

# Strong ro-vibrational excitation in high flux expanding plasmas

*Influence of volume and surface processes and negative ion production*

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**Work from: O. Gabriel, R. Engeln, T. Hansen, R. Zijlmans, J.van Helden, G. Yagci,**

## **Contents:**

- **Surface association  $H_2(r,v)$**
- **Surface mechanisms**
- **Importance chemistry:  $H^+$  &  $H^-$**
- **Molecules at surface in  $N_2$ ,  $NH_3$ ,  $O_2$ ,  $NO$**
- **Molecules in H-N-O-C**
- **Global picture?**

*Support: NWO, FOM, -Rijnhuizen, Euratom, CPS Eindhoven*

# Contributions/ Acknowledgement

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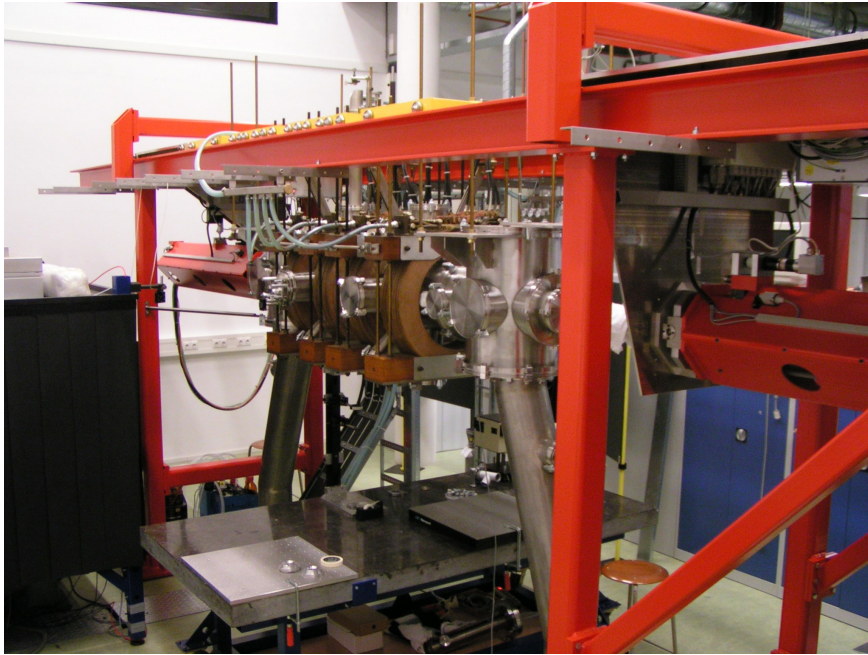


**Work shown from collaboration with Institut für Niedertemperatur Plasmaphysik (INP)  
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**J. Röpcke, G. Lombardini, O. Gabriel, S. Welzel, S. Stancu**

**Support: FOM, STW, TNO, NWO, AKZO-Nobel, Fuji, GE, Philips, OTB, ..<sup>2</sup>**

labs



$H_2(r,v)$ , H plasmas

Deposition (a-C:H)





- generation of (excited!) molecules  $\text{H}_2(\text{r},\text{v})$  at high flux H atoms
- Accidentally found in search for fast deposition processes:
  - *Anomalous recombination* of atomic ions (MAR)
  - High *rotational( and vibration)* excitation

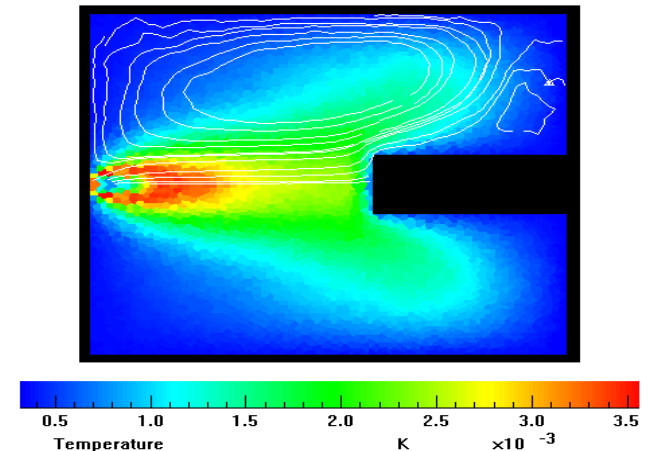
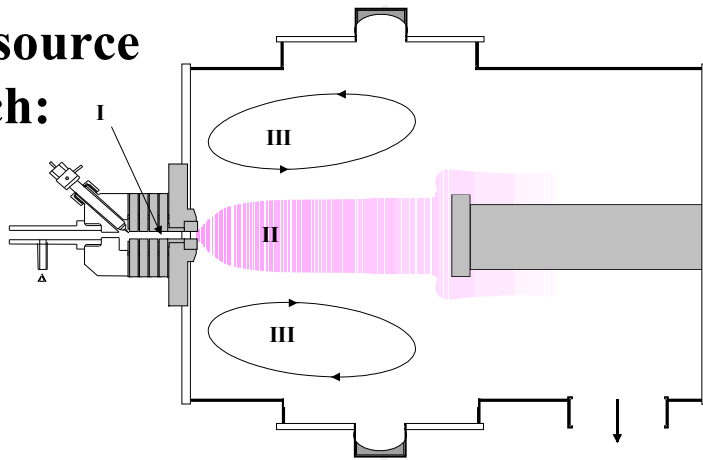
Fast deposition:  $\text{m}^2$  and  $\text{nm/s}$ : large fluxes of radicals:  $10^{22} - 10^{24} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

high flux to surface:  $10^4 \text{ ML/s}$ : other situation?

High flux of precursors: high gas & energy efficiencies, like particle sources

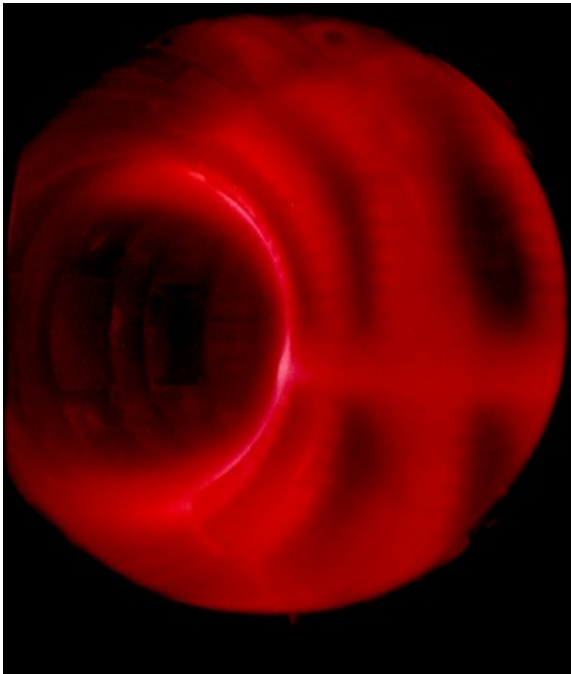
Plasmas: ionizing  $\rightarrow$  recombining; plasma dissociates, surface associates

Remote source  
approach:



# Fusion/ astrophysics

## Nuclear Fusion: JET



## Astrophysics



IC 1396 H-Alpha Close-Up ,Nick Wright, University College London

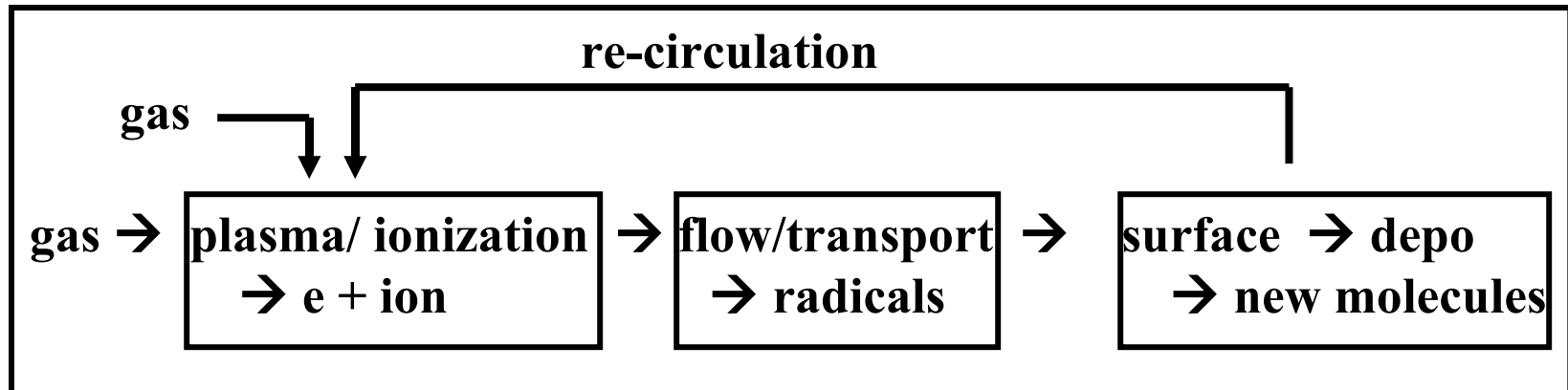
**H<sub>α</sub> light: could be from molecules + ions**

# Summary approach

Is plasma different from CVD/ Catalysis?:

Radicals (%) dominate surface → passivated surface

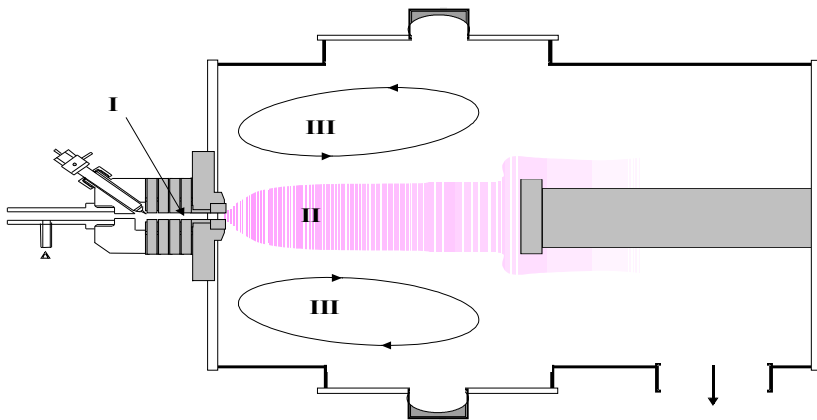
1. production plasma
2. production radicals
3. transport: radicals may be transformed , but remain radical
4. radicals to surface, reflect, built up density, finally absorbed
5. adsorbed fragments give new molecules, which desorb
6. new molecules add to injected molecules: gas may change totally!



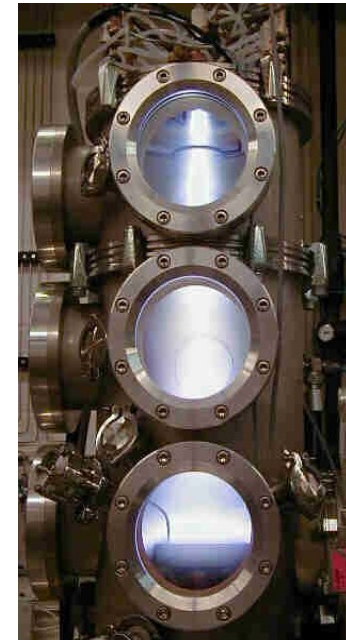
## Fast depo a-C:H with ETP method

- **10 % ionized plasma beam:  $\text{Ar}^+$ , expands: high  $n_e$ , low  $T_e=T_h$  plasma**
- **Charge transfer & dissociative recombination produce  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  radicals (and H)**
  - $\text{Ar}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_2^+ + \text{Ar}$
  - $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2^+ + e \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H} + \text{H}; \quad \rightarrow \rightarrow$  surface depo +  $\text{H}_2$  generation
  - *Radical production & recombination of atomic ions from source*

**With expanding thermal plasma (ETP) method: Remote source deposition**  
**High flux of precursors: high deposition rate + generation ( $\text{H}_2$ ..) molecule**



**Note: wth  $\text{CH}_4$ :  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$  &  $\text{H}_2$  production & depo**

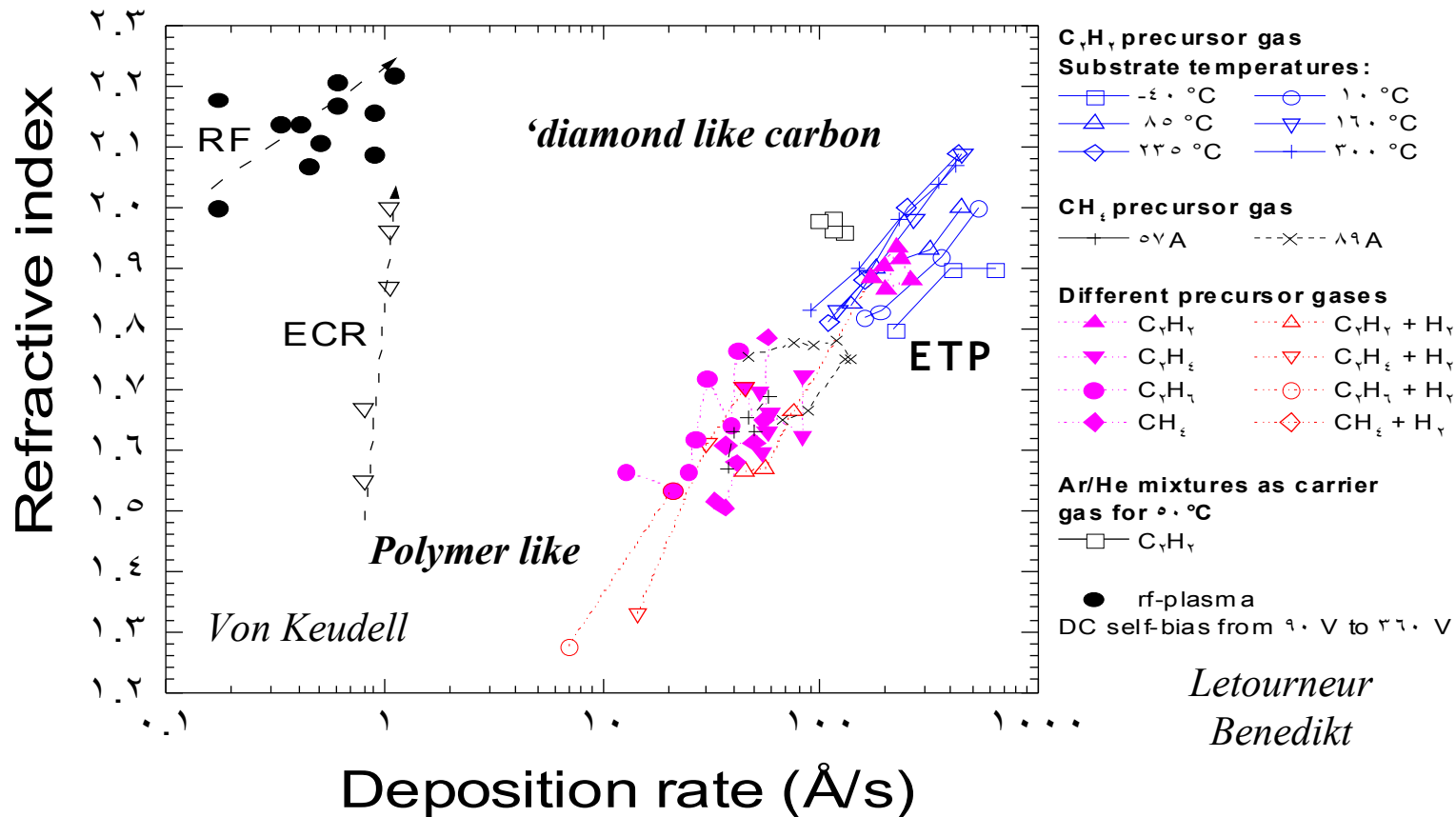


# Results fast deposition, a-C:H, ..

Fast deposition 100 nm/s of diamond like carbon: DLC

*example: higher growth rate: better, more dense, hard thin layer!*

Q: deposition *“physical” or “chemical”*? *“Ion pinning” and “radical radical”*?

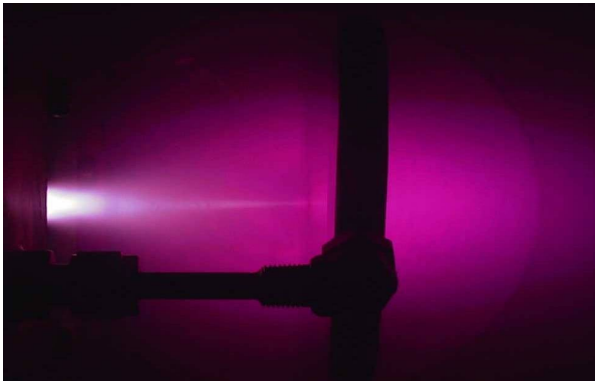


Quality depends on  $T_{\text{substrate}}$  & rate, *not on injected mol:  $CH_4$ ,  $C_2H_4$ ,  $C_2H_6$ ,  $C_2H_2$*

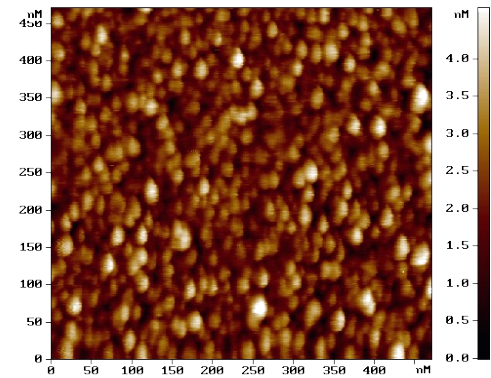


## Use of H atoms: fast deposition a-, nc- Si:H

- Also H atoms can be used for radical production:
  - Ar/H<sub>2</sub> in source → mainly H atoms
  - H atom source:  $\text{H} + \text{SiH}_4 \rightarrow \text{SiH}_3 + \text{H}_2$ ; **SiH<sub>3</sub> soft radical: depo good a-Si:H**
  - High rate 10 nm/s at elevated  $T_{\text{substrate}}$  400 C



nc-Si:H



**With more H atoms: nano crystalline layers: nc Si:H**  
**more SiH<sub>2</sub>, SiH, Si = harder radicals?**

*Type radical determines structure/ quality layer. Is it the only solution?  
Can we separate deposition + annealing? achieve higher rates! : mechanism: strategy*

# Deposition: Motivation for $H \leftrightarrow H_2(r,v)$ high flux

## Questions:

**In how far is mechanism essential for reaching dense material and proper structure.**

**Is amount of H atoms essential ingredient?**

**Is it the essential factor for nc-Si:H?**

**Is r,v excited  $H_2$  an important factor?**

## Other questions:

**Is depo + annealing an (fast) alternative?**

**Is the exact nature of radicals important? Or is it more chemical?**

**→ Mechanism of deposition at surface and  
mechanism of molecule formation at high flux**

## Cool expanding plasmas ( $T \sim .3 \text{ eV}$ )

In remote source approach: ETP!

high flux radicals and/or ions

simple heavy particle kinetics: charge transfer/ abstraction..

