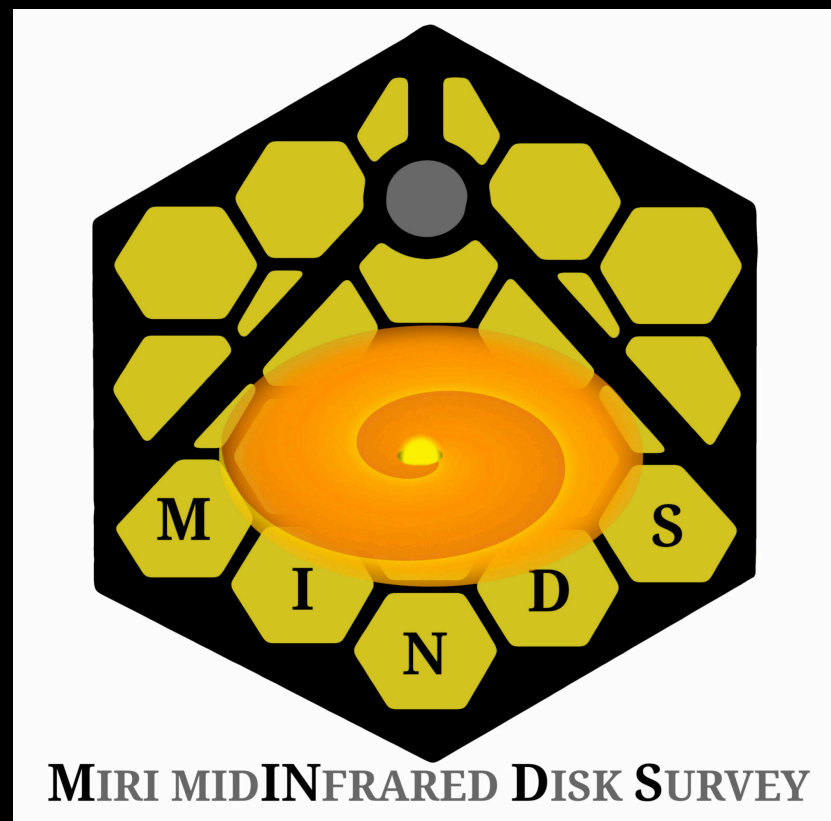


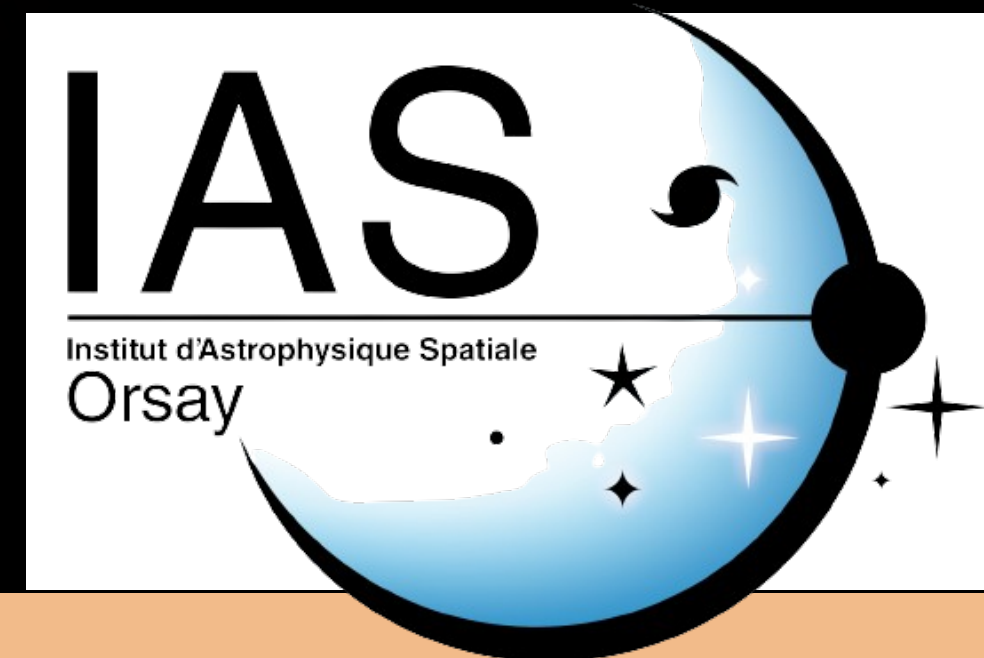
What do C_2H_2 and H_2O trace in planet-forming regions of disks ?

Benoît Tabone, Emilie Habart
and the MINDS team



Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale, Orsay, France

SF2A 2025 - July, 2nd 2025

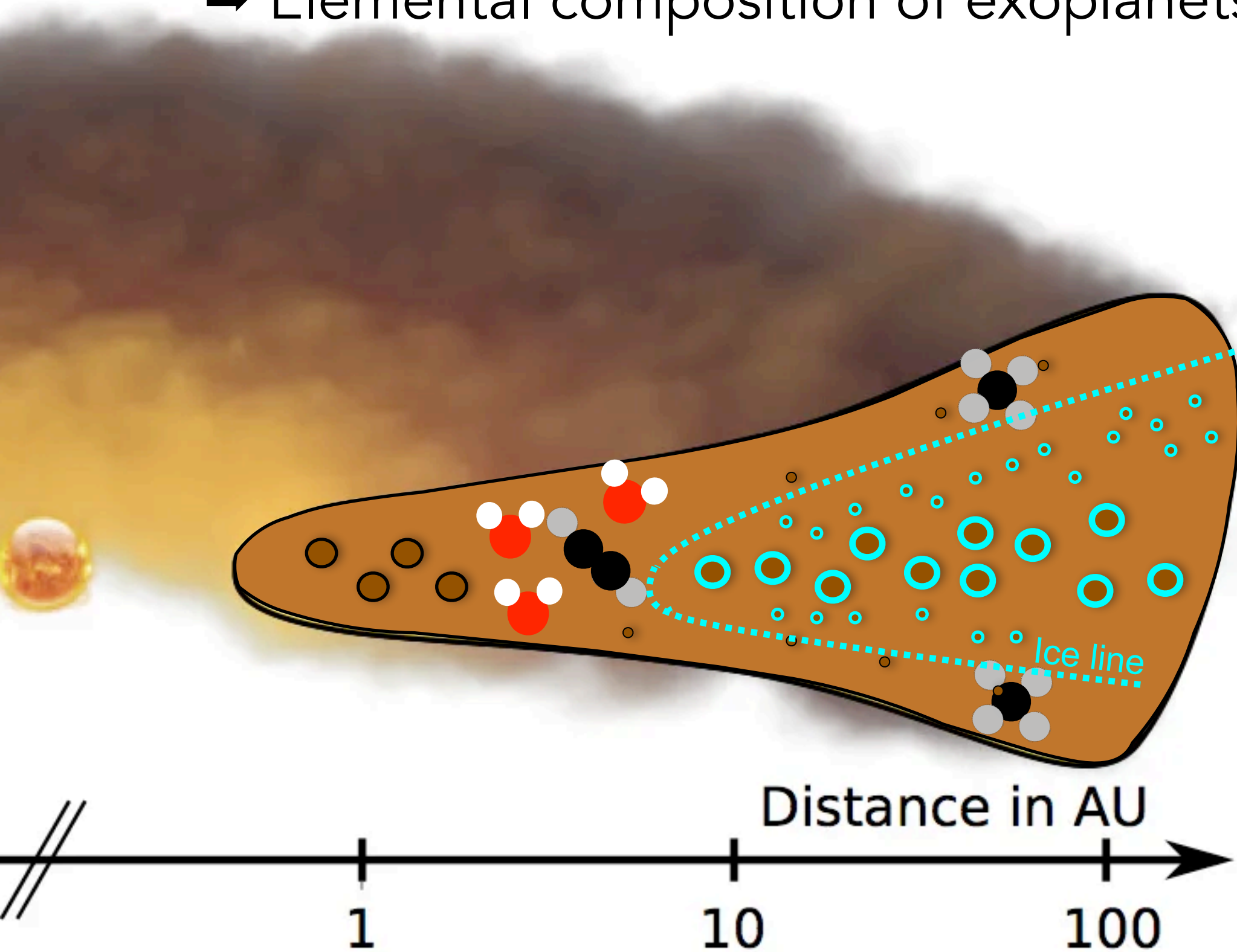


Context

Planet formation theories need constraints on disk properties to interpret the properties of exoplanets

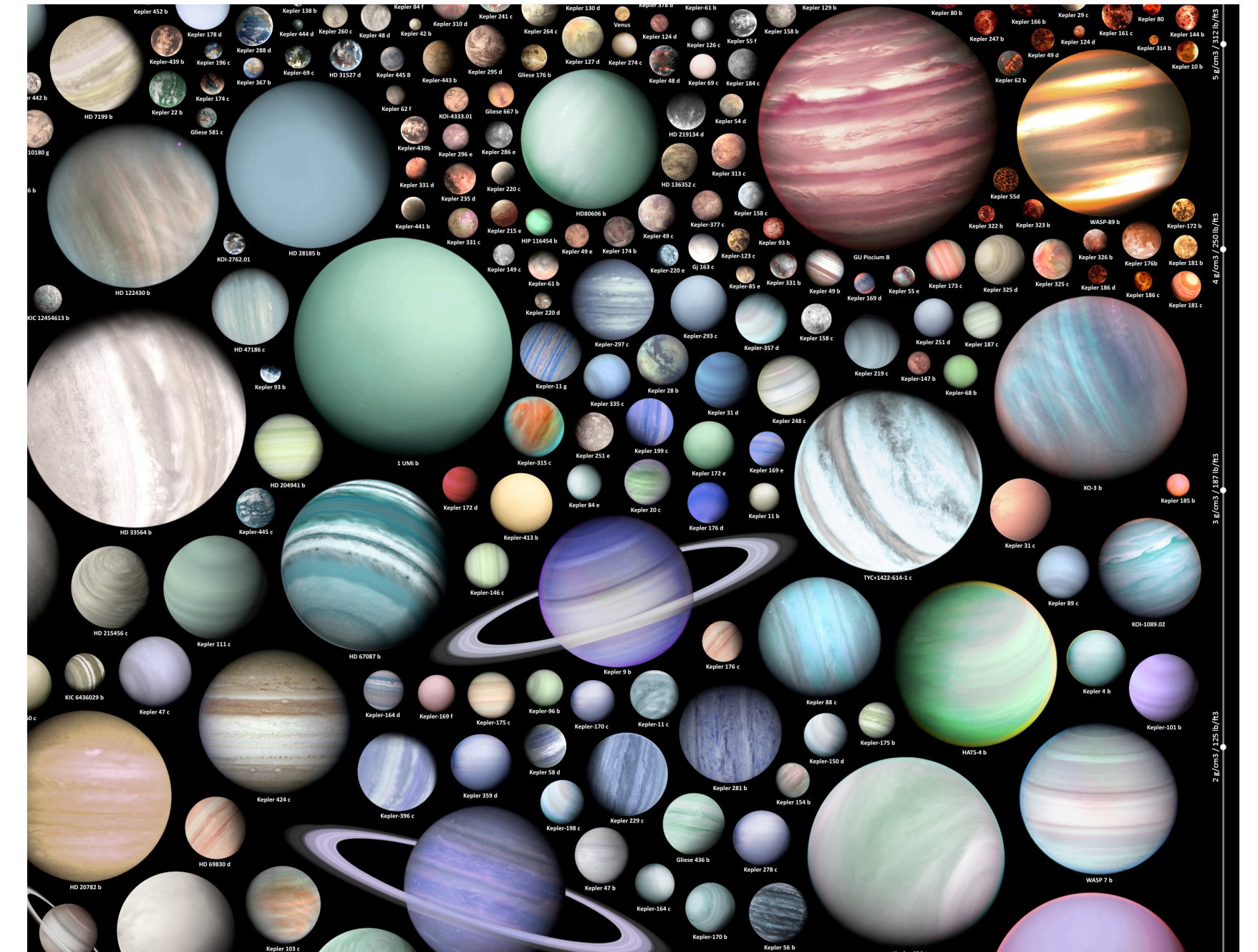
Chemical composition?

→ Elemental composition of exoplanets



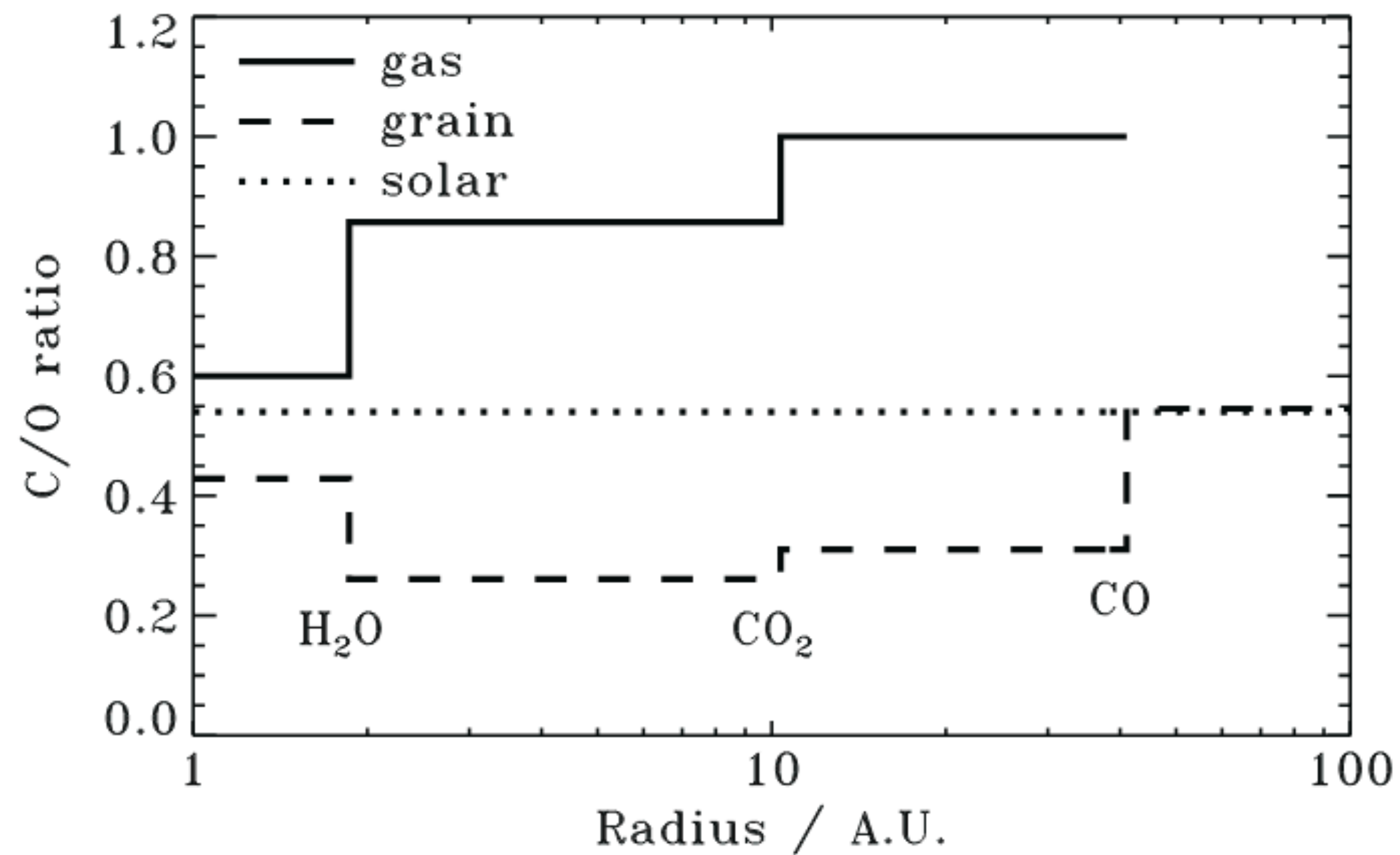
Planet formation models

End-product: populations of exoplanets

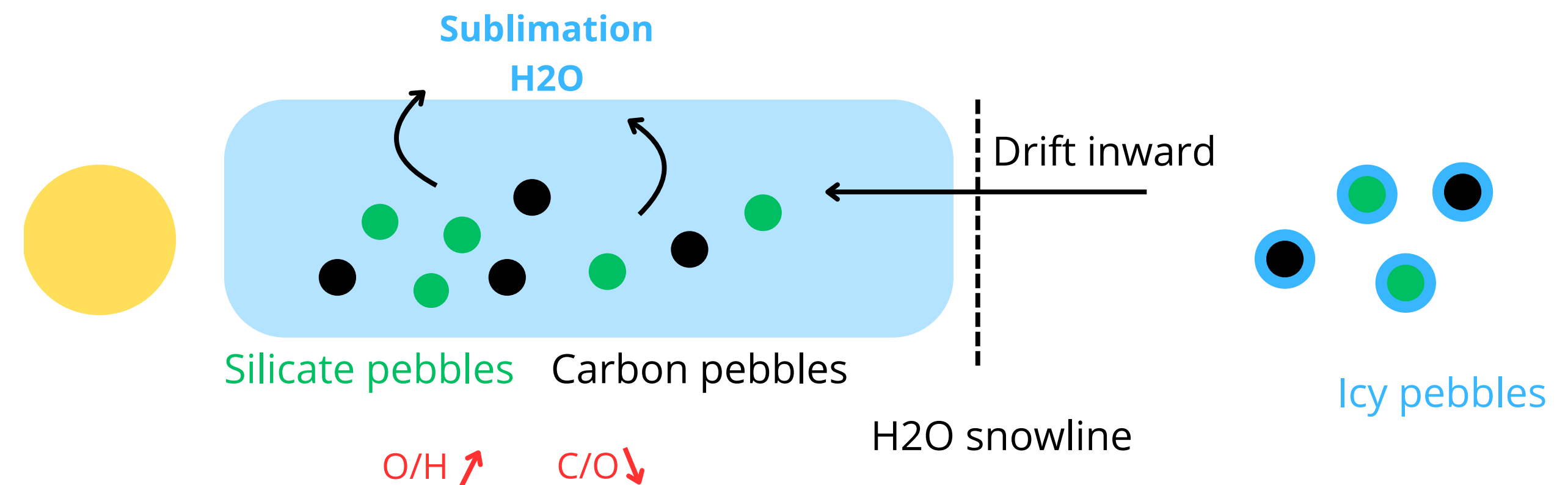


The C/O ratio and metallicity

- The C/O ratio and 'metallicity' ($(C+O)/H$) are key parameters to constrain planet formation (*Madhusudhan et al. 2016*)
- Indicator of when and where the accretion of gaseous planets starts (*Cridland et al. 2017*)
- Elemental abundances in disks set by complex processes
- **Need observational constraints**



Evolution of the C/O ratio with radius. Öberg et al. 2011.

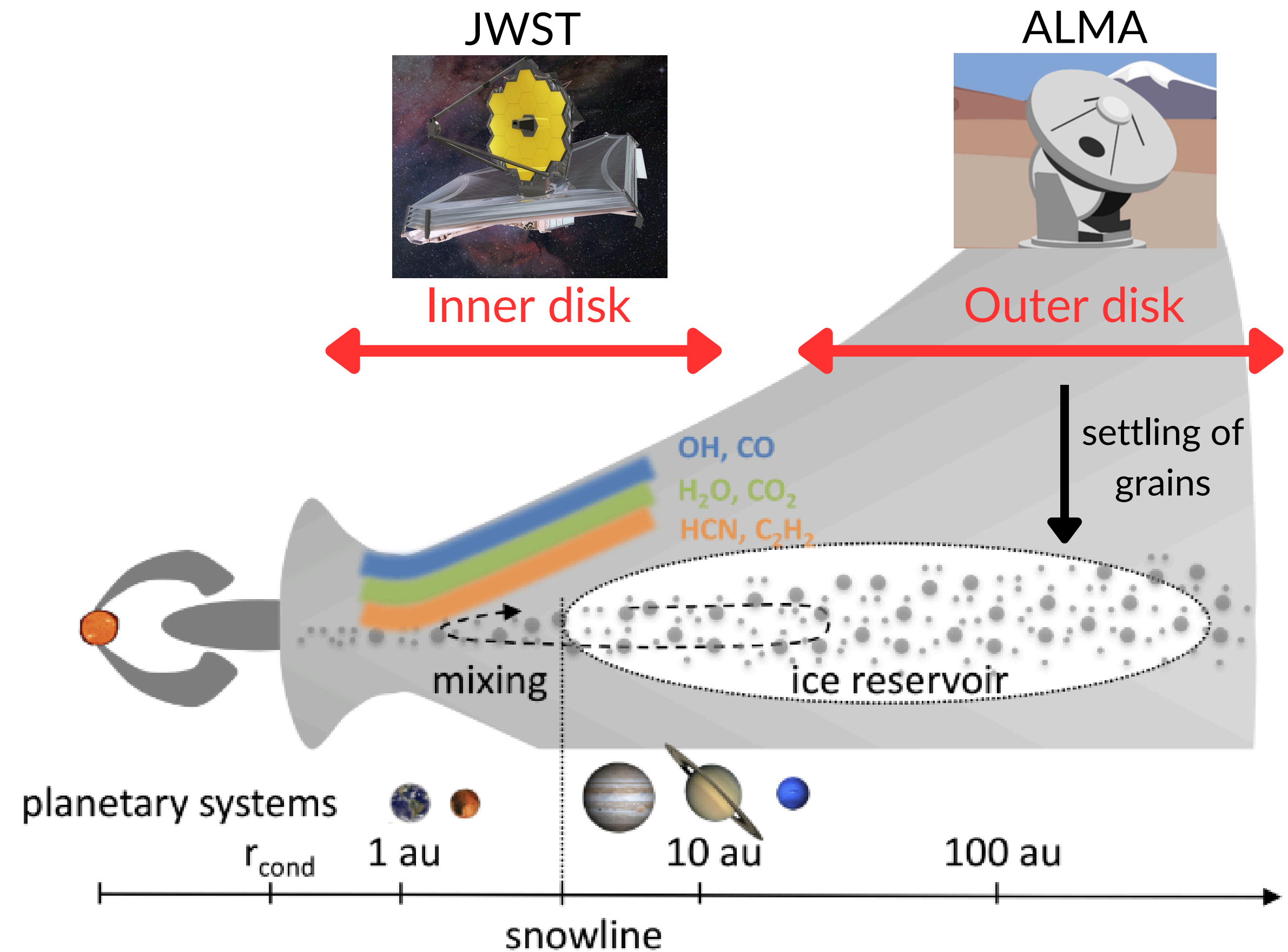


Sketch illustrating the pebble drift.

