

**EMECR2017**

**conditions of material recycling  
and  
material LCA reflecting closed-loop recycling**

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# **Steel as an eco-friendly material**

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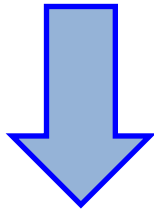
- 1. Importance of life cycle thinking**
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# **1. Importance of Life Cycle Thinking**



# What are eco-friendly materials?

- natural materials?
- recycled materials?
- carbon free materials?



Eco-friendly paper car...?

**“Life Cycle Thinking” is important !**  
**very**

**A Case Study on Automobile**

# Tailpipe Emission Regulation

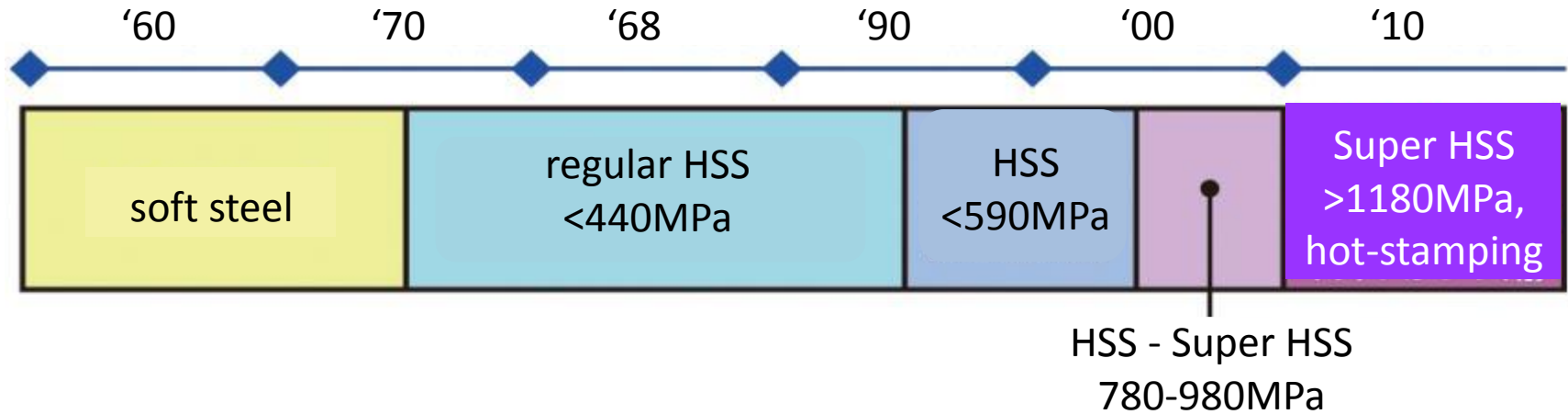
Grams CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer, normalized to NEDC



