

Characterization of Post-Detonation Fireballs at 1 MHz via LAS Measurements of Temperature, Pressure, CO and CO₂

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Sandia Light Speed Grand Challenge



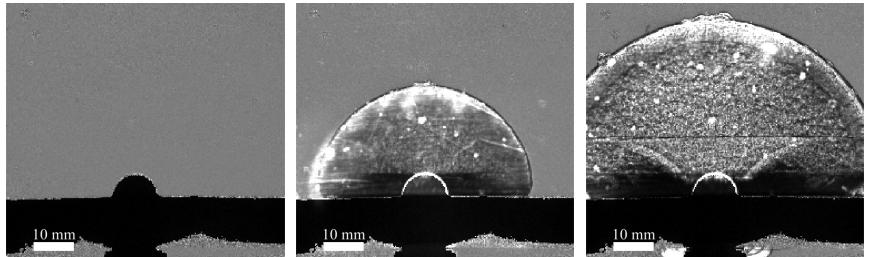
Three-year R&D effort

(October 2021-September 2023)

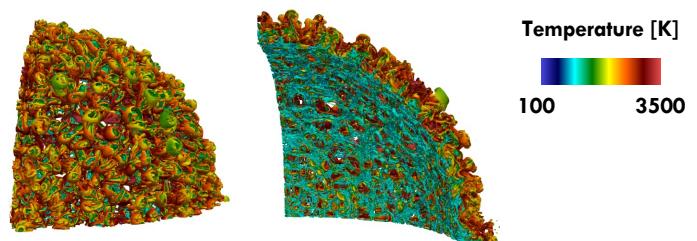
Engaging more than 30 Sandia
staff, eleven faculty, and
fourteen students



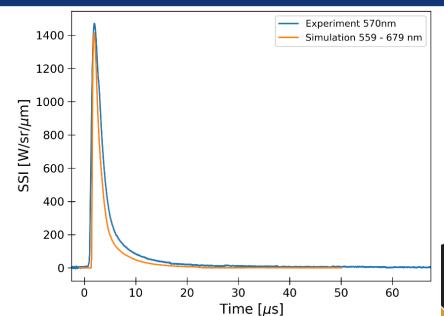
Advanced Experimental Diagnostics



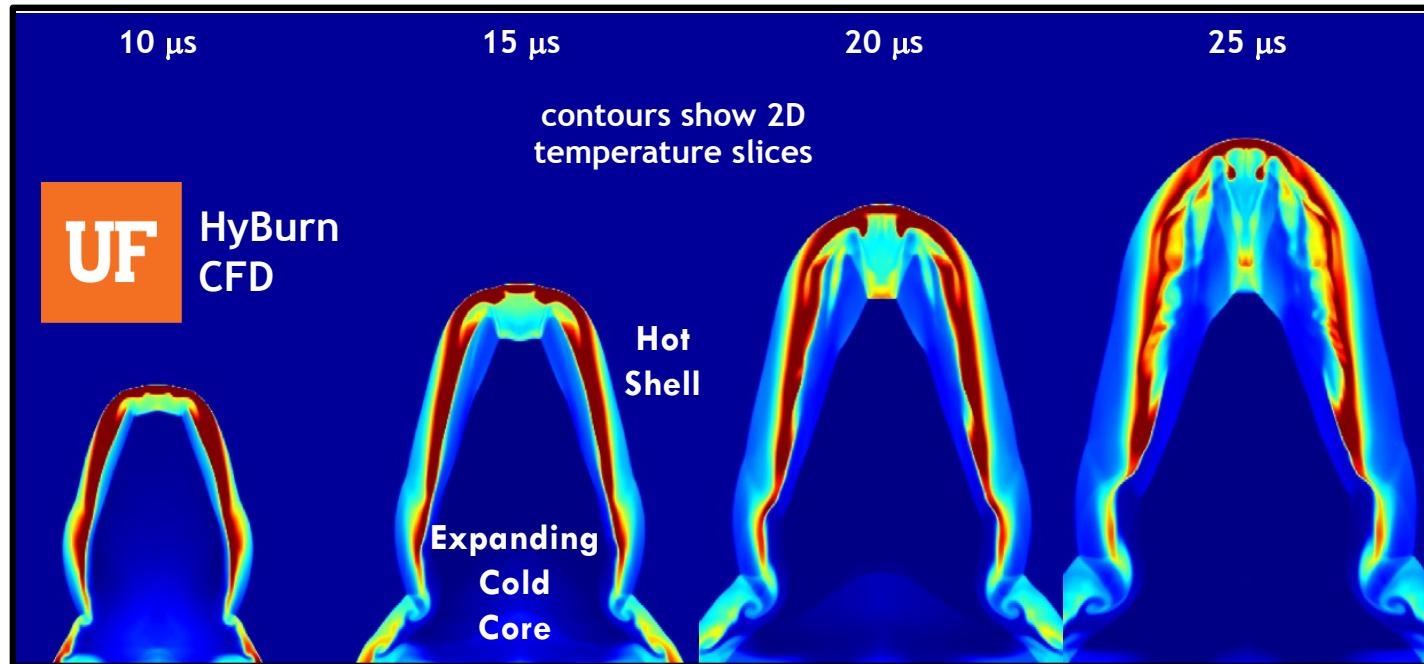
High-Fidelity Simulation



Optical Emission Predictions



Anatomy of a Post-Detonation Fireball



- Emission from hot particles and gaseous species originates from hot shell
- *But, cold core of expanded detonation products plays an important role*



Sandia Light Speed Grand Challenge



Our Goals

- Acquire T , P , CO , CO_2 and H_2O measurements in post-det fireballs **at $\sim \text{MHz}$** rates to evaluate fireball+radiation model accuracy

Challenges

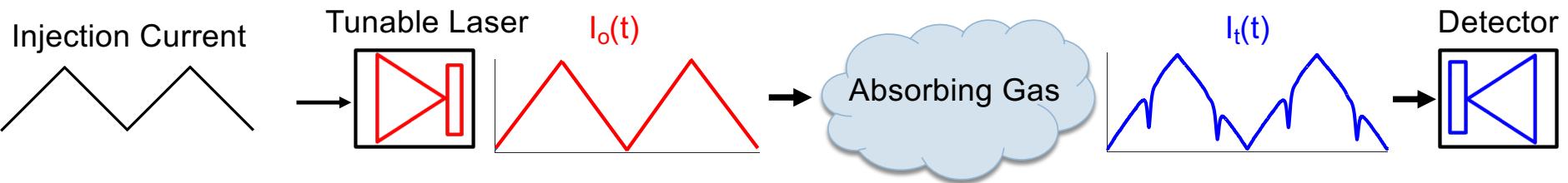
- Transmission losses
- Optical emission
- Small-scale fireballs
- Need $\sim \mu\text{s}$ resolution
- Line-of-sight nonuniformities

Solutions

- Optical engineering
- Spectral and spatial filtering
- Mid-infrared absorption
- DFB QCLs *with deep tuning + wavelength selection*
- *Wavelength selection + utilization of synthetic measurements from CFD results*



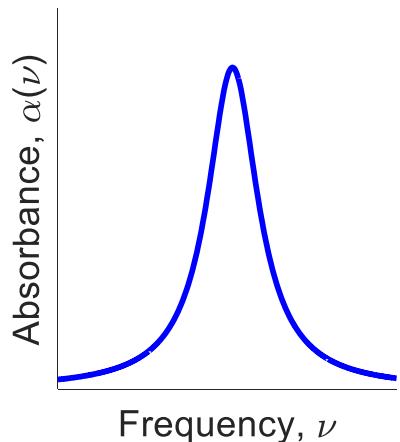
LAS Sensor Design: Diagnostic Technique



Spectral Absorbance: $\alpha(v)$

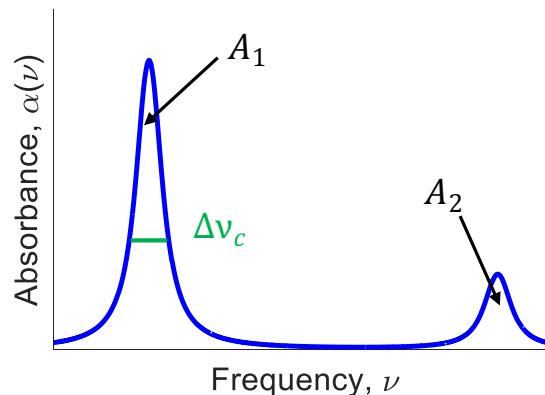
$$\alpha(v) = -\ln(I_t/I_0)$$

$$\alpha(v) = S(T)\phi_i(v)PX_iL$$



Measuring Gas Properties

$$\text{Integrated Area: } A = S(T)PX_iL$$



$$\text{Lineshape: } \phi(v) = f(\Delta\nu_c, \Delta\nu_d, v)$$

Collisional Width:

$$\Delta\nu_c = P \sum_A 2\gamma_{A-B} X_A$$

↑
Broadening coefficient

Pressure

$$\frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{S_2(T)}{S_1(T)} = f(T) \quad \text{Temperature} \rightarrow \frac{A_1}{S_1(T)PL} = X_i \quad \text{Mole Fraction}$$

