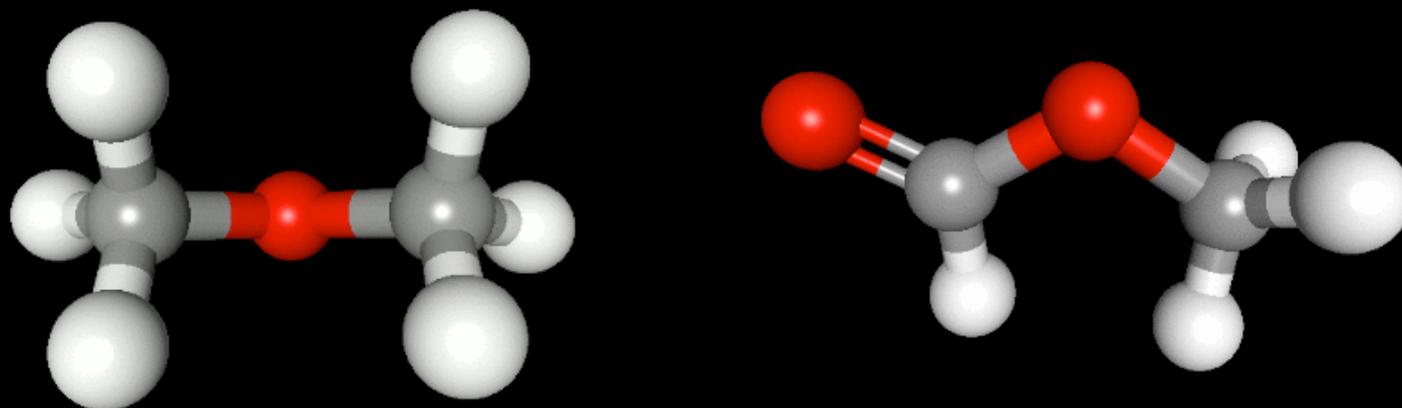


# Dimethyl Ether and Methyl Formate (DME & MF)



Cecilia Ceccarelli

Institut de Planétologie et d'Astrophysique de Grenoble

With billions thanks to:

N.Balucani, E.Bianchi, C.Codella, A.Jaber, F.Fontani, C.Kahane, B.Lefloch,  
A.Lopez-Sepulcre, A.Rimola, V.Taquet, P.Ugliengo

# Dimethyl Ether and Methyl Formate (DME & MF)

## Mimì e Cocò: inseparable friends



Cecilia Ceccarelli

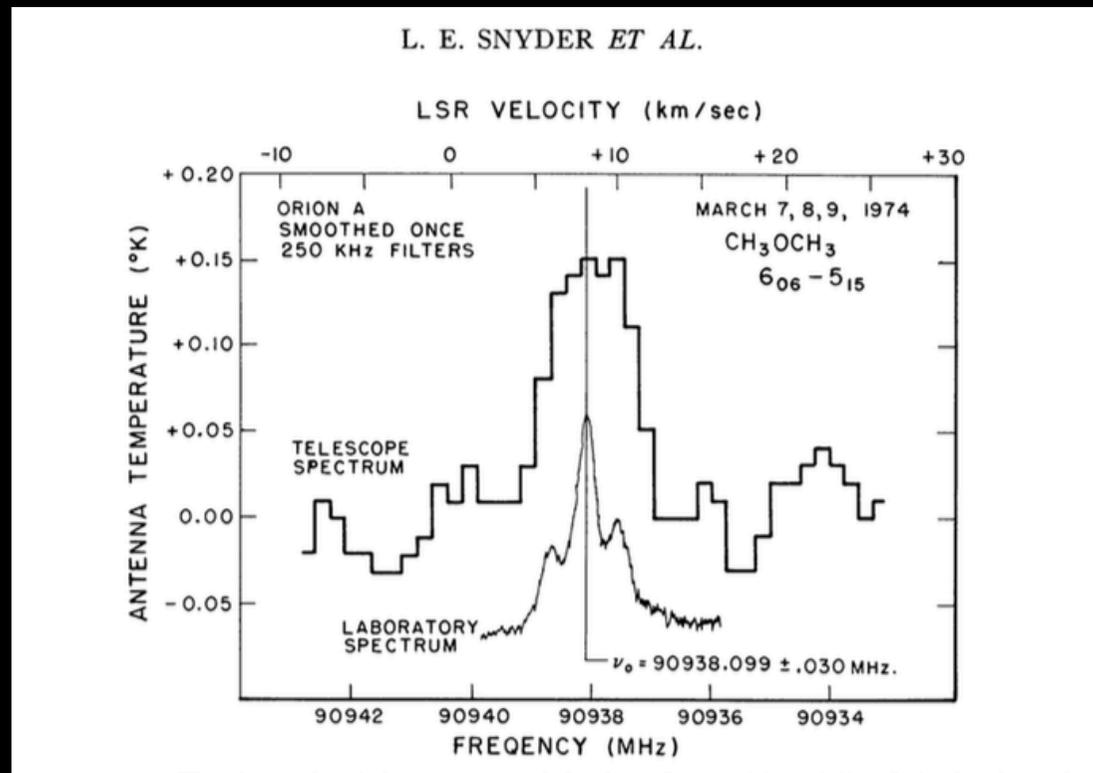
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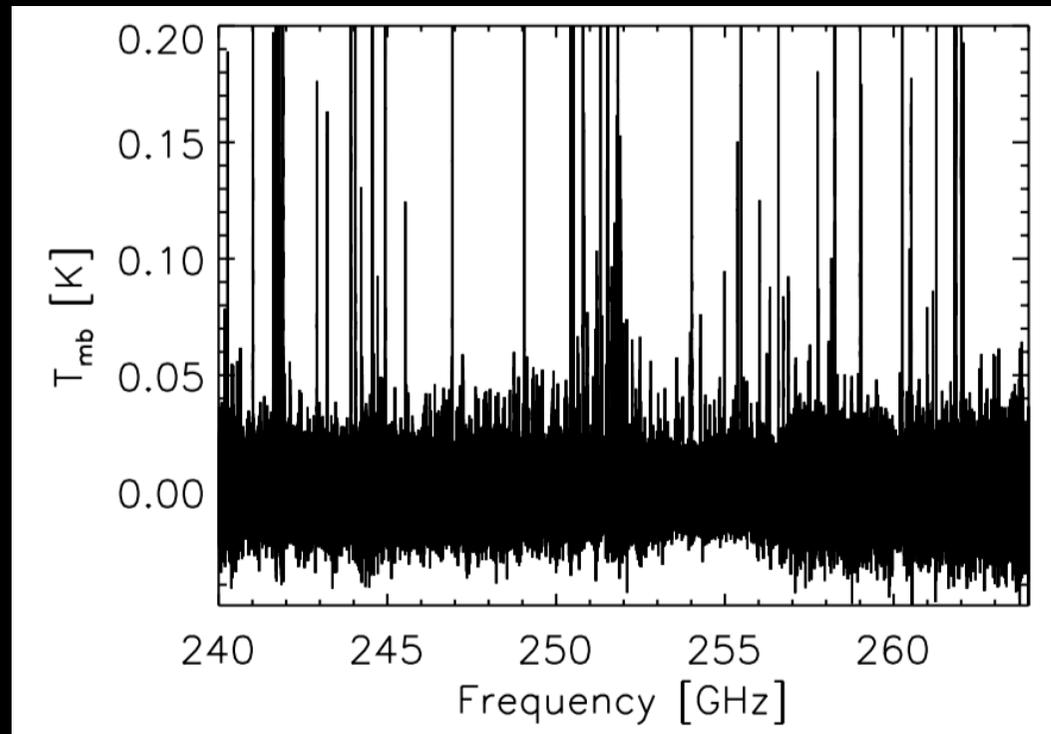
# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: old days

