

Surface astrochemistry: the role of computational chemistry

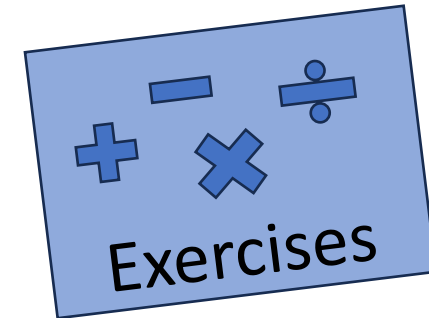


Thanja Lamberts

Han-sur-Lesse, 2023

Lecture Overview

- Introduction Astrochemistry
- Surface processes & Timescales
 - Dissipation (3rd body)
 - Adsorption
 - Desorption
 - Diffusion
 - Reaction
 - Energetics of a chemical reaction
 - Surface reaction mechanisms
- Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption



Lecture Overview

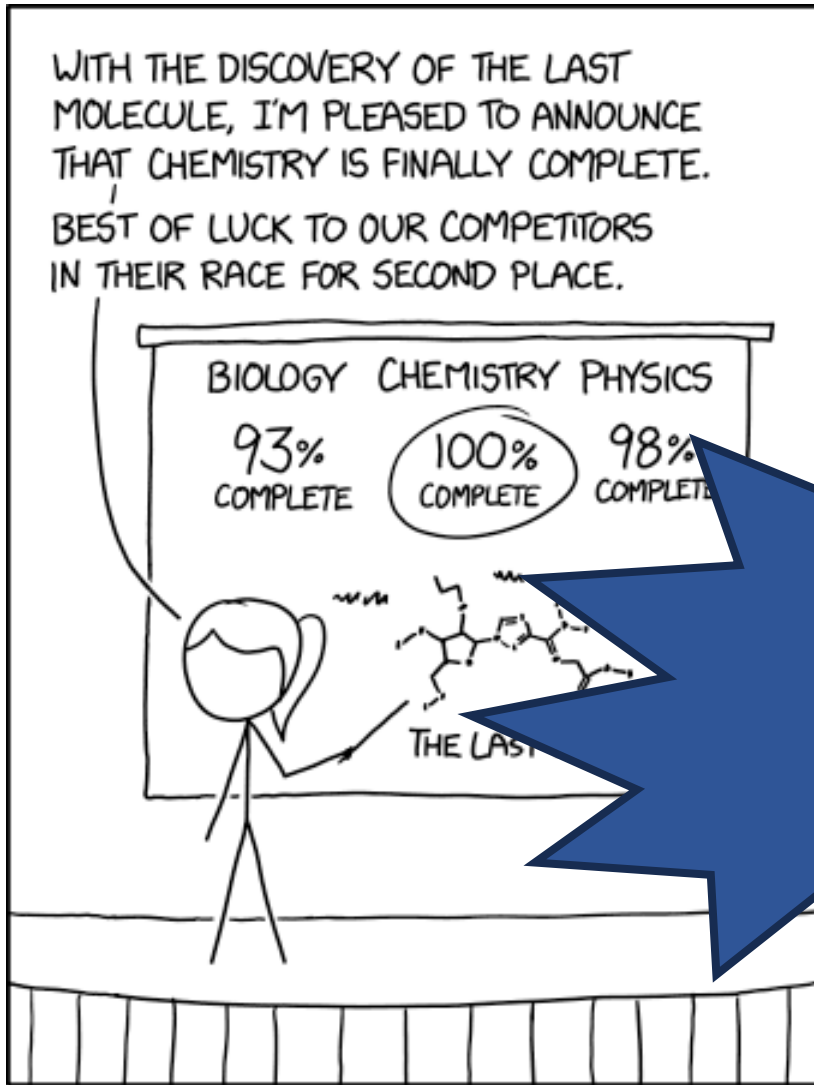
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Astrochemistry

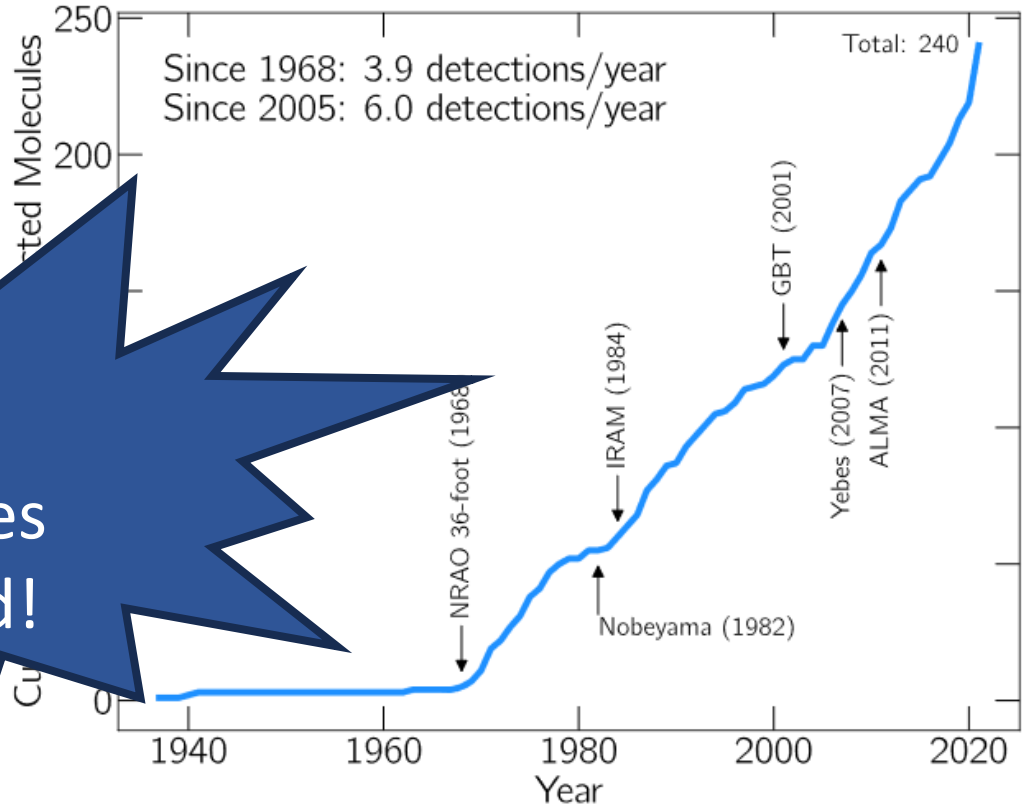
[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Astrochemistry is the study of the abundance and reactions of [molecules](#) in the [universe](#), and their interaction with [radiation](#).^[1] The discipline is an overlap of [astronomy](#) and [chemistry](#). The word "astrochemistry" may be applied to both the [Solar System](#) and the [interstellar medium](#). The study of the abundance of elements and [isotope](#) ratios in Solar System objects, such as [meteorites](#), is also called [cosmochemistry](#), while the study of interstellar atoms and molecules and their interaction with radiation is sometimes called molecular astrophysics. The formation, atomic and chemical composition, evolution and fate of [molecular gas clouds](#) is of special interest, because it is from these clouds that solar systems form.



> 300 molecules detected!

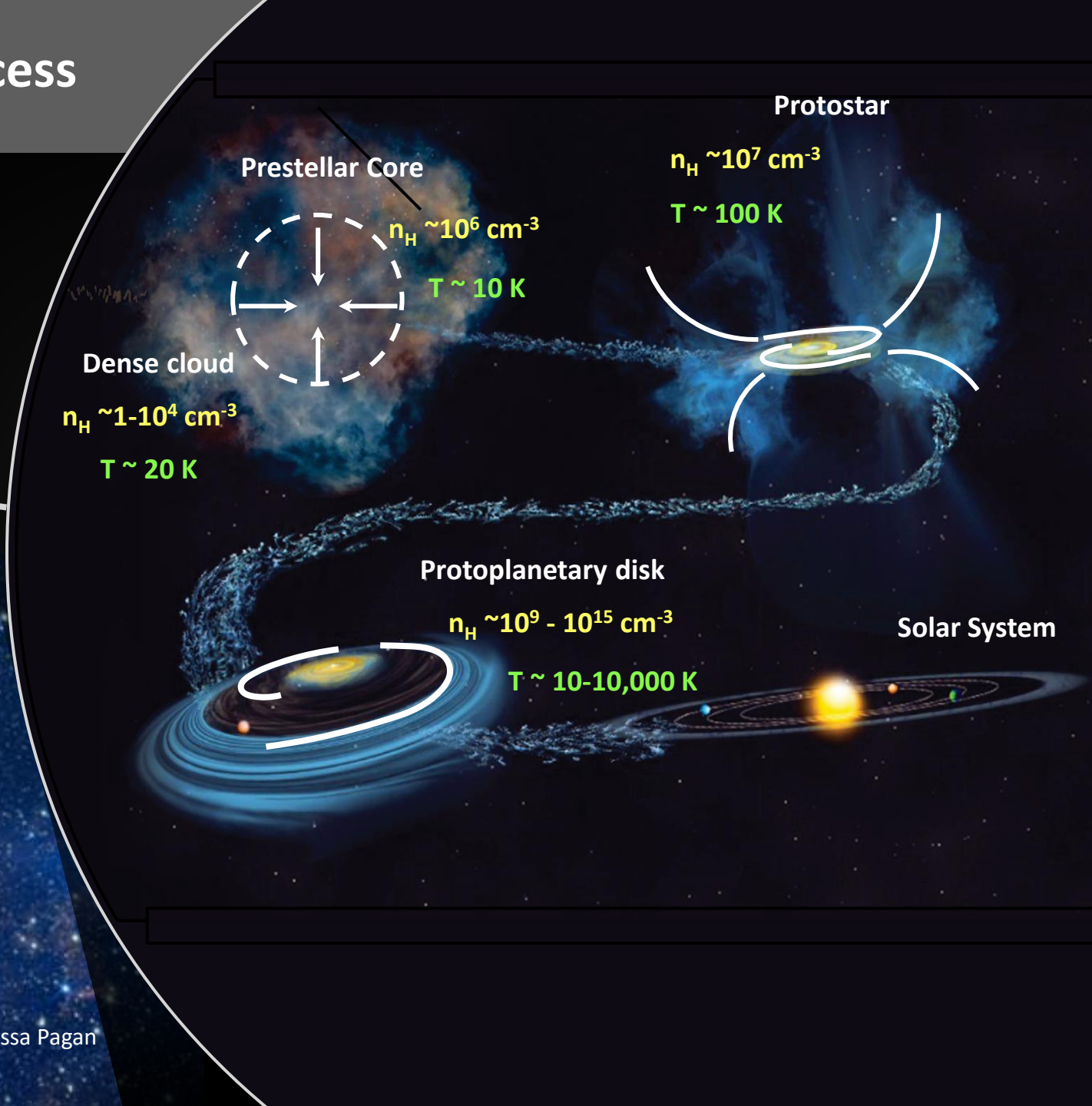


Astrochemistry

- Bridging astronomy, physics, chemistry
- More than a stamp-collection of molecules:
 - Role of molecules in forming the Universe
 - Tracers of physical conditions in different interstellar regions (spectroscopy!)
 - Formation, excitation and destruction
- 1937/1940: CH is the first molecule to be detected
Radio astronomy is pivotal!



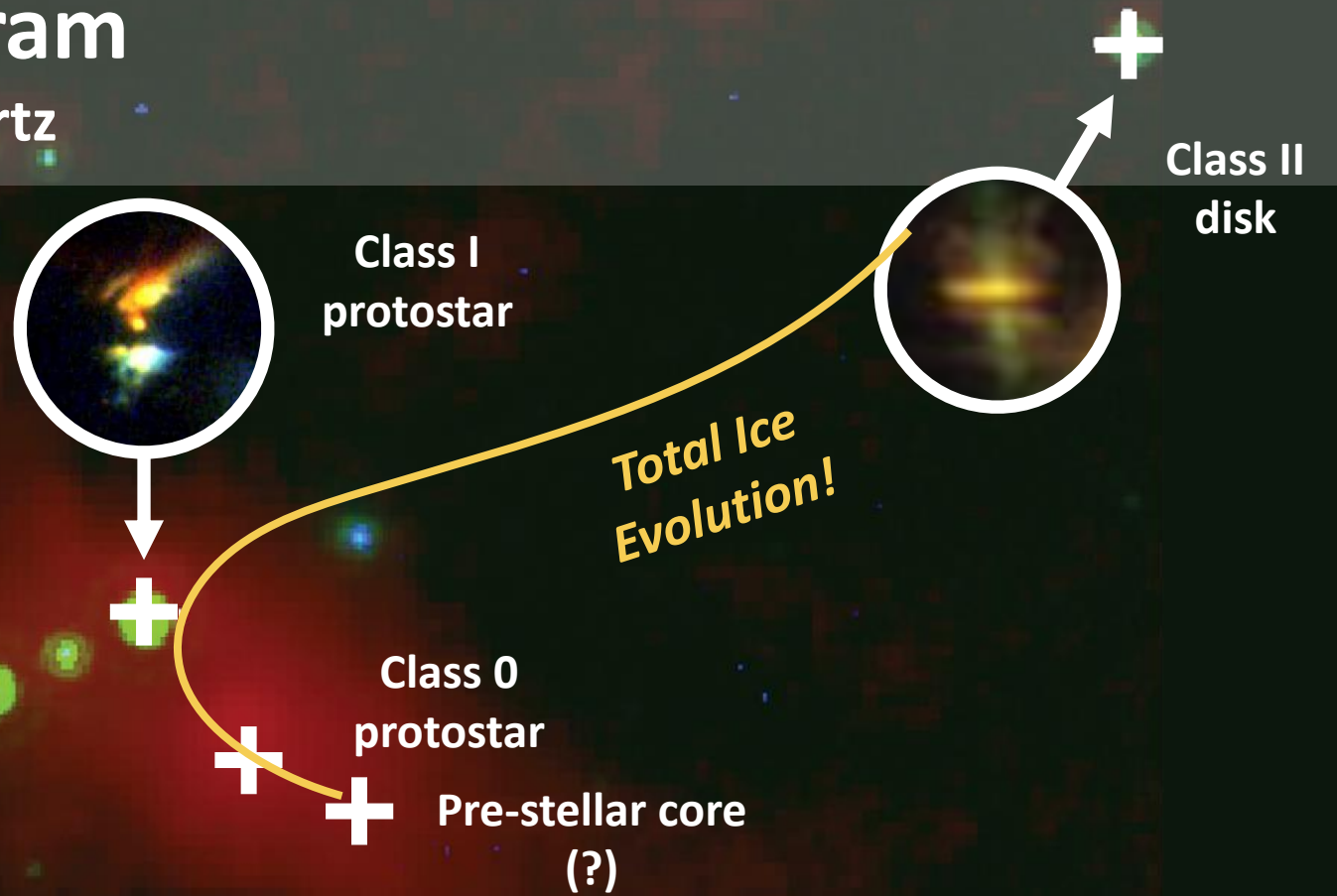
Ices and the star formation process





JWST IceAge ERS Program

PI McClure, co-PIs Boogert, Linnartz



Region	n_{H} (cm^{-3})	T (K)
Coronal gas	$< 10^{-2}$	5×10^5
HII regions	> 100	1×10^4
Diffuse gas	100-300	70
Molecular clouds	10^4	10
Pre-stellar cores	10^5 - 10^6	10-30
Star Forming Regions	10^7 - 10^8	100-300
Protoplanetary disks	10^4 (outer)- 10^{10} (inner)	10(outer)-500(inner)
Envelopes of Evolved stars	10^{10}	2000-3500

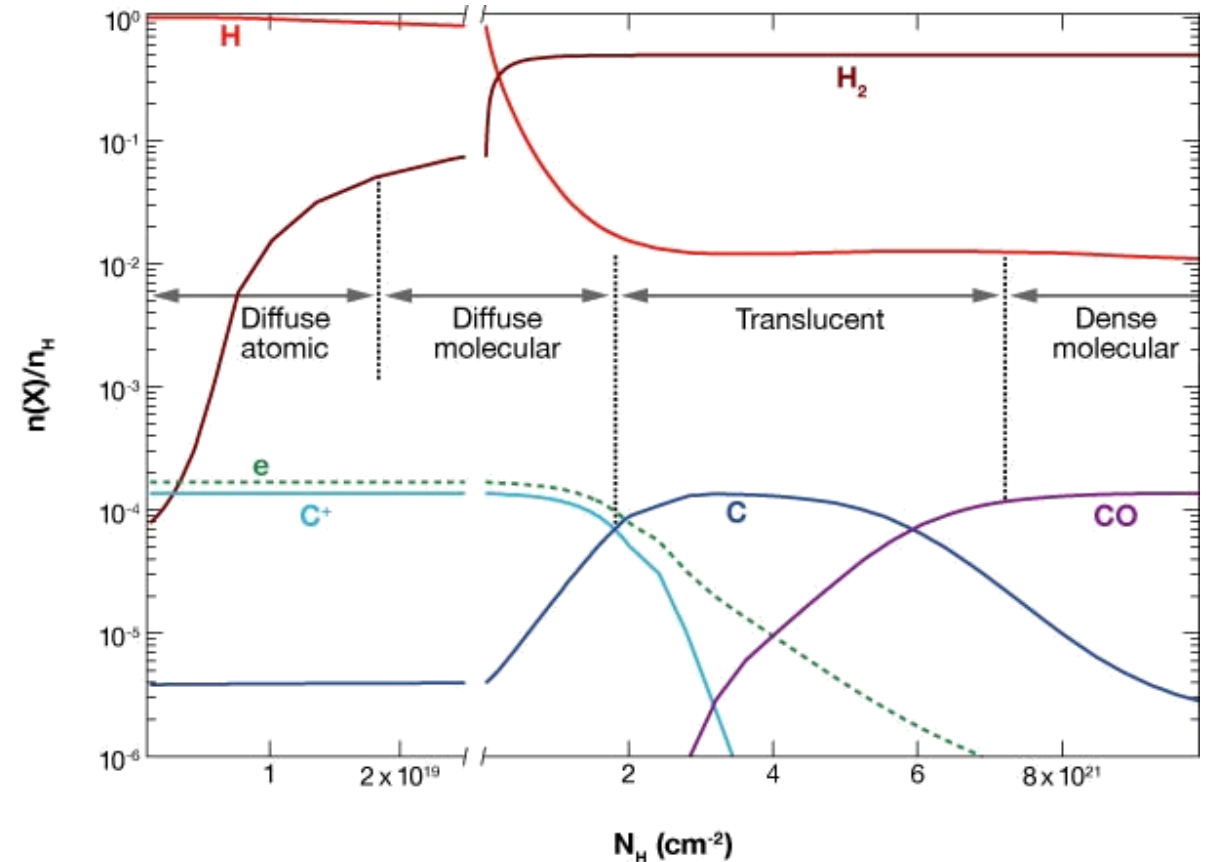
Drivers of chemistry

- Not in thermodynamic equilibrium
- Low density & low temperature: chemistry needs to be driven
 - Starlight
 - Cosmic rays
 - (Exothermic) grain chemistry
 - Gas hydrodynamics

