

climate change initiative

# LONG-LIVED GREENHOUSE GAS PRODUCTS PERFORMANCES



University of  
Reading



Sant'Anna  
Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pisa



Science & Technology Facilities Council  
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

## Contribution of low-wavenumber absorption to halocarbon radiative forcing

Daniela Alvarado Jiménez,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Nicola Tasinato,<sup>1</sup> Keith Shine,<sup>3</sup>  
Roberto Buizza,<sup>4</sup> Richard Brownsword,<sup>5</sup> and Damien Weidmann.<sup>5</sup>



lolipop  
cci

<sup>1</sup> Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

<sup>2</sup> IUSS Pavia, Italy

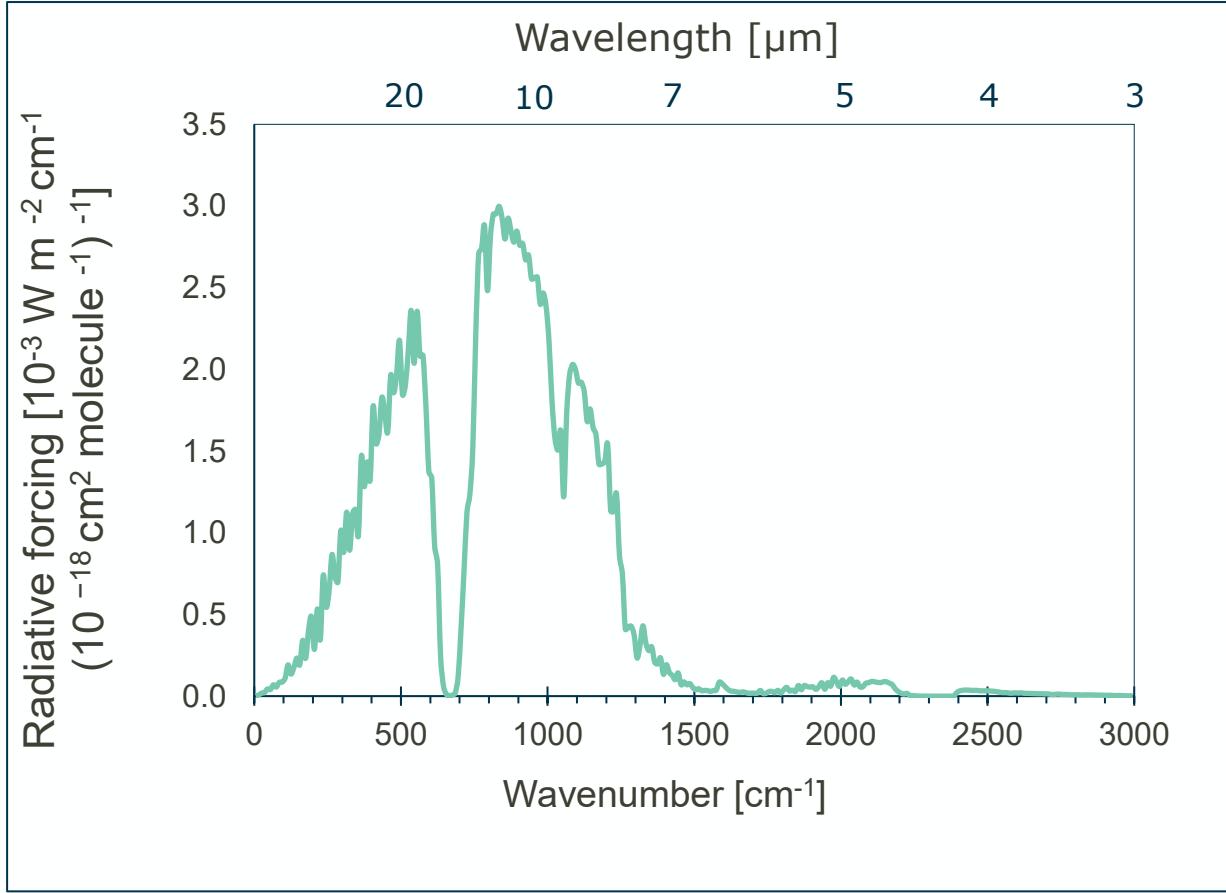
<sup>3</sup> University of Reading, United Kingdom

<sup>4</sup> Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy

<sup>5</sup> Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, United Kingdom



# Pinnock Model (1995)



*Radiative forcing (RF) for a 0–1 ppb increase in mixing ratio per unit cross-section.<sup>2</sup>*

