

Future Aviation: Aircraft with reduced Climate Impact

LH2 chapter is based on “Aircraft LH2 architecture” lecture by Mickael Lallemand in the frame of “Certificat en Ingénierie Environnementale”

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Airbus - Senior Expert in Overall Aircraft Preliminary Design

AIRBUS

Agenda

- Purpose - Introduction
- Historical trend on Fuel reduction
- Air Traffic evolution & CO2 emissions
- Status on Aircraft Requirements & Fuel efficiency
- How to further reduce Fuel consumption in the Future?
- Other considerations on Climate Impact
- Alternative fuels & energies
- Conclusion

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Purpose - Introduction

- The purpose of this presentation is first to address the conceptual means to reduce Aircraft fuel consumption enabled by new technologies (at both airframe & powerplant* levels) as well as the “operational” opportunities

** powerplant aspect will be briefly addressed since covered by next presentation*

- On top of fuel – CO2 question, more global considerations on ways to reduce Aviation Climate Impact is introduced, on Kerosene type basis first
- It also addresses alternative energies as strong means to reduce climate impact at mid-long term

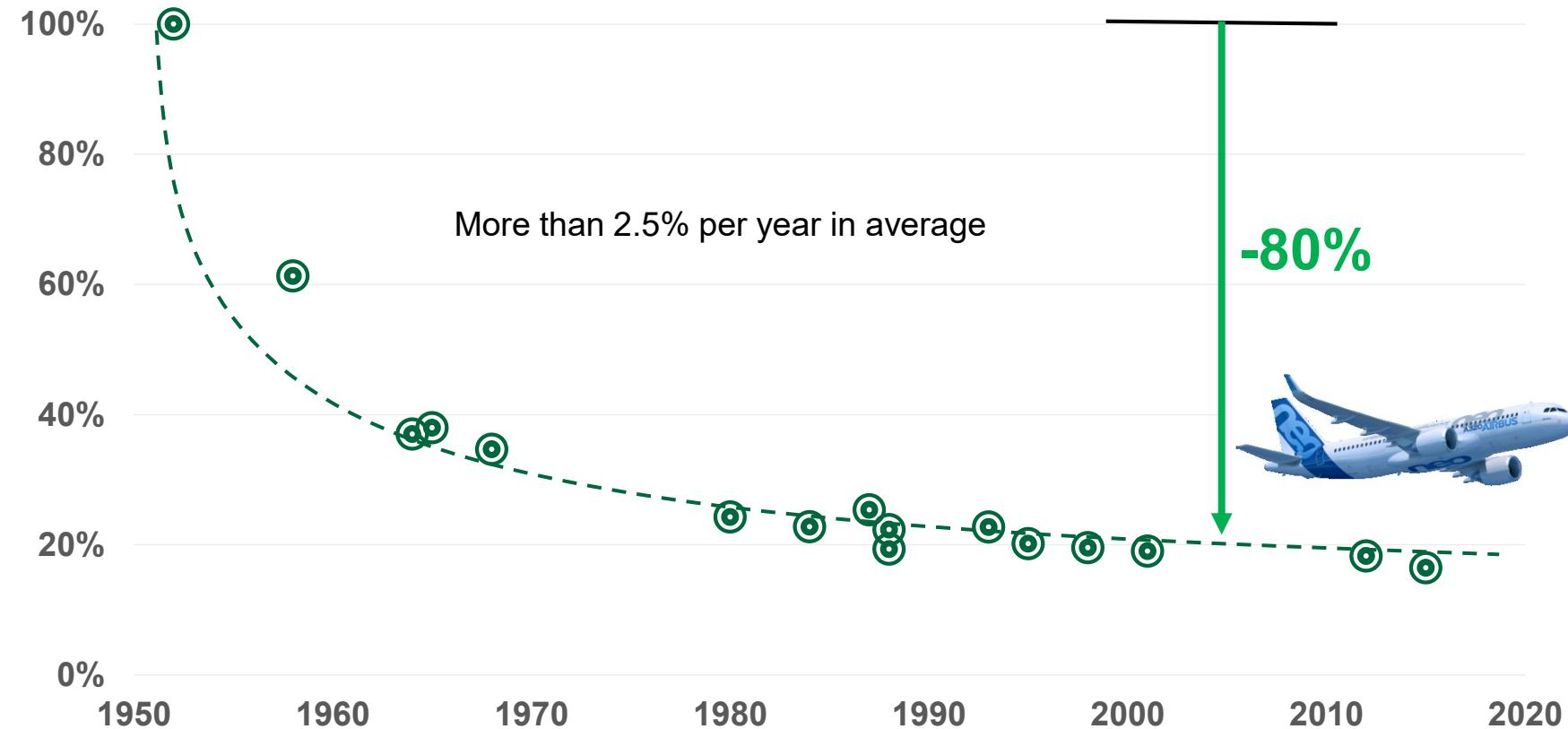
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Historical trend on Fuel reduction

1 kg fuel → 3.16 kg CO₂

Relative fuel burn per seat



CO₂
emissions
reduction

80% reduction
in fuel burn and
CO₂ since the
dawn of Jet-Age

Historical trend on Fuel reduction

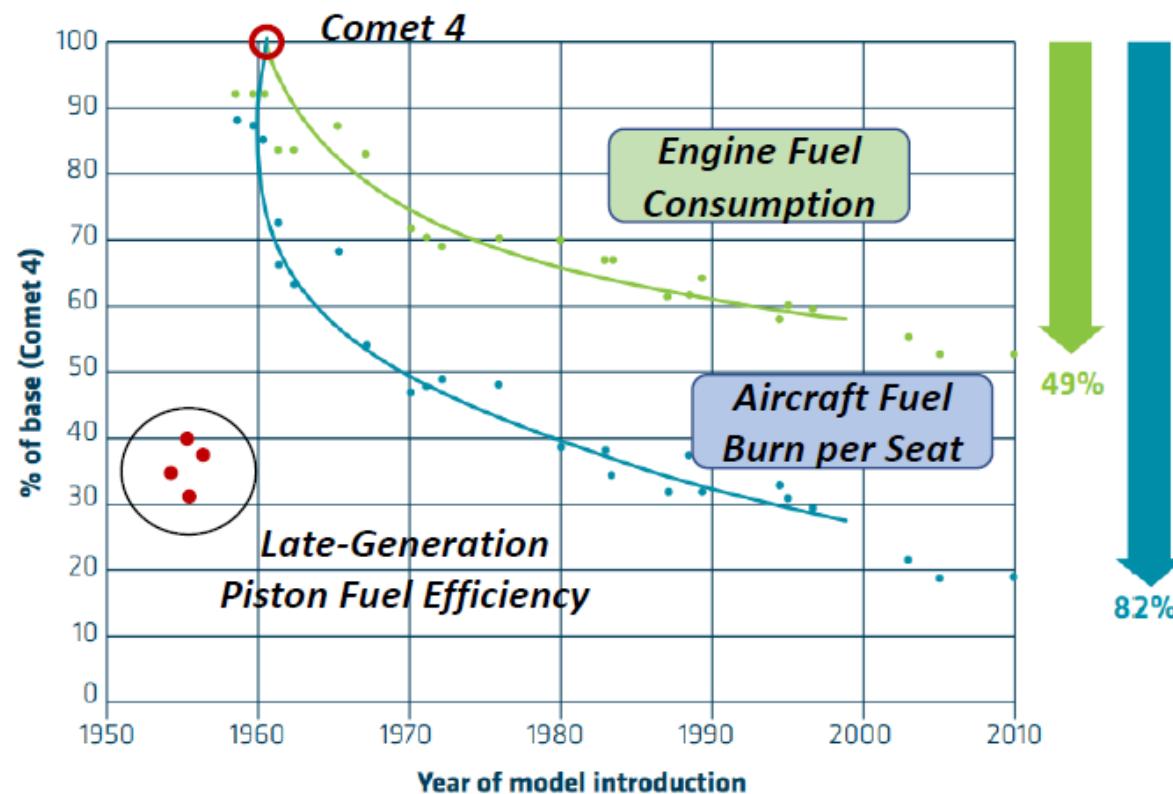
[Airbus Amber]

ICCT

The International Council on Clean Transportation is an independent nonprofit organization founded to provide first-rate, unbiased research and technical and scientific analysis to environmental regulators. Our mission is to improve the environmental performance and energy efficiency of road, marine, and air transportation, in order to benefit public health and mitigate climate change.

ICCT chart quoted by Leeham article

<https://leehamnews.com/2017/08/28/pontifications-jets-took-30-years-match-piston-efficiency/>



Original source is: NLR-CR-2005-669 report

“Fuel efficiency of commercial aircraft,
An overview of historical and future trends”

Available at:

<https://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/fuel-efficiency-commercial-aircraft-overview-historical-and-future-trends>

More than **50%** of Aircraft Fuel
efficiency gain can be attributed to
Engines over the last 60 years

What are the other means / disciplines (than Engines)
enabling to reduce Fuel Consumption ?

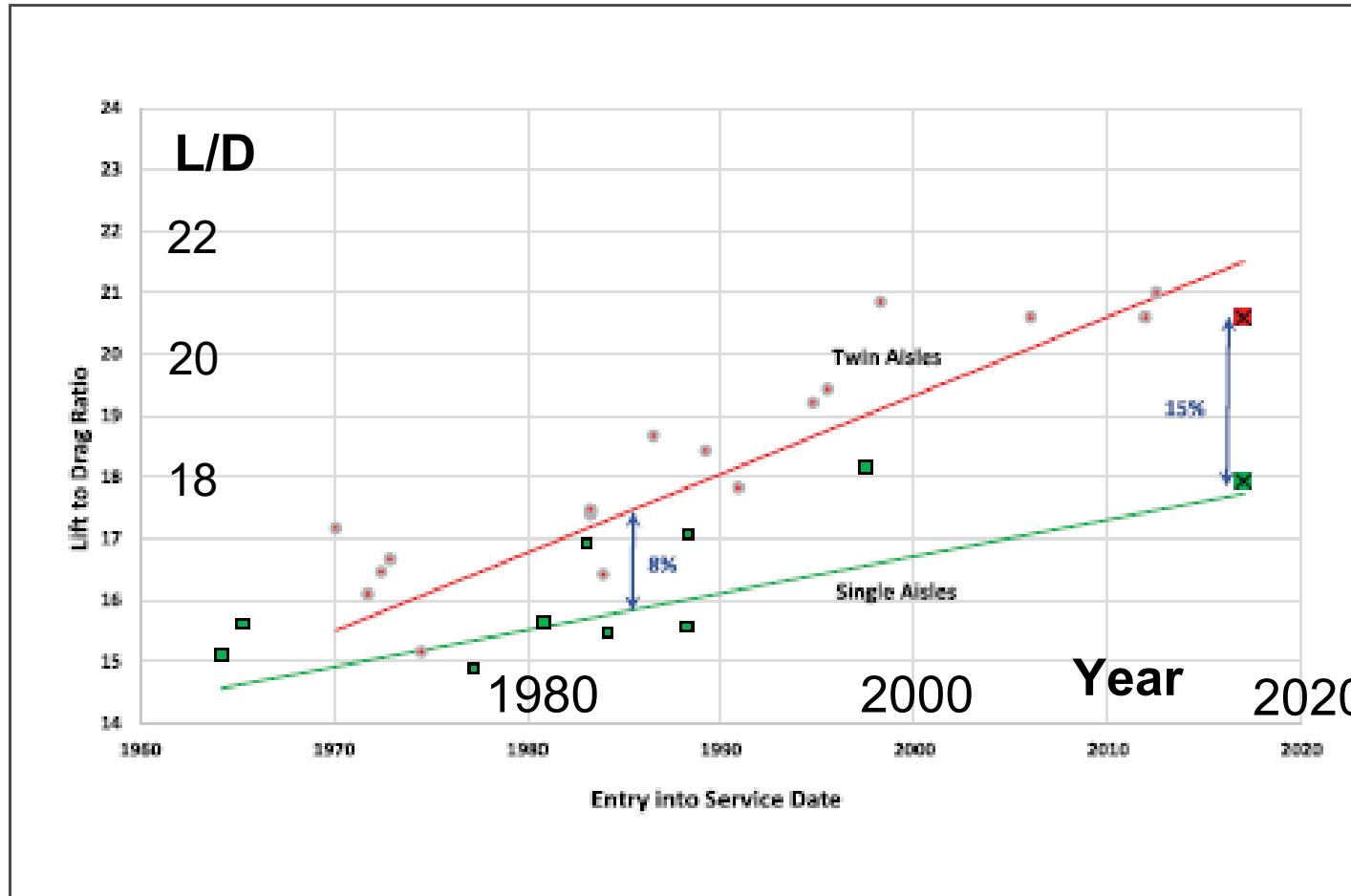
Historical trend on Fuel reduction

[Airbus Amber]



2019 Environmental Report
AVIATION AND ENVIRONMENT

FIGURE 1: Historical Trend in Lift-to-Drag Ratio



Around 25% L/D improvement in ~ 60 years

Historical trend on Fuel reduction

[Airbus Amber]

A350 XWB

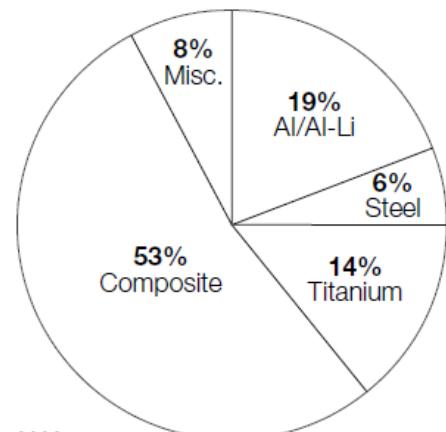
25% less
CO₂ emissions.

