



1 **Scattering and Absorption Cross-sections of Atmospheric Gases in the**  
2 **Ultraviolet-Visible Wavelength Range (307 - 725 nm)**

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12

13 **Abstract**

14 Accurate Rayleigh scattering and absorption cross-sections of atmospheric gases are essential for  
15 understanding the propagation of electromagnetic radiation in planetary atmospheres. Accurate  
16 extinction cross-sections are also essential for calibrating high finesse optical cavities and  
17 differential optical absorption spectroscopy and for accurate remote sensing. In this study, we  
18 measured the scattering and absorption cross-sections of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, sulfur  
19 hexafluoride, oxygen, and methane in the continuous wavelength range of 307–725 nm using  
20 Broadband Cavity Enhanced Spectroscopy (BBCES). The experimentally derived Rayleigh  
21 scattering cross-sections for CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> agree with refractive index-based  
22 calculations, with a difference of 1.5% and 1.1%, 1.5%, 2.9%, and 1.4% on average, respectively.  
23 The O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> collision-induced absorption and absorption by methane are obtained with high  
24 precision at the 0.8 nm resolution of our BBCES instrument in the 307–725 nm wavelength range.  
25 New dispersion relations for N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> were derived using data in the UV-vis wavelength  
26 range. This study provides improved refractive index dispersion relations, *n*-based Rayleigh  
27 scattering cross-sections, and absorption cross-sections for these gases.



## 28 1. Introduction

29 The dominant interactions of gas-phase molecules with light in Earth's atmosphere can be divided  
30 into absorption, where the light energy is converted to internal energy and generally (at  
31 atmospheric pressures) transferred to the surrounding environment as either as heat or as  
32 photoemission, and light scattering where the gases redistribute the light energy in the atmosphere.  
33 The knowledge of light extinction (scattering + absorption) by gases is essential for predicting the  
34 radiative transfer in the atmospheres of the Earth and other planets. In addition, the light extinction  
35 by gases is widely used for determining the effective optical pathlength of high-finesse optical  
36 cavities that measure trace gases and aerosols (Washenfelder et al., 2013; Washenfelder et al.,  
37 2008; Wilmouth and Sayres, 2019; Jordan et al., 2019) and for Differential Optical Absorption  
38 Spectroscopy (DOAS) to infer information about the light extinction properties of aerosols and  
39 clouds in the open atmosphere (Baidar et al., 2013; Platt and Stutz, 2008).

40 The interaction of light with a wavelength much larger than the size of a molecule/particle gives  
41 rise to the scattering of light, which is known as Rayleigh scattering (Strutt, 1899). Rayleigh  
42 scattering accounts for scattering, local field effects (Lorentz–Lorenz) (Strutt, 1920) as well as  
43 depolarization from the non-sphericity of molecule/particles (King correction factor) (King and  
44 Eve, 1923; Strutt, 1918). For gas with known refractive index ( $n_v$ ) and King correction factor  
45 ( $F_k(\nu)$ ), the wavelength-dependent Rayleigh scattering cross-section ( $\sigma_\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^2 \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) can be  
46 calculated as follows (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005):

$$47 \quad \sigma_\nu = \frac{24\pi^3 \nu^4}{N^2} \left( \frac{n_v^2 - 1}{n_v^2 + 2} \right)^2 F_k(\nu) \quad (1)$$

48 where  $N$  is the number density of the gas ( $\text{molecules cm}^{-3}$ ) and  $\nu$  is the wavenumber of the light  
49 ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Note that the cross-section contains the gas number density but is not in fact dependent on  
50 the number density since the refractive index also appears in the expression. This  $n$ -based method  
51 is an advantageous approach for calculating Rayleigh scattering cross-sections, but it is vital to  
52 note that the accuracy of the calculated cross-sections depends on the experimentally-determined  
53 refractive index and the King correction factors. In particular, cautions should be used when  
54 applying a dispersion formula derived from measurements in one wavelength region to calculate  
55 Rayleigh scattering cross-sections in a different wavelength range.



56 Direct experimental measurement of Rayleigh scattering cross-sections is essential given the  
57 potential uncertainties in  $n$ -based calculations. While measurements of the King correction factors  
58 and refractive index for gases are well known from the literature (Cuthbertson and Cuthbertson,  
59 1932; Leonard, 1974; Strutt, 1920; Vukovic et al., 1996; Hohm, 1993), there are only a few direct  
60 measurements of Rayleigh scattering cross-sections (Ityaksov et al., 2008a, b; Jordan et al., 2019;  
61 Naus and Ubachs, 2000; Snee and Ubachs, 2005; Thalman and Volkamer, 2013; Thalman et al.,  
62 2014; Wilmouth and Sayres, 2019; He et al., 2018; Fuchs et al., 2009), especially measurements  
63 with a continuous spectrum from ultraviolet to visible.

64 Rayleigh scattering cross-section measurements were previously performed at a single wavelength  
65 (e.g., 458 nm, 532 nm, 632.8 nm) using Nephelometry (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) and cavity-  
66 ring down spectroscopy (CRDS) (Ityaksov et al., 2008a, b; Naus and Ubachs, 2000; Snee and  
67 Ubachs, 2005; He et al., 2018). More recently, advanced Broadband Cavity Enhanced  
68 Spectroscopy (BBCES) was used to determine the Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of gases such  
69 as Ar, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub>. The BBCES technique enables the measurement of Rayleigh  
70 scattering cross-sections over a broad wavelength range. Thalman et al. (2014) performed  
71 measurements over selected wavelength regions between 350 and 660 nm using six BBCES  
72 cavities for N<sub>2</sub>, Ar, and O<sub>2</sub>. The BBCES were calibrated with He and N<sub>2</sub> using Rayleigh scattering  
73 cross-sections calculated using their refractive index and from cavity-ring down measurements,  
74 respectively. They found a good agreement with  $n$ -based values to within  $0.2\pm 0.4\%$ . Recent studies  
75 using BBCES with 30 nm spectral range were also used for Rayleigh scattering cross-section  
76 measurement in the UV wavelength region and demonstrated excellent agreement with  $n$ -based  
77 values for Ar and CO<sub>2</sub> (Wilmouth and Sayres, 2020, 2019). Recently, Rayleigh scattering cross-  
78 sections for CO<sub>2</sub> were measured using BBCES at visible wavelengths between 400 and 650 nm,  
79 and agreement with  $n$ -based values was within 2.4% on average. To the best of our knowledge,  
80 there is no direct continuous wavelength measurements of extinction cross-sections of gases that  
81 covers the ultraviolet across the entire visible range (300–725 nm) as shown in Table 1.

82 In this study, we used a recently-developed BBCES instrument to measure the extinction cross-  
83 sections of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> continuously across the wavelength region 307–725 nm.  
84 All of the measurements were done at a single pressure to eliminate effects due to alignment. This  
85 requires the use of two gases with different Rayleigh cross-sections for the calibration of the  
86 BBCES instrument since the reference state is not vacuum. In this study, He and N<sub>2</sub> were used to



87 calibrate the system. By using the  $n$ -based calculated Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of He and  
88 N<sub>2</sub> to calibrate the path length of the optical cavity, the other cross-sections can be determined  
89 relative to the difference between these two gases. We report high accuracy Rayleigh scattering  
90 cross-sections for all five gases and compared our results with previous  $n$ -based values. New  
91 dispersion relations for N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> are derived by incorporating data obtained by this study,  
92 extinction cross-section data in the deep UV, and previously available scattering cross-section data  
93 in the visible wavelength range.

94

## 95 **2. Methods**

### 96 **2.1 Extinction measurement using BBCES**

97 The BBCES systems used in this study are analogous to our previous studies (He et al., 2018;  
98 Washenfelder et al., 2016; Bluvshstein et al., 2016). Briefly, our BBCES consists of two channels,  
99 one in the UV (BBCES<sub>UV</sub>, 307-350 nm) and one in the UV-vis range (BBCES<sub>vis</sub>, 338-725 nm).  
100 The two channels of the BBCES share a laser-driven Xenon arc lamp source (LDLS EQ-99CAL,  
101 Energetiq Technology, Inc., MA, USA) coupled with a high transmission UV-Vis optical fiber  
102 from which the light is collimated and focused (BBFIBERX-600-1M, Energetiq Technology, Inc.,  
103 MA, USA). The light source was purged with high purity N<sub>2</sub> and cooled by an aluminum block  
104 (with 15°C circulating water inside) to maintain stable optical power output. The UV light from  
105 the fiber is reflected by a low-pass dichroic mirror and filtered into the BBCES<sub>UV</sub> channel, which  
106 has a cavity with two 2.5 cm diameter, 1 m radius of curvature mirrors, with manufacturer's  
107 reported reflectivity of 0.9995 (per pass loss = 500 parts per million, ppm) at the nominal center  
108 wavelength of 330 nm (Advanced Thin Films, Boulder, USA). The transmitted UV-vis light from  
109 the beam splitter is reflected and filtered into the BBCES<sub>vis</sub> channel consisting of two 2.5 cm, 1 m  
110 radius of curvature mirrors (FiveNine Optics, USA) with manufacturer's reported reflectivity  
111 above 0.9993 (loss < 700 ppm), see Figure S1. The light emerging through the rear mirror of the  
112 cavity was focused using a 0.1 cm F/2 fiber collimator (74-UV, Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA)  
113 into a high transmission UV-vis optical fiber which directs the light into a high-performance  
114 spectrometer (QEPro, Ocean Insight, USA). Before gas measurement, the wavelength of the  
115 spectrometer was calibrated using an HG-1 mercury argon calibration light source (Ocean Insight,  
116 USA) within the wavelength range of 302.15–727.29 nm. During these experiments, a 300 line



117 mm<sup>-1</sup> grating and a 200 μm entrance slit width were used. The CCD array is a back-illuminated  
118 detector with 1024×56 pixels (Hamamatsu S7031-1006, Japan) thermo-electrically cooled to −10 °C  
119 to reduce thermal noise. Individual spectra at a wavelength resolution of 0.8 nm were acquired  
120 with 3.0 s integration time, and a total of 150 spectra were recorded during each measurement.

