

# How cloud formation affects the CH<sub>4</sub> abundance

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Sven Kiefer

KU Leuven, OeAW IWF, and TU Graz

H. Lecoq-Molinos, Ch. Helling, N. Bangerer, L. Decin, L. X. Worutowicz

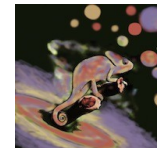
**KU LEUVEN**

**ÖAW**

ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AKADEMIE DER  
WISSENSCHAFTEN

**IWF**  
INSTITUT FÜR  
WELTRAUMFORSCHUNG

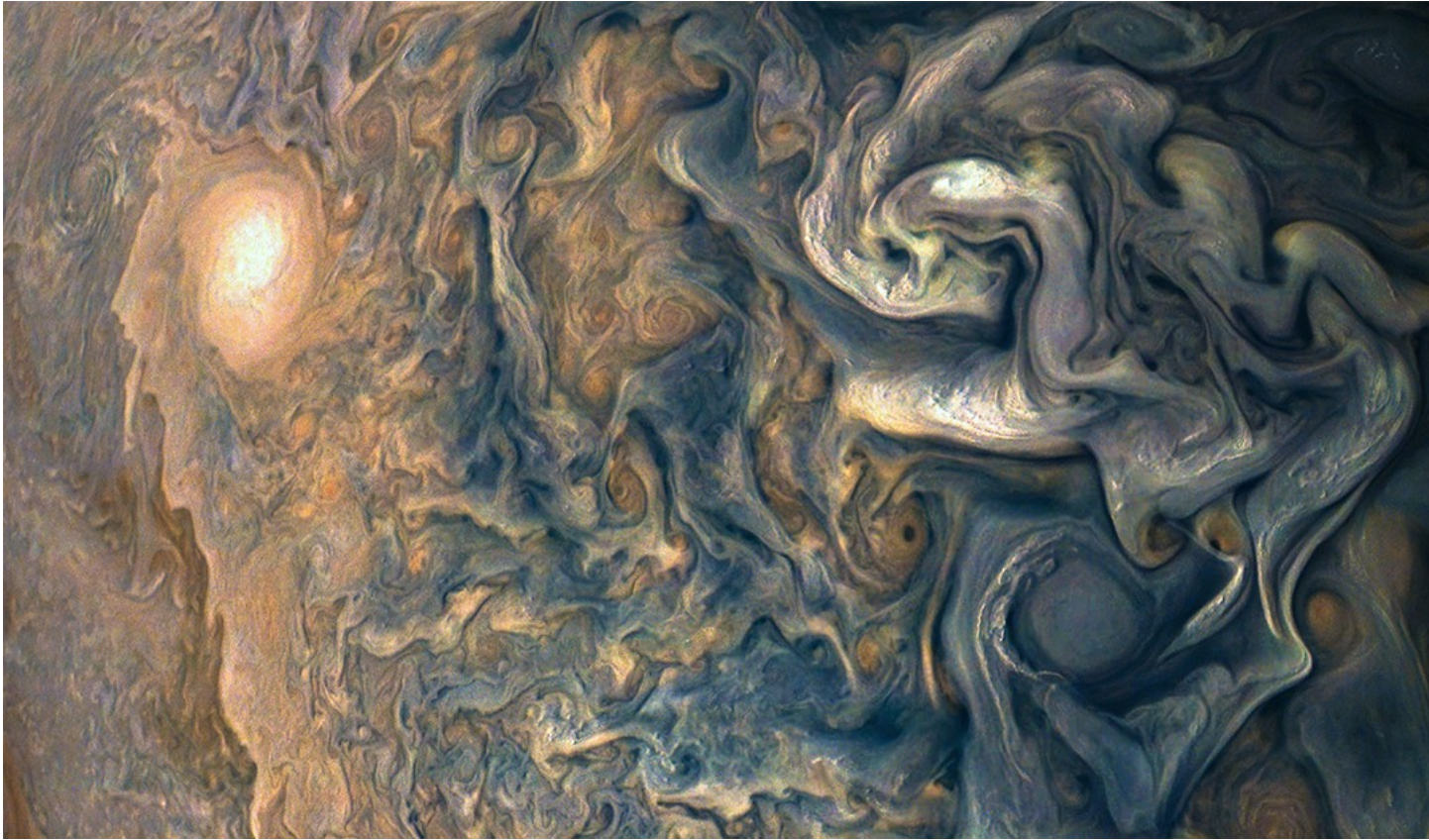
**TU**  
Graz



**MARIE CURIE ACTIONS**



# The importance of clouds in (exo)planets

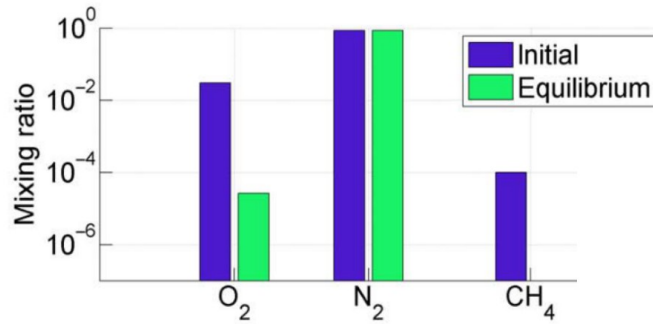


