

# Quantitative Laser Diagnostics for Combustion Chemistry and Propulsion

**JUNE 25-29, 2018**

## 15 Lecture Short Course at Princeton University

**Lecturer: Ronald K. Hanson**

**Woodard Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering  
Stanford University**

**Underlying Science:**

*Molecular Spectroscopy*

**Diagnostic Methods:**

*Laser Absorption, LIF*

**Example Applications:**

*Engines, Shock Tubes, Kinetics*



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### **Today/Lecture 1:**

- **Overview**
- **Introductory Material**

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# Quantitative Laser Diagnostics for Combustion Chemistry and Propulsion



## Lecture 1: Course Overview

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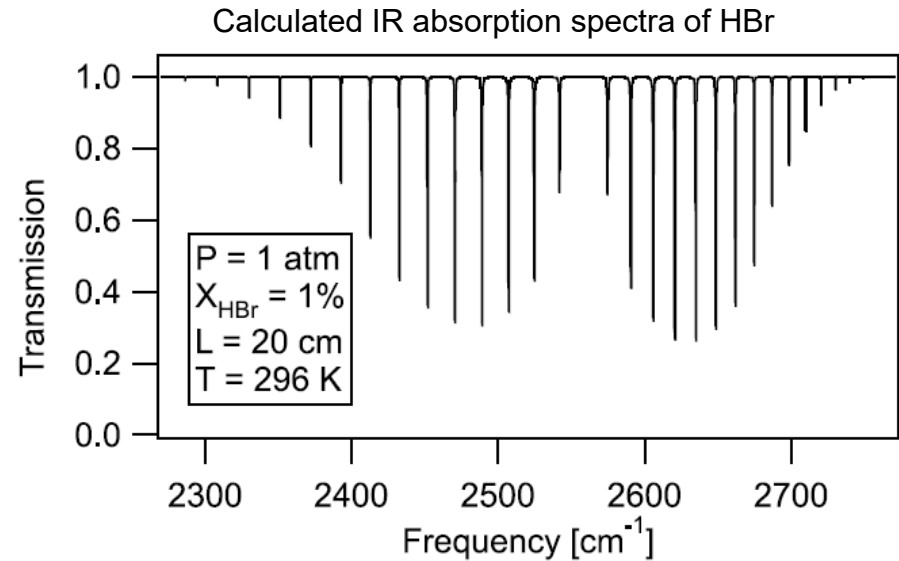
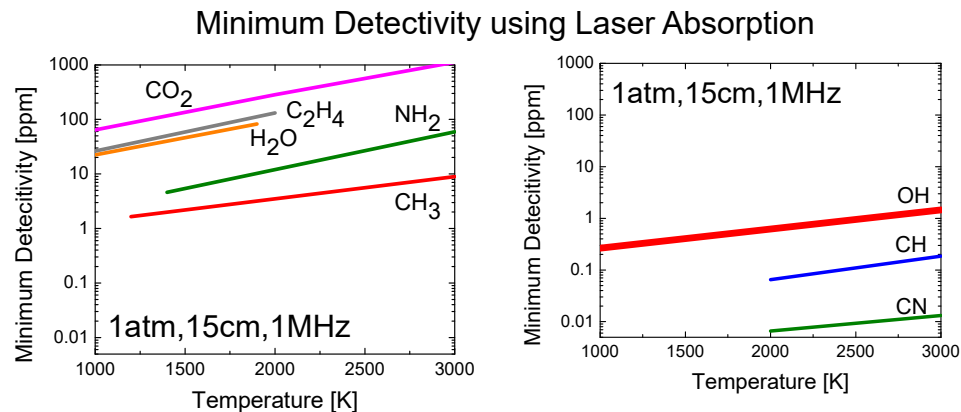
### Course Objectives and Content

- Introduction to fundamentals of molecular spectroscopy & photo-physics
- Introduction to laser absorption and laser-induced fluorescence
- Introduction to shock tubes as a primary tool for studying combustion chemistry, including recent advances and kinetics applications
- Example laser diagnostic applications including:
  - multi-parameter sensing in different types of propulsion flows and engines
  - species-specific sensing for shock tube kinetics studies
  - PLIF imaging in high-speed flows

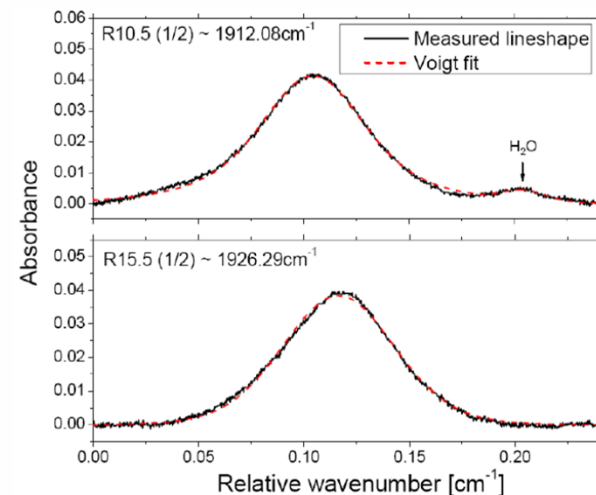
*Next: Spectroscopy and Roles of Lasers*

# Course Overview: Spectroscopy and Lasers

- *What is Spectroscopy?*
  - Interaction of Radiation (Light) with Matter (in our case, Gases)
  - Examples: IR Absorption
- *Why Lasers?*
  - Enables Important Diagnostic Methods
  - LIF, Raman, LII, PIV, CARS, ...
  - Our Emphasis: Absorption and LIF
  - Why: Sensitive and Quantitative!



Spectrally resolved individual absorption line of NO at 600 K, 1 atm (in C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> combustion exhaust)





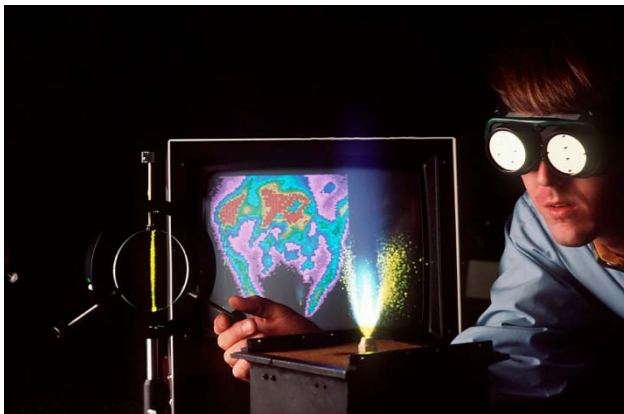
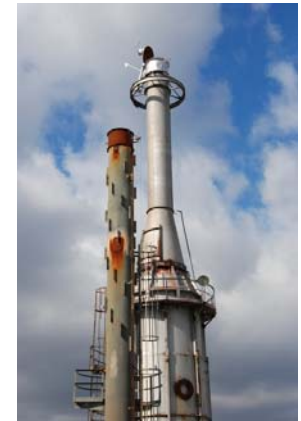
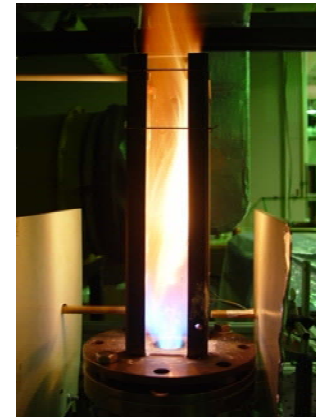
# Course Overview: Role of Lasers in Energy Sciences

- *Example Applications:*  
Remote sensing, combustion and gasdynamic diagnostics, process control, energy systems and environmental monitoring.
- *Common Measurements:*  
Species concentrations, temperature ( $T$ ), pressure ( $P$ ), density ( $\rho$ ), velocity ( $u$ ), mass flux ( $\rho u$ ).

Coal gasifiers



Swirl burners



OH PLIF in spray flame

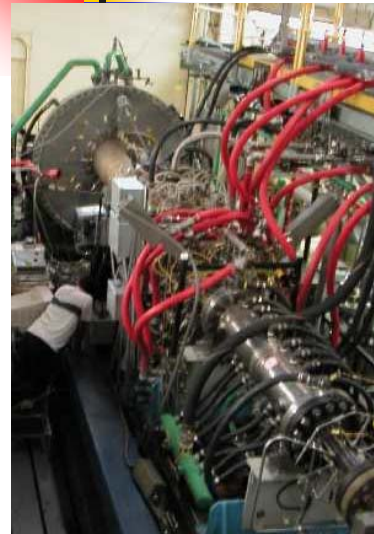


Coal-fired power plants

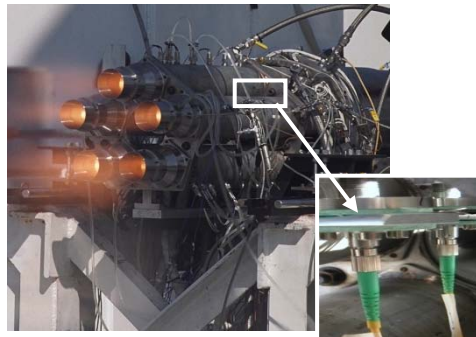


Incinerators

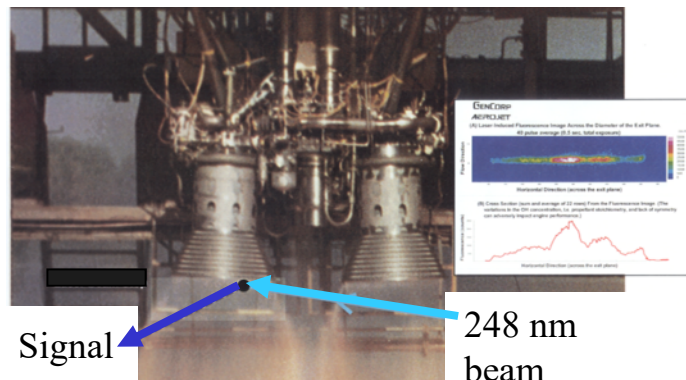
# Course Overview: Roles of Laser Sensing for Propulsion



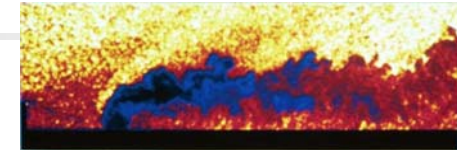
TDL Sensing in  
SCRAMJET @ WPAFB



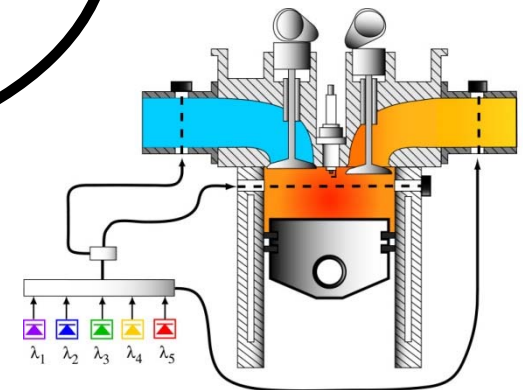
TDL Sensing in  
Pratt & Whitney PDE  
@ China Lake, CA



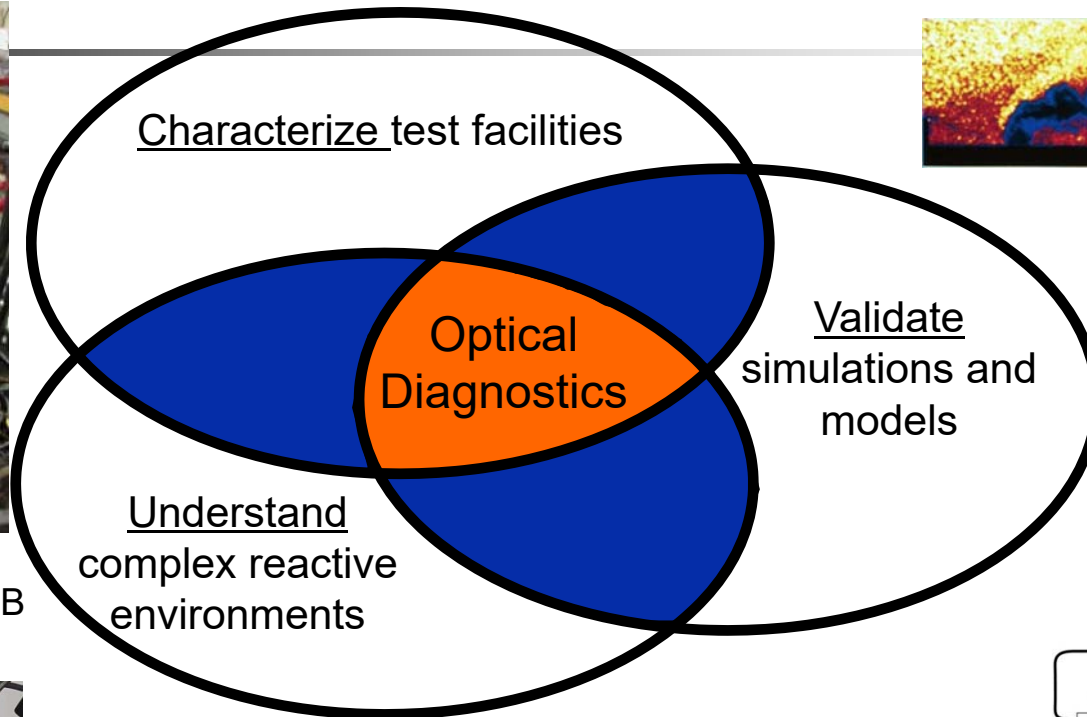
Signal  
248 nm  
beam  
PLIF in plume of Titan IV @ Aerojet



PLIF imaging of H<sub>2</sub> jet  
in model SCRAMJET  
@Stanford



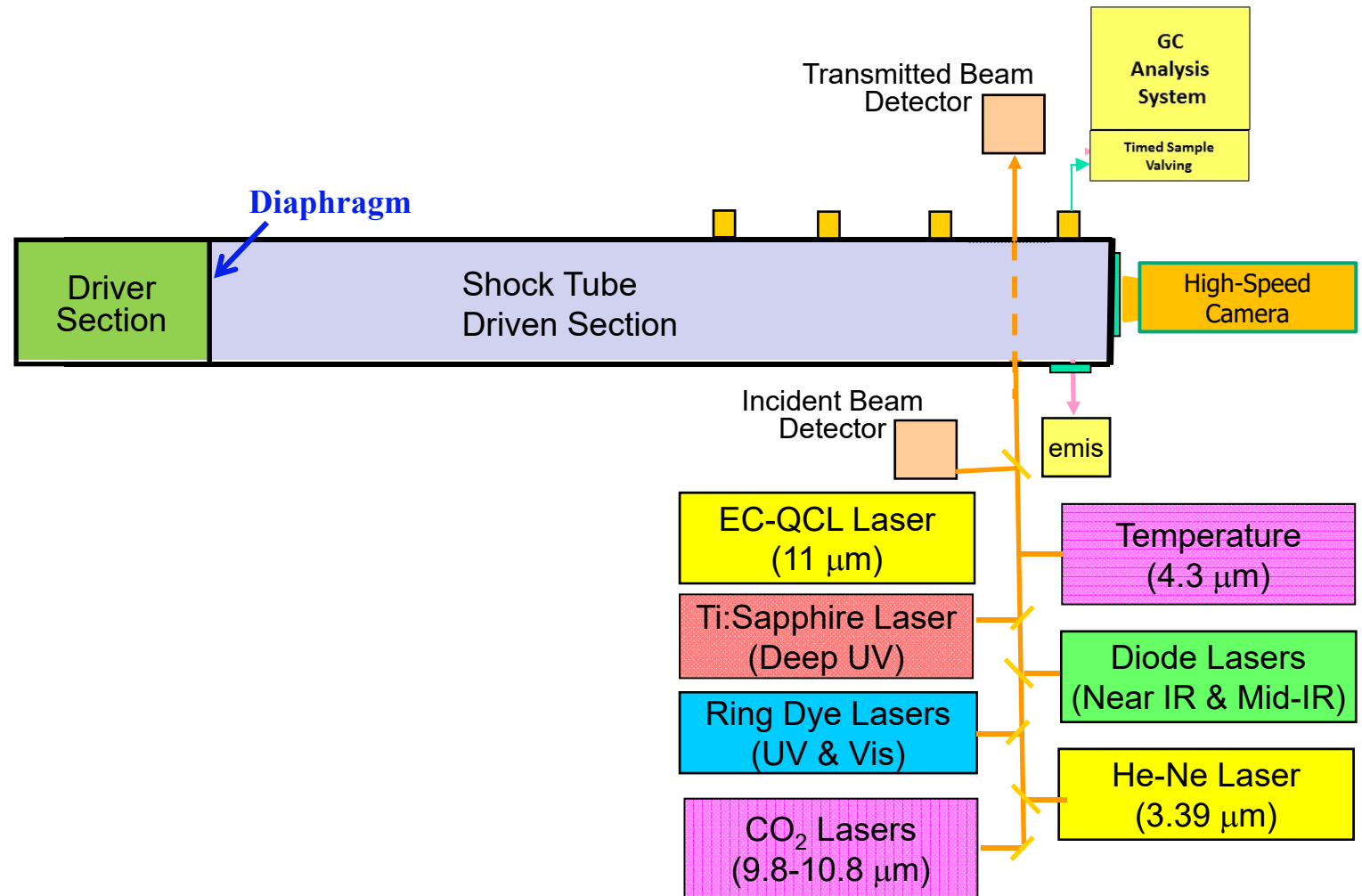
TDL Sensing in IC-Engines  
@ Nissan & Sandia



