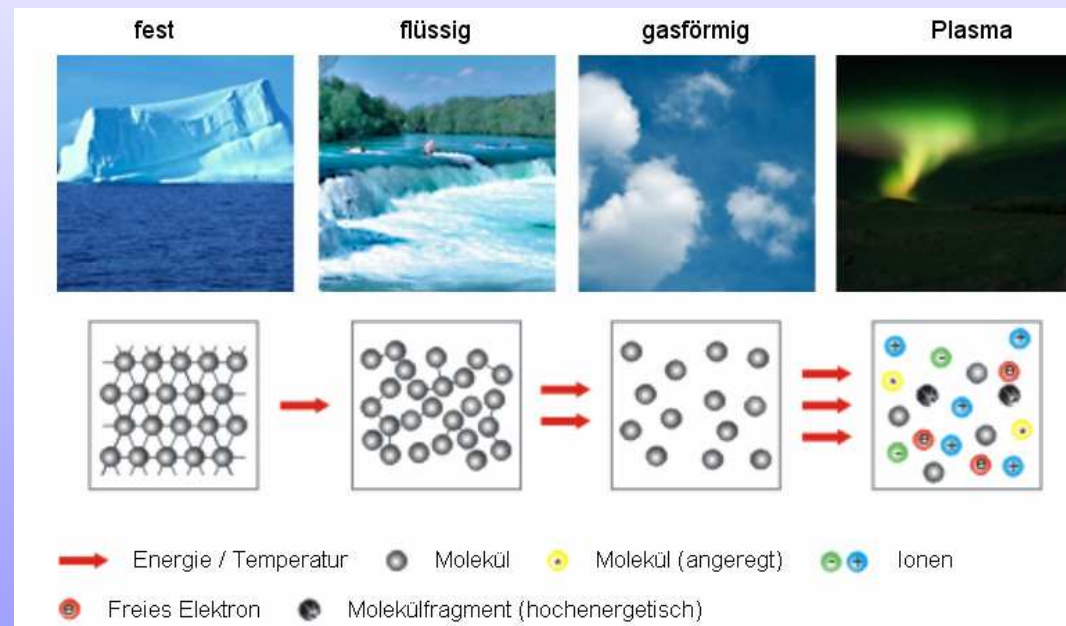


# Plasma chemistry

Seminar 13.06.2011

Lena Möller



# Reviews

Plasma Modification of biodegradable polymers: A review  
*Plasma Process Polym* **2011**, *8*, 171-190.

Macromolecular plasma-chemistry: an emerging field of  
polymer science  
*Prog Polym Sci* **2004**, *29*, 815-885.

Atmospheric pressure plasmas: A review  
*Spectrochimica Acta Part B*, **2006**, *61*, 2-30.

Applied plasma medicine  
*Plasma Process Polym* **2008**, *5*, 503-533.

# Content

- **Principles:**

What is plasma?

Is there only one form of plasma?

What happens to surfaces?

- **Applications:**

What is plasma good for in industry?

Plasma chemistry in tissue engineering?

- **Conclusions**

# Principles: What is plasma?

- Plasma: “the forth state of matter”
- 99% of universe
- Generated by applying high energies to a gas (thermal energy, electric fields)
- Consists of electrons, ions, neutrals (fundamental or excited states)
  - in total: electrically neutral
  - contains free charge carriers: electrically conductive

