EPP ZS 2023 3BAA

Recombination ... electron - ions

Recombination processes in plasma

DiR

Binary recombination

α [cm³s⁻¹]

$$H^+ + e \rightarrow H + h \nu$$

 $O_2^+ + e \rightarrow O + O$

 $Fe^{7+} + e \rightarrow Fe^{6+}$

RR radiative recombination

DR dissociative recombination

$$\frac{dn_{e}}{dt} = \frac{d[O_{2}^{+}]}{dt} = -\alpha[O_{2}^{+}]n_{e} = -\alpha n_{e}^{2}$$

dielectronic recombination

Ternary electron assisted recombination

Recombination processes in plasma





Electron-cold molecular ion reaction: Dissociative Recombination



Recombination of H_{3^+} : No ion-neutral crossing



RECOMBINATION

FLOWING AFTERGLOW

FLOWING AFTERGLOW

Ion-electron recombination



Flowing Afterglow Langmuir Probe - FALP





FALP - RECOMBINATION OF H₃



 H_3^+

Diffusion in FA

 $[A^{+}] = [A^{+}]_{0} \exp(-Dt / \Lambda^{2}) = [A^{+}]_{0} \exp(-Dpt / p\Lambda^{2}) = [A^{+}]_{0} \exp(-D_{0}p_{0}L / vp\Lambda^{2})$ ~ $[A^{+}]_{0} \exp(-D_{0}p_{0}L / vp\Lambda^{2}) \sim [A^{+}]_{0} \exp(-const.L / Q)$



Flowing afterglow/Langmuir probe (FALP) D. Smith, N. G. Adams and P. Spanel

• A schematic diagram of the **FALP apparatus** showing the relative positions of the microwave discharge that generates the afterglow plasma and the three reactant gas entry ports **P1**, **P2** and **P3**. The distance (*z*) scale is referenced to the downstream mass spectrometer sampling orifice. The complete flow tube is surrounded by a **vacuum jacket** to facilitate high and low temperature operation (ranging from 80 to 600K).



Positive ion/electron dissociative recombination

• e.g. $NO^+ + e \rightarrow N + O$

$$\frac{dn_e}{dt} = -\alpha n_e^2 + D_a \nabla^2 n_e \quad \text{diffusion}$$



$$\frac{1}{n_e} - \frac{1}{n_0} = \alpha(t_e - t_0)$$

$$\frac{1}{n_e} = \alpha \frac{\exp(\nu t) - 1}{\nu} + \frac{1}{n_0} \exp(\nu t) ; \nu = D_a / \Lambda^2$$

FALP studies of the dissociative recombination coefficients for O_2^+ and NO^+ within the electron temperature range $300-2000 \text{ K}^1$

Patrik Španěl, Libuše Dittrichová[†], David Smith*





Fig. 1. A line diagram (approximately to scale) of the FALP apparatus, indicating the positions of the microwave discharge, the entry port of helium coolant gas (for the argon afterglow plasmas), the entry ports P1 for argon (for the helium afterglow plasmas) and P2 for O₂ and NO, and the mass spectrometer. The Langmuir probe can be positioned at any point on the axis of the flow tube. Also indicated is the outline of the vacuum jacket which facilitates the heating and cooling of the complete flow tube.



Fig. 2. Representative plots of d^2i/dV^2 against V obtained from the Langmuir probe current (*i*)-voltage (*V*) characteristics from which electron temperatures T_e are obtained. In every case the carrier gas temperature is 300 K. The good linearity of a plot is indicative of a Maxwellian electron energy distribution function (EEDF). The z values are the positions of the probe along the axis of the flow tube (referenced to the mass spectrometer sampling orffice see Fig. 1). The entry port P2 via which the O₂ and NO ion source gases were introduced into the afterglows is located at z = 56 cm. (a) Obtained in helium afterglows (at a pressure of 1 Torr) with a small admixture of argon to destroy helium metastable atoms. Note the excellent linearity of the plots and the small scatter of T_e about T_g (= 300 K) along z. (b) Obtained in pure argon afterglows (at a pressure of 0.7 Torr). Note the much higher T_e values (compared with those in (a)) and the small (but obvious) T_e gradient along z. (c) Obtained in argon afterglows into which O_2 (partial pressure of ≈ 5 mTorr) has been added to generate an O_2^+ /electron plasma. Note the somewhat greater fractional decrease in T_e compared with that in the pure argon afterglow in (b), this being due to the additional cooling of the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 50 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has been added to cool the electron gas (see Fig. 1), and then into which O_2 (partial pressure 5 mTorr) has

$$v_{\rm p} \frac{{\rm d}n_{\rm e}}{{\rm d}z} = -\alpha n_{\rm e}^2 + D_{\rm a} \nabla^2 n_{\rm e} \tag{4}$$