Applicable to large-scale systems as well as laboratory science

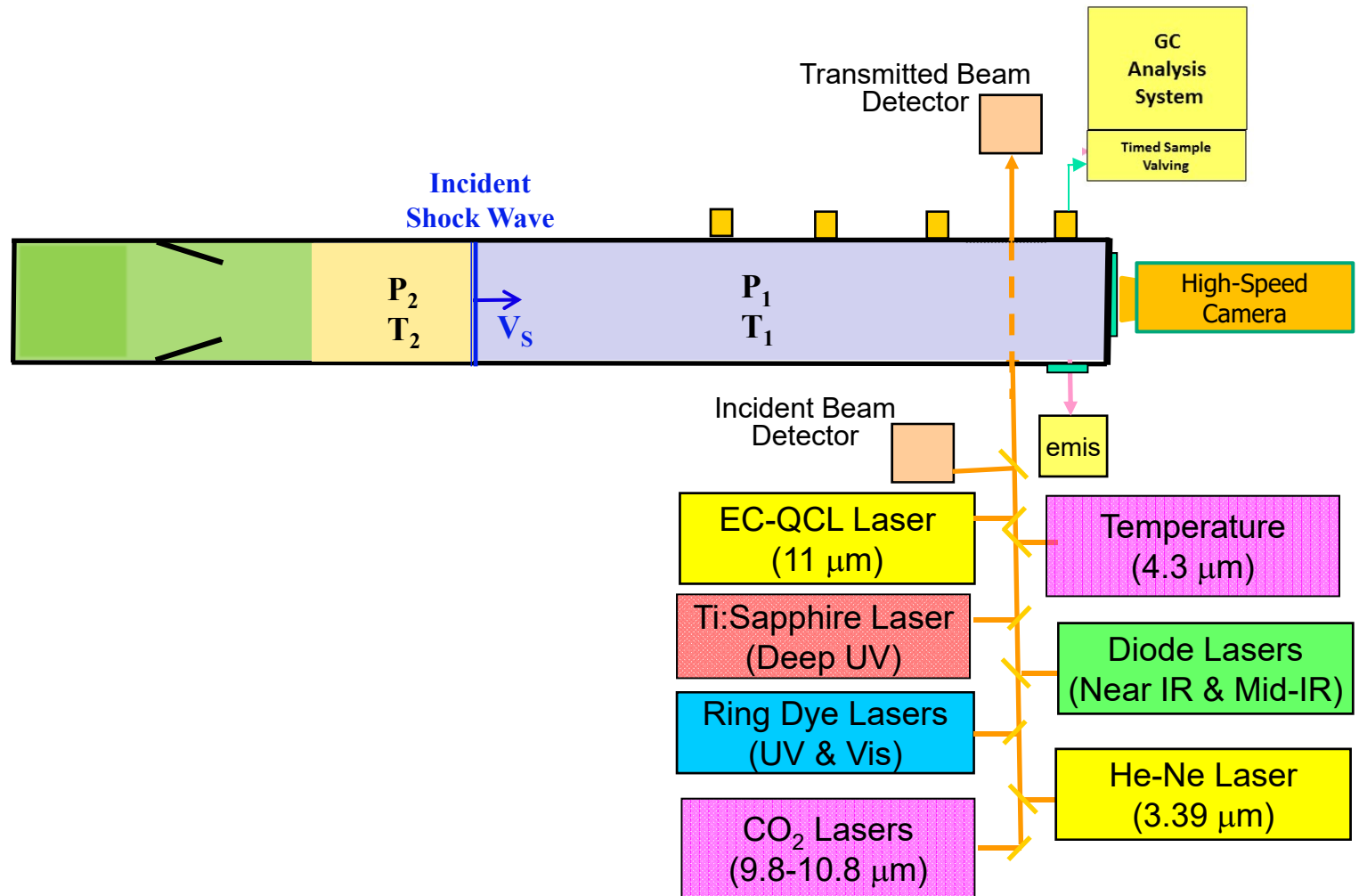
# Course Overview:

## Role of Lasers in Combustion Kinetics: Shock Tubes



# Course Overview:

## Role of Lasers in Combustion Kinetics: Shock Tubes



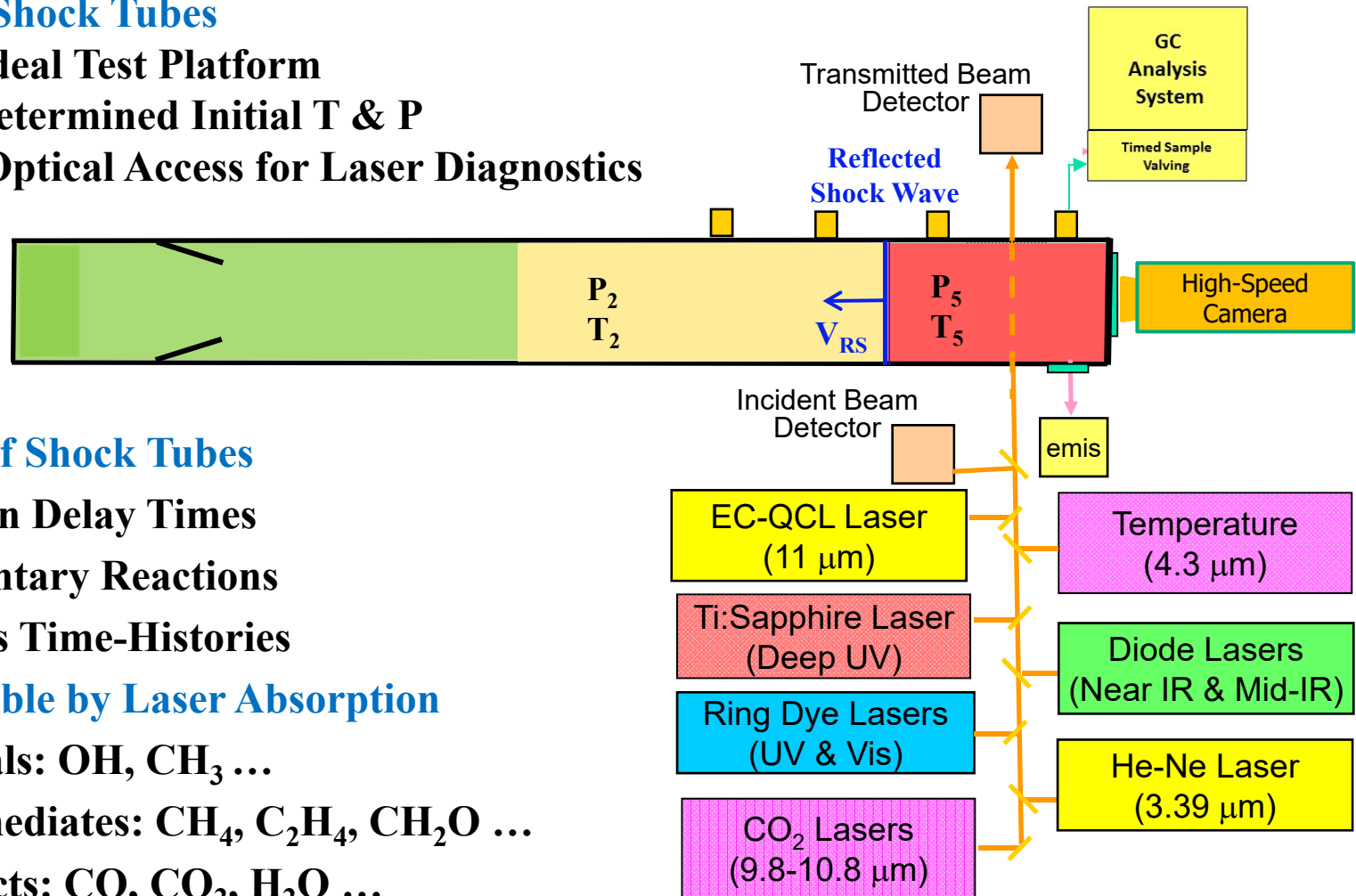


# Course Overview:

## Role of Lasers in Combustion Kinetics: Shock Tubes

### Advantages of Shock Tubes

- Near-Ideal Test Platform
- Well-Determined Initial T & P
- Clear Optical Access for Laser Diagnostics



### Applications of Shock Tubes

- Ignition Delay Times
- Elementary Reactions
- Species Time-Histories

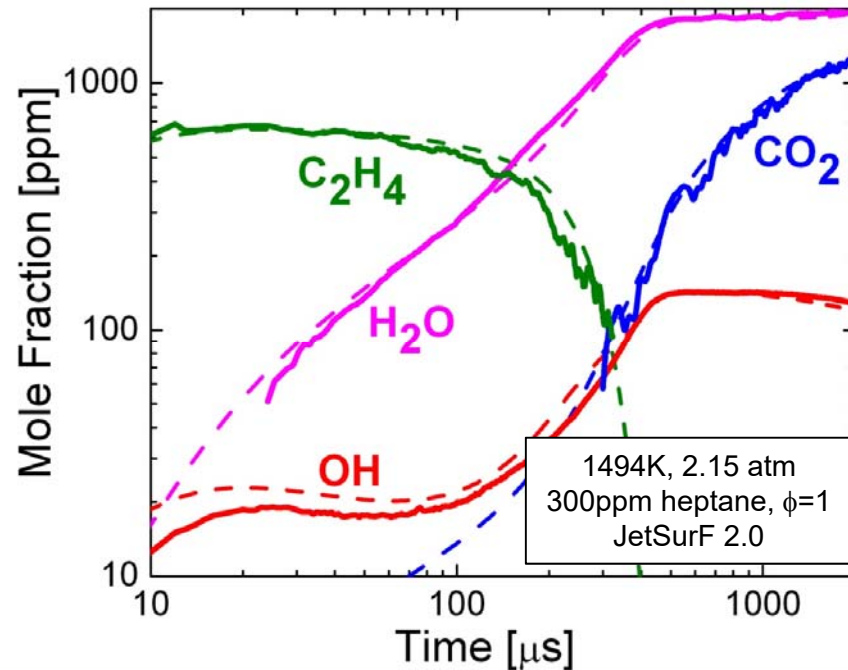
### Species Accessible by Laser Absorption

- Radicals: OH, CH<sub>3</sub> ...
- Intermediates: CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>O ...
- Products: CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O ...

# Course Overview:

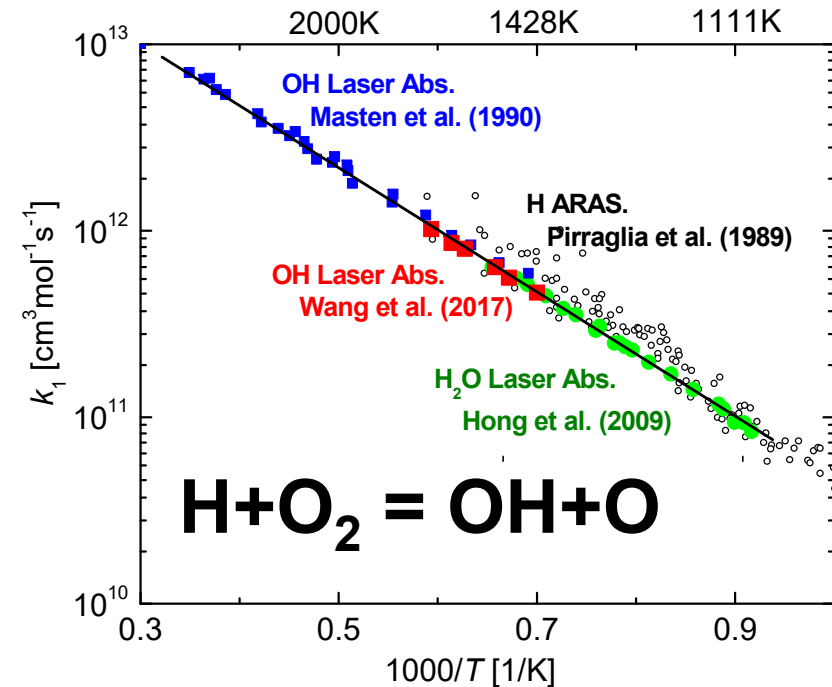
## Lasers and Shock Tube: Time-Histories & Kinetics

### Time-Histories



- Multi-wavelength laser absorption species time-histories provide quantitative targets for model refinement and validation

### Rate Constant



- Laser absorption provides high-accuracy measurements of elementary reaction rate constants



# Useful Texts, Supplementary Reading

- G. Herzberg, Atomic spectra and atomic structure, 1944.
- G. Herzberg, Spectra of diatomic molecules, 1950.
- G. Herzberg, Molecular spectra and molecular structure, volume II, Infrared and Raman Spectra of Polyatomic Molecules, 1945.
- G. Herzberg, Molecular spectra and molecular structure, volume III, Electronic spectra and electronic structure of polyatomic molecules, 1966.
- C.N. Banwell and E.M. McCash, Fundamentals of molecular spectroscopy, 1994.
- S.S. Penner, Quantitative molecular spectroscopy and gas emissivities, 1959.
- A.C.G. Mitchell and M.W. Zemansky, Resonance radiation and excited atoms, 1971.
- C.H. Townes and A.L. Schawlow, Microwave spectroscopy, 1975.
- M. Diem, Introduction to modern vibrational spectroscopy, 1993.
  
- W.G. Vincenti and C.H. Kruger, Physical gas dynamics, 1965.
- A.G. Gaydon and I.R. Hurle, The shock tube in high-temperature chemical physics, 1963.
  
