

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

Craig A. Taatjes

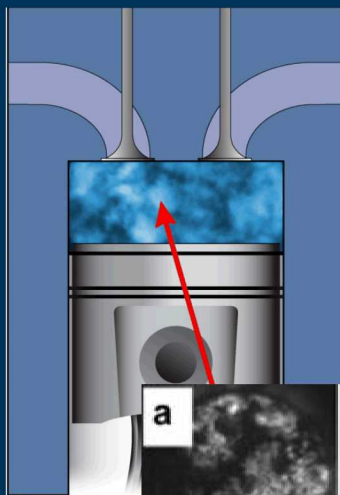
Combustion Research Facility, Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore CA

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



Comparing different (but related) chemical systems

Autoignition chemistry

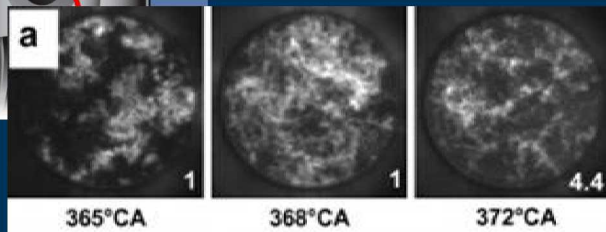


Complex networks of chemical reactions

Deliberate control of reaction conditions

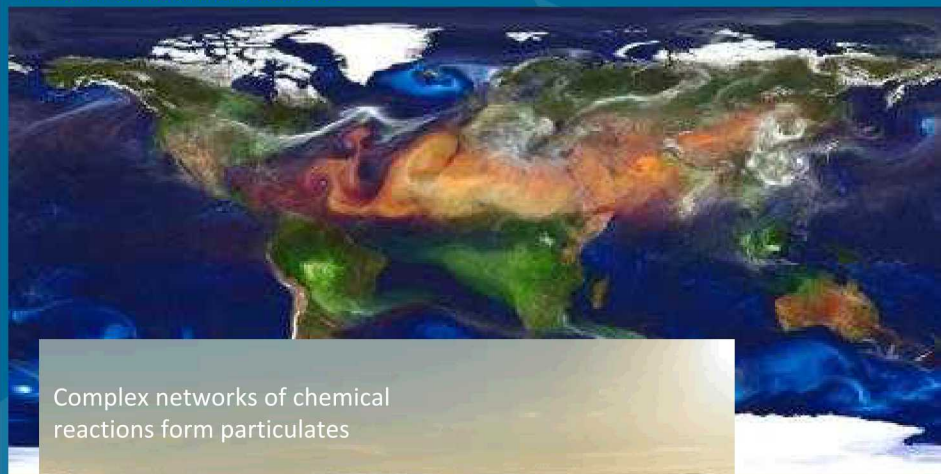
Simple goal: clean/efficient

John Dec, Sandia



Tropospheric oxidation

William Putman, NASA/Goddard

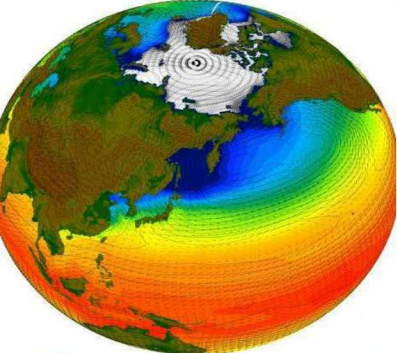
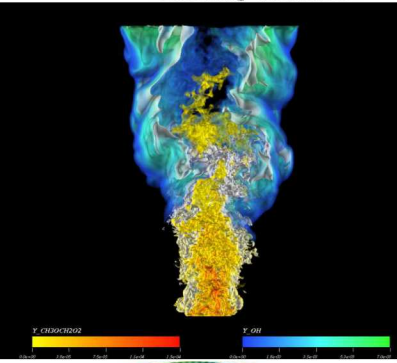
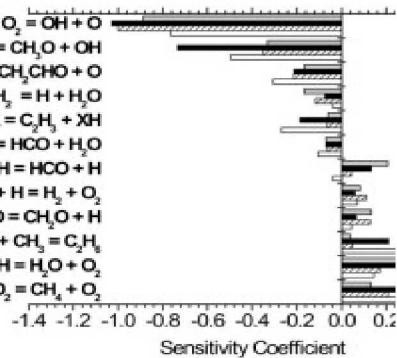


Complex networks of chemical reactions form particulates

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

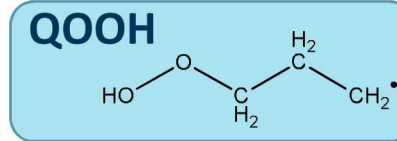
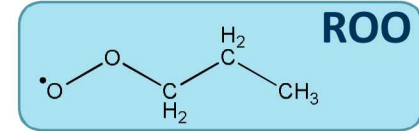
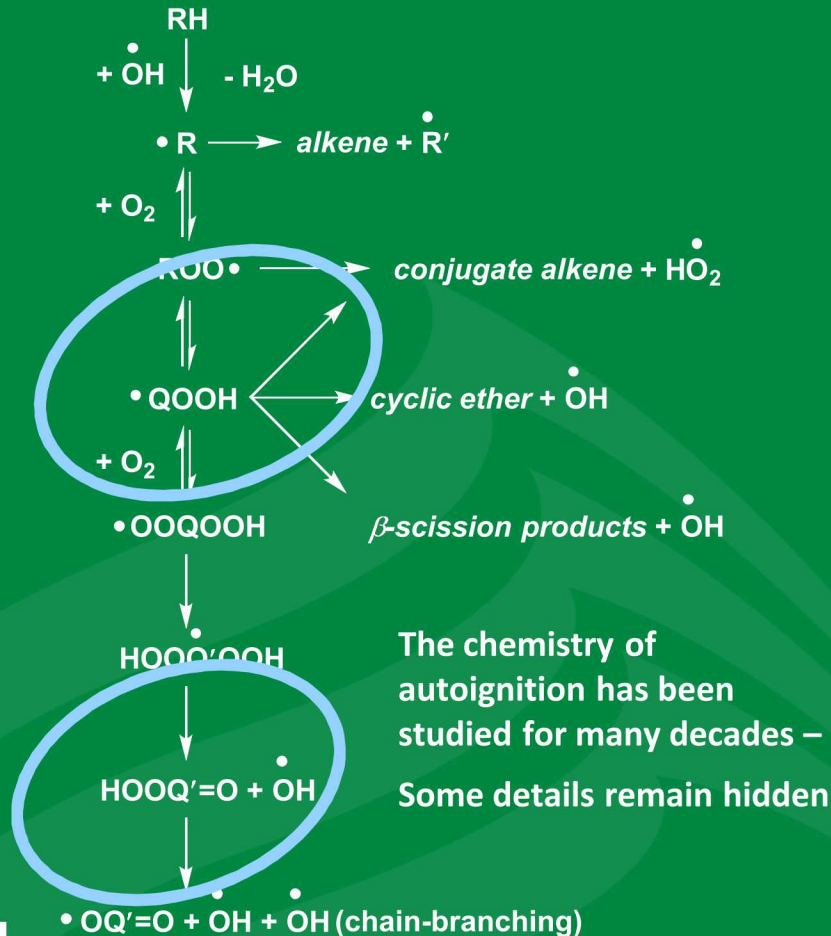
- $\text{ROO}\cdot \leftrightarrow \cdot\text{QOOH} \xrightarrow{+\text{O}_2} \text{ketohydroperoxides}$
- Criegee intermediates

