

# Effect of “Hot” Atoms on Active Species Production in High-Voltage Pulsed Discharges

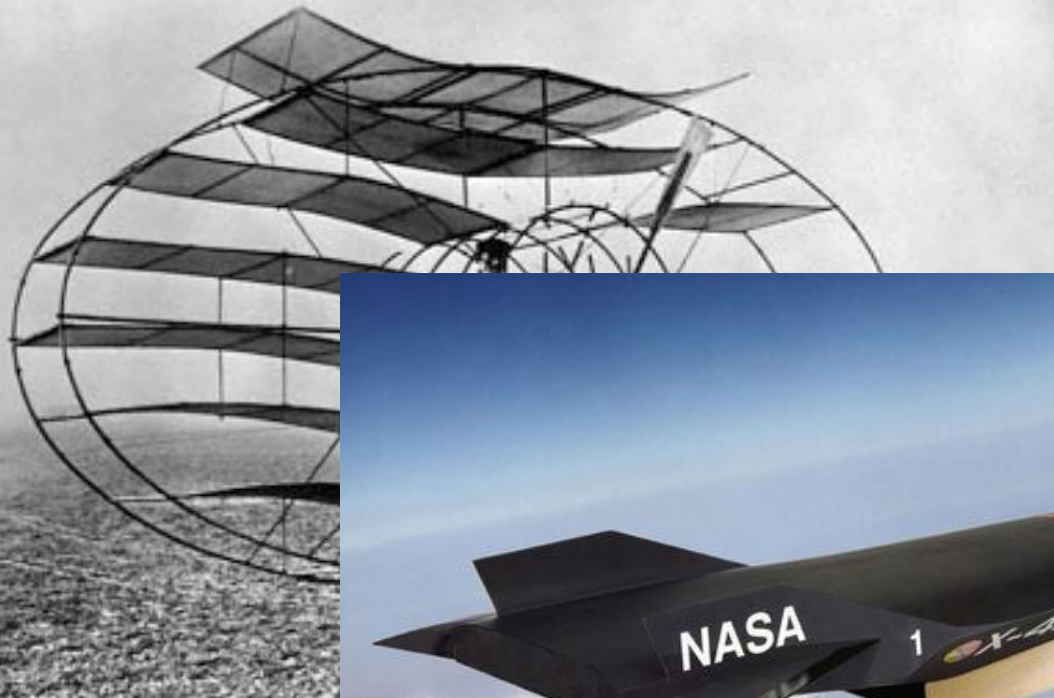
Nikolay Aleksandrov, Alexander Ponomarev,  
Andrey Starikovskiy



Oxygen Plasma Kinetics Workshop  
Reykjavik 2016



# Plasma Technologies for Aerospace



**1903**



**2103**

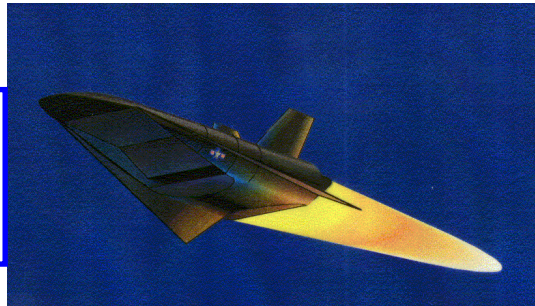
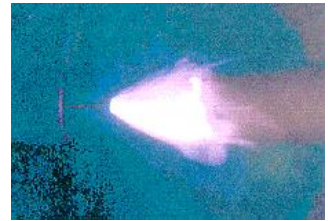


# Nonequilibrium Plasma Aerodynamics



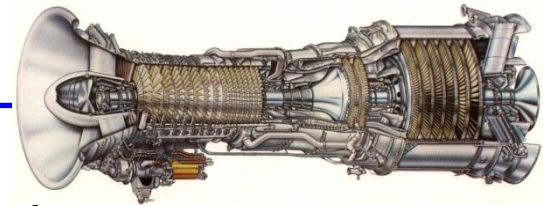
Dynamic Flow Control

Hypersonic Drag Reduction



Plasma Assisted Combustion

Internal Aerodynamics



External Aerodynamics



# Propulsion Efficiency and Operating Regimes for Variety of Flight Systems



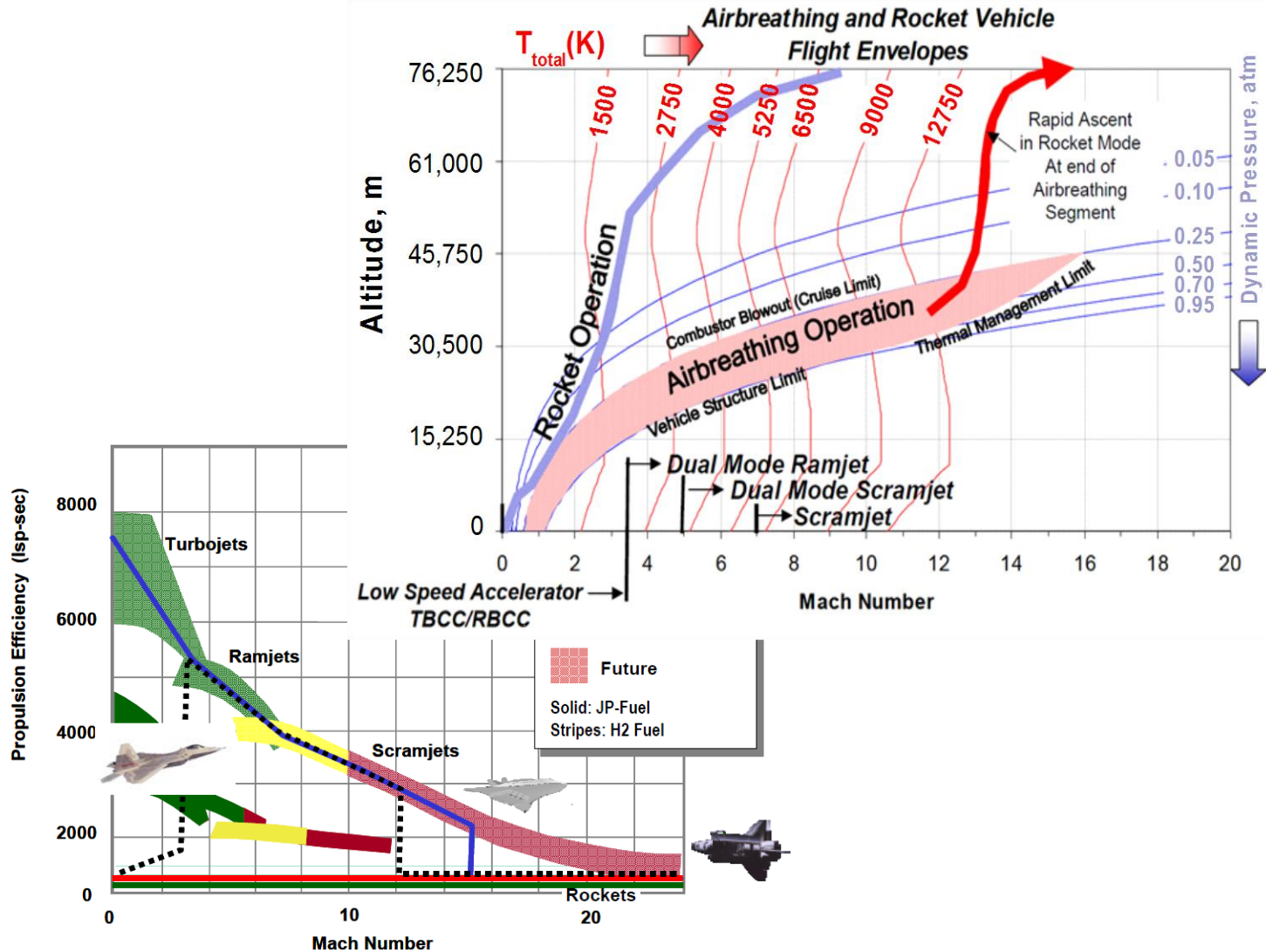
(a)



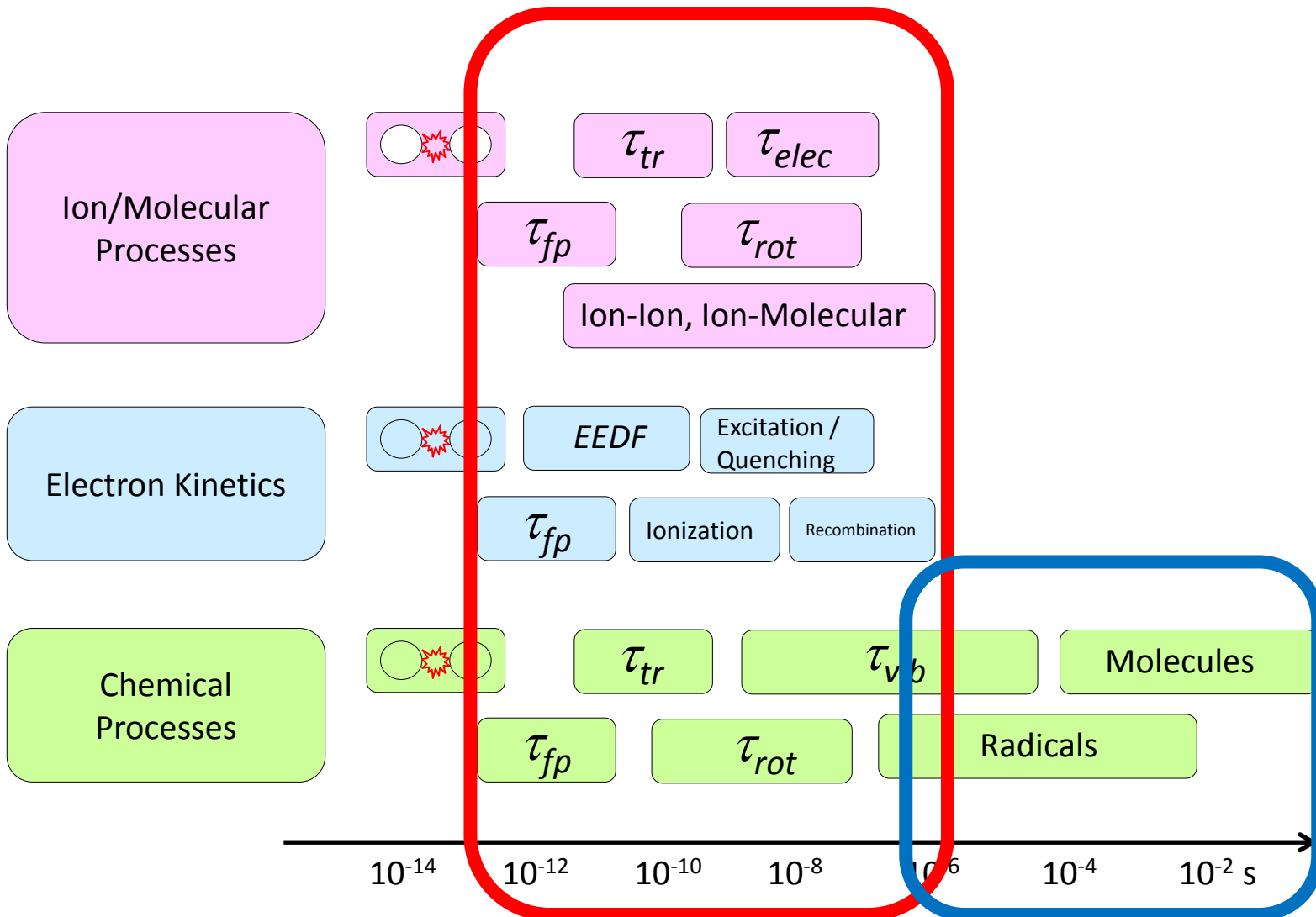
(b)



(c)

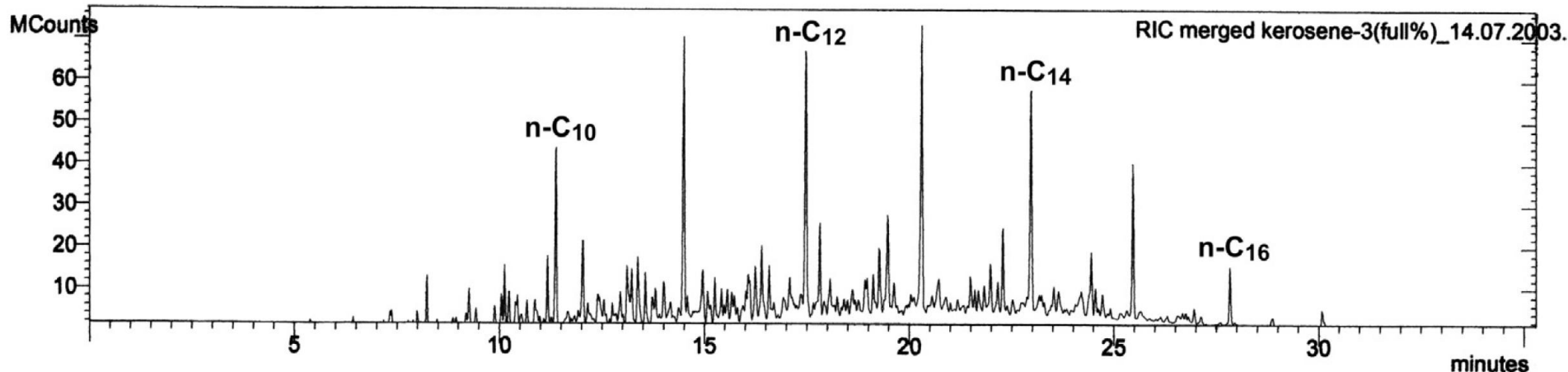


# Short Time Scale Chemistry: Non-equilibrium Regimes

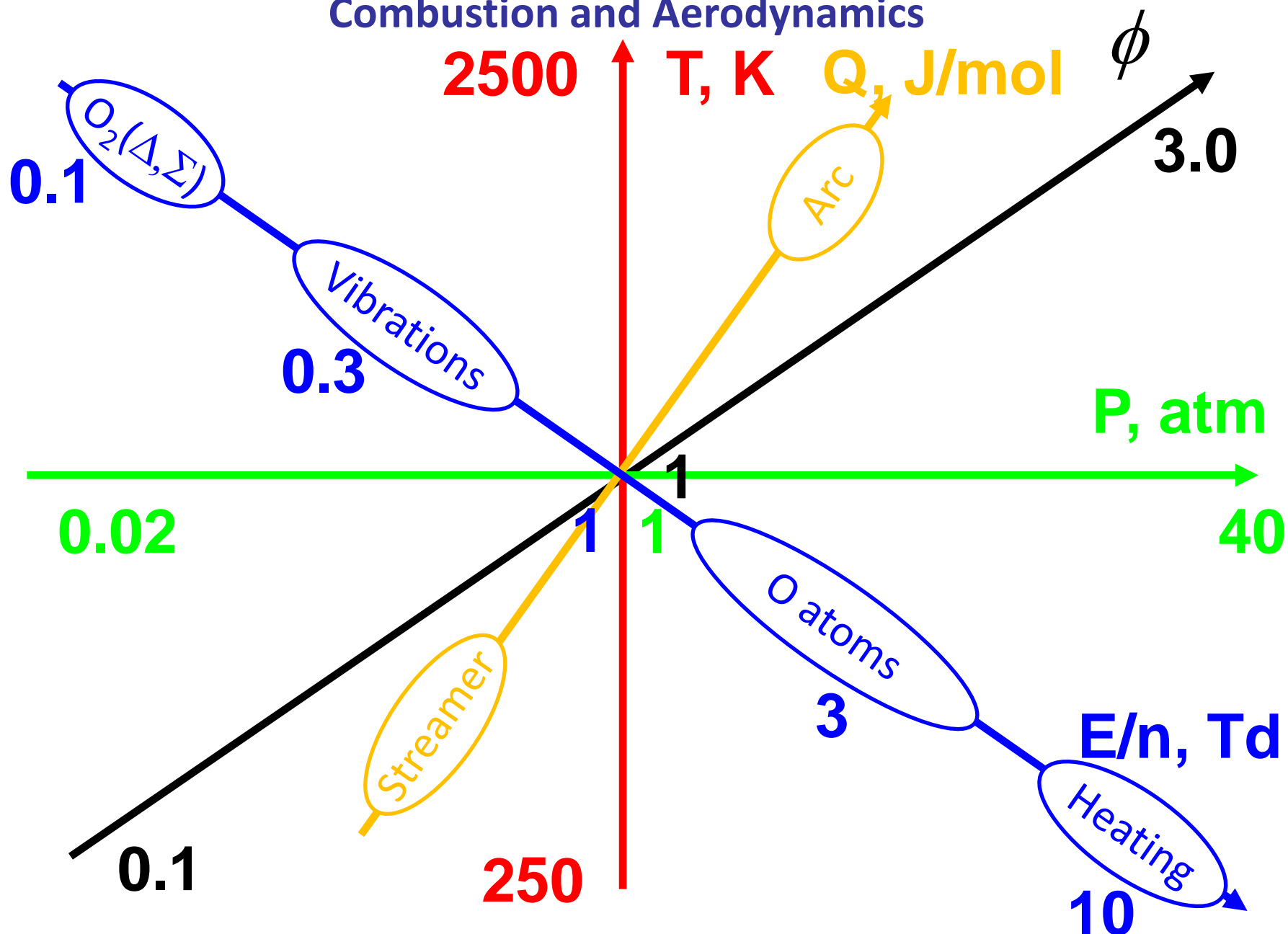


# Cross-sections Available

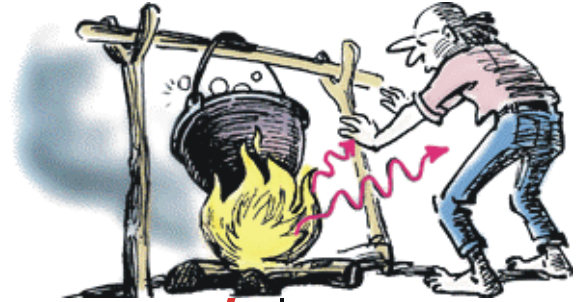
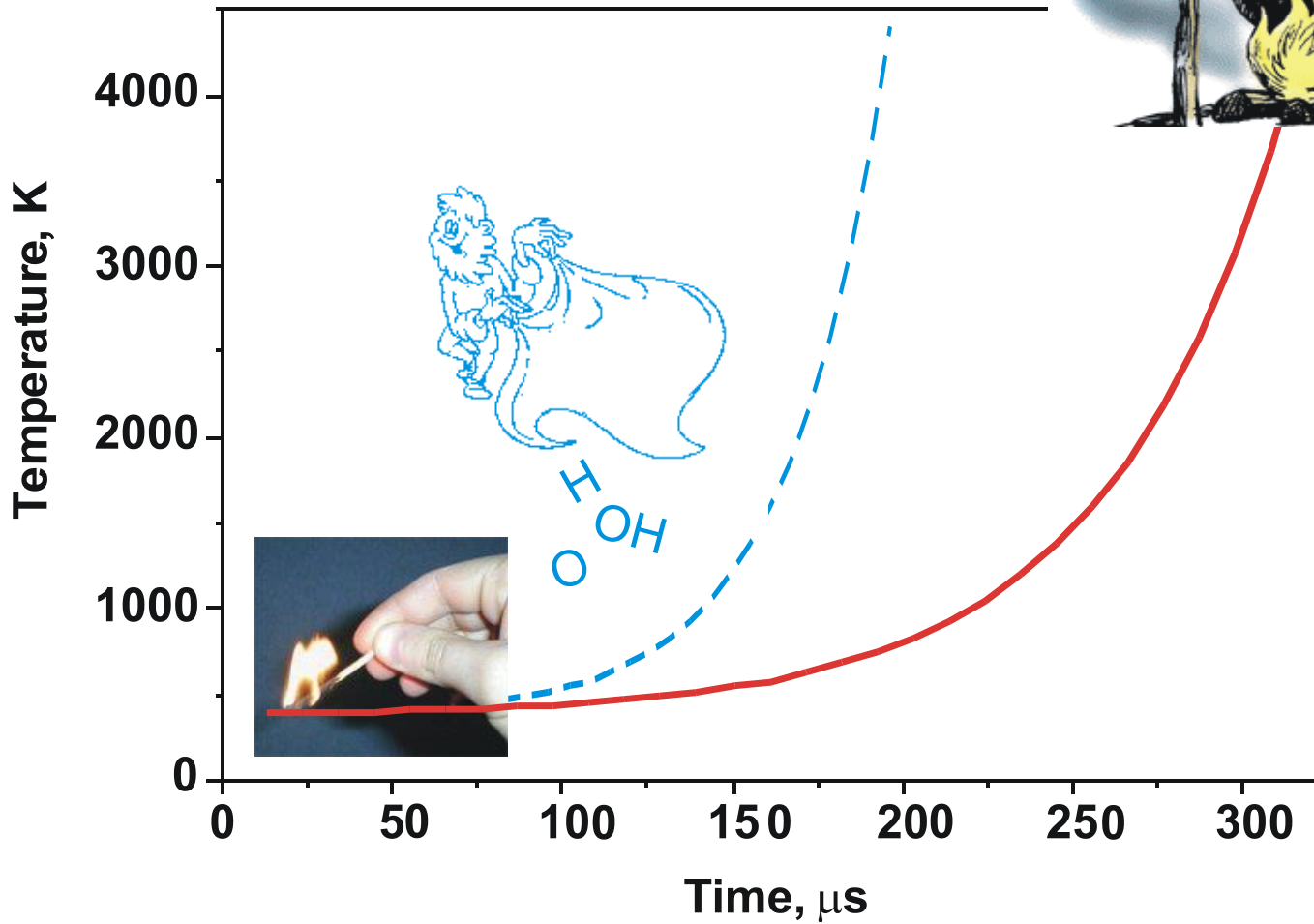
Atmospheric	Saturated	Unsaturated	Oxygenated	Isomers
N2	CH4	C2H2	CO	iso-butane
O2	C2H6	C2H4	CH3OH	iso-propane
CO2	C3H8	C3H6	C2H5OH	neo-pentane
H2O	C4H10		CH3OCH3 DME	
O3	C5H12			
Ar	H2			
N2O				



