



Predictive Rate Coefficient Calculations for Combustion Modeling

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Combustion Research Facility

America's Combustion Research Facility

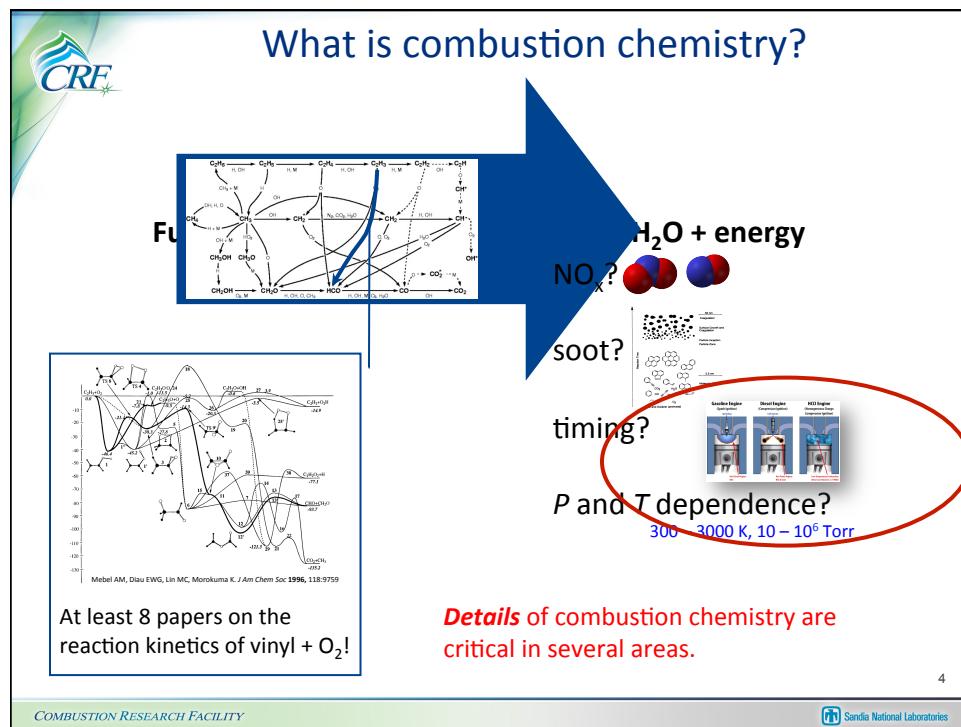
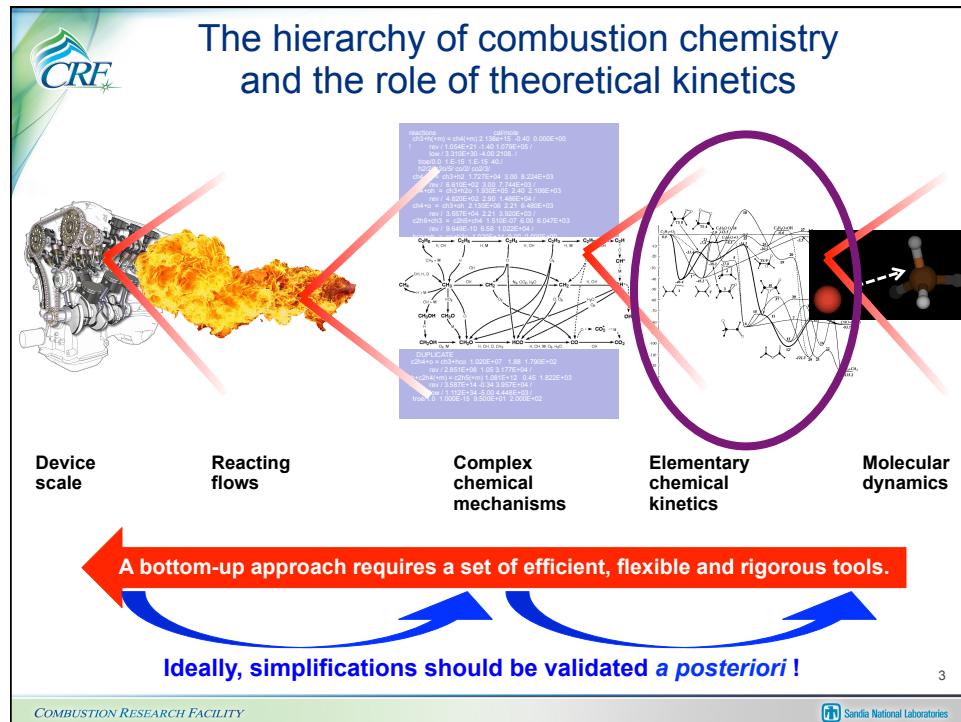
For over 30 years, the CRF has served as a national and international leader* in combustion science and technology.

*one of them...



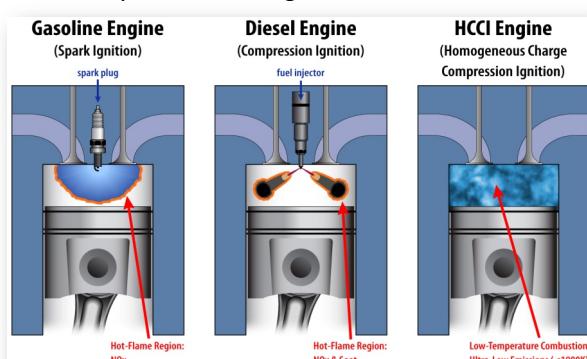
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Importance of elementary chemical kinetics in combustion and engine development

In Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition (HCCI) engines combustion is initiated by thermal autoignition → sensitive to **molecular structure**



Manley et al. *Physics Today* 2008

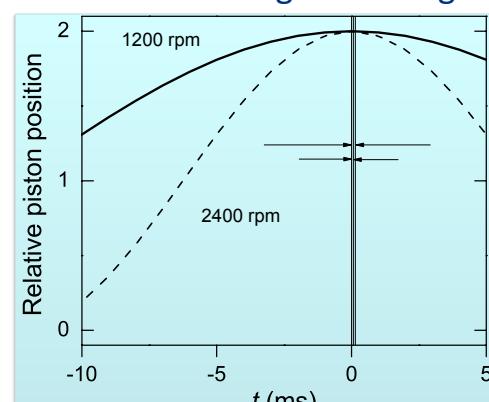
Advanced engine concepts and the increasing use of alternative and non-traditional fuels present new challenges for combustion modeling. 5

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In practical fuels there are:

- alkanes
- olefins
- cycloalkanes
- aromatics
- oxygenates

HCCI engine operation requires the precise knowledge of autoignition delay times



Ignition has to be timed at a minimum of 1 crank angle precision
 @ 1200 rpm ~ 140 µs
 @ 2400 rpm ~ 70 µs

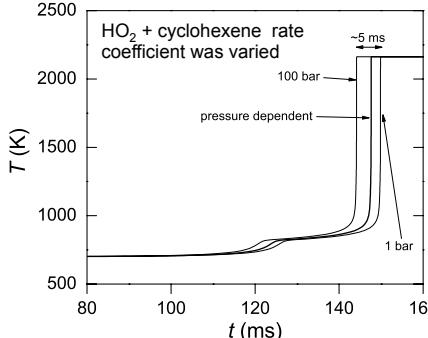
Typical ignition time in HCCI: 2-4 ms → Ignition delay predictions within ~3%.

Are chemical mechanisms capable of this? 6

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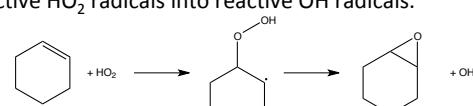
One, very slow rate coefficient can make a few % difference on its own



- CHEMKIN simulation of homogeneous explosion
- 4:1 mixture of cyclohexane:cyclohexene (1/30 of all bonds is unsaturated)
- $\phi = 0.5$
- Based on LLNL mechanism (1081 species and 4298 reactions)
- $T_0 = 700$ K and $P_0 = 10$ bar

Zádor, Klippenstein and Miller, J. Phys. Chem. A, 2011

The reaction is very slow ($\sim 10^{-15}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ @ 700 K),
but it converts unreactive HO₂ radicals into reactive OH radicals.

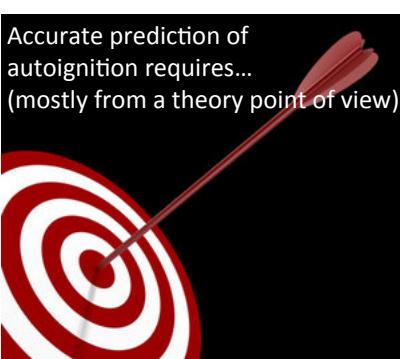


How can then a chemical kinetic model predict anything at all? → Tuning!

