



# The $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2/\text{O}_2$ system: Constraining key steps in ammonia ignition and $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ formation

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## ABSTRACT

Amine/ $\text{NO}_2$  interactions are important for ignition and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions in ammonia combustion. In the present work, reported results from batch reactors (580–690 K) and flow reactors (850–1350 K) for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  system were re-interpreted in terms of the present understanding of the amine chemistry. Furthermore, additional flow reactor results on the impact of  $\text{O}_2$  on the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  reaction were presented and analyzed. Based on the experimental results and the modeling analysis, it was possible to constrain the rate constants for reactions of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{NH}_2$  with  $\text{NO}_2$  and for subsequent steps involving  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  intermediates. The key reaction is  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$ , forming  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$  (R2) and  $\text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (R3). The results indicate that the yield of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction decreases with temperature in the 850–1350 K range, in agreement with the theoretical study by Klippenstein and coworkers. The fate of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  is important for the overall reactivity. In the absence of  $\text{O}_2$ , formation of chain carriers is controlled by the sequence  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HNO} + \text{HONO}$ ,  $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{HONO}$ ,  $\text{HONO} (+\text{M}) \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{OH} (+\text{M})$ . At higher temperatures, in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ , the sequence  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{HNO} + \text{HO}_2$ ,  $\text{HNO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{HO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{OH}$  enhances radical formation and recycles  $\text{NO}_2$ . The satisfactory agreement between experiments and modeling predictions, both without and with  $\text{O}_2$ , supports the present rate constants for the reactions of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  with  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , respectively.

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## 1. Introduction

Ammonia is of interest as a carbon-free fuel and challenges of using ammonia in engines and gas turbines are investigated extensively [1–3]. These include poor ignition and combustion properties, as well as the formation of the strong greenhouse gas  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . To address these issues, it is important to develop reliable kinetic models for ignition and oxidation of ammonia. Several kinetic models for ammonia oxidation have been published in recent years, including those of Mathieu and Petersen [4], Li et al. [5], Otomo et al. [6], Glarborg et al. [7], Mei et al. [8,9], Stagni et al. [10], and Jiang et al. [11]. A number of these models were tested by Valera-Medina et al. [3] who showed that none of the mechanisms provided accurate predictions over a wide range of conditions.

In diesel engines, the ignition of ammonia takes place at intermediate temperatures and high pressure. These conditions have been approximated in a number of rapid compression machine (RCM) experiments [12–14]. The results confirm the poor ignition properties of ammonia, but also point to deficiencies of kinetic models in predicting the observed behavior. The conditions prior

to ignition in engines involve aspects of the amine chemistry that are not well established at present. Formation of  $\text{HO}_2$  through  $\text{H} + \text{O}_2 (+\text{M})$  recombination is enhanced by the high pressure and  $\text{HO}_2$  becomes the dominating radical. The peroxide may also be formed by H-abstraction reactions involving  $\text{O}_2$ , primarily with  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  [15]. The reaction of  $\text{HO}_2$  with  $\text{NH}_2$  is now known to form predominantly  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{O}_2$  [10,16–18]. This step is chain-terminating and in current models, it leads to overprediction of ignition delays at elevated pressure [18]. However, in the presence of  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$  promotes formation of  $\text{NO}_2$  in the fast reaction [7],



The reaction numbers correspond to Table 1 below. Miller and coworkers were among the first to recognize the importance of  $\text{NO}_2$  in  $\text{NH}_3$  oxidation, selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) of  $\text{NO}$  by  $\text{NH}_3$ , and formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , and they studied this chemistry in a sequence of publications [7,19–22].

Two aspects of the chemistry involving  $\text{NO}_2$  are of particular interest. The first is the role of  $\text{NO}_2$  in ignition. Nitric oxide, formed as part of the pre-ignition chemistry, will be partly converted to  $\text{NO}_2$  by the fast reaction with  $\text{HO}_2$  (R17). The  $\text{OH}$  radical

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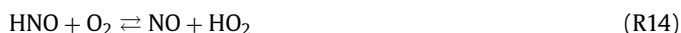
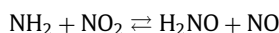
**Table 1**

Selected reactions in the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2/\text{O}_2$  reaction subset. Parameters for use in the modified Arrhenius expression  $k = AT^\beta \exp(-E/RT)$ . Units are mol, cm, s, cal.

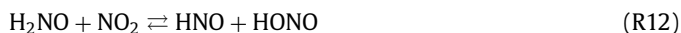
	A	$\beta$	E	Source
1. $\text{NH}_2 + \text{HONO} \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$	6.4E03	2.340	-3200	See text
2. $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$	1.1E12	0.110	-1186	See text
	-4.3E17	-1.874	588	a
3. $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	4.3E17	-1.874	588	See text
4. $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO} \rightleftharpoons \text{N}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.6E19	-2.369	870	[33]
5. $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO} \rightleftharpoons \text{NNH} + \text{OH}$	4.3E10	0.294	-866	[33]
6. $\text{NO} + \text{OH}(+\text{M}) \rightleftharpoons \text{HONO}(+\text{M})$	1.1E14	-0.300	0	[34]
Low pressure limit (He)	3.4E23	-2.500	0	
Troe parameters: 0.75 1E-30 1E30 1E30				
Collision efficiencies $\text{Ar}=1.1$ , $\text{N}_2=2$ , $\text{NH}_3=4$				
7. $\text{HONO} + \text{OH} \rightleftharpoons \text{NO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.7E12	0.000	-520	[35]
8. $\text{HNO} + \text{H}(+\text{M}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{NO}(+\text{M})$	5.5E13	0.000	3250	[36]
Low pressure limit	1.5E19	-1.632	0	[37] (rv)
9. $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{OH} \rightleftharpoons \text{HNO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.1E15	-0.751	-464	[17]
10. $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{O}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{HNO} + \text{HO}_2$	2.3E02	2.994	18,900	[15]
11. $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NH}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_3 + \text{HNO}$	1.8E06	1.940	-580	[37]
12. $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{HNO} + \text{HONO}$	8.0E11	0.000	6000	See text
13. $\text{NO} + \text{H}(+\text{M}) \rightleftharpoons \text{HNO}(+\text{M})$	1.5E15	-0.410	0	[38]
Low pressure limit	2.4E14	0.206	-1550	[39]
Troe parameters: 0.82 1E-30 1E30 1E30				
Collision efficiencies $\text{N}_2=1.6$ , $\text{NH}_3=4$				
14. $\text{HNO} + \text{O}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NO} + \text{HO}_2$	4.0E05	2.300	14,605	[40]
15. $\text{HNO} + \text{NH}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}$	5.9E02	2.950	-3469	[41]
16. $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NO} + \text{HONO}$	7.9E02	3.060	3882	[42]
17. $\text{NO} + \text{HO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NO}_2 + \text{OH}$	2.1E12	0.000	-497	[43]
18. $\text{NO}_2 + \text{H} \rightleftharpoons \text{NO} + \text{OH}$	1.3E14	0.000	362	[7]
19. $\text{NNH} \rightleftharpoons \text{N}_2 + \text{H}$	1.0E09	0.000	0	[7]

a: duplicate reaction - the resulting rate constant is calculated as the sum of the two expressions.