$(PX_i X_i L)$



LAS Sensor Design: Wavelength Selection

Need mid-IR wavelengths

- Strong absorption needed for small scales and concentrations

Need high- E'' transitions

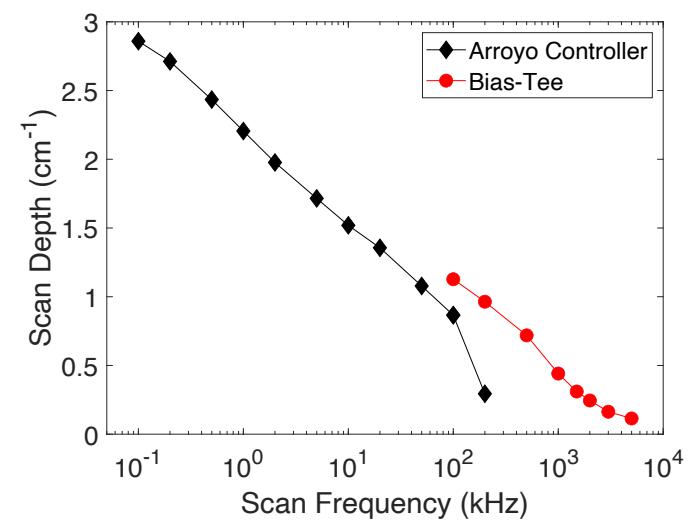
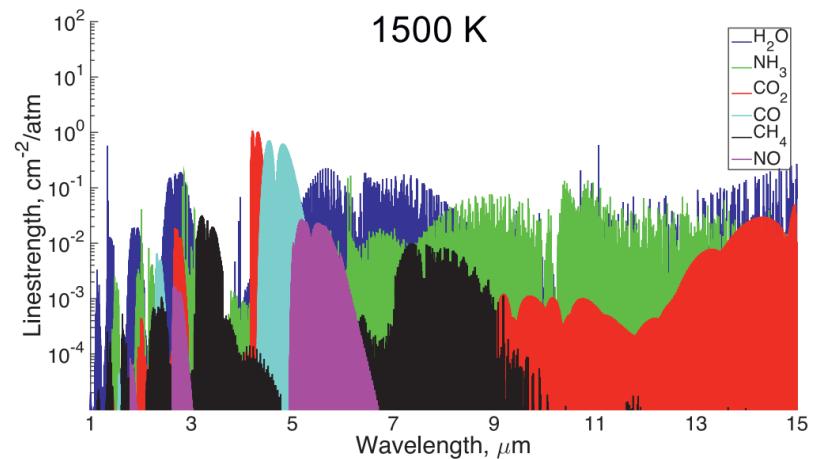
- Minimizes absorption in cold core & BL
→ eases interpretation of path-integrated absorption

Need large $\Delta E''$ transitions

- Large temperature sensitivity

Need closely spaced transitions for near-MHz measurements

- Tuning amplitude of DFB QCLs is small at high-f →

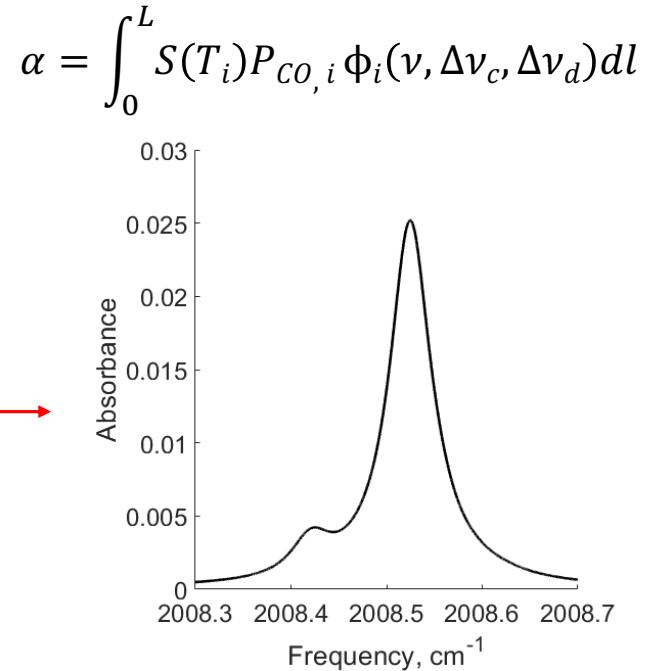
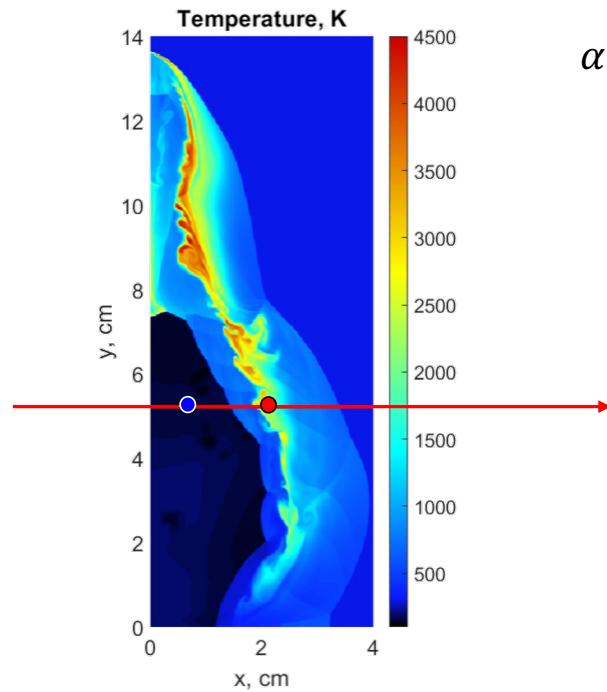
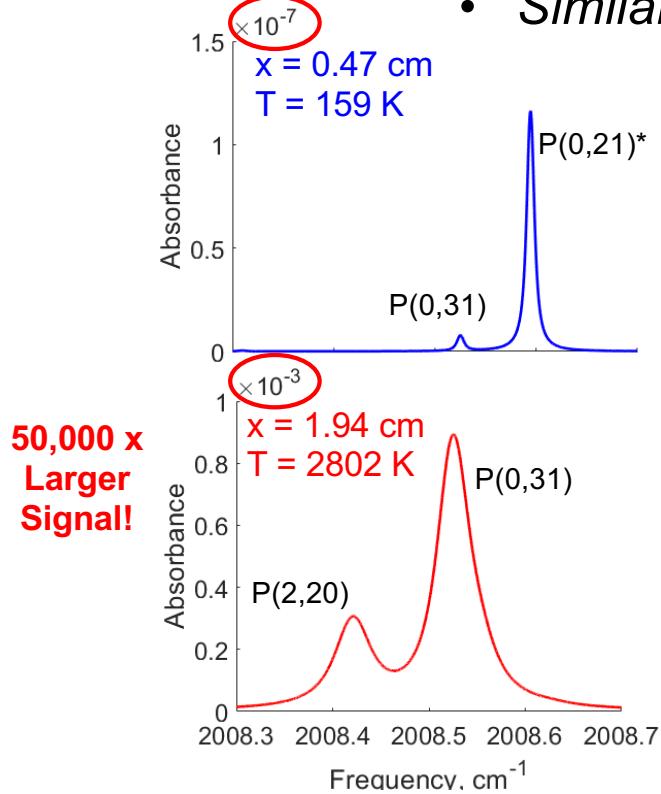




LAS Sensor Design: Wavelength Selection

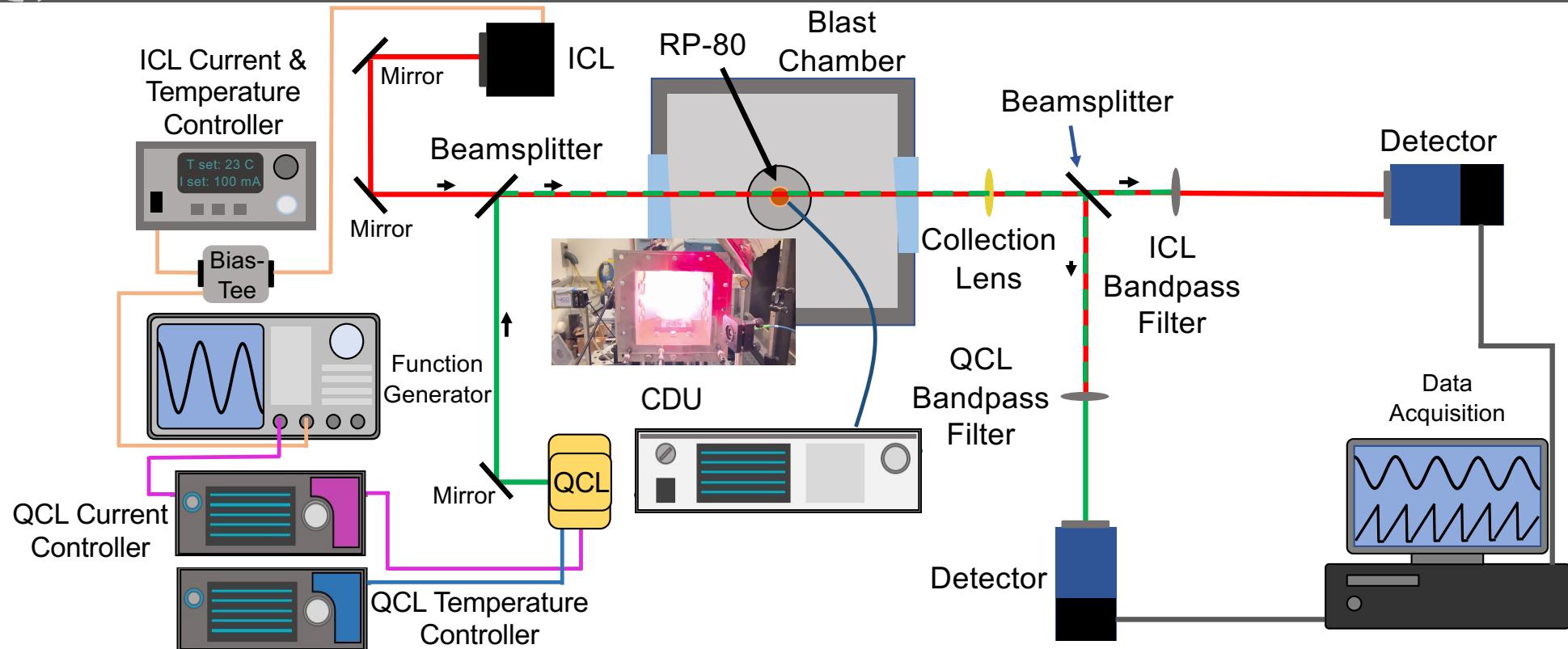
QCL targets CO P(0,31) and P(2,20) transitions near 2008.5 cm^{-1} ($\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$)

