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Title: Characterisation of DME-HCCI combustion cycles for formaldehyde and hydroxyl UV-vis absorption

Article Type: Research paper

Keywords: HCCI; low-temperature combustion; dimethyl ether combustion; UV-vis light absorption; formaldehyde; OH

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Abstract: We investigated time-resolved ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) light absorbance to identify the formation behaviour of formaldehyde (HCHO) and hydroxyl (OH) within the wavelength range of 280-400 nm in a homogeneous charge compression ignition (HCCI) engine fuelled with dimethyl ether (DME). The time-resolved HCHO and OH profiles at different initial pressures showed that HCHO absorbance increased in the low-temperature reaction (LTR) and thermal-ignition preparation (TIP) regions and decreased gradually as the combustion approached the high-temperature reaction (HTR) region. At higher intake pressures, HCHO absorbance decreased and OH absorbance increased. The time-resolved absorbance spectra of HCHO, with peaks at 316, 328, 340, and 354 nm for all combustion cycles, were evaluated and it was found that average absorption at 328 nm was slightly higher than at 316, 340, and 354 nm. For knocking combustion cycles, the absorbance of HCHO in the LTR region was high for cycles with low knock intensity and low for cycles with high knock intensity, showing a high level of OH absorbance. Chemical kinetics analyses showed that for different fuel/oxidiser ratios, initial O₂ concentration and intake temperature had no effect on in-cylinder temperatures in the LTR or TIP regions. However, they did have significant effects on HTR combustion. In-cylinder temperature in the LTR region had less effect on HCHO and H₂O₂ formation than pressure.

- HCHO absorbance increased in LTR and TIP regions and decreased in HTR region
- HCHO decreased as RoHR increased and *vice versa*
- O₂ and intake temperature did not affect in-cylinder temperature in LTR and TIP
- O₂ and intake temperature had significant effects on HTR combustion
- HCHO concentration was very low when knock intensity was very high, and *vice versa*

42 Abstract

1 43 We investigated time-resolved ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) light absorbance to identify the
2
3 44 formation behaviour of formaldehyde (HCHO) and hydroxyl (OH) within the wavelength range
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5 45 of 280–400 nm in a homogeneous charge compression ignition (HCCI) engine fuelled with
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8 46 dimethyl ether (DME). The time-resolved HCHO and OH profiles at different initial pressures
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10 47 showed that HCHO absorbance increased in the low-temperature reaction (LTR) and
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13 48 thermal-ignition preparation (TIP) regions and decreased gradually as the combustion
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15 49 approached the high-temperature reaction (HTR) region. At higher intake pressures, HCHO
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18 50 absorbance decreased and OH absorbance increased. The time-resolved absorbance spectra of
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20 51 HCHO, with peaks at 316, 328, 340, and 354 nm for all combustion cycles, were evaluated and it
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23 52 was found that average absorption at 328 nm was slightly higher than at 316, 340, and 354 nm.
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25 53 For knocking combustion cycles, the absorbance of HCHO in the LTR region was high for
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28 54 cycles with low knock intensity and low for cycles with high knock intensity, showing a high
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30 55 level of OH absorbance. Chemical kinetics analyses showed that for different fuel/oxidiser ratios,
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32 56 initial O₂ concentration and intake temperature had no effect on in-cylinder temperatures in the
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35 57 LTR or TIP regions. However, they did have significant effects on HTR combustion. In-cylinder
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37 58 temperature in the LTR region had less effect on HCHO and H₂O₂ formation than pressure.
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42 60 **Key words:** HCCI, low-temperature combustion, dimethyl ether combustion, UV-vis light
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44 61 absorption, formaldehyde, OH
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69 **Nomenclature**

1	70	DME	dimethyl ether
2	71	HCCI	homogeneous charge compression ignition
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4	72	DARS	digital analysis of reactive systems
5	73	RCM	rapid compression machine
6			
7	74	CAD	crank angle degree
8			
9	75	TDC	top dead centre
10	76	BDC	bottom dead centre
11			
12	77	IVC	intake valve closure
13			
14	78	LTC	low-temperature combustion
15	79	LTR	low-temperature reaction
16			
17	80	NTC	negative temperature coefficient
18			
19	81	TIP	thermal ignition preparation
20	82	HTR	high-temperature reaction
21			
22	83	ROHR _{max}	maximum rate of heat release (J/deg)
23	84	ROHR _{LTR peak}	peak of heat release rate in low-temperature reaction region (J/deg)
24			
25	85	KI	knock intensity (MPa)
26			
27	86	P _{in}	intake pressure (MPa)
28	87	P _{EC}	end-of-compression pressure (MPa)
29			
30	88	T _{in}	intake temperature (K)
31			
32	89	HCHO	formaldehyde
33	90	OH	hydroxyl
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35	91	ICCD	intensified charge-coupled device
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41 **1. Introduction**

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43 96 Homogeneous charge compression ignition (HCCI) engines have drawn the attention of many
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46 97 researchers due to their high efficiency and lower nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and particulate matter
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48 98 (PM) emissions. Most recent studies on HCCI have focussed on four-stroke engines [1, 2].
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50
51 99 Dimethyl ether (DME: CH₃OCH₃) is an attractive alternative to conventional diesel fuel for
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53 100 compression-ignition (CI) engines because it auto-ignites favourably and burns with little soot
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56 101 formation [3, 4]. DME is an oxygenated hydrocarbon, with a low carbon-to-hydrogen ratio and
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58 102 the absence of a C-C bond, leading to very low emissions of PM during combustion. DME is
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61 103 also considered a promising alternative fuel with the potential to solve air-pollution problems
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104 caused by NO_x emissions [4]. DME shows very strong low-temperature kinetic reactions in
105 HCCI. The processes of low-temperature reactions (LTRs) involve branched chain reactions, the
2 evolution of which is determined by the processes of parallel and consecutive elementary
3106 reactions, with the participation of free radicals and atoms. It is known that slow combustion of
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6107 hydrocarbons follows a degenerate branched mechanism and is characterised by a large variety
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8108 of elementary reactions, with the participation of free radicals having complex structures.
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11109 Apparently, these specific features are responsible for the kinetic manifestations of the oxidation
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13110 processes: the slow combustion of hydrocarbons, shown by cool flames and a negative
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15111 temperature coefficient (NTC) of the reaction rate, collectively called the LTR region, the
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18112 thermal-ignition preparation (TIP), the high-temperature reaction (HTR), and thermokinetic
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20113 oscillations (Fig. 1). Interest in the cool flames, NTCs, and oscillations is high because of the
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23114 need to take into account the influence of these factors on the dynamics, kinetics, and
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25115 mechanisms of hydrocarbon oxidation and combustion in practice. Thus, a study of an HCCI
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28116 engine fuelled with DME may provide useful information on the low-temperature kinetic
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30117 reactions for HCCI operation with other fuels. The oxidation of DME has been examined in
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33118 several studies and research has led to the development of detailed and reduced chemical kinetics
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35119 models of DME combustion [5-11].
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40121 To understand the DME oxidation mechanism in an HCCI engine, an experimental kinetic
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42122 study of DME combustion is needed. An effective way to study DME combustion is to use a
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45123 spectrum analysis to determine the major active aldehyde group species, such as formaldehyde
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47124 (HCHO) and other active radicals [12, 13]. Studies have examined HCHO absorption in a
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50125 constant volume vessel or a reactor [14, 15]. A few studies have also examined HCHO formation
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52126 and absorption under normal engine conditions [16, 17]. HCHO is an important intermediate
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55127 species that influences the low-temperature chain reactions in hydrocarbon, oxygenated, and
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57128 biofuel combustion processes [18, 19]. Some research groups have stated that, under certain
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59129 experimental conditions, HCHO can act as a hydroxyl (OH) radical inhibitor and can suppress
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62130 engine knock [20, 21]. Other groups have emphasised that HCHO reacts as a promoter of
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131 auto-ignition by advancing auto-ignition timing, resulting in a higher heat release rate [22]. Thus,
132 it is important to detect *in situ* and monitor HCHO formation inside the engine cylinder [23-27]
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3133 to understand in detail the in-cylinder processes and be able to design advanced combustion
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6134 control systems [28]. Existing diagnostic methods for HCHO detection are based mostly on the
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8135 laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) technique [23, 29, 30]. Previous attempts by other groups to
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11136 measure HCHO absorption in the infrared (IR) region [31-34] were successful; however, it was
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13137 concluded that it would be almost impossible to readily detect and measure HCHO
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15138 concentrations due to a lack of sensitivity and/or interference from other molecules as
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18139 combustion products, such as H₂O, CO₂, and CO [35, 36]. Understanding the HCHO formation
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20140 process would help to resolve problems related to knocking combustion. In internal combustion
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23141 (IC) engines, engine knock is related to HCHO in the hot spots (exothermic centres) of the slow
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25142 oxidation process prior to autoignition [37, 38]. HCHO is an important intermediate species in
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28143 the cool flames preceding the main combustion. It has been shown that the local HCHO
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30144 concentration decreases dramatically in locations with peak heat release rates [39].

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33145 Thus, the objective of this study was to investigate the combustion characteristics in an
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35146 HCCI engine fuelled with DME. Ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectroscopy was used
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37147 to determine the light absorption of chemical species during the DME combustion process,
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40148 which includes low-temperature oxidation and high-temperature ignition. The major aim was to
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42149 characterise the combustion cycles in terms of time-resolved spectra of HCHO and OH species,
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45150 as representative indicators of low-temperature oxidation and thermal ignition, respectively,
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47151 during HCCI combustion. Chemical kinetics analyses were performed to evaluate the effects of
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50152 pressure and temperature on HCHO and OH formation, taking into account the interactions of
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52153 these species with H₂O₂ and HO₂. The absorbances of HCHO and OH during knocking
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54154 combustion in HCCI were investigated by estimating the knock intensity derived from
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57155 in-cylinder pressure oscillations.

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62157 **2. Experimental setup and procedure**

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159 An HCCI fuelled with DME was studied in an optical compression-expansion test engine with a
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3160 single cylinder and a compression ratio of 9.0. Figure 2 shows a schematic diagram of the test
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6161 engine with its specification and experimental conditions summarised in Table 1. The engine
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8162 crank was driven externally by a 2,000-W induction motor and made to rotate at a fixed rpm.
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11163 The DME was premixed with gas at a ratio of 20% oxygen to 80% argon (Ar) at molar
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13164 proportions equivalent to $\phi = 0.30$. Argon was used instead of nitrogen, to increase the
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16165 in-cylinder temperature at the end of compression by decreasing the heat capacity of the
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18166 in-cylinder gas-fuel mixture, and to initiate HCCI combustion at a compression ratio that was
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21167 significantly lower than those usually used in conventional HCCI engines. The DME-O₂-Ar fuel
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23168 mixture was supplied to the mixture tank, where it was heated to the required temperature and
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25169 maintained at the required pressure. During operation, the intake valve remained open, and the
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28170 fuel mixture was sucked into the cylinder and pushed back into the mixture tank. When the
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30171 thermocouple reading had stabilised, the intake valve was closed at around bottom dead centre
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33172 (BDC), and the fuel mixture was compressed, autoignited, and combusted. Changes in the gas
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35173 pressure were measured using a Kistler 6052B pressure transducer during the compression and
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38174 expansion strokes. The compressed gas temperature range accessible in the
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40175 compression-expansion test engine was relevant to combustion in HCCI and related engines, but
41
42176 the in-cylinder pressure at top dead centre (TDC) was somewhat lower because the initial
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45177 pressure was less than 1 atmosphere. Thus, good temporal resolution was more readily achieved,
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47178 but at the expense of longer ignition delays than those encountered in practical applications. The
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50179 volumetric heat release in the final stage of ignition was also lower as a result of the reduced gas
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52180 densities. However, pressure oscillations were still observed, even with very lean mixtures. The
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55181 gaseous charge admitted to the cylinder of the compression-expansion test engine was premixed
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57182 at the molecular level. Thus, unlike engines with a normal induction system for evaporating
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60183 liquid fuels, the problem of distinguishing the effect of the initial spatial composition variations
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62184 from the spatial temperature field variations did not arise.
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185 UV-vis absorption measurements were performed using a specially designed cylinder head,
186 equipped with sapphire windows, optical fibres, a deuterium lamp, and an Andor
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3187 Shamrock-163 spectrograph with an attached intensified charge-coupled device (ICCD; Fig. 3).
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6188 Data were acquired, stored, and processed using the Andor Solis software.
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8189 The UV-vis and infrared spectral absorbances were determined by applying the
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10 Beer-Lambert law to the measured spectral transmission:
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$$13 \quad A(\lambda) = \log_{10} \left[\frac{I_0(\lambda)}{I(\lambda)} \right] = \epsilon c L \quad (1),$$

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17192 where $A(\lambda)$ is the spectral absorbance, $I_0(\lambda)$ is the intensity through air, $I(\lambda)$ is the intensity
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19193 through a DME-O₂-Ar mixture, and ϵ , c , and L are the molar absorption coefficient, molar
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21 concentration, and measurement length, respectively. For HCHO and OH UV-vis light
22194 absorption experiments, a deuterium lamp was used as the light source. A deuterium lamp is a
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24195 low-pressure gas-discharge light source often used in spectroscopy when a continuous spectrum
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27196 in the UV region is needed. The arc created in the lamp excites the molecular deuterium
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29197 contained within the bulb to a higher energy state. The deuterium then emits light as it transitions
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32198 back to its initial state. The light is then transmitted to the combustion chamber through an
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34199 optical fibre with a collimator and further transmitted from the combustion chamber through a
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37200 12-point optical fibre with a collimator, and finally to the spectrometer (SR-163; Andor
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39201 Technology), which was equipped with an ICCD (DK720-18F-04; Andor Technology) (Fig. 3).
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41202 Spectral absorbance measurements were made under engine conditions for HCHO and OH in the
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44203 region of 280–400 nm.
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51206 **3. Results and discussion**

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53 54207 *3.1 Time-resolved UV-vis HCHO and OH absorbance spectra*

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56208 UV-vis light absorbance was investigated to identify the formation behaviour of HCHO and OH
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59209 during HCCI combustion. Light absorbance spectra were obtained for 10 selected piston
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61210 positions. The crank-angle resolution for the spectral results was 11 crank-angle degrees (CAD;
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211 ~3 ms at 600 rpm). Two molecular species were apparent in the spectra. The absorption was
1212 caused by HCHO at wavelengths of 316, 328, 340, and 354 nm, and by OH at a wavelength of
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3213 308 nm. Figure 4 shows the absorbance spectra at different intake pressures and temperatures.
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6214 Figure 4 (A), (B), (C) and (D) show the time-resolved absorbance spectra at the pre-set initial
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8215 temperatures and pressures at different ICCD exposure start times. Figure 4 (E), (F), (G) and (H)
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10216 show ROHR obtained for the same initial conditions as the absorbance data was taken. For
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13217 these results the absorbance and in-cylinder pressure were obtained concurrently. The purpose
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15218 for showing this graph was to demonstrate the consistent trend in HCHO and OH peaks which
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18219 occur at the specified wavelengths for a number of experimental conditions. It is seen that as the
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20220 time between the start of LTR and the start of HTR decreases the HCHO peaks gradually become
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23221 weaker and OH peaks become more distinct. This suggests that there is a correlation between the
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25222 residence of LTR+TIP regions and HCHO formation. It can be seen that the intensity of the
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28223 spikes at 316, 328, 340, and 354 nm changed due to the formation of HCHO [40, 41] and the
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30224 absorption at those wavelengths was consistent for all of the combustion cycles.
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33225 It was found that average absorption at 328 nm was slightly higher than at 316, 340, and 354 nm.
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35226 The significance of this observation was to find out at which wavelength the absorption level
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37227 was the highest in order to focus on this particular wavelength band in the future and use the type
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40228 of laser with a narrow bandwidth. From 340 CAD, which corresponds to TIP, to 370 CAD,
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42229 which in turn corresponds to a gradual decrease in in-cylinder pressure during the expansion
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45230 stroke, the intensities of the spikes at 316, 328, 340, and 354 nm changed due to an increase in
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47231 OH concentration at 308 nm, due to H₂O₂ decomposition. Previous investigations have reported
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50232 different timings for the H₂O₂ decrease and OH increase. Westbrook [42] reported that the H₂O₂
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52233 decrease and the OH increase took place almost simultaneously, and H₂O₂ decomposition was
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54234 the initiator of thermal ignition. However, Kuwahara and Ando [43] reported that the H₂O₂
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57235 decrease started earlier than the OH increase, and they showed that the rapid OH increase started
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59236 during the final stage of the H₂O₂ decrease. Nevertheless, both research groups concurred that
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62237 the OH rapid increase occurred in the TIP region. In our case the combustion progresses under
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238 HCCI conditions, which, by nature, is not really homogeneous and we suspect that during the
1239 compression stroke there are different states of mixture and local equivalence ratio distribution in
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3240 the cylinder which can affect the states of cool and hot chemistry. Even if we try to completely
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6241 eliminate any in-cylinder turbulence effects in HCCI combustion, we must accept that it will be
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8242 practically impossible. Therefore, we believe that it was important to demonstrate HCHO and
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11243 OH trends experimentally. Nevertheless, to support the statement made above we can say that
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13244 there is an overlap for HCHO and OH formation as shown in Figure 4 (C) and (D). This may be
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16245 due to various reasons and require further investigation that may be done in the future studies.

