

# ChemE 2200 – Chemical Kinetics Lecture 10

Today: Chain Reactions, cont'd.

Photochemical Reactions

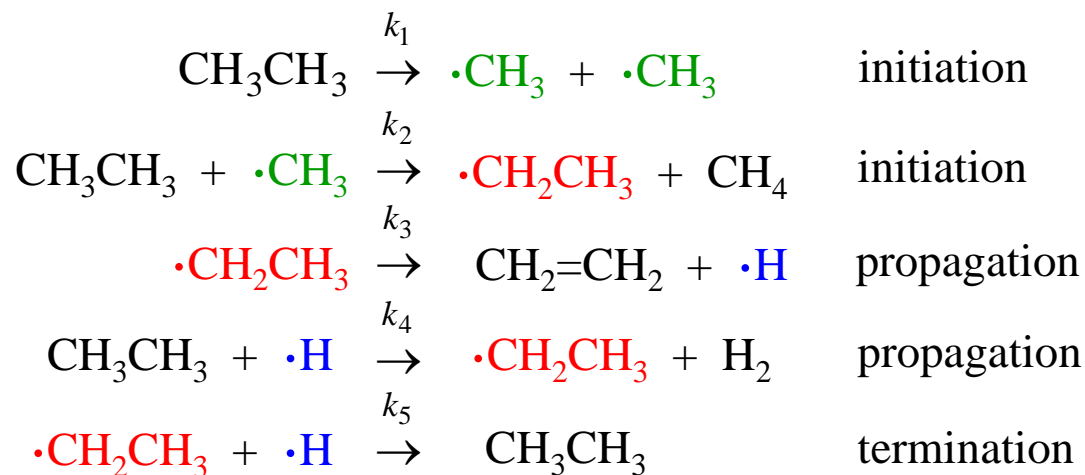
“Why is  $E_a < 0$  for  $\text{O}_2 + \text{O} \rightarrow \text{O}_3$ ?”

(see Exercise 5 of Calculation Session 11 - *important*.)

Recap: (see Handout)

## Chain Reactions

The Rice-Herzfeld Mechanism  
for the Dehydrogenation of Ethane



Initiation: molecule  $\rightarrow$  two radicals  
initial radical  $\rightarrow$  propagating radical

Propagation: reactant + propagating radical 1  $\rightarrow$  product + propagating radical 2  
propagating radical 2 ( + reactant 2)  $\rightarrow$  (by)product + propagating radical 1

Termination: two propagating radicals  $\rightarrow$  molecule

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Prelim

TOMORROW, April 15, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

245 and 128 Olin Hall

Covers –

Classical Thermodynamics

Covers –

Thermodynamics Lectures 1 through 12.

Homework Assignments 5 through 8.

Calculation Sessions 5 through 8.

You may use a hand-written, double-sided reference sheet  
*and* your annotated “Equations of Thermodynamics” lecture handout.

*Bring a ruler or straightedge.*

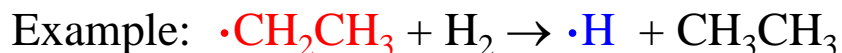
# Chain Reactions: Additional Reaction Types

Initiation: molecule  $\rightarrow$  two radicals  
initial radical  $\rightarrow$  propagating radical

Propagation: reactant + propagating radical 1  $\rightarrow$  product + propagating radical 2  
propagating radical 2 (+ reactant 2)  $\rightarrow$  (by)product + propagating radical 1

Termination: two propagating radicals  $\rightarrow$  molecule

Retardation: propagating radical 1 + *product*  $\rightarrow$  propagating radical 2 + *reactant*



No loss of propagating radicals, but product  $\rightarrow$  reactant

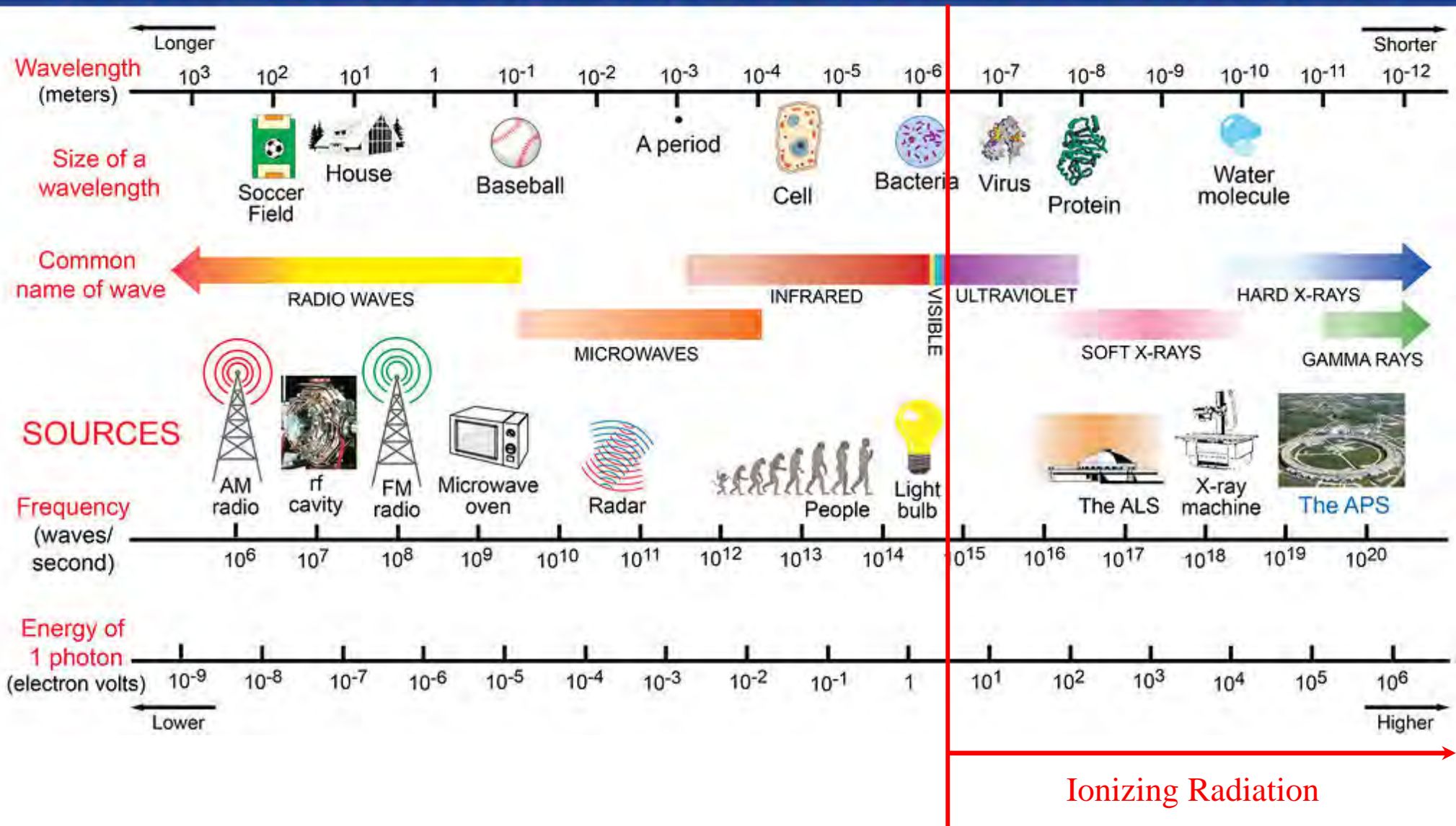
Reaction *retards* the forward progress of the overall reaction,  
but does not terminate propagation.

Inhibition: radical + spectator  $\rightarrow$  by-product      spectator is typically a solvent or an impurity.



