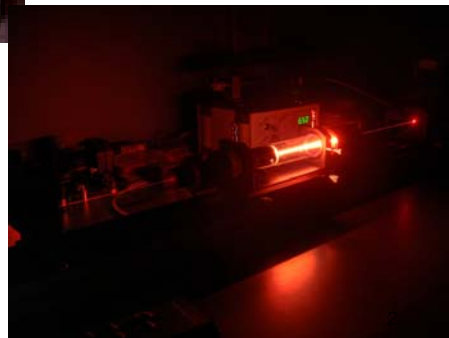
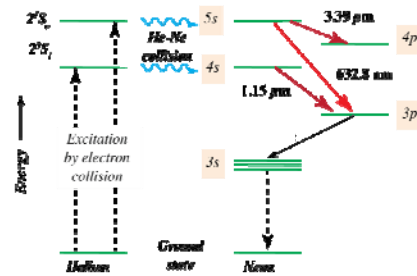


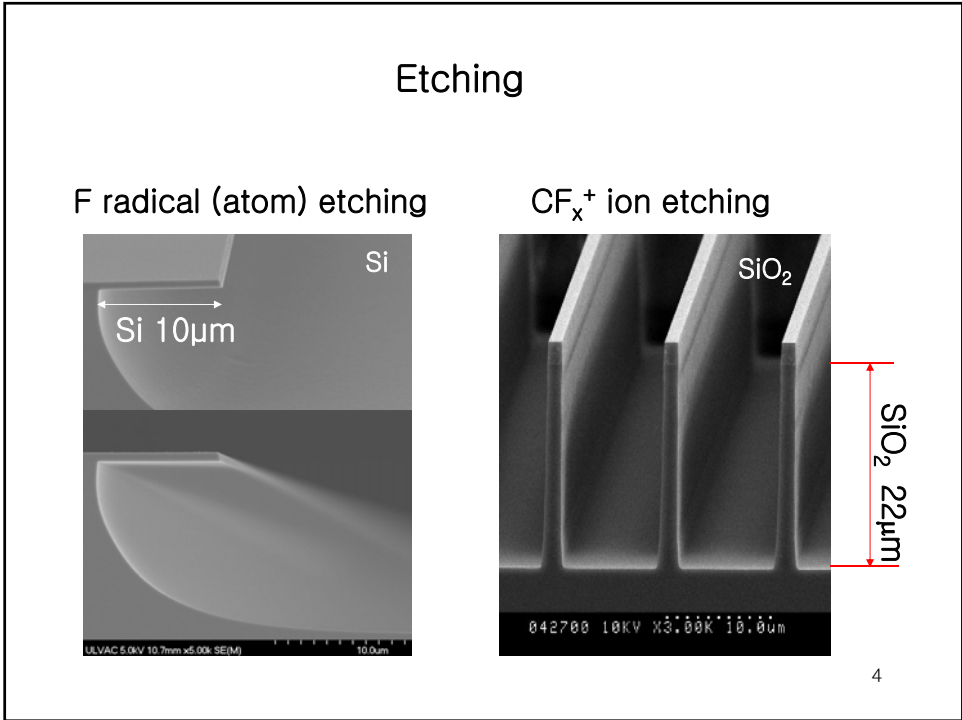
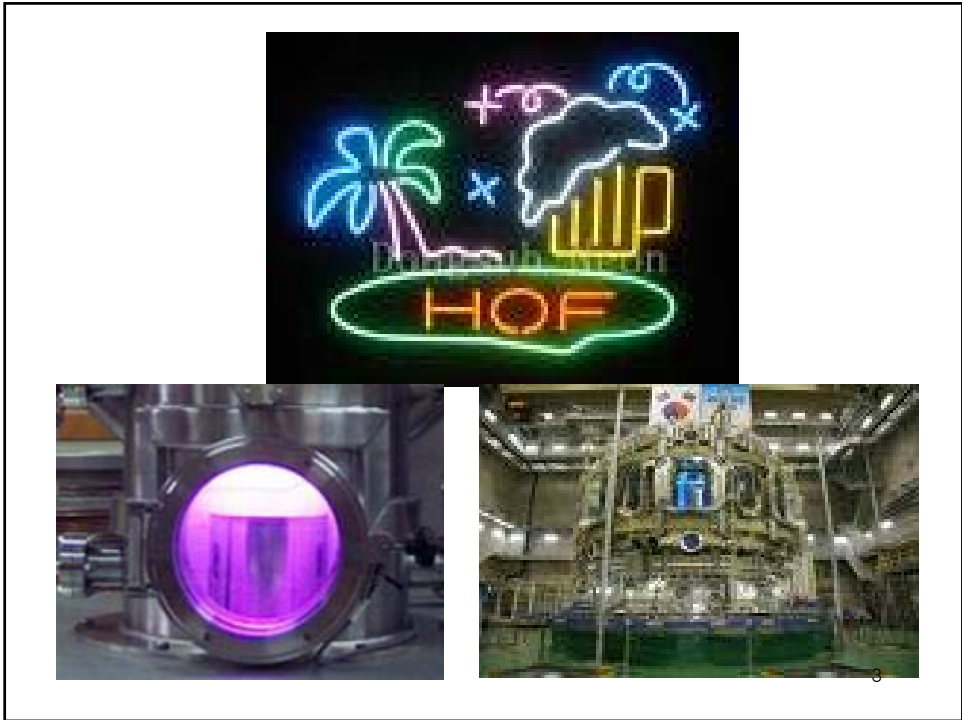
LOW-ENERGY ELECTRON INTERACTIONS WITH ATOMS & MOLECULES

조 역

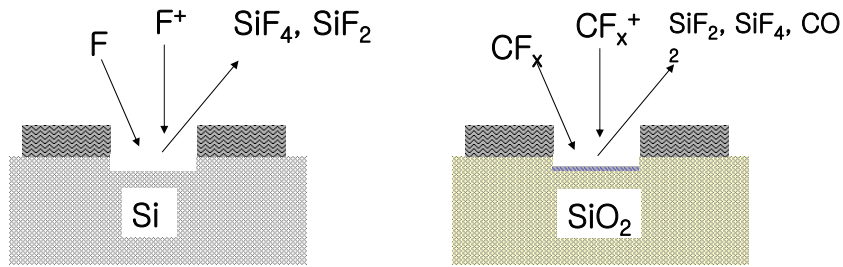
(충남대학교 물리학과 명예교수)

1





etching

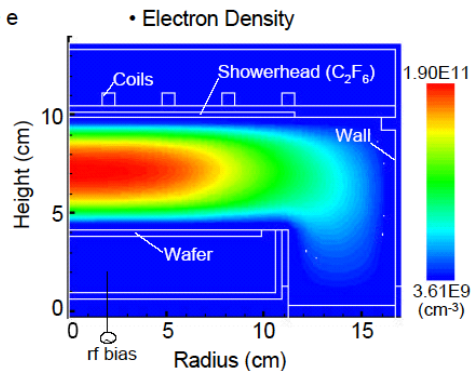
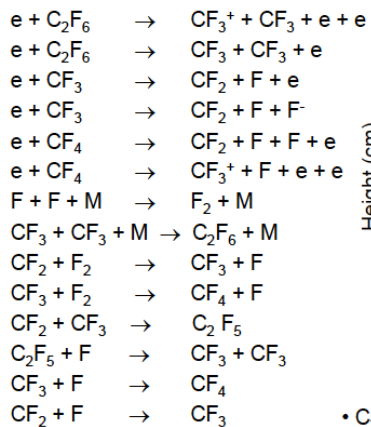


5

C₂F₆ ETCHING of Si

- Simulations of C₂F₆ etching of Si in an ICP reactor were performed.

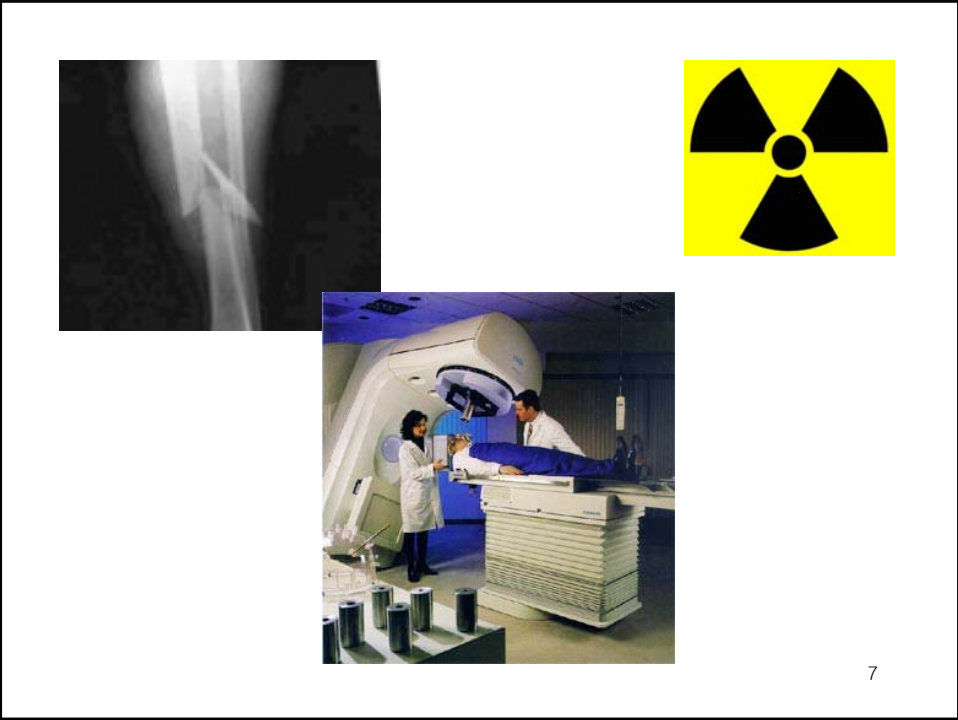
- Representative gas phase reactions:



• C₂F₆, 10 mtorr, 200 sccm, 650 W ICP, 100 V bias

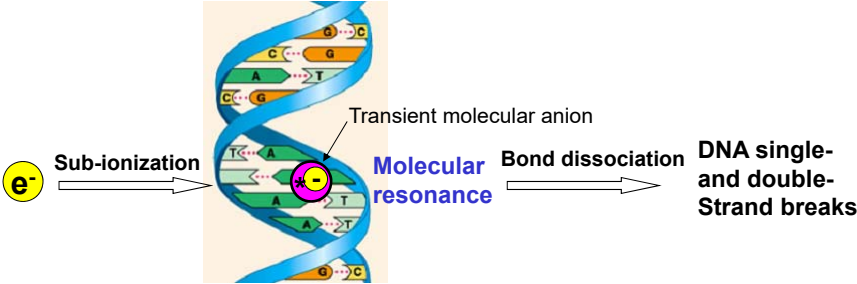
T. E. F. M. Standert et al, J. Vac. Sci. Technol., A16 239 (1998)

6



7

Interaction of Electrons with Biomolecules



8

Electron-driven processes are everywhere !!

