

# Plasma Assisted Combustion Mechanism for Small Hydrocarbons

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University



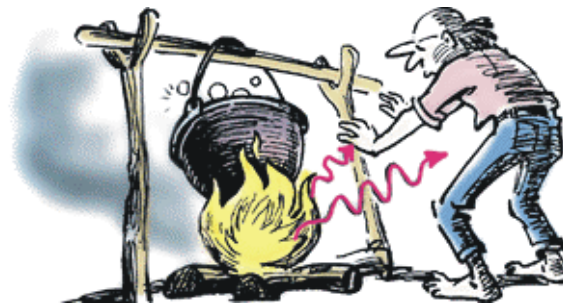
| Report Documentation Page                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | Form Approved<br>OMB No. 0704-0188                  |                                    |
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| 1. REPORT DATE<br><b>2015</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    | 2. REPORT TYPE                      |                                                                  | 3. DATES COVERED<br><b>00-00-2015 to 00-00-2015</b> |                                    |
| 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE<br><b>Plasma Assisted Combustion Mechanism for Small Hydrocarbons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5a. CONTRACT NUMBER                                 |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5b. GRANT NUMBER                                    |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER                          |                                    |
| 6. AUTHOR(S)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5d. PROJECT NUMBER                                  |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5e. TASK NUMBER                                     |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER                                |                                    |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)<br><b>Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 08544</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION<br>REPORT NUMBER         |                                    |
| 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)                    |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     |                                                                  | 11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT<br>NUMBER(S)           |                                    |
| 12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT<br><b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                     |                                                                  |                                                     |                                    |
| 13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES<br><b>AFOSR MURI 2015 Fifth Year Review Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                    |                                     |                                                                  |                                                     |                                    |
| 14. ABSTRACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                    |                                     |                                                                  |                                                     |                                    |
| 15. SUBJECT TERMS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                    |                                     |                                                                  |                                                     |                                    |
| 16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                    |                                     | 17. LIMITATION OF<br>ABSTRACT<br><b>Same as<br/>Report (SAR)</b> | 18. NUMBER<br>OF PAGES<br><b>45</b>                 | 19a. NAME OF<br>RESPONSIBLE PERSON |
| a. REPORT<br><b>unclassified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | b. ABSTRACT<br><b>unclassified</b> | c. THIS PAGE<br><b>unclassified</b> |                                                                  |                                                     |                                    |

# Ignition, Combustion and Flame Control by Nonequilibrium Plasma

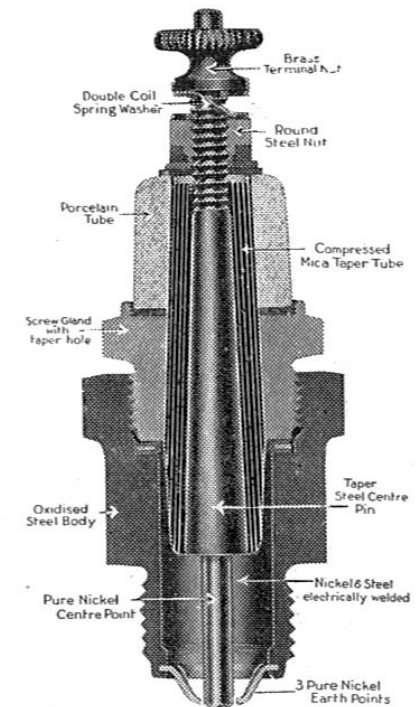


**1814 – Brande. Flame/Field Interaction**

**W.T. Brande. Phil.Trans.Roy.Soc., 1814,104, 51.**



In 1860 Étienne Lenoir used an electric spark plug in his gas engine, the first internal combustion piston engine and is generally credited with the invention of the spark plug



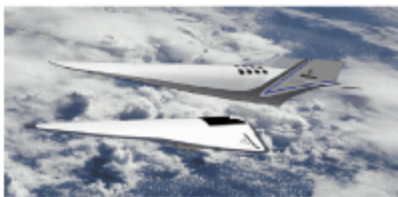
# Propulsion Efficiency and Operating Regimes for Variety of Flight Systems



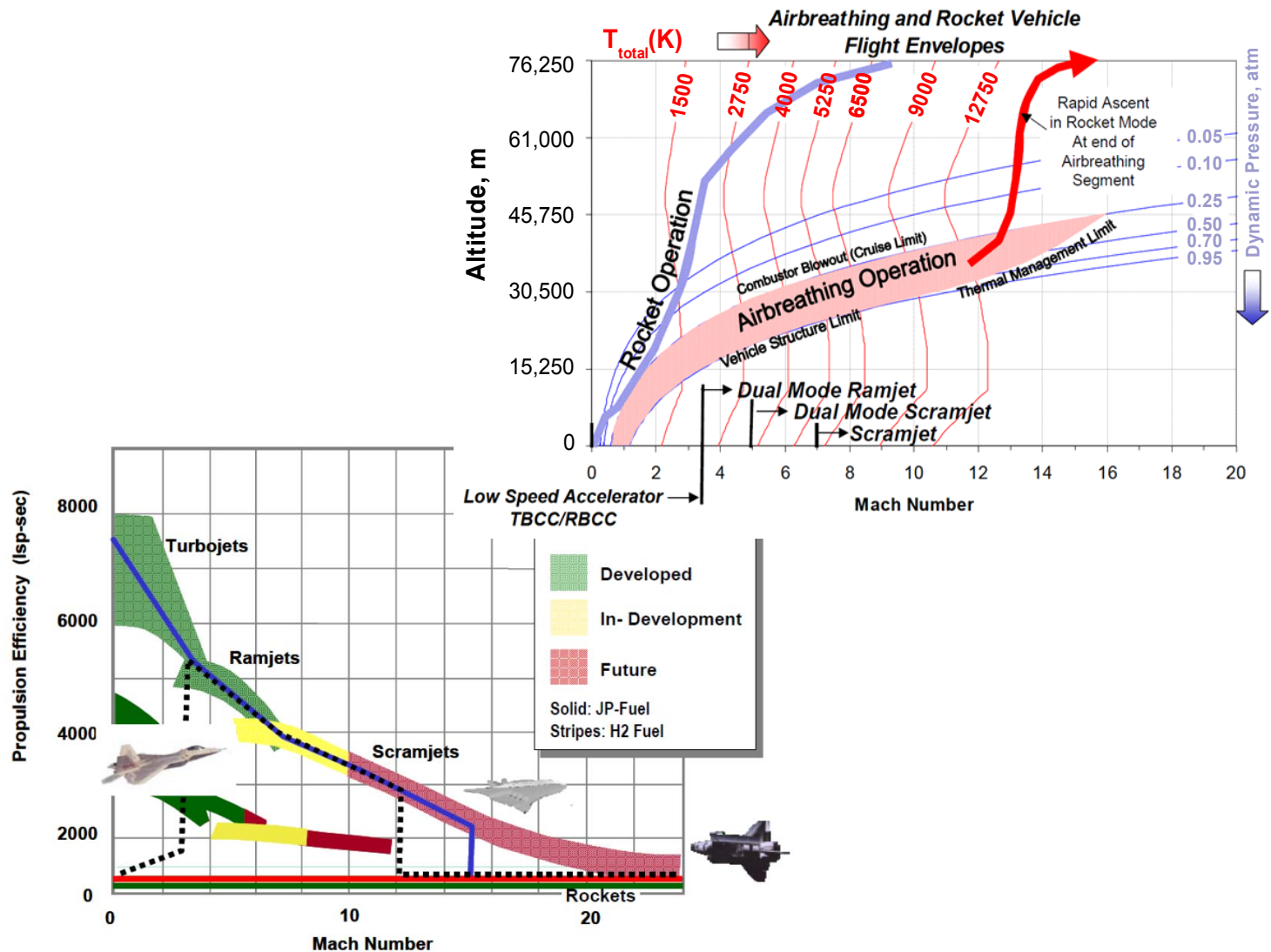
(a)



(b)

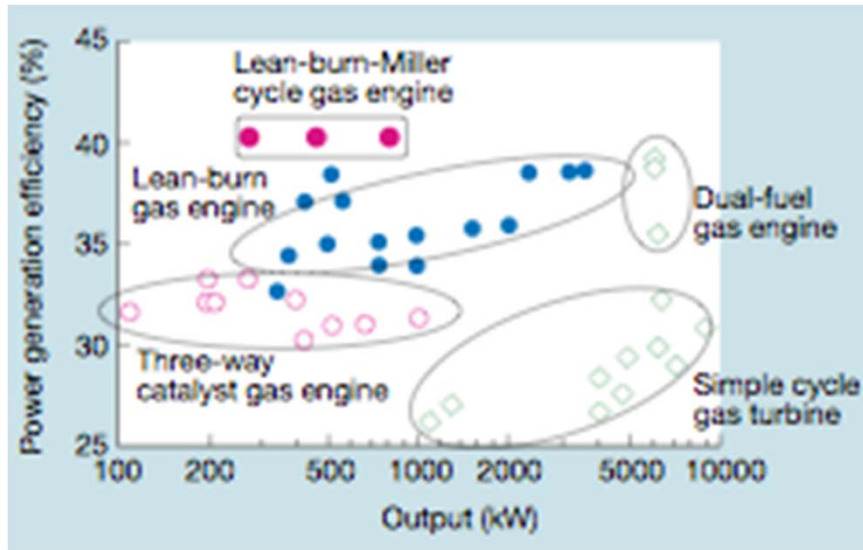


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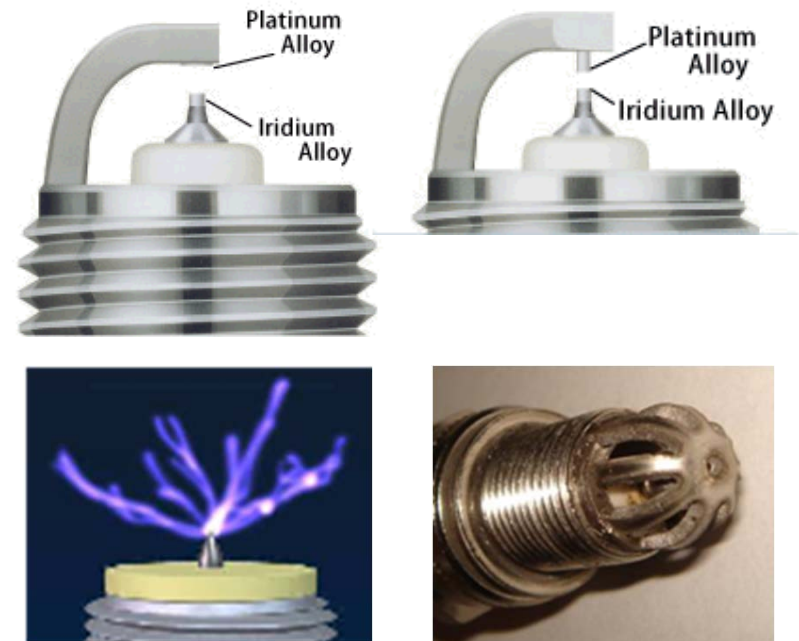
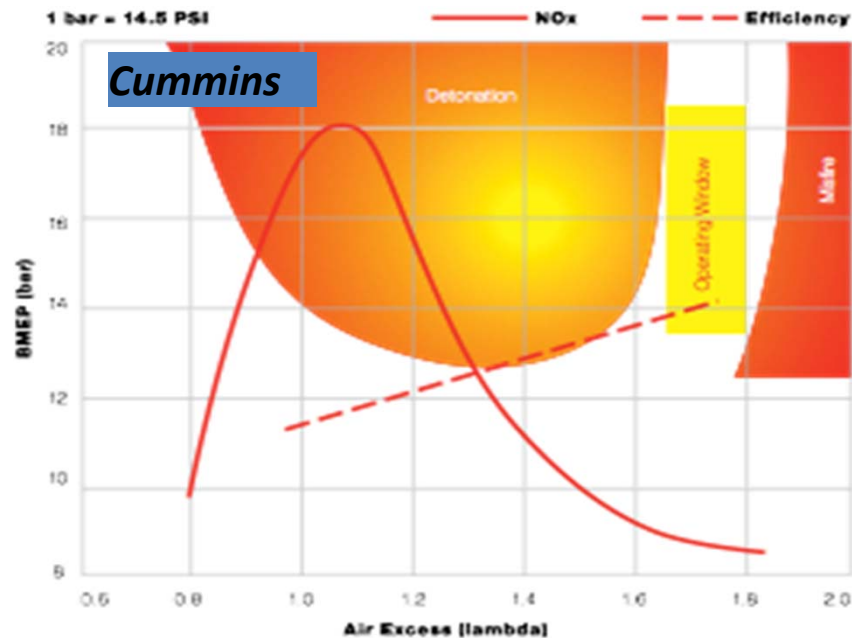




# Lean Ignition for Gas IC Engines



- Regular spark plugs  $\lambda < 1.4$
- Regular spark plugs with thin (Iridium/Platinum) electrodes  $\lambda < 1.6$
- RF, “plasma”, etc. plugs  $\lambda < 1.8$

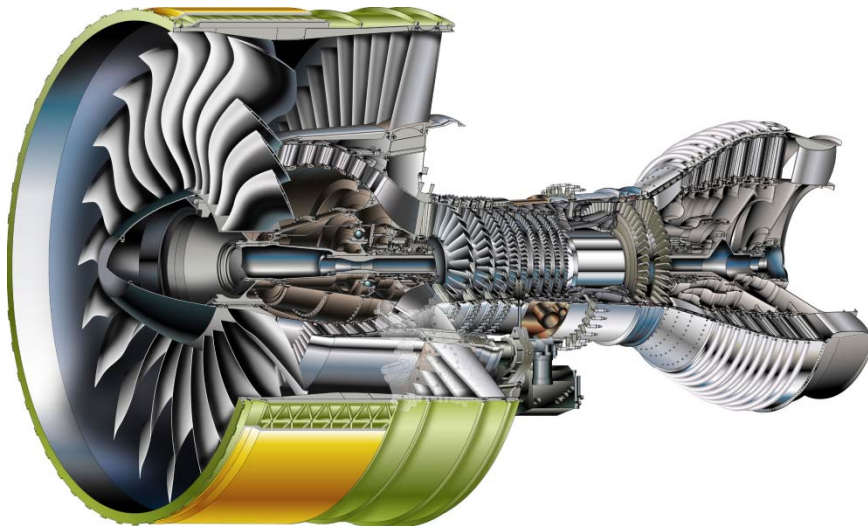
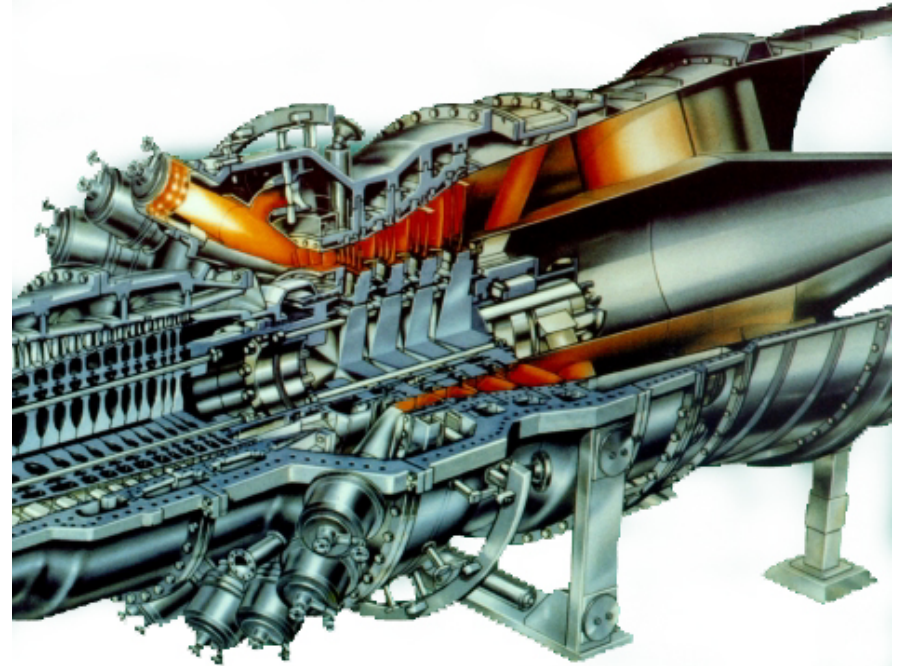


# GTE Lean Regimes

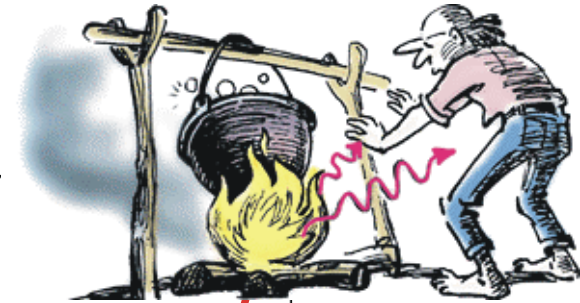
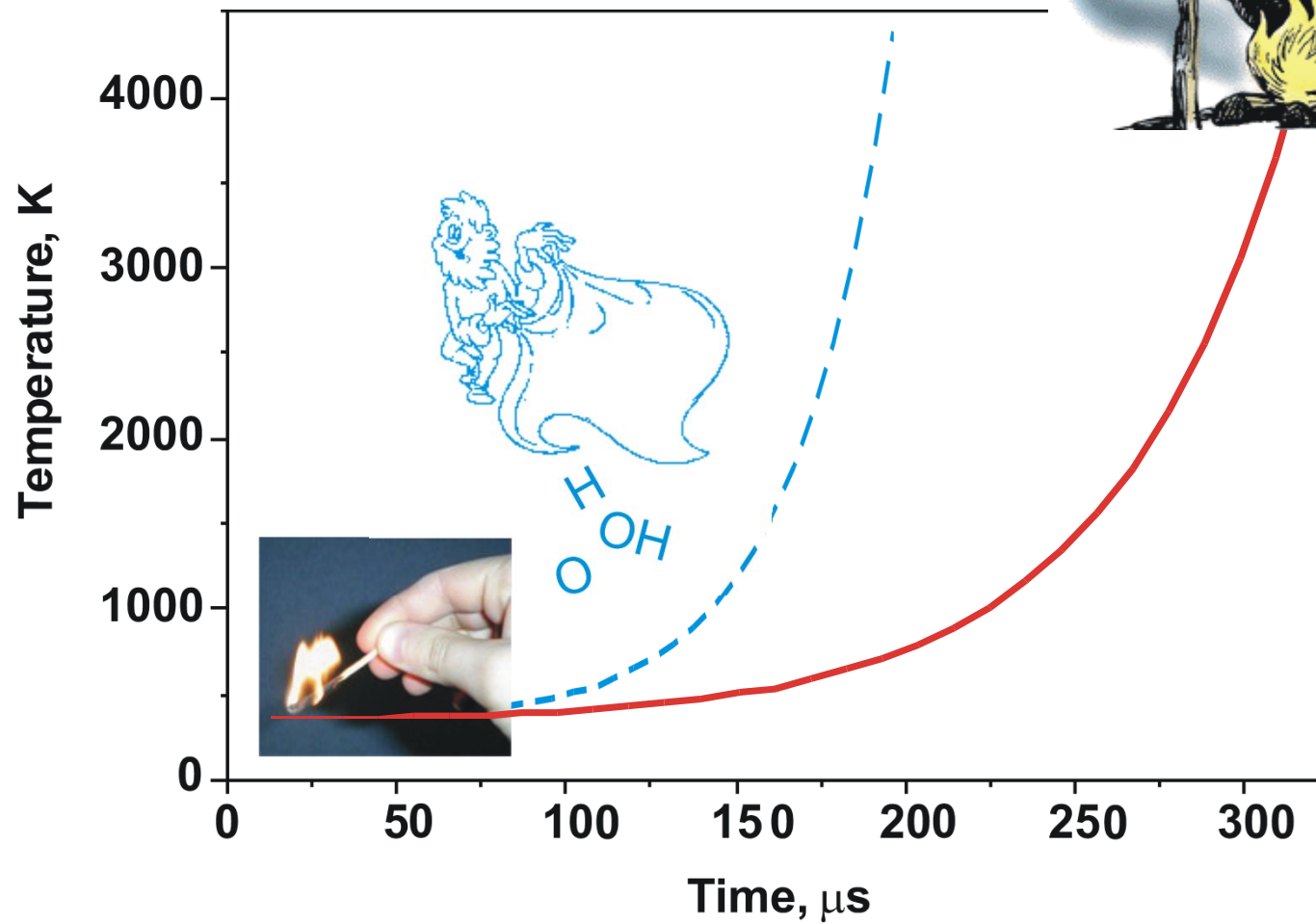
**$T = 700 - 1300 \text{ K}$**

**$P = 20 - 30 \text{ atm}$**

**$W = 10 - 1000 \text{ MW}$**



# Decreasing of Ignition Delay Time - 1994



# Kinetic Model: Previous Versions

**D.V.Zatsepin, S.M.Starikovskaia, A.Yu.Starikovskii** *Hydrogen oxidation in a stoichiometric hydrogen-air mixtures in the fast ionization wave.* Combust. Theory Modeling, 2001. V.5 pp.97-129.

