Quantum Yields of CHDO above 300 nm

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Abstract : *The photolysis of mono-deuterated formaldehyde, CHDO, is a critical process in the deuterium-enrichment of stratospheric hydrogen formed from methane. In this work, a consistent description of the quantum yields of the molecular and radical channels of the CHDO photolysis is deduced from literature data. The fluorescence measurements of Miller and Lee (1978) provided a first data set to deduce the product quantum yields. An alternative analysis is based on the measured quantum yield spectrum for the radical channel of the CD_2O photolysis by McQuigg and Calvert (1969), which is corrected for wavelength dependency and combined with the CH_2O quantum yield spectrum to provide an approximation for CHDO. Both approaches provide consistent results. Finally, the findings of Troe (1984, 2007) enable the specification of the pressure dependence of the quantum yield for CH_2O and CD_2O and, hence, for CHDO. We find that the radical channel does not show a pressure dependence, whereas the molecular channel is dominated by tunneling and quenching processes. Simplified representations are given that are readily implemented in kinetic atmospheric models. As an example of their application, the altitude dependence of the ratio of $J(CHDO \rightarrow HD+CO)$ and $J(CH_2O \rightarrow H_2+CO)$ is provided. Also, the importance of the photolysis of formaldehyde in the atmosphere is presenting the altitudinal dependence of the isotopic fractionation through the yield of the HD channel.*

1. Introduction

Measurements over the last decades showed that molecular hydrogen, H_2, in the stratosphere is enriched in deuterium compared to H_2 in the troposphere (see e.g.: Ehhalt and Volz, 1976; Gerst and Quay, 2001; Rahn et al., 2003; Rice et al., 2003; Röckmann et al., 2003; McCarthy et al., 2004; Rhee et al., 2006). Gerst and Quay (2001) suggested that this enrichment could be due to the differential isotope fractionation in the photo-oxidation of methane. Measurements of the vertical profiles of the isotope content in H_2 and CH_4, available since 2003, allowed the interpretation and modeling of the observed enrichment (see e.g. Pieterse et al., 2011). The methane photo-oxidation consists of various reaction steps, each of which contribute kinetic isotope effects, KIE, that have to be considered (e.g. Feilberg et al., 2005; Mar et al., 2007). The last but critical step in the reaction chain to produce the hydrogen isotope HD from the mono-deuterated isotopologue of formaldehyde, CHDO, is its photolysis.

Compared to CH_2O, the available data for the mono-deuterated isotopologue CHDO are scarce. Only its spectrum was measured (c.f. Mainz Spectral Atlas, Keller-Rudek and Moortgat, 2021). The quantum yields for the molecular and the radical fragmentation branches of the CHDO photolysis, as well as the rate constants for the quenching reactions were not measured at all or with insufficient accuracy. Thus, despite its importance for the atmospheric production of HD, the photolysis of CHDO is still poorly defined; at this time, it is the most uncertain factor in the overall fractionation of formaldehyde. For example, the measured or estimated fractionation factors for the molecular channel range from 1.08 to 1.82 (e.g. Feilberg et al., 2005; Rhee et al., 2006, Mar et al., 2007; Nilsson et al., 2009; Röckmann et al., 2010). Moreover, the measurements by Nilsson et al. (2009) are the only ones considering the pressure dependence of the fractionation factor due to reactions R3, R4, and R7 (see Table 1).

In this work, we aim to provide information for the modeling of CHDO photochemistry for atmospheric conditions, i.e. for a limited domain of temperature and pressure, by deducing the molecular and radical quantum yields Φ^{mol} and Φ^{rad} for CHDO from literature information, based on the scant data available and supplemented by a number of plausible assumptions. We do this based on two approaches: the first is based on the fluorescence measurements of Miller and Lee (1978) and literature data on energy transitions (e.g. Yeung and Moore, 1973; Chuang et al., 1987; Osborn, 2008; Fu et al. 2011). The second approach assumes that the

35 measurements of McQuigg and Calvert (1969) can be corrected via the comparison of the

36 CH_2O measurement with later experiments (see e.g. the overview by Röth and Ehhalt, 2015).

37 The photochemistry derived thus is then used to assess the altitudinal dependence of the

38 CHDO isotopic fractionation.

39

40

41 **2. Photolysis reaction mechanism**

42

43 Based on the available literature (e.g.: Aràujo et al., 2009; Breuer and Lee, 1971; Chuang et

44 al., 1987; Yamaguchi et al., 1998) we propose a photolytic reaction scheme of CHDO in

45 Table 1, analogous to that of CH_2O (Röth and Ehhalt, 2015). The scheme involves a

46 cascading series of fragmentation channels competing with stepwise quenching by collisional

47 energy loss, starting at the excited singlet state S_1. Reactions via the triplet state of CHDO are

48 not considered here, as they are only accessible at wavelengths below 300 nm (Aràujo et

49 al.,2009), while we concentrate on wavelengths above this limit in this work. Under

50 atmospheric conditions, which are considered here, the system is thermalized.

51

52 **Table 1 :** Reaction scheme of the photolysis of CHDO occurring over the S_1 and S_0 electronic

53 singlet states. $-\Delta\varepsilon 1$, $-\Delta\varepsilon 2$ indicate the collisional energy losses to bath gas M in the respective

54 reactions. This quenching is stepwise but is represented here for energies above/below the

55 threshold for dissociation; the asterix * stands for excitations able to lead to bond breaking,

56 whereas the index # indicates lower energies and lead ultimately to thermalized CHDO.

57 $CHDO(S_0) + h\upsilon \rightarrow CHDO^*(S_1)$ (R0)

58 $CHDO^*(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^\# + h\nu_1$ (R1)

59 $CHDO^*(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^*(S_0)$ (R2)

60 $CHDO^*(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO / D+CHO$ (R2a)

61 $CHDO^*(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD$ (R2b)

62 $CHDO^*(S_0) + M \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + M$ (R2c)

63 $CHDO^*(S_1) + M \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) + M$ (R3)

64 $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO / D+CHO$ (R3a)

65 $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD$ (R3b)

66 $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) + M \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + M$ (R3c)

67 $CHDO^*(S_1) + M \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) + M$ (R4)

68 $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + h\nu_5$ (R5)

69          $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_0)$ (R6)

70          $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO \,/\, D+CHO$ (R6a)

71          $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD$ (R6b)

72          $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_0) +M \rightarrow CHDO^{\#}(S_0) + M$ (R6c)

73          $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon2}(S_1) +M \rightarrow \; \ldots$ (R7)

74

75   After excitation of the ground state $CHDO(S_0)$ (R0) by a photon of a given wavelength, the

76   excited reaction product $CHDO^{*}(S_1)$ decays by fluorescence (R1), or transitions to the S_0

77   ground state surface as an excited CHDO* molecule with either all available energy (R2) or

78   with a variable amount of energy $-\Delta\varepsilon1$ lost by quenching (R3). These excited $CHDO\mathbf{*}(S_0)$ and

79     $CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon1}(S_0)$ can in turn be quenched by the bath gas in a cascading series (R2c, R3c, R6c),

80   at each energy level competing with fragmentation to radicals H+CDO/D+CHO (R2a,

81   R3a,R6a) or to molecular products CO+HD (R2b, R3b,R6b), as described for CH_2O by

82   Yeung and Moore, (1973). Alternatively, the excited $CHDO^{*}(S_1)$ can lose an amount of

83   energy by quenching, but remain on the S_1 excited electronic surface (R4). This state can then

84   undergo processes as above, i.e. decay by fluorescence (R5), transition to the S_0 ground state

85   without (R6) or with (R7) energy loss by quenching, where once again it can undergo further

86   quenching (R6c) in competition with fragmentation (R6a, R6b). Overall, this scheme

87   represents a cascading series of quenching steps competing against decomposition and

88   fluorescence. Only the first few steps in the cascade are represented, but more cascading steps

89   are possible at lower internal energies. According to the analysis of the fluorescence

90   measurements by Miller and Lee (1978), these lower-energy reactions are not critical and

91   need not be considered in detail. Here, R7 simply represents the summation of all subsequent

92   cascades, from which negligible channels such as *e.g.* the fluorescence channels are omitted.

93   Schematic energy diagrams for this reaction mechanism were already depicted in the

94   literature (e.g. Fig.3 in Aràujo et al., 2009 and Fig.1 in Chuang et al., 1987), and are not

95   repeated here.

96

97   The quantum yield Φ^{rad} represents the combined fragmentation to radicals (R2a, R3a, R6a),

98   while summed fragmentation through the molecular branches (R2b, R3b, R6b) is described by

99   the quantum yield Φ^{mol}. The total photolysis quantum yield Φ^{tot}, i.e. the decay of excited

100   formaldehyde into products other than its ground-state, can be experimentally derived from

101   the observed CO production, where CDO and CHO radical fragments react with O_2 to form

102   CO and HO_2 / DO_2. The quantum yield of the fluorescence is always less than 1% (Miller

103   and Lee, 1978) and is omitted henceforth.

$$\Phi^{tot} = \Phi^{mol} + \Phi^{rad} \tag{F1}$$

105   Obviously, the sum of Φ^{tot} and Φ^{quench}, the summed yield of the quenching reactions (R2c,

106   R3c, R6c), must equal 1 at any wavelength hν.

$$\Phi^{tot} + \Phi^{quench} = 1 \tag{F2}$$

108

109

3. Analysis of fluorescence measurements

111

112   From the fluorescence measurements of Miller and Lee (1978) the quantum yields of both the

113   fluorescence and the total non-CHDO products can be derived. The contribution of the second

114   step in the reaction cascade is small at low pressure (see later), so we assume that Table X

115   provided by these authors directly gives the reaction rate constants k_1 and k_2, where k_1 equals

116   the reciprocal lifetime $\tau_{radiation}$ listed and $1/k_2$ is the non-radiative lifetime. Similarly, the

117   constants k_5 and k_6 are determined by the lifetimes of the next lower vibrational level.

118

119   The reaction constants k_3, k_4, and k_7 can be deduced from the pressure dependence of the

120   CHDO fluorescence quantum yield in the Table II of Miller and Lee (1978). In the present

121   paper only the quantum yields at pressures above 1 Torr are considered, where the Ar bathgas

122   used is assumed to have similar collisional properties as air (Hirschfelder et al.,1954). For

123   each wavelength the pressure dependence of the data is fitted by a Simplex algorithm

124   according to Nelder and Mead (1965) by formula F3 for the fluorescence quantum yield Φ_F.

$$\Phi_F(M) = \frac{k_1}{\alpha} + \frac{k_4[M] \cdot k_5}{\alpha} \frac{k_5}{\beta} \tag{F3}$$

126   with $\alpha = k_1 + k_2 + k_3[M] + k_4[M]$ and $\beta = k_5 + k_6 + k_7[M]$. For consistency we only used

127   the $2^i 4^j$ transitions, only.