Context

→ JWST probe the thermal emission from the inner disk <10 au

- Disk composed of gas and dust
- $n_{gas} \sim 10^8 - 10^{15} cm^{-3}$
- $T \sim 50 - 1500 K$
- $R < 10 au$

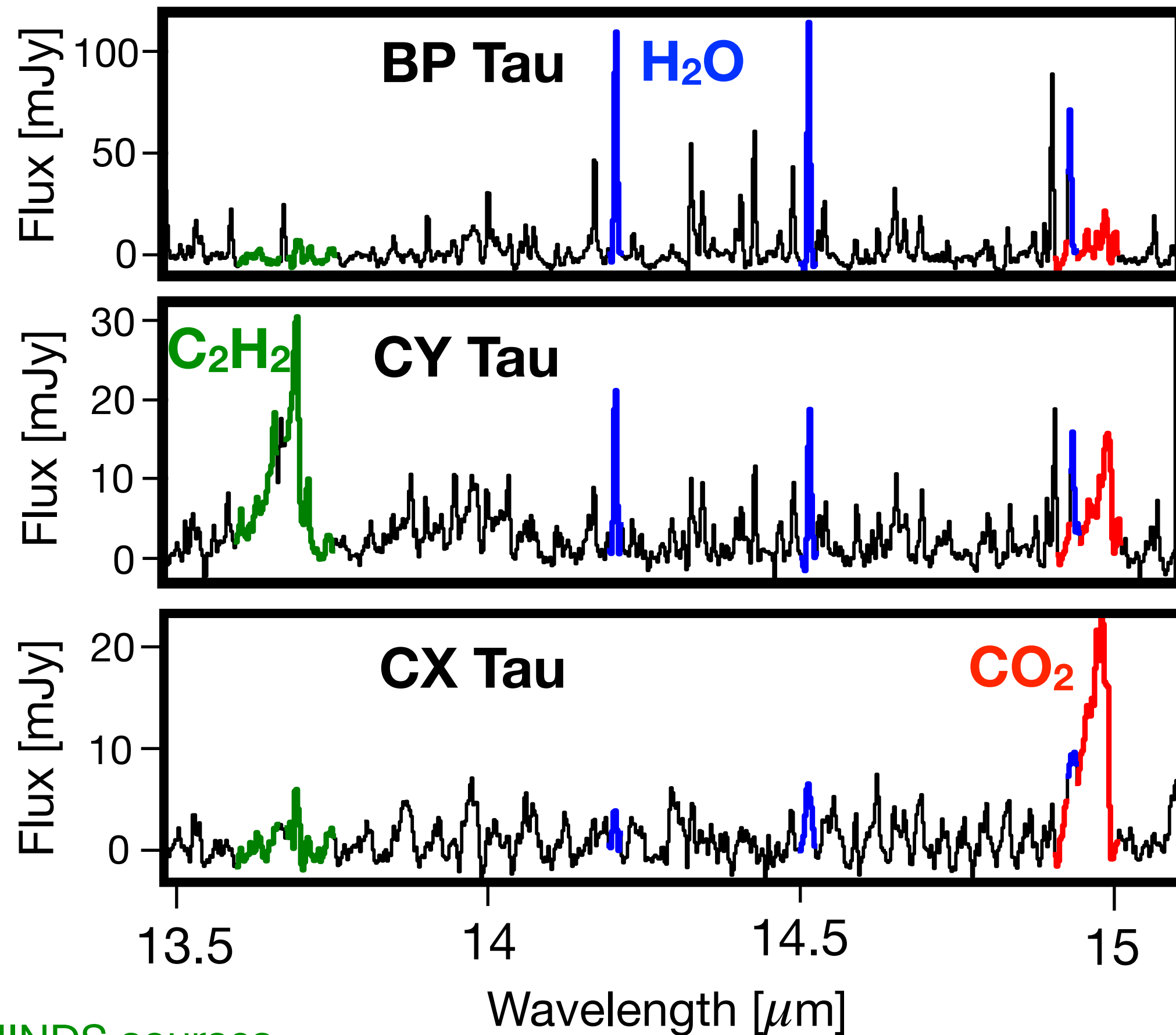


Schematic representation of a protoplanetary disk adapted from Kamp et al. 2023.

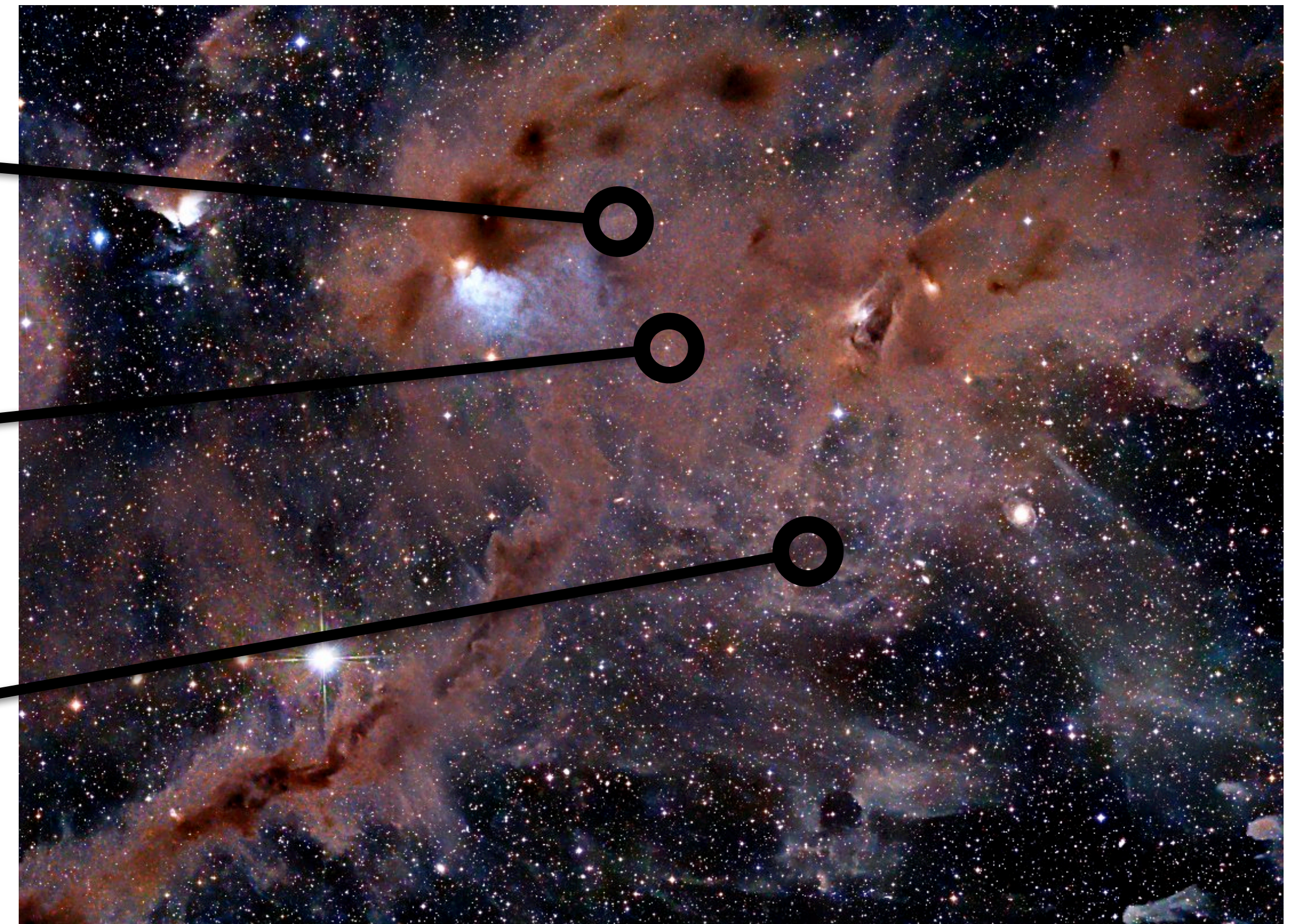
Context

- H_2O , C_2H_2 , HCN, OH, CO_2 , CO widely detected
- Diversity of JWST spectra of inner disks → Diversity of exoplanet atmospheres ?

JWST spectra of disks around $0.4 M_\odot$ stars



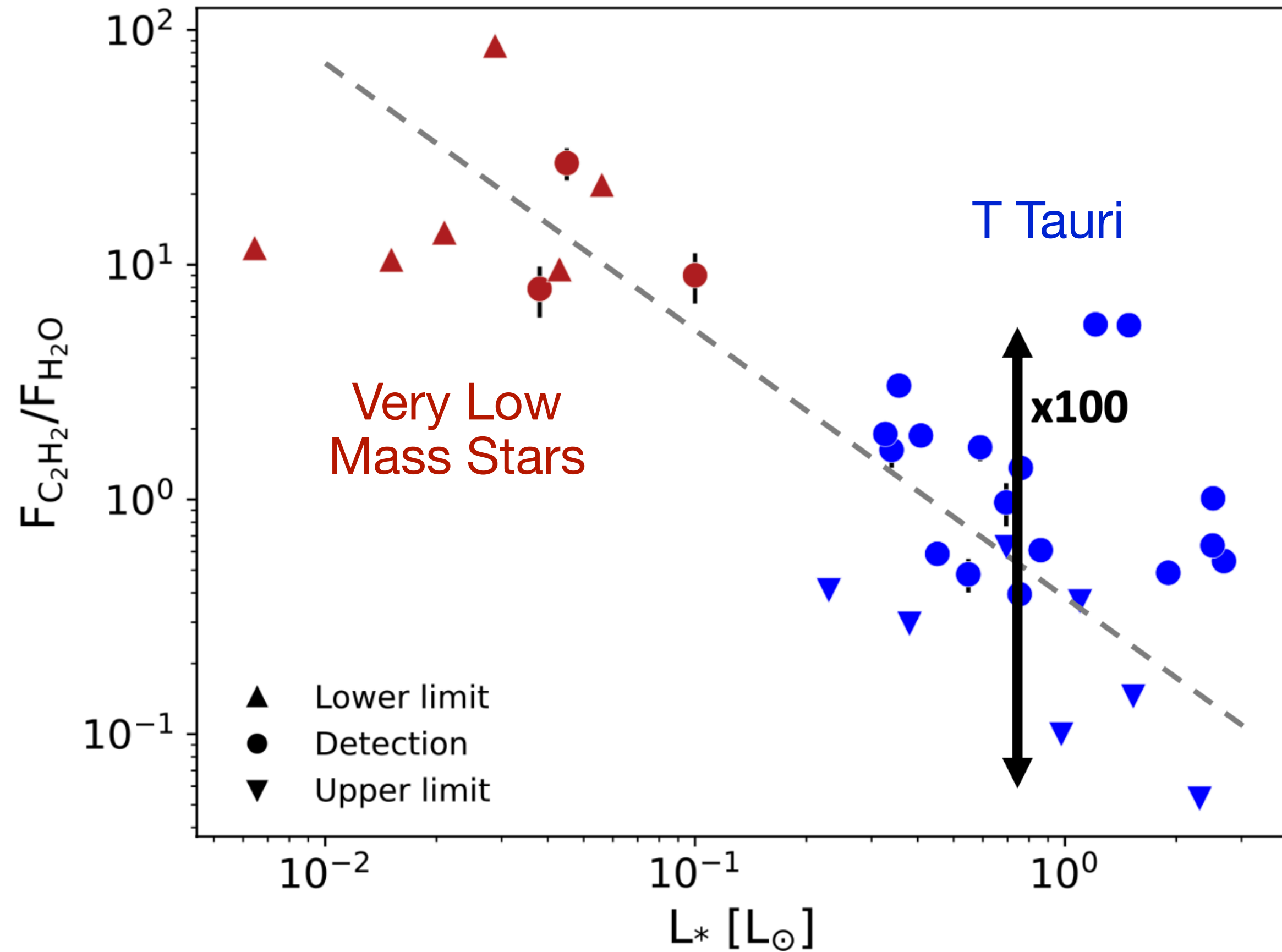
The Taurus molecular cloud



© Copyright Stefan Ziegenbalg

MINDS sources

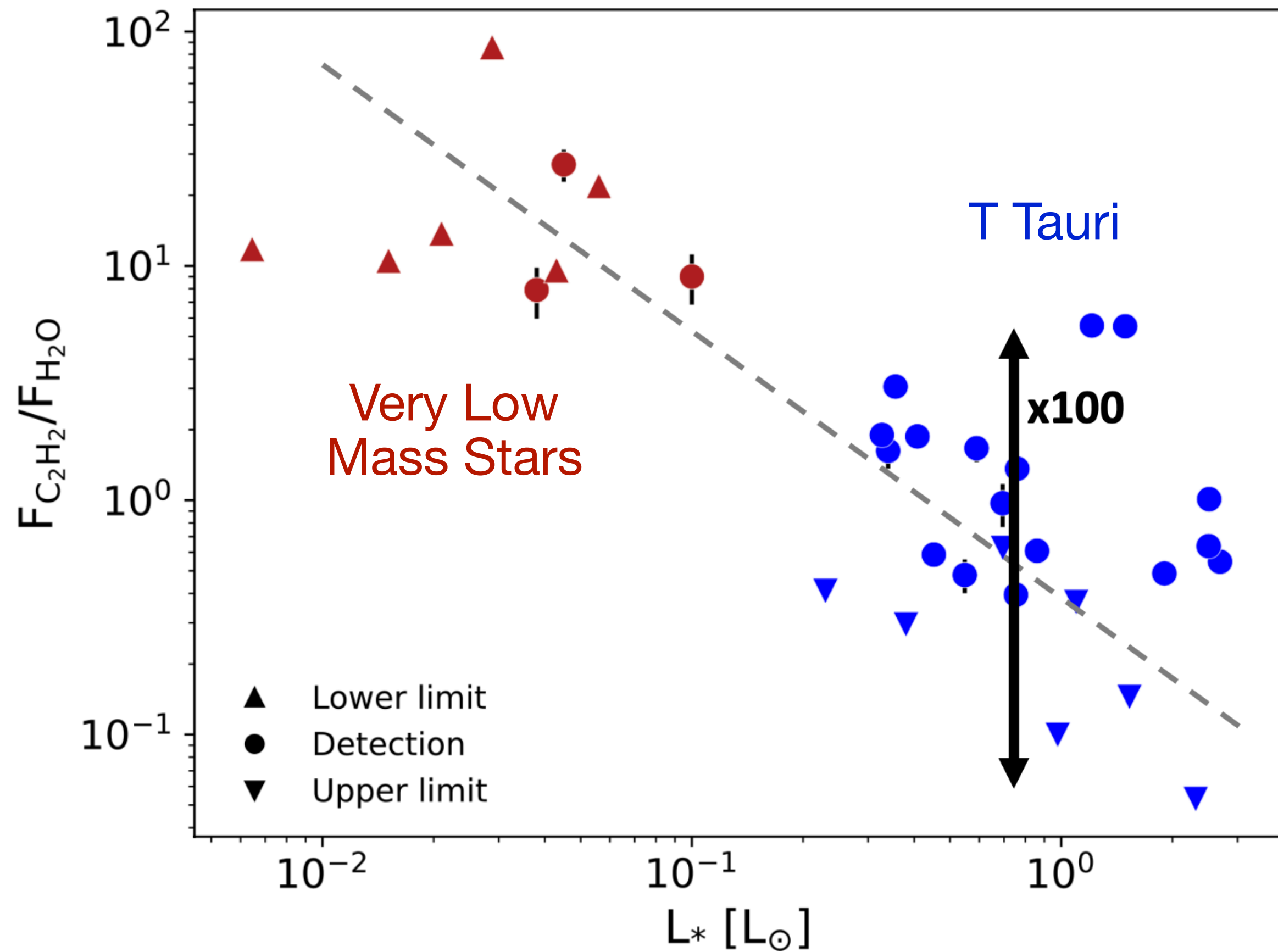
The diversity of C₂H₂ and H₂O emission



JWST spectra of disks (MINDS), Grant et al. subm.

- Strong correlation between H₂O and C₂H₂ emission with the stellar mass
- Large dispersion of $F_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_2}/F_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ for T Tauri stars

The diversity of C₂H₂ and H₂O emission



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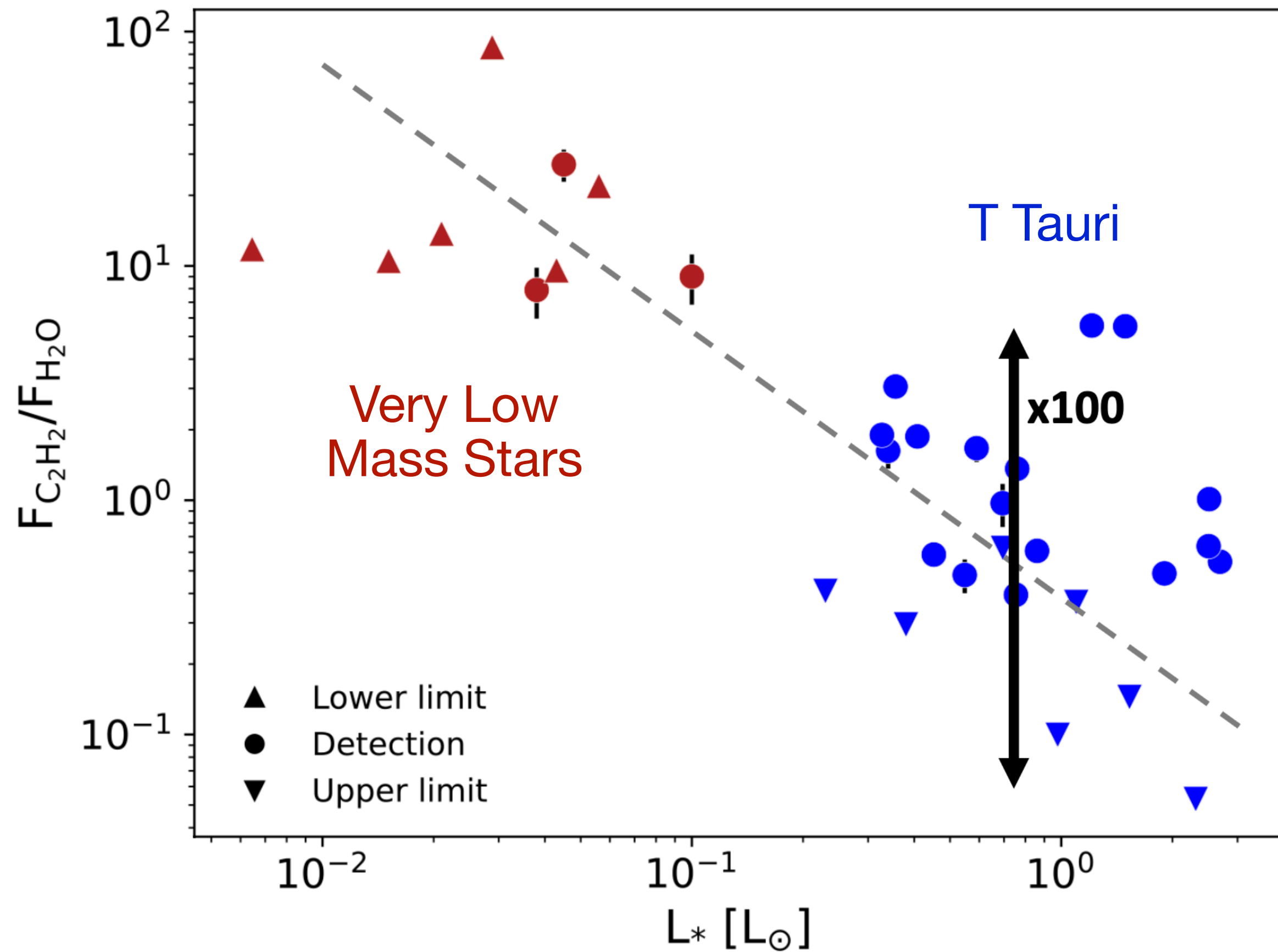
→ Large dispersion of $F_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_2}/F_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ for T Tauri stars

Where does that diversity come from ?

What drives the emission of C₂H₂ and H₂O in T Tauri disks ?

Does the ratio $F_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_2}/F_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ trace the C/O ratio in the inner disk ?

The diversity of C₂H₂ and H₂O emission



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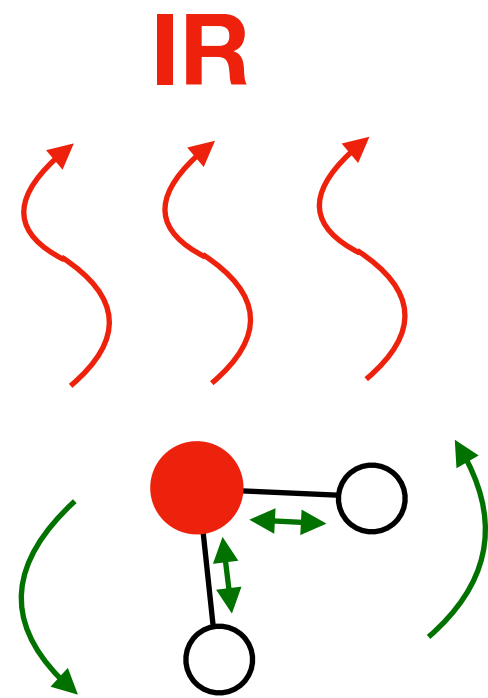
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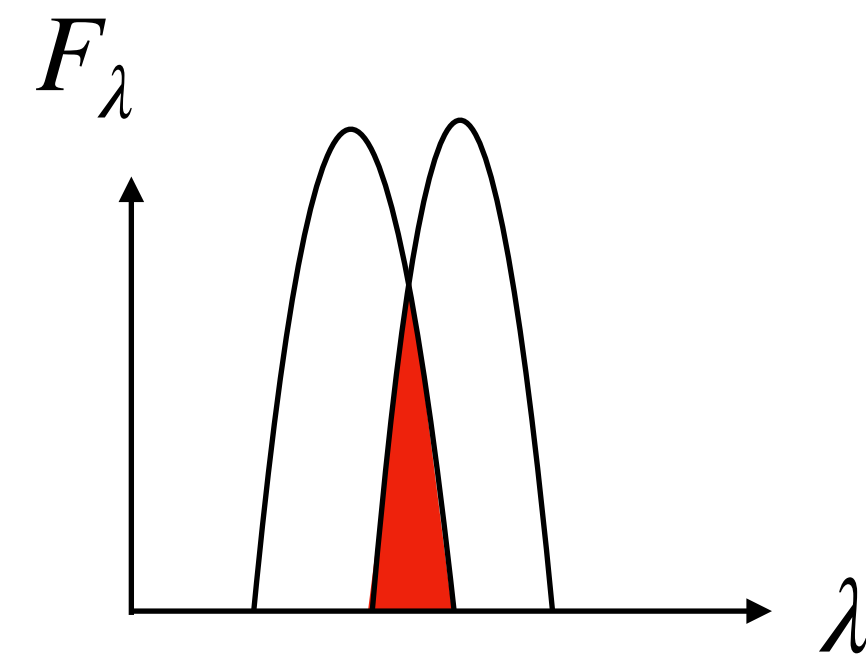
→ We need thermo-chemical models

Thermochemical models for inner disks

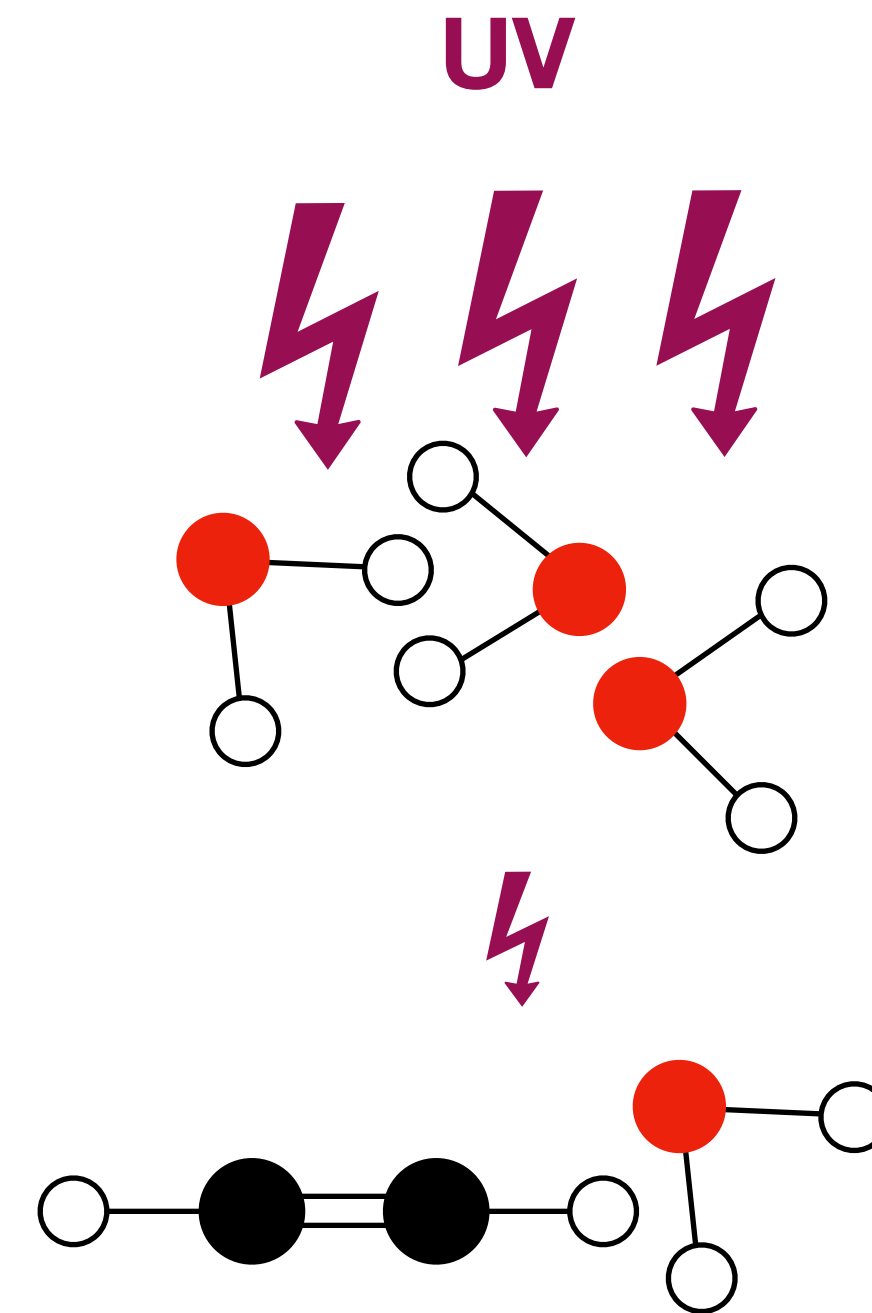
- Using the thermo-chemical model DALI (**D**ust **A**nd **L**ines) (*Bruderer+2012, Bruderer2013*)
- Self-consistent solution : $T_{\text{gas}} \longleftrightarrow$ chemistry, according to a chemical network
- New processes added for inner disks: ro-vibrational cooling, line overlap, UV shielding; and new chemical network