121 During the extinction measurements, the entire 94.0 ± 0.1 cm pathlength between the mirrors was  
122 filled with He, N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, or CH<sub>4</sub>. The gases were obtained from several vendors (Airgas,  
123 Linde) with the following purities: He, 99.995%; N<sub>2</sub>, 99.999%; N<sub>2</sub>O, 99.999%, CO<sub>2</sub>, 99.999%;  
124 SF<sub>6</sub>, 99.999%; CH<sub>4</sub>, 99.9995%.

125 The reflectivity of the mirrors ( $R(\lambda)$ ) can be determined as a function of wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) by taking  
126 into account the difference in the extinction due to known literary data of Rayleigh scattering  
127 coefficient ( $\alpha_{Ray}^{gas}$ ) by two different gases such as N<sub>2</sub> ( $\alpha_{Ray}^{N_2}(\lambda)$ ) and He ( $\alpha_{Ray}^{He}(\lambda)$ ) (Washenfelder  
128 et al., 2008).

$$129 \quad \frac{1-R(\lambda)}{d} = \frac{I_{N_2}(\lambda)(\alpha_{Ray}^{N_2}(\lambda)) - I_{He}(\lambda)(\alpha_{Ray}^{He}(\lambda))}{I_{He}(\lambda) - I_{N_2}(\lambda)} \quad (2)$$

130 where  $d$  is the length of the cavity filled by the gas. In this study, the studied gas filled the entire  
131 length of the cavity (94.0 ± 0.1 cm) since no purge flows were used.  $I_{gas}$  is the light intensity  
132 measured by filling the cavity with high purity N<sub>2</sub> ( $I_{N_2}(\lambda)$ ) and He ( $I_{He}(\lambda)$ ). Rayleigh scattering  
133 ( $\alpha_{Ray}^{gas}$ ) is the combined product of Rayleigh scattering cross-section ( $\sigma$ ) and the gas number density  
134 ( $N$ ) during the measurements. Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of N<sub>2</sub> and He are calculated using  
135 the data in Table 1. Figure S1 shows typical examples of light intensity when the BBCES cavities  
136 are filled with pure N<sub>2</sub>. Reflectivity measurements were repeated every three sample measurements  
137 to track the stability of the system.

138 Once the reflectivity is determined, it is possible to calculate the wavelength-dependent extinction  
139 cross-sections of other gases ( $\sigma(\lambda)$ ) as follows:

$$140 \quad \sigma(\lambda) = \left[ \left( \frac{1-R(\lambda)}{d} \right) \left( \frac{I_{He}(\lambda) - I_{gas}(\lambda)}{I_{gas}(\lambda)} \right) + \left( \frac{I_{He}(\lambda)}{I_{gas}(\lambda)} \right) \left( \alpha_{Ray}^{He}(\lambda) \right) \right] / N \quad (3)$$

141 Where  $N$  is the number density of the gas during the measurements, and  $I_{gas}(\lambda)$  is the light intensity  
142 when a target gas fills the cavity. During our experiments, the purge flow of the high reflection



143 mirrors was shut down to ensure that the cavity was filled with target gas completely. To measure  
144 the extinction cross-sections of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and SF<sub>6</sub>, the cavity is filled with pure target gas. Mass  
145 flow controller controlled O<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> flow was mixed with He in a 2 m Teflon tube ( $\Phi = \frac{1}{4}$  inch) to  
146 generate a gas mixture with total flow rate of 500 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. For O<sub>2</sub> experiments, measurements  
147 were performed for O<sub>2</sub> + He mixtures by varying the O<sub>2</sub> percentage between 10% and 100% with  
148 a 10% step. The CH<sub>4</sub> measurements were performed for CH<sub>4</sub> + He mixtures with CH<sub>4</sub> percentage  
149 ranges between 10% to 100% with a 10% step. Additional measurements were also performed for  
150 15%, 25%, 35%, and 45% CH<sub>4</sub>.

## 151 **2.2 Extinction measurements using cavity-ring down systems (CRDS) at 404 nm and 662 nm.**

152 To obtain independent measurements for the extinction cross-sections and to cross-validation of  
153 the BBCES technique, we conducted CRD measurements at two fixed wavelengths of 404 nm and  
154 662 nm. CRDS is a highly sensitive technique and uses a different measurement principle than  
155 BBCES. The CRDS measured the decay rate of light due to extinction rather than an absolute  
156 absorbance (as in the BBCES) and thus immune to shot-to-shot source light fluctuations. A  
157 detailed description of the CRD method for light extinction measurement can be found in  
158 Bluvshstein et al. (2016) and He et al. (2018). Briefly, diode lasers (110 mW 404 nm diode laser,  
159 iPulse, Toptica Photonics, Munich, Germany; 120 mW 662 nm diode laser, HL6545MG, Thorlabs  
160 Inc., NJ, USA) are used as the light source of these CRDS. The 404 nm and 662 nm lasers are  
161 modulated at 1383 Hz and 500 Hz with a 50% duty cycle. The diode lasers are optically isolated  
162 by quarter waveplates ( $1/4 \lambda$ ) and polarizing beam splitters to prevent damage to the laser head by  
163 back reflections from the highly reflective CRDS mirror. The back-reflected light beam is directed  
164 into a photodiode, which serves as an external trigger source. Light transmitted through the back  
165 mirror of the cavity is collected by an optical fiber and detected by a photomultiplier tube (PMT),  
166 which samples at a rate of 10 to 100 MHz. The time-dependent intensity data is acquired with a  
167 100MHz card (PCI-5122, National Instruments, USA) and processed by data acquisition software  
168 in Labview. An exponential curve is fitted to each intensity decay data set (Figure S2). Over 1000  
169 decay time measurements are monitored and averaged on a second basis. The residual of the fit  
170 for the averaged intensity decay is obtained and further normalized to the averaged intensity. The  
171 derived relative residuals (Figure S2) show no apparent structure with other time constants,  
172 validating the application of CRDS as a good measure of extinction. The resultant 1 Hz decay time



173 is averaged over one measurement duration of five minutes with standard error as the measurement  
174 uncertainty.

175 All of the CRDS measurements were performed under room temperature and pressure downstream  
176 from the BBCES instrument. The gas temperature (K-type thermocouple) and cavity pressure  
177 (Precision Pressure Transducer, Honeywell International Inc., MN, USA) were recorded for gas  
178 number density ( $N$ ) calculation. During the CRDS measurements, the full cavity was filled with  
179 the investigated gases (He, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, or gas mixtures (O<sub>2</sub> + He and CH<sub>4</sub> + He)).  
180 The extinction cross-section ( $\sigma(\lambda)$ ) of the studied gas was measured relative to that of He and was  
181 calculated by equation (4):

$$182 \quad \sigma(\lambda) = \frac{L}{cLN} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{gas}} - \frac{1}{\tau_{He}} \right) + \sigma_{He} \quad (4)$$

183 Where  $L$  is the total length of the cavity ( $l$ ),  $c$  is the speed of light, and  $\tau_{gas}$  and  $\tau_{He}$  are the ring-down  
184 time of the cavity when it is filled by target gas or by the reference gas, He.

### 185 **2.3 Data processing**

186 For comparison, the scattering cross-sections of the gases investigated in this study were also  
187 calculated with Equation (1) based on the refractive index and the King correction factors available  
188 in the literature that are listed in Table 1. The King correction factors are taken as unity for mono-  
189 atomic molecules and spherical molecules (with regards to the depolarization) but deviates for  
190 non-spherical molecules. For the 307–725 nm wavelength range of this study, the  $n$ -based  
191 calculated Rayleigh scattering cross-sections from largest to smallest are SF<sub>6</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>,  
192 O<sub>2</sub>, and He.

193 The extinction of O<sub>2</sub> + He mixtures ( $\alpha_{O_2+He}$ ) consists of the extinction by O<sub>2</sub> ( $\alpha_{O_2}$ ) and He ( $\alpha_{He}$ ),  
194 and the O<sub>2</sub>–O<sub>2</sub> collision-induced absorption ( $\alpha_{O_2-O_2}$ ). The extinction of O<sub>2</sub> and He is a combined  
195 product of extinction cross-section ( $\sigma_{gas}$ ) and gas number density ( $N_{gas}$ ). Thus  $\alpha_{O_2+He}$  can be  
196 described with the following equation:

$$197 \quad \alpha_{O_2+He} = \sigma_{O_2-O_2} \times N_{O_2}^2 + \sigma_{O_2} \times N_{O_2} + \sigma_{He} \times N_{He} \quad (5)$$

198 Where  $N_{O_2}$  and  $N_{He}$  are the number density of the O<sub>2</sub> and He in the cavities. Performing a 2<sup>nd</sup> order  
199 polynomial fit to the extinction obtained by the BBCES with respect to the gas number density



200 thus yields the extinction cross-section of O<sub>2</sub> and the O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> collision-induced absorption (CIA)  
201 cross-section.