→ DME & MF HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN THE ISM ALREADY IN 1974... SO THEY ARE OLD FRIENDS OF ASTROCHEMISTS



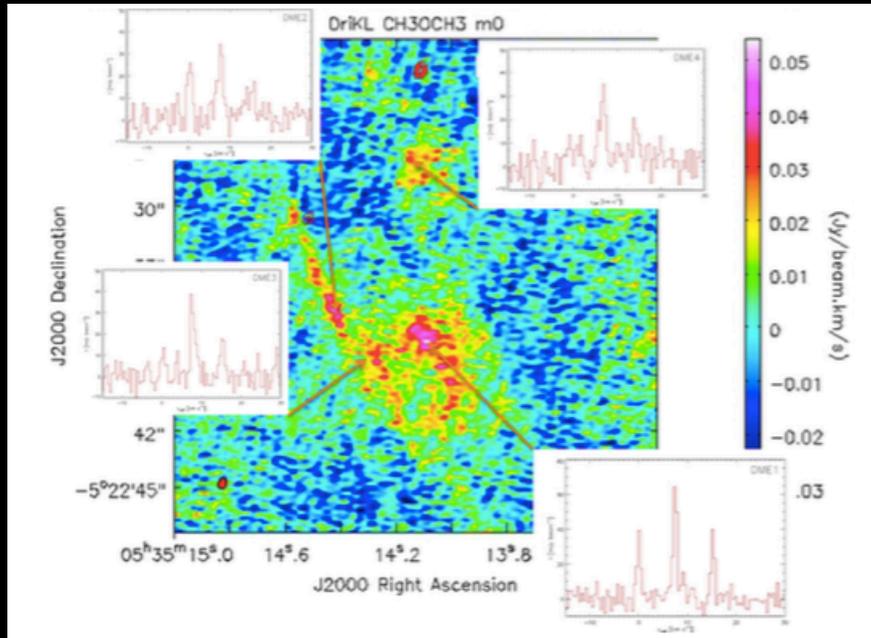
# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: nowadays

→ DME & MF HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN THE ISM ALREADY IN 1974... SO THEY ARE OLD FRIENDS OF ASTROCHEMISTS

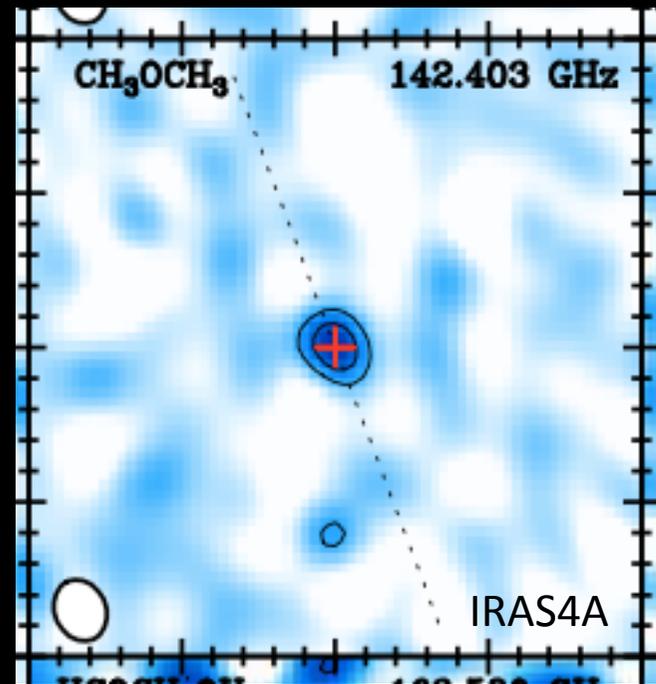


SINCE THEN MANY MORE SOURCES AND LINES: e.g. **ASAI**

# INTERFEROMETRY STUDIES



Favre, Wootten, Remijan, et al 2011

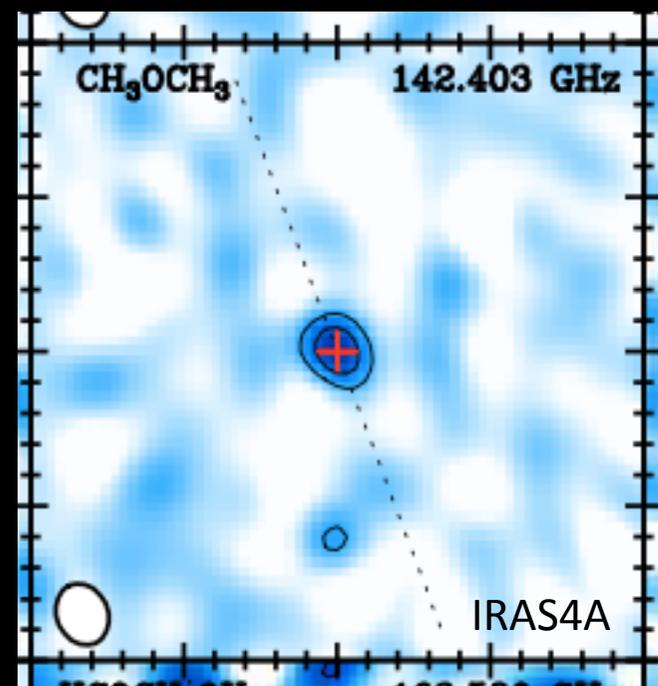
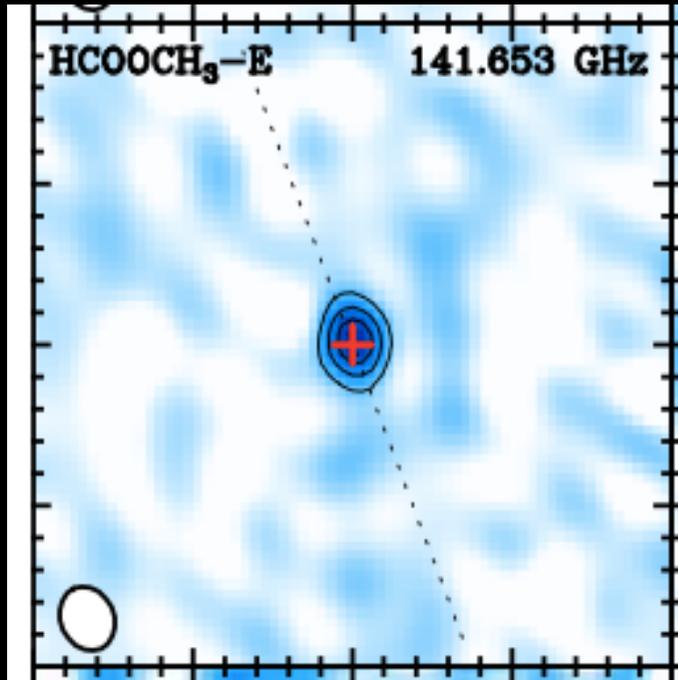


Taquet, Lopez-Sepulcre, Ceccarelli et al 2015

ORION (and High-Mass Protostars) ARE COMPLICATED  
(NOTE: DME & MF HAVE A SIMILAR SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION)