Ingredients: Radiation, Gas, and Dust

Different sources of radiation:

- UV (dense clouds are shielded)
- X-Rays
- Cosmic Rays (= high energy nuclei)



Ingredients: Radiation, **Gas**, and Dust

- Gas: H, He + other elements
 - formed in stellar nucleosynthesis
 - distributed by novae, supernovae, and stellar winds
- Relative elemental abundances vary within a galaxy and from galaxy to galaxy
- Solar abundances used as a conventional reference level

PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

1 H Hydrogen 1,008																	18 He Helium 4,003
3 Li Lithium 6,941	4 Be Beryllium 9,012											5 B Boron 10,811	6 C Carbon 12,011	7 N Nitrogen 14,007	8 O Oxygen 15,999	9 F Fluorine 18,998	10 Ne Neon 20,180
11 Na Sodium 22,990	12 Mg Magnesium 24,305											13 Al Aluminum 26,982	14 Si Silicon 28,086	15 P Phosphorus 30,974	16 S Sulfur 32,065	17 Cl Chlorine 35,453	18 Ar Argon 39,948
19 K Potassium 39,098	20 Ca Calcium 40,078	21 Sc Scandium 44,956	22 Ti Titanium 47,867	23 V Vanadium 50,942	24 Cr Chromium 51,996	25 Mn Manganese 54,938	26 Fe Iron 55,845	27 Co Cobalt 58,933	28 Ni Nickel 58,693	29 Cu Copper 63,546	30 Zn Zinc 65,390	31 Ga Gallium 69,723	32 Ge Germanium 72,640	33 As Arsenic 74,922	34 Se Selenium 78,960	35 Br Bromine 79,904	36 Kr Krypton 83,800
37 Rb Rubidium 85,468	38 Sr Strontium 87,620	39 Y Yttrium 88,906	40 Zr Zirconium 91,224	41 Nb Niobium 92,906	42 Mo Molybdenum 94,938	43 Tc Technetium 98,000	44 Ru Ruthenium 101,070	45 Rh Rhodium 102,906	46 Pd Palladium 106,420	47 Ag Silver 107,868	48 Cd Cadmium 112,411	49 In Indium 114,818	50 Sn Tin 118,710	51 Sb Antimony 121,760	52 Te Tellurium 127,600	53 I Iodine 126,905	54 Xe Xenon 131,293
55 Cs Cesium 132,906	56 Ba Barium 137,327	57 - 71 Lanthanides	72 Hf Hafnium 178,490	73 Ta Tantalum 180,948	74 W Tungsten 180,948	75 Re Rhenium 186,207	76 Os Osmium 190,230	77 Ir Iridium 192,217	78 Pt Platinum 195,078	79 Au Gold 196,967	80 Hg Mercury 200,590	81 Tl Thallium 204,383	82 Pb Lead 207,200	83 Bi Bismuth 208,980	84 Po Polonium 209,000	85 At Astatine 210,000	86 Rn Radon 222,000
87 Fr Francium 223,000	88 Ra Radium 226,000	89 - 103 Actinides	104 Rf Rutherfordium 261,000	105 Db Dubnium 262,000	106 Sg Seaborgium 266,000	107 Bh Bohrium 264,000	108 Hs Hassium 277,000	109 Mt Meitnerium 278,000	110 Ds Darmstadtium 281,000	111 Rg Roentgenium 282,000	112 Cn Copernicium 285,000	113 Nh Nihonium 286,000	114 Fl Flerovium 289,000	115 Mc Moscovium 290,000	116 Lv Livermorium 293,000	117 Ts Tennessine 294,000	118 Og Oganesson 294,000
			57 La Lanthanum 138,906	58 Ce Cerium 140,116	59 Pr Praseodymium 140,908	60 Nd Neodymium 144,240	61 Pm Promethium 145,000	62 Sm Samarium 150,360	63 Eu Europium 151,964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157,250	65 Tb Terbium 158,925	66 Dy Dysprosium 162,500	67 Ho Holmium 164,930	68 Er Erbium 167,259	69 Tm Thulium 168,934	70 Yb Ytterbium 173,040	71 Lu Lutetium 174,967
			89 Ac Actinium 227,000	90 Th Thorium 232,038	91 Pa Protactinium 231,036	92 U Uranium 238,029	93 Np Neptunium 237,000	94 Pu Plutonium 244,000	95 Am Americium 243,000	96 Cm Curium 247,000	97 Bk Berkelium 247,000	98 Cf Californium 251,000	99 Es Einsteinium 252,000	100 Fm Fermium 257,000	101 Md Mendelevium 258,000	102 No Nobelium 259,000	103 Lr Lawrencium 262,000

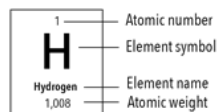
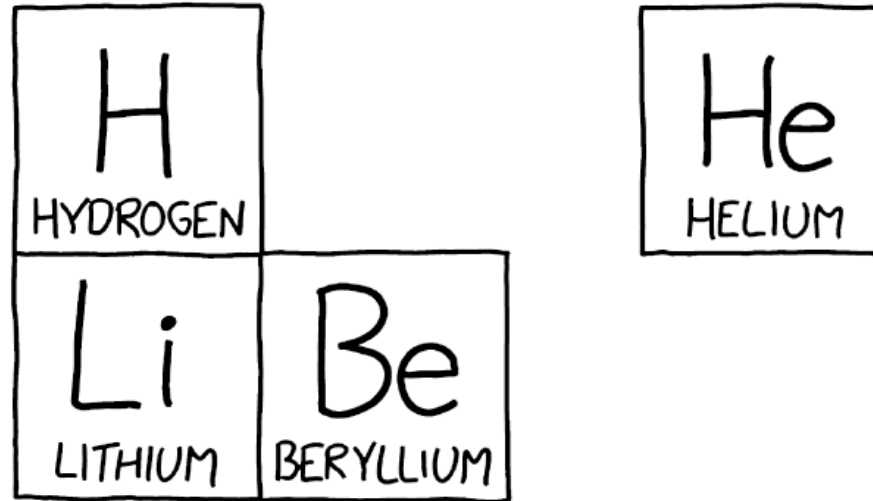


FIGURE 6.14

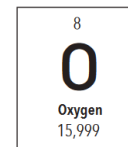
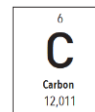
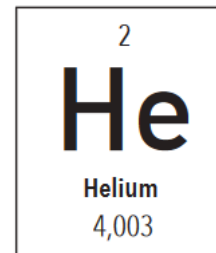
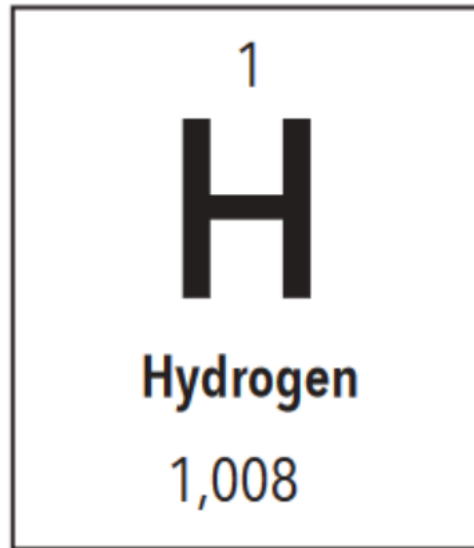
THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS



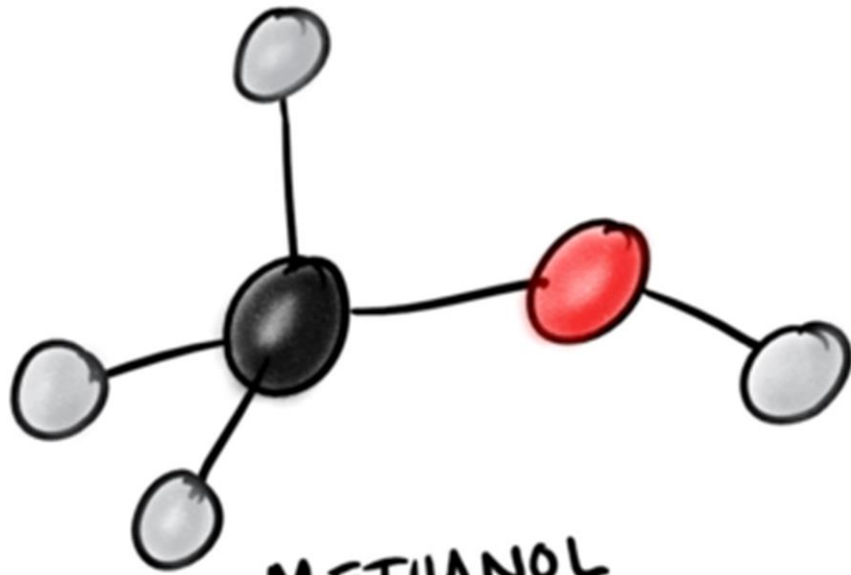
YOU CAN SPOT AN OUTDATED SCIENCE TEXTBOOK BY CHECKING THE BOTTOM OF THE PERIODIC TABLE FOR MISSING ELEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, MINE WAS PUBLISHED HALF AN HOUR AFTER THE BIG BANG.

Astronomers!

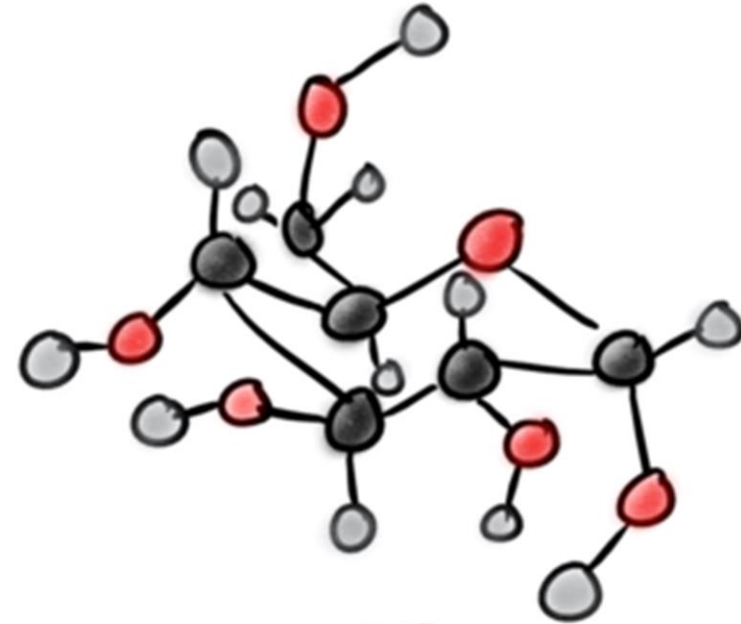
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS



Molecular complexity ?!



METHANOL
"complex" in space



GLUCOSE
"simple" on Earth

Figure courtesy: Olivia Harper Wilkins

Types of important gas-phase reactions

Two-body reactions with “two-body” products

Associative detachment

UV photoreactions

Dissociative recombination

Cosmic Ray ionization

Collisional dissociation

Cosmic Ray induced photoreactions

Ion-molecule reactions

Neutral-neutral reactions

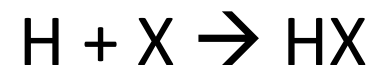
Radiative association

Charge-transfer reactions

Different types of molecules are observed, why?

- N_2H^+ ($\text{N}\equiv\text{N}-\text{H}^+$)
- HC_3N ($\text{H}-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$)
- C_2H
- $\text{C}\equiv\text{O}$
- H_2
- H_2O
- CH_4
- NH_3
- CH_3OH
- CO_2 ($\text{O}=\text{C}=\text{O}$)
- $\text{C}\equiv\text{O}$

High hydrogen content = saturation



Ingredients: Radiation, Gas, and Dust

- Nucleates in the envelopes of cool stars, in novae and in supernovae
- The dust-to-gas ratio in our own Galaxy is $\sim 1:100$
- Size ranges from nm to μm
- Silicates and carbonaceous material (incl. metals, Mg, Fe, Si)
- Grains allow reactions of the form $A_{\text{ads}} + B_{\text{ads}} \rightarrow C_{\text{ads}}$ (e.g., H_2)

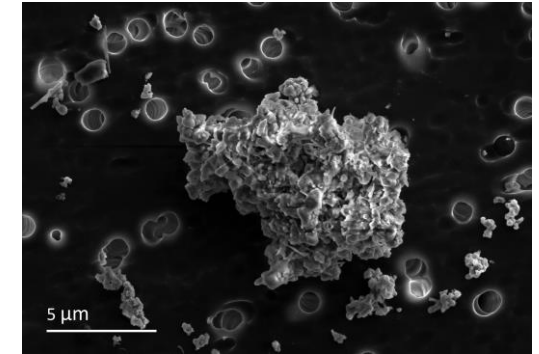
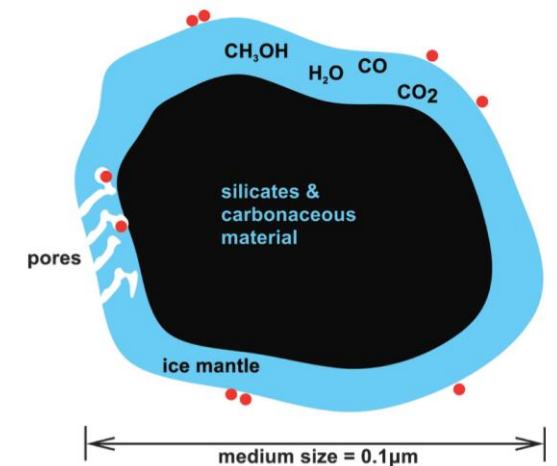


Figure courtesy:
Hope Ishii, University of Hawai'i



Karssemeijer et al. (2012)

Which (physical) conditions are important for surface chemistry to efficiently occur?

- Low temperature
- High density ($H/H_2 \ll 1$)
- UV-shielded (“high A_v ”)

Region	n_H (cm^{-3})	T (K)
Coronal gas	$< 10^{-2}$	5×10^5
HII regions	> 100	1×10^4
Diffuse gas	100-300	70
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Strong lines at mm wavelengths, so-called low-J transitions

