

KINETICS OF NONADIABATIC $H + O + M = OH^* + M$ REACTION: QUANTUM CHEMICAL STUDY

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Abstract: Multireference quantum chemical calculations are conducted to estimate the rate constant of the nonadiabatic preassociation reaction $H + O + M \rightleftharpoons OH^* + M$ ($M = Ar, N_2$) recognized as the major channel of formation of chemiluminescent electronically excited OH^* molecules in ignition and combustion of hydrogen. The calculations are performed in wide ranges of temperatures (200–4000 K) and pressures (10^{-3} – 10^2 bar). It is shown that the rate constant of this reaction exhibits distinct non-Arrhenius temperature behavior and, moreover, has a complex falloff pressure dependence, with the transition from the third- to the second-order, high-pressure regime occurring at pressures about 10 atm. The obtained dependence on temperature and pressure does not contradict the known experimental data and can be recommended (as a part of the appropriate reaction mechanisms) for further kinetic modeling of OH^* chemiluminescence accompanying the high-temperature oxidation of hydrogen and other fuels.

Keywords: hydroxyl radical; electronic excitation; chemiluminescence; nonadiabatic transitions; preassociation; quantum chemistry

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Figure Captions

Figure 1 Potential energy curves for the bonding ($X^2\Pi$ and $A^2\Sigma^+$; solid curves) and repulsive (${}^4\Sigma^-$, ${}^2\Sigma^-$, and ${}^4\Pi$; dashed curves) terms of OH molecule obtained at the DW-XMCQDPT2/aug-cc-pV ∞ Z level of treatment

Figure 2 Temperature dependences of the (R1) reaction rate constant in the second-order dimension at $p = 1$ bar measured in Ar (a) and N_2 (b) (1 – [21]; 2 – [22]; 3 – [18]; 4 – [13]; 5 – [15]; 6 – [19]; and 7 – [16]) and adopted in the FFCM-1 model [48] (8). Theoretical estimates of the present work under various approximations are provided by curves: I – high-pressure limit; II – $P(v) = P_{nasc}(v)$; and III – the $k_b(T)$ rate constant is set according to Eq. (2) and the data [23, 24]

Figure 3 The pseudo-second-order (R1) rate constant at $T = 1500$ K vs. bath gas (Ar) pressure, p , calculated (curves) assuming completely thermalized (I), nascent (II), and interpolated (III) $P(v)$ distribution of $OH(A^2\Sigma^+, v)$ as compared to the available experimental data: 1 – [35]; 2 – [21]; 3 – [22]; 4 – [18]; 5 – [19]; and 6 – [16]

Table Captions

Table 1 The double-Arrhenius second-order $k_{R1}(T, p = const)$ dependences (in $\text{cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$) for several fixed values of bath gas ($M = Ar$ and N_2) pressure together with the high-pressure limiting rate constant $k_{R1}^\infty(T)$

Table 2 The α_{ij} fitting coefficients for the Chebyshev polynomial representation [49, 50] of the calculated $k_{R1}(T, p)$ dependence

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