

Simulation of electronic excitation in transitional atmospheric entry flows.

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Outline

I. Introduction

1. Context
2. Utility of collisional-radiative modeling
3. Peculiarities of transitional flows

II. State-to-state electronic excitation model

1. Description of the CoRaM-Air model
2. Hypersonic flow study (continuum regime)

III. Application to transitional entry flows

1. Testcase and baseline flow computation
2. Non-equilibrium effects

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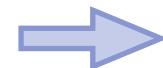
Introduction

Atmospheric entry flows

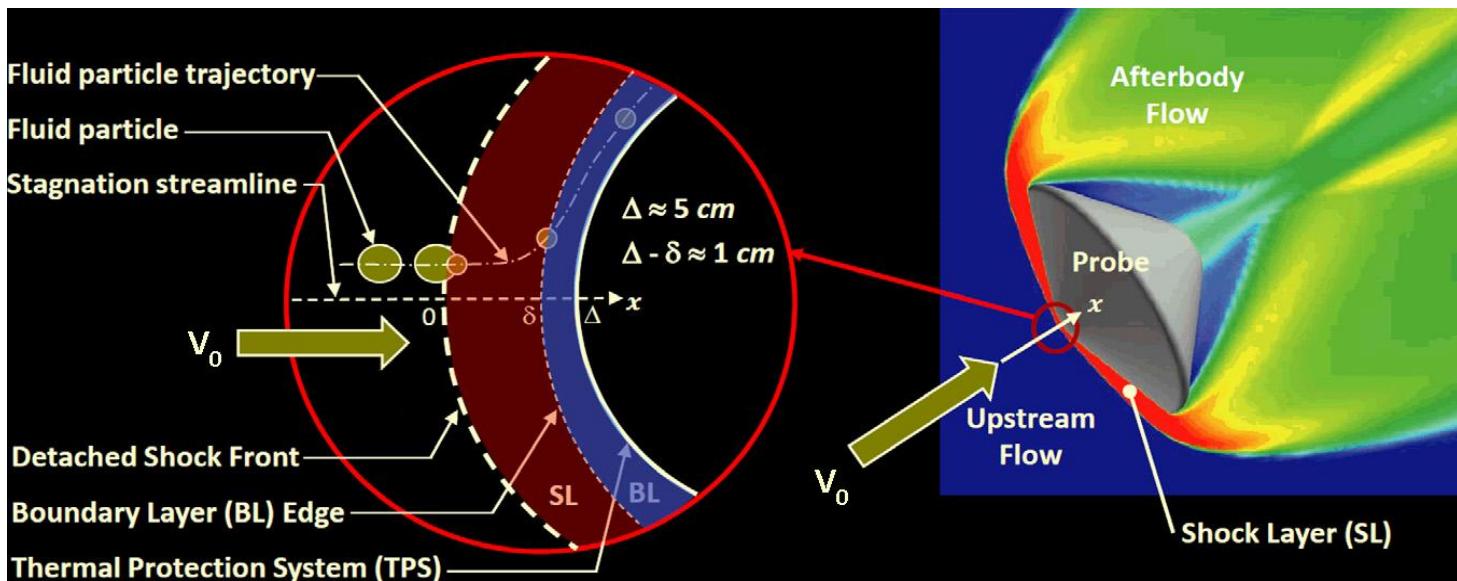
Debris from Low Earth Orbit: $V_0 \approx 7 - 8 \text{ km/s}$ $M_0 \approx 25$

Survivability of fragments and trajectory

Size, number, impact zone ?



Need for reliable
aerothermodynamic
computations



Bultel et Annaloro, Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 22 (2013).

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Utility of collisional-radiative modeling

Deriving thermo-chemical coupling models

Multi-temperature fluid models:

Equations for each energy mode m (e.g. translation, vibration, electronic) :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho e^m) + \nabla \cdot (\rho e^m \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}^m = \Omega^m + \mathcal{P}^m.$$

- Coupling terms describing the coupling between modes Ω^m
- Nonequilibrium reaction rates $\mathbf{k}(T_{\text{tr}}, T_{\text{vib}}, T_{\text{el}}, \dots)$: account for the strong influence of non-equilibrium distributions on chemical processes.



Improve empirical models

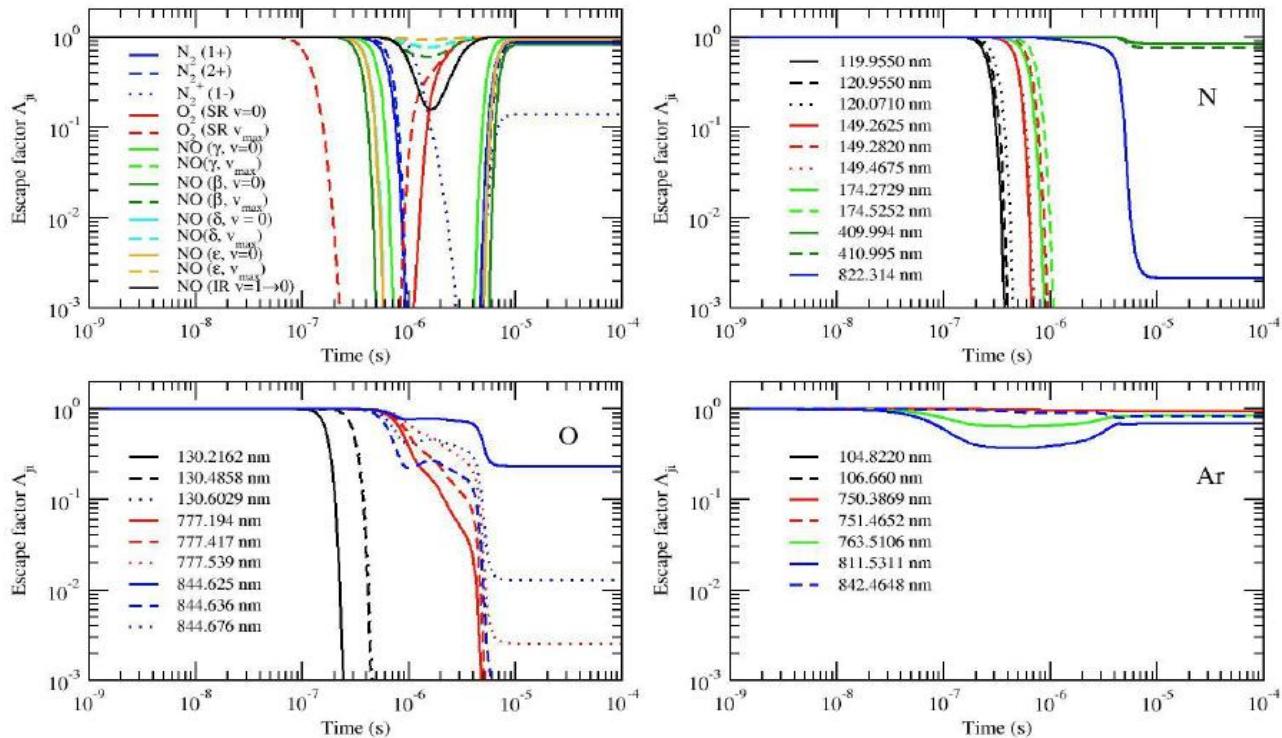
$$\Omega^{VT, diss} = \sum_s e_s^{vib} \omega_s$$

$$k^{diss}(T, T_{\text{vib}}) = k^{diss}(\sqrt{T T_{\text{vib}}})$$

Utility of collisional-radiative modeling

Simulate Non-equilibrium radiation

- approximate treatment (escape factors) → source term \mathcal{P}^m



- accurate radiative transfer computations

Annaloro and Bultel,
Phys. Plasmas 21 (2014).

