



Laboratoire d'Étude du Rayonnement et de la Matière en Astrophysique

Experimental study of H₂ formation on grains overview and recent results

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H₂ formation on grains ?





Diffuse clouds



Dense clouds



- High destruction rate (UV...)
- Low destruction rate (cosmic...)



Diffuse clouds



- High destruction rate (UV...)
- Bare grains
- T >20 K \rightarrow 1 Chemisorbed

Dense clouds



- Low destruction rate (cosmic...)
- Ice mantles (H₂O, CO…)
- 10 K \rightarrow 2 Physisorbed atoms
- Presence of H₂ adsorbed

New experiments on H₂ formation

Diffuse clouds



• UCL:

Graphite, excited molecules Creighan et al (2006)

• U. Aarhus :

Graphite, chemisorbed sites Hornekaer, poster 14 Dense clouds



• UCP

Water ice surfaces Amiaud et al (2006)

previous work on water ice surfaces

Experiments

- Govers et al (1980)
- Vidali, Pirronello, Biham et al (5 refs)
- Hornekaer et al (2003)

Calculations

- Hollenbach and Salpeter (1971)
- Buch et al (1991)
- Takahashi et al (2000)
- Al Halabi et al (2002) \rightarrow



Figure 2. The sticking probability of hydrogen atoms to crystalline ice as a function of E_i for (a) $T_s = 10$ K and (b) $T_s = 70$ K, together with the previous results on sticking of hydrogen to amorphous ice.^{22,42} The solid line is an exponential decay fit of our results. An experimental data point for molecular hydrogen formation on amorphous ice is also shown at low T_s .⁴⁶ See the text for the connection of H₂ formation with the sticking of hydrogen atoms.



UCP experimental strategy

- Compare D₂ vs D+D, during and after irradiation (thermal ramp = TPD)
- Use ice as template of physisorption study (Porosity and adsorption sites can be changed)
- Caracterize as much as possible different experimental parameters
- And not H+D studies (Vidali, Pirronello, Biham et al, Hornekaer et al)











Ice samples

Growth at 10 K



© Guillot & Guissani 2004

High effective surface area Proportionnal to thickness



Growth at 120 K



© Kimmel et al 2001

Surface area ~ geometric area





During and after irradiation !

D₂ desorption from porous ASW

Figure 4



- Profiles depend on coverage

- Filling behaviour (Kimmel et al 2001)

New model \rightarrow energy distribution



- Assume a distribution of adsorptoin sites g(E)
- Assume Thermal equilibrium (Fermi Dirac statistic)
- 4 fitting parameters

New model \rightarrow energy distribution



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		T=10 K		
E _a (meV)	30	35	40	60
t _{res} (day)	0.01	4.8	1567	> 10 ¹³

$$p_{des} = v_o e^{-E_a/kT} \qquad t_{res} = \frac{1}{p_{des}} = \frac{1}{v_o} e^{\frac{E_a}/kT}$$

Residence time on a site vs adsorption energy (E_{a})

		T=10 K		
E _a (meV)	30	35	40	60
t _{res} (day)	0.01	4.8	1567	> 10 ¹³

$$p_{des} = A e^{-\frac{E_a}{kT}} \qquad t_{res} = \frac{1}{p_{des}} = \frac{1}{A} e^{\frac{E_a}{kT}}$$



There is a non negligible amount of H_2 adsorbed on ice mantles



D





Isotopic segregation effect

Enrichment of deuterated molecules on ice mantles (see poster 18)
TPD profiles of H₂ HD and D (see below) are very sensitive to the presence D₂ (even 10%)

Summary I D_2 interaction with porous ASW

- Interaction is coverage dependant
- There is a very large energy distribution (in aggrement with calculations by Hixson et al 1992)
- There is a strong isotopic effect
- We have modeled it → tool for ice caracterization
- Our model permit us to study the effect of ice thickness, non uniform ice layer and non uniform deposition of D₂ that damatically affect the shapes of the TPD curves

D₂ desorption from Non porous ASW



Similar behaviour than porous ASW, not the same energy distribution

D₂ desorption from Non porous ASW



Similar behaviour than porous ASW, not the same energy distribution

D₂ during irradiation



D₂ during irradiation



 D_2 accomodates more efficiently when some D_2 is already adsorbed

Summary II: D_2 interaction with non porous ice

- Follow the « filling behaviour »
- Distribution of adsorption energy is significantly shifted to lower binding energies
- Sticking coefficient is dependent on the presence of already adsorbed molecules

D + D during irradiatiton



- Prompt reaction occurs
- Recombination efficiency depends on stiking that is enhanced by adsorbed molecules
- $Ea(D) \sim 0.6 Ea(D_2)$ (as expected from polarisability)



Up to v = 4 is detected

Summary III D₂ formation on Non porous ice

- Prompt reaction that leads to excited molecules at 10 K
- Ea(D₂) > Ea(D) > Ediff(D) in agreement with calculations
- Molecules already adsorbed enhance the recombination efficiency (see also Govers et al)

Formation on porous water ice surface



 \rightarrow TPD profiles provide no information about formation \rightarrow No track of formation beetween 10 K and 20 K (in case of porous surfaces !)

Effect of porous structure

Gas phase



 $P_{des} = \frac{S_{out}}{S_{out} + S_{in}} \upsilon_0 e^{-E_a/kT}$

Has been verified for molecules (see also Hornekaer et al 2005)

Ea(D2) > Ea(D) > Ediff(D)

Molecules are mobile enough to enter the porous network They react and are recaptured by the porous structure

It happens during the irradiation

R vs T during D+D irradiation



Model: Katz et al, $\mu = 100\%$, A = 10^{13} /s \rightarrow Emob = 22 meV; 3 ms between 2 hops at 10 K.

but solution is not unique

Outline of D+D experiments on porous amorphous ice

- Kinetics of formation is blurred by porous structure of the ice, TPDs reveal only molecular desorption
- $Ea(D_2) > Ea(D) > Ediff(D)$
- at 10 K diffusion is fast enough to allow atoms to enter the porous network and to react but the molecules formed are recaptured by the porous network
- The recombination efficiency is 0.35 at 10 K and is mostly governed by the sticking probability

Question to elucidate:

- What about the effect of adsorbed molecules ?
- Diffusion energy, Adsorption energy should have a distribution (see Buch et al 1991) need another approach

Astrophysical relevance ?



© Perrets et al 2005

Fig. 10.—Recombination efficiency of molecular hydrogen at steady state on HDI vs. the temperature T(K), using the parameters obtained from experimental measurements of HD desorption curves. The flux is the same as in Fig. 8.

H chemistry is effective at 10 K Presence of H_2 (and isotopes) could play a role

Future work

- IR characterization of H₂ / H interaction with ASW
- Energetic balance (REMPI + imaging)
- Interaction with other samples (carbonaceous)
- Formation of water

Thank you !