

European Combustion Meeting 2015, Budapest



What do we Really Know about the Low-Temperature Oxidation of Alkanes ?

F. Battin-Leclerc

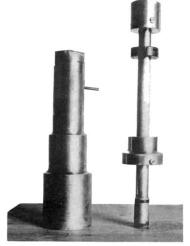


Why study Low-Temperature Oxidation (LTO) chemistry?

 A fascinating subject of scientific interest for many years certainly because it describes intriguing experimental features

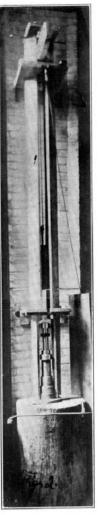
Autoignition

First rapid compression machines built in 1906 (G. Falk, JACS, 1906-1907) G. Vanhove, RCM, Workshop, 2012



"In order to heat the gas whose ignition temperature was to be determined, it was necessary to enclose it in a small vessel supplied with a device for allowing the gas to be compressed instantaneously"

To cause adiabatic compression, a weight of 25 kg was dropped on the piston from heights of 48 to 86 cm.



 A fascinating subject of scientific interest for more than 100 years which describes intriguing experimental features

Cool flames



First observed in 1817 by Sir Humphry Davy

J. Griffiths, New Scientist, 2004

 C_2H_6

In a flow reactor

In a static reactor

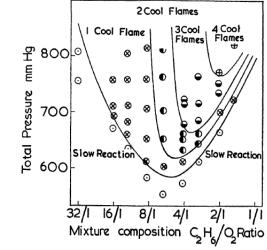
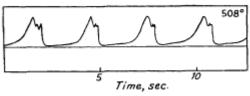


FIG. 4.—Pressure/composition limits for single and multiple cool flames in ethane + oxygen mixtures at 330° C.

J.A. Knox and G.W. Norrish, Trans. Farad. Soc., 1954

FIG. 6. Light emission from cool flames in a 75/25 ethane/oxygen mixture; flow rate, 20 c.c./sec.; 245-c.c. reaciton vessel.



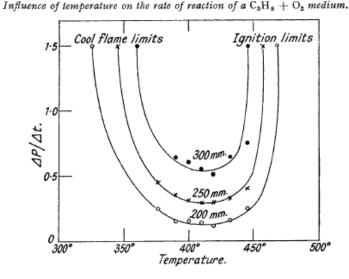
J.A. Gray, J. Chem. Soc., 1953

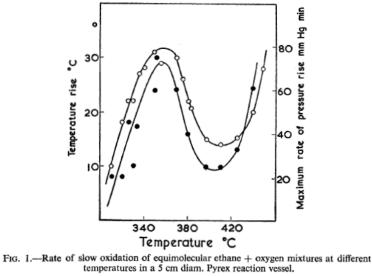
 A fascinating subject of scientific interest for about100 years which describes intriguing experimental features

> Negative temperature coefficient (NTC) First mentioned in 1929 (R.N. Pease, JACS) Measurements in static reactors

 C_3H_8 , $\phi = 5$

 $C_2H_6, \phi = 3.5$

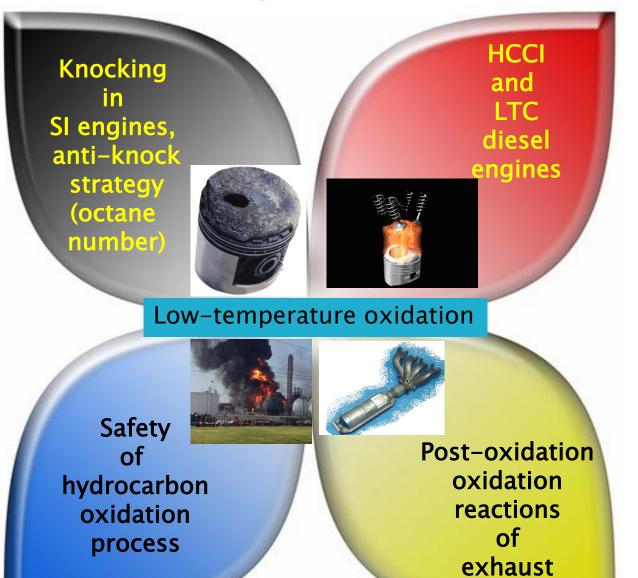




⊙ temperature rise; ● maximum rate of pressure rise.

D.M. Newitt and L.S. Thornes, J. Chem. Soc., 1937 J.A. Knox and G.W. Norrish, Trans. Farad. Soc., 1954

 A subject with important practical applications

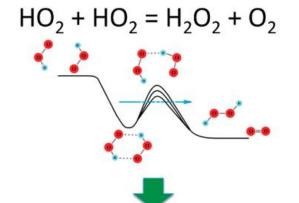


gases

A subject with important practical applications:

How LTO kinetics can influence engine performances

S. Som, M.J. Davis et al., J. Phys. Chem. Letters, 2013



CFD predicted spatial temperature distribution in a diesel engine fed by a *n*-heptane/ methyl butanoate mix. (869 reactions)

Tunneling not considered in rate constant calculation

 $Temp [K] 2200 \\
1800 \\
1400 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
Temp [K] 2200 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
1400 \\
1400 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
1400 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
600 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
1000 \\
10$

Tunneling considered in rate constant calculation

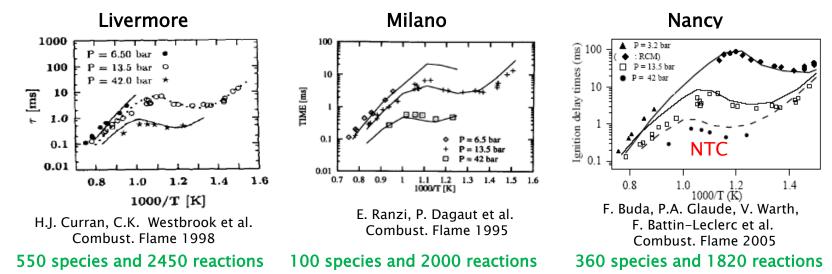
Caterpillar single cylinder engine



Many detailed kinetic models of LTO Autoignition of fuel representative of gasoline available since the end of the 90s

Autoignition of *n*-heptane

in a shock tube (Aachen) and a rapid compression machine (Lille) Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations ($\phi = 1$, P from 3 to 42 bar)



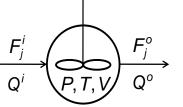
Automatic generation

Models lead to similar agreement for reproducing the available experimental results, but with very different LTO kinetics

Many detailed kinetic models of LTO Model validation for product formation often using jet-stirred reactor (JSR) data

O. Herbinet and G. Dayma., chapter 8, in Cleaner Combustion; Battin-Leclerc, F.; Simmie, J. M.; Blurock, E., Eds.; Green Energy and Technology; Springer London, 2013





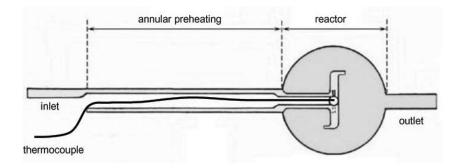
Orléans Orléans Perfect material mixing if based on the design of D. Matras and J. Villermaux Chem Eng Sci 1973



Nancy



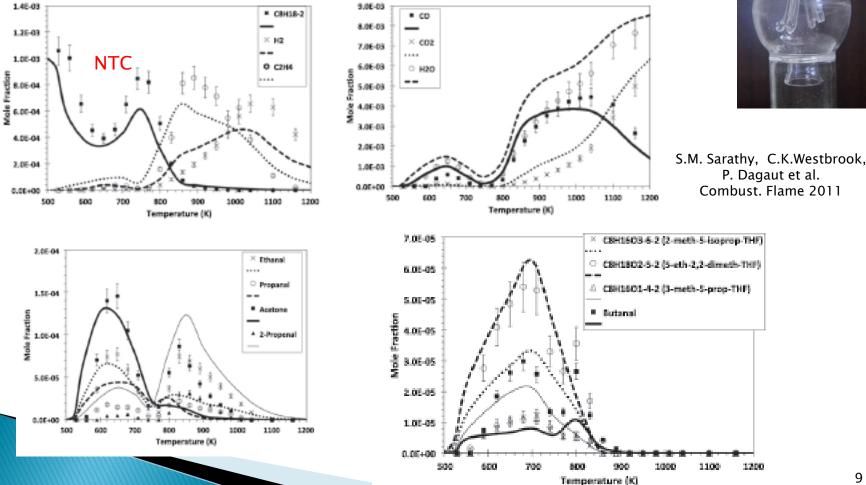
Reactor when locating heating resistance wires in Nancy



Thermal homogeneity if preceeding by a preheating zone and used with high dilution