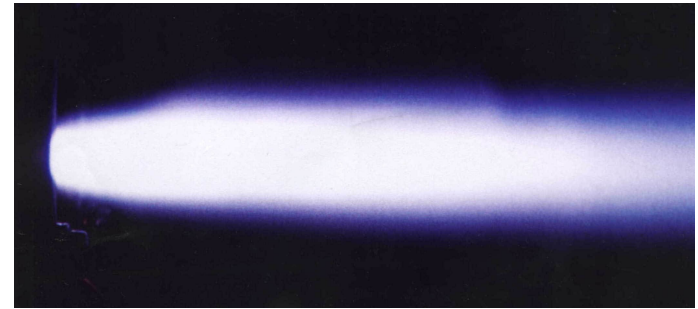
low  $T_e$ : no e- excitation/dissociation

*Light: signature of ions/electrons + molecules*

Ar,  $\text{Ar}^+$  e expansion:

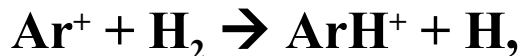
weak (3p) ion recombination

$\rightarrow$  *4p-4s red emission* + *blue continuum*



With  $\text{H}_2$ : Ar/  $\text{H}_2$  expansion:

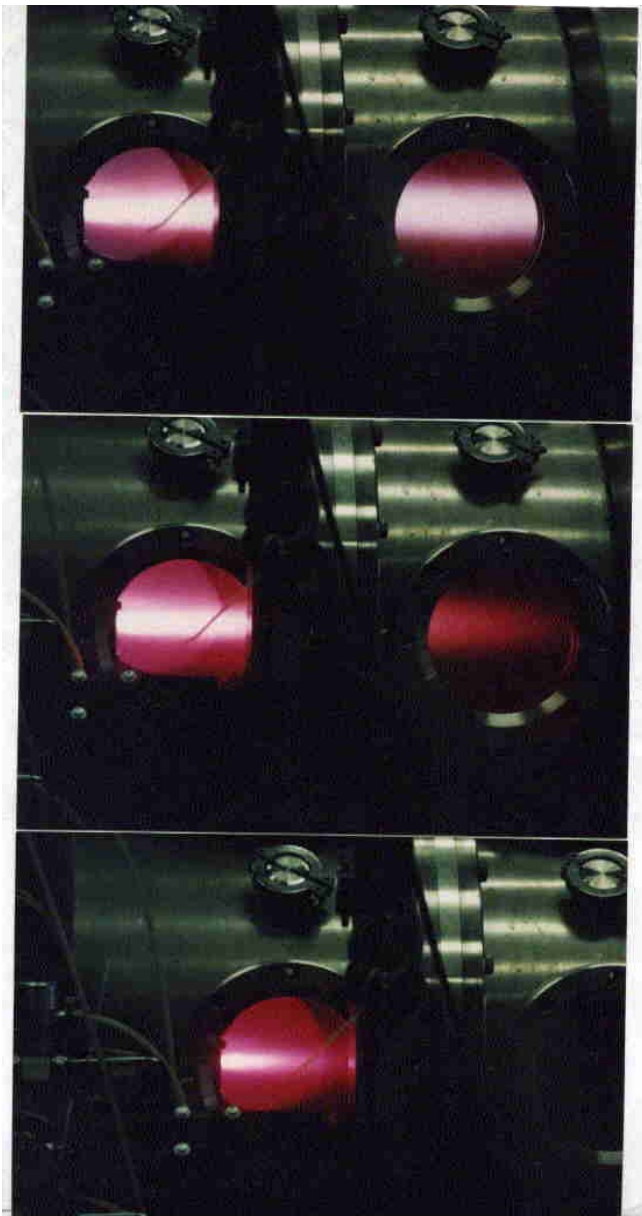
strong recombination by:



Pure  $\text{H}_2$  expansion: even stronger recombination:

*“MAR” molecular assisted recombination*

# Effect of H<sub>2</sub> molecules



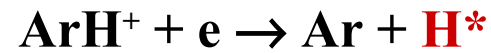
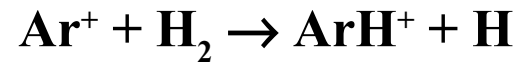
Ar plasma  
+

< 0.1% H<sub>2</sub>

1% H<sub>2</sub>

5% H<sub>2</sub>

**Effect of H<sub>2</sub> molecules on  
Ar plasma expansion:  
MAR!**



↓  
 **Balmer α**

**40 Pa:  $n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}$**

## Kinetics with molecules: H<sub>2</sub>, ...

Pure H<sub>2</sub> expansion: very strong recombination at lower n<sub>e</sub>: MAR



At high electron density (n<sub>e</sub> > 10<sup>19</sup>-10<sup>20</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>): H\*--H\*\*\* re-ionized.

But at lower densities: catastrophic decrease of ionization:  
very fast loss of ions and electrons and thus light

Essential: vibrational/ rotational H<sub>2</sub>(r,v)



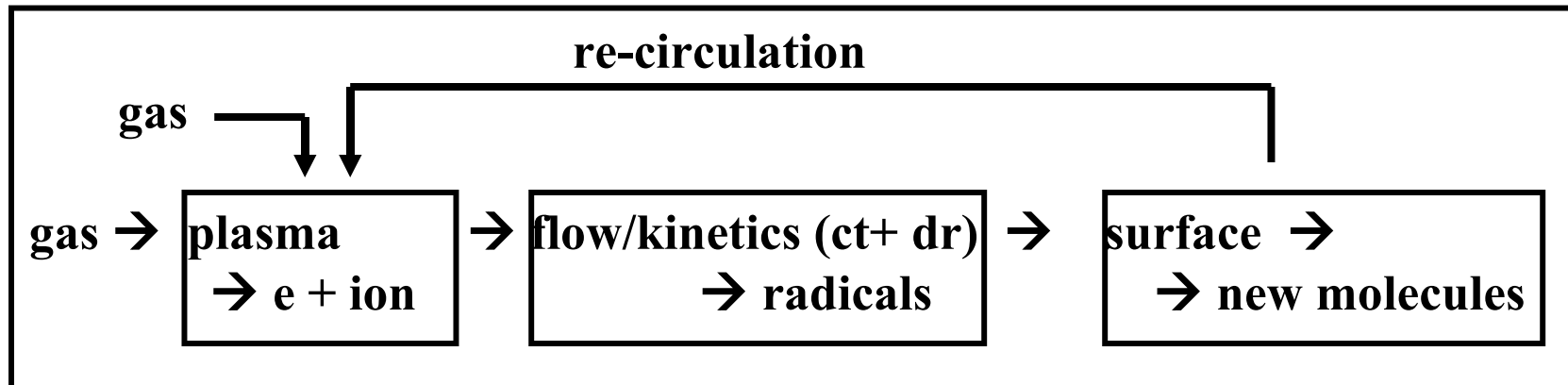
Similar (but less fast): with other molecules: O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>,...

## Summary kinetics

Plasma dissociates (by MAR..), surface associates:

1. Plasma: ions + electrons: + molecules:
2. Charge transfer + dissociative recombination  $\rightarrow$  radicals
3. Radicals remain radicals during (fast) transport to surface
4. Radicals to surface, reflect, built up density, finally absorbed
5. Adsorbed fragments give new molecules, which desorb
6. New molecules add to injected molecules: gas may change totally!

Note: desorbed molecules are not so dependent on type radical



# Expansion, plasma beam, recirculation

**Expansion: supersonic**

**density  $\sim z_0^2/z^2$ ; ( $z_0 \sim$  radius source)**

**temperature adiabatic  $T/T_0 \sim (n/n_0)^{\gamma-1}$**

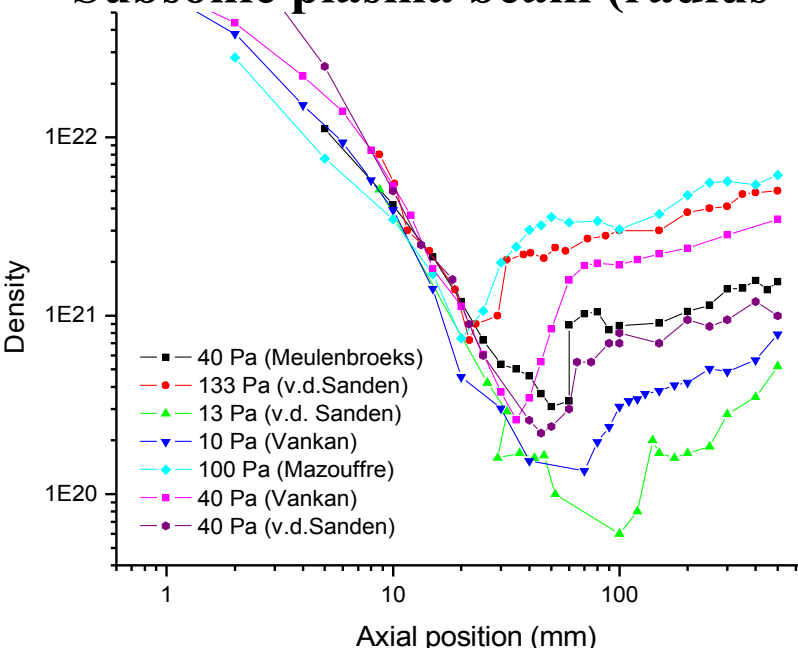
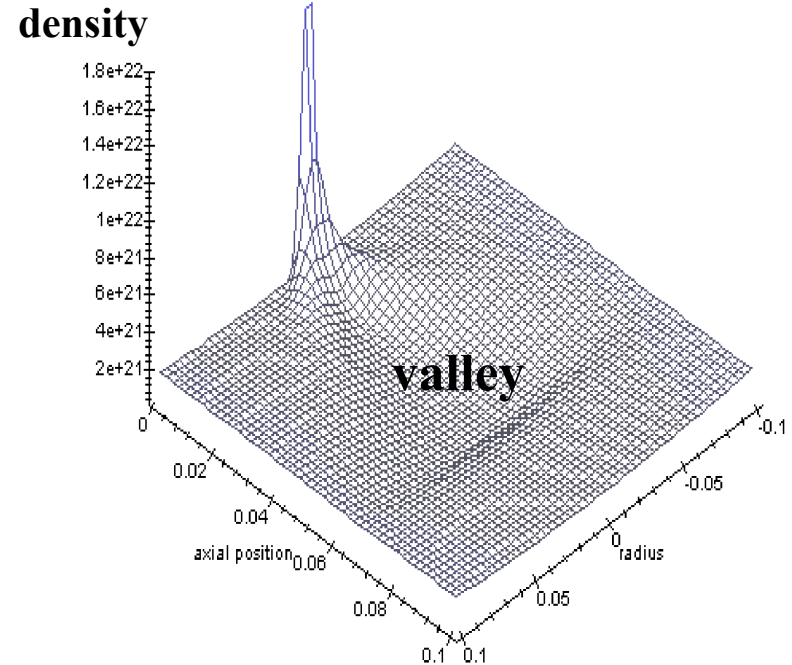
**velocity: at exit sonic,  $c_0 \rightarrow 2c_0$**

**“Valley” just before shock front**

**Stationary shock front:**

**$z_M = 2 \cdot 10^{-2} (\text{flow}/p)^{1/2} (AT_0)^{1/4}$ , flow in scc/s**

**Subsonic plasma beam (radius  $\sim z_M$ ):**

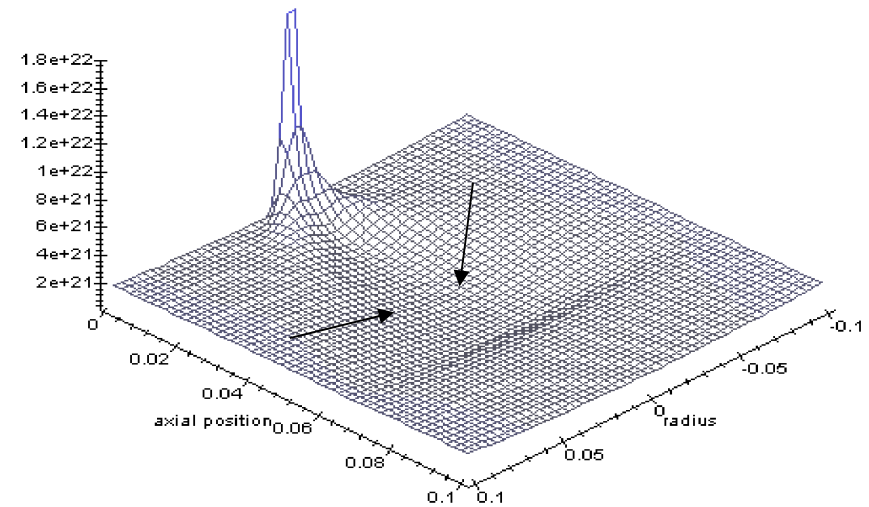
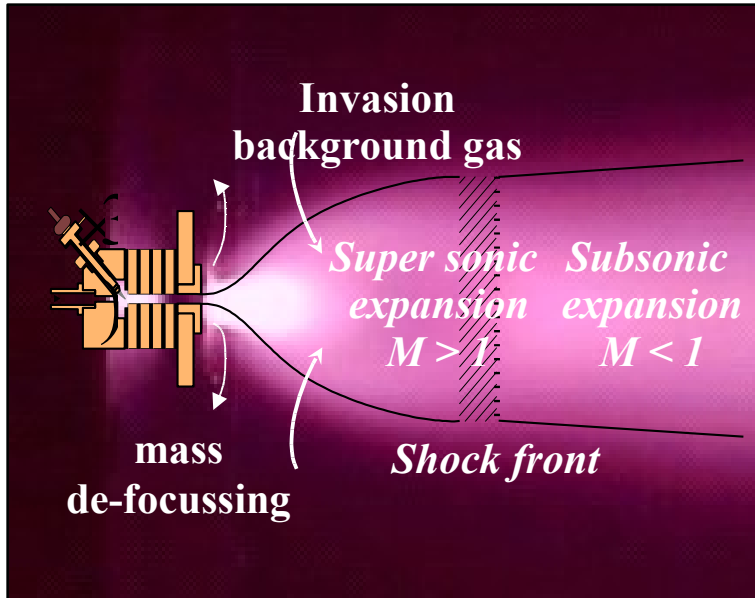


**plasma expansion + beam: .3 msec**

**Re-circulation: 10 msec**

**Residence time: 1 sec**

## Invasion & mixing in from background



**Mass de-focusing: light particles scatter out**

**Invasion: rarefied conditions:  $\lambda_{\text{mfp}} \sim z_M$  good mixing in supersonic part**

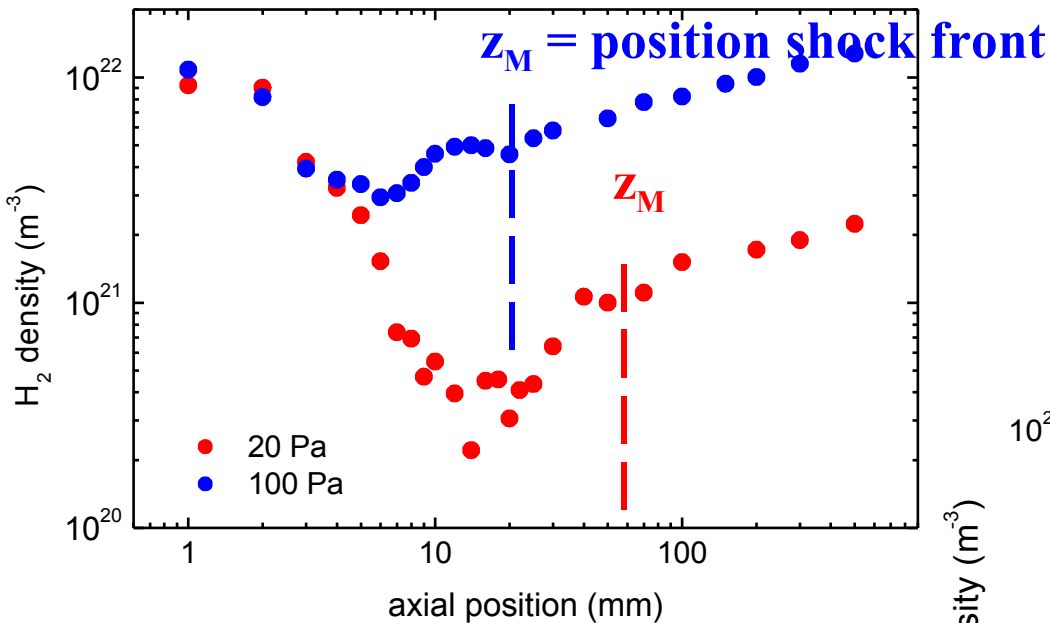
**Here favorable for chemistry: supersonic velocity/ high  $T_{\text{heavy}}$**

**Also in forward plasma beam:  $T \sim .3$  eV , high r,v excitation?**



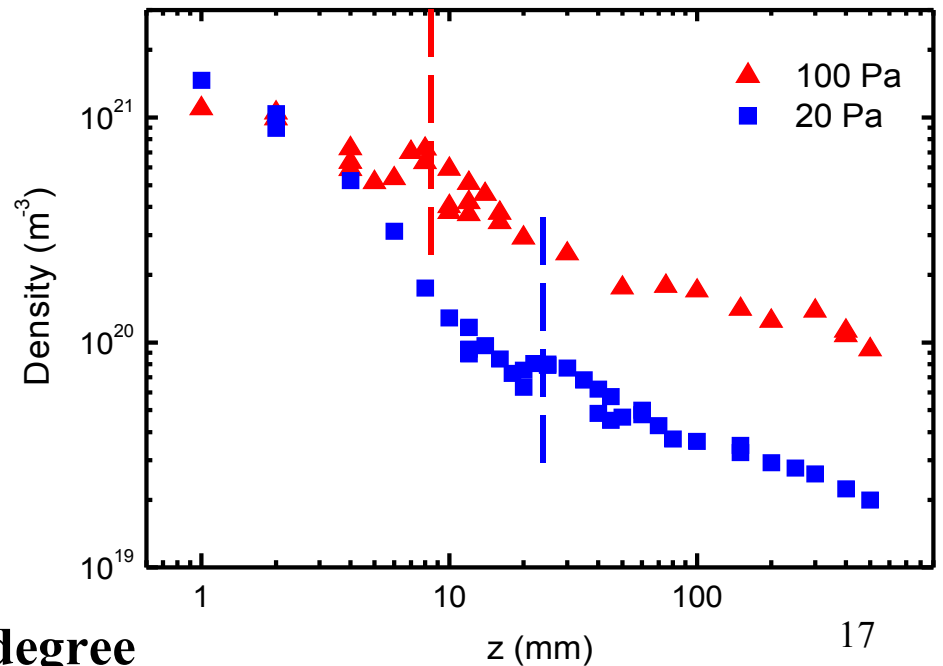
# Expansion: z dependence: $1/z^2$ density

*$n(\text{H}_2)$  Rayleigh scattering*



$\text{H}_2$  density follows  $1/z^2$  law

*$n(\text{H})$  Two photon LIF (TALIF)*



**H density weaker z-dependence**

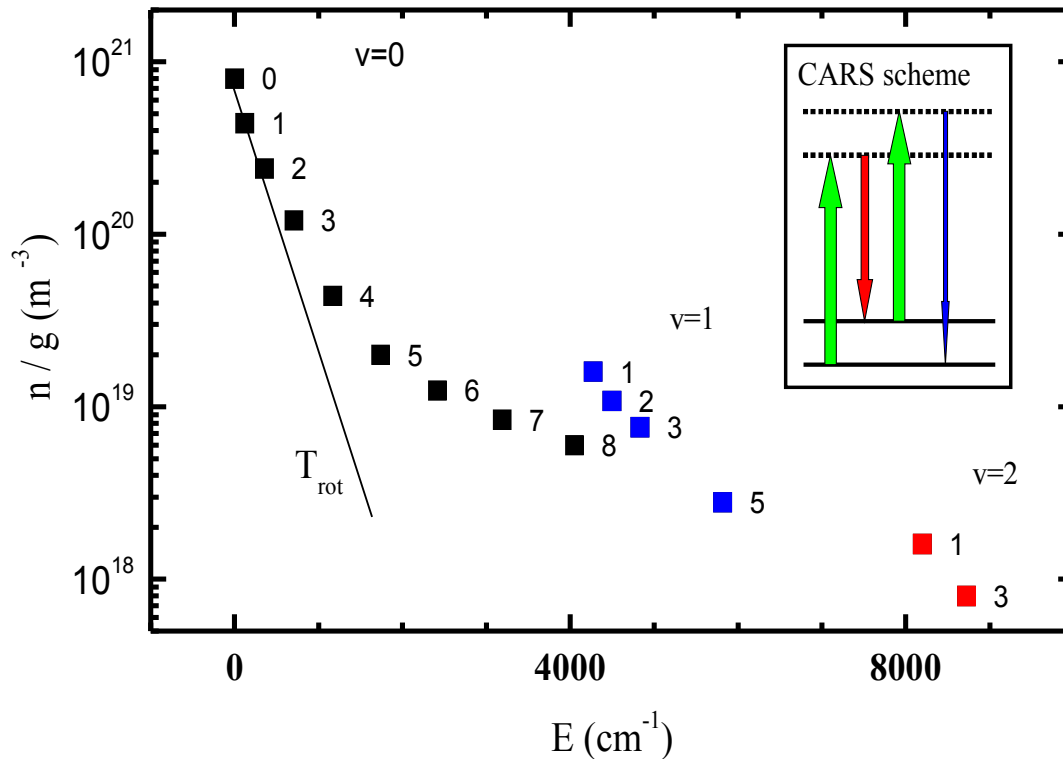
**→ reflected H atoms?**

**→ apparent increasing dissociation degree**

# Molecule generation

# Presence $H_2(r,v)$ : CARS

**$H_2(r,v)$  First measured by CARS: Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering**  
*Meulenbroeks et al PRL*



