

Online LTP Seminar
September 15th, 2020

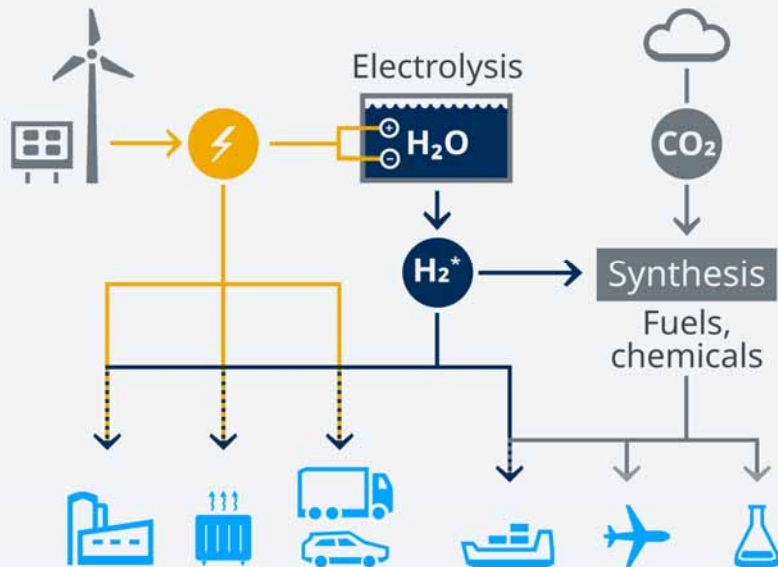


Plasma enabled heterogeneous catalysis for greenhouse gas conversion: kinetic modeling

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Tokyo Institute of Technology
Dept Mechanical Engineering

Power-to-x: carbon-neutral fuels



Source: DW | *H₂ = hydrogen

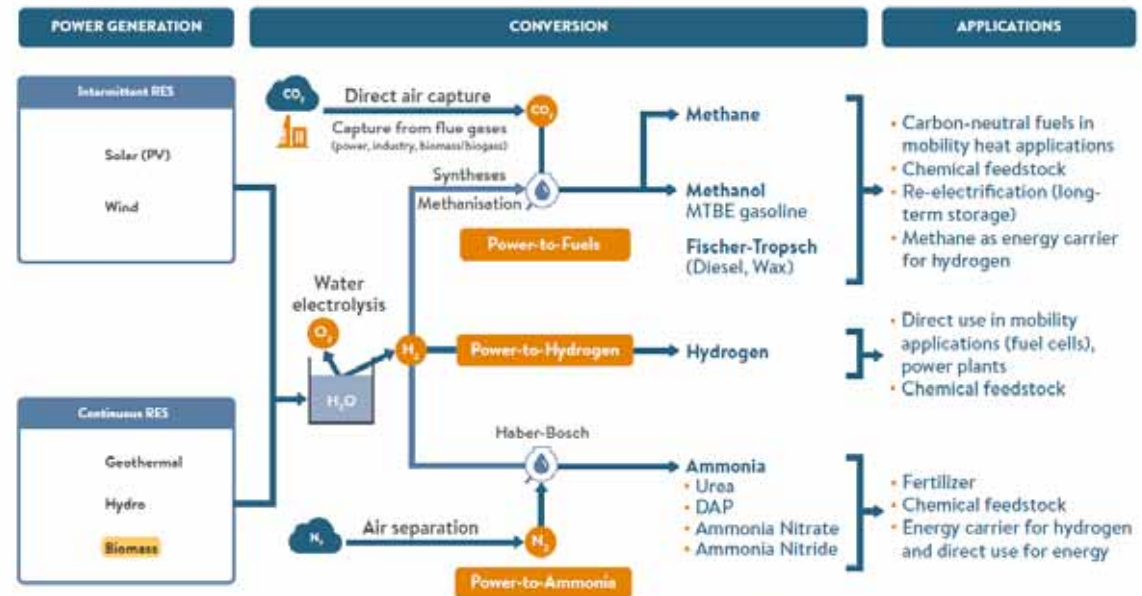
© DW

<https://www.dw.com/en/power-to-x-the-secret-to-a-100-renewable-energy-system/a-51662014>

Electrochemistry + Photochemistry and Plasma chemistry

<https://www.voltachem.com/research/power-2-chemicals>

Power-to-X Roadmap



Source: International aspects of a power-to-x roadmap, Weltenergierat Deutschland, 2018

ref. International aspects of a power-to-x roadmap, Weltenergierat Deutschland, 2018

Power-to-fuel

Power-to-chemicals

Power-to-gas

Power-to-syngas

Power-to-methane

Power-to-liquid

Power-to-hydrogen

Power-to-ammonia

Power-to-heat

Power-to-mobility

Power to food

power-to-power (wiki)

Photocatalysis, Photoelectrochemical, Plasmonic Photosynthesis, Hot carriers, etc

Principle is relatively well-known

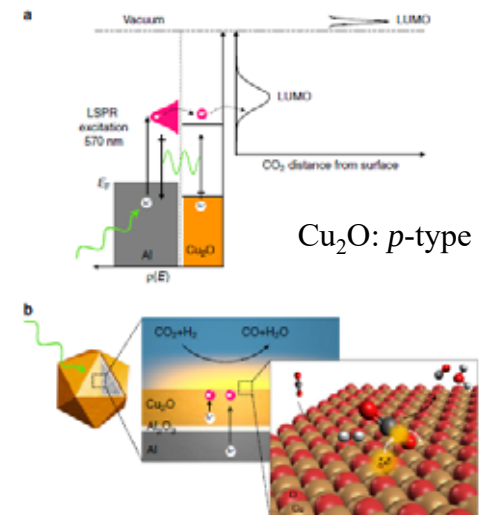
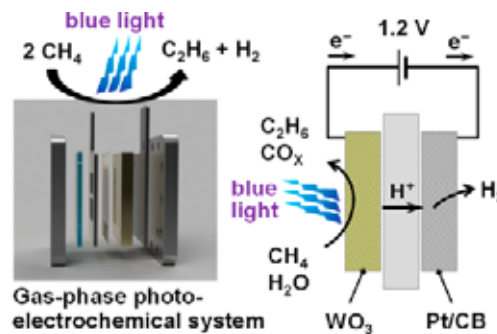
Development of functional materials.

TiO₂: *n*-type



Leon et al: DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-48009-1_9 (2016)

Amano et al, *ACS Energy Lett.* **4**, 502 (2019)



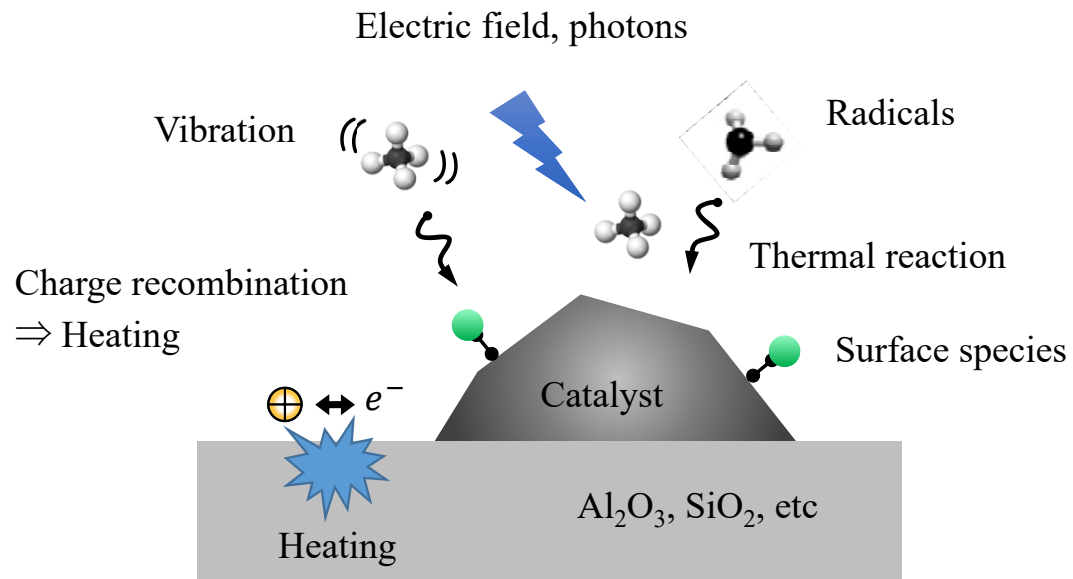
Cu₂O: *p*-type

Robatjazi et al, *Nature comm.* **8**:27 (2017)

What is plasma catalysis ?

- Nonthermal plasma + heterogeneous catalysts.
- Similarities btw plasma-enhanced CVD, Atomic layer processes, etc.
- Too complex to understand.

We also need material (catalyst) development based on known principle.



$$N_e \sim N_{\text{ion}}$$

$$N_{\text{CH}_3} \sim 10N_e$$

$$N_{\text{vib}} \sim 100N_e$$

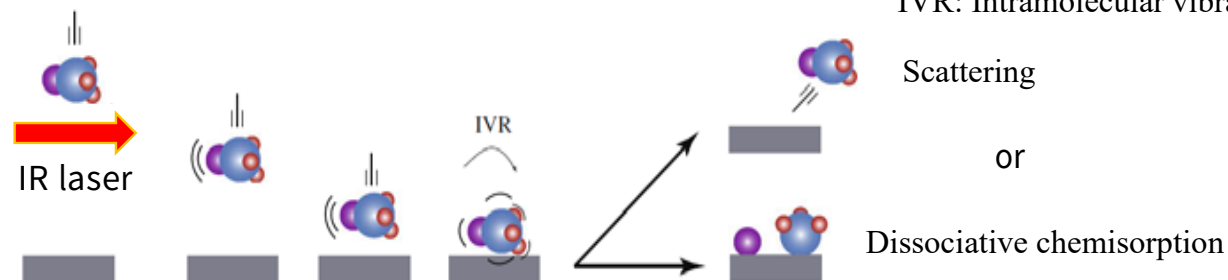
T Nozaki et al: *Catal. Today* **89** (2004) 57.

T Nozaki et al: *J Phys D*, **52** (2019) 414002.

Reactivity of vibrationally excited CH₄

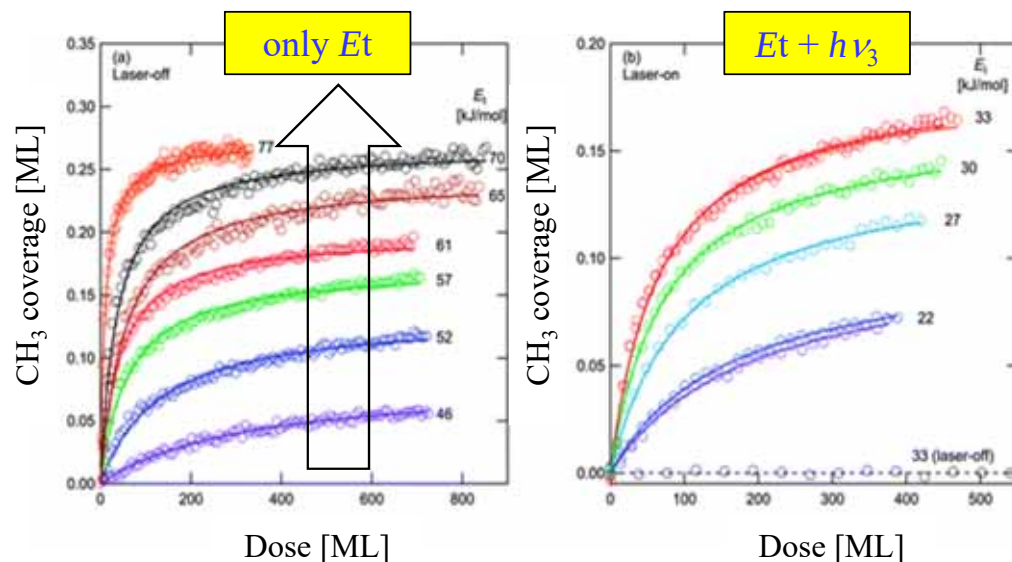
IR laser: mode selective activation to asymmetric vibration ($\nu_3 = 0.36$ eV)

E_t : Translational energy
 $h\nu_3$: Vibrational energy



A L Utz: *Curr. Opin. Solid St M*, **13** (2009) 4–12.

Rate-limiting step: $\text{CH}_4 = \text{CH}_3^* + \text{H}^*$



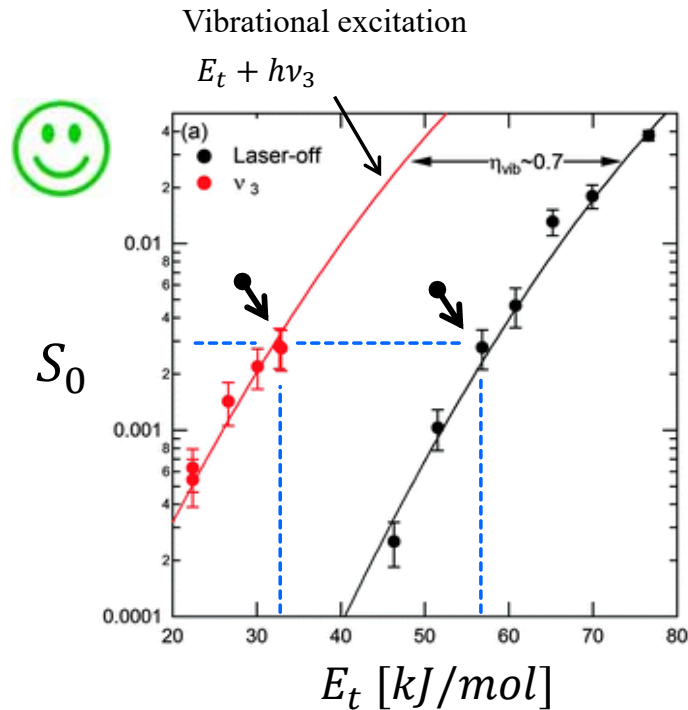
- Pt (111) @ 150 K, 10^{-5} Pa.
- Ultra-high vacuum ($< 10^{-5}$ Pa)
- Surface coverage increases with increasing (E_t).
- Vibrational energy ($h\nu_3$) increase coverage at much smaller E_t .

1 ML (monolayer): Pt(111), 1.51×10^{15} atoms/cm²

H Ueta et al: *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **15** (2013) 20526.

Initial sticking probability and Saturated surface coverage

H Ueta et al: *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **15** (2013) 20526.

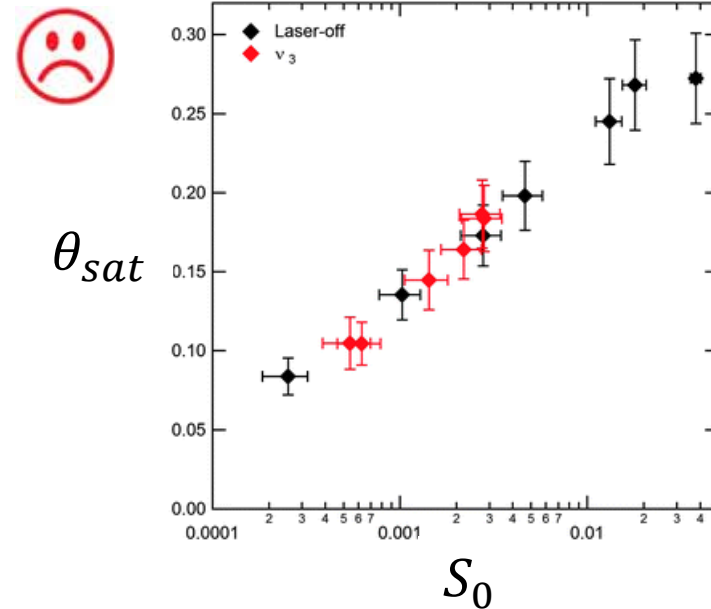


Total Energy

$$(E_t + h\nu_3) = 68 \text{ kJ/mol} > E_t = 58 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

Asymmetric vibration + Pt (111) @ 150 K

- Energy inefficient $\sim 70\%$
- But low temperature reactivity is enhanced.

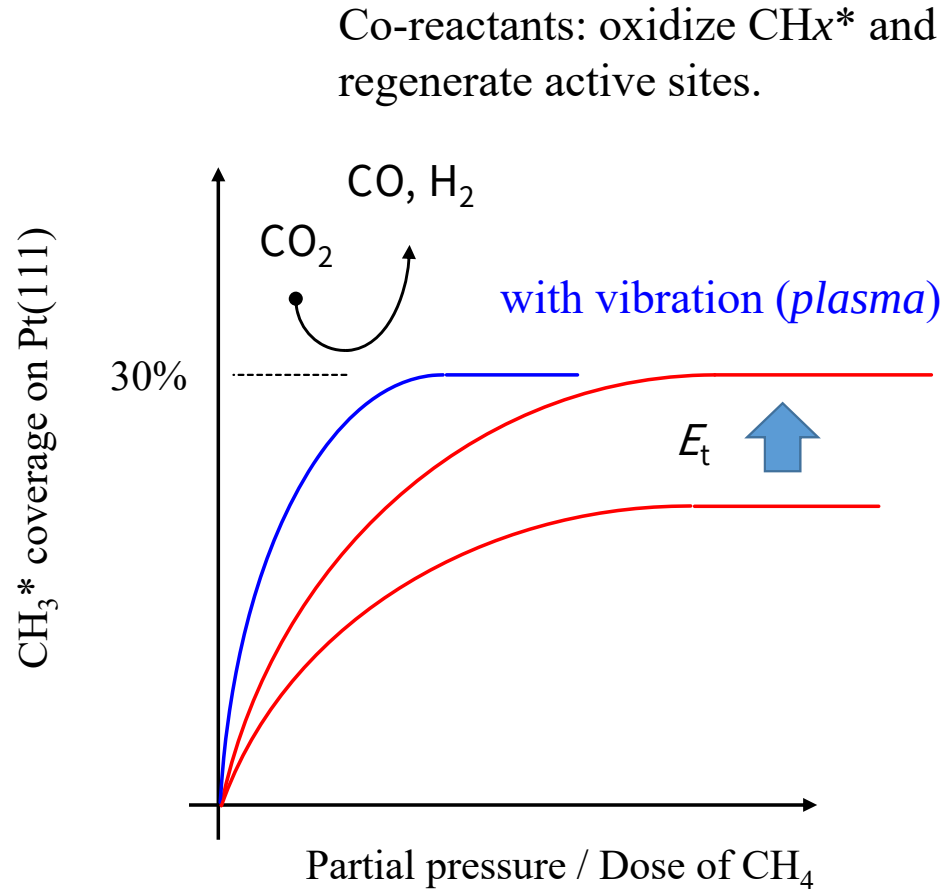


$$\theta_{\text{sat}} \sim 30\%$$

- Steric interference between surface CH_3^*
- θ_{sat} : not increase by vibration.

