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Session 1

Kinetic mechanisms in CO₂-O₂ plasmas: Development of a reaction mechanism

C. Fromentin¹, L.L. Alves¹, T. Silva¹, V. Guerra¹, J.P. Booth², A.S. Morillo-Candas², O. Guaitella², A.F. Silva³, D. Voloshin⁴, Yu.A. Mankelevich⁴, D.V. Lopaev⁴, S.M. Ziryanov⁴ and T. Rakhimova⁴



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INSTITUTO DE PLASMAS
E FUSÃO NUCLEAR

¹ Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

² Laboratoire de Physique des Plasmas (UMR 7648), CNRS, Univ. Paris Saclay, Sorbonne Université, École Polytechnique, France

³ Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

⁴ Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

Email address: chloefromentin@yahoo.fr

This contribution reports the development of a reaction mechanism for CO₂-O₂ plasmas. To this purpose, simulations from a 0D self-consistent kinetic model are compared with recent experimental data from measurements performed in low-pressure DC discharges. The comparison allows a refinement of the available kinetic schemes and the development of a new *reaction mechanism* (*i.e.*, a set of reactions and rate coefficients validated against benchmark experiments) for CO₂-O₂ plasmas.

Investigating the impact of O₂ on CO₂ conversion is relevant because O₂ is a product of CO₂ dissociation and can be present as an impurity in industrial CO₂ emissions. Besides, by enlarging the range of operating conditions, kinetic schemes validated for pure O₂ and pure CO₂ can be put to further tests and refined. Therefore, to unveil the coupling mechanisms occurring in CO₂-O₂ plasmas it is desirable to study different mixtures, from pure CO₂ to pure O₂. The research teams at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) from Universidade de Lisboa, Laboratoire de Physique des Plasmas (LPP) from École Polytechnique, and Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) currently carryout a joint effort to investigate pure oxygen plasmas, that has recently lead to measurements of the gas temperature, T_g , reduced electric field, E/N , densities of O(³P), O₂($\sigma^1\Delta_g$), O₂($b^1\Sigma_g^+$), O₃ and O⁻, and O(³P) loss frequencies (MSU/LPP), used for preliminary validation of numerical simulations (IST/MSU). Concerning CO₂-O₂ and CO₂, a set of measurements of T_g , E/N , O(³P), CO($X^1\Sigma^+$) and CO₂($X^1\Sigma_g^+$) densities and O(³P) loss frequencies was recently provided by LPP. In both cases the chosen system is a DC glow discharge, operating at pressures in the range $p=0.1-10$ Torr and discharge currents $I=10-50$ mA, in a Pyrex tube of radius $R=1$ cm, which is stable, axially homogenous, and easily accessible to a variety of diagnostics. The simulation results were obtained with the LoKI (LisbOn Kinetics) [1] simulation tool solving a Boltzmann-chemistry global model.

The admixture of O₂ has a detrimental impact on CO₂ decomposition [2], as it leads to a decrease of the dissociation fraction. Several reasons can be assigned for it, one of them being the quenching of vibrationally excited CO₂, which may lead to molecular dissociation through the so-called ladder climbing mechanism [3]. Another possible explanation is the enhancement of various reverse reaction mechanisms producing back CO₂ from vibrationally or electronically excited CO in collisions with O or O₂ [4]. The addition of O₂ can also modify the ion conversion pathways and induce changes in the plasma parameters. Therefore, molecular oxygen plays an important role in CO₂ plasma kinetics and on the efficiency of CO₂ conversion. Understanding the impact of the different elementary processes on the overall kinetics, along with the validation against experimental data, will contribute to further develop the existing models and thus to better control and enhance CO₂ conversion. For this purpose, a proper description of the CO₂ and CO vibrational population is fundamental along with a detailed kinetic scheme for O₂, as partially done in [5,6] and further developed in the framework of the present collaboration between LPP, MSU and IST.

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