**At  $z = 8$  mm from source**

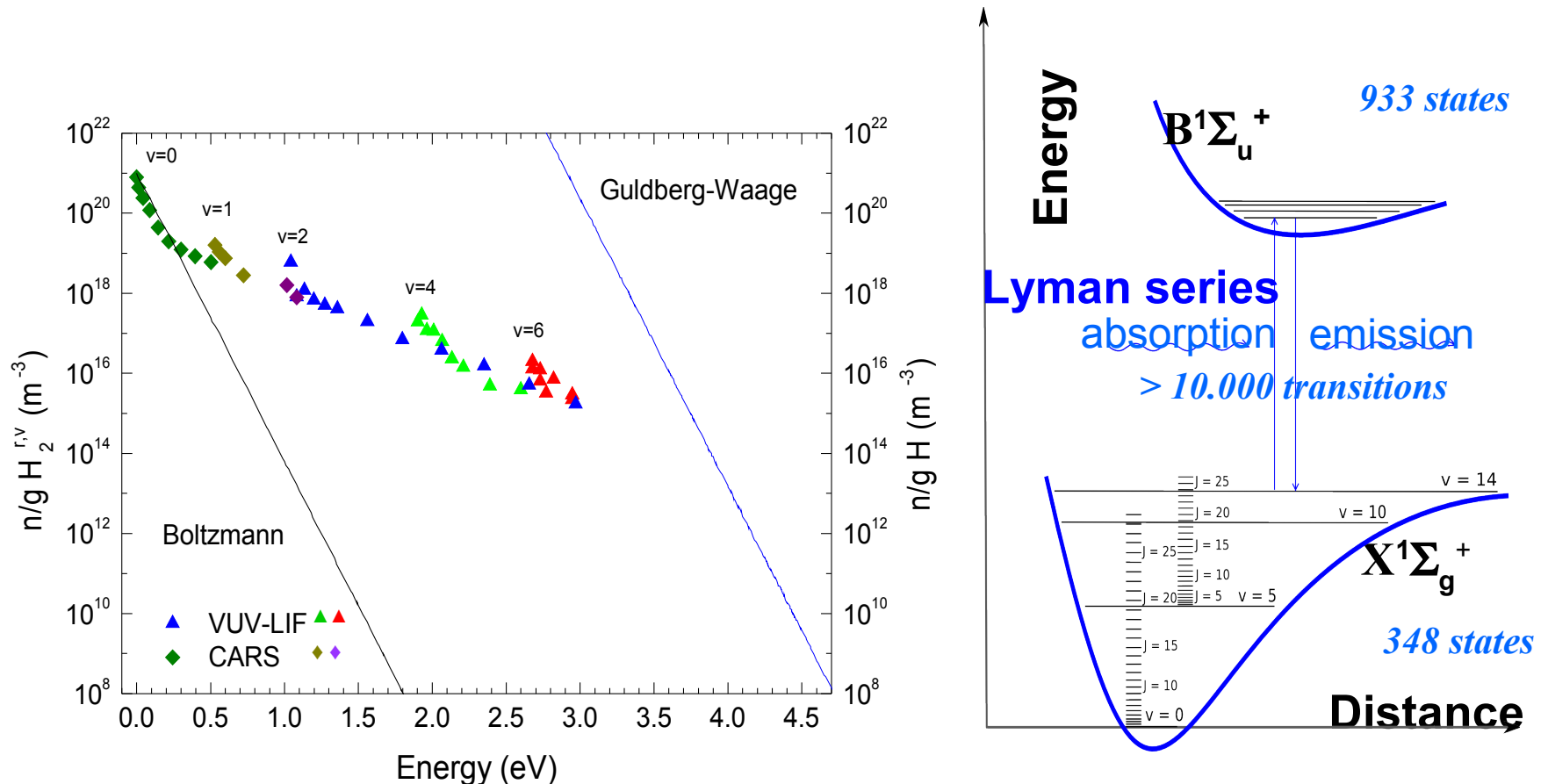
**$H_2$  plasma,  $\Phi_{H_2} = 3$  slm  
 $p = 50$  Pa???**

**Total pressure from measurements:  $\Sigma n(v,J), T_{rot} \rightarrow p_{vessel}$**

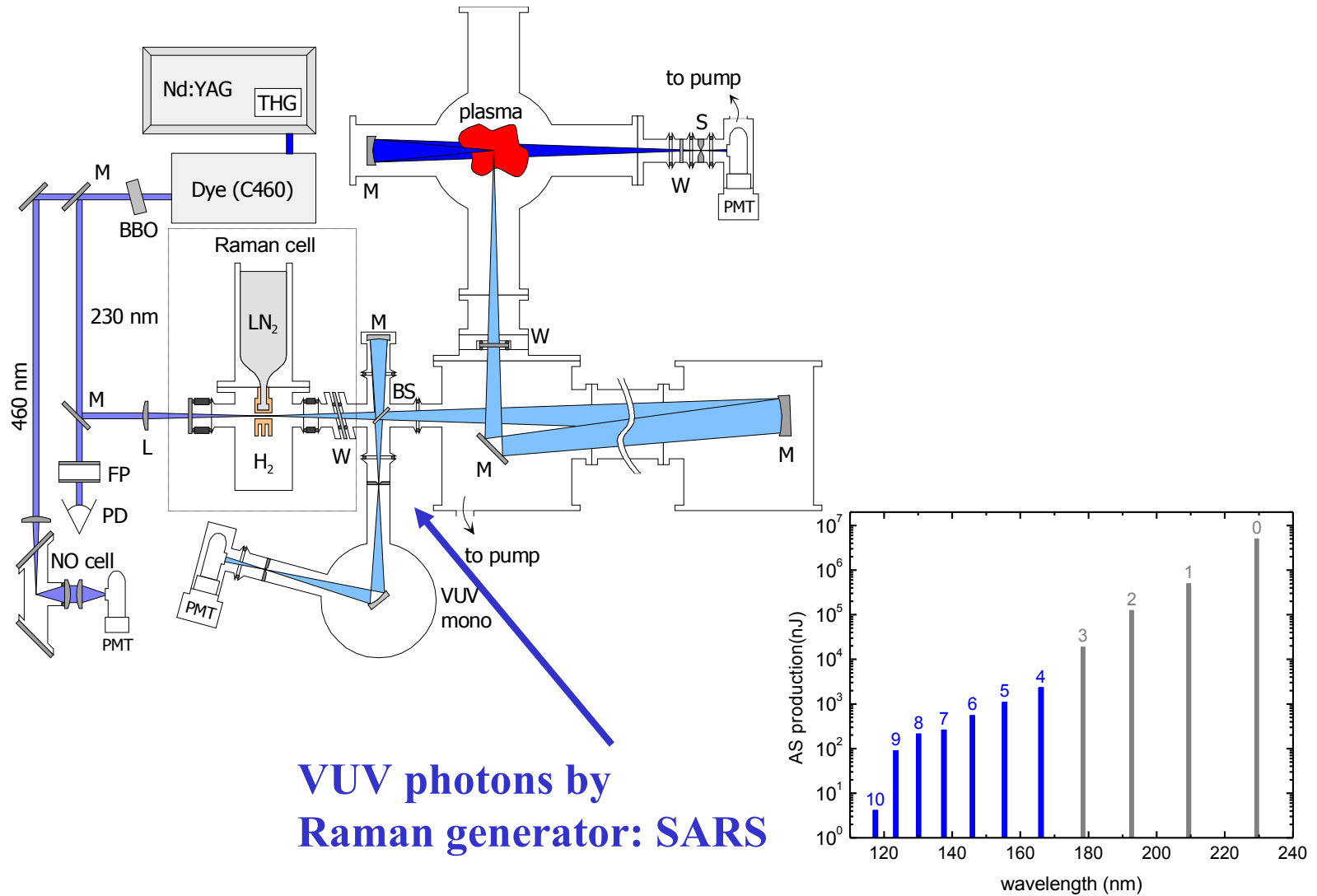
# H<sub>2</sub>(r,v) with VUV-LIF

Vacuum Ultra Violet Laser induced fluorescence

Excited with several anti-Stokes lines (Vankan, Gabriel, Engeln et al)



# Methodology: Multiplexed VUV-LIF

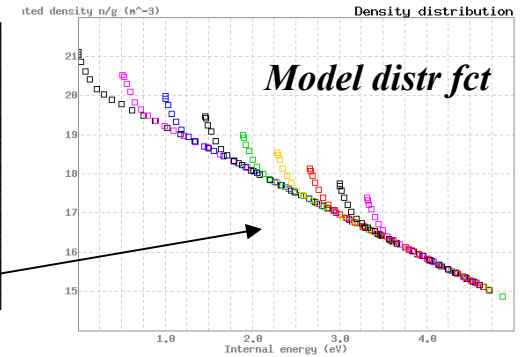
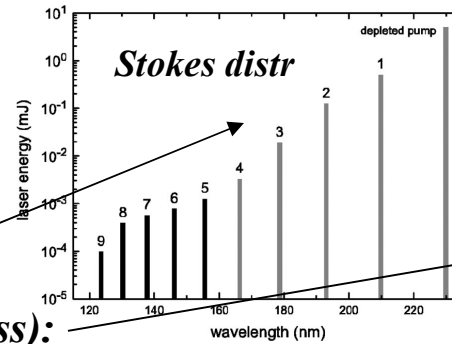


**Multiplex-VUV-LIF => Simultaneous excitation → more  $\nu, J$ -information:** 21  
**also surprises: high  $J$  population!!**

# Multiplexed-VUV-LIF

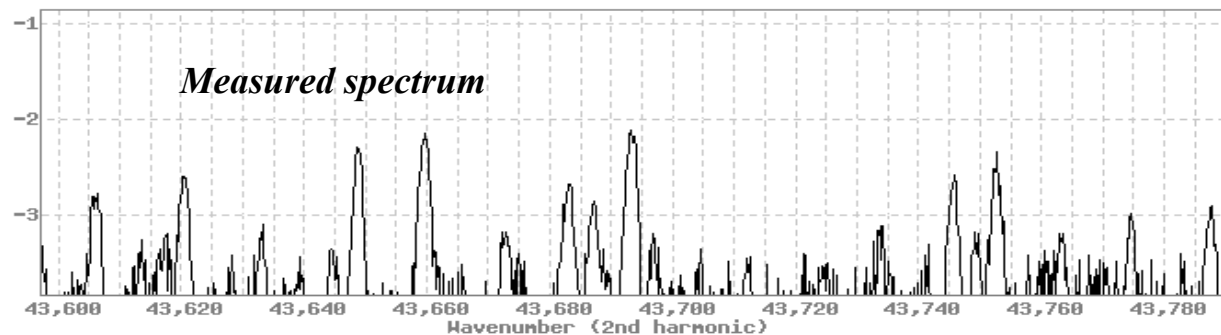
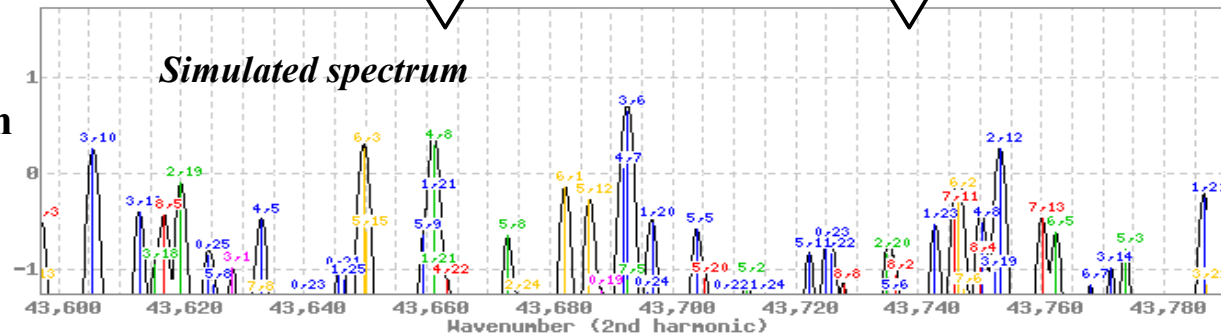
## Input:

- Spectral data (Einstein coefficients, life times),
- Transmission of optical components,
- Detector efficiency,
- Laser power (Anti-Stokes distribution),
- Model for the  $H_2$  density distribution (first guess):

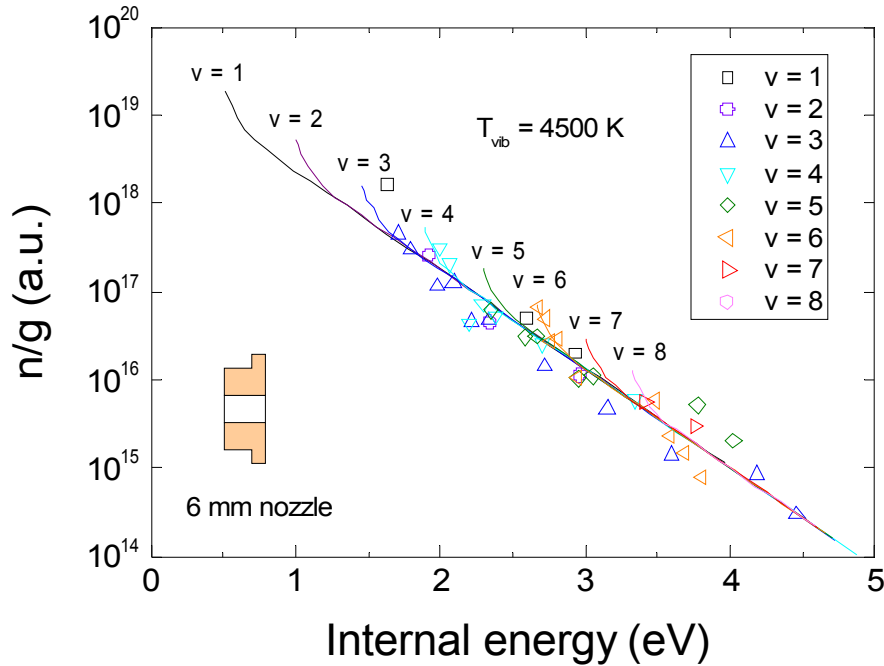


*Multiple hockey stick*

→ Multiple hockey stick distribution

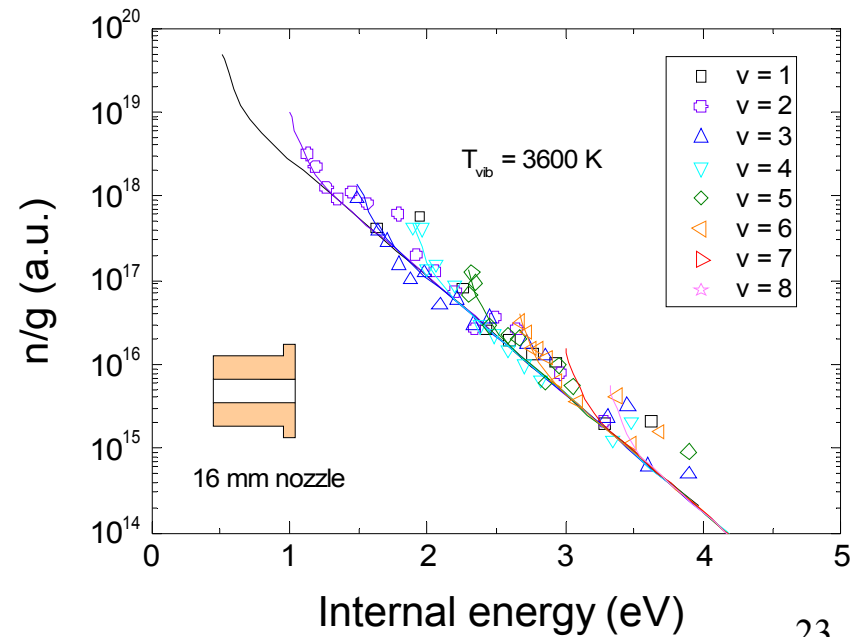


# New results $H_2(r,v)$

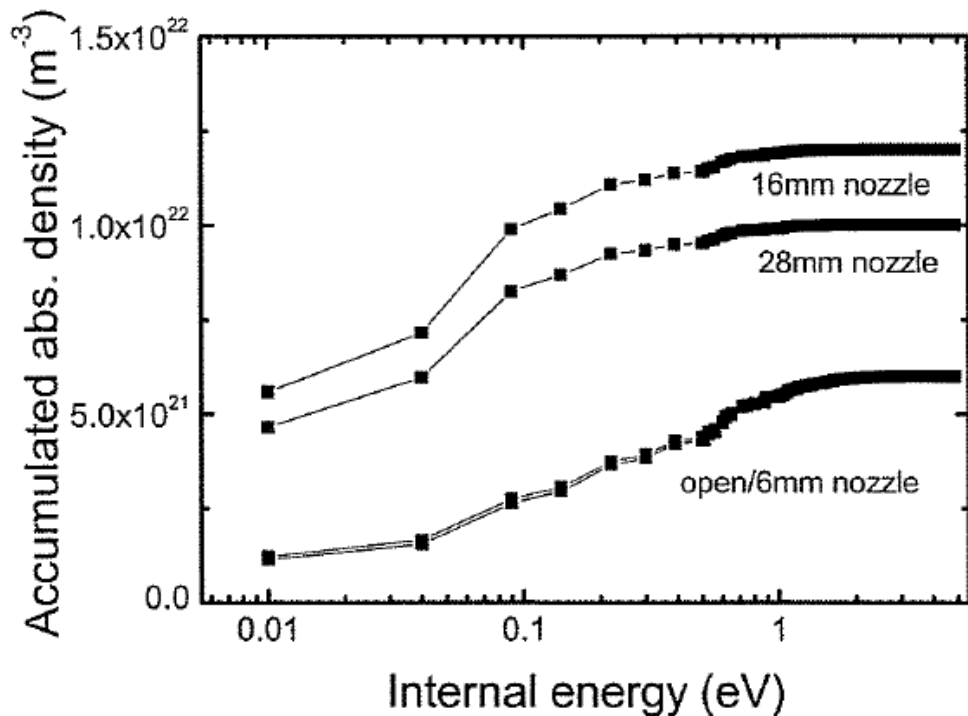


**Long nozzle:**  
**Population smaller (still to continuum):**  
**lower source  $T_s$ ,**  
**H already lost –  $H_2(r,v)$**

