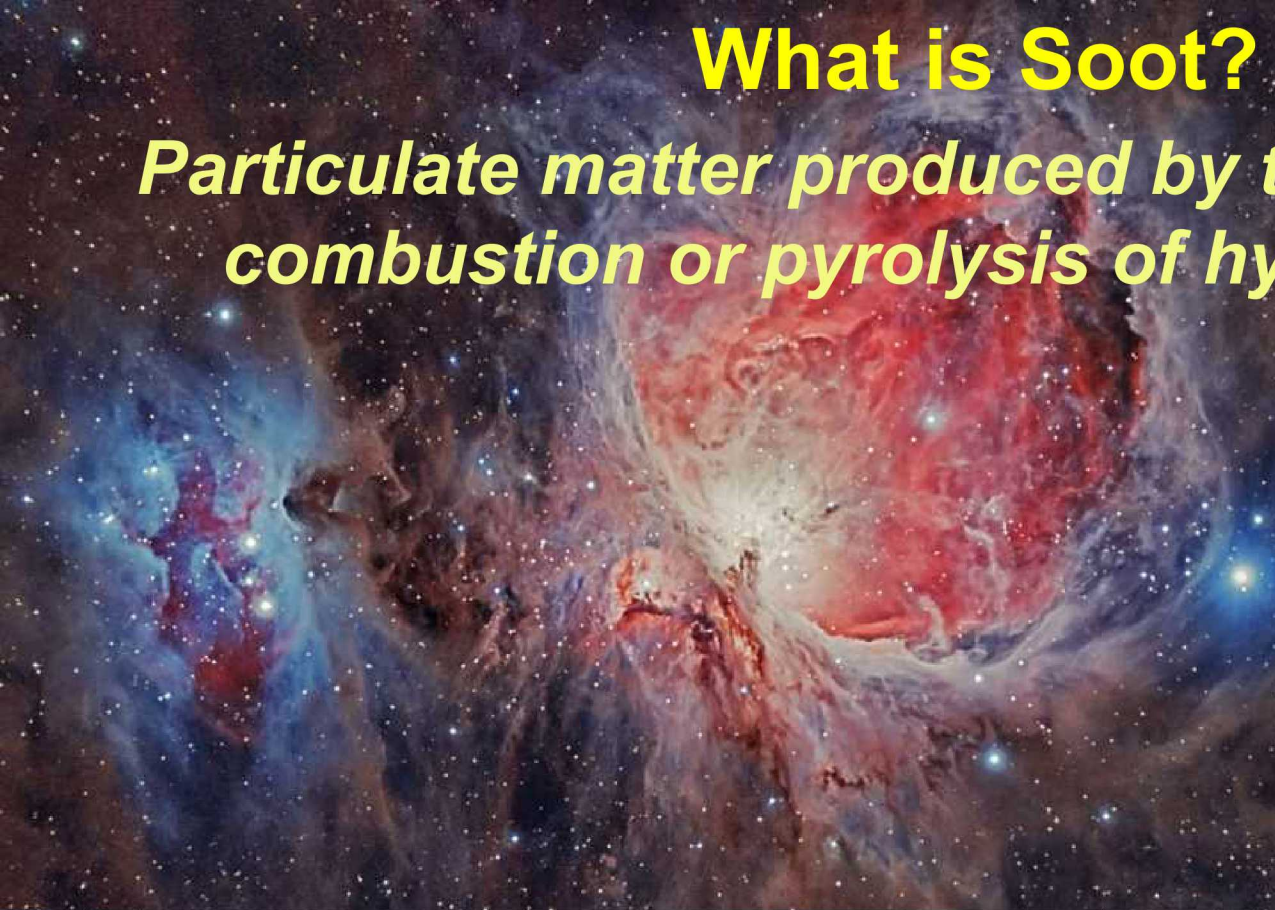


# Using Vacuum Ultraviolet and X-Ray Tools to Solve the Mystery of Soot Formation

# What is Soot?

*Particulate matter produced by the incomplete combustion or pyrolysis of hydrocarbons*



# Soot: The Good Side

- Commercial and personal uses

- Pigment in inks and dyes



Tattoozza.com



Sally Smith, Art studio, Berkeley, CA

- Filler to reinforce rubber products



- Radiative heat-transfer medium in boilers and furnaces



Glass furnace

LumaSenseInc.com, 2019

# Soot: The Good Side

- Positive impact on soil and water

- May increase fertility of soils



Ultrakulture.com

- In small amounts, may sequester pollutants in natural water supplies



# Soot: The Other Side

Horace B. Dobell<sup>942</sup>  
~1849

Chimney  
Sweeps'  
Carcinoma  
a.k.a.  
"Soot Wart"



Reveal, 2015



Camp Fire, Washington Post, 2018

- Negative impact on health and safety
  - Increases risk of pulmonary disease
  - Increases risk of cardiovascular disease
  - Provides vector for other toxins and carcinogens
  - Reduces fire safety and control

- Negative impact on air quality

- Decreases indoor air quality
- Decreases ambient air quality
- Decreases visibility



Camp Fire. [sfbws.com](http://sfbws.com), 2018

# Soot: The Other Side

- Negative impact on agriculture

- Reduces crop yield

- Negative impact on energy efficiency

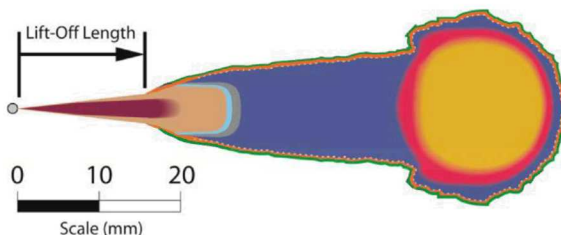
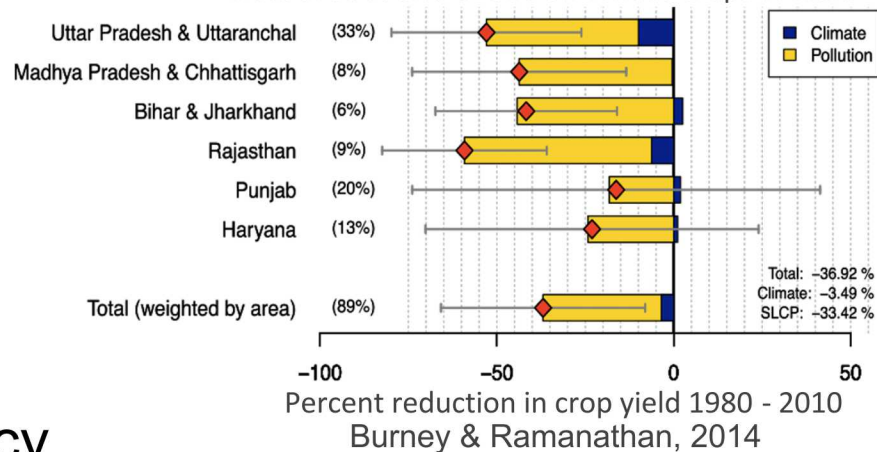
- Reduces combustion efficiency

- Increases radiative heat losses

- Negative impact on Priuses

- Increases stress of Prius drivers

Effect of Soot and Ozone on Wheat Crops in India

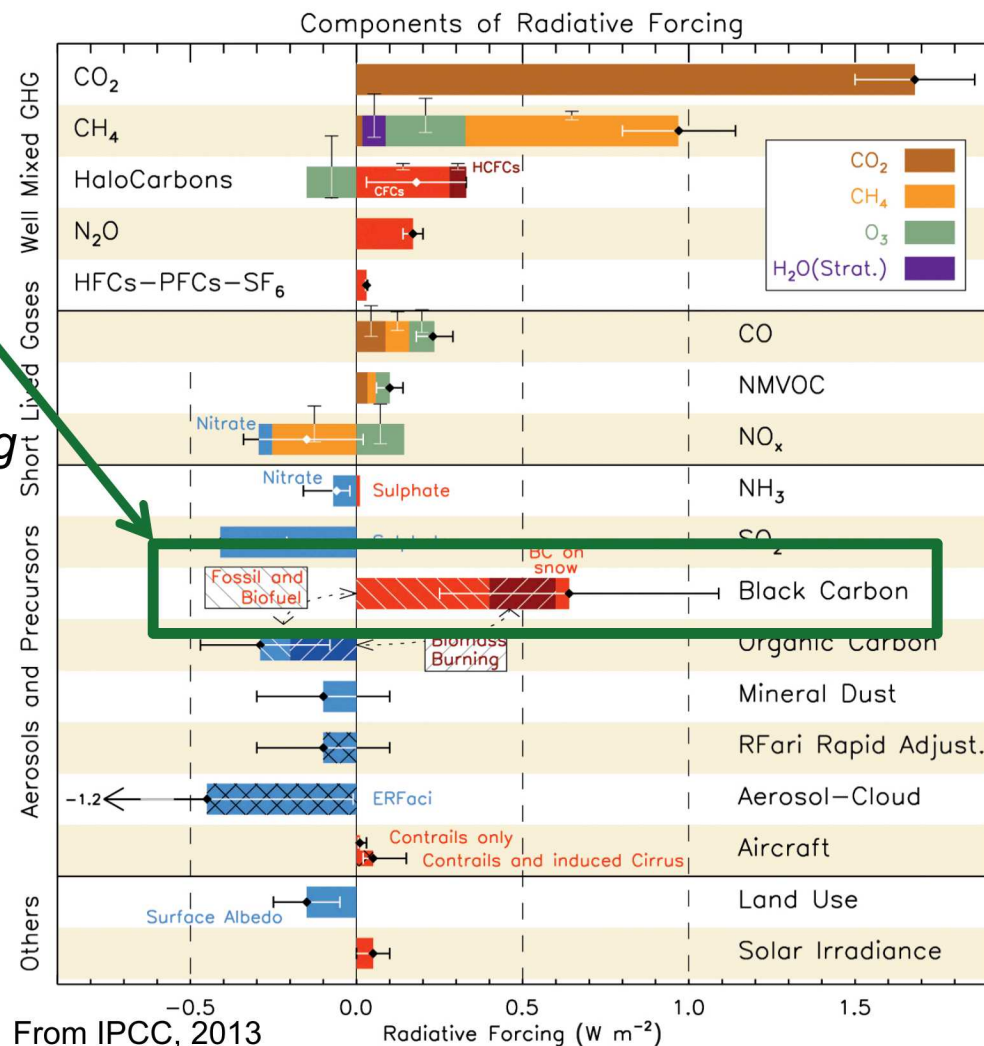


Dec, 1997, O'Connor & Musculus, 2013



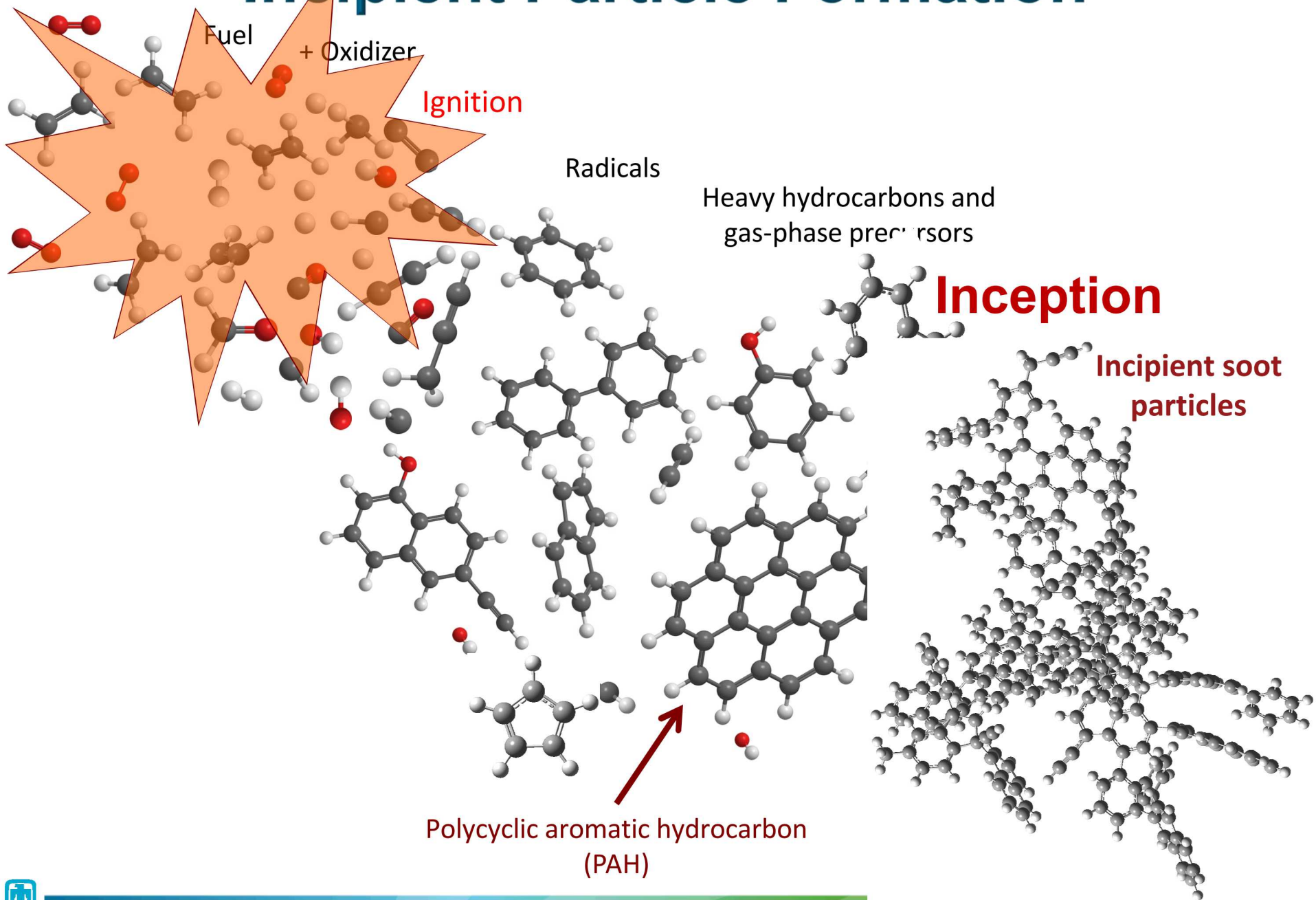
# Soot: The Other Side

- Negative impact on climate
  - Soot absorbs light – *heating effect*
  - Soot lowers snow reflectivity - *heating*
  - Soot increases glacial melt – *heating*
  - Soot influences clouds – *heating/cooling*



- Why focus on soot?
  - Short atmospheric lifetime (~1 wk)
  - Near-term climate-change mitigation candidate

# Incipient Particle Formation



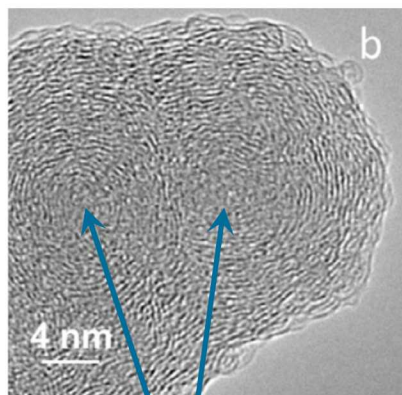
# What is Soot?

## Mature soot particles – Black carbon

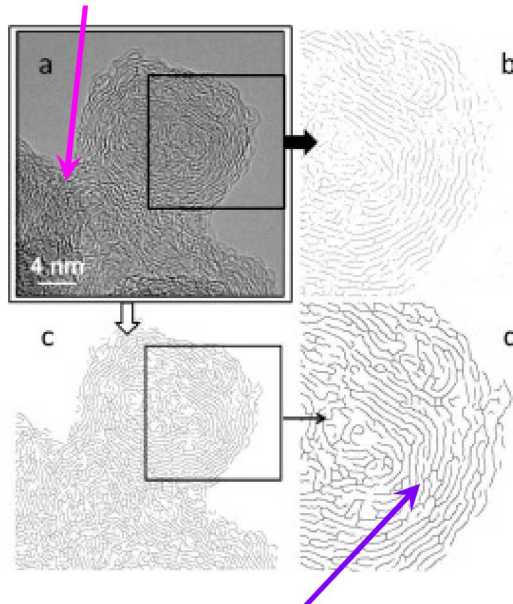
Refractory solid  
Absorb strongly of broad wavelength range  
C/H ratio of 10-20  
Density  $\sim 1.8-1.9 \text{ g/cm}^3$

Primary particles: 10-50 nm  
Aggregates: 100 to 600 nm

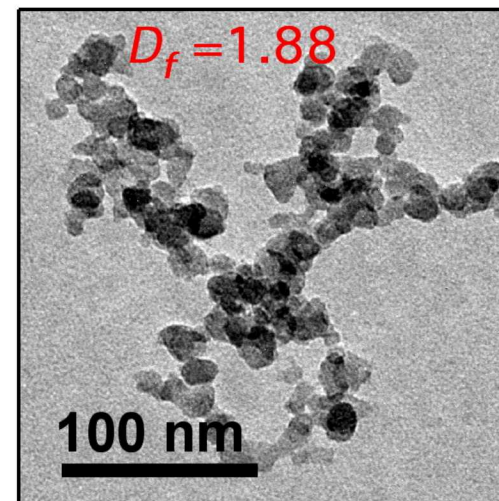
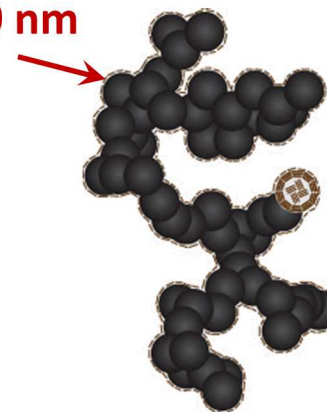
Graphitic overlayers hold  
aggregate together



Disordered foci or  
growth centers,  
1-6 nm in diameter



Turbostratic graphitic layers or  
crystallites aligned parallel to the  
primary-particle surface

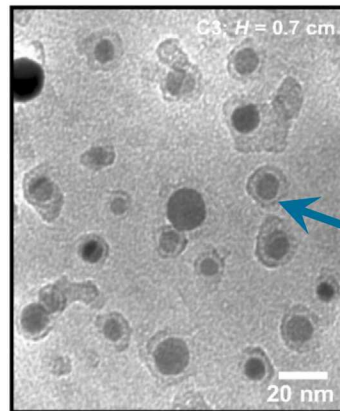


Bambha et al., *Appl. Phys. B* 2013

# What is Soot?

## Incipient soot particles

Transmission electron microscopy  
(TEM)