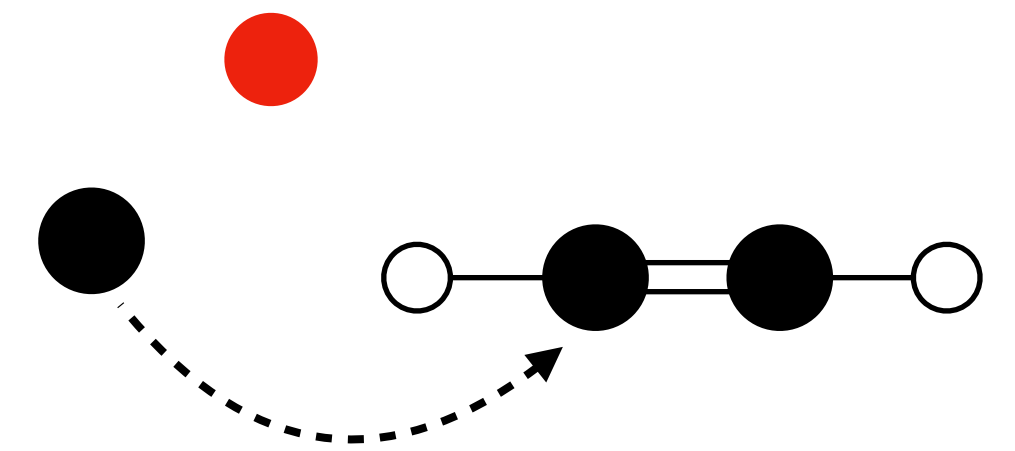
Ro-vibrational cooling



Line overlap



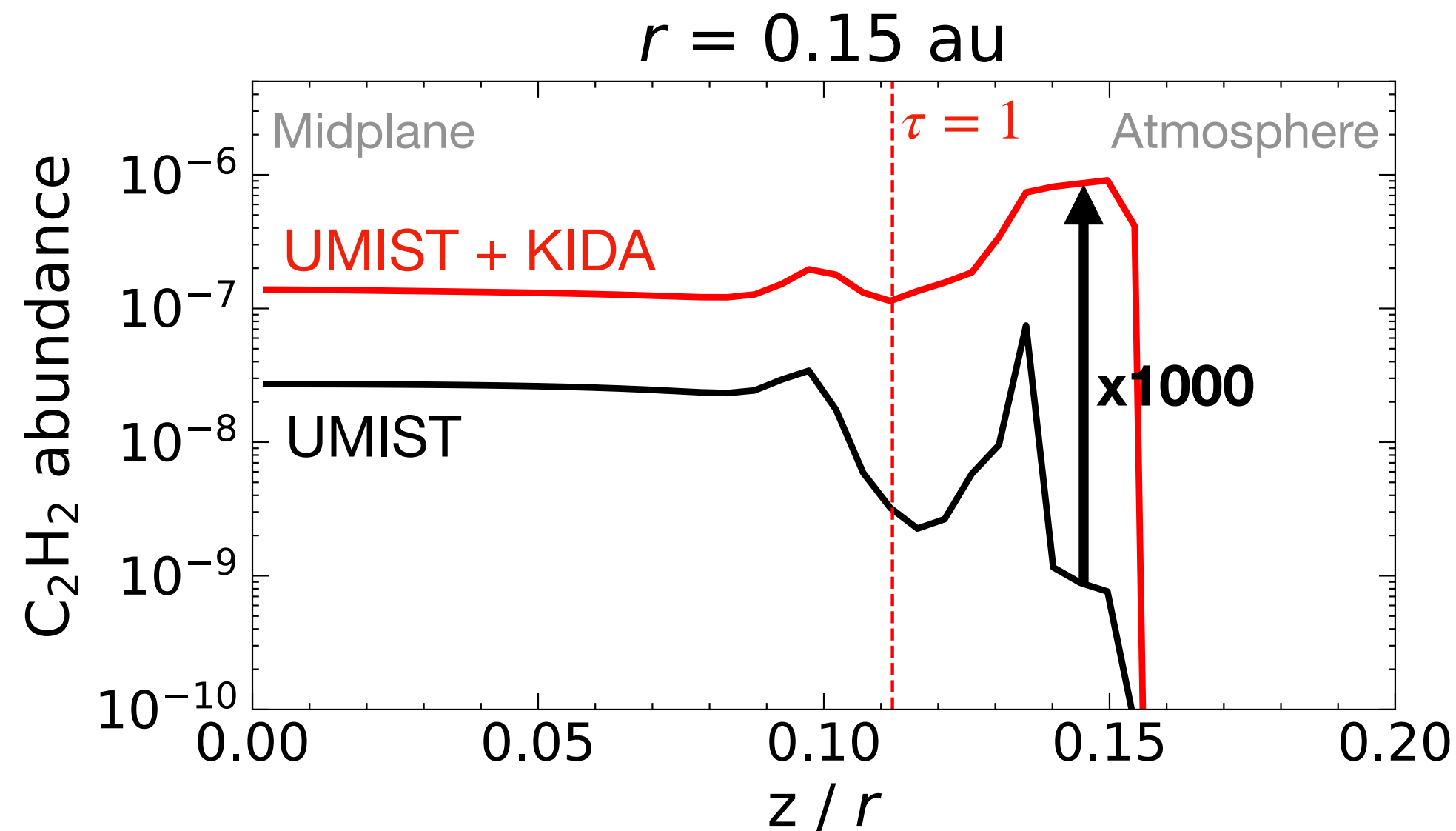
UV shielding



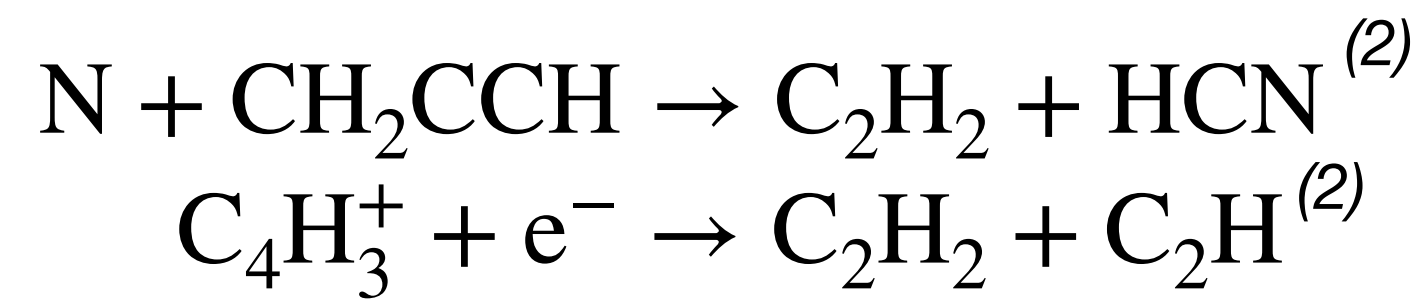
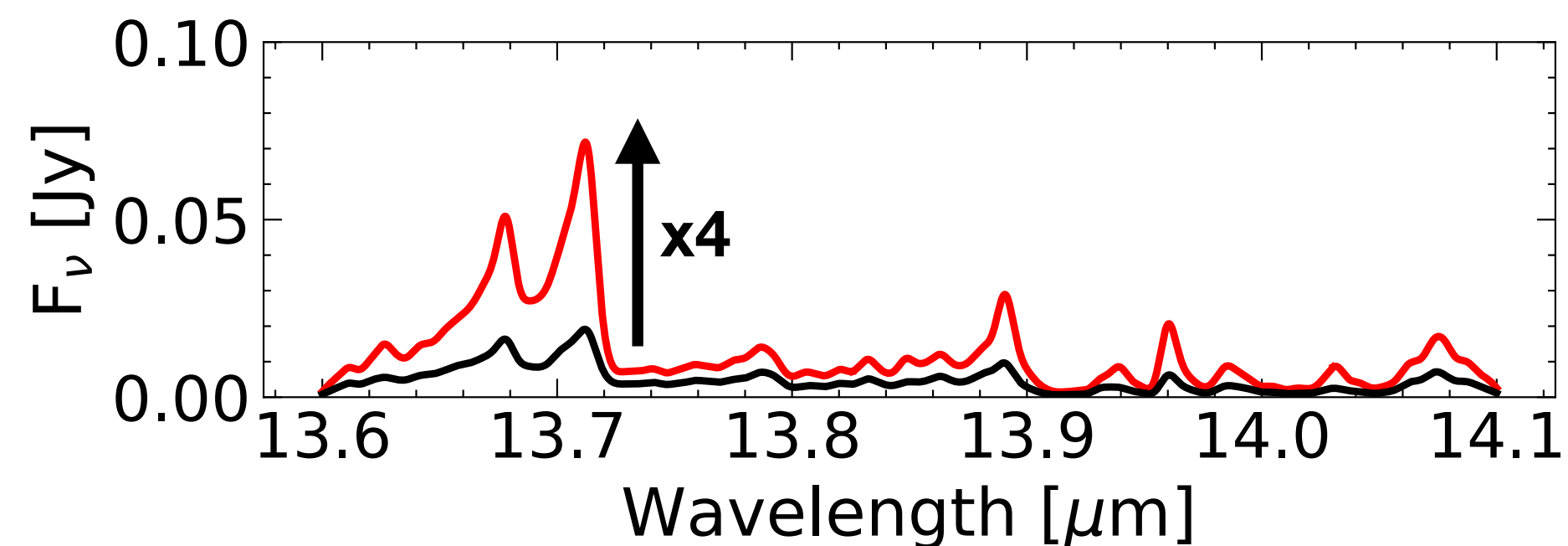
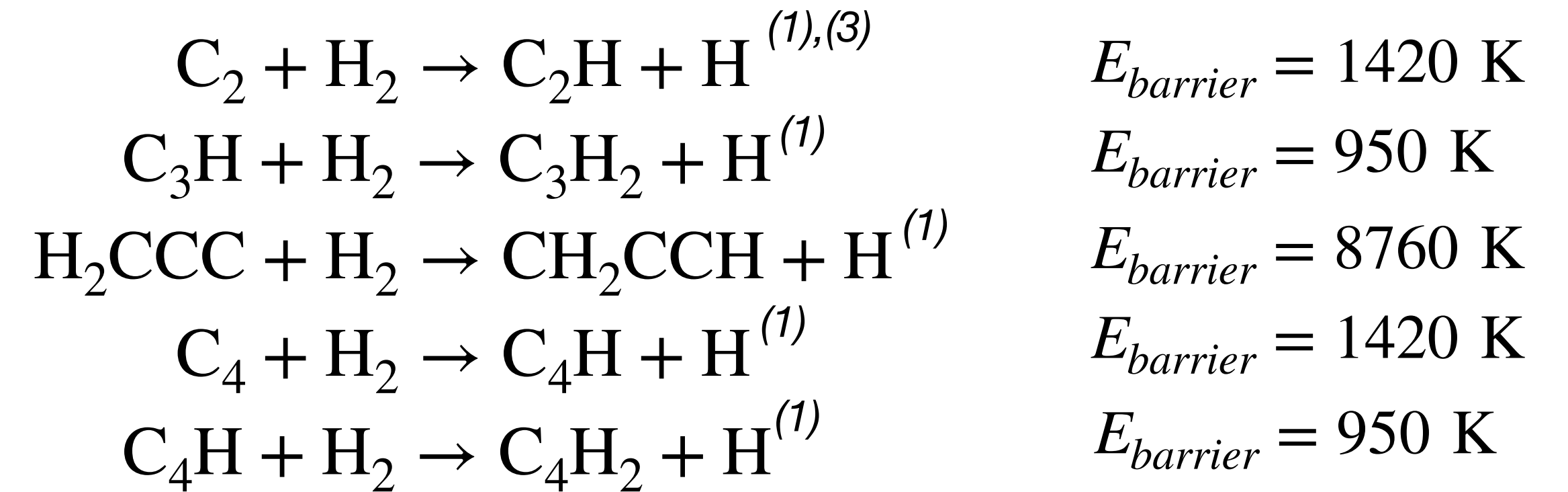
Chemical networks

UMIST vs UMIST + KIDA

- Reactions in KIDA, dramatically increases the abundance of C_2H_2 due to reactions with high activation barrier (not in UMIST)
- Combining databases for inner disks is better to allow multiple formation and destruction pathways



7 reactions are responsible for this 3 orders of magnitude difference:



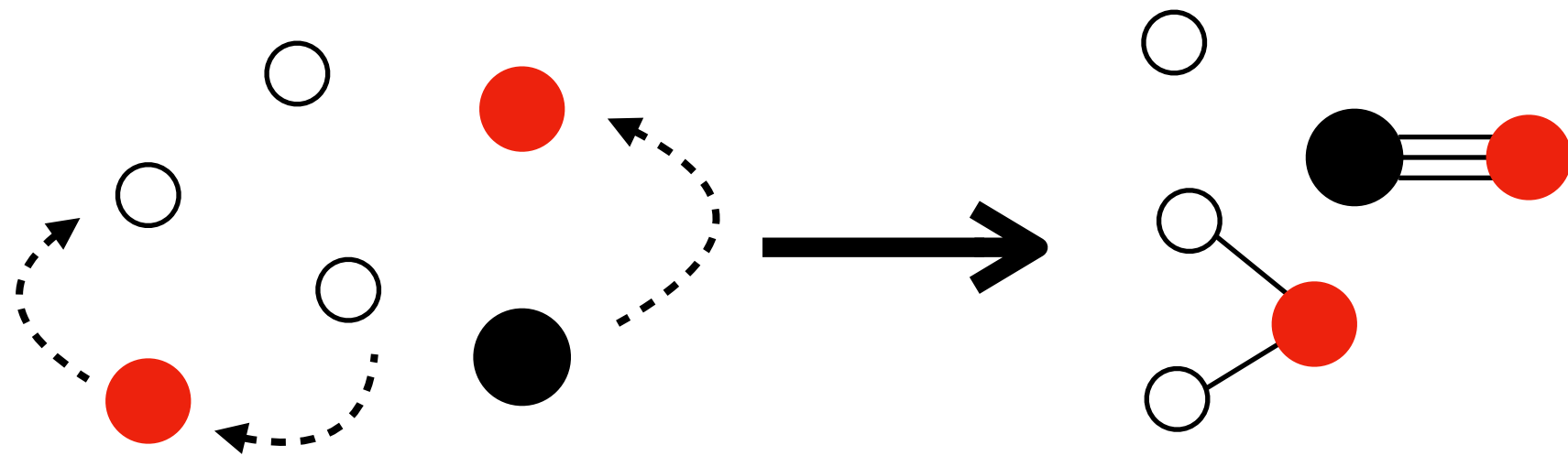
⁽¹⁾ Harada et al. 2010

⁽²⁾ Loison et al. 2017

⁽³⁾ Pitts et al. 1982

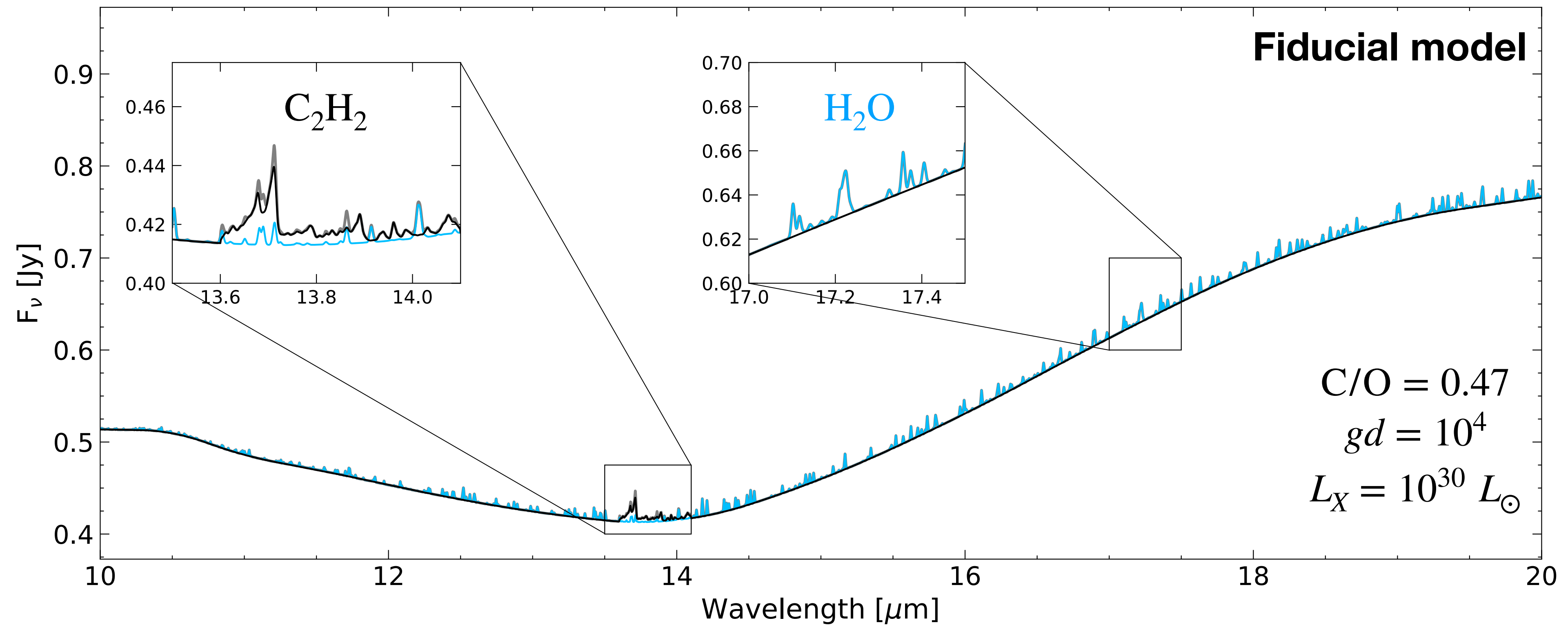
Carbon and Oxygen in T Tauri disks

- With a solar C/O (~ 0.45)
- All carbon into CO
- Excess of oxygen into H₂O



Brightness of C₂H₂ in inner T Tauri disks

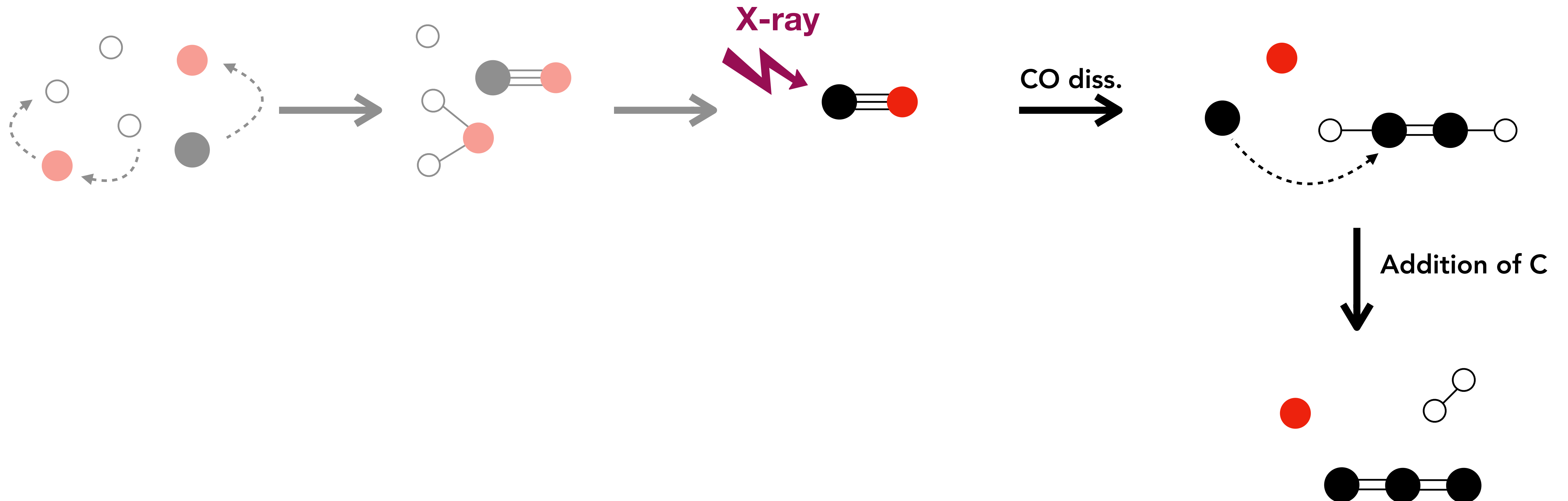
- Water creates a forest of rotational lines in the MIR
- The C₂H₂ feature at 13.7 μ m is bright, even with a solar C/O



DALI synthetic spectrum of the fiducial model.

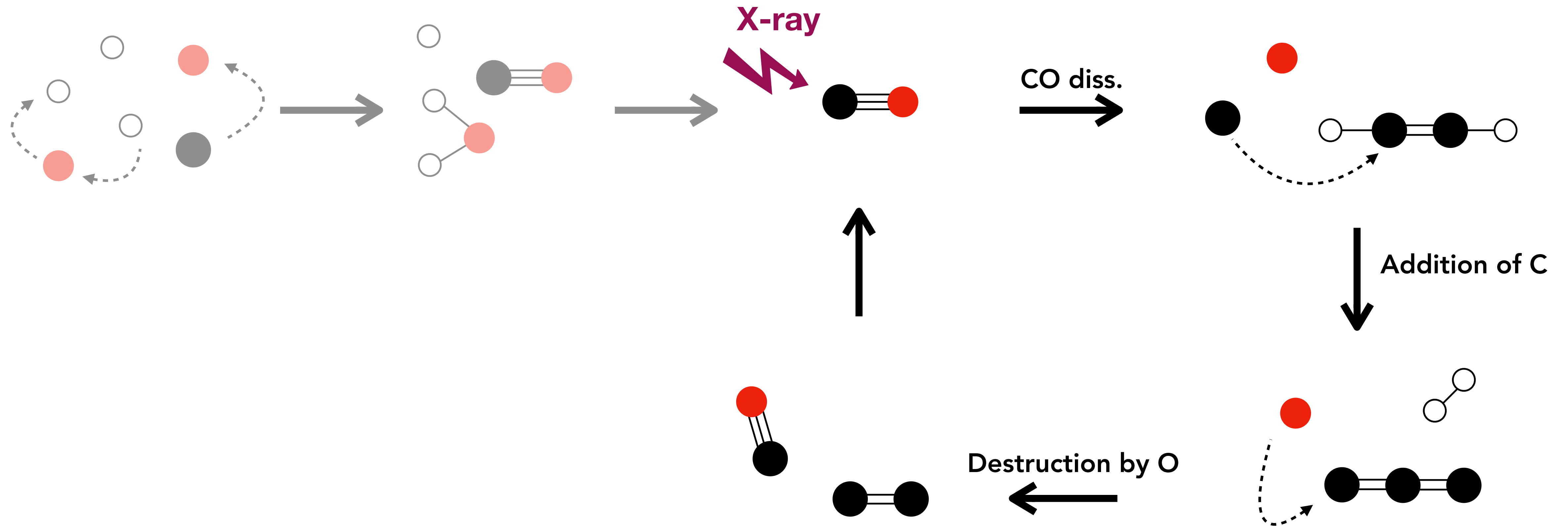
Where does the carbon come from ?