As a reasonable approximation, we assume that diffusive loss is via the fundamental mode only and then

$$v_{\rm p}\frac{{\rm d}n_{\rm e}}{{\rm d}z} = -\alpha n_{\rm e}^2 - \frac{D_{\rm a}}{\Lambda^2} n_{\rm e} \tag{5}$$

where D_a is the ambipolar diffusion coefficient and Λ is the characteristic diffusion length (for the flow tube used here, $\Lambda^2 = 2.76 \text{ cm}^2$), and v_p is the plasma flow velocity $(1.1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm s}^{-1})$. When recombination is the dominant loss process, such as is the case in these studies of both $\alpha(O_2^+)$ and $\alpha(NO^+)$ at the lower T_e , (and certainly at 300 K in the helium carrier gas), then the diffusion term in Eq. (5) can be neglected, and the solution to Eq. (5) is then

$$\frac{1}{n_{\rm t}} - \frac{1}{n_0} = \frac{\alpha(z_{\rm t} - z_0)}{v_{\rm p}} \tag{6}$$

Electron temperature measurement

D.Smith and P.Spanel

(a) Obtained in <u>helium</u>
afterglow (at a pressure of 1
Torr) with a small admixture
of argon to destroy helium
metastable atoms.

(b) Obtained in pure <u>argon</u>afterglow (at a pressure of 0.7Torr).

(c) Obtained in **argon** afterglow into which O_2 (partial pressure of ~5mTorr) has been added to generate an O_2^+ /electron plasma.



Electron temperature dependence

Plots of $1/n_e$ against the distance z along the flow tube obtained in O_2^+ /electron afterglow plasmas from which values for $\alpha(O_2^+)$ are obtained.

The data indicated by filled circles were obtained in helium carrier gas when $T_e = T_i = T_g = 300$ K; the linearity of the plot over a factor of about ten indicates that dissociative recombination is the dominant loss process for electrons and ions.

The data represented by open circles (T_e =650 K) were obtained in argon carrier gas at T_g = 300 K, and at elevated T_e .



FALP and in-situ data



Dissociative recombination of different ions



RENNES MS - FALP

New FALP-MS measurements



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Figure 1. Sketch of the FALP apparatus.

RENNES absorption studies



Distance z (cm)

Pittsburg Rainer Johnsen FALP

Emission spectroscopy for identification products of recombination collisional radiative recombination of argon ions

 $Ar^+ + e^- + e^- \rightarrow Ar + e^-$





The Pittsburgh flow tube



$$Ar^{+} + H_{2} \rightarrow Ar H^{+} + H (+ 1.53 \text{eV})$$
$$ArH^{+} + H_{2} \rightarrow Ar + H_{3}^{+} (+ 0.57 \text{ eV})$$

N.G.ADAMS University of Georgia, Viktoria Poterya



Figure 1. A schematic of the University of Georgia flowing afterglow. Illustrated are the axially movable Langmuir probe, the downstream mass spectrometer, a 0.66 m monochromator with red sensitive photomultiplier for emission studies, a vuv light source and 1 m vacuum monochromator with uv enhanced photomultiplier for detection of atoms and a YAG pumped dye laser with doubling and mixing capabilities for detection of radical species by LIF and REMPI. All photomultipliers are cooled to reduce the background noise and photon counting is used throughout. Further details of this apparatus are described in a separate review.²⁷

FALP High pressure UHV version - PRAGUE



FALP – Ion detection system





FALP - Pumping units and gas handling system



FALP high pressure version

To demonstrante how simple it is in reality

2 men experiment



Variation of the probe characteristics along the flow tube



The decay time is correlated with the position in the flow tube. He pressure 8.8 Torr, temperature 190 K, [Ar] 1.4 mTorr), $[H_2] = 9.6 \times 10^{14}$ cm⁻³.