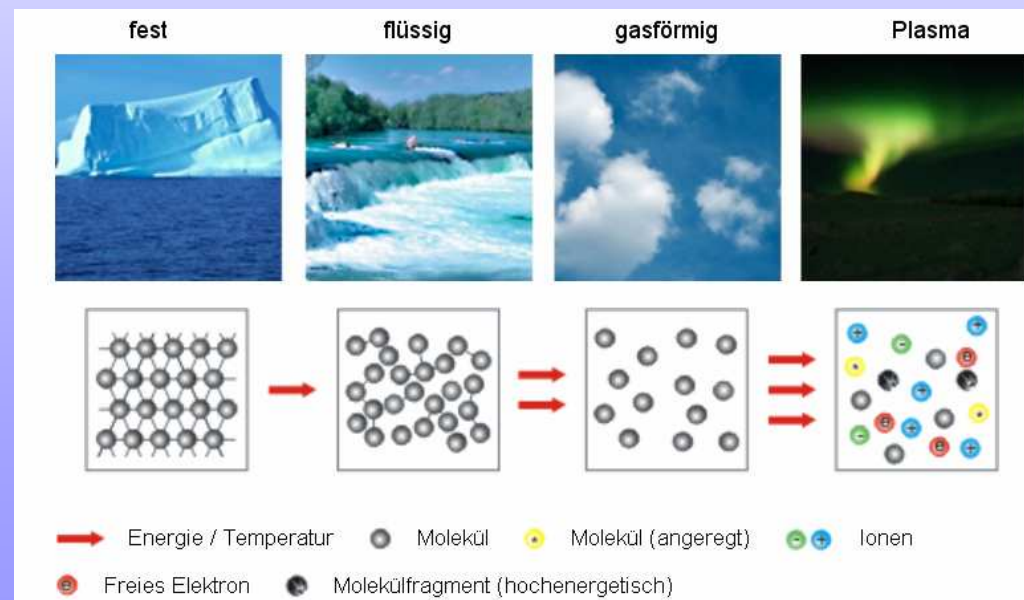


Photo:  
[www.plasmatreat.de](http://www.plasmatreat.de) 4

## Principles: What is plasma?

- Plasma consists of electrons, ions, neutrals (fundamental or excited states)
- Electrons faster than ions, neutrals... due to lower mass  
→ faster and contain higher temperatures
- In every gas: small percentage of charged molecules: acceleration to induce collisions
- Elastic collisions between  $e^-$  and heavy atoms (ha): only kinetic energy is transferred
- Inelastic collisions: excitation or ionization takes place, temperature of ha increases

## Principles:

# Is there only one form of plasma?

- Two different forms of plasma distinguished: thermal and non-thermal plasma: (depending on type and amount of appl. energy)

→ differentiation not precise

$T_e$  = temperature of electrons       $T_{ha}$  = temperature of heavy atoms

	Thermal plasma	Non-thermal plasma
<b>Other names</b>	Hot plasma Near equilibrium plasma	Cold plasma Non-equilibrium plasma
<b>Collisions</b>	Elastic and inelastic	Inelastic (without T transfer)
<b>Temperature</b>	$T_e \approx T_{ha} \approx 10,000$ K	$T_e \approx 100,000$ K- $10,000$ K $T_{ha} \approx 300$ - $100$ K
<b>Degree of Ionisation</b>	100 %	$10^{-4}$ -10%
<b>e<sup>-</sup>-density</b>	$10^{21}$ - $10^{26}$ m <sup>-3</sup>	$<10^{19}$ m <sup>-3</sup>

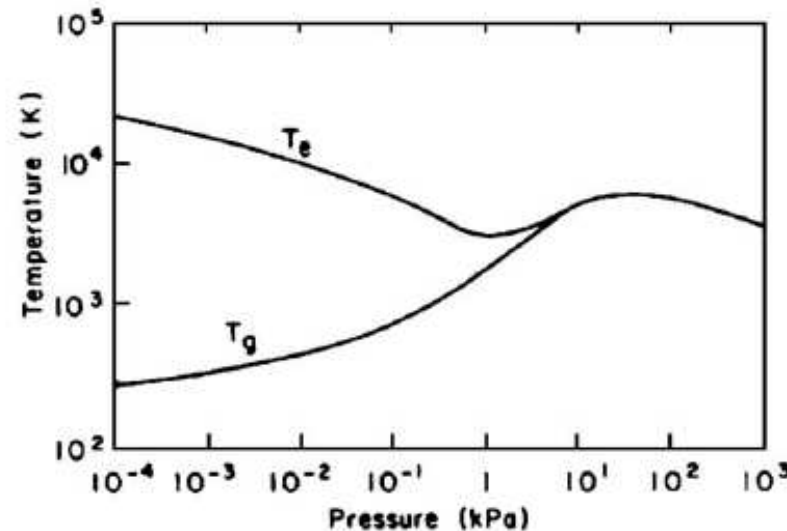
→ No use in thermo-sensitive substrates

→  $T_{ambience} \approx T_h$  useful for thermosensitive appl.

## Principles:

# Is there only one form of plasma?

- Differences in preparation
- Low pressure plasma (vacuum)
  - non-thermal, only inelastic collisions between  $e^-$  and  $h_a$  lead to exciting or ionization, no temperature transfer
- Atmospheric plasma
  - plasma becomes more thermal (inelastic and elastic collisions)
- Dependence on feeding power:
  - high power: thermal plasma
  - low power: non-thermal



Non-thermal  
plasma

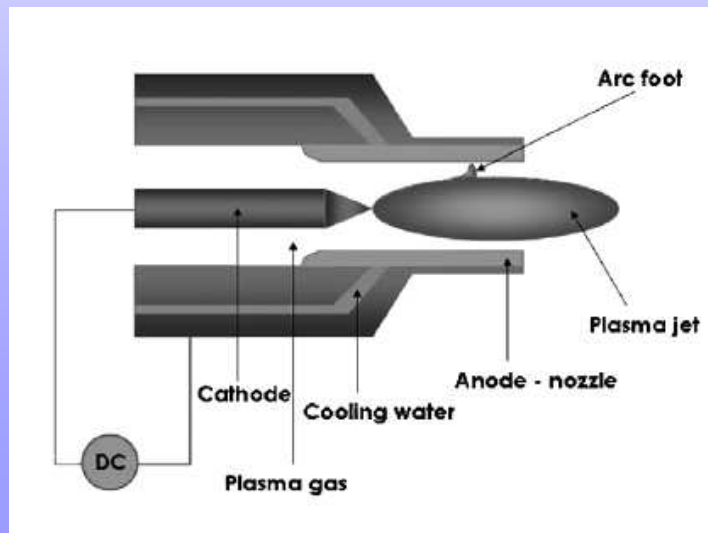


Thermal plasma



## Principles: Is there only one form of plasma?

- Atmospheric plasma
  - two different zones in plasma:  
Central zone: thermal  
Peripheral zone: non-thermal
- Advantages: Atmospheric plasma
  - in-line production (no vacuum needed)
- Advantages: Low pressure plasma
  - higher plasma range (surfaces of 3D corpora)