SWRI/NASA

# The importance of chemical disequilibrium

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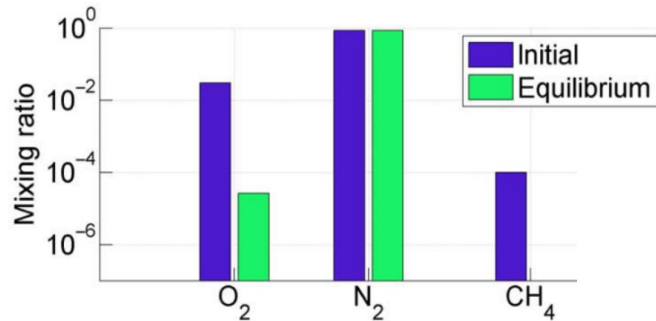
## Biology



Krissansen-Totton et al. (2023)

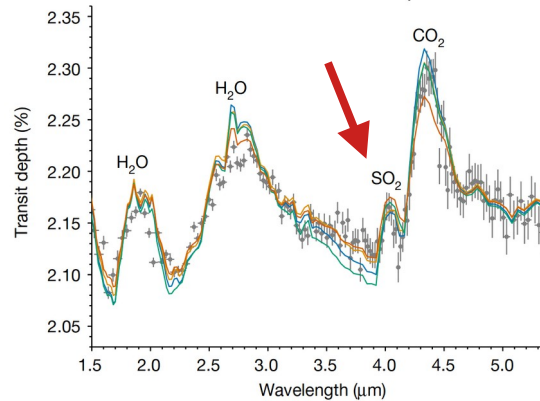
# The importance of chemical disequilibrium

Biology



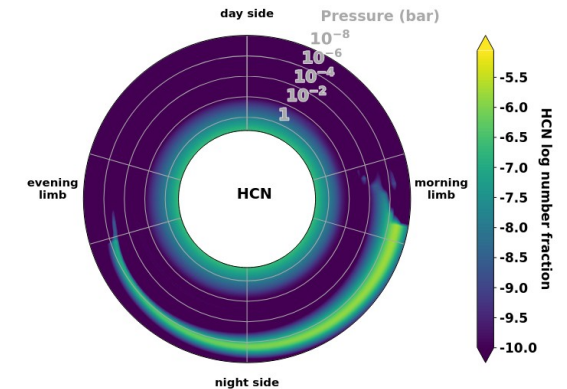
Krissansen-Totton et al. (2023)

Photo-chemistry



Tsai et al. (2023)

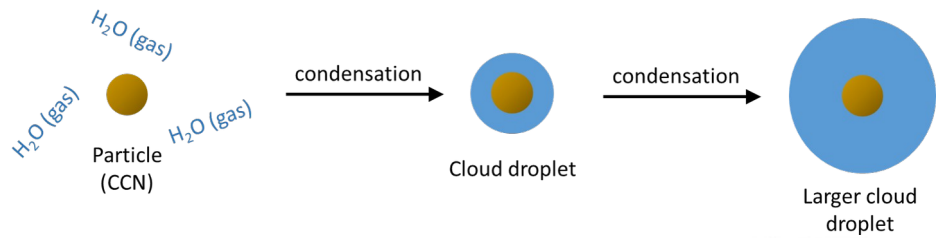
Atmospheric dynamics



Baeyens et al. (2023)

How do clouds form in gas-giants?