- radiation chemistry
- environmental chemistry
- stability of waste repositories
- plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (CVD)
- plasma processing of materials for microelectronic devices and other applications
- novel light sources for research and everyday lighting
- life sciences
- chemical synthesis
- planetary atmospheres
- environmental remediation applications.

Ubiquitous !!

9

Statistical behavior of electrons in a plasma

- governed by the electron energy distribution function (EEDF).
- **Transport properties of electrons** are directly dependent on EEDF.
- **In a low-temperature molecular plasma, the electron-molecule collisions play the central role in determining EEDF.** Particularly important are the elastic scattering and the rotational and vibrational excitations of molecules.

Energy supplied from the applied field mainly goes to the electrons.

→ Those electrons collide with molecules to **produce various active species** (ions, radicals, excited atoms and molecules, and high-energy photons).

→ Those active species are **utilized for practical applications** mentioned previously.

(계속)

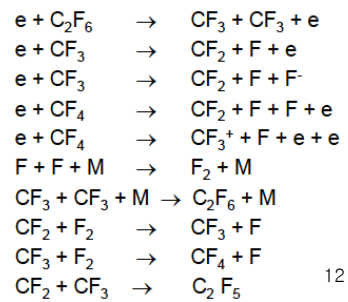
10

→ requires **knowledge of the basic collision processes** taking place:
 i.e. quantitative understanding of the fundamental electron collision processes in terms of **cross sections** and **rate coefficient** is important

11

공정 플라즈마(**processing plasma**)의 경우, 그 안에서 일어나는 다양하고 복잡한 원자/분자 충돌과정을 시간대별로 나누면 다음 세 단계로 나누어 볼 수 있다:

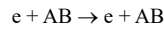
- 1단계 **Physical stage**: 전자 충돌에 의한 분자의 들뜸(**excitation**), 해리(**dissociation**), 이온화
- 2단계 **Physico-Chemical stage**: 들뜬 분자에 의해 방출 되는 광자에 의한 광자 충돌, 이온이나 **free radical**과 같은 **reactive species** 등의 반응
- 3단계 **Chemical stage**: 2단계 생성물의 추가적인 화학 반응



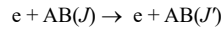
12

Electron Collision Processes

(1) Elastic scattering (Q_{elas})

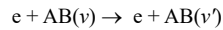


(2) Rotational transition (Q_{rot})



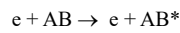
where J (J') is the rotational quantum number of the initial (final) state of the molecule.

(3) Vibrational transition (Q_{vib})

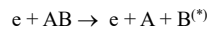


where v (v') is the vibrational quantum number of the initial (final) state of the molecule.

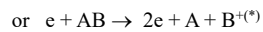
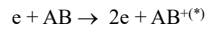
(4) Excitation of electronic state (Q_{exc})



(5) Dissociation (Q_{dis})

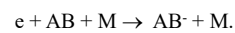


(6) Ionization (Q_{ion})



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(7) Electron attachment (Q_{att})



(8) Momentum-transfer cross-section (Q_m)

This quantity gives the **degree of momentum-transfer during the collision**. It plays a fundamental role in determining **electron transport in plasmas**.

(9) Emission cross-section (Q_{emis})

In some collision processes, the final product emits radiation immediately after the collision.

(10) Total scattering cross-section (Q_{tot})

This is defined as a sum of all the cross-sections for the individual processes (1)-(7).

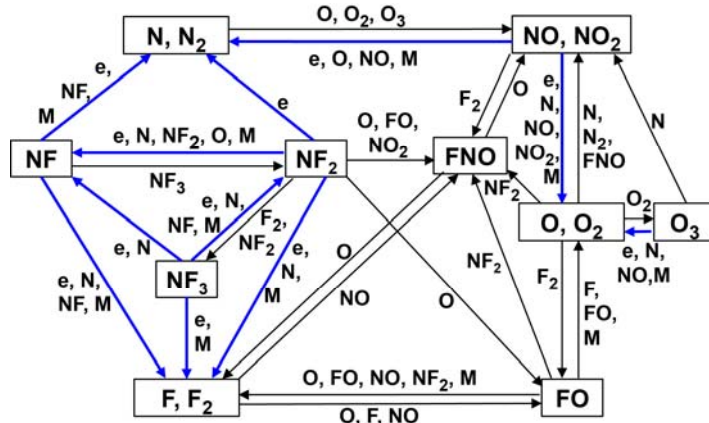
(11) Stopping cross-section (S)

This indicates the amount of energy transfer during the collision. Or more precisely it shows **how much the incoming electron loses its energy**.

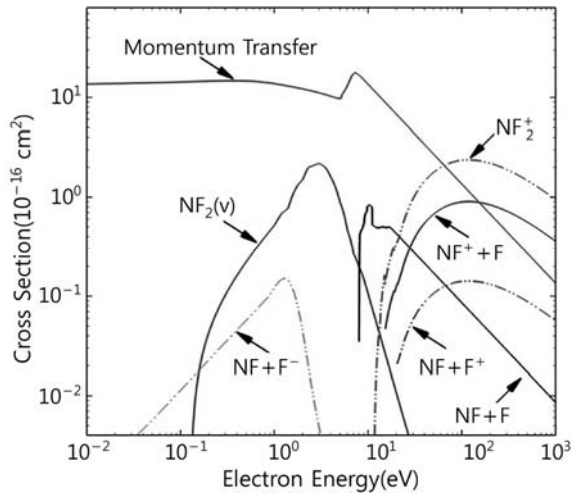
14

Si_3N_4 의 플라즈마 식각에서는 NF_3 와 O_2 의 혼합물을 사용해 NF_x , N , FNO_x ($x=1-3$)를 생성하고 이것들이 웨이퍼를 식각. 이 시스템을 모델링하려면 이 분자종들과 이들 사이의 상호작용에 대해 알아야 한다 [Bartschat(2016)].

NF_3/O_2 혼합물에서의 상호작용 메커니즘:



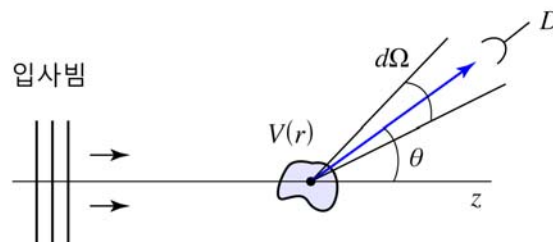
15



앞 그림에 기술된 과정 중, 일부에 대한 NF_2 의 전자충돌 단면적 [Bartschat(2016)]

16

Cross Sections: definitions



17

Cross Sections: definitions

Consider a collision $A + B$. B is a target fixed in space and A is a projectile incident along z axis.

J_{in} : flux of the incident particle

$J_{out}(\theta, \phi) d\Omega$: number of particles outcoming per unit time and per solid angle $d\Omega$ in the direction (θ, ϕ) **after collision**

Differential Cross Section (DCS):

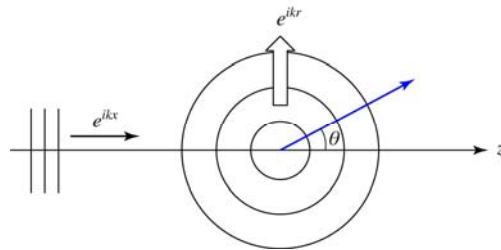
$$q(\theta, \phi) = \frac{J_{out}(\theta, \phi)}{J_{in}}$$

$$d\sigma/d\Omega$$

Integral Cross Section (ICS): $Q = \int d\Omega q(\theta, \phi)$

$$\sigma(T) = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \sin\theta d\theta d\phi.$$

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$$\Psi \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow \infty} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} + f(\vec{k}|\theta, \phi) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \equiv q(\theta, \phi) = |f(\vec{k}|\theta, \phi)|^2$$

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Experimental methods for cross sections:

- **Beam method:** DCS, TCS
single-collision condition !!
- Different methods for the different collision processes
- **Swarm method**
strictly speaking, not a collision experiment.