Halo suggests  
spreading  
and fluidity

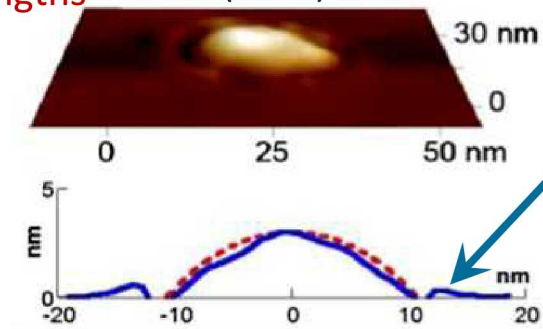
**Incipient particles: 1-6 nm**

Absorb in UV, weakly at longer wavelengths

C/H ratio of 1.5-2.5

Density  $\sim 1.3 \text{ g/cm}^3$

Atomic force microscopy  
(AFM)



Abid et al., *Combust. Flame* 2008

# What is Soot?

Soot inception;  
Incipient soot  
formation

Coalescence,  
surface growth,  
graphitization

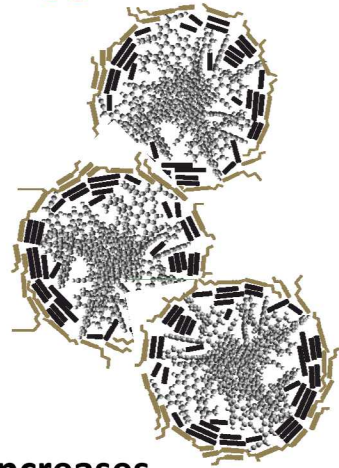
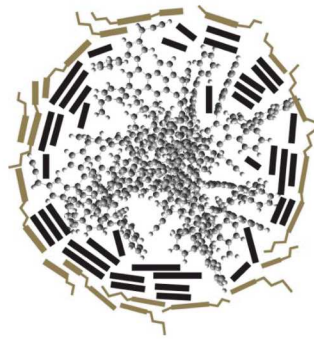
Primary-  
particle  
agglomeration

Surface growth,  
aggregation,  
graphitization

Particle  
oxidation



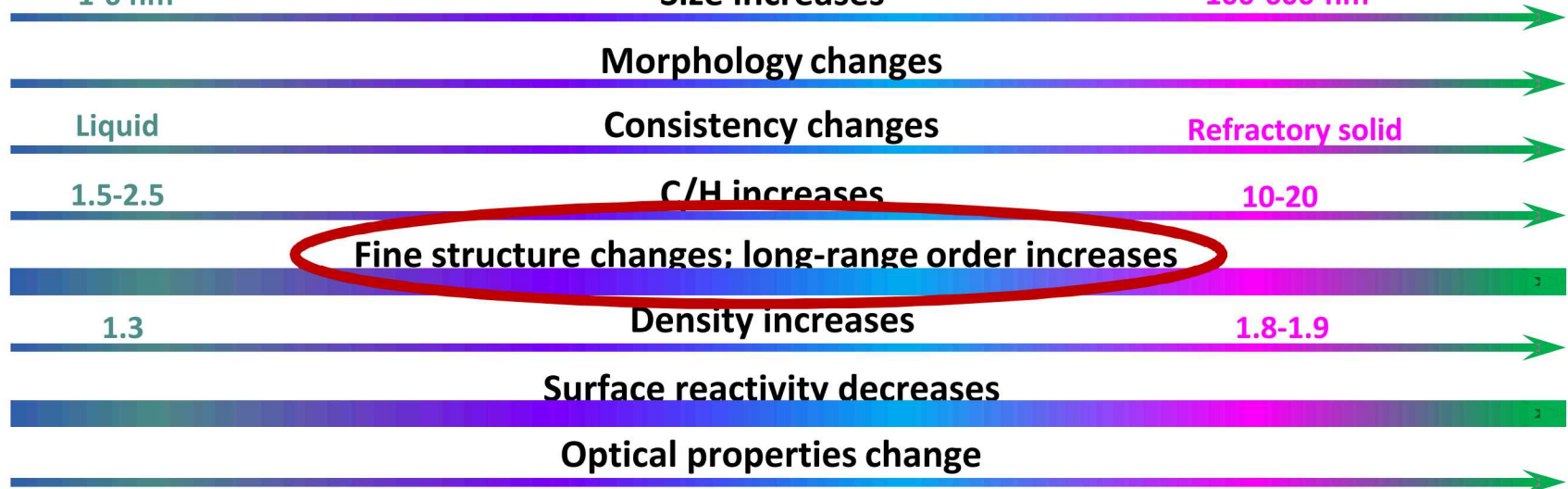
1-6 nm



Size increases

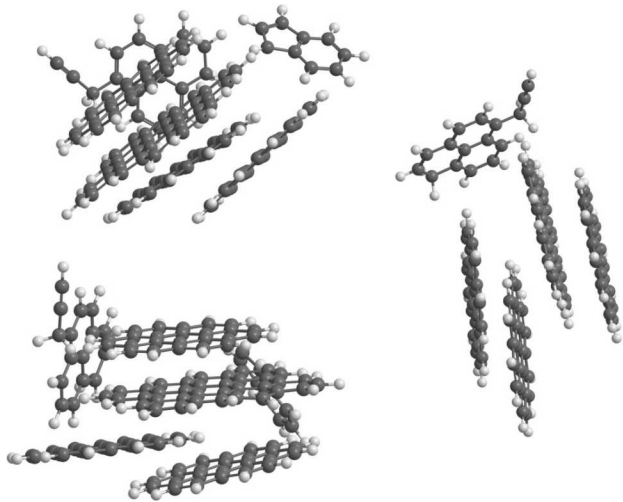


10-50 nm  
100-600 nm



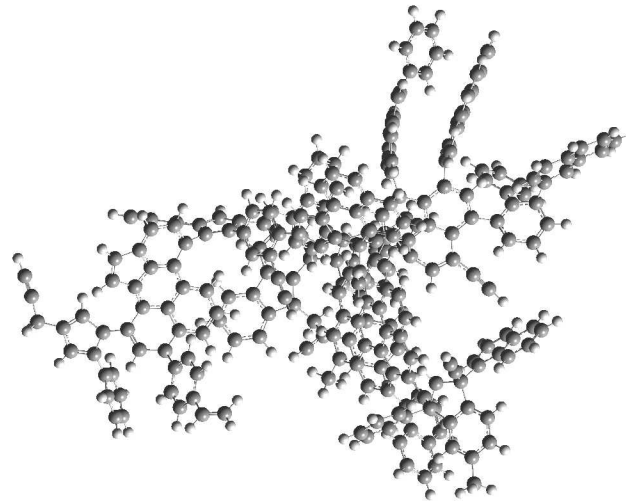
# Proposed Inception Mechanisms

## Thermodynamically driven



Nucleation of stable PAH species  
Bound by dispersive forces

## Kinetically controlled



Chemical reactions between precursors  
Clusters of aliphatic and aromatic content  
Covalently bound

**Species available too small to condense  
at relevant temperatures (1400-1700K)**

**Reactions between stable precursors too slow**

# Particle-Inception Studies

Co-flow  
diffusion flame



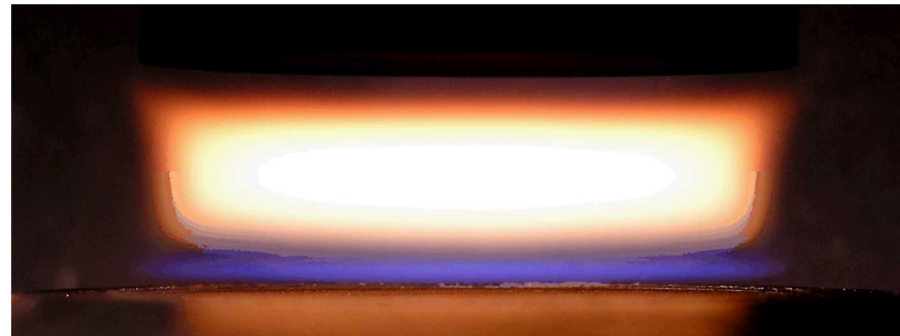
Inverse  
diffusion flame



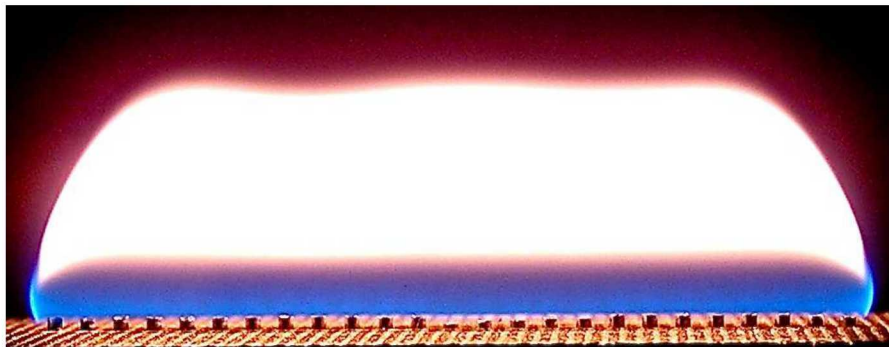
Counter-flow diffusion flame



Premixed flame

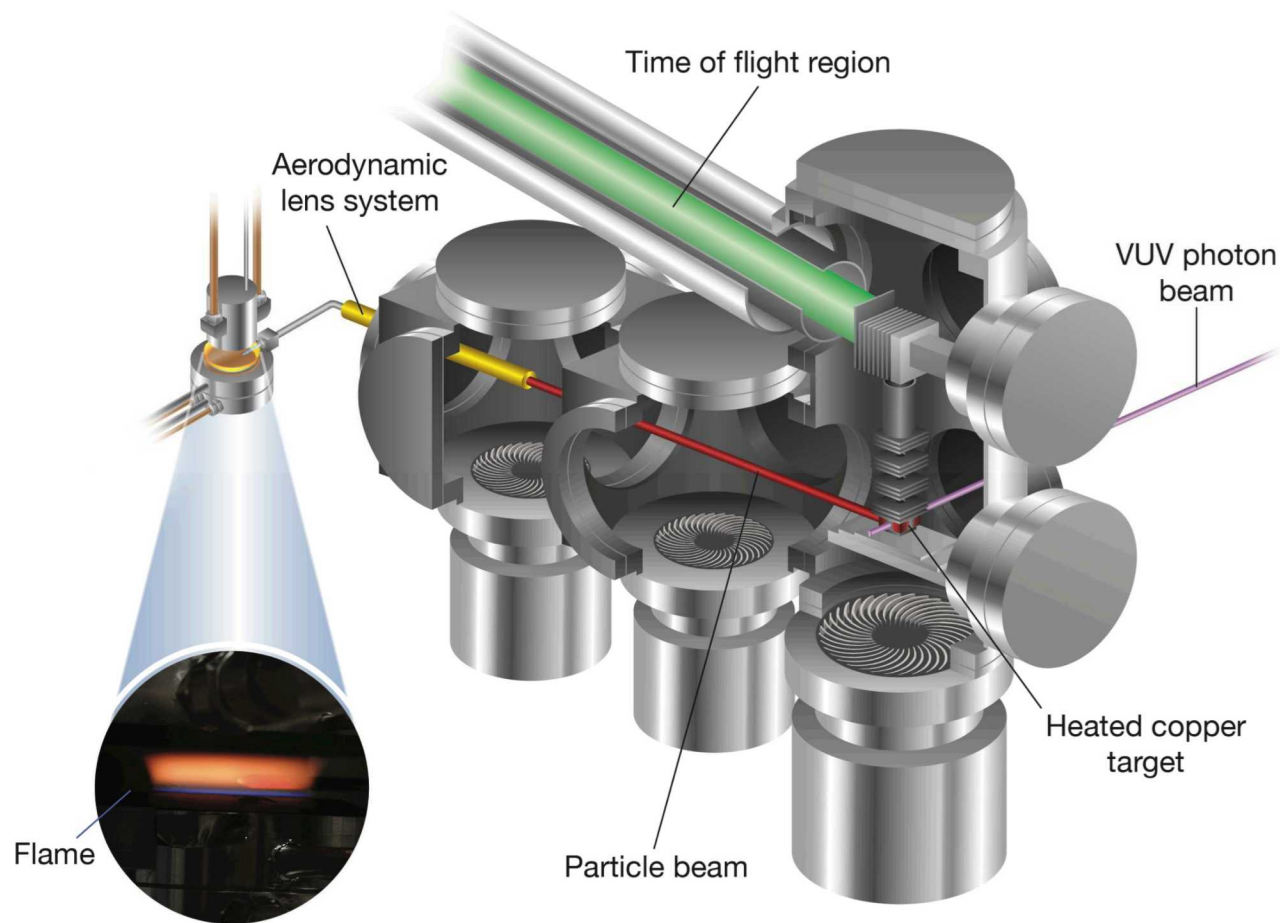


Partially premixed diffusion flame



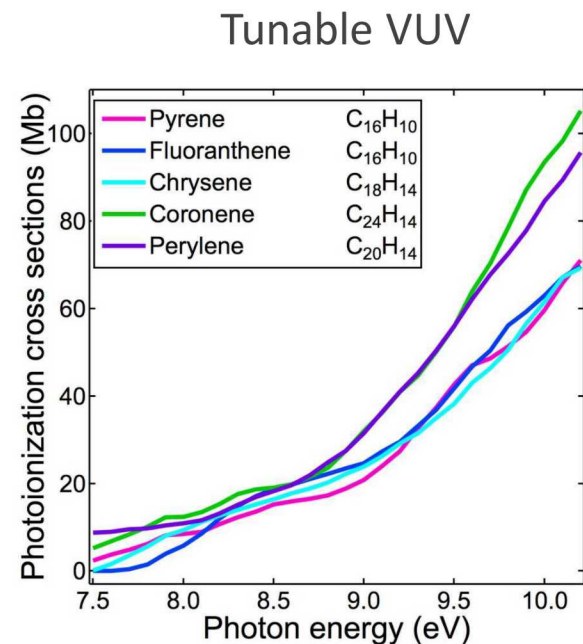
# Incipient-Particle Composition

Aerosol Mass Spectrometry using VUV Photoionization (VUV-AMS)  
Beamline 9.0.2 at the Advanced Light Source/LBL



Our flame

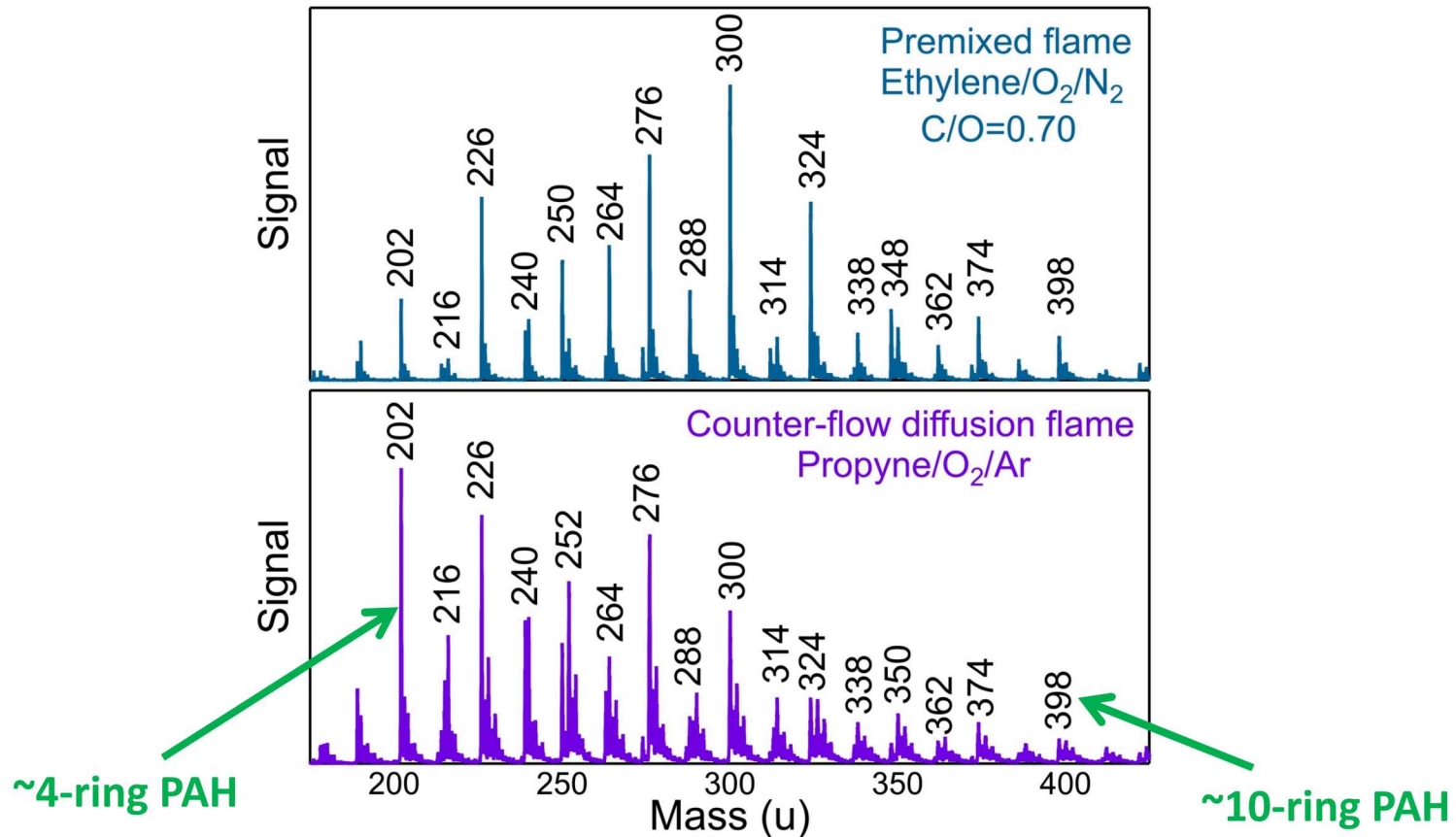
Kevin Wilson's machine at the ALS



# Incipient-Particle Composition

Aerosol Mass Spectrometry using VUV Photoionization (VUV-AMS)

ALS BL 9.0.2



Johansson et al., *Proc. Combust. Inst.* 2017

# Incipient-Particle Composition

## Stabilomers

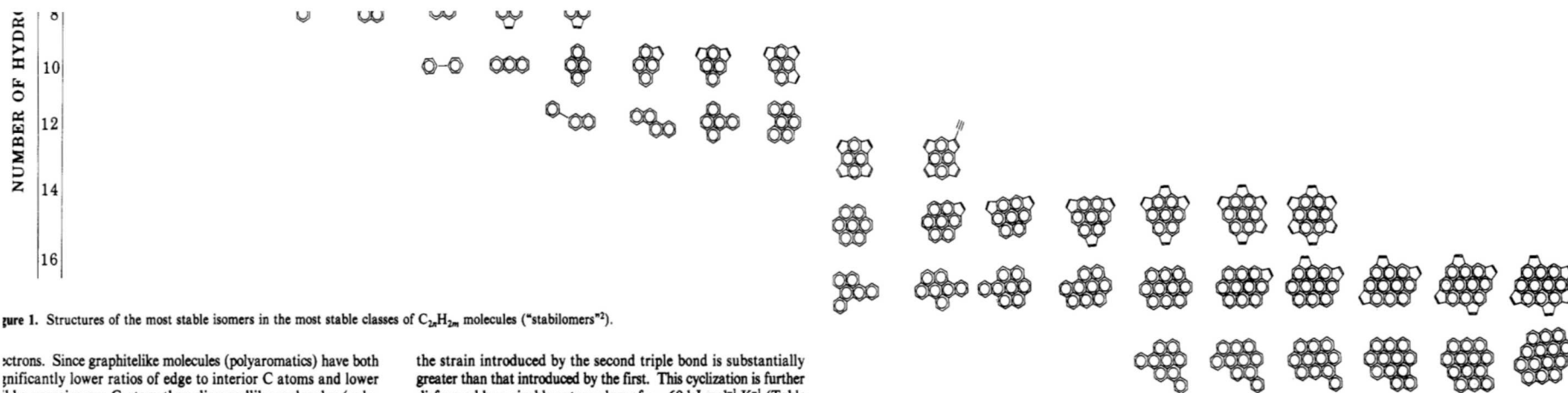


Figure 1. Structures of the most stable isomers in the most stable classes of  $C_{2n}H_{2n}$  molecules ("stabilomers").

axons. Since graphitelike molecules (polyaromatics) have both significantly lower ratios of edge to interior C atoms and lower Gibbs energies per C atom than diamondlike molecules (polyamantanes) of comparable C number, the former molecules would always be more stable than the latter at high temperatures. However, the relative contribution of edge atoms to overall thermodynamic stability will decrease with increasing size.  $C_{2n}H_2$ . The most stable classes of moderately sized  $C_{2n}H_2$  molecules are expected to be the polyacetylenes. These are the simplest classes of molecules examined: only one polyacetylene

the strain introduced by the second triple bond is substantially greater than that introduced by the first. This cyclization is further disfavored by a sizable entropy loss of  $\sim -60 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (Table I).