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



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

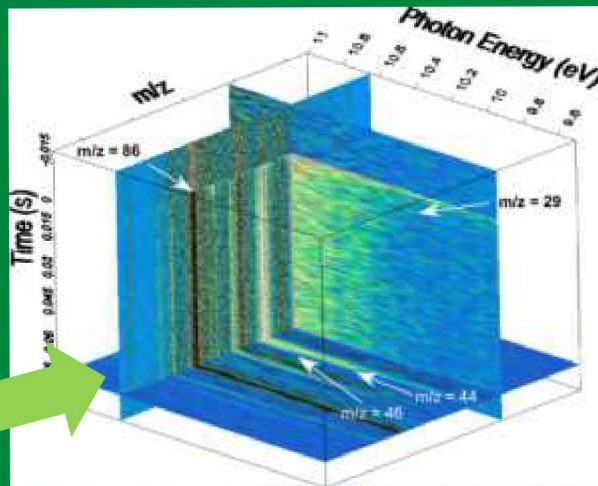


- QOOH + O₂ is responsible for chain branching
- Chain branching step goes through dissociation of a ketohydroperoxide
- Different isomers behave differently

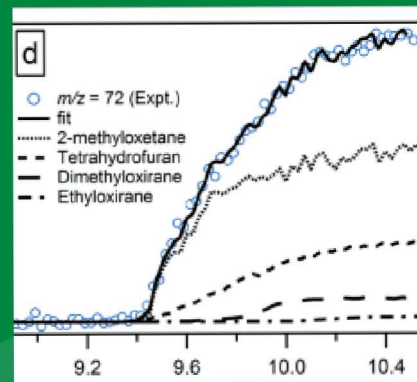
Synchrotron photoionization mass spectrometry can detect and characterize these intermediates



David Osborn

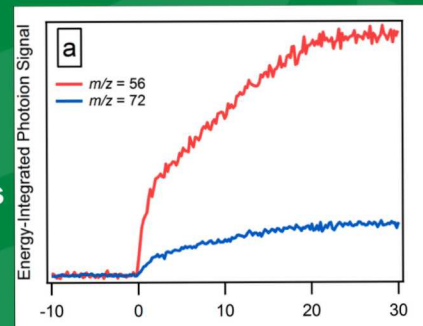


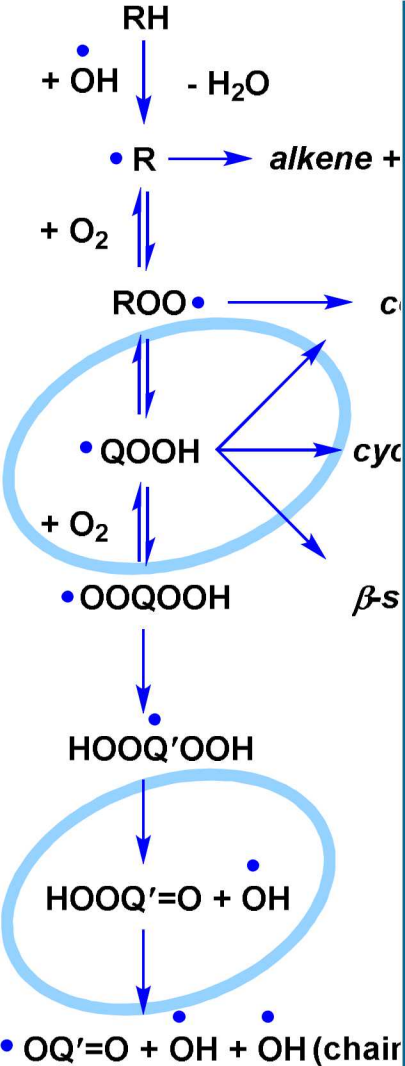
Form intermediates in a controlled way by pulsed laser photolytic initiation of oxidation



Isomer-Resolved Species Identification

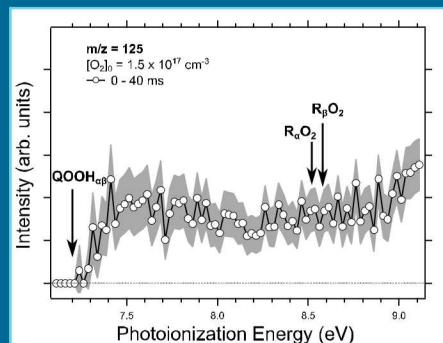
Time-Dependent Chemical Kinetics



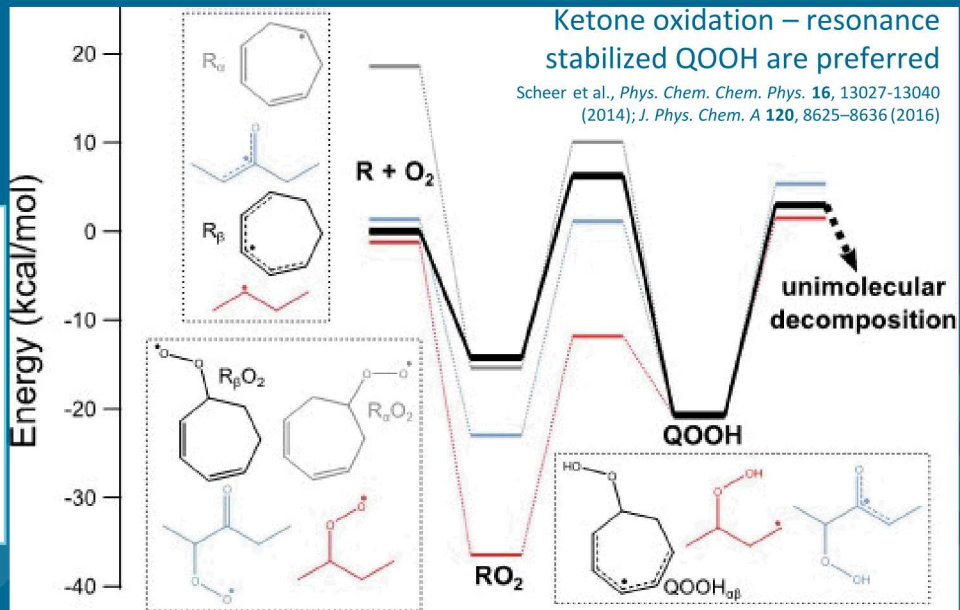


The autoignition or autooxidation process can be dramatically affected by resonance stabilization