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Peculiarities of transitional flows

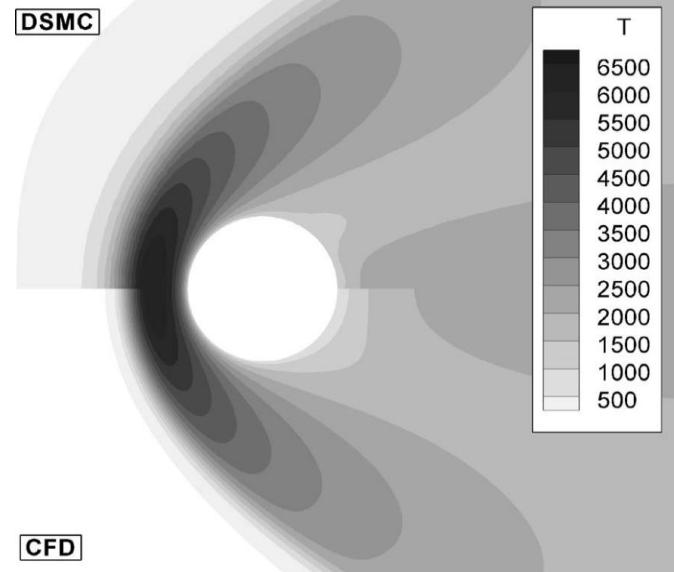
Rarefaction effects

High altitude (≈ 80 km) : $\text{Kn} \approx 0.001 - 0.1$

$$\text{Kn} = \frac{\lambda}{L} \quad \lambda_{HS} = \frac{1}{n\sqrt{2\pi}d^2}$$

- Diffuse shock
- Breakdown of behaviour laws (Newton / Fourier...)
- Velocity and temperature slip at the wall
- Non-equilibrium chemical rates

$$k(T) = \int_{x_0}^{\infty} xe^{-x} \sigma(x) dx$$



Lofthouse,
Phys. Fluids 19 (2007).

Introduction

- Statistical fluctuations and trace species: s_1, s_2 with $n(s_1) \ll n(s_2)$

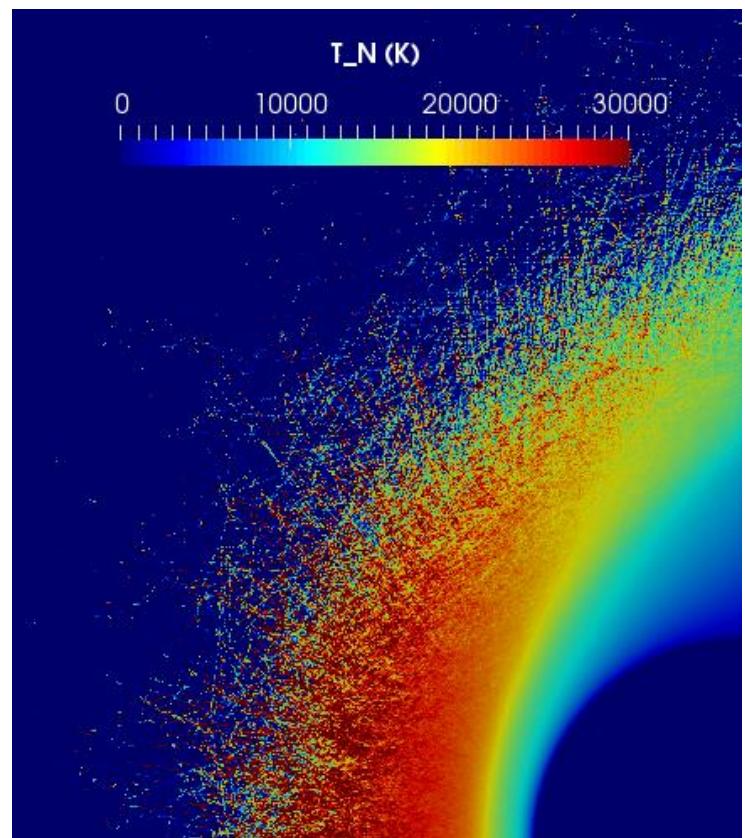
Direct state-to-state computation:

- Prohibitive computational cost
- Waste of numerical resources
- Uncertainty on cross sections

Weighting schemes:

- Handling of inelastic collisions and conservation of energy problematic
- Wide range of concentrations : weight separation ?
- Still uncertainty on cross sections

$$\propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_{\text{samples}}}}$$



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Description of the CoRaM-Air model

CoRaM - Air

- 11 species, ≈ 400 levels
- State-to-state for electronic mode
(all species)
- ≈ 60000 elementary reactions

N_2 : $X^1\Sigma_g^+$, $A^3\Sigma_u^+$, $B^3\Pi_g$, $W^3\Delta_u$, $B'^3\Sigma_u^-$, $a'^1\Sigma_u^-$, $a^1\Pi_g$,
 $w^1\Delta_u$, $G^3\Delta_g$, $C^3\Pi_u$, $E^3\Sigma_g^+$

O_2 : $X^3\Sigma_g^-$, $a^1\Delta_g$, $b^1\Sigma_g^+$, $c^1\Sigma_u^-$, $A'^3\Delta_u$, $A^3\Sigma_u^+$, $B^3\Sigma_u^-$,
 $f^1\Sigma_u^+$

NO : $X^2\Pi$, $a^4\Pi$, $A^2\Sigma^+$, $B^2\Pi$, $b^4\Sigma^-$, $C^2\Pi$, $D^2\Sigma^+$, $B'^2\Delta$,
 $E^2\Sigma^+$, $F^2\Delta$

N_2^+ : $X^2\Sigma_g^+$, $A^2\Pi_u$, $B^2\Sigma_u^+$, $a^4\Sigma_u^+$, $D^2\Pi_g$, $C^2\Sigma_u^+$

O_2^+ : $X^2\Pi_g$, $a^4\Pi_u$, $A^2\Pi_u$, $B^4\Sigma_g^-$

NO^+ : $X^1\Sigma^+$, $a^3\Sigma^+$, $b^3\Pi$, $W^3\Delta$, $b'^3\Sigma^-$, $A'^1\Sigma^+$, $W^1\Delta$, $A^1\Pi$

N : ${}^4S_{3/2}^\circ$, ${}^2D_{5/2}^\circ$, ${}^2D_{3/2}^\circ$, ${}^2P_{1/2}^\circ$,(177 levels)

O : 3P_2 , 3P_1 , 3P_0 , 1D_2 ,(146 levels)

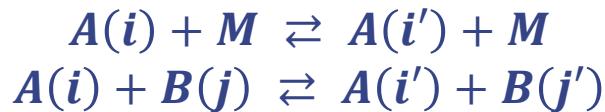
N^+ : 3P_0 , 3P_1 , 3P_2 , 1D_2 ,(9 levels)

O^+ : ${}^4S_{3/2}^\circ$, ${}^2D_{5/2}^\circ$, ${}^2D_{3/2}^\circ$, ${}^2P_{3/2}^\circ$,(8 levels)

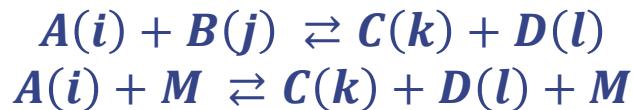
Description of the CoRaM-Air model

Elementary processes

- Inelastic collisions



- Chemical reactions



Implementation in Mutation++ open-source library.



