

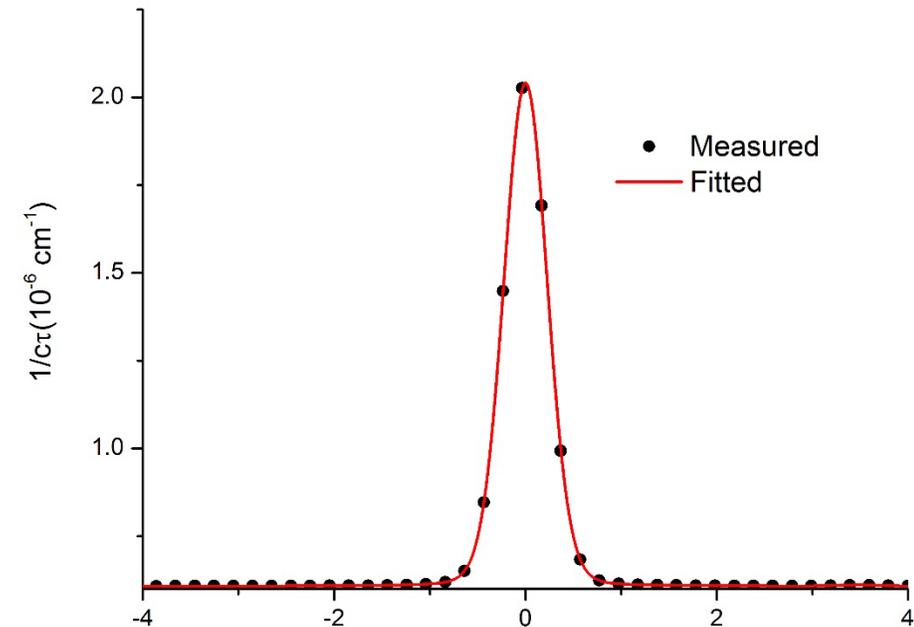
# Advances in Spectroscopic Methods for Gas Sensing

**Adam J. Fleisher\*** and Joseph T. Hodges

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Material Measurement Laboratory  
National Institute of Standards & Technology  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899, USA

*CCQM-GAWG Workshop 2016*  
*Standards and Measurements for Clean Air*  
*Instituto Português da Qualidade (IPQ)*  
*Caparica, Portugal*  
*14 October 2016*



# GHG and Carbon Flux Monitoring

Total Carbon Column Observation Network (TCCON)



OCO-2 and GOSAT



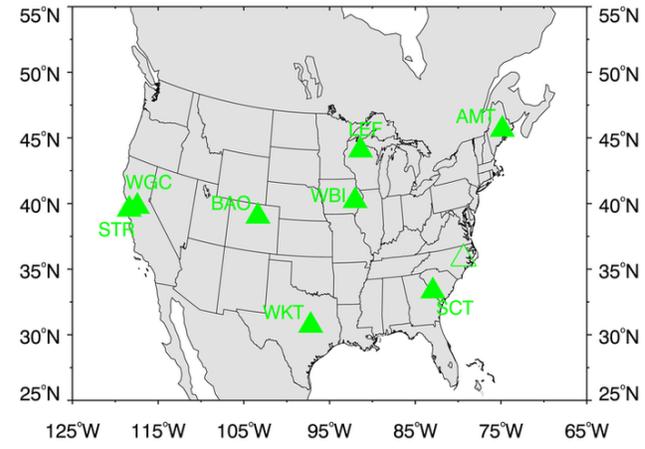
O<sub>2</sub> is evenly mixed in Earth's atmosphere

Used to characterize systematic fluctuations and drifts occurring during atmospheric retrievals of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>

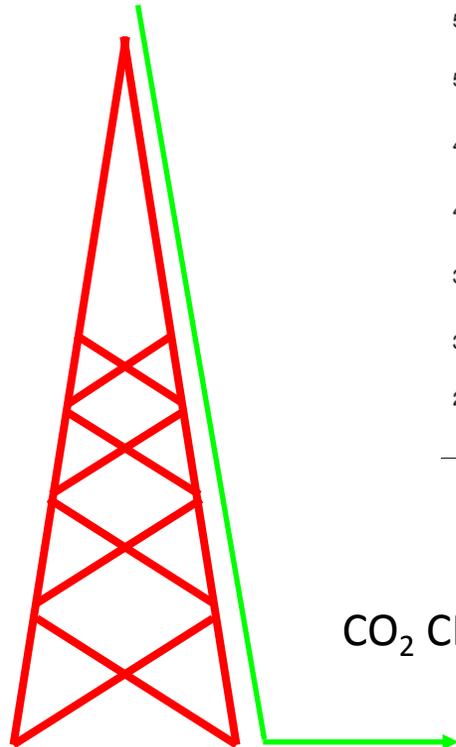
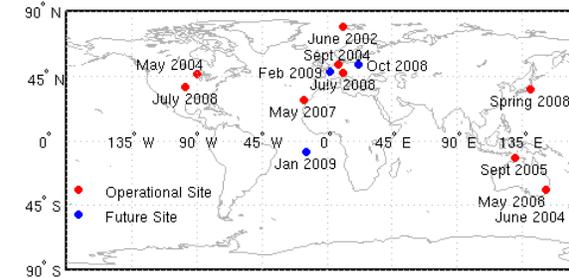
**Ambitious, high cost, high profile satellites require an unprecedented level of precision ( $\approx 0.1\%$ ) for reference data to fulfill mission goals**

# GHG and Carbon Flux Monitoring

NOAA ESRL Tall Tower Network



Total Carbon Column Observing Network TCCON

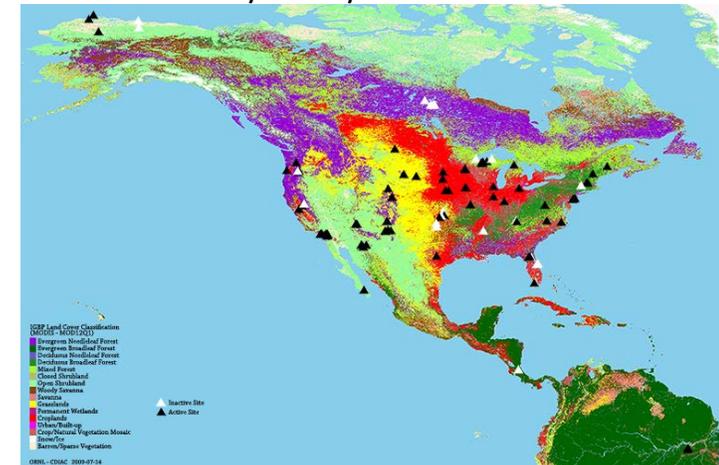


CO<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>4</sub> ... analyzer



calibration gas  
(\$\$\$\$)

Ameriflux/Fluxnet  
DOE/NASA/NSF



# Laboratory Spectroscopy

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**GOAL: Link the unique light absorption properties of small molecules to the SI.**

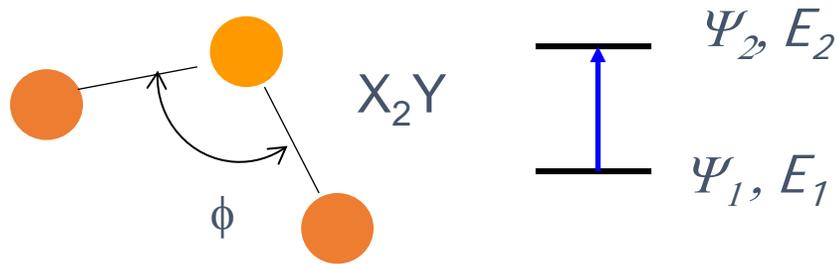
*DELIVERABLE: Provide standard reference data via high-precision, high-accuracy laser spectroscopy in the laboratory.*

*FUNDAMENTAL: Evaluate theoretical ab initio models for molecular absorption beyond STP conditions.*

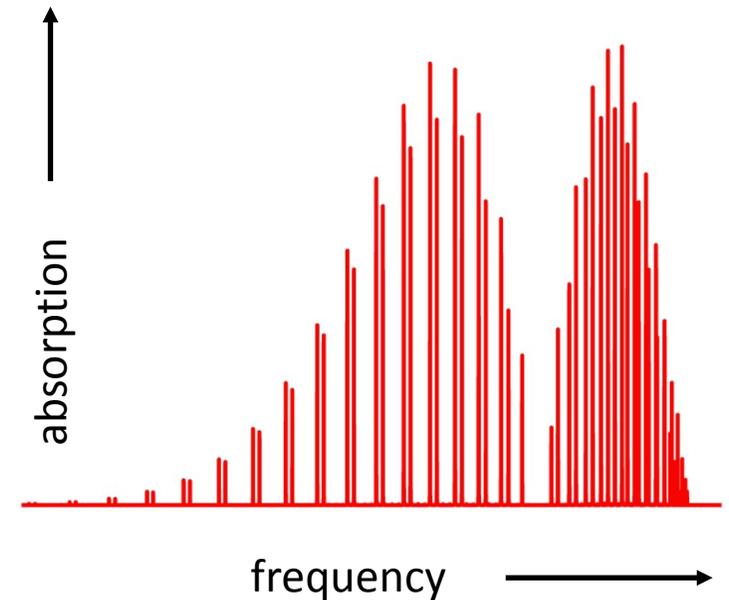
# Physical Basis for Light Absorption

Spectra depend on molecular properties:

*charge distribution, mass, molecular geometry, force constants, ...*



$$\nu_{21} = \frac{E_2 - E_1}{h}$$



Each transition is characterized by:

- $q'', q'$  set of quantum numbers
- $\nu$  frequency
- $|\mu_{21}|$  transition moment
- $S_{21}$  intensity =  $\text{const } |\mu_{21}|^2 \{\exp(-E_1/k_b T)\} / Q(T)$

“small” molecules ( $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ,  
 $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{O}_2$  ...)