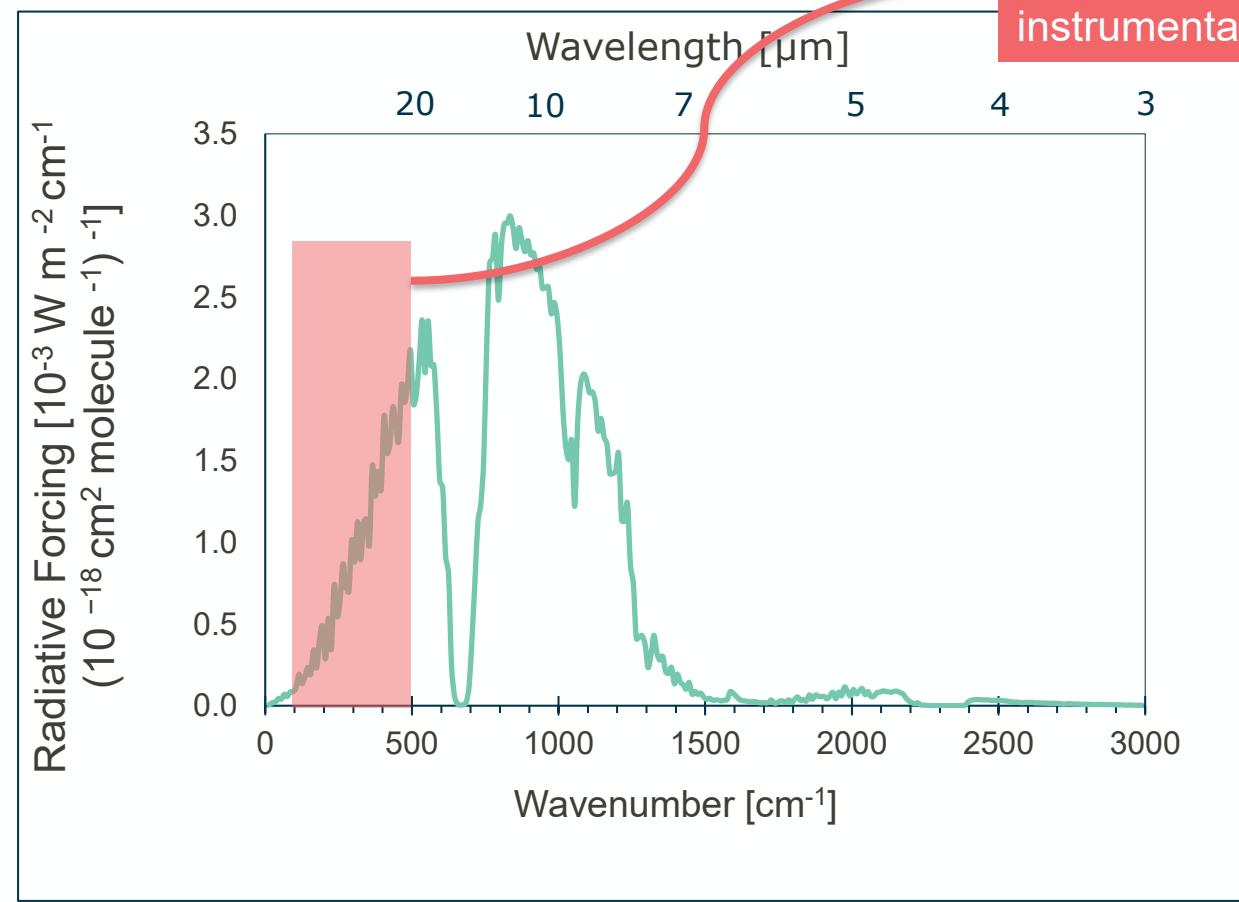
- The Pinnock Curve<sup>1</sup> highlights the wavenumber regions where weak absorbers (such as halocarbons) cause the greatest radiative forcing (RF).
- It is calculated using a narrow band radiative transfer code (including the main atmospheric gases and clouds).
- It allows the rapid calculation of halocarbon radiative efficiency directly from infrared (IR) absorption cross sections ( $\sigma$ ,  $\text{cm}^2 \text{molecule}^{-1}$ ) without the need for a radiation code.
- The most recent<sup>2</sup> Pinnock curve is a mixture of narrow band and line-by-line calculations

$$IRE = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \int_{\nu_{1,i}}^{\nu_{2,i}} \sigma_i(\nu) d\nu \right] F_{\sigma}^i$$

$F_{\sigma}^i$  : RF of the global annual mean atmosphere (GAM).



# Pinnock Model (1995)



*Radiative forcing (RF) for a 0–1 ppb increase in mixing ratio per unit cross section.<sup>2</sup>*

Few measurements of halocarbon cross-sections have been made at wavenumbers  $< 500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  because of instrumental limitations.