- $E'' \sim 1901$ and 5052 cm^{-1} , $\Delta E'' = 3151 \text{ cm}^{-1}$
 - Measurements are deliberately biased to fireball's hot outer shell!
 - *Similar approach for CO₂ diagnostic*





Experimental Setup for Simultaneous T, P, CO, CO₂

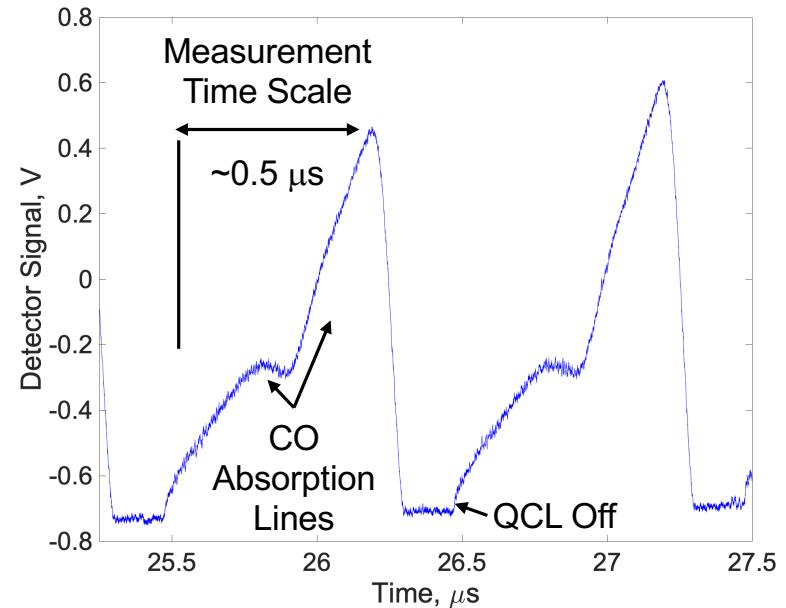
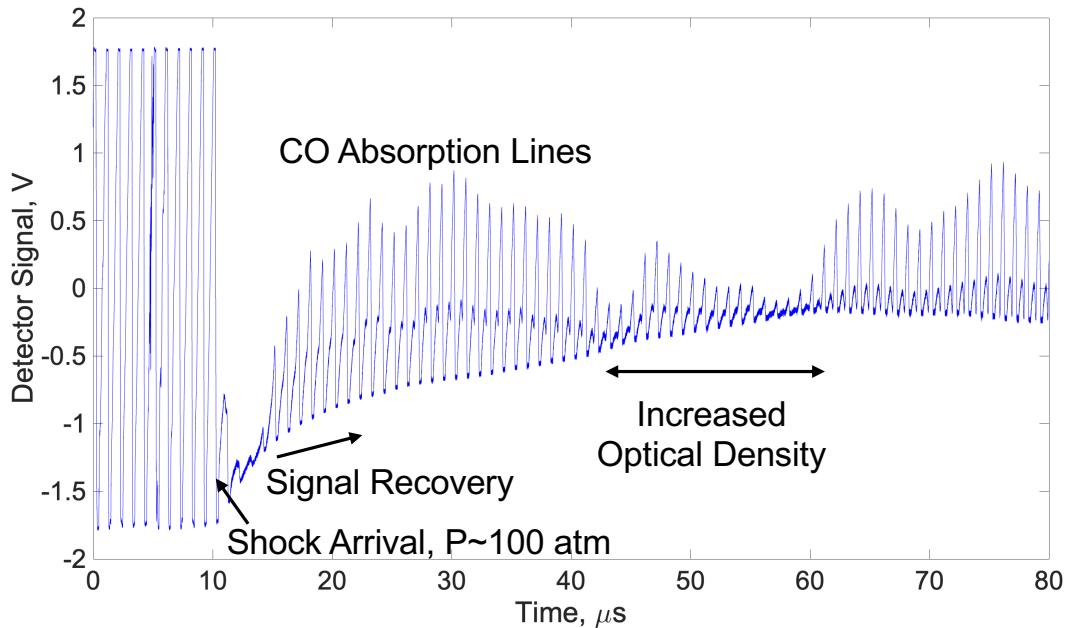


Key Details

- QCL scanned across CO transitions near 2008 cm^{-1} at 1 MHz
- ICL scanned across CO₂ transitions near 2384 cm^{-1} at 500 kHz



Results: Raw Signal vs time



Key Takeaways

- Large optical losses, especially at shock arrival
- Each T , P , $P_{CO}L$ measurement acquired in $\sim 0.5 \mu$ s
 - Beam steering and emission are “frozen” on measurement time scale



Results: Example Absorbance Spectrum

Key Takeaways

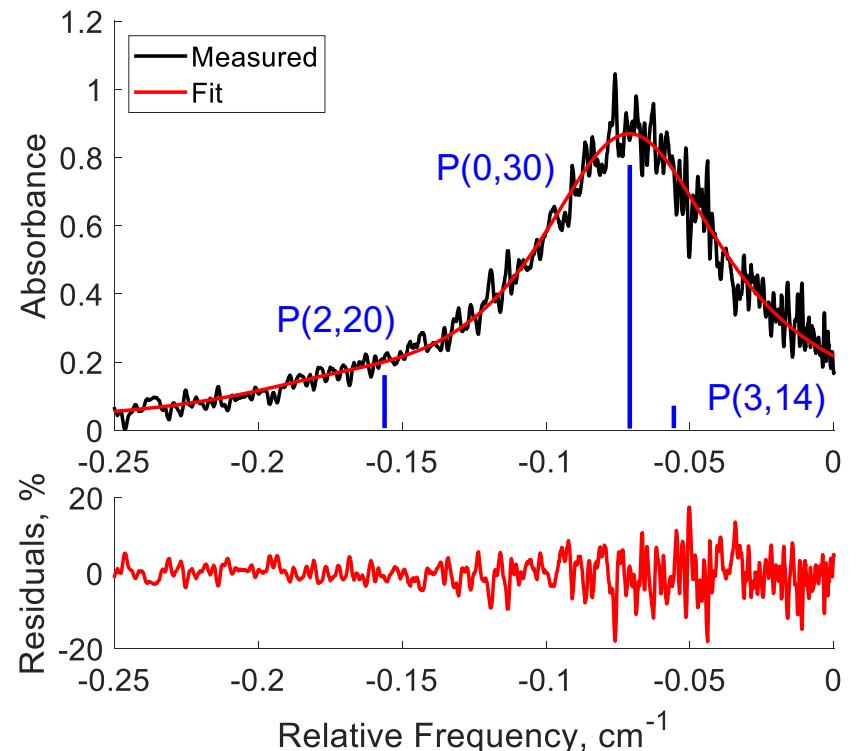
- Large absorbance
 - Relatively high-SNR (~ 100)
- Spectrum dominated by 2 lines
- Spectrum well modeled by uniform LOS absorption model using HITEMP2019
 - *Due to minimal abs. in cold core & BL via high- E'' lines*
 - Single T , P , $P_{CO}L$ from each fit