**Short nozzle:**  
**Population up to close to continuum:**  
**higher source  $T$ , higher H-flux**



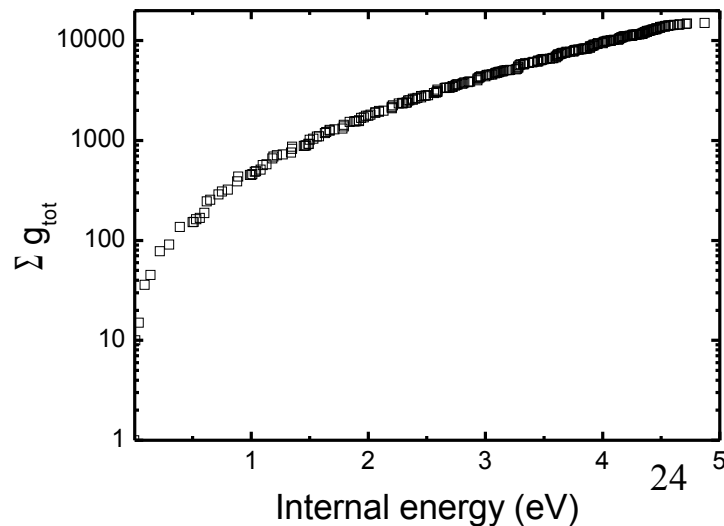
# Importance density $H_2(r,v)$ : accumulated statistical weight $G$



## Accumulated density $\Sigma H_2(r_i, v_j)$

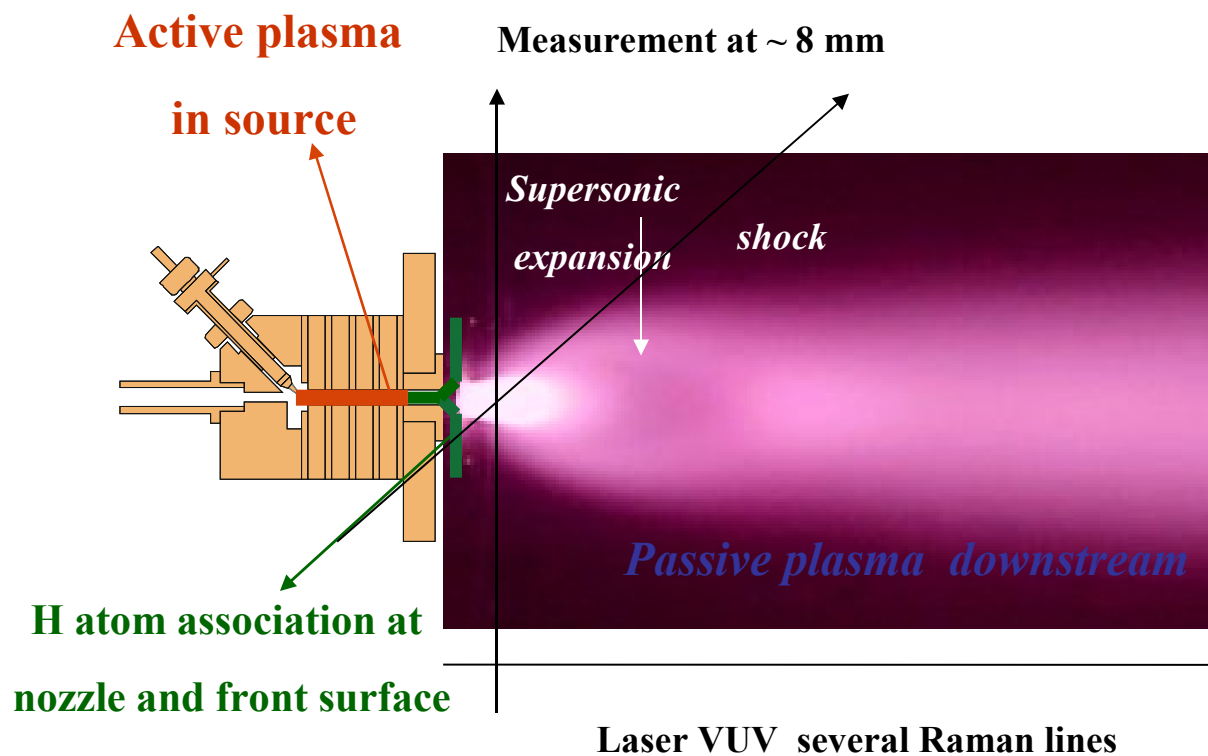
### Importance rotational excitation:

- Larger rates for  $e + H_2(r,v) \rightarrow H^- + H$
- Large statistical weight: rotation:  $2J + 1$
- sizeable density!

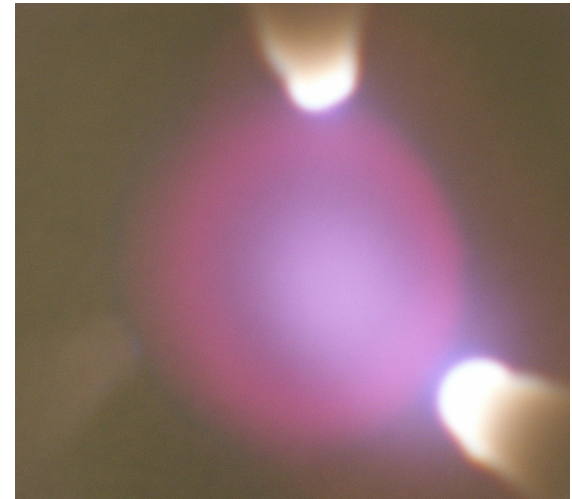
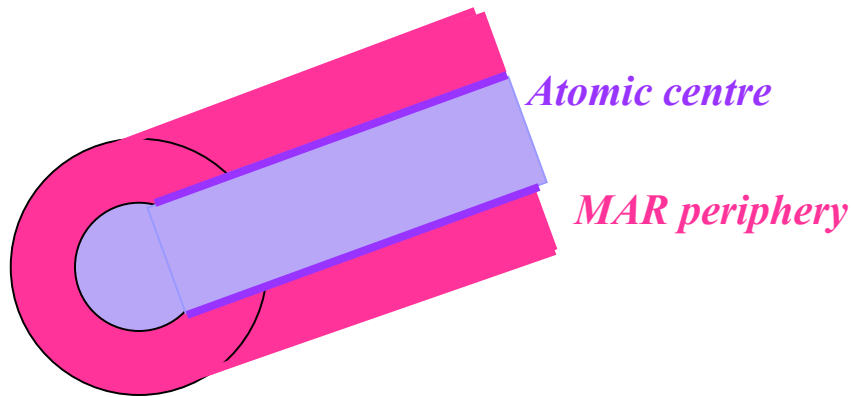




# Molecules produced at surface exit nozzle arc.



## In arc: atomic with small



Atomic centre plasma H atoms, H<sup>+</sup> ions/ electrons (10%):

Light: mainly continuum (and H<sub>n</sub> lines)

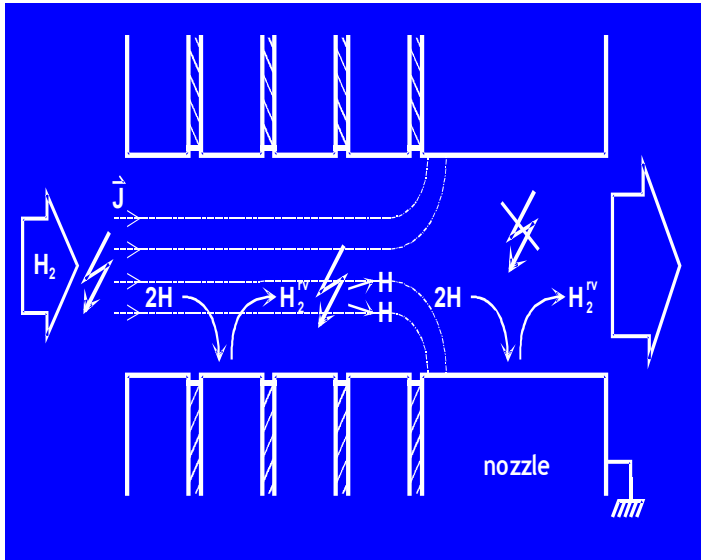
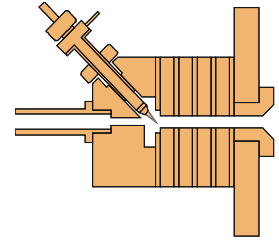
“Molecular” periphery: still mainly atoms, some molecules, no ions/ electrons

At interface: out-diffusing H<sup>+</sup> ions (charge transfer with H<sub>2</sub>) → H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>

$\text{H}_2^+ + \text{e} \rightarrow \text{H}^* + \text{H}$ , as  $n_e$  is too low then  $\text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{H}^+$  photons (H<sub>α</sub>, Ly<sub>β26</sub>)

Number of molecules needed to kill at interface

# Processes in arc



**In arc: atomic centre: H, H<sup>+</sup>, e**  
**In periphery: mainly H to surface, some H<sub>2</sub>**  
**H<sub>2</sub>(r,v) from surface, diffuses inward**  
**Kills electrons/ions at interface**

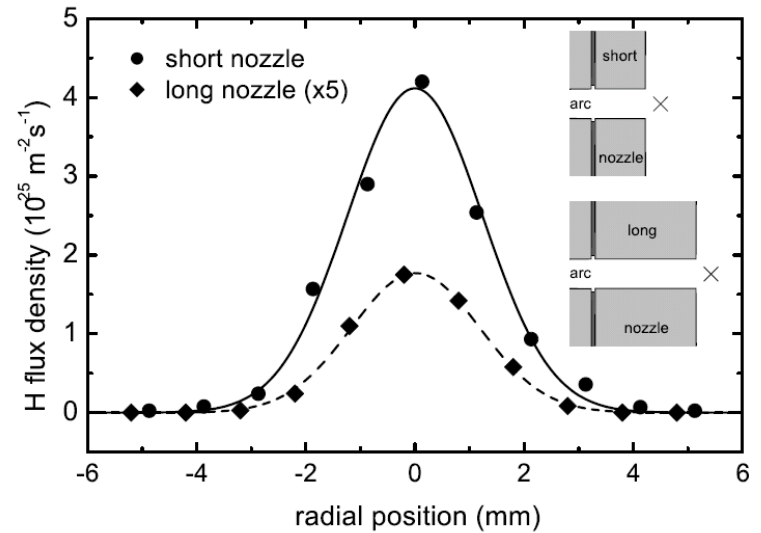
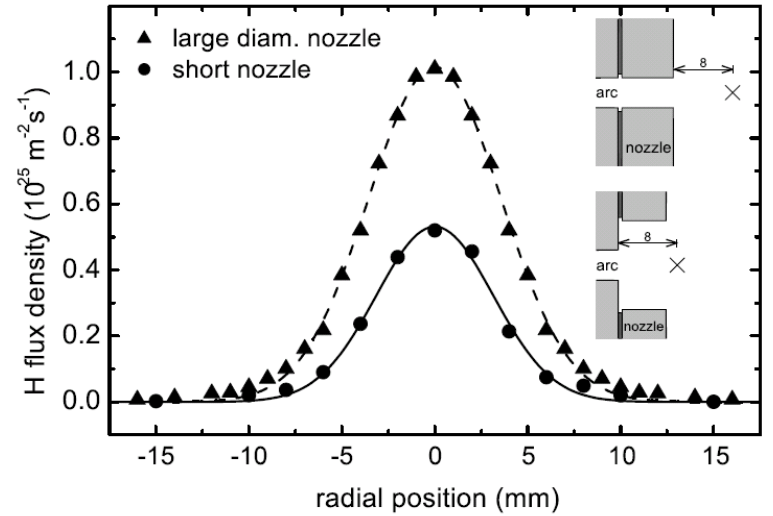
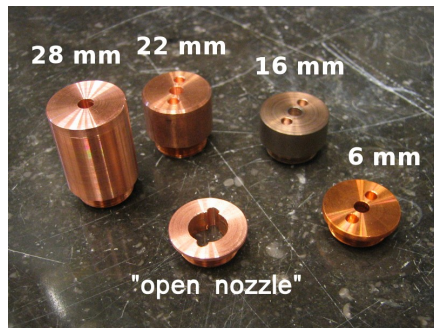
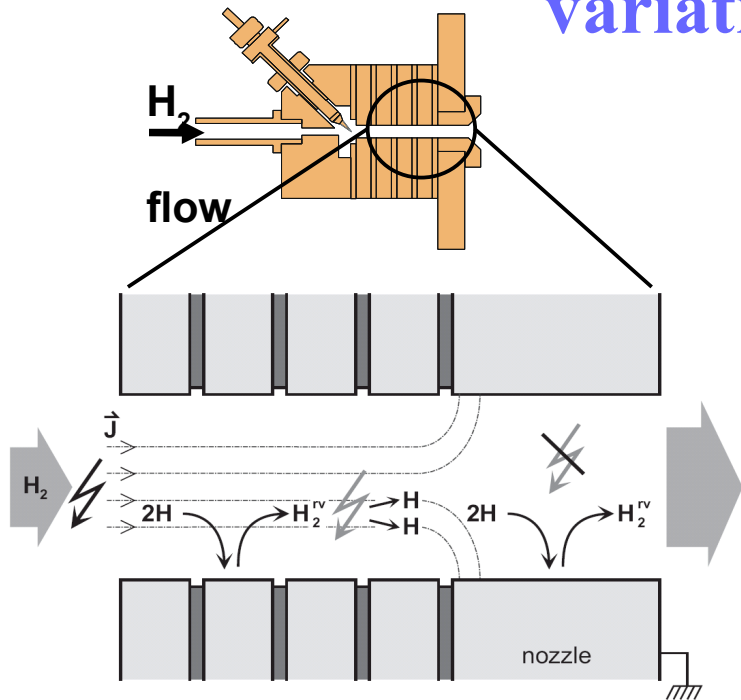
**At interface:      in atomic centre: H<sup>+</sup>, e diffuse outward**  
**in periphery: some H<sub>2</sub> diffuses inward**

**Within interface: H<sup>+</sup> + H<sub>2</sub> → H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> + H; H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> + e → H + H\*;**  
**and if n<sub>e</sub> is high enough: H\* + e → H<sup>+</sup> + 2e**

**Outside interface: n<sub>e</sub> is too low and H\* → H + photons (H<sub>α</sub>, Ly<sub>β</sub>)**

# H<sub>2</sub> surface association on nozzle surface

## variation Nozzle length



## Generation mechanism $H_2(r,v)$

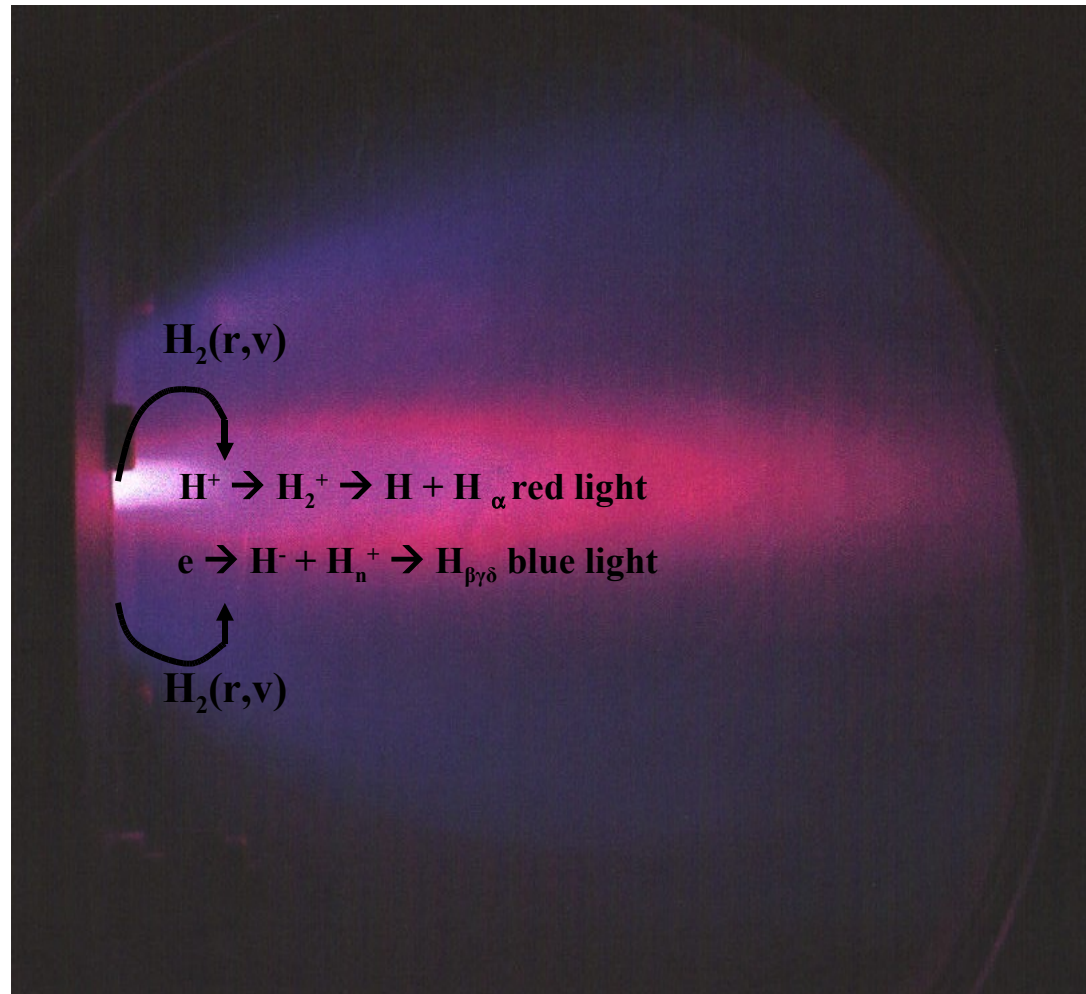
**Generation at nozzle surface**

**High excitation  $v, J$**

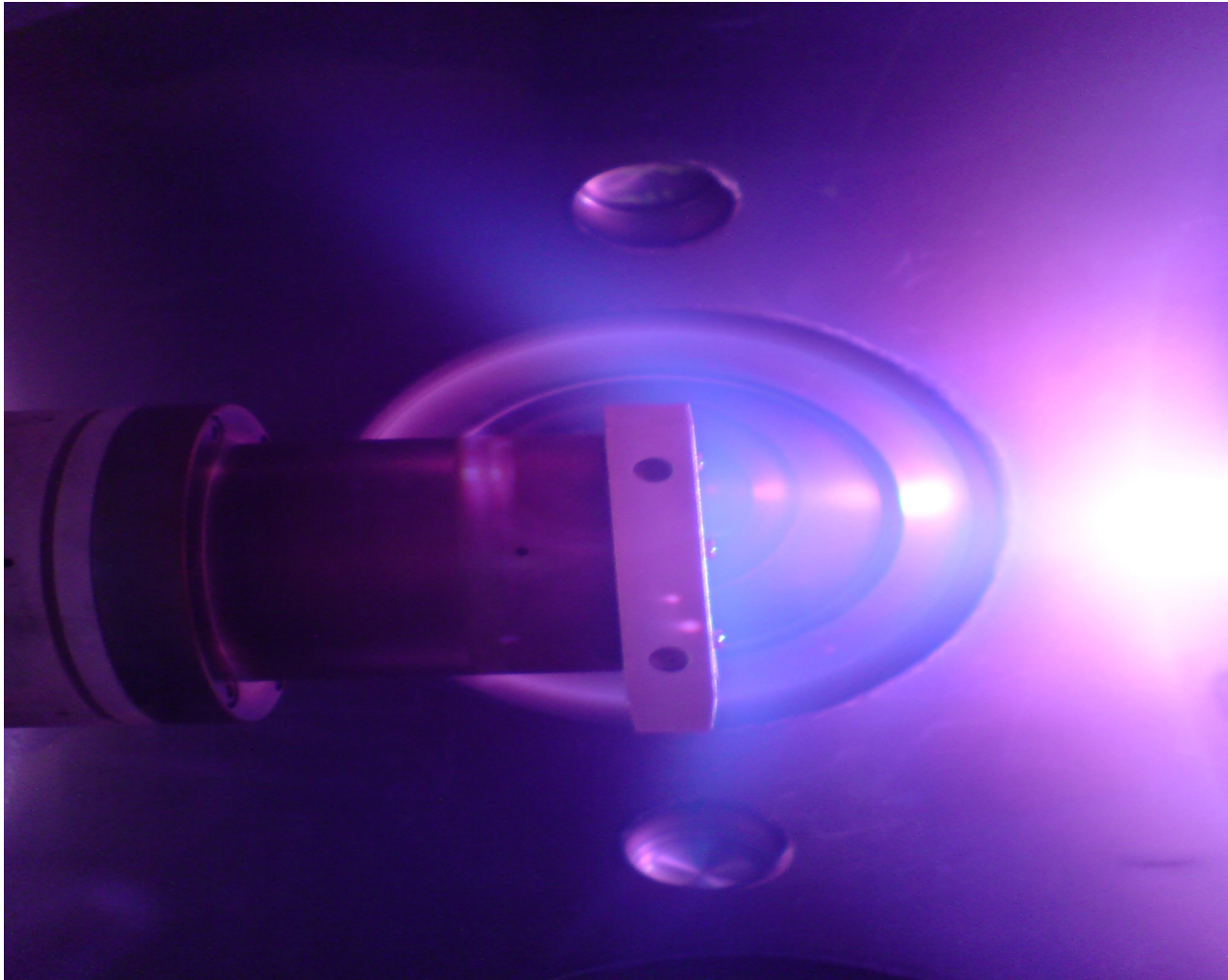
**Incident flux H atoms:  $>10^{25} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$**

