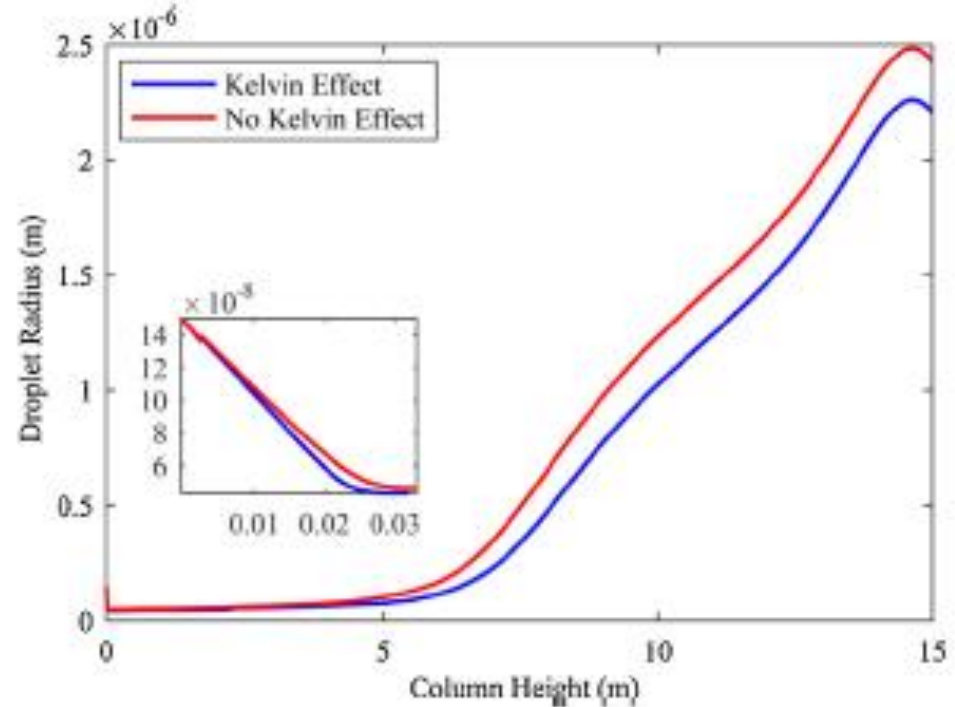
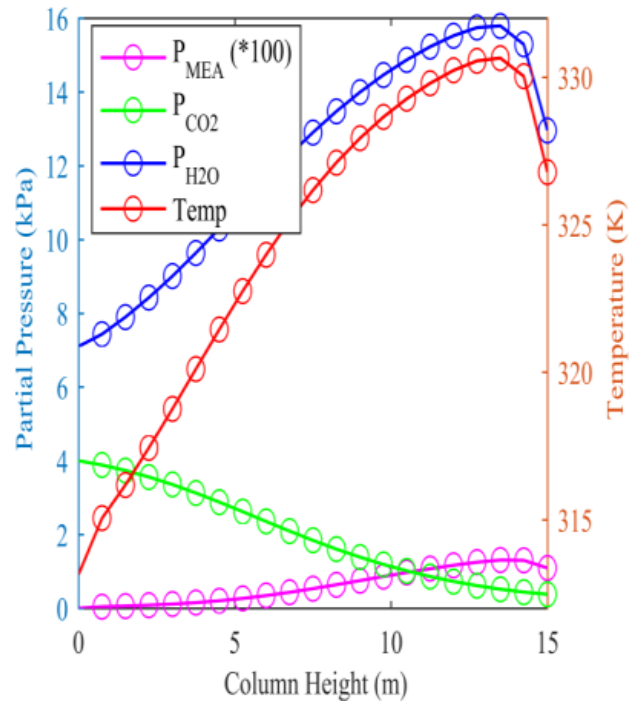
- Total aerosol mass at absorber outlet is 1.32mg/m^3 . However, MEA aerosol mass is 850mg/Nm^3
- Assuming MEA in aerosol is 850mg/Nm^3 and, each droplet contains 5 mol/L of MEA, and a total number of $2.3\text{E}+07/\text{cm}^3$, the total aerosol mass should be 2700 mg/Nm^3
- To account for the above mismatch;
 - Either each aerosol droplet contains much more than 5 mol/L of MEA (highly unlikely)
 - Larger particles not recorded by the ELPI+ leads to gross underestimation of aerosol mass



FTIR MEASUREMENTS

Number of particles at inlet (Section 1) (#/cm ³)	Number of particles at exit (Section 5) of absorber (#/cm ³)	Absorber Outlet CO ₂ content (vol%)	CO ₂ capture rate (%)
$6.24 \times 10^7 \pm 1.78 \times 10^6$	$2.3 \times 10^7 \pm 5.86 \times 10^5$	1.9 ± 0.003	87 ± 0.25





Characterization and modelling of aerosol droplet in absorption columns
Maheed et al, Int. J. Green. Gas Control. 58 (2017) 114–126

CONCLUSIONS

- › Typically 30-70% of the aerosols agglomerate or collide with the wall
- › ELPI measurements size distribution strongly temperature and sampling method depended
- › FT-IR measurements along the column can give insights in the mechanism
- › Total vapor-aerosol MEA measurements along the column indicate the majority of the MEA transfer to Aerosol emission takes place at the top of the column (as suggested by rigorous modelling NTNU)

FUTURE WORK

- › Improve sampling method
- › Mixed amine systems

A nighttime photograph of a city street. In the foreground, a tram is moving from left to right, its lights blurred into a long, horizontal streak. The background shows several multi-story buildings with lit windows, and a curved walkway or bridge structure with a railing. The overall scene is illuminated by city lights, creating a vibrant, urban atmosphere.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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