202 In addition to the results from 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial fitting, we also used data from pure O<sub>2</sub>  
203 measurement to calculate the extinction by O<sub>2</sub> and by CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>. The real refractive index of  
204 O<sub>2</sub> ( $n_{O_2}$ ) derived from extinction data measured in the wavelength regions where there is no  
205 absorption was fitted using the generalized expression of  $(n_{O_2} - 1) \times 10^8 = A + \frac{B}{c-v^2}$ . Based on  
206 the refractive index, the scattering cross-sections of O<sub>2</sub> in the wavelength range of 307-725 nm  
207 were further calculated. By subtracting the scattering cross-section of O<sub>2</sub> from the measured total  
208 extinction, we derived the CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>. However, the O<sub>2</sub> absorption bands at 580, 630, and 690  
209 nm overlaps with those of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> collisions. Additional corrections are thus needed to split the  
210 absorption by O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> collision, which is out of the scope of this study.

211 Methane has weak vibrational overtone absorption in the UV-vis wavelength range that is  
212 comparable to or greater than its Rayleigh scattering. Previous high-resolution spectroscopy  
213 studies have identified smooth and unstructured absorption bands across the UV-visible range  
214 (Giver, 1978; Smith et al., 1990). The spectral features are substantially broader than 0.8 nm, thus  
215 the absorption by CH<sub>4</sub> can be measured by our BBCES. The measured extinction coefficients of  
216 CH<sub>4</sub>+He mixtures ( $\alpha_{CH_4+He}$ ) are linearly correlated with the number concentration of the CH<sub>4</sub> ( $N_{CH_4}$ )  
217 as described by the following equation:

$$218 \quad \alpha_{CH_4+He} = \sigma_{CH_4} \times N_{CH_4} + \sigma_{He} \times N_{He} \quad (6)$$

219 A linear fit was used for deriving the extinction cross-section of CH<sub>4</sub>. The absorption between 300  
220 and 400 nm is negligible as compared to the Rayleigh scattering. Thus extinction data in this UV  
221 wavelength range were used to calculate the real part of the refractive index of CH<sub>4</sub> which was  
222 further fitted utilizing the expression of  $(n_{CH_4} - 1) \times 10^8 = A + \frac{B}{c-v^2}$ . By applying this  
223 dispersion relation, the Rayleigh scattering cross-sections in the entire wavelength range of 307-  
224 725 nm were derived. Finally, the CH<sub>4</sub> absorption cross-sections were calculated by subtraction of  
225 the scattering cross-section from the extinction cross-section.

## 226 **2.4 Error Propagation for BBCES**



227 The uncertainty for BBCES measurements can be assessed by the propagation of the errors  
228 associated with the measurements. The pressure ( $\pm 0.01\%$ ), temperature ( $\pm 0.1\%$ ) and cavity length  
229 ( $94.0 \pm 0.1$  cm) are combined with the Rayleigh cross-section uncertainties for  $N_2$  ( $\pm 1\%$ ) as well  
230 as uncertainty in the measurements of the spectral signal by the spectrometer ( $\ll 0.2\%$ ) to get an  
231 overall relative uncertainty for the mirror reflectivity curve of  $\pm 1.03\%$ . This uncertainty is further  
232 propagated to the target gas by consideration of the uncertainties of pressure, temperature, and  
233 spectral intensity of the target gas measurements. The overall  $1-\sigma$  uncertainty of the gas extinction  
234 cross-section is  $1.1\%$ . The precision of the mass flow controllers is  $0.5 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ . When the total  
235 flow rate is  $500 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ , the resulted uncertainty of the gas concentration (10-100%) varies from  
236 0% to  $1.0\%$ . Thus, the overall  $1-\sigma$  uncertainty of extinction coefficients measured for  $CH_4+He$  and  
237  $O_2+He$  varies from  $1.1\%$  to  $1.5\%$ . The detailed wavelength-dependent uncertainties were  
238 calculated due to the wavelength-dependence of the spectral intensity. The results are shown and  
239 discussed in later sections.

240

### 241 **3 Results and Discussion**

#### 242 **3.1 Performance of the optical system**

243 The reflectivity of the cavity mirrors, measured across the entire range using the difference in  
244 Rayleigh scattering of  $N_2$  and He, was very stable throughout the experiments. The measured  
245 mirrors reflectivity curves are shown in Figure S1. The mean peak reflectivity of the BBCES<sub>UV</sub>  
246 mirrors was  $0.999328 \pm 0.000006$  ( $672 \pm 6$  ppm) at 330 nm, with a corresponding effective optical  
247 pathlength of  $1.40 \pm 0.01$  km. The reflectivity curve of the BBCES<sub>vis</sub> is much more structured, with  
248 reflectivity ranging between  $0.999224 \pm 0.000010$  and  $0.9999550 \pm 0.0000006$  ( $776 \pm 10$  ppm > loss >  
249  $45 \pm 0.6$  ppm) over a wide wavelength range of 338–725 nm. The reflectivity of the BBCES<sub>vis</sub> is  
250 much higher than that of our previous system (He et al., 2018) and also covers a much broader  
251 wavelength range. Thus the effective pathlength of the BBCES<sub>vis</sub> varies between 1.3 and 20.4  
252 km, guaranteeing a high sensitivity of the extinction measurement. The mean uncertainty in the  
253 effective pathlength across the measured wavelengths as determined from the mirror reflectivity  
254 was  $\pm 1.03\%$ , which is predominantly due to the uncertainty in the Rayleigh scattering cross section  
255 for  $N_2$  derived from  $n$ -based calculation.

#### 256 **3.2 Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of $CO_2$ , $N_2O$ , $SF_6$ .**



257 Figure 1 shows the extinction cross-sections of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and SF<sub>6</sub> measured by the BBCES. The  
258 extinction cross-sections of these gases monotonically decrease with increasing wavelength, and  
259 no absorption (i.e., no structured extinction larger than the smoothly varying Rayleigh curve) is  
260 observed in the wavelength range of 307–725 nm, indicating that the measured extinction is due  
261 solely to the Rayleigh scattering of these gases. The wavelength-dependent relative standard  
262 deviations of the measurements for each gas are shown in Figure 1d. The mean 1- $\sigma$  uncertainty of  
263 the reported cross sections for all three gases across the 307–725 nm wavelength range is 1.5% for  
264 CO<sub>2</sub>, 1.1% for N<sub>2</sub>O, and 1.5% for SF<sub>6</sub>. As mentioned above, the derived uncertainty originates  
265 predominantly from the uncertainty in the N<sub>2</sub> Rayleigh scattering cross-section. Uncertainty in the  
266 Rayleigh cross-sections of each gas varies with wavelength and generally tracks the light intensity  
267 spectra, which is a combined product of light source spectrum and the mirror reflectivity profile.  
268 The uncertainty is much higher when the transmitted light intensity is low (Figure S1).

269 The BBCES measured Rayleigh scattering cross-sections for these three gases agree well with  
270 those obtained by our CRDS operating at 404 nm and 662 nm, with deviations smaller than 1.6%.  
271 Table 2 listed the Rayleigh scattering cross-sections at several wavelengths obtained by the  
272 BBCES measurements (Exp) and by the theoretical calculations using the refractive index and  $F_k(v)$   
273 values from Table 1 (*n*-based). The relative differences between these two sets of results are within  
274 1.4%.

275 Figure 1a–c shows a comparison of the measured Rayleigh scattering cross-sections for CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O,  
276 and SF<sub>6</sub> with *n*-based calculations and with previous experimental results from the literature. There  
277 are a few measurements for the Rayleigh scattering cross-sections for CO<sub>2</sub> which cover a wide  
278 spectral range (Jordan et al., 2019; Shardanand and Rao, 1977; Sneep and Ubachs, 2005; Wilmouth  
279 and Sayres, 2019; He et al., 2018). There are fewer Rayleigh scattering measurements for N<sub>2</sub>O and  
280 SF<sub>6</sub> in the studied wavelength range. The measured Rayleigh scattering cross-sections for CO<sub>2</sub>,  
281 N<sub>2</sub>O, and SF<sub>6</sub> are in excellent agreement with *n*-based calculation. The wavelength-dependent  
282 difference of our experimentally derived Rayleigh scattering cross-sections with *n*-based  
283 calculations are shown in Figure 1e. The mean ratios of our measurements to the *n*-based values  
284 for the entire wavelength range of 307–725 nm are  $1.00 \pm 0.01$ ,  $0.99 \pm 0.01$ , and  $1.01 \pm 0.01$  for CO<sub>2</sub>,  
285 N<sub>2</sub>O, and SF<sub>6</sub>, respectively. Notably, while our results for N<sub>2</sub>O agree well with the *n*-based  
286 calculations, previous results obtained by CRDS at 532 nm (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) and by  
287 absorption spectroscopy in the wavelength of 300–315 nm (Bates and Hays, 1967) do not agree



288 well with the  $n$ -based calculations. The measurements between 300 and 315 nm were first  
289 published by Bates and Hays (1967), who obtained the results from a doctoral thesis. However,  
290 the results from our BBCES system are in good agreement with the  $n$ -based calculations and with  
291 experimental results from independent CRDS measurements, thus increasing the confidence in our  
292 measured values.