**How to get it?**

**Weight reduction  
is one of solutions.**

# Challenging weight reduction with HSS

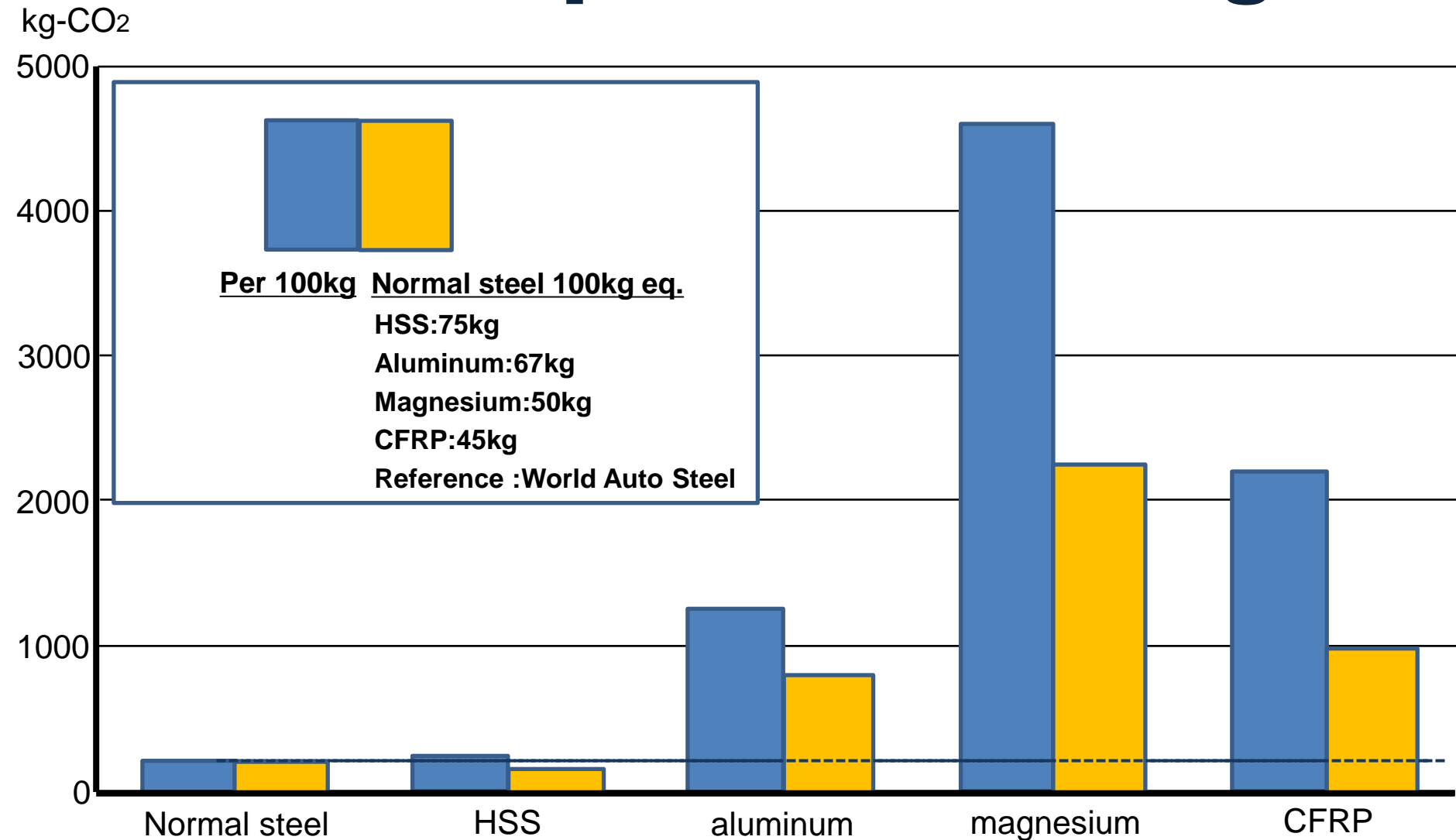


**Theoretical strength of iron is 12GPa.**

We have commercially reached 1-1.5GPa in flat products and 4-4.5GPa in wire products.