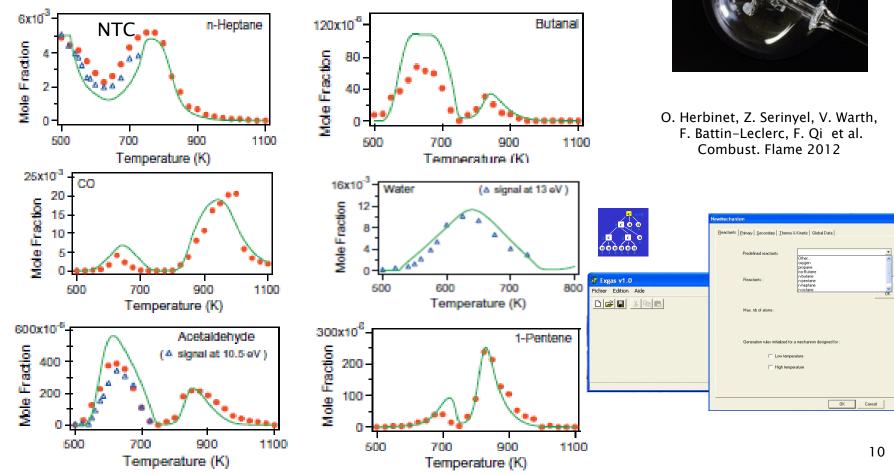
Many detailed kinetic models of LTO Models can predict JSR major product formation Oxidation of 2-methylheptane

Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations $(\phi = 1, P = 10 \text{ bar}, \tau = 0.7 \text{ s}, 0.1 \%$ initial fuel, GC measurements)



Many detailed kinetic models of LTO Models can predict JSR major product formation Oxidation of *n*-heptane

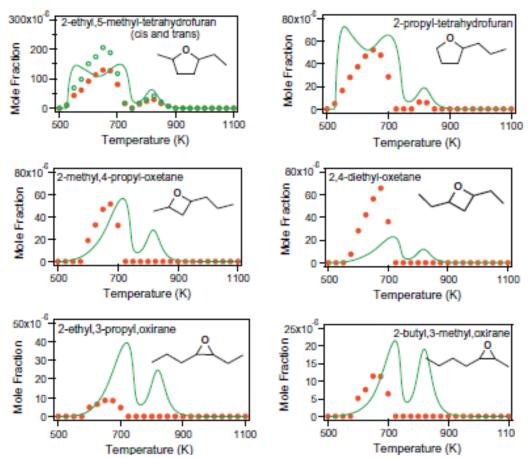
Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations ($\phi = 1$, P = 1 bar, $\tau = 2$ s, 0.5 % initial fuel, GC (red) and PI-MS (blue) measurements)



Many detailed kinetic models of LTO Models cannot predict all JSR minor product formation

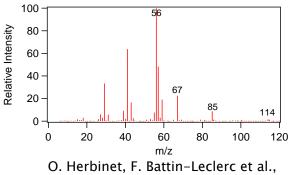
Oxidation of *n*-heptane

Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations ($\phi = 1$, P = 1 bar, $\tau = 2$ s, 0.5 % initial fuel, GC measurements)

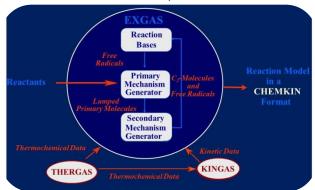


O. Herbinet, Z. Serinyel, V. Warth, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. Combust. Flame 2012

Electron impact mass spectrum of 2,4-diethyl-oxetane

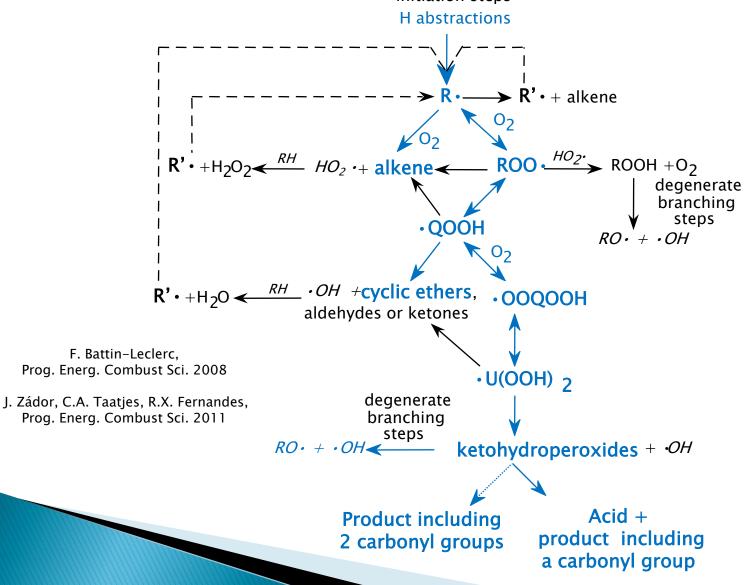


Fuel, 2011

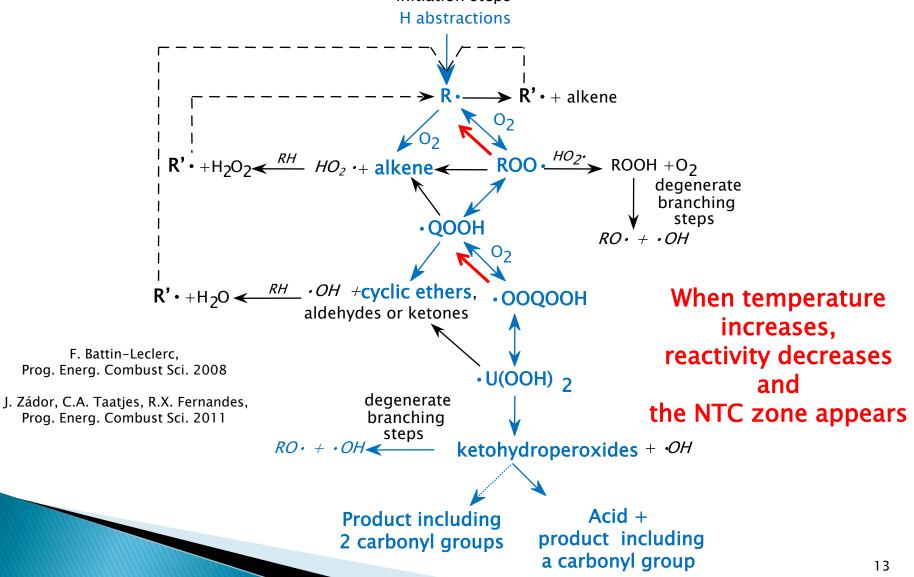


More deviations in non-stoichiometric mixtures Always need of kinetic parameter adjustments

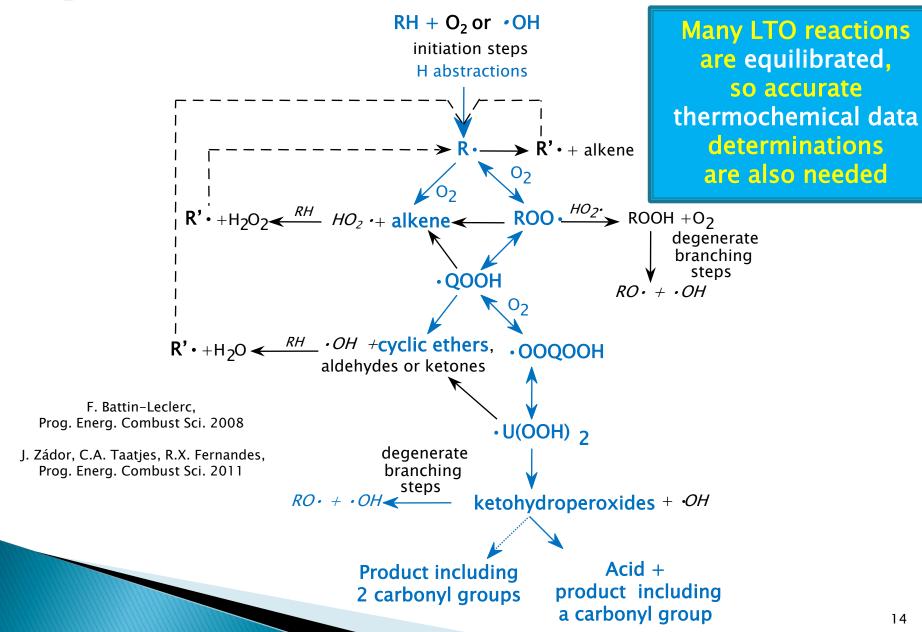
Chemical knowledge used in alkane LTO models RH + O₂ or • OH initiation steps