- J.B. Jeffries and K. Kohse-Hoinghaus, Applied combustion diagnostics, 2002.
- A.C. Eckbreth, Laser diagnostics for combustion temperature and species, 1988.
- W. Demtroder, Laser spectroscopy: basic concepts and instrumentation, 1996.
- R.W. Waynant and M.N. Ediger, Electro-optics handbook, 2000.
- J.T. Luxon and D.E. Parker, Industrial lasers and their applications, 1992.
- J. Hecht, Understanding lasers: An entry level guide, 1994.
- K.J. Kuhn, Laser engineering, 1998.
- **R.K. Hanson et al., Spectroscopy and Laser Diagnostics for Gases, 2016**



# Lecture Schedule

## Monday

### 1. Overview & Introduction

Course Organization, Role of Quantum Mechanics,  
Planck's Law, Beer's Law, Boltzmann distribution

### 2. Diatomic Molecular Spectra

Rotational Spectra (Microwaves)  
Vibration-Rotation (Rovibrational) Spectra (Infrared)

### 3. Diatomic Molecular Spectra

Electronic (Rovibronic) Spectra (UV, Visible)

## Tuesday

### 4. Polyatomic Molecular Spectra

Rotational Spectra (Microwaves)  
Vibrational Bands, Rovibrational Spectra

### 5. Quantitative Emission/ Absorption

Spectral absorptivity, Eqn. of Radiative Transfer  
Einstein Coefficients/Theory, Line Strength

### 6. Spectral Lineshapes

Doppler, Natural, Collisional and Stark broadening,  
Voigt profiles

## Wednesday

### 7. Electronic Spectra of Diatomics

Term Symbols, Molecular Models: Rigid Rotor,  
Symmetric Top, Hund's Cases, Quantitative Absorption

### 8. Case Studies of Molecular Spectra

Ultraviolet: OH

### 9. TDLAS, Lasers and Fibers

Fundamentals and Applications in Aeropropulsion

## Thursday

### 10. TDLAS Applications in Energy Conversion

Tunable Diode Laser Applications in IC Engines  
Coal-Fired Combustion

### 11. Shock Tube Techniques

What is a Shock Tube?  
Recent Advances, ignition Delay Times

### 12. Shock Tube Applications

Multi-Species Time Histories  
Elementary Reactions

## Friday

### 13. Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF)

Two-Level Model  
More Complex Models

### 14. Laser-Induced Fluorescence: Applications 1

Diagnostic Applications (T, V, Species)  
PLIF for small molecules

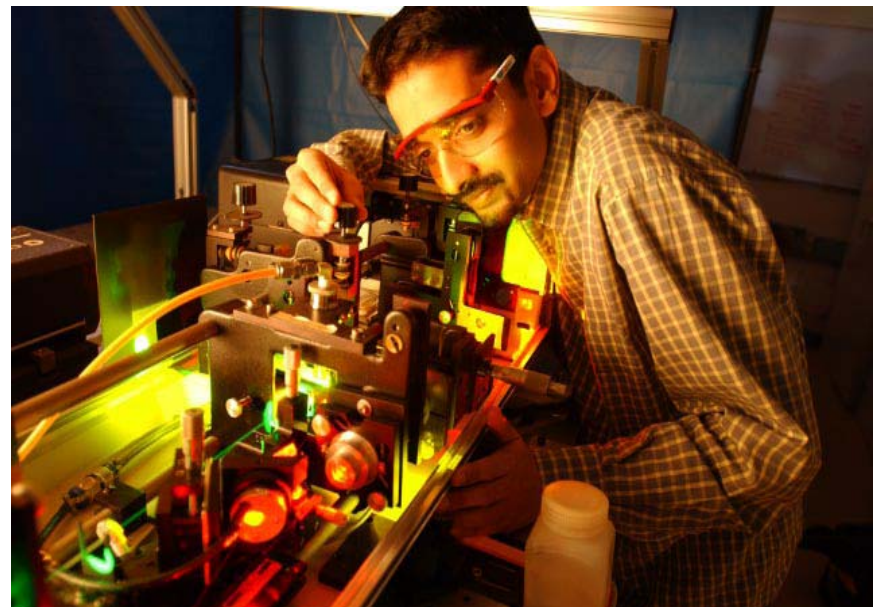
### 15. Laser-Induced Fluorescence: Applications 2

Diagnostic Applications & PLIF for large molecules  
The Future



# Lecture 1: Introductory Material

1. Role of Quantum Mechanics
  - Planck's Law
2. Absorption and Emission
3. Boltzmann Distribution
4. Working Examples



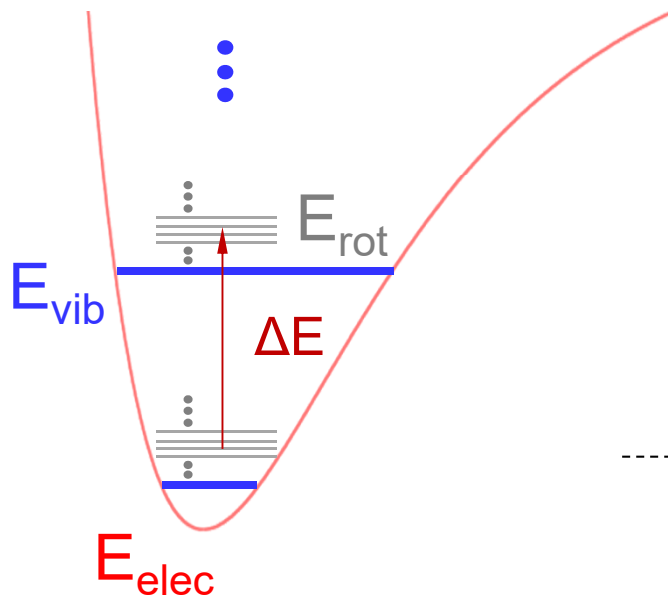
# 1. Role of QM - Planck's Law

- Quantum Mechanics:

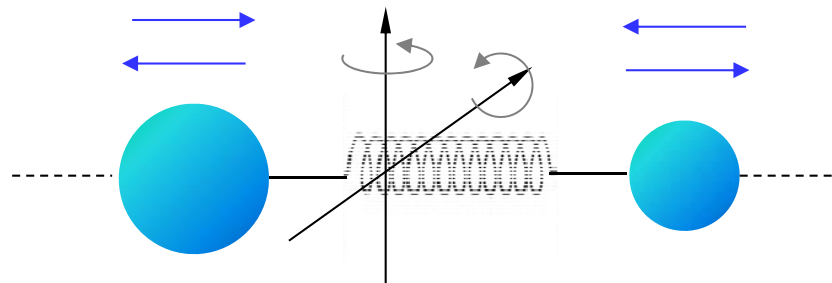
- Quantized Energy levels
  - "Allowed" transitions
- } We will simply accept these rules from QM

**How are energy levels specified?**

*Quantum numbers for electronic, vibrational and rotational states.*



$$E_{int} = E_{elec} + E_{vib} + E_{rot}$$



# 1. Role of QM - Planck's Law

## ■ Quantum Mechanics

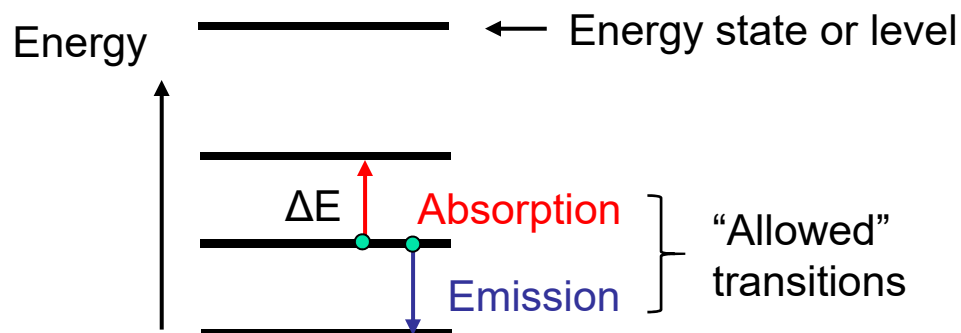
Quantized Energy States  
(discrete energy levels)



Discrete spectra

- Small species, (e.g., NO, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O), have **discrete** spectral features
- Large molecules (e.g., HCs) have **blended** features

Note interchangeability of  $\lambda$  &  $\nu$



### Planck's Law:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta E &= E_{\text{upper}} (E') - E_{\text{lower}} (E'') \\ &= h\nu \\ &= hc/\lambda \\ &= hc\bar{\nu} \leftarrow \text{Energy in wavenumbers}\end{aligned}$$

$$c = \lambda \nu$$

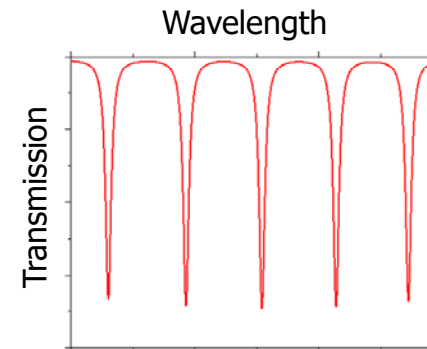
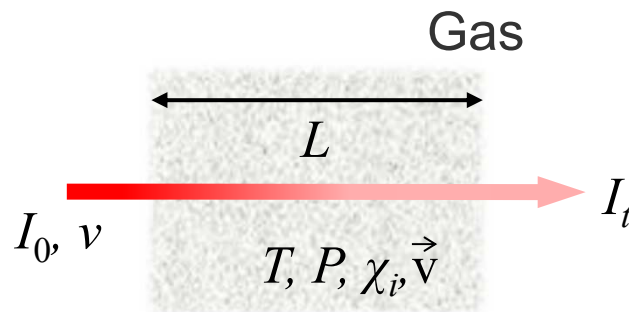
Frequency [s<sup>-1</sup>]

Wavelength [cm]

$\sim 3 \times 10^{10}$  cm/s

## 2. Absorption and Emission

- Types of spectra:
  - Absorption; Emission; Fluorescence; Scattering (Rayleigh, Raman)
- Absorption**: Governed by Beer's Law



Absorbance

Beer-Lambert Law  $\left( \frac{I_t}{I_0} \right)_\lambda = T_\lambda = \exp(-\alpha) = \exp(-n_j \sigma L) = \exp(-SP \chi_i \phi L)$

Number density of species j in  
absorbing state [molecule/cm<sup>3</sup>]

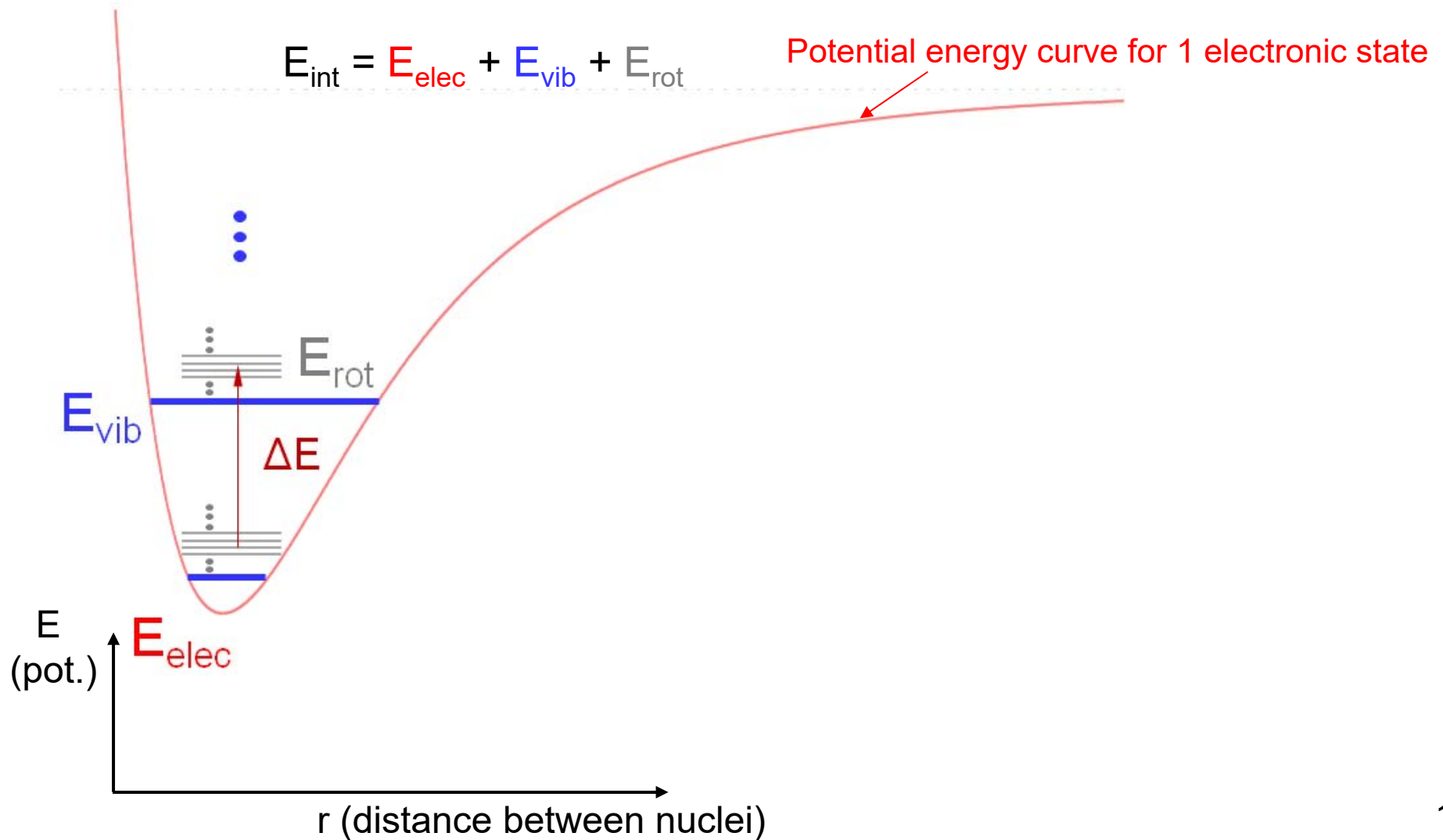
Cross section for  
absorption [cm<sup>2</sup>/molecule]

Path length [cm]