### 293 3. 3 Scattering and absorption cross-sections of O<sub>2</sub>.

294 The UV-vis spectra of gas-phase molecular oxygen are characterized by discrete structured  
295 absorption bands due to the electronic transition ( $b^1 \Sigma_g^+(v' = 1/2/3) \leftarrow \Sigma_g^-(v'' = 0)$ ) of O<sub>2</sub>  
296 monomer, broader unstructured CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>, and structured dimer bands from the bound van  
297 der Waals O<sub>2</sub> dimer (Newnham and Ballard, 1998). Under atmospheric conditions, the O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA  
298 bands are frequently described as "O<sub>4</sub>" bands, although absorption by O<sub>2</sub> dimer is thought to be  
299 significant only under very low-temperature conditions (Thalman and Volkamer, 2013; Long and  
300 Ewing, 1973). Within the wavelength range investigated in this work, the molecular oxygen B  
301 band at 688 nm ( $b^1 \Sigma_g^+(v' = 1) \leftarrow X^3 \Sigma_g^-(v'' = 0)$ ),  $\gamma$  overtone band at 629 nm ( $b^1 \Sigma_g^+(v' = 2) \leftarrow$   
302  $X^3 \Sigma_g^-(v'' = 0)$ ), and  $\delta$  overtone band at 580 nm ( $b^1 \Sigma_g^+(v' = 3) \leftarrow X^3 \Sigma_g^-(v'' = 0)$ ) overlap with  
303 O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA bands of  $^1 \Sigma_g^+(v = 1)$ ,  $^1 \Delta_g + ^1 \Delta_g (v = 0)$ , and  $^1 \Delta_g + ^1 \Delta_g (v = 1)$ , respectively.  
304 These absorption bands can only be resolved by a high-resolution spectroscopic technique.  
305 Absorption cross-sections of the B,  $\gamma$ , and  $\delta$  bands were convoluted from the HITRAN database  
306 (Gordon et al., 2017) by considering the temperature, pressure, and instrument's wavelength  
307 resolution. The wings of the oxygen lines also show a quadratic dependence on the pressure due  
308 to pressure broadening. However, due to the minimal O<sub>2</sub> absorption contribution below 680 nm  
309 and the low instrument wavelength resolution, the extinction cross-section of the O<sub>2</sub> monomer can  
310 be treated as linearly correlated with the O<sub>2</sub> concentration. Moreover, the O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA cross-section  
311 is correlated with the square of the O<sub>2</sub> concentration. Therefore, these cross-sections can be  
312 retrieved from measurements at different O<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Due to the discrete structured  
313 absorption bands and the instrument's wavelength resolution, the range of absorption cross-  
314 sections spans several orders of magnitude within the spectral response of the instrument, limiting  
315 the relevance of the absorption cross-sections for other researchers. These results are not further  
316 discussed here. However, the data for broader unstructured CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> are still useful for  
317 various applications.



318 Figure 2 shows the wavelength-dependent extinction coefficients of O<sub>2</sub>+He mixtures. He was used  
319 in these experiments to minimize extinction contributions from Rayleigh scattering. Nine  
320 absorption peaks centered at 344 nm (CIA), 360 nm (CIA), 380 nm (CIA), 446 nm (CIA), 477 nm  
321 (CIA), 532 nm (CIA), 577 nm ( $\delta$  overtone and CIA), 629 nm ( $\gamma$  overtone and CIA), and 688 nm  
322 (B band and CIA) were observed in the wavelength range of 307–725 nm. The absorption  
323 coefficients of the central wavelengths for the first eight peaks increase non-linearly with O<sub>2</sub>  
324 concentration while that of the 688 nm peak increases in a more linear manner, indicating that the  
325 O<sub>2</sub> B band absorption dominates the last absorption peak while the other peaks are mostly  
326 associated with CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>.

327 The extinction coefficients obtained by the BBCES correlated well with those measured by the  
328 CRD, with slopes of 0.990 ( $R^2=0.9994$ ) and 0.993 ( $R^2 = 0.9996$ ) at the wavelengths of 404 nm and  
329 662 nm, respectively (Figure 3). This excellent agreement between the instruments further  
330 substantiates the BBCES measurements and suggests that the accuracy of the BBCES is better  
331 than estimated in the error propagation above, where the N<sub>2</sub> refractive index was the largest  
332 uncertainty. As explained in the data processing section, the measured extinction coefficients were  
333 fitted with a 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial (selected wavelengths at the peaks of the CIA absorption bands  
334 are shown in Figure 4). At 476.7, 577.2, and 629.2 nm, the absorption is from the CIA of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>.  
335 The fit generates positive values matching the absorption cross-section of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA. At 687.7  
336 nm where strong B-band absorption appears, the fit yields a small negative coefficient for O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>  
337 CIA.

338 Figure 5a shows the extinction cross-section measured for 100% O<sub>2</sub>. These results agree well with  
339 previously reported results by Jordan et al. (2019). For wavelengths where no absorption is  
340 detected, the measured extinction cross-sections agree well with  $n$ -based calculations. Figure 5b-  
341 c shows the determined extinction cross-sections for molecular O<sub>2</sub> and the absorption cross-  
342 sections of O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA. For wavelength ranges without O<sub>2</sub> bands, our extinction cross-sections  
343 agree well with  $n$ -based values with an average deviation of 2.8%. The absorption cross-sections  
344 for O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA derived in this study mostly agree well with literature data from Thalman and  
345 Volkamer (2013). The differences are within 1.1% at 477, 532, 577, and 630 nm but larger  
346 deviations were found at 344 (4.2%), 360 (-29%), 380 (-21%), and 446 (4.2%) nm. These  
347 absorption bands are the lowest intensity bands and therefore have the largest relative uncertainties  
348 in either measurement.



349 The Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of molecular O<sub>2</sub> derived from the 100% O<sub>2</sub> measurement  
350 agree well with *n*-based calculations with an average difference of 1.2%. CIA of O<sub>2</sub>–O<sub>2</sub> calculated  
351 from this single measurement matches the results from the fitting method. Due to strong absorption  
352 from O<sub>2</sub> B band and  $\gamma$  overtone band, this method cannot derive the cross-sections of CIA of O<sub>2</sub>–  
353 O<sub>2</sub> at 630 and 688nm.

### 354 **3. 4 The scattering and absorption cross-sections of CH<sub>4</sub>.**

355 CH<sub>4</sub> has weak absorption in the UV–vis wavelength range, and these bands dominate the  
356 photographic spectra of planets such as Uranus and Neptune. Figure 6 presents the wavelength-  
357 dependent extinction coefficients of CH<sub>4</sub>+He mixtures. A total of eleven absorption bands were  
358 detected in the wavelength range of 307–725 nm. The extinction coefficients increase as a function  
359 of increasing CH<sub>4</sub> concentration. Extinction coefficients obtained by the BBCES correlated well  
360 with those measured in parallel by the CRDS, with slopes of 1.002 ( $R^2=0.9999$ ) and 0.99 ( $R^2 =$   
361  $0.999$ ) at the wavelengths of 404 nm and 662 nm (Figure S3). The excellent agreement between  
362 these three systems further supports the accuracy of BBCES extinction measurements over a wide  
363 working range. The measured extinction coefficients were linearly fit against the CH<sub>4</sub> number  
364 concentration. Figure 7 shows the fitted curves at five selected wavelengths. The extinction  
365 coefficients have a linear correlation with CH<sub>4</sub> concentration ( $R^2 > 0.9988$ ) without exception. The  
366 calculated slopes represent the extinction cross-sections of CH<sub>4</sub> and also indicate a wide dynamic  
367 range of our BBCES.

368 The extinction cross-sections for CH<sub>4</sub> retrieved from concentration-dependent measurements are  
369 plotted in Figure 8a. BBCES results from this study agree well with results from previous studies  
370 using BBCES (Jordan et al., 2019; Wilmouth and Sayres, 2019) and CRDS (Sneep and Ubachs,  
371 2005). Previous studies using a Nephelometer (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) and interferometer  
372 (Cuthbertson and Cuthbertson, 1920; Watson et al., 1936) obtained the scattering cross-sections  
373 of CH<sub>4</sub>. The BBCES measures the extinction cross-section. For wavelengths where extinction is  
374 dominated by Rayleigh scattering ( $< 475$  nm), our BBCES results agree well with the results from  
375 Nephelometer and interferometer measurements. In this study, the refractive index of CH<sub>4</sub> was  
376 calculated using the extinction data in the wavelength range of 307-400 nm. The calculated  
377 refractive index was fitted to the general expression:

$$378 \quad (n_{CH_4} - 1) \times 10^8 = 5476 + \frac{4.1579 \times 10^{14}}{1.1568 \times 10^{10} - \nu^2} \quad (7)$$



379 As shown in Figure 8b, our calculated scattering cross-sections are in good agreement with those  
380 derived from the newest refractive index developed by Wilmouth and Sayres (2020) (Table 2),  
381 with an average difference of 1.4%. The absorption cross-section, which is the difference between  
382 the total extinction and the Rayleigh scattering cross-section, is shown in Figure 8c. At most  
383 spectral ranges, our results are in good agreement with the results from previous studies (Giver,  
384 1978; Smith et al., 1990). For example, the difference as compared to the results from Giver (1978)  
385 at 542, 576.4, 598, 619, 665.7, and 703.6 nm is 4.0% on average. At several wavelength regions  
386 (e.g., 520–536nm, 580–605 nm), the results from Fink et al. (1977) differ from all of the other  
387 studies. In the wavelength range of 400–725 nm, absorption contributes up to 99.7% of the CH<sub>4</sub>  
388 extinction.