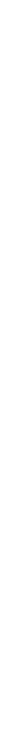
# Cloud formation - Earth



Top Image: Aerosols Department Of Physics And Astronomy Uppsala  
Bottom Image: BBC science focus, Alexandra Franklin-Cheung

# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter

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# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter

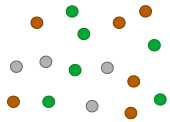
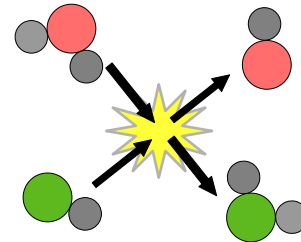


Image altered from Helling (2018)

## Kinetic Chemistry



For this study:

- Elements: N, C, H, O
- Additional: Ti, Si
- 69 species
- 780 reactions



# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter

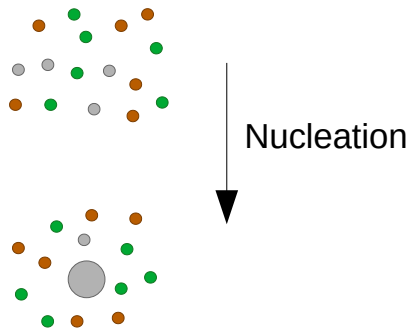
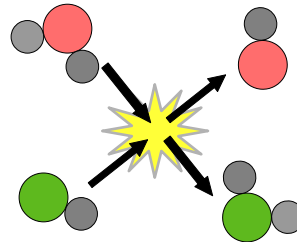
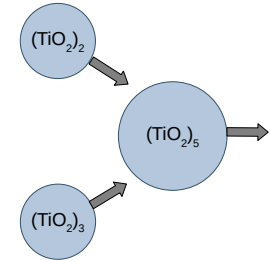


Image altered from Helling (2018)

## Kinetic Chemistry



## Kinetic nucleation



## Nucleation:

- kinetic polymer nucleation
- Species:  $\text{TiO}_2[s]$
- Maximum size:  $(\text{TiO}_2)_{15}$

# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter

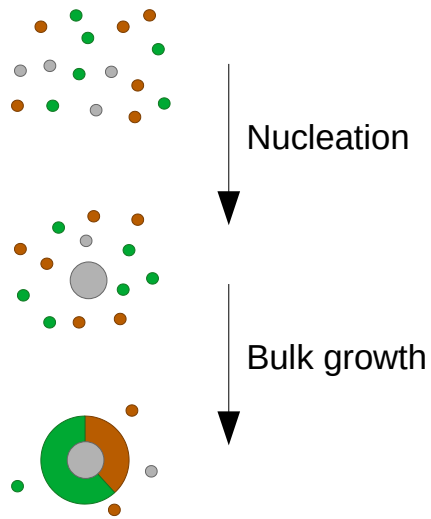
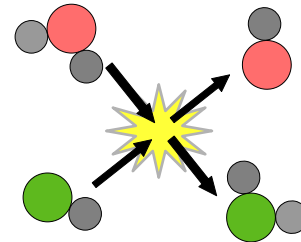
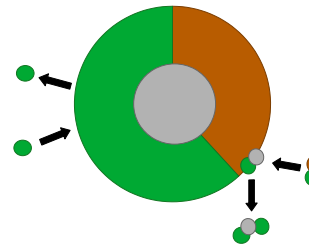


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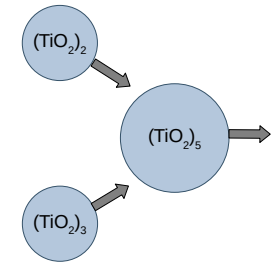
## Kinetic Chemistry