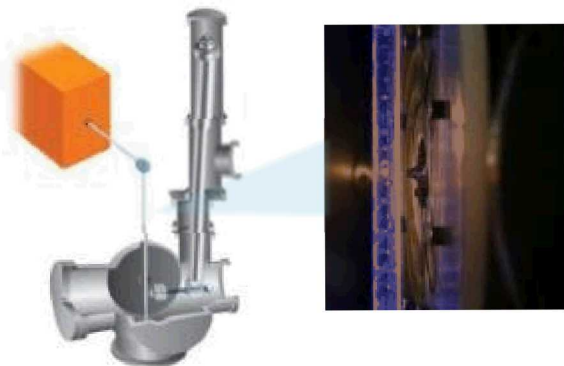
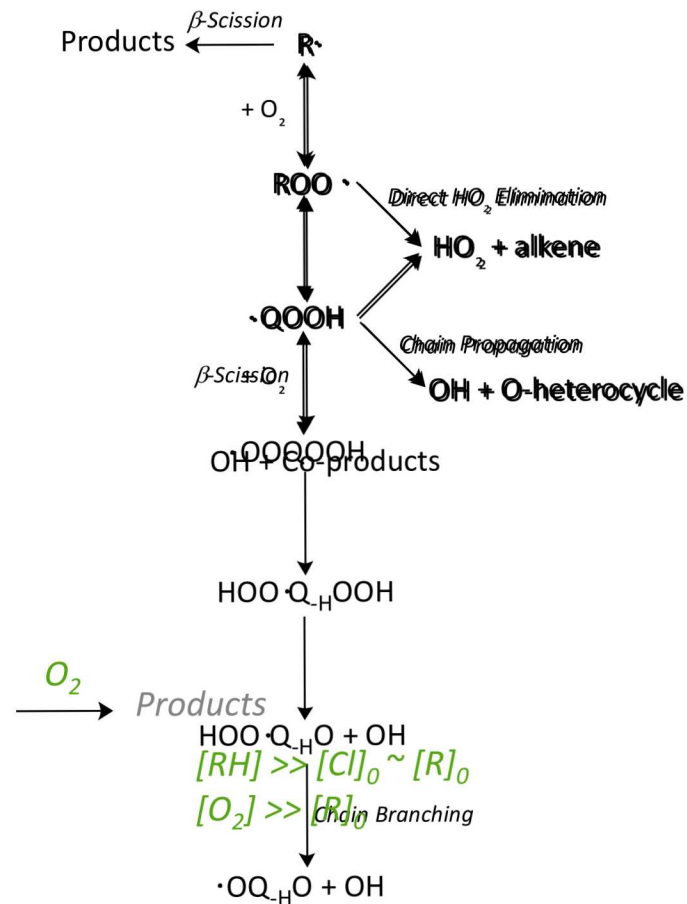
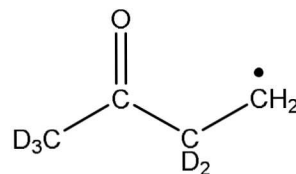
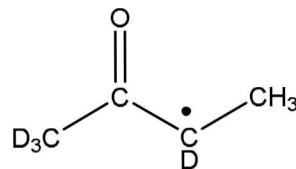
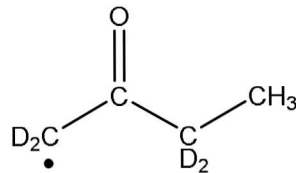
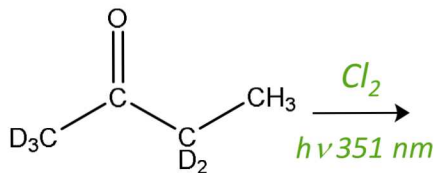
Double resonance stabilization allowed first direct detection of QOOH



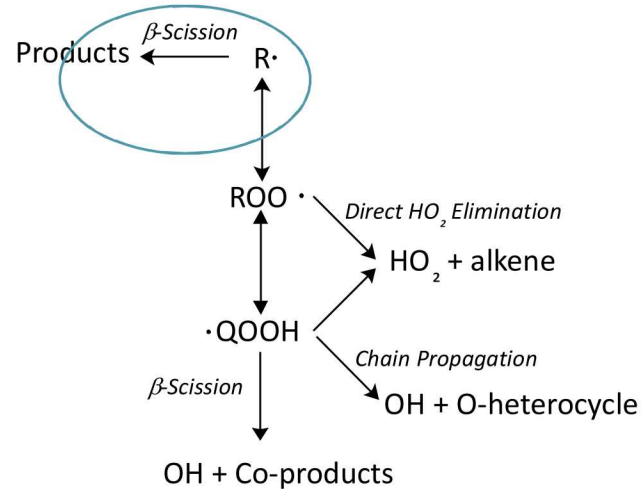
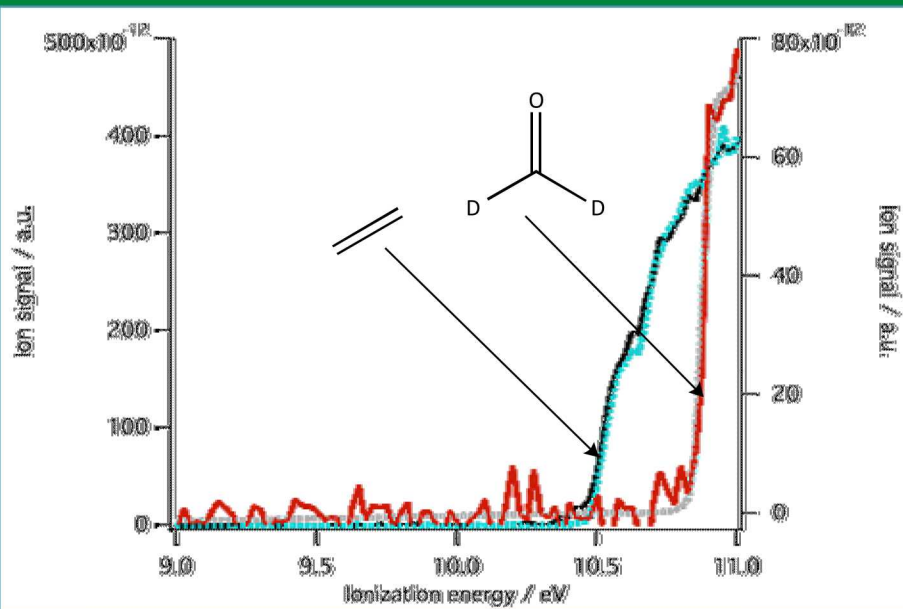
J.D. Savee, E. Papajak, et al.,
Science **347**, 643-646 (2015).



