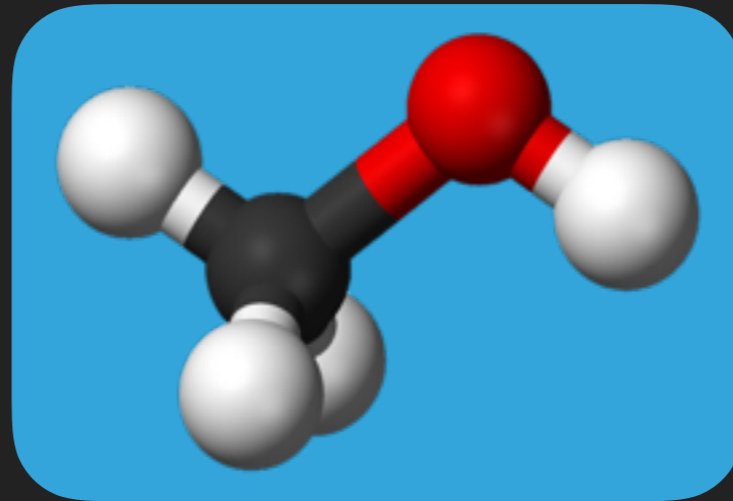


*Astrochemistry:  
from Space to  
Earth 2016  
Grenoble, France*



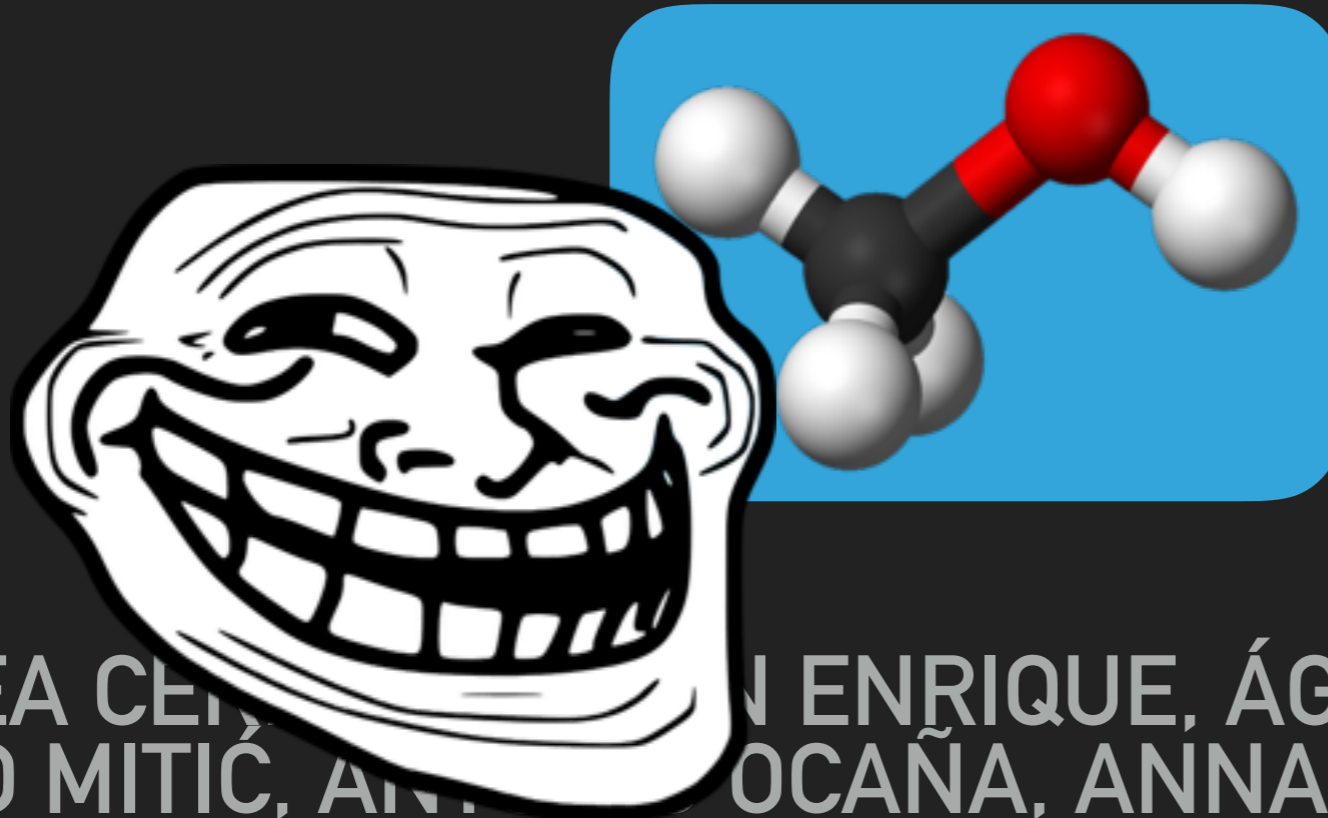
ANDREA CERNUTO, JOAN ENRIQUE, ÁGNES KÓSPÁL,  
MARKO MITIĆ, ANTONIO OCAÑA, ANNA PUNANOVA, VICTOR  
DE S. MAGALHAES, URSZULA SZCZEPANIAK, FANNY VAZART

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# THE MYSTERY OF METHANOL IN THE ISM

Tutor: Cecilia Ceccarelli

*Astrochemistry:  
from Space to  
Earth 2016  
Grenoble, France*



ANDREA CERRETTI, ENRIQUE, ÁGNES KÓSPÁL,  
MARKO MITIĆ, ANA OCAÑA, ANNA PUNANOVA, VICTOR  
DE S. MAGALHAES, URSZULA SZCZEPANIAK, FANNY VAZART

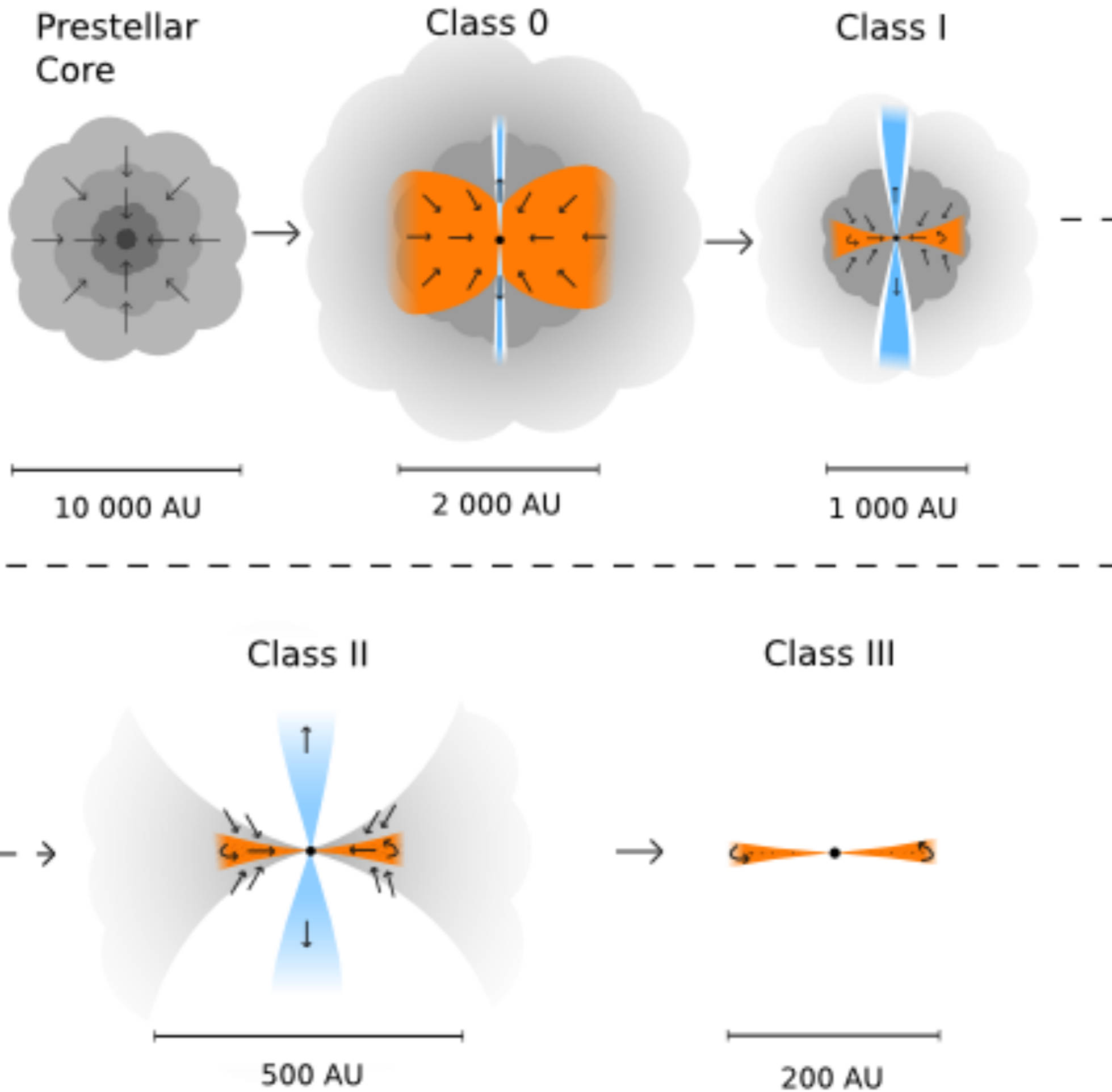
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# THE MYSTERY OF METHATROLL IN THE ISM

