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Formation of H_2 and Galaxies in the Hot Universe

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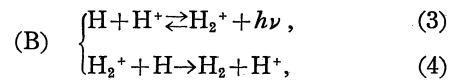
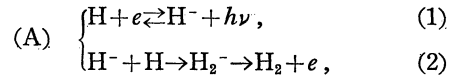
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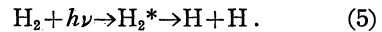
In the hot universe model, the recombination of the plasma causes the decoupling of matter from the primeval radiation and the uniform gas starts to fragment into gravitationally contracting clouds.¹⁾ If the cloud contracts adiabatically, hydrogen atoms in it are soon collisionally ionized again and the cloud is finally dispersed by radiation pressure.²⁾ Therefore, some kind of cryogen is necessary to form a bound system. Since the primeval gas does not contain the heavy elements like carbon,³⁾ the H_2 molecule is the sole possibility of a primeval cryogen. In this way, the formation of H_2 is closely connected to the generation of astronomical objects like galaxies.

In this letter, we show the evolution of H_2 abundance in the uniform medium in contrast with the works by Saslaw et al.⁴⁾ and Peebles et al.,⁵⁾ in which they calculated the products of H_2 in dense clouds. Our aim is to find the critical epoch before which the formation of H_2 has been prevented even in the dense cloud by the photo-dissociation.

Here, we consider the following processes,



and



In the processes (A) and (B), electron and proton work as a kind of catalyzer. Reaction rate α in $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{sec}$ and photodissociation rate β in sec^{-1} are taken as $\alpha(H, e) = 6.1 \times 10^{-19} T_m^{0.6}$, $\alpha(H, H^+) = 5.0 \times 10^{-24} T_m^{2.4}$,⁴⁾ $\alpha(H^-, H) = \alpha(H_2^+, H) = 1.3 \times 10^{-9}$,⁵⁾ and $\beta(H^-) = 1.5 \times 10^{-2} T_r^{2.4} \exp(-8750/T_r)$,⁴⁾ where T_m and T_r are matter and radiation temperatures in $^\circ\text{K}$ respectively. The remaining $\beta(H_2^+)$ and $\beta(H_2)$ are not so simply given, because the populations among the vibrational levels depend on their formation processes.

If all of H_2^+ were in the vibrationally ground states, the process (B) might be more frequent than the (A) and the product of H_2 amounts to $H_2/H \approx 10^{-4}$ at $T_r \approx 3000^\circ\text{K}$. However, such an assumption is wrong and we must assume a broad distribution among the vibrational levels like Frank-Condon distribution,⁶⁾ in the case of which the process (A) is always more frequent than the (B). The ambiguity of $\beta(H_2)$ does not affect the evolution of H_2 abundance in the stage such as $T_r < 2000^\circ\text{K}$, as shown in the figure.

Evolution of the abundances is shown in the figure. Final abundances of H^+ ⁹⁾ and H_2 are also given in the table. After the critical epoch when the photo-dissociation of H^- becomes inefficient, the sufficient quantity of H_2 can be formed in the contracting dense cloud.¹⁰⁾ Therefore, the first generation of the bound system is postponed from the stage of plasma recombination ($t \approx 10^{5.1}$ years, $T_r \approx 4000^\circ\text{K}$

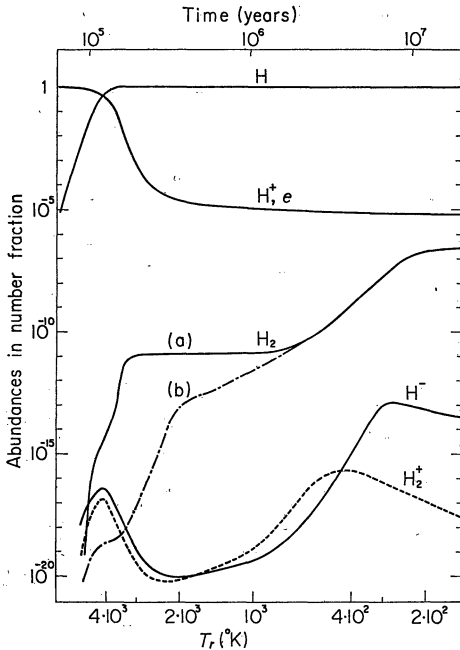


Fig. Evolution of the abundances of H^+ , H , H^- , H_2^+ and H_2 for the flat universe model $q_0 = 1/2$. (a) and (b) denote the two extreme cases: (a) $\beta(H_2, v=0) = 5.1 \times 10^7 \exp(-1.44 \times 10^5/T_r)$ and (b) $\beta(H_2, v=14) = 2.1 \times 10^7 \exp(-9.19 \times 10^4/T_r)$.⁷⁾ Abundance of H_2^+ is drawn assuming the cross section $\sigma = 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2$ and the threshold at $\lambda = 10^4 \text{ \AA}$.⁸⁾

Table. Final abundances for the Universe models with the present density $\rho_{m0} = 1.86 \times 10^{-29} (2q_0) \text{ g/cm}^3$.

$2q_0$	$\log(H^+/H)$	$\log(H_2/H)$
10	-5.83	-6.72
1	-5.24	-6.57
10^{-1}	-4.64	-6.43
10^{-2}	-3.93	-6.43

and redshift parameter $z \approx 10^{3.1}$ in the case $q_0 = 1/2$) to the stage of H_2 formation ($t \approx 10^{6.9}$ years, $T_r \approx 3000^\circ\text{K}$ and $z = 10^2$). These primeval bound systems with mass bigger than $10^6 M_\odot$ are not necessarily galaxies themselves but pregalactic supermassive stars.^{2), 5)}

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