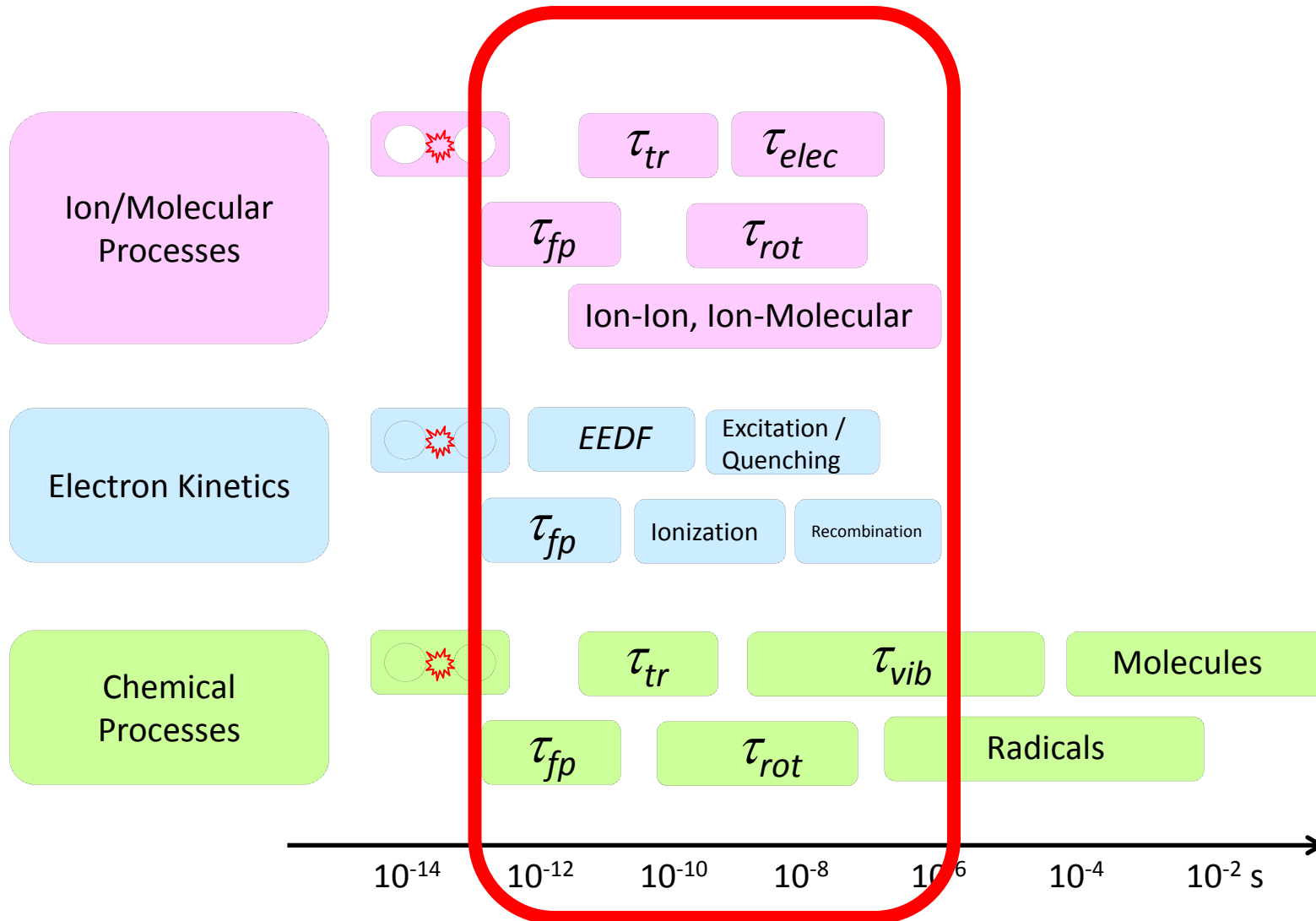
**N.A.Popov.** *Effect of a Pulsed High-Current Discharge on Hydrogen–Air Mixtures.* Plasma Physics Reports, 2008, Vol. 34, No. 5, pp. 376–391.

**I.N. Kosarev, N.L. Aleksandrov, S.V. Kindysheva, S.M. Starikovskaia , A.Yu. Starikovskii.** *Kinetics of ignition of saturated hydrocarbons by nonequilibrium plasma: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>- to C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>12</sub>-containing mixtures.* Combustion and Flame 156 (2009) 221–233

**A.Starikovskiy, N.Aleksandrov.** *Plasma-assisted ignition and combustion.* Progress in Energy and Combustion Science 39 (2013) 61-110

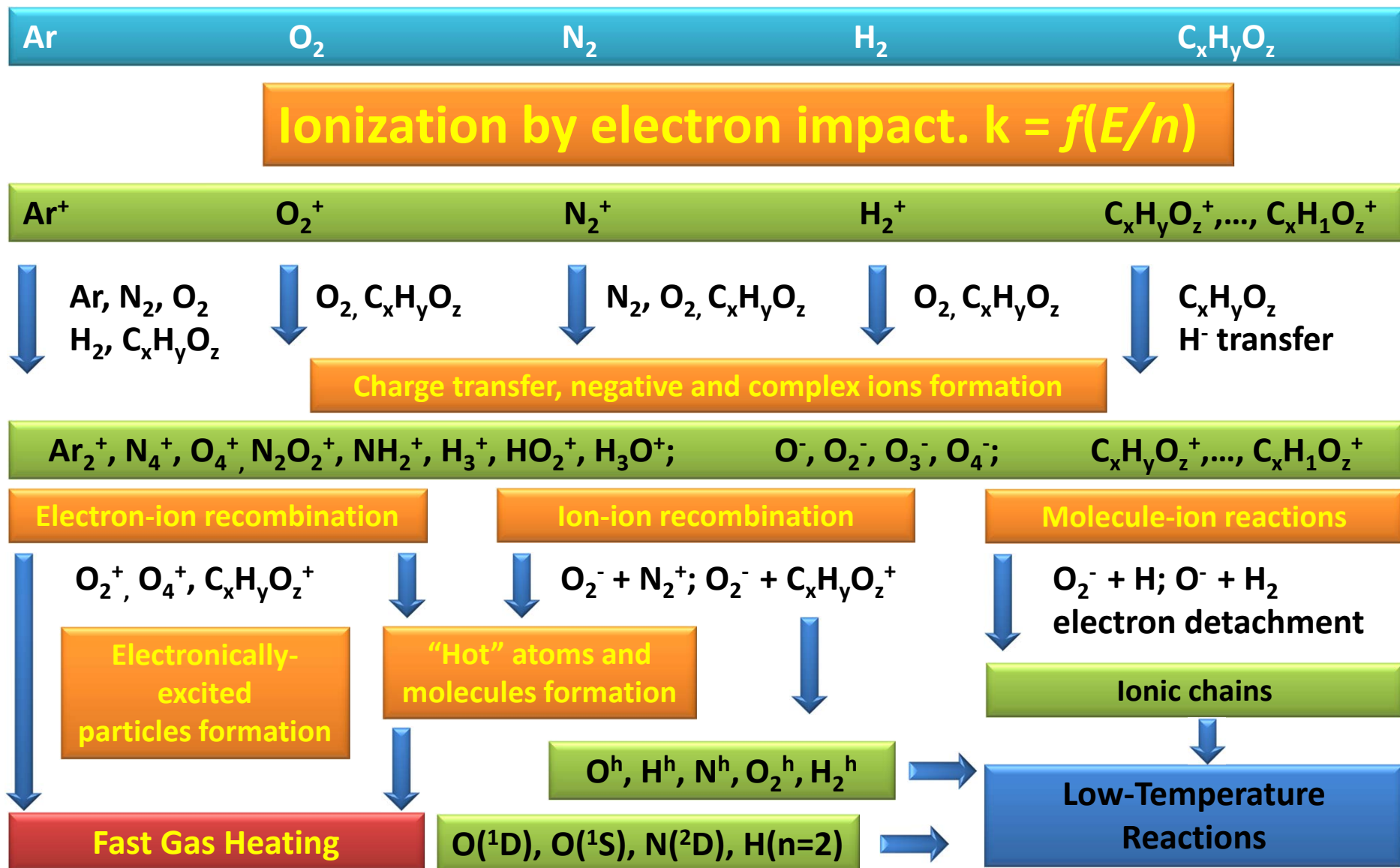
# Predictive Modeling:

## Key to Applications



# Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

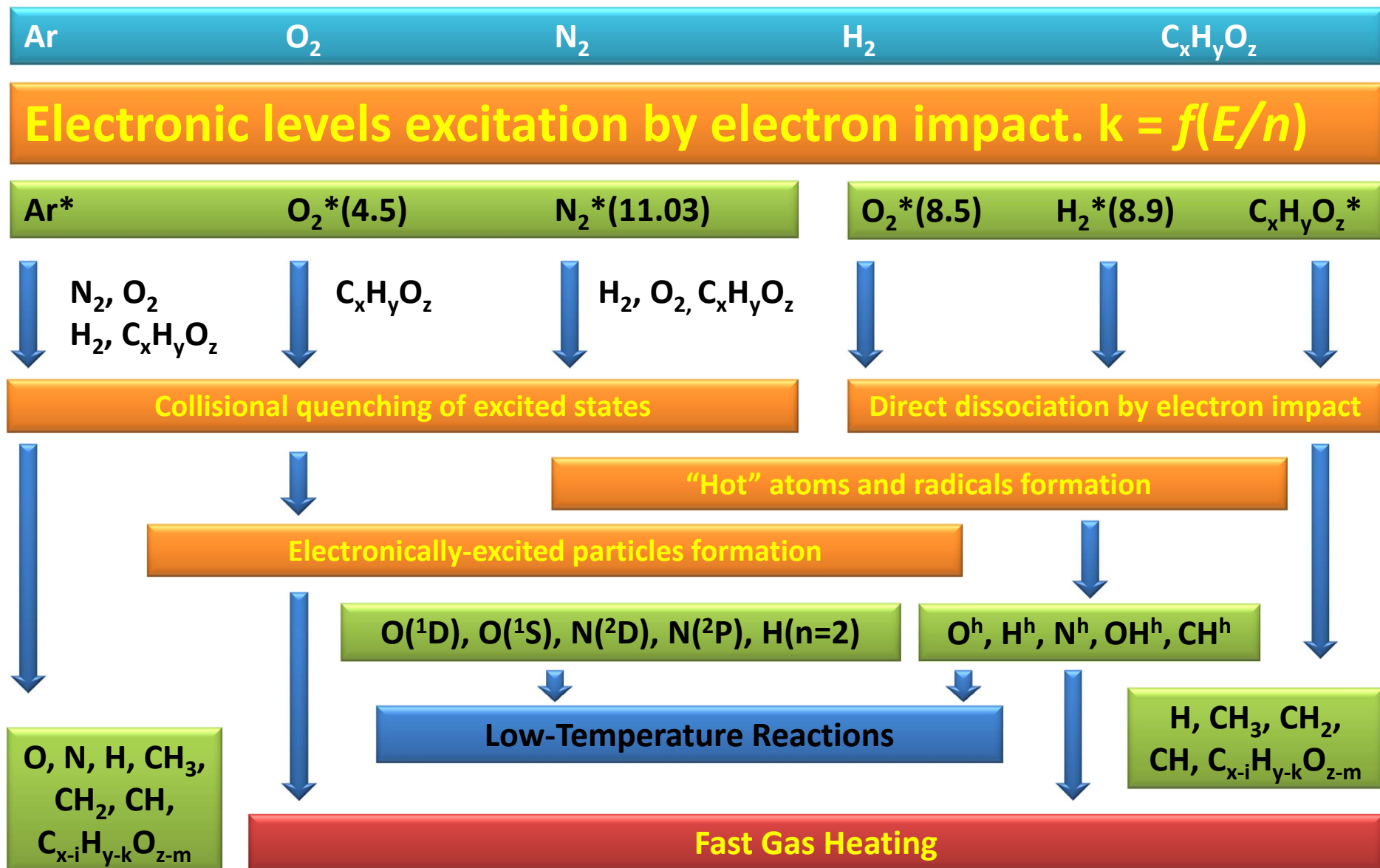
## *Major Pathways*





# Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

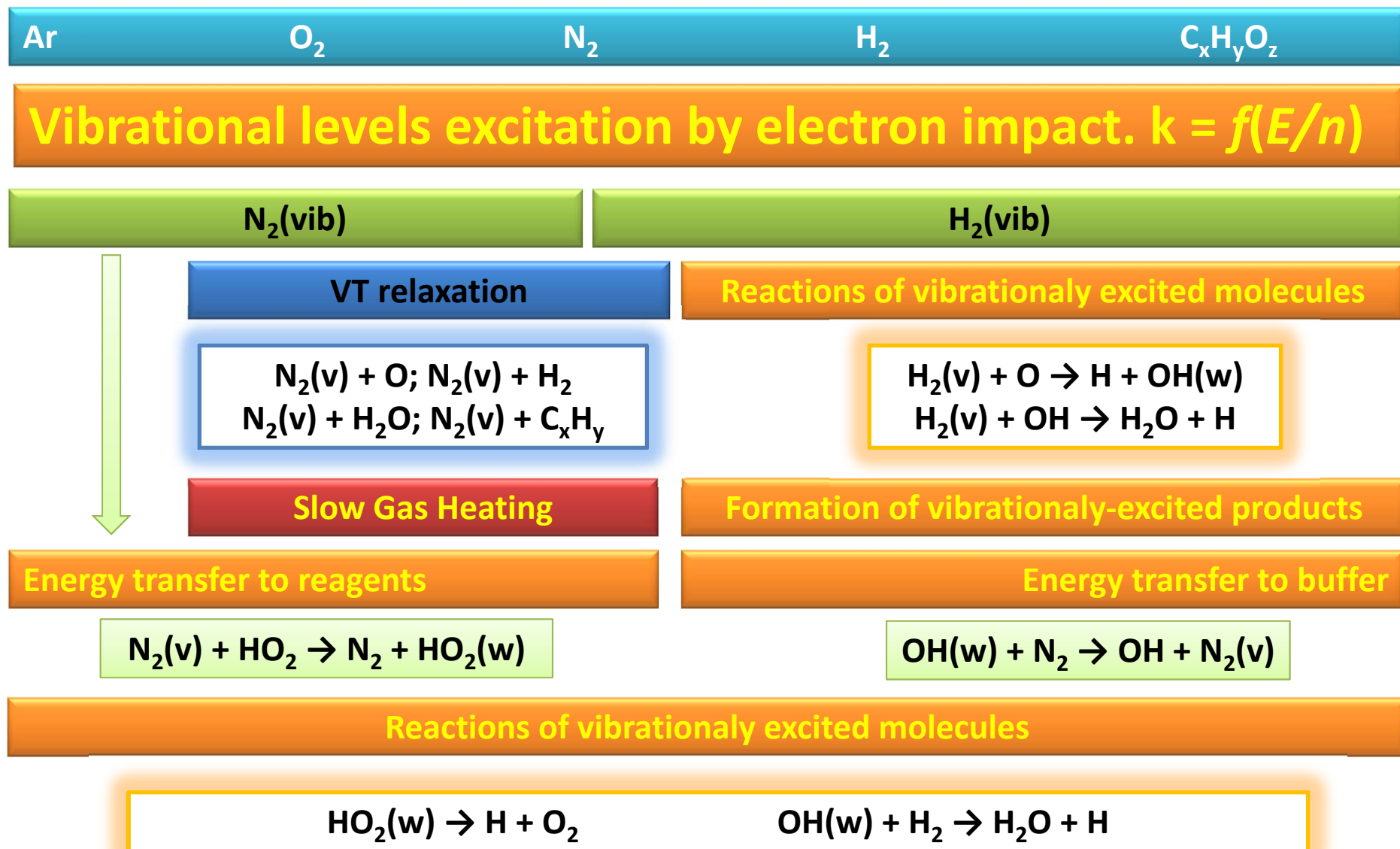
## *Major Pathways*



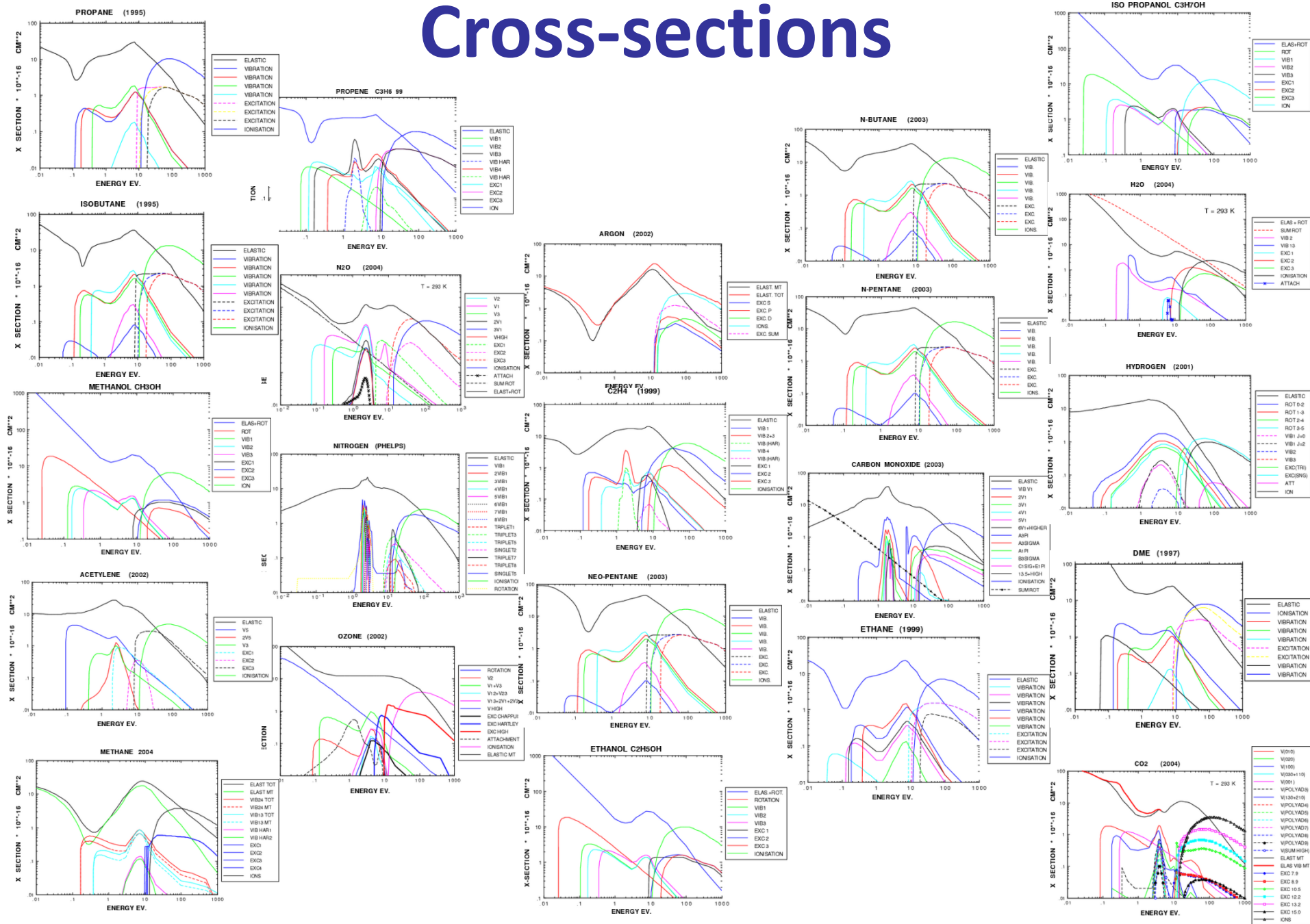


# Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

## *Major Pathways*



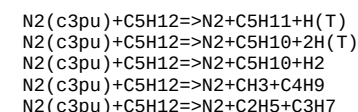
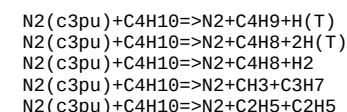
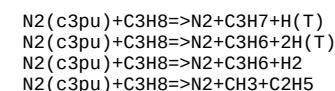
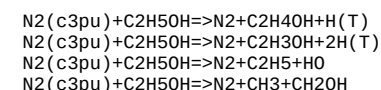
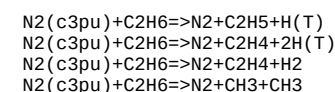
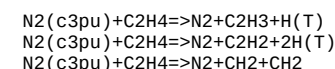
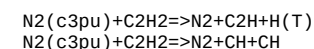
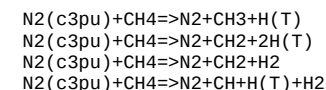
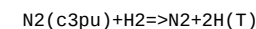
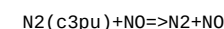
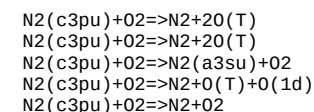
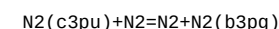
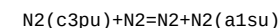
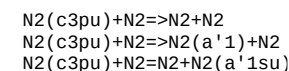
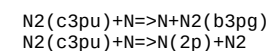
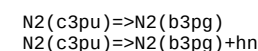
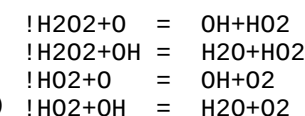
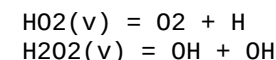
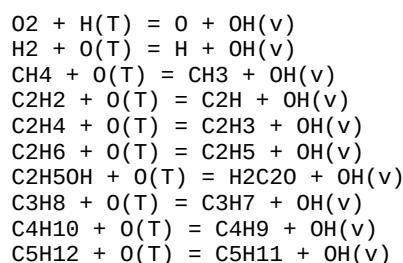
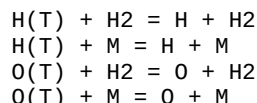
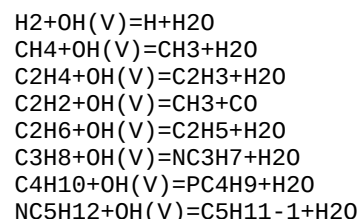
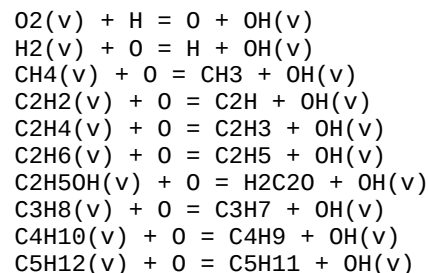
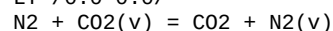
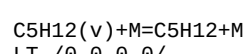
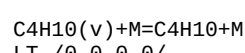
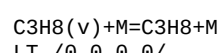
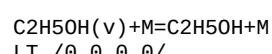
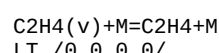
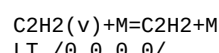
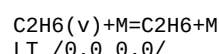
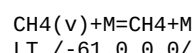
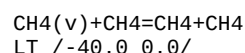
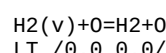
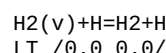
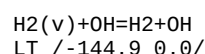
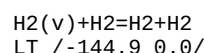
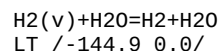
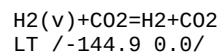
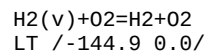
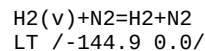
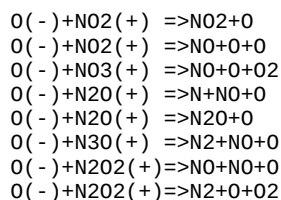
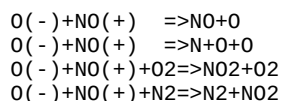
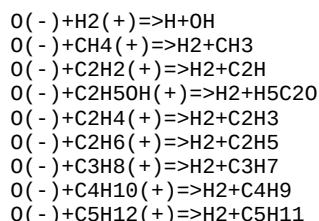
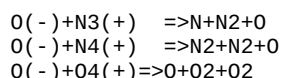
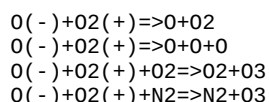
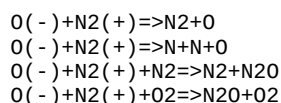
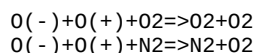
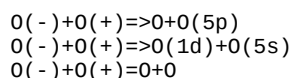
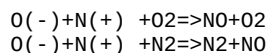
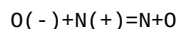
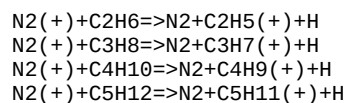
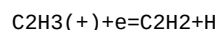
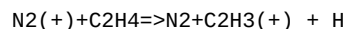
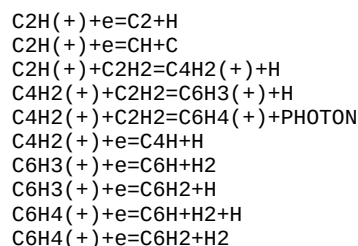
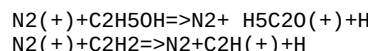
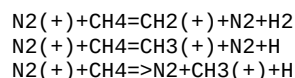
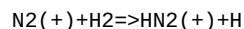
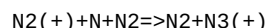
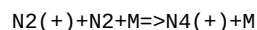
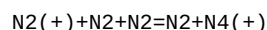
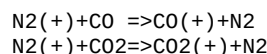
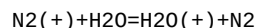
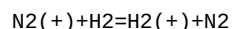
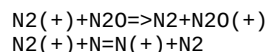
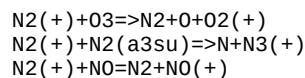
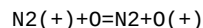
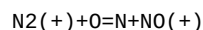
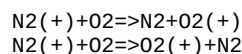
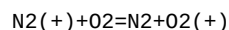
# Cross-sections



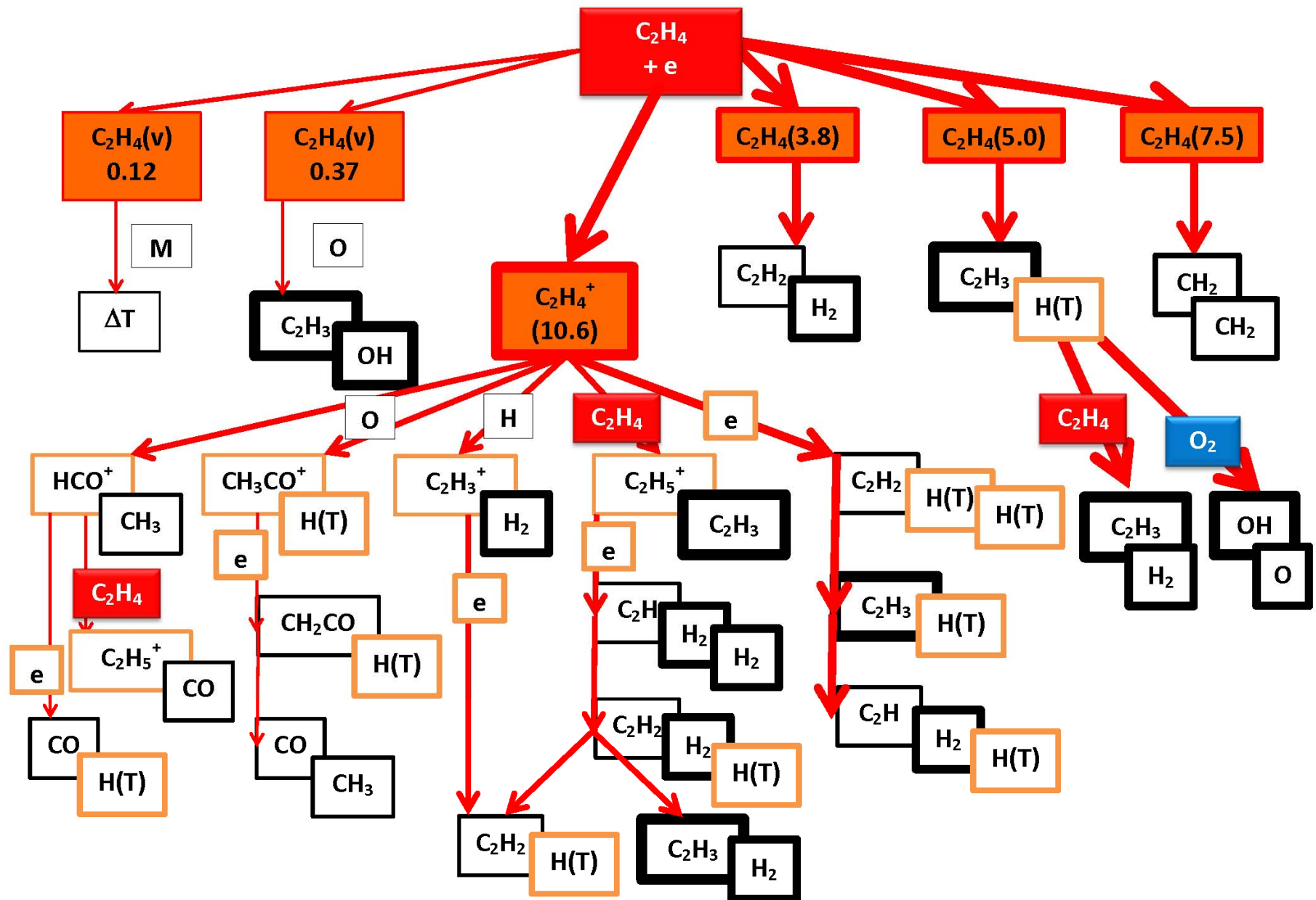
# Cross-sections Available

| Atmospheric | Saturated | Unsaturated | Oxygenated  | Isomers     |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|             |           |             |             |             |
| N2          | CH4       | C2H2        | CO          | iso-butane  |
| O2          | C2H6      | C2H4        | CH3OH       | iso-propane |
| CO2         | C3H8      | C3H6        | C2H5OH      | neo-pentane |
| H2O         | C4H10     |             | CH3OCH3 DME |             |
| O3          | C5H12     |             |             |             |
| Ar          | H2        |             |             |             |
| N2O         |           |             |             |             |

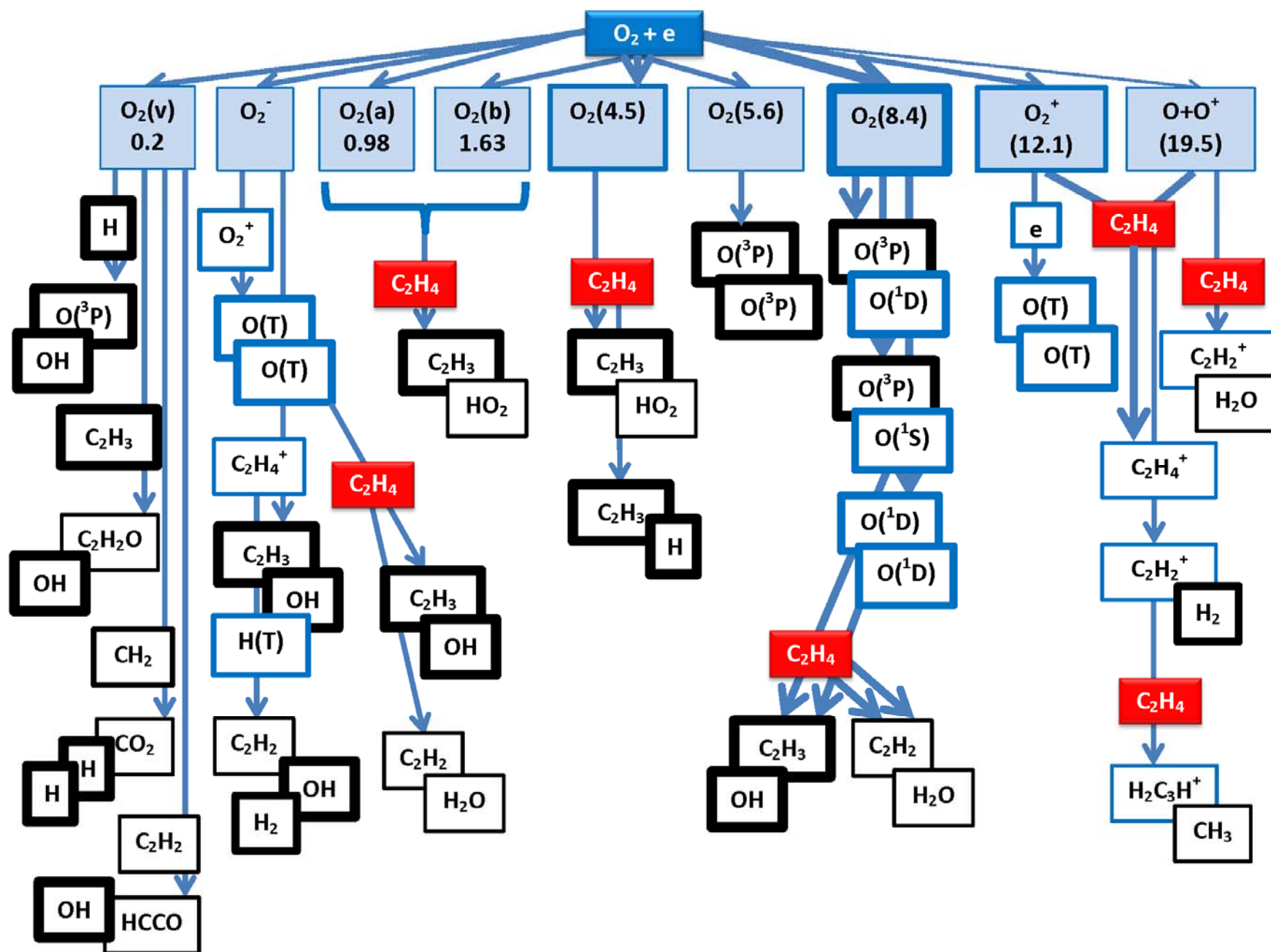
# PAC Kinetic Mechanism



# PAC Pathways: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air

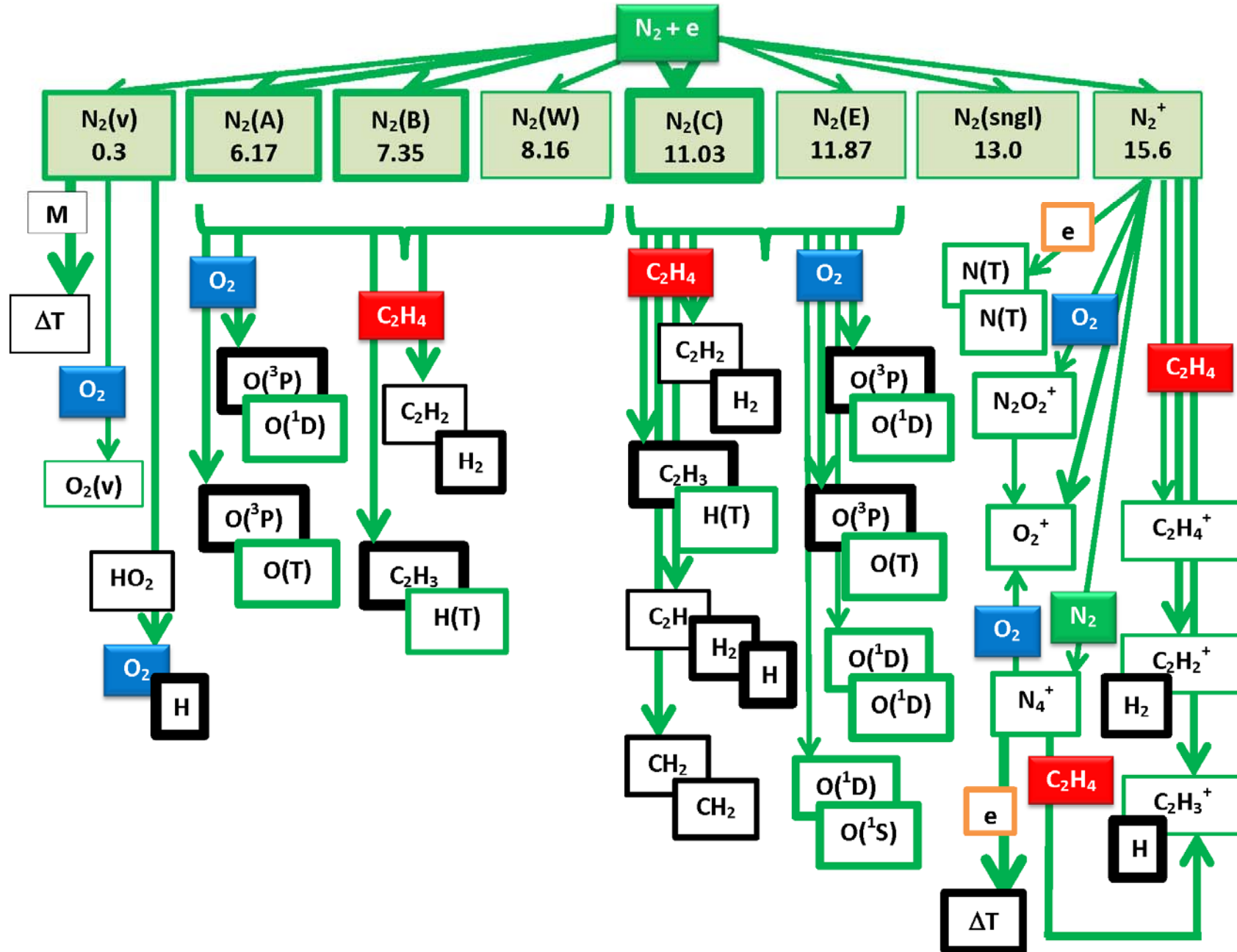


# PAC Pathways: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air



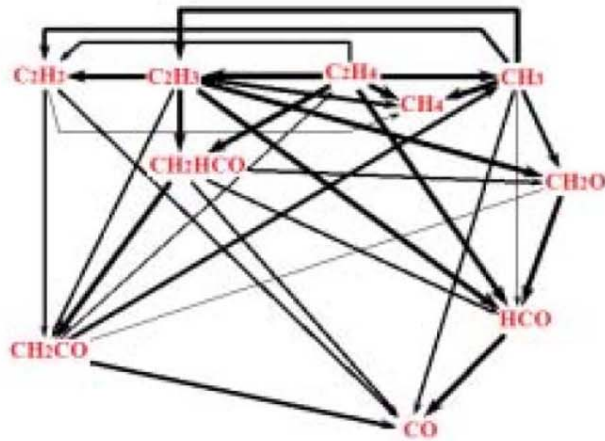


# PAC Pathways: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air

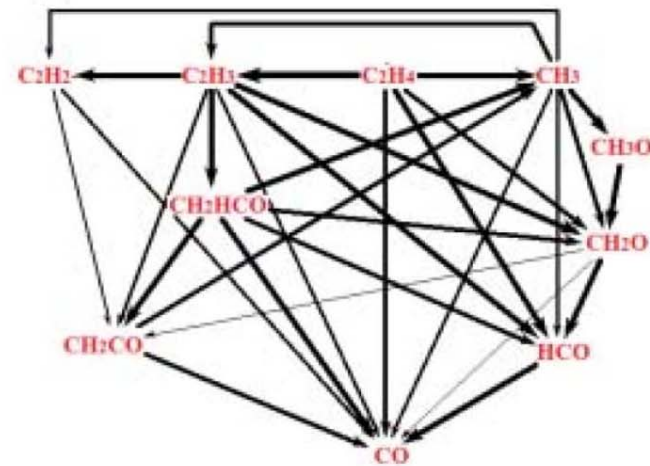




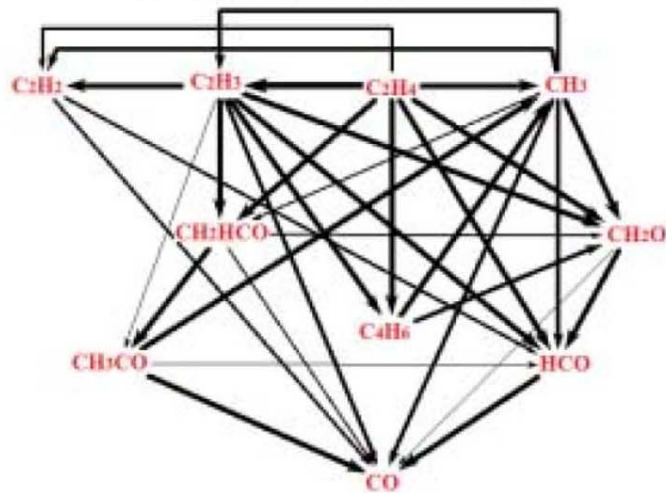
Pathway analysis in ignition process at the time of  $T=1360\text{K}$   
for  $\Phi = 1$ ,  $\text{Ar}=92\%$ ,  $P=2.1\text{atm}$  and initial  $T=1350\text{K}$ . Konnov, 2014



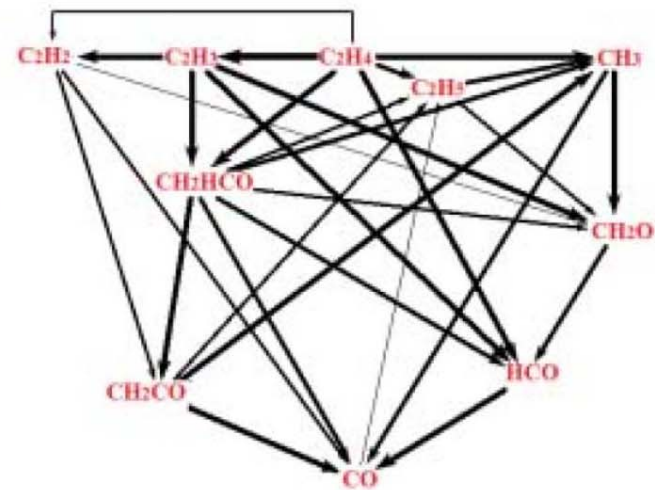
(LLNL nButane mechanism)



(USC mechanism)