$T = 1360$ K,

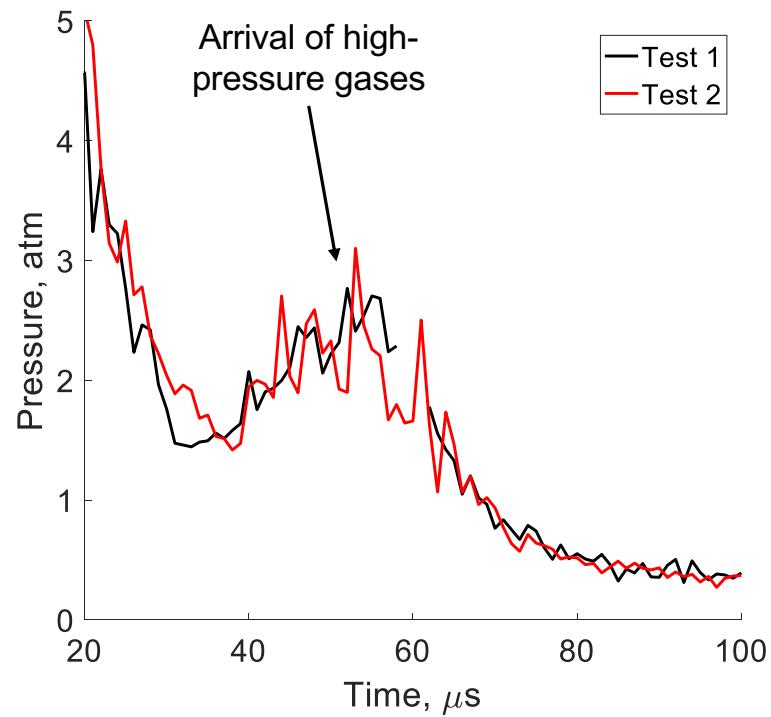
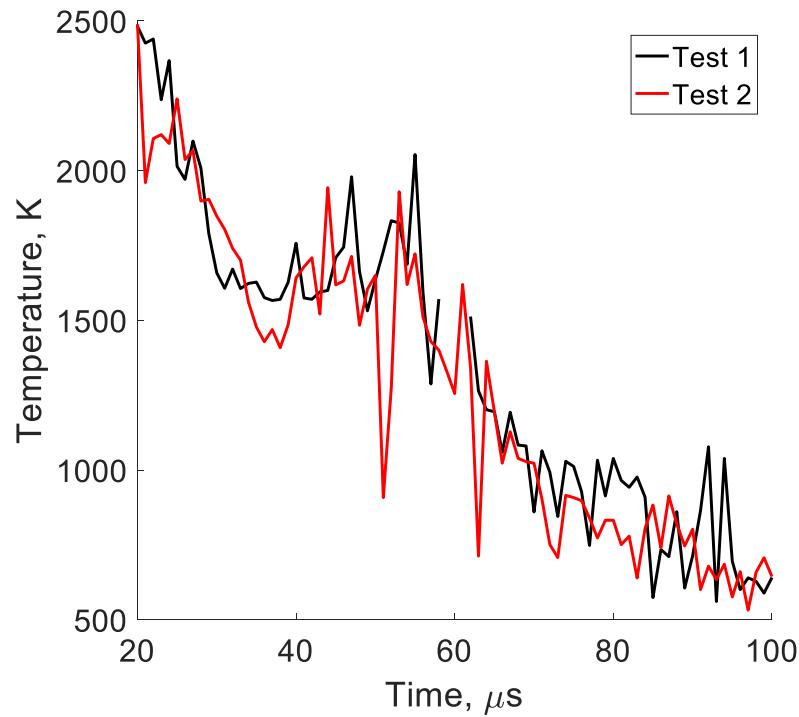
$P = 1.63$ atm,

$P_{CO}L = 0.315$ atm-cm

Example Single-Scan Measurement

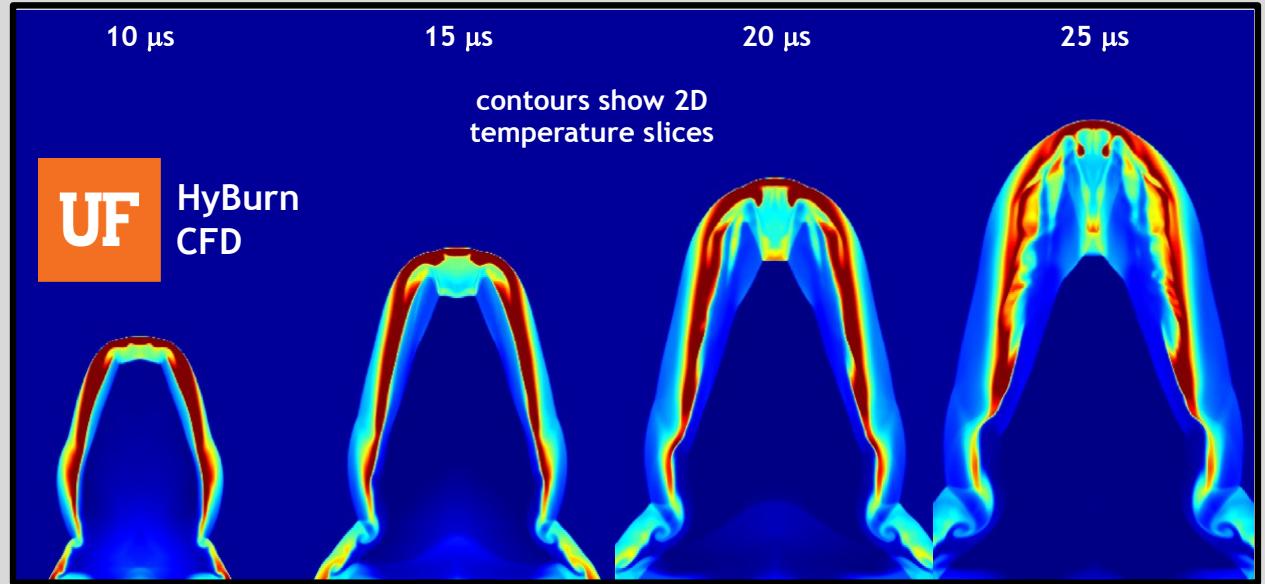
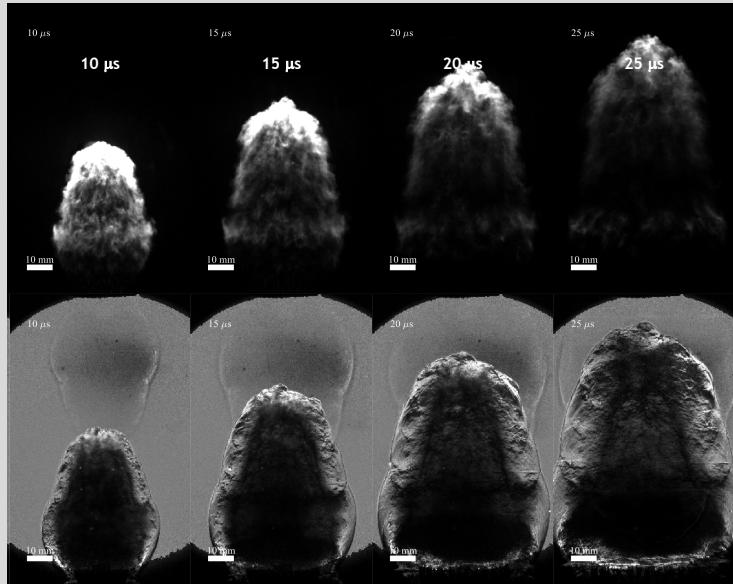


Results: Time Histories at $y = 51$ mm



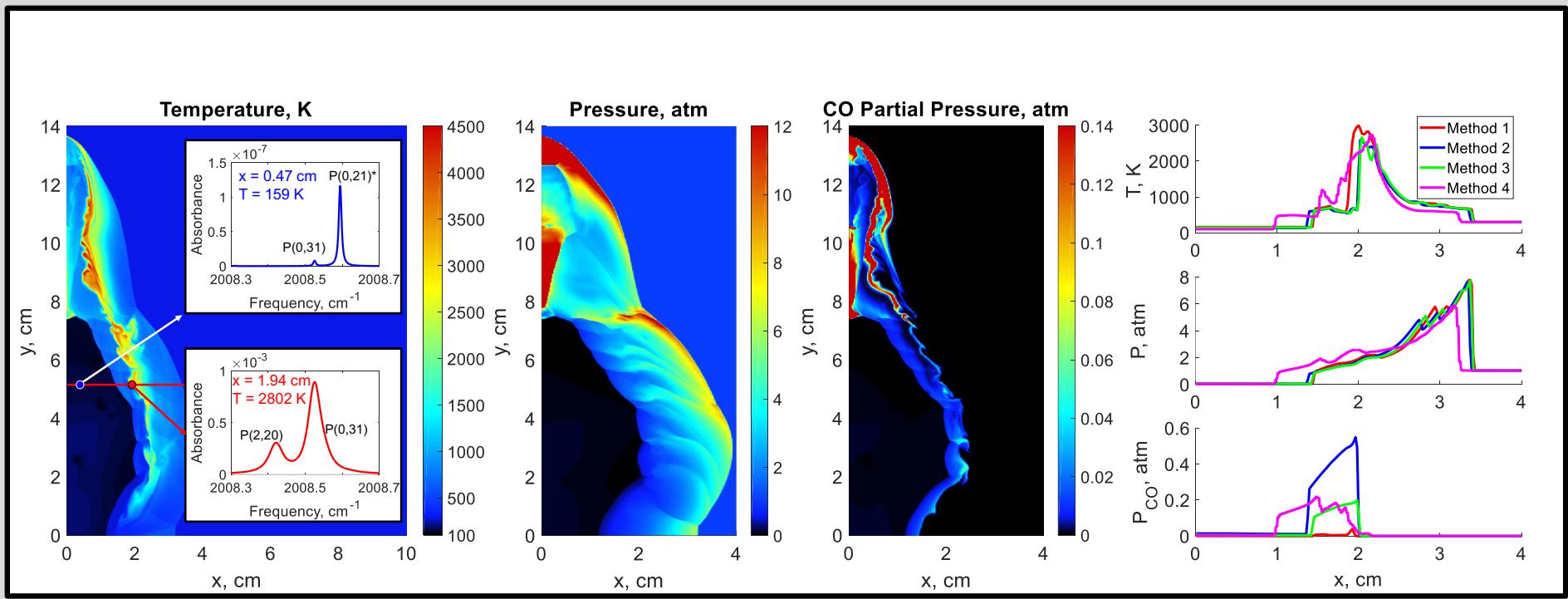
Key Takeaway

- Results are highly time resolved and repeatable



*But how do you compare measurements to models
recognizing they both have flaws?*