# Nonequilibrium Plasma: New Dimensions in Combustion and Aerodynamics

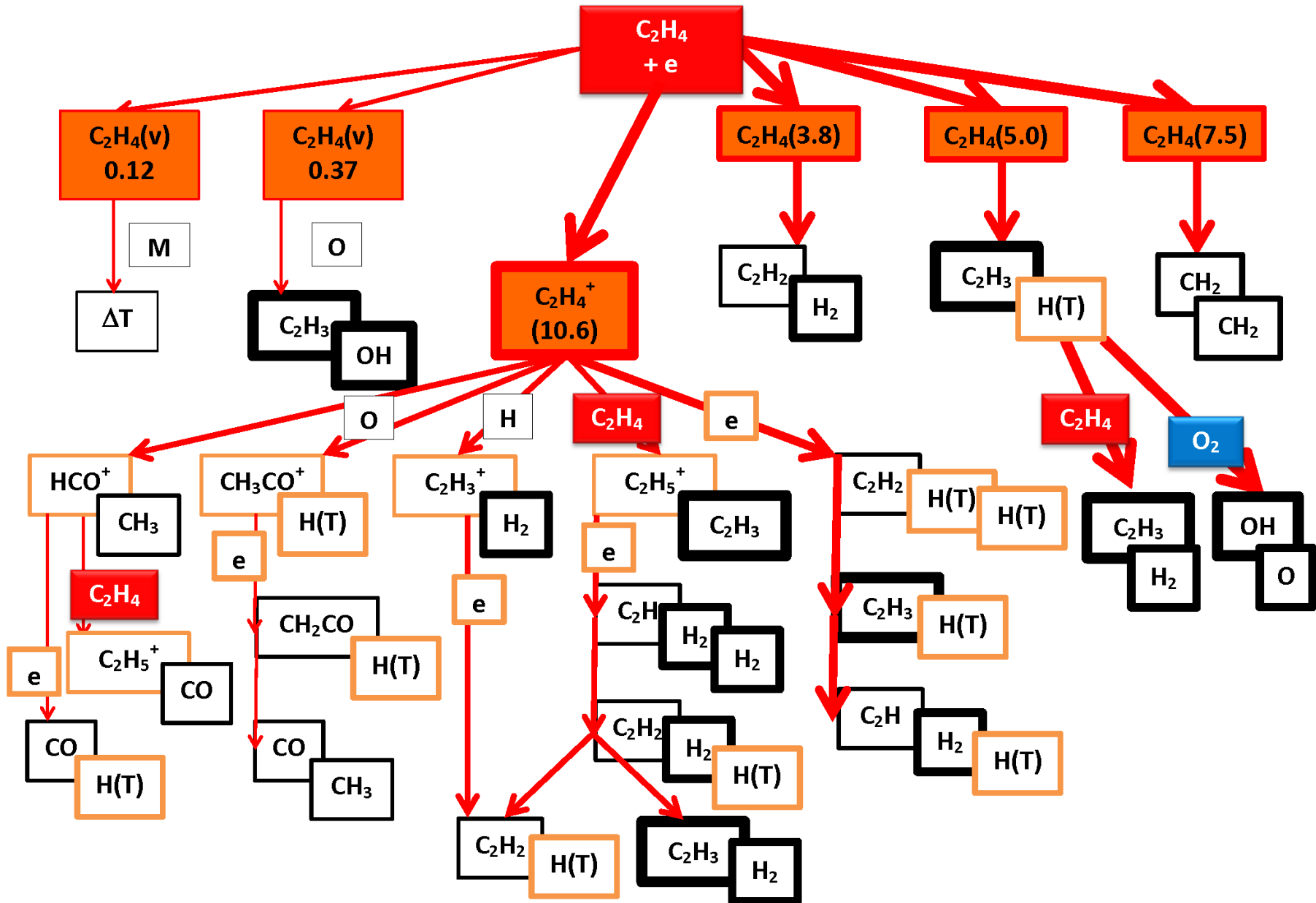


# Decreasing of Ignition Delay Time - 1994



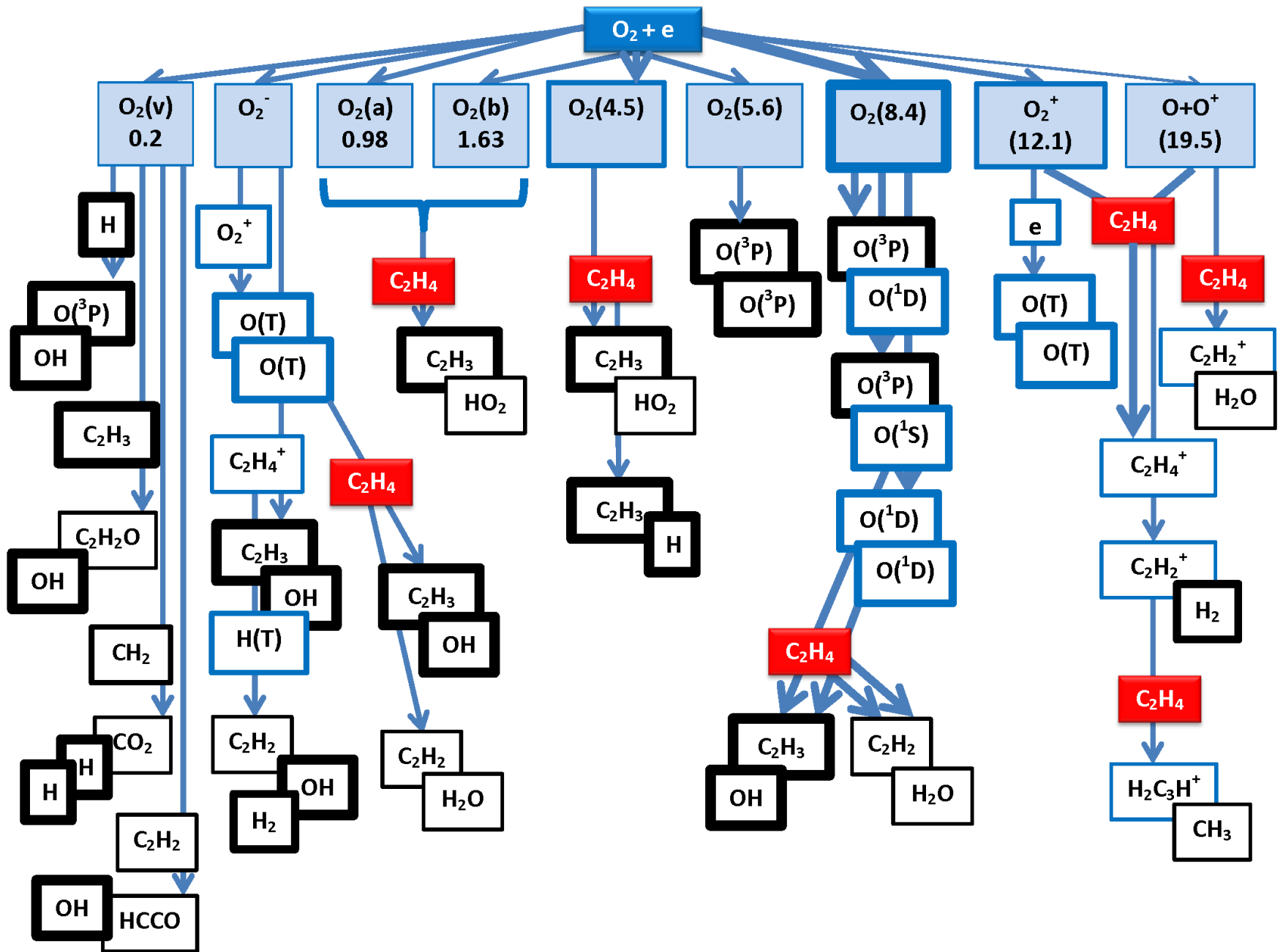


# PAC Pathways: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air



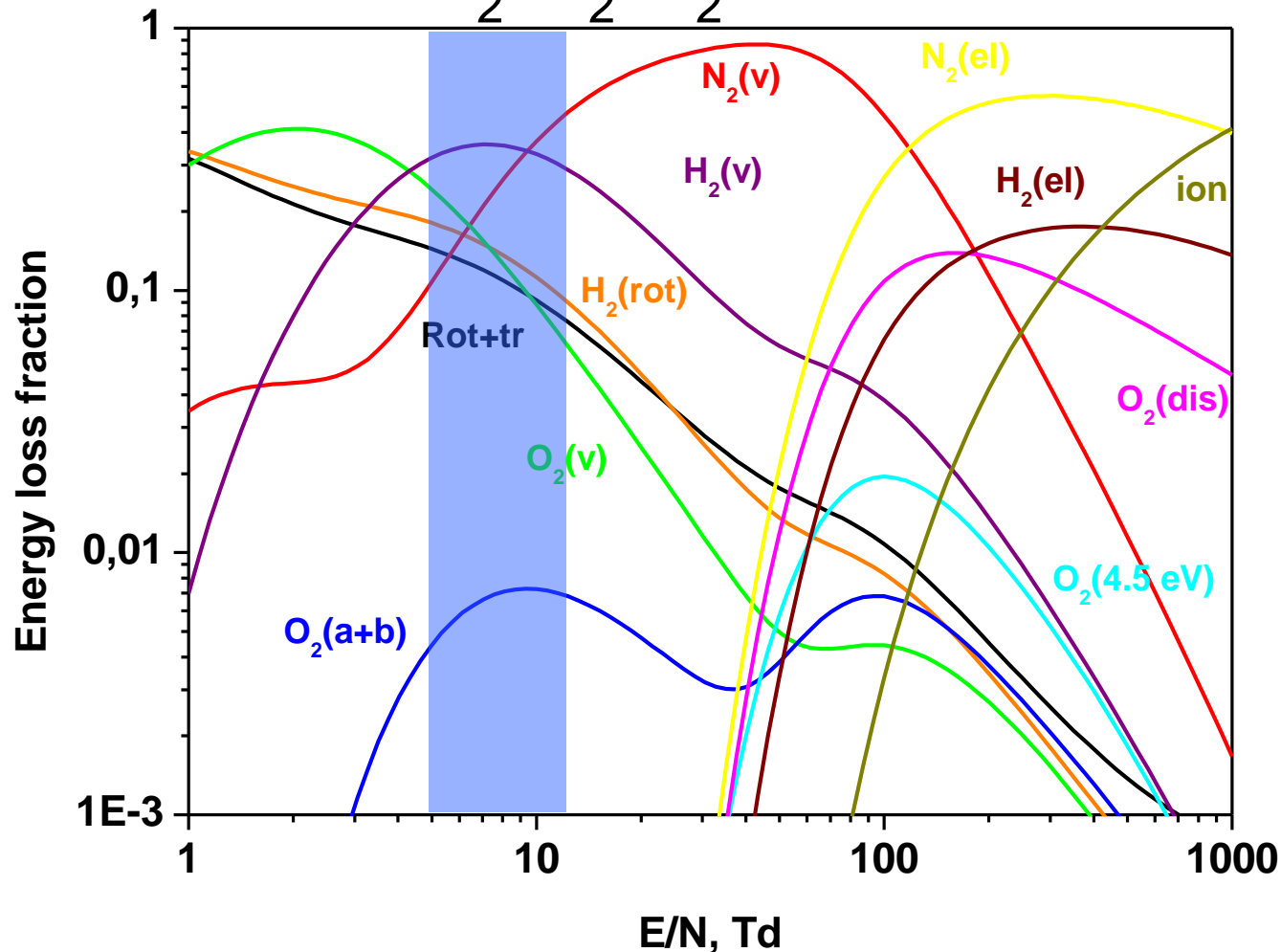


# PAC Pathways: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air

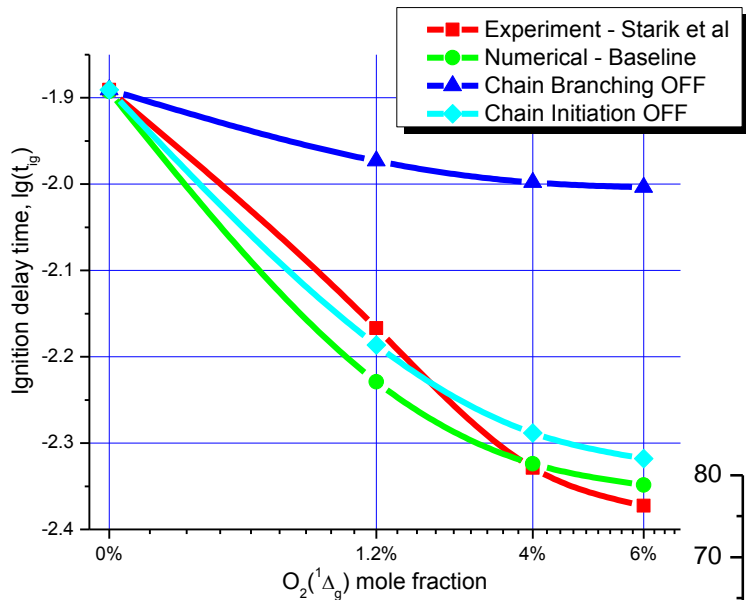


# Electron Energy Distribution in Discharge Plasmas

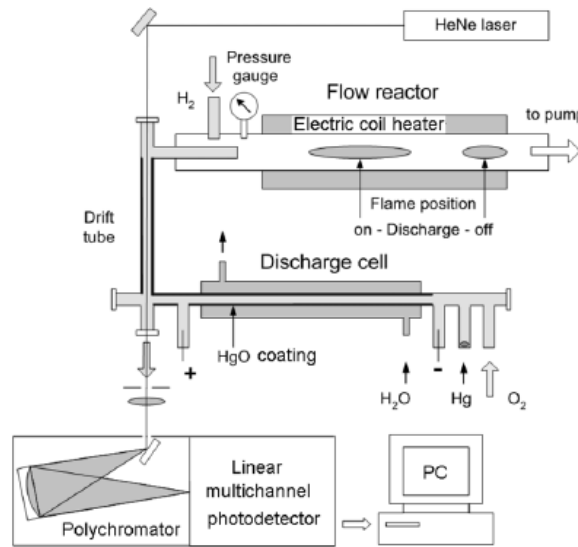
$N_2:O_2:H_2 = 4:1:2$



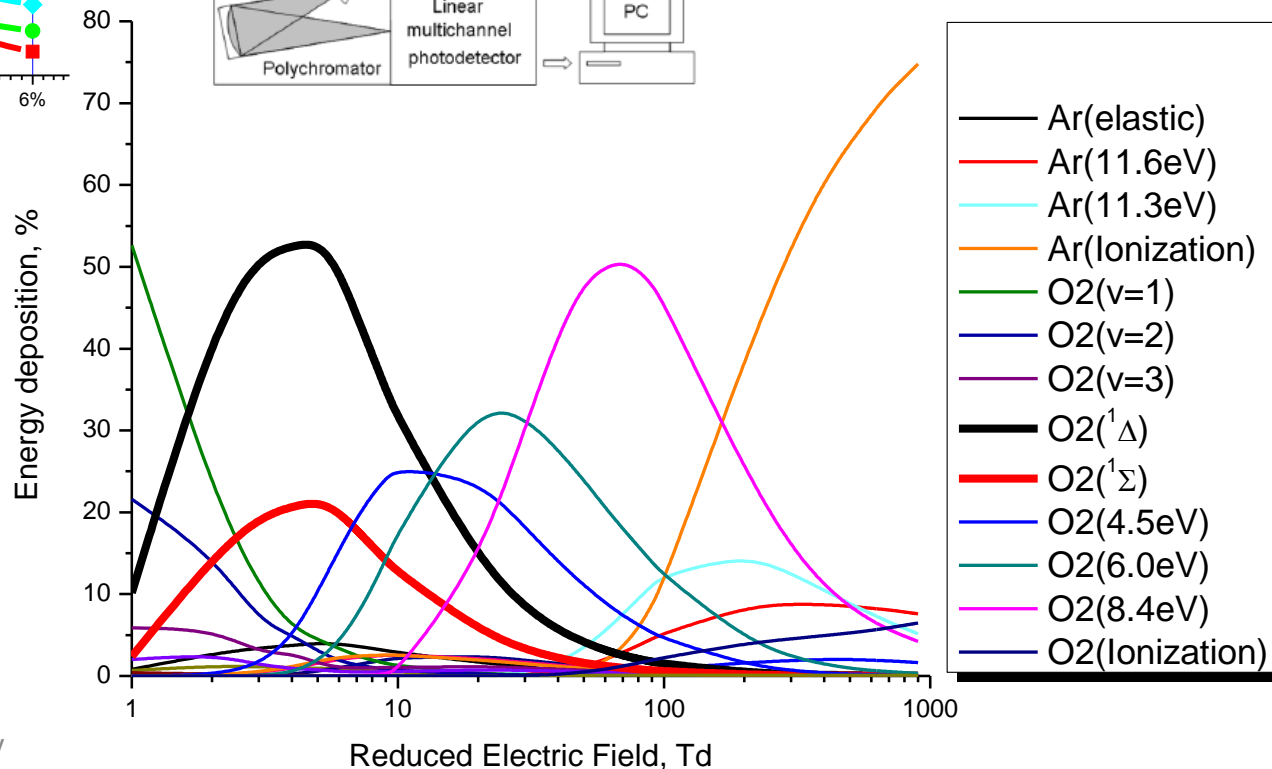
# Plasma Assisted Ignition at Low E/n



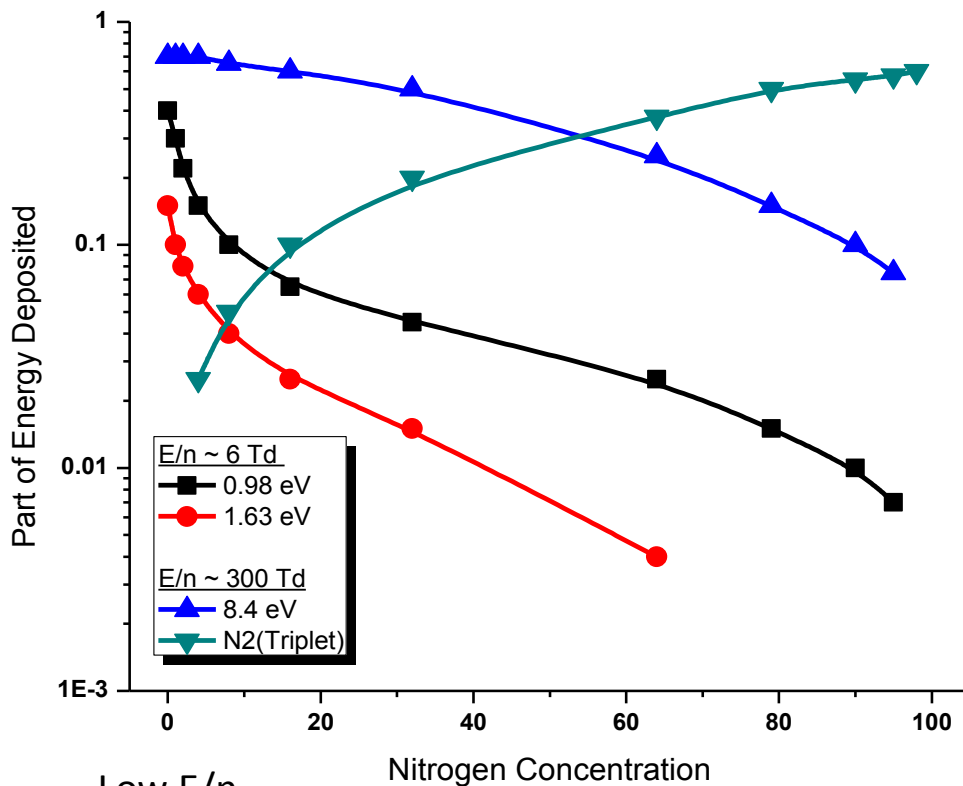
**Chain Branching:**  
 $O_2(^1\Delta) + H = OH + O$



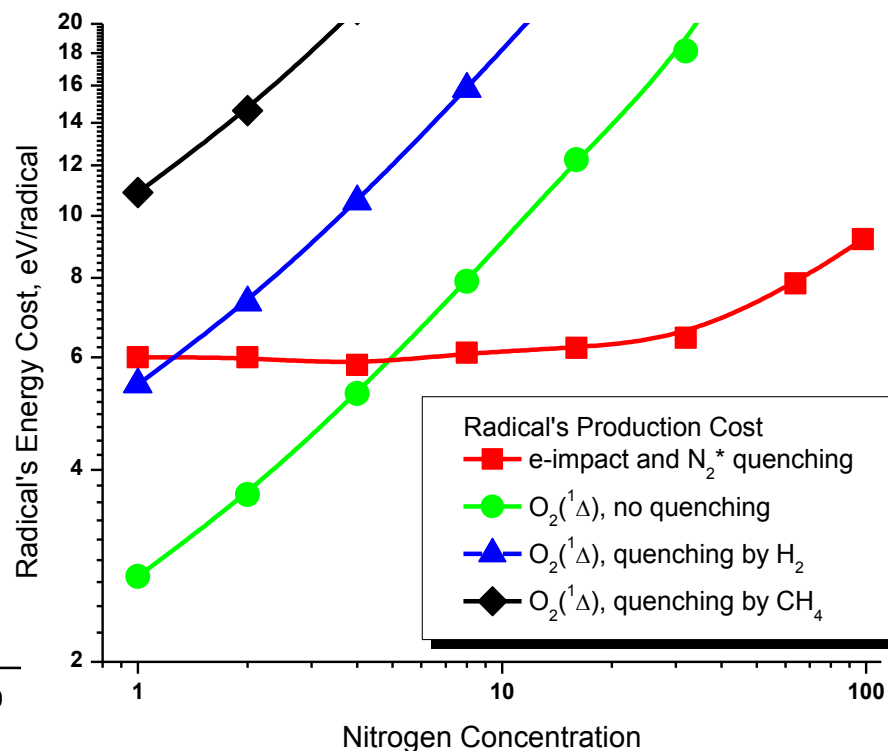
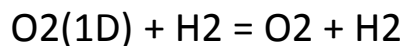
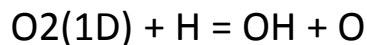
V V Smirnov, O M Stelmakh, V I Fabelinsky, D N Kozlov, A M Starik and N S Titova, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* **41** (2008)



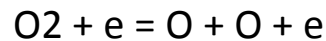
# Energy Cost of Radicals Production at Different Nitrogen Concentrations



Low  $E/n$

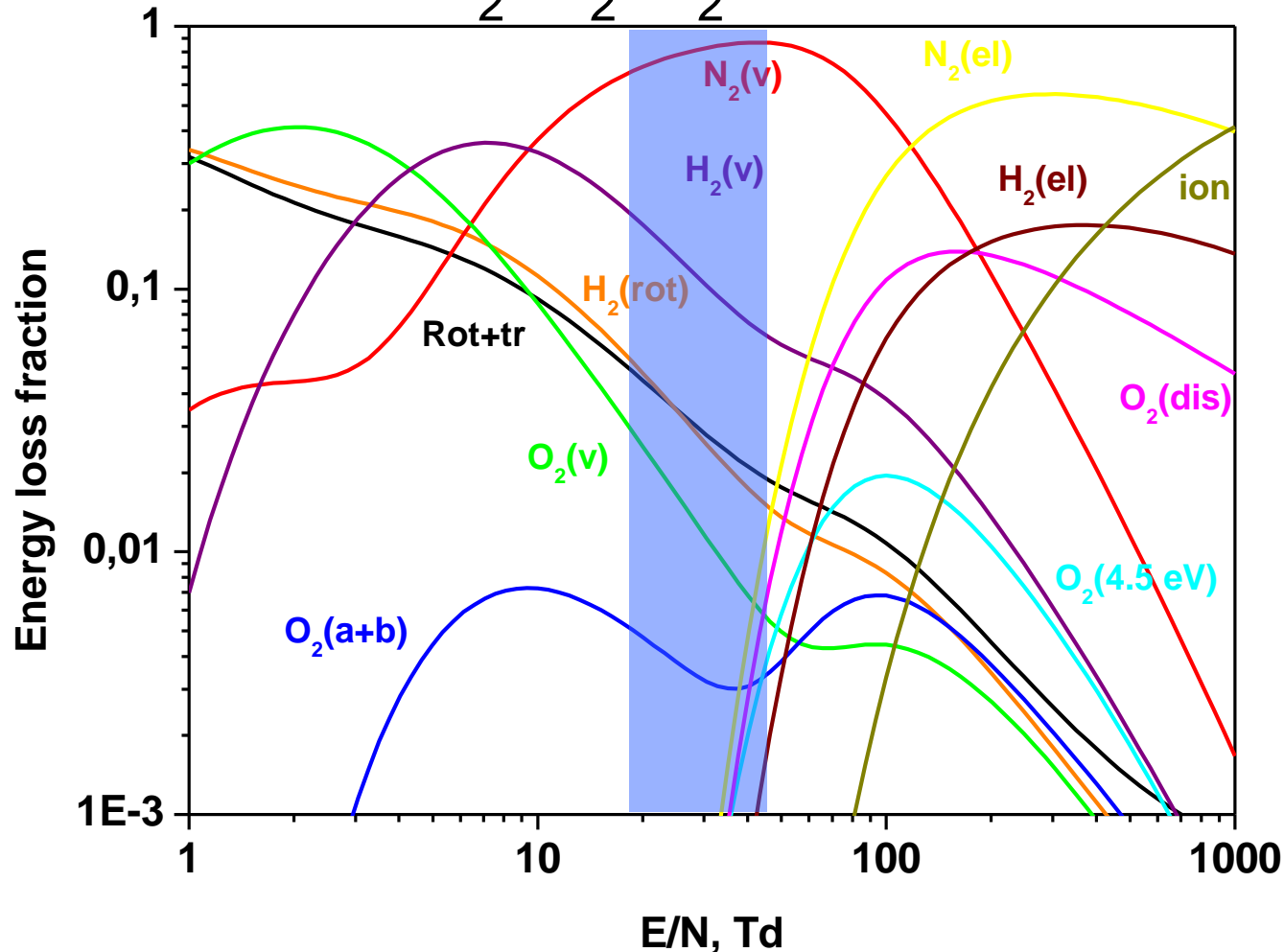


High  $E/n$



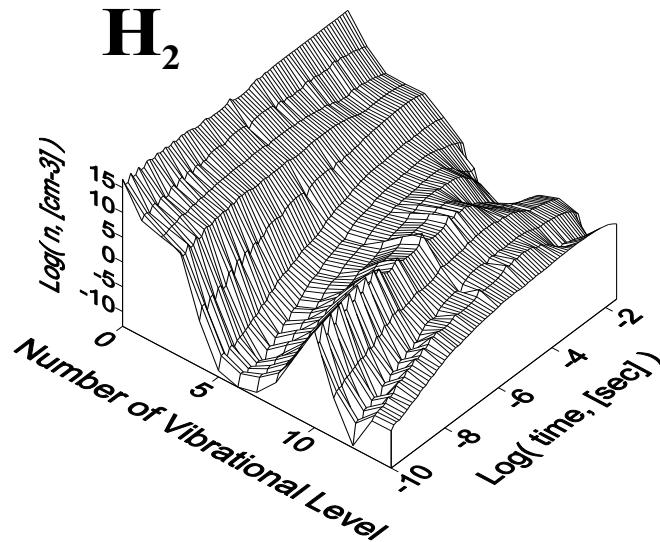
# Electron Energy Distribution in Discharge Plasmas

$$\text{N}_2:\text{O}_2:\text{H}_2 = 4:1:2$$

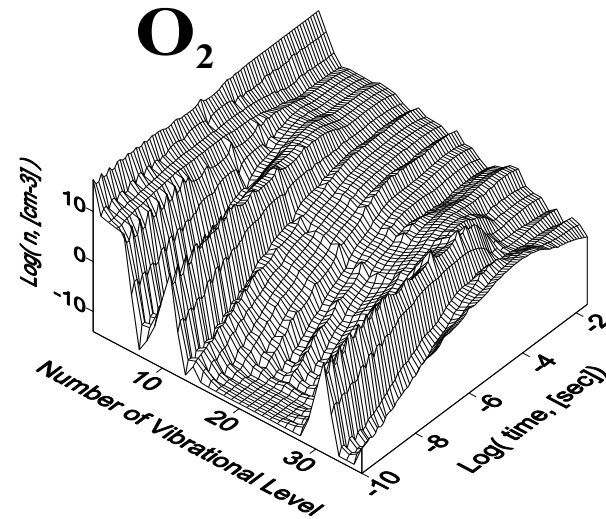


# Vibrational Energy Distribution

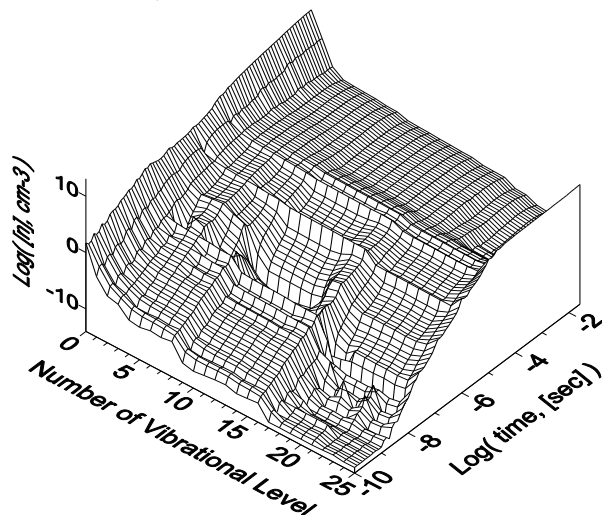
**H<sub>2</sub>**



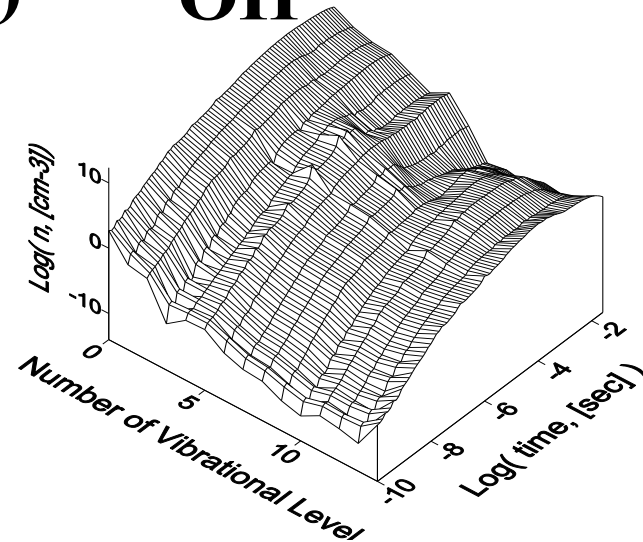
**O<sub>2</sub>**



**H<sub>2</sub>O (defomational mode)**



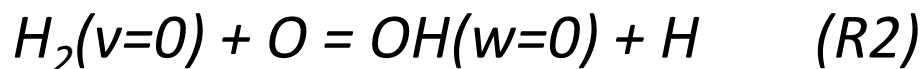
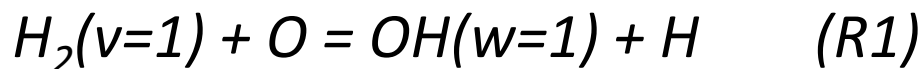
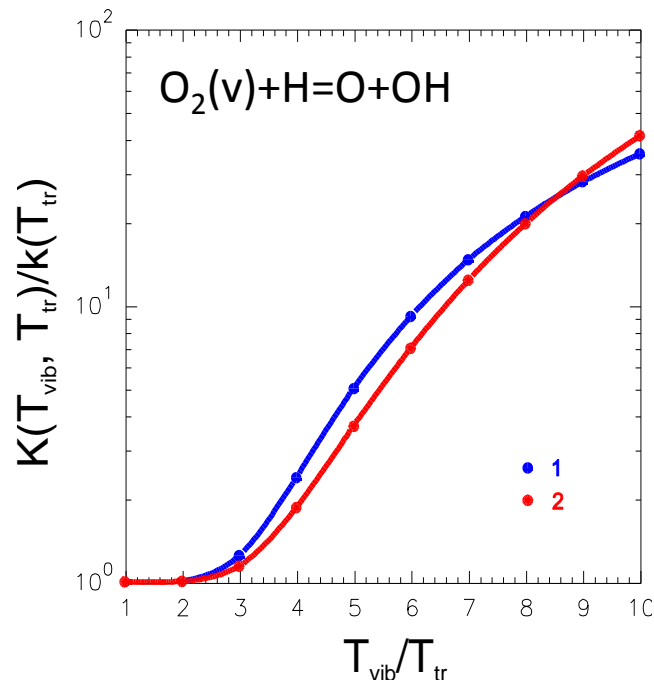
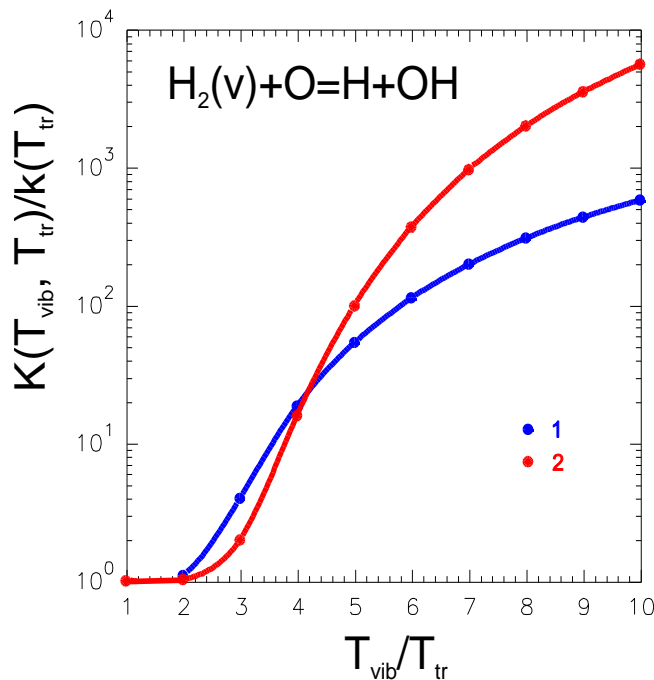
**OH**