# HITRANonline

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## The HITRAN Database



HITRAN is an acronym for *high-resolution transmission* molecular absorption database. HITRAN is a compilation of spectroscopic parameters that a variety of computer codes use to predict and simulate the transmission and emission of light in the atmosphere.

### News

- Articles describing HITRANonline, HAPI and new line shape representations
- Video tutorial for using HITRANonline. Recording from 10.26.2015 webinar
- All inquiries can now be made to HITRAN's support team at [info@hitran.org](mailto:info@hitran.org)!

### Database Updates

- Correction of quantum identification of 50 HOCl lines in the 1200-1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region
- Inclusion of HFC-23 and addition of new HFC-134a cross-sections
- Addition of HT profile parameters in the  $\nu_3$  band of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$
- Update of  $\text{SO}_3$  lines in the pure rotational band
- Addition of HCN lines above 3500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- Update of the  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  line list
- Implementation of the Hartmann-Tran profile:  $\text{H}_2$  case study
- Update of broadening parameters for  $\text{HO}_2$

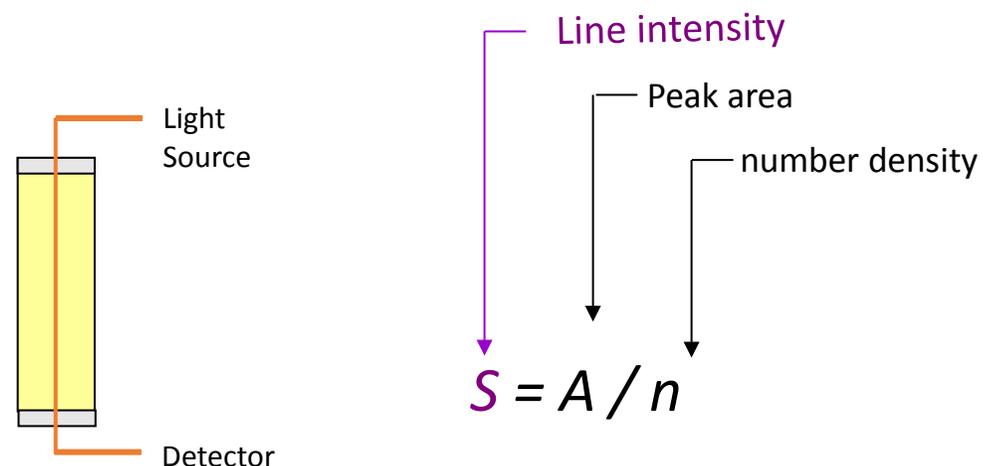
# What is the Role of Gas Standards?

## Measurements of intrinsic molecular property – line intensities ( $S$ )

- Well characterized sample ( $n, T, p$ , etc.)
- “State-of-the-art” spectroscopic measurement
- Models & uncertainty analysis

### Spectroscopy goals:

- Reduce the need for repeated production of primary standard
- Cross-check the stability of primary mixtures and low-concentration standards
- Expand the suite of supported species
- Enables standards for reactive & unstable mixtures



where  $n = \chi n_T$   
 $n_T = P / (k_B T)$

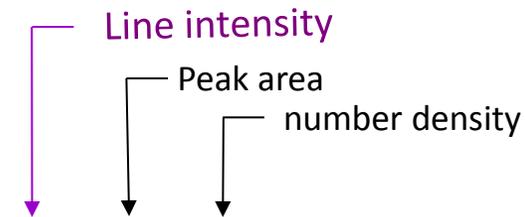
Absorption spectroscopy can yield low-uncertainty measurements of gas concentration in terms of intrinsic molecular properties that are linked to the SI

# Gravimetric Standards and $\chi$

Required to provide a traceable measure of the mole fraction.



For a gas mixture, the mole fraction ( $\chi$ ) is provided by a gravimetric gas standard



$$S = A / n$$

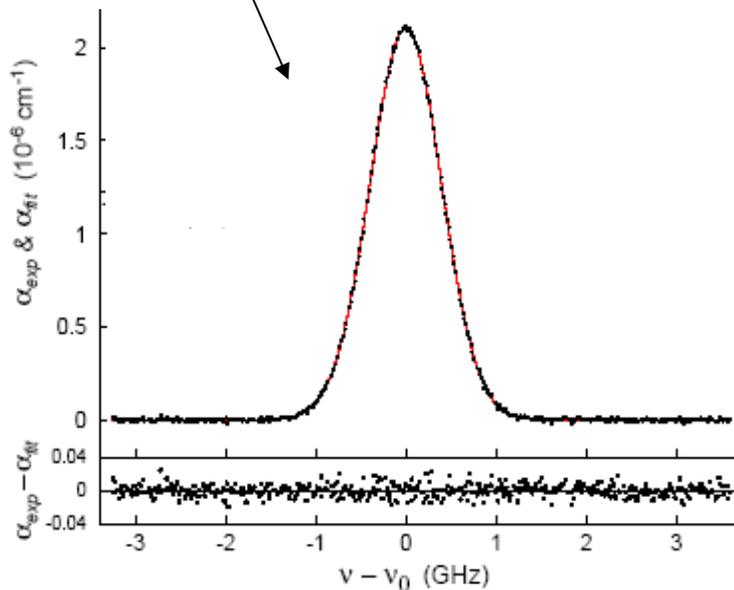
where  $n = \chi n_T$   
 $n_T = P / (k_B T)$

# Measuring the Line Intensity, $S$

$$S = A / \{ n \int g(\nu) d\nu \}$$

spectrum area      absorber concentration      line profile

Measurement of  $S$  with low (< 1%) combined uncertainty requires the accurate determination of 3 difficult-to-characterize quantities:

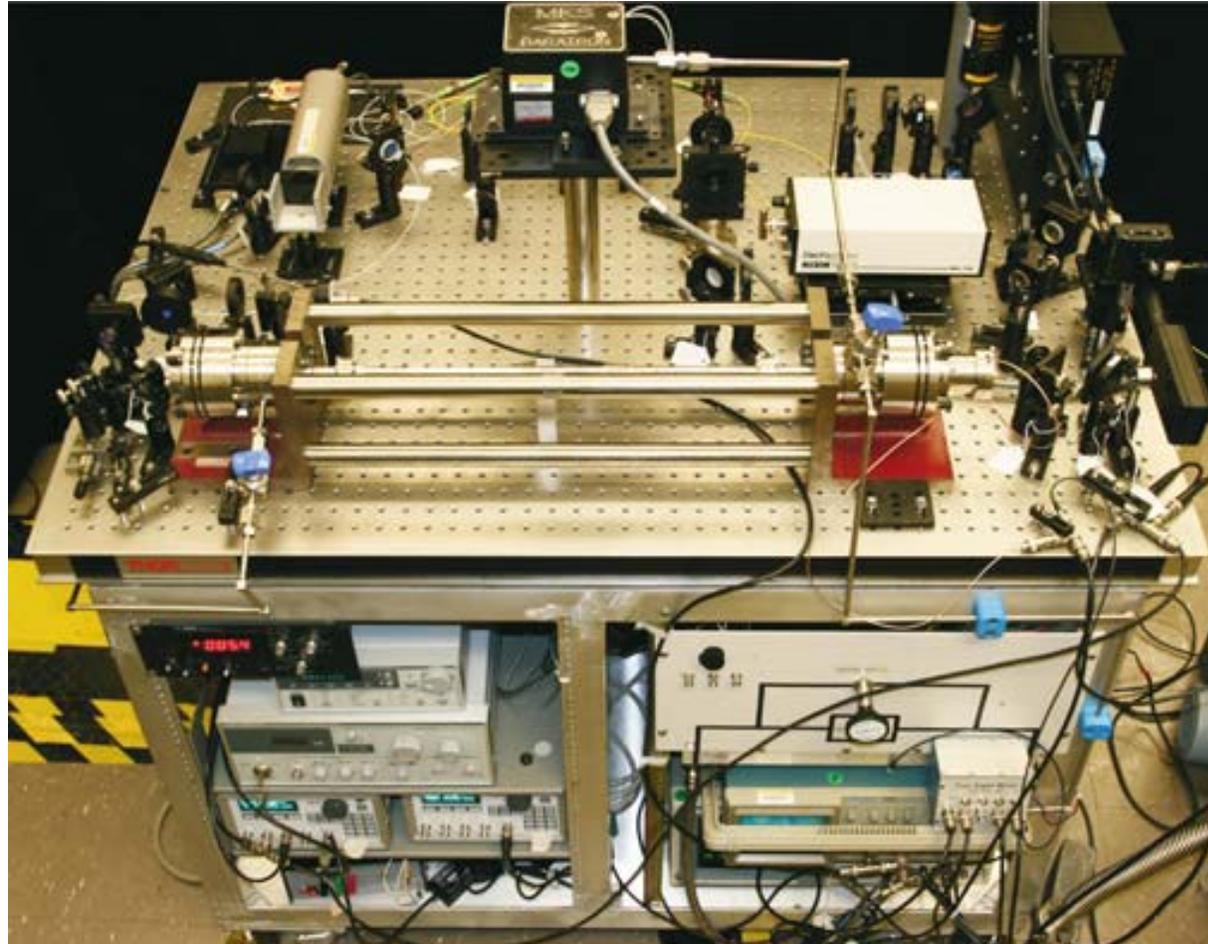


Instrumental distortion (x and y axes) of spectrum

Absorber number density,  $n$ , to “calibrate”  $S$   
For strong lines may have molar fractions <  $10^{-5}$