Chemical knowledge used in alkane LTO models RH + O₂ or • OH initiation steps

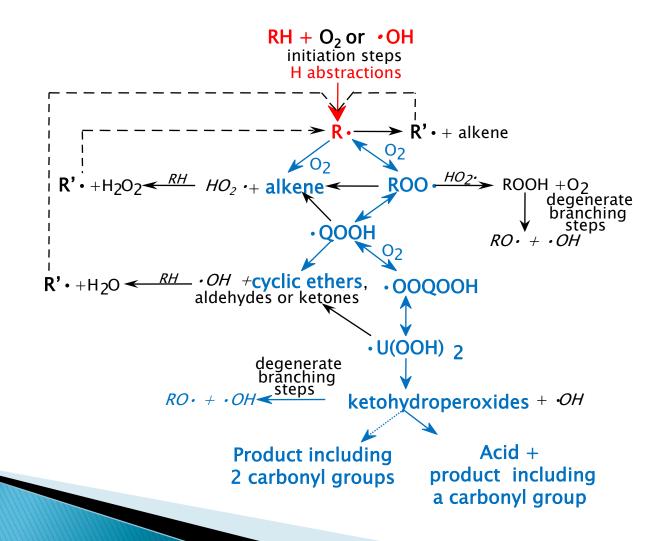


Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models

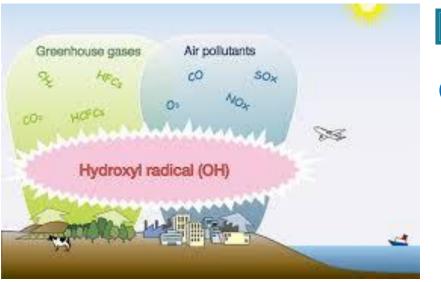


Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models

Hydrogen atom abstractions from fuel



Hydrogen atom abstractions from fuel: OH radicals

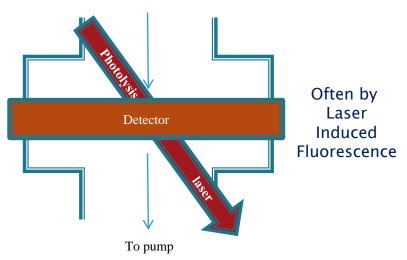


OH radicals have a determinant role in atmospheric chemistry

Many measurements of the rate constant of $OH + X = XH + H_2O$ (3159 records in NIST kinetics data base)

Laser flash photolysis

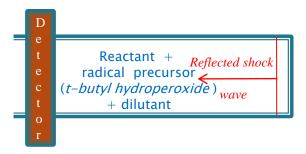
 $\begin{array}{r} \mbox{Reactant} \\ + \mbox{ radical precursor (O_3, HNO_3, H_2O_2...)} \\ + \mbox{ carrier gas} \end{array}$



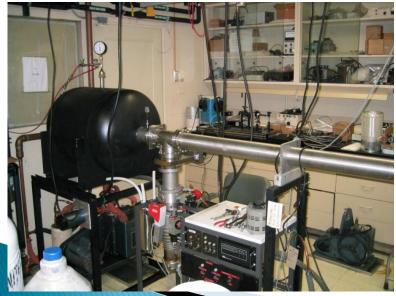
but mostly below 400 K and for C₁-C₃ alkanes 16

Hydrogen atom abstractions from fuel: OH radicals

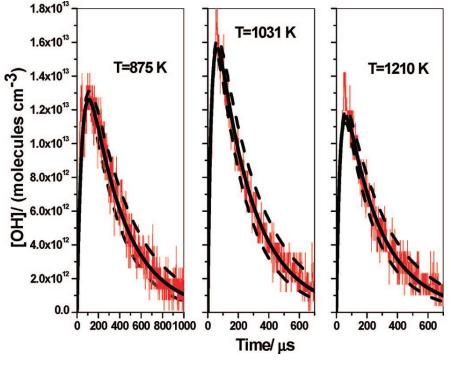
C₂-C₇ alkane high temperature study using a shock tube



By courtessy of R.S.tranter and J.V. Michael



R. Sivaramakrishnan and J.V. Michael, JPCA 2009



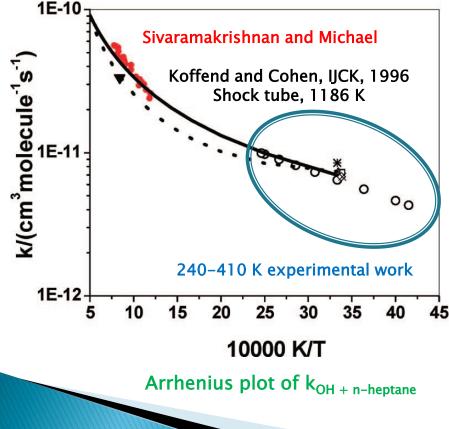
OH absorption profiles for k_{OH + n-heptane}

Experimental measurements and rate constant fitting from a 49 step mechanism. The dashed lines are fits with changes in $k_{OH + n-heptane}$ by $\pm 20\%$.

Hydrogen atom abstractions from fuel: OH radicals

High temperature study using a shock tube for 9 linear and branched C₂-C₇ alkanes

R. Sivaramakrishnan and J.V. Michael, JPCA 2009



k_{OH + Alkanes} (298–2000 K) Experimentally studied, obtained from derived group additivity correlations

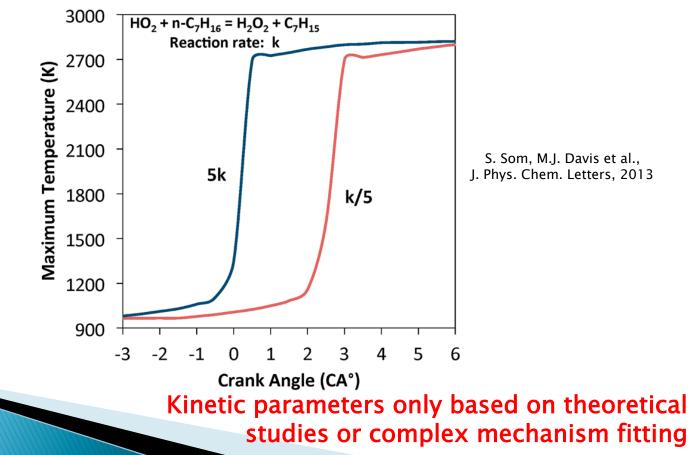
molecule	Α	n	В
ethane	2.680×10^{-18}	2.224	373
propane	2.419×10^{-17}	1.935	91
n-butane	8.499×10^{-16}	1.475	139
<i>i</i> -butane	6.309×10^{-19}	2.414	-381
n-pentane	2.495×10^{-16}	1.649	-80
neo-pentane	1.090×10^{-16}	1.763	374
n-hexane	1.398×10^{-16}	1.739	-202
2,3-dimethylbutane	2.287×10^{-17}	1.958	-365
n-heptane	9.906×10^{-16}	1.497	-96
n-octane	4.186×10^{-15}	1.322	-19
neo-octane	1.636×10^{-16}	1.763	374
n-nonane	1.290×10^{-14}	1.186	40
n-decane	3.012×10^{-14}	1.087	84
n-undecane	5.284×10^{-14}	1.025	111
n-dodecane	9.325×10^{-14}	0.960	139
n-tridecane	1.508×10^{-13}	0.907	163
n-tetradecane	2.278×10^{-13}	0.862	183
n-pentadecane	3.262×10^{-13}	0.823	201
n-hexadecane	4.474×10^{-13}	0.789	216

More studies on large alkanes are needed ¹⁸

Hydrogen atom abstractions from fuel: other radicals

▶ RO₂ and HO₂ radicals are also present in large amounts at low-temperatures

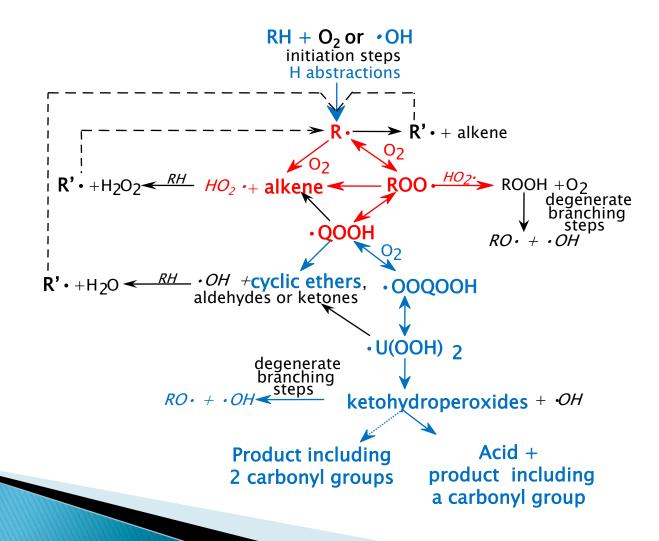
Influence on CFD predictions in a diesel engine