Reaction *inhibits* the forward progress of the overall reaction.  
Inhibition is comparable to termination.

# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



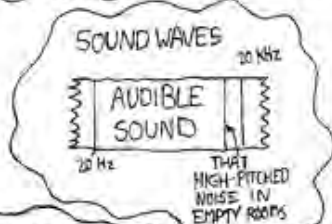
ALS = Advanced Light Source at Berkeley National Laboratory  
 APS = Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory

Argonne National Laboratory, 2011

# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

THESE WAVES TRAVEL THROUGH THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD. THEY WERE FORMERLY CARRIED BY THE AETHER, WHICH WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN 1897 DUE TO BUDGET CUTS.

OTHER WAVES:



SHOUTING CAR DEALERSHIP COMMERCIALS

CIA (SECRET)

HAM RADIO

KOSHER RADIO

SPACE RAYS  
CONTROLLING  
STEVE BALLMER



AM (UST)

99.3 "THE FOX"

101.5 "THE GARDEN"

106.3 "THE FRIGHTENED SQUIRREL"

24/7 NPR PLEASE DRIVES

VHF UHF

CELL PHONE  
CANCER RAYS

ALIENS  
SETI

WIFI  
BRAIN WAVES

FHF

GRAVITY

SULAWESI

SUPERMAN'S  
HEAT VISION

JACK BLACK'S  
HEAT VISION

SUNLIGHT

MAIN  
DEATH  
STAR  
LASER

POTATO

BLOGORAYS

MAIL-  
ORDER  
X-RAY  
GLASSES

SINISTER  
GOOGLE  
PROJECTS

ABSORPTION SPECTRA:

HYDROGEN:



HELIUM:



RED ORANGE YELLOW GREEN BLUE VIOLET



VISIBLE  
LIGHT

CENSORED UNDER PATRIOT ACT

POWER & TELEPHONE

RADIO & TV

MICROWAVES

TOASTERS

IR

VISIBLE LIGHT

UV

MILLER LIGHT

X-RAYS

GAMMA/COSMIC RAYS

$\lambda$  (m)  $10^3$   $10^2$   $10^1$   $10^0$   $10^{-1}$   $10^{-2}$   $10^{-3}$   $10^{-4}$   $10^{-5}$   $10^{-6}$   $10^{-7}$   $10^{-8}$   $10^{-9}$   $10^{-10}$   $10^{-11}$   $10^{-12}$   $10^{-13}$   
100km 10km 100m 10m 1cm 1mm 100µm 10µm 1µm 100nm 10nm 1nm 100pm 10pm 1pm 100fm

$f$  (Hz)  $10^0$   $10^1$   $10^2$   $10^3$   $10^4$   $10^5$   $10^6$   $10^7$   $10^8$   $10^9$   $10^{10}$   $10^{11}$   $10^{12}$   $10^{13}$   $10^{14}$   $10^{15}$   $10^{16}$   $10^{17}$   $10^{18}$   $10^{19}$   $10^{20}$   $10^{21}$   $10^{22}$   
1Hz 10Hz 100Hz 1kHz 10kHz 100kHz 1MHz 10MHz 100MHz 1GHz 10GHz 100GHz 1THz 10THz 100THz OTHER ENTERTAINING GREEK PREFIXES LINE PETA- AND EXA- AND ZAPPA-

$Q$  (Gal<sup>2</sup>/Coulomb) 17 17 17 17 42  $\phi$   $e^{-\pi}$  -2  $540^{50}$  12  $11^2$

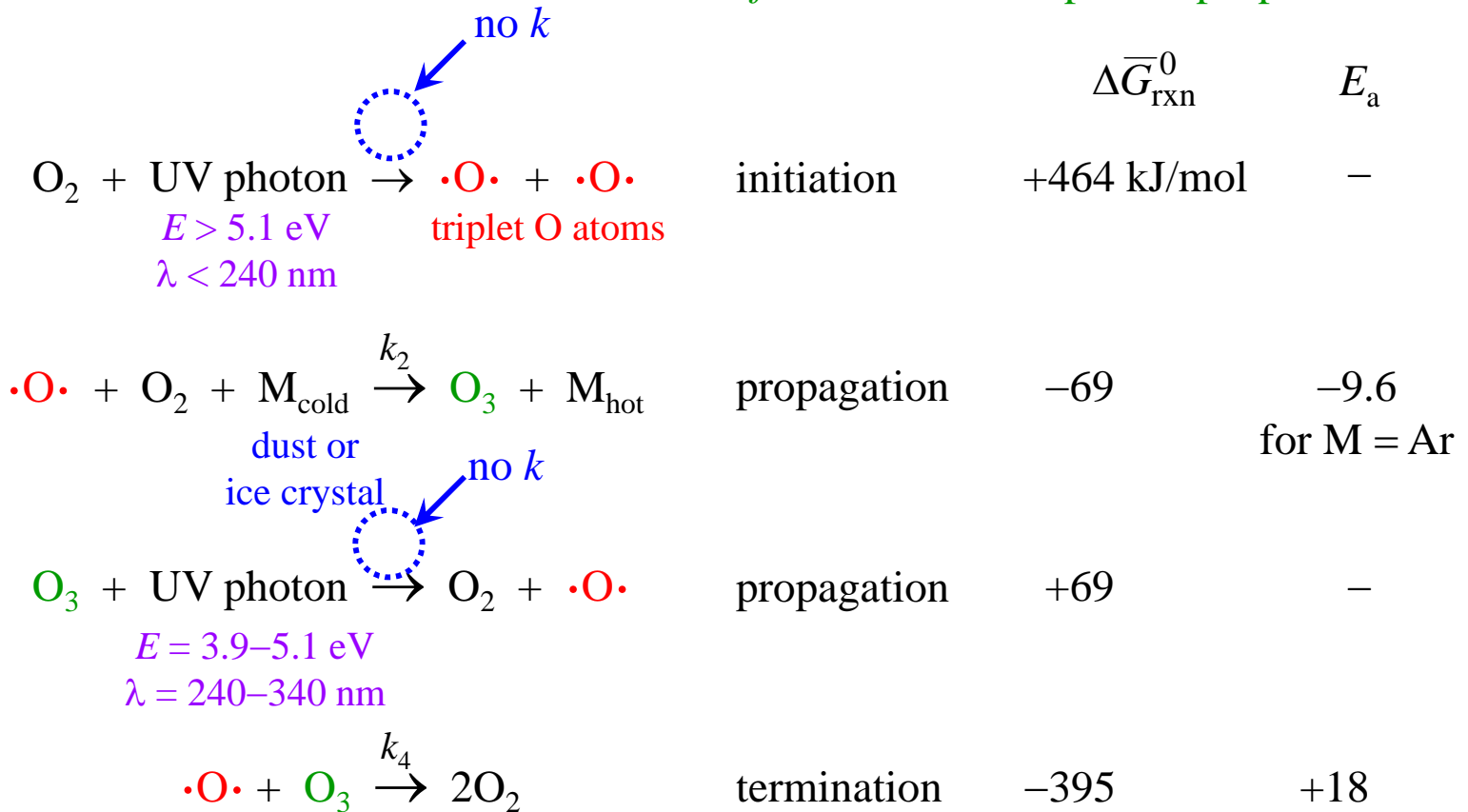


# The Ozone Cycle: Converts UV photons into Heat

occurs in stratosphere (> 50 km)

stratosphere  $T \sim -3^\circ\text{C}$

*cf.*  $T \sim -50^\circ\text{C}$  at top of troposphere



sum of propagation reactions:

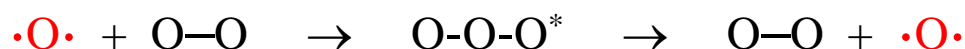


# The Ozone Cycle: Elaboration on 1<sup>st</sup> Propagation Reaction

The 1<sup>st</sup> propagation reaction is  $\cdot\text{O}\cdot + \text{O}_2 + \text{M}_{\text{cold}} \xrightarrow{k_2} \text{O}_3 + \text{M}_{\text{hot}}$

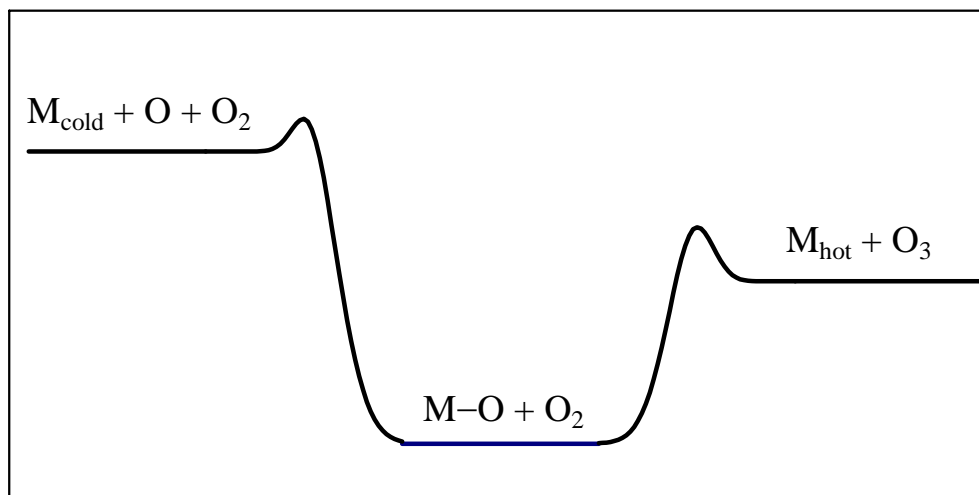
Why not simply  $\cdot\text{O}\cdot + \text{O}_2 \xrightarrow{k_2} \text{O}_3$  ?

$\text{O}_3$  is a fragile molecule. The activation energy for dissociation is less than  $\Delta\bar{G}_{\text{rxn}}^0$



Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> propagation reaction is not a termolecular collision.

Actual Mechanism:  $\text{M}_{\text{cold}} + \cdot\text{O}\cdot \leftrightarrow \text{M}\cdots\text{O}$       O atom adsorbs on M; forms a dative bond  
 $\text{O}_2 + \text{M}\cdots\text{O} \rightarrow \text{O}_3 + \text{M}_{\text{hot}}$       M absorbs energy of reaction.



reaction coordinate

Energy barrier to 2<sup>nd</sup> reaction is less than  $\Delta\bar{G}_{\text{rxn}}$ .

Population of  $\text{M}-\text{O} + \text{O}_2$  level decreases as temperature increases.

This leads to an *apparent* negative activation energy for  $\text{M}_{\text{cold}} + \text{O} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{M}_{\text{hot}} + \text{O}_3$

*See Exercise 5 of Calculation Session 11.*

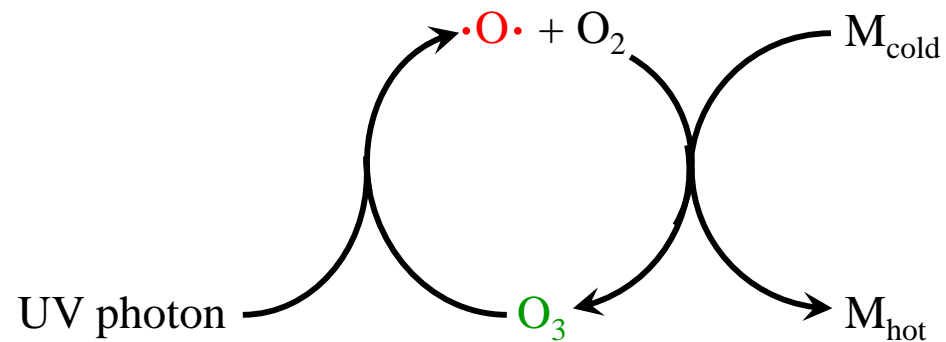
# The Ozone Cycle: Propagation Cycle

propagation reactions:  $\cdot\text{O}\cdot + \text{O}_2 + \text{M}_{\text{cold}} \xrightarrow{k_2} \text{O}_3 + \text{M}_{\text{hot}}$



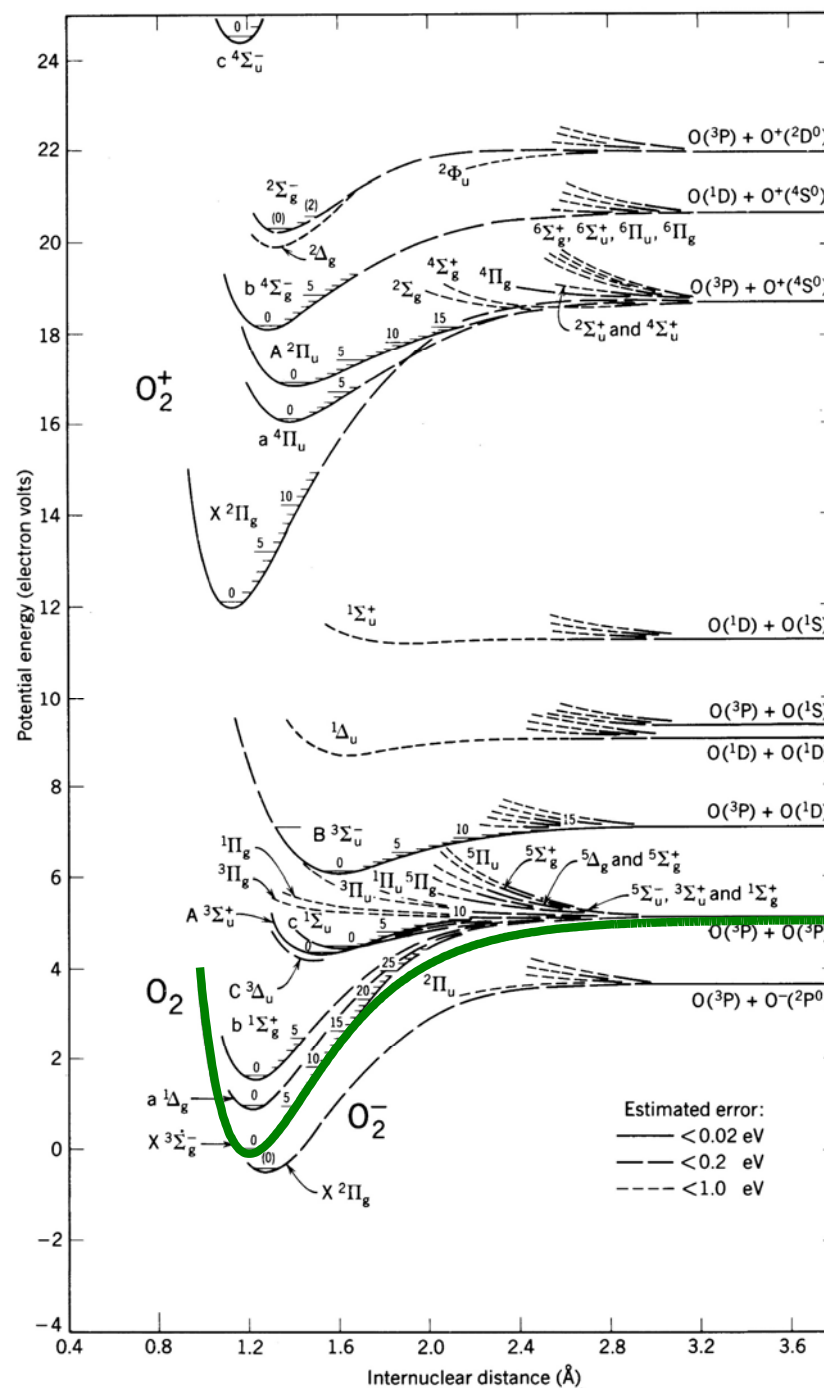
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overall reaction:  $\text{M}_{\text{cold}} + \text{UV photon} \rightarrow \text{M}_{\text{hot}}$