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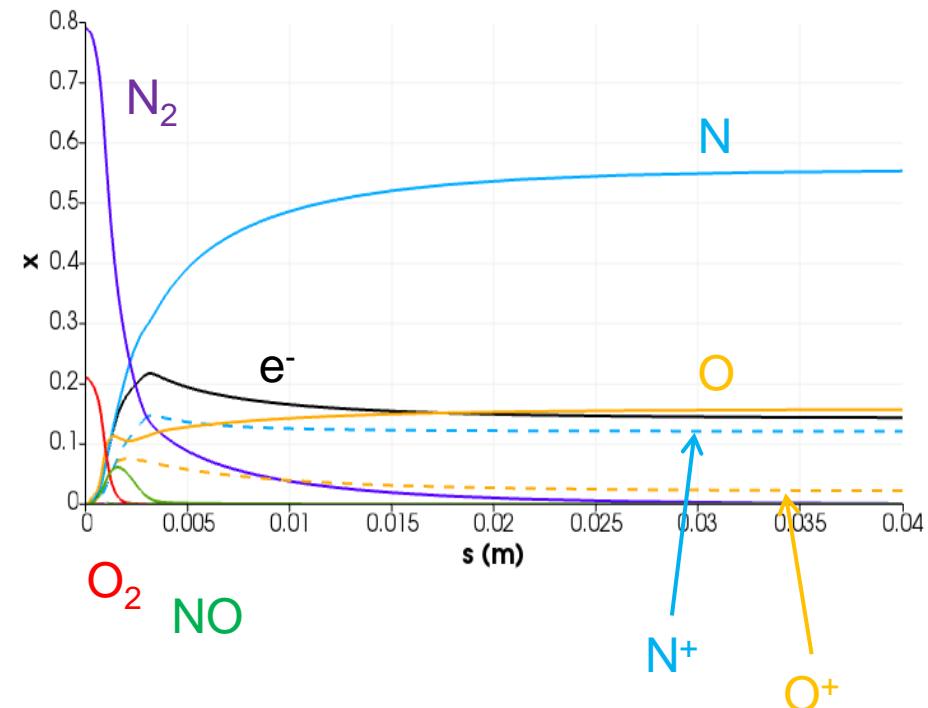
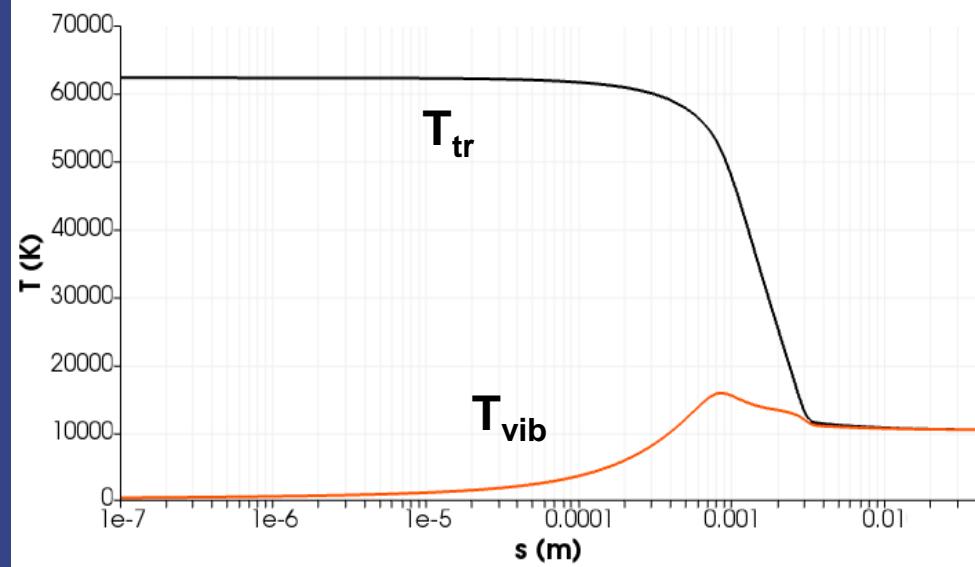
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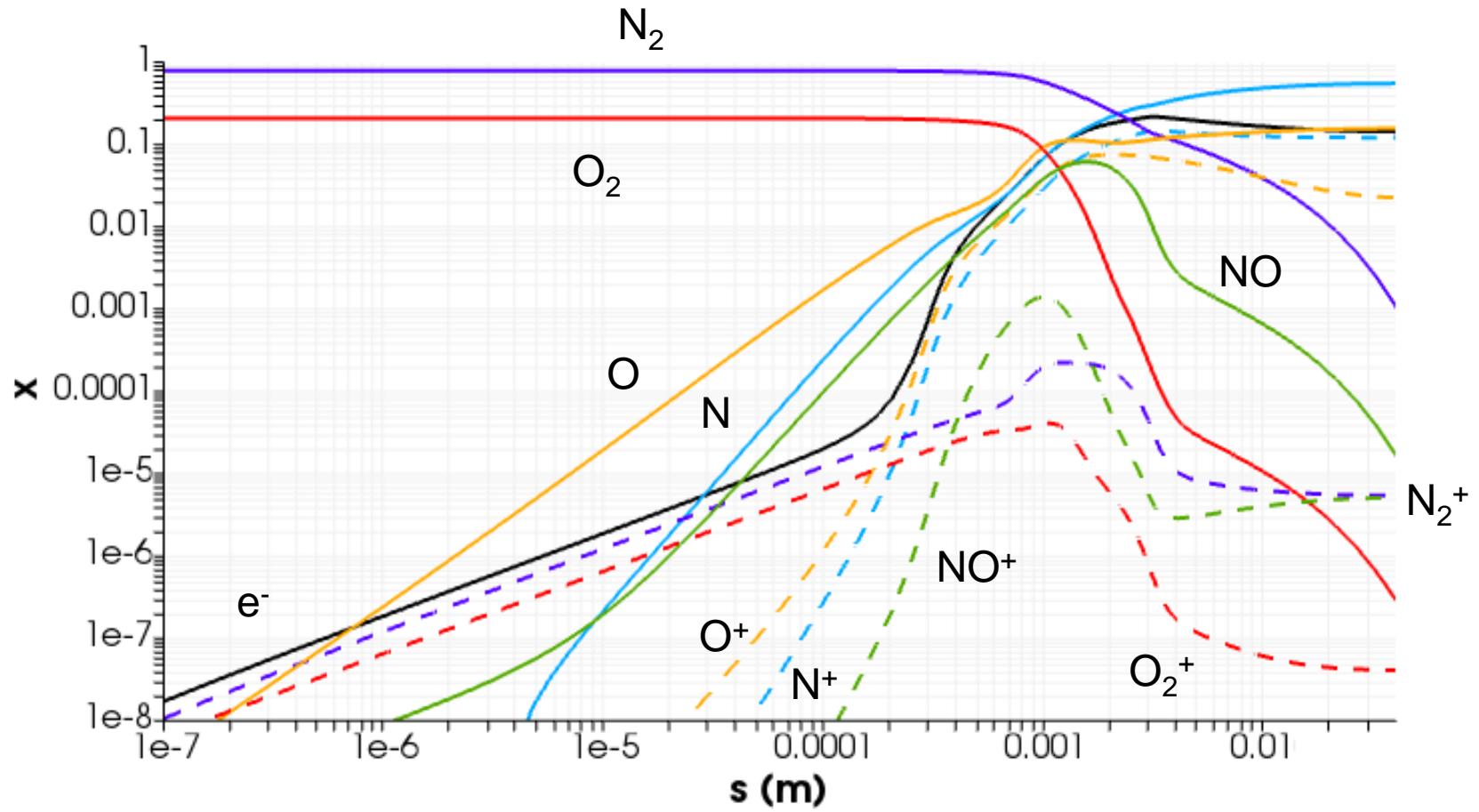
Hypersonic flow study