### 389 3. 5 Dispersion relations for N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>.

390 **SF<sub>6</sub>:** Wilmouth and Sayres (2020) found that their measured Rayleigh scattering cross-sections for  
391 SF<sub>6</sub> in the ultraviolet range were much lower than those from the *n*-based expression of Snee and  
392 Ubachs (2005). To better constrain the dispersion formula when extrapolated over a broad  
393 wavelength range, we employed an alternative fit of the form  $A+B/(C-v^2)$  to our data. The  
394 Rayleigh scattering derived refractive index in the wavelength range of 264–297 nm and 333–363  
395 nm by Wilmouth and Sayres (2020, 2019), and direct refractive index measurement at 632.99 nm  
396 (Vukovic et al., 1996) were used (Figure 9a). The resulting dispersion relation for SF<sub>6</sub> in the  
397 wavelength range of 264–725 nm is

$$398 \quad (n_{SF_6} - 1) \times 10^8 = 22871 + \frac{8.0021 \times 10^{14}}{1.6196 \times 10^{10} - v^2} \quad (8)$$

399 **N<sub>2</sub>O:** Snee and Ubachs (2005) derived the refractive index based on polarizability measurements  
400 using interferometer at five single wavelengths (457.9, 488, 514.5, 568.2, 647.1 nm) by Alms et  
401 al. (1975). In this study, we calculated the refractive index of N<sub>2</sub>O from the Rayleigh scattering  
402 cross-sections in the wavelength range of 307–725. Based on this refractive index data set, the  
403 dispersion relation (Eq (9)) for N<sub>2</sub>O was retrieved for a much broader wavelength range (Figure  
404 9b) compared to that generated by Snee and Ubachs (2005).

$$405 \quad (n_{N_2O} - 1) \times 10^8 = 23154 + \frac{1.534 \times 10^{14}}{6.5069 \times 10^9 - v^2} \quad (9)$$

406 **CH<sub>4</sub>:** The previous study by Wilmouth and Sayres (2019) has shown that their measured Rayleigh  
407 scattering cross-sections for CH<sub>4</sub> are in substantial disagreement (22%) with those calculated from



408 the refractive index recommended by Snee and Ubachs (2005). Snee and Ubachs (2005)  
409 formulated the refractive index of CH<sub>4</sub> based on interferometric measurements at wavelengths of  
410 325, 543.5, 594.1, 612, and 633 nm by Hohm (Hohm, 1993). However, the Rayleigh scattering  
411 cross-sections calculated from their refractive index are much higher than all the measured values  
412 listed in Figure 9b. Using Rayleigh scattering cross-sections in the wavelength range of 264–297  
413 nm, 333–363 nm (Wilmouth and Sayres, 2019, 2020), 307–400 nm from this study, and single  
414 wavelength measurements which are not impacted by absorption (Cuthbertson and Cuthbertson,  
415 1920; Shardanand and Rao, 1977; Watson et al., 1936), we derived the dispersion formula for the  
416 refractive index of CH<sub>4</sub> in the combined UV/visible range (Figure 9c) as follows:

$$417 \quad (n_{CH_4} - 1) \times 10^8 = 7327.7 + \frac{4.1884 \times 10^{14}}{1.2208 \times 10^{10} - \nu^2} \quad (10)$$

418 The calculated Rayleigh scattering cross-sections using the dispersion relations derived in this  
419 study were compared with those derived from previously recommended formulations listed in  
420 Table 1 (Figure 9). The difference increases significantly at the longer wavelength in the region of  
421 320–725 nm (Figure S4). The average deviations are 0.8%, 0.9%, and 1.6% for SF<sub>6</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and CH<sub>4</sub>,  
422 respectively. Notably, the difference for CH<sub>4</sub> is much more significant than for the other two gases.  
423 This study uses additional measurements and literature data in the wavelength ranges of 307–  
424 333 nm and 363–400 nm than those used by Wilmouth and Sayres (2020). Therefore this fit  
425 captures well our BBCES measurements (Figure 9d), and also the Wilmouth and Sayres (2020,  
426 2019) data.

## 427 **Conclusions and Implications**

428 Rayleigh scattering cross-sections between 307 and 725 nm were determined for CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O,  
429 SF<sub>6</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> by simultaneous BBCES and CRDS measurements. Extinction coefficients  
430 obtained by the BBCES show high consistency with those measured by parallel CRDS at 404 and  
431 662 nm (Figure 3 and figure S3), demonstrating that the BBCES measurements provide results  
432 with both a wide wavelength range and high accuracy. Comparison of our measurements with *n*-  
433 based calculations for these gases in the entire wavelength range of this study yields excellent  
434 agreement with relative differences of 1.5% and 1.1%, 1.5%, 2.9%, and 1.4% on average,  
435 respectively. The O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA cross-sections obtained from the BBCES measurements are  
436 compared with those published by Thalman and Volkamer (2013). The relative differences are  
437 within 1.1% at 477, 532, 577, 630 nm. Larger relative differences occur at the weak bands at 344



438 (4.2%), 360 (−29%), 380 (−21%), and 446 (4.2%) nm. The absorption cross-sections of CH<sub>4</sub> in the  
439 wavelength range of 400–725 nm agree well with those documented by Giver (1978).

440 Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of CO<sub>2</sub> determined using BBCES in this study, and in other  
441 studies have shown that the refractive index recommended by Sneeep and Ubachs (2005) is suitable  
442 for use in the wavelength range of 307–725 nm. By incorporating the refractive index data from  
443 previous studies, we developed new dispersion relations for the refractive index of N<sub>2</sub>O (307–725  
444 nm), SF<sub>6</sub> (264–725 nm), and CH<sub>4</sub> (264–671 nm). The new dispersion relation for CH<sub>4</sub> captures the  
445 measurements from BBCES more adequately.

446 Previous studies measured the Rayleigh scattering and absorption cross-sections of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O,  
447 O<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> at narrow spectral ranges or single wavelengths. In this study, we used BBCES  
448 that covers the broad wavelength range of 307–725 nm to measure total extinction (the sum of  
449 absorption and scattering). The measurements validate that refractive index-based methods for  
450 calculating Rayleigh extinction cross-sections are accurate and provide new fits over more  
451 continuous and extended wavelengths range than available in the literature to constrain such  
452 methods. The Rayleigh scattering cross-sections reported here are useful in several applications.  
453 These include calibration standards based on extinction for optically-based instruments, such as  
454 those designed for aerosol optical properties measurements or trace gas concentrations in the field  
455 (Jordan et al., 2019; Min et al., 2016; Bluvshtein et al., 2017), especially when high-refractive  
456 index gases are used for improved calibration. They will also improve the accuracy of Rayleigh  
457 scattering parameterizations for major greenhouse gases in Earth’s atmosphere, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and  
458 N<sub>2</sub>O. Accurate quantitative measurements of Rayleigh scattering coefficients and absorption  
459 cross-sections of atmospheric gases such as molecular N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and the CIA of O<sub>2</sub>–O<sub>2</sub> cross-  
460 sections in the UV–NIR range are of particular importance for the application of Rayleigh LIDAR  
461 systems, especially at the Nd:YAG laser harmonics 1064, 532 & 366 nm. These systems analyze  
462 the molecular backscattering contributions to the LIDAR’s attenuated backscatter signals to  
463 retrieve the atmospheric profile of aerosols and clouds in the planetary boundary layer (Tomasi et  
464 al., 2005; Herron, 2007). Recent NASA satellite missions have also aimed to measure global  
465 carbon dioxide concentrations with high precision (0.25%) (Drouin et al., 2017). These CO<sub>2</sub> global  
466 missions use the O<sub>2</sub>–O<sub>2</sub> CIA underneath the structured O<sub>2</sub> A-band (760 nm) to evaluate the solar  
467 radiation double pathlength in the Earth atmosphere and to determine the atmospheric pressure.  
468 The measurements in this study validate the existing literature on the extinction of O<sub>2</sub> collision



469 complexes and molecular oxygen bands, and can be used for calibration purposes in both remote  
470 sensing and *in-situ* spectroscopic applications in the atmosphere. In the future, gas extinction  
471 measurements at extended wavelengths (near-infrared) and for additional gases (e.g., N<sub>2</sub>) will  
472 improve the spectroscopic applications in atmospheric studies.

473 **Data availability.**

474 Data are available upon request from the corresponding author (yinon.rudich@weizmann.ac.il).

475 **Author contributions.**

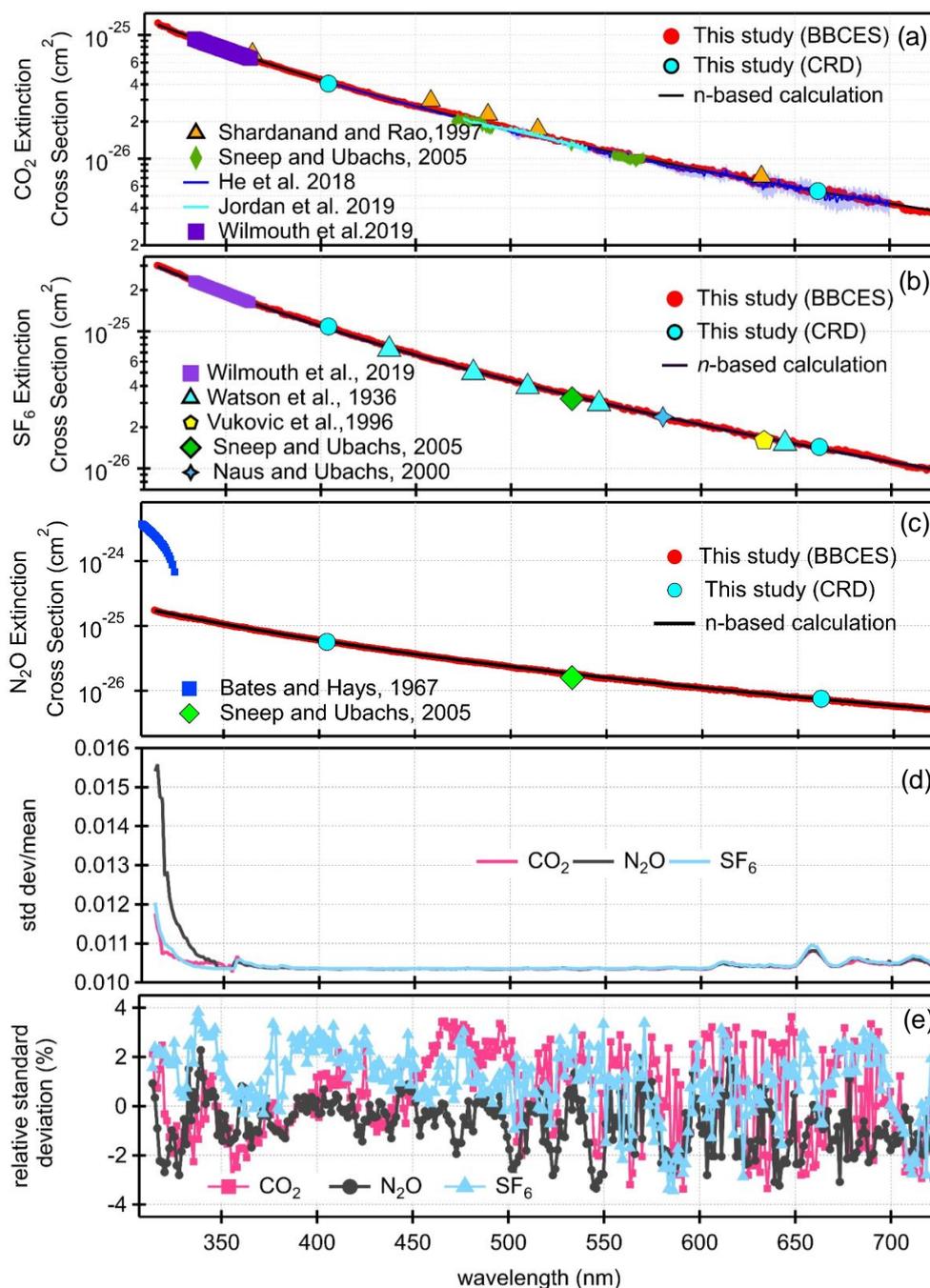
476 Q.H., S.S., and Y.R. designed this study. Q.H., Z.F., and O.S. conducted the experiments. Q.H.  
477 prepared the draft and all of the co-authors reviewed it and provided comments.

