

Formation and evolution of organic matter in the solar system

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The aim : answer the question of the transition

To the living



?

From the non living

Chemical evolution on the early Earth

A bottom-up approach

small molecules
(*i.e.* ammonia, CO₂, methane)

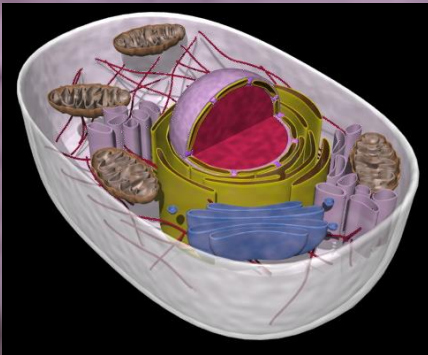


building blocks

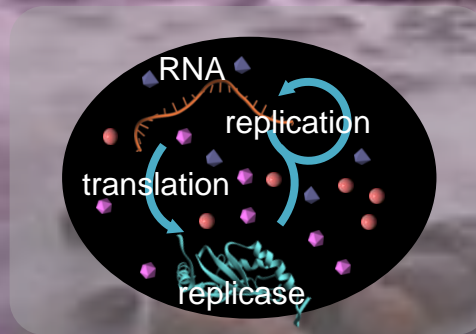


macromolecule
(polymers)

Living cell



primitive cell



Chemical evolution on the early Earth

A bottom-up approach

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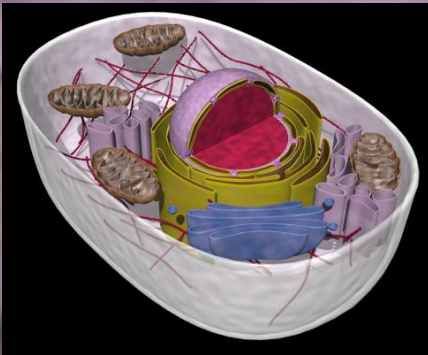


building blocks

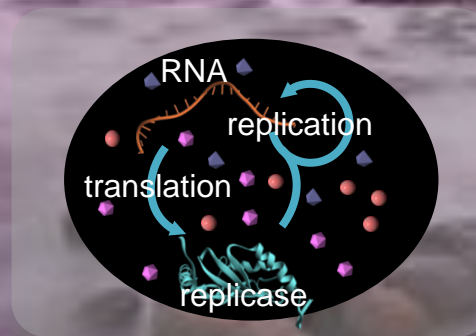


macromolecule
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Living cell



primitive cell



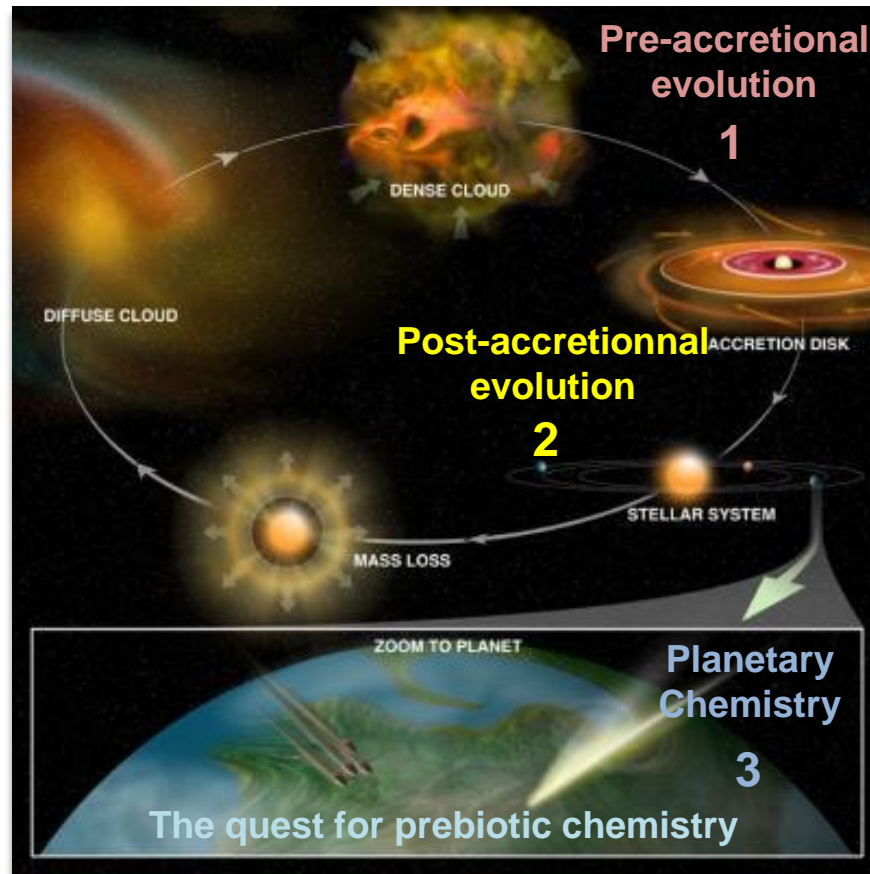
Building blocks (organics) on Early Earth:
where could they come from?

Meteorites : Key pieces of evidence in Astrobiology



Reservoir of carbonaceous matter

From Astrochemistry to Prebiotic Chemistry: Organic Matter Evolution



- **Pre-accretional process:** What sort of organic matter is generated
- **Post-accretional process:** How the pre-accretional organic matter evolved
- **Planetary Chemistry:** what conditions for a prebiotic chemistry

Astrophysical ices as a source of molecular diversity

« complex ices »

Volatile Organic Compounds

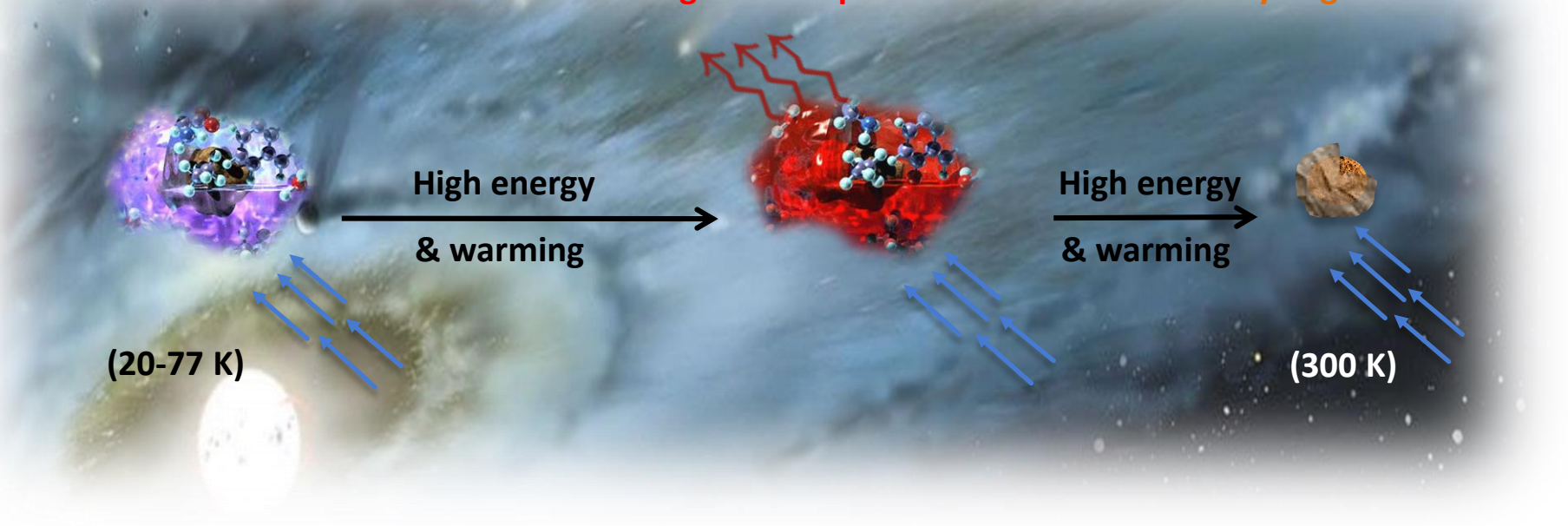
Refractory Organic Residues

High energy
& warming

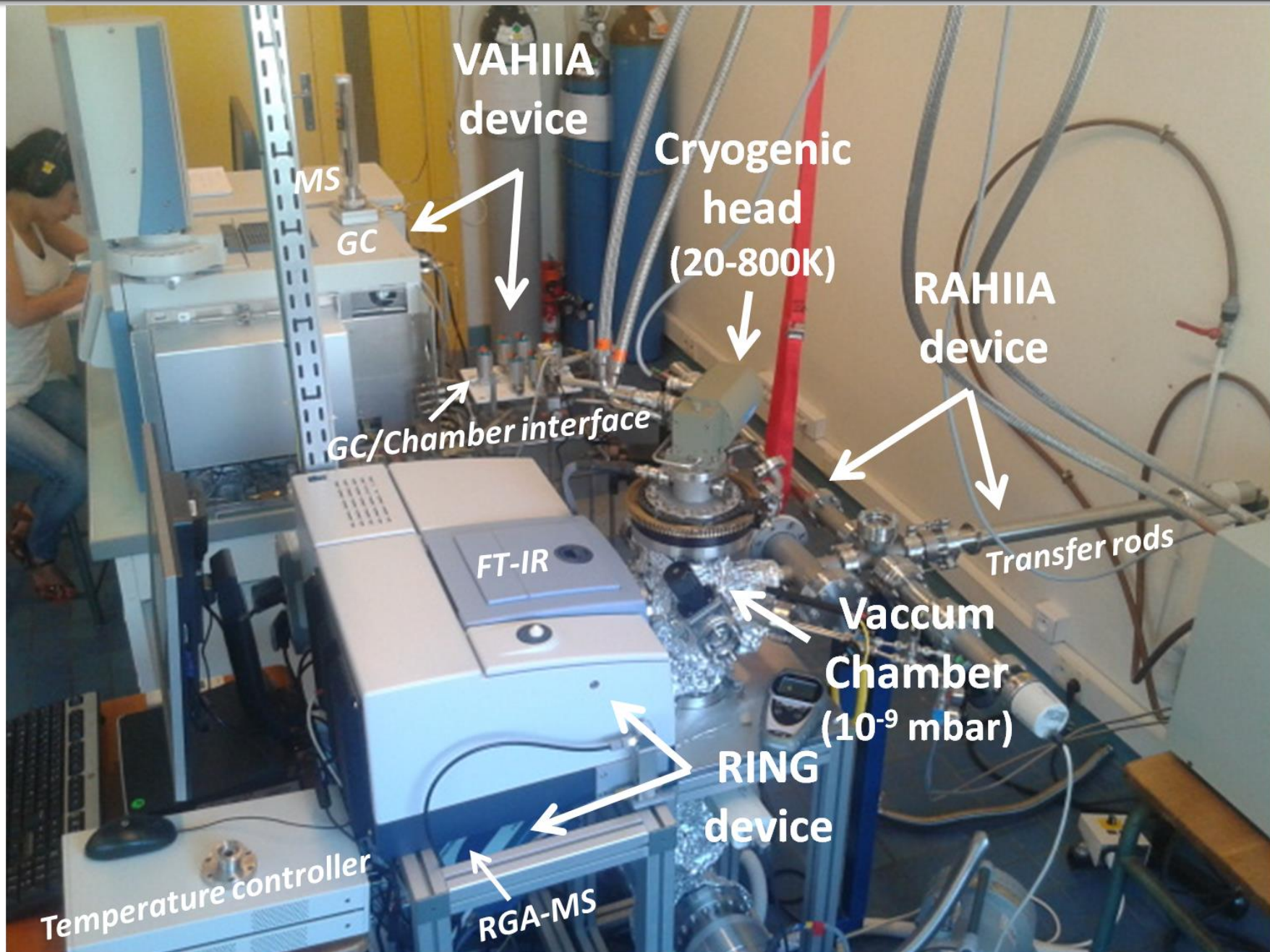
High energy
& warming

(20-77 K)

