# Computation of quasiclassical trajectories by symplectic algorithm for the $\mathrm{N}\left({ }^{4} \mathrm{~S}\right)+\mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathrm{X}^{3} \Sigma_{\mathrm{g}}^{-}\right) \rightarrow \mathrm{NO}\left(\mathrm{X}^{2} \Pi\right)+\mathrm{O}\left({ }^{3} \mathrm{P}\right)$ reaction system 

Jianfeng He,* Wei Hua, Xueshen Liu, and Peizhu Ding<br>Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin 130012, People's Republic of China<br>E-mail: hjf1919@yahoo.com.cn

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Computation of quasiclassical trajectories for the $\mathrm{N}\left({ }^{4} \mathrm{~S}\right)+\mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathrm{X}^{3} \Sigma_{\mathrm{g}}^{-}\right) \rightarrow \mathrm{NO}\left(\mathrm{X}^{2} \Pi\right)$ $+\mathrm{O}\left({ }^{3} \mathrm{P}\right)$ atmospheric reaction system, based on a new ground potential energy surface reported by R.Sayós et al., has been performed in this work by means of both the fourth-order explicit symplectic algorithm (S4) and the fourth-order Runge-Kutta scheme (RK4), and then computed results of two schemes are compared. It is shown that RK4 cannot preserve energy conservation and symplectic structure of the reaction system, which results in the bad veracity of the trajectory calculation. RK4 cannot rightly reflect both the colliding mode and the reaction mode of the trajectories. Moreover, the amplitudes of vibration of the reactant molecule and the product molecule become gradually small with the time increasing, and their rotation-vibrational levels in fact vary during the integration. For these reasons, RK4 cannot assure the accuracy of the quasiclassical trajectory (QCT) study of the atmospheric reaction. However, S 4 maintains these characteristics and can actually describe the circumstance of the reaction system. S4 is better than RK4 is prospective in the QCT study of the chemical reaction.

KEY WORDS: symplectic algorithm, quasiclassical trajectory, chemical reaction

## 1. Introduction

The quasiclassical trajectory (QCT) method has gradually developed and turned into an effectively academic method of the dynamics study in the chemical reaction [1]. In the QCT study, motion of atomic nuclei on the electronic potential energy surface (PES) has been described by the canonical equations of Hamilton system and the integral method frequently used is Runge-Kutta or Gear scheme [2-3]. The improvement of calculated results depends greatly on

[^0]the PES accuracy of the reaction system, and the integral method that can preserve some constancies of the reaction system is rarely noticed. The Hamilton system has the symplectic structure. In the early 1980s, Ruth [4] and Feng Kang [5] advanced respectively the symplectic algorithm that is a difference method preserving the symplectic structure of Hamilton system, and then Feng Kang, Qin Mengzhao and Yoshida et al. carried out a systemic study on the symplectic algorithm [6-9]. To this day, the symplectic algorithm has been widely applied to astronomy [10], plasma physics [11], quantum mechanics [12-13] and other fields.

The elementary atmospheric reaction, $\mathrm{N}\left({ }^{4} \mathrm{~S}\right)+\mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathrm{X}^{3} \Sigma_{\mathrm{g}}^{-}\right) \rightarrow \mathrm{NO}\left(\mathrm{X}^{2} \Pi\right)+$ $\mathrm{O}\left({ }^{3} \mathrm{P}\right)$, and its reverse reaction play an important role in the earth's atmospheric chemistry. This reaction is a source of infrared chemiluminescence in the thermosphere [14]. High temperature studies of the kinetics and dynamics of the atmospheric reaction and its reverse one are also significant to interpret the chemical and physical phenomena taking place during the re-entry of spacecrafts into the Earth's atmosphere [15]. Some ab initio studies have been presented about the ground $\left({ }^{2} A^{\prime}\right)$ potential energy surface involved in this atmospheric reaction [16-18]. Using on a new analytical fit of ab initio electronic structure calculation for the ground PES reported by R.Sayós et al. [18] in this work, we present a calculation of quasiclassical trajectories with the fourth-order explicit symplectic algorithm [19] (S4) for the atmospheric reaction, and then the result is compared to that computed by the fourth-order Runge-Kutta scheme (RK4). It indicates that RK4 cannot preserve the energy constant and symplectic structure of Hamilton system, and computed trajectories actually do not describe the motion of the reaction system. However, S4 keeps these constancies of the reaction system, its results are markedly better than that of RK4. The organization of this paper is as follows: section 2 introduces the canonical equations of the atom-molecule reaction system and its fourth-order explicit symplectic algorithm (S4). In section 3, the results of the calculation and some discussions are given. Finally we have drawn some conclusions in section 4.