Butanone is a prototype for ketone oxidation

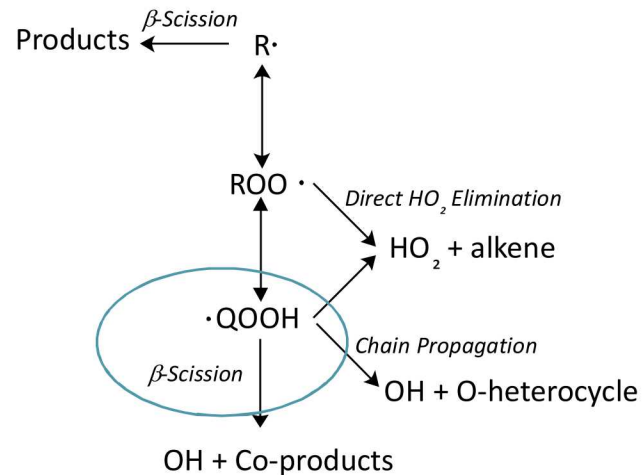
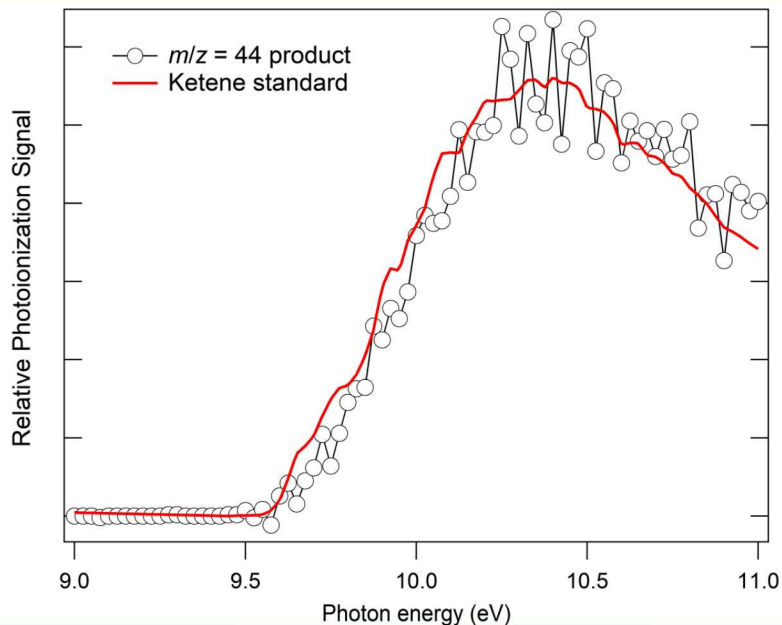


Resonance stabilized radical shows less β -scission

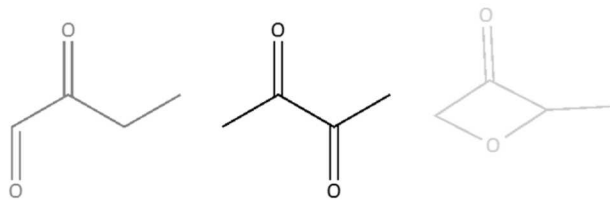


Decomposition (e.g., β -scission) of initial R or of QOOH can divert course of oxidation

Resonance stabilized QOOH shows less reactivity with O_2



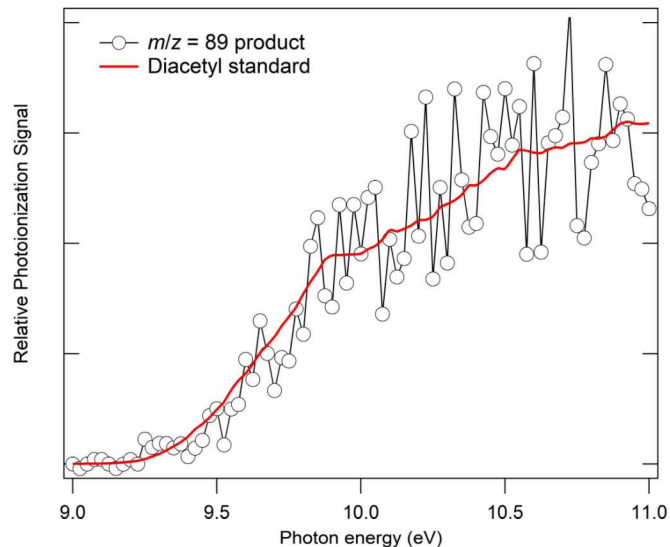
Decomposition (e.g., β -scission) of initial R or of $QOOH$ can divert course of oxidation



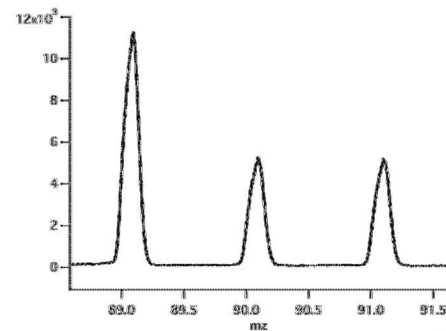
9.43 eV

9.11 eV

9.20 eV



Ion signal / a.u.



