



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND ADVANCED TRAINING IN SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING



Cantera



*Tools for the numerical simulation with  
complex chemistry*  
**Open-source code CANTERA**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020



# Organisation of the day

9h30 – 10h30 : Talk about Cantera (J.W)

10h30 – 12h30 : jupyter notebook tutorial (J.W + T.O)

12h30 – 14h : Lunch break (yourself :D)

14h – 14h15 : Talk about cantera-avbp features (J.W)

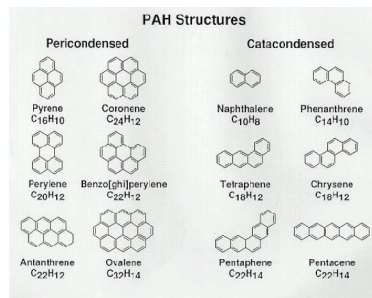
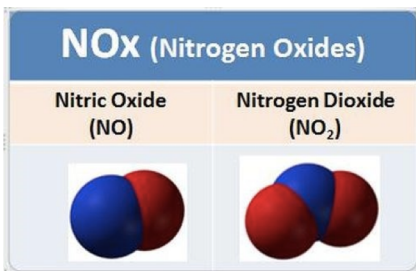
14h15 – 17h : end of jupyter notebook tutorial + create your own script (J.W + T.O)

Everything will be on teams.



# Why studying chemistry at CERFACS ?

## Pollutants



## Chemistry driven processes

### Ignition



### Fuel addition





# Content of the presentation

**I. Presentation of CANTERA**

II. Governing equations and numerical methods

III. Practical use

IV. Installation



# Content of the presentation

## I. Presentation of CANTERA

- 1) *What is CANTERA ?*
- 2) *What can it do ?*
- 3) *Why is it a good choice ?*
- 4) *How will it be helpful to you ?*

# What is CANTERA ?

CANTERA is an **open-source suite of tools** for problems involving **chemical kinetics, thermodynamics, and transport processes.**

## *Multiple Interfaces*

- Python
- Matlab
- C/C++
- Fortran 90.

## *Automotive*

Users can efficiently incorporate chemistry, thermodynamics and transport.

## *Object-Oriented*

Can use different phase without too much change

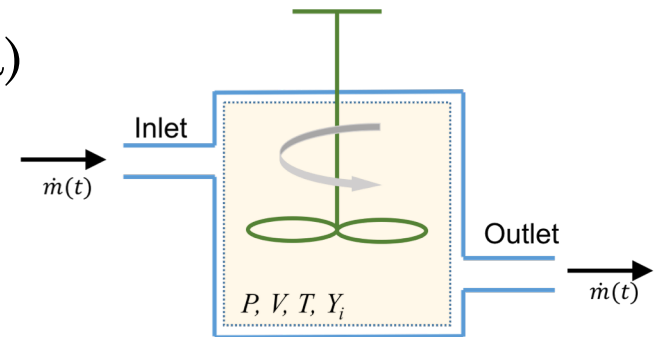
## *Broad Applications*

- **Combustion**
- Detonations
- Electrochemical energy
- Conversion and storage
- Fuel cells
- Batteries
- Aqueous electrolyte solutions
- Plasmas
- Thin film deposition

# What can CANTERA do?

## In terms of calculations ...

- ◆ Initialize a mixture (tutorial part 1)
- ◆ 0D (tutorial part 2)
  - Equilibrium state
- ◆ 0D with time evolution (tutorial part 3)
  - Constant Pressure/Volume batch reactor
  - Steady-state Plug Flow Reactor (PFR)



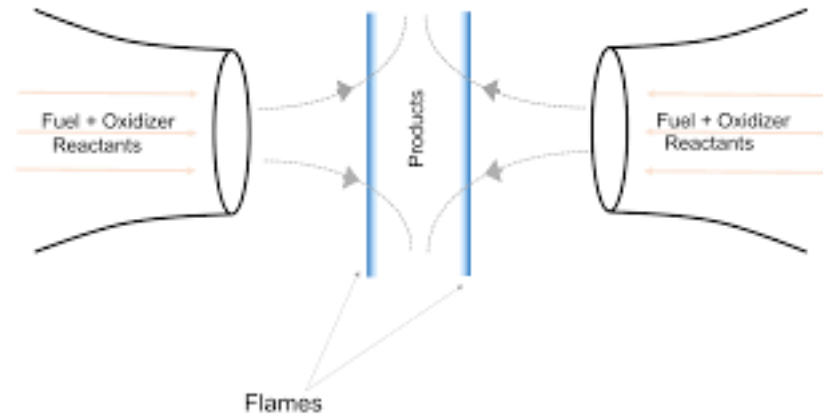


# What can CANTERA do?

...

## ◆ 1D (tutorial part 4)

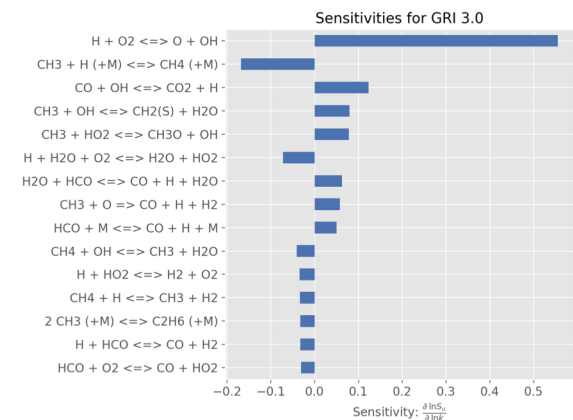
- Burner stabilized and propagating premixed flat flame
- Diffusion flame in counterflow configuration
- Premixed flame in counterflow configuration (strained)



# What can CANTERA do?

... but also in terms of analysis !

- ◆ Data extraction and post processing:
  - Temperature, Pressure, Mass Fractions ...
  - Path Flow analysis, sensitivity analysis
- ◆ Add surface chemistry and heat losses ...





# What is CANTERA ?

## ◆ CANTERA's history

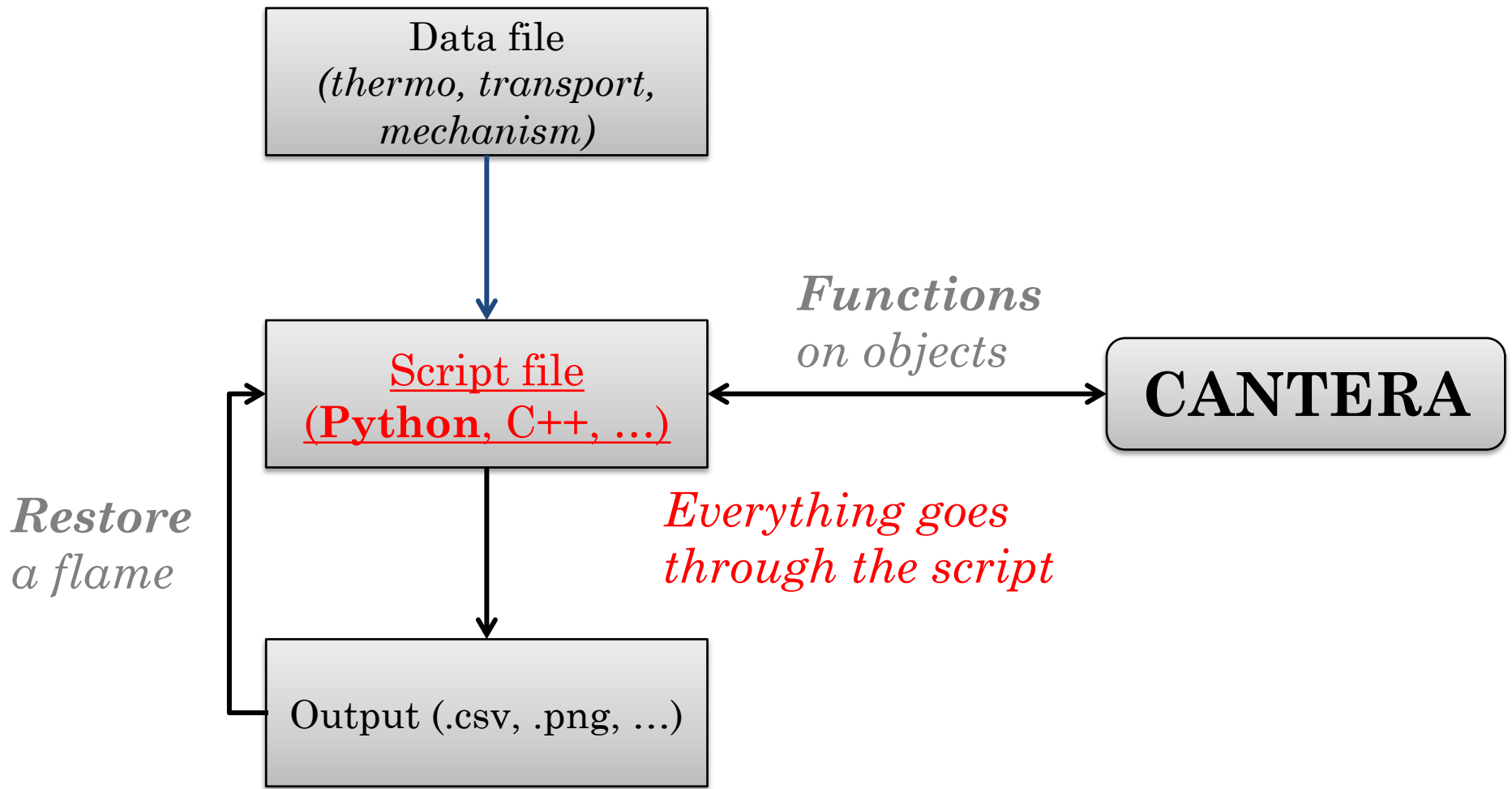
- We owe it all to **Dave Goodwin**, the original developer of Cantera whom made it available under BSD license.
- He started off with an extensive overhaul of the CHEMKIN suite ...
- ... to steer the modeling software towards an **object-oriented structure** with multiple interfaces (C++, Python, Matlab, FORTRAN).
- Currently, we are at the version **2.4.0** (*but we will use version 2.3 in this training*).



# What is CANTERA ?

- ◆ **CANTERA has the advantages of an object-oriented code (info in [appendix](#)):**
  - *Think of a Lego box* : it allows you to **form complex kinetic/thermodynamic systems, or networks from a set of « building blocks »**.
  - Each « building block » (or object) represents a well-defined small component of the global structure.
  - Those « building blocks » are defined and coded in C++, the core language of CANTERA ...
  - ... **CANTERA provides a user-friendly interface in Python** (or Matlab, or FORTRAN)

# What is CANTERA ?







# Why is it a good choice ?

- ✓ CANTERA has **most of the functionality of the familiar CHEMKIN-II** + additional capabilities (non-ideal phases, multiphase equilibrium, electrochemistry...) See [appendix](#) to know more the difference between CANTERA and CHEMKIN.
- ✓ **CANTERA can (re)use CHEMKIN files** (libraries, mechanisms ...).
- ✓ Users can interface with Cantera through Python, C++, the Matlab toolbox and Fortran as well : **no language excuse !**
- ✓ Those interfaces are only front ends; calculations are done in an optimized, compiled code that is really efficient and fast.
- ✓ **Basically, it is possible to create anything that pops into your head ...**



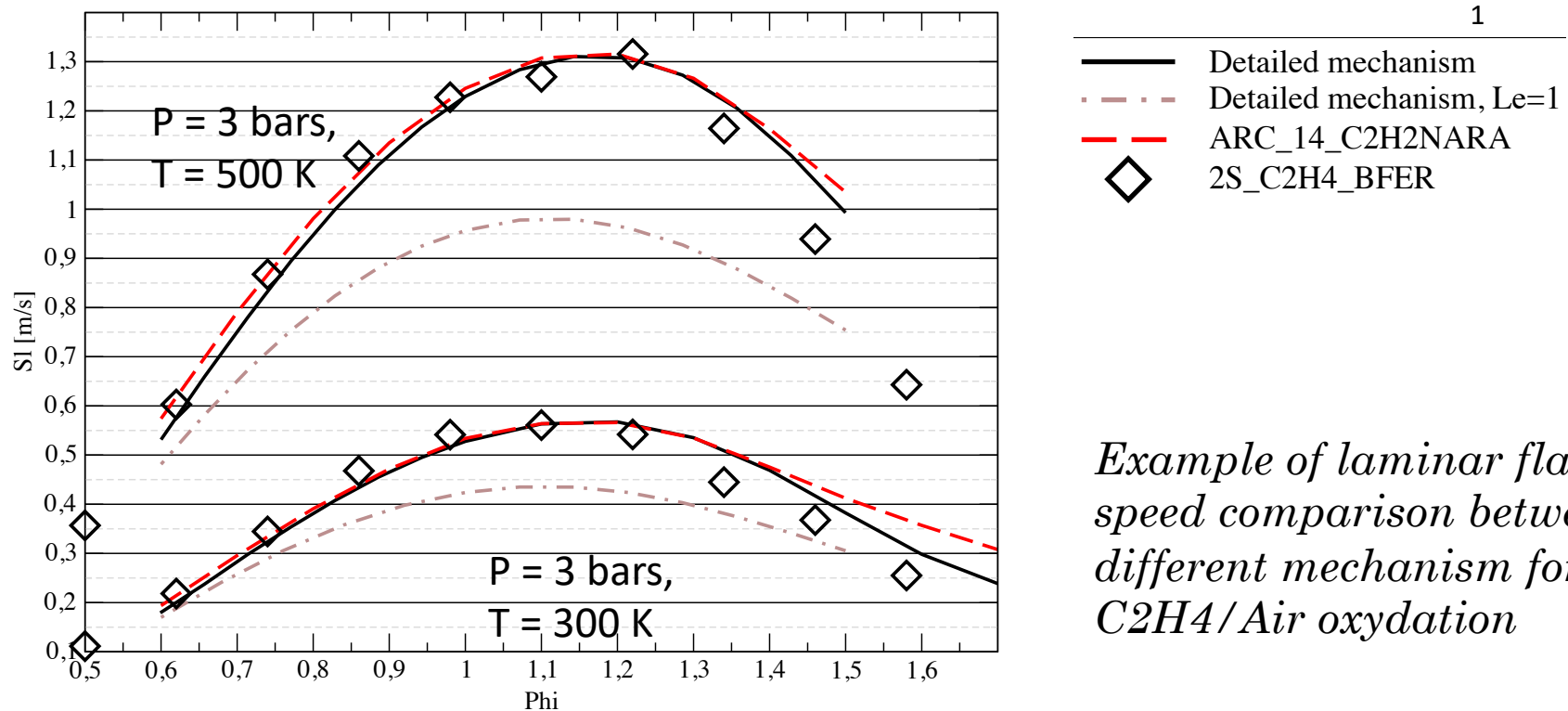
# Why is it a good choice ?

