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(submitted version)

# Analysis of the JAXA nonequilibrium infrared emission spectra for Mars entry conditions

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**Nonequilibrium infrared emission spectra representative of a Mars atmospheric entry mission are modeled using RADIS, a spectral code for CO and CO<sub>2</sub> based on the HITEMP-2010 and CDS-4000 databases. The modeled experimental data for the free-flow and the forebody radiation were obtained in the JAXA expansion tube facility. In the expanding flow, good agreement with the experimental data can be obtained using a slightly nonequilibrium distribution and a homogeneous flow. The model suggests that all three CO<sub>2</sub> vibration modes share a same vibrational temperature slightly higher than the gas temperature. In the shock layer, the forebody radiation includes both CO<sub>2</sub> and CO emission features. It can be correctly predicted by assuming thermal and chemical equilibrium at  $4000 \pm 500$  K.**

## Nomenclature

$p$	=	pressure [bar]
$T_{rot}$	=	rotational temperature of the gas [K]
$T_{trans}$	=	translational temperature of the gas [K]
$T_{vib}$	=	vibrational temperature of the gas [K]
$T_{vib_1}, T_{vib_2}, T_{vib_3}$	=	for CO <sub>2</sub> , temperature of each vibration mode: symmetric, bending and asymmetric vibration, respectively [K]
$x_{CO}, x_{CO_2}$	=	mole fractions

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## I. Introduction

CO<sub>2</sub> radiation plays an important role in forebody and afterbody heating of vehicles entering the Martian atmosphere. In the forebody, the radiation is dominated by visible and UV emission of CO, CN and O<sub>2</sub> [2]. In the afterbody, the recombination of CO<sub>2</sub> is responsible for a radiative heat flux larger than convective heating [3], but there are still large uncertainties on the radiative fluxes [4]: on the eve of new Mars missions, a renewed computational [5] and experimental effort was engaged at NASA [4], JAXA [6] and UQ [7] to model nonequilibrium CO<sub>2</sub> radiation.

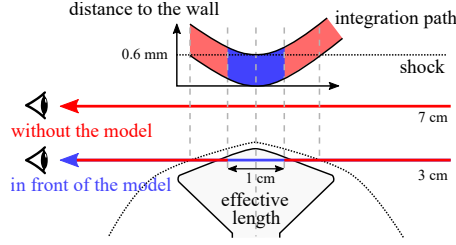
The JAXA expansion tube experiment of Takayanagi et al. [6] was one of the first experiment to measure absolute intensity CO<sub>2</sub> infrared spectra in an expanding flow. The experiment was performed in the JAXA HVST expansion-tube facility, with a model placed at the exit of the tube, and a flow velocity of 5.68 km/s. Using CFD simulations to reproduce the measured shock standoff distance, the authors determined the following nonequilibrium conditions in the free flow upstream of the model:  $T_{\text{trans}}=1690$  K,  $T_{\text{vib}}=4000$  K,  $p=17$  mbar,  $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $x_{\text{CO}}=0.26$ ,  $x_{\text{O}_2}=0.12$  and  $x_{\text{O}}=0.01$ . The authors also measured absolute emission spectra of the 4.2  $\mu\text{m}$  band of CO<sub>2</sub> at three locations: in the free flow, in front of the model, and behind the model. Takayanagi et al. [6] attempted to fit the free flow experimental spectrum with the SPRADIAN code [8] assuming equilibrium at temperatures ranging from 1500 to 4000 K. However, they obtained a surprisingly large disagreement for all conditions considered (see Fig. 22 in Ref. [6]). They attributed the discrepancies to flow heterogeneities and to a nonequilibrium vibrational distribution. The forebody radiation was not analyzed.

In this work, we reanalyze the nonequilibrium spectra measured by Takayanagi et al. [6]. We first consider the free-flow to confirm its nonequilibrium state. Then, the forebody radiation will be examined. The path length associated with the afterbody radiation is not clear, hence it is not studied in the present work.

Figure 1 shows the experimental configuration and measurement locations. The shock wave position (dashed) is inferred from the Schlieren images of Ref. [6]. The measurement locations are inferred from Fig.21 of Ref. [6]. The spectra were measured tangentially to the model so the total line-of-sight length is always 7 cm. In front of the model (blue arrow in Fig. 1), part of the line-of-sight is in the free-flow (red portion) and part is in the shock layer (blue portion). Because of the model curvature, the distance to the model wall is not constant (see the upper part of Fig. 1, estimated from Fig. 17 of Ref. [6]) and the integration path is not homogeneous: in the following, we consider that the shock region is equivalent to a segment of uniform gas of length 1 cm.

