

Atomic oxygen patterning in the plasma needle biomedical source

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A "plasma needle" is a cold plasma source operating at atmospheric pressure. Such sources interact strongly with living cells, but experimental studies on bacterial samples show that this interaction has a surprising pattern resulting in circular or annular killing structures. This paper presents numerical simulations showing that this pattern occurs because biologically active reactive oxygen and nitrogen species are produced dominantly where effluent from the plasma needle interacts with ambient air. A novel solution strategy is utilised coupling plasma produced neutral(uncharged) reactive species to the gas dynamics solving for steady state profiles at the treated biological surface. Numerical results are compared with experimental reports corroborating evidence for atomic oxygen as a key bactericidal species. Surface losses are considered for interaction of plasma produced reactants with reactive solid and liquid interfaces. Atomic oxygen surface reactions on a reactive solid surface with adsorption probabilities above 0.1 are shown to be limited by the flux of atomic oxygen from the plasma. Interaction of the source with an aqueous surface showed hydrogen peroxide as the dominant species at this interface.

I. INTRODUCTION

The plasma needle¹ is a cold atmospheric plasma device under study for biomedical applications^{2,3,5}. The device consists of a thin tungsten wire driven by a radio frequency voltage surrounded by quartz tubing guiding helium flows of up to 2 slpm around the wire. A critical factor in its efficacy is attributed to the mixing of the helium carrier gas with air^{4,10}. Mixing results in generation of reactive oxygen nitrogen species(RONS) culminating in oxidative and nitrosative stress to exposed cells. In this report we investigate numerically the role of neutral RONS species produced by the plasma needle device with a focus on the atomic oxygen and ozone patterning at the treated surface. Surface losses are discussed in this context where results of the interaction of plasma produced reactants with reactive solid and liquid interfaces are presented.

II. MODEL DESCRIPTION

A two dimensional axi-symmetric domain about the pin axis is considered, utilising the devices cylindrical symmetry (see figure 1). The dimensions are matched to experimental reports of Goree *et al.*^{3,4} and Sakiyama *et al.*¹⁰ on the devices killing pattern of *S. Mutans* bacteria samples. A 5 mm dielectric barrier ($5\epsilon_0$) sits on a grounded plate at a distance of 3 mm below the RF driven pin. The pin diameter was taken as 0.4 mm with a taper of length 6 mm and tip diameter 0.15 mm.

In the present work, the commercial finite element partial differential equation solver COMSOL Multi-physics

(version 4.3a)²⁰ is used to find a mutually consistent solution for the reacting gas flow (which is assumed to be laminar) and the plasma discharge^{6,20}. Initially, mass and momentum continuity equations (compressible Navier-Stokes) are coupled to a mass transport equation and solved in a steady state manner for a profile of the helium-air mixture. A gas temperature of 330 K is assumed with variable density and dynamic viscosity based on the mixture fraction of gaseous species. Diffusion coefficients for the neutral gas species are calculated from kinetic gas theory using the Leonard-Jones potential parameters⁷. For further information on equation formulation and boundary conditions (figure 1) see reports^{7,9}.

The stationary helium-air mixture profile is coupled to a self consistent fluid model of the plasma. Continuity equations for the electron density, electron energy and heavy species densities are solved with Poisson's equation for the electric field in the area NBCDIJK shown in figure 1 for *CD* of length 5 mm. A log substitution ($N_i = \ln n_i$) for species density n_i from the standard (linear)⁸ species continuity equation is used²⁰. This model is similar to that of Sakiyama *et al.*⁹, who have discussed details such as boundary conditions.

Our model treats a mixture of helium and humid air (1% H₂O, 20% O₂ and 79% N₂). The reaction set is shown in table I, consisting of seven ionic species (He⁺, He₂⁺, N₂⁺, O₂⁺, O⁻, O₂⁻ and H₂O⁺) with fourteen neutral species (He, He*, He₂^{*}, O₂, O, O(¹D), N₂, N₂(^AΣ), N₂(^BΠ), N, N(²D), H₂O, OH, and H). Reactions R₁₋₁₄ in table I follow the He-N₂ reaction scheme of Golubovski *et al.*²². The oxygen reaction scheme is given by reactions R₁₄₋₂₂, nitrogen reactions by R₂₃₋₂₈ and H₂O reactions by R₂₉₋₃₁ in table I. A helium purity of 99.999% is used here.

The electron transport and electron impact reaction rates are preprocessed by solving the zero dimensional Boltzmann equation using the *Bolsig+* solver software¹⁹ with collision cross section data from the *Lx*

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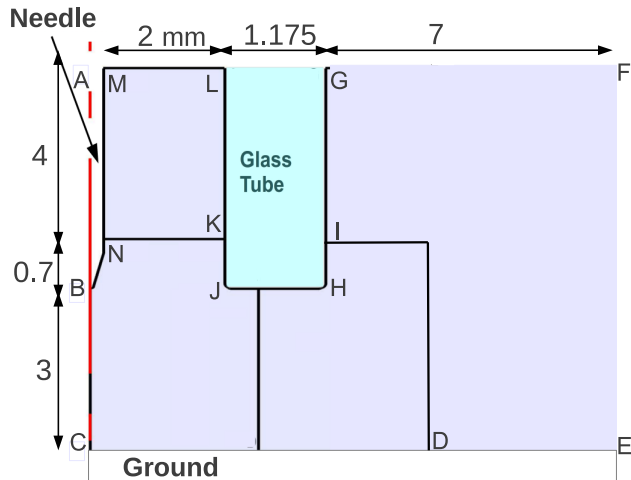


FIG. 1. Plasma needle geometry^{4,9}

cat database²¹ for a range of helium-air mixtures. The ion transport values are taken from literature²⁸ and the corresponding diffusion coefficients are calculated using the Einstein relation.

The sinusoidal applied voltage with frequency of $f = 13.56 \text{ MHz}$ is given by $V_{amp} \sin(2\pi ft) + V_{dc}$ where V_{amp} is the applied voltage amplitude and V_{dc} represents the self bias voltage due to a serial blocking capacitance component in the matching circuit.

