

# Chemical networks (with modeling)

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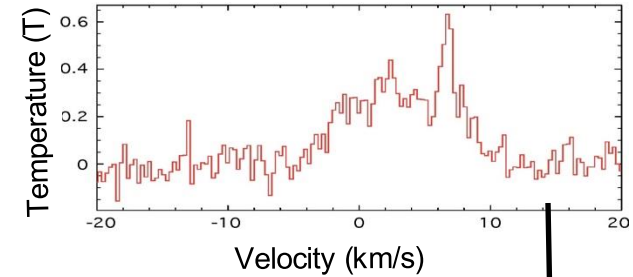
NanoSpace Astrochemistry Training School



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# Astrochemistry - strategy

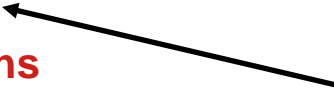


**Radiative transfer model**

**Observed abundances**



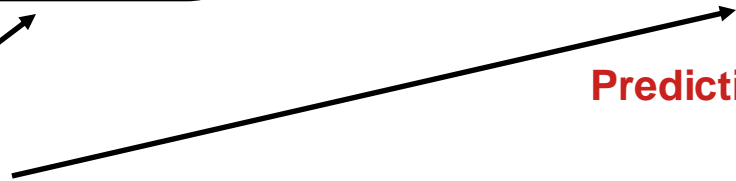
**Radiatif-Magneto-Hydrodynamic simulations of star formation**



**Comparisons**

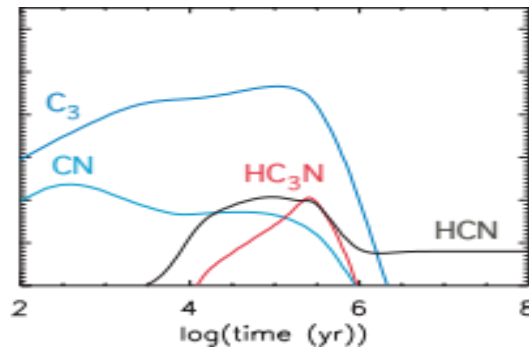
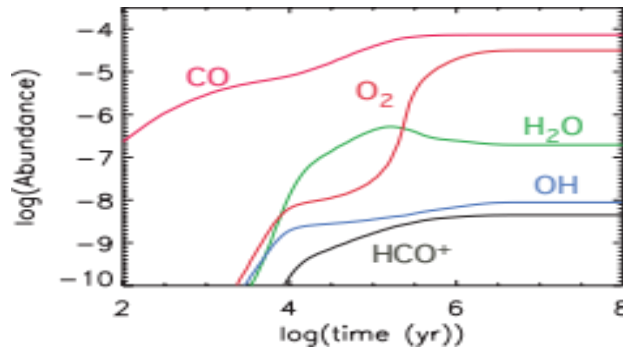


**Predictions**



**Predictions**

**Chemical model**



**Physical-chemical data**

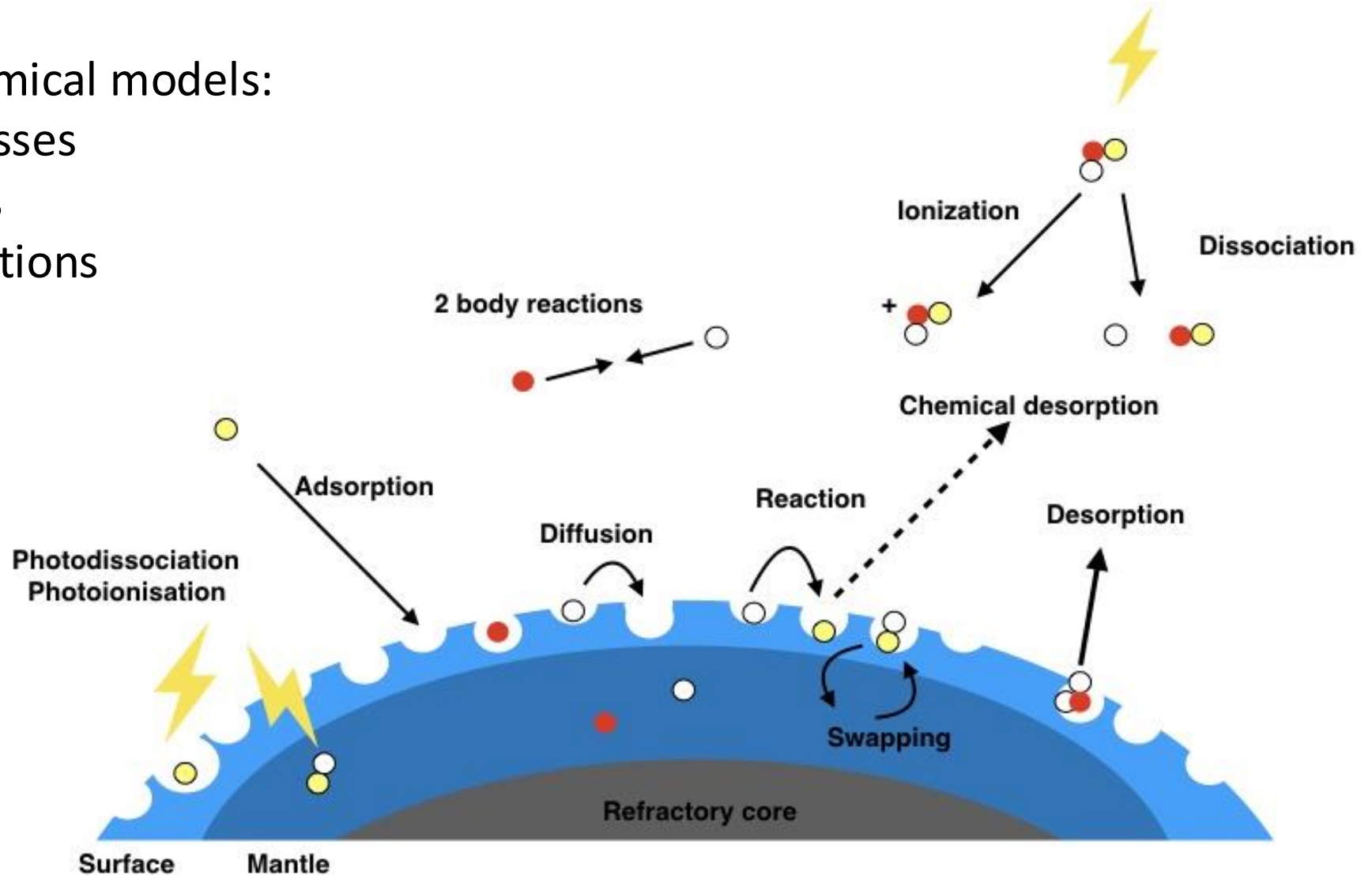
**Experimental and theoretical physics and chemistry**



# Chemical models – gas and grain coupling

Complete astrochemical models:

- Gas-phase processes
- Surface reactions
- Gas-grain interactions



# Chemical models – grain surface processes

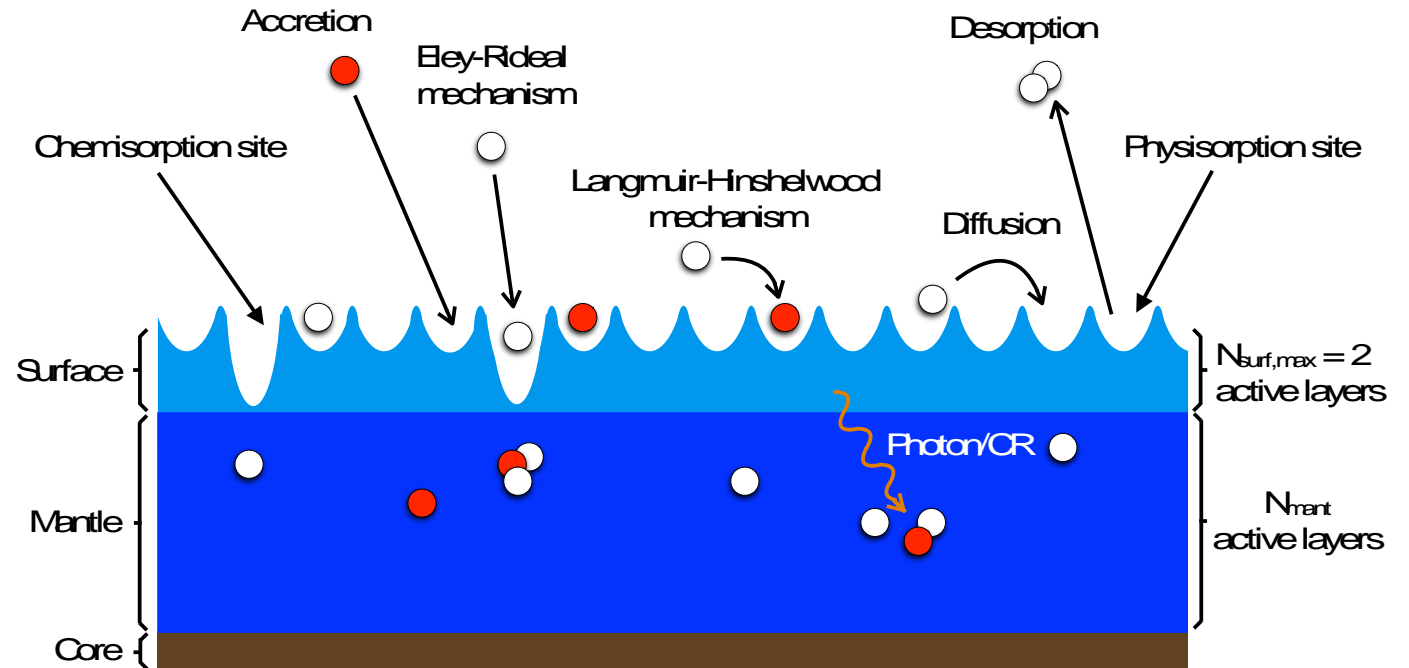
Surface processes :

- Thermal diffusion
- Tunneling
- Non-diffusion chemistry

Desorption:

- Thermal
- Cosmic-ray heating
- Chemical desorption
- Photo-desorption
- Cosmic-ray sputtering
- ...

Photo-processes



Depending on species binding energies and diffusion energies. In most models diffusion energies are proportional to the binding energies

# Chemical models – general considerations

Rate equation approximation (for surface reactions) -> each surface process is represented by a reaction

Solving differential equations for each species at each time step

$$\frac{dn_i(t)}{dt} = \sum_l \sum_j (k_{lj} n_l(t) n_j(t)) - n_i(t) \sum_j (k_{ij} n_j(t)) - k_{\text{ads},i} n_i(t) n_{\text{gr}} + (k_{\text{evap},i} + k_{\text{crd},i}) n_i^s(t), \quad (2.1)$$

$$\frac{dn_i^s(t)}{dt} = \sum_l \sum_j (k_{lj} n_l^s(t) n_j^s(t)) - n_i^s(t) \sum_j (k_{ij} n_j^s(t)) + k_{\text{ads},i} n_i(t) n_{\text{gr}} - (k_{\text{evap},i} + k_{\text{crd},i}) n_i^s(t), \quad (2.2)$$

## Model parameters:

- Gas and dust temperature
- Irradiation fields (UV, secondary UV, cosmic-rays)
- Density of gas and dust
- Initial conditions (with elemental abundances)
- Geometry of the source
- Chemical network (and many parameters for surface processes)
- ++++

# Chemical networks

## **Chemical networks:**

List of chemical reactions (including surface processes and gas-grain interactions).

Each reaction is associated with a number of parameters tabulated to compute the rate coefficients in the conditions of the simulations (can be T dependent, UV or cosmic-ray dependent etc).

## **As an example, in the chemical networks provided with Nautilus:**

584 chemical species

7667 gas-phase chemical reactions

4837 grain-surface reactions and gas-grain interactions (absorption, desorption reactions)

# Chemical models – general considerations

Increasing complexity of chemical models



## Chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry +  
adsorption/desorption from the grains

Gas-phase chemistry + full surface  
treatment

## Physical parameters

Fixed gas temperature, density and visual extinction

Evolving gas temperature, density and visual extinction

## Geometry

0D

1D

2D

## Dynamic

Static structure

Dynamically active

# Chemical models – general considerations

Increasing complexity of chemical models



## Chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry

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adsorption/desorption from the grains

Gas-phase chemistry + full surface  
treatment

## Physical parameters

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Evolving gas temperature, density and visual extinction