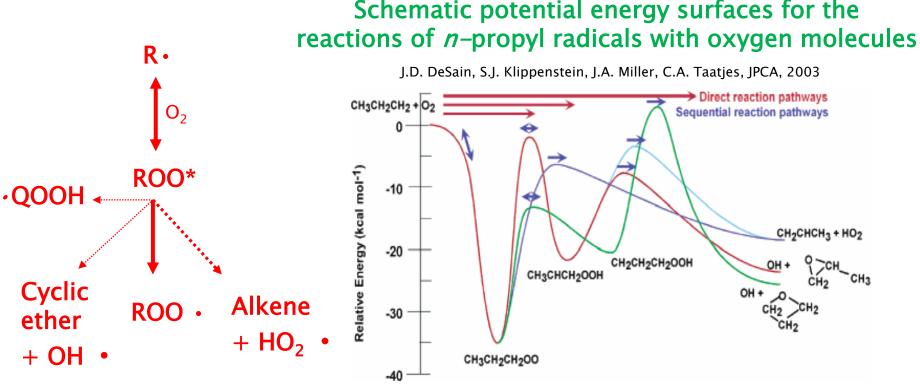
19

Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models

Reactions involving alkylperoxy radicals



Reactions involving ROO* radicals



Rate constants need to be parametrized as a function of temperature and pressure using master equation

This should also be done for C₃₊ alkanes

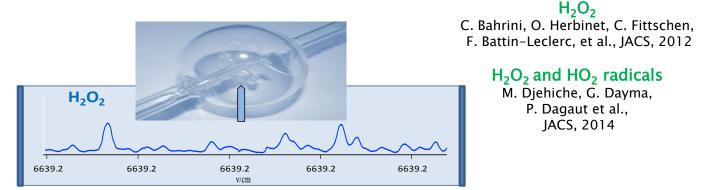
Reactions involving alkylperoxy radicals Reactions involving HO₂ radicals

Flow rate analysis for JSR propane oxidation at 630 K Using an EXGAS model with the Desain et al.'s kinetic values M. Cord, R. Fournet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al., JPCA, 2012 $(\phi = 1, P = 1 \text{ bar},$ CH_3 $\tau = 2$ s, 12 % initial fuel) H₃C 40% 51% CH₃ H₂C H₂C 1% 8% 43% +0, 39% 21% 6% H₃C CH₃ CH₃ HO-OH

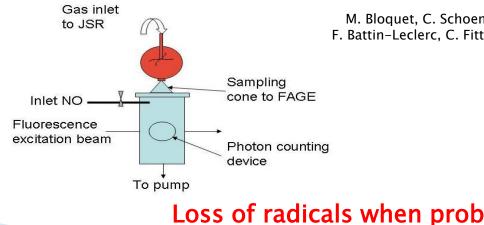
> 1/3 of propane is consumed to produce propene and HO₂ radicals Importance of the HO₂ - H₂O₂ system

HO₂ − H₂O₂ system

 H_2O_2 and HO_2 radicals probed during *n*-butane JSR oxidation H_2O_2 and HO_2 by Cavity Ring Down Spectroscopy (CRDS)



OH and HO₂ by Fluorescence Assay Gas Expansion (FAGE)



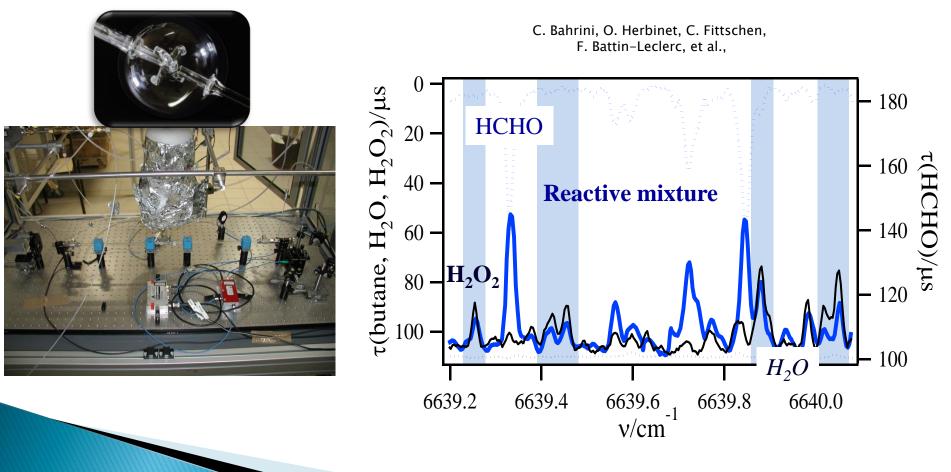
M. Bloquet, C. Schoemaecker, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, C. Fittschen et al., PNAS, 2013

Loss of radicals when probed from JSR to an external optical cell 23



$HO_2 - H_2O_2$ system

Probing H_2O_2 by CRDS in a complex combustion mixture JSR, P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 6$ s, 2.3% *n*-butane, 650 K



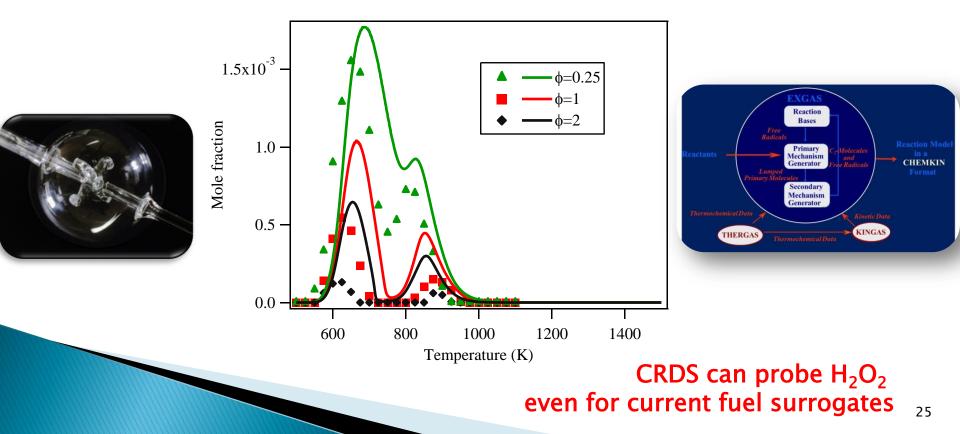


HO₂ − H₂O₂ system

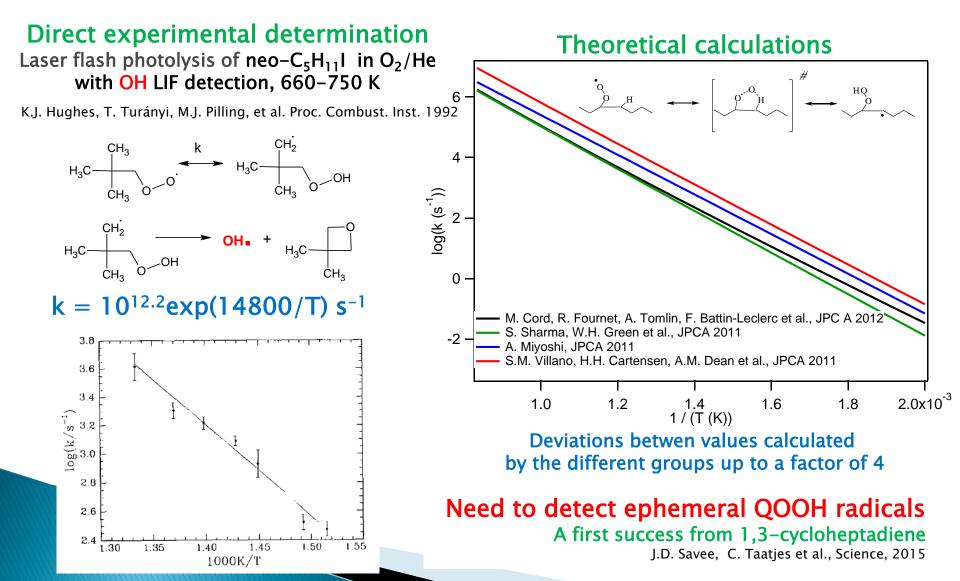
Quantifying H_2O_2 by CRDS during JSR oxidation of *n*-heptane

Symbols correspond to GC experiments and lines to simulations ($\phi = 1$, P = 1 bar, $\tau = 2$ s, 0.5 % initial fuel,

> A. Rodriguez, O. Herbinet, C. Fittschen, F. Battin-Leclerc, unpublished results, 2015