The phase averaged production rates for the neutral species formed by the plasma dynamics are coupled to a mass transport model for the reacting and convecting mixture of neutral species, which is solved over larger timescales ($t \sim 0.1 \text{ s}$). These neutrals react to form ozone O_3 (see table II), various nitrogen-oxygen species N_xO_x (table III), hydrogen-oxygen species H_xO_x (table IV) and hydrogen-oxygen-nitrogen HNO_x species (table IV (R₁₄₋₁₈)). The short lived reactive neutrals ($\text{N}(^2\text{D})$, $\text{N}_2(\text{A}^3\Sigma)$, $\text{N}_2(\text{B}^3\Pi)$, He^* , H and $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$) formed during the plasma dynamics do not convect or diffuse considerably during this stage of the model.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Plasma structure

The plasma model is solved for $V_{amp} = 800 \text{ V}$, 900 V and 1000 V for helium inflows of 0.4, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 *slpm* until the average power deposited (P_{av}) reaches a steady state ($t \sim 10 \text{ } \mu\text{s}$) ($\delta P_{av} < 5\%$) corresponding to convergence in reactive neutral species production. The phase averaged electron density is shown in figure 2. A plasma with density $\sim 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$ forms around the needle tip, but this rapidly decreases to $\sim 10^{16} \text{ m}^{-3}$ in the

downstream region. A thin sheath structure is formed extending from the tip along the needle sides consistent with a high power mode reported for corona discharges of this type⁹.

The phase averaged electron mean energy (see figure 2) displays peak values over 22 eV near the needle tip, due to the high electric field and the large curvature of the needle at this point. At the sides of the pin, electron mean energy values up to 14 eV are observed. Peak values drop in the bulk of the discharge where the mean electron energy is typically 1-2.5 eV (figure 2). These bulk values of electron energy are a key factor in providing the energy required to disassociate and excite air species, and to generate reactive neutral species.

The Helium metastable species He^* and He_2^* follow a similar spatial pattern to the plasma density with peak values of 10^{21} m^{-3} for He^* (see figure 3) and 10^{20} m^{-3} for He_2^* along the needle tip and sides. The He_2^+ ion is the dominant ionic species at the needle tip (see figure 3). This is due to the relatively small amount of impurity present in this region ($\sim 10 \text{ ppm}$). Stepwise ionisation (R₈, R₁₀ in table I) and the fast charge transfer reaction between He^+ and He_2^+ result in a dominance of the He_2^+ ion around the needle tip. Away from the tip, N_2^+ becomes the dominant ionic species (figure 3) with peak values of 10^{17} m^{-3} near the central region approximately 1 mm below the pin. This is due to charge transfer reactions (R₁₄ in table I) and increased penning ionisation (R₁₂, R₁₃) with increasing nitrogen in the gas mixture. The charge transfer reaction between N_2^+ and O_2^+ (R₂₀ in table I) dominates the ion density in the outer radial region away from the tip (figure 3) with peak O_2^+ values of 10^{17} m^{-3} occurring approximately 2 mm below the pin and 1.5 mm from the central region. H_2O^+ ions follow a similar distribution to O_2^+ with peak values of 10^{16} m^{-3} outside the central region.

Negative ions play a dominant role in the outer regions of the discharge (see figure 4) as the fraction of O_2 in the gas mixture increases (see figure 5 (right)). Peak O^- density of 10^{17} occur at air fractions in the range 10^{-3} to 10^{-2} approximately 2 mm from the centre. An increasing O_2 fraction outside the central region leads to the dominance of O_2^- (see figure 4 and reaction R₃₃ in table I). Negative ions are the dominant negative charge carrier as the air fraction increases in the range 10^{-2} to 10^{-1} . This eventually leads to a large decrease in the plasma density in the outer regions of the discharge as power is increasingly coupled to negative ions over electrons.

B. Reactive neutrals

The neutral oxygen species produced by the plasma include atomic oxygen O , excited species $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ and the long lived molecular oxygen metastable $\text{O}_2(a^1\Delta)$. The phase averaged atomic oxygen production rate is shown in figure 5 with corresponding air fraction (right) for a

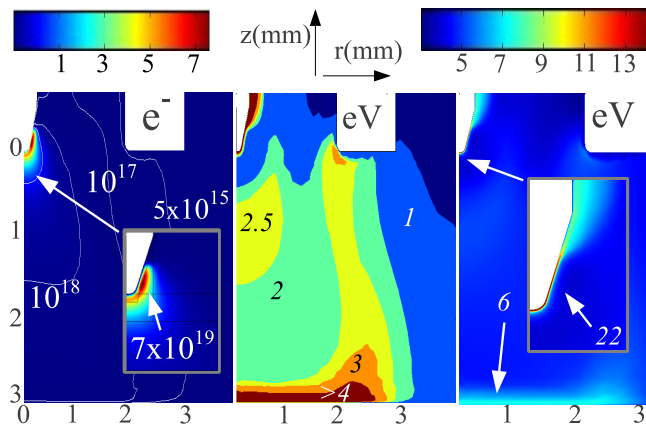


FIG. 2. Electron(left) phase averaged density $1/\text{m}^3$, electron energy(filled contour 1-4eV(middle)) and electron energy(right): 0.5 slpm, $V_{\text{applied}}=900$ V, $V_{\text{dc}}=0$ V

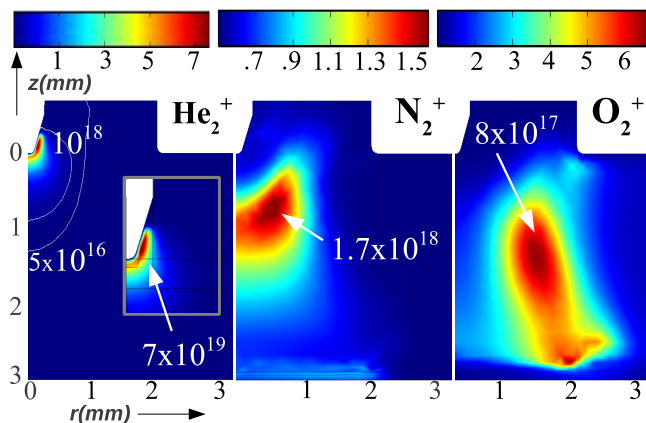


FIG. 3. He_2^+ (left), N_2^+ (middle) and O_2^+ (right) phase averaged density $1/\text{m}^3$: 0.5 slpm, $V_{\text{applied}}=900$ V, $V_{\text{dc}}=0$ V