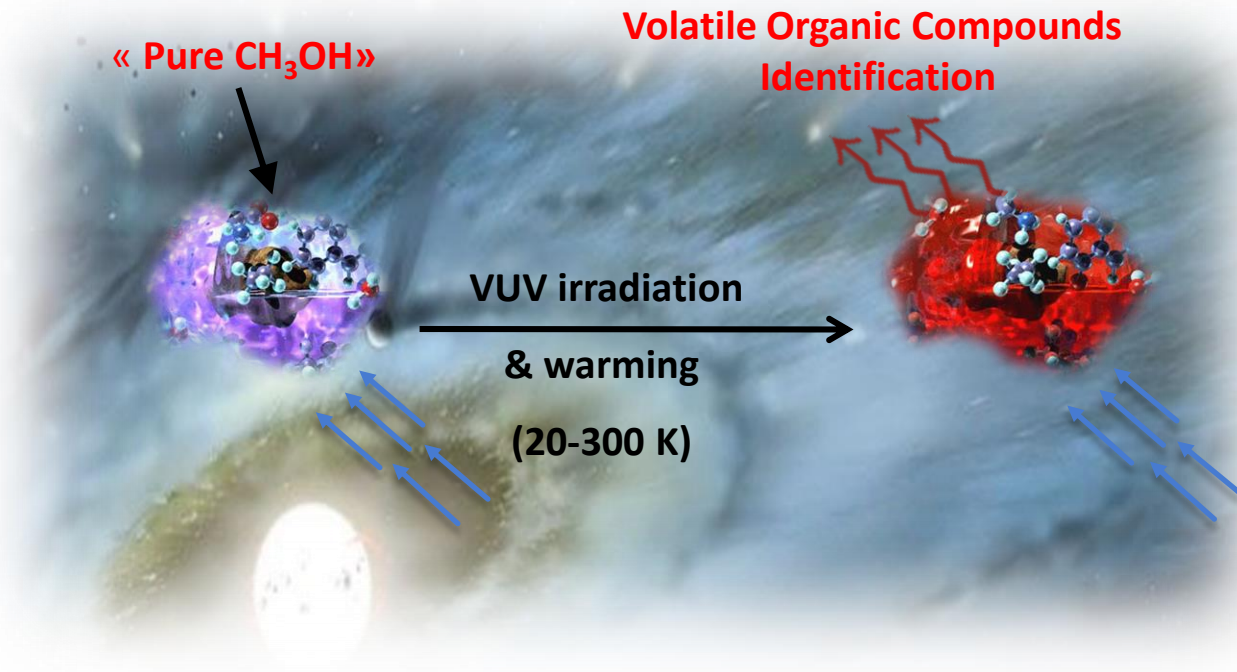
(300 K)



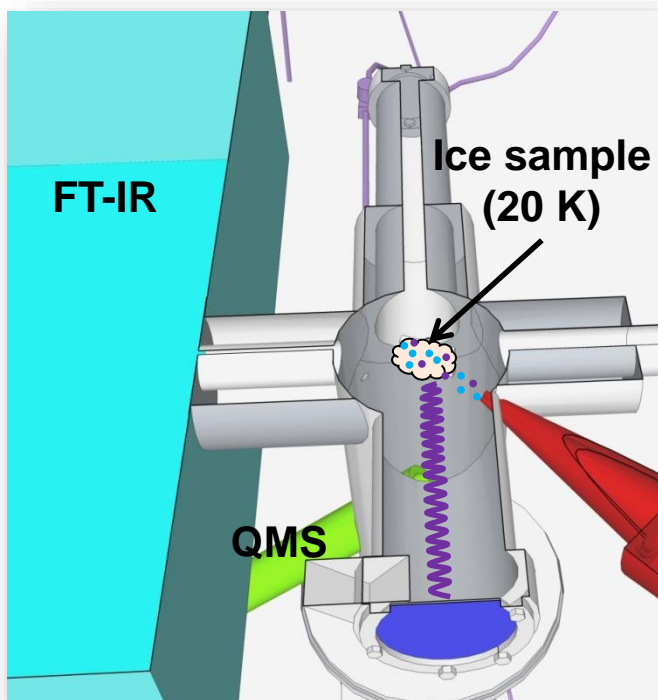
Laboratory experiments: Simulate Pre-accretional processes



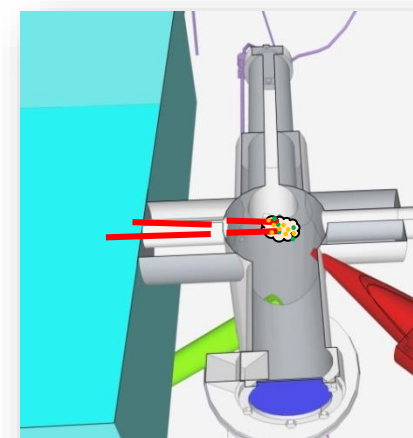
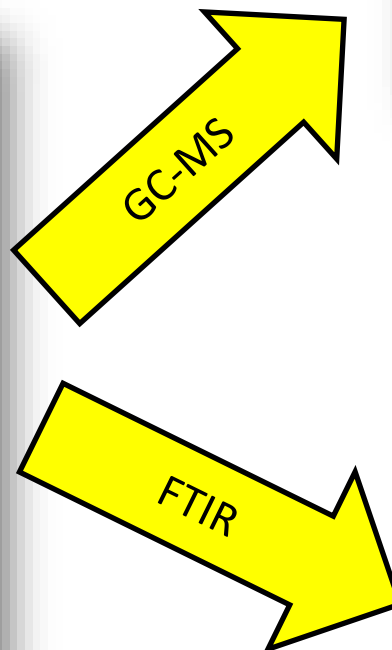
Methanol CH_3OH
An abundant source of reduces carbon in
interstellar and cometary ices



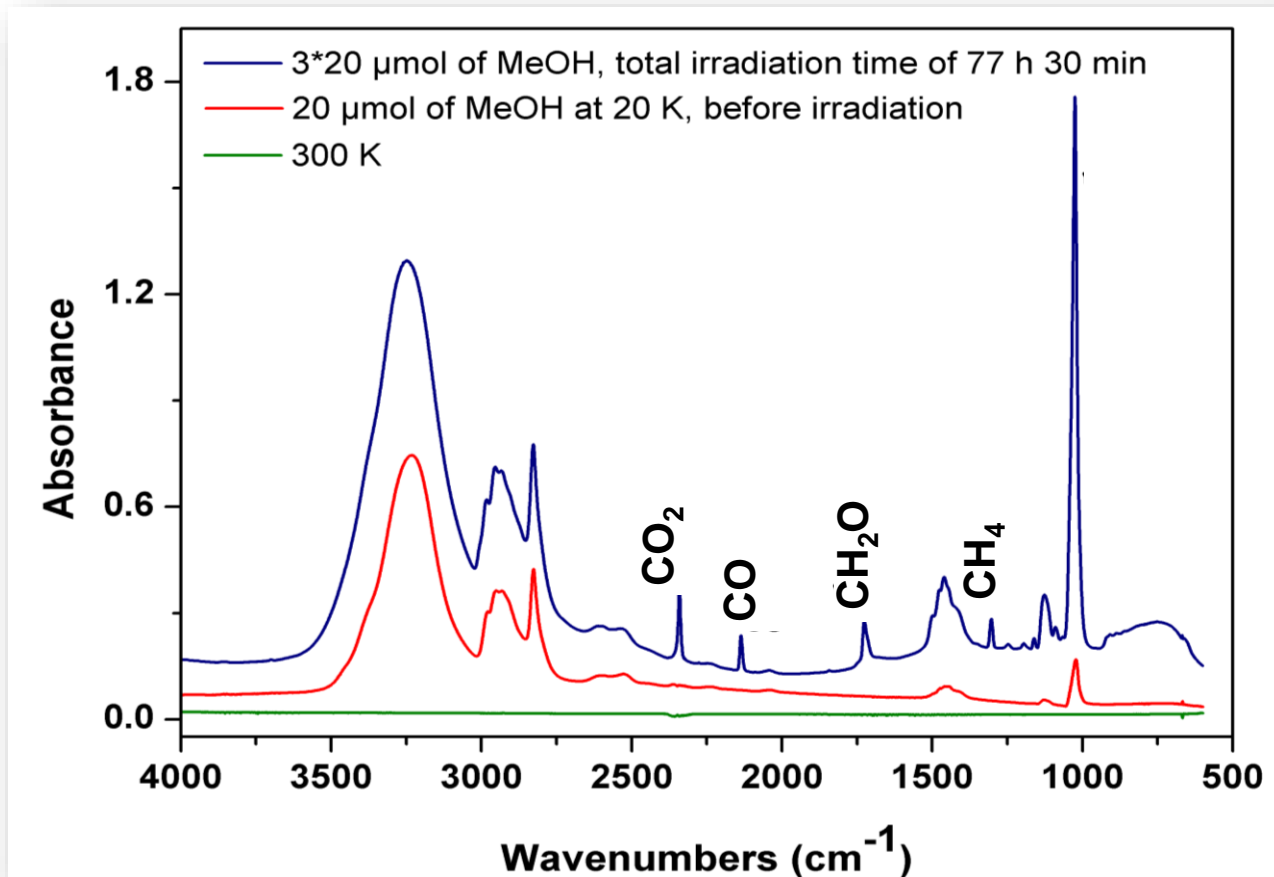
Vacuum chamber (10^{-9} mbar)



Ice formation in simulated conditions



Methanol CH_3OH
Analysis with the VAHIA system



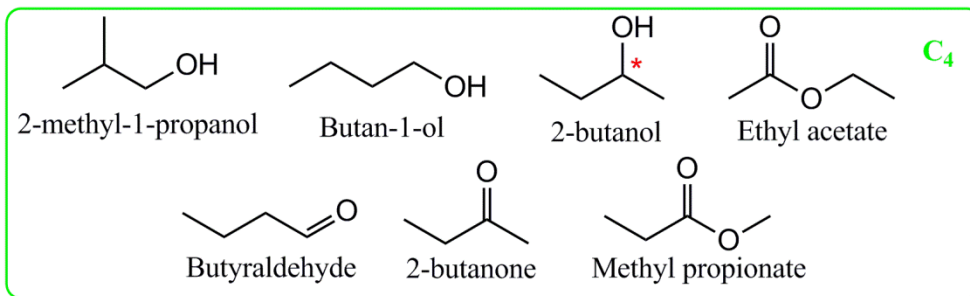
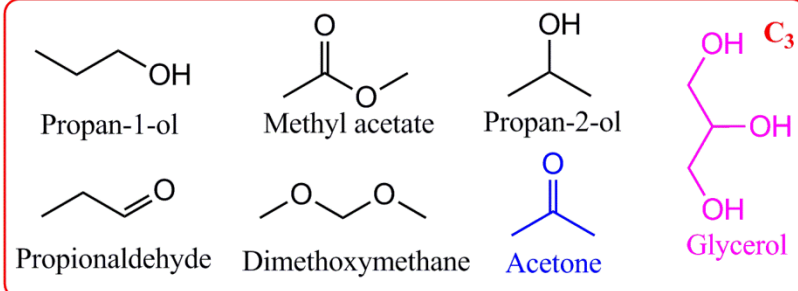
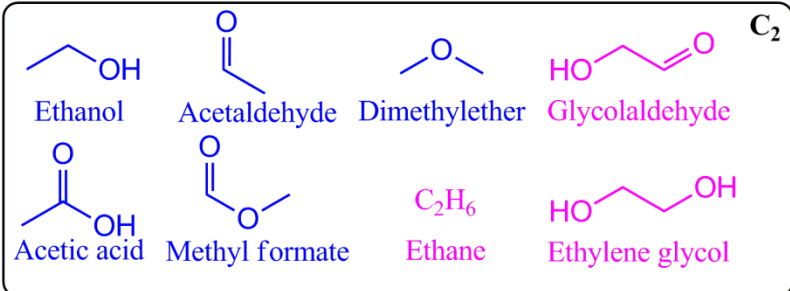
Infrared spectroscopy at 20K:

Non ambiguous Identification of CH_4 , CO , CO_2 & formaldehyde

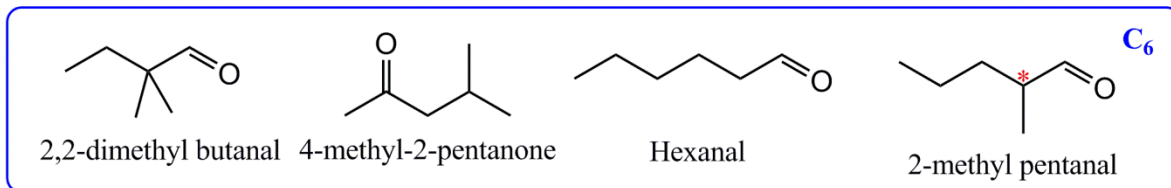
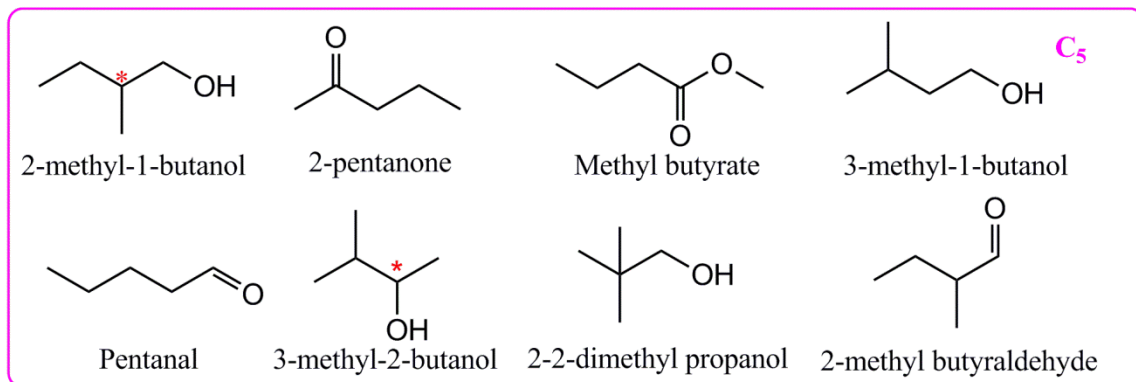
Methanol CH₃OH

