

# *Reactions of 'Elusive' Intermediates & Trying to Understand Complicated Chemistry Step by Step*

Craig A. Taatjes

Combustion Research Facility, Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore CA

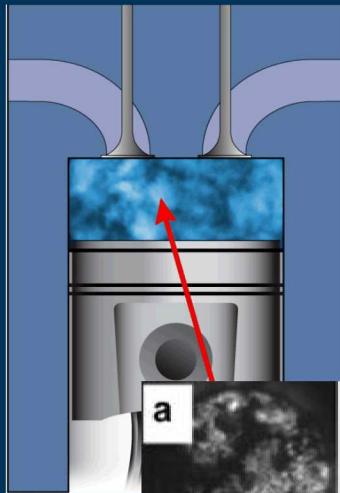
2018 Gordon Conference on Molecular Interactions & Dynamics  
Stonehill College, Easton MA

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.



# Comparing different (but related) chemical systems

## Autoignition chemistry



Complex networks of chemical reactions

Deliberate control of reaction conditions

Simple goal:  
clean/efficient

John Dec, Sandia

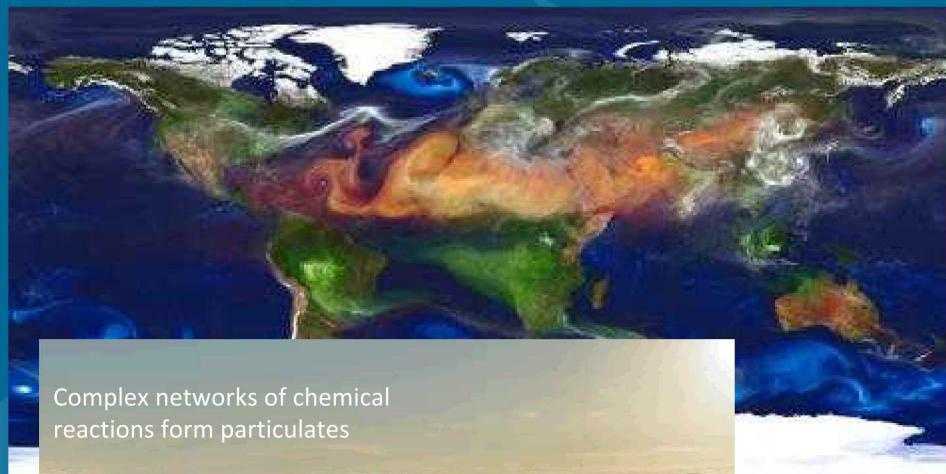
365°C CA

368°C CA

372°C CA

## Tropospheric oxidation

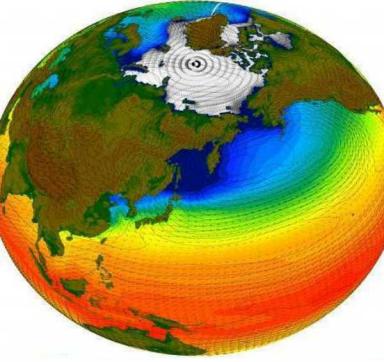
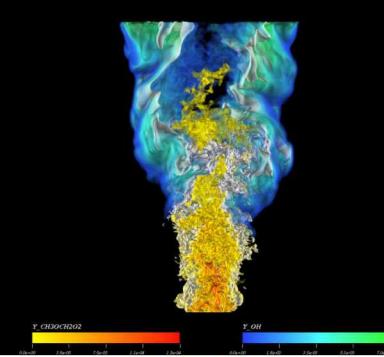
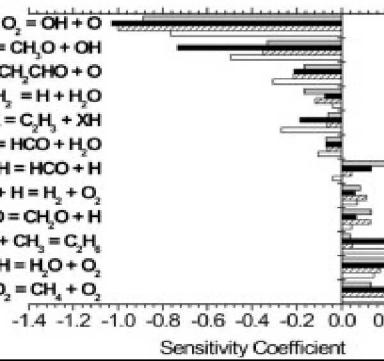
William Putman, NASA/Goddard



Complex networks of chemical reactions form particulates

Human effects on reaction conditions are accidental

What are the “goals”?



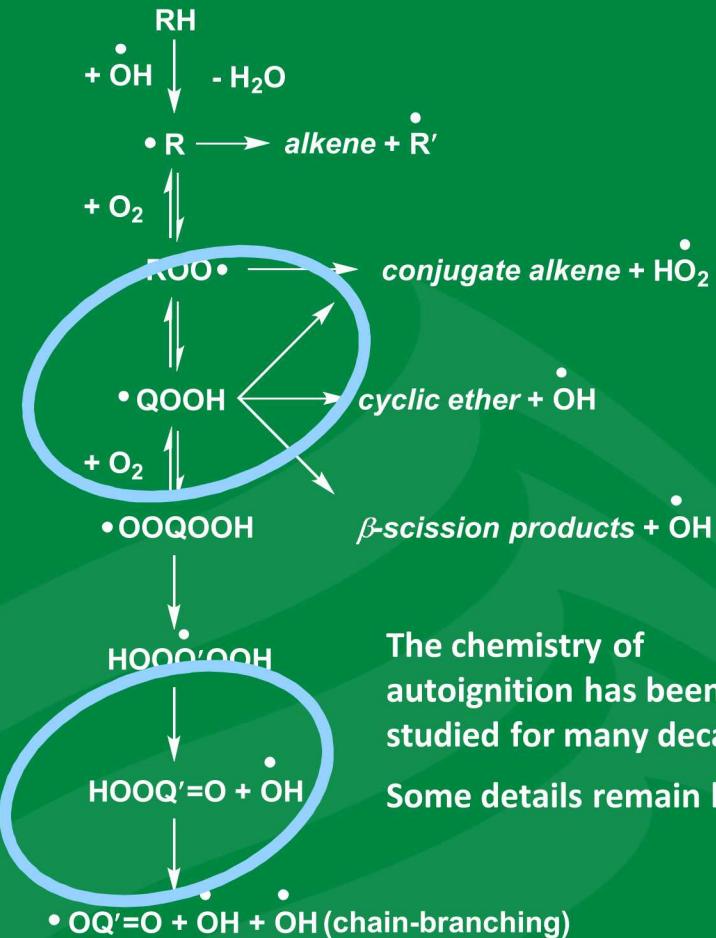
Even for complex systems, chemistry often depends on reactions of a few key intermediates

- $ROO\cdot \leftrightarrow \cdot QOOH - (+O_2) \rightarrow$  ketohydroperoxides
- Criegee intermediates

Reactions often have multiple possible channels that have different impacts on the complex system behavior

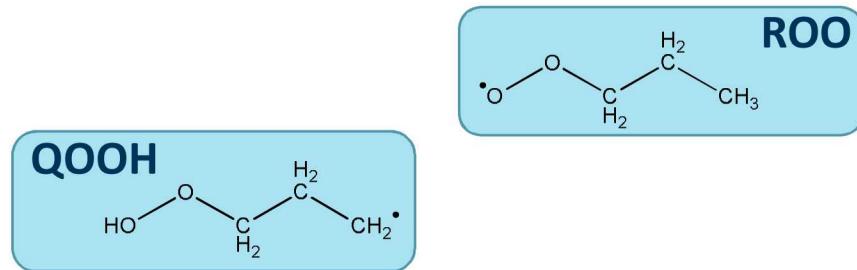
Characterizing individual crucial intermediate steps is often difficult if one looks only at the global system