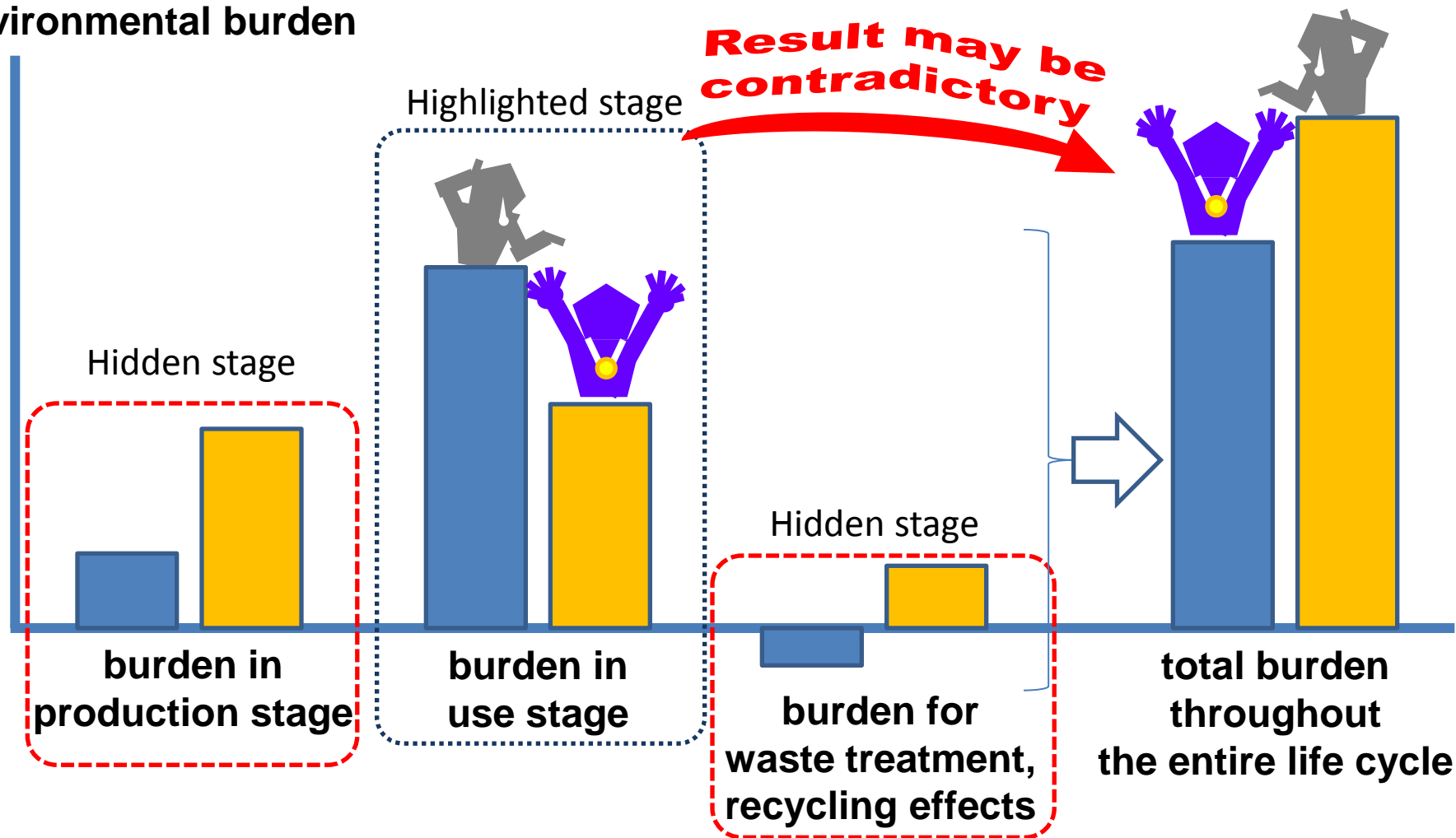
Parts		Required Performance				
		Tensile stiffness	Anti-dent	Stiffness	Endurance strength	Dynamic crush strength
outer	door outer	✓✓	✓			
inner	floor	✓✓		✓	✓	✓
structure	front rail			✓✓	✓	✓
	rear pillar			✓✓	✓	✓
	front side member			✓✓	✓	✓✓
	side sill			✓✓	✓	✓✓
	door guard cover			✓	✓	✓✓
under floor	suspension arm			✓✓	✓✓	
	wheel disk			✓✓	✓✓	
dominant factor except for thickness		Young's modulus	Yield strength	Young's modulus	Strength	Strength

# CO<sub>2</sub> emission from material production stage



# Life Cycle Thinking

Environmental burden



Evaluating only a partial stage (e.g. use stage) of the entire life cycle may lead us to a misleading result