Use CFD to simulate your spectroscopic measurements



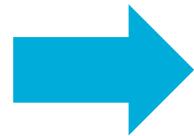
Compare **experimental LAS measurements** vs **synthetic LAS measurements**



Fireball Modeling

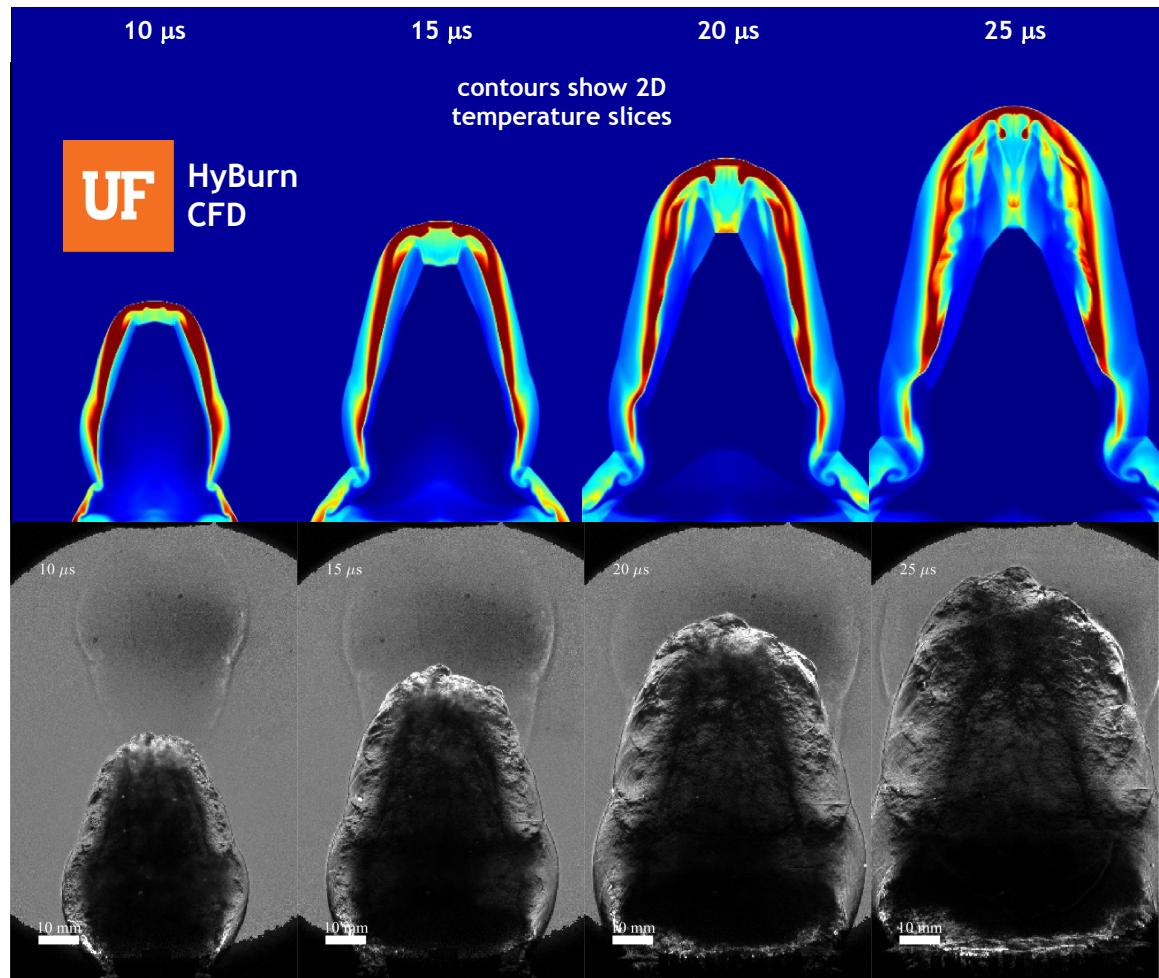


Simulation Framework



Multi-physics requires several coupled computational tools

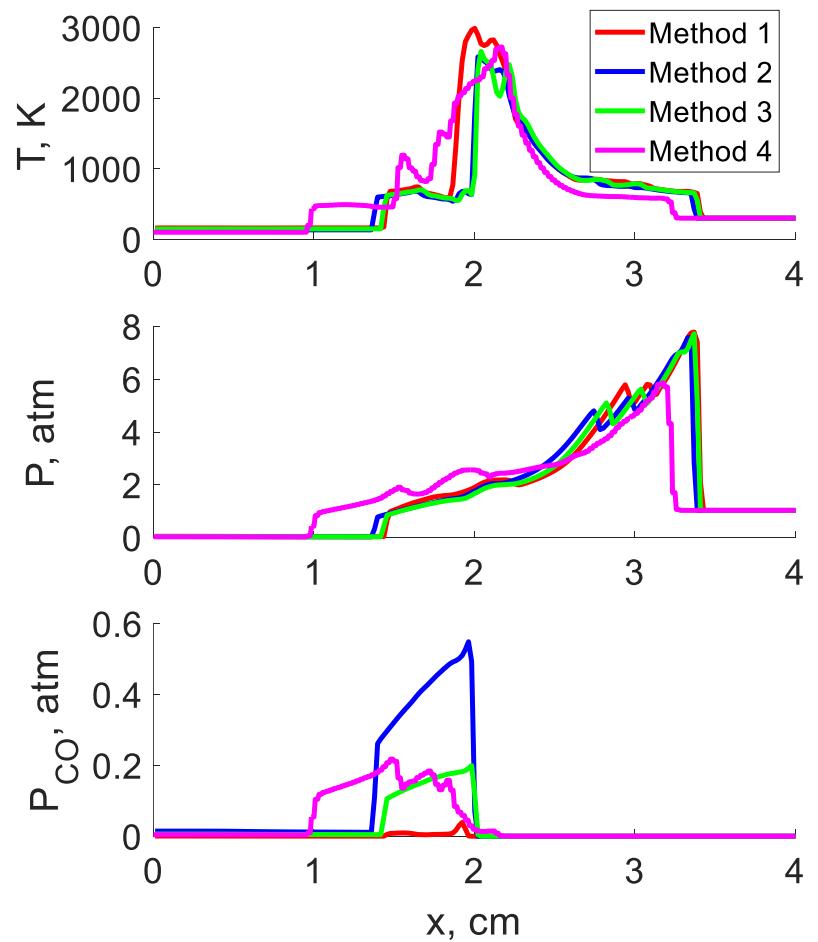
1. Hydrocode predicts explosive detonation and fragmentation
2. ***Fireball species initialized based on equilibrium and kinetics assumptions***
3. 3D reactive Large Eddy Simulation (LES) predicts fireball evolution



Fireball Modeling Assumptions

Evaluated 4 CFD Models

- **Method 1 (2D)**
 - Chemical equilibrium at 4 μ s handoff to HyBurn
→ Very little CO
- **Method 2 (2D)**
 - K-W rules implemented at handoff time
→ Much more CO!
- **Method 3 (2D)**
 - Isentropic expansion from CJ state to 1500 K, after which kinetics are frozen prior to handoff to HyBurn
- **Method 4 (3D)**
 - 3D version of Method 3