- ★ **On the downside** : CANTERA does not provide any robust documentation. Basically, everything that exists can be accessed through :  
<http://www.cantera.org>
- ✓ **But there is a big community of users**, they will help solve all bugs and scripting issues :  
**cantera google group**
- ✓ **CANTERA comes with a series of scripts and examples** in all of the interface languages :  
currently **in the folder ‘samples’**

# How will it be helpful to you ?

## 1. Validation phase

- ✓ Compare different chemistries with CANTERA, including skeletal and reduced chemistries, in a fast and efficient way.



*Example of laminar flame speed comparison between different mechanism for C2H4/Air oxydation*

<sup>1</sup> K. Narayanaswamy, G. Blanquart, H. Pitsch "A consistent chemical mechanism for oxidation of substituted aromatic species ". Combustion and Flame, Vol.157 pp. 1879–1898, 2010



# How will it be helpful to you ?

## 1. Validation phase

- ✓ **Simulate chemistry-related combustion features directly**
  - **Evaluate the impact of simplified transport model** (constant Schmidt number, fitted viscosity ...)
  - **Develop and test various combustion models.** At CERFACS, we use a flame front thickening option (DTFLES) in our CFD code AVBP
  - **Evaluate the effects of strain on flame behavior:** axisymmetric stagnation flows reduce to pseudo 1D simulations (counterflow flames)



# How will it be helpful to you ?

## 1. Validation phase

## 2. Reduce some chemistries

### ✓ Reduce chemistries

- **Implement your own via the main script** (Sensitivity Analysis, ...)
- **Extract relevant data for post processing** with reduction tools (ARCANE)





# How will it be helpful to you ?

## **1. Validation phase**

## **2. Reduce some chemistries**

## **3. Initialization phase for other codes**

- ✓ Use 1D profiles to initialize a simulation (CFD codes such as AVBP at CERFACS)
- ✓ Use 1D profiles to generate flamelet tables for use in CFD codes (Mutagen at CORIA)



# Content of the presentation

- I. Presentation of CANTERA
- II. Governing equations and numerical methods**
- III. Practical use
- IV. Installation



# Content of the presentation

## II. Governing equations and numerical methods

- 1) *(0D) Equilibrium equations*
- 2) *(0D in time) Usual reactors equations*
- 3) *(1D) Laminar premixed flame equations*



# Equilibrium calculations

*“The equilibrium state is that corresponding to a minimum of a property called the energy function under specified conditions”*

Cantera related pages : <https://cantera.org/tutorials/python-tutorial.html> / <https://cantera.org/tutorials/cxx-guide/equil-example.html>



# Governing equations

## *Equilibrium equations*

*“The equilibrium state is that corresponding to a minimum of a property called the energy function under specified conditions”*

- ◆ Several methods exist, based on different energy functions.
- ◆ Usually, **the Gibbs free energy function is used, with two constant quantities**
- ◆ 2 different methods exist :
  - **Non-stoichiometric methods** where the conservation of mass is treated separately
  - **Stoichiometric methods**, more robust but slower
- ◆ CANTERA tries a non-stoichiometric method first, and turns to a stoichiometric method (VCS algorithm<sup>2</sup>) if it fails.

<sup>1</sup> C.H.Wong ,“Chemical equilibrium analysis of combustion products at constant volume”, 2001

<sup>2</sup> Smith, W.R. and Missen, R.W. “Chemical Reaction Equilibrium Analysis: Theory and Algorithms”, 1982



## The non-stoichiometric method

Once the  $\lambda_l$  are determined, since **T & P are constant**, the mole fractions are automatically deduced.

$$\mu_k = \sum_{l=1}^L \lambda_l n_{kl} \Rightarrow X_k = \frac{P_o}{P} \exp\left(-\frac{g_k^0(T)}{RT} + \sum_{l=1}^L n_{kl} \frac{\lambda_l}{RT}\right)$$

- **General procedure** (see [appendix](#) for details) :
  - The  $g_k^0$  are tabulated.
  - The user provides a guess for enough (L) $X_k$  - with the knowledge that  $\sum_{k=1}^L X_k = 1$
  - The chemical potential of the elemental species per atom  $\lambda_l$  are calculated (see appendix).
  - The unknown  $X_k$  are calculated with those estimated  $\lambda_l$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^L X_k = 1$  is evaluated.
  - If  $\sum_{k=1}^L X_k = 1$  is « too far » from 1, a new guess for the  $X_k$  is provided and the procedure reiterates with well chosen (L) $X_k$ .

*(Note: no need to provide reactions information !)*

## Adiabatic flame temperature

Equilibrium calculation are also possible maintaining other quantities constant  
Ex: **H** and **P** constant, through a loop on **T**

$$X_k = \frac{P_o}{P} \exp\left(-\frac{g_k^0(T)}{RT} + \sum_{l=1}^L n_{kl} \frac{\lambda_l}{RT}\right)$$

and

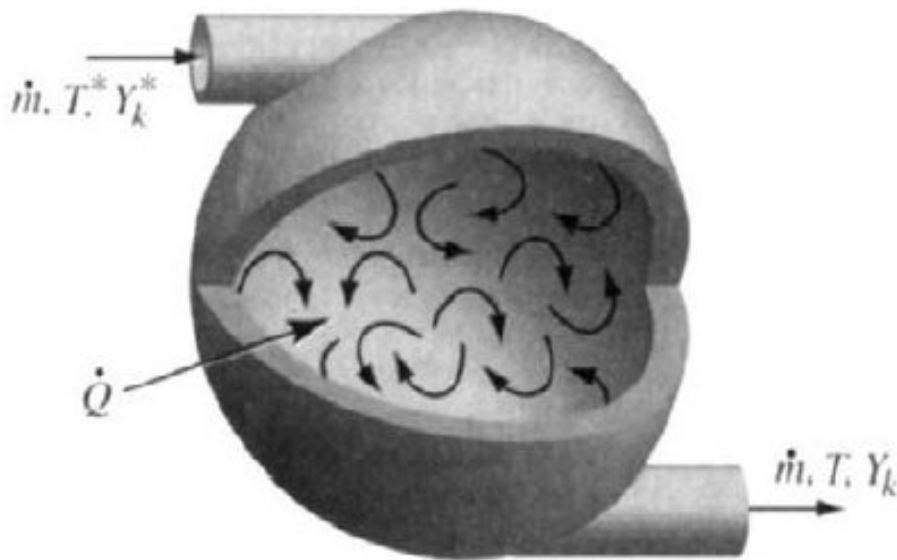
$$\Delta H = 0$$

Using **H** at initial conditions

$$H = \int_{T_0}^T C_p dT + \sum_{k=1}^K X_k H_{f,k}^{0,m}, \quad C_p = \sum_{k=1}^K X_k C_{p,k}^m$$

→ Gives the **gas composition** and the **adiabatic flame temperature**.

# Batch and Stirred Reactor equations<sup>3</sup>



Conceptual illustration of a continuously stirred tank reactor.

## Initial state

- Hydrogen / Air mixture
- Initial T
- Initial V
- Constant P
- Adiabatic environment



<sup>3</sup> Picture from Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16  
Cantera related page : <https://cantera.org/science/reactors.html>



# Governing equations *Batch and Stirred Reactor*<sup>34</sup>

The **state variables** for Cantera's general reactor model are

- $m$ , the mass of the reactor's contents
- $V$ , the reactor's volume
- $U$ , the total internal energy of the reactor's contents
- $Y_k$ , the mass fractions for each species

- Reactor Volume: 
$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \sum_w f_w A_w v_w(t)$$

Where :

- $A_w$  is the wall Area
- $v_w(t)$  is the velocity of the wall
- $f_w = \pm 1$  is the wall facing

- Mass Conservation: 
$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \sum_{in} \dot{m}_{in} - \sum_{out} \dot{m}_{out} + \dot{m}_{wall}$$

Where  $\dot{m}_{in,out}$  are inlets and outlets mass flow rate and  $\dot{m}_{wall}$  stands for the production of homogeneous phase species on the reactor walls.

<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16

<sup>4</sup> <http://cantera.github.io/docs/sphinx/html/reactors.html>



# Governing equations *Batch and Stirred Reactor*<sup>34</sup>

The **state variables** for Cantera's general reactor model are

- $m$ , the mass of the reactor's contents
- $V$ , the reactor's volume
- $U$ , the total internal energy of the reactor's contents
- $Y_k$ , the mass fractions for each species

- Species conservation:

$$\frac{d(mY_k)}{dt} = \sum_{in} \dot{m}_{in} Y_{k,in} - \sum_{out} \dot{m}_{out} Y_k + \dot{m}_{k,gen}$$

Where

$\dot{m}_{k,gen}$  is the rate at which species  $k$  is generated through homogeneous phase reactions in the reactor and on the walls

- Energy Conservation (*reactor case*) :

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = -p \frac{dV}{dt} - \dot{Q} + \sum_{in} \dot{m}_{in} h_{in} - h \sum_{out} \dot{m}_{out}$$

Where  $\dot{Q}$  is the total rate of heat transfer through all walls

<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16

<sup>4</sup> <http://cantera.github.io/docs/sphinx/html/reactors.html>



# Governing equations *Batch and Stirred Reactor*<sup>34</sup>

## Resulting system of Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE) :

- Usually stiff
- Integrated for a user-specified timestep by the Sundials' solver CVODE.

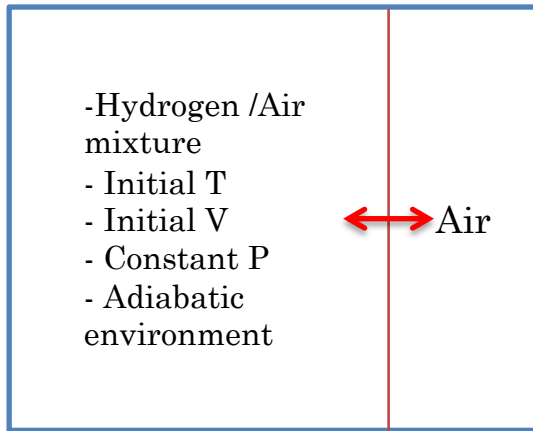
→ **Gives the temporal evolution of the quantities inside a vessel**

<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg , "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16