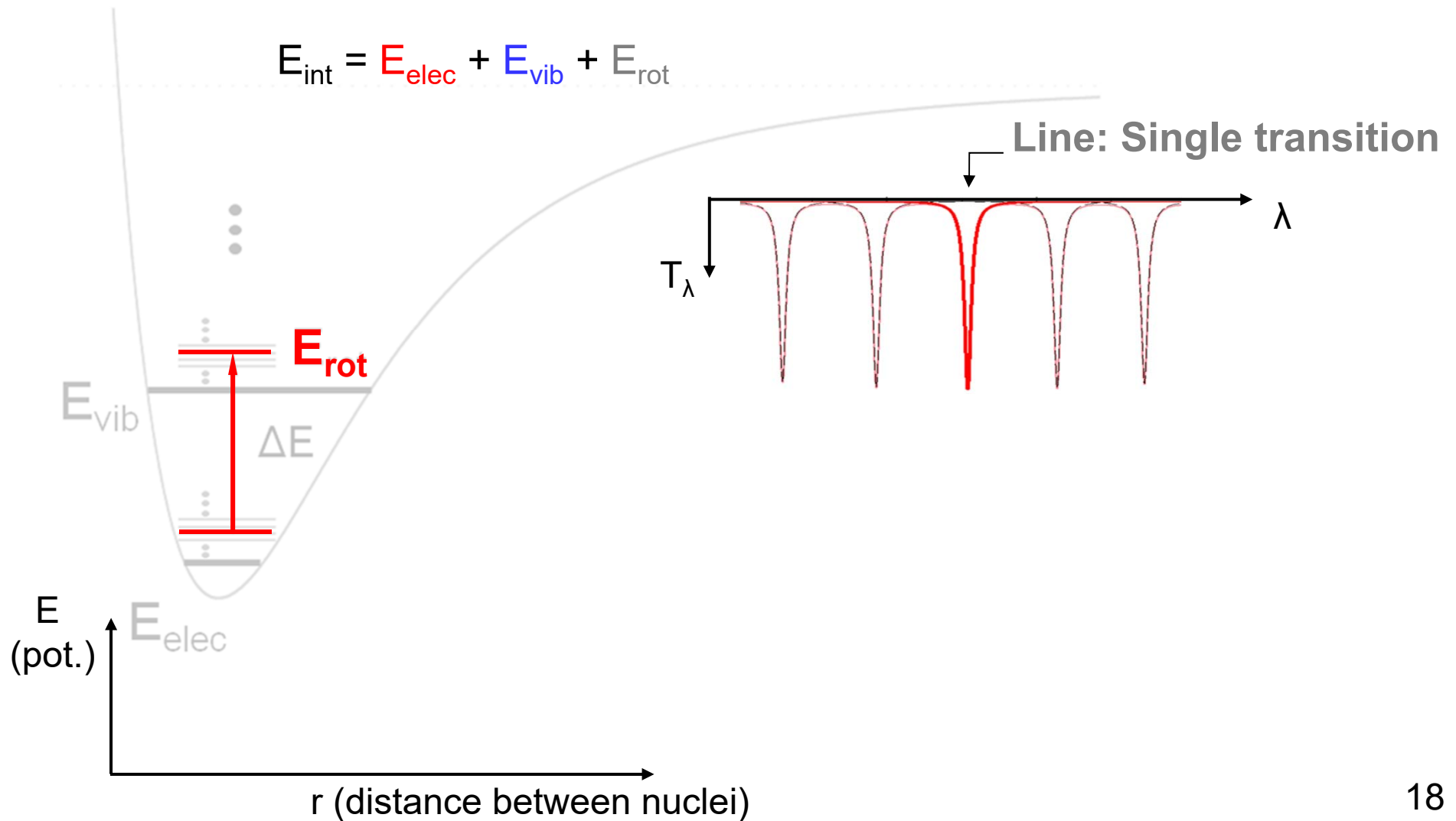
## 2. Absorption and Emission

- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems



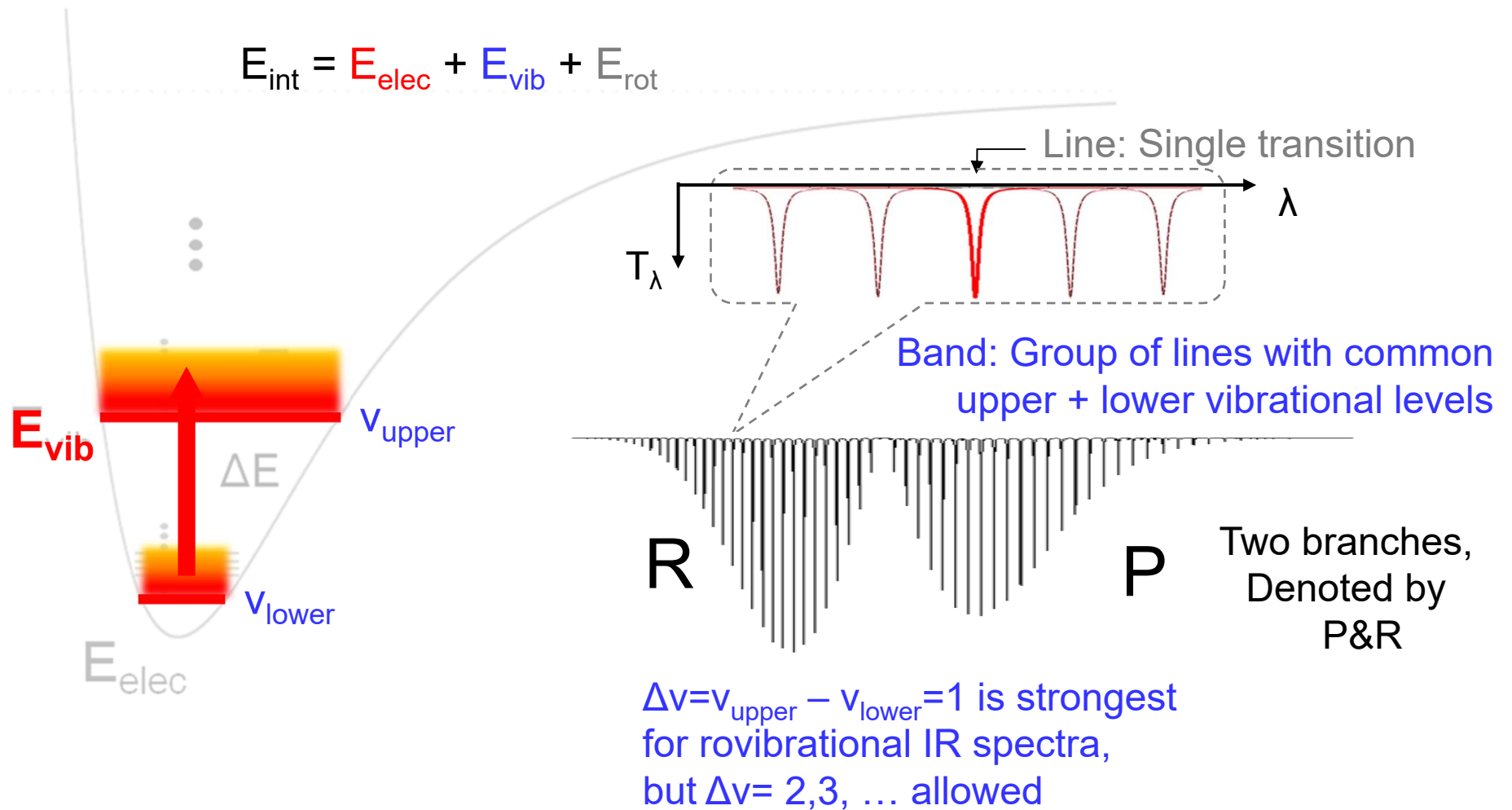
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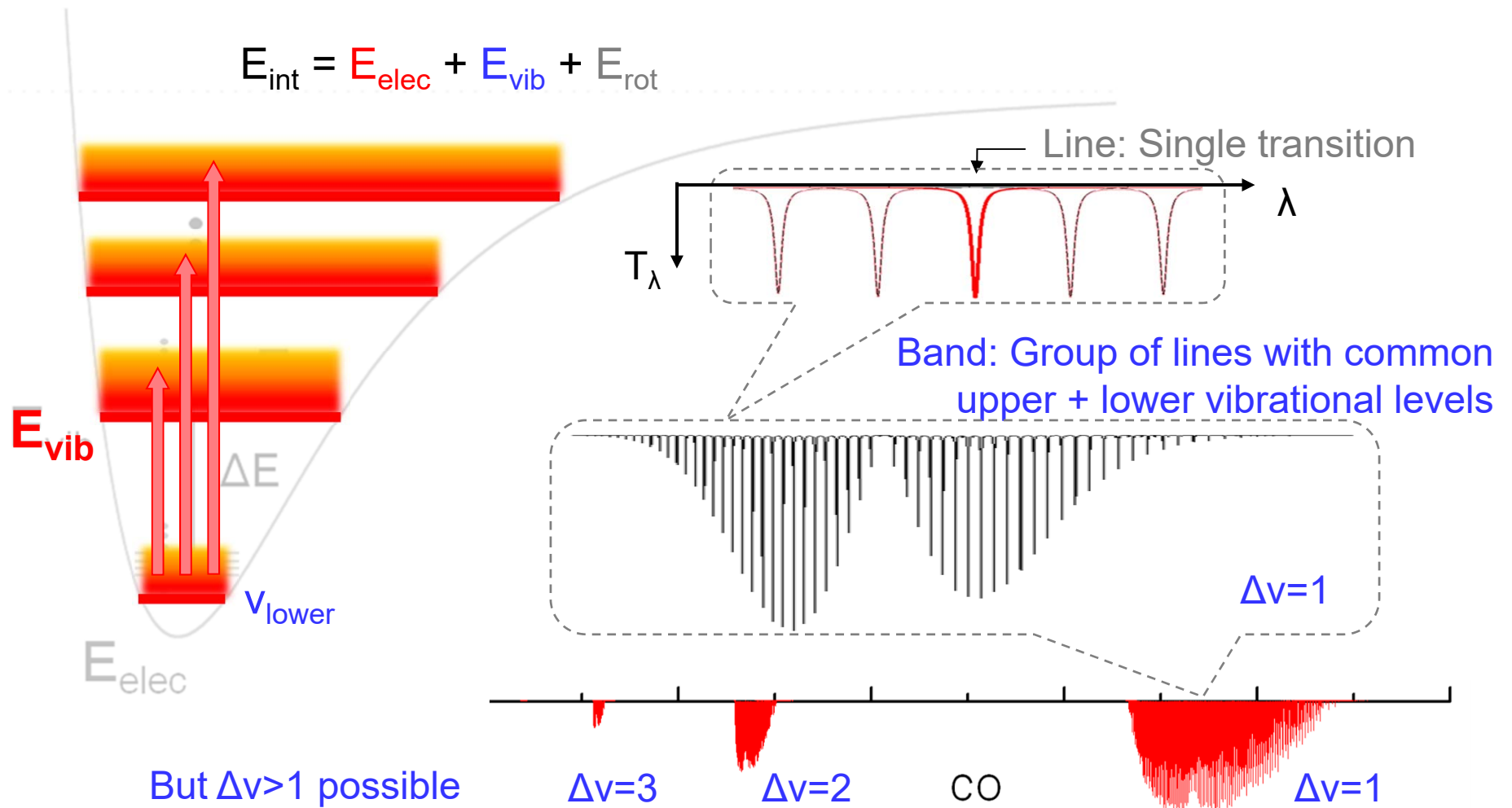
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## 2. Absorption and Emission

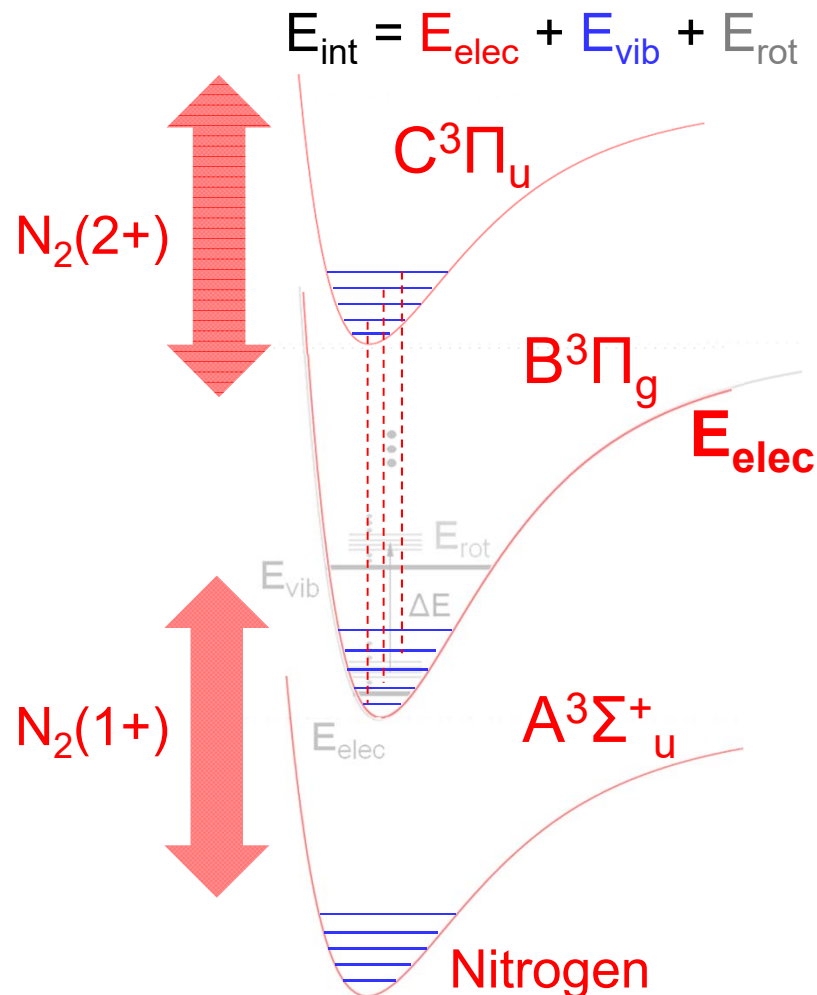
- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems





## 2. Absorption and Emission

- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems



### System:

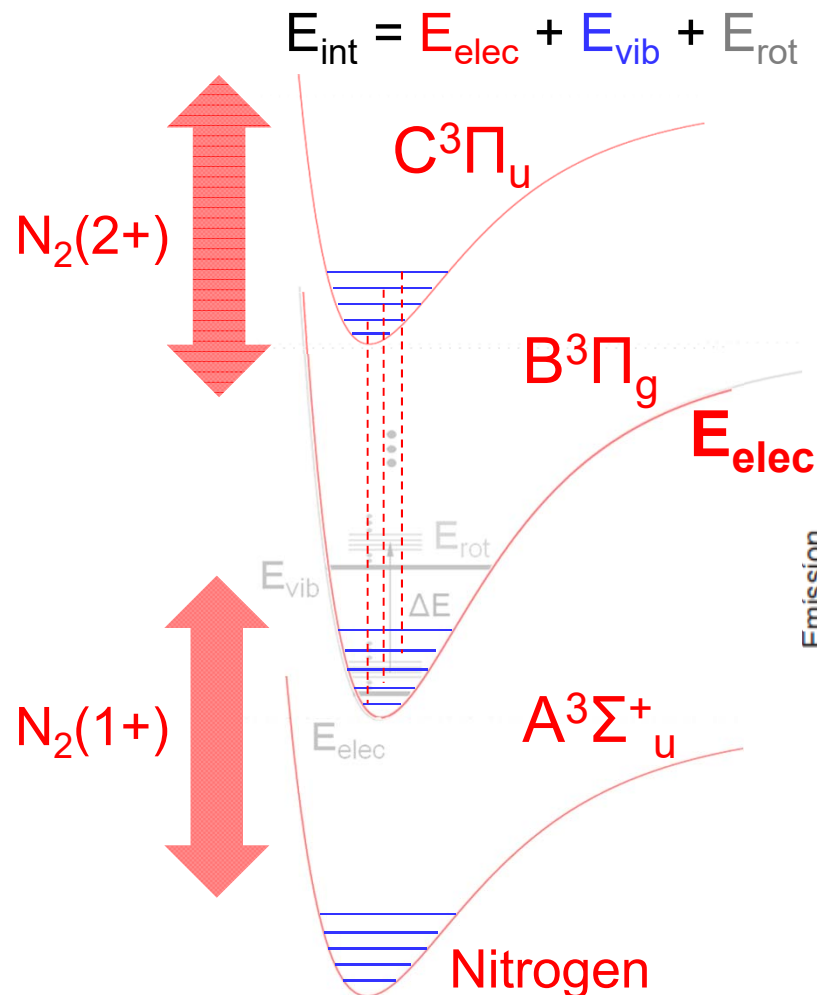
- Transitions between different electronic states
- Comprised of multiple bands between two electronic states
- Different combinations of  $v_{\text{upper}}$  and  $v_{\text{lower}}$  such that “bands” with  $v_{\text{upper}} - v_{\text{lower}} = \text{const.}$  appear

### Example: $N_2$

- First positive **SYSTEM**:  
 $B^3\Pi_g \rightarrow A^3\Sigma^+_u$
- The ground (lowest energy) state is  $X^1\Sigma^+_g$