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18246 Figure 5 shows the trends of time-resolved HCHO and OH absorbance peaks versus the
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20247 maximum rate of heat release (ROHR) at various inlet temperatures and pressures. As can be
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23248 seen, the peak absorbance of HCHO decreased as the maximum rate of heat released in the HTR
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25249 region increased. We observed a consistent trend for all HCHO absorption wavelengths. In
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28250 contrast, the peak absorbance of OH increased with the increase in heat release in the HTR
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30251 region. This confirmed the trend that the peak amount of HCHO formed in the LTR and TIP
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33252 regions affected the high-temperature combustion reactions and we can make assumptions based
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35253 on the results in figure 5 where we can see the trend of absorbance vs max peak of ROHR that
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37254 occurs in HTR region. It shows clear positive trend for OH vs ROHRmax and negative trend for
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40255 HCHO vs ROHRmax. This suggests that HCHO may act as an inhibitor of the chain-branching
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42256 reactions in the TIP regions before HTRs occur. This statement can be made based on the
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45257 knowledge of chemistry that occurs in the low-temperature reaction region where H_2O_2
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47258 decomposes to OH or in reverse, and HCHO reacts with OH producing HCO and water. It is
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50259 basically a competition between H_2O_2 and HCHO formation developed based on the species
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52260 concentration and reaction rate. The trend in figure 5 suggests that HCHO decreases and OH
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54261 increases as ROHR increases and vice versa, so we anticipate the effect of formaldehyde
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57262 suppressing chain-branching reactions and holding OH formation before HTR reactions occur.
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59263 Figure 5 shows the absorbance results for the range of pressures and temperatures, that's why
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61
62264 pressure was not indicated on this figure.

265 This is consistent with the results of other studies showing that the temperature before the
1266 LTR does not contribute to the progress of reactions in the low-temperature combustion region,
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3267 and that formation of HCHO inhibits HTRs [44]. This correlation has shown the general and
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6268 opposite trends for HCHO and OH vs ROHRmax and supports our statements made throughout
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8269 this manuscript. The purpose was to demonstrate the correlation of HCHO and OH absorption
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11270 with the energy release.

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13271 Time-resolved absorption was studied at intake absolute pressures of 50, 60, and 85 kPa.
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15272 Figures 6 and 7 show that at 50 and 60 kPa, the peak absorbance of HCHO from 340 CAD
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18273 increased gradually as the start of ICCD exposure changed further for different cycles and there
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20274 was no visible increase in OH. For cycles at 85 kPa intake pressure (Fig. 8), HCHO absorbance
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23275 was almost not seen as the start of ICCD exposure changed further from 340 CAD, but OH
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25276 absorbance increased significantly at 308 nm. The equivalence ratio for all three conditions was
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28277 maintained at 0.3. These results suggest that, at lower intake pressures, reactions in LTR and TIP
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30278 prevail and HCHO is formed as the piston moves from BDC to TDC. At higher intake pressures,
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33279 the combustion passes the LTR temperature threshold more quickly and progresses to the HTR
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35280 region, where the decomposition of H₂O₂ permits access to secondary reactions and forms very
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37281 reactive OH radicals [45]. Previous studies showed that at higher intake valve closing pressures
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40282 of 225kPa, H₂O₂ concentration increases during the H₂O₂(+M) = OH + OH(+M) reaction [46].
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42283 This is because at higher pressures the high concentration of the mixture leads to a sufficient
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45284 concentration of HO₂, which is less reactive than other free radicals, forming H₂O₂.

47285 48 49 50286 *3.2 Effect of intake pressure on HCHO and OH absorbance*

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52287 We studied the effects of intake pressure on HCHO and OH absorbance in DME-HCCI
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54288 combustion experiments. The fuel equivalence ratio and temperature were set constant, at
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57289 0.3 and 293, respectively, and the mixture pressure in the mixture tank (Fig. 2) was varied from
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59290 48 to 85 kPa. The exposure start was fixed at TDC (360 CAD) and 5 CAD after TDC (365 CAD),
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62291 with an exposure duration of 11 CAD; hundreds of individual combustion cycles were recorded.
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292 The absorbance obtained for each interval of 11CAD is the average of that exposure duration.
1293 Therefore, we believe that no allowance was needed with the variation of temperature and
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3294 pressure during compression. Figure 9 shows the absorbance results at selected initial pressures
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6295 in order to investigate the effect of pressure; therefore, the pressure was indicated on the graph.
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8296 The pressures relate to the pressure in the mixture tank or intake pressure. This figure shows that
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11297 HCHO absorbance that was taken at TDC (360 CAD), increased in the thermal ignition
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13298 preparation region when the ROHR was very low. In contrast, when the ROHR in the HTR
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15299 region was high, HCHO absorbance was minimal but OH absorbance increased significantly.
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18300 Due to the combustion cyclic variations, the effects of intake pressure on HCHO and OH
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20301 absorbance remain unclear. However, the general trend in Figure 10, where the absorbance was
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23302 taken at TDC (360 CAD) and 5 CAD after TDC (365 CAD), shows that with an increase in OH
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25303 absorbance, HCHO absorbance decreased.

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28304 We also compared the HCHO and OH average absorbance levels at different wavelengths
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30305 for nearly 120 individual combustion cycles and found that the HCHO absorbance at 328 nm
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33306 was slightly higher than that at other wavelengths. Figure 11 shows that at lower intake pressures,
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35307 the OH absorbance level at 308 nm was lower than the HCHO absorbance level but for higher
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37308 intake pressures, OH absorbance was significantly higher than HCHO absorbance.

39
40309 The effect of in-cylinder pressure on the amount of heat released in the LTR region, and any
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42310 correlation with the HCHO and OH absorbance, was unclear. Thus, to investigate these trends –
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44
45311 and the effects of in-cylinder pressure and temperature on HCHO and OH formation during
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47312 DME fuel compression ignition – chemical kinetics analyses of DME-O₂-Ar and DME-O₂-N₂
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49313 mixture combustion were performed. First, a single-zone HCCI model was used to compare
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52314 various DME detail and reduced mechanisms for in-cylinder pressure with that from experiments.
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54315 The DME chemical kinetics mechanisms considered for this comparison were DME 2000 [8],
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57316 DME 2008 [9], the DME skeletal mechanism [10], and the San Diego mechanism
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59317 (<http://combustion.ucsd.edu>). The intake valve closing (IVC) time was 180° CA BTDC and the
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62318 simulation ran for 360° CA. The mixture pressure and temperature at IVC were set as in these
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319 experiments. The base San Diego mechanism with a DME sub-mechanism showed the closest
1320 match with the experiments and was selected for further chemical kinetics analyses in Digital
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3321 Analysis of Reactive Systems (DARS) software with Rapid Compression Machine (RCM)
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6322 model [47]. This mechanism takes into account recent chemical-kinetic studies of DME
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8323 combustion processes [11]. The DME sub-mechanism included 14 new reactions that involved
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10
11324 five new species (CH_3OCH_3 , CH_3OCH_2 , $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2\text{O}_2$, CH_2OCHOH , and $\text{HO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCHO}$).
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13325 The mechanism was developed and validated by comparison with experimental results and
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15326 different chemical kinetics mechanisms over a wide range of temperatures, pressures, and
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18327 equivalence ratios [9, 48-51]. In the reaction $\text{HO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCHO} \leftrightarrow \text{OH} + \text{CH}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}$, the
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20
21328 decomposition of hydroperoxymethyl formate releases an additional OH radical and forms
22
23329 CH_2O , H, and CO_2 .

25330 The DARS-RCM model that includes Woschni heat transfer model was used to study the
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27
28331 effects of pressure, temperature, and initial fuel and oxidant concentrations on HCHO and OH
29
30332 formation. DME-RCM combustion conditions were evaluated at intake temperatures of 293, 303,
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33333 313, 323, and 450 K, end-of-compression pressures of 20, 50, 80, and 100 bars, and the initial
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35334 fuel-oxidiser mass fractions shown in Table 2. Initial fuel-oxidiser mass fractions were chosen
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37
38335 based on: Case 1 (A) – Eq. ratio 0.3, Case 2 (B) - Eq. ratio 0.6 and Case 3 (C) – Eq. ratio 1.0.
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40336 The sum of mass fractions ($\text{DME} + \text{O}_2 + (\text{Ar or N}_2)$) for each case was equal to 1. The initial
41
42337 temperature was 293 K and pressure at the end of compression was 100 bar. The equivalence
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44
45338 ratio wasn't mentioned there to avoid the readers' confusion when they may think that if the
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47339 equivalence ratio increases then HTR region temperature should also increase. We want to draw
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49
50340 the attention that with the increase of fuel concentration, O_2 concentration wasn't fixed but
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52341 decreased. The objectives of this study were to show whether thermal or chemical effects are
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54
55342 more important for the combustion progress in the HTR region. This analysis was used to
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57343 investigate the combined effects of the fuel concentration, oxidant, in-cylinder temperatures and
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59
60344 pressure on HCHO, H_2O_2 , and OH formation in the LTR, TIP, and HTR regions during
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62345 DME-HCCI combustion.

346 Figure 12 shows conditions (A), (B), and (C) with different DME/O₂ and O₂/Ar ratios, based
1347 on the initial mass fractions shown in Table 2. The in-cylinder temperature level at which LTR
2 and TIP reactions occurred (the pink region on Figure 12, T = 800 ÷ 1,000 K) remained the same
3348 for all conditions as the DME/O₂ ratio increased. The HCHO concentration also increased with
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5
6349 the increase in pressure in the LTR and TIP regions, as highlighted. As the O₂/Ar ratio increased,
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8350 the in-cylinder temperature, ROHR, and OH concentration increased in the HTR region. From
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10
11351 this, we can conclude that the O₂ concentration does not affect the temperature change in the
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13352 LTR or TIP regions and does not affect HCHO or H₂O₂ formation; however, it plays an
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15
16353 important role in the HTRs. These results also suggest that the temperature in the
17
18354 low-temperature region did not have any effect on high-temperature combustion and OH
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20355 formation before the HTR reactions have been suppressed by the increased amount of HCHO.
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22
23356 This chemical kinetics study was introduced as an extension to the experiments to study these
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25357 effects.
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30359 Previous work on DME chemical kinetics analysis in a constant volume chamber, by
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32
33360 Kuwahara et al. [43], proposed a four-stage oxidation process of a hydrocarbon fuel with a cool
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35361 flame. The transition from cool flame to NTC was determined by the competition between O₂
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38362 addition reactions and OH subtraction reactions, accompanied by the formation of HCHO. Major
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40363 products of the cool flame and NTC regimes were oxygen-containing species like HCHO and
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42364 H₂O₂. Based on these results, it can be presumed that the highest radical activity in the LTR
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44
45365 region was associated with the chemistry that occurs when the HCHO concentration increased.
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47366 This caused a subsequent deceleration in the rate of pressure rise, leading to low or negligible
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49
50367 chain branching and a fall in the overall heat release, because OH radicals were replaced as a
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52368 propagating species, mainly by less reactive HO₂ radicals. The maximum deceleration of the
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55369 pressure rise rate corresponded to the reaction taking place at its minimum rate in the negative
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57370 temperature-dependent regime. The evolution of the thermal ignition and the subsequent
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59371 acceleration in the pressure rise rate can be attributed predominately to the production and
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61
62372 decomposition of H₂O₂.

373 At lower initial temperatures, it was observed that the HCHO formed in the LTR and TIP
1374 regions had a greater effect on HTR combustion than in-cylinder temperature. This can be stated
2 based on the chemical kinetics analysis results shown in Figure 12. All three conditions (A), (B)
3375 and (C) were simulated with the same initial temperature $T=293\text{K}$ and the pressure at the end of
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5
6376 compression, $P=100$ bar. We can see from this figure that the combustion in LTR and TIP regions
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8377 for conditions (A), (B) and (C) occurs in the same temperature range (pink layer). However, the
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10378 concentration of HCHO that is formed during LTR and TIP regions increases as DME/O₂ ratio
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12
13379 increases, although O₂/Ar ratio decreases. Fuel concentration is correlated with the amount of
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15380 HCHO and its concentration increases from (A) towards (C), and on the contrary, the in-cylinder
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17
18381 temperature and ROHR in the HTR region decreases. Figure 12 shows that in the case of a lower
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20382 temperature ($T_{in} = 293$ K), when Ar was used as the dilutant gas, the HCHO concentration in
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22
23383 LTR and TIP regions increased commensurate with an increase in the DME/O₂ ratio; this
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25384 inhibited the high combustion rate, so the temperature in the HTR region decreased despite the
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28385 increase in fuel concentration. All arguments here are about trying to find out whether it is the
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30386 effect of temperature during LTR and TIP region or the effect of HCHO on temperature increase
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32387 in HTR and if both then which one has a greater influence. For all cases, rapid OH growth was
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34
35388 observed after the HCHO concentration dropped. HCHO increased as the initial fuel
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37389 concentration increased. As the O₂/Ar ratio decreased, the in-cylinder temperature and OH also
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39
40390 decreased. As expected, the initial O₂ concentration in the mixture directly affected the
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42391 combustion intensity and the in-cylinder temperature in the HTR region; however, it did not
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44
45392 affect the in-cylinder temperature in the LTR or TIP regions (the pink region on Figure 13,
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47393 $T = 800 \div 1,000$ K). In contrast, when the initial temperature was high ($T_{in} = 450$ K), as shown in
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49
50394 Figure 13(A) for Ar gas, despite the decrease in the O₂/Ar ratio, the combustion rate in the HTR
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52395 region was extremely high. However, the heat release in the cool flame and NTC regions was
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54
55396 negligibly small. Therefore, based on the results of chemical kinetics analysis shown in Figure
56
57397 12 (A), (C) and Figure 13 (A), (B) we have compared two cases with different initial
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59398 temperatures, 293K and 450K, with the same DME/O₂ and O₂/Ar ratios. If we look at the region
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62399

400 where LTR and TIP occur we can find that the temperature range in these regions for both cases
1401 (293K and 450K) is almost the same. However, the temperature and ROHR in HTR region are
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3402 higher for the case with 450K. We believe that this is a very important finding because it can
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5
6403 suggest that in the real HCCI engine how to implement the combustion control. On the one hand,
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8404 we want to control HCHO and its effect on OH and on the other, we want to control HTR region
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11405 where the power is mainly generated. This is especially important when the fuel reactivity
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13406 controlled combustion concepts are developed.