Spectroscopy for astronomers

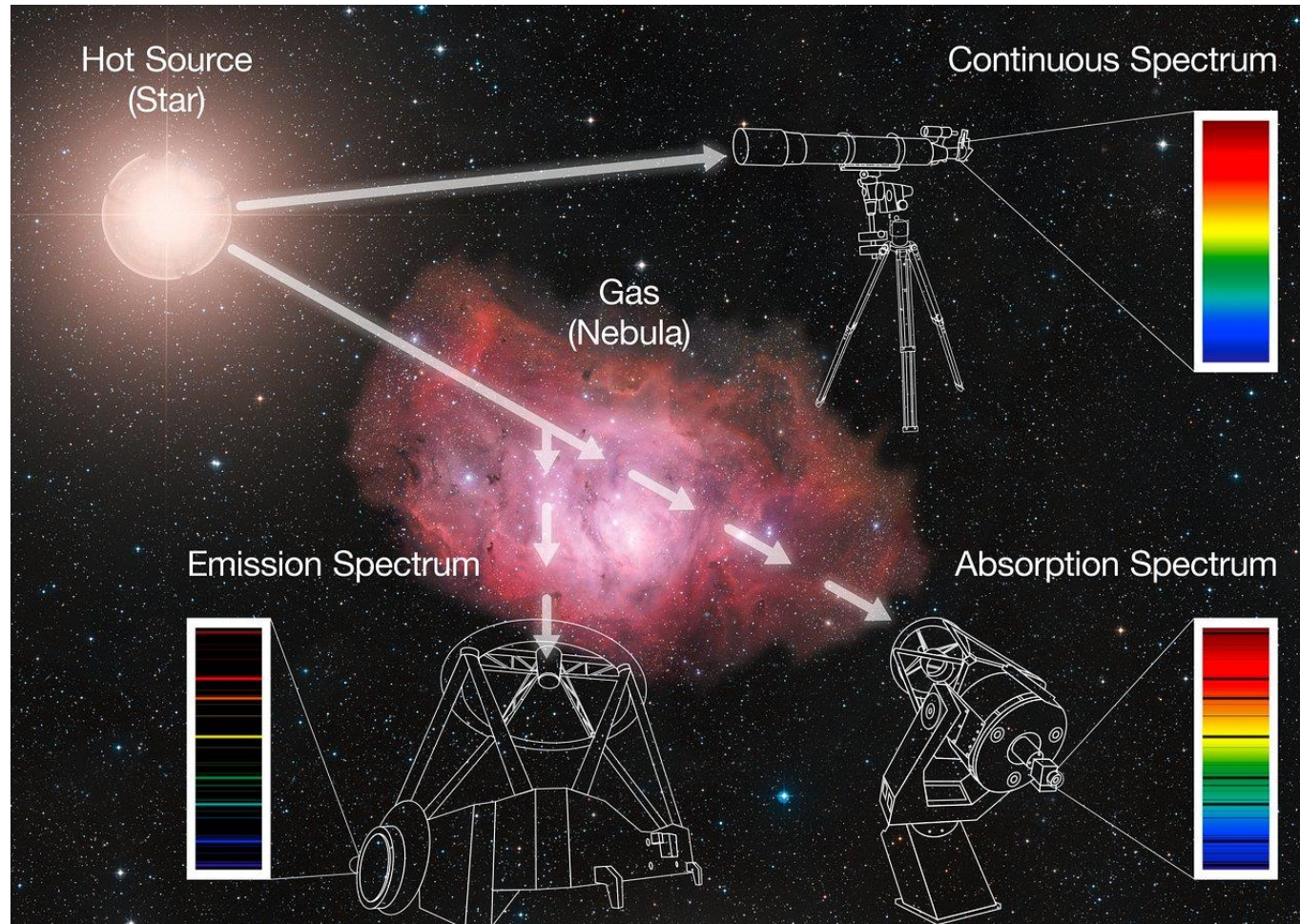


Figure courtesy: ESO

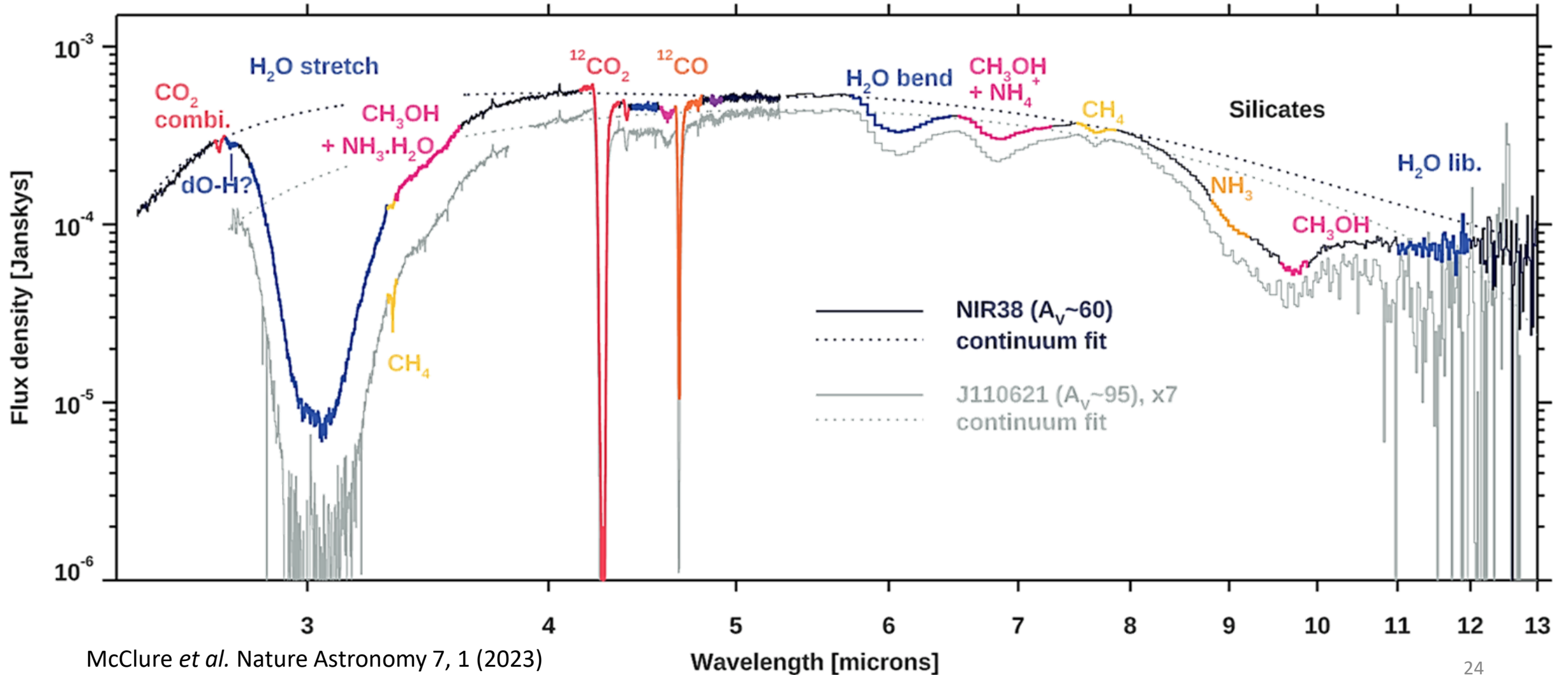


NIR 38

J110621

Figure courtesy: NASA, ESA, CSA, and M. Zamani (ESA/Webb);
Science: F. Sun (Steward Observatory), Z. Smith (Open University), and the Ice Age ERS Team

IceAge: JWST IR spectroscopy of ices



Spectroscopy calculations?

Measure spectra in the laboratory and compare to observations

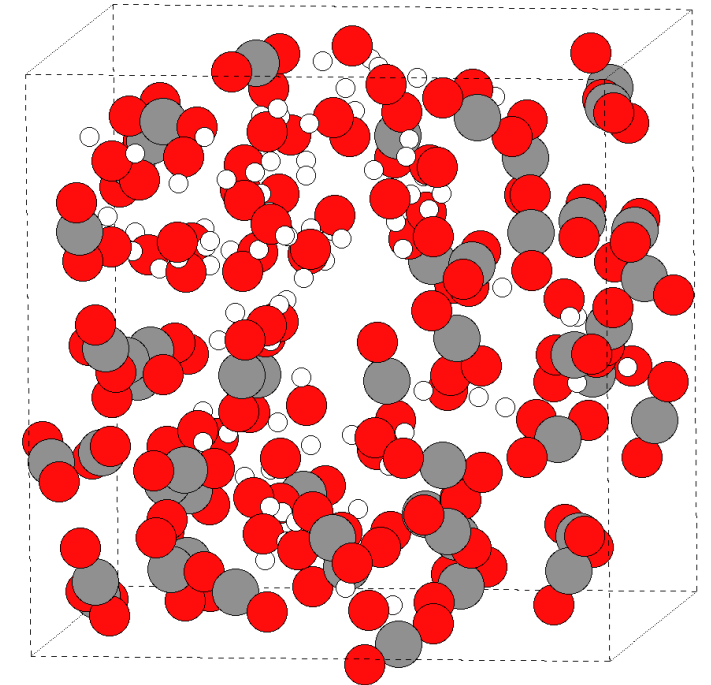
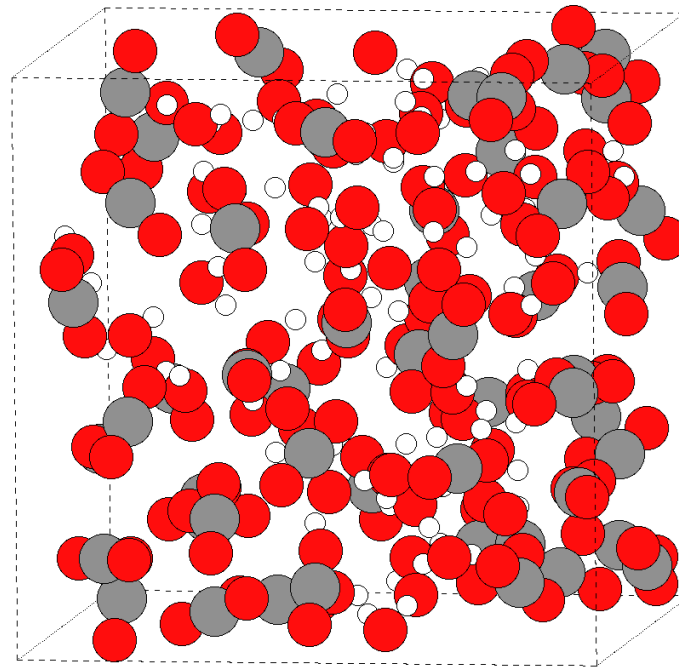
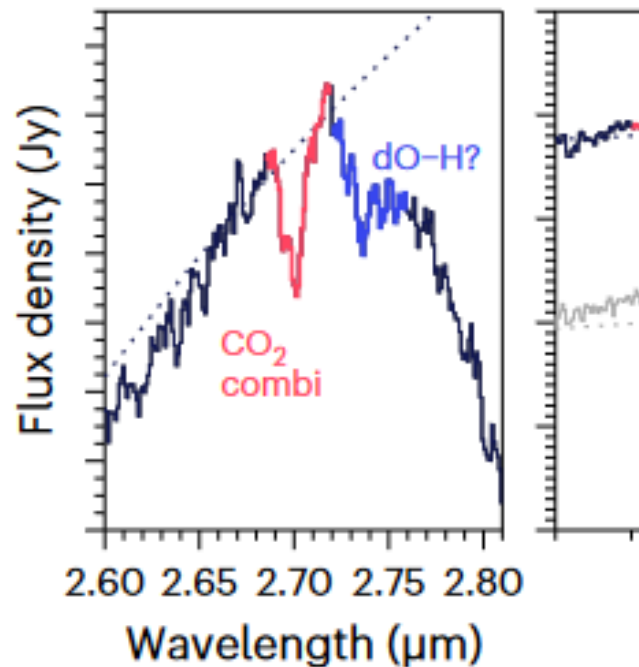
Leiden Ice Database for Astrochemistry

IR spectra and optical constants measured in the Leiden Laboratory for Astrophysics



Spectroscopy calculations: atomistic insight

Does the OH dangling mode shift as a result of different coordination with bulk H₂O or due to being covered by an adsorbed molecule?



Spectroscopy calculations: H₂O:CO₂

Need: description of energies, forces and dipole moments

Solution: parametrized force field MB-nrg (*)

based on ω B97M-V, CCSD(T) and CCSD(T)-F12b+CP data

$$V^{MB} = V_{perm.} + V_{polar.} + V_{short} + V_{disp}$$

Structures: Global optimisation vs. Random generation

(*) a machine-learned potential would ofc also be possible

Spectroscopy calculations: MD simulations

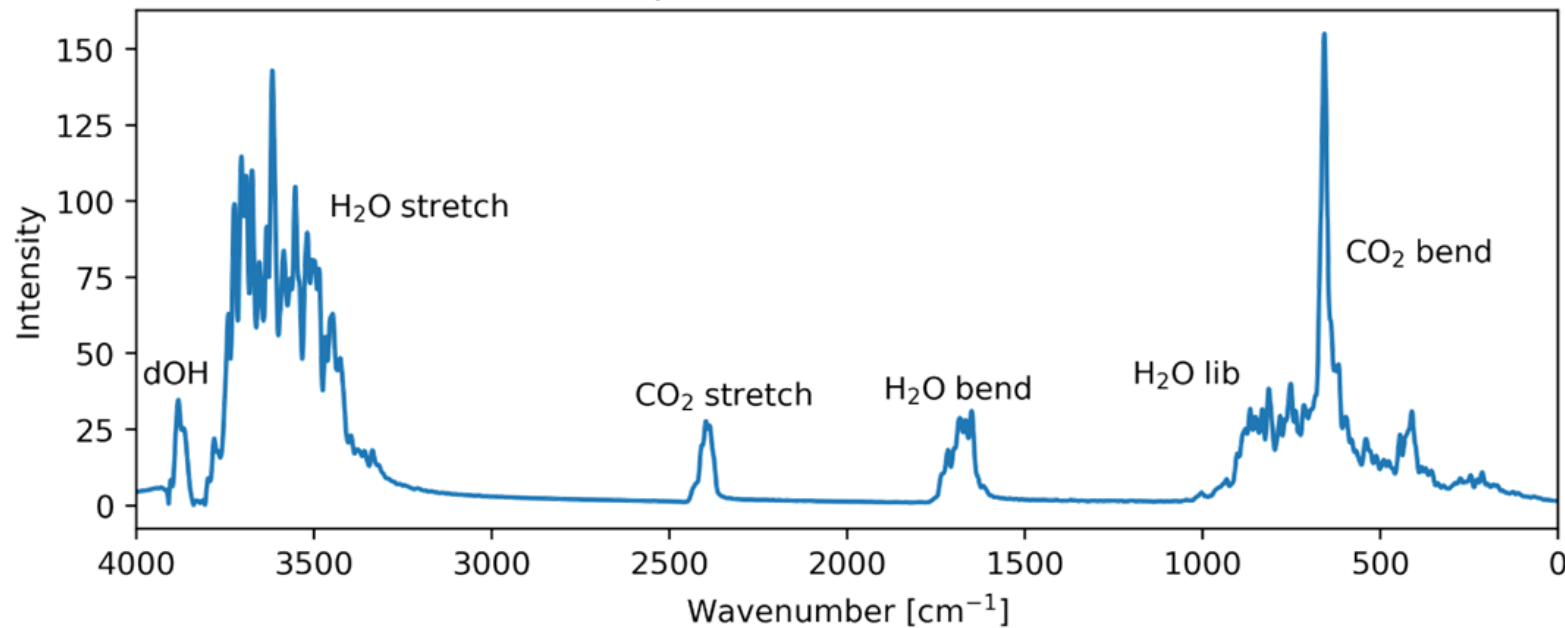
Autocorrelation

$$\langle \dot{\mu}(\tau) \dot{\mu}(t + \tau) \rangle_{\tau}$$

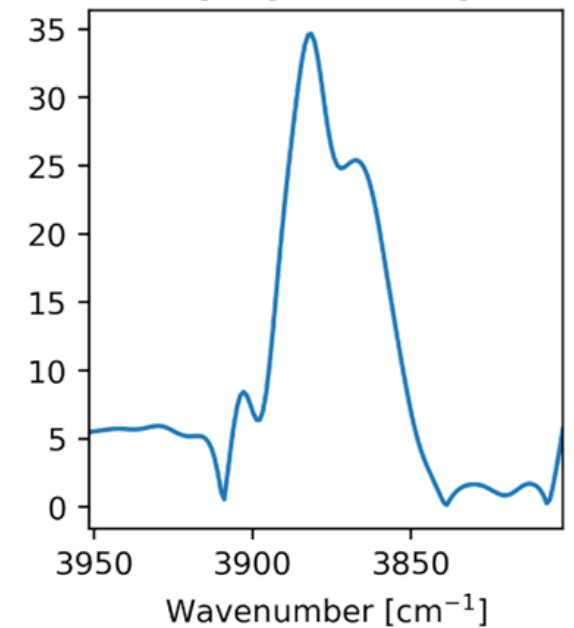
Infrared spectrum

$$I(\omega) \propto \int \langle \dot{\mu}(\tau) \dot{\mu}(t + \tau) \rangle_{\tau} e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

Full spectrum – 50 H₂O 50 CO₂



Dangling mode region



Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

- Introduction Astrochemistry

- Surface processes

- Dissociation

- Adsorption

- Diffusion

- Reaction



Transition
State Theory

- Reaction mechanisms

- Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption

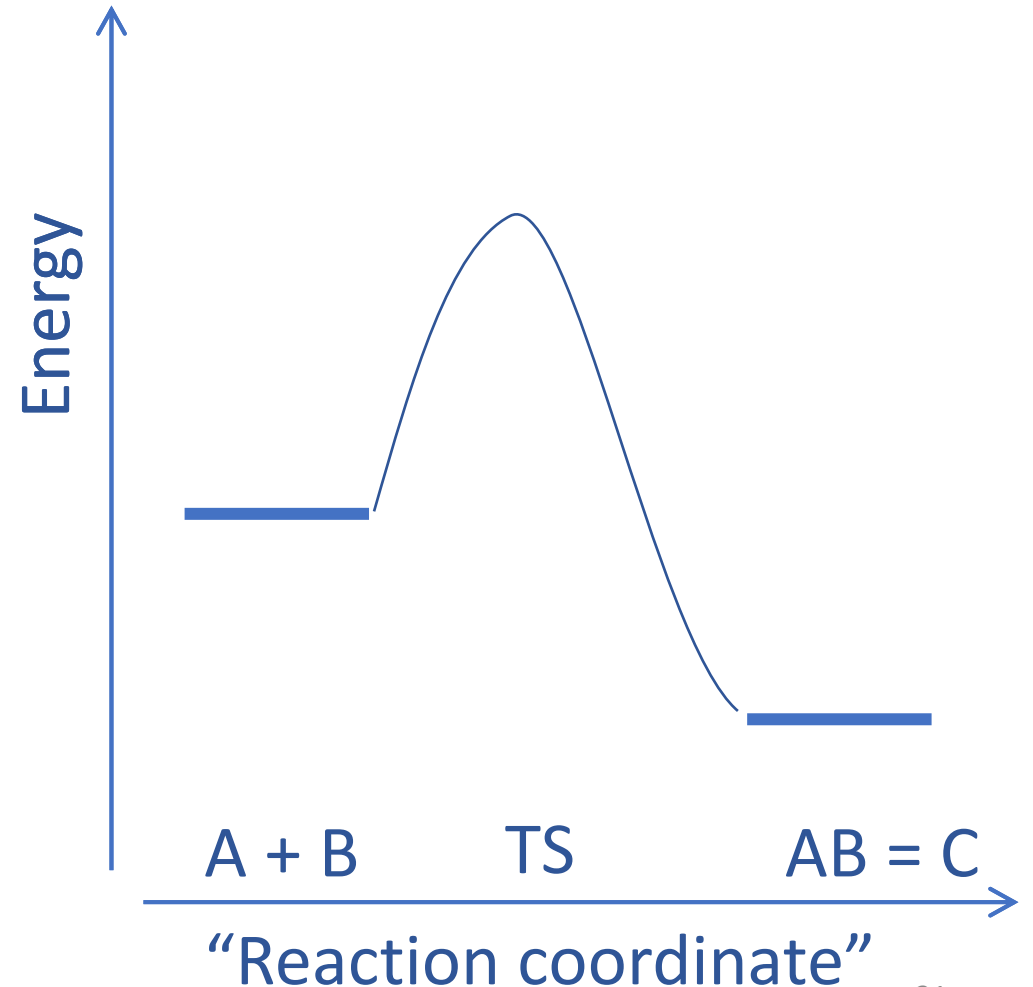
Reminder: TST

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Reaction rate} &= \nu [\text{TS}] \\ &= k [\text{A}][\text{B}]\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{therefore } k = \nu \cdot \frac{[\text{TS}]}{[\text{A}][\text{B}]} = \nu K$$

$$\text{with (stat. therm.) } K = \frac{z'_{\text{TS}}}{z'_A z'_B}$$

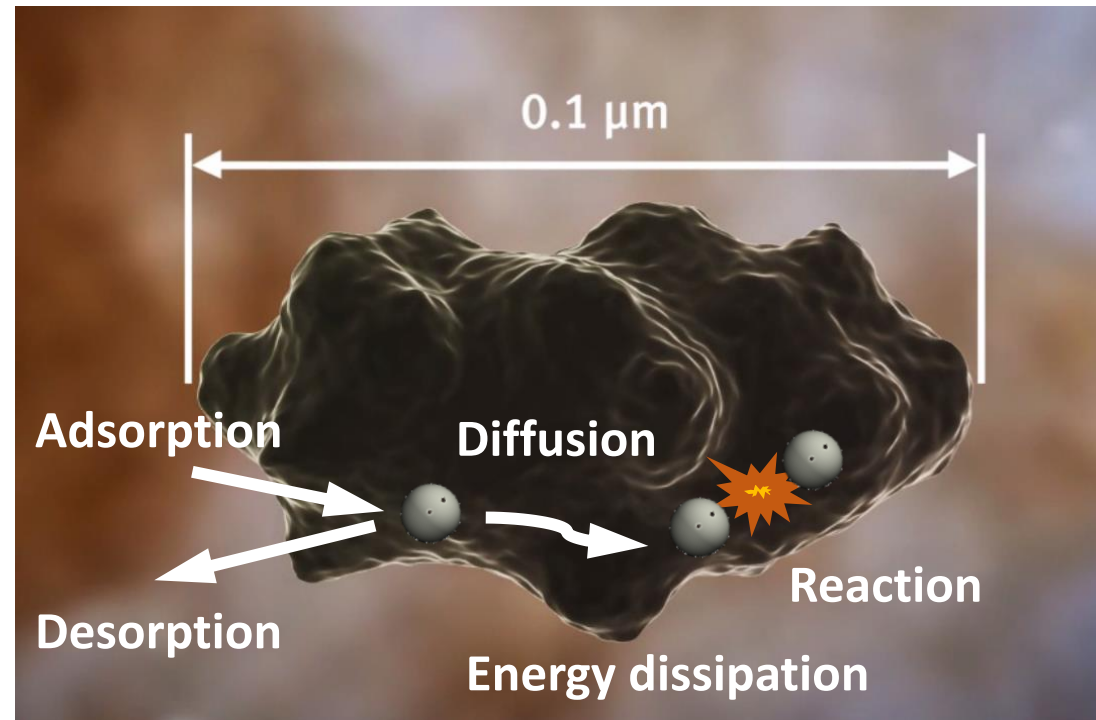
$$\text{and } z' = \sum_i e^{-\epsilon_i/k_B T}$$



Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

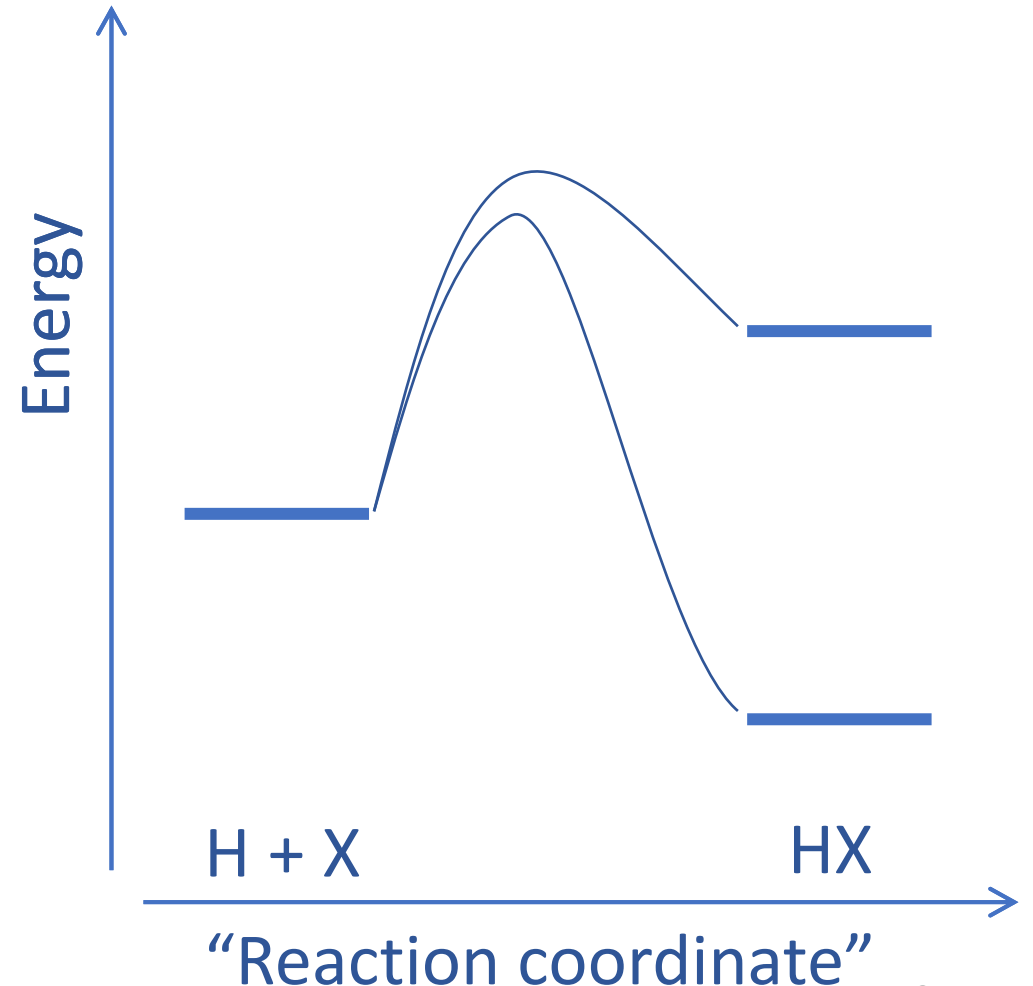
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Overview of surface processes



Dissipation: excess energy

- At low T, a reaction should generate energy (exothermic, instead of endothermic)
- This needs to be dissipated:
3rd body = grain/ice
- Otherwise: radiative attachment = a slow process



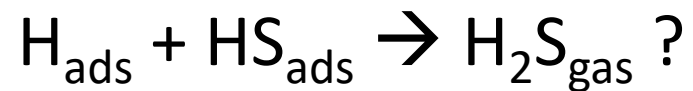
Example: Do reaction products evaporate?

How do vibrationally excited molecules dissipate their energy?

LETTERS

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-018-0380-9>

nature
astronomy



An infrared measurement of chemical desorption from interstellar ice analogues

Y. Oba ^{1*}, T. Tomaru¹, T. Lamberts ², A. Kouchi¹ and N. Watanabe¹

Example: Do reaction products evaporate?

How do vibrationally excited molecules dissipate their energy?







THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 897:56 (13pp), 2020 July 1
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab8a4b>



CrossMark

Chemical Desorption versus Energy Dissipation: Insights from Ab Initio Molecular Dynamics of HCO● Formation

Stefano Pantaleone¹ , Joan Enrique-Romero^{1,2} , Cecilia Ceccarelli¹ , Piero Ugliengo³ , Nadia Balucani^{1,4,5} , and Albert Rimola² 

- EXCITATION BY TIXE
- Excitation into a
- Quantum effects

**SPACE
CHEMISTRY**

<http://pubs.acs.org/journal/aescq>



Article

Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Energy Dissipation on Amorphous Solid Water: Testing the Validity of Equipartition

Adrien Fredon, Gerrit C. Groenenboom, and Herma M. Cuppen*



Cite This: *ACS Earth Space Chem.* 2021, 5, 2032–2041



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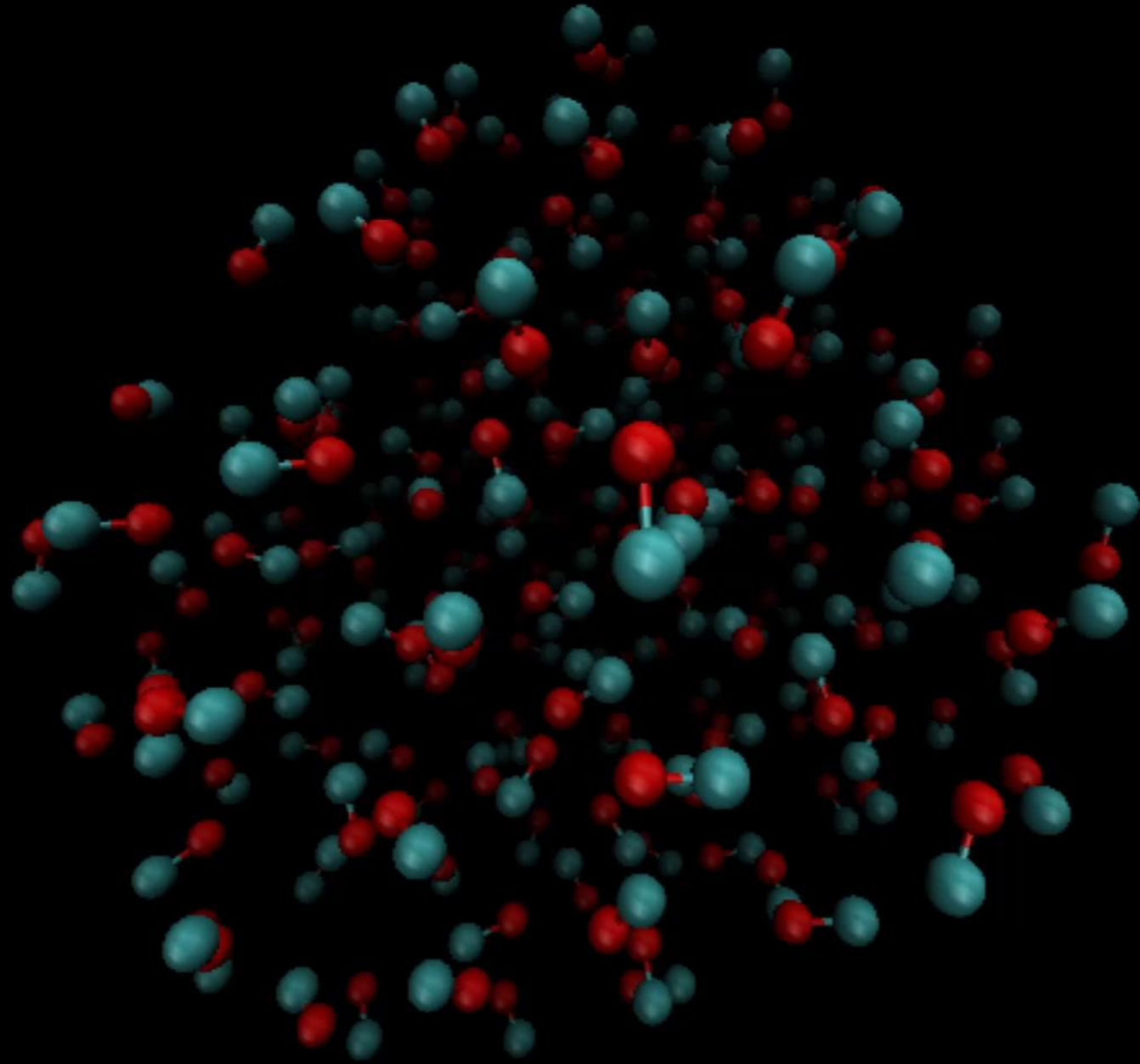
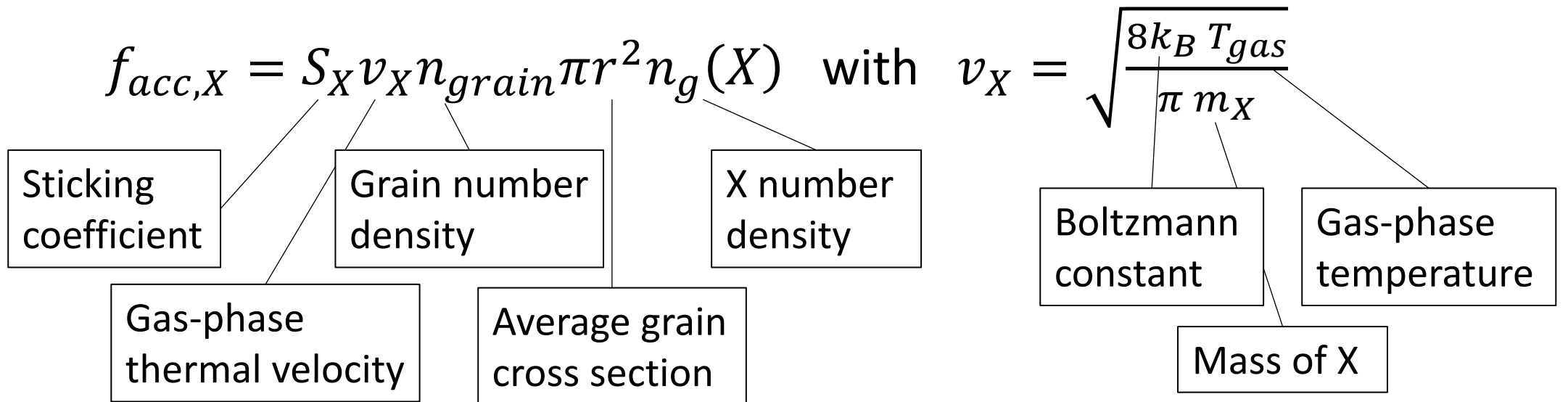


Figure courtesy: Brian C. Ferrari

Adsorption

When an atom or molecule collides with a grain it “can” adsorb:

$$f_{acc,X} = S_X v_X n_{grain} \pi r^2 n_g(X) \quad \text{with} \quad v_X = \sqrt{\frac{8k_B T_{gas}}{\pi m_X}}$$


Sticking coefficient

Grain number density

X number density

Gas-phase thermal velocity

Average grain cross section

Boltzmann constant

Gas-phase temperature

Mass of X

Different ways of binding

Physisorption vs. chemisorption.

Van der Waals

Hydrogen bonded

Hemibonded

Covalently bonded

Ionic

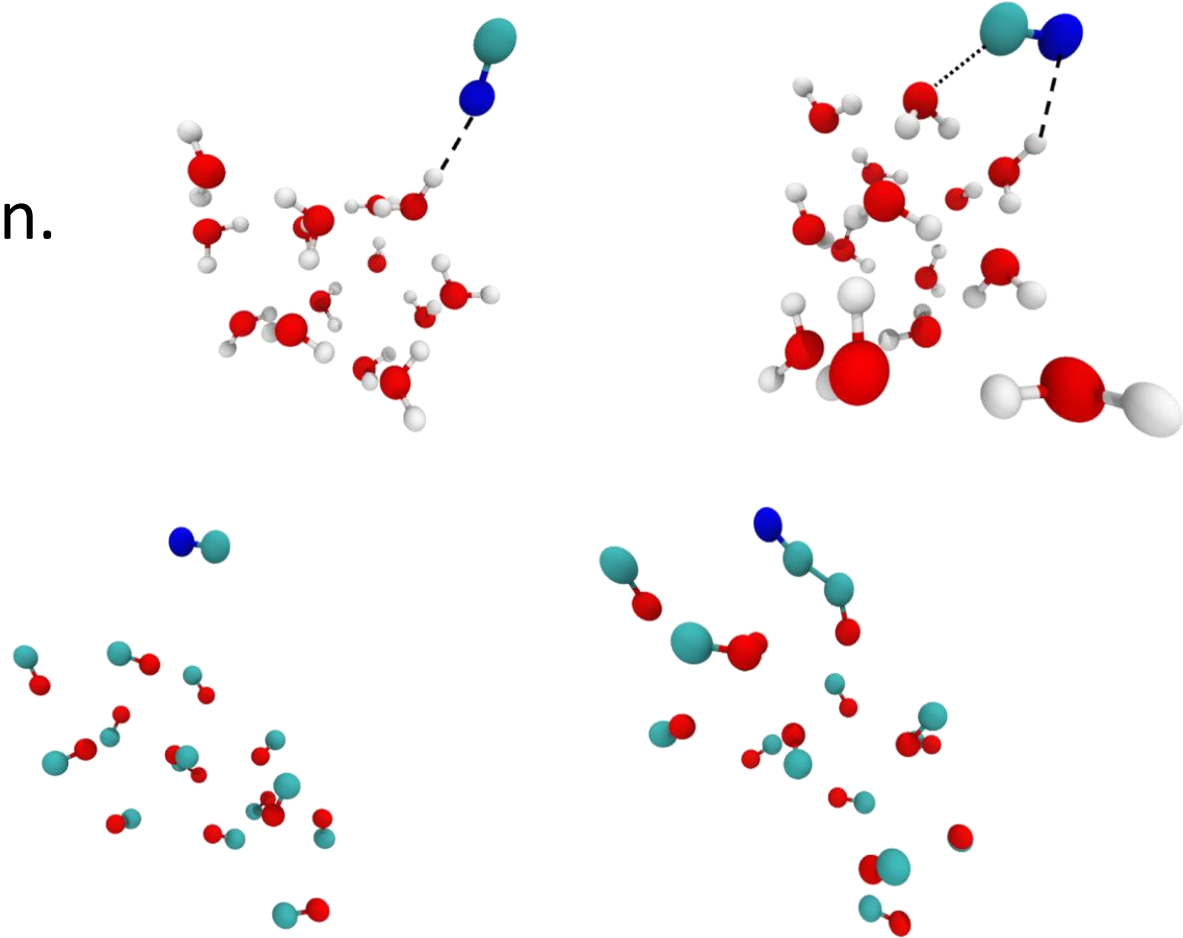


Figure courtesy: Joan Enrique-Romero

Example: Energetics of binding sites

Method of choice: DFT + NN or ONIOM

- Generation of the ice
 - Periodic Boundary Conditions vs. cluster
 - Pure ices vs. mixtures
- Reorganisation of the ice
- Dual-level approach
- Benchmark!
- Corrections:
 - BSSE
 - Zero Point Energy
 - Dispersion