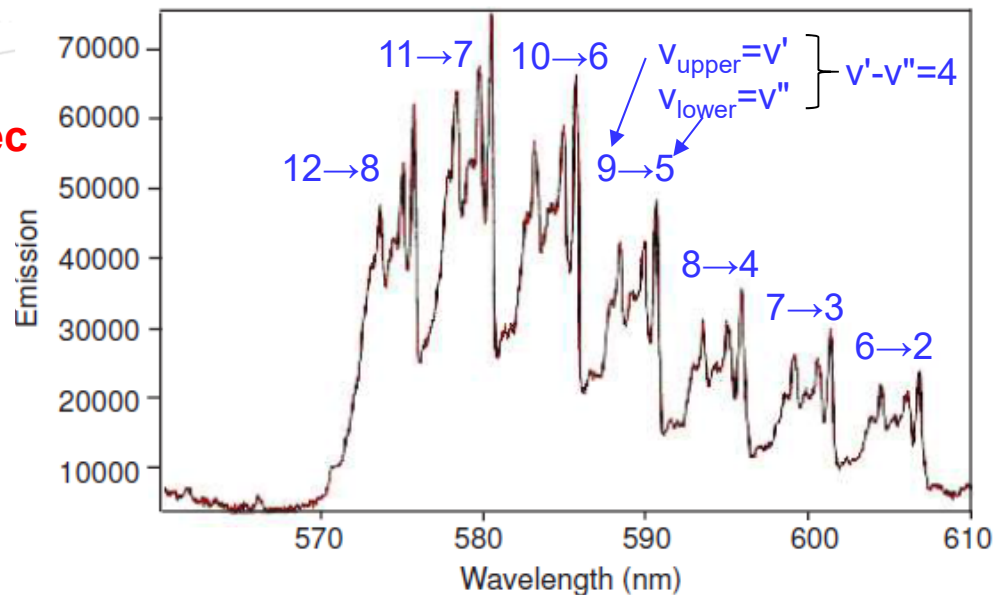
## 2. Absorption and Emission

- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems



System

Example: High-temperature air emission spectra (560-610nm)

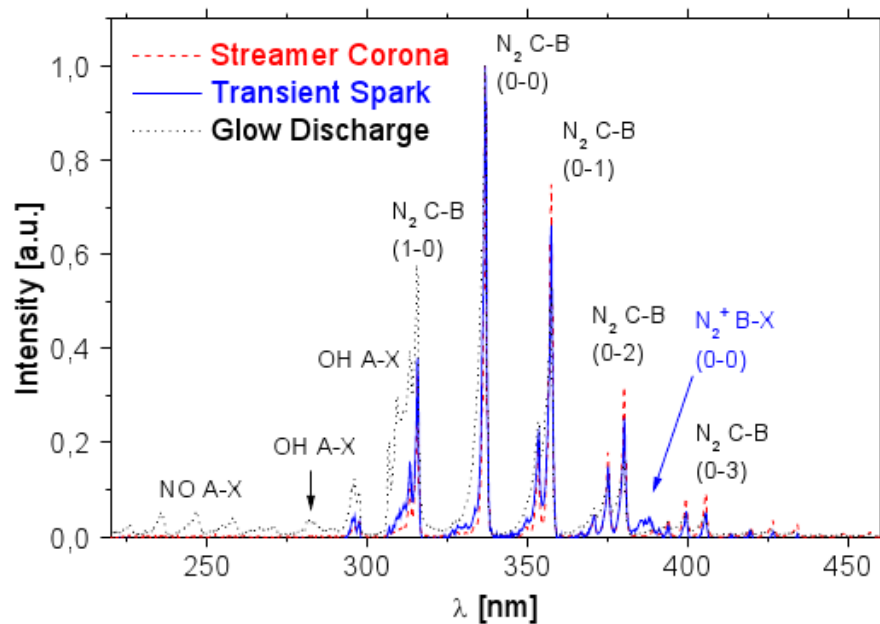


## 2. Absorption and Emission

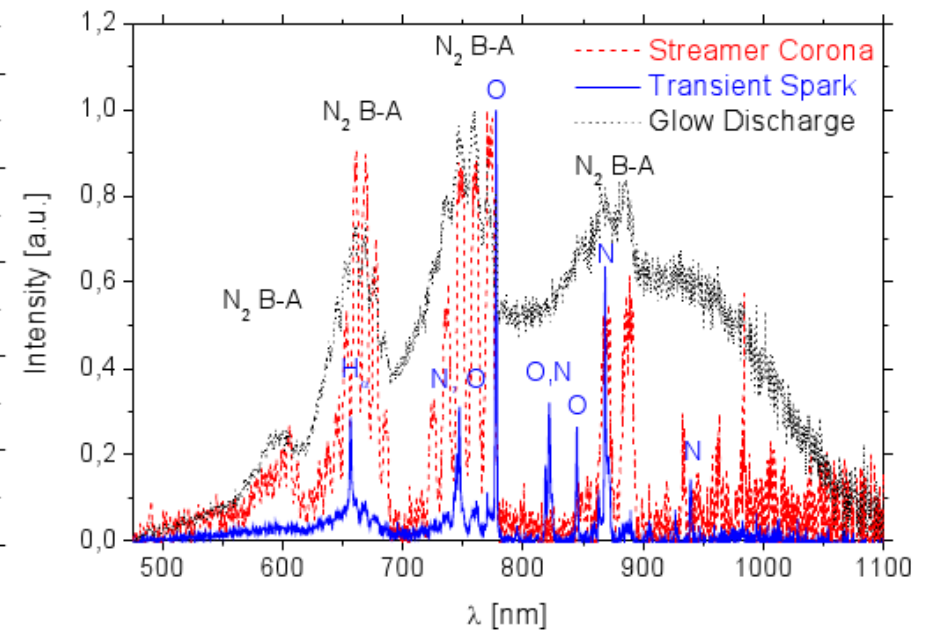
- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems

### System

Example: Typical emission spectra of DC discharges



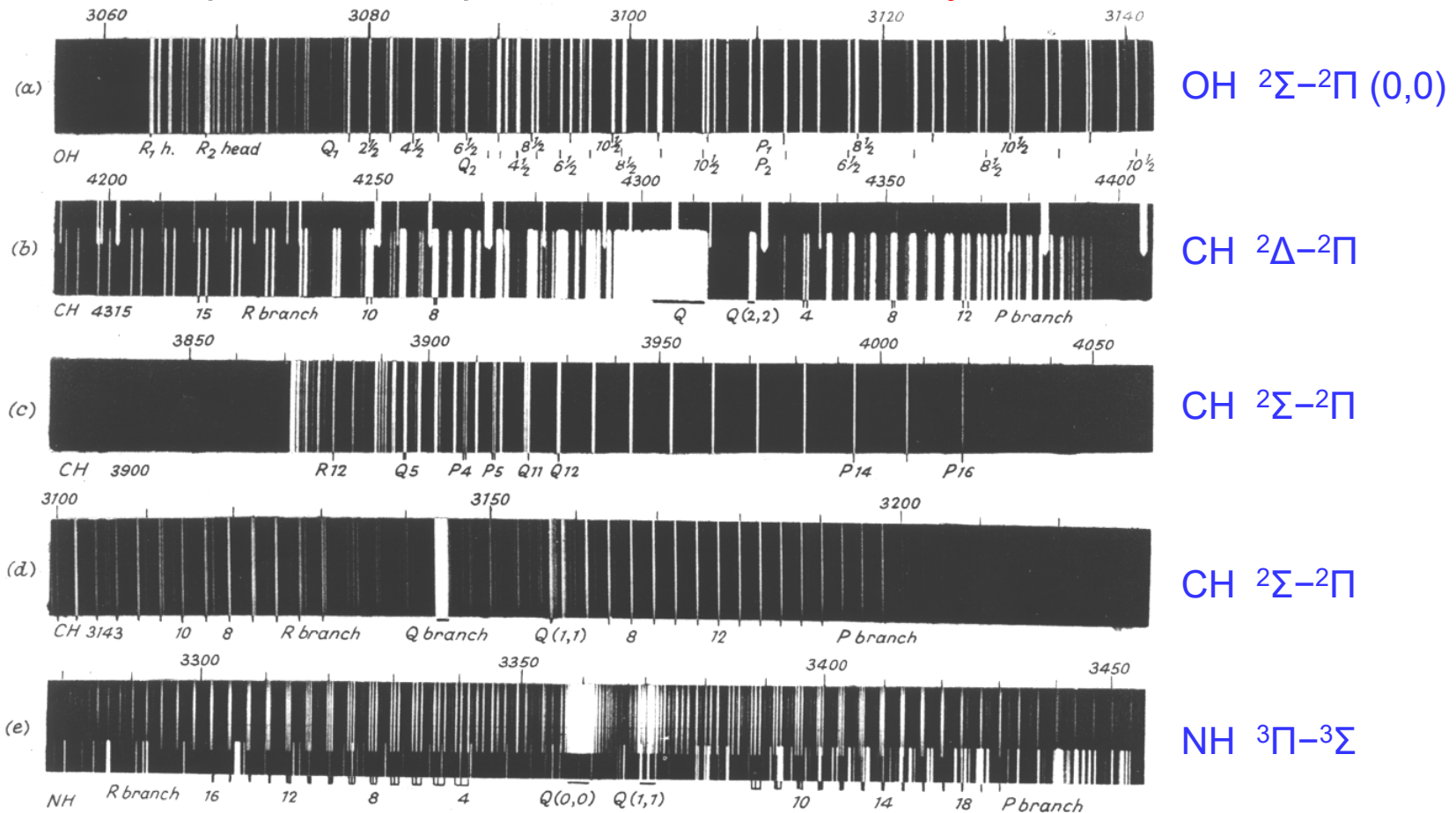
UV



Visible-NIR

## 2. Absorption and Emission

- Components of spectra: Lines, Bands, Systems

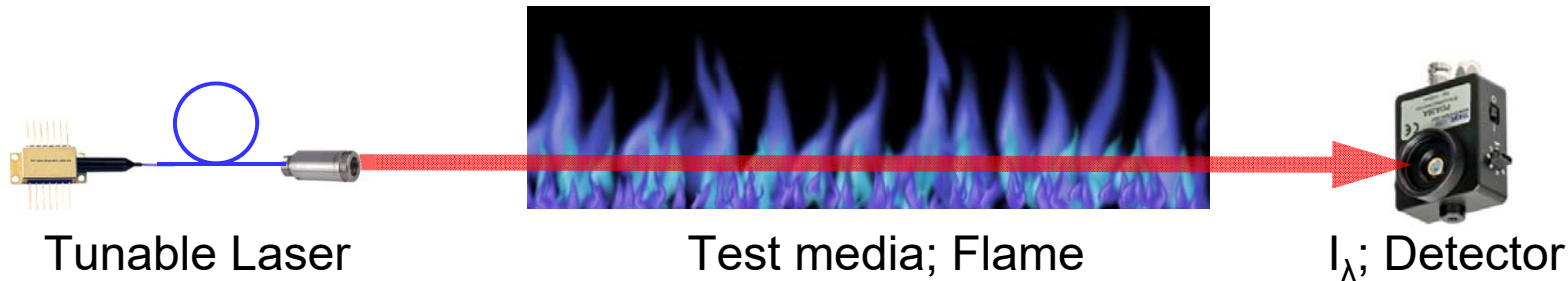


- In early days, spectra were recorded on film!  
But now we have lasers.

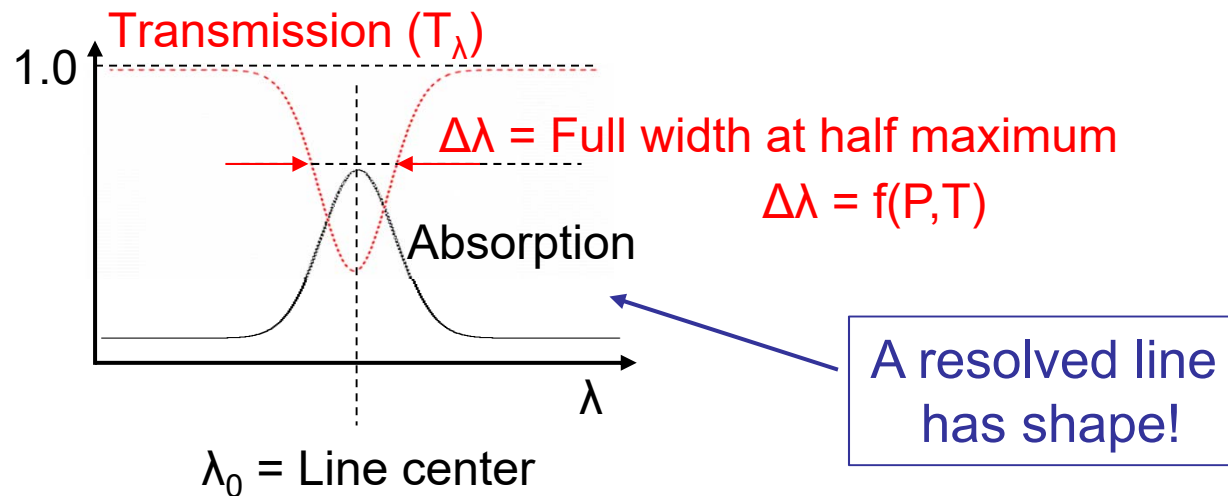


## 2. Absorption and Emission

- How is  $T_\lambda$  (fractional transmission) measured?



- Do lines have finite width/shape? Yes!



*And shape is a  $f(T, P) \rightarrow$  an opportunity for diagnostics!*



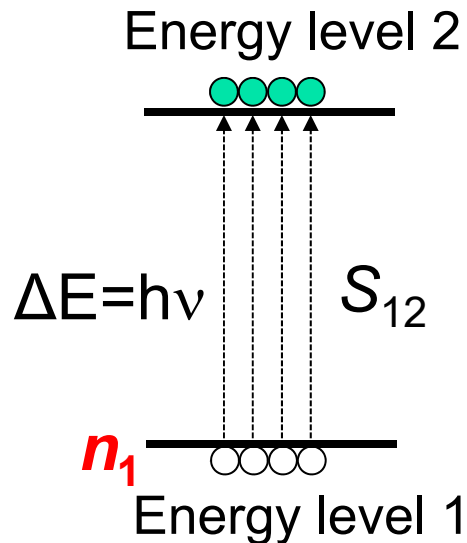
## 2. Absorption and Emission

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- 3 key elements of spectra
    - Line positions
    - Line strengths
    - Line shapes
- } Covered in course

### 3. Boltzmann Distribution

- **How strong is a transition?** ➡ Proportional to particle population in initial energy level  $n_1$



**Boltzmann fraction** of absorber species  $i$  in level 1

$$F_i = \frac{n_i}{n} = \frac{g_i \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon_i}{kT}\right)}{Q}$$

- Equilibrium distribution of molecules of a single species over its allowed quantum states.

