

Multiscale Modeling of Plasma Water Interfaces

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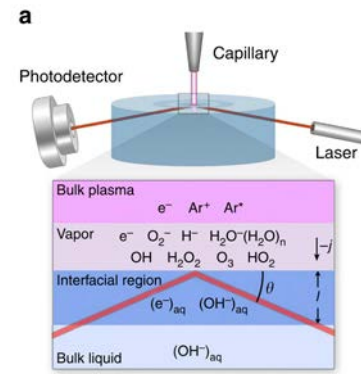
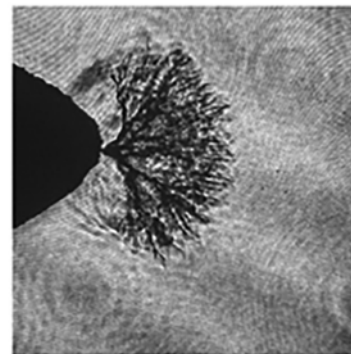
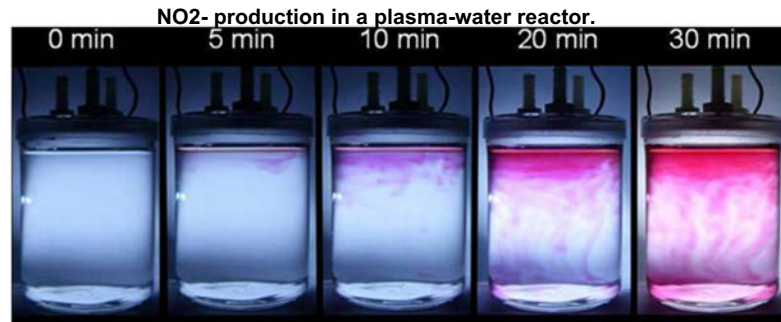
Motivation: Plasma-Water Interactions

Applications

- **Generation of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species**
 - Antimicrobial properties
 - Ammonia production
 - Wound disinfection and healing
 - And more
- **Other, domain specific**
 - Plasma medicine
 - Synthesize graphene particles and nanosheets
 - Toxic metal detection
 - And much more

Advantages

- **Cheap and abundant materials**
- **“Cold” plasma - useful for thermally sensitive surfaces**
 - heat-sensitive equipment
 - bodily wounds



Top: NO₂- production in a plasma-water reactor. [1]

Bottom-right: Schematic of solvated electron measurement experiment. [2]

Bottom-left: Streamers propagating in liquid water. [3]

[1] Oehmigen K. IEEE Trans. Plasma Sci. 39 2646 (2011)

[3] Foster, J., Physics of Plasmas 24 055501 (2017)

[2] Rumbach, P. et al. Nature Communications 6 7248 (2015)

Methods

- **Plasma-in-liquid**

- Directly ionize water phase with high voltages
- Requires high voltages, but good source of OH production

- **Bubble plasmas**

- Gas composition of bubbles may be tailored to adjust chemistry

- **Plasma-liquid interface**

- Plasma generated in gas phase
- Transport of reactive species depends on diffusion through water interface
- Electrons drive RONS production by entering water phase and solvating

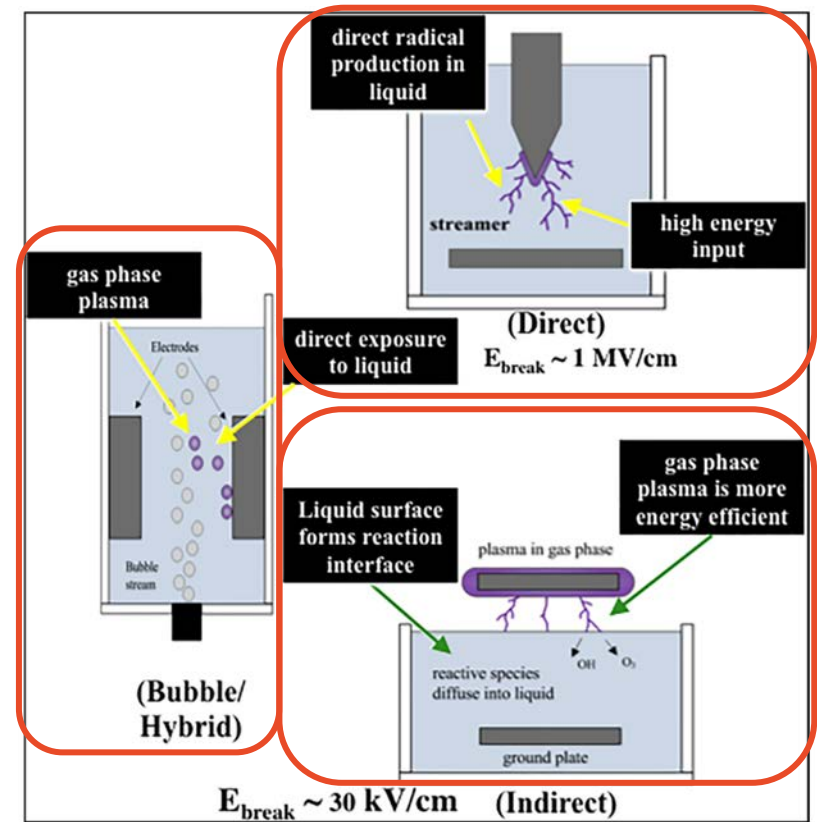
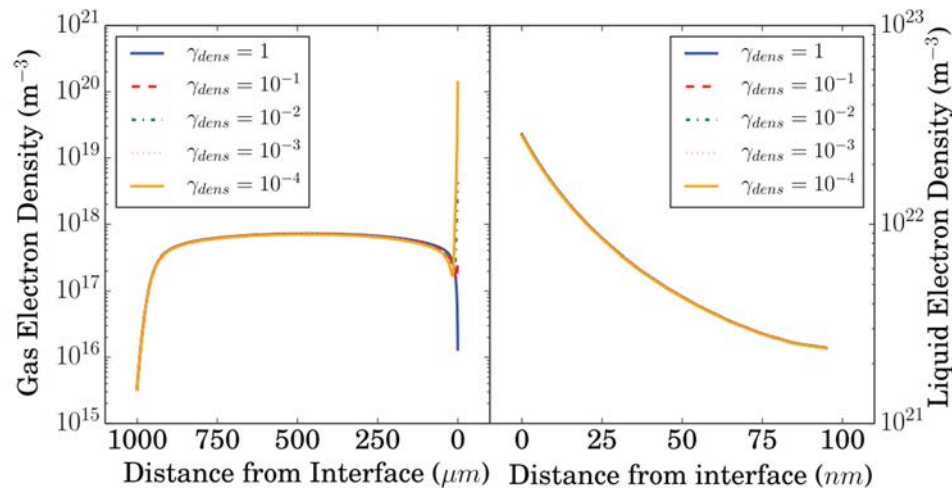


Figure adapted from [3].

Introduction to Zapdos-Crane



- Plasma-liquid interfaces are notoriously nonlinear, multiscale in both space and time, and multiphysics
- The MOOSE finite element framework was selected as an appropriate platform for development of a general plasma software package:
 - MOOSE applications are natively parallelizable and intended for high performance computing (HPC)
 - All MOOSE apps are able to be coupled together, facilitating multiphysics simulations
- The MOOSE app Zapdos¹ was developed specifically for modeling plasma transport in 2015-2016
 - As of 2017, only included support for electron and argon discharges
- No chemistry capabilities were included in the MOOSE framework, and Zapdos was hard-coded to accept only a handful of reactions



Electron density as a function of interfacial loss coefficient in the gas phase (left) and water phase (right). Simulation was performed with Zapdos. Figure adapted from [4].