128

129   The corresponding reaction constants are listed in Table 2. With this data set the experimental

130   fluorescence measurements are well fitted as shown in Figure 1 where, to improve the clarity

131   of the fit, only the pressure dependent part θ(M) of equation F3 is plotted vs pressure:

$$\theta(M) = \frac{k_1}{\phi_F(M)} - (k_1 + k_2) \tag{F4}$$

133

134 **Table 2 :** Results of the least square fit of the quantum yields of CHDO (Miller and Lee

135 (1978). k_1, k_2 and k_5, k_6 are literature data (Miller and Lee, 1978), k_3, k_4, and k_7 are deduced

136 from these data.

Wavelength [nm]	k_1 [$10^5 s^{-1}$]	k_2 [$10^8 s^{-1}$]	k_3 [$10^{-11} cm^3\ s^{-1}$]	k_4 [$10^{-11} cm^3\ s^{-1}$]	k_5 [$10^5 s^{-1}$]	k_6 [$10^8 s^{-1}$]	k_7 [$10^{-12} cm^3 s^{-1}$]
314.0	3.03	1.79	29.7	4.59	2.78	0.50	0.57
318.3	2.50	1.32	15.4	3.48	2.50	0.40	1.15
325.7	2.78	0.50	10.9	1.77	3.57	0.22	1.79
330.8	2.50	0.40	4.81	1.05	2.44	0.13	1.35
338.6	3.57	0.22	4.89	0.84	3.45	0.07	0.77
344.4	2.44	0.13	5.95	2.78	2.40[*]	0.06[*]	1.39
352.9	3.45	0.07	2.38	0.76	4.00[*]	0.03[*]	1.24

137 [*] estimated by extrapolation of the other values

138

139 The energy transferred in reaction R2 is either quenched to form a stable molecule

140 $CHDO^{\#}(S_0)$ or used to drive fragmentation to molecular (CO + HD) or radical products

141 (H+CDO / D+CHO). Hence, the reactions R2a and R2b form part of the product-forming

142 channel. Analogously, the secondary reactions of the pressure dependent reactions R3 and R4

143 lead to products via the reactions R3a and R3b, respective R6a and R6b. With this, the total

144 product quantum yield of the photolysis of CHDO is the sum of the individual product

145 quantum yields across all channels k, where the index k=2, 3, 6 stands for the non-radiative

146 reactions R2, R3, and R6.

147 The individual product quantum yield can be approximated by

148
$$\Phi_k^{tot} = \frac{1}{1+a\cdot exp\left(\frac{\varepsilon_k-\varepsilon_0}{b}\right)\cdot\frac{[M]}{[M_0]}}$$
(F5)

149 analog to the publication by Röth and Ehhalt (2015) on CH_2O.

150 In equation F5, ε_2 is the excitation energy of the photolysis reaction. The energies ε_3 and ε_6

151 are related to ε_2 by the approximated energy transfer in a collision, respective by the averaged

152 width of the band intervals, given by $\varepsilon_3 = \varepsilon_2$ -0.0124 eV (Troe, 2007) and $\varepsilon_6 = \varepsilon_2$ -0.13 eV

153 (Miller and Lee, 1978). The pivot wavelength $1/\varepsilon_0$ is 348.6 nm, as published in Nilsson et al.

154 (2014) from quantum chemical calculations of the barriers to dissociation of H-CHO, H-

155 CDO, D-CHO, and D-CDO.

156

157 The total quantum yield of the products (molecules plus radicals) can be deduced from the

158 rate constants of Table 2 and the measurements of Nilsson et al. (2010, 2014), who

159   investigated the pressure dependence of the kinetic isotope effect KIE of the photolysis

160   frequencies of CH_2O and CHDO.

161 $$KIE = \frac{j_{CH2O}}{j_{CHDO}} \qquad \text{with} \qquad j = \int \Phi^{tot}_{CH2O/CHDO}\, \sigma F d\lambda \qquad (F6)$$

162   As the quantum yield of CH_2O is known from the literature (see e.g. Röth and Ehhalt, 2015)

163   Φ^{tot}_{CHDO} remains the only unknown factor in formula F6. With the actinic flux density F of the

164   lamp used by Nilsson et al. (2014) and the absorption spectra σ_x of CH_2O and CHDO from

165   Gratien et al. (2007) the ratio KIE can be calculated with optimized values for *a* and *b* in eq.

166   F5. Comparing the results of the simulation with the measured data by Nilsson et al. (2010,

167   2014) the constants *a* and *b* can be determined via a least square fit. Figure 2 presents the

168   result with optimized values $a=2.94$ and $b=6.5\times10^{-5}$ nm^{-1} together with the measurements.

169   The data at 1000 hPa is included in the fit as its mean value to accommodate the large

170   variation of the data.

171

172   The total product quantum yield, deduced from the reaction scheme R0 to R7 is

173 $$\Phi^{tot} = \frac{k_2}{\alpha} \cdot \Phi^{tot}_2 + \frac{k_3[M]}{\alpha} \cdot \Phi^{tot}_3 + \frac{k_4[M]}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{k_6}{\beta} \cdot \Phi^{tot}_6 \qquad (F7)$$

174   with α and β as defined in formula F3, and Φ^{tot}_k, the sub-product yield, according to formula

175   F5. The measured wavelength dependence of Φ^{tot} at 1000 hPa pressure is depicted in Figure 3,

176   where the total quantum yield is calculated with the rate constants from Table 2. The pressure

177   dependence of the three terms of Φ^{tot} is illustrated in Figure 4.

178

179   To obtain a continuous and smooth wavelength dependence, the rate constants k_1 through k_7

180   can be represented by an approximation function

181 $$k = A \exp (B (\lambda - 300nm)) \qquad (F8)$$

182   The values for the parameters A and B are obtained from a least square fit to the data in Table

183   2 and listed in Table 3. Where-ever the value of B was less than 0.001 it was set to 0, and A

184   then corresponds directly to the mean of the respective rate constant. The wavelength

185   dependence of Φ^{tot} at 1000 hPa with these functions is presented by the solid line in Figure 3.

186   The comparison to the experimental data by Miller and Lee (1978) suggests a variance of the

187   data of around 15%.

188

189   **Table 3:** Parameters of the rate constants according to equation F8, B in nm^{-1} and A in s^{-1},

190   respectively in $cm^3\ s^{-1}$, derived from least square fits.

	k_1	k_2	k_3	k_4	k_5	k_6	k_7

A	2.90×10^5	6.10×10^8	7.70×10^{-10}	1.30×10^{-10}	3.00×10^5	1.50×10^8	1.2×10^{-12}
B	0	0.086	0.069	0.071	0	0.075	0

191

192   For CHDO the only quantitative indication for the quantum yield of the radical channel in the

193   literature are measurements of the kinetic isotope effect KIE (Feilberg et al., 2007, Rhee et al.,

194   2008, Röckmann et al., 2010, and Nilsson et al., 2014). Folowing eq. F5, simulating these

195   KIE-measurements requires three parameters for the individual radical quantum yield

196   Φ_k^{rad} expressed in eq. F9: the maximum value Φ^{max} of the wavelength dependence, its

197   curvature b, and the pivot wavelength λ_0. The parameter a is set to 1, as for the radical

198   quantum yield no pressure dependence is assumed, cancelling the $[M]/[M_0]$ factor.

199    $$\Phi_k^{rad} = \frac{\Phi^{max}}{1 + a\,exp\left(\frac{\varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_0}{b}\right)}$$ (F9)

200   Analog to the analysis for CH_2O (Röth and Ehhalt, 2015), where the curvatures of the

201   wavelength dependence of Φ^{tot} and Φ^{rad} are similar, b can be set to 6.5×10^{-5} nm^{-1} for the

202   radical quantum yield of CHDO. The maximum Φ^{max} was varied in the interval [0.70 / 0.78]

203   around the corresponding value for CH_2O, but the resulting scattering is very small (see

204   shaded area in Fig. 5). Consequently, parameter Φ^{max} is set to 0.74, matching the value also

205   used for CH_2O (Ehhalt and Röth, 2015).

206

207   With these parameters the KIE of 1.63 as measured by Röckmann et al. (2010) was fitted with

208   the actinic flux density given by Röckmann et al. and the optical spectra by Gratien et al.

209   (2007). The best fit gave a pivot wavelength λ_0 of 327 nm. This value lies in the middle of the

210   bond energies of 362.63 kJ/mol for C-H and 369.6 kJ/mol for C-D, calculated by Chuang et

211   al. (1987). With the constants $\Phi^{max} = 0.74$, $a=1$, $b = 6.5\ 10^{-5}$ nm^{-1} and $1/\varepsilon_0 = 327.1$ nm the

212   quantum yield function Φ^{rad} of the radical channel of CHDO is analog to F7:

213    $$\Phi^{rad} = \frac{k_2}{\alpha} \cdot \Phi_2^{rad} + \frac{k_3[M]}{\alpha} \cdot \Phi_3^{rad} + \frac{k_4[M]}{\alpha}\frac{k_6}{\beta} \cdot \Phi_6^{rad}$$ (F10)

214   where the radical quantum yields of the individual channels is given by function F9 and with

215   α and β as defined in F3. Figure 5 depicts the wavelength dependence of the total quantum

216   yield together with that for the radicals. At atmospheric pressures, as considered in this paper,

217   the contributions of the individual quenching processes are insignificant with respect to the

218   overall radical quantum yield.

219

220   To provide a more handy tool for atmospheric modeling, we introduce an exponential

221   function (F11), with only one term and three parameters for the total and the radical quantum

222 yields of CHDO, similar to those deduced by Ehhalt and Röth (2015) for CH_2O, as a proxy

223 for the three-term functions F7 and F10:

224
$$\Phi = \frac{a}{1+exp\left(\frac{-\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}-\frac{1}{\lambda_0}\right)}{b}\right)\frac{[M]}{[M_0]}}$$
(F11)

225 The corresponding parameters for the total quantum yield of CHDO are a=1.0, b=7.7×10⁻⁵ s⁻¹,

226 and λ_0=336.2 nm. For the radical channel the factor $[M]/[M_0]$ is set to 1, as the photolysis

227 leading to the radicals is nearly pressure independent. The respective parameters are a=0.74,

228 b=7.7×10⁻⁵ s⁻¹, and λ_0=325.0 nm. Both approximation curves are depicted in Figure 5, and

229 Figure 6 shows the pressure dependent comparison with the measured data by Miller and Lee

230 (1978).

231

232

233 **4. Analysis of the CHDO photo-decomposition**

234 Our second approach to estimate the quantum yields for the photolysis of CHDO is based on

235 the experiments of McQuigg and Calvert (1969) who measured the photo-decomposition of

236 CH_2O, CHDO, and CD_2O. Unfortunately, the authors only presented the quantum yields for

237 the two radical reaction channels of CH_2O and CD_2O. They further assumed that the total

238 quantum yield equals 1, independent of wavelength. It appears, however, that these data have

239 a bias which becomes evident when the data for CH_2O are compared to more recent

240 measurements.