# Chemical Reactions with Excited Reagents

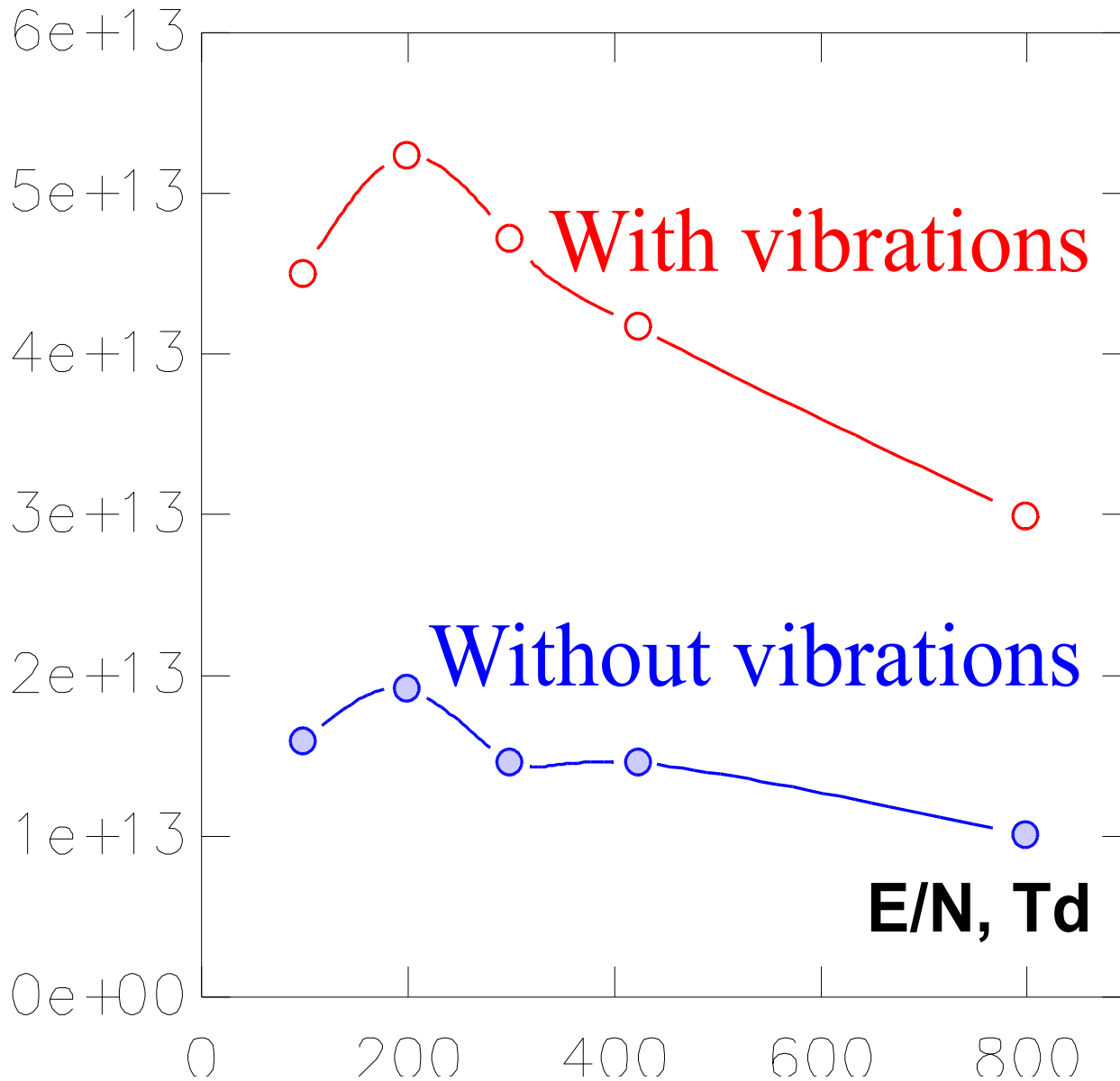
$AB(v)+C = A + BC(w)$   
 Rate constant from  
 modified  $\alpha$ -model  
 (Starikovskii, Lashin 1996)



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

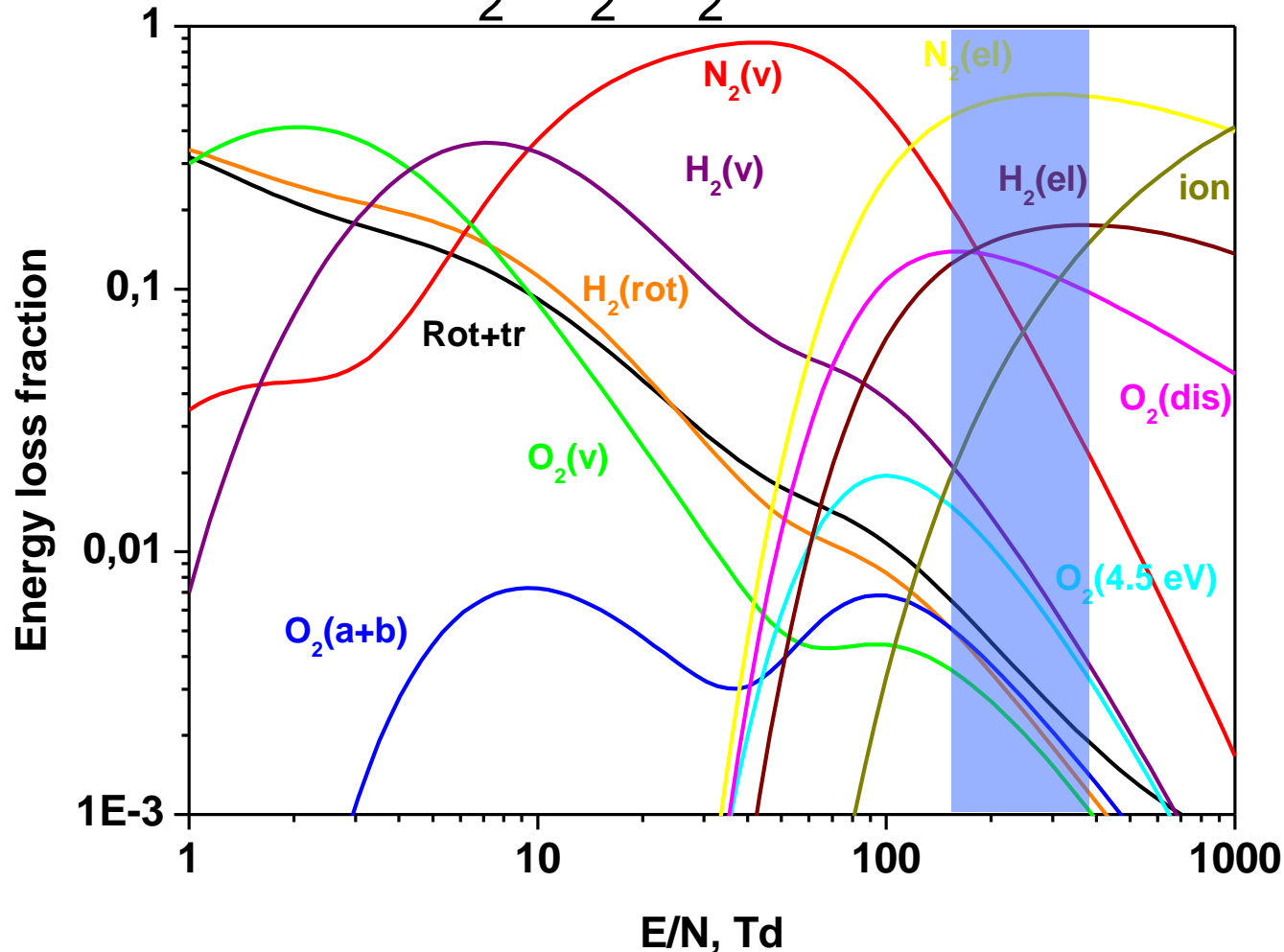
# Hydrogen Oxidation Rate

**[H<sub>2</sub>O], cm<sup>-3</sup>**



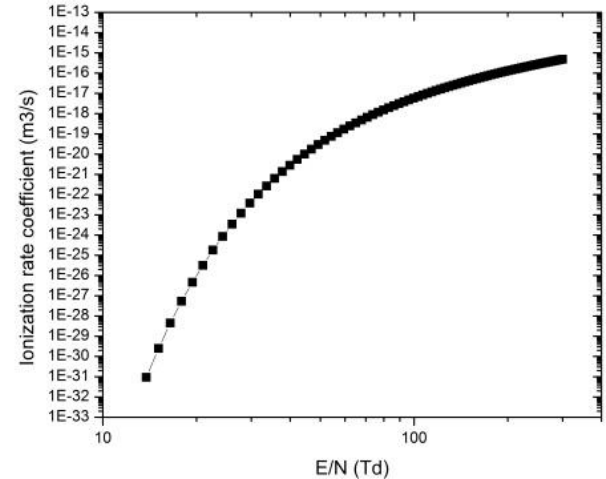
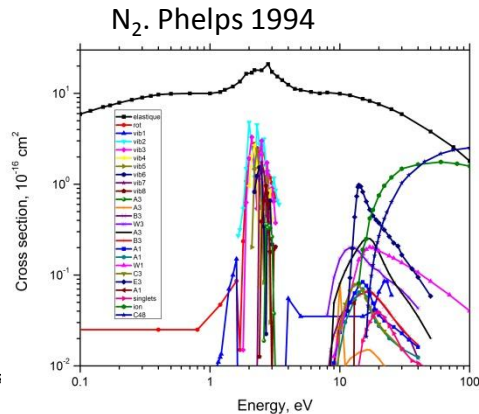
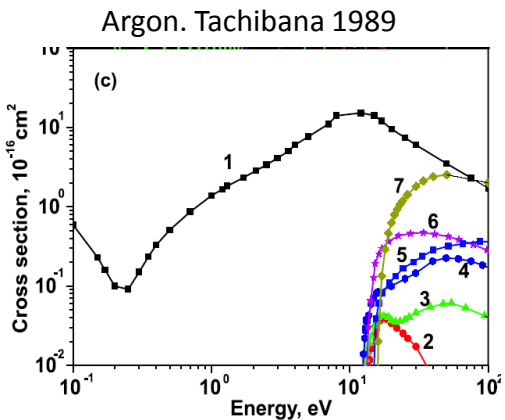
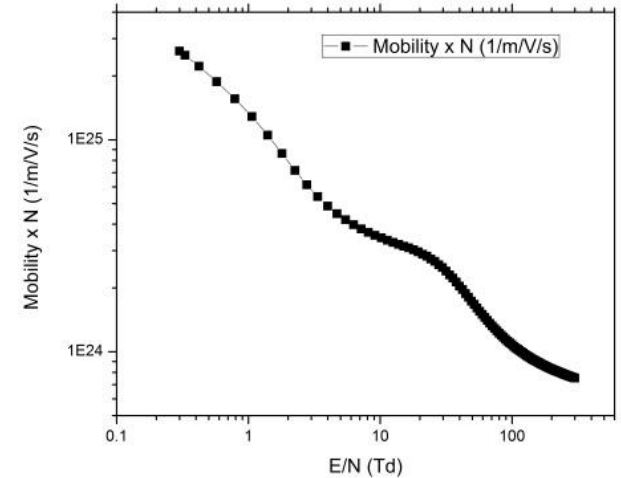
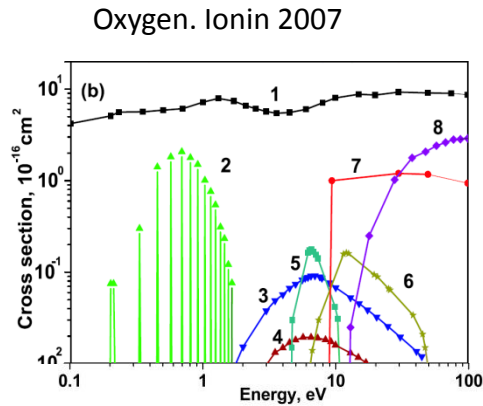
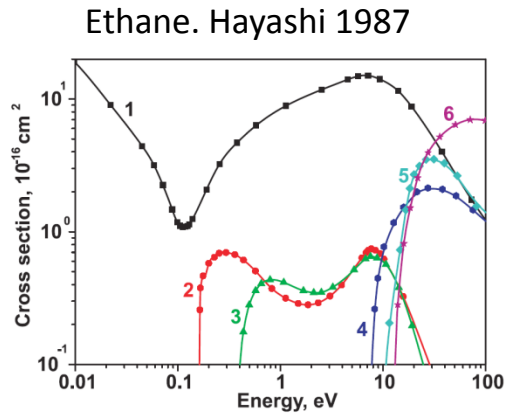
# Electron Energy Distribution in Discharge Plasmas

$$\text{N}_2:\text{O}_2:\text{H}_2 = 4:1:2$$



# Pulse Current Dynamics – Shock Tube

$C_2H_6:O_2:N_2:Ar = 2:7:28:63$



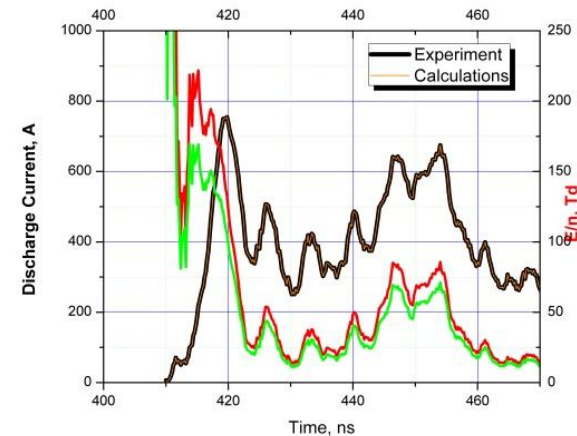
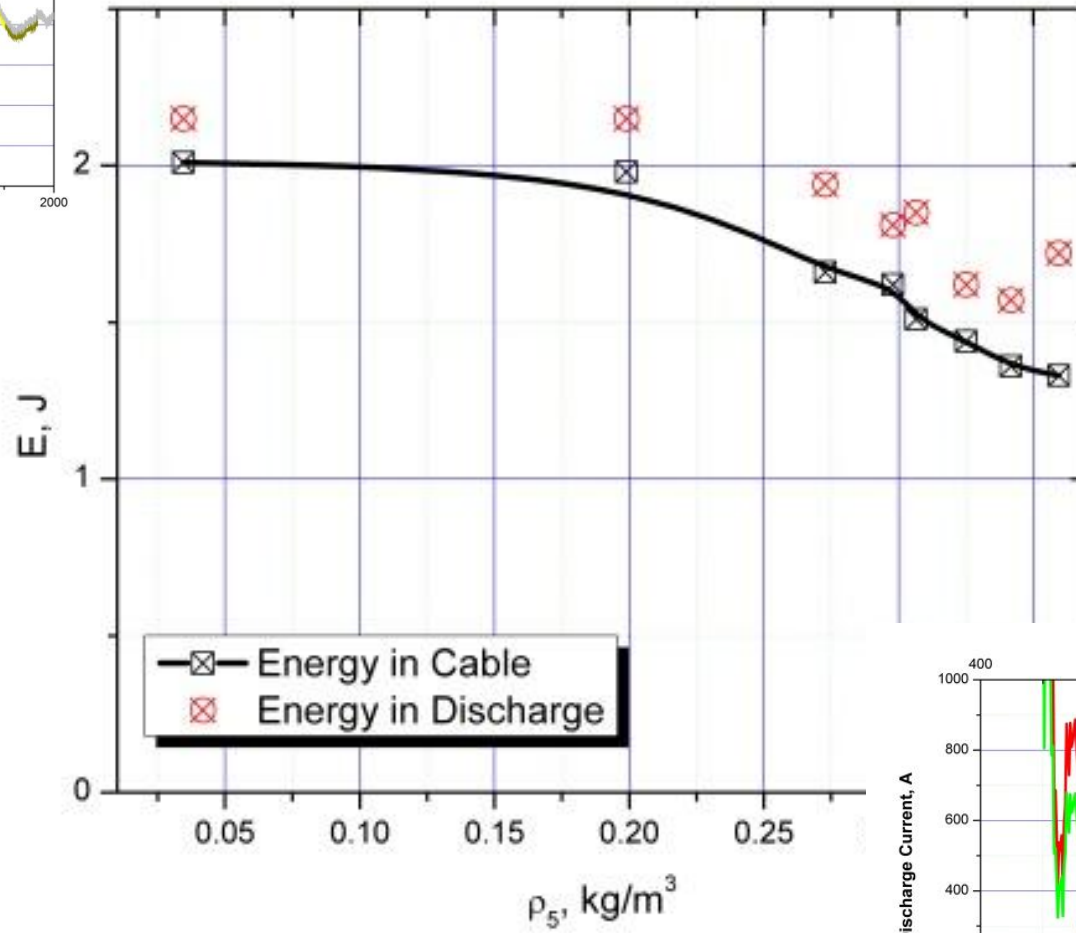
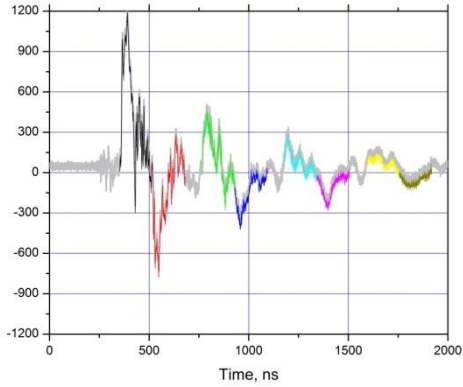
$$\frac{\partial(nf)}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v}\nabla(nf) + \frac{Ze}{m} \left\{ \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} [\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{H}] \right\} \nabla_v(nf) = S(nf)$$

$$f(v, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} f_l(v) P_l(\cos \theta) \approx f_0(v) + f_1(v) \cos \theta$$

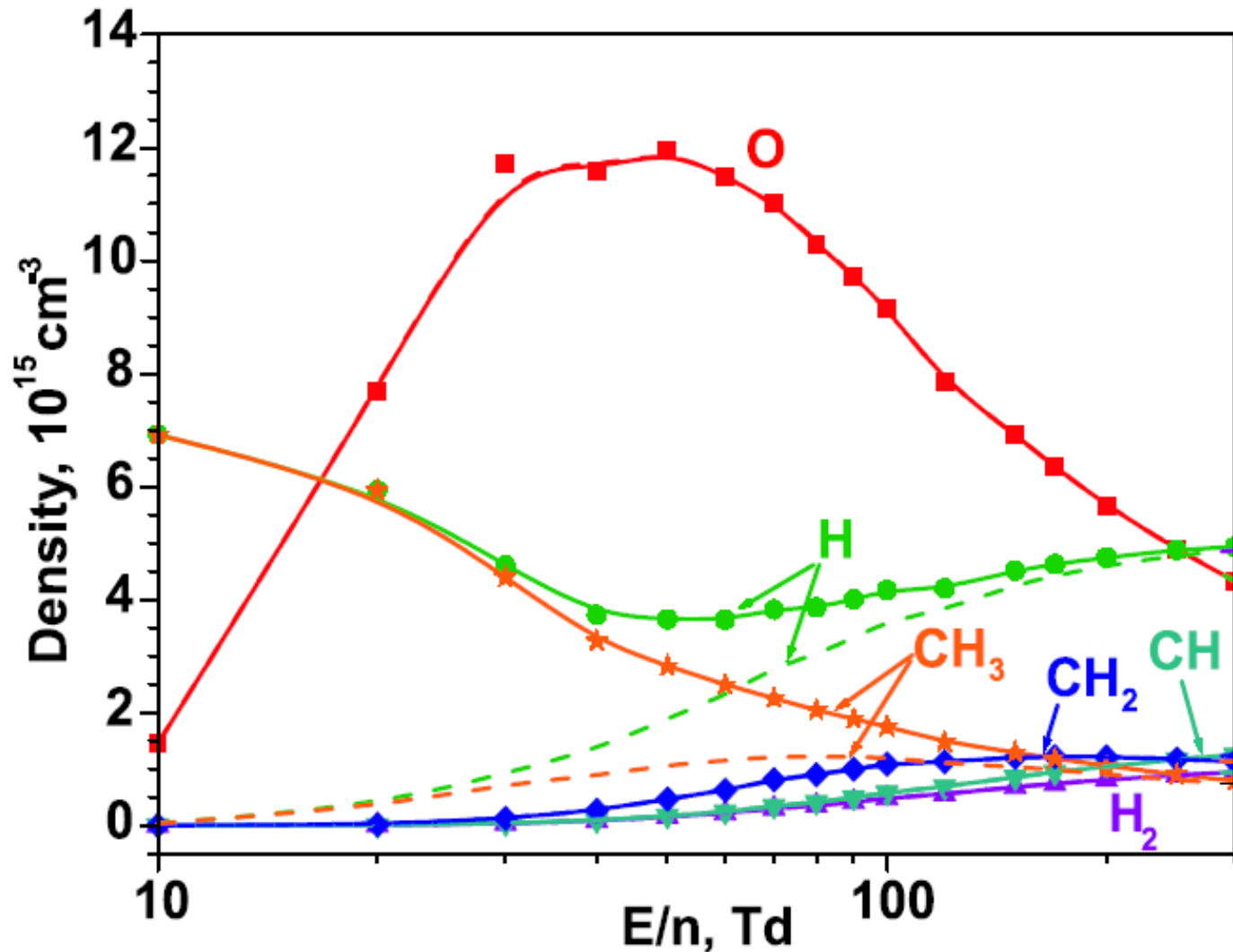
$$v_g/v_m \ll 1$$

# Discharge Energy Comparison

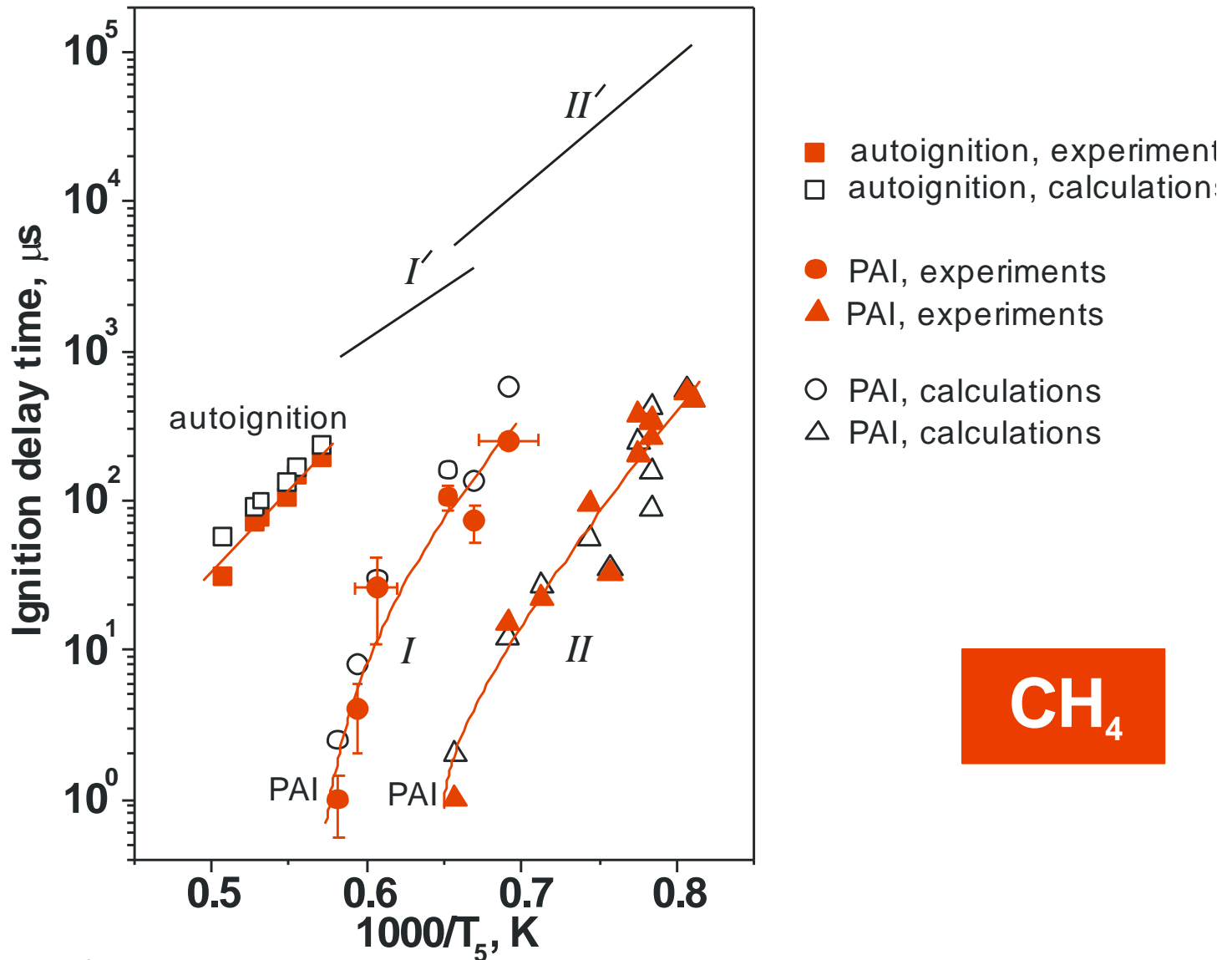
$C_2H_6:O_2:N_2:Ar = 2:7:28:63$



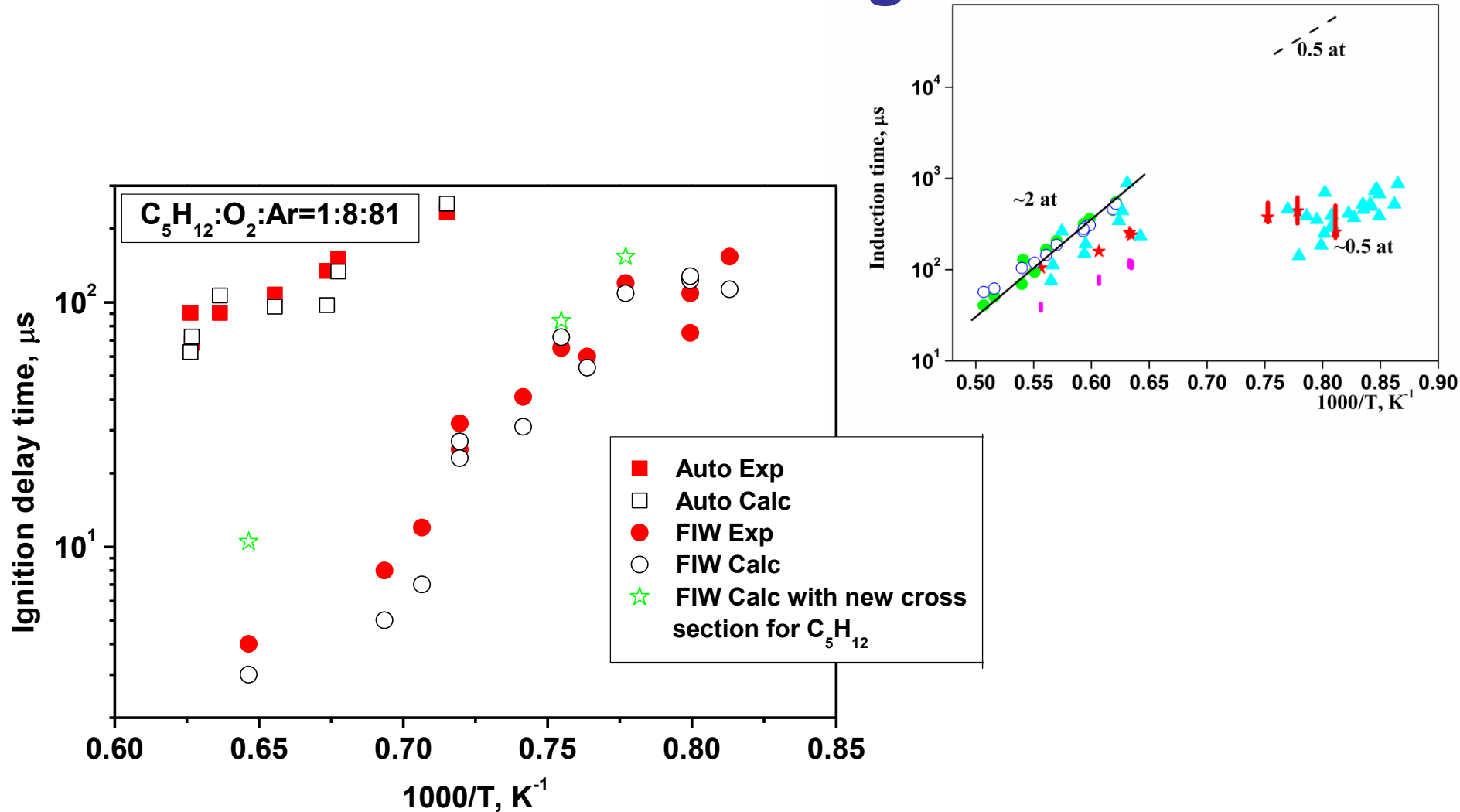
# Radicals Production in Discharge CH<sub>4</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-Ar mixture