Typical Langmuir type absorption behavior

H Ueta et al: *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **15** (2013) 20526.



30% -- CH_3^*

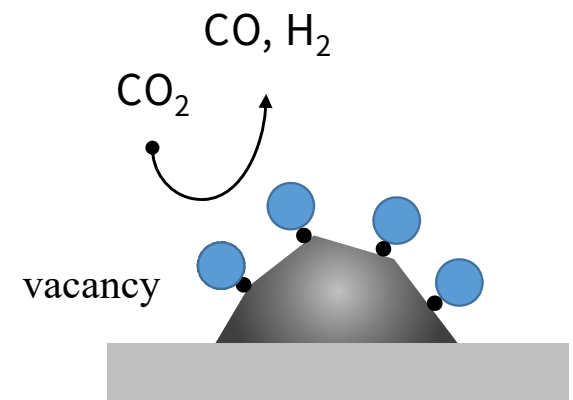
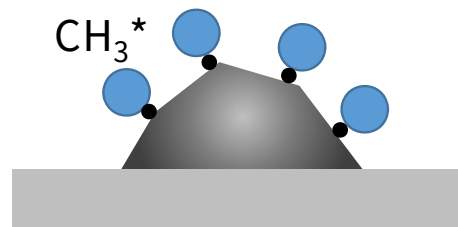
30% -- H^*

40% -- vacancy (permanently)

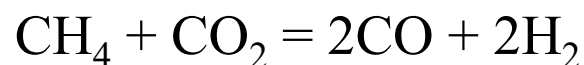
ex. particles with surface ligands

w/o vibration (*thermal*)

Saturation ~ up to 30% over Pt(111)
unchanged by vibration !

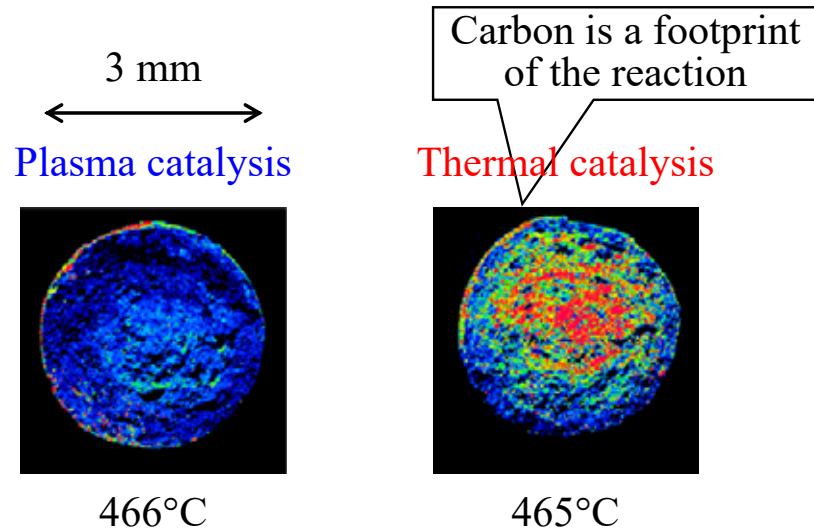


Ni/Al₂O₃ catalyst

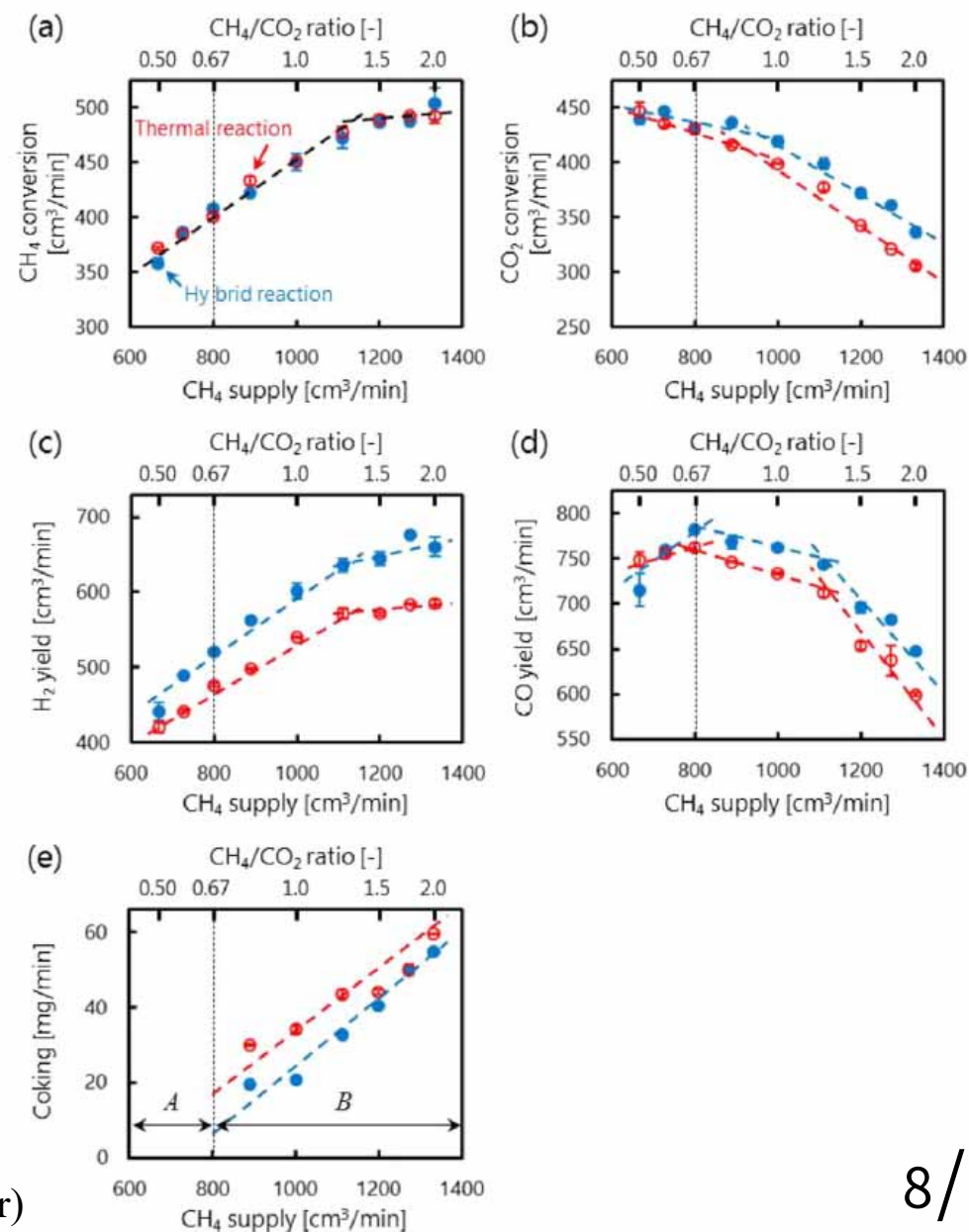


Kameshima et al, *Plasma Process. Polym.*, **14**, (2017) e01600096.

- ☹️ CH₄ conversion was not increased by DBD.
- 😊 CO₂ conversion increased slightly, contributing more syngas and less coking.

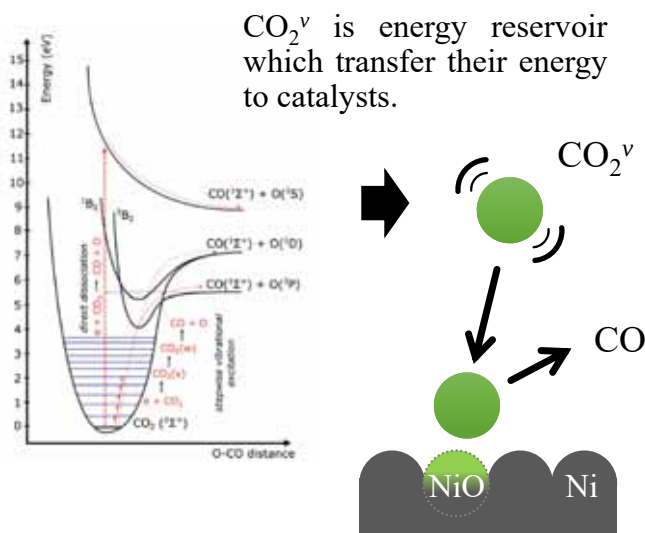


Carbon mapping by EPMA (Electron probe micro analyzer)

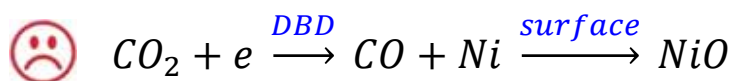
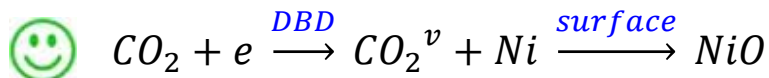


Plasma-induced modification of catalyst (Ni to NiO): tentatively, CO_2^v plays a role

Snoeckx and Bogaerts: *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **46** (2017) 5805.



Catalyst modification



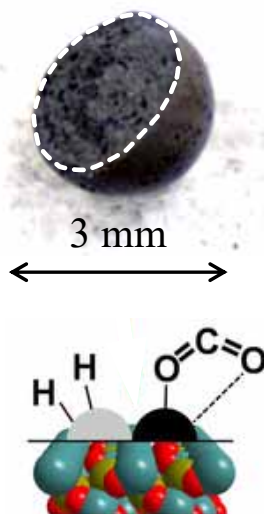
- Formation of NiO is possible only when DBD is applied.
- NiO uptakes surface oxygen beyond thermal equilibrium, enabling low coke formation.



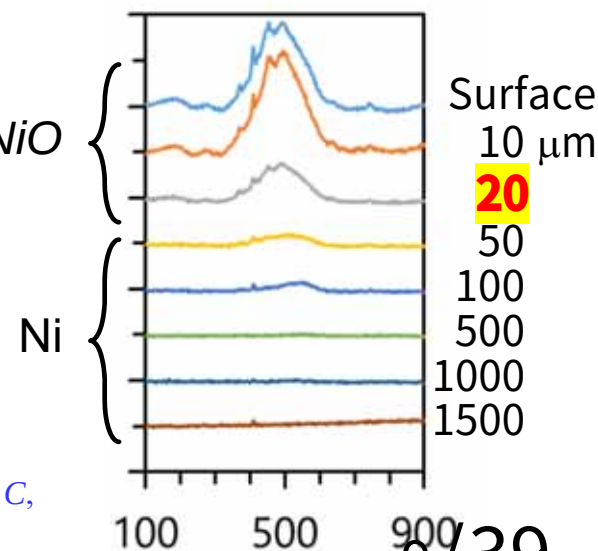
- Catalyst activity of NiO is not as high as Ni.

Z. Sheng, et al., *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* **51** (2018) 445205

Thermal catalysis

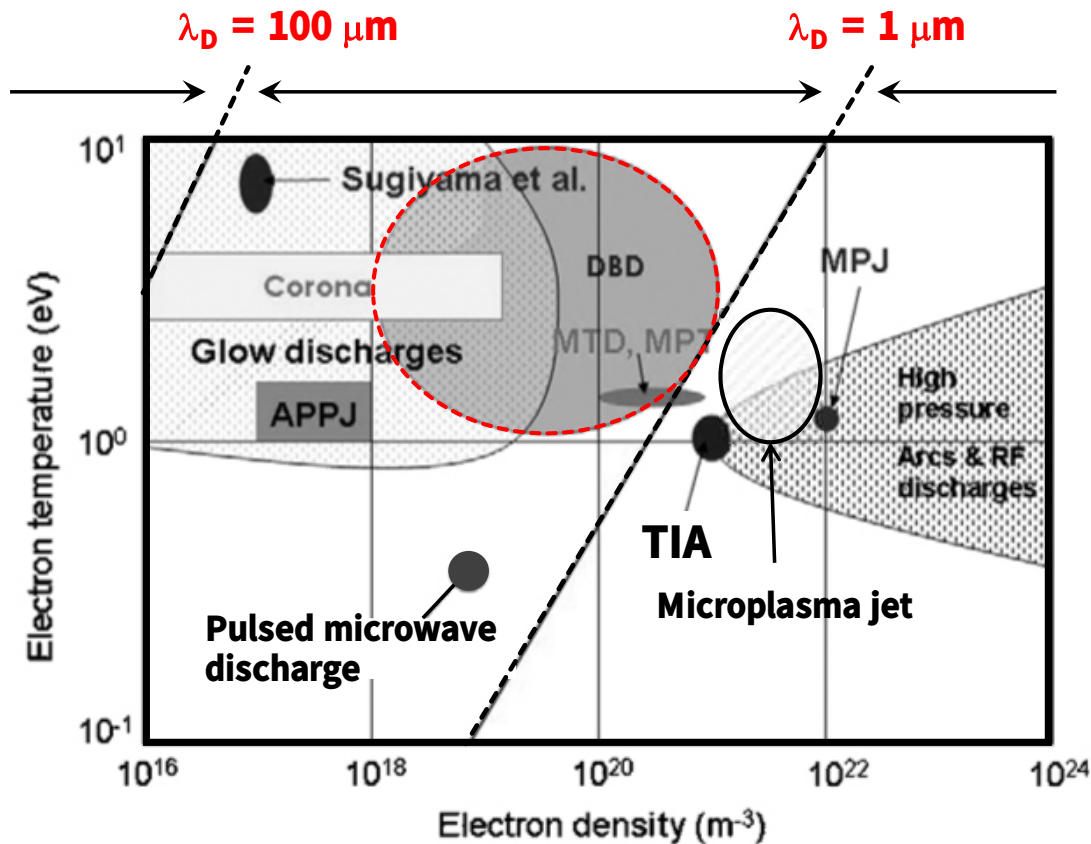


Plasma catalysis



C Weilach et al, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, **116** (2012) 18768.

Nonthermal plasma in micropores ?



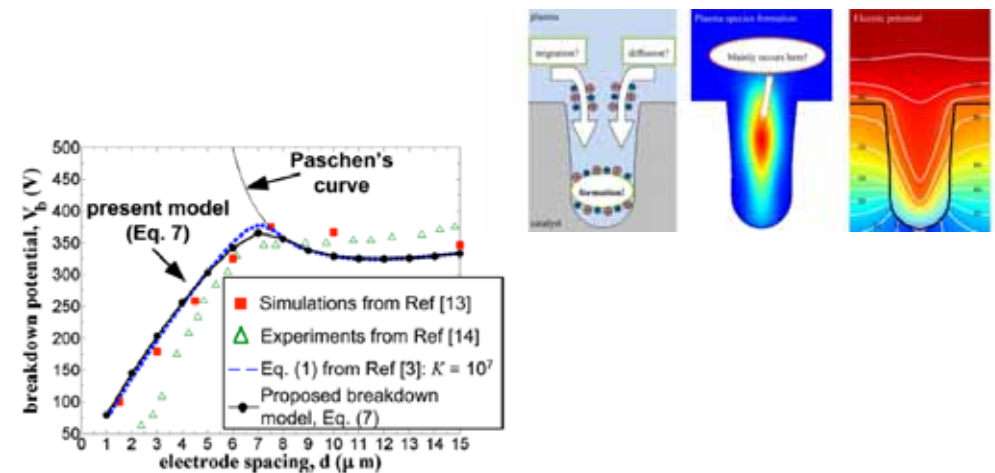
C Tandero et al.: *Spectrochimica Acta B*, **61** (2006) 2.

$$1 \mu\text{m} < \text{Debye length (DBD)} < 100 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\lambda_D = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 k T_e}{N_e e^2}} = 7.43 \times 10^3 \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{N_e}}$$

DBD cannot penetrate into pores smaller than 1 μm .

A Bogaerts et al, *Appl Catal B: Environ* **185** (2016) 56.



Gas breakdown does not occur in micropores.

