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On the Stability of Ionizing Shocks in Monatomic Gases¹ HAI LE, ANN KARAGOZIAN, UCLA, MARCO PANESI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, JEAN-LUC CAMBIER, Air Force Research Laboratory — Prior work by our group demonstrates the use of a collisional-radiative model in reproducing the correct steady-state shock structure of ionizing shocks in monatomic gases.² In this presentation, we report on time dependent calculations of ionizing shock flows, which reveal additional physical phenomena arising from the unsteadiness and nonlinear wave coupling between convection and kinetics. The observed phenomena are similar to instabilities often seen in gaseous detonations.³ The present model also takes into account radiative heat losses and radiation transport, which result in a reduction in the shock velocity and precursor effects. The latter phenomena may be important at high shock velocities, and are being investigated in detail.

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