Products $\xleftarrow{\beta\text{-Scission}}$ $R\cdot$

$ROO\cdot$

Direct HO_2 Elimination

$HO_2 + \text{alkene}$

$\cdot QOOH$

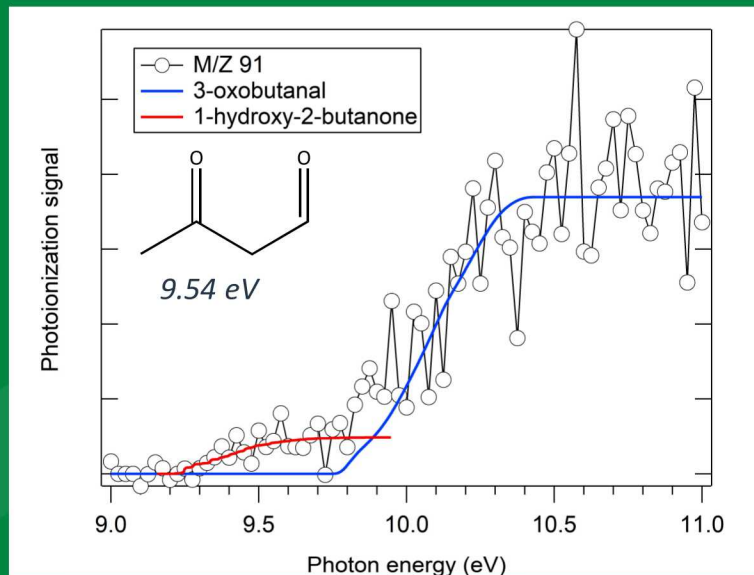
Chain Propagation

$OH + \text{O-heterocycle}$

$OH + \text{Co-products}$

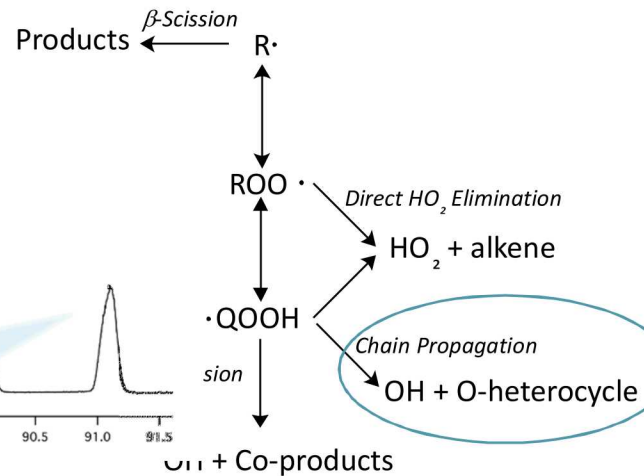
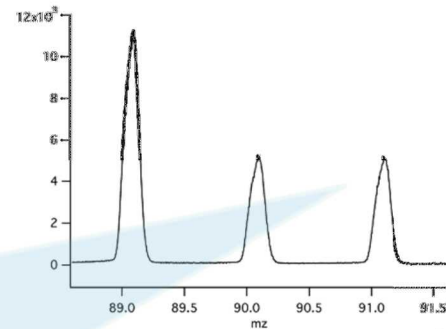
Chain-propagation produces carbonyls as well as cyclic ethers

Products are isotopically distinguished



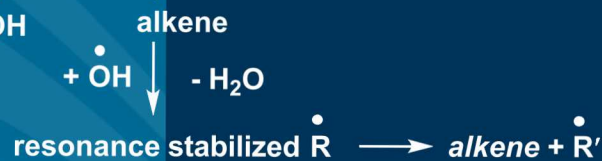
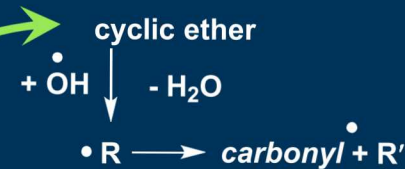
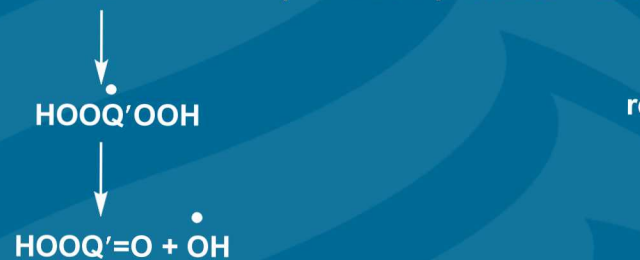
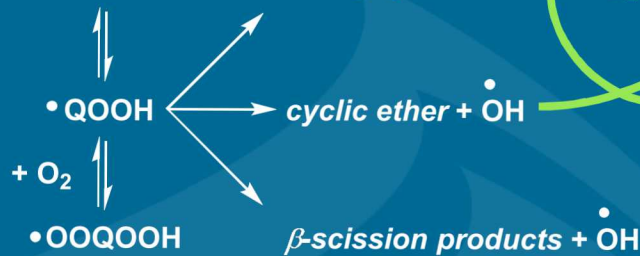
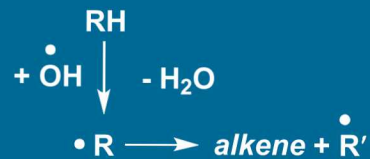
500 K, 10 Torr, D5-butanone oxidation

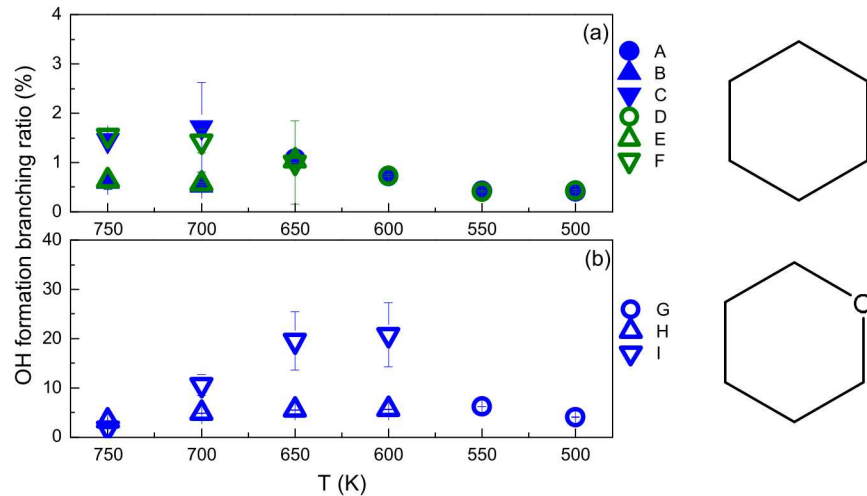
Ion signal / a.u.



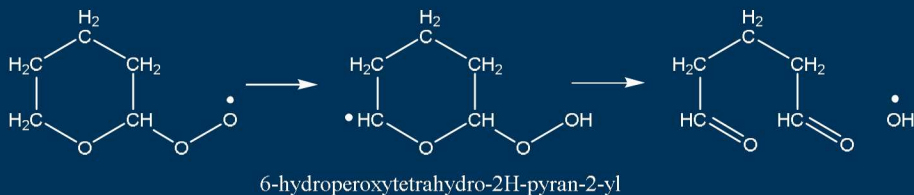
Chain-propagation produces
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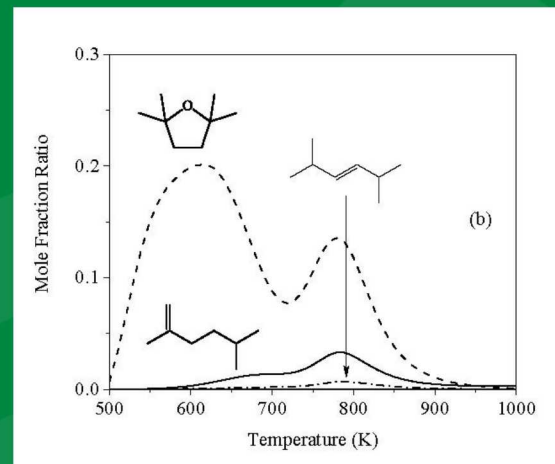