[4] Lindsay, A. *et al.* J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 49 (2016) 235204 (9pp)

[5] C. DeChant, S. Keniley, D. Curreli, K. Stapelmann, S. Shannon, “Multi-physics simulation of the COST APPJ in the MOOSE framework”, Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 71th Annual Gaseous Electronic Conference, GT1.74, Portland, Oregon, Nov 5-9, 2018

Model Development

- As of 2017, Zapdos was hard-coded to accept only four species (e^- , Ar^+ in the gas phase, and $e^-_{(aq)}$ and $OH^-_{(aq)}$ in the water), with 5 total reactions.
- As part of past NSF research, we introduced two new capabilities:

1. Developed Plasma Chemistry Application in MOOSE: “CRANE”

<https://github.com/lcpp-org/crane>

- Written a model capable of handling an arbitrary number of reactions
- Reactions can be automatically parsed by code into source and sink terms
- Coupled to Zapdos to add source terms to drift-diffusion equations

2. Upgraded Zapdos

<https://github.com/shannon-lab/zapdos>

- Allowed an arbitrary number of user-defined species
- Included surface charge accumulation
- Upgraded water model to include neutral transport across interface

Zapdos: Drift-Diffusion-Reaction Equations

Volumetric Terms:

Species Density:

$$\frac{\partial n_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_s = R_{sj}$$

Electron Energy:

$$\frac{\partial(n_e \epsilon)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_\epsilon = \underbrace{-e \vec{\Gamma}_e \cdot \vec{E}}_{\text{Joule Heating}} + R_{sj,\epsilon}$$

$$\vec{\Gamma}_s = \pm \mu_s \vec{E} n_s - D_s \nabla n_s$$

$$\vec{\Gamma}_\epsilon = -\frac{5}{3} \epsilon \vec{\Gamma}_e - \frac{5}{3} n_e D_e \nabla \epsilon$$

Poisson Equation:

$$-\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{(\sum_i q_i n_i + q_e n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

Boundary Conditions [6]:

Electron BC:

$$\vec{\Gamma}_e \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1-r_e}{1+r_e} [-(2a_e - 1) \mu_e \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} n_e + \frac{1}{2} v_{th,e} n_e - \frac{1}{2} v_{th,e} n_\gamma] - \frac{2}{1+r_e} (1 - a_e) \sum_i \gamma_i \vec{\Gamma}_i \cdot \hat{n}$$

Ion/Neutral BC:

$$\vec{\Gamma}_i \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1-r_i}{1+r_i} [\pm (2a_i - 1) \mu_i \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} n_i + \frac{1}{2} v_{th,i} n_i]$$

Reaction Rates:

$$R_{sj} = \sum_j \nu_{sj} k_j \prod_r^R n_r$$

$$R_{sj,\epsilon} = \sum_j \nu_{sj} k_j \prod_r^R n_r \Delta \epsilon_j$$

CRANE: Chemical Kinetics

- Crane is a standalone Moose application developed as part of the previous NSF work focused on modeling arbitrary systems of ODEs
- Source code: <https://github.com/lcpp-org/crane>
- When coupled to Zapdos, it provides the reaction rate portion of the drift-diffusion-reaction system

$$\frac{dn_s}{dt} = \sum_{r=1}^{r_{max}} K_{sr}$$

$$K_{sr} = \nu_{sr} k_r \prod_l n_l^{\nu_{lr}}$$

ν_{sr} : Stoichiometric Coefficient
 k_r : Rate Coefficient
 $\prod_l n_l^{\nu_{lr}}$: Product of all Reactants for reaction r

- Electron-impact reactions preprocessed with external Boltzmann solver (Bolsig+)
 - Integral of EEDF $k_r = \gamma \int_0^\infty \varepsilon \sigma_r f_0 d\varepsilon$
 - Calculates rate coefficients (k) and electron transport coefficients
 - Values stored in look-up tables for a range of mean electron energies

- Developed to allow an arbitrary number of reactions to be added in a human-readable format

Reaction	Rate Coefficient	Units
$e + Ar \rightarrow e + Ar$	EEDF	$m^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + Ar \rightarrow Ar + e$	EEDF	
$e + Ar \rightarrow e + Ar$	EEDF	
$e + Ar \rightarrow 2e + Ar^+$	EEDF	
$e + Ar \rightarrow 2e + Ar^+$	EEDF	
$Ar + Ar \rightarrow e + Ar + Ar^+$	3.3734×10^8	
$Ar + Ar \rightarrow Ar + Ar$	1.807×10^3	

Typical reaction list you find in a paper



How you write it in CRANE:

```
[Reactions]
[argon_reactions]
  species = 'em Ar+ Ar*'
  file_location = 'rate_files'
  potential = 'potential'

reactions = 'em + Ar -> em + Ar           : EEDF [elastic] (reaction1)
            em + Ar -> em + Ar*           : EEDF [-11.5] (reaction2)
            em + Ar* -> em + Ar           : EEDF [11.5] (reaction4)
            em + Ar -> em + em + Arp      : EEDF [-15.76] (reaction3)
            em + Ar* -> em + em + Arp     : EEDF [-4.43] (reaction5)
            Ar* + Ar* -> em + Ar + Arp    : 3.3734e8'
            Ar* + Ar -> Ar + Ar           : 1807

[]
[]
```


2. Upgrades of Zapdos

Source code: <https://github.com/shannon-lab/zapdos>

Zapdos required multiple updates to address realistic plasma-water chemistry:

2.1 Accept arbitrary number s of user-defined plasma species

2.2 Add surface charge accumulation for dielectric interfaces

2.3 Include heavy species solvation and evaporation boundary conditions

$$\frac{\partial n_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_s = R_{sr}$$

$$\vec{\Gamma}_s = \pm \mu_s \vec{E} n_s - D_s \nabla n_s$$

$$-\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{(\sum_i q_i n_i + q_e n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

2. Upgrades of Zapdos

2.1 Accept arbitrary number of user-defined species

- Existing code was abstracted to include arbitrary species variables
- A new class, '**HeavySpeciesMaterial**', was added to add species properties (mass, charge, transport coefficients)
- Mobility and diffusivity are by default given by Einstein's relation (user can change)

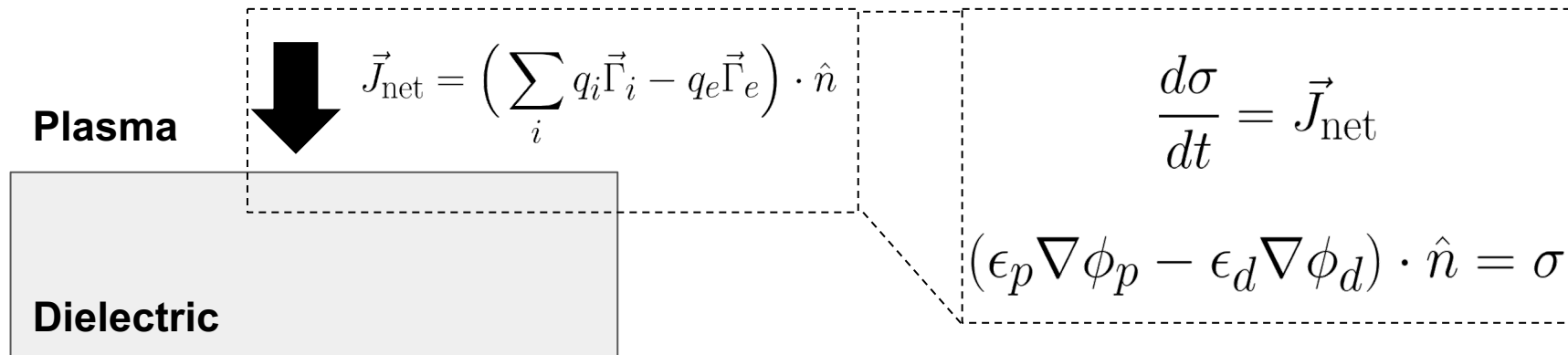
```
[gas_species_example]
  type = HeavySpeciesMaterial
  heavy_species_name = Ar+
  heavy_species_mass = 6.64e-26
  heavy_species_charge = 1.0
  diffusivity = 1.6897e-5
[]
```