1D shock crossing computations (Euler T-Tv) ; FIRE-II conditions

$$T_{tr,0} = 195 \text{ K} \quad p_0 = 2 \text{ Pa}$$
$$T_{tr,1} \approx 60000 \text{ K}$$

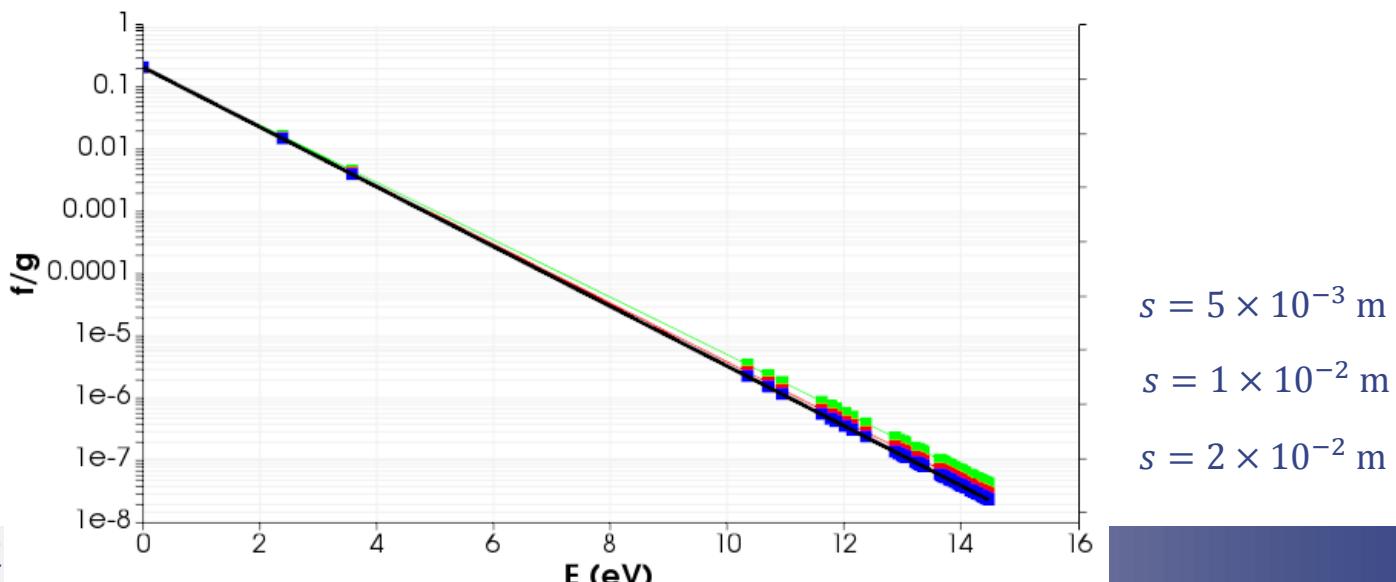
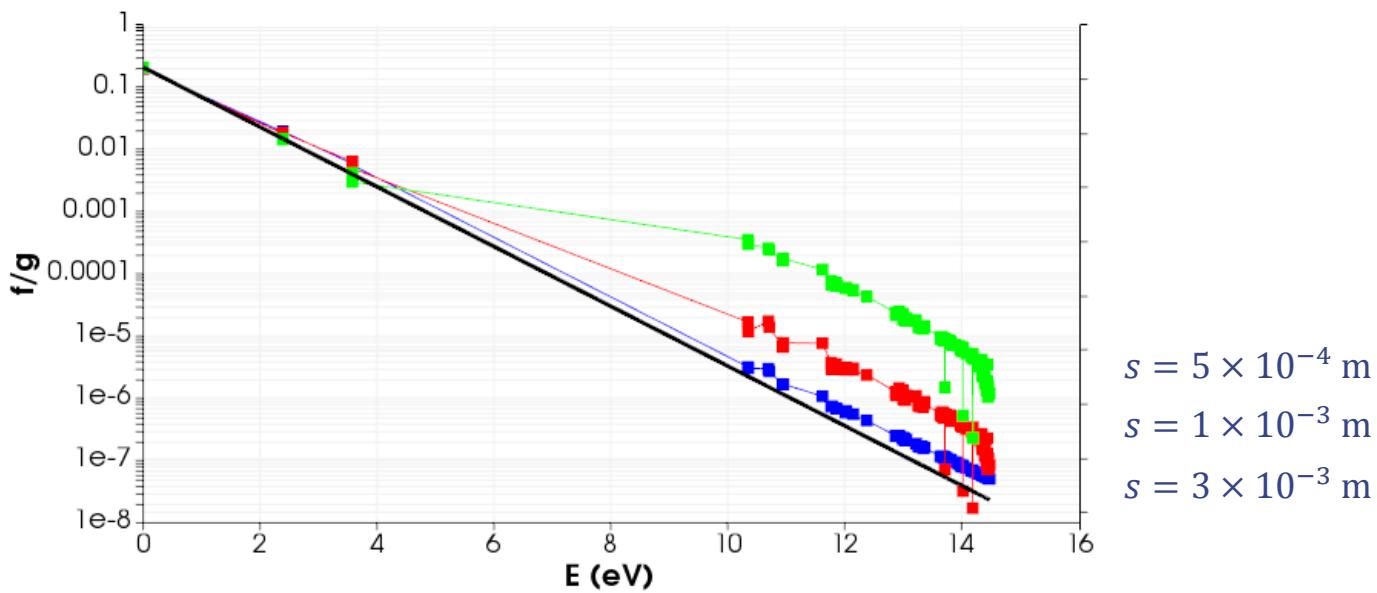