**$\gamma?$  At these huge fluxes**

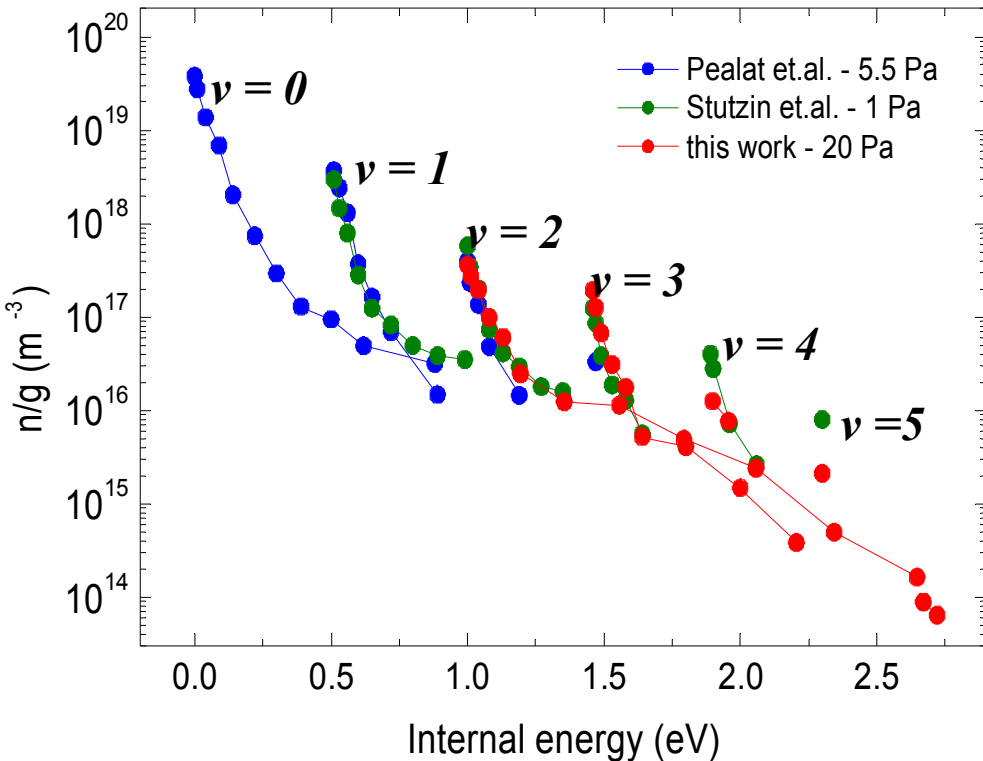
## Generation $H_2(r,v)$ in expansion?



## Generation $H_2(r,v)$ in expansion near surface?



# Excited $\text{H}_2(\text{r},\text{v})$ molecules from surface? Other experiments



- Experiments in**
- Magnetic multipole
  - Expanding plasma
- Very similar results.  
**Why?**

**High J (low  $v$ ) are unavoidable??**

[1] M. Péalat, J.E. Taran, *J. Chem. Phys.* 82, 4943 (1985)

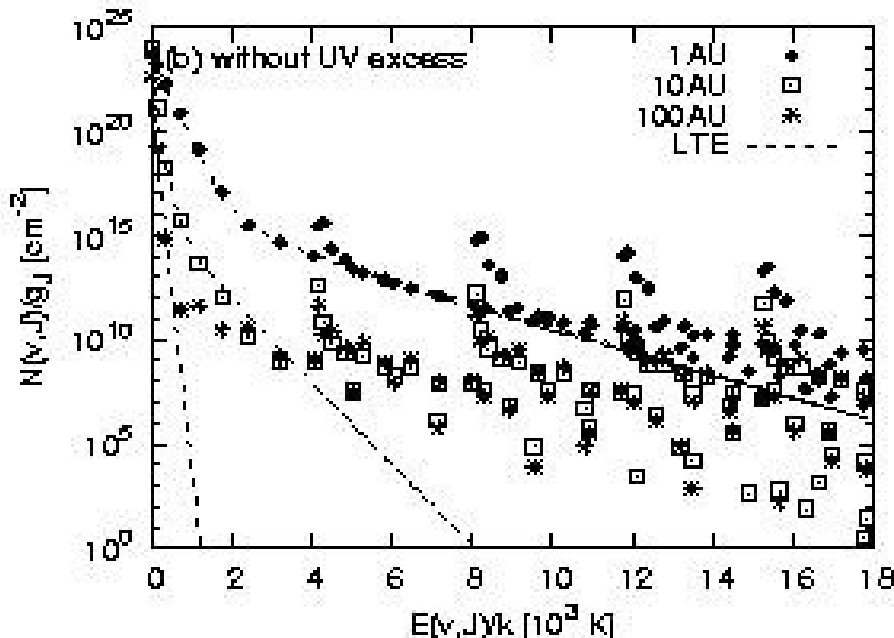
[2] G. Stutzin, A. Young, A. Schlachter, K. Leung, W. Kunkel, *Chem. Phys. Lett.* 155, 475 (1989) 32

[3] P. Vankan, D.C. Schram, R. Engeln, *Plasma Sources Sci. Technol.* 14, 744 (2005)



# Excited $H_2(r,v)$ molecules in space

Calculations T. Millar very similar distributions



Also experimental emission  
(see yesterday's talk C. Joblin  
for  $v=0,1$ )

High J (low  $v$ ) are unavoidable??

## $H_2(r,v)$ generation mechanisms

By electrons: e-v excitation of  $H_2$  by electrons ( $H_2^-$  as intermediate)

E-v excitation of  $H_2$  by e through high excited states  $H_2^{**}$

high  $T_e$  required & no J excitation?!

By dissociative recombination of  $H_3^+$  by cool electrons (25 % only)

$H_3^+ + e \rightarrow H_2(r,v) + H$  and  $H + H + H$  (75%) **J excitation!**

By associative attachment  $H^- + H \rightarrow H_2(r,v) + e$  **J excitation!**

**By surface association:  $H(s) + H \rightarrow H_2(r,v) + e$  **J excitation!****

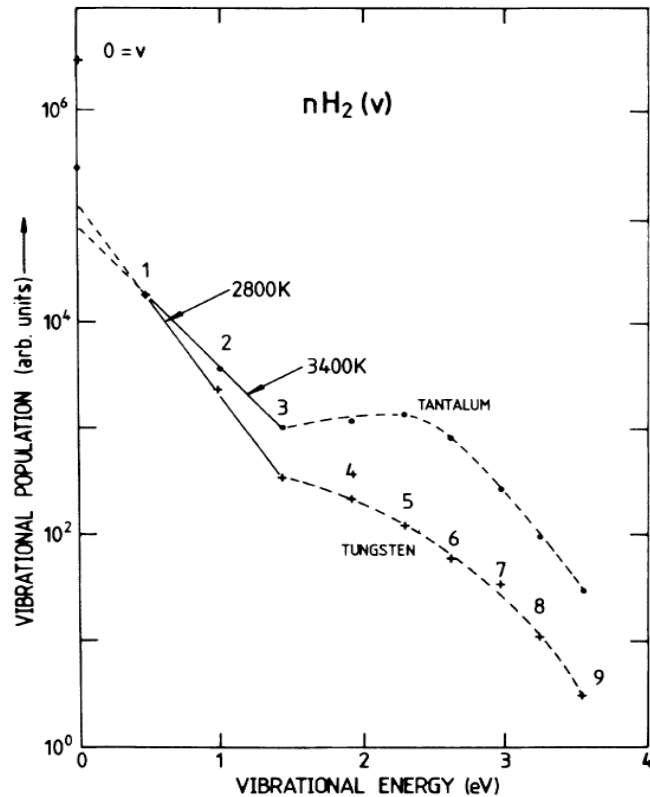
**As H atom production is largest chemical reservoir this is potentially strongest source of  $H_2(r,v)$**

Re-distribution by collisions in volume: by electrons, by H, by  $H_2$   
and by repetitive  $H_2(r,v) + e \leftrightarrow H^- + H$

# $H_2(r,v)$ generation at surface in past

Surface excitation is possible even at low fluxes

Hall 1988 (Hot filament) [1]:



*R.I. Hall, I. Cadez, M. Landau, F. Pichou, C. Scherman,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., 60, 337 (1988)*

## $H_2(r,v)$ re-distribution

**Re-distribution by collisions in volume: by electrons, by H, by  $H_2$   
and by repetitive  $H_2(r,v) + e \leftrightarrow H^- + H$**

**By electrons: most probable with small  $\Delta J = \pm 2$ , highest for high J:  
→ ladder climbing in J faster at high J, + vibration excitation  
→ Low J states effectively coupled by H,  $H_2$  collisions  
→ multiple hockey stick?**

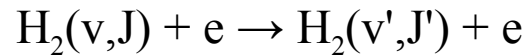
**Re-distribution by heavy particle collisions: by H atoms?!**

**Only limited cross section data, but again same principle, but with  $\Delta E \sim 0$**

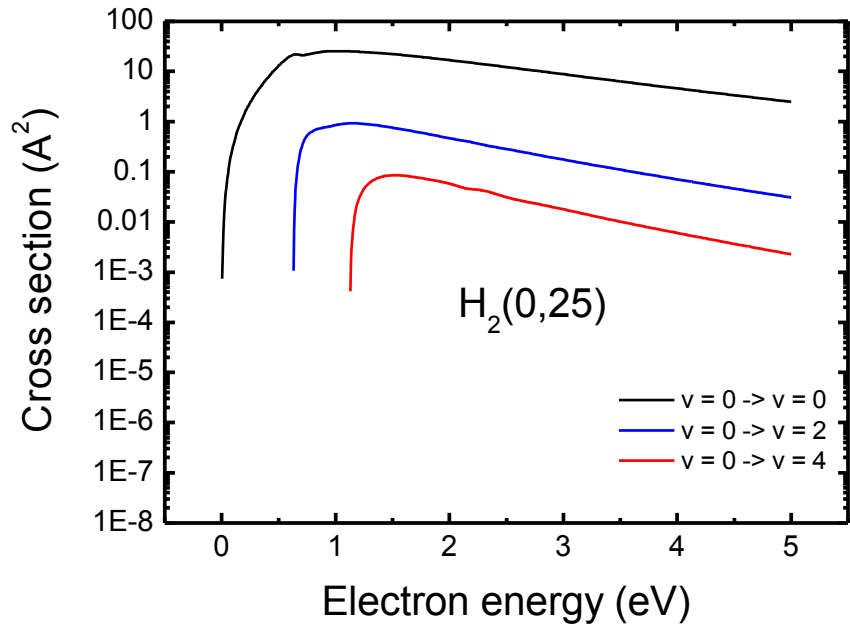
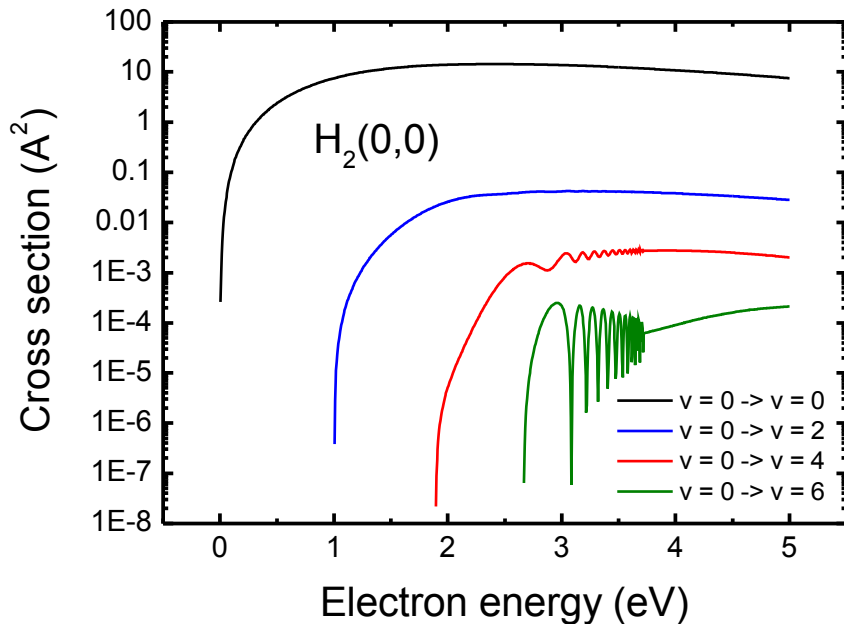
**→ If  $\Delta J = -2$  then  $\Delta v = +1$  at higher v, etc**

**Re-distribution by  $H^- + H \leftrightarrow H_2(r,v)$  populates higher J states with preference**

# Excitation by electron collisions



$$\Delta J = \pm 2 (\pm 4, \dots)$$



-> cross sections larger for excitations in high rotational levels.

Horacek, J.; Cizek, M.; Houfek, K.; Kolarenc, P. & Domcke, W.

Dissociative electron attachment and vibrational excitation of H<sub>2</sub> by low-energy electrons:

Calculations based on an improved nonlocal resonance model. II. Vibrational excitation

*Phys. Rev. A*, **2006**, 74, 022701

# Comparison rate coefficients

## VE process:



## DA process:



## AD process:

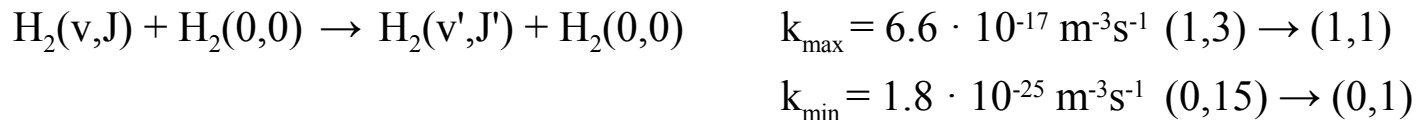


*Only  $v \leq 1$  and  $J \leq 15$ :*

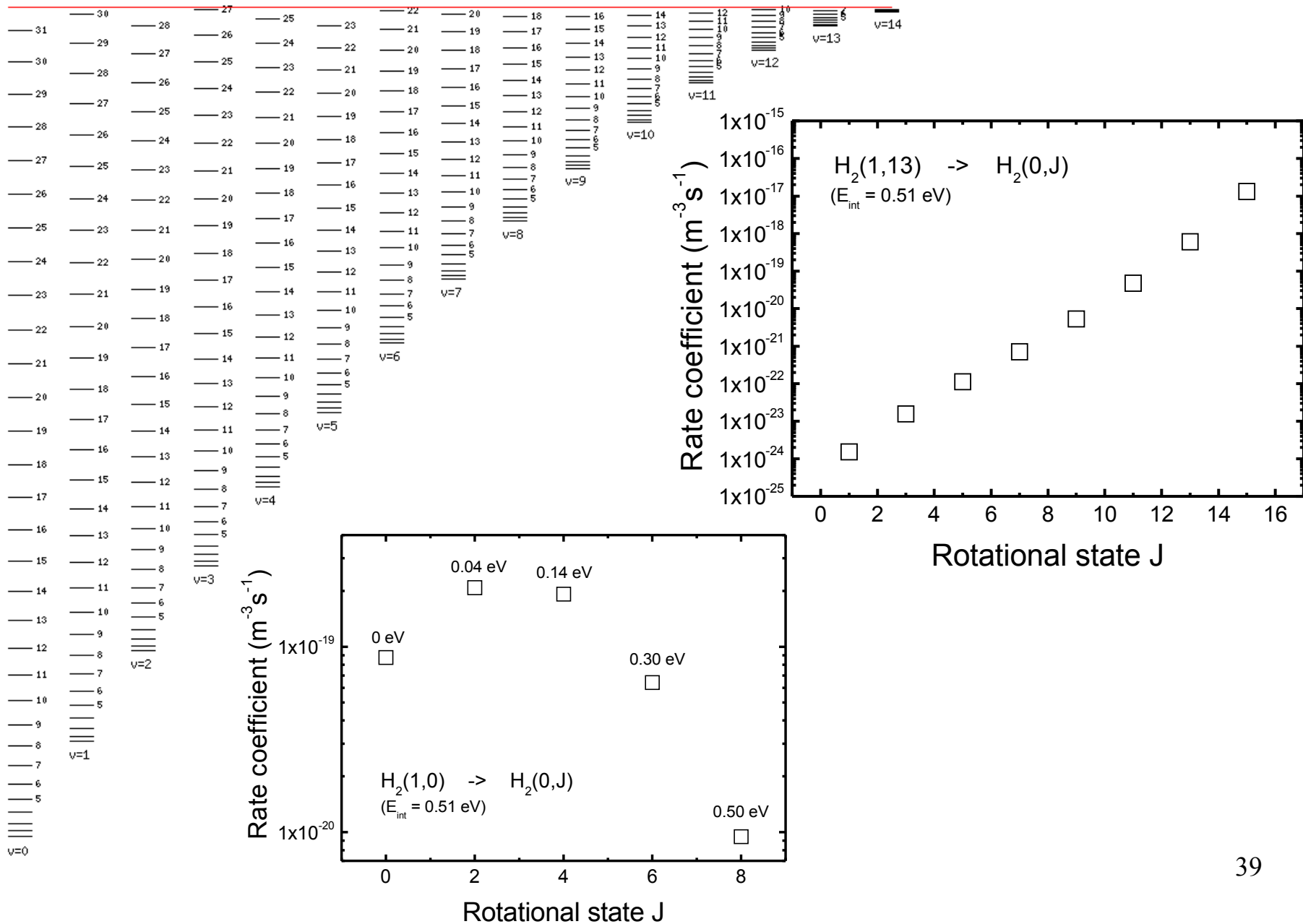
## Collisions with H:



## Collisions with H<sub>2</sub>(0,0):



# Rate coefficient H collisions



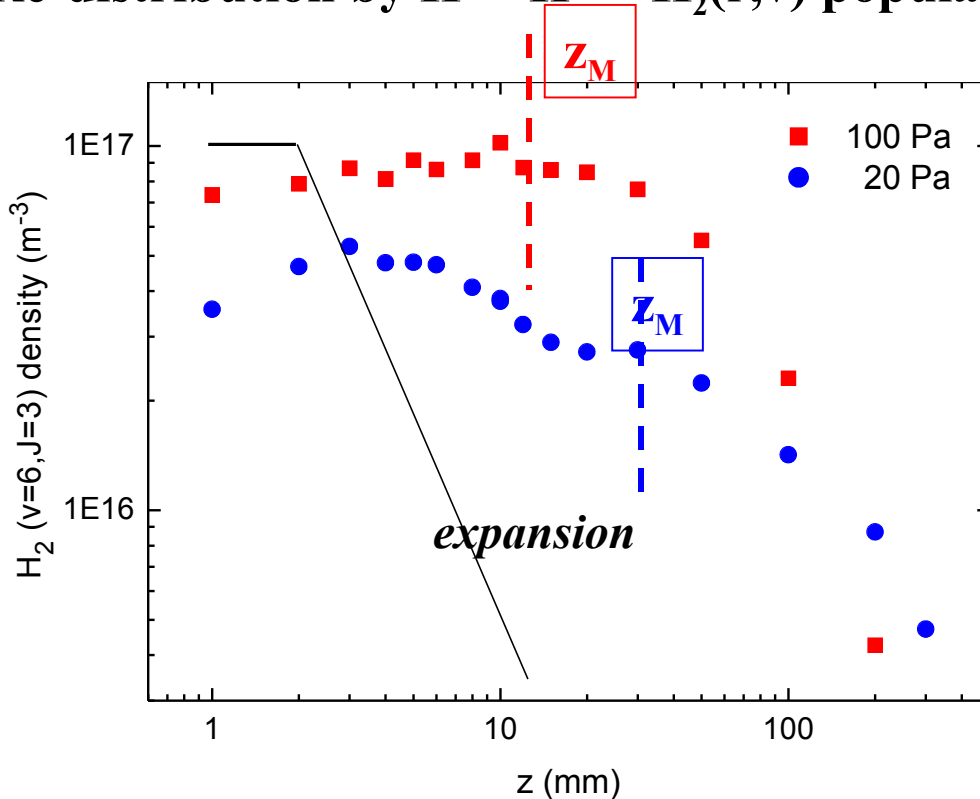
# H<sub>2</sub>(r,v) re-distribution, z dependence

**Re-distribution by heavy particle collisions: by H atoms?!**

**Only limited cross section data, but again same principle, but with  $\Delta E \sim 0$**

**→ If  $\Delta J = -2$  then  $\Delta v = +1$  at higher v, etc**

**Re-distribution by  $H^- + H \leftrightarrow H_2(r,v)$  populates higher J states with preference**

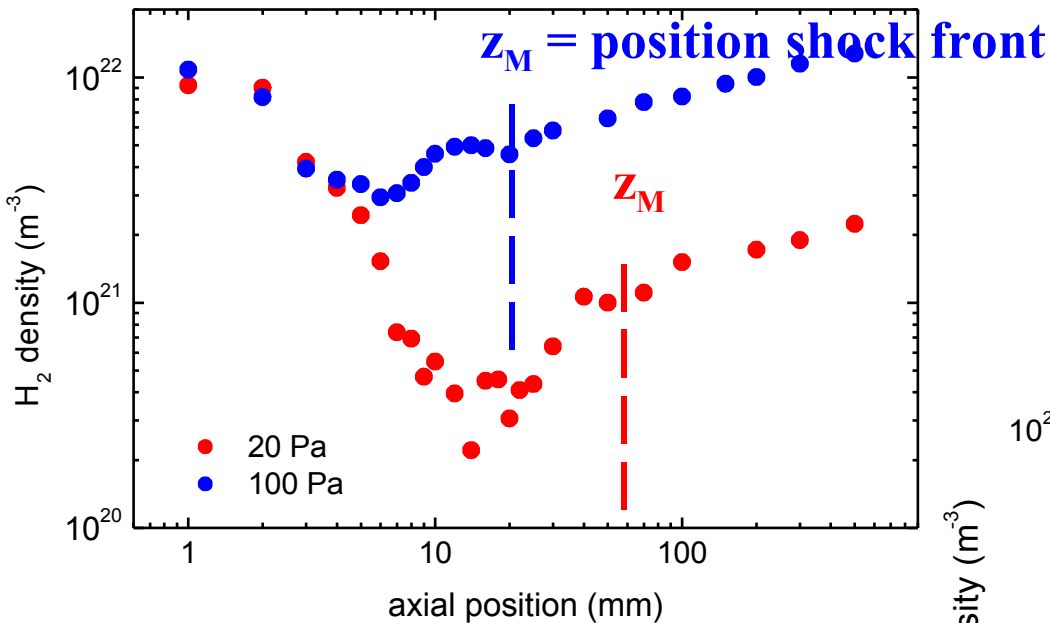


- z up to shock at z<sub>M</sub>:
- n(H<sub>2</sub>(3,6) does not decrease despite expansion
- generation? At front surface?
- z after shock at z<sub>M</sub>:
  - decrease by de-population
  - fast decrease by collisions H and H<sub>2</sub>(, low J)



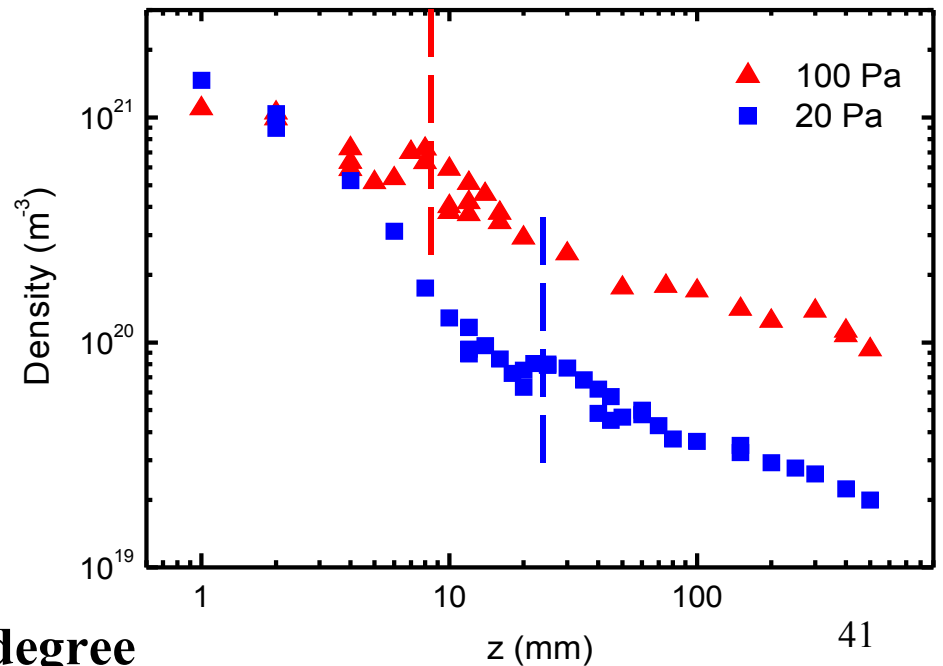
# Expansion: z dependence: $1/z^2$ density

*$n(\text{H}_2)$  Rayleigh scattering*



$\text{H}_2$  density follows  $1/z^2$  law

*$n(\text{H})$  Two photon LIF (TALIF)*



**H density weaker z-dependence**

**→ reflected H atoms?**

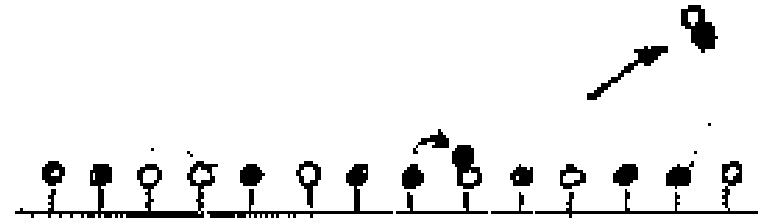
**→ apparent increasing dissociation degree**

# Surface mechanisms

**H flux large: surface H passivated (& in metal): 3 processes:**

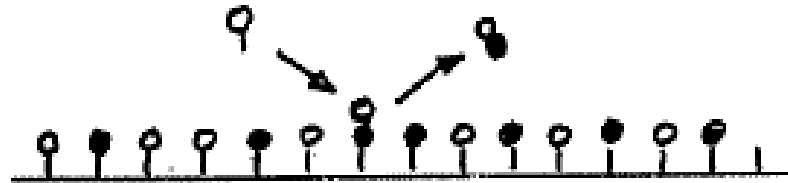
**Langmuir Hinshelwood (LH)**

**2 atoms at surface associate**



**Eley Rideal(ER)**

**incoming atom picks up atom**

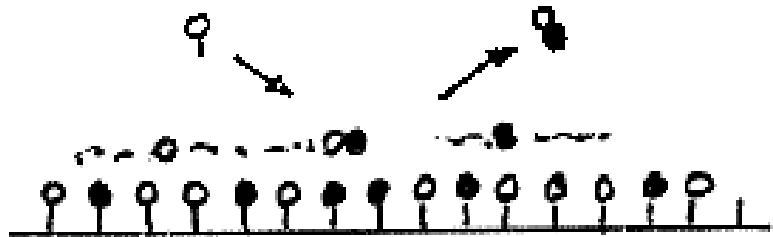


**→?Additional absorption:**

**weakly bond atoms on passivated surface**

**direct pick up (~ hot ER)**

**reaction (~ hot LH)**



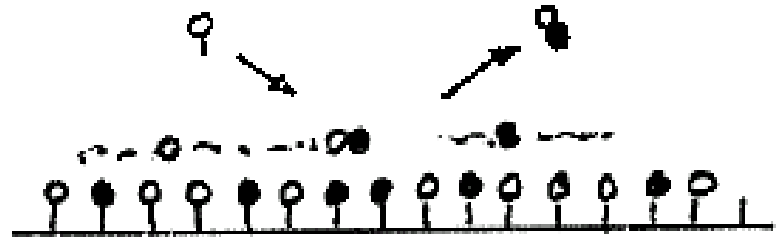
**In plasmas: large radical fluxes, low T & p: only last two operational?**

## Production $H_2(r,v)$ at surface

→? Additional absorption:  
weakly bond atoms on passivated  
surface

direct pick up (~ hot ER)  
reaction (~ hot LH)

In plasmas: large radical fluxes, low T  
& p: only last two operational?



## Consequences of $H_2(r,v)$

**Plasma chemistry:**

**More  $H_2(r,v)$  than H atoms? especially at low densities?**

**$H_2(r,v)$  more important than H atoms as chemical**

**Negative ion formation:**

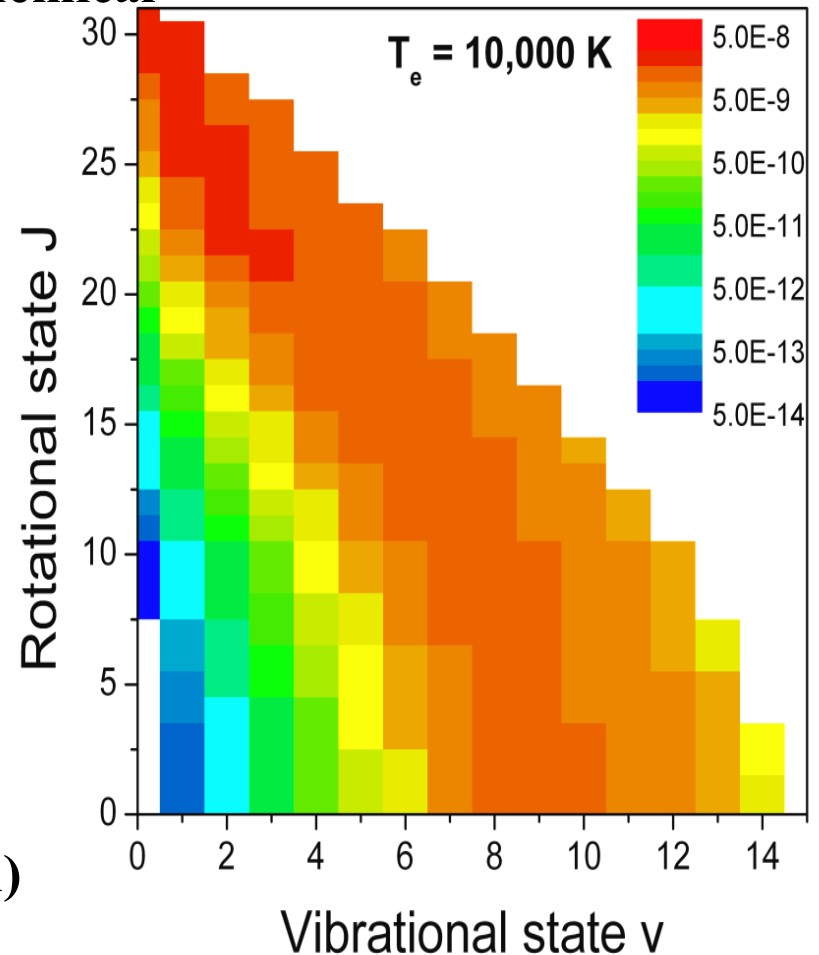
**Much more rate (and g) for high J**

*But still*

**More  $H_2(r,v)$  means more  $H^-$  ions!  
especially at low densities,  $H^-$  ions  
survive long enough to be extracted?**

**Note: at moderate  $n_e$ , even at  
high production rates of  $H^-$ ,  
 $H^-$  life time is short (mutual recombination)  
and thus  $H^-$  density is low.**

*Rate diss att  
 $cm^3/s$*



**Mechanism: t-dependent studies in  $O + O \rightarrow O_2$**

# Surface mechanisms: $O + O \rightarrow O_2$

**Pulsed helicon discharge in  $O_2$  at low p: 4 Pa  
1 kW @ 13.56 MHz, 1 kG field**

**Short pulse: O production < 1 monolayer**

$$\tau_{\text{pulse}} < \tau_{\text{coverage}}$$

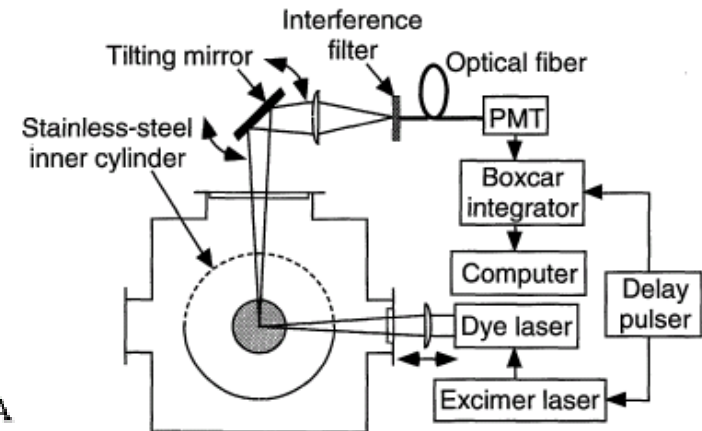
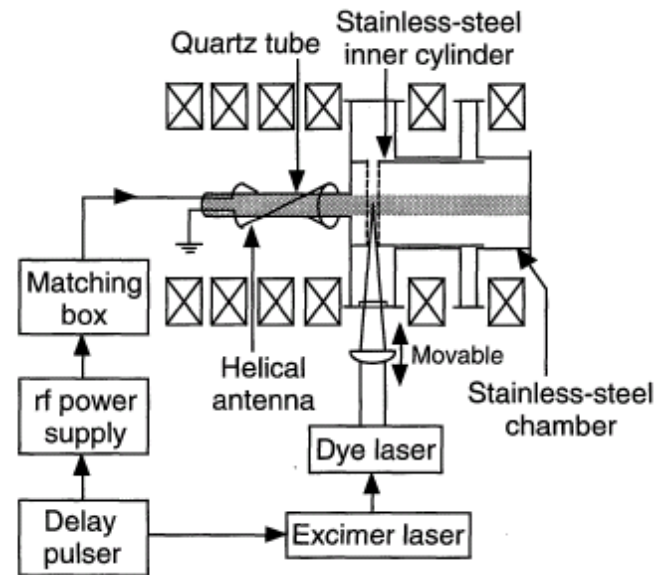
**Long pulse: O production  $\gg$  1 monolayer**

$$\tau_{\text{pulse}} > \tau_{\text{coverage}}$$

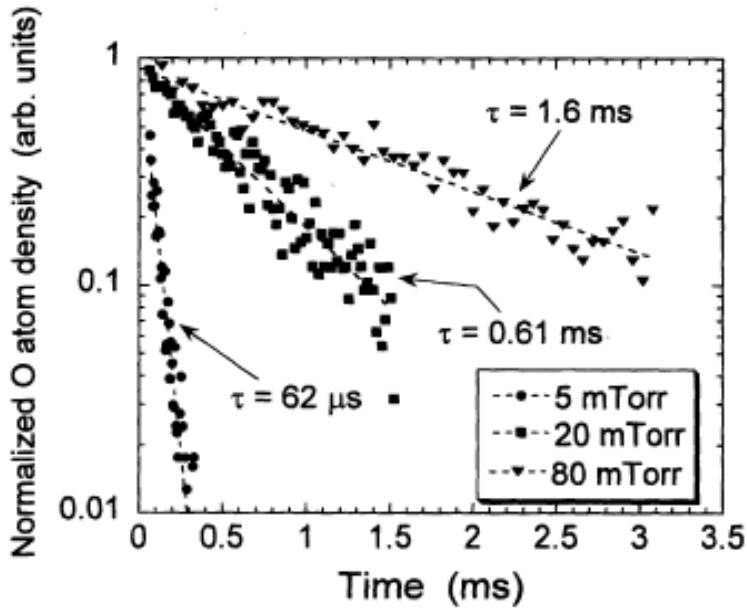
**Measurement with TALIF of O density (t):**

**Short pulse: low O, short life time**

**Long pulse: high O, long life time**



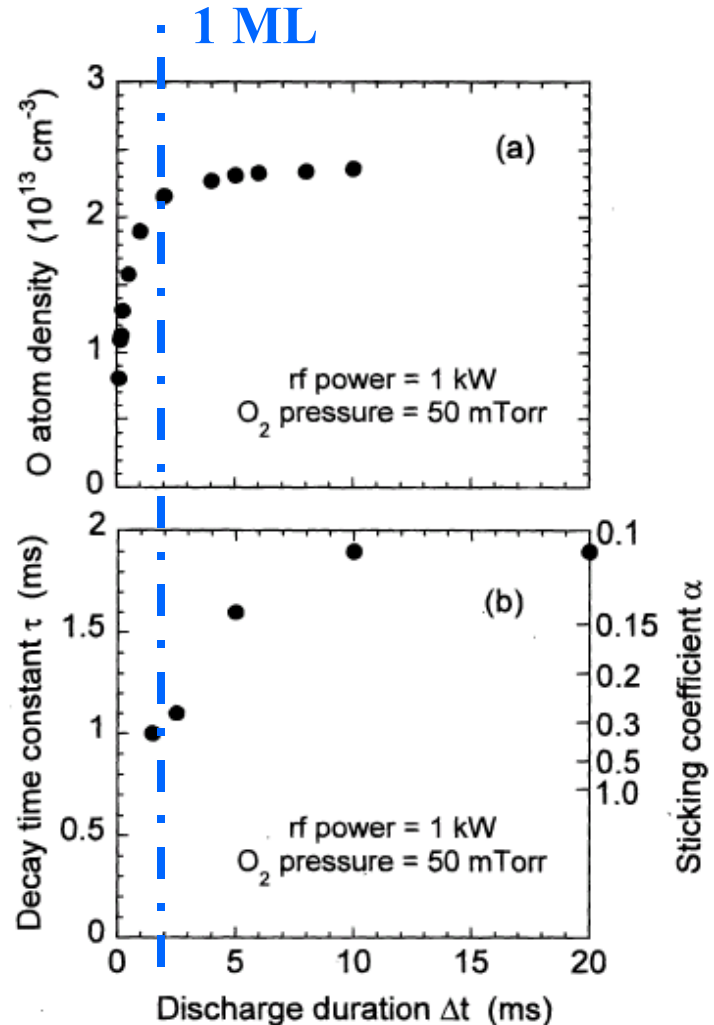
## Surface mechanisms: $O + O \rightarrow O_2$



Dependence on p:

O life time  $\leftrightarrow$  diffusion to surface

Loss O: association to  $O_2$  at surface



O density increases with duration plasma:  
for duration  $> 2$  msec: full coverage!