# Ignition Delay Time: Methane-Containing Mixture



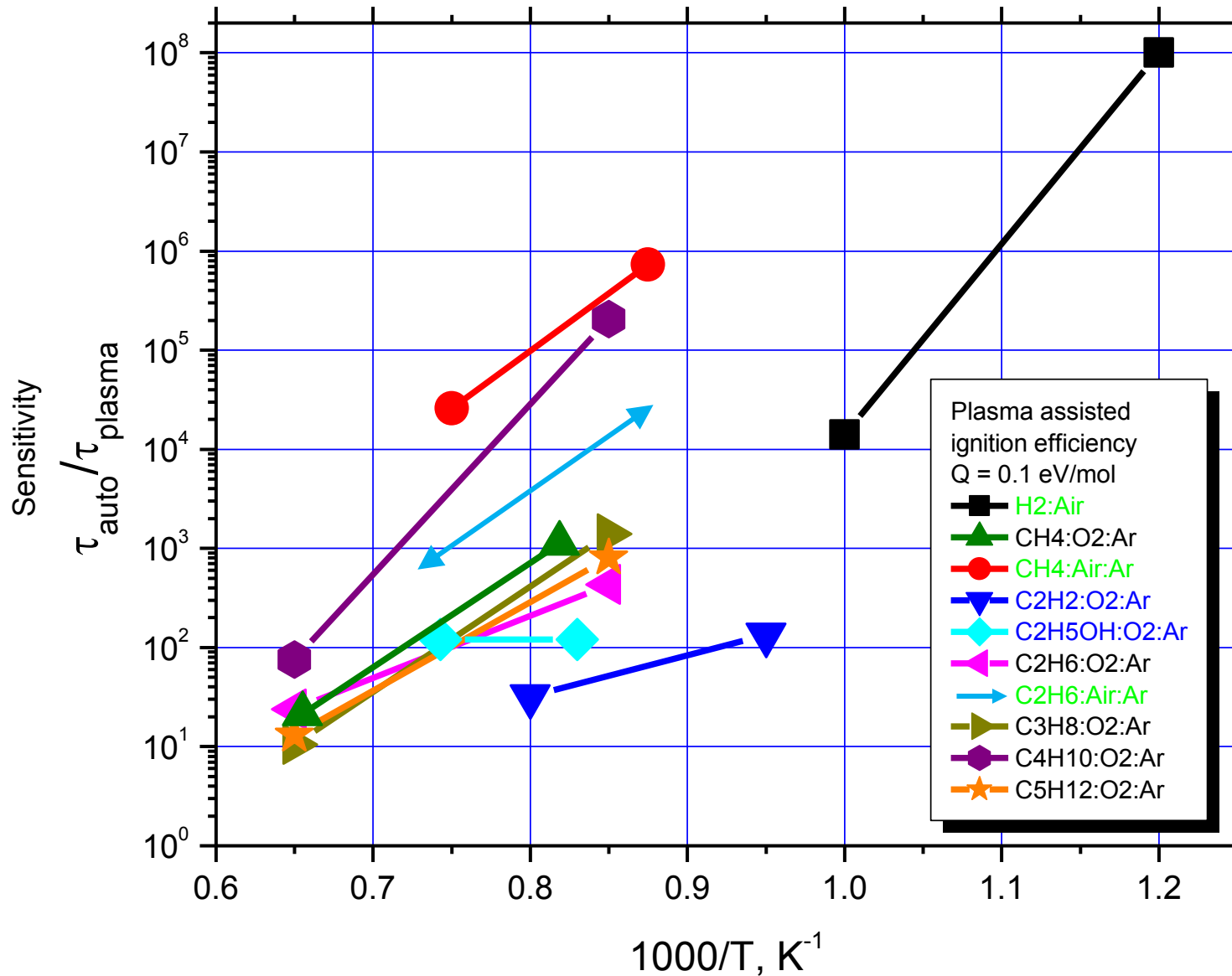
# Pentane-Oxygen and Methane-Air Plasma Assisted Ignition





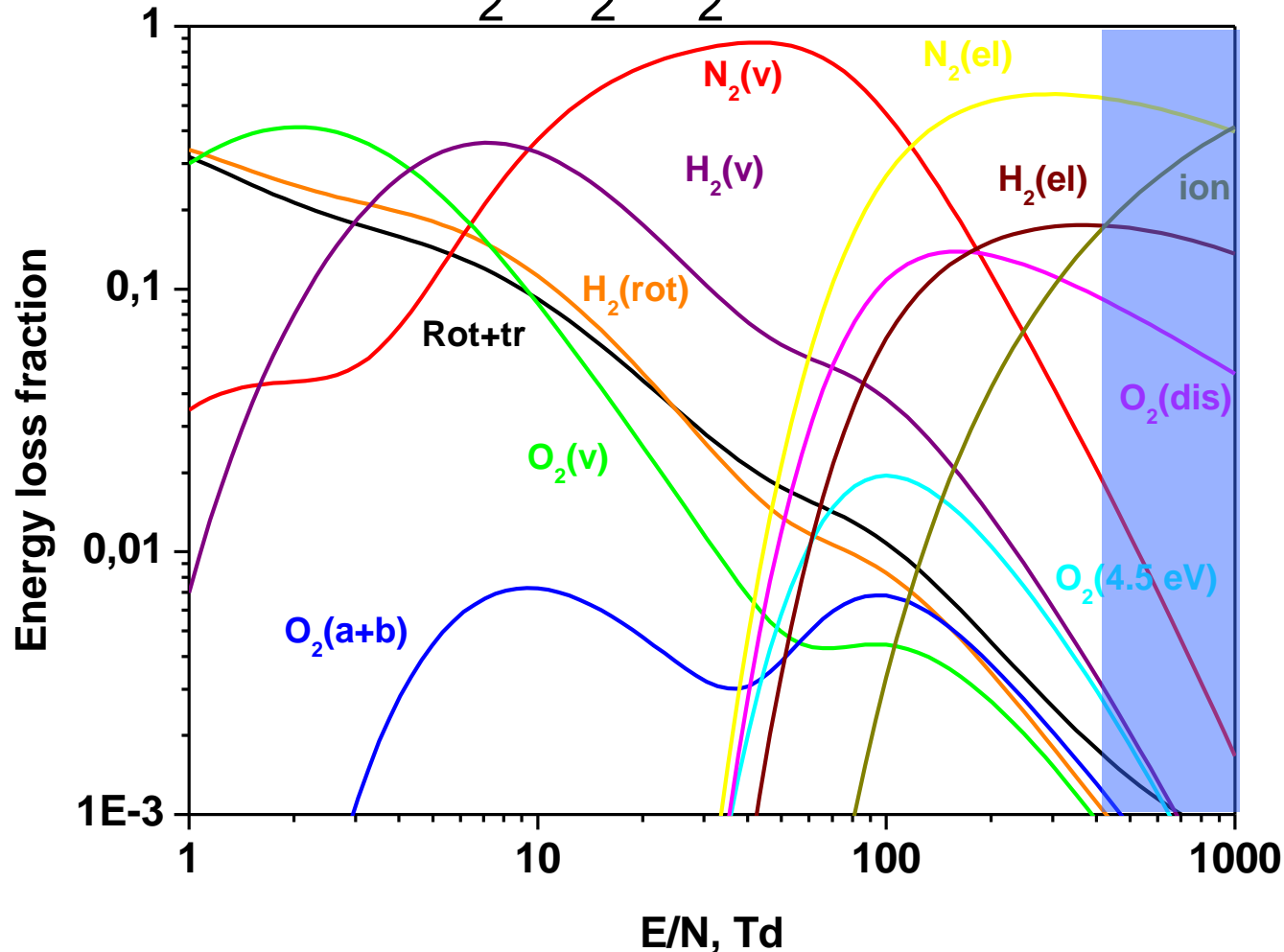
# Plasma Ignition Sensitivity

## 0.1 eV/mol

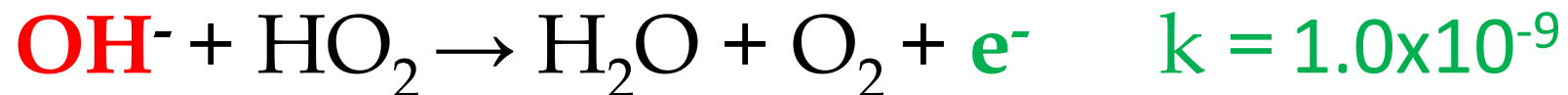
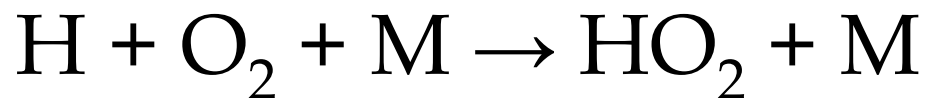
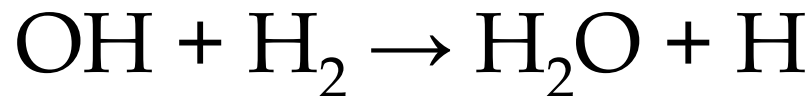
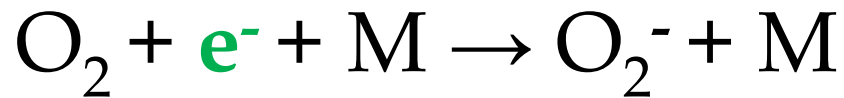


# Electron Energy Distribution in Discharge Plasmas

$N_2:O_2:H_2 = 4:1:2$

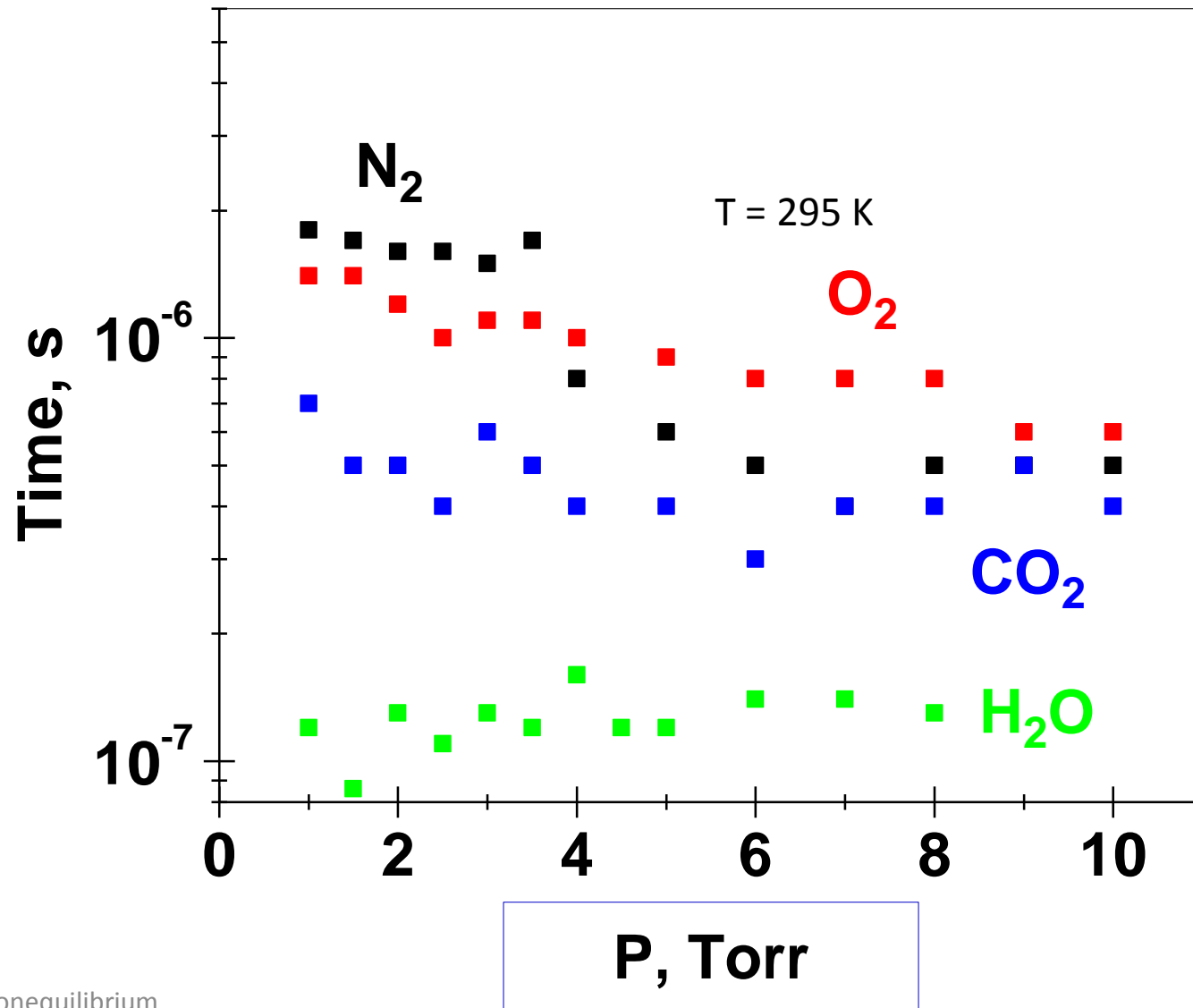


# Ionic Oxidation Mechanisms: Low Energy Thresholds



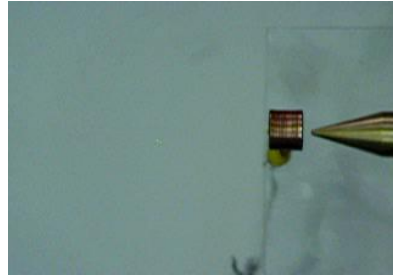
I.N.Kosarev, A.Yu.Starikovskii. Mechanism for Electric Breakdown in a Chemically Nonequilibrium System and the Influence of the Chain Oxidation Reaction in an H<sub>2</sub>-Air Mixture on the Breakdown Threshold. Plasma Physics Reports, 2000. V.26. N.8. P.701.

# Plasma Decay Time at T = 295 K

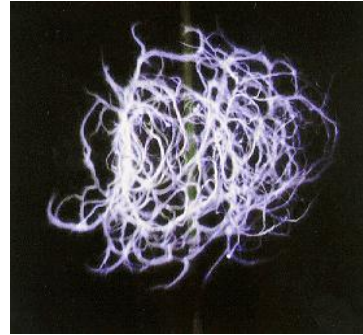


# Mechanisms of Plasma/Flame Interaction

1. Heating



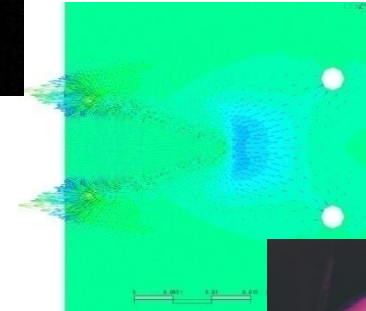
2. Turbululization



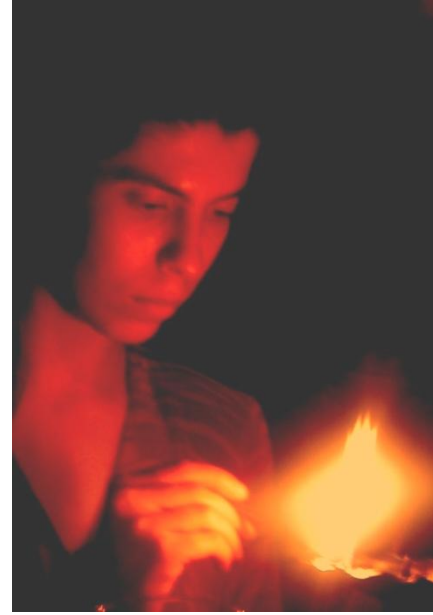
3. Momentum Transfer



4. Electrons/Ions Diffusion/Drift



5. Excitation, Dissociation, Ionization



# SDBD Discharge and Fast Heating



Gate = 0.5 ns

Time shift between frames is 1 ns

The movie duration is 41 ns

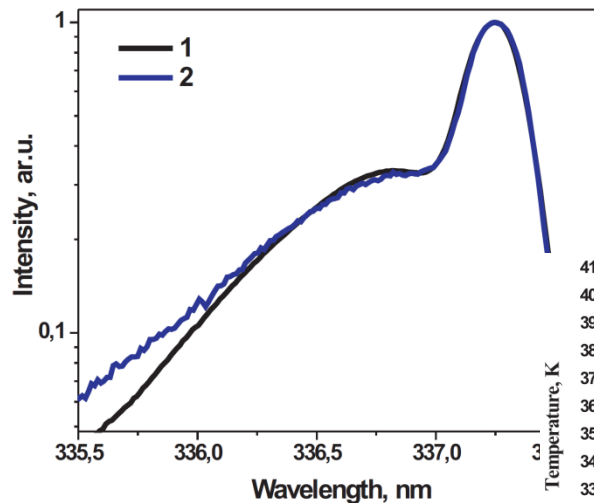
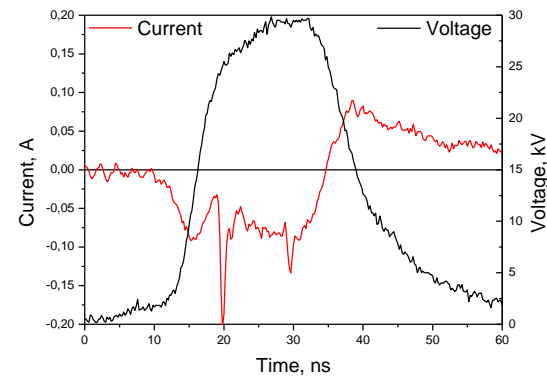
Impulse Parameters

V = 14 kV

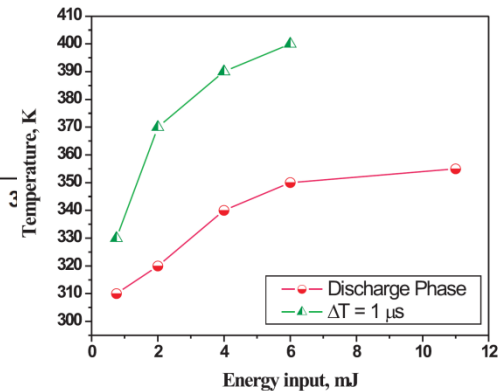
$t_{1/2} = 20$  ns

Frequency = 1 kHz

Velocity = 0.4 mm/ns

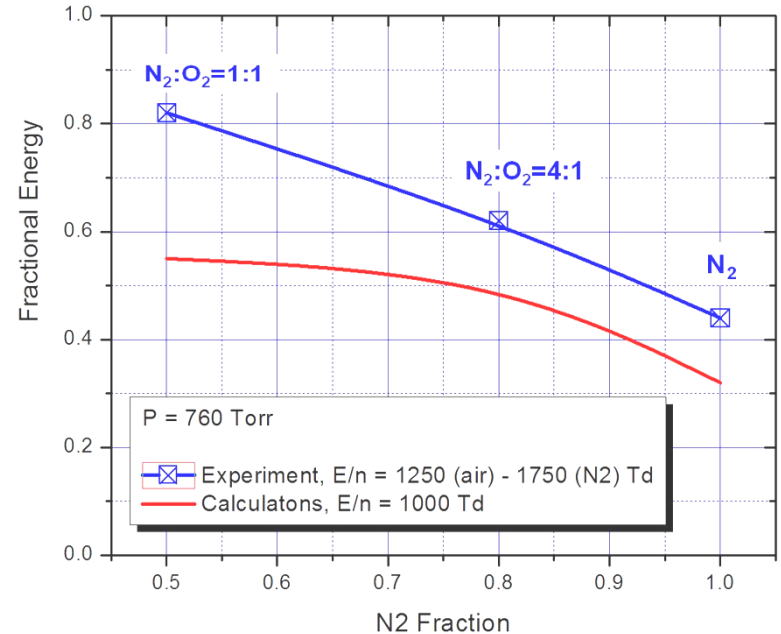
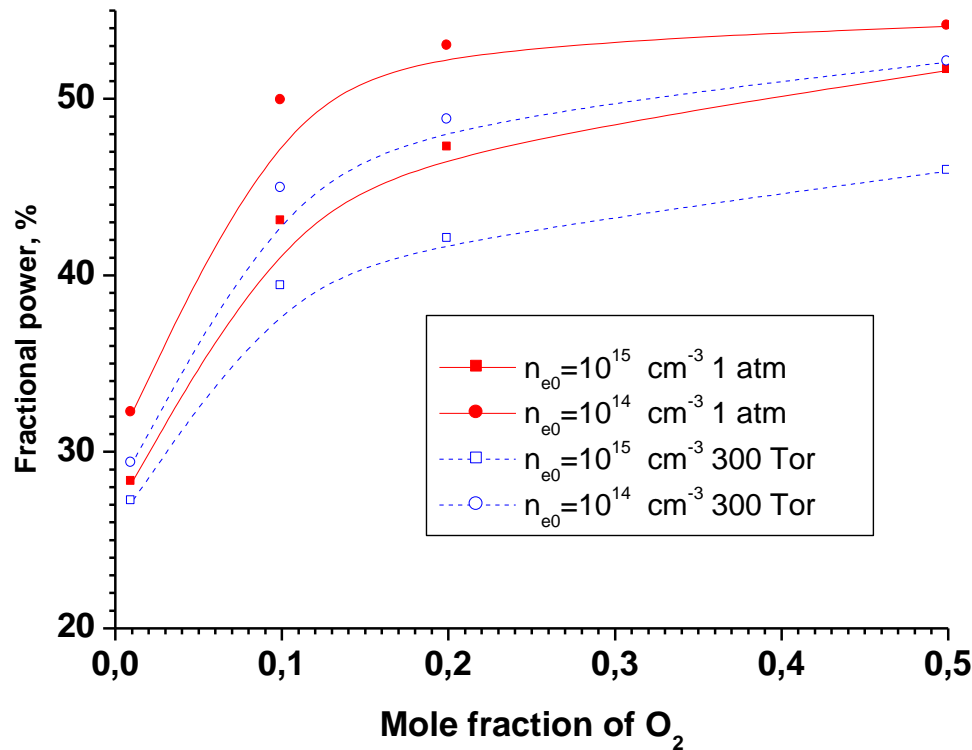


**1- 0-30 ns**  
**2- 1000-1030 ns**

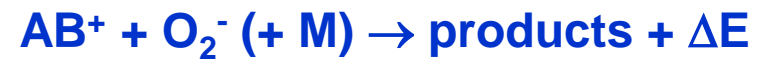


# Fractional Electron Power Transferred Into Heat in N<sub>2</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> Mixtures