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Overview

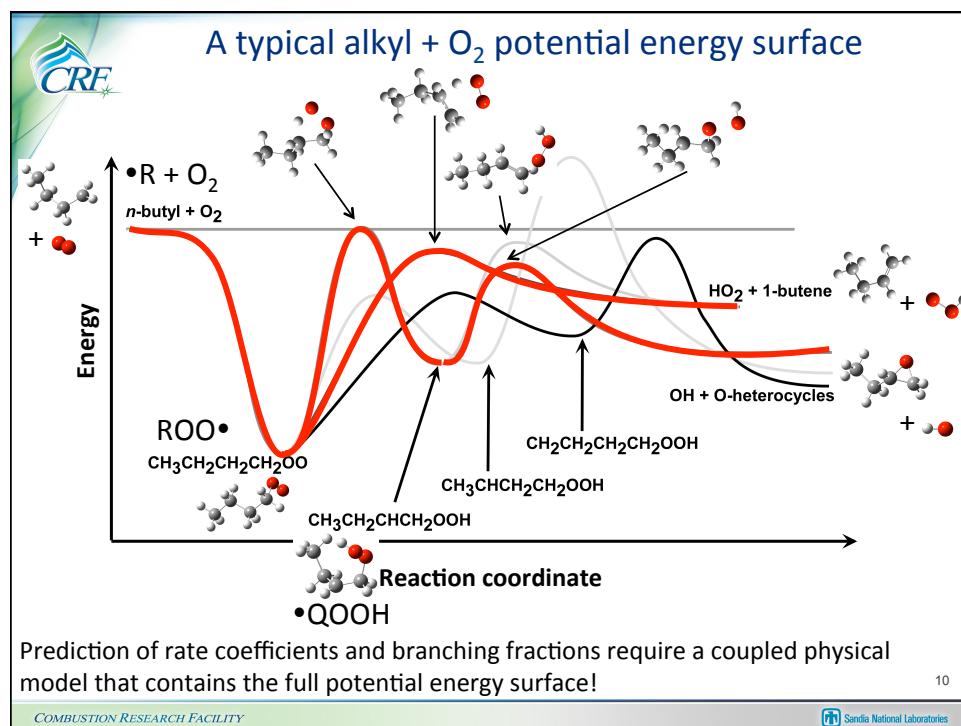
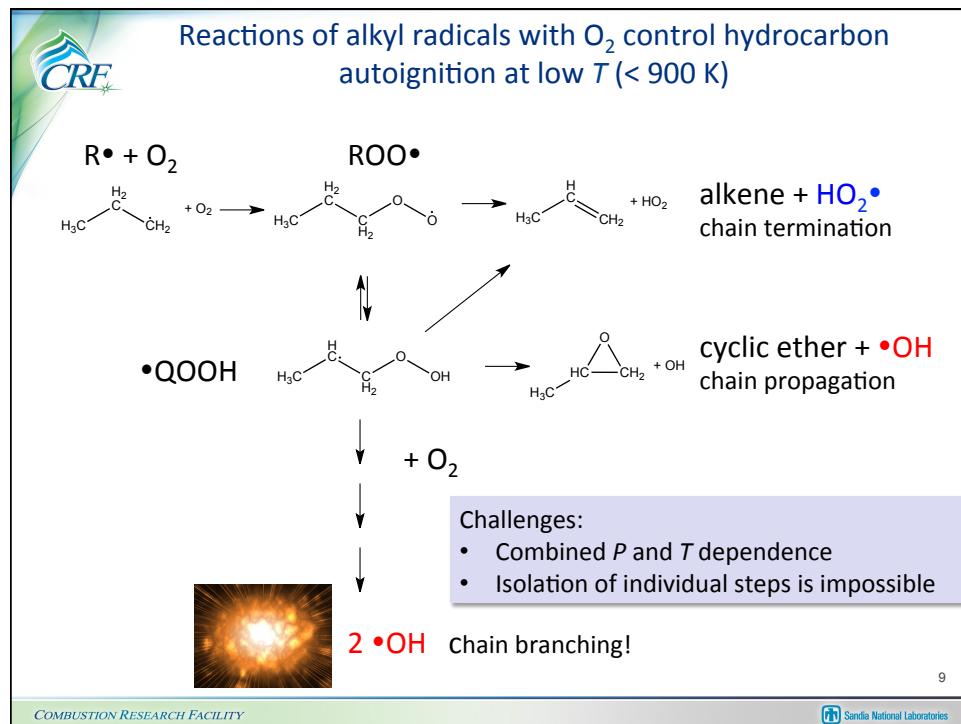


Accurate prediction of autoignition requires...
(mostly from a theory point of view)

- Understanding of the underlying chemistry
- Calculation of rate coefficients rigorously for multiwell systems
- Reduction of uncertainties in our calculations
- Automation of reaction path searches
- Synergy with experimental work

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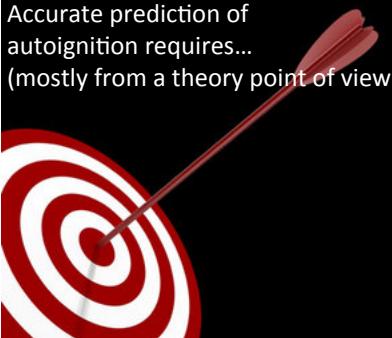
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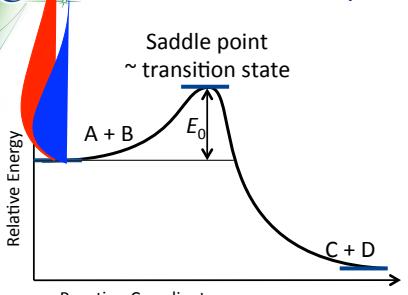
Synergy with experimental work

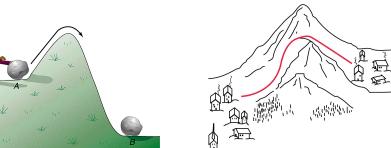
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Simple bimolecular reactions ($A + B \rightarrow C + D$) have temperature dependence only





Rate coefficient is bound from above by the collision frequency, $\sim 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ($\sim 10^{10} \text{ collisions s}^{-1}$ at 1 bar per molecule)

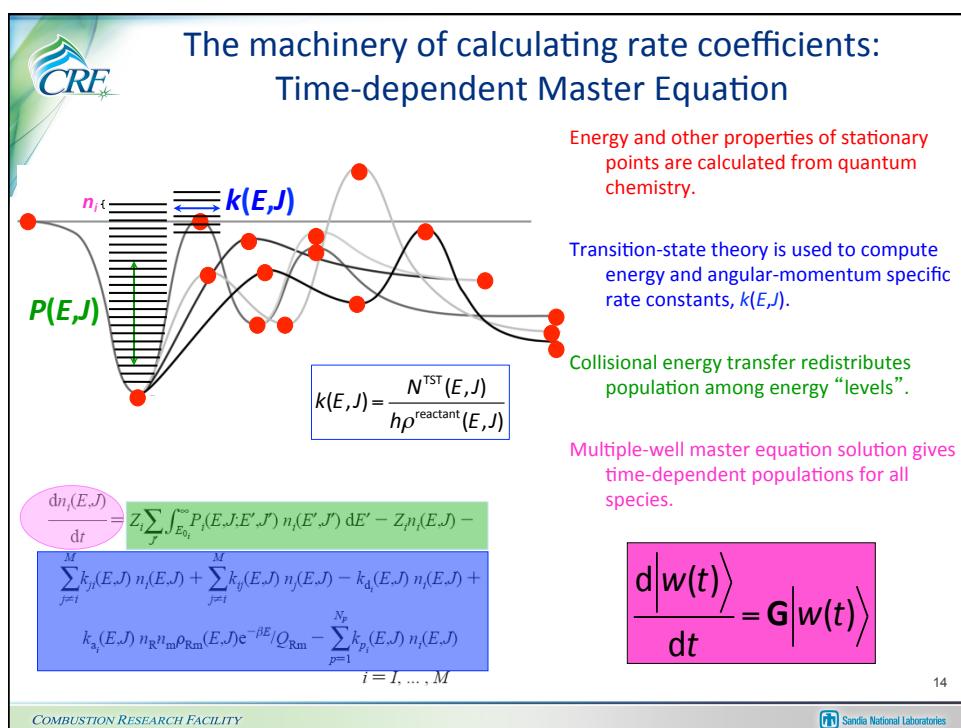
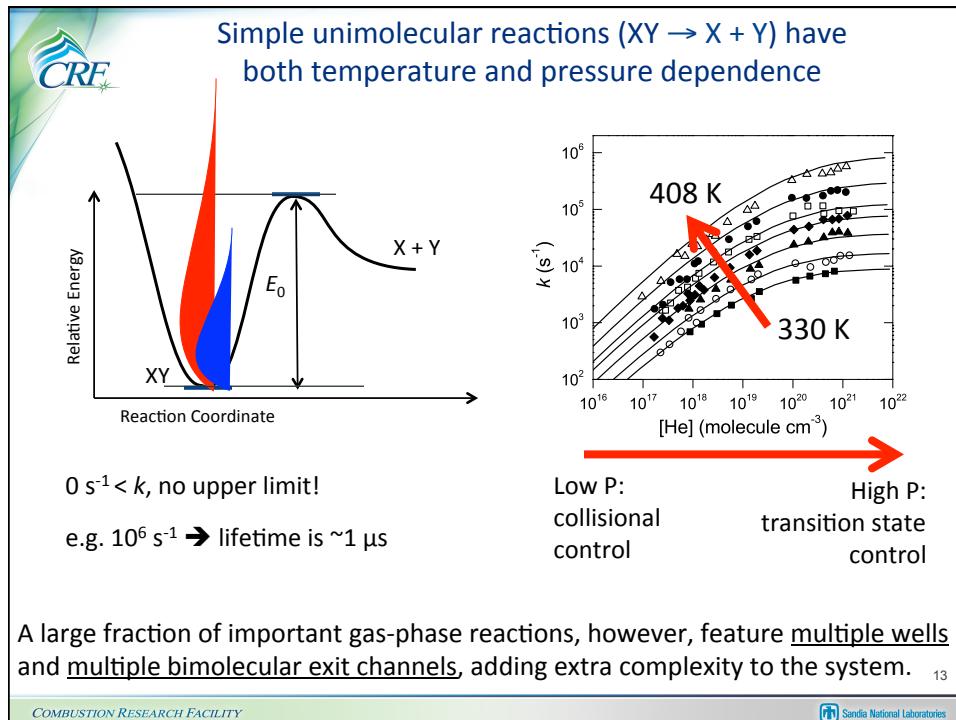
e.g. if $k = 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \rightarrow$ every 100th collision leads to a reaction.