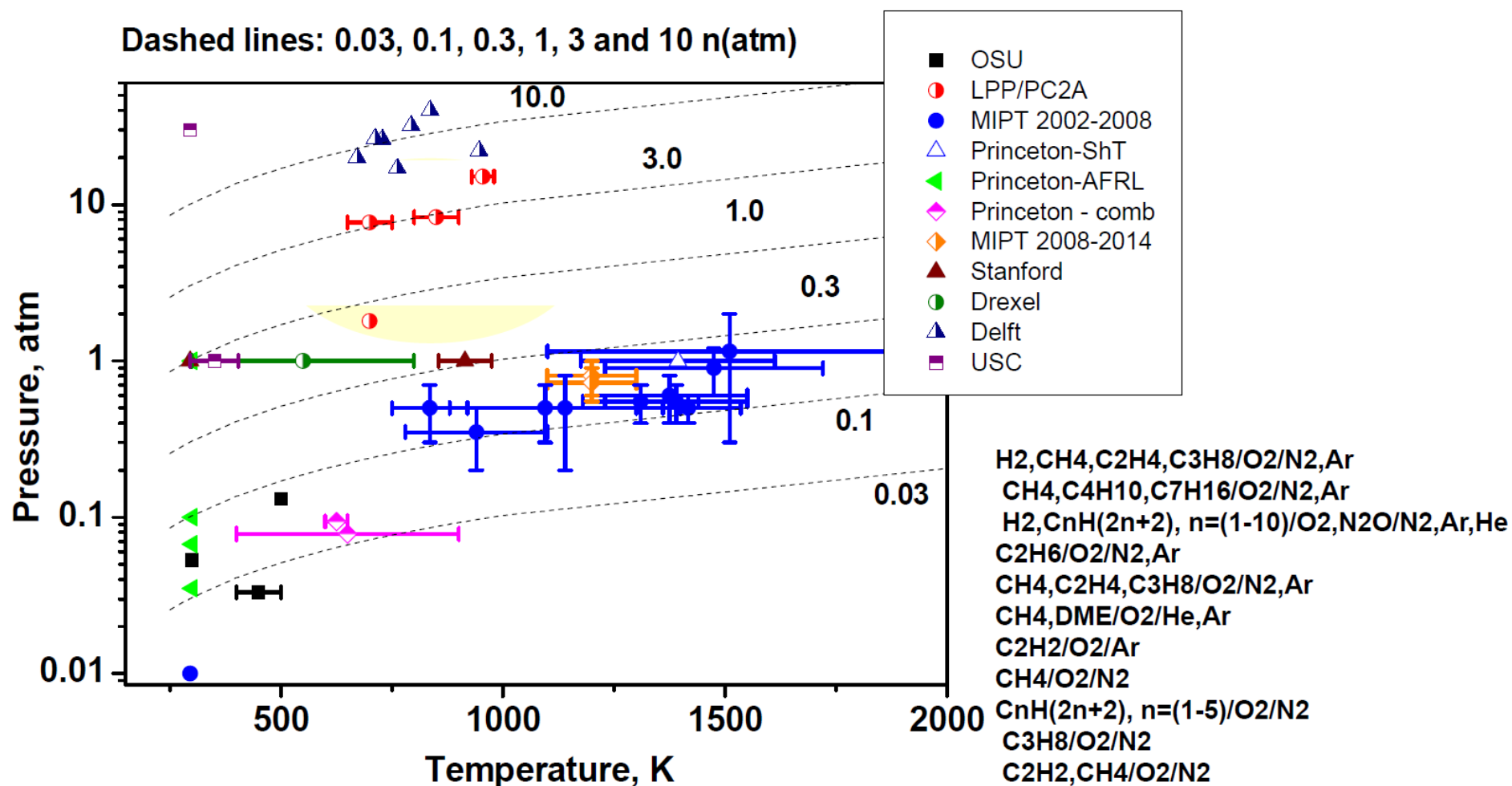


(Konnov mechanism)



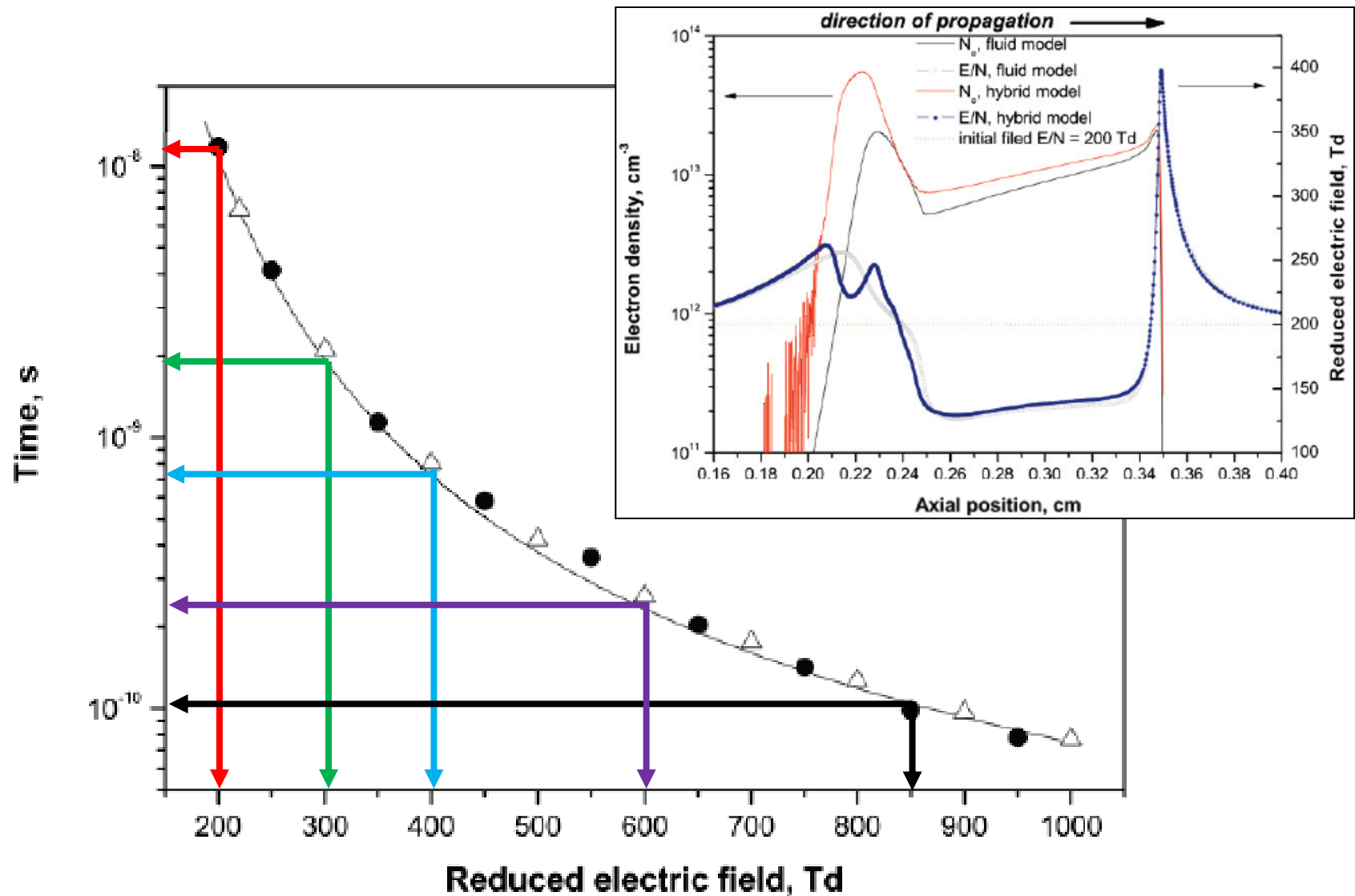
(UCSD mechanism)

# Where PAC Experimental Data is Available



S M Starikovskaia, J. Phys. D.: Appl. Phys, 47 (2014) 353001(34pp)

# Avalanche to Streamer Transition in Uniform Electric Field (air, 1 bar, 300 K, 1 cm, various E/n)

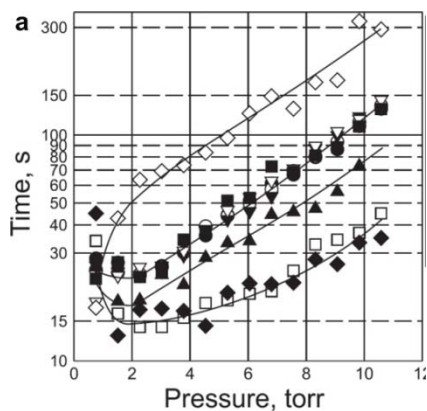


# Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

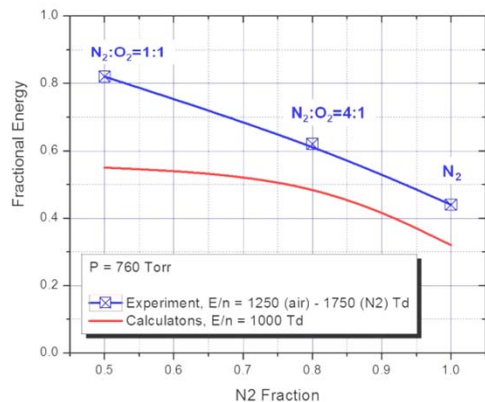
## Mechanism Validation

T = 300 K

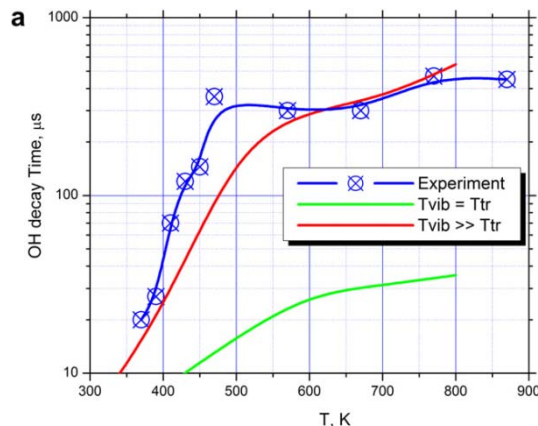
Slow Oxidation of H<sub>2</sub>, C1-C10  
P = 1-10 Torr



Fast Gas Heating Mechanism.  
N<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> mixtures P = 0.2 – 1 atm



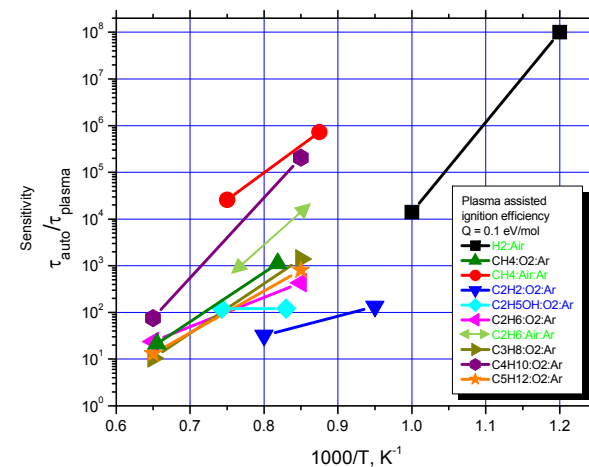
T = 300 - 800 K



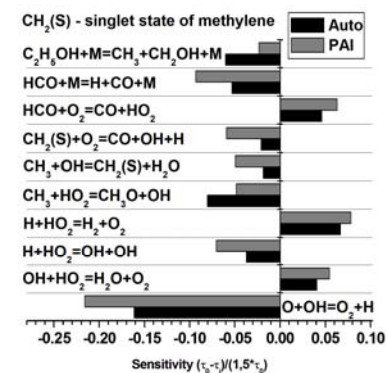
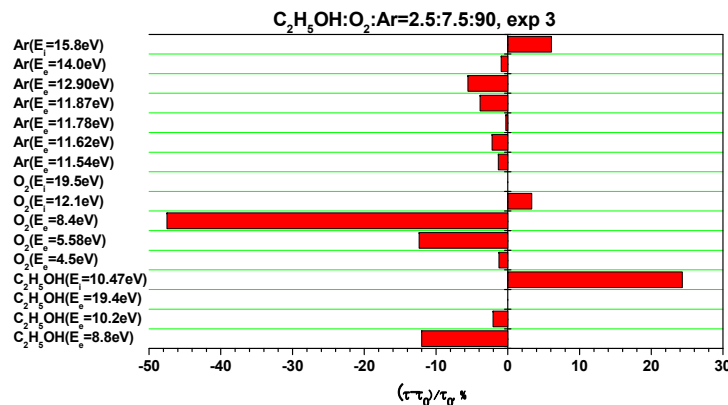
Oxidation Chains Development  
in Lean H<sub>2</sub>, CO, C1-C4 - Air  
Mixtures. P = 1 atm

T = 800 – 1700 K

Ignition Delay Time Reduction.  
H<sub>2</sub>, C1-C5, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH – O<sub>2</sub>-Ar  
Mixtures. P = 0.3-0.5 atm



Sensitivity Analysis for Discharge and Combustion Stages



# SDBD Discharge and Fast Heating

Gate = 0.5 ns

Time shift between frames is 1 ns

The movie duration is 41 ns

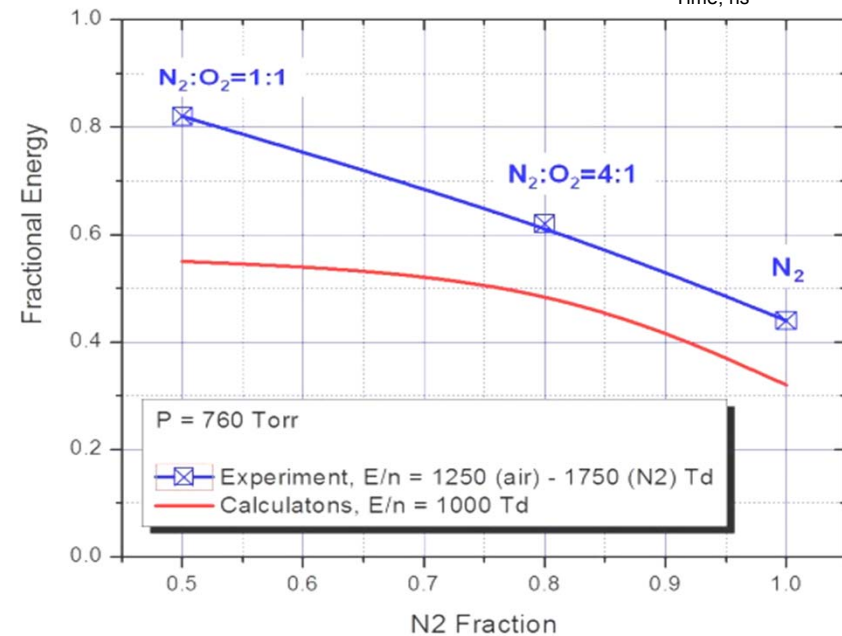
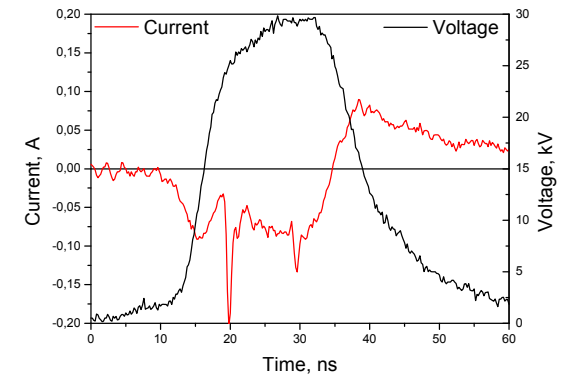
Impulse Parameters

$V = 14$  kV

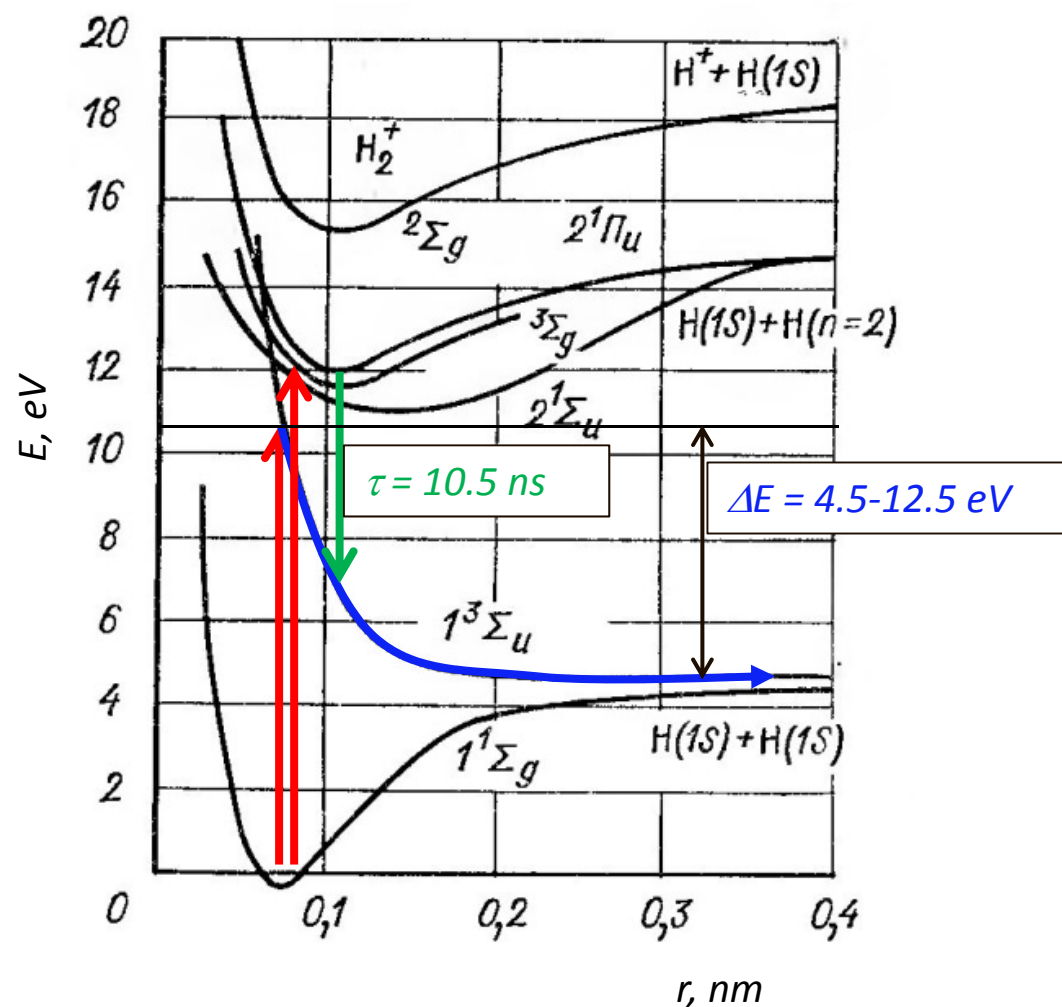
$t_{1/2} = 20$  ns

Frequency = 1 kHz

Velocity = 0.4 mm/ns



# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Hydrogen

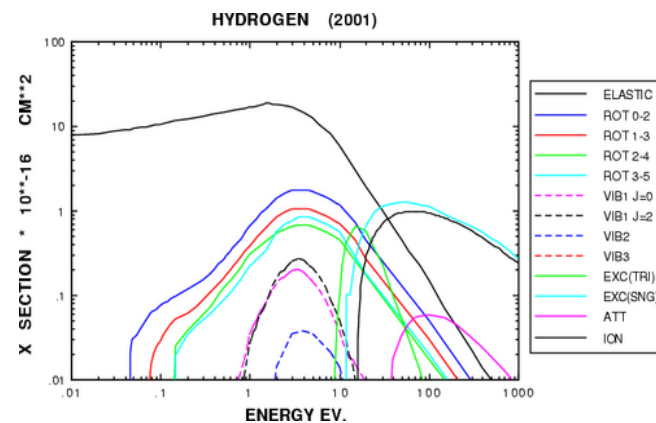


$H_2(b^3\Sigma_u)$ , 8.9 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.33 \text{ \AA}^2 (17 \text{ eV})$

$H_2(a^3\Sigma_g)$ , 11.8 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.12 \text{ \AA}^2 (15 \text{ eV})$

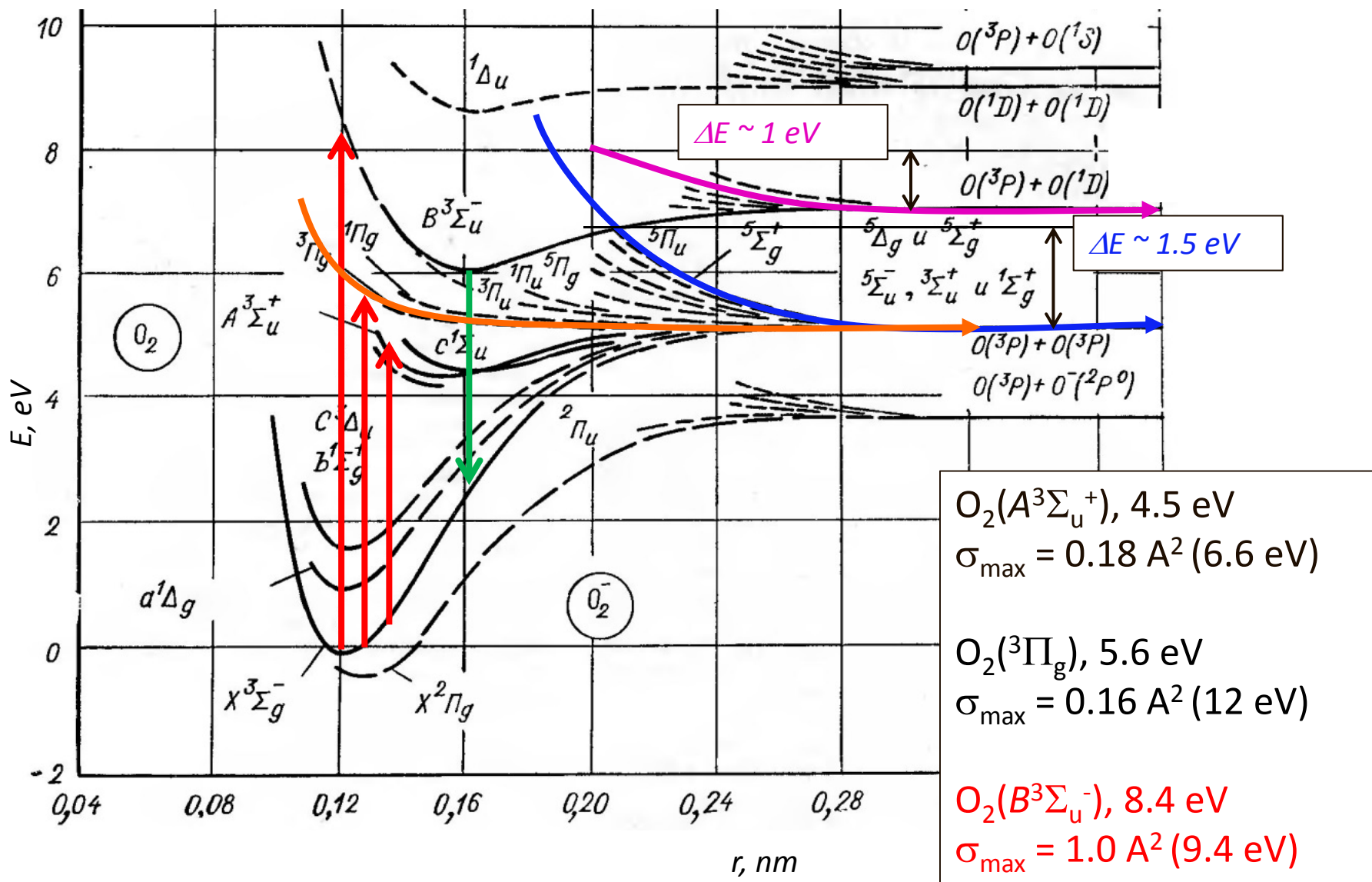
$H_2(B^1\Sigma_u)$ , 11.3 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.48 \text{ \AA}^2 (40 \text{ eV})$