Very large, highly condensed polyaromatic  $C_{2n}H_2$  species, like  $C_{96}H_2$  (2800 K). Clearly, in the temperature range of interest the large  $C_{2n}$  molecules mentioned in the previous section, are expected to become increasingly stable with increasing size. They become more stable than polyacetylenes. On the other hand, although any discussion of such species must be speculative, their general properties can be coarsely estimated by assigning unstable polyaromatic molecules larger than  $C_{54}H_2$  are certain to be more stable than polyacetylenes up to at least 1800 K.

$C_{2n}H_4$ . The most stable  $C_{2n}H_4$  molecules are acyclic and contain one double bond and  $n - 1$  triple bonds. Symmetry numbers of

have the same stability near 2700 K, or 400 K lower than the polyacetylenes of equal stability for individual molecules.

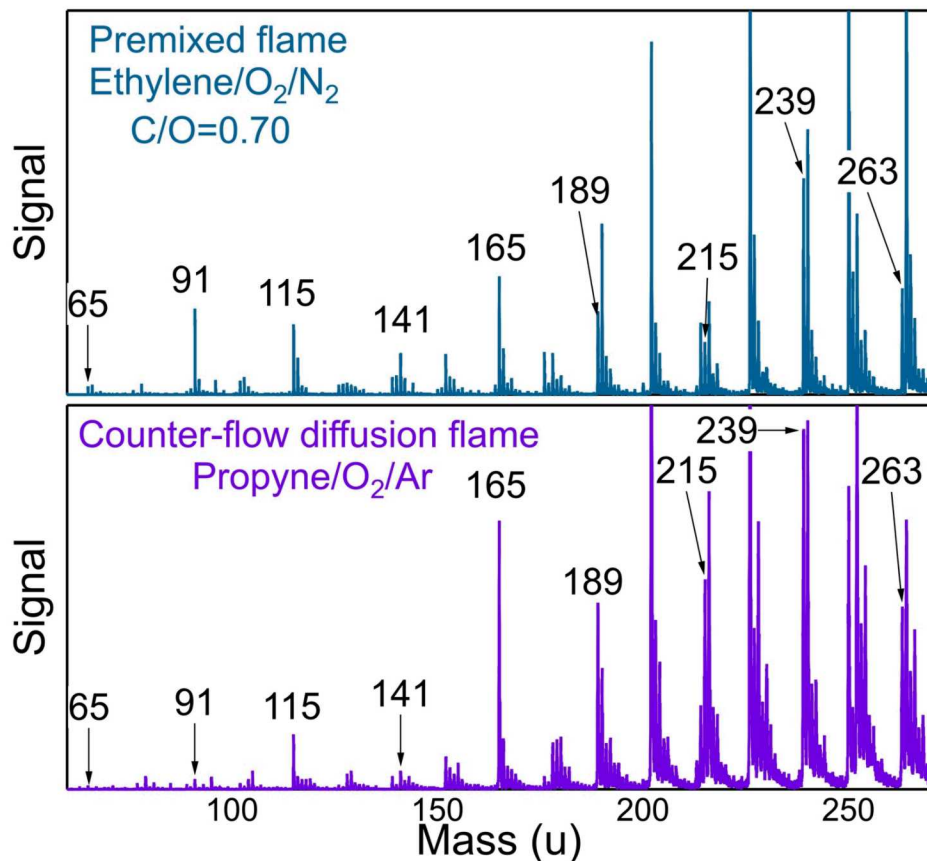
In view of its estimated  $120 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  higher heat of formation (ignoring any antiaromaticity) and its lower entropy, benzene is always far less stable than ethynylbenzene. The same argument applies to 1,3,5-cyclooctatriene-7-yne, whose heat of formation is  $\sim 170 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  greater than that of ethynylbenzene even assuming no ring strain.

Stein, Fahr 1985

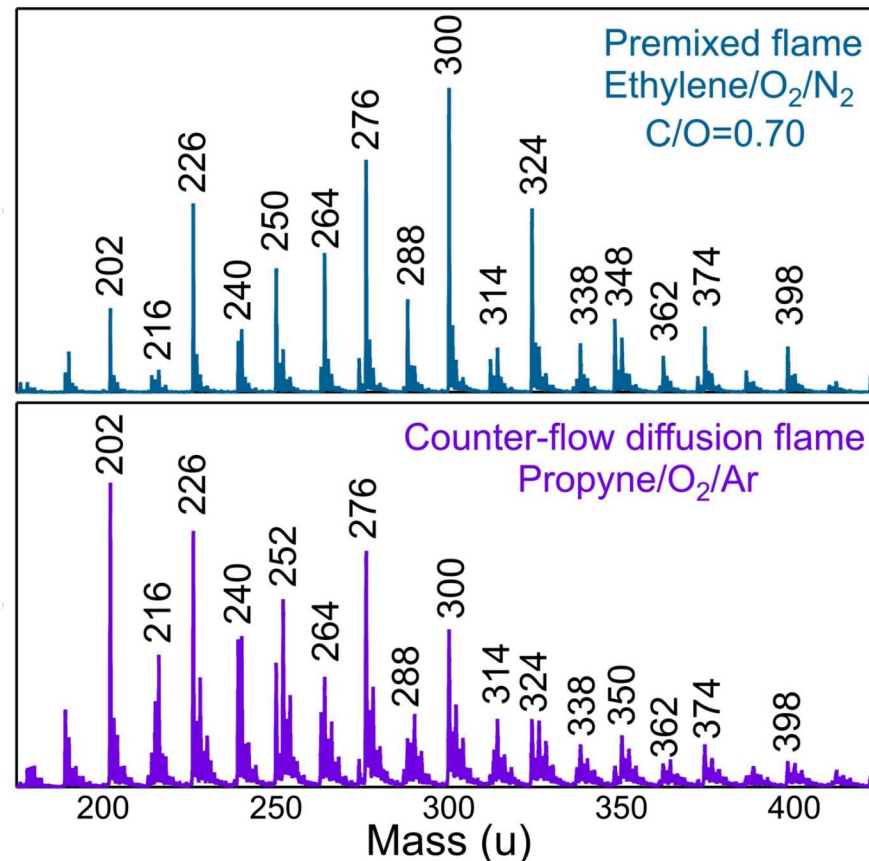
# Incipient-Particle Composition

Aerosol Mass Spectrometry using VUV Photoionization (VUV-AMS)

ALS BL 9.0.2



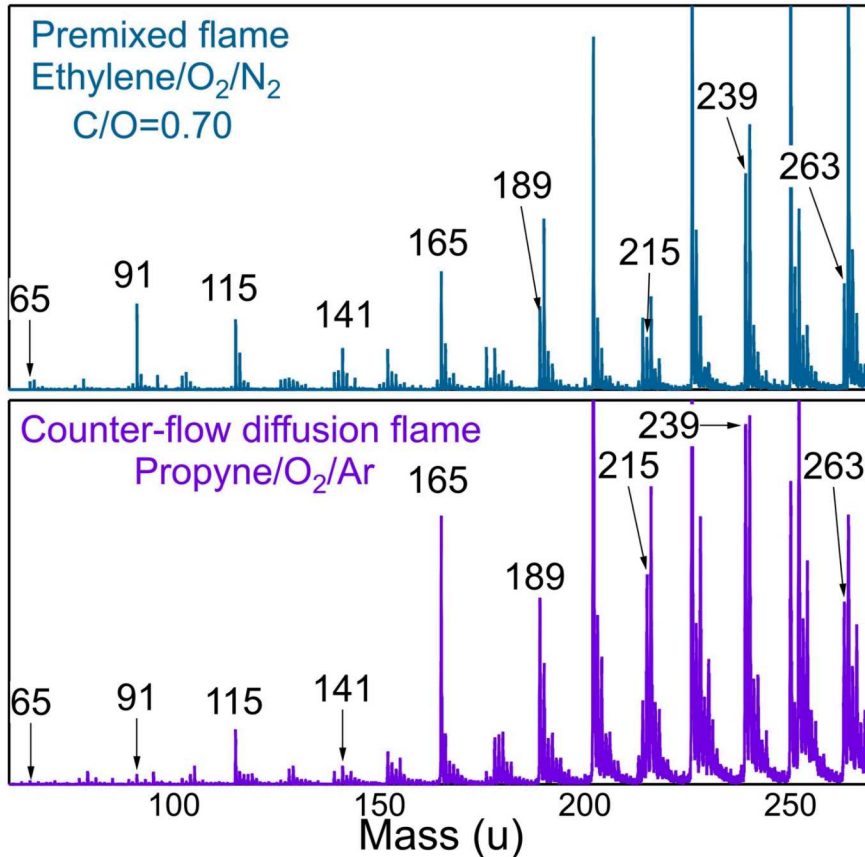
Johansson et al., *Science* 2018



Johansson et al., *Proc. Combust. Inst.* 2017

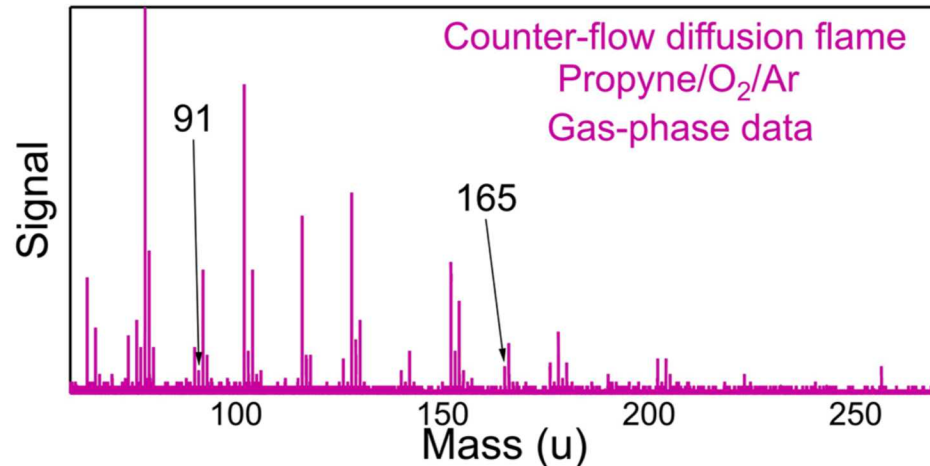
# Incipient-Particle Composition

Aerosol mass spectrometry



Johansson et al., *Science* 2018

Gas phase  
Molecular beam mass spectrometry

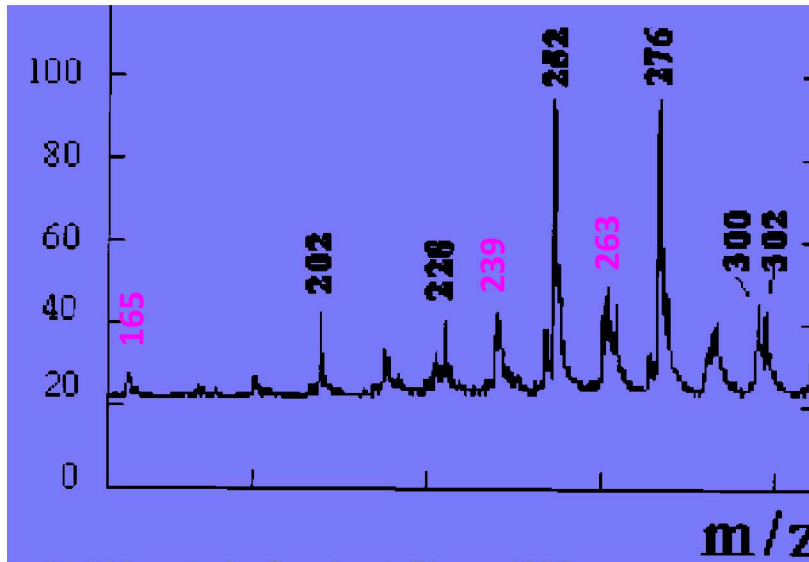


Courtesy of Nils Hansen and Kai Moshhammer

# Incipient-Particle Composition

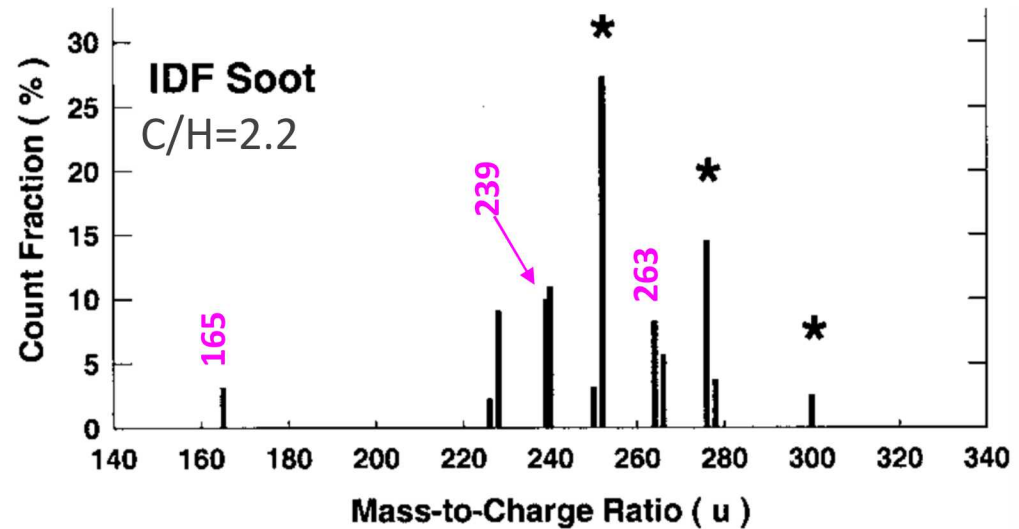
Laser microprobe mass spectrometry

Ethylene/air co-flow diffusion flame



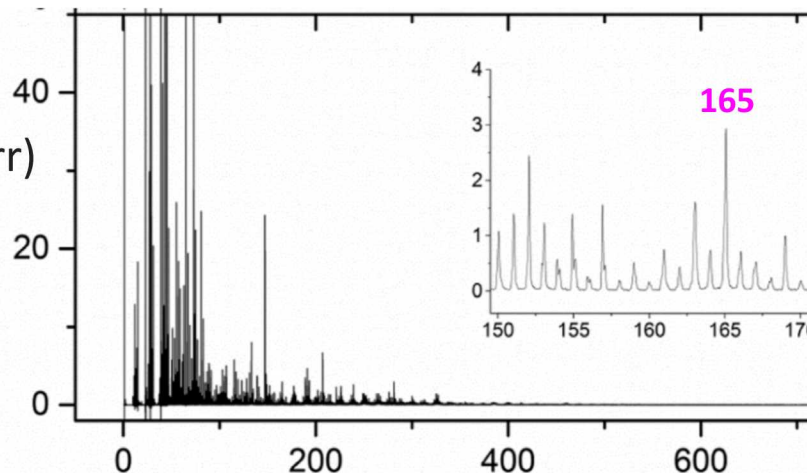
Dobbins et al., *Combust. Flame* 1998

Ethylene/air inverse diffusion flame



Blevins et al., *Proc. Combust. Inst.* 2002

Low pressure (200 Torr)  
Premixed  $\text{CH}_4/\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2$   
 $\text{C}/\text{O}=0.58$ ,  $\Phi=2.32$



