





# **CRE** The role of advanced diagnostics in combustion chemistry research

#### Katharina Kohse-Höinghaus

Bielefeld University, Germany

#### Fei Qi

USTC, China

#### Nils Hansen

Sandia National Lab, USA



# **Introduction: The problem**

Clean combustion: high efficiency, low emissions
 Alternative transportation fuels: new chemistry
 Novel combustion regimes: influences of p, T, phi, mixture





# **Probing flame chemistry: Wanted**

- In situ information on unknown species mix: identification.
- Large dynamic range of mole fractions, labile species.
- Quantitative set of concentration-reaction time profiles.
- Example: butane combustion, ~ 40 species.



Oßwald et al, Z Phys Chem 225, 2011,1029



**Probing flame chemistry: laser diagnostics** 

Laser spectroscopy: Raman, LIF, CRDS, IR absorption, etc.
 Quantitative, non-intrusive, *small* molecules: *e.g.* CH, C<sub>2</sub>
 Not suitable for complete flame analysis





M. Köhler et al, J Phys Chem A114, 2010, 4719



### **Small species and chemical mechanisms**





**Probing flame chemistry: mass spectrometry** 

Molecular-beam mass spectrometry (MBMS):
 Complete species set (?!); structure-sensitive, isomers
 Quantitative – but: fragmentation, overlaps, sampling, ....





**Species- and structure-selective analysis** 

# Tunable VUV single-photon PI-MBMS: Distinction of intermediates in C/H, C/H/O, and C/H/O/N systems

>Mass & photoionization efficiency (PIE) spectra as discriminators





# **Combining high mass + energy resolution**

- ≻ Fuel complexity: hydrocarbons → oxygenates → fuel-N.
   ≻ More elements need better mass separation: → EI-MBMS.
- ➢Fuel structure and intermediate mix need isomer separation: →PI-MBMS.
- Example: morpholine flame.



A. Lucassen et al, PROCI 32, 2009,1269



**Combining EI-MBMS+PI-MBMS+LIF+CRDS** 

- >MBMS results for HCN,  $NH_3$ , NO, HNCO,  $CH_3$ , ...
- LIF temperature measurement

≻CRDS results for NH<sub>2</sub>, CN, CH, OH, ...





## Experiment vs. model: (un)disturbed T profile

T profile for optical or MBMS sampling must be considered in comparison with models – no shifts!

Example: butanol flames.





M. Sarathy et al, Combust Flame 159, 2012, 2028



#### New combustion details: study of isomeric fuels

 Quantitative but relative species measurement is more forgiving.
 Chemical trends are more obvious.

Model can probe mechanistic differences.

Example: ethanol and DME addition to propene.



A. Frassoldati et al, Combust Flame 158, 2011, 1264



#### **Fuel-N conversion: biomass components**



Isomeric fuel decomposition pathways different.

- ➢Ethylamine breakdown suggests early NH₃ formation.
- Substantial HCN mole fractions expected for both fuels.
- Example: ethylamine and dimethylamine combustion.

A. Lucassen et al, Combust Flame 159, 2012, 2254



#### **Ethylamine vs. dimethylamine combustion**



 NH<sub>3</sub> mole fractions much higher for EA.
 Model underpredicts NH<sub>3</sub> in both flame sets.
 High HCN mole fractions of up to 12%.
 Model under-

predicts HCN.





Sampling from highly-diluted, preheated, partially-premixed DME flame at 1 bar with T = 1400 K.

>Partially-premixing species profiles are *position*-dependent.

K. Zhang et al, PROCI 34, 2012





 Highly diluted preheated DME combustion.
 Three stoichiometries: 0.85, 1.0, and 1.2.
 Intermediate-T behavior; e.g. CH<sub>3</sub> vs. CH<sub>2</sub>O.



K. Zhang et al, PROCI 34, 2012





Highly diluted **DME** oxidation in flow reactor. Three stoichiometries: 0.8, 1.0, and 1.2. **Expected** low-T behavior. >Compare with model/ to EtOH:

1E07 Mon, W5P070 Fri





 DME oxidation in low-T flow reactor.
 High mass resolution: fuel DME (46.042) and formic acid (46.010) at T<sub>h</sub> = 583 K are separated.

Methyl formate is detected.

➢More species, VUV-PI-MBMS: →WIP!

• 1E07 Mon, W5P072 Fri



#### **EI-MBMS** and GC from the same volume





#### **Butene combustion as C4 chemistry subset**



M. Schenk et al, Combust Flame 2012, submitted

 Different fuel breakdown schemes for the 3 butene isomers.

C3 route is of high importance for all butenes, almost exclusive for *i*-butene.

Additional C4 route exists for the 2 linear butenes.

W2P081 Tue



#### Highly complex chemistry: Biomass pyrolysis



 Tunable VUV PI-MBMS for analysis of pyrolysis profiles (T, time) of second-generation biofuels.
 Fast-growing poplar wood as potential corn replacement; carbon conversion to biofuels.

J. Weng et al, PROCI 34, 2012





# Poplar pyrolysis set-up

- Qstar triple quadrupole
   TOF-MS with mass range 30 20000 Da, resolution 10000.
- Reactor is heated to specific temperature, then sample inside the quartz pole is pushed into the furnace.
- Pyrolysis products pass through a repeller plate into the photoionization region, photoions are analyzed by the QTOF mass spectrometer.





#### Major products from poplar pyrolysis





# **Time-resolved pyrolysis profiles**





2.5

2.0

1.0

0.5

20

18

T x 10<sup>-5</sup>

#### **MBMS** in non-premixed flames





#### **MBMS** in non-premixed flames





#### Flame-sampling aerosol mass spectrometry





#### Flame-sampling aerosol mass spectrometry

# ➤Gas phase species and 50-100 nm particles are sampled from 700 Torr counterflow flame with quartz microprobe.



Particles are focused with aerodynamic lens onto heated copper plate and flash-vaporized.

Molecular constituents are VUVphotoionized and detected by TOF mass spectrometry.



#### **Particle chemical composition: surprises**



 Mass spectra map chemical composition of the particles vs. distance from the fuel outlet; PIE spectra permit identification.
 *Example* m/z=116, normally only identified as indene, but PIE

curve shows also phenyl-substituted allene and propynes.



### Soot formation beyond benzene



<sup>1</sup>st International Workshop on Flame Chemistry, Warsaw, Poland, July 28-29, 2012



# **Perspectives: Future trends and needs?**



- New measurement domains: larger p and T range, pyrolysis vs. highly-diluted oxidative systems, particles, aerosols, homogeneous vs. heterogeneous combustion chemistry.
- >Time-resolved analysis.
- Support by theory: ionization energies, structures, simulation of spectra, kinetics, thermochemistry.
- Combination of methods: optical&MS techniques, in situ GC-MBMS, IR-absorption, MS-MS, PEPICO, ....
- Caveat: Let's get sampling problem solved!