→ Dissociation of CO releases free carbon available for hydrocarbons



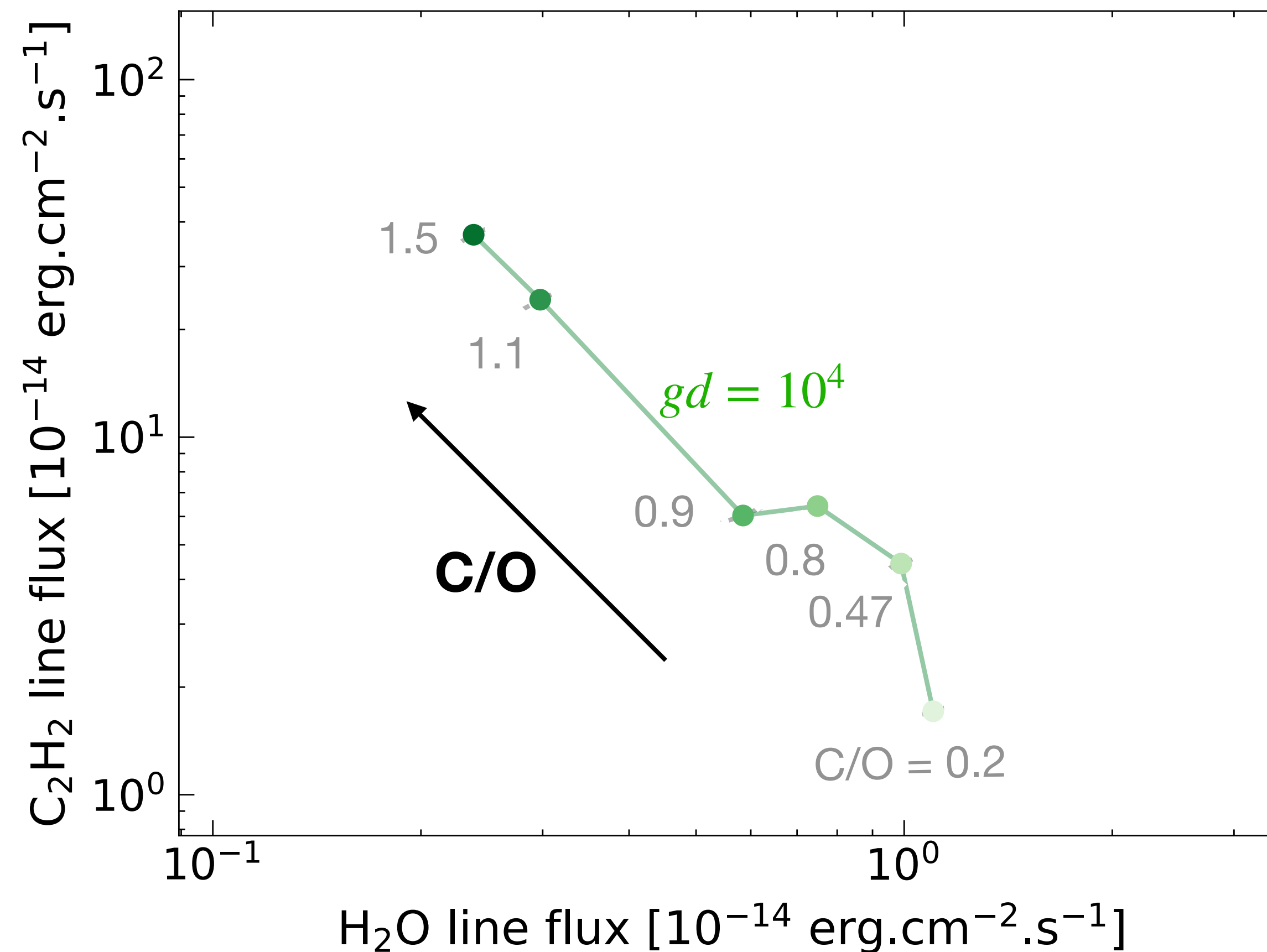
How are carbon chains destroyed ?

- Oxygen attacks carbon chains and form CO again
- **Missing reactions with O or OH : strongly impacts hydrocarbons**



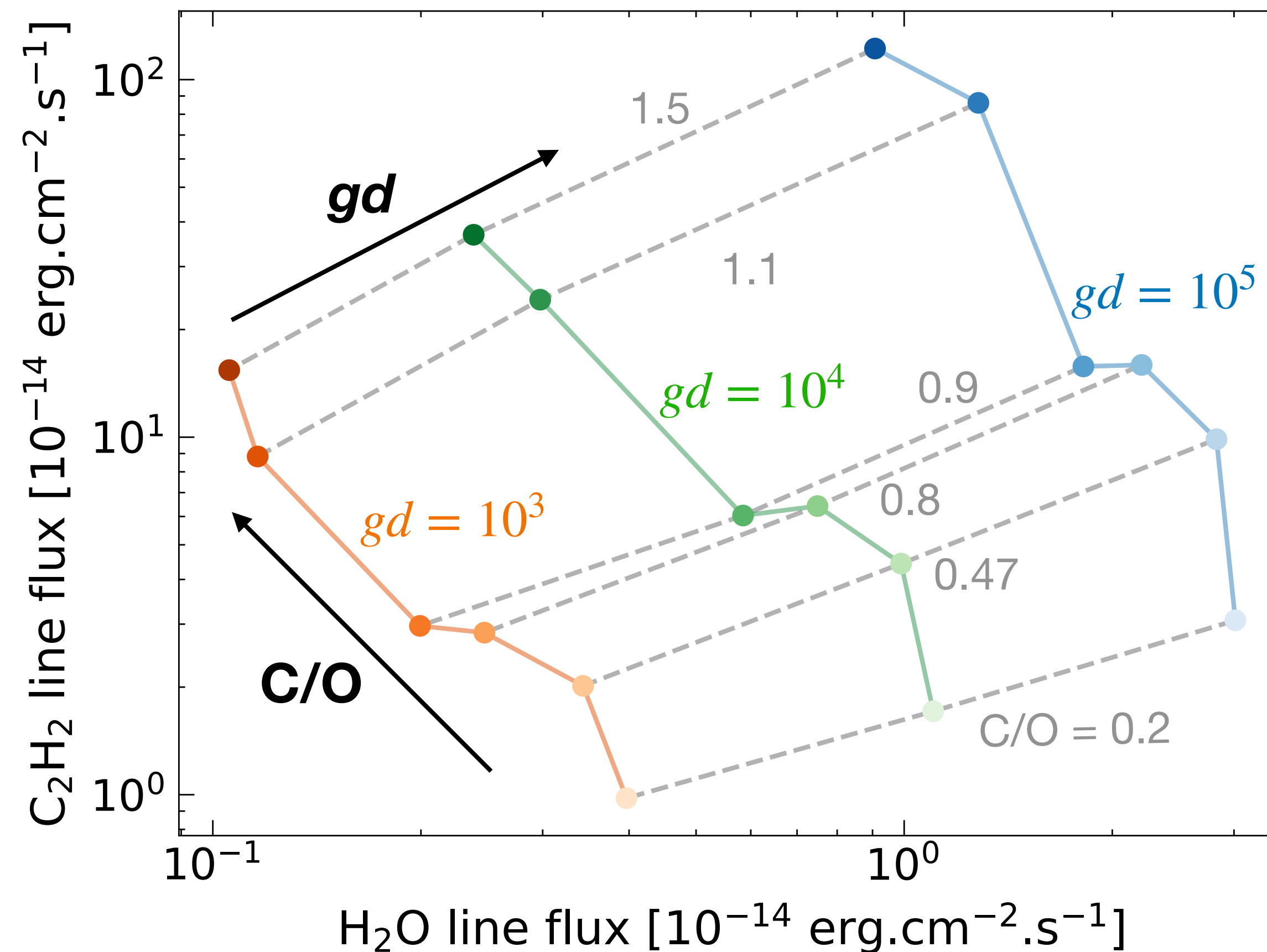
C/O ratio

- Significant difference of C_2H_2 emission with the C/O ratio, less significant for water
- Jump at $\text{C/O} > 1$: free carbon available to built hydrocarbons!

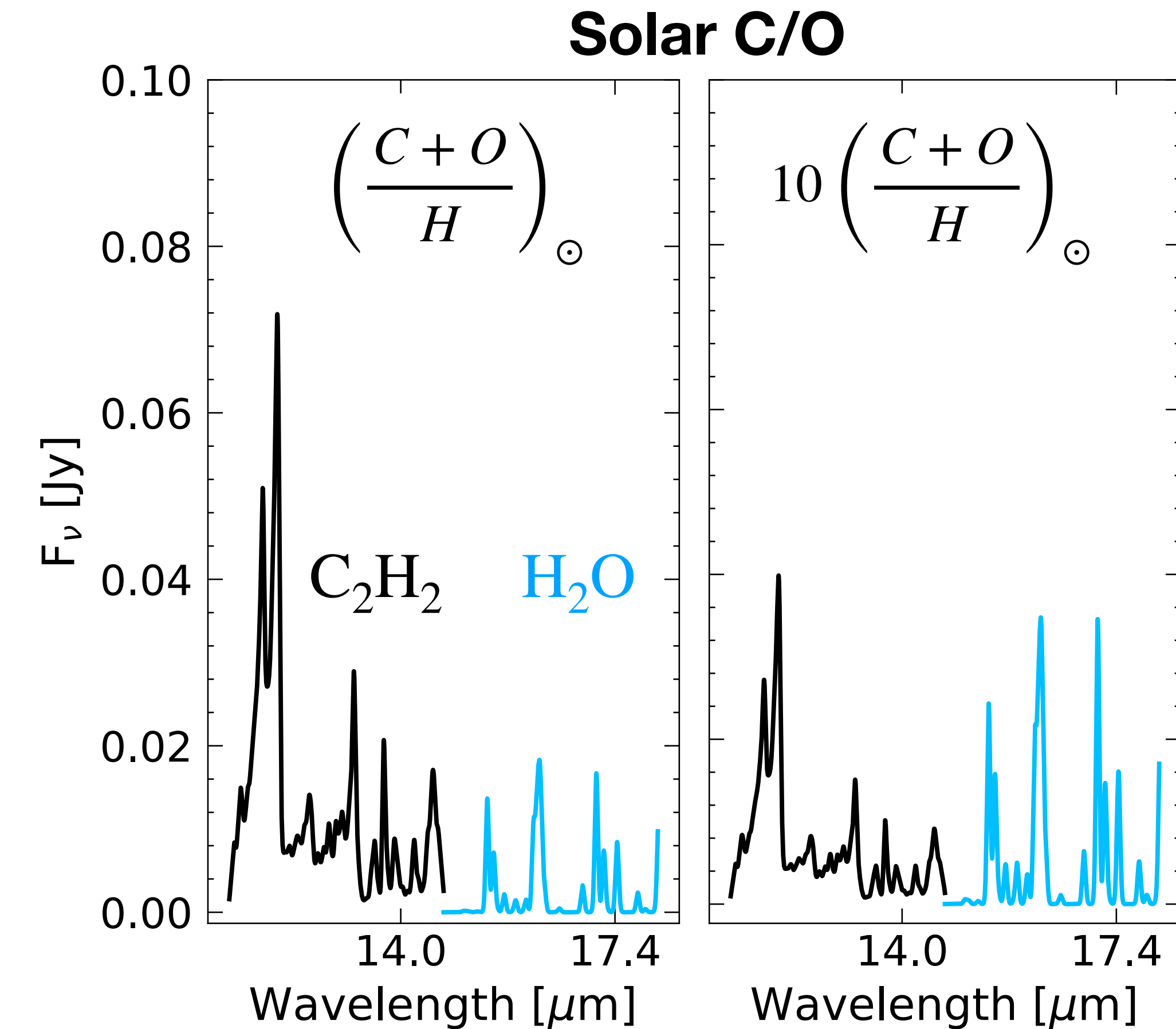


C/O ratio and gas-to-dust ratio

- Significant difference of C_2H_2 emission with the C/O ratio, less significant for water
- Jump at $\text{C/O} > 1$: free carbon available to built hydrocarbons!
- The gd also strongly impacts molecular features, particularly water



Metallicity



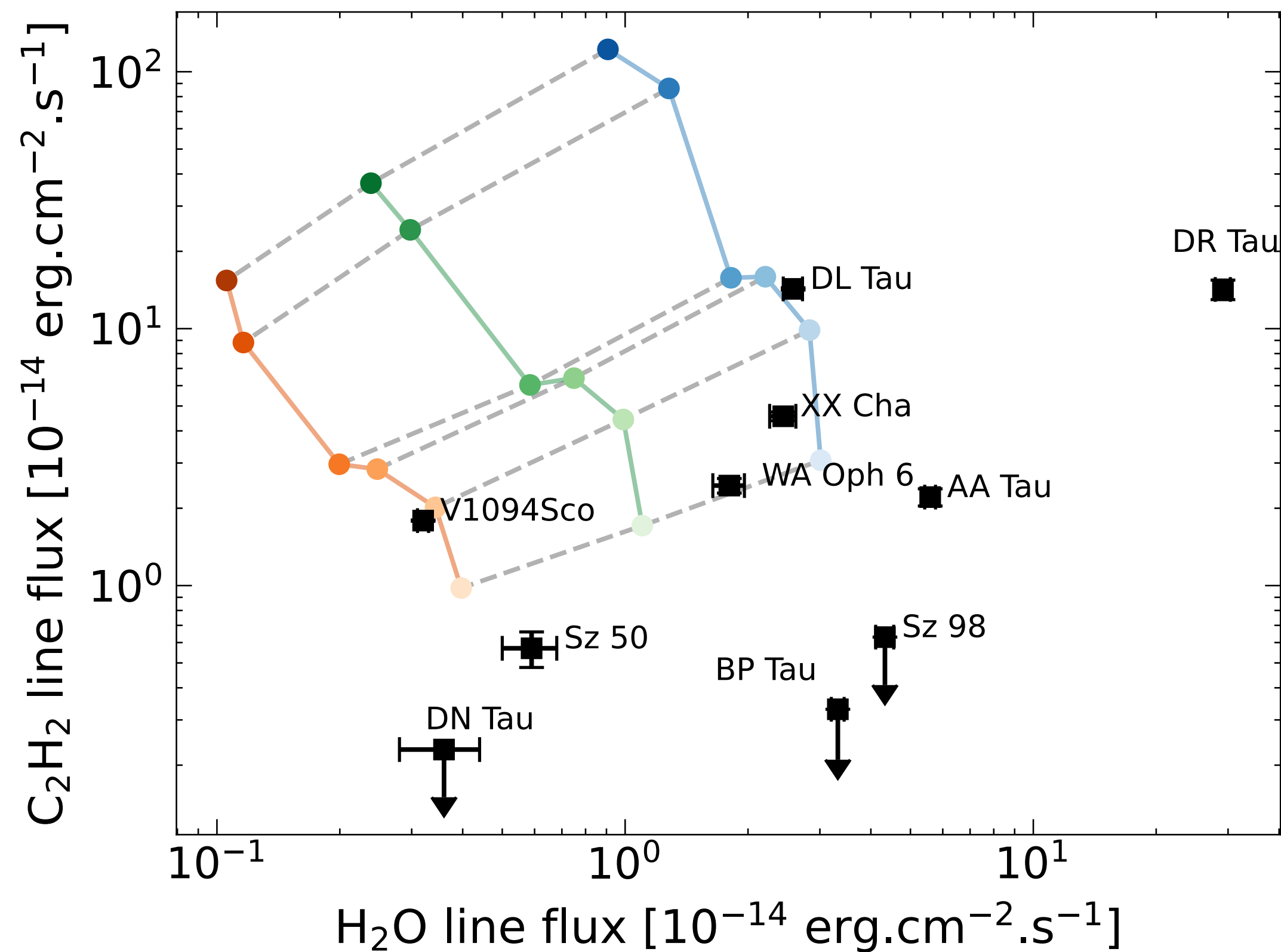
→ The amount of Oxygen and Carbon also influences the shape of the spectrum:

- Carbon-rich spectrum if: - High C/O
- Low metallicity

JWST observations: non-solar abundances ?



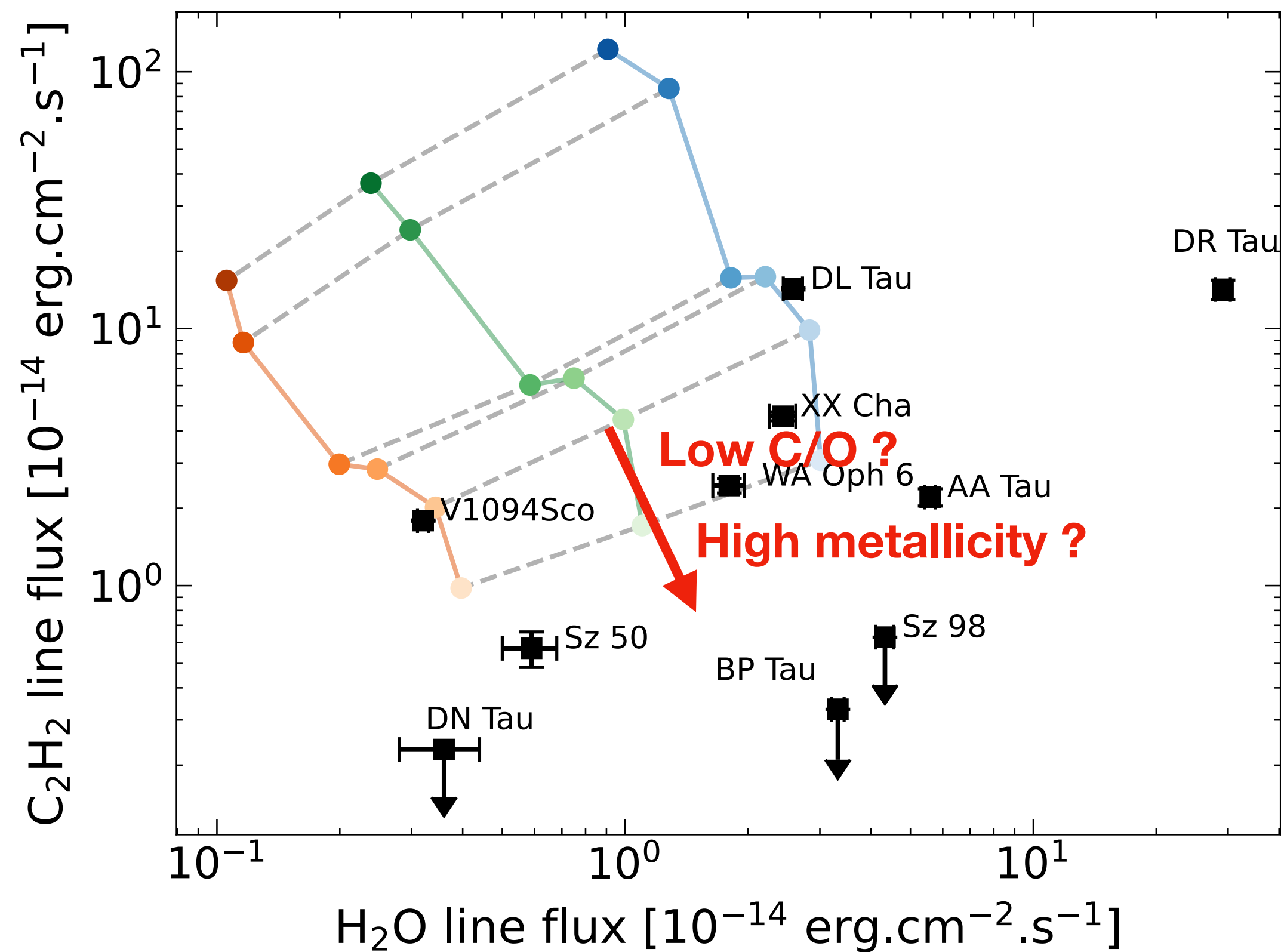
→ Acetylene emission overestimated:



JWST observations: non-solar abundances ?



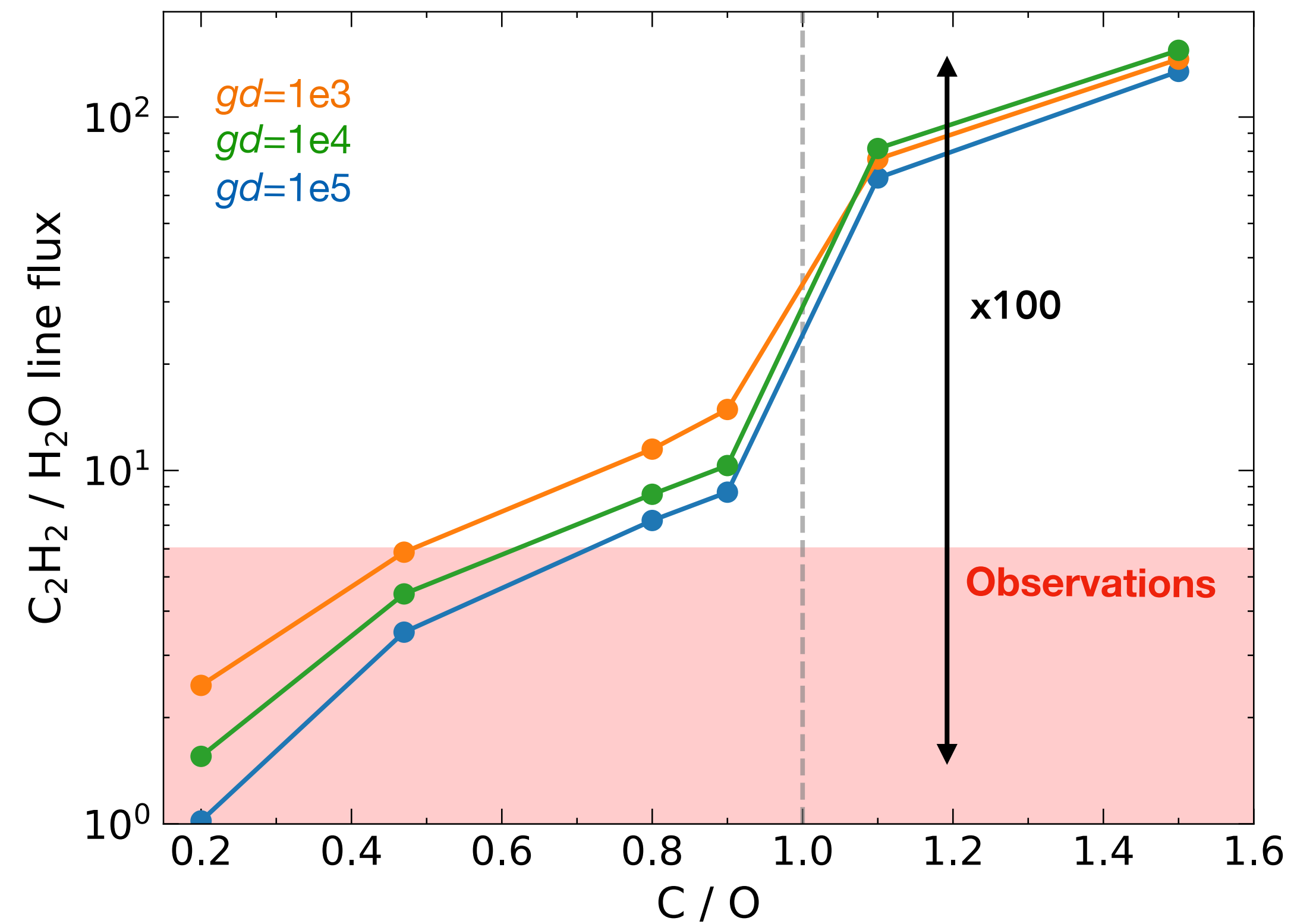
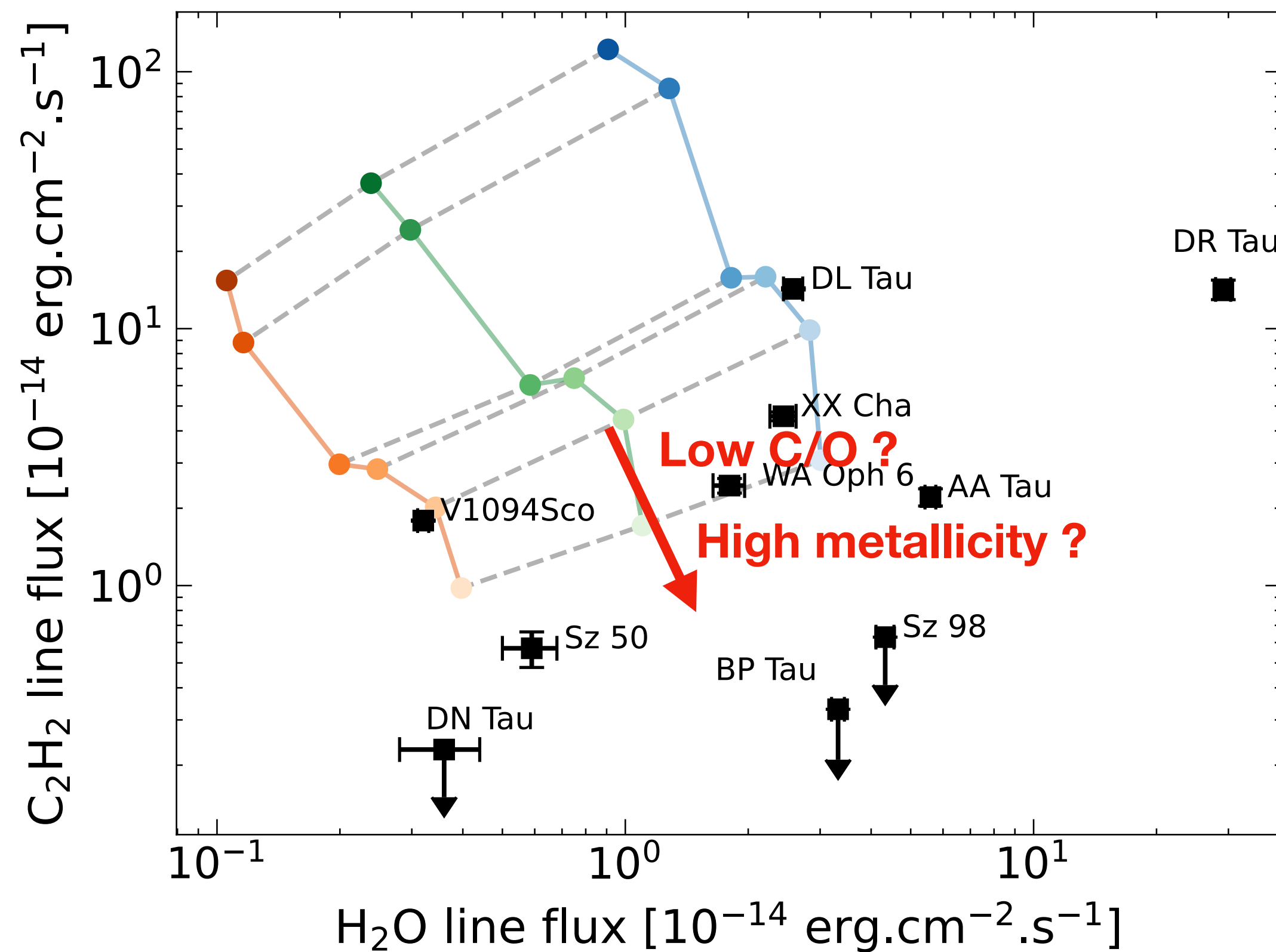
- Acetylene emission overestimated:
- T Tauri inner disks either: - low C/O ?
- high metallicity ?



