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Georgia Institute of  
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**Fundamental Studies to Enable Robust,  
Reliable, Low Emission Gas Turbine  
Combustion of High Hydrogen Content  
Fuels:** experimental and computational studies

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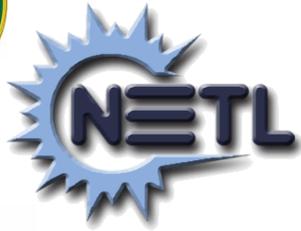
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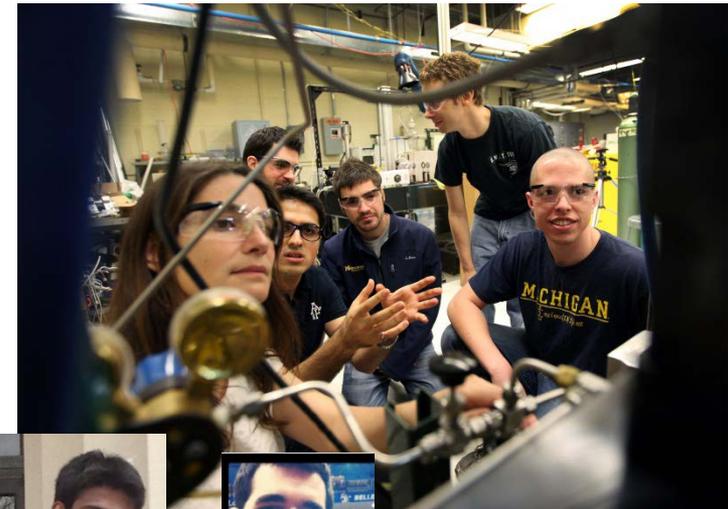
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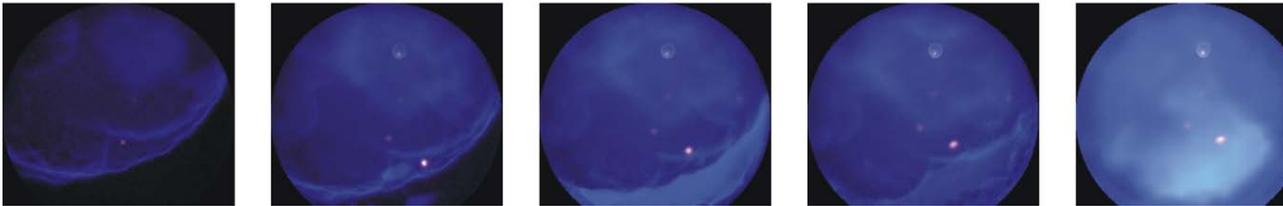


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Many thanks to our UM team and the DOE NETL program!

## outline



- *Program objectives*
- *Computational results*
- *Experimental results*

The proposed research program focuses on three areas to advance syngas turbine design:

1. syngas chemistry
2. fundamental ignition and extinction limits of syngas fuels
3. data distillation for rapid transfer of knowledge to gas turbine design.

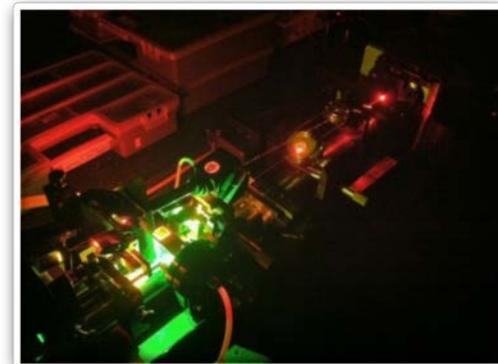
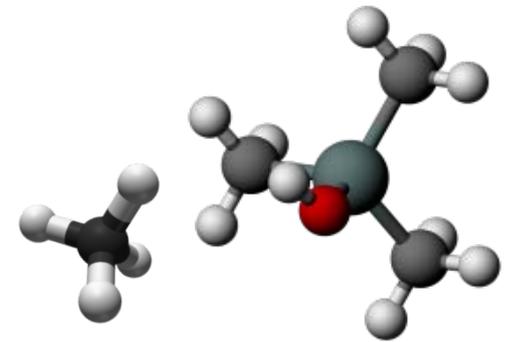
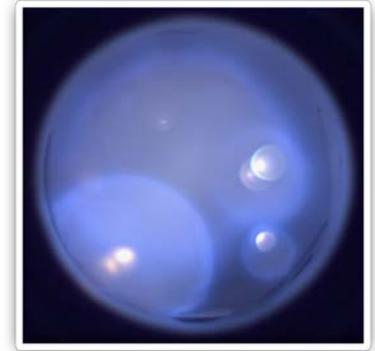
The project objectives are:

- 1. To develop and validate accurate and rigorous experimental and computational data bases of syngas reaction kinetic and fundamental combustion properties,**
2. To develop detailed and reduced syngas chemical mechanisms that accurately reproduce the new experimental data as well as data in the literature,
3. To develop a quantitative understanding of the stability of syngas combustion to fluctuations in the flow field, including the opportunities and challenges of exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) on extinction, ignition and flame stability,
- 4. To develop domain maps which identify the range of conditions (e.g. temperature stratification, turbulence, etc.) where syngas combustion can be effected in both positive and negative manners (e.g. accelerated autoignition).**

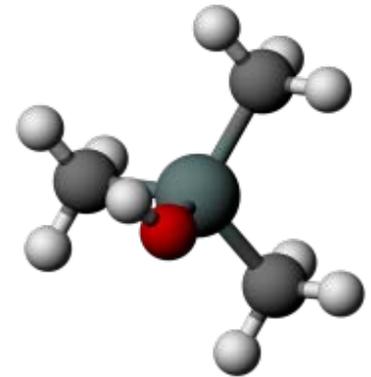
## 1. Predicting ignition regimes

1. 1D numerical simulations → Sankaran criterion
2. Including turbulence → Damkohler criterion
3. 2D DNS validation

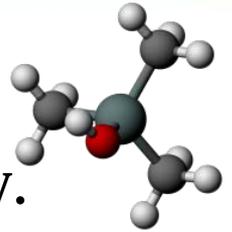
## 2. Syngas kinetics and the effects of impurities on syngas combustion



- Numerous impurities in real syngas, with significant impacts on reactivity [15-21]
- Particular concern for **organosilicon compounds**
  - Silanols, siloxanes (like trimethylsilanol) increasing in concentration in landfill-based syngas [13]
  - Known to foul; effects on combustion?
  - $\text{SiH}_4$  has marked effect on  $\text{H}_2$ , likely also the case for syngas [25, 28]



[Pierce, 2005]



1. Syngas kinetics for baseline understanding
2. Effect of trimethylsilanol (**TMS**) on syngas reactivity.
  - Unstudied impurity related to commonly found Si-species in landfill-based syngas

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- Compare ignition times to predictions from typical modeling
  - Use model to interpret and analyze observations
- 

$P \sim 5 \text{ \& } 15 \text{ atm}$ ,  $T \sim 1010 - 1110 \text{ K}$

$\phi = 0.1$ , ~Air Dil. with  $N_2$  ( $CO_2$ , Ar)