## 2. The computational method

In the atom-molecule $(\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{BC})$ reaction system, the mass of atom $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}$, respectively denotes $m_{\mathrm{A}}, m_{\mathrm{B}}, m_{\mathrm{C}}$. In the present case, A is taken to be the nitrogen atom ( N ), B is the first oxygen atom $(\mathrm{O})$ and C is the second oxygen atom (O). Because the reaction system has no outfield action, the momentum of the reaction system is constant. Separating out the center-of-mass motion, we write the internal Hamiltonian in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
H=\frac{1}{2 \mu_{\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}}} \sum_{j=1}^{3} P_{j}^{2}+\frac{1}{2 \mu_{\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{BC}}} \sum_{j=4}^{6} P_{j}^{2}+V\left(Q_{1}, Q_{2}, \ldots, Q_{6}\right), \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $Q_{j}(j=1,2, \ldots, 6)$ represents the generalized Cartesian coordinate, $P_{j}$ $(j=1,2, \ldots, 6)$ is the momentum conjugate to the $Q_{j}, V\left(Q_{1}, Q_{2}, \ldots, Q_{6}\right)$ is the potential energy function, and the reduced masses are

$$
\mu_{\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}}=\frac{m_{\mathrm{B}} m_{\mathrm{C}}}{m_{\mathrm{B}}+m_{\mathrm{C}}}, \quad \mu_{\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{BC}}=\frac{m_{\mathrm{A}}\left(m_{\mathrm{B}}+m_{\mathrm{C}}\right)}{m_{\mathrm{A}}+m_{\mathrm{B}}+m_{\mathrm{C}}} .
$$

Canonical equations of the reaction system are

$$
\begin{equation*}
\dot{Q}_{j}=\frac{\partial H}{\partial P_{j}}, \quad \dot{P}_{j}=-\frac{\partial H}{\partial Q_{j}}=-\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_{j}} . \quad(j=1,2, \ldots, 6) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

From (1), the Hamiltonian is separable and has the following fourth-order explicit symplectic algorithm [19]

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
P_{j}^{1}=P_{j}^{n}-C_{1} \tau\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_{j}}\right)_{Q_{j}^{n}}, & Q_{j}^{1}=Q_{j}^{n}+d_{1} \tau\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P_{j}}\right)_{P_{j}^{1}}, \\
P_{j}^{2}=P_{j}^{1}-C_{2} \tau\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_{j}}\right)_{Q_{j}^{1}}, & Q_{j}^{2}=Q_{j}^{1}+d_{2} \tau\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P_{j}}\right)_{P_{j}^{2}}, \\
P_{j}^{3}=P_{j}^{2}-C_{3} \tau\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_{j}}\right)_{Q_{j}^{2}}, & Q_{j}^{3}=Q_{j}^{2}+d_{3} \tau\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P_{j}}\right)_{P_{j}^{3}}, \\
P_{j}^{n+1}=P_{j}^{3}-C_{4} \tau\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial Q_{j}}\right)_{Q_{j}^{3}}, & Q_{j}^{n+1}=Q_{j}^{3}+d_{4} \tau\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial P_{j}}\right)_{P_{j}^{n+1}}, \quad(j=1,2, \ldots, 6)
\end{array}
$$

where $C_{1}=0, C_{2}=C_{4}=\alpha, C_{3}=\beta, d_{1}=d_{4}=\alpha / 2, d_{2}=d_{3}=(\alpha+\beta) / 2$, $\beta=1-2 \alpha, \alpha=\left(2-2^{1 / 3}\right)^{-1}$.

## 3. Results and discussion

A lot of quasiclassical trajectories for the atmospheric reaction, based on a new analytical fit of ab initio electronic structure calculation for the ground PES reported by R. Sayós et al. [18], have been calculated by means of S4 and RK4. The following is computed results of two integral schemes and the comparison of them. (It should be noticed that RHO denotes the initial distance between the N atom and the $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule in a.u., $E_{\mathrm{t}}$ denotes the relative translational energy in $\mathrm{eV}, h$ is the time step size in second, $v$ and $J$ represent respectively, the vibrational and rotational level of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule, $R$ is the separate distance of nuclei and the energy unit is taken to be $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$.)

