Hydrogen Economy

A Presentation and Discussion

for The 2005 IEEE NCS AGM

Wilsun Xu, Ph.D., P.Eng., FIEEE

Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering

University of Alberta

Topics to be covered

1. The history of human energy use

- Change of energy regimes
- History of fossil-fuel regime
- The global oil production

2. Envisioned hydrogen economy

- Hydrogen, carbon and decarbonization
- Hydrogen as a fuel
- Fuel cell and its applications

3. Discussions

- Source of hydrogen
- Energy infrastructure of the future

'The degree of civilization can be measured by its ability to utilize energy for human advancement or needs'

Change of energy regimes

- Wood
- Coal, stream engine and industrialization
- Oil, combustion engine and automobile

Coal

- England started to use coal in 1700
- Steam engine and train
- Industrial revolution

• Oil

- 1859, Pennsylvania
- 1868, Rockefeller and Standard Oil Company
- 1885, Invention of internal combustion engine
- 1911, Mass production of automobiles by Ford
- 1930, Oil industry was the biggest industry in the world

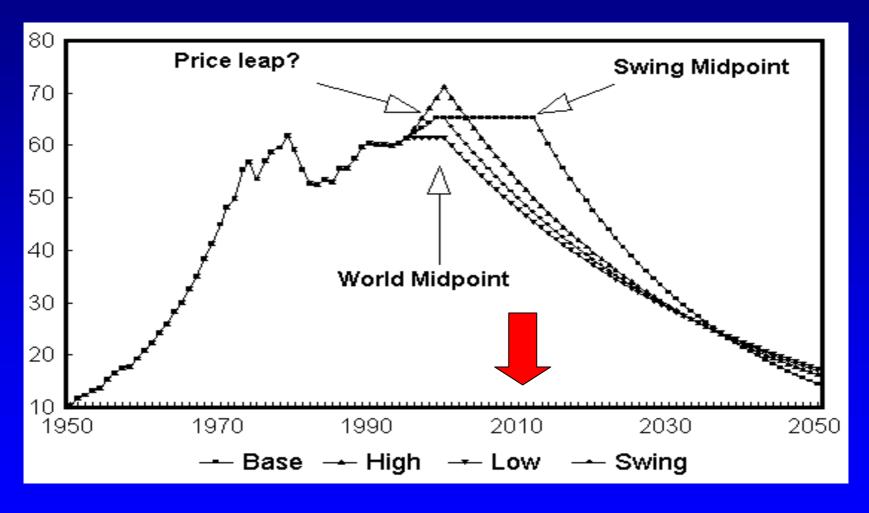
The importance of oil

- WWI: Oil-powered ships, tanks, airplanes
- WWII: German invasion of Soviet Union, Pearl harbor
- Oil empire
 Still the largest industry in the world
 3 of the 7 largest companies in the world are oil companies

Oil use in USA

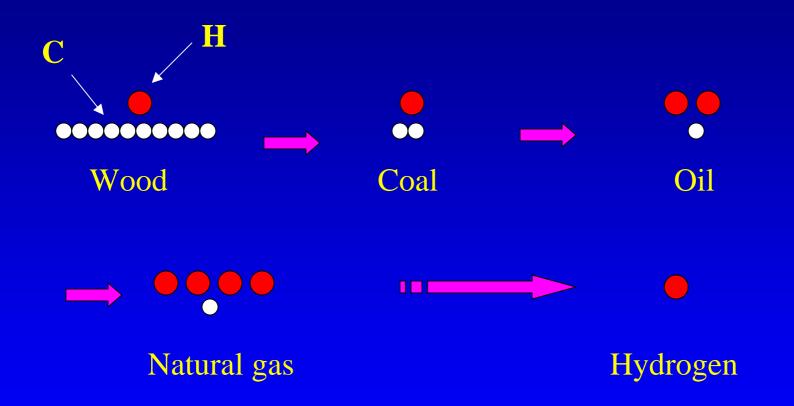
- USA has 5% of world's population but consumes about 26% of oil
- USA produces 11% of oil and has only 2% reserve left
- USA has 190BB reserves, produced 169BB and has only 20B left.
- Its production peaked in 1970.