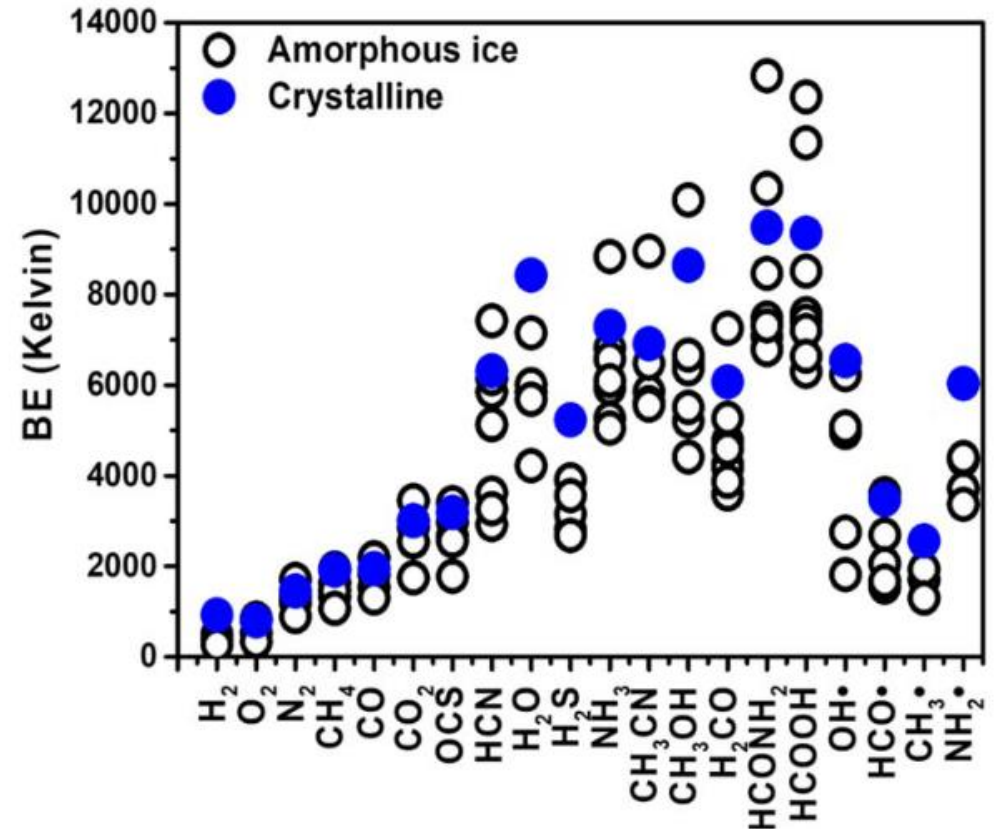
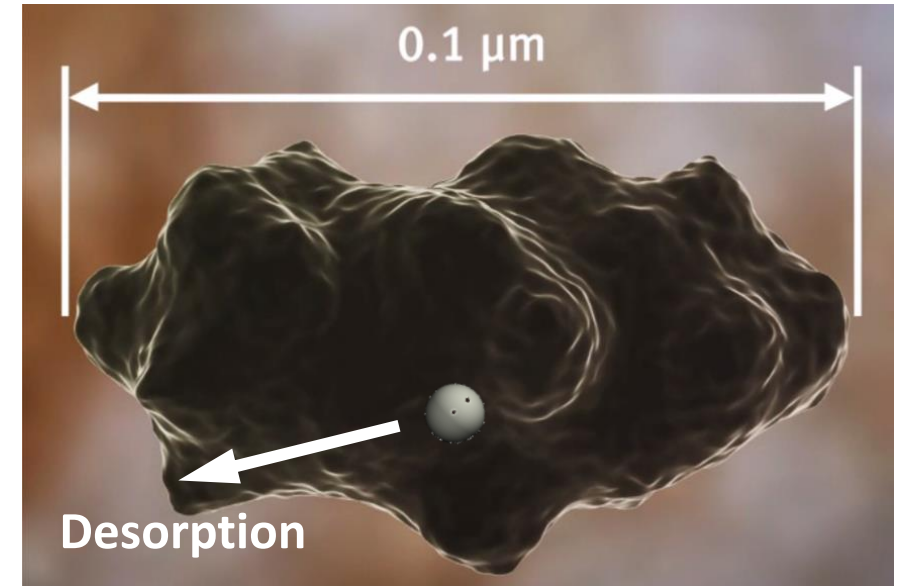


Figure 9. Comparison between the DFT//HF-3c BEs (in kelvin) computed on the crystalline ice (filled blue circles) and ASW (open circles), respectively, for 20 species studied here: HCl is missing as it dissociates on the ASW (see text).

Desorption

Opposite of adsorption: return of a species to the gas phase. Governed by interaction with the surface: Binding energy



$$f_{des,X} = k_{des,X} n_s(X) \quad \text{with:}$$

$$k_{des,X} = \nu_{trial} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{bind,X}}{T}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_{trial} = \sqrt{\frac{2N_s E_{bind,X}}{\pi^2 m_X}}$$

Assumptions underlying typical formula

Transition state theory ☺

$$k = \nu \exp\left(-\frac{E_a}{k_B T}\right)$$

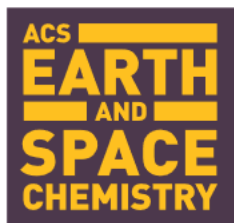
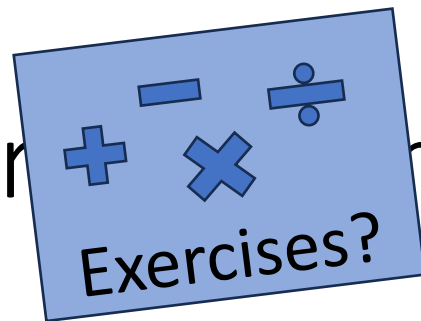
$$\nu_{\text{TST}} = \frac{k_B T}{h} \frac{q^\ddagger}{q_{\text{ads}}}$$

$$\nu_{\text{TST}} = \frac{k_B T}{h} q_{\text{tr},2\text{D}}^\ddagger q_{\text{rot},3\text{D}}^\ddagger$$

$$q_{\text{tr},2\text{D}}^\ddagger = \frac{A}{\Lambda^2}$$

$$q_{\text{rot},3\text{D}}^\ddagger = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\sigma h^3} (8\pi^2 k_B T_{\text{peak}})^{3/2} \sqrt{I_x I_y I_z}$$

Up to 7 orders of magnitude difference!



<http://pubs.acs.org/journal/aescq>



Thermal Desorption of Interstellar Ices: A Review on the Controlling Parameters and Their Implications from Snowlines to Chemical Complexity

Marco Minissale,* Yuri Aikawa, Edwin Bergin, Mathieu Bertin, Wendy A. Brown, Stephanie Cazaux, Steven B. Charnley, Audrey Coutens, Herma M. Cuppen, Victoria Guzman, Harold Linnartz, Martin R. S. McCoustra, Albert Rimola, Johanna G.M. Schrauwen, Celine Toubin, Piero Ugliengo, Naoki Watanabe, Valentine Wakelam, and Francois Dulieu



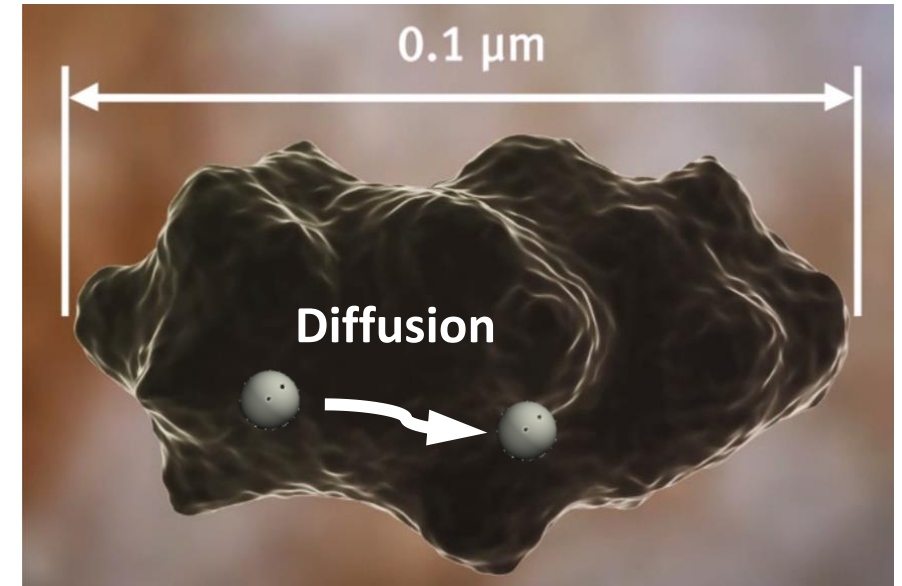
Cite This: *ACS Earth Space Chem.* 2022, 6, 597–630



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Diffusion

Movement across the surface allows reactants to meet. Governed by interaction with the surface: Diffusion Barrier



$$k_{diff,X} = \nu_{trial} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{diff,X}}{T}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad E_{diff,X} = \alpha \cdot E_{bind,X} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha < 1$$

Imagine: heavier species, typically bind stronger, and diffuse slower.

Validity of the α factor



I Neural-network assisted study of nitrogen atom dynamics on amorphous solid water – II. Diffusion



Viktor Zaverkin , Germán Molpeceres  and Johannes Kästner  

Computational studies need to include many degrees of freedom

- Nudged Elastic Band approach for locating TS
- Surface-coverage dependence of diffusion ($\alpha > 1$)

Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

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 - Surface reaction mechanisms
- Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption

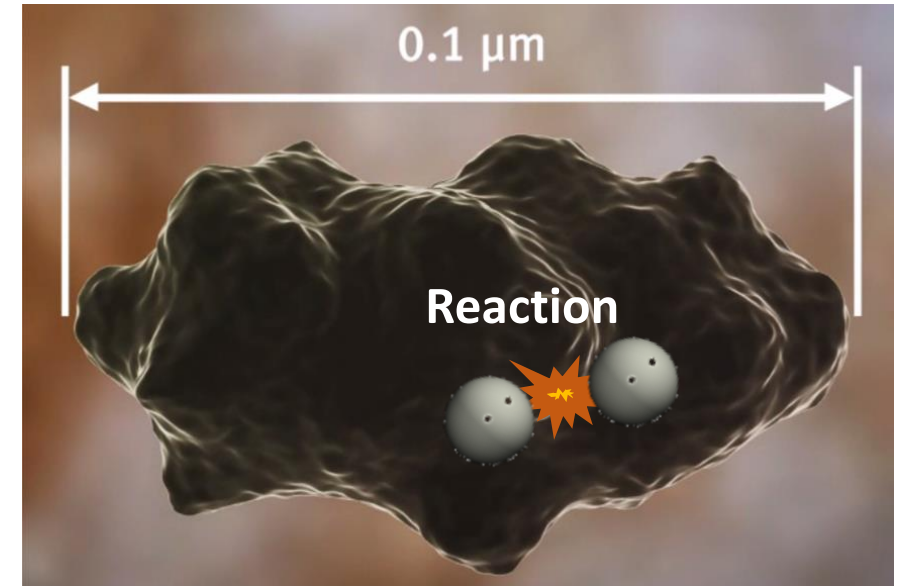
Reaction

When two reactants meet: possibility for a reaction to occur

Simplest and most abundant molecule is formed on grain surfaces: H₂



Barrierless and efficient! Detected despite UV radiation in PDR's.

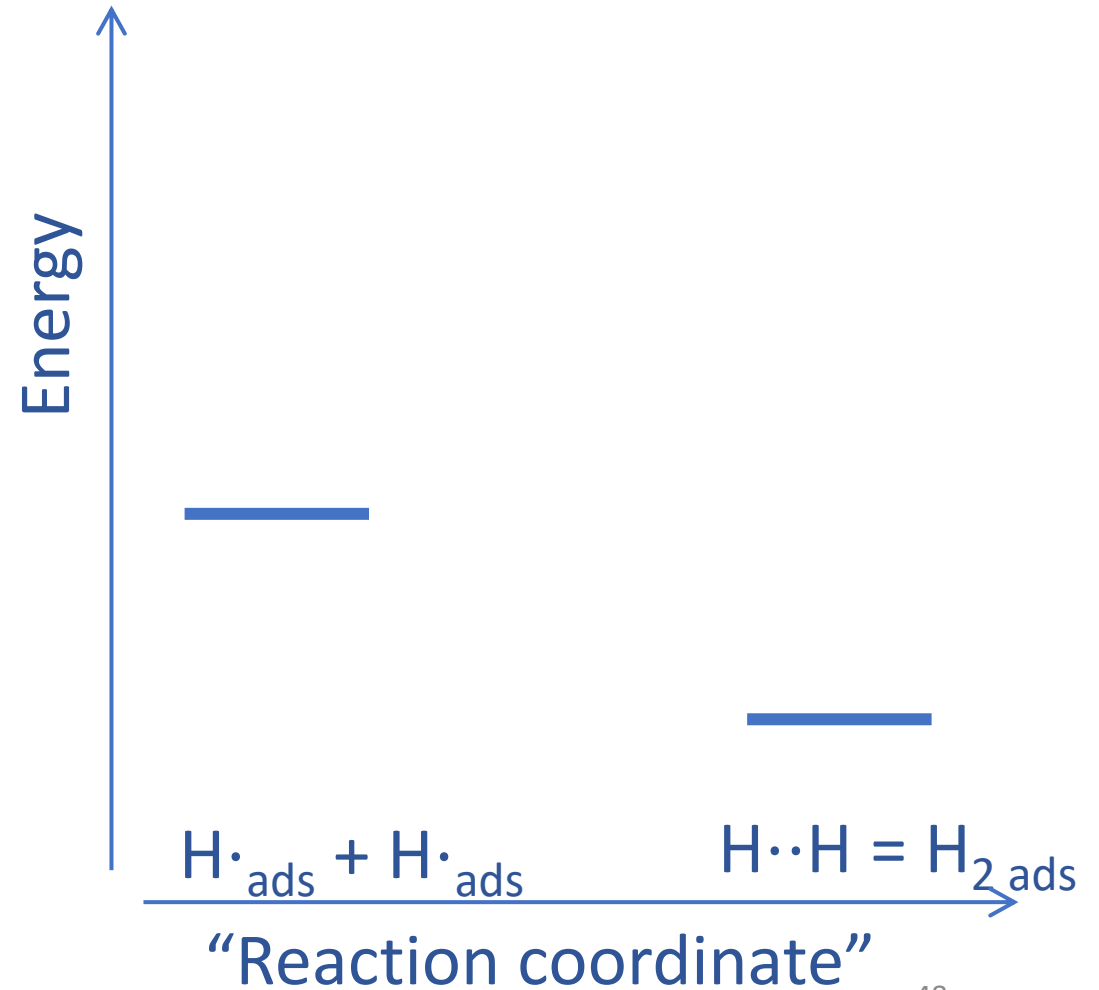


Reaction energetics: Radical-radical

“Electrons like to be paired”

Radical-radical reactions are barrierless (*)

(*) see exercises



Reaction energetics: Radical-neutral

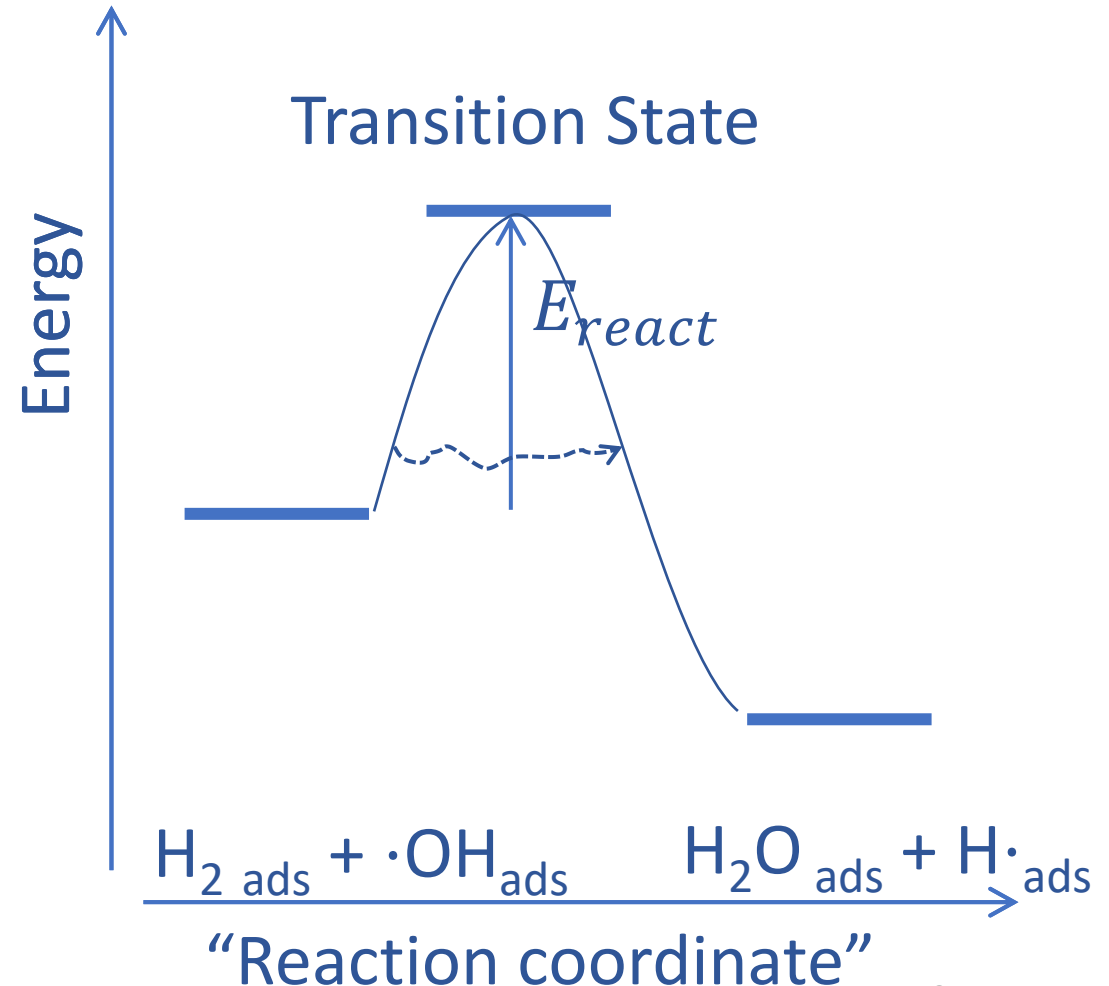
Usually a reaction with a barrier:

1. Thermally activated:

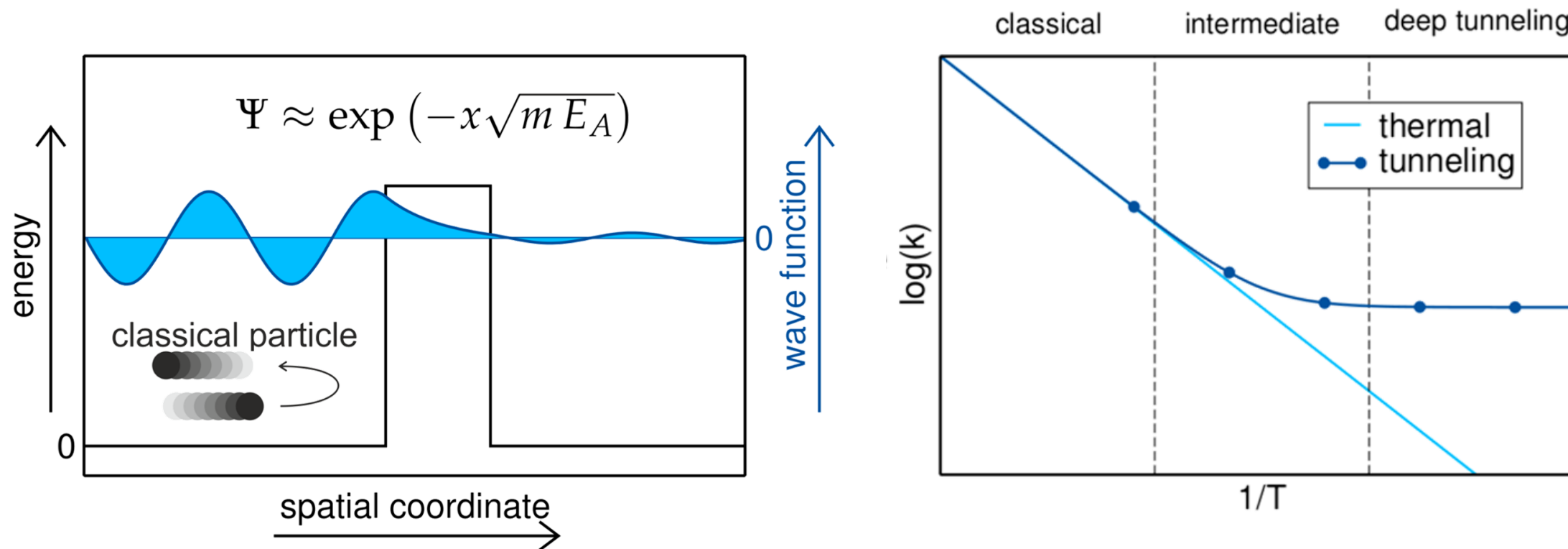
$$k_{LH} = \nu_{trial} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{react}}{T}\right)$$

2. Tunneling mediated:

Depends on barrier height and width



Low-temperature effects: tunneling



Minimum energy path is not a good approximation to the tunneling path:
Rectangular barrier, Eckart, Instanton theory

Example: $\text{H} + \text{HC}_3\text{N}$ 😊

Method of choice: usually DFT

- Including or excluding explicit treatment of ice
- Benchmark!
- Corrections:
 - BSSE
 - Zero Point Energy
 - Dispersion

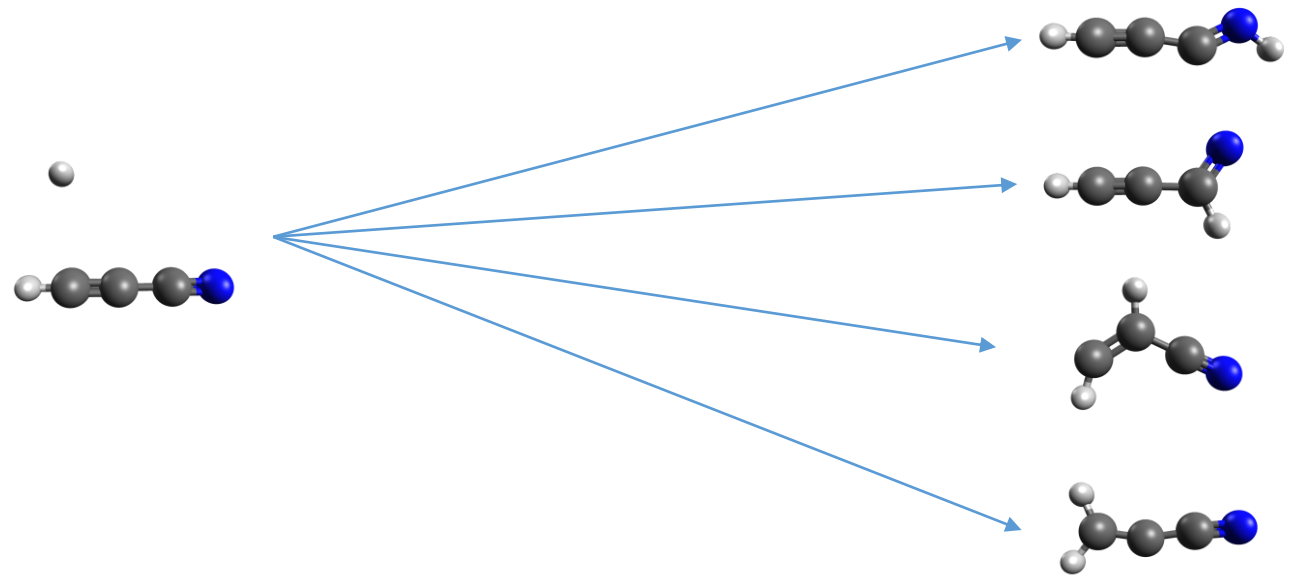


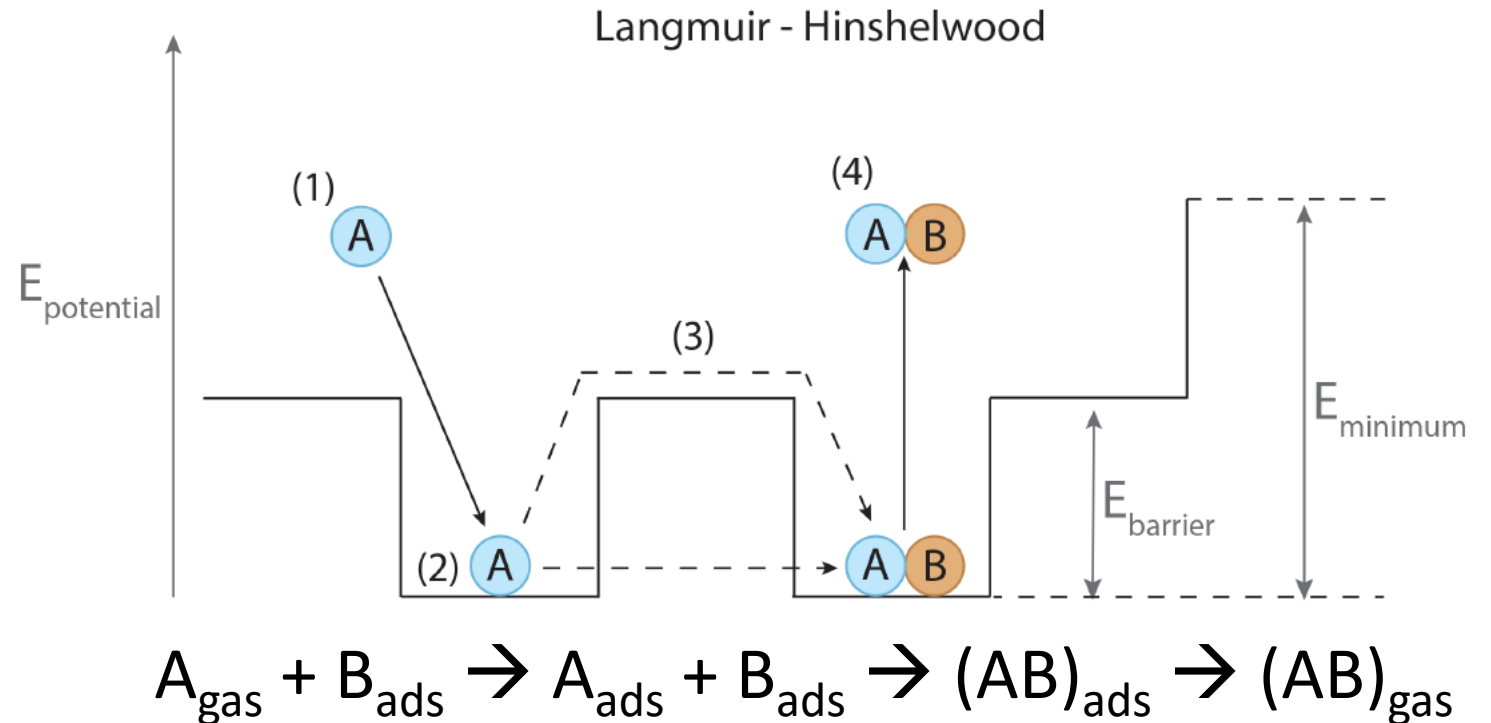
Figure courtesy: Marten Raaphorst

Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

- Introduction Astrochemistry
- Surface processes & Timescales
 - Dissipation (3rd body)
 - Adsorption
 - Desorption
 - Diffusion
 - **Reaction**
 - Energetics of a chemical reaction
 - **Surface reaction mechanisms**
- Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption

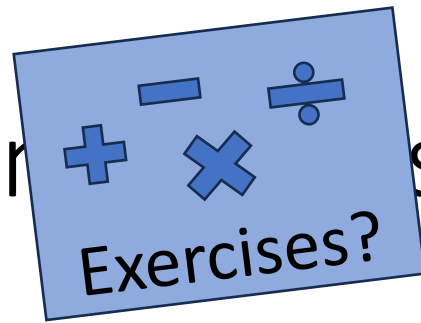
Reaction mechanism: Langmuir-Hinshelwood

Thermalized and
diffusive:

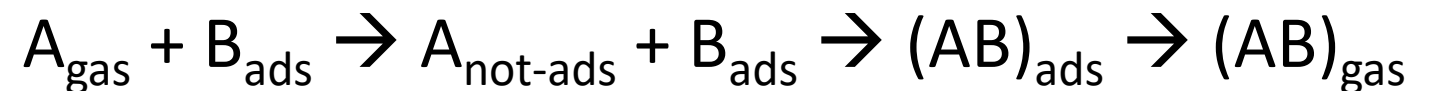
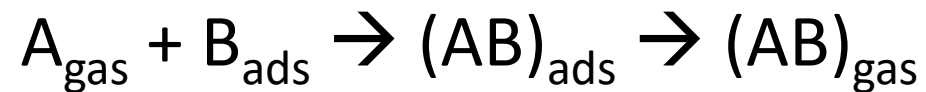
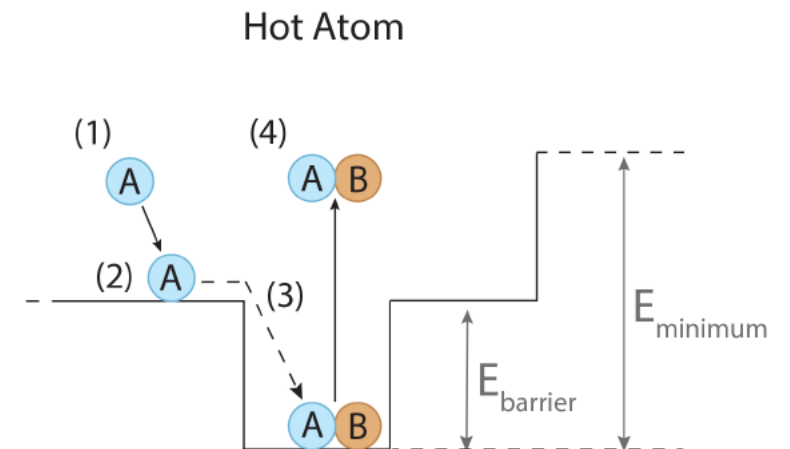
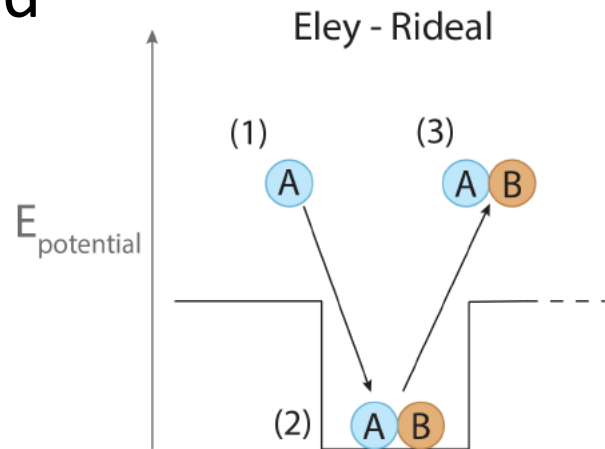


$$k_{LH} = \nu_{\text{trial}} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{\text{react},A+B}}{T}\right) \text{ with } E_{\text{react},A+B} \text{ the reaction barrier}$$

Reaction mechanism: Eley-Rideal or Hot Atom



Non-Thermalized



Timescale comparisons (dark cloud @ 10 K)

Process	Timescale
Dissipation	Picoseconds – microseconds
Reaction	Microseconds – seconds
Diffusion	Microseconds – days
Adsorption	Days – months
Desorption	Seconds – months
Experiment	Days – weeks
Telescope lifetime	Years – decades
Molecular cloud	Million years

Surface processes in rate equation models

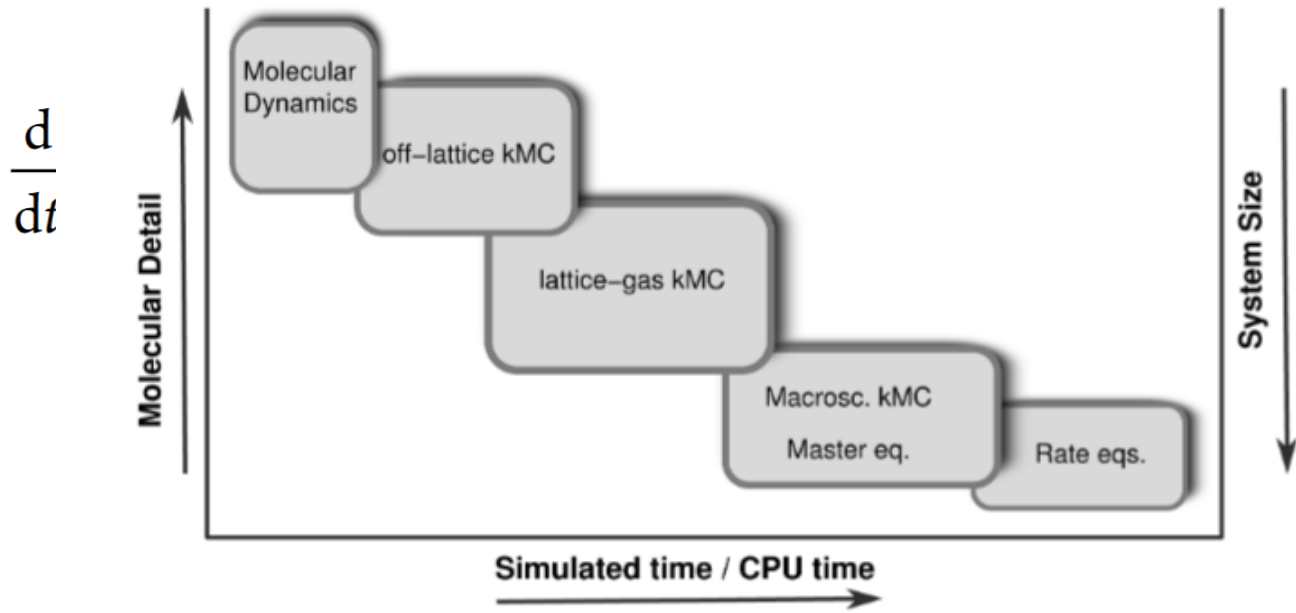
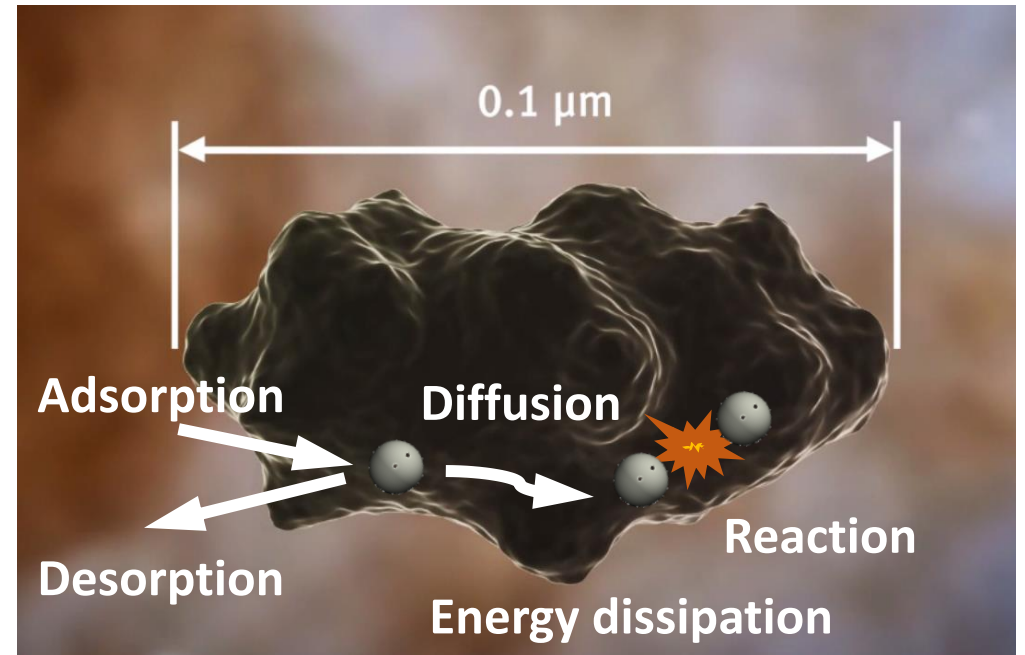


Figure 1. Overview of the different simulation methods mentioned in the present review.