Hypersonic flow study



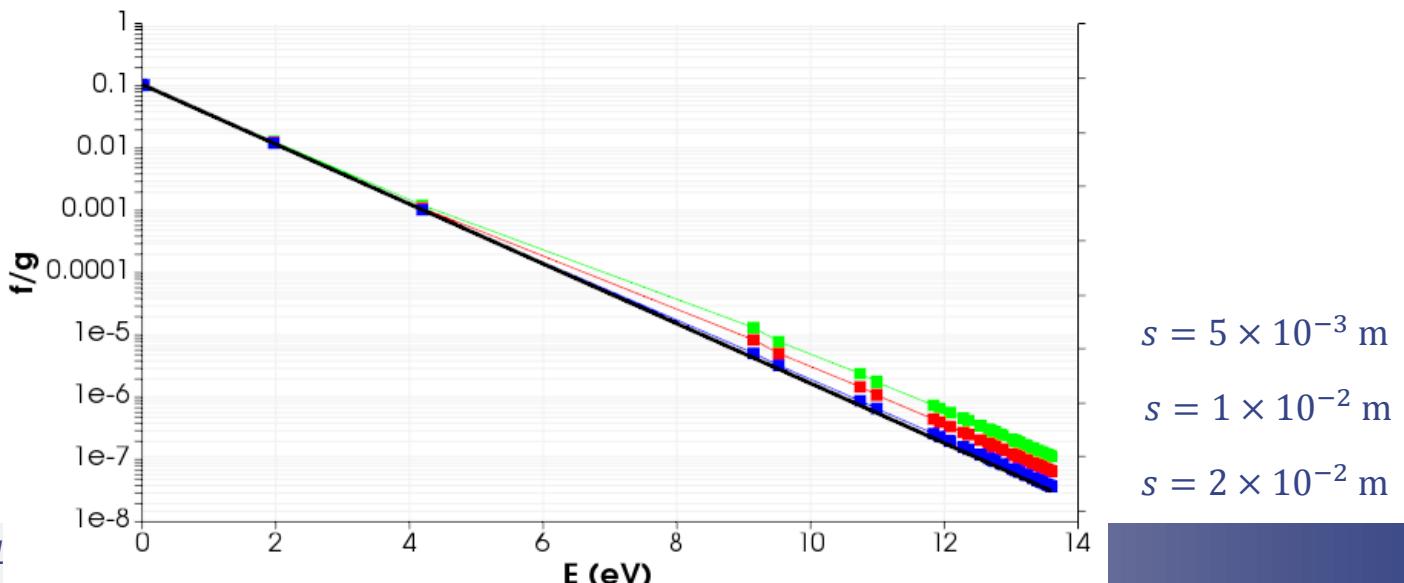
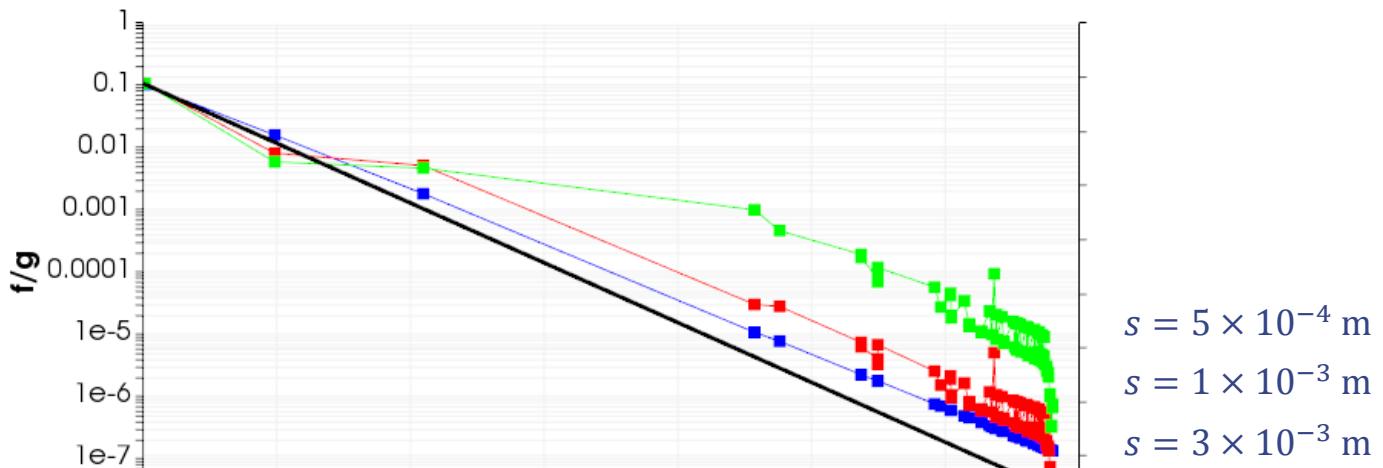
Hypersonic flow study