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Beam Methods : DCS Measurements

- Collide a well-collimated electron beam of a fixed kinetic energy with a molecular beam at low pressure
 - analyzes the kinetic energies of scattered electrons
 - leads to differential cross sections (DCS)

- Provides much more detailed information, and reflects the dynamics of electron collisions

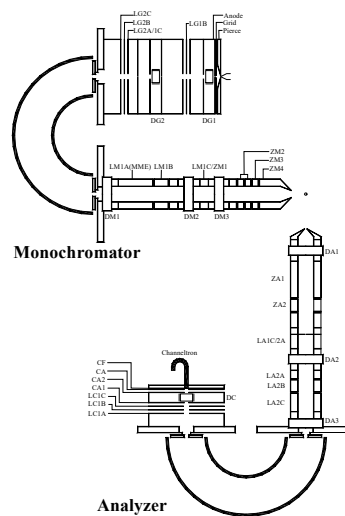
21

Electron Spectrometer

- **Electron beam**
 - Current 0.5 to 5 nA
 - 50-60 meV resolution
 - ~1 mm diameter

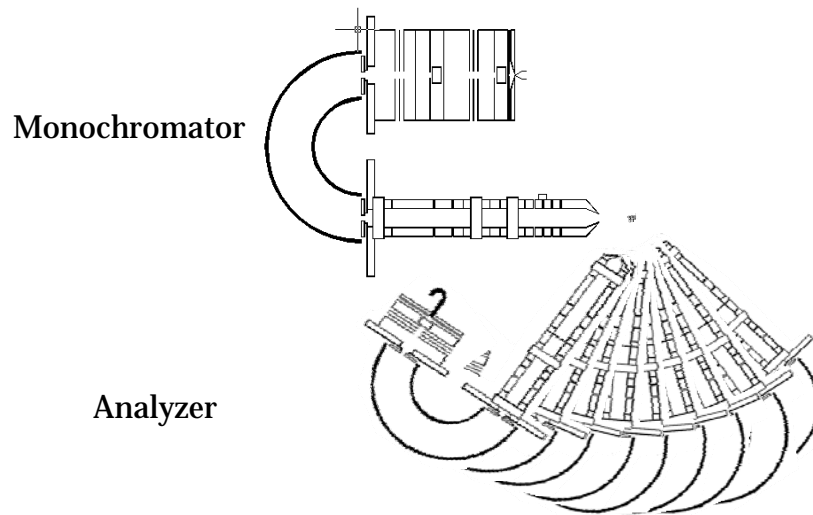
- **Molecular beam**
 - Single capillary
 - 0.3 mm diameter

- **Accessible angles**
-15° and 125°



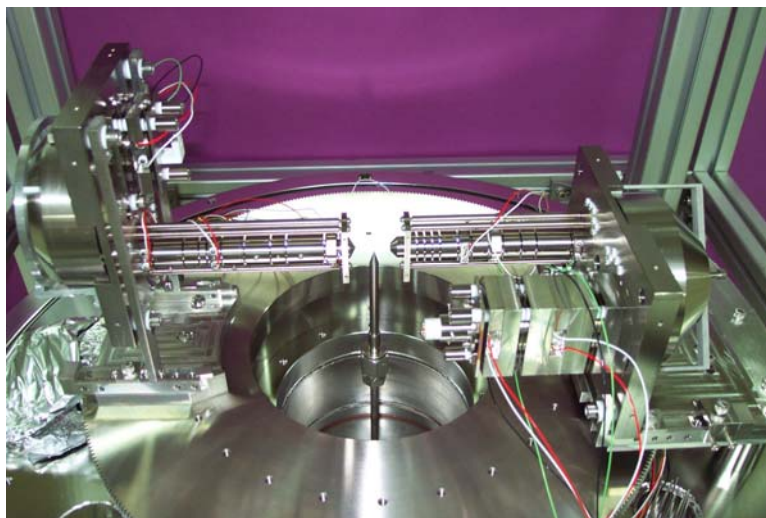
22

Electron Spectrometer



23

Electron Spectrometer

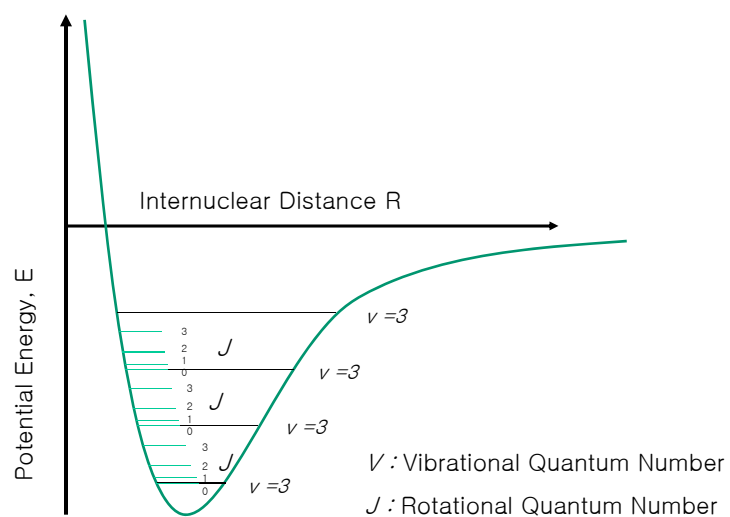


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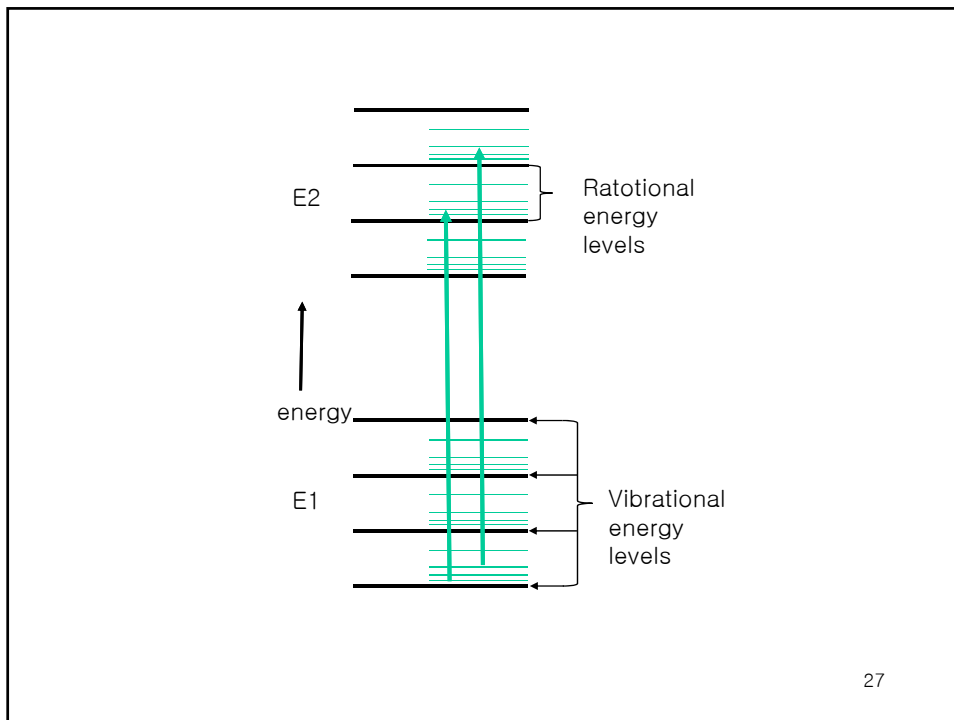
Electron Spectrometer



25



26



27

1. Elastic Scattering

Since the elastic scattering has **no threshold**, Q_{elas} has a considerable magnitude even at a very low energy.

Due to the **recoil** of the target, the KE change of electron is given by

$$(\Delta E)_{\text{elas}} = 2 \frac{m_e}{M} E_e (1 - \cos \theta)$$

m_e and M are the masses of electron and the molecule, respectively

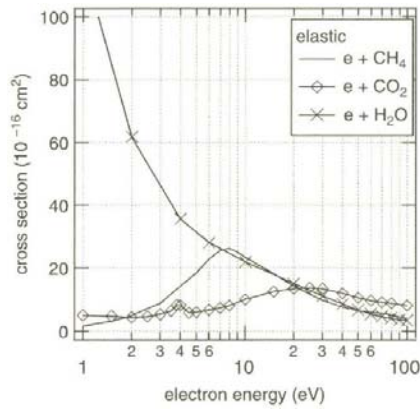
θ is the scattering angle.

The transition energy of **rotational state** of a molecule $(\Delta E)_{\text{rot}}$ is normally of the order of meV or less.

→ much smaller than the experimental energy resolution, so that it is difficult to discriminate the rotational transition from the elastic scattering

→ Thus the **elastic cross-section determined with an EELS measurement includes the cross-section for rotational transitions.**

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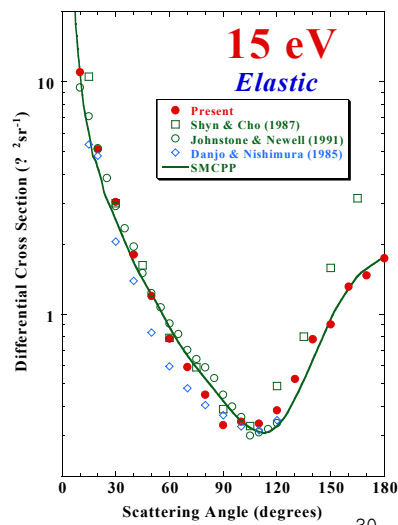
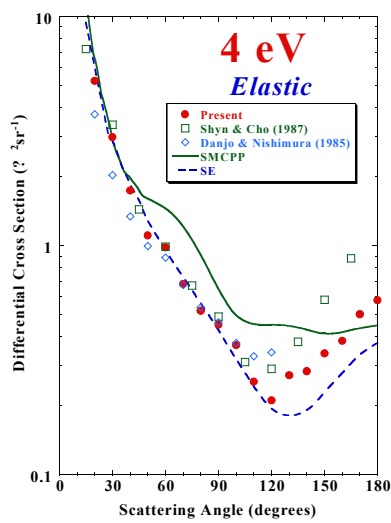
Elastic scattering cross-sections

Due to its **large electric dipole moment**, H₂O has a large rotational cross-section at very low energy.