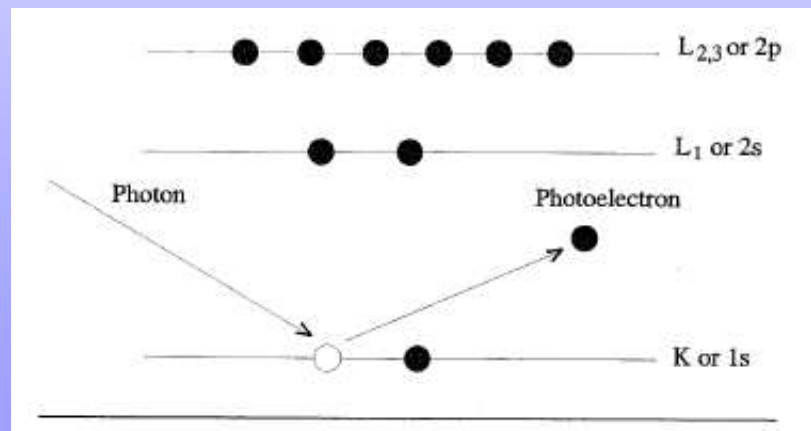
## -Insertion: XPS spectroscopy-

- Analysis of plasmamodified surfaces with XPS spectroscopy
- Through irradiation of X-rays to the material, inner electrons (1s, 2s) leave their orbitals (photoionisation)

→ kinetic energy of them is detected, binding energy can be calculated:

$$E_{\text{binding}} = h\nu - E_{\text{kinetic}} - \phi_{\text{spektrometer}} \quad (\text{normaly: } h\nu = 1253.6 \text{ eV})$$

→ conclusions can be drawn to the molecules on the surface



## Principles: What happens to surfaces?

- What happens to the surface during plasma modifications?

→ Change of elementary composition of the polymer (here: PLA)  
dependent the used ionisation gas

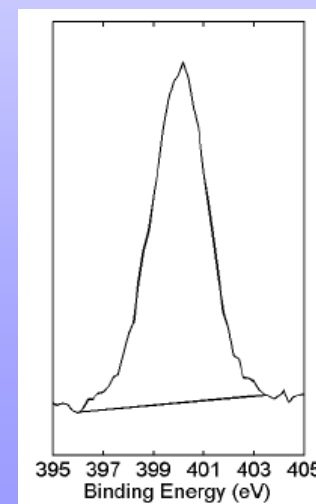
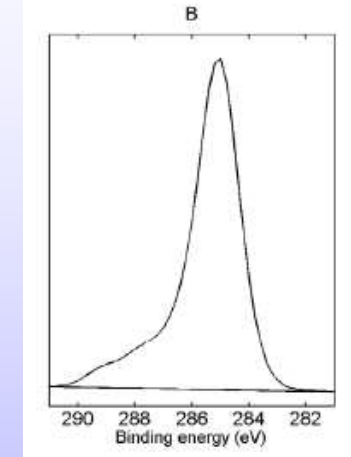
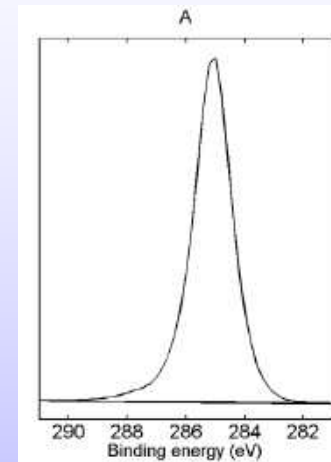
Treatment	<u>C</u> at.-%	<u>O</u> at.-%	<u>N</u> at.-%
No	68.2	31.8	0
Air plasma	62.2	37.8	0
Nitrogen plasma	62.1	31.1	6.8
Argon plasma	65.1	34.9	0
Helium plasma	66.9	30.4	2.7

# Principles: What happens to surfaces?

- What happens to the surface during plasma modifications?
  - Increasing treatment time increases oxygen and nitrogen content (here: N<sub>2</sub> plasma on polypropylenefilms)
  - several forms of carbon nitrogen species detected (amides, imides, nitriles), no nitro, oxime, nitrate groups

Treatment time (s)	O (at%)	N (at%)
0	3.9	0.0
0.25	5.8	1.3
0.75	7.4	3.6
2.00	9.4	8.6
4.00	9.6	10.1