$E/N = 10^3$  Td

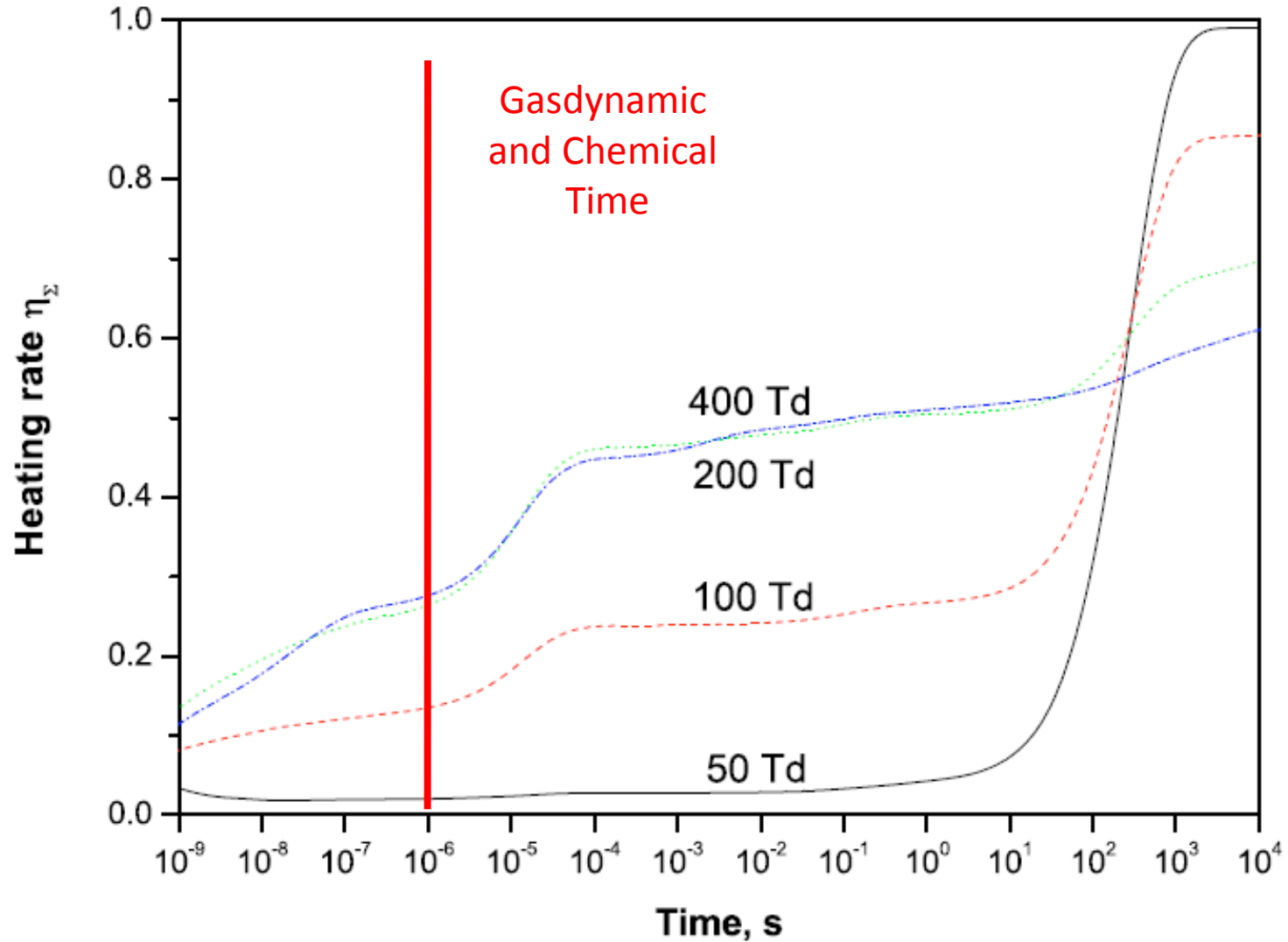


**Oxygen is required for efficient fast heating!**



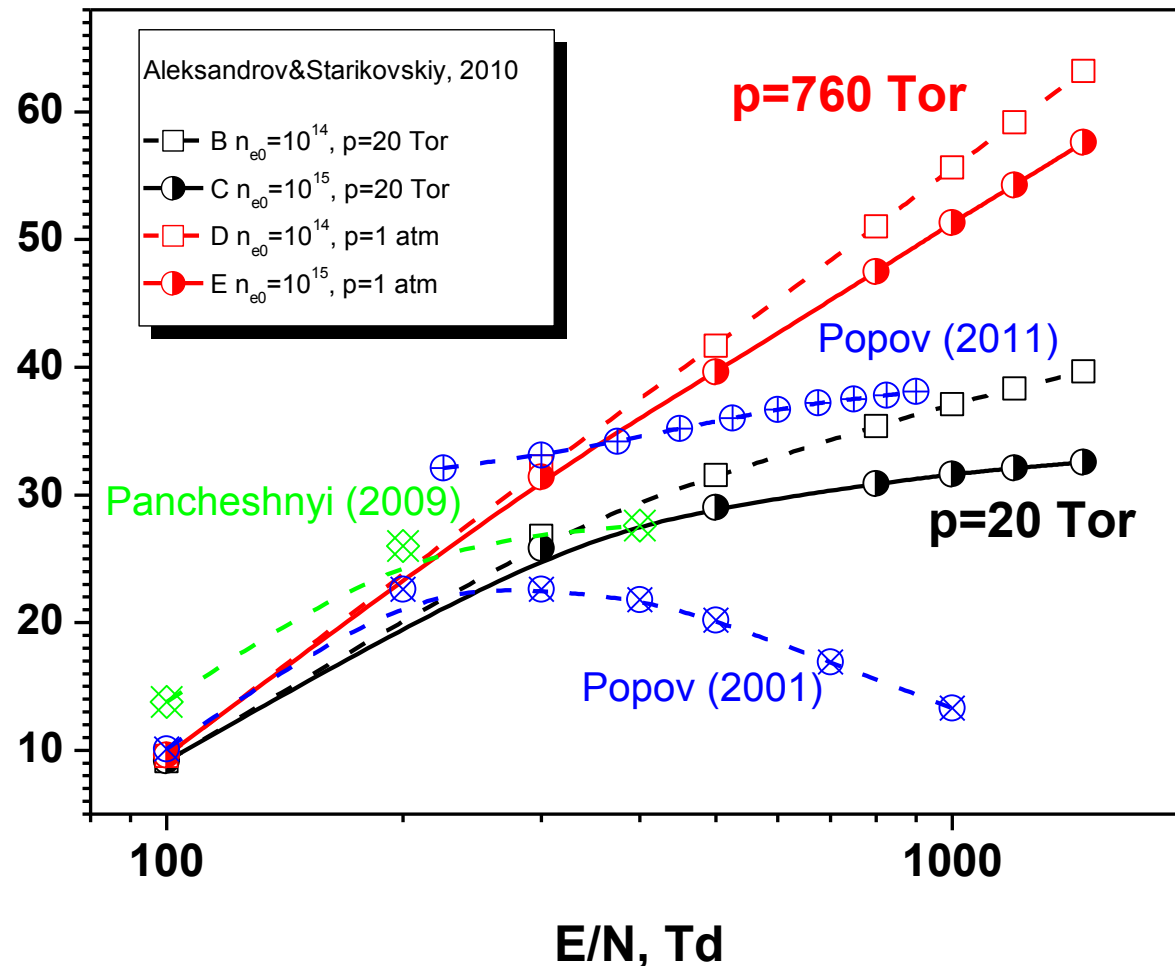
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# Heating Rate Calculated for Different Electric Fields in Dry Air at Normal Conditions





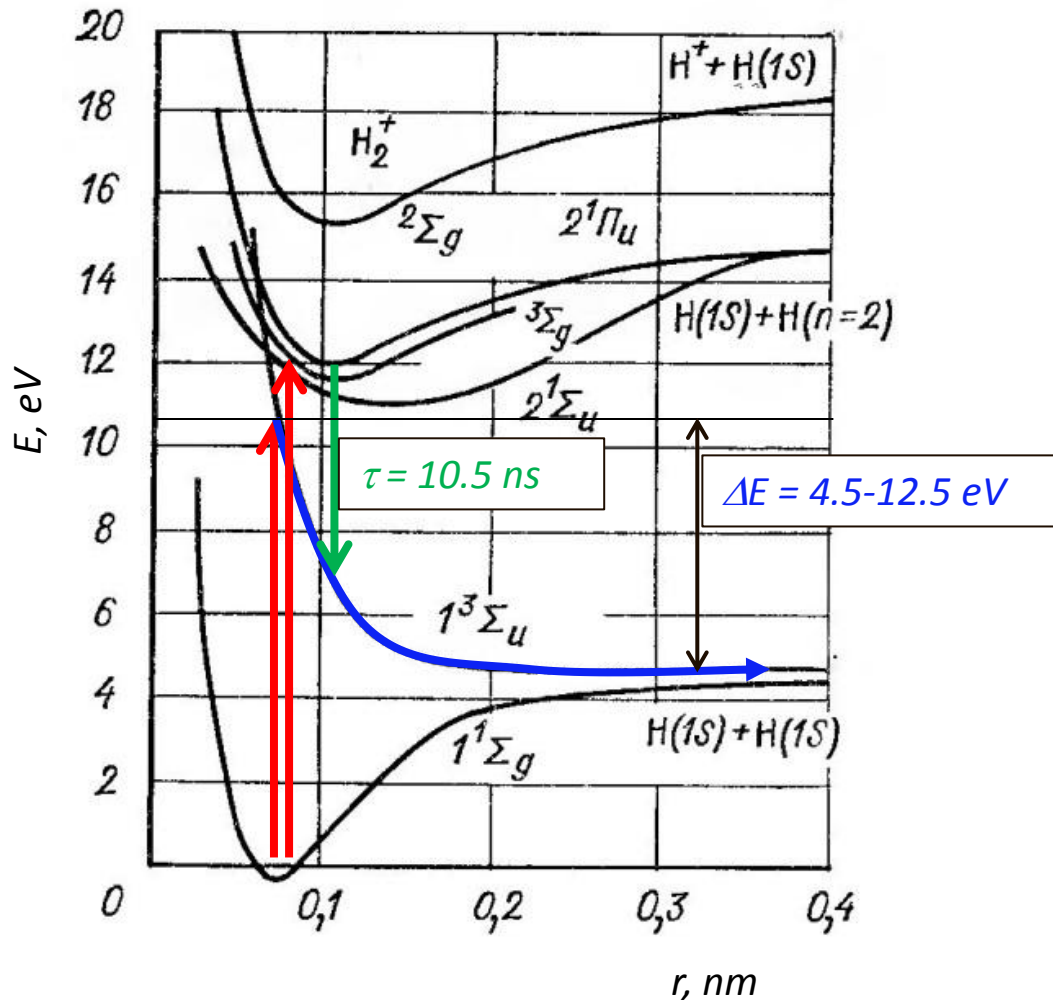
# Mechanism of Fast Heating in Discharge Plasmas (high E/N)



High (> 200 Td) E/N:

electron-ion and  
ion-ion  
recombination  
kinetics

# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Hydrogen

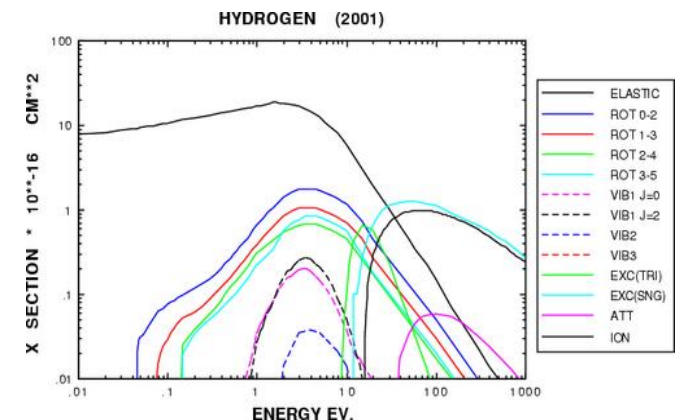


$H_2(b^3\Sigma_u)$ , 8.9 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.33 \text{ \AA}^2$  (17 eV)

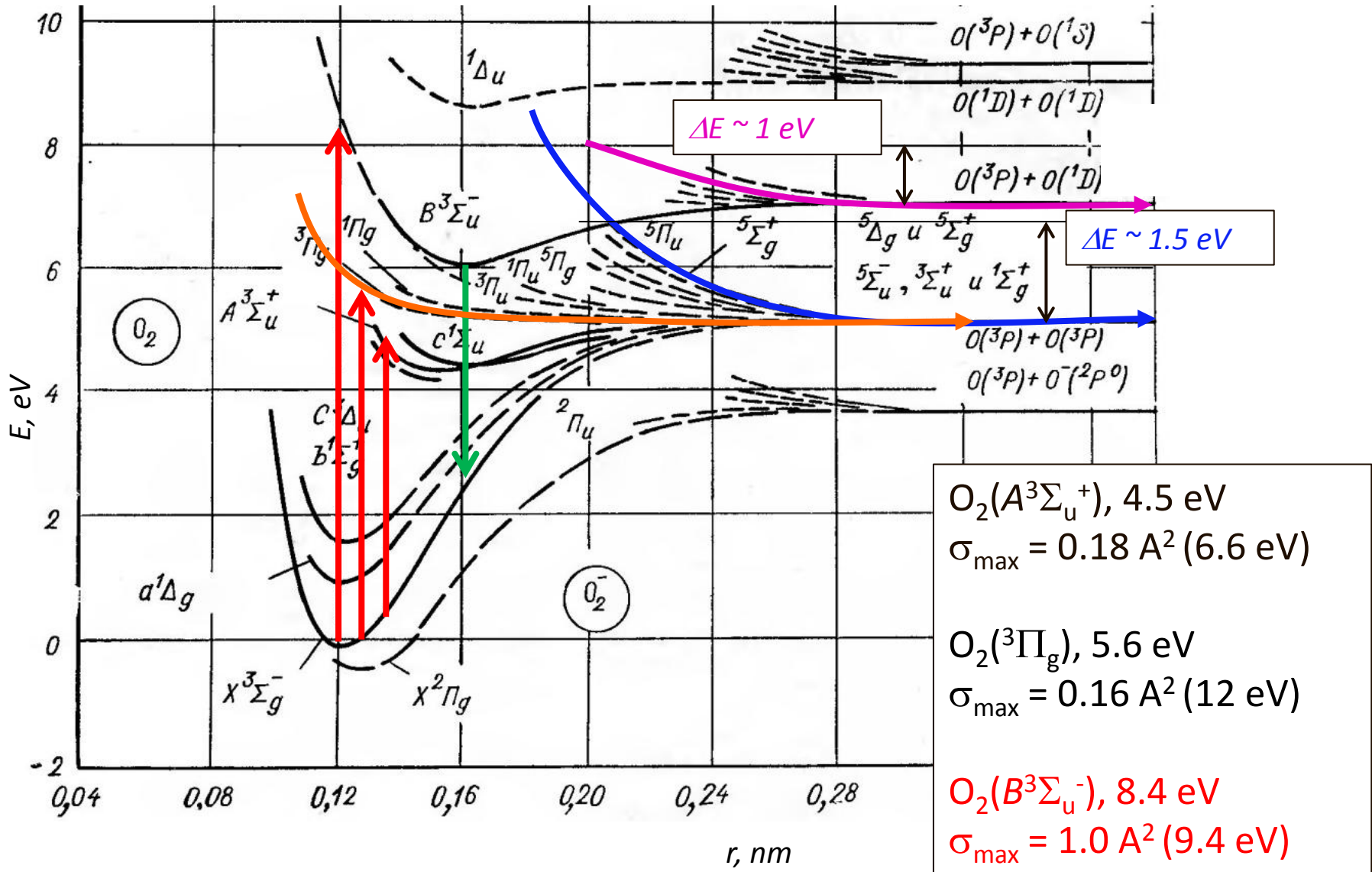
$H_2(a^3\Sigma_g)$ , 11.8 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.12 \text{ \AA}^2$  (15 eV)

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

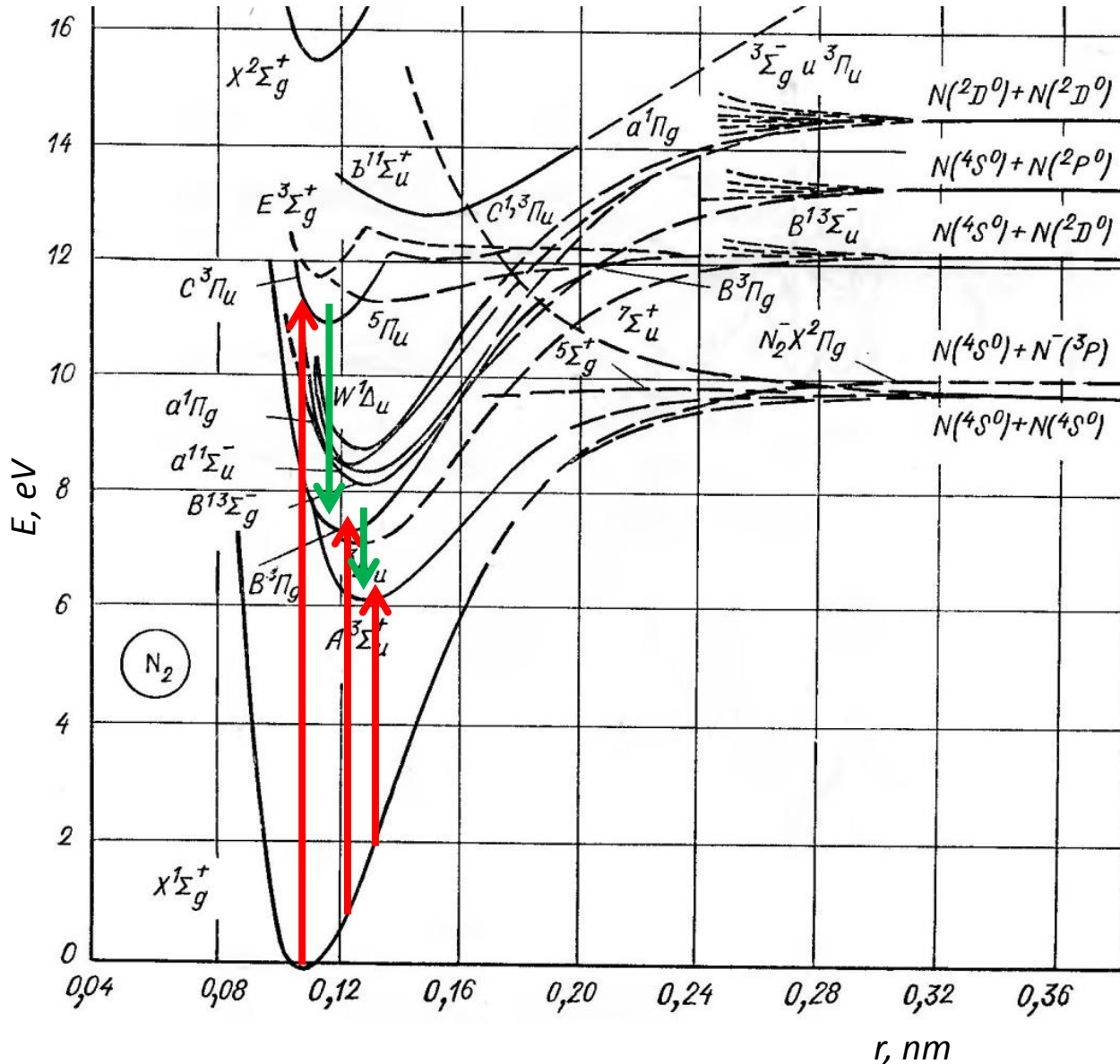
$H_2(C^1\Pi_u)$ , 12.4 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.40 \text{ \AA}^2$  (40 eV)



# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Oxygen



# Potential Energy Curves of Molecular Nitrogen



$N_2(A^3\Sigma_u^+)$ , 6.2 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.08 \text{ \AA}^2 (10 \text{ eV})$

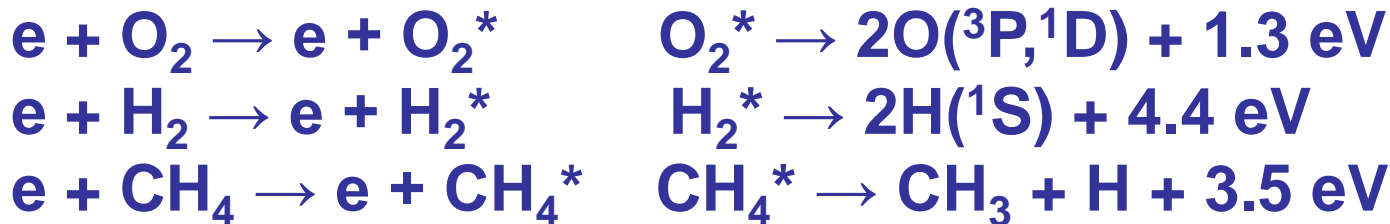
$N_2(B^3\Pi_g)$ , 7.35 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.20 \text{ \AA}^2 (12 \text{ eV})$

$N_2(C^3\Pi_u)$ , 11.03 eV  
 $\sigma_{\max} = 0.98 \text{ \AA}^2 (14 \text{ eV})$

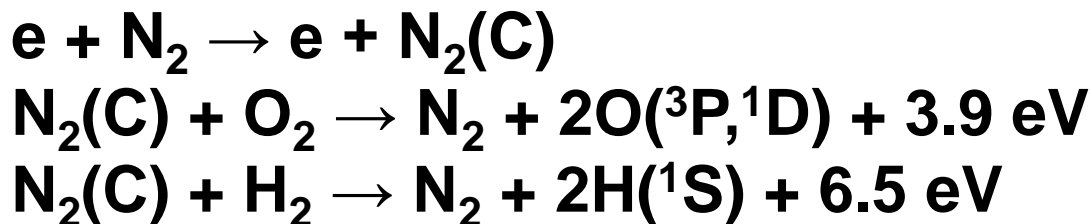
# Mechanisms of production of “hot” atoms in discharge plasmas

A.Yu. Starikovskiy, “Hydrogen plasma assisted ignition by NS discharge behind reflected shock wave”, 45th AIAA Plasmadynamics and Lasers Conference, Paper AIAA 2014-2245 (2014)

## Direct electron-impact dissociation



## Dissociation via N<sub>2</sub> excitation



# HI UV absorption. Okabe, 1984

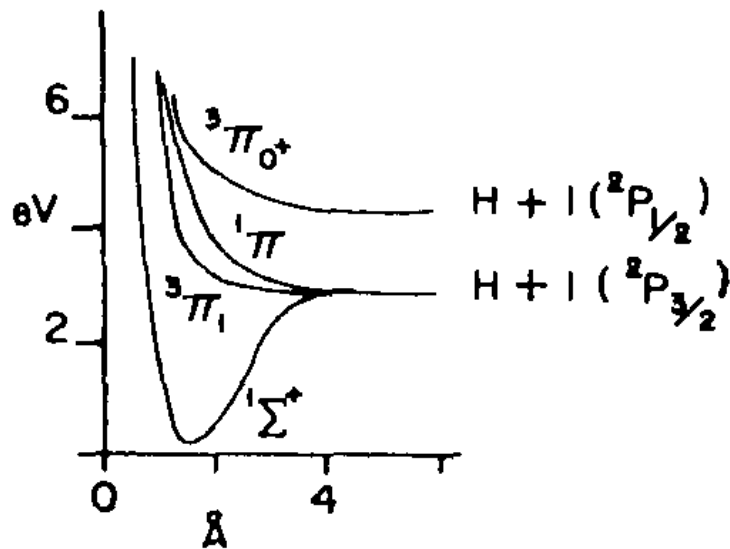
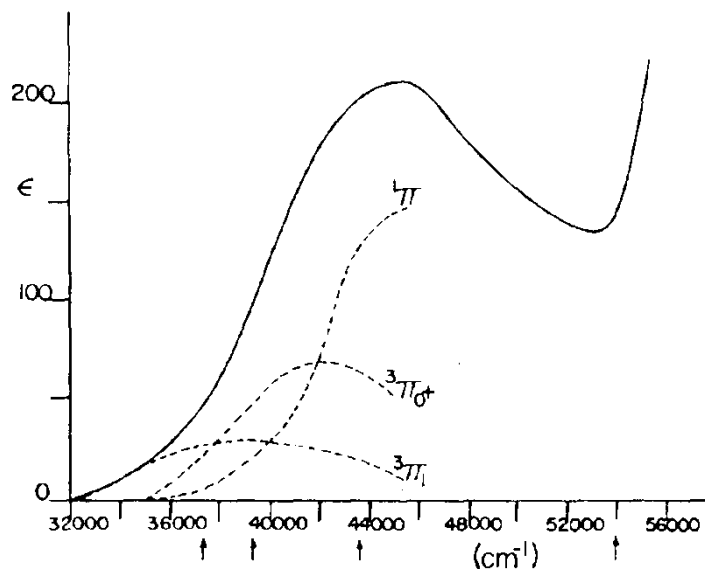


Fig. V-5. Absorption coefficients of HI and contribution of the transitions to the absorption continuum in the ultraviolet region. Solid curve, absorption coefficients  $\epsilon$  of HI in units of  $10^4 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  base 10 at room temperature. Reprinted with permission from B. J. Huebert and R. M. Martin, *J. Phys. Chem.* 72, 3046 (1968). Copyright by the American Chemical Society. Dashed curves, absorption coefficients of the transitions  $^3\Pi_1-^1\Sigma^+$ ,  $^3\Pi_0^+-^1\Sigma^+$ , and  $^1\Pi-^1\Sigma^+$ . The  $^3\Pi$ , and  $^1\Pi$  states dissociate into  $\text{H} + \text{I}(^2P_{3/2})$ , while the  $^3\Pi_0^+$  state dissociates into  $\text{H} + \text{I}(^2P_{1/2})$ . The arrows indicate four incident wavelengths (2662, 2537, 2281, and 1850 Å) at which the ratios of  $\text{I}(^2P_{1/2})$  to  $\text{I}(^2P_{3/2})$  are obtained. From Clear et al. (219) reprinted by permission. Copyright 1975 by the American Institute of Physics.

Fig. V-6. Potential energy curves of HI. From Wilson and Armstrong (1951). Originally from Mulliken, *Phys. Rev.* 51, 310 (1937). Reprinted by permission. Copyright 1937 by the American Physical Society.



The excess energy beyond that required to break the  $\text{H}-\text{I}$  bond is 3.65 eV at 1849 Å. This excess energy appears primarily as the kinetic energy of H

# The effect of “hot” atoms on chemical reactions



$$k_{\text{eq}}(T = 300\text{K}) = 2.5 \times 10^{-21} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

$$k_h = 1.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$



$$k_{\text{eq}}(T = 300\text{K}) = 9.3 \times 10^{-18} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

$$k_h = 1.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$$

The effect is important only when energy degradation of “hot” atoms is slow!