241

242 In Figure 7 the dependence on the wavelength of Φ^{rad} of CH_2O by McQuigg and Calvert

243 (1969) is depicted together with a curve for CH_2O, averaged over measured data from the

244 paper by Röth and Ehhalt (2015). The latter evaluation showed no pressure dependence, but

245 indicated a weak temperature effect which is neglected here. The curve is represented by the

246 following function:

247

248
$$\Phi^{rad}_{CH2O} = \frac{0.74}{1+exp\left(\frac{-\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}-\frac{1}{327.4}\right)}{5.4\times10^{-5}}\right)} - \frac{0.40}{1+exp\left(\frac{\frac{1}{\lambda}-\frac{1}{279.0}}{5.2\times10^{-5}}\right)}$$
(F12)

249 Equation F12 exhibits a maximum in Φ^{rad} around 310 nm, independent of the small

250 temperature shift, whereas the earlier values of McQuigg and Calvert exhibit a monotonic

251 decay with increasing wavelength above 280 nm, which points to a bias in the latter. The

252 second summand in F12 is less than 1% at wavelengths above 300 nm and, hence, can be

253 omitted in the present paper. Figure 7 also includes the data of McQuigg and Calvert (1969)

254 for CD_2O which show a quite similar wavelength dependency as the data for CH_2O.

255

256 Our first assumption is that the bias in the experiments of McQuigg and Calvert extends

257 equally to both isotopologues (CD_2O and CH_2O), and that, therefore, the ratio R of their

258 quantum yields is correct. This ratio is displayed in Figure 8 and shows a mostly monotonic

259 decrease with increasing wavelength. In this context, it is interesting to note that the ratio of

260 the rate constants for the decomposition of excited CH_2O^* and CD_2O^* into the respective

261 radical channels, as calculated by Troe (1984) from theory, result in a curve with a monotonic

262 decrease with increasing wavelength similar to that of the quantum yield ratio (see Figure 8).

263 Using ratio R together with the fit function F12 for Φ_{CH2O}^{rad} allows to estimate Φ_{CD2O}^{rad} for the

264 radical channel of CD_2O, as shown in Figure 8.

265 To calculate Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} we need one further assumption. Our hypothesis is suggested by the

266 results of Feilberg et al. (2004), who found that the KIE of the reactions of CHDO with OH,

267 Cl and Br are arithmetic means of the KIE of the reactions of CH_2O and CD_2O with those

268 radicals. This in turn implies that the C-H bond strengths are similar in the isotopologues, and

269 the same is true for the C-D bond strength. We, therefore, assume that Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} can be

270 calculated from the average of Φ_{CH2O}^{rad} and Φ_{CD2O}^{rad} at each wavelength:

271
$$\Phi_{CHDO}^{rad}(\lambda) = \left(\Phi_{CH2O}^{rad}(\lambda) + \Phi_{CD2O}^{rad}(\lambda) \right)/2 \qquad \text{(F13)}$$

272 The resulting radical quantum yields are compared in Figure 9. Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} does not depend on

273 pressure since neither Φ_{CH2O}^{rad} nor Φ_{CD2O}^{rad} are pressure dependent. The respective maxima in

274 Φ^{rad}, on the other hand, decrease from 0.72 over 0.70 to 0.65 for increasing deuteration.

275 Moreover, there is a blue shift of 5 nm, resp. 10 nm in the decreasing part of the quantum

276 yield spectra of CHDO and CD_2O, i.e. at wavelengths above 315 nm. These blue shifts have

277 the same tendency but do not quite match the measured threshold energies of 362.3 kJ/mol,

278 368.4 kJ/mol, and 370.6 kJ/mol for CH_2O, CHDO, and CD_2O, respectively (Chuang et

279 al.,1987), which correspond to the wavelengths 330.9 nm, 325.5 nm, and 323.5 nm.

280

281 The one-term fit function for the radical channel of CHDO is:

282
$$\Phi_{CHDO}^{rad} = \frac{0.72}{1+exp\left(\frac{-\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{323.0} \right)}{7.7 \times 10^{-5}} \right)} \qquad \text{(F14)}$$

283 and is also show in Figure 9. In Figure 10 the result of the interpretation of the measured

284 photo-decomposition of CHDO by McQuigg and Calvert (1969) is compared to the radical

285   quantum yield deduced from the fluorescence measurements of Miller and Lee (1978). Both

286   estimations lead to a wavelength dependence of Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} which lie in each others uncertainty

287   range. This is a strong hint that the deduced results are robust and represent the true quantum

288   yield of the radical channel of the photolysis of CHDO.

289

290

291   **5. The isotope fractionation during the photolysis of formaldehyde**

292

293   The photolysis frequency J_i of the isotopologues CH_2O and CHDO is given by the integration

294   of quantum yield Φ, absorption cross section σ, and spectral actinic photon flux density $F_\lambda(\lambda)$

295   over the λ wavelength domain:

$$J_i = \int \Phi_{i,j}(\lambda) \cdot \sigma_i(\lambda) \cdot F_\lambda(\lambda) \, d\lambda \qquad \text{(F15)}$$

297   where the quantum yield $\Phi_{i,j}(\lambda)$ depends on the product channel j, either molecular or radical,

298   of isotopologue i, and the absorption cross section $\sigma_i(\lambda)$ is specific to the isotopologues i. For

299   our calculations the absorption spectra of CH_2O and CHDO from Gratien et al. (2007) were

300   applied. We used these values instead of the JPL-recommendation (Burkholder, 2020) for

301   consistency with the calculations in section 2 and 3. The solar spectral actinic flux density F_λ

302   was calculated from a quasi-spherical 1-D radiation transfer model (Röth, 2002); the $\Phi(\lambda)$ are

303   those from section 2. An example of the terms $\Phi^{mol}(\lambda)$, $\sigma(\lambda)$, $F_\lambda(\lambda)$ for the molecular channel

304   of CHDO is given in Figure 11 for the pressure and temperature at an altitude of 20 km. The

305   product of these terms, integrated over 5 nm intervals for better visibility, is also displayed to

306   demonstrate the spectrally resolved contributions to the photolysis frequency of the molecular

307   channel of CHDO.

308

309   The kinetic isotope effect for the molecular channel is given by

$$KIE_{mol} = \frac{J_{CH2O}^{mol}}{J_{CHDO}^{mol}} \qquad \text{(F16)}$$

311   and correspondingly for the radical channel

$$KIE_{rad} = \frac{J_{CH2O}^{rad}}{J_{CHDO}^{rad}} \qquad \text{(F17)}$$

313   For a quick overview the dependence of KIE_{rad} and KIE_{mol} on altitude for globally averaged

314   conditions (equinox, 30°N) are depicted in Figures 12a and 12b. KIE_{mol} decreases

315   monotonically with decreasing pressure from 1.59 at 1000 hPa to 1.06 at 1 hPa. The radical

316   channel in contrast shows hardly any pressure dependency as the rate of this reaction is not

317   influenced by the quenching process. The marginal variation of the kinetic isotope effect with

318   altitude is caused by the altitudinal increase of the photon flux and its differing contribution to

319   the photolysis frequency integrals of CH_2O and CHDO.

320

321   To examine whether the quantum yield functions for CHDO deduced above are applicable for

322   modeling purposes, additional sensitivity studies were carried out, varying the main features

323   of the quantum yield functions. With respect to the fractionation factor, only the variations of

324   those parameters are relevant which alter the relation of the entire photolysis frequency

325   integrals (eq. F15) of the molecular and the radical channels. In Figures 12a and 12b we

326   additionally show the variances of the photolysis frequencies as well as of the fractionation

327   factors. The shaded area is produced by varying one parameter of the CHDO quantum yield

328   as indicated below. The photolysis frequency of CH_2O remained unchanged.

329

330   The sensitivity of the molecular branch of the photolysis frequency of CHDO to the

331   preexponential factor of the quantum yield function is roughly 10 % throughout the

332   atmosphere if this value is varied by 10%. All other parameters do not alter the integral

333   equation F15 significantly and produce only variances less than 1 % when changed by 10%. It

334   can thus be concluded that the estimated equation parameters are good representations of the

335   actual values. At higher altitudes (<10 hPa) Φ_{CHDO}^{mol} and Φ_{CH2O}^{mol} are close to unity in the

336   wavelength regime 330 nm to 360 nm (see e.g. Fig. 6). So, the photolysis frequency in the

337   stratosphere does not change much if the parameters of the respective functions are varied.

338   Therefore, the variance of the fractionation factor does not much decrease above 30 km

339   altitude. Here, measurements at tropospheric pressures could be much more informative as

340   becomes evident from Figure 12.

341

342   The photolysis frequency of the radical channel of CHDO is only sensitive to the maximum of

343   the quantum yield and to the threshold wavelength 323 nm. Shifting the latter value by ± 3 nm

344   produces changes of about 20 % in the troposphere, decreasing to 10 % at 50 km altitude as

345   shown in Figure 12. This variation of the threshold produces an error bar of the fractionation

346   factor of the same magnitude.

347

348

349   **6. Discussion**

350

351 Due to consecutive reactions only the molecular channel contributes to the HD production.

352 Up to now there had been a handicap in the interpretation of stratospheric measurements of

353 the concentration of deuterated hydrogen HD due to the lack of exact knowledge of the

354 photolysis frequencies of deuterated formaldehyde, resulting in an uncertainty on the

355 fractionation factor. There have been a number of experimental approaches to deduce the

356 fractionation factor, where e.g. Feilberg et al. (2005) measured a value of 1.82 ± 0.07 for α_{mol},

357 while Röckmann et al. (2010) found a value of 1.63 ± 0.03 for that ratio. In their modeling

358 paper, Mar et al. (2007) varied the fractionation factor between 1.2 and 1.5 for stratospheric

359 conditions.

360

361 In all these studies the pressure dependence of the photolysis frequencies could not be

362 investigated. An interesting experiment by Nilsson et al. (2009) addressed this problem.

363 Unfortunately, the spectral radiance of the light source used did not resemble the sun light

364 well enough, and their findings could not be transferred to the real atmosphere without

365 information on the quantum yield of CHDO.

366

367 Beside its pressure dependence the variation of the photolytic fractionation factors can also be

368 caused by different actinic fluxes at the times and sites of the experiments. The actinic flux in

369 the numerator and denominator of the fractionation factor in equations F16 and F17 do not

370 cancel out, and, therefore, the factor is depending on the local insolation conditions.

371 Calculations of the solar zenith angle (SZA) dependency with the complex radiation transfer

372 model ART (Röth, 2002) result in values from 1.47 at overhead sun to 1.95 at SZA=83° for

373 clear sky and free horizon at ground level. This zenith angle dependency is less expressed at

374 20 km altitude and disappears at 50 km, as depicted in Figure 13. This effect may explain the

375 differences in the measurements of the fractionation factors. To check the variance with the

376 solar zenith angle the measured fractionation factor KIE_m (eq. F16) is compared to model

377 calculations. The factor 1.63 ± 0.03 (Röckmann et al., 2010) was derived from experimental

378 studies in the atmospheric simulation chamber SAPHIR between 60° and 70° SZA

379 (Röckmann et al., 2010). The absorption cross sections by Gratien et al. (2007) and the

380 quantum yields derived above together with the radiation spectra result in a fractionation

381 factor of 1.54 for 60° SZA and 1.70 for 70° SZA are in good agreement with the measured

382 value.