Comparing cyclohexane and tetrahydropyran shows effect of ether group



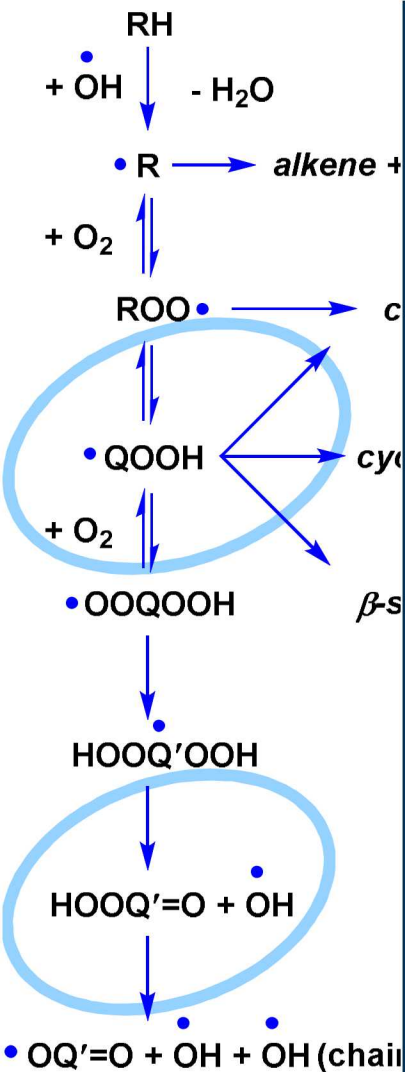
Oxidation products may undergo substantially different oxidation chemistry than the initial reactants

Alkane oxidations create substantial fractions of functionalized products



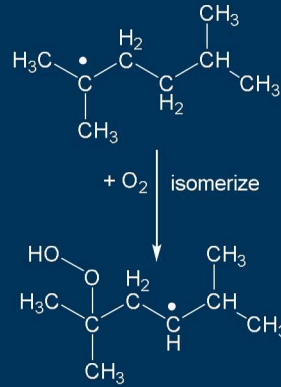
B. Rotavera, R. L. Caravan and CAT, "Subsequent $R + O_2$ Chemistry of Intermediates Formed in Low-Temperature $R + O_2$ Reactions: Potential Importance in Modeling Autoignition Behavior," **SANDIA REPORT SAND2017-9099**

Ming-Wei Chen et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **20**, 10815 – 10825 (2018)

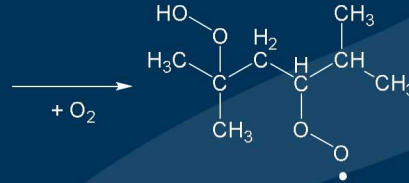


Compare the autoignition process to the autoxidation to highly oxygenated species in the troposphere

What stops the process towards chain branching?



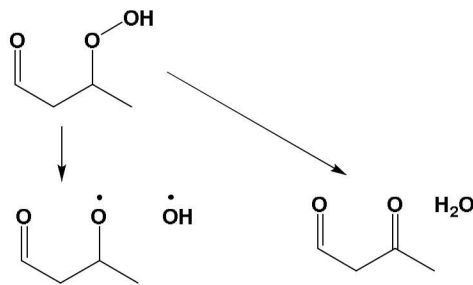
Tertiary R: No KHP – 3rd O₂ addition instead
Wang et al., *Combust. Flame* **164**, 386–396 (2016).



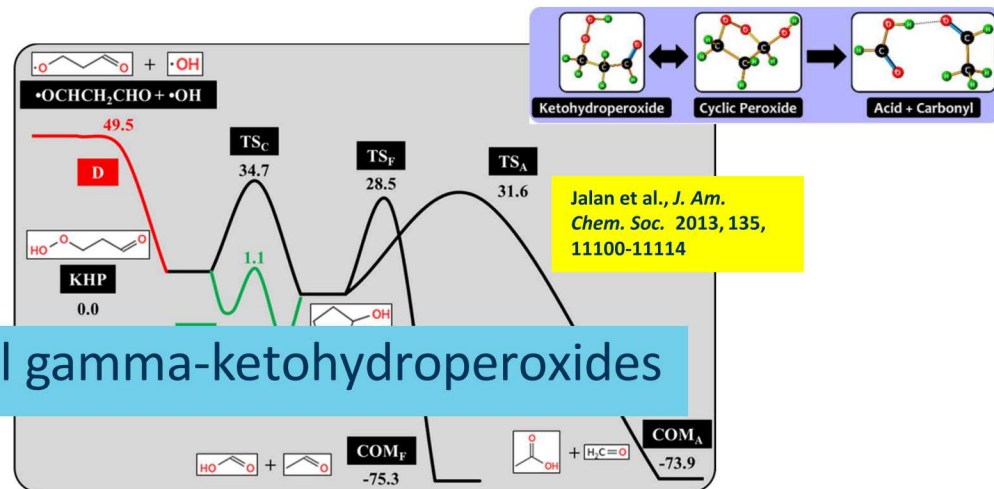
What else can intercept these molecules on the path?

What if ketohydroperoxides don't fall apart to two radicals? Look at γ -ketohydroperoxides

O-O bond fission leads to chain branching



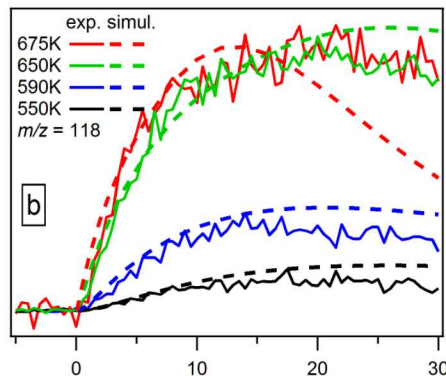
Jalan et al. pointed out that gamma-KHP can isomerize by Korcek reaction



So far observed KHP species are all γ -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

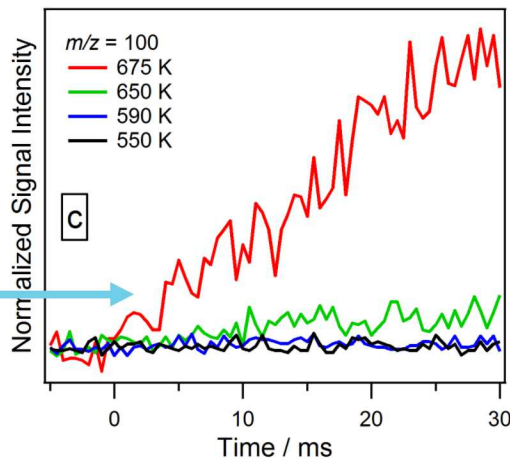


Pulsed photolytic neopentane oxidation shows KHP formation

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

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

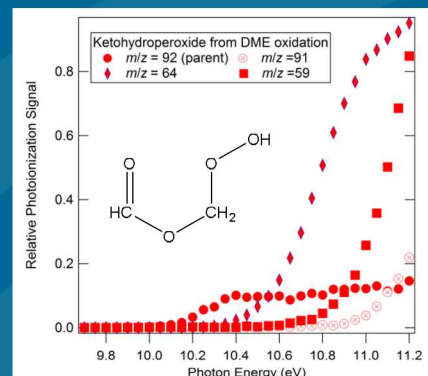
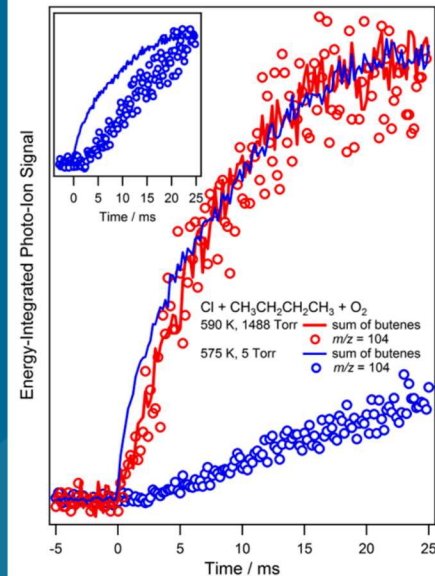
KHP \rightarrow 2,2-dimethylpropanedial + H₂O