Nitrogen

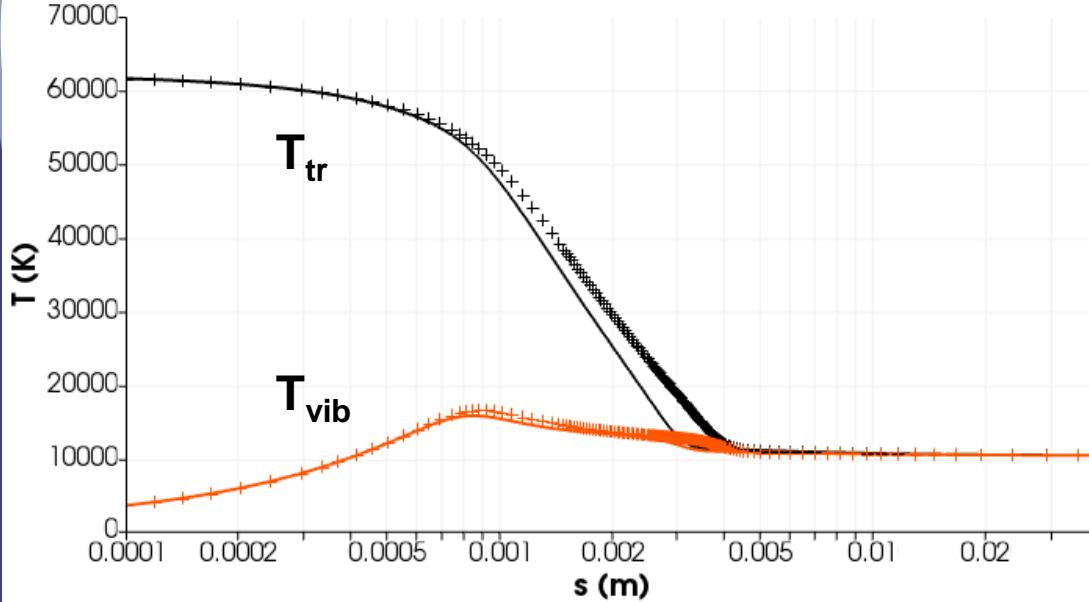


Hypersonic flow study

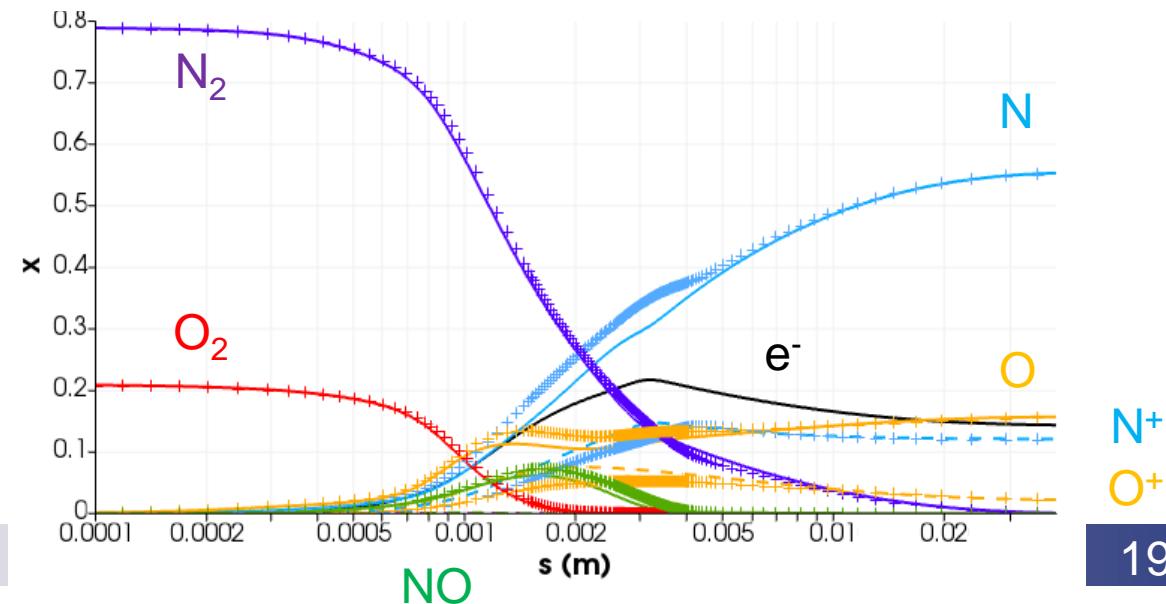
Oxygen



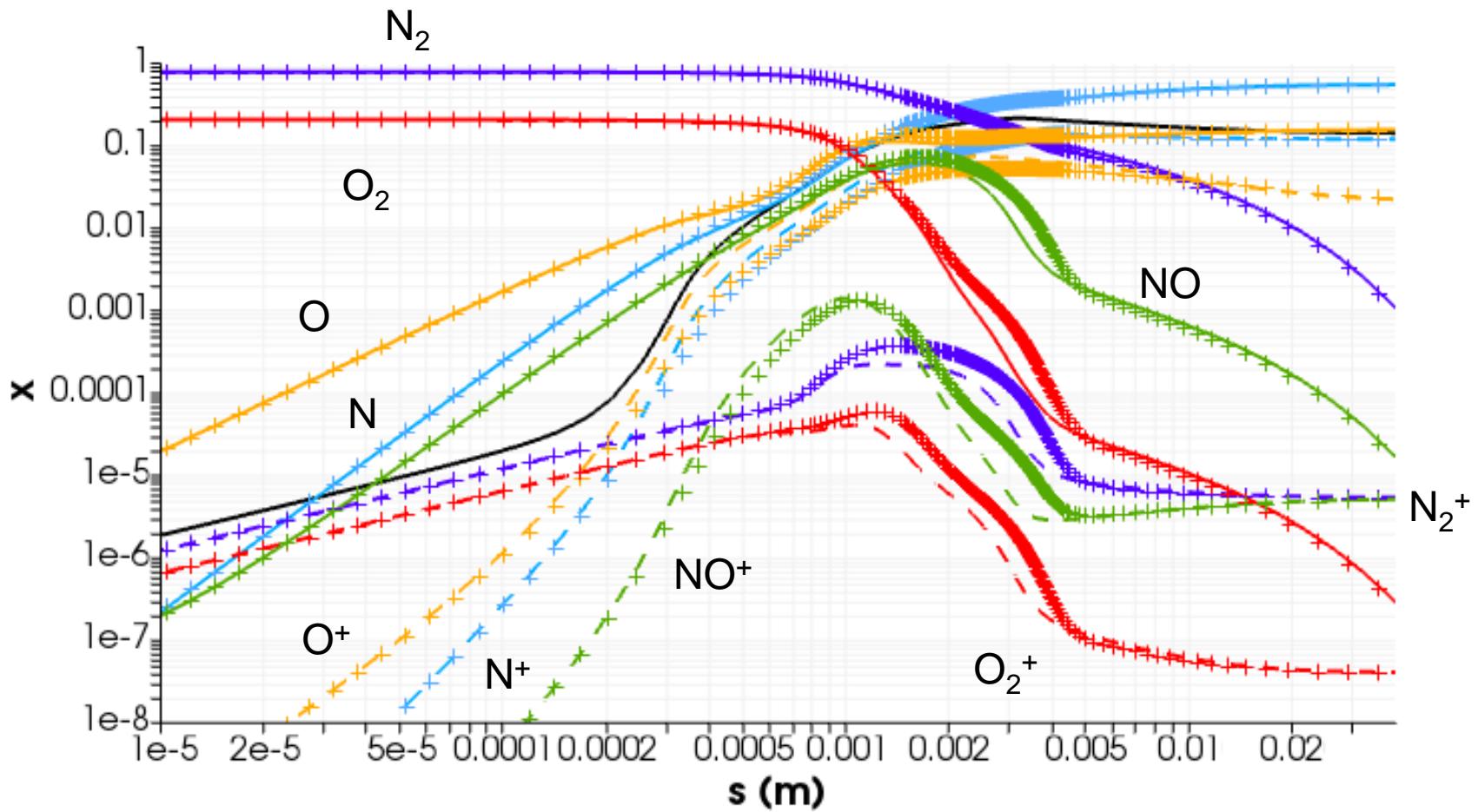
Hypersonic flow study



Comparison with reduced model
(grouped atomic levels)



Hypersonic flow study



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Numerical method

Lagrangian reactor approach

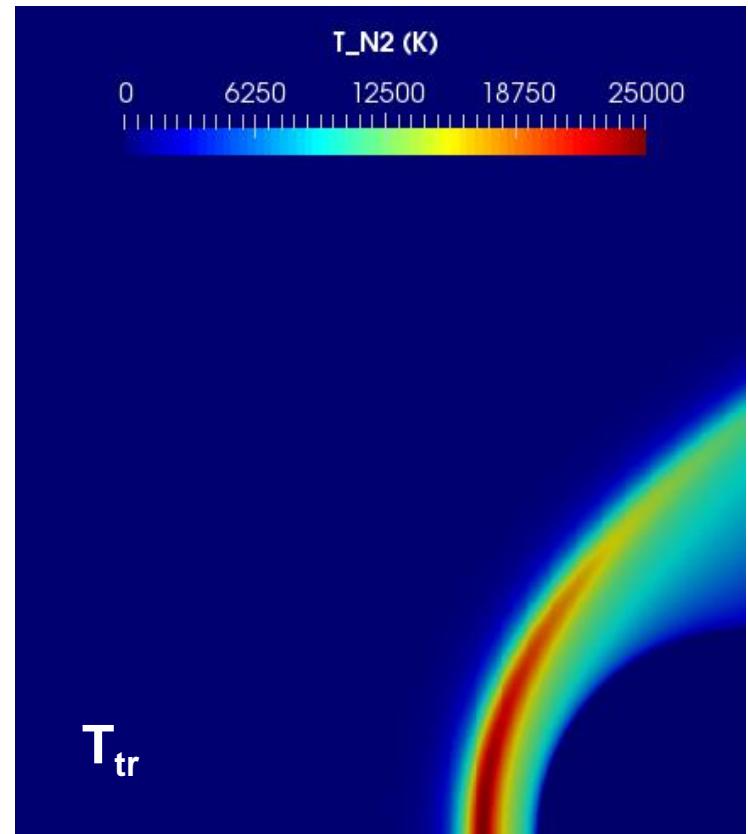
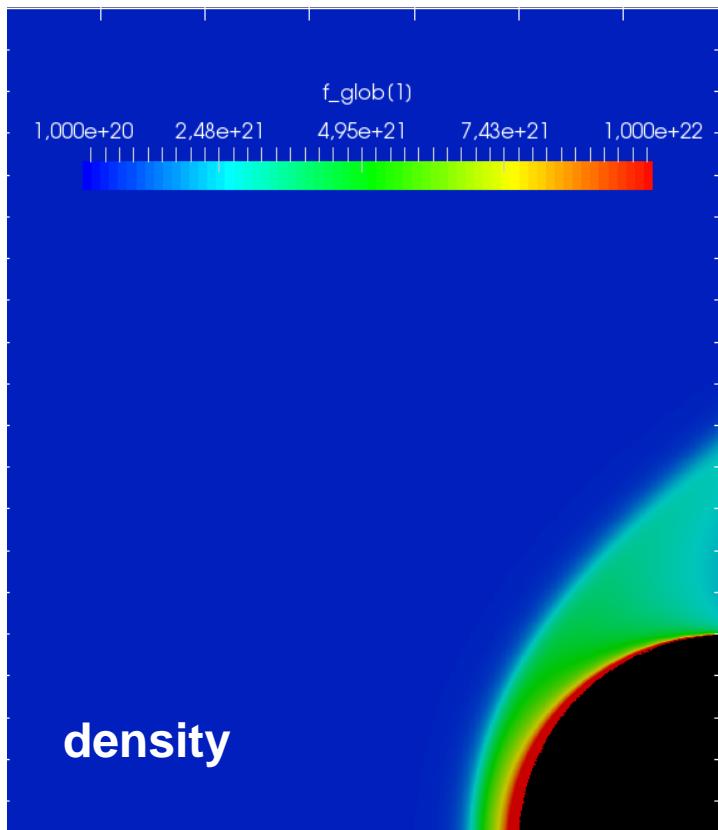
- Assume weak influence of the trace species on the flowfield
→ decoupled computation ¹
- Procedure:
 - 1) Perform a baseline simulation with only major species and chemical processes;
 - 2) Extract aerodynamic quantities $u(s)$, $p(s)$, $T_m(s)$, $x_i(s)$ along one or more streamlines (s curvilinear abscissa, i species index, m internal energy mode);
 - 3) Solve the species mass conservation and the energy modes conservation equations along the streamlines with refined chemistry.
- Two-temperature T-Tv model