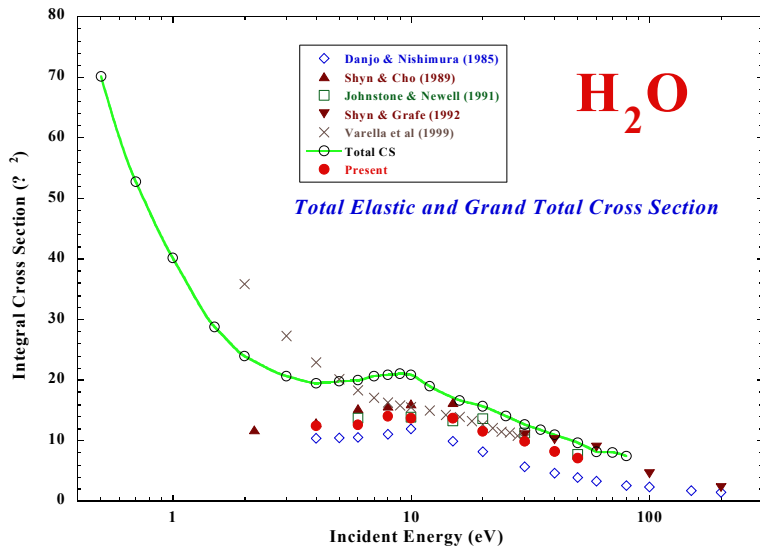
[그림에서 보듯, 낮은 에너지에서 매우 큰 cross section]

주의!! 이 그림은 실험으로 측정된 **ELASTIC cross section**을 보여주고 있음.

H₂O DCS



H₂O Elastic Integral CS



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2. (Elastic) Momentum Transfer

$$Q_m = 2\pi \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos\theta) Q_{elas}(\theta) \sin\theta d\theta$$

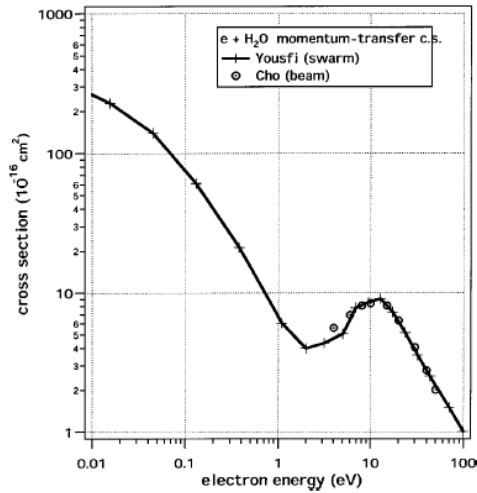
In a plasma, **electron transport** is primarily governed by Q_m .

Consider, for instance, **electric conduction**:

- Under the application of **electric field**, electrons move along the direction of the field.
- **Upon a collision** with a molecule, the electron starts to **move away from the field direction**. The deviation of the electron trajectory from the field direction is determined by the **momentum transfer** during the collision.
- If Q_m is large, the deviation from the field direction is large and the electron motion **less contributes to the electric conduction**.

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H₂O Momentum Transfer Cross Section



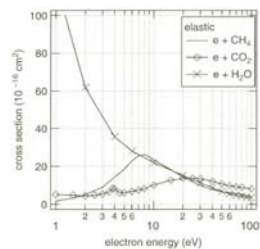
33

3. Rotational Transition

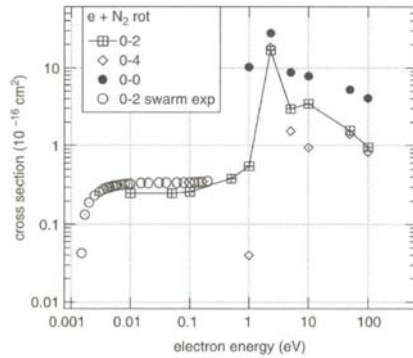
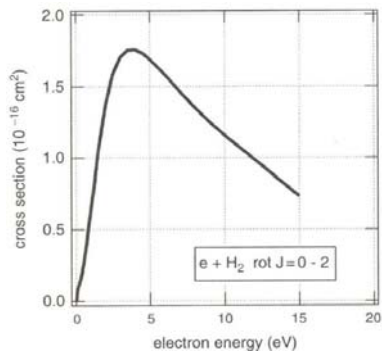
If the **charge distribution** in a molecule is **anisotropic**, the incoming electron exerts a **torque** on any molecule to rotate.

When the molecule has a permanent **electric dipole moment**, the electron-dipole interaction is the primary cause of the rotational transition. (long-range interaction $\sim r^{-2}$)

특히 **polar molecule**의 경우 e-dipole interaction에 의해, 0.01 eV 근처의 아주 낮은 에너지에서 아주 큰 rotation cross section (10^{-13} cm^2). 따라서, polar molecule의 경우, 약 1 eV 이하의 낮은 에너지에서는 rotational excitation이 dominant!



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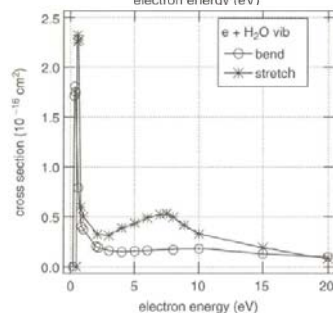
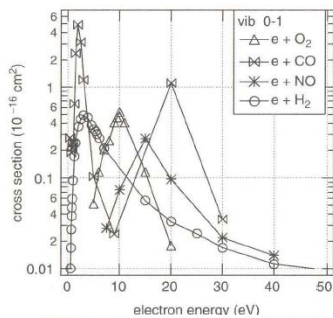


$J'=2$: Swarm exp
 $J'=0,2,4$: theory

Peak at 2.3 eV: shape resonance

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4. Vibrational Transition



Vibrational excitation cross-sections for $\nu=0 \rightarrow 1$:

All the cross-sections peaks are ascribed to the **shape resonance**.

Vibrational excitation cross-sections for the lowest transition in H_2O :

- Bend: bending mode (ν_2),
- Stretch: combined cross-sections for the symmetric and antisymmetric stretching modes.

Sharp peaks near thresholds: immediately above the threshold, the electron interacts strongly with the **molecular dipole**. This strong interaction may make the threshold peak.

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Dipole Interaction (permanent dipole): long range ($\sim \frac{1}{r^2}$)

(1) Incident electron의 에너지가 낮으면 전자가 target 가까이 오지 못하고 멀리서 머무는 시간이 많다. 따라서, 멀리 작용하는 dipole interaction이 dominant.
 → 그러므로, dipole interaction에 의해 생기는 IR-active mode도 낮은 에너지 (near threshold)에서 더 잘 일어난다.

IR-active mode of vibration can be easily excited by electron collisions through the dipole term of the electrostatic interaction. Because of its long range, the dipole interaction is most effective in collisions at low energies.

[dipole-allowed transition]

(2) 또, long-range interaction의 특징은 전자가 약간만 scatter 된다는 것이다. (작은 scattering angle)

An **IR-active mode** is the vibrational mode which can be excited through an absorption of IR radiation.

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IR spectrum - permanent dipole 없으면 불가

Electron-impact vibrational excitation:

대칭적 excitation이면 IR-inactive (ex. symmetric stretching in CO₂)

Otherwise, IR-active

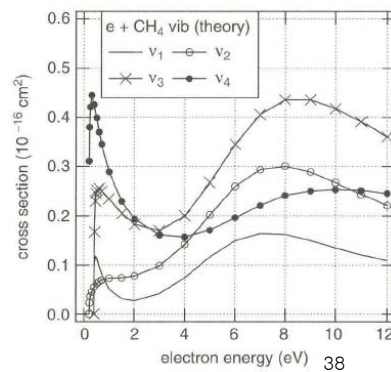
→ Electron interaction과 photon interaction은 다른 selection rule에 따름.

CH₄ : v₃, and v₄ are IR-active.

Near the respective **thresholds**, the IR-active modes have a large cross-section compared with other modes.

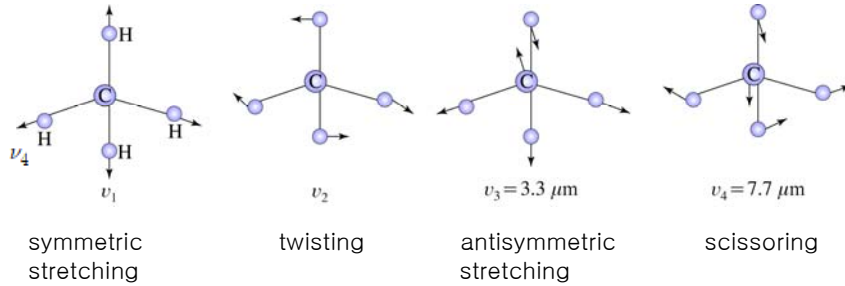
[뒷 페이지 CH₄ 진동모드 그림 참조]

As the **collision energy increases**, other effects (especially the shape resonance) mask the dominance of the IR-active modes.



38

CH₄의 진동 모드



39

Role of vibrational excitation in the electron transport in a molecular plasma :

Vibrational cross-section has a sizable magnitude in the energy region below about 10 eV.

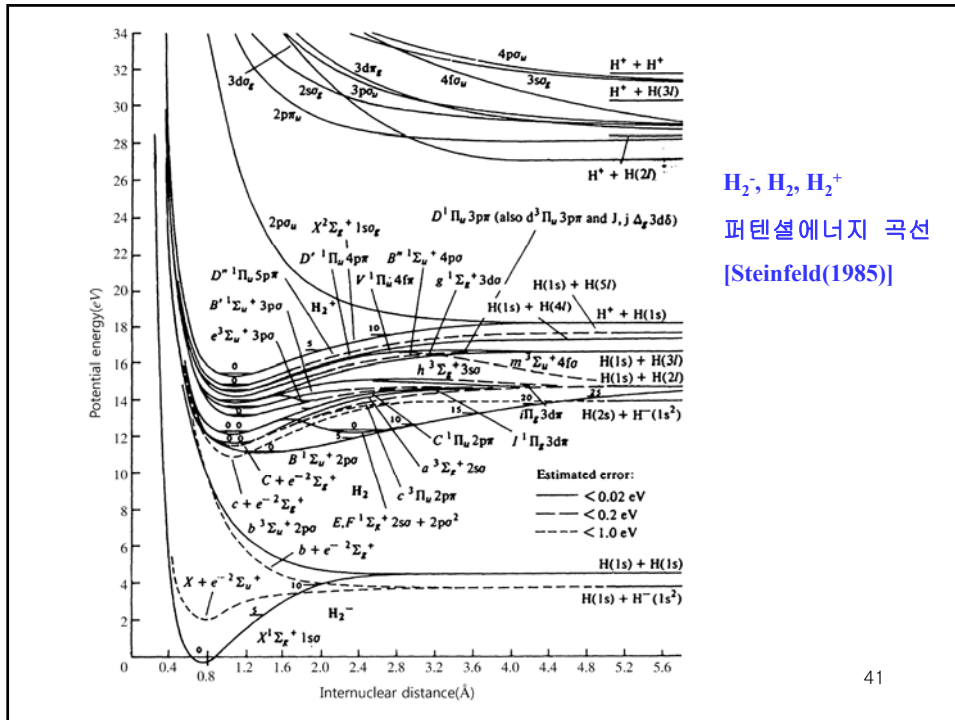
In this sense the **vibrational excitation is the most important energy loss process of electrons in a low-temperature molecular plasma.**

[Or it is the most significant process of **deposition of the electron energy** to the plasma.]

