

Quantitative Risk Assessment of hydrogen releases in a hydrogen fueling station with liquid hydrogen storage

Katrina M. Groth, Cristian Schaad, Suroosh Mosleh, Ruochen Yang

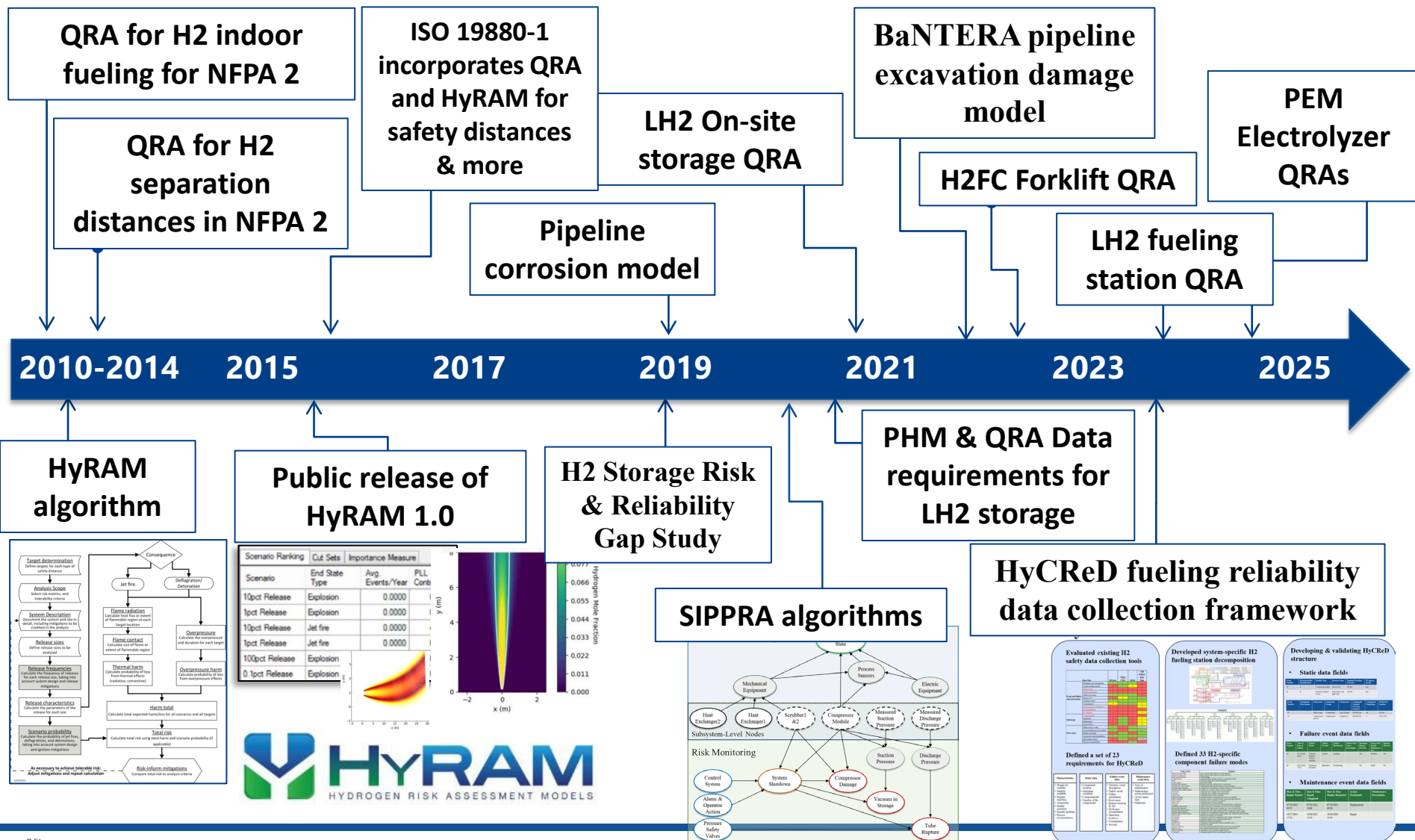
Professor & Director, Reliability Engineering

Director, Center for Risk and Reliability

University of Maryland

(<https://crr.umd.edu>)

Selected projects: 15 years of enabling safer hydrogen equipment & pipeline deployments