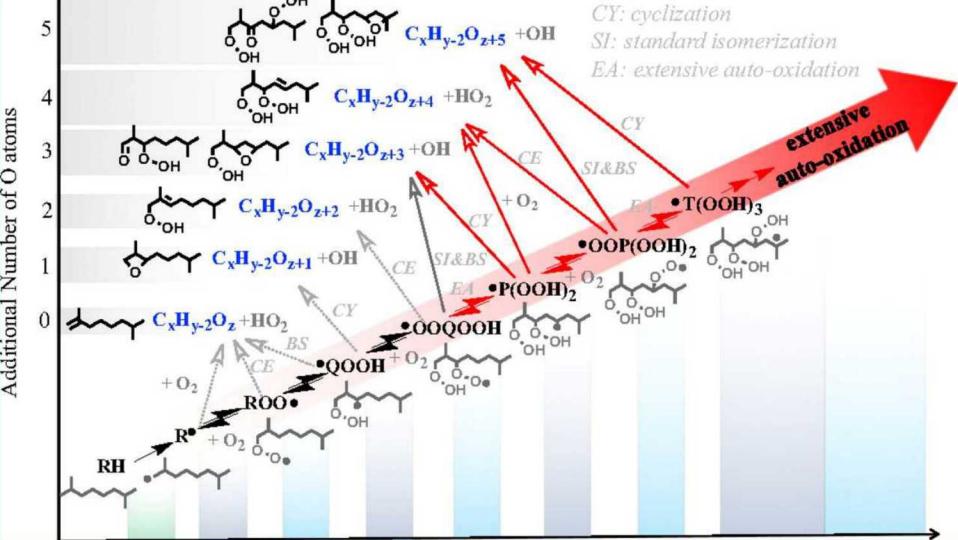
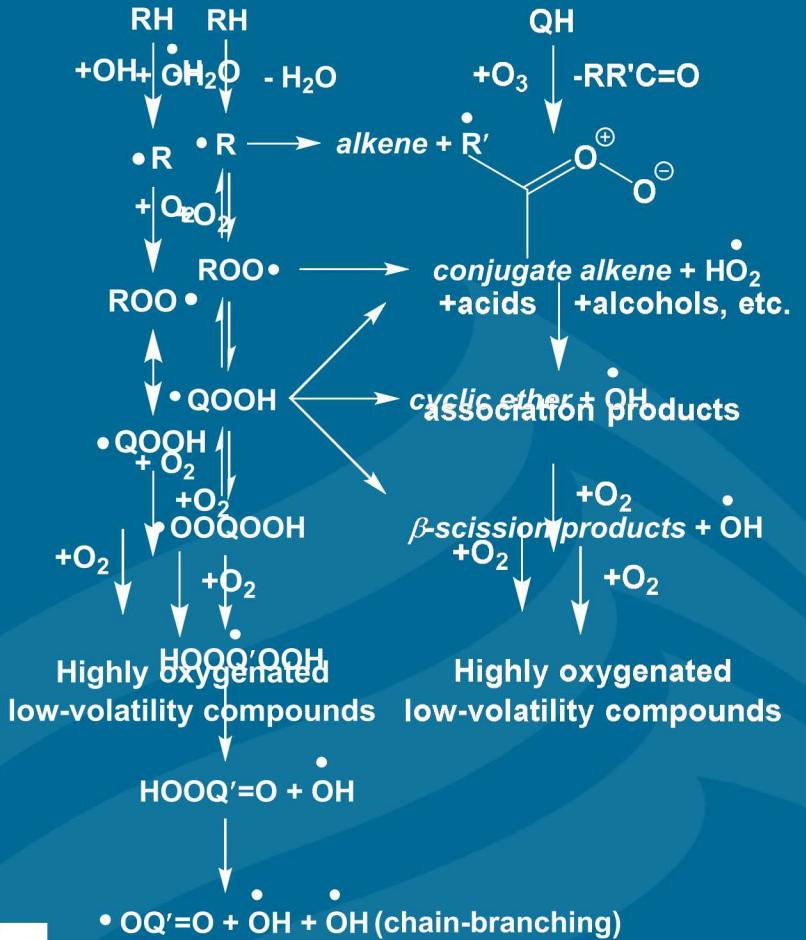


The chemistry of autoignition has been studied for many decades –  
 Some details remain hidden

# Kinetic Models for Ignition Chemistry Require Knowing Reactions of “Intermediates”



- **QOOH + O<sub>2</sub> is responsible for chain branching**
- **Chain branching step goes through dissociation of a ketohydroperoxide**
- **Different isomers behave differently**



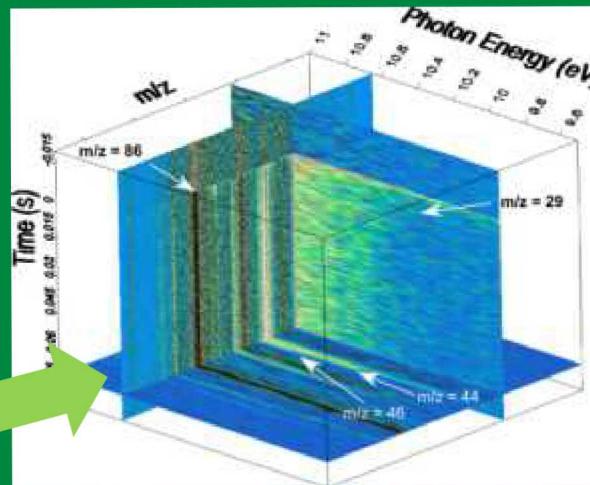
# Unraveling the structure and chemical mechanisms of highly oxygenated intermediates in oxidation of organic compounds

## Tropospheric oxidation and autoignition share some isomerizations and intermediates

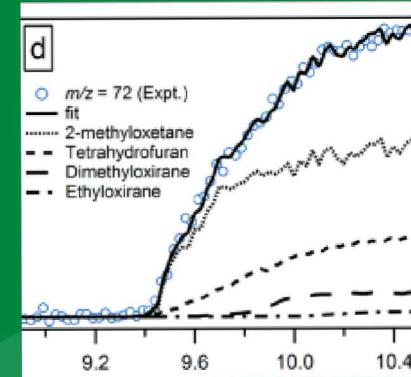
## Other oxidants may entail new intermediates



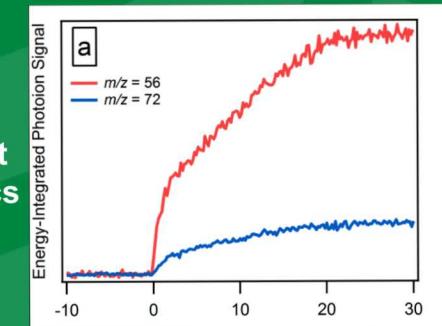
# Synchrotron photoionization mass spectrometry can detect and characterize these intermediates



Form intermediates in a controlled way by pulsed laser photolytic initiation of oxidation