Evolution of the probe characteristics along the flow tube

Study of H₃⁺ and H₅⁺recombination





PLASMA DECAY H₃⁺ and H₅⁺ in thermodynamic equilibrium





Plasma parameters along the flow tube



EEDF measurements



The time evolution of the EEDF in the recombination dominated FA plasma In He (p= 9 Torr) with small admixture of HCOH (0.05 %). EEDF is normalized to the electron number density.



The CRESU technique at Rennes

Carrier gas (He, Ar or N₂) + reactants


Kinetics of anion-molecule reactions at low temperature







ELECTRON





$$E_{coll} = \frac{1}{2} m_{e} (v_{e} - v_{i})^{2}$$

can be scanned from ~ 1 meV ... 50 eV

Electron-cold molecular ion reaction: Dissociative Recombination





Center of mass resolution:

$$\Delta E_{cm} = \left\{ \left[\left(1 - \frac{v_e}{v_i}\right) \frac{m_e}{m_i} \Delta E_i \right]^2 + \left[\left(1 - \frac{v_i}{v_e}\right) \Delta E_e \right]^2 \right\}^{1/2}$$

meV resolution for zero relative kinetic energy!





Experiments

PLASMA experiments SA and FA

Crossed beam experiments

Marched beam, Storage rings - TSR, Cryring, Astrid

- multi collisions $\{\alpha(T)\}$
- single collisions $\{\sigma(v_r)\}$
- single collisions $\{\sigma(v_r)\}$



 $H_3^+ + e^- \rightarrow H, H_2$



MPIK Heidelberg, Germany

MeV ions

TSR electron target



Interaction energy: up to 40 keV (counterpropagating operation)

Electron cooling

Electron cooling



46 Μ

Reality - TSR (MPIK Heidelberg)

Injection of <u>INTERNALY COLD</u> H_3^+ <u>IONS(12-50K)</u> with kinetic energy 1-2 MeV



TSR Heidelberg, ion injection and ion source



Ion storage rings



Internal cooling

Asymmetrical molecules:	Cooling by spontaneous electric dipole radiation (typ. ~0.1 sec for vibration, ~1-10 sec for rotation) Thermal equilibrium with blackbody radiation (300 K)
Symmetrical molecules:	No significant cooling by radiation Internal cooling by electrons (present electron temperature ~ 20 200 K)

TSR instrumentation

Storage ring instrumentation



Electron cooling

Electron cooling

t



State diagnostics

State diagnostics methods at the TSR



Recombination H_2^+



E.M. Staicu-Casagrande, N. de Ruette, A. Le Padellec*, E.A. Naji, T. Nzeyimana, X. Urbain $H_2^+ + O^- \rightarrow H_2O^+ + e/OH^+ + H + e$







Thanks for your attention!





K. Blaum C. Breitenfeldt F. Fellenberger S. George J. Göck M. Grieser F. Grussie R. von Hahn P. Herwig J. Karthein C. Krantz H. Kreckel S. Kumar S. M. Lange J. Lion S. Lohmann C. Meyer P. M. Mishra O. Novotný P. O'Connor R. Repnow

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JUSTUS-LIEBIG-

UNIVERSITAT





Cryogenic Storage Ring CSR









The CSR – overview













The CSR electron cooler

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electrostatic storage ring with circumference≈35 m first beam stored: March 2014 cryogenic operation: since April 2015



The CSR electron cooler





Storage ring (CRYRING)



Schematic view of CRYRING

Steps during the experiment

- 1. Formation of the ions in the source
- 2. Mass selection by bending magnet
- 3. Injection via RFQ and acceleration
- 4. Merging with electron beam
- 5. Detection of the neutral products



Electron cooler






The DESIREE facility includes two storage rings with one common straight section. The symmetric ring has a fourfold symmetry while the asymmetric ring has a two-fold symmetry. The symmetric ring contains four 10° deflectors, two 160° cylindrical deflectors and four quadruple doublets. Ion beam with kinetic energy up to 35 keV can be stored in symmetric ring. The asymmetric ring has two common deflectors with the symmetric ring and can store ion beam with kinetic energy up to 100 keV. Depending on the beams' energies the angle before and after the common deflectors vary between 0.5° and 10°, this is then compensated with the chicane deflectors before and after the common section.