Over 70% of the A350 XWB's weight-efficient airframe is made from advanced materials, combining 53% of composite structures with titanium and advanced aluminum alloys. The aircraft's innovative all-new carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) fuselage results in lower fuel consumption.

Bringing together state of the art aerodynamics, advanced technologies and high performing Rolls Royce Trent XWB engines, the A350 XWB is 25% more efficient than the previous generation aircraft. By proactively supporting emissions reduction once the aircraft goes into service, the average global fleet fuel efficiency improvement per annum has been more than 2% over the last 5 years. The A350 XWB is also a quiet neighbour. It is up to 21dB below the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) Chapter 4 limit current noise standard.



A350 XWB airframe materials



CFRP

- Wings
- Centre wing box and keel beam
- Tail cone (Section 19)
- Skin panels
- Frames, stringers and doublers
- Doors (Passenger & Cargo)

Titanium

- High load frames
- Door surroundings
- Landing gear
- Pylons
- Seat tracks (wet areas)

Historical trend on Fuel reduction

[Airbus Amber]

A320neo

20% less CO₂
in the future.

The A320 single-aisle jetliner family is the world's best-selling single-aisle aircraft family.

It is used in a full range of services from very short-haul airline routes to intercontinental segments, on operations from challenging in-city airports to high-altitude airfields.

The A320neo (new engine option) is the latest of many product upgrades as Airbus continues to invest around 300 million euros a year in innovation for the A320 Family.

The A320neo today offers a 15% fuel burn savings compared to current single-aisle aircraft operations, and is set to increase to 20% in the future, spurred by further developments to the new engine options (CFM International's LEAP and the PW1100G

PurePower from Pratt & Whitney) and sharklets as well as cabin optimisation.



Sharklets

deliver up to 4%
in fuel burn savings.

Induced drag is a consequence of the wing producing lift, which is generated by an imbalance between the pressure on upper and lower wing surfaces. Air naturally flows from high to low pressure regions, this imbalance results in a tip vortex, which is why the lift-dependent-drag is also called vortex drag.

The lift-dependent-drag is inversely proportional to the square of the span, thus an obvious way to reduce drag is to increase the span. However, this is not always possible, due to the gate sizes category at an airport.

Adding a sharklet is a way to increase the aerodynamic span and reduce the tip vortex while still fitting within these constraints.



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Air Traffic evolution & CO2 budget

[Airbus Amber]

Passenger traffic expected to grow at 3.6% from 2019 to 2041

Source: ICAO, Airbus GMF



Air Traffic **could** (or not) double in next 20 years
(Forecast ~ + 3.6% / year) after Covid19 crisis

Air Traffic evolution & CO2: ATAG view

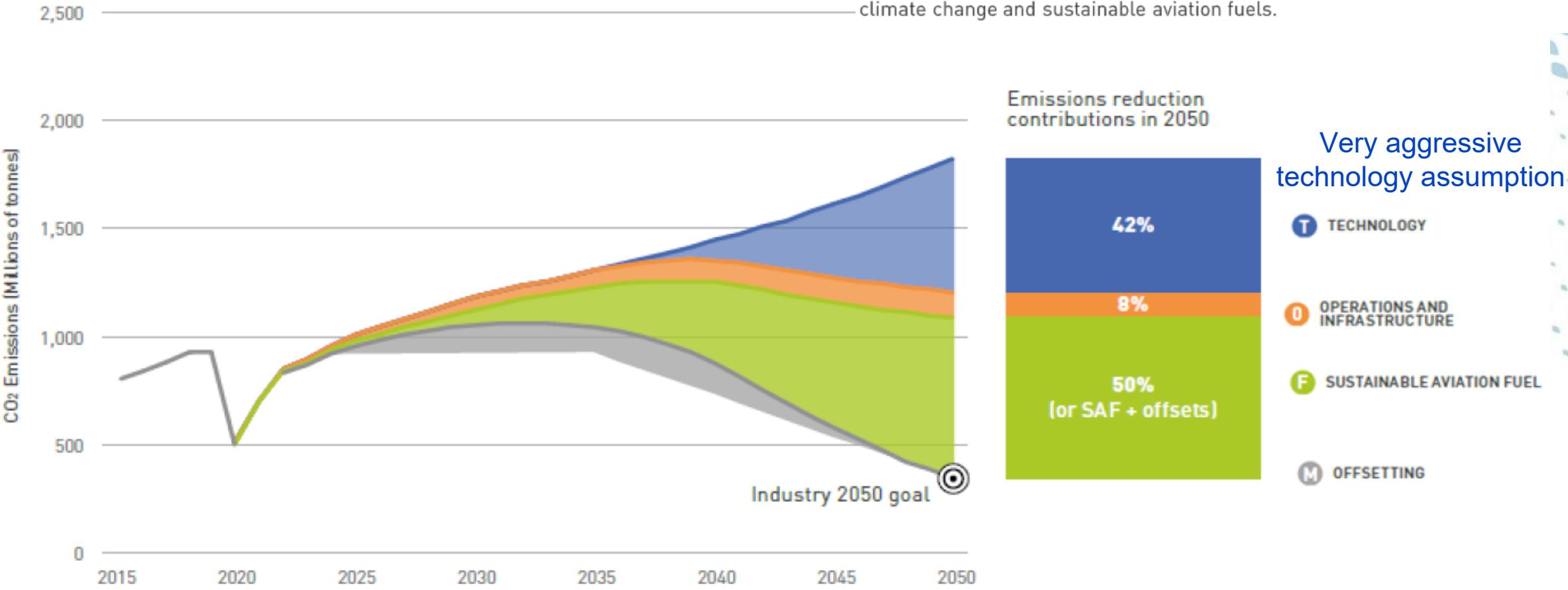
[Airbus Amber]

ATAG -Waypoint 2050: international aviation scenarii to achieve industry targets



The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) is a highly respected not-for-profit association that represents all sectors of the air transport industry.

Example of Scenario: aspirational and aggressive technology perspective



ATAG Scenarii built to remain within the +2°C temperature rise Vs pre-industrial level

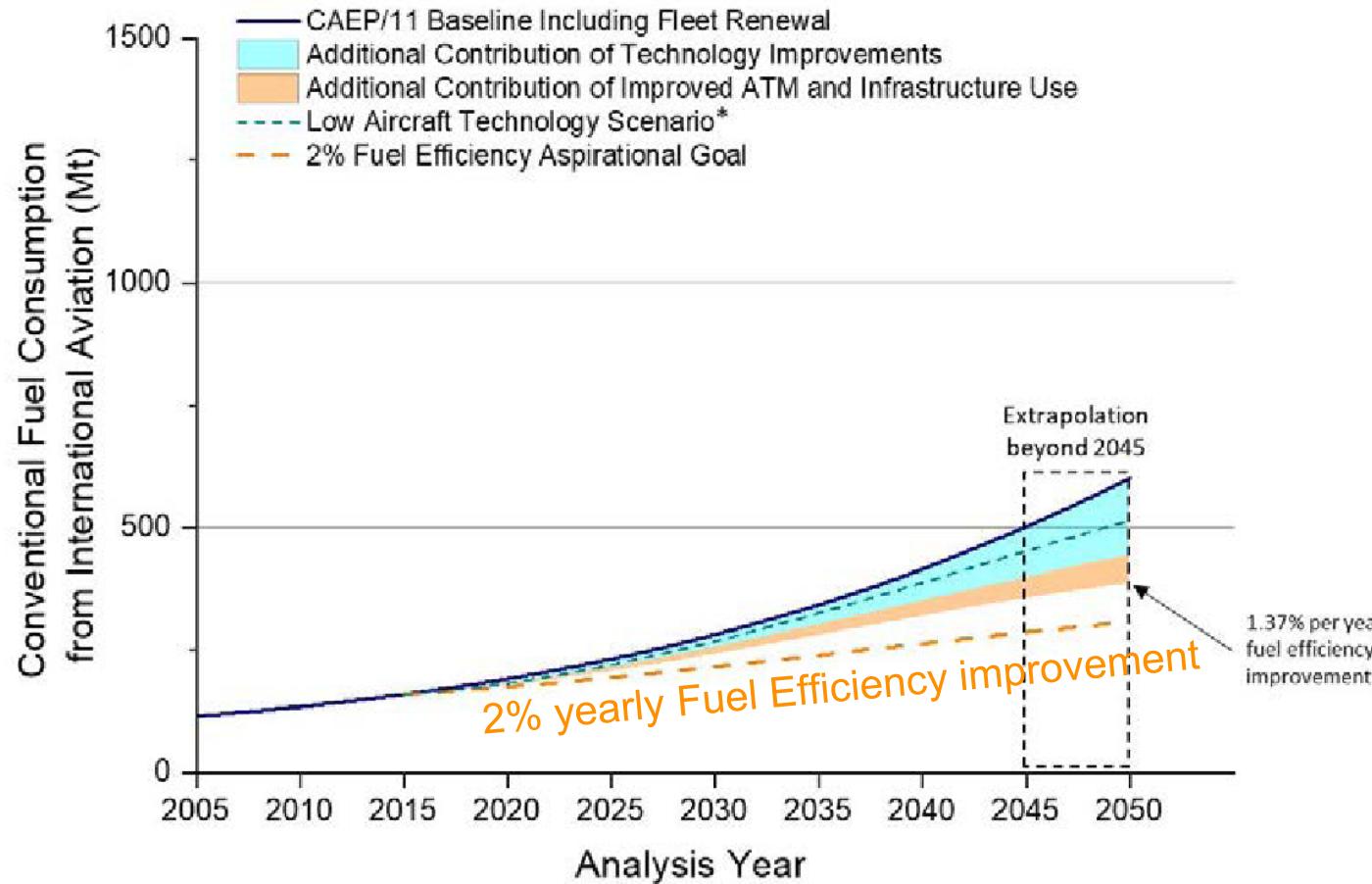
Air Traffic evolution & CO2: ICAO view

[Airbus Amber]



ICAO

2019 Environmental Report
AVIATION AND ENVIRONMENT



*Dashed line in technology contribution sliver represents the "Low Aircraft Technology Scenario."

Note: Results were modelled for 2005, 2006, 2015, 2025, 2035, and 2045 then extrapolated to 2050.

Even under the most optimistic scenario, the projected long-term fuel efficiency of 1.37% per annum falls short of ICAO's aspirational goal of 2% per annum. The long-term forecast fuel burn from international aviation is lower by about 25% compared with prior CAEP trend projections. This decrease can be attributed to a combination of more fuel efficient aircraft entering the fleet, as well as a reduction in the forecast long-term traffic demand. The computed 1.37% per annum long-term fuel efficiency includes the combined improvements associated with both technology and operations. The individual contributions from technology and operations is .98% and .39%, respectively. The .98% is slightly lower than the 1.3% cited in the latest CAEP/11 Independent Experts (IE) Review for single aisle aircraft.

Lower Technology
gain assumption Vs ATAG
→
More « non technology »
effort to be done

CO2 regulation

[Airbus Amber]

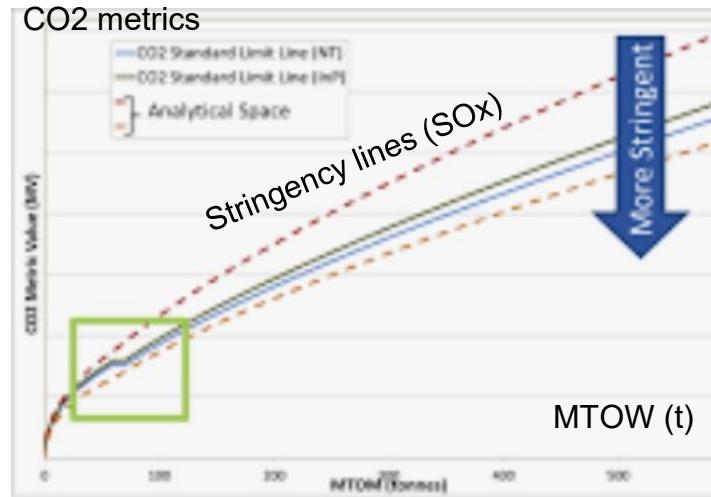
- Metric description:

$1 / (\text{SAR} * \text{RGF}^\beta)$ vs. MTOW

(where SAR = Specific Air Range, RGF = Reference Geometric Factor & beta = 0.24)
 $\beta = 0.24$

- Test points: SAR evaluated at 3 test points with equal weighting measured at optimum conditions: MRC, optimum pressure altitude
 - ✓ High Gross Weight: 92% MTOW
 - ✓ Low Gross Weight : $(0.45 \text{ MTOW} + 0.633 \text{ MTOW}^{0.9241})$
 - ✓ Medium Gross Weight: average weight

- RGF^β : is a measure of the cabin size measured at maximum fuselage width



New CO2 standard- CAEP Feb 2016

New Aircraft Types

→ for MTOW>60t SO8.5 @-36% as of 2020

In Production Aircraft Types

→ for MTOW>60t SO7 @-33%

as of 2023 with full production cut-off in 2028.