Peak of global oil production



Refers to a society that relies on hydrogen as its fuel

Decarbonization

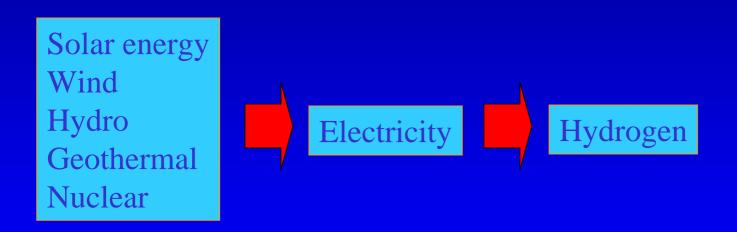


- Hydrogen is the most efficient media to store energy on per weight basis
- Pollution free
- Relatively easy to transport

Where to get hydrogen?

Near term: from natural gas using stream-reforming process

Future: from water using electrolysis



Hydrogen is an energy storage media

History of using hydrogen as a fuel source

1920: Germany

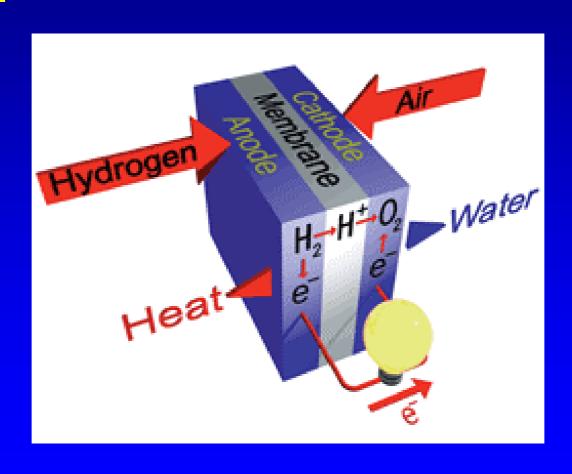
1930-40: experimental fuel for automobile

1973: oil crisis renewed interest in hydrogen

1990: global warming concerns
Soviet – a passenger jet in 1988
US – a personal airplane 1988
Germany – solar home using hydrogen to store energy 1992
Belgium – first hydrogen powered bus 1994

Modern method of using hydrogen

Fuel Cell



Fuel Cell Powered Devices





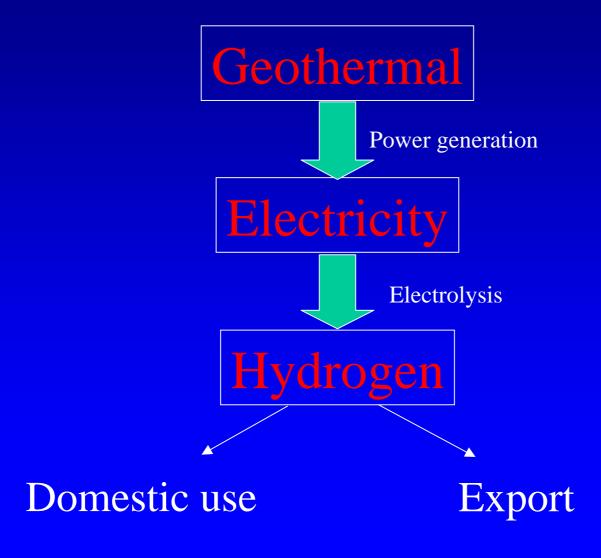




Fuel Cell Power Generator



The model of Iceland (1996 and possibly Hawaii)



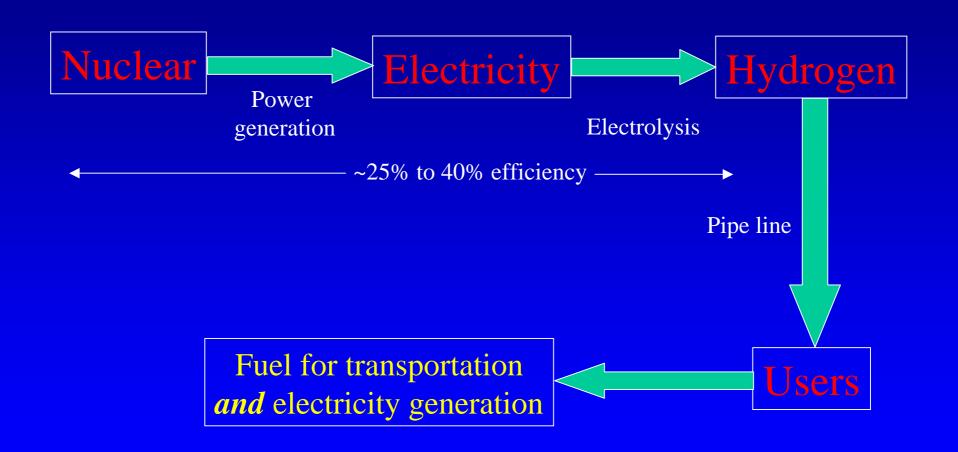
- It is certain that oil will run out in near future
- In addition, global warming concern will discourage the use of coal and other fossil fuels
- Hydrogen is just an energy carrier. It needs to be produced
- We still need to find other energy sources