JWST observations: non-solar abundances ?

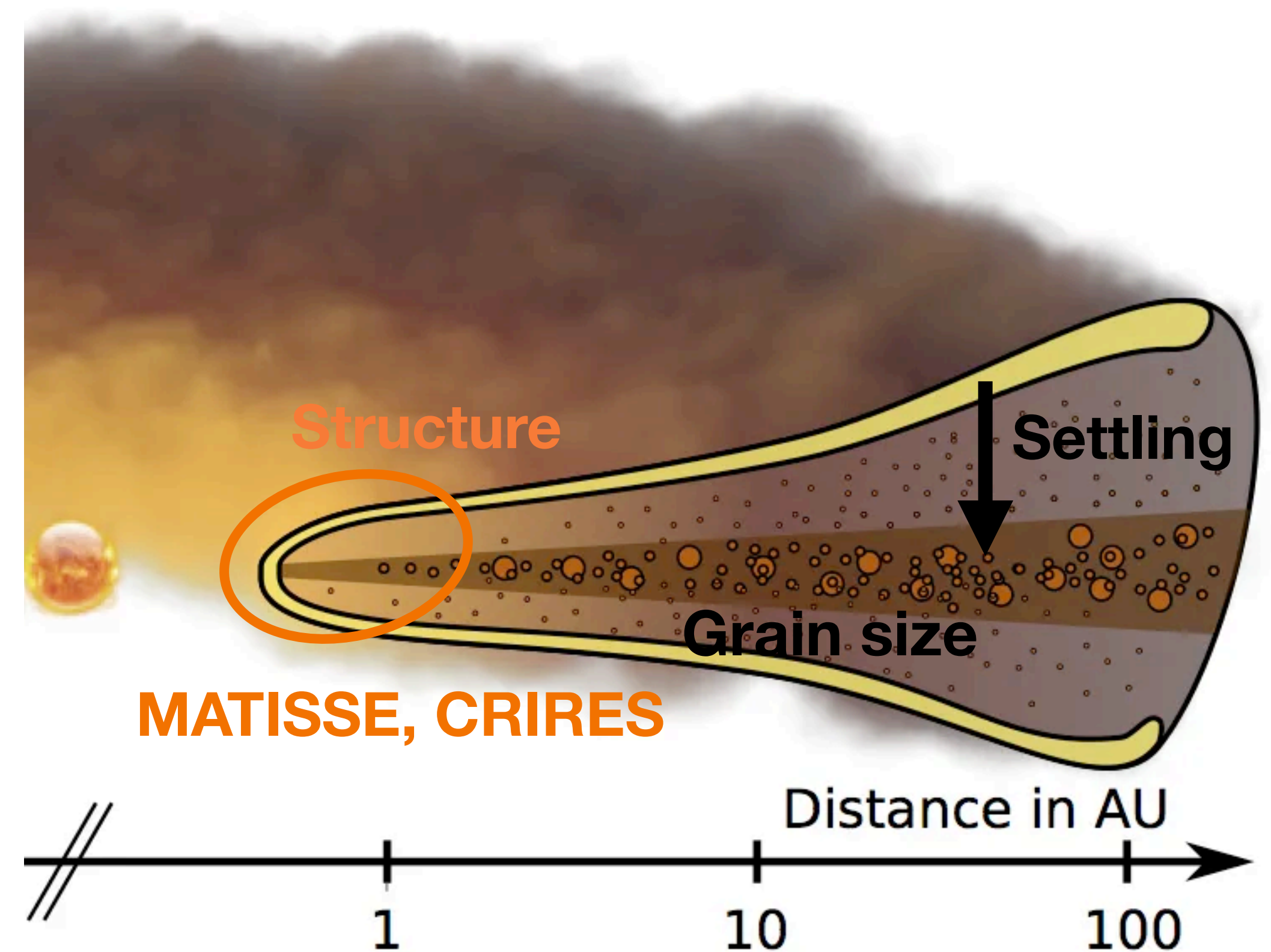
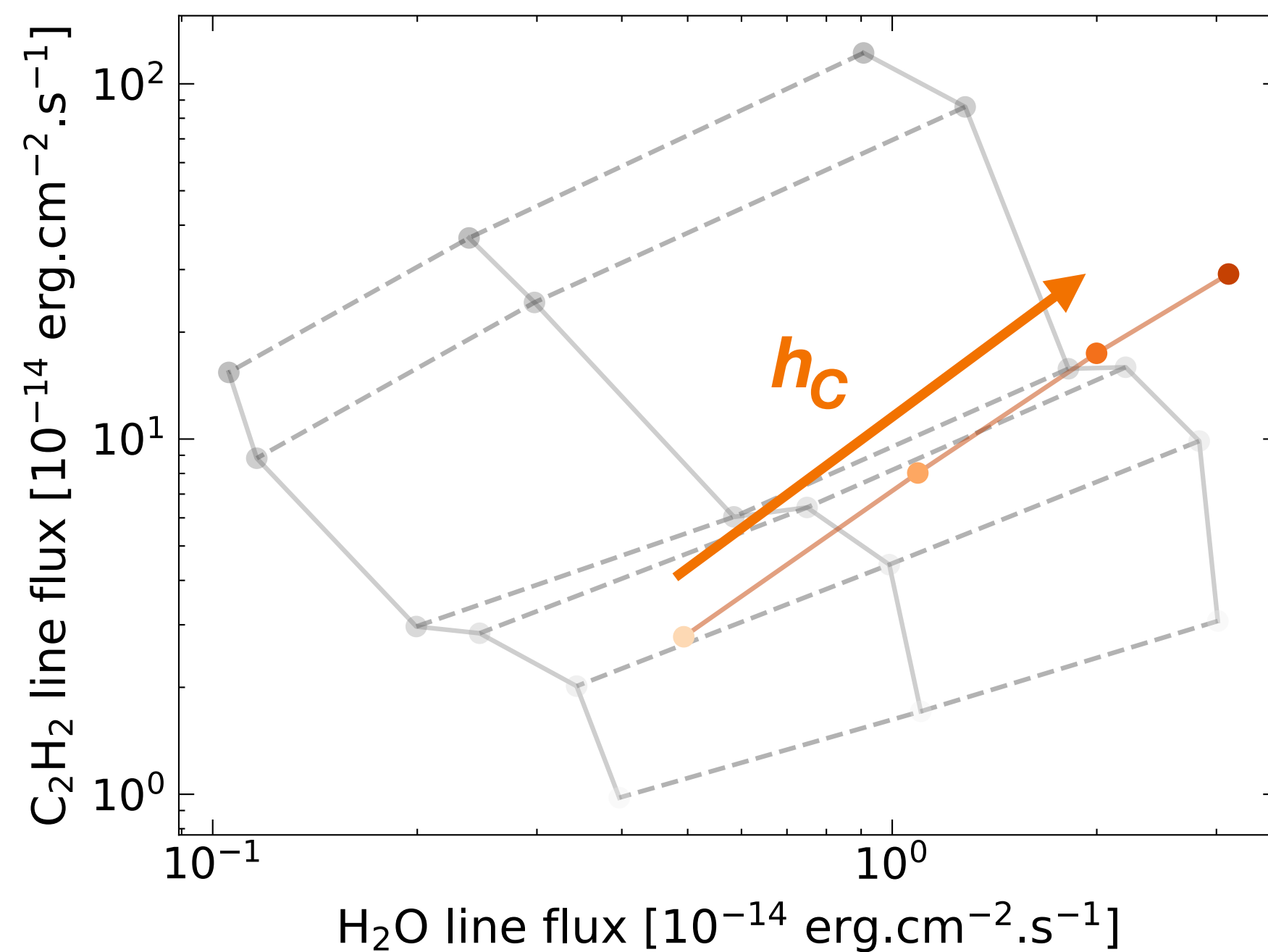


- Acetylene emission overestimated:
 - T Tauri inner disks either: - low C/O ?
 - high metallicity ?
- $F_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_2}/F_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ seems a good tracer of C/O but affected by the gas-to-dust ratio



Next steps

- Need additional constraints on **disk structure** to measure the C/O: VLT/MATISSE, VLT/CRIRES ...
- Dust is important ! Refine **grain properties** in models: size, settling ...
- Go beyond $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$: HCN, CO_2 , C_4H_2 ?



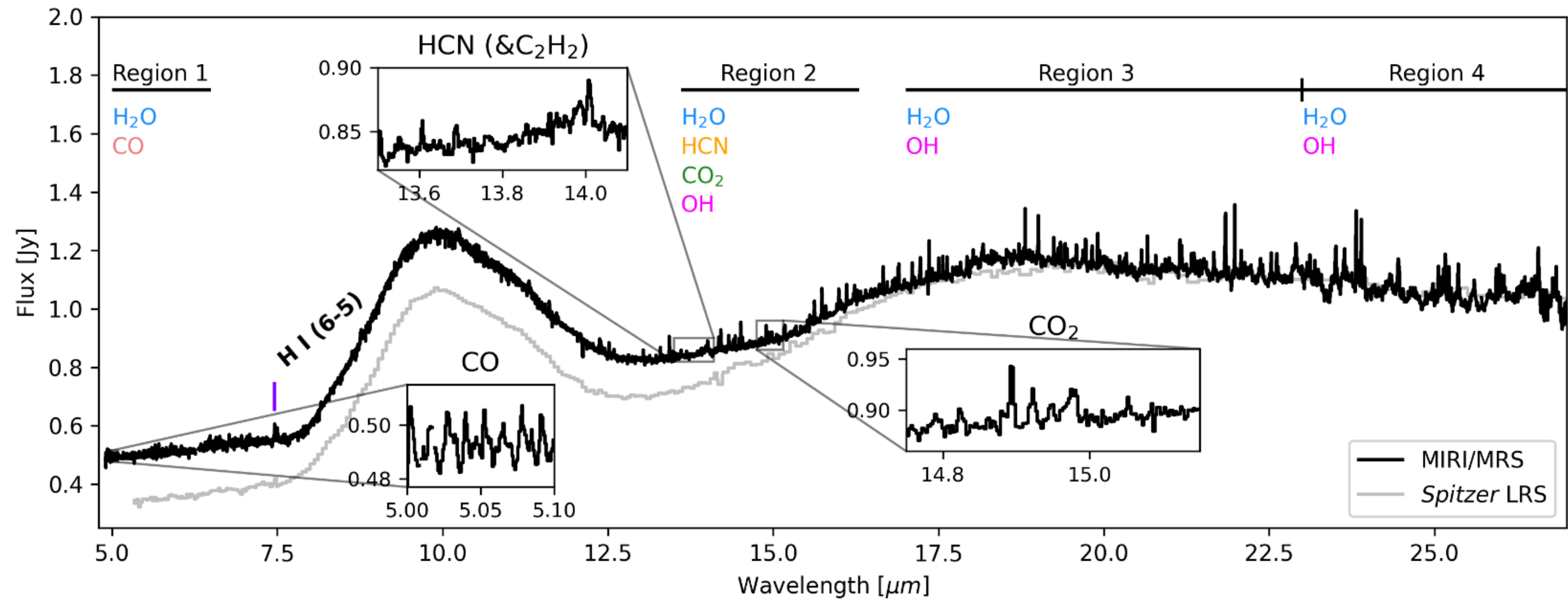
Context

- This work is part of the GTO MIRI MINDS (P.Is: Th. Henning and I. Kamp)
- ~ 30 collaborators
- ~ 120h JWST observing time
- 52 disks observed
 - 65% TTauri ($0.3 < M < 2M_{\odot}$)
 - 17% Very Low Mass Stars ($M < 0.2M_{\odot}$)



Context

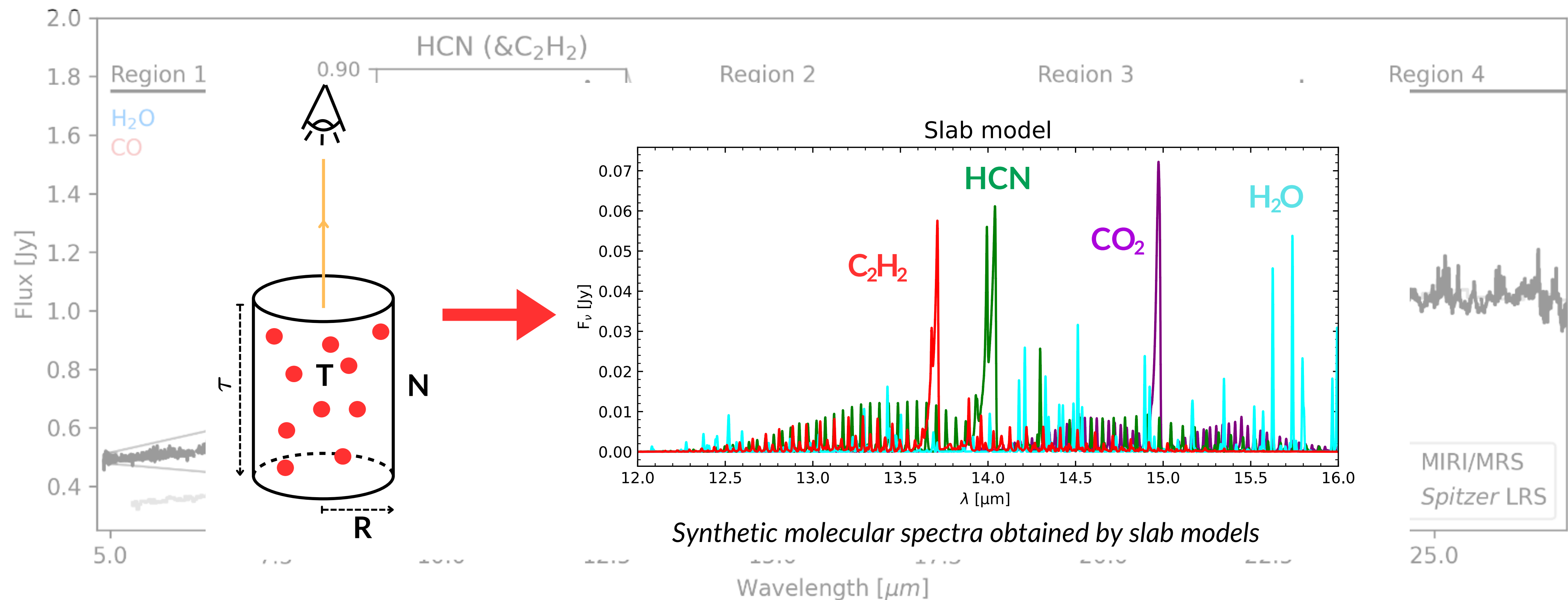
→ Revolution with JWST: sensitivity and spectral resolution



JWST/MIRI spectrum of Sz 98. From Gasman et al. 2023.

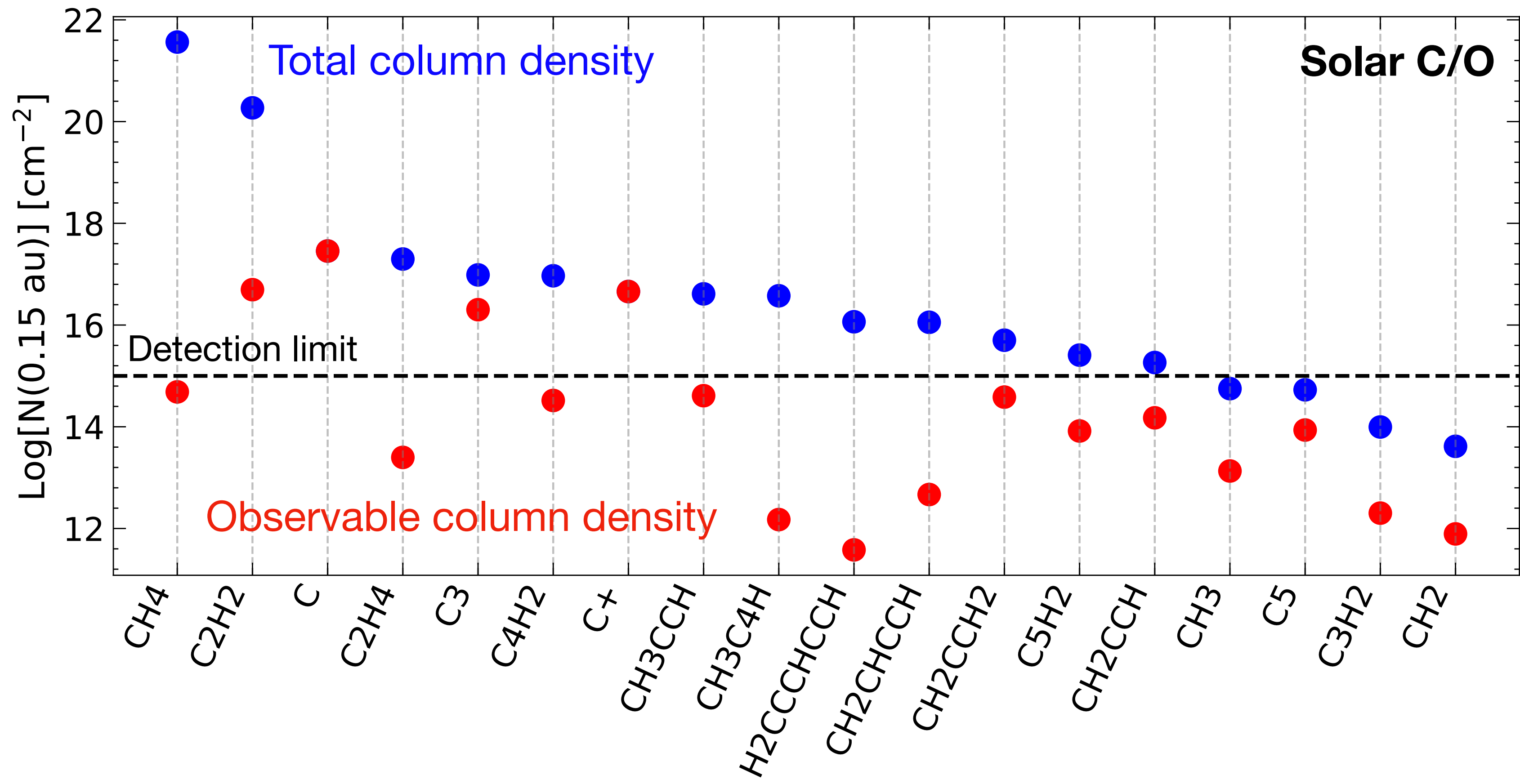
Context

- Revolution with JWST: sensitivity and spectral resolution
- Slab models retrieval: excitation of the main C, N and O carriers



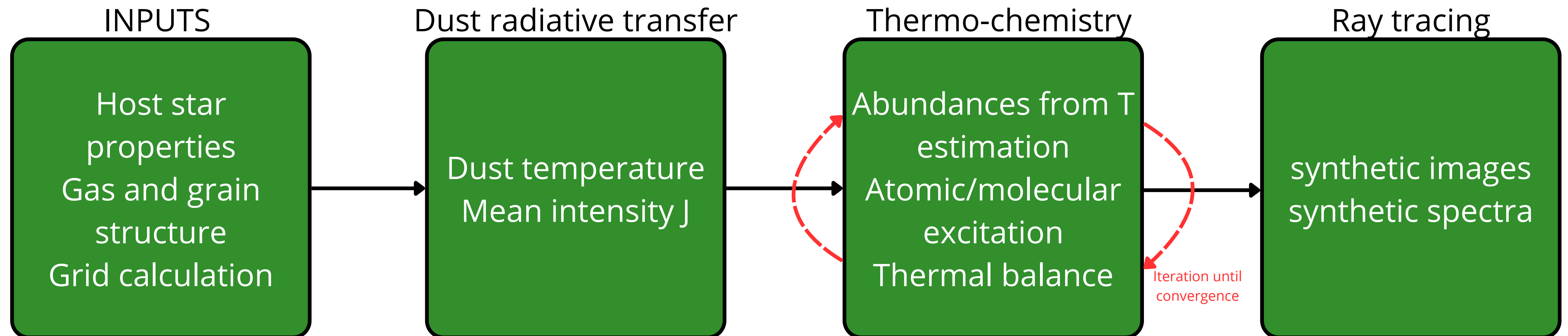
Distribution of hydrocarbons

➔ The main hydrocarbon is CH₄ but the brightest is C₂H₂, consistent with JWST observations