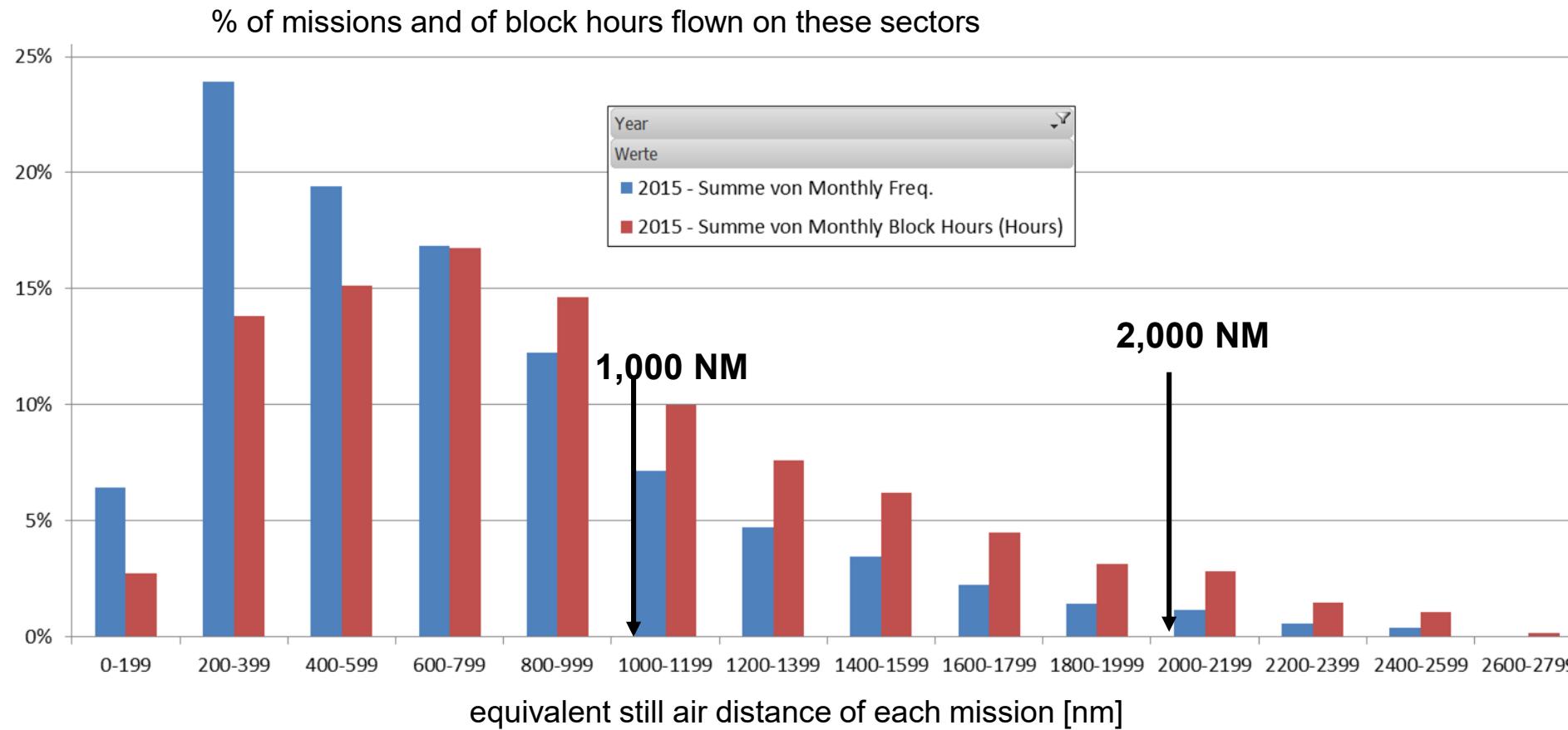
From January 2020, regulation on CO2 applies. For A330neo:

- A330-900 certified on 21 May 2021 (251 t version in April 2022)
- A330-800 certification in S2 2022

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Operational Ranges of Short Range Aircraft

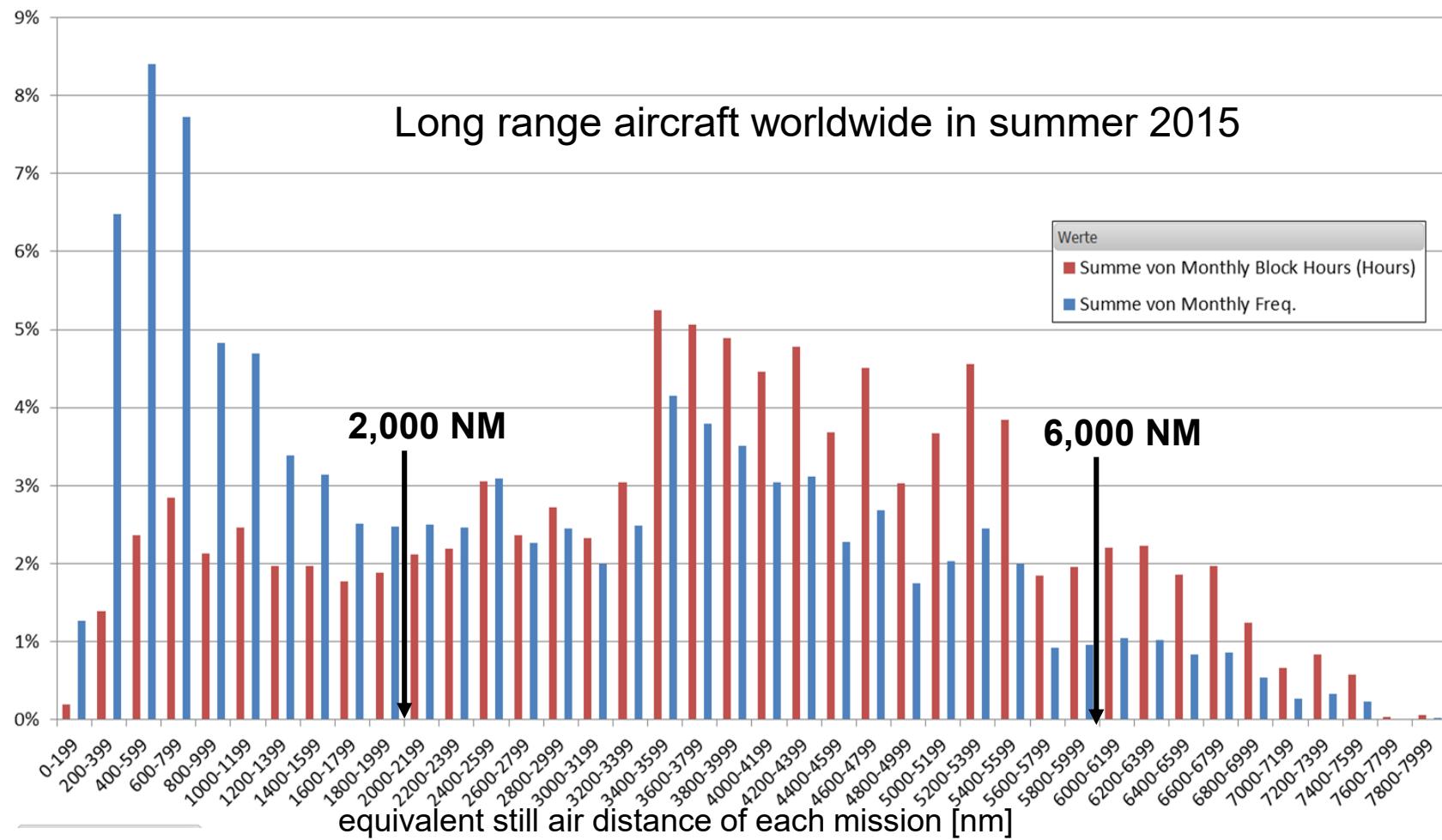


Single Range Aircraft much shorter average range than maximum range

Operational ranges of Long Range Aircraft

[Airbus Amber]

% of missions and of block hours flown on these sectors



Long Range Aircraft operate on wide band range

Extract of TLARs*: Performance requirements & others

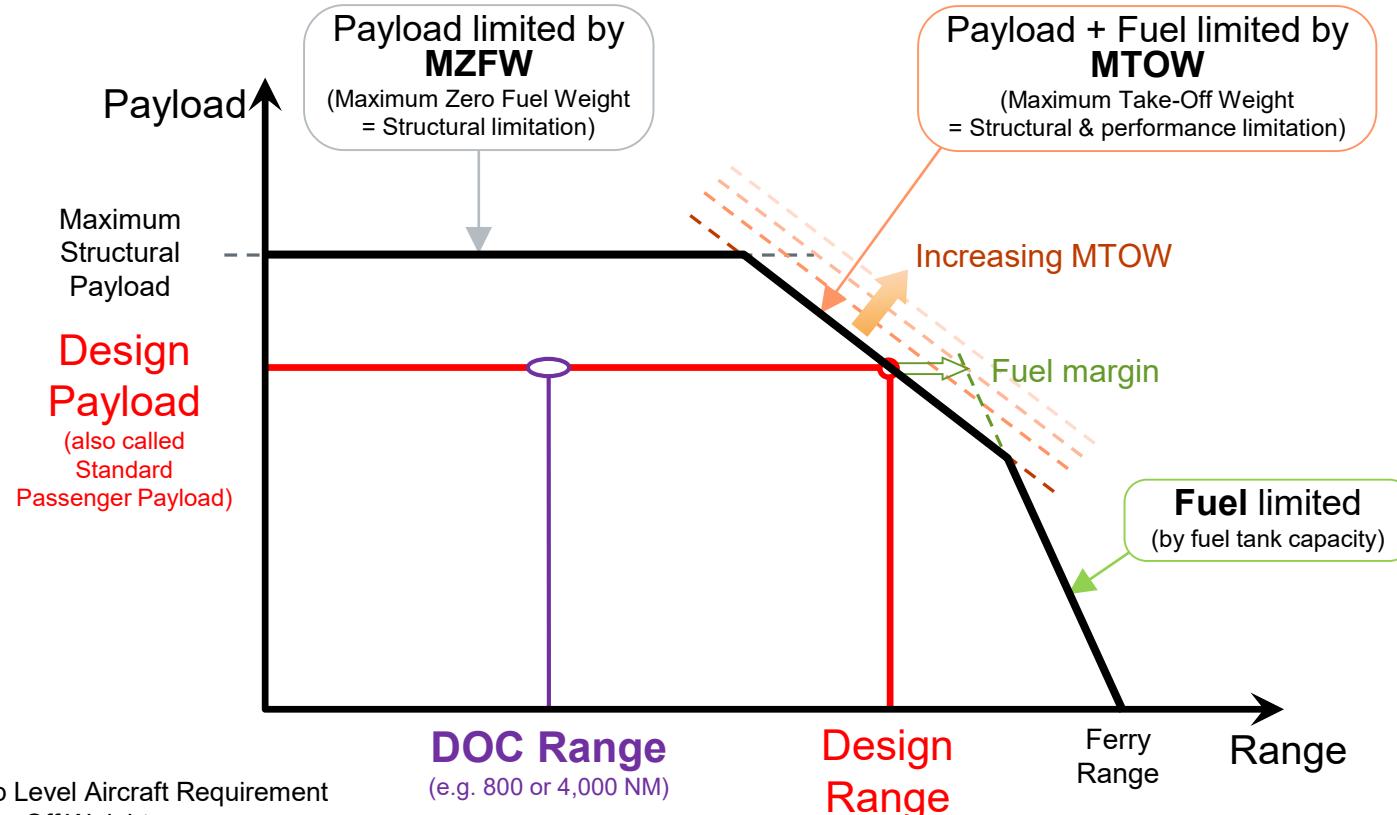
* Top Level Aircraft Requirements

- Capacity over range (watch the conditions)
- Initial climb altitude capability
- Take off field length (watch altitude & temperature)
- Approach speed (e.g. visibility limits change at 141kts)
- Landing distance
- Max altitude
- Max cabin altitude
- Max noise (QC level, Margin vs Chapter 4 or 14...)
- OEI ceiling...