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16407 When N₂ was used as a dilutant gas, as shown in Figure 13(B), due to the higher heat
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18408 capacity of N₂ versus Ar, the resulting in-cylinder combustion temperature in the HTR region
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20409 was much lower and heat release in the cool flame and NTC regions was seen distinctly. Thus,
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22
23410 comparing these two different temperature cases, we can presume that the intake temperature
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25411 does not affect the in-cylinder temperature level in the LTR or TIP region. These results
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27
28412 demonstrate the validity of the experiments when Ar was used instead of N₂ as a dilutant gas.
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30413 The results of the chemical kinetics analysis with Ar and N₂ show that for both conditions the
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32
33414 LTR and TIP occur at almost the same temperature range meaning that there is no effect of
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35415 temperature in these regions on HTR combustion (temperature range in LTR+TIP regions for Ar
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37416 and N₂ cases are the same). However, the temperature and ROHR in HTR region are very much
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40417 lower in the case with N₂ background gas. If this is the case, we can presume that only HCHO
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42418 formed in these low-temperature regions can have an effect on HTR combustion. Comparing
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45419 (A)-(C) and (B)-(D) in the Figure 13 we can see that the concentration of HCHO in the LTR+TIP
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47420 region is almost doubled in N₂-case compared to that of Ar-case. The computation has validated
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49
50421 the fact that the temperature ranges in the LTR+TIP region, when Ar and N₂ background gases
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52422 were used, are the same. However, for N₂ the HCHO concentration is increasing and suppressing
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54423 the OH formation and therefore the amount heat release in HTR region.

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57424 To study the effects of pressure on HCHO formation, we compared two different conditions:
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59425 1) the initial temperature was kept constant and in-cylinder pressure was varied, and 2) the
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62426 in-cylinder pressure was kept constant and the initial temperature was varied. Figure 14 shows
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427 the comparison of these conditions. The change in cylinder pressure had a greater effect on the
1428 amount of HCHO formed than the change in initial temperature. However, the intake
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3429 temperature had a greater effect on the ignition delay than pressure. At fixed pressure and higher
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6430 intake temperatures, the ignition delay advances, HCHO is formed earlier, and the combustion
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8431 rate increases; however, the concentration of HCHO formed in the LTR and TIP regions
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11432 decreases. These combined effects of temperature, pressure, initial fuel concentration, and O₂
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13433 concentration suggest that the increased HCHO concentration at higher in-cylinder pressures is
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15434 due to a larger amount of air/fuel charge in the cylinder, while the lower in-cylinder temperature
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18435 is due to the decreasing O₂ concentration in the mixture, and the lower HCHO concentration at
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20436 higher initial temperatures is due to the evolution of the thermal ignition. The subsequent
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23437 acceleration in the pressure rise rate can be attributed predominately to the production and
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25438 decomposition of H₂O₂, and to the competition between O₂ addition reactions and OH
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28439 subtraction reactions, accompanied by the formation of HCHO.

30440 31 32 33441 *3.3 Time-resolved UV-vis HCHO and OH absorbance spectra for knocking combustion*

34
35442 The formation of HCHO and OH species, and their lifetimes in the LTR, NTC, and TIP regions,
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37443 provides better understanding of knocking combustion mechanism and helps us to control
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40444 knocking in HCCI engines. We studied the effect of HCHO formed in the LTR and TIP regions
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42445 on the rate of combustion and engine knock. A fixed exposure duration of 11 CAD with various
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45446 ICCD-triggered instances was applied to each cycle. On the left, Figures 15–19 show the
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47447 combustion cycles with different in-cylinder pressure oscillations and knock intensities. On the
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50448 right, they show HCHO and OH absorbances detected at different crank angles. The maximum
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52449 amplitude of the high-frequency component of the pressure (2.5–12 kHz) was taken as the
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54450 knocking intensity of the corresponding cycle by applying a fast Fourier transform (FFT) to the
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56
57451 pressure signal.

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59452 Figure 15 shows the absorption scan in the LTR region; we observed very small peaks of
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62453 HCHO during combustion with moderate knock intensities. Figure 16 shows an almost
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454 negligible level of knock intensity and a high level of HCHO absorbance. This suggests that the
1455 reaction rate was such that it produced high concentration of HCHO in the LTR and TIP regions
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3456 and thus failed to result in knock in the HTR region. Figures 17 and 18 show the correlation
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6457 between the high concentration of OH, the low concentration of HCHO, and combustion with
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8458 high knock intensity. In Figure 19, with the exposure start time at 375 CAD after TDC, it can be
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11459 seen that the OH concentration decreased. The HCHO concentration is always low when the OH
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13460 concentration is high.

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16461 The results in Figures 15–19 show a clear trend between knock intensity and HCHO/OH
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18462 formation. This work helps to characterise combustion cycles with HCHO and OH absorption
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20463 during combustion in a DME-HCCI engine. These results will help in understanding the
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23464 complex processes of intermediate species formation during combustion, and in the design of
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25465 advanced optical sensors for effective combustion control.

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30467 **4. Conclusions**

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32468 From this study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

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35469 1. The time-resolved HCHO and OH profiles during the DME-O₂-Ar mixture combustion
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37470 cycles showed that the HCHO absorbance increased in the LTR and TIP regions and decreased
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39
40471 gradually as combustion approached the HTR region. The opposite trend was observed for OH
41
42472 absorbance profiles. OH was at a minimum in the LTR region and increased as the combustion
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45473 approached the HTR region. The increased HCHO concentration at higher in-cylinder pressures
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47474 is due to a larger amount of air/fuel charge in the cylinder. The lower in-cylinder temperature is
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49475 due to the reduced O₂ concentration in the mixture.

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52476 2. Due to the existing combustion cyclic variability, it was difficult to precisely determine, from
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54477 the experiments, the effect of pressure on HCHO and OH formation in the LTC; thus, a chemical
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57478 kinetics analysis was performed. The chemical kinetics analysis showed that the initial O₂
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59479 concentration and intake temperatures did not affect the in-cylinder temperature in the LTR or
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61
62480 TIP regions. However, they had significant effects on HTR combustion. At an intake temperature
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481 of 450 K, with Ar as the dilutant gas, the rate of heat release was extremely high. The ROHR in
1482 the cool flame and NTC regions did not change. When N₂ was used as the dilutant gas, a distinct
2
3483 ROHR in the cool flame and NTC regions was observed.
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5
6484 3. A correlation between the in-cylinder spectral HCHO/OH formation and knocking intensity
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8485 was observed. By applying different ICCD exposure timing vs. crank angle degree settings, it
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10486 was possible to demonstrate a trend whereby HCHO concentration was very low and OH
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13487 concentration was very high when knock intensity was very high, and *vice versa*.
14

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17489 The English in this document has been checked by at least two professional editors, both native
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19490 speakers of English. For a certificate, please see:
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21491 <http://www.textcheck.com/certificate/miOQ24>
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- 41626
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- 45629 Figure 3. Schematic diagram of light absorbance acquisition setup.
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- 47 631 Figure 4. Time-resolved absorbance spectra and ROHR at different pressures and temperatures
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 51634 release.
- 52635
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 54 637 shown for each increment is the one when ICCD was triggered. The data for each increment was
 55637 obtained with the exposure duration for 11° CA.
- 56638
- 57639
- 58 640 Figure 7. Time-resolved absorbance at intake absolute pressure 60kPa. The crank angle degree
 59 641 shown for each increment is the one when ICCD was triggered. The data for each increment was
 60641 obtained with the exposure duration for 11° CA.
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Table 1

Bore	78 mm
Stroke	85 mm
Connecting rod length	153 mm
Displacement volume	406.2 cm ³
Compression ratio	9.0:1
Combustion chamber	Pancake type
Engine speed	600 rpm
Valve closure time	180 deg.BTDC
Equivalence ratio	0.3
Intake temperature	293K, 295K, 303K
Intake pressure	48kPa ÷ 85kPa

Table 2

	DME-O ₂ -Ar / DME-O ₂ -N ₂		
	DME	O ₂	Ar or N ₂
Case 1 (A)	0.013406	0.087307	0.899287
Case 2 (B)	0.017232	0.056113	0.926655
Case 3 (C)	0.019453	0.038007	0.94254

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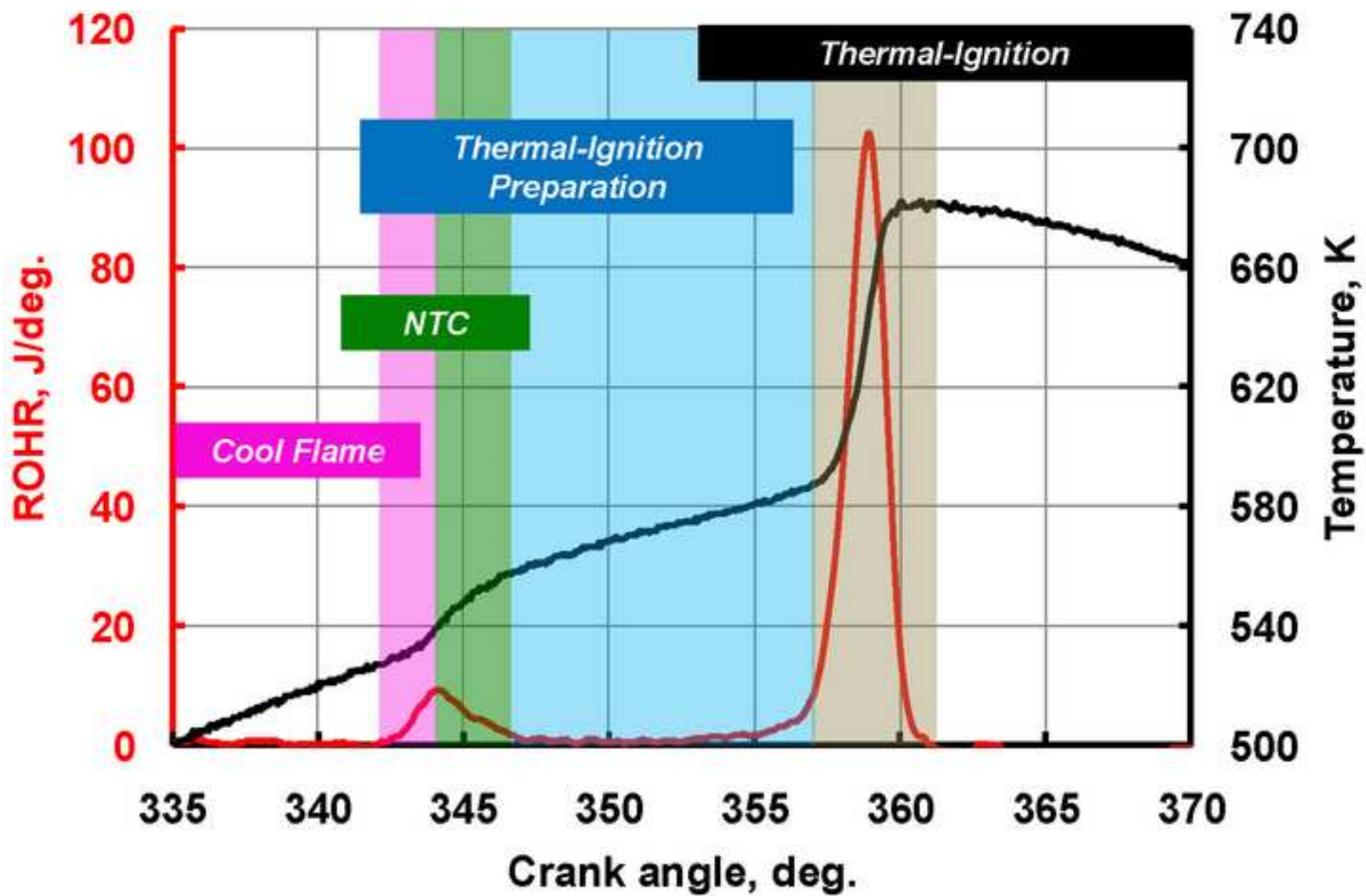


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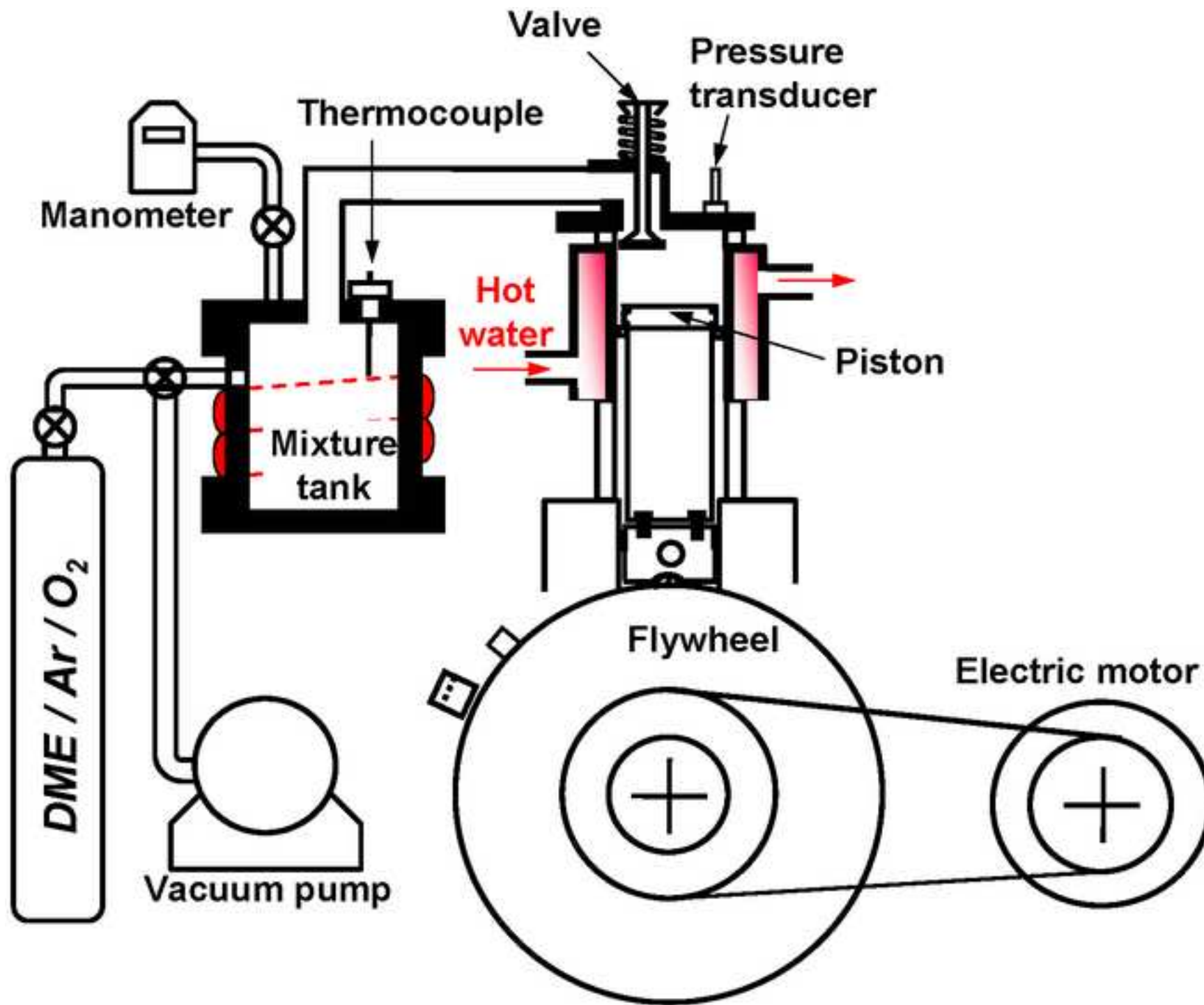