$H_2(C^1\Pi_u)$ , 12.4 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.40 \text{ \AA}^2 (40 \text{ eV})$

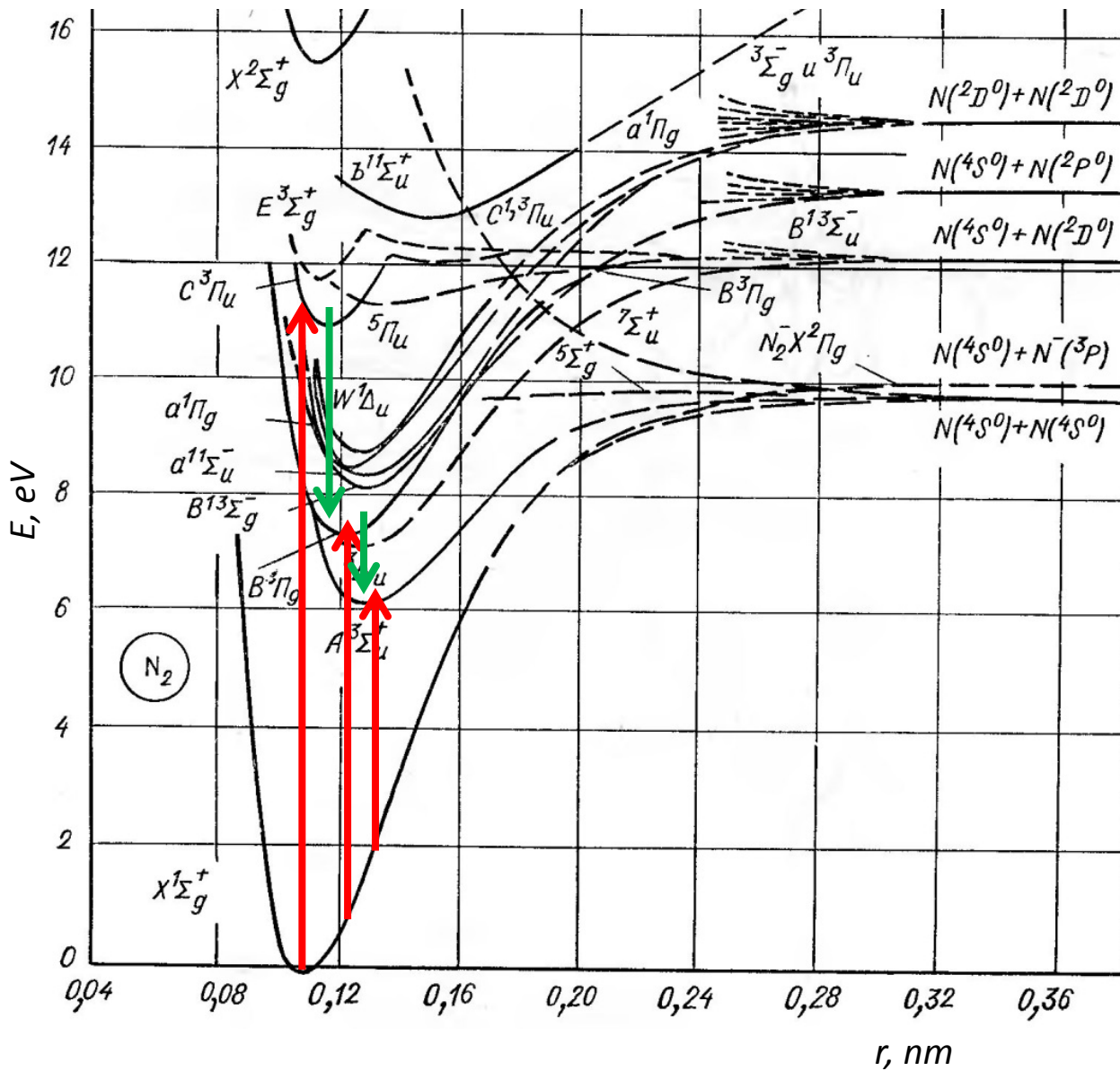




# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Oxygen



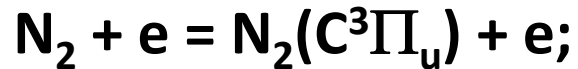
# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Nitrogen


$$\text{N}_2(A^3\Sigma_u^+), 6.2 \text{ eV}$$
$$\sigma_{\max} = 0.08 \text{ A}^2 (10 \text{ eV})$$
$$\text{N}_2(B^3\Pi_g), 7.35 \text{ eV}$$
$$\sigma_{\max} = 0.20 \text{ A}^2 (12 \text{ eV})$$

$\text{N}_2(\text{C}^3\Pi_u)$ , 11.03 eV

$$\sigma_{\max} = 0.98 \text{ A}^2 (14 \text{ eV})$$

# Major Channels of Hot Atoms Production



$$k = f(E/n)$$

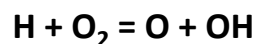


$$k = f(E/n)$$



$$k = f(E/n)$$

# Chain Initiation/Branching Reactions



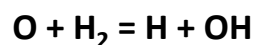
$$k = 1.6 \times 10^{-10} \times \exp(-7470/T) \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

$$k(300) = 2.5 \times 10^{-21} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

$$k(\text{hot}) = 1.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$



$$k(300, 1 \text{ atm}) = 1.6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \quad T_{\text{crit}} \sim T_{\text{autoignition}}$$



$$k = 8.5 \times 10^{-20} \times T^{2.67} \times \exp(-3160/T) \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

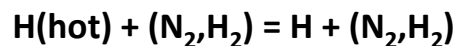
$$k(300) = 9.3 \times 10^{-18} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

$$k(\text{hot}) = 1.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

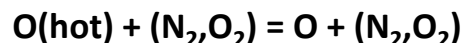
$$k(^1\text{D}) = 1.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$



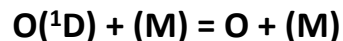
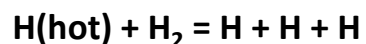
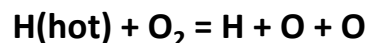
$$k(300, 1 \text{ atm}) = 2.2 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \quad T_{\text{crit}} \sim 650\text{K}$$



$$k \sim 2m/M k_{\text{gk}} \sim 1.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$



$$k \sim 2m/M k_{\text{gk}} \sim 1.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

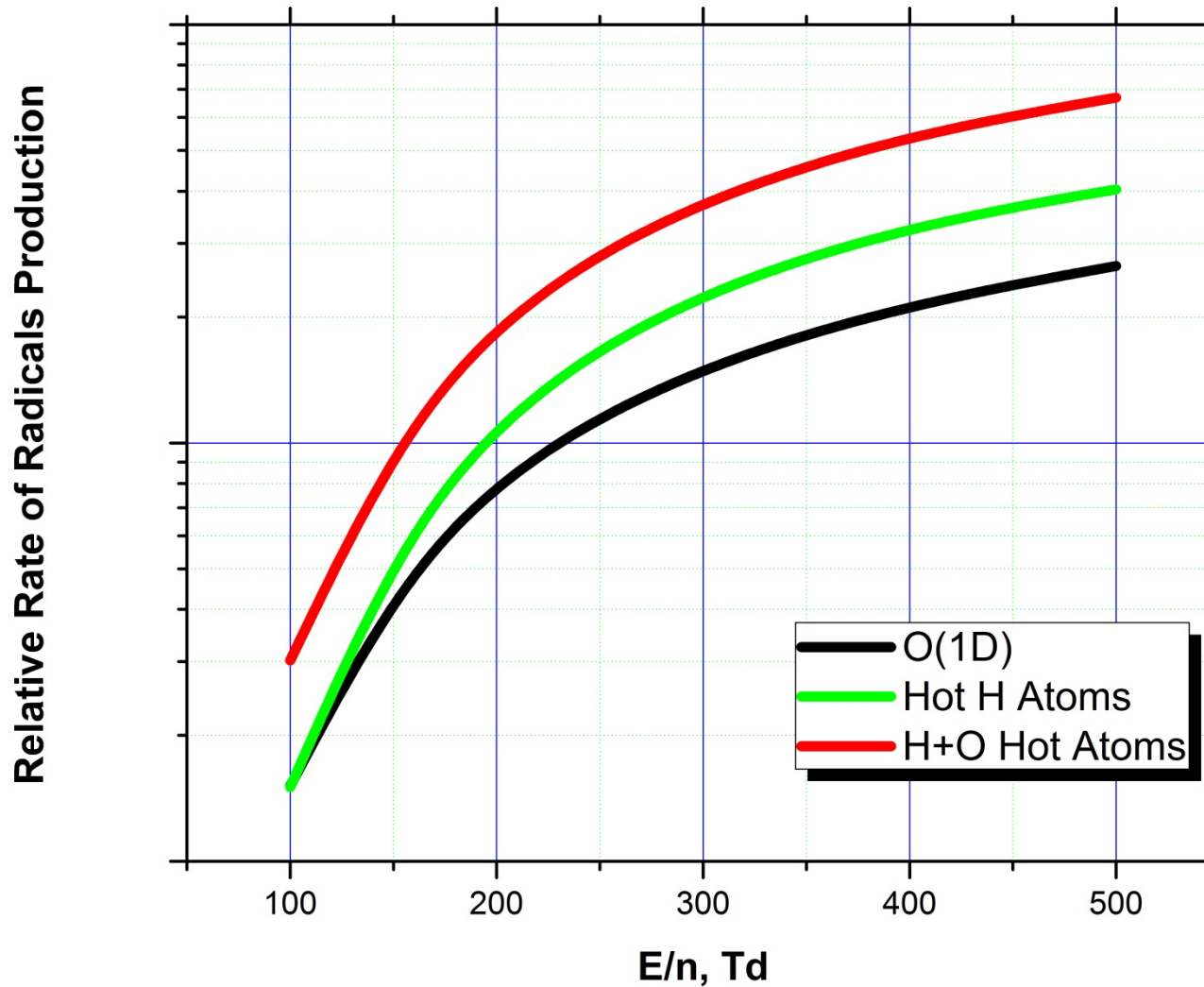


$$k = 2.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \text{ (M} = \text{O}_2\text{)}$$

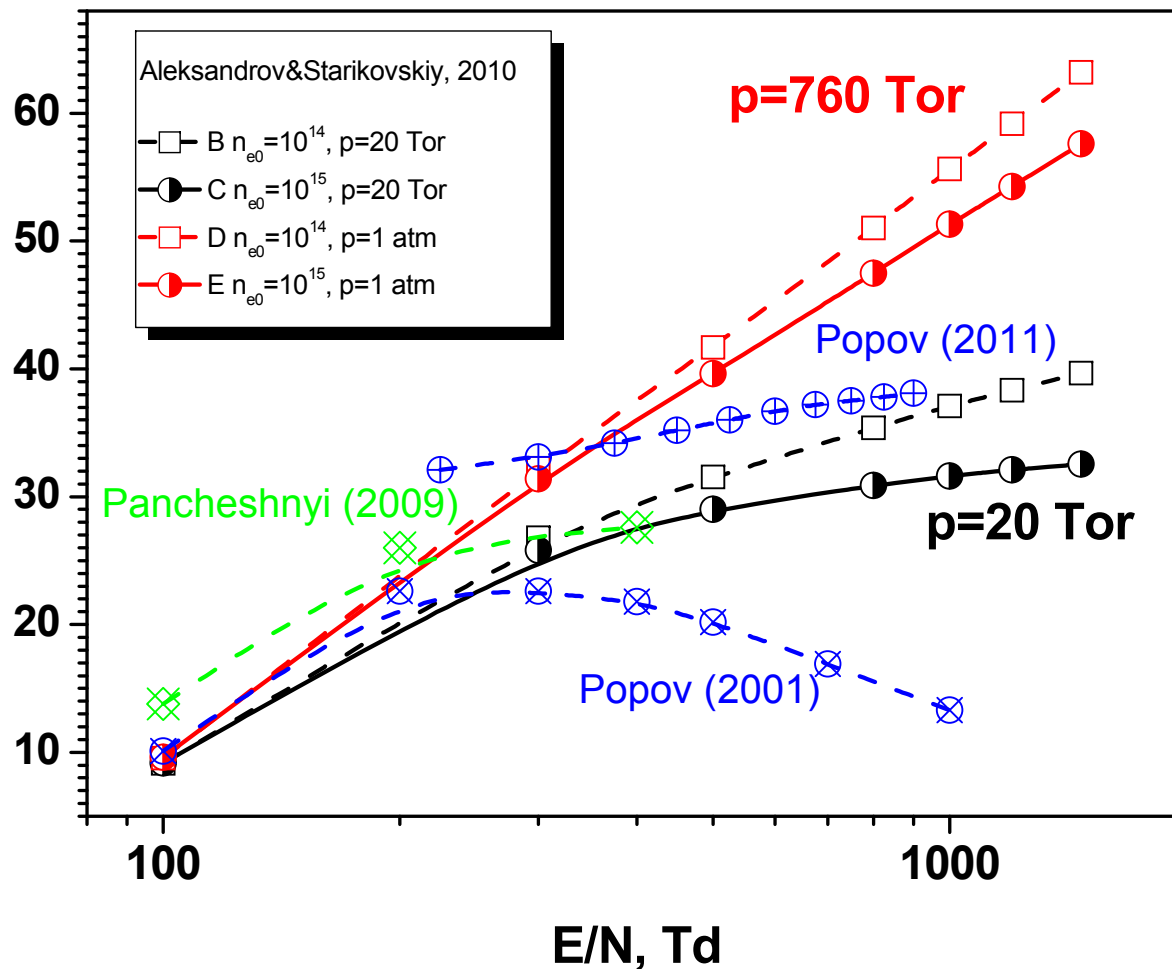
$$k = 1.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \text{ (M} = \text{N}_2\text{)}$$

$$k = 5.2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \text{ (M} = \text{H}_2\text{)}$$

# Radicals Production Increase in Cold $\text{H}_2$ -Air Mixture Due to Hot Atoms Formation



# Mechanism of Fast Heating in Discharge Plasmas (high E/N)



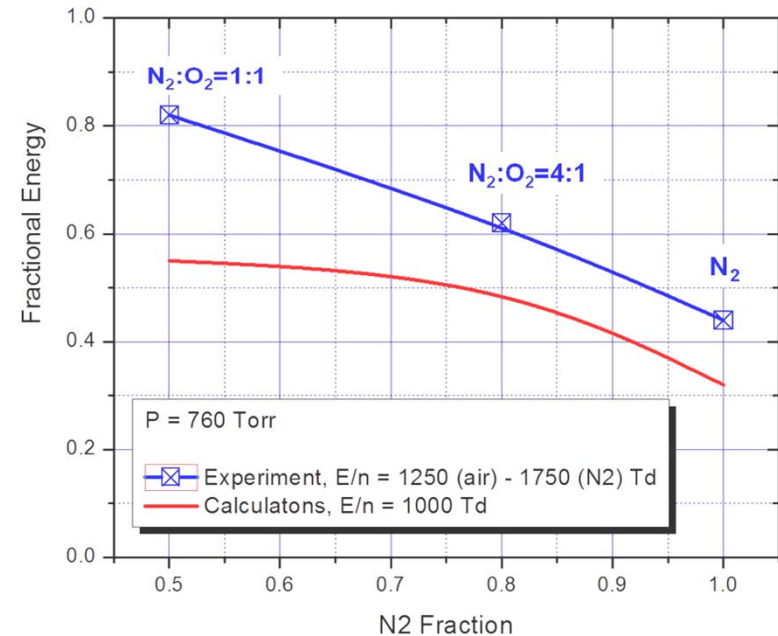
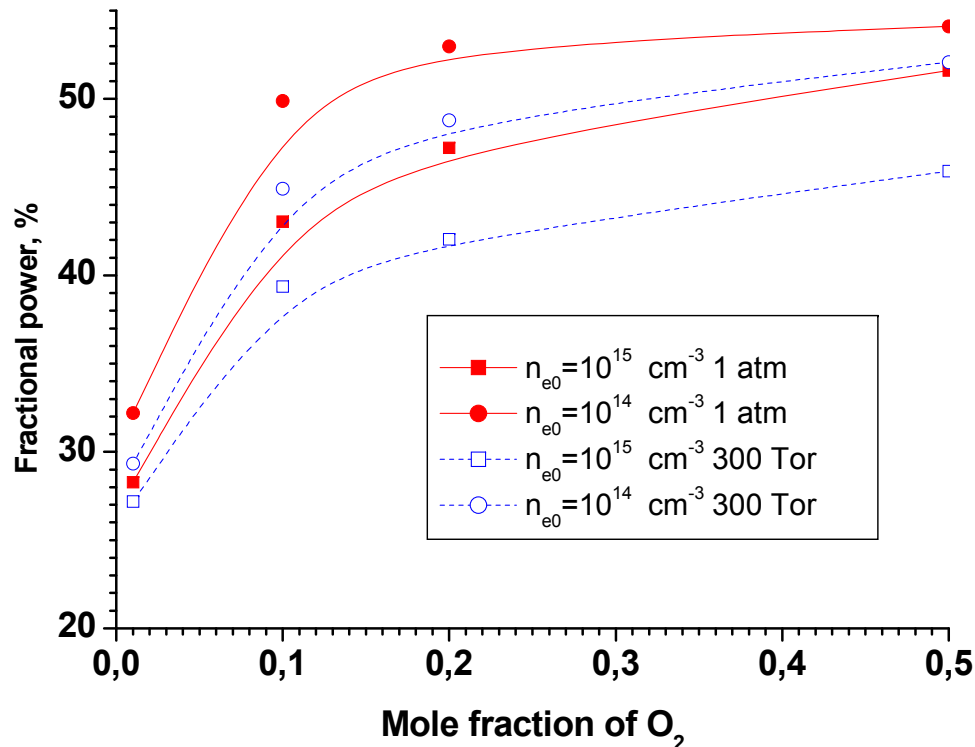
High (> 200 Td) E/N:

electron-ion and  
ion-ion  
recombination  
kinetics



# Fractional Electron Power Transferred Into Heat in N<sub>2</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> Mixtures