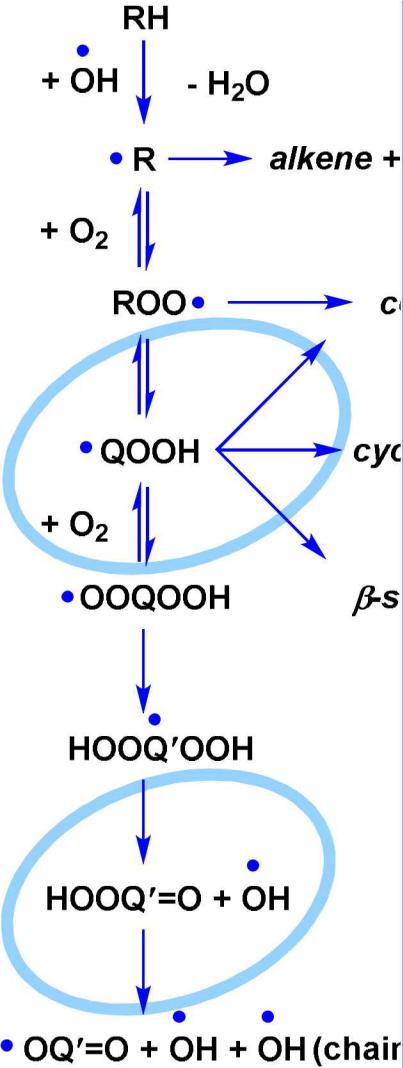


Time-Dependent Chemical Kinetics



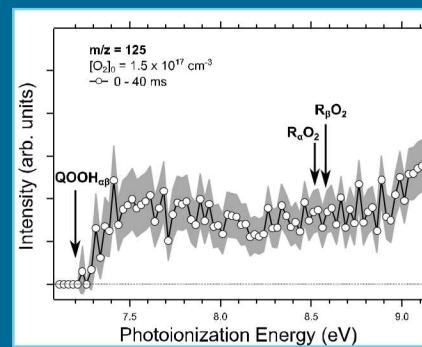
David Osborn

Isomer-Resolved Species Identification

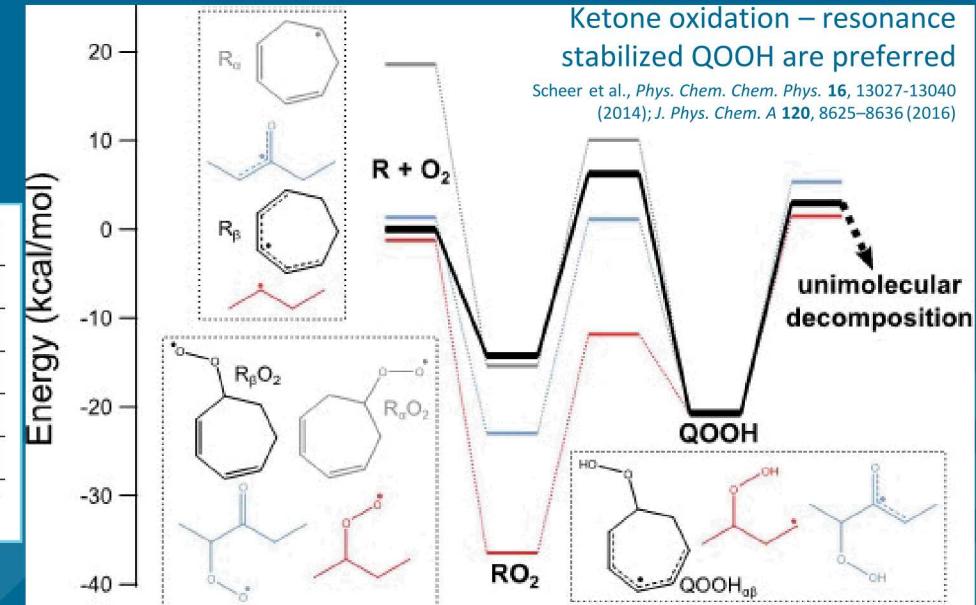


The autoignition or autoxidation process can be dramatically affected by resonance stabilization

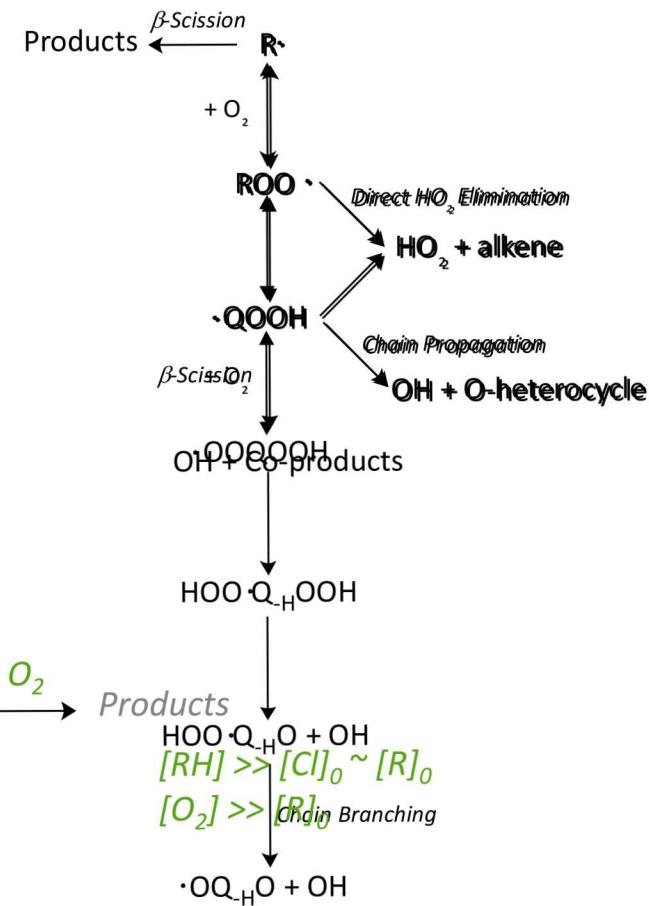
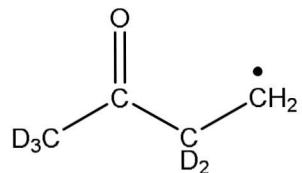
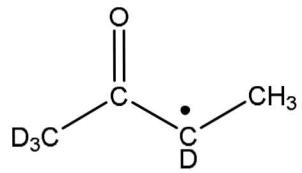
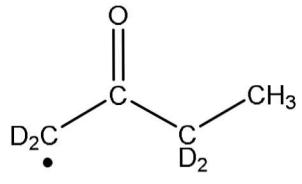
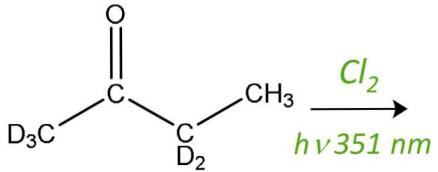
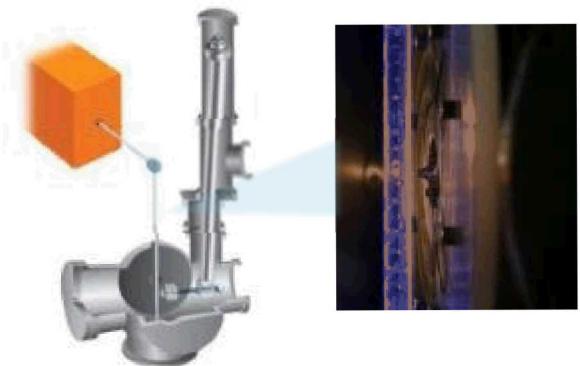
Double resonance stabilization allowed first direct detection of QOOH



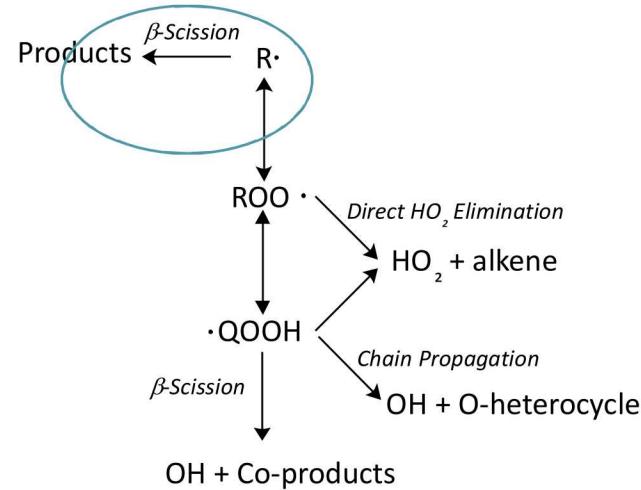
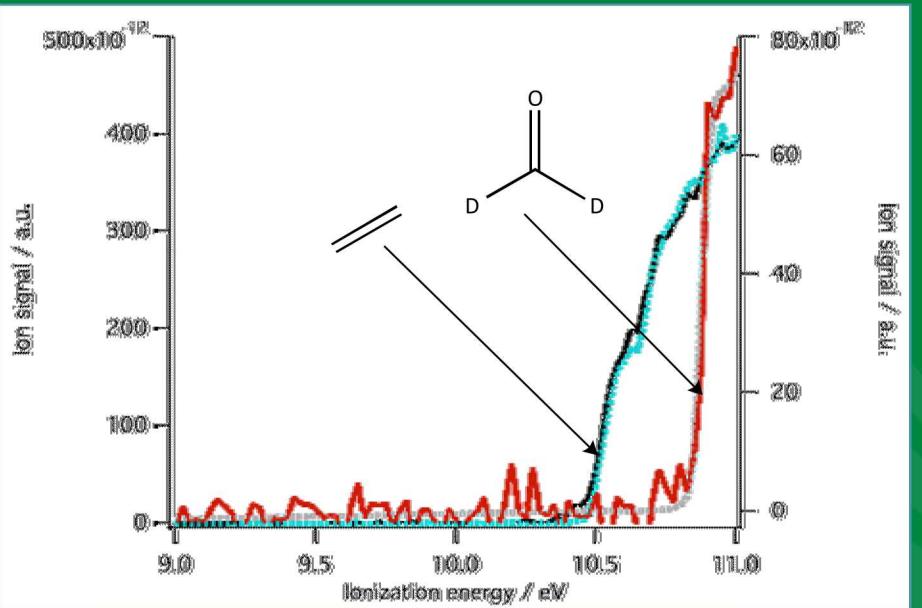
J.D. Savee, E. Papajak, et al.,  
*Science* **347**, 643-646 (2015).