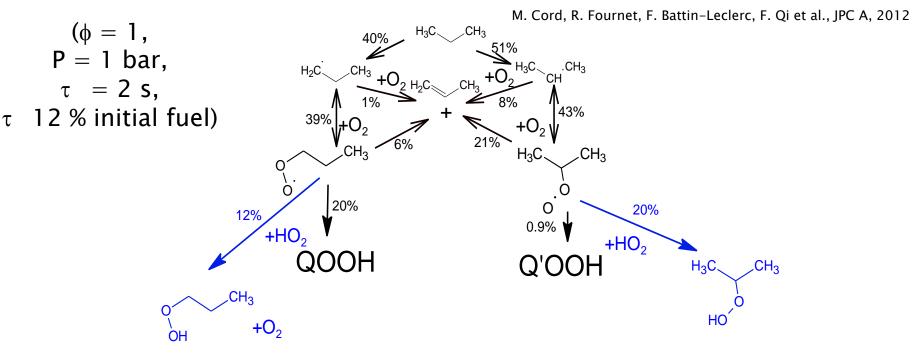
Reactions involving alkylperoxy radicals Isomerizations of ROO radicals



Reactions involving alkylperoxy radicals Reactions of ROO radicals with other radicals

Flow rate analysis for JSR propane oxidation at 630 K

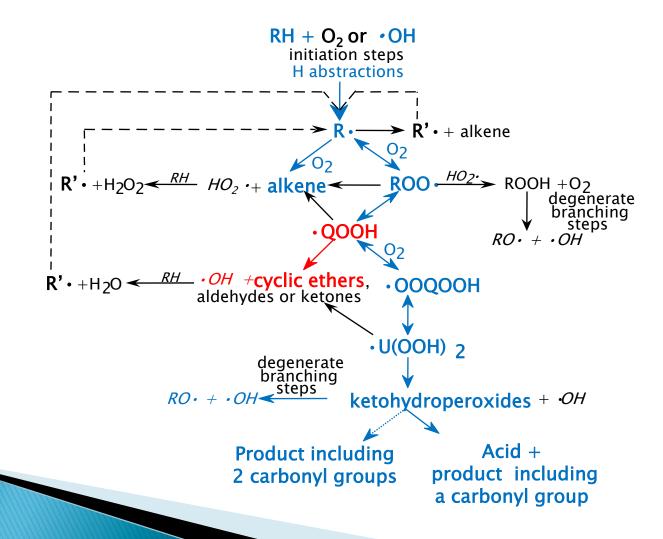
Using an EXGAS model with the theoretical calculated rate constants for isomerizations



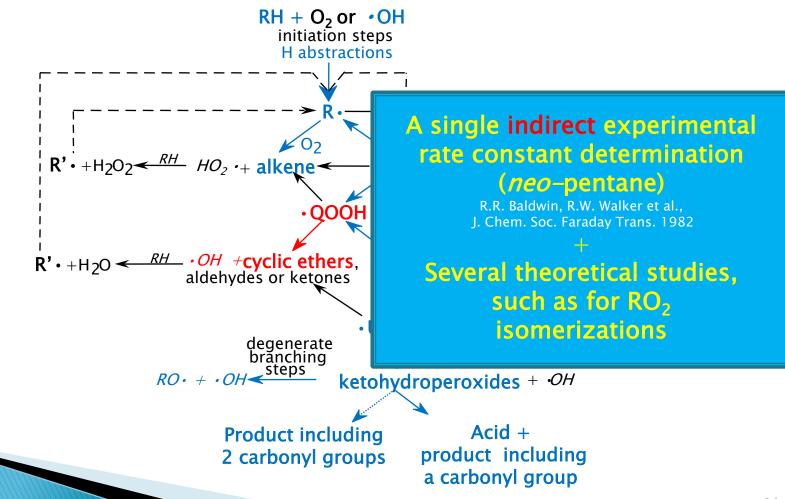
1/3 of propane is consumed by reactions of peroxy and HO₂ radicals Very few rate constants available above room temperature and for C₃₊ compounds

T.J. Wallington, P. Dagaut, M.J. Kutylo, Chem. Rev. 1992 J.J. Orlando and G.S. Tyndall, Chem. Soc. Rev. 2012

Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models Formation of cyclic ethers



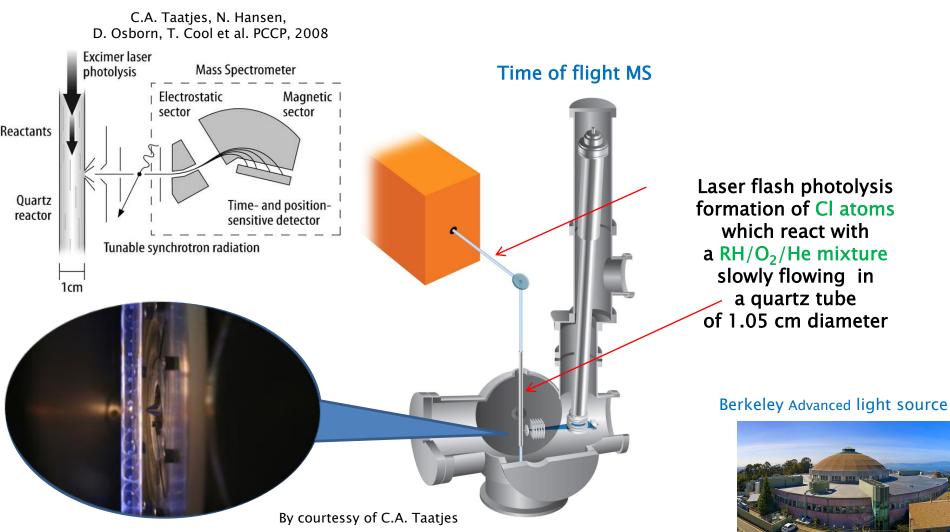
Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models Formation of cyclic ethers



Formation of cyclic ethers

Detection of cyclic ether in photolytically initiated alkane oxidation

Mass spectrometry combined with tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization



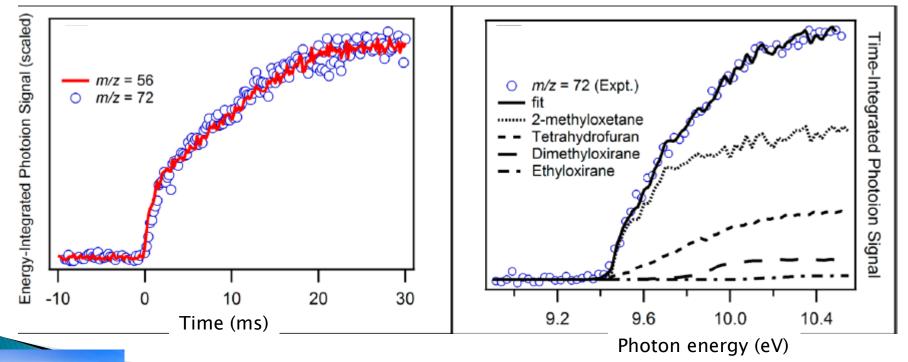
Formation of cyclic ethers

Detection of cyclic ether in photolytically initiated alkane oxidation

Mass spectrometry combined with tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization to study *n*-butane oxidation

A.J. Eskola, D. Osborn, C.A. Taatjes et al., JPCA 2008

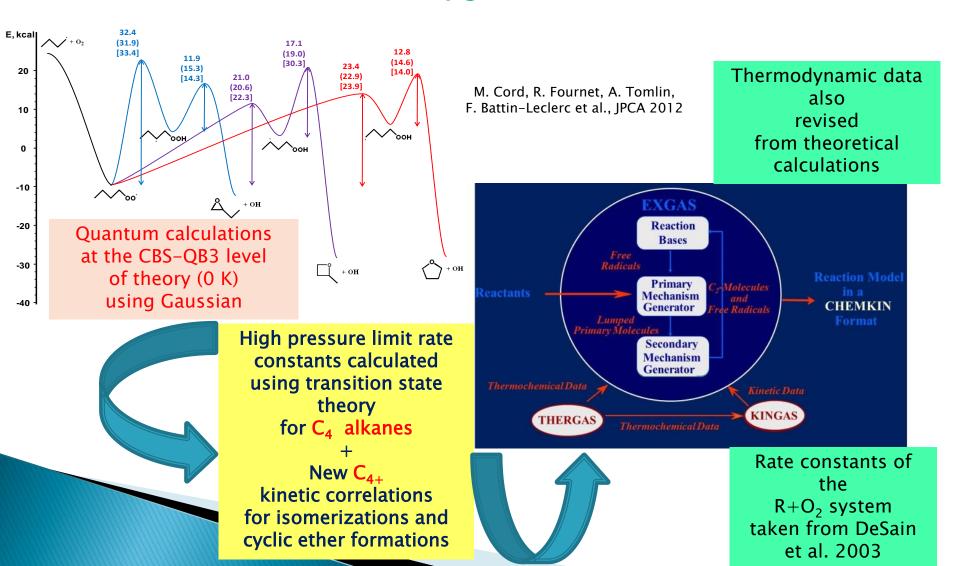
Time behaviors and photoionization spectra of cyclic ethers at 575 K, 4 Torr



A good source of data to confirm the theoretically calculated rate constants

Formation of cyclic ethers

Modeling the formation of cyclic ethers during JSR alkane oxidation Inclusion of theoretically calculated rate constants in automatically generated models