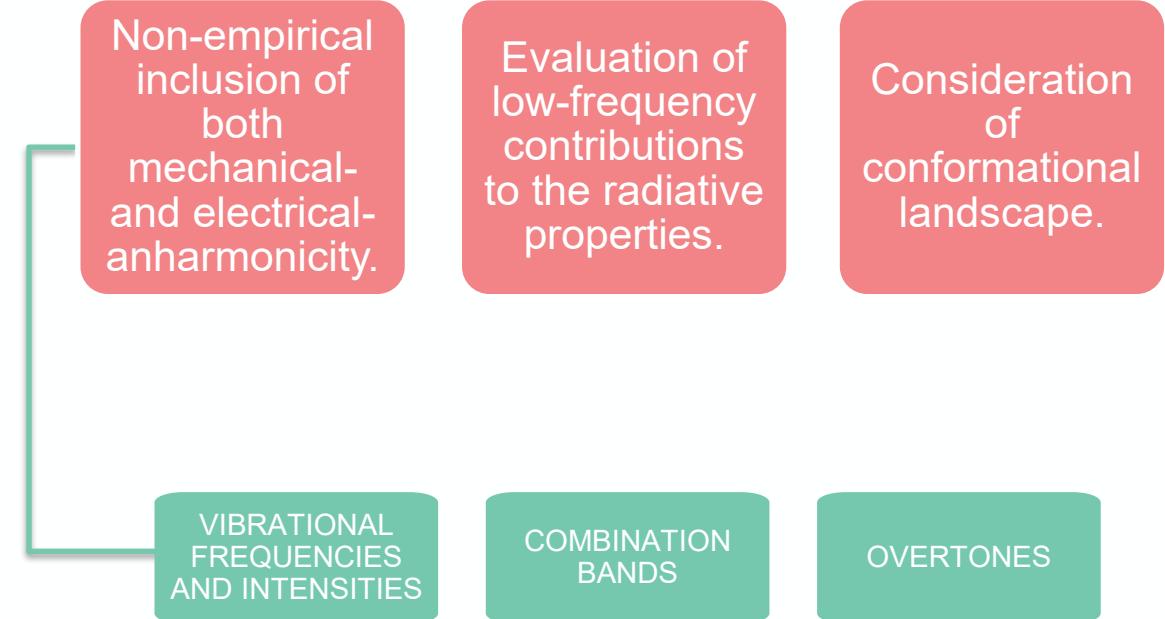
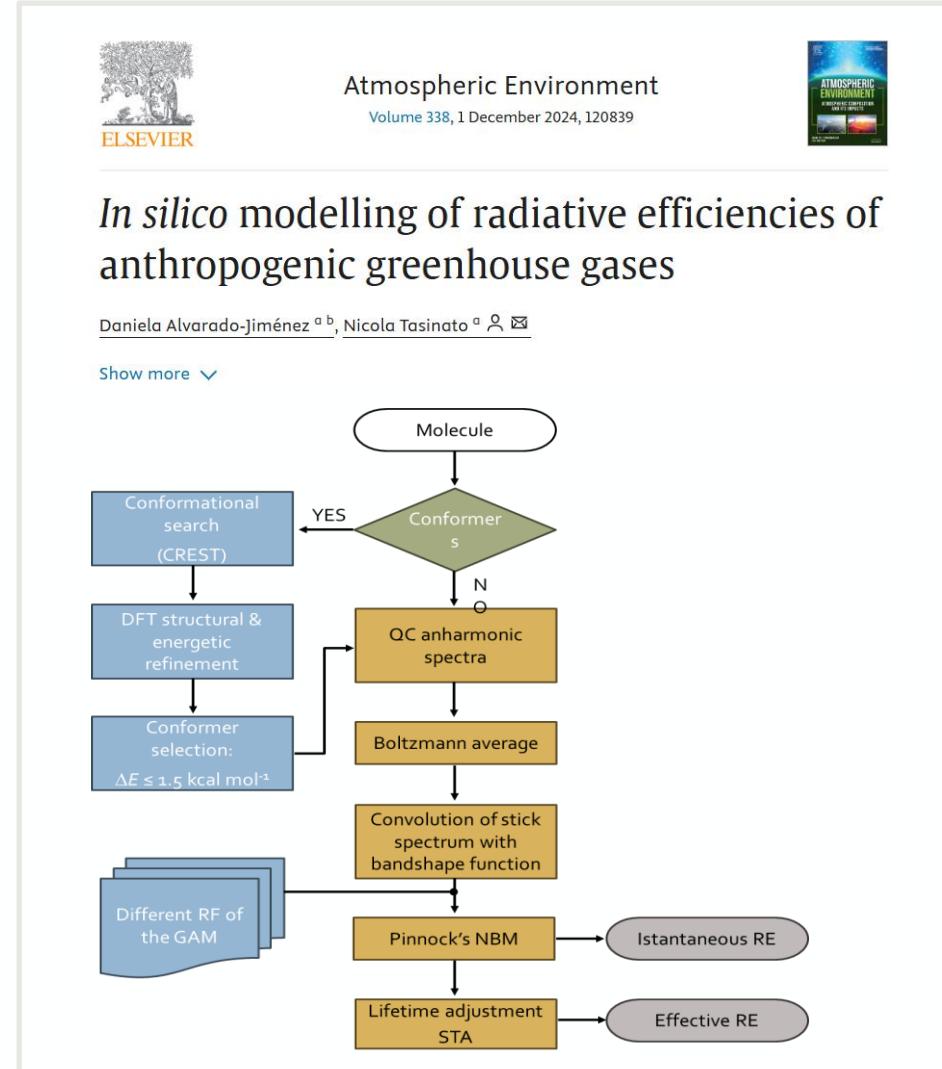
E.g.

Absorption cross-sections			
		Waveno. range ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Int. abs. cross-section ( $10^{-17} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ )
HCFC-132	$\text{CHClFCHClF}$	810–1510	3.7 (Wallington et al., 1994)
HFC-152	$\text{CH}_2\text{FCH}_2\text{F}$	550–3000	8.1 (Sharpe et al., 2004)

$$RE = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \int_{\nu_{1,i}}^{\nu_{2,i}} \sigma_i(\nu) d\nu \right] F_{\sigma}^i$$