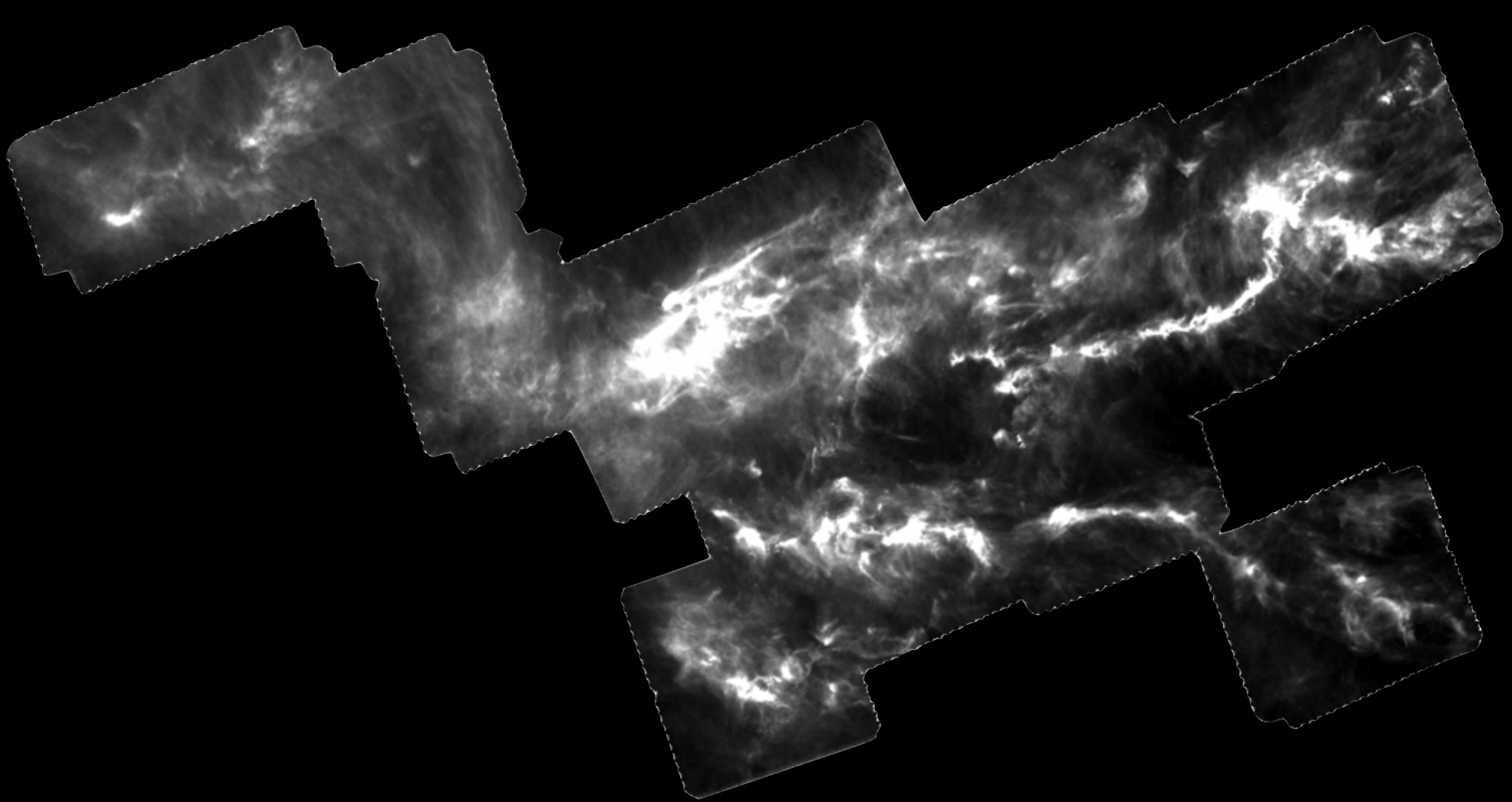
Tutor: Cecilia Ceccarelli

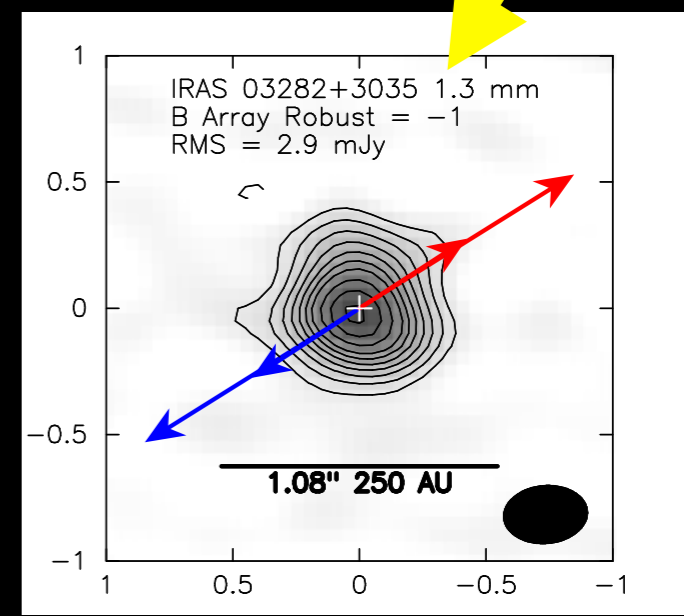
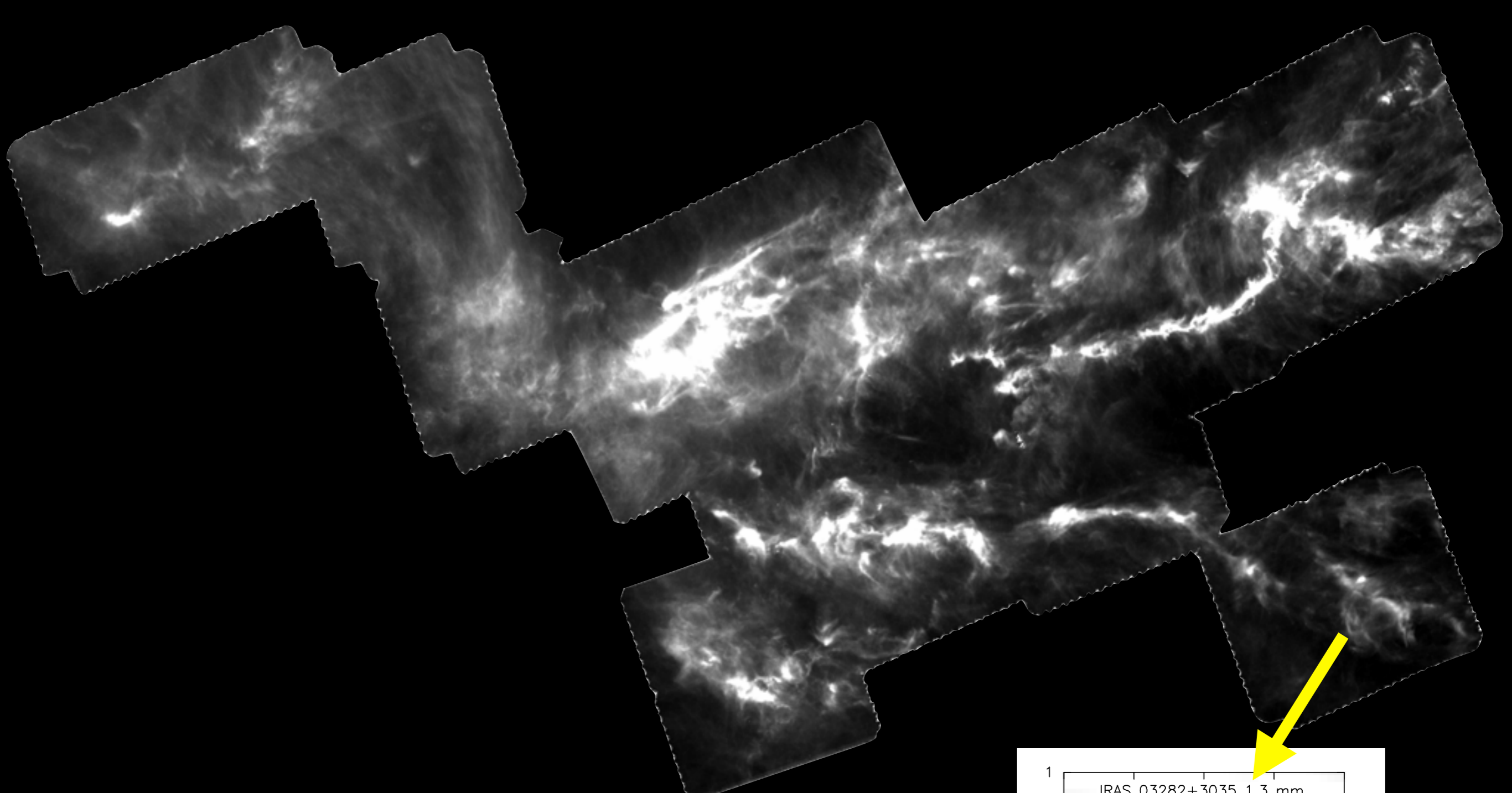
## SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT

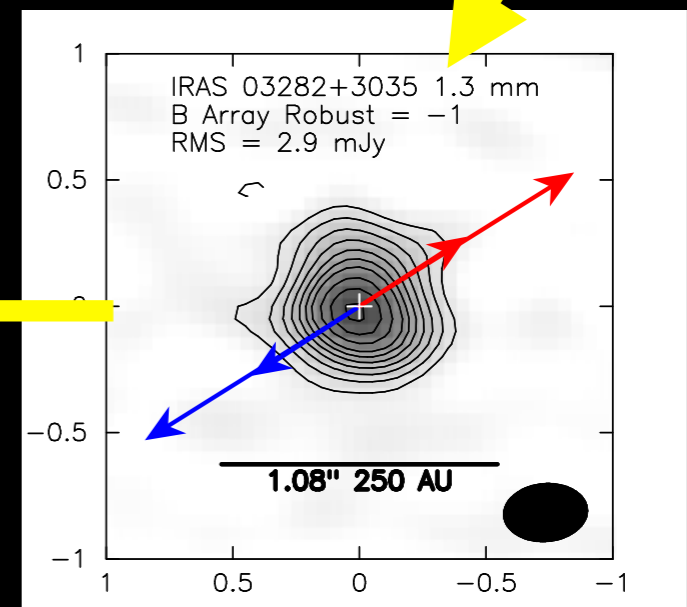
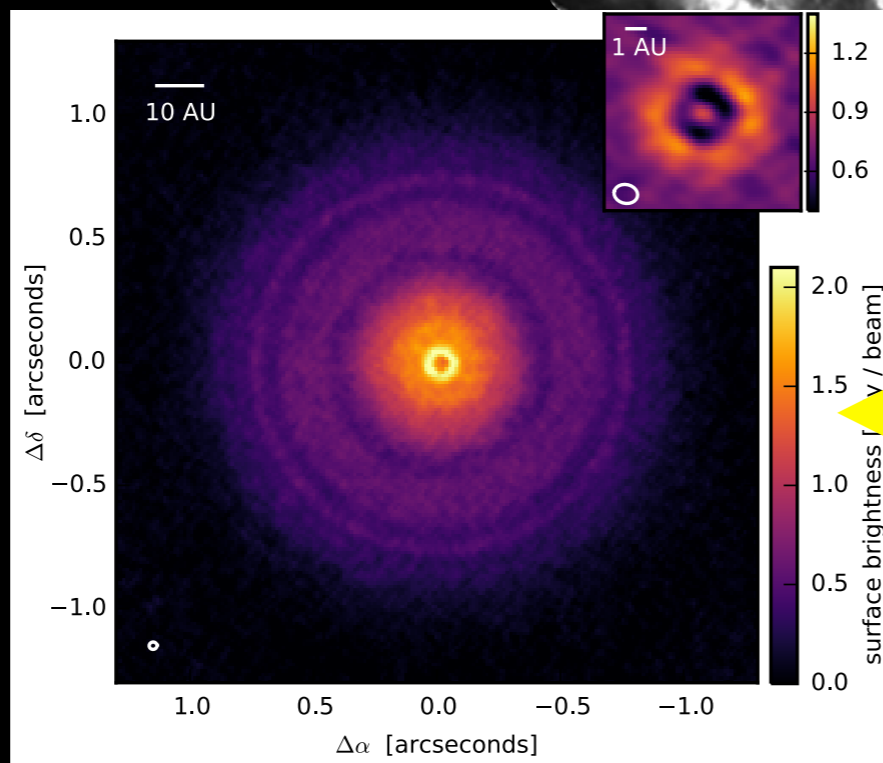
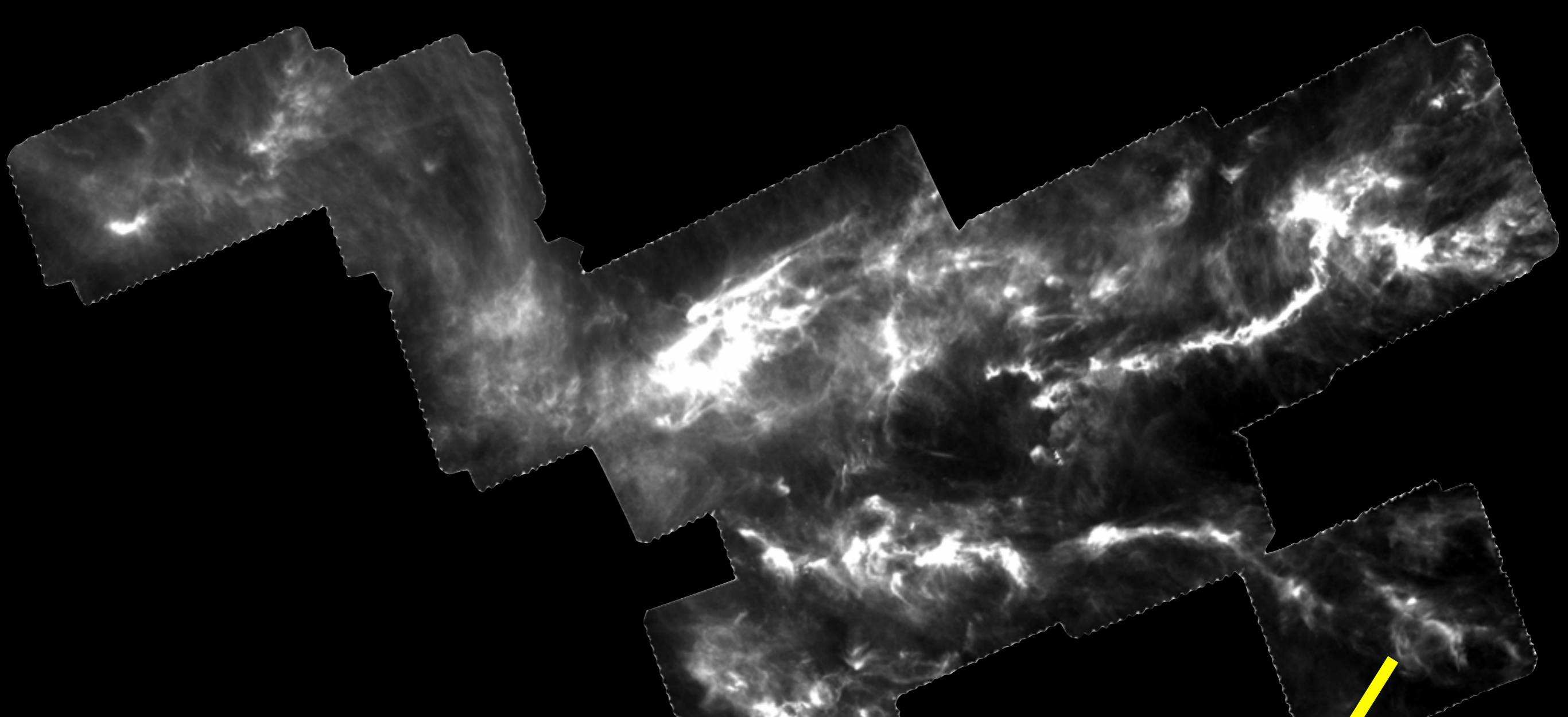
- ▶ Methanol has been observed in large quantities in the ISM.
  - ▶ Up to about 10% of elemental carbon in the solid phase.
- ▶ From molecular clouds and prestellar cores to protostars.
- ▶ Methanol is the precursor molecule for many astronomic complex organic molecules.
- ▶ Even though it was first detected decades ago, its routes of formation and destruction in the ISM are still a mystery!



