

The molecular composition of comets

Dominique Bockelée-Morvan



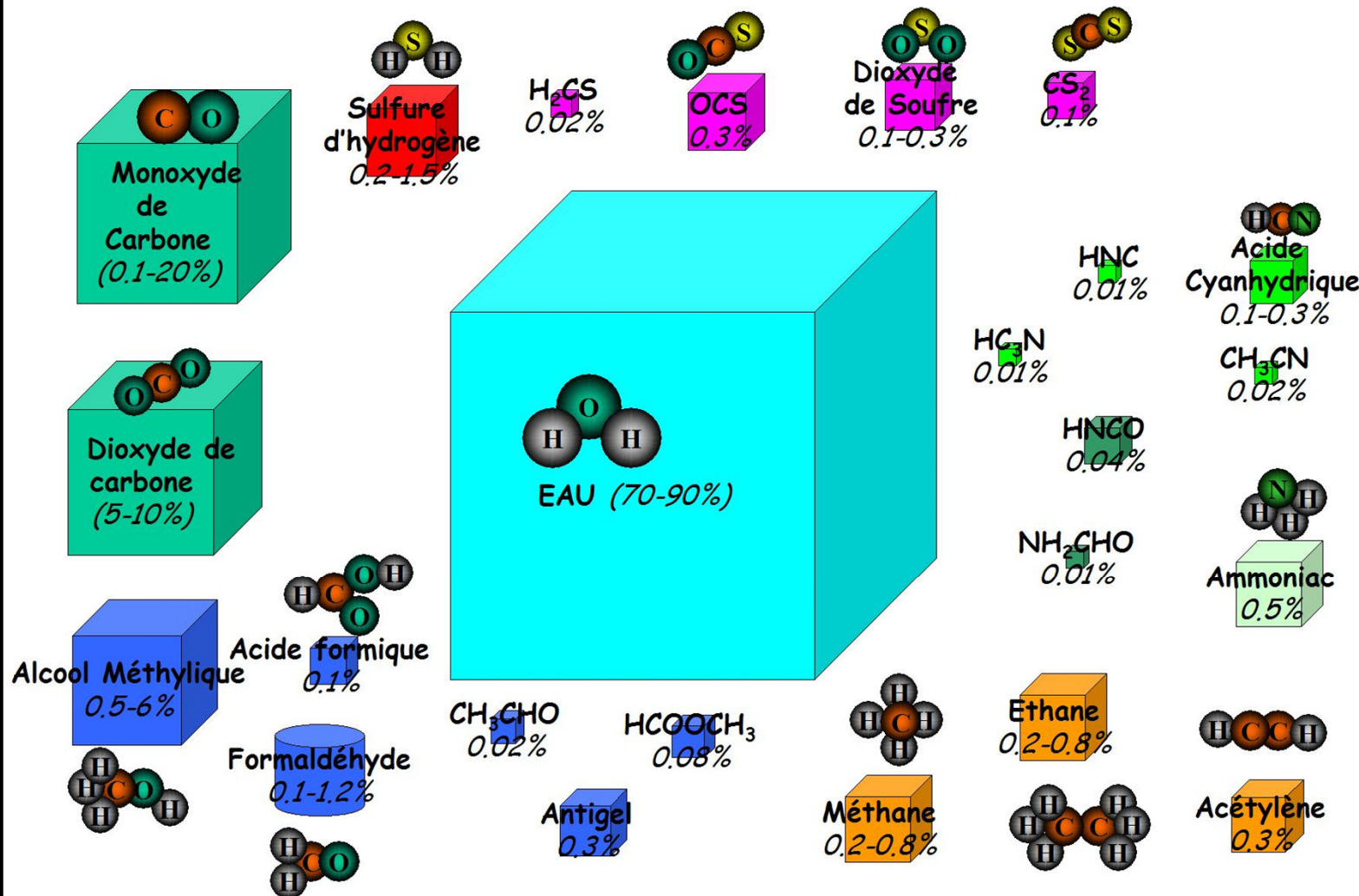
Most Rosetta results concerning chemistry are embargoed !



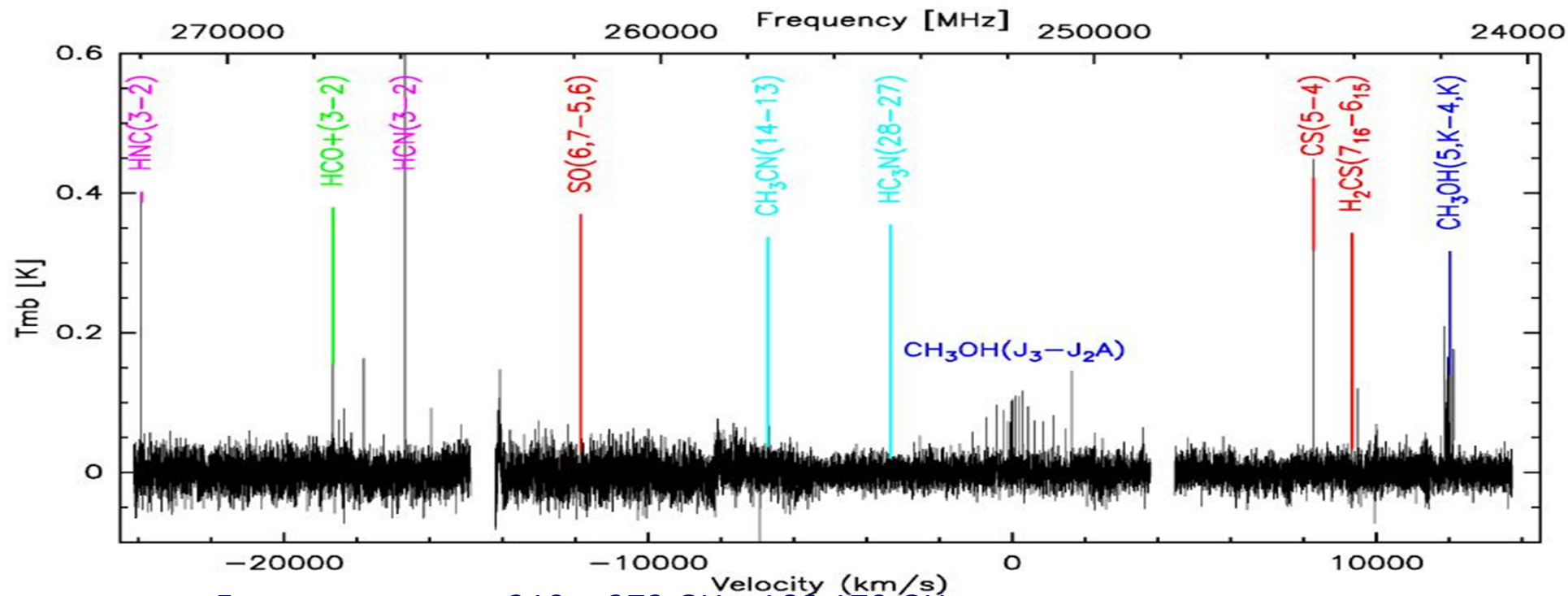
Molecular composition : summary

Composition des comètes : volatiles

Molécules identifiées dans l'atmosphère des comètes



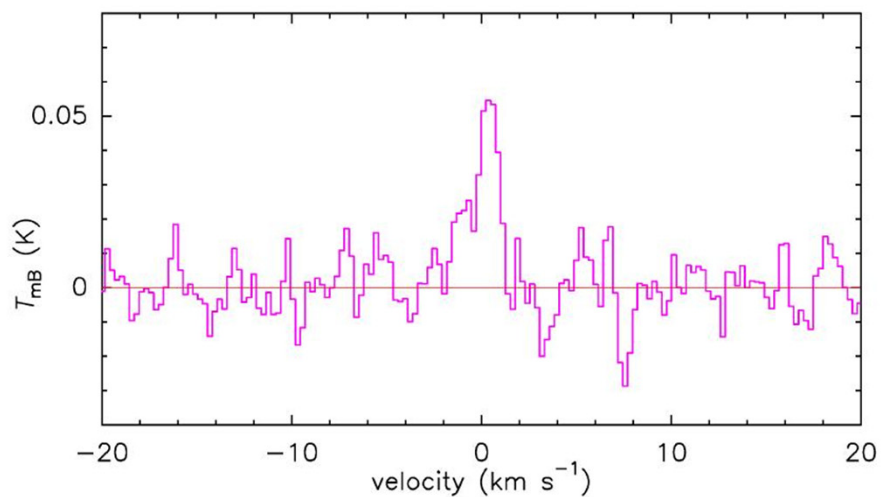
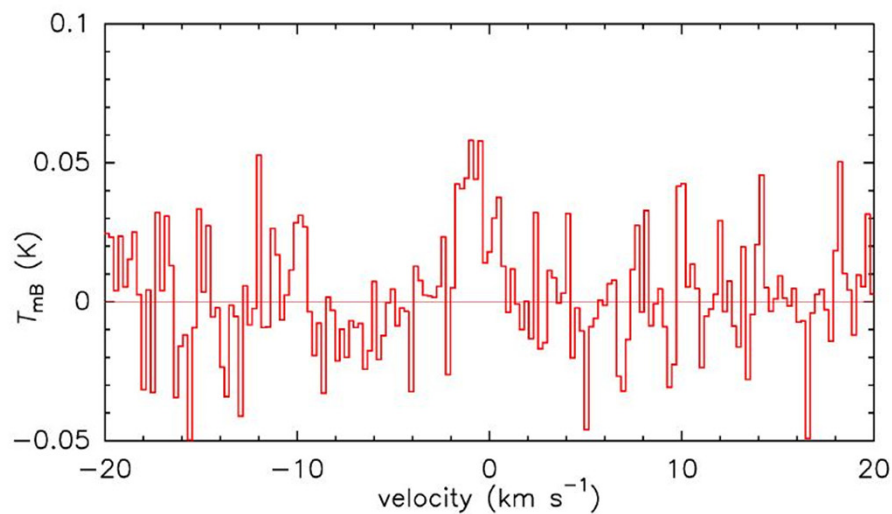
Comet C/2012 F6 (Lemmon): 14–18 March 2013 – IRAM–30m