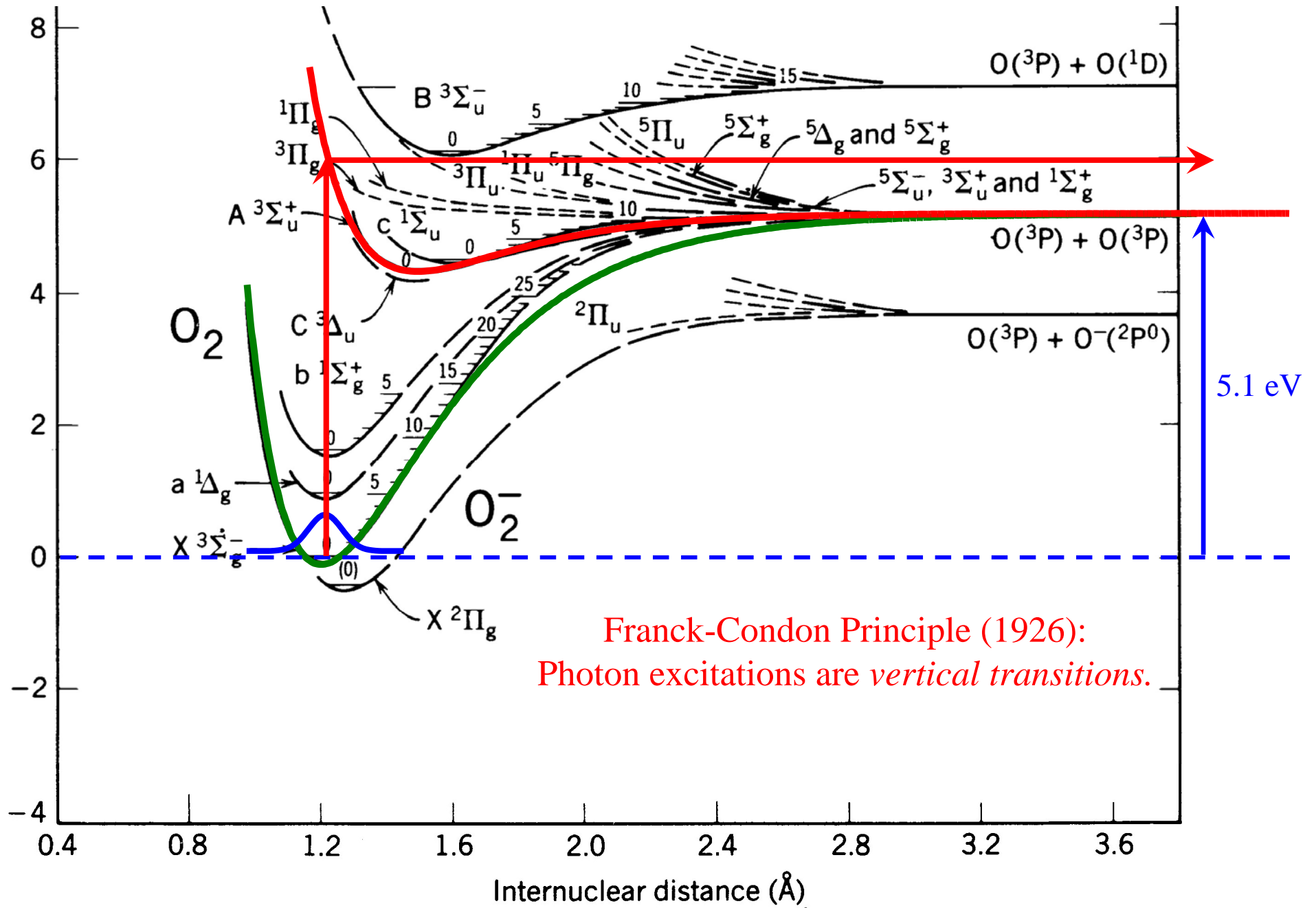


# The Ozone Cycle: Mechanism of Initiation Reaction



F. Gilmore, RAND  
Corporation Memorandum  
R-4034-PR, June 1964.

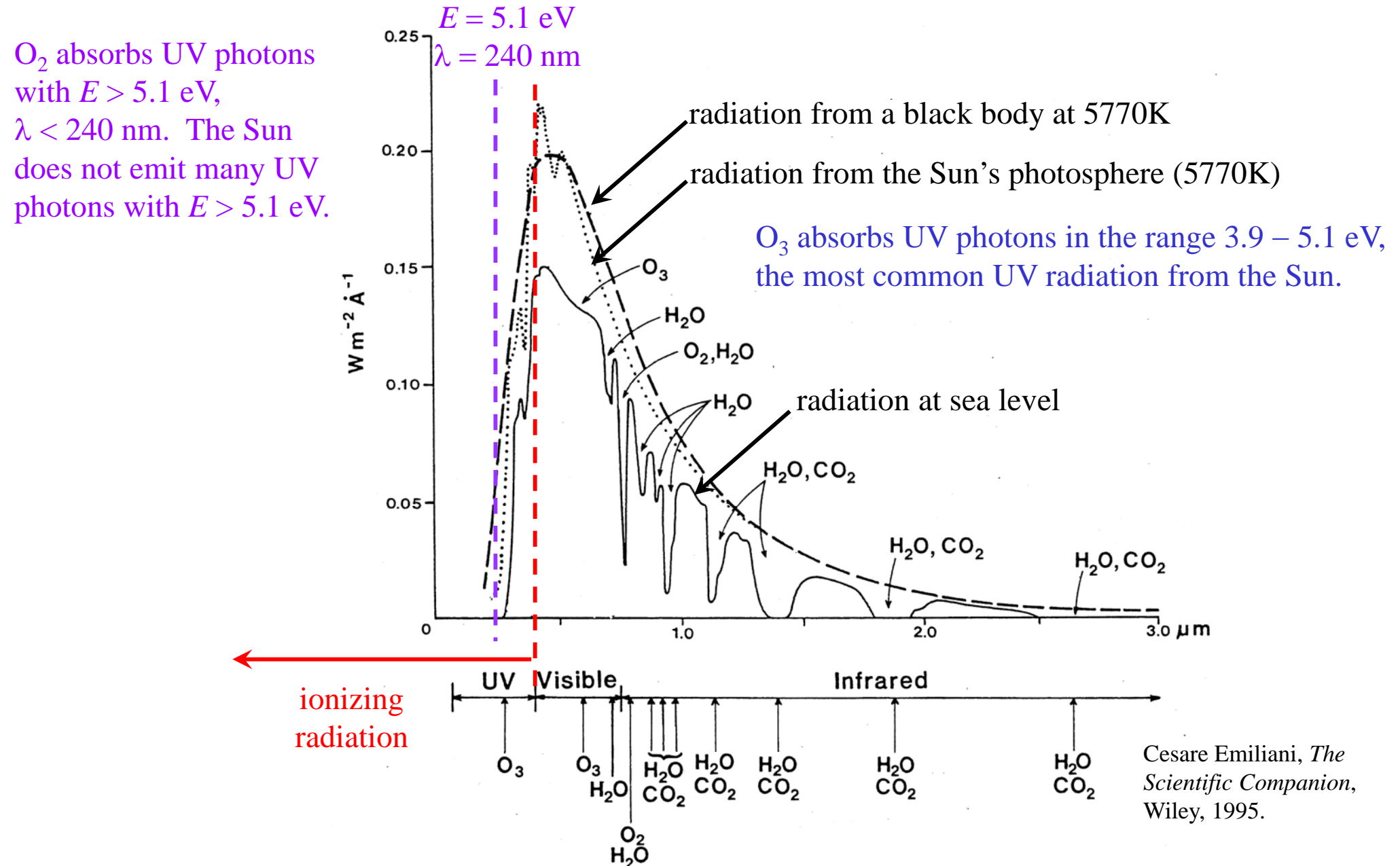
# The Ozone Cycle: Mechanism of Initiation Reaction