$$\mu_s = \frac{Z_s q_e D_s}{k_B T_e}$$

2. Upgrades of Zapdos

2.2 Added surface charge accumulation for dielectric interfaces

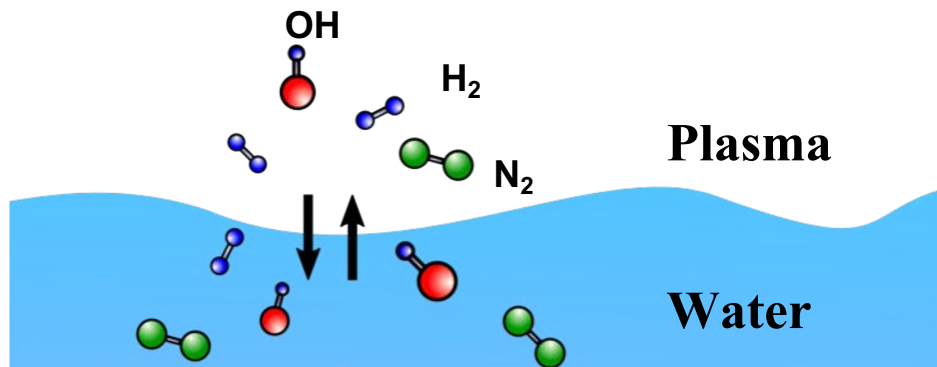
- Dielectrics are widely used in plasma discharges, but no interface existed in Zapdos to handle surface charge accumulation
- Surface charge was added to the model in two parts:
 - a. ODE at dielectric boundary to describe surface charge accumulation
 - b. Interfacial boundary condition for discontinuous electric field



2. Upgrades of Zapdos

2.3 Include heavy species solvation and evaporation boundary conditions

- A two-way interfacial transport model was added to Zapdos to allow neutral species to transport between gas and liquid phases based on Henry's law
 - a. Henry coefficient, H , defines equilibrium concentration of species at interface
 - b. Flux equality at the interface allows species to naturally flow in or out of the liquid
- While Henry's law is an equilibrium relationship, but only a **local** equilibrium at the interface is assumed - no assumption about bulk concentrations is made



Henry's Law (local at the interface):

$$Hn_G = n_L$$

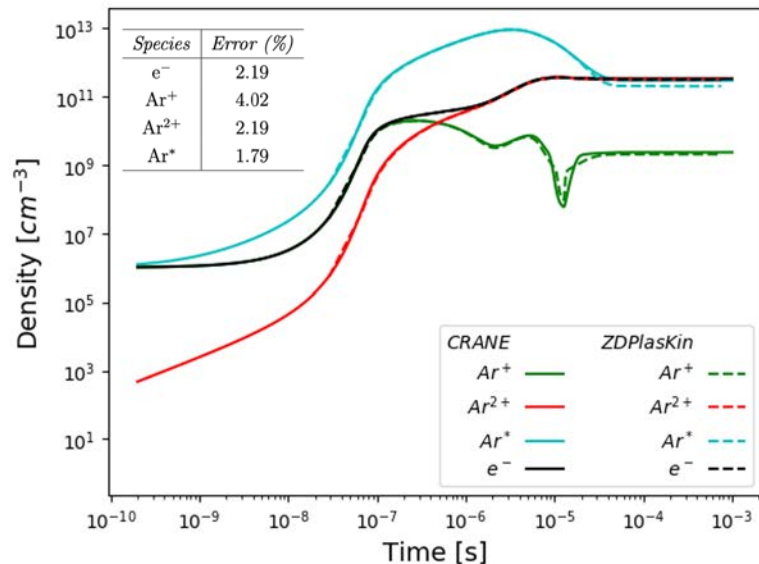
Flux Equality:

$$D_G \nabla n_G = D_L \nabla n_L$$

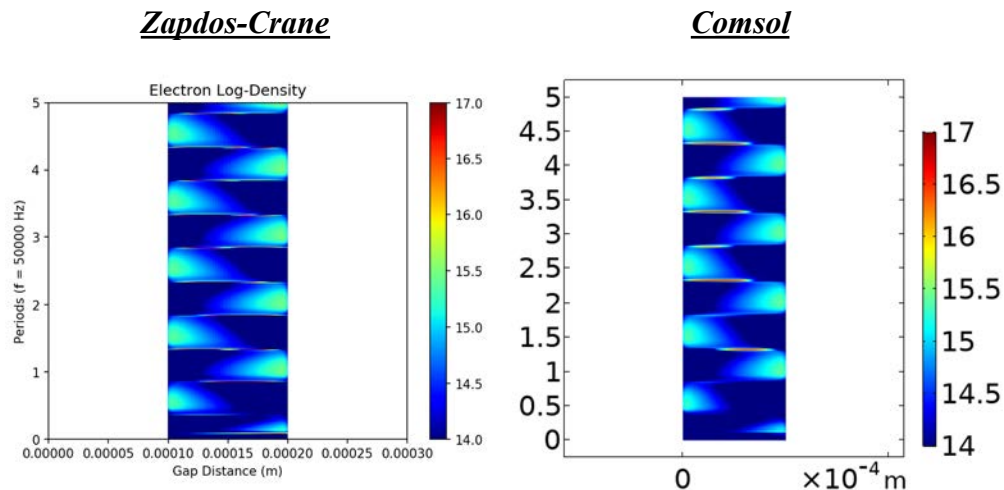
Verification of Zapdos-Crane

- Both codes were verified against multiple known problems; two examples:

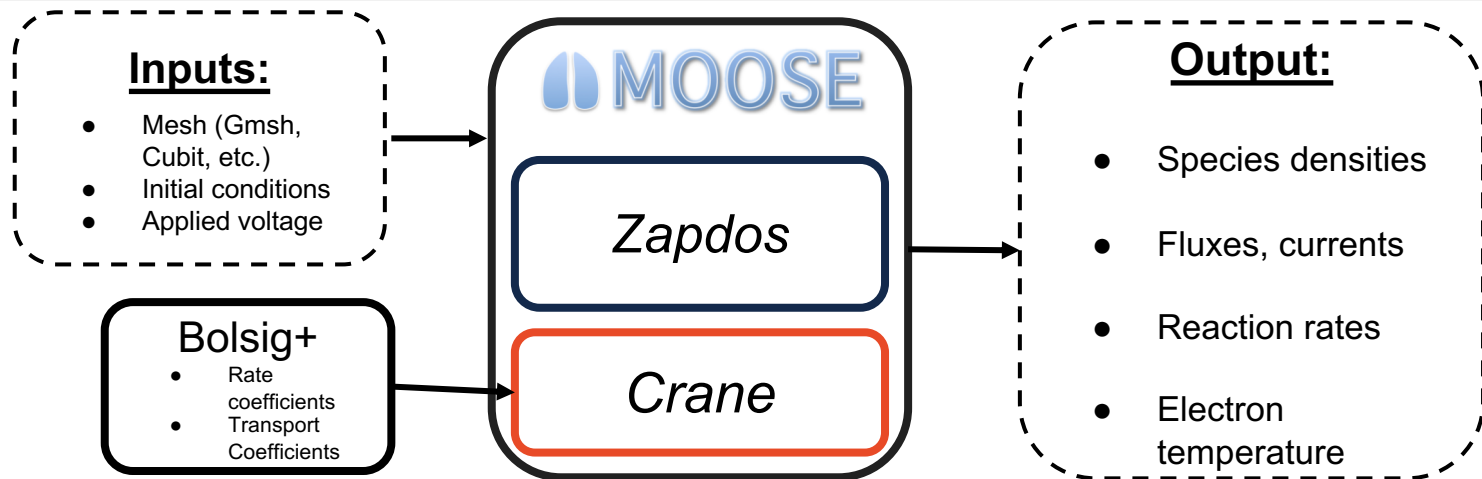
Crane vs. ZDPlasKin (0D reaction networks)



Zapdos-Crane vs. Comsol (1D Dielectric Barrier Discharge)