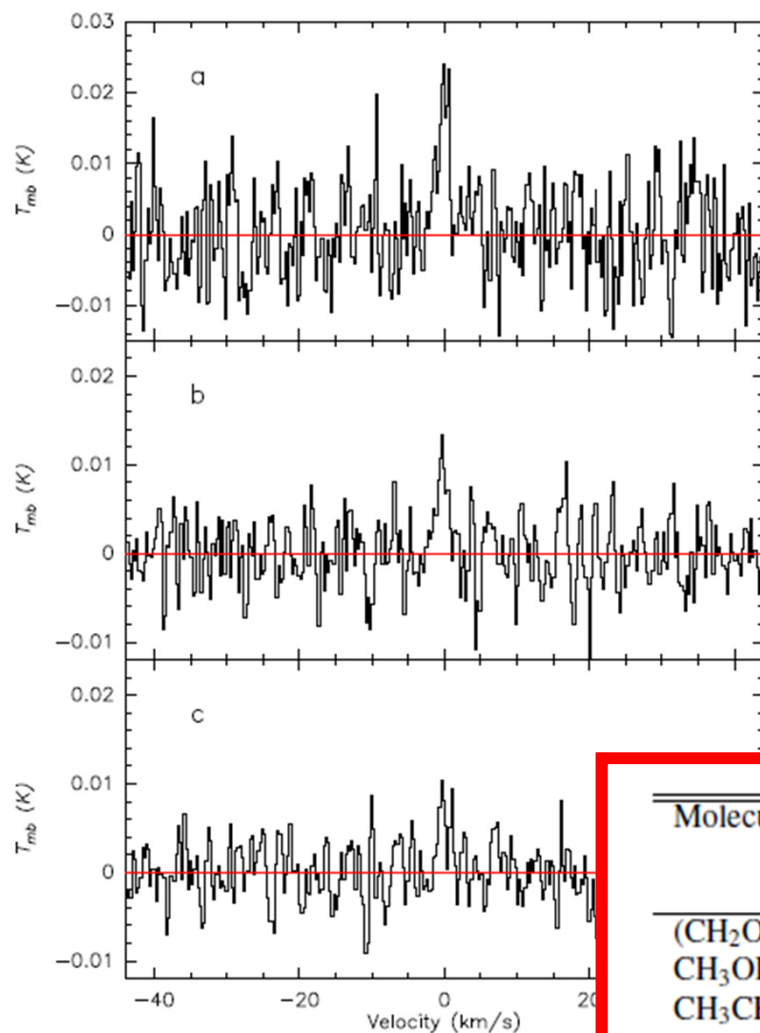
Frequency survey: 210-> 272 GHz, 166-170 GHz

C/2012 F6 (Lemmon): $\text{H}_2\text{CS}(7_{16}-6_{15})$ 244GHz: 14 Mar–6 Apr.2013

C/2012 F6 (Lemmon): $\text{HC}_3\text{N}(25+26+27+28+29-28)$: Mar–Apr.2013



Ethylene glycol and other CHO-bearing in comets Lovejoy and Lemmon



Biver et al. 2014

Molecule	Abundance (%)		
	C/1995 O1 ^a (Hale-Bopp)	C/2012 F6 (Lemmon)	C/2013 R1 (Lovejoy)
HCN	0.25	0.14	0.16
CO	23	4.0 ^b	7.2 ^c
H ₂ CO	1.1	0.7 ^c	0.7 ^c
CH ₃ OH	2.4	1.6	2.6
HCOOH	0.09	< 0.07	0.12
(CH ₂ OH) ₂	0.25	0.24	0.35
HNCO	0.10	0.025 ^c	0.021 ^c
NH ₂ CHO	0.02	0.016	0.021
HCOOCH ₃	0.08	< 0.16	< 0.20
CH ₃ CHO	0.025	< 0.07	0.10
CH ₂ OHCHO	< 0.04	< 0.08	< 0.07

Brouillet et al. 2014

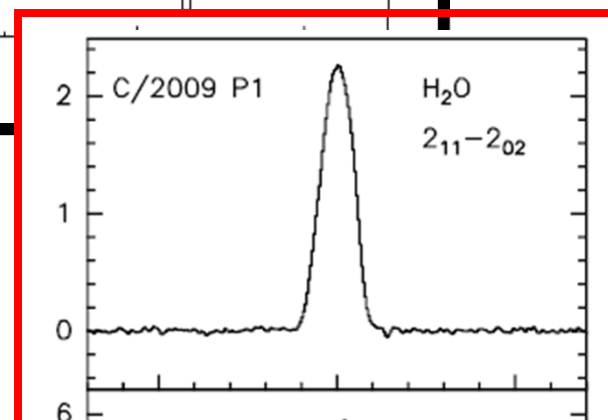
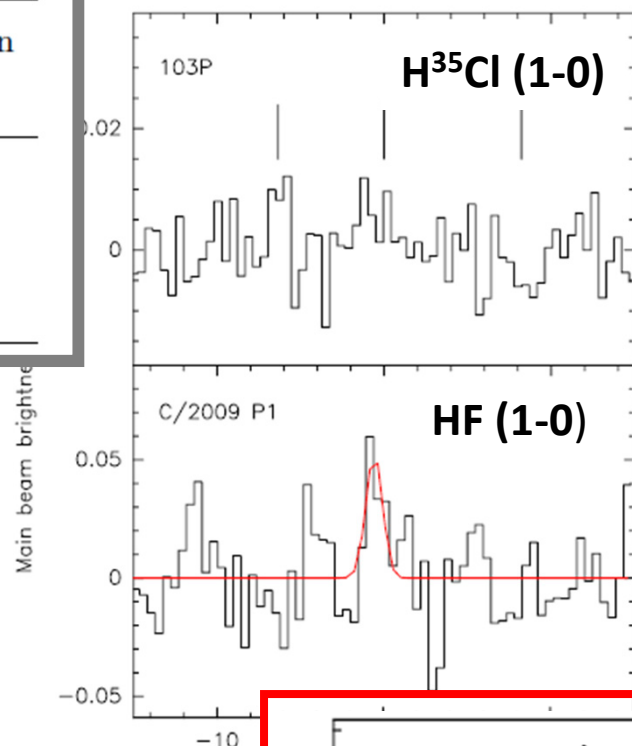
Molecule	Column density ^a (cm ⁻²)			Abundance (%H ₂ O)		
	Orion-KL	Sgr B2	NGC 7129	Hale-Bopp	Lemmon	Lovejoy
(CH ₂ OH) ₂	4.6 10 ¹⁵	2.3 10 ¹⁵	2.0 10 ¹⁵	0.25	0.24	0.35
CH ₃ OH	4.2 10 ¹⁸	5.6 10 ¹⁸	3.4 10 ²⁰	2.4	1.6	2.6
CH ₃ CH ₂ OH	2.5 10 ¹⁶	2.1 10 ¹⁶	3.0 10 ¹⁸	≤0.1	≤0.11	≤0.14
CH ₂ OHCHO	≤3.5 10 ¹⁴	1.8 10 ¹⁵	1.0 10 ¹⁵	≤0.04	≤0.08	≤0.07

Search for HF and HCl with Herschel

HX	Comet	$Q(\text{HX})/Q(\text{H}_2\text{O})^a$ ($\times 10^{-4}$)	$(\text{X}/\text{O})_{\odot}^b$ ($\times 10^{-4}$)	Depletion factor
HCl	103P	$< 1.1^c$	$6.5^{+6.4}_{-3.2}$	$> 6^{+6}_{-3}$
HCl	C/2009 P1	$< 2.2^d$	$6.5^{+6.4}_{-3.2}$	$> 3^{+3}_{-1}$
HF	C/2009 P1	1.8 ± 0.5^e	$0.74^{+0.74}_{-0.37}$	$0.4^{+0.4}_{-0.2}$

- Depletion of Cl/O > 3 wrt protosolar in HCl
- Inconsistent with HCl being the main carrier of chlorine in the protosolar nebula
- Inconsistent with current interpretation of HCl depletion in dense clouds (HCl locked in grains) but in light with HCl in L1157 B1 shock (Codella et al.

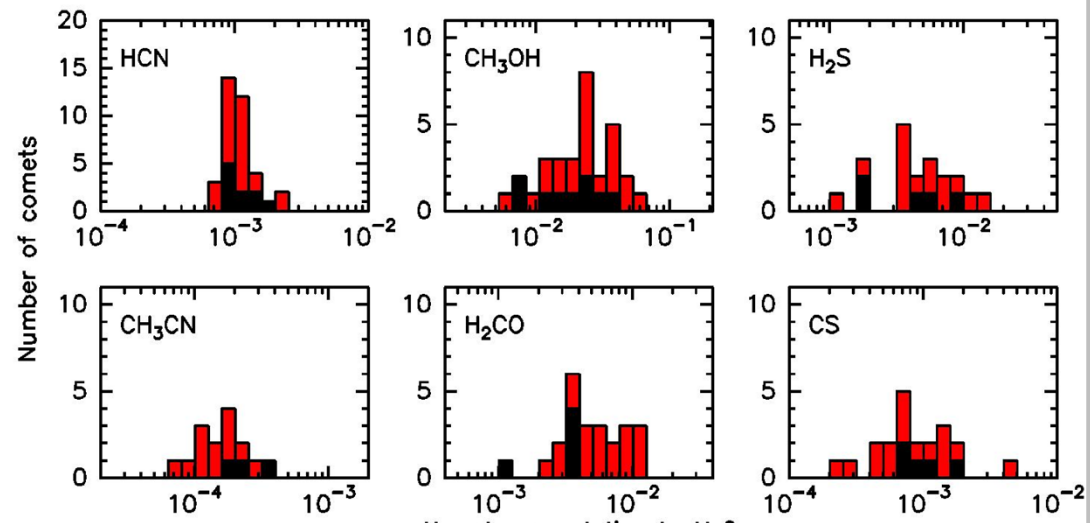
Solar-like HF abundance to be confirmed (Rosetta ?)