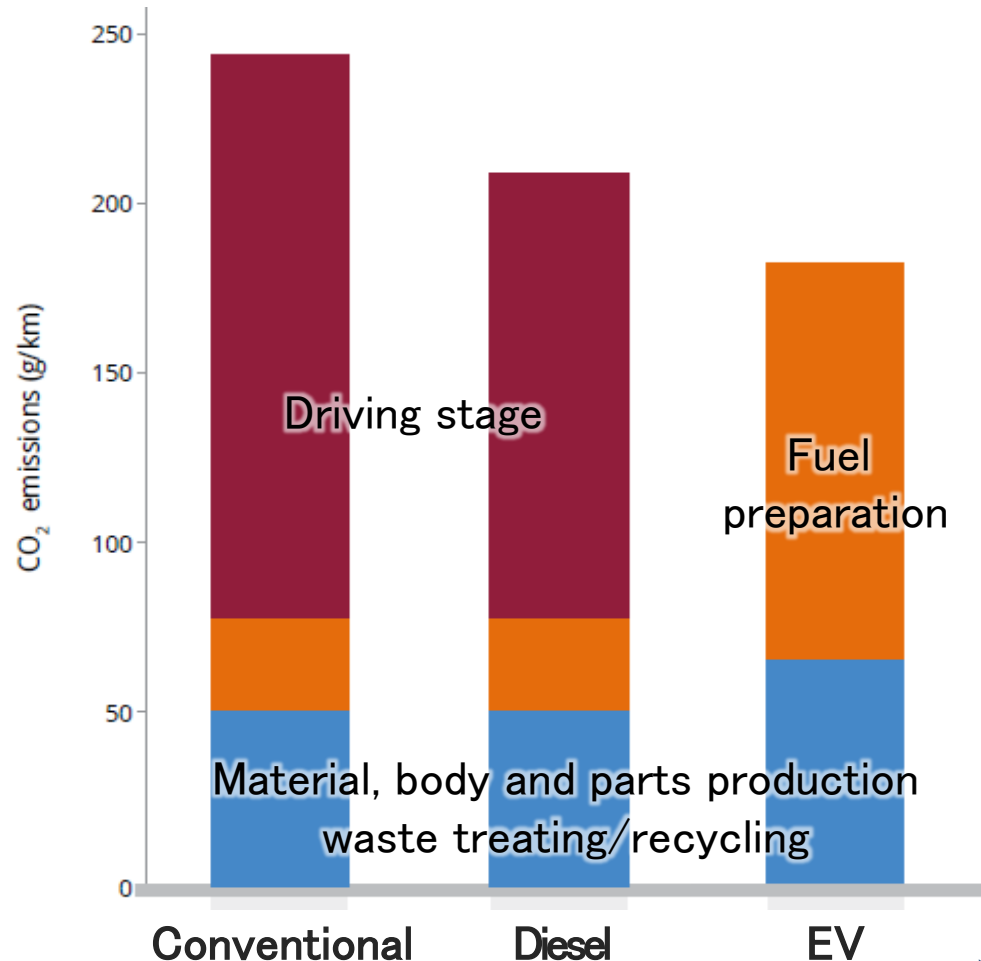


**Importance of Life Cycle Thinking**



# Life Cycle CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Comparison among types of vehicle

**Material selection becomes more important**  
← Fuel economy is dominant      Material selection is dominant →



EEA Signals 2017



## **2. Advantages of steel in material recycling**



# Automobile Production in the World

automobile production (million)

JAMA

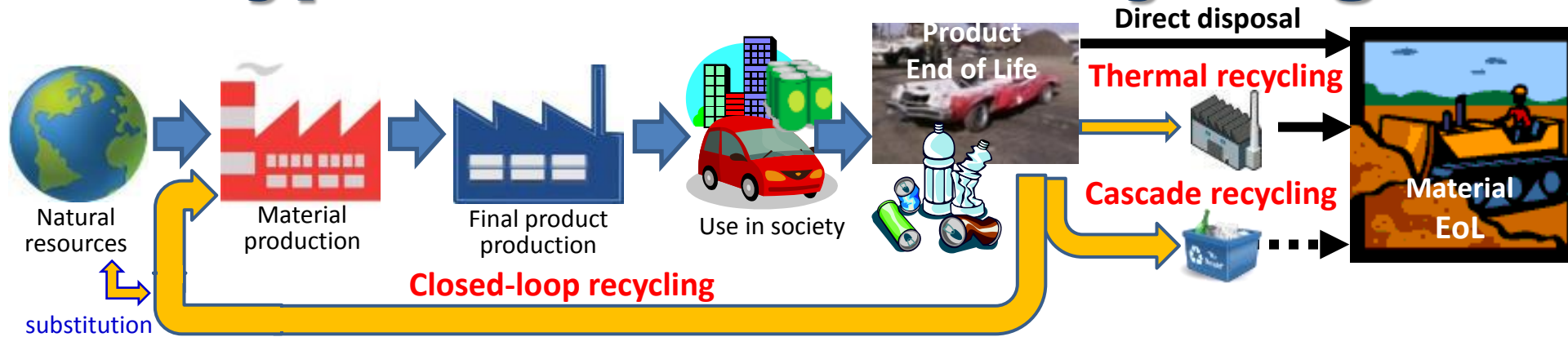
area	2014	2015	2016
EU	17.1	18.6	18.8
Japan	9.8	9.3	9.2
USA	11.7	12.1	12.2
China	23.7	24.6	28.1
world	89.8	90.8	95.0

**Over 90 million cars are **disposed** in the world every year**

***What are the conditions for eco-material for mass production products?***

**mass productivity, economy and technical performances are essential, in addition to those, “**recyclability**” is the key**

# Types of Material Recycling



## Thermal Recycling (Open-loop Recycling)

EoL products are incinerated and the heat is recovered as thermal energy to produce electricity or steam. The recovery has no effect on the reduction of natural resource consumption for virgin materials, but it is a low cost and energy saving way for recycling of flammable materials.



## Cascade Recycling (Open-loop Recycling)

The material is used as a secondary material in another product. The recycle may continue cascadelly in several steps. In each step, the material quality drops or changes and finally the material comes to the EoL.