“True” line shape not well known (small deviations from standard models become important)

# How do we do this at NIST?



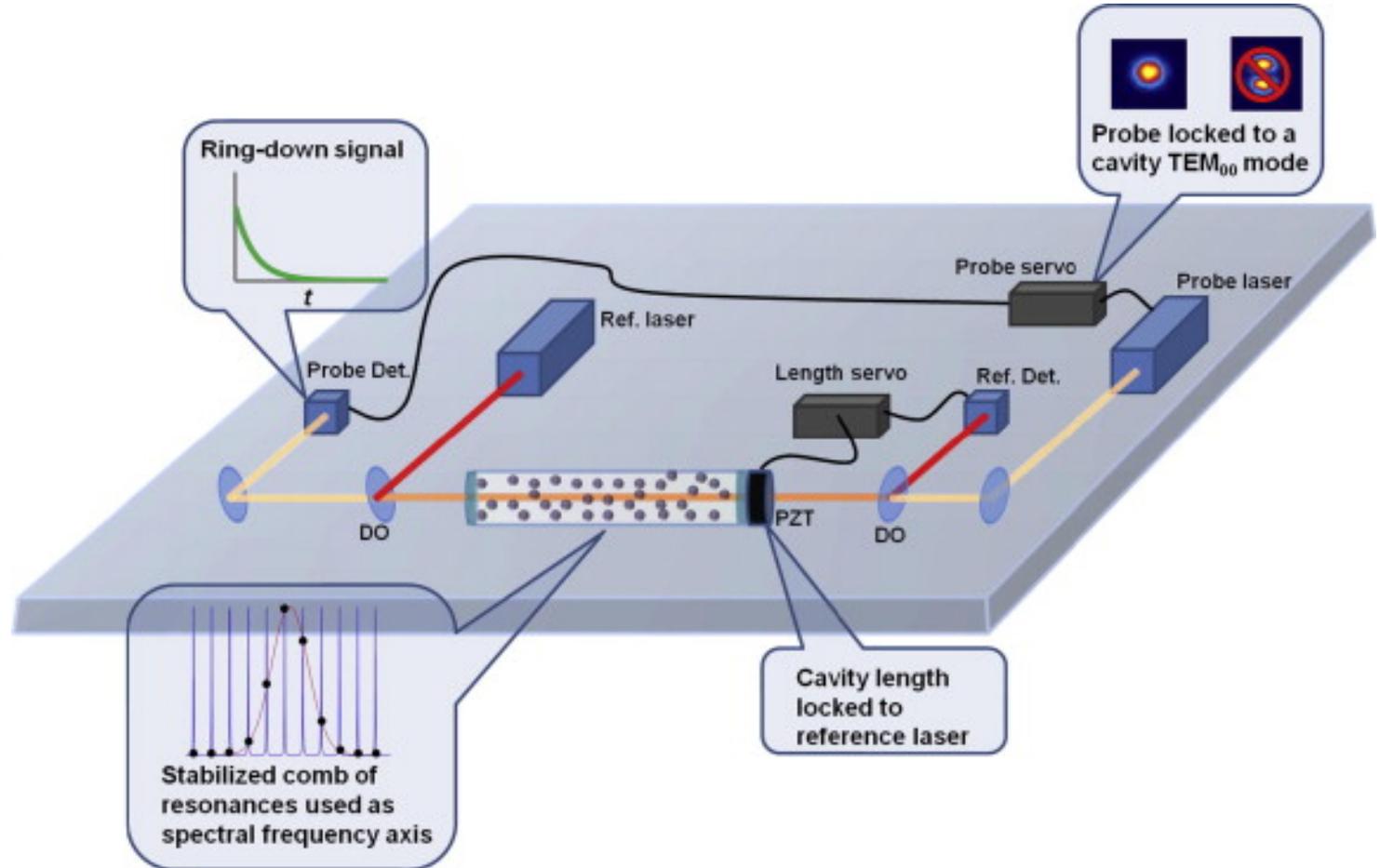
J.T. Hodges and D. Lisak, *Appl. Phys. B* **85**, 375 (2006)

# Frequency-stabilized CRDS

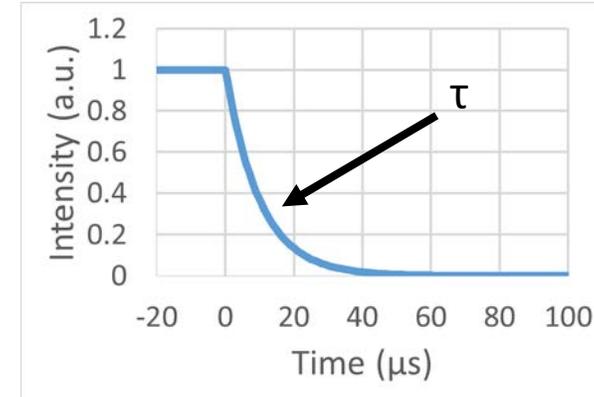
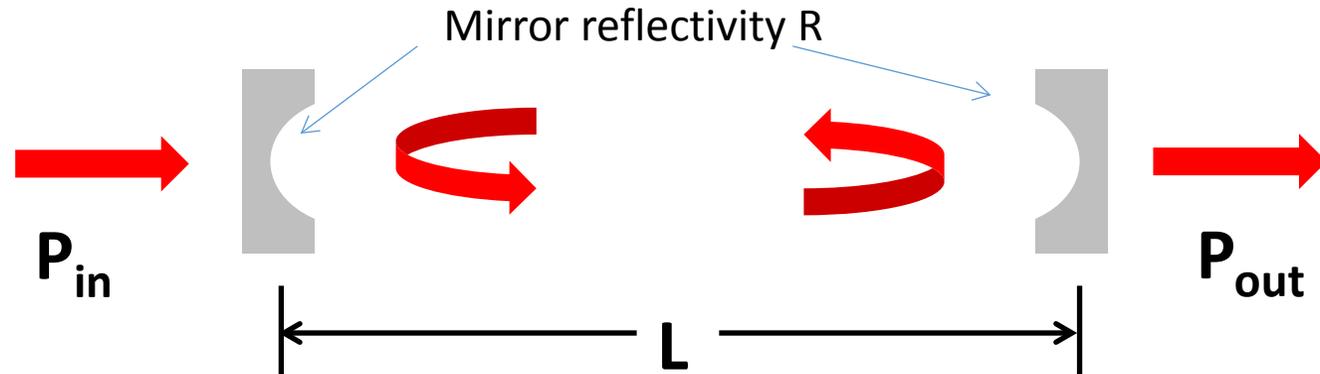
Length servo – frequency ruler  
1 part in  $10^{10}$

Probe servo – high acquisition rate  
 $10^4 - 10^6$  per second

External cavity diode laser  
 $150 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  bandwidth



# Optical Resonator Properties



Resonances occur at multiples of  $c/2L$

$$F = (c/2L)/(\Delta\nu_{mode}) = \pi/(1 - R)$$

Resonance width is  $\Delta\nu_{mode} = (c/2L)/F$

Effective interaction path length is  $L_{eff} = (F/\pi)*L$  yields high-sensitivity to light absorption by cavity medium