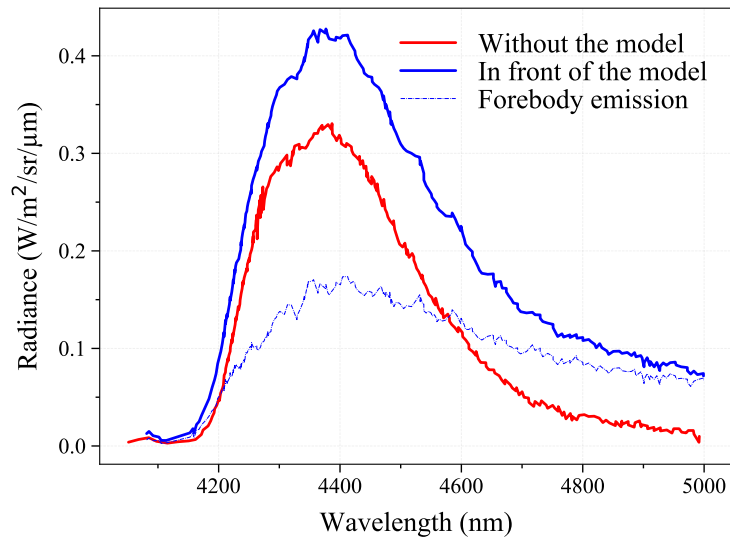
The spectra measured by Takayanagi et al. [6] in the free-flow and in front of the model are reproduced in Figure 2.

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**Fig. 1** Schematic of the measurement locations of Takayanagi et al. [6], without the model (red arrow) and in front of the model (blue arrow). Refer to text for more details.

They are red-shifted by 30 nm so as to match the CO<sub>2</sub> bandhead in the later calculations. This shift could be attributed to a small offset in the experimental wavelength calibration procedure. For illustration purpose, the forebody emission (dashed, blue) is estimated in the optically thin approximation by subtracting the free-flow emission scaled down to 6 cm to the line-of-sight measurement in front of the model. In the later calculations, the full line-of-sight is calculated solving the radiative transfer equation.



**Fig. 2** IR radiation measured in the expansion-tube experiment of Ref. Takayanagi et al. [6] in the free flow (red) and in front of the entry model (solid blue). Forebody emission (dashed, blue) is estimated in the optically thin approximation.

## II. Spectral code

The radiation of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO radiation is modeled using RADIS [9, 10], an open-source nonequilibrium infrared line-by-line code. In Ref. [10], the RADIS solver was validated against infrared measurements from an equilibrium microwave torch [11], a low-pressure nonequilibrium laser discharge [12], an equilibrium RF plasma torch [13] and a NASA shock tube experiment [14]. RADIS takes HITRAN-like line databases as input, and either reads rovibrational

energies from precomputed databases or calculates them from spectroscopic constants. RADIS can model a variety of vibrational population distributions (Boltzmann, Treanor, overpopulation factors...), as well as line-of-sight emission spectra of heterogeneous media: for these simulations, the radiative transfer equation is solved along multiple slabs, each slab being assumed to have uniform thermochemical properties.

In this work, the CDSD-4000 line database [15] is used to model CO<sub>2</sub> radiation at high temperature ( $T > 2200$  K), and the HITEMP-2010 database [16] for CO radiation or CO<sub>2</sub> radiation at lower temperature ( $T \leq 2200$  K). A sensitivity analysis [10] showed that HITEMP-2010 and CDSD-4000 give similar results at  $T \leq 2200$  K for the 4.2 $\mu$ m CO<sub>2</sub> band. The rovibrational energies of CO are calculated with a *coupled* rotating vibrator model. Dunham expansions are calculated with the spectroscopic constants of Ref. [17], which include rotational-vibrational interaction terms for seven isotopes of CO. The rovibrational energies of CO<sub>2</sub> are calculated with an *uncoupled* rotating vibrator model. The spectroscopic constants reviewed by Klarenaar et al. [18] are used for the three main isotopes of CO<sub>2</sub>, and do not include rotational-vibrational interaction terms. Boltzmann distributions are used for both the rotational and the vibrational levels.