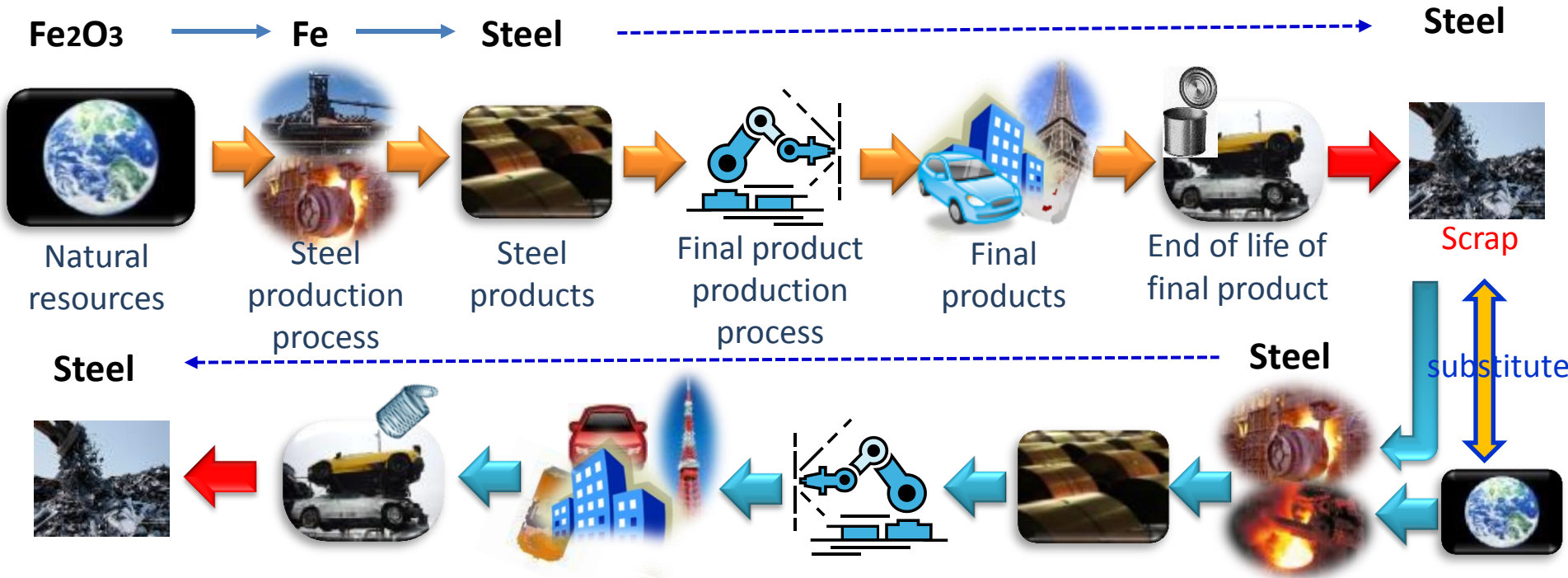
## Closed-loop Recycling

The material is recycled to the original material without or with very little loss of its characteristics or quality so that the number of recycling can be infinite. Closed-loop recycling reduces consumption of natural resources of the material, accompanying environmental impacts, and generation of wastes. Closed-loop recycling is superior to open-loop recycling in terms of sustainability.



# Life Cycle of Steel Products

Steel keeps its metallic state even after the EoL of products **Steel is still Steel!**



Steel can be recycled however many times  
into whatever steel product you want...  
**Sustainable & Flexible Life Cycle**

# **Conditions for Autonomous/Sustainable Material Recycling**

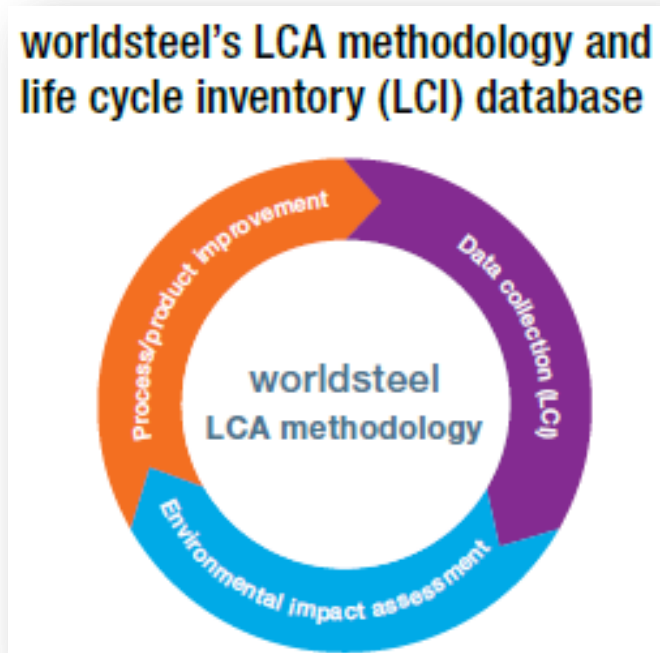
- a) Separation and collection is easy**
- b) Environmental impact of recycling is smaller compared to production using natural resources**
- c) Recycling system is economically sustainable**