$E/N = 10^3$  Td

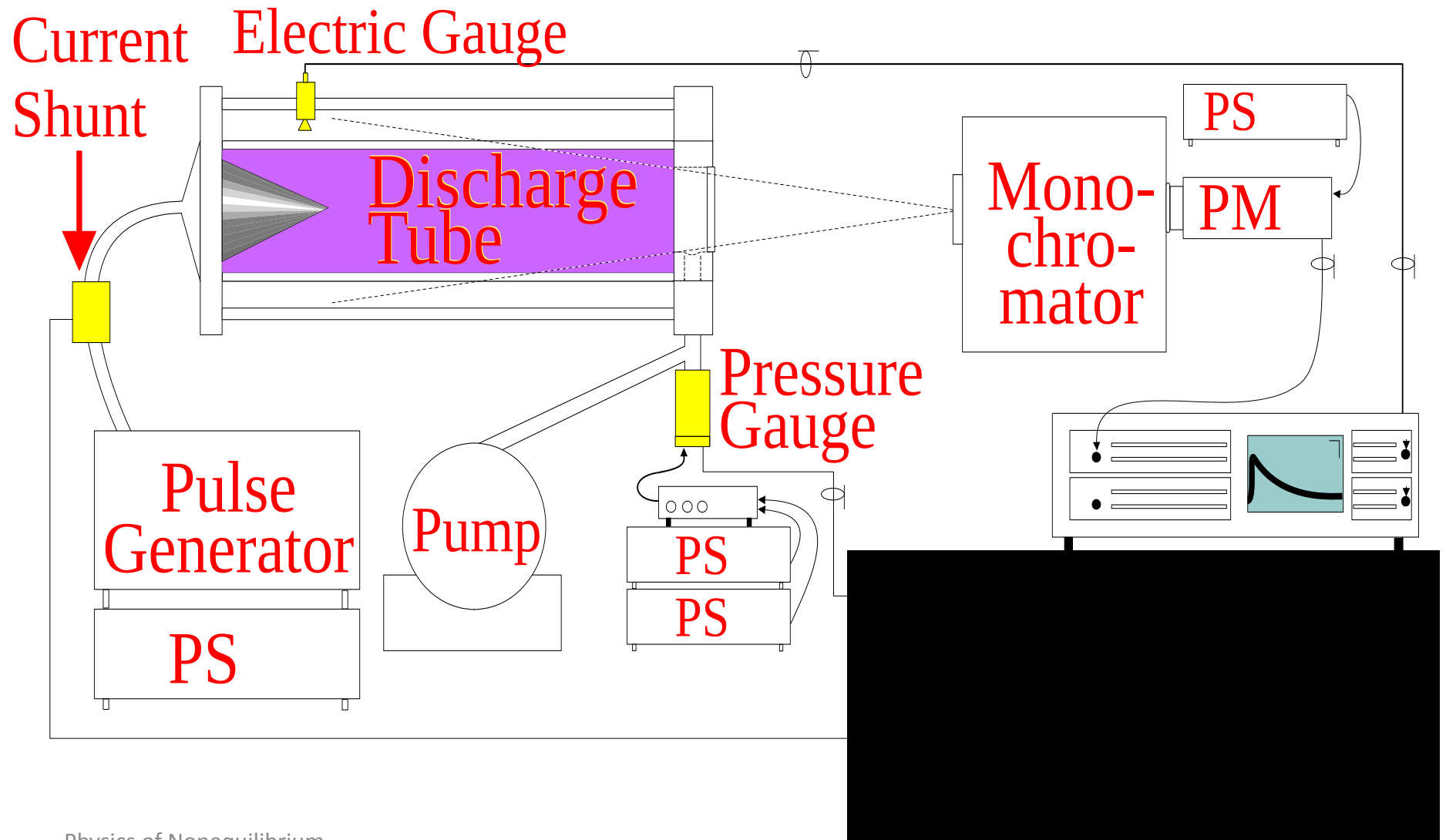


**Oxygen is required  
for efficient fast heating!**

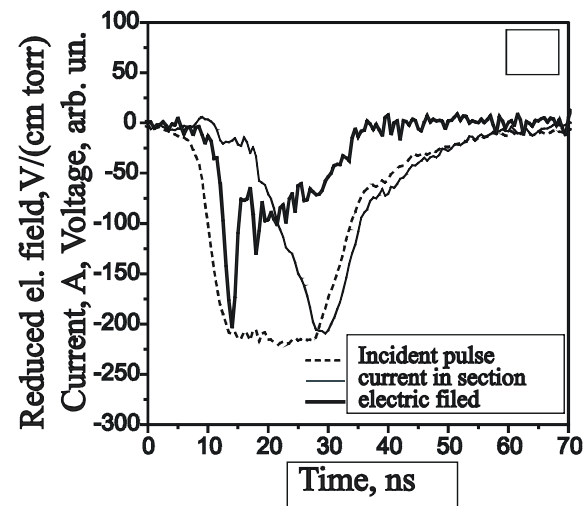
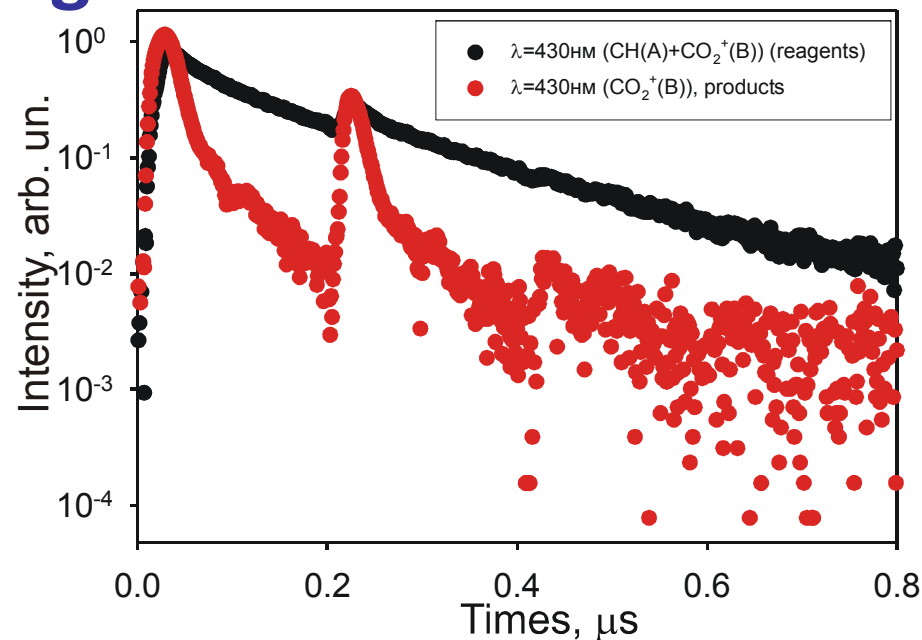
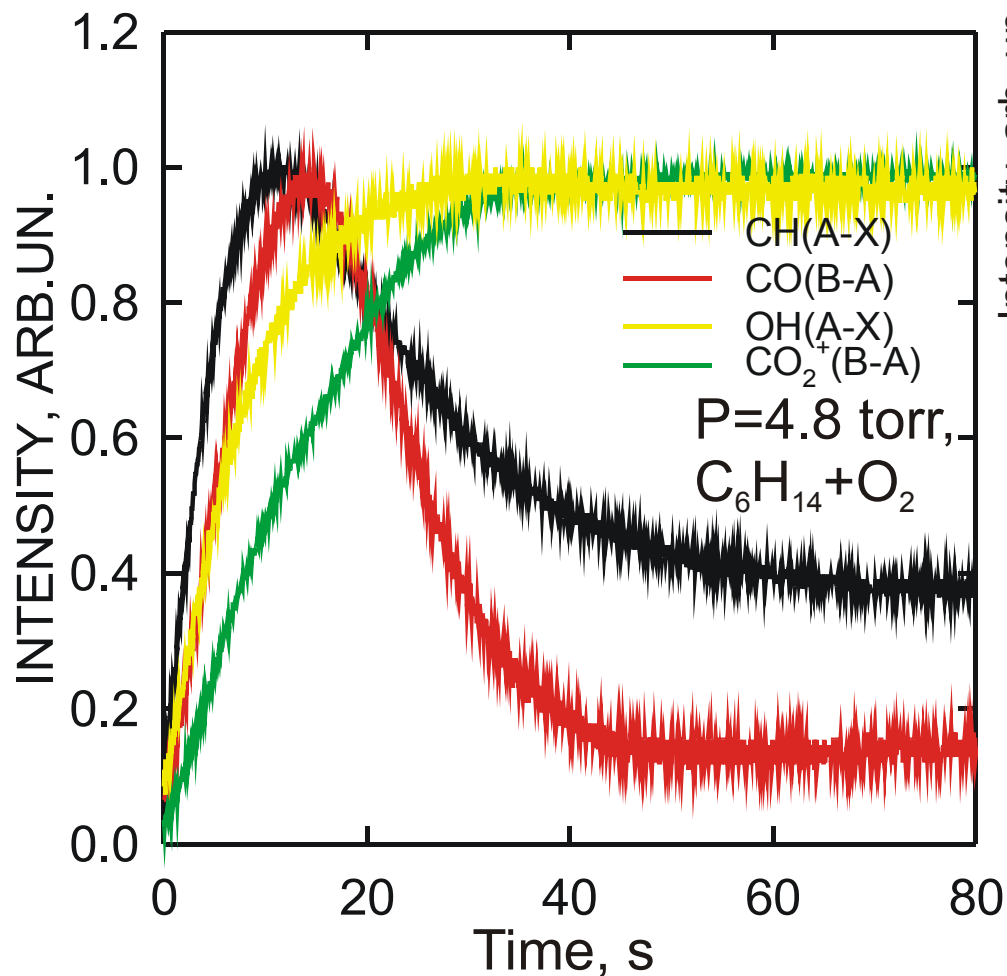


...

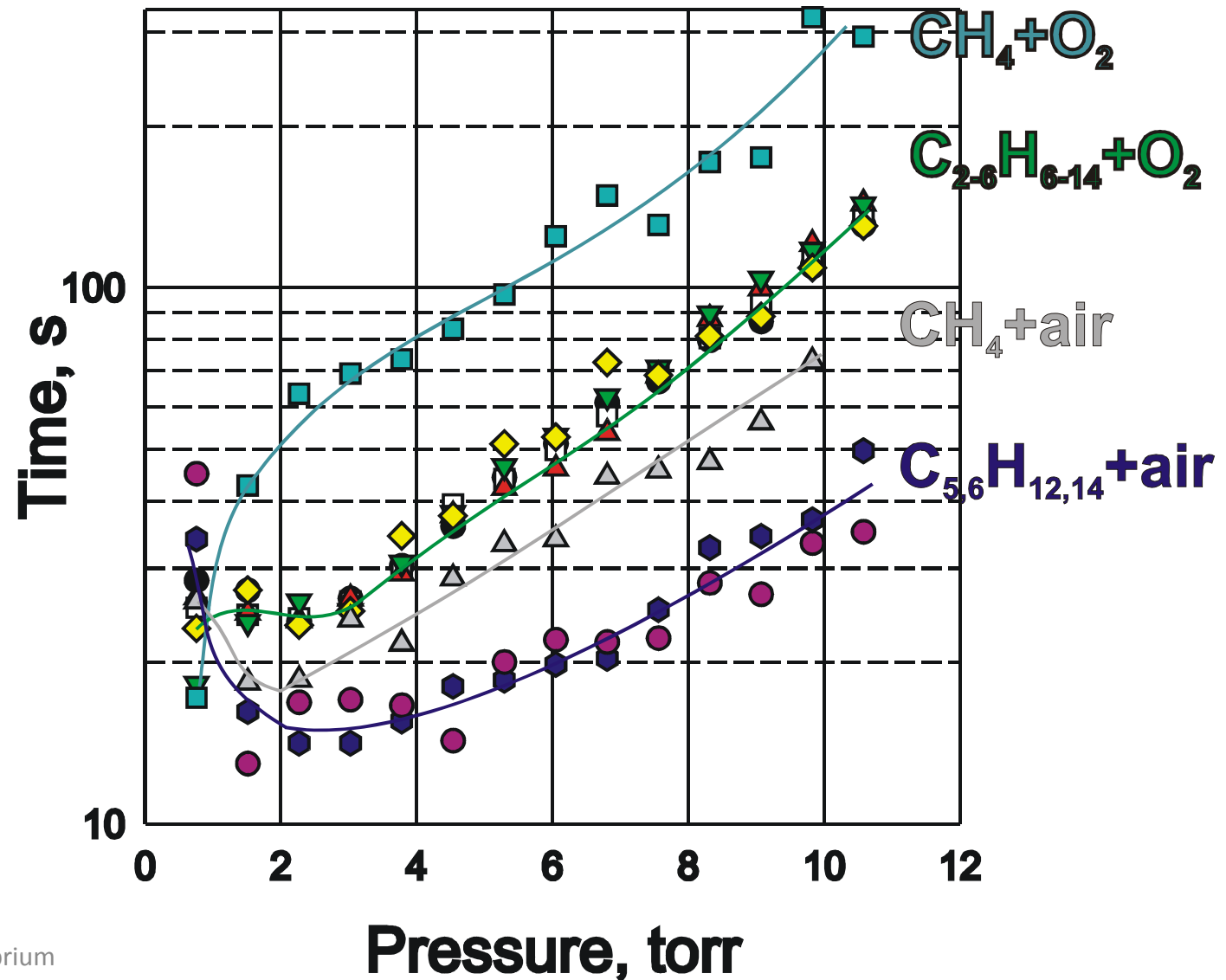
# Experimental Setup



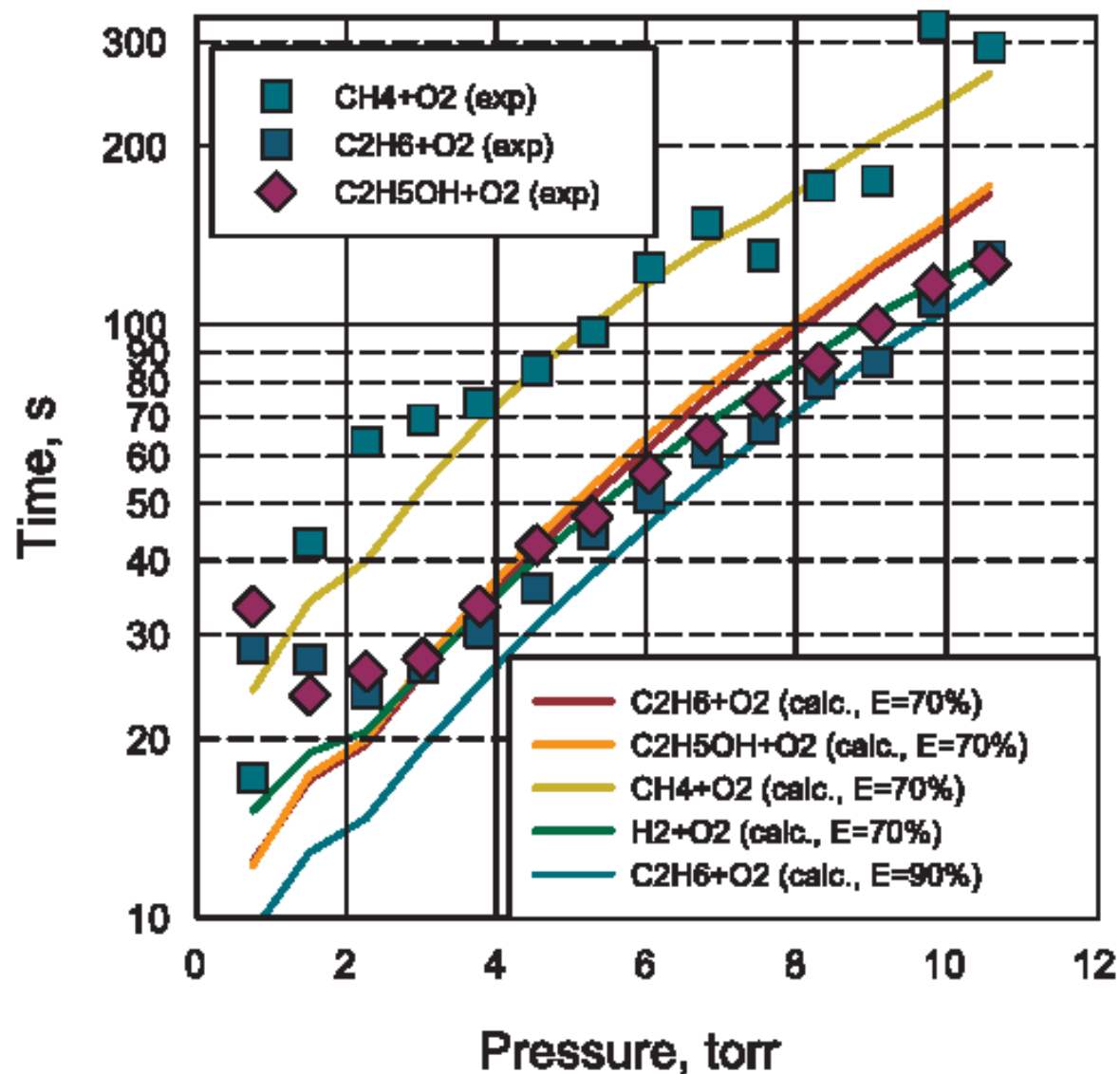
# Hexane Oxidation by Pulsed Nanosecond Discharge



# Hydrocarbon Oxidation Efficiency for $C_1$ - $C_6$ / $O_2$ / Air Mixtures

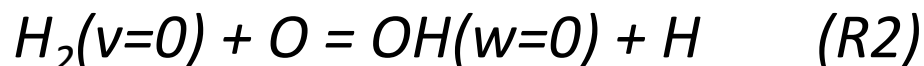
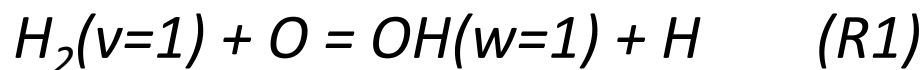
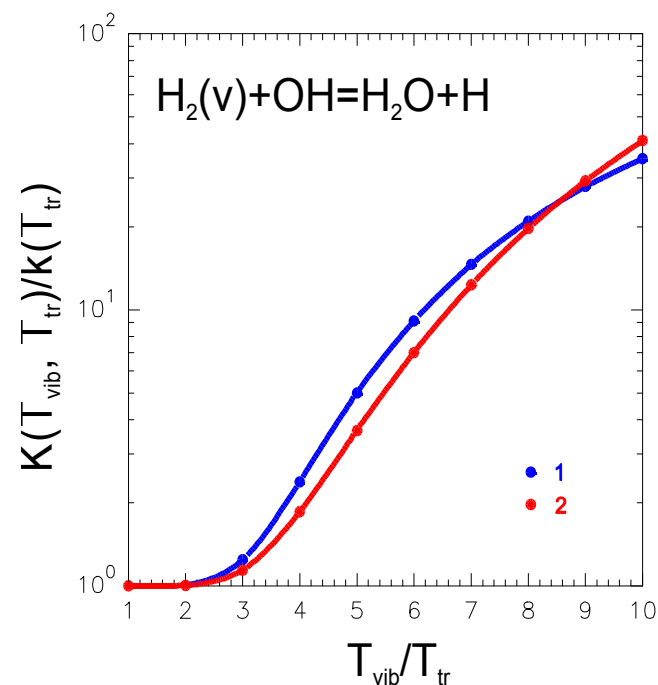
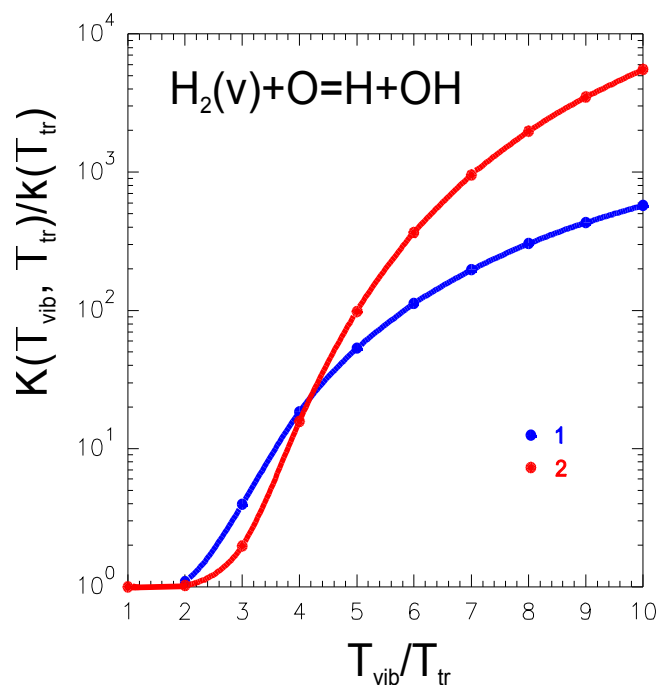


# Calculated and Measured Times of Oxidation



# Chemical Reactions with Excited Reagents

$AB(v)+C = A + BC(w)$   
Rate constant from  
modified  $\alpha$ -model  
(Starikovskii, Lashin 1996)