383

384 **Conclusions**

385

386   The current work derives a framework and set of equations for describing the CHDO

387   photolysis, based on two different approaches building on the available literature data, finding

388   a consistent result across all data sets. It could be shown that the most influential parameters

389   of the rates of photolysis of CHDO are the absolute value and the threshold of the quantum

390   yield of the radical channel. Simplified parametrized equations (F11 and F14) that are readily

391   implemented in kinetic models are provided for these quantities. Measurements around 300

392   nm and 325 nm could help to further reduce the uncertainty on the fractionation factor.

393   Additional measurements of the pressure dependence of the total quantum yield, i.e. the

394   quenching rate of excited $CHDO^{*}$, would be valuable to further test the assumptions made in

395   this paper.

396

397   **Competing interests**

398   The authors declare they have no competing interests
399
400

401

402   **Acknowledgments**

403   The authors thank Dr. B. Bohn and Dr. D. Tarraborrelli for their useful comments and

404   suggestions to improve the clarity and readability of the paper.

405

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Figures

Fig01 : Comparison of the fluorescence quantum yield measured by Miller and Lee (1978) (full dots) with the fitted function Φ_F (M) (see Eq. F3) for different wavelengths in nm as indicated. To emphasize the quality of the fit, we depict only the pressure dependent part θ(M) as defined in Eq. F4

Fig02 : The pressure dependence of the kinetic isotope effect KIE (i.e. the ratio of the CH_2O/CHDO photolysis frequencies, see Eq. F6) is compared to the measured data of Nilsson et al., 2010 (blue squares), and to Feilberg et al., 2007, Rhee et al., 2008, and Röckmann et al., 2010 (red squares, 'others'). The solid curve at 1000 hPa is included to accommodate the variation of the data.

Fig03: The total product quantum yields Φ^{tot} derived from the measured rate constants of Miller and Lee (1978) at 1000 hPa through Eq. F7 (full circles) is well reproduced by the continuous Φ^{tot} function obtained after fitting the rate coefficients to function Eq. F8 (solid curve).

Fig04: Wavelength dependence of the contributions of the three terms for Φ_2^{tot} , Φ_3^{tot} and Φ_6^{tot} of equation F7 to the total quantum yield Φ^{tot} of the CHDO photolysis at 10 hPa (a) and 1030 hPa (b).

Fig05: The total quantum yields Φ^{tot} of the photolysis of CHDO and that of the radical channel, Φ^{rad}, calculated with the three-term functions Eq. F7 and F10 (black curves). The blue shaded area indicates the variation of parameter a within the interval [0.70 / 0.78]. The red curves, derived using the one-term approximation (eq. F11), and the black curves fall within the variance of each other.

Fig06: Comparison of the one-termfit function F11 (open circles on the solid line) with the measured data (Miller and Lee, 1978) of the total photolytic quantum yields Φ^{tot} (full circles) at 1, 10, 200, and 1000 hPa.

Fig07: The original data of McQuigg and Calvert (1969) for CH_2O (full red squares) and CD_2O (open squares) for the photolytic quantum yields of the radical channel are compared to the averaged function for CH_2O by Röth and Ehhalt (2015).

603

Fig08: The ratio Φ_{CD2O}/Φ_{CH2O} of the McQuigg and Calvert (1969) data shown in Fig.7 and

the corrected radical quantum yield of CD$_2$O, Φ_{CD2O}^{rad} (black squares). The ratio of the

respective reaction constants (triangles) derived theoretically by Troe (1984) shows the same

tendency as the quantum yield ratio.

608

Fig09: Wavelength dependency of the quantum yields Φ^{rad} for the radical channel of the three

isotopologues of formaldehyde. The curves for CH$_2$O (Röth and Ehhalt, 2015) and that for

CD$_2$O (corrected data of McQuigg and Calvert, 1969) are used to calculate the quantum yield

of CHDO (black dots) by their mean values. Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} is then fitted by the one-term function Eq.

F14 (black line).

614

Fig10: The CHDO quantum yield Φ_{CHDO}^{rad} fit function deduced from the fluorescence

measurements (blue line, Eq. F11) of Miller and Lee (1978), and that from the interpretation

of the photo-decomposition (red line, Eq. F14) measurements of McQuigg and Calvert

(1969). These lie within the uncertainty range of each other. Also depicted is the function for

the total quantum yield Φ^{tot} (Eq. F11)

620
Fig11 : The photolysis rate is the combination of the actinic photon flux, the absorption cross

section and the quantum yield. Depicted are the contributions to the molecular channel of the

photolysis rate of CHDO, J_{CHDO}^{mol}, at 20 km altitude and integrated over 5 nm wavelength: the

actinic photon flux $F_\lambda(\lambda)$, the absorption cross section $\sigma(\lambda)$ (Gratien et al., 2007), and the

quantum yield for the molecular channel $\Phi^{mol}(\lambda)$. The photolysis rate, the photon flux and the

cross sectionare multiplied by 2.5×10^5 sec, 2.5×10^{-15} photons^{-1} nm sec, and 1.5×10^{19} cm^{-1},

respectively, to achieve comparability.

628
Fig12 : The altitudinal dependence of the photolysis frequencies J$_{mol}$ of the molecular

channels (a) of CH$_2$O and CHDO is important for the atmospheric production of HD. For

comparison the radical channels (b) are also depicted. The dependence on altitude of the

kinetic isotope effect, KIE = J$_{CH2O}$/J$_{CHDO}$, is more pronounced for the molecular channel than

the radical channel. The shaded area indicates the variance upon changing (a) the quantum

yield Φ^{mol} by 10% and (b) the radical threshold wavelength by 3 nm.

635

636   **Fig13 :** At 50 km altitude the solar zenith angle dependency of the photolysis frequency ratio

637   of the molecular channel is nearly constant. In contrast, at 0 km the ratio increases

638   significantly for solar zenith angles above 30 degrees.

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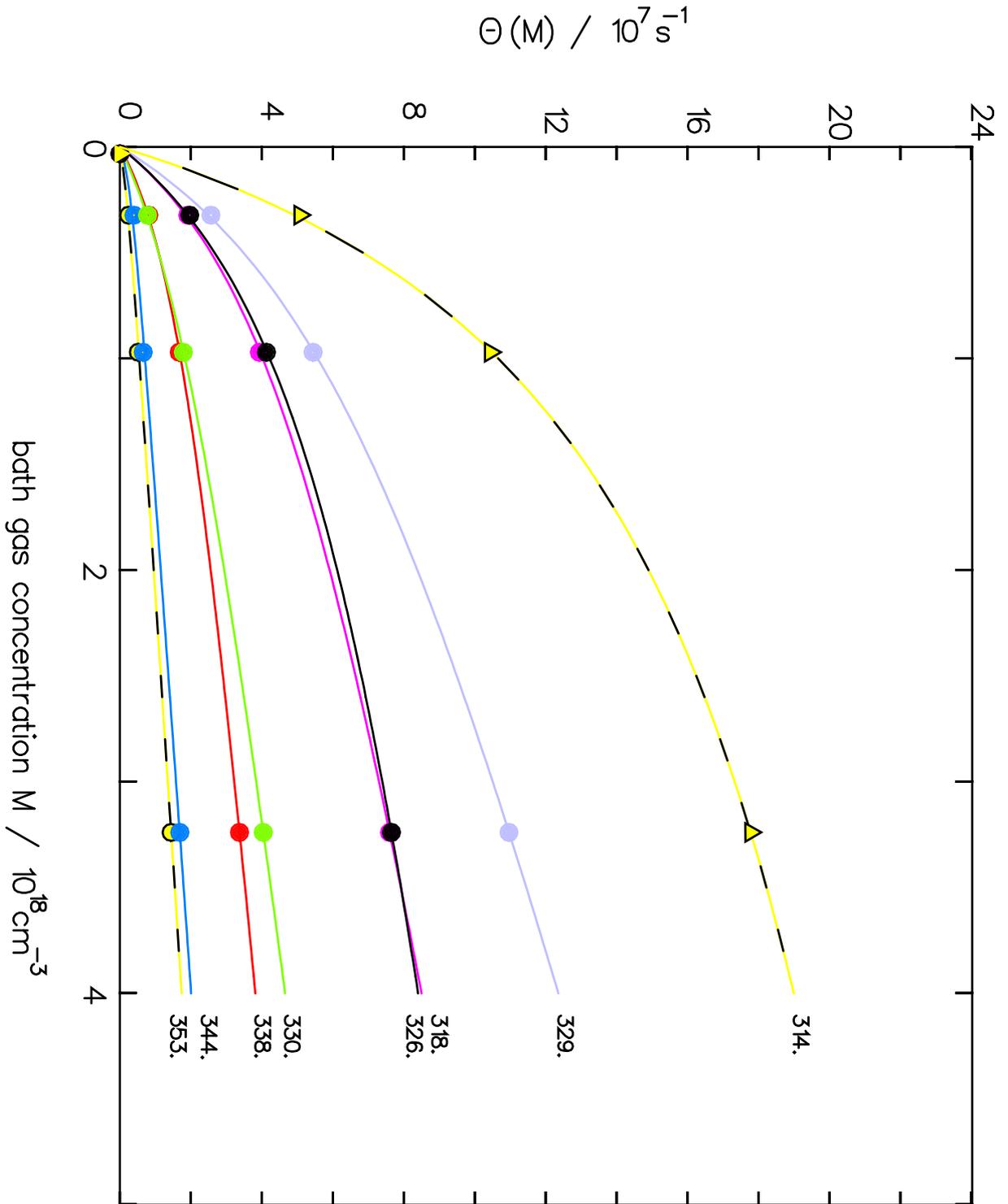
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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Fig. 3