## **Additional conditions for “Closed-loop Recycling”**

- d) No/small quality degradation through recycling**
- e) Can be recycled into various products**



# 3. worldsteel LCA methodology for steel products reflecting scrap recycling



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# Lifelong Environmental Burden of Steel with eternal recycling

Lifelong production  $= 1 + r + r^2 + r^3 + \dots + r^{n-1}$

$r$  : scrap recovery rate  $\times$  yield

$X_{pr}$  : burden for primary production

Lifelong burden  $= X_{pr} + rX_{re} + r^2X_{re} + \dots + r^{n-1}X_{re}$

$X_{re}$  : burden for recycling

Lifelong unit burden  $= \frac{X_{pr} + rX_{re} + r^2X_{re} + r^3X_{re} + \dots + r^{n-1}X_{re}}{1 + r + r^2 + r^3 + \dots + r^{n-1}} = (X_{pr} - X_{re}) \frac{(1-r)}{(1-r^n)} + X_{re}$

When infinite recycling ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), then  $r^n \rightarrow 0$ ,  $1 - r^n \rightarrow 1$

$= X_{pr} + r(X_{re} - X_{pr})$

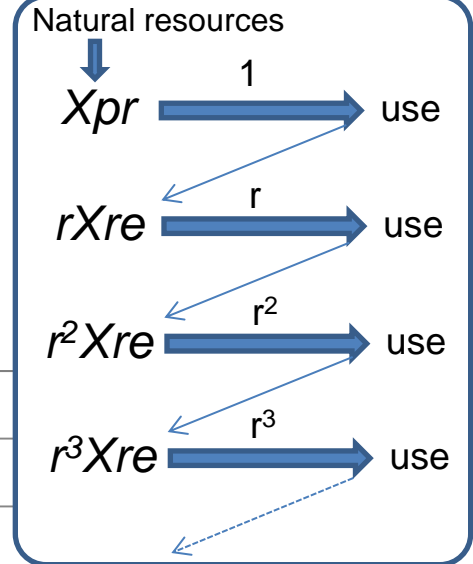
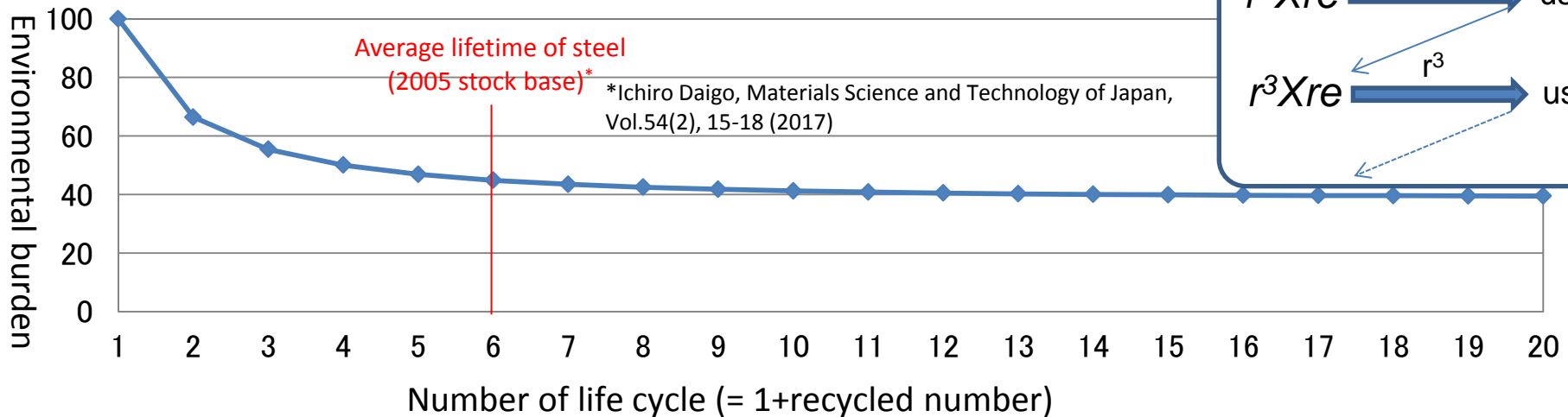
Substitute  $r = 0.9 \times 0.9$ ,  $X_{pr} = 100$ ,  $X_{re} = 25$

$= 39.25$

A Amato, L Brimacombe, N Howard. (1996) *Ironmaking and Steelmaking*, Vol23, No. 3, 235-241

Average lifetime of steel  
(2005 stock base)\*

\*Ichiro Daigo, Materials Science and Technology of Japan,  
Vol.54(2), 15-18 (2017)