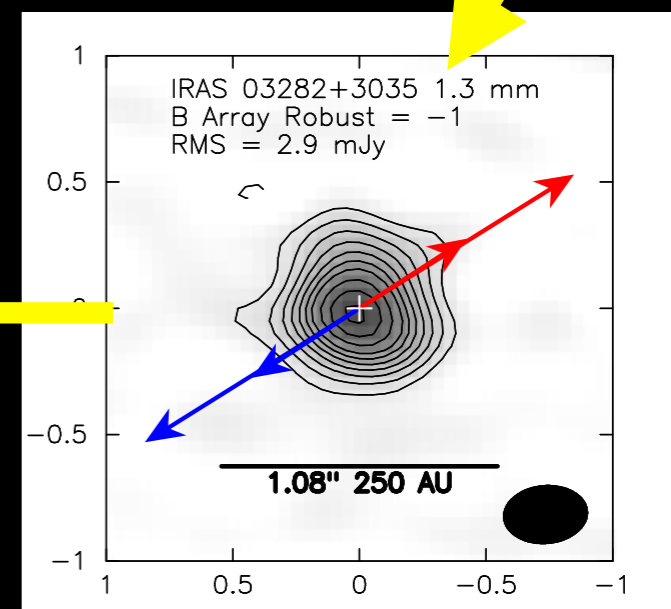
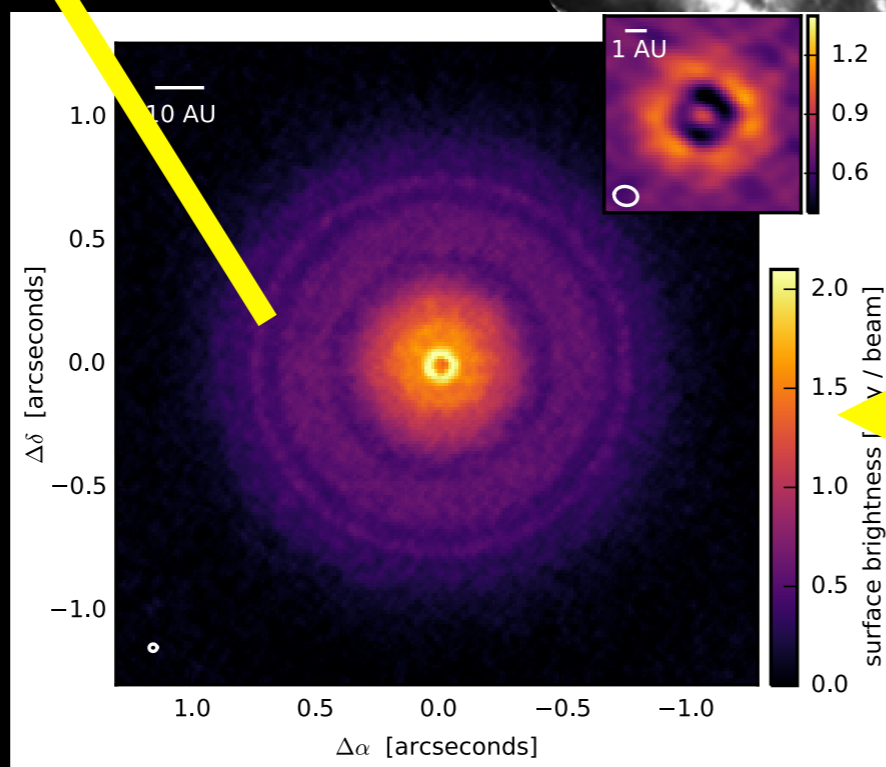
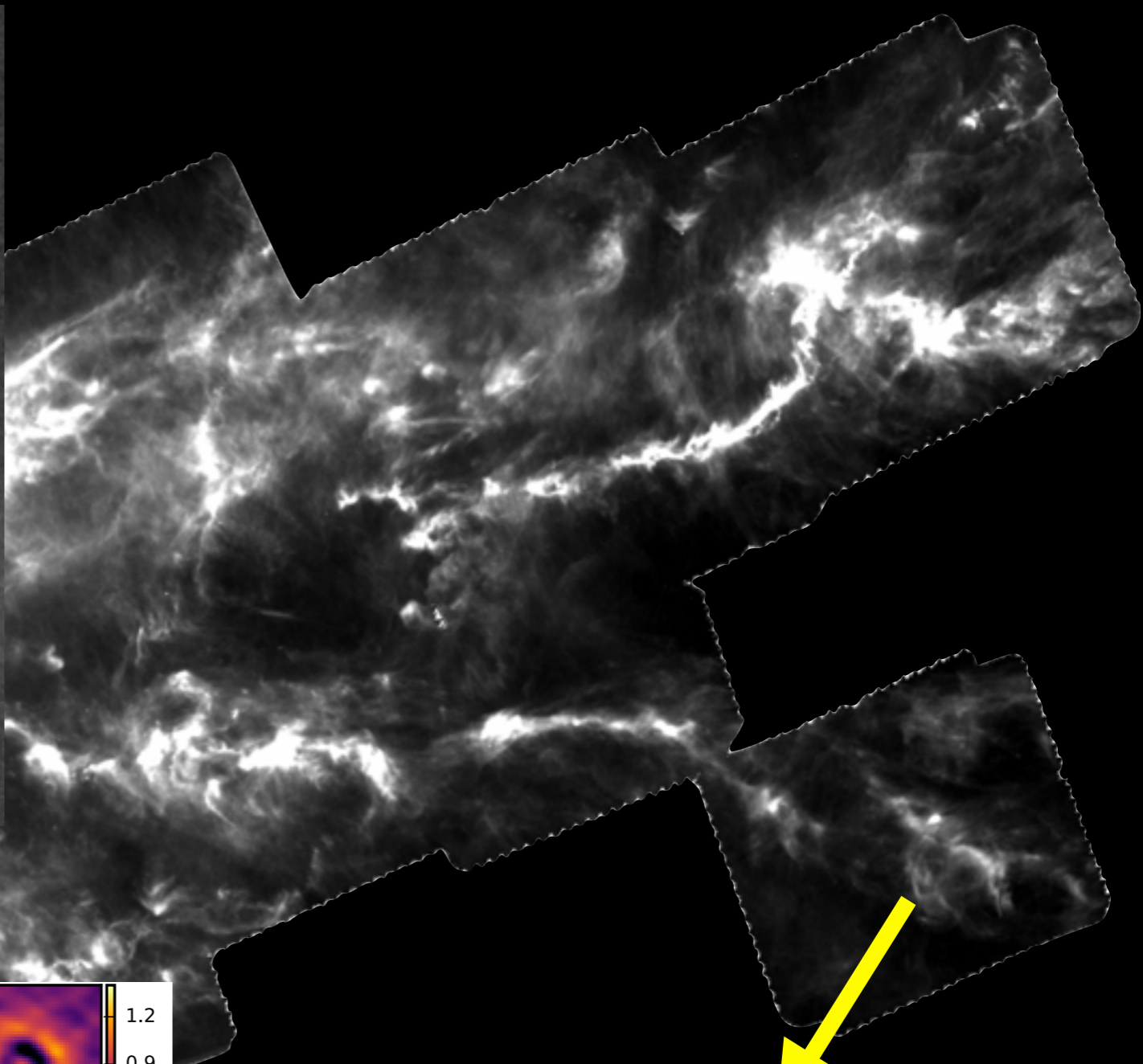
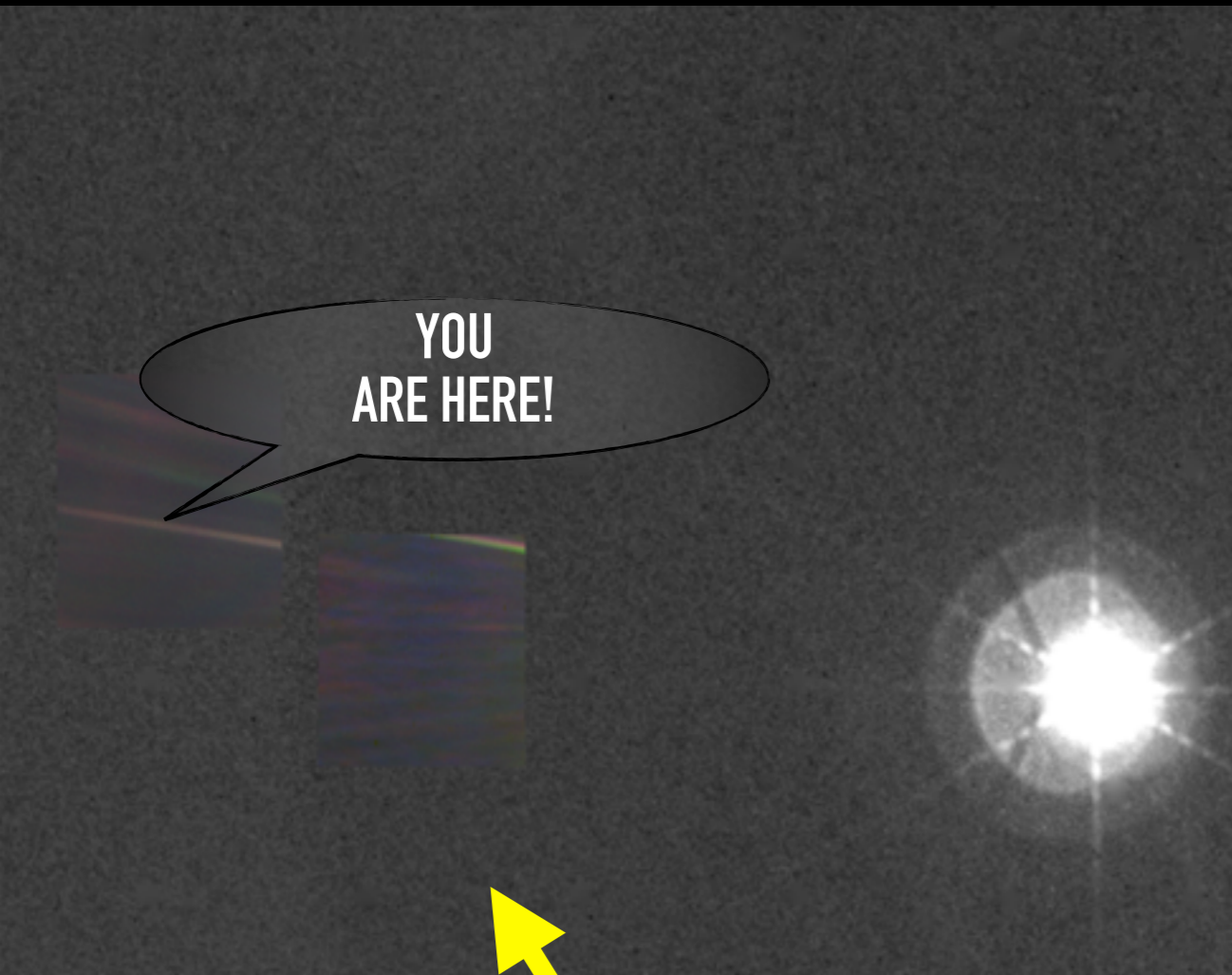




