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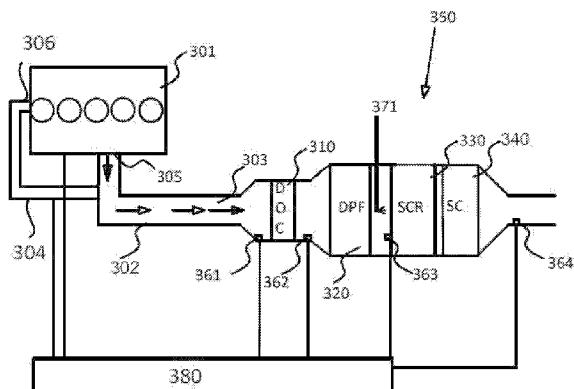


FIG. 3a

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides for a treatment of an exhaust stream (303), resulting from a combustion in a combustion engine (301). This exhaust stream (303) comprises nitrogen oxides NO_x, in which nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO₂ are comprised. The exhaust stream (303) passes through an exhaust treatment system (350) connected to the combustion engine (301). In the exhaust treatment system an oxidation (210) occurs of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen in the exhaust stream (303). Furthermore, a reduction (220) is carried out, of an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching a reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) arranged, downstream of an oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) in the exhaust treatment system (350). A value (NO₂/NO_x)_{det} for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO₂ reaching a reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is determined. An active control (240) of at least one parameter related to the combustion engine (301) is carried out, based on the determined value (NO₂/NO_x)_{det} for the ratio. This active control (240) is carried out, so that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is increased, if the determined value (NO₂/NO_x)_{det} for the ratio exceeds an upper threshold value (NO₂/NO_x)_{threshold_high}.

WO 2015/130218 A1

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSIONS FROM A COMBUSTION ENGINE

Technical field

5 The present invention relates to a method for treatment of an exhaust stream according to the preamble of claim 1. The present invention also relates to an exhaust treatment system arranged for the treatment of an exhaust stream according to the preamble to claim 28, and a computer program and a
10 computer program product, which implement the method according to the invention.

Background

15 The following background description constitutes a description of the background to the present invention, and thus need not necessarily constitute prior art.

In connection with increased government interests concerning pollution and air quality, primarily in urban areas, emission standards and regulations regarding emissions from combustion engines have been drafted in many jurisdictions.

20 Such emission standards often consist of requirements, defining acceptable limits of exhaust emissions from combustion engines in for example vehicles. For example, emission levels of nitrogen oxides NO_x, hydrocarbons C_xH_y, carbon monoxide CO and particles PM are often regulated by
25 such standards for most types of vehicles. Vehicles equipped with combustion engines typically give rise to such emissions in varying degrees. In this document, the invention will be described mainly for its application in vehicles. However, the invention may be used in substantially all applications where
30 combustion engines are used, for example in vessels such as

ships or aeroplanes/helicopters, wherein regulations and standards for such applications limit emissions from the combustion engines.

In an effort to comply with these emission standards, the 5 exhausts caused by the combustion of the combustion engine are treated (purified).

A common way of treating exhausts from a combustion engine consists of a so-called catalytic purification process, which is why vehicles equipped with a combustion engine usually 10 comprise at least one catalyst. There are different types of catalysts, where the different respective types may be suitable depending on for example the combustion concept, combustion strategies and/or fuel types which are used in the vehicles, and/or the types of compounds in the exhaust stream 15 to be purified. In relation to at least nitrous gases (nitrogen monoxide, nitrogen dioxide), referred to below as nitrogen oxides NO_x , vehicles often comprise a catalyst, wherein an additive is supplied to the exhaust stream resulting from the combustion in the combustion engine, in 20 order to reduce nitrogen oxides NO_x , primarily to nitrogen gas and aqueous vapour.

SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) catalysts are a commonly used type of catalyst for this type of reduction, primarily for heavy goods vehicles. SCR catalysts usually use ammonia 25 NH_3 , or a composition from which ammonia may be generated/formed, as an additive to reduce the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhausts. The additive is injected into the exhaust stream resulting from the combustion engine upstream of the catalyst. The additive added to the catalyst 30 is adsorbed (stored) in the catalyst, in the form of ammonia

NH₃, so that a redox-reaction may occur between nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhausts and ammonia NH₃ available via the additive.

A modern combustion engine is a system where there is cooperation and mutual impact between the engine and the exhaust treatment. Specifically, there is a correlation between the exhaust treatment system's ability to reduce nitrogen oxides NO_x and the fuel efficiency of the combustion engine. For the combustion engine, there is a correlation between the engine's fuel efficiency/total efficiency and the nitrogen oxides NO_x produced by it. This correlation specifies that for a given system there is a positive correlation between nitrogen oxides NO_x produced and fuel efficiency, in other words that an engine, which is permitted to emit more nitrogen oxides NO_x may be induced to consume less fuel, which may yield a higher combustion efficiency. Similarly, there is often a negative correlation between a produced particle mass PM and the fuel efficiency, meaning that an increased emission of particle mass PM from the engine is connected with an increased fuel consumption.

This correlation is the background to the widespread use of exhaust treatment systems comprising an SCR-catalyst, where the intention is the optimisation of the engine's fuel consumption and emission of particles, towards a relatively larger amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x produced. A reduction of these nitrogen oxides NO_x is then carried out in the exhaust treatment system, which thus may also comprise an SCR catalyst. Through an integrated approach in the design of the engine and exhaust treatment system, where the engine and exhaust treatment complement each other, a high fuel efficiency may therefore be achieved jointly with low emissions of both particles PM as well as nitrogen oxides NO_x.

Brief description of the invention

To some extent, the performance of the exhaust treatment system may be enhanced by increasing the substrate volumes comprised in the exhaust treatment system, which in particular 5 reduces losses due to uneven distribution of the exhaust flow through the substrate. At the same time, a larger substrate volume provides a greater back pressure, which may counteract gains in fuel efficiency due to the higher conversion degree. Larger substrate volumes also entail an increased cost. It is 10 thus important to be able to use the exhaust treatment system optimally, for example by avoiding over-sizing and/or by limiting the exhaust treatment system's spread in terms of size and/or manufacturing cost.

The function and efficiency for catalysts in general, and for 15 reduction catalyst in particular, is dependent, for example, on a ratio between nitrogen dioxide and nitrogen oxides, that is to say the NO_2/NO_x -fraction, in the exhausts. The NO_2/NO_x -fraction depends, however, on a number of other factors, for example how the driver drives the vehicle and/or on a current 20 driving mode. For example, the NO_2/NO_x -fraction in the exhausts may depend on the torque requested by a driver and/or by a cruise control, on the appearance of the road section in which the vehicle is located and/or the driving style of the driver.

In some conditions regarding the catalyst temperature and 25 flow, i.e. for a certain dwell-time in the catalyst ("Space Velocity"), there is a risk that a non-advantageous fraction of nitrogen dioxides NO_2 is obtained. Specifically, there is a risk that the ratio NO_2/NO_x exceeds 50%, which may constitute a real problem for exhaust purification.

30 There is a risk that an optimisation of the ratio NO_2/NO_x for any of the above mentioned critical operating modes may result

in too high a fraction of nitrogen dioxides NO_2 in other operating modes. This higher fraction of nitrogen dioxides NO_2 results in a greater volume requirement for the SCR-catalyst, and/or in a limitation of the amount of nitrogen oxides released from the engine, and accordingly in a poorer fuel efficiency for the vehicle.

5 In addition, there is a risk that the higher fraction of nitrogen dioxides NO_2 also results in emissions of laughing gas N_2O .

10 These risks of a non-advantageous fraction of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 arising also exist due to the system's ageing. For example, the ratio NO_2/NO_x may assume lower values when the system has aged, which may entail that a catalyst specification, which results in too high fractions of NO_2/NO_x in a non-aged state, 15 must be used to compensate for ageing.

There is accordingly a need for an optimisation of the function in today's exhaust treatment systems.

Therefore, one objective of the present invention is to provide a method and a system which may provide a high 20 performance, and a good function, under varying conditions.

This objective is achieved through the above-mentioned method in accordance with the characterising portion of claim 1. The objective is also achieved through the above-mentioned exhaust treatment system according to the characterising portion of 25 claim 28, and the above-mentioned computer program and computer program product.

The present invention provides for a treatment of an exhaust stream, resulting from a combustion in a combustion engine. Such exhaust stream comprises nitrogen oxides NO_x , in which at 30 least nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 are

comprised. The exhaust stream passes through an exhaust treatment system connected to the combustion engine.

In the exhaust treatment system an oxidation of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen in the exhaust stream occurs. Such oxidation is carried out by at 5 least one oxidising component arranged in the exhaust treatment system.

Furthermore, a reduction is carried out of an amount of 10 nitrogen oxides NO_x , which reduction reaches a reduction catalyst device arranged downstream of the at least one oxidising component in the exhaust treatment system. Such reduction is carried out through a catalytic reaction in the reduction catalyst device with the use of an additive.