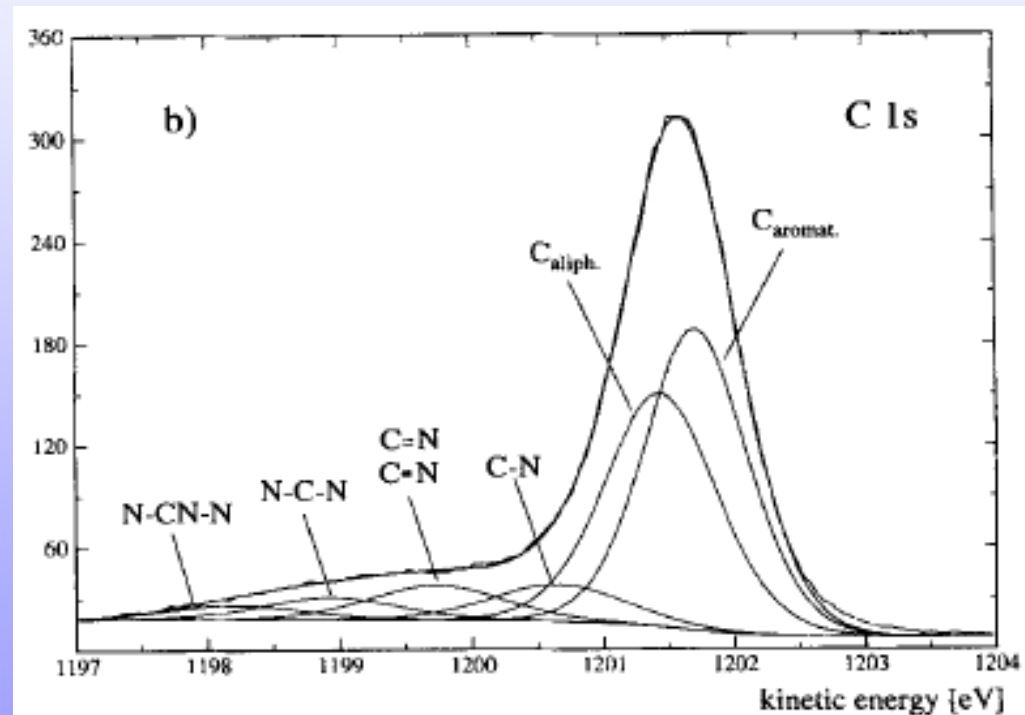
- C1s core level



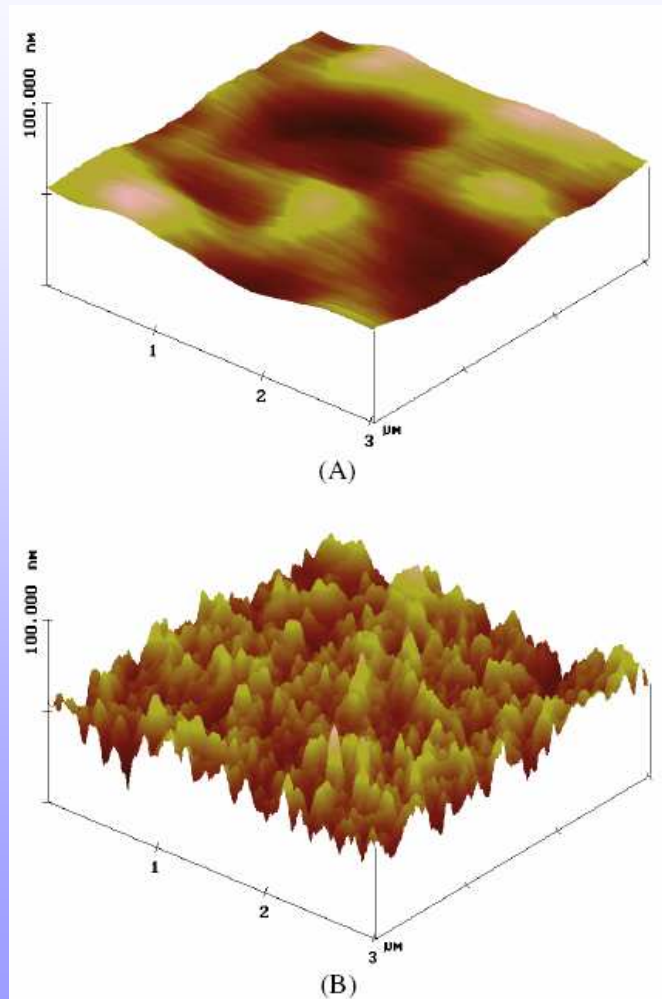
- N1s core level

# Principles: What happens to surfaces?

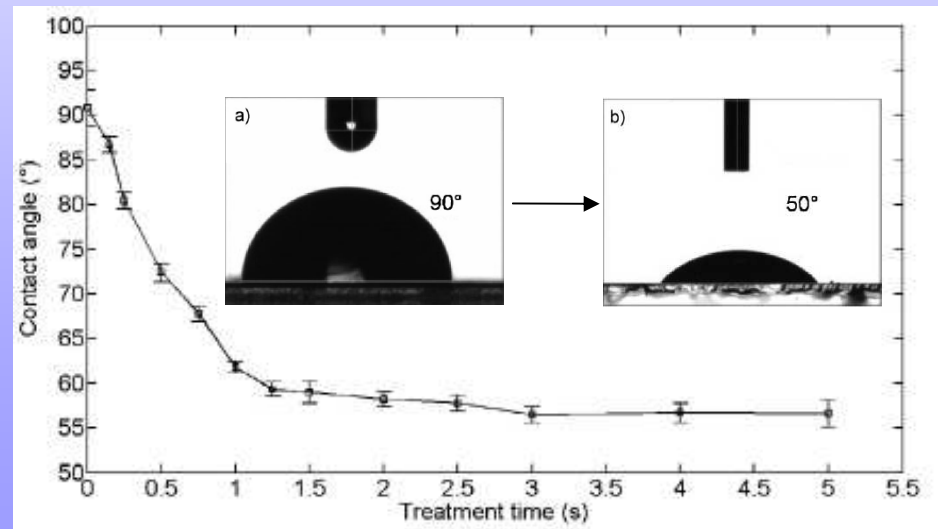
- N<sub>2</sub>-plasma treatment of Polystyrene



# Principles: What happens to surfaces?



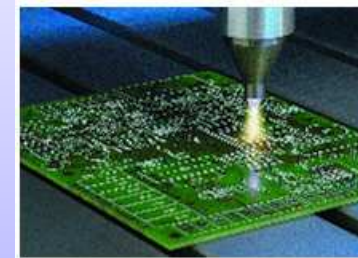
- Morphology changes due to plasma treatment: increasing surface roughness (here:  $N_2$  plasma on polypropylenfilms (PP):
- Contact angle decreases



Applications:

# What is plasma good for in industry?

- Many applications:
- surface coatings (pretreatment for printing, varnishing and gluing)
  - cheap glue on the basis of water can be used even for unpolar surfaces
- surface cleaning
  - lubricants from early fabrication steps can be removed before gluing
  - cleaning of sensitive surfaces (LCD-Displays, siliciumwaver)
  - sterilization in medical appl.
- waste destruction, gas treatments, chemical synthesis