Nonequilibrium CO<sub>2</sub> spectra are calculated with a two-temperature model ( $T_{\text{vib}}$ ,  $T_{\text{rot}}$ ). In a first model, the rotational temperature is assumed to be equal to the translational temperature, and the three vibrational modes of CO<sub>2</sub> are assumed to be in equilibrium, *i.e.*:

$$T_{\text{rot}} = T_{\text{trans}} \quad (1)$$

$$T_{\text{vib}} = T_{\text{vib}_1} = T_{\text{vib}_2} = T_{\text{vib}_3} \quad (2)$$

However, as the asymmetric mode of CO<sub>2</sub> ( $\nu_3$ ) relaxes slower than the symmetric ( $\nu_1$ ) and bending ( $\nu_2$ ) vibrational modes [19], another two-temperature model can be considered where the asymmetric vibration is not in equilibrium with the other vibration modes. We then define it as the vibrational temperature, and consider all other temperatures equal to the rotational temperature:

$$T_{\text{rot}} = T_{\text{trans}} = T_{\text{vib}_1} = T_{\text{vib}_2} \quad (3)$$

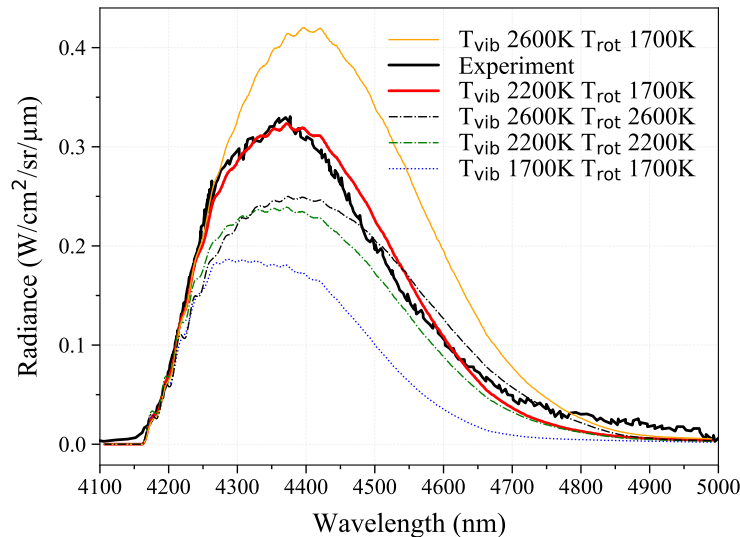
$$T_{\text{vib}} = T_{\text{vib}_3} \quad (4)$$

No previous measurements have been reported in the literature that would suggest either of the two models to be more appropriate for expansion tube conditions. Measurements under similar pressure conditions, such as those of Dang et al. [12] in a 20 mbar CO<sub>2</sub> laser, and those of Klarenaar et al. [18] in a 6.7 mbar DC glow discharge, showed symmetric and bending vibrational mode temperatures close to the rotational temperatures, whereas the asymmetric mode temperature was significantly different. These measurements would support the second model (Eqn. 3, 4),

however, the thermodynamic conditions in the expansion tube are significantly different. Furthermore, the latter model requires that the contribution of all vibration modes to the total rovibrational energies be identified, which is not possible for some of the high energy levels featured in the CDSD-4000 [15] database. Therefore, such a model is limited to low temperature conditions that can be modeled with the HITEMP-2010 [16] database ( $T \leq 2200$  K). In this work, both models will be compared in the lower temperature free-flow region.

### III. Modeling of the free-flow radiation

The 7-cm line-of-sight in the free-flow region is assumed to be homogeneous.  $\text{CO}_2$  spectra are calculated with RADIS using the HITEMP-2010 [16] database, a pressure of 17 mbar and a frozen  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration of  $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$  as given in Takayanagi et al. [6]. Nonequilibrium spectra are first calculated using the model of Eqn. 1, 2, which assumes equilibrium between all  $\text{CO}_2$  vibration modes. Figure 3 shows the spectra for various vibrational and rotational temperatures.

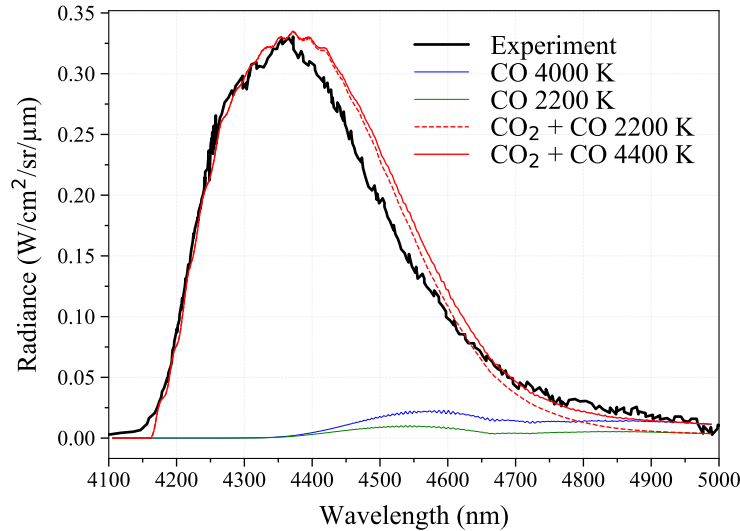


**Fig. 3** Emission spectra in the free-flow (black [6]), compared with  $\text{CO}_2$  calculations in a frozen state ( $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $p=17$  mbar) with the following nonequilibrium model:  $T_{\text{rot}}, T_{\text{vib}}=T_{\text{vib}_1}=T_{\text{vib}_2}=T_{\text{vib}_3}$