R Tirumala and D B Go, *APL* **97** (2010) 151502

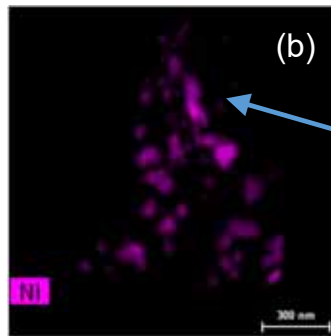
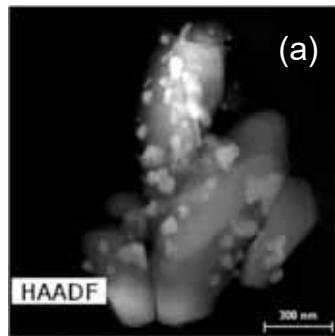
D B Go and A Venkattraman, *JPD* **47** (2014) 503001

New catalyst: La-modified Ni/Al₂O₃

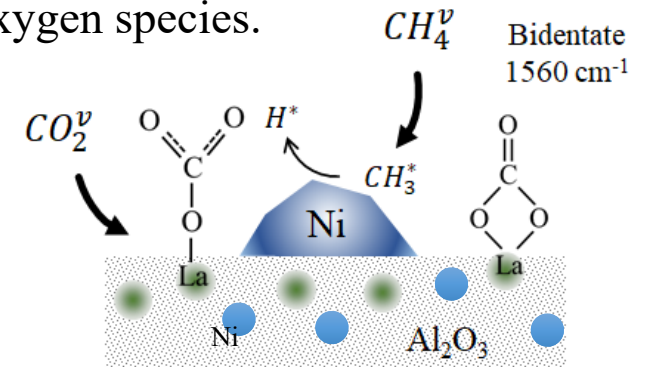
La, K, Mg are known to produce carbonates from CO₂, enhancing surface oxygen species.

Z Sheng et al, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **22** (2020) 19349.

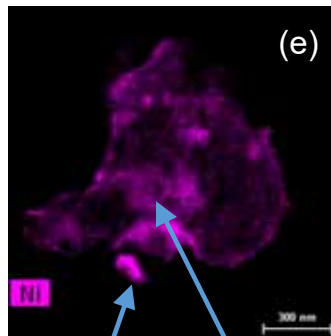
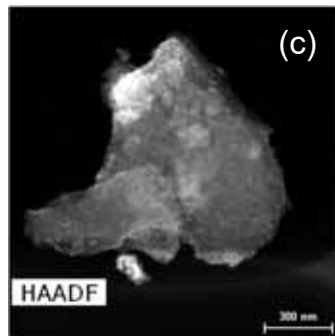
Ni(12wt%)/Al₂O₃



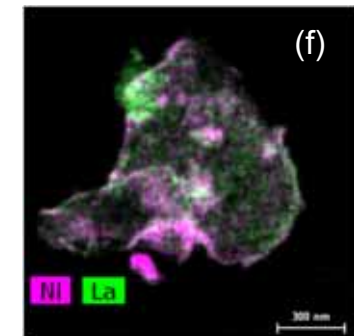
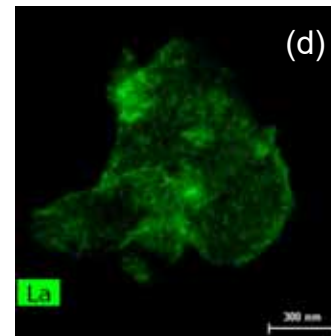
Particles
Ni: 29.0 nm
(Scherrer Eq)



La(3wt%)-
Ni(11wt%)/Al₂O₃

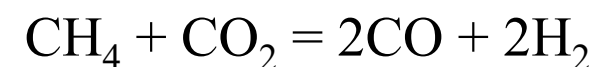


Particles
Ni: 10.8 nm
Dots

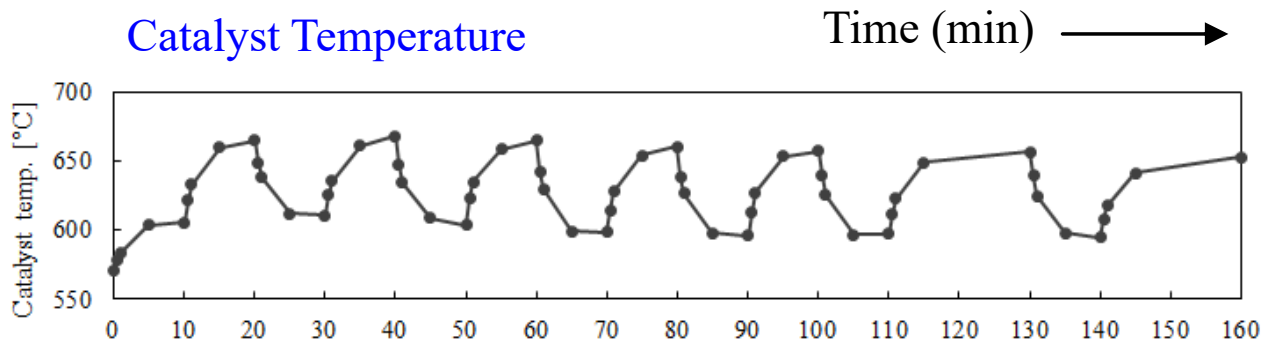
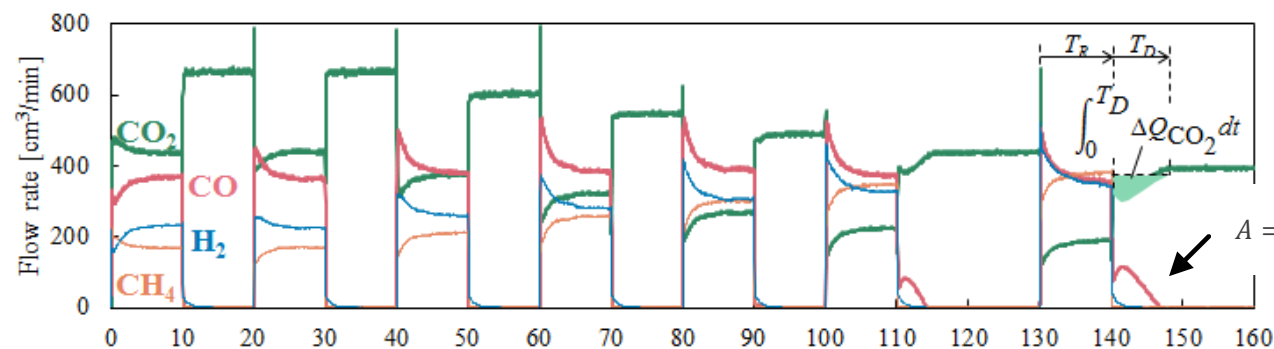
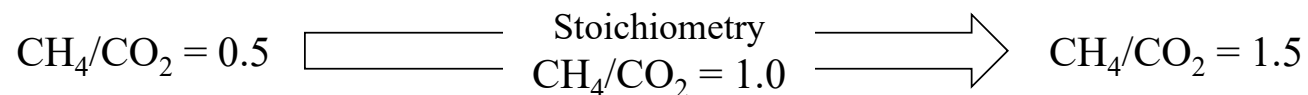


Atomic weight
Ni: 59, La: 139

Representative results: pulsed reforming

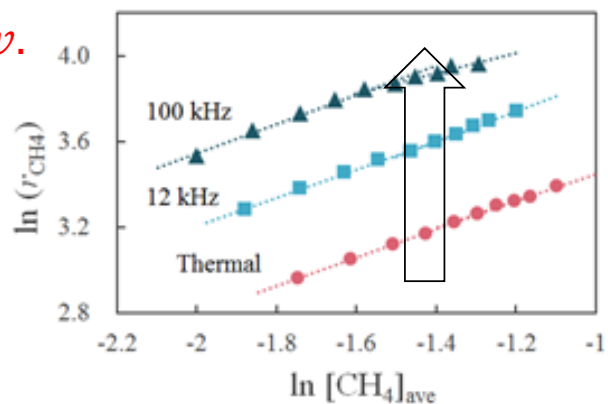


S Kameshima et al: *Catalysis Today*, **256** (2015) 67-75

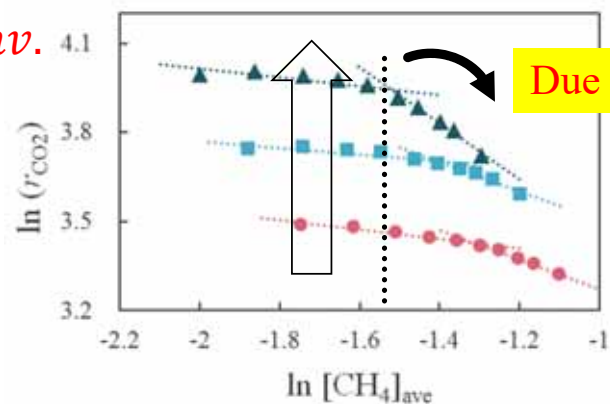


- $SEI = 1.37$ eV/molec.: avoid plasma heating and maximize energy efficiency.
- Frequency: 12 kHz and 100 kHz.

CH_4 conv.

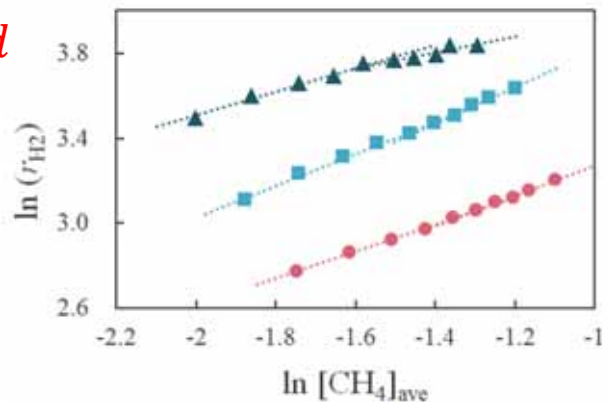


CO_2 conv.

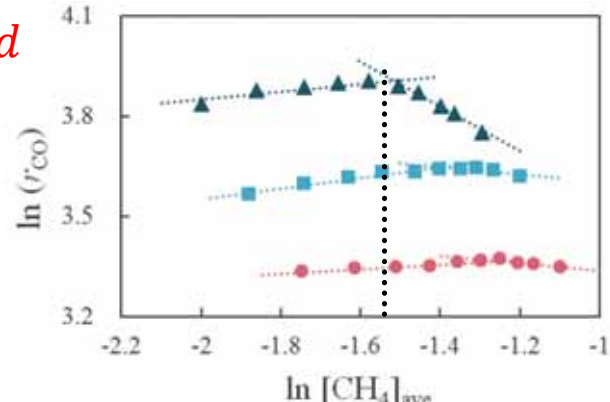


CO_2 activation is even more important !!

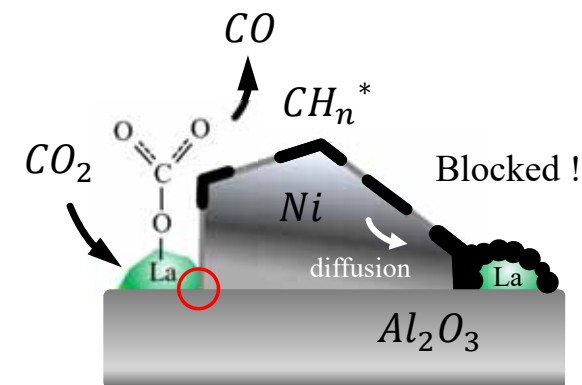
H_2 yield



CO yield



Monodentate carbonate:
1540 and 1370 cm^{-1}

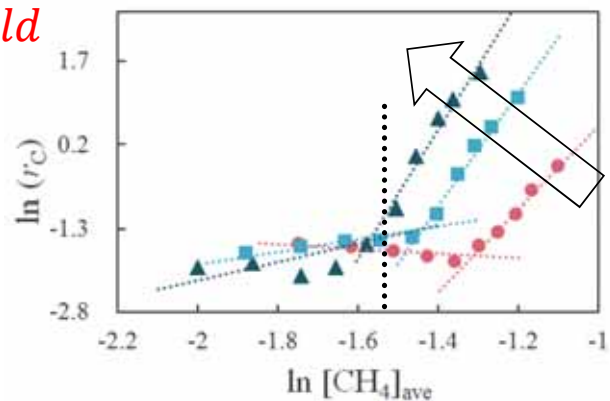


Reaction rate v.s. Mean CH_4 partial pressure

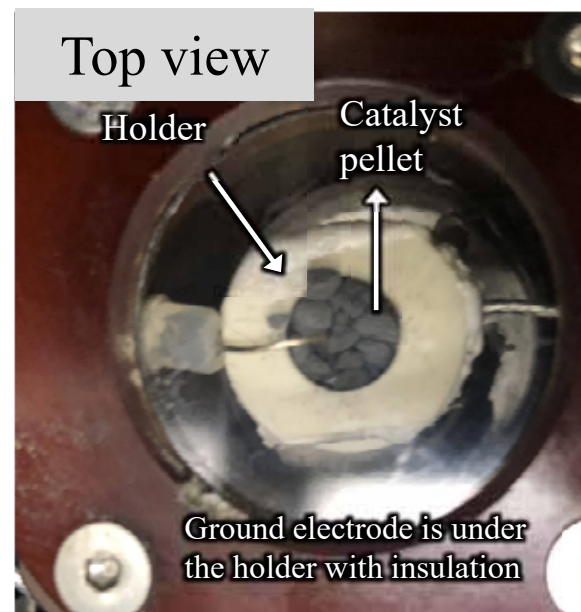
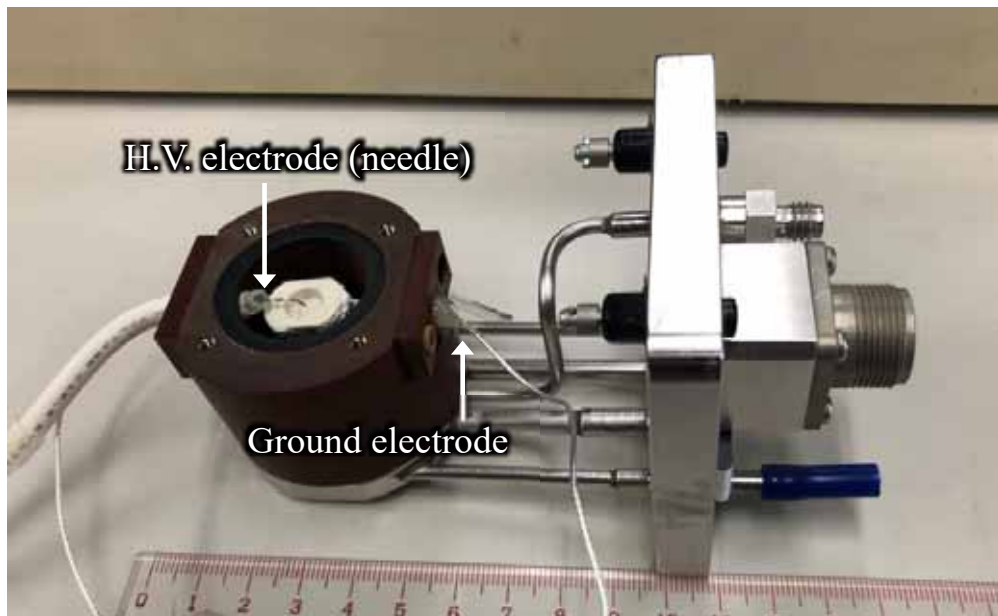
$$r_i = \frac{\Delta C_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{C_i^{in} - C_i^{out}}{\Delta t} \quad \text{Temp} = 600 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C fixed}$$

Sheng et al: *J Phys D*, **52** (2019) 414002.

$Coke$ yield



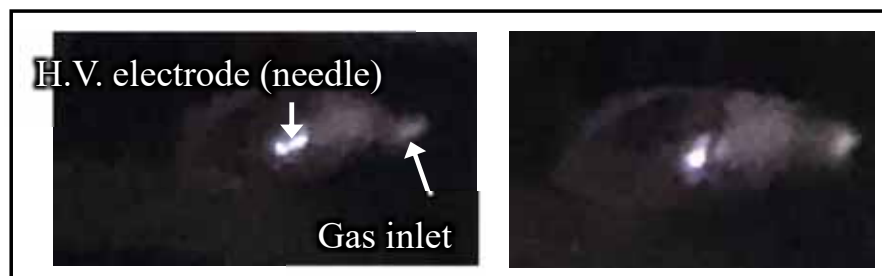
in situ DBD-DRIFTS
(Diffuse reflectance infrared fourier transform spectroscopy)
(operating temperature range: 0–200°C)



Z Sheng et al, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **22** (2020) 19349-19358.

N Turan et al, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* **53** (2020) 275201.

S Zhang et al, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* **53** (2020) 215201.



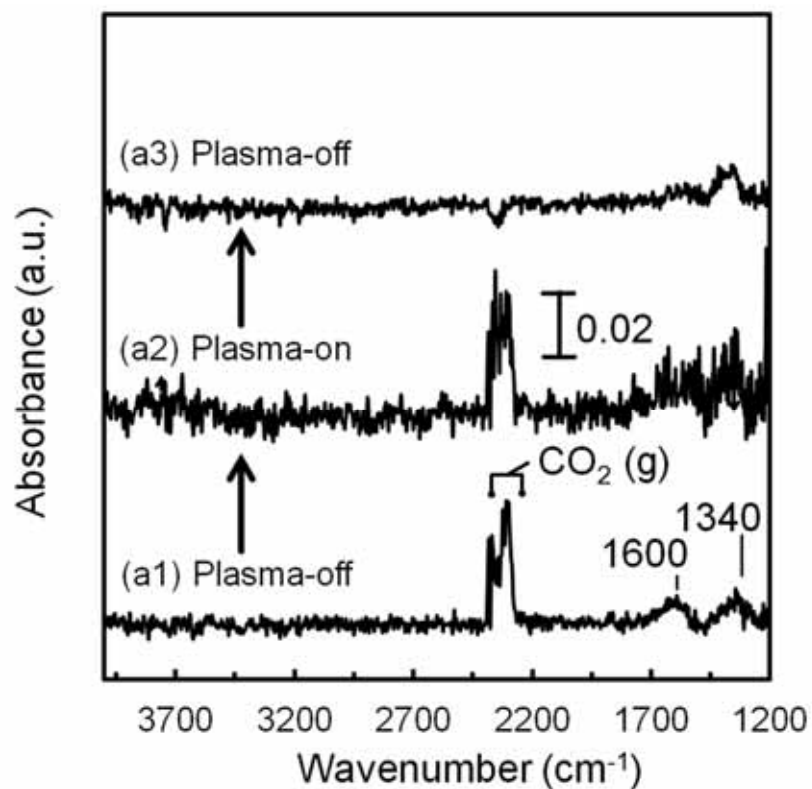
Formation of carbonates on La

Z Sheng et al, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **22** (2020) 19349.