LOW-MASS PROTOSTARS ARE SIMPLER

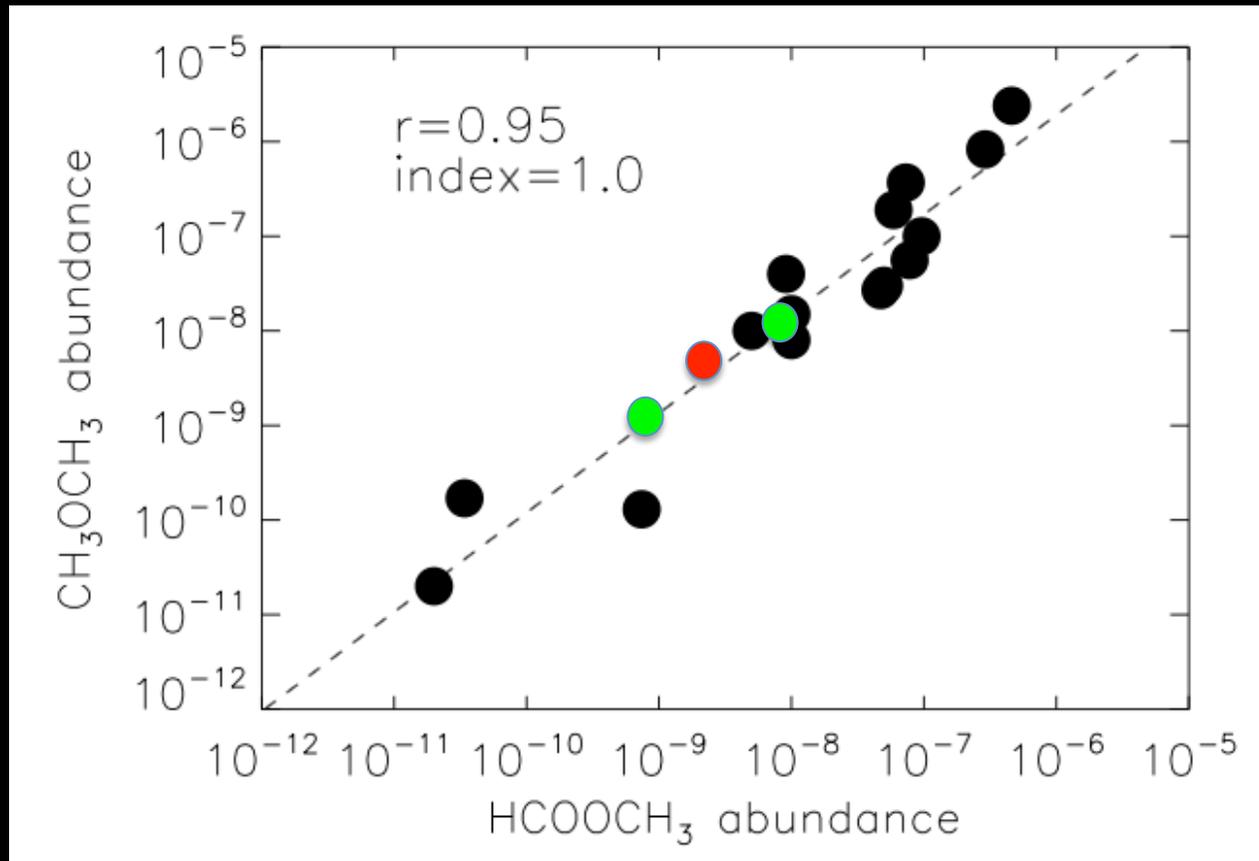
# LOW MASS IS SIMPLE & BEAUTIFUL



Taquet, Lopez-Sepulcre, Ceccarelli et al 2015

DME & MF ORIGINATES FROM THE SAME REGION  
(IN THIS CASE THE HOT CORINO OF IRAS4A)

# DME & MF: MIMI & COCO



Jaber et al 2014

Taquet et al. 2015

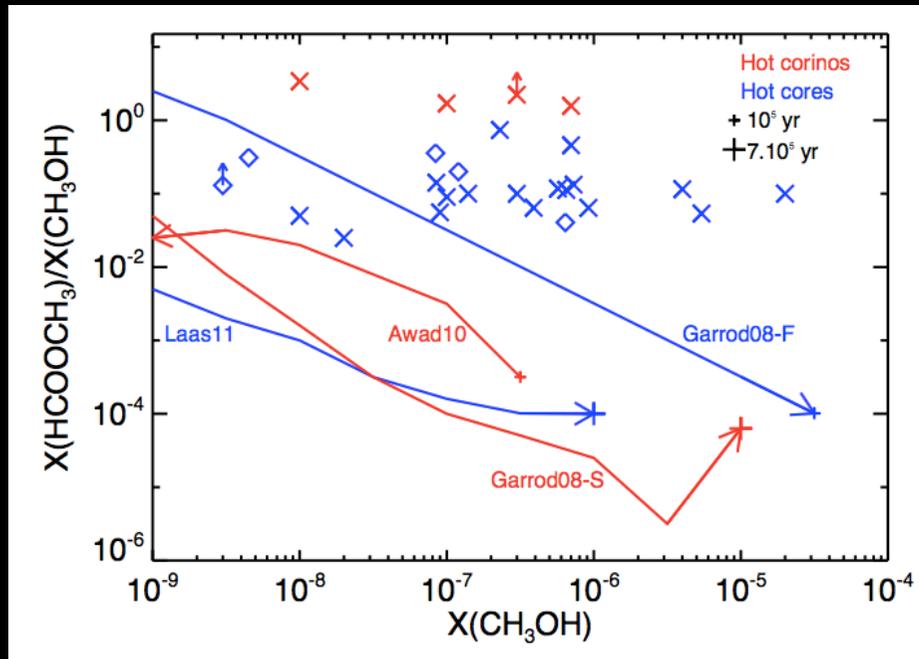
Bianchi et al. 2016

THE DME & MF ABUNDANCES ARE ABOUT THE SAME  
OVER A LARGE RANGE OF ABUNDANCES (AND OBJECTS)

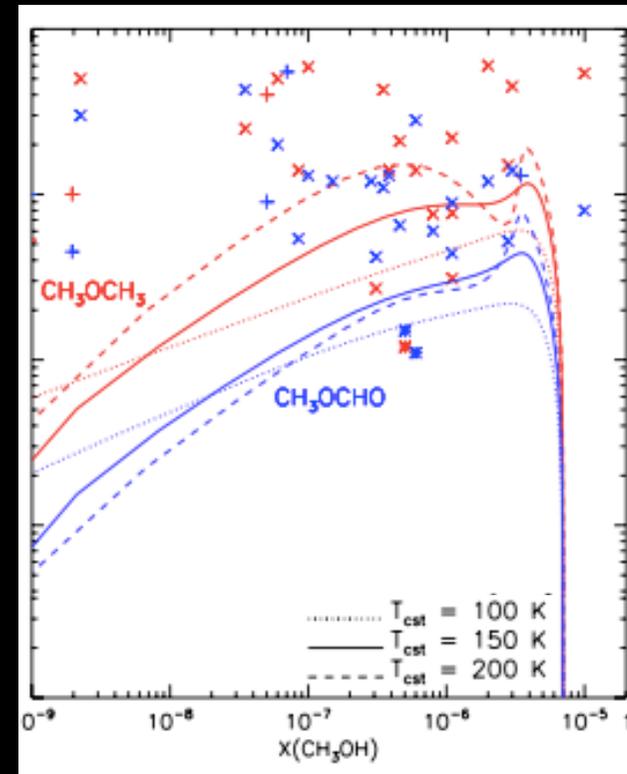
→ SISTERS OR MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP ←

# HOW DME & MF ARE SYNTHETISED?

ALTHOUGH KNOWN SINCE A LONG TIME, WE STILL DO NOT KNOW HOW DME & MF ARE SYNTHETISED IN THE ISM



Taquet, Ceccarelli, Kahane 2012



Taquet, Wirstrom, Charnley 2016

MODELS STILL UNABLE TO REPRODUCE THE OBSERVED ABUNDANCES

# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

IN VOGUE UNTIL 2003/5

## GAS PHASE

reactions in the gas phase, often started by the injection of hydrogenated molecules formed on the grain surfaces