will mainly react with  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{OH} \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction can then initiate a sequence of reactions that promotes further  $\text{NO}_2$  formation,

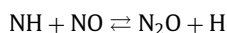


This sequence of reactions, including regeneration of  $\text{NO}_2$  in R17, corresponds to the overall, chain-branching reaction  $\text{NH}_3 + 2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{OH}$ , which promotes ignition. Reactions of  $\text{NO}_2$  are also part of another chain-branching sequence,



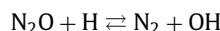
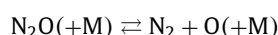
This sequence disrupts the  $\text{NO}_2$  recycling, but promotes formation of chain carriers since  $\text{HONO}$  dissociates easily. Predicted ignition delays under RCM conditions are sensitive to these reactions [14], which generally are not well characterized.

The second interesting aspect of  $\text{NO}_2$  is its role in the formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . Interaction of amine radicals with nitrogen oxides offers two routes to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ,



At higher temperatures,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is formed mainly by the  $\text{NH} + \text{NO}$  reaction, while at lower temperatures,  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  is the main source.

The high temperature formation is not a large concern, because under these conditions  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  has a short lifetime; it is rapidly consumed by thermal dissociation or reaction with atomic H,



In terms of emission from engines, the main issue is the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  formation at the lower temperatures at the end of a cycle. Here, unburned  $\text{NH}_3$ , possibly released from crevices, may react to form  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in reaction R3. Even though this product channel is secondary compared to R2, it may still constitute a significant source of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . With decreasing temperature, the probability of *in-situ* reduction of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  decreases significantly.

Despite the importance of amine/ $\text{NO}_2$  interactions for ignition and greenhouse gas emissions in ammonia combustion, this chemistry is not well established. Both reactions of amines with  $\text{NO}_2$  and subsequent steps involving  $\text{HONO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$ , and  $\text{HNO}$  intermediates are uncertain. The objective of the present work is analyze the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  reaction system to identify constraints on the kinetic model and thereby facilitate more accurate predictions of ignition delays for  $\text{NH}_3$  and formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . Glarborg et al. [19] investigated the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  system in a flow reactor with the aim to characterize the rate constant and product branching ratio for the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction. In addition, results for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  system have been reported from batch reactor experiments [23–25] in studies of the direct reaction of  $\text{NH}_3$  with  $\text{NO}_2$ ,



In the present work, the batch and flow reactor data are re-interpreted in terms of the present understanding of the amine chemistry. Furthermore, novel flow reactor results on the impact of  $\text{O}_2$  on the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  reaction are presented and analyzed.

## 2. Experimental

A detailed description of the flow reactor and the experimental procedures is available elsewhere [26], and only a brief description is given here. A quartz flow reactor designed for obtaining plug flow in the laminar flow regime was placed in a three-zone electrically heated oven, securing a uniform temperature profile within  $\pm 7$  K in the isothermal zone. The reactor temperature was measured by a thermocouple placed in a quartz tube with no access for the reactant gases. The gaseous components were led to the quartz reactor in as many as four separate streams. The main flow contained nitrogen while the reactants were supplied through separate injector tubes. In order to achieve a well defined reactor volume, the main flow and the injector flows were heated separately and mixed in cross flow at the reactor inlet. The reactor tube used in the present experiments had a diameter of 0.9 cm. The product gas was quenched at the outlet of the reactor tube, but kept heated at 453 K downstream to avoid adsorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  on the walls prior to the gas analyzers. Adsorption of ammonia in the inlet system and the reactor itself is not an issue because the experiments are conducted under stationary conditions allowing surfaces to be saturated.

Nitric oxide (NO) was measured by Hartman & Braun gas analyzer Radas 1G (UV resonance absorption). Nitrous oxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) was measured by Perkin Elmer analyzer Spectran 647 utilizing an NDIR-photometric technique. The analyzers were calibrated using standard gas mixtures before use; the measured values are valid within  $\pm 3\%$ , with an uncertainty of at least  $\pm 10$  ppmv. The  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  analyzer was cross-sensitive to  $\text{NH}_3$  and measurements were corrected to account for this cross-sensitivity. Concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  were measured with Opsis analyzer AR 600, utilizing the ultraviolet-visible wavelength range. For these species we estimate an uncertainty of  $\pm 20\%$ , but not less than  $\pm 20$  ppm. All experiments were conducted at very dilute conditions to avoid significant heat generation.

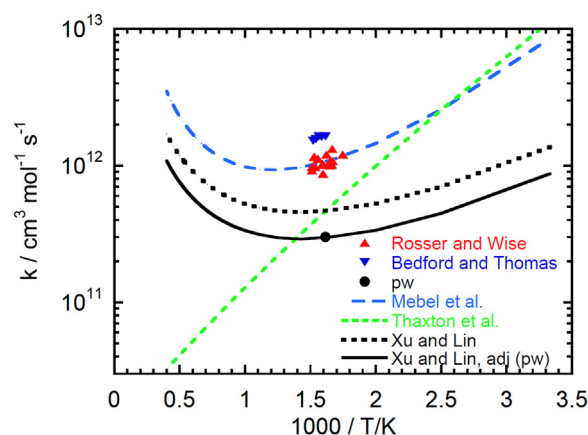
## 3. Detailed chemical kinetic model

The chemical kinetic model, including rate coefficients and thermodynamic data, was drawn mainly from the review of nitrogen chemistry by Glarborg et al. [7], but with modifications based on more recent work and the present analysis. The  $\text{H}_2$ - $\text{O}_2$  subset [27,28] was updated according to the work by Burke and Klippenstein on chemically termolecular reactions  $\text{H} + \text{O}_2 + \text{R}$  [29] and by Klippenstein et al. [30] on  $\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2$ . The amine subset was revised based on work on a number of reactions, including  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{H}$  (+M) [16,31],  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{HO}_2$  [10],  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{HO}_2$  [16,17], and steps in the diazene subset [32]. Table 1 lists selected reactions from the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2/\text{O}_2$  reaction subset.