There are five ion-laser interaction pathways in total, three perpendicular interaction pathways in the centre of each injection section and the common section, and two co-linear pathways along the two injection sections through the RAES and RAEA detectors.

DESIREE storage ring



The project is named DESIREE (Double ElectroStatic Ion Ring ExpEriment)



The DESIREE storage rings in their cryogenic enclosure.



Ion List and Ion Sources

lons on the following lists have been successfully produced and stored in DESIREE storage rings, a short description of each ion source is also attached below.

Atomic cations: H⁺, He⁺, Li⁺, C⁺, N⁺, O⁺, F⁺, Ne⁺, Na⁺, Mg⁺, Si⁺, Ar⁺, I⁺, Xe⁺, Ba⁺

Atomic anions: H⁻, D⁻, O⁻, ¹⁸O⁻, Si⁻, P⁻, S⁻, Cl⁻, Ni⁻, Cu⁻, Ge⁻, As⁻, Se⁻, Br⁻, Rh⁻, Pd⁻, Ag⁻, Sn⁻, Sb⁻, Te⁻, I⁻, Cs⁻, La⁻, Ir⁻, W⁻, Au⁻

Molecular cations: O_2^+ , N_2^+ , I_2^+ , NO^+ , $HeNe^+$, HeH^+ , HeD^+ , H_3^+ , D_3^+ , H_3O^+

Molecular anions: CH⁻, CD⁻, CH₃⁻, ¹³C₄H⁻, ¹³C₆H⁻, CO₂⁻, CN⁻, OH⁻, OD⁻, O₂⁻, N₂O⁻, LaO⁻, SF₄⁻, SF₅⁻, SF₆⁻, ¹⁶O¹⁸O⁻, C₆H₄O₂⁻, HfF₅⁻, WF₅⁻, C₆H₄O₂⁻ (para-Benzoquinone).

Molecular dianions: $C_7^{2^-}$, $^{13}C_7^{2^-}$, $C_9^{2^-}$, $^{13}C_9^{2^-}$, $C_{12}^{2^-}$, $C_{60}^{2^-}$, $^{6}LiF_3^{2^-}$.

Cluster anions: C_{2-15} , Cu_{2-21} , Si_2 , Ag_{2-3} , Au_{2-15}

The battle ship enters the stage

FAL



Πλασμα





10-8





Different views & different plasmas

H₃⁺ and its interaction of with e⁻ is FUNDAMENTAL



I JAKO KOMIKS.

J.E.P. Connerney and T. Satoh, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A358, 2471 (2000)

VT - AISA

$dn_i/dt = -\alpha n_i n_e$

He/Ar/H₂





40 cm diameter UHV - 10⁻⁹ Torr External magnetron 2 Torr of He/Ar/H₂

PULSED STATIONARY AFTERGLOW 20-100ms decay $n_e(\tau), n_i(\tau)$



Time resolved mass spectra

time [ms]



$H_{3^{+}}$ Nuclear spin dependence of $H_{3^{+}}$ recombination

- B. J. McCall, et al. *Physical Review A* (2004)
- H. Kreckel, J. Glosik, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 2005,

....2008, new improved calculations

Astronomy & Astrophysics L. Pagani¹, C. Vastel², E. Hugo³, V. Kokoouline⁴, Chris H. Greene⁵, A. Bacmann⁶, E. Bayet⁷, C. Ceccarelli⁶, R. Peng⁸, and S. Schlemmer³

- M. Larsson, B.J. McCall, A.E. Orel (2008)
- J. Glosik, R. Plasil, et al. Phys. Rev. A, 2009.
- H. Kreckel, O. Novotny, et al., Phys. Rev. A (2010).
- K. N. Crabtree, N. Indriolo, et al., Astrophys. J. (2011)
- J. Varju, M. Hejduk, J. Glosik, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett., 2011.
- P. Dohnal, M. Hejduk, J. Glosik, et al. J. Chem. Phys., 2012.



Doubts 2011

"Presently no rate coefficient measurement with a confirmed temperature below 300 K exists".