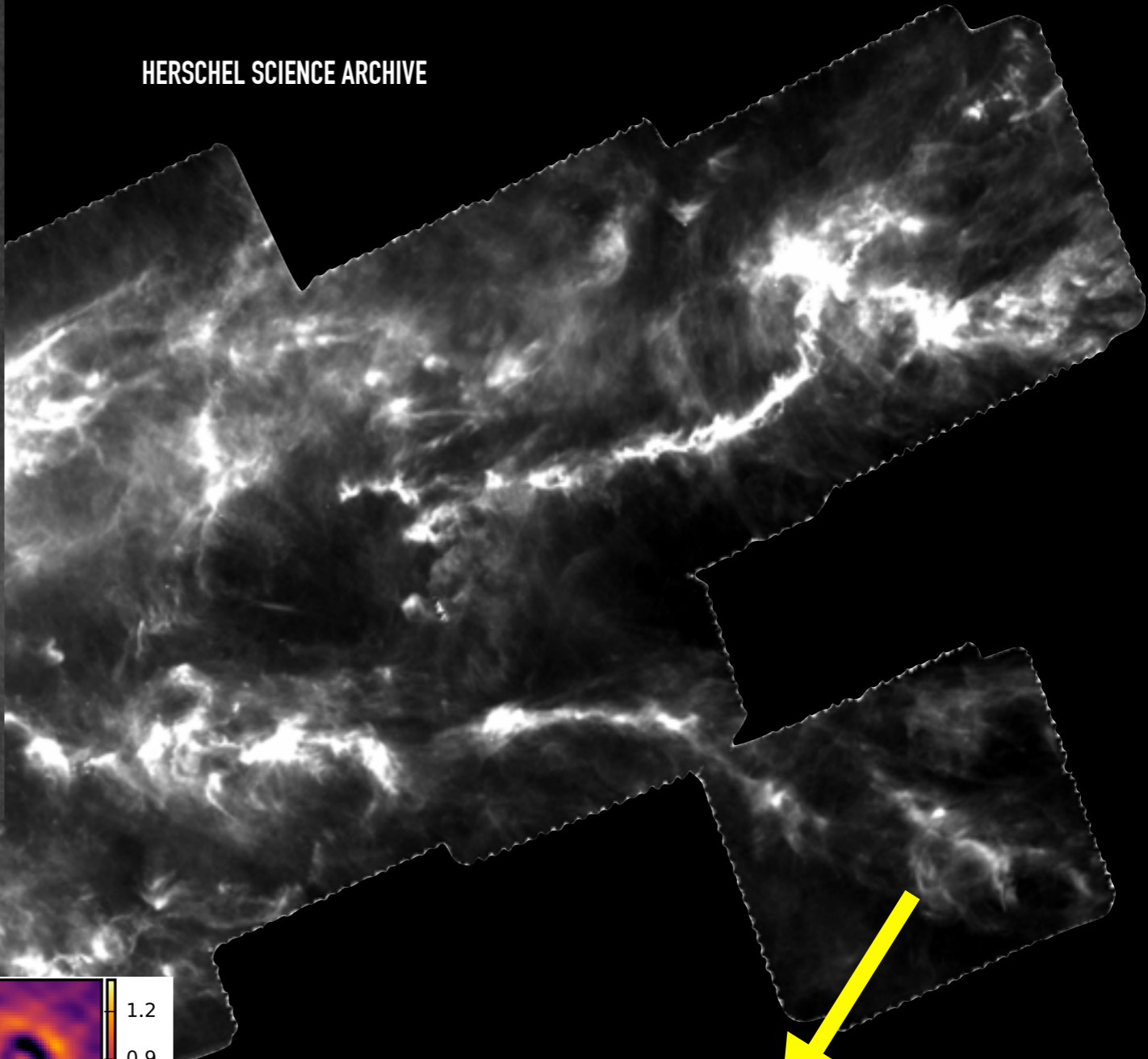






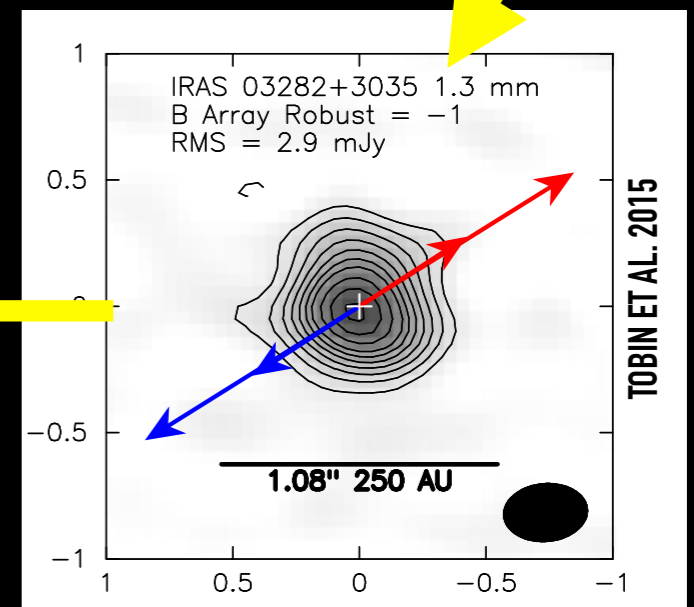
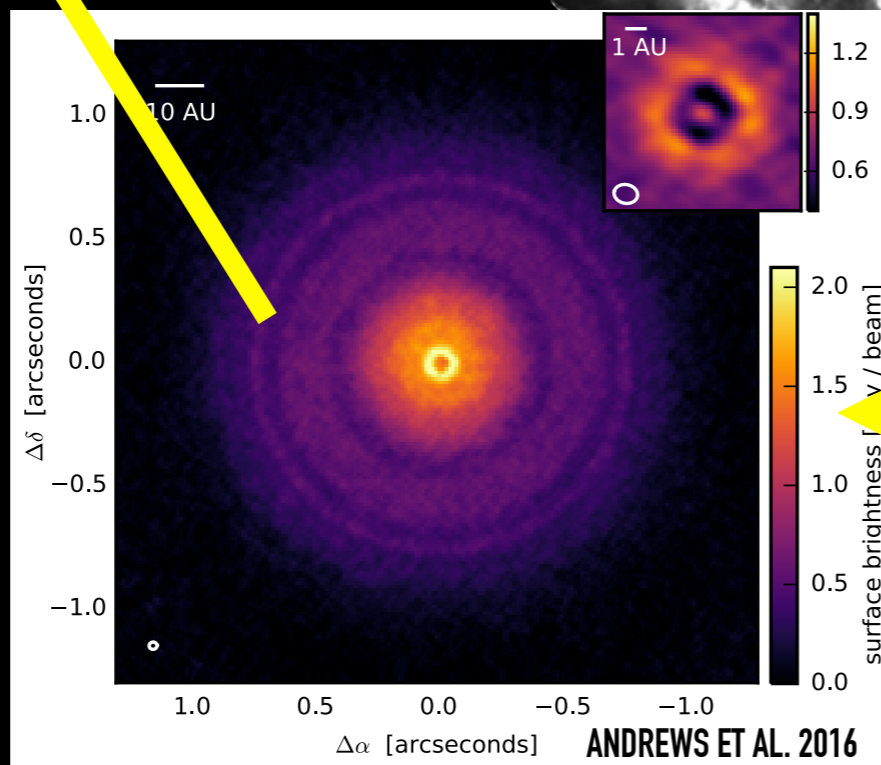


HERSCHEL SCIENCE ARCHIVE



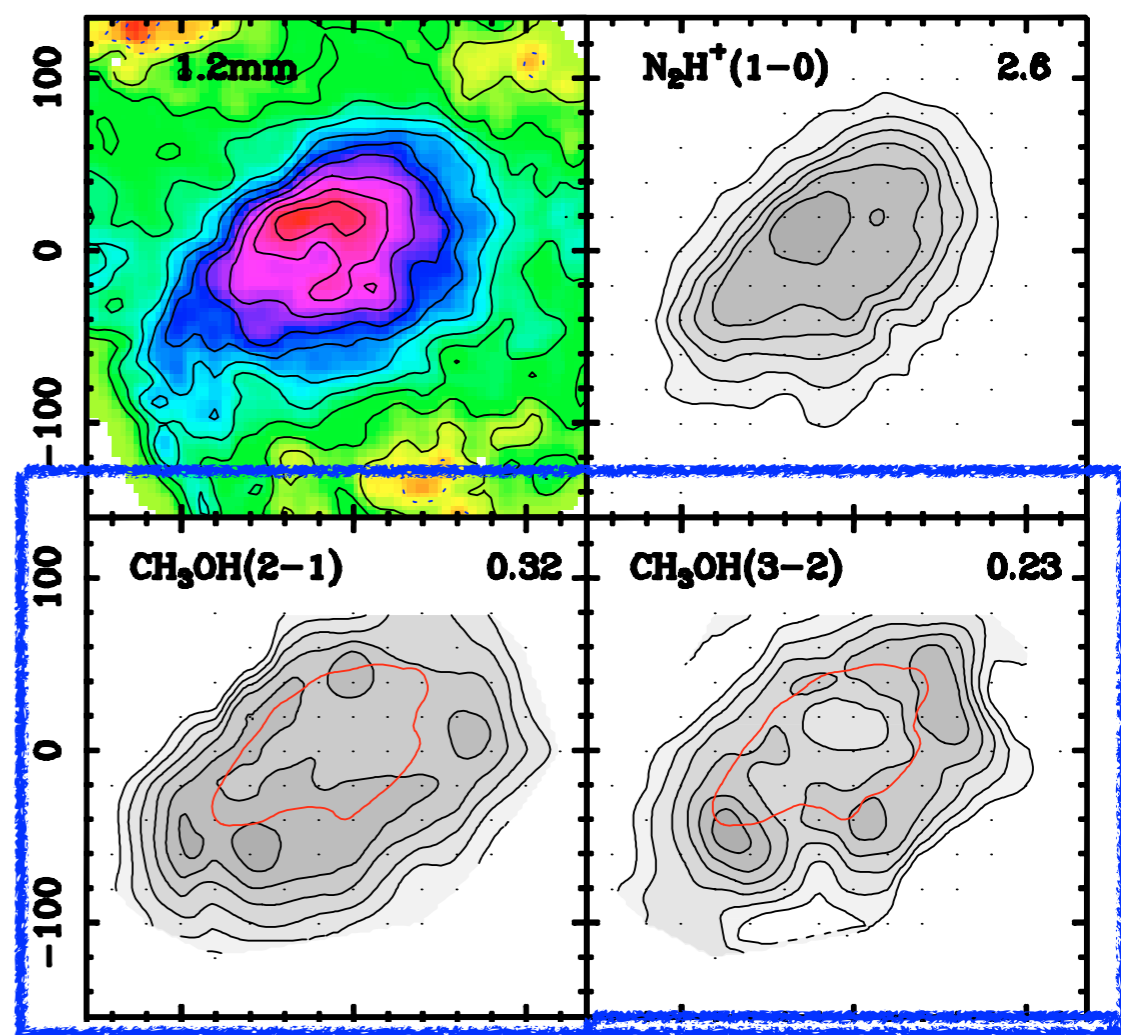
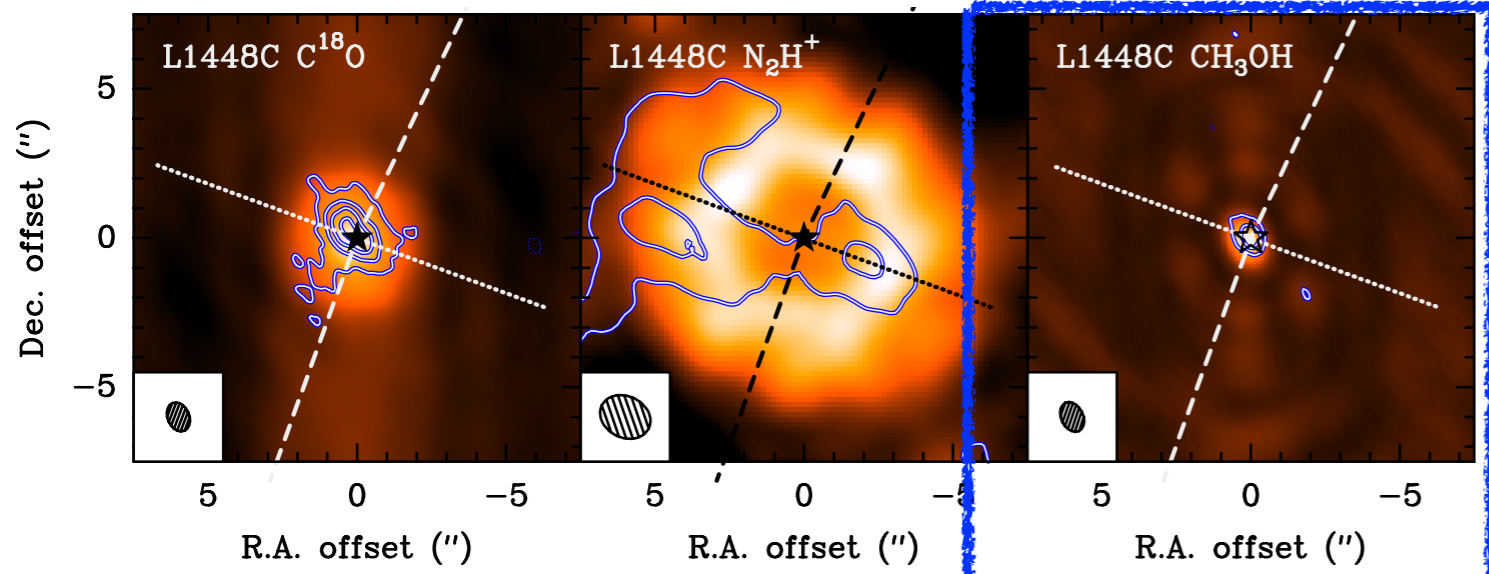
YOU  
ARE HERE!