478 **Competing interests.**

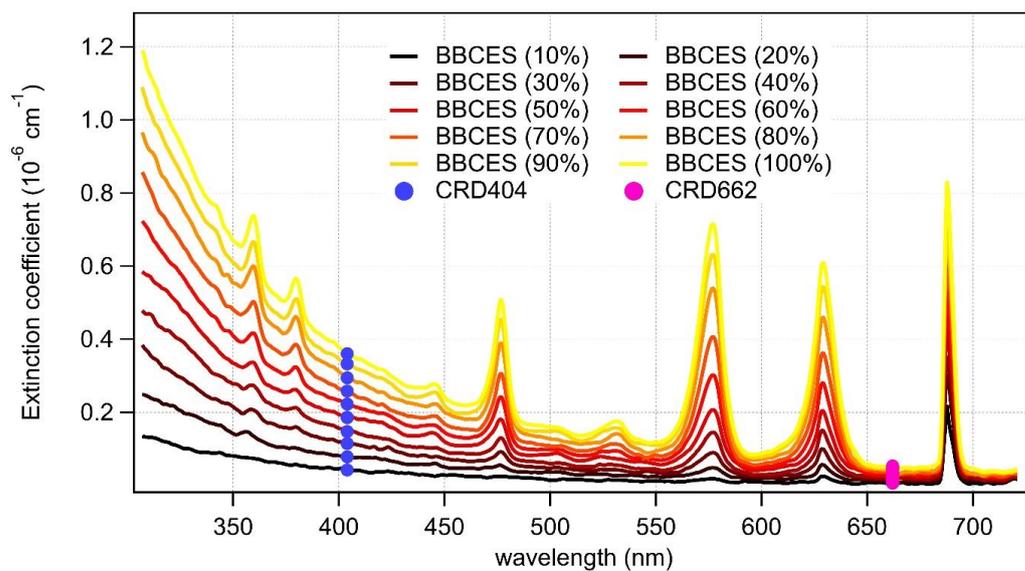
479 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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484 Weizmann Institute.

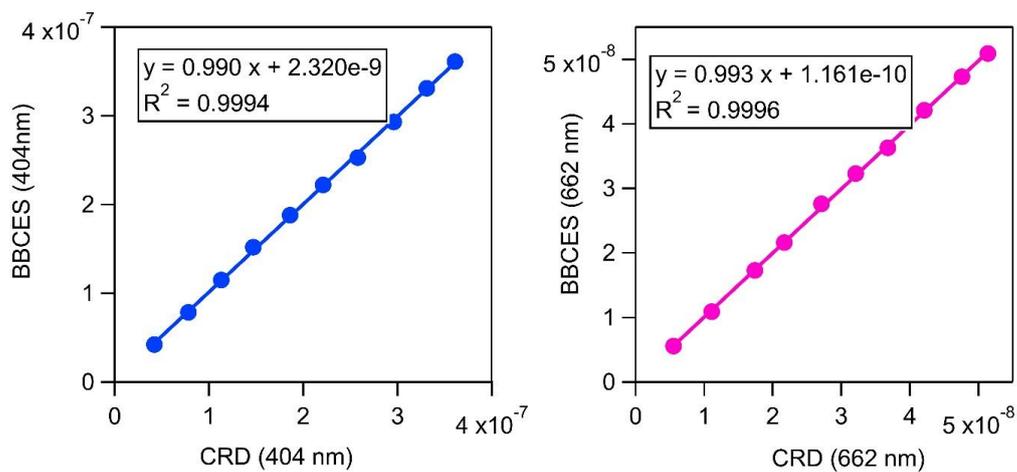


485  
 486 Figure 1. Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of CO<sub>2</sub> (a), SF<sub>6</sub> (b), and N<sub>2</sub>O (c). Panel (d) shows the  
 487 relative standard deviations as a function of wavelength for each gas. The relative difference in the  
 488 cross-sections obtained by the BBCES and calculations from the refractive index are displayed (e).



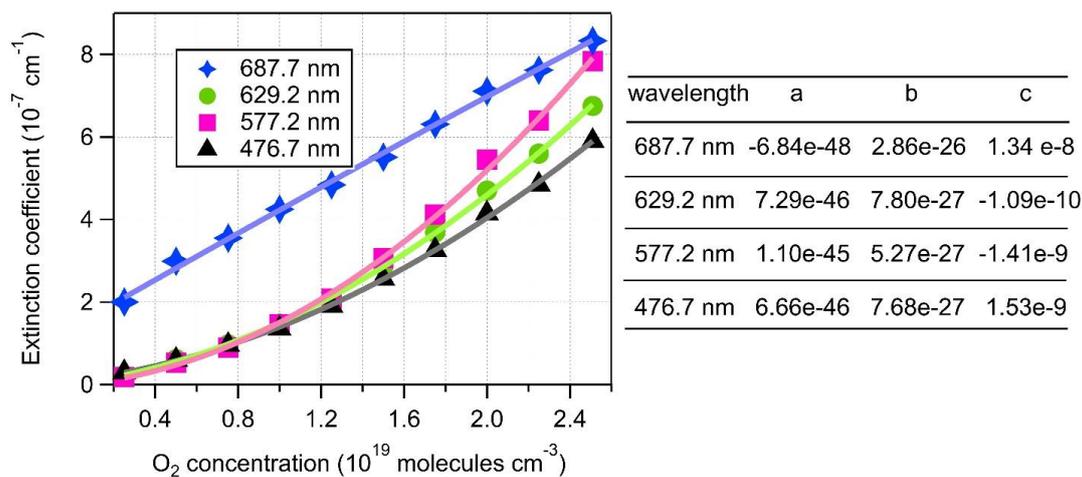
489

490 Figure 2. Wavelength-dependent extinction coefficients of O<sub>2</sub> + He mixtures as a function of O<sub>2</sub>  
491 concentration. The colored lines represent the extinction coefficients measured by BBCES, and  
492 markers represent results from CRDS.



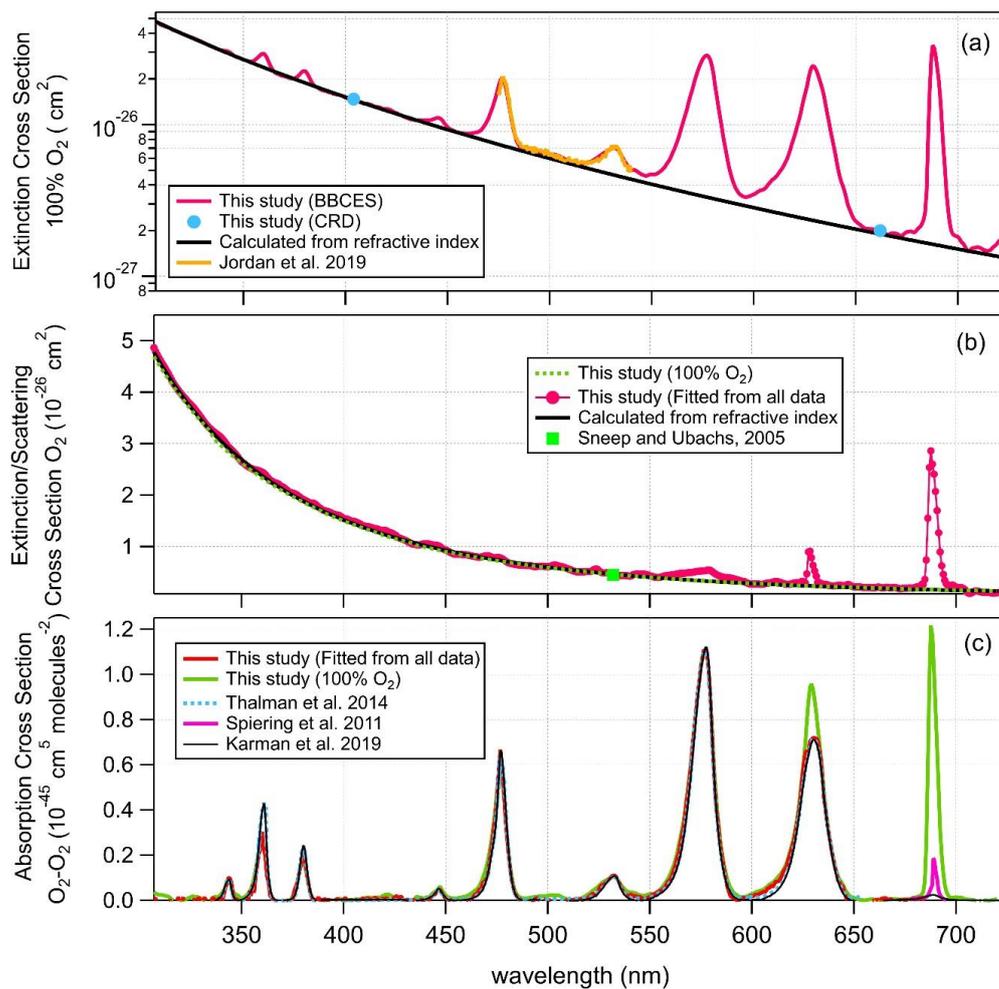
493

494 Figure 3. Correlations between the extinction coefficients (unit,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) measured by the BBCES  
495 and CRDS.