According to the present invention a value is determined 15 $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching a reduction catalyst device, and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device.

An active control of at least one parameter related to the 20 combustion engine is carried out, according to the present invention, based on the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio. This active control is carried out so that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one oxidising component, and therefore also the reduction catalyst device, is increased if the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio 25 exceeds an upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$;
 $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}} > (\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$.

Thus, with the use of the present invention, the combustion 30 engine is controlled to increase the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which is emitted from the combustion engine and reaches the at least one oxidising component, and therefore also the

reduction catalyst device, if the determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio is too high. Such increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x means that the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x decreases, since the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x is comprised 5 in the denominator in the expression for the ratio, and NO_2 does not increase to the same extent, which means that a more efficient reduction may be obtained with the reduction catalyst device.

The active control of the combustion engine according to the 10 present invention means that the fraction of the total conversion of nitrogen oxides NO_x occurring via a fast reaction path, that is to say via fast SCR, wherein the reduction occurs via reaction paths over both nitrogen oxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 , may be increased for some operating 15 modes. Accordingly, the volume requirements relating to the catalyst may also be reduced. The reaction uses, at fast SCR, equal parts of nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 , which means that it is important to be able to control the 20 molar ratio, NO_2/NO_x , towards a suitable value, for example a value close to 0.5 (50%).

By way of a suitably selected active control of the combustion engine according to the present invention, the volume requirements relating to the catalyst may also be reduced, since the utilisation is improved.

25 The use of the present invention also results in a reduced consumption of additive. Additionally, a slip of NO_x from the vehicle, in the form of NO_2 , is reduced.

30 The exhaust treatment system also becomes less sluggish and easier to control/regulate if the present invention is used, which means that a more accurate control of the supply of additive may be carried out.

Additionally, the active control of the combustion engine according to the present invention, which is here carried out primarily in order to optimise the NO_x-conversion, also results in a reduced fuel consumption for the vehicle as a positive 5 by-effect.

The present invention may also advantageously be used in hybrid vehicles. The hybrid system may then result in an increased flexibility for the control of the ratio NO₂/NO_x.

Through the use of the present invention a better fuel 10 optimisation may be obtained for the vehicle, since there is thus potential to control the engine in a more fuel efficient manner, so that a higher efficiency for the engine is obtained. Thus, a performance gain and/or a reduced emission 15 of carbon dioxide CO₂ may be obtained when the present invention is used.

Through the use of the present invention, the fraction of 20 nitrogen oxides NO_x consisting of nitrogen dioxide NO₂ may be actively controlled, which is facilitated by an active control of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x upstream of at least one substrate with oxidising coating, for example comprising precious metals, in the exhaust treatment system. This control 25 of the ratio NO₂/NO_x may, apart from advantages in catalytic performance, such as higher NO_x-conversion, also provide for a possibility of specifically reducing emissions of nitrogen dioxide NO₂, which result in a very poisonous and strong smelling emission. This may result in advantages at a potential future introduction of a separate regulatory 30 requirement relating to nitrogen dioxide NO₂, via a possibility of reducing emissions of nitrogen dioxide NO₂. This may be compared with for example the Euro VI-system, in which the fraction of nitrogen dioxide NO₂ provided at exhaust

purification may not be directly impacted in the exhaust treatment system itself, since the fraction of nitrogen dioxide NO₂ in the Euro VI-system is dependent on usage/operation, and may not be controlled in any other way.

5 The present invention also has an advantage in that two cooperating dosage devices are used in combination for the dosage of a reductant, for example urea, upstream of the first and second devices, which relieves and facilitates mixture and potential vaporisation of the reductant, since the injection 10 of the reductant is divided between two physically separate positions. This reduces the risk of the reductant cooling down the exhaust treatment system locally, which may potentially form deposits at the positions where the reductant is injected, or downstream of such positions.

15 **Brief list of figures**

The invention will be illustrated in more detail below, along with the enclosed drawings, where similar references are used for similar parts, and where:

20 Figure 1 shows an example vehicle which may comprise the present invention,

Figures 2a-b show a flow chart for the method for exhaust treatment according to the present invention,

Figures 3a and 3b show examples of an exhaust treatment systems according to the present invention,

25 Figure 4 shows a control device in which a method according to the present invention may be implemented.

Description of preferred embodiments

Figure 1 schematically shows an example vehicle 100, comprising an exhaust treatment system 150, which may be an exhaust treatment system 150 according to one embodiment of the present invention. The power-train comprises a combustion engine 101, which in a customary manner, via an output shaft 102 on the combustion engine 101, usually via a flywheel, is connected to a gearbox 103 via a clutch 106.

The combustion engine 101 is controlled by the vehicle's control system via a control device 115, which may be connected to the exhaust treatment system 150. Likewise, the clutch 106 and the gearbox 103 may be controlled by the vehicle's control system with the help of one or more applicable control devices (not shown). Naturally, the vehicle's driveline may also be of another type, such as a type with a conventional automatic gearbox, of a type with a hybrid driveline, etc.

An output shaft 107 from the gearbox 103 drives the wheels 113, 114 via a final drive 108, such as e.g. a customary differential, and the drive shafts 104, 105 connected to the said final drive 108.

The vehicle 100 also comprises an exhaust treatment system/exhaust purification system 150 for treatment/purification of exhaust emissions resulting from combustion in the combustion chamber of the combustion engine 101, which may consist of cylinders. The exhaust treatment system 150 may be controlled by the vehicle's control system, via a control device 160.

According to the present invention, a method is provided for the treatment of an exhaust stream, which results from a

5 combustion in a combustion engine and comprises nitrogen oxides NO_x . Nitrogen oxides comprise at least nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 . The exhaust stream passes through an exhaust treatment system connected to the combustion engine.

This method may be illustrated with the flow chart in Figure 2a.

10 In a first step 210 of the method, an oxidation of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen is carried out in the exhaust stream. Such oxidation is carried out by at least one oxidising component arranged in the exhaust treatment system.

15 In a second step 220 of the method, a reduction of an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which reaches a reduction catalyst device arranged downstream of the oxidising component in the exhaust treatment system, is carried out. Such reduction is carried out through a catalytic reaction in the reduction catalyst device with the use of an additive.

20 In a third step 230 of the method, according to the present invention, a value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ is determined for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching the reduction catalyst device, and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device.

25 In a fourth step 240 of the method, an active control of at least one parameter related to the combustion engine is carried out. This at least one parameter may, for example, be related to a combustion in the combustion engine. According to the present invention, this active control is carried out based on the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio, so 30 that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction

catalyst device increases, if the determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio exceeds an upper threshold value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{threshold_high}$; $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det} > (NO_2/NO_x)_{threshold_high}$.

The first 210, second 220, third 230 and fourth 240 steps
5 illustrated in Figure 2a may, according to the present invention, also be carried out in an order which is at least partly different than the one illustrated in Figure 2a. For example, the third 230 and fourth 240 steps may be carried out between the first 210 and second 220 steps, as shown in Figure
10 2b.

Through the use of the present invention, the combustion engine may be controlled to increase the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x emitted by it, if the determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio is too high. Such an increase of the amount of
15 nitrogen oxides NO_x means that the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x decreases, so that the fraction of the total conversion of nitrogen oxides NO_x , occurring via a fast reaction path, may be increased. Additionally, by way of the active control of the
20 combustion engine, according to the present invention the volume requirements relating to the catalyst may also be reduced, since the utilisation is improved.

As described above, according to the present invention an active control 240 is carried out of at least one parameter related to the combustion in the engine, in order to achieve a
25 desirable value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x , between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which reach the reduction catalyst device. This active control may be carried out in a number of different ways, according to different embodiments of the present invention.

According to a couple of embodiments of the present invention, the active control comprises a selection of at least one injection strategy for the combustion engine.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the timing of fuel injections into the respective cylinders in the combustion engine may be controlled, so that an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one oxidising component, and therefore also the reduction catalyst device, is achieved. This increase may be achieved by advancing the timing of one or several of the injections. This increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in a reduction of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

Similarly, the timing for fuel injections into the respective cylinders in the combustion engine may be controlled, so that a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. This increase may be achieved by postponing the timing of one or several of the injections. This reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in an increase of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the injection pressure for the fuel injections into the respective cylinders in the combustion engine may be controlled, so that an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. This increase may be achieved by way of an increase of the injection pressure for one or several cylinders. This increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in a reduction of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

Similarly, the injection pressure for the injections of fuel into the respective cylinders of the combustion engine may be controlled, so that a reduction of the amount of nitrogen

oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. This reduction may be achieved by way of a reduction of the injection pressure for one or several cylinders. This reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in an 5 increase of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

According to one embodiment of the present invention, an injection phasing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders may be controlled, so that an increase of the amount 10 of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. The increase may be achieved by way of controlling an injection phasing, so that it results in a relatively large pressure gradient. This increase of the amount 15 of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in a reduction of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

15 Injection phasing, as the term is used herein, means how the injection changes over time, for example how the pressure for the injection changes over time. A measure of injection phasing may for example be a time derivative for the cylinder pressure.