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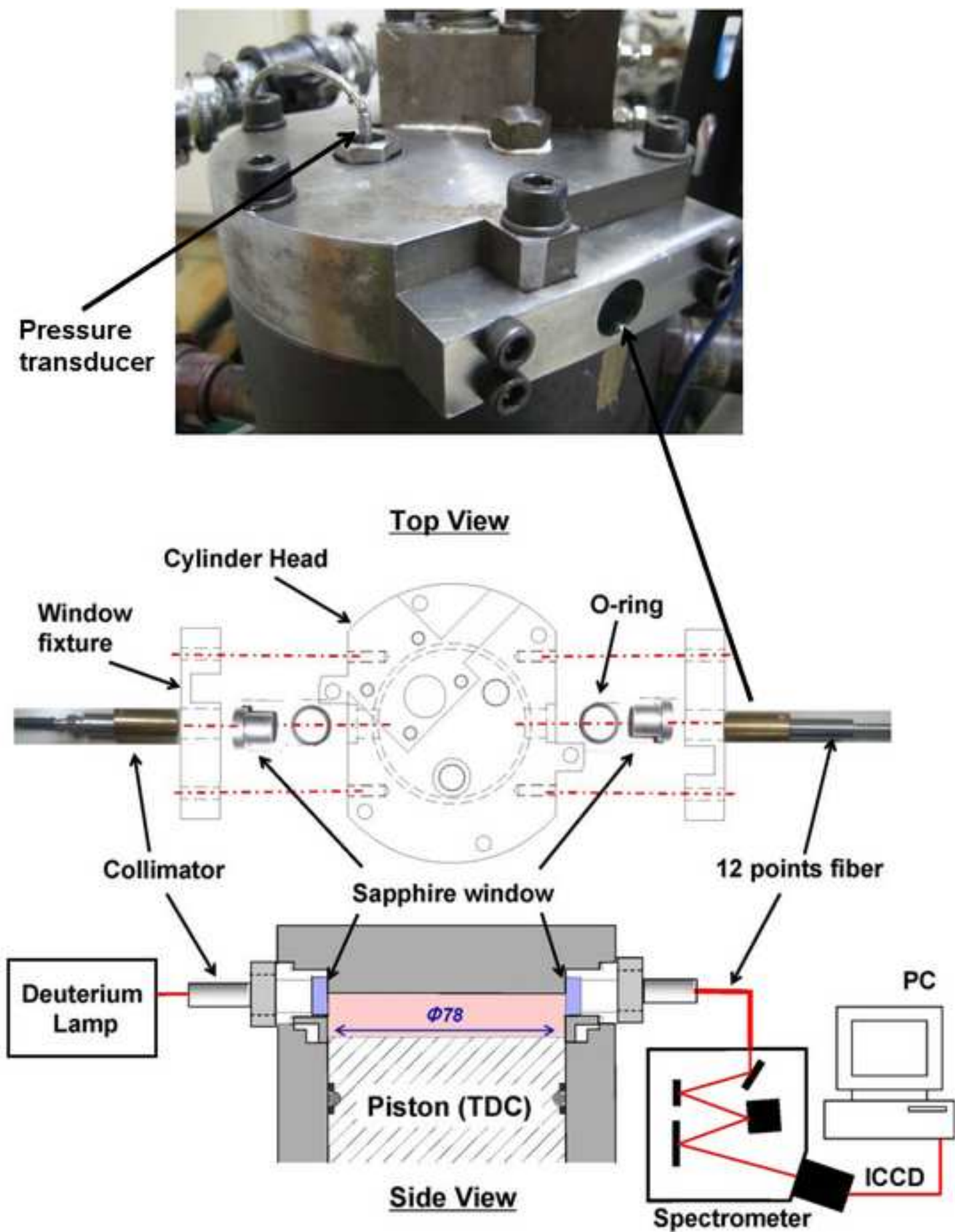


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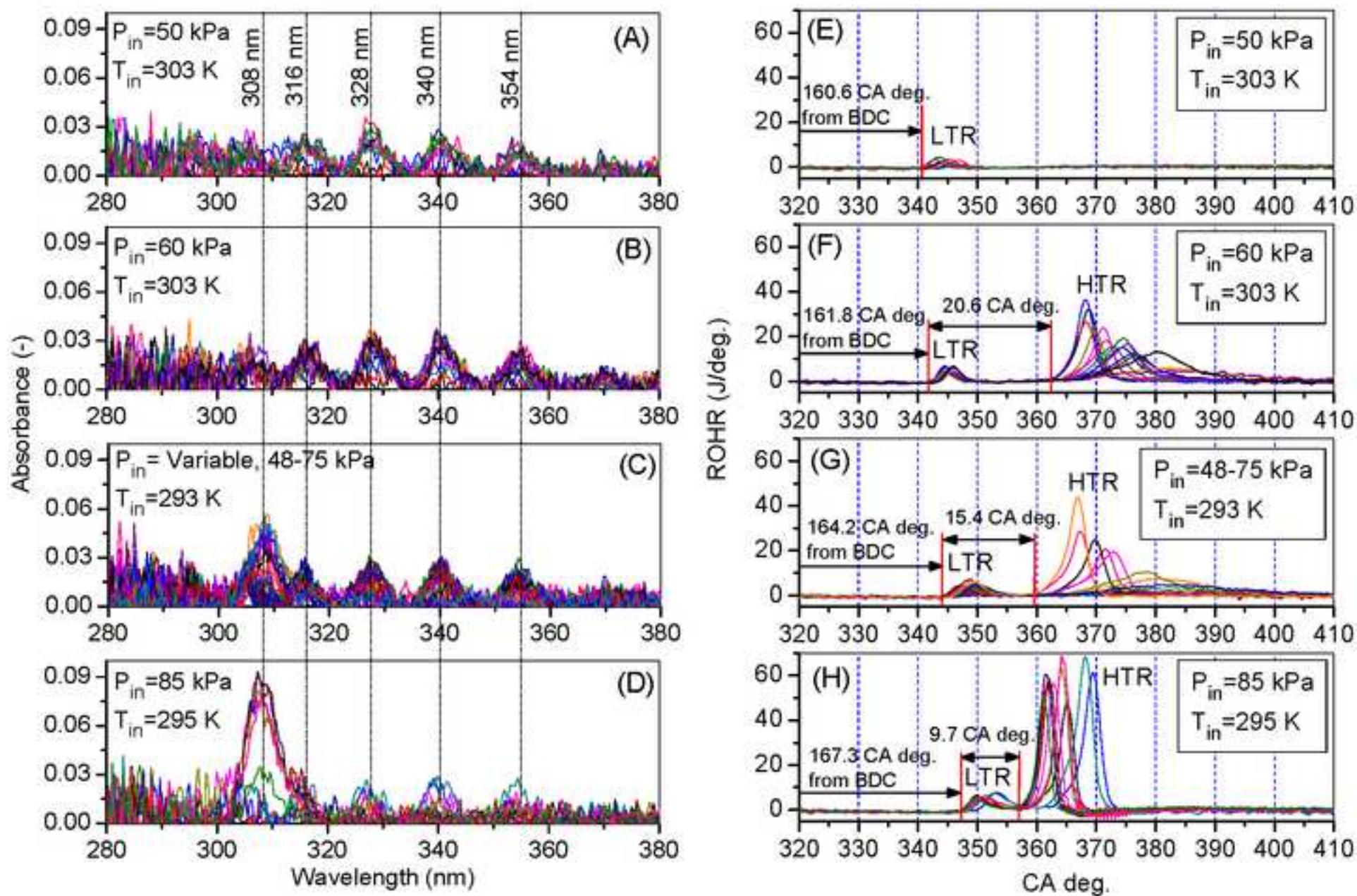


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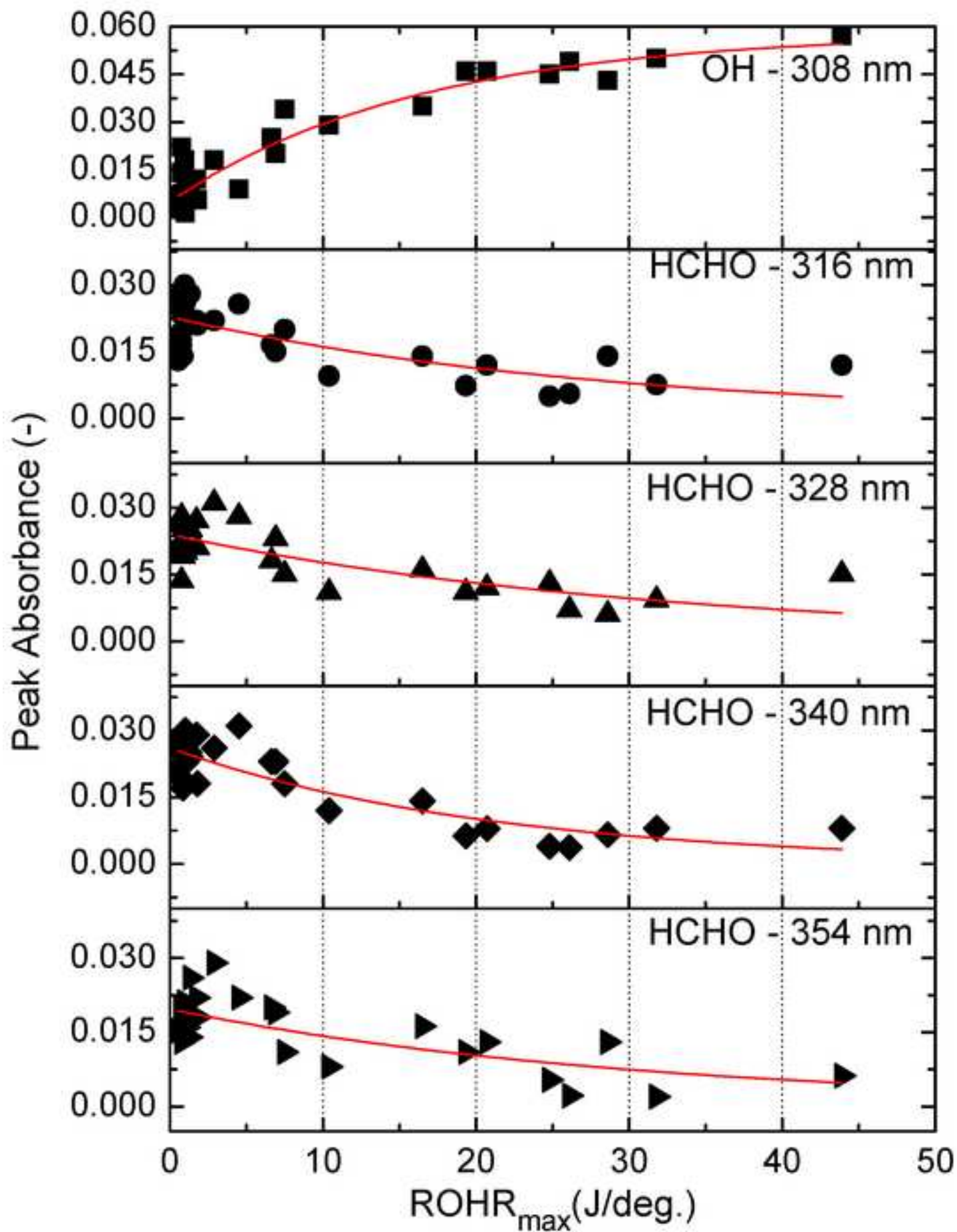


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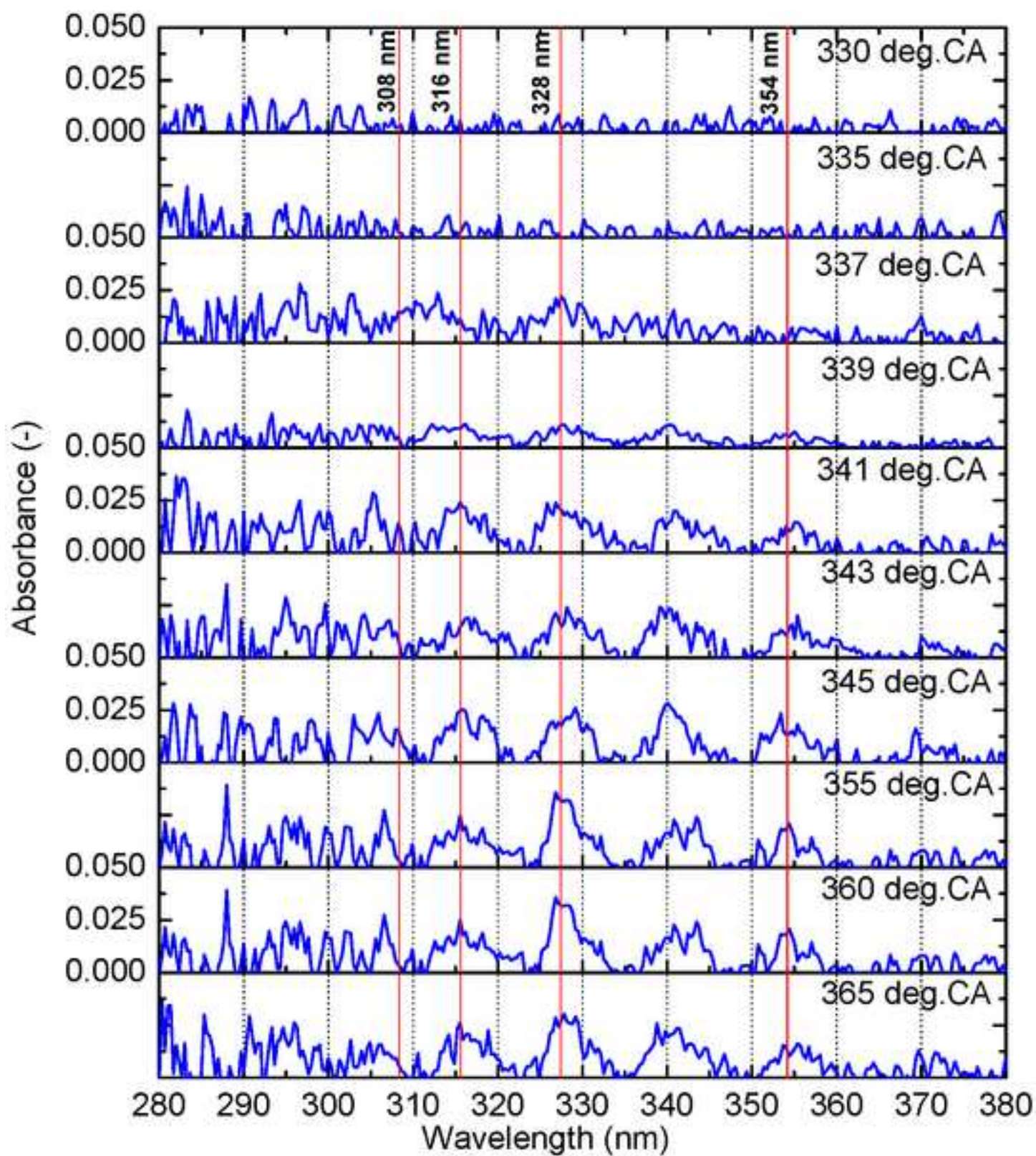