# The Ozone Cycle: Why not an Oxygen Cycle?

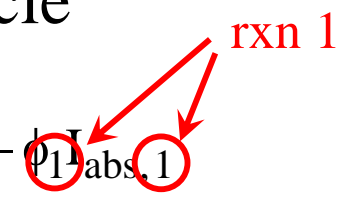
$O_2$  absorbs UV photons and there is much more  $O_2$  than  $O_3$ .

Why does  $O_2$  not shield us from ionizing radiation? Why do we need an  $O_3$  cycle?



# Analysis of the Ozone Cycle

rate of initiation reaction :  $\frac{d[\text{O}_2]}{dt} = -\phi_1 I_{\text{abs},1}$



$$\phi \equiv \text{primary quantum yield} = \frac{\text{number of reactant molecules dissociated}}{\text{number of photons absorbed}}$$

Typically,  $\phi \approx 0.01$  to 1.  $\phi$  is obtained by experiment, like rate constants.

$$I_{\text{abs}} \equiv \text{photon absorption rate} = \frac{\text{number of photons absorbed}}{\text{L} \cdot \text{sec}}$$

$$I_{\text{abs}} = \frac{I_0}{\ell} (1 - e^{-\varepsilon \ell [\text{O}_2]}) \quad \text{Beer-Lambert Law (1852)}$$

$$I_0 \equiv \text{incident flux of photons} = \frac{\text{number of incident photons}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}}$$

$$\varepsilon \equiv \text{molar absorption coefficient of O}_2 \quad \varepsilon [=] \text{ L}/(\text{mol} \cdot \text{m})$$

$$\ell \equiv \text{path length of radiation (thickness of the stratosphere)} \sim 10 \text{ km}$$

# Analysis of the Ozone Cycle, cont'd

rate of UV absorption in the ozone cycle:

$$\frac{d[\text{UV photons}]}{dt} = -\phi_3 I_{\text{abs},3} = -\phi_3 \frac{I_0}{\ell} (1 - e^{-\varepsilon \ell [\text{O}_3]})$$

Because the fractional absorption is small, ~ 20%

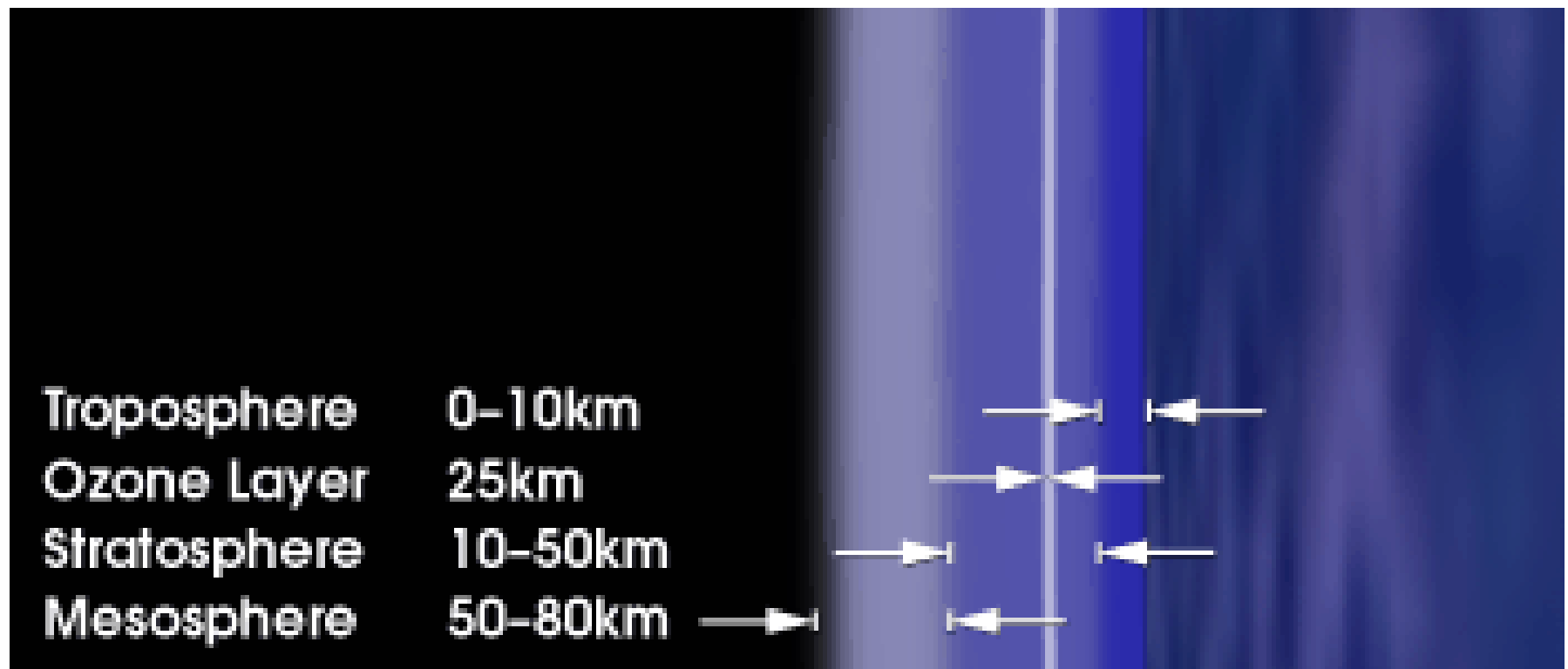
$$e^{-\varepsilon \ell [\text{O}_3]} \approx 1 - \varepsilon \ell [\text{O}_3]$$

