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# Experimental study of biomass fast pyrolysis

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# Experimental study of biomass fast pyrolysis

GREENER group  
20 persons on biomass valorization  
Laboratory of Reactions and Processes Engineering (LRGP)  
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Felipe Buendía-Kandia, Guillain Mauviel and  
Francis Billaud



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE LORRAINE



LABORATOIRE  
RÉACTIONS  
ET GÉNIE  
DES PROCÉDÉS

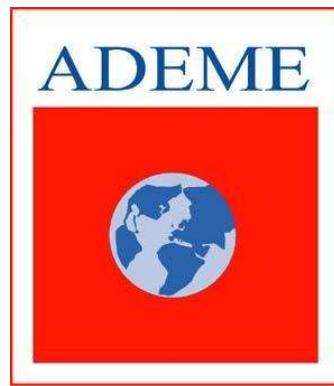


GREENER  
GÉNIE DES RÉACTIONS  
POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET  
LES ÉNERGIES RENOUVELABLES



Biorefinery I : Chemical and Materials from Thermo-Chemical Biomass Conversion and Related Processes

September 27-october 02, 2015  
Chania (Crete) , Greece



(11 Partners)

## Dual Fluidized Bed Gasifier

# Detailed modeling of dense and dual fluidised beds

(collaboration with EDF)

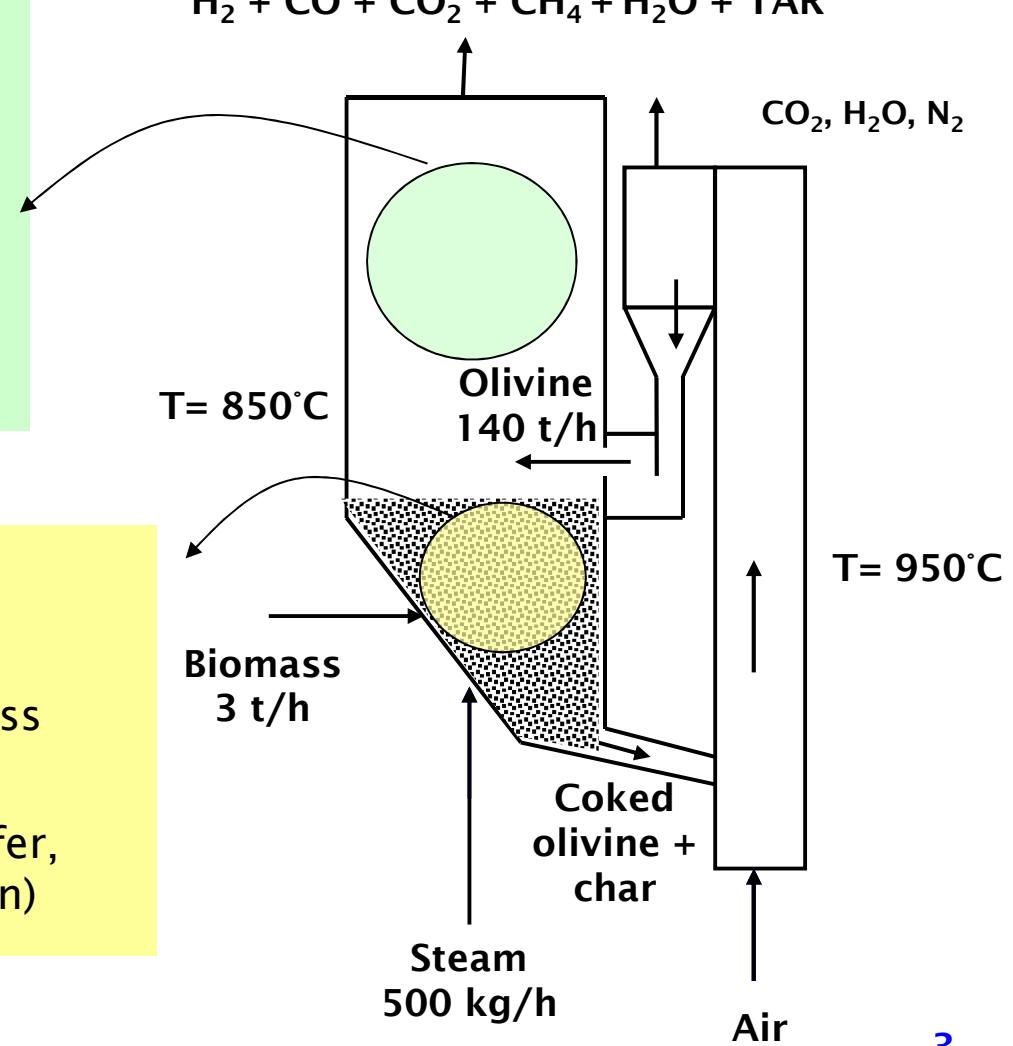
## Freeboard model:

Kinetics of:  
Water Gas Shift,  
Methane reforming  
Gas-phase and catalytic tar  
conversion  
+ enthalpy balance

## Dense bed model:

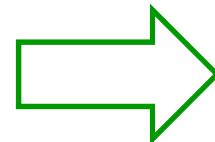
Fluidised bed hydrodynamics  
Steam and heat transfer to biomass  
particles  
Particle model (internal heat transfer,  
drying, pyrolysis, char gasification)

Gas-phase reactions



## Objectives

Experiments of  
pyrolysis in the  
image furnace



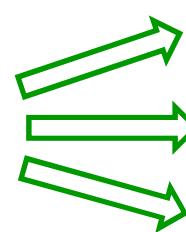
Dual fluidized  
bed gasifier

Understand the phenomenon of fast pyrolysis of the  
biomass

Biomass

+

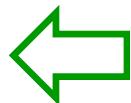
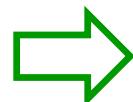
Heat



Syn-gas  
Tar  
Char

## Biomass nature

Powdered biomass:  
(54 types of biomass)



Wood pellets:

- ◆ beech
- ◆ spruce



## Samples



Diameter=6 mm  
Length=20 mm

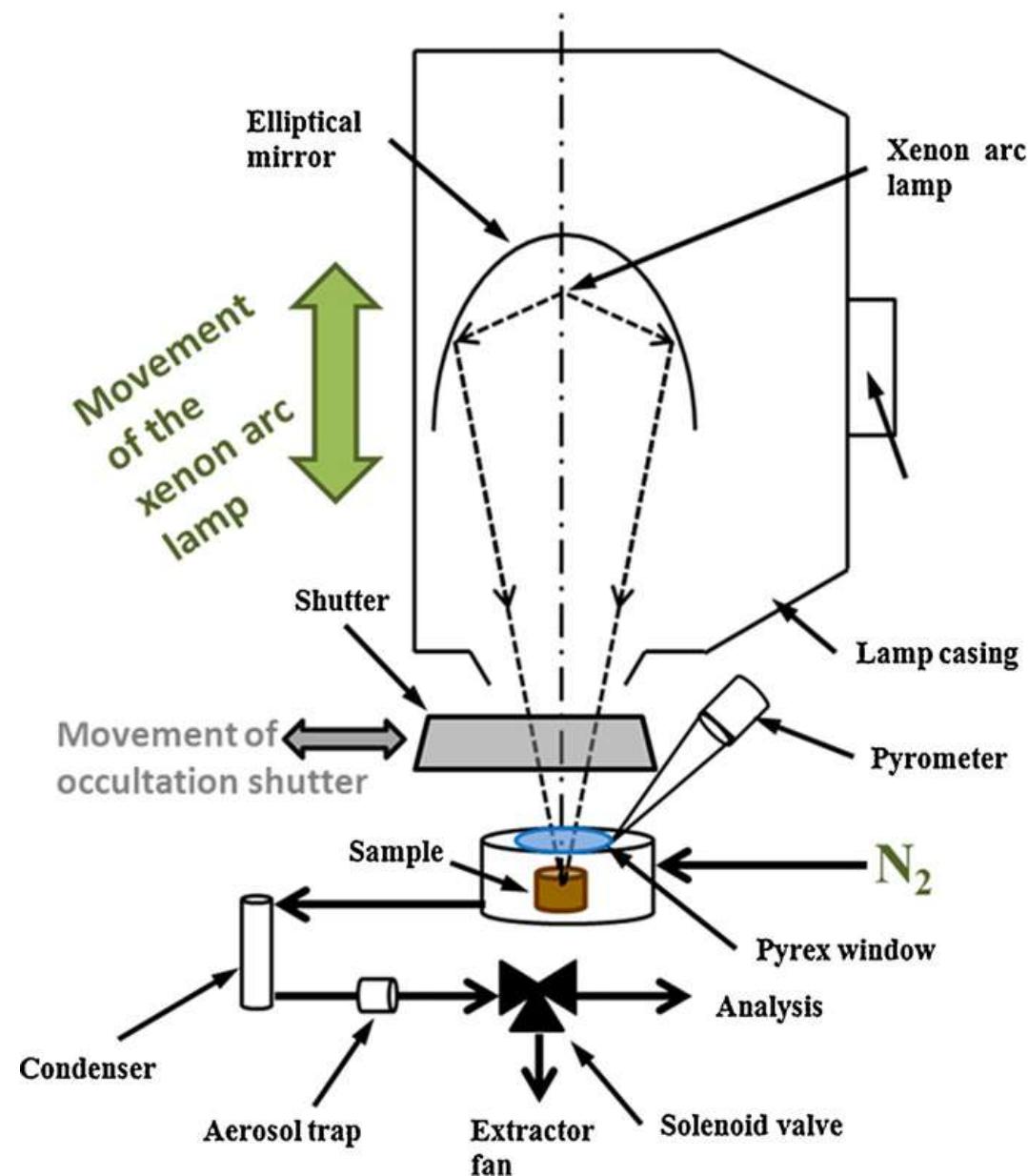
$$Lc = \frac{V}{S}$$



thickness=1.3 mm



# Experiments on primary pyrolysis are conducted in an image furnace.

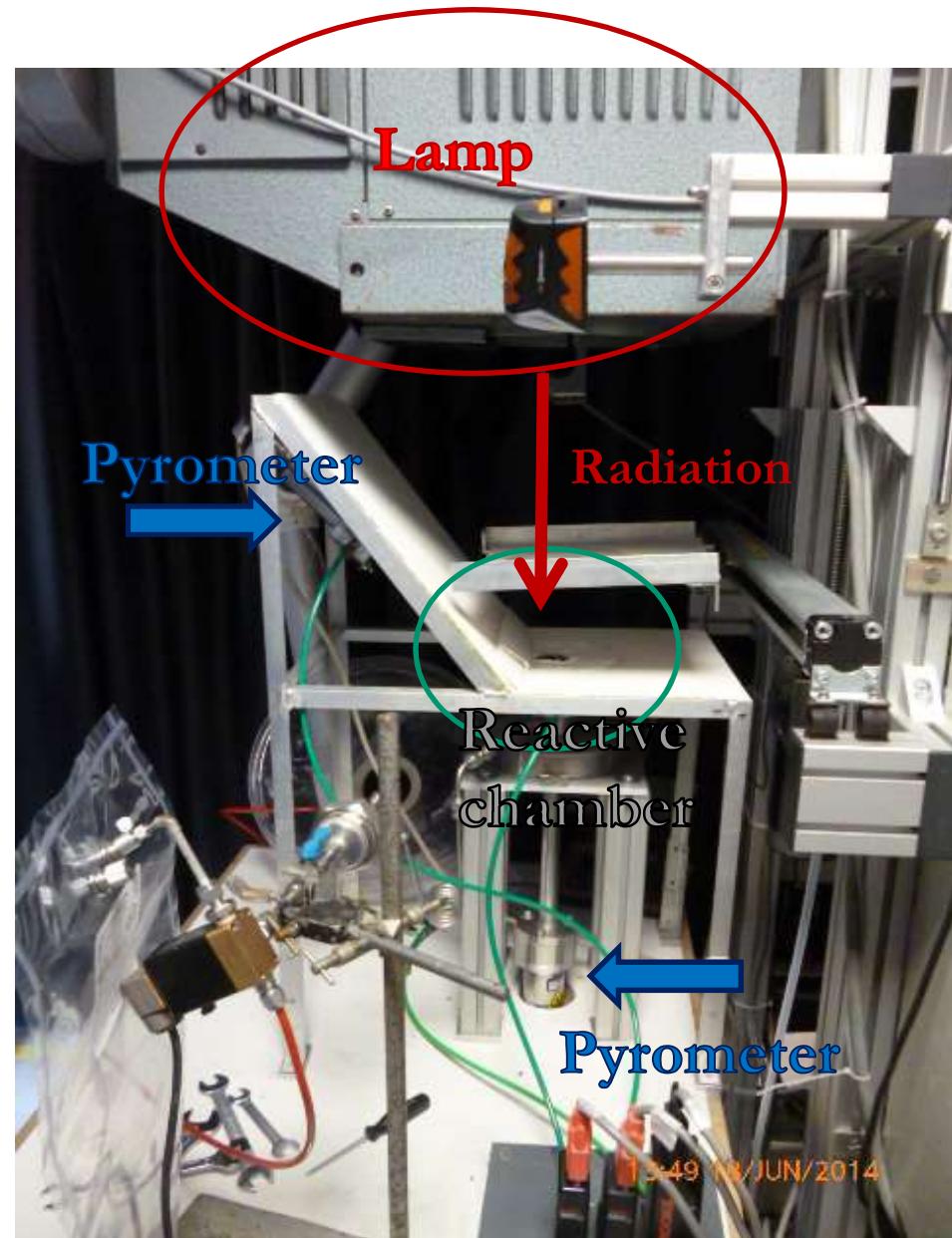


Christodoulou et al.  
J. Anal. Ap. Pyrol. 2013

## Image furnace

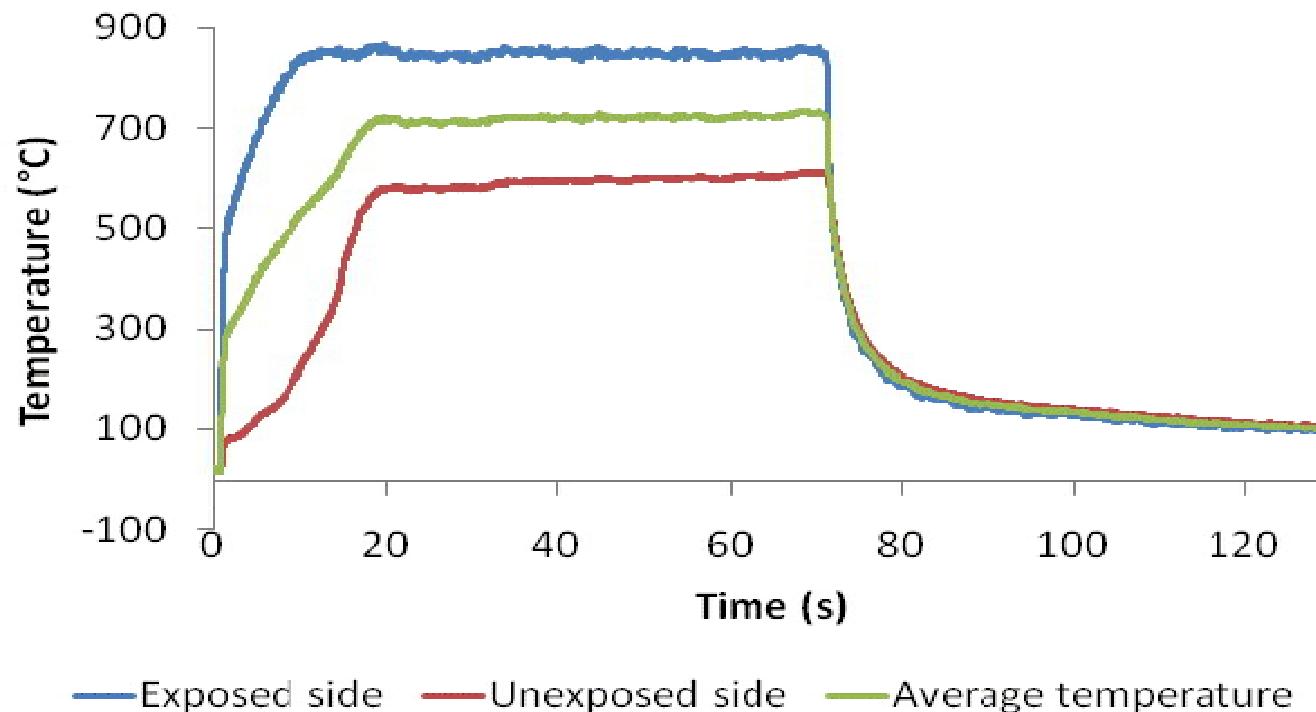
Xenon arc lamp

- Reactive chamber:  
Nitrogen Atmosphere
- temperature profile measured on both sides of the sample.