<sup>4</sup> <http://cantera.github.io/docs/sphinx/html/reactors.html>

## *The constant pressure batch reactor*

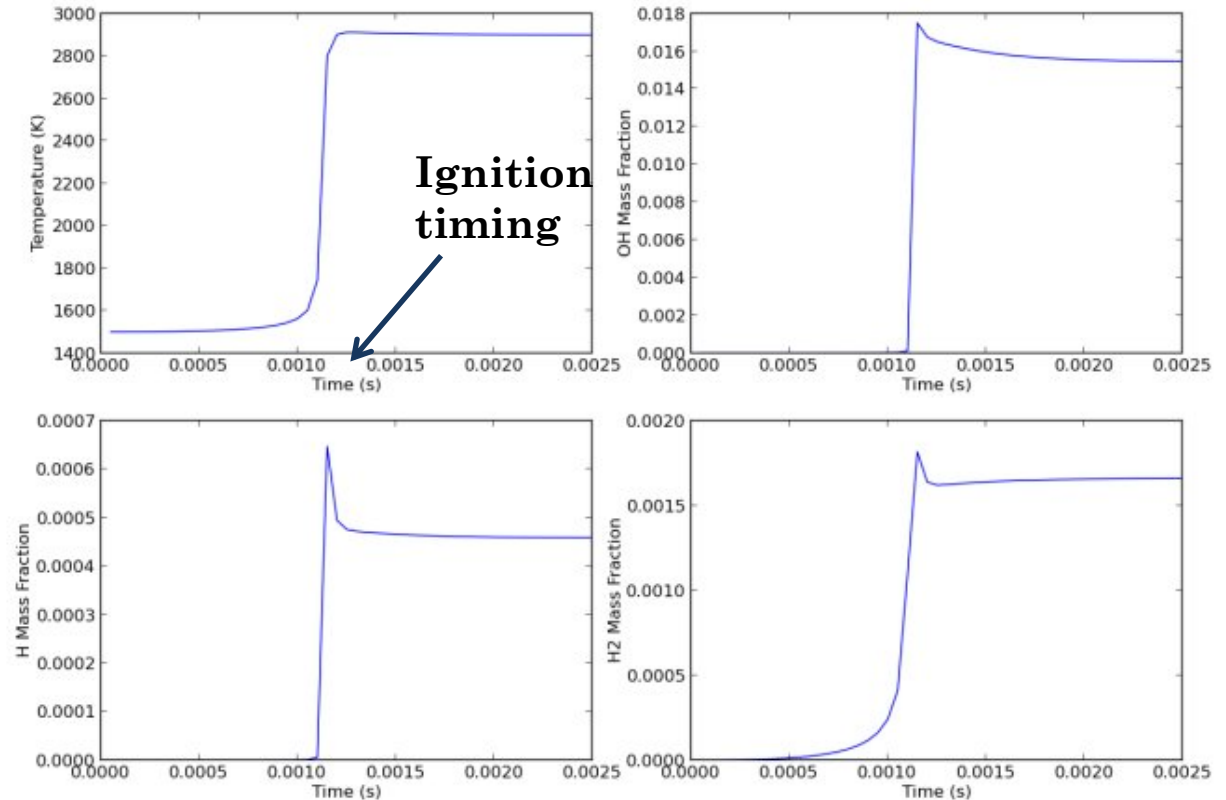
Initial state



Separating moveable wall,  
to keep a constant P

*A « piston-like » system*

Time evolution of the state with CANTERA

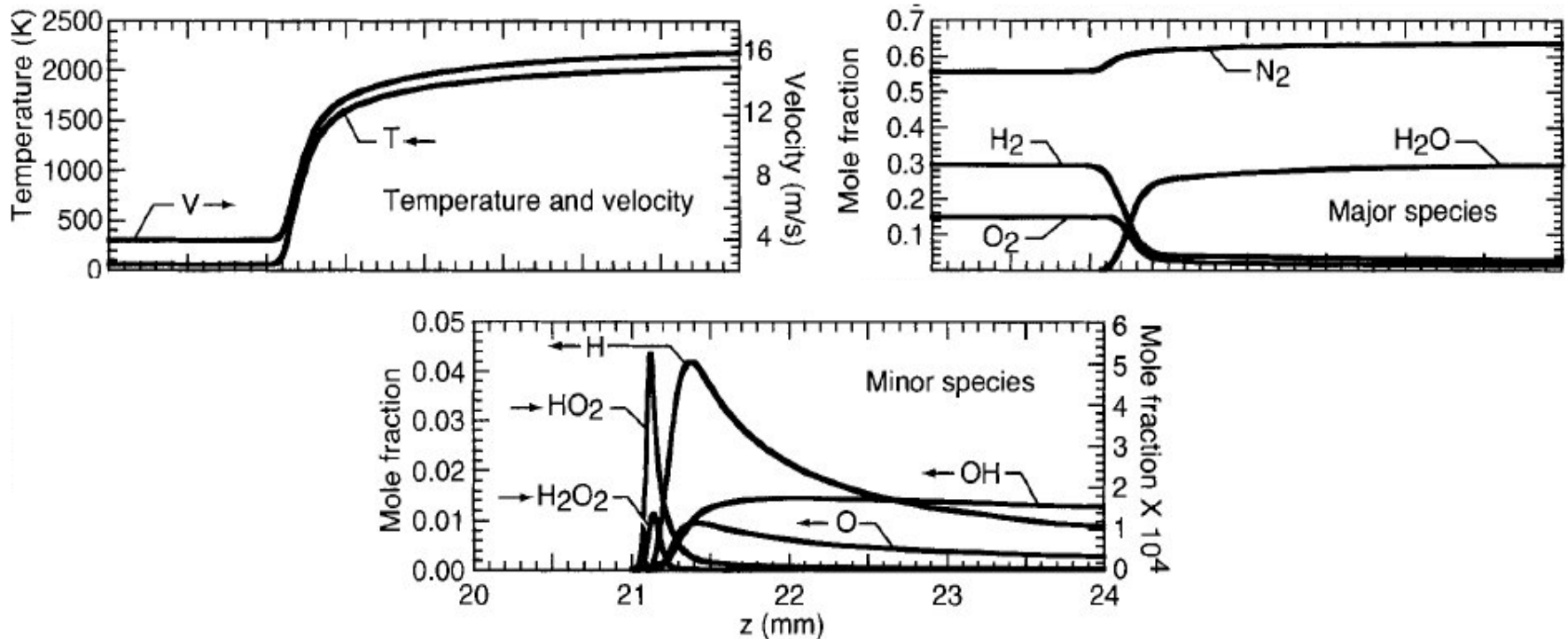


<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16

<sup>4</sup> <http://cantera.github.io/docs/sphinx/html/reactors.html>

# 1D computations equations

## *Example : Laminar premixed flame equations*



Computed solution to an atmospheric-pressure, freely propagating, stoichiometric, premixed, hydrogen-air, flat flame.

Picture from Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 3  
Cantera related page : <https://cantera.org/science/flames.html>



# Governing equations *Laminar Premixed Flame*

For a steady laminar premixed flame, we consider **3+K equations**, derived from the general conservation equations for perfect gas in cylindrical coordinates<sup>3</sup>:

## Steady-state version

State	$\rho = \frac{p\bar{W}}{RT}$	$\bar{W}$ , is the <i>mean molecular weight</i> of the mixture
Continuity	$\frac{\partial \rho u}{\partial z} = 0$	$\dot{\omega}_k$ , is the <i>molar production rate</i> of species k
Species	$\rho \frac{\partial Y_k}{\partial t} + \rho u \frac{\partial Y_k}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial j_{k,z}}{\partial z} + \dot{\omega}_k W_k$	$j_{k,z}$ , is the <i>diffusive mass flux vector</i> of species k
Energy	$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho u c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) - \sum_{k=1}^K c_{p,k} j_{k,z} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} - \sum_{k=1}^K h_k \dot{\omega}_k W_k$	$c_p$ , is the <i>mass averaged specific heat</i>
		$c_{p,k}$ , is the <i>specific heat of species k</i>
		$\lambda$ , is the <i>thermal conductivity</i>
		$z$ , is the <i>spatial coordinate</i>

<sup>3</sup> Robert J. Kee, Michael E. Coltrin and Peter Glarborg, "Chemically Reacting Flow: Theory and Practice", 2003 – chap 16



## Numerical Resolution

The *steady state* version of the previous equations (1D flames) are discretized on a generally **non uniform mesh**, if needed.

$$\left[ \frac{dT}{dx} \right]_j = \frac{T_j - T_{j-1}}{x_j - x_{j-1}}$$

*Example with the windward difference in space*

Let's introduce

- **the discretized solution vector  $\mathbf{y}$**  (density, velocity, mole fractions and temperature at each space point)
- **the equation vector  $\mathbf{F}$**  (the 3+K conservation equations).
- **the discretized residual  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{y})$**  at each space point.

The computational problem consists of **finding the smallest residual  $F$** , (at all space points  $j \dots$ ).

$$F(y) = 0$$

with  $y = (solution\_vector\_pt1, \dots, solution\_vector\_ptJ)$

**A Damped modified Newton solver with internal time integration**  
is used  
(but then, transient terms are needed)

Convergence relies on the **initial estimate,  $y^0$** ,  
**usually provided by equilibrium calculation**  
at the inlet temperature  $T_1^0$  and pressure  $P_1^0$ .

# Governing equations

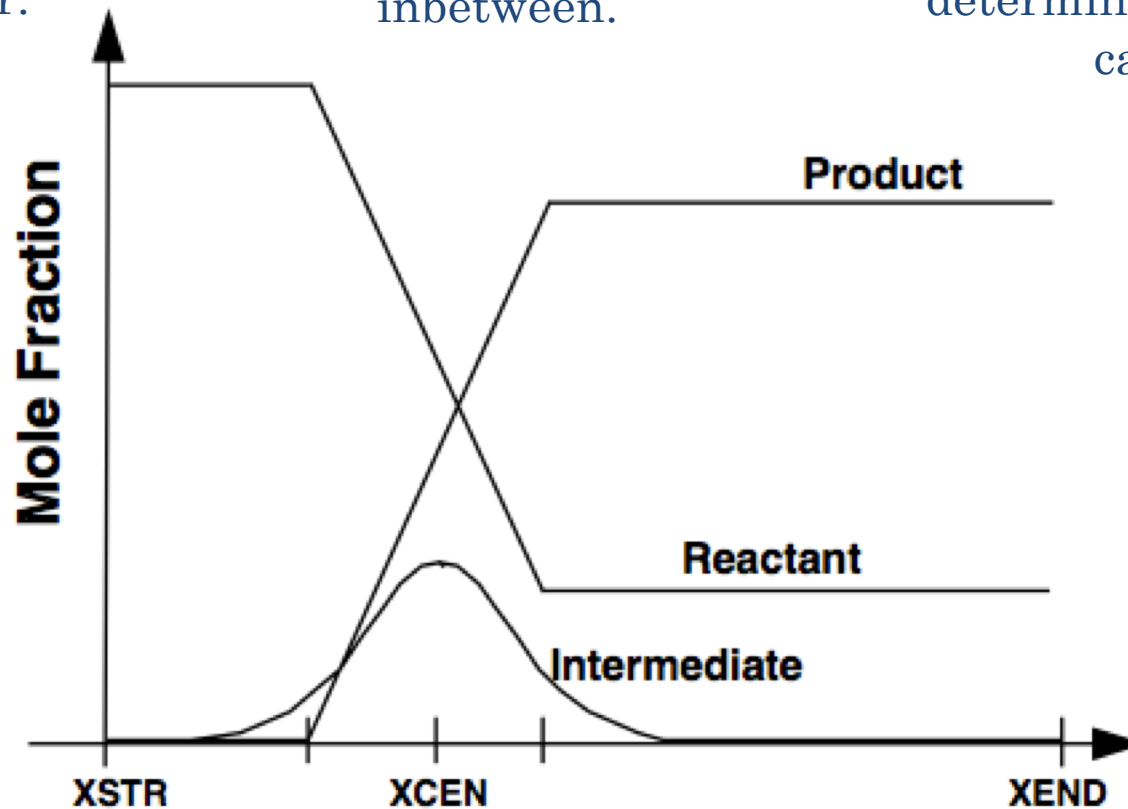
## *Numerical Resolution*

An initial  $y^0$  is required.

**Inlet composition,**  
set by user.

**Linear profile,**  
inbetween.

**Outlet composition,**  
determined by equilibrium  
calculation.





# Governing equations

## *Numerical Resolution*

### A **Damped modified** Newton solver **with internal time integration**

The **Newton solver** is : the method used by Cantera to solve the system and try to find the solution.

It is **damped** because a damping coefficient is added to help for the convergence.

It is **with internal integration** as an “artificial temporal term” is added to help for the convergence if the damping failed.



### The Newton solver

What we seek at point  $m$  is  $F(y) = 0$

which is used to iterate 
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = \frac{0 - F(y^m)}{y^{m+1} - y^m}$$

or in other words

$$y^{m+1} = y^m - \left[ \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right]_{y^m}^{-1} F(y^m)$$

- **Convergence is reached when  $\Delta y^m = y^{m+1} - y^m$  becomes negligibly small.**
- The mesh might be automatically refined in the region of high gradients

## The **Damped modified** Newton solver

Evaluating the Jacobian matrices

$$\left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right)_{y^m} = J^m$$

is a **time consuming process**, so it is not done at each iteration

The solver evaluates the Jacobian each specified number of iteration step and inbetween

$$(J^m)^{-1} = \lambda^m \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right)_{y^k}^{-1} = \lambda^m (J^k)^{-1}; \quad 1 < k \leq m \quad 0 < \boxed{\lambda^m} \leq 1 \quad \text{Scaling parameter}$$