Surface processes in rate equation models



UCLCHEM

[Docs](#)

[Blog](#)

[UCLCHEM](#)

[3D-PDR](#)

[Emulators](#)

[UCLPDR](#)

[UCLCHEMCMC](#)

[Other](#)

v3.3.1 ▼



UCLCHEM

A Gas-Grain Chemical Code for astrochemical modelling

[View on GitHub](#)

[Get a Zip](#)

[Get a Tarball](#)

UCLCHEM is a gas-grain chemical code for astrochemical modelling that can be used as a stand alone Fortran program or a Python module. It propagates the abundances of chemical species through a network of user-defined reactions according to the physical conditions of the gas.

Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

- Introduction Astrochemistry

- **Surface processes**

- Dissociation

- Adsorption

- Diffusion

- Evaporation

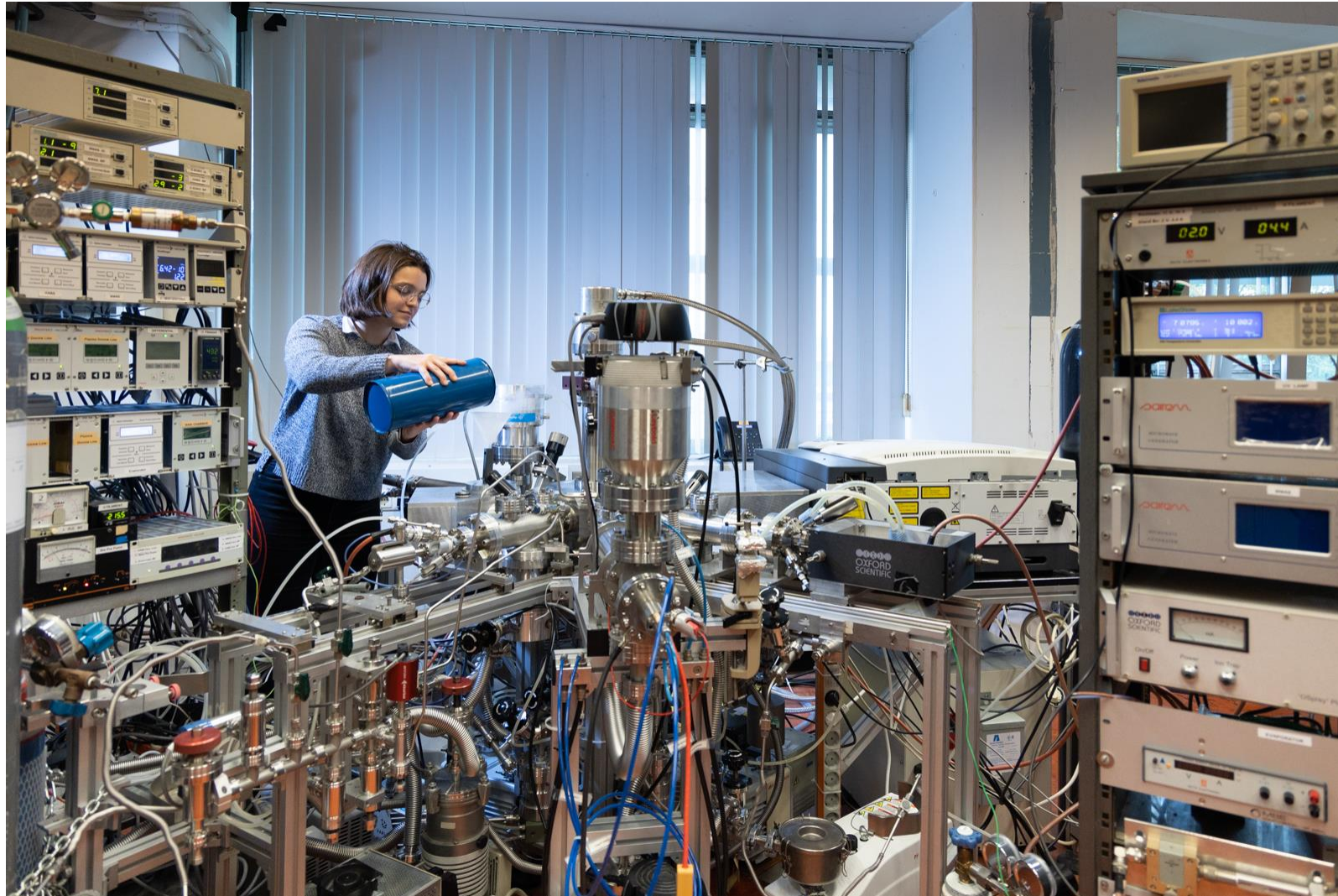
- Catalytic reaction mechanisms

- Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption

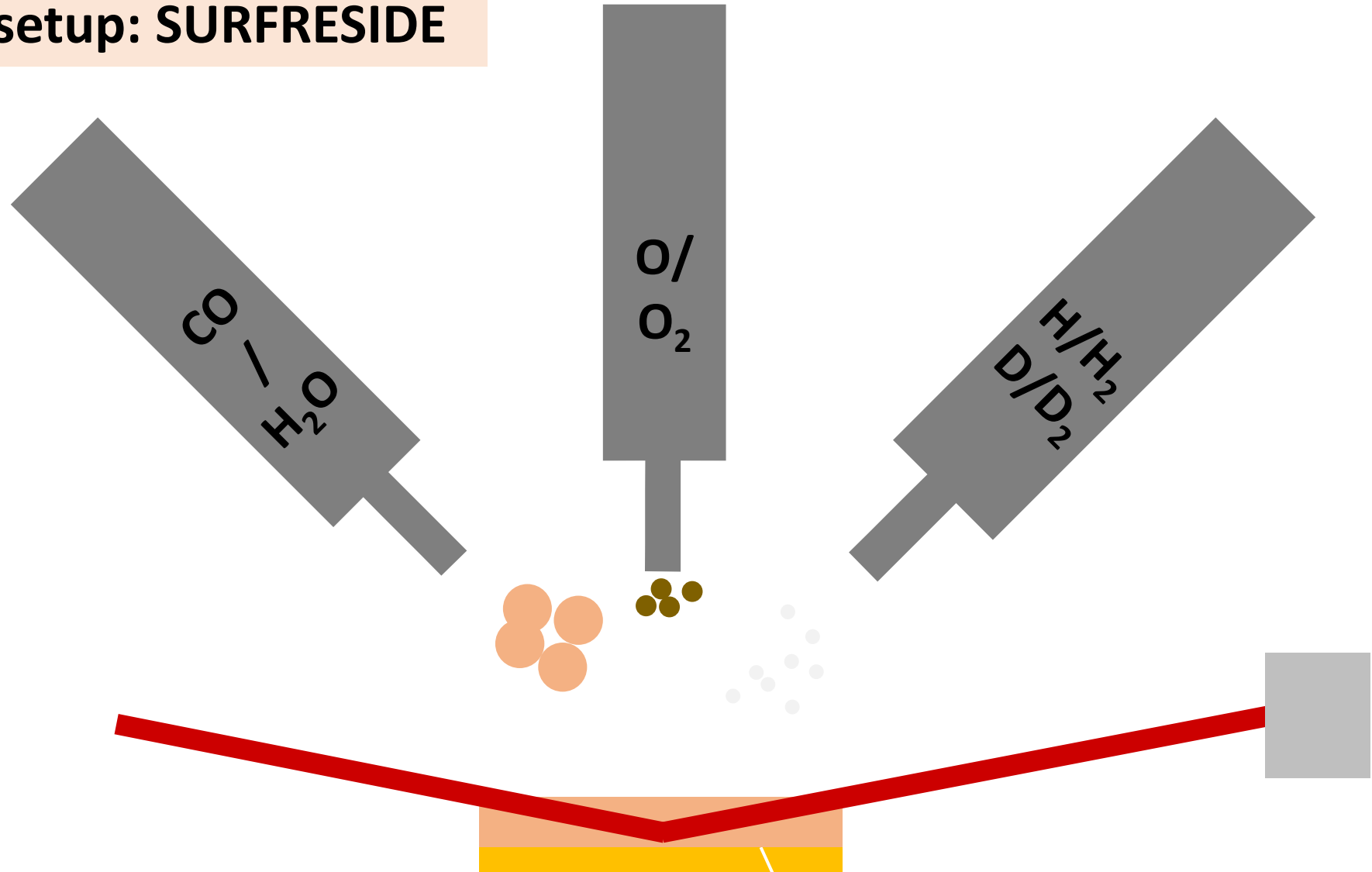


Experimental work?

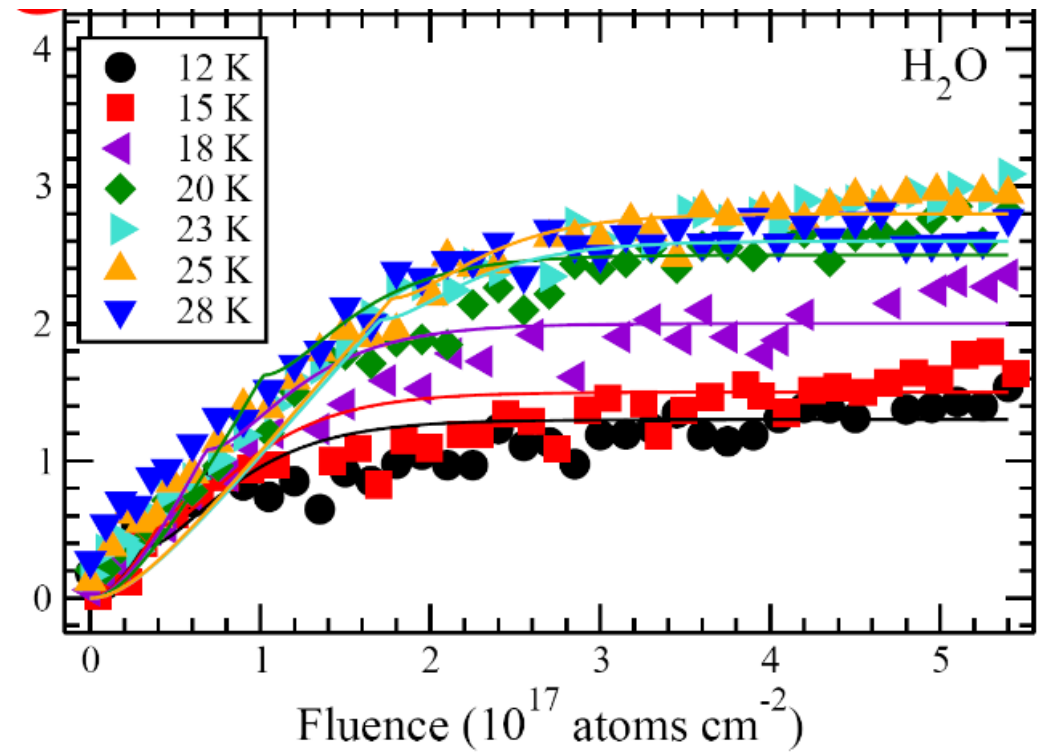
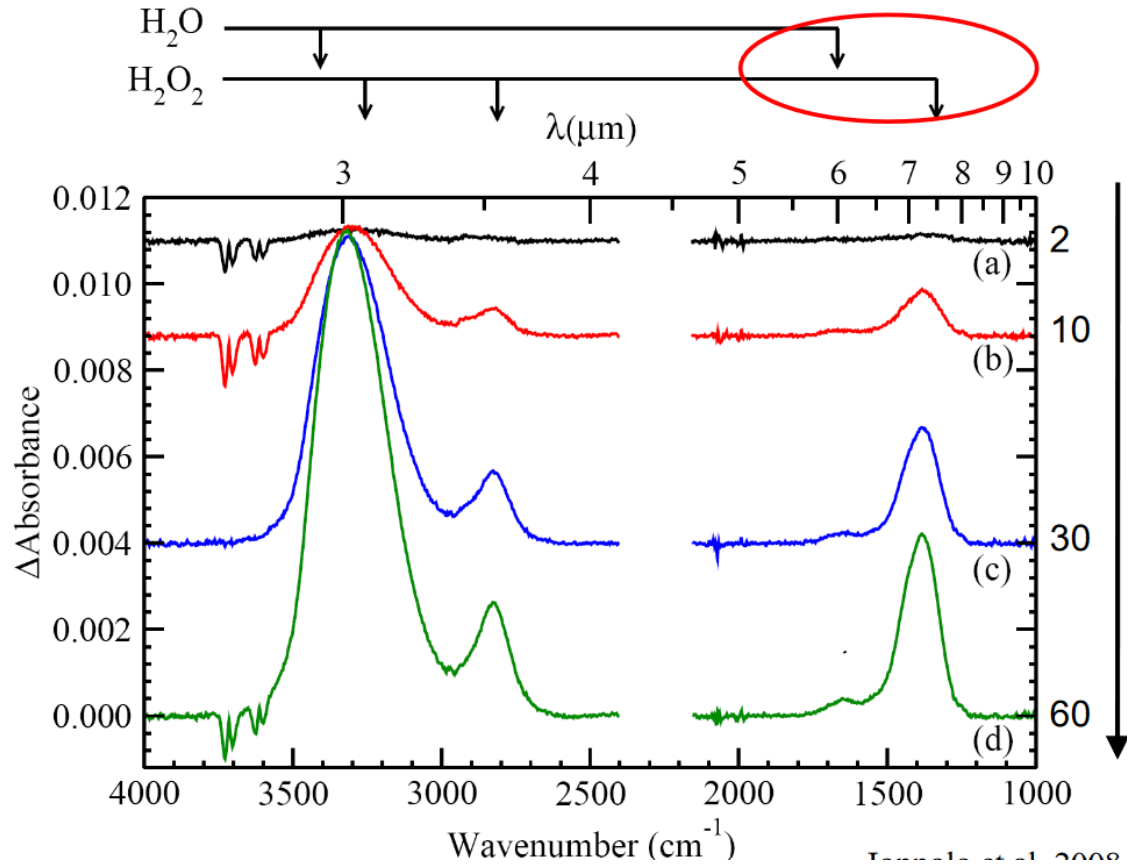
Laboratory for Astrophysics @ Leiden



Experimental setup: SURFRESIDE



Laboratory for Astrophysics @ Leiden



Ioppolo et al. ApJ 2008

Water reaction network

References:

Van de Hulst 1949

Tielens & Hagen 1982

Hiraoka et al. 1998

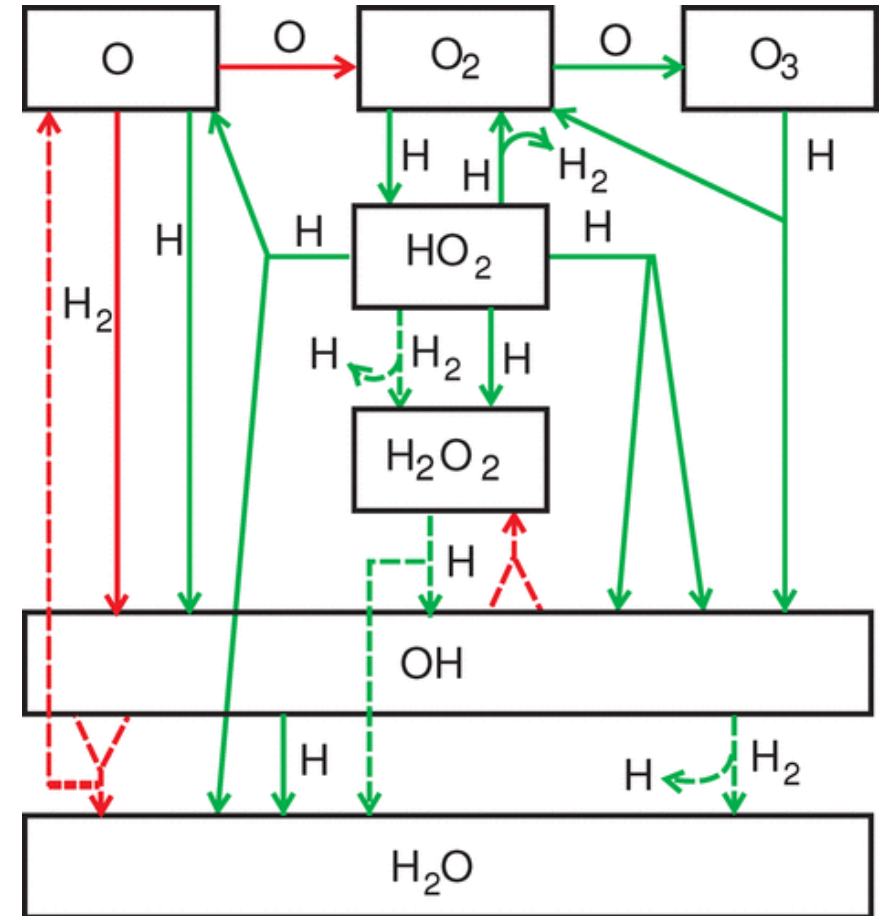
Ioppolo et al. 2008

Dulieu et al. 2010

Cuppen et al. 2010

Oba et al. 2012

Lamberts et al. 2017



Van Dishoeck et al. 2013

Theoretical work on water formation I

Kinetic Monte Carlo lattice-gas model

PCCP

RSC Publishing

Faraday Discussions



Cite this: *Faraday Discuss.*, 2014, 168, 327

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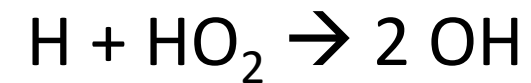
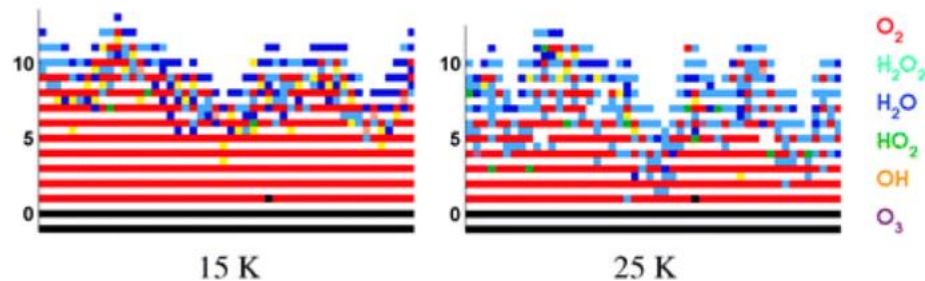
Water formation at low temperatures by surface O₂ hydrogenation III: Monte Carlo simulation