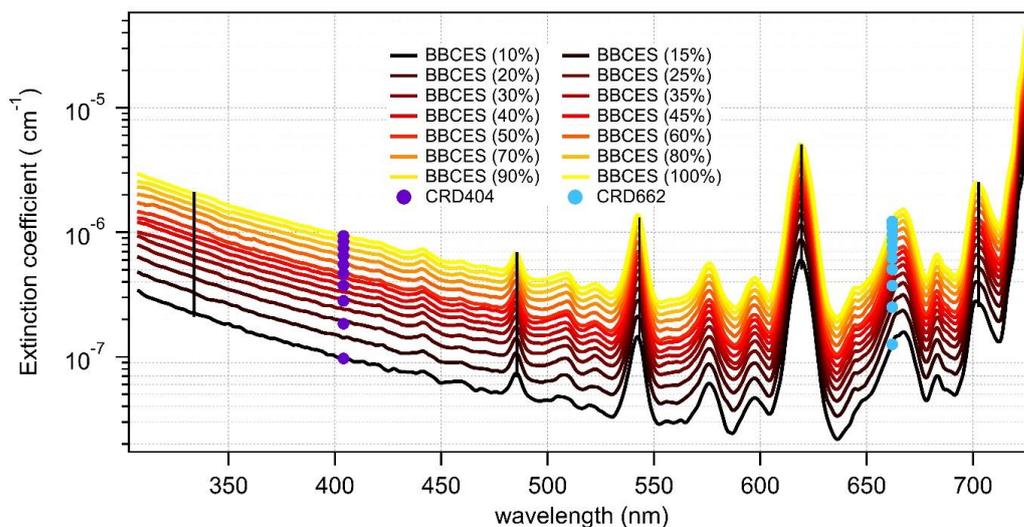
496

497 Figure 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial fit of extinction coefficients measured by the BBCES. The O<sub>2</sub>  
498 concentration-dependent extinction coefficients are contributed by the extinction coefficients of  
499 O<sub>2</sub> ( $\sigma_{O_2}$ ), He ( $\sigma_{He}$ ), and the O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA cross-sections ( $\sigma_{O_2-O_2}$ ).



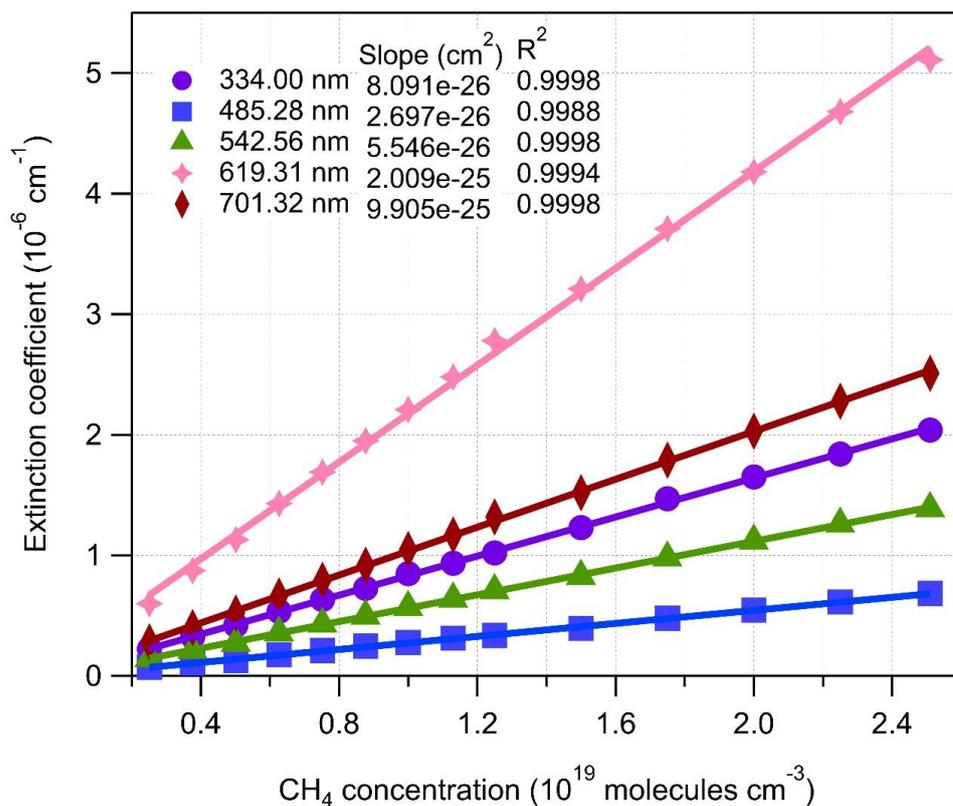
500

501 Figure 5. Wavelength-dependent extinction cross-sections of 100% O<sub>2</sub> (a), extinction cross-  
502 sections of O<sub>2</sub> (b), and O<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> CIA cross-section (c).



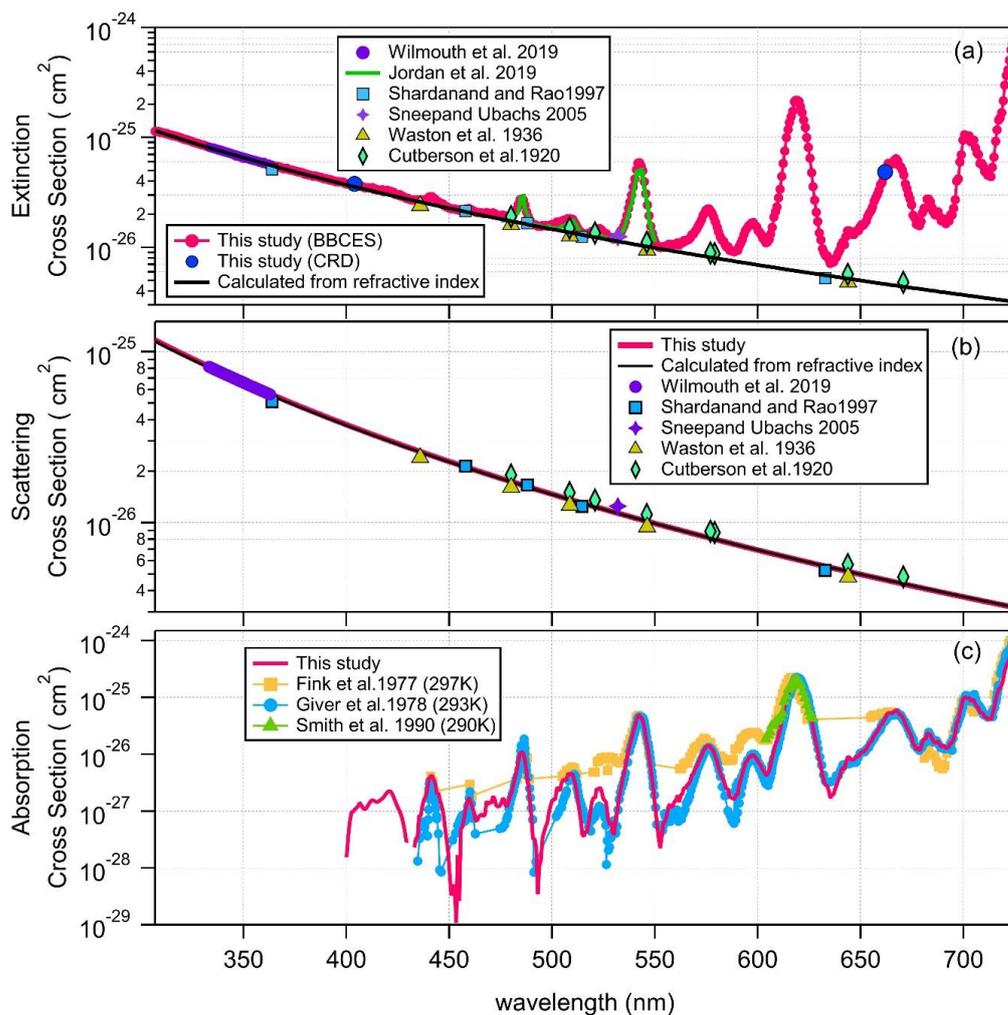
503

504 Figure 6. Wavelength-dependent extinction coefficients of  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{He}$  mixtures as a function of  
505  $\text{CH}_4$  mixing ratio. The colored lines represent extinction coefficients obtained from BBCES and  
506 markers represent results from CRDS. Measurements were performed with  $\text{CH}_4$  percentage within  
507 10% and 100% with a 10% step. Moreover, BBCES measurements were also performed for 15%,  
508 25%, 35%, and 45%  $\text{CH}_4$ . The number concentration of 100% methane was  $2.50143 \times 10^{19}$   
509 molecules  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ . Data at selected wavelengths (vertical lines) are shown in Figure 7.