Typical Workflow



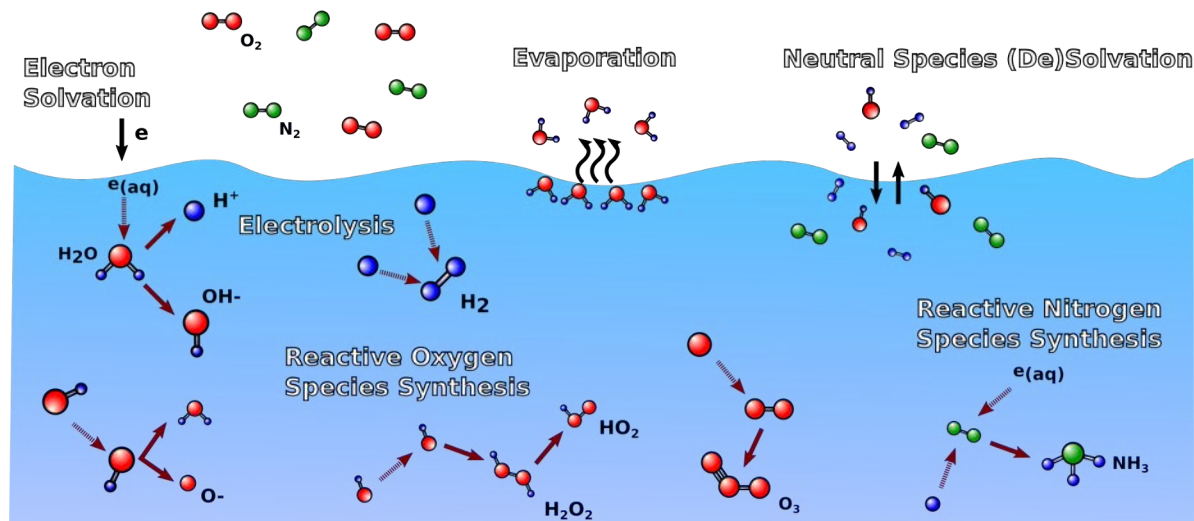
Zapdos-Crane was presented at a 2018 APS-GEC Workshop as an open-source plasma tool :

[8] C. Icenhour, S. Keniley, C. DeChant, C. Permann, A. Lindsay, R. Martineau, D. Curreli, S. Shannon, Multi-Physics Object Oriented Simulation Environment (MOOSE), Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 71th Annual Gaseous Electronic Conference, BM2.1, Portland, Oregon, Nov 5-9, 2018

<https://github.com/lcpp-org/crane>

<https://github.com/shannon-lab/zapdos>

Plasma-liquid interfaces: a challenge for modern plasma



- **Multiscale and multiphysics**

- Electron penetration depth: ~10-100 nm
- Discharges: mm-m
- Electron solvation: O(fs)
- Electron-driven aqueous reactions: O(ns)
- Chemical reactions: O(us-ms)
- Species diffusion: O(ms - minutes)

- **Strongly coupled behavior between plasma and water**

- Electrons drive chemistry in the interface layer, which change chemical composition of the water
- Species diffuse in and evaporate out of interface, modifying plasma discharge conditions
- Electric fields, gas flow can deform water
- Plasma-induced fluid convection and turbulence is possible

Model of the Plasma-Water Interface in Zapdos-Crane

- Water region assumed to behave as a “dense plasma”:

- Same drift-diffusion-reaction equations apply
- Higher background density
- Relative permittivity of 81

Plasma Region:

$$\frac{\partial n_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_s = R_{sr}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{(\sum_i q_i n_i + q_e n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

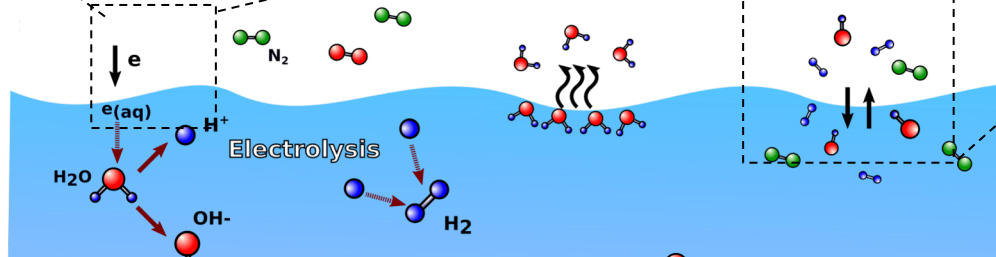
Water Region:

$$\frac{\partial n_{s,aq}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_{s,aq} = R_{sr,aq}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{(\sum_i q_i n_i + q_e n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

Electrons directly drift and diffuse into water:

$$\vec{\Gamma}_{e,liquid} \cdot \hat{n} = -\vec{\Gamma}_{e,gas} \cdot \hat{n}$$



Assumptions:

- Electrons solvate instantly in water phase
 - Solvation time estimated to be O(fs)
- Heat transport is neglected (recently relaxed)
- Electron temperature is not considered in water

Heavy Species Solvation (Henry's Law):

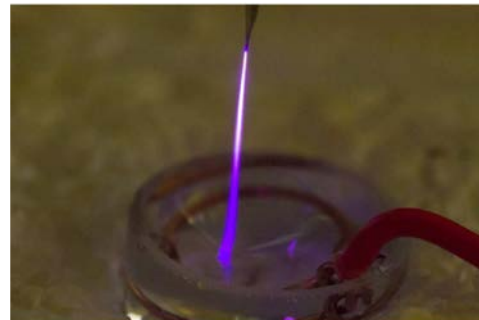
$$H n_G = n_L$$

$$D_G \nabla n_G = D_L \nabla n_L$$

Case 1: Ar/H₂O plasma on liquid water

A first test of plasma-water interactions was developed in humid argon at atmospheric pressure

- DC circuit with ballast resistor boundary condition was applied
- Grounded wall at $x = 1.01$ mm
- Plasma-water interface at $x = 1$ mm



Left: pin-to-water discharge. (Adapted from [4])

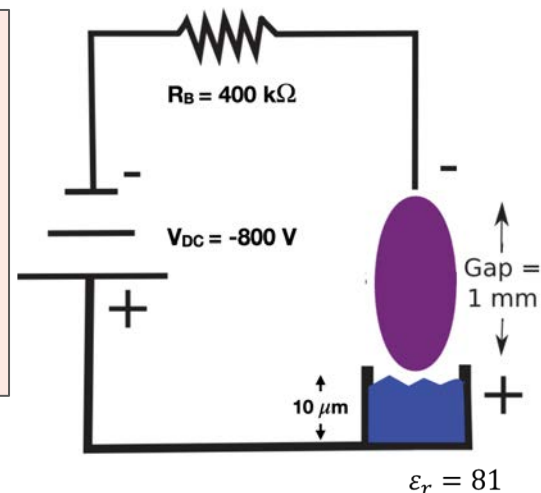
Bottom: Simulation domain

Plasma model:

- 26 species, 141 reactions
- Humid Argon
- Neutral Ar included as static background
- Reaction network largely adapted from Tian and Kushner [11]