VOYAGER 1

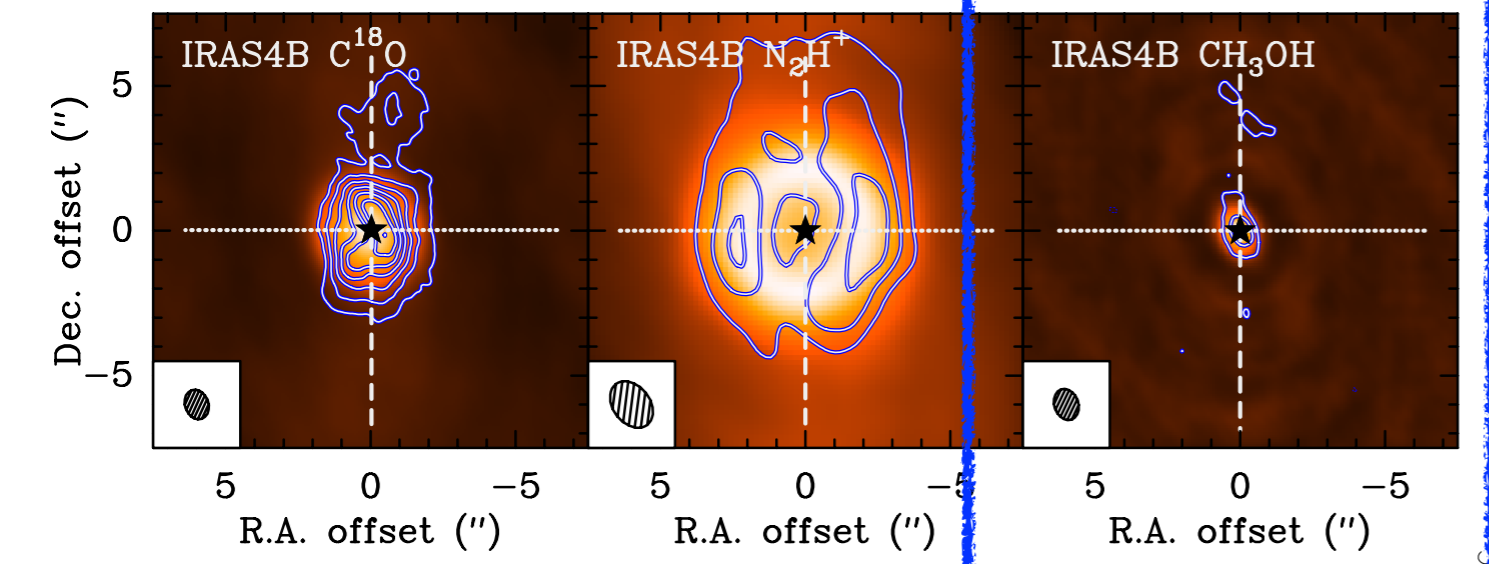


# OBSERVATIONS IN THE GAS

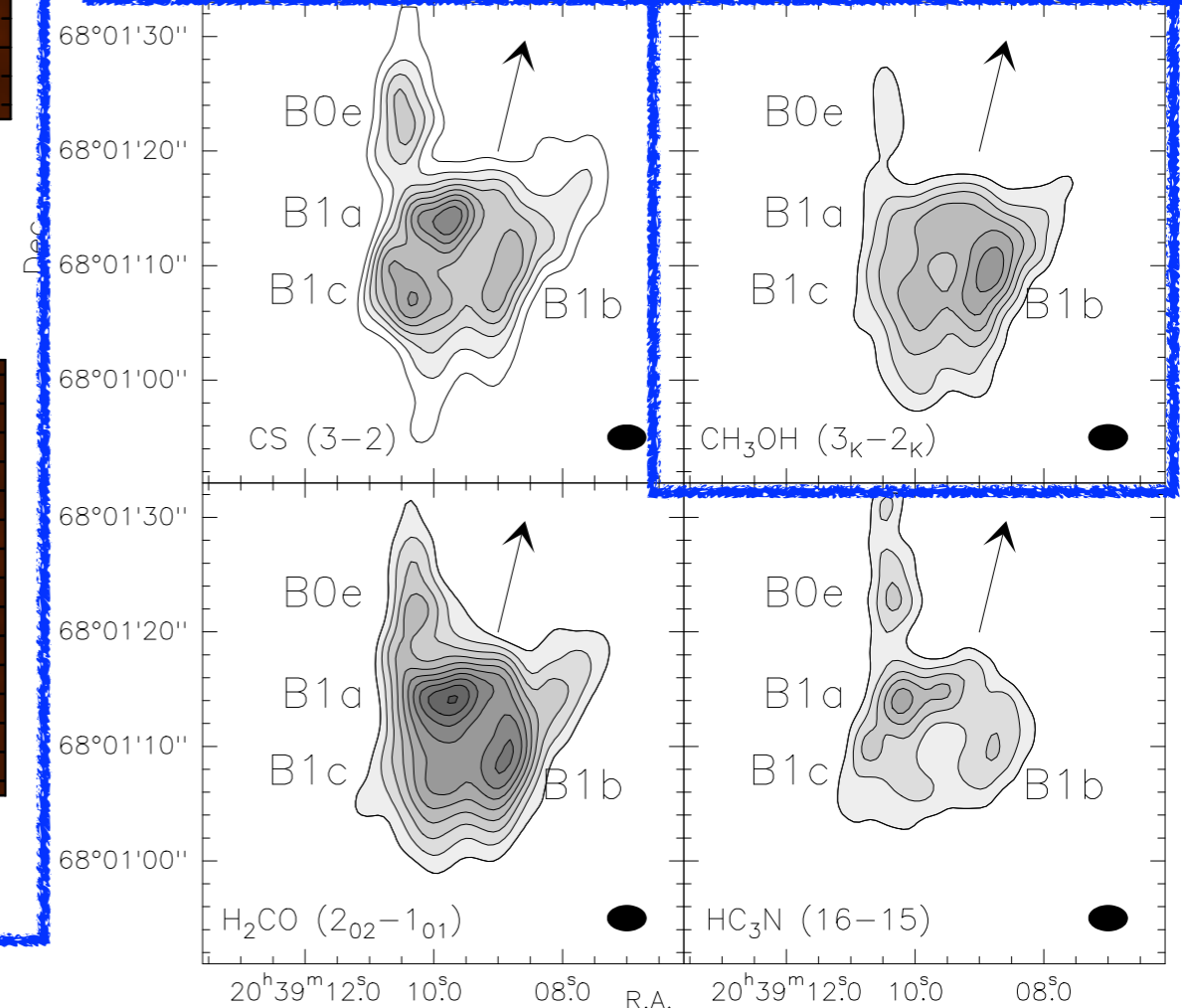
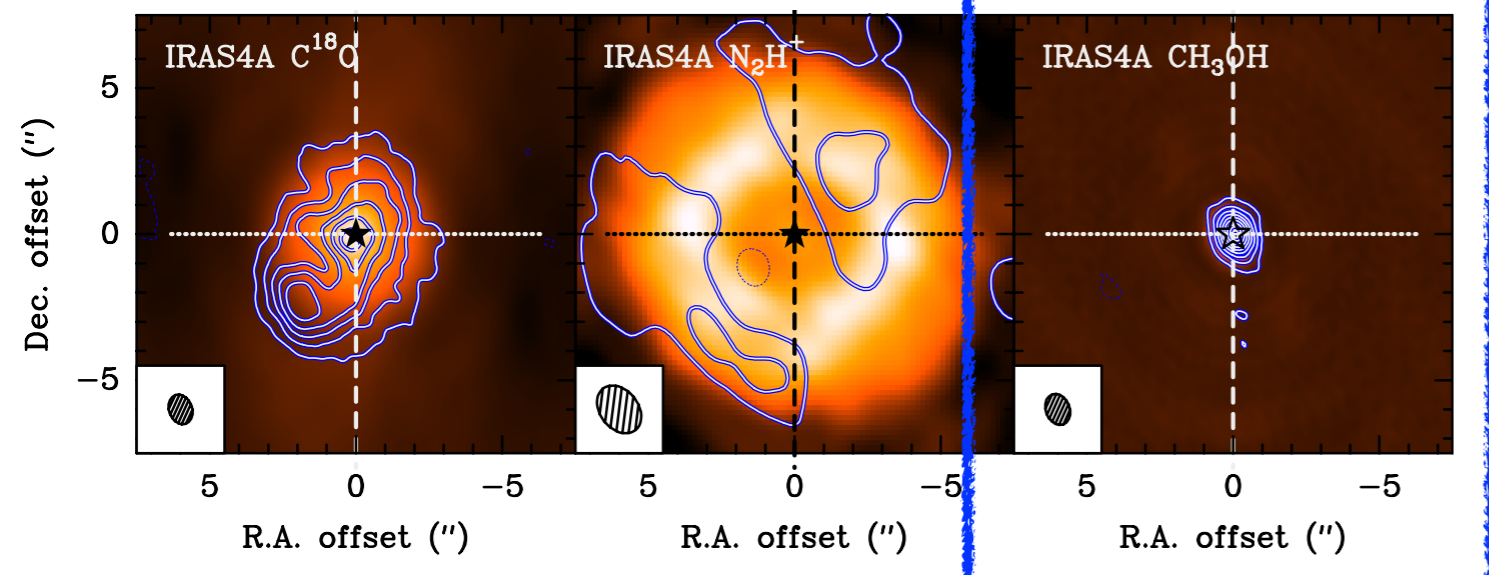
- ▶ Methanol was detected for the first time by Ball et al. 1970 in Sagittarius A and B2.
- ▶ Since then it has been detected in diffuse molecular clouds; prestellar cores (Bizzocchi et al. 2014, Vastel et al. 2014 ), hot cores (Blake et al. 1997) and hot corinos (Schöier et al. 2002).
- ▶ In the pre-stellar stages its abundance in the gas phase is comparable to other trace species like HCN ( $X_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \sim 10^{-9} - 10^{-10} / \text{H}_2$  e.g. Tafalla et al. 2006).
- ▶ In regions with protostars its abundance can be as high as 1% of that of CO due to the sublimation of the ice mantles ( $X_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \sim 10^{-6} / \text{H}_2$  e.g. Maret et al. 2005).



Tafalla et al. 2006



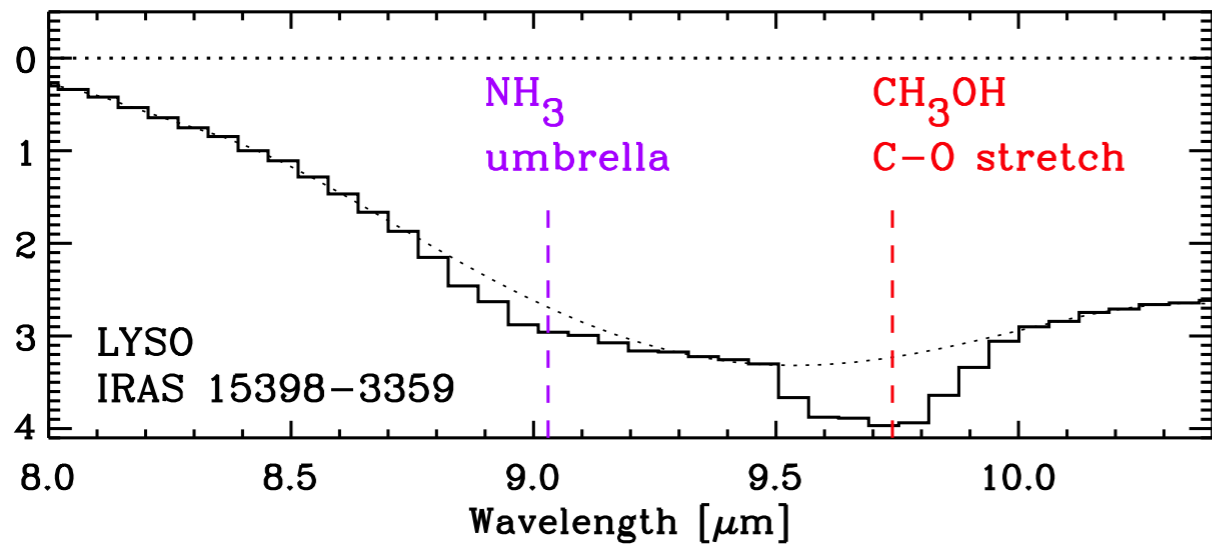
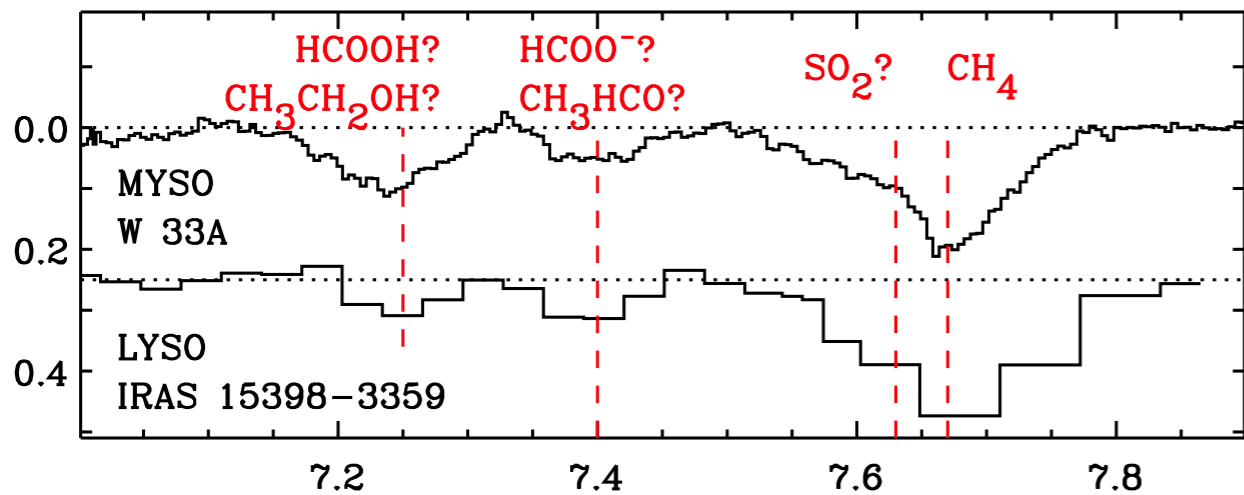
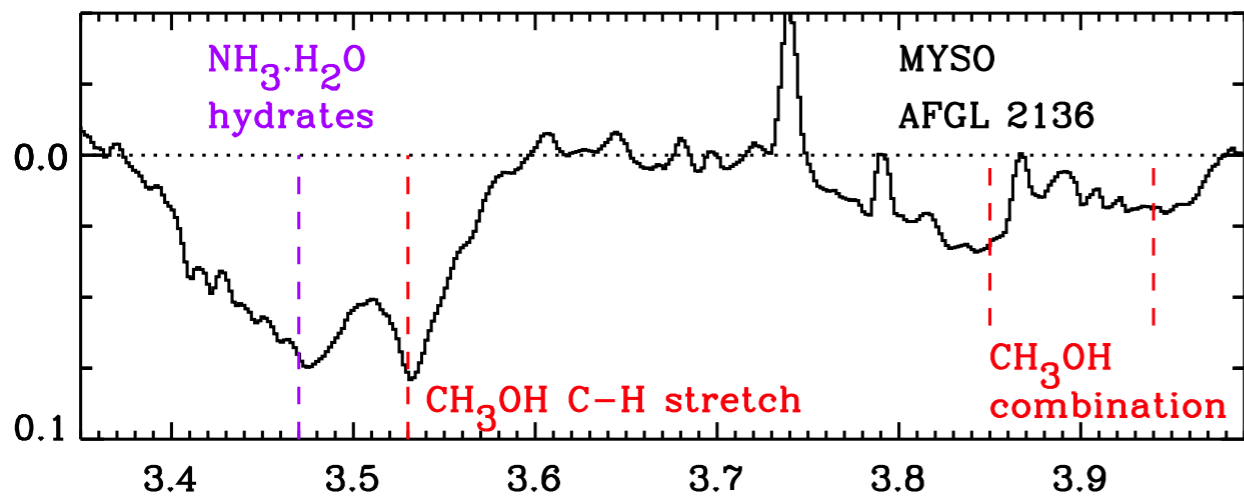
Anderl et al. 2016