### 3.1. The deviation of total energy

Figure 1 depicts the comparison of total energies evolving with the time computed respectively by S4 and RK4. From figure 1a, when RK4 is used in the calculation, the total energy descends with the time increasing. This reveals that the


Figure 1. Comparison of total energies evolving with the time computed respectively by RK4 and S4: (a) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.3 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8, h=5.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (non-reaction), (b) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.5 \mathrm{eV}, v=0$, $J=8, h=5.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (reaction).
deviation of total energy for the reaction system will become larger if the time is longer. We believe that the computed error contains the round error and the truncation error. The phenomenon in figure 1a is accounted for that the deviation of the total energy adds in value with the time since the truncation error continuously accumulates during the integration. However, since the truncation error does not accumulate with the integration using S 4 , no total energy loss occurs. Except that the total energy computed by S 4 shakes slightly near the exact value, it is almost a constant in figure 1a. Since a reaction takes place in figure 1 b (no reaction yet takes place in figure 1a), the phenomenon in figure $1 b$ is a little different from that in figure 1a. The curve of the total energy evolving with the time computed by RK4 in the product part from figure 1 b has a larger slope than in the reactant part, and meanwhile the vibrating amplitude of the total energy computed by S 4 in the product part is clearly larger than that in the reactant part. When no reaction happens (in figure 1a), the deviation of the total energy evolving with the time is mainly connected with
the potential energy curve of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule. However, the deviation is determined by the potential energy curve of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule before the reaction takes place, and it is relative to that of NO molecule after the reaction if there is a reaction occurring (in figure 1 b ). Figure 1 b characterizes the effect of NO molecule on the energy error is greater than that of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule.

The deviation of total energy with respect to the exact value respectively computed by S4 and RK4 with different time step sizes at $\mathrm{RHO}=300$ a.u. and $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.4 \mathrm{eV}$ is displayed in table 1 . The results computed by RK4 in table 1a indicate that the loss of total energy increases with the time step size rising at the given initial condition of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule. When the vibrational level of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule (at $J=8$ ) enlarges, the deviation of total energy increases in quantity at the fixed time step size. The rotational level of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule (at $v=0$ ) has almost the same influence on the deviation of total energy except for $J=4$ and $J=16$. Table 1 b shows that the deviation of total energy computed by S 4 exhibits either positive or negative value because the computed value vibrates near the exact energy value. The deviation of total energy computed by S4 is much less than that computed by RK4 at the same condition suggests that S 4 can better preserve the total energy of the reaction system than RK4.

To research the affect of the initial distance on the deviation of total energy, we have computed these deviations by RK4 and S4, which are represented in table 2, with different initial distances at $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.4 \mathrm{eV}$ and $h=6.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$. From table 2a, the initial distance RHO becomes longer will result in that the loss of total energy computed by RK4 at the given initial condition is enhanced. The affect of the rotation-vibrational level on the deviation is similar to that in table 1a. Furthermore, the variable law of the deviation of total energy computed by S 4 in table 2 b is still according with table 1 b . Now, we note that the deviation does not always grow up with the initial distance rising at $v=0,1,2$ and $J=8$ in table 2 a . The reason is that the colliding case of trajectories (i.e., elastic collision, inelastic collision and reactive collision) shifts when the initial distance broadens and consequently the loss of total energy has a different trend.

### 3.2. The comparison of trajectories

Since RK4 cannot maintain energy conservation and symplectic structure of the reaction system, the trajectories computed by RK4 have some evident differences from those computed by S4 at the same condition. Figure 2 is the comparison of some typical trajectories. First, the trajectories computed by RK4 at $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=16, \mathrm{RHO}=110 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{u}$ and $h=4.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (in figure 2 a ) clarify that no reaction occurs although the collision go through a transition state. Moreover, after the $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule collides with the N atom, the period and amplitude of vibration of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule become large. From figure 2b, however, a reaction that produces the NO molecule (the second oxygen atom) takes place.
Table 1