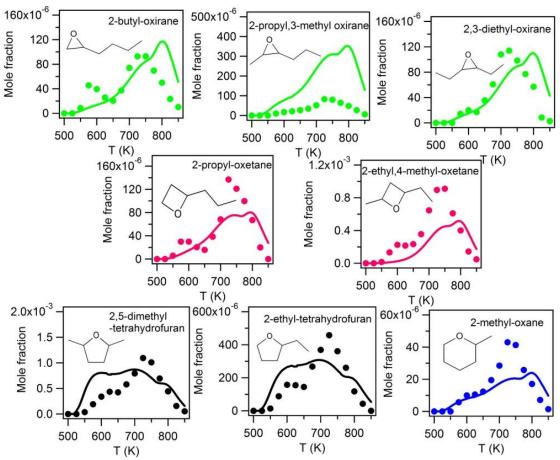


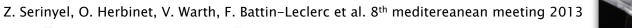
Formation of cyclic ethers Modeling the formation of cyclic ethers during JSR alkane oxidation

Oxidation of *n*-hexane

Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations

($\phi = 1$, P = 1 bar, $\tau = 2$ s, 2 % initial fuel)



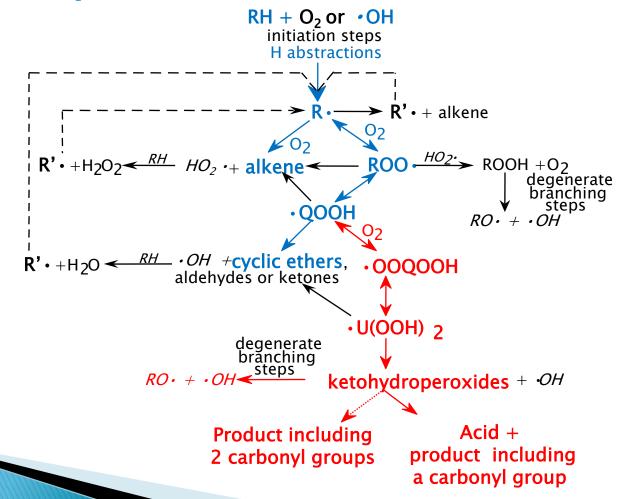


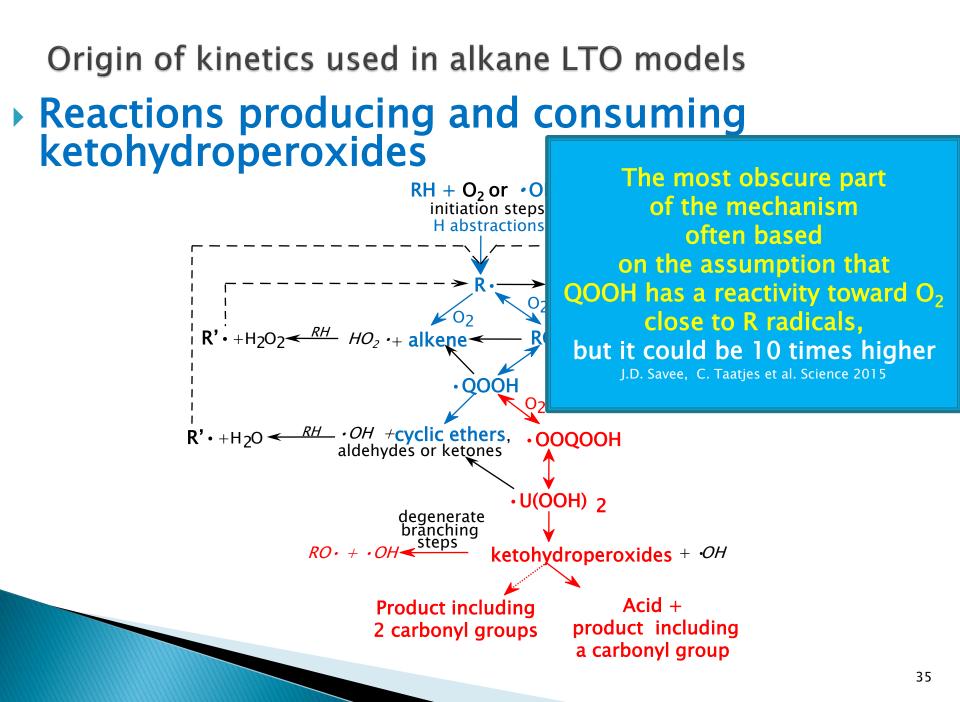


The prediction of cyclic ethers is well improved 33

Origin of kinetics used in alkane LTO models

Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides

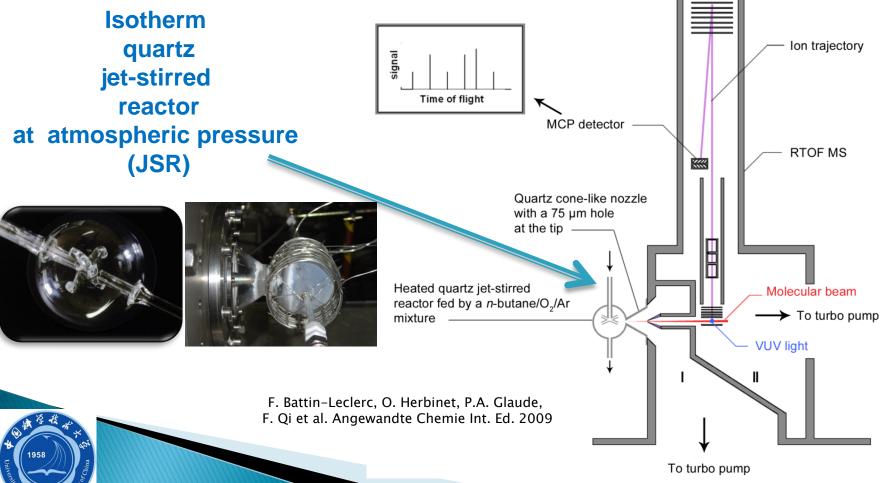




Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides

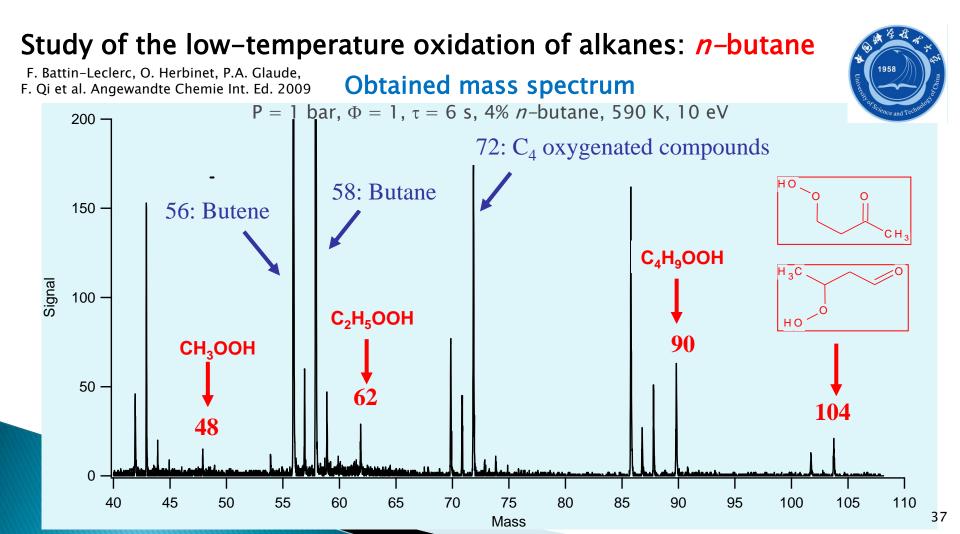
Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently

Coupling of a mass spectrometer combined with tunable synchrotron vacuum ultraviolet photoionization (PI-MS) to a JSR through a molecular-beam sampling system



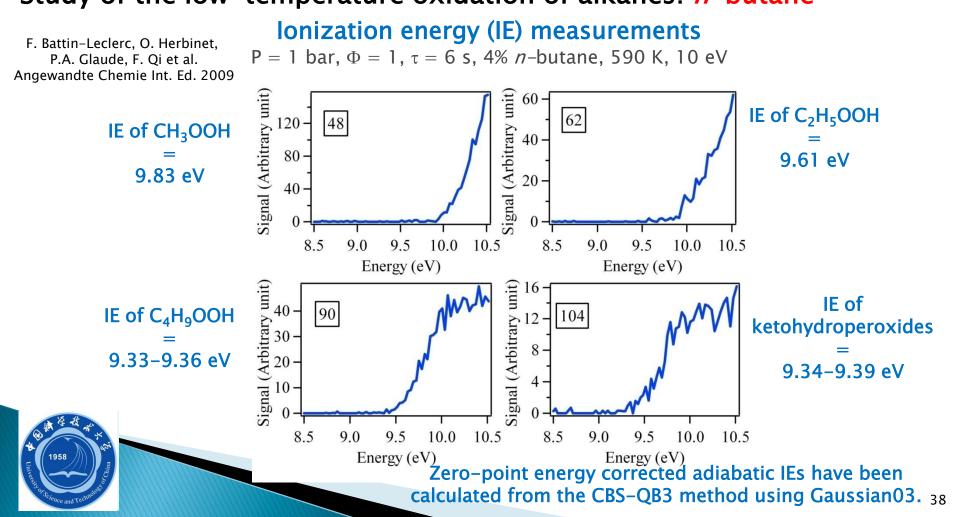
Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently

Coupling of PI-MS to a JSR through a molecular-beam sampling system



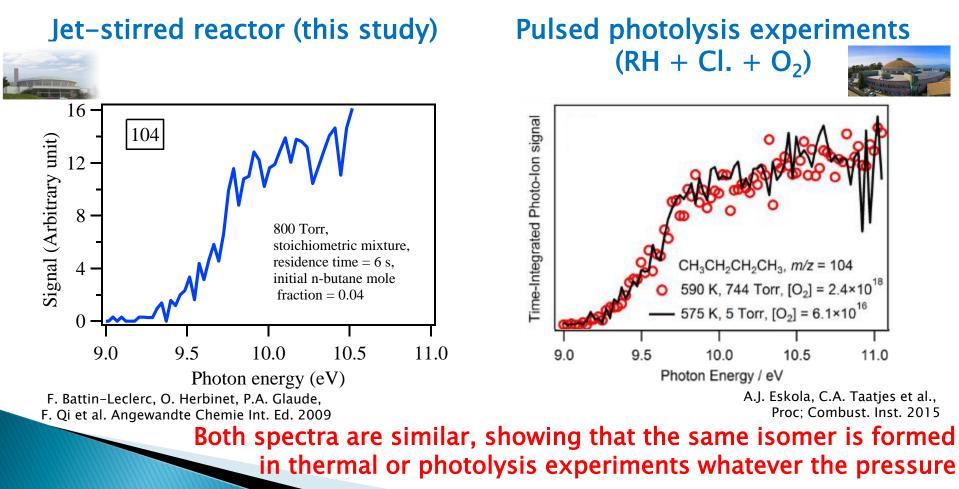
Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently Coupling of PI-MS to a JSR through a molecular-beam sampling system

Study of the low-temperature oxidation of alkanes: *n*-butane



Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently

Comparison between ketohydroperoxide photoionization spectrum obtained during n-butane oxidation in a JSR and in a photolysis tube



Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides
 Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently

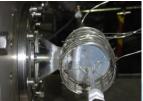
Formation of hydroperoxides according to alkanes studied in JSR



Fuel	Alkyl hydroperoxides	Keto hydroperoxides
Propane M. Cord, R. Fournet, F. Battin- Leclerc, F. Qi et al. JPCA 2012	Yes	No
n-butane F. Battin-Leclerc, O. Herbinet, P.A. Glaude, F. Qi et al. Angewandte Chemie Int. Ed. 2009	yes	yes
n-pentane O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. unpublished results,2015	yes	Yes
Hexane isomers Z. Wang, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. JPCA 2014	No	Yes
n-heptane O. Herbinet, Z. Serinyel, V. Warth, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. Combust. Flame 2012	No	Yes

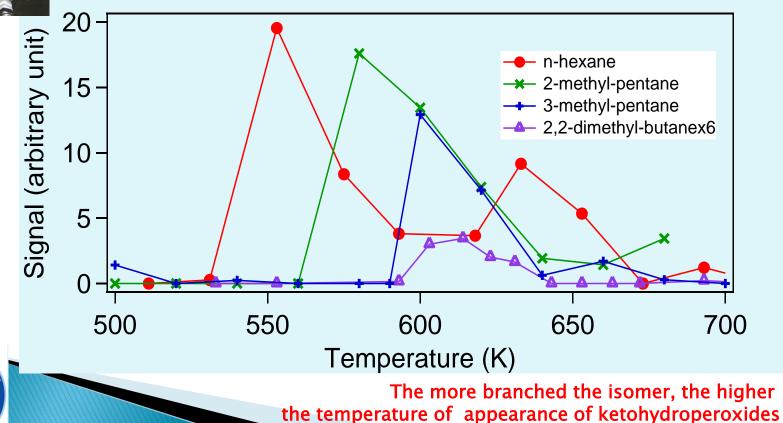
Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides
 Ketohydroperoxide detection only recently

Formation of ketohydroperoxides from linear and branched hexanes in JSR



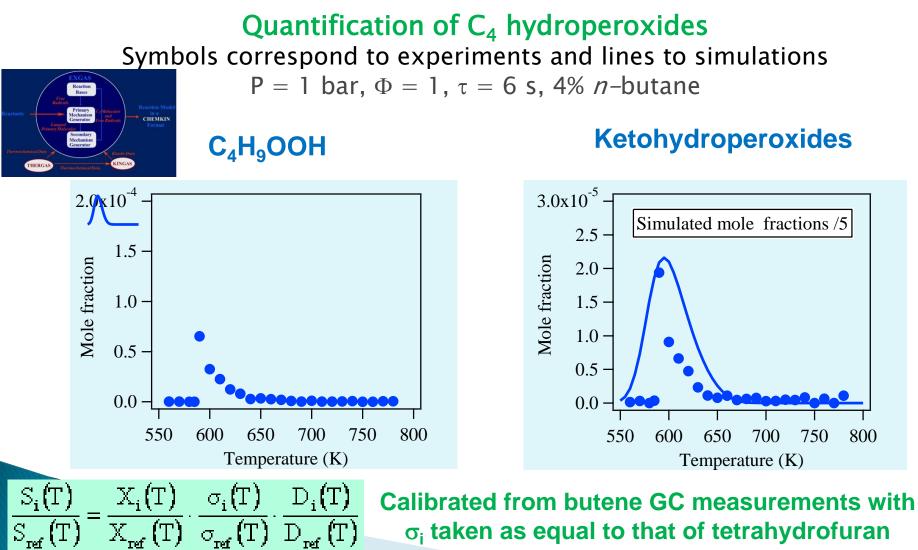
Ketohydroperoxide signal evolution with temperature P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 2$ s, m/z = 132, ionization energy = 10.5 eV

Z. Wang, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. JPCA 2014

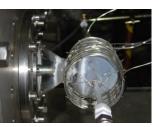


Hydroperoxide quantification

O. herbinet, F. Battin-leclerc et al. PCCP 2011



Reactions producing and consuming ketohydroperoxides
 Ketohydroperoxide consumption not only yields alkoxy and OH radicals
 Z. Wang, O. Herbinet,

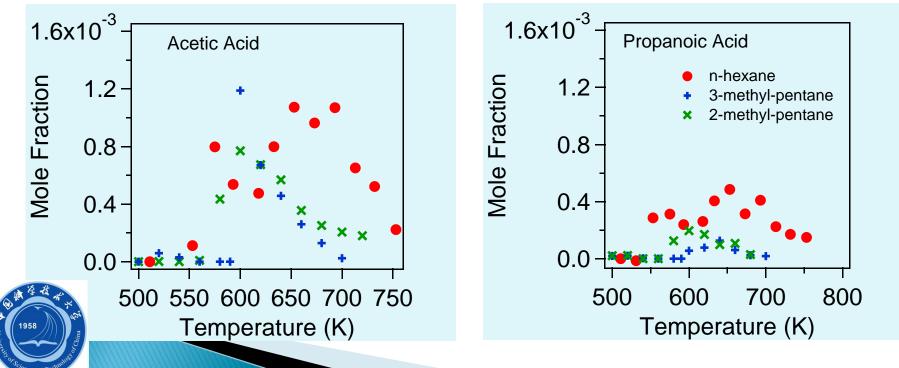


Formation of carboxylic acids

Z. Wang, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. JPC A 2014

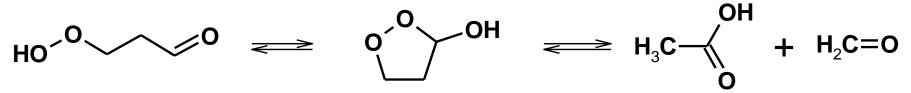
Acid mole fraction evolution with temperature during hexane isomer JSR oxidation