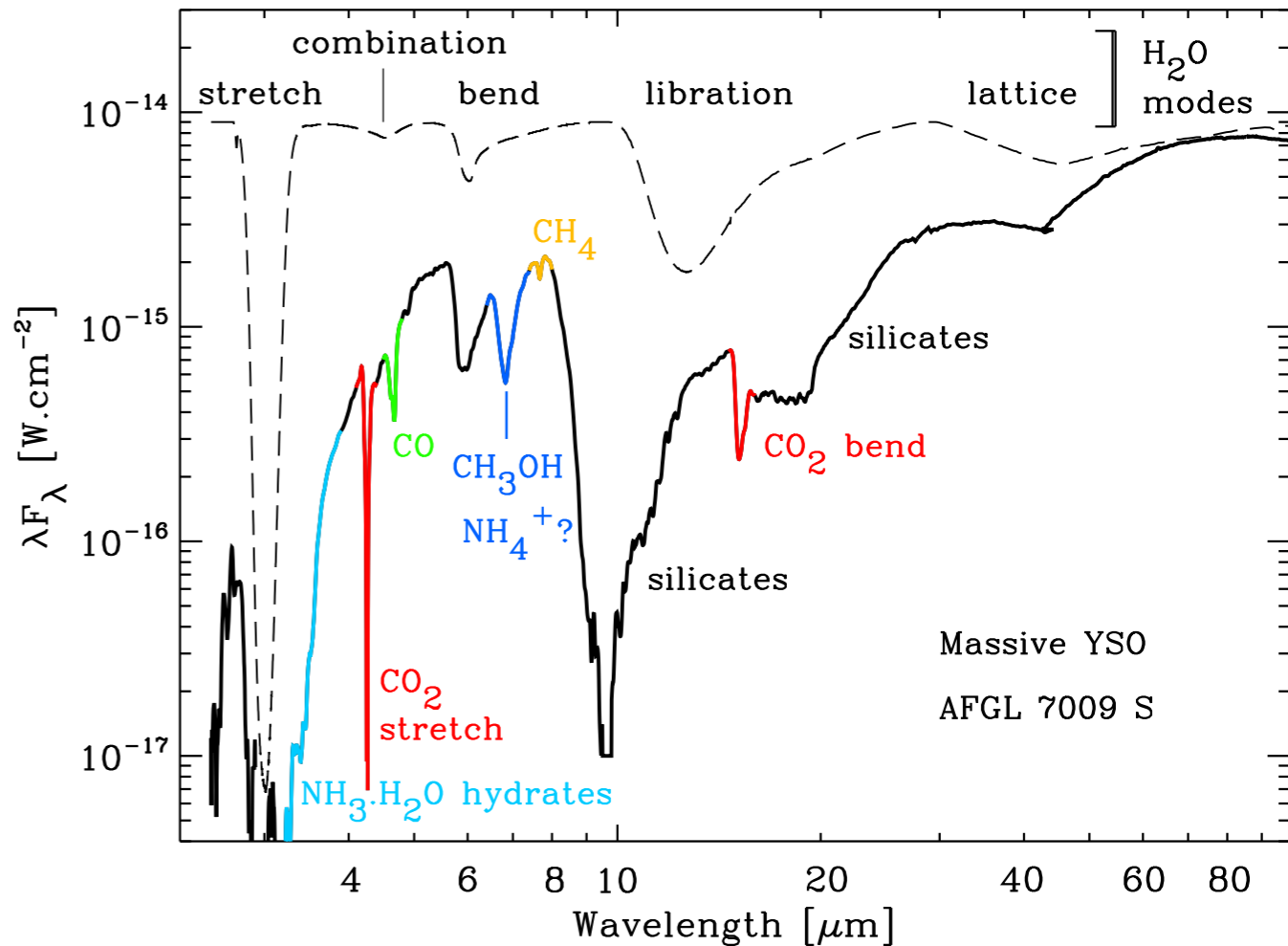
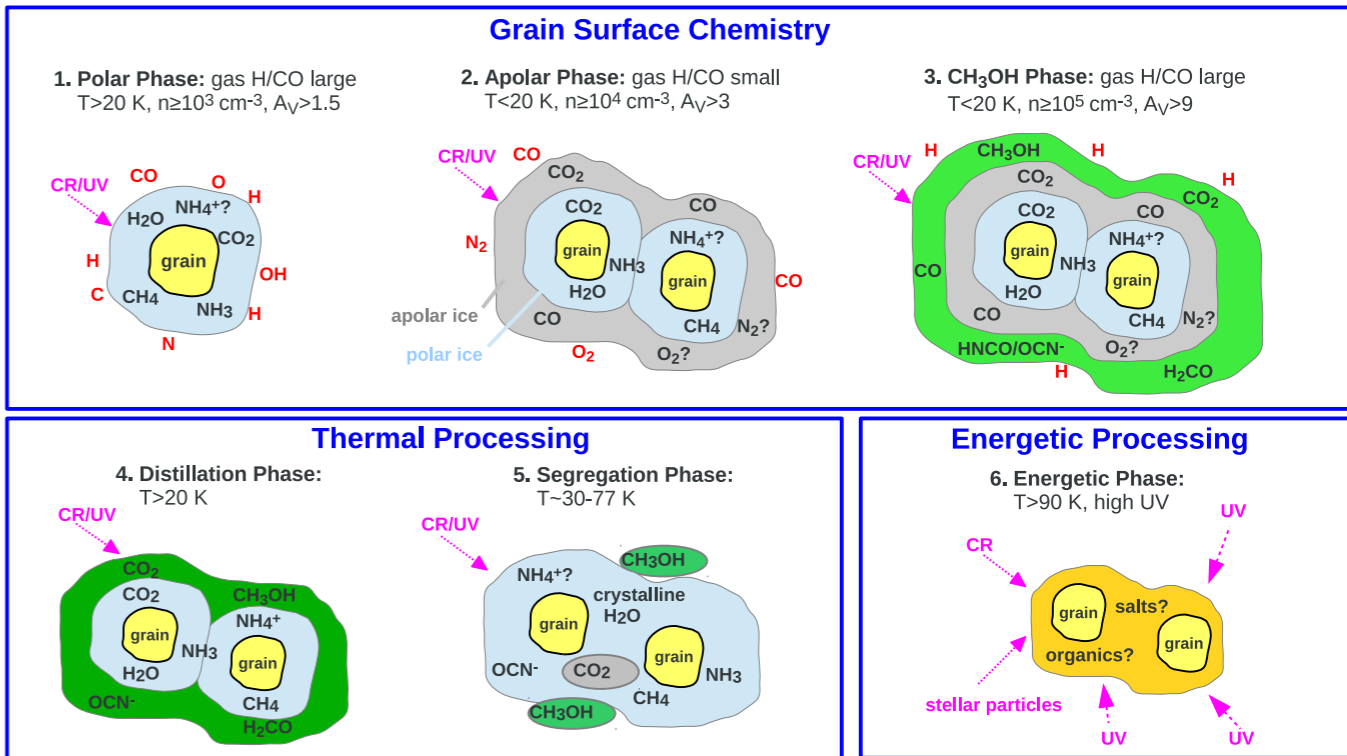
Benedettini et al. 2013

# OBSERVATIONS IN THE ICE

- ▶ Methanol was first detected in the ices by Tielens et al. 1991.
- ▶ Since then it has been observed towards protostars and pre-stellar phase material in absorption in front of strong continuum sources.
- ▶ From these observations it was inferred that the abundance of methanol in the ices can vary from 1% to 30% of the abundance of water ice (Pontoppidan et al. 2003; Gibb et al. 2004).
- ▶ This very high abundance corresponds to ~10% of the total carbon abundance.



Boogert et al. 2015



## FORMATION MECHANISMS

- ▶ GAS-PHASE CHEMISTRY
- ▶ GRAIN SURFACE CHEMISTRY

## FORMATION MECHANISMS

- ▶ GAS-PHASE CHEMISTRY
- ▶ GRAIN SURFACE CHEMISTRY

## DESTRUCTION MECHANISMS

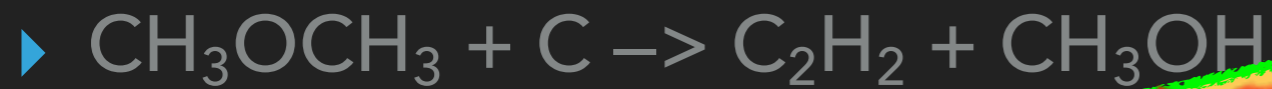
- ▶ UV PHOTONS (6.9 - 13.6 eV)
- ▶ COSMIC RAYS (keV - MeV)
- ▶ IONS ( $\text{H}_3^+$  -  $\text{He}^+$  -  $\text{HCO}^+$  -  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ )



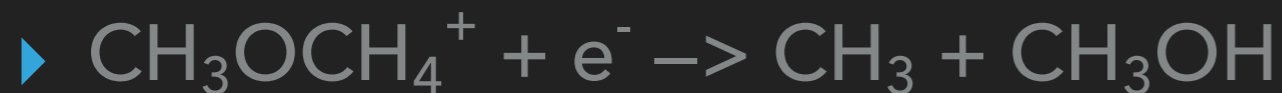
## GAS-PHASE PROCESS

- ▶  $\text{CH}_3^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$ 
  - ▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}$
- ▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_3 + \text{C} \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$
- ▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_3^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_2 + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$
- ▶  $\text{CH}_3 + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + e^-$
- ▶  $\text{COOCH}_4^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{CO} + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$
- ▶  $\text{H}_5\text{C}_2\text{O}_2^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{HCO} + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$
- ▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_4^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_3 + \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$

## GAS-PHASE PROCESS



**REJECTED**



## ONE PLAUSIBLE MECHANISM

- ▶  $\text{CH}_3^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+$ 
  - ▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}$
- ▶ Modelled abundance around  $10^{-13}$ :
  - ▶ Below the observed values in dark clouds
  - ▶ Below the detection limits for existing telescopes