Sticking coefficient decreases from:  
 $\gamma \sim 1$  for low coverage  
to

$\gamma \sim .12$  for full coverage:  
Chemistry different on fully covered  
stainless steel surface

## Mechanism $\text{O} + \text{O} \rightarrow \text{O}_2$ at surface

For a short time  $< \tau_{\text{coverage}}$  the surface is filled with one monolayer O atoms

Then passivated?

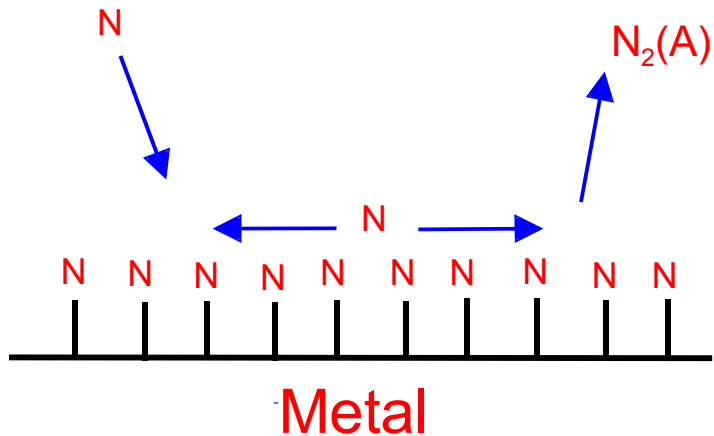
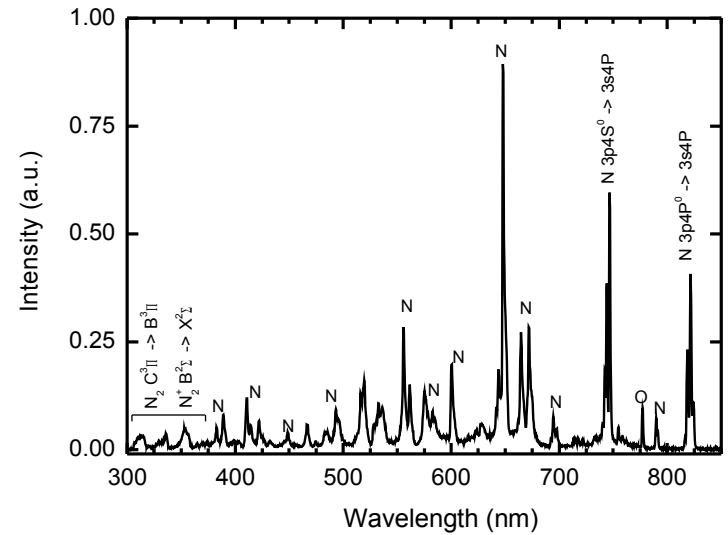
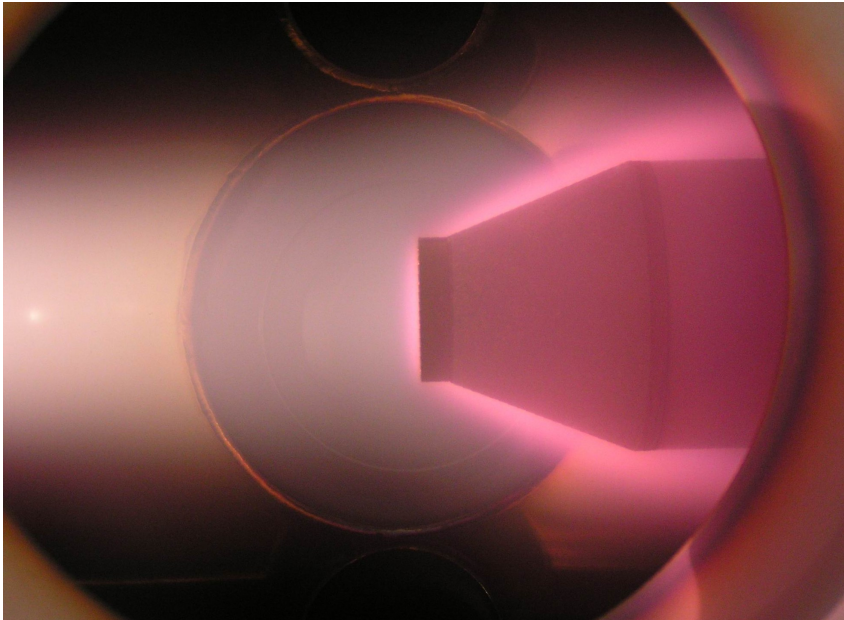
New O atoms in less bound states? Higher chance of reflection

$\gamma$  lower!! Depends on flux O atoms?

Excitation: there are signs of significant  $\text{O}_2^*$  production at surface

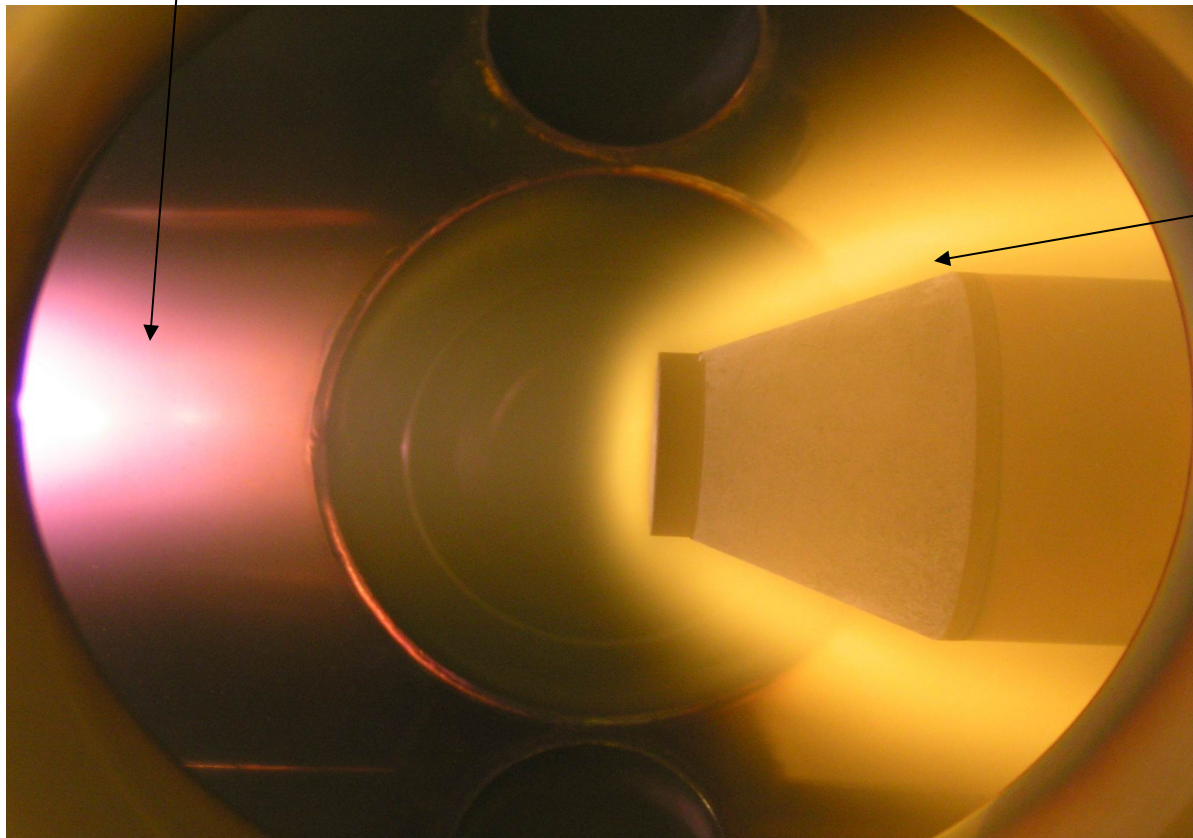


# $N_2^*$ production at surface



## N/O: $\text{NO}_2^*$ generation

$\text{N}_2(\text{B} \rightarrow \text{A}), \text{N}_2^+(\text{B} \rightarrow \text{X}), \text{N}$  lines

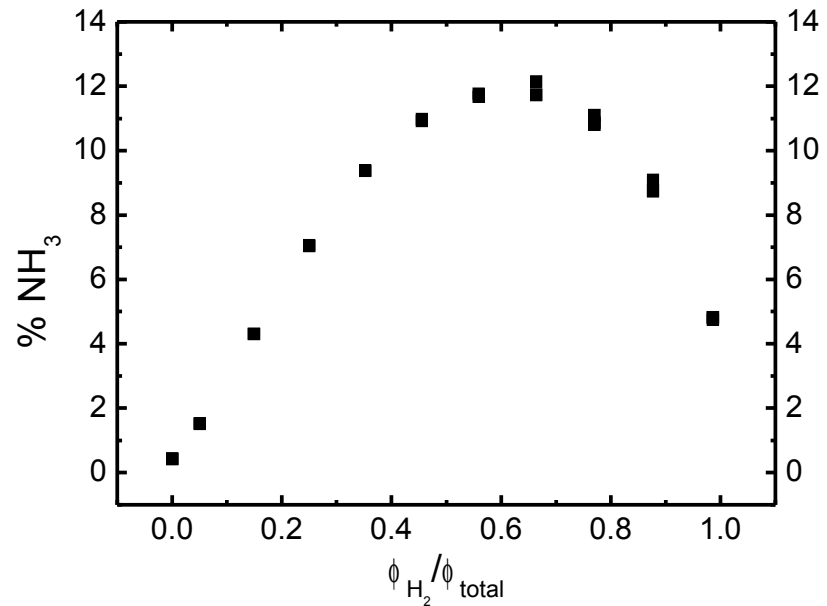


$\text{NO}_2^*$

# NH<sub>3</sub> formation at surface from N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> plasmas

## Ammonia formation in:

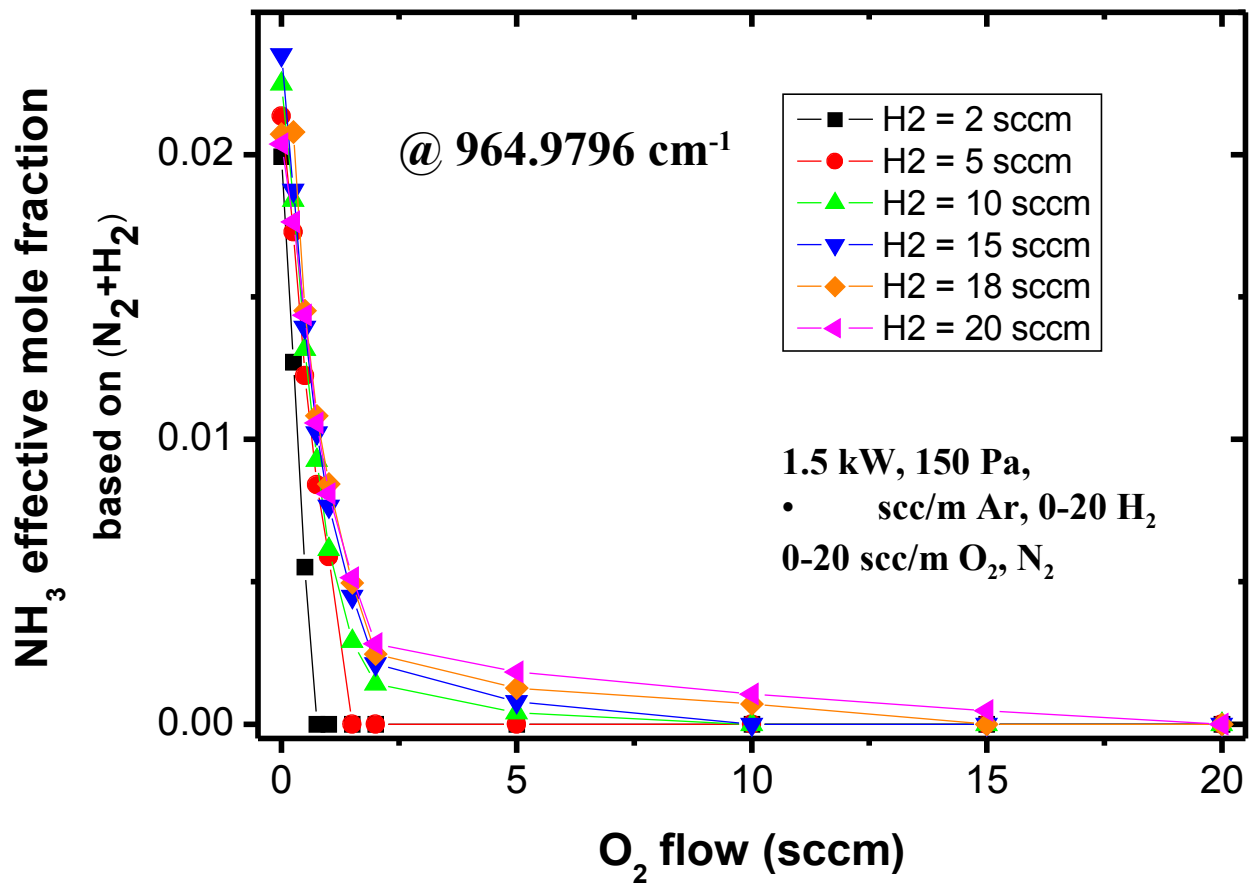
- Ar<sup>+</sup>/e plasmas with N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> in background → N & H radicals
- N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> source: here reaction
- N + H<sub>2</sub> → NH + H
- NH, H, (N) radicals → surface



N/H radicals → surface with N, H, NH/NH<sub>2</sub> → N<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>

Efficiency can be high: **if H small then near all H ends up in NH<sub>3</sub>**

# NH<sub>3</sub> decreases with increasing O<sub>2</sub> microwave INP



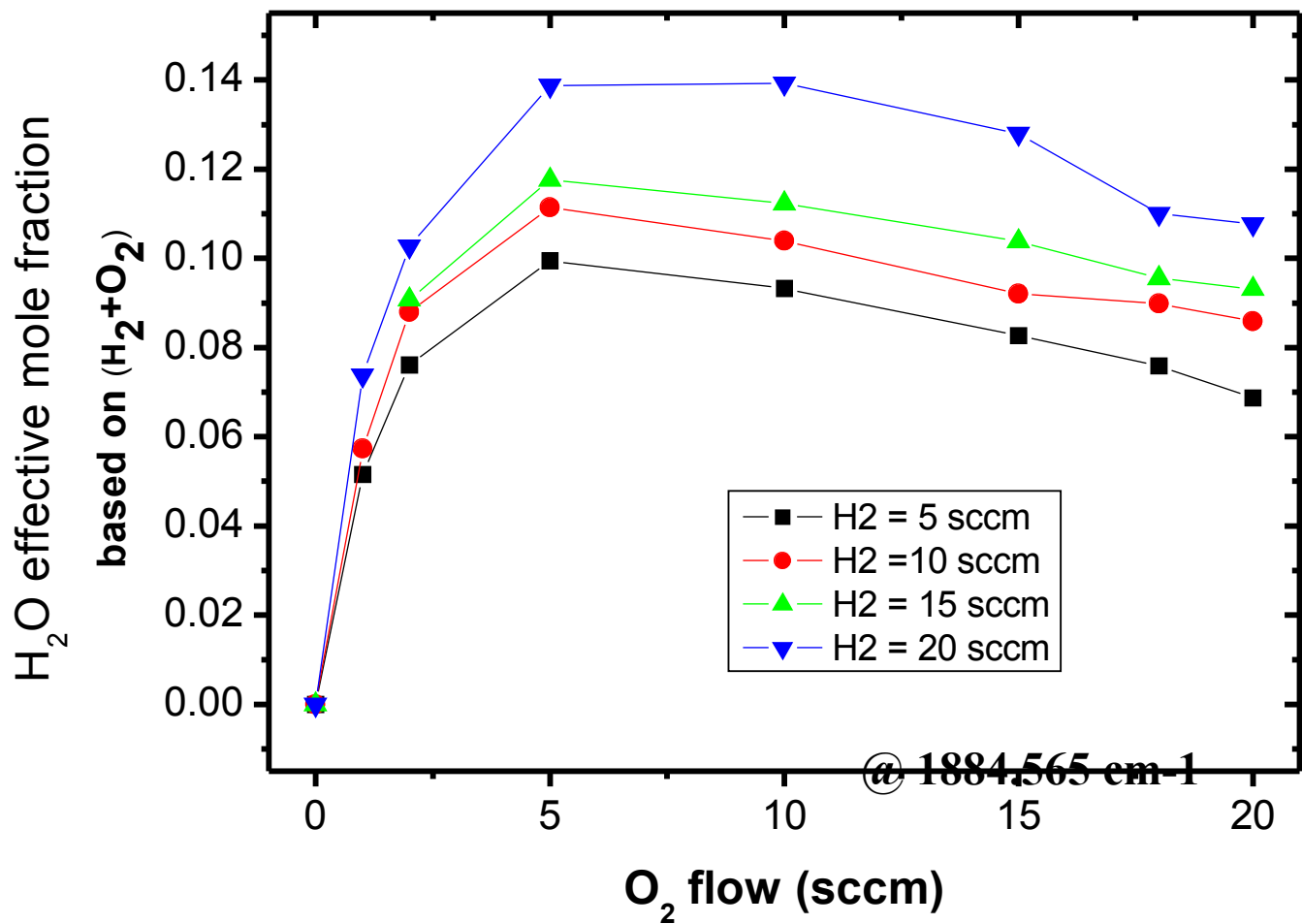
*With O. Gabriel, J. Roepcke, S. Welzel, G. Stancu, G. Lombardini, INP Greifswald*

mole fraction based on N<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>: NH<sub>3</sub>: < 3-5 %

Very similar results: few % NH<sub>3</sub> with no O<sub>2</sub>, strongly decreasing with O<sub>2</sub><sup>52</sup>

Note: very different surface than in ETP: ss versus Aluminium + Quartz.