Once vibrationally excited, the molecule **decays to the lower state** through emission of radiation.

If the vibrational mode is **not IR-active**, the excited molecule remains for a long time. Through collisions with other particles in a plasma, they release their internal energy and start other (secondary) collision processes.

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5. Electronic Excitation

H_2O

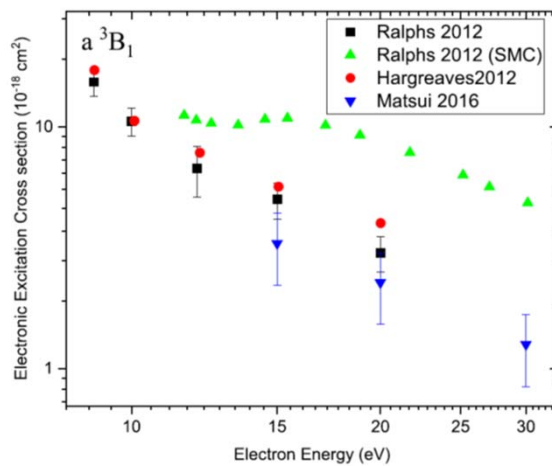


FIG. 15. Cross sections for the electron impact electronic excitation of the \bar{a}^3B_1 state obtained by Hargreaves *et al.*,⁹⁹ Ralps *et al.*,¹⁰⁰ and Matsui *et al.*⁶⁹

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5. Electronic Excitation

Fate of the electronically excited molecules:

- decay either through emission of radiation or
- decay through dissociation.
- If neither of the two processes has a considerable probability, they change their states **via collisions** with other plasma particles or by hitting to the **wall** of the apparatus.

For the **radiative decay** to occur, the excited state has to be connected with lower states through **dipole-allowed** transitions. The lifetime against such a radiative decay is of the order of 10^{-10} to 10^{-8} s.

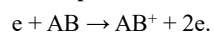
[플라즈마 진단]

43

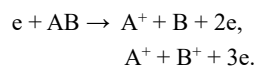
6. Ionization

For a diatomic molecule:

1. Production of **parent** molecular ion



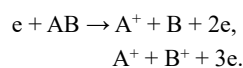
2. Dissociative ionization



For polyatomic molecules: various kinds of ions are produced. In some polyatomic molecules (e.g. CF_4), no parent molecular ions are produced. Whenever any electron is picked out from such a molecule, it dissociates.

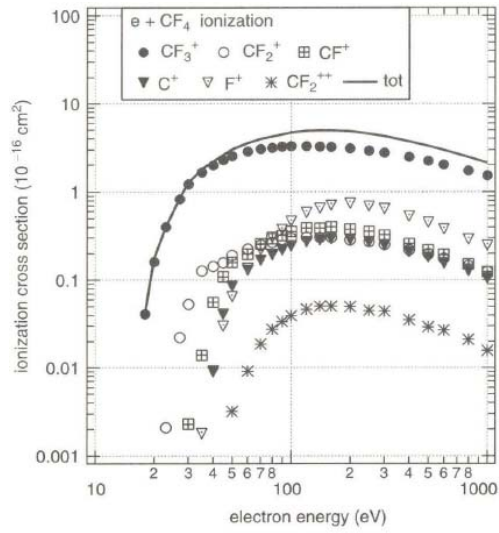
[주의] Spectrometrical detection cannot distinguish the ions with the same (or close) charge-to-mass ratio. For example, the signal of N^+ includes that of N_2^{2+} .

[주의] 다음 두 채널에서 오는 A^+ 가 가능. Coincidence를 사용해 구분.



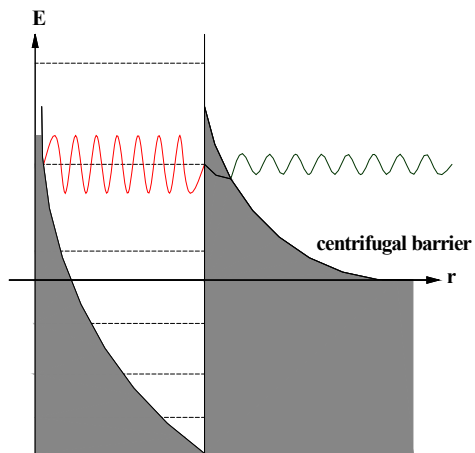
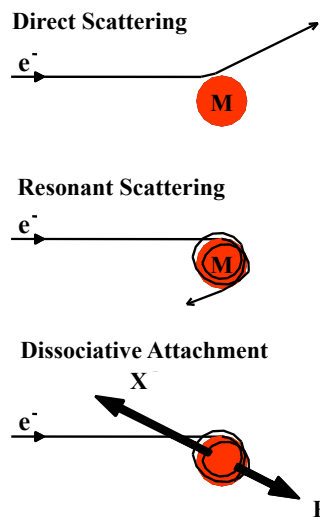
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Ionization cross-sections for CF_4 . Cross-section for CF^+ may have a contribution of CF_3^{2+} . No other multiply charged ions than CF_2^{2+} and CF_3^{2+} are detected



45

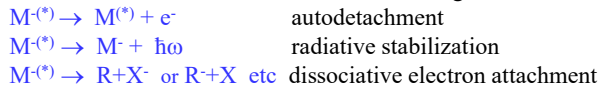
8. Dissociative Electron Attachment. Resonance.



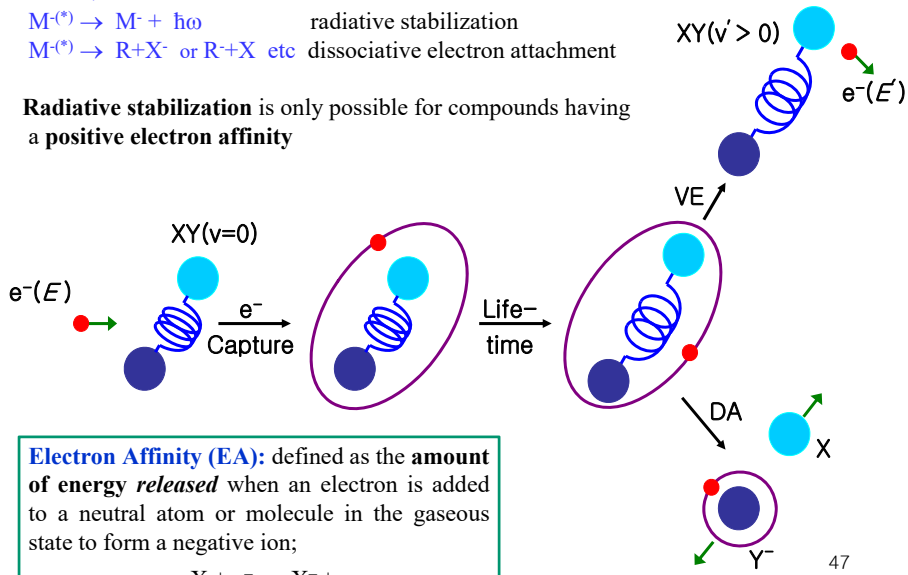
46

Fate of a polyatomic temporary anion formed by resonant electron capture

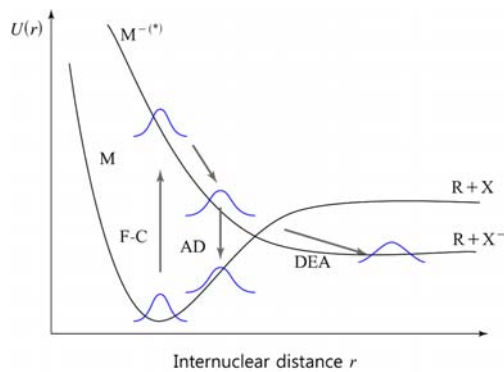
The molecular anion can react via the following channels



Radiative stabilization is only possible for compounds having a **positive electron affinity**



Electron Affinity (EA): defined as the **amount of energy released** when an electron is added to a neutral atom or molecule in the gaseous state to form a negative ion;
 $X + e^- \rightarrow X^- + \text{energy}.$

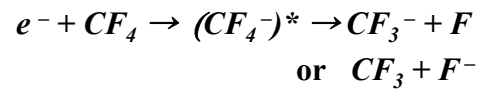


- M molecule
- F-C Franck-Condon
- AD autodetachment
- DEA dissociative electron attachment

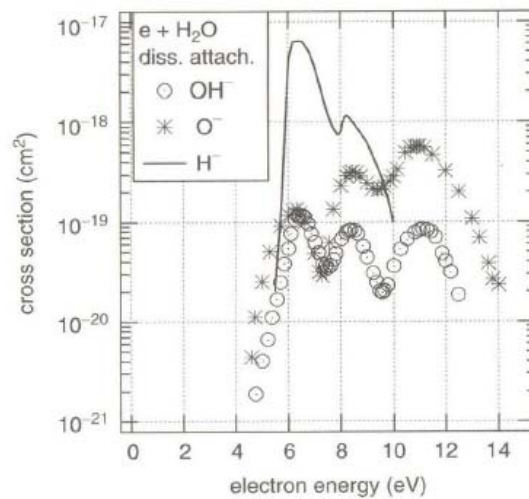
Dissociative Electron Attachment



- In chemical etching, electron collisions with halogen-containing molecules often lead to **negative ion production** through dissociative electron attachment :