20 Similarly, an injection phasing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders may be controlled, so that a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. This reduction may be achieved by way of control of the injection phasing, so that 25 it results in a relatively small pressure gradient with respect to the cylinder pressure. This reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in an increase of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the 30 active control of the at least one combustion related parameter comprises a control of a device for exchange gas

recirculation (EGR). Combustion engines are supplied with air at an inlet, to achieve a gas mixture which is suitable for combustion, together with fuel that is also supplied to the engine. The combustion takes place in the engine's cylinders, 5 wherein the gas mixture is burned. The combustion generates exhausts, which leave the engine at an outlet. The exhaust recirculation conduit is arranged from the engine's outlet to its inlet, and leads back a part of the exhausts from the outlet to the inlet. Thus, the suction losses at the air 10 intake may be reduced, and nitrogen oxides NO_x emitted from the engine may be adjusted.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device may be achieved by reducing a 15 fraction of the exhaust stream, which is recirculated through the device for exhaust recirculation (EGR). This increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in a reduction of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

Similarly, a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x 20 reaching the reduction catalyst device may be achieved by increasing a fraction of the exhaust stream, which is recirculated through the device for exhaust recirculation (EGR). This reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x results in an increase of the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x .

25 The determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device may, for example, consist of a measured, predicted and/or modelled value for the ratio, wherein the measurement, prediction 30 and/or modelling can take into account the current operating and/or driving mode, characteristics of the road section in

which the vehicle is located, characteristics of the combustion engine and/or characteristics of the fuel used to drive the combustion engine. The measurement, prediction and/or modelling may also take into account how the vehicle is 5 driven, such as to the torque requested by a driver and/or a cruise control, and to the driver's driving style.

The determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device may also 10 consist of a measured value, which is measured through the use of one or several NO_x -sensors, and/or NO_2 -sensors, arranged in the exhaust treatment system.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the active control 240 of the at least one parameter related to a 15 combustion in the combustion engine is implemented in such a way that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is reduced, if the determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio is smaller than or equal to a lower threshold value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{threshold_low}$, $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det} \leq$ 20 $(NO_2/NO_x)_{threshold_low}$.

In this document, the invention is often described as active control, resulting in increases or reductions of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one oxidising component, and therefore also the reduction catalyst device.

25 Such an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device may entail that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is greater than an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which is comprised in the determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for the ratio. 30 This may also be described as the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching a reduction catalyst device having a higher

concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream than a concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which corresponds to the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio.

Such a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching 5 the reduction catalyst device entails, in a similar manner, that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is smaller than an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which is comprised in the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio. This may also be described as the amount of 10 nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching a reduction catalyst device having a lower concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream. compared to a concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x , which corresponds to the determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio.

15 As described above, according to the present invention an active control of at least one parameter related to a combustion in the combustion engine is carried out, based on a comparison of a determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio with an upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$, and/or with a 20 lower threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$.

The lower threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$ has, according to one embodiment, a value which depends on a temperature over the reduction catalyst device. As a non-limiting example, it may be mentioned that the lower threshold value 25 $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$ may have a value representing 50%, 45%, 30%, 20%, or 10% for the ratio.

Similarly, the upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$ may 30 have a value, which depends on a temperature over the reduction catalyst device. As a non-limiting example, it may be mentioned that the upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$

may have a value representing 45%, 50%, 60%, or greater than 65% (> 65%) for the ratio.

A person skilled in the art will realise that a method for treatment of an exhaust stream according to the present invention, may also be implemented in a computer program, which when executed in a computer will cause the computer to execute the method. The computer program usually consists of a part of a computer program product 403, where the computer program product comprises a suitable non-volatile/permanent/persistent/durable digital storage medium, on which the computer program is stored. Said non-volatile/permanent/persistent/durable computer readable medium consists of a suitable memory, e.g.: ROM (Read-Only Memory), PROM (Programmable Read-Only Memory), EEPROM (Erasable PROM), Flash, EEPROM (Electrically Erasable PROM), a hard disk device, etc.

Figure 4 schematically shows a control device 400. The control device 400 comprises a calculation device 401, which may consist of essentially a suitable type of processor or microcomputer, e.g. a circuit for digital signal processing (Digital Signal Processor, DSP), or a circuit with a predetermined specific function (Application Specific Integrated Circuit, ASIC). The calculation device 401 is connected to a memory unit 402 installed in the control device 400, providing the calculation device 401 with e.g. the stored program code and/or the stored data which the calculation device 401 needs in order to be able to carry out calculations. The calculation device 401 is also set up to store interim or final results of calculations in the memory device 402.

Further, the control device 400 is equipped with devices 411, 412, 413, 414 for receiving and sending of input and output signals. These input and output signals may contain wave shapes, pulses or other attributes, which may be detected as 5 information by the devices 411, 413 for the receipt of input signals and may be converted into signals that may be processed by the calculation device 401. These signals are then provided to the calculation device 401. The devices 412, 10 414 for sending output signals are arranged to convert the calculation result from the calculation unit 401 into output signals, for transfer to other parts of the vehicle's control system, and/or the component(s) for which the signals are intended, for example the first and/or second dosage devices.

Each one of the connections to the devices for receiving and 15 sending of input and output signals may consist of one or several of a cable; a data bus, such as a CAN (Controller Area Network) bus, a MOST (Media Oriented Systems Transport) bus, or any other bus configuration; or of a wireless connection.

A person skilled in the art will realise that the above- 20 mentioned computer may consist of the calculation device 401, and that the above-mentioned memory may consist of the memory device 402.

Generally, control systems in modern vehicles consist of a 25 communications bus system, consisting of one or several communications buses to connect a number of electronic control devices (ECUs), or controllers, and different components localised on the vehicle. Such a control system may comprise a large number of control devices, and the responsibility for a specific function may be distributed among more than one 30 control device. Vehicles of the type shown thus often comprise significantly more control devices than what is shown in

Figure 4, which is well known to a person skilled in the art within the technology area.

The present invention, in the embodiment shown, is implemented in the control device 400. The invention may, however, also be 5 implemented wholly or partly in one or several other control devices already existing in the vehicle, or in a control device dedicated to the present invention.

Here, and in this document, devices are often described as being arranged to carry out steps in the method according to 10 the invention. This also comprises that the devices are adapted and/or set up to carry out these method steps.

According to one aspect of the present invention, an exhaust treatment system is provided, arranged for the treatment of an exhaust stream, which results from a combustion in a 15 combustion engine. The exhaust stream comprises nitrogen oxides NO_x, in which at least nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO₂ are comprised. Figures 3a and 3b schematically show two non-limiting examples of exhaust treatment systems 350, in which the method according to the present invention may be 20 used. In Figures 3a and 3b similar devices have the same references.

The exhaust treatment system 350 according to the present invention, comprises at least one oxidising component 310, 311, 312, 320 arranged in the exhaust treatment system 350, in 25 order to carry out an oxidation 210 of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon, and hydrogen in the exhaust stream 303.

The exhaust treatment system 350 according to the present invention also comprises at least one reduction catalyst 30 device 330, 331, 332, arranged downstream of the oxidising component 310, 311, 312, 320 in the exhaust treatment system

350, in order to carry out a reduction 220 of an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332. This reduction is carried out through a catalytic reaction using an additive 371, 372.

5 The exhaust treatment system 350 according to the present invention also comprises a control device 380, arranged to provide/carry out a determination 230 of a value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332, and the amount of 10 nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one oxidising component 310, 311, 312, and therefore also the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 as described above. The control device 380 is also arranged to carry out an active control 240 of at least one parameter related to the combustion engine 15 301, such as for example related to a combustion in the combustion engine, based on this determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio. This active control 240 is carried out, so that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is increased, if the determined 20 value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for the ratio exceeds an upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$; $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}} > (\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$.

As illustrated by Figures 3a and 3b, the exhaust treatment system 350 may have a number of different configurations, as long as it comprises the at least one oxidising component 310, 25 311, 312, 320, and the at least one reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332, downstream of the oxidising component 310, 311, 312, 320, and the control device 380, which may achieve the active control of the combustion engine 301, so that the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one 30 oxidising component 310, 311, 312, and therefore also the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 may be adjusted.

In the systems displayed in Figures 3a and 3b, an exhaust pipe 302 is connected to a combustion engine 301.

Figure 3a shows an exhaust treatment system 350, which may illustrate a so-called Euro VI-system. The exhaust stream 303 is led to a diesel particulate filter (DPF) 320, via a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) 310. During the combustion in the combustion engine, soot particles are formed, and the particulate filter DPF 320 is used to catch these soot particles. The exhaust stream 303 is here led through a filter structure, where soot particles are caught from the exhaust stream 303 passing through, and are stored in the particulate filter 320.