Results: Comparison with Synthetic LAS Measurements

1. CFD provides

- $T, P, X_{CO}, X_{CO_2}, X_{H_2O}, X_{OH}, X_{NO}$ as $f(x)$

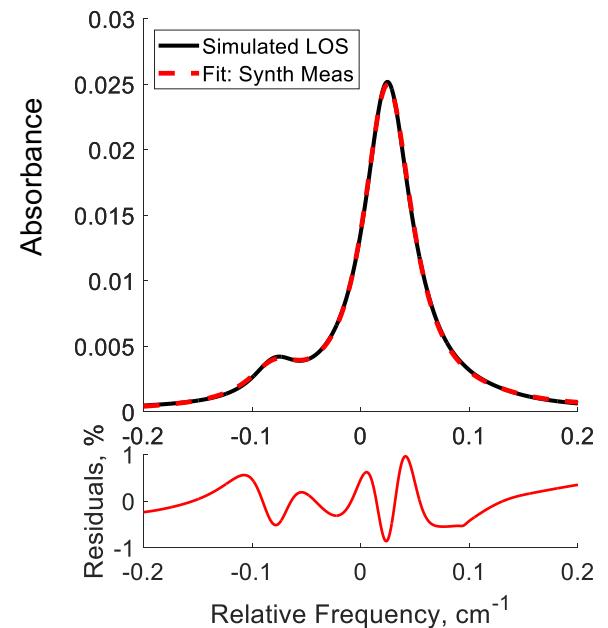
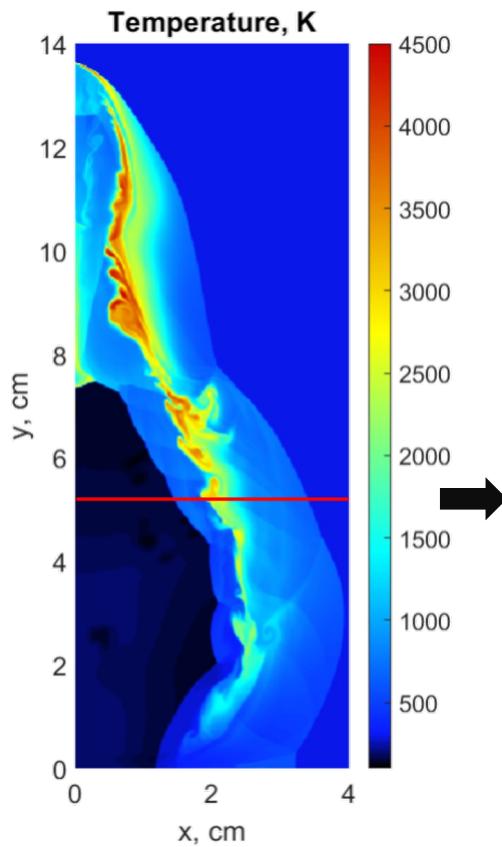
2. Used spectroscopic model to calculate path-integrated absorbance spectrum:

$$\alpha = \int_0^L S(T_i) P_{CO,i} \phi_i(v, \Delta\nu_c, \Delta\nu_d) dl$$

$$\alpha(v) = \sum_i S(T_i) P_{CO,i} \phi_i(v, \Delta\nu_c, \Delta\nu_d) dx$$

3. Fit a simulated spectrum assuming uniform LOS to synthetic measurement of $\alpha(v)$

- *Gives $T, P, P_{CO}L$ to compare with measured values!*



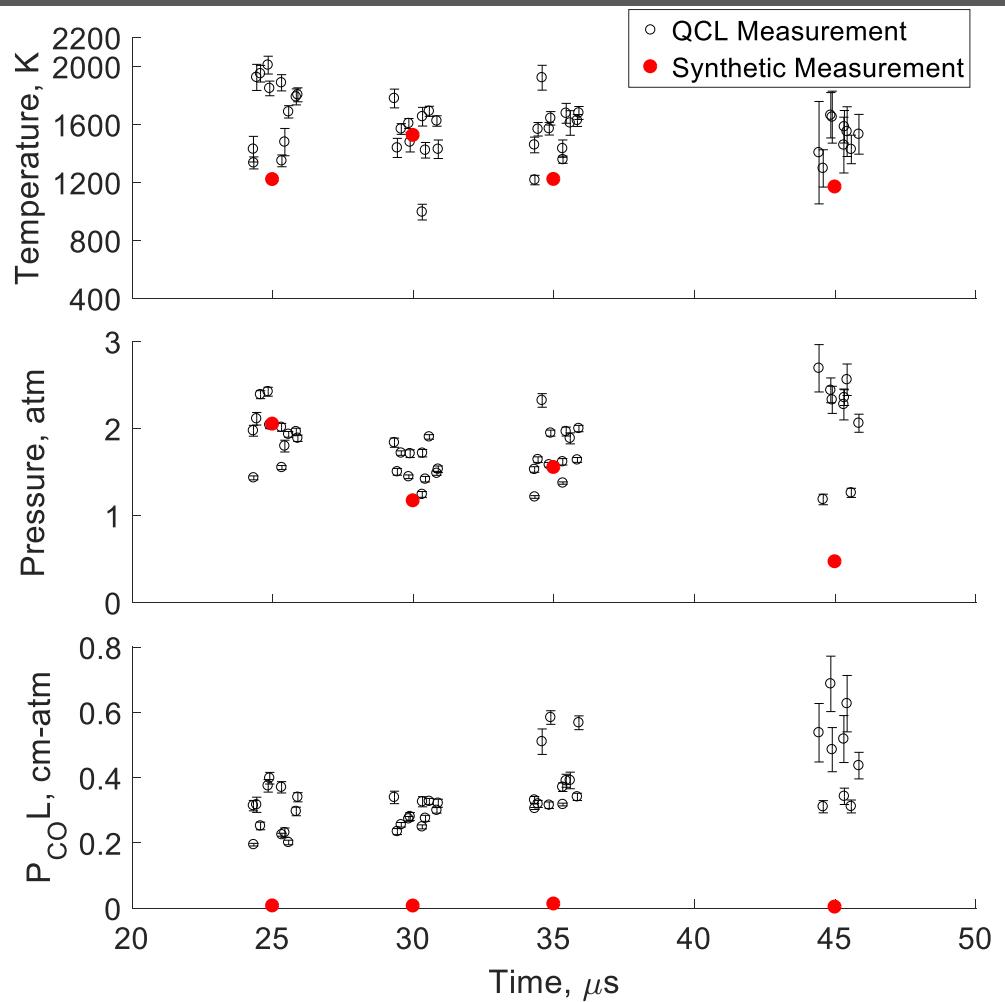
Fitting results:
 $T = 1593.8 \text{ K}$
 $P = 1.14 \text{ atm}$
 $P_{CO} = 0.00044 \text{ atm}$

Results: Comparison with Synthetic LAS Measurements

Key Takeaways for Method 1

- Measured T in general agreement with synthetic measurement
- Measured P in agreement between 25-35 μ s
- *Measured P_{CO} is ~ 1 order of magnitude larger than synthetic measurement!*

Conclusion: Predicted X_{CO} in hot shell is wrong for Method 1



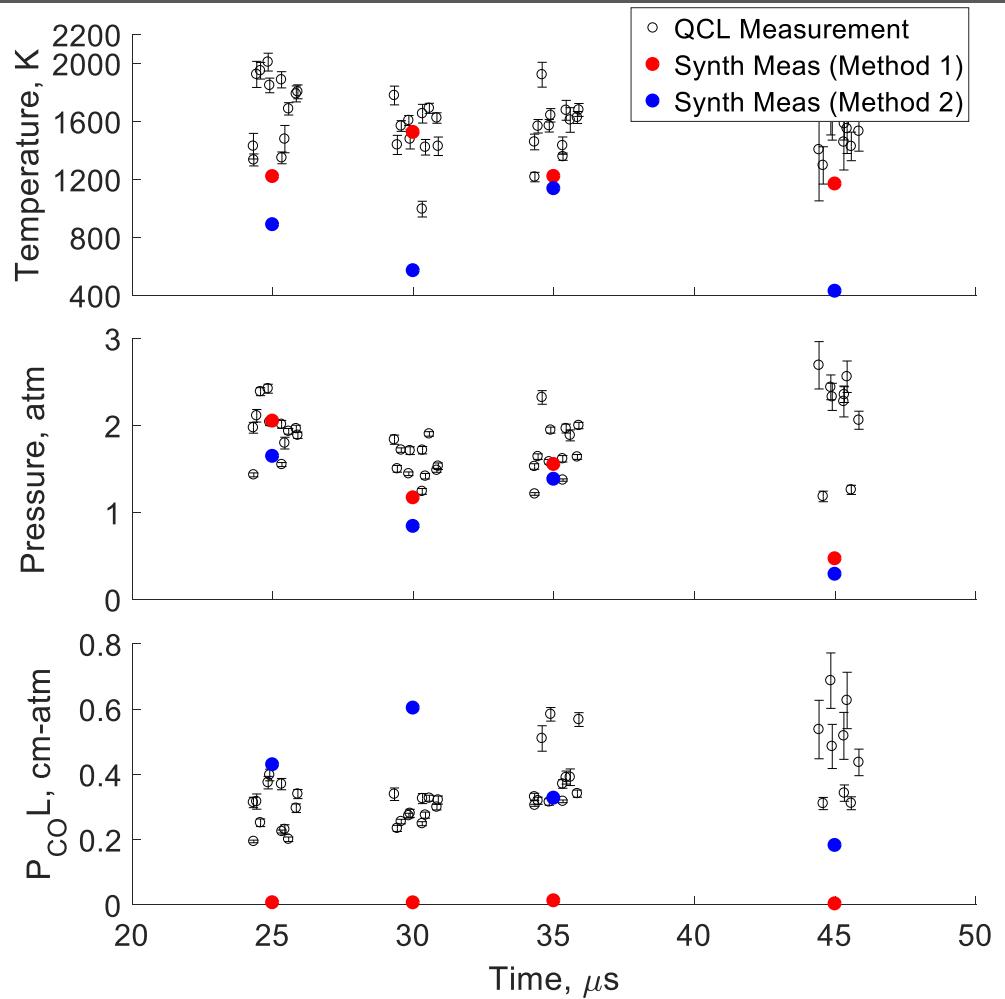
Results: Comparison with Synthetic LAS Measurements