Photos: [www.plasmatreat.de](http://www.plasmatreat.de)

## Applications: Plasma chemistry in tissue engineering?

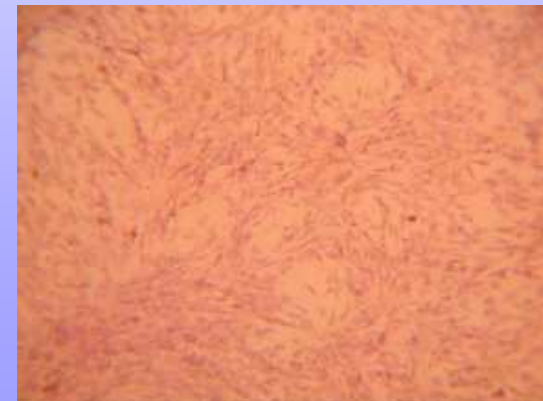
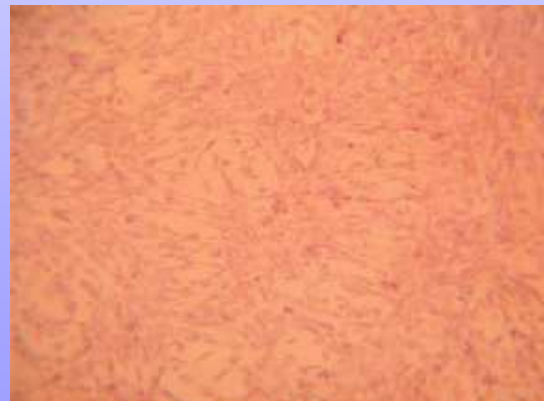
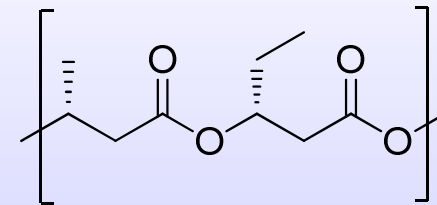
- Why biodegradable polymers in tissue engineering?
  - no second surgical procedure to remove implant
  - lower risk of re-fracture (bone TE) with successive degradation of the implant
  - potential in drug release
- synthetic, biodegradable (hydrolysable) polymers:  
Esters, anhydrides, ortho-esters, amides
- Advantages:  
Good mechanical properties, low immunogenicity, non-toxicity, adjustable degradation rates
- Disadvantages:  
Low wettability, inefficient cell adhesion, spreading and proliferation
  - Plasma chemistry

## Applications: Plasma chemistry in tissue engineering?

- PHBV in cartilage tissue engineering

→ increased proliferation of dog bone marrow stromal cells after plasma treatment