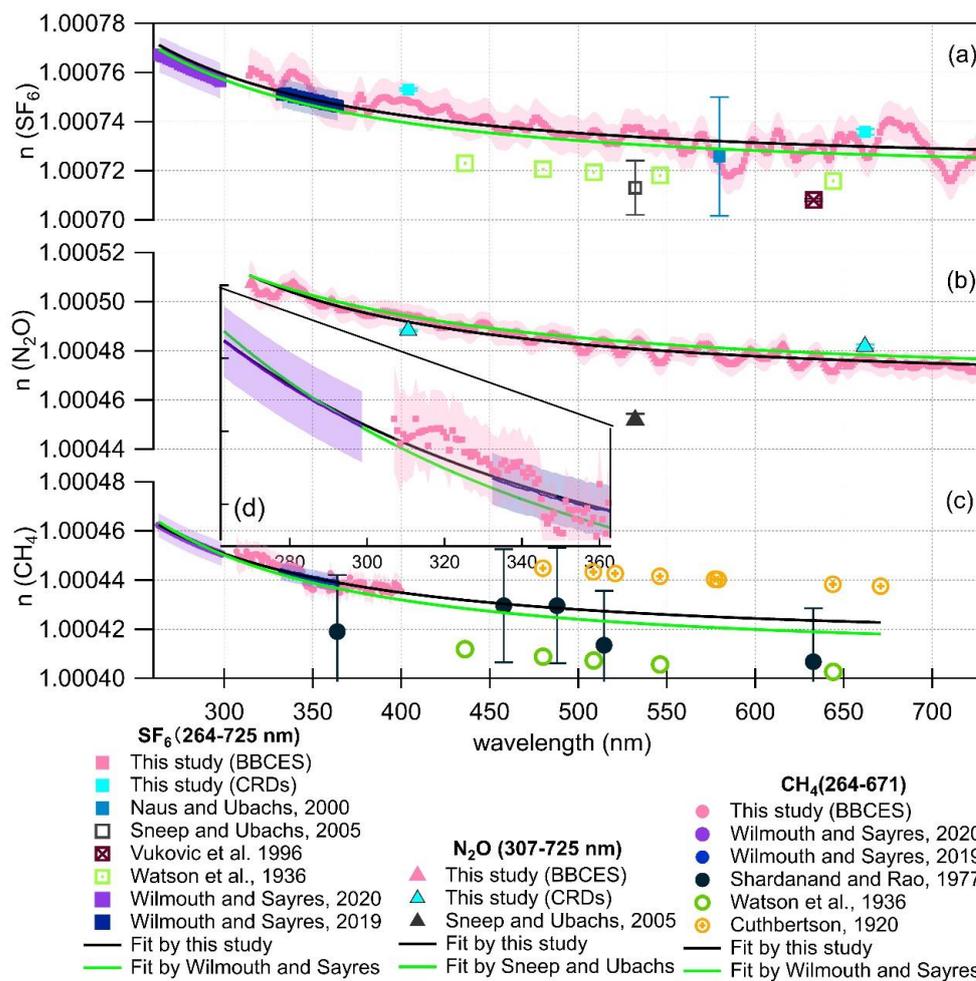
510

511 Figure 7. The relationship between BBCES measured extinction coefficients of  $\text{CH}_4+\text{He}$  mixtures  
512 and  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration. The selected wavelengths were located in Figure 6 by vertical lines.



513

514 Figure 8. Extinction (a), scattering (b), and absorption (c) cross-sections of CH<sub>4</sub>.



515

516 9. Real refractive index ( $n$ ) for SF<sub>6</sub> (a), N<sub>2</sub>O (b), and CH<sub>4</sub> (c). Comparison of Refractive index  
 517 from this work with previous studies (Cuthbertson and Cuthbertson, 1920; Naus and Ubachs, 2000;  
 518 Shardanand and Rao, 1977; Sneep and Ubachs, 2005; Vukovic et al., 1996; Watson et al., 1936;  
 519 Wilmouth and Sayres, 2019, 2020) over the wavelength range of 264–725 nm. The green line  
 520 represents the dispersion relation given in Table 1. The black line represents the dispersion relation  
 521 given in Eq. (8–10) derived from a fit to our data and references results. The  $n$  values for  
 522 Shardanand and Rao (1977), Sneep and Ubachs (2005), Naus and Ubachs (2000) were calculated  
 523 from their reported Rayleigh scattering cross-sections. Refractive index data from Sneep and  
 524 Ubachs (2005) are not used in the fitting since these results are away from others. Panel (d) is a  
 525 close-up view of the panel (c) in the wavelength range of 264–363 nm.  
 526

Figure



527 Table 1. Refractive index and King correction factors for calculating Rayleigh scattering cross-  
 528 sections and available measurements in the wavelength range of 300–725 nm. Measurements for  
 529 He and N<sub>2</sub> are not summarized in this table.

Gas	Refractive index and King correction factors				Measurements	
	$(n-1) \times 10^8$	$F_k(v)$	$v$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	References	$\lambda$ (nm)	References
He	2283 + $\frac{18102 \times 10^{13}}{1.5342 \times 10^{10} - v^2}$	1.0	14285- 33333	Thalman, 2014; Leonard, 1974; Cuthbertson, 1932		
N <sub>2</sub>	5677.465 + $\frac{318.81874 \times 10^{12}}{1.44 \times 10^{10} - v^2}$	$1.034 + 3.17 \times 10^{-12} v^2$	21360- 39370	Sneep, 2005; Naus, 2000		
CO <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{1.1427 \times 10^{11}}{5799.25}$ × $\left( \frac{(128908.9)^2 - v^2}{120.05} \right)$ + $\frac{(89223.8)^2 - v^2}{5.3334}$ + $\frac{(75037.5)^2 - v^2}{4.3244}$ + $\frac{(67837.7)^2 - v^2}{1.218145 \times 10^{-5}}$ + $\frac{(2418.136)^2 - v^2}{1.218145 \times 10^{-5}}$	$1.1364 + 2.53 \times 10^{-11} v^2$	39417- 55340	Alms, 1975; Bideau-Mehu, 1973; Sneep, 2005	333-725	Jordan, 2019; Shardanand, 1977; Sneep, 2005; Wilmouth, 2019; He, 2018
CH <sub>4</sub>	4869.8 + $\frac{4.1023 \times 10^{14}}{1.133 \times 10^{10} - v^2}$	1.0	15385- 40000	Sneep, 2005; Wilmouth, 2020	333-363, 434-725	Cuthbertson 1920; Jordan, 2019; Shardanand, 1977; Sneep, 2005; Watson, 1936; Wilmouth, 2019; Smith, 1990; Giver, 1978; Fink, 1977
N <sub>2</sub> O	$46890 + 4.12 \times 10^{-6} v^2$	$\frac{3.3462 + 70.8 \times 10^{-12} v^2}{2.7692 - 47.2 \times 10^{-12} v^2}$	15453- 21838	Alms, 1975; Sneep, 2005	300-320, 532	Johnston, 1975; Sneep, 2005
SF <sub>6</sub>	18611.4 + $\frac{8.9566 \times 10^{14}}{1.680 \times 10^{10} - v^2}$	1.0	15385- 40000	Sneep, 2005; Vukovic, 1996; Wilmouth, 2020	333-363, 532, 633	Sneep, 2005; Vukovic, 1996; Wilmouth, 2019
O <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	20564.8 + $\frac{2.480899 \times 10^{13}}{4.09 \times 10^9 - v^2}$	$1.09 + 1.385 \times 10^{-11} v^2$ + $1.448 \times 10^{-20} v^4$	18315- 34722	Hohm, 1993; Sneep, 2005	328-667	Thalman, 2013; Jordan, 2019; Hermans, 1999; Greenblatt, 1990; Spiering, 2011

530 Unless noted, the refractive index is scaled to 288.15 K and 1013.25 hPa.  $N = 2.546899 \times 10^{19}$   
 531 molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>.

532 Due to limited space, only the first name of each reference is shown in the table.

533 <sup>a</sup> The refractive index was obtained at 273.15 K and 1013.25 hPa,  $N = 2.68678 \times 10^{19}$  molecules  
 534 cm<sup>-3</sup> is used in Eq. (1)



Table 2. The Rayleigh scattering cross-sections ( $10^{-27}$  cm<sup>2</sup>) calculated from the refractive index (*n*-based) and obtained from BBCES (Exp) of selected wavelengths.

$\lambda(\text{nm})$	CO <sub>2</sub>		SF <sub>6</sub>		N <sub>2</sub> O		O <sub>2</sub>		CH <sub>4</sub>	
	<i>n</i> -based	Exp	<i>n</i> -based	Exp	<i>n</i> -based	Exp	<i>n</i> -based	Exp	<i>n</i> -based	Exp
330	98.22	96.8	241.5	239.4	137.9	136.7	34.71	35.1	84.12	85.3
404	41.67	41.6	104.5	105.7	57.71	57.9	14.57	14.8	35.57	35.9
532	13.32	13.3	33.92	34.1	18.19	18.3	4.642	4.55	11.34	11.3
660	5.516	5.52	14.16	14.2	7.483	7.47	1.924	1.95	4.693	4.68
710	4.101	4.08	10.55	10.4	5.551	5.48	1.430	1.41	3.487	3.47



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