# Butanone is a prototype for ketone oxidation

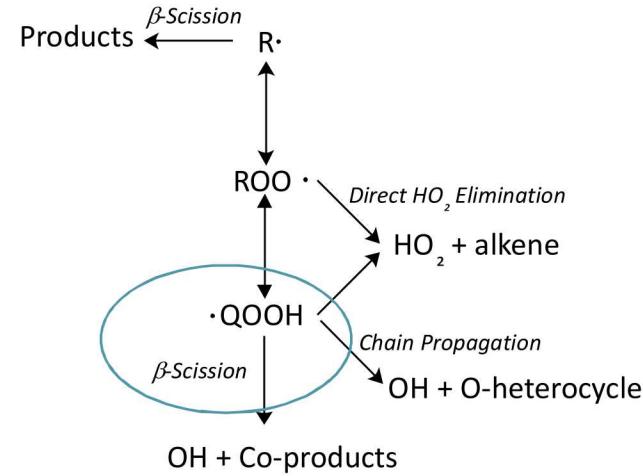
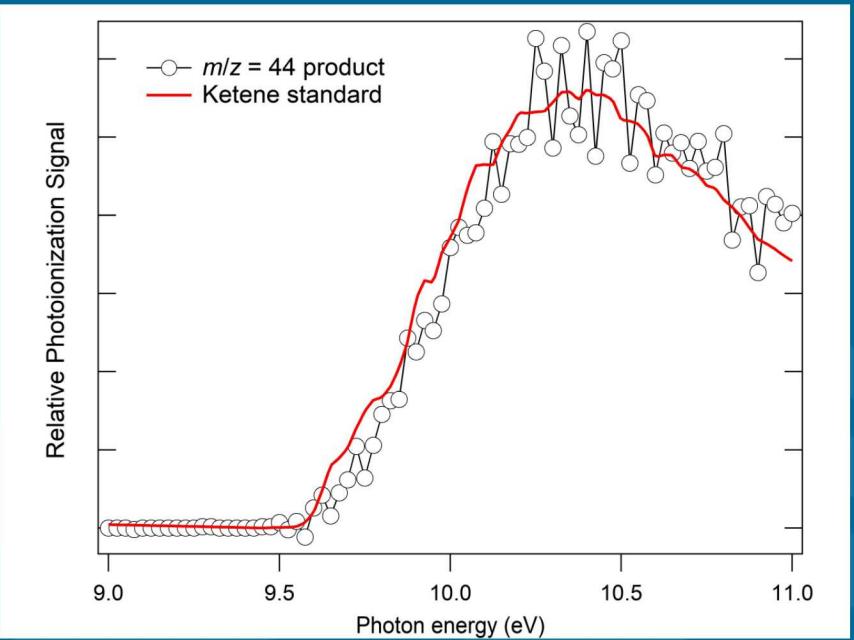


## Resonance stabilized radical shows less $\beta$ -scission

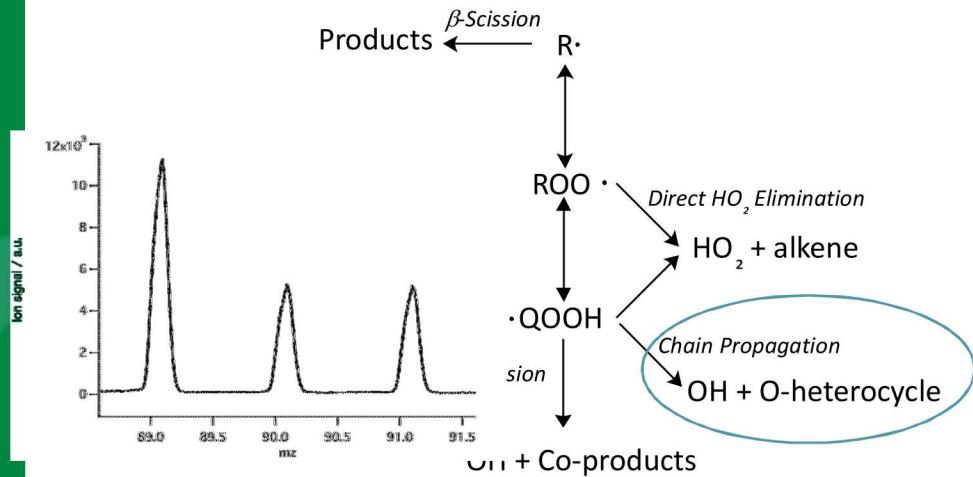
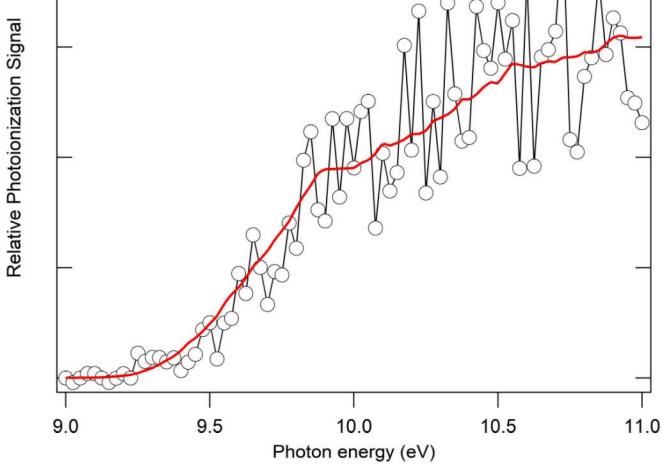
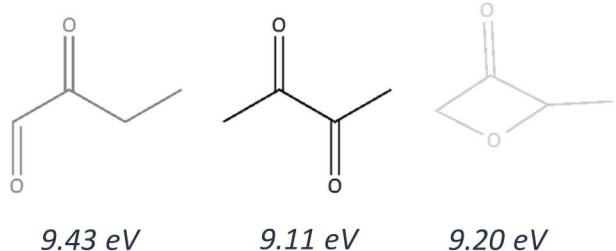


Decomposition (e.g.,  $\beta$ -scission) of initial R or of QOOH can divert course of oxidation

## Resonance stabilized QOOH shows less reactivity with O<sub>2</sub>

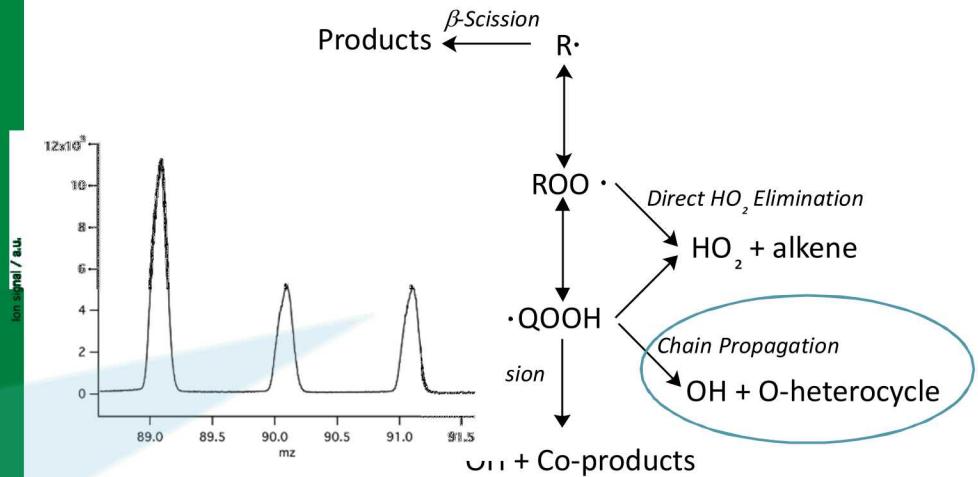
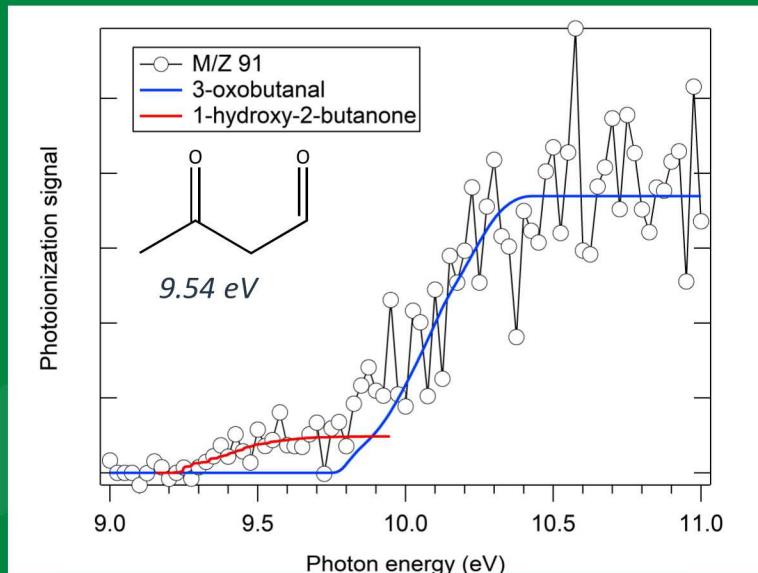