Can be interrogated via cw transmission or by observing passive decays (**ring-down**)

comb-like structure, may provide spectrum “ruler”

cavity finesse

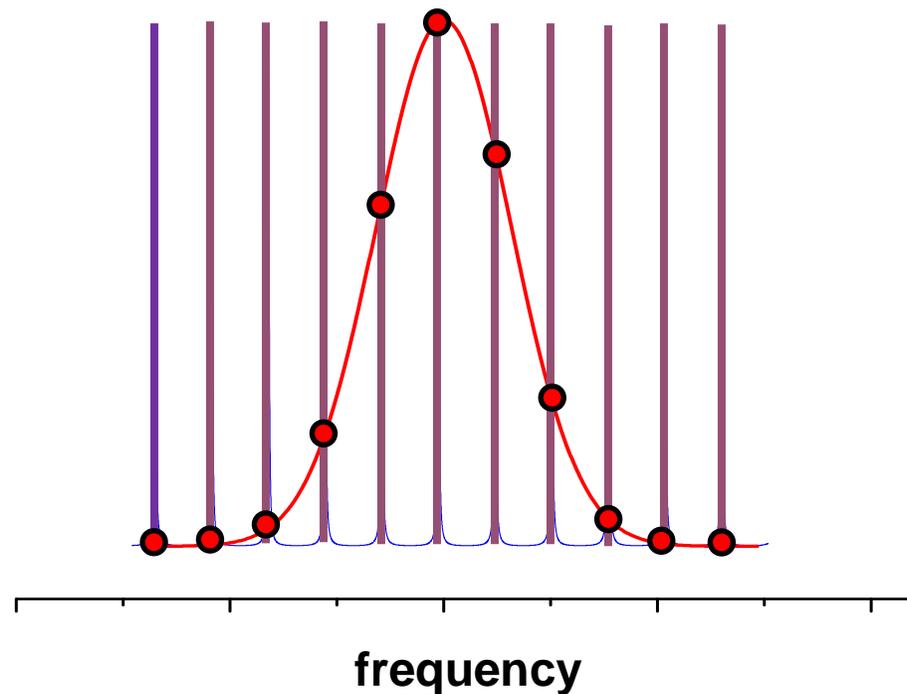
exceptionally good frequency filter, [typically ~1 to 50 kHz]

# Scanning in FS-CRDS

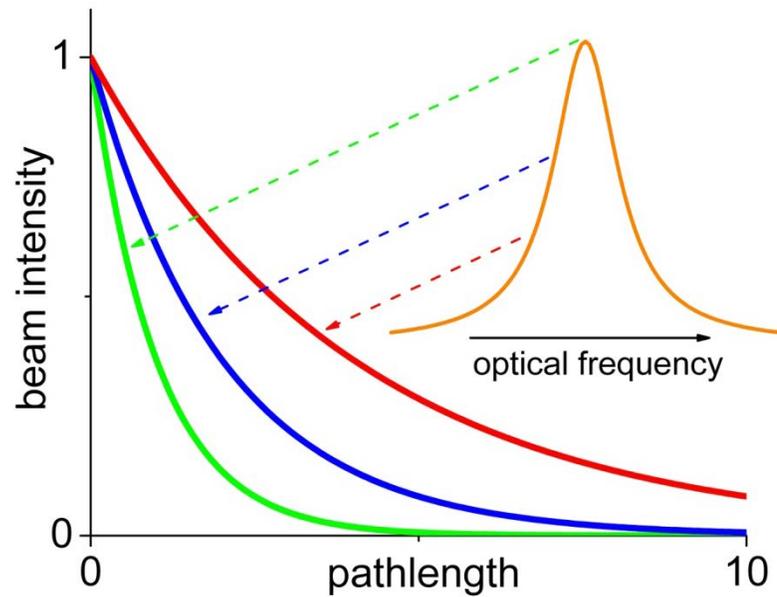
March from one mode of the cavity to the next, with high fidelity

Tuning temperature, current, or external cavity

Maintain cavity transmission with low-bandwidth transmission lock or with stabilization to a high-resolution wavelength meter



# Beer-Lambert Law



$$\alpha = 1 / (c \tau)$$

$$\alpha(\nu) = S n g(\nu - \nu_0)$$

$$T(\nu) = \exp(-\alpha(\nu) L_{\text{eff}})$$

# Summary of FS-CRDS Advantages

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Extremely high sensitivity due to effective path length!

Precision measurement of the absorption path length is not required!

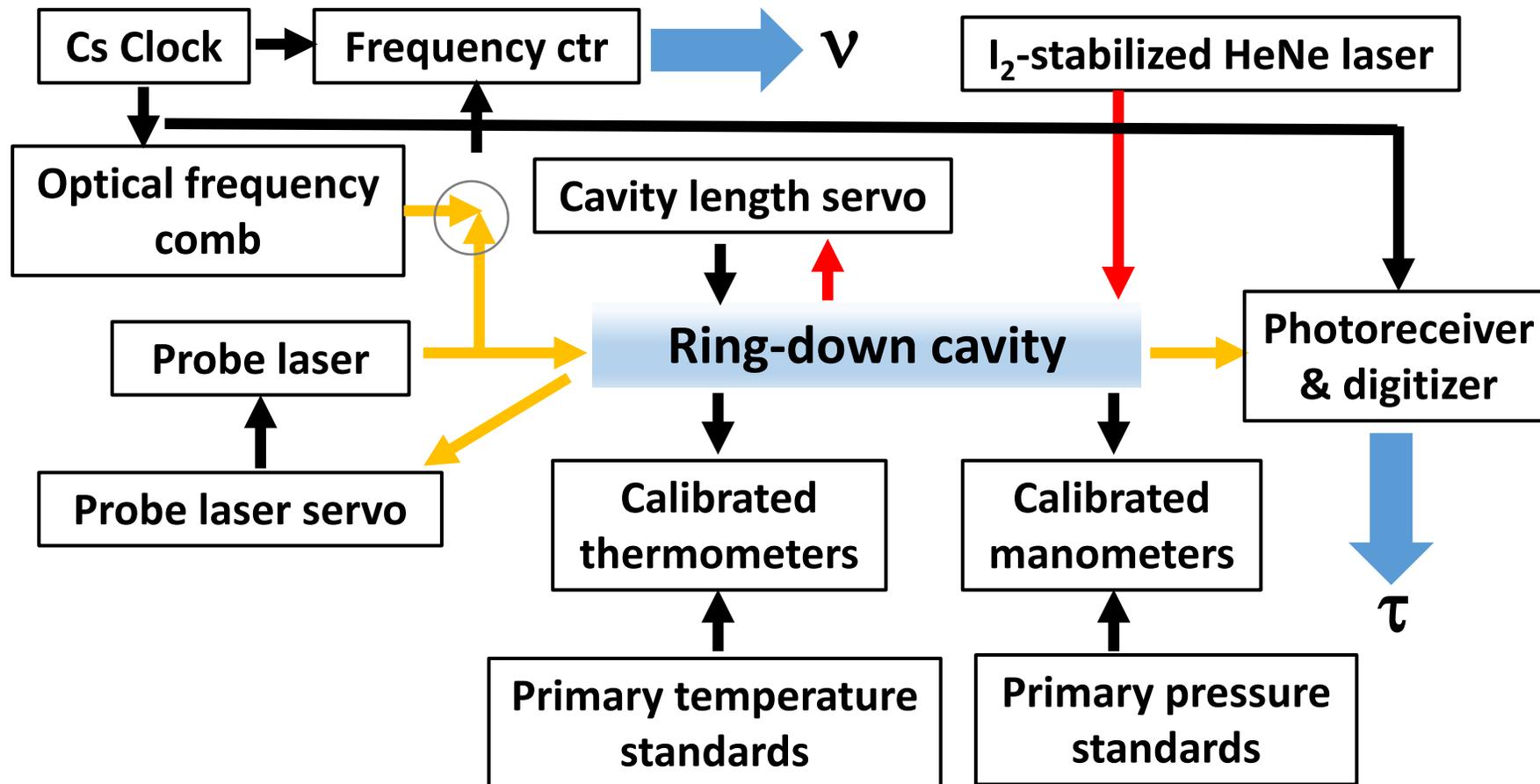
CRDS is immune to laser light amplitude fluctuations!

Gas absorption is measured in the time domain, x-axis is frequency!

High frequency agility is achieved using modern telecom components!