so that the problem becomes

$$\boxed{(J^k) \Delta y^m = -\lambda^m F(y^m)}$$

### The **Damped modified** Newton solver

$$F(y) = 0$$

$$(J^k) \Delta y^m = -\lambda^m F(y^m)$$

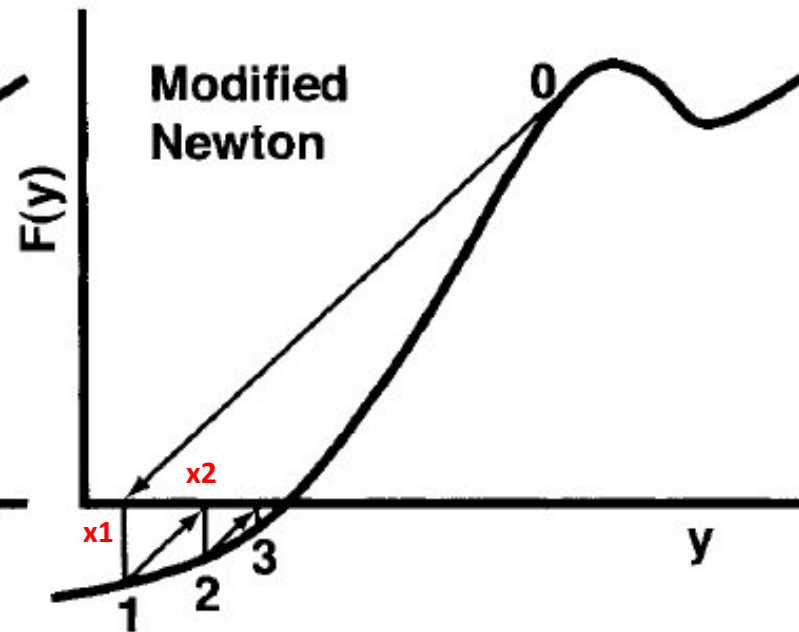
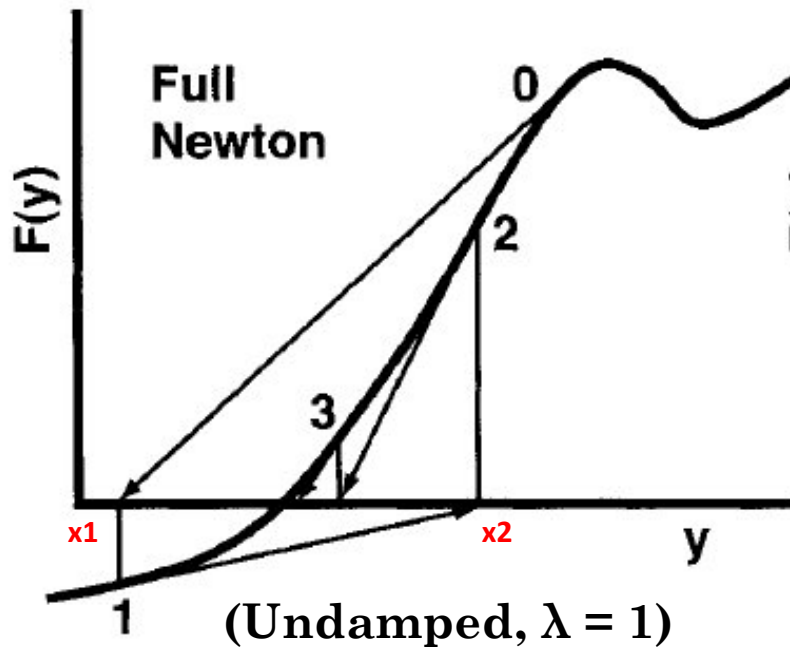


Illustration of the full Newton and modified Newton algorithm



### The **Damped modified** Newton solver

$$(J^k) \Delta y^m = -\lambda^m F(y^m)$$

The  $\lambda^m$  must satisfy the condition that the subsequent undamped step be smaller.

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta y^{m+1}| &\leq |\Delta y^m| \\ |(J^m)^{-1} F(y^{m+1})| &\leq |(J^m)^{-1} F(y^m)| \end{aligned}$$

If not verified  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{another damping parameter is tested} \\ \text{a new Jacobian is computed} \end{array} \right.$

`set_max_jac_age`

### The Damped modified Newton solver with internal time integration

Whenever both damping parameters and the new Jacobian fail :

- *Transient equations* are used  $F(y_{t=n+1}) = \frac{y_{t=n+1} - y_{t=n}}{\Delta t}$
- Time derivatives are approximated by **first-order, implicit backwards finite differences schemes.**

- Time steps are specified by the user  $\Delta t = h$

- Same Newton method to solve the system of equations **for each time step**

$$G(y) = F(y) - \frac{dy}{dt} = 0 \quad \left( J - \frac{I}{h} \right) (y_{n+1} - y_n) = -G(y_n)$$

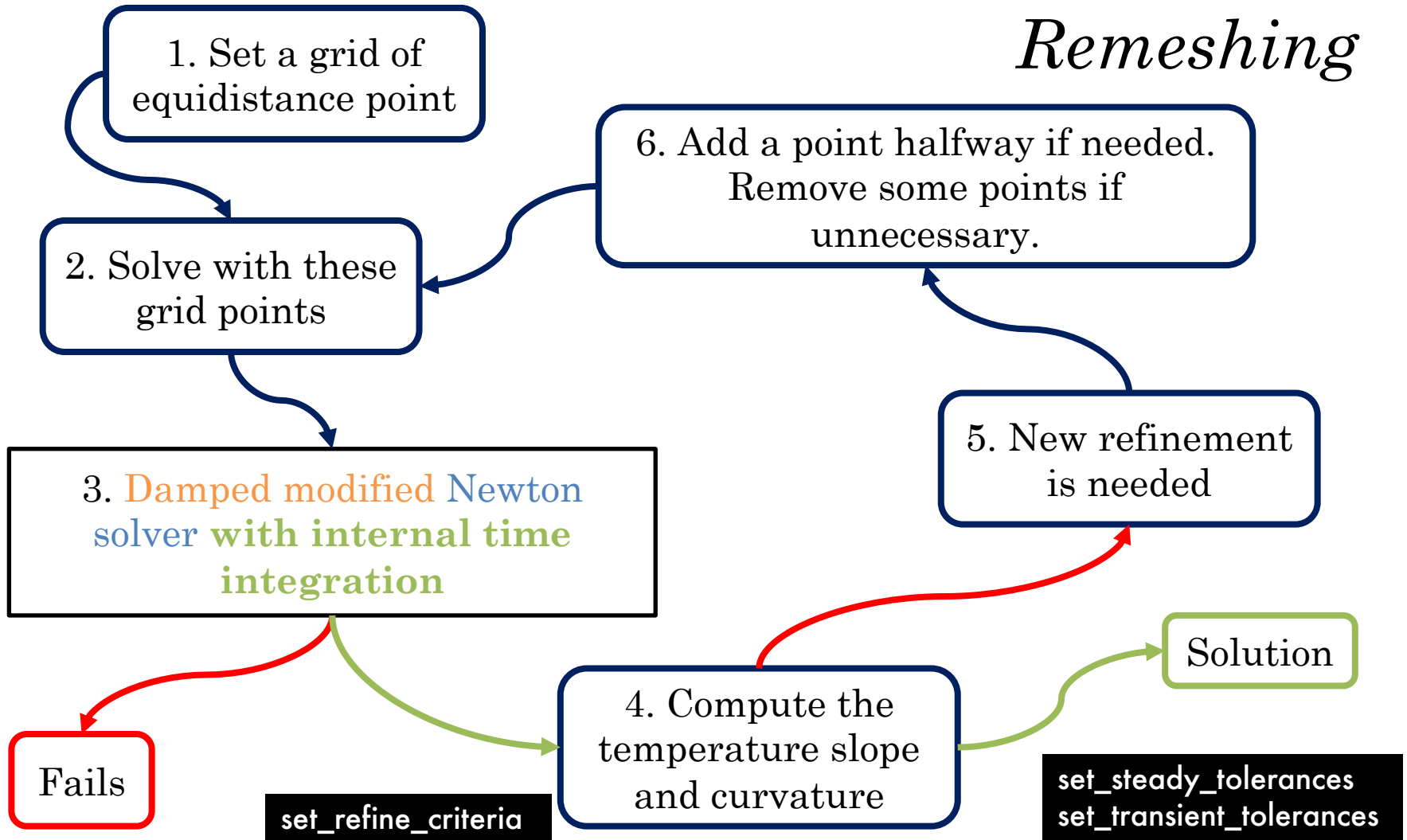
- The new  $y$  is used **as a new starting estimate** for the steady state problem

`set_time_step`

# Governing equations

## *Numerical Resolution*

### *Remeshing*

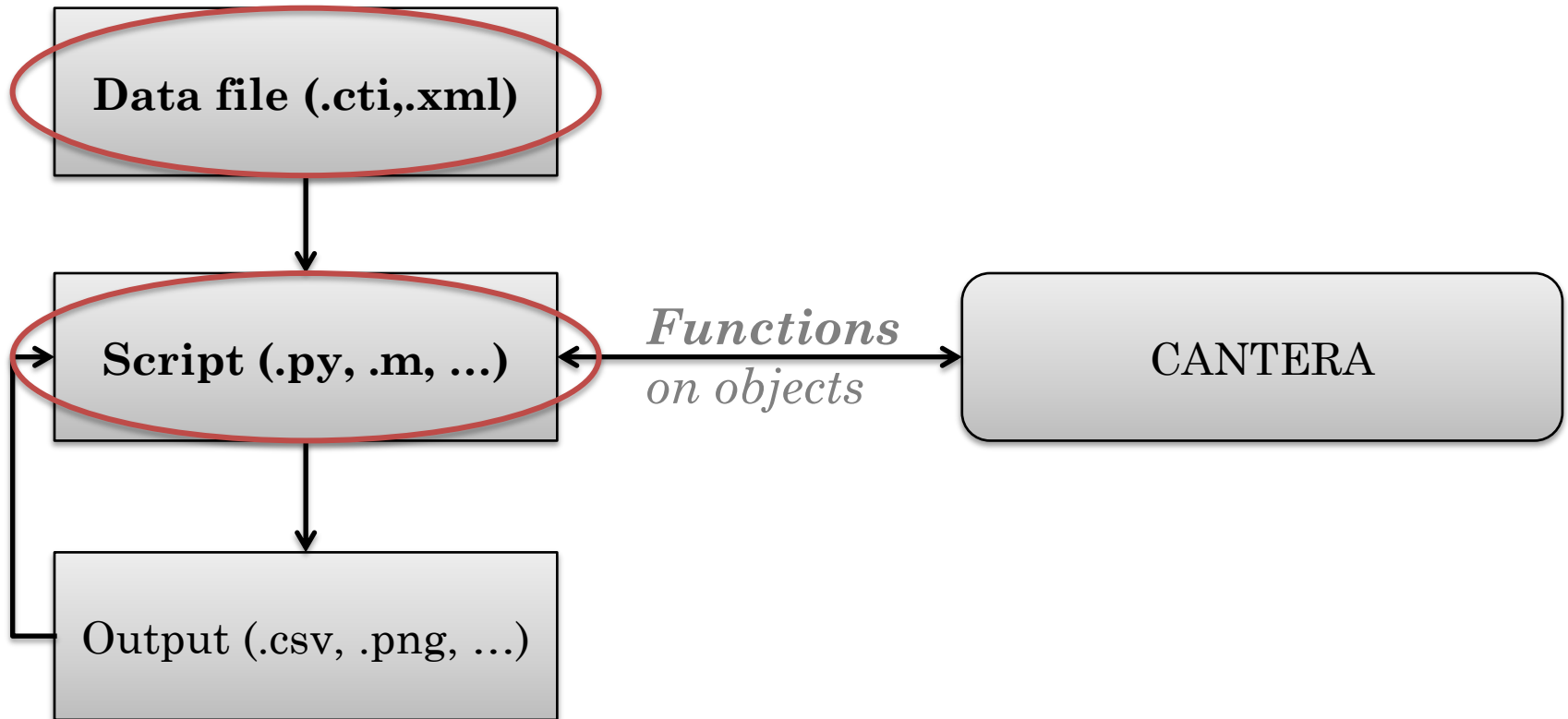




# Content of the presentation

- I. Presentation of CANTERA
- II. Governing equations and numerical methods
- III. Practical use**
- IV. Installation

What do you need to run Cantera ?



- ◆ Where do you find the data file ?
  - From CHEMKIN ('mech.inp', 'therm.dat' & 'trans.dat') via the tool ck2cti.
  - From a dataset provided with CANTERA (air, GRIMech, ...).
  - You can generate it by hand.
- ◆ And the script ?
  - You generate it from « building blocks ».



## What is a data file (format '.cti') ?

It contains information about :

- **Phases and interfaces** (species involved, thermo and transport models ...)
- **Elements and species data**
- **Reaction data** (expression, rate coefficients, pressure dependence, ...)
- [Appendix](#) gives you information about technical keywords

# Practical use

## Data file

```
#
# Generated from file MecaUCSDsandiego.mec
# by ck2cti on Wed Jul 29 17:08:40 2009
#
# Transport data from file transUCSD.inp.

units(length = "cm", time = "s", quantity = "mol", act_energy = "cal/mol")

ideal_gas(name = "gas",
  elements = " N Ar He H O C ",
  species = "" N2 AR HE H O2 OH O H2 H2O H02
             H2O2 CO CO2 HCO CH2O CH4 CH3 T-CH2 S-CH2 C2H4
             CH3O C2H5 C2H6 CH C2H2 C2H3 CH2CHO C2H4O CH2CO HCCO
             C2H CH2OH CH3OH C3H4 C3H3 C3H5 C3H6 C3H8 I-C3H7 N-C3H7
             """,
  reactions = "all",
  transport = "Mix",
  initial_state = state(temperature = 300.0,
                        pressure = OneAtm) )

#-----
# Species data
#-----

species(name = "N2",
  atoms = " N:2 ",
  thermo = (
    NASA( [ 300.00, 1000.00], [ 3.298677000E+00, 1.408240400E-03,
                              -3.963222000E-06, 5.641515000E-09, -2.444854000E-12,
                              -1.020899900E+03, 3.950372000E+00] ),
    NASA( [ 1000.00, 5000.00], [ 2.926640000E+00, 1.487976800E-03,
                              -5.684760000E-07, 1.009703800E-10, -6.753351000E-15,
                              -9.227977000E+02, 5.980528000E+00] )
  ),
  transport = gas_transport(
    geom = "linear",
    diam = 3.62,
    well_depth = 97.53,
    polar = 1.76,
    rot_relax = 4.00),
  note = "121286"
)
```