Ni(12wt%)/Al₂O₃



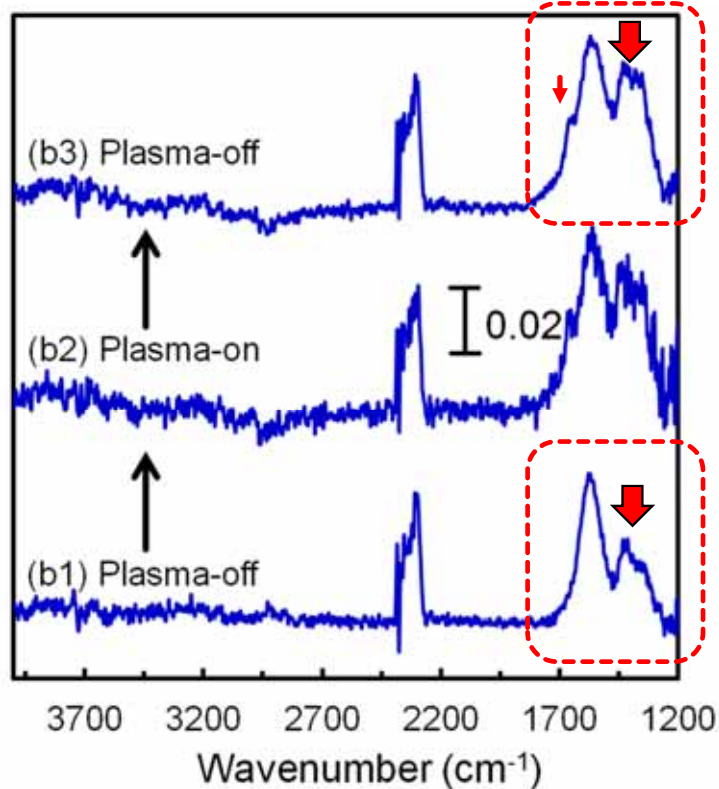
Carbonate peak is negligible.



La(3wt%)-Ni(11wt%)/Al₂O₃



Strong carbonate peaks which is further enhanced by DBD.

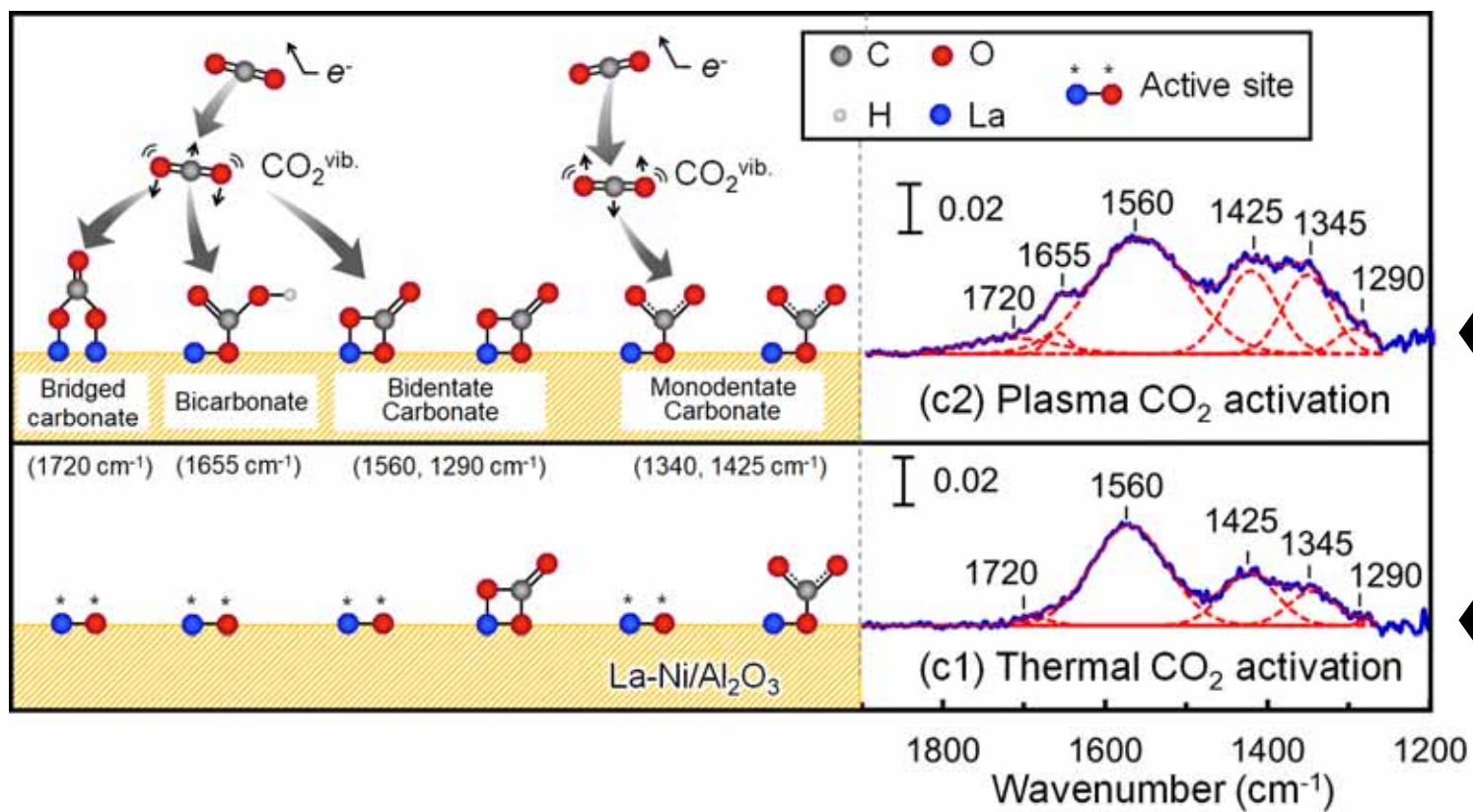


Enlarged spectrum
on next page

Fingerprint region

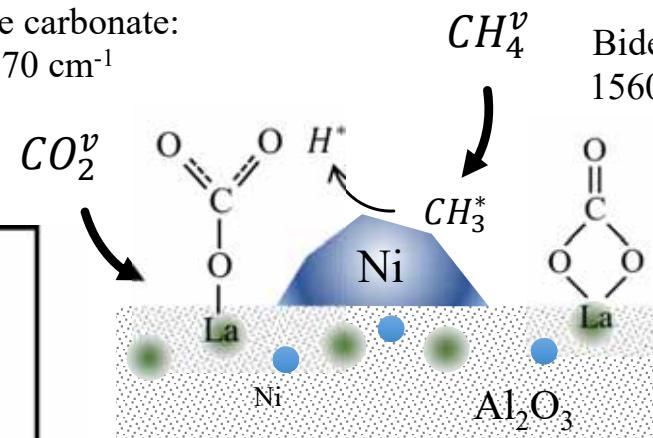
Enlarged spectrum 1200~1800 cm⁻¹

Z Sheng et al, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **22** (2020) 19349.



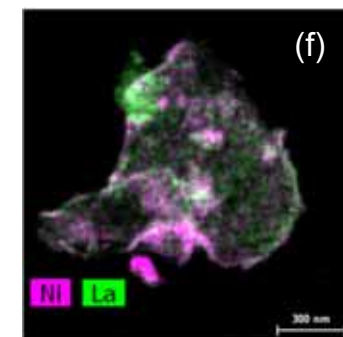
Monodentate carbonate:
1540 and 1370 cm⁻¹

Bidentate
1560 cm⁻¹



Plasma

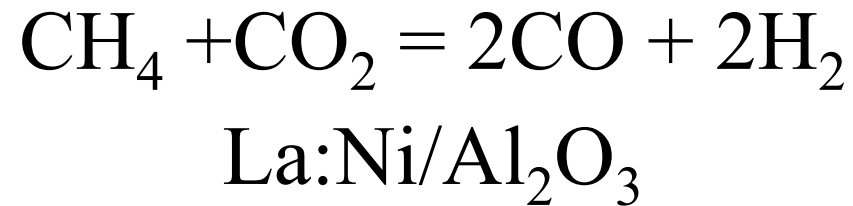
Thermal



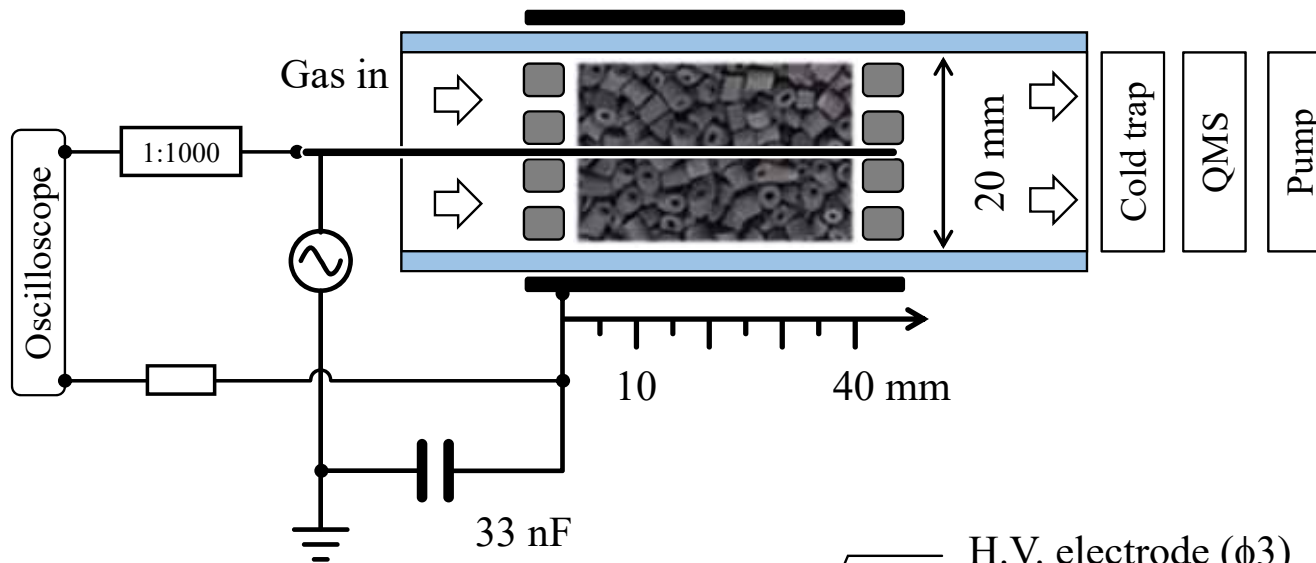
- La-Ni/Al₂O₃ is highly suitable for DBD hybrid reaction.
- Appropriate catalysts must be combined
- 100 kHz is better than 12 kHz.

Kinetic analysis

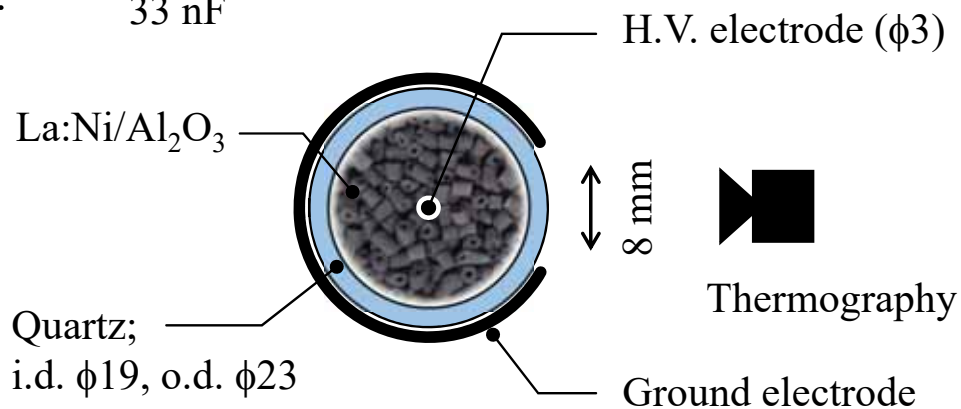
Reaction order, Arrhenius plot, Activation energy



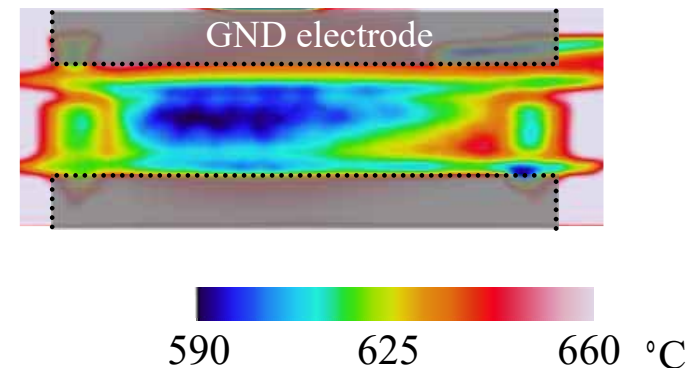
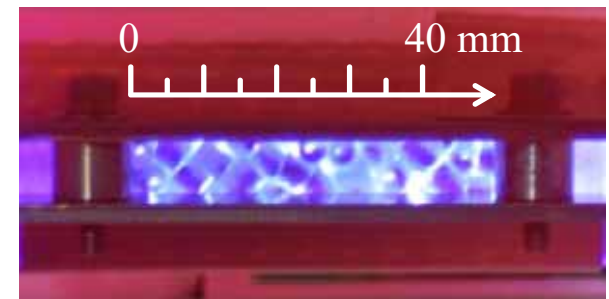
Packed-bed DBD



3wt%La-11wt%Ni/Al₂O₃



- Gas flow rate: 1000 cm³/min
- Pressure: 5 kPa
- Temp.: 400~700 °C
- Power: 90 W
- SEI: 1.3~2.0 eV/molecule
- GHSV: 10,000 h⁻¹



Key parameters

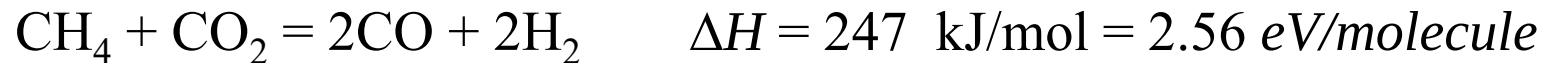
X. Tu, J.C. Whitehead, T. Nozaki (Ed.)

Plasma catalysis: fundamentals and applications, Springer, Cham (2019)

SEI (Specific Energy Input)

$$SEI \text{ (eV/molecule)} \propto \frac{P \text{ (W)}}{Q \text{ (cm}^3\text{/min)}}$$

at STP



* Specific Energy Requirement (**SER**)

SEI < **SER** (= 2.56 eV/molecules)

GHSV (Gaseous Hourly Space Velocity)

$$GHSV(h^{-1}) \propto \frac{Q \text{ (cm}^3\text{/min)}}{V \text{ (cm}^3\text{)}}$$

GHSV > 1,000 h⁻¹

Power density (W/cm³) = **SEI** × **GHSV**

WHSV (Weight Hourly Space Velocity)

$$WHSV(h^{-1}) = \frac{Q \text{ (g/h)}}{\text{mass (g)}}$$

Arrhenius plot for the apparent activation energy

$$r = -\frac{d[CH_4]}{dt} = k_f [CH_4]^{0.63} [CO_2]^{-0.17}$$

Reaction rate $\uparrow$, $k_f \uparrow$!!

FACTS

- Reaction order was kept unchanged by DBD.
→ Assume L-H mechanism, reaction order represents surface coverage which was not influenced by DBD: absorption is fast, but saturation is kept unchanged.