## Geometry

0D

1D

2D

**What does this mean?**

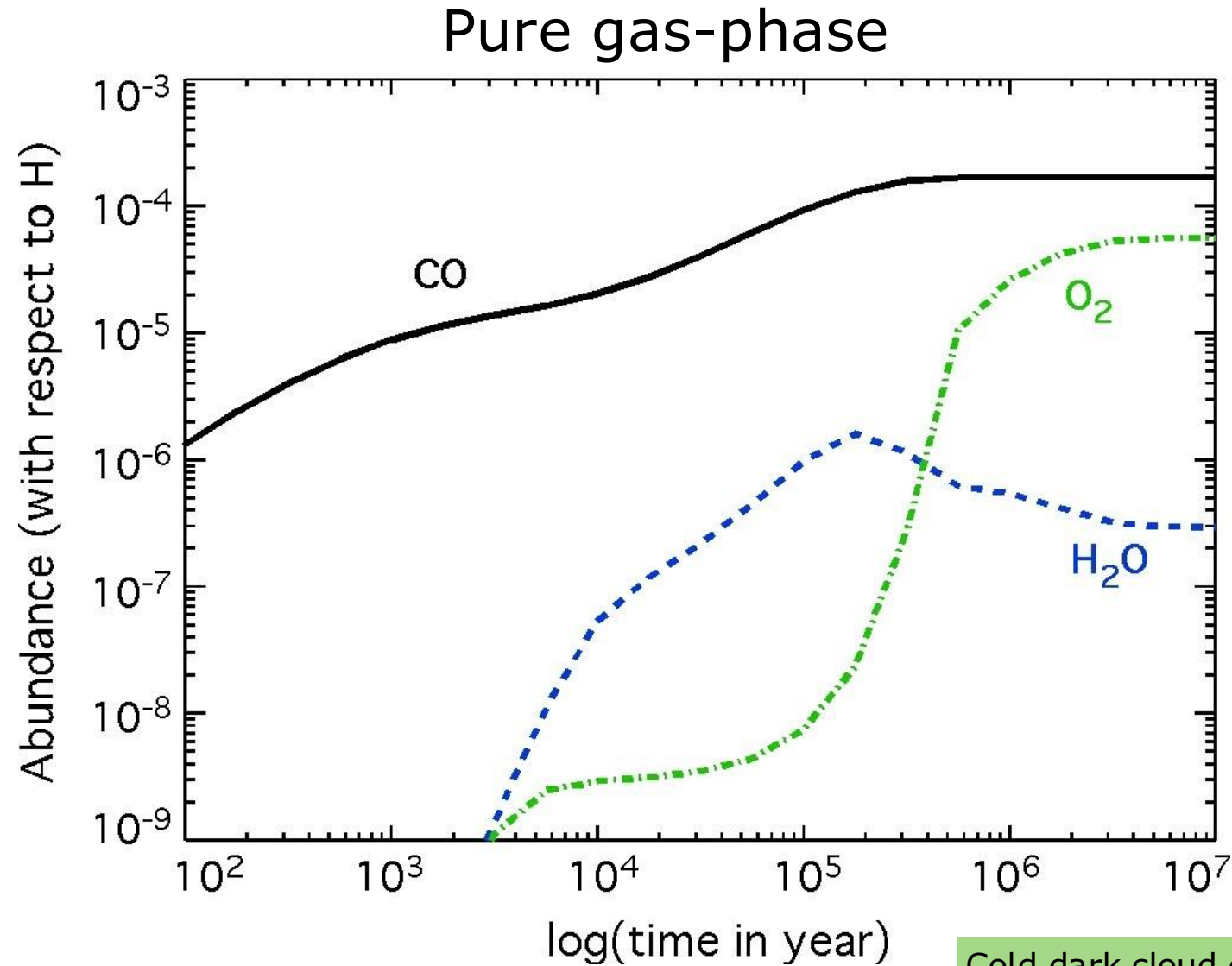
## Dynamic

Static structure

Dynamically active

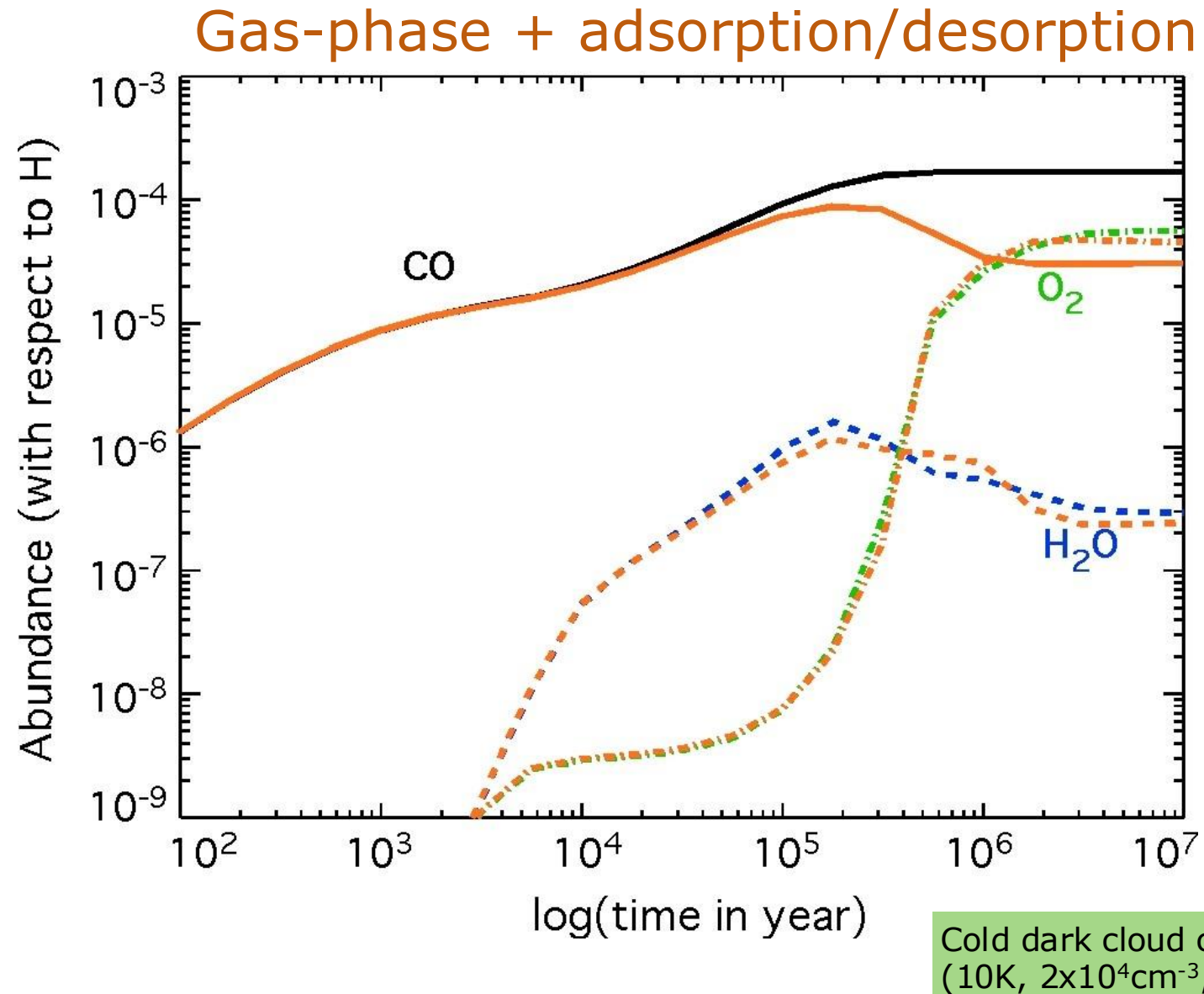


# Chemical models – importance of surface processes



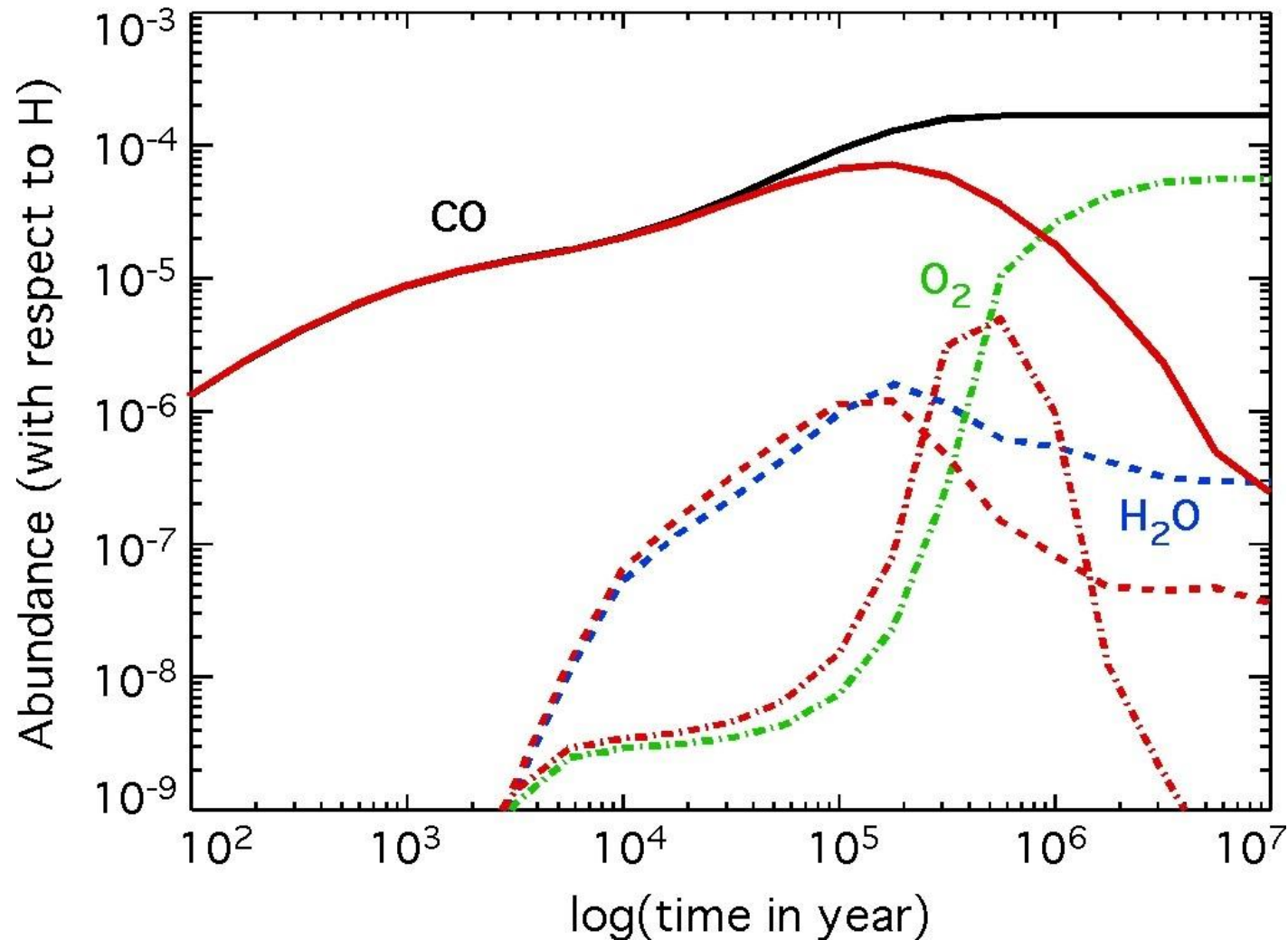
Cold dark cloud conditions  
(10K,  $2 \times 10^4 \text{cm}^{-3}$ ,  $A_v = 30$ )

# Chemical models – importance of surface processes



# Chemical models – importance of surface processes

## Gas-phase + full surface chemistry

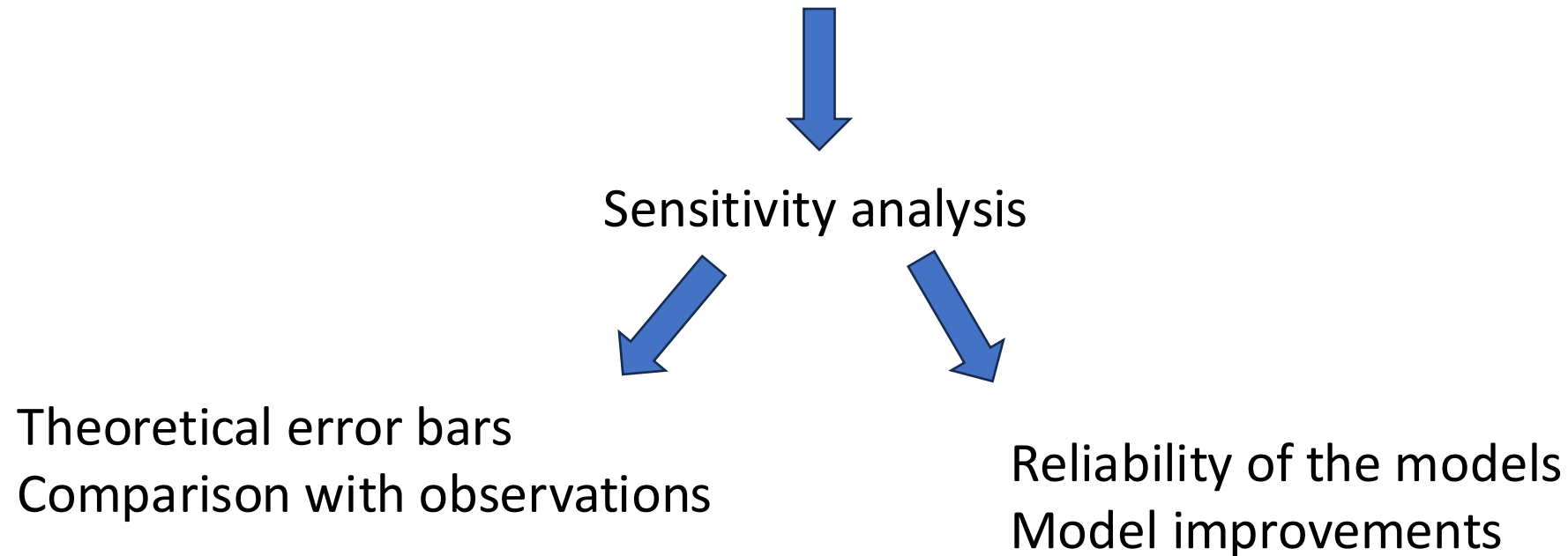


Surface chemistry -> a way to remove species from the gas

# Uncertainties

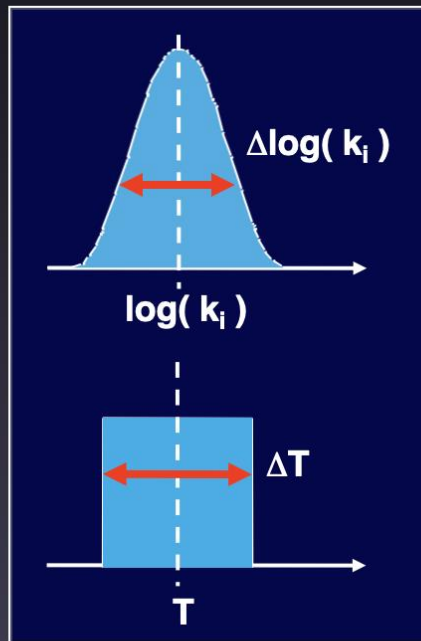
## Parameters uncertainties for 0D a gas-phase chemical models:

Gas temperature and density, elemental abundances, initial conditions, cosmic-ray ionization rate, reaction rate coefficients.

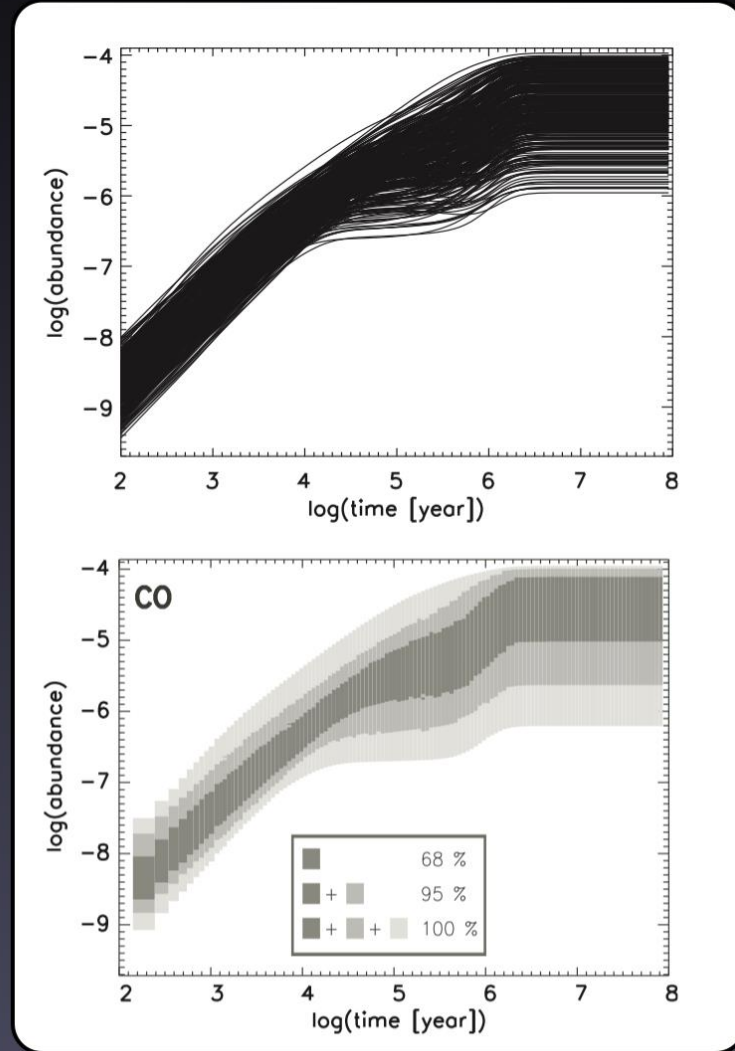


# Uncertainties

Parameter uncertainties  
( $k$ ,  $T$ ,  $n$  etc)



Monte-Carlo  
simulations (thousands)



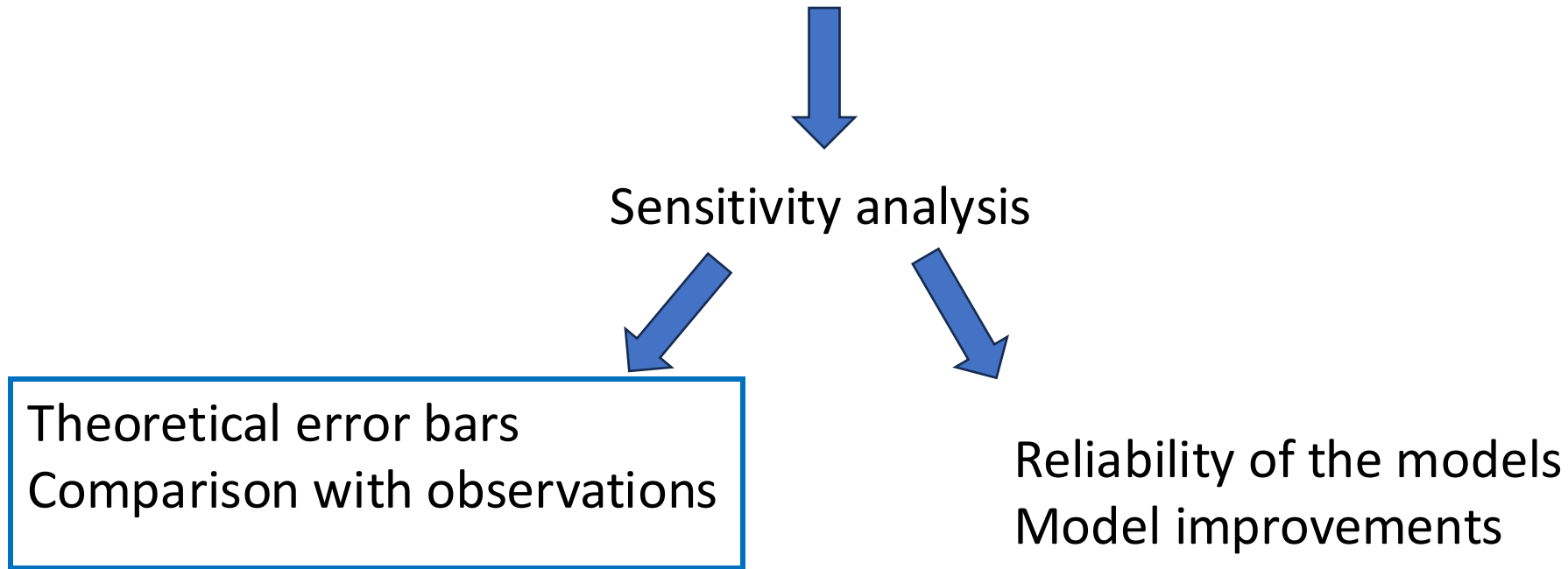
Wakelam, [Selsis](#), Herbst & Caselli (2005)

Wakelam, Herbst & [Selsis](#) (2006)