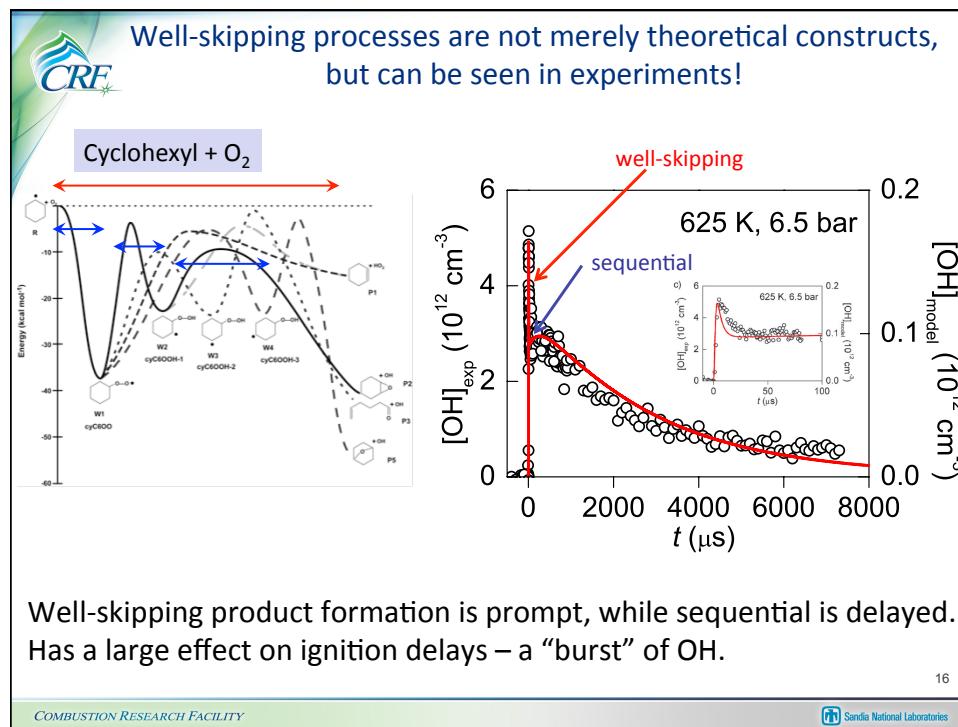
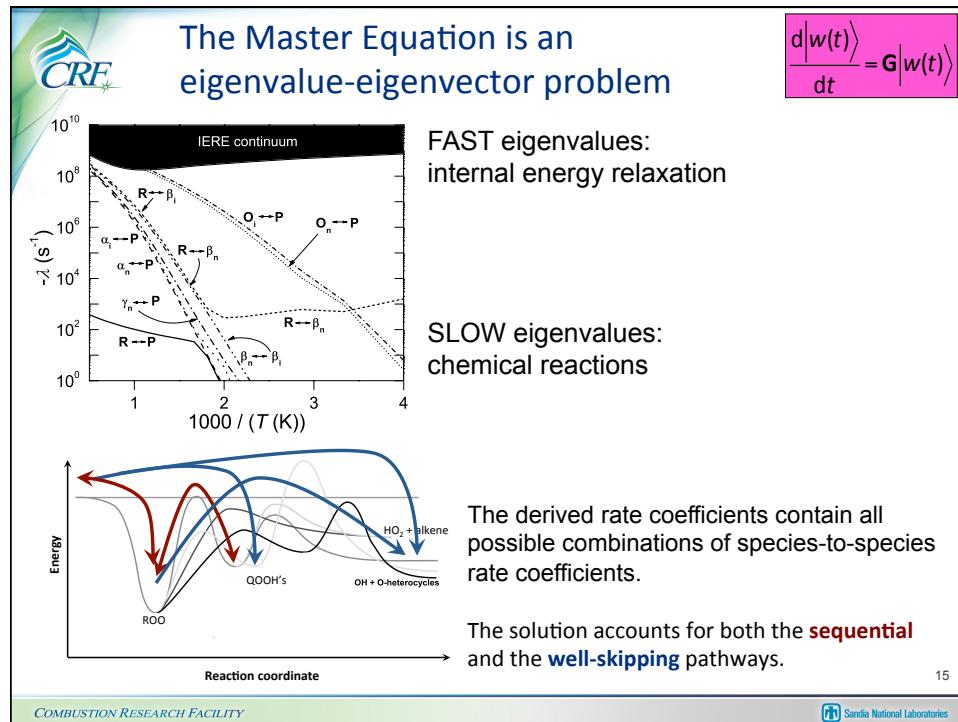
Transition state theory predicts the rate coefficient as a function of temperature:

$$k(T) = \kappa(T) \frac{Q^{\text{TST}}(T)}{Q^{\text{reactant}}(T)} \exp(-E_0 / k_B T)$$

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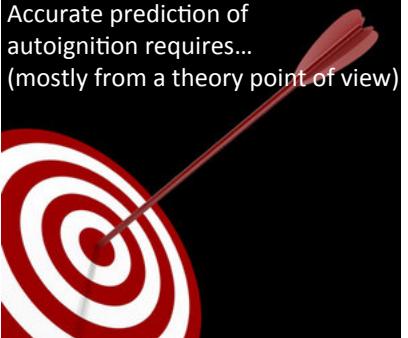
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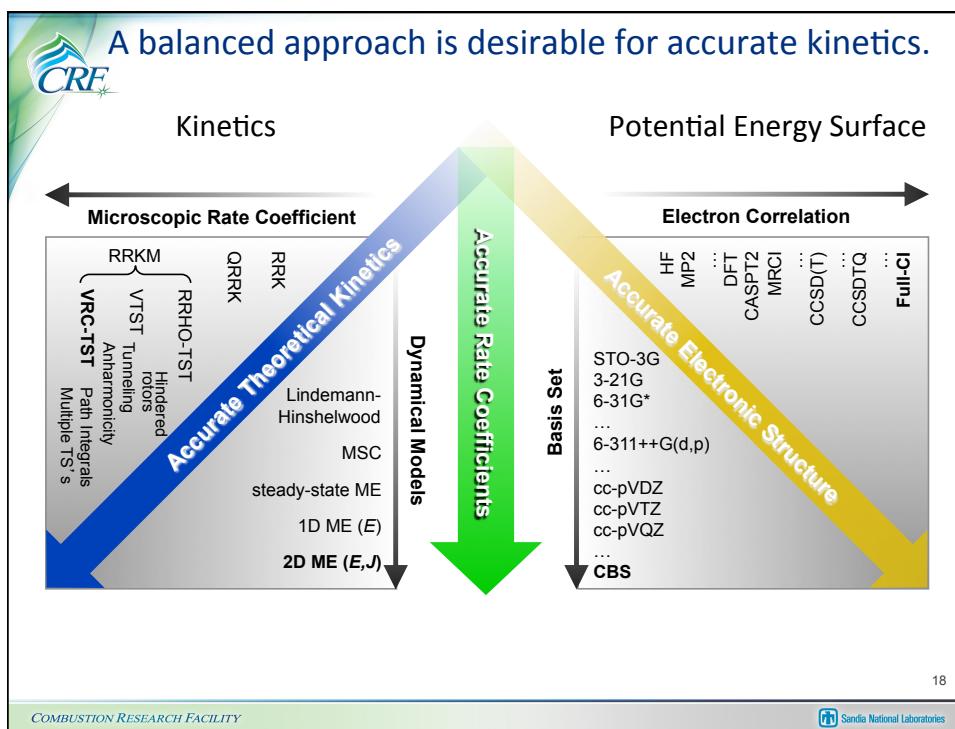
Automation of reaction path searches