flow rate of 0.5 slpm. The spatial peak production of atomic oxygen occurs in the region where the air fraction is of the order 10^{-2} and the plasma density is of the order of 10^{17} m^{-3} (figure 2). Values of $1.1 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ are observed in the region of $10^{-3} - 10^{-2}$ air fraction. Three factors determine the patterning seen here: the interaction of plasma (electron) density, electron energy and the available oxygen density (air fraction). Atomic oxygen is produced via dissociation, due to electron impact by reactions R_{16} and R_{17} with threshold energies of 5.58 eV and 8.4 eV and also by dissociative recombination reaction R_{18} in table I. R_{17} was found to be the dominant reaction producing atomic oxygen. The production rate of $\text{O}(^1D)$ follows a similar pattern to the atomic oxygen production consistent with reaction R_{17} in table I. $\text{O}_2(a^1\Delta)$ displays a more diffuse pattern of production in comparison to O and $\text{O}(^1D)$ due to its low excitation energy threshold of 0.98 eV. $\text{O}_2(a^1\Delta)$ peak production of $5 \times 10^{24} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ are observed in the region of 10^{-2} air fraction.

The phase averaged N production rates are shown in

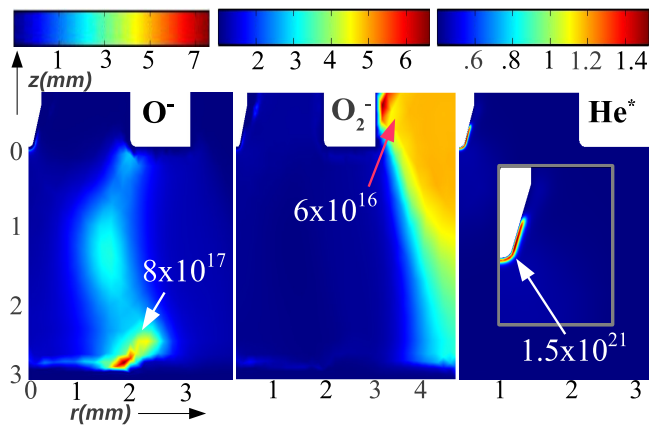


FIG. 4. O^- (left), O_2^- (middle) and He^* (right) phase averaged density $1/\text{m}^3$: 0.5 slpm, $V_{\text{applied}}=900$ V, $V_{\text{dc}}=0$ V

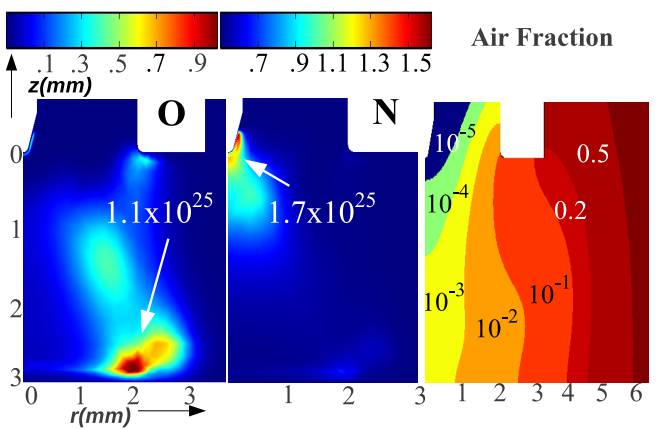


FIG. 5. O(left), N(middle) phase averaged production rate [$1/\text{m}^3\text{s}$] & air mixture fraction: 0.5 slpm, $V_{\text{applied}}=900$ V

figure 5. Formation of N is by direct dissociation of N_2 (R_{26} table I) and dissociative recombination of N_2^+ (R_{28} table I). The latter reaction proves dominant in the area around the needle tip where N_2^+ ion densities are large. The production rate of $\text{N}(^2D)$ follows a similar pattern to the atomic nitrogen production consistent with the chemistry used (R_{27} , R_{28} in table I). The phase averaged $\text{N}_2(A^3\Sigma)$ and $\text{N}_2(B^3\Pi)$ spatial production patterns show similar behaviour to $\text{O}_2(a^1\Delta)$ production with peak values of $3.6 - 5 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ observed.

OH and H are formed via the direct dissociation and dissociative recombination of H_2O and H_2O^+ (R_{29-31} table I) and show a similar production pattern as O. Peak values of $9 \times 10^{22} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ are found.

C. Reactive species at surface

The steady state oxygen and ozone distribution on the grounded surface is shown in figure 6 for 0.4, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 slpm inlet flows at 900 V. Peak O and O_3 values shift

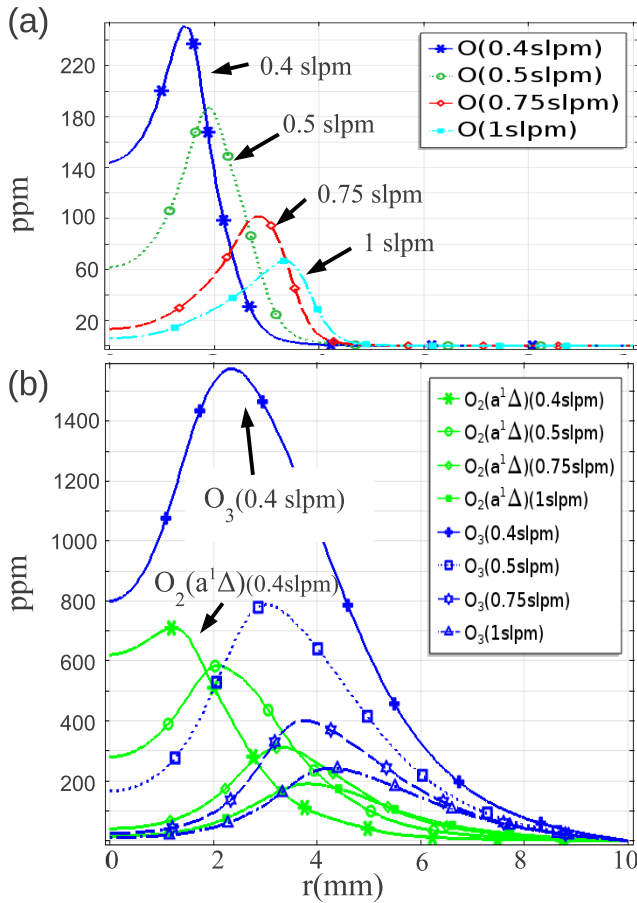


FIG. 6. O (a) & O₃, O₂(a¹Δ)(b) on surface(ppm): 0.4 slpm, 0.5slpm 0.75slpm, 1slpm, $V_{applied} = 900$ V

outwards in tandem (separated by approximately 1 mm) as the available air fraction decreases in the central region at higher flows. The decrease in the peak magnitude is due to the lower plasma density and electron energy available outside the central region. At flows of 0.4 slpm peak oxygen values of over 250 ppm ($5.5 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-3}$) occur within 2 mm of the centre.