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Fig. 4

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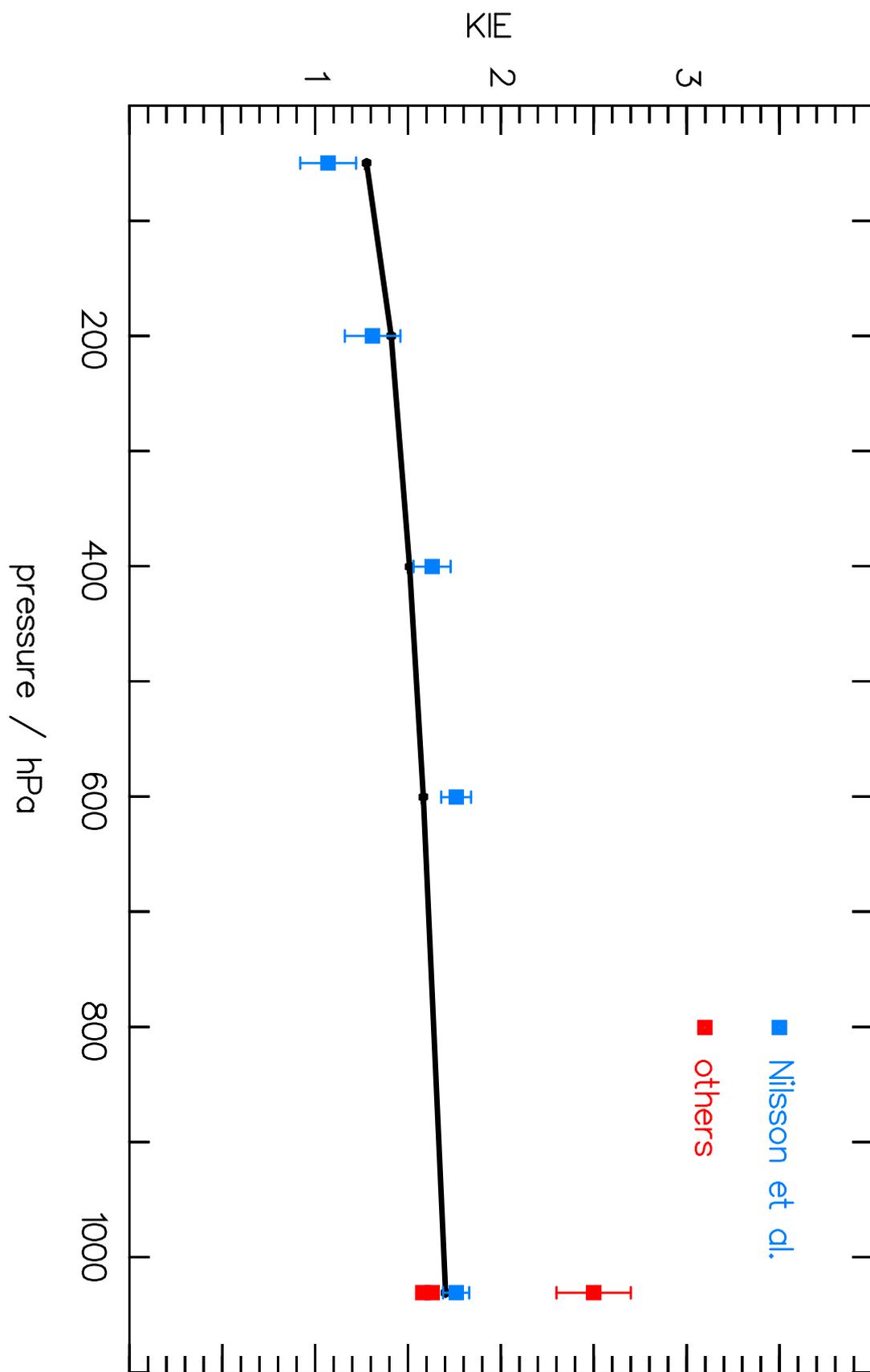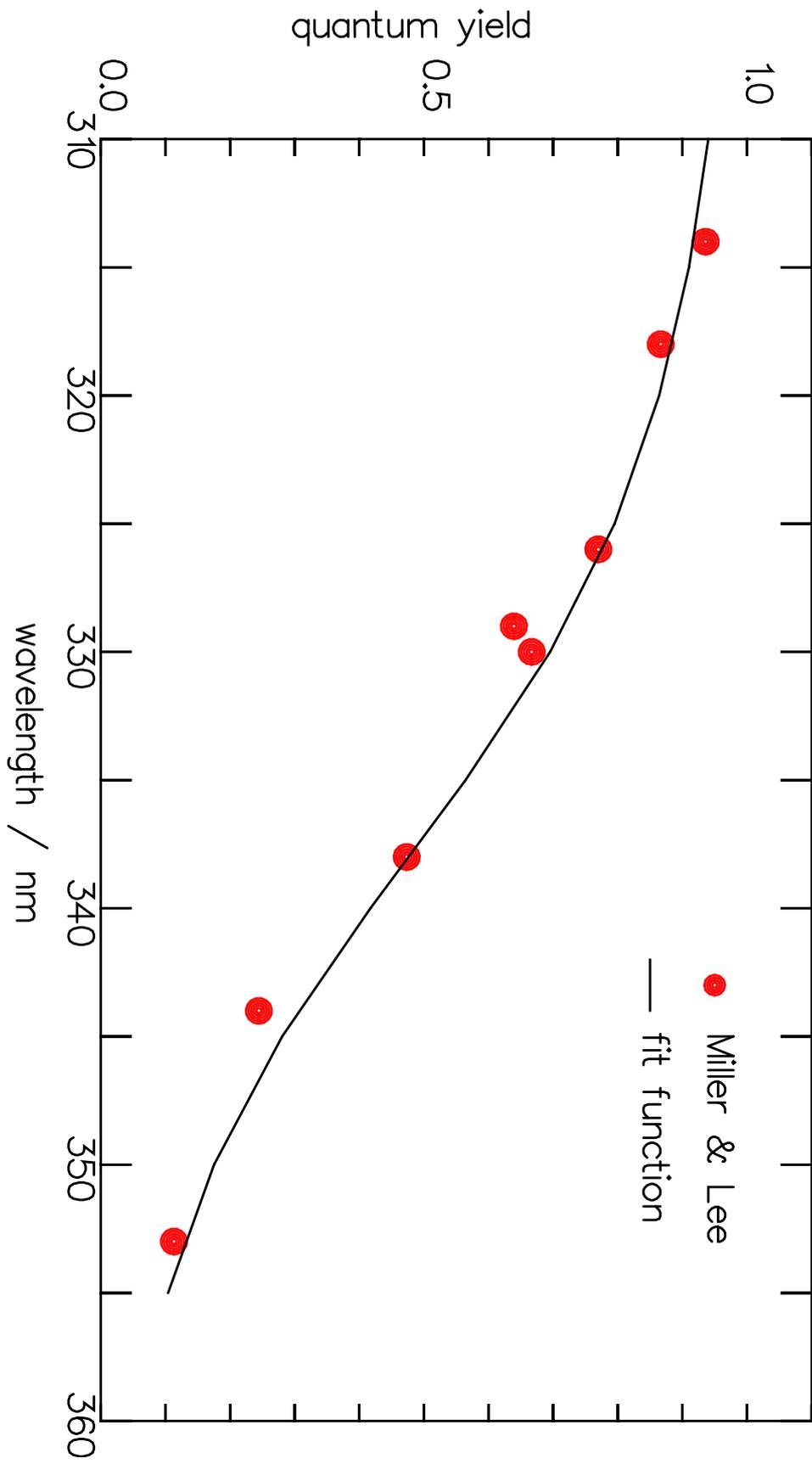