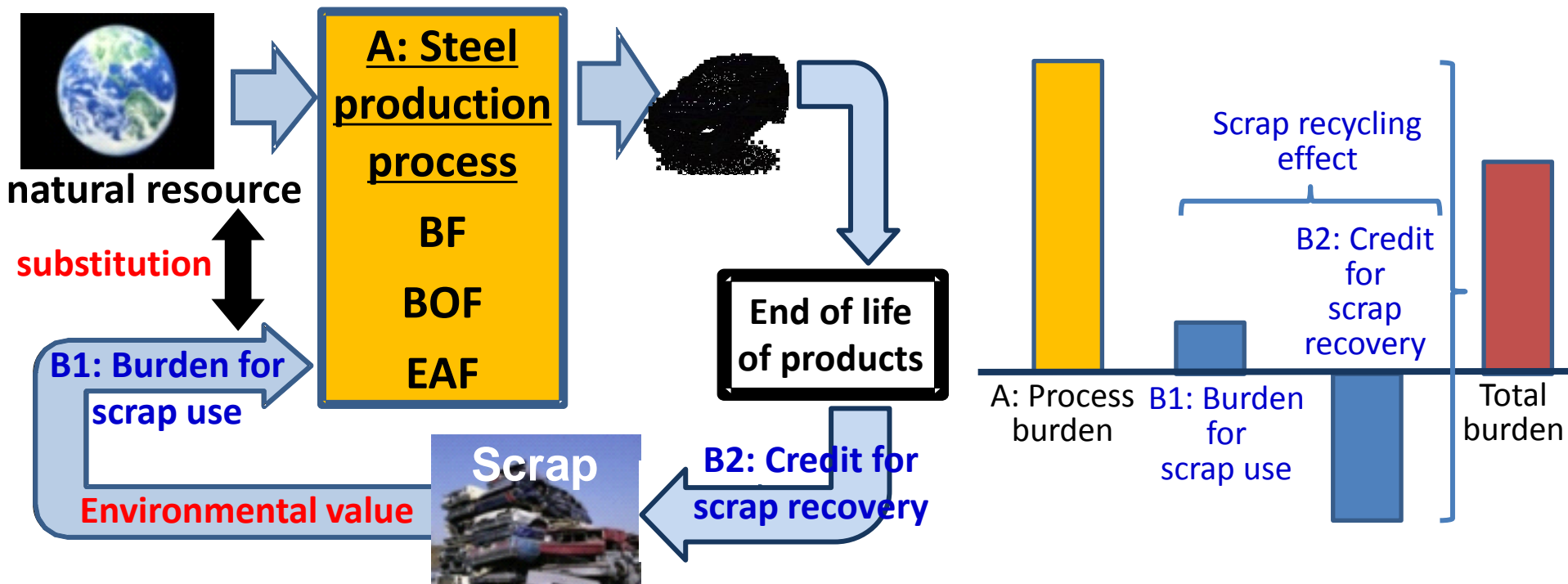




# LCA methodology reflecting scrap recycling

## - worldsteel-LCA methodology - Cradle to **"No"** grave...

- It evaluates both BF-BOF and EAF as one whole steel cycle system.
- Through scrap recycling, the natural resource consumption and related environmental impacts can be avoided (environmental value of scrap)
- Same as the economic value of scrap, the environmental value of scrap is credited for its recovery and burdened for its use



# Evaluation of Scrap Recycling Effect

assuming

the burden to produce a unit of steel product only from natural resources is 100 ( $X_{pr}$ ),

the burden to produce a unit of steel product only from scrap is 25 ( $X_{re}$ ), and yield of steel product from scrap is 0.9,

then

**environmental value of scrap =  $(100-25) \times 0.9 = 67.5$**

The environmental value of scrap is credited when it is recovered and burdened when it is used.