# Quantum Chemical (QC) workflow to REs

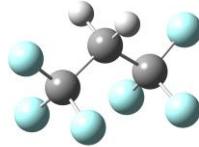




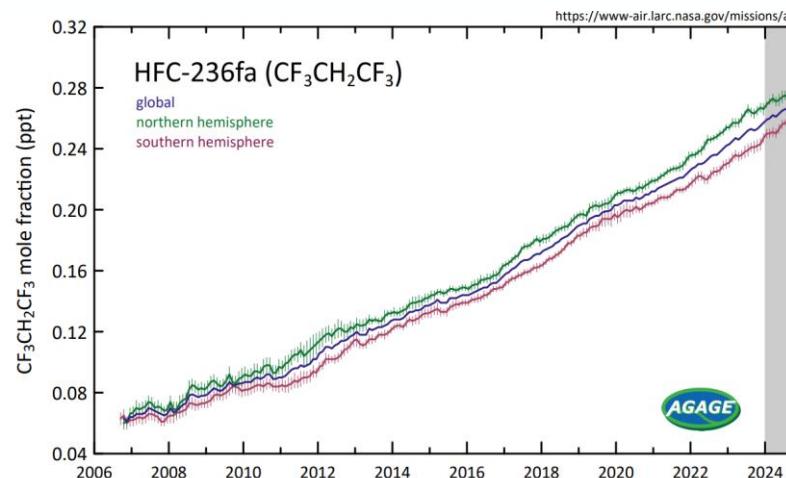
# Selected molecules



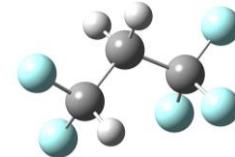
## HFC-236fa



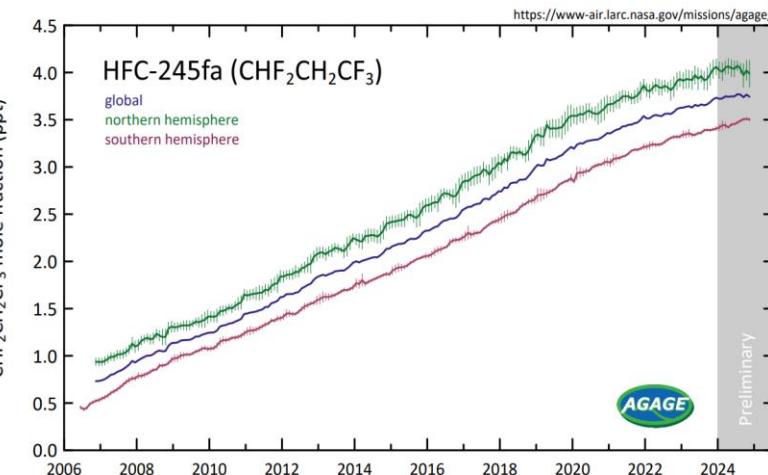
1,1,1,3,3,3-Hexafluoropropane



## HFC-245fa



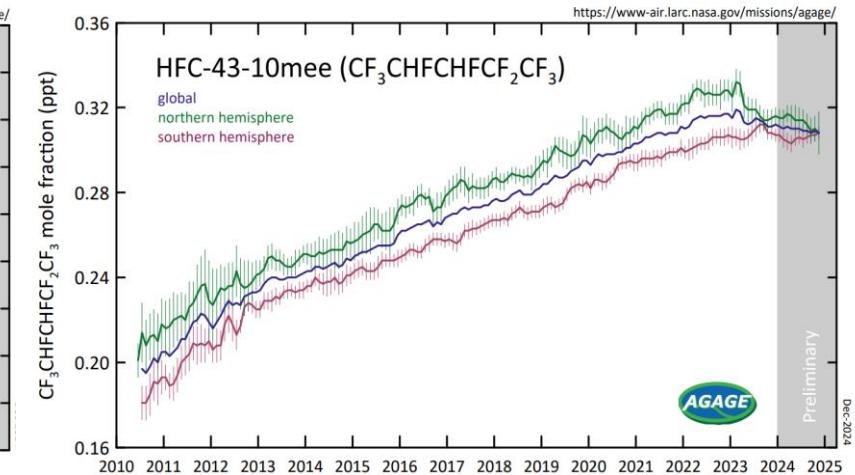
1,1,1,3,3-Pentafluoropropane



## HFC-43-10mee

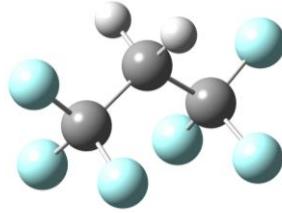


Decafluoropentane

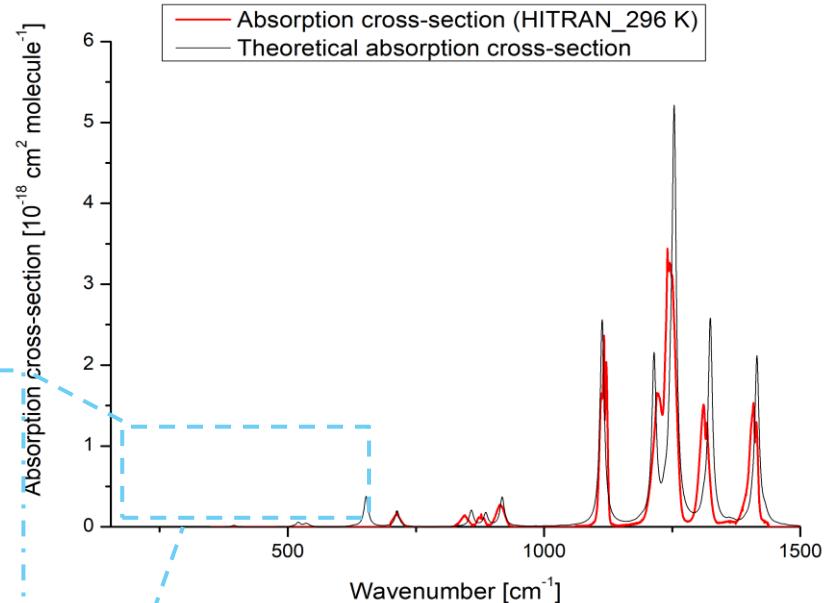
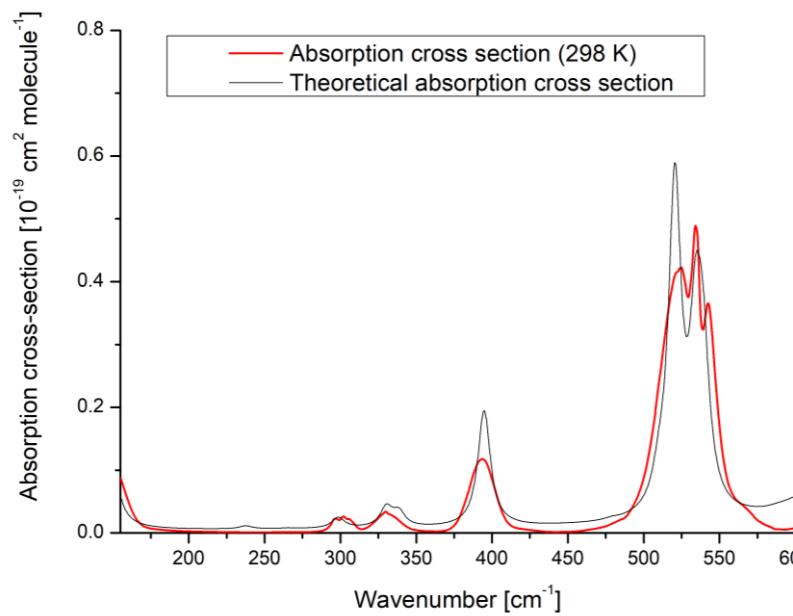