### Step 1

H<sub>2</sub>CO  
CH<sub>3</sub>OH NH<sub>3</sub>

### Step 2

ice  
sublimation

### Step 3

HCOCH<sub>2</sub>OH  
CH<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>  
NH<sub>2</sub>CHO

10 K

100 K

TEMPERATURE

IN VOGUE UNTIL 2012/3

## GRAIN SURFACES

reactions on the grain surfaces between radicals during the warm-up of the dust; radicals are formed in the cold phase

### Step 1

H<sub>2</sub>CO  
CH<sub>3</sub>OH NH<sub>3</sub>

### Step 2

HCOCH<sub>2</sub>OH  
CH<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>  
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### Step 3

ice  
sublimation

10 K

100 K

NOTE: IN BOTH SCHEMES MOLECULES ARE THERMALLY DESORBED FROM GRAIN MANTLES

# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

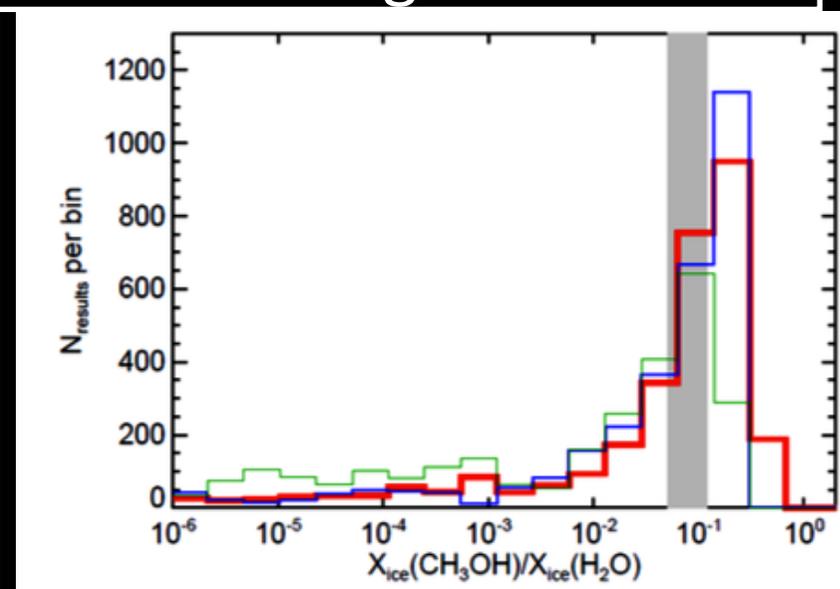
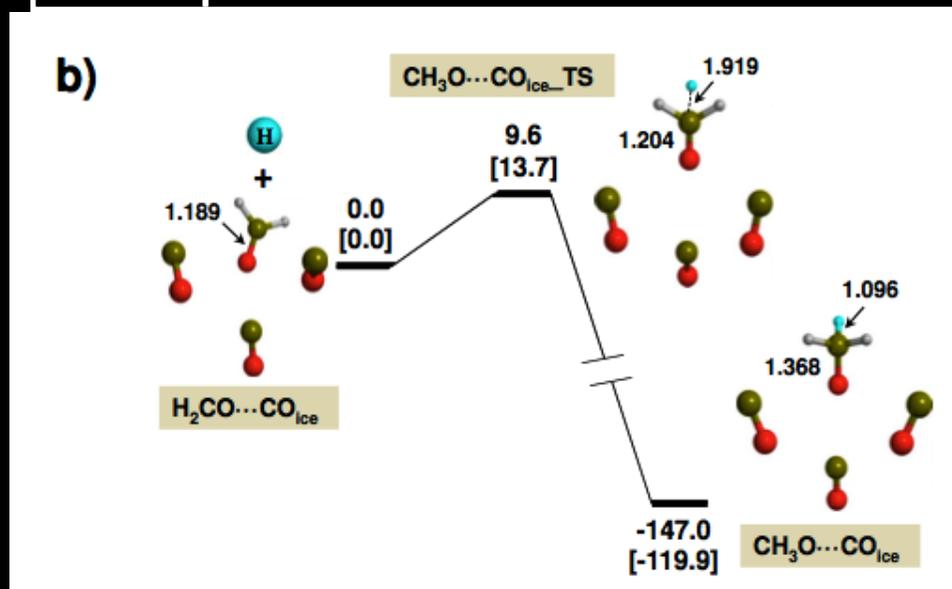
## STEP 1. HYDROGENATION

$E_{\text{BARRIER}}$  → EXPERIMENTS SAY ~ 400K, THEORY SAYS ~1100K

→ LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS + THEORY

ARE NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS

Example of the methanol formation on the grain surfaces



Rimola, Taquet, Ugliengo et al. 2014

(TUNNELING IS DOING THE JOB)

# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

IN VOGUE UNTIL 2012/3

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ice  
sublimation

10 K

100 K

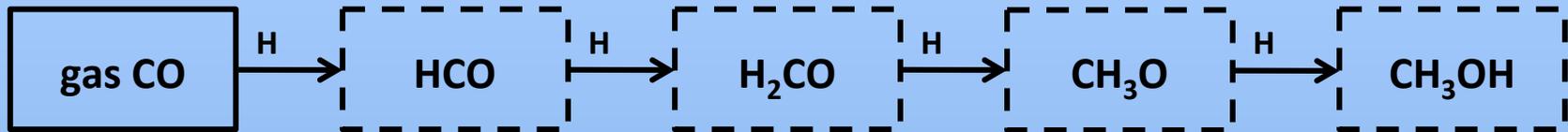
TEMPERATURE

NOTE: IN BOTH SCHEMES MOLECULES ARE THERMALLY DESORBED FROM GRAIN MANTLES

# DME & MF: grain-surface formation

Garrod & Herbst 2006; Garrod et al. 2008; Oberg et al. 2009; Kalvans 2015

Phase I: hydrogenation



Phase II: (CR-induced) hydrolysis

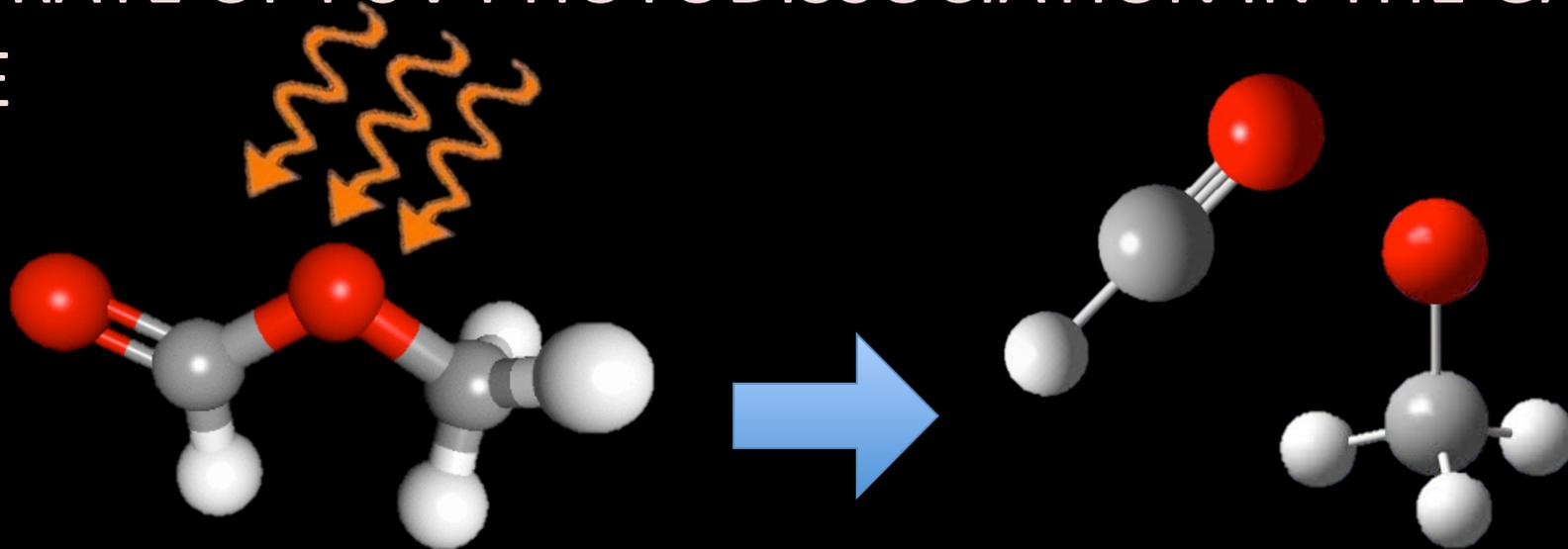


Phase III: warm-up



# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

STEP 1b. RADICALS FORMATION ON THE ICY MANTLES FROM FUV SECONDARY PHOTONS (DISCUTABLE) HYPOTHESIS: RADICALS CREATED AT THE SAME RATE OF FUV PHOTODISSOCIATION IN THE GAS PHASE

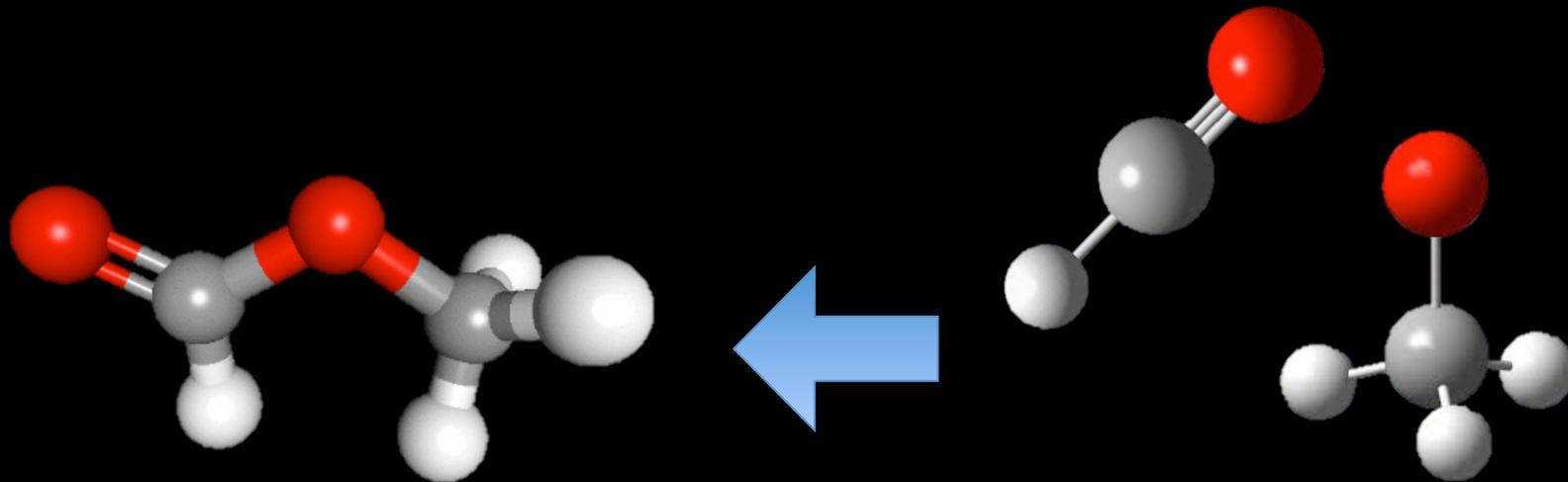


→ LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS + THEORY ARE NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS

# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

## STEP 2. RADICAL S COMBINATION INTO ACOMs

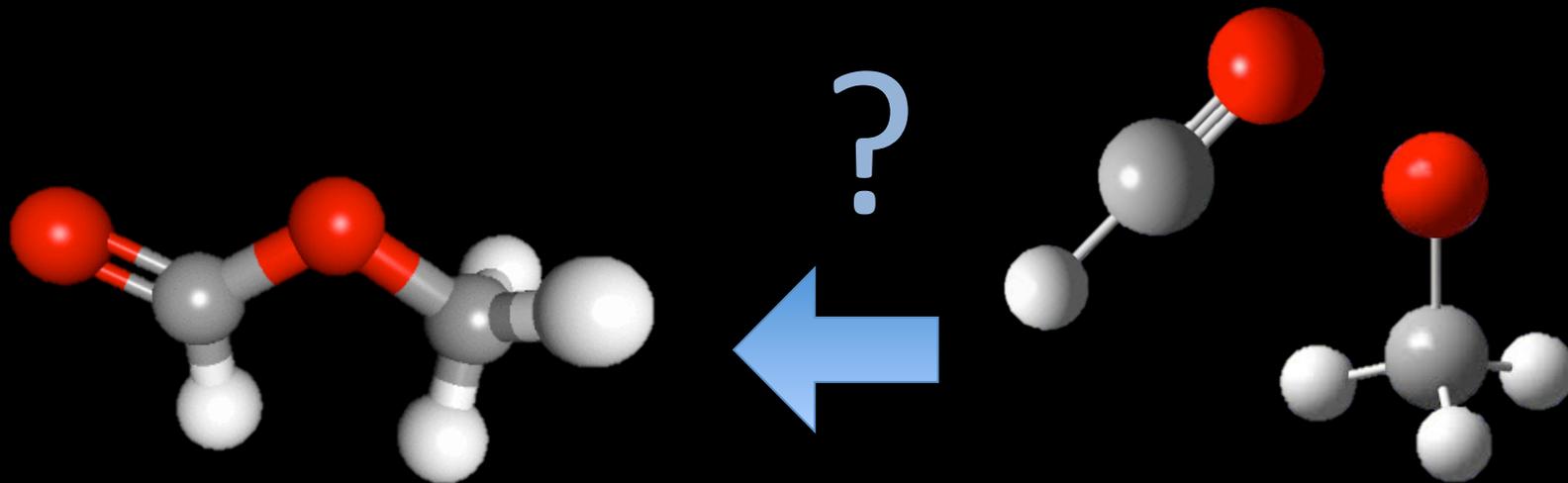
(DISCUTABLE) HYPOTHESIS: RADICALS ACQUIRE MOBILITY AT  $T_{\text{DUST}} > 30\text{K}$  AND RECOMBINE