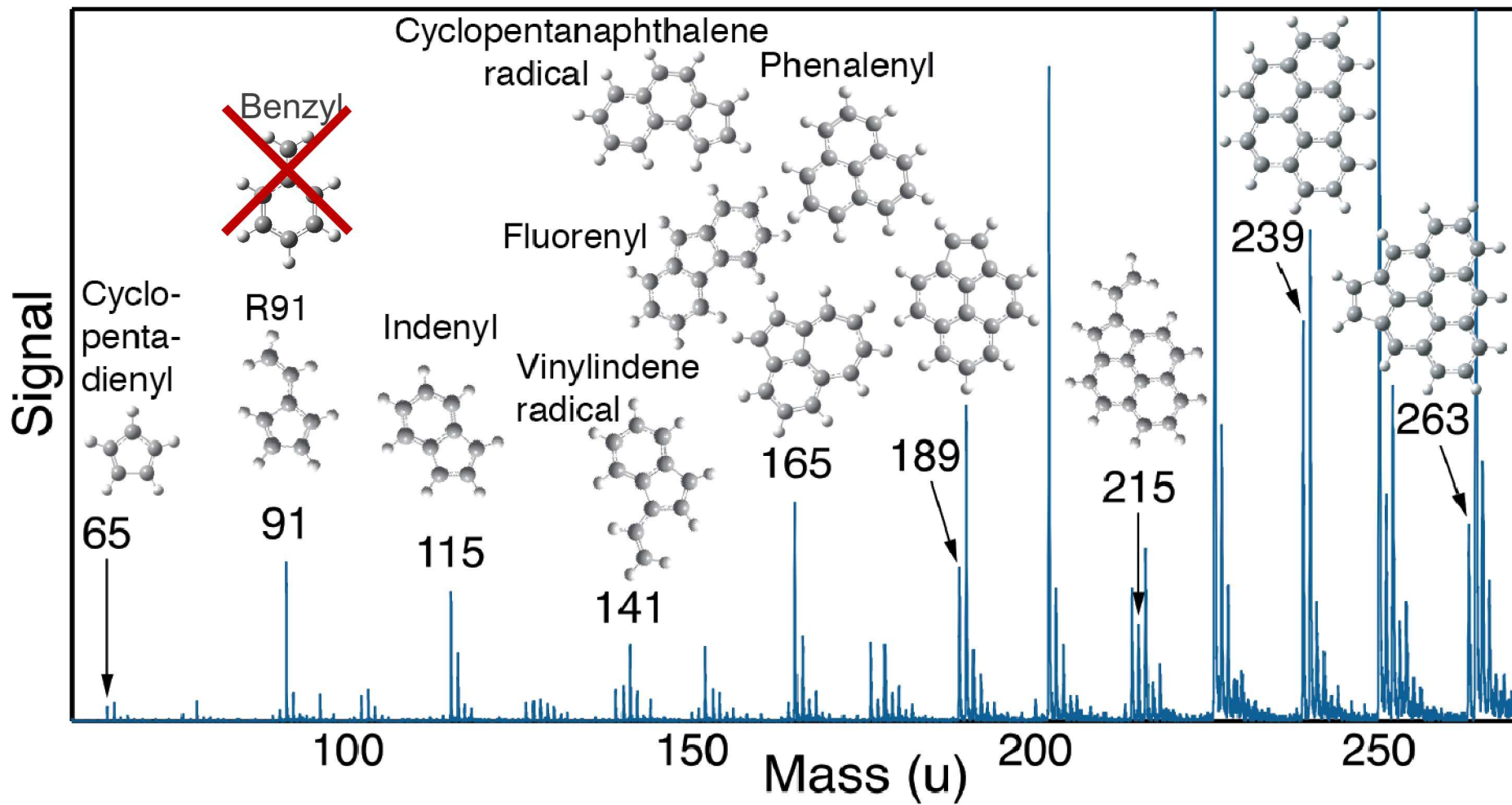
Time of flight secondary  
ion mass spectrometry

Desgroux et al., *Combust. Flame* 2017

# Incipient-Particle Composition

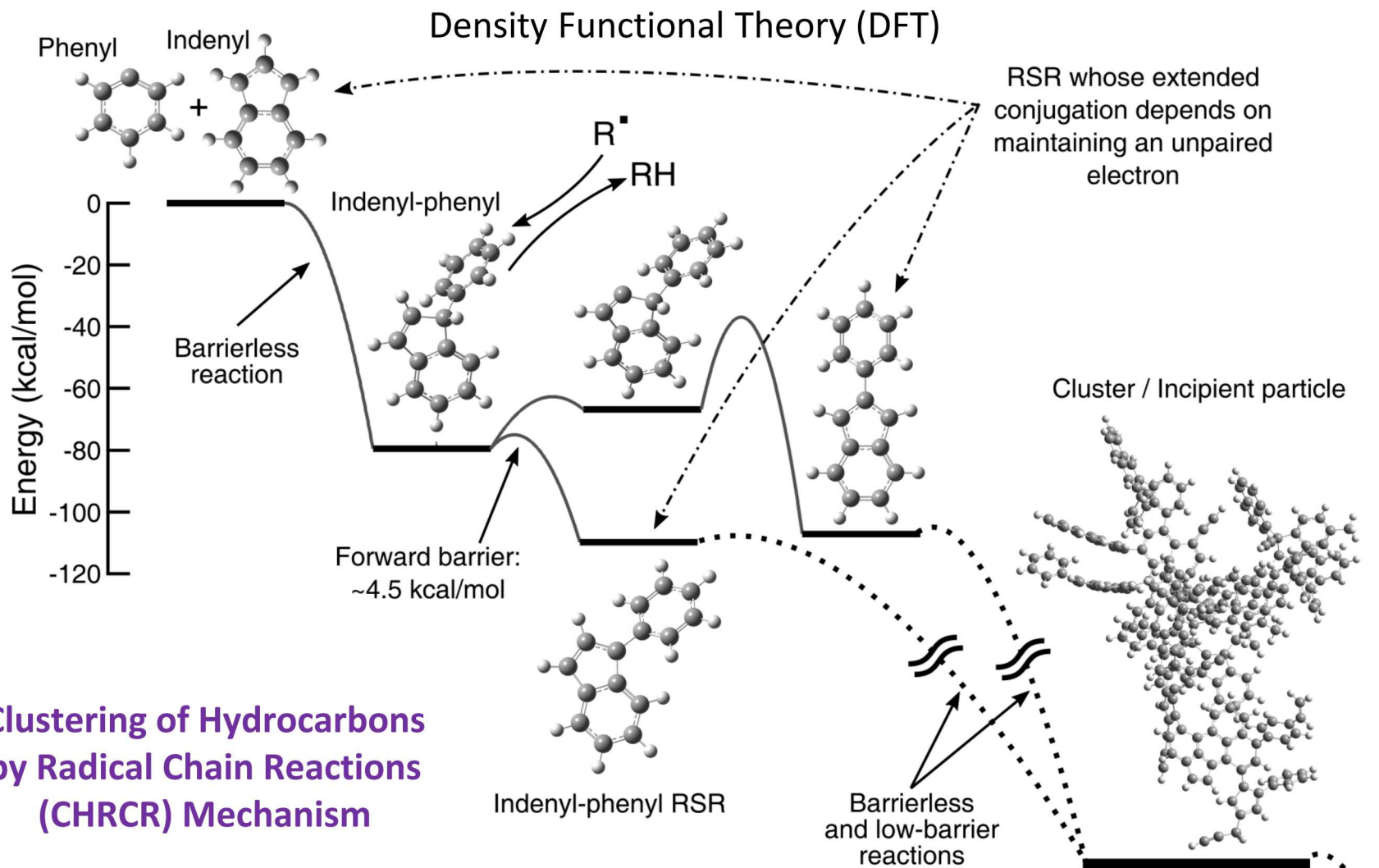
Aerosol Mass Spectrometry using VUV Photoionization (VUV-AMS)

ALS BL 9.0.2



Johansson et al., *Science*, 2018

# Possible Soot-Inception Mechanism



## Clustering of Hydrocarbons by Radical Chain Reactions (CHRCR) Mechanism

Chain reaction – A self-sustaining sequence of reactions

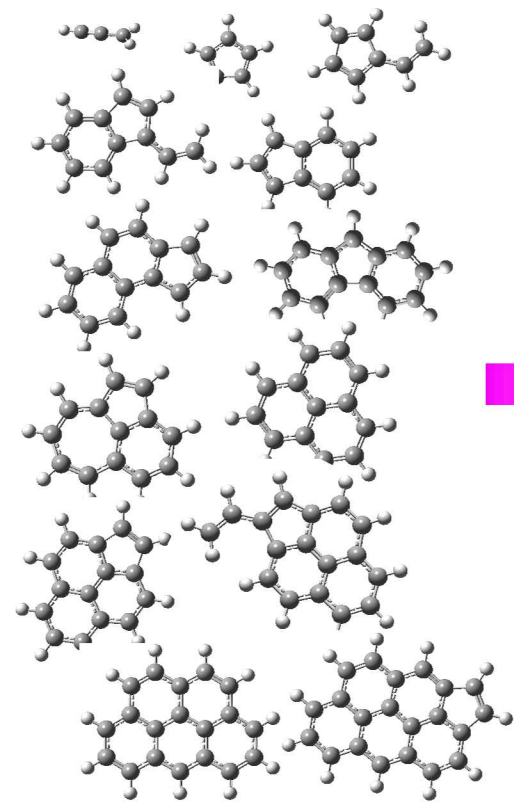
Johansson et al., *Science*, 2018

$\omega$ B97X-D functional with aug-cc-pVTZ basis set and ROCBS-QB3 hybrid method

# Particle Growth by Radical Chain Reactions

## Clustering of Hydrocarbons by Radical Chain Reactions (CHRCR) Mechanism

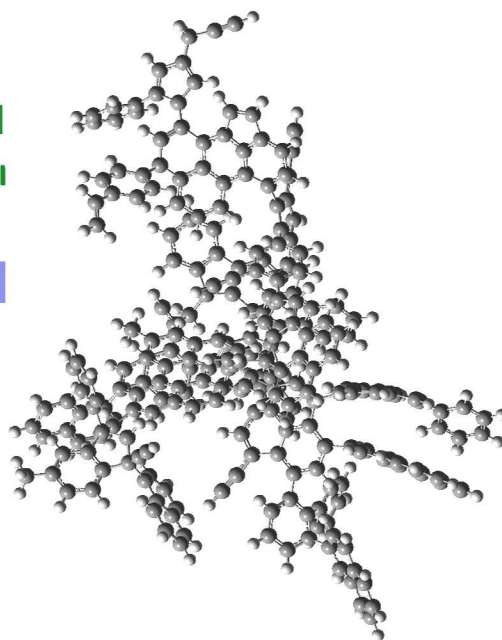
Resonance-stabilized  
radicals



Fast radical  
driven chain  
reactions



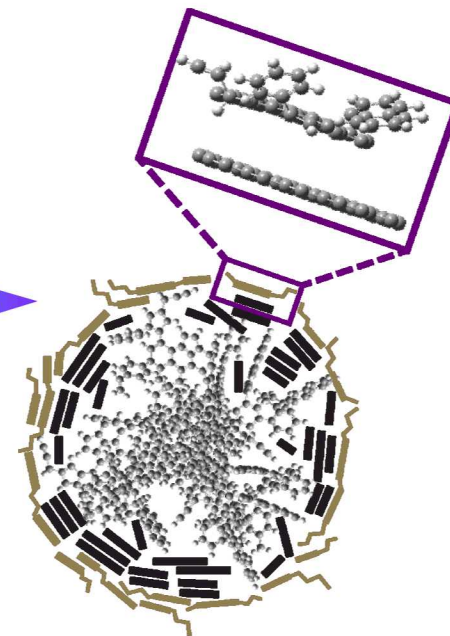
Incipient particles  
Hydrocarbon clusters



Radical-  
surface  
reactions



Primary particles  
Soot aggregates



Johansson, Head-Gordon, Schrader, Wilson, and Michelsen,  
*Science* **361**, 997-1000 (2018)

# Surface Growth

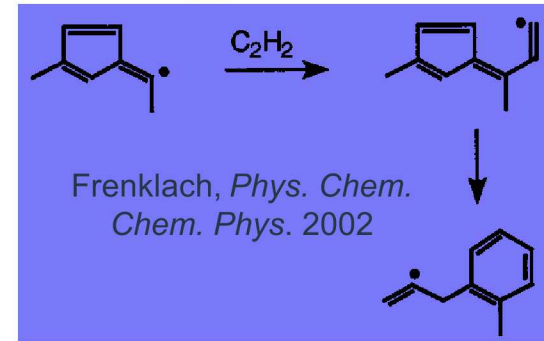
## Hypothesized mechanisms for particle growth

### Surface reactions at edge sites

HACA at edge sites grows graphene layer size  
Should increase surface-maturity level

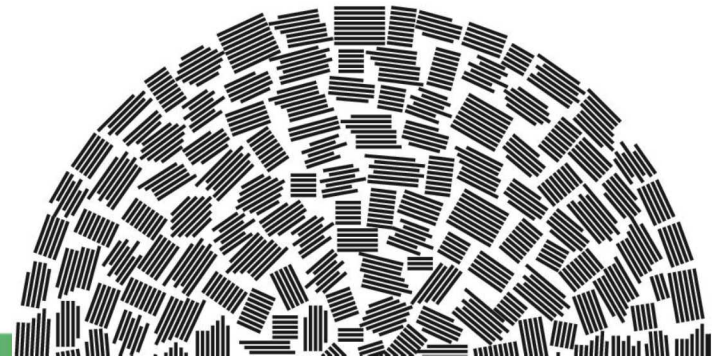
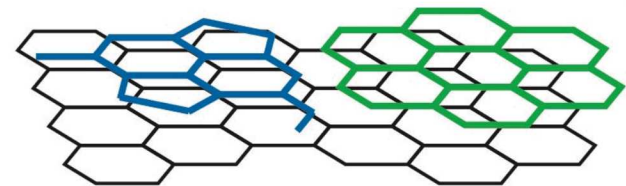
Hydrogen abstraction, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> addition (HACA)

*Ring formation*

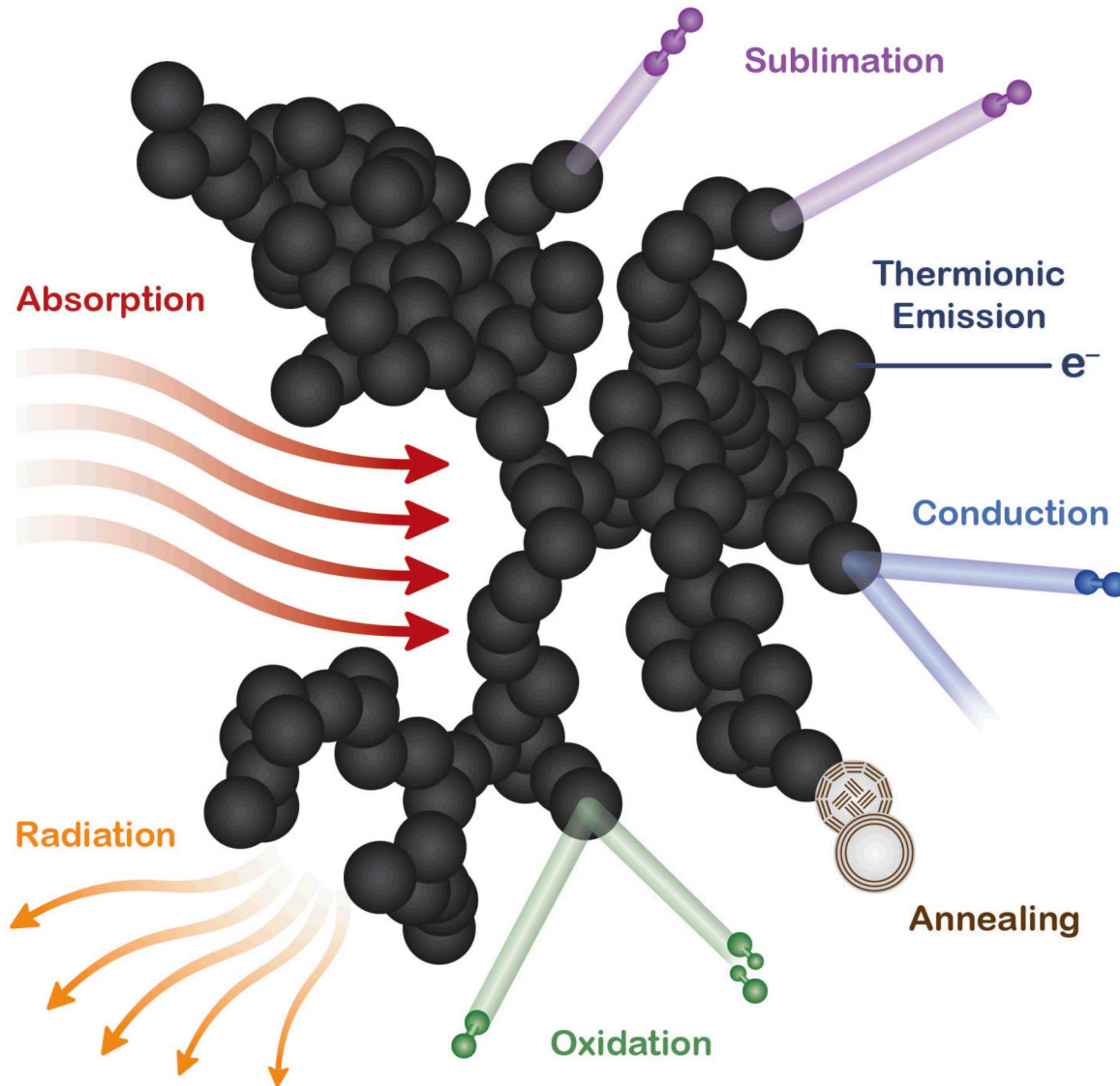


### Surface adsorption of small PAHs (4-10 rings)

Adsorption of 4-10-ring PAHs  
Not likely to increase surface-maturity level



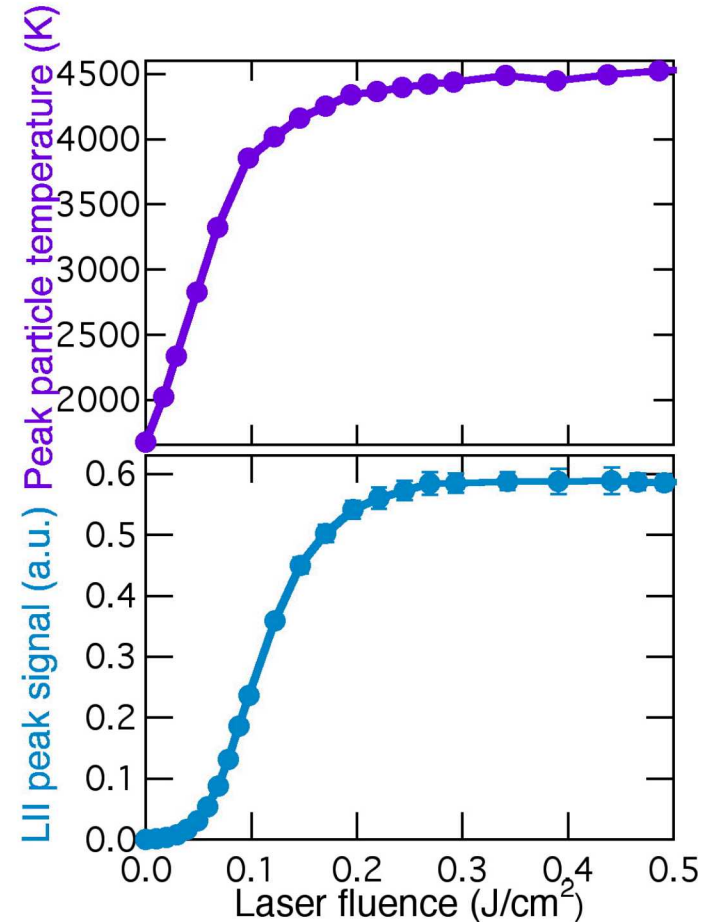
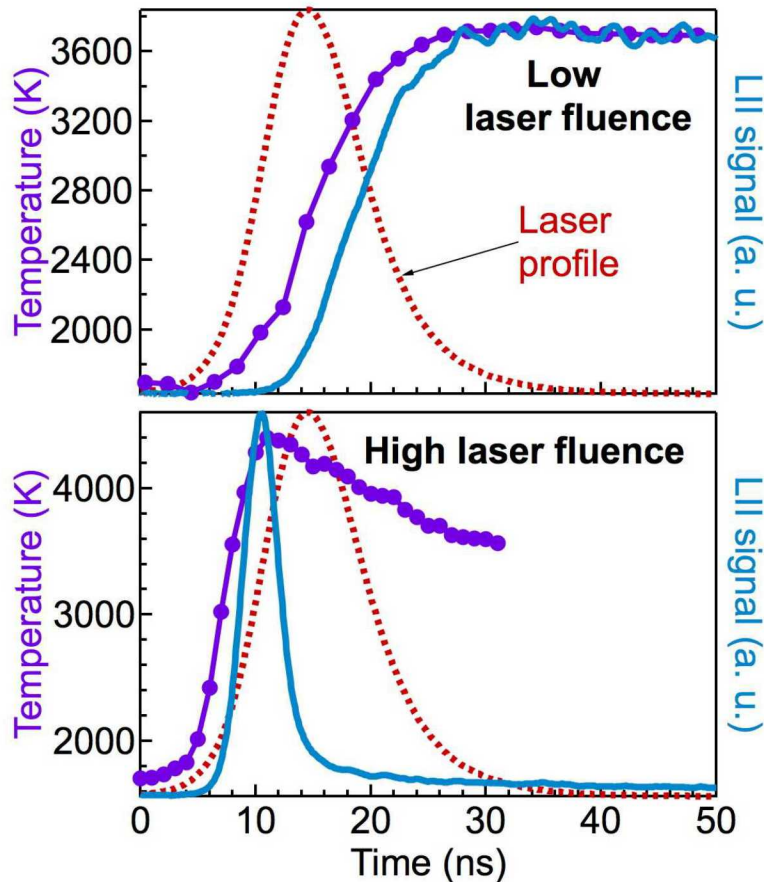
# Laser-Induced Incandescence



Soot volume fraction  
Primary-particle size  
Maturity level of bulk?