TLARs: Aircraft Capability or Payload - Range diagram

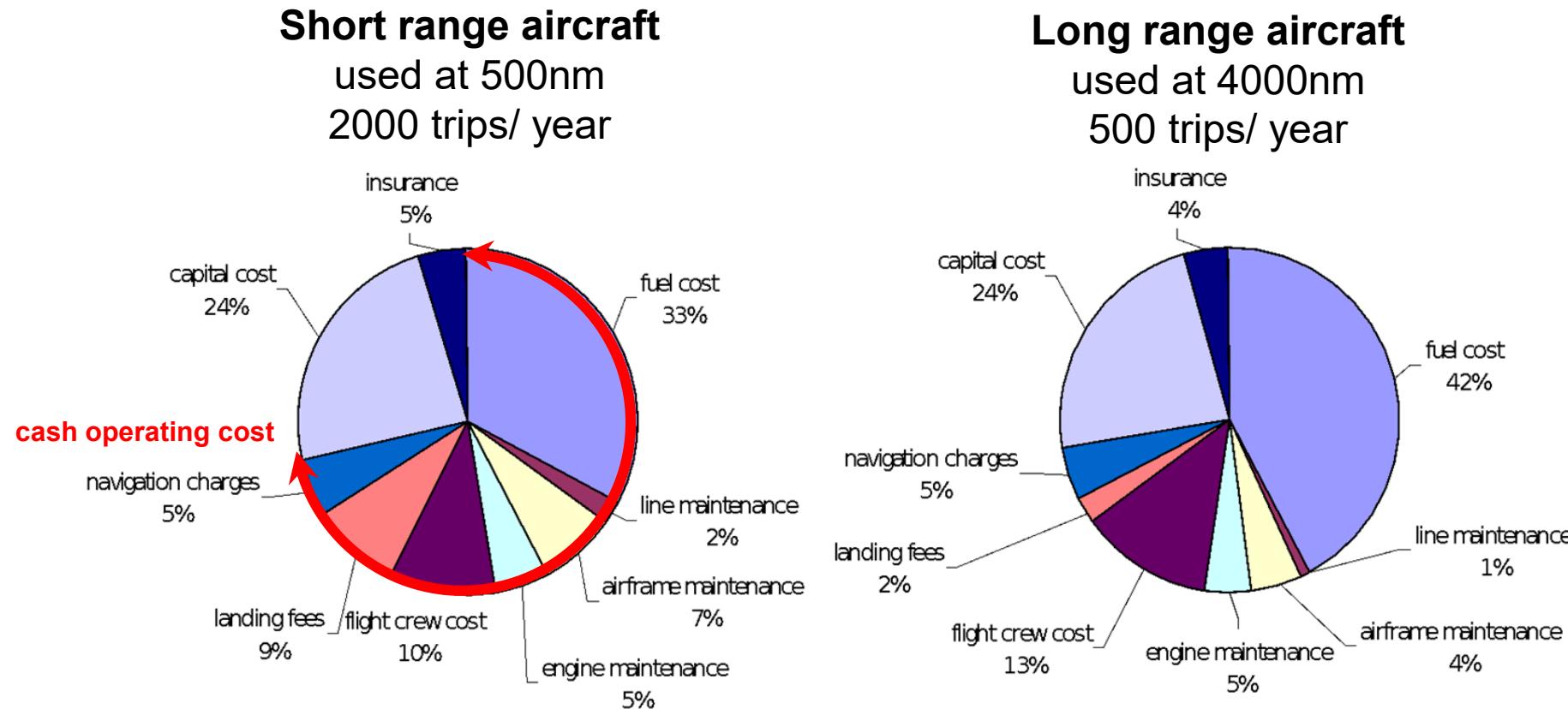
First Perfo TLARS:
 Payload-Range at Mach target and:
 ✓ TOFL (Take Off Field Length)
 ✓ TTC (Time to Climb or ICA*)
 ✓ Approach Speed

* ICA= Initial Climb Altitude



TLAR: Top Level Aircraft Requirement
 TOW: Take-Off Weight
 LW: Landing Weight
 ZFW: Zero Fuel Weight
 OWE: Operating Weight Empty
 MWE: Manufacturer Weight Empty

Economic Requirements or Objective: Direct Operating Costs (DOC)



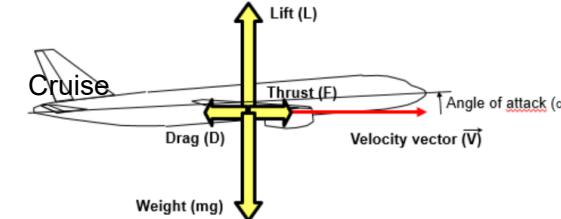
On Operational point of view, fuel is an important factor
but there are other significant costs to be accounted

Aircraft Fuel Efficiency: Energy & Efficiency Approach

1/ Propulsive Energy (Ep) based on cruise values

$$\text{Thrust (F)} \times \text{Range travelled (R)} = mg / L/D \times R$$

→ Reduce Weight & Increase L/D



Lift force equation: $mg = L = \frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S C_L$

Propulsion force equation: $F = D = \frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S C_D$

→ $F = mg / L/D$ (where L/D = Lift over Drag ratio)

2/ Combustion Energy (Ec): η is overall engine efficiency (thermodynamic x propulsive)

$$Ec = Ep / \eta \rightarrow \text{Improve engine efficiency } \eta \text{ (close to 40% in cruise now)}$$

3/ Correct for the “non-cruise phases” (i.e. add ~30% on 500 NM and ~10% on 2000 NM)

4/ Calculate Fuel burnt with 43 MJ/kg, function of Range

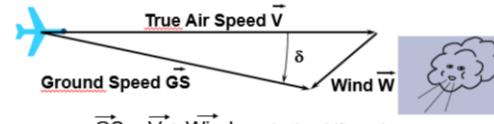
5/ Let's do it for $m \sim 100$ t, $L/D = 20$, $R = 1,000$ NM, $\eta = 0.4$ and add 20% for non-cruise phases

$$Ep = 9.08 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ J (90.8 GJ)} - Ec = 2.27 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ J (227 GJ)} - \text{Corrected Ec} = 2.73 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ J (273 GJ)} - \text{Fuel} = 6337 \text{ kg (\sim 6.3 t)}$$

Aircraft Fuel Efficiency: Specific Range (SR) in Cruise *(or how to maximize range for a given fuel quantity)*

$$\text{Specific Range (SR)} = \frac{\text{Distance travelled}}{\text{Mass of fuel burned}}$$

(e.g. NM)
(e.g. kg)



No wind $\rightarrow GS = TAS$

$$\frac{\text{True Air Speed (TAS)}}{\text{Fuel Flow (FF)}}$$

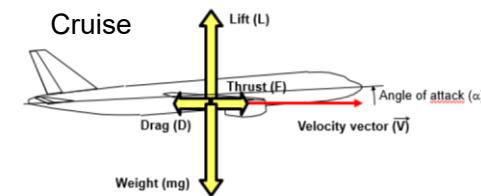
(e.g. NM/hr = kts)
(e.g. kg/hr)

$$= \frac{a M}{SFC \cdot Thrust} = \frac{a M}{SFC \cdot mg / L/D}$$

$$SR = \frac{a M L/D}{SFC mg}$$

Engine
Aerodynamics
Weight

Note: Distance over fuel, i.e. inverse of car consumption expression in EU



Lift force equation: $mg = L = \frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S C_L$
Propulsion force equation: $F = D = \frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S C_D$
 $\rightarrow F = mg / L/D$ (where L/D = Lift over Drag ratio)

a: Sound velocity
M: Mach number
L/D: Lift over Drag
SFC: Specific Fuel Consumption
m: Aircraft mass (often called "weight")

SR needs to be maximised to minimise fuel

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How to further reduce Fuel consumption in the Future?

- Fuel Benefit values provided are **indicative** only
- Time horizon considered is **~2050**
- Overall around **25%-30%** fuel reduction at Aircraft level can be expected at iso requirements (thus on CO2: 1kg fuel → 3.16 kg CO2).

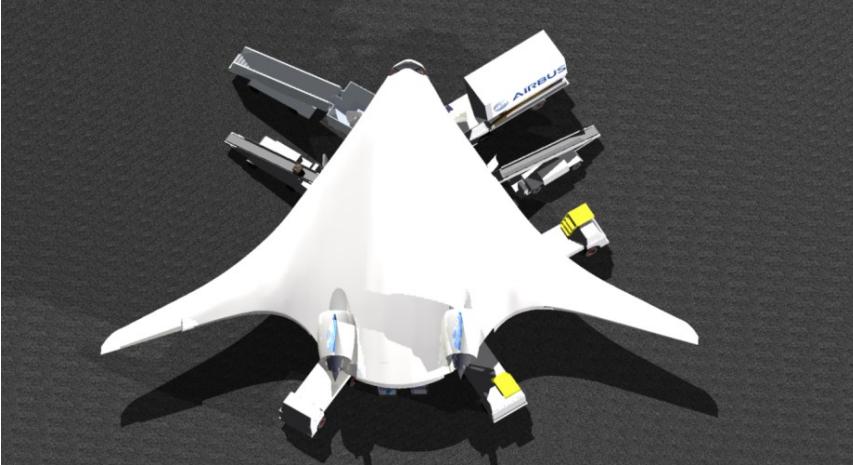
Warning: the potential benefit for each techno or from each “element” should not be simply added (not always compatible – cumulative)

- The presentation starts by an overview of **alternative concepts**, then envisage **alternative component arrangement** for “conventional” configuration.
- A global picture on **key enablers** for fuel reduction on a conventional configuration is presented
- Then, **propulsion, aerodynamics and weight** potentials are presented
- Potential from “Reduction” of **Requirements** (TLARs) is introduced
- Finally, **Operation** improvement is mentioned

Note: Some of the previous aspects are covered briefly since more largely covered in other lectures

More unconventional: Flying wing illustration

[Airbus Amber]



Benefits

- blended surface
- lower overall empty weight
- L/D benefit (smaller wetted area)
- Fuel benefit
- engine noise shielding if on top

Penalties

- difficult ground access & emergency evacuation
- restricted CG flexibility
- difficult to stretch

Up to 10% fuel
Potential?

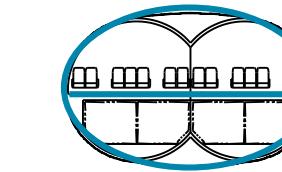
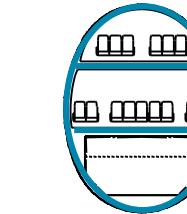
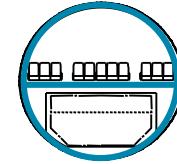


- ✓ Conventional configurations can be assessed more precisely than Unconventional configurations (more “empirism”)
- ✓ More unconventional configuration have to highlight significant initial benefit in order to succeed (risks but also opportunities to be assessed)

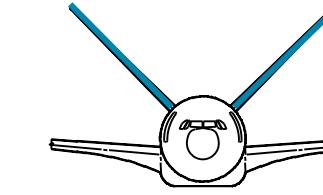
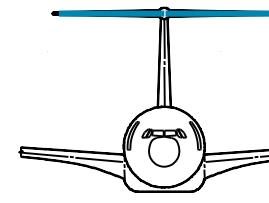
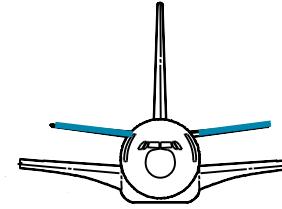
Flying wing looks one of the most promising alternative concept for fuel

Conventional Configurations: Selection of Concepts

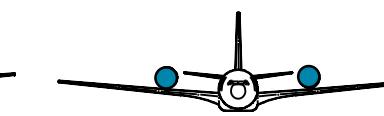
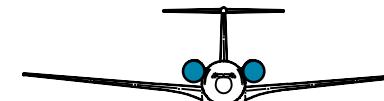
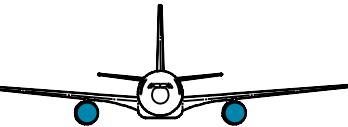
cross section



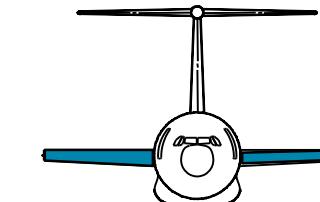
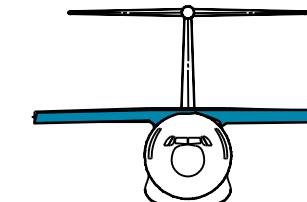
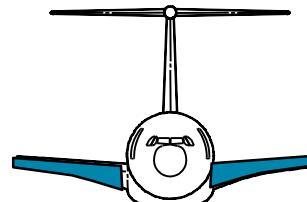
empennage



engine integration



wing position



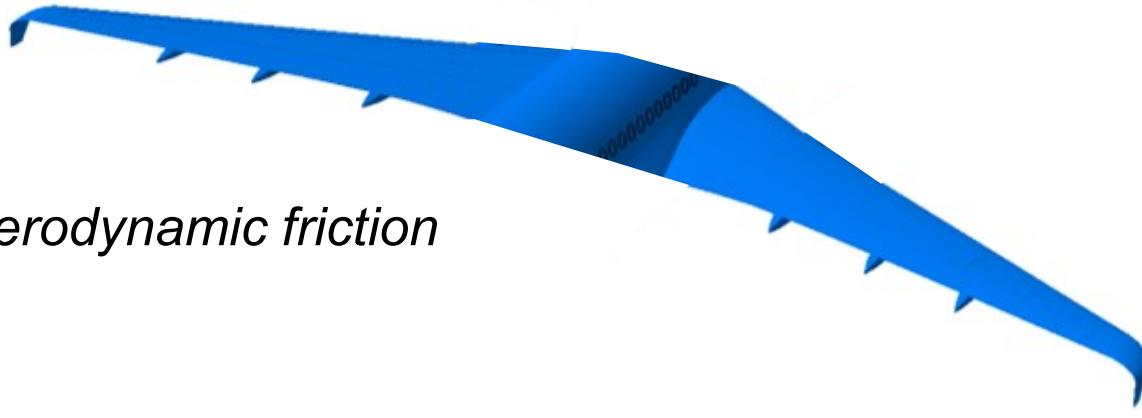
For “conventional” configuration: limited fuel efficiency dispersion

Overall Aircraft classical options for a given configuration type

[Airbus Amber]

Longer wing **Span**

shorter wing chord



Lower aerodynamic friction

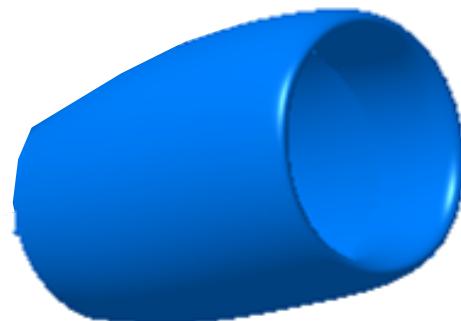
Lighter structure weight

lighter systems weight



More efficient Propulsion:

- Greater engine bypass flow
- Higher core compression ratio



Up to 20-25% fuel
Potential?
At iso TLARs (Range, Mach...)