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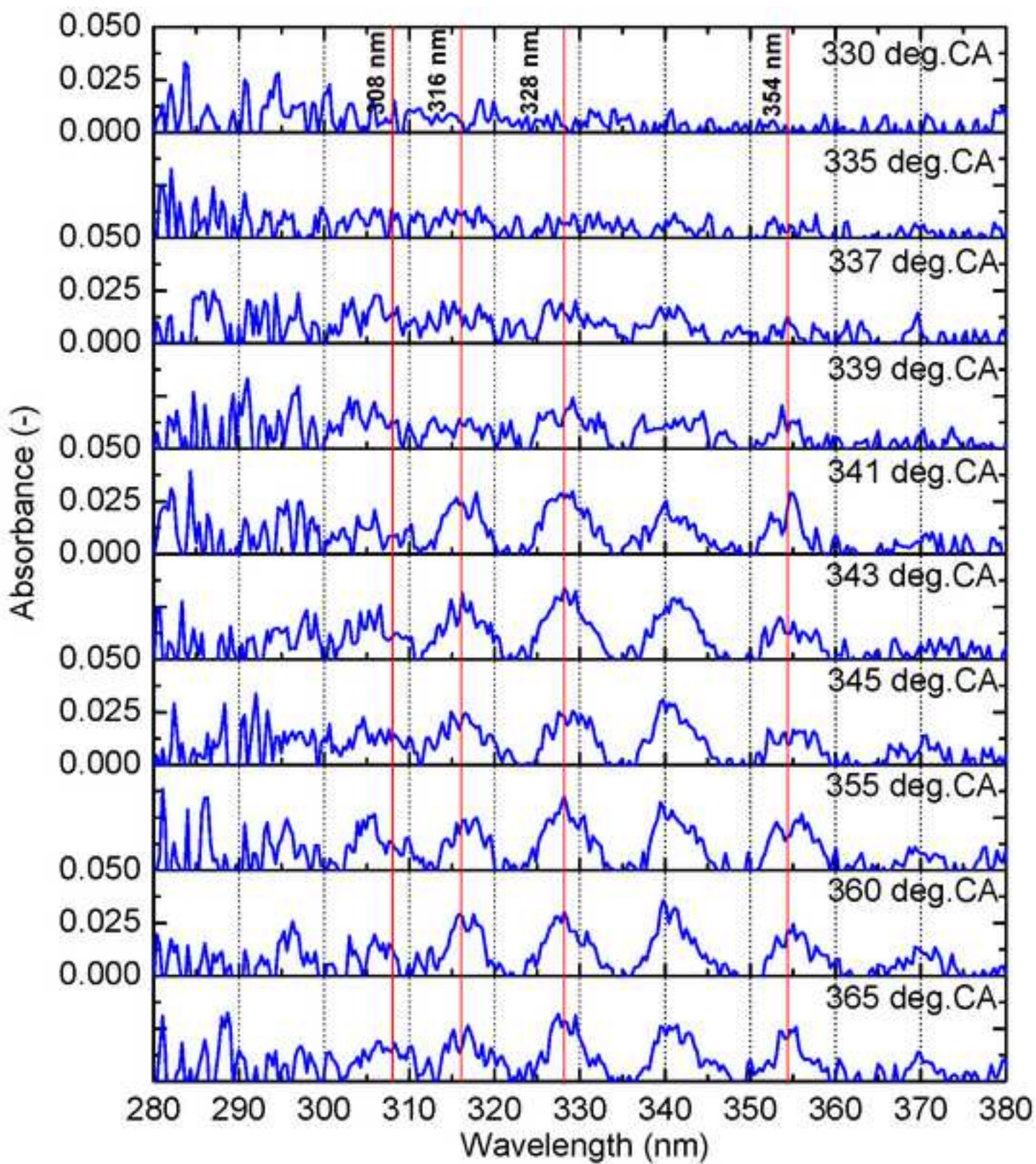


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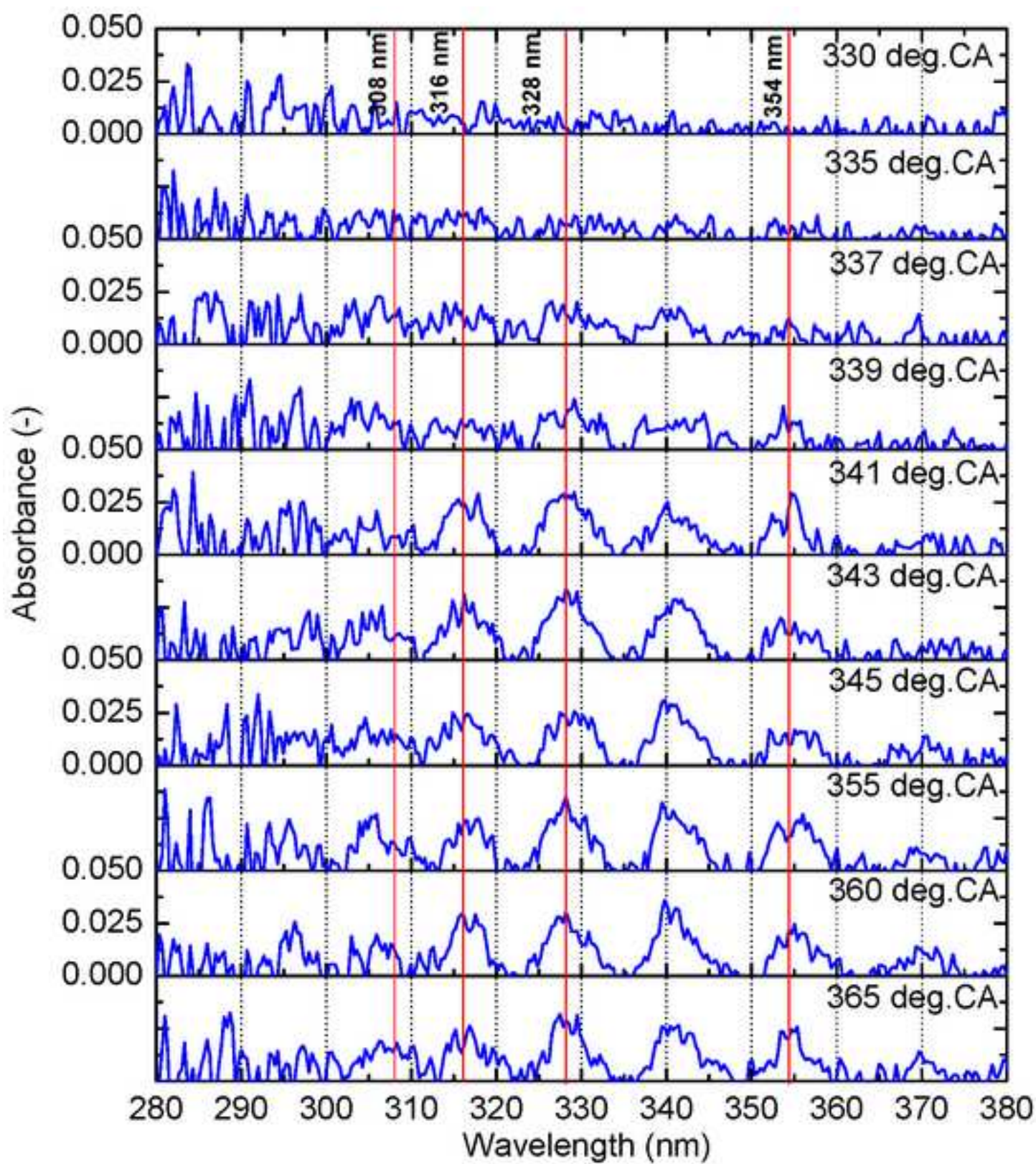


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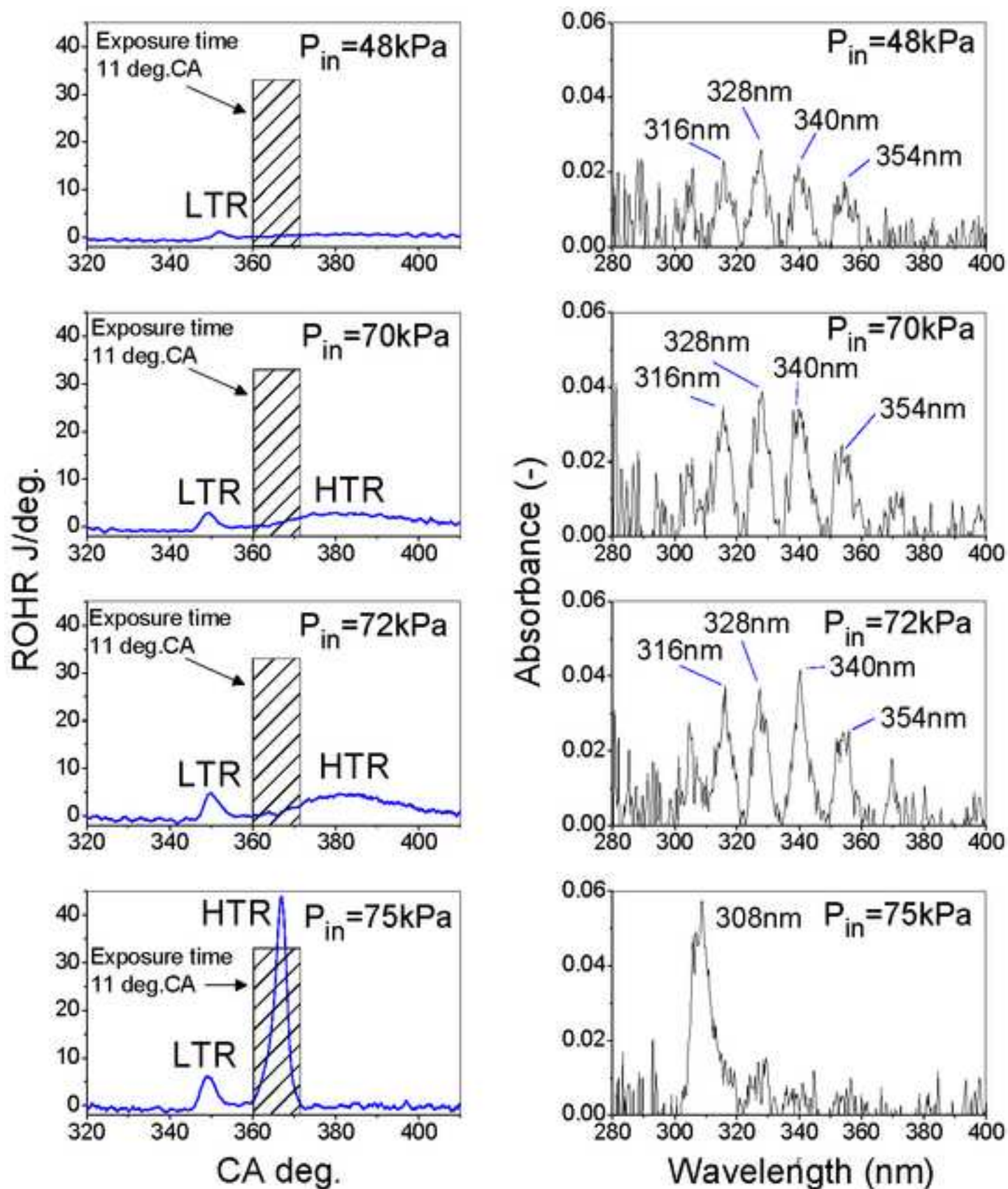


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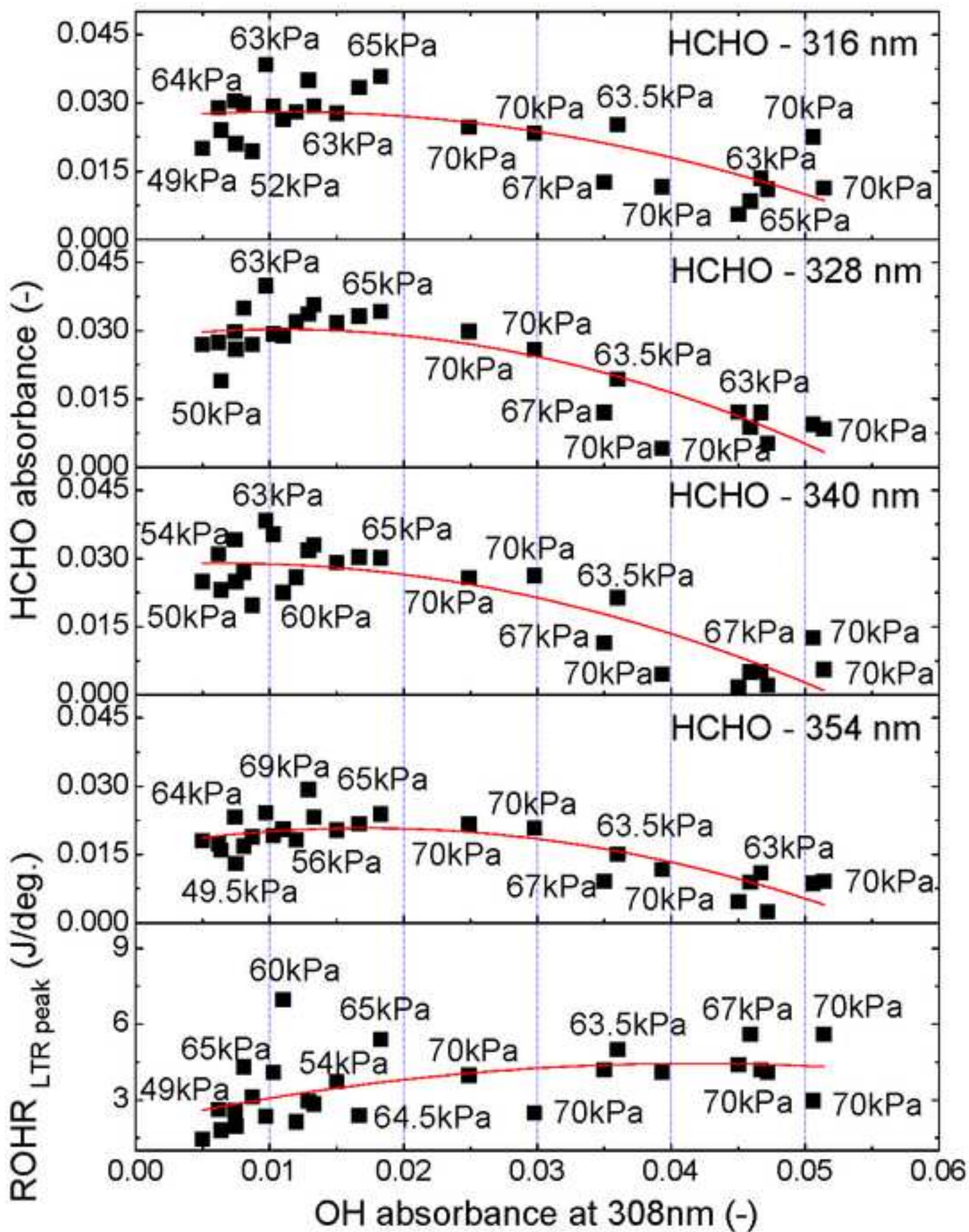