**Traceability to the SI!**

# Linking FS-CRDS to the SI



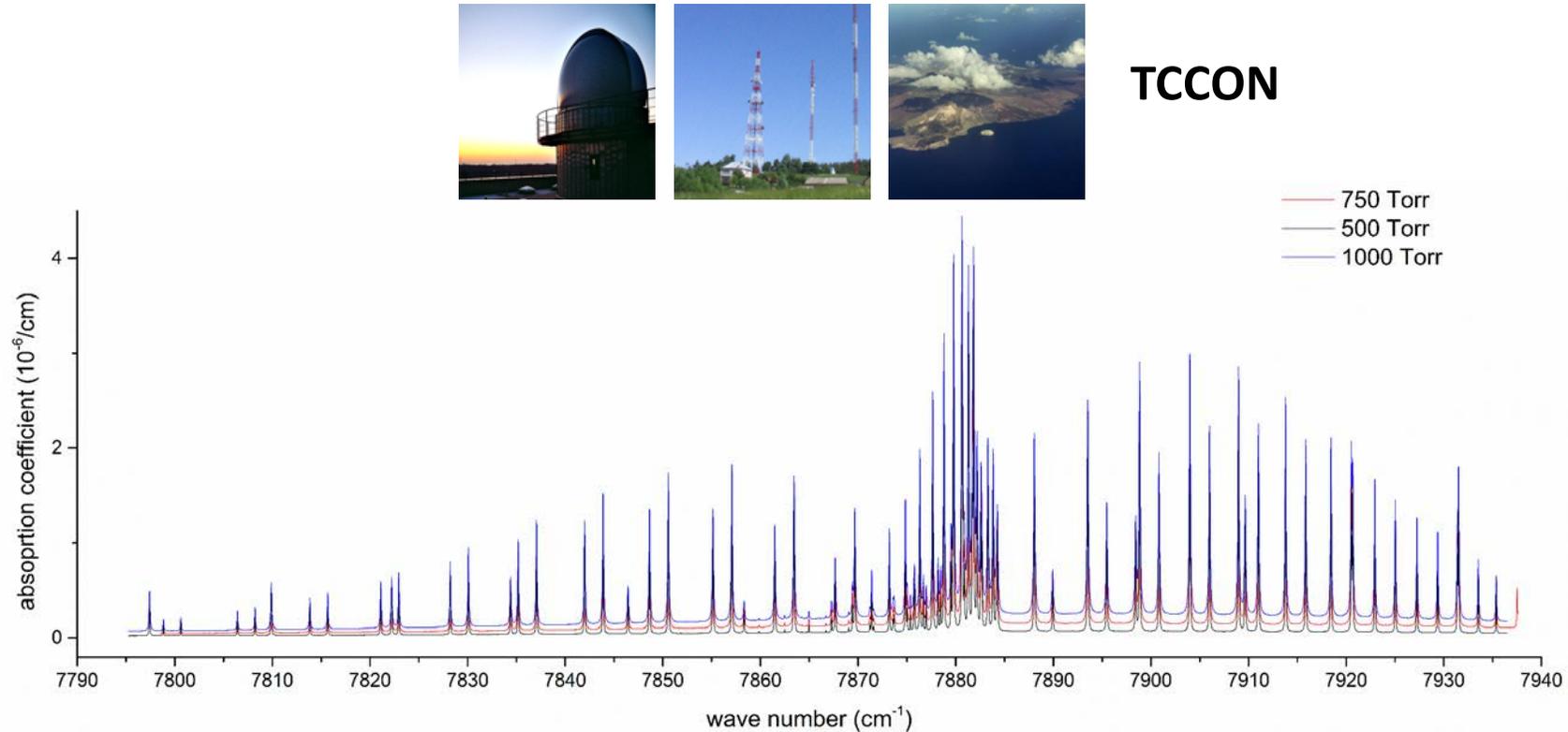
# Instruments Currently at NIST

Exp.	Molec.	Spec. region (nm)	Base losses (ppm)	Cavity length (cm)	Setup	NEA ( $\text{cm}^{-1} \text{Hz}^{-1/2}$ )	Studies
1	CO <sub>2</sub> , CO, CH <sub>4</sub>	1570 & 2000	20-150	73	DFB laser, fiber amplifier, mobile, FARS	$10^{-11} - 10^{-10}$	line shapes, absolute line intensities, isotopic ratios (dual-wavelength setup)
2	O <sub>2</sub> , H <sub>2</sub> O	1280	50	73	ECDL, link to OFC	$10^{-11} - 10^{-10}$	line shapes, absolute line intensities, absolute positions
3	CO <sub>2</sub> , CO, CH <sub>4</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	1570-1670	20	139	ECDL, fiber amplifier, link to OFC	$4 \times 10^{-12}$	line shapes, absolute line intensities, absolute positions
4	CO <sub>2</sub> , CO	1570-1630	150	73	PDH-locked ECDL, FARS technique, link to OFC	$2 \times 10^{-12}$	line shapes, absolute positions, shifts, extremely rapid scanning, wide spectral coverage
5	<sup>14</sup> CO <sub>2</sub>	4530	50-200	139	low temperature cavity, QCL	$10^{-11} - 10^{-10}$	measurement of radio-carbon at natural abundance
6	CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub>	1570-1670	20	80	DFB, with monolithic invar cavity	$10^{-11}$	Temperature dependence of line shapes (220 – 300 K) with mk-level stability
7	O <sub>2</sub>	760-780	20 – 200	73	ECDL	$10^{-10}$	Line mixing and line shape effects in O <sub>2</sub> A-band

# Highlights of Recent Work

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# Improving TCCON Retrievals

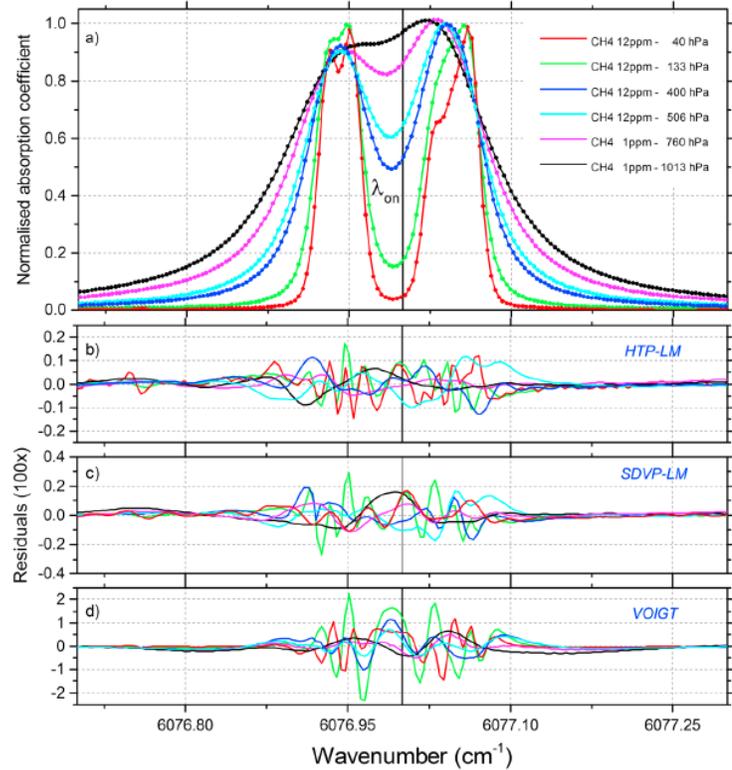


7-fold reduction in airmass dependence correction after incorporating new O<sub>2</sub> line list

# MERLIN



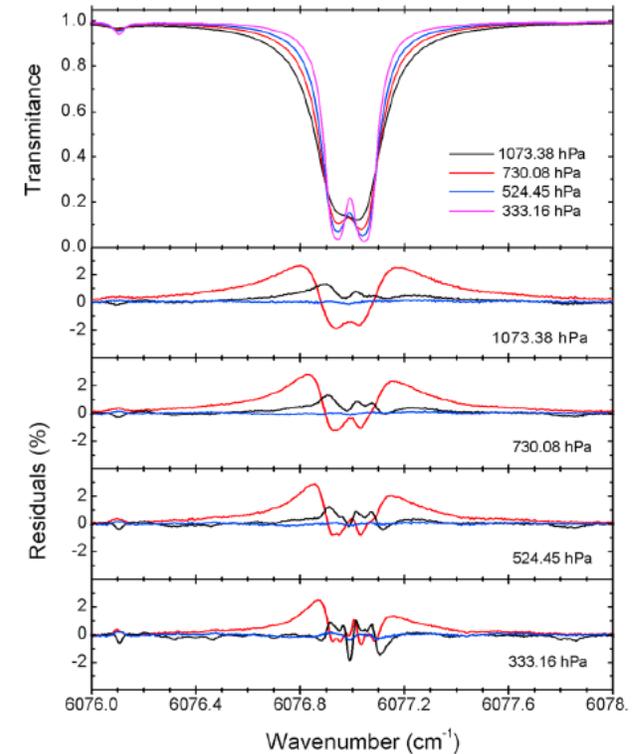
## FS-CRDS spectra



Achieved residuals at 0.1 % level

T. Delahaye et al. *J Geophys Res.* **121**, 7360-7370 (2016)

## FTS spectra



Line parameters from FS-CRDS

HITRAN 12 VP HITRAN 08 VP

Next step: Measure spectra from 220 K to 300 K

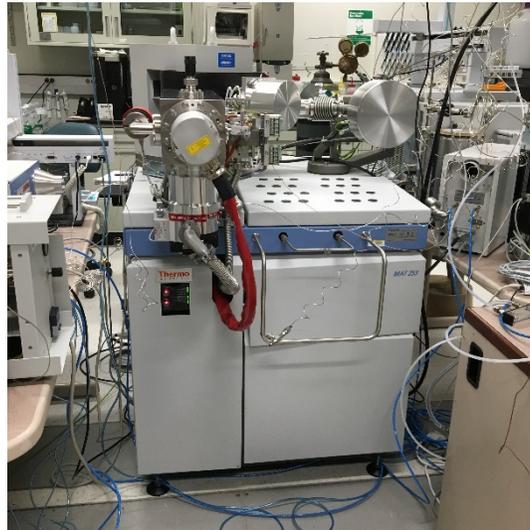
# Measurement of Rare GHG Isotopes

## Goals & Applications

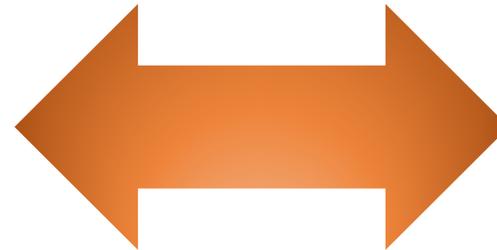
Characterizing isotopic composition of standard reference gas mixtures