Petrignani et al. Phys. Rev. A (2011)

FIG. 5. (Color online) The present theoretical thermal rate coefficient for dissociative recombination of H_3^+ is compared with the experimental rate coefficient deduced from the storage ring experiment of McCall and co-workers (Refs. 9 and 10).

. Unfortunately the experiments on storage rings were stopped 😁 😁



The dissociative recombination of $H_{3^{+}}$ – a saga coming to an end?

'Yes, the saga is coming to an end; but slowly.'

M. Larsson, B.J. McCall, A.E. Orel (2008)

..... Presently no reliable recombination rate coefficient for H3+ measured with storage rings below 300 K exists.

H. Kreckel, O. Novotny, K. N. Crabtree, et al., Phys. Rev. A (2010). A. Petrignani, S. Altevogt, M. H. Berg, et al., Phys. Rev. A (2011).

The recent observations made towards several diffuse molecular clouds showed large difference between excitation temperatures T10(H2) and T(H3+), for details see ref. [cra11].

These observations lead to conclusion that in reliable chemical models th<u>e nuclear spin dependences</u> of the reactions, including recombination of para- and ortho-H3+, have to be considered. The dependences on spin, rotational excitation and temperature have to be measured.

K. N. Crabtree, N. Indriolo, H. Kreckel, B. A. Tom, and B. J. McCall, Astrophys. J. (2011)

Help! Theory for H₃⁺ Recombination Still Needed We still badly need theory and the caravan is on its way





Takeshi Oka, DR2013

.... It is time to present some recent results from afterglow experiments ...



DR2007 - Dependence on He and H_2 pressure at 260 K

Afterglow in He/Ar/H₂ mixture

 $\mathbf{a}_{eff} = \mathbf{a}_{eff}(\mathbf{T}_{e}, \mathbf{T}_{i}, \mathbf{n}_{e}, [He], [H_{2}], {}^{o/p}\mathbf{f}_{2}, {}^{o/p}\mathbf{f}_{3})$

$a_{eff} = a_{eff}(T, [He])$





J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. 41 (2008) 191001 (6pp)

Binary + He assisted ternary recombination



J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. 41 (2008) 191001 (6pp)

















Note enormous difference between $H_3^+ + e \Leftrightarrow H_3^* \rightarrow$ para and ortho H_3^+

 $\tau_{para} \sim 100 \, ps$

 $\tau_{ortho} < 1ps$

probabilities for two different symmetries (red and black curves). The red curve corresponds to the rotational autoionization region. Fro this figure you can have an idea about the widths of the resonances. With best wishes, Slava

nding you t



Model

$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = \alpha_{\text{eff}}(T_e, T_i, n_e, [\text{He}], [\text{H}_2], {}^{\text{o/p}}f_3)$$

$$H_3^+ + e^- \xrightarrow{\alpha_{Bin}} H_2 + H_{,.}H + H + H$$

$$\xrightarrow{\alpha_{\rm F}} H_3^{\#} \xrightarrow{H_2....k_{SH_2}} \text{neutrals}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\tau_a} H_2^{\#} \xrightarrow{H_2....k_{SH_2}}$$

By solving the set of balance equations we obtain:

(He/Ar/H₂ mixture)
$$\frac{\partial n_{e}}{\partial t} = -(\alpha_{bin} - \alpha_{F} \frac{k_{SHe}[He] + k_{SH_{2}}[H_{2}]}{\frac{1}{\tau_{a}} + k_{SHe}[He] + k_{SH_{2}}[H_{2}]})[H_{3}^{+}]n_{e}$$

$$K_{\text{He}} = \alpha_{\text{F}} k_{\text{SHe}} \tau_{\text{a}}$$
 $K_{\text{H2}} = \alpha_{\text{F}} k_{\text{SH2}} \tau_{\text{a}}$

$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = \alpha_{\text{bin}} + \alpha_{\text{F}} \frac{K_{\text{He}}[\text{He}] + K_{\text{H2}}[\text{H}_{2}]}{\alpha_{\text{F}} + K_{\text{He}}[\text{He}] + K_{\text{H2}}[\text{H}_{2}]}$$

In the low density limit ([He] and $[H_2] \rightarrow 0$), linear approximation

$$\alpha_{\rm eff} = \alpha_{\rm bin} + K_{\rm He} [\rm He] + K_{\rm H2} [\rm H_2]$$