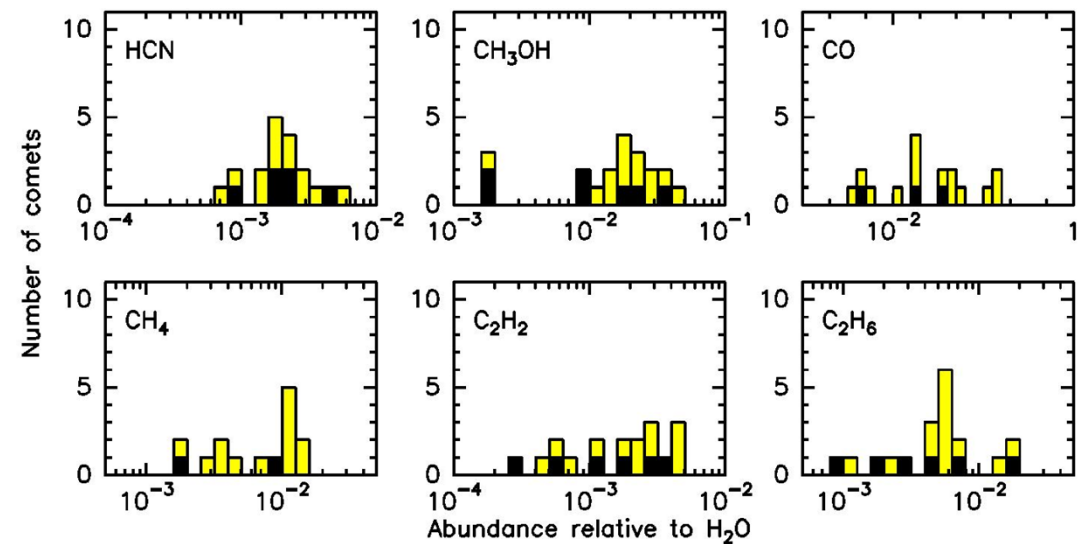
Bockelée-Morvan et al. 2013)

Strong diversity !

Radio data



IR data



(in black Jupiter Family comets)

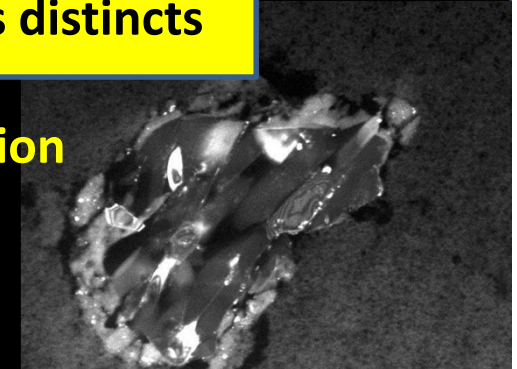
Composition de la matière réfractaire

- ✓ Poussières cométaires: silicates et matière organique
- ✓ Minéraux présents dans les météorites et formés à haute température
- ✓ Olivine cristalline, anorthite ...
- ✓ Inclusions riches en Ca-Al, chondrules
- ✓ Peu de grains pré-solaires –présence de silicates amorphes d'origine interstellaire
- ✓ Acides aminés : glycine

- Les comètes ont incorporé des matériaux formés à haute température dans les régions internes de la nébuleuse
- Continuum comètes-astéroïdes - matériaux similaires mais distincts

Important mélange radial dans la nébuleuse avant la formation des comètes

- ✓ Diffusion par turbulence dans le plan du disque
- ✓ Irradiation X des bords du disque

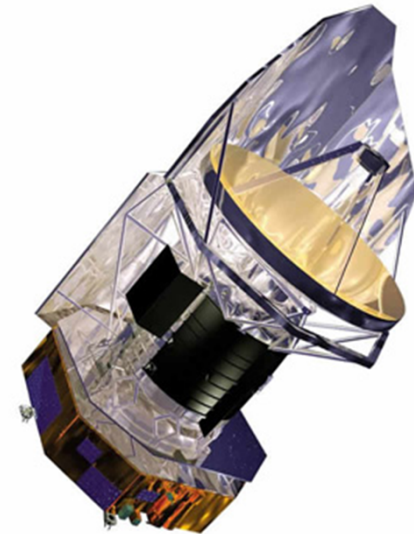


Isotopic ratios : new measurements

Isotopic ratios in comets: key data to constrain the origin of cometary material and Solar System formation

Measurements in cometary atmospheres

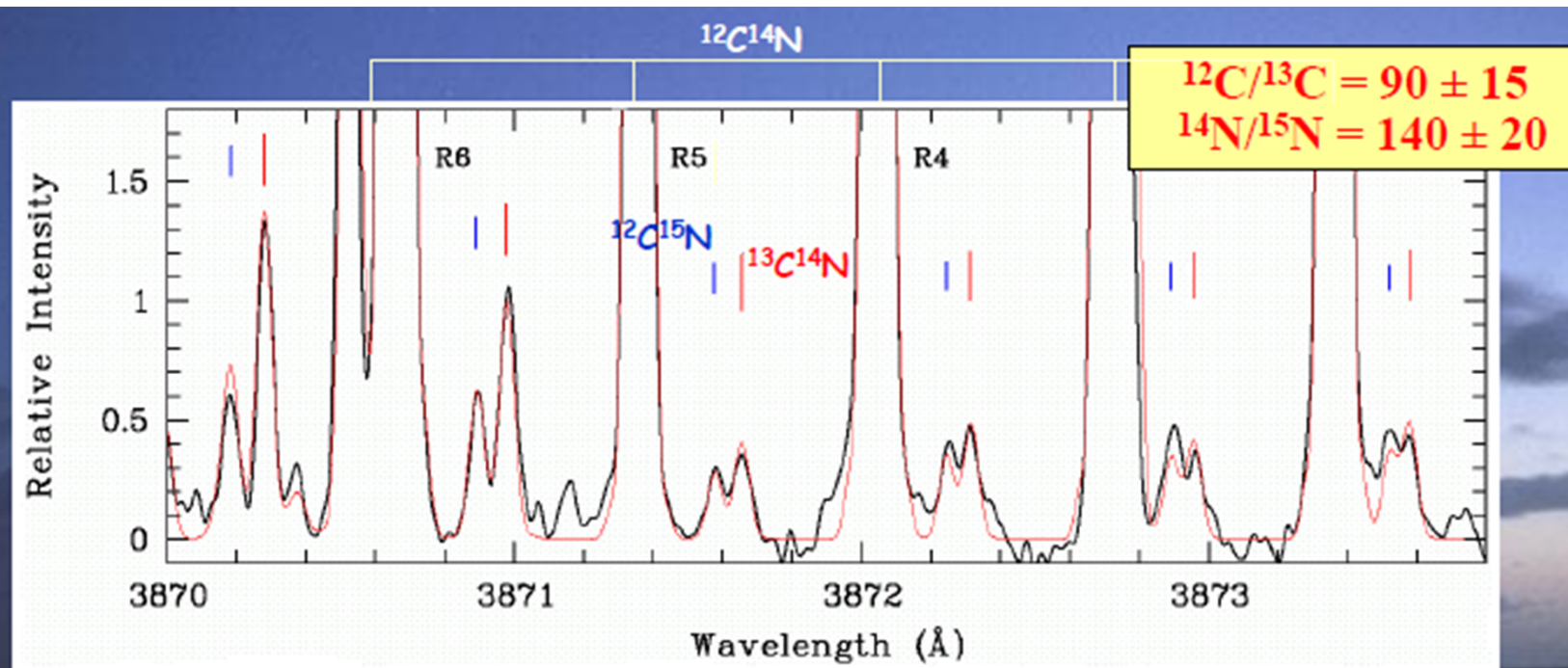
- In situ measurements (mass spectrometers, e.g. Giotto, [Rosetta](#)) or sample return
- UV or visible spectroscopy : radicals (CN, C₂, OH, NH₂)
atoms (D)
- Infrared and radio spectroscopy : molecules, radicals



Measurements are difficult but **significant progresses** were made **recently**

UV or Visible spectroscopy

high spectral resolution required



A section of the UVES spectrum of the CN (0,0) violet band in comet 88P/Howell ($m_r \sim 8.0$).