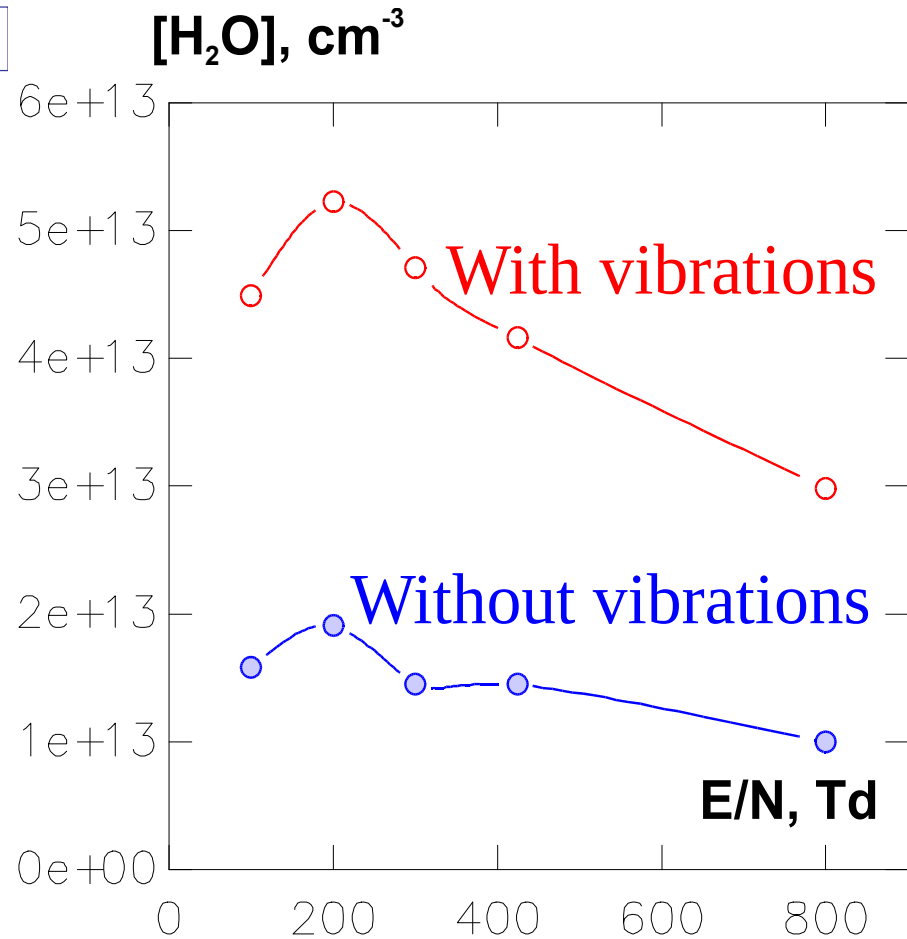
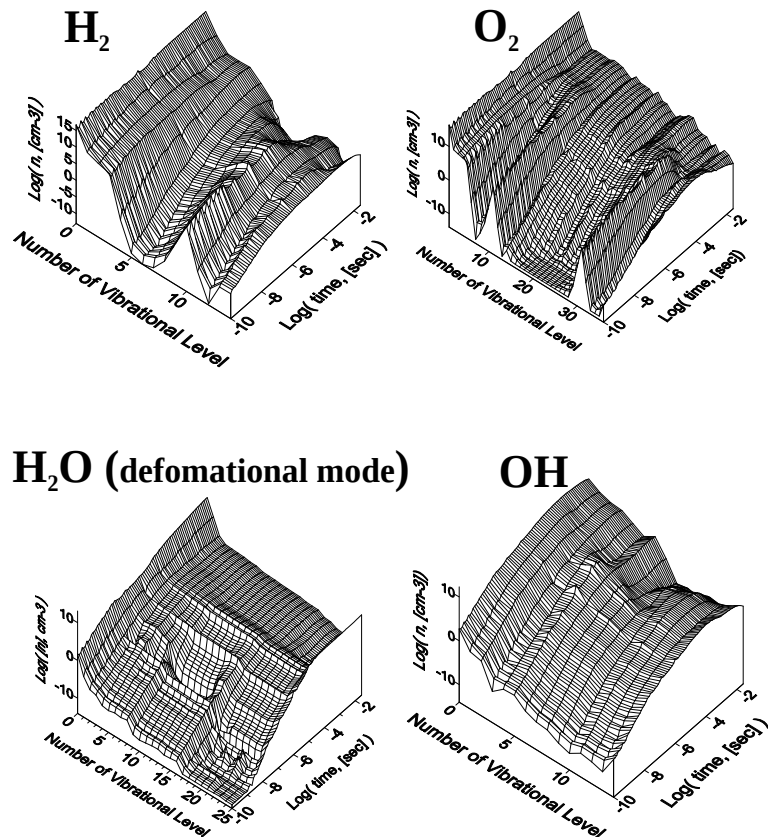


$$(k_{R1}/k_{R2})_{\text{exp}} = 2600 \text{ (O'Neal, Benson 1973); } (k_{R1}/k_{R2})_{\text{theor}} = 2750$$

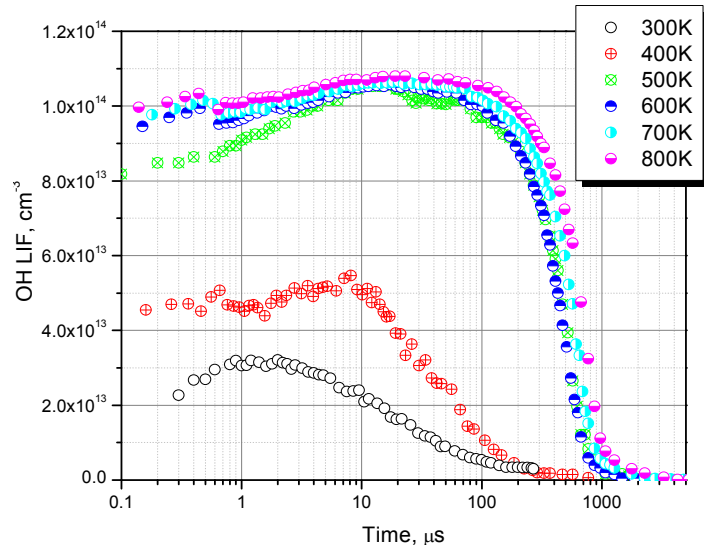


# Kinetics. Influence of Vibrations

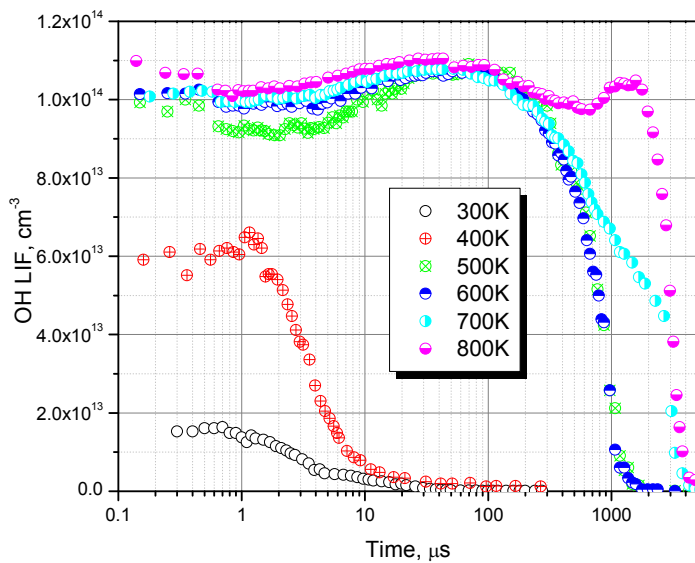
Distribution Of Vibrational-Excited Components



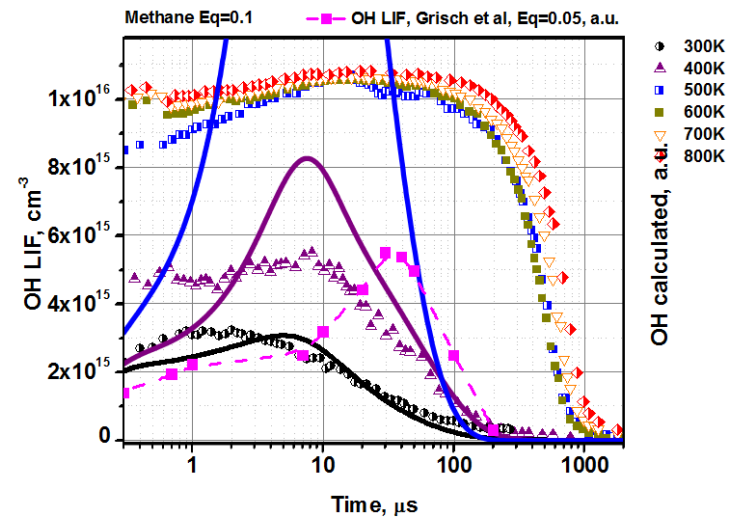
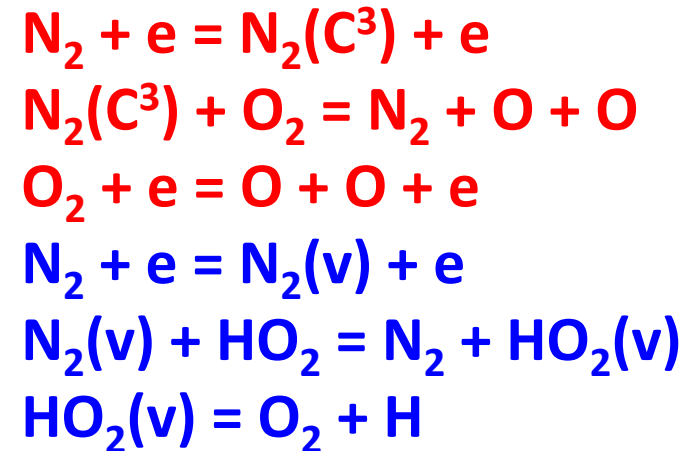
# Influence of Vibrational Excitation on Low-Temperature Kinetics



CH<sub>4</sub>-air

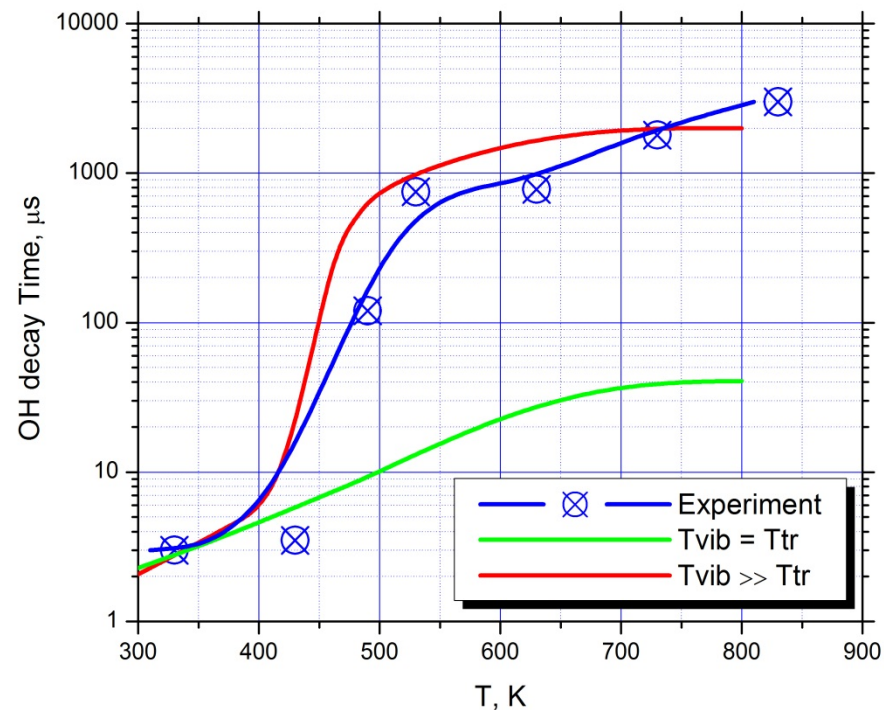
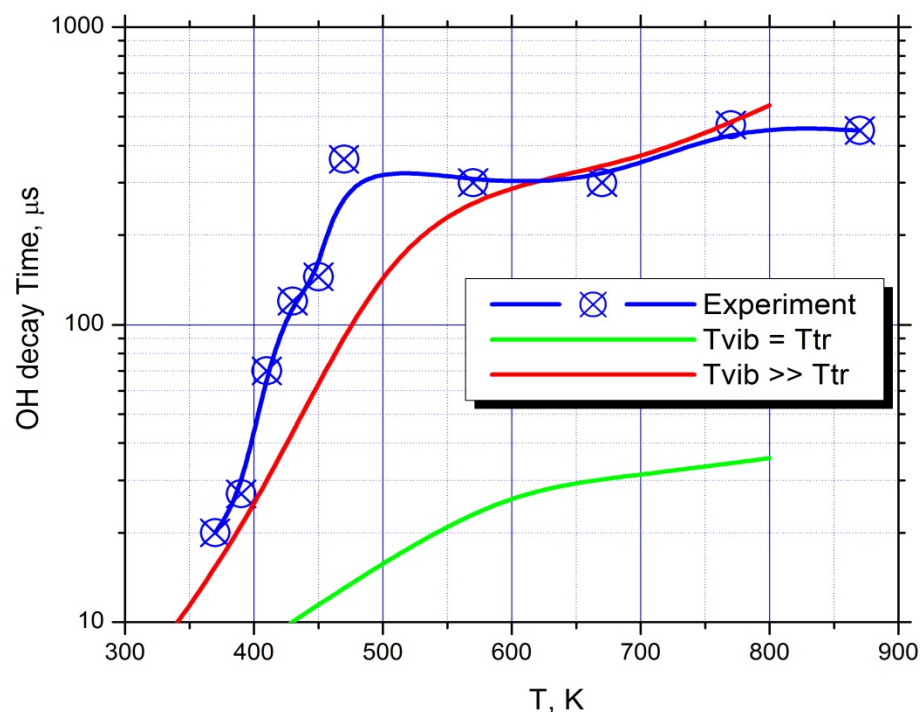


C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>-air



Experiments: L Wu, J Lane, N P Cernansky, D L Miller, A A Fridman, A Yu Starikovskiy, *Proc. of Comb. Inst.*, 2010  
Modelling: D Levko, A I Schedrin, V V Naumov, S Starikovskaia, 2010

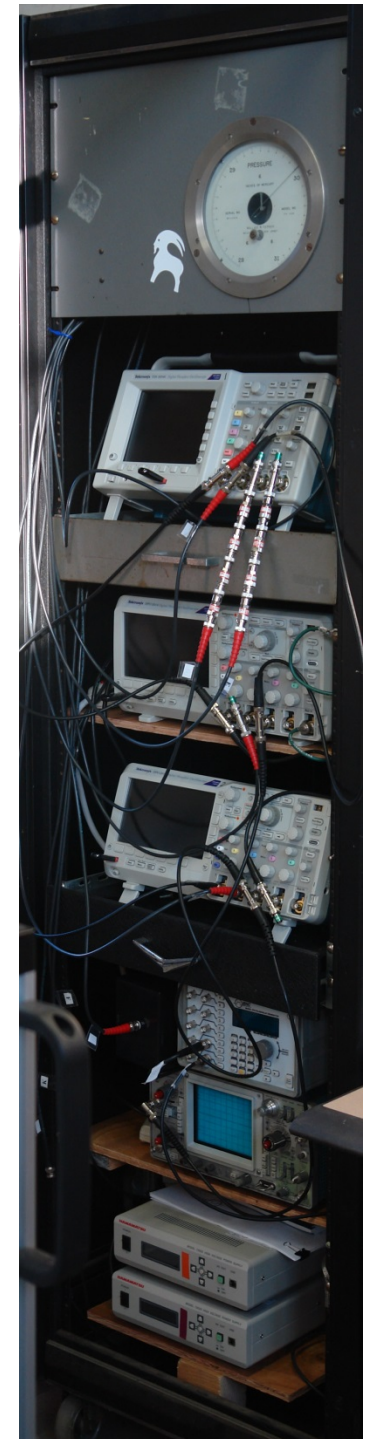
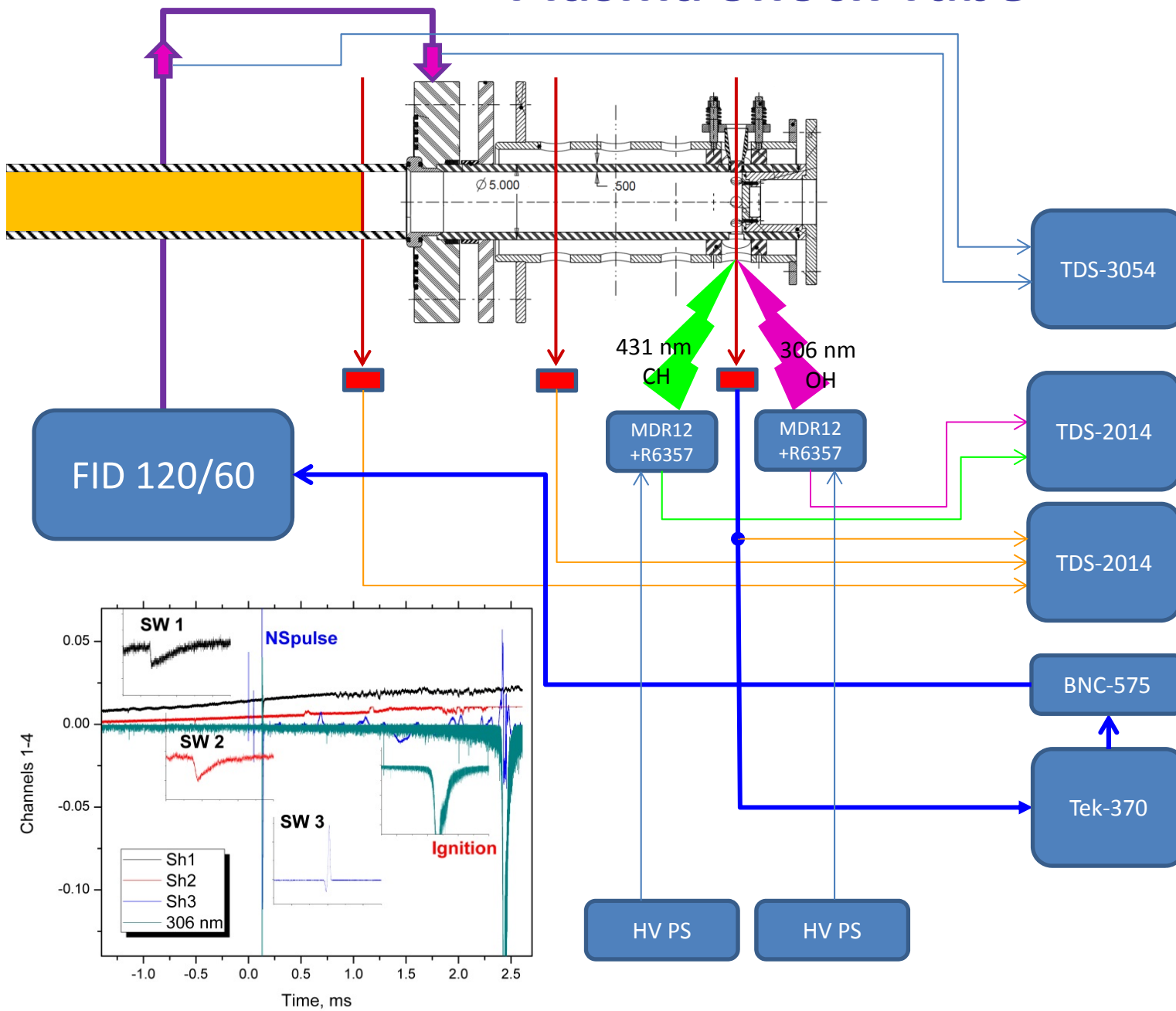
# Influence of Vibrational Excitation on Low-Temperature Kinetics: $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ Decomposition



Measured and calculated OH decay time.  $P = 1$  atm.