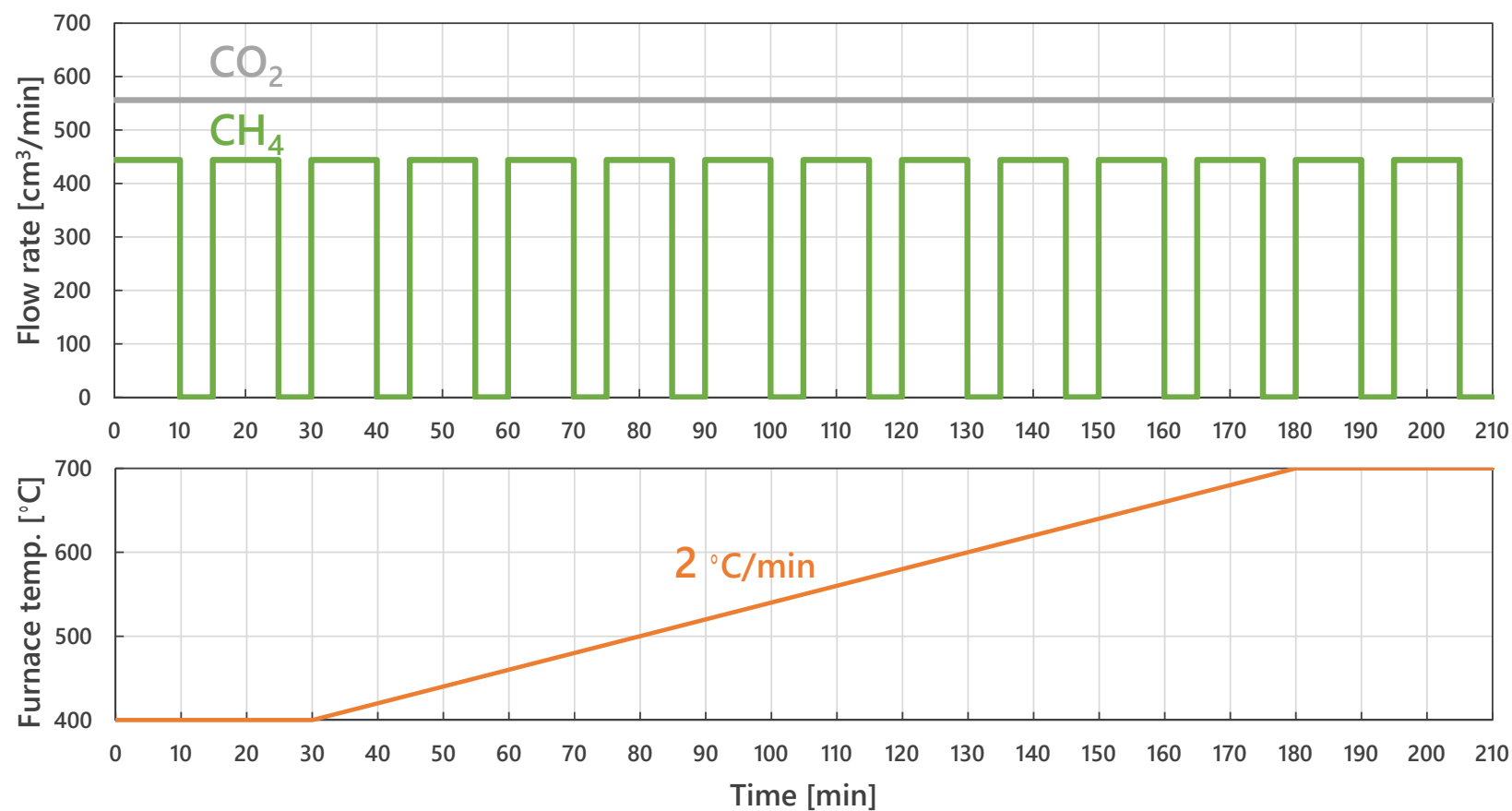
Sheng et al, *Chem Eng J*, **399** (2020.) 125751.

See also *Supporting Information*.

Ground state CH ₄ (Thermal catalysis)	Vibrationally excited CH ₄ (Plasma catalysis)
$k_f = Ae^{-\frac{E_t}{RT}}$	$k_f = Ae^{-\frac{E_t - \eta E_v}{RT}}$
	$1 < \eta$
$E_t = 91.0 \text{ kJ/mol}$	$E_t = 44.7 \text{ kJ/mol}$

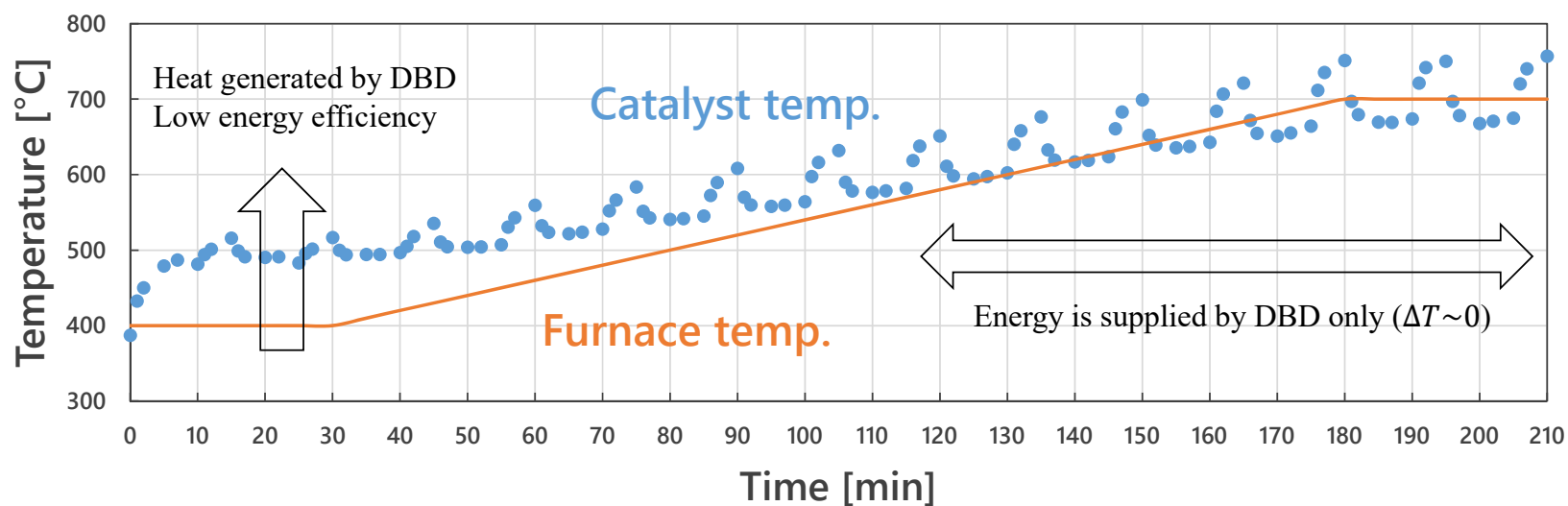
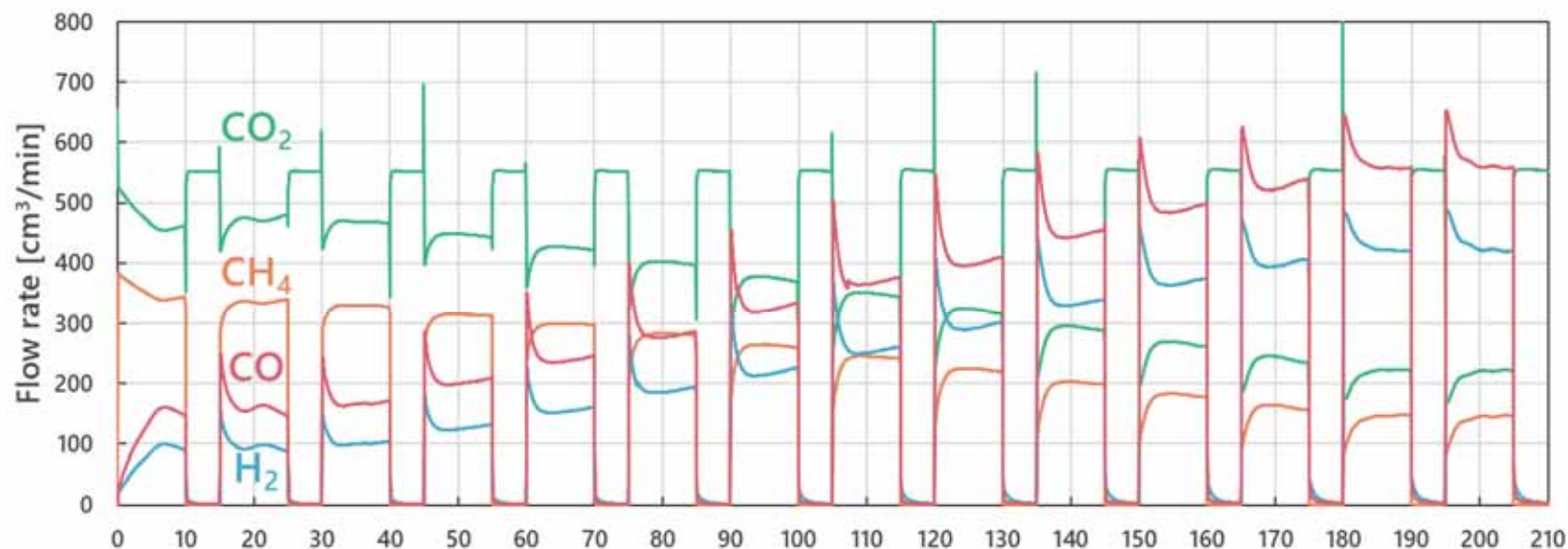
Conditions & Gas input profile

Flow rate	$\text{CH}_4 / \text{CO}_2 = 0.8$	Input power [W]	88 – 91
$GHSV [\text{h}^{-1}]$	5,000	$SEI [\text{eV/molecule}]$	1.37
Pressure [kPa]	5	Catalyst	La:Ni/ Al_2O_3



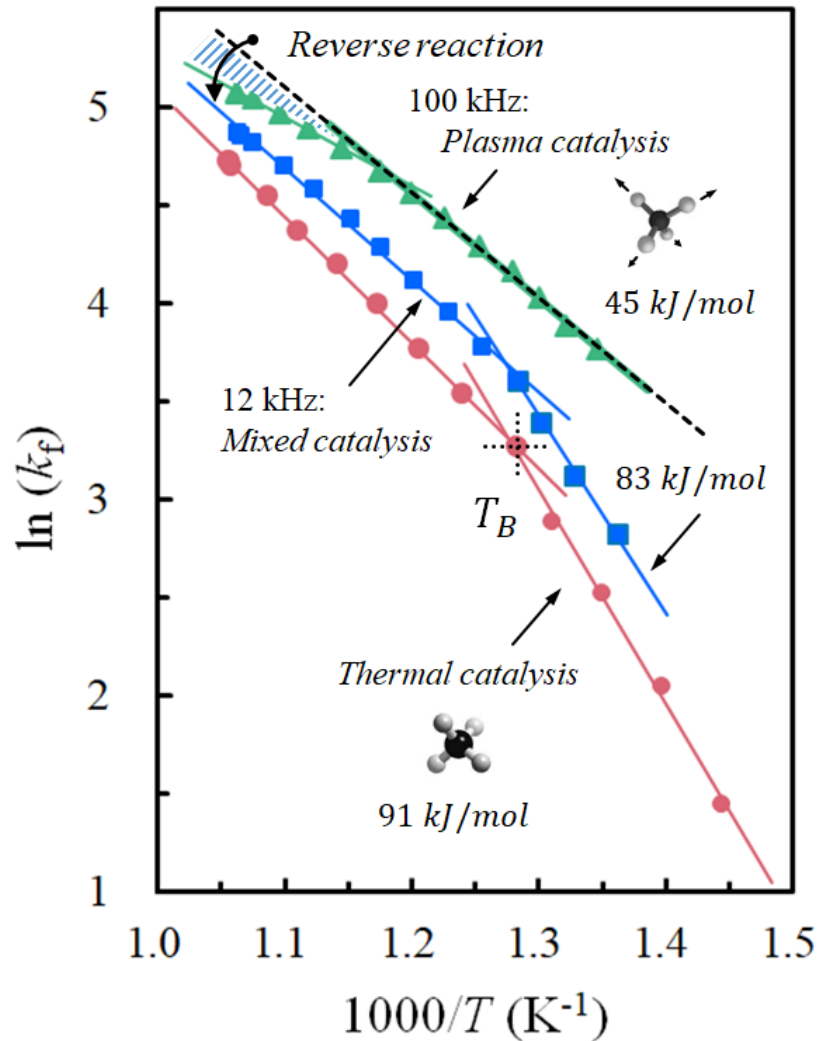
Results: 400 ~ 700 °C (*Plasma catalysis@ 100 kHz DBD*)

No coking confirmed.

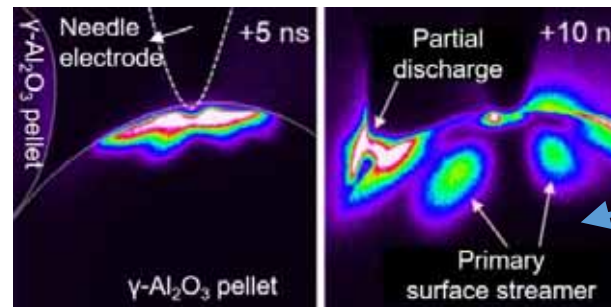


$$r_{CH_4}' = r_{CH_4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{K_e} \frac{P_{CO}^2 P_{H_2}^2}{P_{CH_4} P_{CO_2}} \right)$$

Arrhenius plot for activation energy



H-H Kim et al: *J Phys D*, **49** (2016) 415204



Ag/ Al_2O_3 in Air

Streamer:
hybrid reaction

Thermal reaction

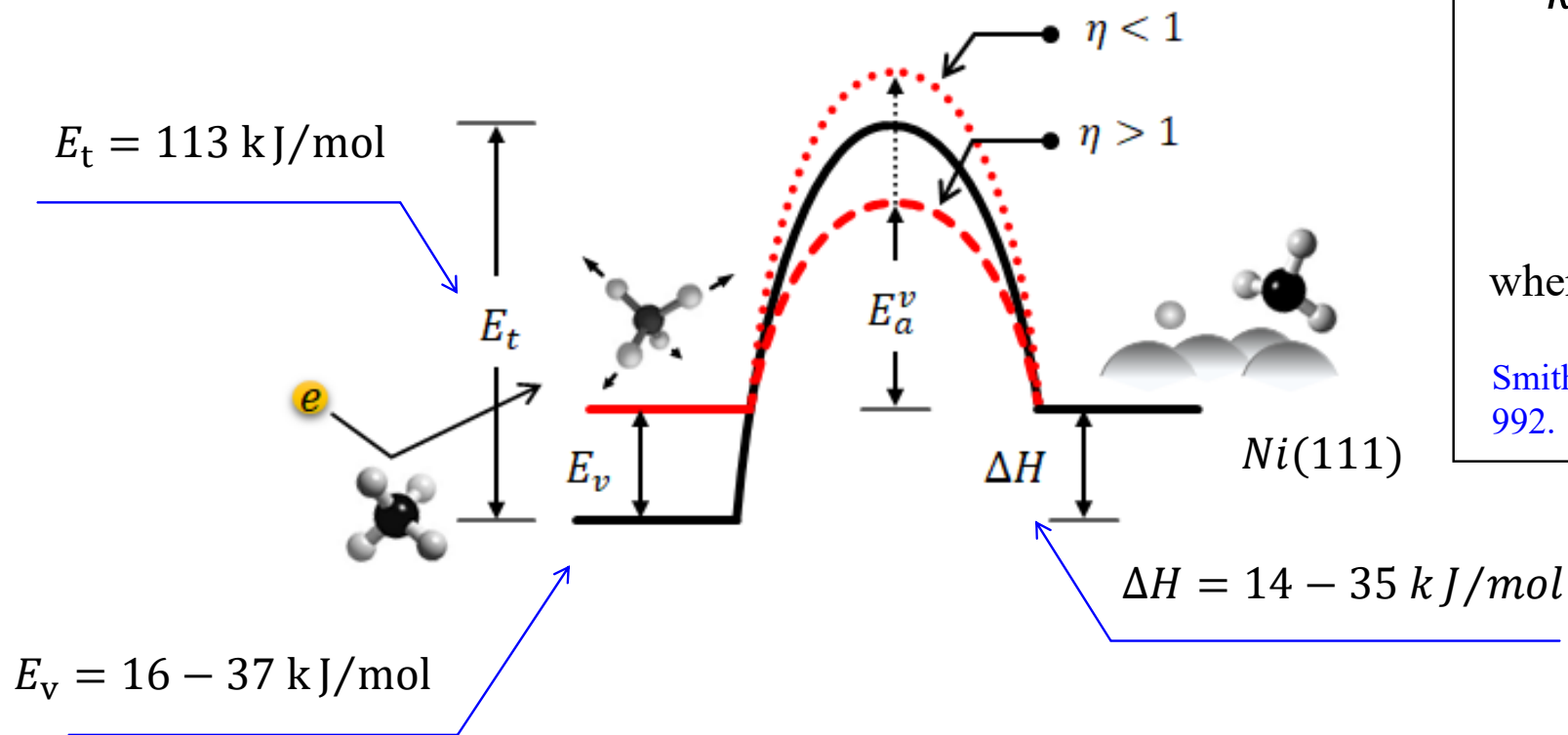
Mixed catalysis
(12 kHz DBD)

$$T > T_B = 510^\circ C \quad r_{app} \propto \sqrt{k_f D} \propto e^{-\frac{E_t/2}{RT}}$$

E_t is halved due to the mass transfer resistance in micropores, known as “catalyst effectiveness factor”.

Modified activation energy due to vibrational excitation

The rate-determining step: $\text{CH}_4 \rightarrow \text{CH}_4^* \rightarrow \text{CH}_3^* + \text{H}^*$



$$k_f = Ae^{-\frac{E_t - \eta E_v}{RT}}$$

$$\eta = \frac{E_t - E_a^v}{E_v}$$

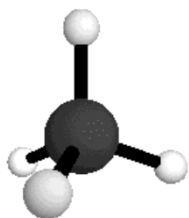
when $\eta = 1$, $E_a^v = E_t - E_v$

Smith RR et al: *Science*, **304** (2004) 992.

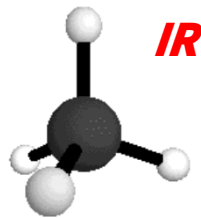
S.-G. Wang et al, *Surface Science* **603** (2009) 2600-2606.