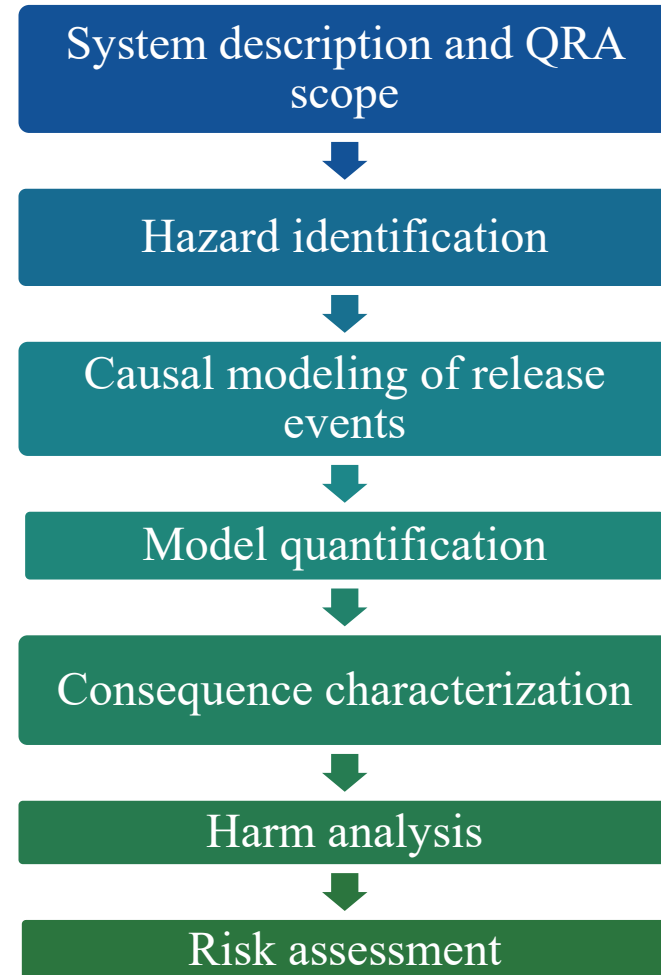


QRA on a Hydrogen fueling station with LH₂ storage



Objective: Identify risks of hydrogen releases in a fueling station with LH₂ storage through a QRA

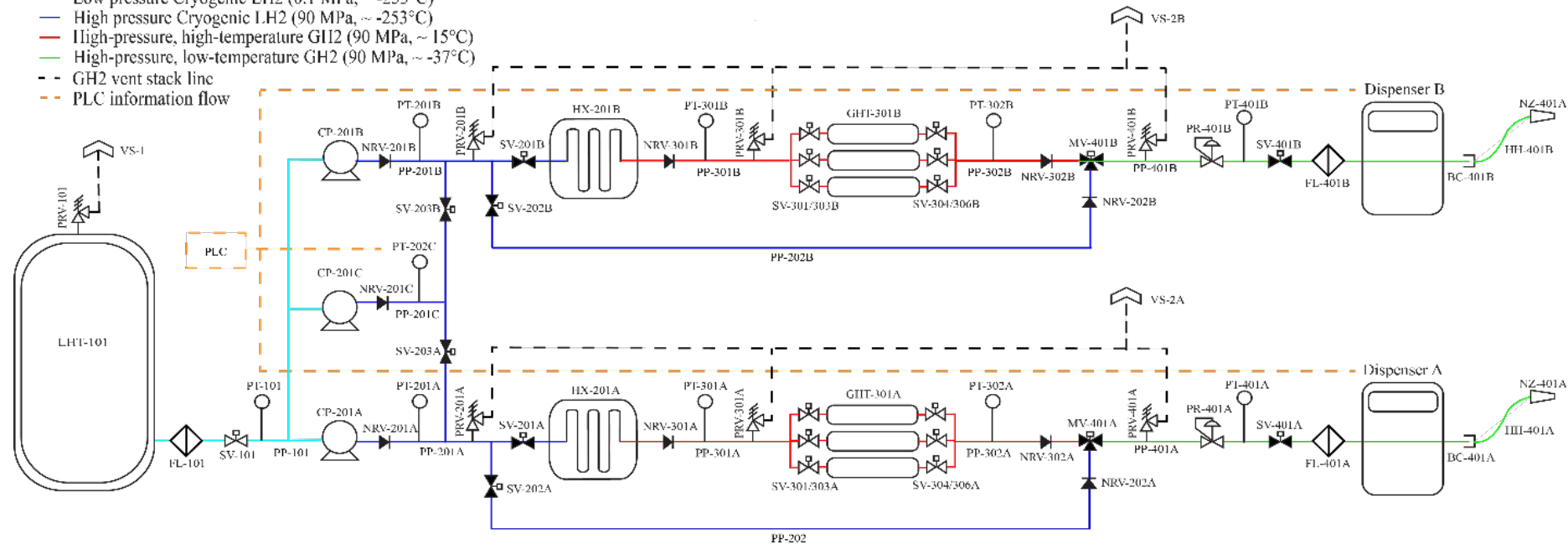
- Systematic methodology developed for QRA of unintended hydrogen releases
- Minor and major releases of GH₂ and LH₂