The balance between the competitive reactions in table II determine the *atomic oxygen-ozone balance* in the region below the pin. Ozone generation is dominated by reaction with Helium in the central region and N₂, O₂ outside the central region (R₂ in table II). Quenching of ozone is due to reactions with hydrogen-oxygen radicals (OH, H, HO₂) (R_{5,14,24} in table IV) and nitrogen-oxides (NO, NO₂) (R_{17,18} in table III) but is dominated by quenching by O₂(a¹Δ) (R₁₁ in table II) with rate values of the order of $10^{23} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ across the domain.

The steady state distribution of nitrogen-oxygen species is shown in figure 7 for an inlet flow of 0.4 slpm and applied voltage of 900 V. Atomic nitrogen was found in the central region in excess of 17 ppm. Nitrous oxide N₂O was found to be the dominant nitrogen-oxygen species with peak values in the central region of 40 ppm. Values of NO and NO₂ found were less than 13 ppm and

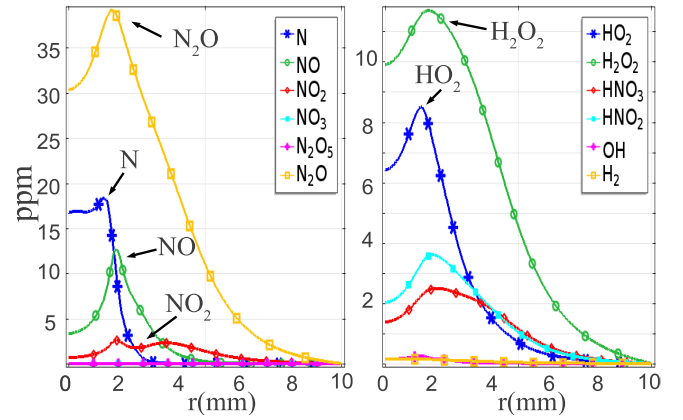


FIG. 7. RONS density at surface(ppm): 0.4 slpm, $V_{applied} = 900$ V, $V_{dc} = 0$ V

4 ppm peaking in the central region.

Figure 7(right) shows the steady state density for hydrogen-oxygen-nitrogen species. Peak values of 12 ppm hydrogen peroxide H₂O₂ and 8.5 ppm of hydroperoxyl radical HO₂ were found at the treatment surface with maximum values occurring within 5 mm of the centre. Nitrous acid HNO₂ and nitric acid HNO₃ values of less than 5 ppm are shown in figure 7(right).

D. Experimental comparison

In this section a comparison of our model results from optical diagnostics on a plasma needle treated surface by Sakiyama *et al.*¹⁰ is discussed. Sakiyama's report presents atomic oxygen density values on a treated surface corroborating earlier studies by Goree *et al.*^{3,4} on circular and annular killing patterns observed on plasma needle treated *S. Mutans* bacterial samples. The grounded surface used by Sakiyama in this report is a quartz cuvette (SiO₂) which is a largely *inactive surface* to oxidation by the plasma produced RONS(O, O₃, O₂(a¹Δ), ..). This allows direct comparison with results discussed in section III C for an inactive solid treatment surface (boundary CE in figure 1). Figure 8 shows atomic oxygen density at inlet flows of 0.4 slpm and 1 slpm for a range of applied voltages. Peak values at 0.5 slpm as reported by Sakiyama *et al.* show an atomic oxygen density peak of $5 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-3}$ within 2 mm of the centre. This is in good agreement with similar peak values for 0.4 slpm at 900-1000 V shown in figure 8. At 1 slpm inlet flows Sakiyama reports a peak in the atomic oxygen at 3 mm outside the central region with density of $4 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-3}$. Figure 8 shows a similar density peaking at 3 mm but with lower peak values of $2 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-3}$. Such a divergence of results is possibly due to unmatched power conditions used experimentally (applied voltage conditions not reported) or the DC bias voltage which is not accounted for in this numerical study.

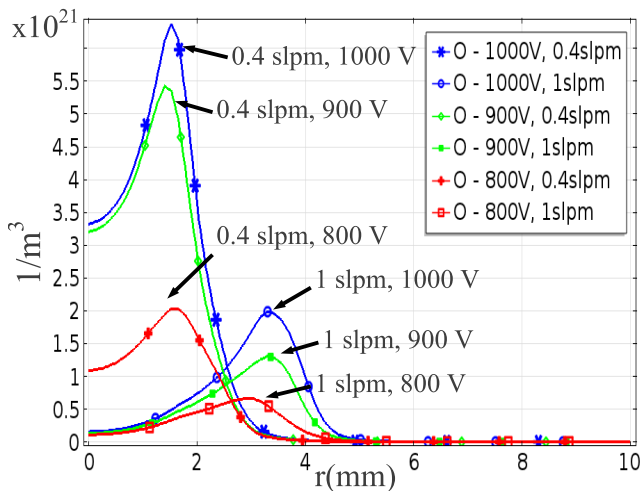


FIG. 8. Atomic oxygen density at surface(m^{-3}): 0.4 slpm and 1 slpm for $V_{\text{applied}} = 800, 900, 1000$ V