# IR Cross Sections: HFC-236fa



## This work<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>D. Alvarado-Jiménez et al., *J. Quant. Spectrosc. Radiat. Transfer*, *In preparation*.



Science & Technology Facilities Council  
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

## Some experimental details

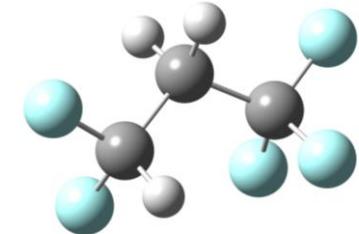
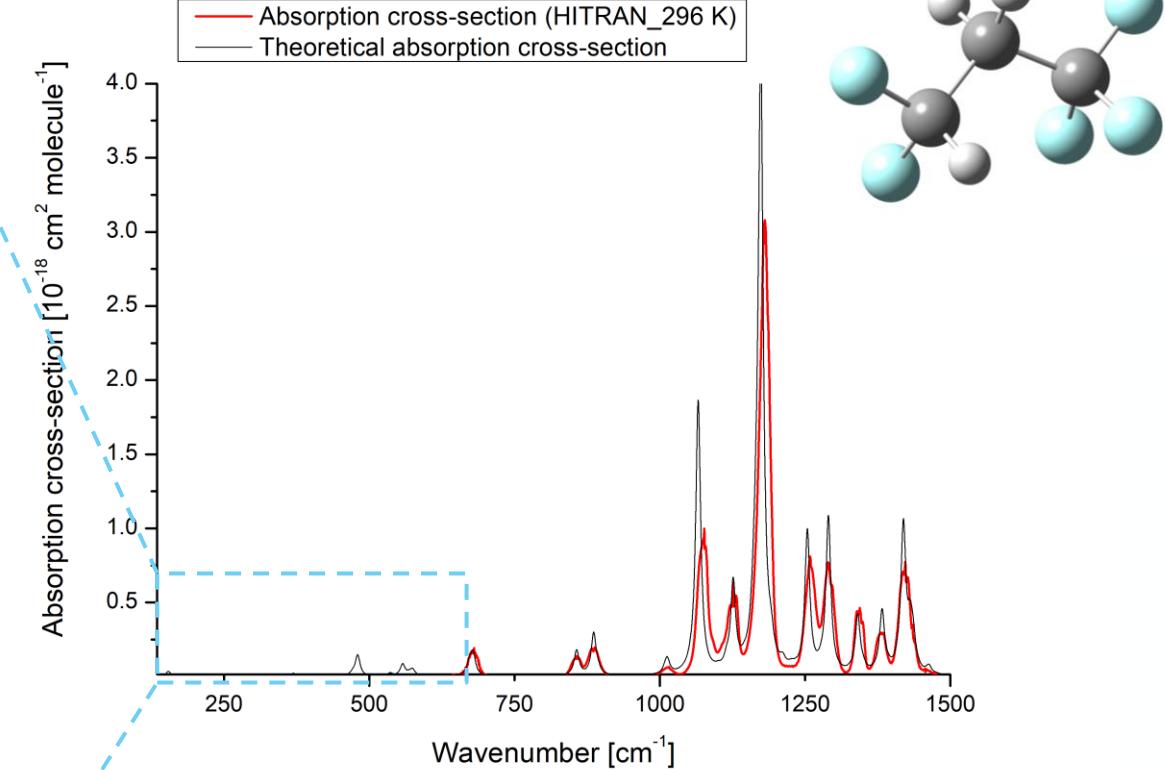
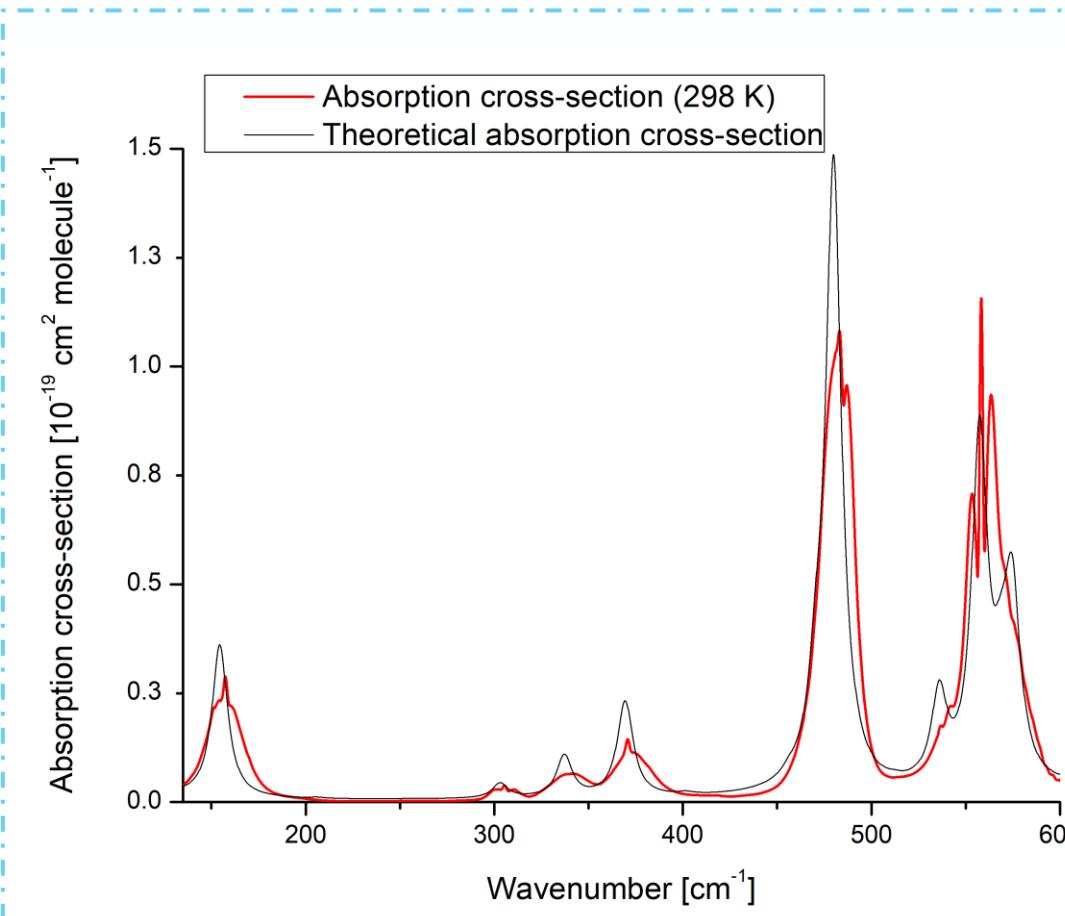
- Measurements made at the RAL High-Resolution Spectroscopy Facility.
- Bruker IFS125 high-resolution Fourier-transform spectrometer with a  $0.25\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral resolution.
- Temperature-controlled absorption cell (225 - 298 K).
- Adoptions for InHALE to measure at low wavenumbers are (i) a  $6\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  Mylar Beamsplitter ( $30 - 680\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), (ii) 1 mm high-density polyethylene (HDPE) cell windows ( $10 - 700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and (iii) a DTGS (deuterated triglycine sulfate) detector ( $120 - 12000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).