# Monte Carlo simulation of energy degradation of “hot” atoms

**Simultaneous consideration of**

**- “cooling” of “hot” atoms in elastic collisions**

**and**

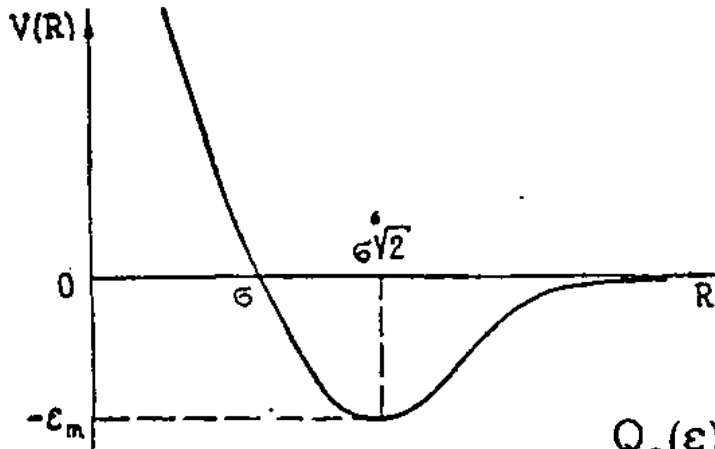
**-chemical reactions.**

**Other inelastic processes were neglected**



# Determination of cross sections for scattering of “hot” atoms

**Elastic collisions:** calculations in quasi-classical approach using Lennard-Jones interaction potential



$$V(R) = 4\epsilon_m \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 \right]$$

$$Q_0(\epsilon) = \pi\sigma^2 Q^*(x)$$

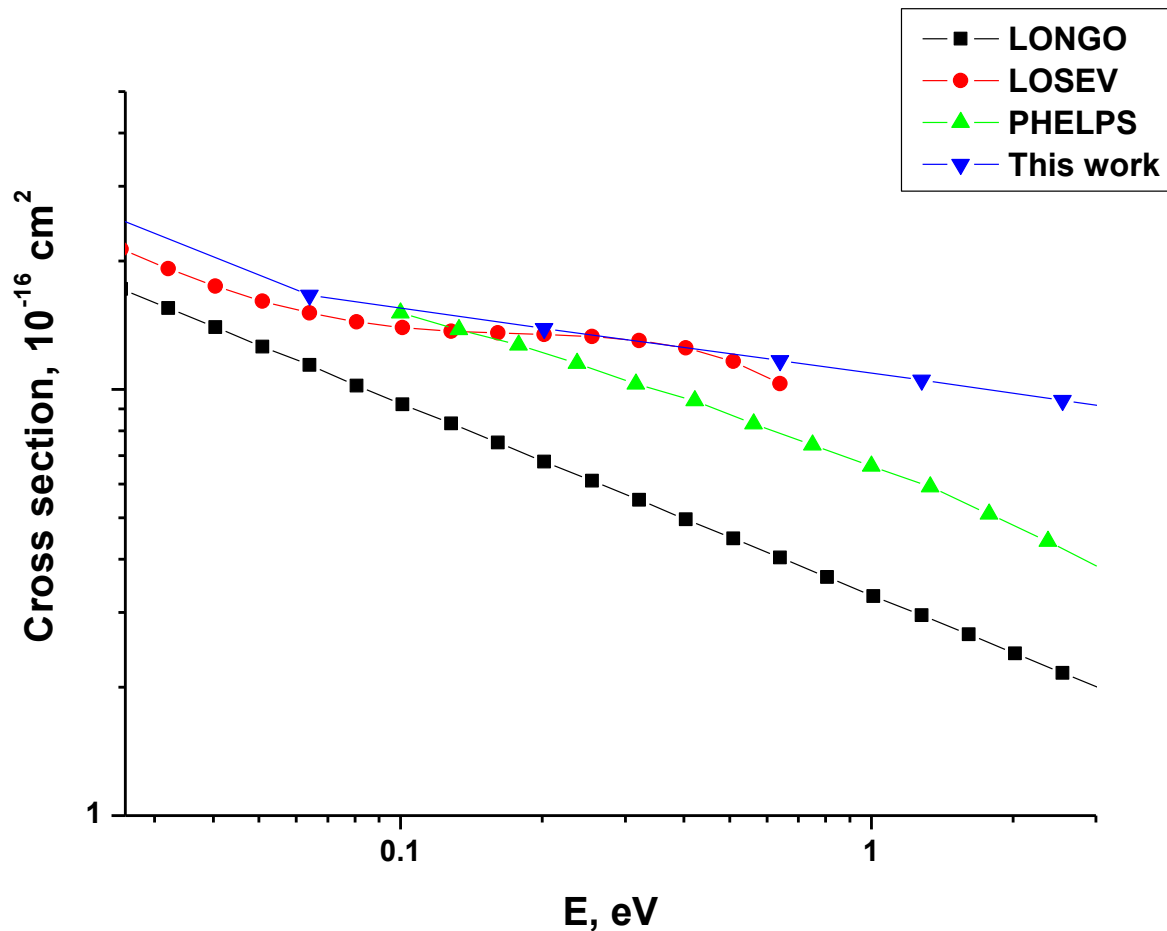
$$Q^*(x) = -0,17x^4 + 0,259x^3 + 1,02x^2 - 2,57x + 2,24$$

$$x = \lg(\epsilon/\epsilon_m)$$

$$\sigma(i, j) = [\sigma(i, i) + \sigma(j, j)]/2 \quad \epsilon_m(i, j) = [\epsilon_m(i, i) \cdot \epsilon_m(j, j)]^{1/2}$$

# Determination of cross sections for scattering of “hot” atoms

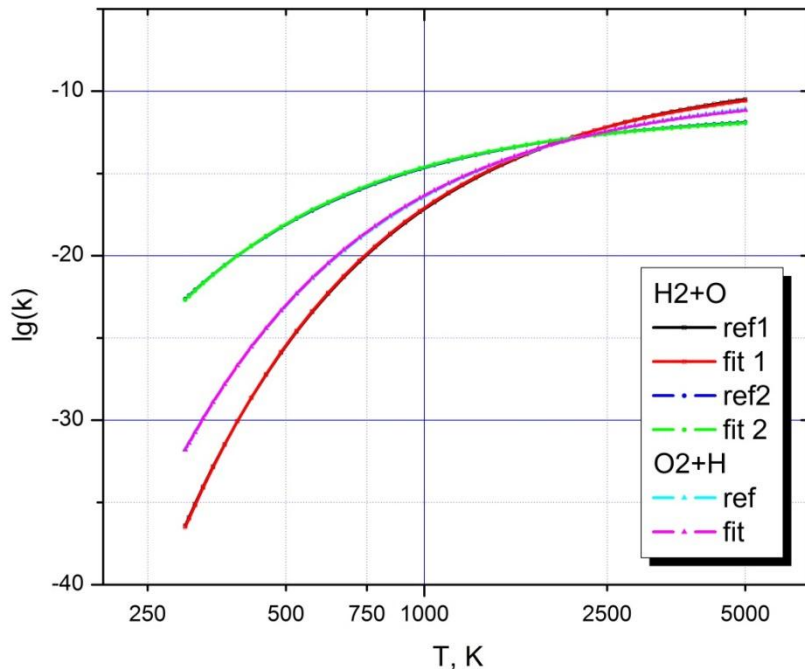
**Elastic collisions:** calculations in quasi-classical  
approach using Lennard-Jones interaction potential



# Determination of cross sections for scattering of “hot” atoms

**Chemical reactions:** adjustment of cross sections to fit available data for rate constants in a wide range of gas temperatures

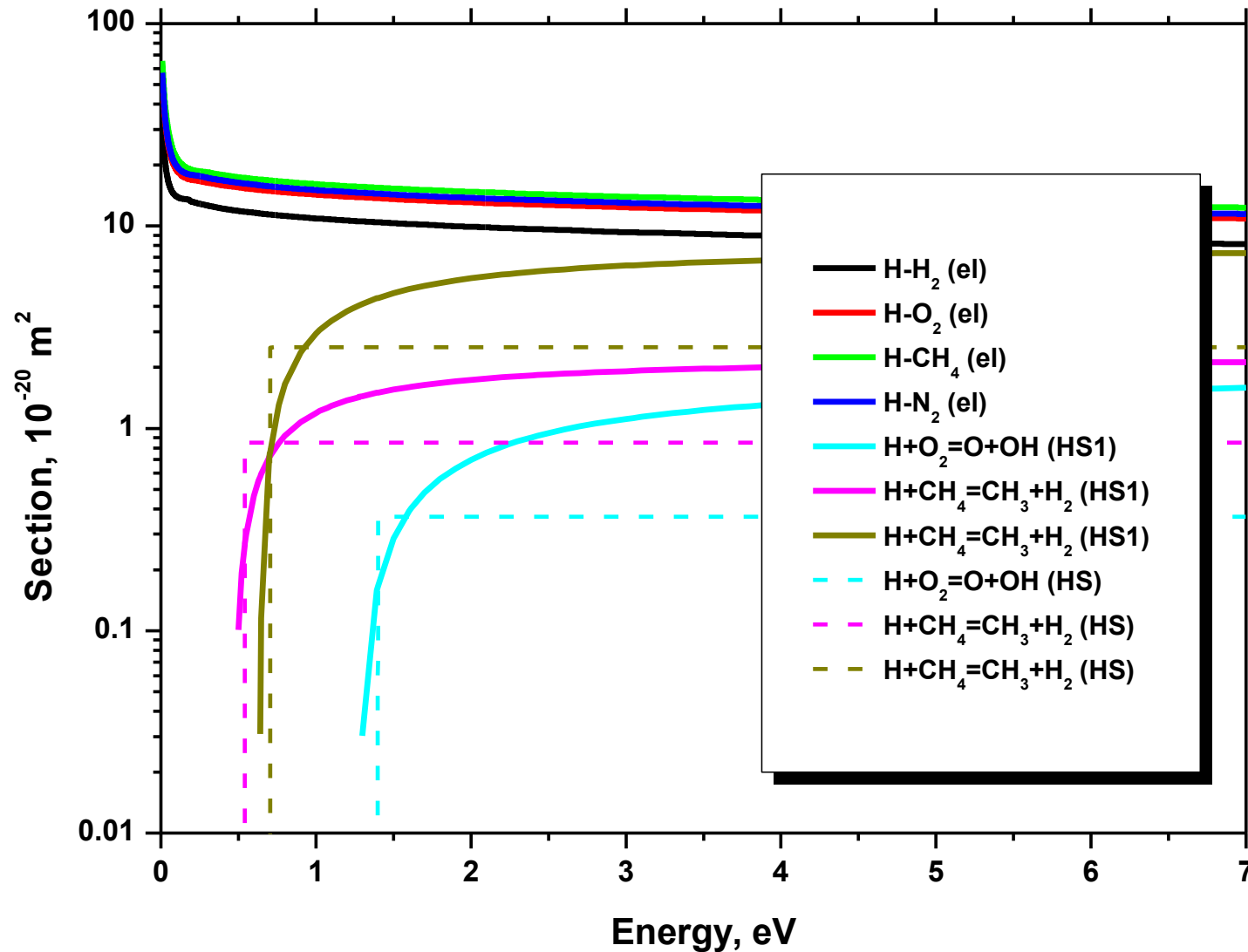
“Hard Sphere Model”



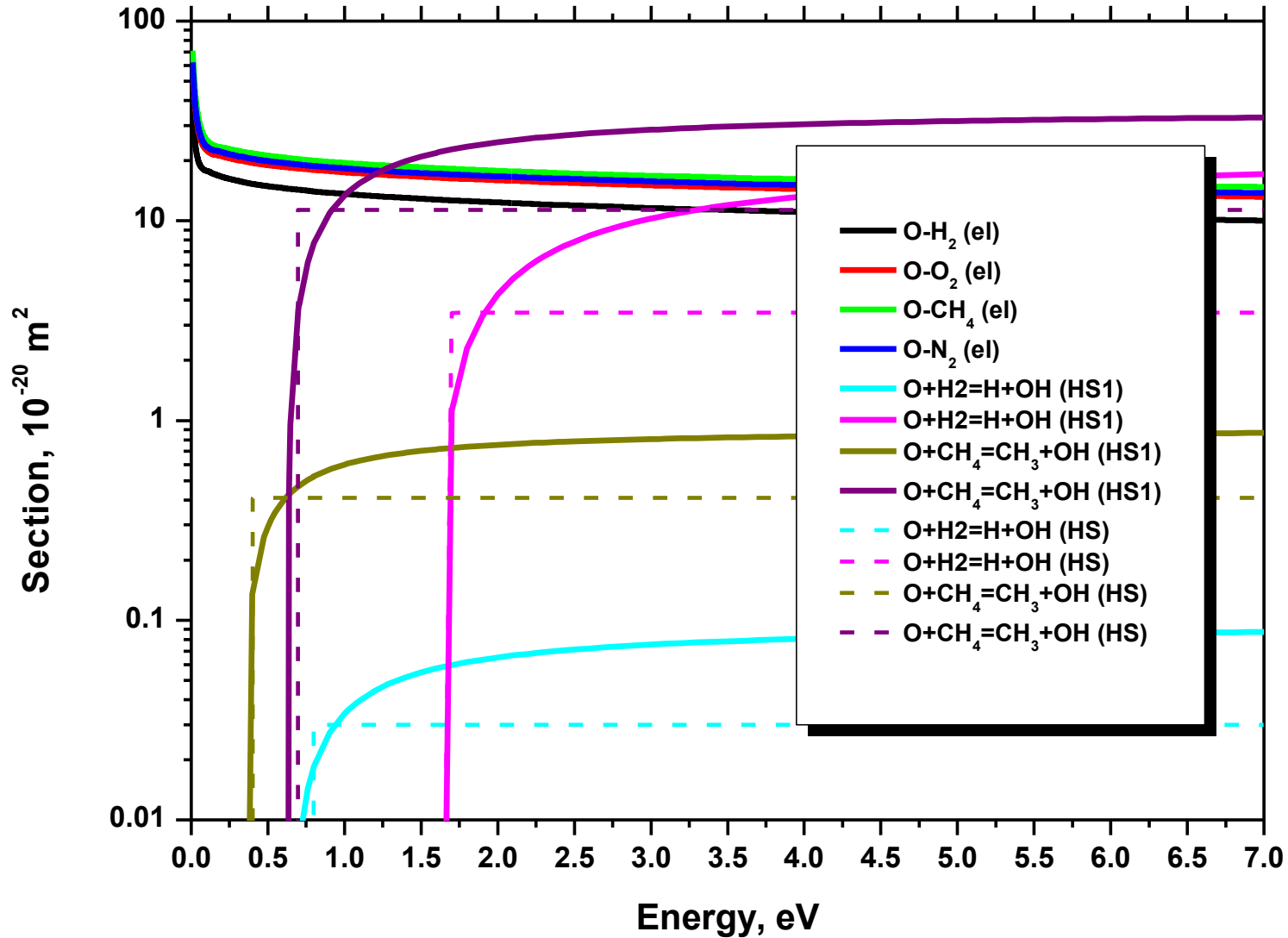
$$\sigma(\varepsilon) = \begin{cases} 0, & \varepsilon \leq E_0 \\ \pi R_0^2 \left(1 - \frac{E_0}{\varepsilon}\right), & \varepsilon > E_0 \end{cases}$$