Pulsed photolytic oxidation of butane shows KHP formation

Identified as 3-hydroperoxybutanal

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

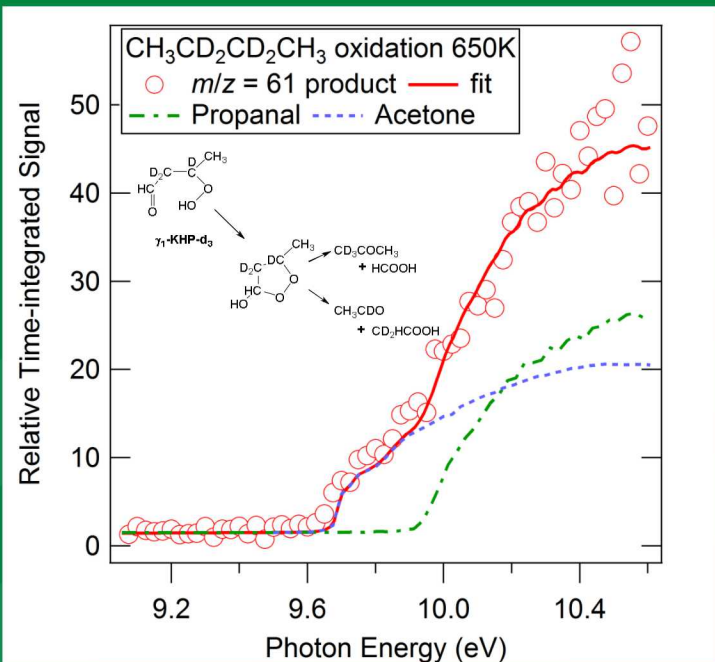


Hydroperoxymethyl formate measured in dimethyl ether oxidation in jet-stirred reactor

Moshhammer et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361-7374 (2015)



In butane- d_4 oxidation,
acetone- d_3 may be a marker
for Korcek decomposition



Eskola, Popolan-Vaida et al.

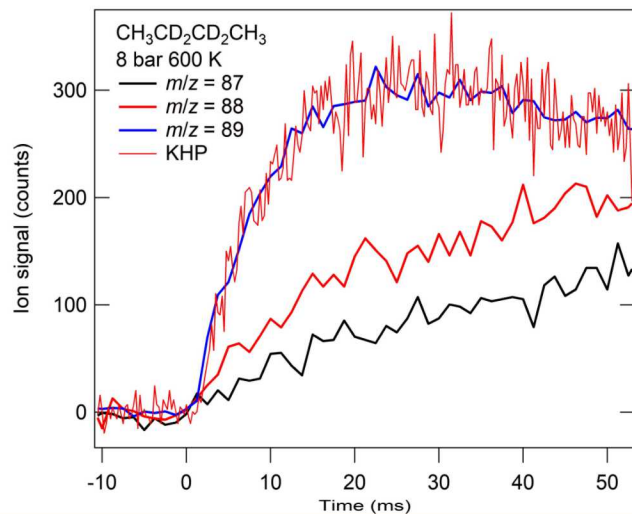
Butane oxidation is a test
system for KHP chemistry

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

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

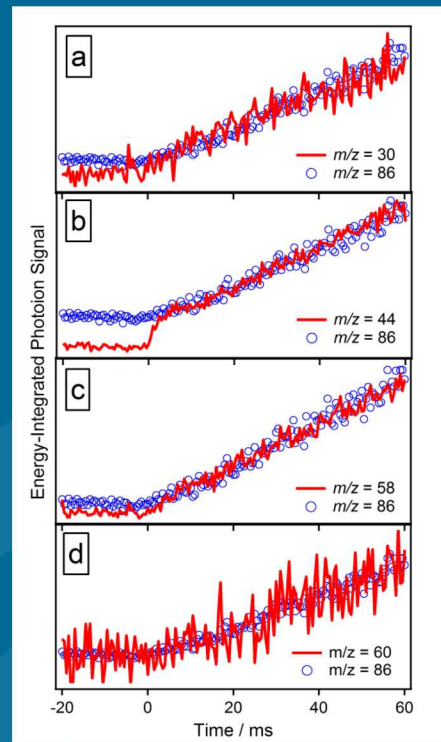
Other non-chain branching
pathways for KHP may occur





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 D₂O

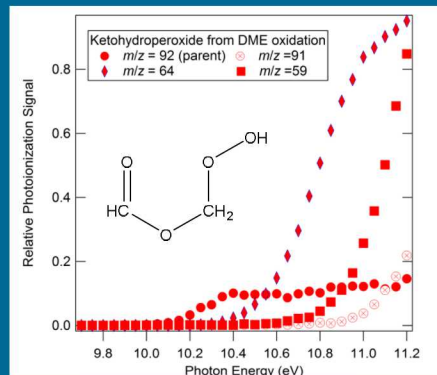
Identification of non-chain branching KHP products



Photolytic oxidation of C₄H₁₀ shows several possible non-chain branching products with the same time profile as $m/z = 86$ (KHP-18)

Acetaldehyde
Acetic acid
Acetone

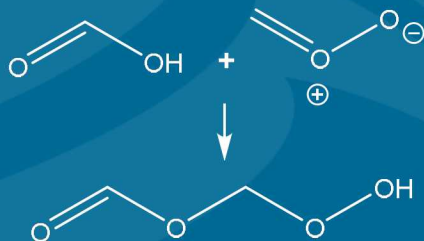
Next steps -- make KHP directly and follow reactions?