In general, the calculated spectra are much more similar in shape and amplitude to the experimental spectrum than those computed with SPRADIAN and presented in Ref. [6] (Fig. 22). The best agreement is obtained for  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700$  K and  $T_{\text{vib}}=2200$  K. The bandhead at  $4.2 \mu\text{m}$  is correctly reproduced. However, the agreement is not perfect, in particular for the region of the  $\text{CO}_2$  hot bands ( $> 4.4 \mu\text{m}$ ). As suggested by [6], the presence of a heterogeneous flow with hotter  $\text{CO}_2$  slabs may be an explanation for the discrepancy. However, adding a hotter  $\text{CO}_2$  slab would also overpredict the radiation

around  $4.6 \mu\text{m}$ , as shown in Fig. 3 for the calculation at 2600 K, which is already underestimated because it is slightly above the valid temperature range of HITEMP-2010. Spatially-resolved spectra would be needed to close this issue.

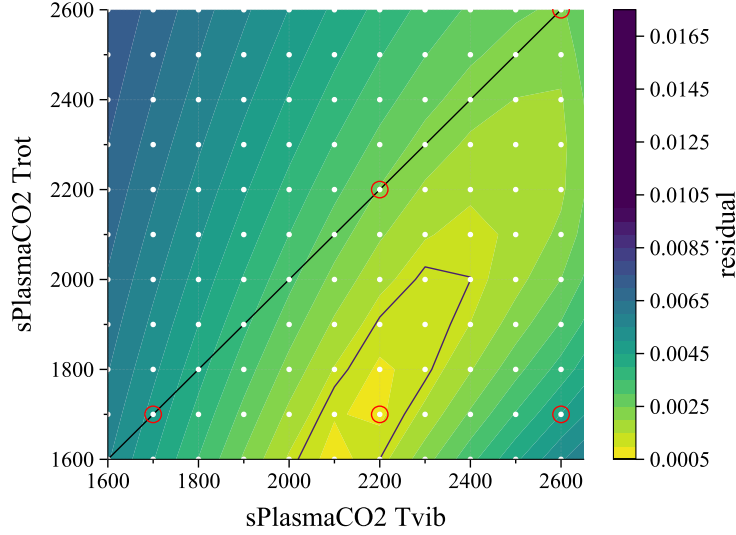
Another possible reason for the discrepancy could be the presence of CO infrared emission. We added nonequilibrium CO emission to our simulations, assuming that the CO concentration remains frozen with  $x_{\text{CO}}=0.26$ . The CO rotational temperature is set equal to that of  $\text{CO}_2$ , and the CO vibrational temperature  $T_{\text{CO}}$  is set equal to that of  $\text{CO}_2$ . However, the inclusion of CO made no significant changes to the spectra of Fig. 3. Only CO with vibrational temperature much higher than the  $\text{CO}_2$  vibrational temperature can yield quantitative changes. In Figure 4, we include the emission of nonequilibrium CO with a vibrational temperature of 4000 K to the  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_{\text{vib}}=2200 \text{ K}$  spectrum of Fig ???. The emission of CO with a vibrational temperature of 2200 K is shown for reference. The addition is enough to reproduce the experimental spectrum in the  $4.8 - 4.9 \mu\text{m}$  region, however, there is about a factor of 2 between the vibrational temperature of  $\text{CO}_2$  and CO. In the measurements of Klarenaar et al. [18] in a DC glow at similar pressure, the CO temperature was found to be generally much higher than the vibrational temperature of the bending and symmetric modes of  $\text{CO}_2$ , but it remained comparable with the asymmetric temperature  $T_{\text{vib}_3}$ . In our model,  $T_{\text{vib}_3}$  remained equal to 2200 K. Without further confirmation of the possibly large nonequilibrium between CO and  $\text{CO}_2$  vibrational temperatures, we did not retain the adjustment and the CO vibrational temperature is set equal to that of  $\text{CO}_2$ .



**Fig. 4** Contribution of nonequilibrium CO at  $T_{\text{vib}} = 2200 \text{ K}$  (green) and  $4400 \text{ K}$  (blue) to the total line-of-sight emission (dashed and solid red, respectively).  $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $x_{\text{CO}}=0.26$ ,  $p=17 \text{ mbar}$ ,  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_{\text{vib}_{1,2,3}}=2200 \text{ K}$ .