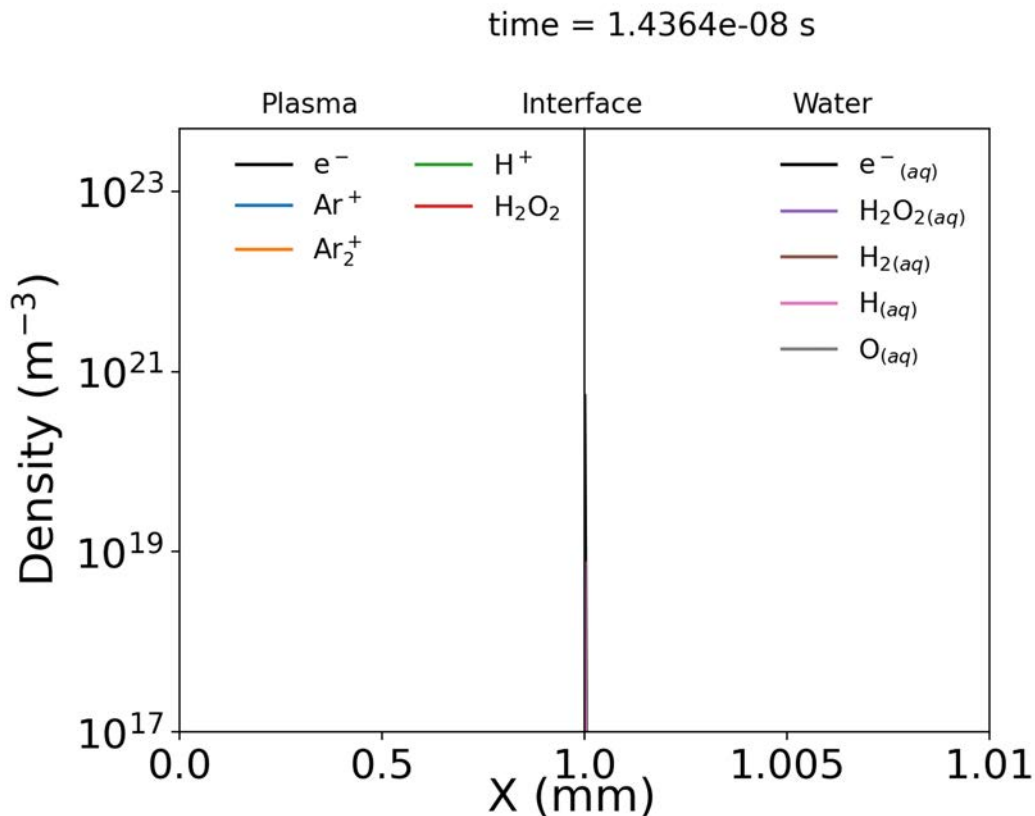
Water model:

- 17 species, 67 reactions
- H₂O static background
- Salt included at initial concentration of 10 mM
 - Artificial source term is used to simulate replenishment from bulk for Na⁺ and Cl⁻

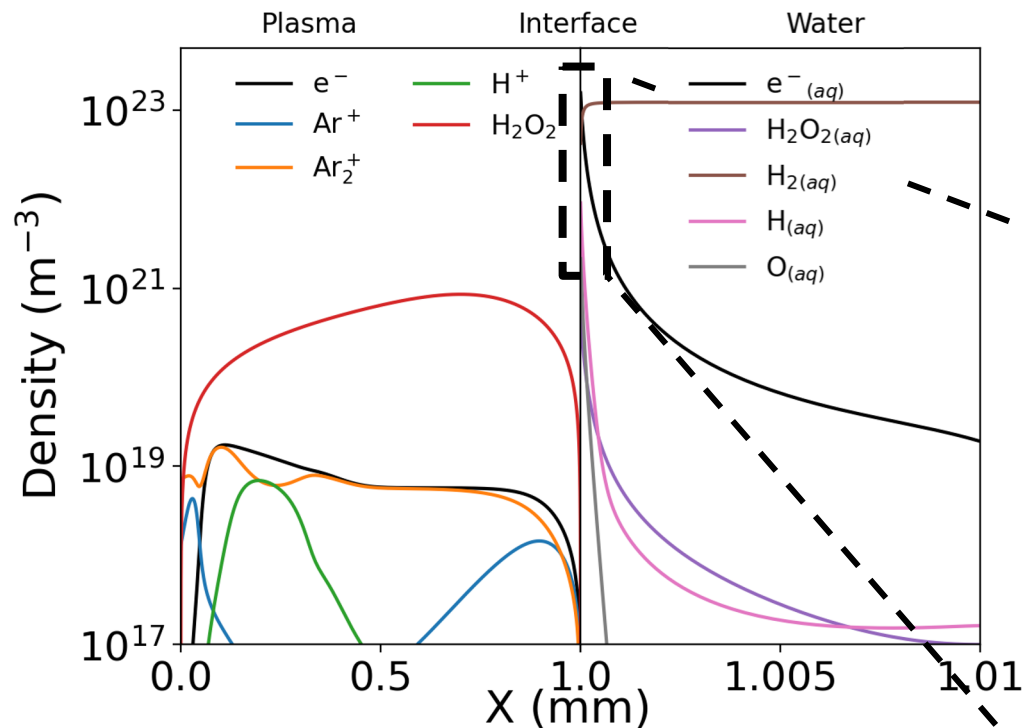


[4] Lindsay, A. *et al.* J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 48 (2015) 424007, [11] Tian, W. Phd Dissertation, University of Michigan, 2015.

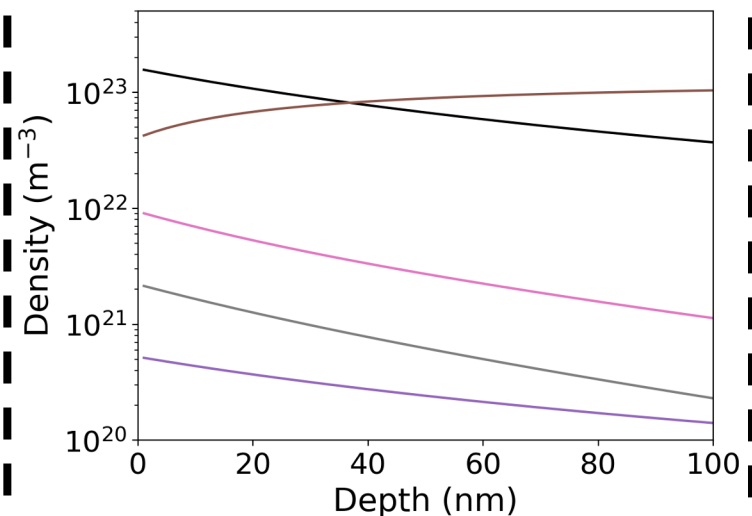
Results - Ar/H₂O plasma on liquid water, species density



Results - Ar/H₂O plasma on liquid water, species density

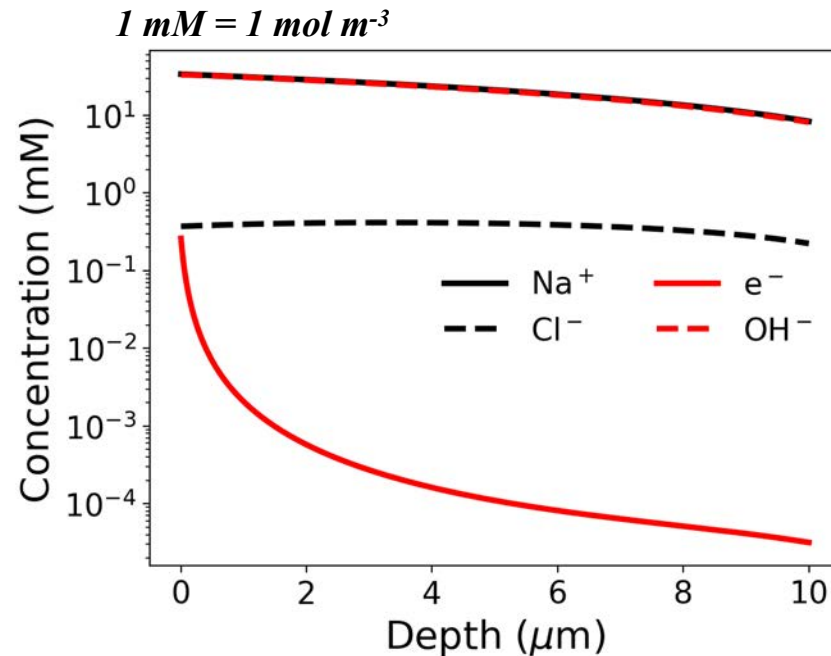


- Electrons reach high concentrations on the liquid side
- They react quickly, decreasing by a factor of 5 within the first 100 nm