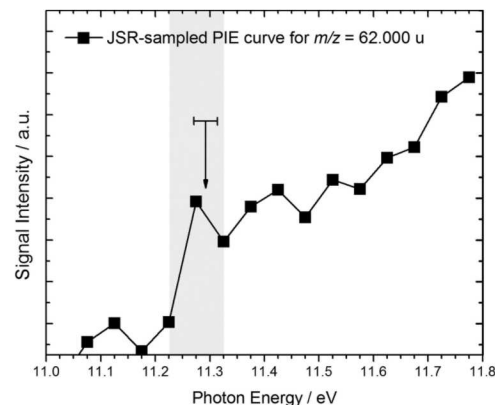
Hydroperoxymethyl formate is the KHP in dimethyl ether oxidation

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

Reaction of Criegee intermediate CH_2OO with formic acid makes same KHP

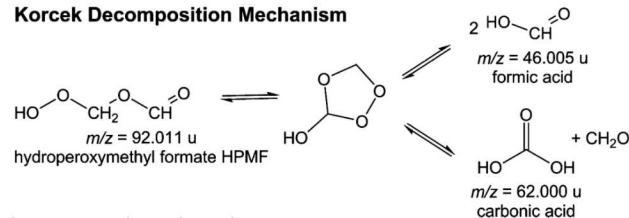


Specific organic acid products may be a signature of Korcek dissociation



Modeling acid formation may constrain Korcek rate coefficient

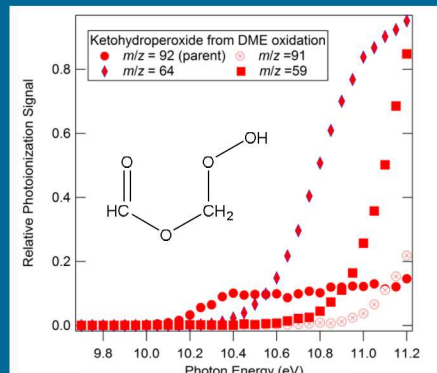
Korcek Decomposition Mechanism



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



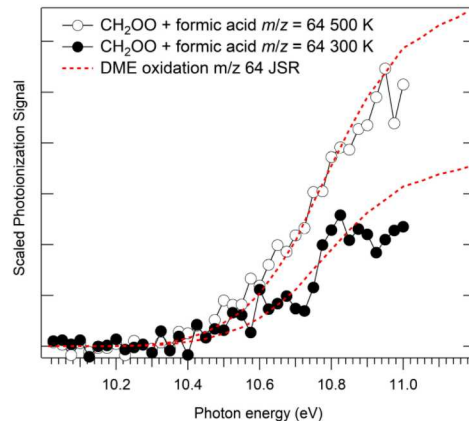
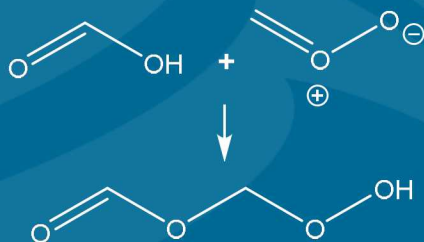
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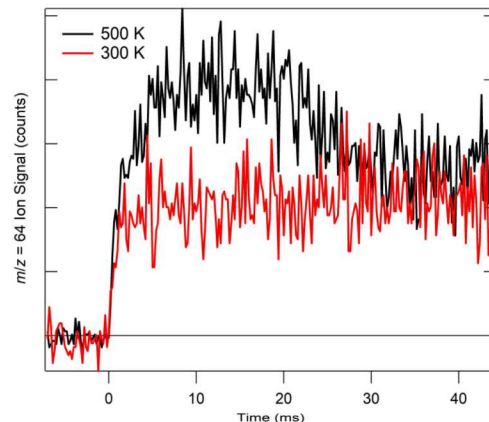
Moshhammer et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **119**, 7361–7374 (2015)

Reaction of Criegee intermediate CH_2OO 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

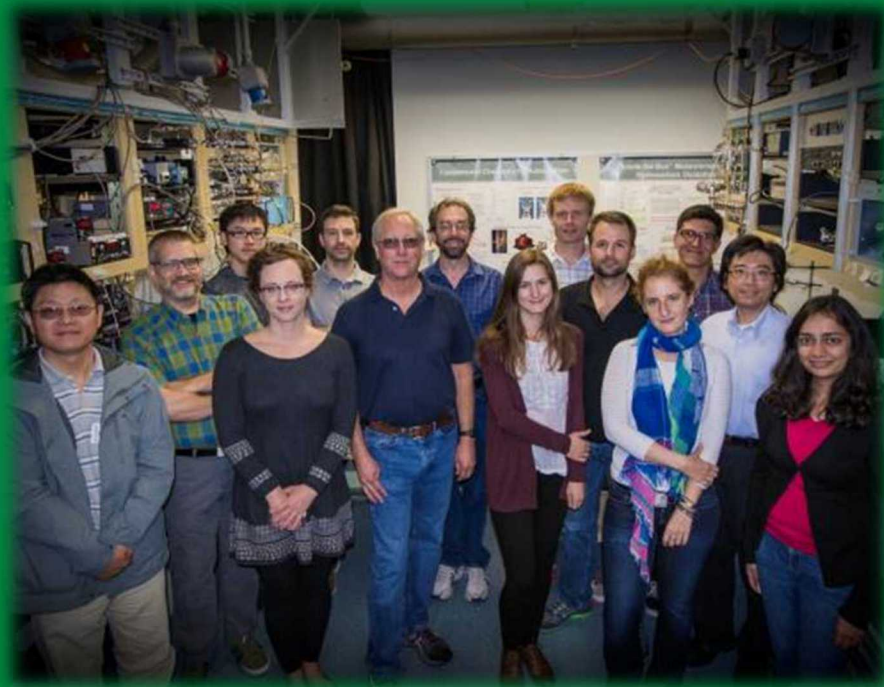
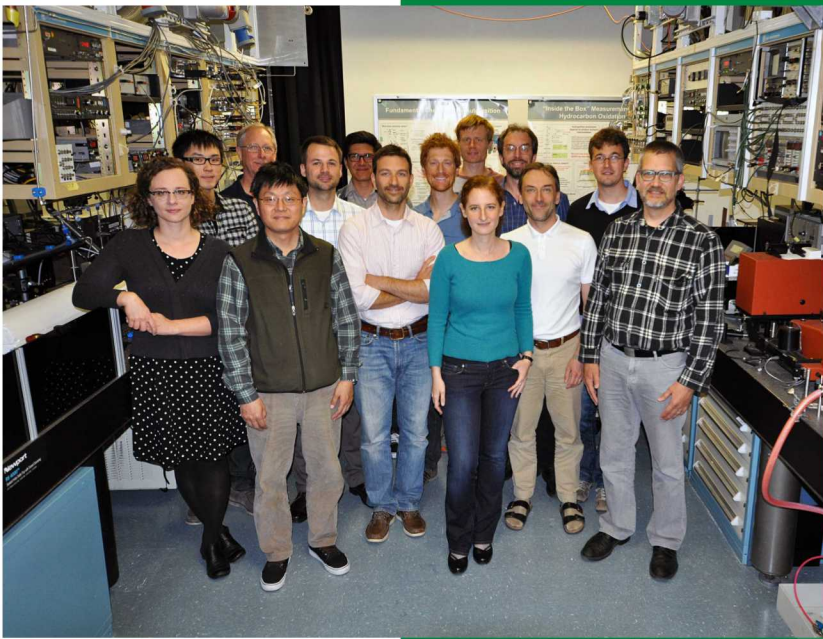
Start on the intermediate steps



Hydrocarbon oxidation research in the CRF Combustion Chemistry Department

Rebecca Caravan
Arkke Eskola
Brandon Rotavera
John Savee
Kai Moshhammer

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

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- 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)