P=1 bar, $\Phi=1,\,\tau=2$ s, PI-MS



Ketohydroperoxide consumption not only yields alkoxy and OH radicals

Formation of acetic acid from ketohydroperoxides

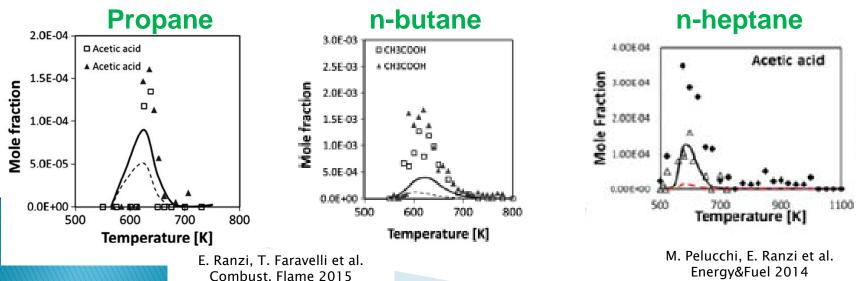


A. Jalan, D.G. Truhlar, W.H. Green et al. JACS 2013

Modeling acetic acid formation from Nancy JSR alkane oxidation

Symbols correspond to experiments and lines to simulations

P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 6$ or 2 s, GC and PI-MS results

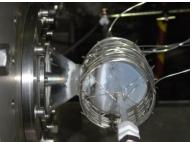


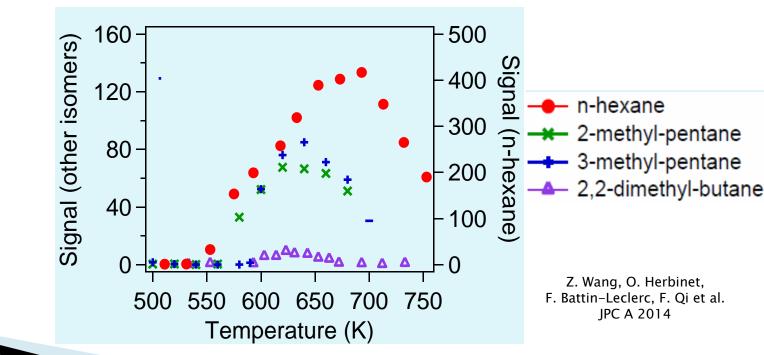
44

Ketohydroperoxide consumption not only yields alkoxy and OH radicals Formation of diones

Evolution with temperature of the signal at m/z = 114during hexane isomer JSR oxidation

P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 2$ s, PI-MS at 10.5 eV





45

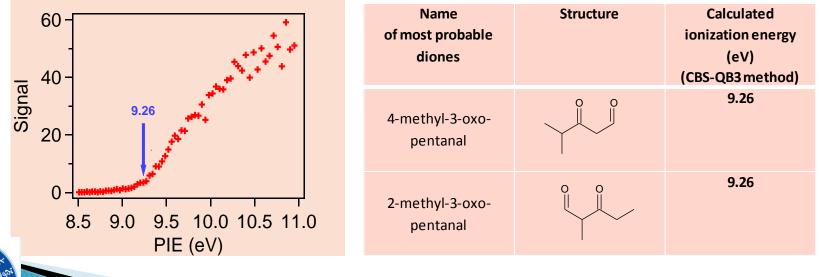
Ketohydroperoxide consumption not only yields alkoxy and OH radicals Z. Wang, O. Herb

Formation of diones

Z. Wang, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. JPC A 2014

Evolution with temperature of the signal at m/z = 114during hexane isomer JSR oxidation P = 1 bar, $\Phi = 1$, $\tau = 2$ s, PI-MS at 10.5 eV

Ionization energy measurement for 2-methylpentane



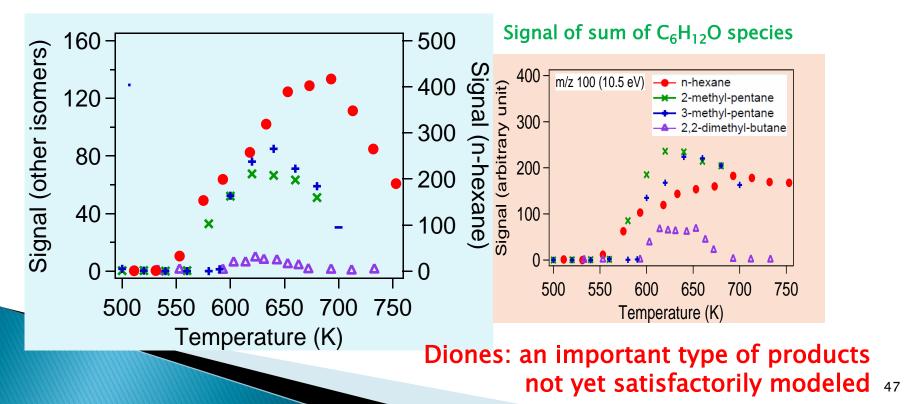
Ketohydroperoxide consumption not only yields alkoxy and OH radicals Z. Wang, O, Herbin

Z. Wang, O. Herbinet, F. Battin-Leclerc, F. Qi et al. IPC A 2014

Formation of diones

Evolution with temperature of the signal at m/z = 114During hexane isomer JSR oxidation

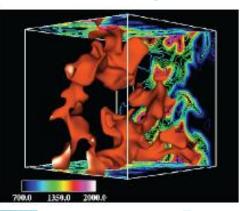
P=1 bar, $\Phi=1,\,\tau=2$ s, PI-MS at 10.5 eV

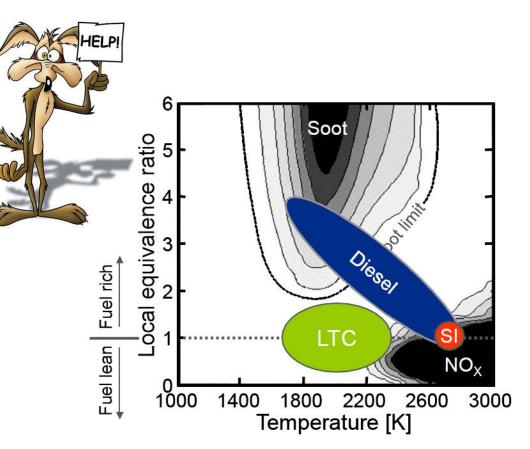


Conclusion

Still many unknowns in detailed kinetic LTO models at almost every step of the mechanism

 LTO models are an unavoidable prerequisite in the development of cleaner engines





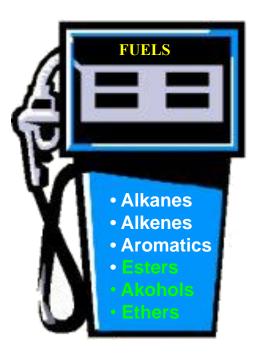
G. Singh, DOE Vehicle Technologies Office 2013

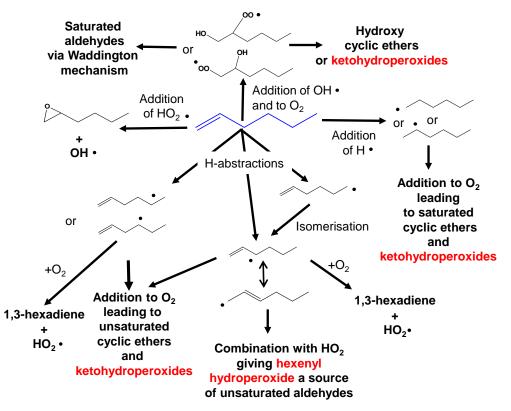
LTO models are of even more interest with expected increasing possibilities of coupling with CFD using high performance computing But need reliable models in extended ranges of T, P,

B. Cuenot J3P 2014

Conclusion

Fuels do not only contain alkanes



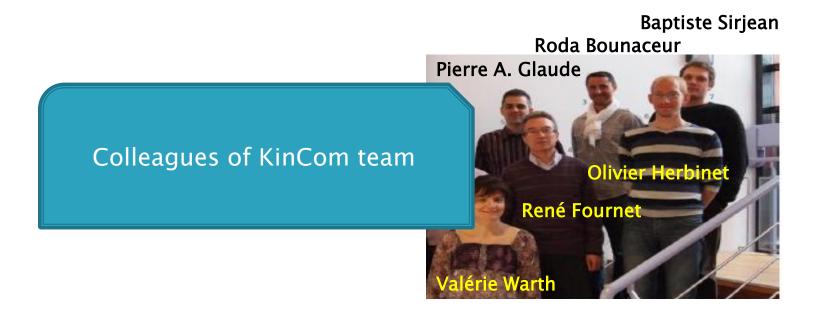


F. Battin-Leclerc, O.Herbinet, F. Qi, et al. JPCA 2014

The chemistry of other fuel components (e.g. alkenes) can be still more complex This can be worse for biofuels (see posters)

Acknowledgements

erc



Also: Christa Fittschen, Elizeo Ranzi, Katharina Kohse-Höinghaus, Charlie Westbrook, Rob Tranter, Guillaume Vanhove, Craig Taatjes, Bénédicte Cuenot for helpful discussions

and all the co-authors of the mentioned Nancy papers

Results from Nancy were supported by European Research Council: advanced researcher Grant "Clean–ICE"