Cite this: *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2013, 15, 8287

Thanja Lamberts,^{*ab} Herma M. Cuppen,^b Sergio Ioppolo,^{†a} and Harold Linnartz^a

The formation of ice mantles on interstellar grains revisited – the effect of exothermicity

T. Lamberts,^{ab} X. de Vries^a and H. M. Cuppen^{*a}



Theoretical work on water formation II

Reaction rate constants

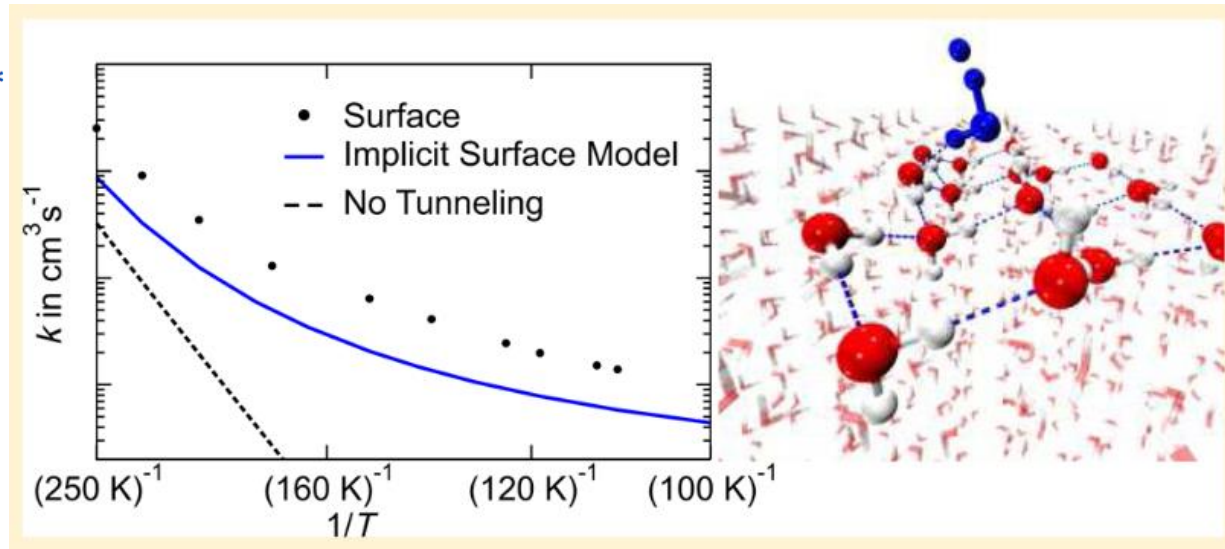


Article

<http://pubs.acs.org/journal/aescq>

Atom Tunneling in the Water Formation Reaction $\text{H}_2 + \text{OH} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}$ on an Ice Surface

Jan Meisner,^{1b} Thanja Lamberts, and Johannes Kästner*



Theoretical work on water formation II

Reaction rate constants

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 846:43 (7pp), 2017 September 1



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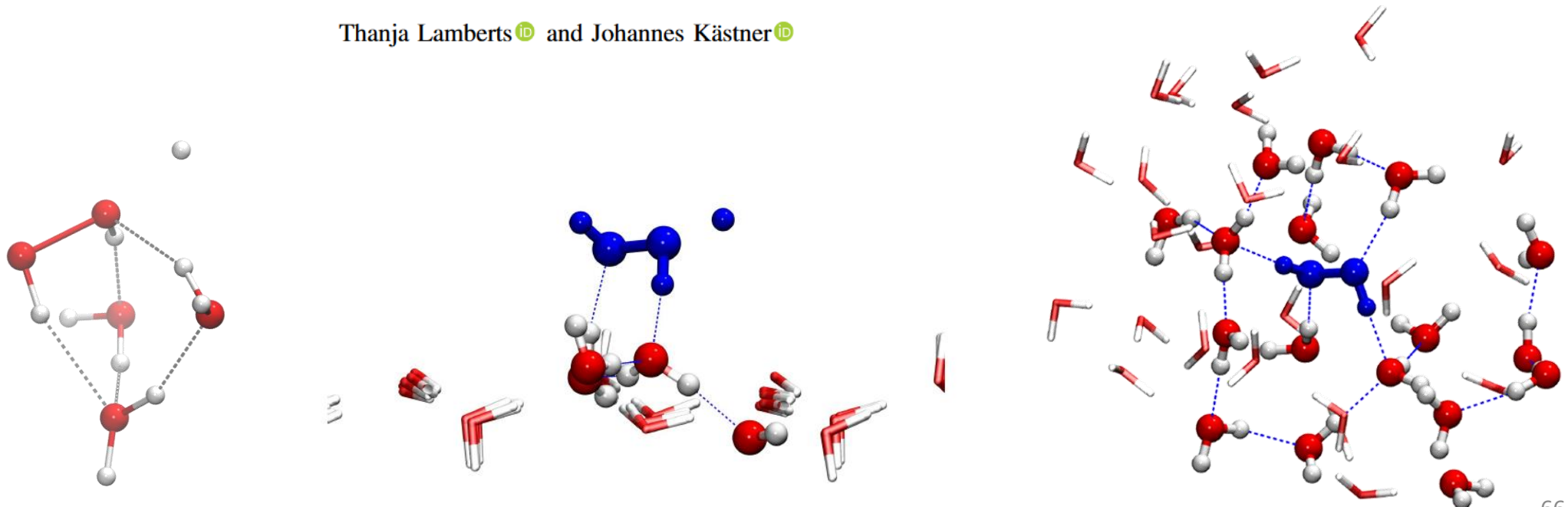
<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa8311>



CrossMark

Influence of Surface and Bulk Water Ice on the Reactivity of a Water-forming Reaction

Thanja Lamberts  and Johannes Kästner 

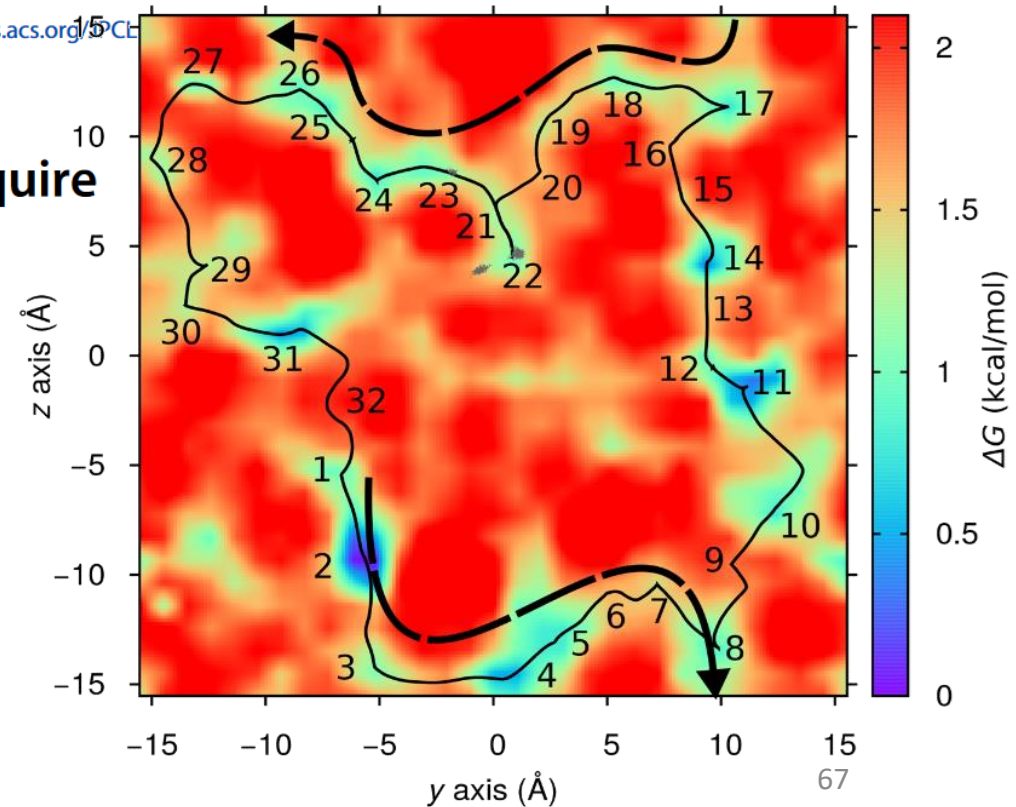


Theoretical work on water formation III

Diffusion parameters

Molecular Oxygen Formation in Interstellar Ices Does Not Require Tunneling

Marco Pezzella, Oliver T. Unke,^{id} and Markus Meuwly*^{id}



Theoretical work on water formation IV

Diffusion parameters

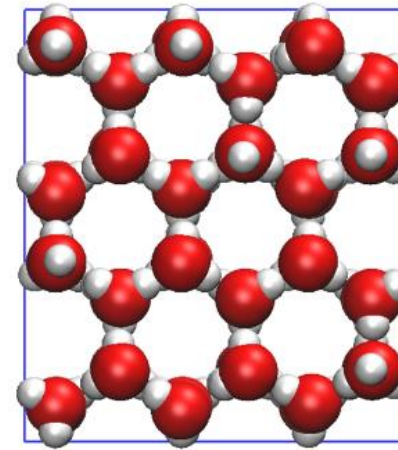
THE JOURNAL OF
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY C

Article

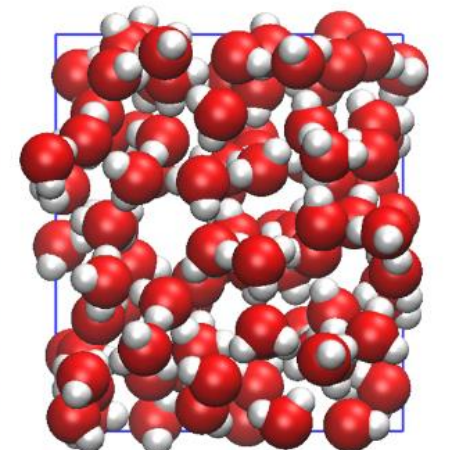
pubs.acs.org/JPCC

Long-Time Scale Simulations of Tunneling-Assisted Diffusion of Hydrogen on Ice Surfaces at Low Temperature

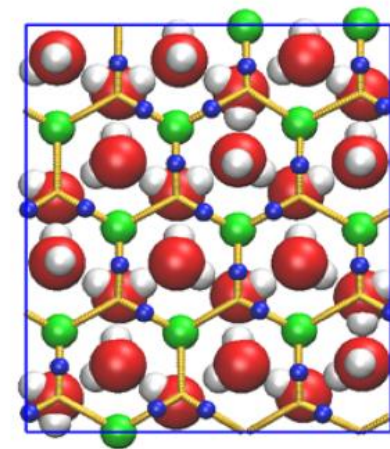
V. Ásgeirsson,^{†,‡} H. Jónsson,^{§,¶} and K. T. Wikfeldt^{*,†,¶}



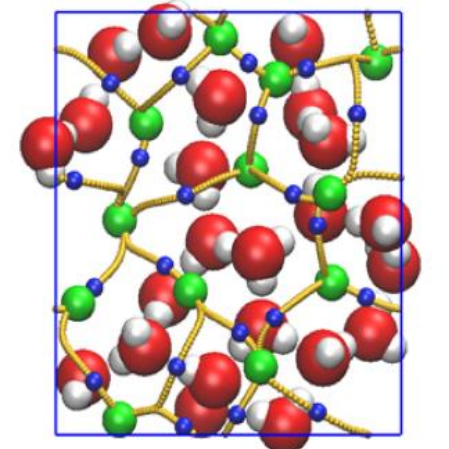
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

In summary:



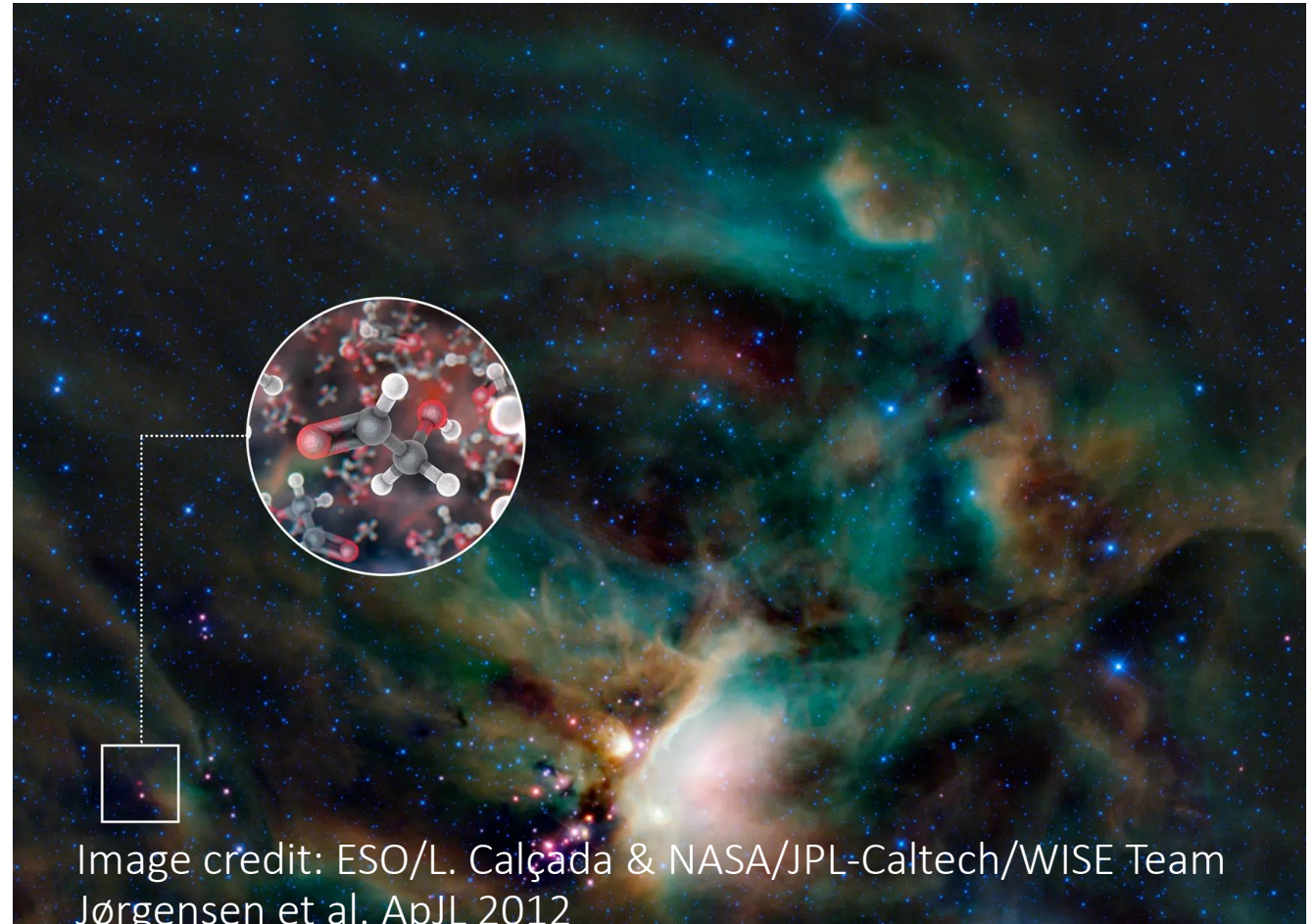
Courtesy: Lamberts & Van Dishoeck

Great, H₂O! But... what about biomolecules?

Simplest sugar: CHOCH₂OH

Ingredients: CO and H

We will look at molecules that can be formed with CO and H in the exercise



Sneak-peak at the molecular scales

- Introduction Astrochemistry
- Surface processes & Timescales
 - Dissipation (3rd body)
 - Adsorption
 - Desorption
 - Diffusion
 - Reaction
 - Energetics of a chemical reaction
 - Surface reaction mechanisms
- **Energetic Processing & Non-thermal Desorption**

Energetic Processing

Different sources of radiation:

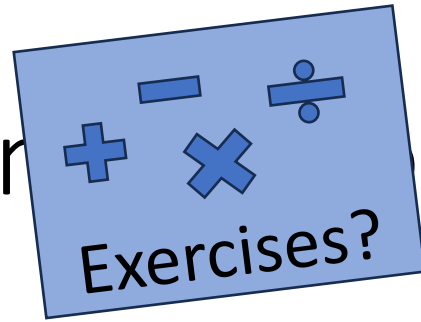
- UV
- X-Rays
- Cosmic Rays



Leads to:

- Excitation of molecules
- Dissociation of molecules
- Secondary electron generation
- UV generated radiation

Non-thermal Desorption



At 10 K it is unlikely that molecules can desorb “thermally”

Alternative mechanisms that are proposed are:

- Desorption induced by energetic radiation
 - Problem: what about dissociation?
- Desorption induced by the excess energy of a chemical reaction
 - Problem: what about dissipation?

Take Home Messages

- Ice surface chemistry leads to formation of (saturated) molecules
- Dust grains are pivotal in taking up excess energy of reactions
- There are various elementary surface processes at play
- Surface reactions can be barrierless or with a barrier
- There are thermal and non-thermal desorption mechanisms

A plethora of computational chemical techniques is available to tackle the research questions above 😊

Further Reading Material

- Chapter from the book Surface Science written by Marco Griebeling and Sharon Diamant, students of the MSc course Surface Science, as used to be taught by Ludo Juurlink

- Paper by Herma Cuppen et al.: Grain Surface Models and Data for Astrochemistry