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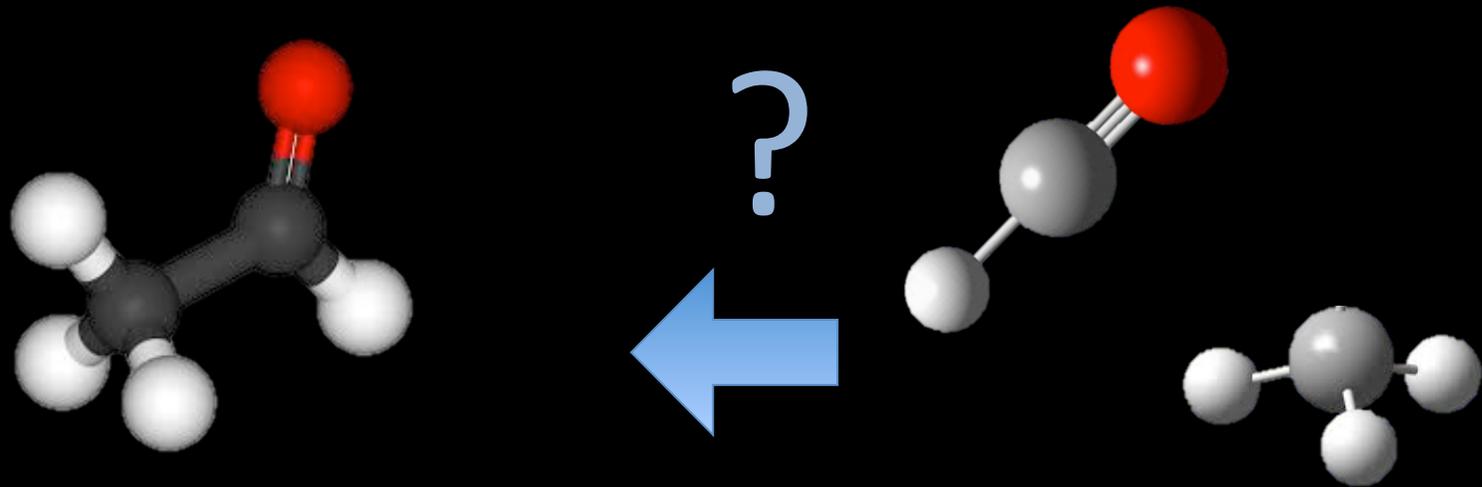
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# SYNTHESIS OF DME & MF: models

## STEP 2. RADICAL S COMBINATION INTO ACOMs

### EXAMPLE OF ACETALDEHYDE

(DISCUTABLE) HYPOTHESIS: RADICALS ACQUIRE MOBILITY AT  $T_{DUST} > 30K$  AND RECOMBINE



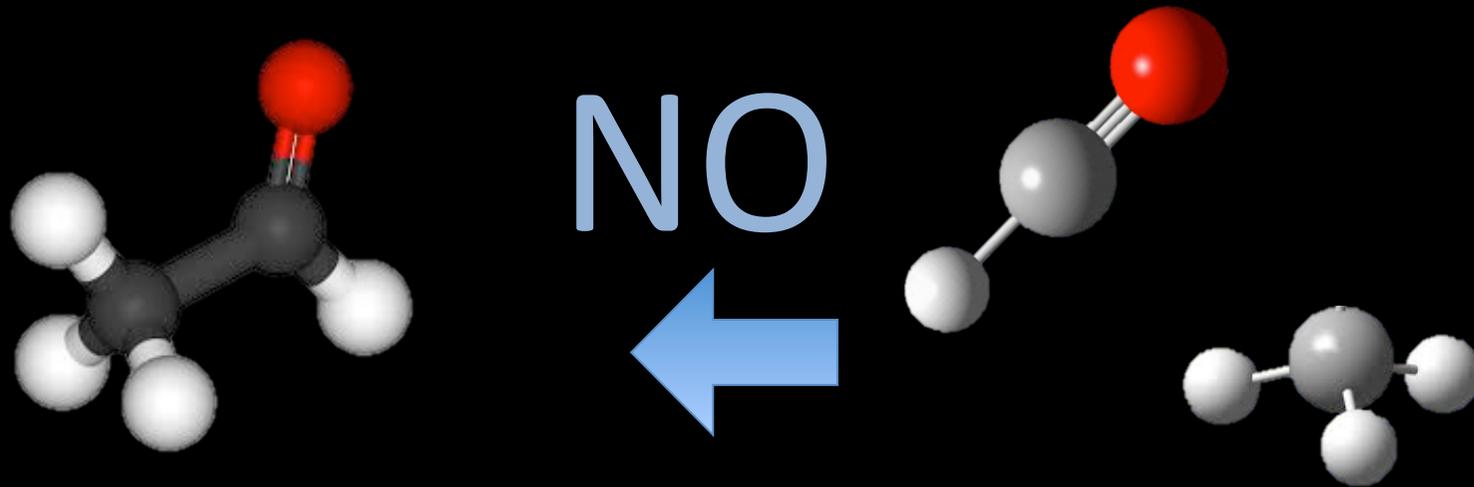
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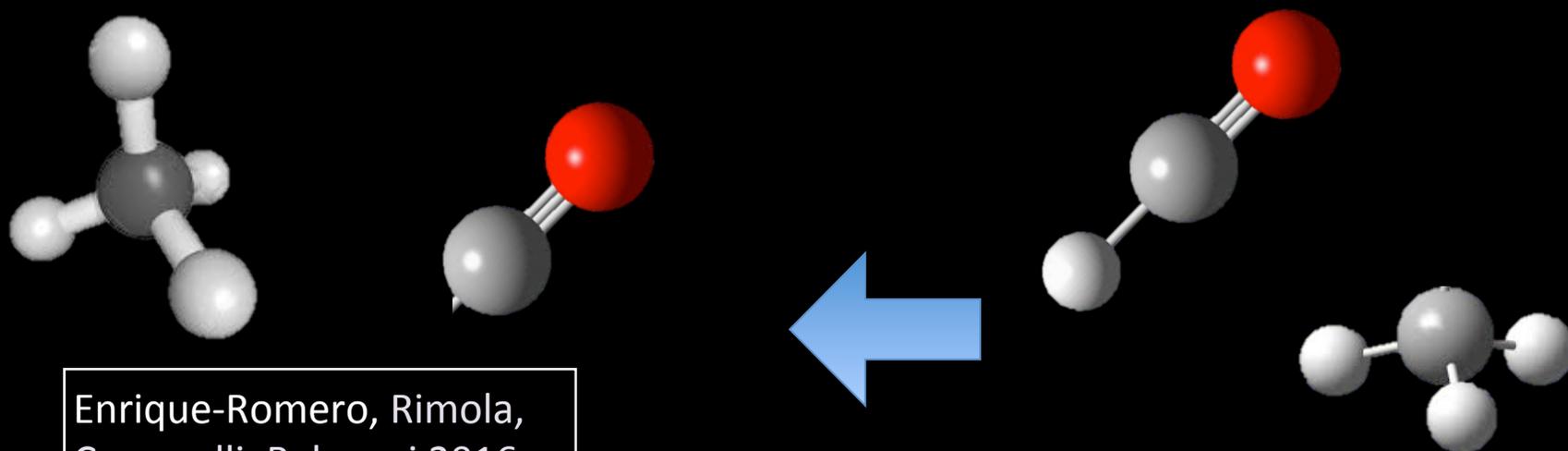
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Enrique-Romero, Rimola,  
Ceccarelli, Balucani 2016