## Evolution of Temperature

To reproduce the dual fluidized bed gasifier conditions of GAYA project



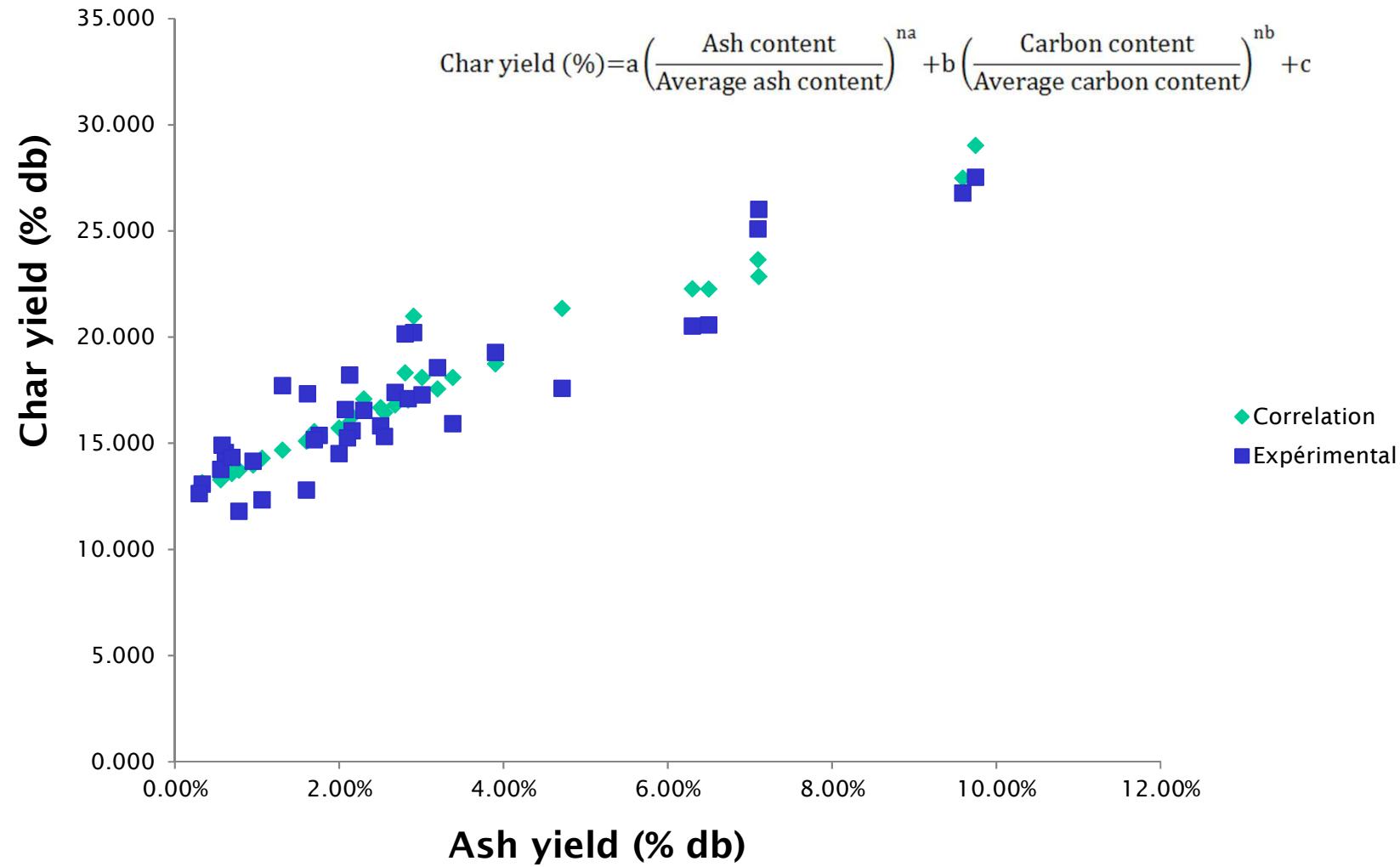
## Experimental results

- Char yield for 54 kinds of biomass
  - Recovery of solid residues
- Mass balance for 3 kinds of biomass
  - Recovery of solid and gaseous products
  - Gas Composition

# Char yields on 54 kinds of Biomass

Species	Biomass category	Char yield (% db)	Average temperature (°C)
beech	roundwood	12,8	696
spruce	roundwood	14,6	700
spruce	Residuals	20,1	713
Douglas	Residuals	20,2	678
Miscanthus	energy crop	17,3	568
Sweet chestnut tree & Locust tree & Oak	Wood wastes from sawmill	15,6	695
Switchgrass	energy crop	17,3	657
Wheat straw	straw	26,0	616