for example,

when the recovery rate of scrap is 0.9, then

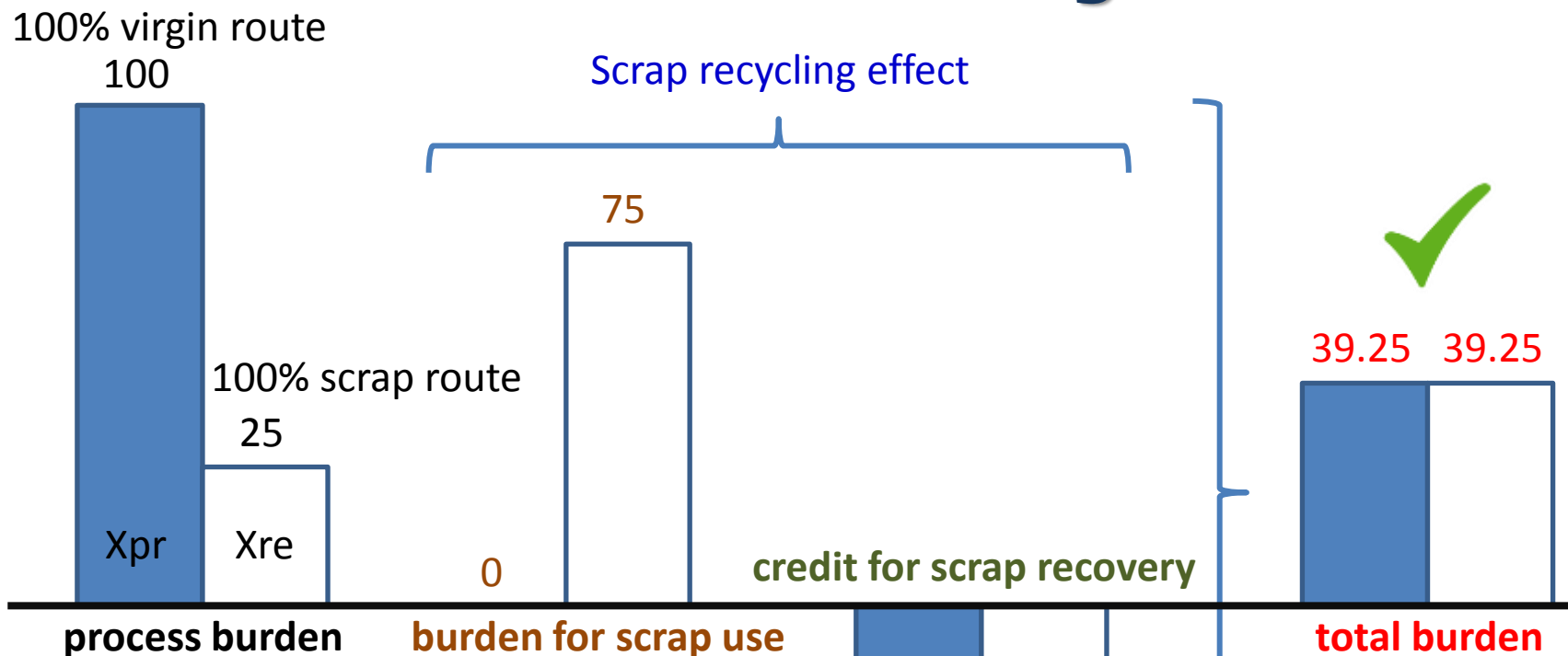
**credit for scrap recovery equals to  $67.5 \times 0.9 = 60.75$**

And when the yield is 0.9, then

**burden for scrap use equals to  $67.5/0.9 = 75$**

**Scrap recycling effects**

# A case study



Process burden of 100% virgin root:  $X_{pr} = 100$   
 Process burden of 100% scrap root :  $X_{re} = 25$   
 Scrap environmental value =  $(100 - 25) \times 0.9 = 67.5$   
 where yield of steel product from scrap = 0.9

Burden for scrap use in 100% virgin root: 0  
 Burden for scrap use in 100% scrap root :  $67.5 / 0.9 = 75$   
 where yield of steel products from scrap = 0.9  
 Credit for scrap recovery =  $67.5 \times 0.9 = 60.75$   
 where scrap recovery rate = 0.9

There is no difference between 100% natural resource route and 100% scrap route if scrap recycling effects are correctly reflected.

# **ISO Development of worldsteel-LCA Methodology**

**ISO 20915: LCI calculation methodology for steel products**

# worldsteel-LCI data collection

Access the most comprehensive and reliable steel life cycle inventory data today:

- 16 key steel products for use in multiple applications
- Global and regional (EU, Asia & Latin America) industry data, representing 250 Mt of global steel production
- Conforms to ISO 14040: 2006 and ISO 14044: 2006



DATA AVAILABLE VIA:  
**worldsteel.org**



thinkstep  
**GaBi**

Currently available in GaBi



**SimaPro**

Coming soon in SimaPro

**worldsteel**  
ASSOCIATION

# Conclusions

- 1. Life Cycle Thinking is the key to keep right direction in global environmental issues**
- 2. Steel has great advantages in terms of material recycling**
- 3. worldsteel LCA methodology gives a clear answer for steel LCA reflecting closed-loop scrap recycling**

**Thank you for your attention**

**Steel,**  
***the most eco-friendly***  
***material***