Analysis with the VAHIA system – products identified

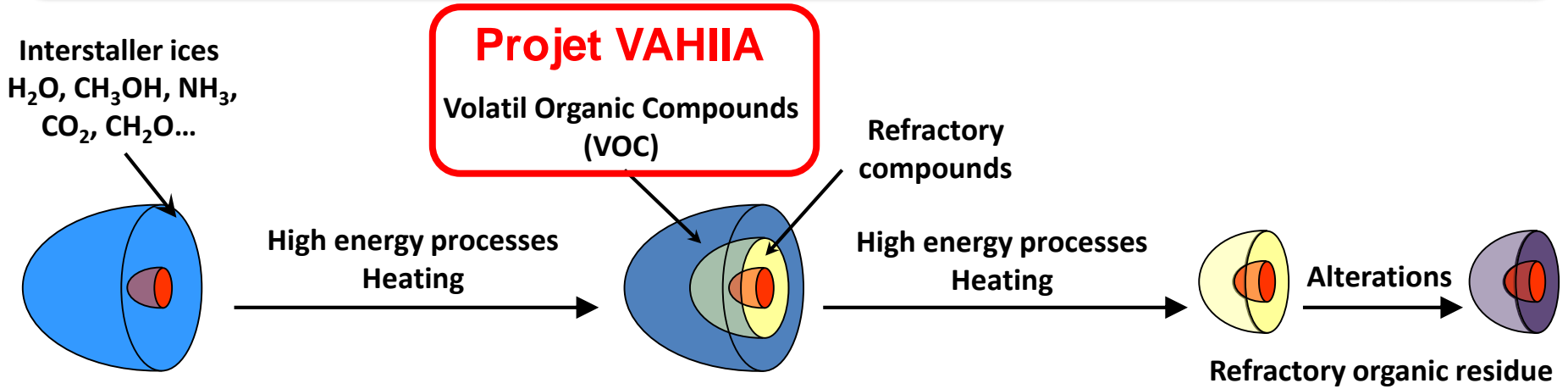
C₁
 CO
 Carbon monoxide
 CO₂
 Carbon dioxide
 CH₂O
 Formaldehyde
 HCOOH
 Formic acid
 CH₄
 Methane



35 molecules identified
 Gerakines et al., A&A, 1996, 312, 289
 Oberg et al., A&A, 2009, 504, 891
 Henderson et al., ApJ, 2015, 800, 66
 Maity et al., PCCP, 2015, 17, 3081
 Kaiser, Angew. Chem., 2015, 54, 195



Evolution of interstellar icy grains Toward the formation of complex organic matter in interplanetary bodies



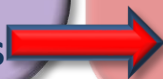
Chemistry in diluted environment
20 K – 150 K

Radical and Thermal reactivities in water ice

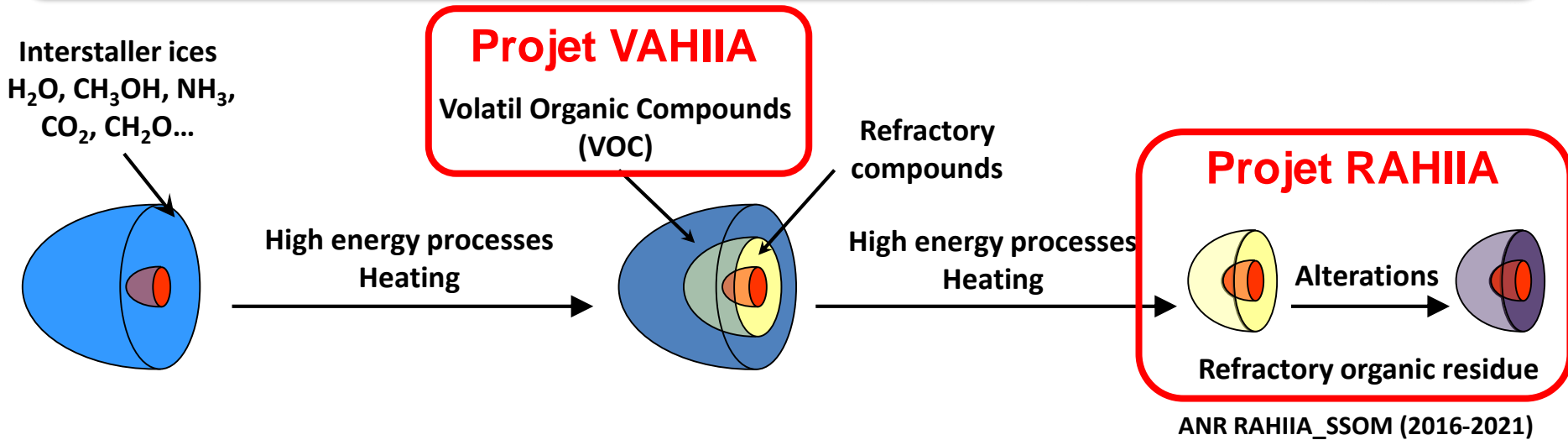
Formation of small complex organic molecules

Water matrix restructuration and water desorption
150 K – 185 K

① Main desorption of VOCs



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① Main desorption of VOCs

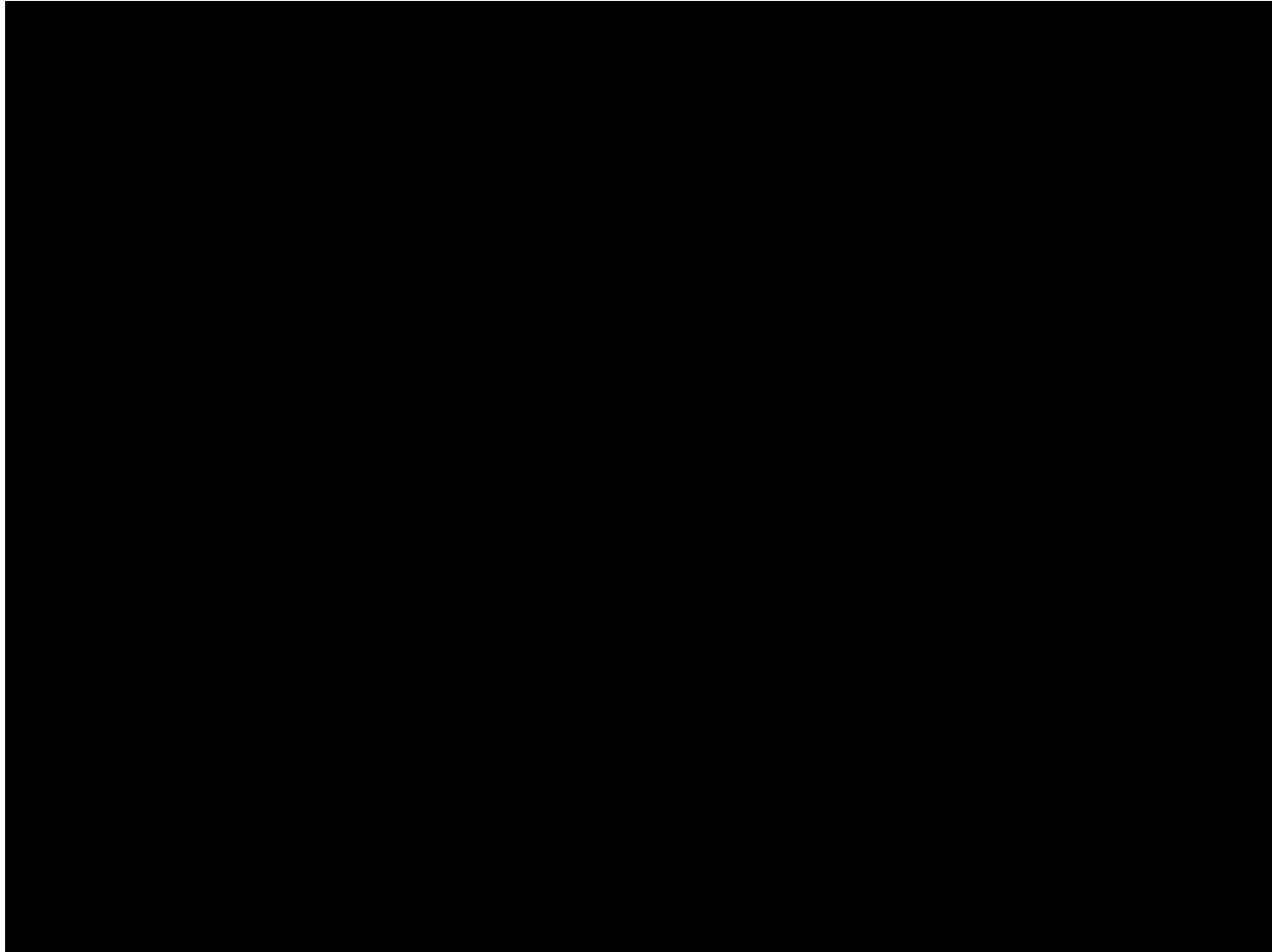
② Some VOCs trapped and react in the water matrix

Chemistry in concentrated environment
> 185 K

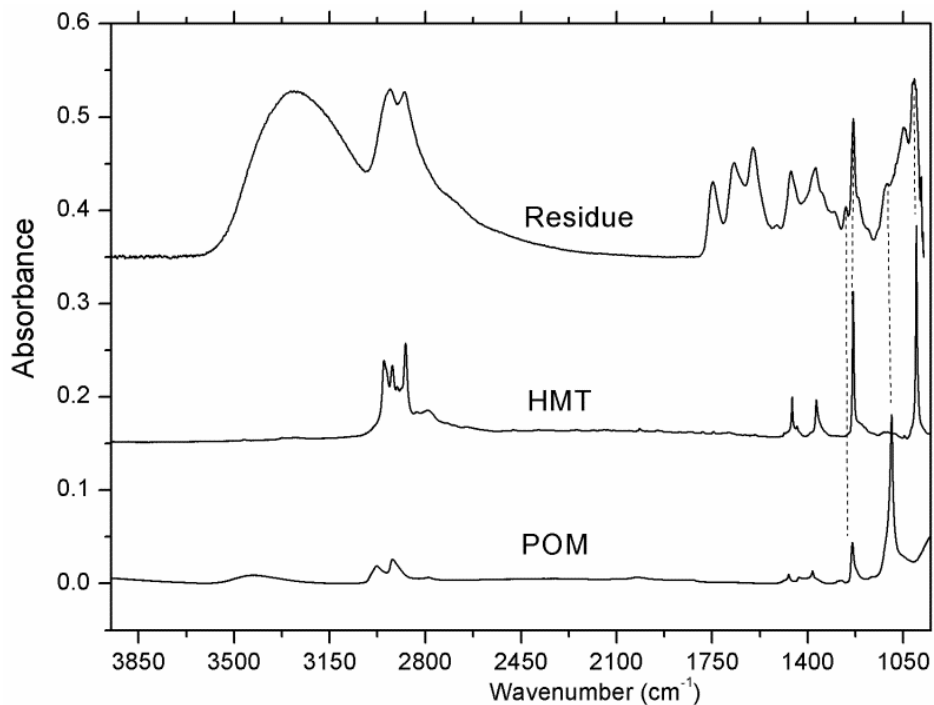
Reactivity in absence of water

Formation of « macromolecules »

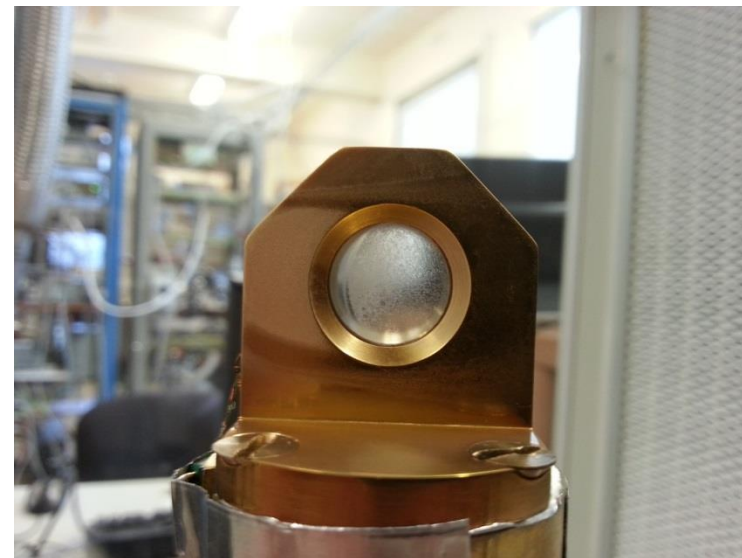
Evolution of interstellar icy grains Toward the formation of complex organic matter in interplanetary bodies