# Uncertainties

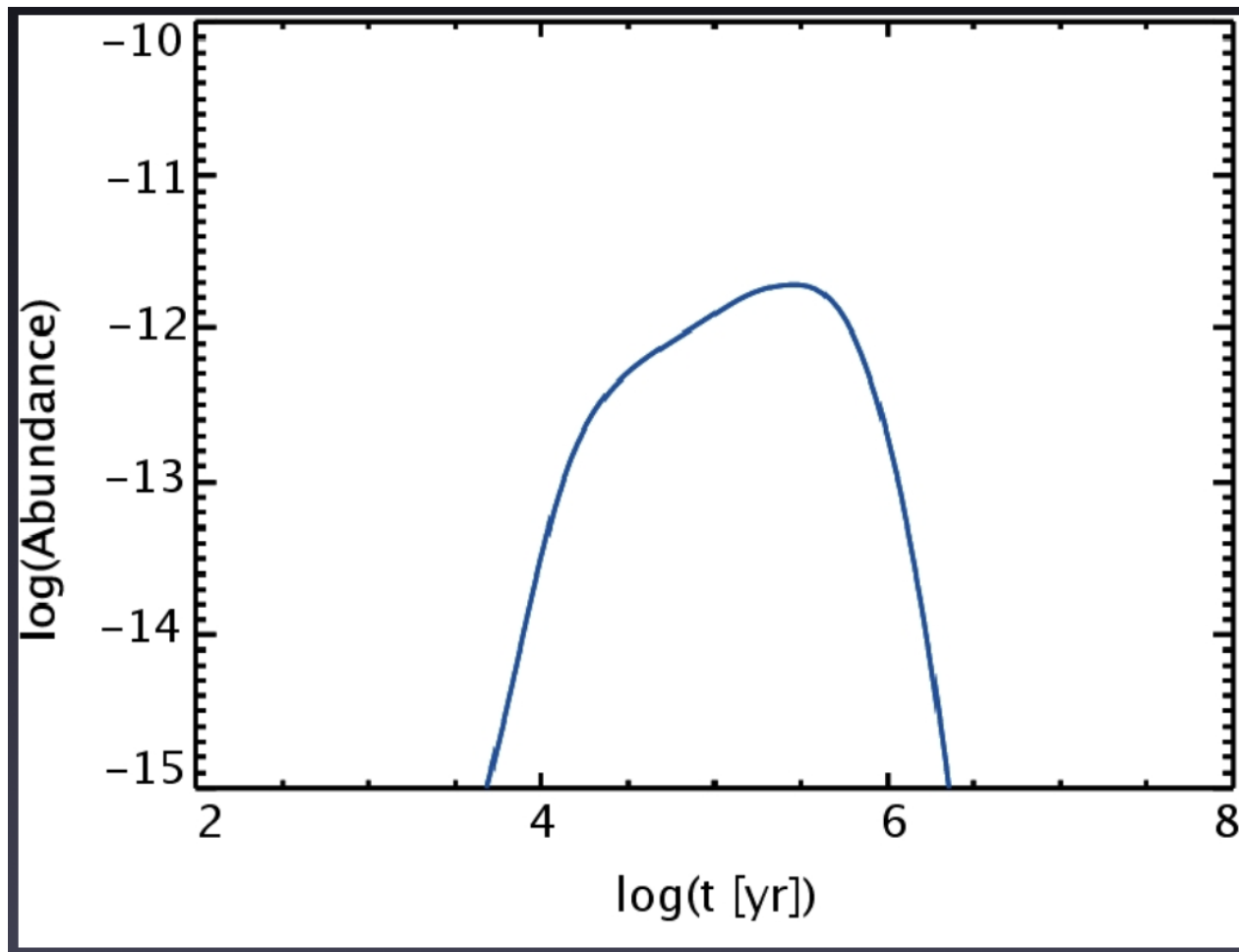
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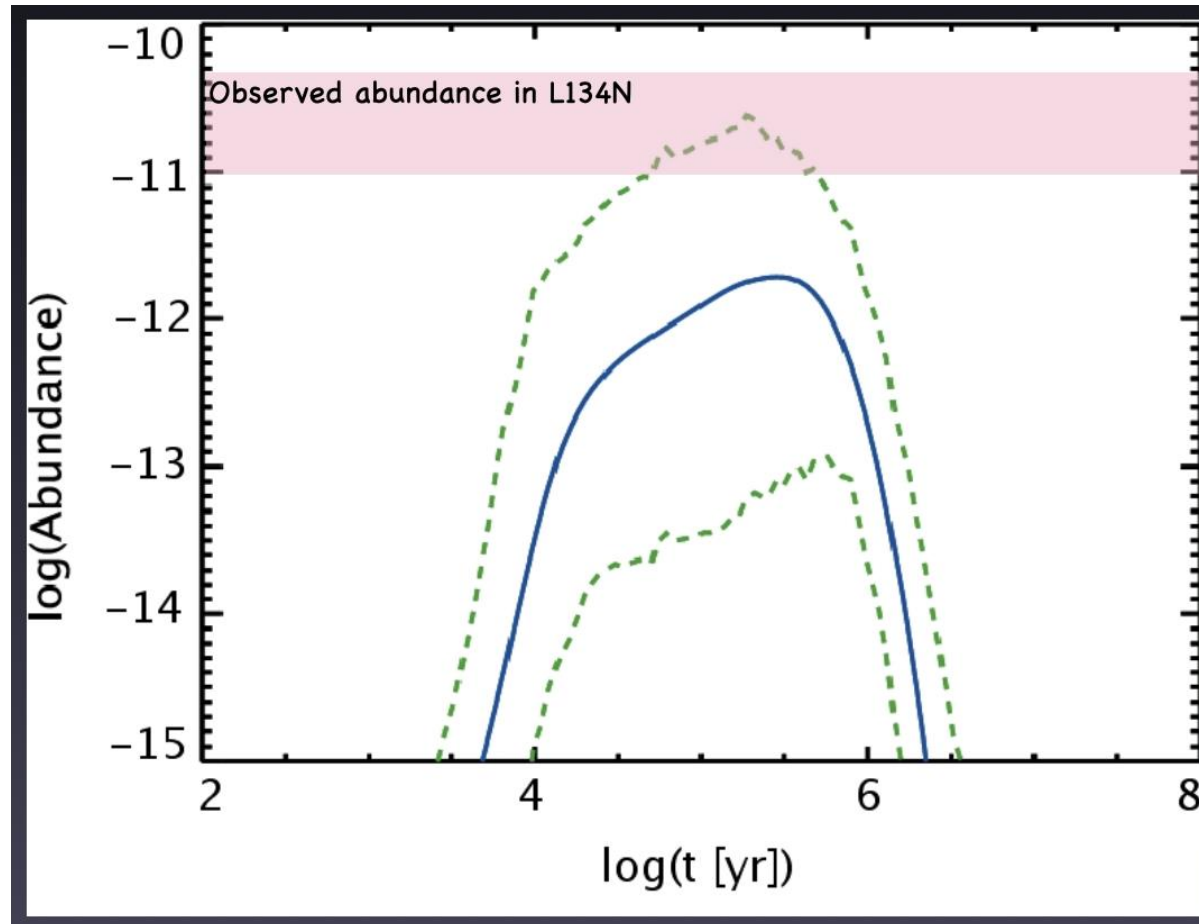
# Uncertainties

HC<sub>7</sub>N gas-phase abundance in a typical dark cloud



# Uncertainties

HC<sub>7</sub>N gas-phase abundance in a typical dark cloud –  
With error bars due to rate coefficient uncertainties

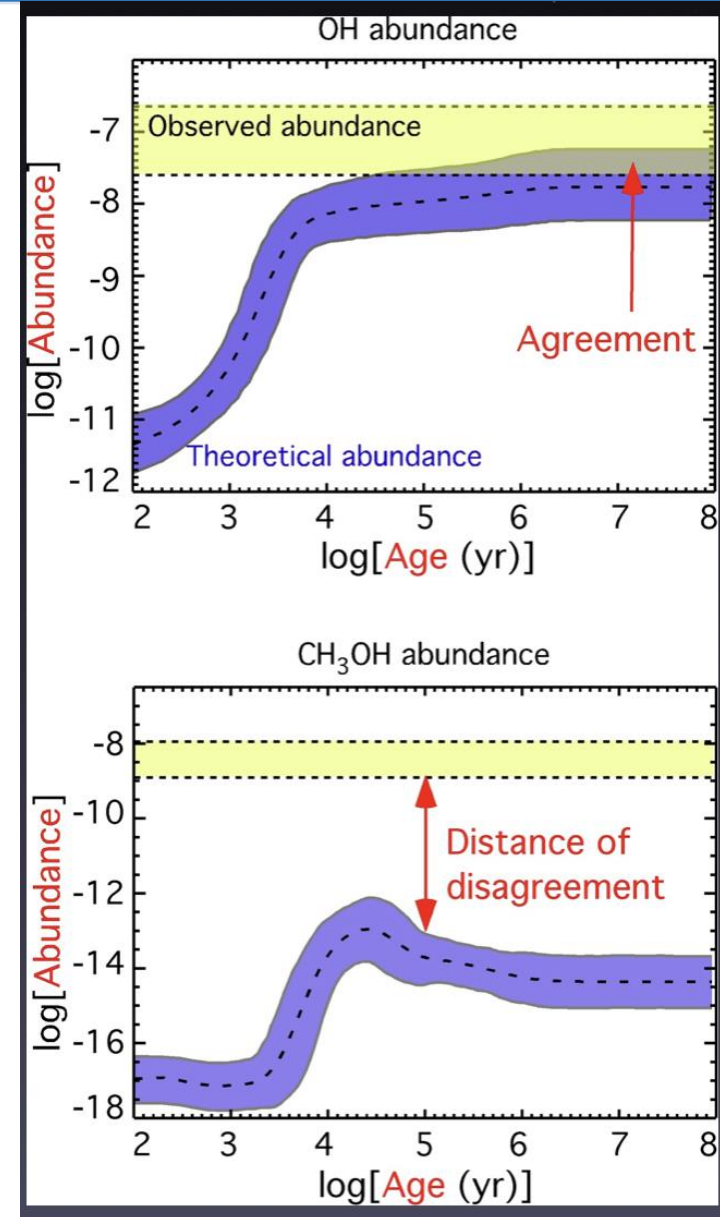




# Uncertainties

## Comparison with observations:

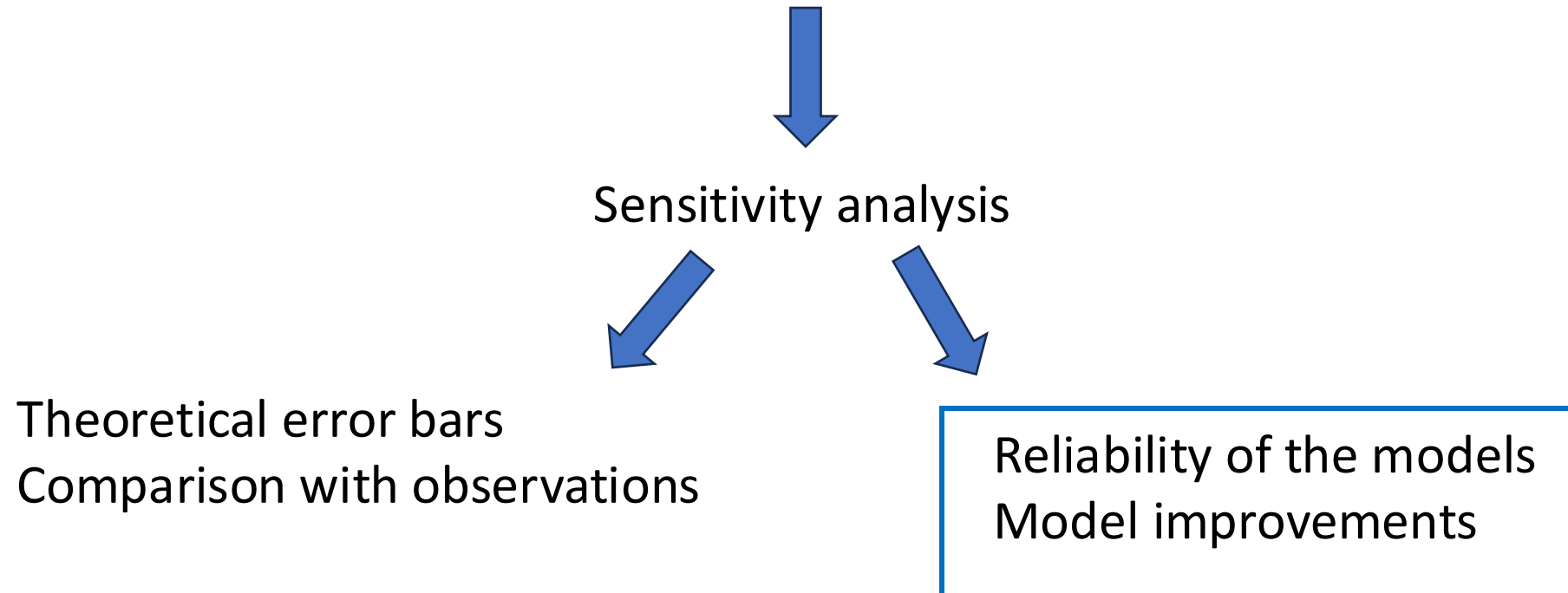
- Find which molecules are really not reproduced by the model to look for missing processes or wrong chemistry.
- Constrain “best models” (i.e. sets of parameters)



# Uncertainties

## Parameters uncertainties for 0D a gas-phase chemical models:

Gas temperature and density, elemental abundances, initial conditions, cosmic-ray ionization rate, reaction rate coefficients.

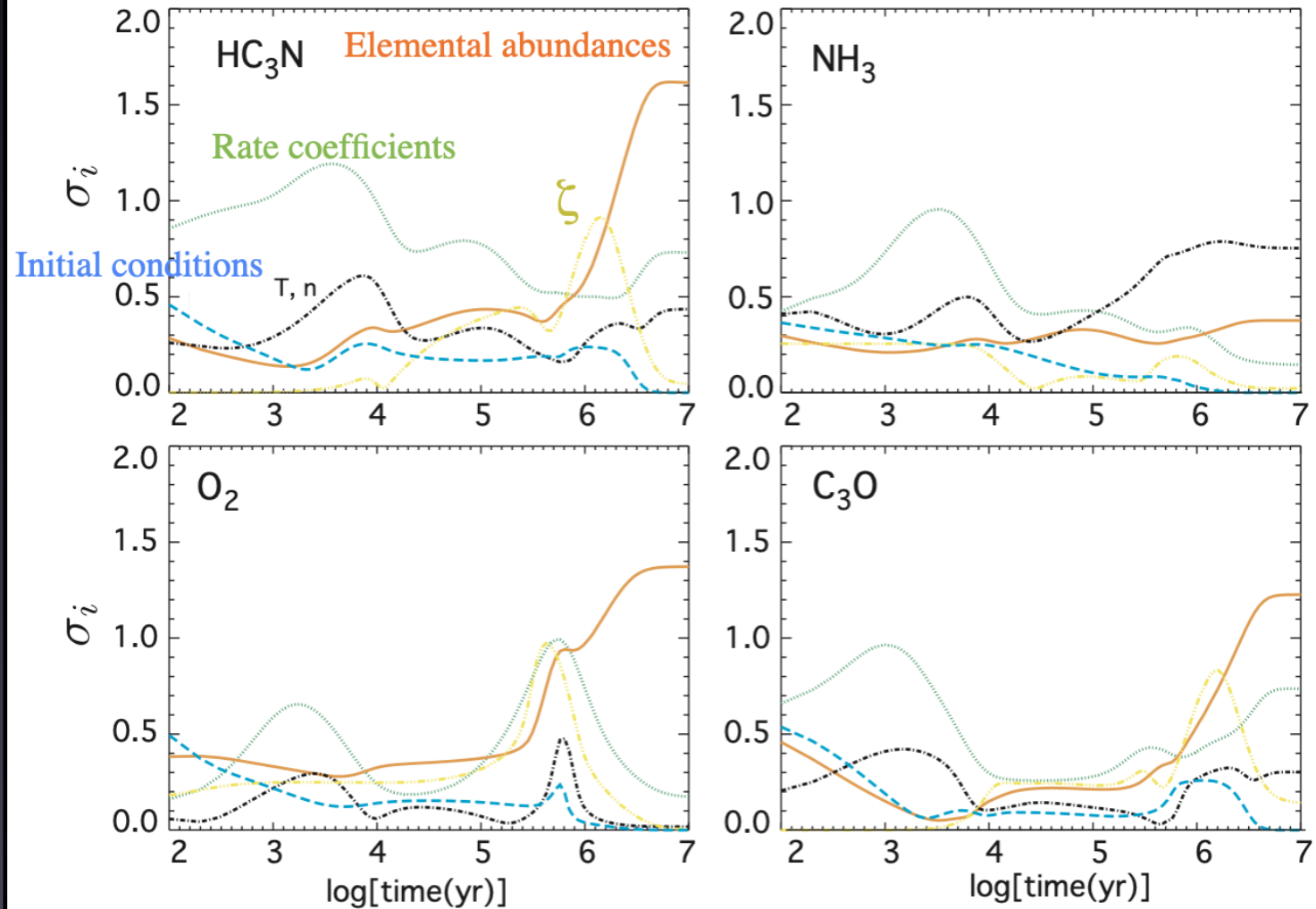


# Uncertainties

For example: finding the most crucial parameters

-> Mean standard on the chemical abundances while varying each parameter individually

$$\sigma(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (\log(X_n(t)) - \overline{\log(X(t))})^2}$$



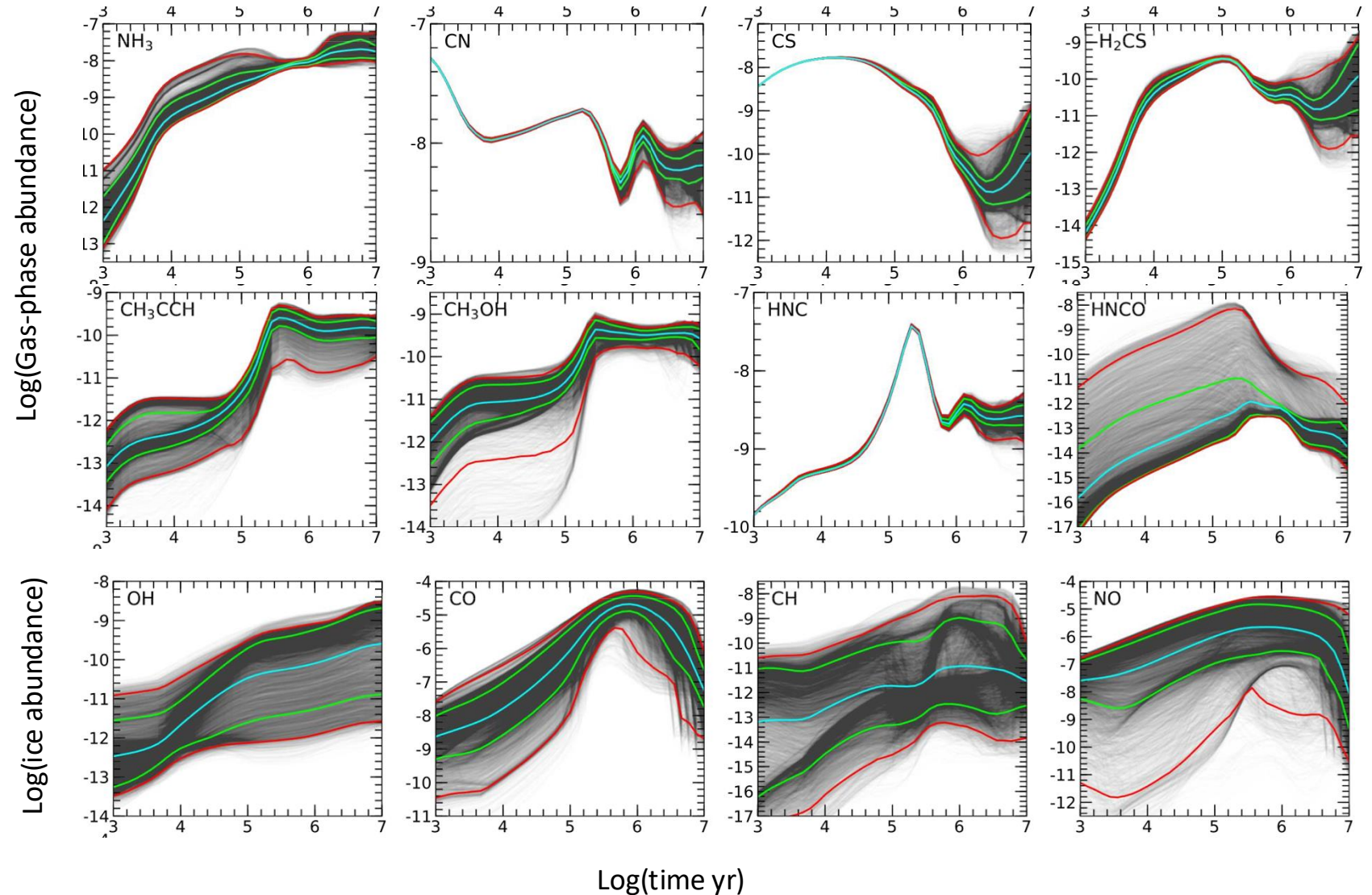
# Sensitivity analysis are also for grain processes

Variation of the ratio between binding and diffusion energies between 0.25 and 0.75.

→ Iqbal et al. (2018)

Other references:  
Penteado et al. 2017

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# What is an important reaction?

**~8000 gas-phase reactions and ~500 species**

Most of them not studied in the lab but they are not all important.

Reaction that produces most or destroys most a species.