## Bulk growth

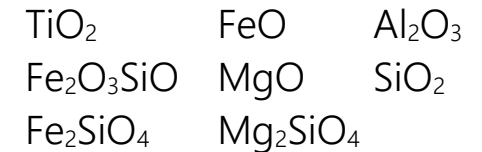


## Kinetic nucleation



## Cloud material

→ 9 Materials



→ 40 surface reactions

# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter

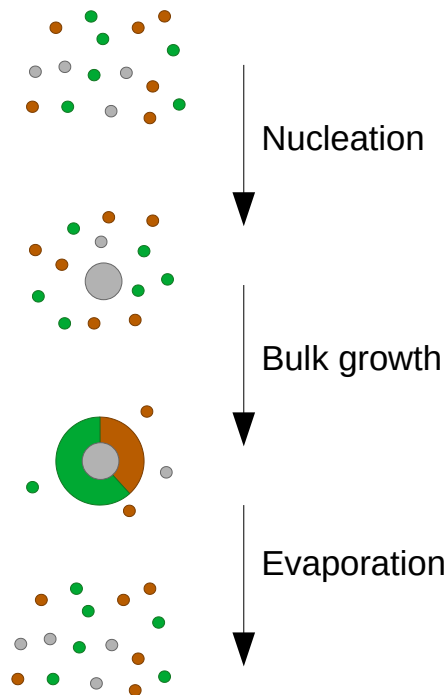
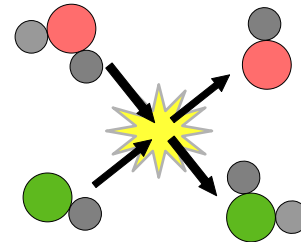
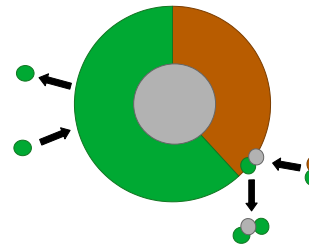


Image altered from Helling (2018)

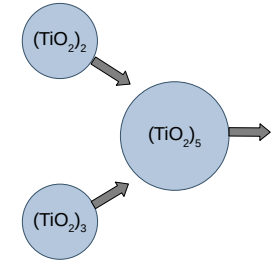
## Kinetic Chemistry



## Bulk growth

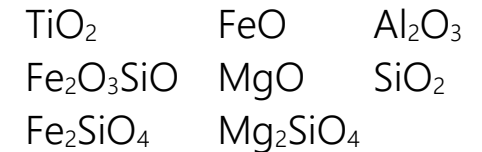


## Kinetic nucleation



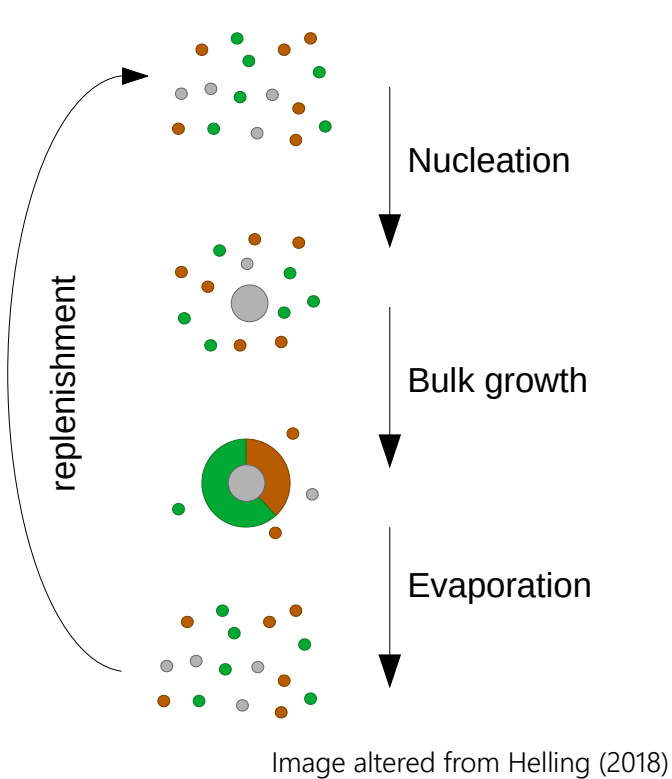
## Cloud material

→ 9 Materials

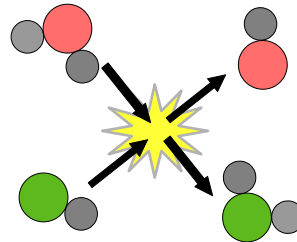


→ 40 surface reactions

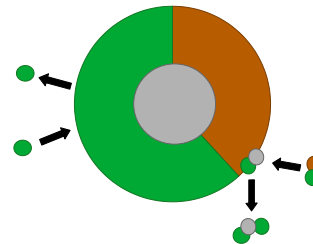
# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter



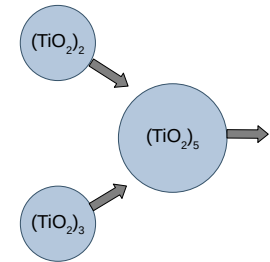
## Kinetic Chemistry



## Bulk growth

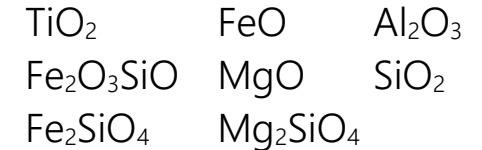


## Kinetic nucleation



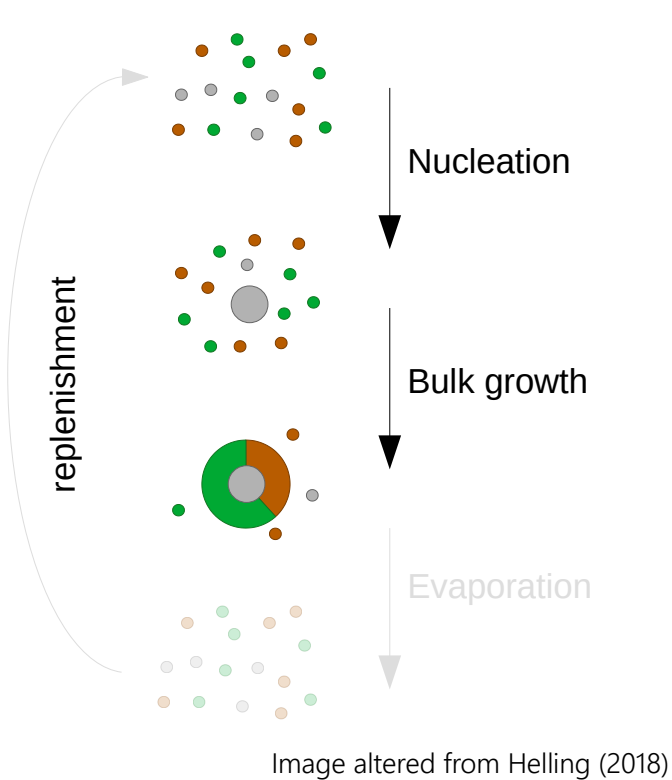
## Cloud material

→ 9 Materials

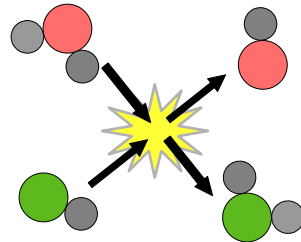


→ 40 surface reactions

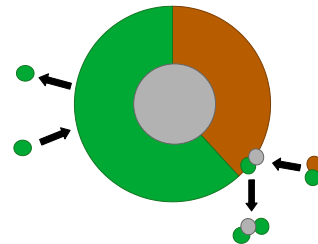