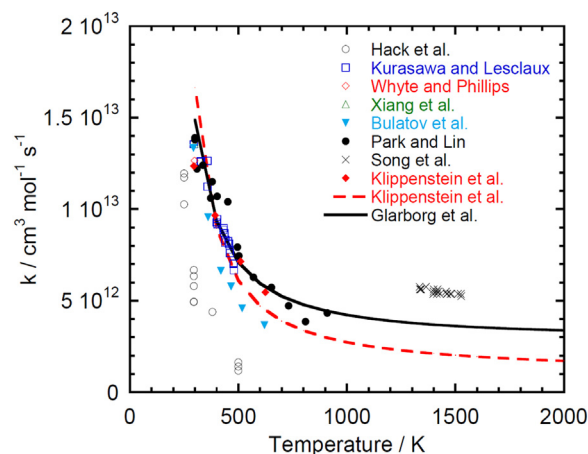
The key reactions include  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  (R1b) and  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  (R2,R3). Figure 1 shows an Arrhenius plot of the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{HONO}$  reaction,



The experimental data from Rosser and Wise [23] and Bedford and Thomas [24] are shown as the apparent rate constants, which are strongly affected by secondary reactions. In the present work, selected experimental results from Bedford and Thomas were reinterpreted to obtain a more accurate rate constant for R1. Based on the analysis, discussed in detail below, a value of  $k_1(619 \text{ K}) = 3.0 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  was obtained. This value agrees within 30% with the theoretical rate constant from Xu and Lin [44]. We have adjusted slightly the pre-exponential factor in their expression to match the data point at 619 K (see Table 1).



**Fig. 1.** Arrhenius plot for the reaction  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{HONO} \rightarrow \text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  (R1). The symbols denote the measured values, i.e., the apparent rate constants by Rosser and Wise [23] and Bedford and Thomas [24] (both reversed from  $k_{10}$  through the equilibrium constant), and the value derived in the present work from reinterpretation of the Bedford and Thomas data at 619 K. The lines denote the rate constants derived from kinetic modeling of earlier experiments [23,24] by Thaxton et al. [45], calculated from theory by Mebel et al. [46] and Xu and Lin [44], and the value preferred in the current work.



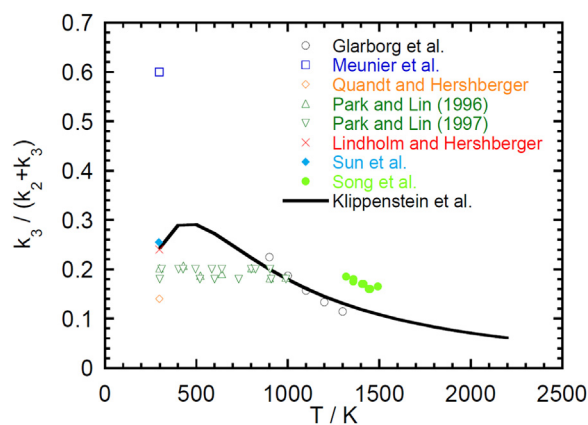
**Fig. 2.** Arrhenius plot for the reaction  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{products}$ . The symbols denote measurements of the rate constant, drawn from Hack et al. [47], Kurasawa and Lesclaux [48], Whyte and Phillips [49], Xiang et al. [50], Bulatov et al. [51], Park and Lin [54], Song et al. [55], and Klippenstein et al. [56]. The dashed line denotes the theoretical value by Klippenstein et al. [56], while the solid line denotes the recommendation by Glarborg et al. [7].

The  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction has been studied over a wide range of temperature. It has two major product channels,



Values for the overall rate constant [19,47–56] show significant scatter (Fig. 2), but most recent determinations below 1000 K are in reasonable agreement. The rate constant calculated by Klippenstein et al. [56] provides a good description these data, but it is a factor of three below the shock tube determination of Song et al. [55] at 1300–1600 K. In the present work, we have adopted the overall rate constant from Glarborg et al. [7], which is compatible with the values from both Song et al. and Klippenstein et al. within their uncertainties.

Also the branching fraction for the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction, defined as  $\beta = k_3/(k_2 + k_3)$ , has been in discussion. Figure 3 compares measured and theoretical values. A high value of 0.59 at



**Fig. 3.** Branching ratio, defined as  $\beta = k_3/(k_2 + k_3)$ , for the reaction  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{products}$ . The symbols denote measured values, drawn from Glarborg et al. [19], Meunier et al. [53], Quandt and Hershberger [57], Park and Lin [54,58], Lindholm and Hershberger [59], Sun et al. [60], and Song et al. [55]. The solid line denotes the value calculated by Klippenstein et al. [56].

room temperature was reported by Meunier et al. [53], but most experimental data at low temperature support a value of  $0.2 \pm 0.05$  [54,57–60]. At higher temperatures, the experimental work of Park and Lin [54,58] indicates a branching fraction of 0.2, independent of temperature; this is supported by a recent theoretical study of Cui et al. [61]. However, the flow reactor results analyzed in the present work and the shock tube study of Song et al. [55] indicate a value that decreases slightly with temperature. This behavior is captured in the theoretical study by Klippenstein et al. [56]. We have combined the calculated value of  $\beta = 3.9 \cdot 10^5 T^{-1.984} \exp(-893/T)$  from Klippenstein et al. with the overall rate constant from the review of Glarborg et al. [7] to obtain the values of  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  listed in Table 1.