¹ **Boccelli et al. Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. (2019).**

Baseline flow computation

- DSMC computation of 2D flow around a cylinder:

$$T_{tr,0} = 200 \text{ K} \quad p_0 = 1.38 \text{ Pa} \quad V = 7.5 \text{ km/s} \quad M = 25 \quad Kn = 0.01$$



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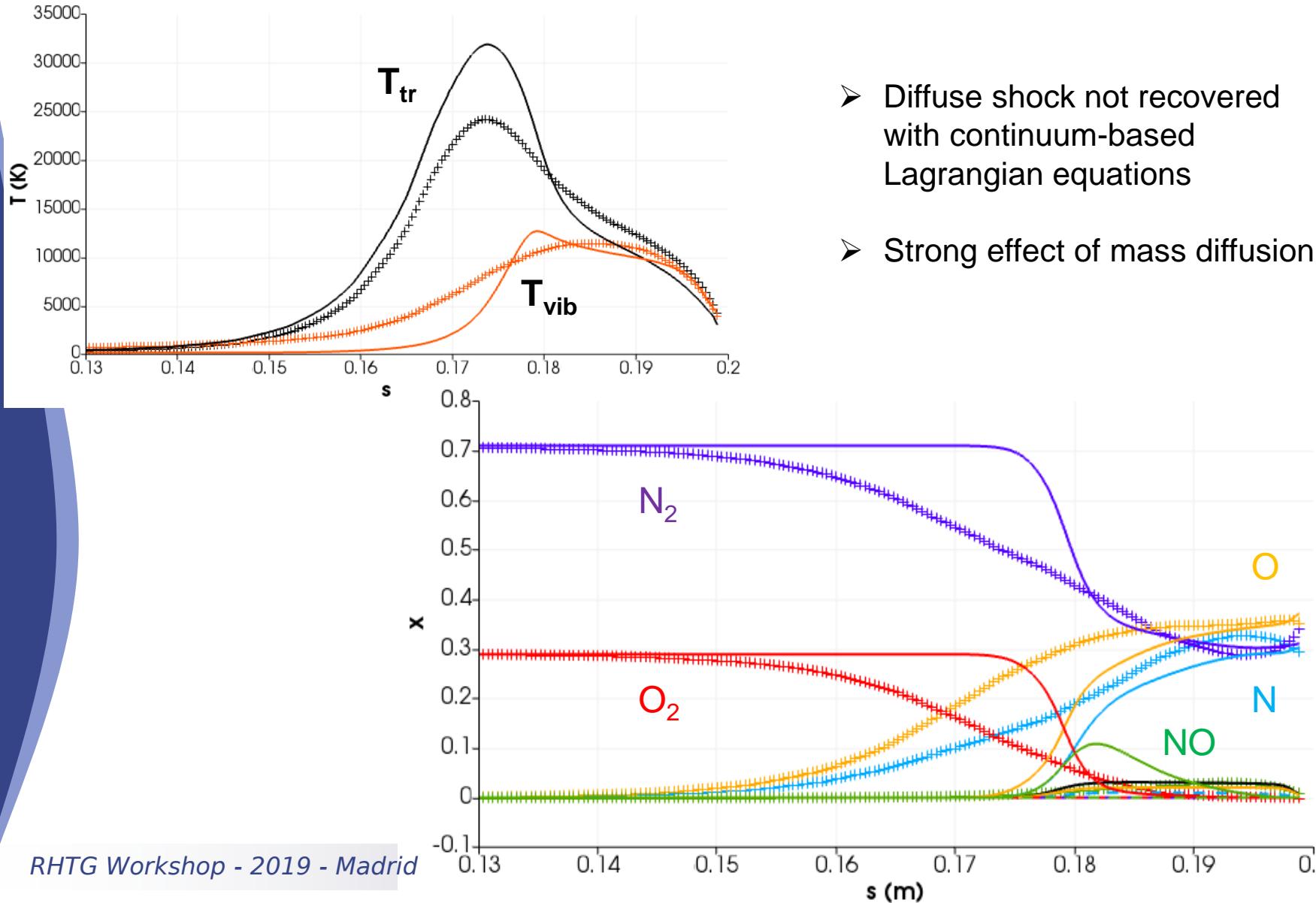
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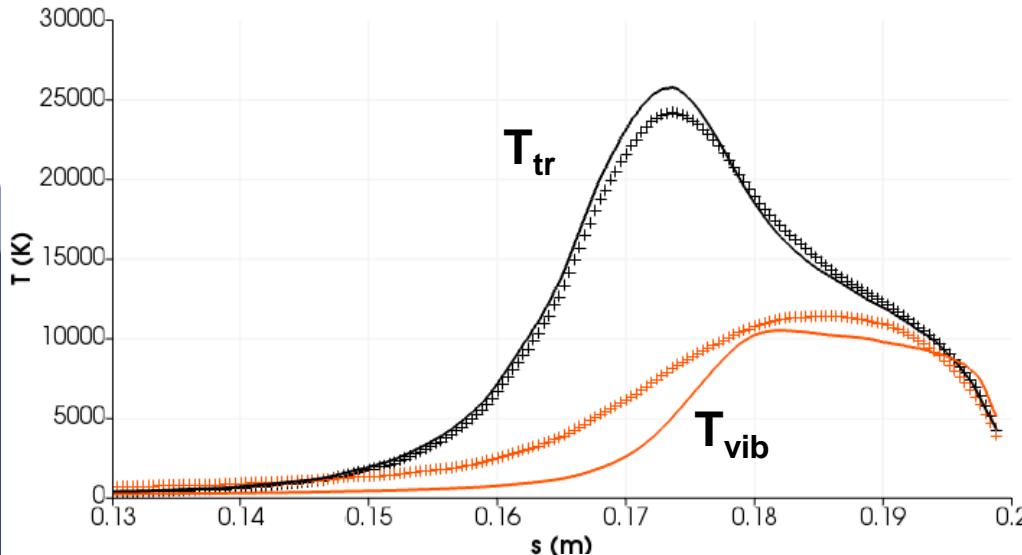
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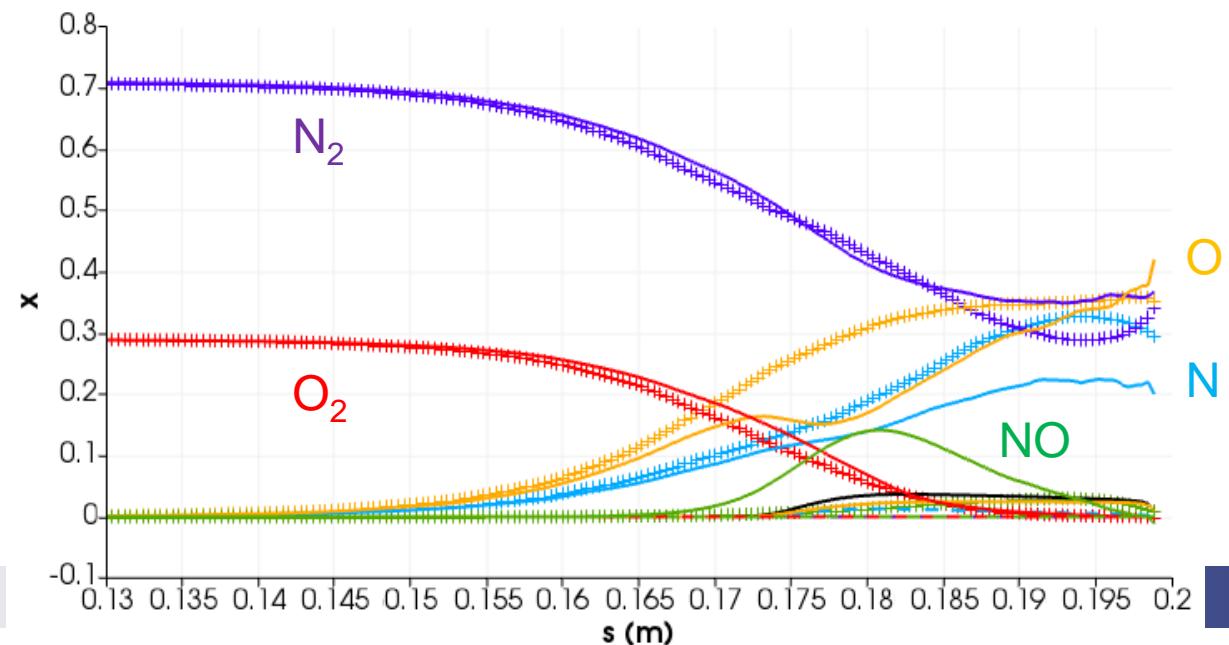
Non-equilibrium effects