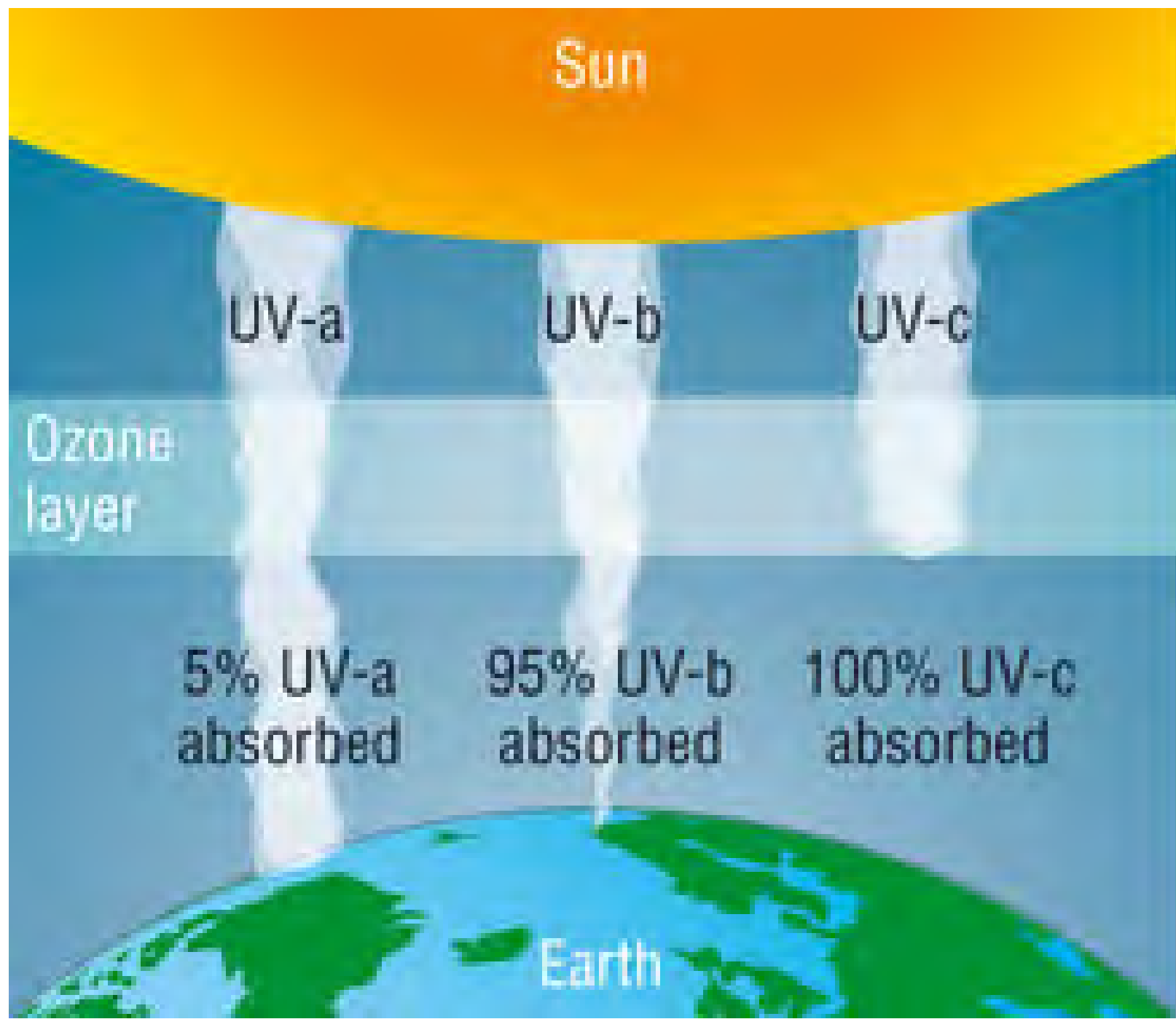
$$\frac{d[\text{UV photons}]}{dt} \approx -\phi_3 \frac{I_0}{\cancel{\ell}} (\cancel{\varepsilon \ell} [\text{O}_3]) \approx -\phi_3 I_0 \varepsilon [\text{O}_3]$$

The rate of absorption of UV photons by the ozone cycle is proportional to  $[\text{O}_3]$ .



NASA's Earth Laboratory:  
[https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Ozone/ozone\\_2.php](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Ozone/ozone_2.php)