Experiments -State of the art 2015

Experiments - State of the art in 2015

$$H_3^+ + e + He \rightarrow \dots + He$$



$H_3^{+} + e + He \rightarrow \dots + He$ $H_3^{+} + e + H_2 \rightarrow \dots + H_2$



$$\alpha_{\rm eff} = \alpha_{\rm bin} + \alpha_{\rm F} \frac{K_{\rm He}[\rm He] + K_{\rm H2}[\rm H_2]}{\alpha_{\rm F} + K_{\rm He}[\rm He] + K_{\rm H2}[\rm H_2]}$$

CRR

$$H_3^+ + e + e \rightarrow \dots + e$$

Rate coefficient binary





para-H₃⁺ and orto-H₃⁺





Rate coefficient of formation



para- H_3^+ and orto- H_3^+





Rate coefficient ternary



$$K_{\rm He} = \alpha_{\rm F} k_{\rm SHe} \tau_{\rm a} \qquad K_{\rm H2} = \alpha_{\rm F} k_{\rm SH2} \tau_{\rm a}$$

$$\alpha_{\rm eff} = \alpha_{\rm bin} + \alpha_{\rm F} \frac{K_{\rm He}[{\rm He}] + K_{\rm H2}[{\rm H}_2]}{\alpha_{\rm F} + K_{\rm He}[{\rm He}] + K_{\rm H2}[{\rm H}_2]}$$







Rate coefficients summary

Plasma Sources Science and Technolog doi:10.1088/0963-0252/24/6/0650

Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 24 (2015) 065017 (10pp)

Recombination of H₃⁺ ions with electrons in He/H₂ ambient gas at temperatures from 240 K to 340 K

J Glosík¹, P Dohnal¹, P Rubovič¹, Á Kálosi¹, R Plašil¹, Š Roučka¹ and R Johnsen²

$$K_{\text{He}} = \alpha_{\text{F}} k_{\text{SHe}} \tau_{\text{a}}$$
 $K_{\text{H2}} = \alpha_{\text{F}} k_{\text{SH2}} \tau_{\text{a}}$





History and state of the art





Quo vadis ???









"Intelligent play with simple, natural phenomena, the joys of discovery of unexpected experiences, are much better ways of learning to think than any teaching by rote."

Motivation: ⁽²⁾ **Just for pleasure**



30 K ③ Just for pleasure

Rossum's Universal Robots







Recombination

















Ionic composition of H_2/D_2 plasma


Ternary electron assisted recombination

<u>Ternary</u> electron assisted recombination

$$Ar^+ + e + e \rightarrow Ar + e$$

Collisional Radiative Recombination

CRR

$$\frac{dn_e}{dt} = \frac{d[Ar^+]}{dt} = -K_e[Ar^+]n_e^2 = -\alpha_{eff}[Ar^+]n_e$$
$$K_{CRR} [cm^6s^{-1}] \qquad \alpha_{eff} = K_e n_e$$

<u>Ternary</u> neutral assisted recombination

$$Ar^+ + e + He \rightarrow Ar + He$$

$$\frac{dn_e}{dt} = \frac{d[Ar^+]}{dt} = -K_M[Ar^+]n_e[He] = -\alpha_{eff}[Ar^+]n_e$$
$$K_M[Cm^6S^{-1}] \qquad \alpha_{eff} = K_M[He]$$

Stevefelt [Stevefelt et al., 1975] derived analytical formula for apparent binary rate coefficient of CRR:

$$\alpha_{\rm CRR} = 3.8 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-4.5} n_{\rm e} + 1.55 \times 10^{-10} T_{\rm e}^{-0.63} + 6 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-2.18} n_{\rm e}^{0.37} \,[{\rm cm}^3 {\rm s}^{-1}], \tag{4}$$

where T_e is electron temperature given in K and n_e is electron number density in cm⁻³. The first term in $\alpha_{CRR} = K_{CRR} n_e$