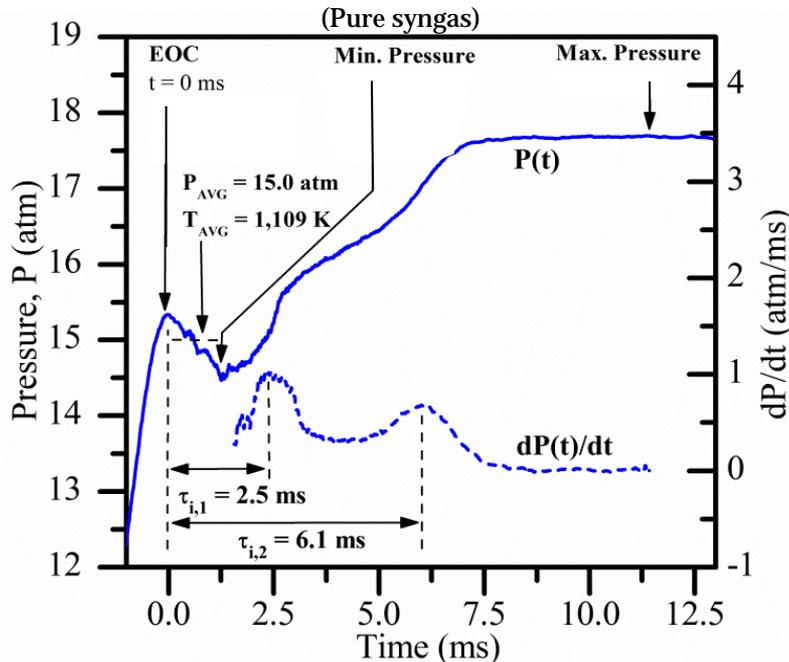
(1) syngas: 30%  $H_2$ , 70% CO

(2) syngas + 10ppm TMS

(3) syngas + 100ppm TMS

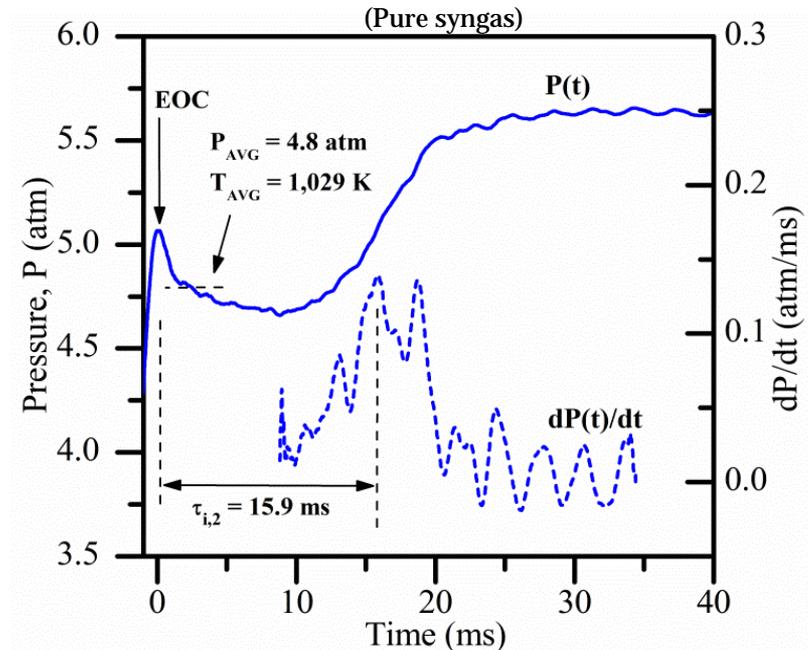
## 15 atm

### Two-step ignition



## 5 atm

### One-step ignition



➤ 2-step ignition never before reported

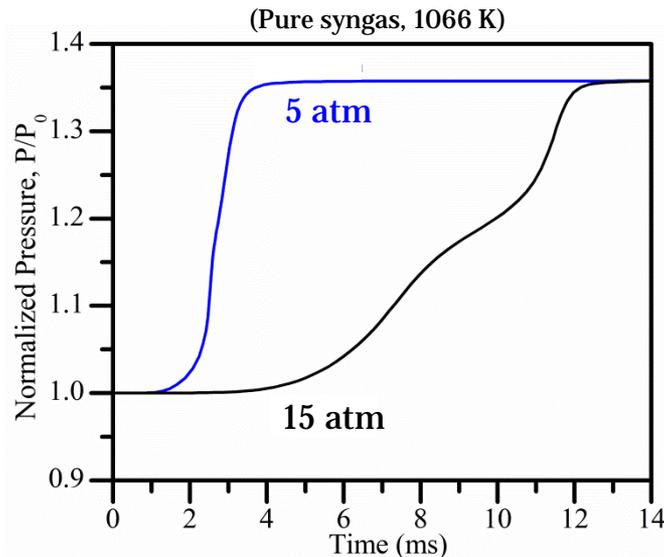
➤ Modeling trends indicate worse for higher  $P$ , more CO