Sources of energy

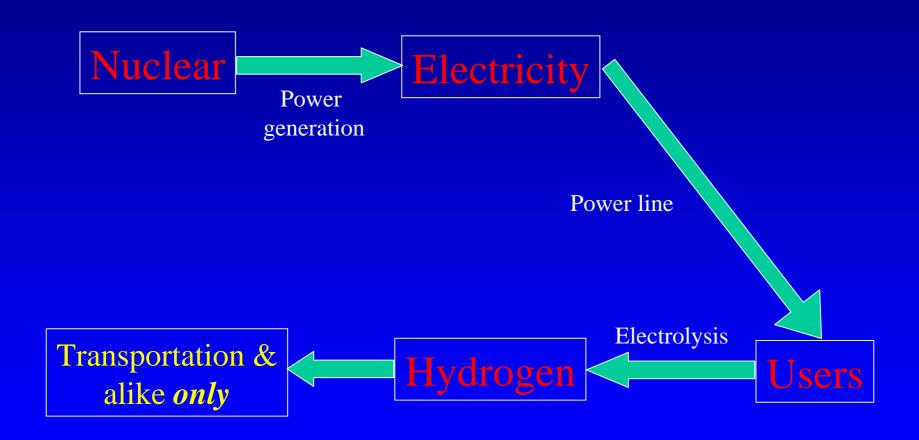
- Renewable (solar, wind, hydro, etc.)
 - Distributed, intermittent, location dependent
 - It seems more attractive to convert them to electricity than to hydrogen
 - Amount available is not sufficient
- Nuclear

Non-carbon source and GHG free

Model 1 (popular hydrogen economy model)

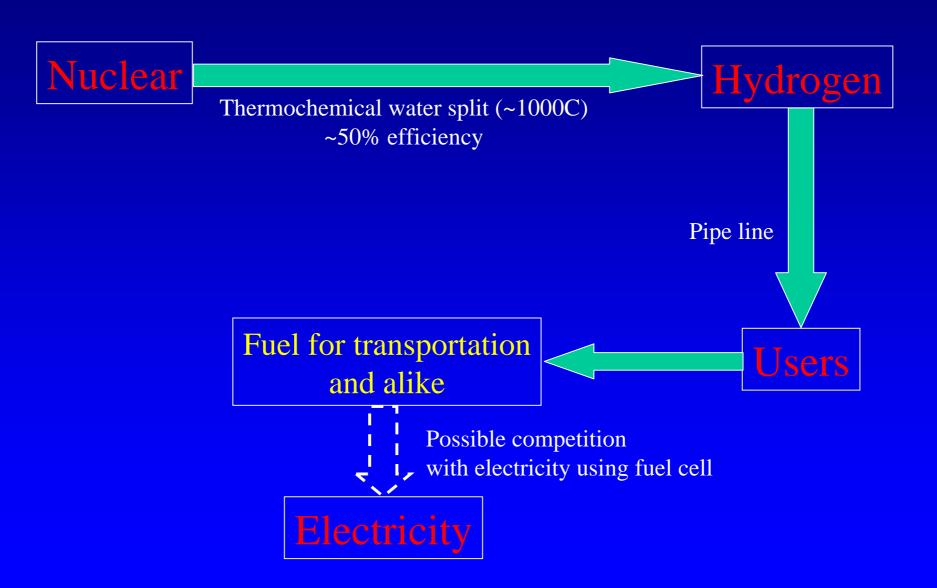


Model 2 ("electric" economy model)



20 CANDU (690MW each) => 13M Vehicles

Model 3 (alternative hydrogen economy model)



3. Questions and Discussions Impact on electric power industry

- Model 2 ("electric" economy)
 - Offer major opportunities to power industry
 - double current capacity

- Model 3 (direct nuclear to hydrogen conversion)
 - 1. Co-existence of hydrogen and electric power
 - 2. Hydrogen will produce power locally, resulting in major structure change in power industry