For quasineutral plasma the differential equation describing the overall losses of charged particles in plasma due to above mentioned processes described by equations (1), (2) and (3) is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}n_{\rm e}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{A}^+]}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\alpha_{\rm BIN}[\mathrm{A}^+]n_{\rm e} - K_{\rm M}[\mathrm{M}][\mathrm{A}^+]n_{\rm e} - K_{\rm CRR}[\mathrm{A}^+]n_{\rm e}^2 - \frac{n_{\rm e}}{\tau_{\rm D}} = -\alpha_{\rm eff}n_{\rm e}^2 - \frac{n_{\rm e}}{\tau_{\rm D}} \quad (6)$$

where $[A^+] = n_e$ is the number density of ions, [M] is the number density of particles of buffer gas and τ_D describes the diffusion losses. We introduced the effective recombination rate coefficient α_{eff} :

$$\alpha_{\rm eff} = \alpha_{\rm BIN} + K_{\rm CRR} n_{\rm e} + K_{\rm He} [{\rm He}] \tag{7}$$

Theoretical calculations of rate coefficient of electron – ion ternary recombination (assisted by the particle of buffer gas) [*Thomson*, 1924; *Pitaevskii*, 1962; *Bates et al.*, 1965; *Bates*, 1980; *Flannery*, 1991] propose less pronounced temperature dependence of this process ($\alpha \approx T^{-2.5}$) than in case of CRR and also that the recombination coefficient should be lower for heavy ions than for light ions. Flannery [*Flannery*, 1991] derived following formula for helium assisted ternary recombination:

$$K_{\rm He} = 2.3 \times 10^{-27} (300/T_e)^{2.5} \,\rm cm^6 s^{-1}.$$
(8)

$Ar^{+} + e^{-} + e^{-}$

$H^+ + e^- + e^-$ Anti hydrogen formation

Colisional Radiative Recombination -CRR

$$\frac{dn_{e}}{dt} = -K_{CRR} \ [Ar^{+}]n_{e}^{2} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}} = -K_{CRR} \ n_{e}^{3} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}}$$

$$\alpha_{CRR} = K_{CRR} n_e$$

$\mathbf{H}^{+} + \mathbf{e}^{-} + \mathbf{e}^{-} \rightarrow \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{e}^{-}$

 \mathbf{r}_1

Three-Body Recombination of Atomic Ions with Slow Electrons



S. X. Hu ratory for Laser Energetics, University of Rochester, 250 East River Road, Rochester, New York 14623, USA

We consider the simplest TBR in the case of hydrogen formation, in which two free electrons interact with a proton. To investigate the three-body interaction dynamics, we numerically solve the six-dimensional (6D) timedependent Schrödinger equation, which has the following form (atomic units are used throughout):

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Phi(\mathbf{r}_{1},\mathbf{r}_{2},t) = \left[-\frac{1}{2}(\Delta_{\mathbf{r}_{1}}+\Delta_{\mathbf{r}_{2}})-\frac{1}{r_{1}}-\frac{1}{r_{2}}+\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_{1}-\mathbf{r}_{2}|}\right]\Phi(\mathbf{r}_{1},\mathbf{r}_{2},t), \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{r}_1 and \mathbf{r}_2 are the position vectors of each electron, with respect to the proton. We obtain a more tractable with respect to the proton. We obtain a more tractable solution by using the close-coupling recipe [12]: expanding the 6D wave function $\Phi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2|t)$ in terms of bipolar spherical harmonics $Y_{l_1l_2}^{LS}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)$, $\Phi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2|t) =$ $\sum_{LS} \sum_{l_1l_2} [\Psi_{l_1l_2}^{(LS)}(r_1, r_2|t)/r_1r_2]Y_{l_1l_2}^{LS}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)$, for a specific symmetry (*LS*). We can also expand the Coulomb repulsion term $1/|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|$ in terms of spherical harmonics. Substituting these expansions into the above Schrödinger Eq. (1) and integrating over the angles Ω_1 and Ω_2 yields a set of coupled partial differential equations with only two radial variables r_1 and r_2 left:

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Psi_{j}(r_{1}, r_{2}|t) = [\hat{T}_{1} + \hat{T}_{2} + \hat{V}_{c}]\Psi_{j}(r_{1}, r_{2}|t) + \sum_{k}\hat{V}_{j,k}^{I}(r_{1}, r_{2}|t)\Psi_{k}(r_{1}, r_{2}|t), \quad (2)$$

where the partial-wave index j runs from 1 to the total number N of partial waves used for expansion. In Eq. (2),