The fate of the oxygenated intermediates formed in reactions R1 and R2, HONO and  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$ , has a significant impact on the reaction rate and final products. Nitrous acid, HONO, which can also be formed by H-abstraction reactions involving  $\text{NO}_2$ , is consumed by thermal dissociation (R6b) or by reaction with OH (R7) under the current conditions. There are no experimental data for the dissociation, but the reverse step,



has been studied at low temperature over a wide range of pressure. The rate constant derived by Fulle et al. [34] is in good agreement with the recent re-evaluation by Chen et al. [62]. The low-pressure limit reported by Fulle et al. was obtained for He as bath gas. Helium has a collision efficiency slightly lower than Ar [63]; the value for  $\text{N}_2$  compared to Ar has been reported to be in the range 1.7–2.1 [63–67]. Based on analogy with amine reactions [16], the  $\text{NH}_3$  collision efficiency can be expected to be significantly higher. For the reaction of HONO with OH, we adopt the rate constant measured at low temperature by Burkholder et al. [35]; the value extrapolates well to the high temperature results of Fifer [68].

The  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}/\text{HNO}$  subset of the mechanism involves significant uncertainties. For dissociation of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  (R8b), we rely on the estimate of Dean and Bozzelli [37] for the low-pressure limit. We have converted it to the reverse step (R8) through the equilibrium constant and combined it with the calculated high-pressure limit from Page and Soto [36]. The measurements by Sun et al. [60] indicate that the  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{OH}$  reaction (R9) is extremely fast at room temperature, but the recent theoretical study by Klippenstein and Glarborg [17] shows a significant negative temperature dependency.

Under the conditions of the present study,  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  reacts primarily with  $\text{NO}_2$  (R12) or, if present,  $\text{O}_2$  (R10). There are no measure-

ments of the  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$  reaction, but Sun et al. [60] were not able to detect reaction between the two species at room temperature. The present analysis allows us to put further constraints of the value of  $k_{12}$ . The batch reactor results of Park and Lin [25] can only be explained in terms of a value for  $k_{12}$  that is sufficiently high to make it the main consumption channel for  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  in the 580–690 K range (see discussion below). However, due the sensitivity to other steps, it is not possible to derive a lower limit for  $k_{12}$  from these data. The flow reactor results for  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  [19], with the constraints imposed on other reactions, allow us to estimate a value of  $k_{12} \approx 5 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 1000 K. Assuming an activation energy of 6 kcal  $\text{mol}^{-1}$  similar to the barrier calculated for the  $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2$  reaction (R16) [69], we arrive at the rate constant listed in Table 1. For  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ , we have adopted the rate constant calculated by Song et al. [15]; it is somewhat slower than the recent theoretical value from Chavarrio Canas et al. [70].

An alternative consumption channel for  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  is the isomerization to HNOH, followed by reaction of HNOH mainly with  $\text{NO}_2$  to form HNO and HONO. Even though HNOH is about 8 kcal  $\text{mol}^{-1}$  higher in energy than  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$ , we tentatively assume that its reactions with  $\text{NO}_2$  and other stable species have rate constants similar to those of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$ .

The most important reactions of HNO include thermal dissociation (R13b) and H-abstraction by  $\text{NH}_2$  (R15),  $\text{NO}_2$  (R16), and  $\text{O}_2$  (R14). Recombination of H with NO (R13) has been measured from room temperature up to 900 K by Riley et al. [39] and derived theoretically by Stagni et al. [10]. Both expressions agree well with flow reactor measurements at 1000–1200 K by Allen et al. [71] and Glarborg et al. [72], but exhibit different temperature dependencies. For now, we have adopted the recommendation of Riley et al., but more work is desirable on this step. The same is true for reactions R14–R16 for which no experimental data are available. The rate constant for  $\text{HNO} + \text{O}_2$  (R14) was estimated by Dean and Bozzelli [37] by QRRK methods and calculated more recently at a higher level of theory by Wang et al. [40]. For  $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2$  (R16), theoretical studies have been reported by Mebel et al. [69] and Shang et al. [42]. For both steps we adopt the more recent evaluation.

## 4. Results and discussion

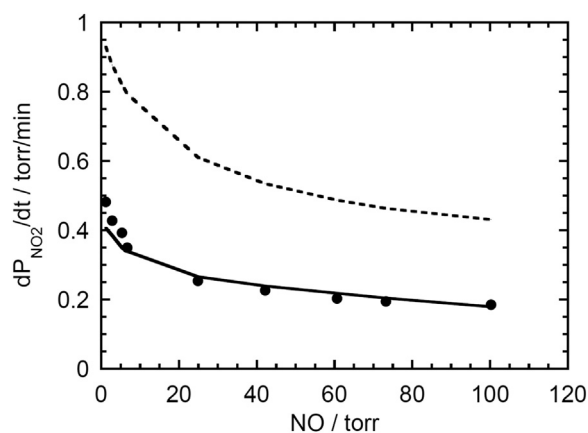
A major objective of the present work is to put constraints on the kinetic model to improve its accuracy in predicting ignition delays for  $\text{NH}_3$  and formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . Results for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  system have been reported in literature from batch reactor [23–25] and flow reactor [19] experiments. Below, these data are re-interpreted in terms of the present understanding of the amine chemistry. Furthermore, novel flow reactor results on the impact of  $\text{O}_2$  on the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  reaction are presented and analyzed.

### 4.1. Batch reactor results

The experiments of Rosser and Wise [23] and Bedford and Thomas [24] were conducted in batch reactors at temperatures between 580 and 800 K. The reactant mixtures were undiluted, with  $\text{NH}_3$  in large excess compared to  $\text{NO}_2$ . In both studies, the authors, monitoring the  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration, found that the reaction rate decreased over time. Bedford and Thomas correctly attributed this to the formation of NO, followed by the chain terminating step  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (R4), which at these temperatures dominates over the propagating channel to  $\text{NNH} + \text{OH}$  (R5).

Re-interpretation of the experiments of Bedford and Thomas [24] allows us to obtain a more reliable rate constant for the  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction (R1b). At a temperature of 619 K, Bedford and Thomas investigated the effect of adding various amounts of NO. Under conditions, where NO is in large





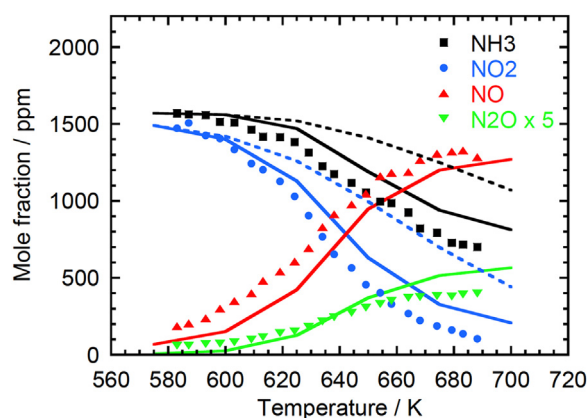
**Fig. 4.** Comparison of experimental data at 619 K from Bedford and Thomas [24] with modeling predictions for the initial  $\text{NO}_2$  consumption rate as a function of NO addition in the reaction of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures in a low pressure batch reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while the solid line denotes modeling predictions with the present mechanism, including a rate constant  $k_1(619 \text{ K}) = 3.0 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The dashed line denotes predictions with the rate constant derived by Bedford and Thomas. Starting conditions: 44 torr  $\text{NH}_3$  and 6.1 torr  $\text{NO}_2$ ; varying NO.