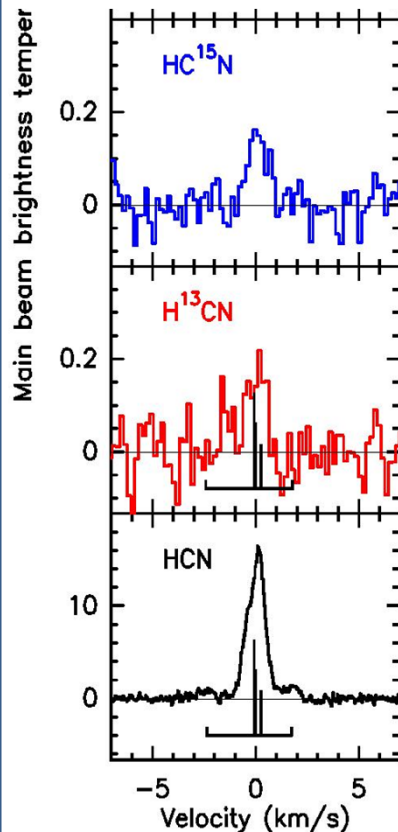
Thick (black) line: mean observed spectrum (total of 12 hrs exptime);

Thin (red) line: synthetic spectrum of ¹²C¹⁴N, ¹²C¹⁵N and ¹³C¹⁴N with the adopted isotopic abundances. The lines of ¹²C¹⁵N are identified by the *short ticks* and those of ¹³C¹⁴N by the *tall ticks*. The quantum numbers of the R lines of ¹²C¹⁴N are also indicated.

Hutsemékers et al. A&A 2005

Isotopic ratios in volatiles: nitrogen

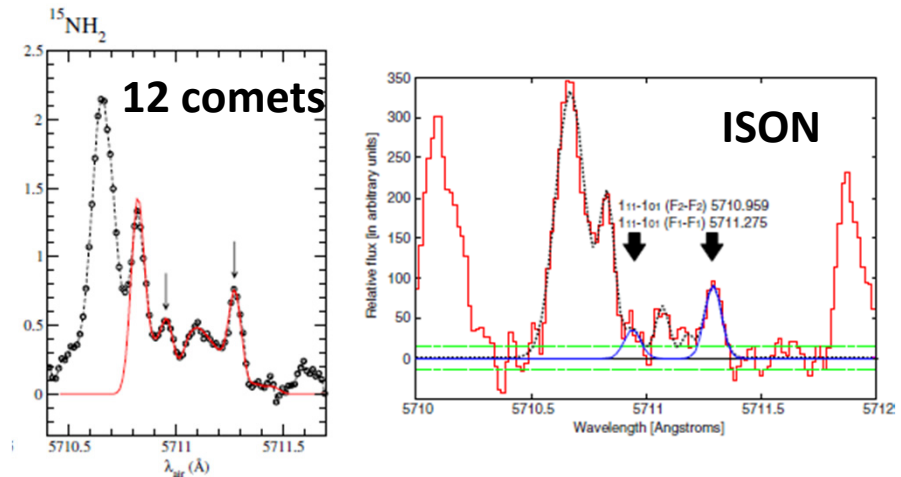
Measurements in HCN



- **17P/Holmes**
 $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N} = 139 \pm 26$
- consistent with value in CN

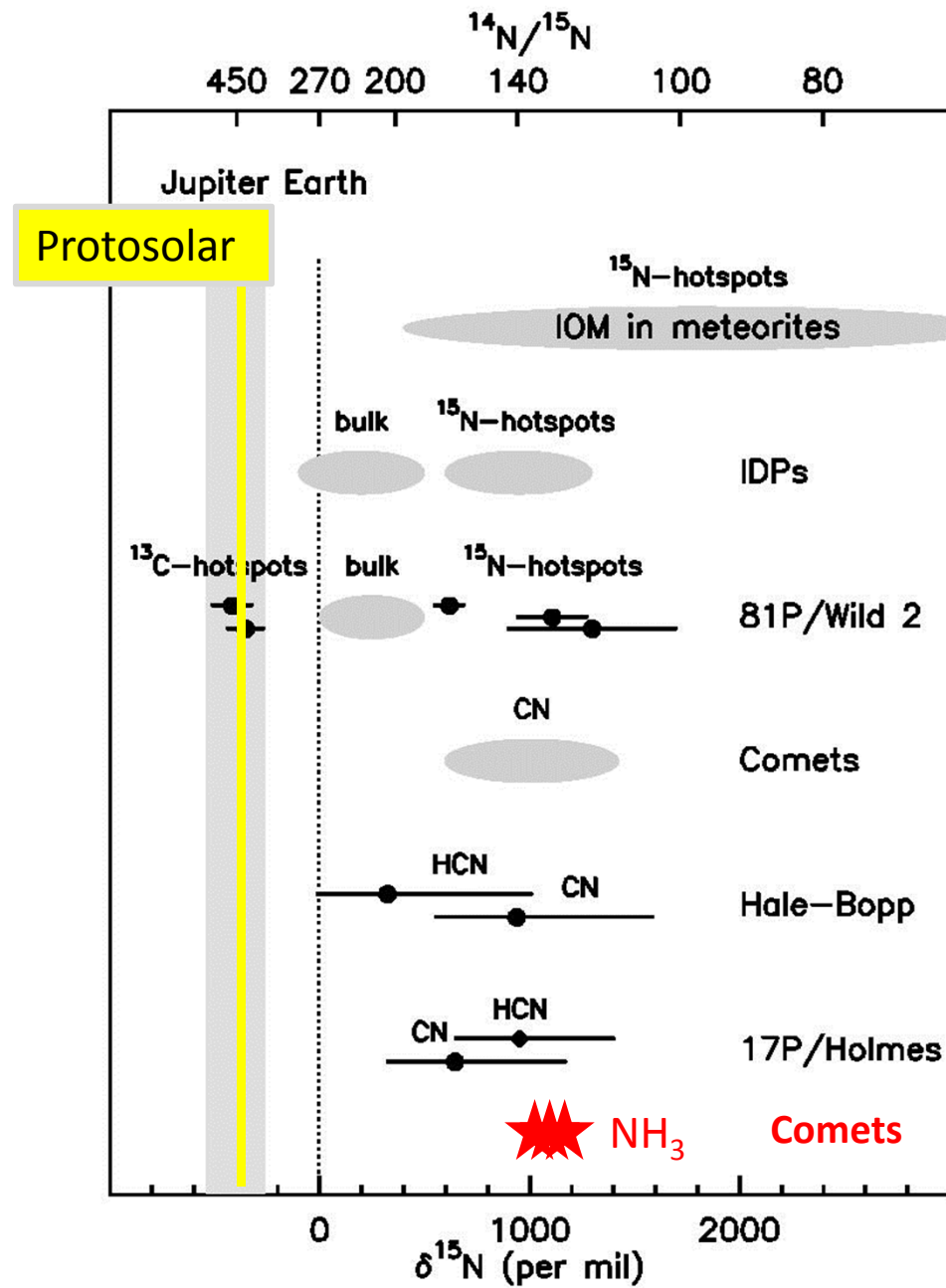
Bockelée-Morvan et al. 2008

Measurements in NH_3 from NH_2

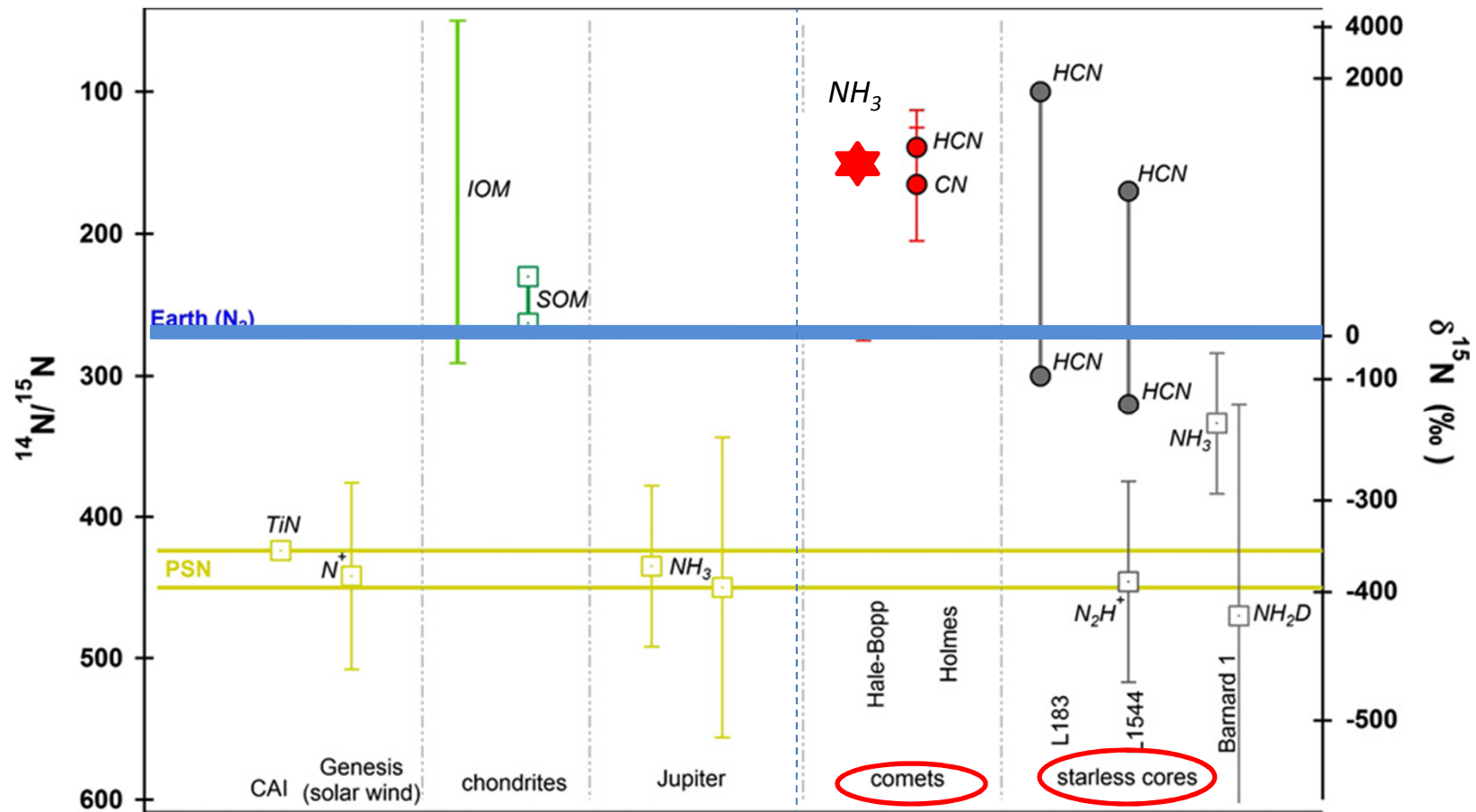


- **12 comets**
 $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N} = 130$ (Rousselot et al. 2014)
- **C/2012 S1 (ISON)**
 $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N} = 139 \pm 38$ (Shinnaka et al. 2014)
- **C/2012 F6 (Lemmon)**
 $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N} = 137 \pm 45$ (Decock et al. This conf)