# Cloud formation – Hot Jupiter



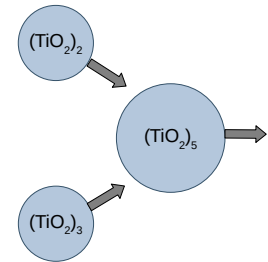
## Kinetic Chemistry



## Bulk growth

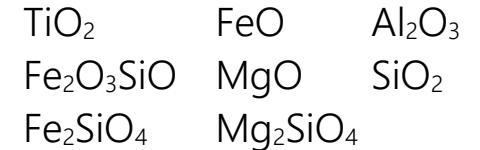


## Kinetic nucleation



## Cloud material

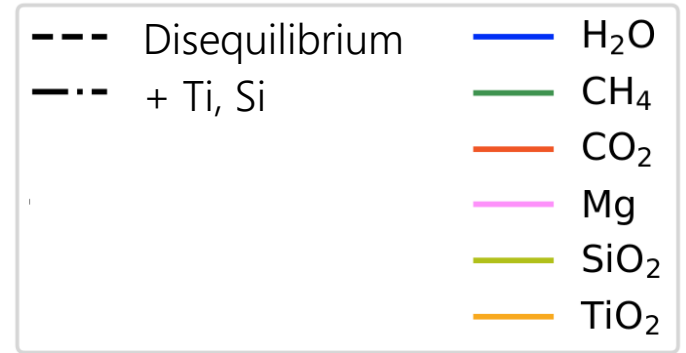
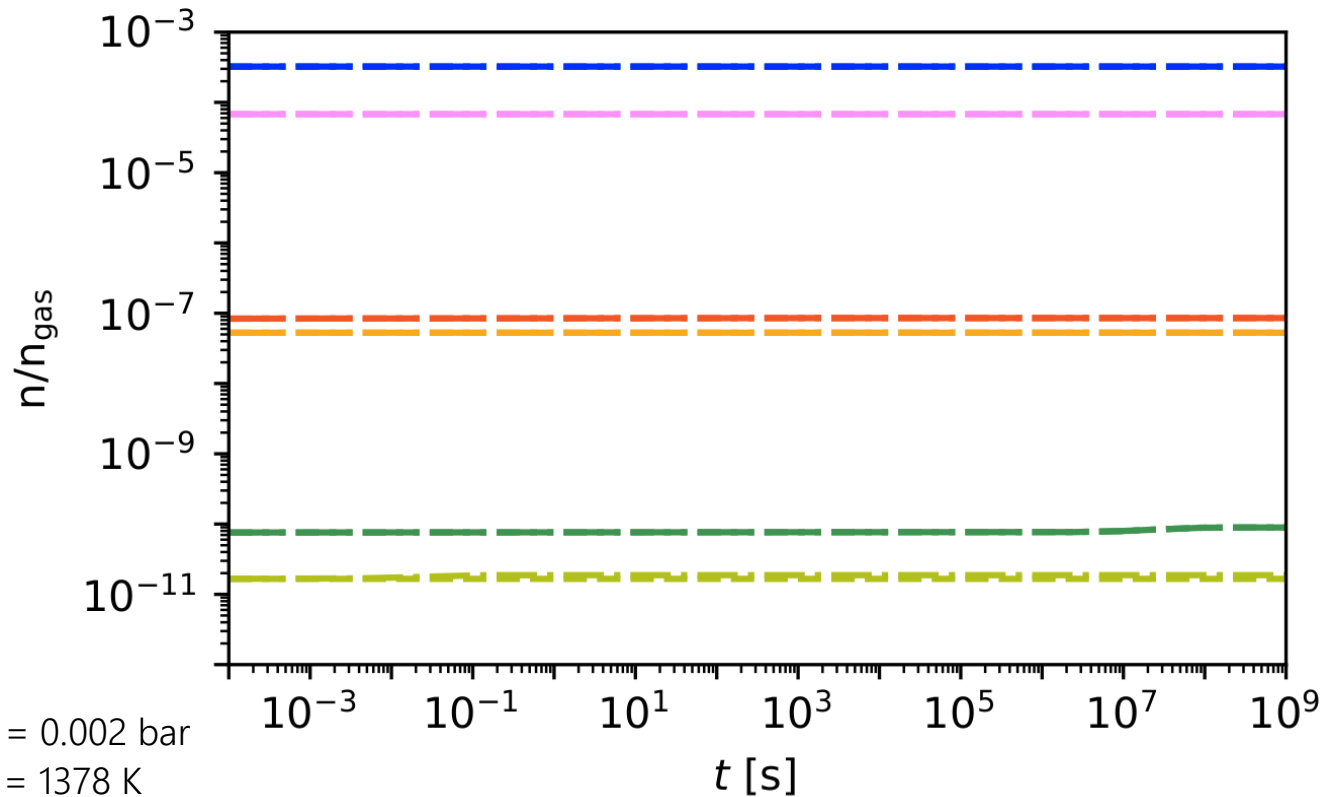
→ 9 Materials