# Correlation

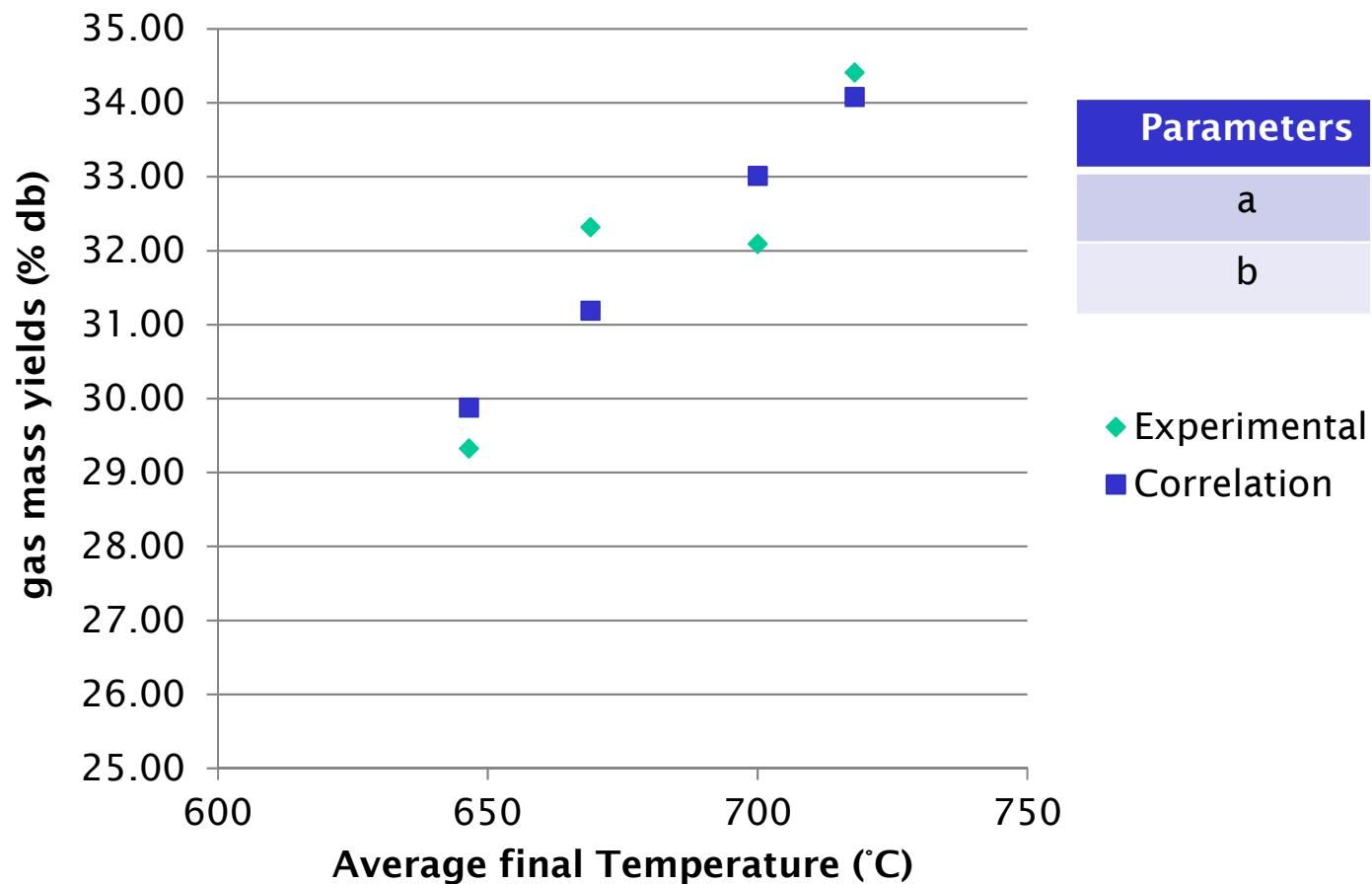


## Full balances on 3 Biomasses

Species	% Char (db)	% oil (db)	% Gas (db)	Average Temperature (°C)	Thickness (mm)
Beech	14,5	60,5	29,1	606	1,80
Beech	14,5	56,2	30,6	619	1,91
Triticale	20,4	50,2	29,3	646	2,01
Triticale	21,8	45,9	32,3	669	1,96
straw	26	41,5	32,5	640	1,95
straw	25,7	39,5	34,8	651	2,05

# Correlation - Triticale

$$\% \text{ mass of gas} = a \left( \frac{\text{Average final temperature}}{\text{Mean of average final temperatures}} \right)^b$$



Parameters	Values
a	32
b	1,2

◆ Experimental  
■ Correlation

# Gas Composition

Pyrolysis  
gas

Micro-GC  
490 Varian

- Hydrogen
- Carbon monoxide
- Carbon dioxide
- Methane
- Acetylene
- Ethylene
- Ethane
- Propene

## Conclusion

- Coal: average yields between 11 and 32%
- Excellent reproducibility
- Influence of the temperature:
  - Char yield : weak
  - Gas yield and composition : strong
- Correlations were established for the influence of several properties on the yields





## Stanislas place

▪Laboratoire Réactions et Génie Chimique, CNRS,  
Université de Lorraine

Thanks for your attention !!

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Nancy, France, 9-12 May 2016

[www.pyro2016.com](http://www.pyro2016.com)