# LII for Volume Fraction of Mature Soot

$$S_{LII} \propto VT^5$$

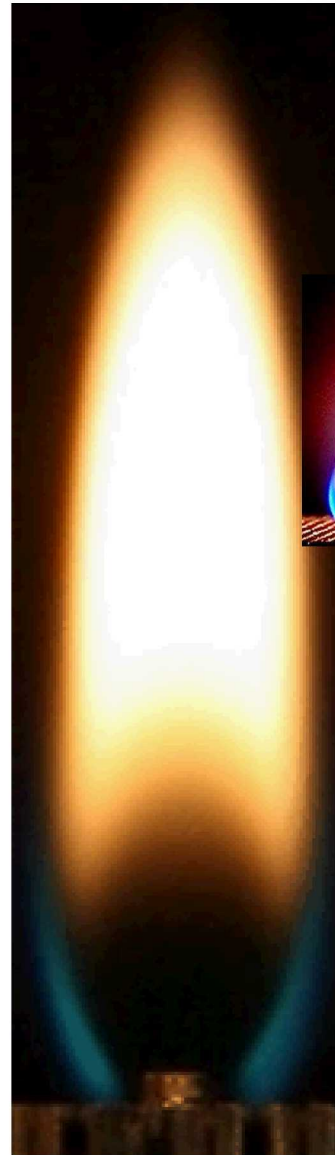
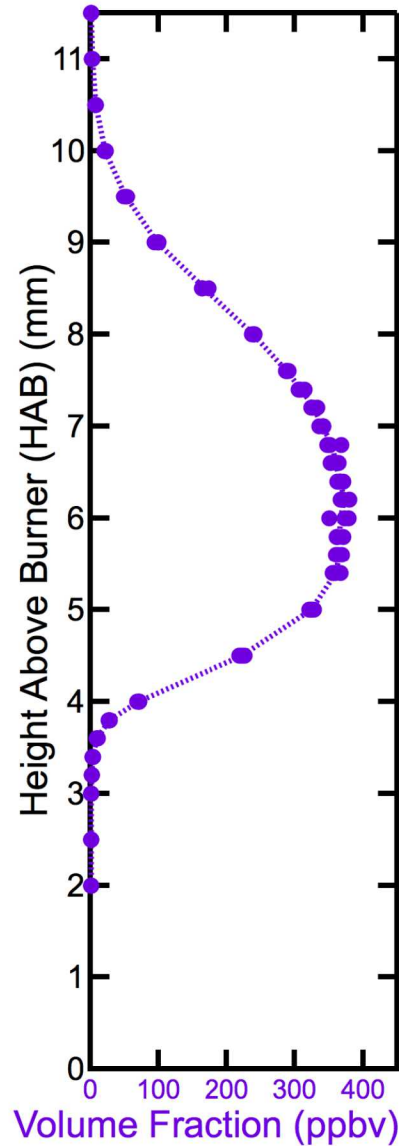


Goulay, Schrader, López-Yglesias, Michelsen, *Appl. Phys. B* 2013

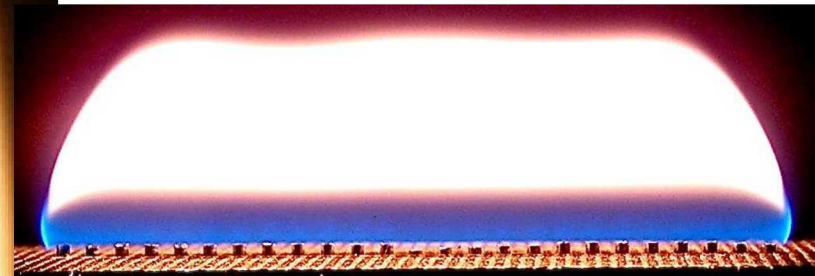
Sensitive and selective for strongly absorbing, refractory particles

# LII for Volume Fraction of Mature Soot

Laser-Induced  
Incandescence  
(LII)  
calibrated with  
Extinction

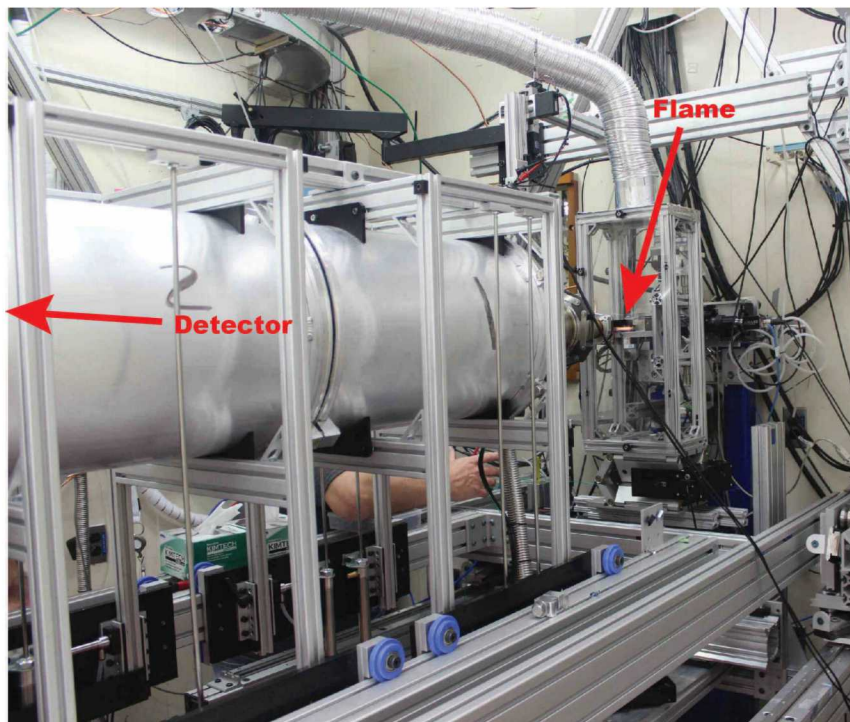


*Linear Hencken burner  
Diffusion flame*



# X-Ray Scattering for Primary-Particle Size

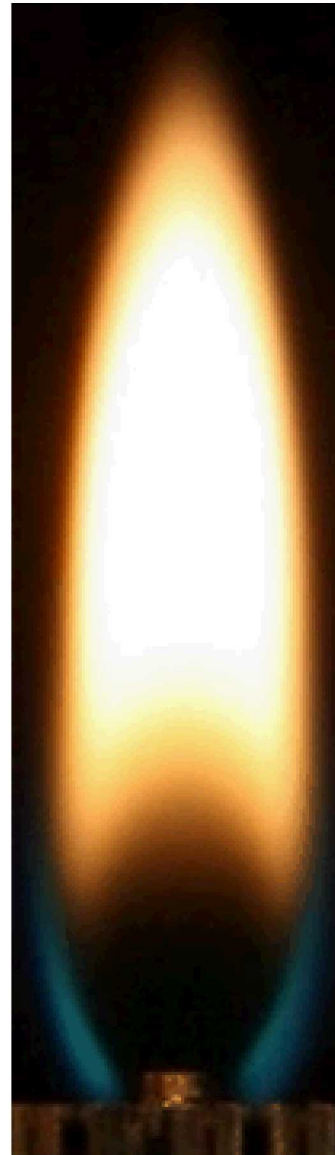
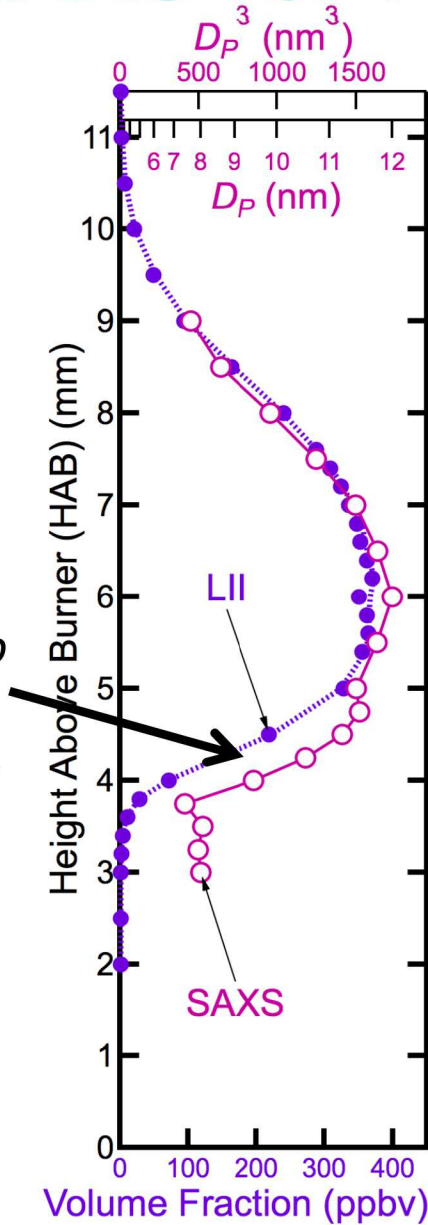
Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS)  
Beamline 7.33 at the Advanced Light Source/LBL



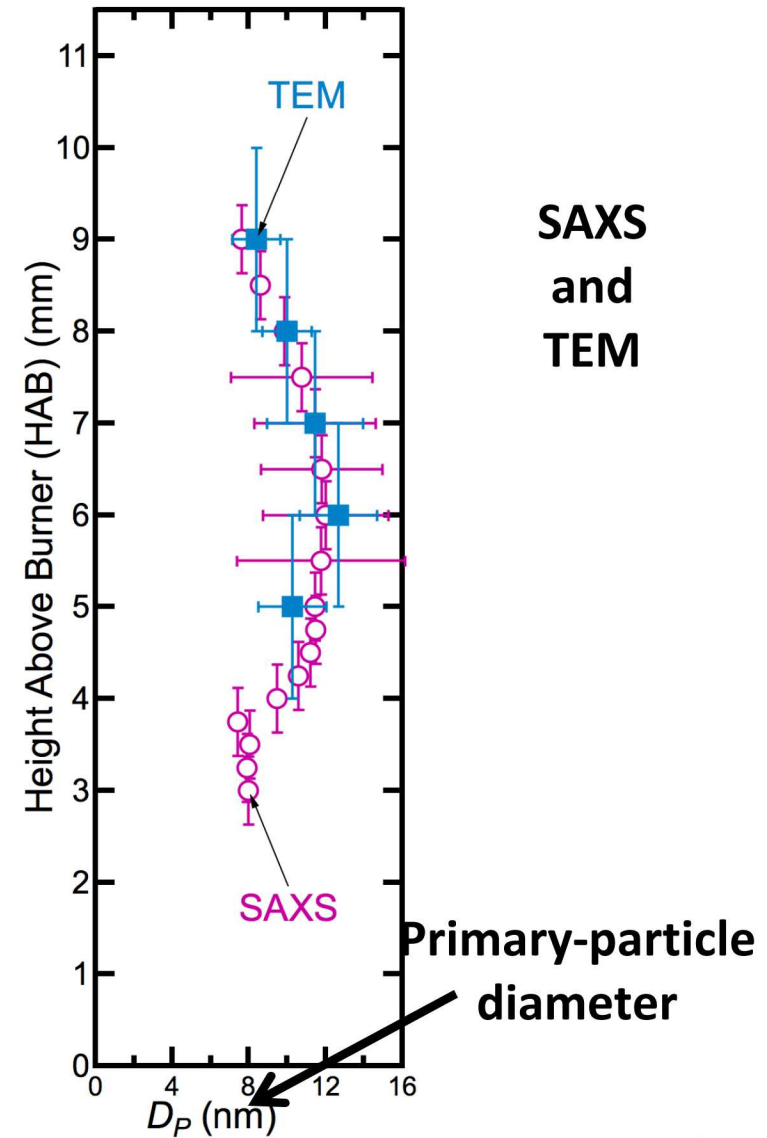
# SAXS for Primary-Particle Size

LII  
and  
SAXS

*Difference  
may be due to  
less mature  
soot particles*

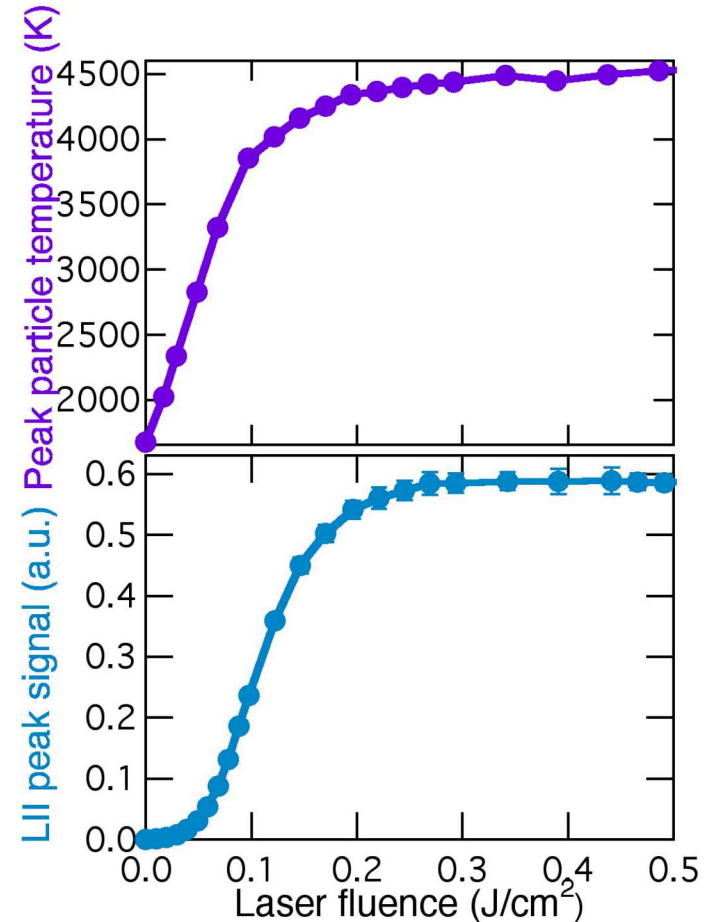
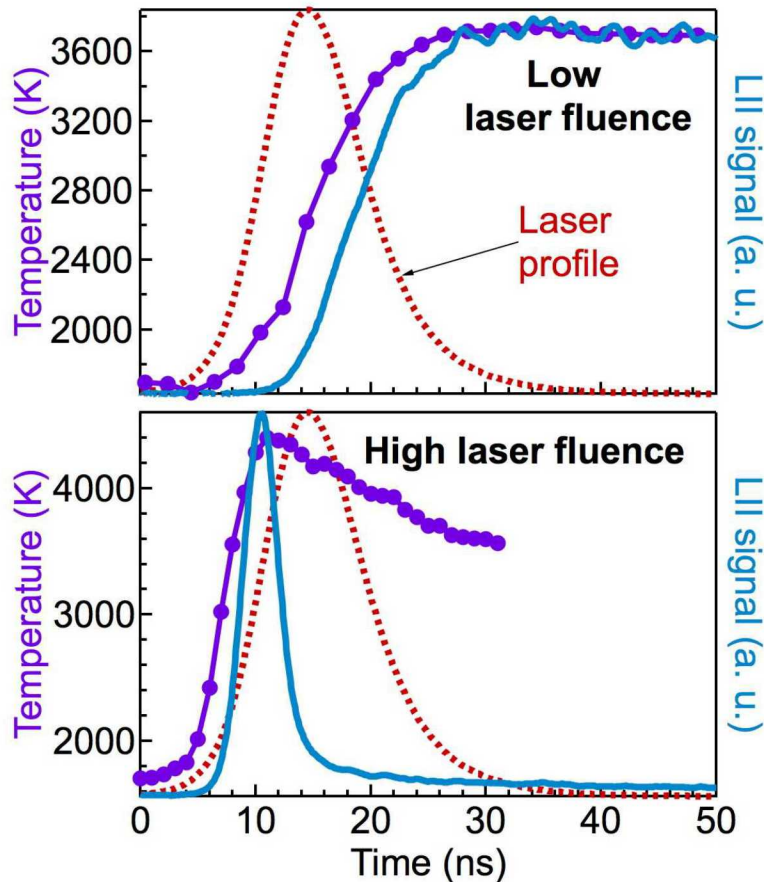