Most abundant molecules



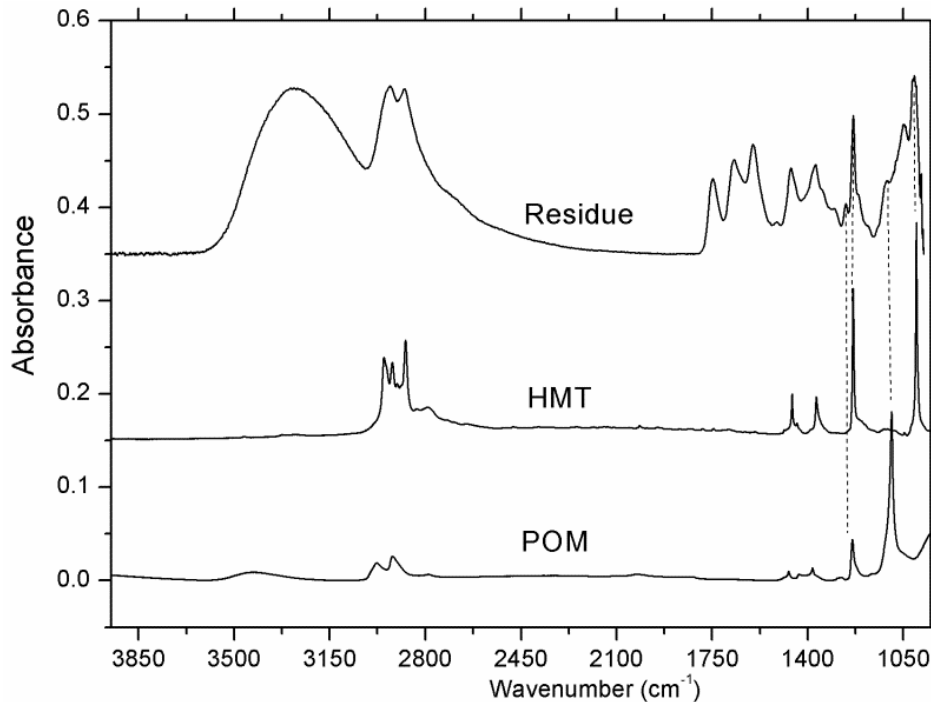
**FT-IR analysis of an organic residue
coming from a H₂O:CH₃OH:NH₃ ice**



Images from Louis d'Hendecourt, IAS, Paris Orsay XI

Soluble organic residue from ice processing

Most abundant molecules



FT-IR analysis of an organic residue coming from a $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{NH}_3$ ice

Gudipati, Abou Mrad et al., 2015, Space Science Review, 197, 101-150

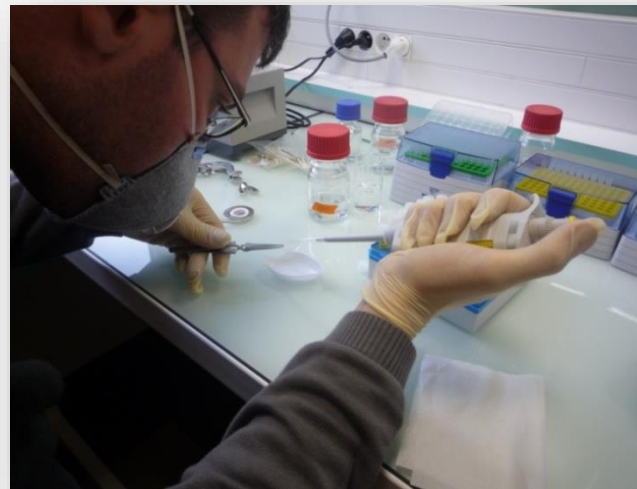
Chemical functions identified

Position cm^{-1}	Carrier	Vibration mode
3500–2300	R–COOH, alcohols, NH_4^+	OH str., NH str.
3165	NH_4^{+a}	$\nu_1 + \nu_5^a$
3035	NH_4^{+a}	$\nu_2 + \nu_4$
2926	HMT ^b	$2\nu_{19}, \nu_2 + \nu_{19}$
2876	HMT ^b , NH_4^{+a}	ν_{18} sym. CH_2 str., $2\nu_4$ of NH_4^{+a}
1742	Esters	C=O str.
1680	Amides	C=O str.
1586	COO^- in carboxylic acid salts	COO^- antisym. str.
1463	NH_4^{+a}	ν_4^a
1375	HMT ^b	CH scissoring ^a
1320	COO^- in carboxylic acid salts	COO^- sym. str.
1236	HMT ^b	ν_{21} CN str.
1085	$\text{HOCH}_2\text{COO}^-$	
1007	HMT ^b	ν_{22} CN str.
918	carboxylic acid dimers	OH def.
820	HMT ^b	NH_2 wag
765	Ammonium formate?	
678	HMT ^b , ammonium glycolate	ν_{24} CNC def. (for HMT)

FT-IR analyses of an organic residue coming from a $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{CO}:\text{CO}_2:\text{NH}_3$

Muñoz-Caro et al., 2003, A&A, 412, 121-132

Soluble organic residue from ice processing: untargeted analyses



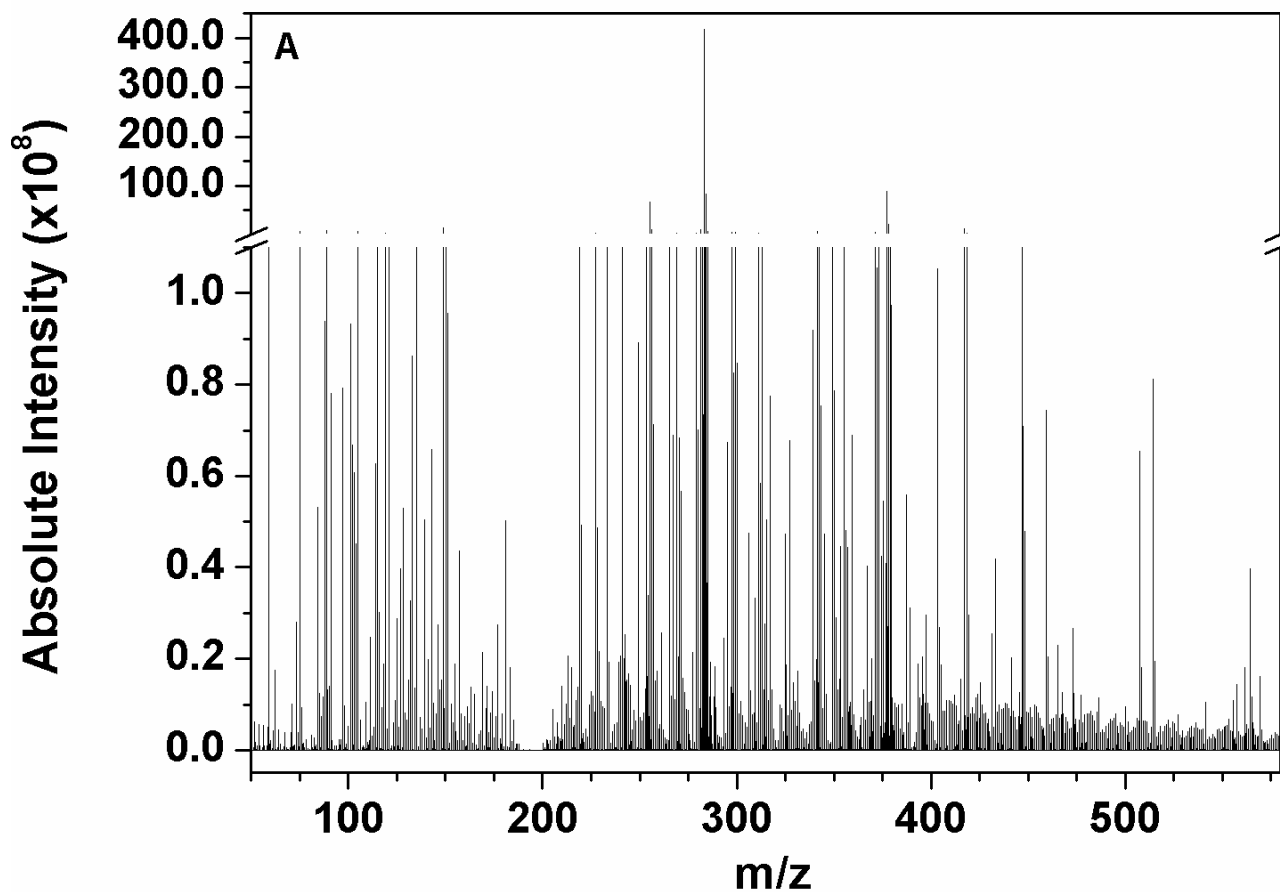
Samples (<100 μg) recovered with methanol: no sample degradation



Electro-spray ionization: soft ionization minimizing fragmentations

Soluble organic residue from ice processing: untargeted analyses

Collaboration with R. Thissen (IPAG, Grenoble, France)

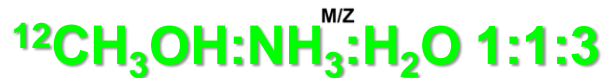
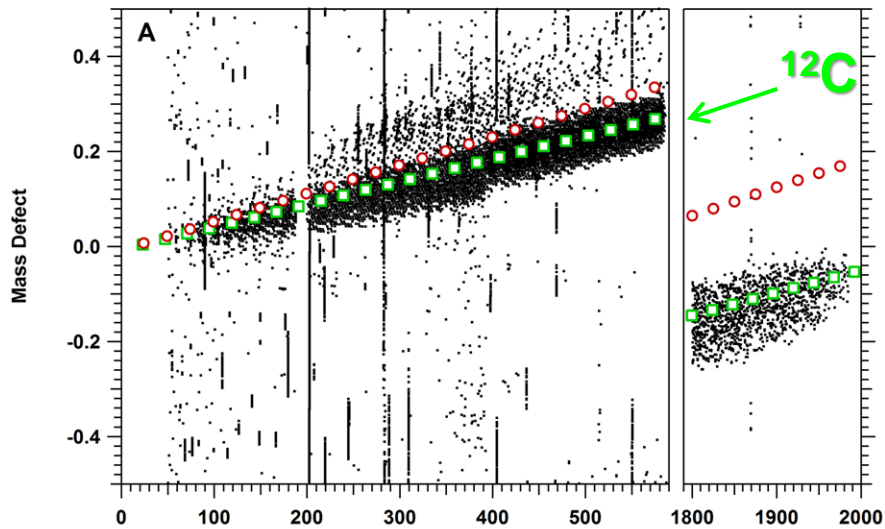


UHRMS FT-Orbitrap Analysis in Negative ESI mode = $[M-H]^-$ analysis
Molecules with proton donor chemical functions (e.g. carboxylic acid $-COOH$)
($H_2O/NH_3/CH_3OH = 3/1/1$)

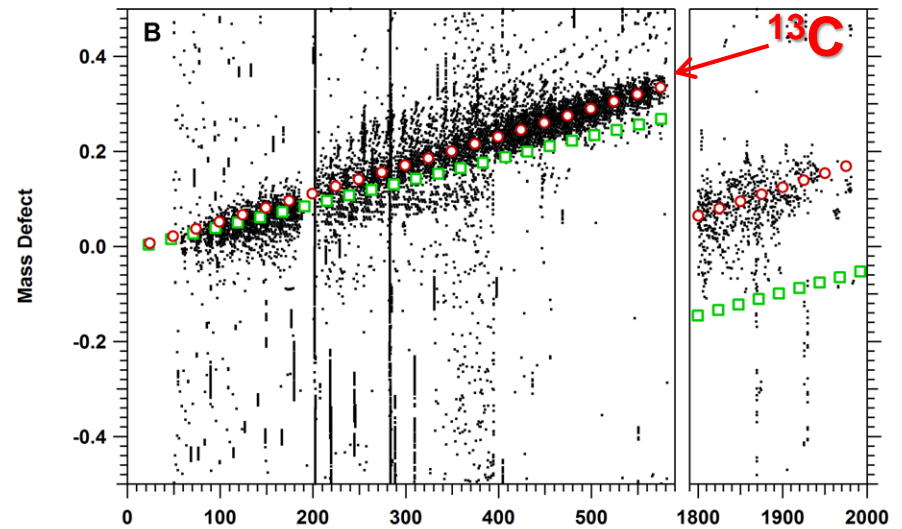
UHRMS (orbitrap) analyses of soluble organic residues ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NH}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH} = 3/1/1$)

Collaboration with R. Thissen (IPAG, Grenoble, France)

Mass Defect vs Exact Mass (MDvM)



Exact mass: 141.1128
Mass Defect: $141.1128 - 141 = 0.1128$



From an ice uniquely formed of $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{NH}_3$

VUV + warming

=

Thousand of molecules with masses
up to 4,000 Da -> macromolecules

=

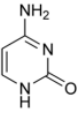
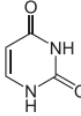
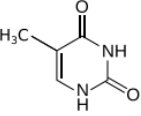
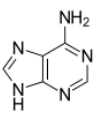
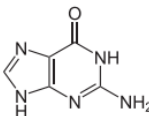
Complex and rich chemistry

=

Important molecular diversity

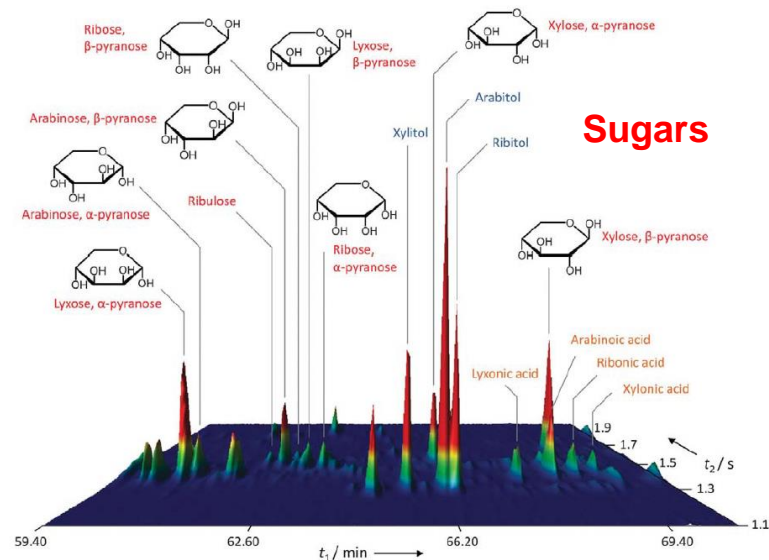
Targeted analyses of soluble organic residues (H₂O/NH₃/CH₃OH/...)