Establishing SI-traceable, spectroscopic measurements of carbon and oxygen isotope ratios of GHGs in terms of *ab initio* calculations and comparison with traditional scales based on isotope-ratio mass spectrometry of carbonate materials

**MAT 253 (IRMS)**



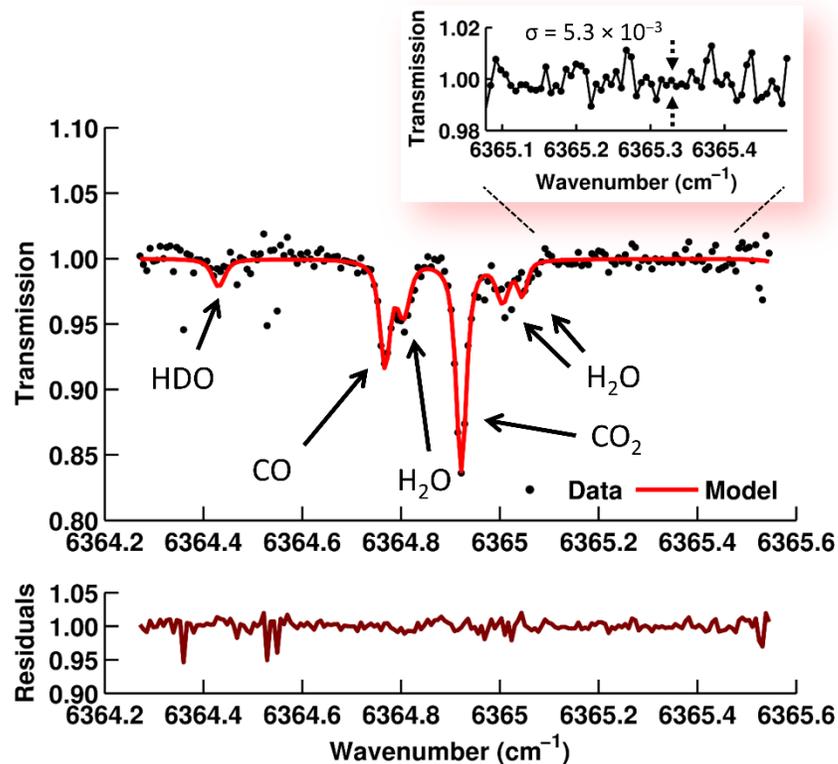
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  &  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$



**Cavity ring-down spectroscopy**



# Multiplexed Spectroscopy



Optical frequency comb  
generators using standard fiber-  
coupled telecom components

Multiplexed spectral acquisition in  
microseconds ( $10^{-6}$  s)

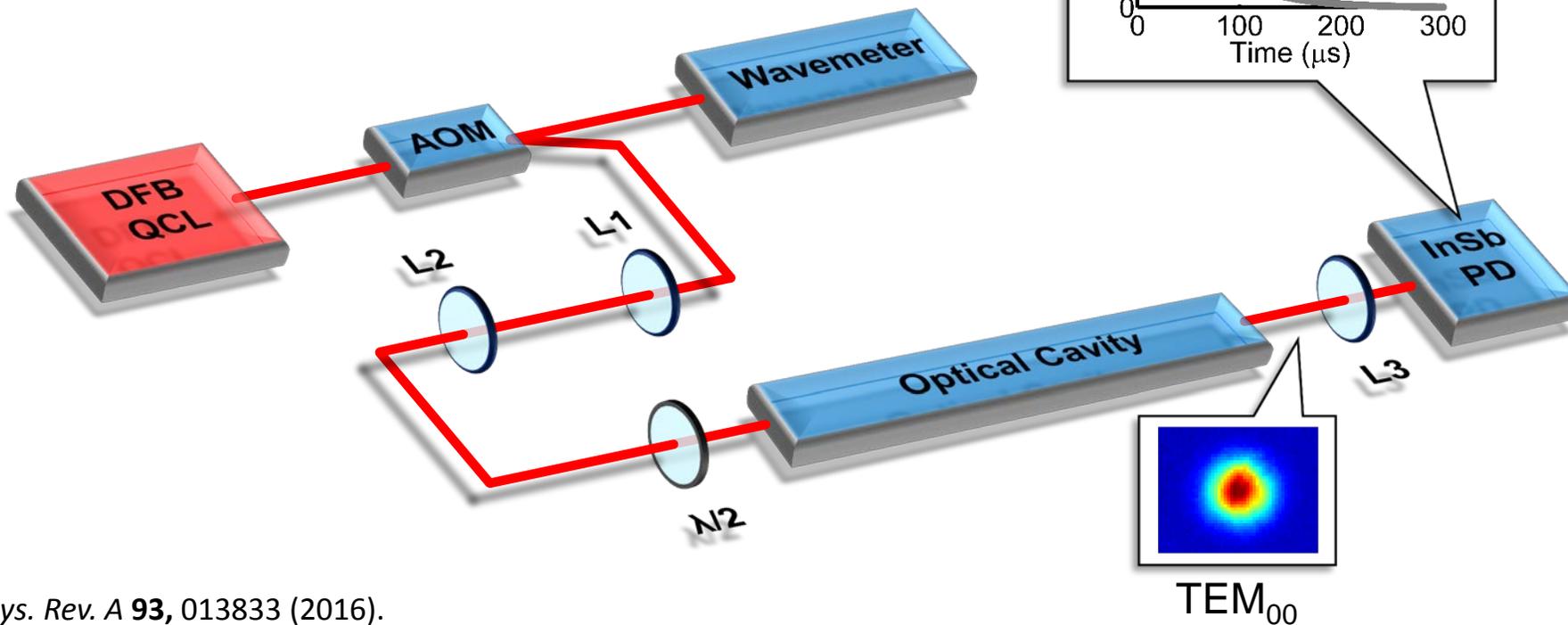
D.A. Long et al., *Opt. Lett.* **39**, 2688-2690 (2014).

A.J. Fleisher et al., *Opt. Express* **24**, 10424-10435 (2016).

D.A. Long et al., arXiv: 1609.06211 .

# CRDS in the Mid-Infrared

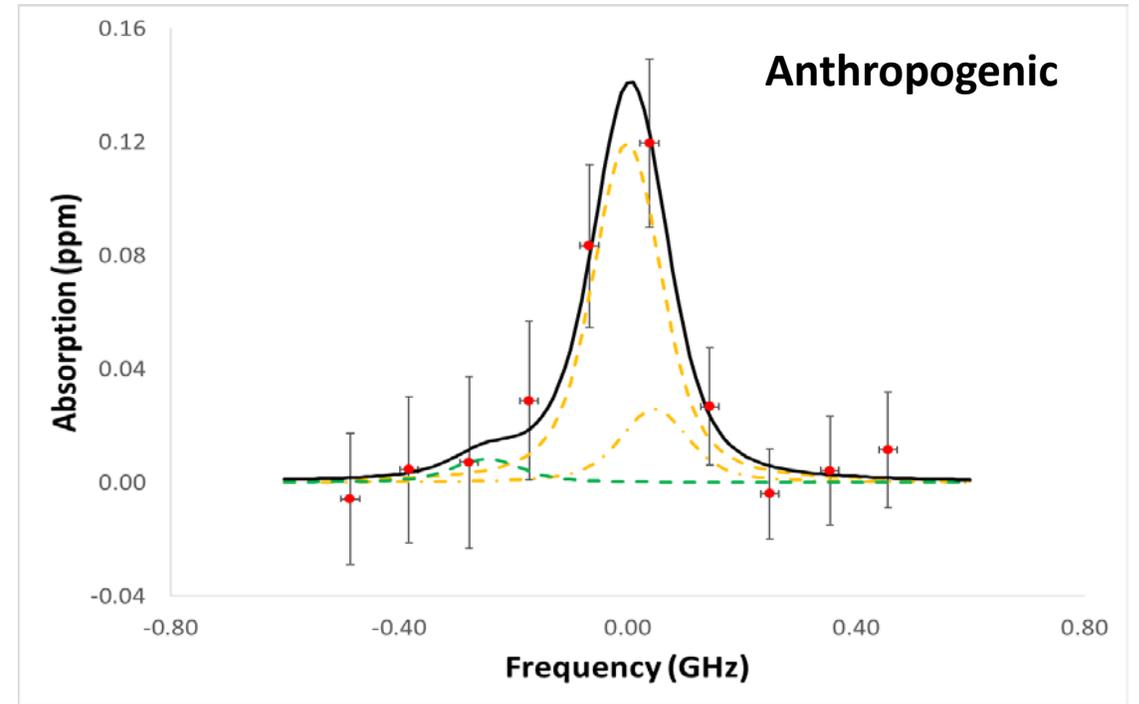
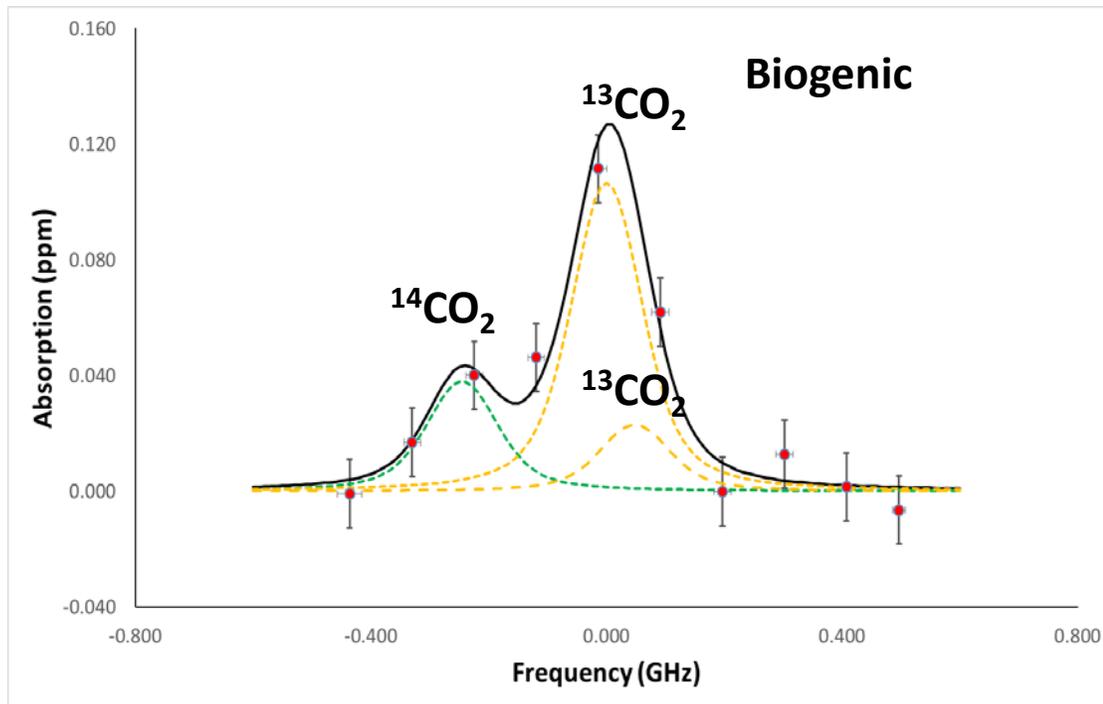
- High effective path length and sensitivity
- Small sample volume
- Insensitive to laser intensity noise