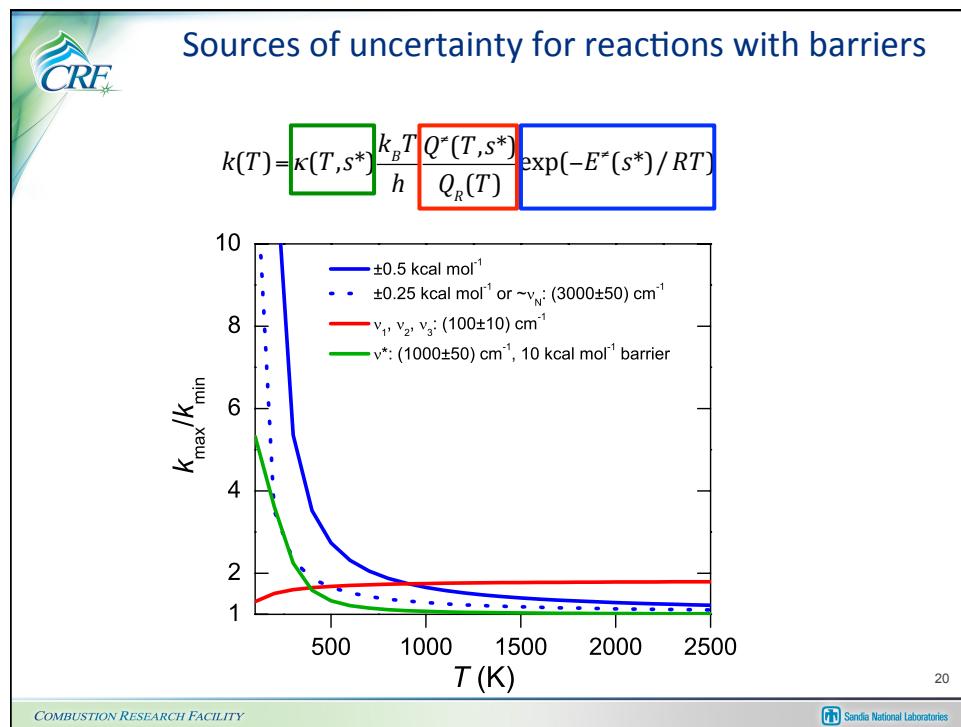
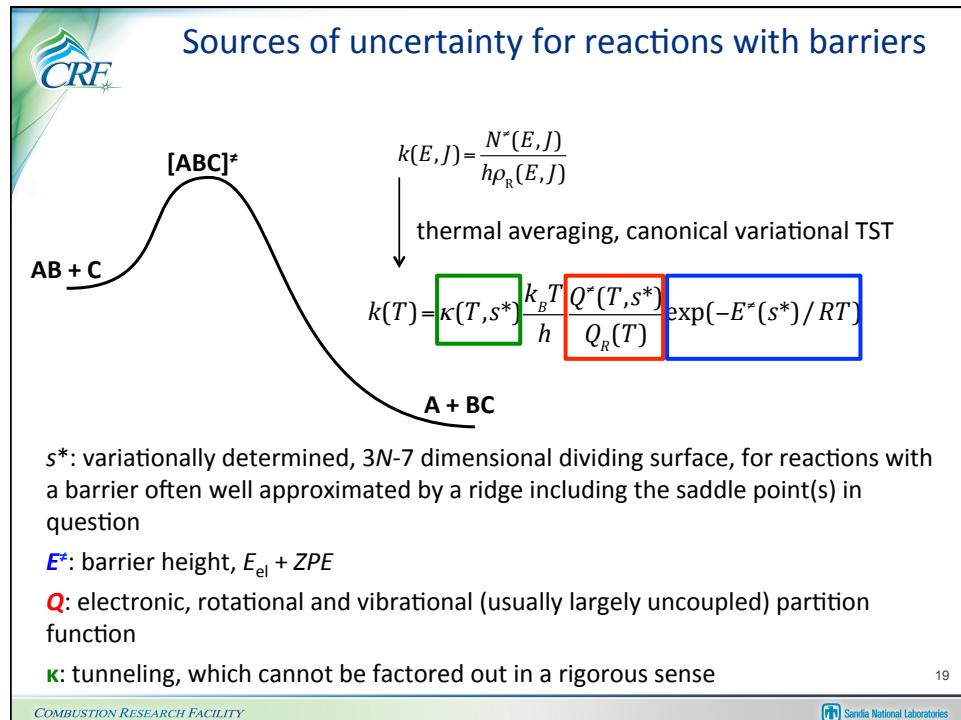
Synergy with experimental work

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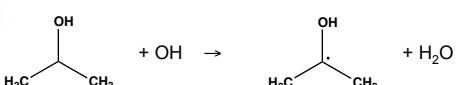
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Parametric uncertainty quantification in an *ab initio* rate-coefficient calculation

A simple abstraction reaction:

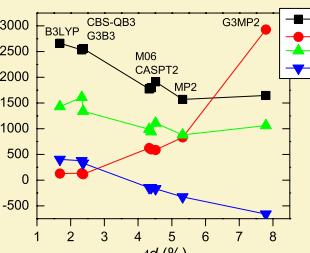


Significant variations in some of the calculated molecular parameters

No.	Method	E kcal mol ⁻¹	ΔZPE kcal mol ⁻¹	v_1 cm ⁻¹	v_{27} cm ⁻¹	v^* cm ⁻¹	$\Delta d\%$
1	QCISD(T)/CBS//B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)	-1.36	+1.15	143	2663	129/	1.68
2	QCISD(T)/CBS//M062x/6-311++G(d,p)	-1.18	-0.48	111	1912	588/	4.52
3	QCISD(T)/CBS//MP2/6-311++G(d,p)	-1.94	-0.93	88	1571	832/	5.32
4	QCISD(T)/CBS//CASPT2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-1.18	-0.42	99	1774	624/	4.33
5	QCISD(T)/CBS//CASPT2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-1.16	-0.42	94	1797	598/	4.39
6	CBS-QB3	-1.19	+1.08	161	2534	135/	2.33
7	G3B3	-0.41	+0.94	134	2560	116/	2.37
8	G3MP2	-1.89	-1.89	106	1647	2929/	7.79

What are the resulting parametric uncertainties?

Parameters are strongly correlated

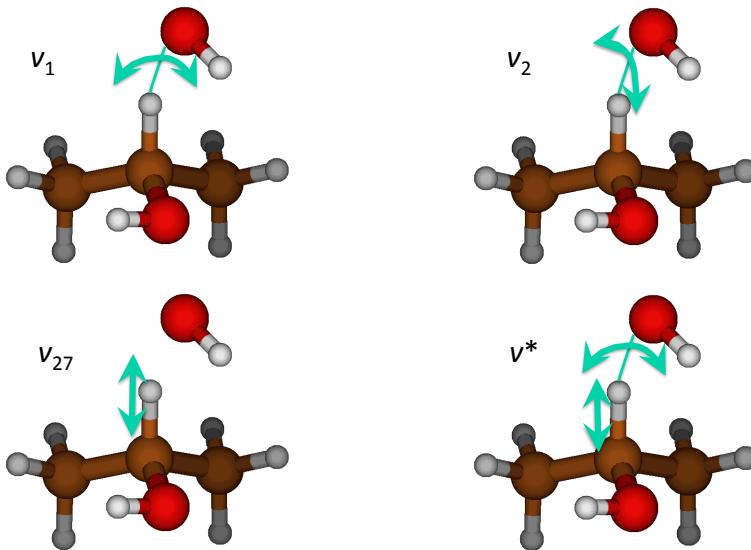


Can we rely on error cancellation and/or parameter correlation?