Partition function  $Q = \sum_i g_i \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon_i}{kT}\right) = Q_{rot} Q_{vib} Q_{elec}$

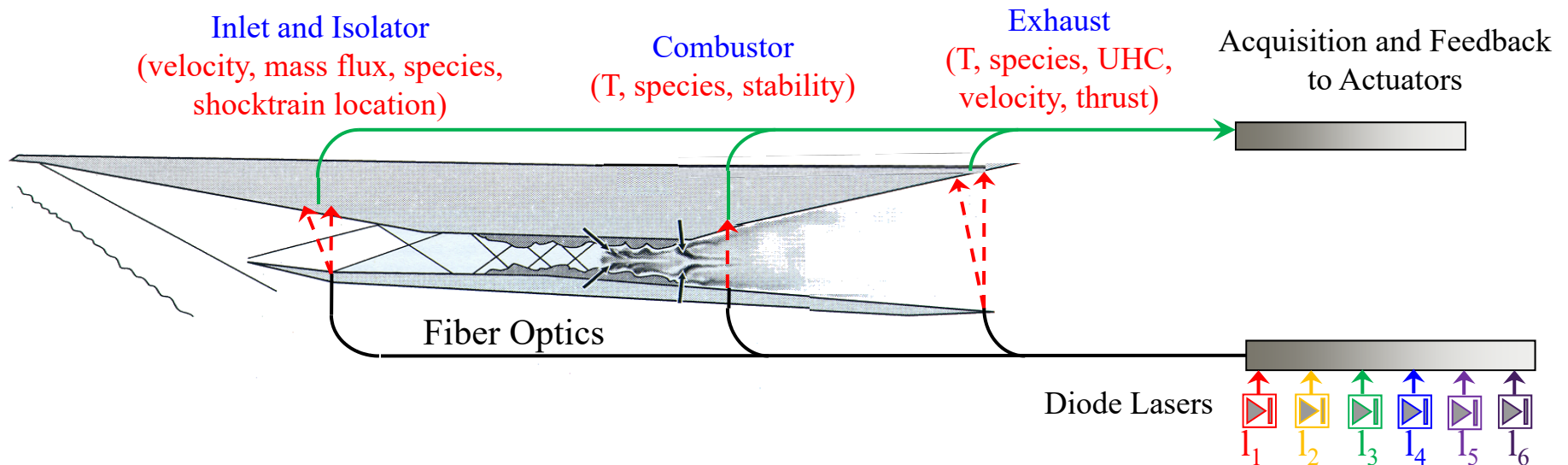
↑ Statistical Mechanics: **Defines T!**

*Hence measurements of two densities  $n_i$  and  $n_j \rightarrow T$*

$$\text{Since } n_i/n_j = g_i/g_j \exp(-(\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j)/kT)$$

## 4. Working Example – 1

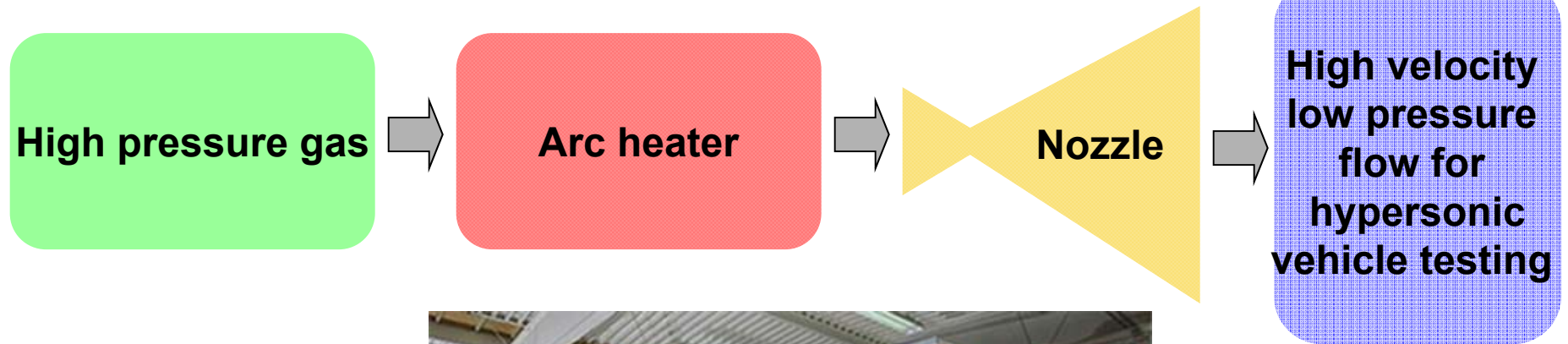
- TDL sensing for aero-propulsion
  - Diode laser absorption sensors offer prospects for time-resolved, multi-parameter, multi-location sensing for performance testing, model validation, feedback control



- Sensors developed for T, V, H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, & other species
- Prototypes tested and validated at Stanford
- Several applications successful in ground test facilities
- Now being utilized in flight

## 4. Working Example – 2

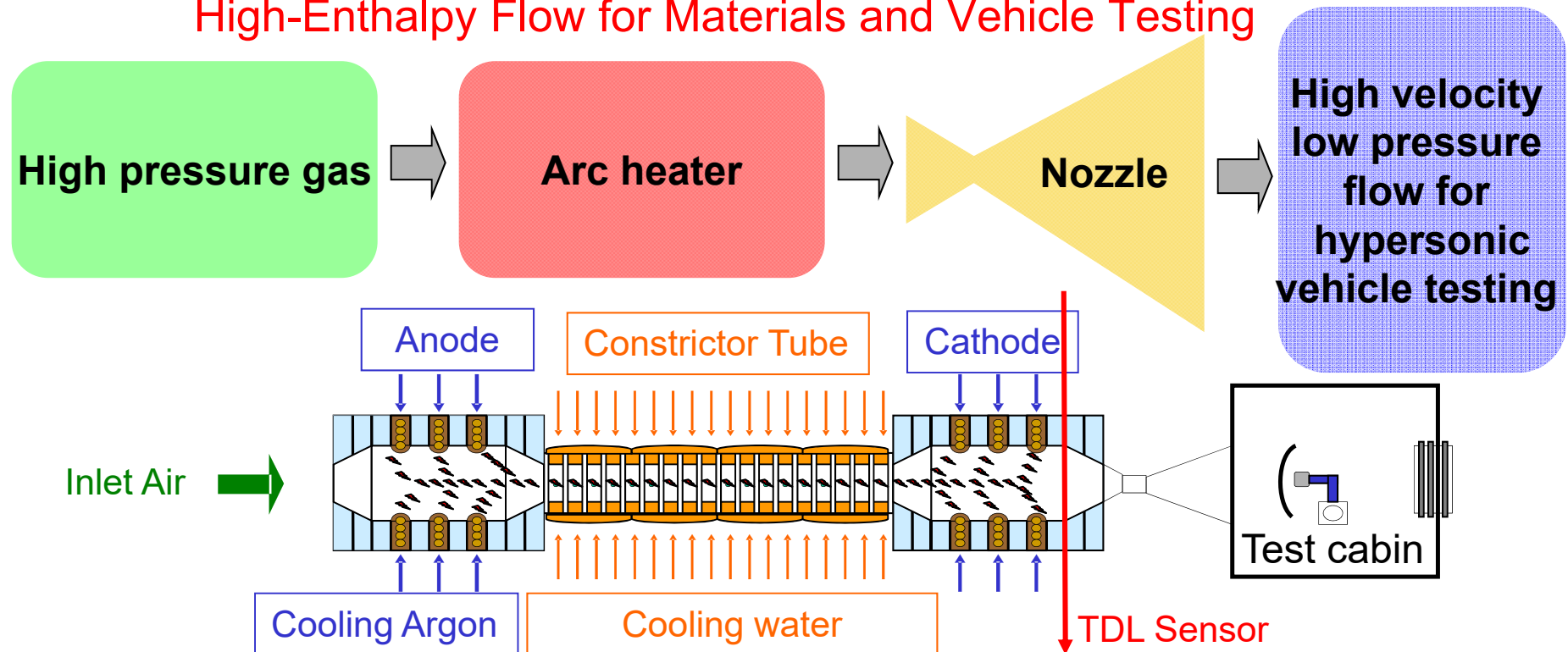
- TDL Sensing to Characterize NASA Ames ArcJet Facilities  
**High-Enthalpy Flow for Materials and Vehicle Testing**



## 4. Working Example – 2

TDL Sensing to Characterize NASA Ames ArcJet Facilities

High-Enthalpy Flow for Materials and Vehicle Testing



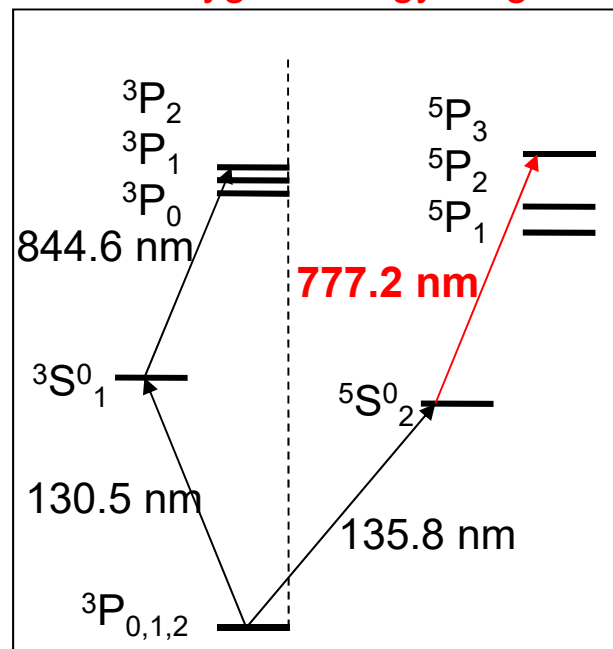
- **Goals:** (1) Time-resolved temperature sensing in the arc heater: 0 to infer T  
(2) Investigate spatial uniformity within heater (multi-path absorption)

**Challenges:** Extreme Conditions  $T=6000-8000K$ ,  $P=2-9$  bar,  $I\sim 2000A$ , 20 & 60 MW  
Difficult access (mechanical, optical, and electrical)

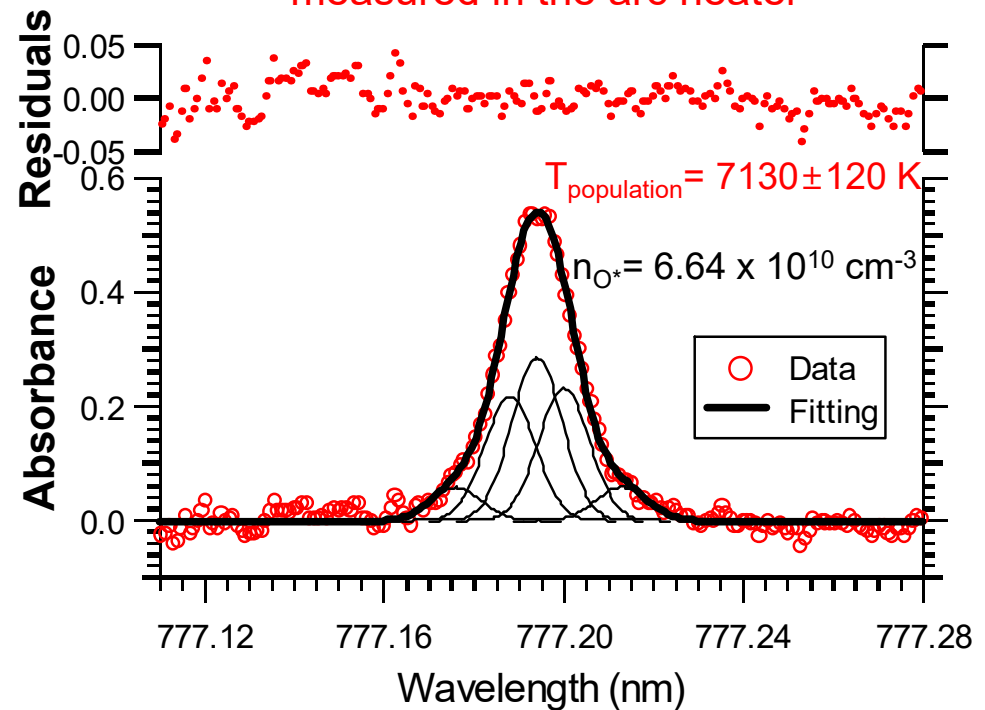
## 4. Working Example – 2

- Temperature from Atomic O Absorption Measurement

Atomic oxygen energy diagram



Atomic oxygen absorption measured in the arc heater

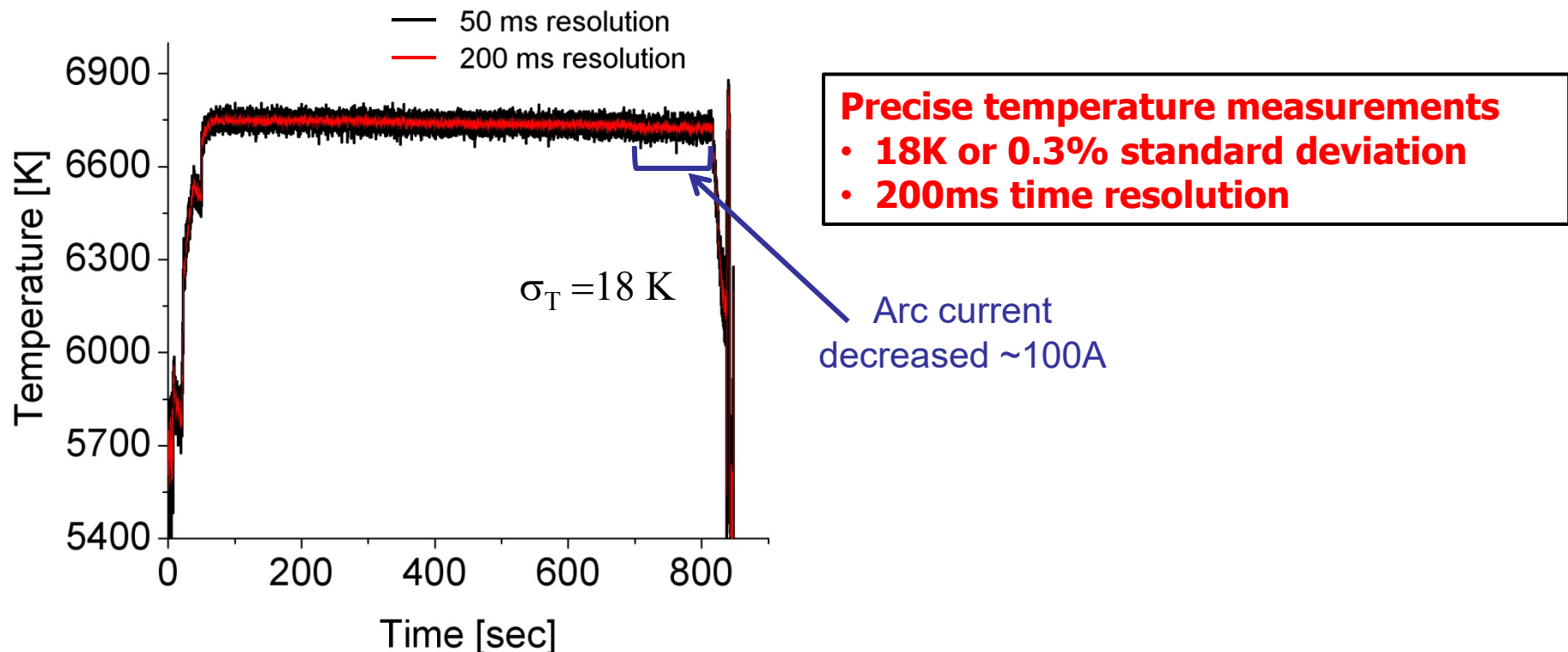


- Fundamental absorption transitions from O are VUV but excited O in NIR
- Equilibrium population of O-atom in  $5S^0_2$  extremely temperature sensitive