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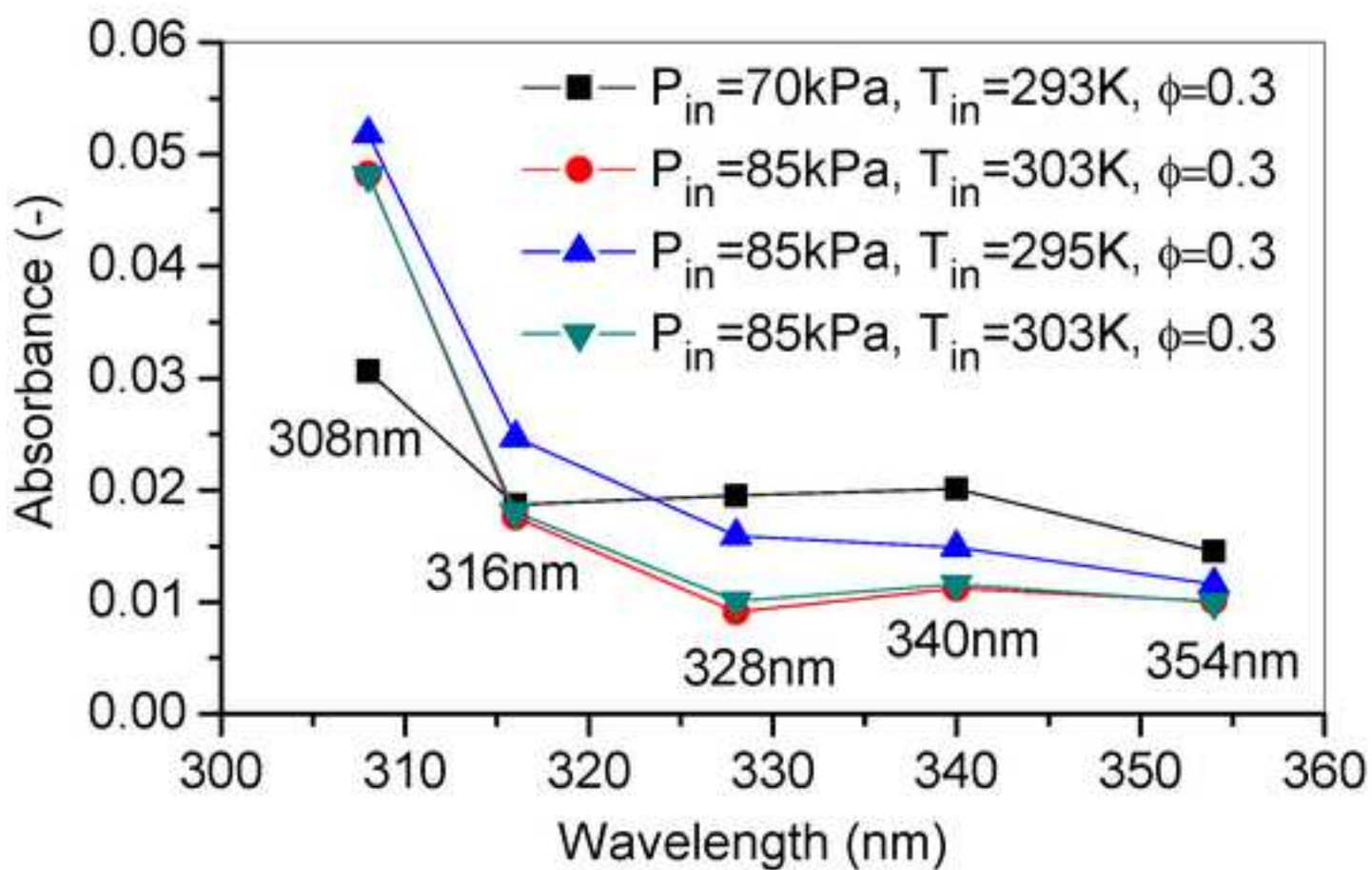
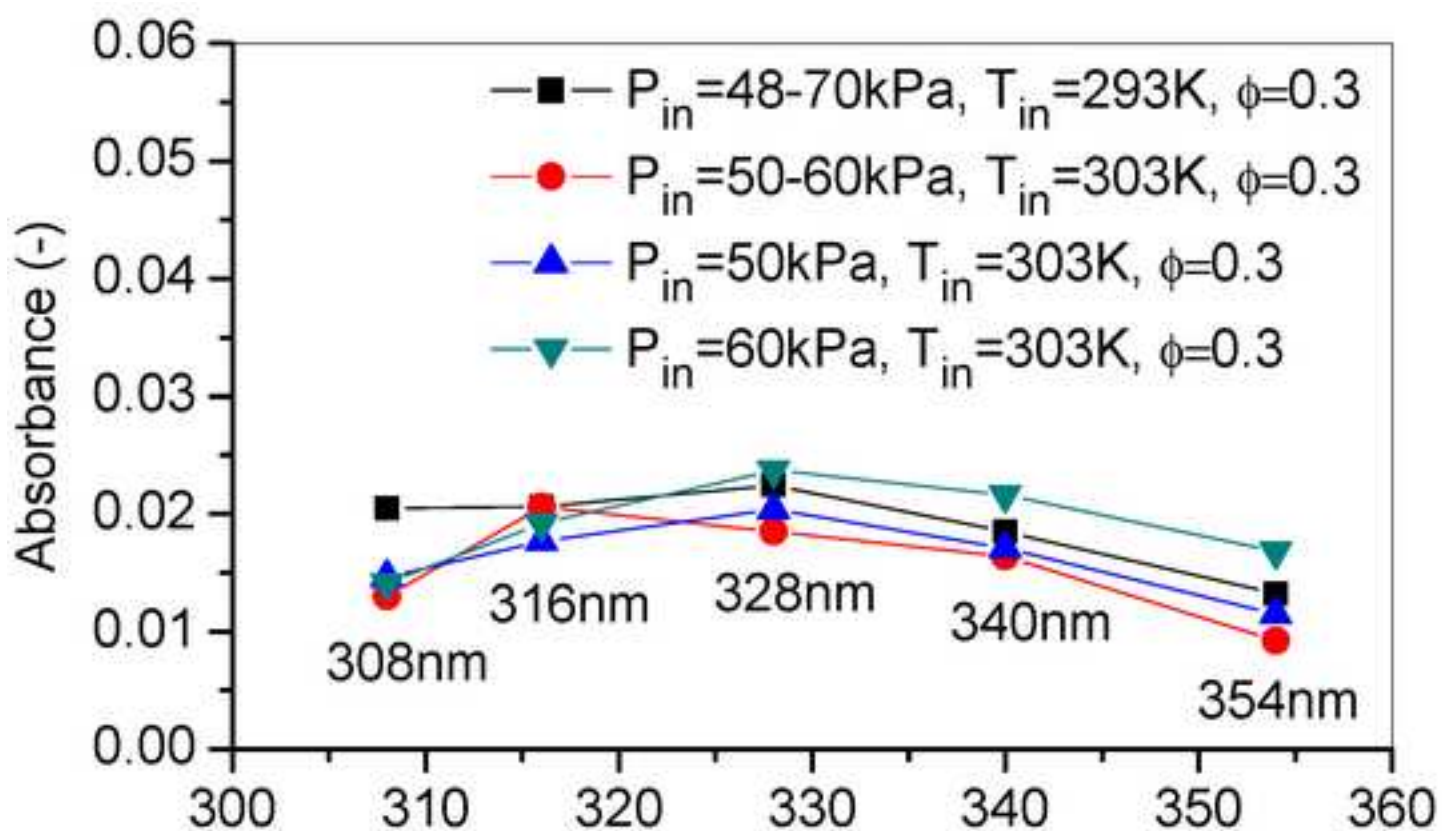
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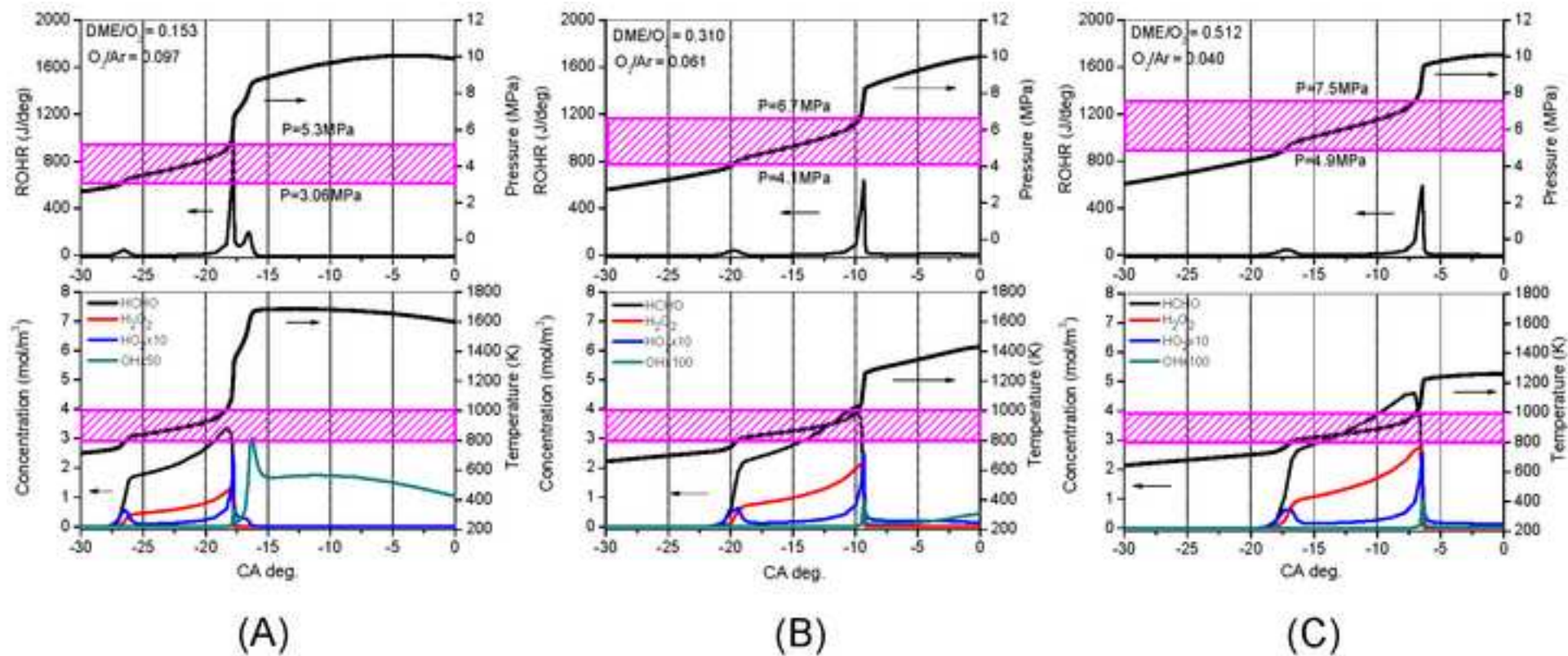
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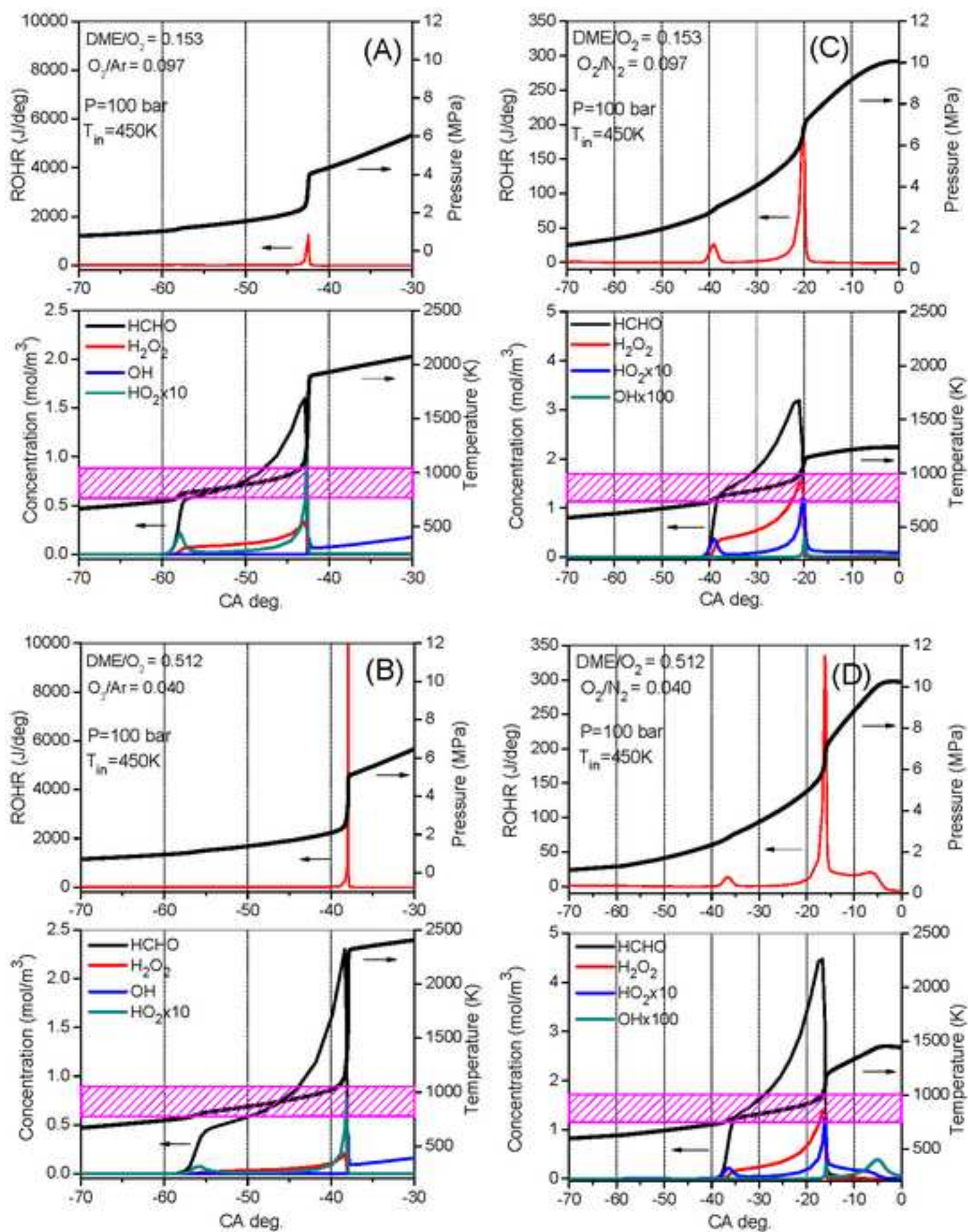


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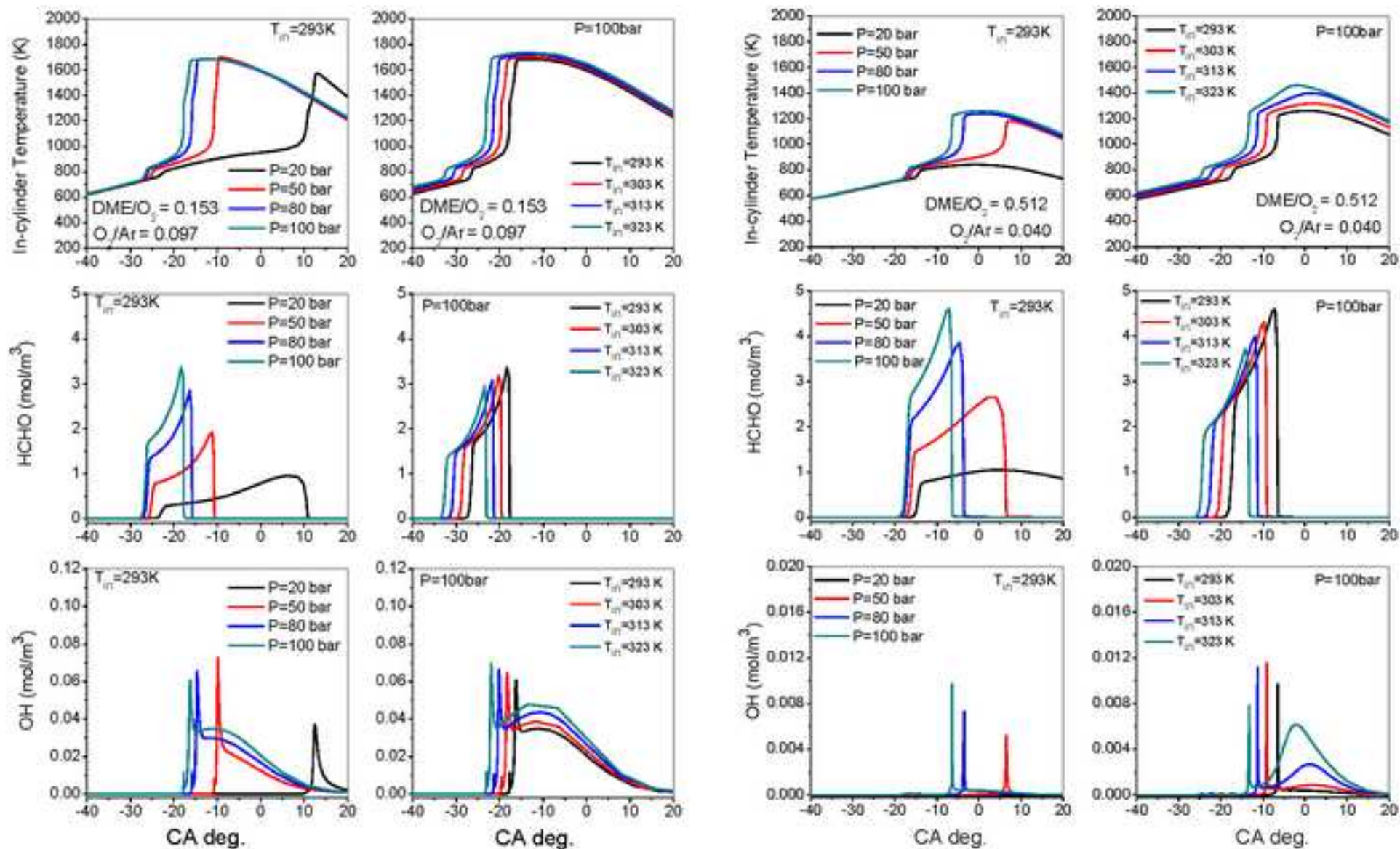