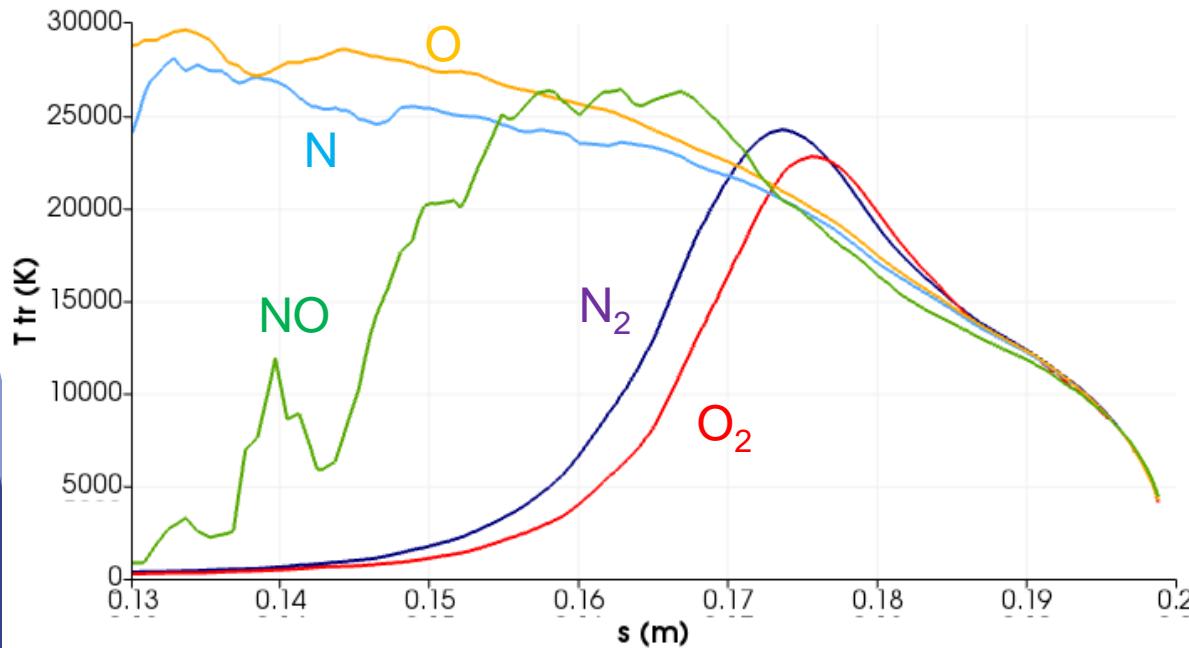
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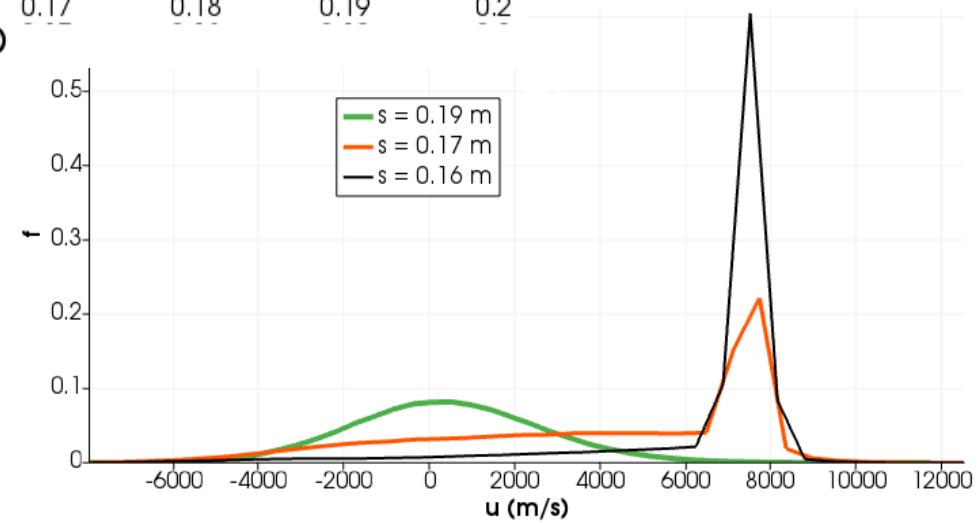
- Including an approximate source term to model the effect of mass diffusion along streamlines (estimated from baseline flow) improves the solution.



Non-equilibrium effects to be addressed



➤ Translational temperature depends on species



➤ Non-Maxwellian axial velocity distribution

Conclusion

- Collisional-radiative models provide valuable information to derive nonequilibrium chemical rates and thermo-chemical energy coupling terms for multi-temperature fluid models.
- State-to-state models are not suitable for direct implementation in DSMC due to the large number of species and their low mole fractions.
- Decoupled methods such as the Lagrangian reactor approach allow to use detailed CR models to compute excited species kinetics.
- Rarefaction / translational nonequilibrium effects still need to be addressed in order to achieve meaningful results when dealing with transitional flows.