A broad range of nonequilibrium conditions was calculated in RADIS using the  $\text{CO}_2$  nonequilibrium model of Eqn. 1, 2, and the CO nonequilibrium model described previously. Figure 5 shows the residual difference between the computed and measured spectra for various combinations of vibrational and rotational temperatures between 1600 and 2600 K (white dots). The best agreement with the experimental spectrum is obtained for  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700 \text{ K}$  and

$T_{\text{vib}_1}=T_{\text{vib}_2}=T_{\text{vib}_3}=T_{\text{CO}}=2200$  K. The fitted rotational temperature is close to the value measured by Takayanagi et al. [6],  $T_{\text{rot}}=1690$  K. The vibrational temperature is also higher than the rotational temperature, as suggested by the adjusted parameters of [6], and characteristic of a fast expanding flow. However, the measured departure from nonequilibrium in the free flow is much smaller than predicted by the CFD simulations of Ref. [6] ( $T_{\text{rot}}=1690$  K and  $T_{\text{vib}}=4000$  K).



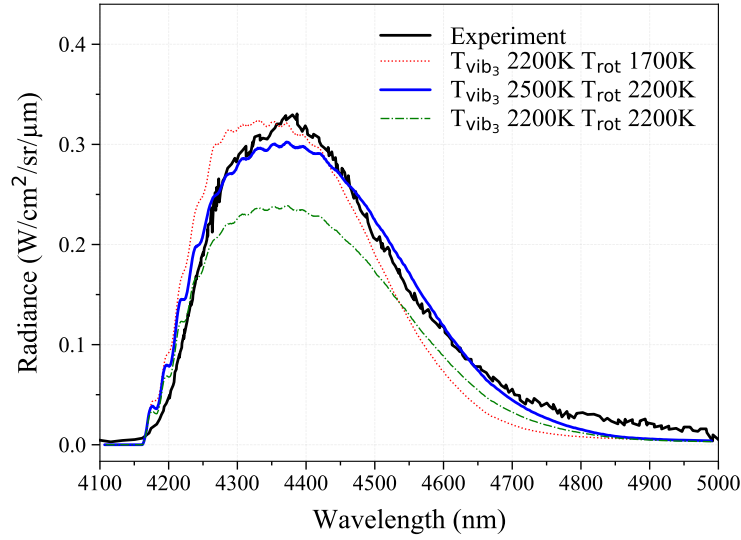
**Fig. 5 Residual of nonequilibrium calculation relative to the free flow spectrum [6]. The minimum is obtained for  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700$  K,  $T_{\text{vib}_{1,2,3}}=2200$  K. Red circle spectra are shown in Fig. 3.**

We then consider the second  $\text{CO}_2$  nonequilibrium model (Eqn. 3, 4), where the vibrational temperature of the  $\text{CO}_2$  asymmetric mode  $T_{\text{vib}_3}$  is in nonequilibrium. CO emission is also included. In this model, the CO vibrational temperature is set equal to  $T_{\text{vib}_3}$ , as suggested by the measurements of Klarenaar et al. [18] at similar pressure. However, the contribution of CO is expected to be negligible as was shown in Fig. ??.

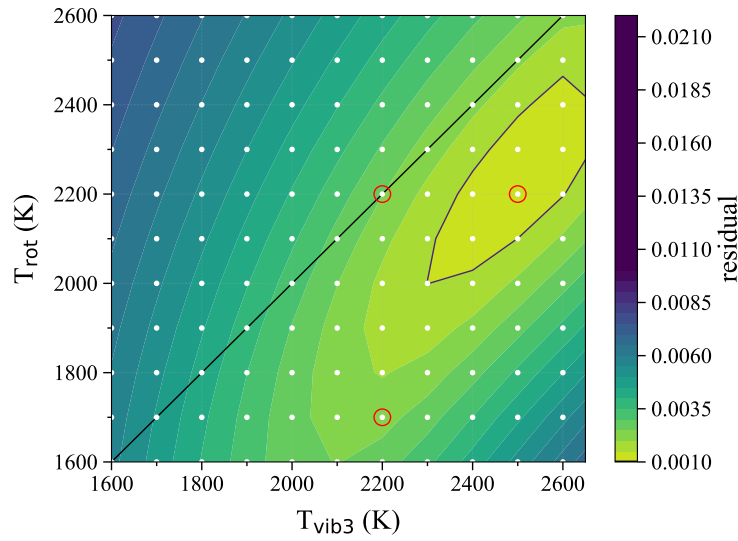
Figure 6 shows the spectra calculated with this model. The agreement with the experimental spectrum is not as good as when using the first model (Fig. 3). In particular, the bandhead at  $4.2 \mu\text{m}$  is not as well reproduced as when all of the vibrational modes of  $\text{CO}_2$  share a same vibrational temperature. All conditions of Fig. 5 were also calculated and are shown on Figure 7. The best agreement is achieved for temperatures of  $T_{\text{rot}}=T_{\text{vib}_1}=T_{\text{vib}_2}=2200$  K,  $T_{\text{vib}_3}=2500$  K. The measured rotational temperature is slightly higher than the 1690 K temperature of Takayanagi et al. [6], and the residuals in Fig. 7 are about twice higher as in Fig. 5.