The oxidation catalyst DOC 310 constitutes, according to this embodiment, the oxidising component 310, and is normally used primarily to oxidise, during the exhaust treatment, remaining hydrocarbons C_xH_y (also referred to as HC) and carbon monoxide CO in the exhaust stream 303 into carbon dioxide CO_2 and water H_2O . The oxidation catalyst DOC 310 may also oxidise a large fraction of the nitrogen monoxides NO occurring in the exhaust stream into nitrogen dioxide NO_2 . The oxidation of nitrogen monoxide NO into nitrogen dioxide NO_2 is important to the nitrogen dioxide based soot oxidation in the filter, and is also advantageous at a potential subsequent reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x . In this respect, the exhaust treatment system 350 comprises an SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) catalyst 330, arranged downstream of the particulate filter DPF 320, and here constitute the reduction catalyst device 330. SCR catalysts use ammonia NH_3 , or a composition from which ammonia may be generated/formed, e.g. urea, as an additive for the reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream. The reaction rate of this reduction is impacted by the ratio between nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 in the

exhaust stream, so that the reduction's reaction is impacted in a positive direction by the previous oxidation of NO into NO₂ in the oxidation catalyst DOC. This applies up to a value representing approximately 50% of the molar ratio NO₂/NO_x. For 5 higher fractions of the molar ratio NO₂/NO_x, that is to say for values exceeding 50%, the reaction speed is impacted in a strongly negative manner. This problem is resolved by the present invention.

The SCR-catalyst 330 requires an additive to reduce the 10 concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream 303. Such additive is injected into the exhaust stream 371 upstream of the SCR-catalyst 330. Such additive is often ammonia and/or urea based, or consists of a substance from which ammonia may be extracted or released, and may for example consist of 15 AdBlue, which basically consists of urea mixed with water. Urea forms ammonia at heating (thermolysis), and at heterogeneous catalysis on an oxidizing surface (hydrolysis), which surface may, for example, consist of titanium dioxide TiO₂, within the SCR-catalyst, or of a dedicated hydrolysis 20 catalyst downstream of the dosage device.

According to one embodiment of the invention, a first 25 hydrolysis catalyst, which may consist of substantially any suitable hydrolysis coating, and/or a first mixer, may be arranged in connection with the first dosage device 371. The first hydrolysis catalyst, and/or the first mixer, are then used to increase the speed of the decomposition of urea into ammonia, and/or to mix the additive with the emissions, and/or to vaporise the additive.

The exhaust treatment system 350 is also equipped with a slip- 30 catalyst (SC), which is arranged to oxidise a surplus of additive that may remain after the SCR-catalyst 330, and/or to

assist the SCR-catalyst with additional NO_x-reduction.

Accordingly, the slip-catalyst SC may provide a potential for improving the system's total conversion/reduction of NO_x.

The exhaust treatment system 350 is also equipped with one or several sensors, such as one or several NO_x-, NO₂- and/or temperature sensors 361, 362, 363, 364, arranged for example at the inlet to the oxidation catalyst 310, at the inlet to the particulate filter 320, at the inlet to the SCR-catalyst 330, and/or at the outlet from the slip-catalyst 340, for determination of nitrogen oxides and/or temperatures in the exhaust treatment system.

The control device 380 is arranged to carry out an active control of one or several parameters, which are related to the combustion in the combustion engine 301. This control may be based on signals from a number of sensors in the exhaust treatment system, among others on the one or several of the NO_x-, NO₂- and/or the temperature sensors 361, 362, 363, 364.

Figure 3b shows an exhaust treatment system 350, which comprises two reduction catalyst devices 331, 332. Exhausts generated at combustion in the engine 301, that is to say the exhaust stream 303 (indicated with arrows), are led past a first dosage device 371, arranged in the exhaust treatment system 350 to provide a first supply 210 of a first additive to the exhaust stream 303. The exhaust treatment system 350 comprises a first reduction catalyst device 331, arranged downstream of the first dosage device 371, and arranged to provide a first impact on a first amount of nitrogen oxides NO_{x_1} reaching the first device 331. At this first impact, which occurs in the first device 331, the first additive is used, which is supplied to the exhaust stream 303.

The exhaust treatment system 350 also comprises a second dosage device 372, arranged downstream of the first device 331 to provide a second supply of a second additive to the exhaust stream 303. Downstream of the second dosage device 372, a second reduction catalyst device 332 is arranged, in order to provide a second impact on a second amount of nitrogen oxides $\text{NO}_{\text{x}}_{-2}$ reaching the second device 332. At this second impact, the first and/or the second additive is used, which is supplied to the exhaust stream by the second dosage device 372.

For the exhaust treatment system 350 in Figure 3b, the ratio $\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_{\text{x}}$, between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_{x} reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 may consist of a ratio $\text{NO}_{2-1}/\text{NO}_{\text{x}-1}$, between the first amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_{2-1} and the first amount of nitrogen oxides $\text{NO}_{\text{x}-1}$ reaching the reduction catalyst device 331. For the exhaust treatment system 350 in Figure 3b, the ratio $\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_{\text{x}}$, between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_{x} reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 may consist of a ratio $\text{NO}_{2-2}/\text{NO}_{\text{x}-2}$, between the second amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_{2-2} and the second amount of nitrogen oxides $\text{NO}_{\text{x}-2}$ reaching the second reduction catalyst device 332.

The exhaust treatment system 350 is also equipped with one or several sensors, such as one or several $\text{NO}_{\text{x}-}$, NO_2- and/or temperature sensors 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, arranged, for example, at the inlet to the oxidation catalyst 311, at the inlet to the first reduction catalyst device 331, at the outlet from the first reduction catalyst device 331, at the inlet to the oxidation catalyst 312, at the inlet to the second reduction catalyst device 372, and/or at the outlet from the second reduction catalyst device 332, for

determination of nitrogen oxides, nitrogen dioxide and/or temperatures in the exhaust treatment system.

The control device 380 is arranged to carry out an active control of one or several parameters, which are related to the combustion in the combustion engine 301 according to the present invention. This control may be based on signals from a number of sensors in the exhaust treatment system, among others on the one or several of the NO_x -, NO_2 - and/or the temperature sensors 361, 362, 363, 364, 365.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the exhaust treatment system may comprise a first oxidation catalyst DOC_1 311, arranged upstream of the first dosage device 371 and/or a second oxidation catalyst DOC_2 312, arranged downstream of the first device 331. The first oxidation catalyst DOC_1 311, and/or the second oxidation catalyst DOC_2 312, are in that case arranged to oxidise nitrogen compounds, carbon compounds and/or hydrocarbon compounds in the exhaust stream 303 in the exhaust treatment system 350. At the oxidation in the first oxidation catalyst DOC_1 311, a part of the nitrogen monoxides NO in the exhaust stream 303 is oxidised into nitrogen dioxide NO_2 .

The first oxidation catalyst DOC_1 311, and/or the second oxidation catalyst DOC_2 312, are at least partly coated with a catalytic oxidising coating, wherein such oxidising coating may comprise at least one precious metal, for example platinum.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the exhaust system 350 comprises a particulate filter 320, downstream of the first device, or downstream of the second oxidation catalyst DOC_2 312, if this is comprised in the system. The particulate filter 320 is arranged to catch and

oxidise soot particles. The exhaust stream 303 is here led through the filter structure of the particulate filter, where soot particles are caught in the filter structure from the exhaust stream 303 passing through, and are stored and 5 oxidised in the particulate filter. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the particulate filter 320 consists of a Diesel Particulate Filter, DPF. This filter is thus used to catch, store and oxidise soot particles from the exhaust stream 303.

10 According to another embodiment of the present invention, the particulate filter 320 consists of a particulate filter, which at least partly is coated with a catalytic oxidising coating, wherein such oxidising coating may comprise at least one precious metal. That is to say, the particulate filter 320 may 15 at least partly be coated with one or several precious metals, for example platinum. The particulate filter cDPF, which comprises the oxidising coating, may result in more stable ratios for the nitrogen dioxide level NO_2 at the second reduction catalyst device 332. Additionally, the use of the 20 particulate filter cDPF, comprising the oxidising coating, means that the value for the ratio NO_2/NO_x , that is to say the level of NO_2 , may be controlled. Since the particulate filter cDPF with the oxidising coating is used, according to one 25 embodiment the second oxidation catalyst DOC_2 312 is not needed in the system.

Thus, the at least one oxidising component 310, 311, 312, 320, which according to the present invention is arranged upstream of the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332, may comprise one or several of an oxidation catalyst 310, 311, 312, and a 30 particulate filter 320 at least partly comprising a catalytic oxidising coating.

As described above, according to the present invention, an active control 240 of at least one parameter related to the combustion in the engine 301 is implemented to achieve a desirable value for the ratio between the amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 , and the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332. This active control may be carried out in a number of different ways, according to different embodiments of the present invention.