SAXS  
and  
TEM



# LII for Absorption Cross Section

$$S_{LII} \propto VT^5$$



Goulay et al., *Appl. Phys. B* 2013

LII peak signal can be used as a proxy for peak temperature

# LII for Absorption Cross Section

$$\sigma_{abs} = \frac{\pi d^3 \beta}{6\lambda^\xi}$$

← Scaling factor  $\beta$   
← Dispersion exponent  $\xi$

As soot maturity increases,  $\beta$  increases, but  $\xi$  decreases

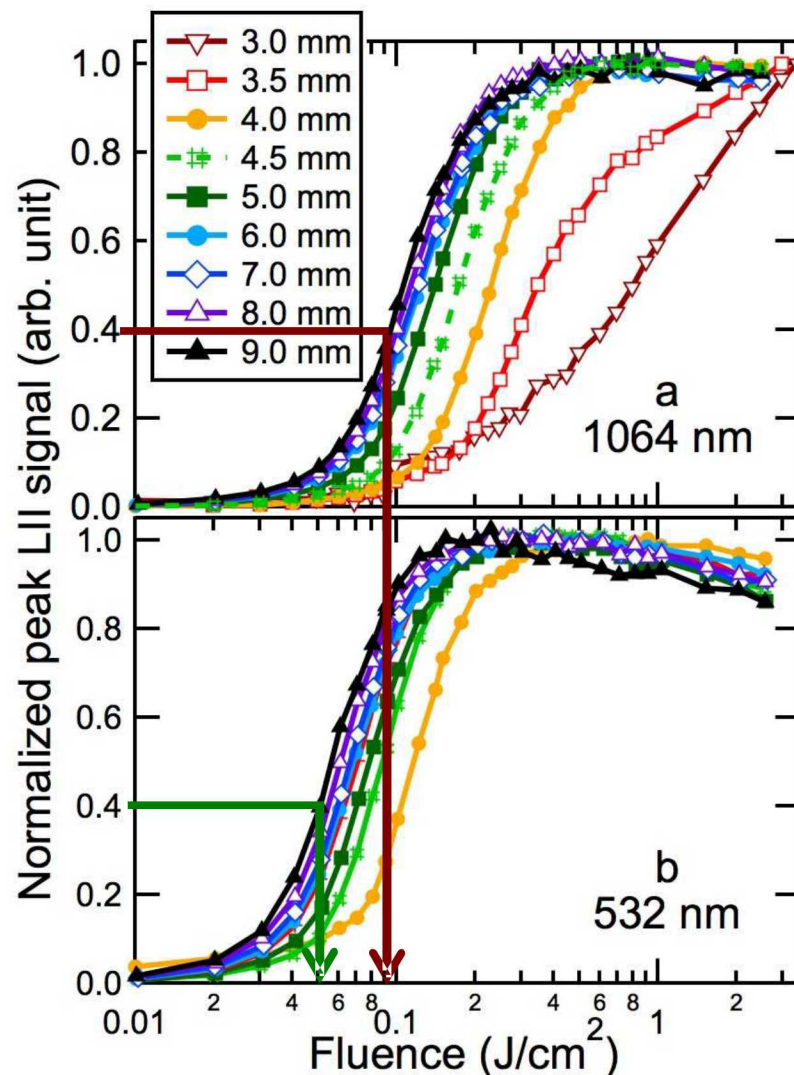
$$\xi = \frac{\ln \left[ \frac{\sigma_{abs}(532)}{\sigma_{abs}(1064)} \right]}{\ln 2}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{abs}(532)}{\sigma_{abs}(1064)} = \frac{F_{1064}(LII_{max})}{F_{532}(LII_{max})}$$

López-Yglesias et al., *Appl. Phys. B* 2014

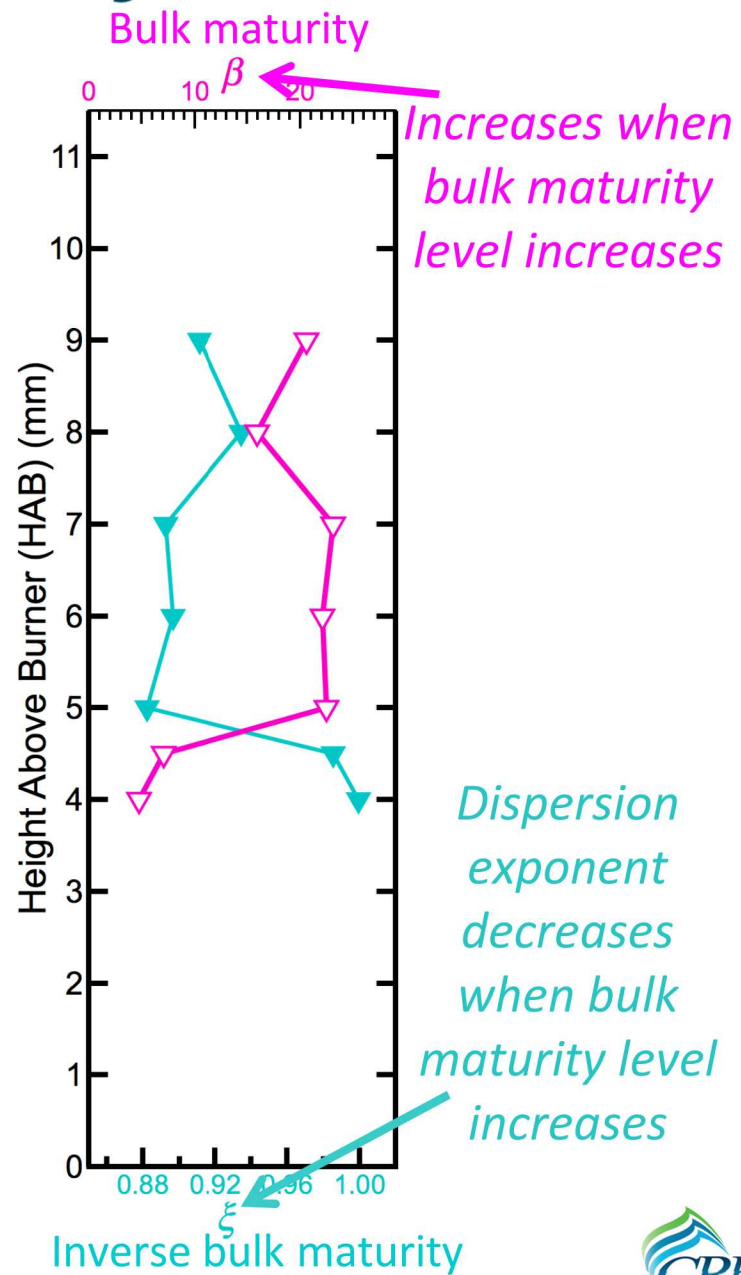
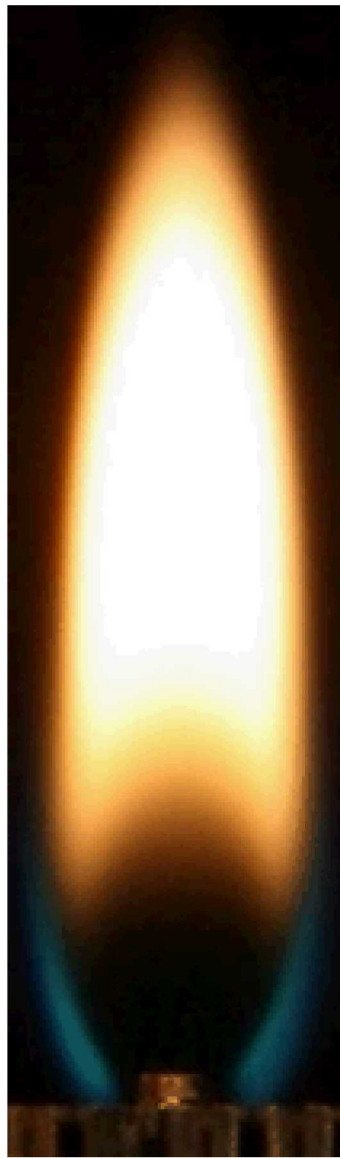
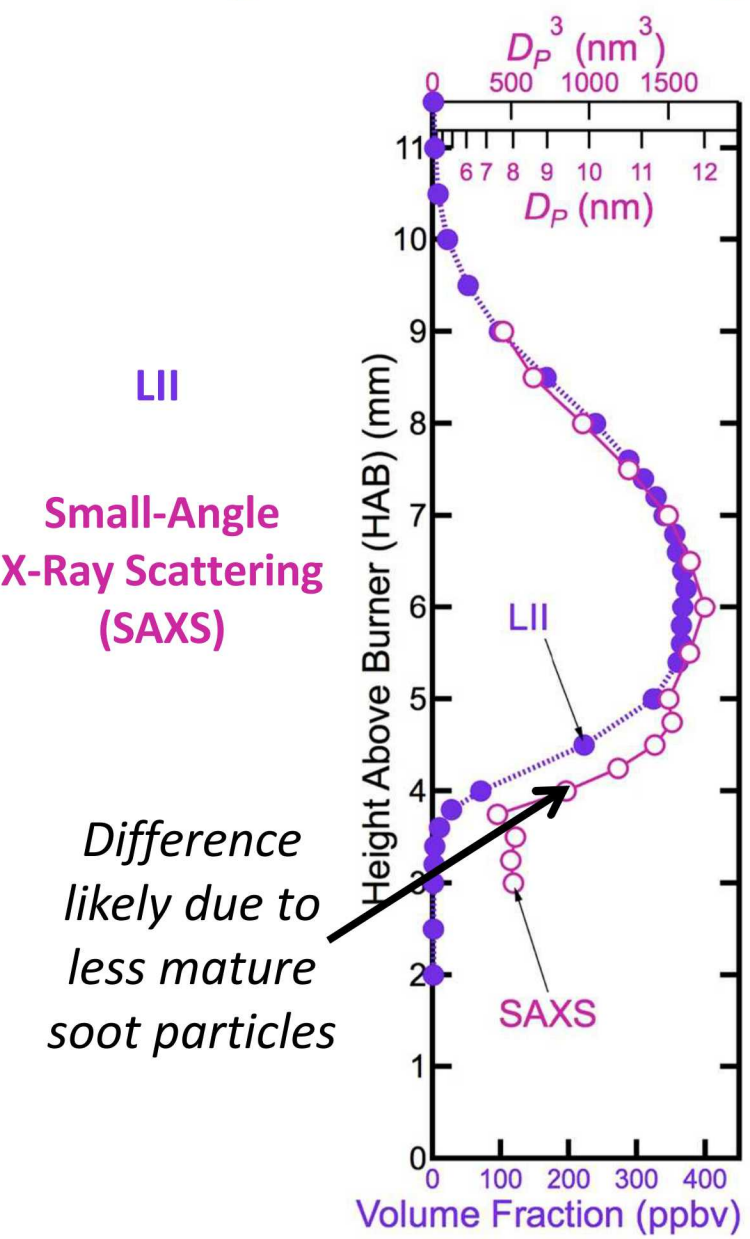
$$\rho c_s (T_{max} - T_0) \lambda^\xi = \beta F_{max}(\lambda)$$

Plot and fit slope

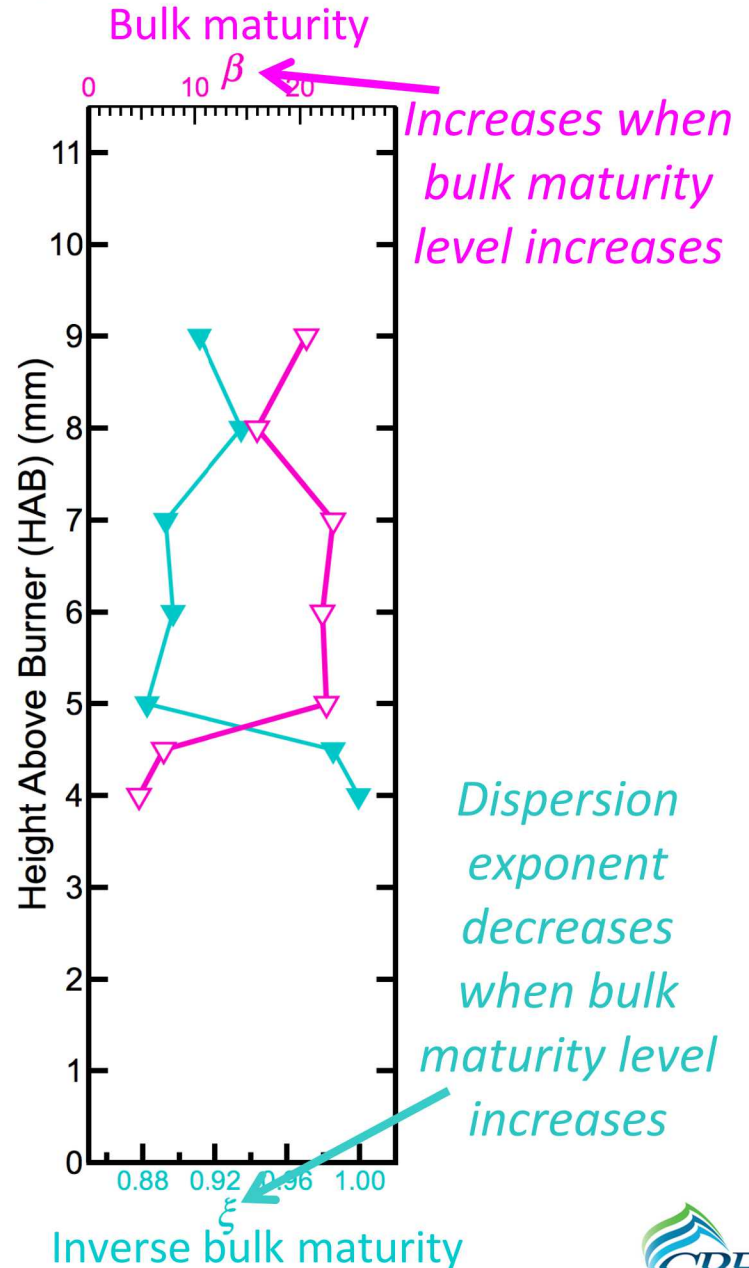
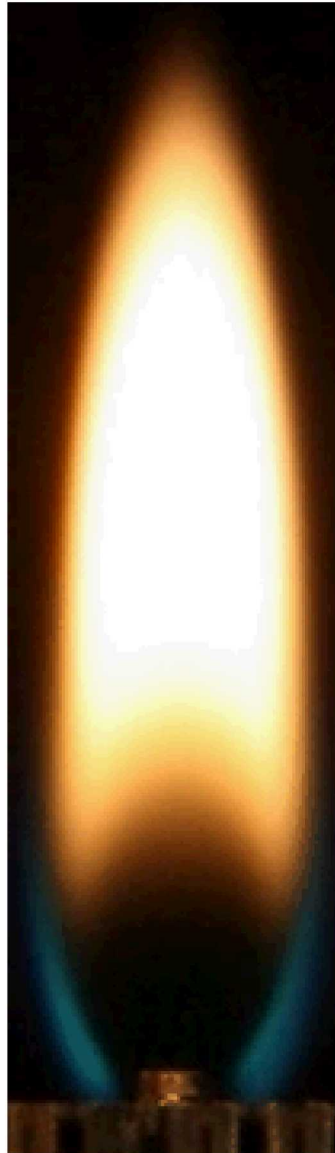
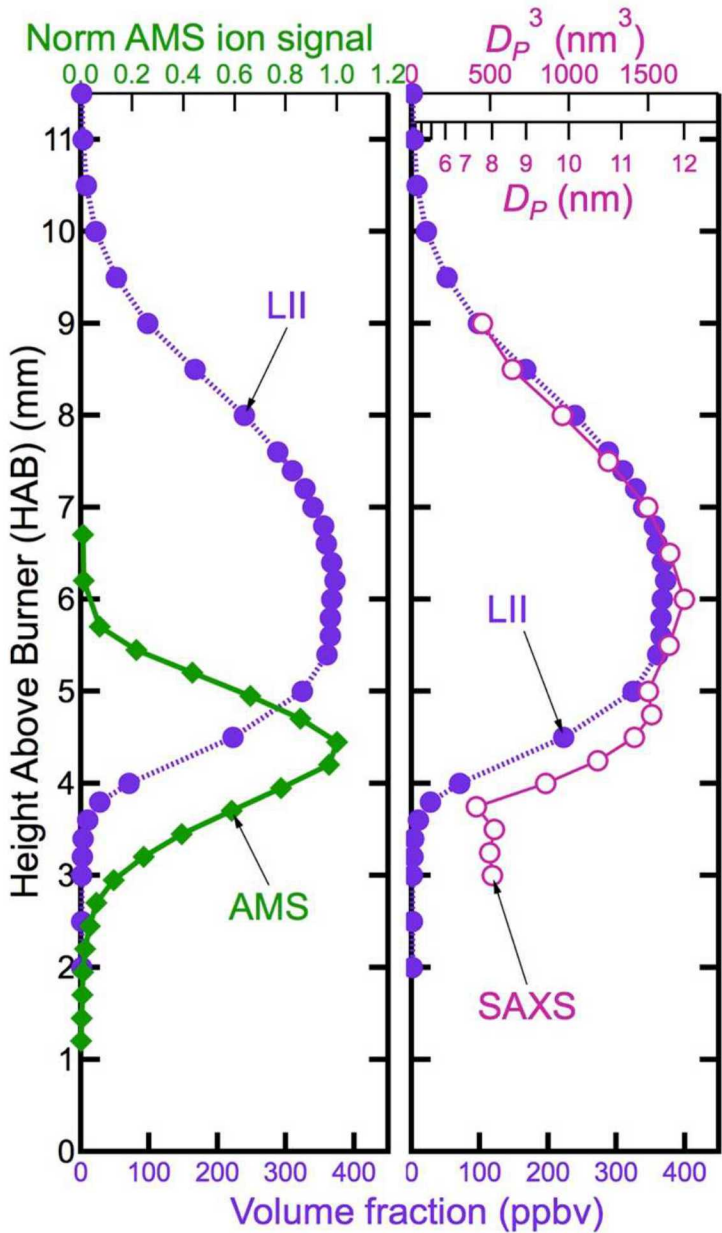