Units

Phase data

Species N<sub>2</sub>  
data

thermo

transport



```
#-----  
# Species data  
#-----  
  
species(name = "N2",  
        atoms = " N:2 "  
        thermo = (  
          NASA( [ 300.00, 1000.00], [ 3.298677000E+00, 1.408240400E-03,  
            -3.963222000E-06, 5.641515000E-09, -2.444854000E-12,  
            -1.020899900E+03, 3.950372000E+00] ),  
          NASA( [ 1000.00, 5000.00], [ 2.926640000E+00, 1.487976800E-03,  
            -5.684760000E-07, 1.009703800E-10, -6.753351000E-15,  
            -9.227977000E+02, 5.980528000E+00] )  
        ),  
        transport = gas_transport(  
          geom = "linear",  
          diam = 3.62,  
          well_depth = 97.53,  
          polar = 1.76,  
          rot_relax = 4.00),  
        note = "121286"  
    )
```

NASA7

There can be other definitions but this one is the most popular.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{C_p}{R} = a_1 + a_2 T + a_3 T^2 + a_4 T^3 + a_5 T^4 \\ \frac{H}{RT} = a_1 + a_2 \frac{T}{2} + a_3 \frac{T^2}{3} + a_4 \frac{T^3}{4} + a_5 \frac{T^4}{4} + \frac{a_6}{T} \\ \frac{S}{R} = a_1 \ln(T) + a_2 T + a_3 \frac{T^2}{2} + a_4 \frac{T^3}{3} + a_5 \frac{T^4}{4} + a_7 \end{array} \right.$$

Cantera link : <https://cantera.org/science/science-species.html>

## Reactions Data

$$k_f = A T^b e^{-E/RT}$$

```
#-----  
# Reaction data  
#-----  
  
# Reaction 1  
reaction( "H + O2 <=> OH + O", [3.52000E+16, -0.7, 17069.8])  
  
# Reaction 2  
reaction( "H2 + O <=> OH + H", [5.06000E+04, 2.67, 6290.63])  
  
# Reaction 3  
reaction( "H2 + OH <=> H2O + H", [1.17000E+09, 1.3, 3635.28])  
  
# Reaction 4  
reaction( "H2O + O <=> 2 OH", [7.60000E+00, 3.84, 12779.6])  
  
# Reaction 5  
three_body_reaction( "H + O + M <=> OH + M", [4.71000E+18, -1, 0],  
efficiencies = " AR:0.75 CO:1.9 CO2:3.8 H2:2.5 H2O:12 HE:0.75 ")
```

```
units(length = "cm", time = "s", quantity = "mol", act_energy = "cal/mol")
```

```
#-----  
# Reaction data  
#-----
```

$$k_f = A T^b e^{-E/RT}$$

```
# Reaction 1  
reaction( "H + O2 <=> OH + O", [3.52000E+16, -0.7, 17069.8])
```

Depends on  
the order of  
the reaction

-

Cal/mol

Here :  $\omega_{f,j} = k_f [O_2][H]$

So the order is 2 and the unit is :  
 $[\text{mol}/\text{m}^3/\text{s}]/[\text{mol}/\text{m}^3]^2 = [\text{mol}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}]$

More data on the type of equations can be found in [appendix](#).

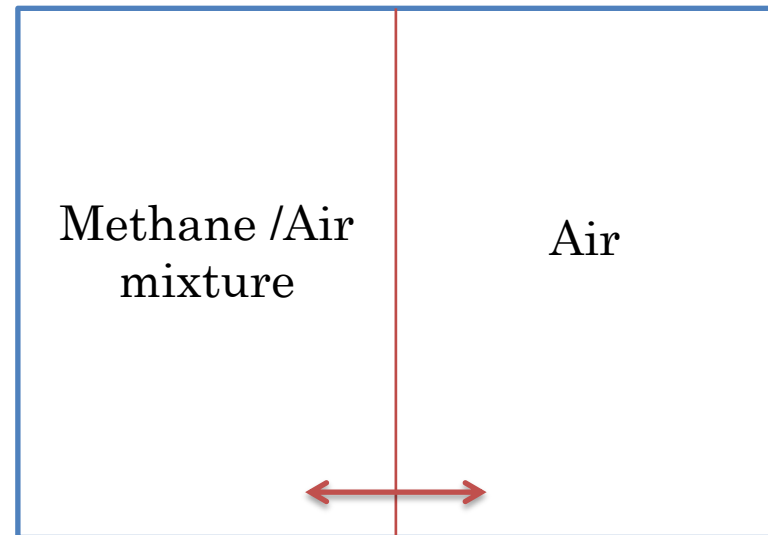
## Example

# The constant pressure batch reactor

It is composed of 5 main  
« building blocks »

- 2 Reactors
- Methane-air mixture
- Non reactive air mixture
- Moveable wall

They form a constant  
pressure reactor !



Separating  
moveable wall

*The piston-cylinder system*

## The constant pressure batch reactor

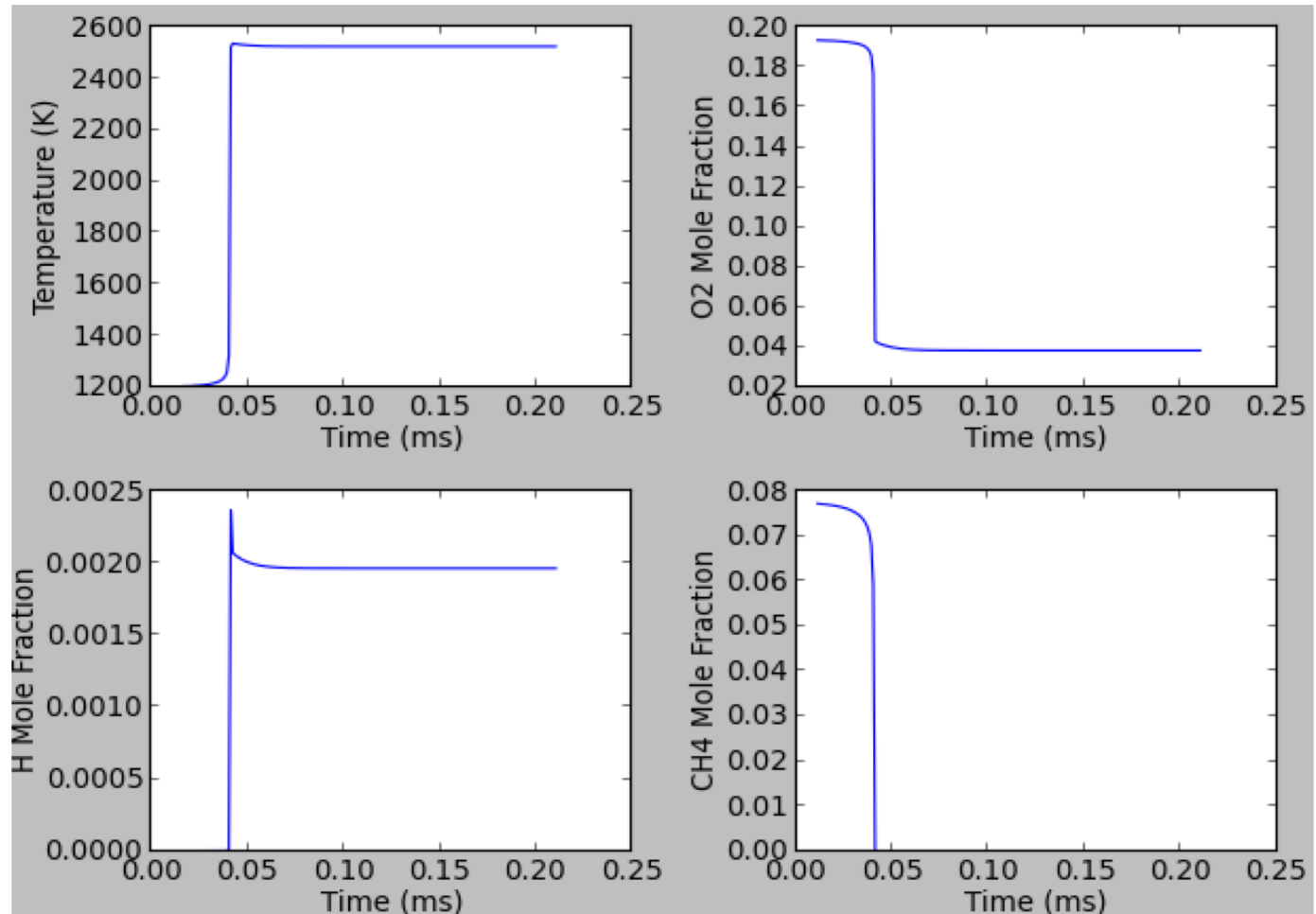
*What does  
it look like,  
« program-wise » ?*

**Building  
blocks**

```
""" Constant pressure reactor '.py' script. """  
  
#Mechanism used for the methane-air mixture  
cti = importPhase('gri30.cti')  
#Set initial conditions  
cti.set(T = 1200, P = 1, X = 'CH4:0.40, O2:1, N2:3.76')  
# Create the batch reactor  
r = Reactor(cti)  
  
#Create a reactor for the environment containing air at  
#atmospheric conditions  
env = Reservoir(Air())  
  
# Define a wall between the reactor and the environment, and  
# make it flexible, so that the pressure in the reactor is held  
# at the environment pressure.  
w = Wall(r,env)  
w.set(K = 1.0e6) # set expansion parameter  
w.set(A = 1.0) # set wall area  
  
# Now create a reactor network consisting of the single batch  
reactor  
# Reason: the only way to advance reactors in time is through a  
sim = ReactorNet([r])
```

## The constant pressure batch reactor

*What will  
you observe ?*





- **Github**

<https://github.com/Cantera/cantera>

- **Google Groups page for Cantera**

<http://groups.google.com/group/cantera-users>

- **Cantera SourceForge Page**

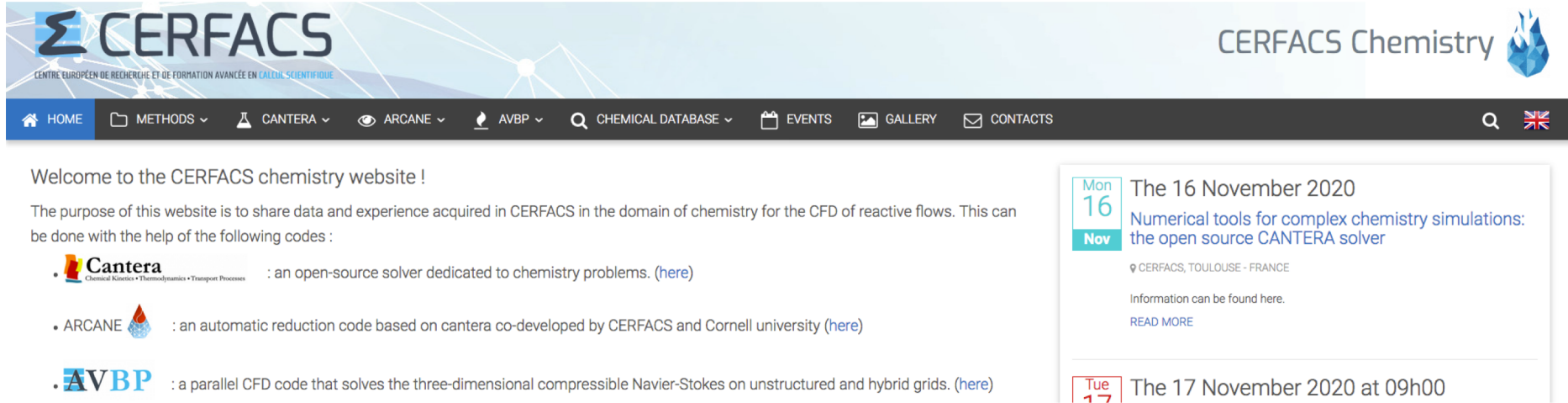
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/cantera/files/>

To download all Cantera versions, source code  
or (Windows) binaries and find more  
documentation.

# Practical use

## Helpful links

CERFACS CANTERA website : <https://chemistry.cerfacs.fr>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the CERFACS Chemistry website. At the top left is the CERFACS logo with the text 'CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE RECHERCHE ET DE FORMATION AVANCÉE EN CALCUL SCIENTIFIQUE'. To the right is the 'CERFACS Chemistry' logo with a blue flame icon. Below the logos is a dark navigation bar with links for HOME, METHODS, CANTERA, ARCANE, AVBP, CHEMICAL DATABASE, EVENTS, GALLERY, and CONTACTS. A search icon and a UK flag are also present. The main content area starts with a welcome message: 'Welcome to the CERFACS chemistry website !'. Below this is a paragraph explaining the website's purpose: 'The purpose of this website is to share data and experience acquired in CERFACS in the domain of chemistry for the CFD of reactive flows. This can be done with the help of the following codes :'. Three items are listed: Cantera (an open-source solver), ARCANE (an automatic reduction code), and AVBP (a parallel CFD code). On the right side, there is a calendar widget showing the date 'Mon 16 Nov' and a news item titled 'The 16 November 2020 Numerical tools for complex chemistry simulations: the open source CANTERA solver'. Below the calendar, it says 'The 17 November 2020 at 09h00'.

CERFACS knowledge and experience in chemistry for CFD in one website !!!

- **Chemical database** : Detailed, reduced and global kinetics mechanisms
- **Cantera** : CERFACS' version with installation walkthrough, scripts and tutorials
- **Private documentation** : ARCANE, AVBP
- **Events** : such as this training
- **CFD gallery** : nice pictures with great chemistry





# Content of the presentation

- I. Presentation of CANTERA
- II. Governing equations and numerical methods
- III. Practical use
- IV. Installation**



# Installing CANTERA

## Official versions

You can install CANTERA on both LINUX, Windows and Mac.