## ONE PLAUSIBLE MECHANISM



▶

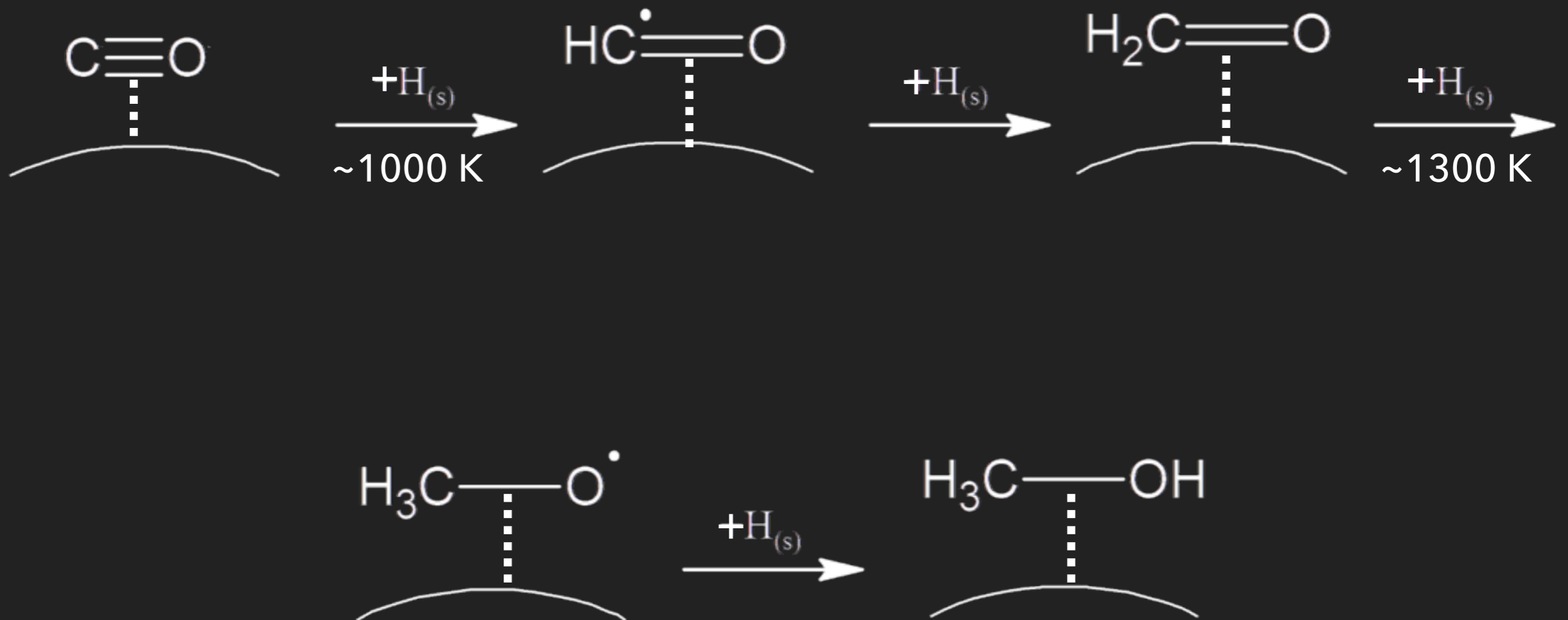
**REJECTED**

▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  is not a viable mechanism for the formation of methanol in dark clouds

▶  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}_2^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  is below the detection limits for existing telescopes

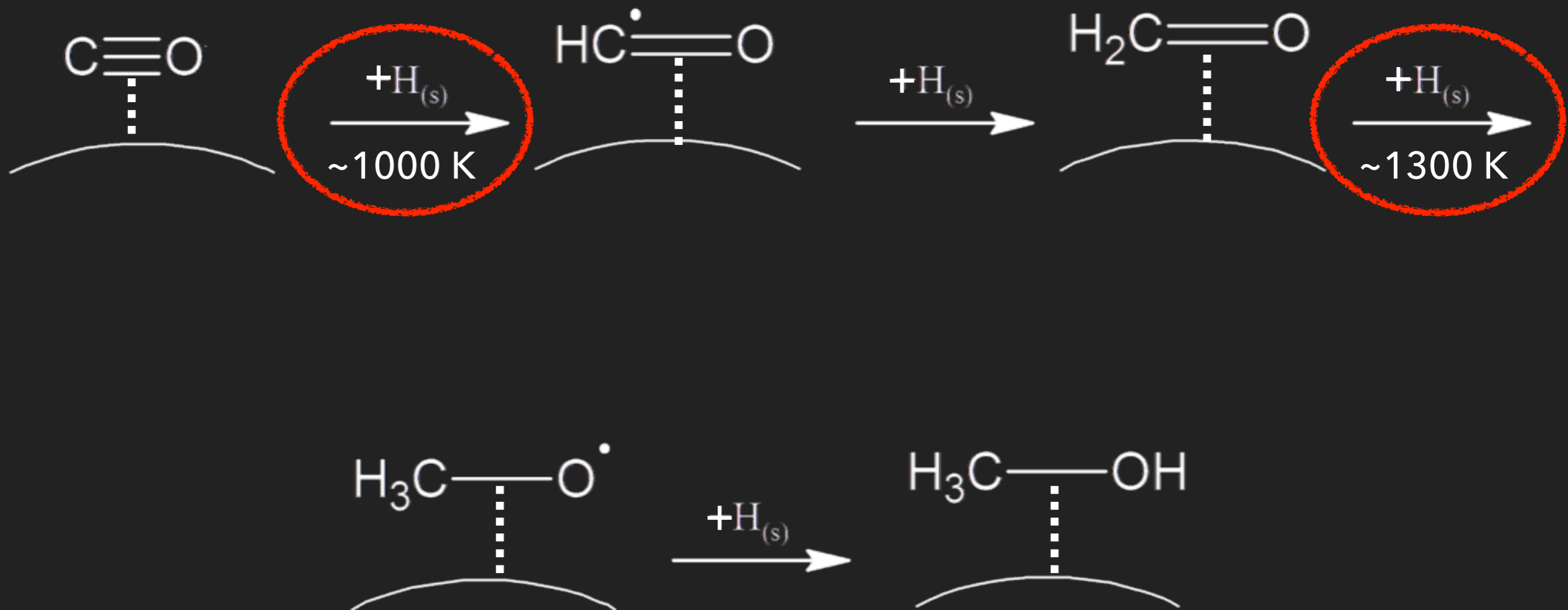
## SOLID-STATE PROCESS

### ▶ HYDROGENATION OF CO



## SOLID-STATE PROCESS

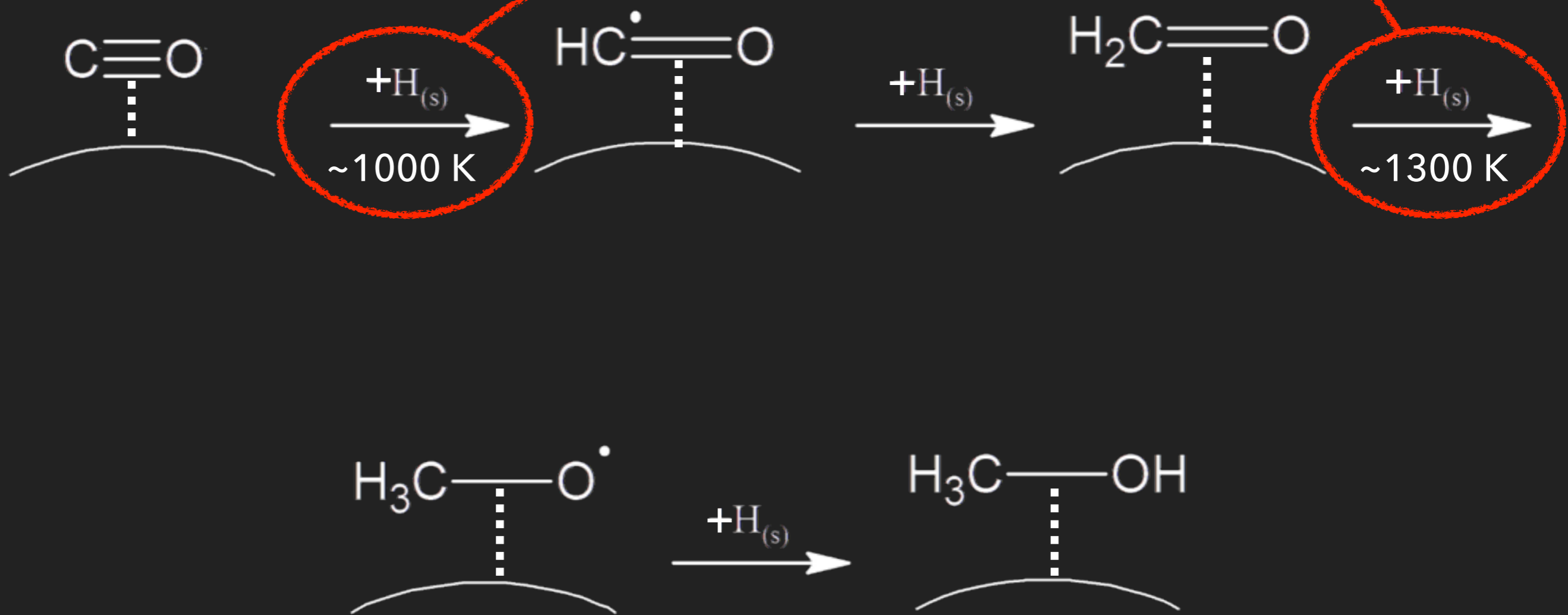
### ▶ HYDROGENATION OF CO



# SOLID-STATE PROCESS

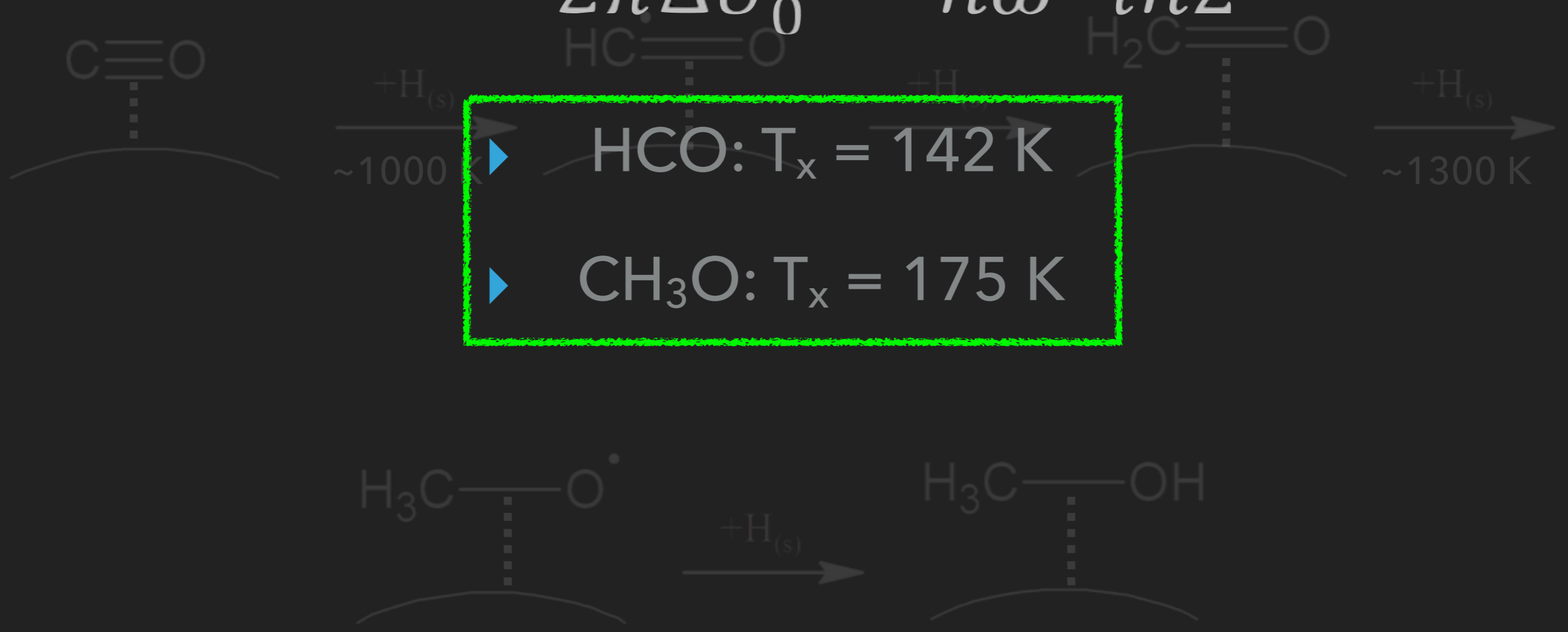
## ▶ HYDROGENATION OF CO

@10 K ??