|  | $h=1.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ | $2.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ | $4.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ | $6.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ | $8.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ | $10.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $a$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $v=0, J=0$ | $0.587 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.188 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.600 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.451 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.185 | 0.533 |
| $v=0, J=4$ | $0.428 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.137 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.437 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.330 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.137 | 0.406 |
| $v=0, J=8$ | $0.609 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.195 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.622 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.466 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.187 | 0.508 |
| $v=0, J=12$ | $0.795 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.260 \times 10^{-2}$ | 0.140 | 0.444 | $0.191 \times 10^{+1}$ | $0.168 \times 10^{+2}$ |
| $v=0, J=16$ | $0.102 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.325 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.103 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.760 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.285 | 0.666 |
| $v=1, J=8$ | $0.132 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.421 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.133 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.925 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.516 | $0.121 \times 10^{+1}$ |
| $v=2, J=8$ | $0.552 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.179 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.257 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.717 | $0.222 \times 10^{+1}$ | $0.680 \times 10^{+1}$ |
| $b$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $v=0, J=0$ | $-0.915 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-0.441 \times 10^{-6}$ | $0.260 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.214 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.133 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.110 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| $v=0, J=4$ | $-0.210 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.439 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.131 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.780 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.269 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.681 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| $v=0, J=8$ | $-0.627 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-0.743 \times 10^{-6}$ | $0.959 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-0.397 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.670 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.638 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| $v=0, J=12$ | $-0.314 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.315 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.883 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.103 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.575 \times 10^{-2}$ | $-0.818 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| $v=0, J=16$ | $0.311 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.330 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.157 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.103 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.4045 \times 10^{-2}$ | $-0.224 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| $v=1, J=8$ | $-0.225 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.602 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-0.210 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.841 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.117 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.268 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| $v=2, J=8$ | $-0.233 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.769 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.216 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.231 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.170 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.417 \times 10^{-1}$ |

[^1]The deviation of total energy with respect to the exact value computed respectively by RK4 and S4 with different initial distances at

|  | $\mathrm{RHO}=20$ | 40 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 500 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $a$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $v=0, J=0$ | $0.225 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.398 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.130 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.165 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.451 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.387 \times 10^{-1}$ |
| $v=0, J=4$ | $0.223 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.344 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.168 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.418 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.330 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.677 \times 10^{-1}$ |
| $v=0, J=8$ | $0.263 \times 10^{-2}$ | 0.147 | $0.124 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.441 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.466 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.128 |
| $v=0, J=12$ | $0.180 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.476 \times 10^{-2}$ | 0.179 | 0.552 | 0.317 | 0.712 |
| $v=0, J=16$ | $0.524 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.367 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.183 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.65 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.76 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.917 \times 10^{-1}$ |
| $v=1, J=8$ | $0.739 \times 10^{-2}$ | 0.166 | $0.326 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.881 \times 10^{-1}$ | $0.925 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.323 |
| $v=2, J=8$ | $0.161 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.146 | $0.514 \times 10^{-1}$ | 0.162 | 0.717 | 0.653 |
| b |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $v=0, J=0$ | $-0.187 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.493 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.101 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.800 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.214 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.731 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| $v=0, J=4$ | $-0.166 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.836 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.265 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.449 \times 10^{-5}$ | $0.781 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.204 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| $v=0, J=8$ | $-0.306 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.139 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.776 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.651 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.397 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.667 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| $v=0, J=12$ | $0.102 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.339 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.593 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.932 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.12 \times 10^{-2}$ | $-0.187 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| $v=0, J=16$ | $-0.293 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.26 \times 10^{-2}$ | $0.543 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.195 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.104 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.371 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| $v=1, J=8$ | $0.964 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-0.532 \times 10^{-3}$ | $0.205 \times 10^{-4}$ | $0.251 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.839 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.736 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| $v=2, J=8$ | $-0.113 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.428 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.185 \times 10^{-2}$ | $-0.866 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-0.485 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-0.461 \times 10^{-2}$ |

[^2]It is concluded that the loss of total energy may influence the colliding made of the trajectories. Second, two differences exist in figure 2c and figure 2d that respectively display the trajectories computed by RK4 and S4 at $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}$, $v=0, J=0, \mathrm{RHO}=220.0 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{u}$. and $h=7.5 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$. One is the reaction mode, that is, figure 2 c is a direct reaction and figure 2 d is an indirect reaction. Another is that the product in figure 2 c is the NO molecule (the first oxygen atom) and there is a different NO molecule (the second oxygen atom) in figure 2 d . The third is that the amplitude of vibration of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule computed by RK4 becomes gradually small with the time increasing, however the value computed by S4 is always consistent, as described in figure 2 e (the comparison of trajectories in the reactant part at $\left.E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8, h=6.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}\right)$. From figure 2 e , the amplitude computed by RK4 is much less than that computed by S 4 between $2.0 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{~s}$ and $2.03 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{~s}$. The reduction of the amplitude because of the loss of total energy corresponds in effect to the variation of the rotation-vibrational level of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule before the collision. Thereby, the initial condition of the reaction system cannot be preserved during the integration when RK4 is used. Finally, the comparison of the trajectories in the product molecule part exhibits that the period and the amplitude of vibration of the product NO molecule computed by RK4 are less than those computed by S4. In the same way, the period and amplitude of vibration are relative to the rotationvibrational level of NO molecule, and from this the accuracy of the QCT study of the rotation-vibrational level distribution of the product molecule cannot keep by RK4.