A. J. Fleisher et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **93**, 013833 (2016).

D. A. Long et al., *Opt. Lett.* **41**, 1612-1615 (2016).

# Optical Detection of $^{14}\text{CO}_2$

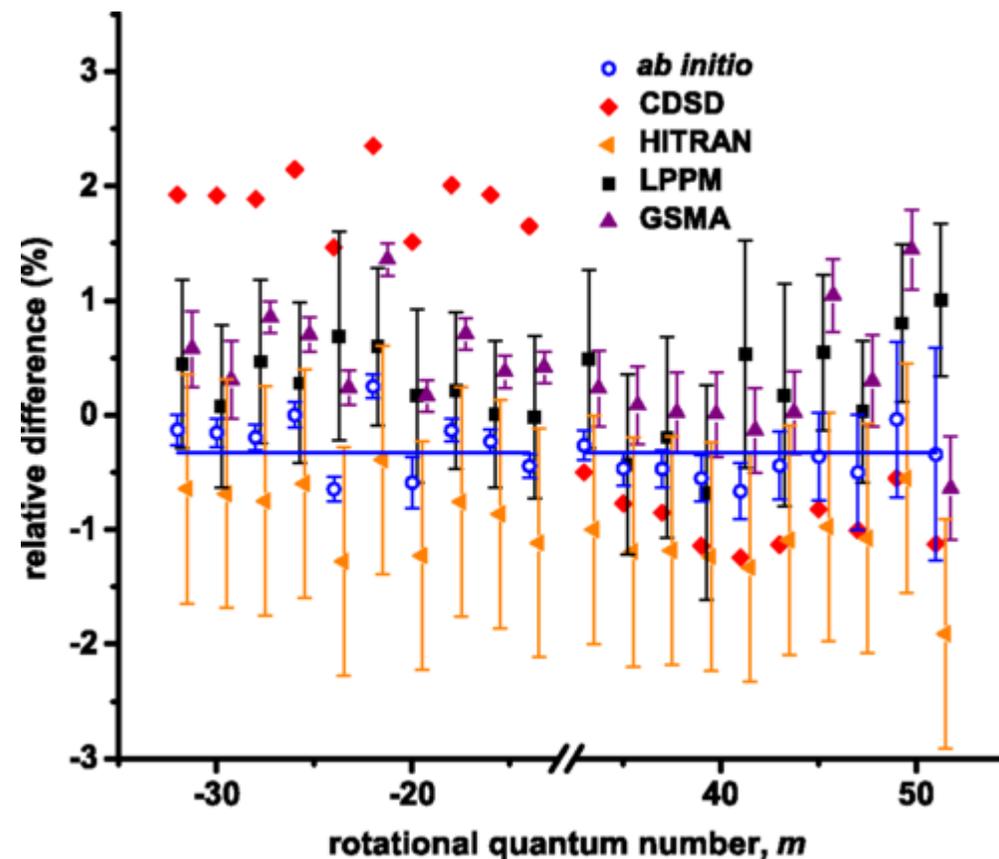
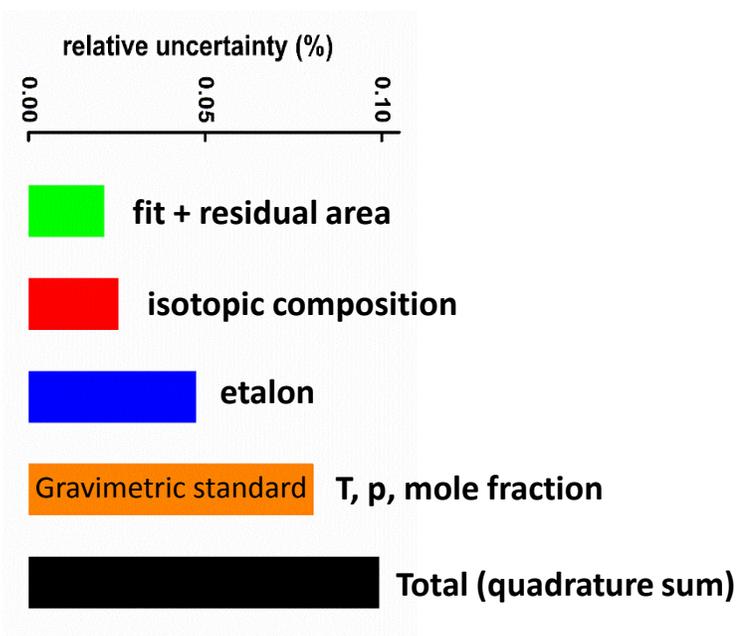


D.A. Long et al., *AGU Fall Meeting* (2015)

D.A. Long et al., *CLEO Conference* (2016)

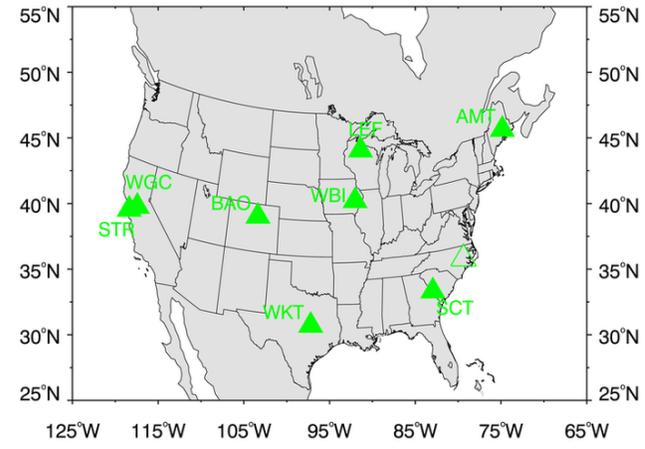
# Ab Initio Line Intensities

## Measurement uncertainties

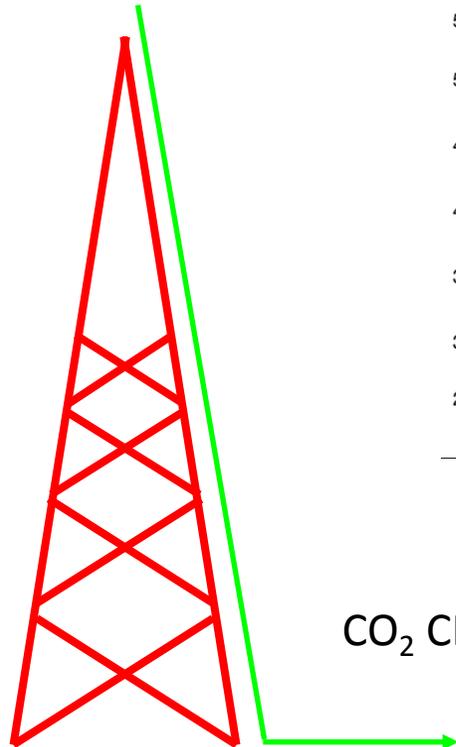
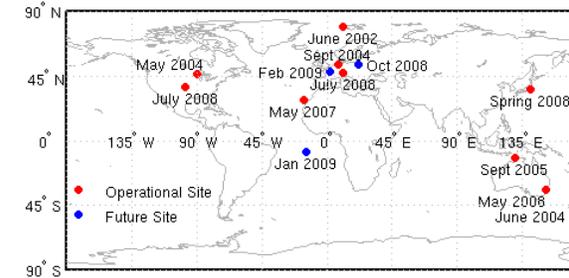