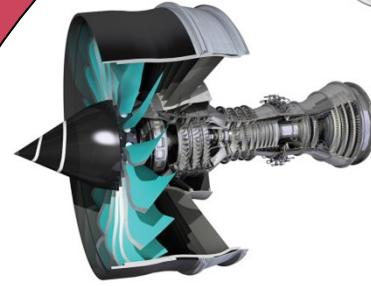
Propulsion: Perspectives & New Concepts

[Airbus Amber]

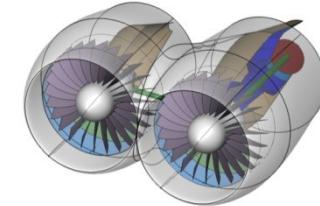
A path towards
better
propulsive
efficiency



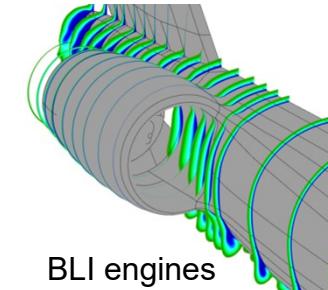
Advanced Turbofan
A350, NEO



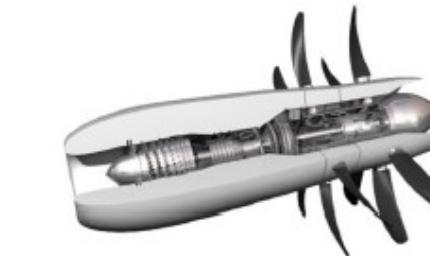
UHBR Turbofans



Multi-fans



BLI engines



Open Rotor engines



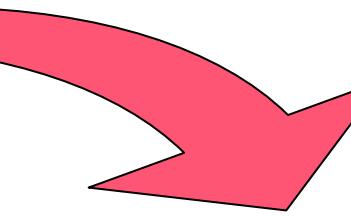
Hybrid Electric
Propulsion



Distributed Propulsion



360° BLI



**Longer term
radical concepts**

Covered by Propulsion lecture

Up to 15-20% fuel
Potential?

All options to require highly integrated airframe & powerplant design

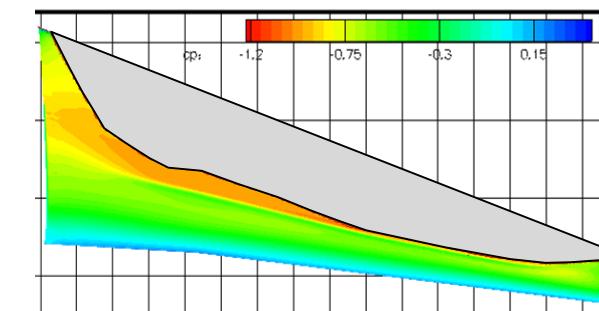
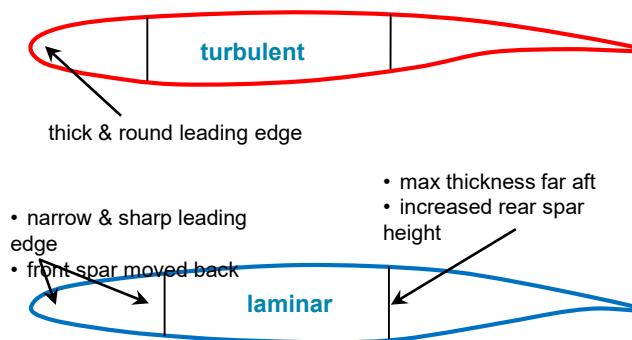
Longer wing Span
shorter wing chord



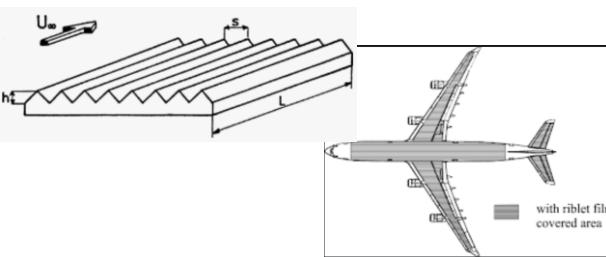
Lower Friction:

Laminar flow on wing, tails, nacelles

- natural laminar flow if **sweep** angle is sufficiently low
- hybrid (assisted by suction) laminar flow if too much sweep or too fast
- low surface imperfection (1/2 as of today) and waviness - no steps or gaps



Up to 5% fuel Potential?



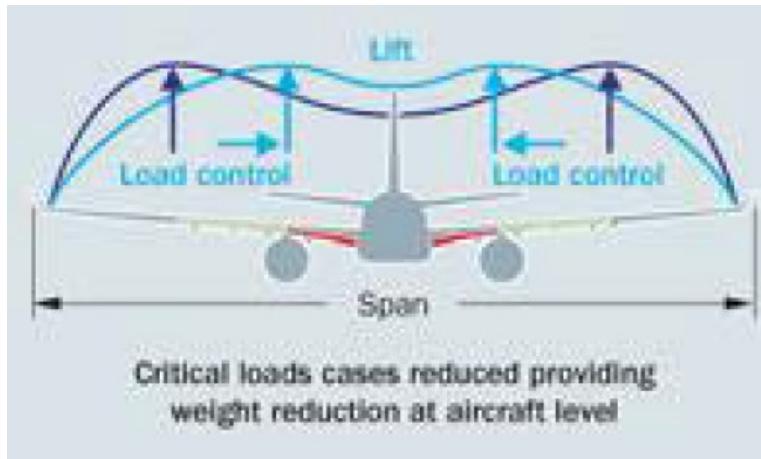
Riblets

- small, sharp “mountain chains” in flow direction like on a Vinyl record
- wear needs rework after some time

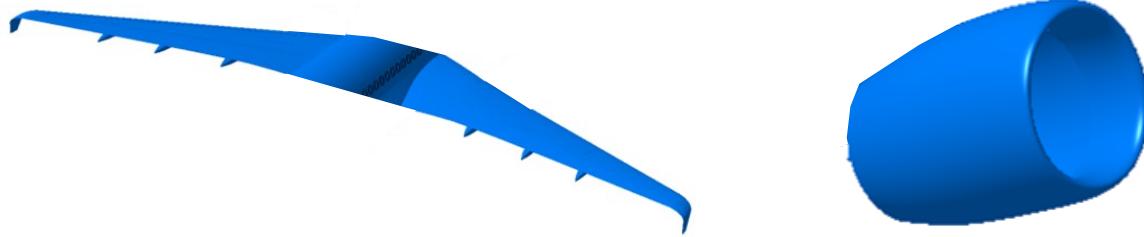
Up to 2% fuel Potential?

Weights

[Airbus Amber]

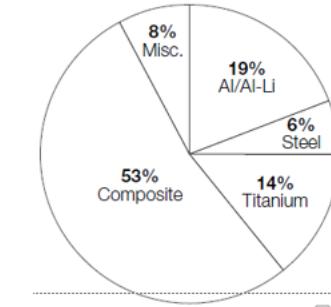


Loads Reduction



Configuration aspects: high span, high BPR engines,
More safety & Comfort...

A350 XWB airframe materials



CFRP

- Wings
- Centre wing box and keel beam
- Tail cone (Section 19)
- Skin panels
- Frames, stringers and doublers
- Doors (Passenger & Cargo)

Titanium

- High load frames
- Door surroundings
- Landing gear
- Pylons
- Seat tracks (wet areas)

Materials: CFRP...

Up to 5% fuel
Potential?

Requirements (TLARs) reduction: Value & Cost

TLAR „sensitivities“

- constant concept
- constant technology level
- change TLARs, e.g.:
 - Longer range
 - Slower approach speed
 - Faster climb
- resize configuration:
 - larger wing
 - larger empennage
 - larger engine
 - longer gear
 - heavier structure
- estimate efficiency effects:
 - 4snowballed weight
 - Fuel burn
 - COC (Cash Operating Cost)

PROCESS

Lower Design Range

Range -30%, e.g.:

- 2,000 NM instead of 3,000 NM
- 5,000 NM instead of 7,000 NM



-5% fuel

Lower Mach number

Mach -0.05, e.g.:

- M0.75 instead of M0.8
- M0.8 instead of M0.85

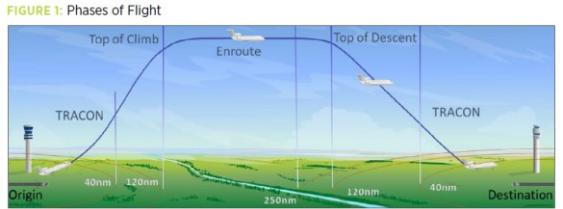


-5% to -10% fuel
with indirect effects (e.g. propeller)



Operations

[Airbus Amber]



Redistribution of Necessary Delay in the US National Airspace System: Benefits from Trajectory-based Operations

Optimize trajectories, reduce delays

FIGURE 3: The Relationship between MRC and LRC Speeds

The graph plots Better fuel mileage (nm/kg) on the vertical axis against Higher cruise mach number on the horizontal axis. A curve starts at a point labeled 'MRC' (Maximum Range Cruise) and ends at a point labeled 'LRC' (Landing Range Cruise). An orange line labeled 'Typical airline CI values' follows the general trend of the curve. Annotations indicate that moving towards MRC leads to better fuel mileage and higher cruise mach numbers, while moving towards LRC leads to lower fuel mileage and lower cruise mach numbers.

Cost Index: Optimize Speed (Mach number)

Formation flight...

ATAG -Waypoint 2050: international aviation scenarios to achieve industry targets

Example of Scenario: aspirational and aggressive technology perspective

The chart shows CO₂ Emissions [Millions of tonnes] on the y-axis (0 to 2,500) and years on the x-axis (2015 to 2050). The emissions peak around 2030 and then decline. A blue shaded area represents the 'Industry 2050 goal'. A legend on the right details the emissions reduction contributions in 2050:

- TECHNOLOGY: 42%
- OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: 8%
- SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL: 50% (or SAF + offsets)
- OFFSETTING: 0%

ATAG scenario built to stay within the 2° temperature rise vs pre-industrial level

-8% fuel

43

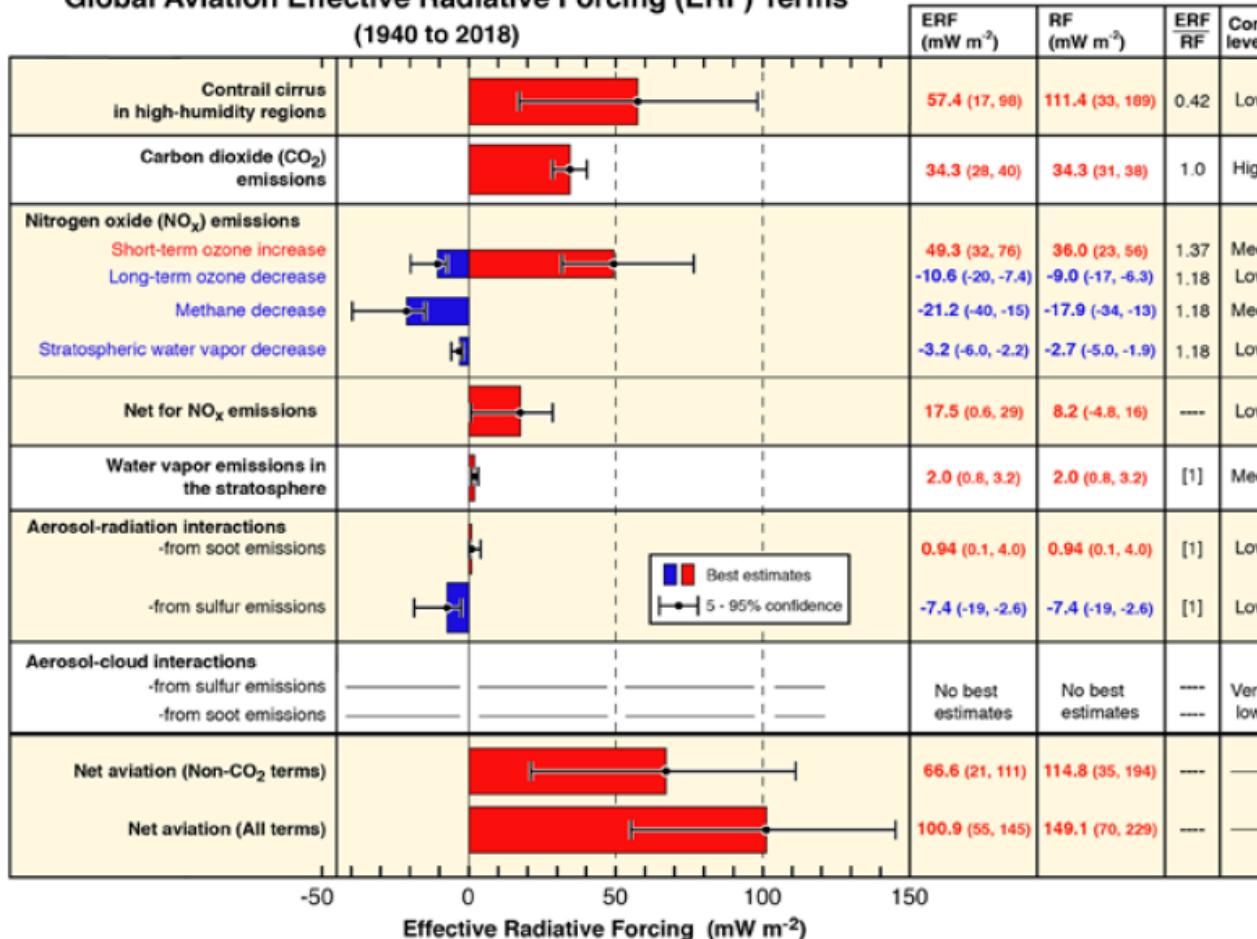
AIRBUS

Agenda

- Purpose - Introduction
- Historical trend on Fuel reduction
- Air Traffic evolution & CO2 emissions
- Status on Aircraft Requirements & Fuel efficiency
- How to further reduce Fuel consumption in the Future?
- **Other considerations on Climate Impact**
- Alternative fuels & energies
- Conclusion

Climate Impact

Global Aviation Effective Radiative Forcing (ERF) Terms
(1940 to 2018)



Lee et al., 2020

But this ERF chart is not fully suitable for aviation policy makers:

look at past emissions, not future; non CO₂ effects seem to increasing faster than CO₂ alone

Challenges related to comparing short-lived & long-lived forcing components

No direct link to T° objectives quantification



The contribution of global aviation to anthropogenic climate forcing for 2000 to 2018

Publication This paper is dedicated to the memory of Professor Yves J. M. Bousquet, whose untiring work, friendship, and commitment to science ended

DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.117004 | Article in Press | © 2018 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved | 0960-1481/18/117004-12 | https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.117004 | [Check update service](#)

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Highlights

- Global aviation warms Earth's surface through both CO₂ and net non-CO₂ contributions.
- Global aviation contributes a few percent to anthropogenic radiative forcing.
- Non-CO₂ impacts comprise about 2/3 of the net radiative forcing.
- Comprehensive and quantitative calculations of aviation effects are presented.
- Data are made available to analyze past, present and future aviation climate forcing.