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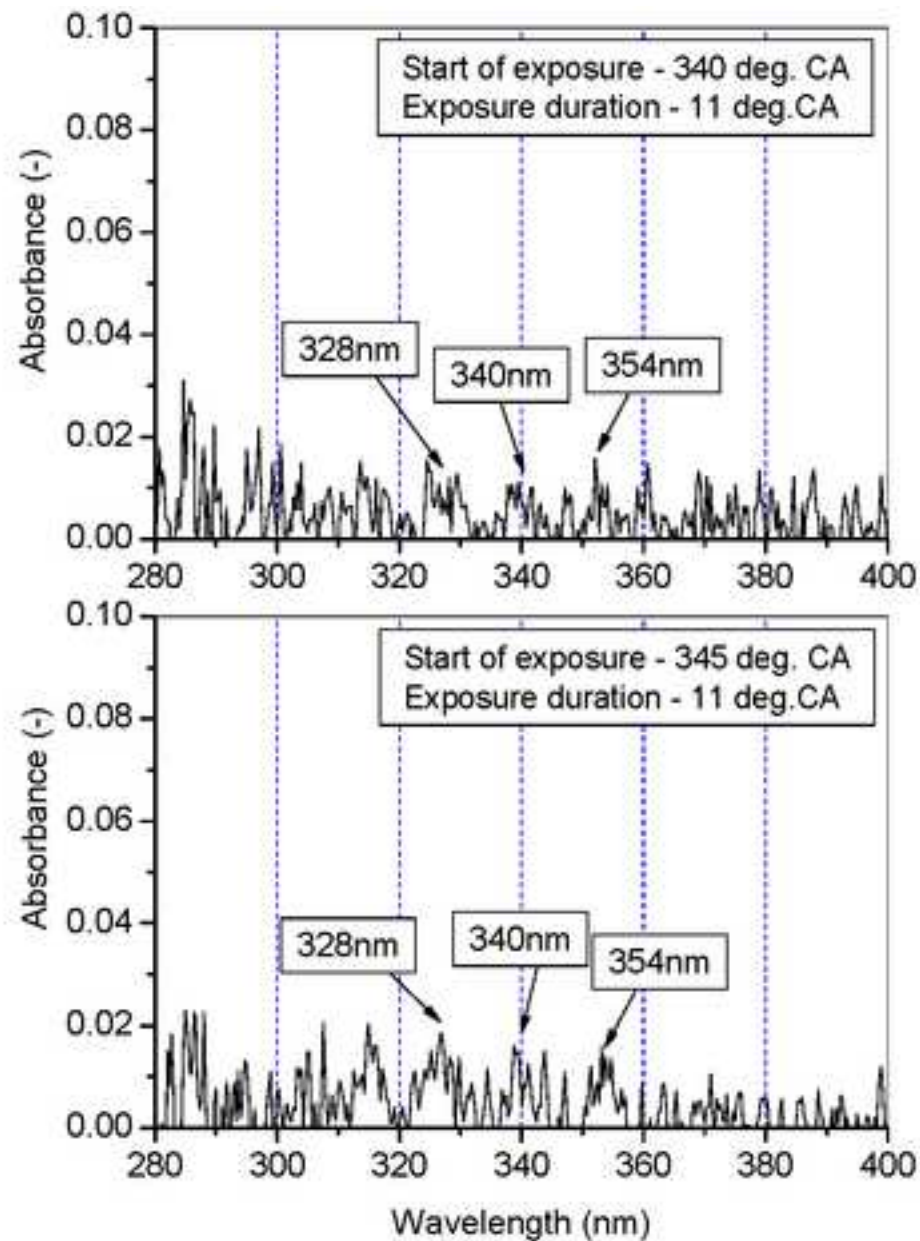
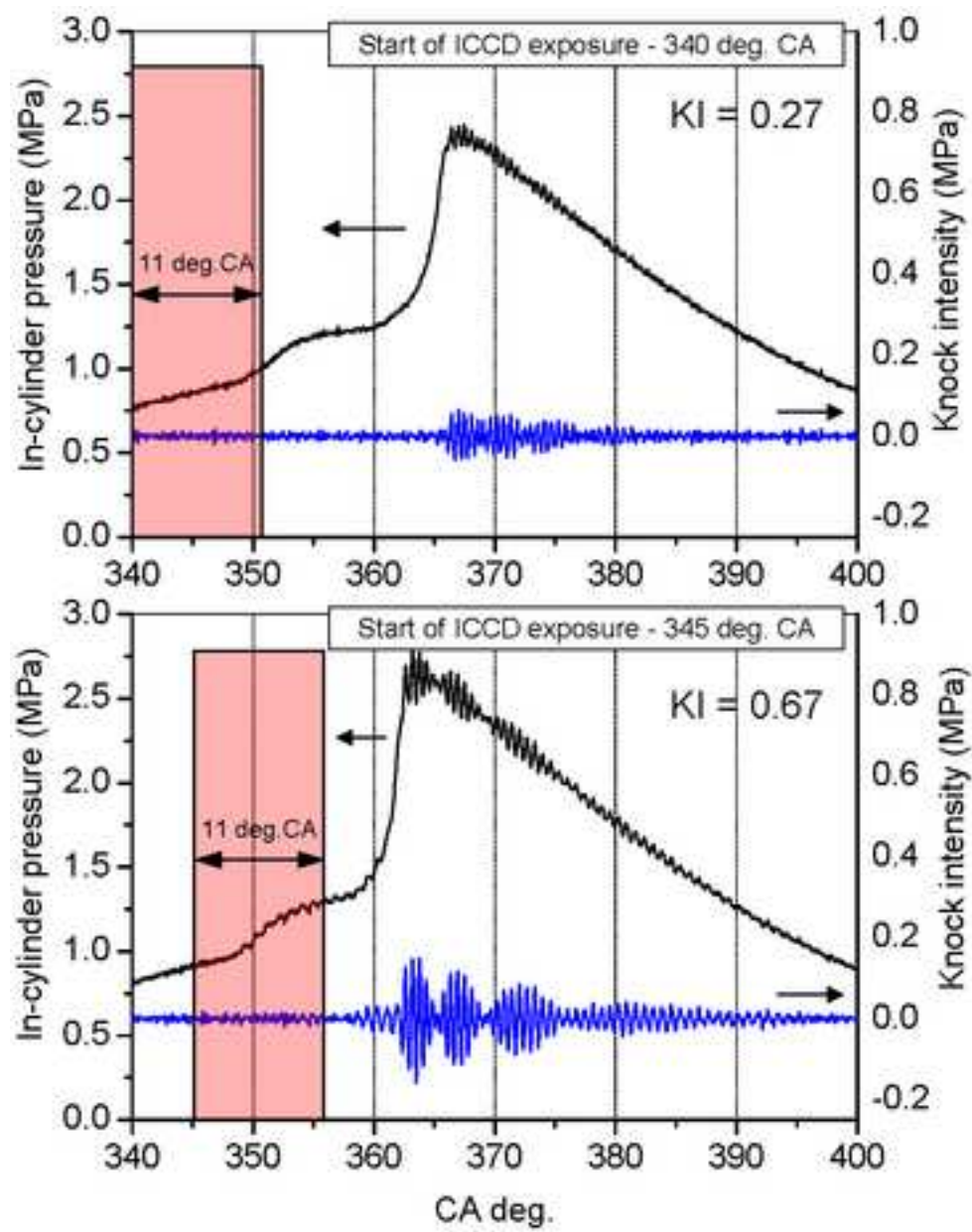


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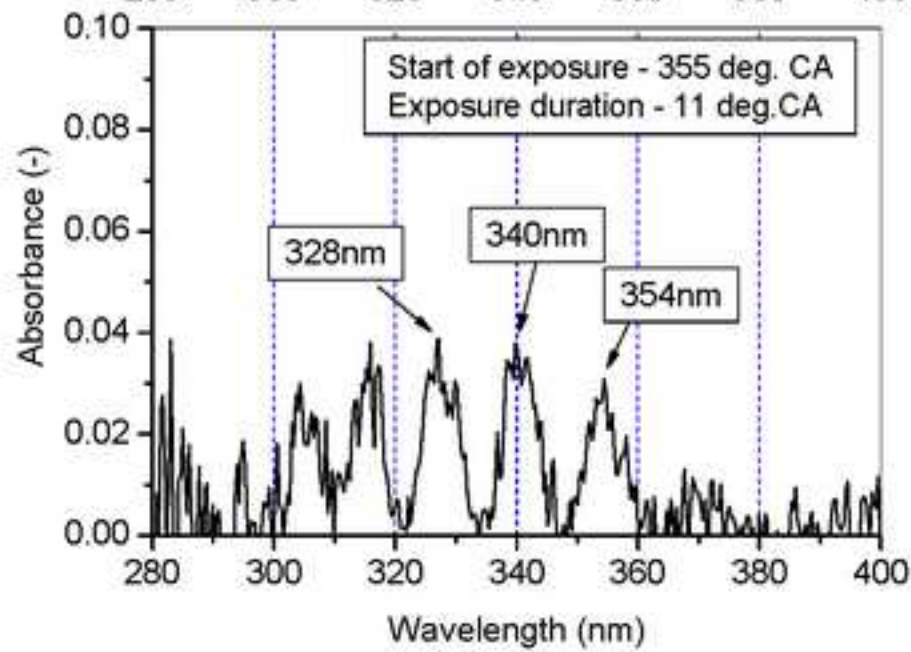
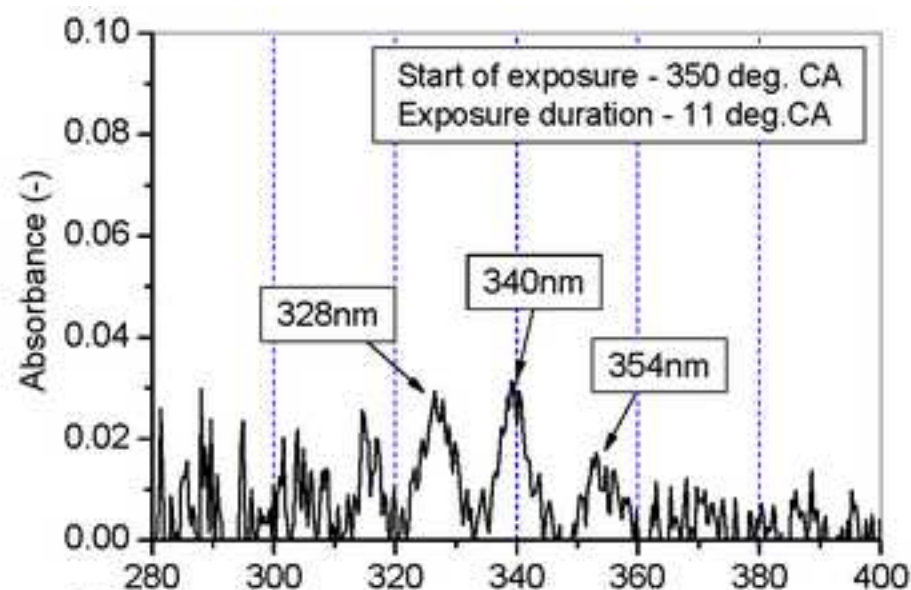
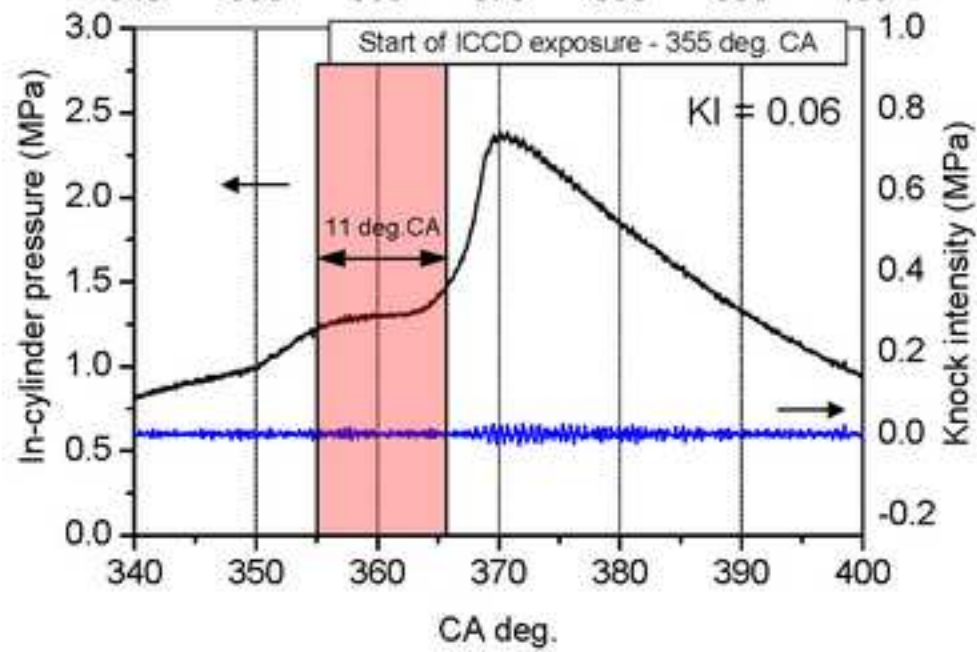
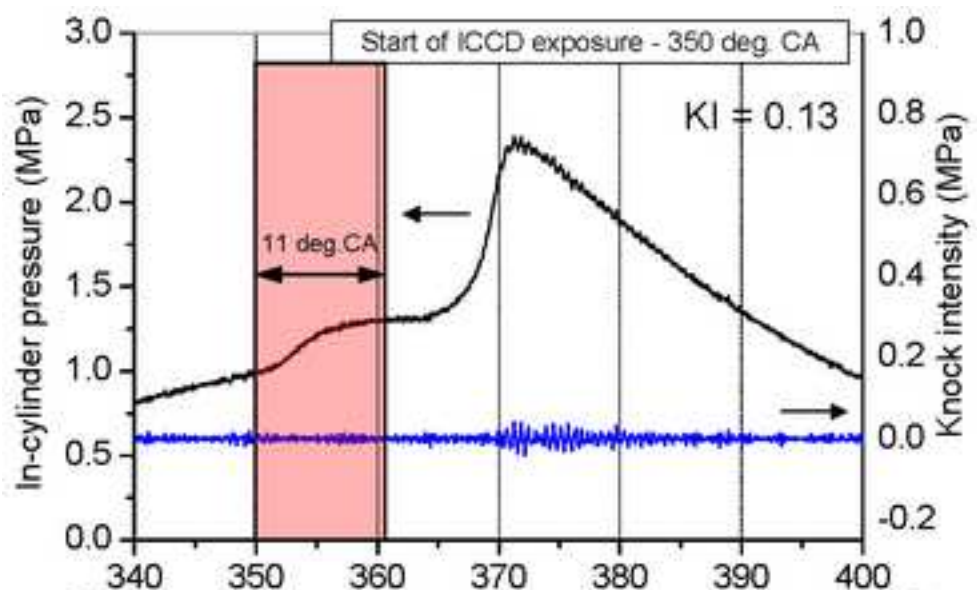