In conclusion, our calculations suggest that in this particular experiment, the free-flow spectrum is better reproduced by a nonequilibrium model assuming that all  $\text{CO}_2$  vibration modes share a same vibrational temperature different from the rotational temperature, as in Eqn. 1, 2. Specifically, we found  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700$  K and  $T_{\text{vib}_1}=T_{\text{vib}_2}=T_{\text{vib}_3}=2200$  K. The





**Fig. 6** Emission spectra in the free-flow (black [6]), compared with calculations with CO<sub>2</sub> in a frozen state ( $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $p=17$  mbar) with the following nonequilibrium model:  $T_{\text{rot}}=T_{\text{vib}_{1,2}}$ ,  $T_{\text{vib}}=T_{\text{vib}_3}$ .



**Fig. 7** Residual of nonequilibrium calculation relative to the free flow spectrum [6]. The minimum is obtained for  $T_{\text{rot}}=T_{\text{vib}_{1,2}}=2200$  K,  $T_{\text{vib}_3}=2500$  K. Red circle spectra are shown in Fig. 6.

departure from equilibrium is limited, and all vibration modes seem to be in equilibrium. The spectrum is dominated by CO<sub>2</sub> emission and the contribution of CO is negligible.

## IV. Modeling of the forebody radiation

We now consider the line-of-sight spectrum measured in the front part of the model. This spectrum has not been analyzed previously. This spectrum contains radiation from both the free flow and from the forebody shock layer, as shown in Fig. 1. Using Fig. 21 in Ref. [6], we estimated the forebody path length to be about 1 cm. This is an approximation, but it is sufficient to analyze the main features of the forebody emission. Thus, our line-of-sight model is a 1 cm slab corresponding to the shock layer, surrounded by two 3 cm slabs corresponding to the free-flow, for a total of 7 cm. The free-flow conditions are taken as those determined in Section III, *i.e.*,  $T_{\text{rot}}=1700$  K and  $T_{\text{vib}_1}=T_{\text{vib}_2}=T_{\text{vib}_3}=T_{\text{vib}}(\text{CO})=2200$  K. Because the free-flow slabs are not optically thin, the RADIS line-of-sight module is used to solve the radiative transfer equation.

«««« Updated upstream The shock-layer conditions are calculated with the CEA code [20] for pre-shock conditions corresponding to those of the free-flow, *i.e.*,  $v=5.8$  km/s and mole fractions  $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $x_{\text{CO}}=0.26$ . Takayanagi et al. [6] (Table 7) calculated parameters of 17 mbar and  $T_{\text{vib}}=4000$  K based on an initial parameters of 12 mbar,  $T_{\text{vib}}=1690$  K. Shock-layer conditions are very sensitive to these parameters. To estimate the pressure in the shock-layer, we approximate the free flow as being in thermal equilibrium at a temperature of 1690 K. For free-flow pressures of 12 and 17 mbar, the post-shock pressures are 0.97 and 1.38 bar, respectively. In the following discussion, we assume that the pressure is  $p=1$  bar. Radiation in the shock layer is calculated assuming that the gas is under thermochemical equilibrium.

Figures 8, 9 and 10 show the line-of-sight emission spectra calculated for shock-layer temperatures of 3500, 4000 and 45000 K. ===== The pressure in the shock-layer is calculated with the CEA code [20] for pre-shock conditions corresponding to those of the free-flow, *i.e.*,  $v=5.8$  km/s and mole fractions  $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.61$ ,  $x_{\text{CO}}=0.26$ . Takayanagi et al. [6] (Table 7) calculated free-flow parameters of 17 mbar,  $T_{\text{vib}}=4000$  K,  $T_{\text{rot}}=1690$  K to match the shock standoff distance. For a free-flow pressure of 17 mbar, assuming thermal equilibrium at a temperature of 1690 and 4000 K, the post-shock pressure is 1.49 and 0.64 bar, respectively. In the following discussion, we assume that the pressure in the shock-layer is on the order of  $p=1$  bar.

Furthermore, the gas in the shock layer is assumed to be at thermochemical equilibrium. This assumption is supported by the CFD calculations of [6] (Fig. 18), who observed that the shock-layer flow was close to thermodynamic equilibrium.