Key Takeaways for Method 2

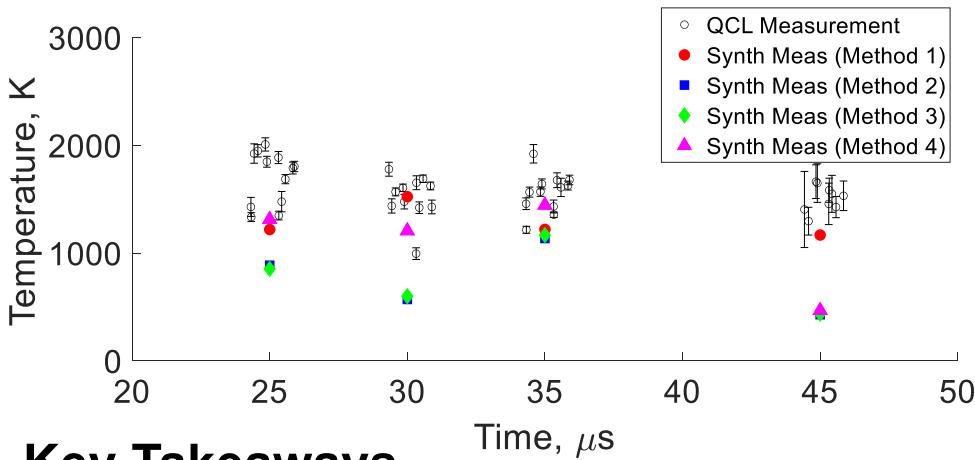
- Synthetic measurement of $P_{CO}L$ dramatically improved (correct order of magnitude)
 - Further suggests there is elevated CO in hot shell!
 - **But why?**
- Synthetic measurement of T and P exhibit significantly worse agreement

Need a more physical model which leads to more CO:

Methods 3 and 4 → Freeze Out

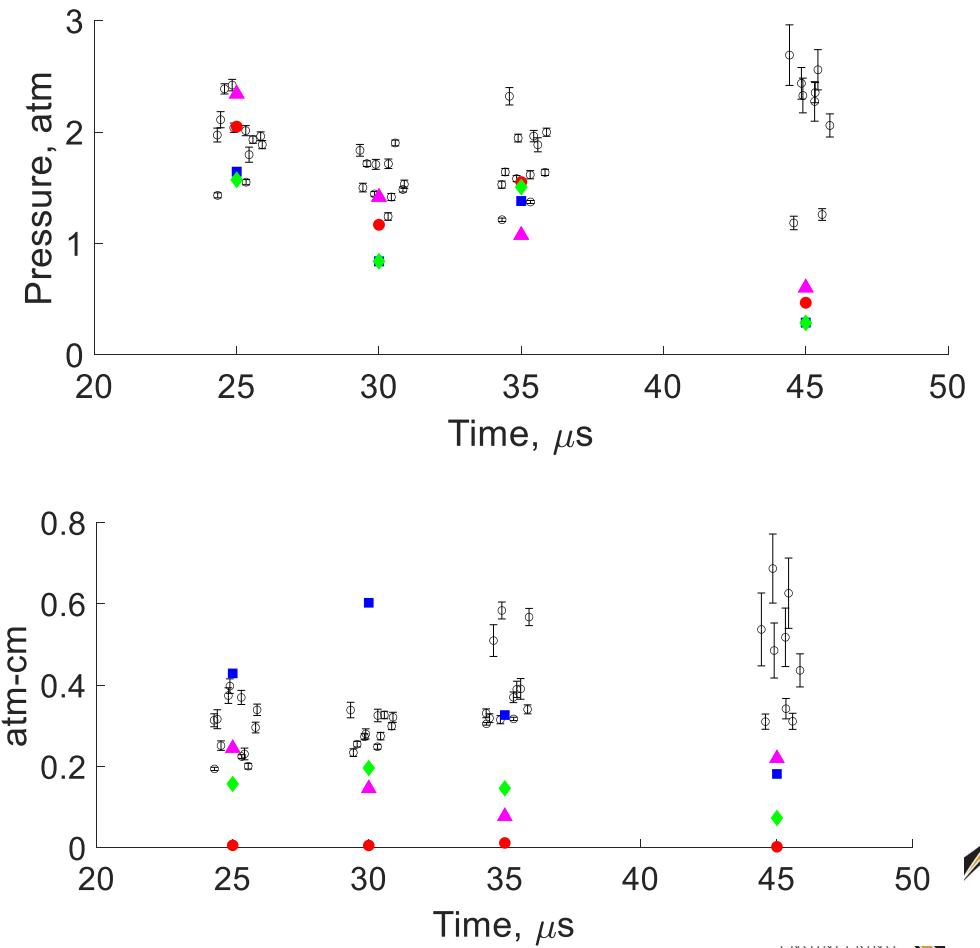


Results: Comparison with Synthetic LAS Measurements



Key Takeaways

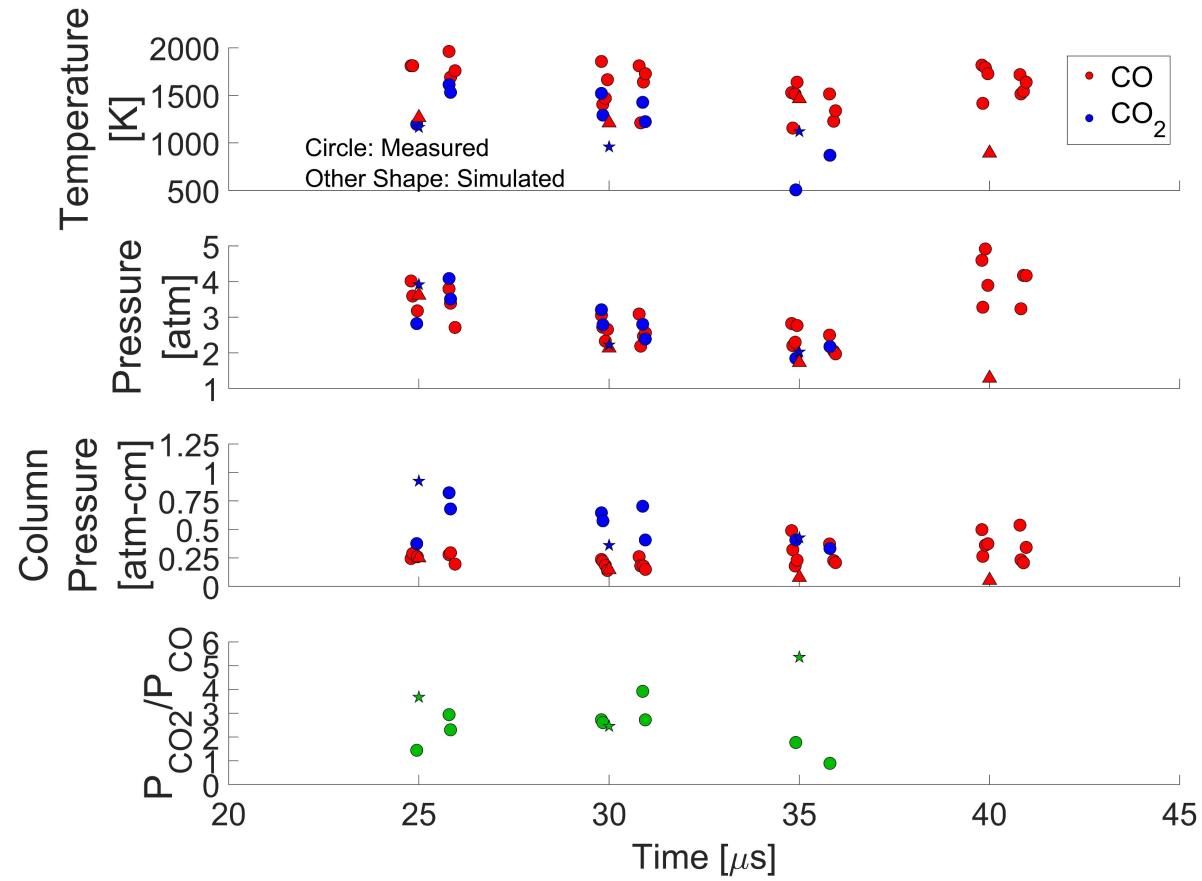
- **Method 3:** CO exhibits reasonable agreement, but T is consistently low
- **Method 4:** T , P , and CO exhibit good agreement with QCL measurements
 - ***Accounting for freeze out at 1500 K + 3D CFD is most accurate!***



Preliminary Results for CO₂

Key Takeaways

- **Method 4:** T , P , CO, and CO₂ exhibit good agreement with QCL and ICL measurements
- **CO₂/CO ratio further suggests carbon freeze out is being handled appropriately**
- **Further improvements possible at longer times by accounting for soot oxidation in CFD???**