Total anthropogenic forcing in 2011:

2.29 W/m² (mainly CO₂ & CH₄)

Aviation fraction vs anthropogenic:

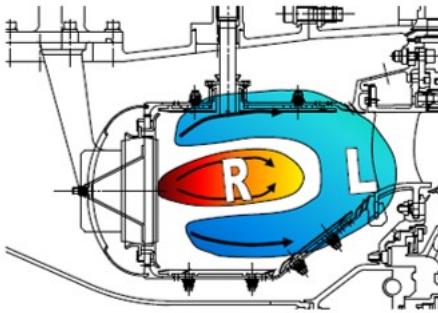
CO₂ (in 2018) 2.4 %

total (in 2011) 3.5 %

Aviation ERF by origin:

- 33% from CO₂
- 17% from NO_x (net effect)
- 55% from contrail-cirrus
- Others: water, soot, sulfur

Black bar is confidence level at 90%:
Total impact is between 1.7 to 4.3 of
impact of CO₂ only.
At 1 "sigma" (standard deviation= 68.2'
this reduces to a ratio between 2.2 to 3



LEAN Burn Combustion – Engine

- NOx significantly reduced
- nvPM (non volatile Particle Matters) hugely reduced
which would lead to much less persistent contrail formation

CONTRAILS



- The current issue is about **persistent**, “Long-lasting contrails”, especially formed at the end of the day and during night (some daytime contrails are even cooling)
- They appear when crossing **ISSR** (Ice-Supersaturated) regions, depending on **exhaust gas composition & properties**

Aviation with reduced climate impact - September 2022

[Airbus Amber]

- Most of the sources tend to show that flying at much lower altitudes, let's say at ~25,000 ft (instead of current 33,000 ft – 39,000 ft “average” altitudes) would significantly reduce both NOx effects & persistent contrails formation
- However, for current Aircraft that would go with a fuel penalty of 20-25% at iso Mach number; Reducing the Mach number at these low altitudes would “damp” this penalty (by ~10%) but it would remain significant
- For a new design, in order to target these low altitudes, the Mach number should significantly be reduced, lets' say M<0.6; this raises several operational, economical challenges and which may hardly acceptable for Long Range applications (at the opposite, this is acceptable for Regional applications)
- Previous options (Lean Engine - Contrail avoidance – SAF= next page) are probably much better

Flying always low does not appear as the best option
(at least with current Mach)

Agenda

- Purpose - Introduction
- Historical trend on Fuel reduction
- Air Traffic evolution & CO2 emissions
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- How to further reduce Fuel consumption in the Future?
- Other considerations on Climate Impact
- **Alternative fuels & energies**
- Conclusion

Aviation with reduced climate impact - September 2022

[Airbus Amber]

- “Sustainable” means (much) “reduced CO2” Life Cycle (LC) Vs Kerozene and also acceptable on a societal / food point of view
- SAF include a lot of different fuels, definitions, processes... such as:
 - Biofuels (from crops) but with **food competition** risk
 - From biomass: from forestry or agricultural wastes & residues = Up to 80% CO2 reduction (LC)
 - Airbus target ~ 2 to 3% by 2025 (**still quite high costs**) – certification under progress (^{up to 100% SAF})
 - **“Clean” PtL** (Power to Liquid): CO2 capture + clean H2 production (**maturity still low & cost high**)
- These fuels should also have “better properties”, leading to much less NOx and nvPM (non volatile Particule Matter) significantly beneficial on a climate impact point of view (**but at very high cost today and with “scalability issues”, at least at short-mid term**).

SAF should significantly reduce Aircraft climate impact

Hydrogen specificities | Why considering Hydrogen as fuel?

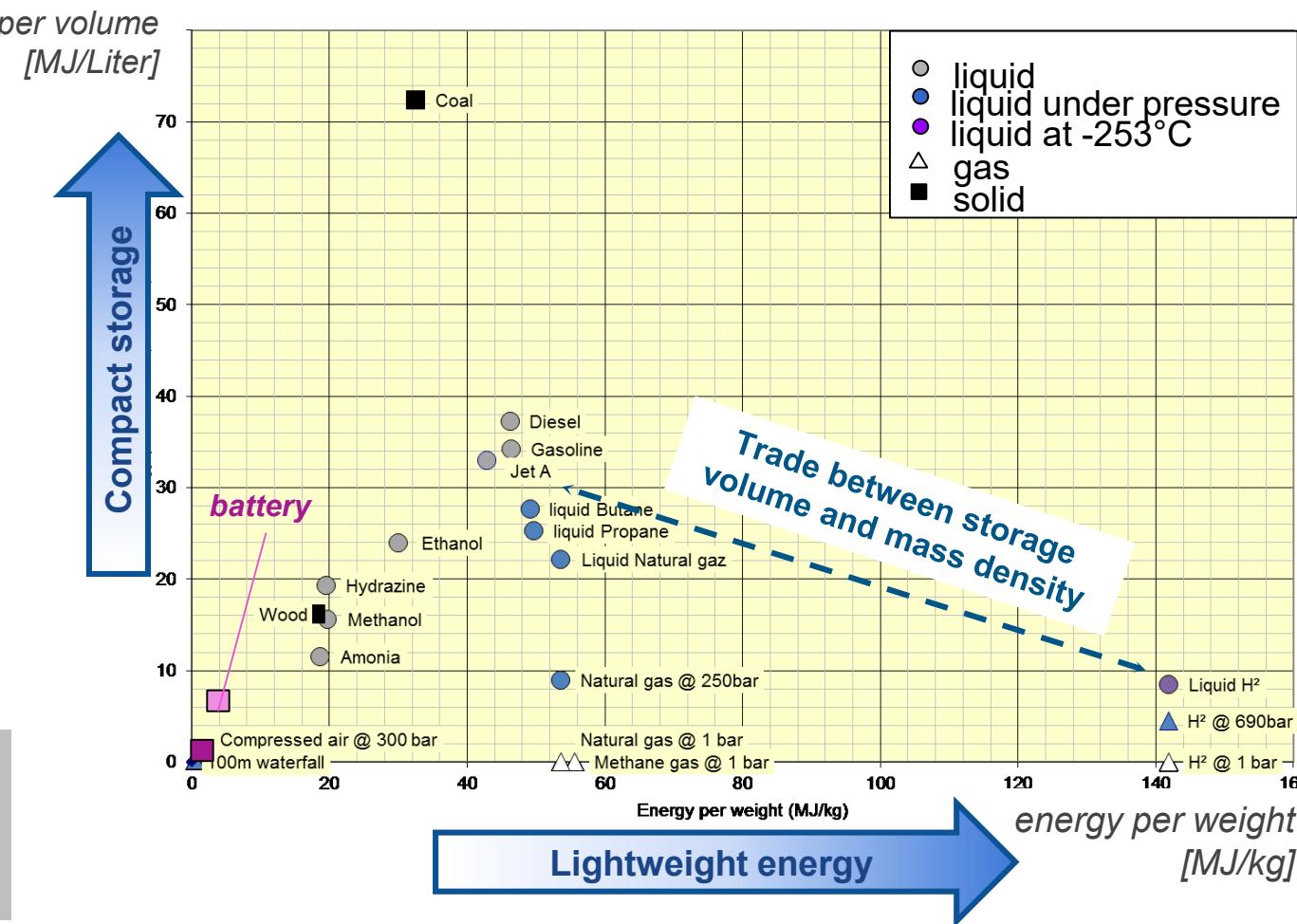
Most of fuel candidates are “carbon carrier” as kerozene \Rightarrow CO₂ emissions remain

Amongst the “carbon-free” energy carriers, **Hydrogen** is expected to provide best efficiency for aeronautics:

- Hydrogen offers much **higher energy per unit of mass** than the other fuel candidates
 - But Hydrogen has very low density \Rightarrow much **higher volume required for storage**
- \Rightarrow trade between mass efficiency and volumetric penalty

Batteries as main power supply?

Currently **50x higher weight** for same energy as kerosene (Panasonic 18650 as in Tesla or BMW) \Rightarrow not viable for large commercial aircraft



Hydrogen is the most promising “carbon-free” energy carrier for aeronautics

Main aircraft architecture choices to define H2 aircraft concept

Hydrogen storage concept

Gazeous (high pressure)

Liquid (cryogenic)

Through NH₃

...

Hydrogen storage location

In wings

In fuselage

Above fuselage

Below wings

...

Propulsion generation

Direct burn

Fuel Cells

Hybrid

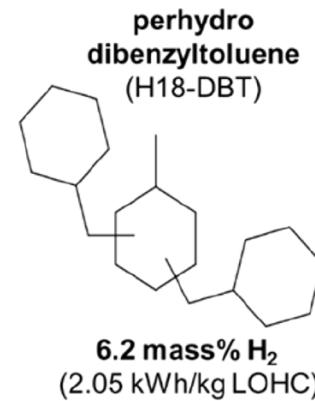
Hydrogen storage

weight of storage per 1kg H₂ for different carriers / technologies:

metal hydrid



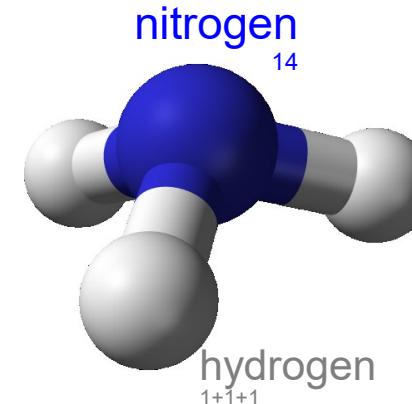
Liquid Organic
Hydrogen Carriers



GH2 in pressure
gas tank
300/700bar



Ammonia



LH2 in double wall
vacumm isolated
tank



LH2 in foam
isolated tank



50kg

20-30kg

15kg

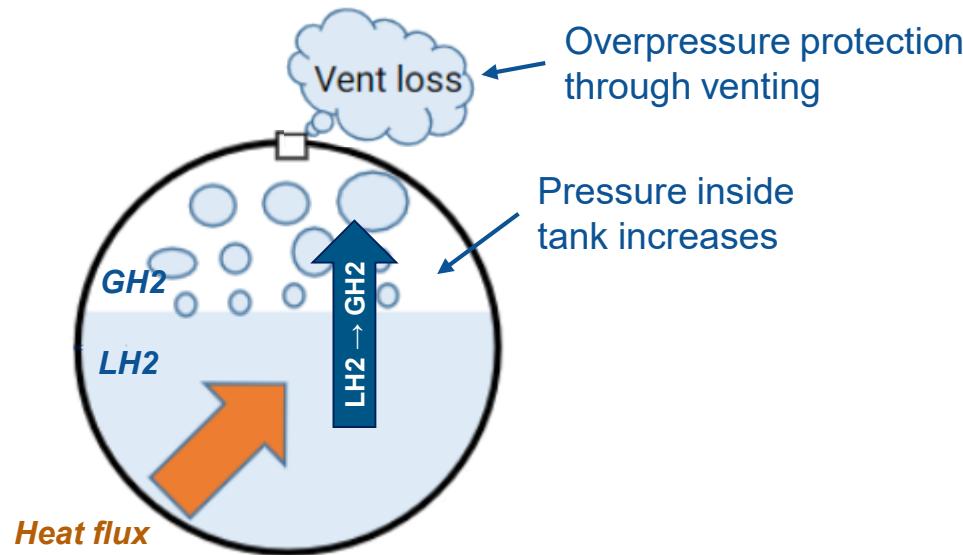
10kg

2/3/4kg

1kg

Cryogenic storage of liquid hydrogen is far lighter than any other means ⇒ most promising option for aeronautics