Johansson et al., *Aerosol Sci. Technol.* 2017

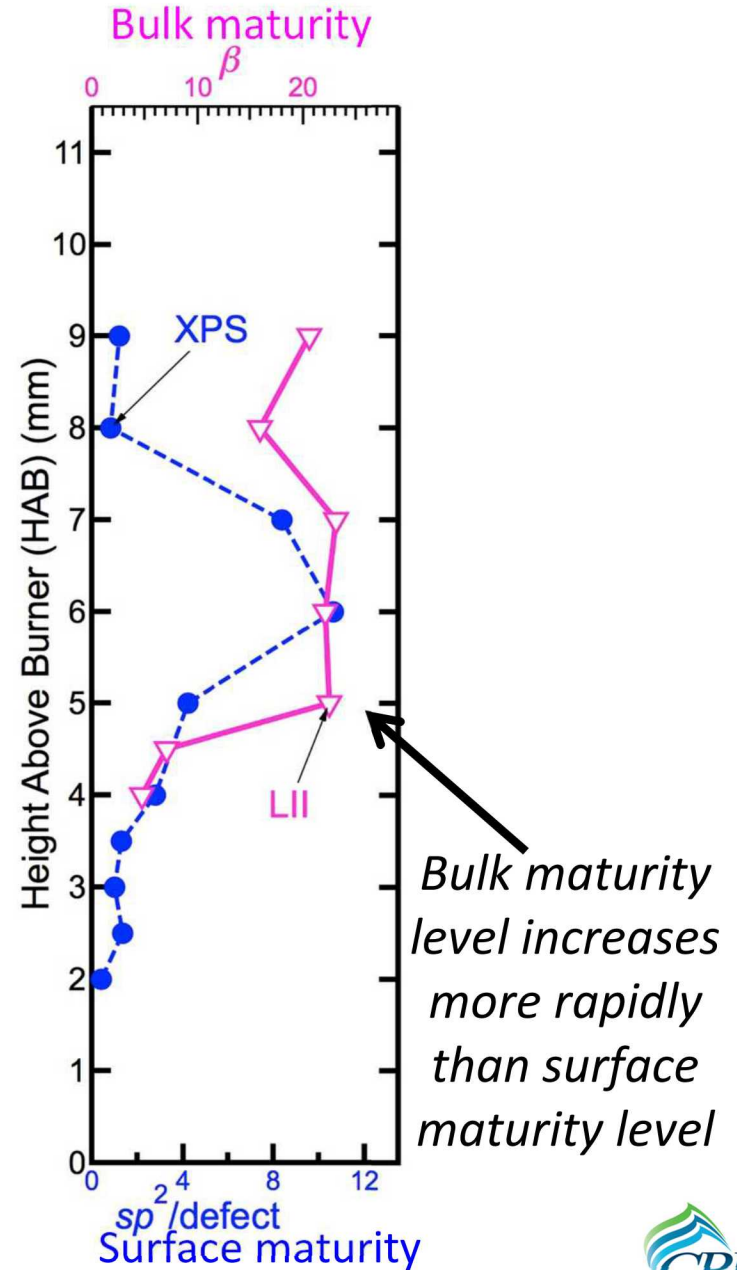
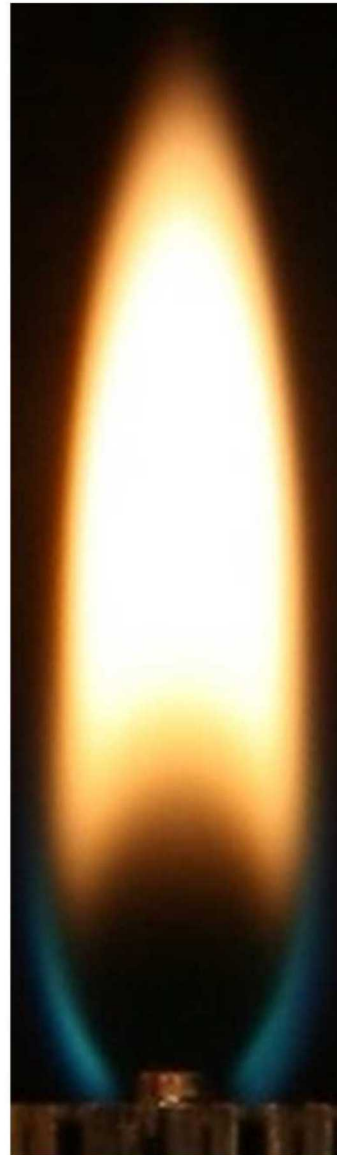
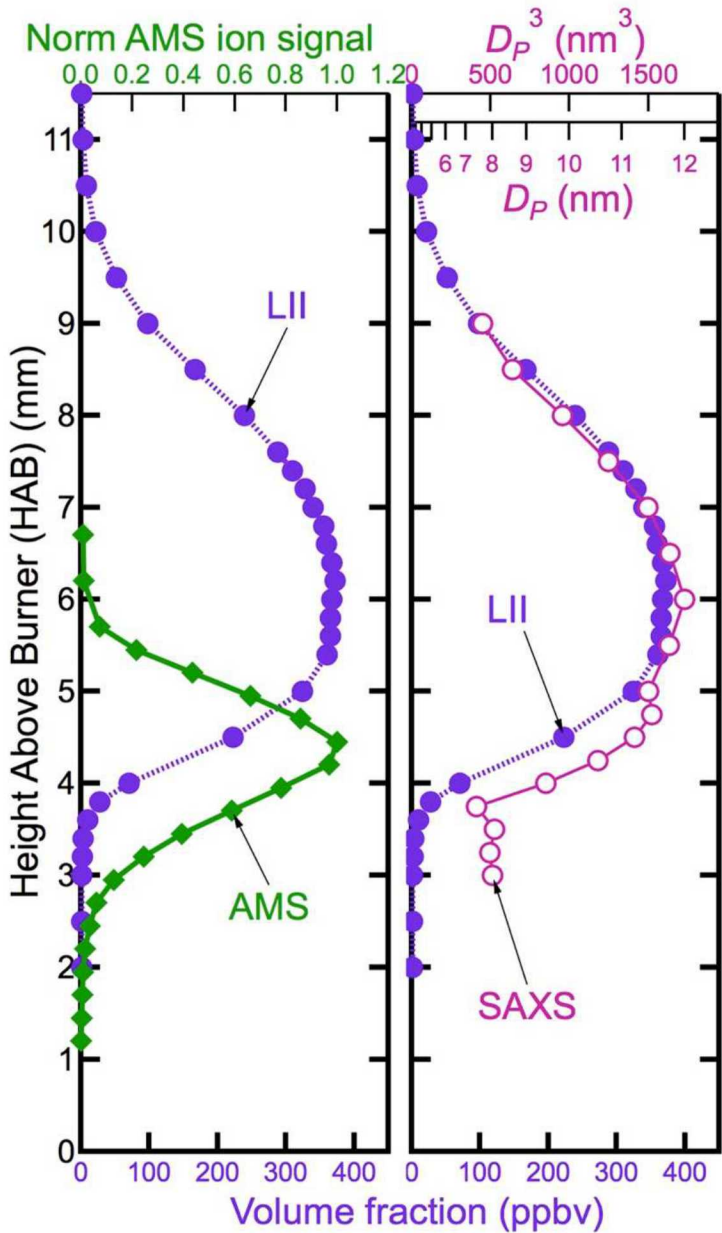
# X-Ray Scattering for Primary-Particle Size



# Aerosol Mass Spectrometry for Precursors



# XPS for Surface Maturity



# Surface Growth

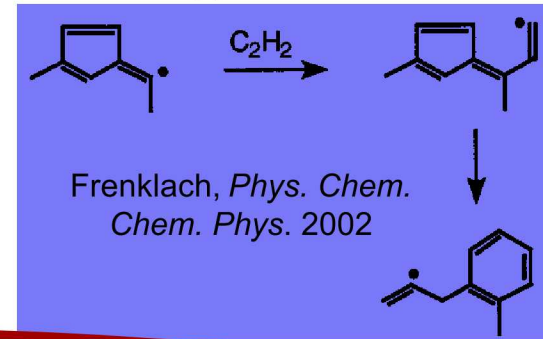
## Hypothesized mechanisms for particle growth

### Surface reactions at edge sites

HACA at edge sites grows graphene layer size  
Should increase surface-maturity level

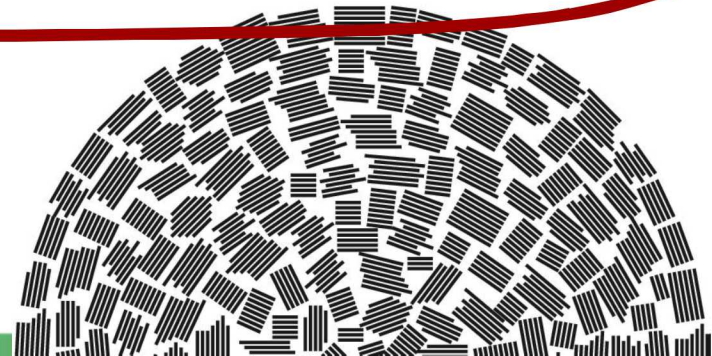
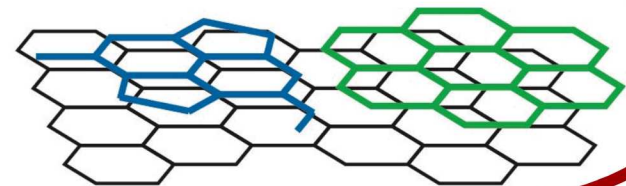
Hydrogen abstraction, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> addition (HACA)

*Ring formation*

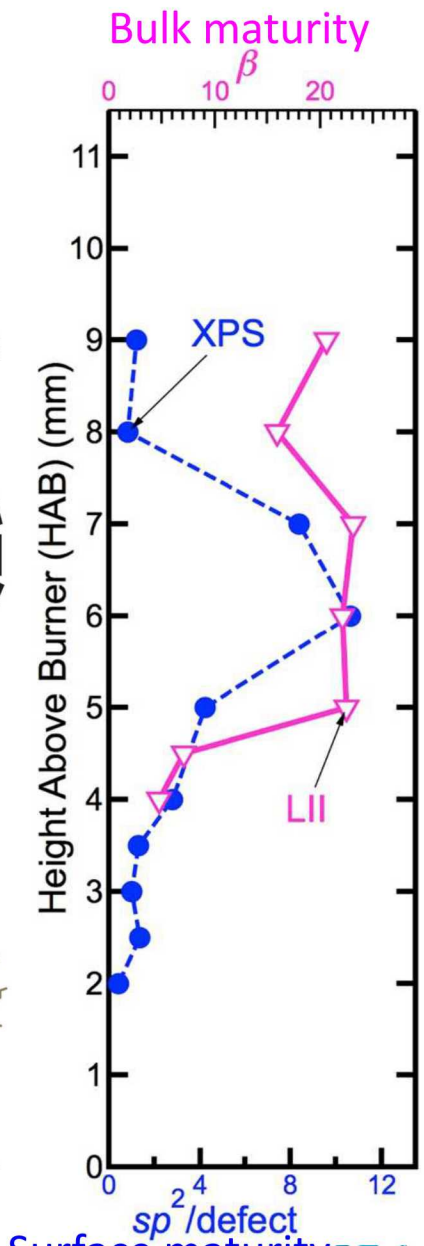
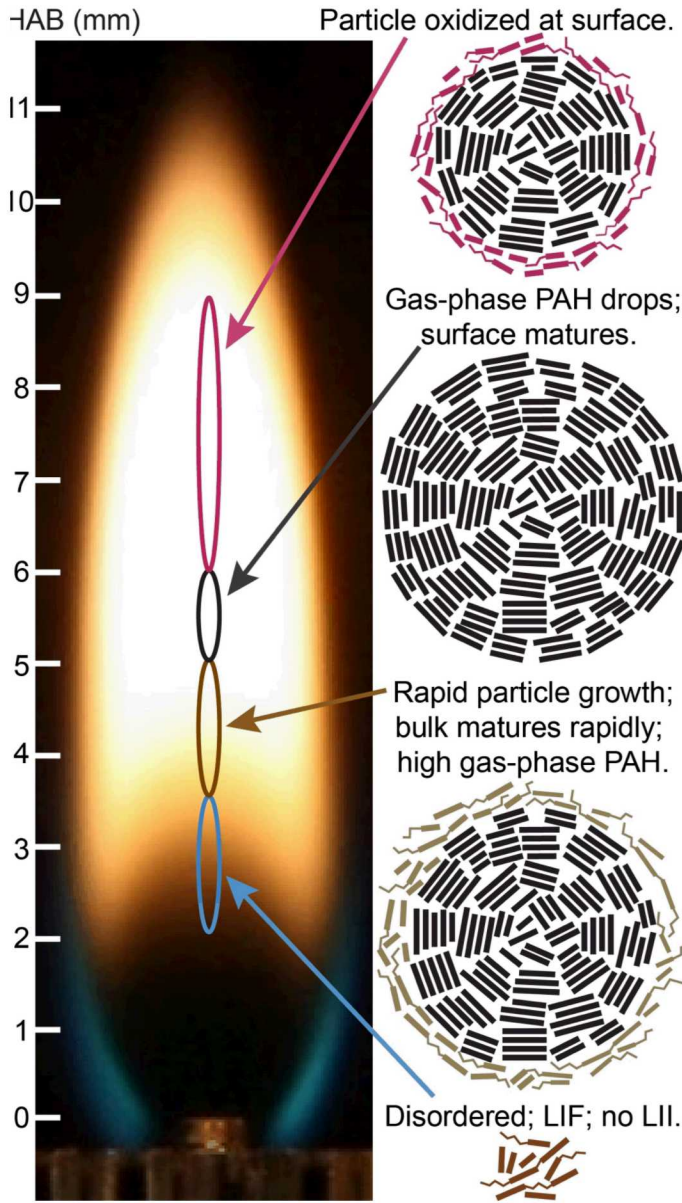
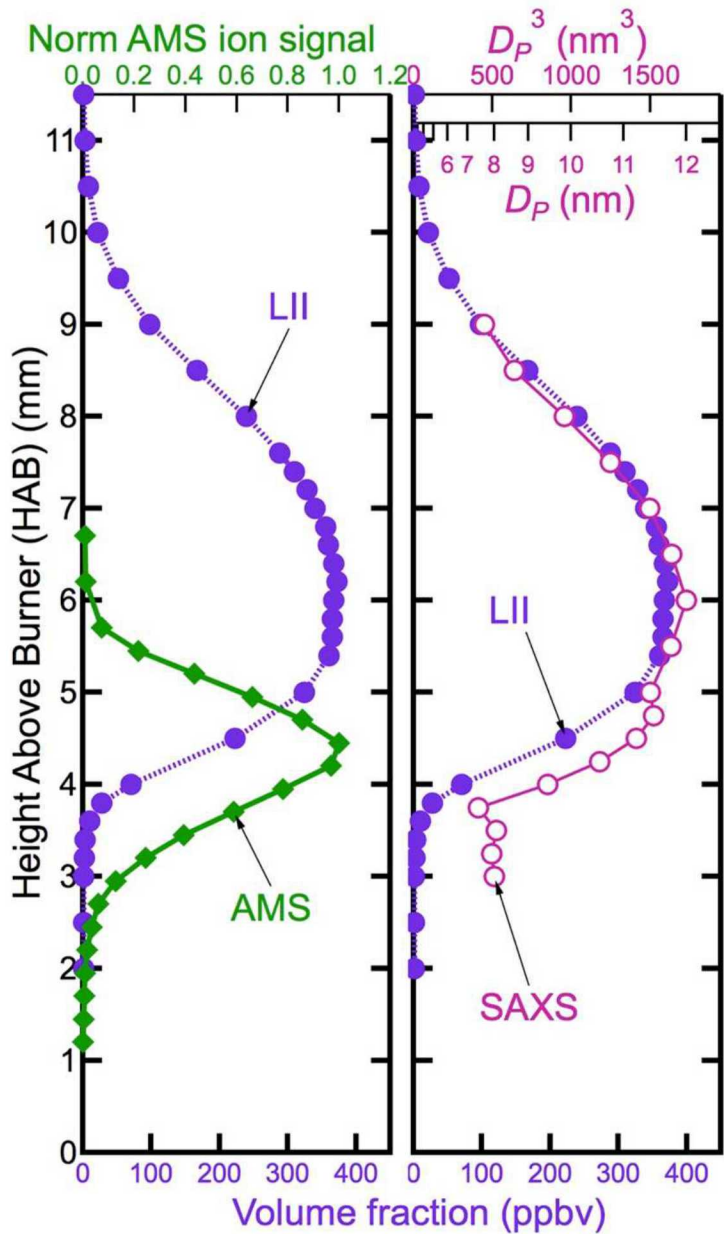


### Surface adsorption of small PAHs (4-10 rings)

Adsorption of 4-10-ring PAHs  
Not likely to increase surface-maturity level



# Laser Diagnostics for Soot

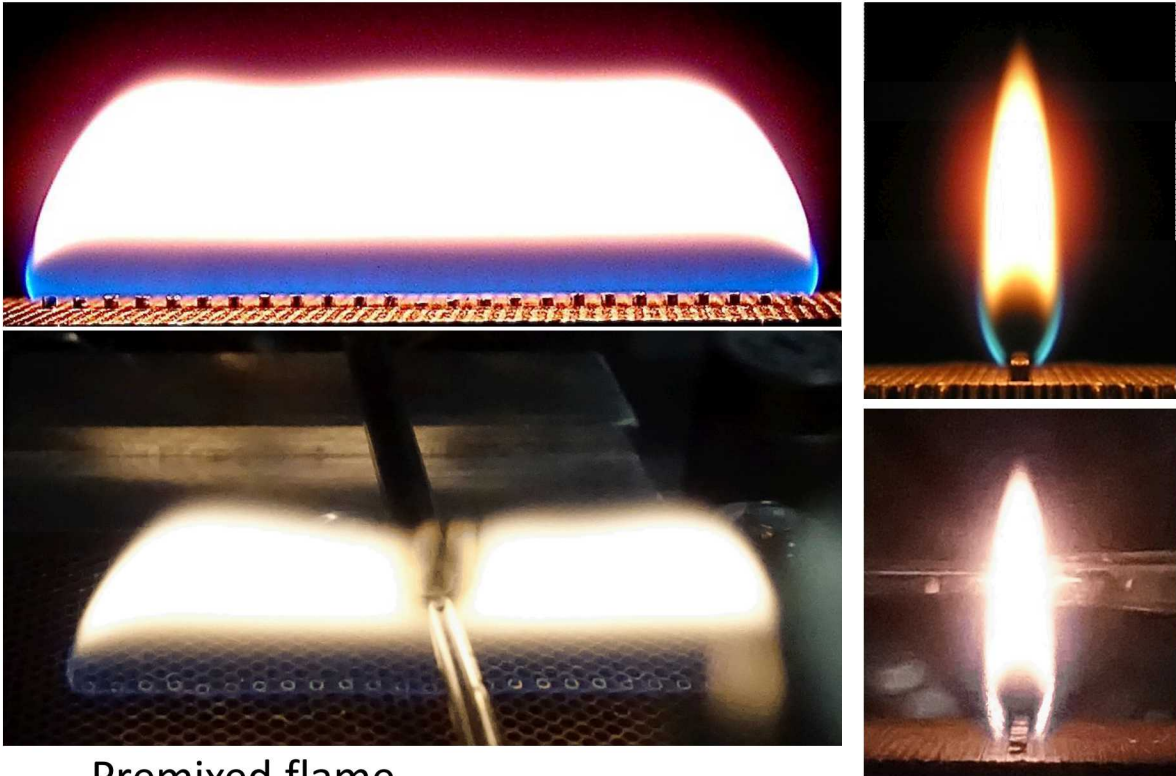


# Probe Sampling

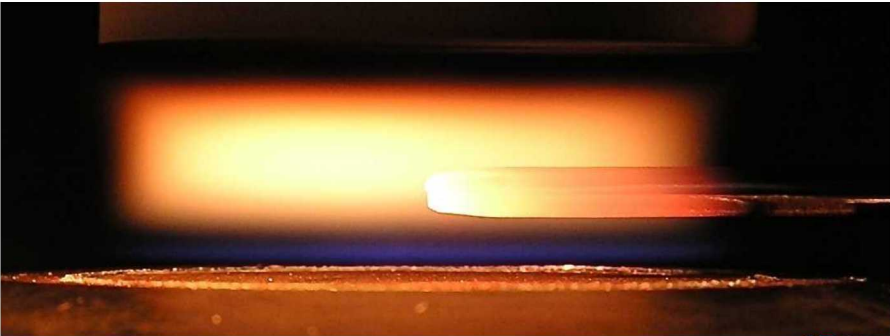
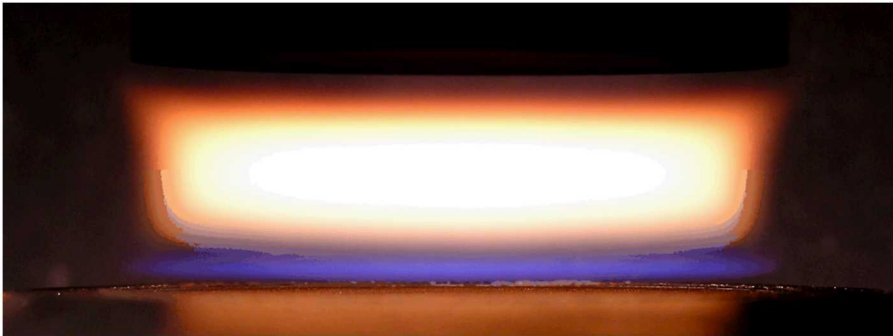
Co-flow diffusion flame