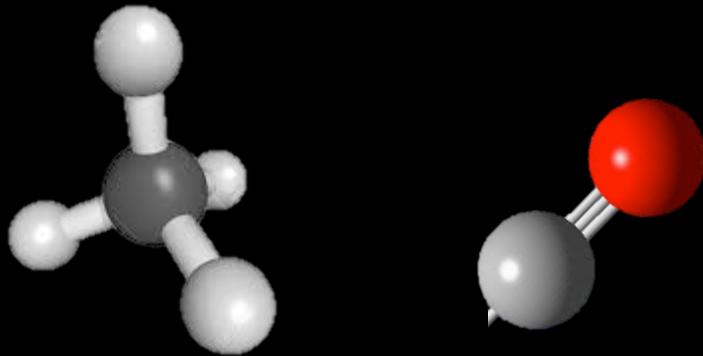
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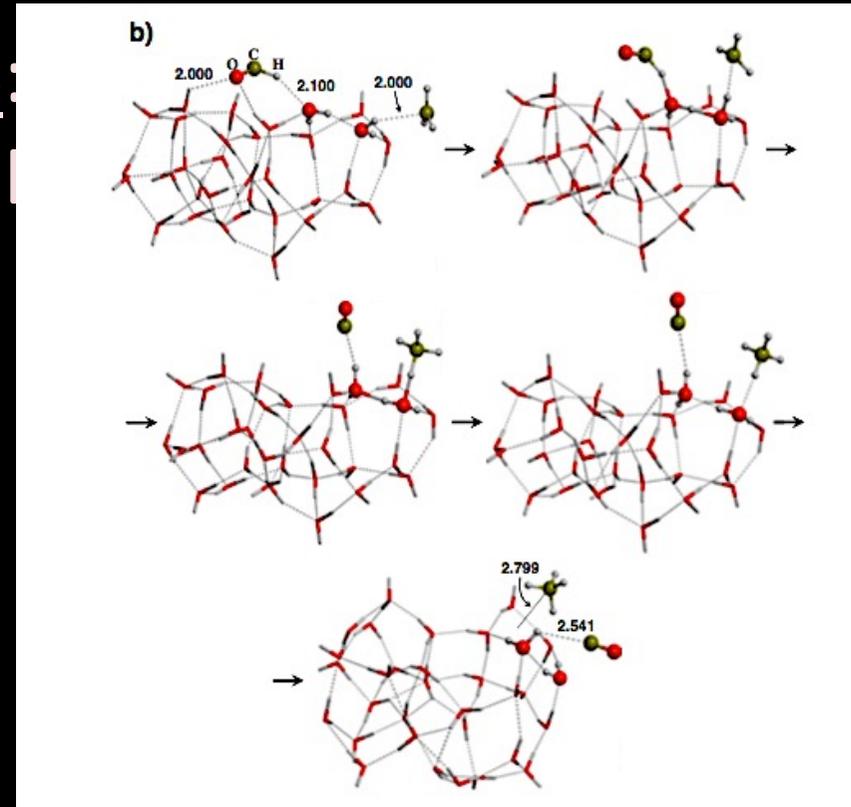
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(DISCUTABLE) HYPOTHESIS:  
MOBILITY AT  $T_{DUST} > 30K$  AND



Enrique-Romero, Rimola,  
Ceccarelli, Balucani 2016



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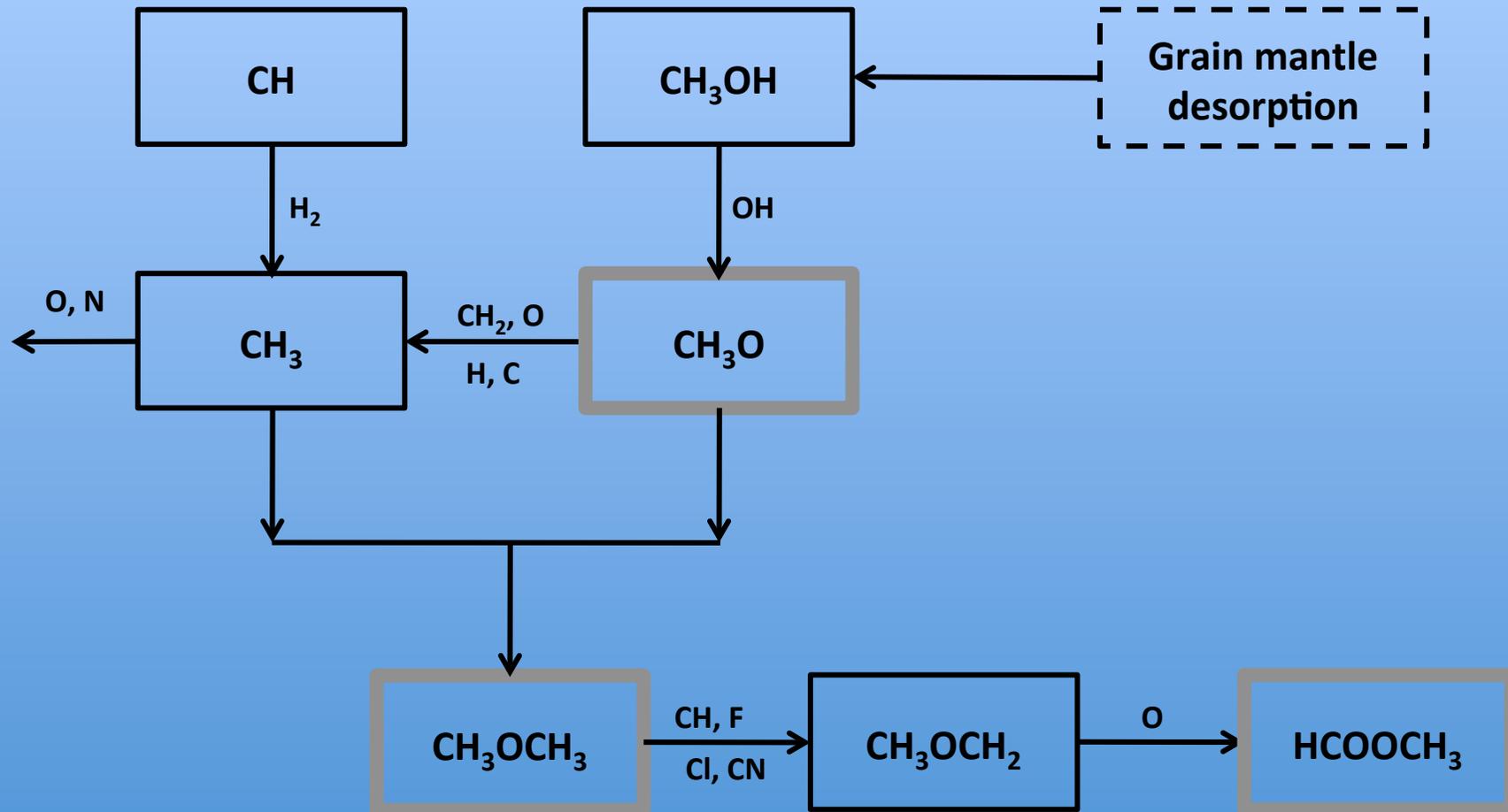
100 K