Results - Aqueous Charge Balancing

- Electrons quickly convert to OH^- through second-order recombination:
$$2e_{(aq)} + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2OH_{(aq)}^- + 2H_{2(aq)}$$
- OH^- accumulation forms highly basic solution at the interface
- Na^+ accumulates at the surface to balance the negative charge injected by the plasma
- This effect was predicted by Rumbach [12] but not seen in previous models [13]

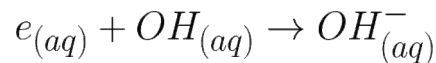
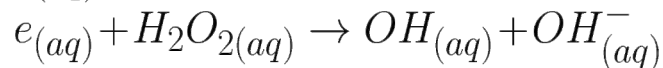
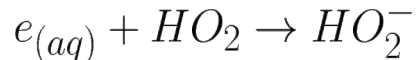


[12] Rumbach, P. *et al.* Physical Review E, 95(5):53203 (2017)

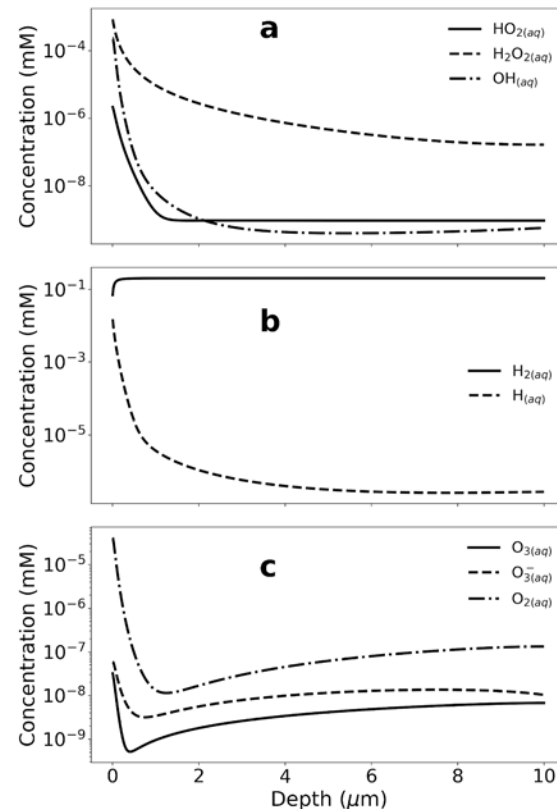
[13] Gopalakrishnan, R. *et al.* J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 49 29 (2016)

Results - Reactive Species Generation

- HO_2 , H_2O_2 , and OH are the most dominant electron scavengers via reactions:



- Hydrogen ($\text{H}_{2(aq)}$) reaches high concentrations in the liquid, as expected from electrolysis
- Oxidizing species (O_2 , O_3) are quickly depleted in the interface layer by solvated electrons
 - Increasing solvated electron concentration in the liquid phase should *decrease* the concentration of oxidizing agents in the liquid

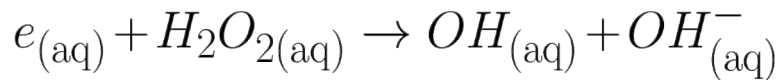
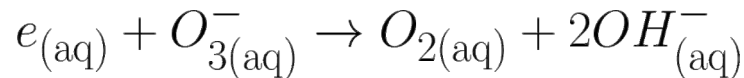
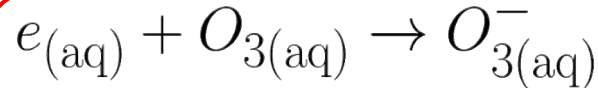
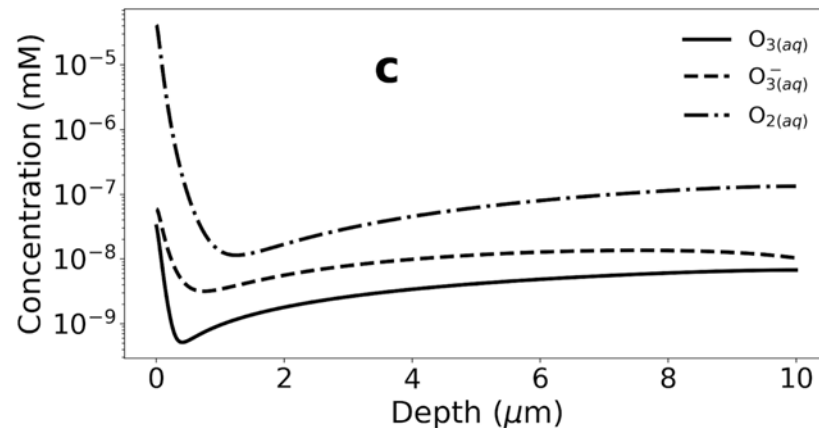


Solvated Electrons at the Water Interface

I. Aqueous Chemical Pathways

- Solvated electrons have been shown to play a dominant role in the plasma-water interface
- While solvated electrons clearly cause a decrease in oxygen species in the thin interface region (< 1 micron), they also open up additional pathways in the water

Based on the model results we expect that:
Increasing electron current density will *decrease* delivery of O_3 and H_2O_2 due to aqueous chemical reaction pathways with solvated electrons.



Case 2: Air/H₂O (humid air) plasma on liquid water

- **This case involves an atmospheric pressure mixture of nitrogen, oxygen, and water**

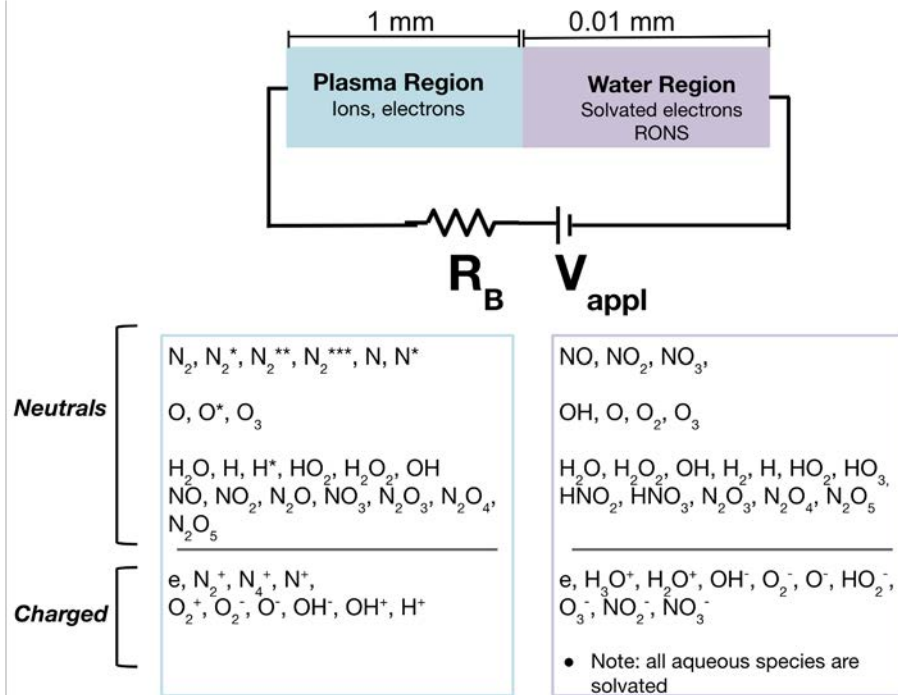
- 1D DC discharge, two region model
- Grounded wall at liquid boundary ($x = 1.01$ mm)
- $V_{\text{appl}} = -3$ kV
- Both air and liquid chemistry models are adapted from Tian's 2015 thesis and Buxton et al [4] [7]

- **Humid air plasma model (N₂/O₂/H₂O)**

- 32 species, 187 reactions
- Nitrogen, water, and hydrogen: Itikawa database
- Oxygen: TRINITI database; both at: www.lxcat.net
- Water introduced with vapor pressure BC at liquid interface (amounts to ~1% humidity)