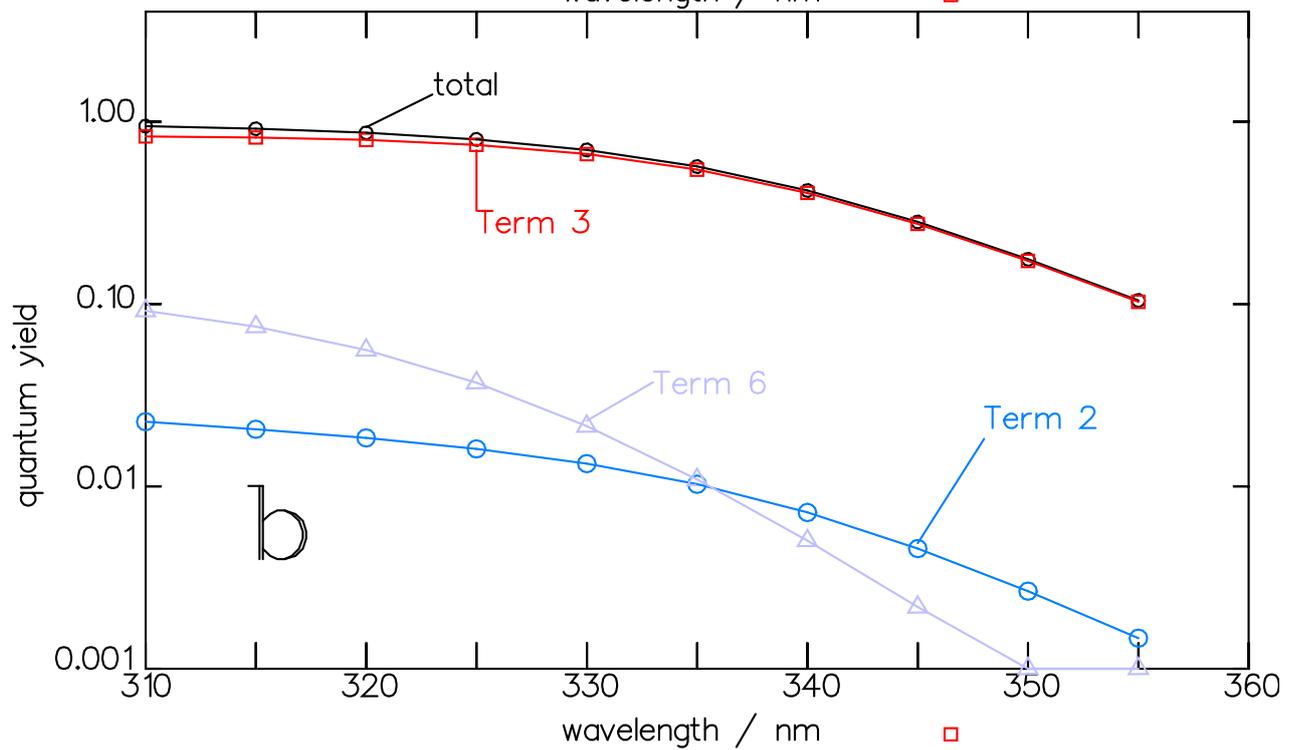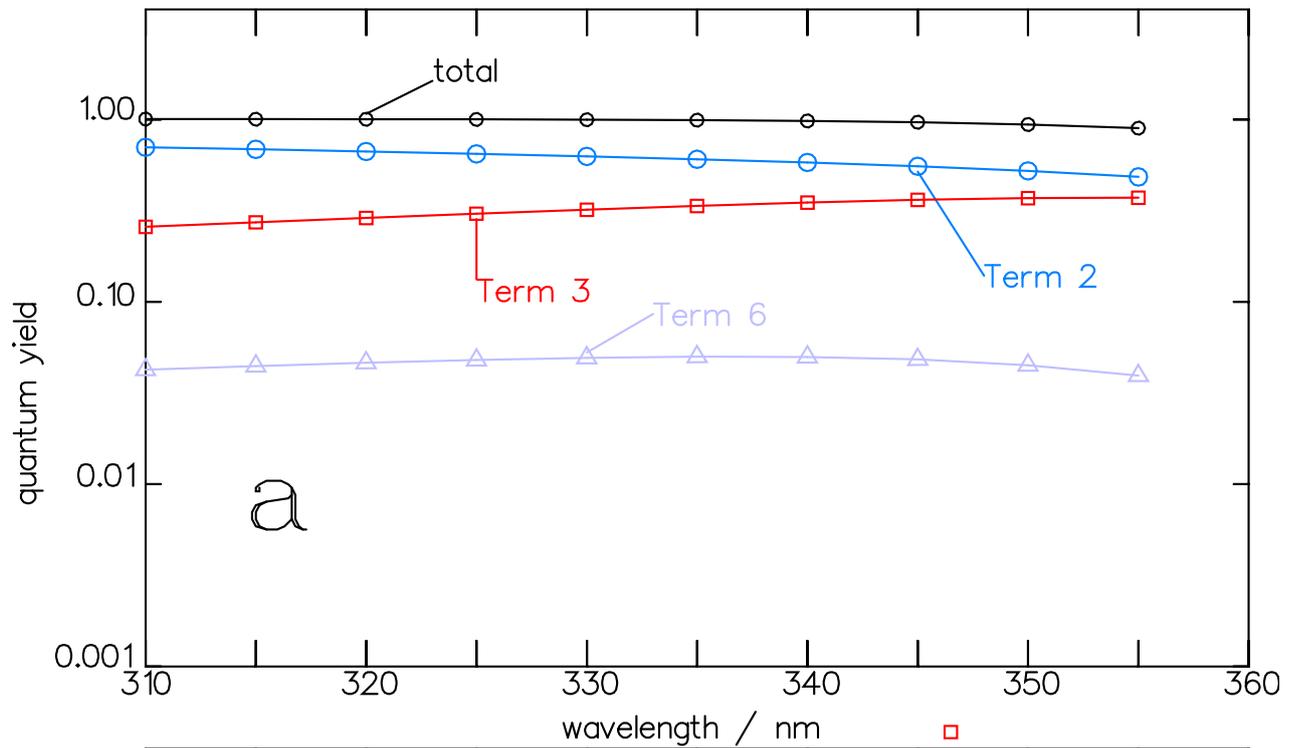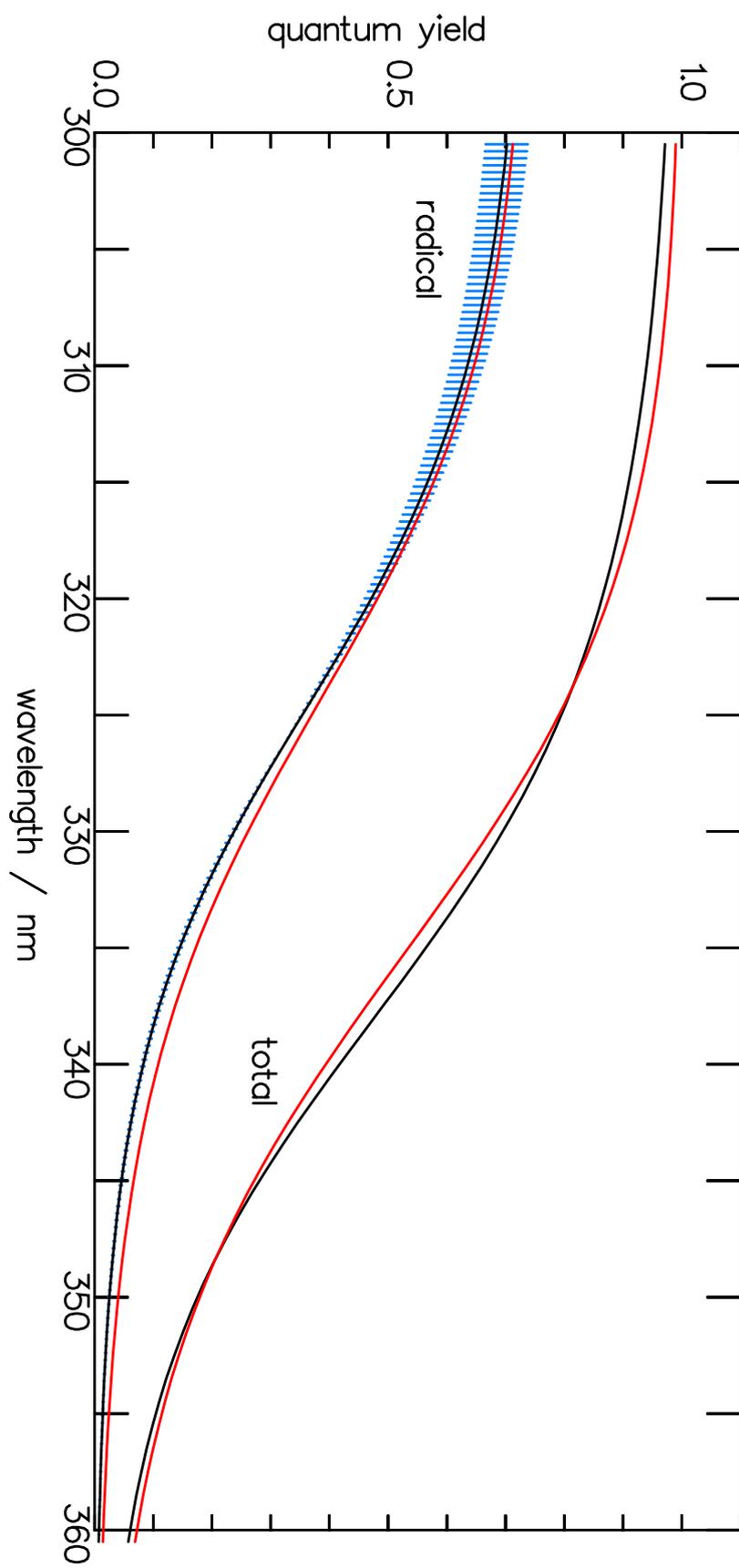
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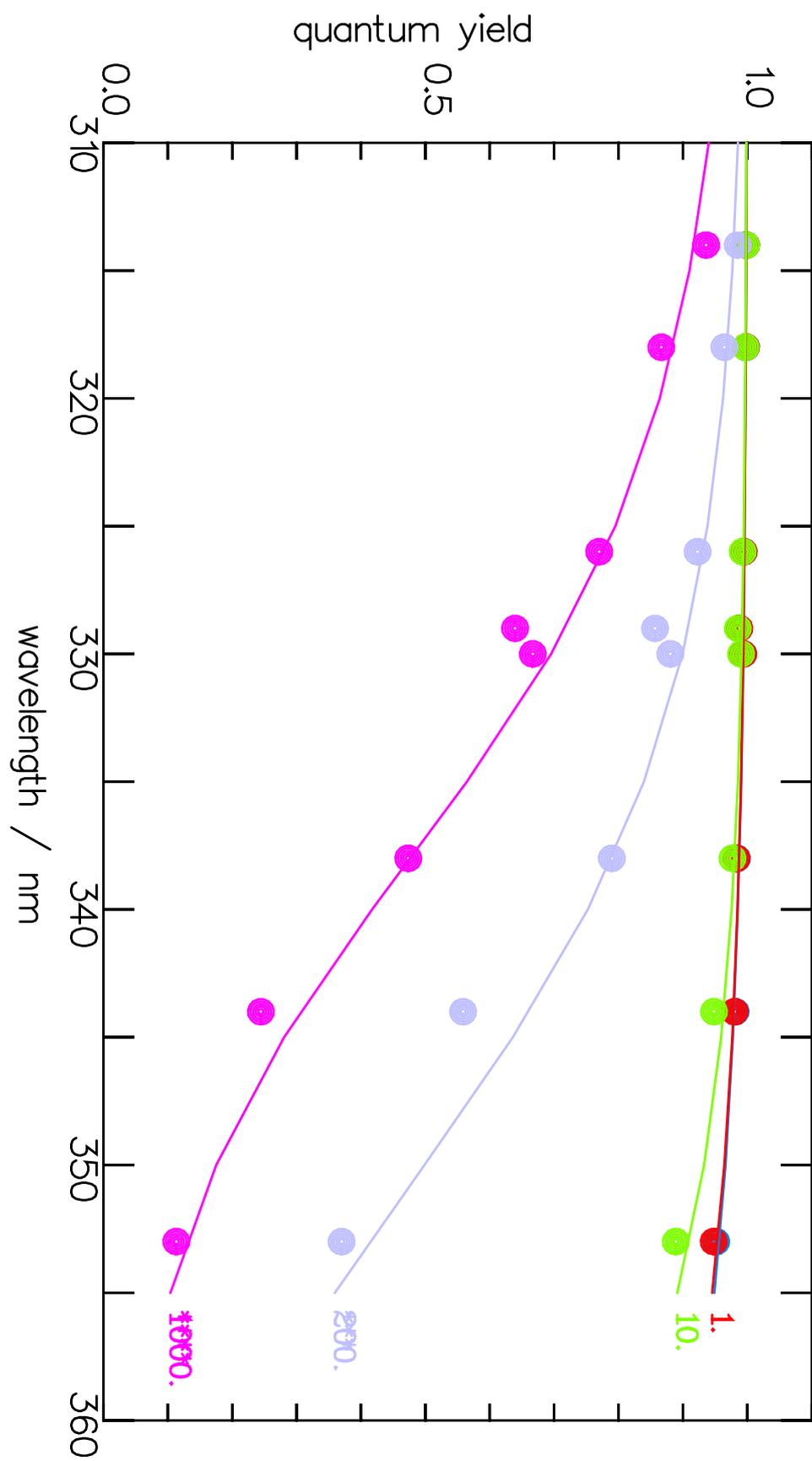
Fig. 6