Example station defined for QRA

■ High-capacity station with LH₂ storage

- Low pressure Cryogenic LH₂ (0.1 MPa, ~-253°C)
- High pressure Cryogenic LH₂ (90 MPa, ~-253°C)
- High-pressure, high-temperature GH₂ (90 MPa, ~15°C)
- High-pressure, low-temperature GH₂ (90 MPa, ~-37°C)
- GH₂ vent stack line
- PLC information flow



LH₂
storage

LH₂ compression
and vaporization

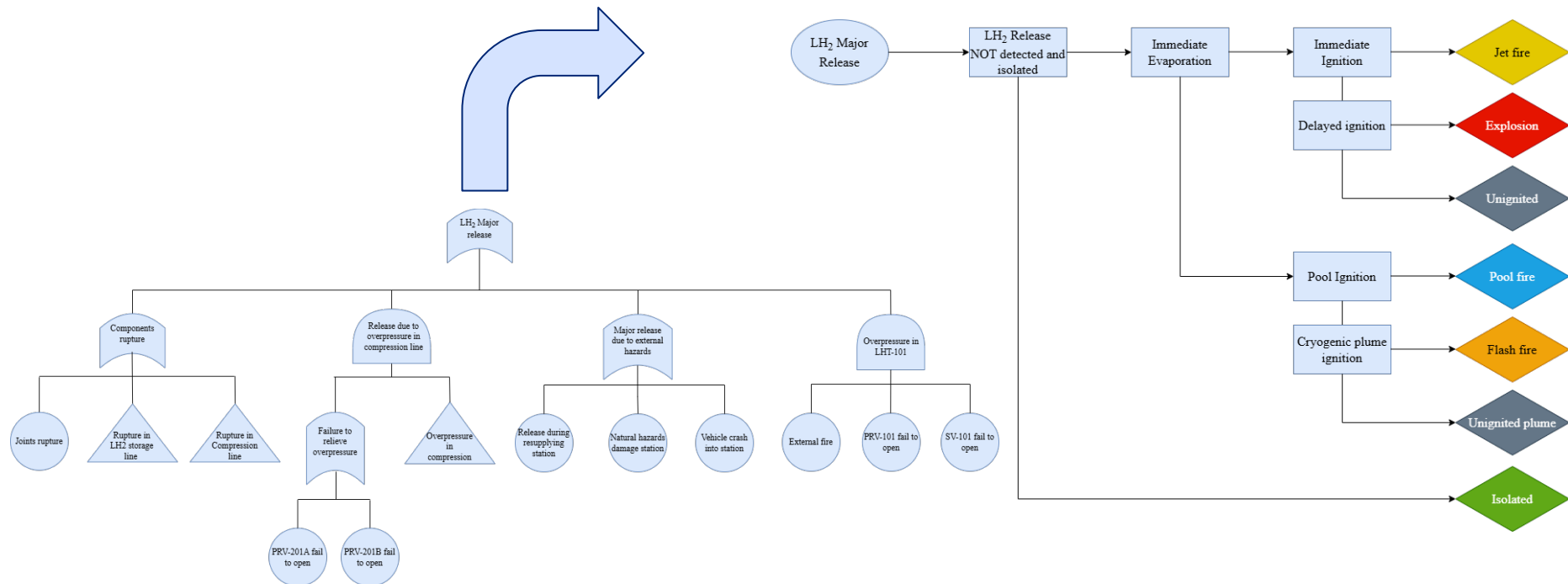
GH₂
storage

GH₂
dispensing

Method: Causal modeling of hydrogen release scenarios

**Fault trees (FT) for pathways
to hydrogen release event**

**Event sequence diagrams
(ESD) from release event**



Methods: Risk metrics and importance measures



■ Risk analysis metrics:

- Average Individual Risk (AIR)

$$AIR = \sum_n \sum_j (f_{nj} \times c_{nj})$$

- Fatal Accident Rate (FAR)

$$FAR = \frac{\sum_n \sum_j (f_{nj} \times c_{nj}) \cdot 10^8}{N_{pop} \cdot H}$$

f_{nj} : frequency of scenario

c_{nj} : consequence (fatalities) of scenario

N_{pop} : exposed population

H : annual exposure hours

■ Importance measure analysis:

- Risk reduction worth (RRW) is used to measure importance of events

$$I_i^{RRW} = \frac{F_s(Q(t))}{F_s(Q(t) \mid Q_i(t) = 0)}$$

$F_s(Q(t))$: system unreliability

$F_s(Q(t) \mid Q_i(t) = 0)$: system unreliability when event i is completely reliable

Data for parametrizing FT and ESD

Reliability data banks were used to quantify FT and ESD:

- **HyRAM** + (*Hydrogen Reliability Assessment Models*):
 - Release probabilities gaseous hydrogen components (piping, valves, tanks, etc.)
 - Hydrogen ignition probabilities
 - Dispensing failure events probabilities
 - **PDS** data handbook (*Reliability data for safety equipment*):
 - PLC and sensor failures
 - **OGP** (*Oil & Gas Producers*) 434:
 - Release probabilities for LH₂ filter, pump and vaporizer
- Sufficient release data for GH₂ components but noted lack of data for LH₂ components & non-leak failure modes of GH₂ components.
 - Oil & Gas data used as best approximate

Method: Consequence analysis

- **Consequence characterization:** estimation of thermal radiation and overpressure caused by hydrogen ignition scenarios
 - Physics-based simulation for GH_2 release and ignition
 - Empirical models used for LH_2 release magnitude and ignitions



Data processing and visualizations done with Python

- **Harm analysis:** estimation of human harm probability
 - Tsao & Perry model for thermal harm
 - Eisenberg lung damage model for overpressure harm

Results: frequency of hydrogen release scenarios



■ Event sequence diagram results:

GH ₂ Release scenario	Probability per year
	Major release
Isolated release	1.04×10^{-2}
Unignited release	1.47×10^{-4}
Jet fire	8.48×10^{-6}
Explosion	4.09×10^{-6}
Harmful scenarios (total)	1.26×10^{-5}

LH ₂ Release scenario	Probability per year
	Major release
Isolated release	4.13×10^{-3}
Unignited release	6.36×10^{-5}
Unignited plume	7.01×10^{-6}
Jet fire	5.15×10^{-7}
Explosion	2.55×10^{-7}
Pool fire	7.15×10^{-8}
Flash fire	7.08×10^{-8}
Harmful scenarios (total)	9.13×10^{-7}

GH₂ ignition scenarios
more probable than LH₂
ignition scenarios

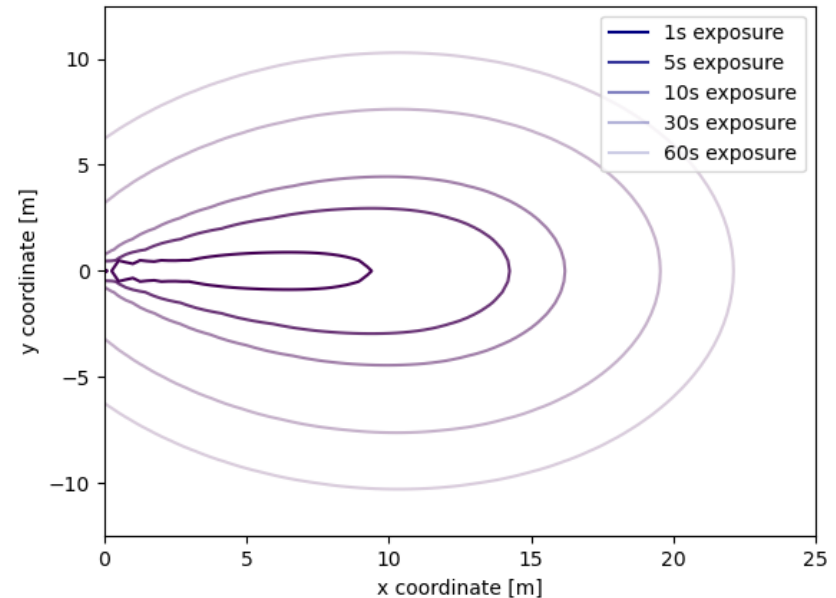
Within ignition scenarios,
a jet fire would be the
most common