# TUNNELLING EFFECT

$$T_x = \frac{\hbar\omega^\ddagger \Delta U_0^\ddagger / k_B}{2\pi\Delta U_0^\ddagger - \hbar\omega^\ddagger \ln 2}$$

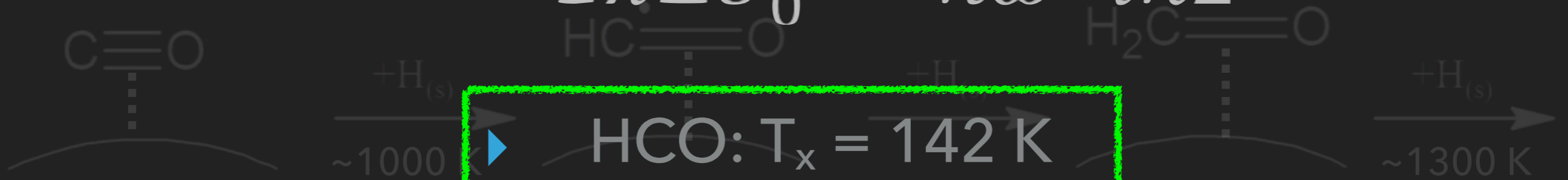


- ▶ HCO:  $T_x = 142$  K
- ▶ CH3O:  $T_x = 175$  K



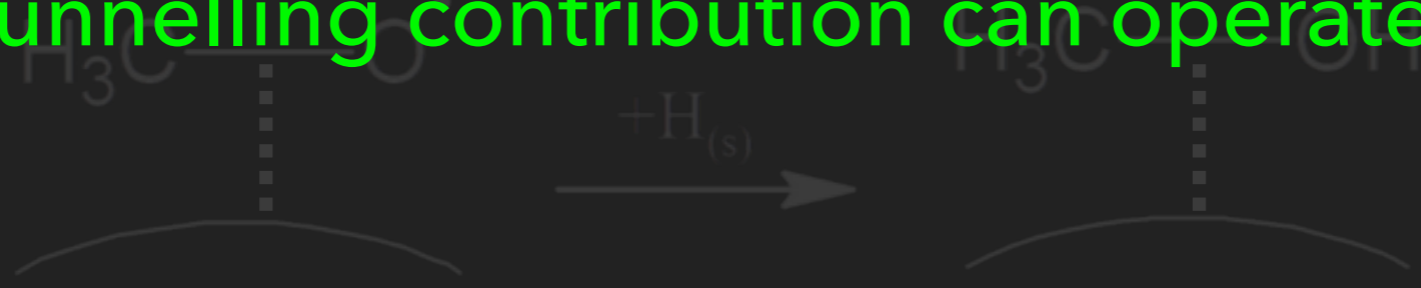
# TUNNELLING EFFECT

$$T_x = \frac{\hbar\omega^\ddagger \Delta U_0^\ddagger / k_B}{2\pi\Delta U_0^\ddagger - \hbar\omega^\ddagger \ln 2}$$



- ▶ HCO:  $T_x = 142 \text{ K}$
- ▶ CH<sub>3</sub>O:  $T_x = 175 \text{ K}$

Tunnelling contribution can operate!!!



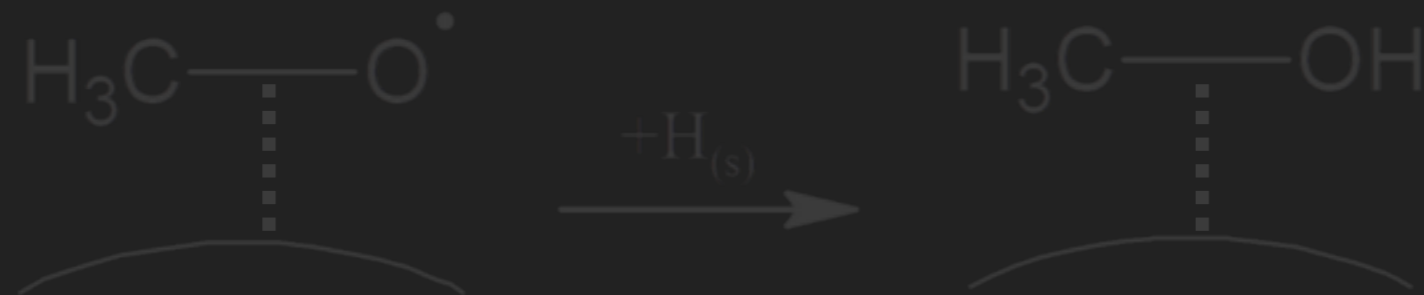
## HYDROGENATION OF CO: PROS

- ▶ Easy mechanism.



- ▶ Experimental evidence (Watanabe *et al.* 2003, Fuchs *et al.* 2009)

- ▶ Tunnelling effect can dominate the process.



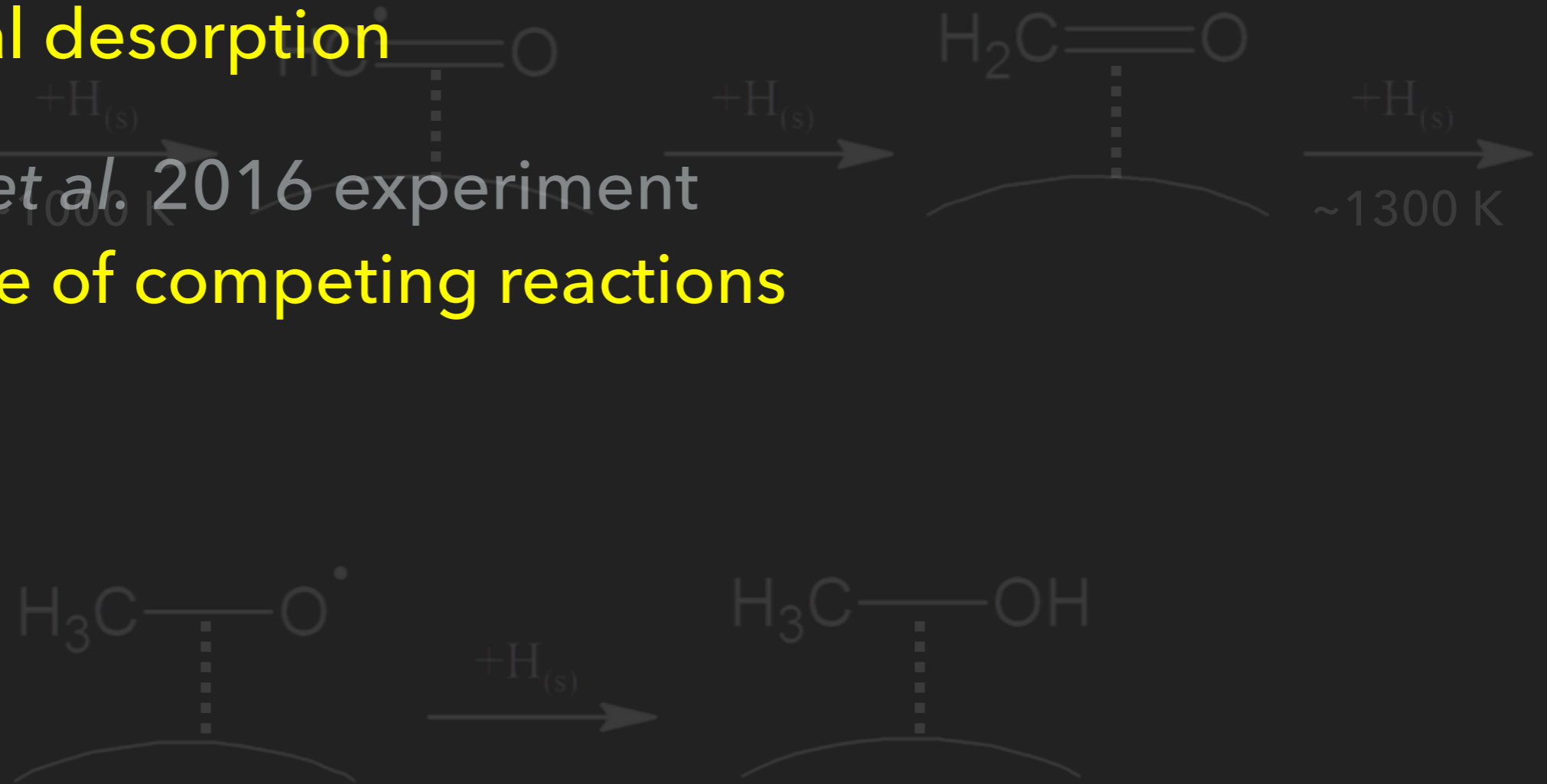
## HYDROGENATION OF CO: CONS

- ▶ Gas-phase observations in the cold ISM

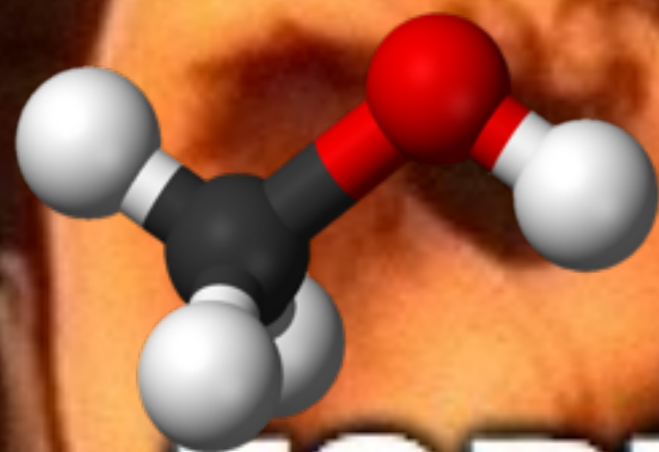
**No thermal desorption**

- ▶ Minissale *et al.* 2016 experiment

**Importance of competing reactions**



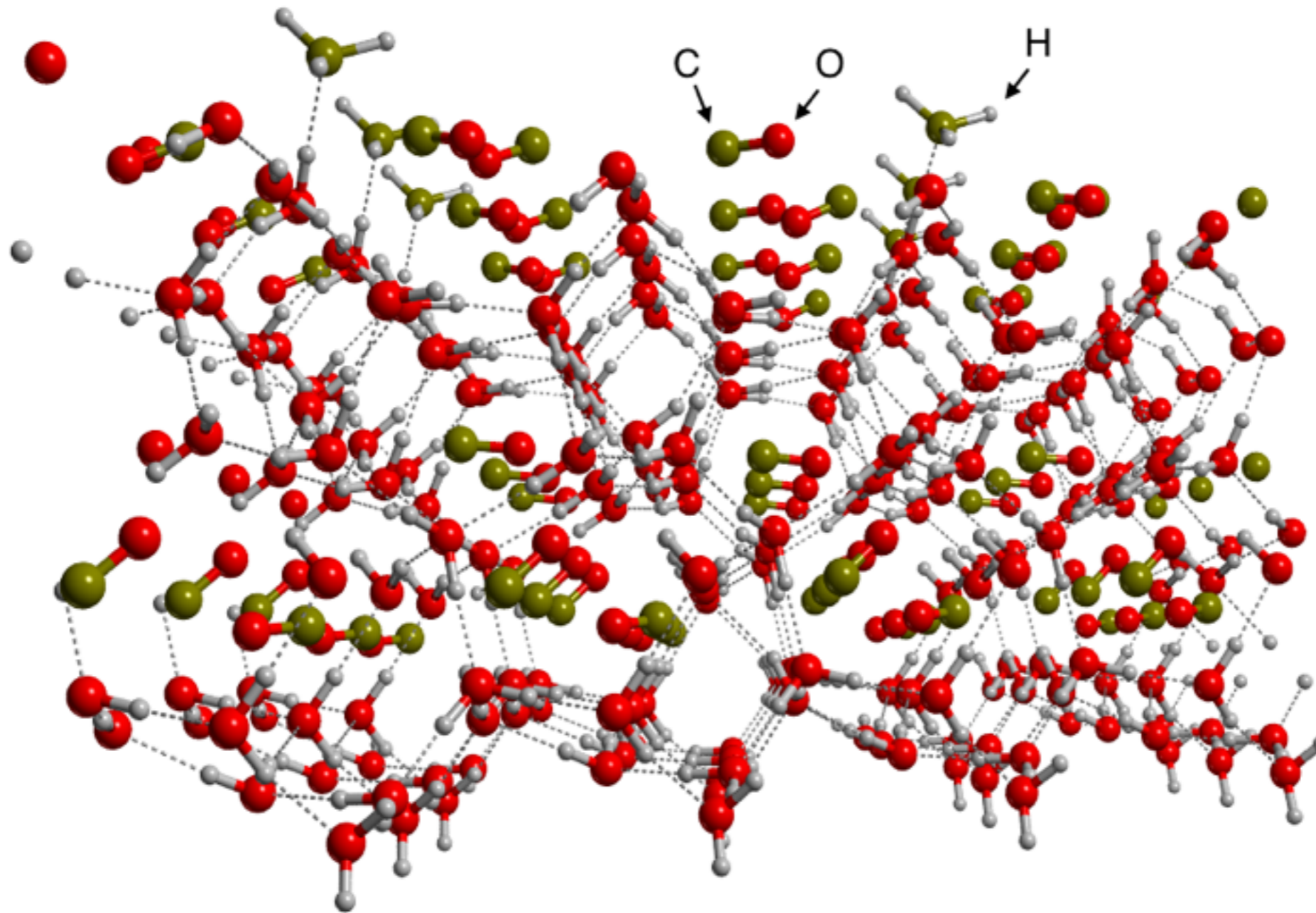
**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY**



**FORM METHANOL**

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ▶ Comprehensive experiments on the "methanol cycle".
  - ▶ Solid phase + UV irradiation + Energetic ions + gas phase.
- ▶ Control over gas phase products in solid state experiments.
- ▶ Quantum chemistry calculations of tunnelling mechanisms for surface reactions.
- ▶ Desorption experiments (with H<sub>2</sub>O, CO and mixed ices).
- ▶ Coupled gas-phase + solid phase mechanisms.



- ▶ Quantum level calculation with periodic boundary conditions with amorphous H<sub>2</sub>O-CO ice.



THE TEAM

THANK YOU!!!