The active control of the at least one parameter related to the combustion in the engine 301 may according to one embodiment of the present invention comprise a selection of at least one injection strategy for the combustion engine 301. In Figures 3a and 3b the control device 380 is schematically drawn as connected to the engine 301. This connection means that the control device 380 is arranged to better be able to control the injection of fuel into the combustion engine's cylinders, either directly or via an engine control device 115 (Figure 1).

According to one embodiment of the present invention, a timing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders in the combustion engine 301 may be controlled by the control device 380 to occur earlier, so that an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is achieved by advancing the timing of the injection. Similarly, a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 may be achieved by delaying the timing of the injection.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, as described above, the injection pressure for the injections of fuel into the respective cylinders in the combustion engine may be controlled by the control device 380, so that an

increase of the injection pressure is achieved for one or several cylinders, wherein an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is achieved. Similarly, the injection pressure for the injections of fuel into the respective cylinders of the combustion engine 301 may be controlled, so that a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is achieved.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, as described above, the injection phasing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders may be controlled by the control device 380, so that a relatively large pressure gradient is obtained, wherein an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device is achieved. Similarly, the injection may be controlled, so that a relatively small cylinder pressure gradient is obtained, wherein a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is achieved.

As described above, according to one embodiment of the present invention, the active control of the at least one combustion related parameter may comprise the control device 380 controlling a device for exchange gas recirculation (EGR) 304. This is schematically illustrated in Figures 3a and 3b by way of a connection between the control device 380, and the exchange gas recirculation device 304. This connection illustrates that the control device 380 may, either directly, via, for example, an engine control device 115 (Figure 1), control the fraction of the exhaust stream 303 that is recirculated from the engine's outlet 305 to its inlet 306. For example, the control device 380 may here be arranged to control a damper or similar in the EGR-recirculation device

304, which impacts the amount of exhausts recirculated to the inlet 306.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the control device 380 may be arranged to reduce a fraction of the exhaust stream, which is recirculated through the device for exhaust recirculation (EGR), so that an increase of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 is achieved. Similarly, an increase of a fraction of the exhaust stream, which is recirculated through the exchange gas recirculation device (EGR), may provide for a reduction of the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the first and/or the second additive comprises ammonia NH_3 or urea, from which ammonia may be generated/formed/released. This additive may for example consist of AdBlue. The first and the second additive may be of the same type, or may be of different types.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the exhaust treatment system 350 comprises a system 370 for supply of additive, which comprises at least one pump 373 arranged to supply the dosage device 371 in Figure 3a, and the first 371 and the second 372 dosage devices in Figure 3b, respectively, with additive, that is to say for example ammonia or urea.

One example of such a system 370 for supply of additive is shown schematically in Figure 3b, wherein the system comprises the first dosage device 371 and the second dosage device 372, which are arranged upstream of the first device 331, and upstream of the second device 332, respectively. The first and second dosage devices 371, 372, often consisting of dosage

nozzles which administer additive to, and mix such additive with, the exhaust stream 303, are supplied with additive by the at least one pump 373, via conduits 375 for additive. The at least one pump 373 obtains additive from one or several tanks 376 for additive, via one or several conduits 377 between the tank/tanks 376, and the at least one pump 373. It should be realised that the additive may be in liquid form and/or in gaseous form. Where the additive is in liquid form, the pump 373 is a liquid pump, and the one or several tanks 376 are liquid tanks. Where the additive is in gaseous form, the pump 373 is a gas pump, and the one or several tanks 376 are gas tanks. If both gaseous and liquid additives are used, several tanks and pumps are arranged, wherein at least one tank and one pump are set up to supply liquid additive, and at least one tank and one pump are set up to supply gaseous additive.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the at least one pump 373 comprises a joint pump, which feeds both the first 371 and the second 372 dosage device with the first and the second additive, respectively. According to another embodiment of the invention, the at least one pump comprises a first and a second pump, which feed the first 371 and the second 372 dosage device, respectively, with the first and the second additive, respectively. The specific function of the additive system 370 is well described in prior art technology, and the exact method for the injection of additive is therefore not described in any further detail herein. Generally, however, the temperature at the point of injection/SCR-catalyst should be above a lower threshold temperature, to avoid precipitates and formation of unwanted by-products, such as ammonium nitrate NH_4NO_3 . An example of a value for such a lower threshold temperature may be approximately 200 °C. According

to one embodiment of the invention, the system 370 for supply of additive comprises a dosage control device 374, arranged to control the at least one pump 373, so that the additive is supplied to the exhaust stream. The dosage control device 374 comprises, according to one embodiment, a first pump control device 378 arranged to control the at least one pump 373, in such a manner that a first dosage of the first additive is supplied to the exhaust stream 303, via the first dosage device 371. The dosage control device 374 also comprises a second pump control device 379, arranged to control the at least one pump 373, so that a second dosage of the second additive is supplied to the exhaust stream 303, via the second dosage device 372.

The first and second additives usually consist of the same type of additive, for example urea. However, according to one embodiment of the present invention, the first additive and the second additive may be of different types, for example urea and ammonia, which means that the dosage to each one of the first 331 and second 332 reduction catalyst devices, and accordingly also the function for each of the first 331 and second 332 reduction catalyst devices, may be optimised also with respect to the type of additive. If different types of additive are used, the tank 376 comprises several sub-tanks, which contain the different respective types of additive. One or several pumps 373 may be used to supply the different types of additive to the first dosage device 371 and the second dosage device 372. As mentioned above, the one or several tanks, and the one or several pumps, are adapted according to the state of the additive, that is to say according to whether the additive is gaseous or liquid.

The one or several pumps 373 are thus controlled by a dosage control device 374, which generates control signals for

control of supply of additive, so that a desired amount is injected into the exhaust stream 303 with the help of the first 371 and the second 372 dosage devices, respectively, upstream of the first 331 and the second 332 device,
5 respectively. In more detail, the first pump control device 378 is arranged to control either a joint pump, or a pump dedicated to the first dosage device 371, so that the first dosage is controlled to be supplied to the exhaust stream 303 via the first dosage device 371. The second pump control
10 device 379 is arranged to control either a joint pump, or a pump dedicated to the second dosage device 372, so that the second dosage is controlled to be supplied to the exhaust stream 303 via the second dosage device 372.

The exhaust treatment system 350 in which the present
15 invention is implemented may have a large number of designs. As mentioned above, the exhaust treatment system may have basically any appearance, as long as it comprises at least one oxidising component, followed downstream by at least one reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332, and wherein the
20 combustion engine 301 may be controlled by a control device 380, to change the amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching the at least one oxidising component 310, 311, 312, and therefore also the at least one reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332.

The at least one reduction catalyst device 330, 331, 332 may
25 for example, according to various non-limiting embodiments of the present invention comprise one of:

- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR;
- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR, followed downstream by a slip-catalyst SC, wherein the slip-catalyst SC is arranged to oxidise a residue of additive, and/or to assist the selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR with an

additional reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream 303;

- a slip-catalyst SC, which is arranged primarily for reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x , and secondarily for oxidation 5 of additive in the exhaust stream 303;

- a slip-catalyst SC, followed downstream of a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR, wherein the slip-catalyst SC is arranged to oxidise additive, and/or to assist the selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR with a reduction of 10 nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream 303;

- a slip-catalyst SC, followed downstream by a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR, followed downstream by an additional slip-catalyst SC_b , wherein the slip-catalyst SC, and/or the additional slip-catalyst SC_b , are arranged to 15 oxidise additive, and/or to assist the selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR with a reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream 303, and

- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR, combined with a purely oxidising coating in its outlet part; and

- a slip-catalyst SC, followed downstream by a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR, combined with a purely oxidising coating in its outlet part, wherein the slip-catalyst SC is arranged primarily for reduction of nitrogen 20 oxides NO_x , and secondarily for oxidation of additive in the 25 exhaust stream 303.

In this document, a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR means a traditional SCR-catalyst (Selective Catalytic Reduction). SCR catalysts usually use an additive, often ammonia NH_3 , or a composition from which ammonia may be generated/formed, which is used for the reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhausts. The additive is injected into the exhaust stream resulting from the combustion engine, upstream 30

of the catalyst as described above. The additive added to the catalyst is adsorbed (stored) in the catalyst, in the form of ammonia NH₃, so that a redox-reaction may occur between nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhausts and ammonia NH₃ available via the additive.

In this document, a slip-catalyst SC means a catalyst which is arranged to oxidise additive, and/or to assist a selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR with a reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in the exhaust stream. The use of a first slip-catalyst SC₁ in the first device 331 facilitates a greater load, and therefore a better use of the first selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR₁, and it also facilitates a reduction of the starting temperature (the "light off"-temperature) for the NO_x-reduction. The slip-catalyst SC may also oxidise nitrogen monoxide NO and/or hydrocarbons HC in the exhaust stream, so that heat/an exothermal reaction is generated.