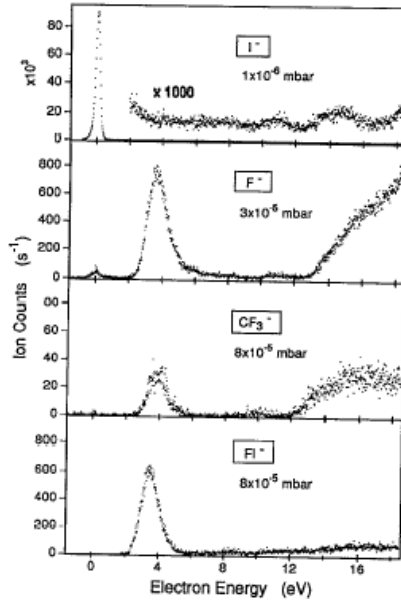


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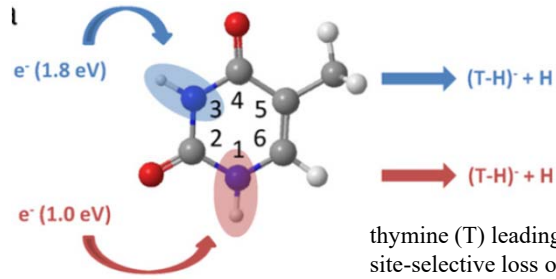
50

Ex : DEA of CF₃I



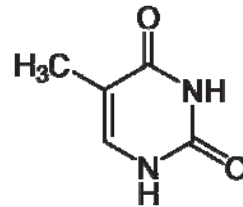
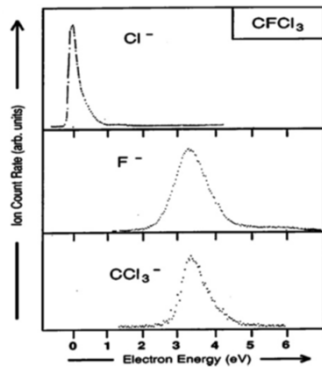
Illenberger (1993)

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이전엔 이런 실험이 레이저로만 가능하다고 생각!!!

thymine (T) leading to bond- and site-selective loss of H



Selective bond cleavage induced by dissociative electron attachment to CFCl₃

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Poor man's Porsche



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e-gun: poor man's laser?

레이저에 비해 e-gun이 가지는

장점: - 싸다

- 장치 크기가 작다

- 에너지 변조가 용이하고, 변조 폭이 넓다

단점: - 에너지 폭이 넓다

그러나, 전자와 광자가 각기 다른 방식으로 분자와 상호작용하고 용도가 다르기 때문에, 하나가 다른 하나의 대체품이 되기는 어렵다.

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Dissociative electron attachment has a special practical importance

The threshold energy of DA is given by

$$\Delta E(AB \rightarrow A + B^-) = D(AB \rightarrow A + B) - E_{aff}(B \rightarrow B^-)$$

Here D and E_{aff} are the dissociation energy and the electron affinity, respectively.

If electron affinity of B is sufficiently large, **DA can occur even at zero-energy** of electrons.

In the case of CCl_4 ,

the DA cross-section for $CCl_4 \rightarrow CCl_3 + Cl^-$ increases with decreasing energy and reaches $4.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2$ at **0.001 eV**.

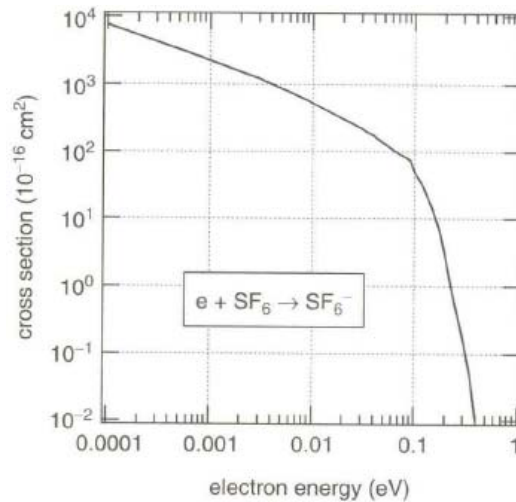
55

Electron Attachment

1. Radiative attachment: $e + AB \rightarrow AB^- + h\nu$ (very small cross section)
2. Three-body attachment: $e + AB + M \rightarrow AB^- + M$
3. Dissociative attachment (DA): $e + AB \rightarrow A + B^-$

- **Negative ions** play particular roles in molecular plasmas [ex. Earth's ionosphere]
- The **presence of negative ions** alters the discharge operation. The dominance of negative ions much **distorts the electron energy distribution**. Thus, it is a fundamental issue to know what kind of, and how many, negative ions are present in the molecular plasma considered.
- Electron-attaching gas (e.g., SF_6) is commonly used as an **insulator** in high-voltage technology.

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참고:

Three-Body Attachment

When a molecule AB itself has a **positive electron affinity**, a negative ion of the parent molecule, AB⁻, can be formed.

In principle, a two-body collision, e + AB, cannot produce AB⁻, because the **conservation of energy and momentum** is violated. But if a **third body** is participated in the collision and takes away the excess energy from the colliding two-body system, the product AB⁻ is stabilized to appear.

Metastable Negative Ion

In some cases of **large polyatomic molecules**, an incoming electron can be captured **with no third body** present.

Such molecules have a large number of normal modes of vibration. The energy gained by the attachment of electron is spent on the **excitation of those vibrational motions** - the energy is distributed widely over the vibrational modes.

The resulting negative ion of the parent molecule is **not stable**, but has a rather **long lifetime**.

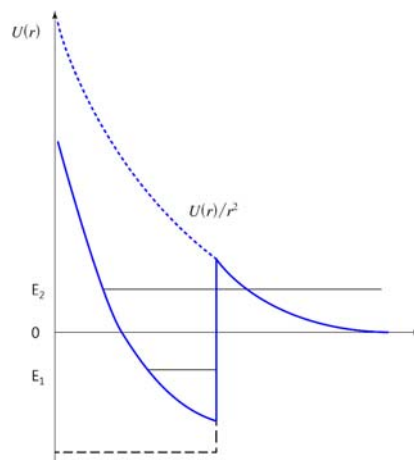
58

Resonance in electron collisions with atoms and molecules

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shape resonance

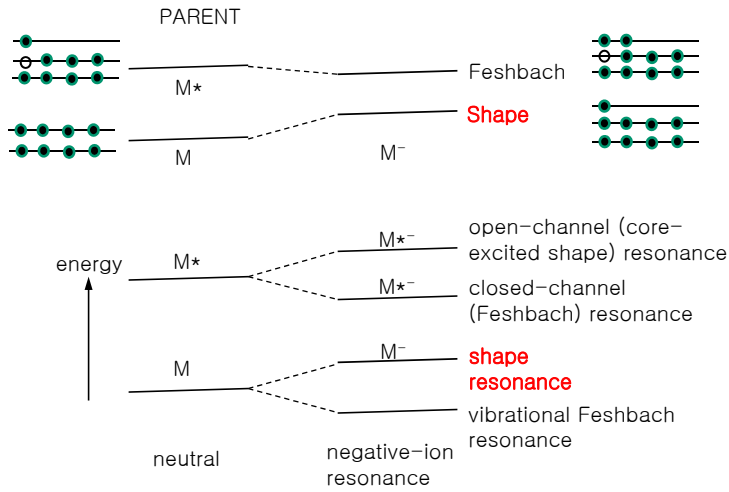
모양 공명(shape resonance)은 퍼텐셜의 “모양(shape)”에 의해 입사전자가 가두어져서 생기는 공명이다. 즉, 입사전자가 전자-분자의 퍼텐셜 장벽에 잡히는 것이다



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shape resonance

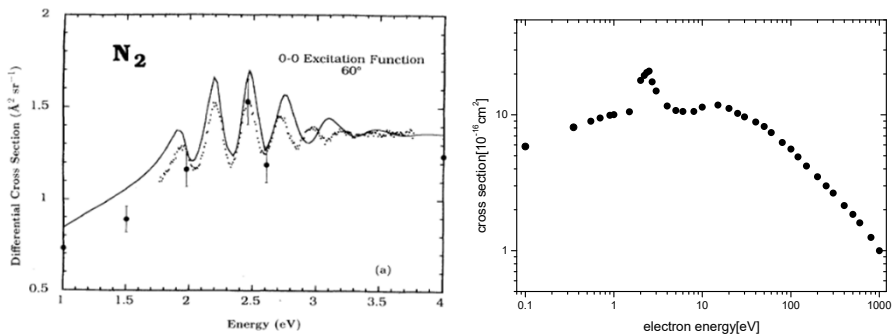
- broad (shape resonance lies energetically above its parent electronic states → often decays into the parent states very efficiently → short lifetime)



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shape resonance

- shape resonance can appear in elastic, MTCS and TCS and also in the cross-sections for the excitation of rotational and vibrational states.

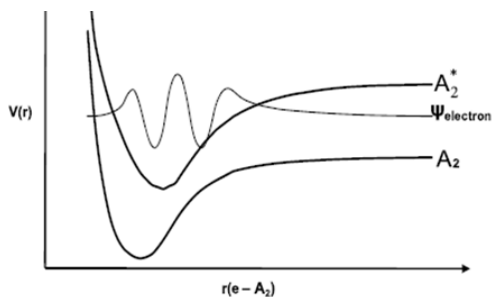


Elastic

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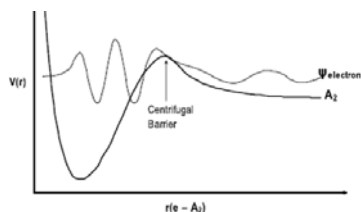
Feshbach resonance

- by **exciting the target** molecule, electron loses its energy, **become negative** and coincide with one of the bound-state energy



Core-excited Feshbach

[electron **trapped in the bound state of the excited state** which is embedded into the dissociation or ionization continuum of the initial state.]