## 4. Working Example – 2

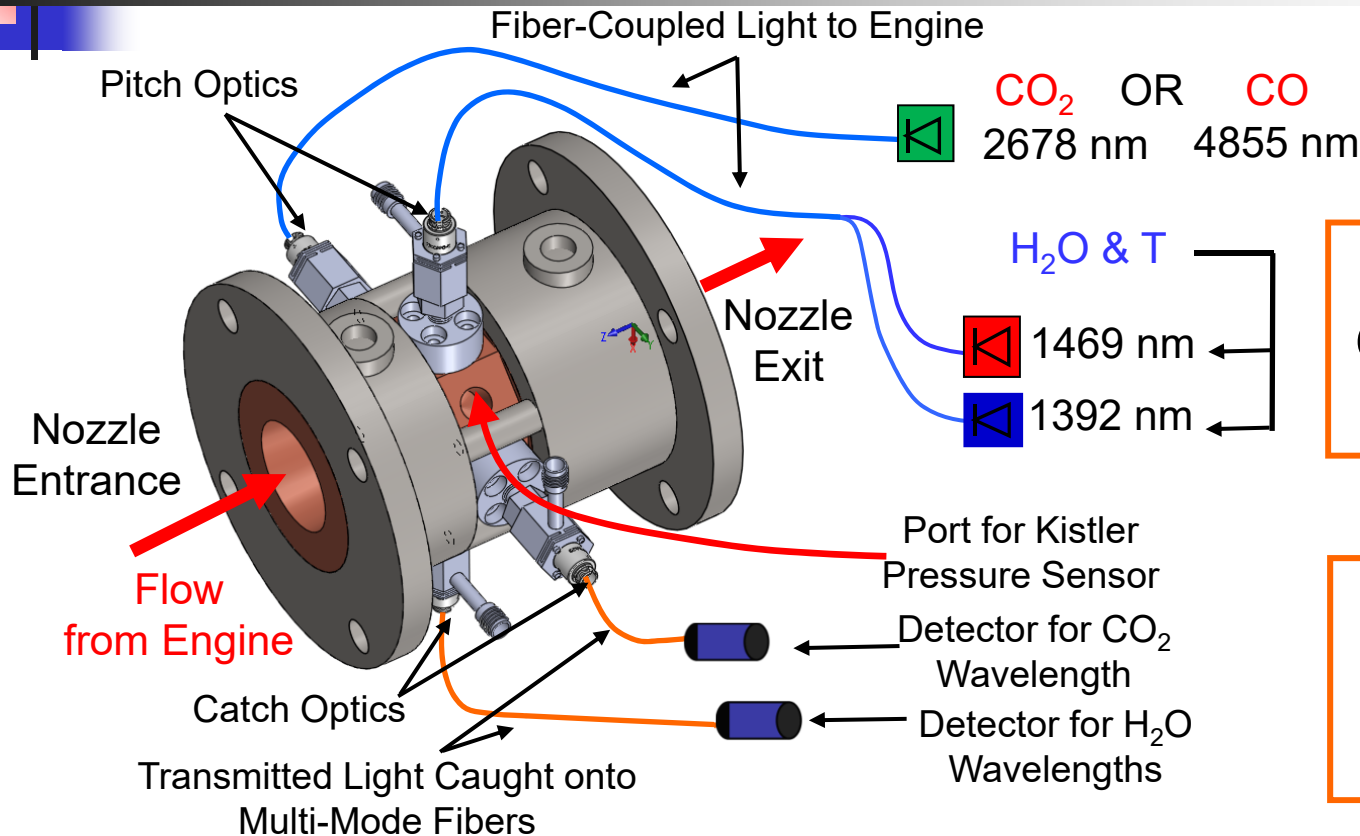
- Arc current at 2000A, power 20MW
- Last 200 seconds of run arc current decreased 100A
- Measured temperature captures change in arc conditions



TDL sensor provides new tool for routine monitoring of arcjet performance

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved High-P Sensing in PDC at NPS



**Assumption:  
Choked flow T  
gives velocity**

**T, P, V & X<sub>i</sub>  
yields  
Enthalpy Flux**

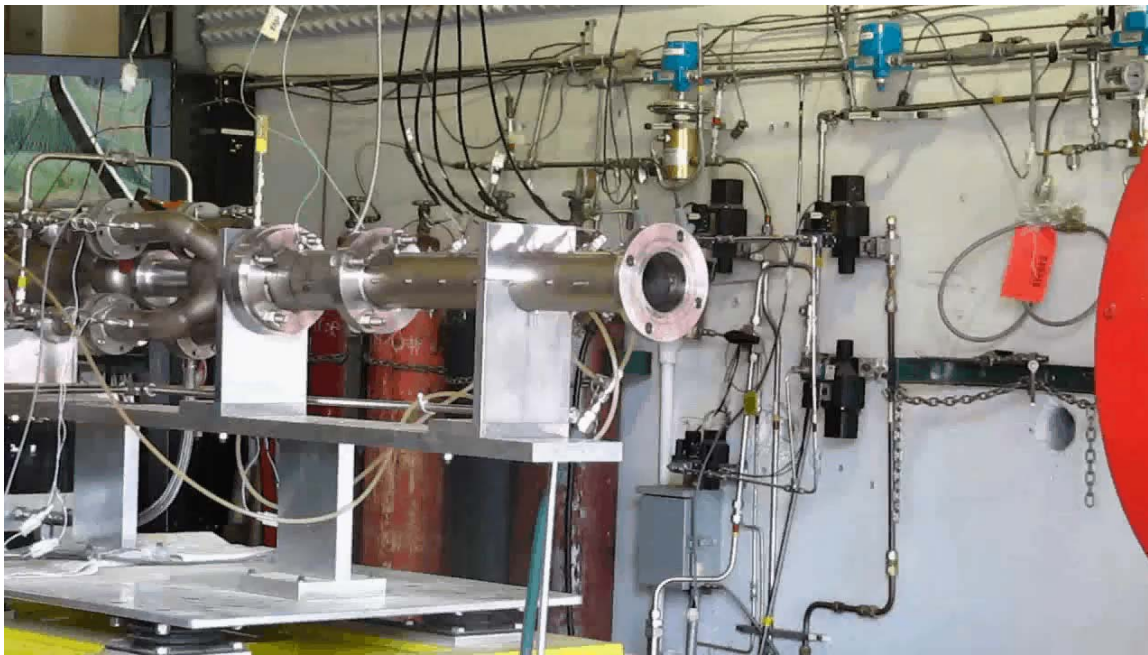
- Pulse-detonation combustor gives time-variable P/T
- Time-resolved measurements monitor performance & test CFD

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved High-P Sensing in PDC at NPS

#### Pulse Detonation Combustor

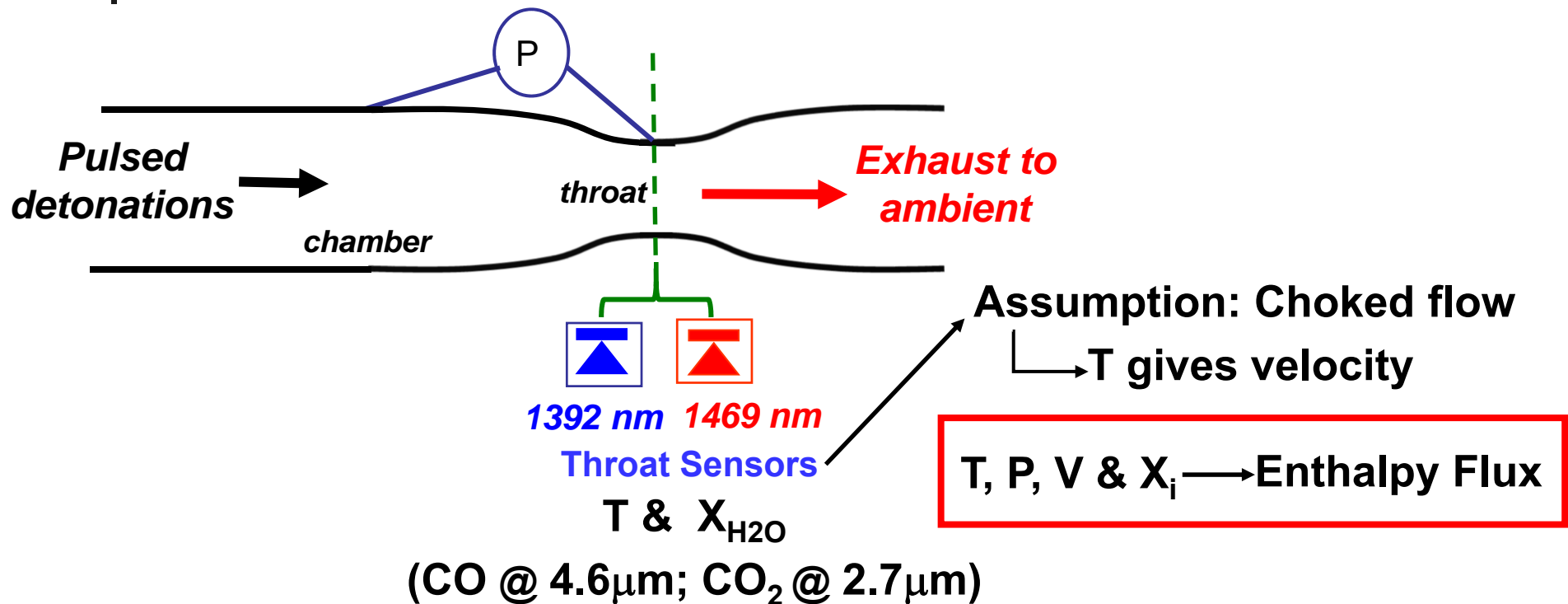
At Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, CA



**Optical sensors feasible in  
harsh, high pressure engine environment**

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved High-P Sensing in PDC at NPS

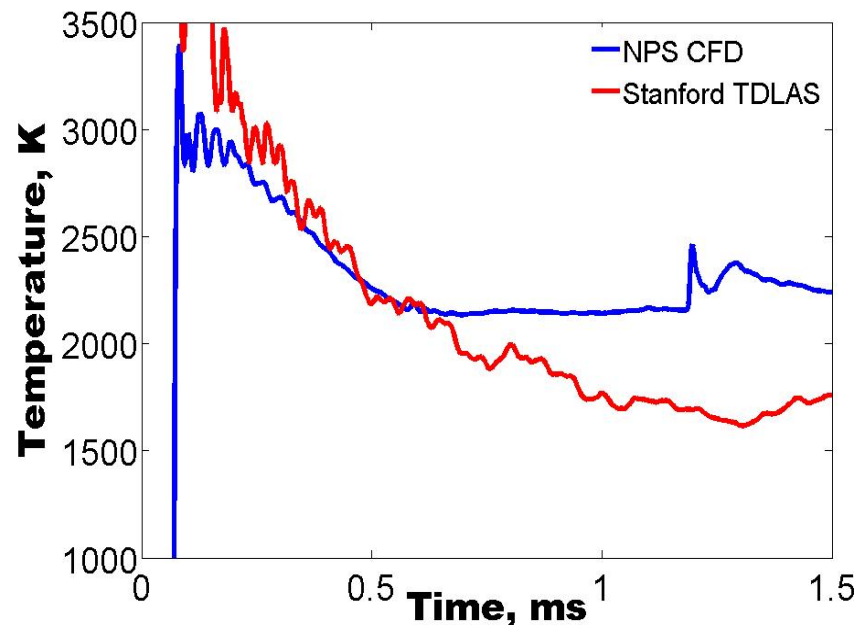


- Pulse-detonation combustor gives time-variable P/T
- Time-resolved TDLAS measurements monitor performance & test CFD

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved High-P Sensing in PDC at NPS

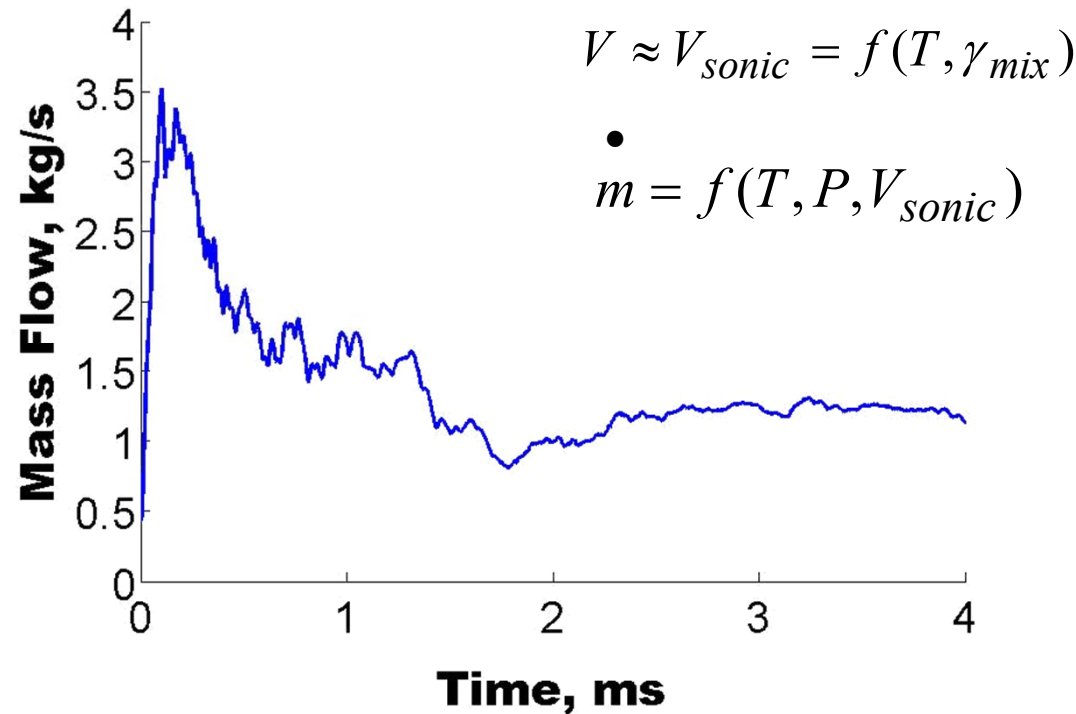
#### T- Data Collected in Nozzle Throat vs CFD



- T sensor performs well to  $>3500\text{K}$ , 30 atm!
- Data agrees well with CFD during primary blow down

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved TDLAS Yields Mass Flow

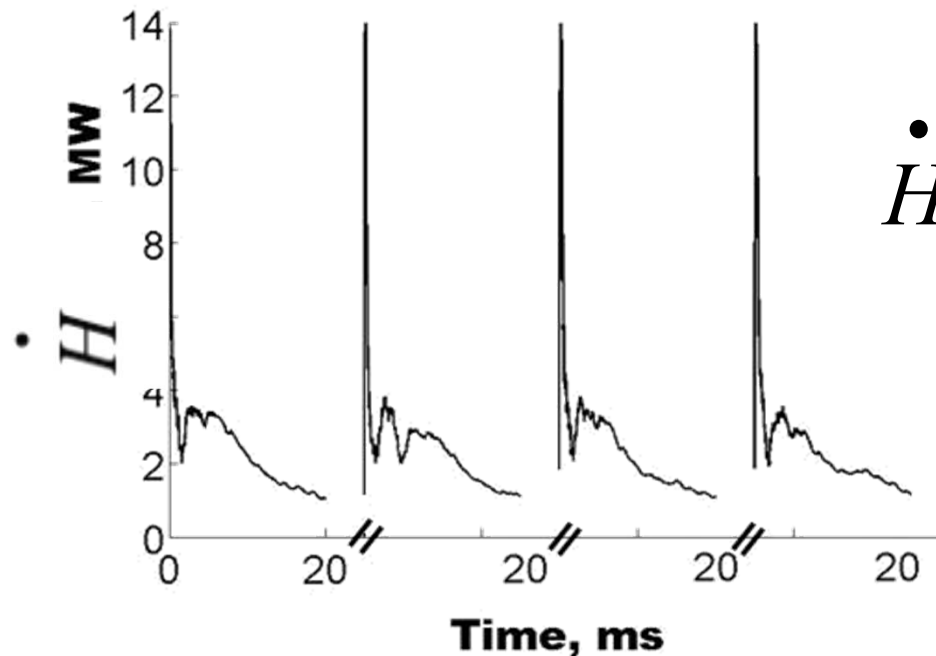


- T and P give V and mass flow in choked throat as  $f(t)$
- T,  $\dot{m}$ , species (CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O) and ideal gas law can give enthalpy flow rate