The fact that the first device 331 comprises a slip-catalyst SC₁, and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b}, which are multifunctional, and accordingly reduce nitrogen oxides NO_x through the use of the additive, and also oxidise the additive, leads to a number of advantages for the exhaust treatment system. The first slip-catalyst SC₁, and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b}, may here be used in symbiosis with the first reduction catalyst SCR₁, so that the activity of the first slip-catalyst SC₁ and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b}, with respect to the reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x and oxidation of residues of additive, and the slip-catalyst's SC₁, SC_{1b} deposit characteristics for additive, constitute a complement to the function of the first reduction catalyst SCR₁. The combination of these characteristics for the first device 331, comprising the first

reduction catalyst SCR_1 , the first slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} , mean that a higher conversion level may be obtained over the first device 331.

Additionally, the use of the first slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or of the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} , in the first device 331, result in conditions making it possible to avoid that a non-selective oxidation of reductant occurs in components placed downstream of the first device 331 in the exhaust treatment system, which may potentially comprise platinum metals.

Furthermore, tests have shown that the reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x with the first multifunctional slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} in the first device 331 becomes surprisingly efficient. This is a result of sufficient amounts of nitrogen oxides NO_x being present in the exhaust stream 303 at the first slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or at the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} in the first device 331, in order for an efficient reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x to be obtained. In other words, the relatively good availability of nitrogen oxides NO_x at the first slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or at the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} , may be used to achieve a very good performance and/or a very good utilisation when a multifunctional slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or an additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} , is used in the first catalyst device 331.

The first selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR_1 , the first slip-catalyst SC_1 , and/or the additional first slip-catalyst SC_{1b} , may be used with the objective of generating heat, for example by oxidation of hydrocarbons HC in the exhaust stream, which facilitates regeneration of sulphur contaminated components, such as the first selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR_1 , and/or components arranged downstream

of the latter. At the regeneration of the sulphur contaminated components, the amount of sulphur intercalated in the components is reduced, that is to say in at least one of the first selective catalytic reduction catalyst SCR_1 , and

5 components arranged downstream of the latter.

The system according to the present invention may be arranged to perform all of the method embodiments described above and in the claims, so that the system for the respective embodiments obtains the above described advantages for the

10 respective embodiments.

A person skilled in the art will also realise that the above system may be modified according to the different embodiments of the method according to the invention. In addition, the invention relates to a motor vehicle 100, for example a truck

15 or a bus, comprising at least one system for treatment of an exhaust stream.

The present invention is not limited to the embodiments of the invention described above, but pertains to and comprises all embodiments within the scope of the enclosed independent

20 claims.

Claims

1. Method for treatment of an exhaust stream (303), resulting from a combustion in a combustion engine (301), passing through an exhaust treatment system (350), and comprising nitrogen oxides NO_x , wherein said NO_x comprises nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 ; **characterised by**

- an oxidation (210) of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen in said exhaust stream (303), wherein said oxidation (210) is carried out by at least one oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) arranged in said exhaust treatment system (350);
- a reduction (220) of an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching a reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332), arranged downstream of said oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) in said exhaust treatment system (350), wherein said reduction is carried out through a catalytic reaction using an additive;
- a determination (230) of a value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332), and said amount of nitrogen oxide NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332); and
- an active control (240) of at least one parameter related to said combustion engine (301), based on said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio, wherein said active control (240) is carried out, so that said amount of nitrogen oxide NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is increased, if said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio exceeds an upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$;
 $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}} > (\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) entails that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is greater than an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x comprised in said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio.

3. Method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein the increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) entails that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) has a higher concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x in said exhaust stream, than does a concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x that corresponds to said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio.

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein said active control of said at least one parameter related to a combustion in said combustion engine (301) is carried out, so that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is reduced, if said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio is smaller or equal to a lower threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$, $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}} \leq (\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$.

5. Method according to claim 4, wherein the reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) entails that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is smaller than an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x comprised in said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio.

6. Method according to any of claims 4-5, wherein the reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) entails that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) has a lower concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x in said exhaust stream, compared to a concentration of nitrogen oxides NO_x that corresponds to said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio.

7. Method according to any of claims 4-6, wherein said lower threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$ has a value representing one from among the group:

- 50%;
- 45%;
- 30%;
- 15 - 20%; and
- 10%.

8. Method according to any of claims 4-7, wherein said lower threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$ has a value, which depends on a temperature over said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332).

9. Method according to any of claims 1-8, wherein said upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$ has a value representing one from among the group of:

- 45%;
- 25 - 50%;
- 60%; and
- >65%.

10. Method according to any of claims 1-9, wherein said upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_low}}$ has a value, which

depends on a temperature over said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332).

11. Method according to any of claims 1-9, wherein said active control of said at least one parameter comprises a selection of at least one injection strategy for said combustion engine (301).

12. Method according to claim 11, wherein said at least one injection strategy comprises a control of a timing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders in said combustion engine (301).

13. Method according to claim 12, wherein an increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of advancing said timing for said injection.

14. Method according to claim 12, wherein a reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of delaying said timing for said injection.

15. Method according to any of claims 11-14, wherein said at least one injection strategy comprises a control of an injection pressure for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders in said combustion engine (301).

16. Method according to claim 15, wherein an increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of an increase of said injection pressure.

17. Method according to claim 15, wherein a reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction

catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of a reduction of said injection pressure.

18. Method according to any of claims 11-17, wherein said at least one injection strategy comprises a control of an injection phasing for an injection of fuel into the respective cylinders in said combustion engine (301).

5 19. Method according to claim 18, wherein an increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of control 10 of an injection phasing that achieves a relatively large pressure gradient.

15 20. Method according to claim 18, wherein a reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of control 15 of an injection phasing that achieves a relatively small pressure gradient.

21. Method according to any of claims 1-20, wherein said active control of said at least one parameter comprises a control of a device for exhaust recirculation (EGR; 304).

20 22. Method according to claim 21, wherein an increase of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of reducing a fraction of said exhaust stream, which is recirculated through said device for exhaust recirculation (EGR; 304).

25 23. Method according to claim 21, wherein a reduction of said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) is achieved by way of increasing a fraction of said exhaust stream, which is recirculated through said device for exhaust recirculation 30 (EGR; 304).

24. Method according to any of claims 1-23, wherein said determined value $(NO_2/NO_x)_{det}$ for said ratio between said amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) and said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332), consists of one from among the group of:

- a predicted value;
- a modelled value; and
- a measured value.

10 25. Method according to claims 1-24, wherein said oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) comprises one or several of:

- an oxidation catalyst (310, 311, 312); and
- a particulate filter (320), at least partly comprising a catalytic oxidising coating.

15 26. Computer program comprising a program code which, when said program code is executed in a computer, achieves that said computer carries out the method according to any of claims 1-25.

20 27. Computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium and a computer program according to claim 26, said computer program being comprised in said computer readable medium.

25 28. Exhaust treatment system (350) arranged for treatment of an exhaust stream (303), which results from a combustion in a combustion engine (301), and comprises nitrogen oxides NO_x , wherein said nitrogen oxides NO_x comprise nitrogen monoxide NO and nitrogen dioxide NO_2 ; **characterised by**

- at least one oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320), arranged in said exhaust treatment system (350) for an

oxidation (210) of compounds comprising one or several of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen in said exhaust stream (303);

– a reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332), arranged downstream of said oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) in said exhaust treatment system (350), for a reduction (220) of an amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332), wherein said reduction is carried out through a catalytic reaction using an additive; and

10 – a control device (380), arranged to provide:

– a determination (230) of a value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for a ratio between an amount of nitrogen dioxide NO_2 reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) and said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332); and

– an active control (240) of at least one parameter related to a combustion engine (301), based on said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio, wherein said active control (240) is carried out, so that said amount of nitrogen oxides NO_x reaching said reduction catalyst device (330, 331, 332) increases, if said determined value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}}$ for said ratio exceeds an upper threshold value $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$;
 $(\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{det}} > (\text{NO}_2/\text{NO}_x)_{\text{threshold_high}}$.

29. Exhaust treatment system (350) according to claim 28,

25 wherein said oxidising component (310, 311, 312, 320) comprises one or several of:

– an oxidation catalyst (310, 311, 312);

– a particulate filter (320), at least partly comprising a catalytic oxidising coating; and

- an oxidation catalyst (310, 311, 312), followed downstream by a particulate filter 320.