Prager, Najm and Zádor, Proc. Comb. Inst., 2012 21

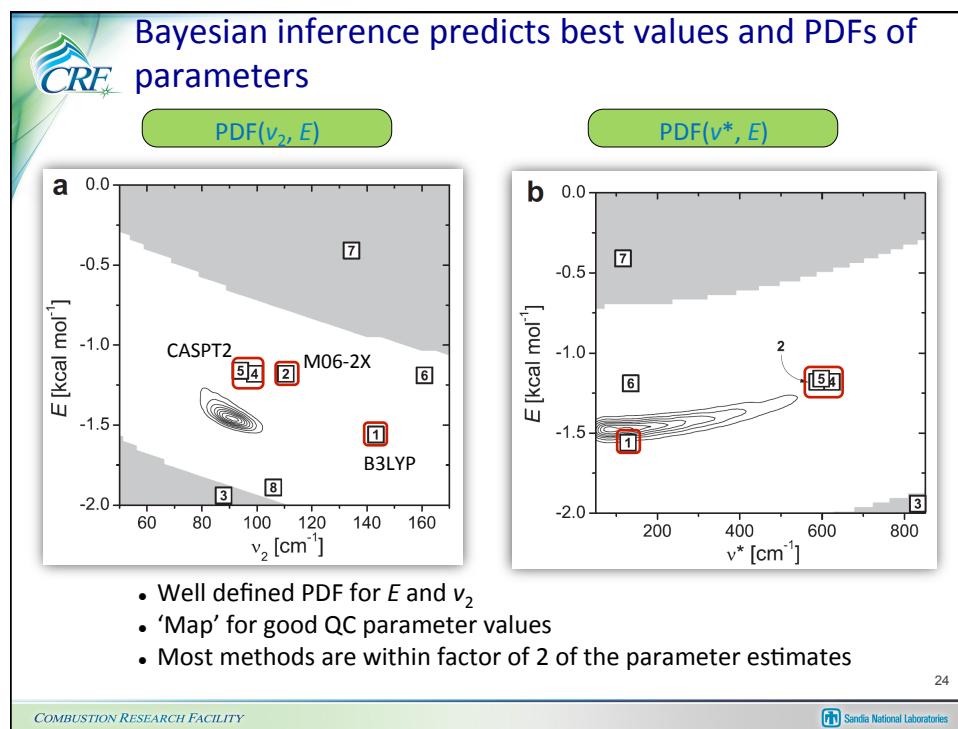
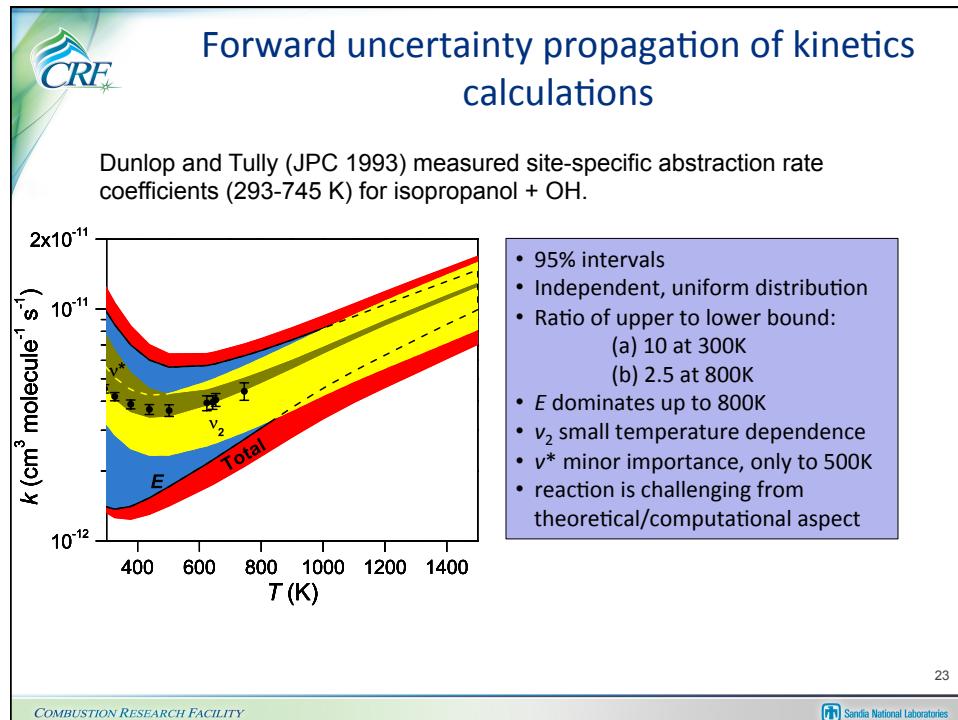
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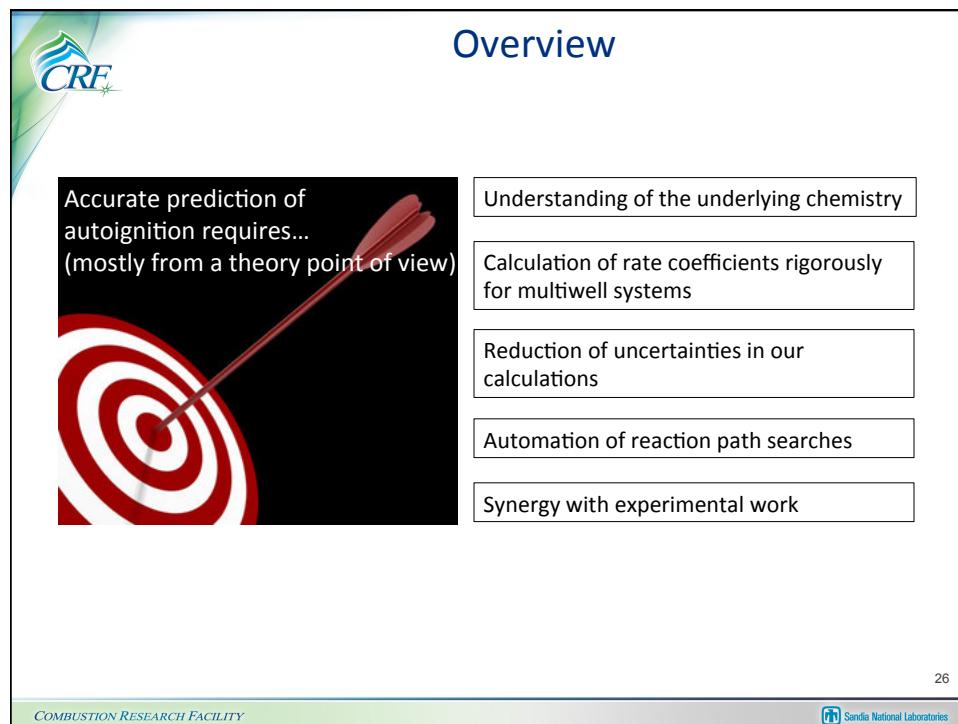
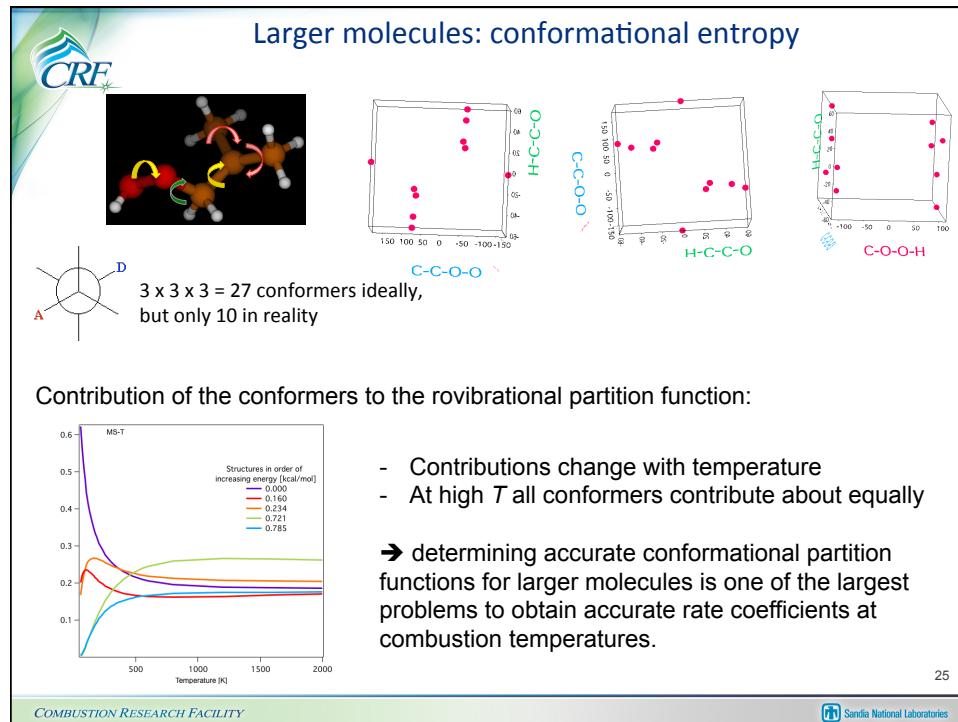
The strong coupling between certain vibrational modes cause the correlation among the parameters