# IR Cross Sections: HFC-245fa



This work<sup>1</sup>

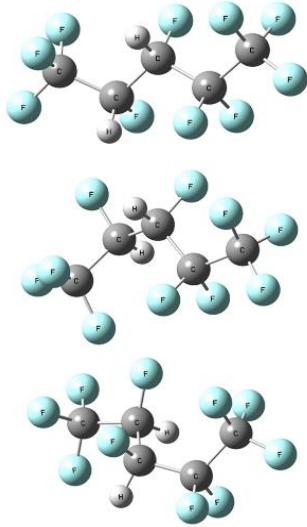
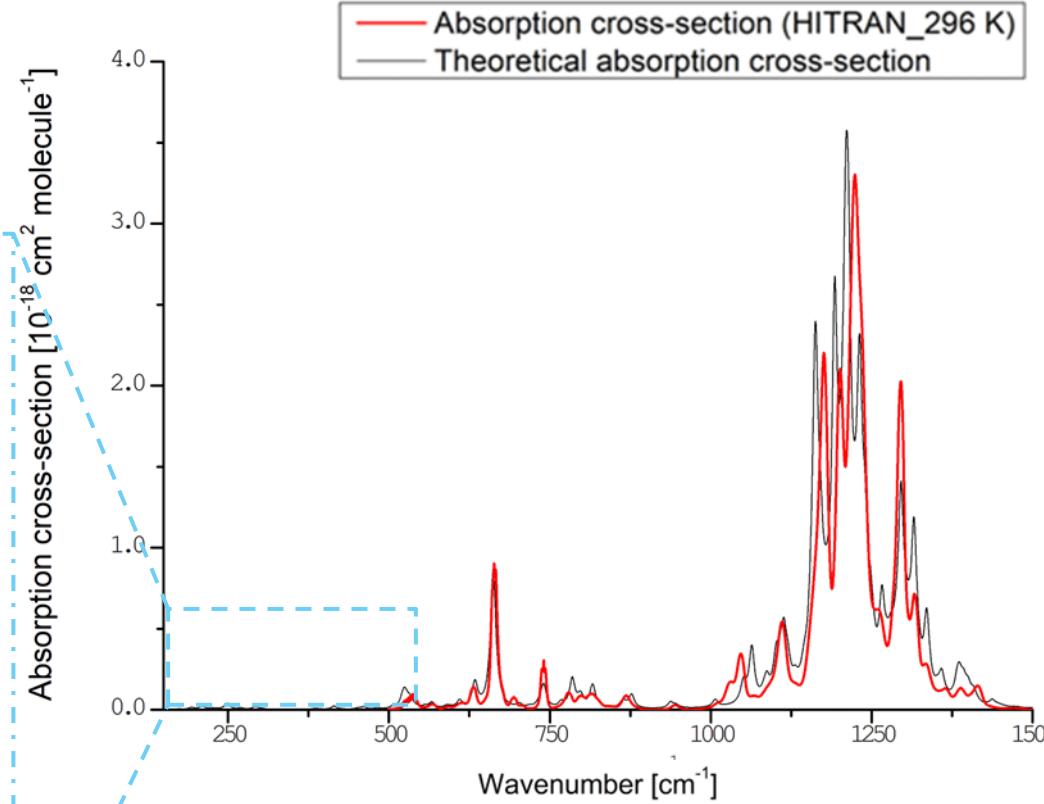
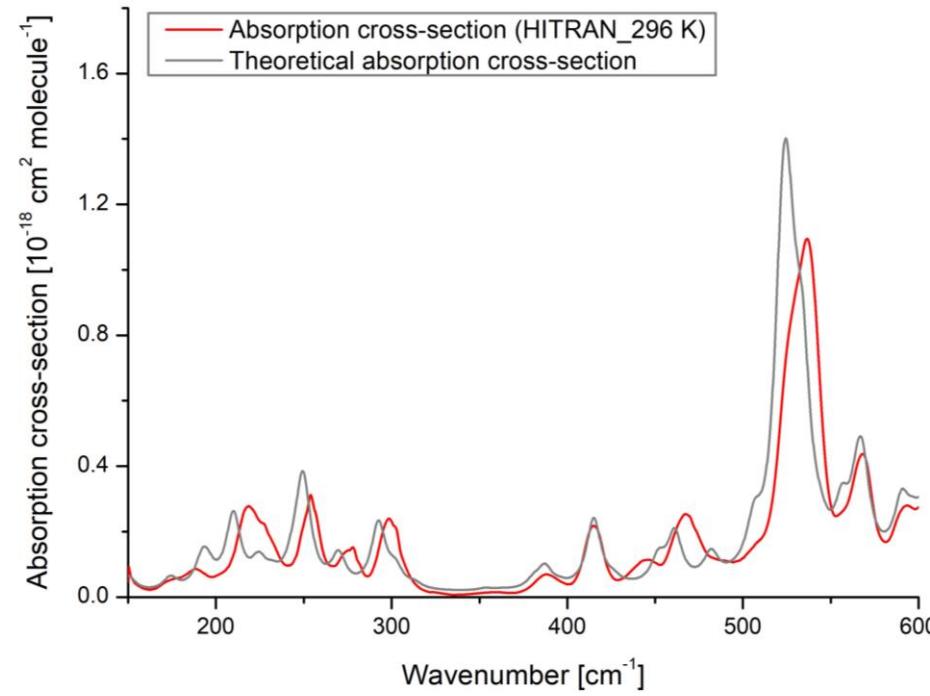