30. Exhaust treatment system (350) according to any of claims 28-29, wherein said reduction catalyst device (330,

5 331, 332) comprises one from among the group of:

- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR);

- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR), followed downstream by a slip-catalyst (SC), wherein said slip-catalyst (SC) is arranged to oxidise a residue of additive, and/or

10 assist said selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR) with an additional reduction of nitrogen oxide NO_x in said exhaust stream (303);

- a slip-catalyst (SC), which is arranged primarily for

15 reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x, and secondarily for oxidation of additive in said exhaust stream (303)

- a slip-catalyst (SC), followed downstream by a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR), wherein said slip-catalyst (SC) is arranged to oxidise additive, and/or to assist said

20 selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR) with a reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in said exhaust stream (303);

- a slip-catalyst (SC), followed downstream by a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR), followed downstream by an additional slip-catalyst (SC_b), wherein said slip-catalyst

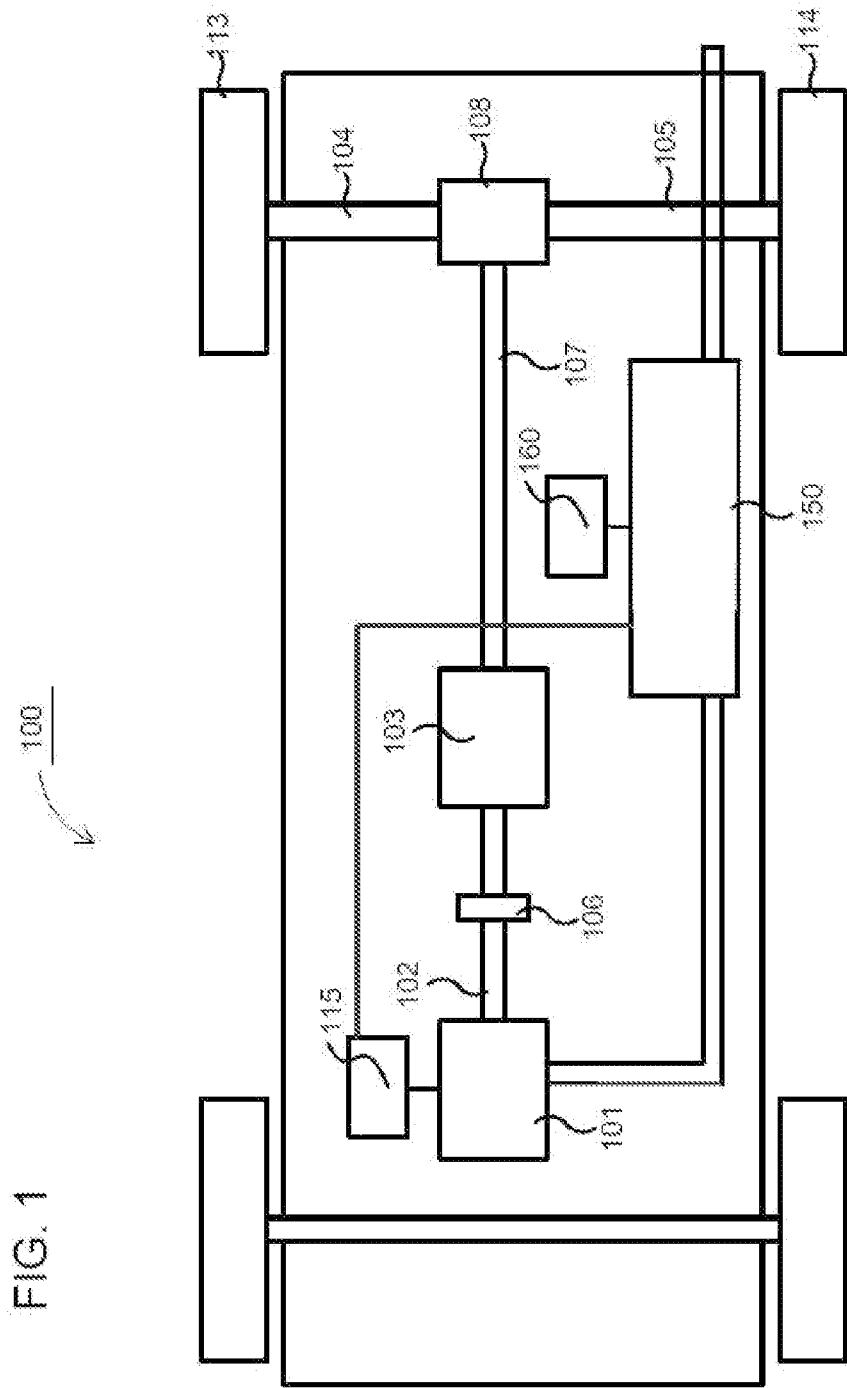
25 (SC), and/or said additional slip-catalyst (SC_b), are arranged to oxidise additive, and/or to assist said selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR) with a reduction of nitrogen oxides NO_x in said exhaust stream (303); and

- a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR), combined with a purely oxidising coating in its outlet part; and

30 - a slip-catalyst (SC), followed downstream by a selective catalytic reduction catalyst (SCR), combined with a purely

oxidising coating in its outlet part, wherein said slip-catalyst (SC) is arranged primarily for reduction of nitrogen oxide NO_x, and secondarily for oxidation of additive in said exhaust stream (303).