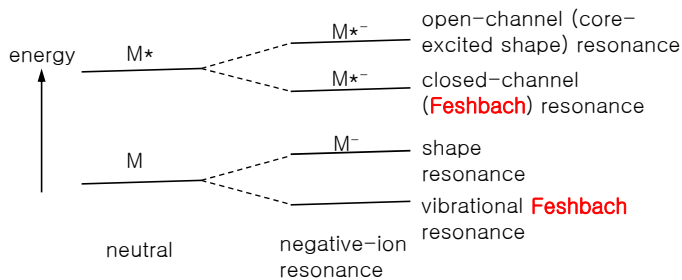
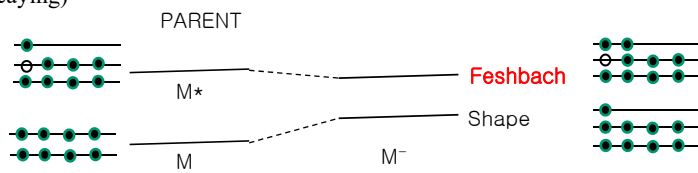
shape

[electron trapped in the centrifugal barrier]

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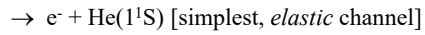
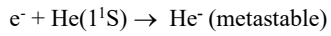
Feshbach resonance

- by exciting the target molecule, electron loses its energy, become negative (i.e. lying below excited state) and coincide with one of the bound-state energy
- sharp, vibrational structure (long-lived, therefore can make many vibration before decaying)

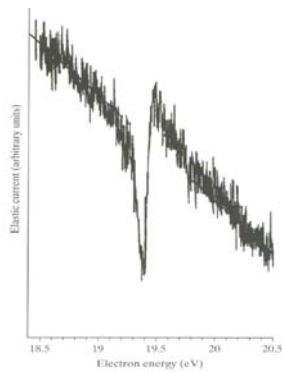


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Feshbach resonance



A resonance corresponding to a 2^3S state of He^- appear at 19.4 eV, which is just below the energy of the first excited-state (2^3S) of helium at 19.8 eV.



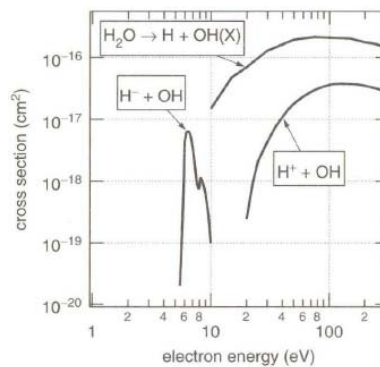
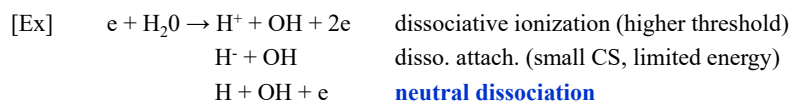
Yield of electron elastically scattered through 72° by helium

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8. Neutral Dissociation

- Production of neutral species in the ground or metastable state.

- Important, because most of the dissociation products are **active species** (e.g., radicals) and have a **considerable kinetic energy**.



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Radicals in Atmosphere

smog formation
depletion of the ozone layer

Radicals in Biology

necessary

intracellular killing of bacteria by neutrophil granulocytes
certain cell signalling processes

unwanted

cell damage
symptoms of aging
alcohol-induced liver damage
Radicals in cigarette smoke

Radicals in Plasma

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Slide prepared by Prof. H. Tanaka (Sophia University, Japan)

Neutral Radical Detection- *ionization threshold spectroscopy*

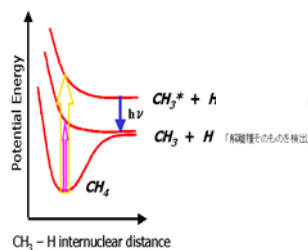
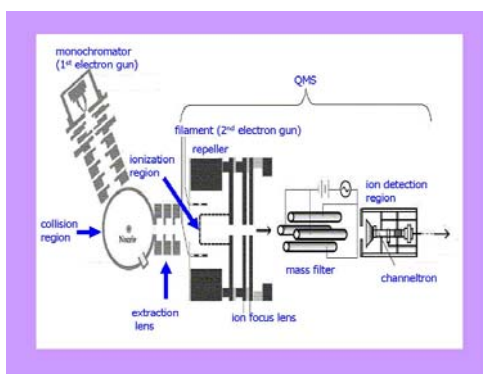


Table 1. Ionization thresholds

| Parent neutral | CH ₄ ⁺ | CH ₃ ⁺ | CH ₂ ⁺ | CH ⁺ | C ⁺ |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| CH ₄ | 12.6 | 14.3 | 15.1 | 22.2 | 25 |
| CH ₃ | | 9.8 | 15.1 | 17.7 | 25 |
| CH ₂ | | | 10.3 | 17.4 | 20.2 |
| CH | | | | 13.0 | 20.3 |
| C | | | | | 16.8 |



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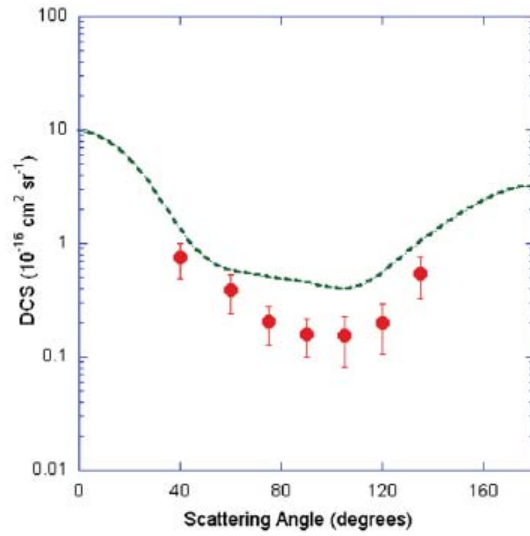
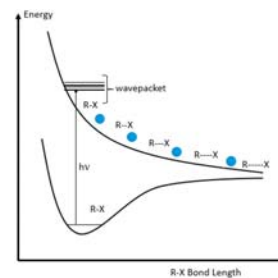


Figure 5. Absolute cross section ($10^{-16} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ sr}^{-1}$) for elastic electron scattering from the CF_2 radical for an incident electron energy of 25 eV. The present data (\bullet) are compared to the results from an SEP calculation ($- - -$) [6].

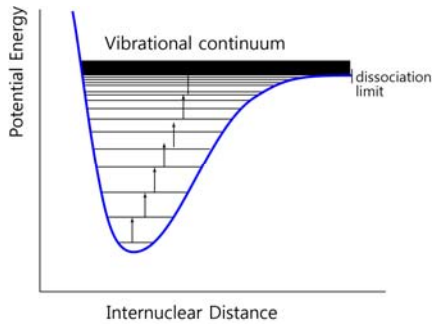
69

When an electron collides with a molecule in its electronically and vibrationally ground state, $\text{AB}(X, v^{(x)}=0)$, **different schemes of dissociation** are possible:

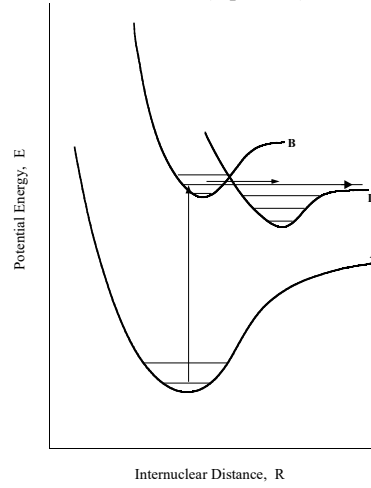
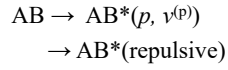
- (1) Transition to the vibrational continuum of the electronically ground state
 $\text{AB} \rightarrow \text{AB}(X, v^{(x)}=\text{continuum})$ [다음 쪽 그림]
- (2) Transition to the vibrational continuum of an electronically excited state
 $\text{AB} \rightarrow \text{AB}^*(n, v^{(n)}=\text{continuum})$
- (3) Transition to a repulsive electronically excited state
 $\text{AB} \rightarrow \text{AB}^*(\text{repulsive})$
- (4) Predissociation through the coupling of bound and repulsive excited states
 $\text{AB} \rightarrow \text{AB}^*(p, v^{(p)})$
 $\rightarrow \text{AB}^*(\text{repulsive})$ [다음 쪽 그림]



Transition to the vibrational continuum of the electronically ground state
 $AB \rightarrow AB(X, v^{(X)}=\text{continuum})$

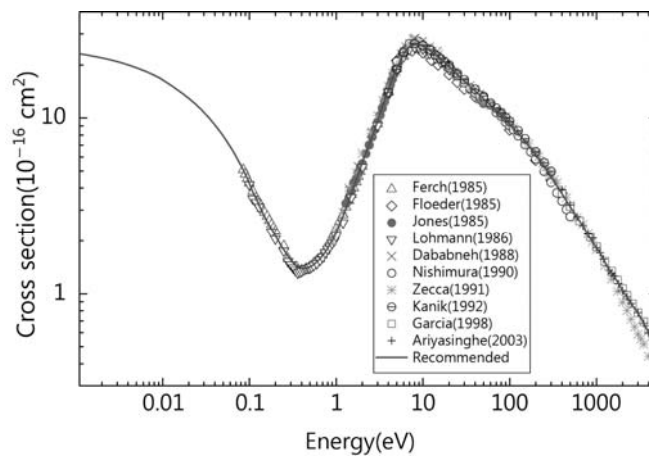


Predissociation through the coupling of bound and repulsive excited states



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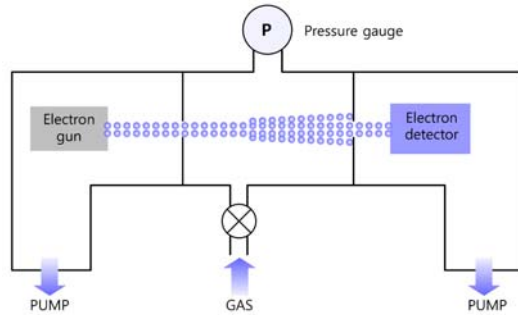
9. Total Cross Section