# IR Cross Sections: HFC-43-10mee



This work<sup>1</sup>



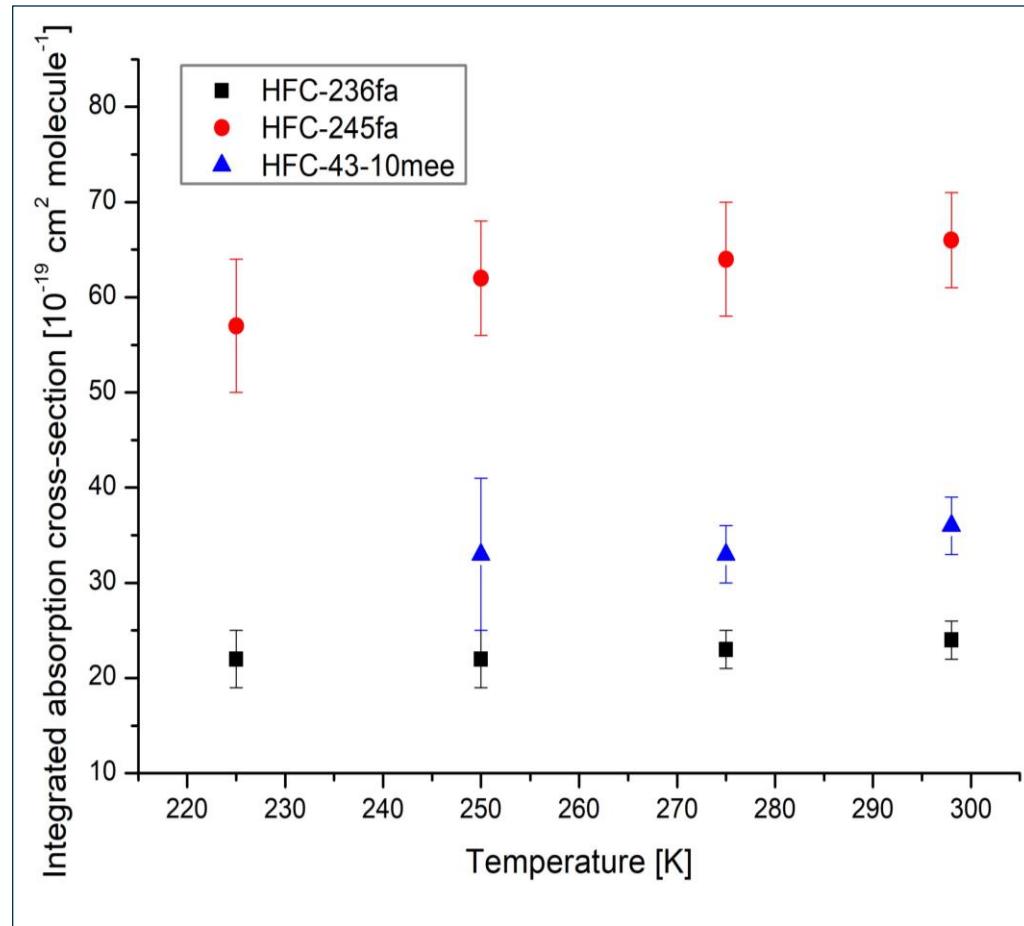
<sup>1</sup>D. Alvarado-Jiménez et al., *J. Quant. Spectrosc. Radiat. Transfer, In preparation.*