Line-of-sight emission spectra are calculated for shock-layer temperatures of 3500, 4000 and 4500 K. »»»» Stashed changes The conditions of the simulations are summarized in Table 1. Other calculations were also performed from 3000 K to 11,000 K.

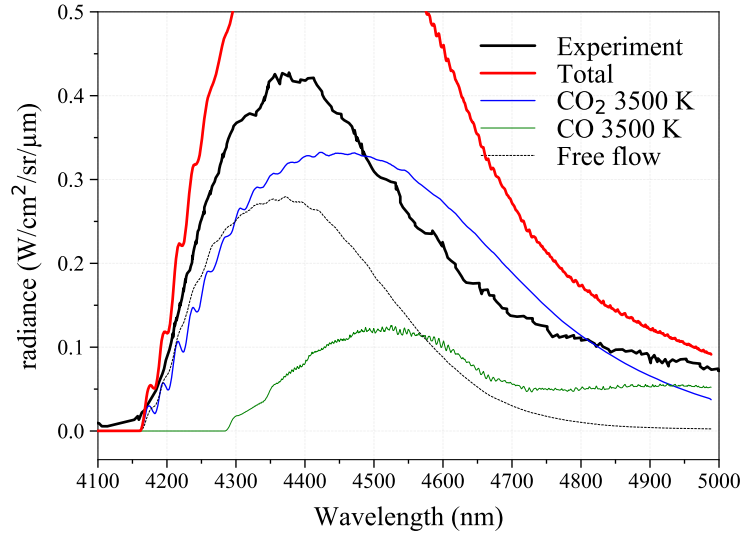
**Table 1 Simplified 3-slab model for RADIS simulations of the forebody line-of-sight emission.**

Line-of-sight	Fig. 8	Fig. 9	Fig. 10
Free-stream: Two 3-cm nonequilibrium slabs	$T_{\text{rot}} = T_{\text{trans}} = 1690 \text{ K}$ $T_{\text{vib}}(\text{CO}_2) = T_{\text{vib1}} = T_{\text{vib2}} = T_{\text{vib3}} = T_{\text{vib}}(\text{CO}) = 2200 \text{ K}$ $x_{\text{CO}} = 0.257, x_{\text{CO}_2} = 0.606, p = 17 \text{ mbar}$		
Shock-layer: 1-cm slab under thermochemical equilibrium	$T = 3500 \text{ K}, p = 1 \text{ bar}$ $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.130, x_{\text{CO}}=0.514$	$T = 4000 \text{ K}, p = 1 \text{ bar}$ $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.027, x_{\text{CO}}=0.520$	$T = 4500 \text{ K}, p = 1 \text{ bar}$ $x_{\text{CO}_2}=0.005, x_{\text{CO}}=0.506$

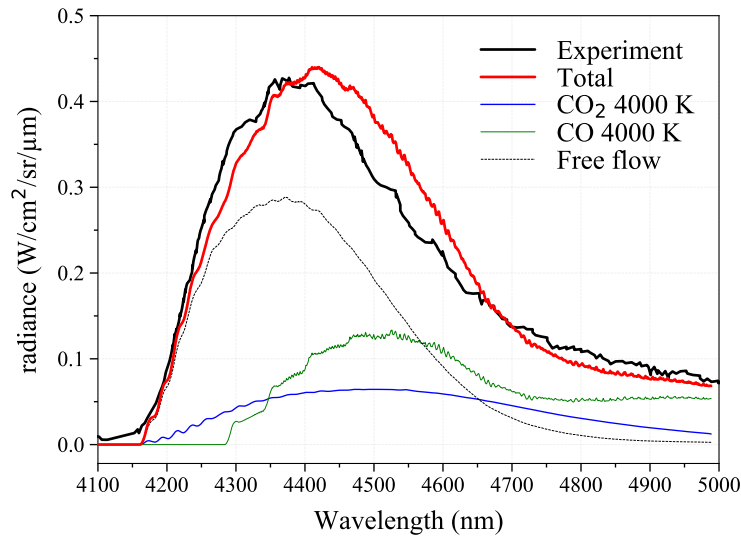
For these calculations, RADIS uses the CDSD-4000 [15] database and is interfaced with the CANTERA code [21] to calculate the equilibrium CO<sub>2</sub> and CO concentrations. At very high temperature (11,000 K), CO and CO<sub>2</sub> are both fully dissociated in the shock-layer and the line-of-sight emission spectrum is entirely due to the free flow component. At 3500 K, the emission spectrum is dominated by the contribution of CO<sub>2</sub> in the shock-layer. As the temperature increases, the CO<sub>2</sub> equilibrium concentrations falls and the overall radiation intensity decreases. CO emission becomes stronger than CO<sub>2</sub> emission above 4000 K.