- Same ^{15}N enrichment in HCN and NH_3
- A factor of two versus Earth value



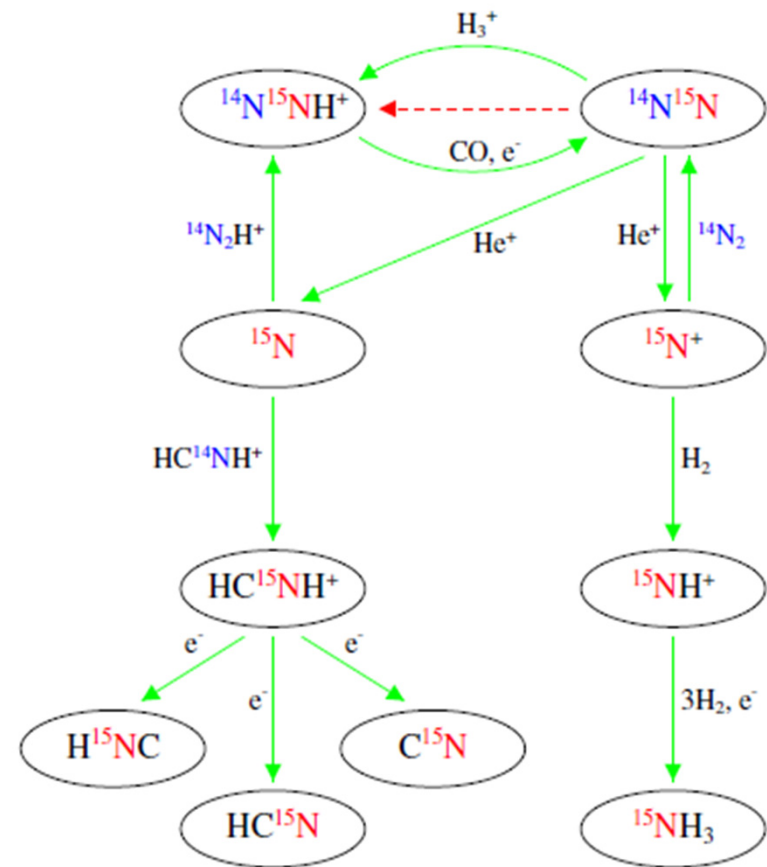
Comparison with prestellar cores



Hily-Brandt et al. 2013

Interpretations of ^{15}N enrichment

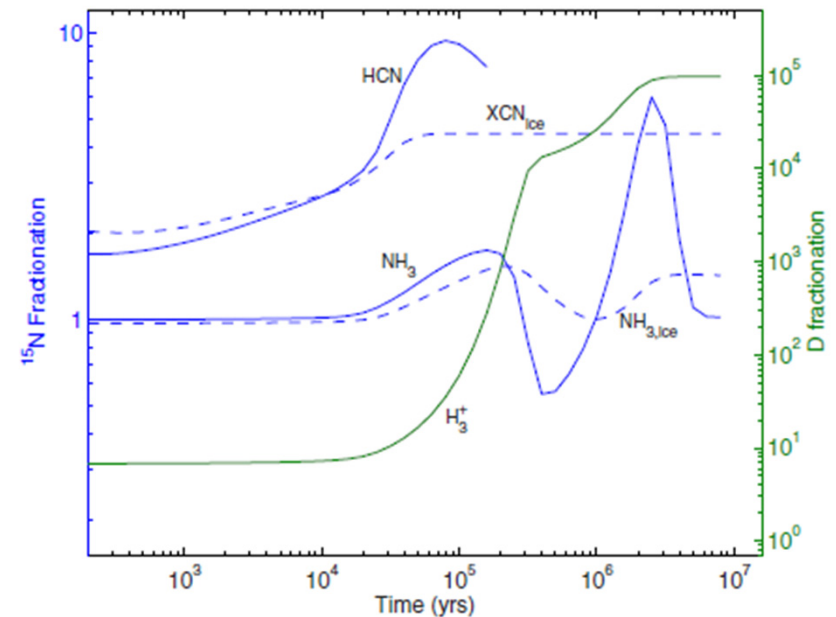
- **In proto-stellar sources** : dichotomy between CN-bearing (^{15}N -rich) and NH_3 (no fract.)
- **Gas-phase chemical models of the ISM** : two pathways for ^{15}N fractionation (Rodgers & Charnley , 2008)
 - to N_2 and NH_3 (slow: 10^6 yr)
 - from N to HCN and other nitriles (rapid: 10^5 yr)
 - ✓ consistent with ISM sources
 - ✓ comet material : longer time scales ?
- **Grain-surface chemistry** :
formation of ammonia from ^{15}N -rich atomic N ?
- **Models considering self-shielding of N_2 photodissociation** (Heays et al. 2014)
 - ✓ explain ^{15}N enrichment in HCN
 - ✓ less clear for NH_3



Wirstrom et al. (2012)

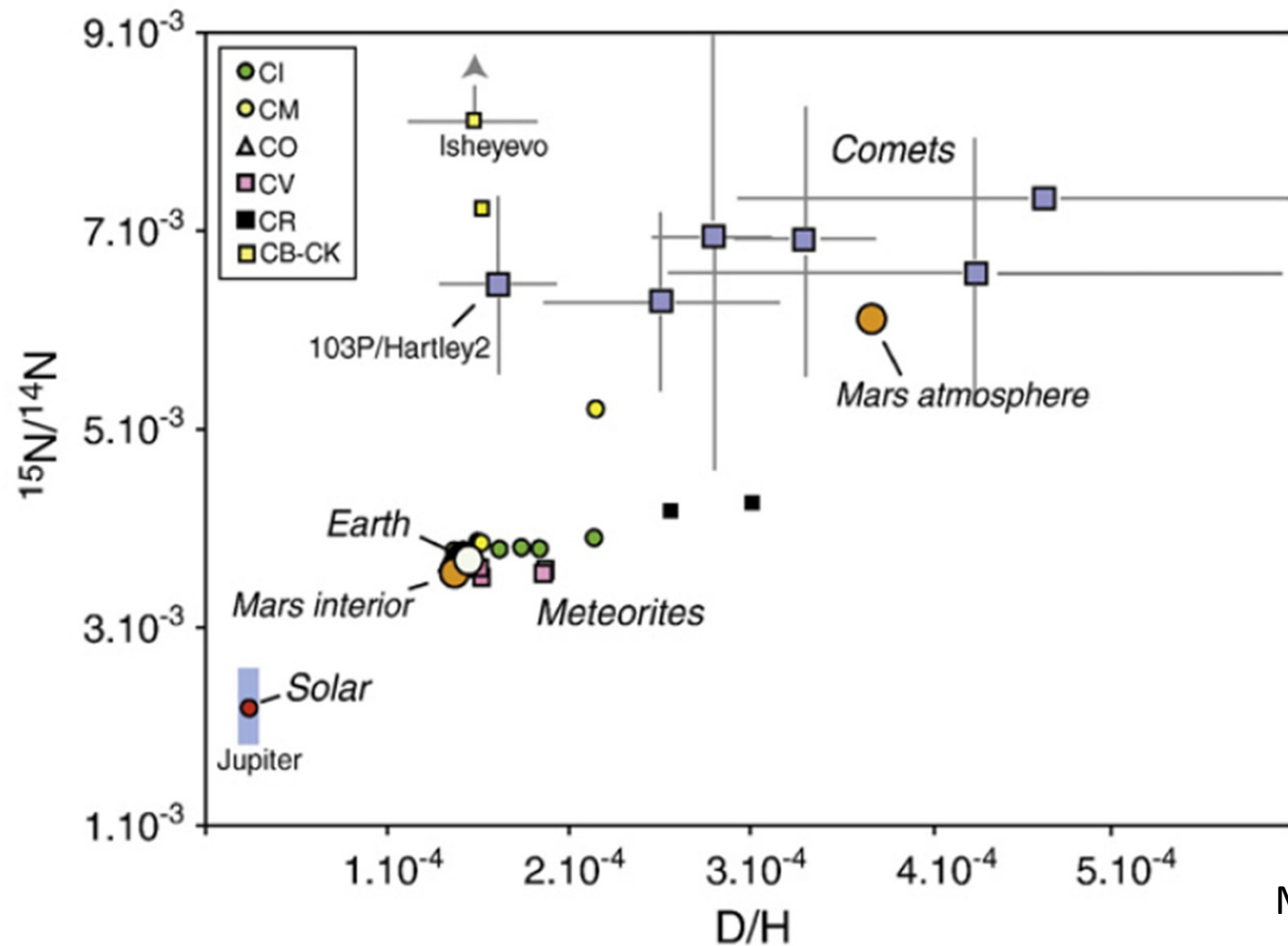
Interpretations of ^{15}N enrichment

- **In proto-stellar sources** : dichotomy between CN-bearing (^{15}N -rich) and NH_3 (no fract.)
- **Gas-phase chemical models of the ISM** : two pathways for ^{15}N fractionation (Rodgers & Charnley , 2008)
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- **Grain-surface chemistry** :
formation of ammonia from ^{15}N -rich atomic N ?
- Models considering self-shielding of N_2 photodissociation (Heays et al. 2014)
 - ✓ explain enrichment in HCN
 - ✓ fractionation of NH_3 depends on place in the nebula