H. Liu et al, *Fuel* **113** (2013) 712-718.

Fundamental vibration mode of CH₄ and *Efficacy*



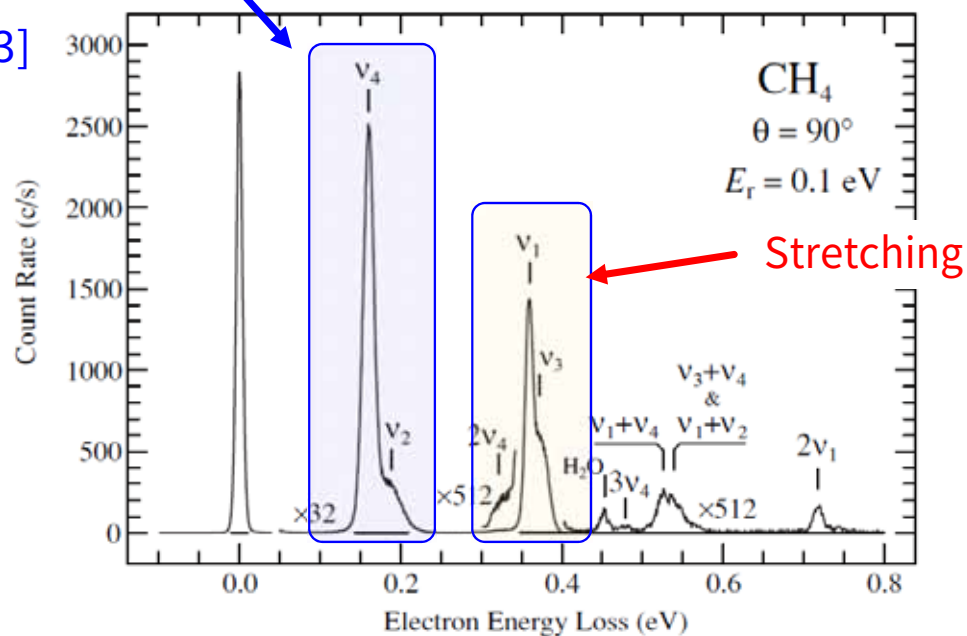
v_2 1582.7 cm⁻¹
E Symmetry



v_4 1367.4 cm⁻¹
F2 Symmetry

Bending

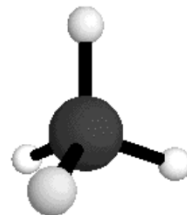
[3]



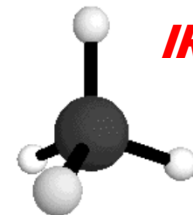
[2]

State	E_{vib} kJ/mol	Surface	ΔE_{trans} kJ/mol	η_{vib}
CH ₄ , v_3	36	Ni(100)	34 kJ/mol	0.94 [*]
CH ₄ , $2v_3$	71	Ni(100)	68	0.96
CH ₄ , v_1	35	Ni(100)	50	1.4 [*]
CH ₄ , $3v_4$	45	Ni(100)	–	≤ 0.5 [*]
CH ₄ , v_3	36	Ni(111)	45	1.25
CH ₄ , $2v_3$	71	Ni(111)	65	0.90
CH ₄ , $3v_4$	45	Ni(111)	34	0.72
CH ₄ , $2v_3$	71	Pt(111)	28	0.40
SiH ₄ , 2000>	53	Si(100) (1 × 2)	38	0.72 ^{*,†}
SiH ₄ , 1100>	55	Si(100) (1 × 2)	22	0.40 ^{*,†}

[1]



v_1 3025.5 cm⁻¹
A1 Symmetry



v_3 3156.8 cm⁻¹
F2 Symmetry

[4] All Raman active. v_3 and v_4 are IR active.

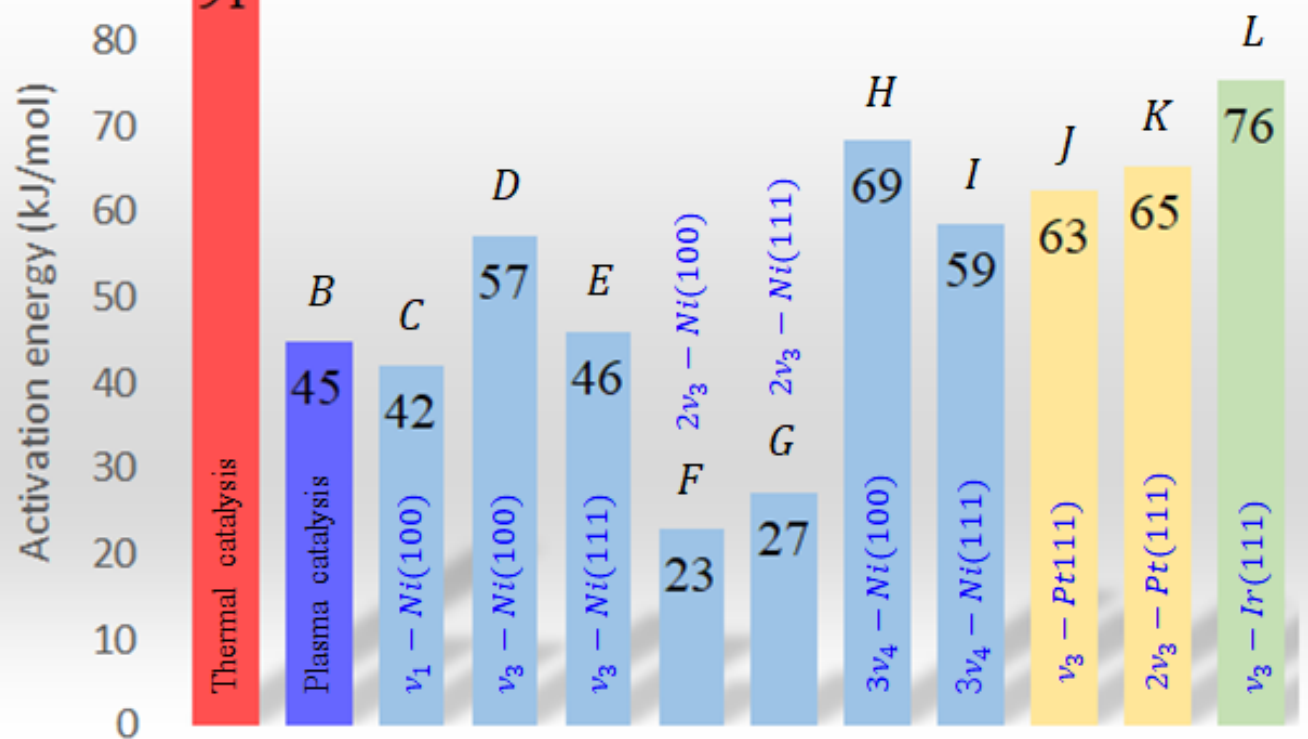
- <http://www2.ess.ucla.edu/~schauble/>
- A.L. Utz: *Curr. Opin. Solid State and Mater. Sci.*, **13** (2009) 4–12.
- M. Allan: *J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys.*, **38** (2005) 1679–1685.
- Herzberg, G.: *Molecular spectra and molecular structure. II. Infrared and Raman spectra of polyatomic molecules*, 1939, Van Nostrand.

Thermal reaction
(Ground state)

Modified activation energy : E_a^v

$$E_a^v = 91 - \eta E_v$$

Z Sheng et al, *Chem. Eng. J.*, **399** (2020) 125751.

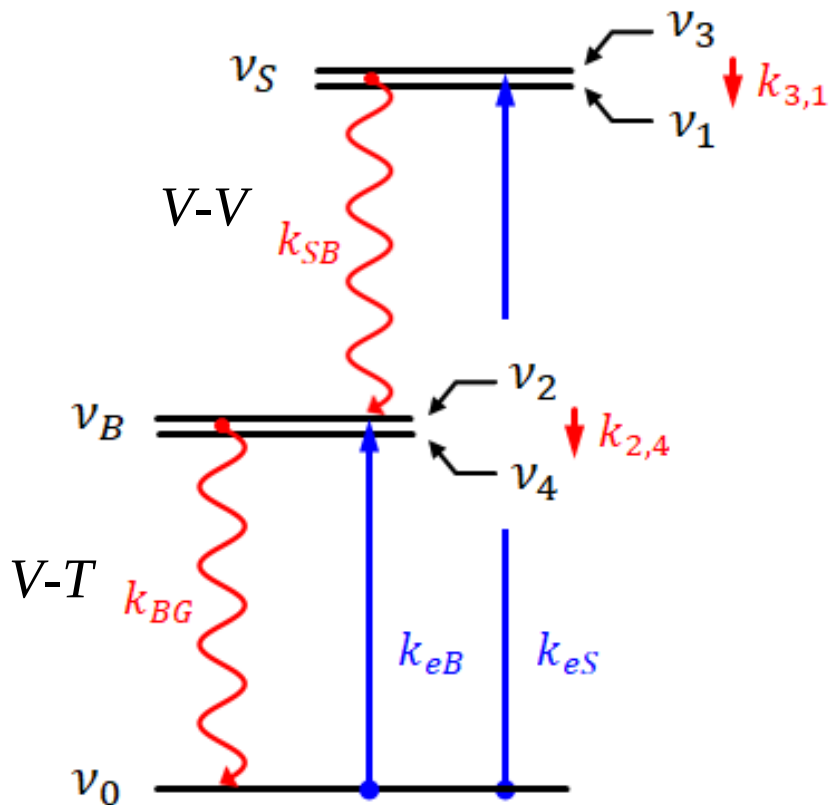


100 kHz DBD
(Vibrational)

- A.L. Utz: *Curr. Opin. Solid State and Mater. Sci.*, **13** (2009) 4–12.
- H. Ueta et al, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **15** (2013) 20526-20535.
- R. Bisson et al, *J. Phys. Chem. A*, **111** (2007) 12679-12683.
- E. Dombrowski et al, *Catal. Today*, **244** (2015) 10-18.

V-V and V-T transition

Z Sheng et al, *Chem Eng. J.*, **399** (2020) 125751.



Reaction rate equation

$$\frac{dN_S}{dt} = k_{eS}N_{CH_4}N_e - k_{SB}(N_{CH_4} + N_{CO_2})N_S$$

BOLSIG+

5 kPa, 600 °C, $CH_4/CO_2 = 1$.

$$\frac{dN_S}{dt} \approx -2k_{SB}NN_S \quad t = 0, \quad N_{S0} = k_{eS}NN_e\tau_{st} \quad (\tau_{st} = 10 \text{ ns})$$

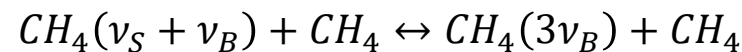
$$\tau_{SB} (0.1 \mu s) < T_{1/2}^{100kHz} (5 \mu s) < \tau_{BG} (31 \mu s) < T_{1/2}^{12kHz} (42 \mu s)$$



DBD generation cycle is 6-time faster than V-T transition.

Bending mode $CH_4(v_4)$ would be populated.

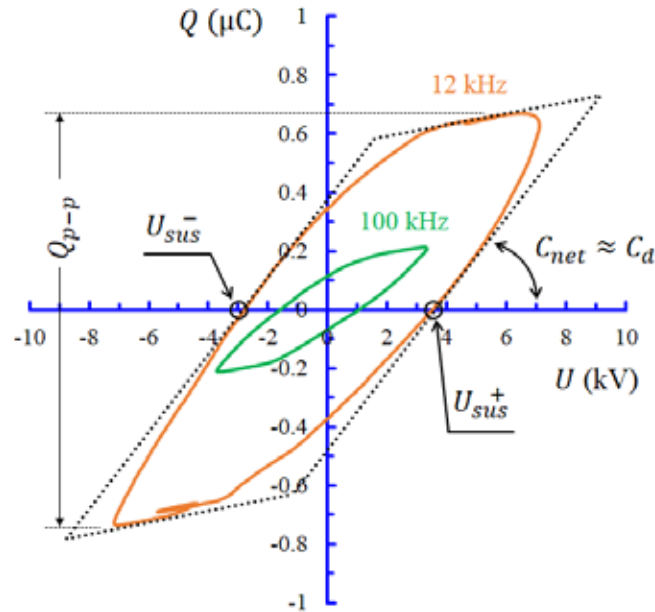
Generation of combined/overtone vibration mode (e.g. $3v_3$) is necessary.



Discharge behavior of PB-DBD

Why 100 kHz DBD is superior to 12 kHz DBD?

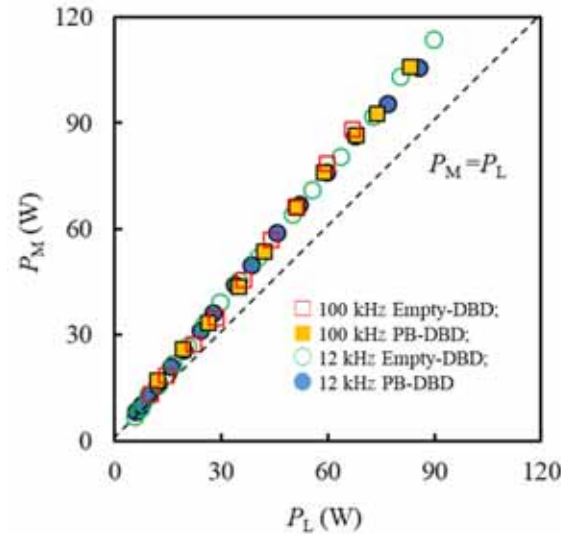
Discharge power and controlling parameters



$$P_L = f \oint Q dU$$

Q_{p-p} : peak-to-peak value of charge

U_{sus} : discharge sustain voltage



□ 100 kHz Empty-DBD

○ 12 kHz Empty-DBD

■ 100 kHz PB-DBD

● 12 kHz PB-DBD

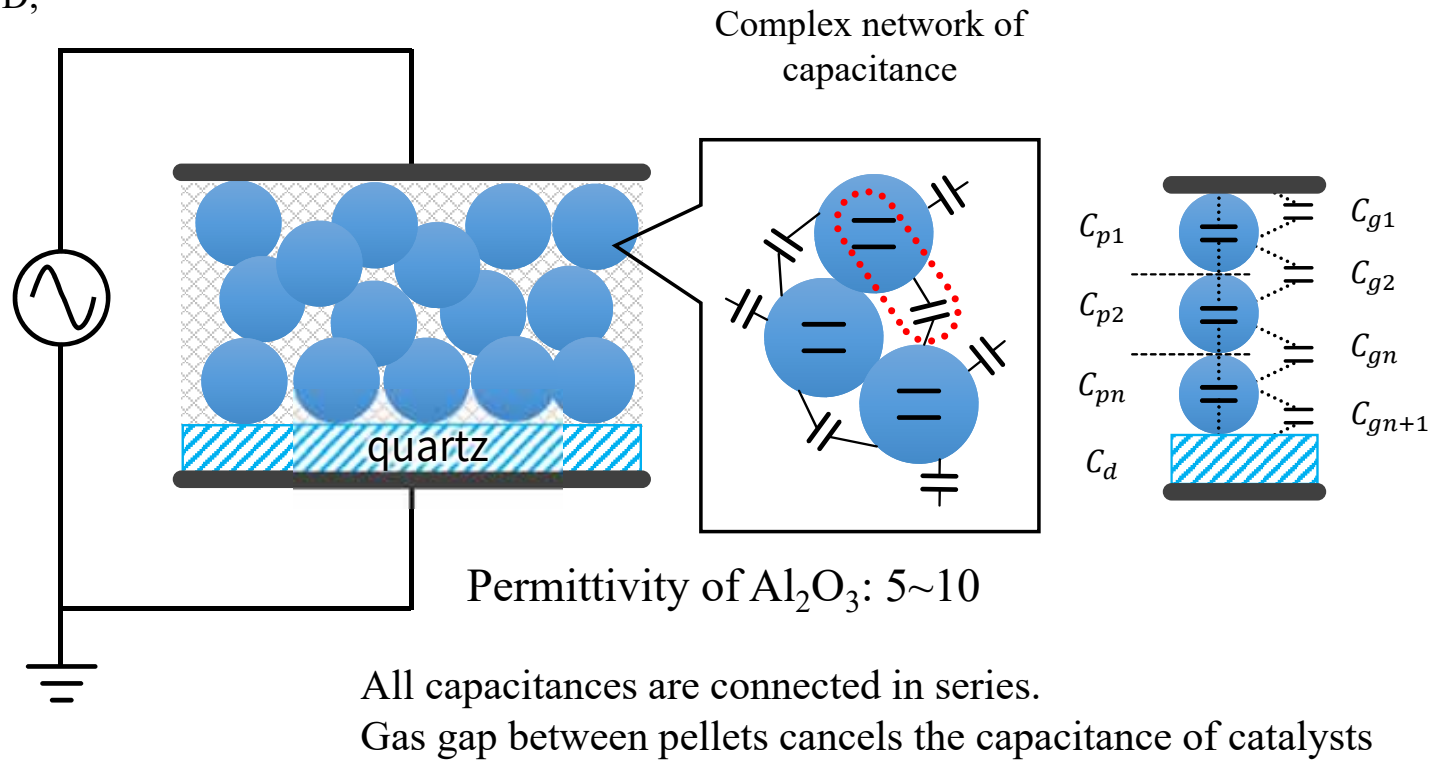
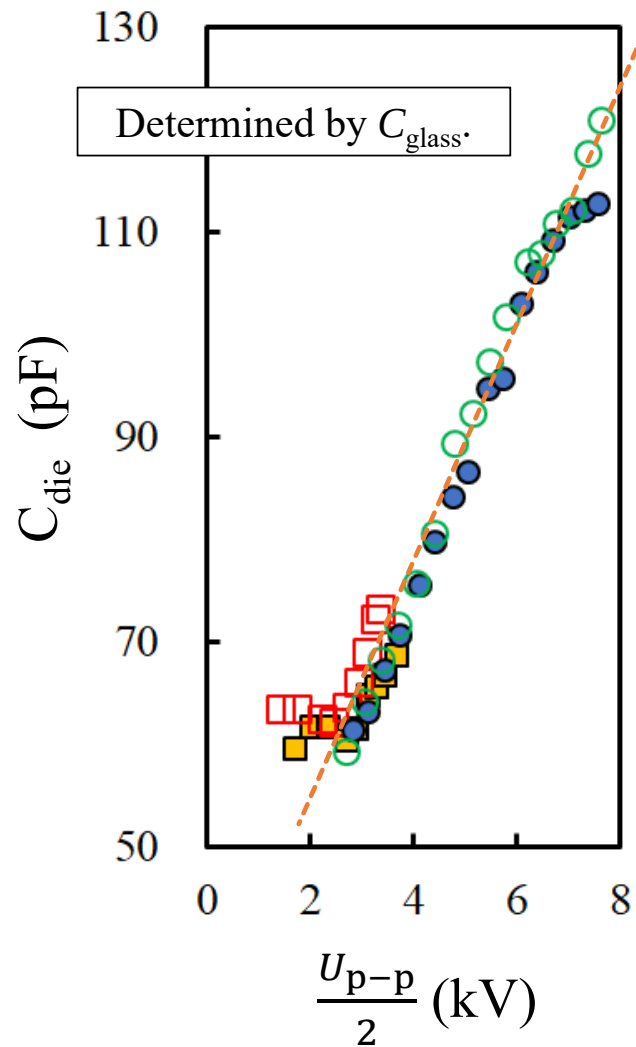
Manley's equation

T C Manley, *Trans. Electrochem. Soc.*, **84** (1943) 93–96

$$P_M = 4f \bar{U}_{sus} \frac{Q_{p-p}}{2} = 4\bar{U}_{sus} \frac{I_{p-p}}{2} \quad (C_{die} \gg C_{gas})$$

See also, Xin Tu et al, *Plasma Catalysis: Fundamentals and Applications*, Springer, 2019, pp.231-269.