Conclusions

- QCLAS diagnostic applied to measure $T, P, P_{CO}L$ at 1 MHz in RP-80 fireballs
- ICLAS diagnostic applied to measure $T, P, P_{CO_2}L$ at 500 kHz in RP-80 fireballs
- Measurements used to evaluate 4 CFD models
 - Illustrate importance of accounting for freeze out and 3D effects

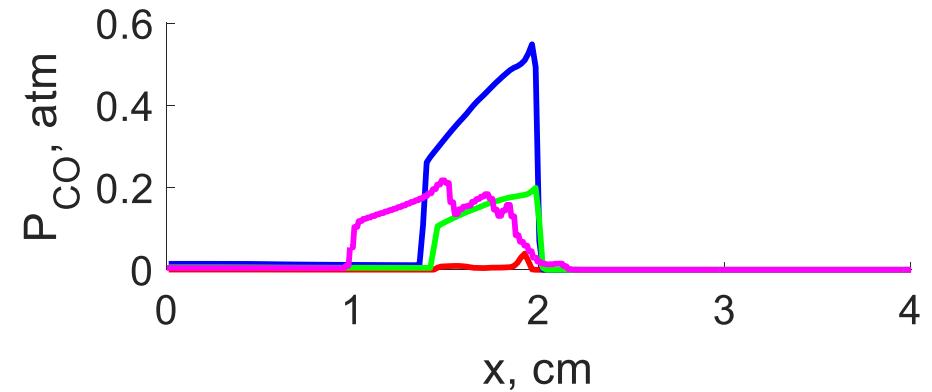
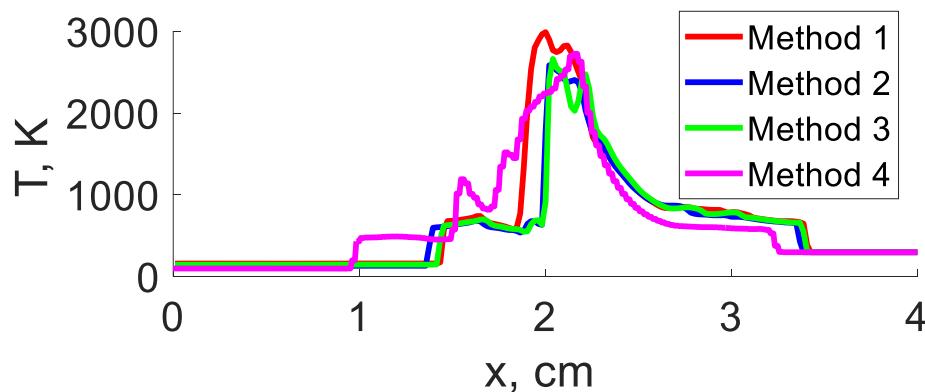
Main Challenges Addressed:

- Achieved MHz measurements in post-det fireballs
 - Wavelength selection + deep current modulation
- Overcame Extremely Nonuniform LOS
 - Wavelength selection + comparison with synthetic measurements
 - Dual-zone absorption model (see upcoming Proc. Comb. Inst. paper)

Conclusions

Caveat: Accuracy of T, P, and CO **profiles** remains uncertain, BUT:

- Comparing experimental and synthetic LAS measurements *bounds the models*
- *This approach combined with reasonable, scientific arguments enables us to evaluate the accuracy of fireball models and model assumptions*





Acknowledgements

- **2016 DTRA YIP**, Dr. Allen Dalton and Dr. Jeff Davis
- **Sandia National Laboratories**

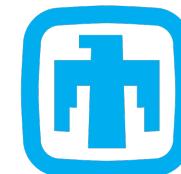
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- **Detonator Testing**: Mateo Gomez, Prof. Steve Son (Purdue)



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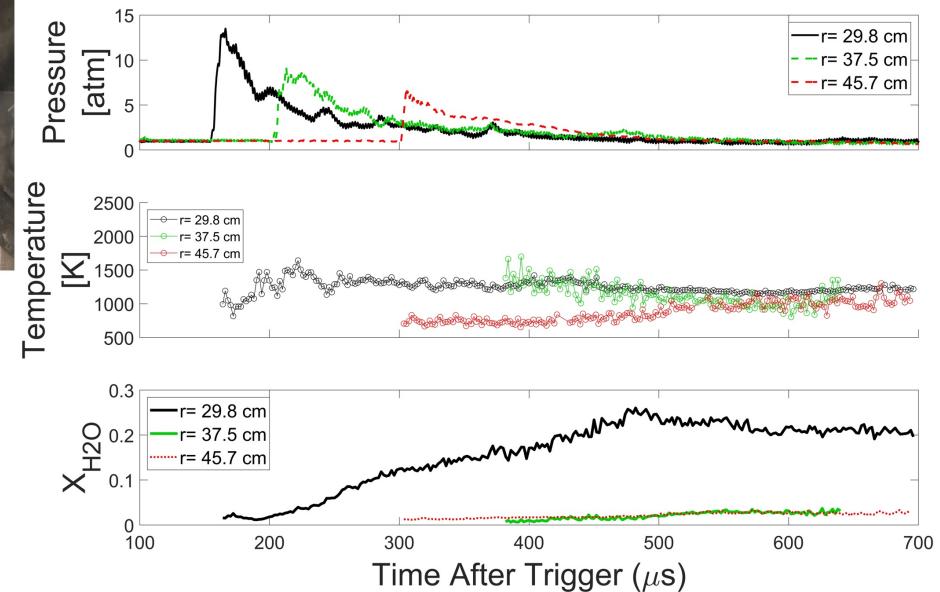
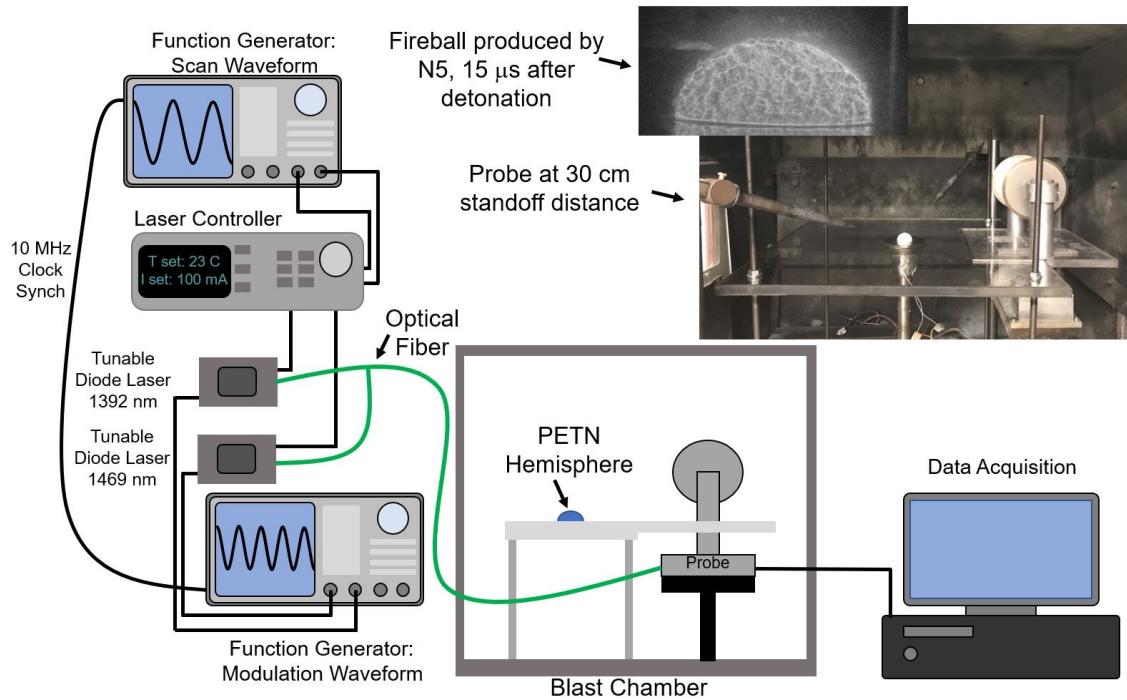
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Key Papers

- [1] G. C. Mathews and C.S. Goldenstein, Near-GHz scanned-wavelength-modulation spectroscopy for MHz thermometry and H₂O measurements in aluminized fireballs of energetic materials, *Applied Physics B* 126 (2020)
- [2] G. C. Mathews et al., High-bandwidth absorption-spectroscopy measurements of temperature, pressure, CO, and H₂O in the annulus of a rotating detonation rocket engine, *Applied Physics B* 127 (2021)
- [3] **G. C. Mathews et al., Laser-Absorption-Spectroscopy Measurements of Temperature, Pressure, and CO at 1 MHz in Post-Detonation Fireballs, AIAA Scitech 2022 Forum, San Diego, CA, January 3-7, 2022**
- [4] **G. C. Mathews et al., Experimental and Synthetic Laser-Absorption-Spectroscopy Measurements of Temperature, Pressure, and CO at 1 MHz for Evaluation of Post-Detonation Fireball Models, *Proceedings of the Combustion Institute, In Press* (2023)**

Aside: 500 kHz TDLAS at Larger Scale



- Measured T & H_2O at 500 kHz in fireballs of 25 g hemis at UIUC