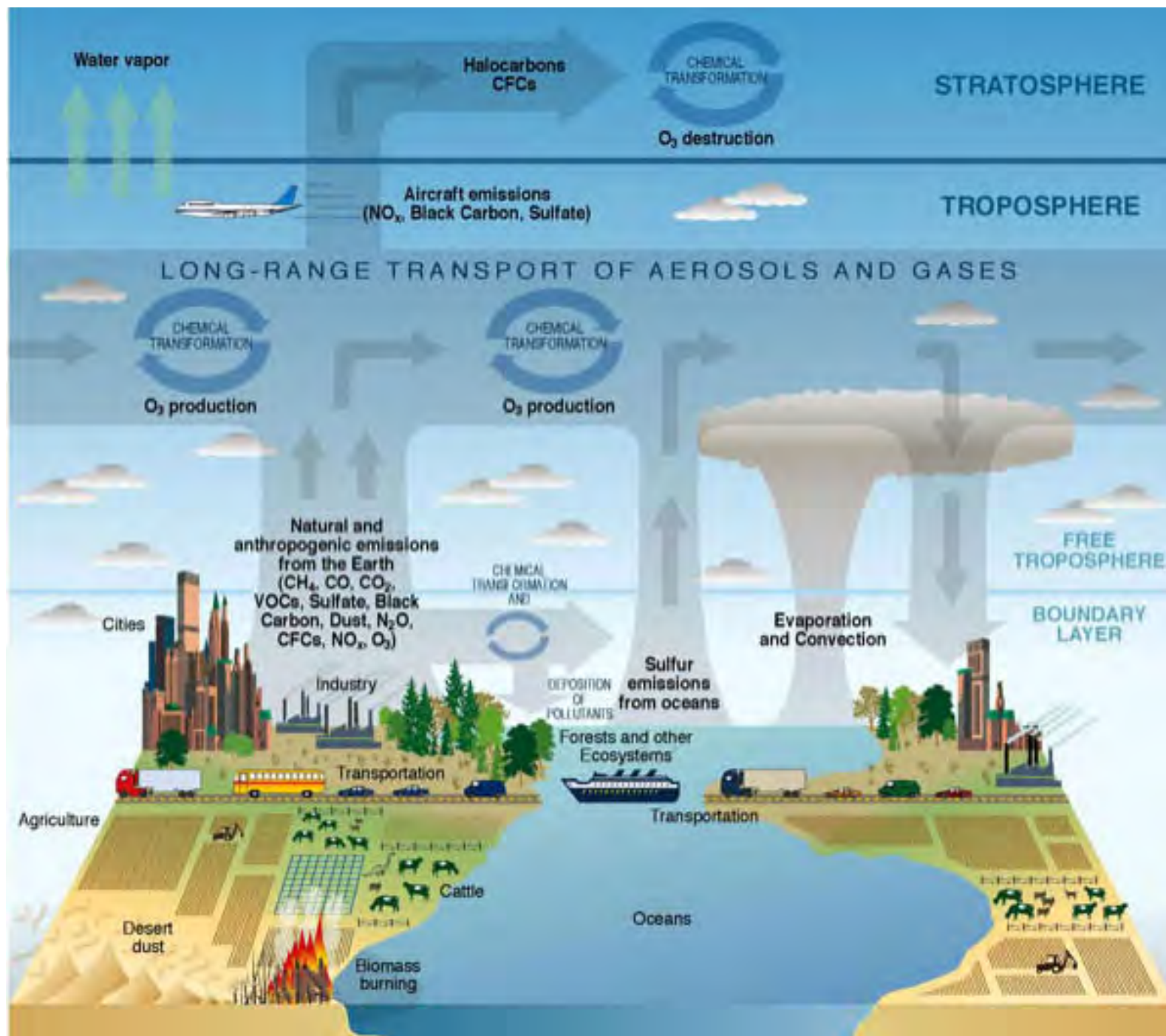




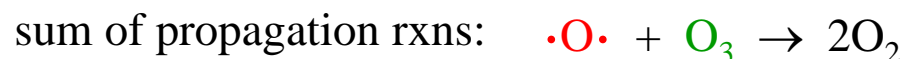
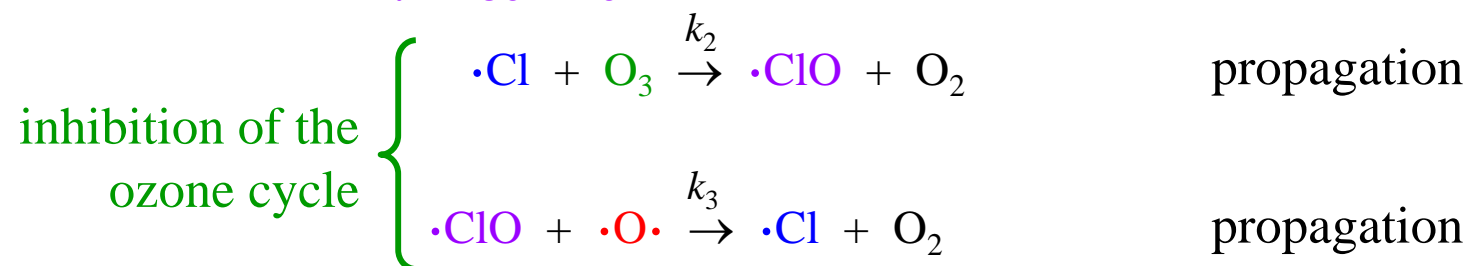
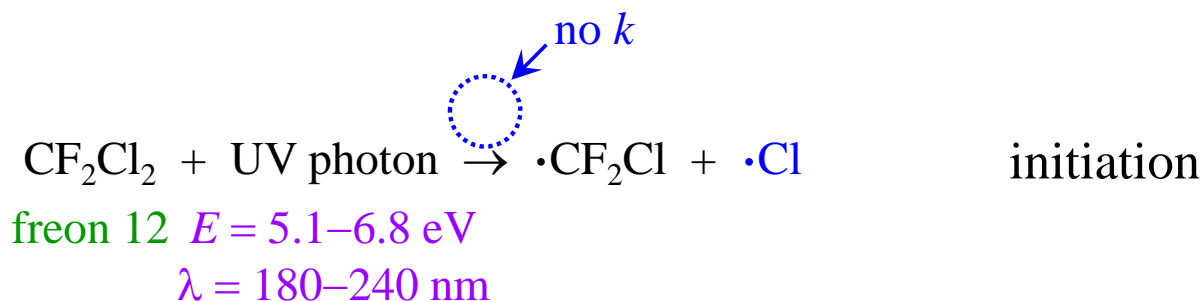
NASA's Earth Laboratory:

[https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Ozone/ozone\\_3.php](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Ozone/ozone_3.php)





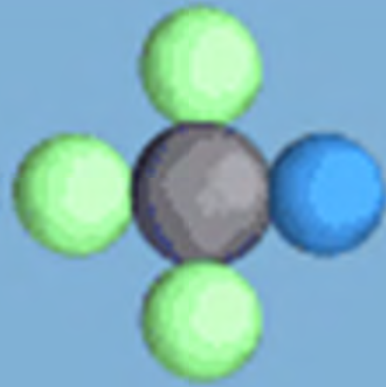
# The Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Cycle in the Stratosphere



like termination – loss  
of a propagating radical.

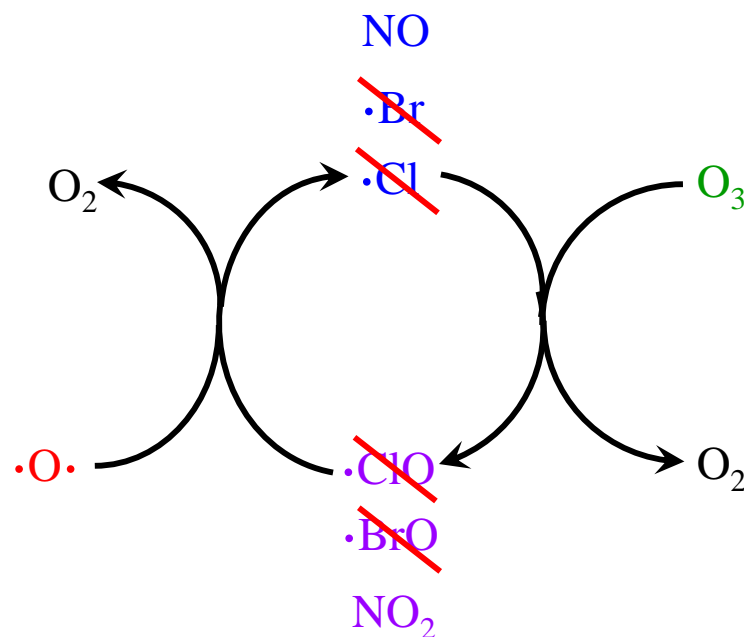
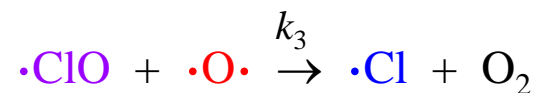
The CFC cycle consumes the propagators of the ozone cycle!

CFC



The COMET Program

# The Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Cycle: Propagation Cycle



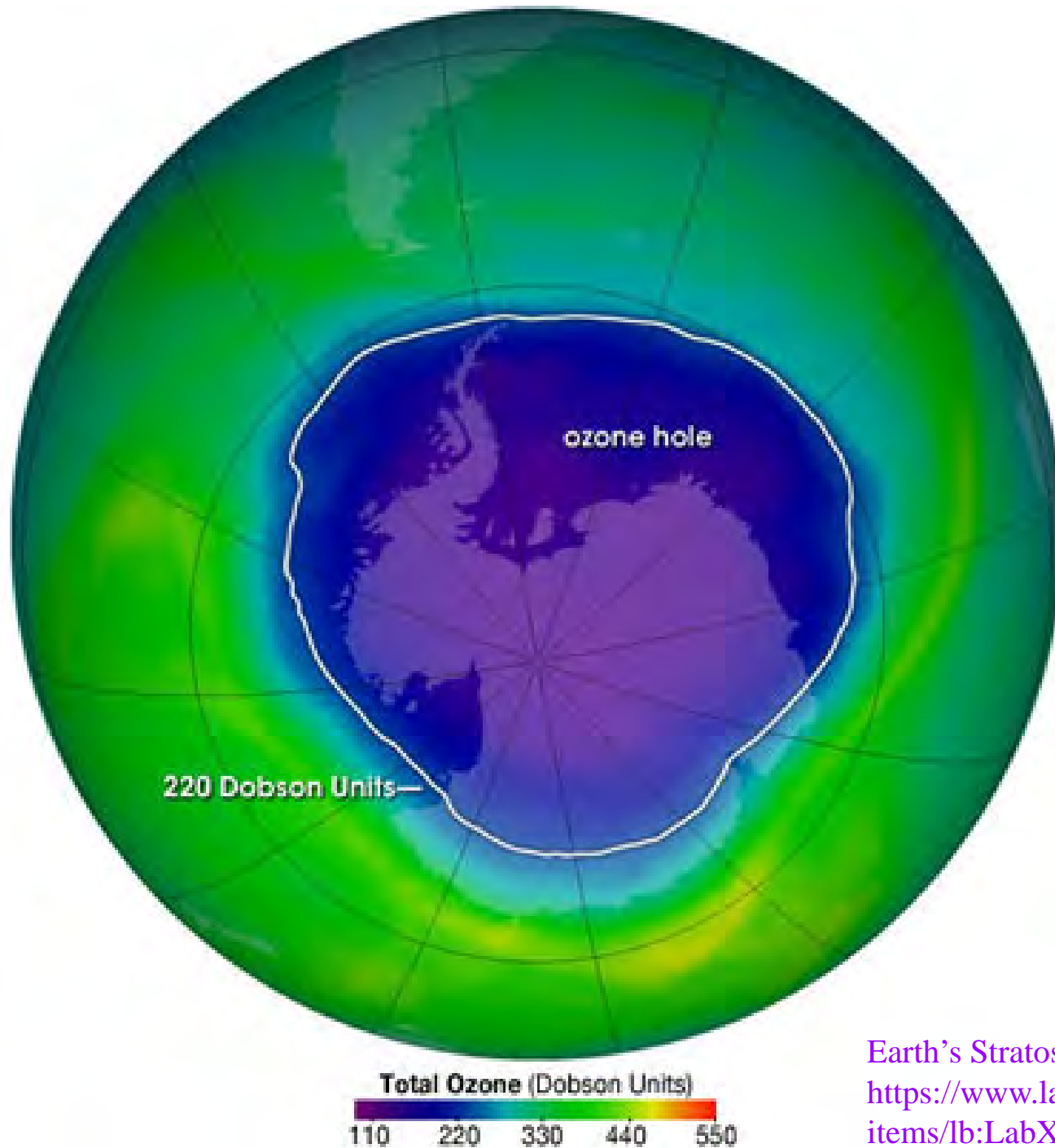
$\cdot\text{Br}$  in the stratosphere is ~20-60 times more efficient at destroying  $\text{O}_3$ .