### 3.3. Typical trajectories and reaction mode analysis

We calculate a large number of trajectories by S 4 for the atmospheric reaction, and some typical trajectories are sought out in figure 3 at different relative translational energies and rotation-vibrational energy levels. Even though most of the reactive trajectories evolve through a direct mechanism, some of them take place in an indirect way, whose number is actually rare. Figure 3a and b show the typical trajectories proceeding through an indirect mechanism. The N atom approaches the $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule until both $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds are formed. And they keep vibrating for about $3.0 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{~s}$, eventually evolving towards product, giving rise to a reaction at either end of the $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule. Figure 3 a display that the N atom links with the first oxygen atom to make the NO molecule, however the reaction product in figure 3 b is consisted of the N atom and the second oxygen atom. The typical trajectories in a direct mechanism are manifested in figure 3 c . The N atom approaches continuously to the $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule, in such a way that the vibration of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule does not influence by the incoming N atom until the NO bond distance is almost reached. When the NO molecule is formed, the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{O}$ distance grows fast. Figure 3 d in which no reaction occurs displays a


Figure 2. Comparison of trajectories evolving with time computed respectively by RK4 and S4. (a) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=16, \mathrm{RHO}=110.0$ a.u., $h=4.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (by RK4). (b) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}$, $v=0, J=16$, RHO $=110.0$ a.u., $h=4.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (by S4). (c) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=0$, $\mathrm{RHO}=220.0$ a.u., $h=7.5 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (by RK4). (d) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=0, \mathrm{RHO}=220.0$ a.u., $h=7.5 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (by S4). (e) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8, h=6.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right.$ molecule). (f) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.6 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8, h=5.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ (NO molecule).


Figure 3. Typical trajectories and reactive mode analysis at $h=1.0 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{~s}$ and RHO $=40.0$ a.u. (a) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.5 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8$ (b) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.6 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=8$ (c) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.9 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=0$
(d) $E_{\mathrm{t}}=0.3 \mathrm{eV}, v=0, J=16$.
typically elastic collision, where the period and amplitude of vibration of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule have no variation after the N atom collides with $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule. The inelastic collision that changes the internal energy of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule also exists, and we do not exhibit for simplicity.

## 4. Conclusions

Based on a new analytical fit of $a b$ initio electronic structure calculation for the ground PES reported by R. Sayós et al., we have presented the computation of quasiclassical trajectories for the $\mathrm{N}\left({ }^{4} \mathrm{~S}\right)+\mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathrm{X}^{3} \Sigma_{\mathrm{g}}^{-}\right) \rightarrow \mathrm{NO}\left(\mathrm{X}^{2} \Pi\right)+\mathrm{O}\left({ }^{3} \mathrm{P}\right)$ atmospheric reaction system by means of both S4 and RK4, and then the computed results of two schemes are compared. It is known that RK4 cannot preserve energy conservation and symplectic structure of the reaction system, which result in the bad veracity of the trajectory calculation. Because of the loss of total energy, RK4 cannot rightly reflect both the colliding mode and the reaction mode of the trajectories. The amplitude of vibration of the reactant $\mathrm{O}_{2}$
molecule becomes gradually small with the time increasing, and the initial condition of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ molecule is correspondingly transformed before the reaction. Since RK4 also reduce the amplitude of the product NO molecule, it cannot guarantee the accuracy of the study of the rotation-vibrational level distribution of the product molecule. However, S4 maintains energy conservation and symplectic structure of the reaction system and can actually describe the colliding trajectories of the reaction system. Moreover, since $S 4$ can choose larger time step size, it may markedly save the computed time of the QCT study. It is concluded that S 4 is better than RK4 in the QCT study of the chemical reaction. If the S 4 takes the place of the usual integral method (It is RK4 here), the validity and the reliability of the QCT study may be improved.

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[^0]:    *Corresponding author.

[^1]:    (a) The results computed by RK4,
    (b) The results computed by S4.

[^2]:    (a) The results computed by RK4,
    (b) The results computed by S4.