# GHG and Carbon Flux Monitoring

NOAA ESRL Tall Tower Network



Total Carbon Column Observing Network TCCON

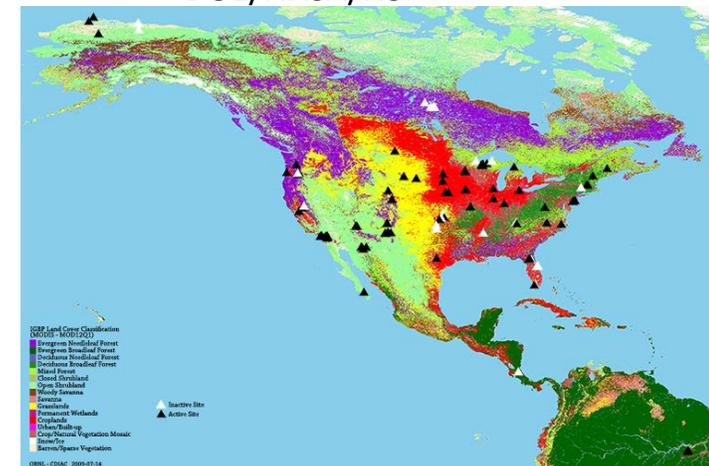


CO<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>4</sub> ... analyzer



calibration gas  
(\$\$\$\$)

Ameriflux/Fluxnet  
DOE/NASA/NSF



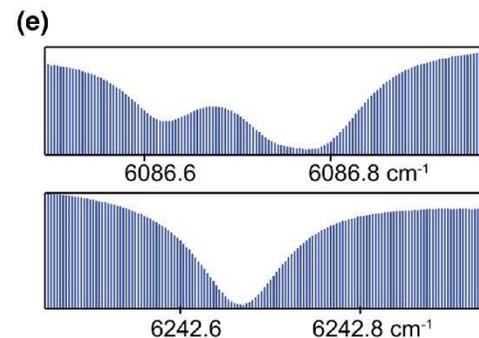
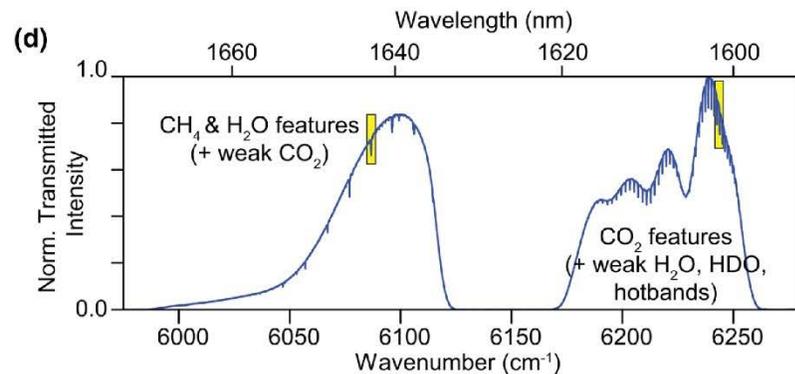
# GHG and Carbon Flux Monitoring

## Dual-comb spectroscopy over an open path



Broadband spectroscopy of several thousand molecular absorption features recorded simultaneously

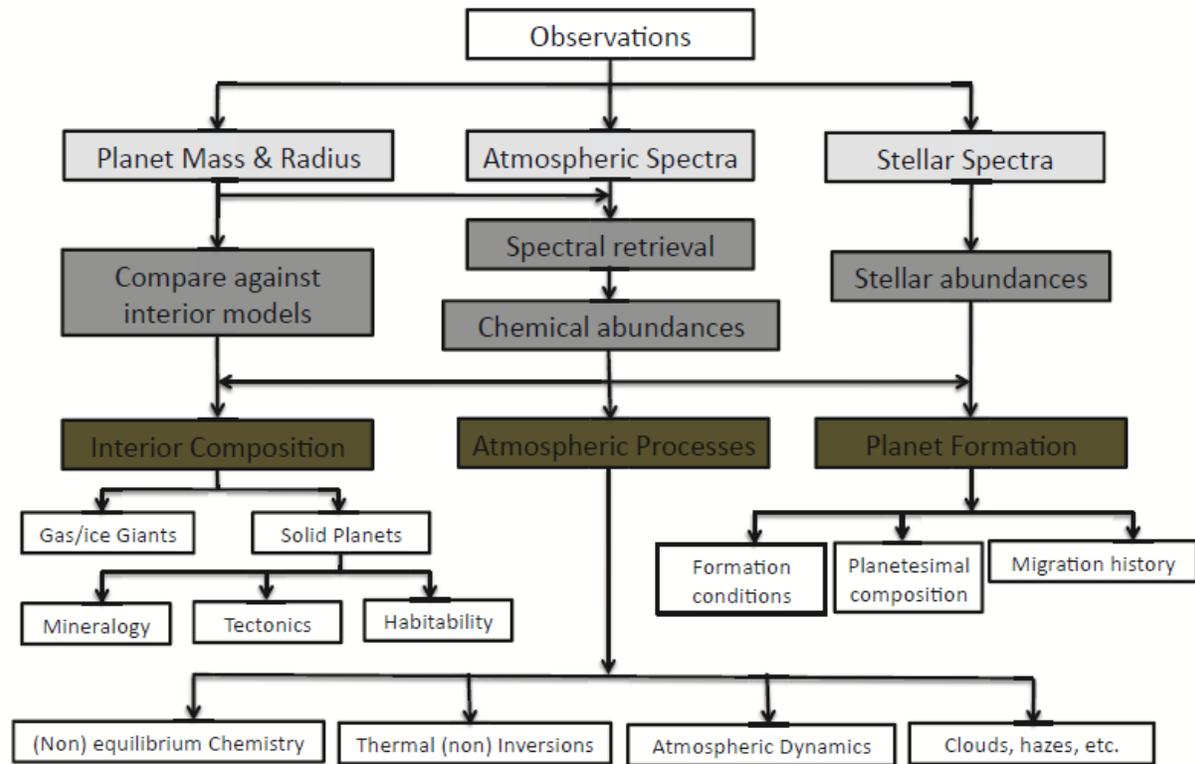
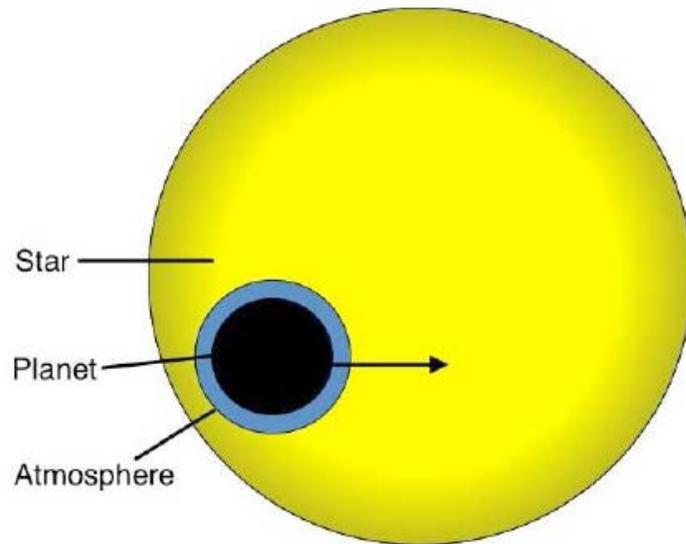
Included multiple species and multiple isotopologues



**Line parameters are required over a very broad frequency range, and potentially at more exotic temperature and pressure regimes (combustion, exoplanetary searches, etc.)**

# Exoplanetary Atmospheres

Planetary Transit



# Acknowledgements

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**Joseph Hodges**, David Long, Zach Reed, Abneesh Srivastava  
David Plusquellic, Keith Gillis, Kevin Douglass, Stephen Maxwell

K. Bielska, M. Ghysels, H. Lin, Q. Liu, V. Sironneau, S. Wójtewicz, H. Yi, E. Adkins

NIST Greenhouse Gas Measurements and Climate Research Program

NIST Innovation in Measurement Science (IMS) award

NASA OCO-2 Science Team

NRC Postdoc Program

**Postdocs wanted: [adam.fleisher@nist.gov](mailto:adam.fleisher@nist.gov)**

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# How do we do this at NIST?

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