# Results: IR Cross Sections



Experimental integrated band strengths ( $10^{-19} \text{ cm molecule}^{-1}$ ) of HFC-236fa, HFC-245fa and HFC-43-10mee at T= 225, 250, 275 and 298 K and comparison with the QC counterpart.



Molecule	Integration limits ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	298 K	QC
<b>HFC-236fa</b>	285 - 350	1.1 (1)	1.5
	365-420	2.6 (2)	3.1
	465-585	19 (2)	17.5
	<b>155-585</b>	<b>24 (2)</b>	<b>26.1</b>
<b>HFC-245fa</b>	135-185	6.3 (5)	5.4
	285-405	5.7 (4)	6.4
	430-600	54 (4)	50.0
	<b>135-600</b>	<b>66 (5)</b>	<b>63.2</b>
<b>HFC-43-10-mee</b>	150-330	21 (1)	21.1
	340-500	15 (1)	14.7
	<b>150-500</b>	<b>36 (3)</b>	<b>36.1</b>

Comparison of experimental (QC) and calculated (QC) integrated absorption cross-sections for HFC-236fa, HFC-245fa, and HFC-43-10mee. The table shows the integration limits and values at 298 K. Blue arrows indicate the deviation from the QC value: 9% dev. for HFC-236fa, -5% dev. for HFC-245fa, and -1% dev. for HFC-43-10mee.



# Results: Radiative Efficiencies



## RE ( $\text{W m}^{-2} \text{ ppbv}^{-1}$ ) of HFC-236fa, HFC-245fa and HFC-43-10mee

Molecule	RE in the low freq.		Low freq. contribution (%)		Exp. ERE <sup>c</sup>	Comparison
	Exp. <sup>a</sup>	QC <sup>b</sup>	Exp. <sup>a</sup>	Literature <sup>d</sup>		
HFC-236fa	0.0009	0.0008	0.3%	4.8%	0.252	≈ -4%
HFC-245fa	0.0050	0.0048	1.9%	2.8%	0.249	≈ -1%
HFC-43-10mee	0.0031	0.0030	0.8%	0.5%	0.361	≈ 0.3%

QC estimates within the double-harmonic approximation.

<sup>a</sup> From experimental IR absorption cross-section.

<sup>b</sup> From QC IR absorption cross-section.

<sup>c</sup> Sum REs over the 500 – 3000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range from WMO and experimental REs here determined for the low frequency region.

<sup>d</sup> Van Hoomissen et al. *Molecular Physics* 2023, 122, e2273412.

Compared with values of the **Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion 2022**, World Meteorological Organization (WMO).



# Conclusions



We obtained **the first experimental IR absorption cross-sections  $< 500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$**  for HFC-236fa, 245fa, and 43-10mee, with **good agreement between experimental and QC results**.

For the three molecules, our computational **results proved to be reliable** in predicting radiative efficiency in all the frequency range, particularly considering the challenges in the low-frequency region.

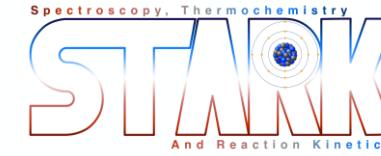
**Including the low-frequency region** enhances the accuracy of RE and GWP calculations, supporting more **informed and effective climate mitigation actions**.



# Acknowledgements



Prof. Nicola Tasinato  
(Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy)  
Prof. Keith Shine  
(University of Reading, United Kingdom)  
Prof. Roberto Buizza  
(Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna)  
Dr. Richard Brownsword and Dr. Damien  
Weidmann  
(Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, United  
Kingdom)



The STARK group is acknowledged for high performance computing facilities

Scuola Normale Superiore for financial support  
Project “Computational Modeling for Environmental Chemistry and Sustainability: from atmospheric monitoring to photo-catalysis”.

PhD programme in Sustainable Development And Climate Change, with support of a scholarship co-financed by the Ministerial Decree no. 352.

Reading and RAL acknowledge funding from the UK Natural Environment Research Council Grant “Investigating Halocarbon Impacts on the global environment” (Grant Reference NE/X004198/1)”

Thank you for your attention!