$H^+ + e^- + e^- \rightarrow H + e^-$

$$P_{nl}(E_2) = 2\sum_{LS} \sum_{l_2} \left| \int dr_1 \int dr_2 \phi_{nl}^*(r_1) \phi_{k_2 l_2}^*(r_2) \Psi_{ll_2}^{(LS)}(r_1, r_2, t = t_f) \right|^2,$$

K_E=0.1 eV

 $i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Psi_{j}(r_{1},r_{2}|t) = [\hat{T}_{1} + \hat{T}_{2} + \hat{V}_{c}]\Psi_{j}(r_{1},r_{2}|t)$

 $+\sum_{i}\hat{V}^{I}_{j,k}(r_{1},r_{2}|t)\Psi_{k}(r_{1},r_{2}|t),$



(2)

FIG. 1 (color online). Snapshots of electron probability distribution on the plane spanned by the radial coordinates r_1 and r_2 for different times: (a) t = 0.0 fs, (b) t = 60 fs, (c) t = 100 fs, (d) t = 150 fs, (e) t = 194 fs, and (f) (in log scale) t = 260 fs.





Thus, for the case of $K_E = 0.1$ eV considered in Figs. 1 and 2, the total system energy is about $E_{tot} \sim 0.12$ eV instead of $2K_E$. Hence, when one electron recombines to the 10*d* state ($|E_{10d}| \approx 0.136$ eV) of the H atom, the outgoing electron takes an initial total energy of 0.12 eV plus $|E_{10d}|$, thereby $P_{10d}(E_2)$ peaks at $E_2 \sim 0.256$ eV, as shown by the (red) solid line of Fig. 2. Similar energy conservation is also well satisfied for the recombination to the 6pstate, as is illustrated by the (blue) dash-dotted line in Fig. 2. Our quantum calculations unambiguously reveal the essential feature of a TBR process.

$H^+ + e^- + e^- \rightarrow H + e^ K_E = 0.1 eV$







FIG. 3 (color online). The recombination probability P_n as a function of the energy level *n*, for different electron kinetic energies K_E marked in each panel.





$Ar^+ + e^- + e^-$

 $H^+ + e^- + e^-$

Anti hydrogen formation

$$\frac{dn_{e}}{dt} = -K_{CRR} \ [Ar^{+}]n_{e}^{2} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}} = -K_{CRR} \ n_{e}^{3} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}}$$

$$\alpha_{\rm CRR} = 3.8 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-4.5} n_{\rm e} + 1.55 \times 10^{-10} T_{\rm e}^{-0.63} + 6 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-2.18} n_{\rm e}^{0.37} {\rm cm}^3 {\rm s}^{-1}$$



$$\alpha_{CRR} = K_{CRR} n_e$$

$Ar^+ + e^- + e^-$

 $\frac{dn_{e}}{dt} = -K_{CRR} \ [Ar^{+}]n_{e}^{2} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}} = -K_{CRR} \ n_{e}^{3} - \frac{n_{e}}{\tau_{D}}$

$$\alpha_{\rm CRR} = 3.8 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-4.5} n_{\rm e} + 1.55 \times 10^{-10} T_{\rm e}^{-0.63} + 6 \times 10^{-9} T_{\rm e}^{-2.18} n_{\rm e}^{0.37} {\rm cm}^3 {\rm s}^{-1}$$







The temperature dependence of the ternary recombination rate coefficient of CRR (measured for several ions) is plotted in Figure 4. Our data for He_2^+ and Ar^+ [Kotrik et al, 2010] together with data measured in experiments of other groups [Berlande et al., 1970; Skrzypkowski et al., 2004] are in good agreement with theoretical calculations [Stevefelt et al., 1975].



Figure 4. Ternary recombination rate coefficient of CRR as a function of gas temperature. Plotted are data of our group from measurements in Ar^+ [*Kotrik et al*, 2010] and He_2^+ dominated plasma and data obtained by Berlande [*Berlande et al.*, 1970] and Skrzypkowski [*Skrzypkowski et al.*, 2004] at 300 K. Theoretical dependence [*Stevefelt et al.*, 1975] is plotted by dashed line.

Coe et al (Ohio State univ., 1995): $H_3O^+(H_2O)_n + OH^-(H_2O)_m$