Complicated because :

- Depends on the rate coefficient itself but also abundance of the reactants
- Depends on time
- Physical parameters
- Chemical network

$$\frac{dn(i)}{dt} = \sum_l \sum_j k_{l,j} n(l)n(j) - n(i) \sum_m k_{i,m} n(m)$$

↓  
Flux producing the molecule

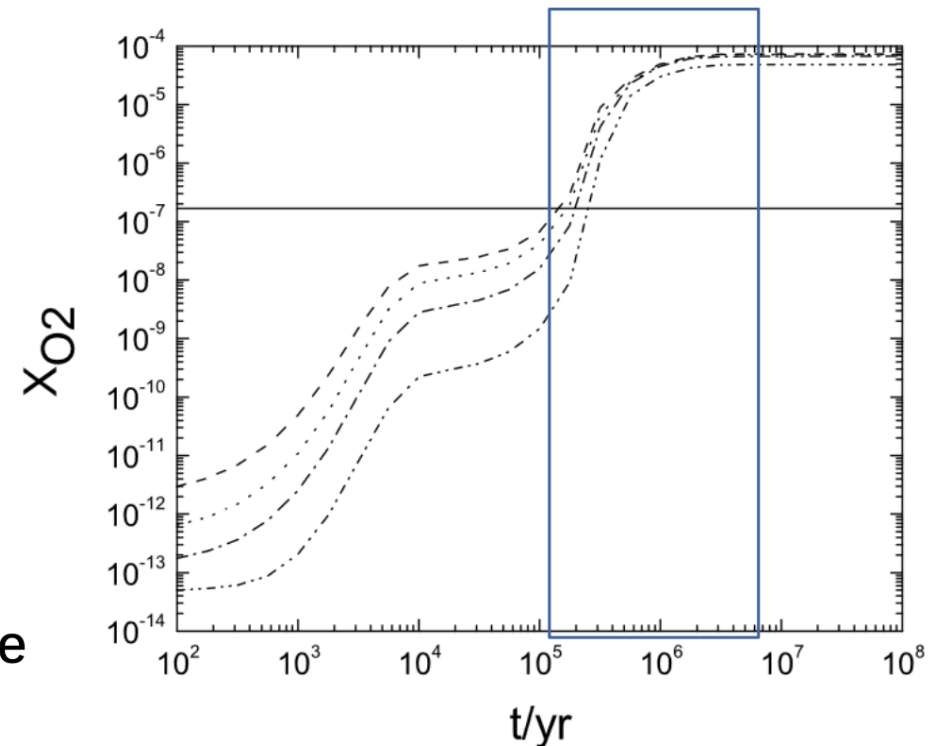
# What is an important reaction?

Identification of the most important reaction for O<sub>2</sub> : OH + O → O<sub>2</sub> + H

TABLE 2  
VALUES USED FOR RATE COEFFICIENT  $k_1$  AT 10 K

$k_1$ (cm <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Remarks	Reference
$1.76 \times 10^{-10}$ .....	osu.1.2007	Smith et al. (2004)
$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$ .....	Experimental (39–142 K)	Carty et al. (2006)
$7.84 \times 10^{-12}$ .....	Theoretical without <i>J</i> -shifting	This work
$5.4 \times 10^{-13}$ .....	Theoretical with <i>J</i> -shifting	Xu et al. (2007b)

Variation by more of two orders of magnitude on the rate coefficient does not impact much the predicted O<sub>2</sub> abundance.



Quan et al. 2010

# What is an important reaction?

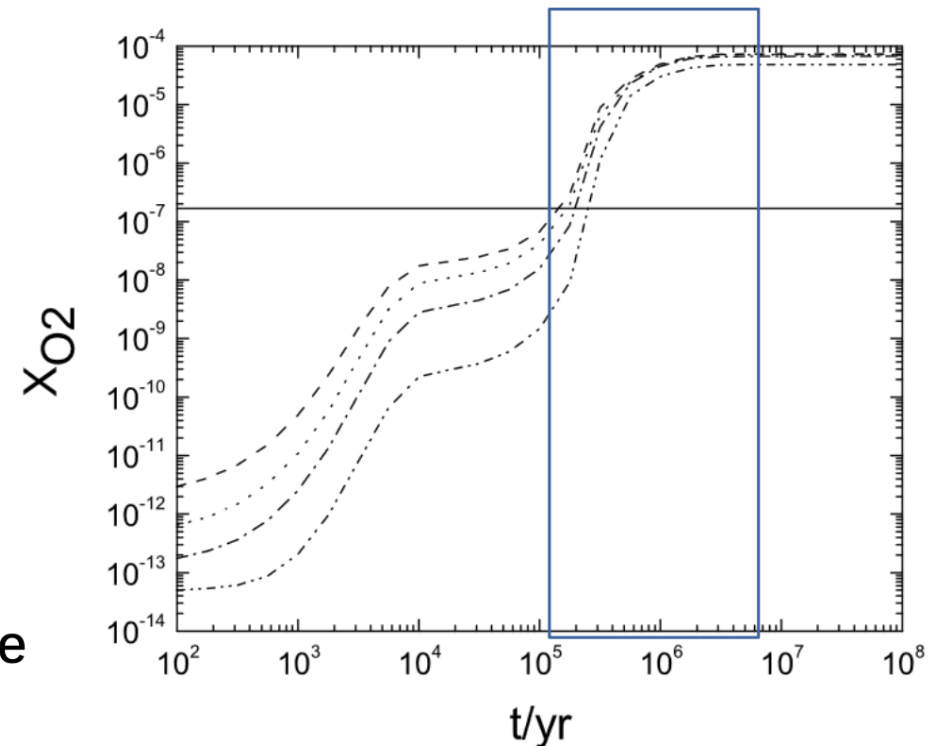
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Variation by more of two orders of magnitude on the rate coefficient does not impact much the predicted O<sub>2</sub> abundance.

→ main reaction of destruction of OH



Quan et al. 2010

# What is an important reaction?

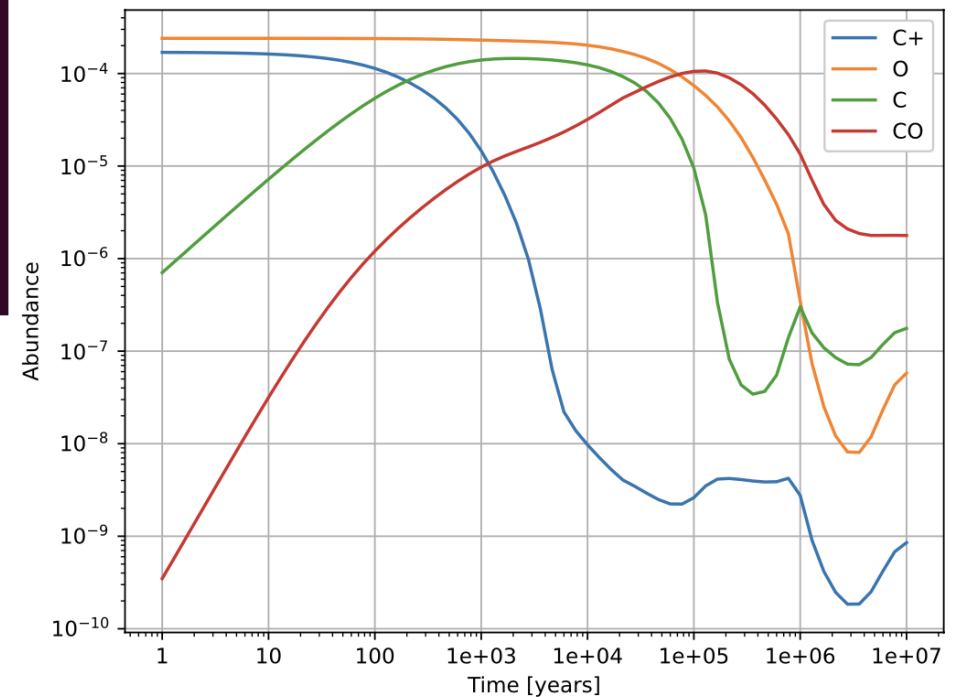
## How does CO form ?

$$\frac{dn(i)}{dt} = \sum_l \sum_j k_{l,j} n(l) n(j) - n(i) \sum_m k_{i,m} n(m)$$

Flux producing the molecule

Main reactions for CO at 1e5yr :

----- PRODUCTION (cm-3 s-1) -----			
8	HCO+ + e- -> H + CO	2.6566927E-13	84.6%
4	C + O2 -> O + CO	1.0045830E-14	3.2%
4	H2O + HCO+ -> CO + H3O+	6.8215483E-15	2.2%
4	O2 + C+ -> CO + O+	3.3839354E-15	1.1%
----- DESTRUCTION (cm-3 s-1) -----			
4	CO + H3+ -> H2 + HCO+	2.4430818E-13	54.6%
99	CO -> JCO	1.4877065E-13	33.3%
4	CO + He+ -> He + O + C+	2.3702264E-14	5.3%
4	CO + H3+ -> H2 + HOC+	1.4322406E-14	3.2%
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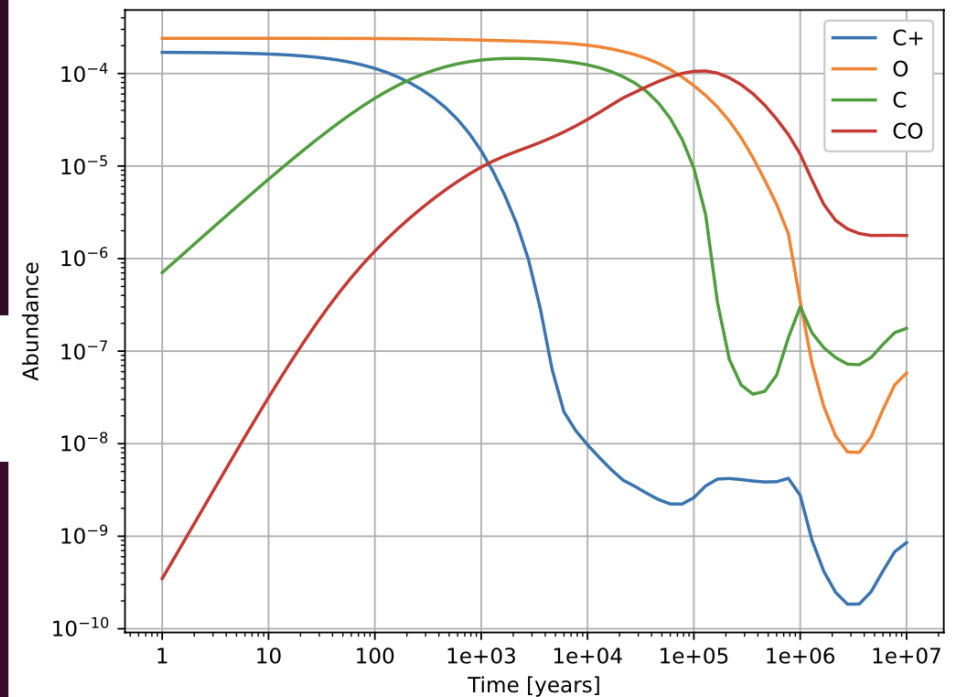
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Main reactions for HCO+ at 1e5yr :

----- PRODUCTION (cm-3 s-1) -----		
4	<b>CO + H3+ -&gt; H2 + HCO+</b>	2.4430818E-13 86.6%
4	H2 + HOC+ -> H2 + HCO+	1.9626701E-14 7.0%
4	CO + CH5+ -> CH4 + HCO+	6.2696774E-15 2.2%
4	CO + N2H+ -> N2 + HCO+	4.4706682E-15 1.6%
4	H2 + CO+ -> H + HCO+	2.9677614E-15 1.1%
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$$\frac{dn(i)}{dt} = \sum_l \sum_j k_{l,j} n(l) n(j) - n(i) \sum_m k_{i,m} n(m)$$

Flux producing the molecule



# What is an important reaction?

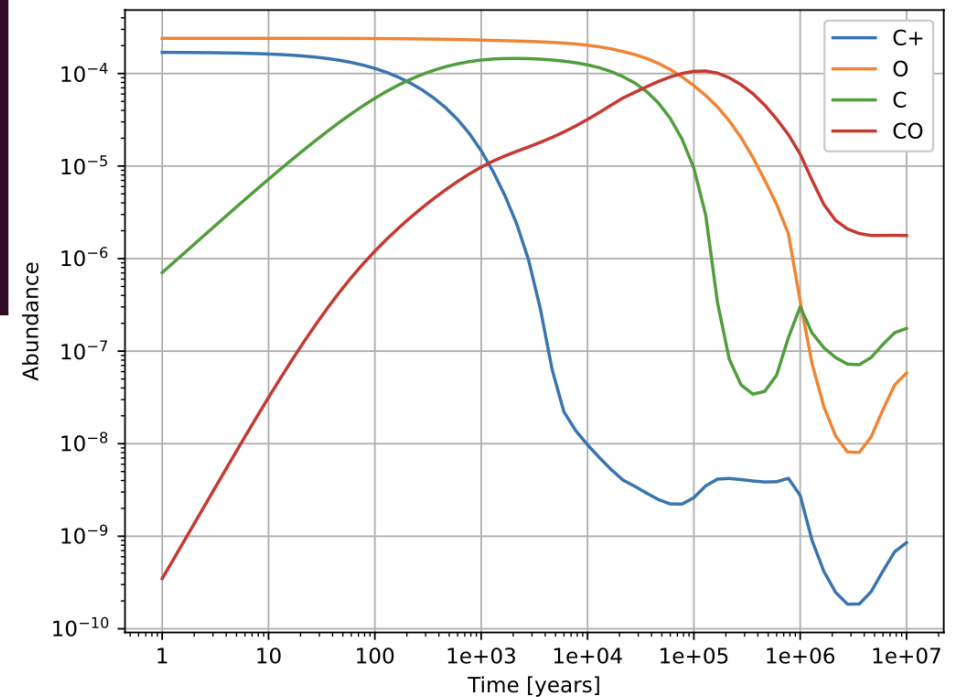
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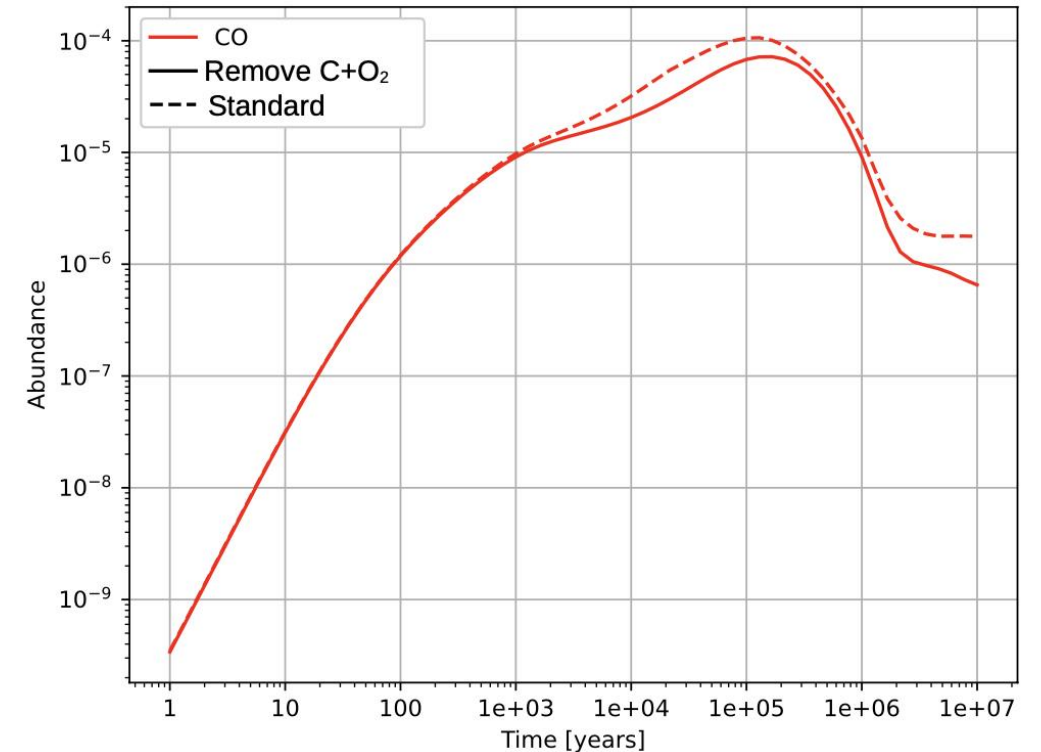
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Flux producing the molecule



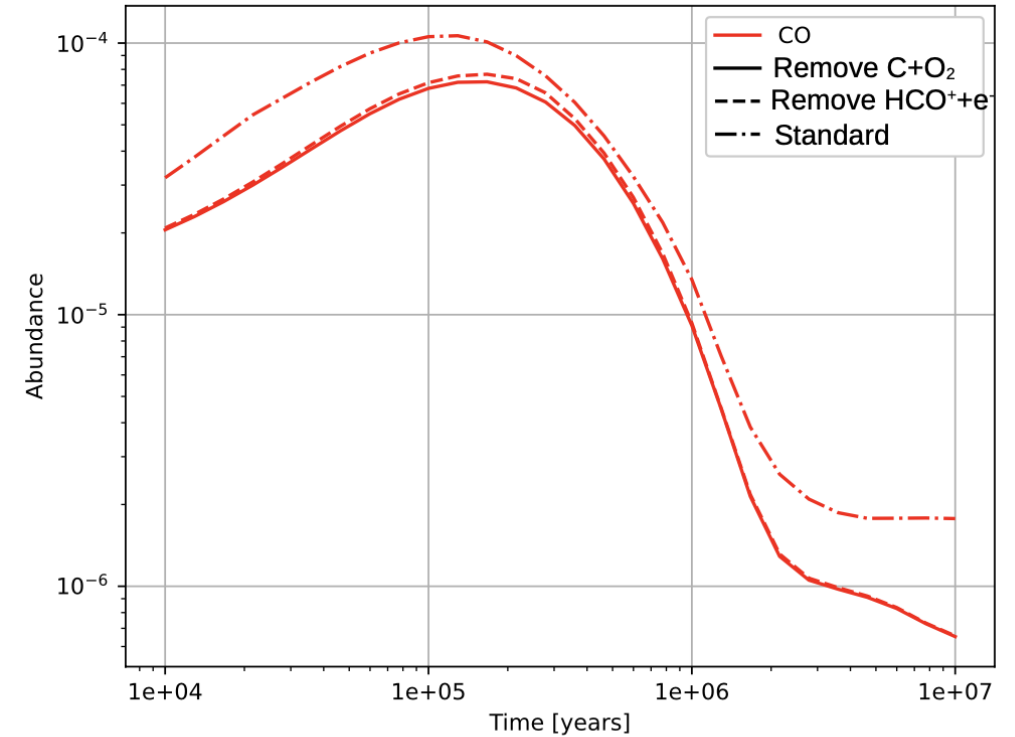
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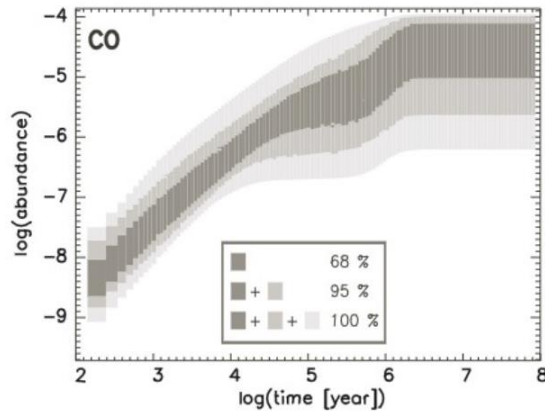
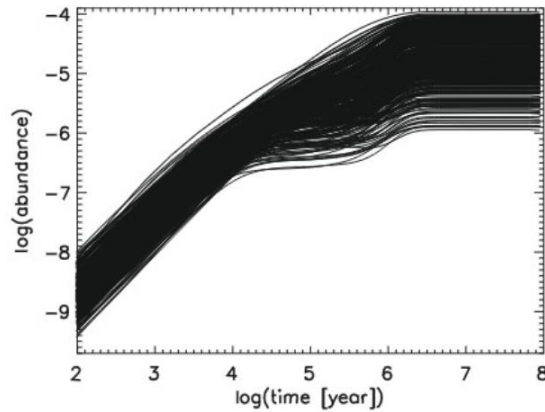


Many reactions contribute to the formation of CO.