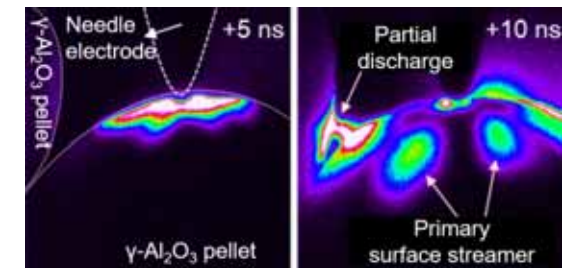
□ 100 kHz Empty-DBD; ○ 12 kHz Empty-DBD;
■ 100 kHz PB-DBD; ● 12 kHz PB-DBD.



Why no effect of pellets?

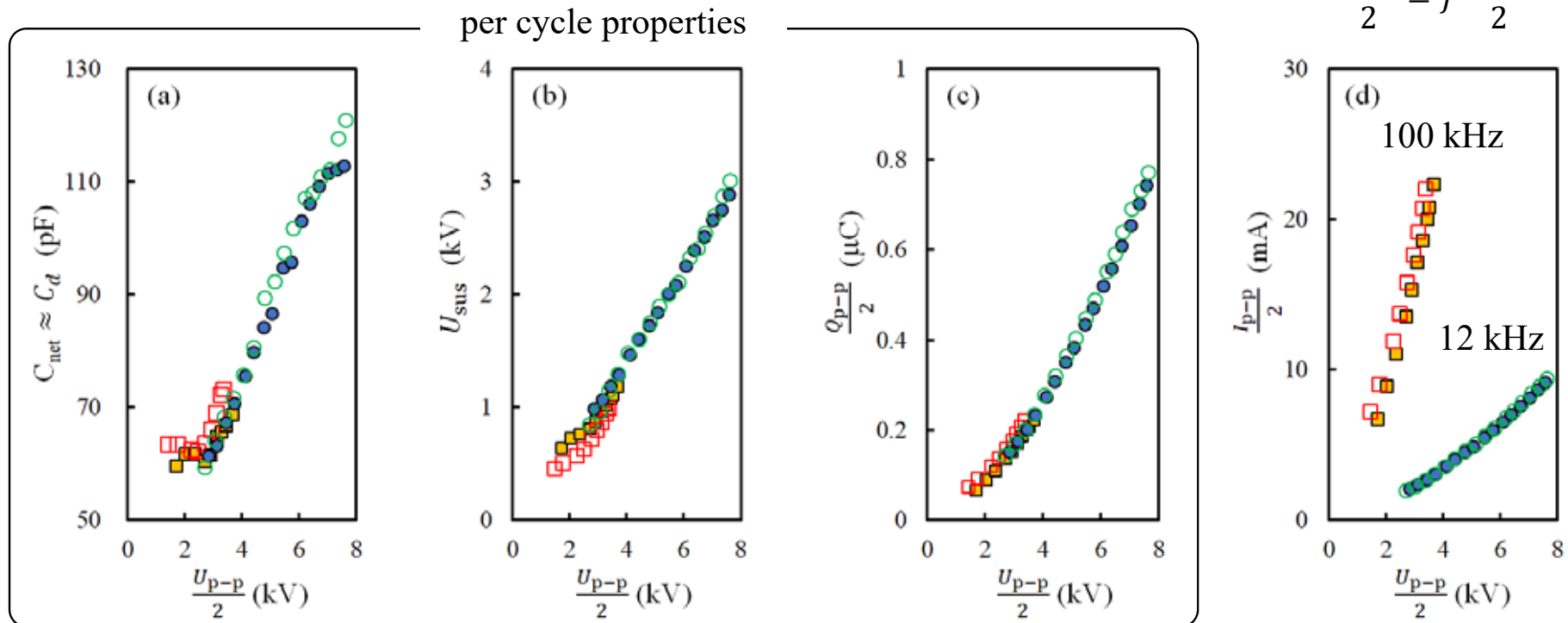
T. Butterworth et al, *Chem. Eng. J.* **293** (2016) 55–67.

- Pressure is “5 kPa” --- DBD would be diffused and decoupled with dielectric properties.
- Metal loading change streamer propagation.



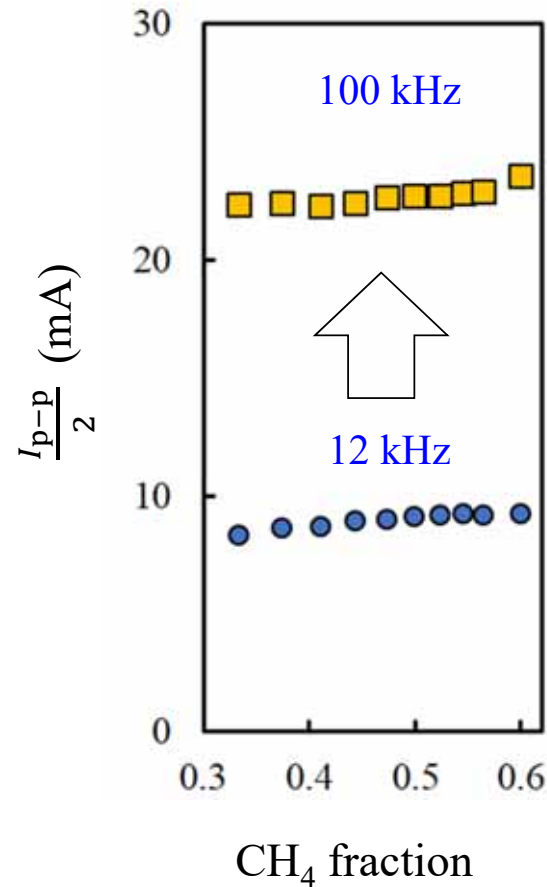
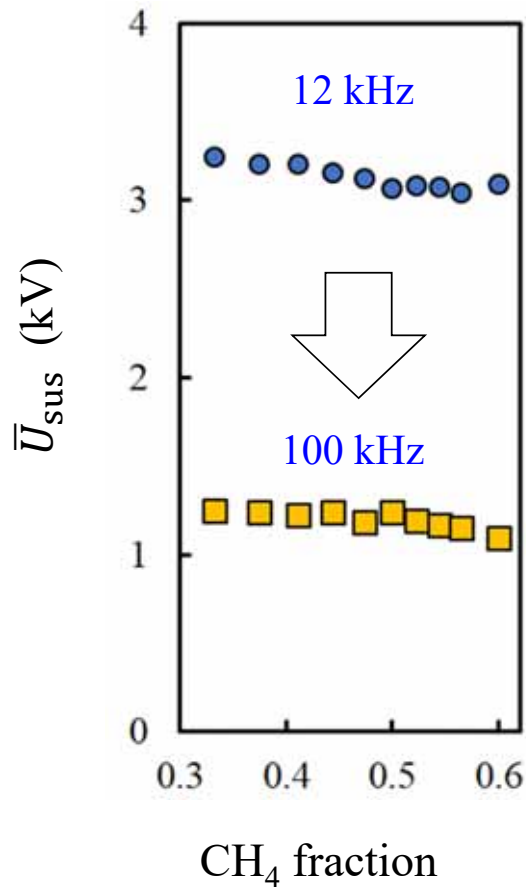
H-H Kim et al: *J Phys D*, **49** (2016) 155204

Additional info



- Discharge current increases doubled by frequency, while keeping the same power: Minimize heating effect and enhancing radical production rate.
- If the electric charge would increase with pellets ... we need a large power source to drive DBD!

What is the properties of individual streamer?



Manley's equation

$$P_M = 4f\bar{U}_{sus}\frac{Q_{p-p}}{2} = 4\bar{U}_{sus}\frac{I_{p-p}}{2} \quad (C_{die} \gg C_{gas})$$

100 kHz DBD generates more streamers per unit time.

Per streamer

$$\frac{dCH_4^v}{dt} = k_v N_{CH_4} N_e$$

$$\Delta CH_4^v / N_e = 40 - 150$$

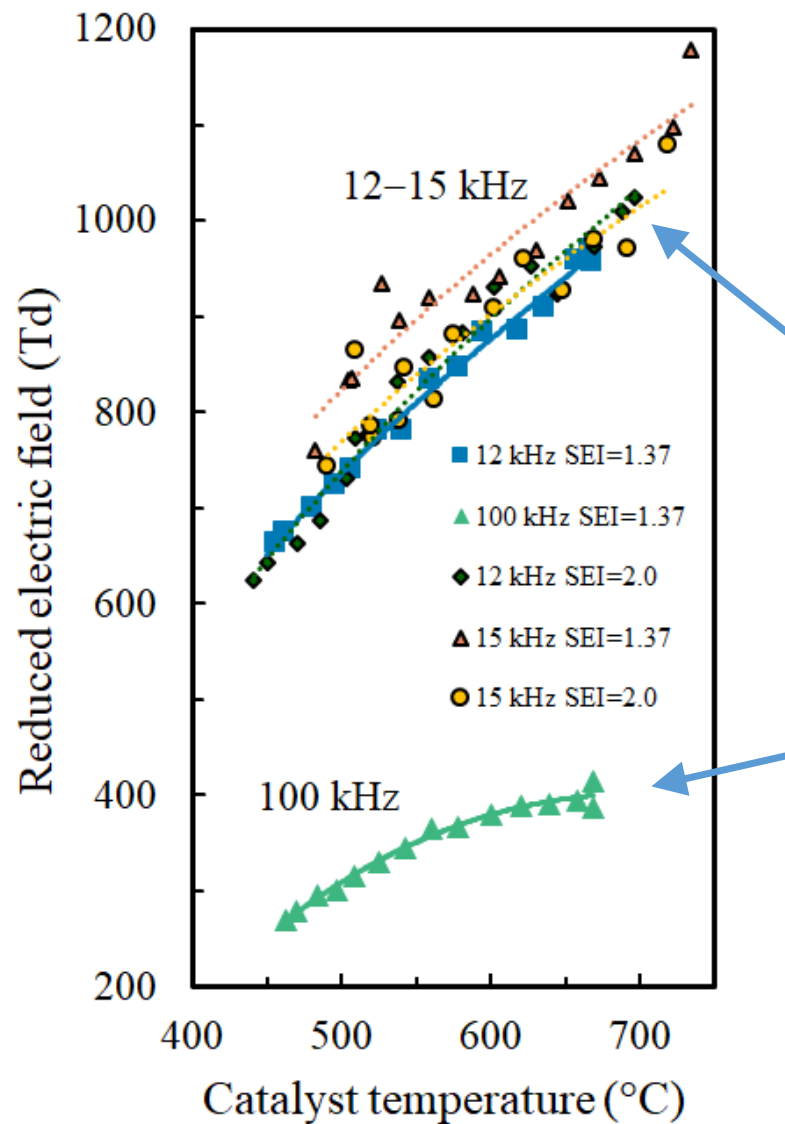
Z Sheng, *Chem. Eng. J.*, **399** (2020) 125751.

T Nozaki, *Catal. Today*, **89** (2004) 57-65.

What is the discharge properties of individual streamer?

BOLSIG+ $\text{CH}_4/\text{CO}_2 = 1$; 5 kPa; 600 °C

Reduced electric field



Reduced electric field

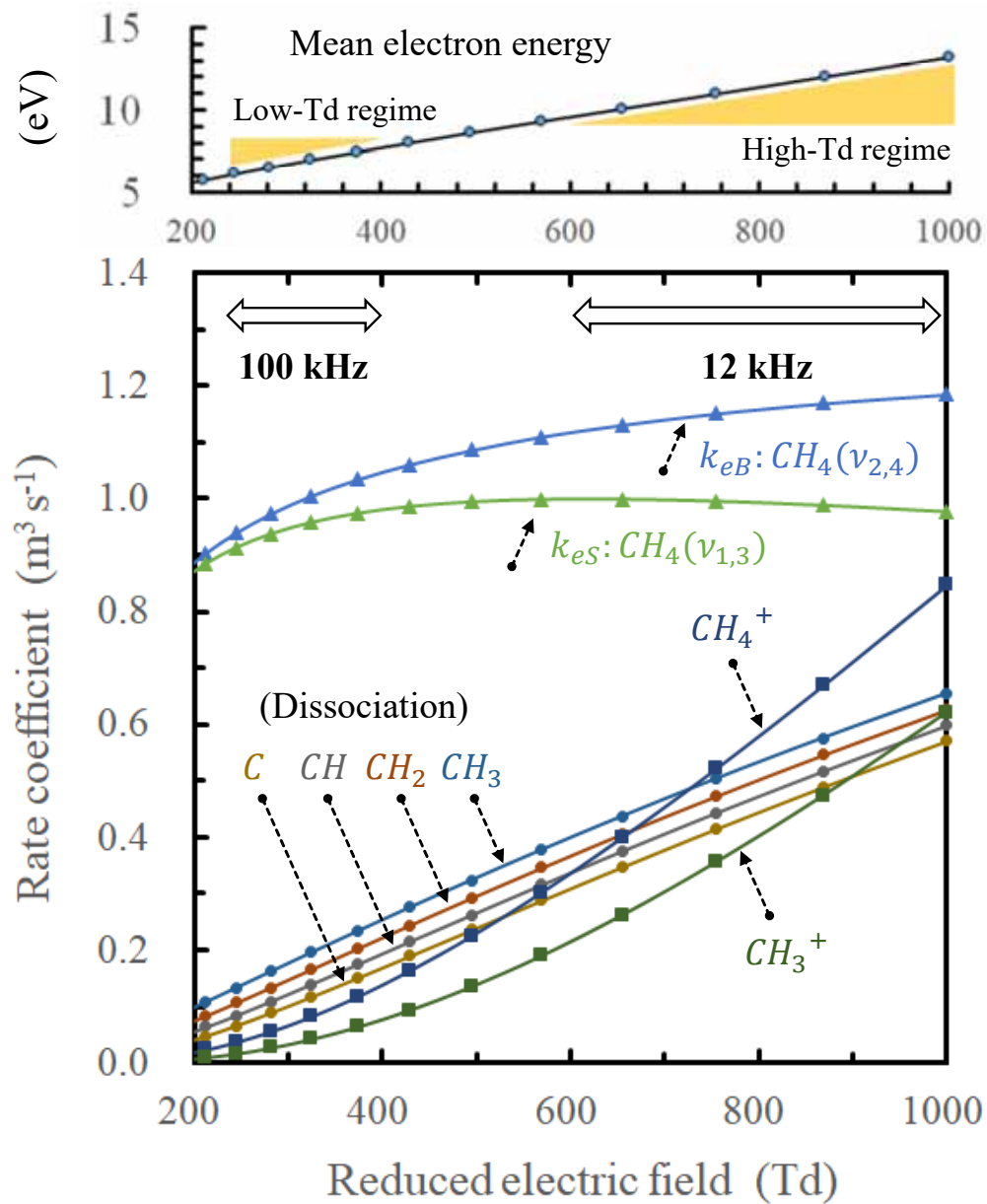
$$\frac{E}{N} (Td) = \frac{U_{sus}}{d \times N}$$

12 kHz

- High-Td regime
- Discharge properties do not change by *SEI* or *GHSV*.