Prager, Najm and Zádor, Proc. Comb. Inst., 2012 22

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Automation is necessary on all levels to meet the challenges of modern combustion chemistry

Reaction Mechanism
coupled concentrations

```

c2h3oh+h2o>=c2h5oh2 1.00E+12 0.0 -1000.0 | Marinov 1998
h2c4o2+h2o>=c2h2o+h2o 6.00E+10 0.0 2450.0 | Marinov 1998
c2h4+h2o>=c2h3+h2o 2.00E+13 0.0 5950.0 | Marinov 1998
c2h3+h2o>=c2h2o+h 1.00E+13 0.0 179.0 | Bauch 1994
c2h4+o>=c2h3co+o 3.38E+01 1.88 179.0 | Bauch 1994
c2h4+h3>=c2h3+h4 6.62E+00 3.7 950.0 | Marinov 1995
c2h3+h3>=c2h2o+h 3.00E+13 0.0 1892.0 | Dugault 1990
c2h4+h (mpy)>=c2h5(m) 1.08E+12 0.454 1822.0 | Fries 1993
low / 1.112E-34 -5.0 4448.0
low / 1.112E-34 -5.0 4448.0
h2o / 0.50 1922.0 / c2o2.0 / c2o2.0
c2h4+1m(c2h2/h2)cm 1.8E14 0.0 87000.0 | Marinov 1997
low / 1.112E-34 -5.0 4448.0
c2h3+H(m)>=c2H4(m) 6.1E12 0.27 280.0 | IGR-Mech2.11
low / 8.6E-29 -3.88 3320.0
trot / 0.782 208.265.6095.4
h2o / 0.50 1922.0 / c2o2.0 / c2o2.0
c2h3+h>=c2h2+h2 3.00E+13 0.0 0.0 | Marinov 1998
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+h 3.00E+13 0.0 0.0 | Marinov 1992
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+h 1.76E-29 -3.312 6500.0 | Marinov 1997
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+h 5.50E+14 -0.01 5260.0 | Marinov 1997
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+h 2.70E+13 0.0 3484.0 | Marinov 1997
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+h 2.00E+13 0.0 0.0 | Marinov 1992
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+c2h2 3.00E+13 0.0 0.0 | Miller 1992
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+c2h2 4.73E+13 0.0 0.0 | Marinov 1998
c2h3+o>=c2h2o 4.46E+56 -13.0 5877.0 | Marinov 1998
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+c2h4 2.00E+13 0.0 0.0 | Fahr 1991
c2h3+o>=c2h2o+c2h4 3.37E+13 0.0 0.0 | Marinov 1992
c2h2+o>=h2o+c2h2 5.04E+05 2.3 1350.0 | Miller 1992
c2h2+o>=h2o+c2h2 2.18E-04 4.5 -1000.0 | Miller 1992
dup
c2h2+o>=h2o+c2h2 2.00E+11 0.0 0.0 | Vandooren 1977
dup
c2h2+o>=h2o+c2h2 4.83E-04 4.0 -2000.0 | Miller 1992

```

Combustion of real fuels involves thousands of elementary reactions.

Automation is implemented, e.g. RMG or EXGAS.

Rules acting on symbols

Rules need to be made, tested, modified

Elementary Reaction
coupled concentrations AND rate coefficients

PES
E (kcal mol⁻¹)

Elementary reactions involve several (dozens) of chemical species and hundreds of conformers.

No commonly used efficient codes for automatic exploration.

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The 3-D realization of chemical structures is one of the major the bottle necks in theoretical kinetics calculations

Chemical “intuition” combined with literature and experimental evidence can predict almost all important pathways conceptually simple problem (pen + paper)

Realization of all chemical structures in 3-D hard and tedious problem

- best guess structures are “hand-built” (sculpted in 3-D visualization programs)
- search for (lowest energy) conformers is also difficult $\sim 3^n$ conformers (n is the number of heavy atoms)

$n = 5 \rightarrow 243$

typically 10 or more stationary points

- Combinatorial/bookkeeping problem
- Prone to human error

It is an extremely difficult task to search in this $3N-6$ dimensional space!

In the application of modern TST theory, exploring all stationary points is probably the slowest process for molecules containing 4+ heavy atoms.

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3D Realization
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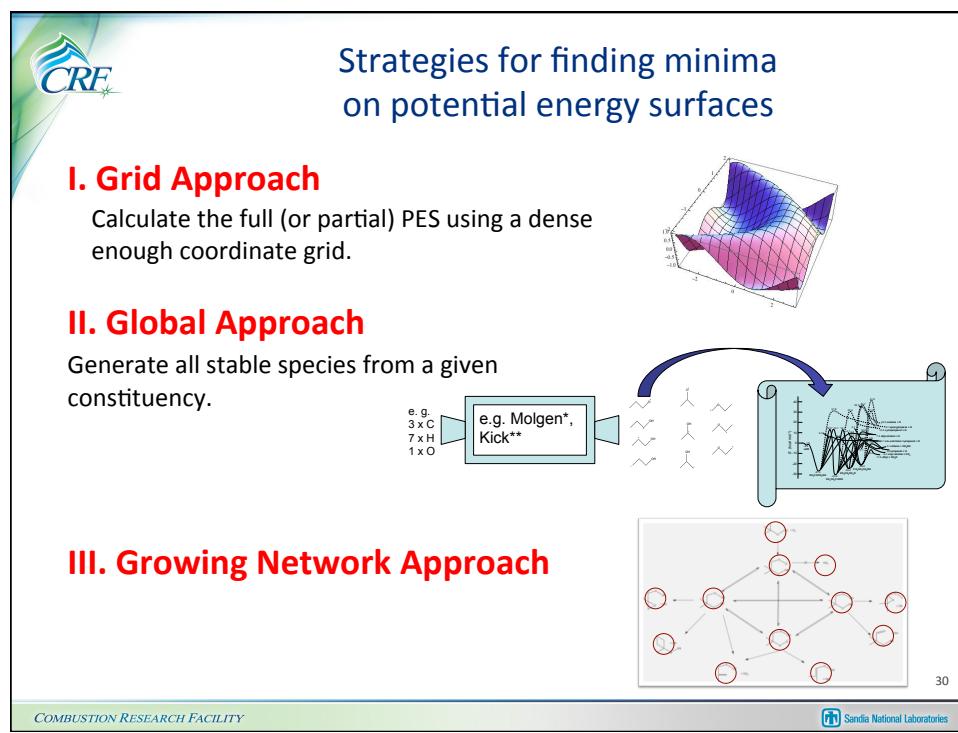
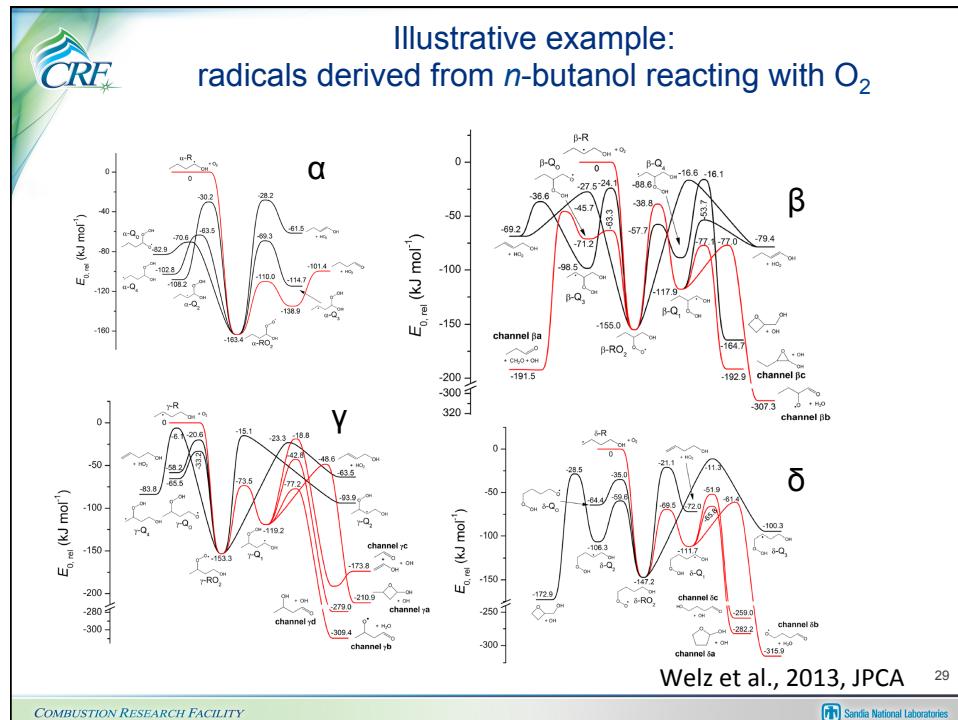
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Methods to find first-order saddle points

I. Local Optimization Methods

Uphill-walking methods, which can find the saddle-point starting at a reactant, without any knowledge about the product

N.B.: Once close to the real saddle point, Local Optimization Methods are efficient and accurate!