Decomposition (e.g.,  $\beta$ -scission) of initial R or of QOOH can divert course of oxidation



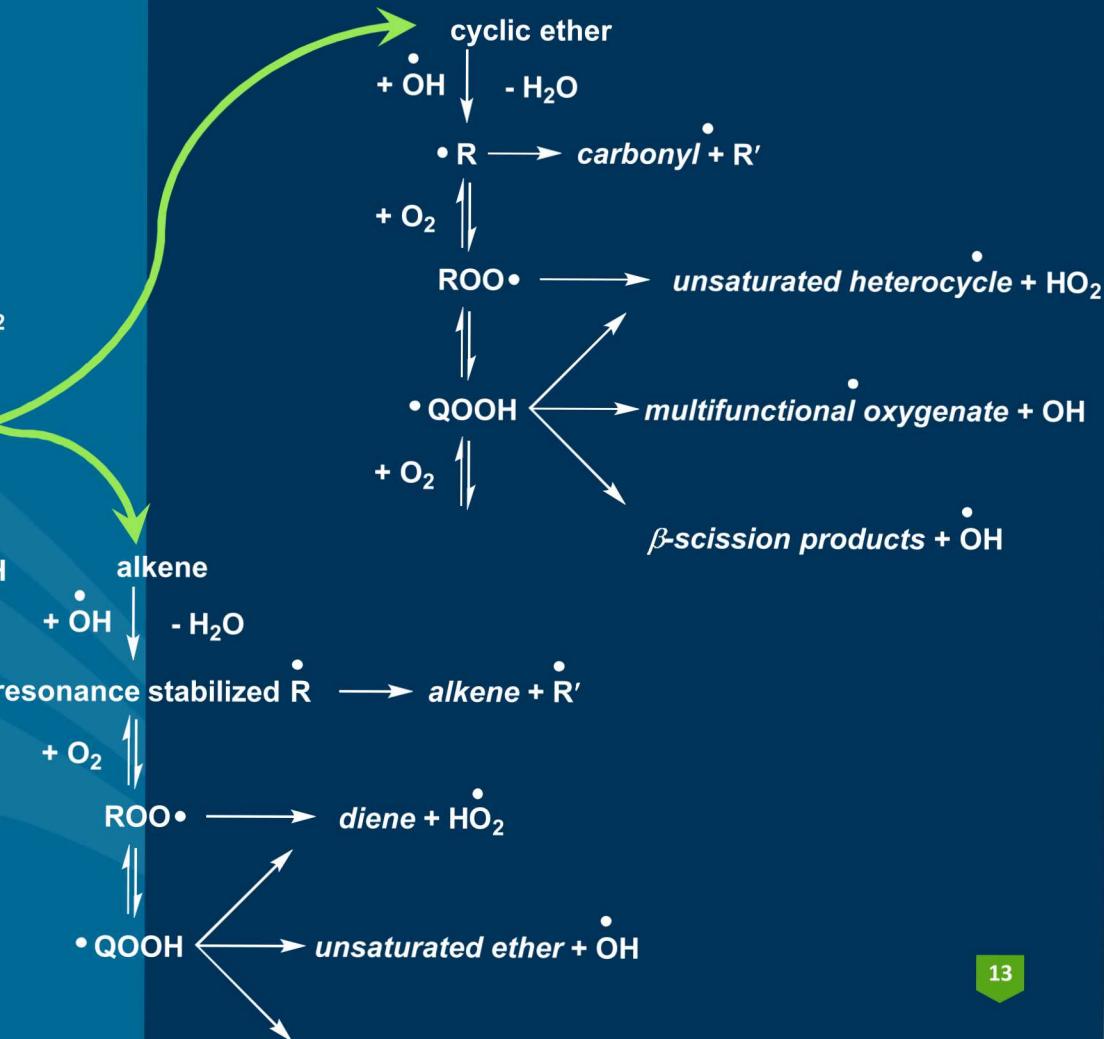
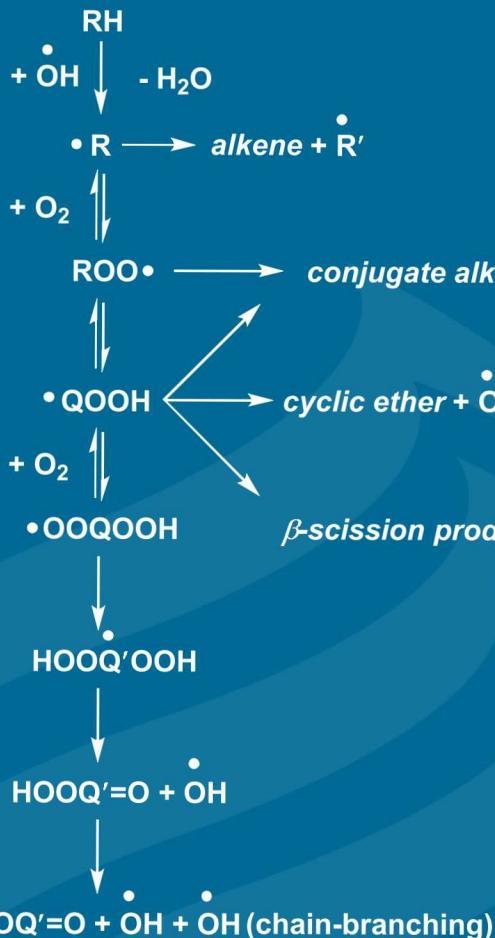
Chain-propagation produces carbonyls as well as cyclic ethers