Source is  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$  – a soil fumigant and product of burning biomass – forest fires.

See Exercise 7 of Calculation Session 12

$\text{NO}$  in the stratosphere comes from  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  produced by bacteria in the soil and supersonic transports.

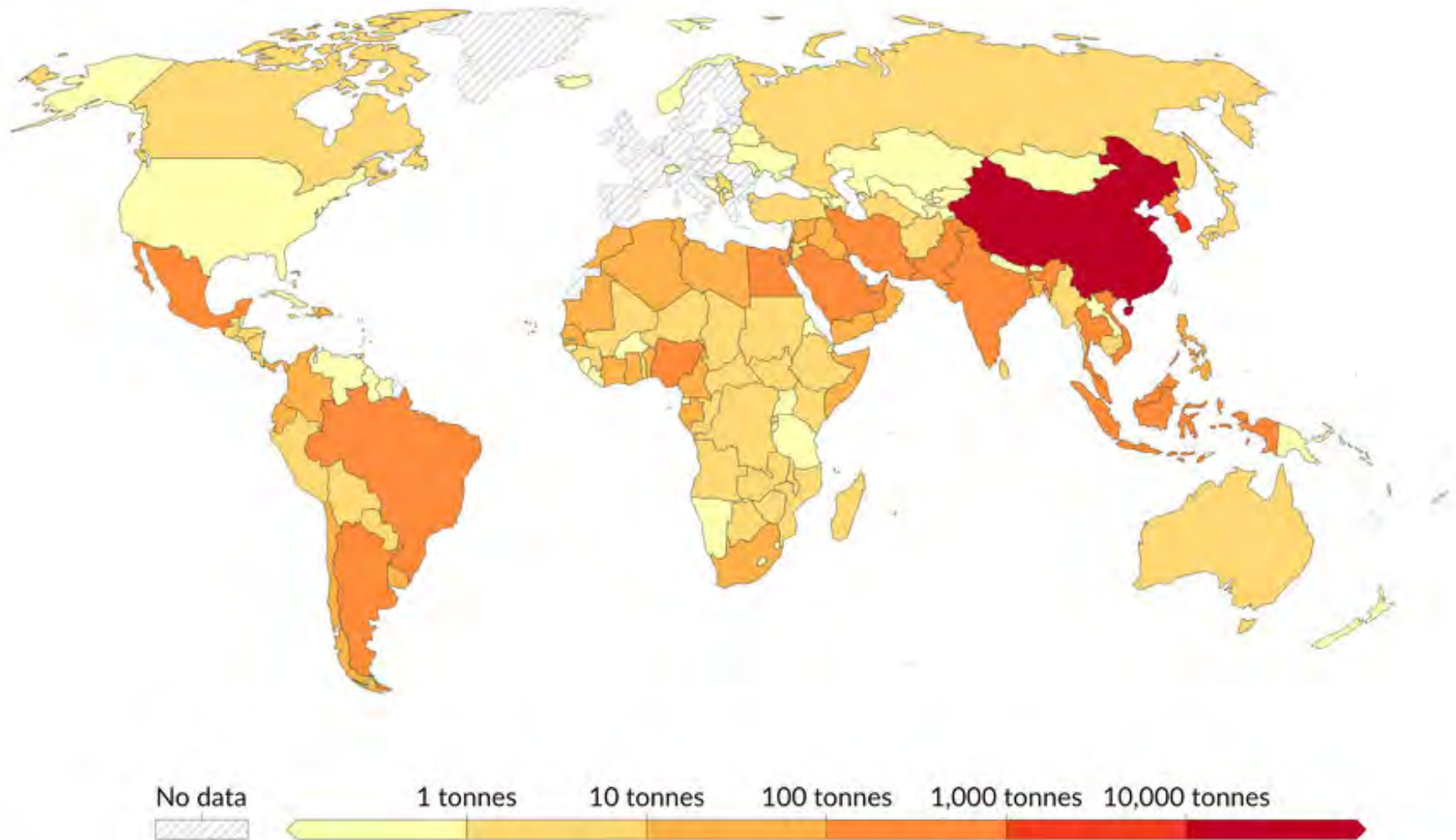
# The Ozone Hole over Antarctica



Earth's Stratospheric Ozone Layer,  
[https://www.labxchange.org/library/  
items/lb:LabXchange:0bc70396:html:1](https://www.labxchange.org/library/items/lb:LabXchange:0bc70396:html:1)

# Consumption of ozone-depleting substances, 2022

Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) are measured in units of ODP tonnes<sup>1</sup>, which is the amount of ODS consumed multiplied by their ozone-depleting potential.



Data source: UN Environment Programme (2023)

OurWorldinData.org/ozone-layer | CC BY

The Amazing World of Science with Mr. Green,  
<https://www.mrgscience.com/ess-subtopic-64-stratospheric-ozone.html>



# Analysis of the Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Cycle

$$\text{rate of O}_3 \text{ loss} = \frac{d[\text{O}_3]}{dt} = -k_2[\cdot\text{Cl}][\text{O}_3]$$

Need an expression for  $[\cdot\text{Cl}]$ . Because this is a chain reaction,

rate of initiation = rate of inhibition

$$\phi_1 I_{\text{abs},1} = k_4[\cdot\text{Cl}][\text{CH}_4]$$

$$[\cdot\text{Cl}] = \frac{\phi_1 I_{\text{abs},1}}{k_4[\text{CH}_4]}$$

Substitute into the rate equation for  $\text{O}_3$  loss.

$$\frac{d[\text{O}_3]}{dt} = -k_2 \frac{\phi_1 I_{\text{abs},1}}{k_4[\text{CH}_4]} [\text{O}_3]$$

$$\frac{d[\text{O}_3]}{dt} = -\boxed{\phi_1 \frac{k_2}{k_4} \frac{[\text{O}_3]}{[\text{CH}_4]}} I_{\text{abs},1}$$

$$\frac{d[\text{O}_3]}{dt} = -\Phi I_{\text{abs},1} = -\Phi \frac{I_0}{\ell} (1 - e^{-\varepsilon \ell [\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2]}) \approx -\Phi I_0 \varepsilon [\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2]$$

$$\Phi \equiv \text{total quantum yield} = \frac{\text{number of product molecules}}{\text{number of photons absorbed}}$$

If no chain reaction,  $\Phi = \phi$  or  $\Phi = 2\phi$  for dissociation

If chain reaction,  $\Phi = 100\phi$  to  $10^6\phi$



# Photochemistry

Photons are reactants.

Monochromatic photons (photons from lasers)  
are expensive – about \$100/mol.

Compare to hydrocarbons – \$0.01/mol to \$1/mol.

But the cost of monochromatic photons  
can be justified by improved selectivity:  
reduced consumption of reactants and  
reduced costs of separating product(s) from by-product(s).