excess over  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$  formed in R1b reacts almost exclusively with NO. At 619 K, the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$  reaction leads predominantly (almost 85%) to  $\text{N}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (R4). A small fraction of the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$  reaction forms  $\text{NNH} + \text{OH}$  (R5), initiating the sequence  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO} \rightarrow \text{NNH} + \text{OH}$  (R5),  $\text{NNH} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{H}$  (R19),  $\text{NO}_2 + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{OH}$  (R18),  $\text{NO} + \text{OH} (+\text{M}) \rightarrow \text{HONO} (+\text{M})$  (R6). The OH formed in reactions R5 and R18 reacts almost exclusively with NO to form HONO, which is stable due to the large excess of NO. The secondary chemistry is thus very limited and can be taken accurately into account. This means that the value of  $k_1$  can be derived with an uncertainty largely limited to experimental error. From the data obtained at high NO levels, we derive a value of  $k_1(619 \text{ K}) = 3.0 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Figure 4 shows a comparison between the results of Bedford and Thomas for  $dP_{\text{NO}_2}/dt$  at 619 K and modeling predictions as a function of the NO partial pressure. At NO levels above 20 torr, the  $\text{NO}_2$  consumption rate is almost constant, in line with the discussion above. Below 20 torr,  $dP_{\text{NO}_2}/dt$  increases with decreasing NO addition. At low levels of NO, the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction dominates over  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$ , forming mostly  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$  (R2). Under these conditions, the consumption rate of  $\text{NO}_2$  depends strongly on the secondary reactions of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and HNO, which both may react with  $\text{NO}_2$  (R12, R16), promoting reaction. The model captures well the experimental results.

Park and Lin [25] reported mole fractions of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ , NO, and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in the reaction of a very dilute  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixture in a batch reactor. The experiments were conducted at 580–690 K and atmospheric pressure at long reaction times (2400 s). Figure 5 shows a comparison between their measurements and modeling predictions. Ammonia and nitrogen dioxide concentrations decrease monotonically with increasing temperature, with the  $\text{NO}_2$  consumption rate roughly two times faster than that of  $\text{NH}_3$ . The main product detected is NO, with lower levels of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ .

The present model provides a good description of the observed behavior. The reaction sequence responsible for enhancing the  $\text{NO}_2$  consumption rate is  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$  (R2),  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HNO} + \text{HONO}$  (R12),  $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{HONO}$  (R16), followed by partial thermal dissociation of HONO (R6b). The reaction  $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{NO} + \text{O}_2$  also consumes  $\text{NO}_2$ , in effect acting as a chain-terminating step. The predicted consumption rates of the reactants are sensitive to the fate of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$ . If its reaction with  $\text{NO}_2$  to form HONO and NO (R12) is too slow to be competitive, the



**Fig. 5.** Comparison of experimental data of Park and Lin [25] and modeling predictions for species mole fractions in the reaction of an  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixture in an atmospheric pressure batch reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while solid lines denote modeling predictions with the present model. The dashed lines show the effect of setting  $k_{12} = 0$ . Conditions:  $\text{NH}_3 = 1580 \text{ ppm}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2 = 1570 \text{ ppm}$  (balance Ar); residence time 2400 s.

overall reaction rate is strongly reduced. The dashed lines show predictions for  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  for  $k_{12} = 0$ . Due to the impact of side reactions, it is not possible to derive a lower limit for  $k_{12}$ . However, to show up as sensitive in the calculations,  $k_{12}$  would need to be around or lower than  $10^8 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 650 K; well below the current estimate.

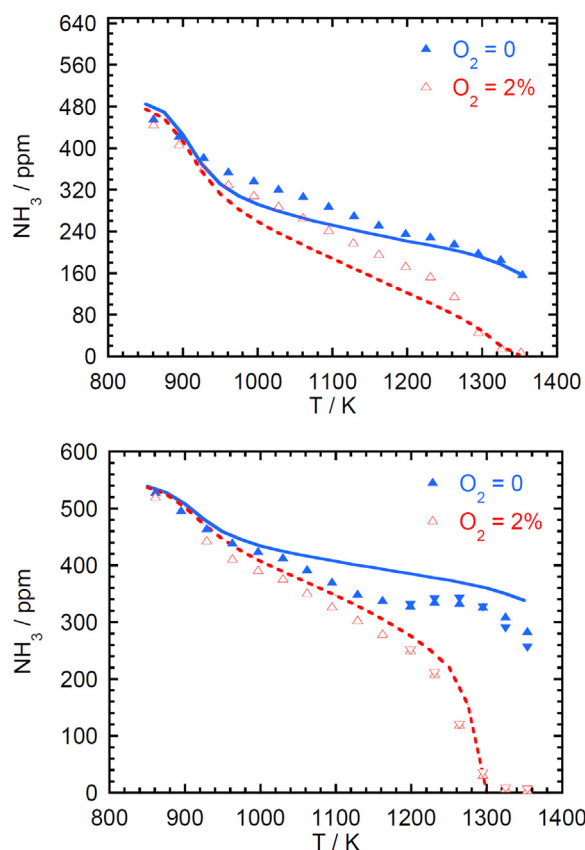
#### 4.2. Flow reactor results

As described above, flow reactor experiments of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures without [19] and with (present work)  $\text{O}_2$  addition were conducted in a laminar flow quartz reactor. The temperature range covered was 850–1350 K. The inlet composition was roughly 500 ppm  $\text{NH}_3$ , 285 or 500 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$ , and 0 or 2%  $\text{O}_2$ . Table 2 summarizes the experimental conditions.