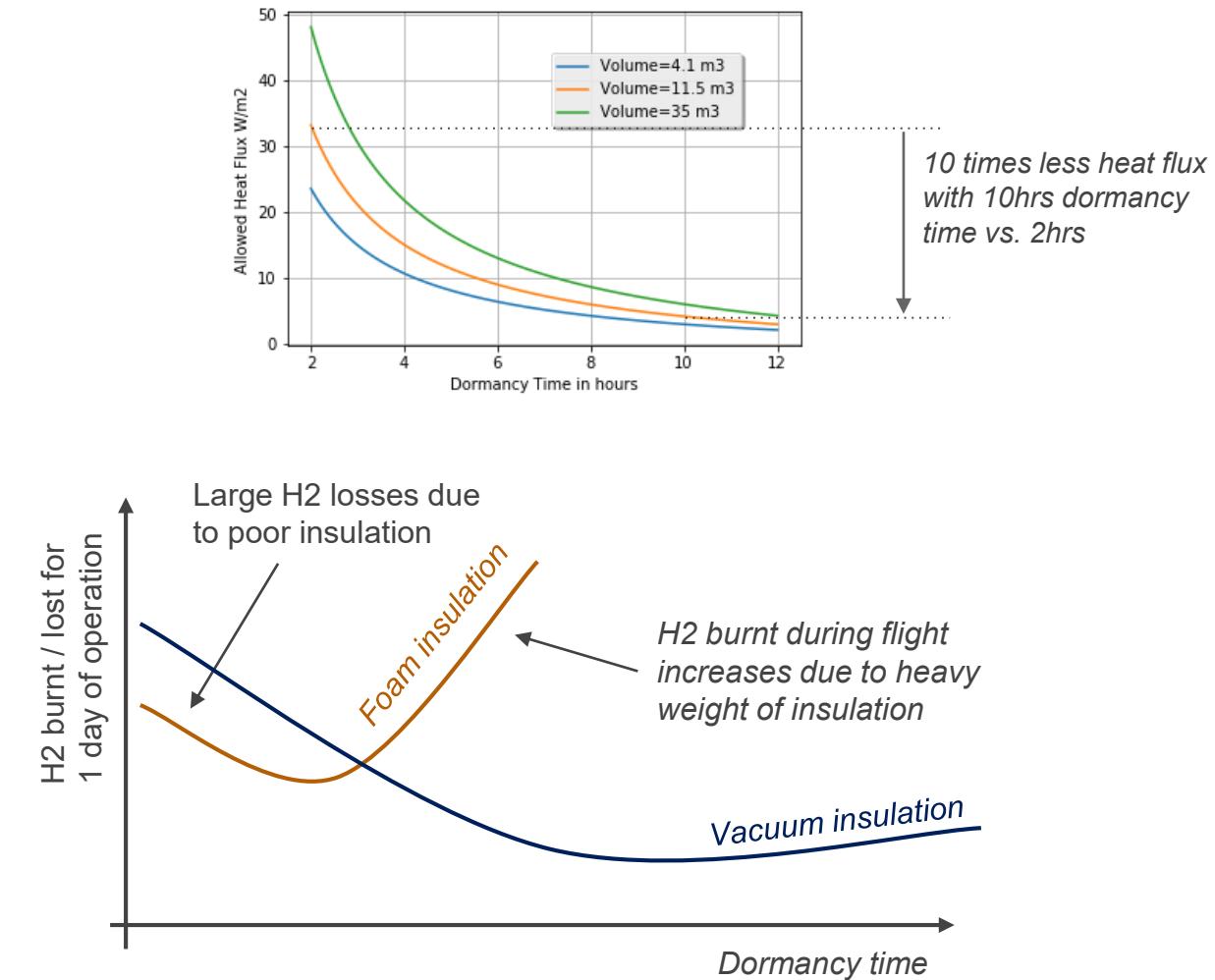
Hydrogen storage



Dormancy time: time before reaching max tank pressure leading to venting

Dormancy time objective depends of operational concept:

- Low dormancy time if to cover only the mission duration (ex: rocket launchers)
- Long dormancy time if we want to maintain filled LH₂ tanks between operations (at airport gate for instance)

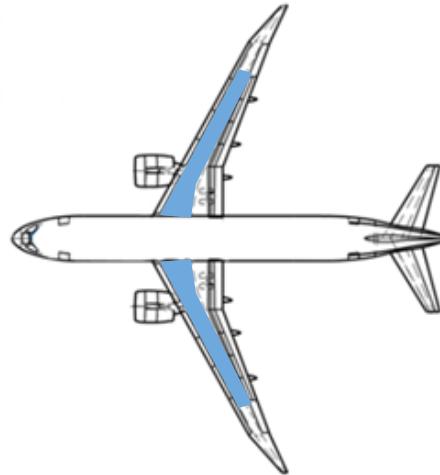


Choice of insulation technology depends on dormancy time requirements and operations concept

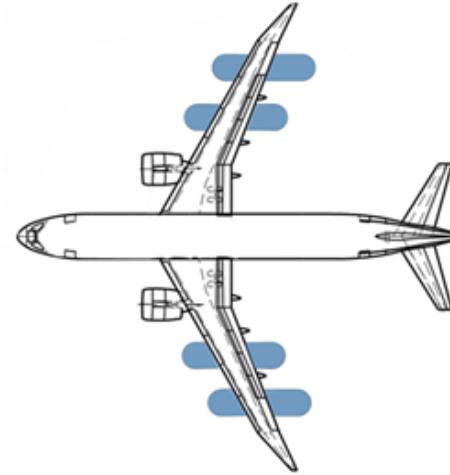
Where to store Liquid Hydrogen Tank ?

[Airbus Amber]

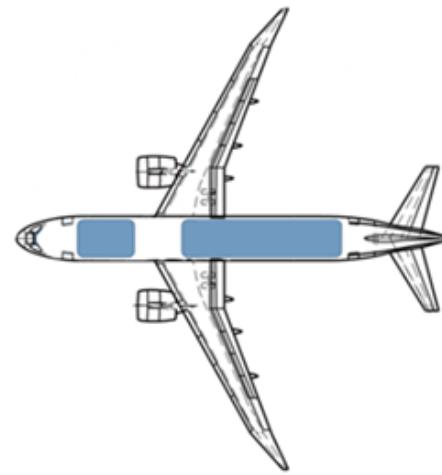
In wings??



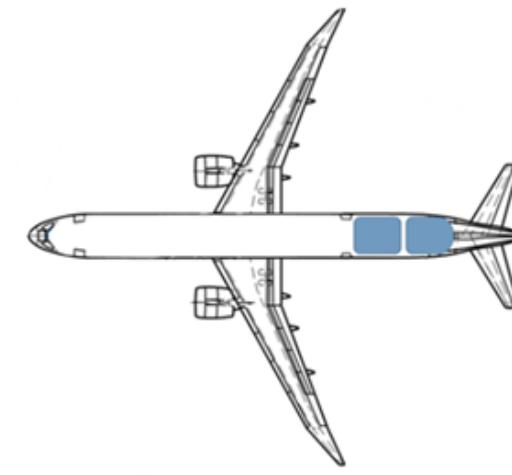
Podded



On top of fuselage



In aft fuselage



Other options

...



Liquid Hydrogen Tank storage | in pods

[Airbus Amber]

LH₂ tanks installed in underwing pods



New LH₂ tank component decoupled from main airframe

Can be manufactured as separate component

Easy accessibility of the LH₂ tanks for maintenance, replacement



Additional wetted area ⇒ more aircraft drag

Tanks exposed to external threats: bird strike, crash, ground equipments

Limited H₂ volume capability



Aerodynamics interaction with wing

Attaching heavy mass on the outboard wing: structural concept? Risk of flutter?

Liquid Hydrogen Tank storage | on top of the fuselage

LH₂ tanks installed on top of the fuselage



Limited wetted area increase, because of covered upper fuselage



Requires to create access door for daily maintenance and tank removal
Accessibility of the tank difficult due to height ($\approx 5m$ to $7m$)
Degraded lateral handling qualities



Structural attachment of heavy mass on top of the fuselage, crashworthiness
Structural concept and weight efficiency of such big fairing

Liquid Hydrogen Tank storage | in rear fuselage

LH₂ tanks installed in rear fuselage



Very much integrated installation in standard fuselage concept
Very good ratio additional wetted area / available volume
Looks like a conventional aircraft



Requires to create access door for daily maintenance
Requires to define concept to allow full tank removal if needed
Aircraft longitudinal CG more aft



Safety acceptability of the close location of the two tanks
Impact of conical shape for the most aft tank on weight efficiency, manufacturing process

Liquid Hydrogen Tank storage | Conclusion

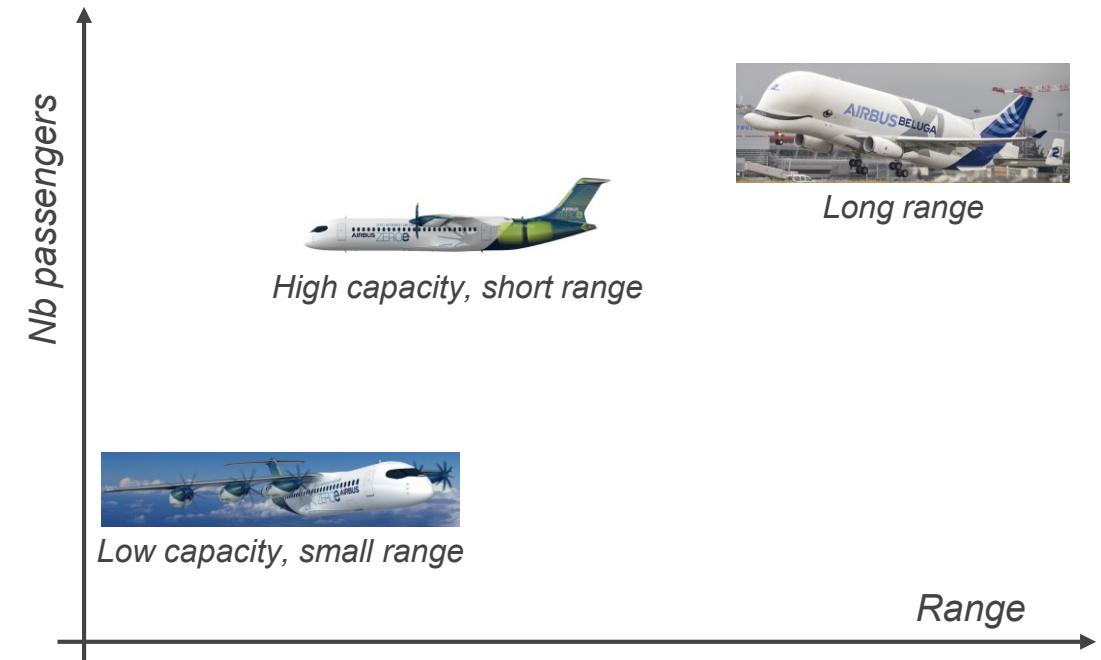
No obvious solution for LH₂ tank installation on an aircraft

The choice of location of the LH₂ tank depends on many parameters:

- Aircraft concept
- Market positioning
- Balance between accessibility / performance

Whatever the configuration, the installation of H₂ tanks on the aircraft comes with **significant performance impact**:

- Additional wetted area
- Additional mass
- Additional complexity, maintenance



H₂ tanks cannot be installed in standard airframe, requires additional volume and impacts aircraft efficiency

How to convert H₂ into thrust ?

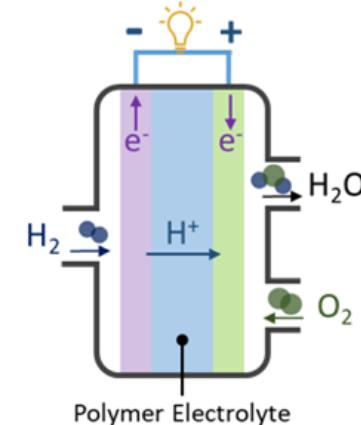
[Airbus Amber]

H₂ Direct Burn



- Same principle as kerosene gas turbine but many components changed: (combustion chamber, Injectors, Cryo heat exchangers, H₂ pumps...)
- Feasibility demonstrated since the 50's (B57)
- Small / no impact on overall aircraft architecture

H₂ Fuel Cells



- Produce electricity to power electric motors
- Water is the only by-product
- High efficiency
- Zero emissions (only water)

Propulsion system summary

H2 can be used to generate thrust either through direct burn or through Fuel Cell and electrical chain

	H2 direct Burn engine	Fuel Cell engine
Mass	Lighter ≈ 2.5 to 3.5 kW / kg	Heavier ≈ 2.0 to 4.0 kW / kg for FC stack alone + all surrounding systems
Wetted area	Smaller	Larger
Thermo-Propulsive efficiency	Worse $\eta \approx 35\% \text{ to } 40\%$	Better $\eta \approx 55\% \text{ to } 60\%$ for FC stack alone + all surrounding systems
Overall efficiency @ aircraft level	Highly dependant on technology assumption	
In operations		
CO2 emissions	None	None
NOx emissions	Reduced	None
Contrails	???	?? to none
Overall climate impact	Reduced	None?