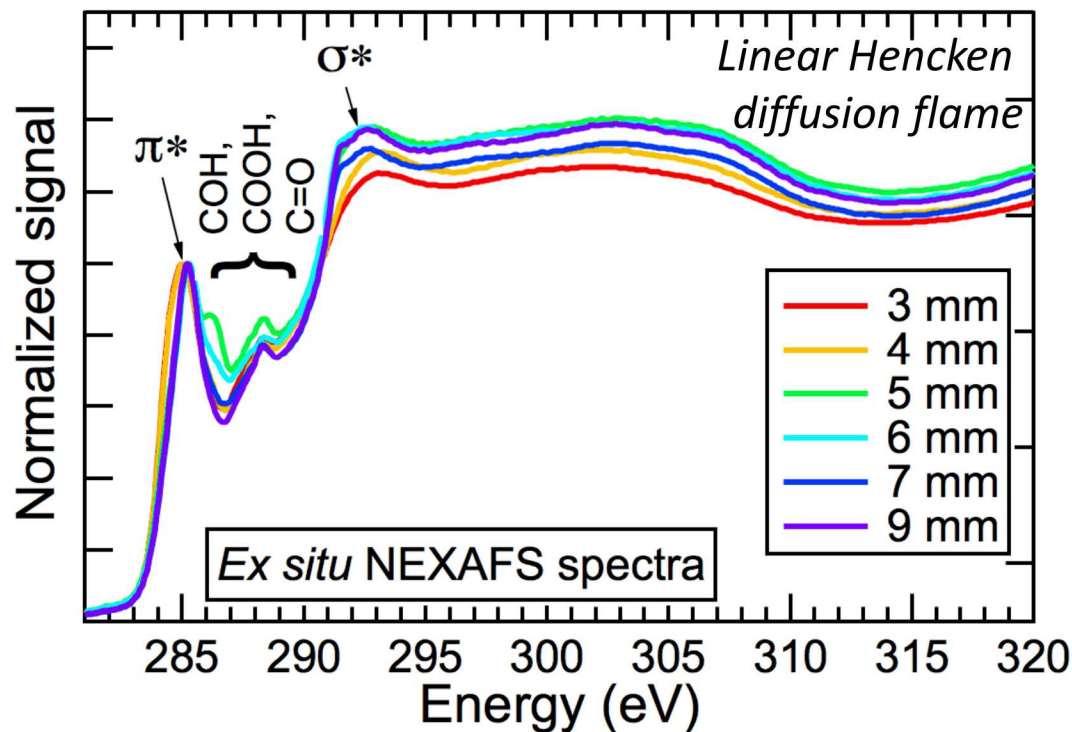
Partially premixed diffusion flame



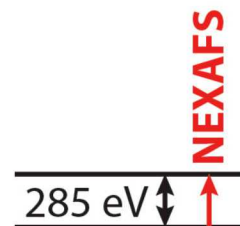
Premixed flame



# X-Ray Absorption for Particle Composition

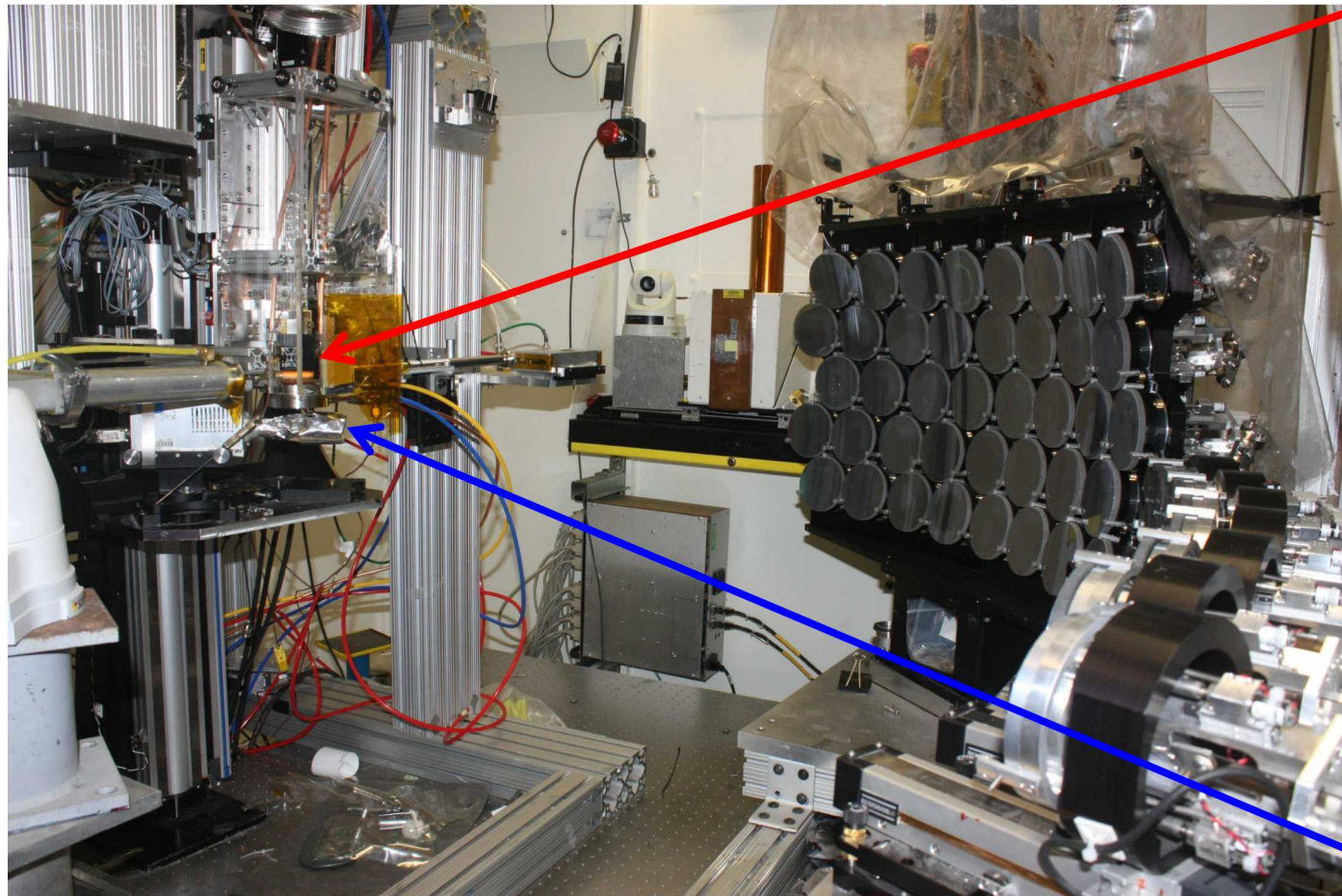


Energy-level diagram



# X-Ray Raman Spectroscopy for Composition

XRS setup on Beamline 6-2 at SSRL/SLAC



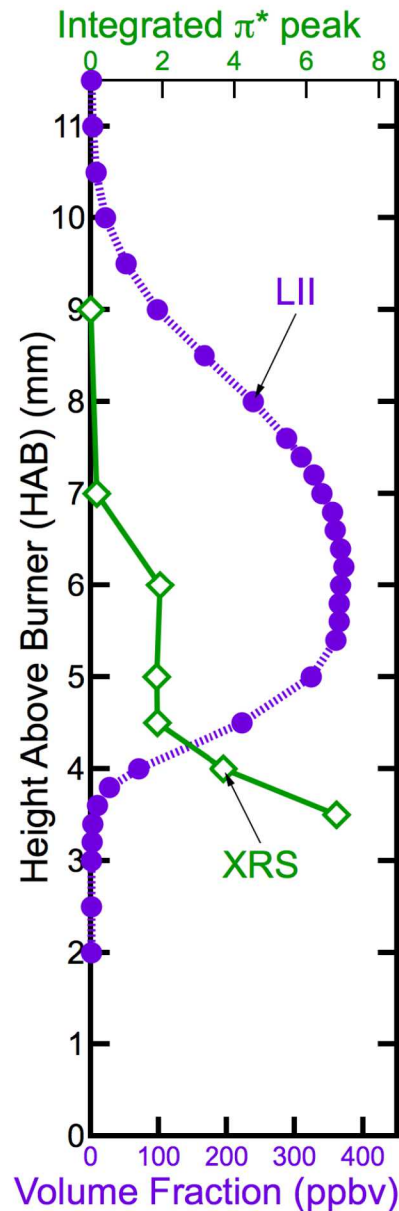
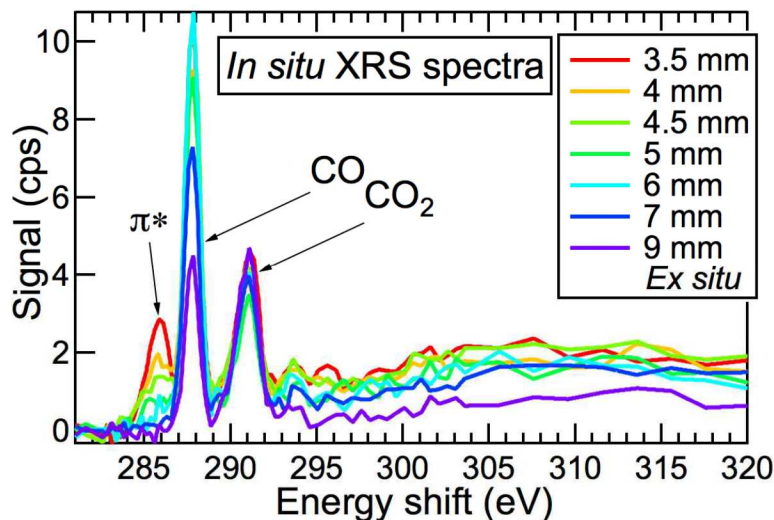
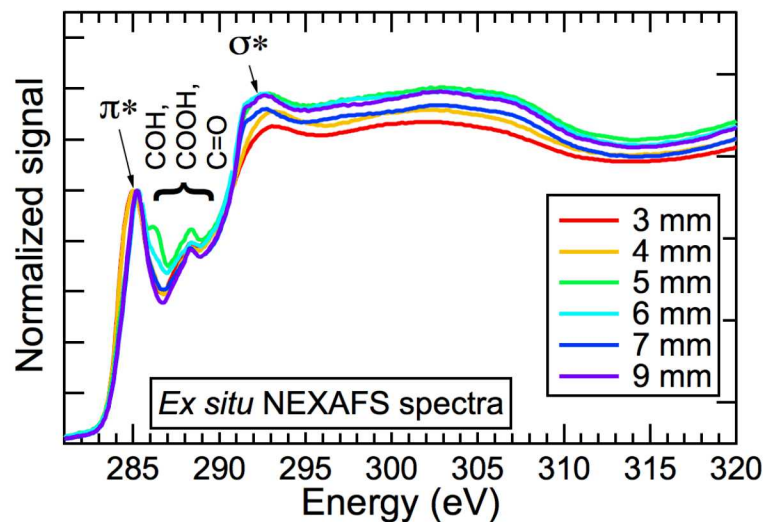
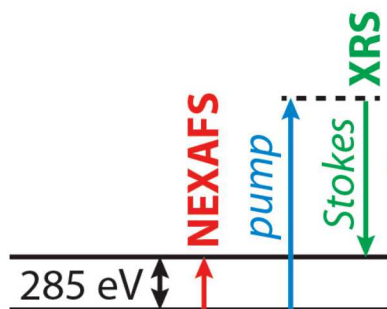
Our flame

Detector

# X-Ray Raman Spectroscopy for Composition

Linear Hencken  
diffusion flame

Energy-level  
diagram



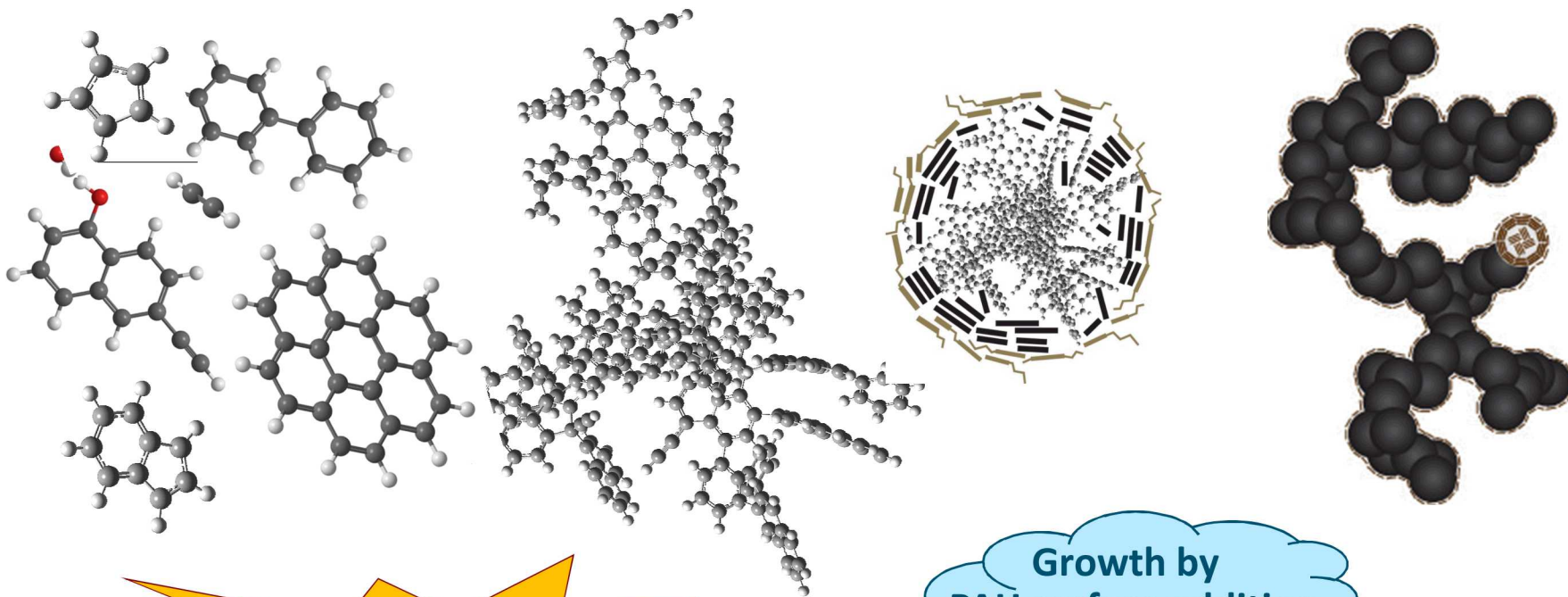
# Summary and Conclusions

*Molecular growth;  
Soot-precursor  
formation*

*Incipient  
particle  
formation*

*Maturation,  
surface growth,  
graphitization*

*Particle growth,  
aggregation,  
graphitization*



**Inception driven by  
radical chain rxns**

**Growth by  
PAH surface addition**

**Possibly by radical rxns**

# The Path Forward

- Need better experimental tools

- Particle maturity
- Particle size and morphology
- Particle composition
- Precursors and other gas-phase species
- Temperature
- Pressure
- Boundary conditions

*In situ (probe-free)*

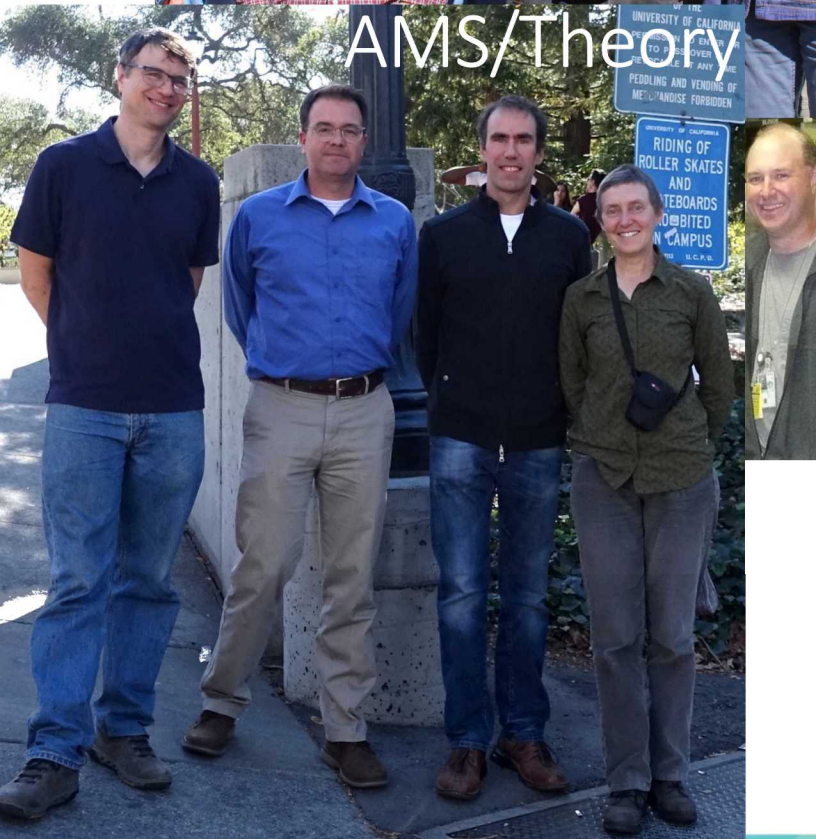
**Applicable to  
non-steady,  
high-pressure,  
multi-phase  
conditions**

- Need better computational tools

- Electronic structure for large, complex species
- Mechanisms & rate constants for reactions of large, complex species
- Physics-based chemical sub-models and chemical transport models

**Applicable to  
non-steady,  
high-pressure,  
multi-phase  
conditions**

# Our Team



# Many, Many Thanks to



Olof Johansson, Paul Schrader, Matthew Campbell,  
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Scott Skeen, Nils Hansen, Kai Moshammer



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Dennis Nordlund, Thomas Kroll

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Chemical Sciences, Biosciences, and Geosciences Division  
Gas Phase Chemical Physics Program

Thank you



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