The high temperature CO emission spectrum starts above 4294 nm, which corresponds to the reversal of the  $v'=1 \rightarrow v''=0$  band at about  $J=92$ . Therefore, all emission below 4294 nm in the experimental spectrum can only be attributed to CO<sub>2</sub> emission. Above 4294 nm, the calculated CO emission spectrum features characteristic high temperature vibrational bandheads that are regularly spaced every about 55 nm. The shifted experimental spectrum also features similar regularly spaced peaks between 4410 and 4790 nm. These peaks are more visible when subtracting the free-flow component, as shown in Fig. 2. Another characteristic of CO emission is the emission plateau in the 4.8 – 5  $\mu\text{m}$  region, which corresponds to optically thick CO emission lines in the calculated spectra.

The 3500 K spectrum (Fig. 8) does not reproduce the 4.8 – 5  $\mu\text{m}$  region well, and significantly overestimates the total intensity. The 4500 K spectrum (Fig. 10) also fails to reproduce the experimental spectrum, particularly in the 4.2 – 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  region and above 4.6  $\mu\text{m}$ . the measured intensity in the 4.2 – 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  region is slightly higher than in the case of the free-flow (Fig. 2), which proves the presence of additional CO<sub>2</sub> emission in the shock layer slab. However, under the chemical equilibrium assumption, the CO<sub>2</sub> emission is negligible at 4500 K. Finally, the line-of-sight spectrum corresponding to a shock-layer temperature of  $T=4000 \text{ K}$  gives the best agreement with the experimental spectrum, both in terms of shape and absolute intensity. We conclude that the emission of the shock-layer can reasonably be approximated by that of a 1 cm slab in thermochemical equilibrium at  $T=4000 \pm 500 \text{ K}$ .



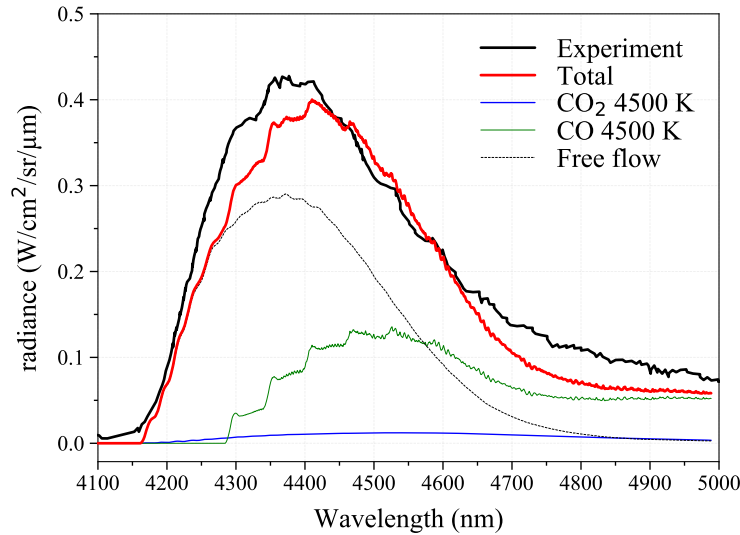
**Fig. 8** Measured spectrum across the shock layer [6] (black), compared to the line-of-sight calculation (red) including two nonequilibrium free-flow slabs (dashed) and one equilibrium slab at 3500 K (CO<sub>2</sub>: blue, CO: green).



**Fig. 9** Measured spectrum across the shock layer [6] (black), compared to the line-of-sight calculation (red) including two nonequilibrium free-flow slabs (dashed) and one equilibrium slab at 4000 K (CO<sub>2</sub>: blue, CO: green).

## Conclusion

The RADIS [9, 10] nonequilibrium spectral code was used to reanalyze the free-flow radiation measured in the expansion-tube experiment of Ref. [6]. Excellent agreement was achieved using a homogeneous spatial model and a slightly nonequilibrium distribution, which confirms the nonequilibrium hypothesis of Takayanagi et al. [6]. A comparison between different nonequilibrium models suggested that all CO<sub>2</sub> vibration modes share a common vibrational



**Fig. 10** Measured spectrum across the shock layer [6] (black), compared to the line-of-sight calculation (red) including two nonequilibrium free-flow slabs (dashed) and one equilibrium slab at 4500 K (CO<sub>2</sub>: blue, CO: green).

temperature (2200 K) which is equal to the CO vibrational temperature and slightly above the rotational temperature (1690 K). The study was extended to do the first modeling of the spectral emission within the shock-layer in front of the model. It was shown that the forebody radiation corresponds to that of a plasma in thermochemical equilibrium at a temperature of  $4000 \pm 500$  K, and that the measured experimental spectrum comprises an about equal contribution of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO emission.

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