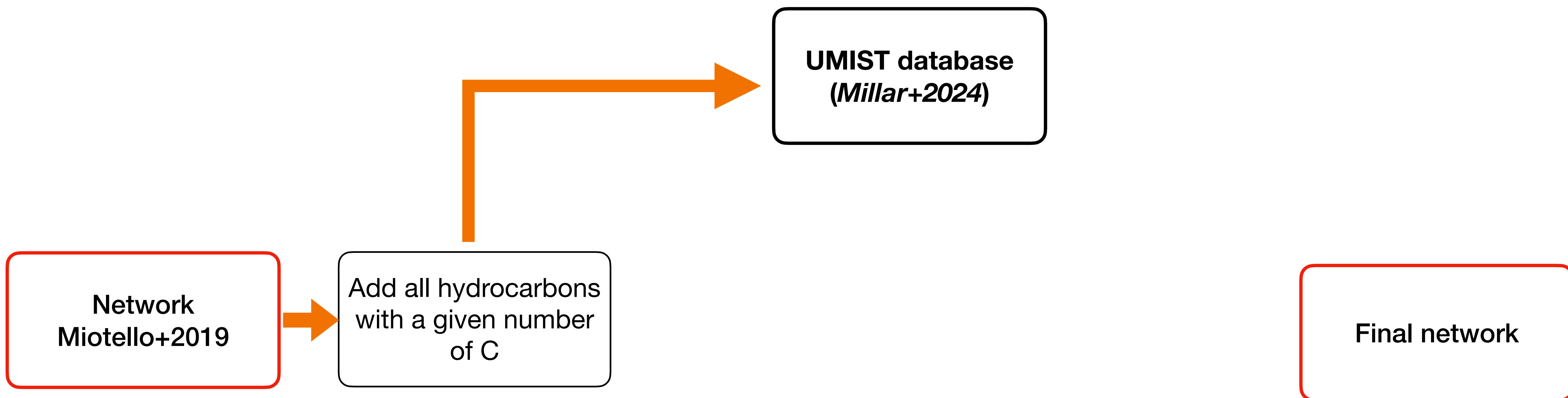


DALI

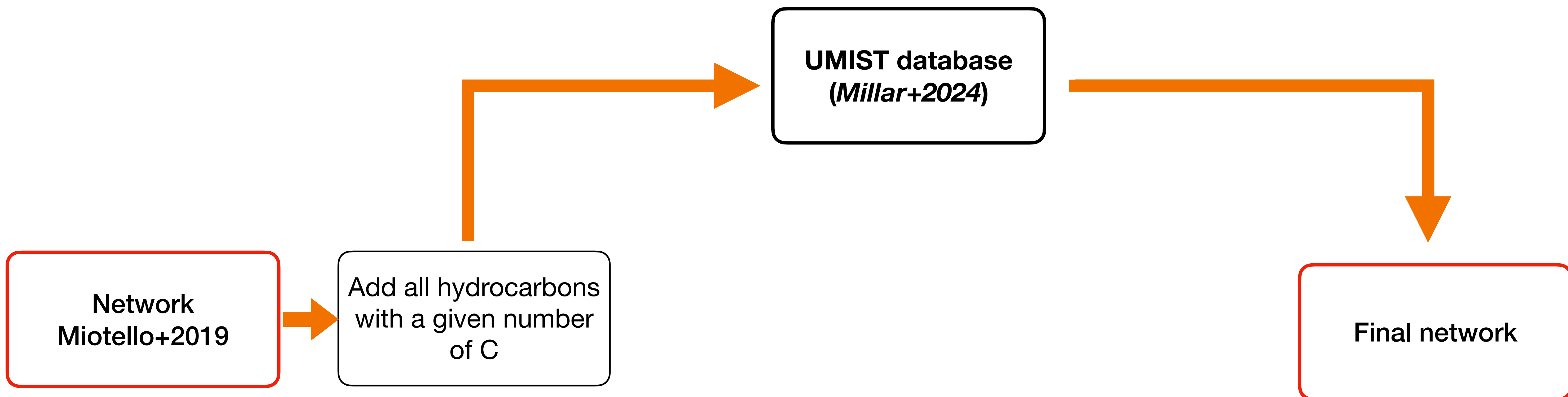
- Using the thermo-chemical model DALI (**D**ust **A**nd **L**ines) (*Bruderer+2012, Bruderer2013*)
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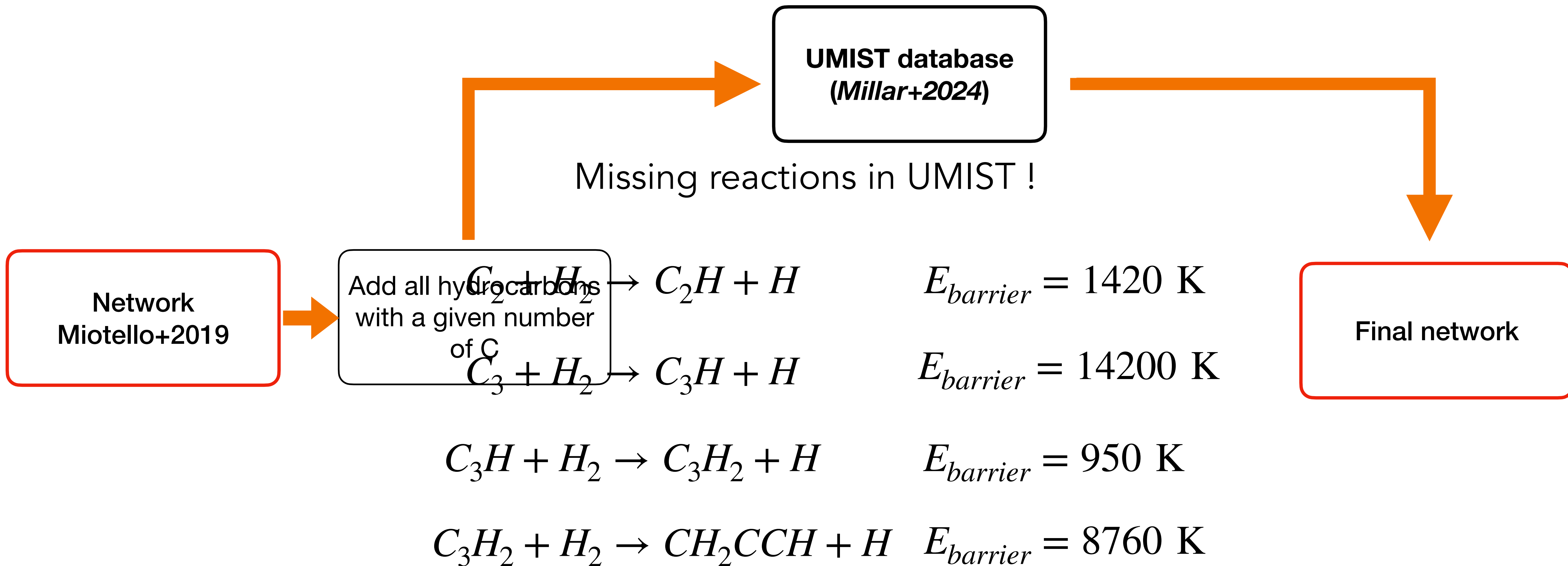
New chemical networks : workflow



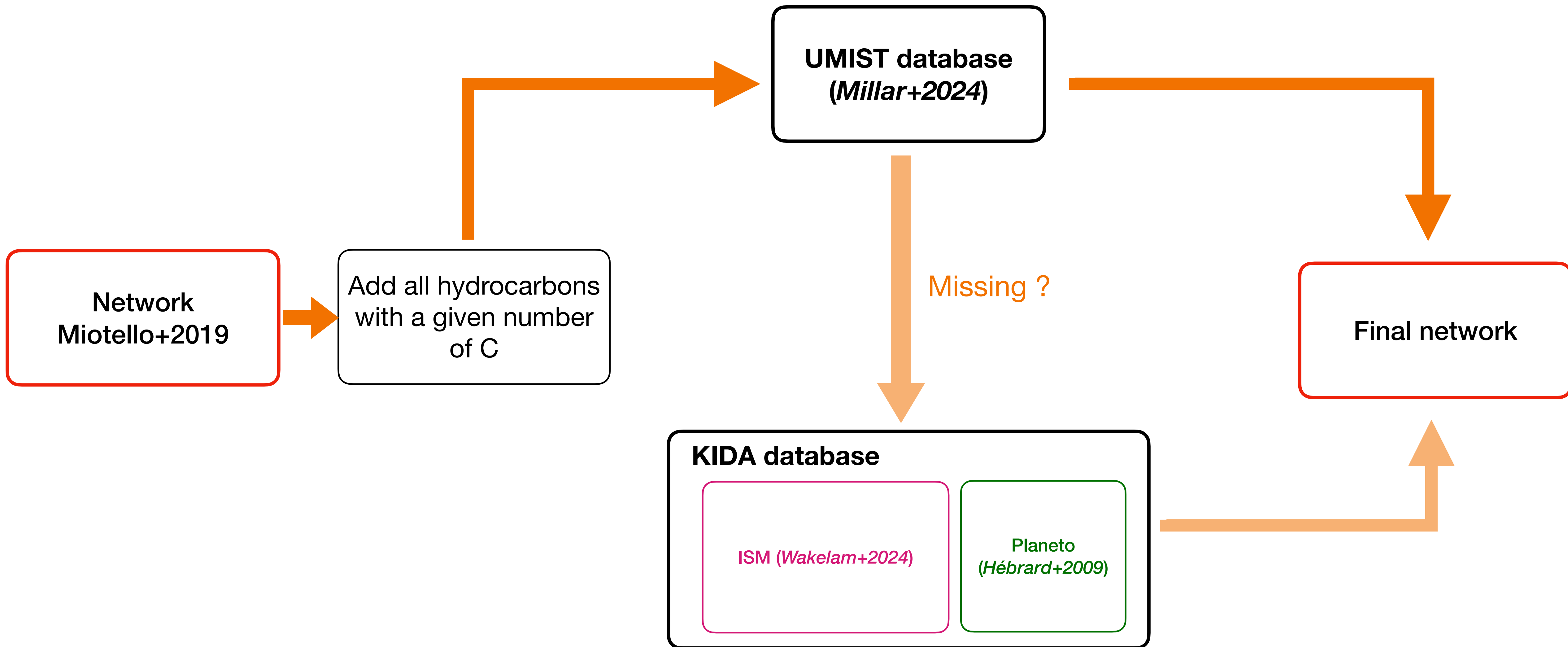
New chemical networks : workflow



New chemical networks : workflow

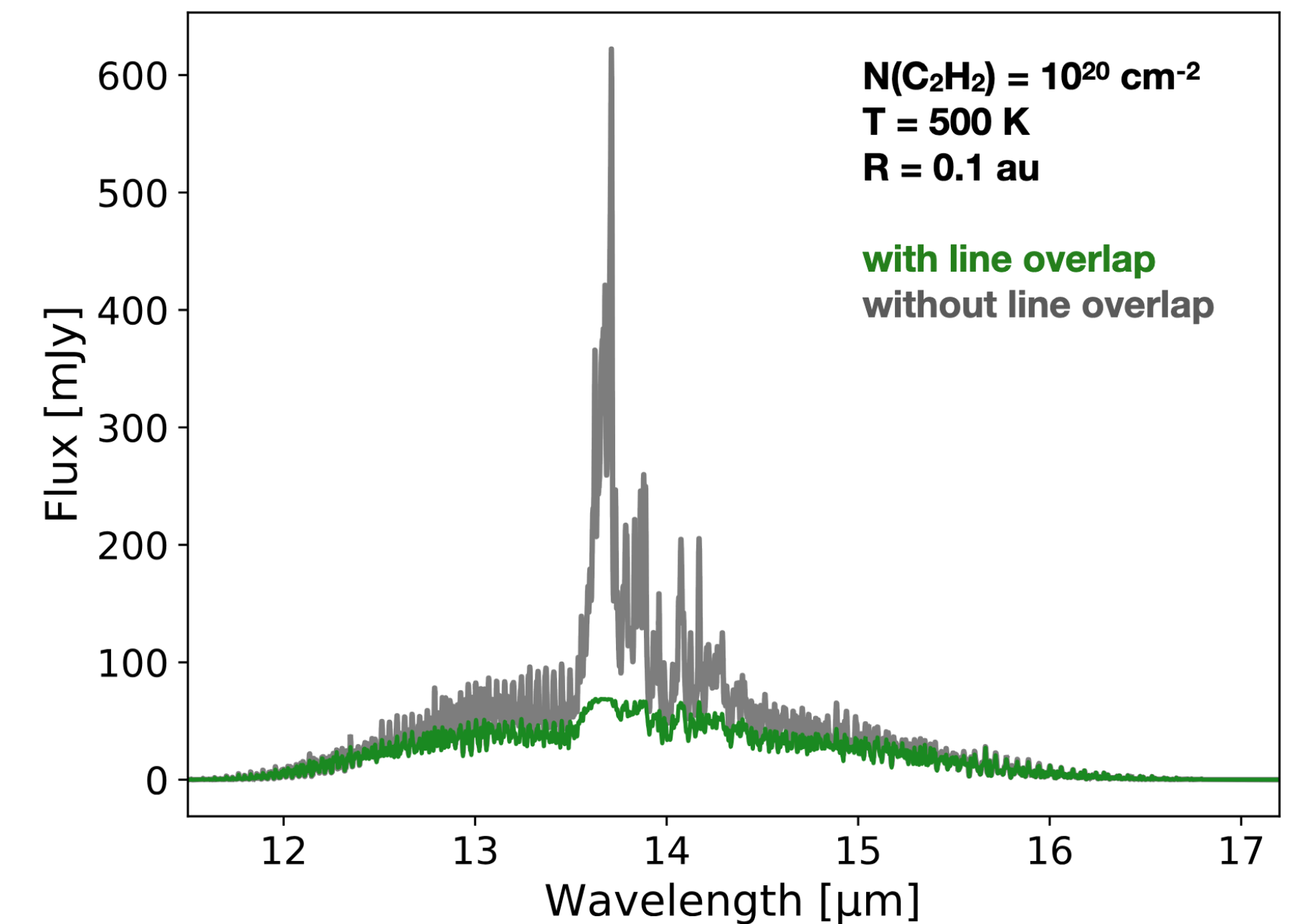
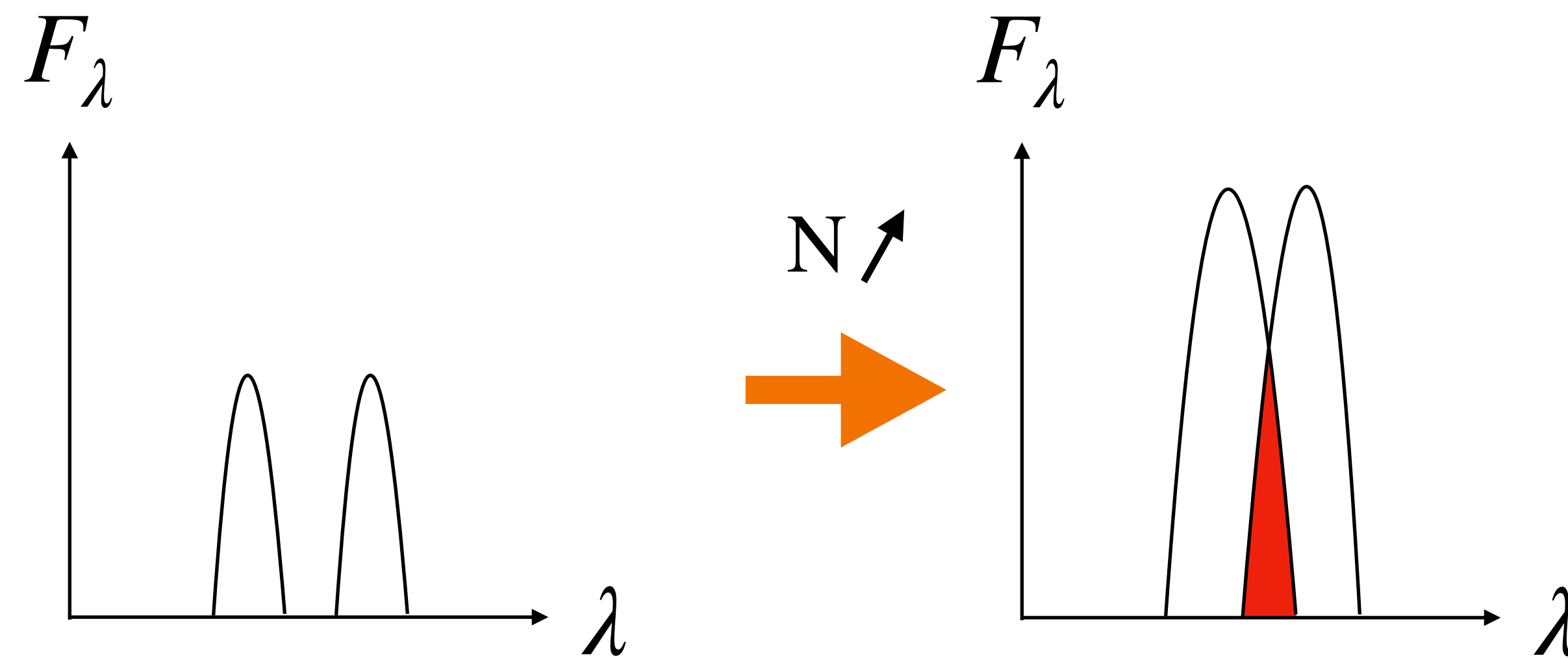


New chemical networks : workflow



Line overlap implementation

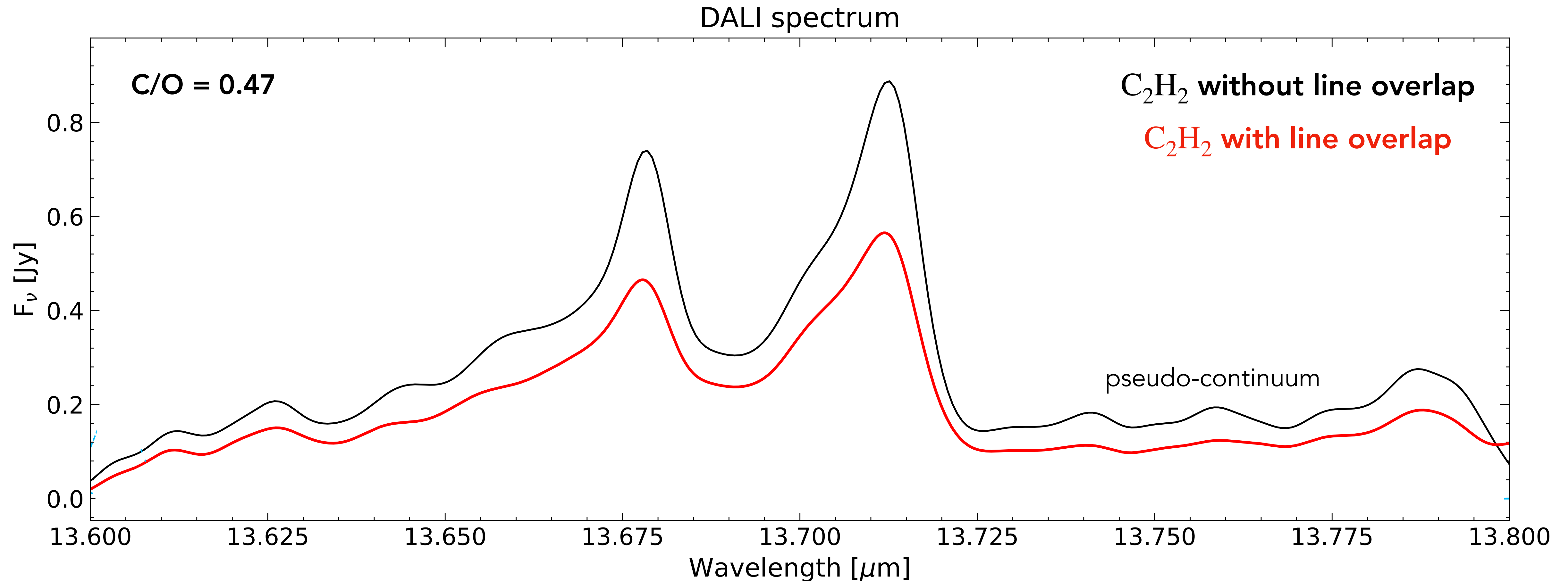
- Two separate lines close to each other can overlap when they are broadened by high column density
- The lines « shield » each other : line overlap