To install the official version, instructions can be found here  
<https://cantera.org/install/index.html>

The current version is Cantera 2.4.0.



# Installing CANTERA

## CERFACS versions

If you are from CERFACS get the sources with

```
git clone git@nitrox.cerfacs.fr:cantera/cantera-avbp.git
```

From outside, you can get them from :

<https://chemistry.cerfacs.fr/en/cantera-installation/>



# Installing CANTERA

The advised procedure for a local installation of the CERFACS Cantera version is

```
~/Codes$ cd cantera-avbp/  
~/Codes/cantera-avbp$ python install_cantera.py
```

The script is only valid for NFS machines installation and Mac OSX installation.



# Thank you for your attention !

**Any questions ?**

**Yes, please ask !**

**No, it's fine !**

**Tutorial time !!**



# Appendix

1. Cantera VS CHEMKIN
2. Detailed structure of Cantera
3. Gibbs function
4. Keywords in the cti format
5. Equations in the cti



# 1. Cantera VS CHEMKIN



# Cantera VS CHEMKIN

- ◆ Its possibilities are **comparable to the CHEMKIN-II suite** :

<b>CHEMKIN = a set of FORTRAN libraries</b>	<b>CANTERA = a set of C++ libraries</b>
3 input files (thermo / transport / mechanism)	1 « data file » (everything)
« Interpreter step » to generate the binary input file	
A driver to stir the program towards simulations ( <b><i>Keywords</i></b> )	A script to arrange « building blocks » into a simulation ( <b><i>Interface objects and functions</i></b> )
Outputs written by the libraries	Outputs generated by the language of the script (Python, C++, Matlab, FORTRAN)





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# Cantera VS CHEMKIN

◆ It's possible to

## CHEMKIN KEYWORD INPUT

/ flame configuration, burner stabilized with specified temperature

BURN

TGIV

3 inputs

/ in the event of a Newton failure, take 100 timesteps of 1.E-6

« Interpolated

TIME 100 1.00E-6

/ begin on a uniform mesh of 6 points

NPTS 6

A driven

/ definition of the computational interval

XEND 10.0

XCEN 5.0

WMIX 10.0

Output

/ pressure and inlet mass flow rate

PRES 0.0329 (atmospheres)

FLRT 4.63E-3 (g/cm\*\*2-sec)

**KEYWORDS**

I suite :

C++

locks »

bjects

ript's

lab,



# Cantera VS CHEMKIN

- ◆ It's possibilities are **comparable to the CHEMKIN-II suite** :

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# Cantera VS CHEMKIN

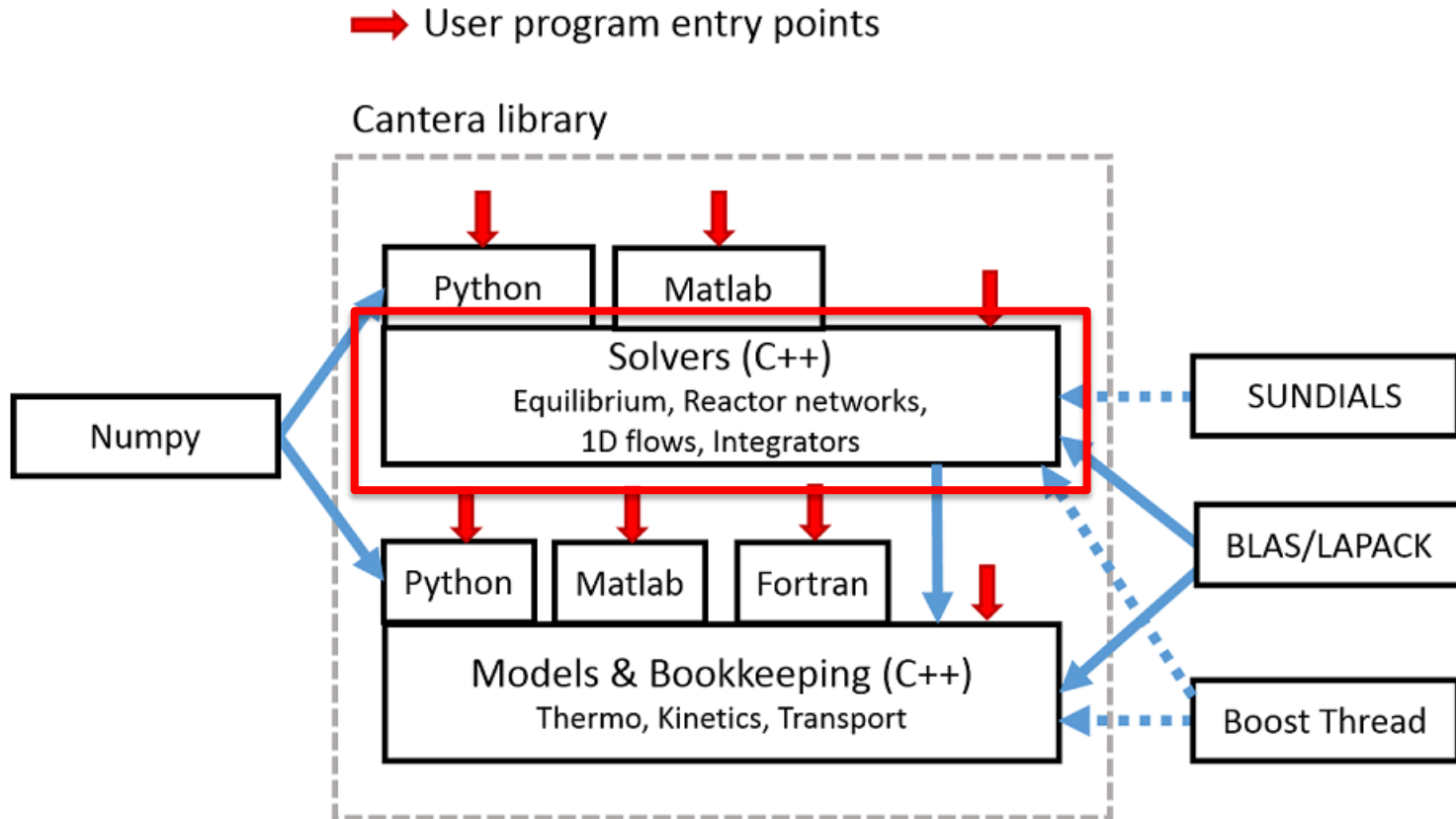
- ◆ It's possibilities are **comparable to the CHEMKIN-II suite** :

<b>CHEM</b>	
<b>FOR</b>	
3 input fil	""" Burner Stabilized flame '.py' script. """
« Interpret	initial_grid = [0.0, 0.0025, 0.005, 0.0075, 0.0099, 0.01]
b	<b>f</b> <b>OBJECTS</b> = ct.BurnerFlame(gas, initial_grid)
A driver to	f.burner.T = 400
simul	f.burner.X = reactants
	<b>f.burner.mdot</b> = 0.04 <b>FUNCTIONS</b>
Outputs v	



## 2. Detailed structure of Cantera

# Structure of CANTERA





# Structure of CANTERA

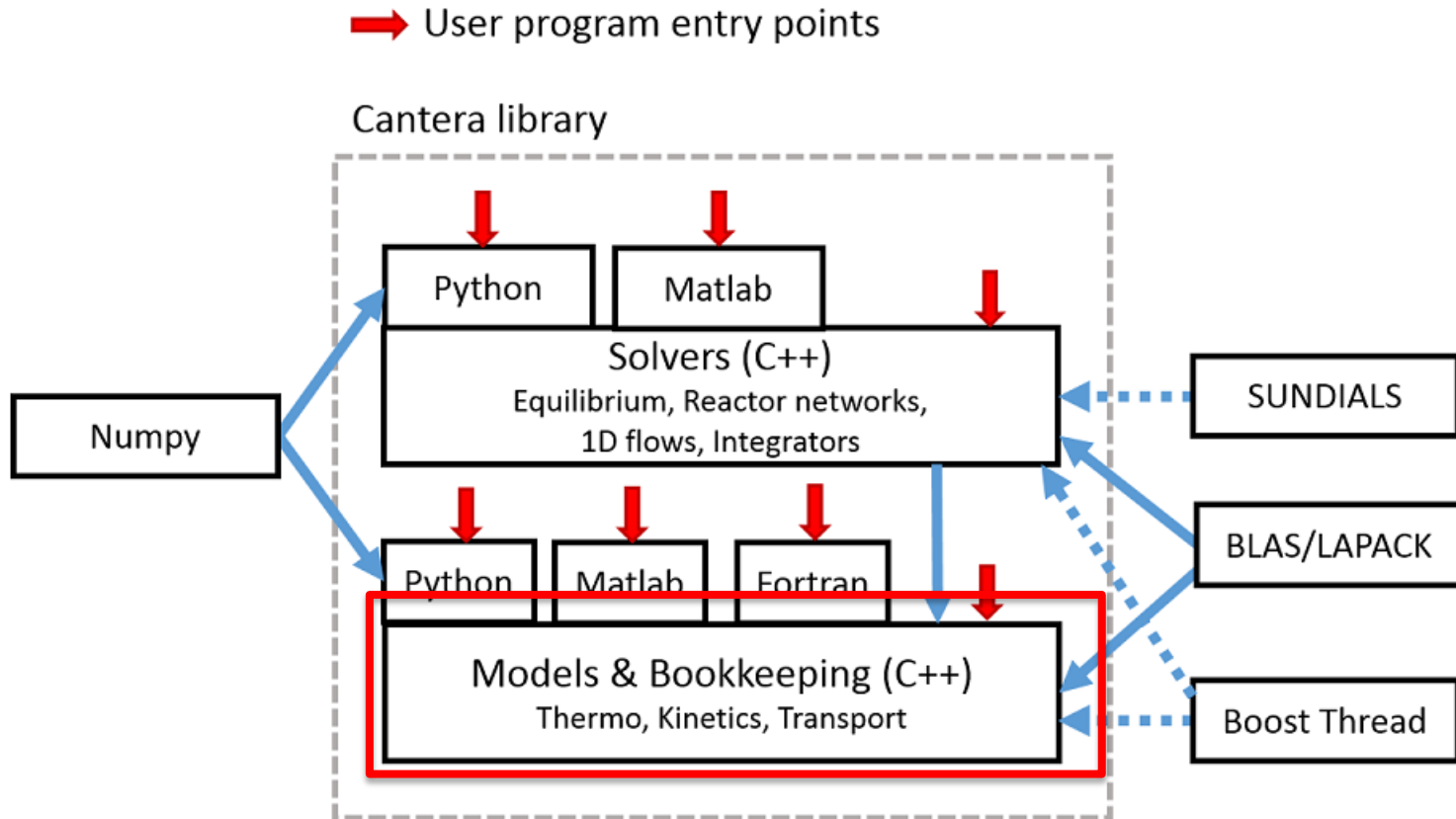
## The « Solver » layer

Usually hidden from the user, and **borrowed from famous « free » libraries (LAPACK, BLAS, ...)** to perform

- ◆ Equilibrium calculations
- ◆ Reactor equations integration
- ◆ 1D calculations
- ◆ ...



# Structure of CANTERA





# Structure of CANTERA

## The « Bookkeeping » layer

As we have just seen, it is the python script entry.  
**This layer contains all the methods that will**

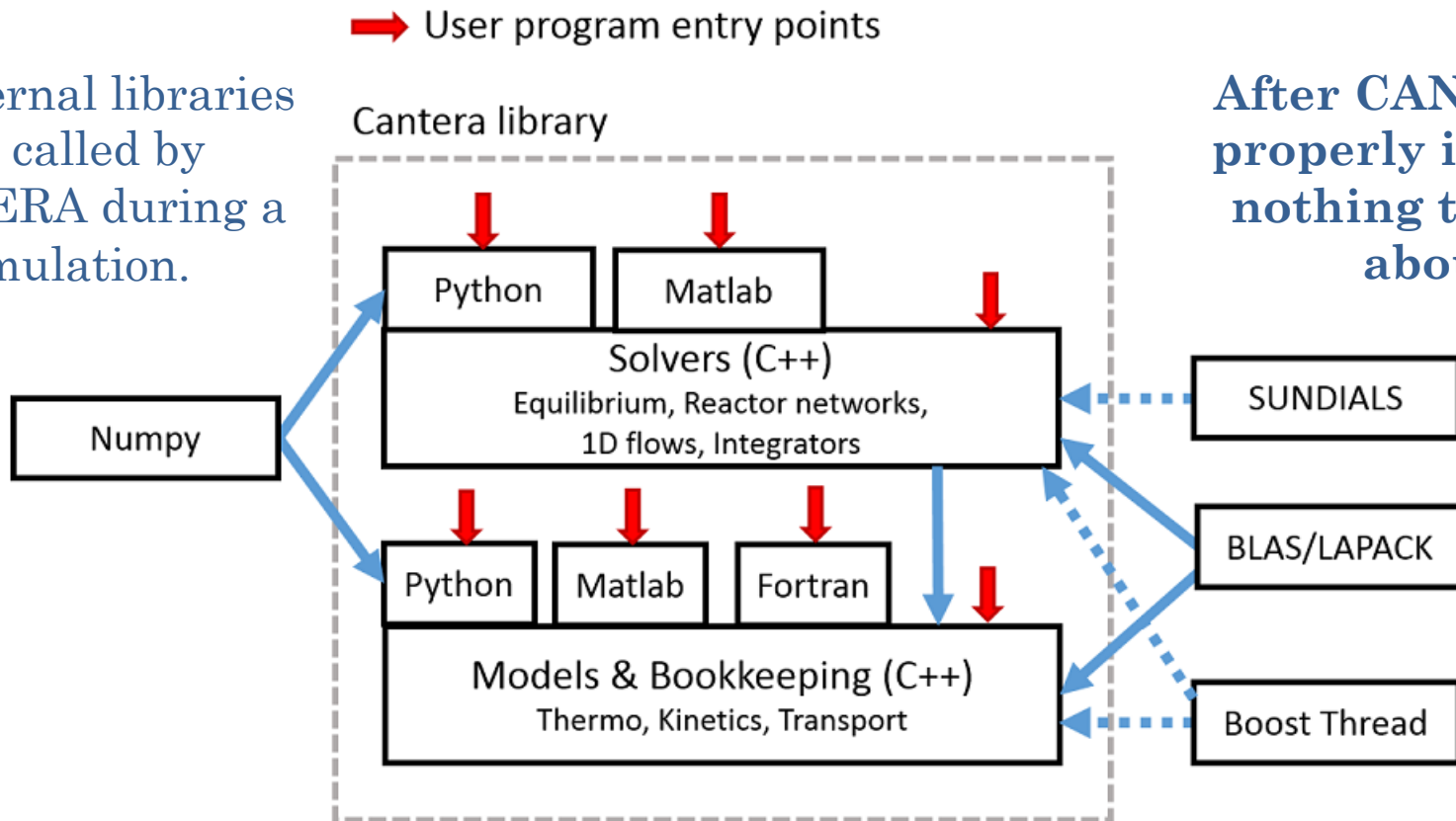
- ◆ **Initialize objects** defined in the script
  - If a phase object is defined, it will *calculate and set its thermodynamic state* and implement *their transport models* (example 1).
  - Set the *inlet conditions* of a “FreeFlame” object (example 2).
- ◆ **Link all objects** together
  - *Link two reactors* through a wall (example).
- ◆ **Organize the simulation**
  - Call the required solvers (so, the “solvers” layer)
  - Extract required output data