Ammonia is sensitive to surfaces and it is known that heterogeneous reactions on the quartz reactor wall may serve to shorten the induction time in laminar flow reactors [7,73]. The  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}/\text{O}_2$  system (SNCR) is not sensitive to initiation, but calculations for mixtures of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2/\text{O}_2$  show significant induction times and the results may thus be affected by surface initiation. This phenomenon is not important for the batch reactor results discussed above. The data of Bedford and Thomas [24] (Fig. 4) were obtained as a gradient  $d\text{NO}_2/dt$  after onset of reaction and can be assumed to be independent of the initiation conditions [74]. For the experiments of Park and Lin [25] (Fig. 5), the initiation time was small compared to the long total residence time, and calculations were not sensitive to initiation.

The mechanism of surface initiation is not known, but conceivably it involves a partial oxidation of  $\text{NH}_3$  on an active site, followed by desorption of the product to the gas phase. To account for this phenomena in the modeling, we introduce 1 ppm of HONO in the inlet composition. This serves to shorten the predicted induction time below 1000 K, while the impact is small at higher temperatures.

Figures 6–9 show comparisons between the measured and predicted mole fractions of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ , NO, and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . The observed behavior for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures is similar to that observed for batch reactor experiments at lower temperatures and longer residence times by Park and Lin [25] (Fig. 5). The  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  concentrations decrease with increasing temperature, with  $\text{NO}_2$  consumed more rapidly than  $\text{NH}_3$ . Nitric oxide is the major detected product, with nitrous oxide also formed.



**Fig. 6.** Comparison of experimental data and modeling predictions for the  $\text{NH}_3$  mole fractions in reaction of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures without [19] and with (pw) addition of  $\text{O}_2$  in an atmospheric pressure flow reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while lines denote modeling predictions. Upper figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 492/483$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 515/505$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 55/55$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.0\%$ . Lower figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 547/535$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 285/273$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 32/32$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.1\%$ . Carrier gas  $\text{N}_2$ , residence time (s)  $\approx 107/T(\text{K})$ , pressure 1.09 atm. Conditions for repeated experiments are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2**

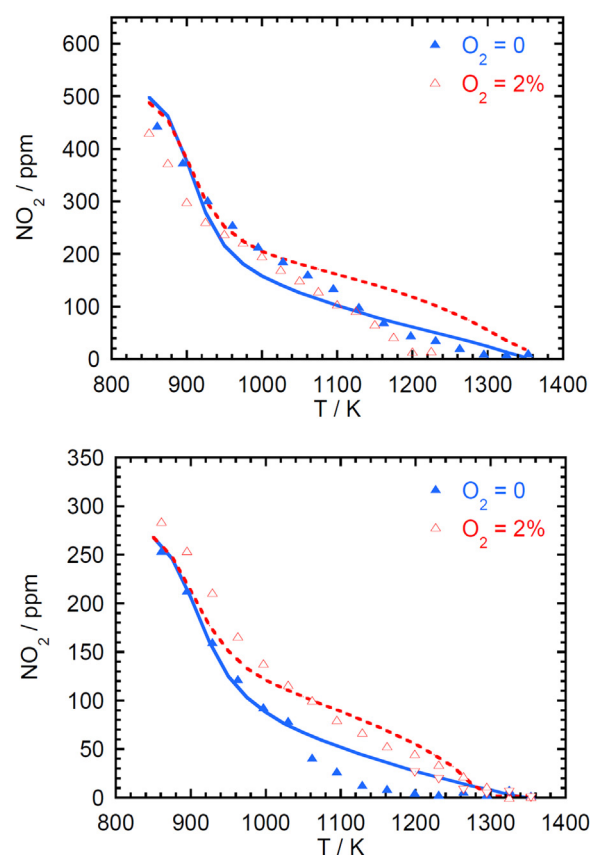
Experimental conditions.  $\tau$  is the residence time in the isothermal zone and  $P$  is the pressure.

	$\text{NH}_3$ (ppm)	$\text{NO}_2$ (ppm)	$\text{NO}$ (ppm)	$\text{O}_2$ (%)	$\tau$ (s)	$P$ (atm)	Source
1.	492	515	55	trace	107/T(K)	1.09	[19]
2.	483	505	55	2.0%	104/T(K)	1.09	pw
3.	547	285	32	trace	110/T(K)	1.09	[19]
	543	279	32	trace	106/T(K)	1.09	
4.	535	273	32	2.1%	108/T(K)	1.09	pw
	532	273	32	2.1%	103/T(K)	1.09	

The presence of  $\text{O}_2$  enhances the  $\text{NH}_3$  consumption, most pronounced at temperatures above 1250 K and at the higher  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  inlet ratio. Contrary to this, the  $\text{NO}_2$  consumption is either unaffected (at 500 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$ , Fig. 7a) or slightly inhibited (285 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$ , Fig. 7b). The  $\text{NO}$  formation is inhibited in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$  above 1000 K, whereas  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is promoted.

The modeling predictions are generally in satisfactory agreement with the experiments and may help to explain the observed trends. However, there are some noteworthy discrepancies, in particular the underprediction of  $\text{NO}$  above 1100 K in the absence of  $\text{O}_2$  and the overprediction of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  above 1150 K in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ .

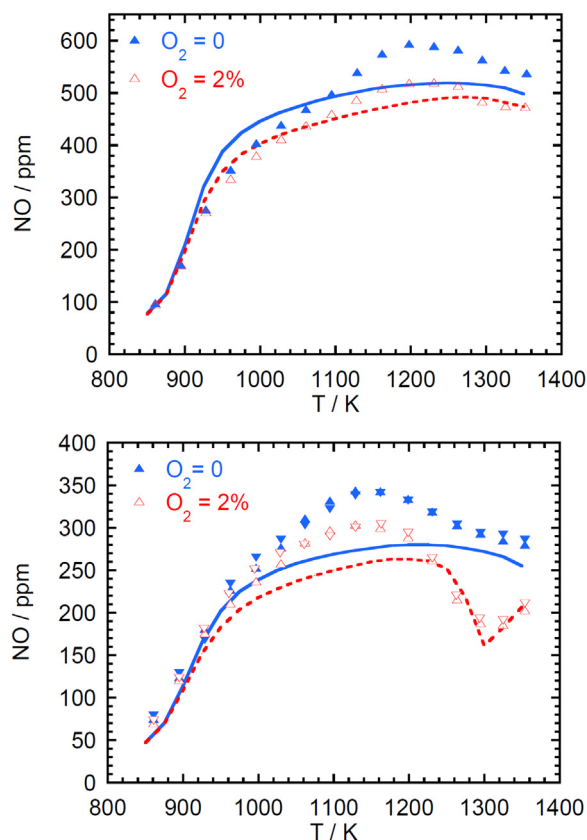
In the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ , the  $\text{NO}_2$  recycle loop, involving R2, R12, R16, R6b, and R17, leads to a higher  $\text{NO}_2$  availability. Under these conditions,  $\text{NO}_2$  is regenerated by the reaction  $\text{NO} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 +$



