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### Midnight Express

Authored by Kotaro Sawaki, this book is a travelogue of his own experiences as a backpacker. It vividly conveys excitement,

difficulties and local situations experienced by Sawaki in foreign countries as he wandered from one country to another. It surely makes the reader feel like setting out on a journey. I was no exception. In fact, I carried a backpack and visited Egypt and other countries during the spring holiday season of my undergraduate days.

# Combustion Theory – Second Edition -

This book provides detailed explanation of combustion phenomena theoretically and mathematically, which makes it a "classic" in this field. It approaches combustion from a perspective of reactive fluid dynamics and make effective use of numerical formulas to describe specific phenomena. While this book may be a bit difficult for some readers, it is safe to say that its descriptive style is beautiful. It's the most important reference book for the theoretical understanding of combustion.

# Combustion, Flames and Explosions of Gases – Third Edition -

Using a phenomenological approach, this reference book introduces combustion phenomena in a systematized, easy-to-understand way based on a variety of experimental data. As such, the book is a "Bible" among researchers specializing in combustion experiments. Even today, 30 years after the book was first published, its contents and data remain fresh and useful, allowing it to be used in a wide range of research fields.

### Combustion Physics

This volume was published in 2006 based on a textbook that Prof. C. L. Law, Ex-Chair of the International Combustion Society, had prepared and used for his own lectures at Princeton University.

It explains combustion thoroughly and in an easy-to-understand way, the contents ranging widely from chemical reactions and other basic aspects to the latest combustion theories. At present, it is one of the world's most widely used textbooks on combustion.

# H-II Rocket Skyward!

Backed by a variety of data, this book is a detailed account of the path to the successful launch of Japan's domestic H-II Rocket. It became a reality after engineers and researchers involved in the rocket development overcame many difficulties and failures. I decided to become a researcher partly because this book motivated me and I found being a researcher would be cool.

### Fundamentals of Combustion Phenomena

A number of renowned Japanese researchers coauthored this introductory book on combustion engineering for the development of combustion studies in Japan. While its primary aim is to promote the understanding of fundamentals of combustion phenomena, the book also introduces the latest topics. As such, I strongly recommend all those, who are involved in combustion research, to begin by reading it.