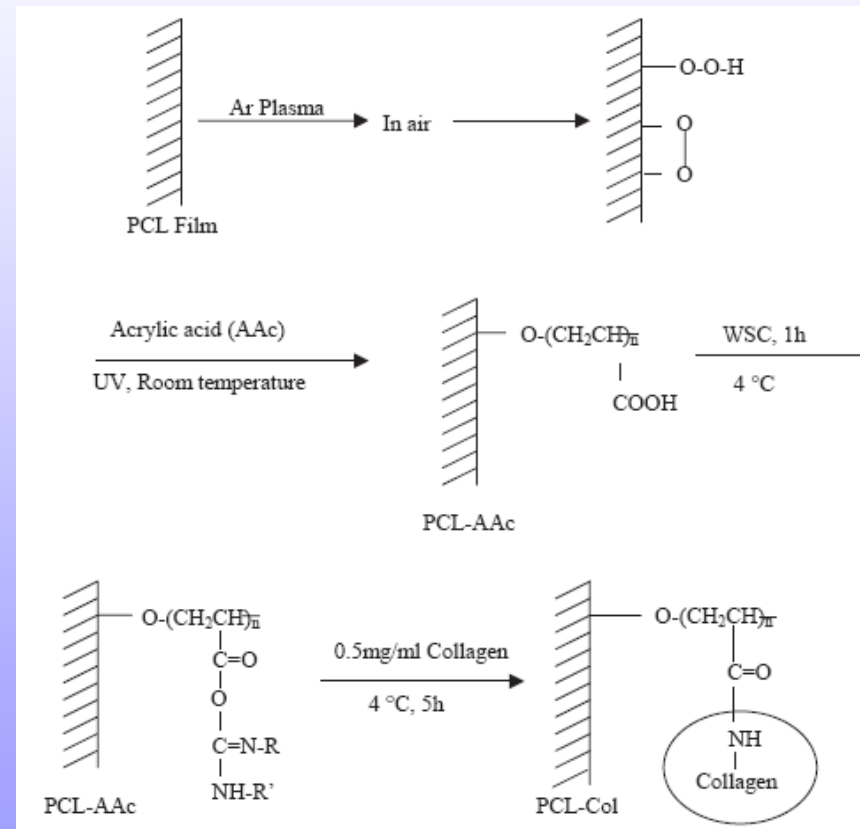
→ nitrogen and oxygen plasma led to similar biological results even if surface chemistry was different





# Applications: Plasma chemistry in tissue engineering?

- Plasma is used to further functionalize surfaces:
  1. Ar-plasma induces radicals
  2. Surface is oxidized using air  
→ peroxides, hydroperoxides
  3. Further polymerisation with acrylic acid
  4. Carbodiimide chemistry to functionalise the surface with biological active substrates such as collagen