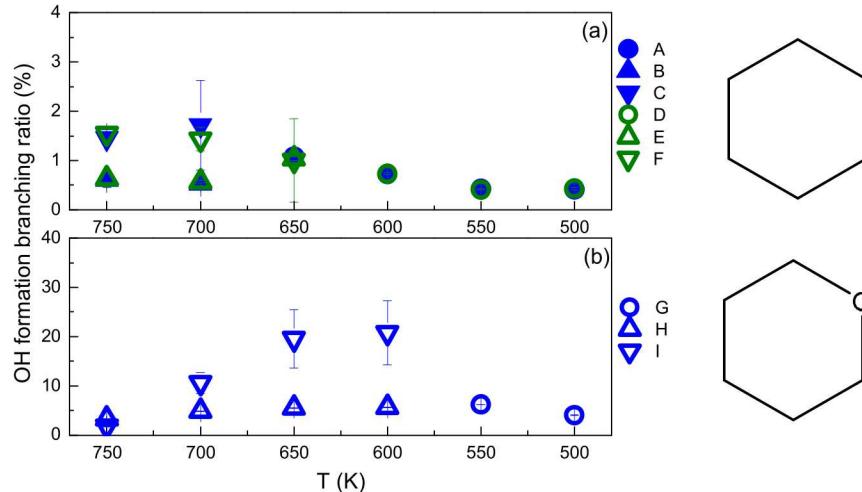
Products are isotopically distinguished



Chain-propagation produces carbonyls as well as cyclic ethers

Products are isotopically distinguished



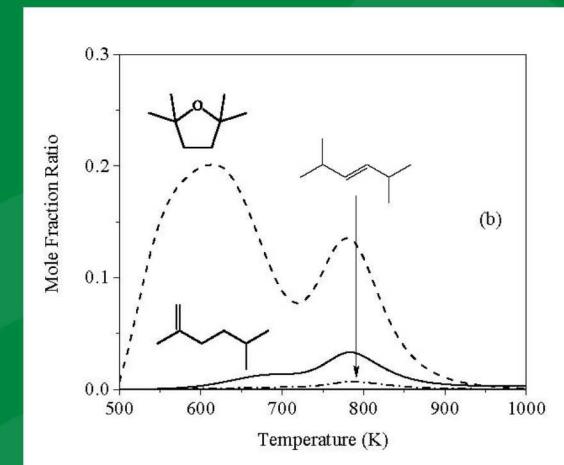


Comparing cyclohexane and tetrahydropyran shows effect of ether group



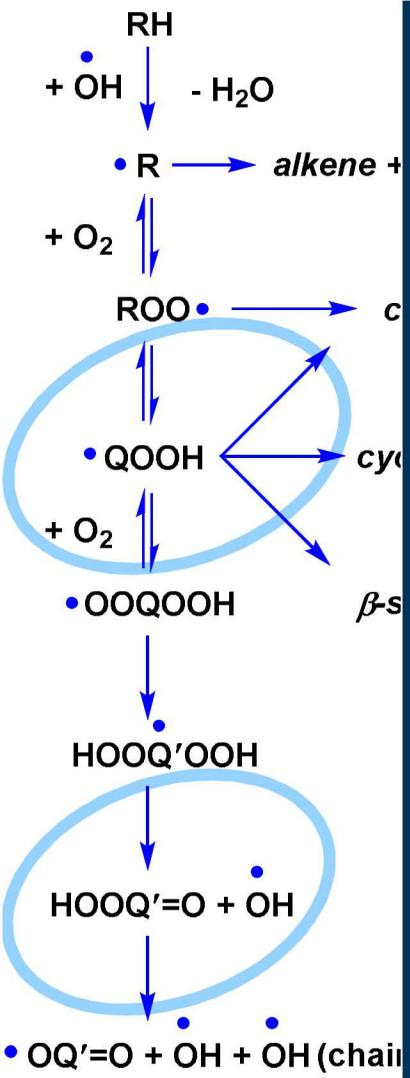
Oxidation products may undergo substantially different oxidation chemistry than the initial reactants

Alkane oxidations create substantial fractions of functionalized products

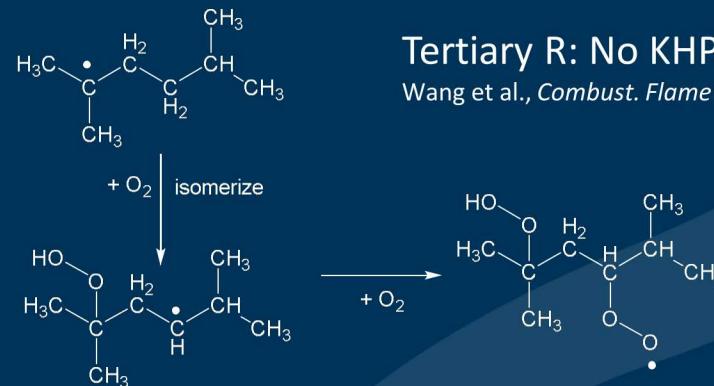


B. Rotavera, R. L. Caravan and CAT, "Subsequent  $R + O_2$  Chemistry of Intermediates Formed in Low-Temperature  $R + O_2$  Reactions: Potential Importance in Modeling Autoignition Behavior," SANDIA REPORT SAND2017-9099





Compare the autoignition process to the autoxidation to highly oxygenated species in the troposphere  
What stops the process towards chain branching?

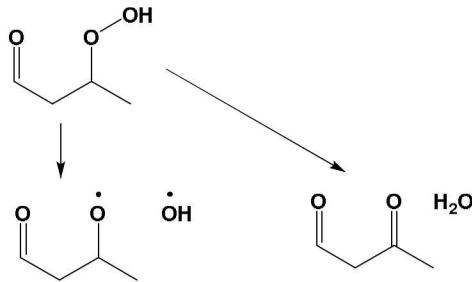


Tertiary R: No KHP – 3<sup>rd</sup> O<sub>2</sub> addition instead  
Wang et al., *Combust. Flame* **164**, 386–396 (2016).

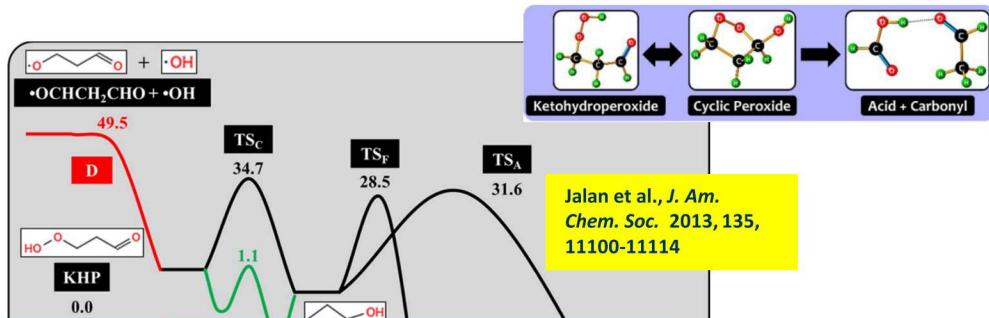
What else can intercept these molecules on the path?

# What if ketohydroperoxides don't fall apart to two radicals? Look at $\gamma$ -ketohydroperoxides

O-O bond fission leads to chain branching



Jalan et al. pointed out that gamma-KHP can isomerize by Korcek reaction



Jalan et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2013, 135, 11100-11114

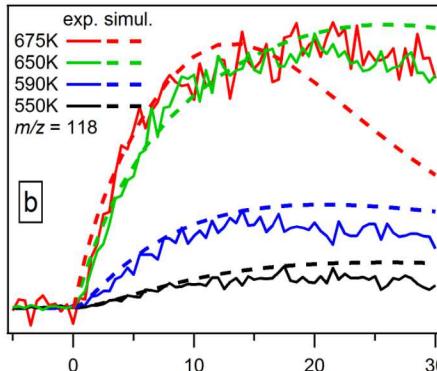
So far observed KHP species are all gamma-ketohydroperoxides

*Chem. Soc.* 140, 1035–1048 (2018)

show even more pathways, including water elimination to form dicarbonyl



# Ketohydroperoxides have now been observed in many kinetic systems

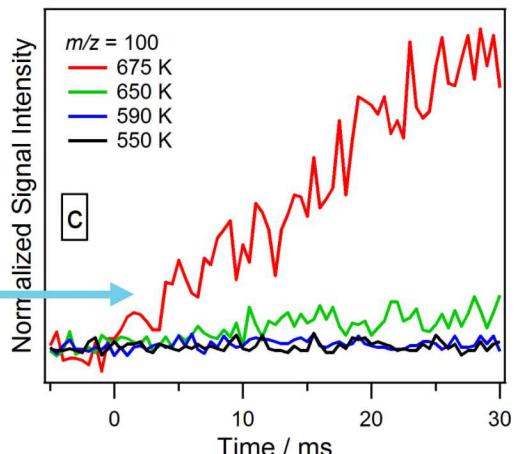


Pulsed photolytic neopentane oxidation shows KHP formation

Eskola et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **19**, 13731-13745 (2017)

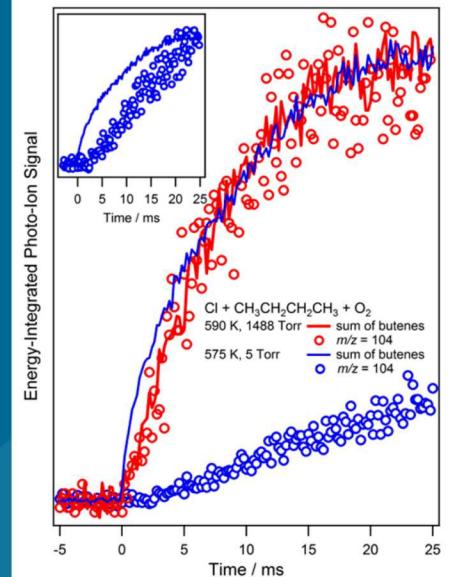
Time-resolved products suggest some KHP does not make OH + oxy radical