$$k(T) = \left(\frac{8\pi kT}{\mu}\right)^{1/2} R_0^2 \exp(-E_0/kT)$$

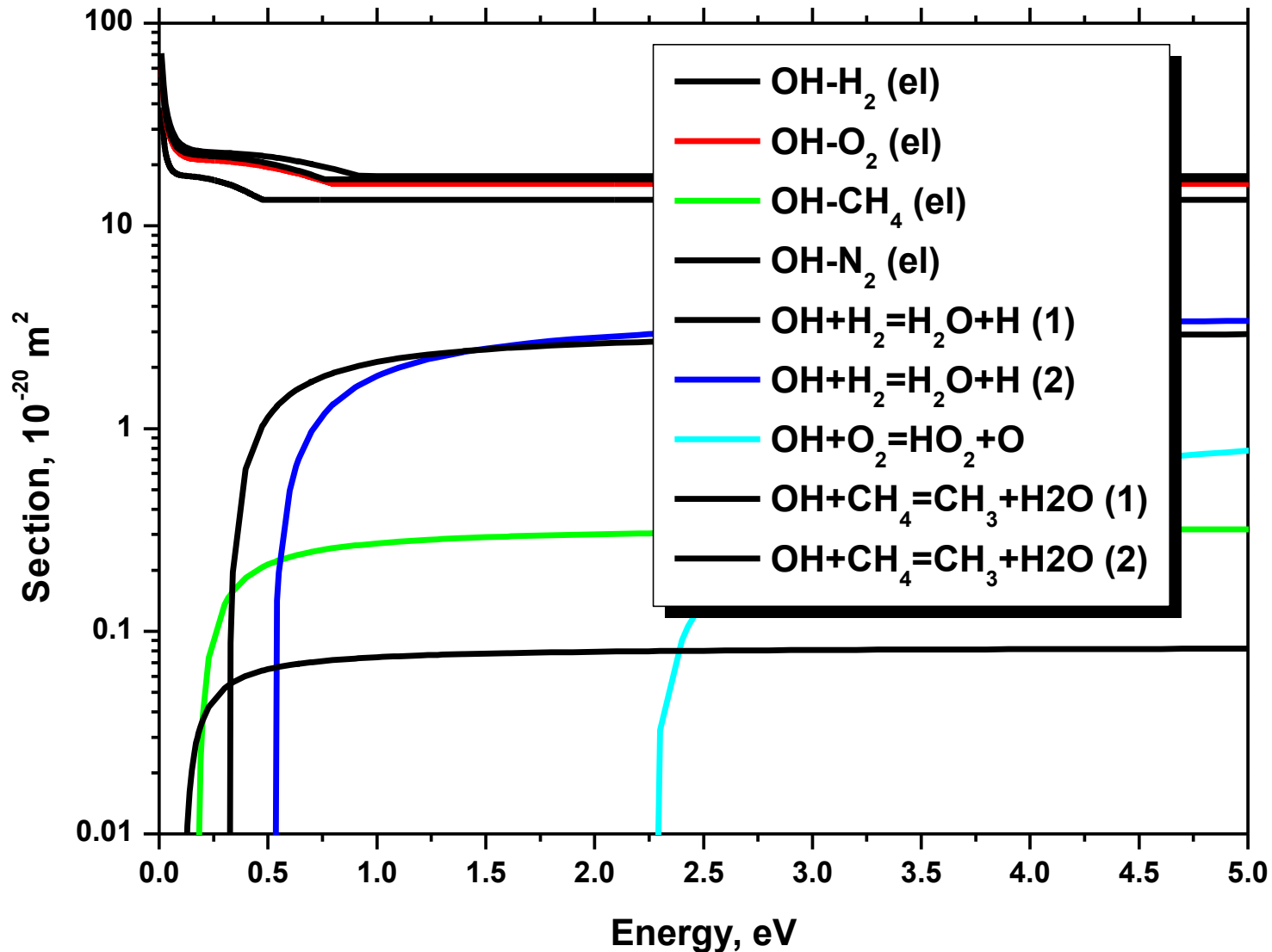
# Cross sections for H atom scattering



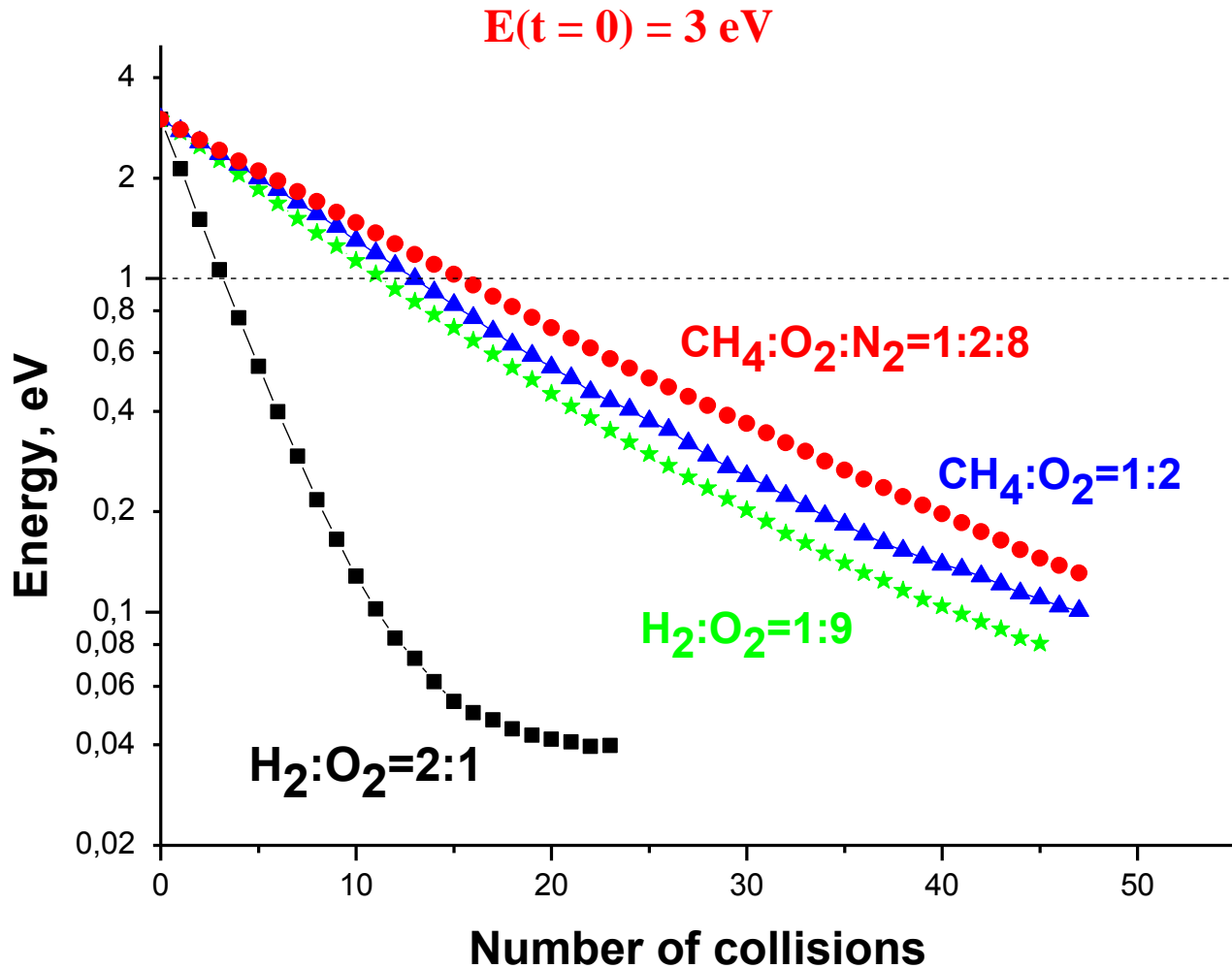
# Cross sections for O atom scattering



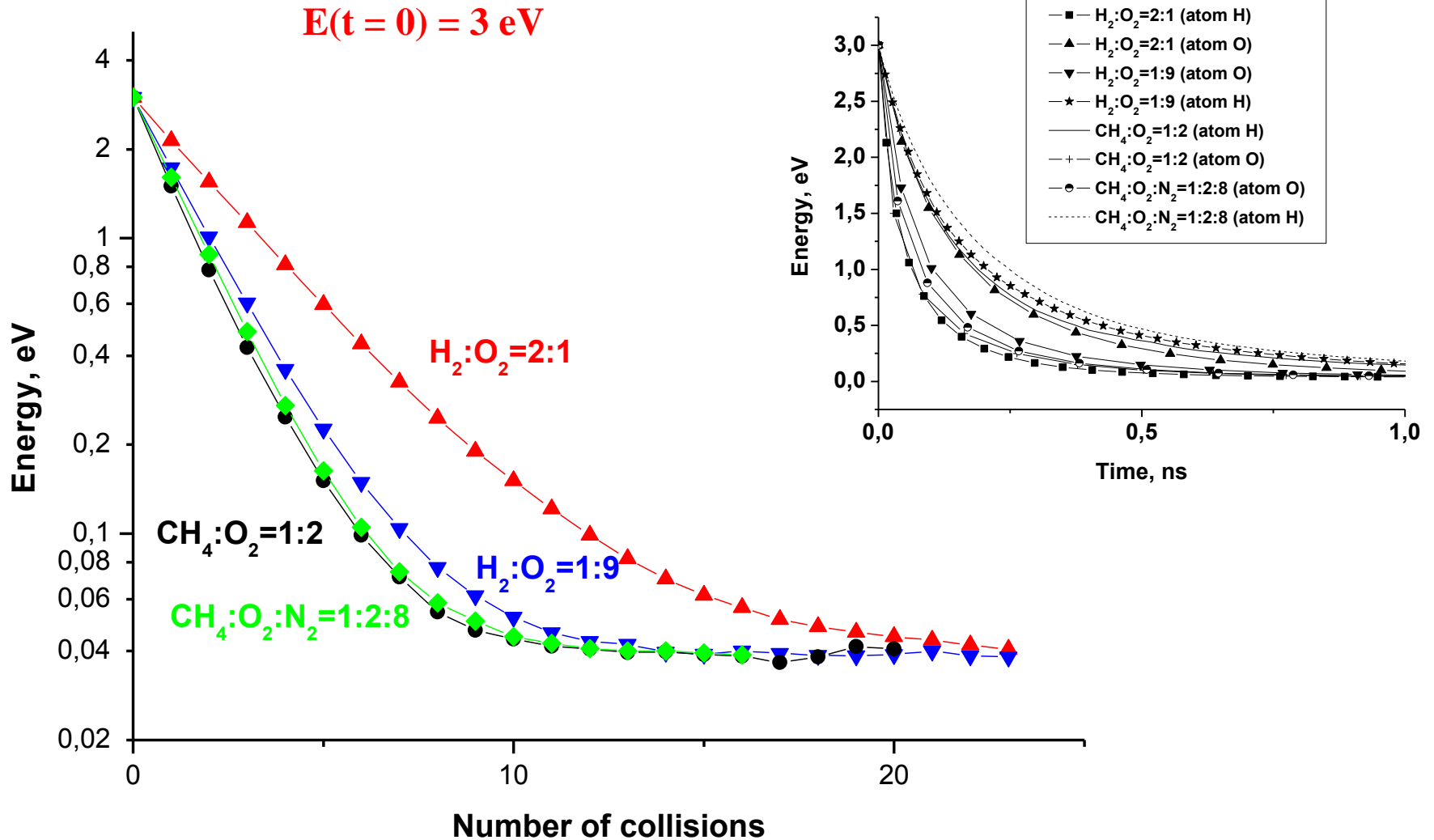
# Cross sections for OH scattering



# Energy degradation of “hot” H atoms

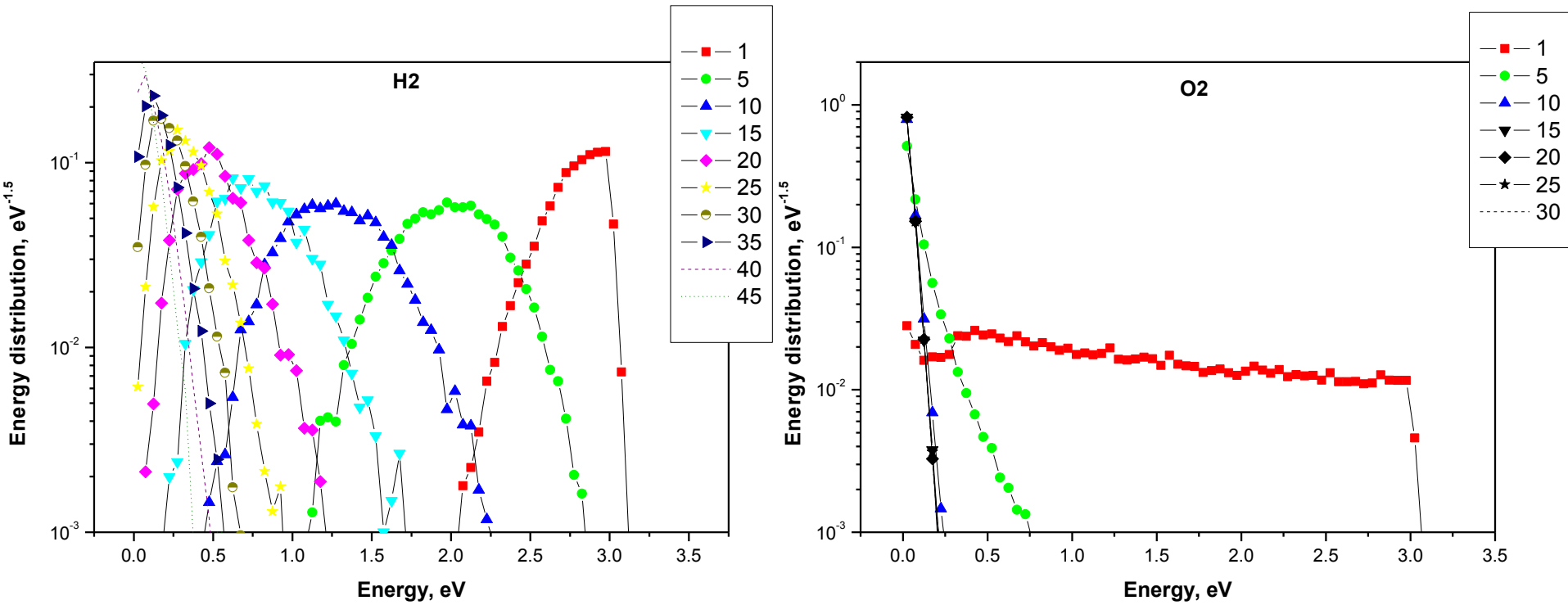


# Energy degradation of "hot" O atoms



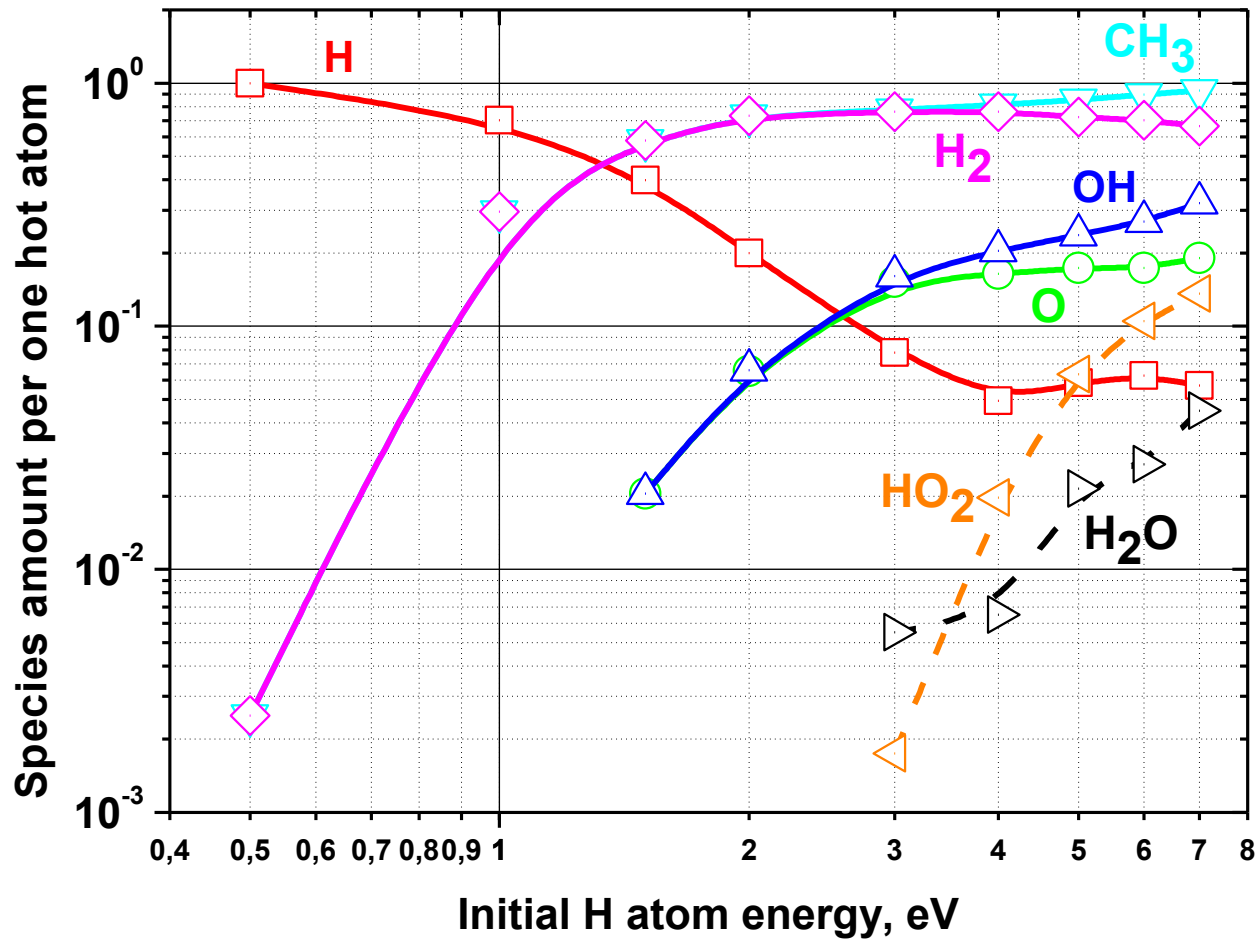


# Energy distributions for H and O atoms

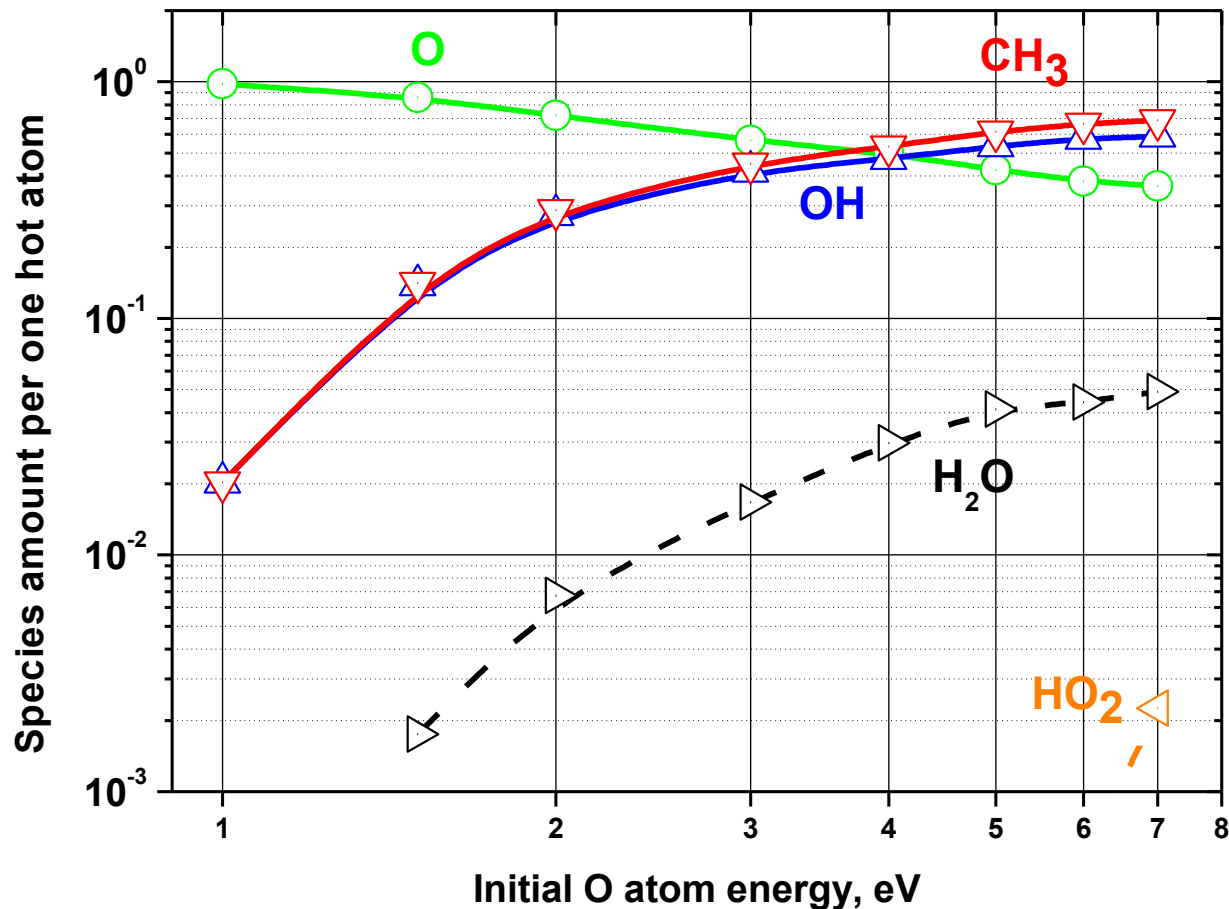


Stoichiometric CH<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> = 1:2 mixture. Initial energy of H and O atoms is 3 eV.

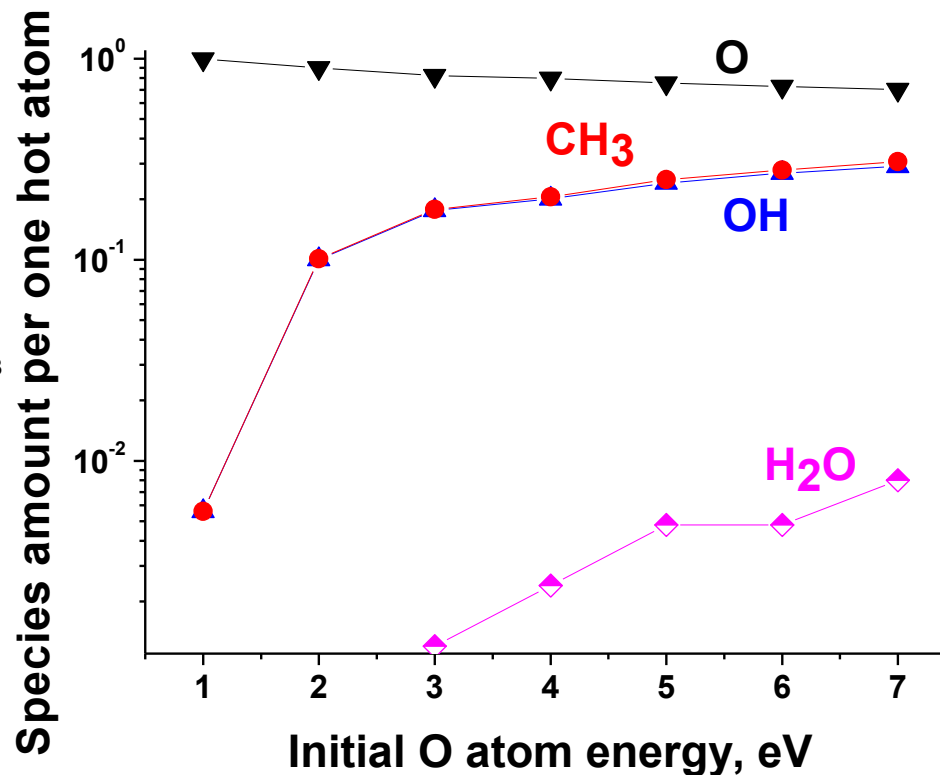
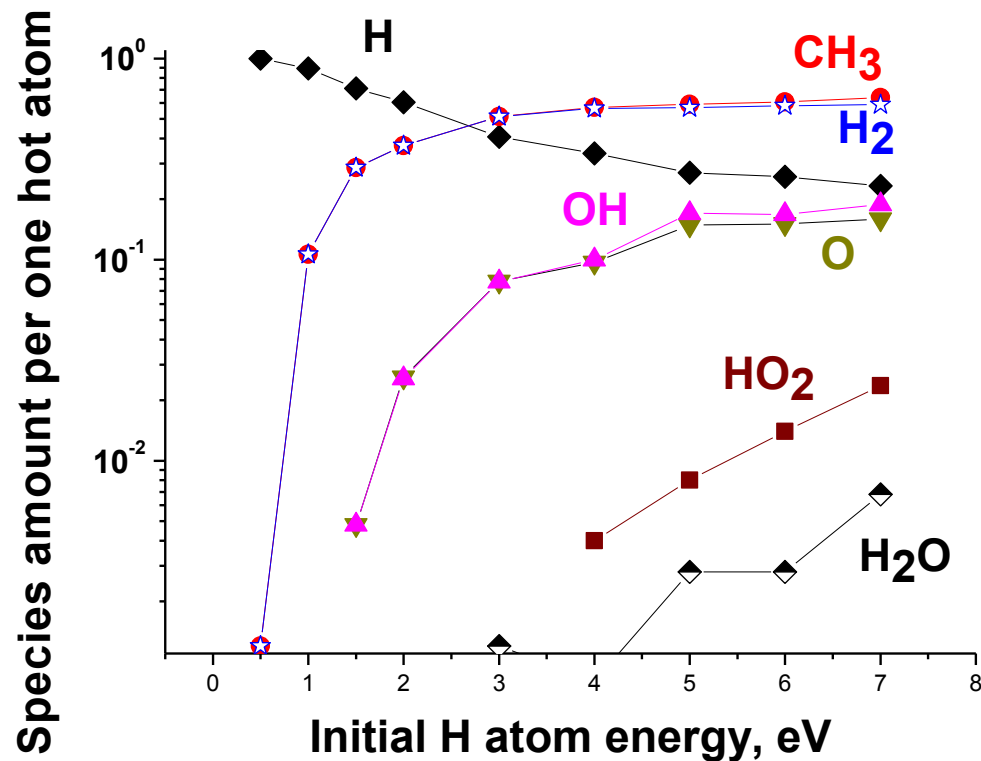
# Amount of active species generated by hot H atoms in CH<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> mixture ( $\phi = 1$ )



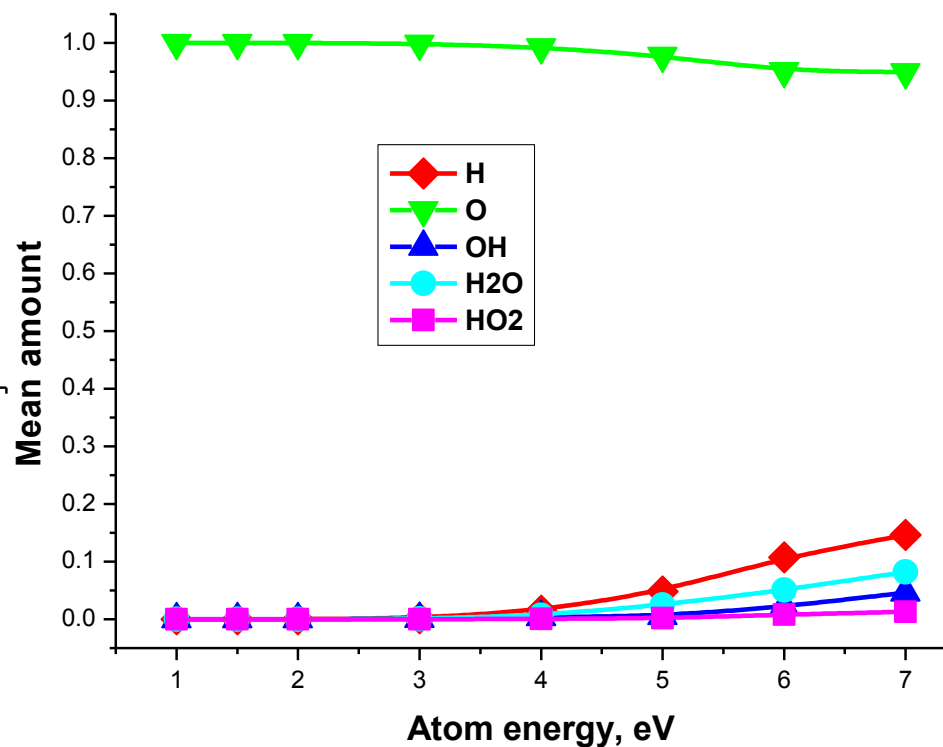
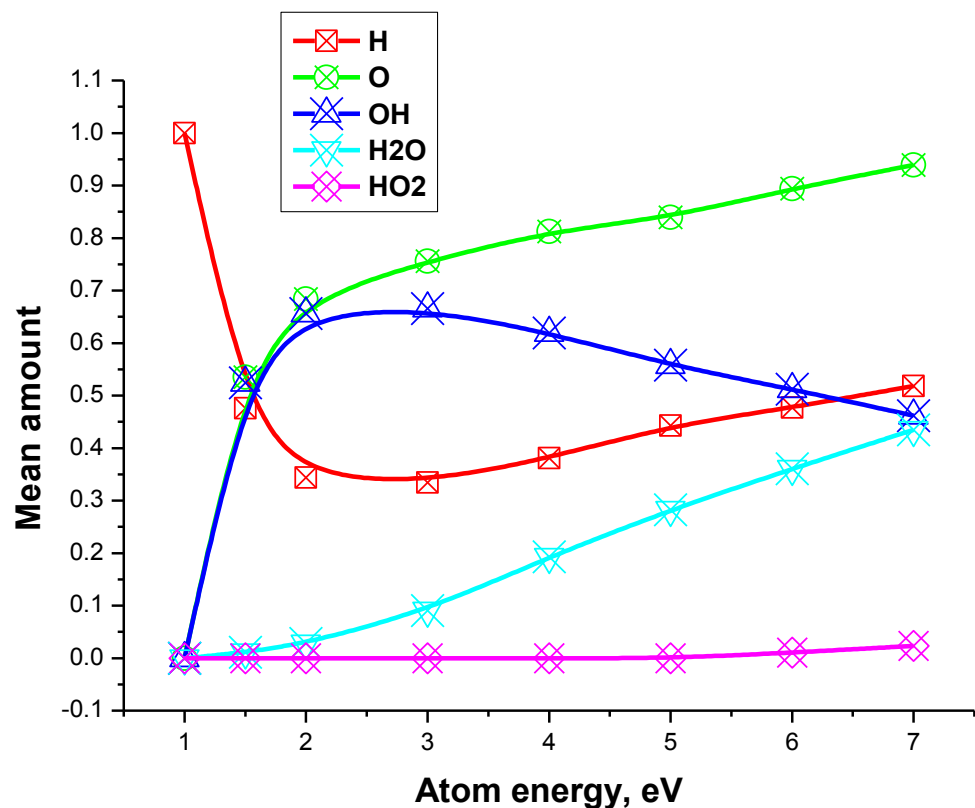
# Amount of active species generated by hot O atoms in CH<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> mixture ( $\phi = 1$ )



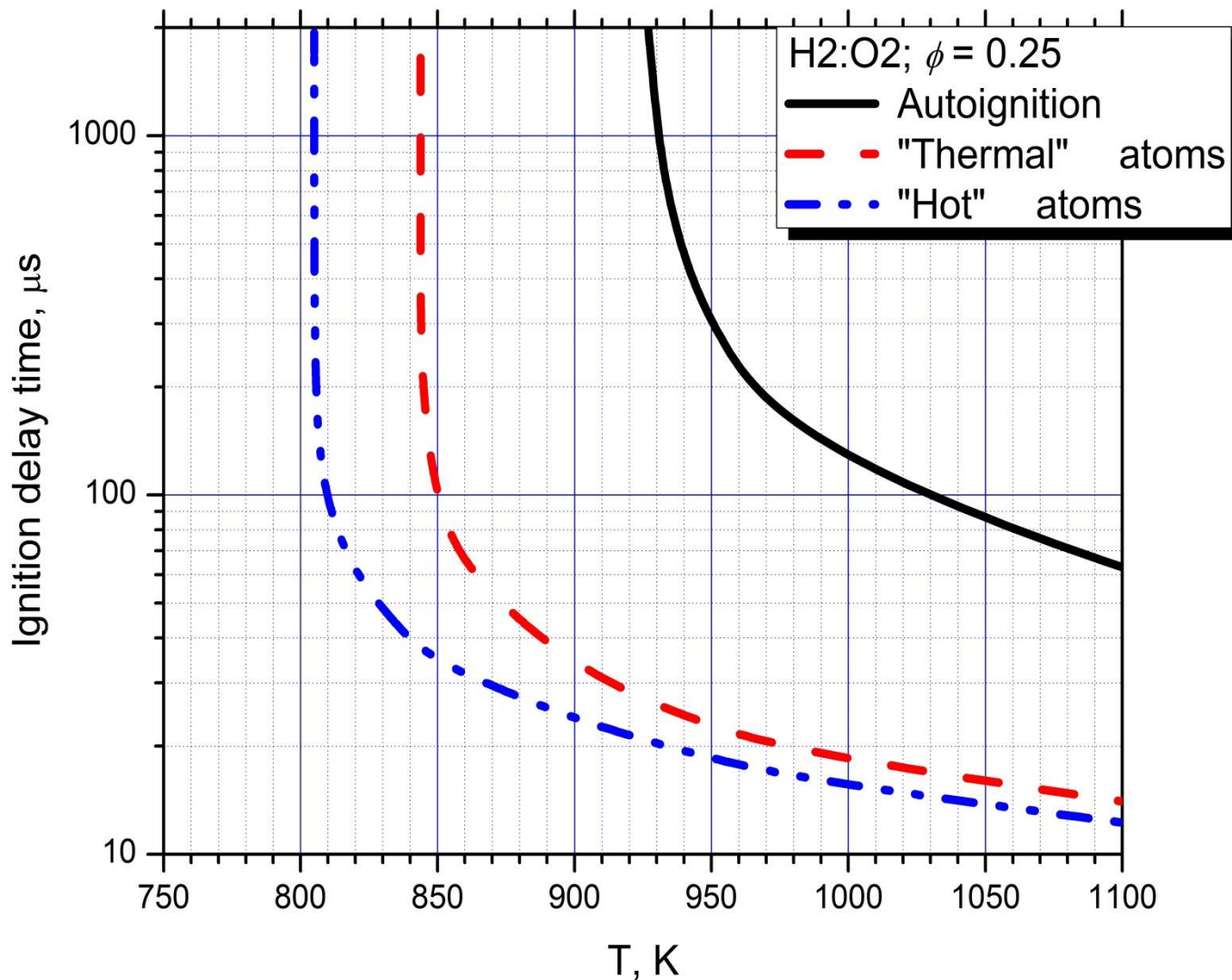
# Amount of active species generated by hot O and H atoms in CH<sub>4</sub>:air mixture ( $\phi = 1$ )



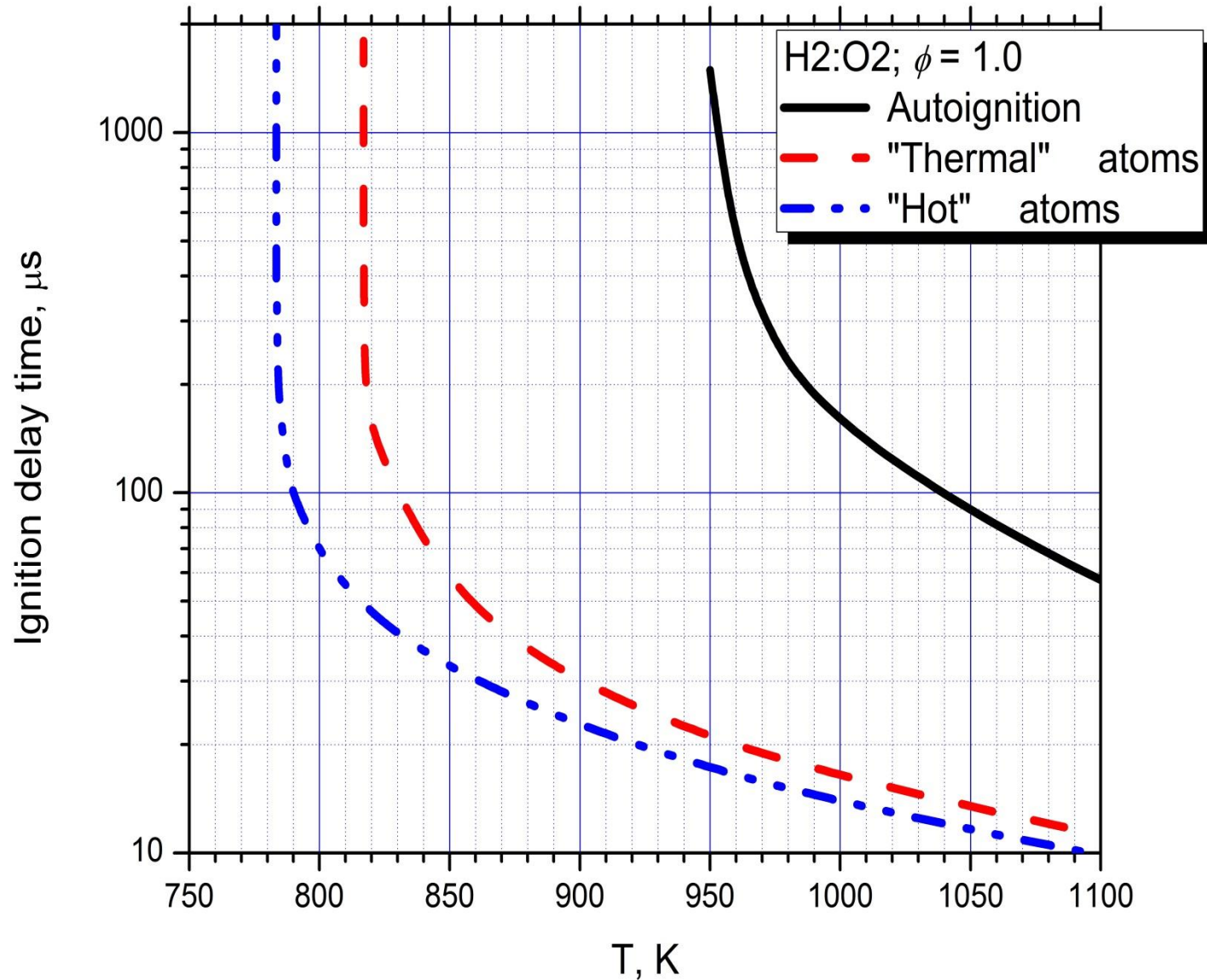
# Amount of active species generated by hot O and H atoms in stoichiometric H<sub>2</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> mixture at 300 K as a function of their initial energy



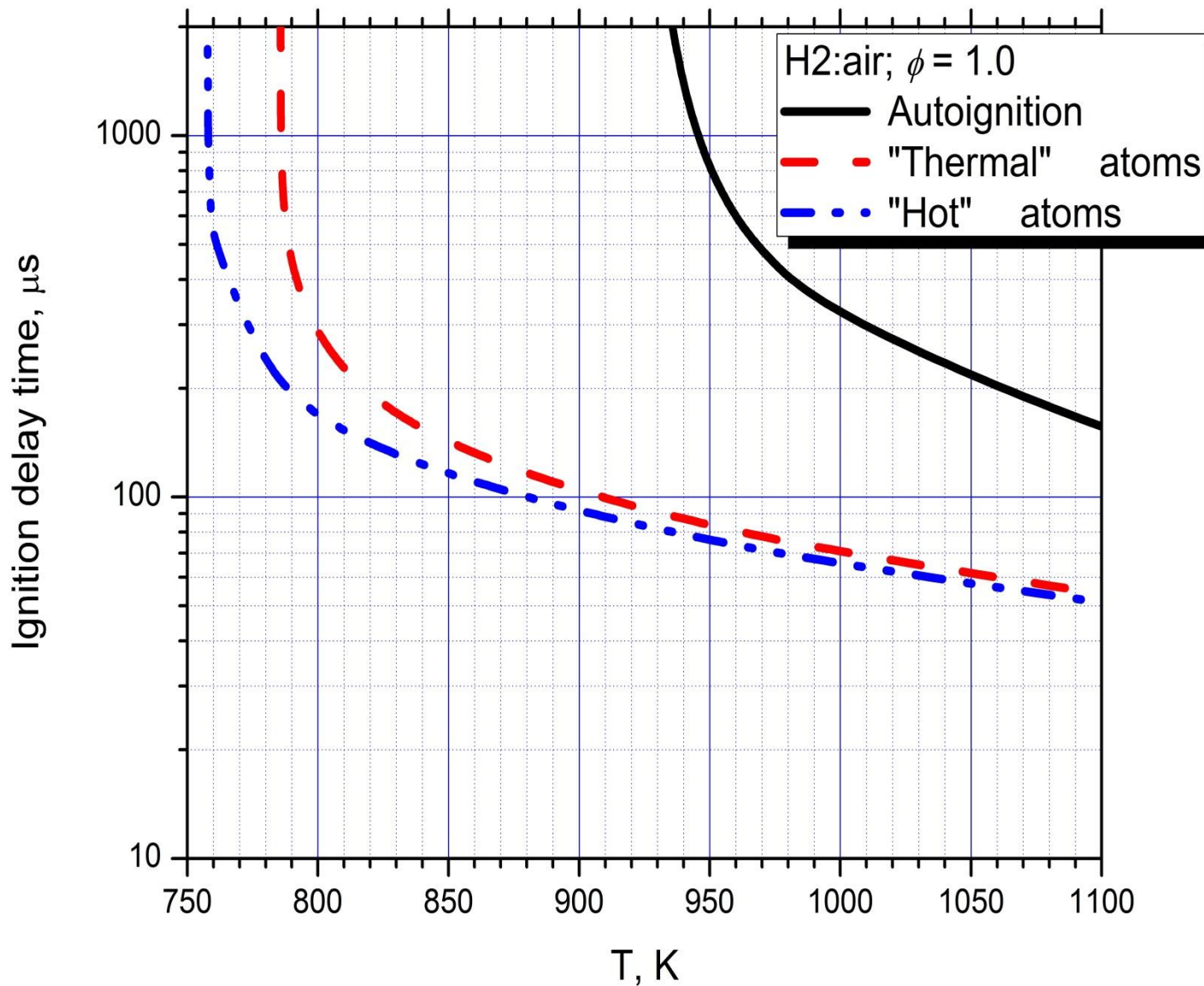
# Role of translationally-hot H atoms in ignition of lean $\text{H}_2\text{-O}_2$ mixture. $P = 1$ atm.