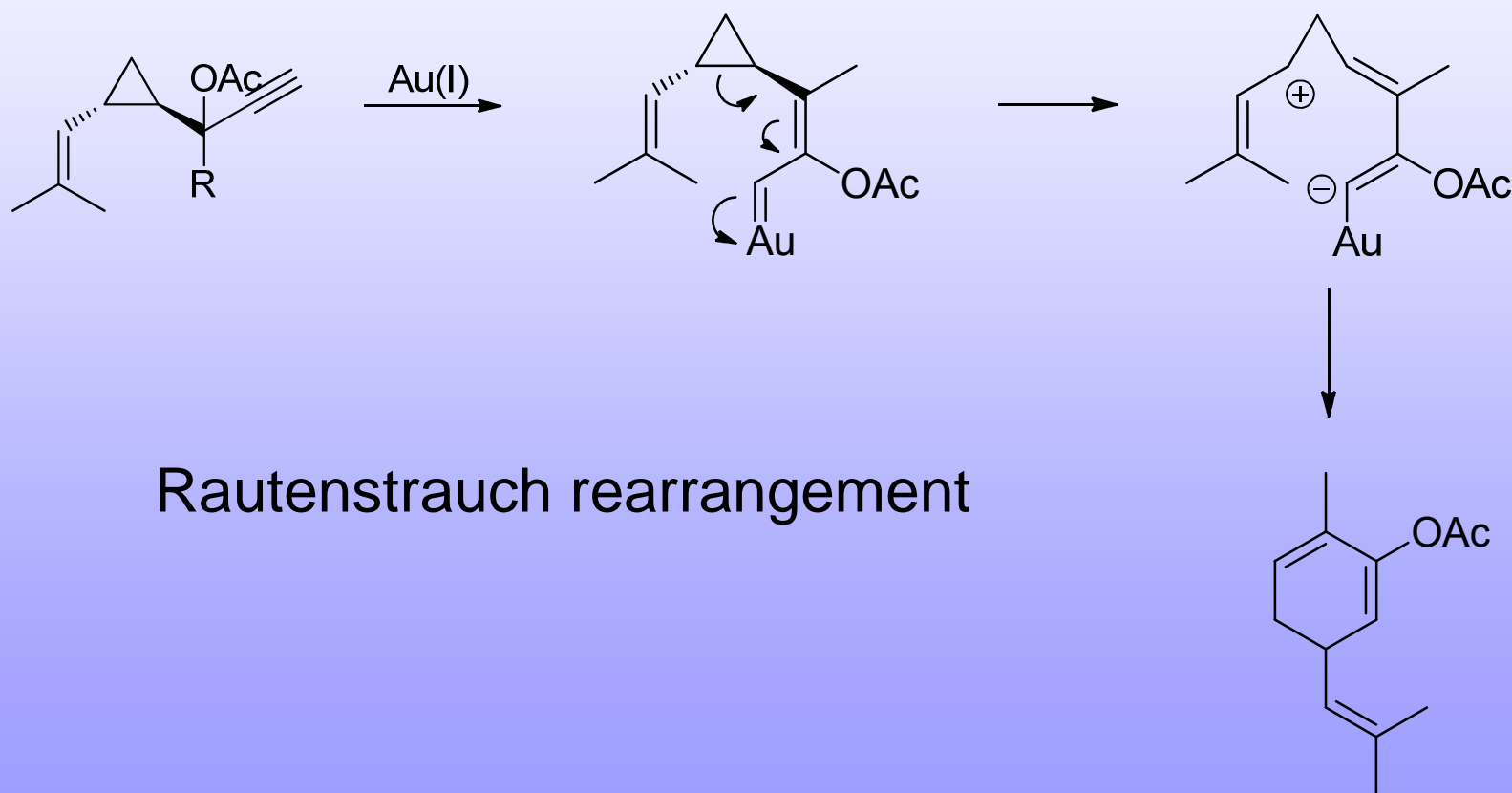
# Conclusion

- **What is plasma?**  
A mixture of electrons, ions, neutrals (fundamental or excited states) generated by applying high energies to a gas
- **Is there only one form of plasma?**  
No, we distinguish thermal vs. non-thermal plasma and low pressure vs. atmospheric plasma
- **What happens to surfaces?**  
Change of elementary composition, morphology and wettability
- **What is plasma good for in industry?**  
pretreatment for printing, varnishing and gluing, surface cleaning
- **Plasma chemistry in tissue engineering?**  
Plasma enhances wettability and increases cell proliferation; further chemical functionalisation possible