KHP  $\rightarrow$  2,2-dimethyl propanedial + H<sub>2</sub>O

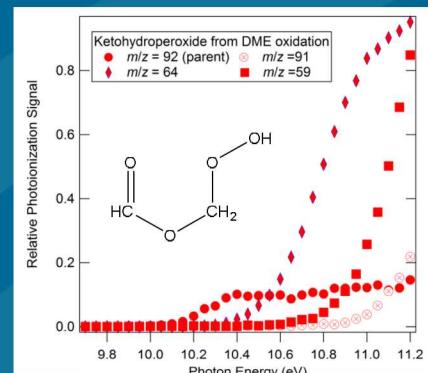


Pulsed photolytic oxidation of butane shows KHP formation

Identified as 3-hydroperoxybutanal



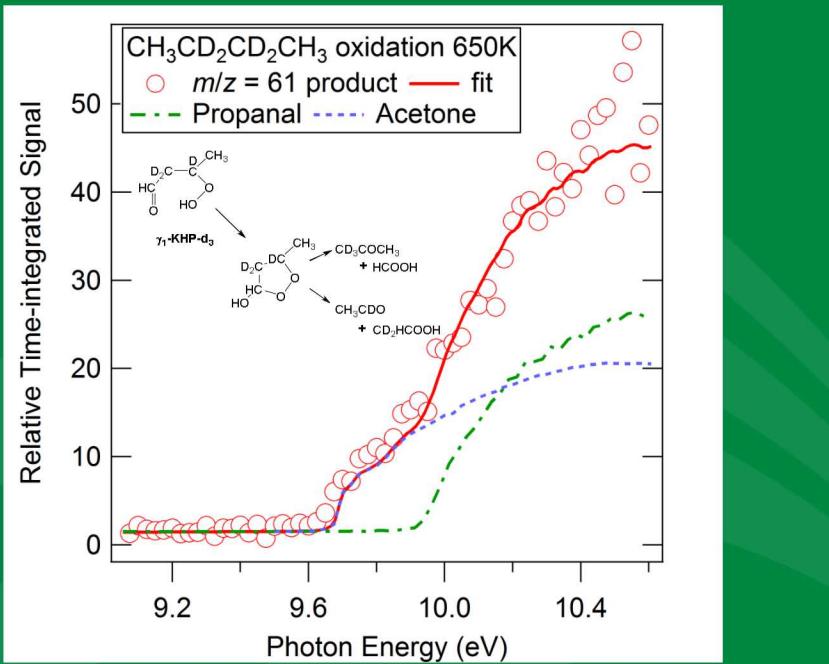
Eskola et al., *Proc. Combust. Inst.* **35**, 291-298 (2015)



Hydroperoxymethyl formate measured in dimethyl ether oxidation in jet-stirred reactor

Moshammer et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361–7374 (2015)

In butane-d<sub>4</sub> oxidation,  
acetone-d<sub>3</sub> may be a marker  
for Korcek decomposition

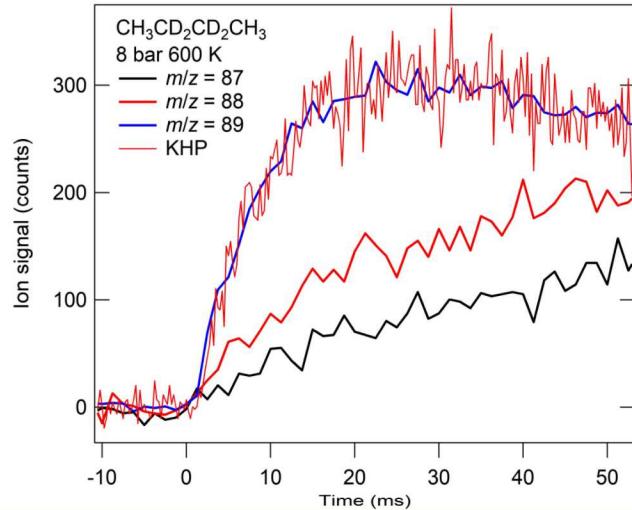


Butane oxidation is a test system for KHP chemistry

KHP observed by photoionization mass spectrometry in jet-stirred reactor and photolysis experiments

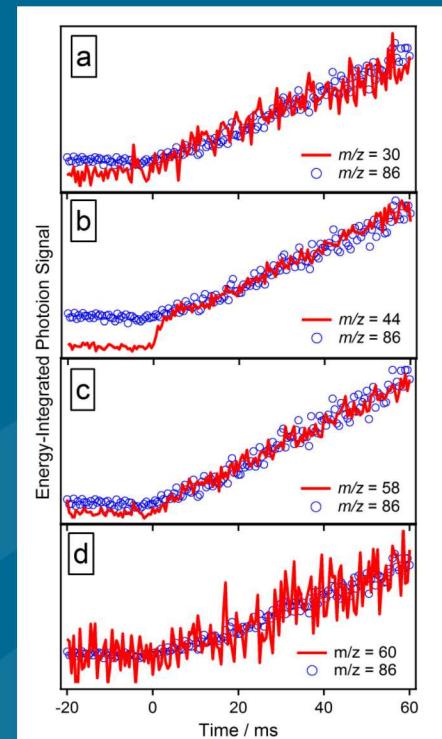
Korcek pathways make formic acid + acetone or acetic acid + acetaldehyde

Other non-chain branching pathways for KHP may occur



But in butane- $d_4$  oxidation time profiles for adjacent masses differ (KHP-18) is dissociative ionization (KHP-19) and (KHP-20) look like non-chain-branching products – loss of HDO or D<sub>2</sub>O

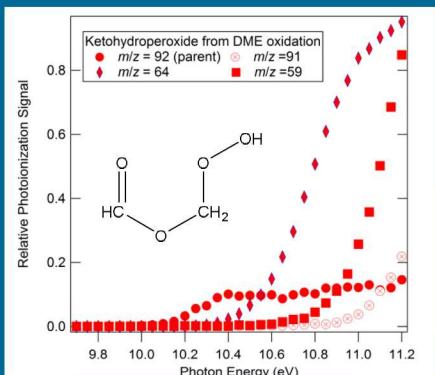
## Identification of non-chain branching KHP products



Photolytic oxidation of C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub> shows several possible non-chain branching products with the same time profile as  $m/z = 86$  (KHP-18)

Acetaldehyde  
Acetic acid  
Acetone

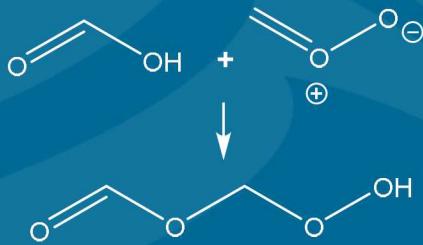
Next steps -- make KHP directly and follow reactions?