Wirstrom et al. (2012)

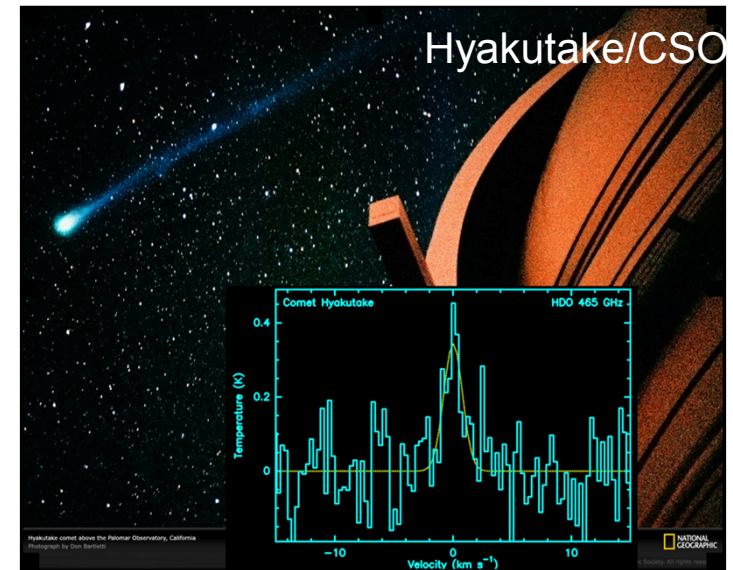
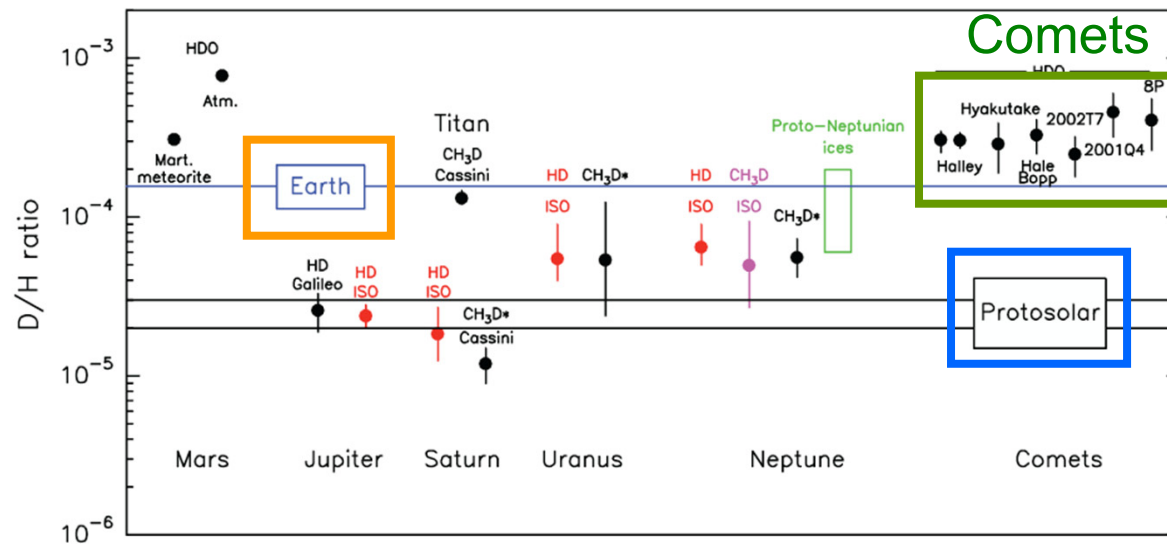
Correlation between D/H & $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$



Marty, 2012

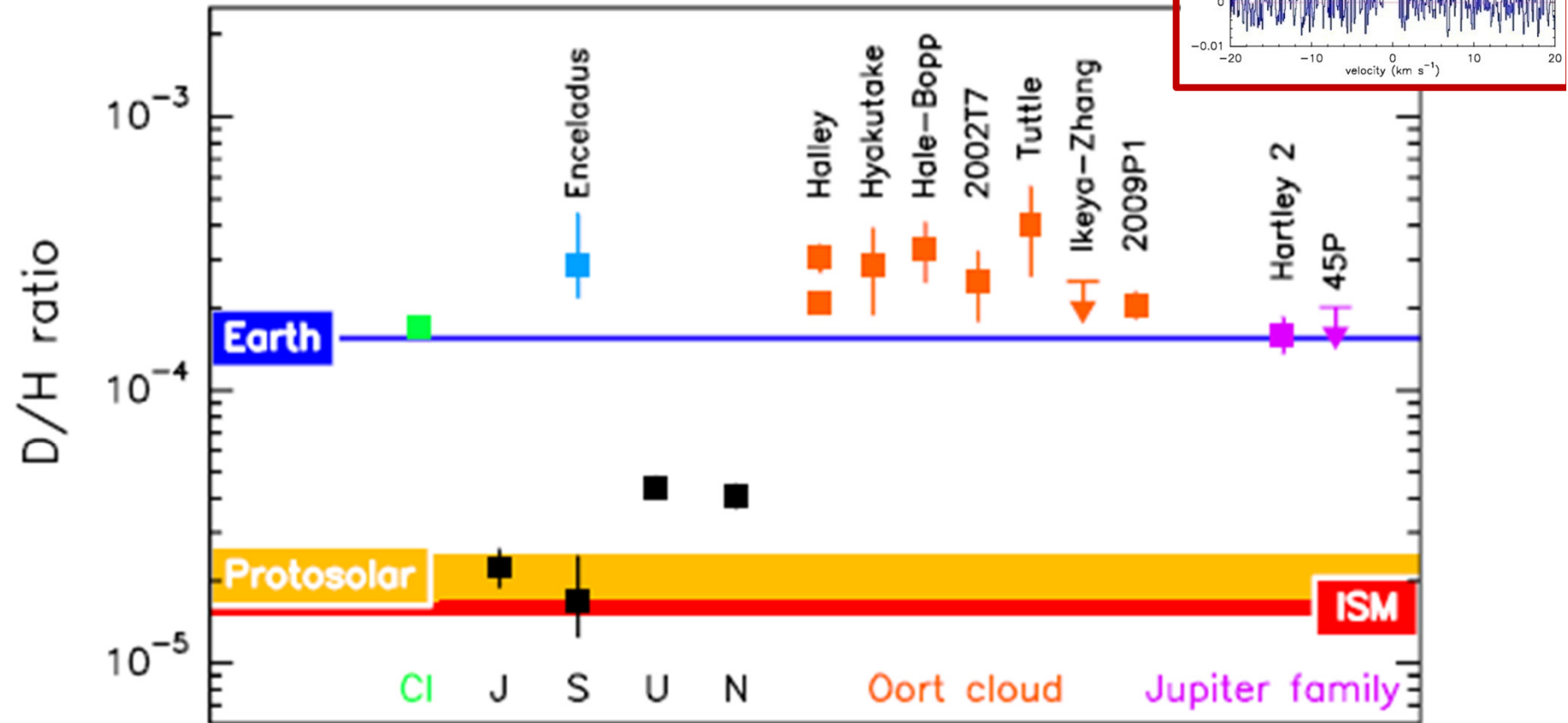
Meteorites : ^{15}N and D enrichments do not always correlate : argue against ion-molecule fractionation

D/H in cometary water (Pre-Herschel)



- **Protosolar** D/H ratio in H_2 is $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{-5}$ (same as the Big Bang)
- **Earth** ocean ratio (Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water) is 1.56×10^{-4}
- D/H measured in several **Oort cloud comets** is $\sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$
- Cometary D/H ratios represent a factor of ~ 12 enrichment over the protosolar value and 2 times enrichment over the Earth ocean value
- **Based on the isotopic measurements and dynamical models, most probable source of Earth water was ice-rich reservoir in the outer asteroid belt**
- **Comets could have contributed less than 10% of the Earth water**