# Role of translationally-hot H atoms in ignition of stoichiometric $\text{H}_2\text{-O}_2$ mixture. $P = 1$ atm.

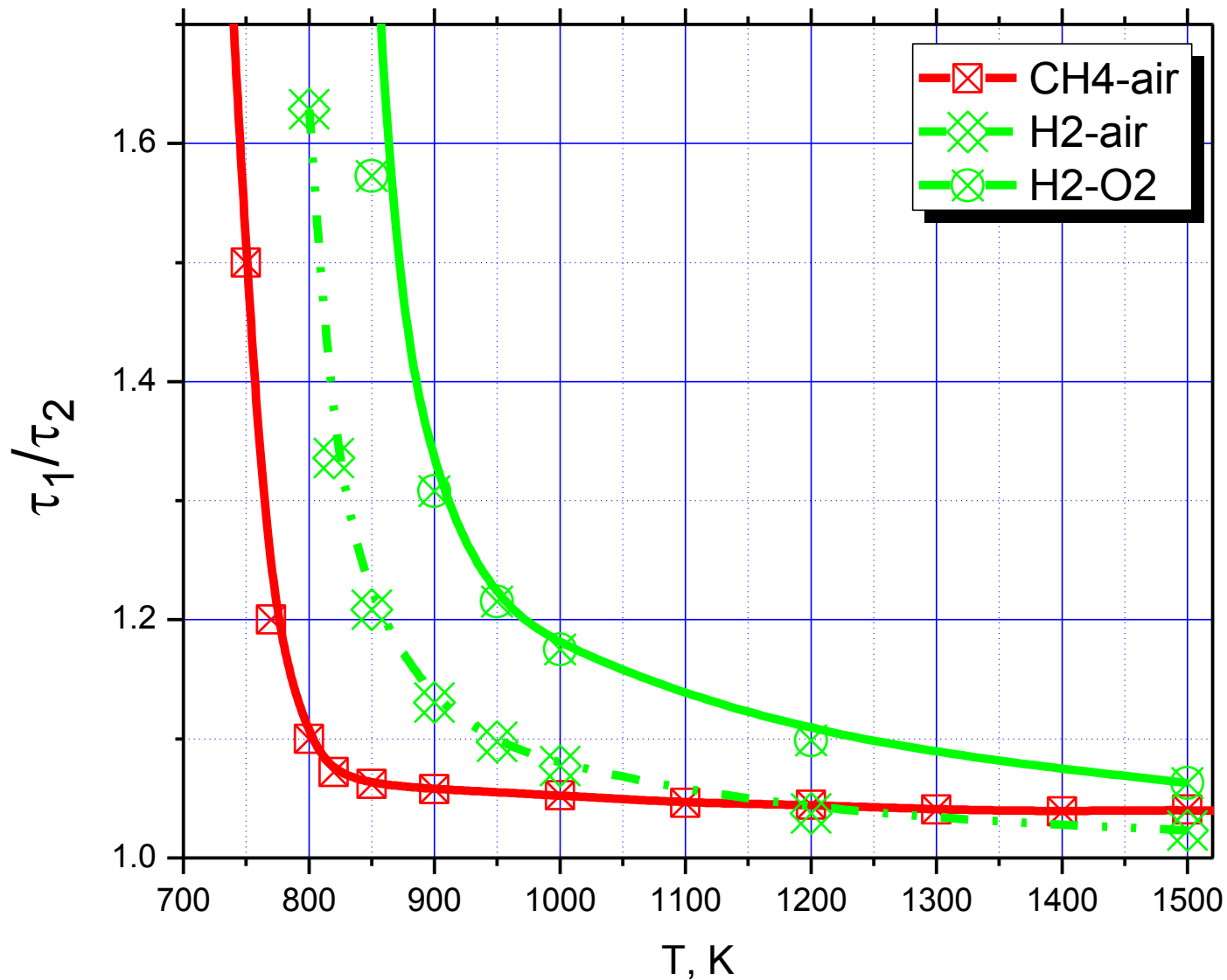


# Role of translationally-hot H atoms in ignition of stoichiometric H<sub>2</sub>-air mixture. P = 1 atm.

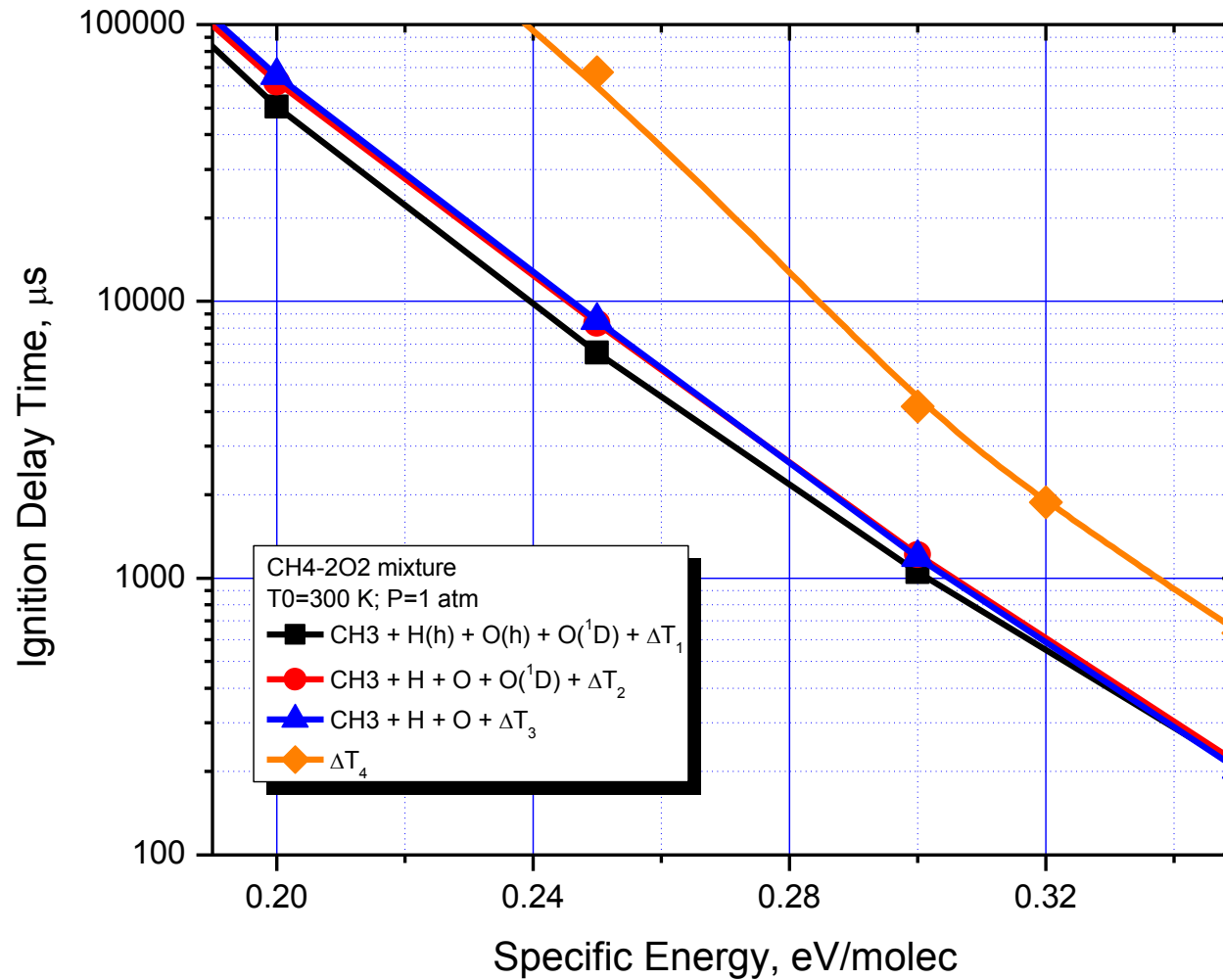




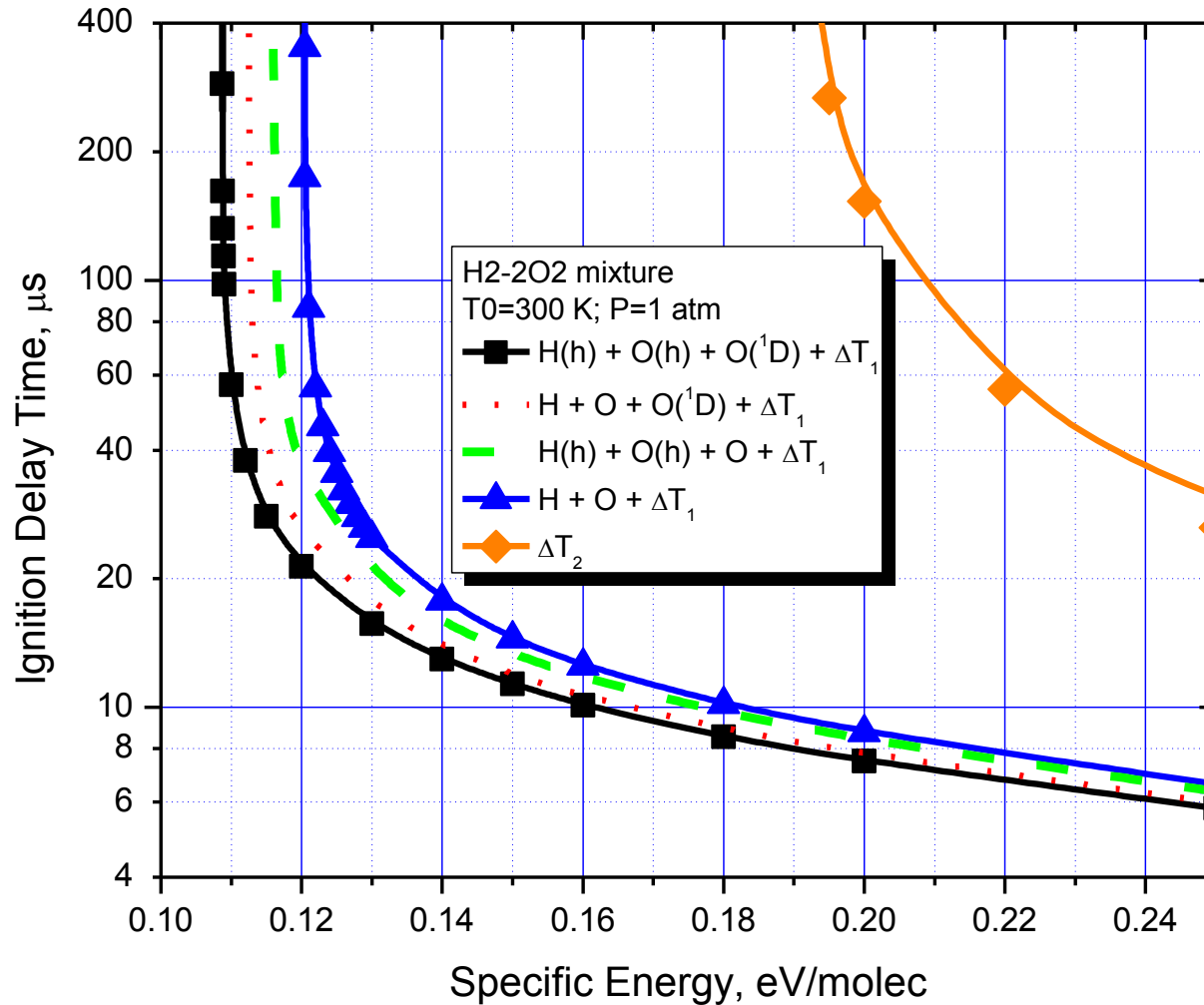
# Role of translationally-hot atoms in ignition of stoichiometric methane-air mixture. $P = 1$ atm.



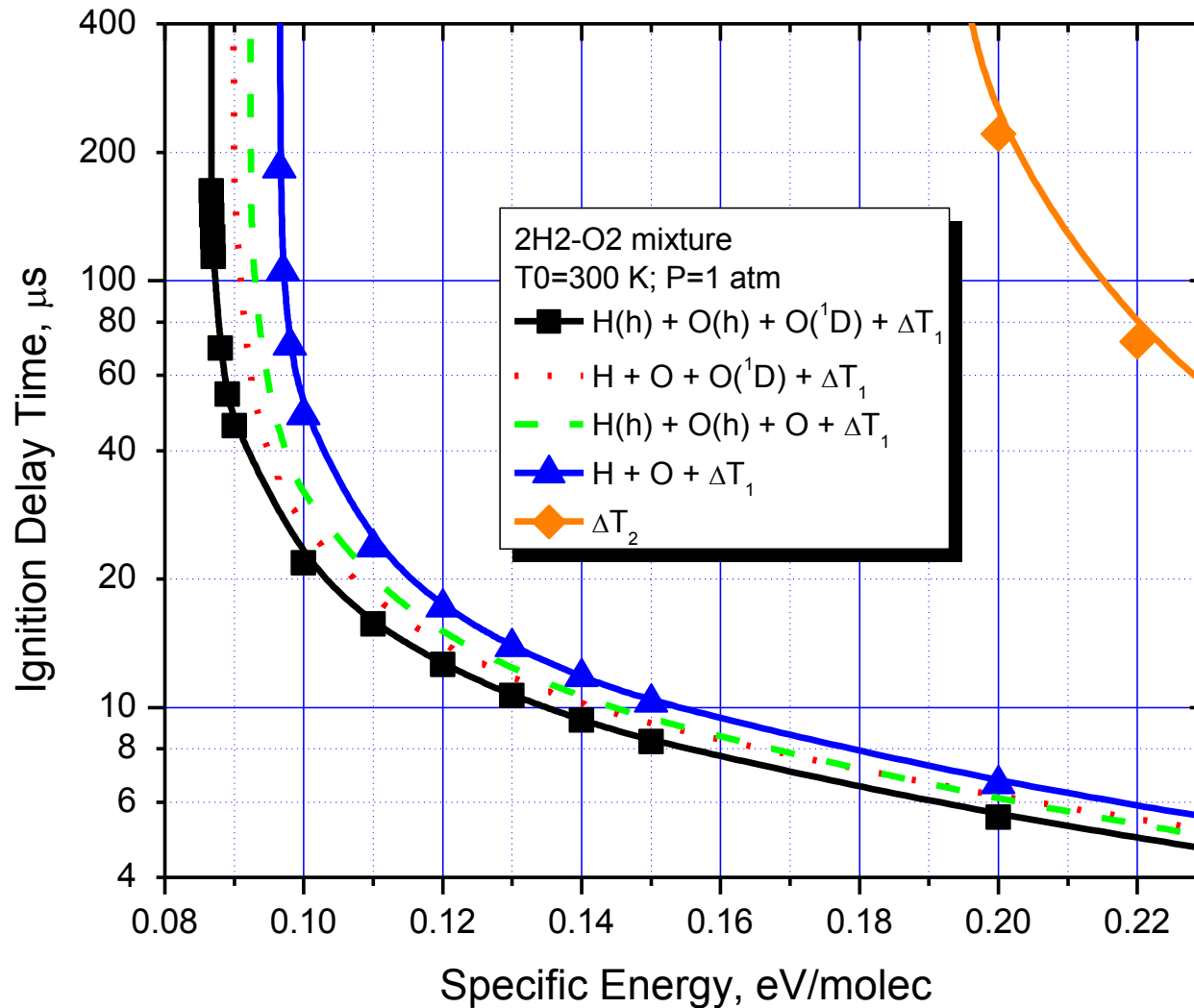
# Low-temperature Ignition



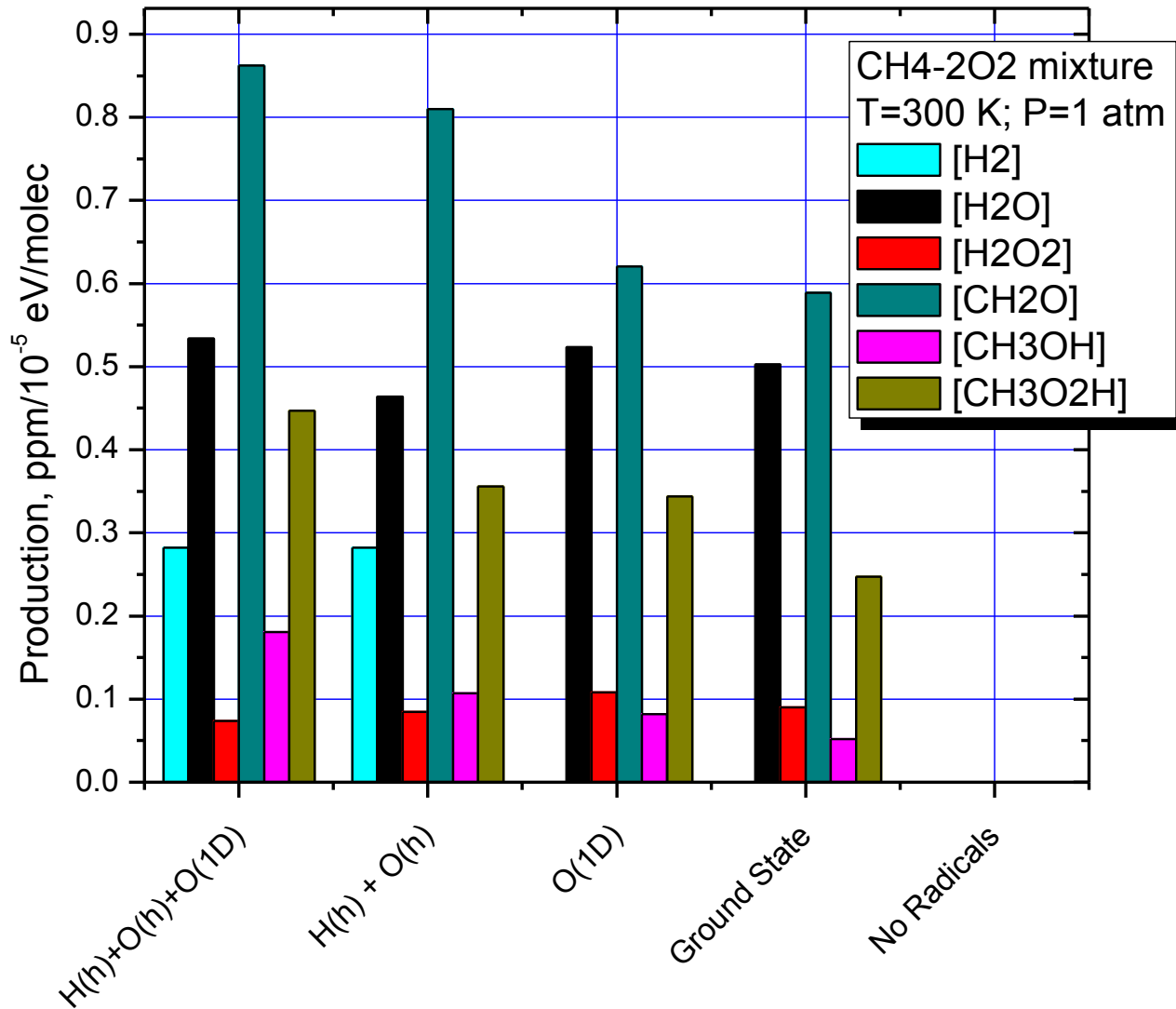
# Low-temperature Ignition



# Low-temperature Ignition

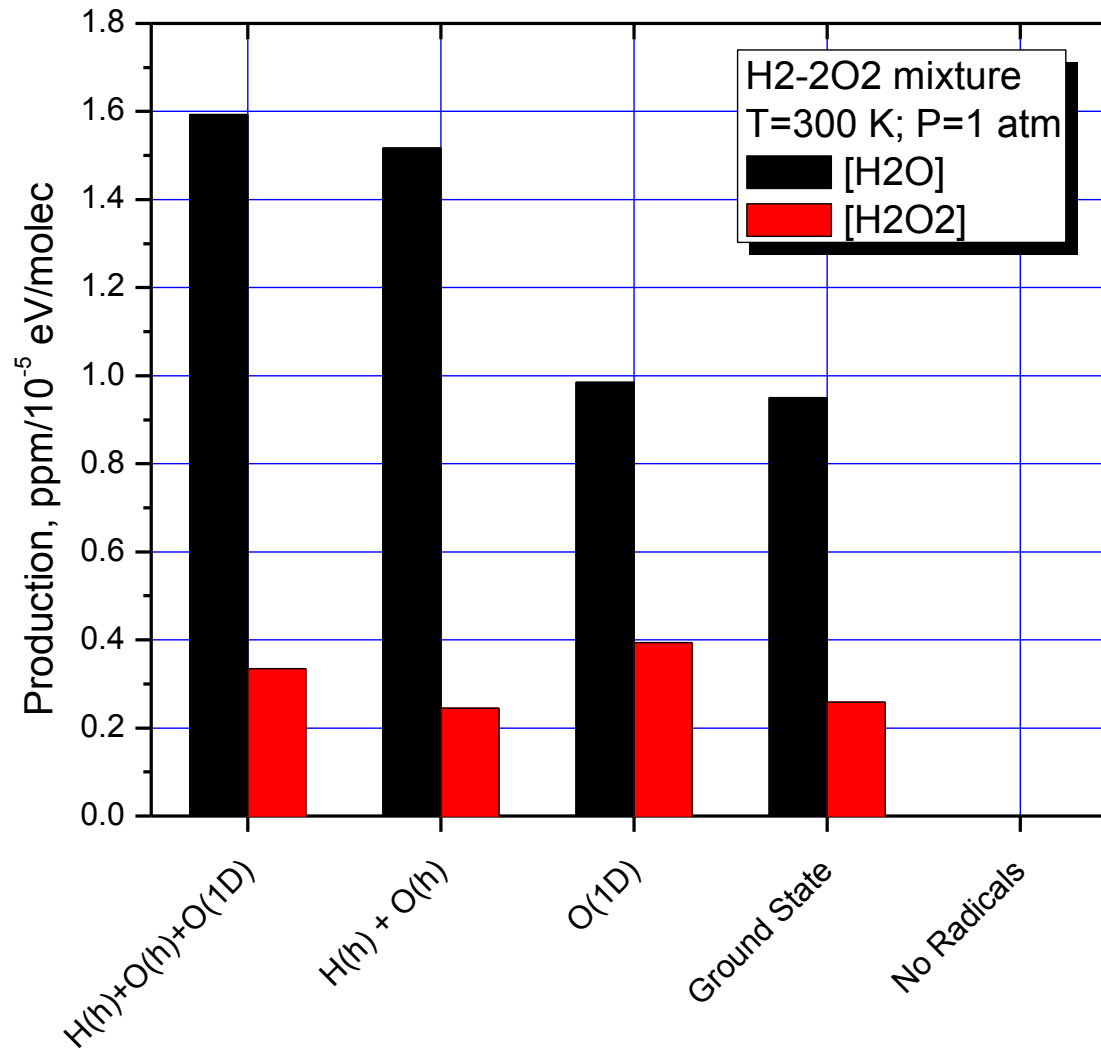


# Low-temperature Oxidation

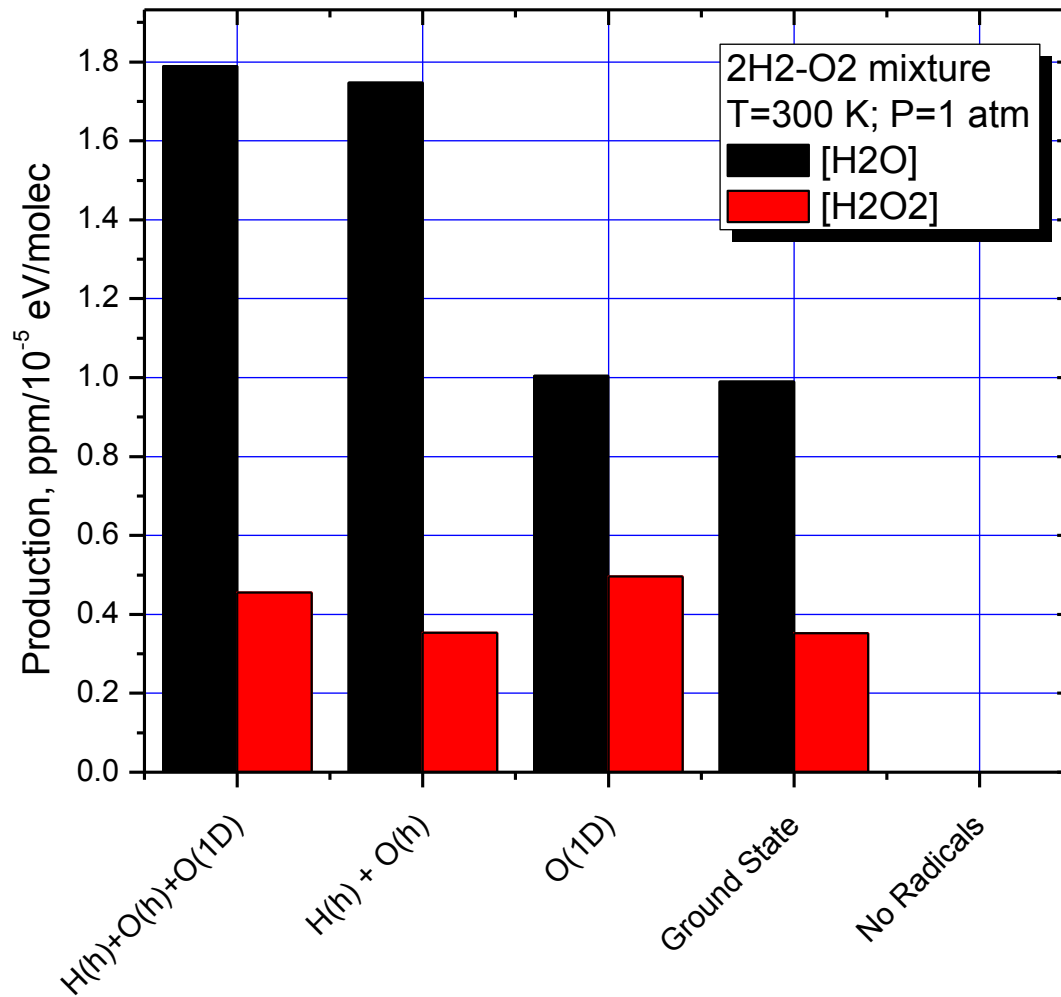


Formaldehyde  
Hydrogen  
Methanol

# Low-temperature Oxidation



# Low-temperature Oxidation



# Conclusions

- Using Monte Carlo simulation, energy degradation of “hot” H and O atoms in  $\text{H}_2:\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4:\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_4:\text{air}$  mixtures at room gas temperature was studied taking into account elastic collisions and chemical reactions.
- Energy degradation is longer for H atoms in  $\text{CH}_4$ -containing mixtures and in lean  $\text{H}_2:\text{O}_2$  mixtures, whereas degradation time of O atoms is much shorter.
- When energy degradation of “hot” atoms is long, the amount of active species produced in a high-voltage discharge can be increased and active species composition is changed. This can lead to a noticeable decrease in the threshold temperature of plasma-assisted ignition.