# What is an important reaction?

Reaction which variation in rate coefficient impacts the most one species.

- Independent random variation of all rate coefficients (within a factor)
- Compute coefficient correlation



For instance Pearson correlation coefficients:

$$C(X_j, Z) = \frac{\sum_l (X_j^l - \bar{X}_j)(Z^l - \bar{Z})}{\sqrt{\sum_l (X_j^l - \bar{X}_j)^2 \sum_l (Z^l - \bar{Z})^2}}$$

Modified parameter value

Abundance for each set of parameter

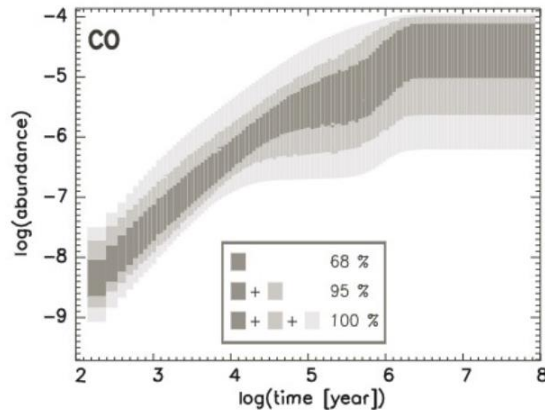
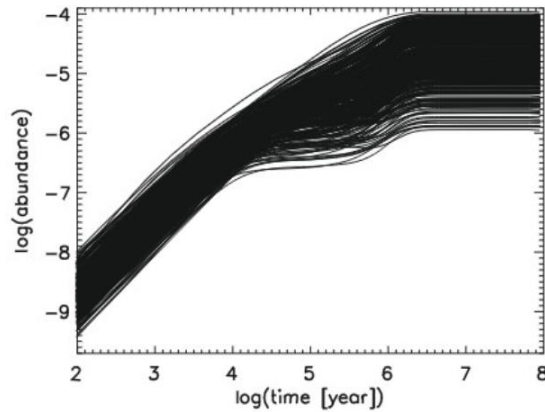
Mean abundance

Mean value of the parameter

# What is an important reaction?

Reaction which variation in rate coefficient impacts the most one species.

- Independent random variation of all rate coefficients (within a factor)
- Compute coefficient correlation
- Best way to identify indirect impact



**Table 3** List of key reactions by number of species influenced.

Reaction	Strongly affected species <sup>1</sup>
$C + H_2 \rightarrow CH_2 + h\nu$	73
$CH_3^+ + H_2 \rightarrow CH_5^+ + h\nu$	18
$C_2H_2^+ + H_2 \rightarrow C_2H_4^+ + h\nu$	$C_2H_2O, C_2H_3, C_2H_2^+, C_2HO^+, C_2H_2N^+, C_2H_4^+$
$CH_3^+ + CO \rightarrow C_2H_3O^+ + h\nu$	$C_2H_2O, C_2H_3O^+$
$C_2H_4^+ + e^- \rightarrow C_2H_3 + H$	$C_2H_2O, C_2H_3$
$HSiO^+ + e^- \rightarrow SiO + H$	Si, SiO
$HSiO^+ + e^- \rightarrow Si + OH$	Si, SiO
$C_3H^+ + H_2 \rightarrow C_3H_3^+ + h\nu$	$C_3H_2, H_2C_3, C_3H^+, C_3H_2^+, C_3H_3^+, H_3C_3^+$
$C_3H^+ + H_2 \rightarrow H_3C_3^+ + h\nu$	$C_3H_2, H_2C_3, C_3H^+, C_3H_2^+, C_3H_3^+, H_3C_3^+$
$CH_3^+ + HCN \rightarrow C_2H_4N^+ + h\nu$	$C_2H_2N, HC_3N, C_2H_3N, C_2H_4N^+$
$C_4H_2^+ + H \rightarrow C_4H_3^+ + h\nu$	$C_4H_2, C_5H, C_6H_6, C_4H_3^+$
$CH_3^+ + NH_3 \rightarrow CH_6N^+ + h\nu$	$CH_3N, CH_5N$
$C_4H_2^+ + O \rightarrow HC_4O^+ + H$	$C_3O, HC_4O^+$

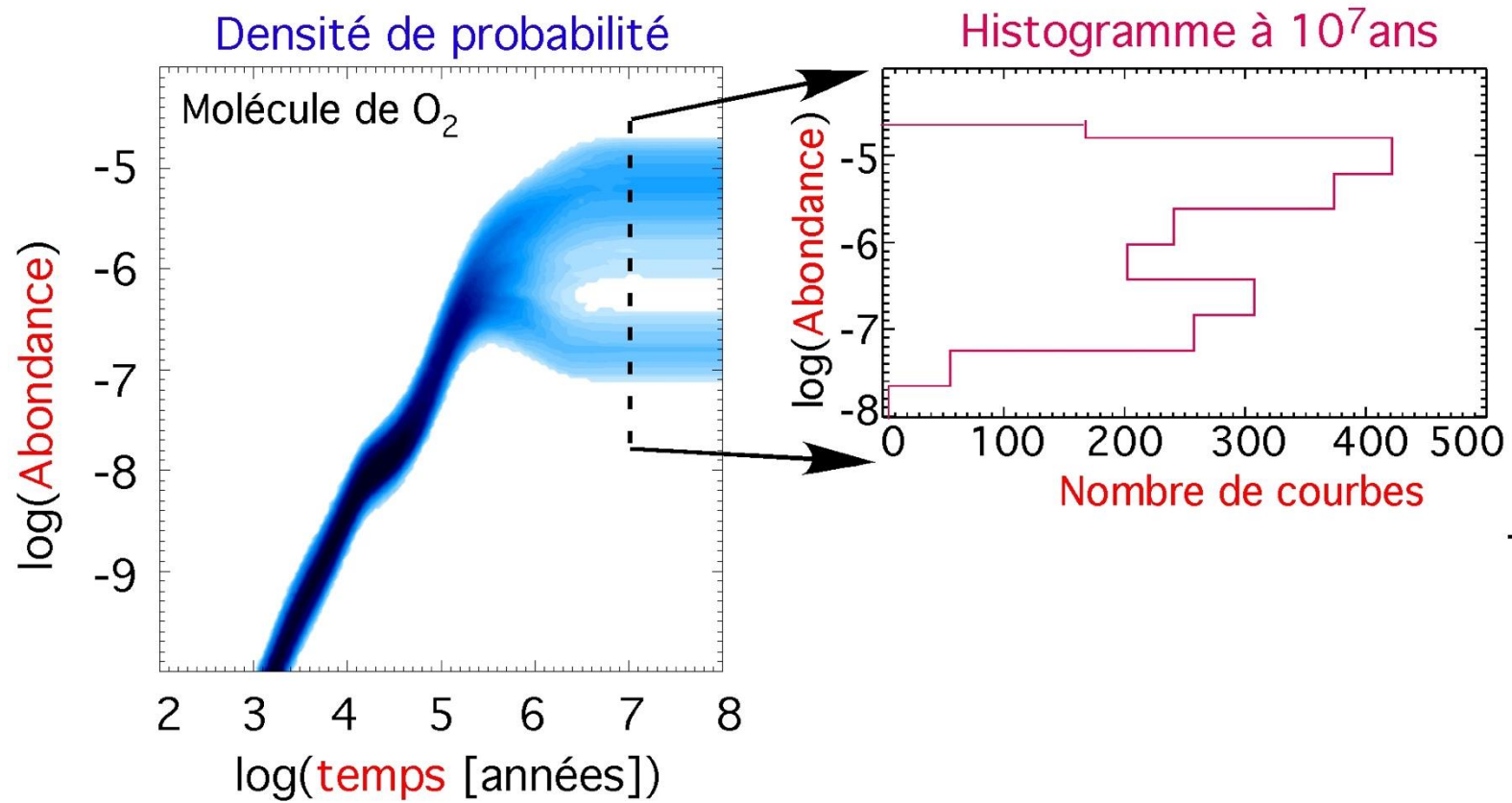
<sup>1</sup>Right column indicates the number or names of the species influenced strongly by each reaction.

# What is an important reaction?

List of reactions with largest correlation coefficients for species with abundance larger than  $1e-12$  at  $1e5$  yr (last kida.uva network).

Reactions	Impacted species
$H_2 + CR \rightarrow H_2^+ + e^-$	187
$He + CR \rightarrow He^+ + e^-$	49
$C_3 + CRP \rightarrow C + C_2$	30
$C + C_3 \rightarrow C_4 + \text{Photon}$	CCH, C3, CCO, HCO, OCN, C2H2, c-C3H, C3N, C3O, C3S, l-C3H, c-C3H2, HC3N, HNCCC, l-C3H2, HC3S, HC3O, HC4N, C5O, C3H+, CH3+, c-C3H2+, HC3O+, SiC3H+, HC3NH+, c-C3H3+, H2C3O+, l-C3H3+, H2C3S+, C5H3+
$O + CN \rightarrow N + CO$	N, CN, N2, NC6N, NC8N, N2H+
$H_2 + CH_3^+ \rightarrow CH_5^+ + \text{Photon}$	CH4, SiCH3, CH2CCH, C4H3, C2H3+, CH5+
$CO + H_3^+ \rightarrow H_2 + HCO_+$	OH+, H2F+, H2O+, H3+, H3O+
$H_2 + Si^+ \rightarrow SiH_2^+ + \text{Photon}$	SiH, SiS, HNSi, SiH2+
$O + H_3^+ \rightarrow H_2 + OH+$	OH+, H2O+, H3O+
$c-C_3H_2 + Si^+ \rightarrow H + SiC_3H^+$	c-SiC2, l-SiC3, SiC3H+
$C + NH_3 \rightarrow H_2CN + H$	NH3, CH3NH2, CH3NH3+
$H_3O^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + H + OH$	H2O, HCOOH, H3O+
$HF + C^+ \rightarrow H + CF^+$	HF, CF+
$S + CH_3 \rightarrow H + H_2CS$	H2CS, HCCS
$CO + He^+ \rightarrow He + O C^+$	He+, NH4+
$N + CN \rightarrow C + N_2$	N, N2
$O + CCH \rightarrow CH + CO$	CCH, CCO
$Cl + H_3^+ \rightarrow H_2 + HCl^+$	Cl, HCl
$C + C_5O \rightarrow CO + C_5$	C5O, HC5O+
$C + H_2CO \rightarrow CO + CH_2$	HS, H2CO
$Mg + HCO^+ \rightarrow HCO + Mg^+$	Mg, Mg+
$H_2 + C_2H_2^+ \rightarrow C_2H_4^+ + \text{Photon}$	C2H2+, C2HO+
$H_2 + C_3H^+ \rightarrow l-C_3H_3^+ + \text{Photon}$	C3H+, l-C3H3+
$H_2 + C_3H^+ \rightarrow c-C_3H_3^+ + \text{Photon}$	C3H+, l-C3H3+
$NH_3 + CH_3^+ \rightarrow CH_3NH_3^+ + \text{Photon}$	CH3NH2, CH3NH3+
$C_2H_4^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + C_2H_3$	C2H3, CH3CO
$HC_3NH^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + HNCCC$	HNCCC, C3N-
$CF^+ + e^- \rightarrow C + F$	HF, CF+
$HCS^+ + e^- \rightarrow S + CH$	HCS+, OCS+
$SiNC^+ + e^- \rightarrow Si + CN$	SiN+, SiNC+
$NH_4^+ + e^- \rightarrow H + NH_3$	NH2, NH4+
$C_5H + e^- \rightarrow C_5H^- + \text{Photon}$	C5H2, C5H-

# Finding weird behaviors with sensitivity analysis





# Bistability

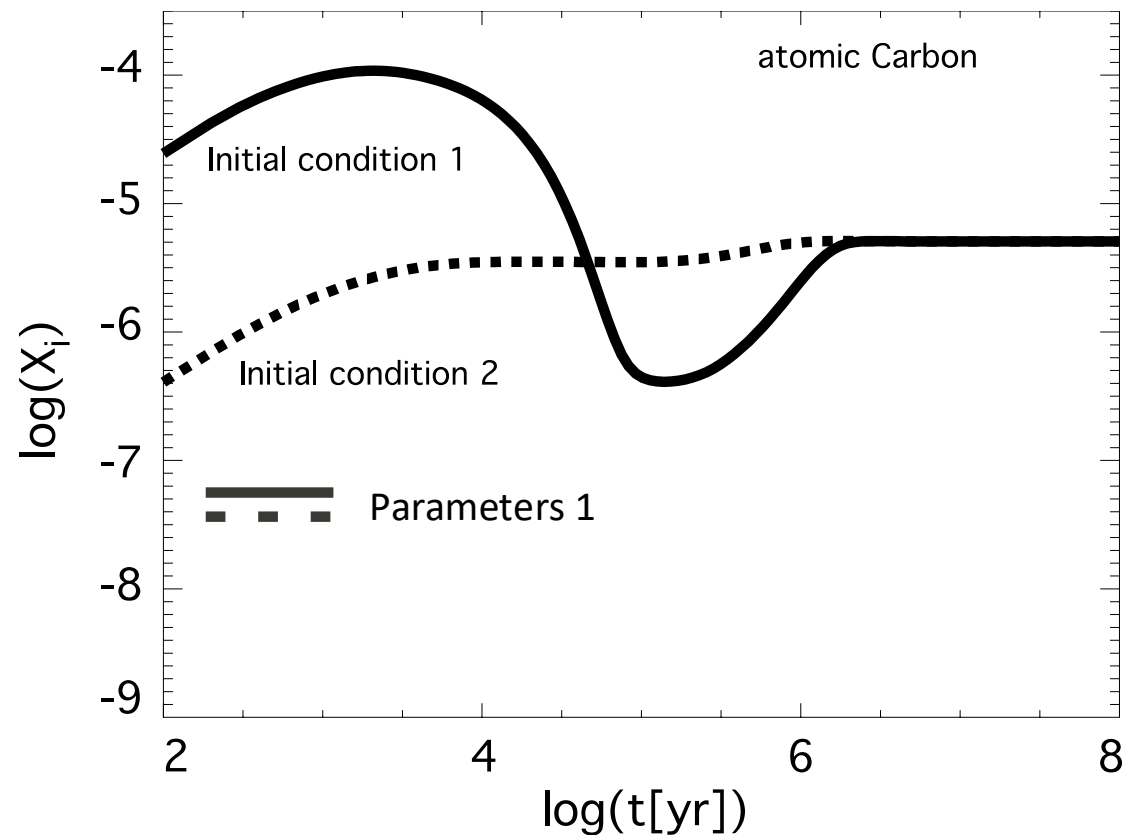
→ Bistability means that the system can exist in two different stable states.

→ In chemistry, it means that a system can evolve in two different states of equilibrium for the same set of physical parameters but depending on the initial conditions.

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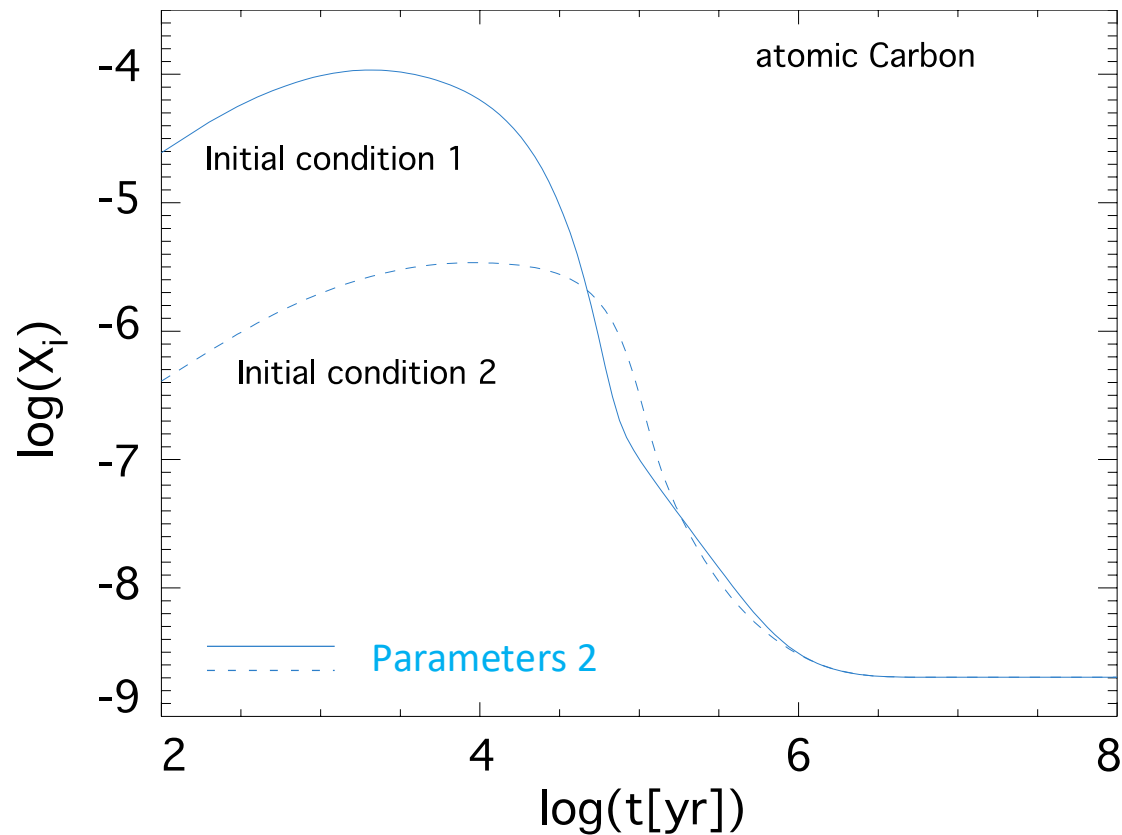


What do I call  
initial conditions  
in this case?