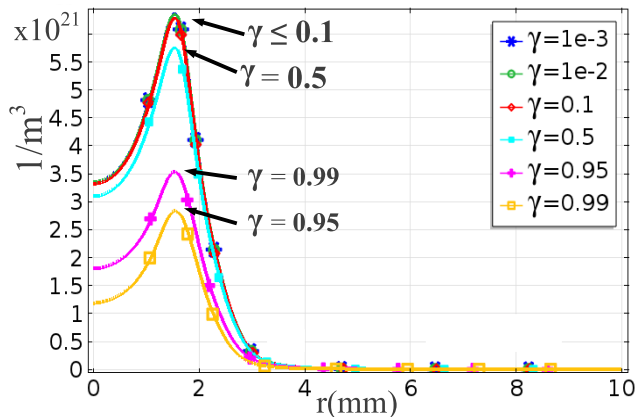


FIG. 9. Atomic oxygen density at a reactive solid surface(m^{-3}) for a range of adsorption probabilities(γ): 0.4 slpm, $V_{\text{applied}} = 1000$ V

E. Surface interaction

The interaction of plasma produced RONS with *active surfaces* is highly dependent on the surface properties of the material being treated. Atmospheric pressure plasmas have been shown to increase the surface energy(wetability) of various solid surfaces of hydrocarbon polymers such as perspex or polystyrene⁴⁰, to kill bacteria, promote wound healing in mammalian cells and kill cancerous cells^{36–38}. These applications occur in both aqueous and dry environments adding to the complexity of interaction. In this section we discuss the interaction of the plasma needle with *reactive* solid and aqueous boundaries in the context of the results presented above.

1. Solid surface interaction

Adsorption of plasma produced RONS on a *dry* solid surface of a non-biological or biological polymer initially causes radical formation which propagates a chain reaction of radical production on the surface. Initial radical formation breaks C-H, C-O and C-C bonds on the polymer surface such as peptidoglycan in bacteria cell walls⁴¹, lipid layers in animal cell membranes⁴² or plastic materials such as polypropylene²⁷. RONS flux loss at a treated surface is primarily dependent on the density of available reaction sites and the reaction rate for each species adsorption. The initiated radical formation on a treated surface is followed by a sequence of radical reactions(propagation) and eventual radical termination often producing a sequence of gaseous by-products which may interact with plasma RONS at the interface. A full model of this interaction for various surfaces is beyond the scope of this report.

Here we investigate surfaces losses at a reactive treatment surface by considering a simplified model of flux loss for a variety of adsorption probability values(γ) where ($1 > \gamma > 0$) for each species³⁹. The flux loss at the treated boundary(*CE* in figure 1) is given by the product $\gamma_i \Gamma_{\text{surf},i}$ where $\Gamma_{\text{surf},i}$ is the normal component of the surface flux for species i . Our reacting gas model is solved using the same flux loss probability γ for O, O₃ and O₂($a^1\Delta$) reactive oxygen species³⁹. Steady state results for the atomic oxygen density at the treated surface for various reaction probabilities γ are shown in figure 9. We see that for values of $\gamma > 0.1$ species density at the surface(central region) begin to drop significantly. Figure 9 shows that atomic oxygen surface reactions with reaction/adsorption probabilities $\gamma > 0.1$ will be limited significantly by the atomic oxygen flux from the plasma. Reaction probabilities for atomic oxygen interacting with polypropylene surfaces²⁷ have been estimated as typically < 0.01 while reaction probabilities on biological polymers such as lipid layers of cell membranes are not yet fully understood.

2. Water surface interaction

Many application environments such as treatment of living tissues involve biological targets covered in a liquid layer predominately constituent of water. In this scenario the plasma produced RONS are effected remarkable by interaction with a H₂O liquid layer. The gas mixture at the liquid interface is saturated with water vapour which reacts with plasma produced RONS. To estimate this water vapour density we consider the *Antoine equation* allowing the calculation of the (saturated) partial pressure of the water vapour in the gas mixture at the interface⁴⁴. Assuming a temperature of 293.15 K the partial pressure of H₂O vapour was calculated as 0.023 fraction of the total atmosphere⁴³. The average gas density at the surface(boundary *CE*) for an inlet flow of 0.4 slpm is

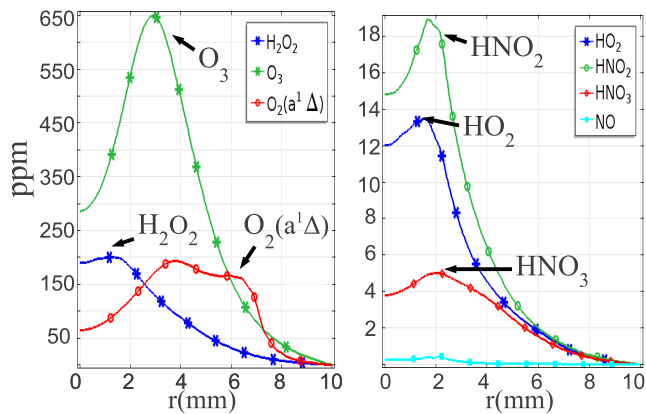


FIG. 10. RONS density at surface(ppm): 0.5 slpm(N scaled by 10), $V_{applied} = 800$ V, $V_{dc} = 0$ V

2.2×10^{25} [$1/m^2$] giving an average H_2O gas density of 5×10^{23} [$1/m^2$] at the interface. We consider the effects of interaction with this vapour layer on RONS species by including an additional reaction chemistry at the surface CE in our model. An additional chemistry shown in table V is considered on the boundary CE with a H_2O density 0.023 fraction of the total gas density across the boundary.

Results shown in figure 10 represent the non-equilibrium(undissolved) gaseous species density at the water surface for 1000 V applied voltage at an inlet flow of 0.4 slpm. Atomic oxygen reacts strongly with the H_2O vapour layer to form OH (R_1 in table V) which further reacts with H_2O to form hydrogen peroxide H_2O_2 (R_{11} in table V). Reaction of O_3 with the vapour layer results in further O formation. Comparison of O_3 values on an inactive surface show a 50% drop in O_3 density over an aqueous surface. This atomic oxygen production due to O_3 reaction with water is responsible for a more diffuse H_2O_2 pattern on the treated surface when compared with the O spatial pattern over a solid surface. Peak values of H_2O_2 of 200 ppm in the central region are shown in figure 10(left) falling to 50 ppm at 5 mm from the centre. $O_2(a^1\Delta)$ is quenched considerably to O_2 when it interacts with the H_2O vapour layer(R_4 in table V). Comparison of $O_2(a^1\Delta)$ values on an inactive surface show a $\sim 600\%$ drop in density in the central region over an aqueous surface. At 4 mm from the center however $O_2(a^1\Delta)$ actually increases by approximately 100-200% due to the decrease in O_3 before tending to zero beyond 9 mm.