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Fig 7

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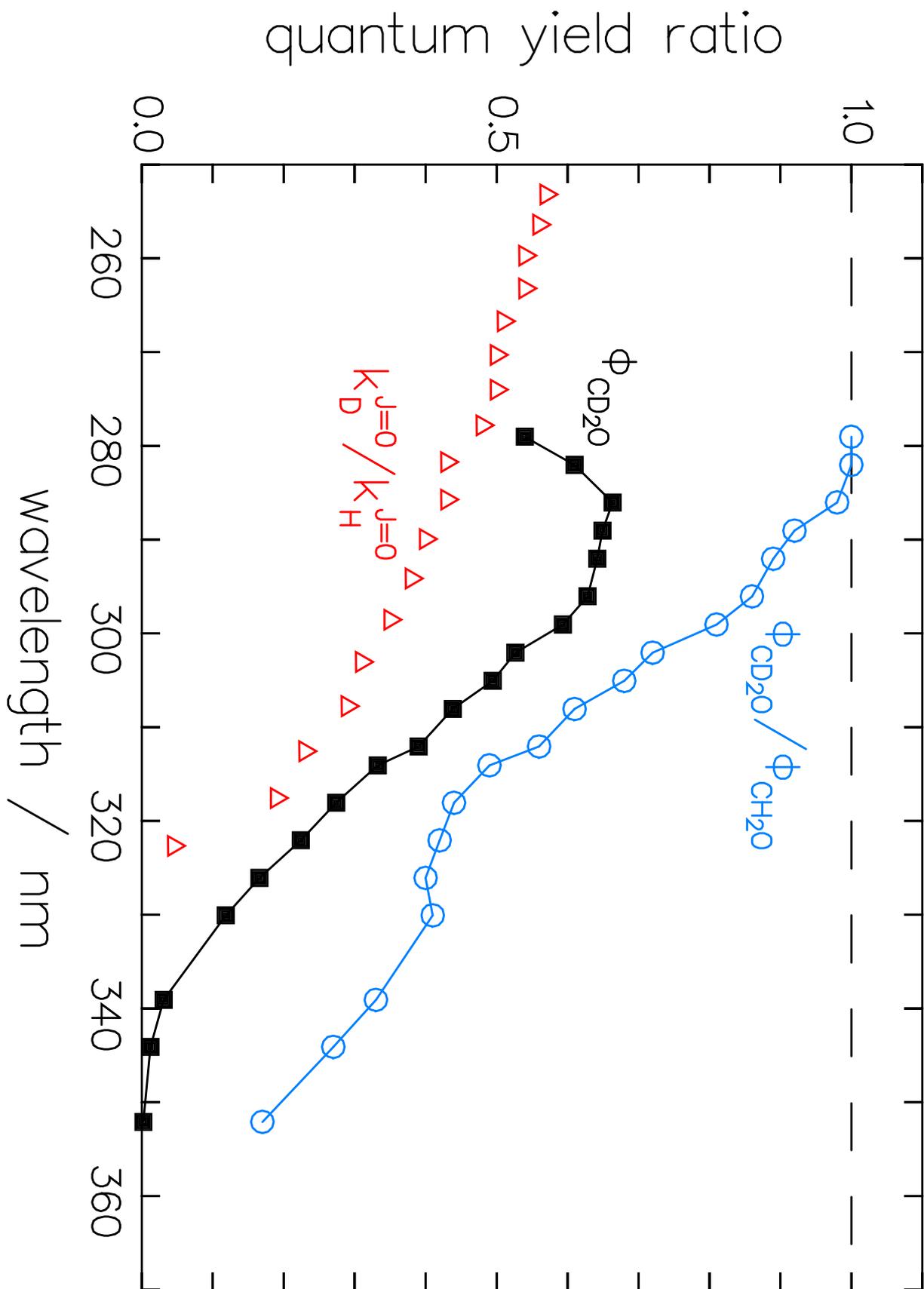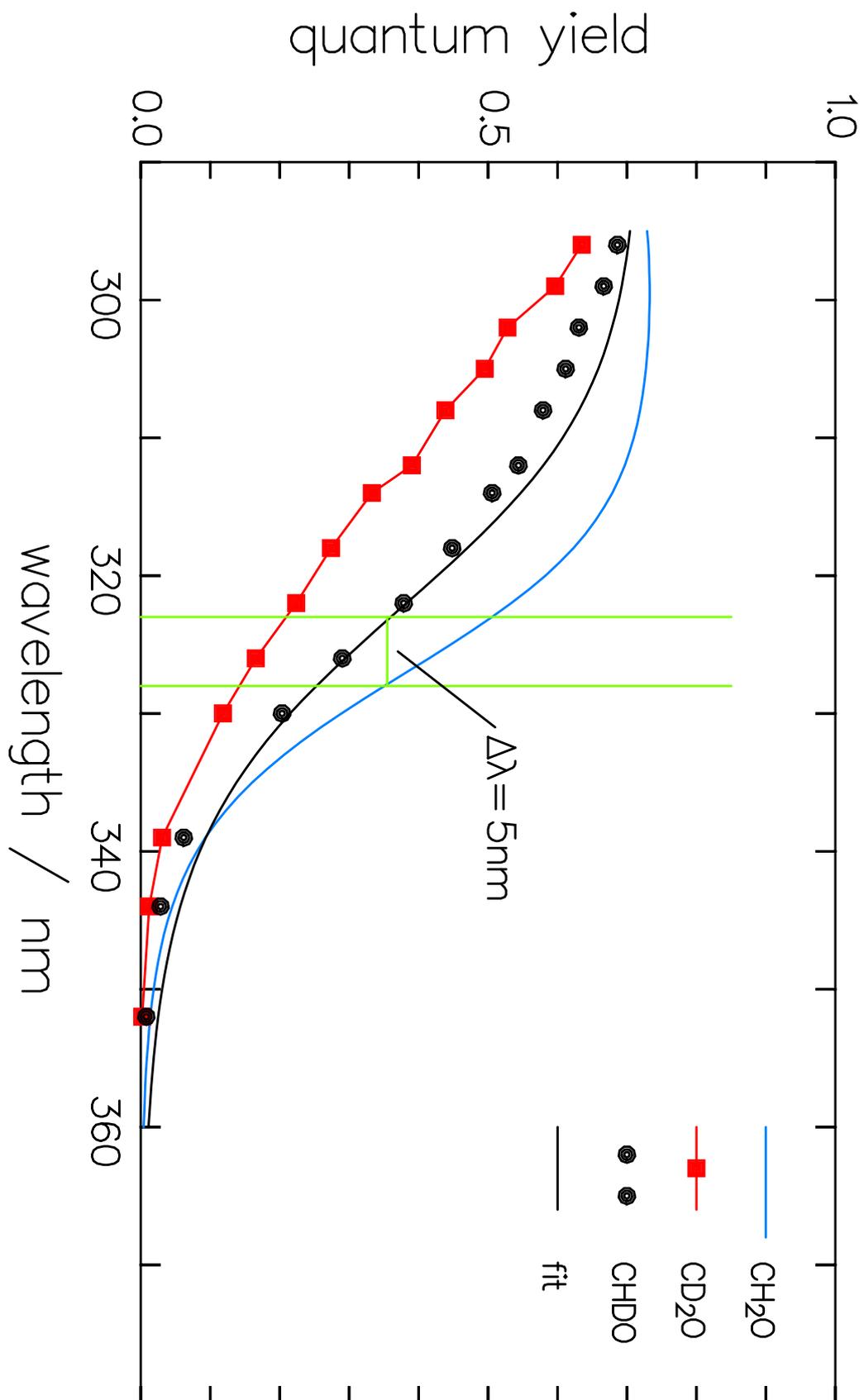
Fig. 9

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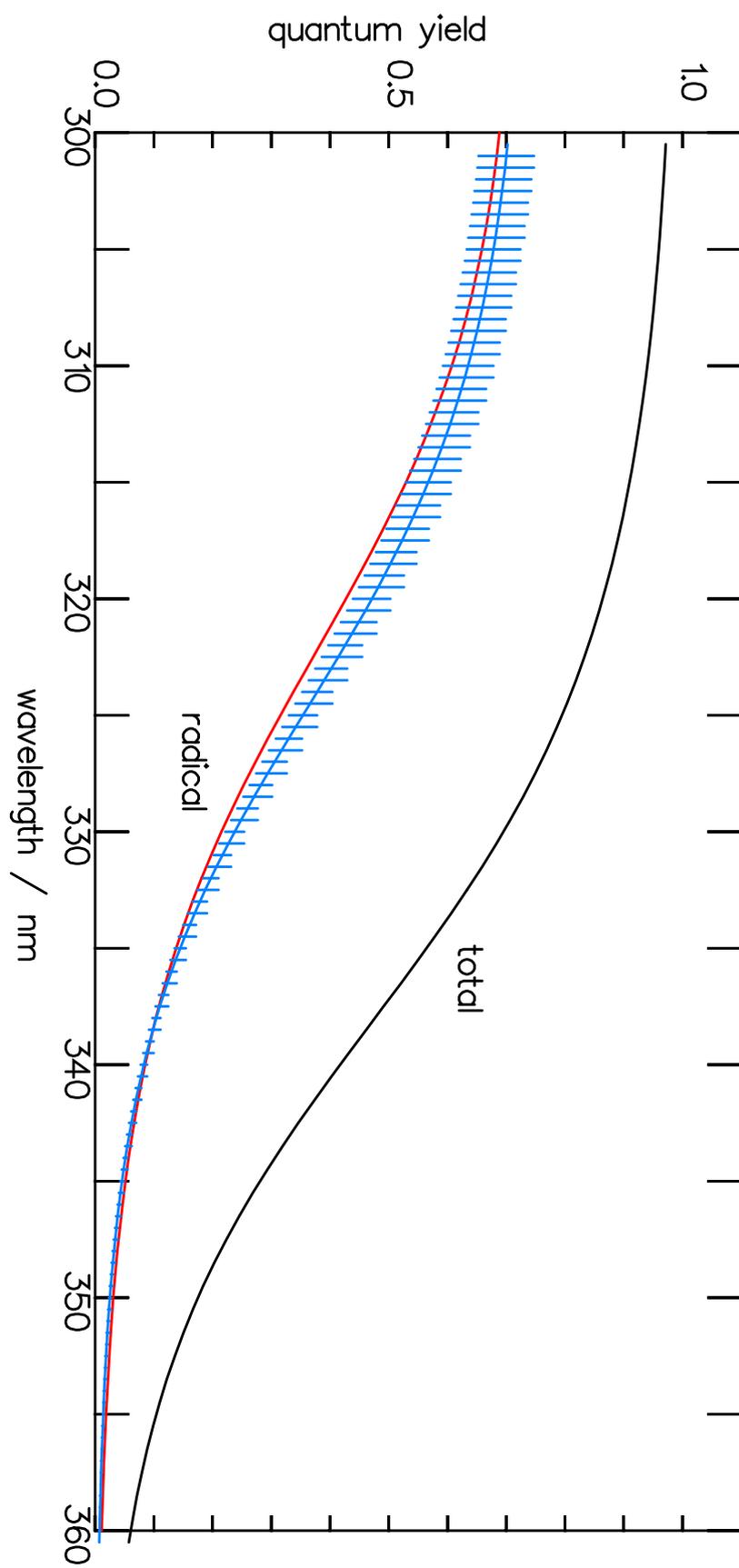
681
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683 Fig. 10
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Fig. 11

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Fig. 12

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Fig. 13

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$$CHDO(S_0) + h\upsilon \rightarrow CHDO^*(S_1) \tag{R0}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^\# + h\nu_1 \tag{R1}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^*(S_0) \tag{R2}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO\ /\ D+CHO \tag{R2a}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD \tag{R2b}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_0) + M \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + M \tag{R2c}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_1) + M \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) + M \tag{R3}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO\ /\ D+CHO \tag{R3a}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD \tag{R3b}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 1}(S_0) + M \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + M \tag{R3c}$$

$$CHDO^*(S_1) + M \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) + M \tag{R4}$$