Results: Consequence modeling (jet fires)

- Fatality zones of GH_2 jet fire:

- GH_2 release flame length:

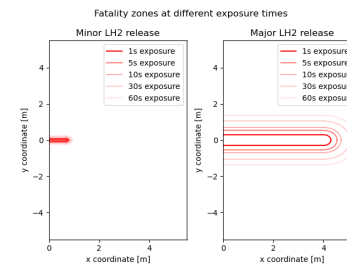
- Minor release: 0.2 [m]
 - Major release: 18.6 [m]



- Fatality zones of LH_2 jet fire:

- LH_2 release flame length:

- Minor release: 0.7 [m]
 - Major release: 4 [m]

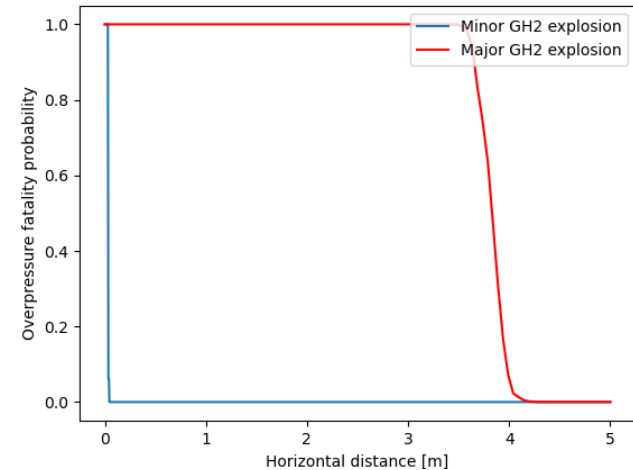


Results: Consequence modeling (deflagration explosions)



- Fatality radius for GH₂ explosions

- Minor release: < 0.1 [m]
- Major release: 3.8 [m]



- Fatality radius for LH₂ explosions

- Minor release: < 0.1 [m]
- Major release: < 0.1 [m]

Consequences of major
GH₂ releases have a large
magnitude than for LH₂

Results: Risks of hydrogen releases

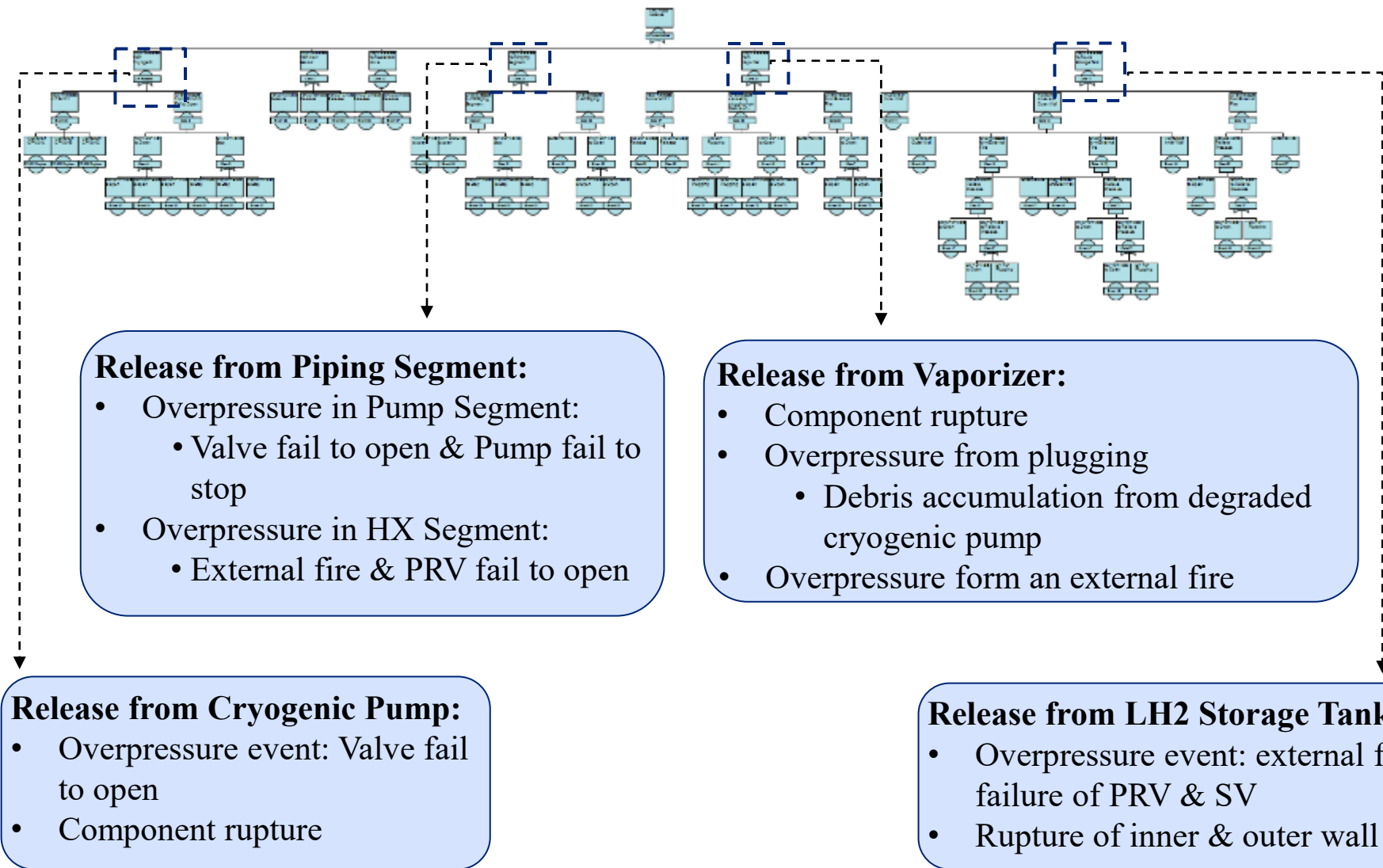
- Risk evaluation metrics:

Release type	Risk metrics	
	FAR	AIR
LH ₂ major	4.70×10^{-2}	5.15×10^{-7}
GH ₂ major	7.70×10^{-2}	3.36×10^{-5}
Station total	1.24×10^{-1}	3.41×10^{-5}

- AIR is **below the risk limit** set by the European Integrated Hydrogen Project (1×10^{-4} /year) but **above** fire fatality rate in conventional gasoline (2×10^{-5} /year) [NFPA 2].

AIR is ~70% higher than conventional gasoline fueling stations

Example: FT for Major release of LH₂



Results: Importance measure analysis

What are the best **opportunities** for reducing risks?

- Risk reduction worth (RRW) is used to measure importance of events

Release type	Event (Top 5 only)	RRW
LH ₂ major	H ₂ sensors fail to detect release	6.37
	CP-201 rupture	1.19
	FL-101 rupture	1.16
	SV-101 fail to close	1.13
	HX-201 rupture	1.09
GH ₂ major	H ₂ sensors fail to detect release	22.28
	Release from any component rupture	1.87
	Natural hazards	1.03
	Station loss of power	1.03
	PLC failure	1.02

- Improving H₂ leak detection is the best option for reducing risks in station
- Improvements to reliability & inspection of valves, pumps, filters has significant risk-reduction potential

Remaining knowledge gaps

- Reliability data for hydrogen components is still inadequate:
 - Cryogenic hydrogen pumps
 - Cryogenic valves & piping components
 - Cryogenic hydrogen vaporizers

- Several gaps on LH₂ release modeling:
 - Probabilities of ignition
 - Physics-based simulations
 - Characterization of cryogenic vapor cloud magnitude and ignition

HyFIRE-BN: Bayesian Network for Modeling Hydrogen Ignition Probability

Comprehensive multi-factor causal model that **considers the impact of varying conditions** internal to and surrounding the hydrogen system to **make an informed estimate of ignition probability**.