# Bistability

→ Bistability means that the system can exist in two different stable states.

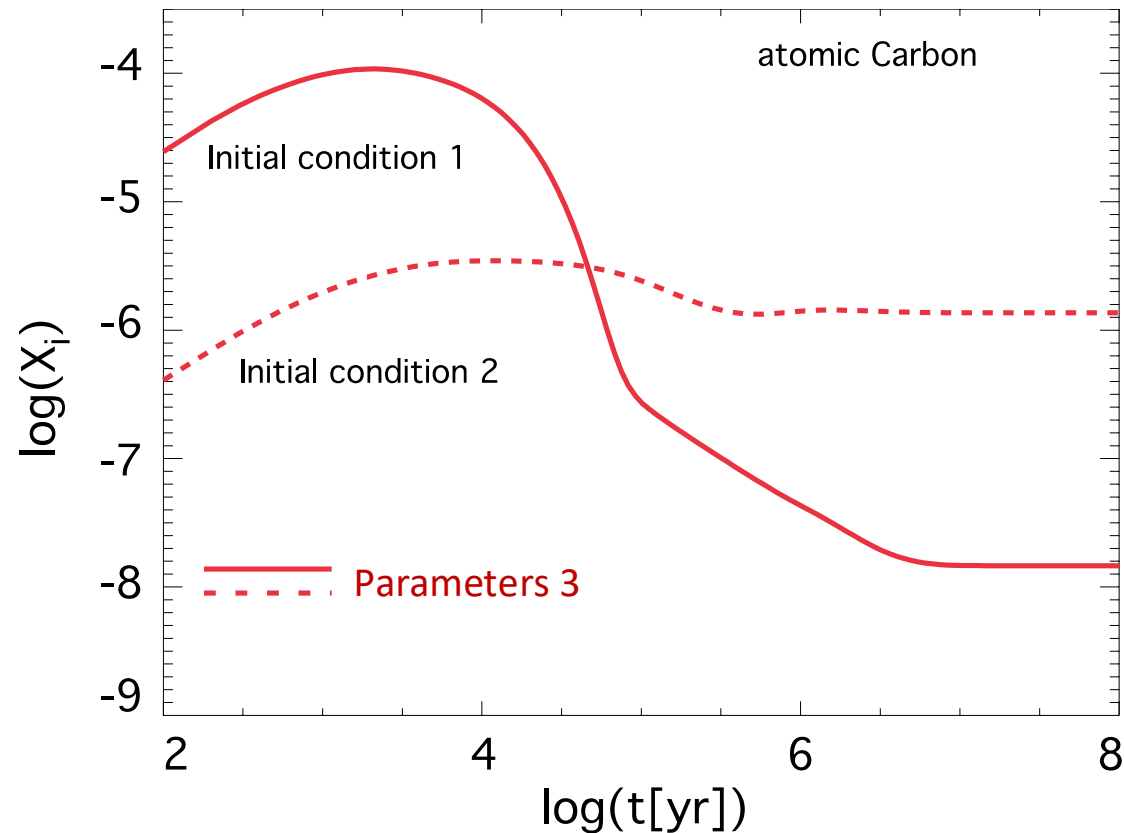
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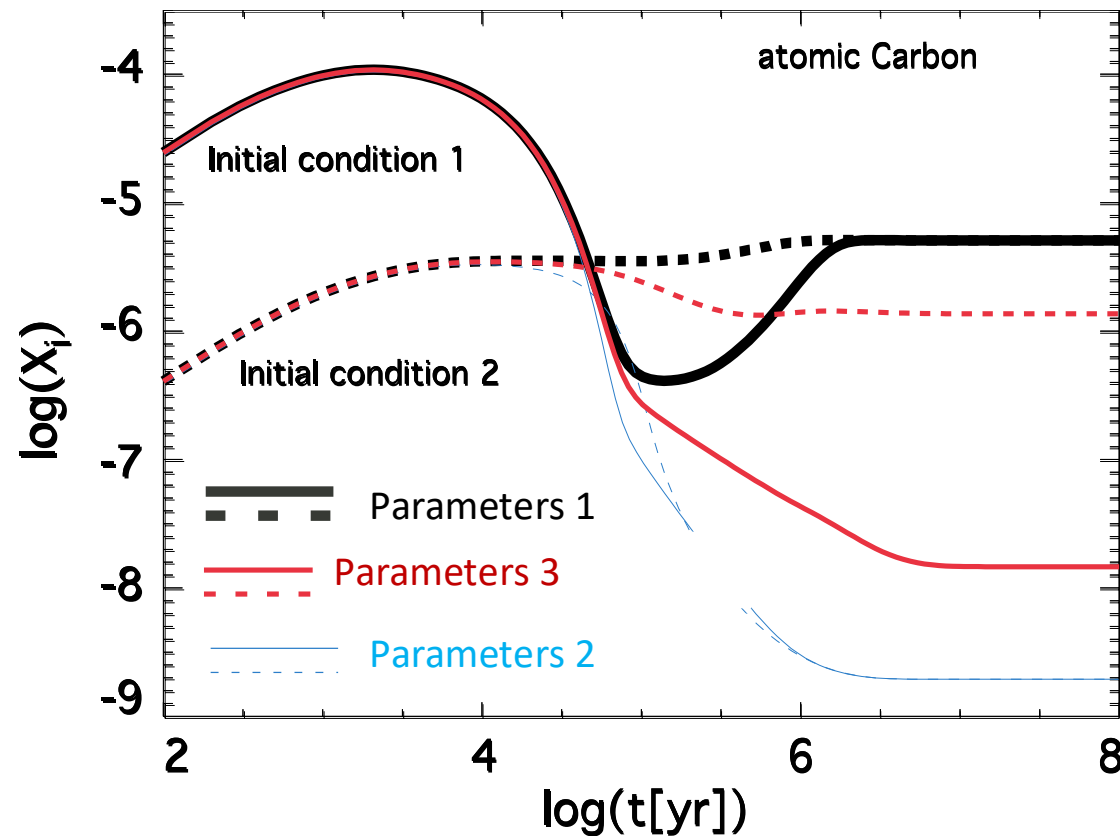
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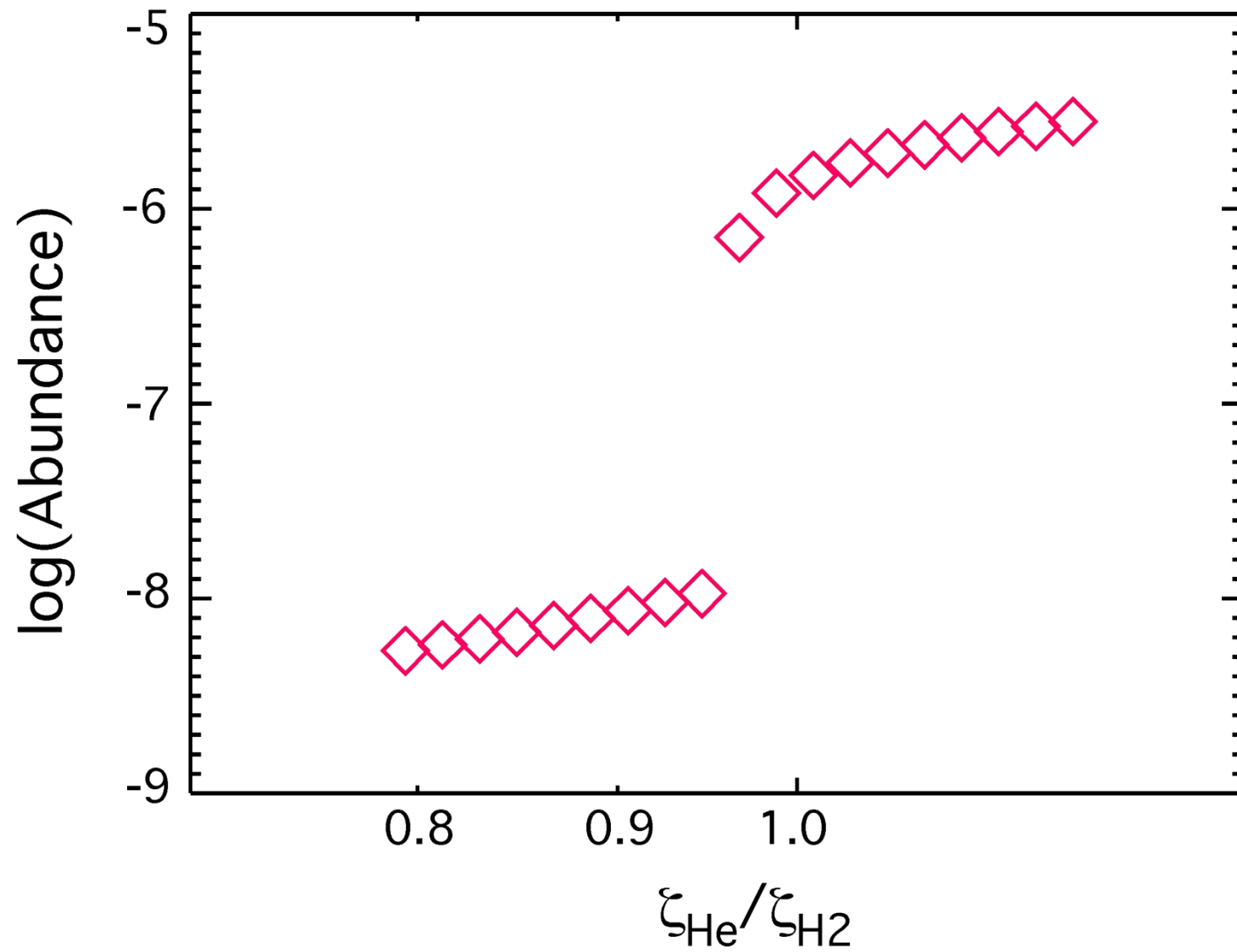
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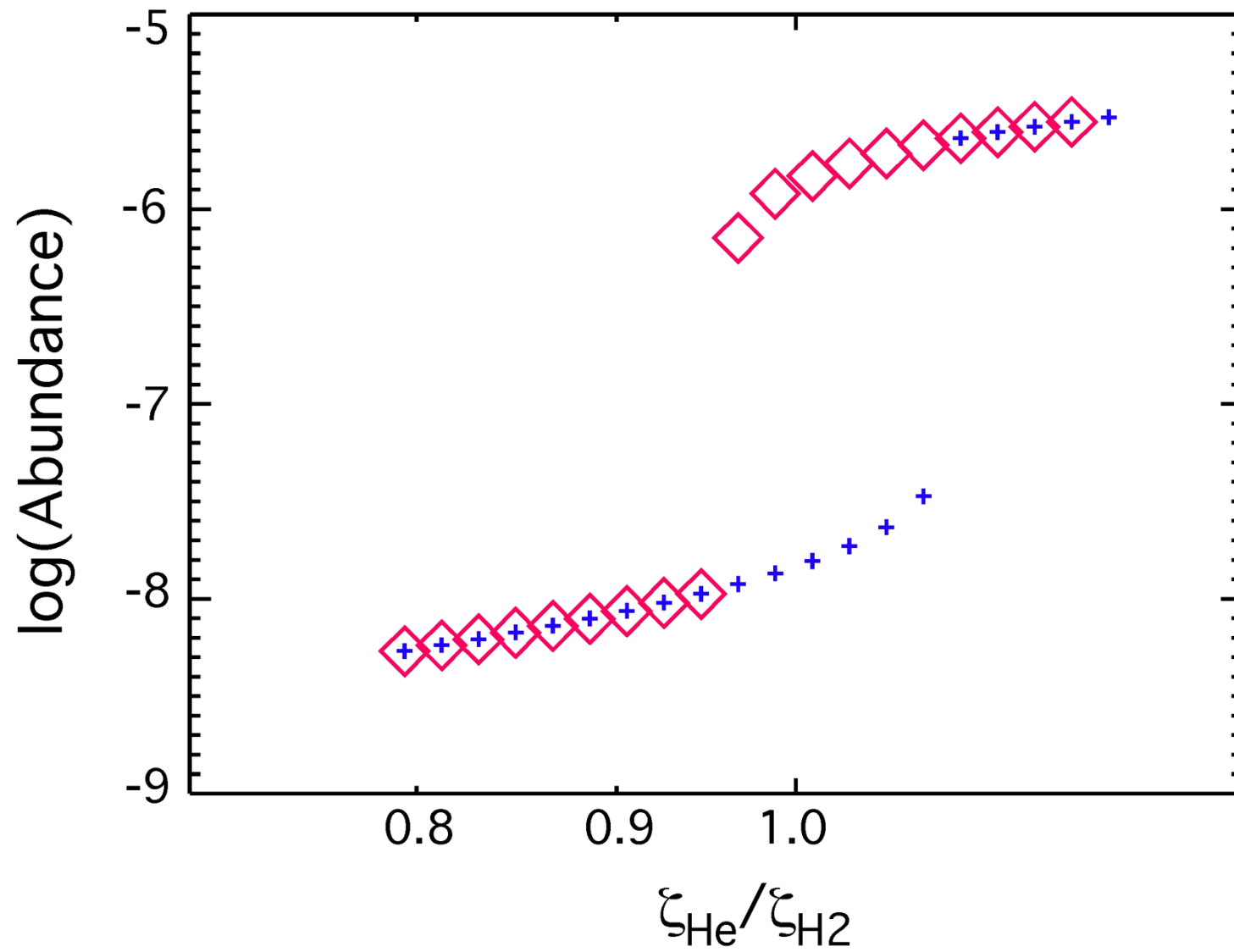
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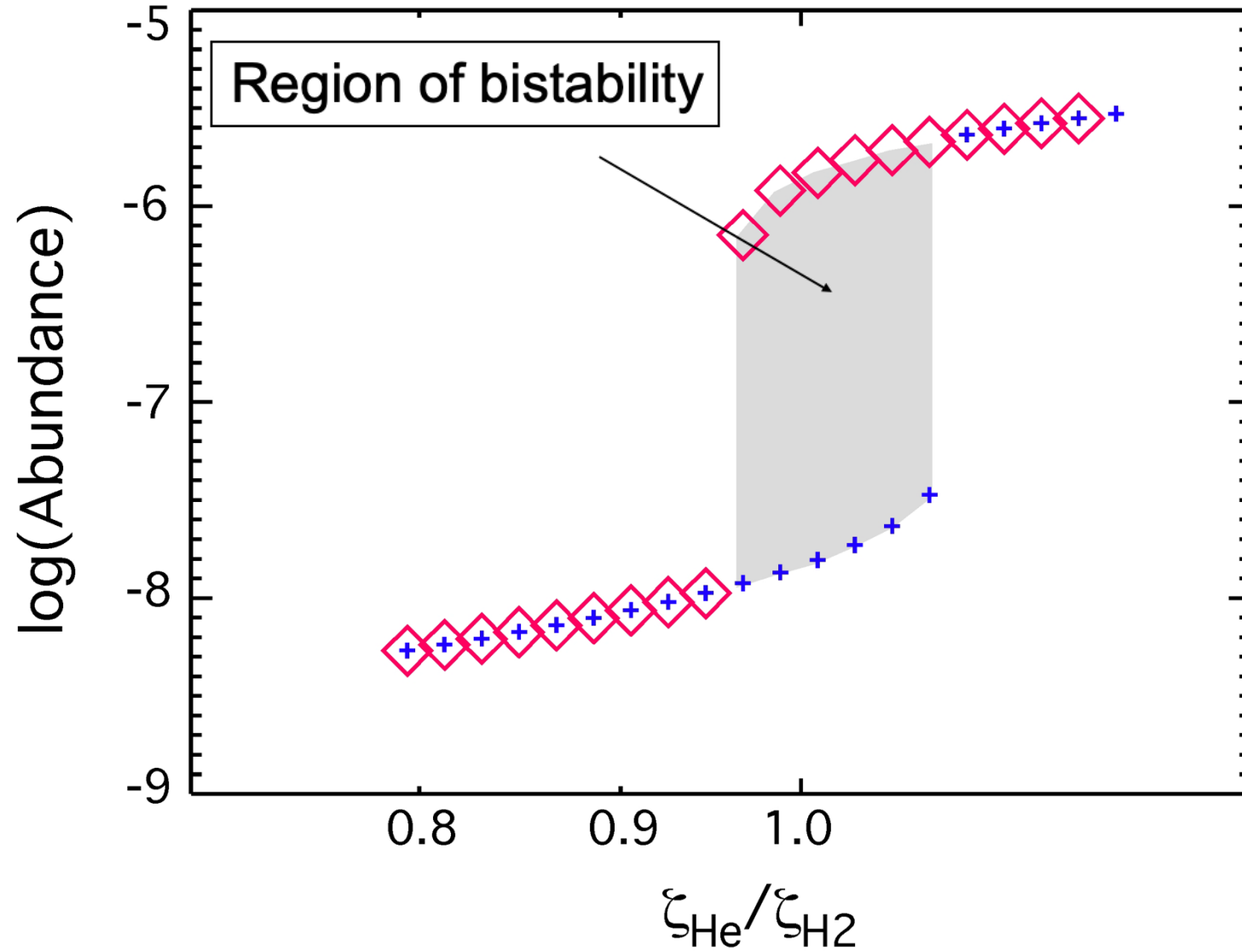
# Bistability



# Bistability



# Bistability





# Bistability

## References :

- Pineau des Forêts et al. (1992)
- Le Boulrot et al. (1993, 1995a,b)
- Shalabiea & Greenberg (1995)
- Wakelam et al. (2006)
- Dufour (2019, 2021, 2023)
- + many more

# Databases of chemical reactions

Interstellar medium :

UMIST/UDFA (<http://www.udfa.net/>), KIDA (<https://kida.astrochem-tools.org>)

Meudon databases (PdR, Shock ...)