II. Double-Ended Methods

~Morphing reactants into products, e.g. Nudged Elastic Band method, the Synchronous Transit-Guided Quasi-Newton method (implemented in Gaussian), the Ridge Method, etc.

III. Chemistry-Based Methods

Structural analysis using redundant internal coordinates + Chemical knowledge (“intuition”) to generate good guesses

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Pairing of methods

Grid Approach ~ Local Optimization Methods

Global Approach ~ Double-Ended Methods

Growing Network Approach ~ Chemistry-Based Methods

e.g. 3 x C, 7 x H, 1 x O

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KinBot: a tool for the automated exploration of PES's relevant for gas-phase combustion chemistry

- Explores automatically the 3-D structure of stationary points on the underlying potential energy surface of elementary reactions in gas-phase combustion chemistry (C, H, O containing species currently), including the exploration of the conformational space.
- KinBot 1.0 combines a growing network approach for the network exploration with a chemistry-based approach for crawling in the network.
- The heart of the code are the algorithms that convert Cartesian coordinates into chemically meaningful information:
 - bonds
 - cycles
 - rotors
 - radical centers
 - motifs
 - symmetry numbers
 - identification of identical chemical structures
 - etc.
- Unimolecular reactions on complex, multiwell surfaces
- Bimolecular reactions (abstractions and additions)

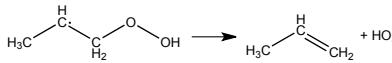
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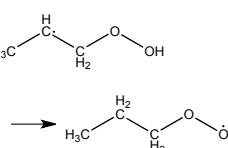
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Guiding principle: Bonds

All relevant reactions in gas-phase combustion can be categorized based on the number of bonds broken (B) and/or made (M) in the course of the elementary step.

1-bond reactions:
 B: scission 
 M: addition

2-bond reactions:
 BM: transfer of parts of the structure, e.g. abstractions
 BB/MM: certain elimination/addition reactions 

3-bond reactions:
 BMB/MBM: 1,n-eliminations/1,n-additions

4-bond reactions:
 BMBM: cascade abstractions

5-bond reactions:
 possible, but becomes VERY unlikely due to low entropy

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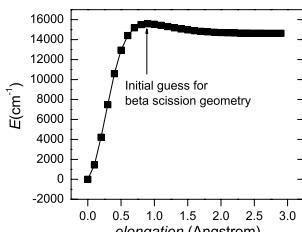
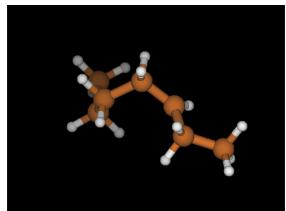
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1-bond example: Scission reactions

β -scission:

C-C bond cleavage: $\text{C}^*-\text{C}-\text{C} \rightarrow \text{C}=\text{C} + \text{C}^*$
 $\text{QOOH} \rightarrow \text{HO}_2 + \text{alkene}$: $\text{C}^*-\text{C}-\text{OOH} \rightarrow \text{C}=\text{C} + \text{HO}_2^+$
H-atom elimination: $\text{C}^*-\text{C}-\text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}=\text{C} + \text{H}^*$
aldehyde/ketone formation: $\text{O}^*-\text{C}-\text{C} \rightarrow \text{C}=\text{O} + \text{C}^*$
ROO dissociation: $\text{O}^*-\text{O}-\text{C} \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{C}^*$

- criterion:** structure should contain $\text{X}^* - \text{X} - \text{X}$ motif
- strategy:** scan along all $\text{X}-\text{X}$ bonds, and search for saddle point at the maximum, or identify barrierless cases

non- β -scission: all other bond breaking – no further search if barrierless

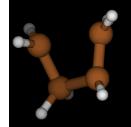
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1-bond example: Internal addition of radical sites to multiple bonds

- criteria:** structure should contain $\text{C}^* - n\text{X} - \text{X}^*$ motif, $n = 1, \dots, 6$
 X^* has a multiple bond
- strategy:** fold molecule into a cyclic conformer in a series of steps



cyclization of but-3-ene-1-yl radical to cyclobutyl (or ring opening of cyclobutyl)

Ketone/aldehyde radical isomerization step



TS product

New ketone radical mechanism is a simple combination of this and a β -scission step.



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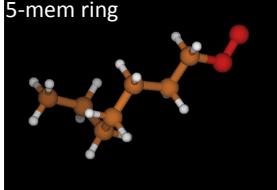
2-bond example: Internal H-abstraction pathways

E.g. alkyl radical isomerization, ROO/QOOH isomerization

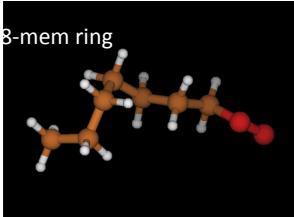
- criterion:** structure should contain $X^* - nX - H$ motif, $n = 3, \dots, 8$
- strategy:** fold molecule into a cyclic conformer in a series of steps to generate good initial guess

ROO/QOOH isomerization

5-mem ring

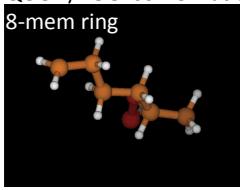


8-mem ring



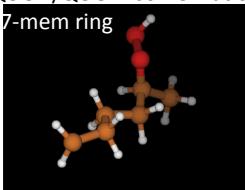
QOOH/ROO isomerization

8-mem ring

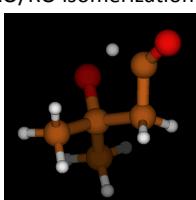


QOOH/QOOH isomerization

7-mem ring



RO/RO isomerization



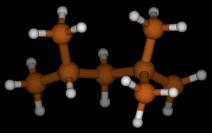
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Further 2-bond example: internal isomerization of an iso-octyl radical

initial geometry ("seed")

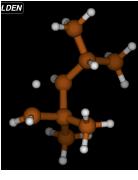


lowest energy conformer found

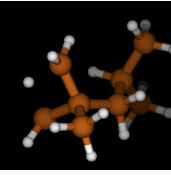


Transition states

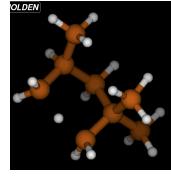
4-mem ring



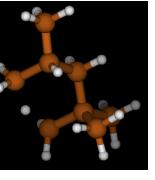
4-mem ring



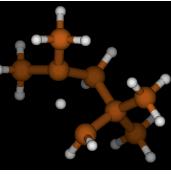
5-mem ring



6-mem ring



6-mem ring



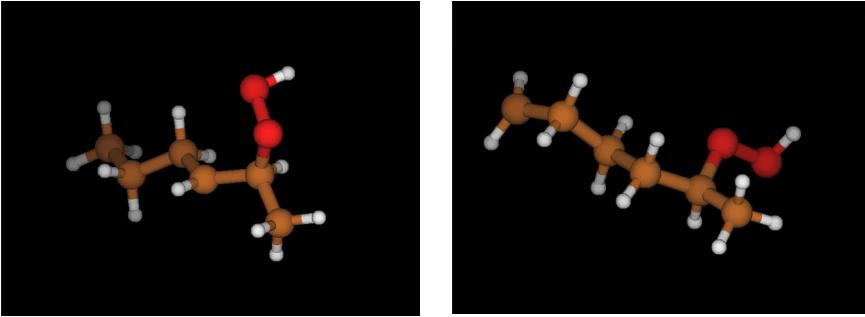
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**One more 2-bond example:
Cyclic ether formation**

- **criterion:** structure should contain $\mathbf{C}^{\bullet} - n\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{O} - \mathbf{O} - \mathbf{H}$ motif, $n = 3, \dots, 8$
- **strategy:** fold molecule into a cyclic conformer in a series of steps



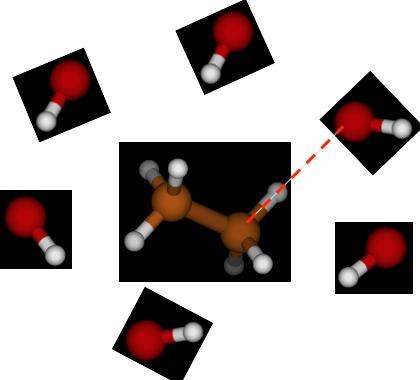
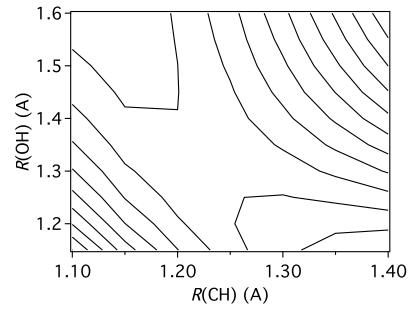
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**Bimolecular abstractions (2-bond):
 $\mathbf{RH} + *X, *XY, *XYZ, *XYZW$**

Locating the saddle point, in principle, is straightforward using reduced dimensional scans:

Saddle point can be found with a simple minmax algorithm very reliably.