**Fig. 7.** Comparison of experimental data and modeling predictions for the  $\text{NO}_2$  mole fractions in reaction of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures without [19] and with (pw) addition of  $\text{O}_2$  in an atmospheric pressure flow reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while lines denote modeling predictions. Upper figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 492/483$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 515/505$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 55/55$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.0\%$ . Lower figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 547/535$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 285/273$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 32/32$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.1\%$ . Carrier gas  $\text{N}_2$ , residence time (s)  $\approx 107/T(\text{K})$ , pressure 1.09 atm. Conditions for repeated experiments are listed in Table 2.

$\text{OH}$ . The higher  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration in turn leads to an increased formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , compared to experiments conducted without addition of  $\text{O}_2$ . This phenomena is observed both experimentally and in modeling. However, under oxidizing conditions the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  yield is overpredicted at temperatures above 1100 K, indicating that the balance in the model for  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  reacting with  $\text{NO}_2$  or  $\text{O}_2$ , respectively, is not captured accurately.

Figure 10 shows a reaction path diagram for conversion of  $\text{NH}_3$  in the presence of  $\text{NO}_2$ , without and with  $\text{O}_2$  present. The reaction  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  (R1b) is an important initiation step and at lower temperatures (around 650 K), where the  $\text{O}/\text{H}$  radical pool develops slowly, it remains significant for consumption of  $\text{NH}_3$ . At elevated temperature, where  $\text{OH}$  is formed in significant amounts from dissociation of  $\text{HONO}$  (R6b),  $\text{NH}_3$  is consumed almost solely by reaction with  $\text{OH}$ . The  $\text{NH}_2$  radical reacts mostly with  $\text{NO}_2$  (R2, R3), even though  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$  (R4, R5) becomes more competitive as the nitric oxide concentration increases. The  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction yields mostly  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$  (R2). In the absence of  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_x\text{NO}$  ( $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$ ) reacts mainly with  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_x\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_{x-1}\text{NO} + \text{HONO}$  (R12, R16), followed by dissociation of  $\text{HONO}$  (R6b) to sustain the radical pool. In addition to these major pathways,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is formed in low amounts by  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  (R3). Molecular nitrogen is formed from the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$  reaction (R4, R5), with its yield controlled to a large extent by the competition between  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}$  (R4, R5) and  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  (R2, R3).

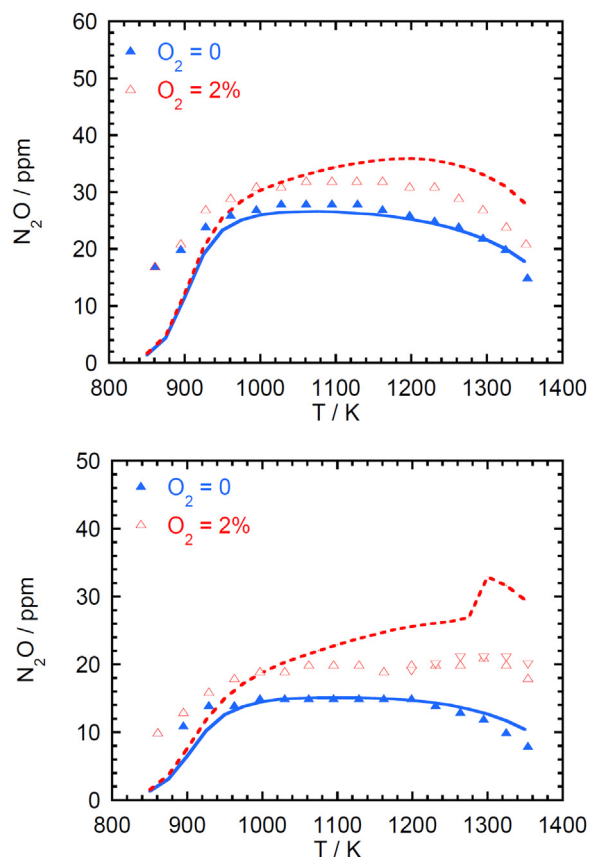


**Fig. 8.** Comparison of experimental data and modeling predictions for the NO mole fractions in reaction of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures without [19] and with (pw) addition of  $\text{O}_2$  in an atmospheric pressure flow reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while lines denote modeling predictions. Upper figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 492/483$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 515/505$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 55/55$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.0\%$ . Lower figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 547/535$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 285/273$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 32/32$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.1\%$ . Carrier gas  $\text{N}_2$ , residence time (s)  $\approx 107/\text{T(K)}$ , pressure 1.09 atm. Conditions for repeated experiments are listed in Table 2.

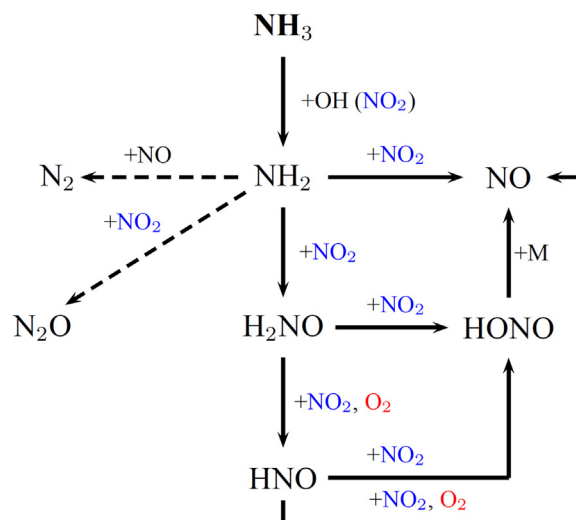
Figures 11 and 12 show results for a sensitivity analysis with respect to  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , respectively, for the conditions of Figs. 5, 7, and 9. The experimental results and the modeling analysis allow us to constrain the rate parameters for several key reactions in the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2/\text{O}_2$  reaction system.