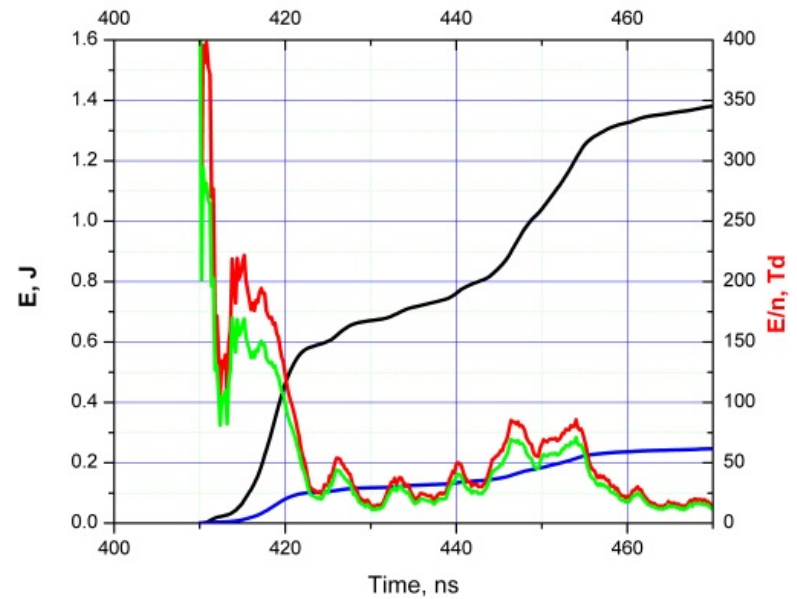
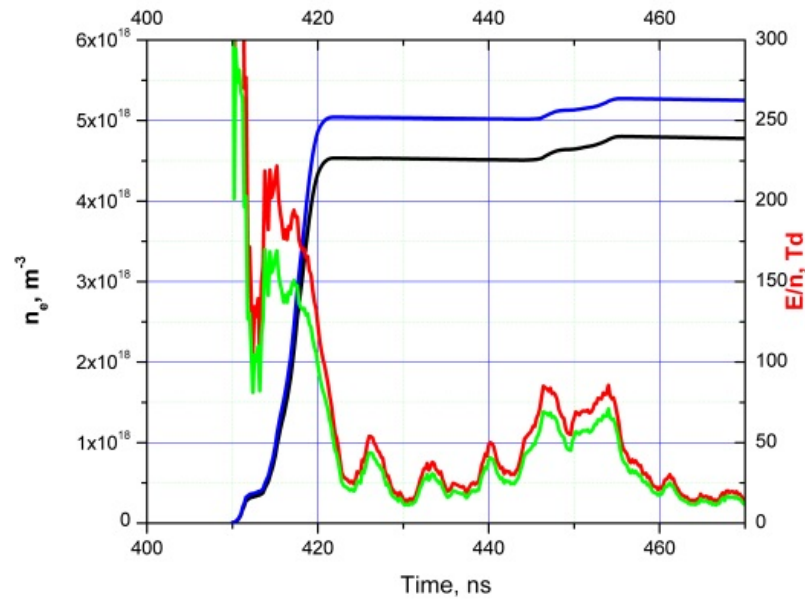
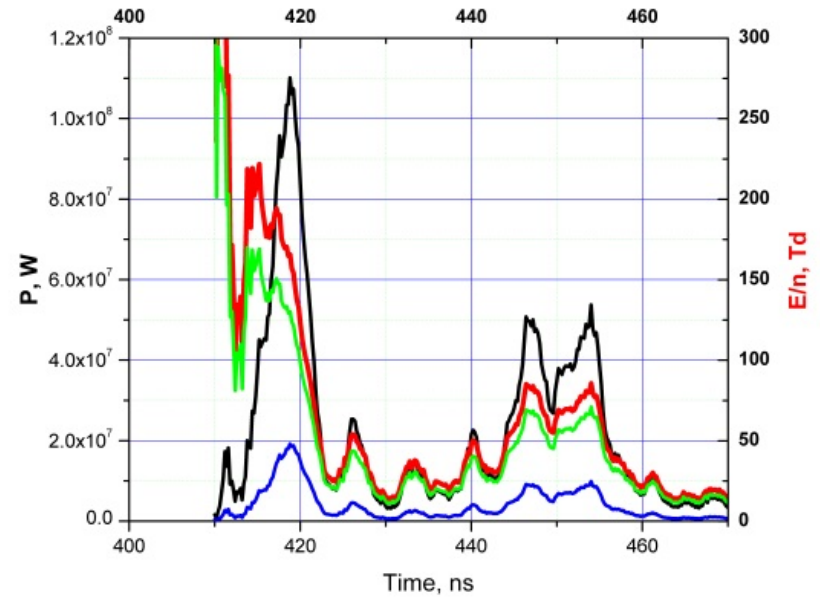
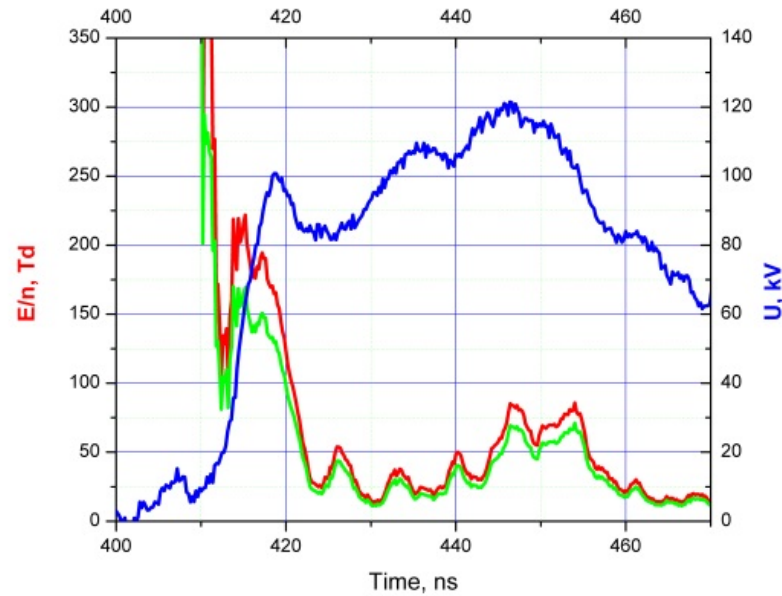
a) 3% $\text{H}_2$  + air; b) 0.3% $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$  + air.

# Plasma Shock Tube



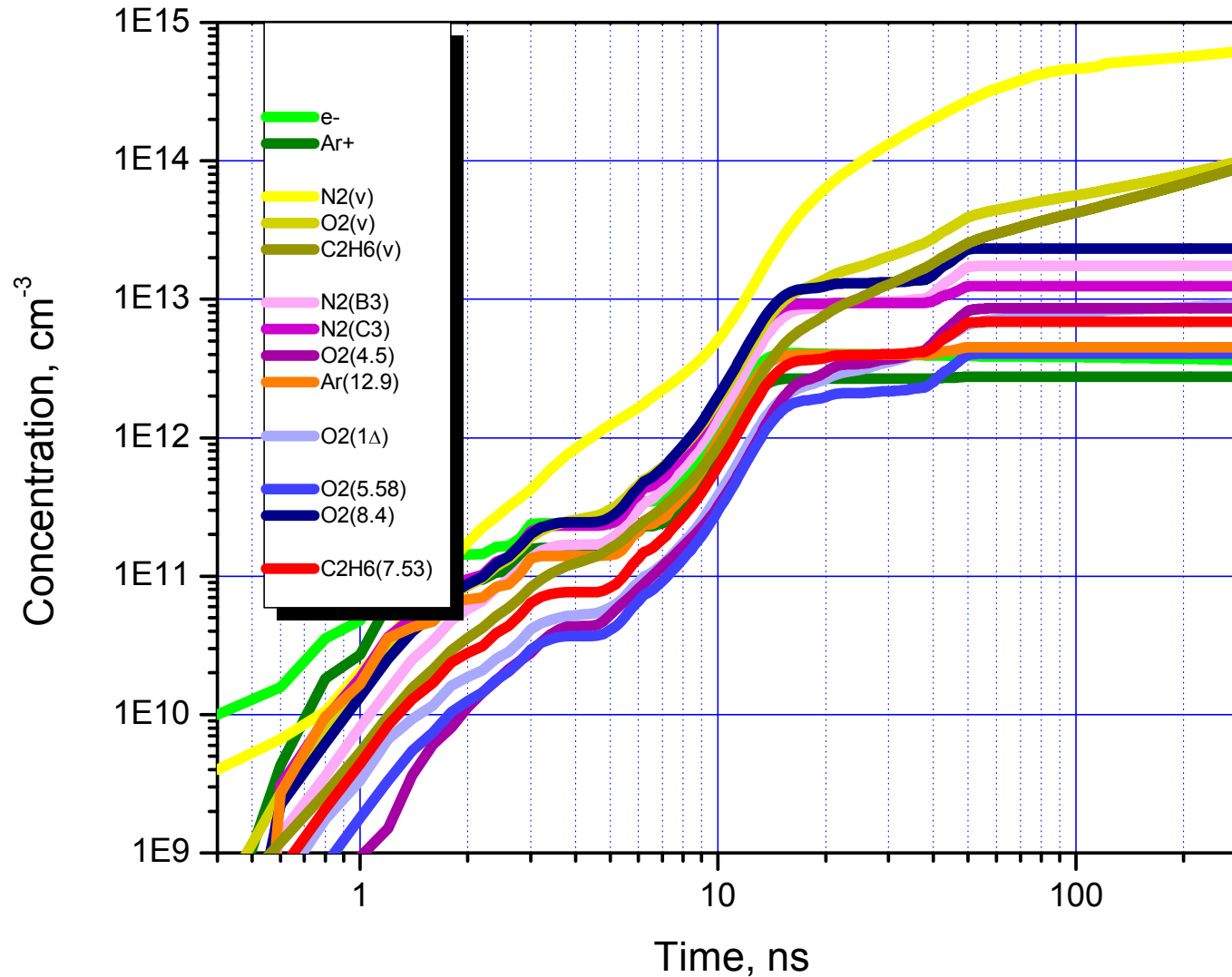


# Discharge Dynamics



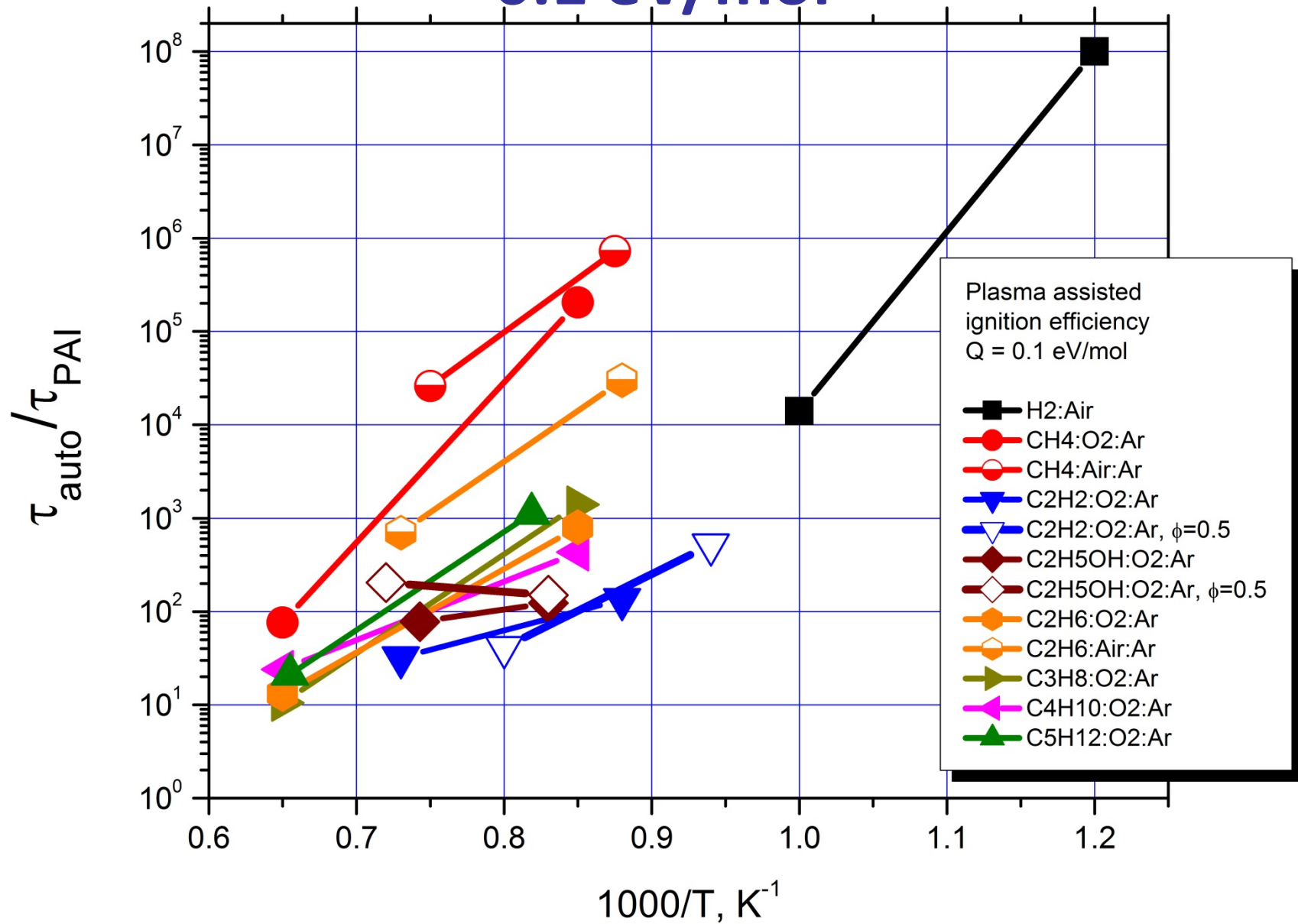
# Active Particle Production – Discharge Phase

$U_s = 943.6 \text{ m/s}$ ;  $P_0 = 17 \text{ Torr}$ ;  $P_5 = 1.04 \text{ atm}$ ;  $T_5 = 1525 \text{ K}$



# Plasma Ignition Sensitivity

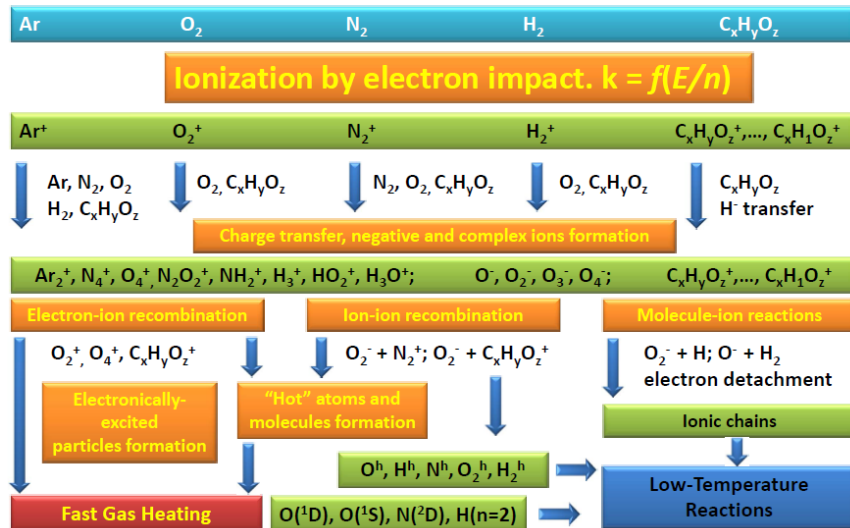
## 0.1 eV/mol





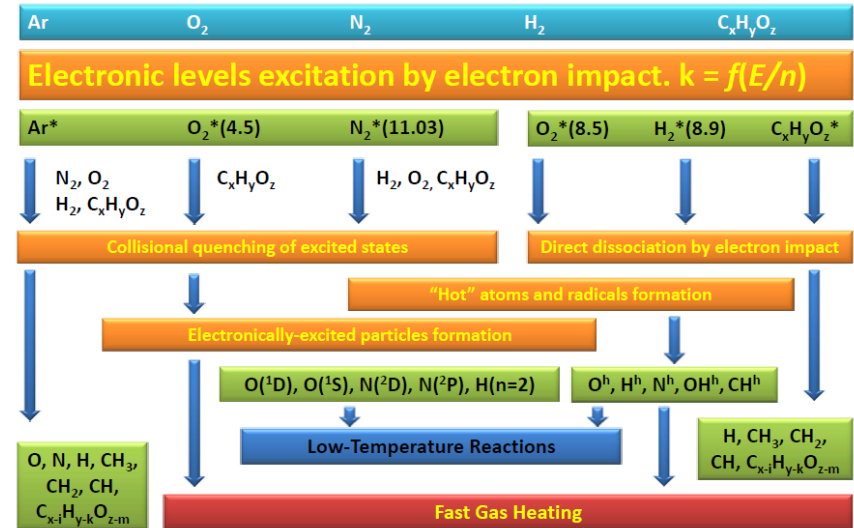
## Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

### Major Pathways



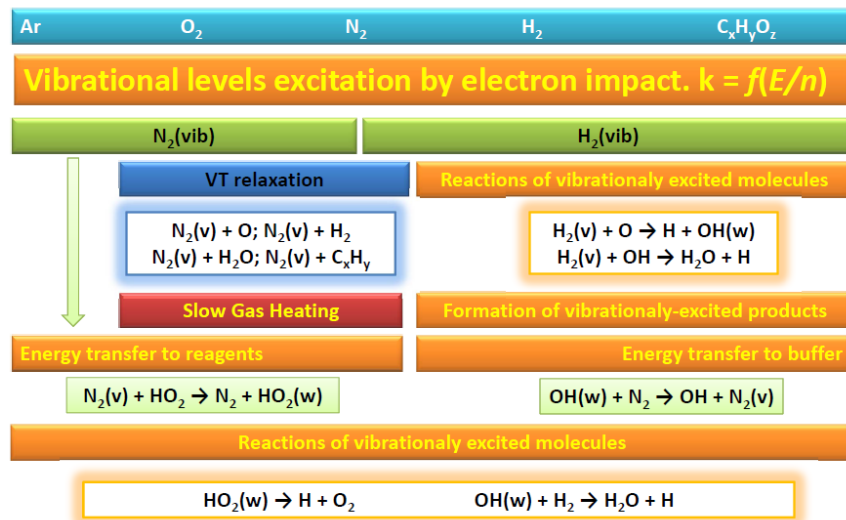
## Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

### Major Pathways



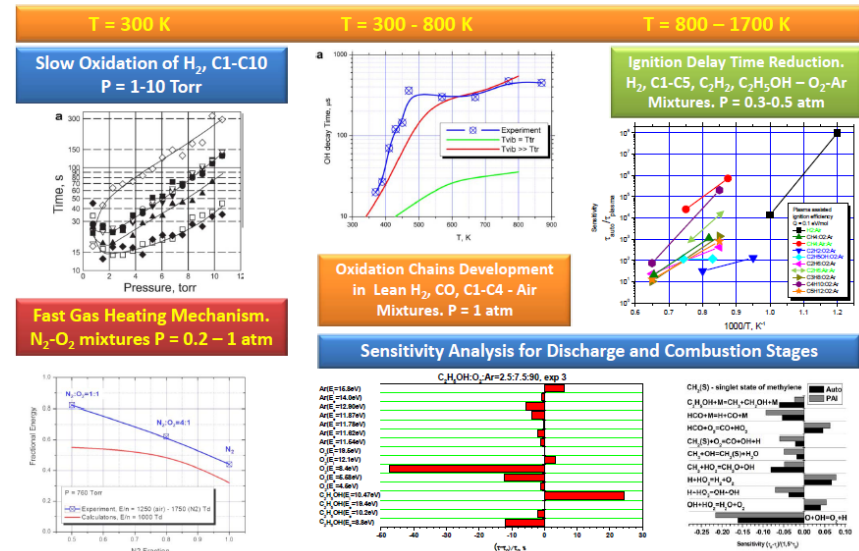
## Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

### Major Pathways



## Princeton Plasma Combustion Kinetics

### Mechanism Validation



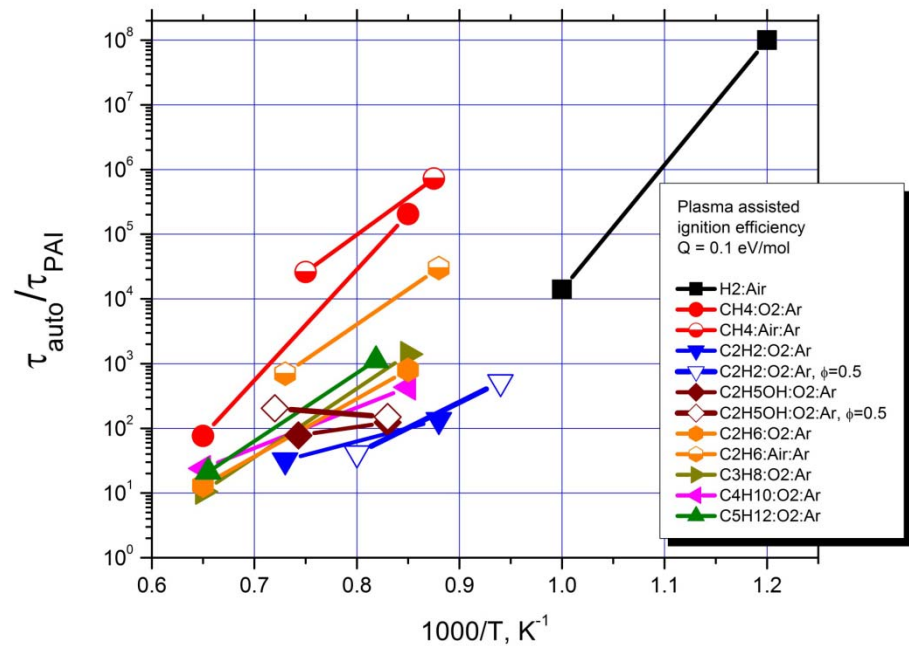
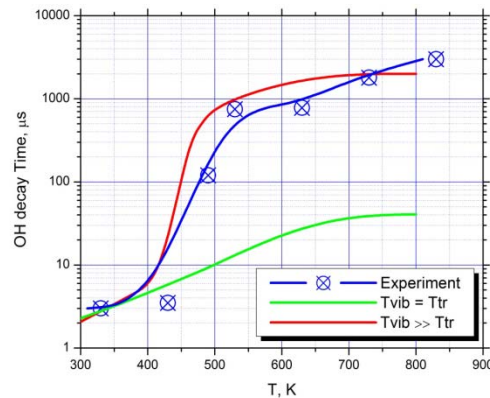
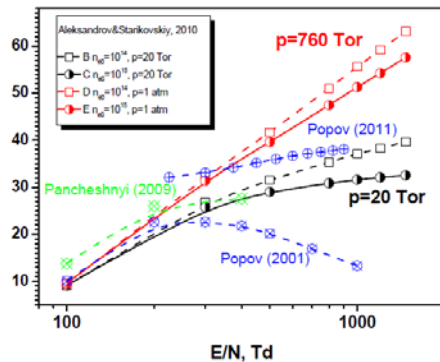
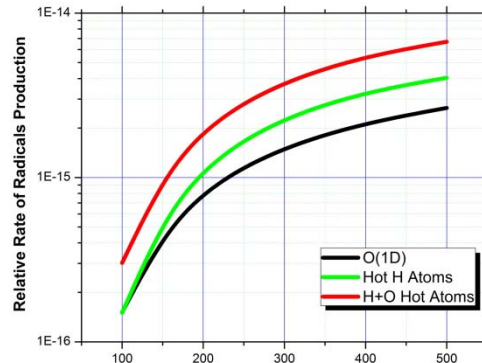
# Other Major Results

## 3 NEW MECHANISMS:

- Radicals Production Increase Due to Translationally Hot Atoms Formation
- Mechanism of Fast Heating in Plasmas at high E/n
- Vibrational Decomposition of Peroxides (HO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, etc)

## EXPERIMENTAL DATABASE:

- Plasma Ignition Delay Time database for H<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>, acetylene, ethylene, ethanol



**The work was supported by**

**AFOSR**  
**Technical Monitor**  
**Dr Chiping Li**



**PRINCETON**  
University