Nucleobases

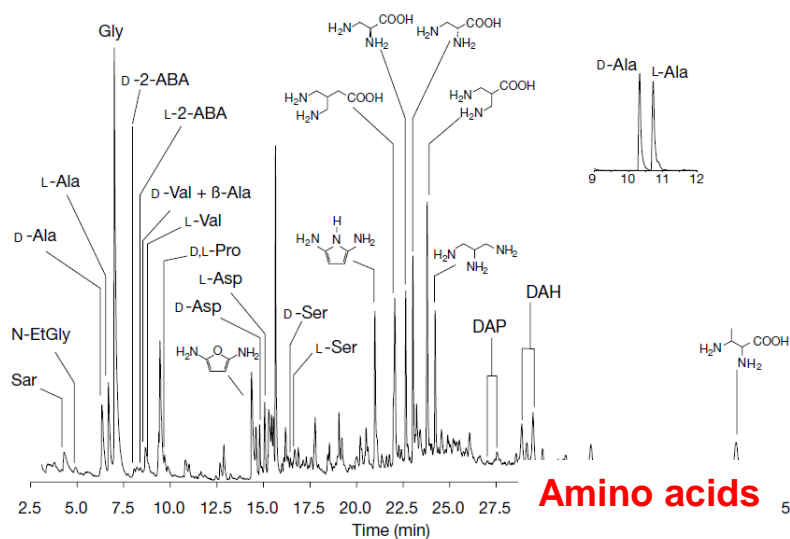
Cytosine	Uracil	Thymine	Adenine	Guanine
				
C ₄ H ₅ N ₃ O m/z _{STANDARD} = 112 amu m/z _{RESIDUE} = 116 amu	C ₄ H ₄ N ₂ O ₂ m/z _{STANDARD} = 113 amu m/z _{RESIDUE} = 117 amu	C ₅ H ₇ N ₂ O ₂ m/z _{STANDARD} = 127 amu m/z _{RESIDUE} = 132 amu	C ₅ H ₅ N ₆ m/z _{STANDARD} = 136 amu m/z _{RESIDUE} = 141 amu	C ₅ H ₅ N ₄ O m/z _{STANDARD} = 152 amu m/z _{RESIDUE} = 157 amu
UPLC-Orbitrap MS: ✓	UPLC-Orbitrap MS: ✓	UPLC-Orbitrap MS: ✓	UPLC-Orbitrap MS: ✗	UPLC-Orbitrap MS: ✗
UPLC-SRM-TQ MS: ✓	UPLC-SRM-TQ MS: ✗	UPLC-SRM-TQ MS: ✗	UPLC-SRM-TQ MS: ✗	UPLC-SRM-TQ MS: ✗

Ruf et al., 2019, AJ, 887, L31

Oba et al., 2019, NatCom, 10, 4413



Meinert et al., 2016, Science, 352,208



Amino acids

Munoz-Caro et al., 2002, Nature, 416, 403

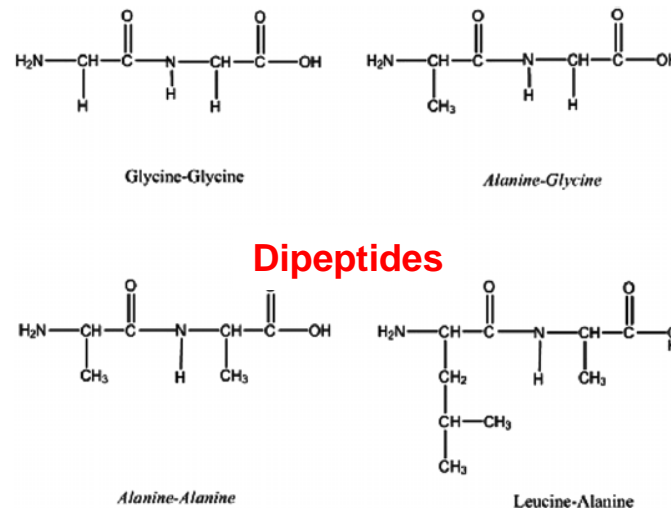


Figure 3. Dipeptides characterized via microchip capillary electrophoresis.

Kaiser et al., 2013, ApJ, 765, 111

Meteorites : reservoir of carbonaceous matter

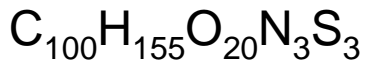


25% of soluble organic matter

Untargeted analysis of soluble organic matter of carbonaceous chondrites using HRMS

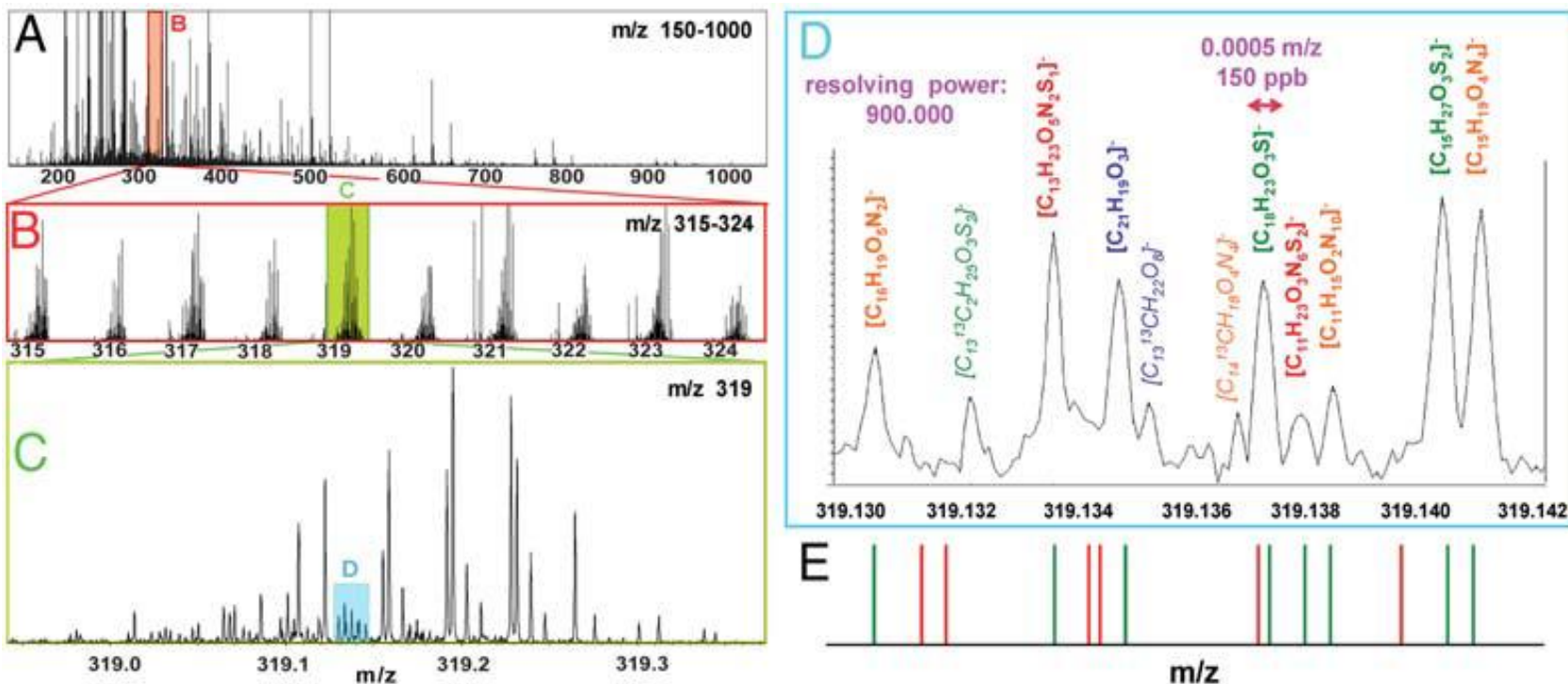
Objectif : Comprehensive image of their molecular content

SOM



H/C=1.55; O/C=0.2; N/C=0.03; S/C=0.03

Schmitt-Koplin et al., *PNAS*, **107** (2010) 2763-2768

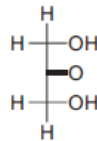


Thousand of different molecular ions observed in the range m/z=150 à 1000

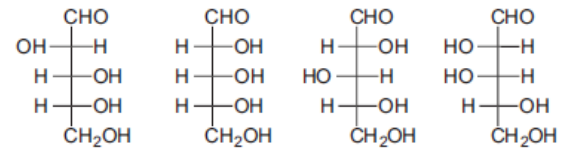
➡ **unprecedented molecular diversity**

Targeted analyses of soluble organic matter of carbonaceous chondrites

More than 500 structures identified

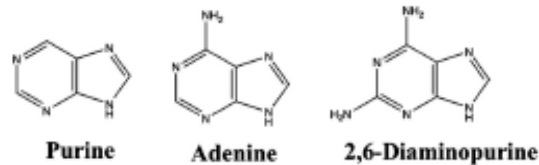


Dihydroxyacetone (1)



D-arabinose (2) D-ribose (3) D-xylose (4) D-lyxose (5)

Furukawa et al., PNAS, 2019



Callahan et al., PNAS, 2011

Oba et al., NatCom, 2022

Peak #	Amino acid
1	α -AIB
2	L-Isovaline ^a
3	D-Isovaline ^a
4	D-Alanine
5	L-Alanine
6	D- α -ABA ^b
7	L- α -ABA ^b
8	D-Valine
9	L-Valine
10	Glycine
11	D,L- β -AIB ^{b,c}
12	D-Norvaline
13	L-Norvaline
14	β -Alanine
15	D- β -ABA ^b
16	L- β -ABA ^b
17	D-Leucine
18	L-Leucine
19	D-Norleucine
20	L-Norleucine
21	γ -ABA
22	D-Aspartic acid
23	L-Aspartic acid
24	EACA
25	D-Glutamic acid
26	L-Glutamic acid

Martins et al., MPS, 2015

Reservoir of organic matter

Meteorites : reservoir of carbonaceous matter

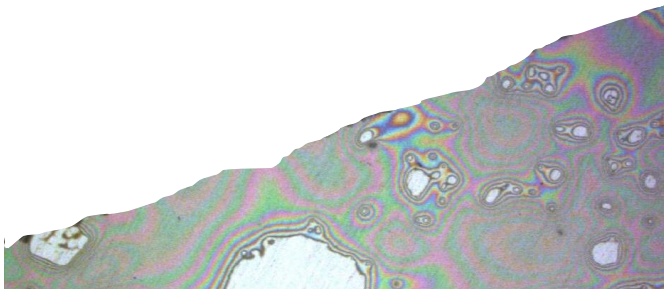
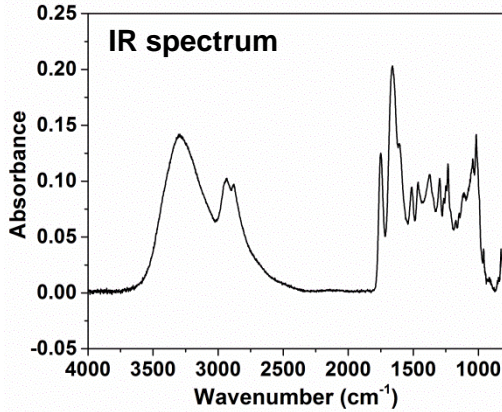


25% of soluble organic matter
75% of insoluble organic matter

A scenario from extraterrestrial ices to soluble and insoluble materials

Residue (soluble)