The reaction with the largest sensitivity coefficients is that between  $\text{NH}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  (R2, R3). The present results have implications for both the overall rate constant and the branching fraction. The underprediction of NO above 1100 K indicates that the balance for  $\text{NH}_2$  reacting with  $\text{NO}_2$  (forming ultimately NO) and NO (leading to  $\text{N}_2$ ) may not be accurate in the present mechanism. Increasing the ratio  $(k_2 + k_3) / (k_4 + k_5)$  would yield a better agreement with experiment. While  $k(\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO})$  is well established, the overall rate constant for  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  is still in discussion and more work on this step at elevated temperatures is desirable.

The measured  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  profiles, obtained in the absence and presence of  $\text{O}_2$ , support a branching fraction  $\beta = k_3/(k_2 + k_3)$  for the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction that decreases with increasing temperature in the 850–1350 K range. The use of a temperature-independent value  $\beta = 0.2$ , consistent with the measurements of Park and Lin [54,58] (Fig. 3), leads to a significant overprediction of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  above 1200 K for all the flow reactor experiments. The temperature dependence observed in the present work is consistent with the interpretation of the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  results by Glarborg et al. [19]. It is in good agreement with the theoretical study of Klippenstein et al. [56] and consistent with the low-temperature measurements of Lindholm and Hershberger [59] and Sun et al. [60].



**Fig. 9.** Comparison of experimental data and modeling predictions for the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  mole fractions in reaction of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures without [19] and with (pw) addition of  $\text{O}_2$  in an atmospheric pressure flow reactor. Symbols denote experimental data, while lines denote modeling predictions. Upper figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 492/483$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 515/505$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 55/55$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.0\%$ . Lower figure:  $\text{NH}_3 = 547/535$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2 = 285/273$  ppm,  $\text{NO} = 32/32$  ppm,  $\text{O}_2 = \text{trace}/2.1\%$ . Carrier gas  $\text{N}_2$ , residence time ( $s$ )  $\approx 107/\text{T(K)}$ , pressure 1.09 atm. Conditions for repeated experiments are listed in Table 2.



**Fig. 10.** Pathway diagram for conversion of  $\text{NH}_3$  in the presence of  $\text{NO}_2$ . Additional pathways opening up when  $\text{O}_2$  is added are shown in red.

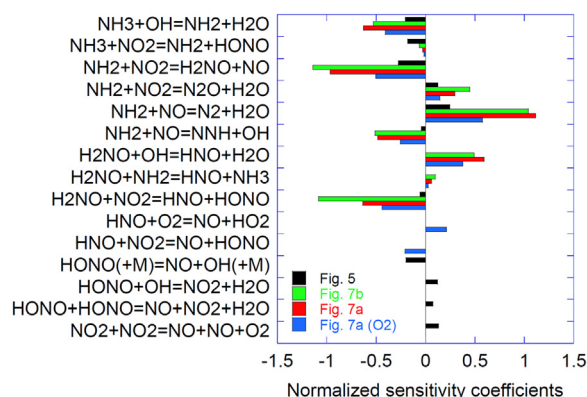


Fig. 11. Sensitivity coefficients for  $\text{NO}_2$  for the conditions of Fig. 5 (640 K) and Fig. 7 (1100 K; 285 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$  (7b) and 500 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$  (7a), wo/w  $\text{O}_2$ ).

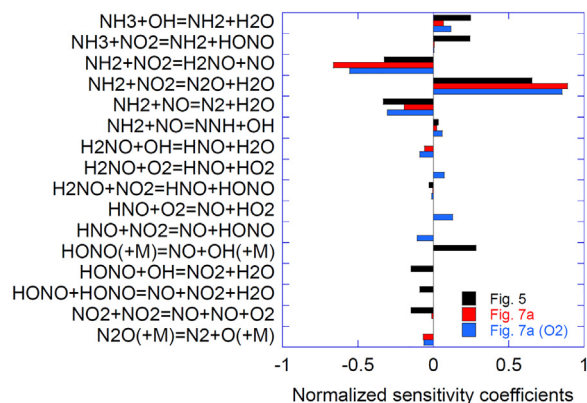


Fig. 12. Sensitivity coefficients for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  for the conditions of Fig. 5 (640 K) and Fig. 9a (1250 K; 500 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$ , wo/w  $\text{O}_2$ ).

The fate of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  is important for the overall reactivity, both under the present conditions and in ignition of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{air}$  mixtures at engine conditions. As discussed in the Introduction, these oxygenated amines may be involved in chain-branching sequences; either sequence A,  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HNO} + \text{HONO}$  (R12),  $\text{HNO} + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{HONO}$  (R16),  $\text{HONO} (+\text{M}) \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{OH} (+\text{M})$  (R6b), or sequence B,  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}$  (R2),  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{HNO} + \text{HO}_2$  (R10),  $\text{HNO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO} + \text{HO}_2$  (R14),  $\text{NO} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{OH}$  (R17) (the  $\text{NO}_2$  recycle sequence). Under the present conditions, sequence A dominates the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  experiments, while sequence B becomes important at higher temperatures in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ . The satisfactory agreement between experiments and modeling predictions, both without and with  $\text{O}_2$ , indicates that the rate constants for the reactions of  $\text{H}_2\text{NO}$  and  $\text{HNO}$  with  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , respectively, are approximately correct. However, it is a complex reaction system and the constraints on these reactions are dependent on the choice of rate constant for  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{OH}$ , for which the theoretical value [17] has not been confirmed experimentally at elevated temperature.

## Conclusions

Literature results from batch reactors (580–690 K) [24,25] and flow reactors (850–1350 K) [19] for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  system, supplemented with novel flow reactor results on the impact of  $\text{O}_2$  addition, were interpreted in terms of a detailed chemical kinetic model. Batch reactor results on the effect of  $\text{NO}$  addition on  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  mixtures allowed a determination of the rate constant for  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  (R1) at 619 K. The analysis of the flow reactor results indicated that the yield of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in the  $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction (R3)

decreases with temperature in the 850–1350 K range, in agreement with the theoretical study by Klippenstein et al. [56]. The flow reactor results for  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_2$  support a rate constant for  $\text{H}_2\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$  (R12) of approximately  $5 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 1000 K. The present analysis also serves to constrain rate constants for the reactions of  $\text{HNO}$  with  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , respectively. The findings have implications for modeling ignition and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions in ammonia combustion.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Acknowledgments

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## Supplementary material

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [10.1016/j.combustflame.2022.112311](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combustflame.2022.112311)

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