# H<sub>2</sub>O formation in N/H + O INP μw plasma



1.5 kW, 150 Pa,  
• scc/m Ar, 0-20 H<sub>2</sub>  
0-20 scc/m O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>

@ 1884.565 cm<sup>-1</sup>

**Note: mole fraction based on H<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>2</sub>: H<sub>2</sub>O > 10 %; similar results in ETP-TU/e  
very effective use of O for small O<sub>2</sub> flow**

## Summary molecule formation

- **In plasma large production of radicals → large radical flux  
short surface coverage time, passivated surface**
- **Surface association dominant mechanism for molecule formation:**  
$$\text{H} + \text{H(s)} \rightarrow \text{H}_2(\text{r,v}), \text{ similarly } \text{N} + \text{N(s)} \rightarrow \text{N}_2(\text{X,A?}),$$
- **Surface occupation of precursors determine desorbed molecules:**  
$$\text{NH}_2(\text{s}) + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{NH}_3; \text{ OH(s)} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} \text{ etc}$$
- **Formation of H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, CO, H<sub>2</sub>O dominant**  
**2e level: NO, NH<sub>3</sub>, HCN, CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>m</sub>**
- **Also small organic molecules: H<sub>2</sub>CO, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CHOOH**

## Conclusions

- **Expanding thermal plasma very promising: bright source: Ar<sup>+</sup>, H<sup>+</sup>, H, N...**
- **Possibility to dissociate each injected molecule within residence time**
- **Enormous fluxes: passivated surfaces, surface generation of excited molecules**
- **In H<sub>2</sub> efficient dissociation and formation H<sub>2</sub>(r,v) from less bound states?**
- **H<sub>2</sub>(r,v) molecules formed at surface: helps H<sup>-</sup> formation**
- **Scaled down & with low pressure: promising for H<sup>-</sup> source**
- **Formation of other molecules mostly at surface: N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, CO...**
- **Adsorbed fragments at passivated surface: NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, N, H....**
- **Molecule formation: more “chemical”, temperature & abundances (in radicals)**

## Motivation

- Influence of surface in generation of (excited?!) molecules?  $H_2(r,v)$
- Influence of these molecules on process: H atoms  $\rightarrow H_2(r,v) \rightarrow H^-$  ions
- Mechanisms of deposition, etching, surface modification, oxidation.....
- Efficiency of molecule formation,  $H_2$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $NO$ ,  $NH_3$ ,  $CO$ ,  $C_2H_2$ ,  $CH_3OH$ .....
- Mechanisms of molecule formation in interstellar matter:  $H_2$ ,  $NH_3$ ,  $CH_3OH$
- Importance negative ions, negative ion sources sources?
- Has there been enough done in plasma physics to get the ultimate material?
- Has there been enough effort to get the ultimate effort to obtain e.g.  $H^-$ ?<sub>56</sub>



# Invasion of H<sub>2</sub> in expansion of H/H<sub>2</sub>

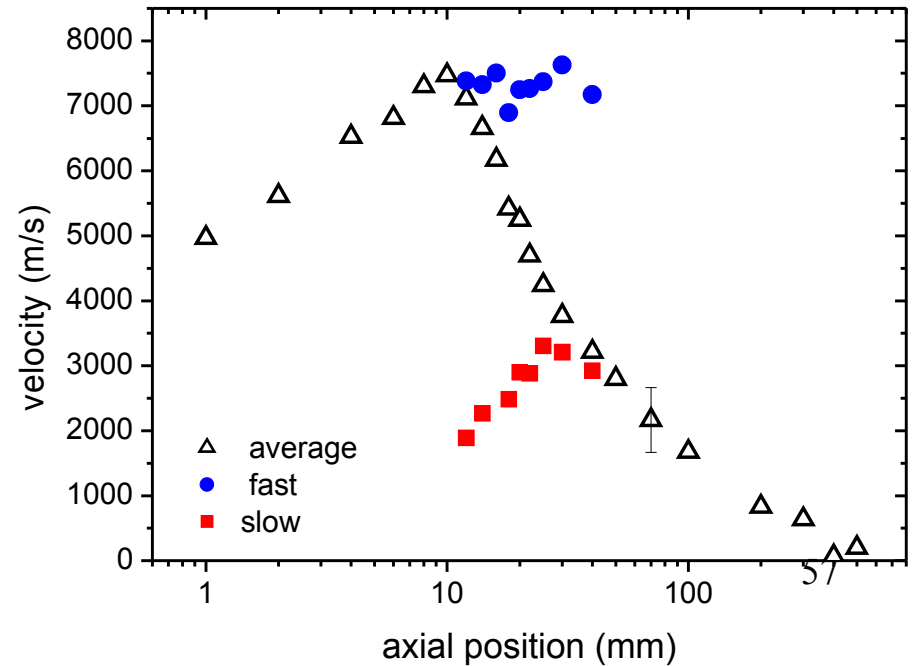
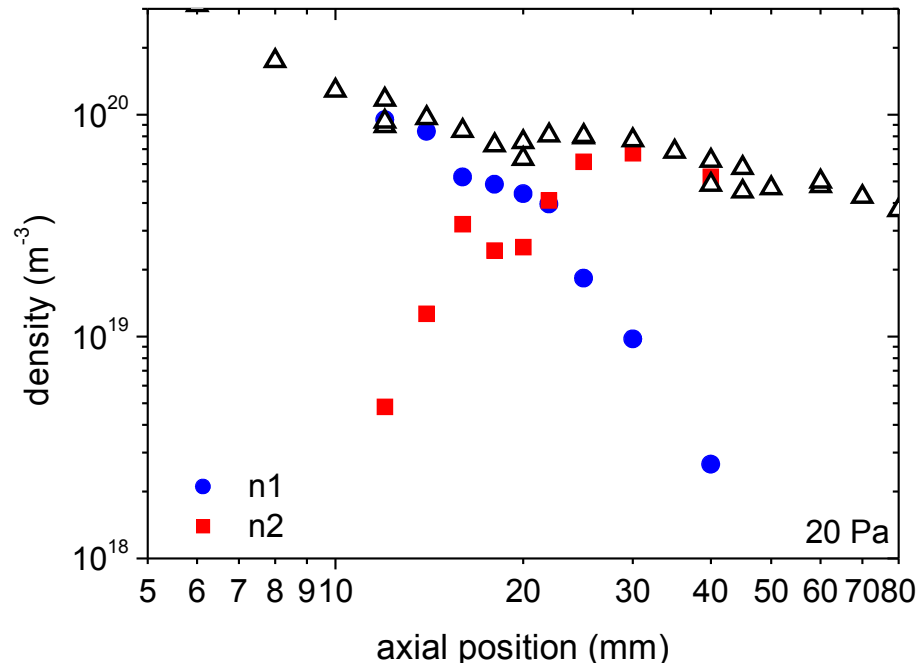
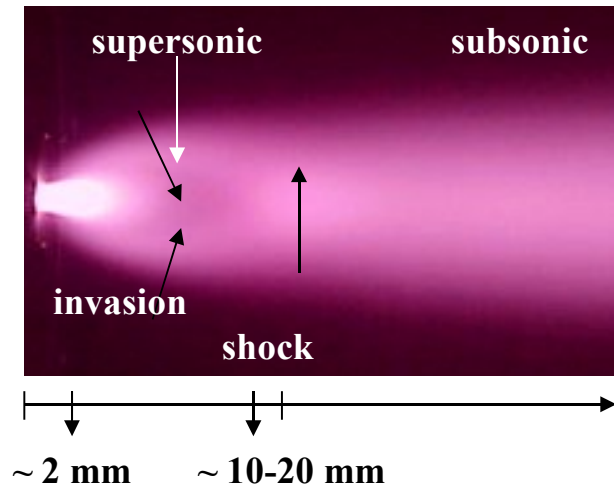
Scattering in of **warm H<sub>2</sub>** from outside by collision

with **supersonic H** → **slowed down H atom**

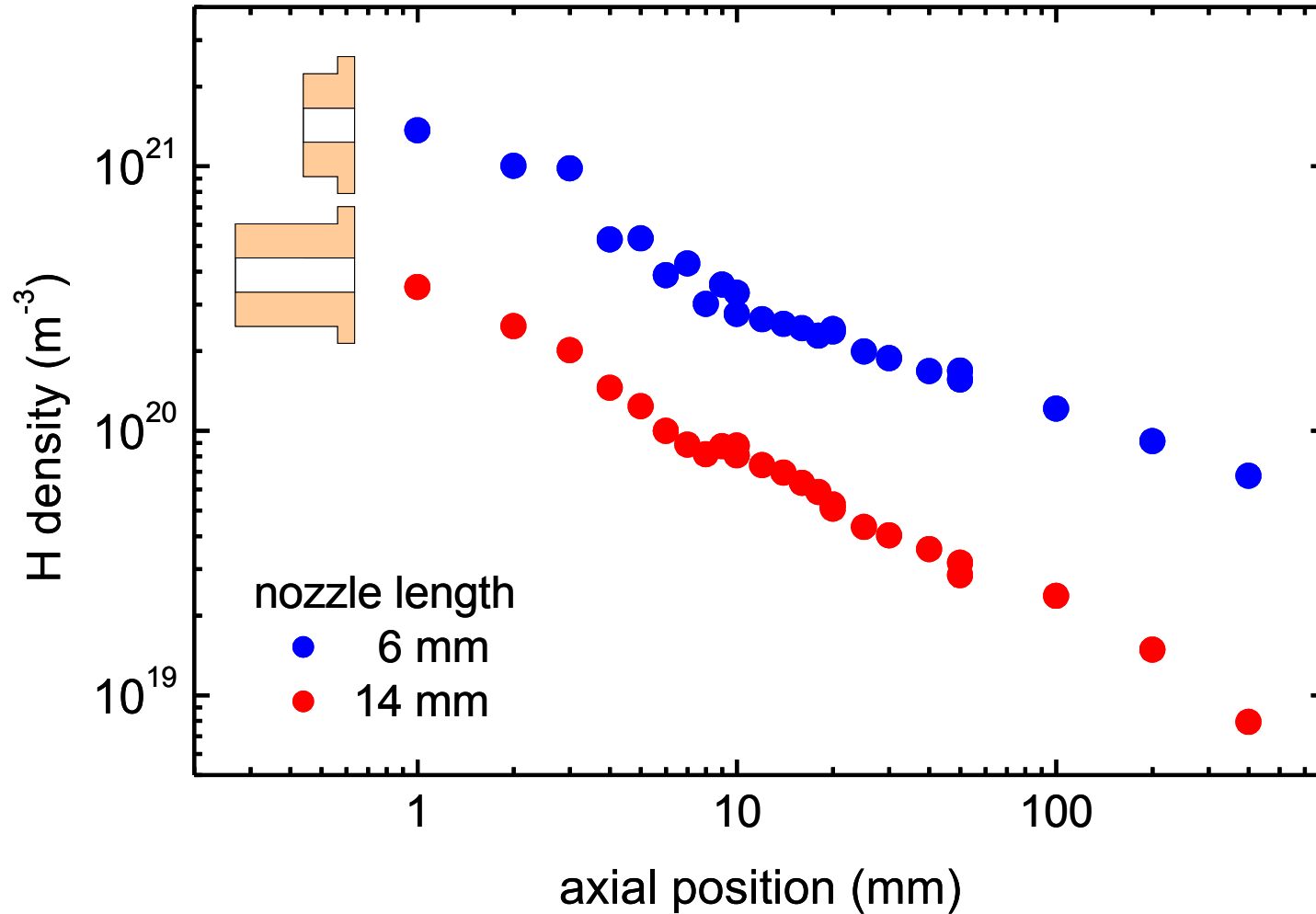
Measured **H** distribution: **2 components:**

**fast/cold (not collided yet) & slow/warm (collided)**

Both H distributions move radially out ( H<sub>2</sub> moves in!)

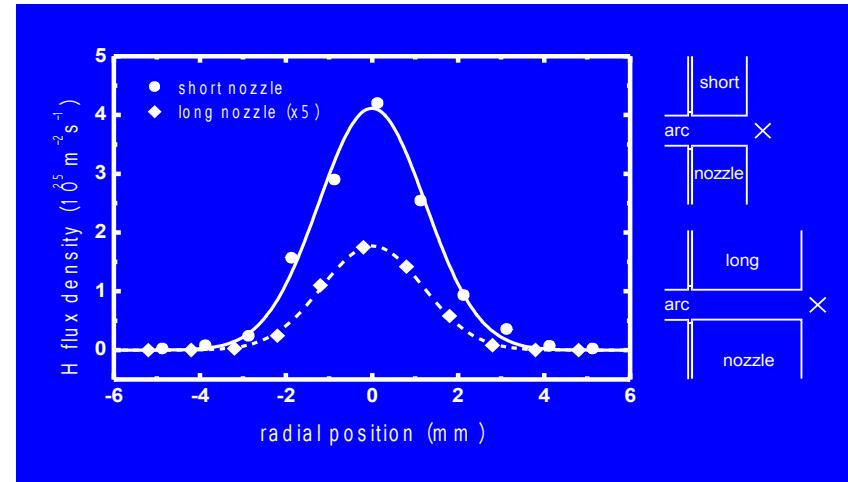
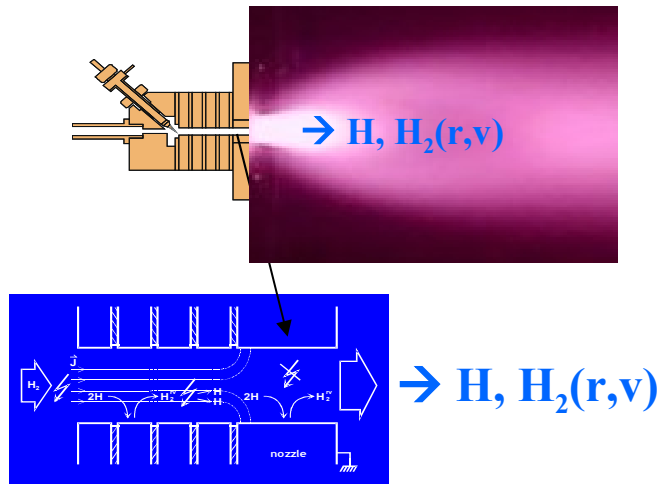


## Effect of nozzle-length on H density



# Mechanism of excited $H_2(r,v)$ molecules formation

**At nozzle surface:** concluded from H increase for shorter nozzle length:



**Nozzle surface**  $\rightarrow$  source of  $H_2(v,J)$ :

**Note:** at nozzle surface: very high H flux:  $10^{25}/\text{s}/\text{m}^2 \sim 10^6$  MonoLayers /s despite high surface T: H atom-passivated surface

## Evidence excited products: $O + N \rightarrow \text{surface} \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^*$

**N/O to surface'**

**De-sorption excited fragments:  
shuttle glow**

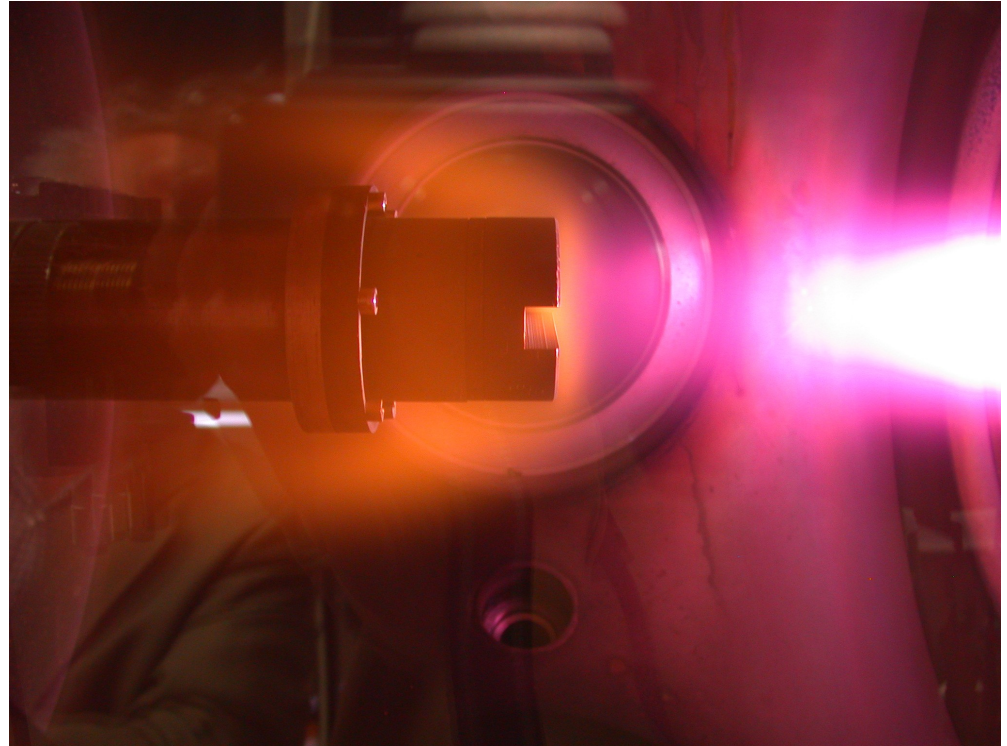
**If large fluxes N O atoms:  
orange glow at substrate:  
shuttle glow:**

**$\text{NO}_2^*$  desorption?**

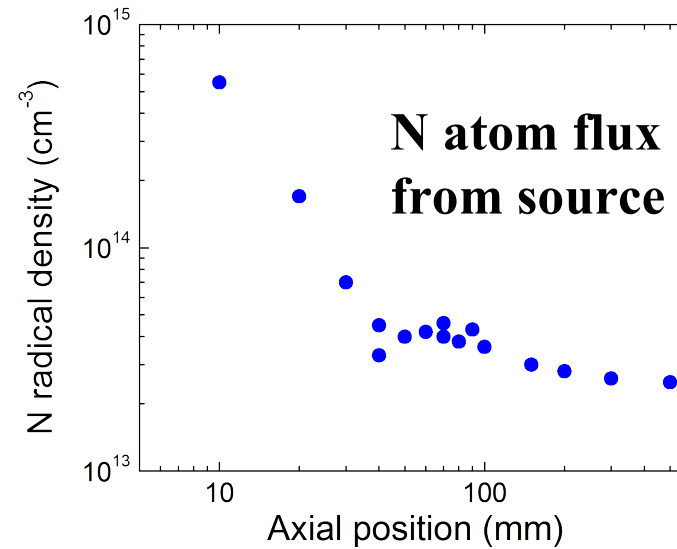
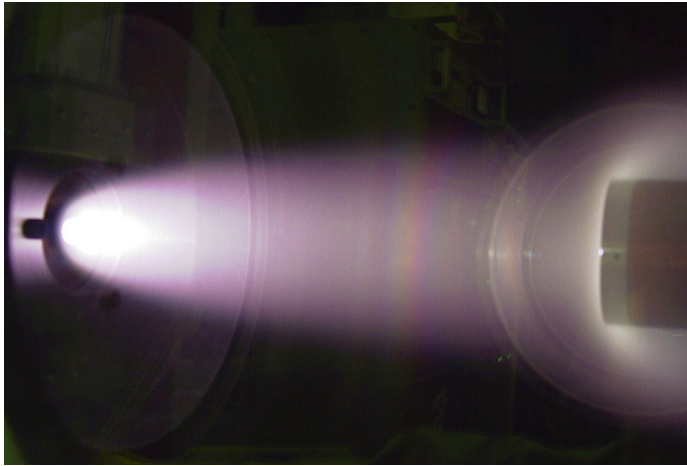
**Generation of excited  
molecules**

**See also flow pattern**

**Proof of surface production, proof of excited molecules!  
Speculation: negative ion formation?**



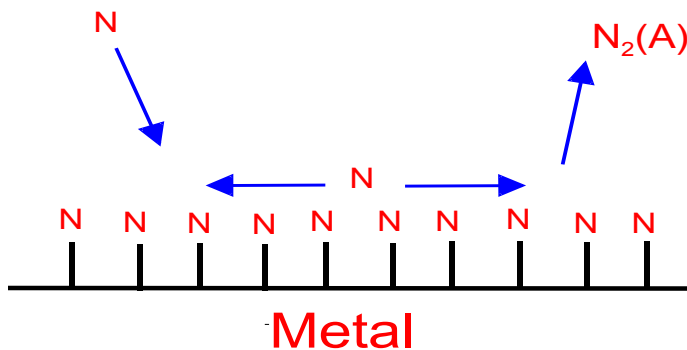
## Evidence excited products: Nitrogen $N \rightarrow N_2$



In volume: atoms/molecules = ratio time constants:  $N/N_2 \sim \tau_N/\tau_{res} \sim 0.1$

At surface: more N than in volume

At surface (N covered)



N association at N passivated surface:

→ Extra light:  $B \rightarrow A$  &  $N_2^+(B-X)$ ,

→ low  $T_e$  (0.1eV),

**new mechanism at large N flux?**

:  $N + N \rightarrow N_2(B, a, a'?)$