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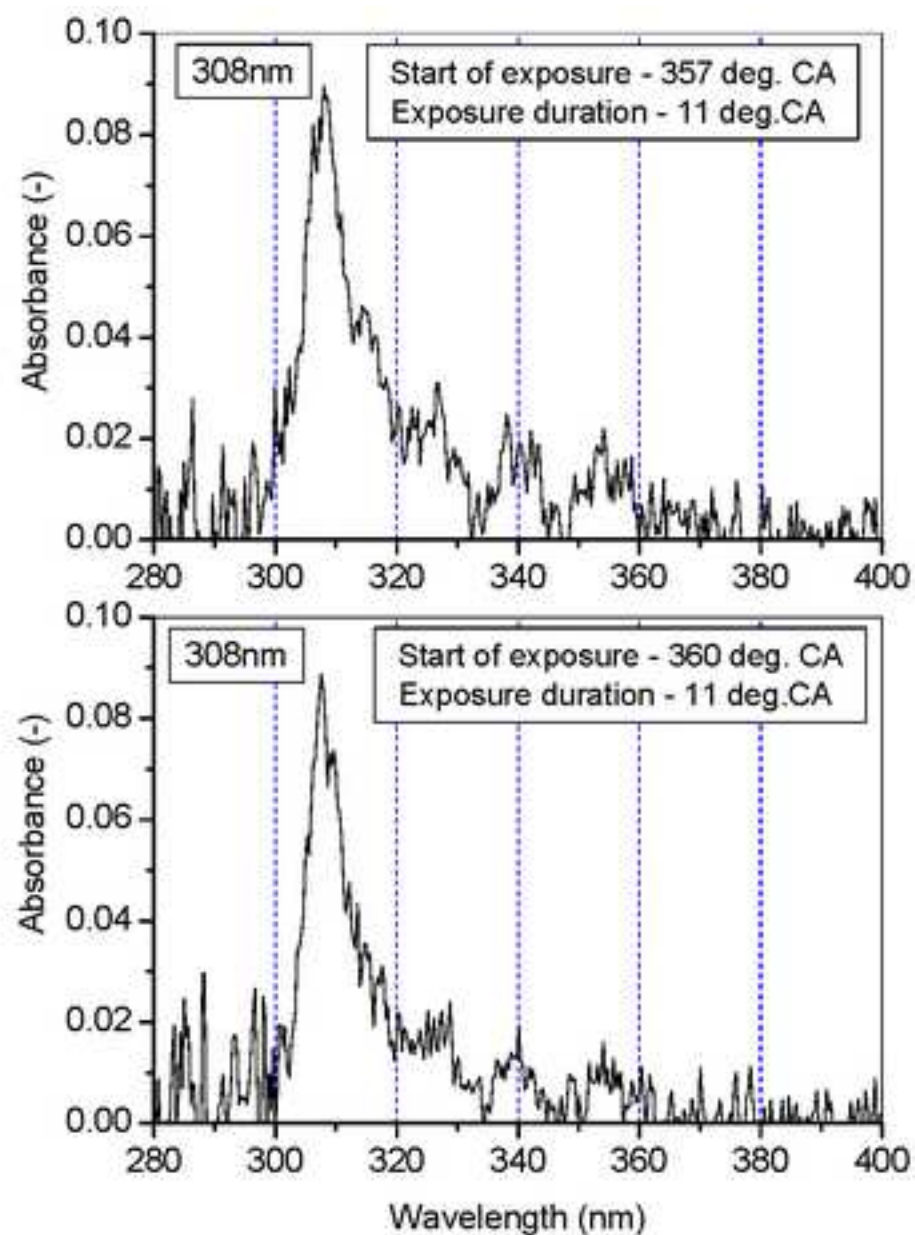
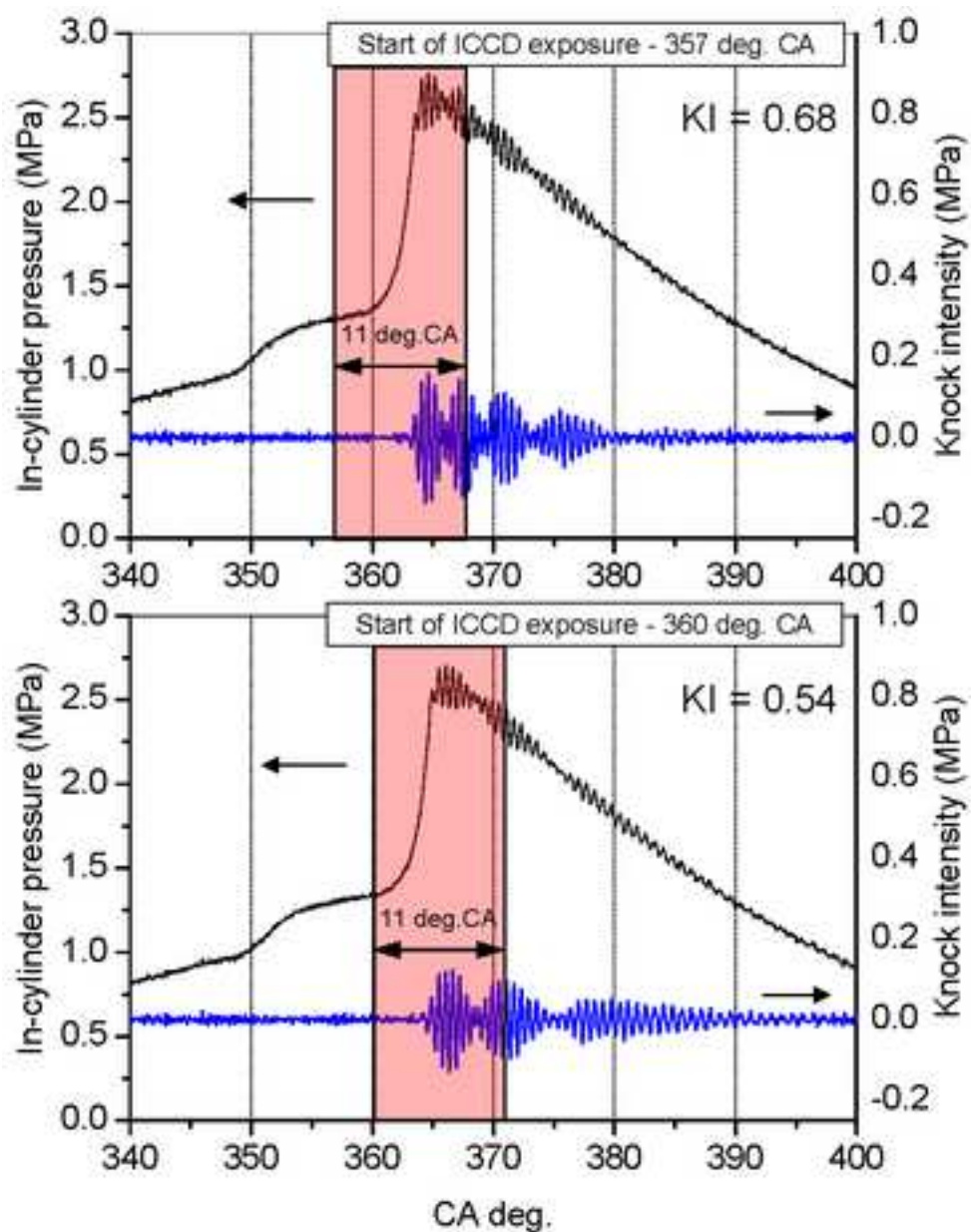


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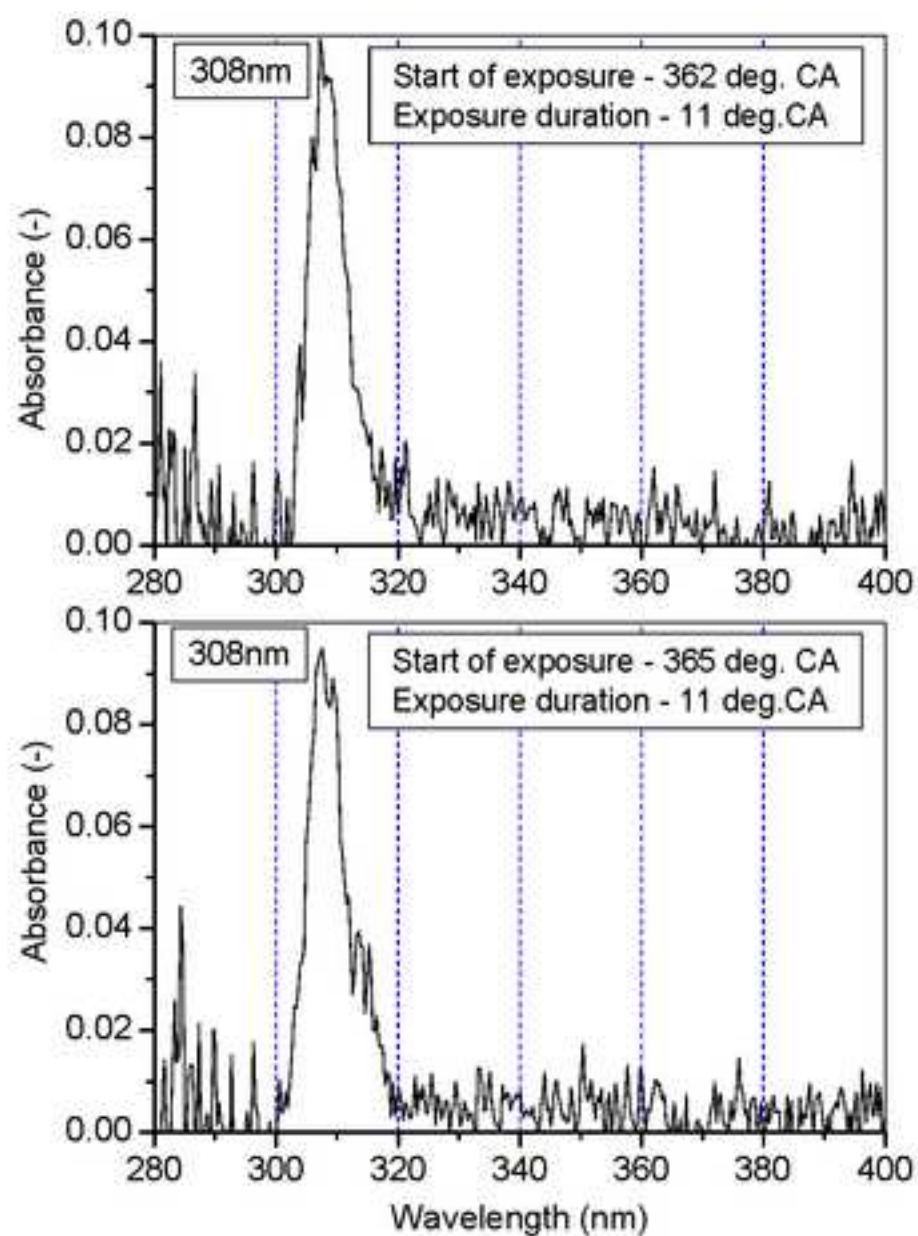
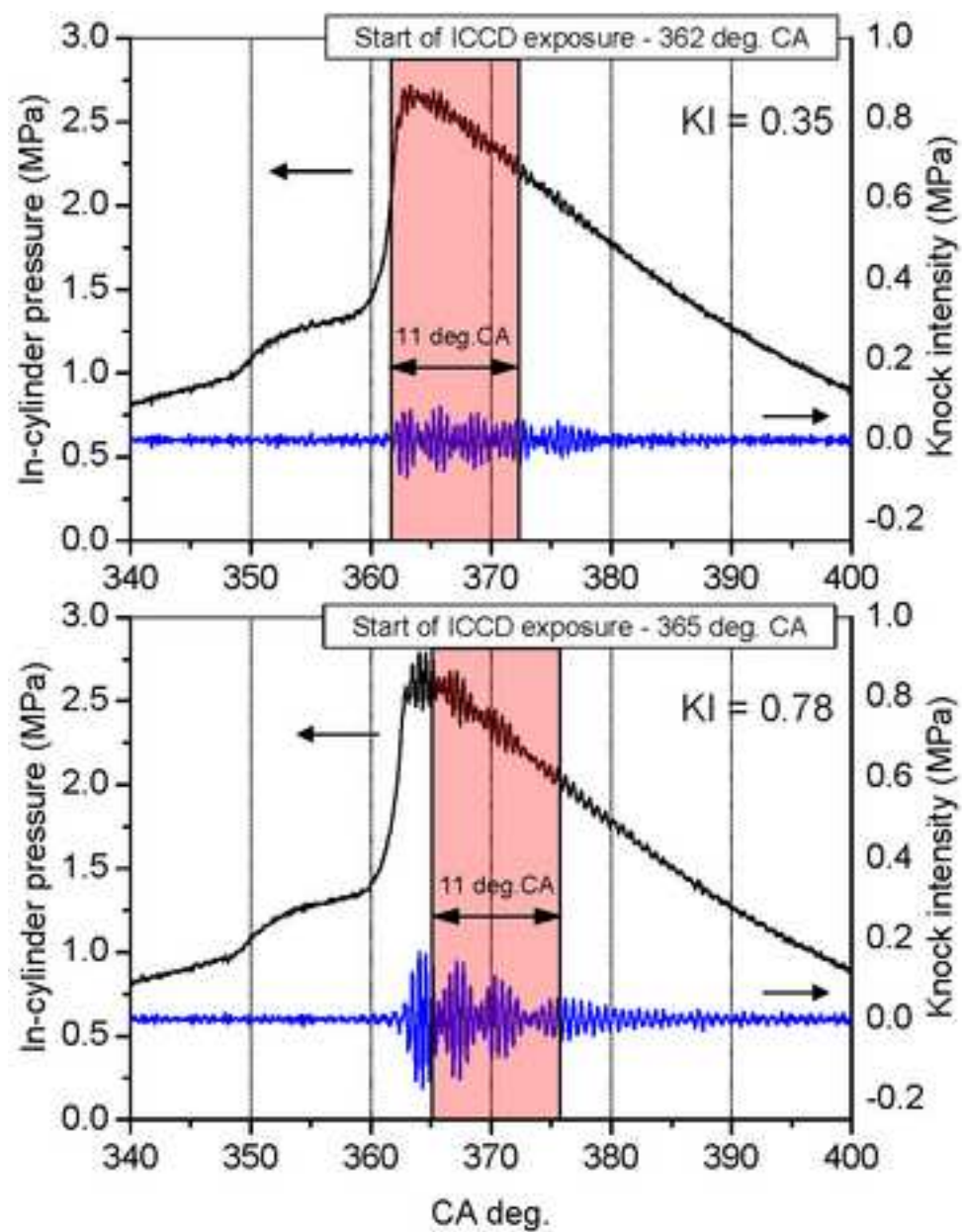


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