Planetary atmospheres :

NASA-JPL Chemical Kinetics and Photochemical Data for Use in Atmospheric Studies <http://jpldataeval.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Critical reviews from Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data (Atkinson et al., Baulch et al., Herron et al., Tsang et al.,...) <http://www.nist.gov/srd/reprints.htm>

General databases :

NIST <http://kinetics.nist.gov/kinetics/index.jsp>, Anicich (ion-neutral) - word or pdf documents

Photo-dissociations :

\* Database from LISA <http://w3.lisa.univ-paris12.fr/GPCOS/SCOOPweb/SCOOP.html>

\* Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Molecular Data <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/amp/tools.html>

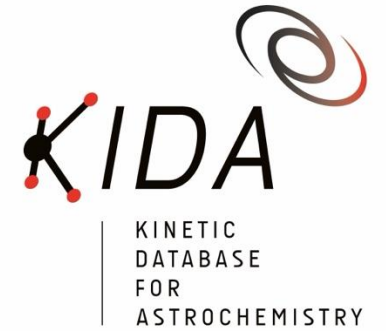
\* MPI-Mainz-UV-VIS Spectral Atlas of Gaseous Molecules <http://www.atmosphere.mpg.de/enid/2295>

\* science-softCon UV/Vis+ Spectra Data Base (UV/Vis+Photochemistry Database) <http://www.uv-spectra.de/>

\* SWRI Photo cross sections and rate coefficients <http://amop.space.swri.edu/>

# The Kinetic Database for Astrochemistry

<http://kida.astrochem-tools.org/>



- Database of chemical reactions and associated parameters for the interstellar medium and planetary atmospheres
- Uncritical compilation of data with detailed information (uncertainties, temperature range, bibliographic reference, etc)
- Online consulting interface
- Form to download list of reactions
- You can contribute by submitting data with cvs templates
- Subsets of chemical reactions for specific applications (Titan atmosphere, Hot Jupiters, ISM)

# The Kinetic Database for Astrochemistry

<http://kida.astrochem-tools.org/>

## For gas-phase reactions:

- Temperature dependent partial reaction rate coefficients for bimolecular reactions
- Photodissociation and ionisation rates (integrated over the ISRF radiation field)
- Photodissociation and ionisation rates due to UV photons induced by cosmic-ray particles (Prasad-Tarafdar mechanism)
- Direct dissociation and ionisations rates by cosmic-ray particles

## For surface reactions:

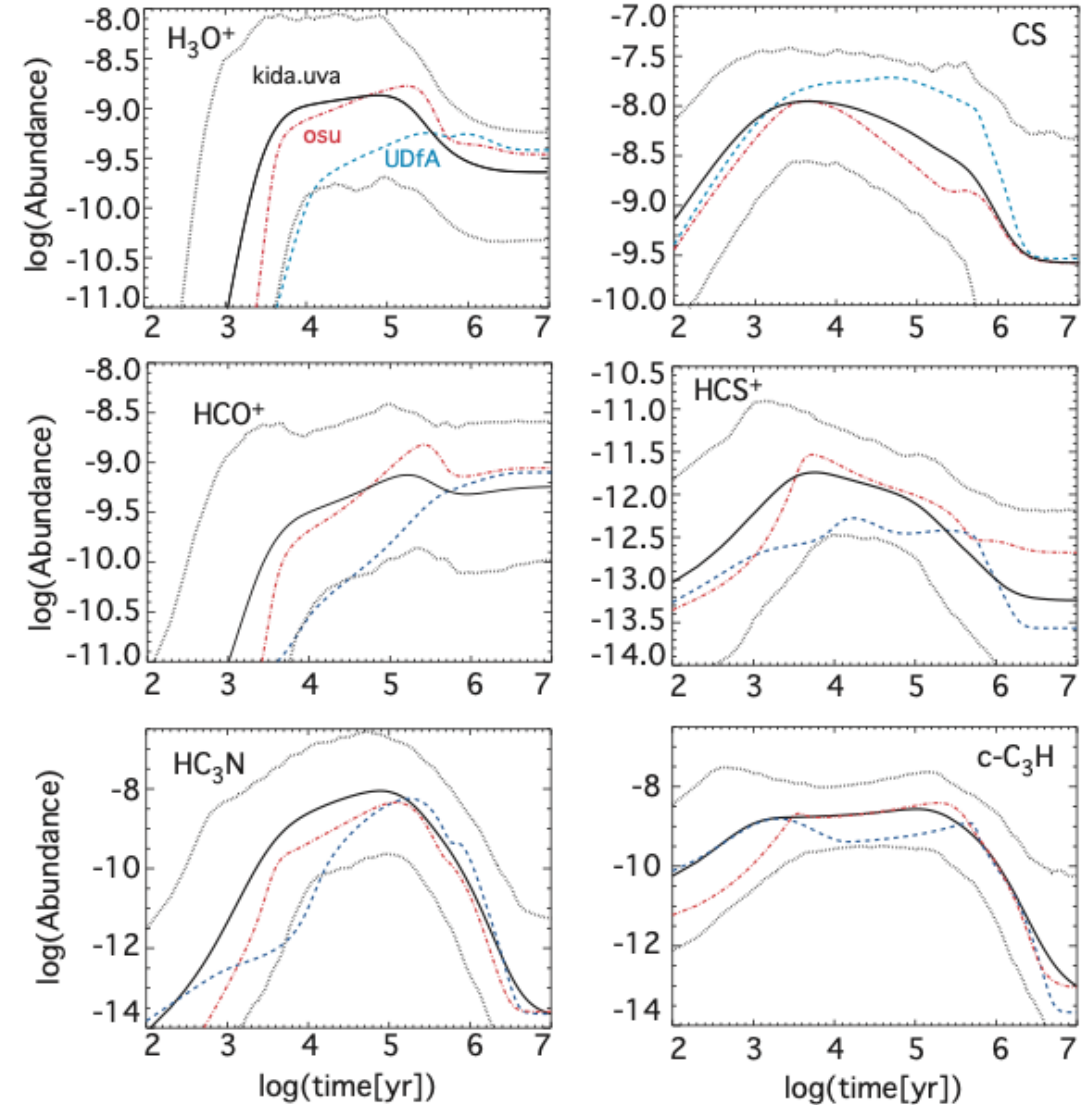
- Possible pathways (with branching ratios)
- Activation energies and barrier width

## For species:

- Polarizability, dipole moment and enthalpy of formation
- Diffusion and desorption energies

# Comparing gas-phase chemical networks

udf2006 from UMIST  
osu-01-2009  
kida.uva.2011



From Wakelam et al. (2012)

# Reduced networks

Why reducing the networks :

- To have a fast model to couple the chemistry with hydrodynamics
- To run grids of models to compare with observations

Many solutions proposed in the literature:

Estimate the significance of particular species or reactions -> Wiebe et al. (2003)

Flux-reduction scheme -> Grassi et al. (2012)

Iterative sensitive method -> Xu et al. (2009)

Using autoencoders -> Grassi et al. (2022)

+++

However, reduced networks come weaknesses:

- loss of precision (not necessarily a problem)
- valid over a range of conditions.
- valid for a limited number of species.

# Emulators of chemical models

- Using grids of gas-grain models to teach neural networks the chemical abundances as a function of time.
- Get a fast emulator of interstellar chemistry over the conditions used for the training.

See for instance Asencio Ramos et al. (2024) and references therein

# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

- What are the main characteristics of the source?
  - Important chemical processes to include
  - Geometry to consider
- What scenario (time evolution)?
  - If you do not have the full history : different steps of the modeling to simulate the different steps.
- What are the approximations and are they negligible?



# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

## Chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry +  
adsorption/desorption from the grains

Gas-phase chemistry + full surface  
treatment

## Physical parameters

Fixed gas temperature, density and visual extinction

Evolving gas temperature, density and visual extinction

## Geometry

0D

1D

2D

## Dynamic

Static structure

Dynamically active

# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model the diffuse medium.

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Gas-phase chemistry

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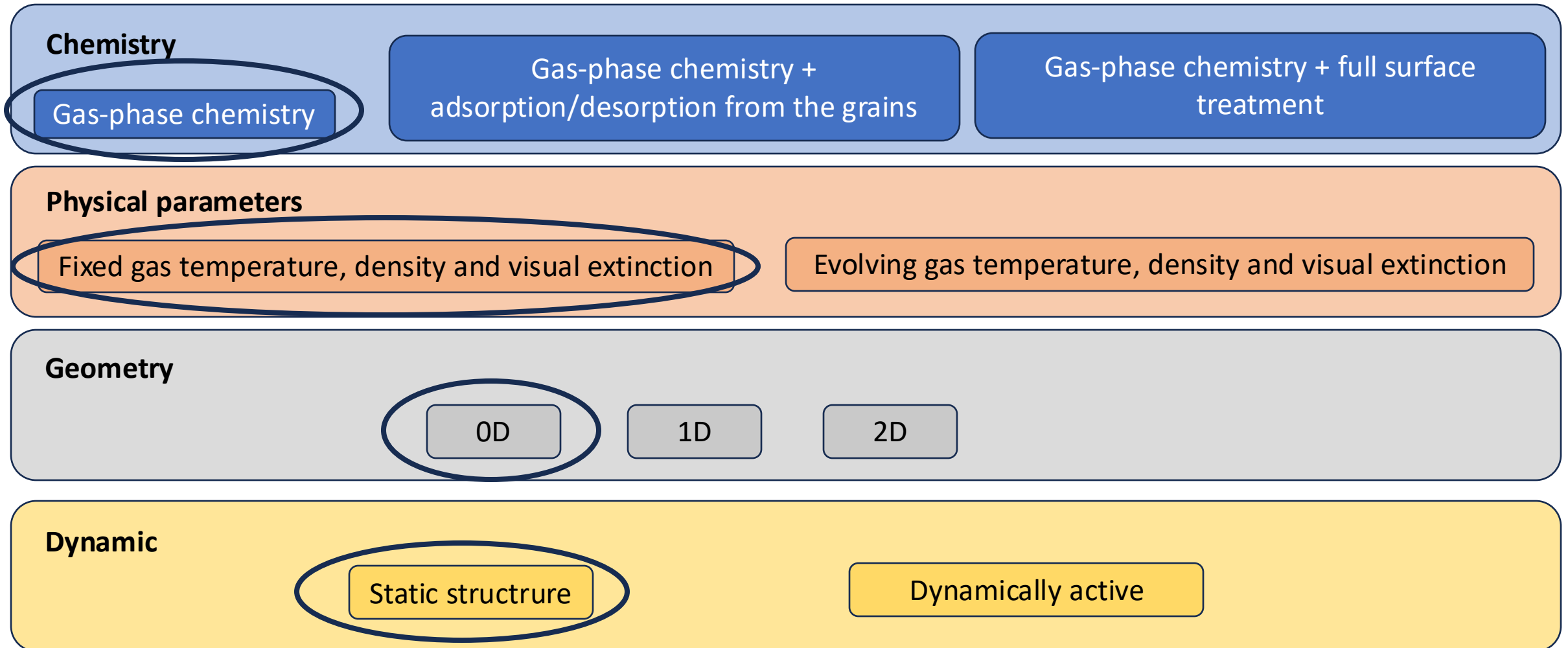
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# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model the diffuse medium.



# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model a cold core.

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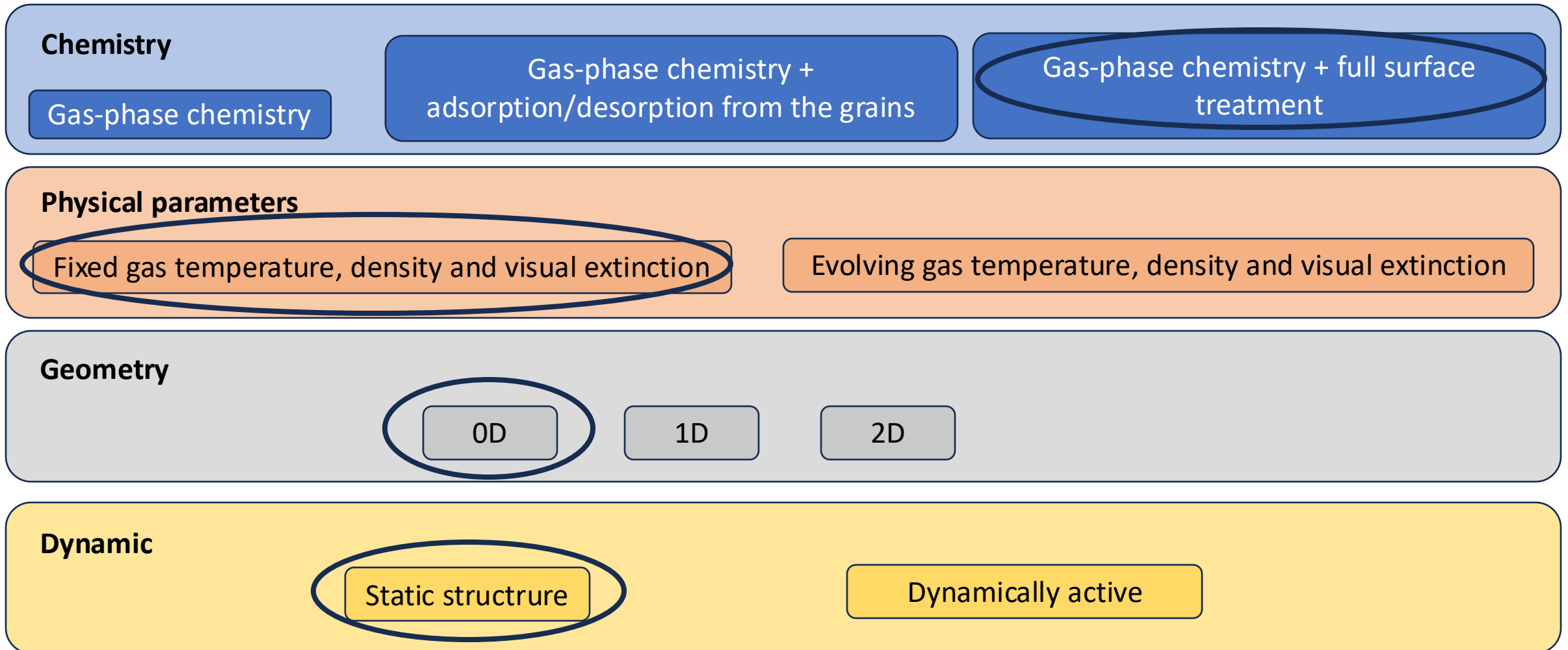
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# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model a cold core.



# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model a proto-stellar envelop.

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Gas-phase chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry +  
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Gas-phase chemistry + full surface  
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## Physical parameters

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Evolving gas temperature, density and visual extinction

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Exercise: I want to model a proto-stellar envelop.

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Gas-phase chemistry

Gas-phase chemistry +  
adsorption/desorption from the grains

Gas-phase chemistry + full surface  
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0D

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# How to construct a chemical model for a specific application?

Exercise: I want to model a proto-stellar envelop.

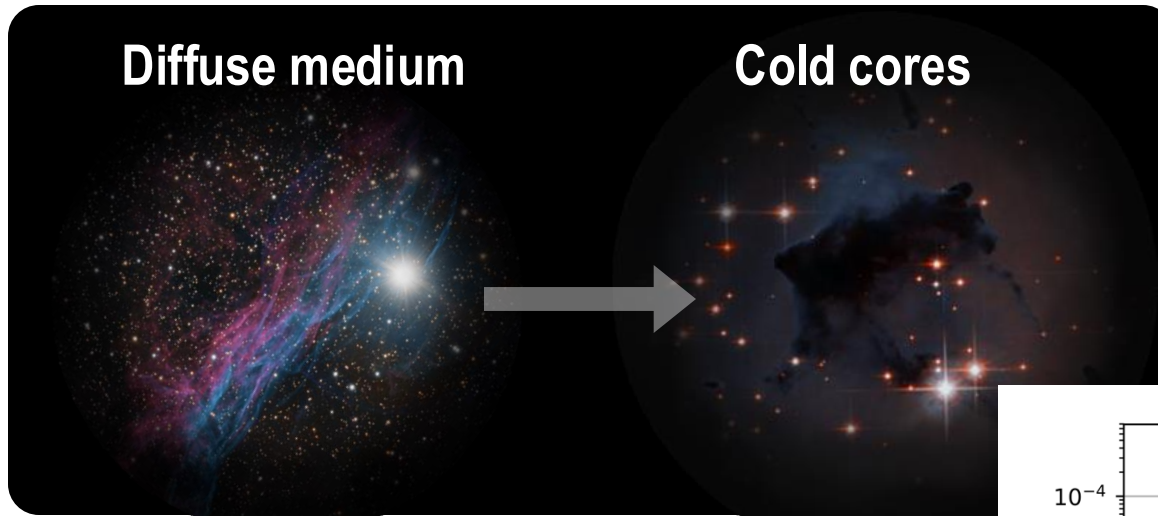
- Need to think about the scenario:
  - Pre-collapse phase (what conditions, how long...)
  - Infall phase (how does the temperature and density increase? For how long?)
  - Deal with the formation of H<sub>2</sub>

Example:

- Step 1 of pre-collapse (start from atoms, run the model for cold core conditions for 10<sup>5</sup> or 10<sup>6</sup> yrs)
- Step 2 : isothermal free-fall (increase of the density with a low temperature)
- Step 3: warm-up phase (increase of the temperature with a high density).