Effect of line overlap. From Tabone et al. 2023

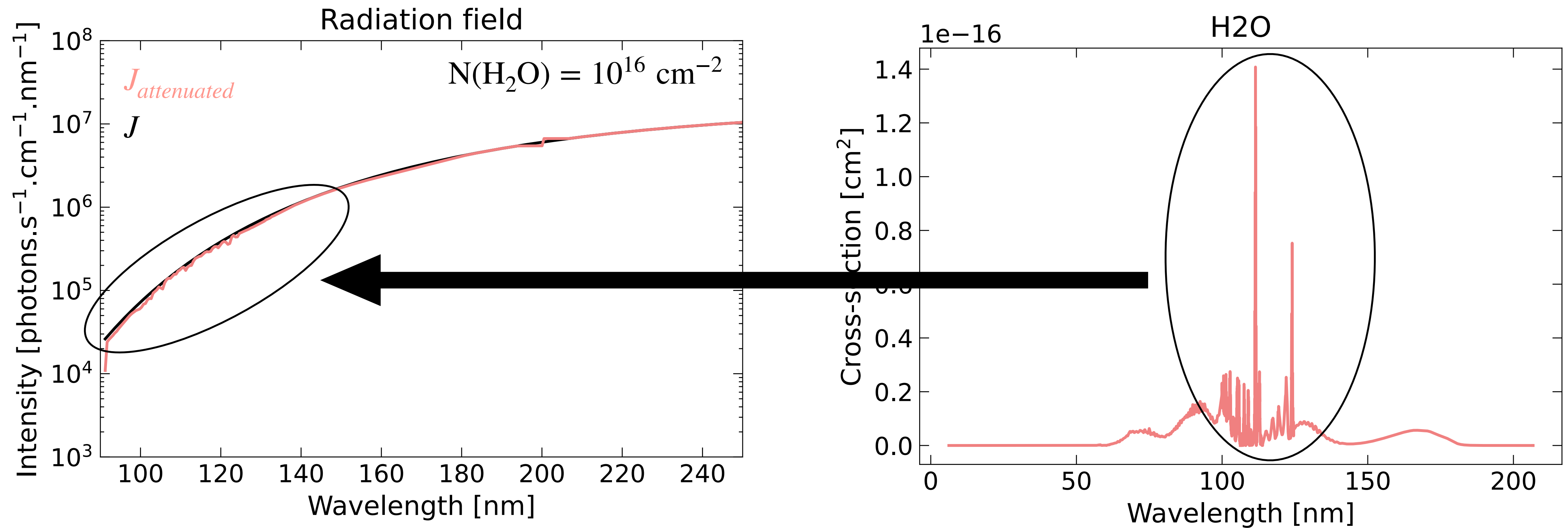
Line overlap implementation

➔ Effect of the line overlap prominent in the main Q-branch feature of C_2H_2



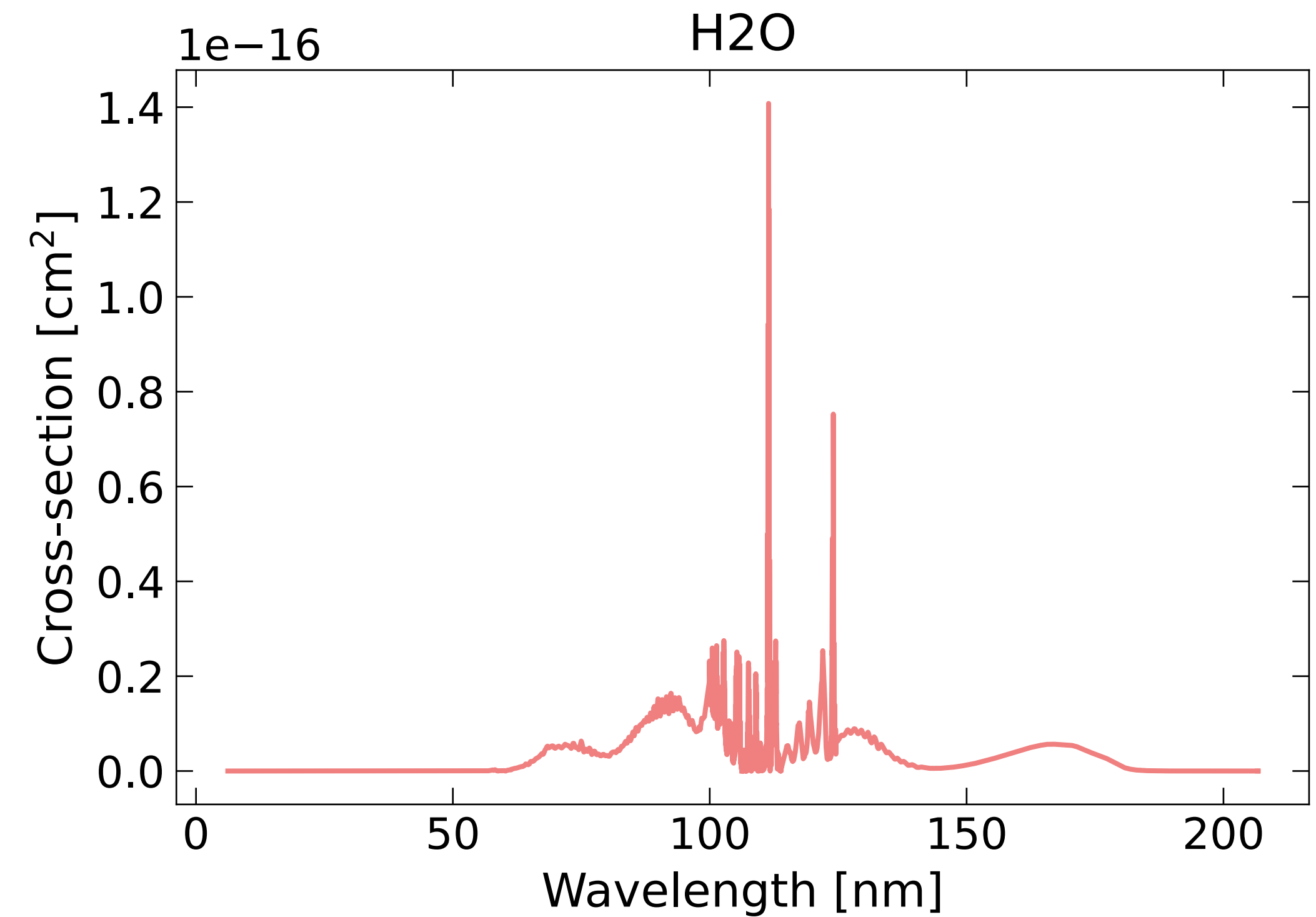
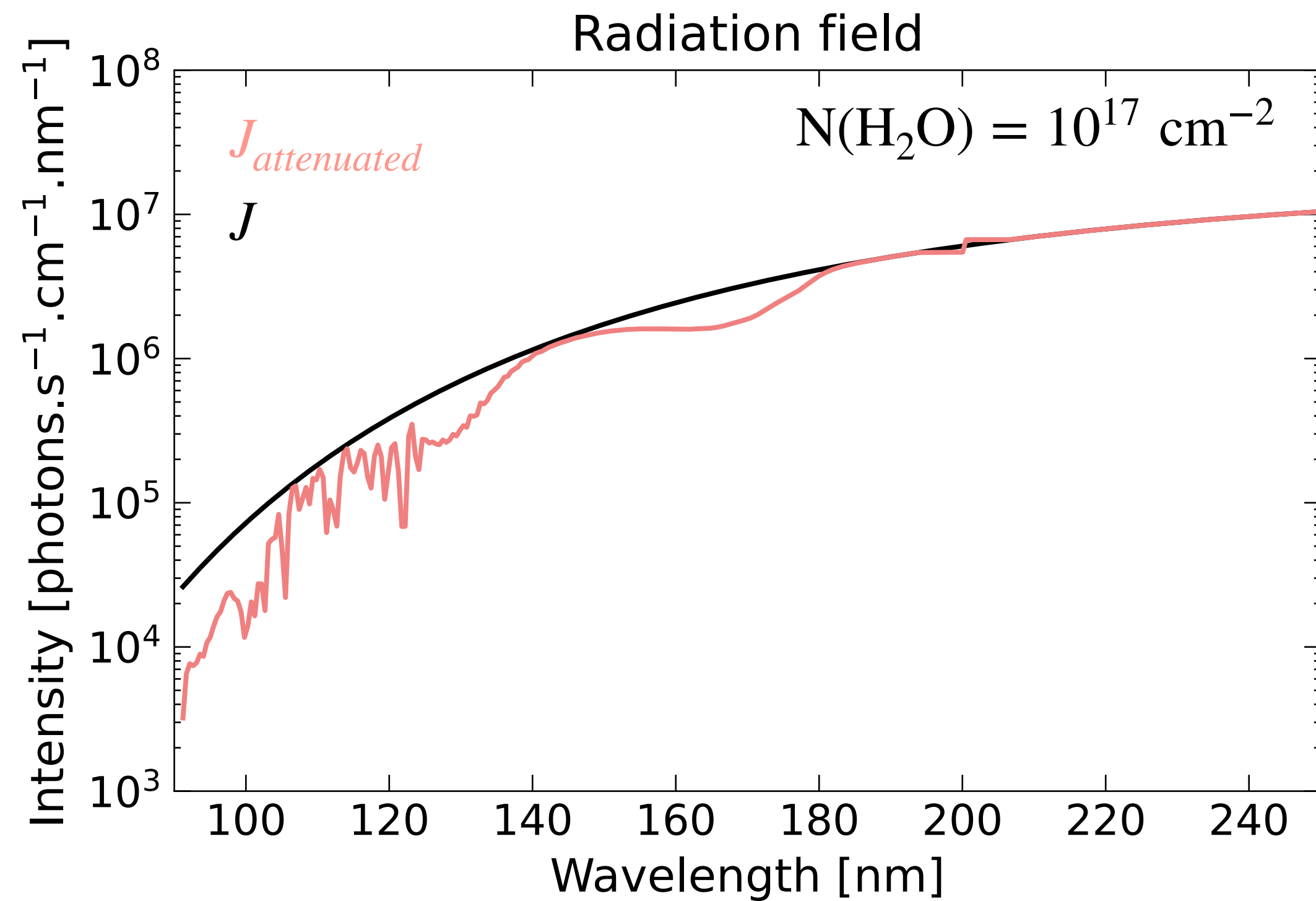
UV shielding

→ Molecules can absorb UV photons and attenuate the UV field: $\sigma_\nu N_i$



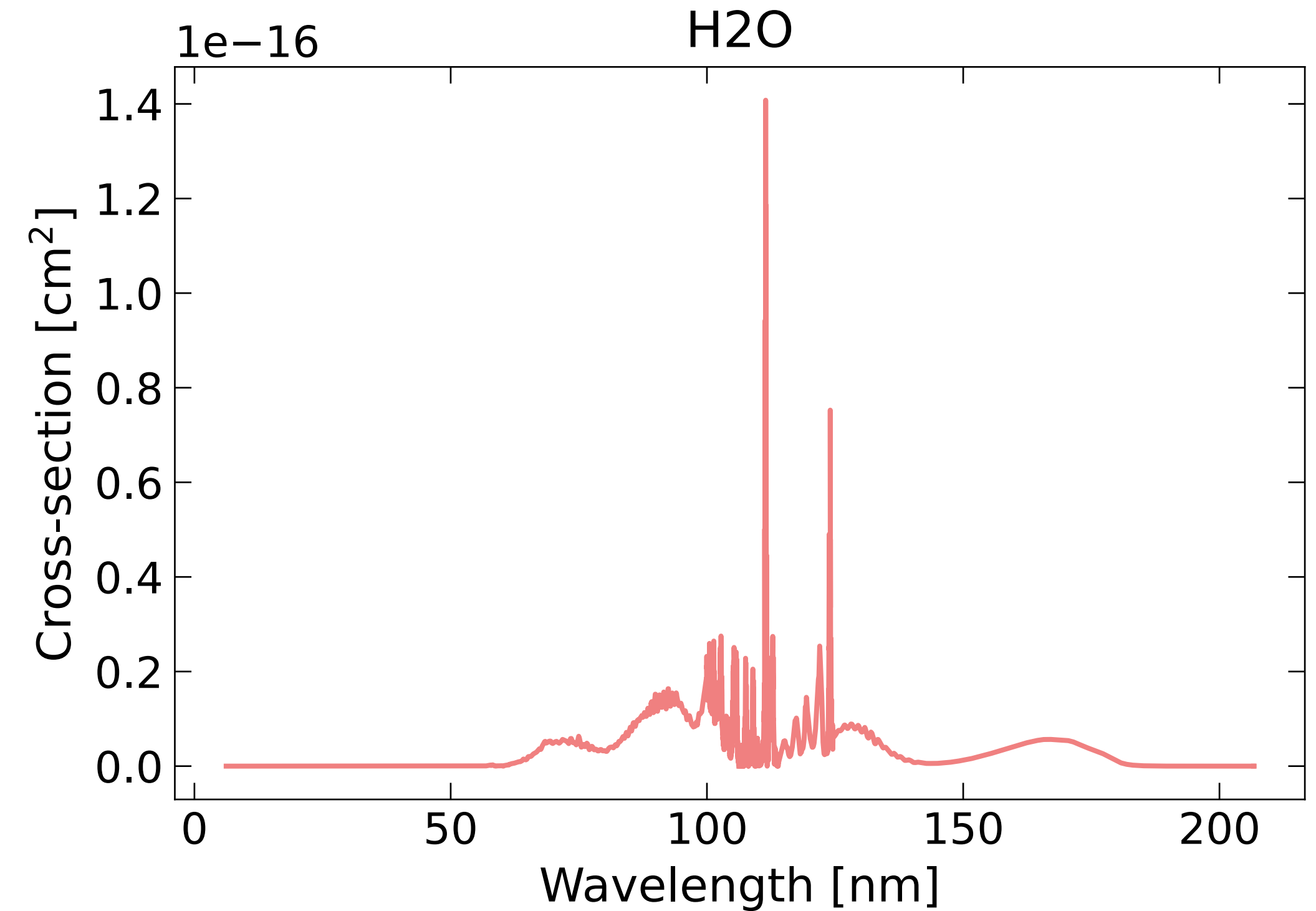
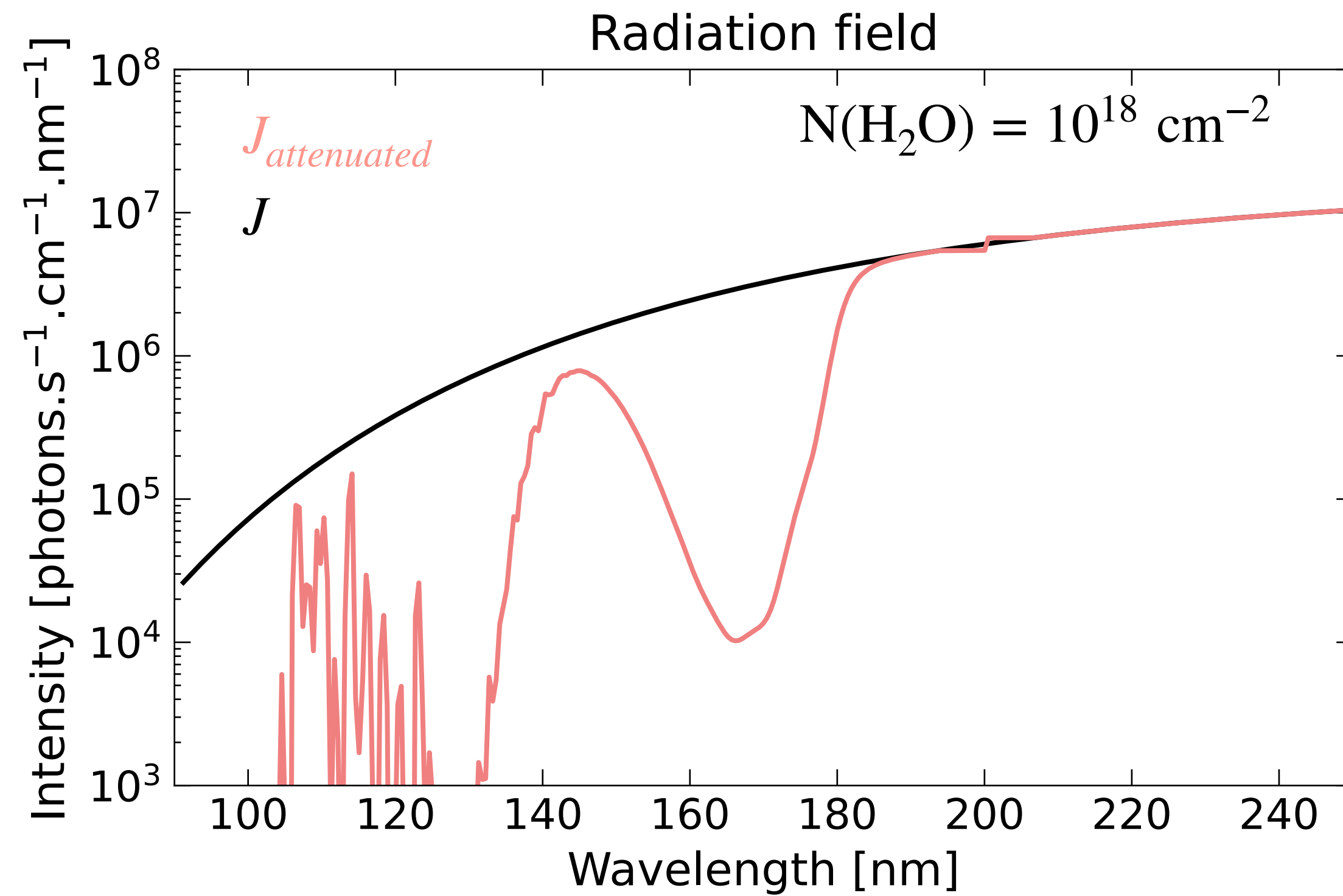
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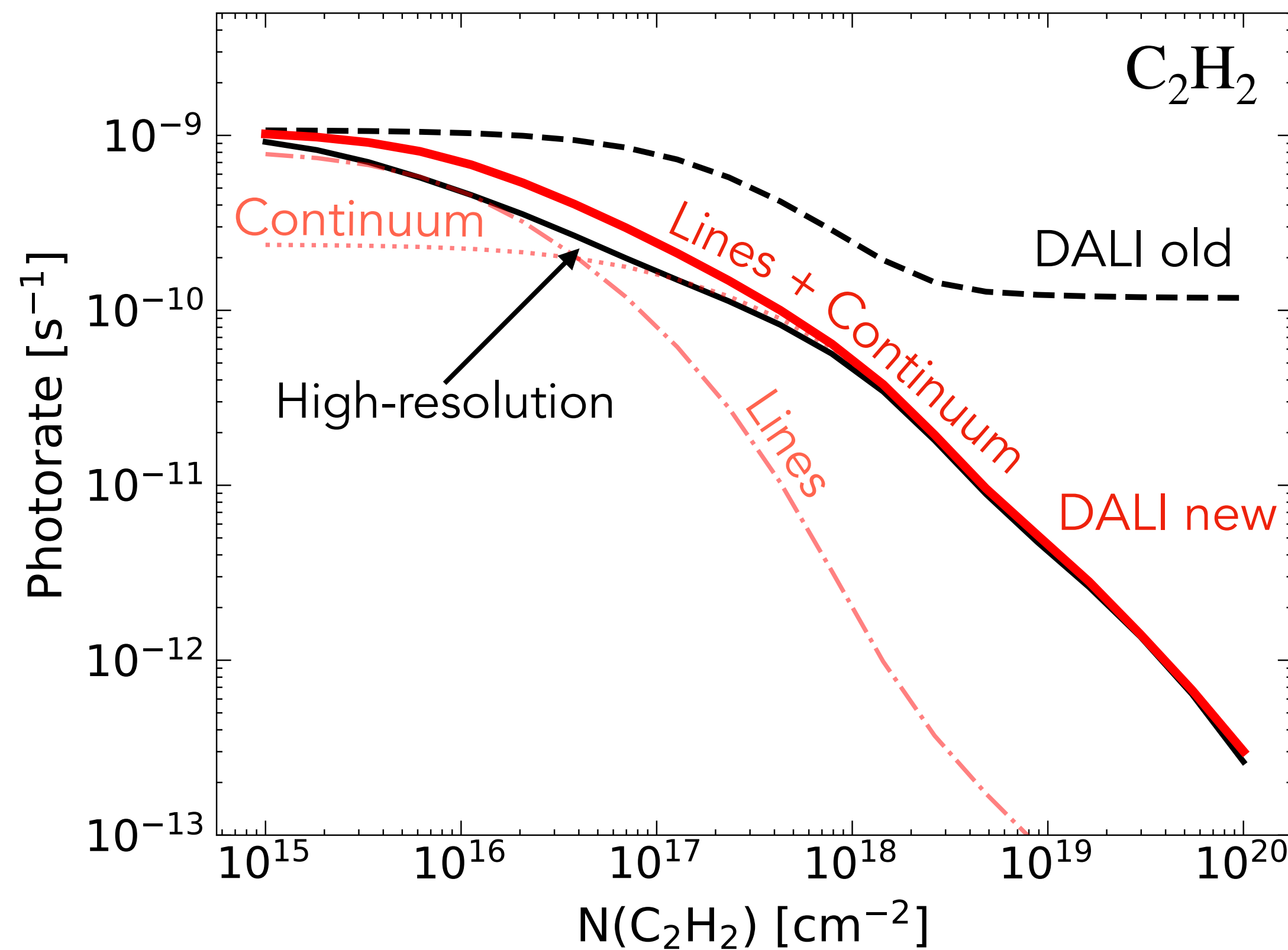
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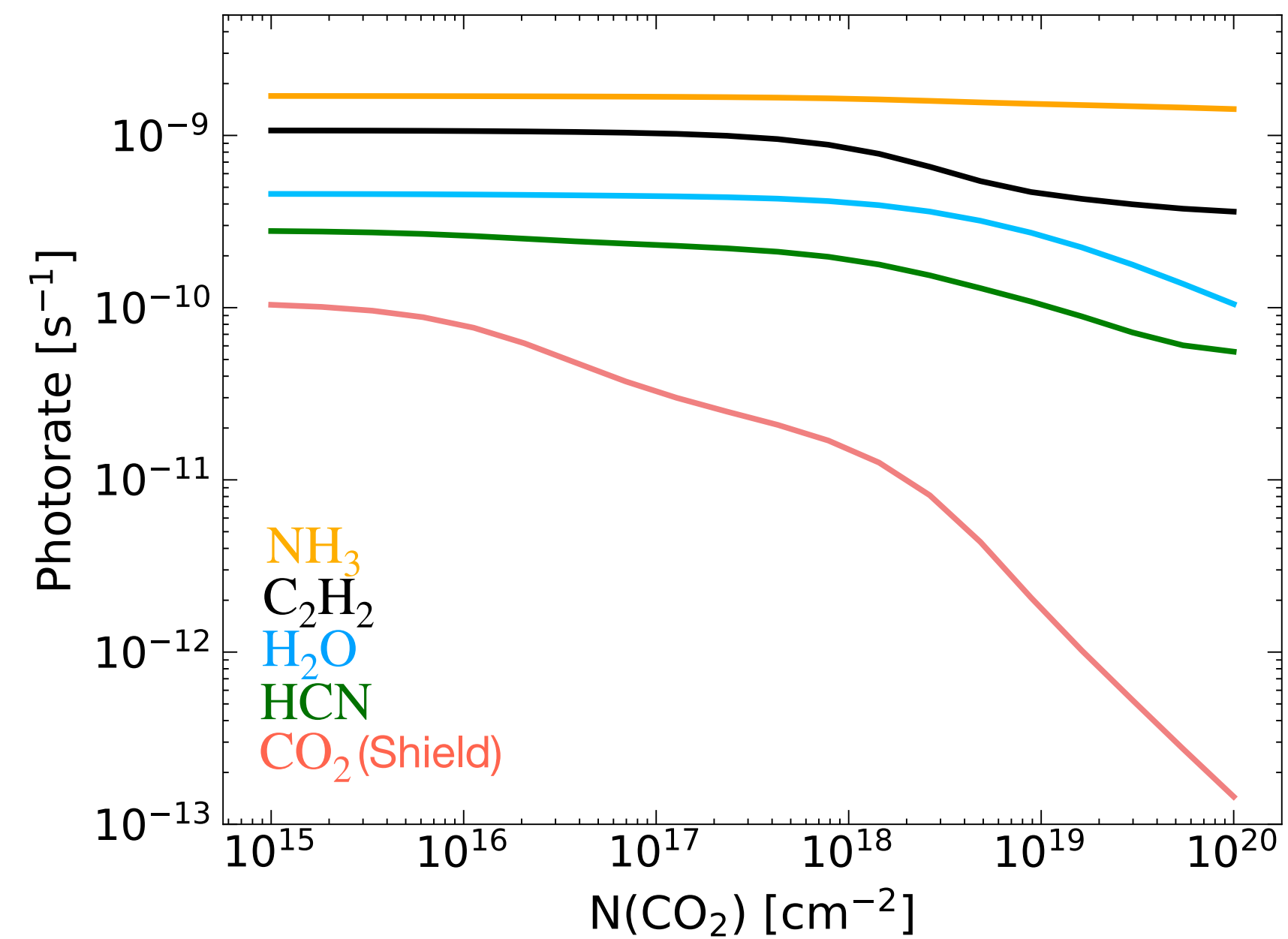
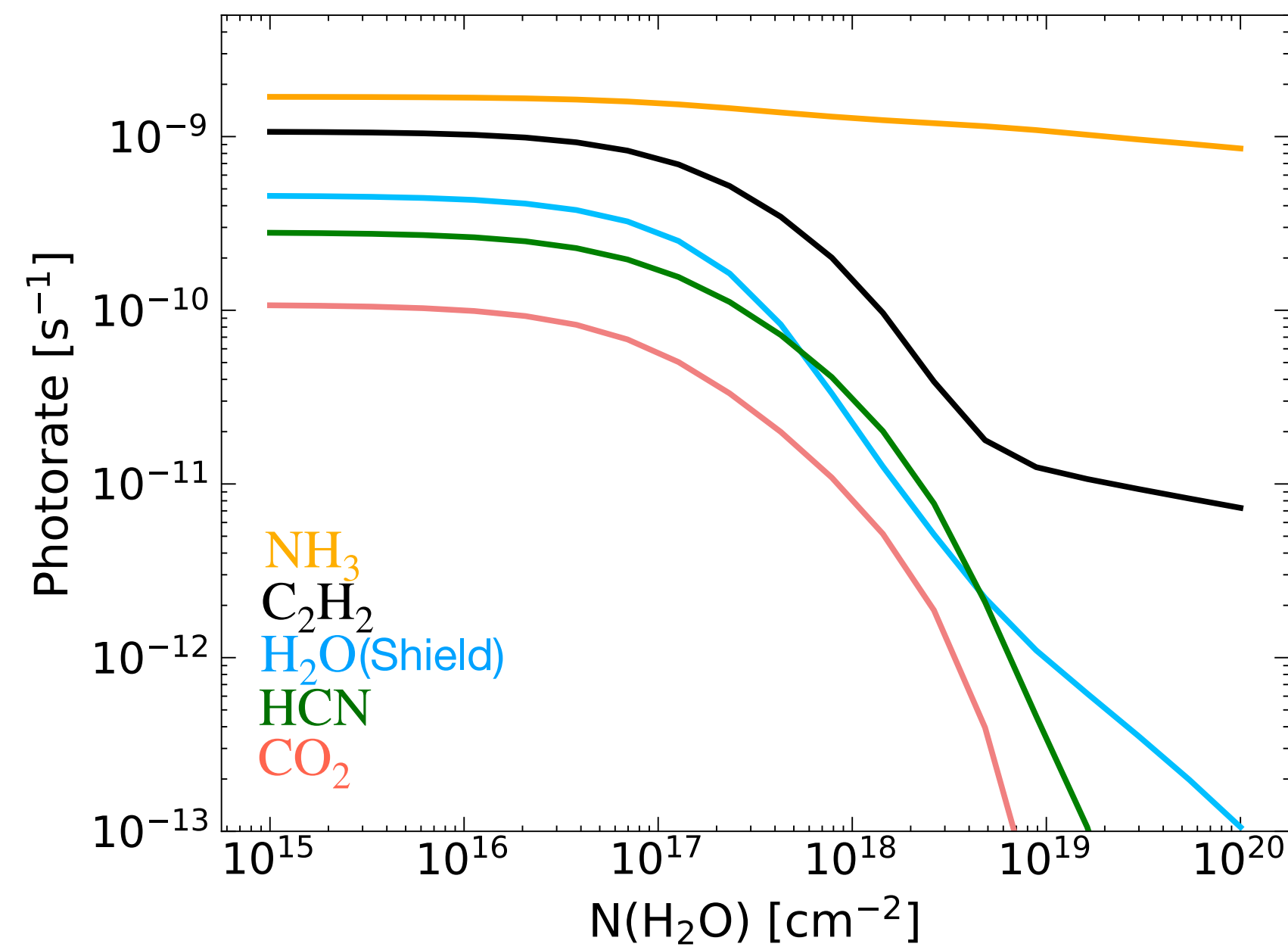
UV shielding