# Quiz

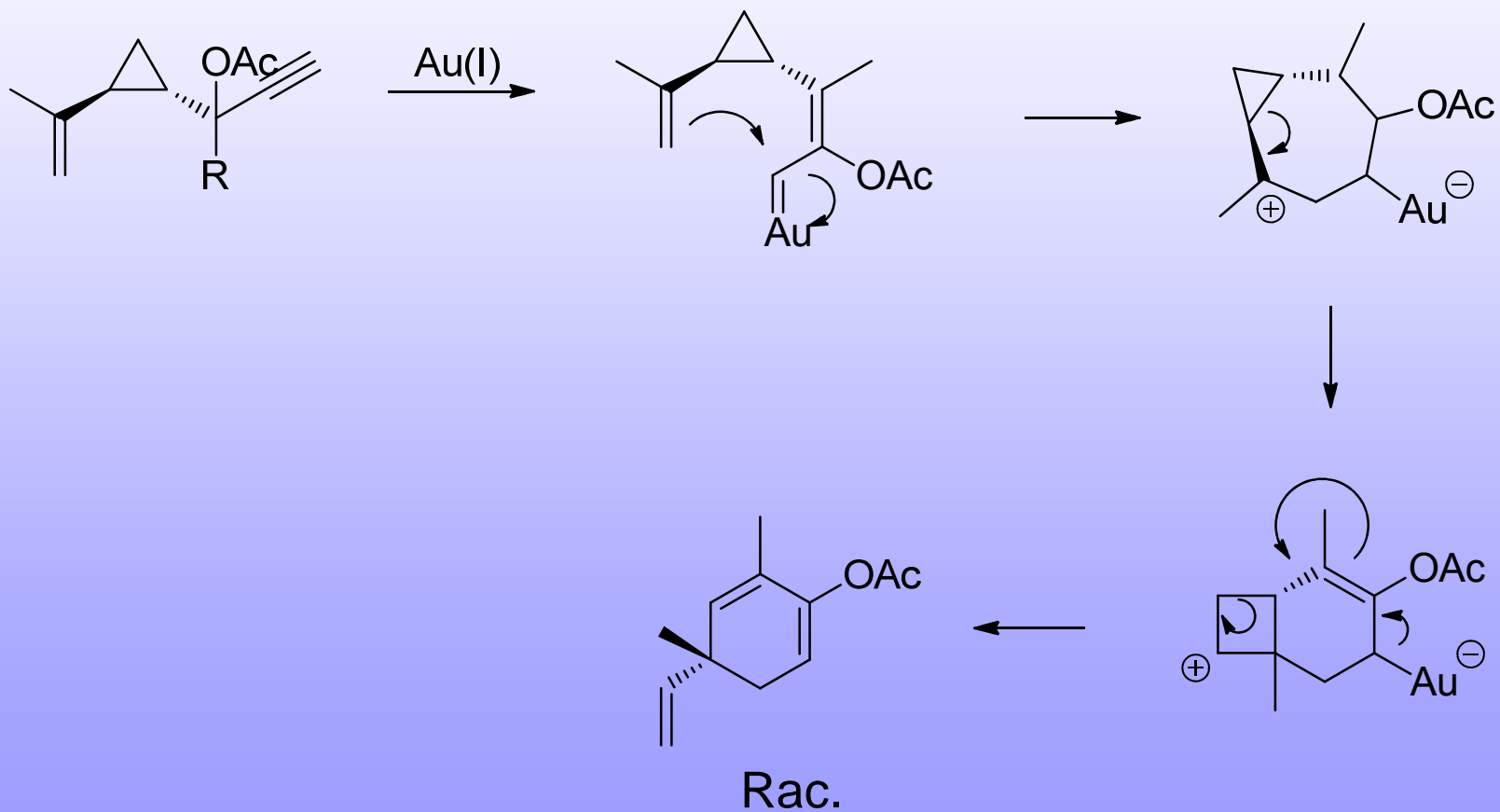
-Gold and small rings-

# Problem 1

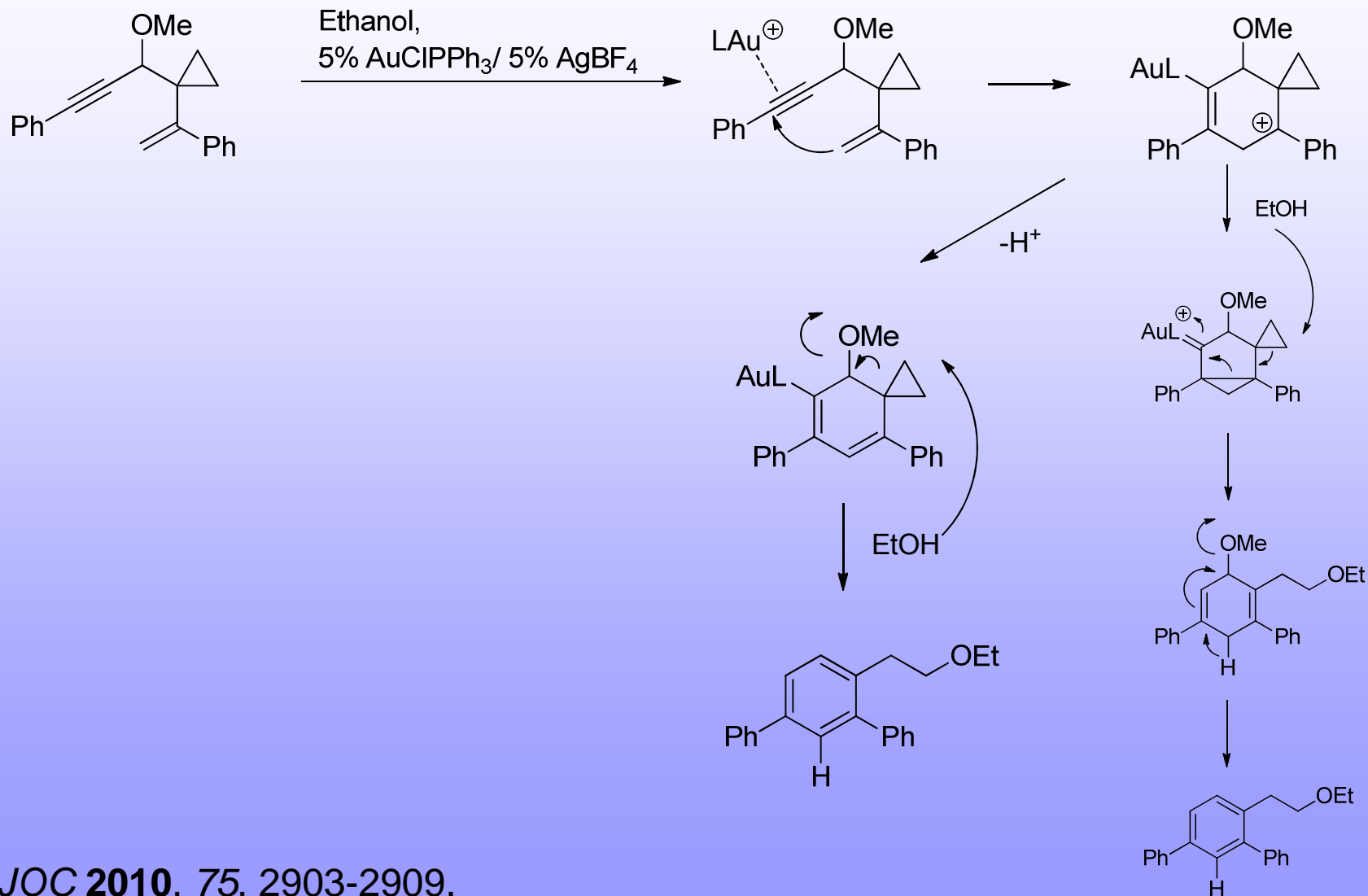


Rautenstrauch rearrangement

## Problem 2



# Problem 3



# Problem 4