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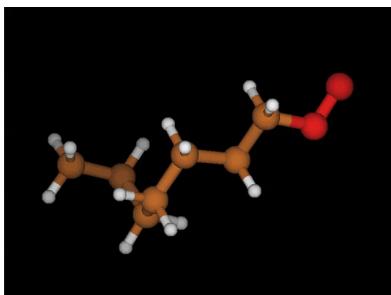
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3-bond example: Direct HO₂ elimination

More specialized rule, can be thought of a special case of internal H-elimination

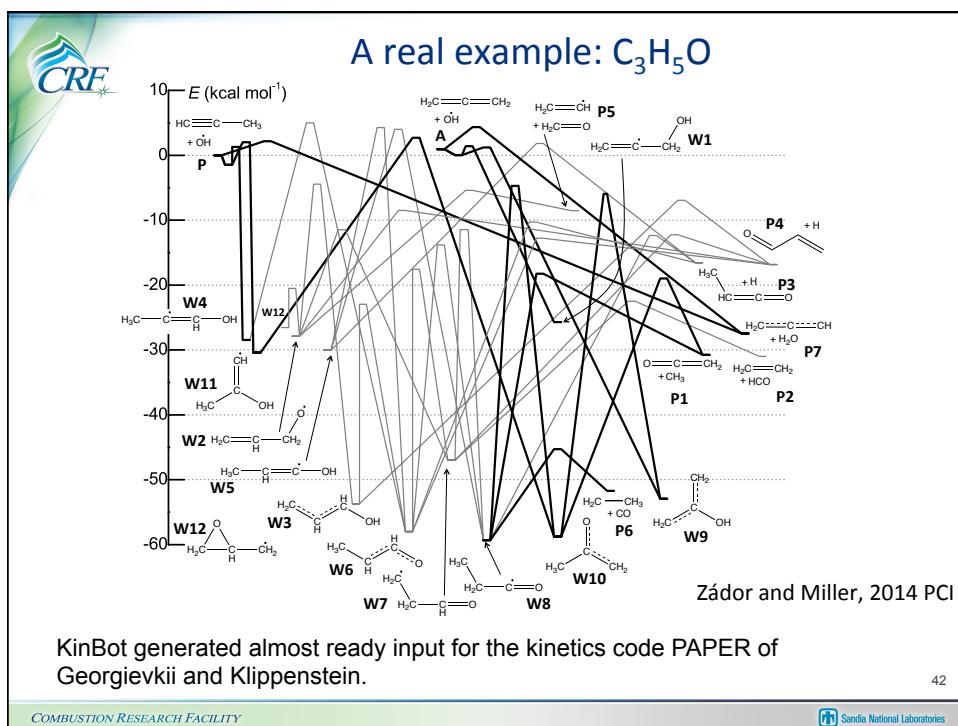
- **criterion:** structure should contain **H – C – C – O – O[•]** motif
- **strategy:** fold molecule into a cyclic conformer in a series of steps,
 - only the final step is different from a 4-mem ring elimination TS

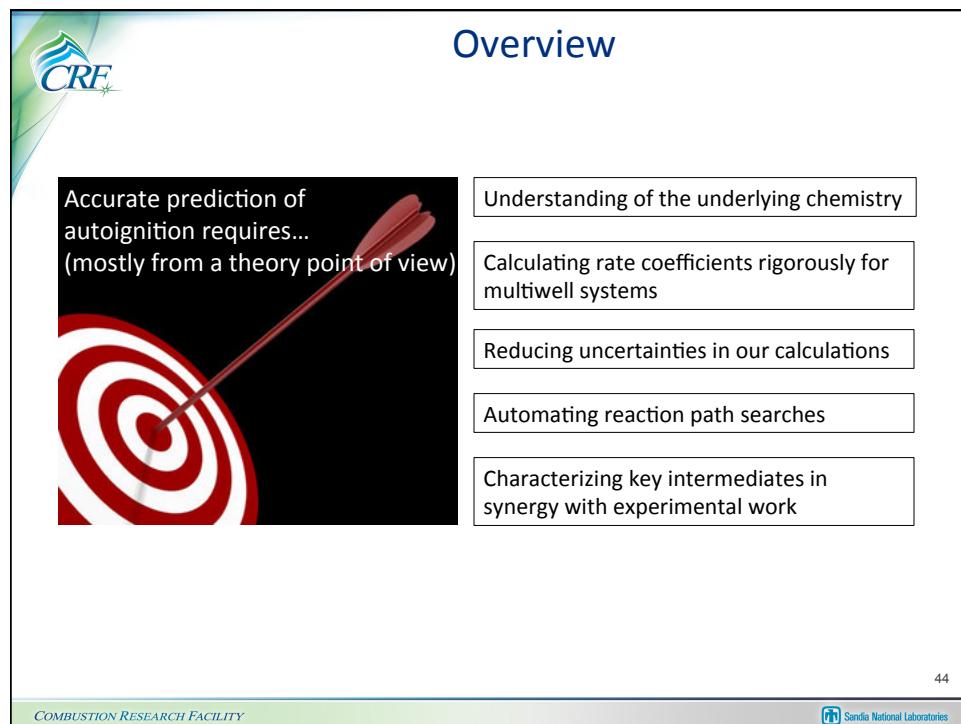
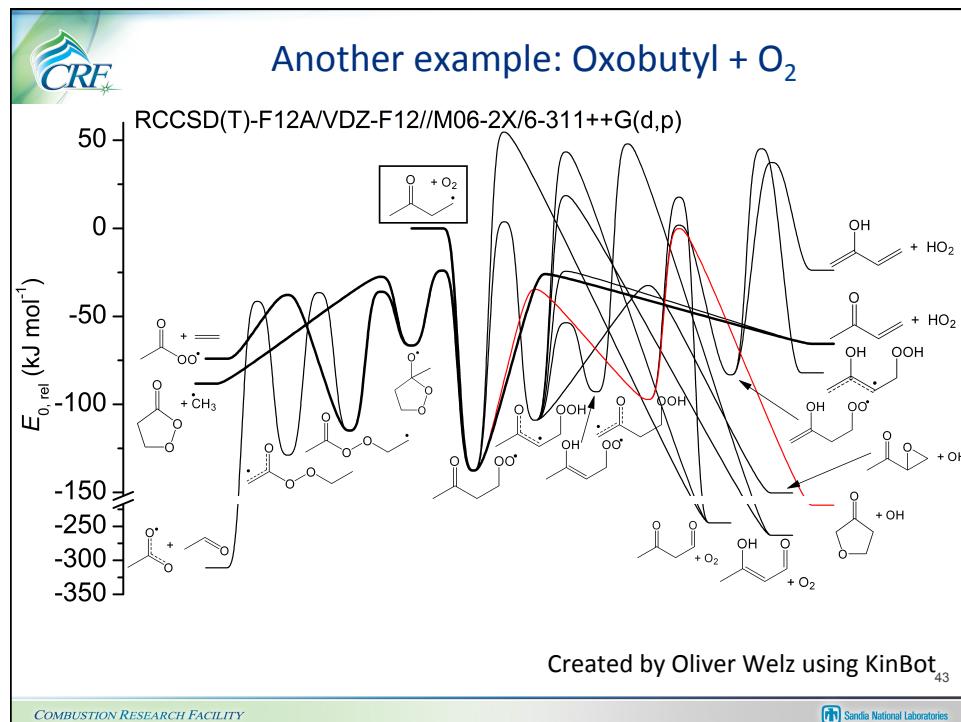


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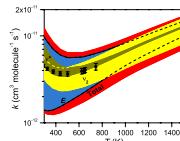




Outlook

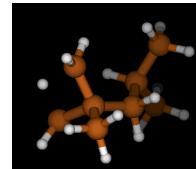
Only rigorous master equation methods can provide an accurate description of the physics. Simplified models are inadequate in many cases.

$$\frac{d|w(t)\rangle}{dt} = \mathbf{G}|w(t)\rangle$$



More systematic uncertainty studies are needed to further develop and better our theoretical framework.

In order to keep up with the pace of fuel-formulation and engine design improvements, the identification and exploration of chemical pathways should be automated. KinBot is an efficient tool for this.



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