- For each experiment, assigned:

- Thermo. State ( $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{T}$ ),  $\tau_{ign, 2}$  and  $\tau_{ign, 1}$  (if 2-step)

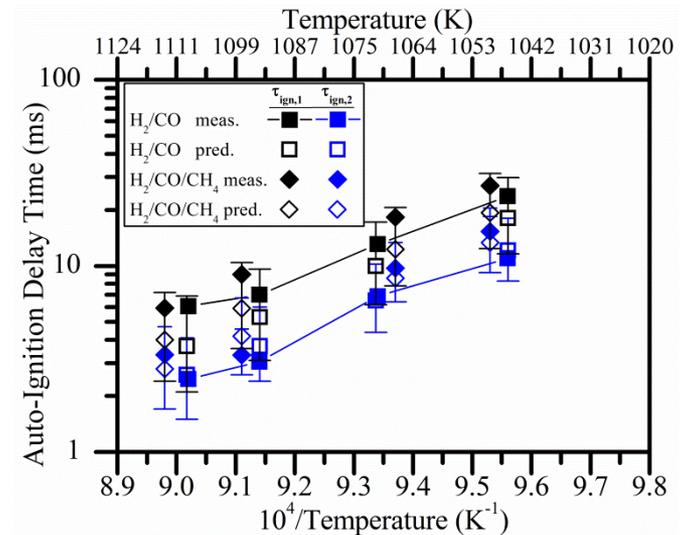
- Sources of uncertainty: direct meas. and post-processing filters

## Predicted P-t history

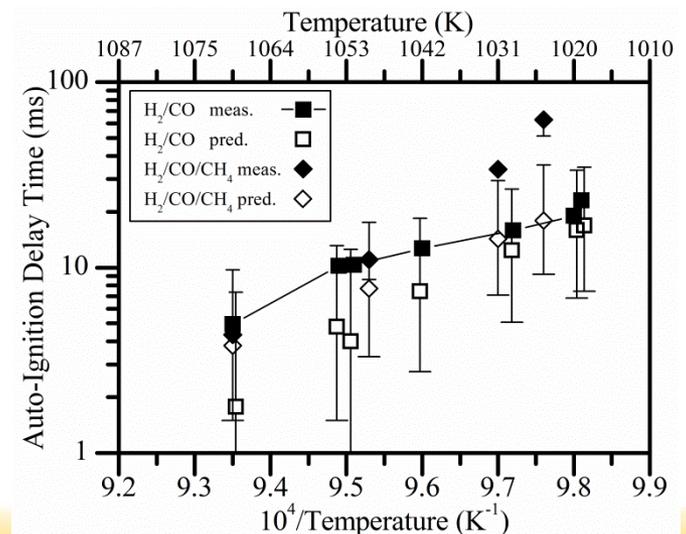


- Modeling accurately predicts 2-step ignition at 15 atm, 1-step 5 atm
- $\tau_{ign,1}$  &  $\tau_{ign,2}$  predictions in excellent agreement for both P, syn. & syn. + CH<sub>4</sub>
- System well represented by Li 2007 mech. and CHEMKIN homog. reactor model