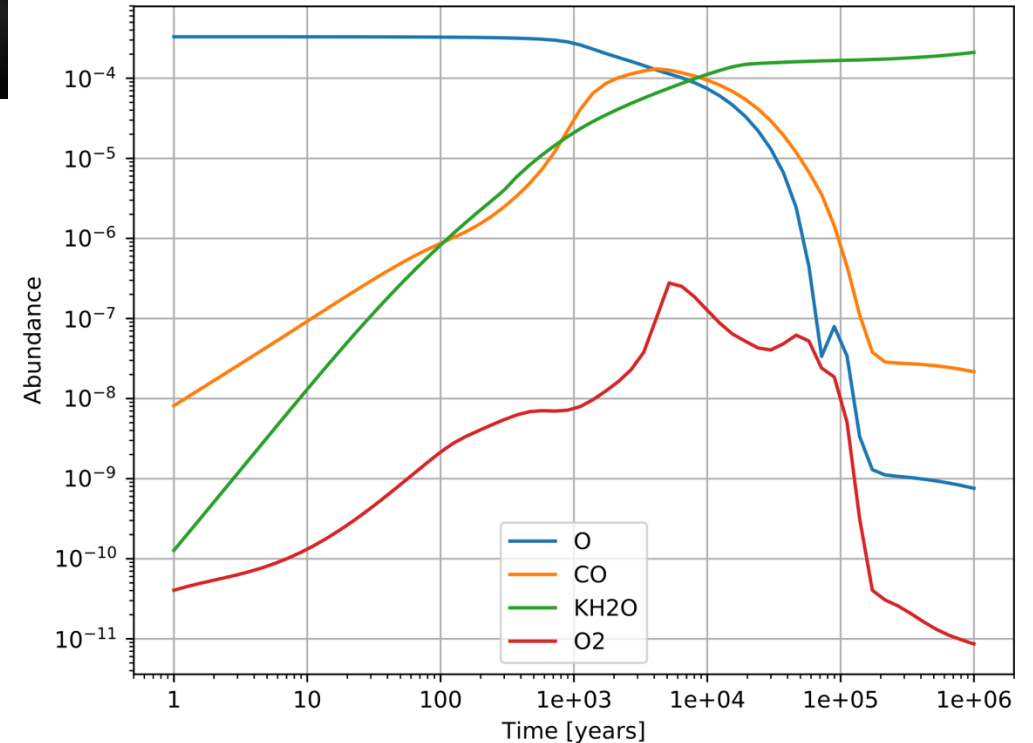


# Coupling chemistry with dynamics



## Classic approach:

- Hypothesis: physical conditions evolve faster than chemistry.
- Atomic initial conditions (except for H<sub>2</sub>)
- Keep physical conditions constant (10K, 10<sup>4</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup>)
- Compute time dependent chemical abundances

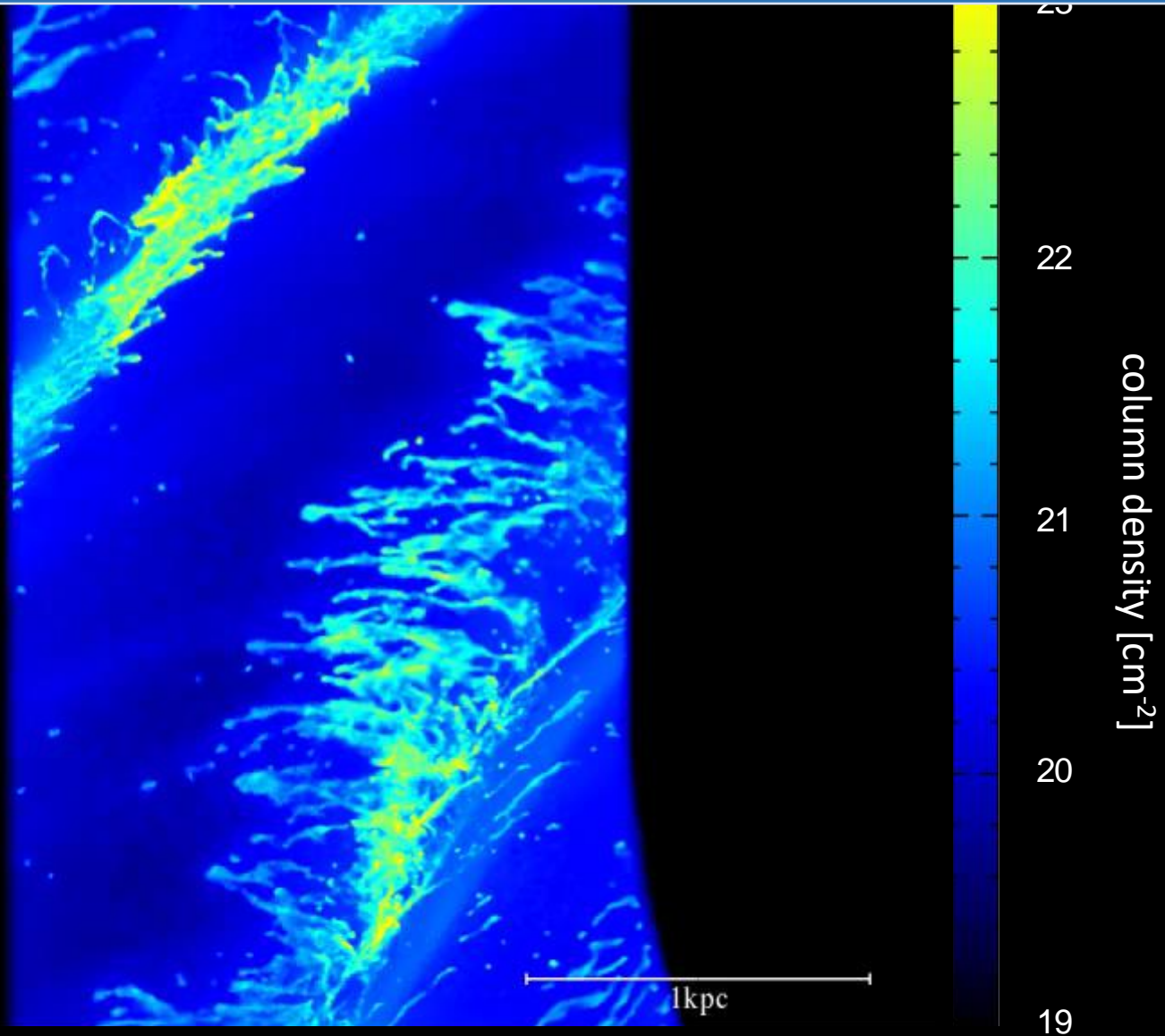


Is this approach valid?

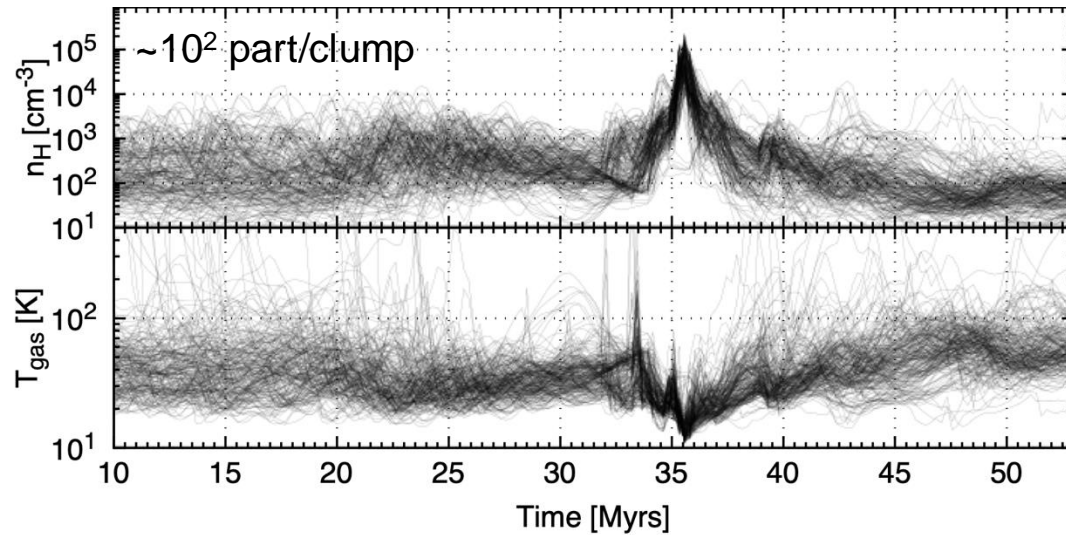
# Coupling chemistry with dynamics

- Evolution of a 150x150 pc region:
  - ✓  $10^7$  particles of  $0.15M_{\odot}$  each
  - ✓ over a period of 50 Myr

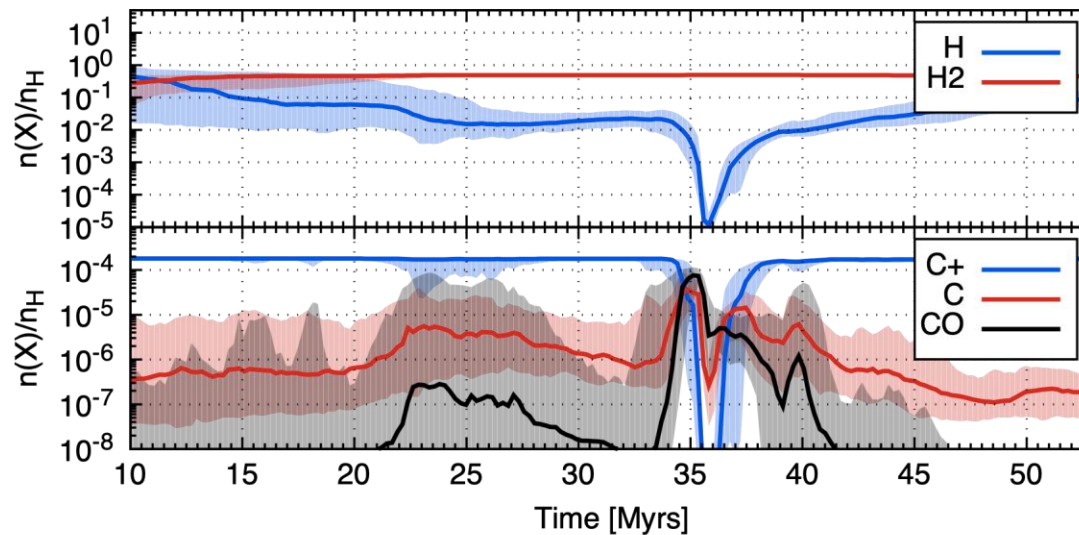
Simulations SPH Bonnel et al. (2013)



# Coupling chemistry with dynamics

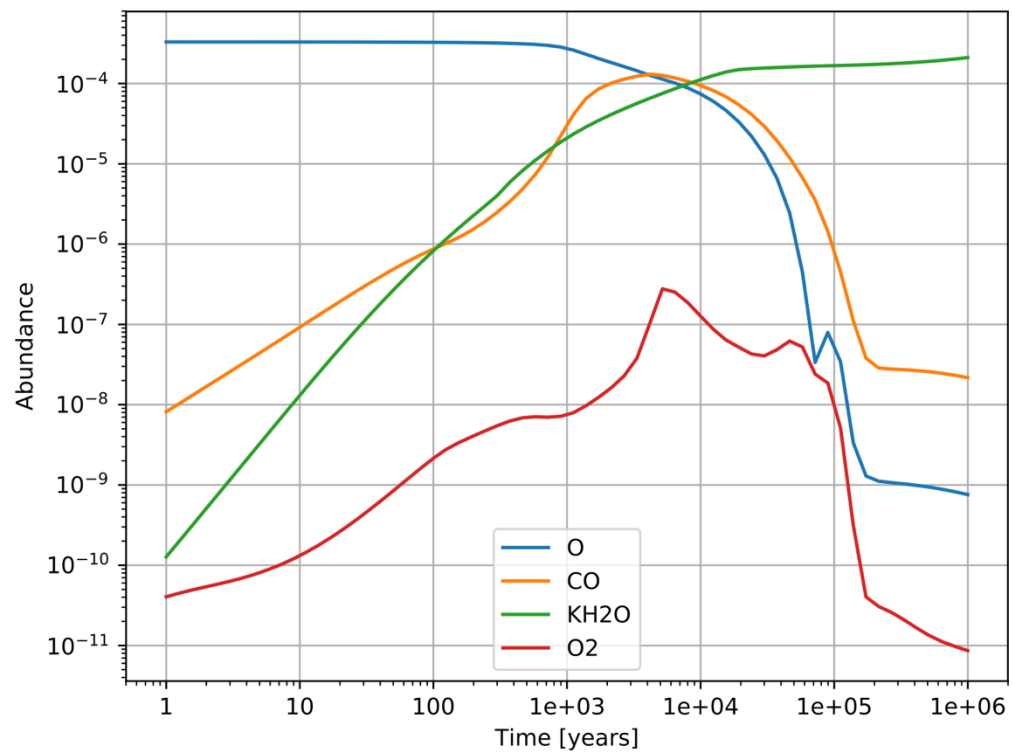


→ Extracting the physical conditions for parcels forming cold cores.

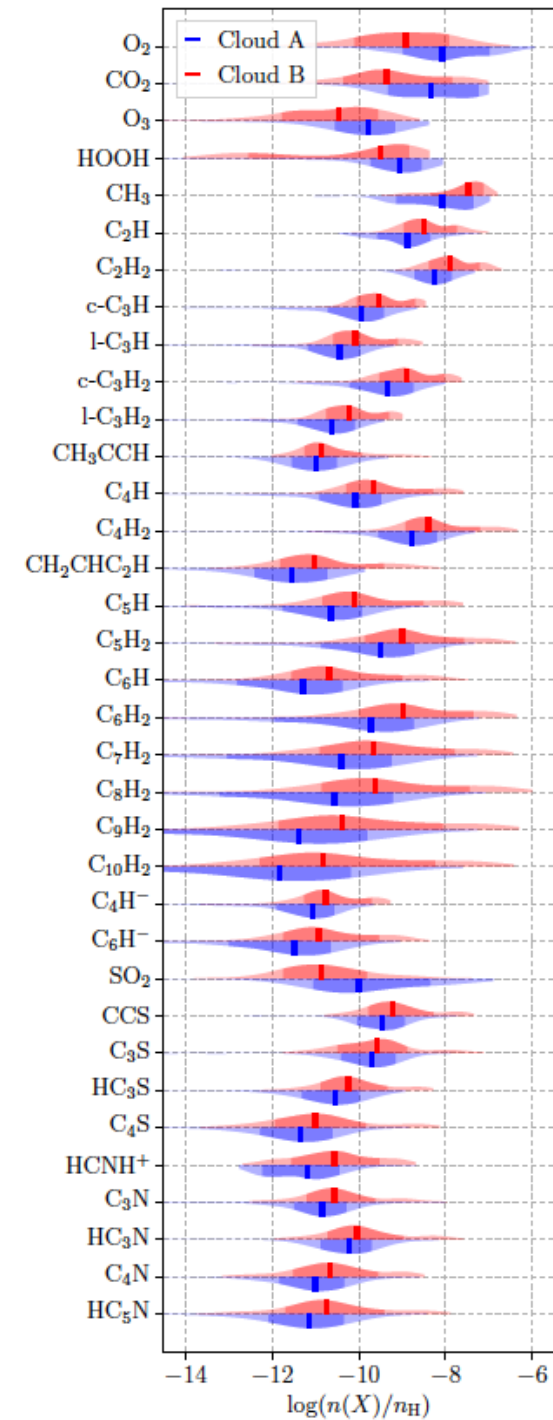


→ Post-process computation of the chemistry for each parcel at each time step.

### Classic approach:



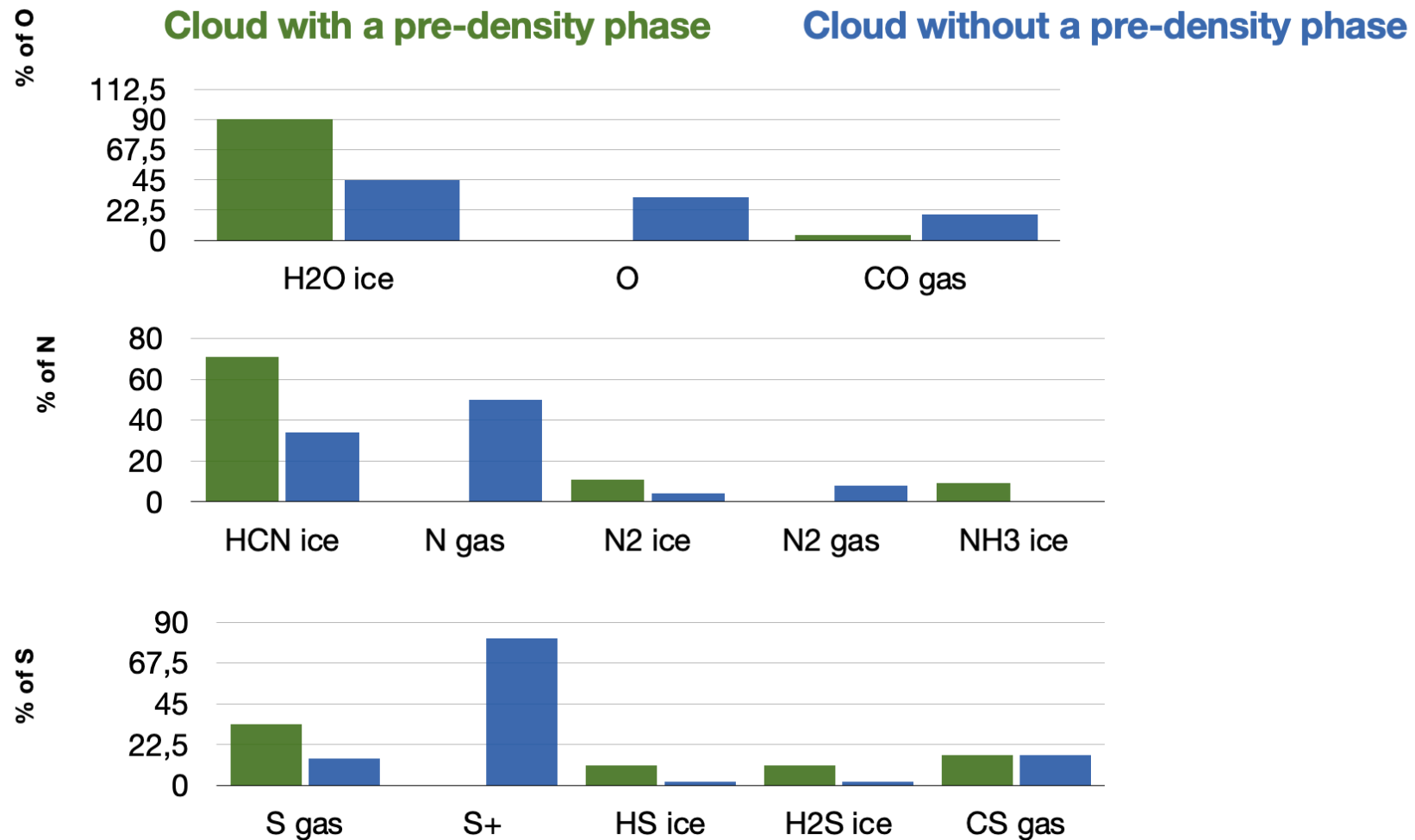
vs



Ruud et al. 2018

# Coupling chemistry with dynamics

## Reservoirs of oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur



## Take home messages

- In interstellar chemistry, grain-surface reactions need to be considered even though very uncertain.
- Complicated to identify key reactions. So complicated to know in advance if a new rate coefficient estimate will change the model or not.
- The more processes in a network the more stable it will be.
- Different public networks will have different results.
- Your model predictions will depend on the network but also on the physical conditions and their time evolution.