- Separation line/continuum reproduces very well the « real » self-shielding
- Crucial role of self-shielding at low column densities



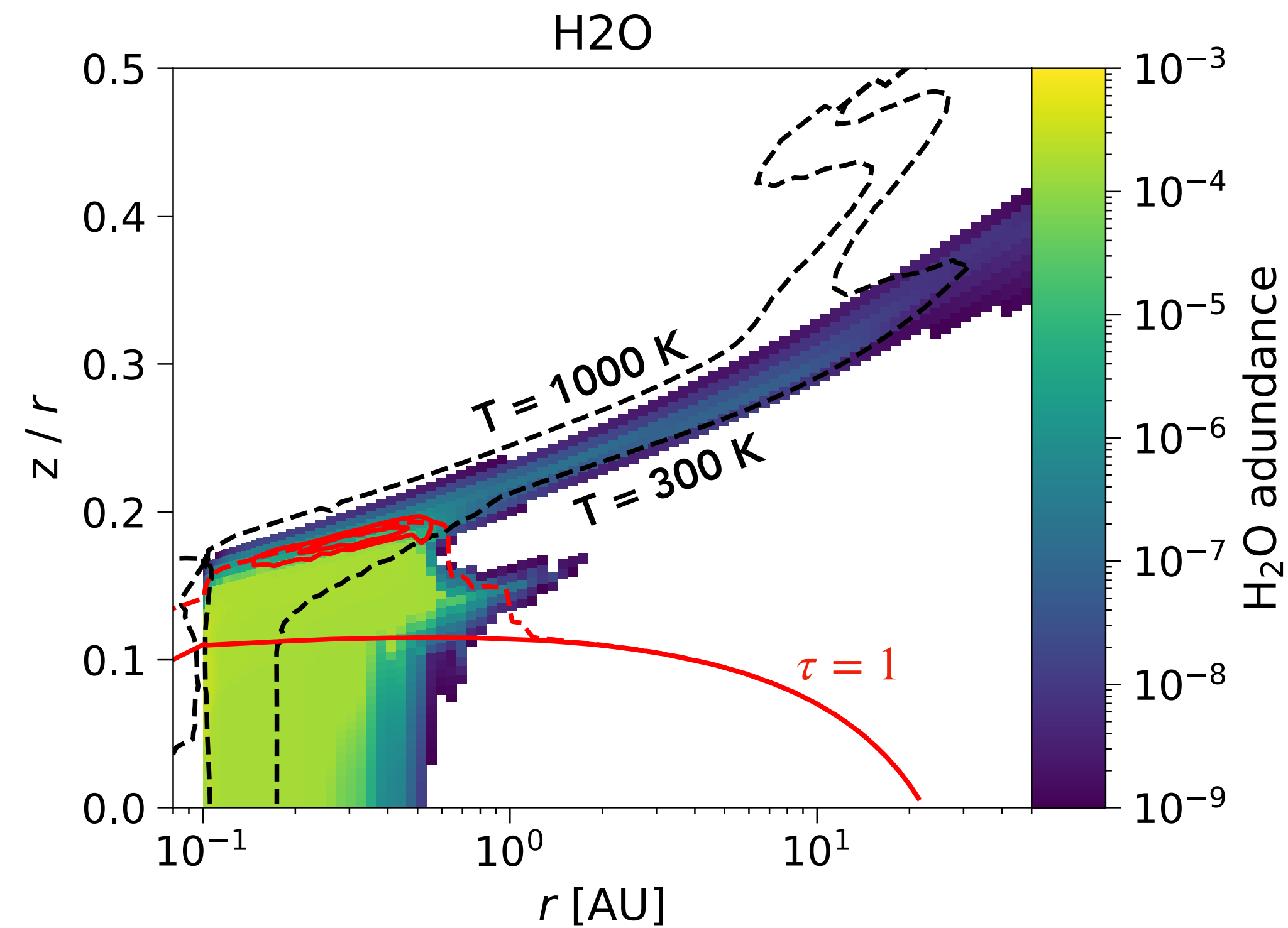
UV shielding

- ➔ Mutual shielding as implemented in DALI (shielded by continuum only)
- ➔ Mutual shielding particularly efficient for: H_2O , C_2H_4 , C_3 , (C_2H_2)
- ➔ Mutual shielding not efficient for: CO_2 , CH_4 , NH_3 , HCN

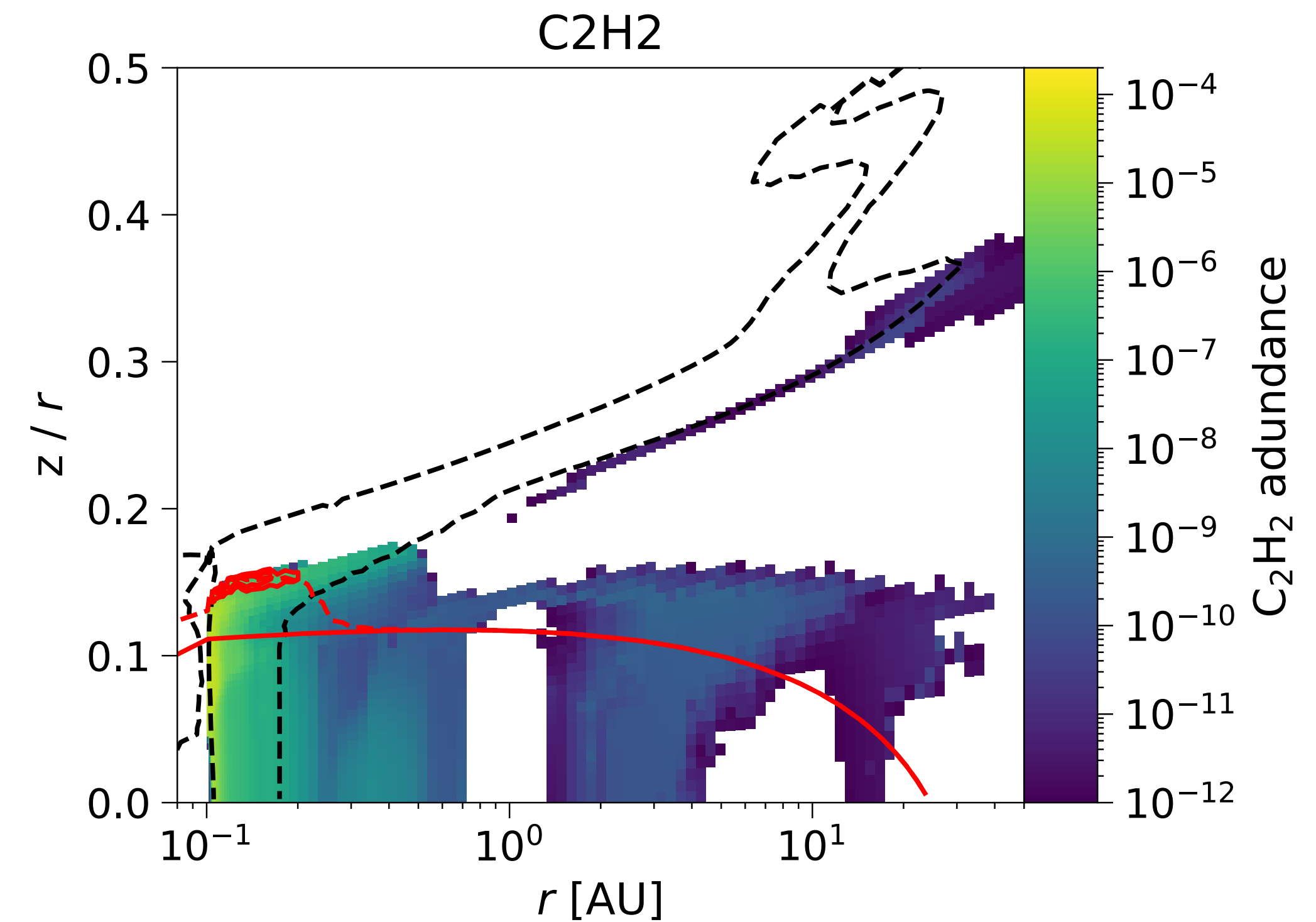


C₂H₂ and H₂O abundance map

- H₂O abundant in the inner disk
- C₂H₂ emitting region is slightly deeper and closer to the star



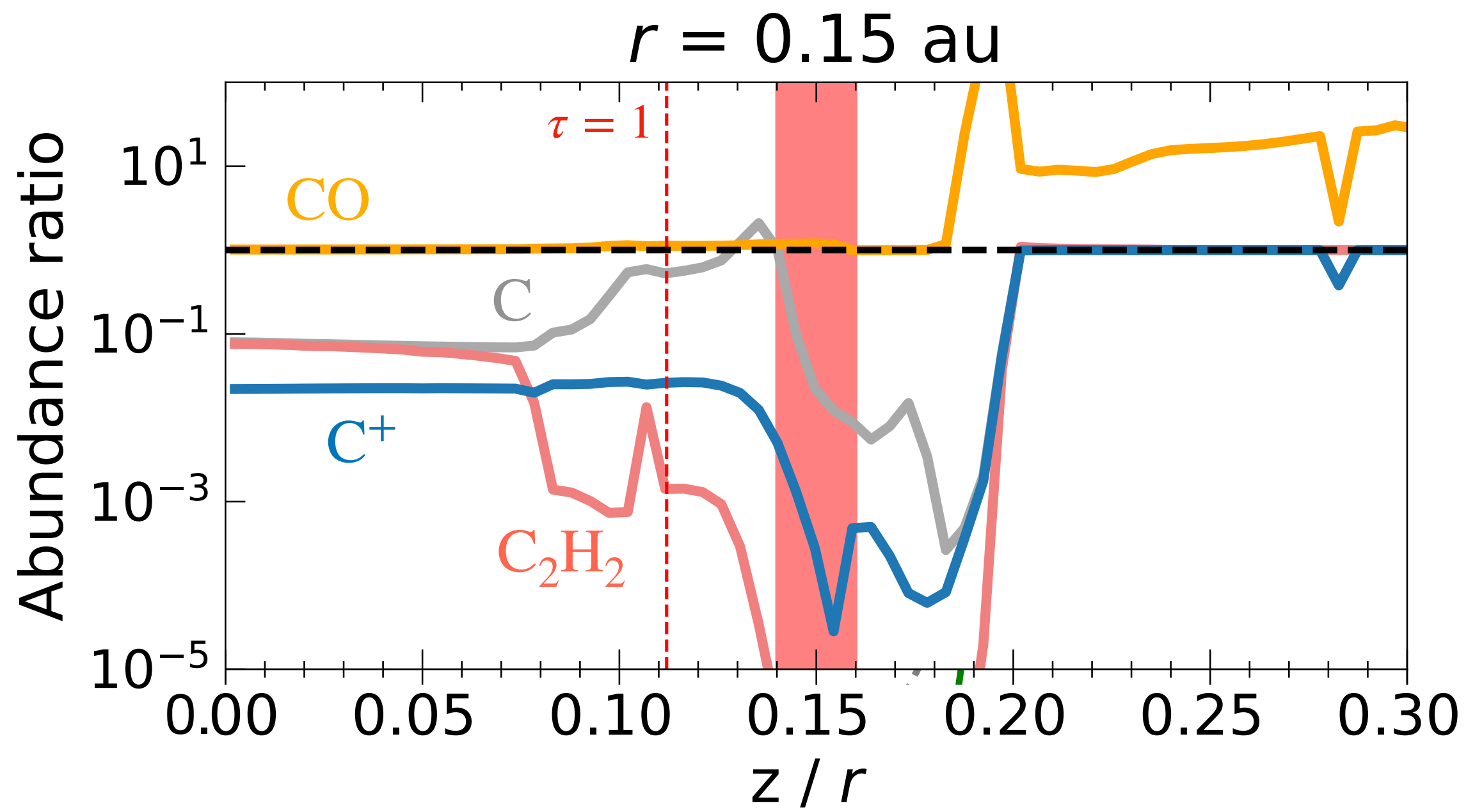
Abundance map of water



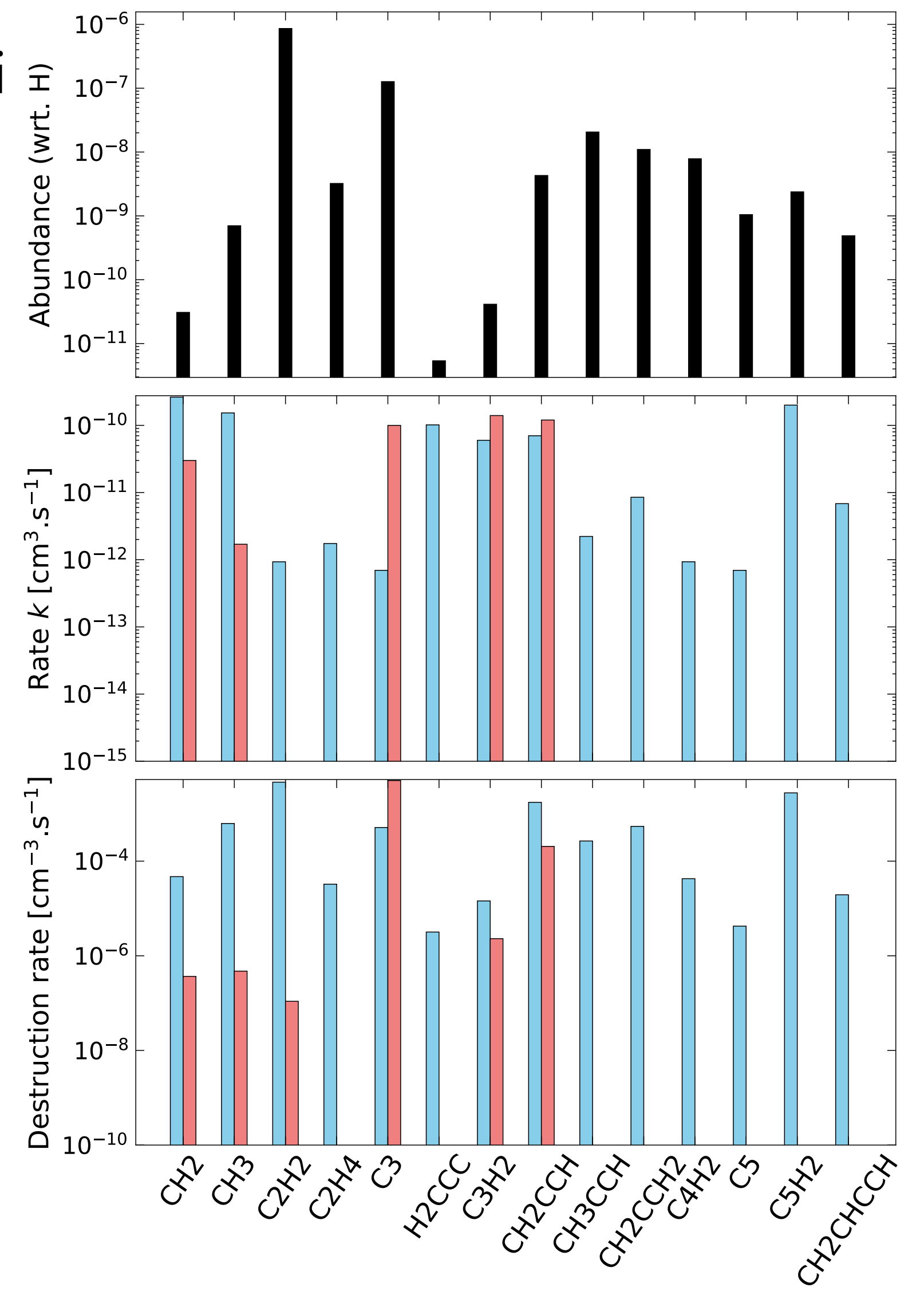
Abundance map of acetylene

Where does the carbon come from ?

→ Dissociation of CO releases free carbon avail

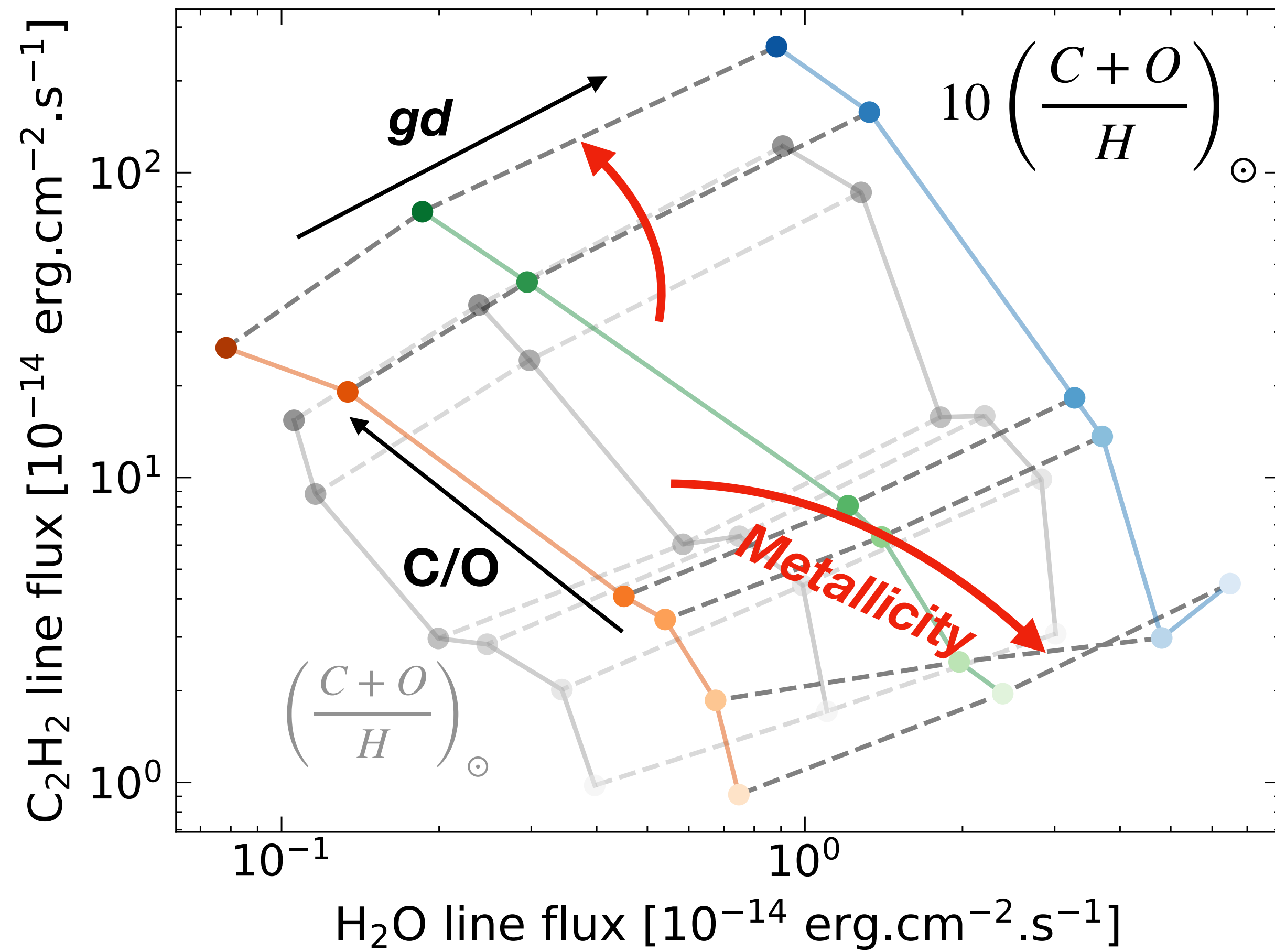


Abundance ratio between fiducial and fiducial without reactions (1) and (2). The red shaded area is the emitting layer of C_2H_2 .



Metallicity

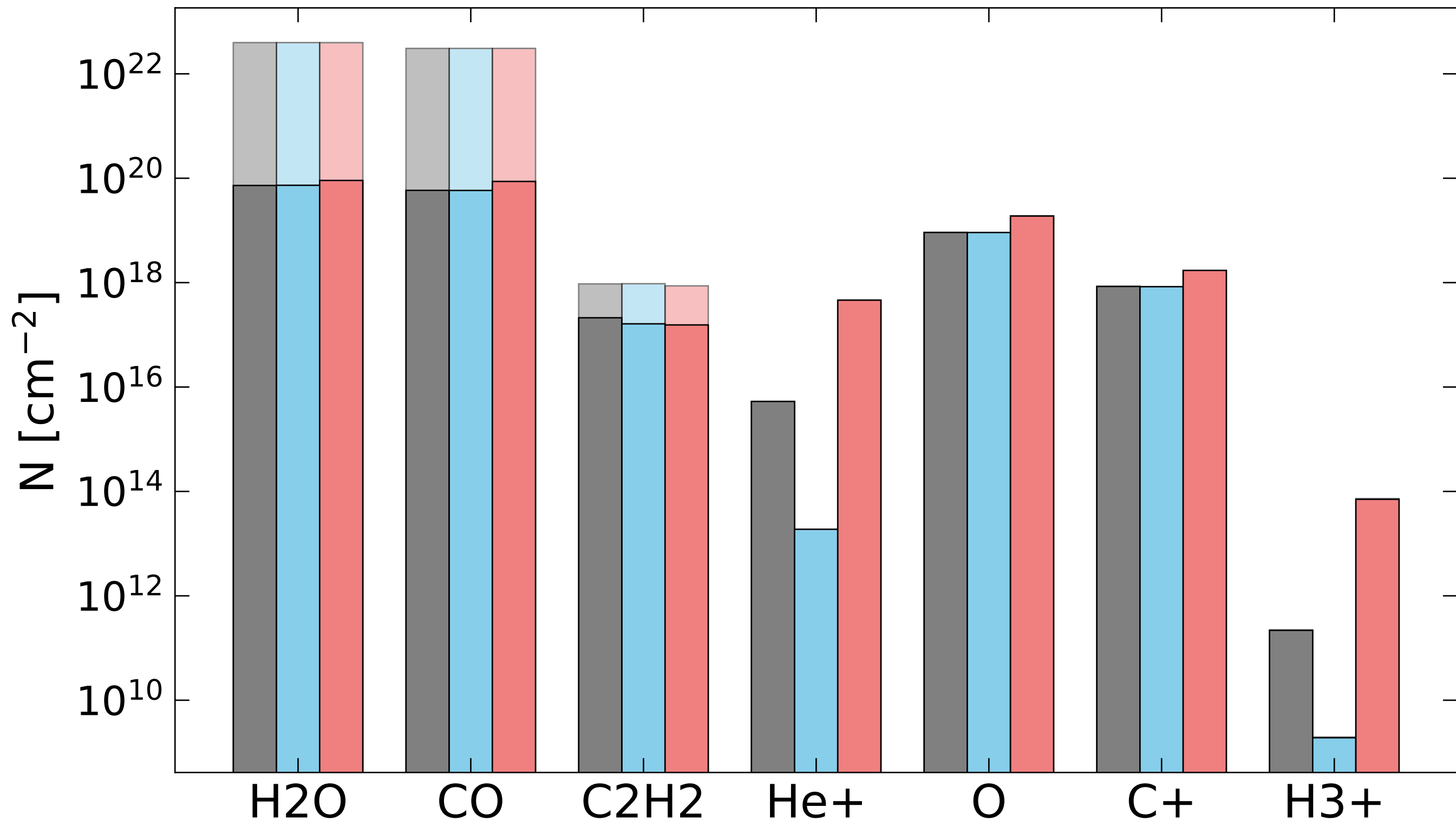
→ The grid seems shifted to the right : water is brighter when the metallicity is increased...
... but it is actually degenerated with the C/O ratio



- When $C/O < 1$:
 H_2O line flux increases while C_2H_2 decreases
 → O destroys carbon chains + C locked in CO
- When $C/O > 1$:
 H_2O line flux decreases while C_2H_2 increases
 → O locked in CO + more C available

X-ray luminosity

→ X-ray luminosity does not impact H_2O and C_2H_2 emission: balance of formation and destruction



Column densities of different species as a function of the X-ray luminosity

Check the tau = 1 btw
 10^{27} and 10^{33}
because I don't raytrace
it in my last models