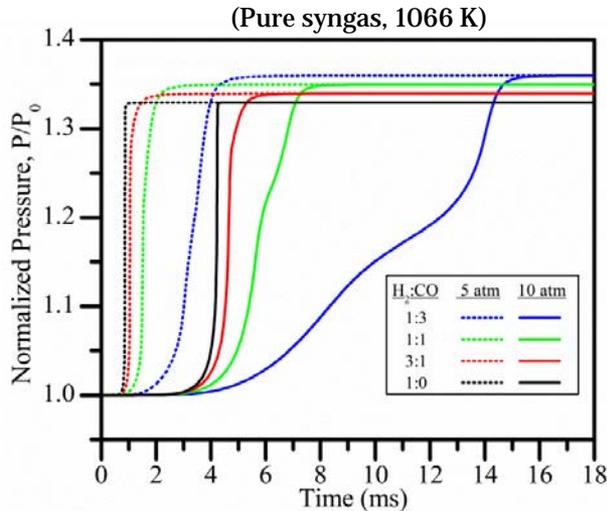
## 15 atm



## 5 atm



## Predicted P-t trends

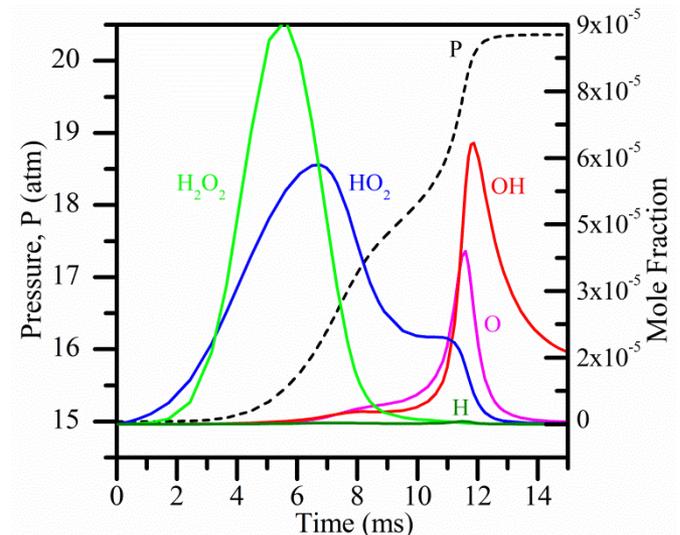
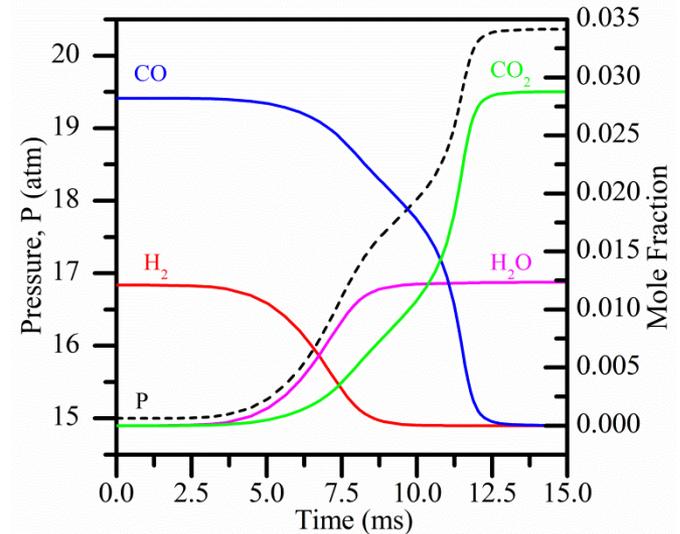


- 2-step behavior minimal at 5 atm, pronounced at 15 atm for high  $\chi_{CO}$

### Why 2-step ignition? (ROP and sensitivity analysis)

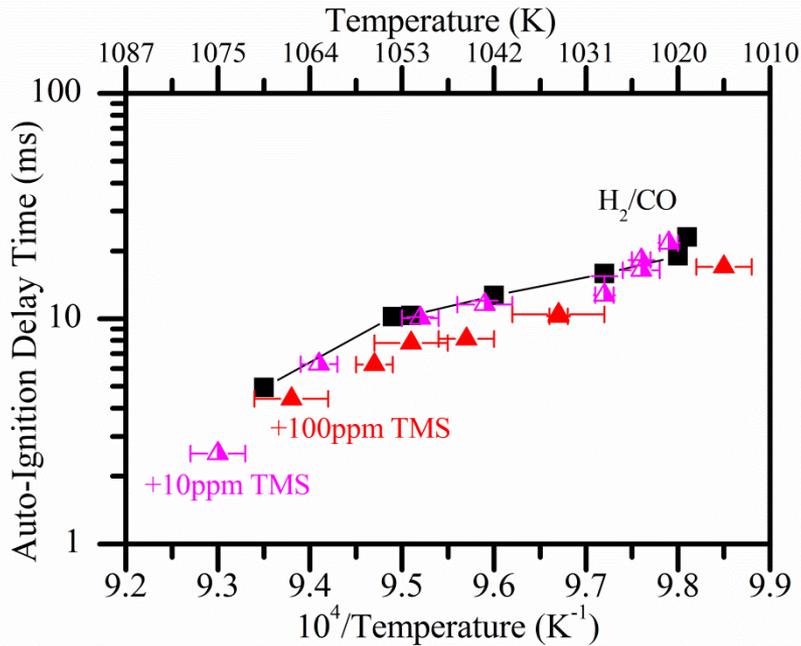
- $CO + OH = CO_2 + H$  dominates
- OH lag after step 1,  $H_2$  exhausted
- $H + O_2 = OH + O$  v.  $H + O_2(+M) = HO_2(+M)$
- Explains P and  $H_2:CO$  ( $T_{step1}$ ) dependence