Equilibrium occurs due to dissolution of gaseous species into the water volume which is assumed to proceed reaction at the interface. Henry's law constants shown in table VI represent the concentration ratio of dissolved and undissolved gases once equilibria is reached. If we assume that the total available species($n_{total} = n_{gas} + n_{aqueos}$) for dissolution is equal to the non-equilibrium distributions shown in figure the fraction of dissolved and undissolved species in equilibria is given by the ratios $1/(1+K_H^{cc})$ and $1/(1+1/K_H^{cc})$ respectively shown in

table VI. Table VI clearly shows that H_2O_2 , HNO_2 , HO_2 and HNO_3 (see figure 10(right)) with solubilities of 99.99%, 67%, 99.6% and 99.99% respectively (given by $1/(1+1/K_H^{cc})$) are the most important species for treatment of aqueous surfaces.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper the behaviour of neutral reactive species of the "plasma needle" source is investigated. Peak production of atomic oxygen due to interaction of the plasma with air species occurred at regions of air fraction from 10^{-3} to 10^{-2} . Increasing the gas flow shifted the peak atomic oxygen at the surface from the central to the outer discharge regions correlating to solid circular and annular type atomic oxygen distributions previously reported^{4,10}. Peak atomic oxygen density of 10^{21} and ozone density of 10^{22} m^{-3} were presented here.

Surface loss studies revealed that atomic oxygen surface reactions on a reactive solid surface with adsorption probabilities greater than 0.1 are limited by the flux of atomic oxygen from the plasma. Interaction of the source with an aqueous surface showed hydrogen peroxide as the dominant species at this interface with significant hydroperoxyl radical, nitrous acid and nitric acid densities also present.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Appendix A: Chemistry tables

Ref ^a	Reaction	Rate ^b
R ₁ ¹⁹	e+He→He+e	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂ ¹⁹	e+He→He*+e	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₃ ¹⁹	e+He→2e + He ⁺	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₄ ²⁹	e+He* →e+He	2.9 × 10 ⁻¹⁵
R ₅ ²²	e+He ₂ ⁺ →He*+He	8.9 × 10 ⁻¹⁵ (T _g /T _e) ^{1.5}
R ₆ ²²	He ⁺ +2He→He+He ₂ ⁺	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁴³
R ₇ ²²	He*+2He→He+He ₂ [*]	2 × 10 ⁻⁴⁶
R ₈ ²²	He*+He* →e+He ₂ ⁺	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁵
R ₉ ²²	He ₂ [*] → 2He	10 ⁴
R ₁₀ ²²	He ₂ ⁺ +He ₂ [*] →e+He ₂ ⁺ +2He	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁵
R ₁₁ ²²	e+N ₂ ⁺ →2N	4.8 × 10 ⁻¹³ (T _g /T _e) ^{0.5}
R ₁₂ ²²	He*+N ₂ →He+N ₂ ⁺ +e	5 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₃ ²²	He ₂ [*] +N ₂ →2He+N ₂ ⁺ +e	3 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₄ ²²	He ₂ ⁺ +N ₂ →He*+N ₂ ⁺	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁵
R ₁₅ ¹⁹	e+O ₂ →2e + O ₂ ⁺	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₁₆ ¹⁹	e+O ₂ →e+2O	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₁₇ ¹⁹	e+O ₂ →e+O+O(¹ D)	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₁₈ ²³	e+O ₂ ⁺ →2O	6 × 10 ⁻¹¹ T _e ⁻¹
R ₁₉ ¹⁹	e+O ₂ →e+O ₂ (<i>a</i> ¹ Δ)	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂₀ ²³	N ₂ ⁺ +O ₂ →N ₂ +O ₂ ⁺	1.04 × 10 ⁻¹⁵ T _g ^{-0.5}
R ₂₁ ¹⁶	He*+O ₂ →He+O ₂ ⁺ +e	2.54 × 10 ⁻¹⁶ (T _g /300) ^{0.5}
R ₂₂ ²⁴	He ₂ ⁺ +O ₂ →2He+O ₂ ⁺ +e	1 × 10 ⁻¹⁶ (T _g /300) ^{0.5}
R ₂₃ ¹⁹	e+N ₂ →e+N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂₄ ¹⁹	e+N ₂ → e+N ₂ (<i>B</i> ³ Π)	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂₅ ¹⁹	N ₂ (<i>B</i> ³ Π)→N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)	1.2 × 10 ⁵
R ₂₆ ¹⁹	e+N ₂ →e+N(² D)+N	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂₇ ¹⁹	e+N→e+N(² D)	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₂₈ ²³	e+N ₂ ⁺ →N(² D)+N	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹² /T _e ^{0.7}
R ₂₉ ¹⁹	e+ H ₂ O→2e + H ₂ O ⁺	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₃₀ ¹³	e+H ₂ O ⁺ →OH+H	2.73 × 10 ⁻¹² T _g ^{-0.5}
R ₃₁ ¹⁹	e+H ₂ O→e+OH+H	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₃₂ ¹⁹	e+O ₂ → O+O ⁻	<i>BOLSIG+</i>
R ₃₃ ²³	e+2O ₂ → O ₂ ⁻ + O ₂	6 × 10 ⁻³⁹ T _e ⁻¹
R ₃₄ ²³	O ⁻ + O ₂ ⁺ → O + O ₂	3.464 × 10 ⁻¹² T _g ^{-0.5}
R ₃₅ ²³	O ₂ ⁻ + O ₂ ⁺ + M ^c → 2O ₂ + M	3.12 × 10 ⁻³¹ T _g ^{-2.5}

^a superscript n indicates reference for *i*th reaction R_{*i*}^{*n*}

^b Rates in units [m³/s], [m⁶/s](3 body reactions), T_g(K) gas temperature, T_e(K) electron temperature