# Structure of CANTERA

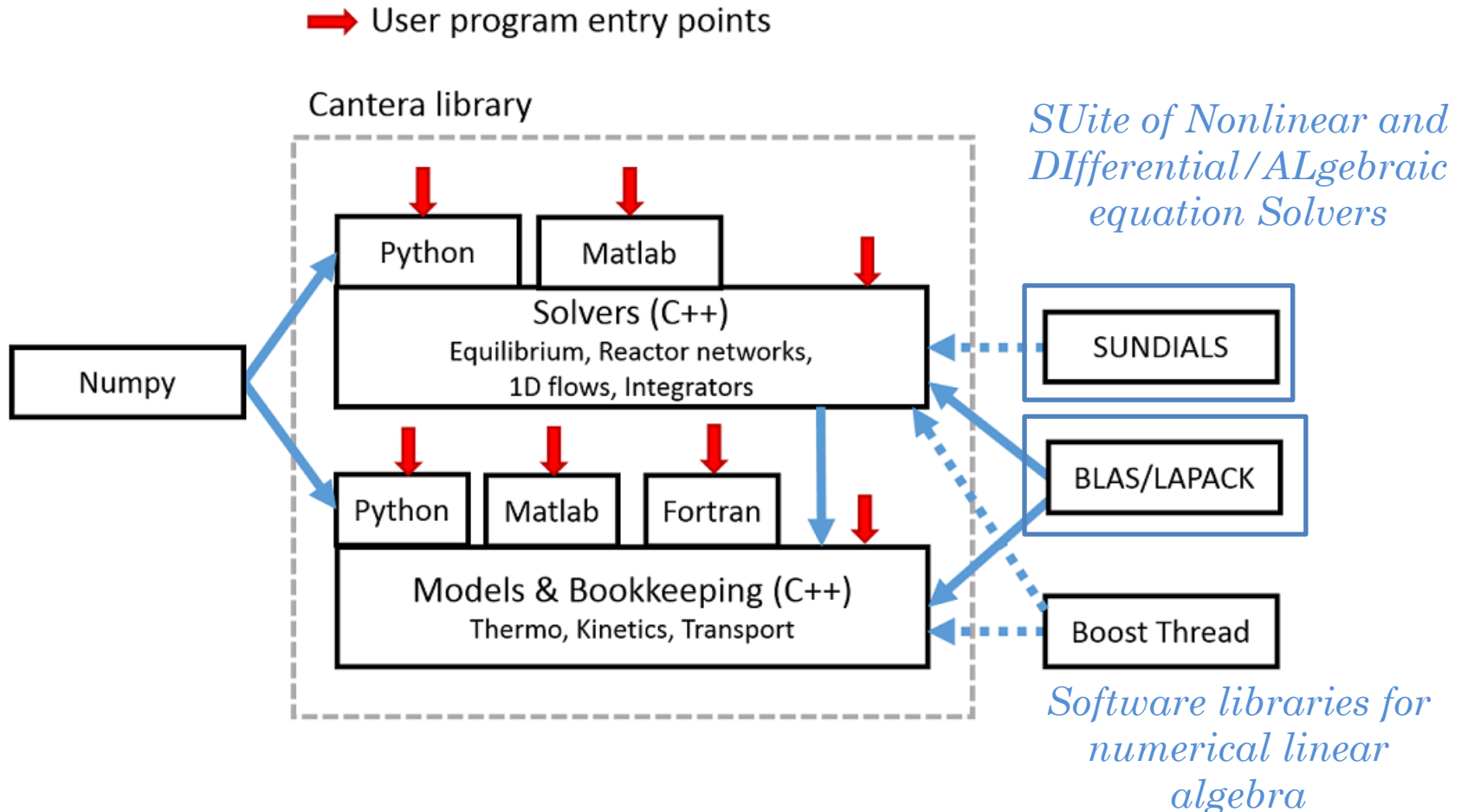
Cantera is a big lasagna, it has layers.

All external libraries are called by CANTERA during a simulation.

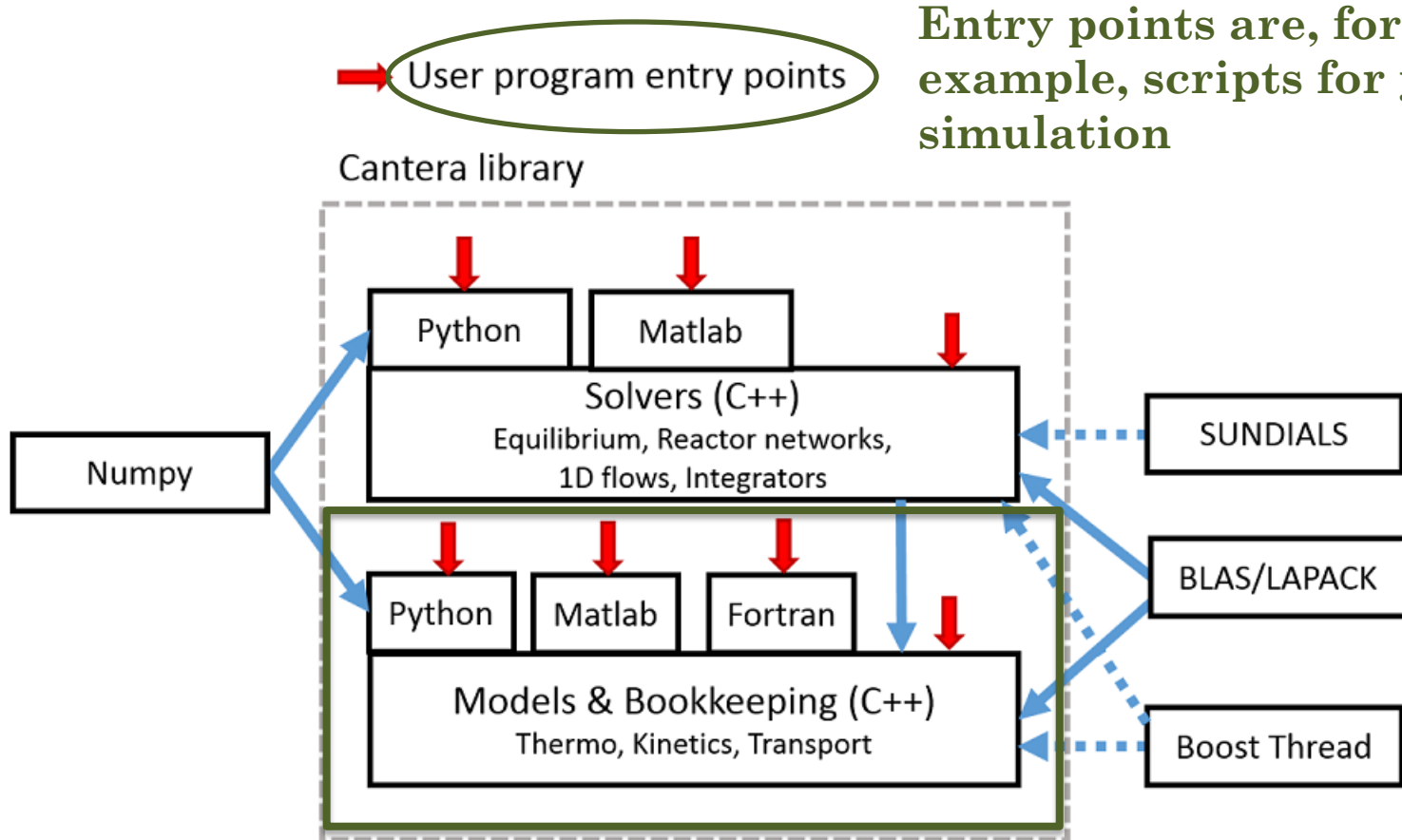
After CANTERA is properly installed, nothing to worry about.