## Predicted $\chi_i$ -t history

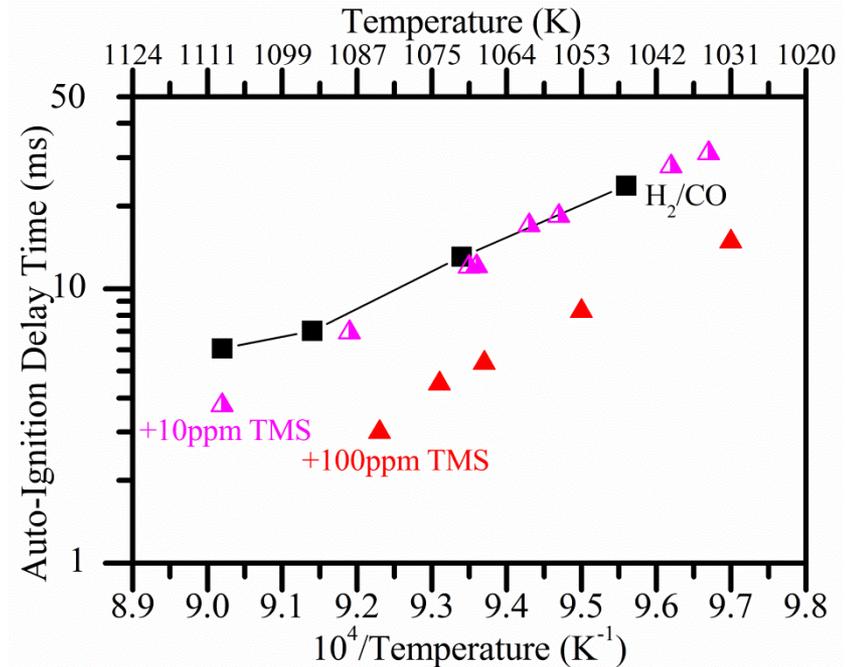


(Pure syngas, 15 atm, 1066 K)