^c M represents background gases He, N₂, O₂

TABLE I. Plasma chemistry

Ref ^a	Reaction	Rate Coefficient ^b
R ₁ ¹²	O+O+M ^c →O ₂ +M	2.15 × 10 ⁻⁴⁶ exp(345/T _g)
R ₂ ¹²	O+O ₂ +M→O ₃ +M	6.9 × 10 ⁻⁴⁶ (300/T _g) ^{1.25}
R ₃ ¹²	O+O ₂ +O→O ₃ +O	2.15 × 10 ⁻⁴⁶ exp(345/T _g)
R ₄ ¹²	O+O ₂ +O ₃ →2O ₃	4.6 × 10 ⁻⁴⁷ exp(1050/T _g)
R ₅ ¹²	O+O ₃ →2O ₂	1.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ exp(-2300/T _g)
R ₆ ¹³	O+O(¹ D) →2O	8 × 10 ⁻¹⁸
R ₇ ¹⁶	O(¹ D)+M →O+M	1 × 10 ⁻¹⁹
R ₈ ¹³	O(¹ D)+O ₃ →2O+O ₂	1.2 × 10 ⁻¹⁶
R ₉ ¹⁵	O(¹ D)+O ₂ (<i>a</i> ¹ Δ)→O+O ₂	1.0 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₀ ¹³	O(¹ D)+O ₂ →O+O ₂ (<i>a</i> ¹ Δ)	1.0 × 10 ⁻¹⁸
R ₁₁ ¹⁴	O ₂ (<i>a</i> ¹ Δ)+O ₃ →O+2O ₂	5.2 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ exp(-2840/T _g)
R ₁₂ ¹⁷	O ₂ (<i>a</i> ¹ Δ)+M → O ₂ +M	2.01 × 10 ⁻²⁶
R ₁₃ ¹⁶	O ₃ +M → O+O ₂ +M	1.56 × 10 ⁻¹⁵ exp(-11490/T _g)
R ₁₄ ¹²	O ₃ +O ₃ →O+O ₂ +O ₃	1.65 × 10 ⁻¹⁵ exp(-11400/T _g)

^a superscript n indicates reference for *i*th reaction R_{*i*}^{*n*}

^b Rates in units [m³/s], [m⁶/s](3 body reactions), T_g(K) gas temperature, T_e(K) electron temperature

^c M represents background gases He, N₂, O₂

TABLE II. Oxygen chemistry

Ref ^a	Reaction	Rate Coefficient ^b
R ₁ ¹⁴	N+O+M ^c →NO+M	6.3 × 10 ⁻⁴⁵ exp(140/T _g)
R ₂ ¹³	N+N+M→N ₂ +M	8.3 × 10 ⁻⁴⁶ exp(500/T _g)
R ₃ ¹⁴	N+O ₂ →NO+O	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ exp(-3600/T _g)
R ₄ ¹⁴	N+NO→N ₂ +O ₂	2.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ exp(100/T _g)
R ₅ ¹³	N+NO ₂ →N ₂ O+O	5.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ exp(220/T _g)
R ₆ ¹⁴	N+OH→H+NO	7.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₇ ¹⁴	N(² D)+M→N+M	5 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ exp(-1620/T _g)
R ₈ ²³	N(² D)+O ₂ →NO+O(¹ D)	6 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ (T _g /300) ^{0.5}
R ₉ ²³	N(² D)+NO→N ₂ O	6 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₀ ²³	N(² D)+NO→N ₂ +O	4.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₁ ¹⁴	N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)+M→N ₂ +M	2.2 × 10 ⁻²⁰
R ₁₂ ²³	N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)+O→NO+N(² D)	7 × 10 ⁻¹⁸
R ₁₃ ²³	N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)+O ₂ →N ₂ +2O	2.54 × 10 ⁻¹⁸
R ₁₄ ²³	N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)+N ₂ O→ N ₂ +N+NO	1 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₅ ¹⁴	N ₂ (<i>A</i> ³ Σ)+NO ₂ → N ₂ +NO+O	1.3 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₁₆ ¹⁴	NO+O+M→NO ₂ +M	1 × 10 ⁻⁴³ (300/T _g) ^{1.6}
R ₁₇ ¹⁴	NO+O ₃ →NO ₂ +O ₂	1.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ exp(-1370/T _g)
R ₁₈ ¹⁴	NO ₂ +O ₃ →NO ₃ +O ₂	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁹ exp(-2470/T _g)
R ₁₉ ¹⁷	NO ₂ +NO ₃ +M→N ₂ O ₅ +M	2.8 × 10 ⁻⁴² (300/T _g) ^{3.5}
R ₂₀ ¹⁴	NO ₂ +O→NO+O ₂	6.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ exp(120/T _g)
R ₂₁ ¹⁴	NO ₂ +O(¹ D)→NO+O ₂	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁶
R ₂₂ ¹⁷	N ₂ +O(¹ D)+M→N ₂ O+M	9 × 10 ⁻⁴⁹
R ₂₃ ¹⁴	N ₂ O+O(¹ D)→NO+NO	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁶
R ₂₄ ¹⁴	NO ₃ +O→NO ₂ +O ₂	1.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁷
R ₂₅ ¹⁷	N ₂ O ₅ +M→NO ₂ +NO ₃ +M	((300 × 10 ⁻⁹)/T _g) ^{3.5} × exp(-11000/T _g)

^a superscript n indicates reference for *i*th reaction R_{*i*}^{*n*}

^b Rates in units [m³/s], [m⁶/s](3 body reactions), T_g(K) gas temperature, T_e(K) electron temperature