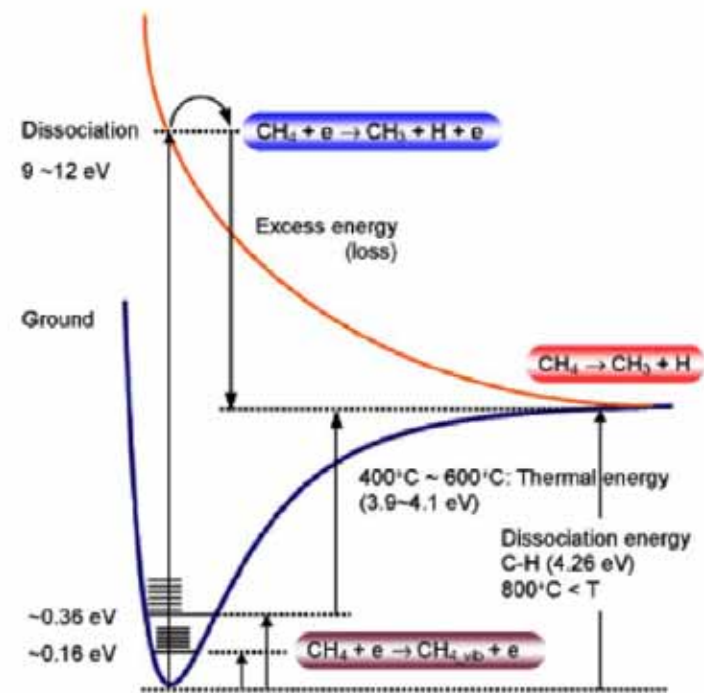
100 kHz

- Low-Td regime
- Discharge properties are distinguished from 12 kHz DBD.



← Z Sheng, *Chem. Eng. J.*, **399** (2020) 125751.

↓ T Nozaki, *Catal. Today*, **89** (2004) 57-65.

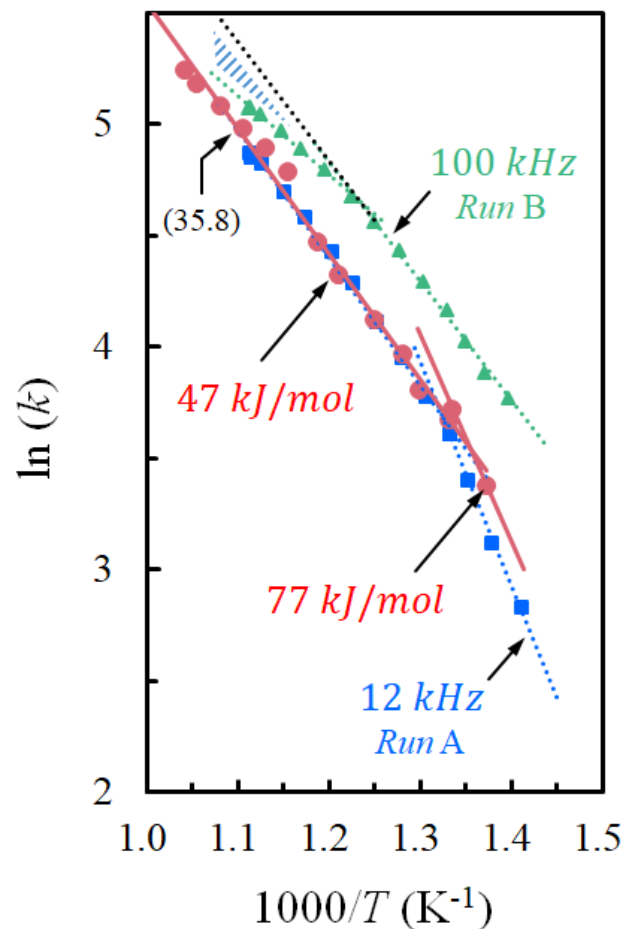


Arrhenius plot for different *SEI* and *GHSV*

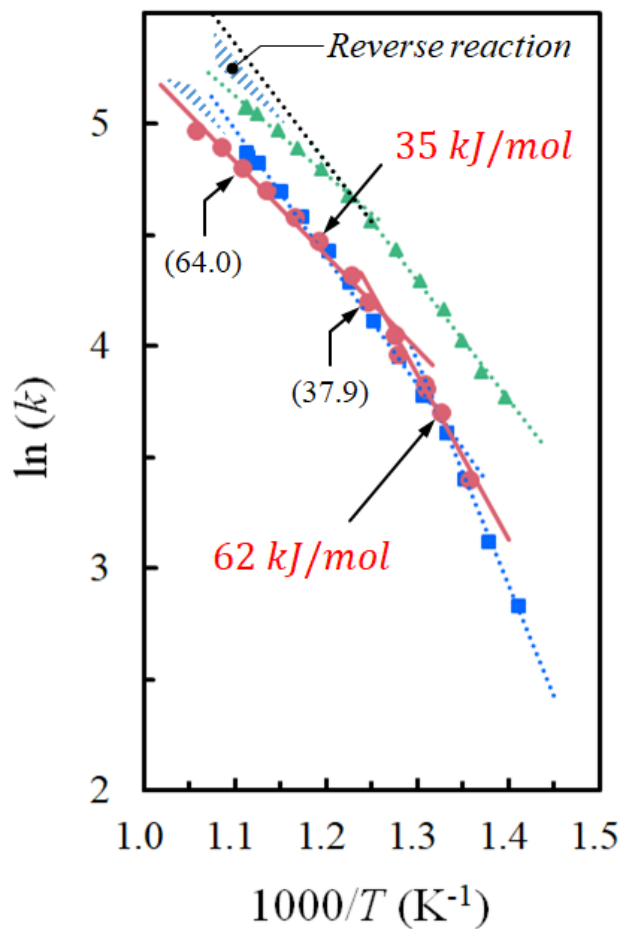
Blue symbol: *SEI* 1.37, *GHSV* 5,144, 90 W, 1000 cm³/min

GHSV decreases, *SEI* oncreases

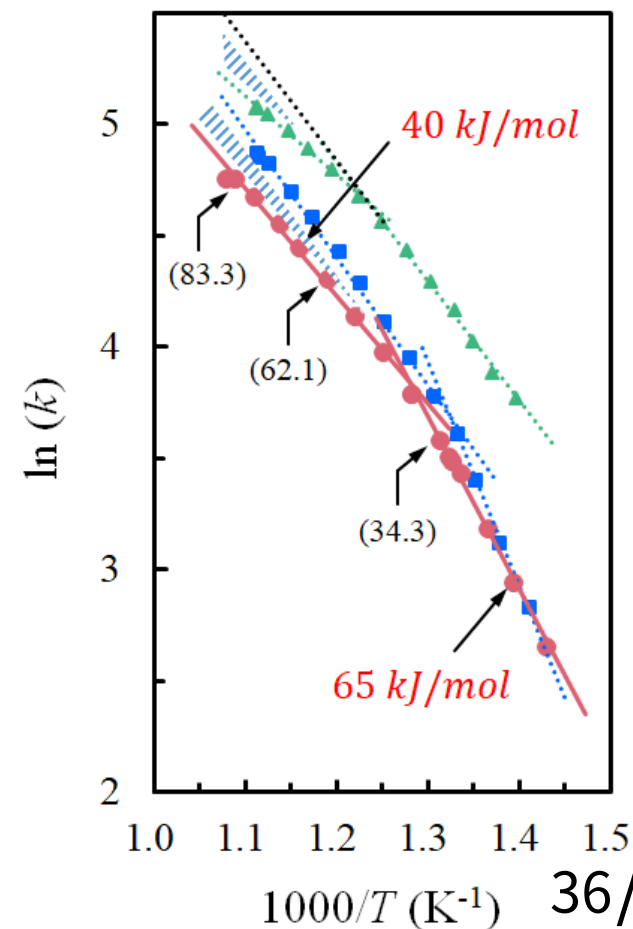
SEI 1.37, *GHSV* 10,289
180 W, 2000 cm³/min



SEI 2.0, *GHSV* 5,144
130 W, 1000 cm³/min



SEI 2.0, *GHSV* 3,600
90 W, 700 cm³/min



CH_4 conversion increases with *SEI* and Reaction time ($GHSV^{-1}$).

→ Do kinetic parameters change --- perhaps not !

1. *GHSV* decreases, conversion increases:

→ conversion per reaction time (reaction rate) is constant.

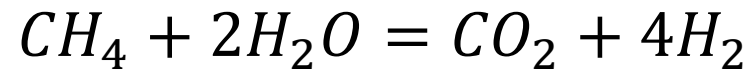
2. *E/N* does not change by *SEI* or *GHSV*.

→ A number of streamers changes, but streamer properties do not change to a large extent.

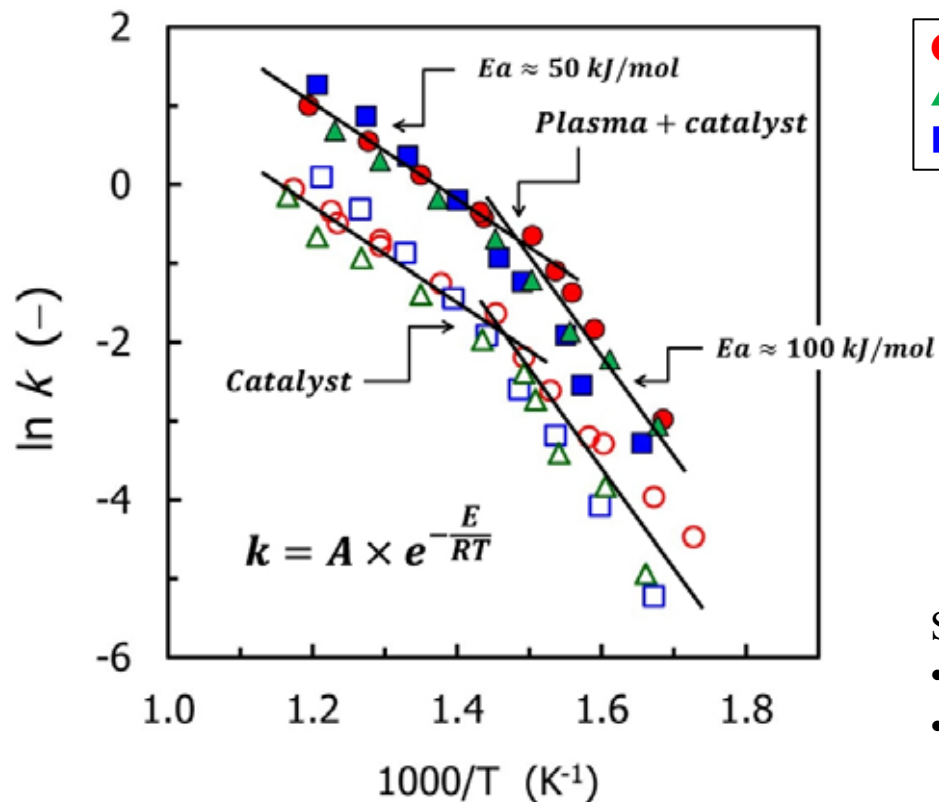
→ Activation energy is independent of *SEI* and *GHSV* at fixed frequency

Frequency (kHz)	U_{sus} (kV)	$I_{p-p}/2$ (mA)	Power (W)	Total flow (cm ³ /min)	<i>SEI</i>	<i>GHSV</i>
12 (control)	$3.03^{+0.16}_{-0.21}$	$9.18^{+0.61}_{-0.47}$	90	1,000	1.37	5,144
15	$3.37^{+0.23}_{-0.27}$	$14.1^{+0.75}_{-0.74}$	180	2,000	1.37	10,289
15	$3.15^{+0.25}_{-0.15}$	$12.5^{+1.27}_{-1.17}$	130	1,000	2.0	5,144
12	$3.05^{+0.23}_{-0.35}$	$9.19^{+0.67}_{-0.94}$	90	700	2.0	3,600

ex. CH₄ steam reforming



T Nozaki et al: *Energy & Fuels*, **21**, 2525, 2007.



● ○ : S/C = 1, GHSV = 18,000 hr⁻¹
 ▲ △ : S/C = 3, GHSV = 18,000 hr⁻¹
 ■ □ : S/C = 1, GHSV = 10,000 hr⁻¹

Conditions:

Ni(12wt%)/Al₂O₃ catalysts.

1–5 kHz bipolar pulsed high voltage.

SEI = 0.22–0.36 eV/molecule.

101 kPa (N₂ dilution).

$E_t \approx 100$ kJ/mol ($T_B = 420$ °C).

Similar kinetic behavior:

- Reaction order was unaffected by DBD
- Activation energy was unaffected by DBD, but reaction rate constant increased by DBD.

Conclusions

Please consult the *Figures and Statements* on Page 7, 10, 23, 26, 30, and 37.

Related to this presentation

- Z Sheng et al, *Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics*, **52**,414002(13pp), 2019.
- Z Sheng et al, *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*, **22**, 19349-19358, 2020.
- Z Sheng et al, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, **399**, 125751(14pp), 2020.

The 2020 Plasma Catalysis Roadmap

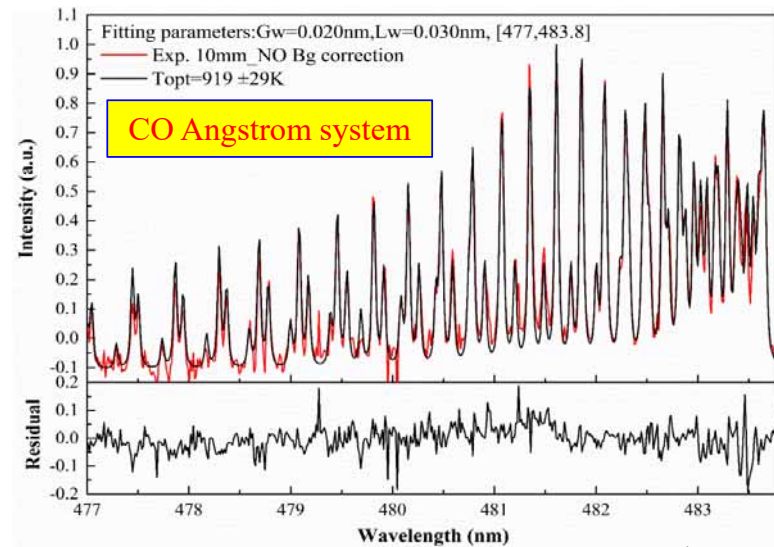
- A Bogaerts, X Tu, et al: *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, **53** (2020) 443001(51pp).

Acknowledgements

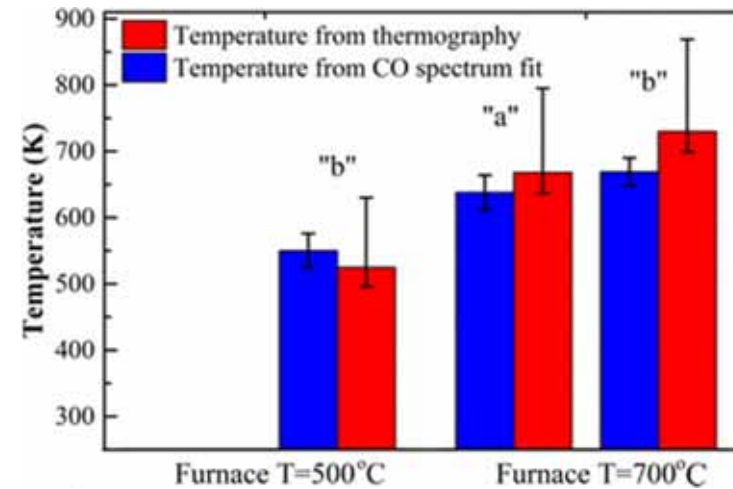
- Dr. Hyun-Ha Kim, AIST, Japan.
- Dr student, Zunrong Sheng, Tokyo Tech
- Dr. H. Ueta, Japan Atomic Energy Agency
- JST CREST (JPMJCR19R3)

Gas temp. $\approx$ Catalyst temp.

P Bruggeman, T Nozaki et al, *Plasma Chem. Plasma Process.*, **37** (2017) 29–41.

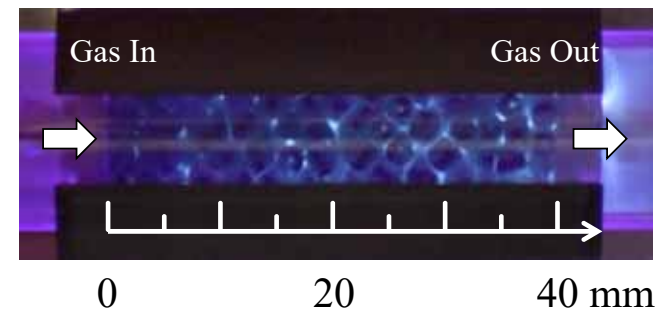
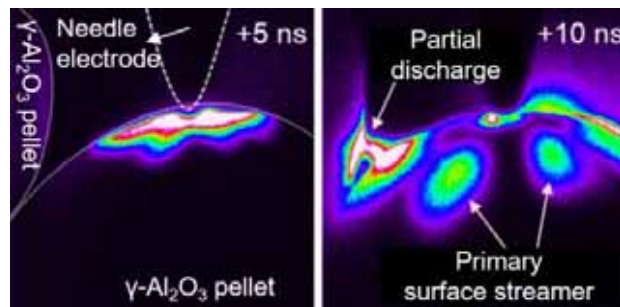


477 and 484 nm.



Optical emission

H-H Kim et al: *J Phys D*, **49** (2016) 415204



DBD: Dielectric Barrier Discharge

Reaction orders