## 5 atm



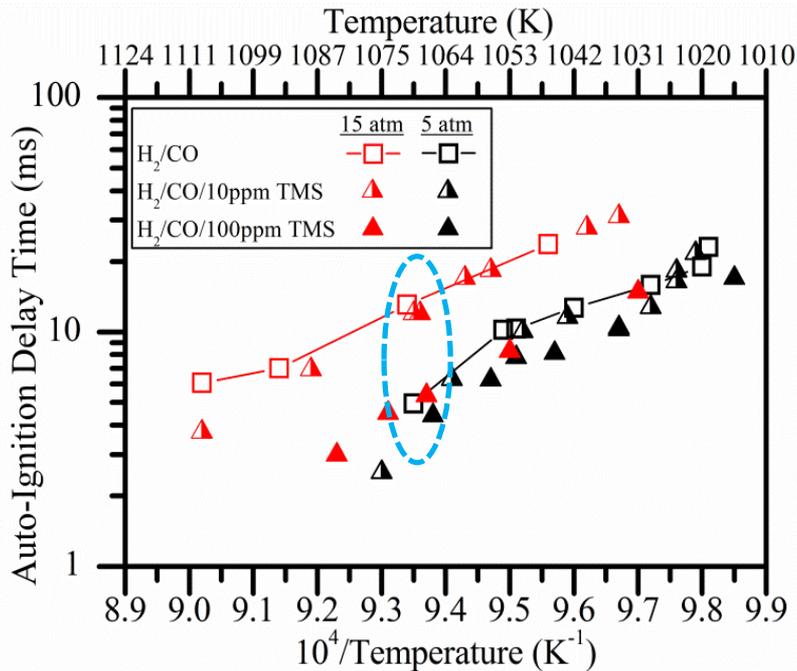
## 15 atm



- 10 ppm TMS ~ negligible
- 100ppm TMS decrease by ~**20-30%**
- 10 ppm TMS ~ negligible?
- 100ppm TMS decrease by ~**50-70%**

➤ TMS effect consistent and drastically promoting at 100 ppm!

$\tau_{ign,2}$



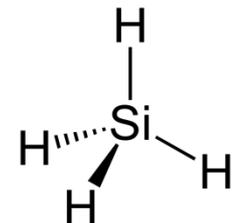
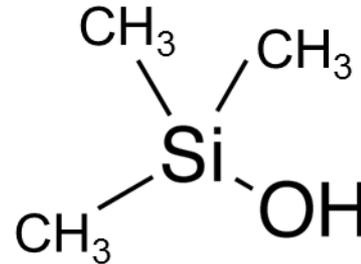
- 100 ppm TMS virtually eliminates P dependence
- Suggests TMS effect is on HO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> chemistry: supported by modeling
- Very similar effects seen for another Si compound, SiH<sub>4</sub>, in H<sub>2</sub> [petersen][mclain]

## Syngas

- 5 to 15 atm → ~ 100% increase in  $\tau_{i,2}$

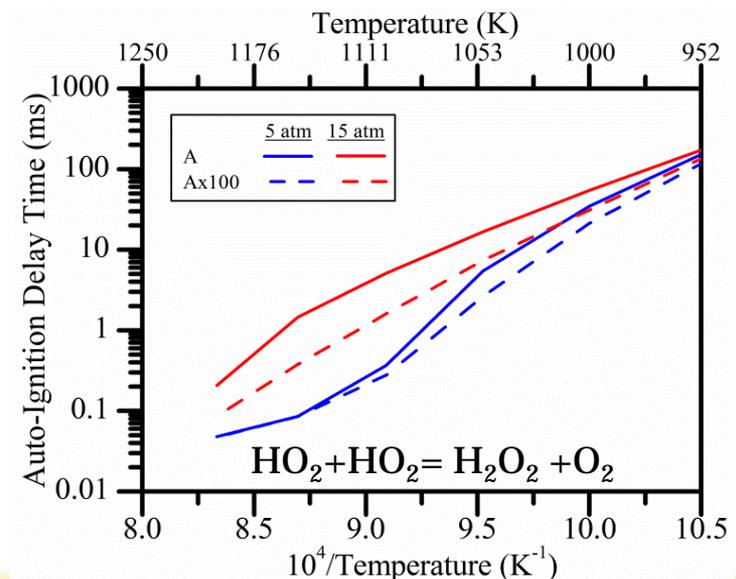
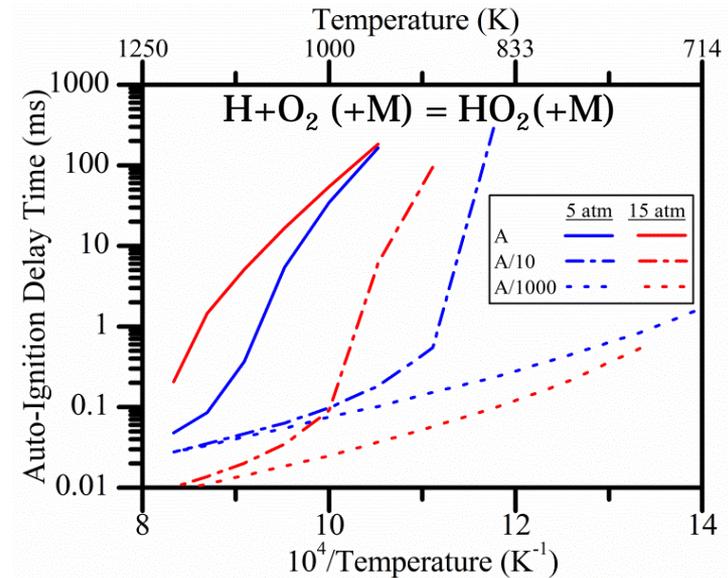
## Syngas + 100ppm TMS