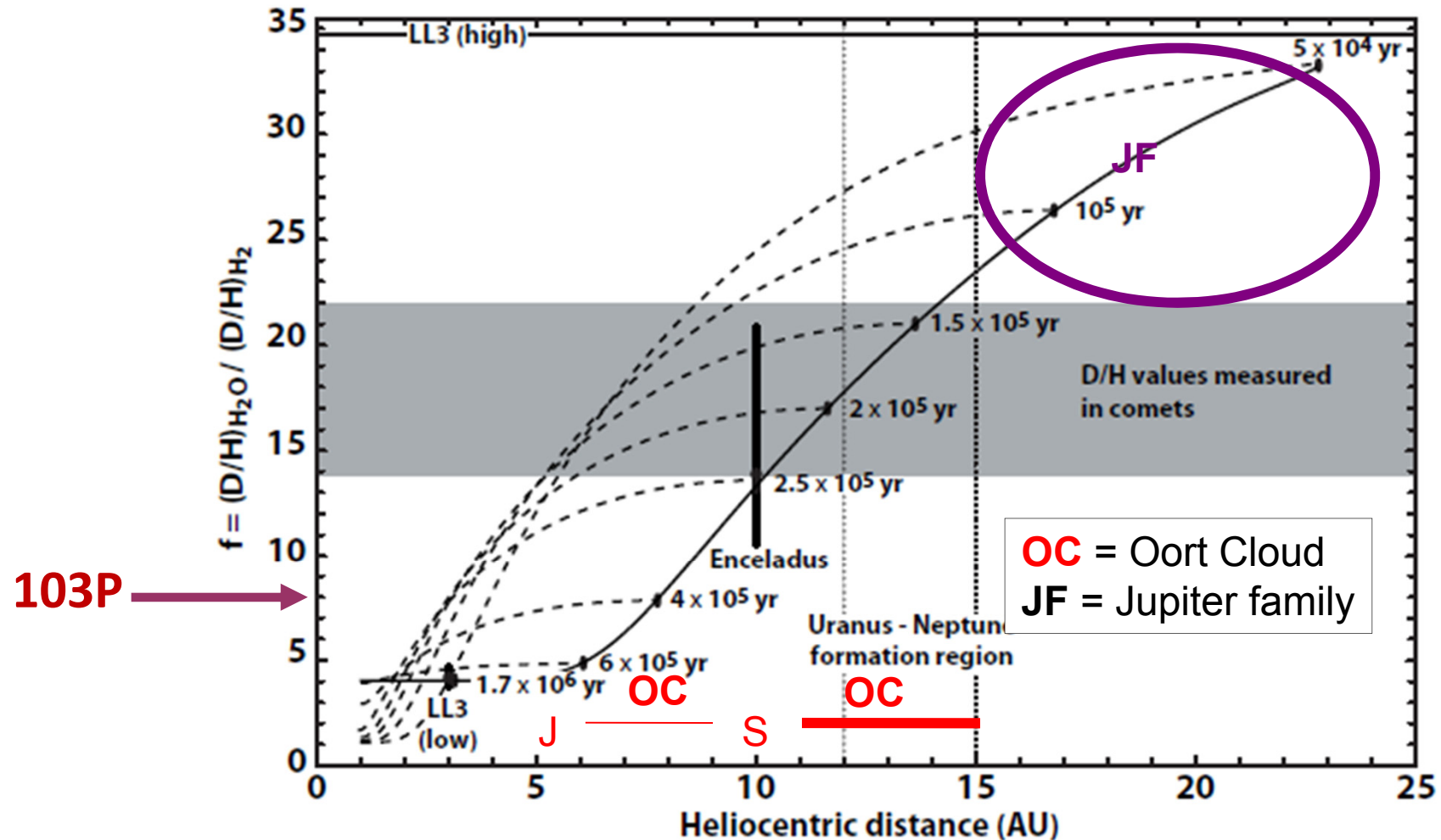
Deuterium in water – the post-Herschel view



Lis et al. (2013)

Model Predictions for D/H in comets

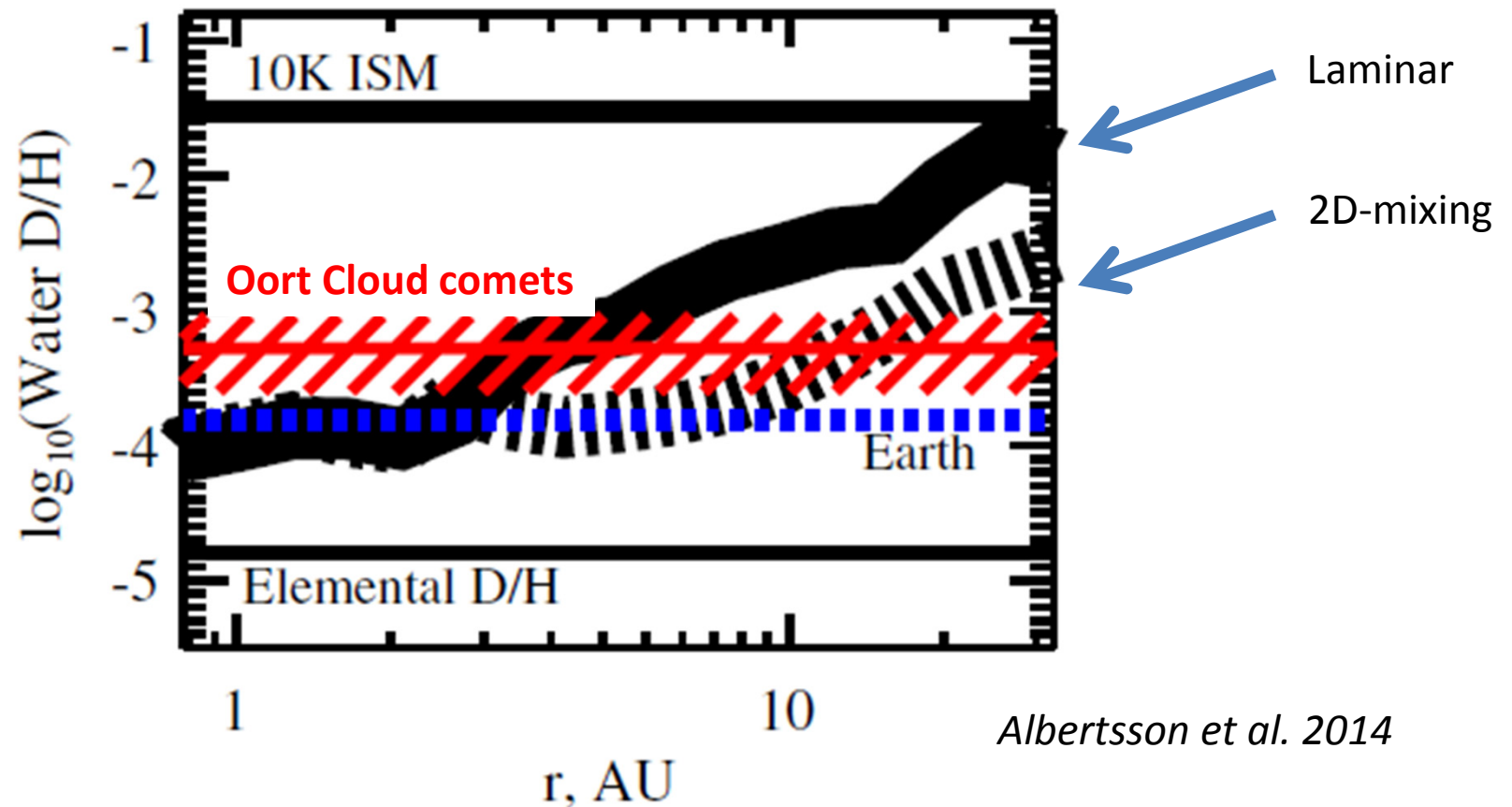
- isotopic exchange between H₂O and HD and turbulent mixing in an evolving Solar Nebula
- the Solar Nebula is here not anymore accreting mass from the presolar cloud



Takes into account planet migration

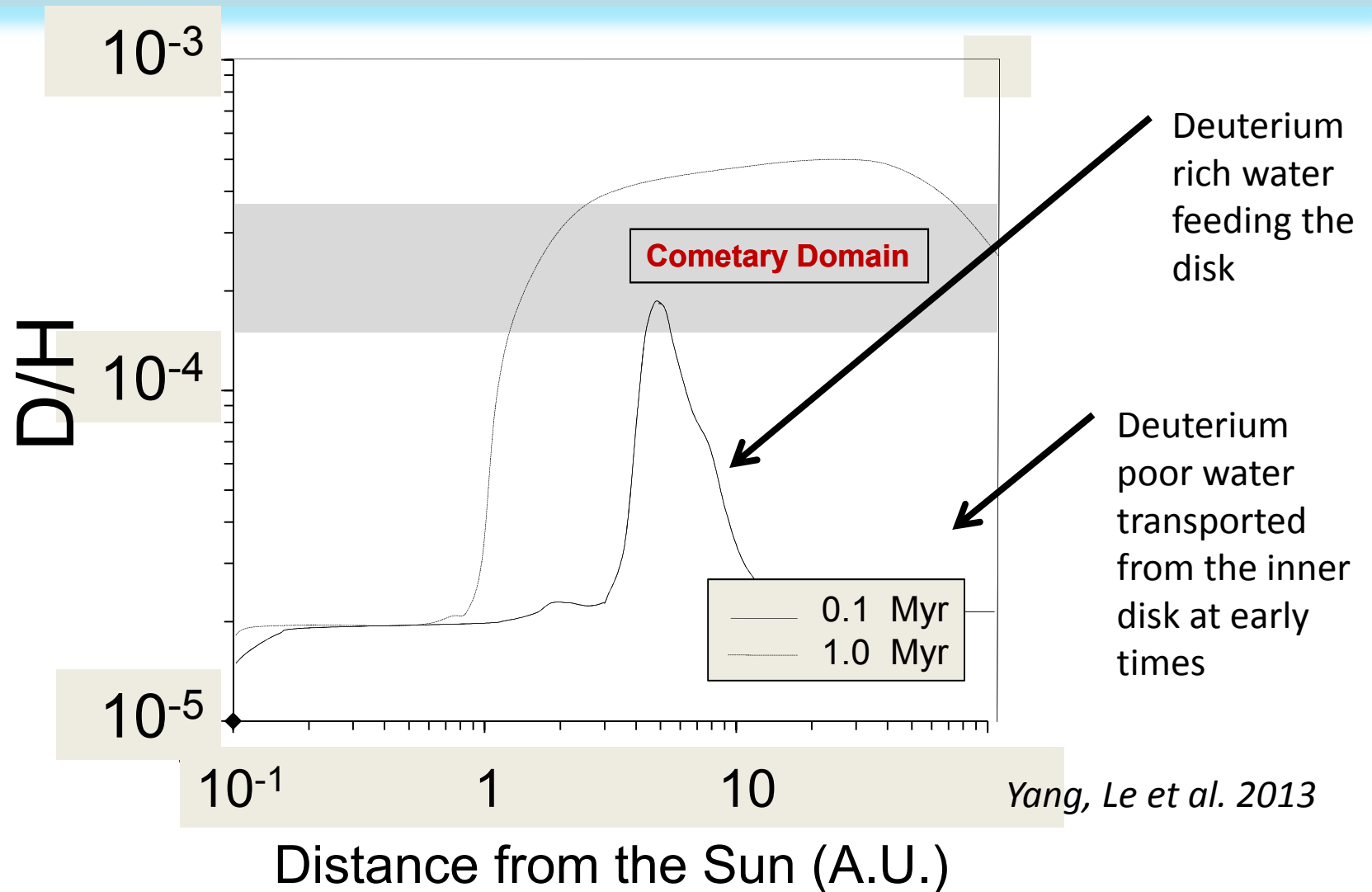
Kaveelars et al. (2011)