- **Water model**

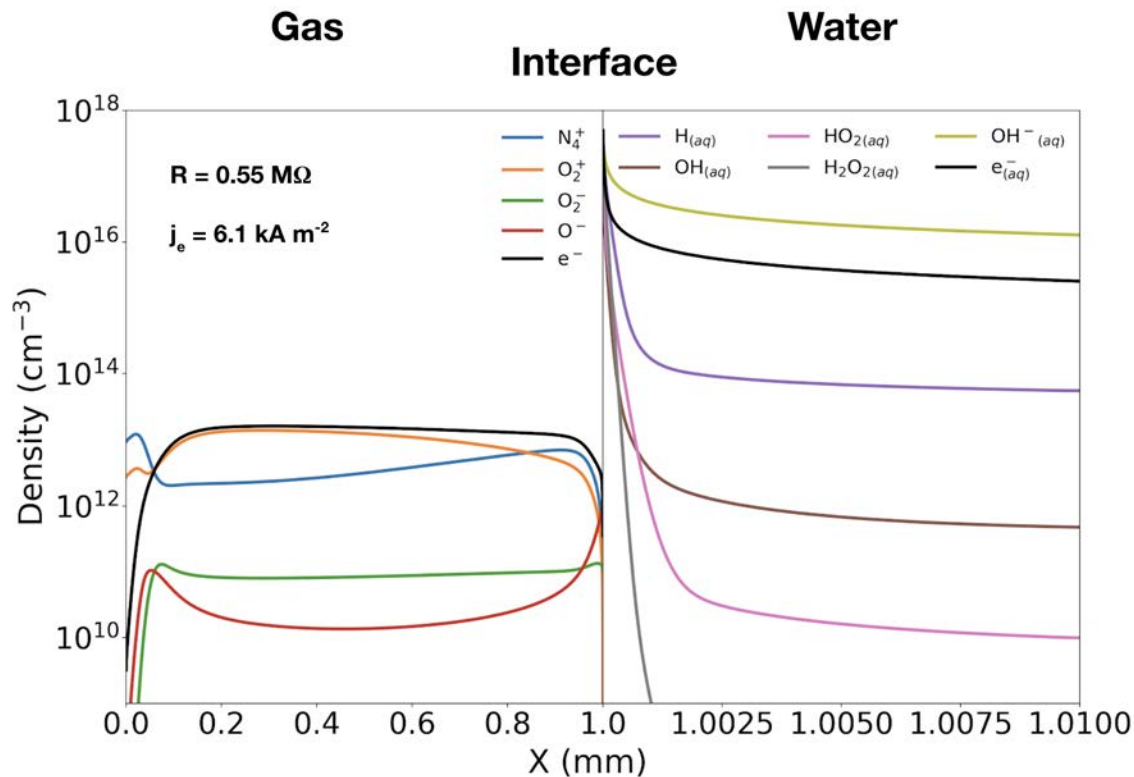
- 29 species, 93 reactions
- Permittivity: $\epsilon_r = 81$
- Initial pH of 7 ($[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+_{\text{aq}}] = [\text{OH}^-_{\text{aq}}] = 5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm}^{-3}$)
- Solvation occurs instantly upon entering water phase



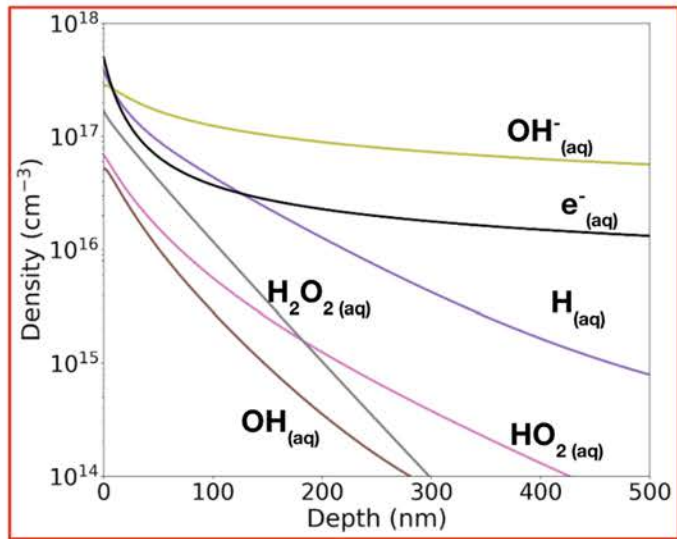
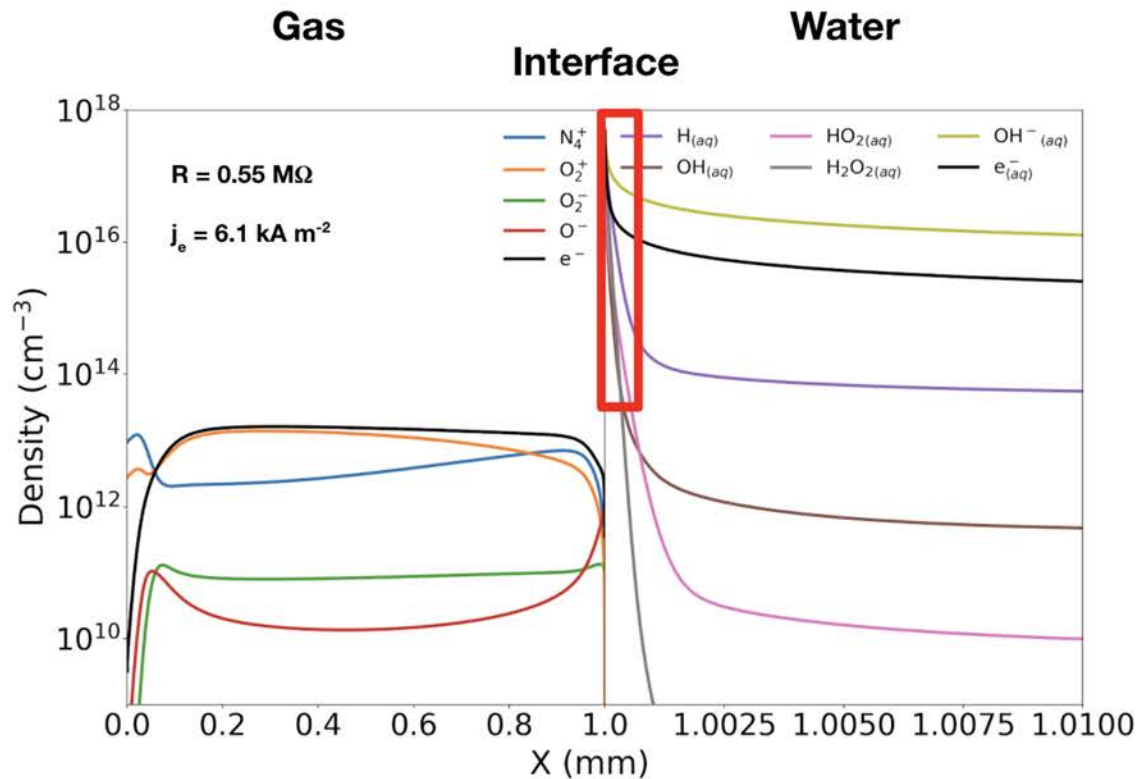
[4] Tian, Wei. "MODELLING INTERACTIONS OF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE PLASMAS AND WITH LIQUIDS" PhD Dissertation. University of Michigan (2015)

[7] Buxton, G. et al. "Critical review of rate constants for reactions of hydrated electrons, hydrogen atoms and hydroxyl radicals." Journal of Phys. Chem. Ref. Dat. 17 2 (1988)