- 5 to 15 atm → ~ negligible increase



# Discussion: Why does TMS have a promoting effect?

- Can't investigate directly using modeling, there are no reaction mechanisms to support the chemistry
  - Jachimowski & McLain and Petersen suggested  $\text{SiH}_4$  in  $\text{H}_2$  disrupts formation and/or enhances consumption  $\text{HO}_2$
  - Simulated these effects using current model with Li 2007 mechanism
    - $\text{H} + \text{O}_2(+\text{M}) = \text{HO}_2(+\text{M})$  ( $A \times 10^{1,-1,-3}$ )
    - $\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2 = \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_2$  ( $A \times 10^{1,-2}$ )
- 
- Trends of increased reactivity and lowered pressure dependence replicated, but magnitude of effects are not consistent with experimental observations
  - $\text{HO}_2$  interaction likely part of the TMS effect, but not all of the effect



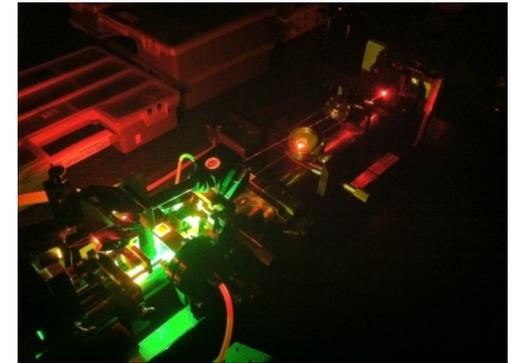
## Goal

Measure  $\chi_{OH}(t)$  during syngas auto-ignition.

## Conditions

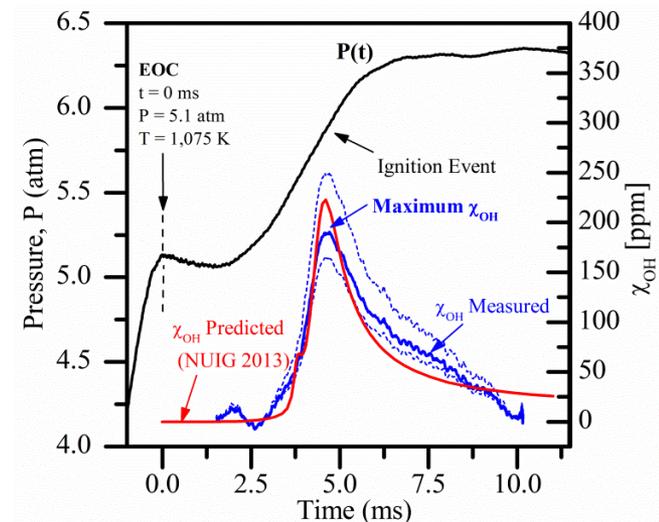
$P \sim 5$  atm,  $T \sim 1000$ - $1090$  K,  $\phi = 0.1$ ,  $\sim$ Air Dil.,  $N_2$  (Ar)

Fuel: 30%  $H_2$ , 70% CO, with and without TMS impurities



- Low precision targets dominate ( $\tau_{ign}$ ,  $s_L^0$ ) available kinetic data
- Important O, OH, H radical data very limited for  $H_2$  (high-T, low-P, ultra dilute) [29], unstudied for syngas

- Initial results show visible OH absorption feature
- Excellent agreement between measured and predicted  $\chi_{OH}(t)$
- Interrogation of multiple features possible (magnitudes, slopes), to improve chemical kinetics



# *Thank you!*

## Questions/Comments?

### \$50 Million Renovation of the GG Brown Memorial Laboratories



TOP: Rendering of new stairway connecting public spaces.  
BOTTOM: GG Brown during the construction phase.

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