H2 propulsion reduces significantly aircraft operations impact on emissions
Fuel Cell propulsion targets the ambition of zero emission

H2 safety | main H2 risks

H2 physical characteristics lead to threats for the aircraft structure / systems:

- **Liquid hydrogen** ⇒ cryogenic risks:
 - LH2 release: may impact surrounding structure and systems: temperature below systems qualification, mechanical strength altered, ice accretion, overpressure following released LH2 gazeification, ...
 - Accidental heat ingress on H2 cryogenic devices, leading to overpressure

- **Gazeous hydrogen** ⇒ fire / explosion risks

H2 physical characteristics: Auto ignition temperature ~ 520°C [Jet A = 232°C]
air = 1E-3g/l]

Min ignition energy ~0,02mJ [Jet A = 0.2mJ]

Density = 9E-5g/ml [He = 2E-4g/ml /

Volumic concentration of GH2 in ambient air at sea level

4% - start of flammability range

~18% - start of detonation range

59%

75%

With more than 4% of H2 in air, **fire** will most likely occur (type of flame depending on flow)

If H2 accumulates in a cloud, **deflagration** may occur

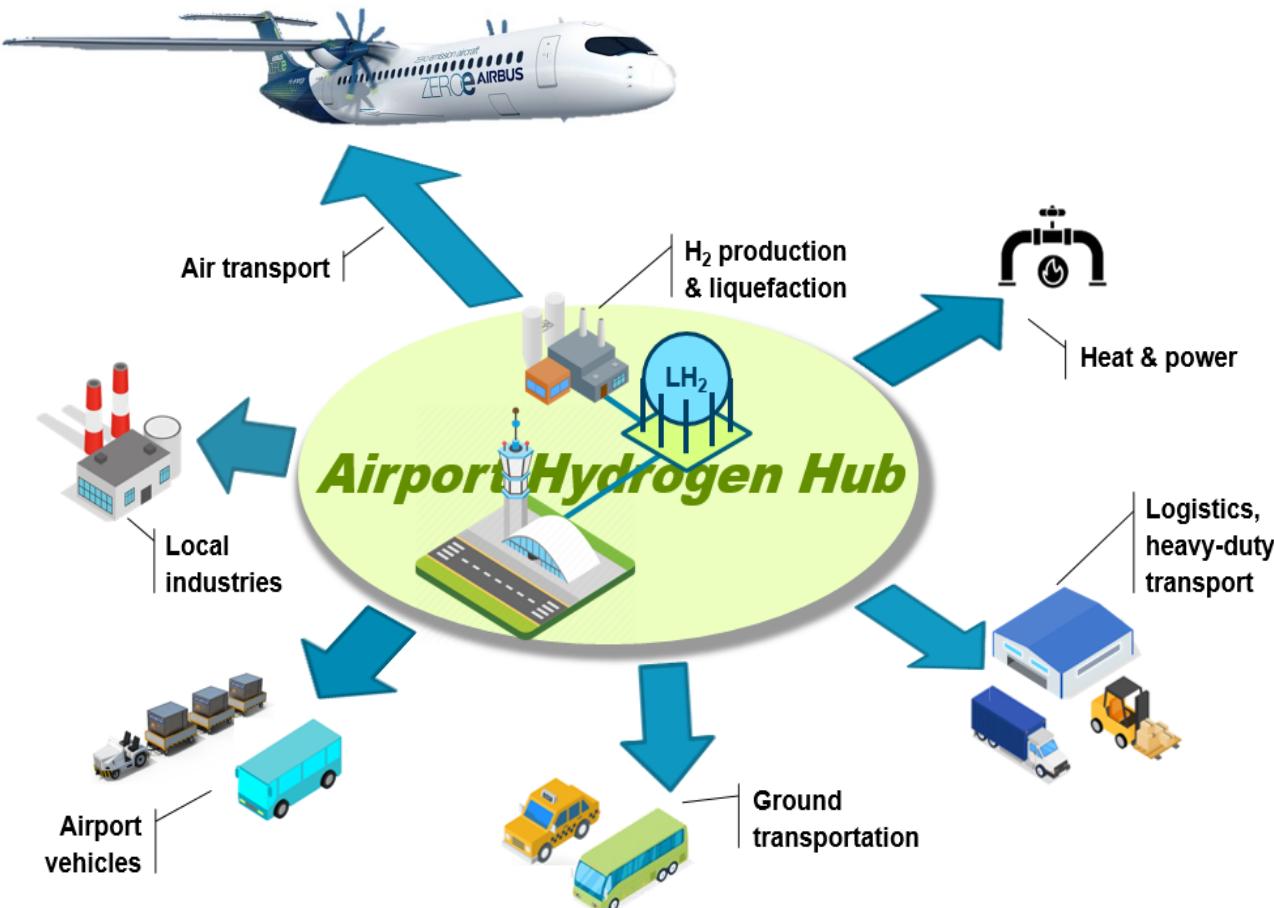
For higher concentration, **detonation** may occur (depending on %, flow perturbations,...)

Appropriate design principles and precautions have to be implemented in order to address and mitigate H2 risks

Aircraft ground ops | airport hydrogen hub

[Airbus Amber]

To prepare for the advent of hydrogen aviation, airports will need to become **hydrogen hubs**:



Airport hydrogen hubs will help:

- Preparing regulations and standards for the handling of hydrogen at airports
- Ensure that a large number of airports worldwide are supplied with LH₂ by 2035
- Foster efficiency improvements and cost reductions in hydrogen liquefaction, storage and distribution.



AIRBUS AMBITION

- Bring zero emission aircraft to market by 2035
- Market and technology selection in 2024 - 2025



ROADMAP



De-risking of technology, regulation, and infrastructure will be required before 2025

Introducing Airbus **ZEROe**

Turboprop



<100

Passengers



Hydrogen
Hybrid Turboprop
Engines (x 2)



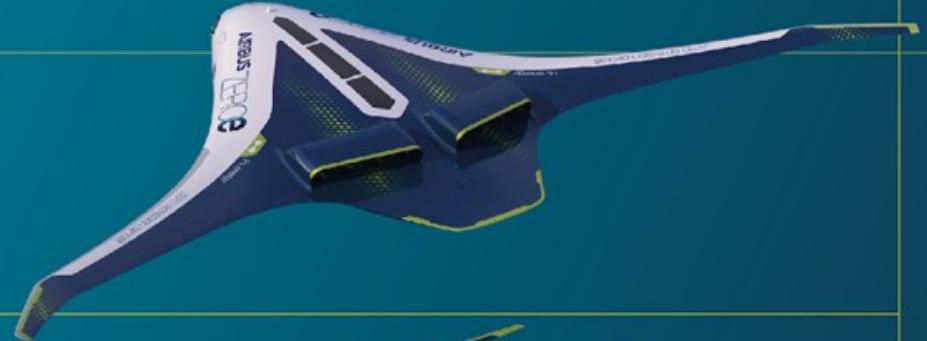
1,000+nm

Range



Liquid Hydrogen
Storage & Distribution
System

Blended-Wing Body



<200

Passengers



Hydrogen
Hybrid Turbofan
Engines (x 2)



2,000+nm

Range



Liquid Hydrogen
Storage & Distribution
System

Turbofan



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Conclusion

- By 2050, the potential of fuel reduction from an **Aircraft** point of view (at iso requirements, TLARs) is guessed at ~ **25-30%**
- Reduction of the **Requirements** (TLARs, esp. Range & Mach) could offer 10 to 15% more benefit (with new engine types in particular)
- The gain from the **Operations** is presented at ~ **8%**
- On a more global climate impact point of view, still with Kerozene type (can be synthetic fuel), capability to produce much **less NOx and less nvPM** (so less persistent contrails) combined with **contrail avoidance strategy** should offer a significant reduction potential
- **SAF** (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) should contribute to Aviation Climate Impact Reduction
- Other energies, such as **LH2**, are a strong means to reduce climate impact at mid-long term



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Glossary

Glossary and symbols

A

a	Sound speed
A/C	Aircraft
ACARE	<i>Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe</i>
ADC	<i>Air Data Computer</i>
AoA or α	Angle of Attack
α_e	Angle of Attack at horizontal empennage position
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATM	Air Traffic Management
AR	Aspect Ratio

B

β	Sideslip
BC	Business Class
BPR	By-Pass Ratio
BF	Block Fuel

C

CAS	Calibrated Air Speed
CC	Climb Ceiling
CFC	ChloroFluoroCarbon
CG	Center of Gravity
CAEP	Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection
C_D	Drag Coefficient
C_L	Lift Coefficient
Cl	Roll moment coefficient
Cm	Pitch moment Coefficient
Cn	Yaw moment coefficient
Cm_0	Pitch moment Coefficient at zero lift (Pitch moment coef at neutral point)
Cm_{0w}	Pitch moment Coefficient at zero aircraft without empennage lift
COC	Cash Operating Cost
COP	Centre of pressure
C_Y	Lateral force coefficient

Glossary

D	DOC	Direct Operating Cost
	δl	Aileron deflection
	δm	Elevator deflection
	δn	Rudder deflection
E	EAS	Equivalent Air Speed
	EIS	Entry Into Service
	EM	Engine Manufacturer
	EPNdB	Effective Perceived Noise decibel
	ETS	European Union Trading Scheme
F	F or Fn	Net thrust
	F	Neutral point (Aircraft neutral point otherwise specified)
	FB	Fuel Burn
	FC	First Class
	FF	Fuel Flow
	FG	Growth Thrust
	FL	Flight Level
	Fq	Maneuver point
	FRAM	Ram Drag
	Fw	Neutral Point of aircraft without empennage (w for "wing")
G	g	Gravity acceleration
	g_0	Gravity acceleration at Sea Level (SL)
	γ	Flight path angle ("Climb angle")
	γ_a	Aerodynamic Flight path angle

Glossary

H	H	Geopotential altitude
	HQ	Handling Qualities
	HTP	Horizontal Tail Plane
	HS	High Speed
I	ICA	Initial Cruise Altitude
	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
	I_H	THS (Trimable Horizontal Stabilizer) setting
	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
	ISA	International Standard Atmosphere
L	L	Lift
	L	Roll moment
	L/D	Lift-over-Drag ratio
	LG	Landing Gear
	L_{HTP}	HTP x lever arm
	L_{VTP}	VTP x lever arm
	LTO	Landing and Take-Off (cycle)
	LW	Landing Weight
	L_w	Lift of aircraft without empennage (w for "wing")
M	M or Mach	Mach Number
	M	Pitch moment
	MAC	Mean Aerodynamic Chord
	MCL	Max Climb
	MLG	Main Landing Gear
	MLW	Max Landing Weight
	MMO	Mach Maximum Operational
	M_{opt}	Mach optimal
	MRW	Max Ramp Weight
	MTOW	Max Take-Off Weight
	MWE	Manufacturer Weight Empty
	MZFW	Max Zero Fuel Weight
	μ	Dynamic viscosity (Pa or kg/(m.s))

Glossary

N	N	Yaw moment
	NLG	Nose Landing Gear
	NM	Nautical Mile
	NOx	Nitrogen oxides
	N_z	Vertical load factor
O	OAD	Overall Aircraft Design
	OPR	Overall Pressure Ratio
	OWE	Operating Weight Empty
P	P or p	Pressure (static pressure otherwise specified)
	Ps	Static Pressure
	Pt	Total Pressure
	P_w	Centre of Pressure of aircraft without empennage (w for "wing")
	P/L	Payload
Q	q	Kinetic pressure
	q	Pitch rotation speed
	QC	Quota Counts
R		
S	ρ	Volumetric mass
	S or Sref	Wing reference area
	SAR	Specific Air Range
	SAT (or T)	Static Air Temperature
	SFC	Specific Fuel Consumption
	SL	Sea Level
	SR	Specific Range
	S_{HTP}	HTP area
	S_{VTP}	VTP area

Glossary

N	N	Yaw moment
	NLG	Nose Landing Gear
	NM	Nautical Mile
	NOx	Nitrogen oxides
	N_z	Vertical load factor
O	OAD	Overall Aircraft Design
	OPR	Overall Pressure Ratio
	OWE	Operating Weight Empty
P	P or p	Pressure (static pressure otherwise specified)
	Ps	Static Pressure
	Pt	Total Pressure
	P_w	Centre of Pressure of aircraft without empennage (w for "wing")
	P/L	Payload
Q	q	Kinetic pressure
	q	Pitch rotation speed
	QC	Quota Counts
R		
S	ρ	Volumetric mass
	S or Sref	Wing reference area
	SAR	Specific Air Range
	SAT (or T)	Static Air Temperature
	SFC	Specific Fuel Consumption
	SL	Sea Level
	SR	Specific Range
	S_{HTP}	HTP area
	S_{VTP}	VTP area

Glossary

T	TAS or V	True Air Speed
	TAT	Turn Around Time
	TAT	Total Air Temperature
	TLAR	Top Level Aircraft Requirement
	TO	Take-Off
	TOFL	Take-Off Field Length
	TOW	Take-Off Weight
	TR	Taper ratio
	TTC	Time To Climb
U		
	UHC	Unburnt HydroCarbons
V		
	V or TAS	True Air Speed
	V_{app}	Approach Speed
	GS	Ground Speed
	VMC	Velocity of Minimum Control
	VMCA	Velocity of Minimum Control in air (at take-off)
	VMCL	Velocity of Minimum Control at Landing
	VMO	Velocity Maximum Operational
	VTP	Vertical Tail Plane
	V_{HTP}	HTP volume coefficient
	V_{VTP}	VTP volume coefficient
Y		
	YC	Yankee Class
Z		
	Z	Geometrical altitude
	ZFW	Zero Fuel Weight
	Zp	Altitude Pressure

[Airbus Amber]

