

# Merged-beam study of associative ionization in collisions of C with C<sup>+</sup>, N<sup>+</sup> and O<sup>+</sup>

E.M. Staicu-Casagrande, N. de Ruette, A. Le Padellec\*, E.A. Naji, T. Nzeyimana, X. Urbain

Département de physique - FYAM, Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgique

\*LCAR, Université Paul Sabatier-Toulouse III, 31062 Toulouse Cedex 4, France

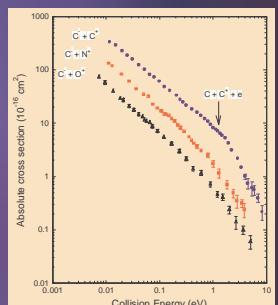
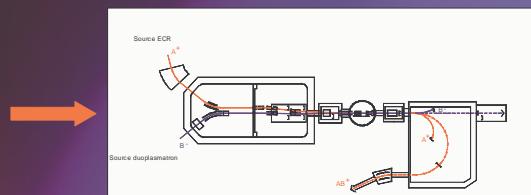
The associative ionization is an efficient process at low collision energy



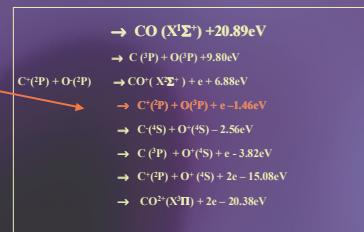
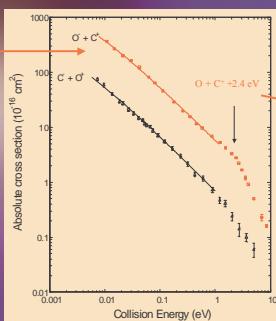
**Experimental method: merged beams**

$$\sigma = q_1 q_2 v_1 v_2 \frac{1}{v_r F} \frac{N(T)}{\int_0^T I_1(t) I_2(t) dt}$$

avec  $F(z) = \frac{\int_z^\infty dz \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} j_1(x, y, z) j_2(x, y, z) dx dy}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} j_1(x, y) dx dy \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} j_2(x, y) dx dy}$



Difficulties to measure cross section at low energy



Contribution of the rotationally excited molecular ions !!!

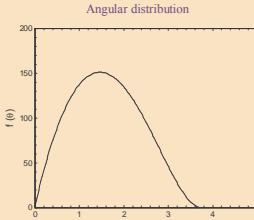
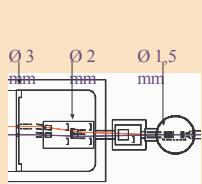
Numerical simulation of apparent cross sections at low collision energy

Reaction rate

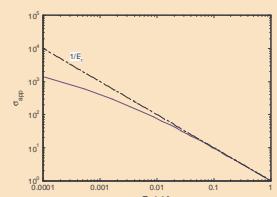
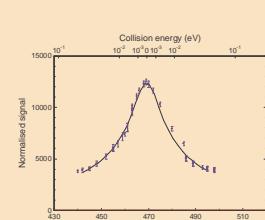
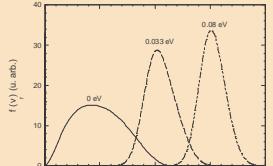
$$\alpha = \int_0^\infty \sigma(v) f(v) v dv$$

$$f(v) = \iiint g(v_1) g(v_2) f(\theta) \delta(v - \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 - 2v_1 v_2 \cos \theta}) dv_1 dv_2 d\theta$$

Apparent cross section



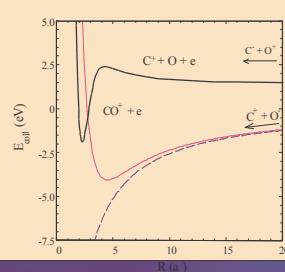
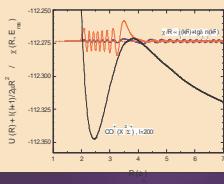
Relative velocity distribution



Predisociation lifetime of rotationally excited molecular ions

Quantum method

Wave function :  $\frac{d^2}{dR^2} \chi(R) + \left( \frac{E-U}{\hbar^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{R^2} \right) \chi(R) = 0$



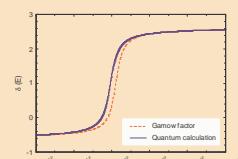
$$\delta = \delta_0 + \arctg \frac{\Gamma}{2(E_r - E)}$$

Semi-classical method

Semi-classical expression for the lifetime:

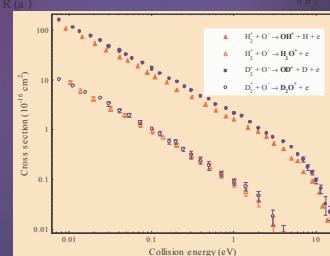
$$\tau^{-1} = \frac{\Gamma}{h} = \frac{\sigma}{2\pi} \exp \left( -2 \int_a^b k(R) dR \right)$$

avec  $\hbar k = \sqrt{2\mu(U - E_r)}$



Other results

Chemical ionization in polyatomic systems :  
towards reactive collisions !



Competition between abstraction and insertion mechanisms in the formation of water cation