Case 2: Air/H₂O (humid air) plasma on liquid water, density

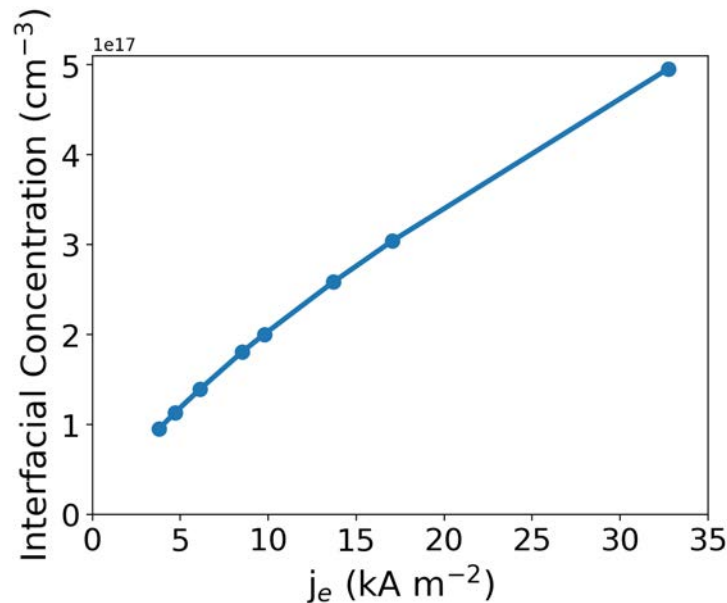
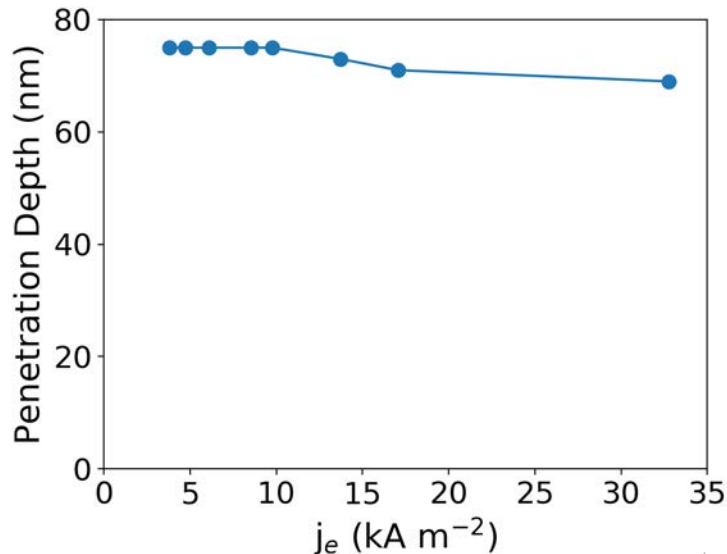


Case 2: Air/H₂O (humid air) plasma on liquid water, density



Solvated Electrons, Penetration Depth

- In all cases the solvated electrons quickly react within the first 100 nm
- Penetration depth* slightly decreases with electron current density
- 75 nm at 4 kA m⁻² to 69 nm at 33 kA m⁻²

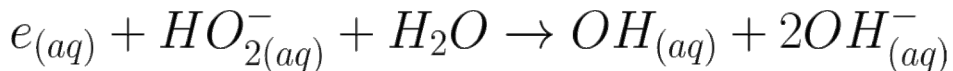
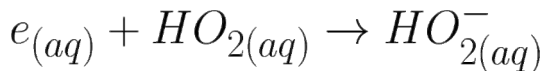


*PD is here defined as 10% of the surface value, not classical "l" $n(x) = n_0 e^{(-x/l)}$

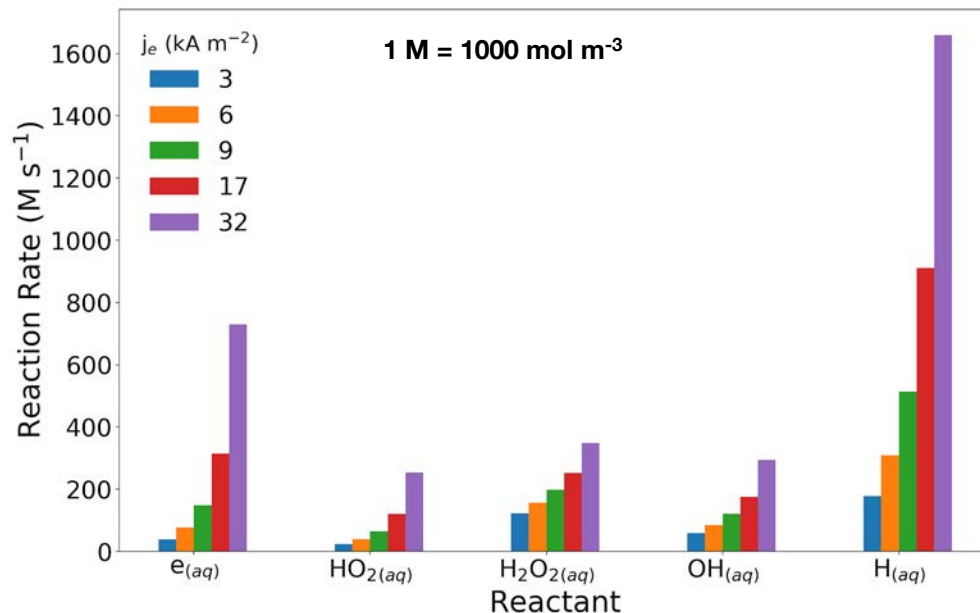
Solvated Electrons, Reaction Pathways

What is happening in the first 80 nm?

- The thin electron layer is very chemically active
- Electrons react significantly with all other radicals in the liquid phase
- Second order recombination rate increases quickly with electron concentration
- The terminal product of most reactions is hydroxide OH⁻



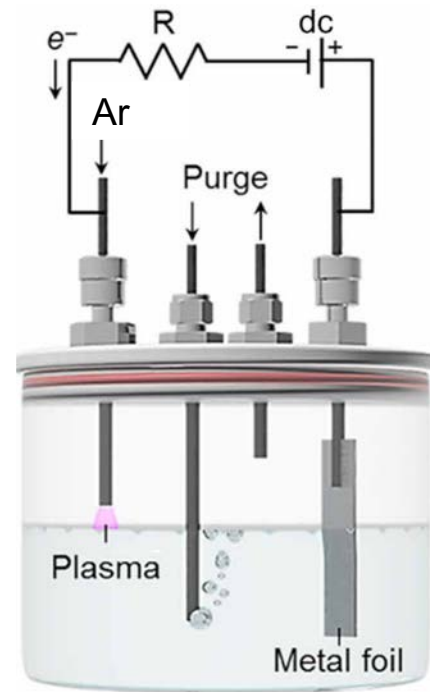
Dominant reactions with $e_{(aq)}$ * averaged over first 80 nm



*Reaction also includes H₂O

Recently Started Validation of Plasma-Water Interaction Model

- The model presented in this work must be validated to ensure that it is accurately simulating plasma-liquid chemistry
- Experiments carried out by Prof. Sankaran's group (UIUC) are measure aqueous conditions (reactive oxygen species concentrations, pH) after plasma treatment
- The aqueous chemistry and plasma-water interaction model is compared to experimental measurements of aqueous species and pH
- Parametric scan of plasma parameters are performed to observe changes in reactive species production



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Conclusions

- **Crane and Zapdos are two new, open-source, software applications available to the LTP community, which can be used for the simulation of Low Temperature Plasmas with complex Plasma Chemistry**
- **Crane and Zapdos were used to study Plasma-water interactions, allowing innovative features, such as:**
 - Gas and liquid phases dynamically and implicitly coupled
 - Water affects discharge, and vice-versa

Future Work:

- **Experimental validation of plasma-water model**
 - Qualitative and semi-quantitative validation of the plasma-water model
 - Comparison to experimental measurements (Sankaran) of a plasma-water interface electrolytic cell
- **Tackle the challenge of solving the coupled nature of plasma-water interface**
 - Develop physically meaningful definition of solvated electron penetration depth, compatible with observations
 - Determine how solvated electrons affect the generation of selected reactive species in the water

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