^c M represents background gases He, N₂, O₂

TABLE III. Nitrogen-oxygen chemistry

Ref ^a	Reaction	Rate Coefficient ^b	Species	K_H^{cc}	$1/(1+K_H^{cc})$	$1/(1+1/K_H^{cc})$
R ₁ ³¹	H+H+M ^c →H ₂ +M	$1.8 \times 10^{-42}/T_g$	He	1.514e-5	0.99999	1e-5
R ₂ ²⁷	H+O+M→OH+M	1.62×10^{-44}	O ₂	5.32e-4	0.9995	5e-4
R ₃ ¹⁷	H+O ₂ +M→HO ₂ +M	$5.4 \times 10^{-44}(T_g/300)^{-1.8}$	N ₂	2.66e-5	0.99997	3e-5
R ₄ ³¹	H+OH+M→H ₂ O+M	$6.1 \times 10^{-38}/T_g^2$	O ₃	4.91e-5	0.99995	5e-5
R ₅ ¹³	H+O ₃ →OH+O ₂	$2.8 \times 10^{-17}(T_g/300)^{0.75}$	NO	7.77e-5	0.99992	8e-5
R ₆ ¹⁷	H+HO ₂ →H ₂ +O ₂	5.6×10^{-18}	NO ₂	1.68e-3	0.998	2e-3
R ₇ ¹⁷	H+HO ₂ →H ₂ O+O	2.4×10^{-18}	N ₂ O	1.02e-3	0.999	1e-3
R ₈ ³²	H+H ₂ O ₂ →OH+H ₂ O	$1.69 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-1800/T_g)$	NO ₃	7.37e-2	0.93	7e-2
R ₉ ¹³	H+NO ₂ →OH+NO	1.47×10^{-16}	N ₂ O ₅	8.59e-2	0.92	0.08
R ₁₀ ¹³	H+NO ₃ →OH+NO ₂	$5.8 \times 10^{-16} \exp(750/T_g)$	H ₂	3.19e-5	0.99997	3e-5
R ₁₁ ¹³	H+HNO ₂ →H ₂ +NO ₂	$2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-3700/T_g)$	OH	1.19	0.457	0.543
R ₁₂ ³³	H+HNO ₃ →H ₂ O+NO ₂	$1.39 \times 10^{-20}(T_g/298)^{3.29}$ $\times \exp(-3160/T_g)$	HO ₂	233	4e-3	0.996
R ₁₃ ¹³	OH+O→H+O ₂	$2.2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-350/T_g)$	H ₂ O ₂	2905	3e-4	0.9997
R ₁₄ ¹³	OH+O ₃ →HO ₂ +O ₂	$1.6 \times 10^{-18} \exp(-1000/T_g)$	HNO ₂	2.01	0.33	0.67
R ₁₅ ²⁷	OH+OH+M→H ₂ O ₂ +M	$6.9 \times 10^{-43}(T_g/300)^{-0.8}$	HNO ₃	8593	1e-4	0.9999
R ₁₆ ¹³	OH+OH→O+H ₂ O	$8.8 \times 10^{-18} \exp(-503/T_g)$	TABLE VI. Henry's law constant(solubilities) in water at T=298.15K ³⁴			
R ₁₇ ¹³	OH+H ₂ →H+H ₂ O	$3.2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-2600/T_g)$				
R ₁₈ ¹⁷	OH+H ₂ O ₂ →HO ₂ +H ₂ O	$2.9 \times 10^{-18} \exp(-160/T_g)$				
R ₁₉ ¹⁴	OH+NO+M→HNO ₂ +M	$7.4 \times 10^{-43}(300/T_g)^{2.4}$				
R ₂₀ ¹⁴	OH+NO ₂ +M→HNO ₃ +M	$2.2 \times 10^{-42}(300/T_g)^{2.9}$				
R ₂₁ ¹⁷	OH+NO ₃ →HO ₂ +NO ₂	2×10^{-17}				
R ₂₂ ²⁷	OH+HNO ₂ →NO ₂ +H ₂ O	$1.8 \times 10^{-17}(-390/T_g)$				
R ₂₃ ¹⁴	OH+HNO ₃ →NO ₃ +H ₂ O	$1.5 \times 10^{-20} \exp(650/T_g)$				
R ₂₄ ¹⁷	HO ₂ +O ₃ →OH+2O ₂	$1.4 \times 10^{-20} \exp(-600/T_g)$				
R ₂₅ ¹⁷	HO ₂ +HO ₂ →H ₂ O ₂ +O ₂	$2.2 \times 10^{-19} \exp(600/T_g)$				
R ₂₆ ³⁰	HNO ₂ +HNO ₃ →2NO ₂ +H ₂ O	1.6×10^{-23}				

^a superscript n indicates reference for i^{th} reaction R_i^n

^b Rates in units [m^3/s], [m^6/s](3 body reactions), T_g (K) gas temperature, T_e (K) electron temperature

^c M represents background gases He, N₂, O₂

TABLE IV. Hydrogen-nitrogen-oxygen chemistry

Ref ^a	Reaction	Rate Coefficient ^b
R ₁ ¹²	O+H ₂ O→2OH+O ₂	$1.0 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-550/T_g)$
R ₂ ¹²	O+O+H ₂ O→O ₂ +H ₂ O	$2.15 \times 10^{-46} \exp(345/T_g)$
R ₃ ¹²	O+O ₂ +H ₂ O→O ₃ +H ₂ O	$6.9 \times 10^{-46}(300/T_g)^{1.25}$
R ₄ ⁴³	O ₂ ($a^1\Delta$)+H ₂ O→O ₂ +H ₂ O	3×10^{-24}
R ₅ ¹⁶	O ₃ +H ₂ O→O+O ₂ +H ₂ O	$1.56 \times 10^{-15} \exp(-11490/T_g)$
R ₆ ¹⁴	N+O+H ₂ O→NO+H ₂ O	$6.3 \times 10^{-45} \exp(140/T_g)$
R ₇ ¹³	N+N+H ₂ O→N ₂ +H ₂ O	$8.3 \times 10^{-46} \exp(500/T_g)$
R ₈ ¹⁴	NO+O+H ₂ O→NO ₂ +H ₂ O	$1 \times 10^{-43}(300/T_g)^{1.6}$
R ₉ ¹⁷	NO ₂ +NO ₃ +H ₂ O→N ₂ O ₅ +H ₂ O	$2.8 \times 10^{-42}(300/T_g)^{3.5}$
R ₁₀ ¹⁷	N ₂ O ₅ +H ₂ O→NO ₂ +NO ₃ +H ₂ O	$((300 \times 10^{-9})/T_g)^{3.5}$
R ₁₁ ²⁷	OH+OH+H ₂ O→H ₂ O ₂ +H ₂ O	$6.9 \times 10^{-43}(T_g/300)^{-0.8}$ $\times \exp(-11000/T_g)$
R ₁₉ ¹⁴	OH+NO+H ₂ O→HNO ₂ +H ₂ O	$7.4 \times 10^{-43}(300/T_g)^{2.4}$
R ₂₀ ¹⁴	OH+NO ₂ +H ₂ O→HNO ₃ +H ₂ O	$2.2 \times 10^{-42}(300/T_g)^{2.9}$

^a superscript n indicates reference for i^{th} reaction R_i^n

^b Rates in units [m^3/s], [m^6/s](3 body reactions), T_g (K) gas temperature, T_e (K) electron temperature

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