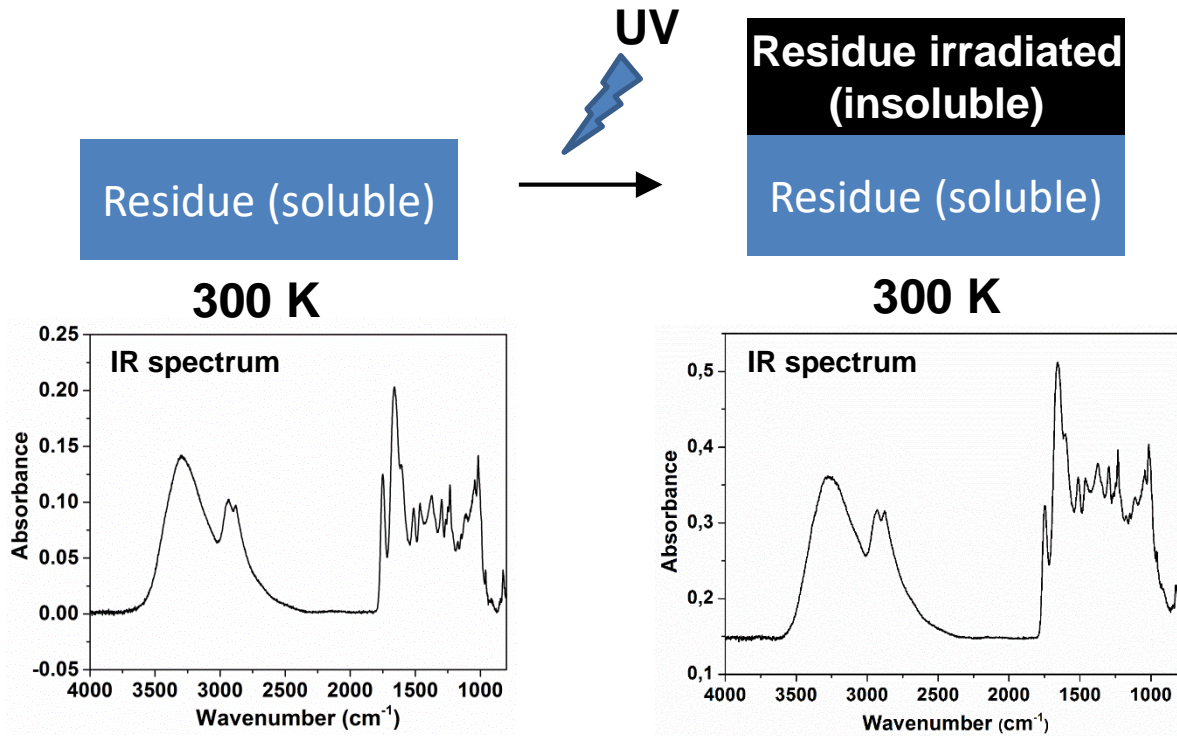
300 K



residue

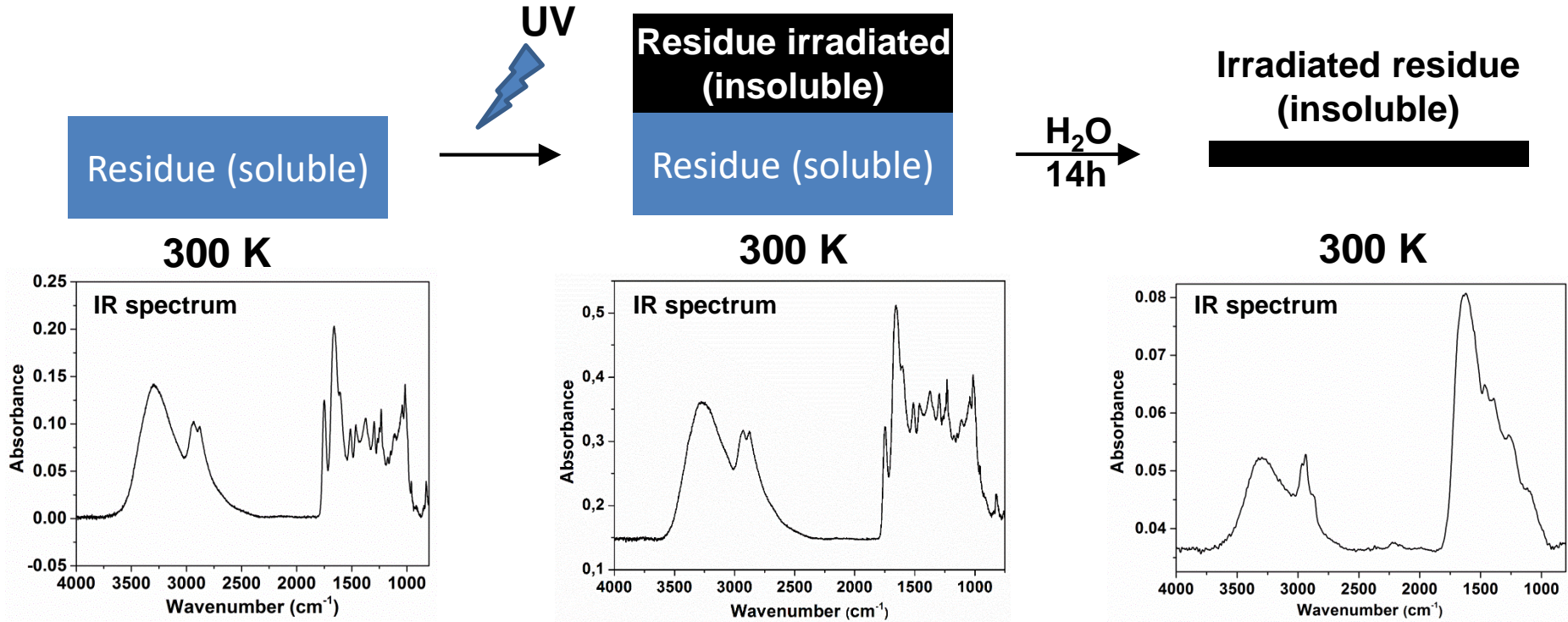
From soluble organic residues to insoluble ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NH}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}=3/1/1$)

A scenario from extraterrestrial ices to soluble and insoluble materials



From soluble organic residues to insoluble ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NH}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}=3/1/1$)

A scenario from extraterrestrial ices to soluble and insoluble materials

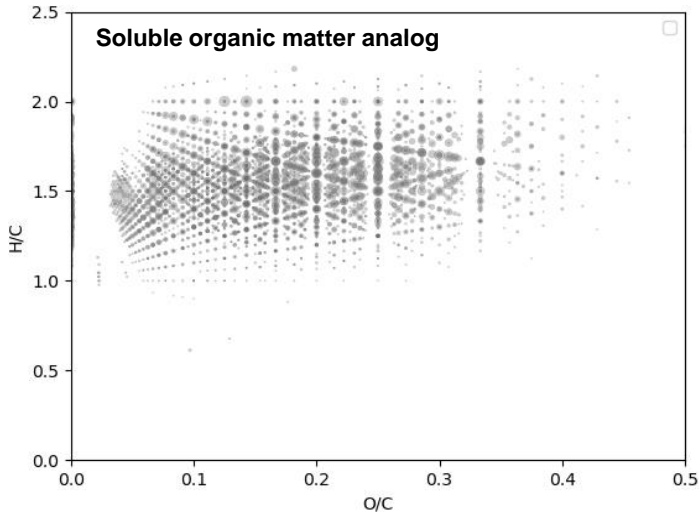


unirradiated zone

From soluble organic residues to insoluble ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NH}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH} = 3/1/1$)

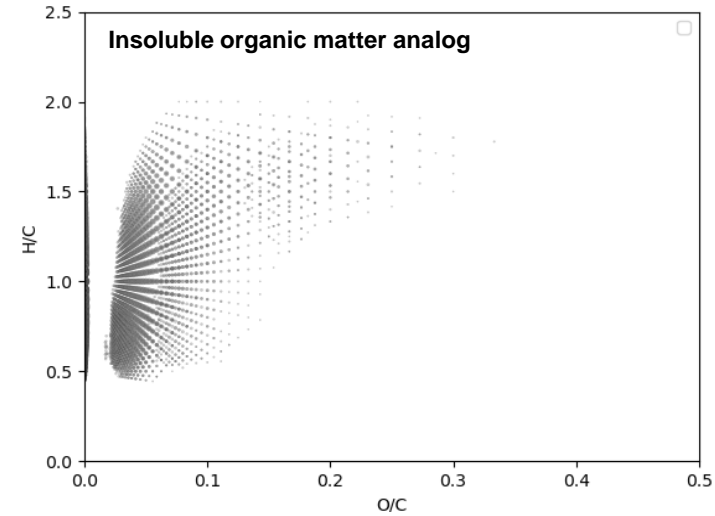
Collaboration with C. Afonso (COBRA, Rouen, France)

A scenario from extraterrestrial ices to soluble and insoluble materials



Laser desorption/ionization FT-ICR-MS

UV, Electron, ion

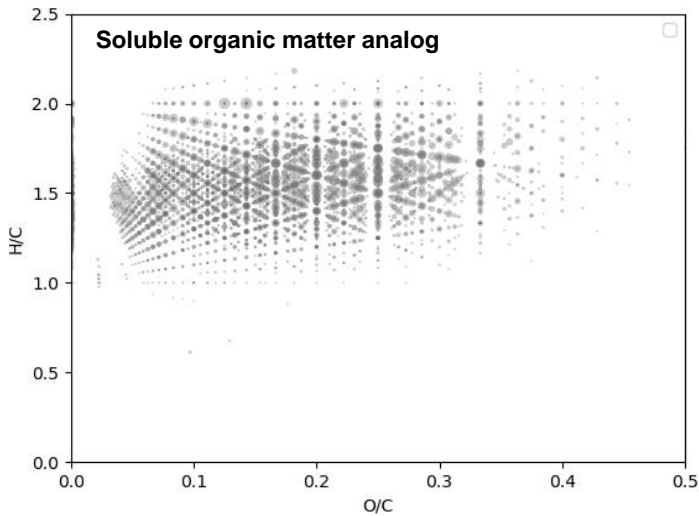


Laser desorption/ionization FT-ICR-MS

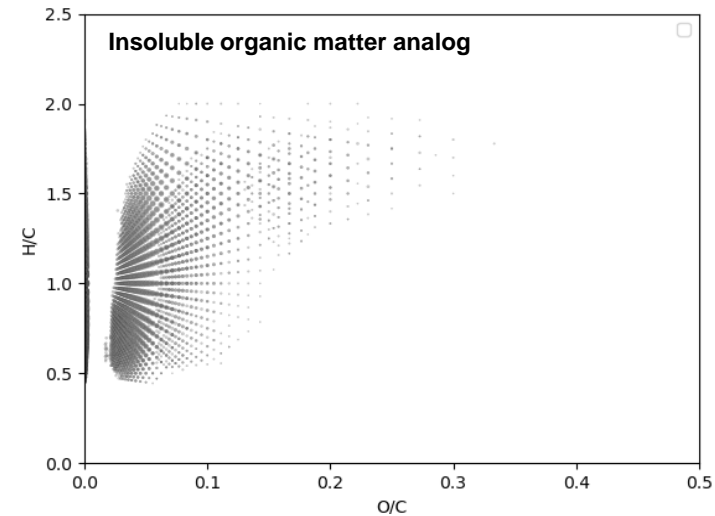
From soluble organic residues to insoluble ($\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NH}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH} = 3/1/1$)

Collaboration with C. Afonso (COBRA, Rouen, France) and L. Rémusat (IMPIC, Paris, France)

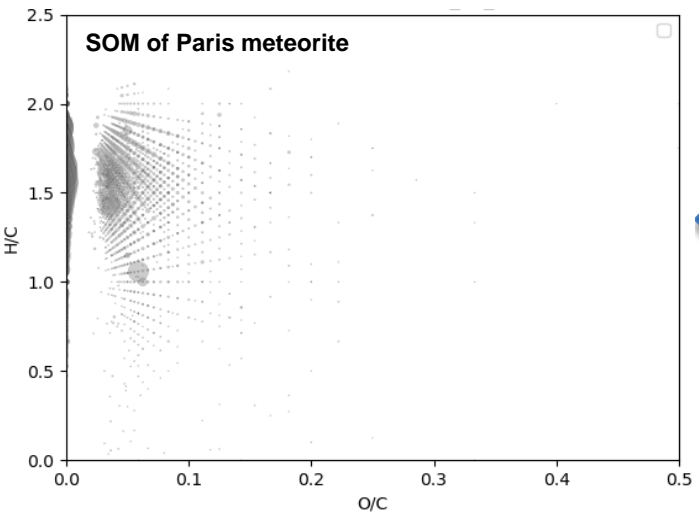
A scenario from extraterrestrial ices to soluble and insoluble materials