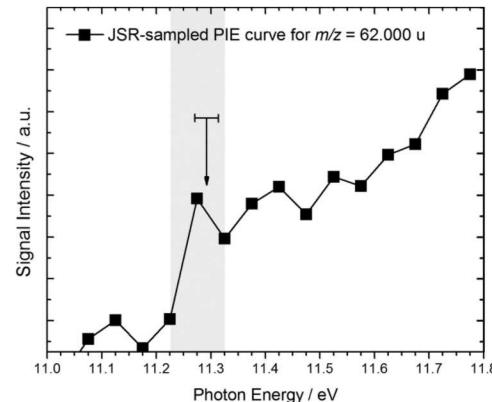
Hydroperoxymethyl formate is the KHP in dimethyl ether oxidation

Moshammer et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361–7374 (2015)

Reaction of Criegee intermediate  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  with formic acid makes same KHP

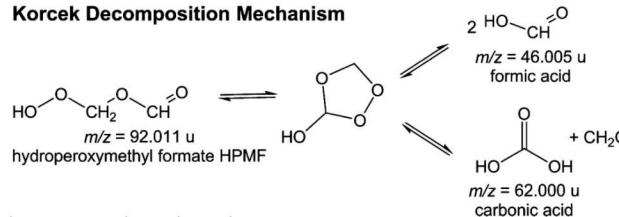


Specific organic acid products may be a signature of Korcek dissociation



Modeling acid formation may constrain Korcek rate coefficient

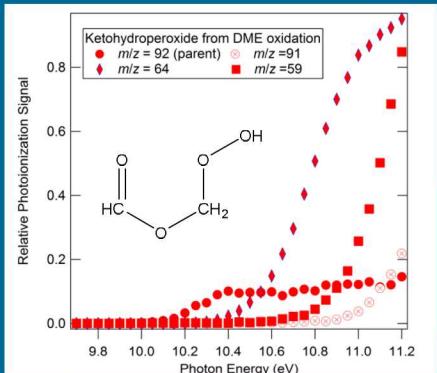
#### Korcek Decomposition Mechanism



Moshammer et al., *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361–7374 (2015)



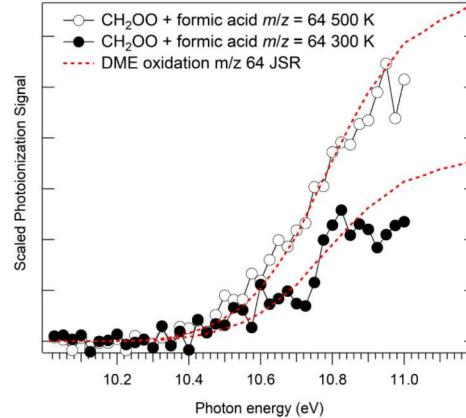
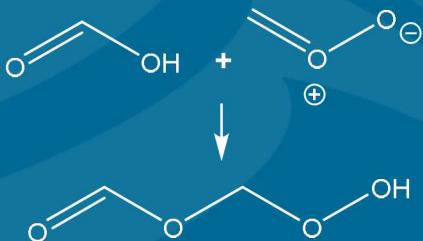
# Next steps -- make KHP directly and follow reactions?



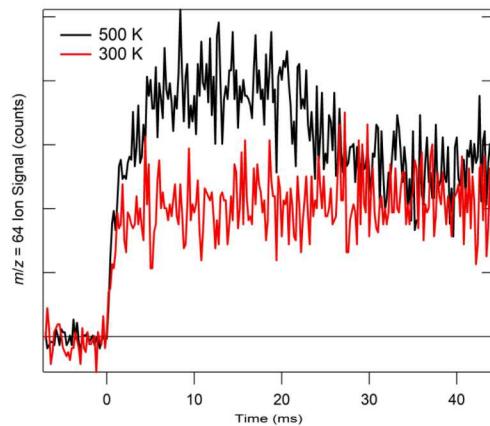
Hydroperoxymethyl formate is the KHP in dimethyl ether oxidation

Moshammer et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361–7374 (2015)

Reaction of Criegee intermediate  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  with formic acid makes same KHP



Successfully produce KHP, identify by spectrum of fragment ion



Initial experiments suggest temperature dependence but no products yet observed

# Complex Chemical Systems One Step at a Time

Analysis of controlled oxidation reactions – photolysis, isotopic labelling – by isomer specific detection

Products of one reaction are the reactants of the next

Functionalization can bring resonance stabilization, change pathways

Start on the intermediate steps



# *Hydrocarbon oxidation research in the CRF Combustion Chemistry Department*

*Rebecca Caravan*

*Arkke Eskola*

*Brandon Rotavera*

*John Savee*

*Kai Moshammer*

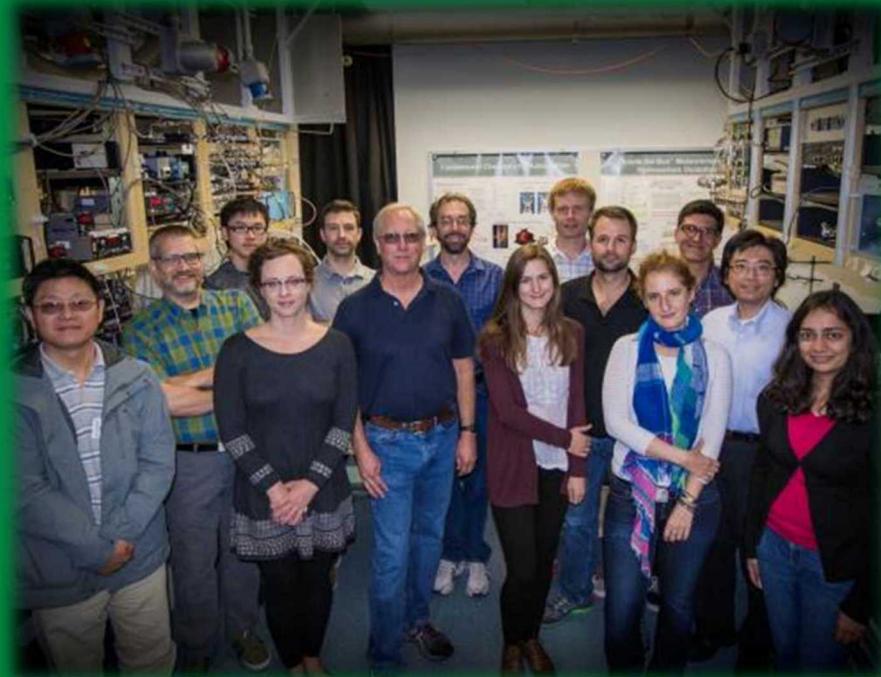
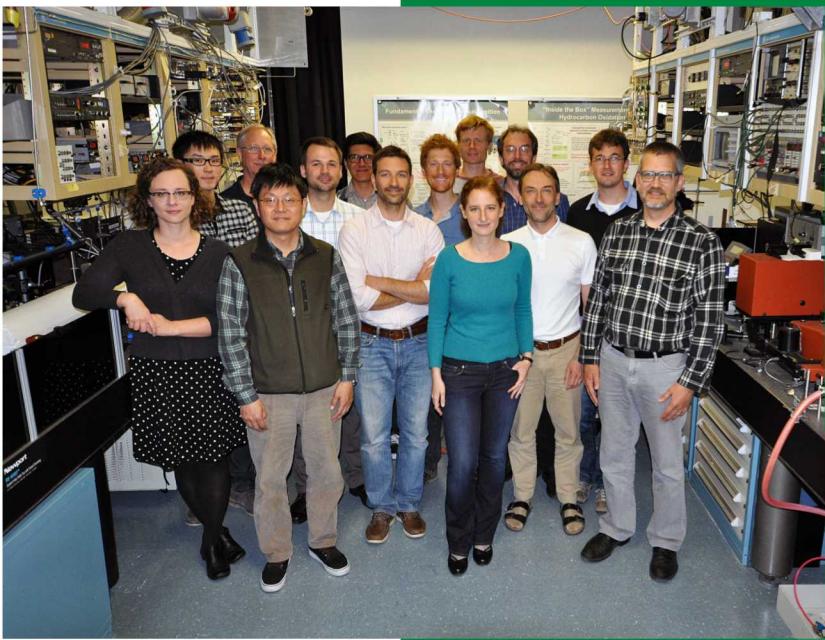
*David Osborn*

*Howard Johnsen*

*Lenny Sheps*

*Kendrew Au*

*Nils Hansen*



*Raybel Almeida*  
*Ivan Antonov*  
*Judit Zádor*

*Krupa Ramasesha*  
*Ming-Wei Chen*  
*Haifeng Huang*

*Adam Scheer*  
*Oliver Welz*

- **This material is based on work supported by the Office of Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, United States Department of Energy.**

- Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525. This paper describes objective technical results and analysis. Any subjective views or opinions that might be expressed in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the USDOE or the United States Government.

**Non-Sandia Collaborators:** Dudley Shallcross, Andrew Orr-Ewing, Rabi Chhantyal-Pun (Bristol); Carl Percival (JPL); Zhandong Wang, Mani Sarathy (KAUST); Steve Leone (Berkeley); Denisia Popolan-Vaida (UCF); Katharina Kohse-Höinghaus (Bielefeld); Philippe Dagaut (Orleans)