Model Predictions for D/H in comets



- Steady state solar nebula model
 - Time-dependent gas-grain chemical model with turbulent mixing
- > **Mixing model favored over laminar model**

Model Predictions for D/H in comets



Unlike previous models, the solar nebula is continuously accreting D/H-enriched material

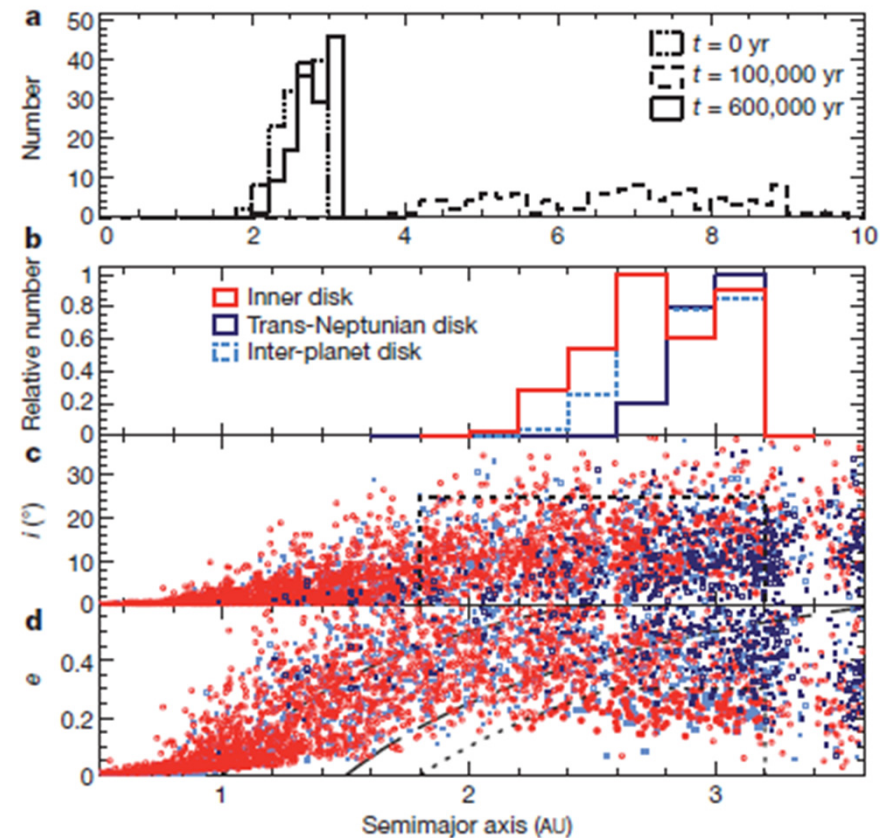
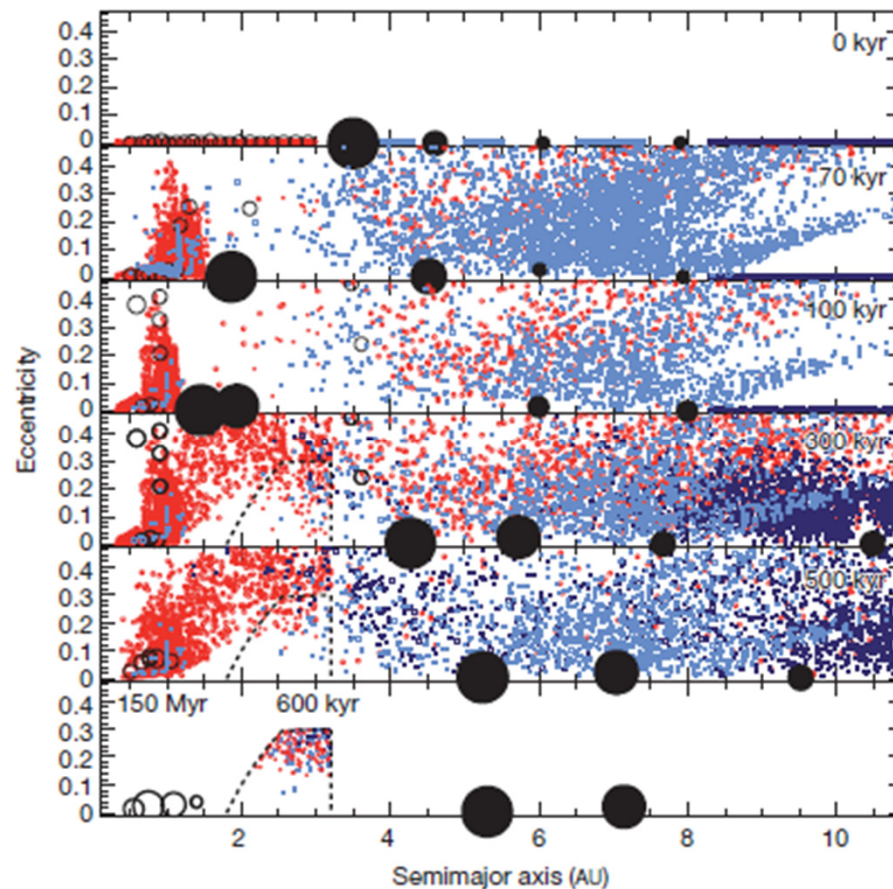
What are the implications ?

- Current understanding of deuteration in different solar system reservoirs, or *solar system dynamics*, is incomplete and has to be revisited
 - *Ices condensed close to the Sun would be more deuterated?*
e.g., out of equilibrium chemistry at high T $\text{H}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{OH}/\text{H}/\text{O}$ (Thi et al. 2010)
– but seems incompatible with D/H in carbonaceous chondrites
 - *D/H in outer disk lower than in the inner regions : recent model of Yang et al.*
 - *Revisit origin of JFCs and Oort Cloud comets ?*
JFC = Trojans formed in the vicinity of Jupiter (Horner et al. 2007) ?
90% of Oort cloud comets from other stars in the Sun's birth cluster (Levison et al. 2010)?
- There is diversity in the D/H ratio in the comet population

Is the dichotomy between JFC and OCC real ?
Diversity within the two populations expected from Grand Tack model (Walsh et al. 2011)
- There is a continuum between asteroids and comets:

the low D/H in JFCs would argue for formation closer to the Sun ...
- The reservoir of icy bodies with Ocean-like water is larger than previously thought and comprises likely the Kuiper belt

Radial mixing of planetesimals - Grand Tack model

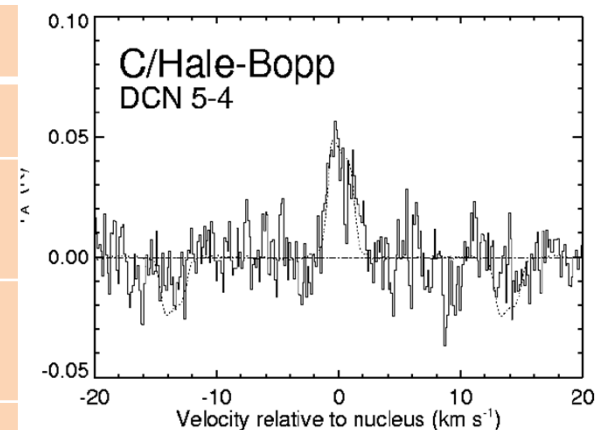


Walsh et al., Nature Jun 2011

- **Grand Tack:** inward then outward migration of Jupiter and Saturn
- Type 2 “inward migration” in gaseous nebula
- Explain Mars mass and distribution of S/C/D asteroids in the main belt
- TNOs on eccentric Earth-crossing orbits

D/H ratios in molecules other than water

	D/H		ISM
HCN	0.0023	Meier et al. 1998	0.01-0.1
NH ₂ D	< 0.04	Crovisier et al. 2004	
HDCO	< 0.05	Crovisier et al. 2004	0.035-0.15
CH ₃ OD	< 0.03	Crovisier et al. 2004	0.01-0.06
CH ₂ DOH	< 0.008	Crovisier et al. 2004	0.01
HDS	< 0.2	Crovisier et al. 2004	0.005-0.05
	<0.007	Biver et al. 2008	0.005-0.05
CH ₃ D	< 0.0025	Gibb et al. 2008	< 0.03
	< 0.006	Kawakita & Kobayashi 2008	
	< 0.005	Bonev et al. 2009	



Meier et al. 1998

Conclusions

- **Several key measurements in the recent years**
- **Isotopic diversity in the Solar System is far to be understood**
- **New measurements expected**
 - ALMA , near-IR, UV investigations
 - **Rosetta**
 - ✓ D/H (H₂O and other species)
 - ✓ ¹⁴N/¹⁵N (in HCN, CN, NH₂ ...)
 - ✓ Probe the diversity in comet population