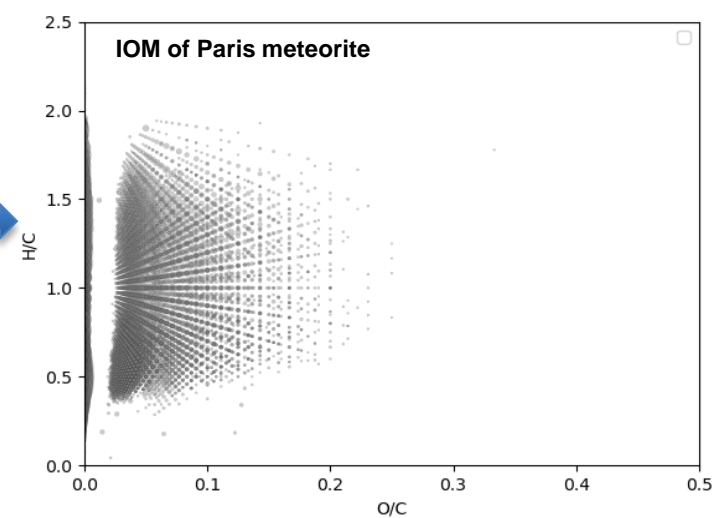
UV, Electron, ion



Laser desorption/ionization FT-ICR-MS



Laser desorption/ionization FT-ICR-MS



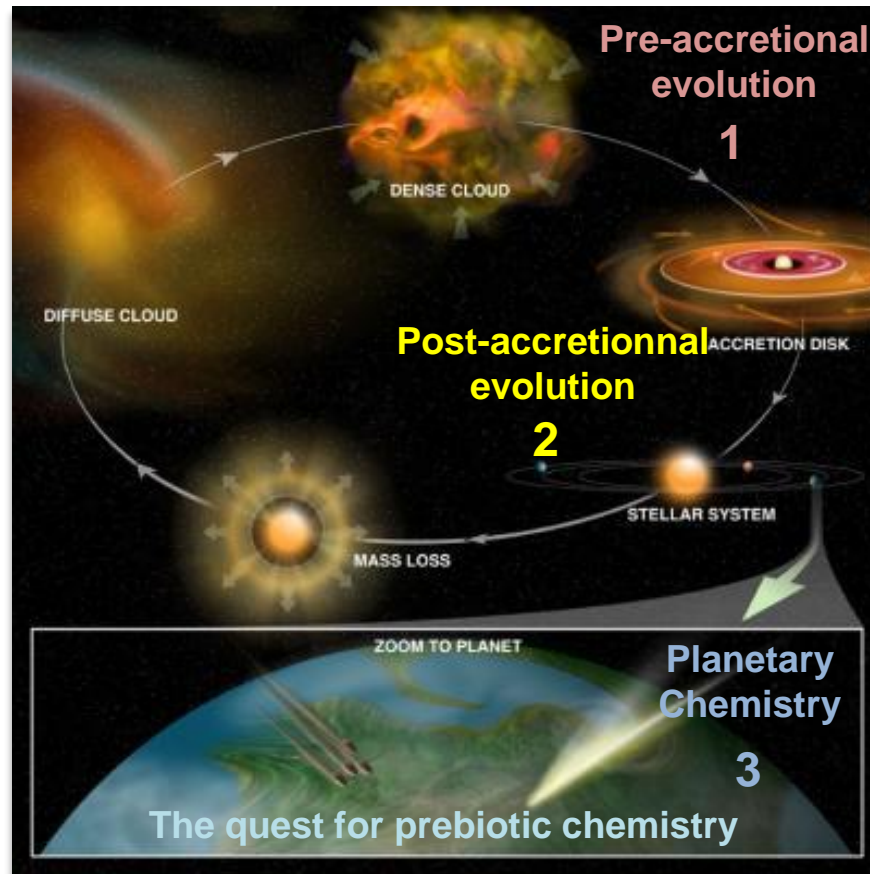
Météorites



liens

?

From Astrochemistry to Prebiotic Chemistry: Organic Matter Evolution

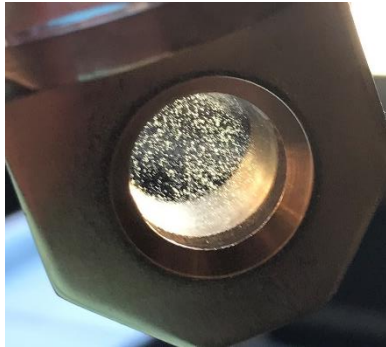


- *Pre-accretional process: an important molecular diversity is formed from soluble to insoluble*
- *Post-accretional process: How the pre-accretional organic matter evolved*
- *Planetary Chemistry: what conditions for a prebiotic chemistry*

Laboratory experiments: Simulate post-accretional processes

Collaboration with L. Remusat (MNHM, Paris, France) et P. Schmitt-Kopplin (HelmholtzZentrum, Munich, Germany)

Aqueous alteration: soluble fraction analysis by ESI FT-ICR-MS



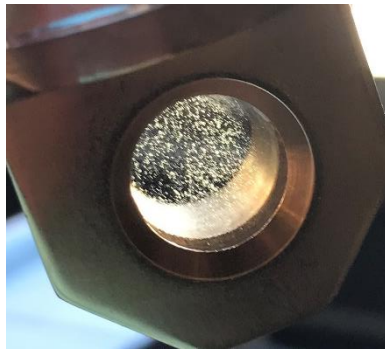
H_2O
→
150°C
under water
pressure (6 bar)



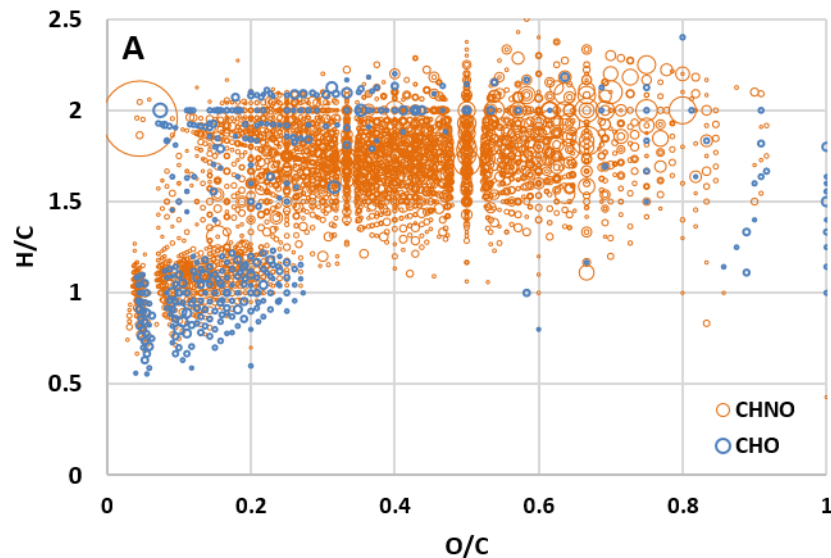
Laboratory experiments: Simulate post-accretional processes

Collaboration with L. Remusat (MNHM, Paris, France) et P. Schmitt-Kopplin (HelmholtzZentrum, Munich, Germany)

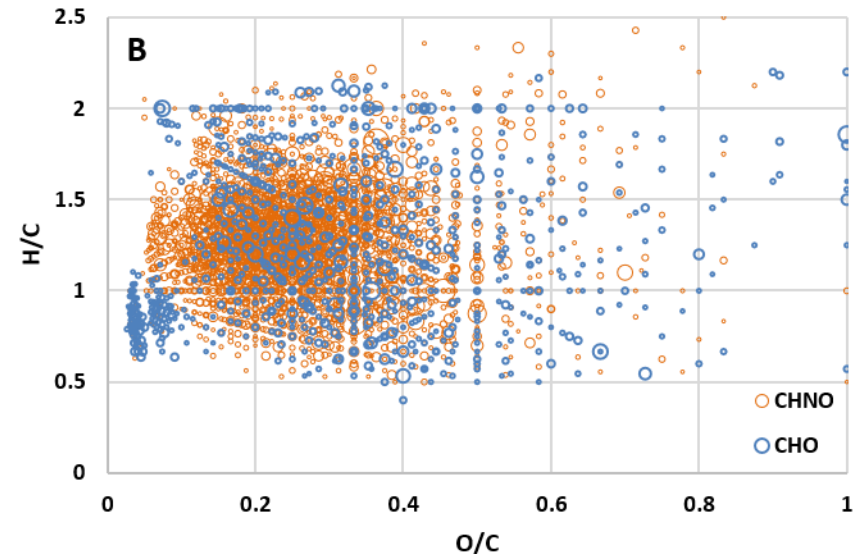
Aqueous alteration: soluble fraction analysis by ESI FT-ICR-MS



H_2O
150°C
under water
pressure (6 bar)



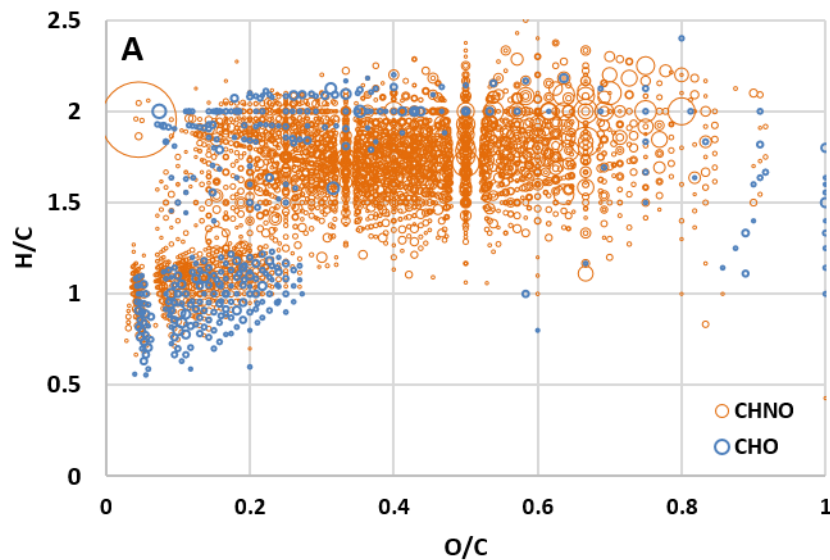
Fresh residue t_0



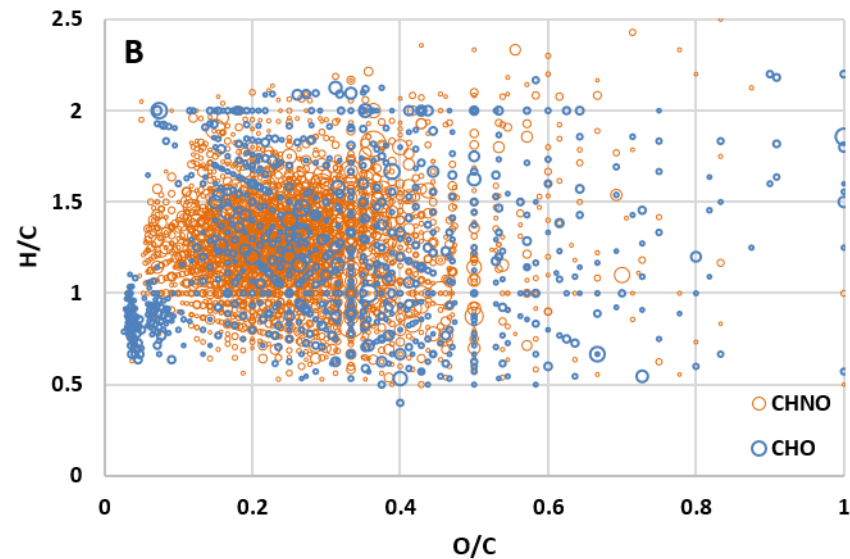
Residue after 100 days at 150°C

Laboratory experiments: Simulate post-accretional processes

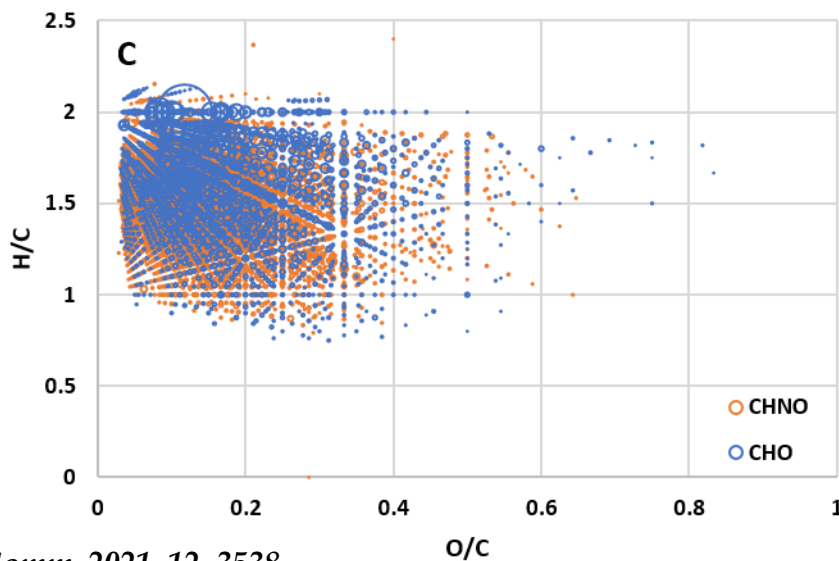
Collaboration with L. Remusat (MNHM, Paris, France) et P. Schmitt-Kopplin (HelmholtzZentrum, Munich, Germany)



Fresh residue t_0

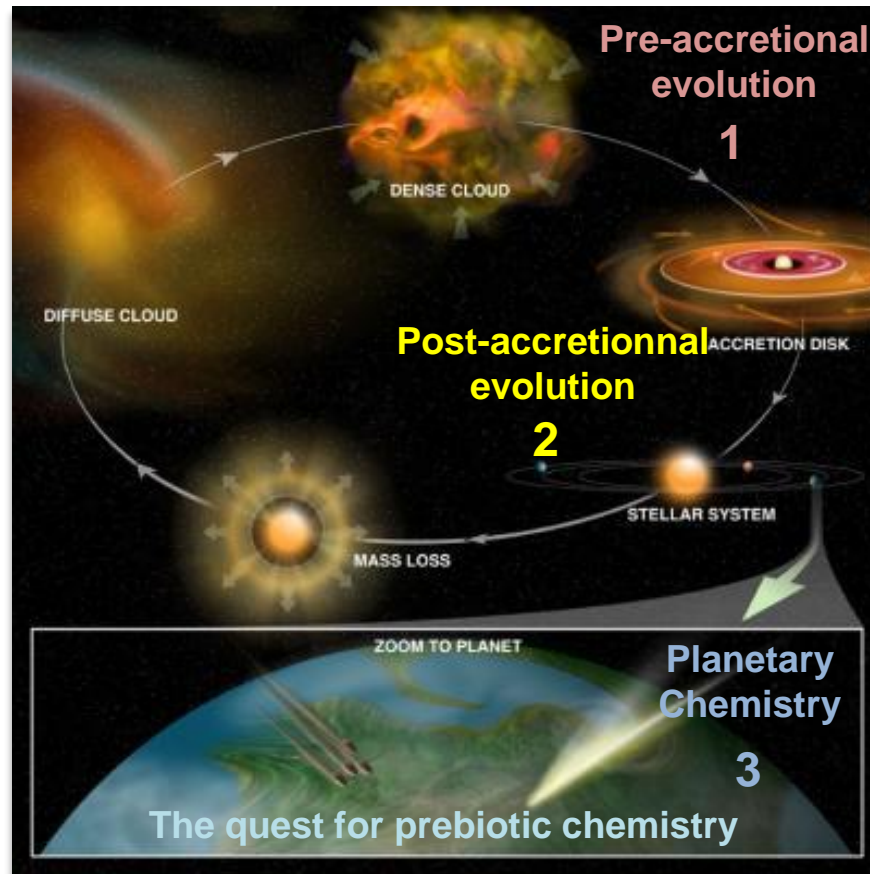


Residue after 100 days at 150°C



**Soluble Organic Matter
Murchison meteorite**

From Astrochemistry to Prebiotic Chemistry: Organic Matter Evolution



- *Pre-accretional process: an important molecular diversity is formed from soluble to insoluble*
- *Post-accretional process: secondary evolution occurs*
- *Planetary Chemistry: what conditions for a prebiotic chemistry*

Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life



ANR-14-CE33-0020-0001 2014-2018

**exogeneous
organic matter**

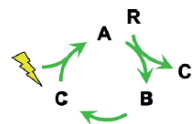
**Abiotic
chemistry**

**Early Earth
aqueous environments**

Molecular diversity

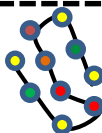


Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life



Emergence of Replicators

Self-organization



exogeneous
organic matter

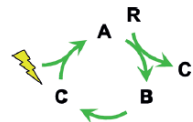
Abiotic
chemistry

Early Earth
aqueous environments

Molecular diversity



Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

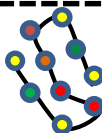


Emergence of Replicators

Determined by energy available in the environment

Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

Abiotic chemistry

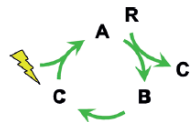
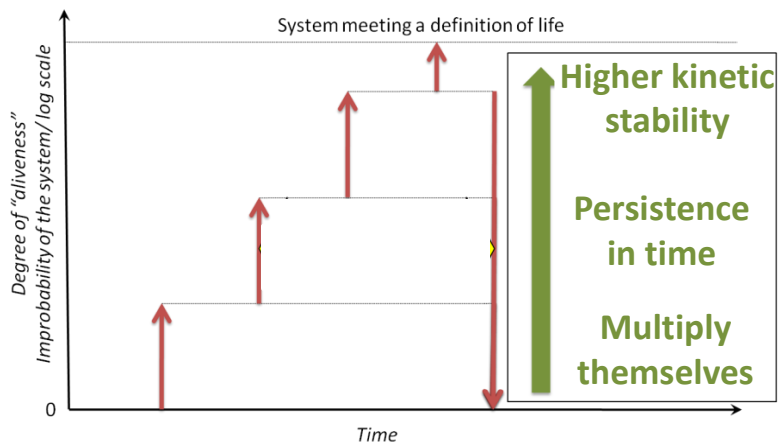
Early Earth

aqueous environments

Molecular diversity



Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

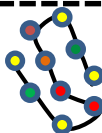


Emergence of Replicators

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Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

Abiotic chemistry

Early Earth

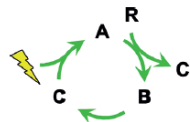
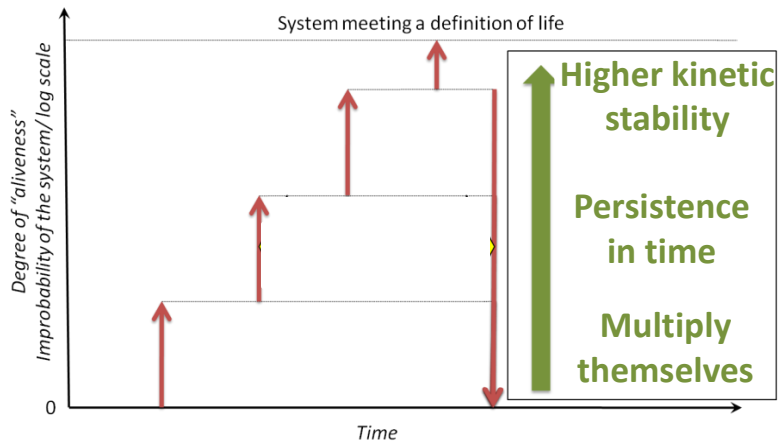
aqueous environments

Molecular diversity



Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

Biochemical systems

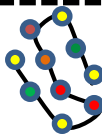


Emergence of Replicators

Determined by energy available in the environment

Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

Abiotic chemistry

Early Earth

aqueous environments

Molecular diversity

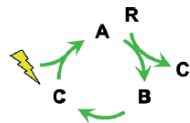
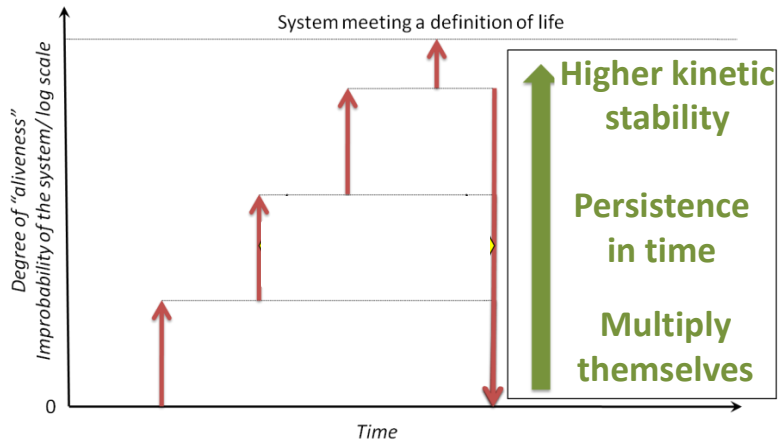


Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

Biochemical systems



Increasing in organization complexity

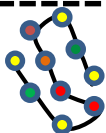


Emergence of Replicators

Determined by energy available in the environment

Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

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aqueous environments

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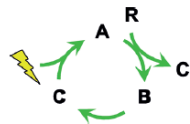
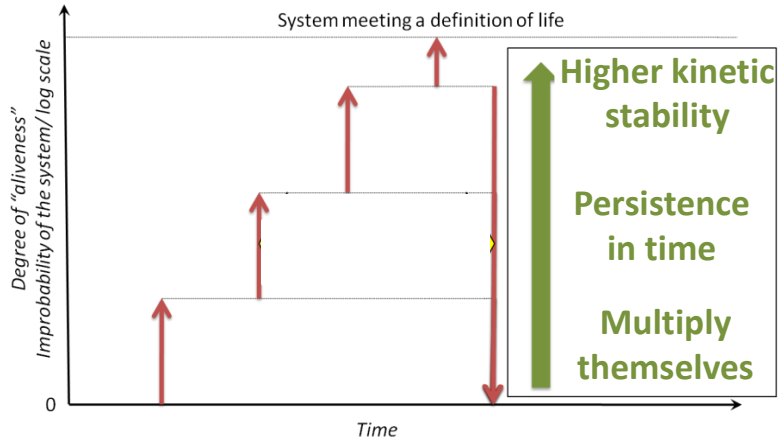


Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

Biochemical systems



System meeting a definition of life



Emergence of Replicators

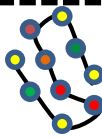
Biochemistry

Continuous Evolution under DKS

Determined by energy available in the environment

Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

Abiotic chemistry

Early Earth

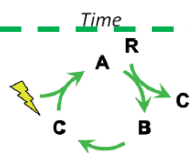
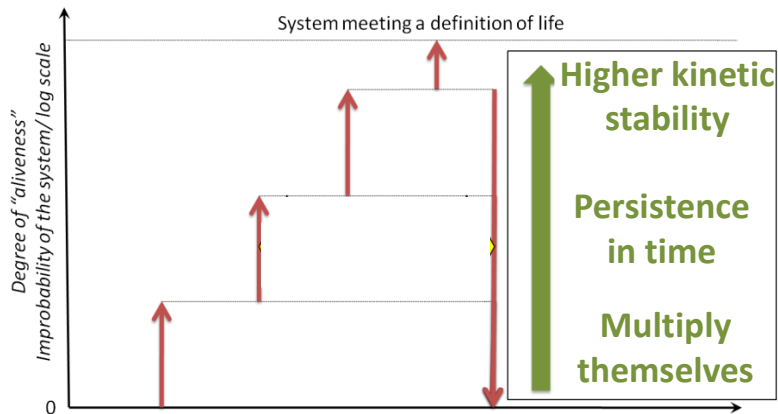
aqueous environments

Molecular diversity

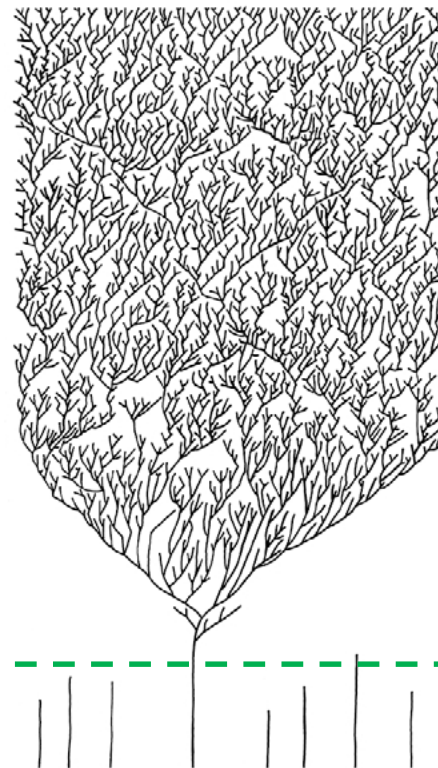


Role of exogenous organics in the emergence of life

Biochemical systems



Emergence of Replicators



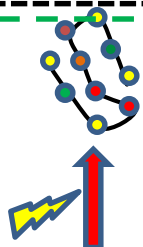
Roots of the tree of life

Biochemistry

Continuous Evolution under DKs

Prebiotic Chemistry

Self-organization



exogeneous organic matter

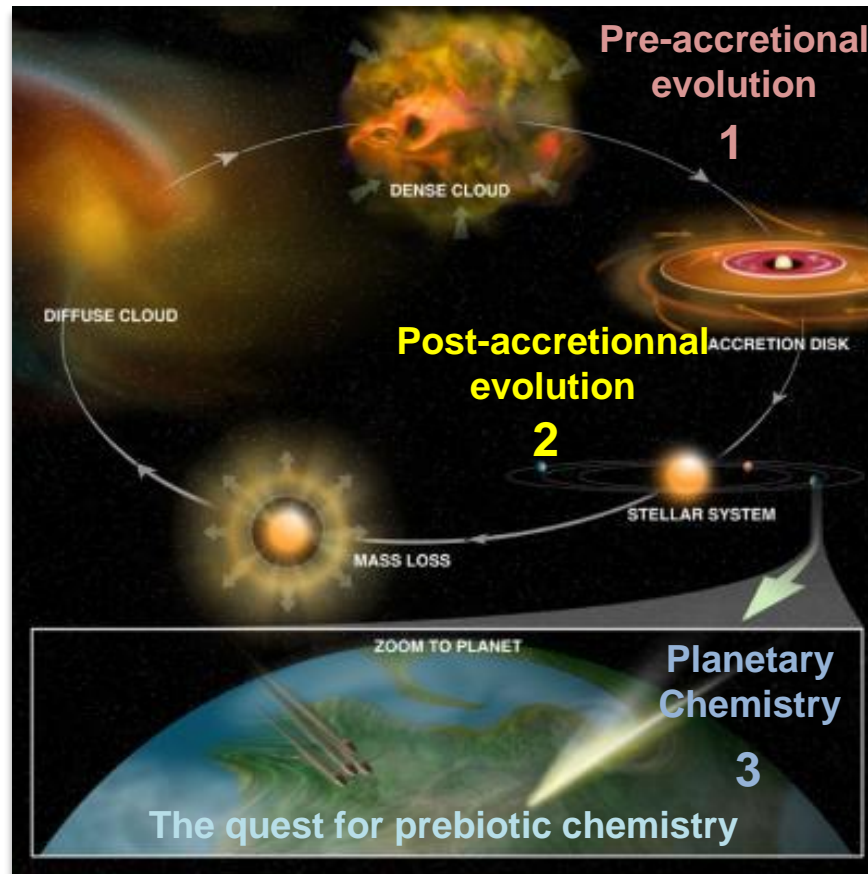
Abiotic chemistry

Early Earth aqueous environments

Molecular diversity



From Astrochemistry to Prebiotic Chemistry: Organic Matter Evolution



- **Pre-accretional process:** an important molecular diversity is formed from soluble to insoluble
- **Post-accretional process:** secondary evolution occurs
- **Planetary Chemistry:** specific environment for a prebiotic chemistry, the chemistry of systems