# Structure of CANTERA



# Structure of CANTERA



# Structure of CANTERA

*Numpy is required for Python scripts*

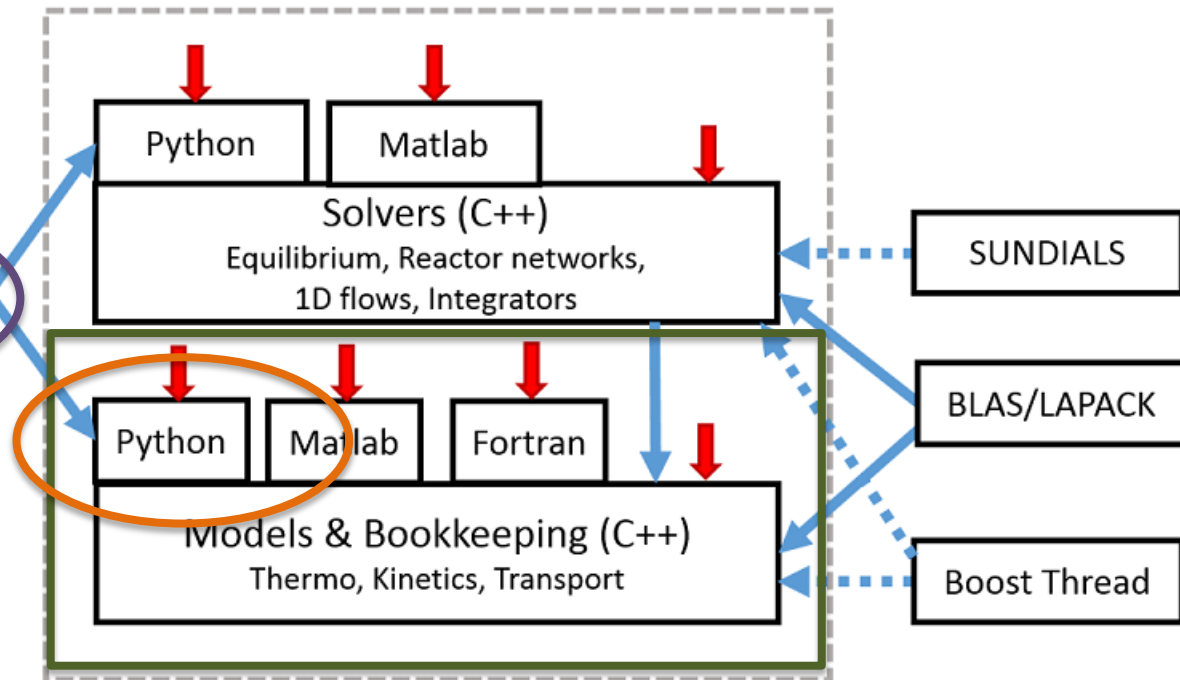
Numpy

**NO C++  
knowledge  
necessary !!**

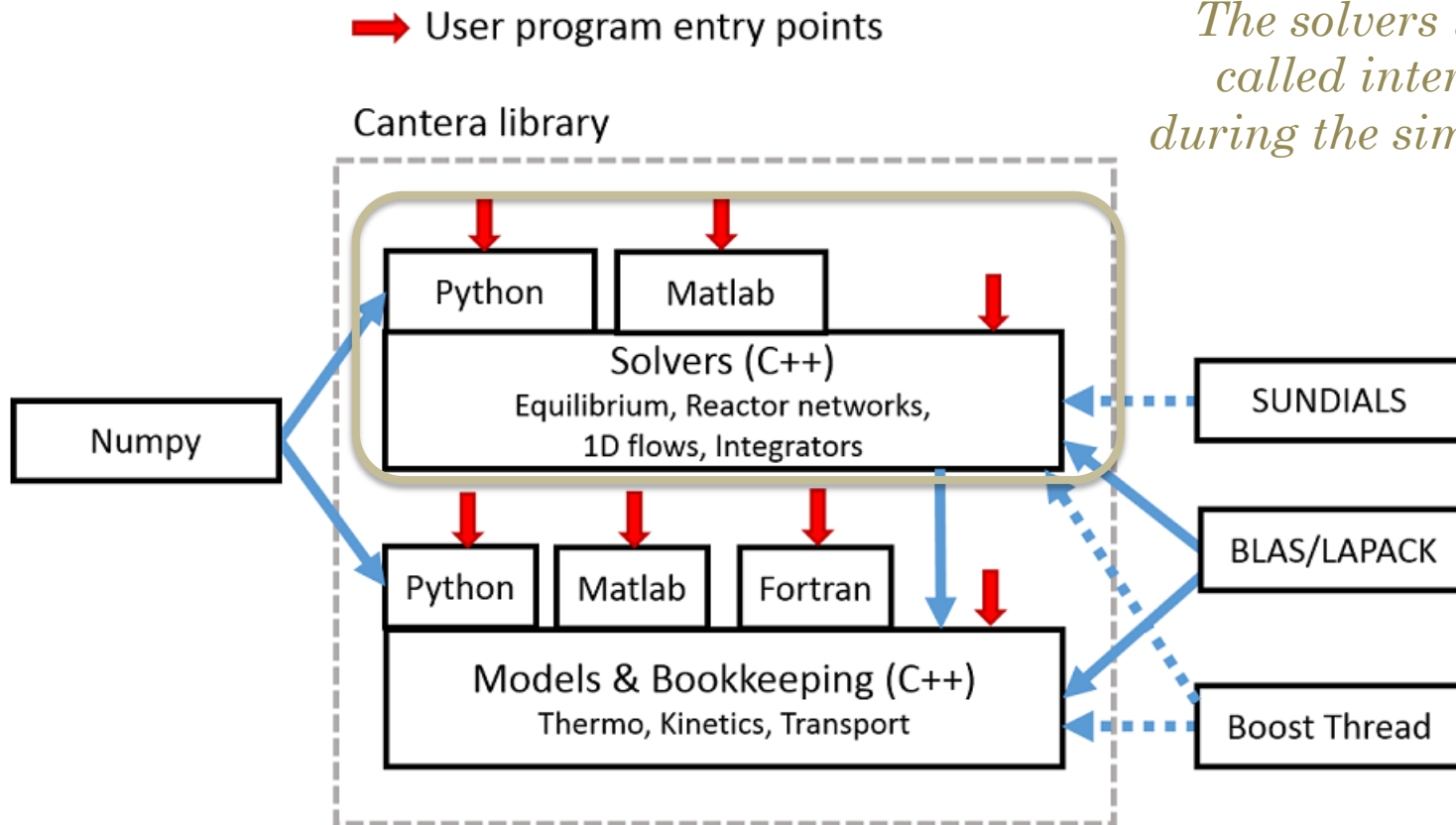
→ User program entry points

Entry points are, for example, scripts for your simulation

Cantera library



# Structure of CANTERA



*The solvers will be called internally during the simulation.*



# 3. Gibbs function



## Example with the Gibbs function

*“The equilibrium state is that corresponding to a minimum of a property called the energy function under specified conditions”*

Use the Gibbs energy function  $G$ :  $G = G(T, P, N_k)$

So that, when **P** and **T** are constant:

At  
equilibrium,  
we want to  
minimize  $G$

$$dG = \sum_{k=1}^K \mu_k dN_k$$

with  $\mu_k = \frac{\partial U}{\partial N_k}$

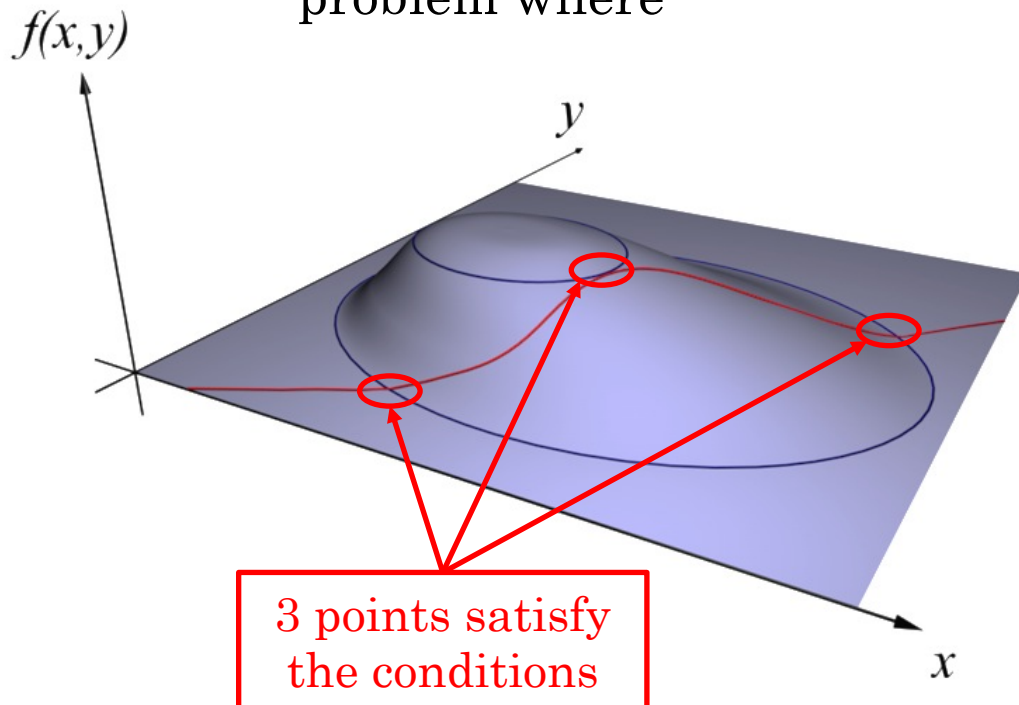
$$p_l = \sum_{k=1}^K n_{kl} N_k$$

With the constraint that the number of moles  $p_l$  of every element  $l$  (N, O, H, ...) is conserved:

## Example with the Gibbs function

### The non-stoichiometric method

This becomes an optimisation problem where



$$dG = \sum_{k=1}^K \mu_k dN_k = 0$$

$$p_l^* = p_l - \sum_{k=1}^K n_{kl} N_k = 0$$

### Illustration in 2D

- Find an extremum of the function  $G(x,y)$ , represented by the blue lines
- that satisfies the condition  $p_l^*(x,y) = \text{smthg}$  represented by the red line

## Example with the Gibbs function

### The non-stoichiometric method

This becomes an optimisation problem where

Which is solved by **introducing Lagrange multipliers**  $\lambda_l$  such that

And the problem can be posed as a solution of a set of  
**(K + 1) nonlinear equations**

$$dG = \sum_{k=1}^K \mu_k dN_k = 0$$
$$p_l^* = p_l - \sum_{k=1}^K n_{kl} N_k = 0$$

$$G^* = G + \sum_{l=1}^L \lambda_l p_l^*$$

$$\frac{\partial G^*}{\partial N_k} = \mu_k - \sum_{l=1}^L \lambda_l n_{kl} = 0$$
$$\frac{\partial G^*}{\partial \lambda_l} = p_l^* = 0$$

## The non-stoichiometric method

Once the  $\lambda_l$  are determined, since **T & P are constant**, the mole fractions are automatically deduced.

$$\mu_k = \sum_{l=1}^L \lambda_l n_{kl} \Rightarrow X_k = \frac{P_o}{P} \exp\left(-\frac{g_k^0(T)}{RT} + \sum_{l=1}^L n_{kl} \frac{\lambda_l}{RT}\right)$$

➤ **General procedure** (*Note: no need to provide reactions information !*) :

- The  $g_k^0$  are tabulated.
- The user provides a guess for enough ( $L$ )  $X_k$  - with the knowledge that  $\sum_{k=1}^K X_k = 1$
- The  $\lambda_l$  can then be deduced from the previous  $K$  equations.
- The unknown  $X_k$  are calculated with those estimated  $\lambda_l$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^K X_k$  is evaluated.
- If  $\sum_{k=1}^K X_k$  is « too far » from 1, a new guess for the  $X_k$  is provided and the procedure reiterates with well chosen  $LX_k$



# 4. Keywords in the cti format



**So... how is it written (format '.cti') ?**

**It is composed of « entries » and « directives » recognized via keywords.**



**So... how is it written (format '.cti') ?**

It is **composed of « entries » and « directives »** recognized via keywords.

A **directive** will tell the code how the entry parameters are to be interpreted.

For example, the 'units' directive

```
units(length = "cm", time = "s", quantity = "mol", act_energy = "cal/mol")
```



## So... how is it written (format '.cti') ?

It is **composed of « entries » and « directives »** recognized via keywords.

An **entry** defines an object.

For example, a falloff reaction

```
# Reaction 174
falloff_reaction( "H + C3H6 (+ M) <=> N-C3H7 (+ M)",
  kf = [1.33000E+13, 0, 3260.04],
  kf0 = [6.26000E+38, -6.66, 7000.48],
  falloff = Troe(A = 1, T3 = 1000, T1 = 1310, T2 = 48100),
  efficiencies = " AR:0.7 C2H6:3 CH4:2 CO:1.5 CO2:2 H2:2 H2O:6 ")
```



## So... how is it written (format '.cti') ?

It is **composed of « entries » and « directives »** recognized via keywords.

**Entries are composed of a series of fields** that can be assigned values.

For example, 'name' or 'elements' for a phase

```
ideal gas name = "gri30",  
elements = " O H C N Ar ",  
species = "" H2 H O O2 OH H2O HO2 H2O2 C CH  
CH2 CH2(S) CH3 CH4 CO CO2 HCO CH2O CH2OH CH3O  
CH3OH C2H C2H2 C2H3 C2H4 C2H5 C2H6 HCCO CH2CO HCCOH  
N NH NH2 NH3 NNH NO NO2 N2O HNO CN  
HCN H2CN HCNN HCNO HOCN HNCO NCO N2 AR C3H7  
C3H8 CH2CHO CH3CHO """,  
reactions = "all",  
kinetics = "GRI30",  
initial_state = state (temperature = 300.0,  
pressure = OneAtm) )
```



# 5. Equations in the cti

## Simple forward constant rates coefficients

```
# Reaction 11  
reaction( "O + CH4 <=> OH + CH3", [1.02000E+09, 1.5, 8600])
```

$$k_f = A T^b e^{-E/RT}$$

If the reaction is irreversible

$$\omega = k_f [R_1][R_2]$$

Net reaction rate  
*net\_rates\_of\_progress*

Arrhenius forward coefficient  
*forward\_rate\_constants*

$R_1, R_2$  = reactants 1 and 2

## Simple forward constant rates coefficients

```
# Reaction 11
reaction( "O + CH4 <=> OH + CH3", [1.02000E+09, 1.5, 8600])
```

$$k_f = A T^b e^{-E/RT}$$

If the reaction is reversible

$$\omega = k_f [R_1][R_2] - k_B [P_1][P_2]$$

Forward reaction rate  
*forward\_rates\_of\_progress*

Forward reaction rate  
*reverse\_rates\_of\_progress*

Arrhenius backward coefficient

with

Equilibrium constants  
*equilibrium\_constants*

$$k_B = k_f / K_e \quad \text{and} \quad K_e = [P_1][P_2] / [R_1][R_2]$$

$R_1, R_2 =$  reactants 1 and 2 and  $P_1, P_2 =$  products 1 and 2



```
# Reaction 33
three_body_reaction( "H + O2 + M <=> HO2 + M", [2.80000E+18, -0.86, 0],
  efficiencies = " AR:0 C2H6:1.5 CO:0.75 CO2:1.5 H2O:0 N2:0 O2:0 ")
```

$$\omega = k_f[H][O_2][M] - k_B[HO_2][M]$$

with  $[M] = \sum_{k=1}^K \epsilon_k C_k$  (by default, if not specified,  $\epsilon_k = 1$ )

efficiencies

```
# Reaction 12
falloff_reaction( "O + CO (+ M) <=> CO2 (+ M)",
  kf = [1.80000E+10, 0, 2385],
  kf0 = [6.02000E+14, 0, 3000],
  efficiencies = " AR:0.5 C2H6:3 CH4:2 CO:1.5 CO2:3.5 H2:2 H2O:6 O2:6 ")
```

Coefficient without third body (high pressure)  $\xrightarrow{P_r = \frac{k_0[M]}{k_\infty}}$  Coefficient with third body (low pressure)

### Lindemann fall-off

$$k_f(T, P_r) = k_\infty \left( \frac{P_r}{1 + P_r} \right)$$

### Troe fall-off

$$k_f(T, P_r) = k_\infty \left( \frac{P_r}{1 + P_r} \right) \times F(T, P_r)$$

$$\log_{10} F(T, P_r) = \frac{\log_{10} F_{cent}(T)}{1 + f_1^2}$$

$$F_{cent}(T) = (1 - A) \exp(-T/T_3) + A \exp(-T/T_1) + \exp(-T_2/T)$$

$$f_1 = (\log_{10} P_r + C) / (N - 0.14 (\log_{10} P_r + C))$$

$$C = -0.4 - 0.67 \log_{10} F_{cent}$$

$$N = 0.75 - 1.27 \log_{10} F_{cent}$$