TEMPERATURE

NOTE: IN BOTH SCHEMES MOLECULES ARE THERMALLY DESORBED FROM GRAIN MANTLES

# DME & MF: gas phase formation

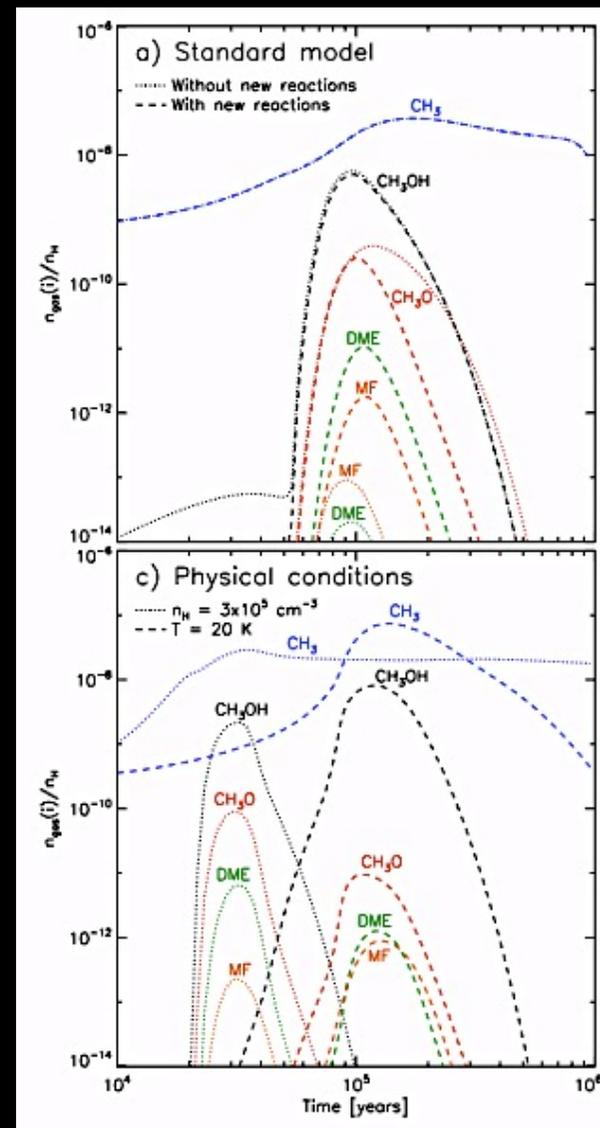
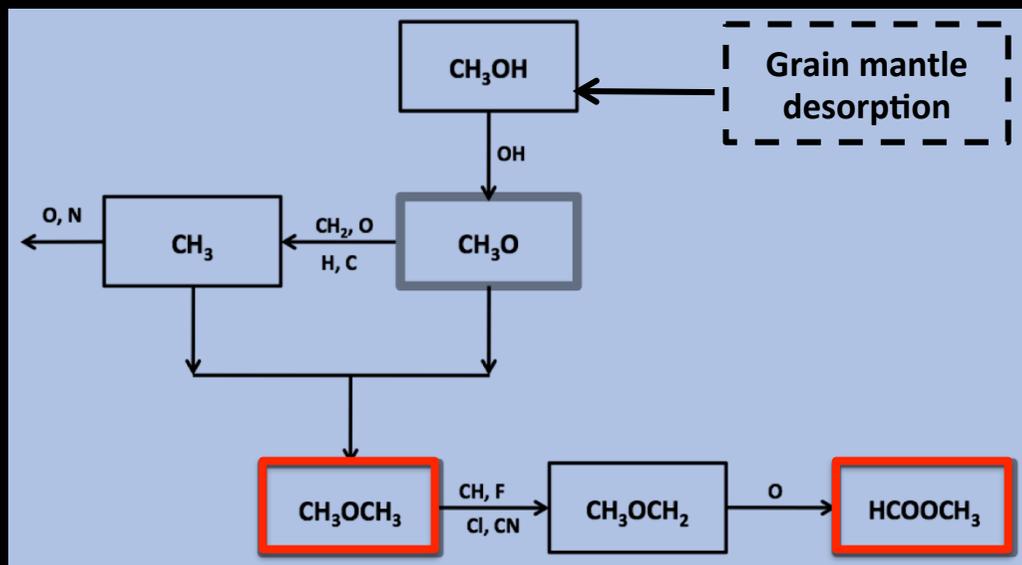
Balucani, Ceccarelli & Taquet 2015



# DME & MF: gas phase formation

Balucani et al. 2015

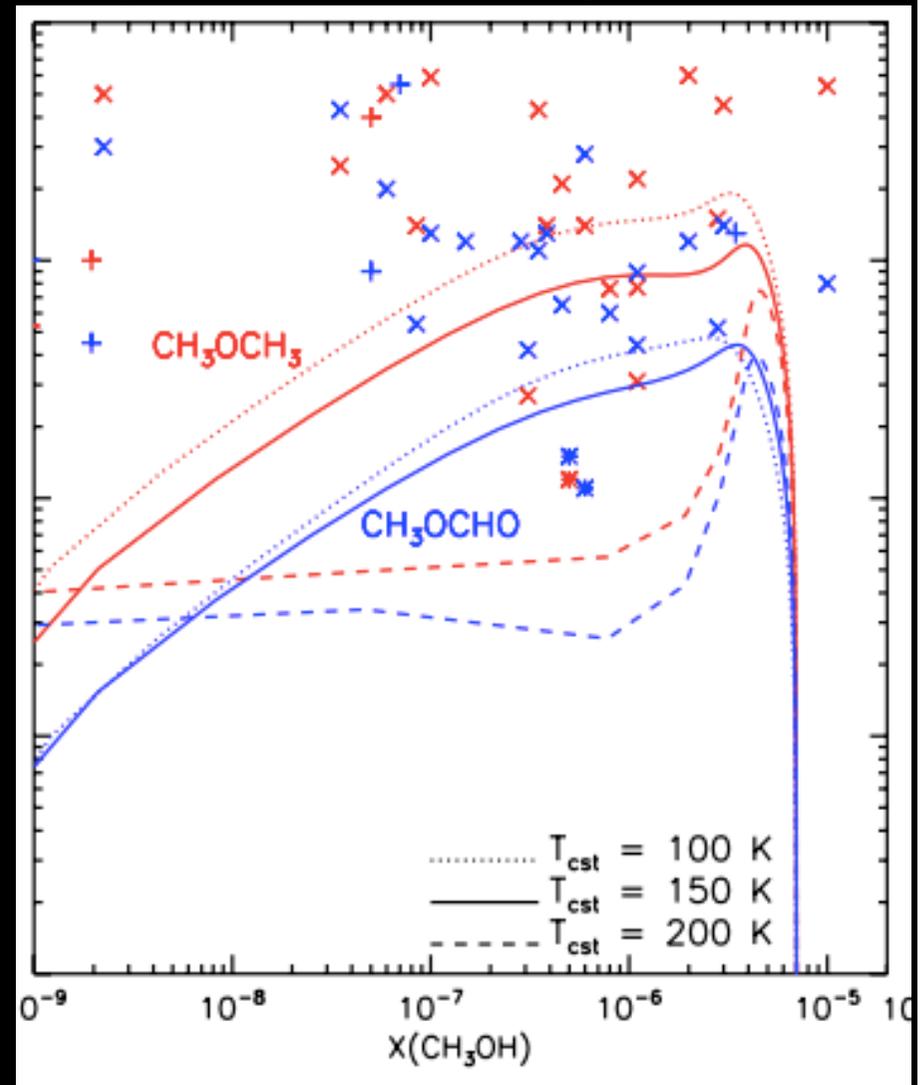
- ALL CONSIDERED REACTIONS ARE EITHER COMPUTED OR MEASURED (EXCEPTION  $\text{CH}_3 + \text{CH}_3\text{O}$ )
- MF DAUGHTER OF DME  $\rightarrow$  NATURAL EXPLANATION OF OBSERVATIONS
- IT WORKS AT LOW TEMPERATURES



# DME & MF: gas phase formation

Taquet, Wirstrom, Charnley 2016

THE AMMONIA ROLE: BUILD UP COMs TAKING THE PROTON  
(theoretical computations in Perugia going on to verify the rates and products)



# WHAT NEXT (on our side) ?

MORE ASTROCHEMICAL MODELING  
INCLUDING THE RESULTS FROM THE EXPERIMENTS OF  
THE TRENTO GROUP (Ascenzi, Cernuti, Tosi and Pirani)  
ON THE DESTRUCTION OF DME & MF  
AND THE NEW COMPUTATIONS ON THE AMMONIA

→ AND USE THE BID DATA APPROACH BY Serena Viti !



(GOODBYE STAMPS COLLECTION ERA)

# WHAT NEXT (on our side) ?

IRAM NOEMA LARGE  
PROGRAM (interferometer):

**ACOMs**

PI: C.Ceccarelli & P.Caselli