Methods

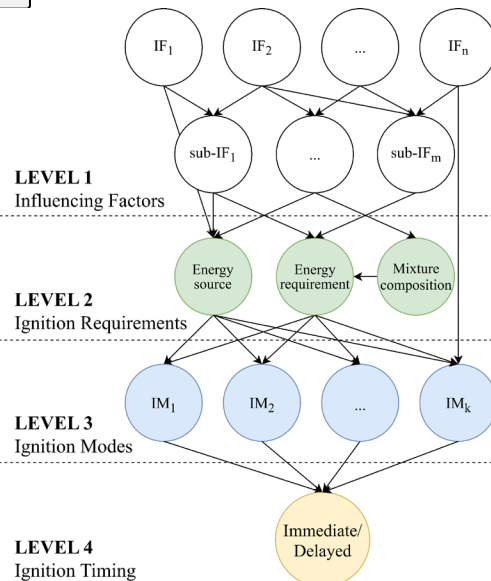
Results of hydrogen
ignition experiments and
studies



Causal modeling of risk-
relevant influencing
factors



System understanding
and logic modeling



Results

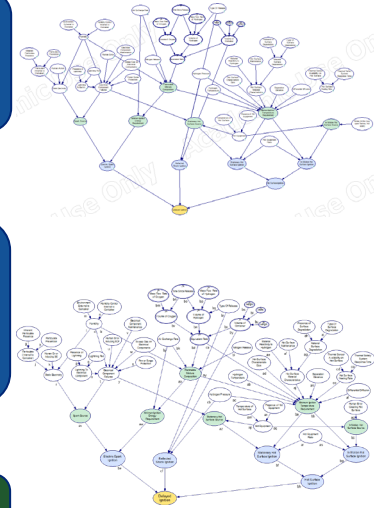
Customizable system
conditions and
parameters



Consideration of
multiple influencing
factors and their
relationship to ignition



Informed Ignition
Probability



Copyright, Katrina Groth, 2025

Ignition Probabilities of Case Studies

- These case studies illustrate:
 - The application of the model to generate immediate and delayed ignition probabilities for input into a QRA
 - The exploration of how design choices affect ignition probabilities
- Model validated through observed trends in changing ignition probability consistent with available experimental literature and the chemical and physical behavior

Case	Immediate		Delayed	
	Leak	Rupture	Leak	Rupture
Case 0 - Nominal	0.068	0.091	0.115	0.167
Case 1 - High Temperature Hot Surface	0.121	0.143	0.175	0.210
Case 2 - Internal and External Debris	0.071	0.115	0.117	0.168
Case 3 - Improper Maintenance	0.072	0.110	0.206	0.242
Case 4 - Poor Safety Design	0.074	0.108	0.304	0.336
Case 5 - Rupture Disk	-	0.803	-	-
Case 6 - Reflected Shock Ignition	-	-	-	0.205
Case 7 - Simultaneous Oxygen Release	-	-	0.118	0.172
Case 8 - Simultaneous Nitrogen Release	-	-	0.114	0.163
Case 9 - Human Presence	0.068	0.091	0.121	0.168
Case 10 - Human Error	0.104	0.124	0.186	0.236

Key project achievements

- Identified causal pathways for both GH_2 and LH_2 releases
 - Frequency of mayor releases: 1.48×10^{-2} per station-year
 - Frequency of mayor ignition events is lower: 1.35×10^{-5} per station-year
- Estimated magnitude and consequences of releases to customers and operators of hydrogen fueling station
 - AIR is 70% higher than in conventional gasoline fueling stations
- Identified opportunities for reducing risks:
 - Reliable H_2 gas detectors are critical for reducing risks
 - Reliability improvements for key equipment: Valves, LH_2 pump and filters

Thank you!

Katrina Groth, Ph.D.

Professor & Director, Reliability Engineering

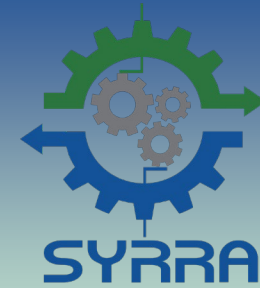
Director, Center for Risk and Reliability

University of Maryland

kgroth@umd.edu

SyRRA Lab <http://syrra.umd.edu>

Center for Risk and Reliability <http://crr.umd.edu>



Systems Risk and Reliability
Analysis Laboratory



A. JAMES CLARK
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Properties of releases

	LH ₂ release magnitude	
	Minor	Major
Release mass flow [kg/s]	0.00083	0.02778
Prob. immediate evaporation	0.9	0.9
Prob. for pool/flash fire	0.013	0.013
Prob. immediate ignition	0.008	0.008
Prob. delayed ignition	0.004	0.004

	GH ₂ release magnitude	
	Minor	Major
Release mass flow [kg/s]	0.000147	1.47
Prob. immediate ignition	0.008	0.053
Prob. delayed ignition	0.004	0.027