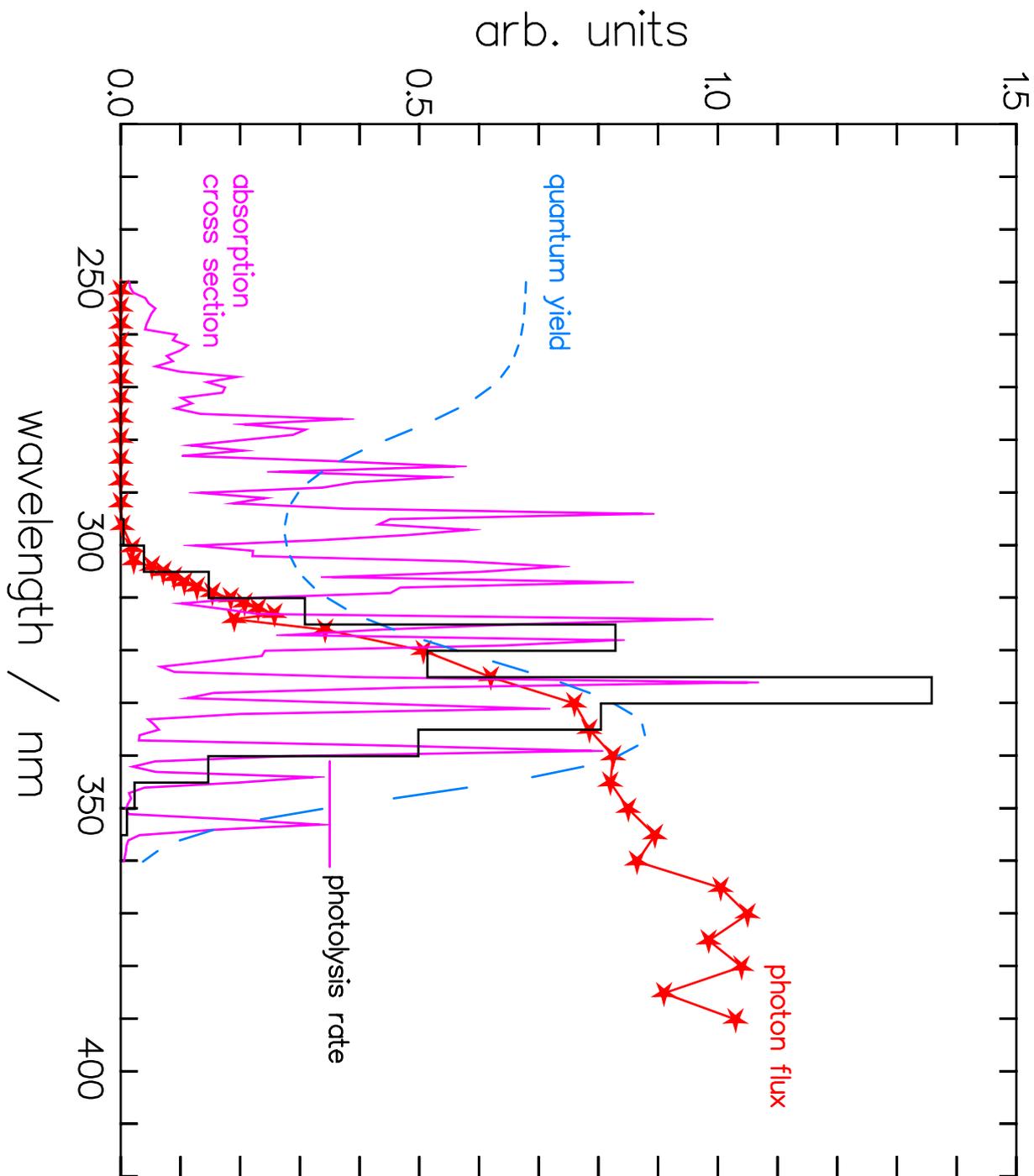
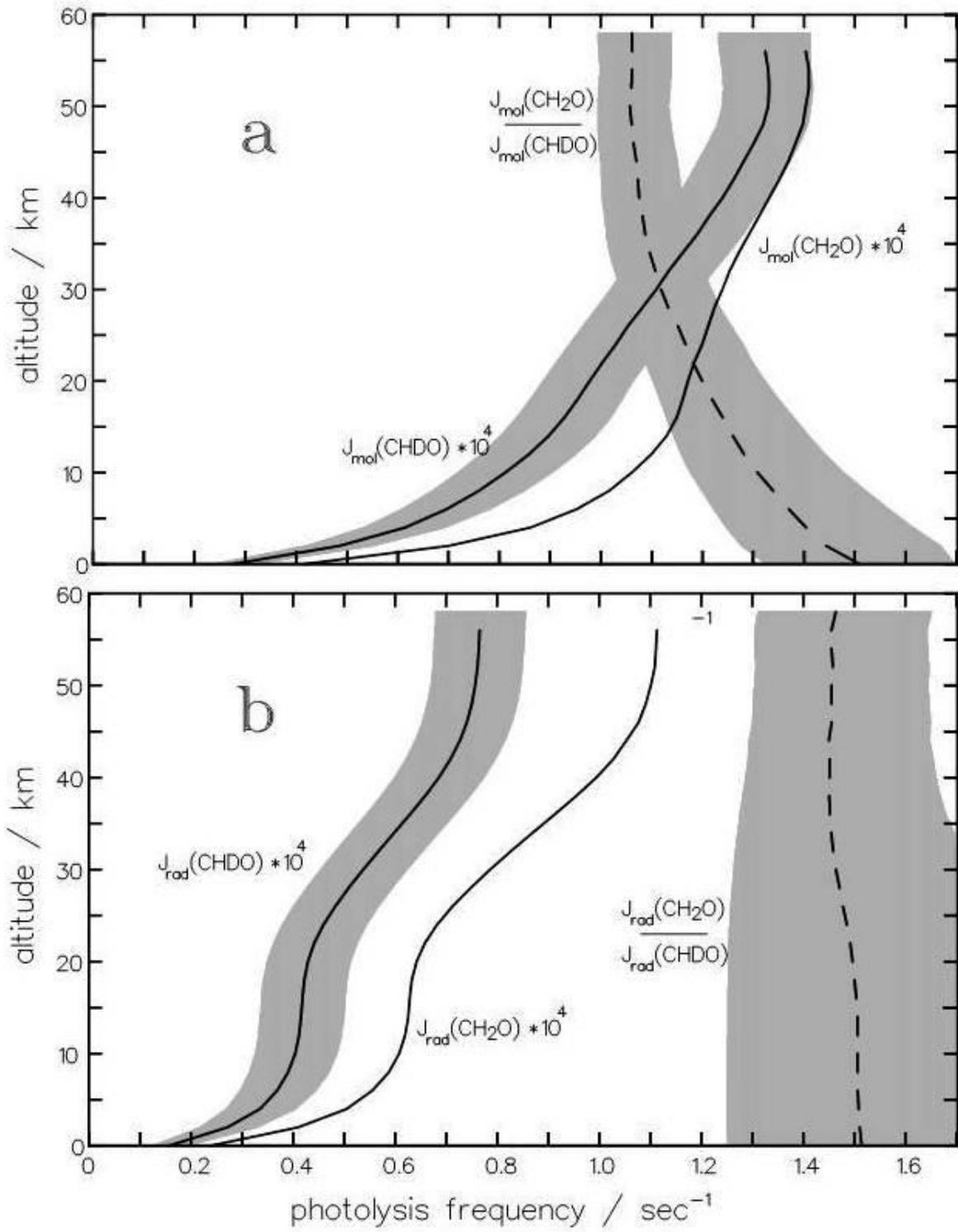
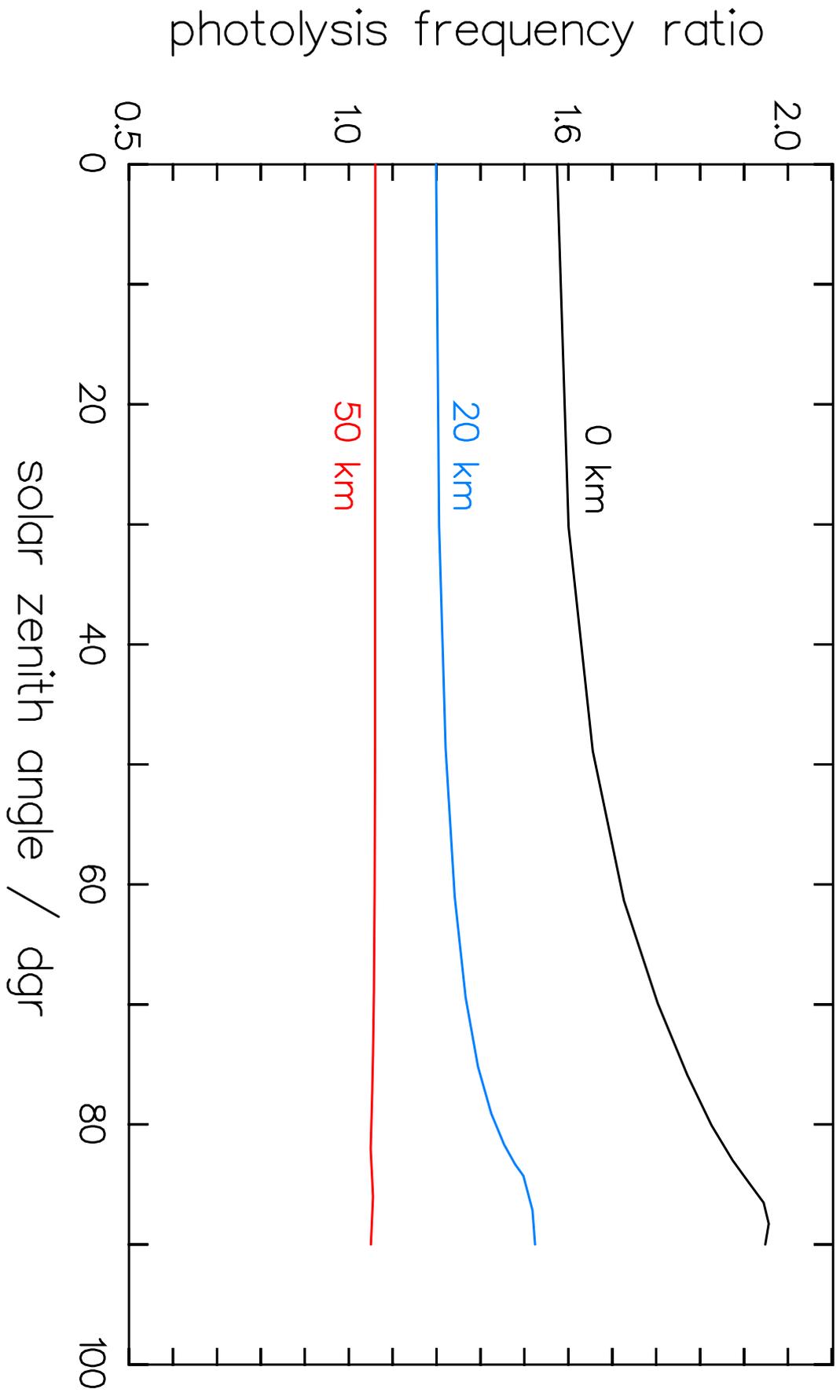
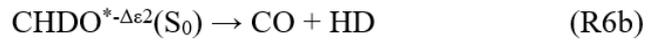
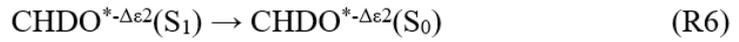
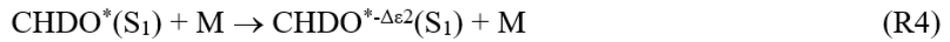
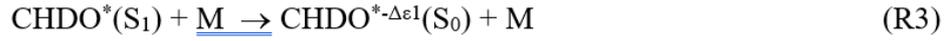
$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + h\nu_5 \tag{R5}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) \rightarrow CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_0) \tag{R6}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_0) \rightarrow H+CDO\ /\ D+CHO \tag{R6a}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_0) \rightarrow CO + HD \tag{R6b}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_0) +M \rightarrow CHDO^\#(S_0) + M \tag{R6c}$$

$$CHDO^{*-\Delta\varepsilon 2}(S_1) +M \rightarrow \quad \ldots \tag{R7}$$

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703 Reaction scheme (Table 1)