CH₄ Total Cross Section (TCS)

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- TCS**
- High precision
 - Provides upper bound of the cross sections
 - Time-of-Flight techniques used for determination of electron kinetic energies

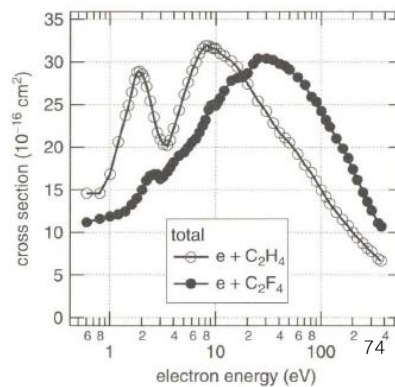


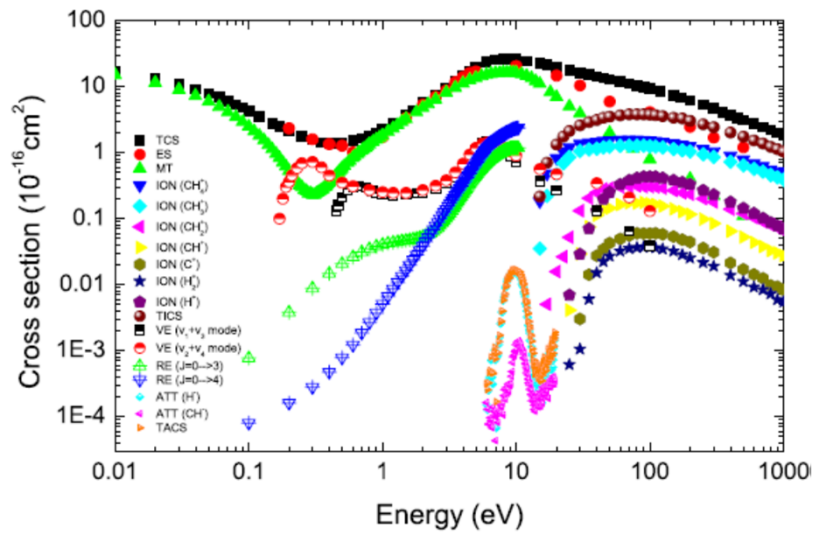
$$\sigma_t = \frac{1}{\rho l} \ln \left(\frac{I_v}{I_g} \right)$$

- σ_t total cross section
 ρ 기체충돌셀 내의 gas density
 l 기체충돌셀의 길이
 I_v, I_g 기체셀에 gas가 없을 때와 있을 때 detector에서의 전자전류⁷³

C₂F₄ & C₂H₄

- In the energy range above **100 eV**, Q_{tot} for any molecule has a similar trend. It decreases with increasing energy.
- In the lower energy range (i.e., < **100 eV**),
 - Q_{tot} reflects the characteristics of each molecule. The cross-section of C₂H₄ has a sharp peak at around 2eV. This may be due to a resonance.
 - C₂F₄ has a larger number of electrons than C₂H₄. This may be reflected in the cross-section at the higher collision energies.



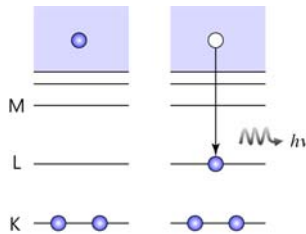


CH₄ Cross Sections

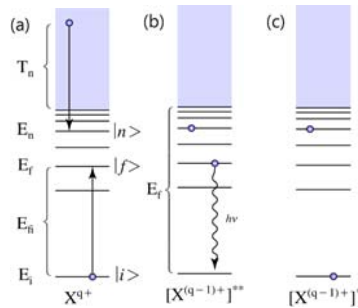
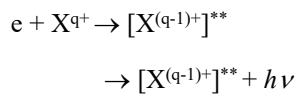
75

10. Recombination

radiative recombination



dielectronic recombination



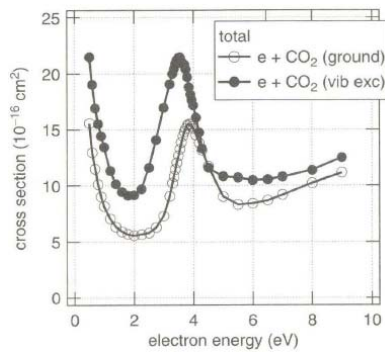
dissociative recombination: 전자가 분자 이온에 결합하면서 분자가 dissociation

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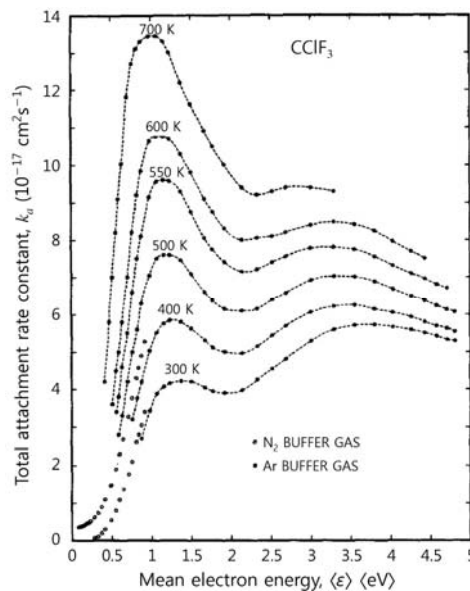
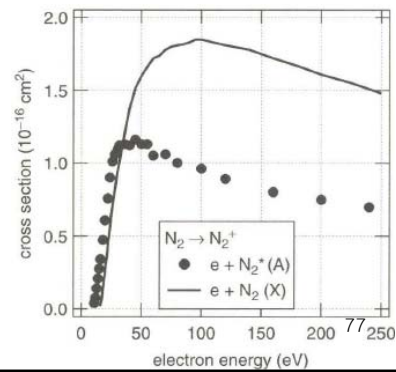
11. Collisions with excited molecules

원자를 예로 들면, 일반적으로 바닥상태에서 dipole moment가 0이지만 들뜬 상태에서는 큰 dipole polarizability을 가지며 long-range dipole interaction이 주된 상호작용 메커니즘이 되어 큰 상호작용 단면적을 갖게 된다.

Total cross-sections for CO₂ in its **vibrationally** excited and ground states



Ionization cross-section for **electronically** excited N₂^{*}(A), compared with that for the ground-state molecule



Legend 그림 구분:
N₂는 blank,
Ar는 solid circle.

CClF₃ 분자의 attachment rate const.를 mean electron energy 함수로 나타냄. 분자의 온도는 300, 400, 500, 550, 600, 700K [Spyrou(1985)]

Electron collision with cold atoms

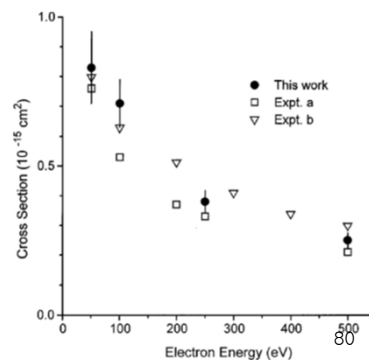
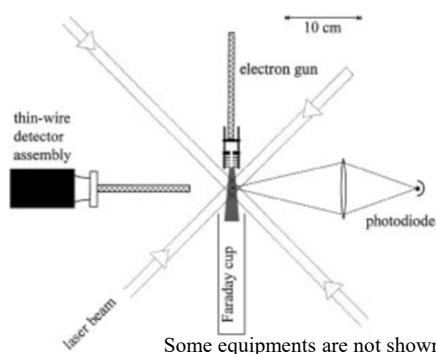
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Absolute Electron-Impact Ionization Cross Section Measurements Using a Magneto-Optical Trap

PRL 76, 4328 (1996)

R. S. Schappe,* T. Walker, L. W. Anderson, and Chun C. Lin

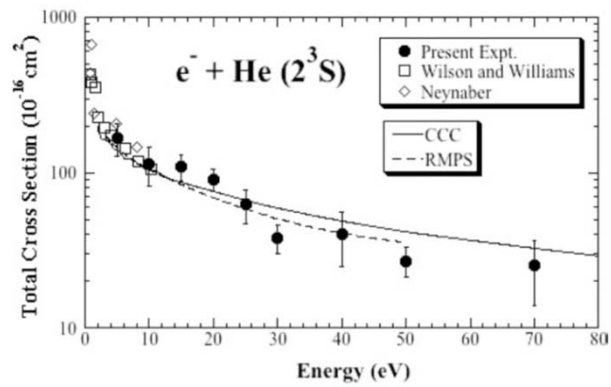
- present a new method for measuring absolute total electron-impact ionization cross sections of rubidium-85
- technique measures fractional **loss rates** from a magneto-optical trap due to electron-impact ionization.
- the method requires only **relative measurements of the number of target atoms** and therefore eliminates a major source of difficulty in previous experiments



Electron Collisions with Laser Cooled and Trapped Metastable Helium Atoms: Total Scattering Cross Sections

L. J. Uhlmann, R. G. Dall, A. G. Truscott, M. D. Hoogerland,* K. G. H. Baldwin, and S. J. Buckman††

- Absolute measurements of total scattering cross sections for low energy (5–70 eV) electrons by **metastable** helium (2^3S) atoms are presented.
- The measurements are performed using a **magneto-optical trap** which is loaded from a laser-cooled, **bright beam** of slow He (2^3S) atoms.



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