## 4. Working Example – 3

### Time-Resolved TDL Yields Enthalpy Flow Rate

#### 4 Consecutive Cycles



$$\dot{H} = \dot{m} \Delta h_{stag}(T)$$

$$T_{ref} = 298 \text{ K}$$

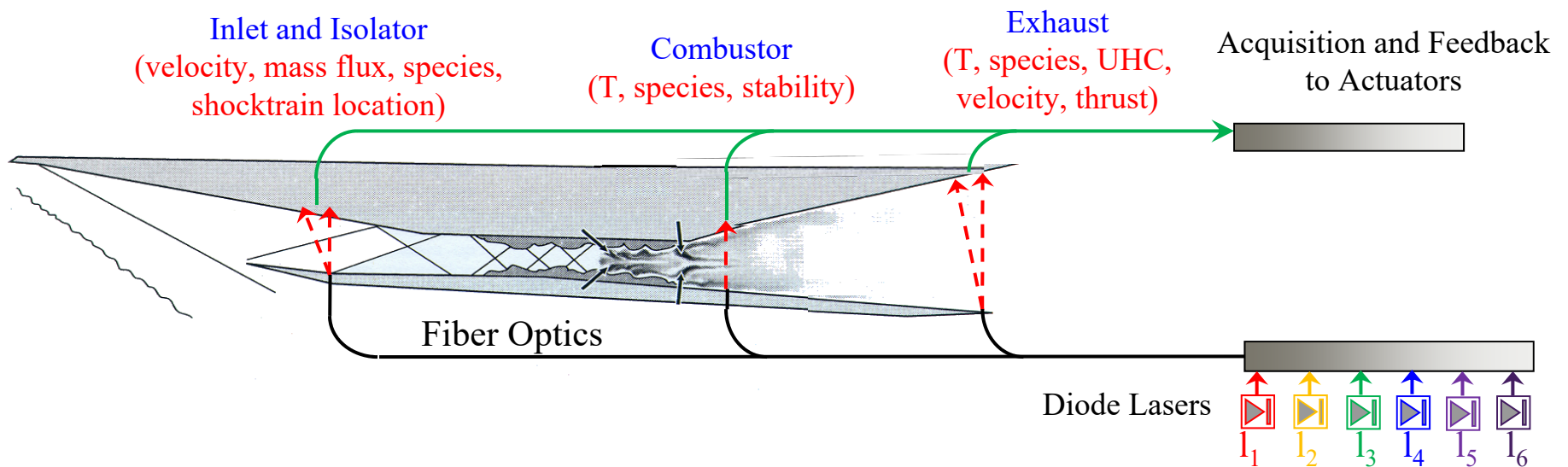
- Time-resolved data provide key measures of engine performance
  - Power (enthalpy flux)
  - Mass flow dynamics
  - $\dot{H}$  integrated over complete cycle for  $\eta_{th}$



## 4. Working Example – 4

# Time-Resolved Sensing in HEG Shock Tunnel

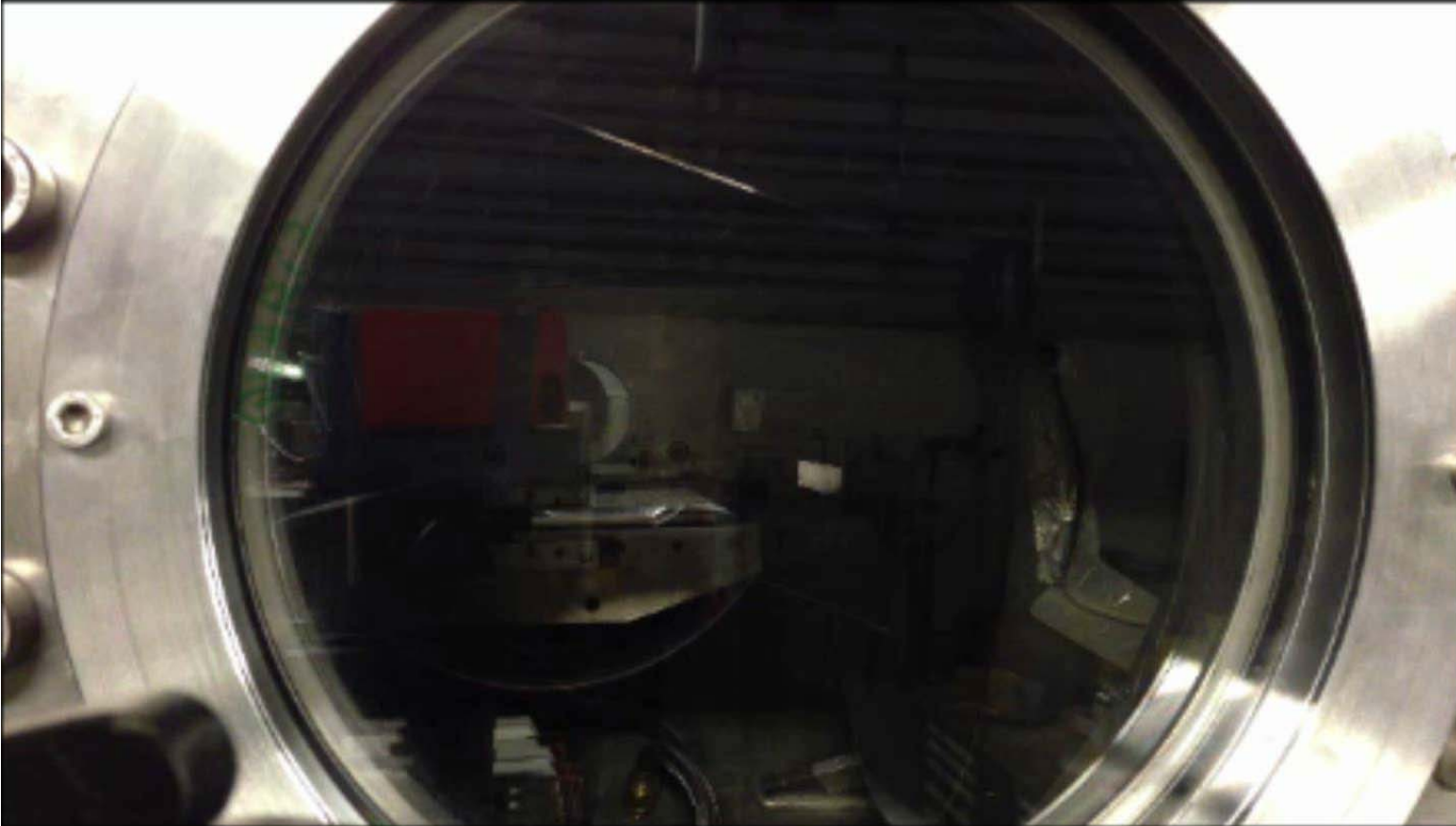
- Diode laser absorption sensors offer prospects for time-resolved, multi-parameter, multi-location sensing for performance testing, model validation, feedback control



- Sensors developed for T, V, H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, & other species
- Prototypes tested and validated at Stanford
- Several successful demonstrations in ground test facilities
- Opportunities emerging for use in flight: **sensing and control**
- Measurements made in Mach 7.4 shock tunnel in Germany

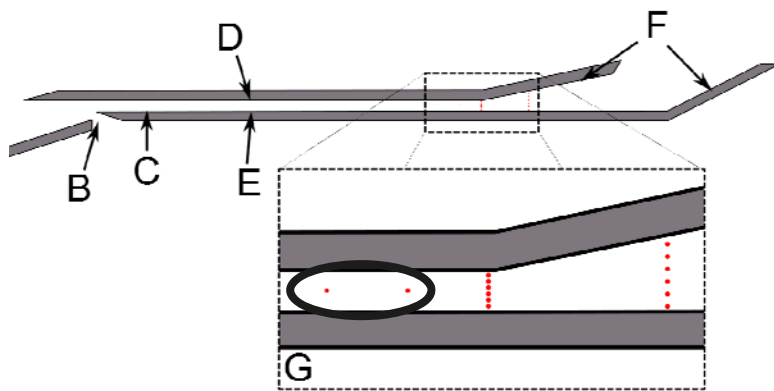
## 4. Working Example – 4

### Time-Resolved Sensing in HEG Shock Tunnel

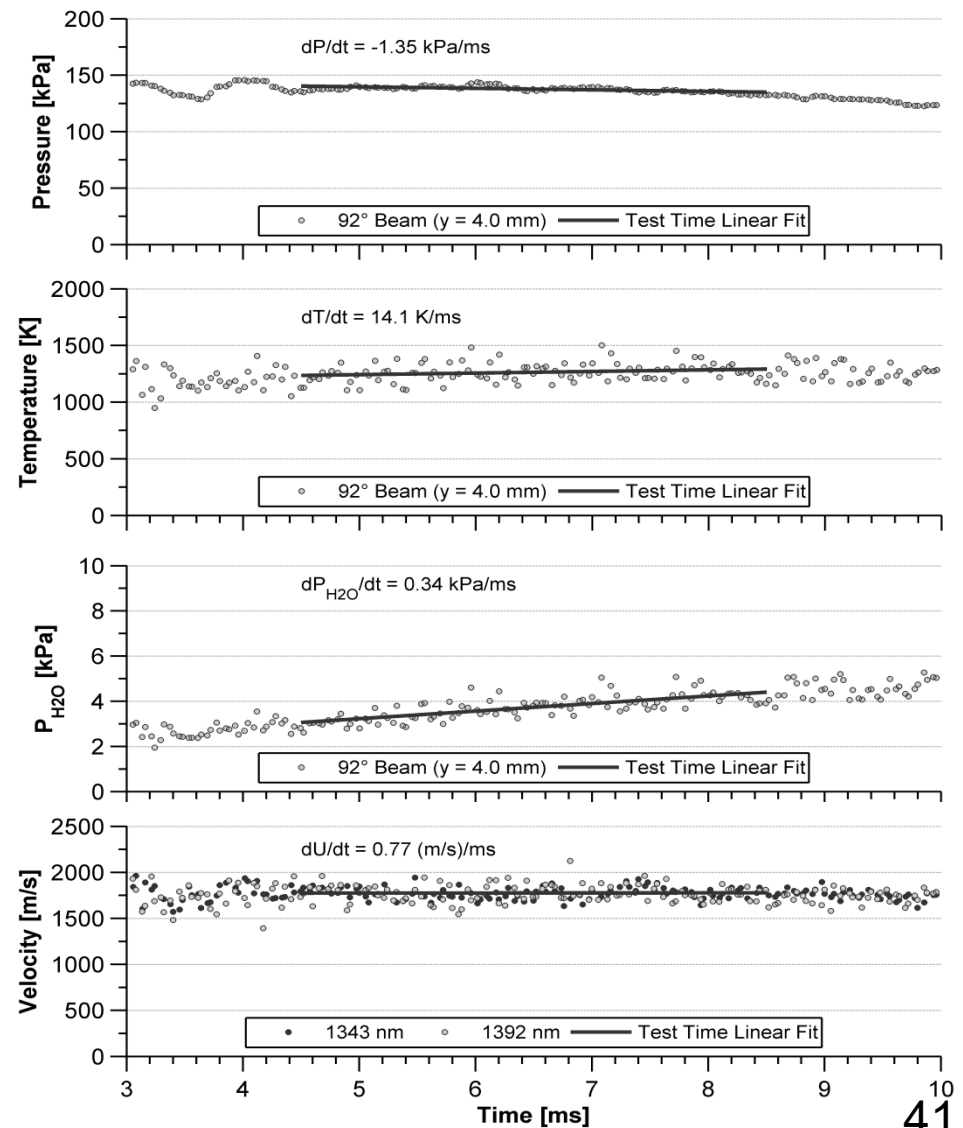


# 4. Working Example – 4

## Time-Resolved Sensing in HEG Shock Tunnel

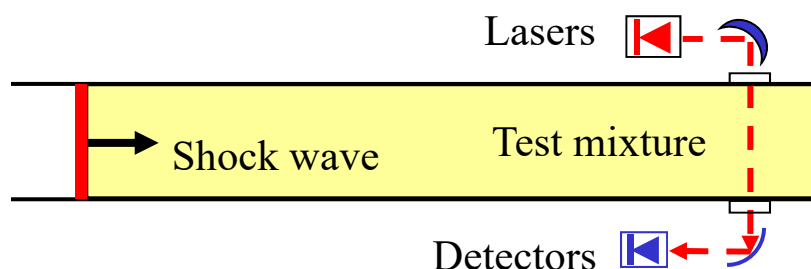


		$\bar{x} \pm \sigma$	$dx/dt$ [1/ms]
P	[kPa]	$137.7 \pm 2.5$	-1.35
$P_{H_2O}$	[kPa]	$3.7 \pm 0.5$	0.34
T	[K]	$1264 \pm 81$	14.1
U	[m/s]	$1776 \pm 82$	0.77



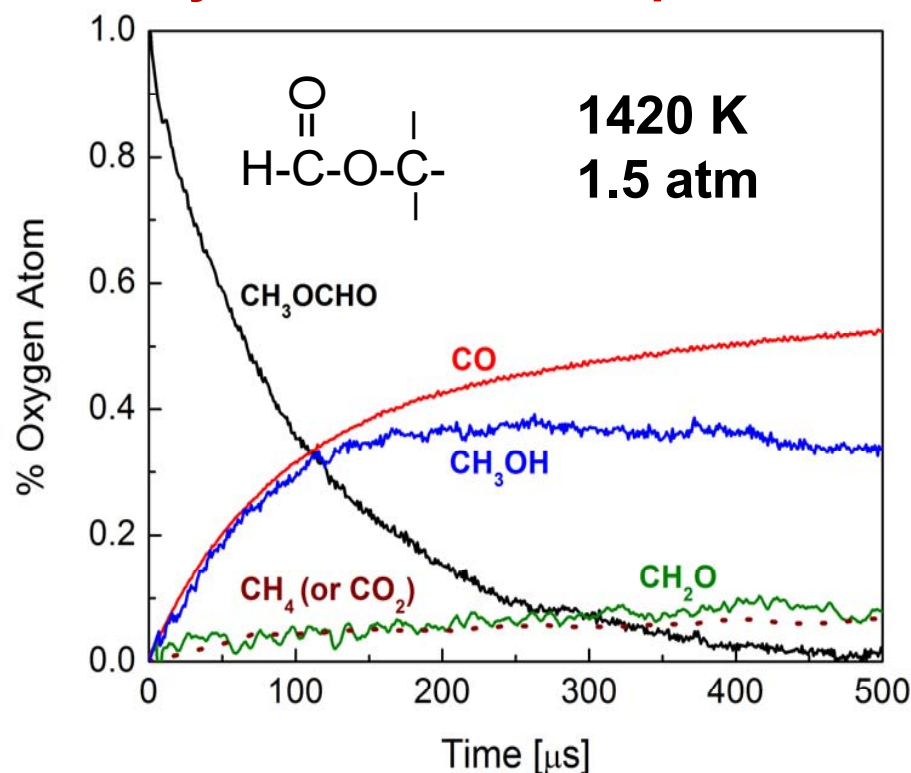
## 4. Working Example – 5

### First Multi-Species Sensing for Shock Tube Kinetics



- Chemistry progress monitored by quantitative IR laser absorption
- Multi-species time histories provide game-changing advantage for mechanism validation
- Method accounts for nearly 100% of O-atoms

### Oxygen Balance: Methyl Formate Decomposition





## Next: Diatomic Molecular Spectra

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- Rotational and Vibrational Spectra