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2/5

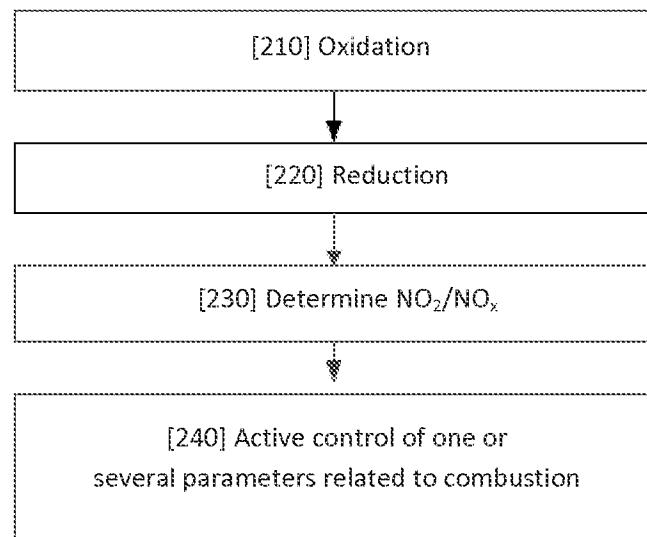


Fig. 2a

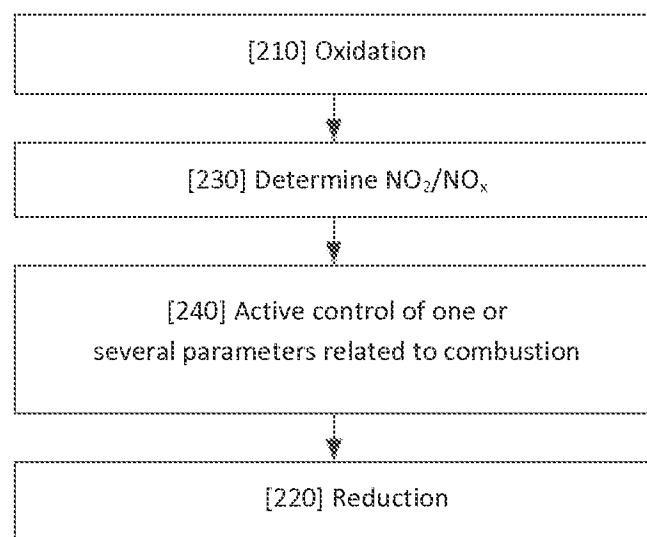
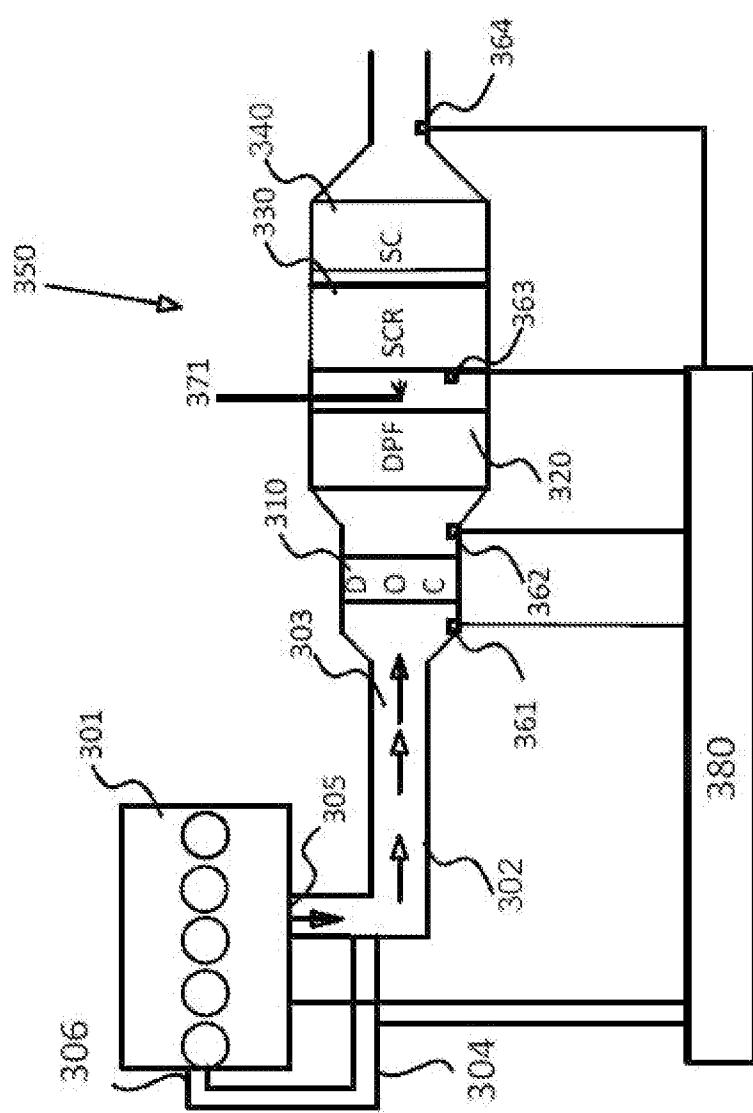
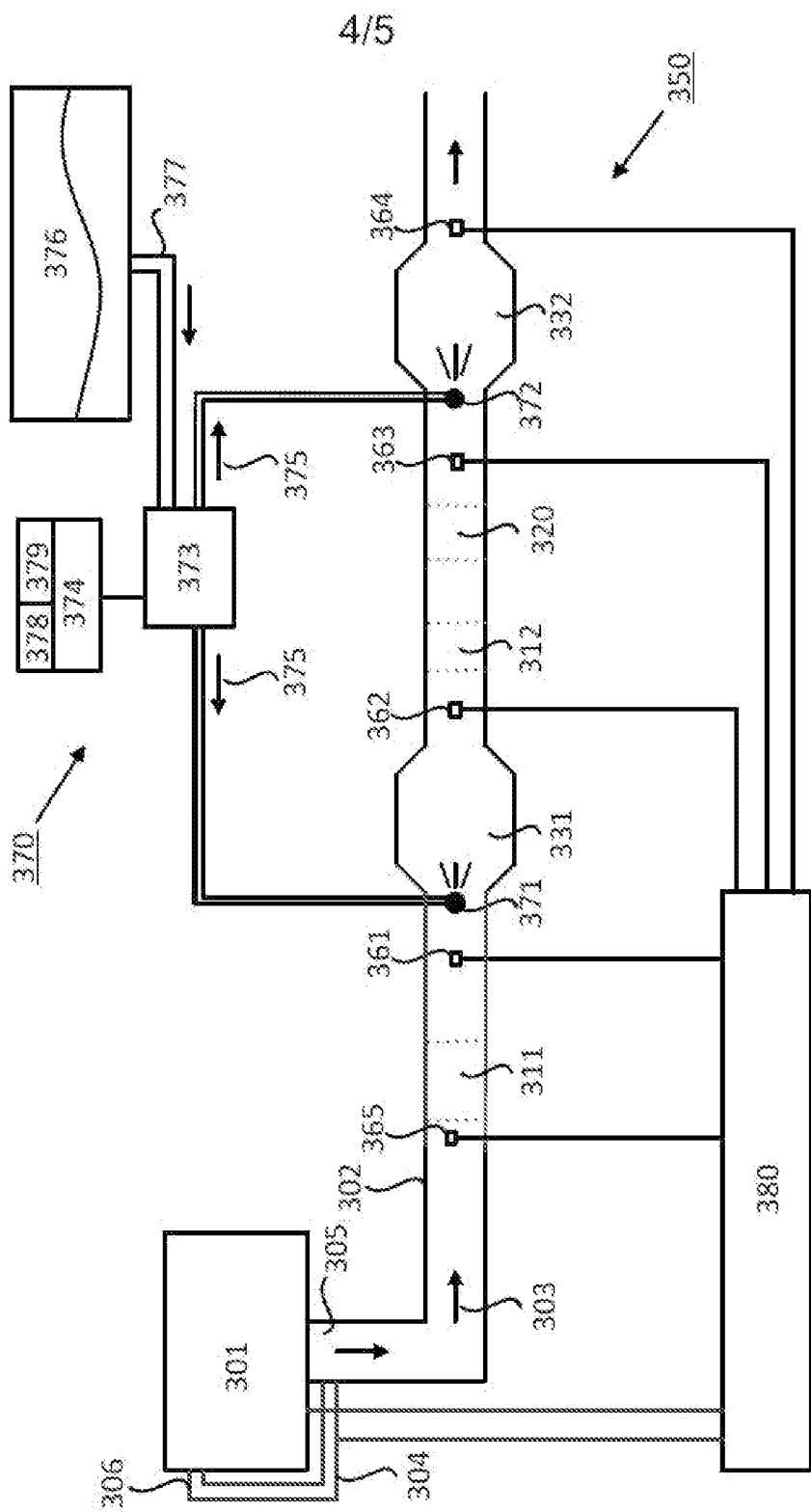


Fig. 2b

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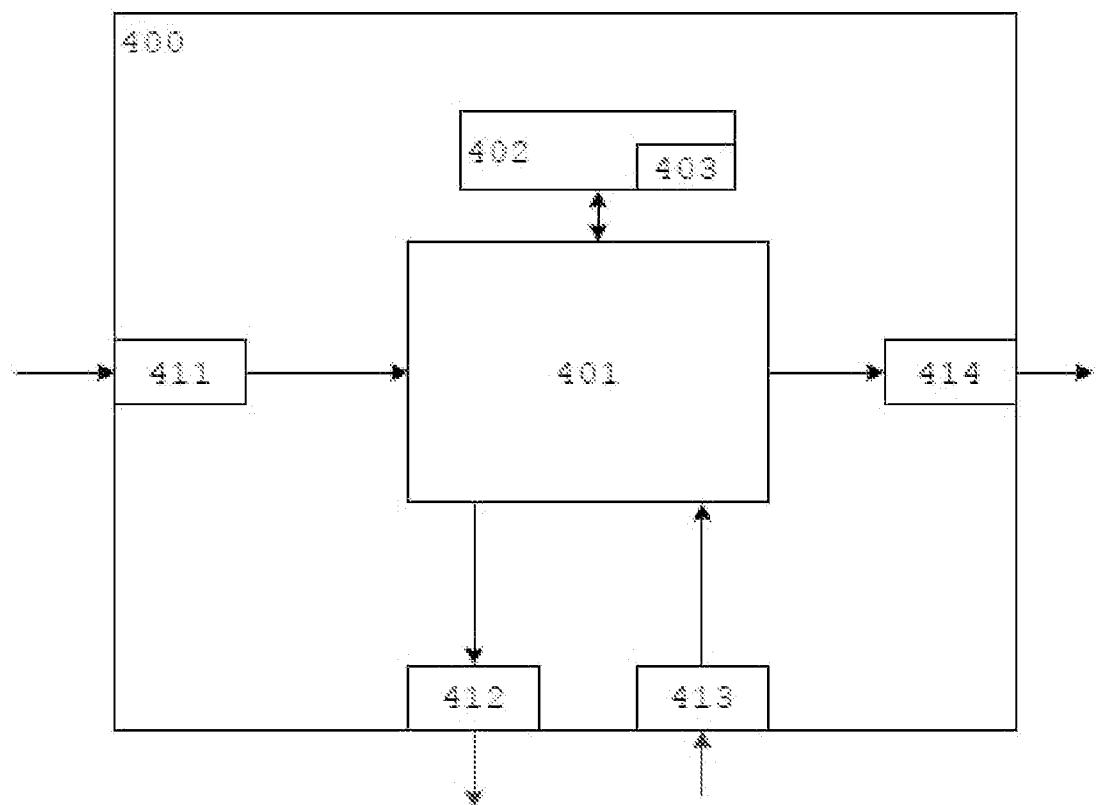


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/SE2015/050228**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****IPC:** see extra sheet

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: F01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI data**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 102012201809 A1 (HONDA MOTOR CO LTD), 13 September 2012 (2012-09-13); abstract; paragraphs [0024]-[0026], [0284]-[0309], [0409]-[0441], [0478]-[0480]; figures 4,5,8, 19, 21, 24, 27, 31 --	1-30
A	US 20120117954 A1 (YASUI YUJI ET AL), 17 May 2012 (2012-05-17); abstract; claims --	1-30
A	US 20120255286 A1 (MATSUNAGA HIDEKI ET AL), 11 October 2012 (2012-10-11); paragraphs [0088]-[0093], [0175]-[0182]; figures 5,16; claims -- -----	1-30

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	“T” later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
“A” document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	“X” document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
“E” earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	“Y” document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
“L” document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	“&” document member of the same patent family
“O” document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
“P” document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12-06-2015

Date of mailing of the international search report

15-06-2015

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Continuation of: second sheet

International Patent Classification (IPC)

F01N 9/00 (2006.01)

F01N 3/20 (2006.01)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/SE2015/050228

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