→ 40 surface reactions

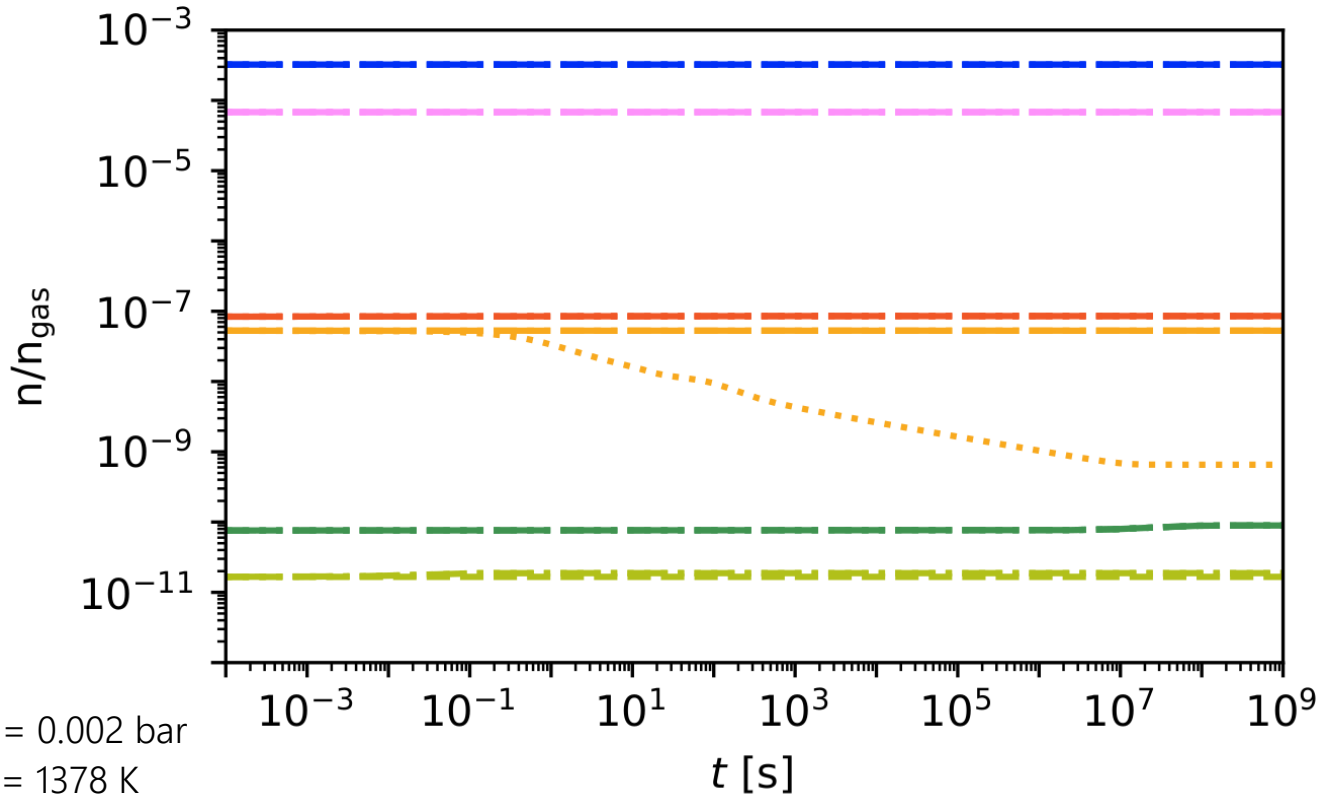
How do clouds affect the gas-phase?

# Disequilibrium gas-phase



P = 0.002 bar  
T = 1378 K

# Disequilibrium gas-phase

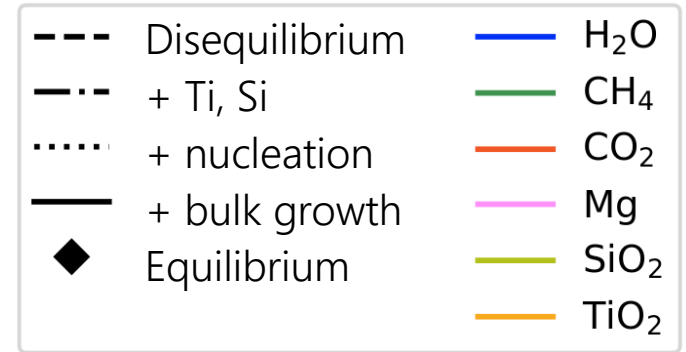
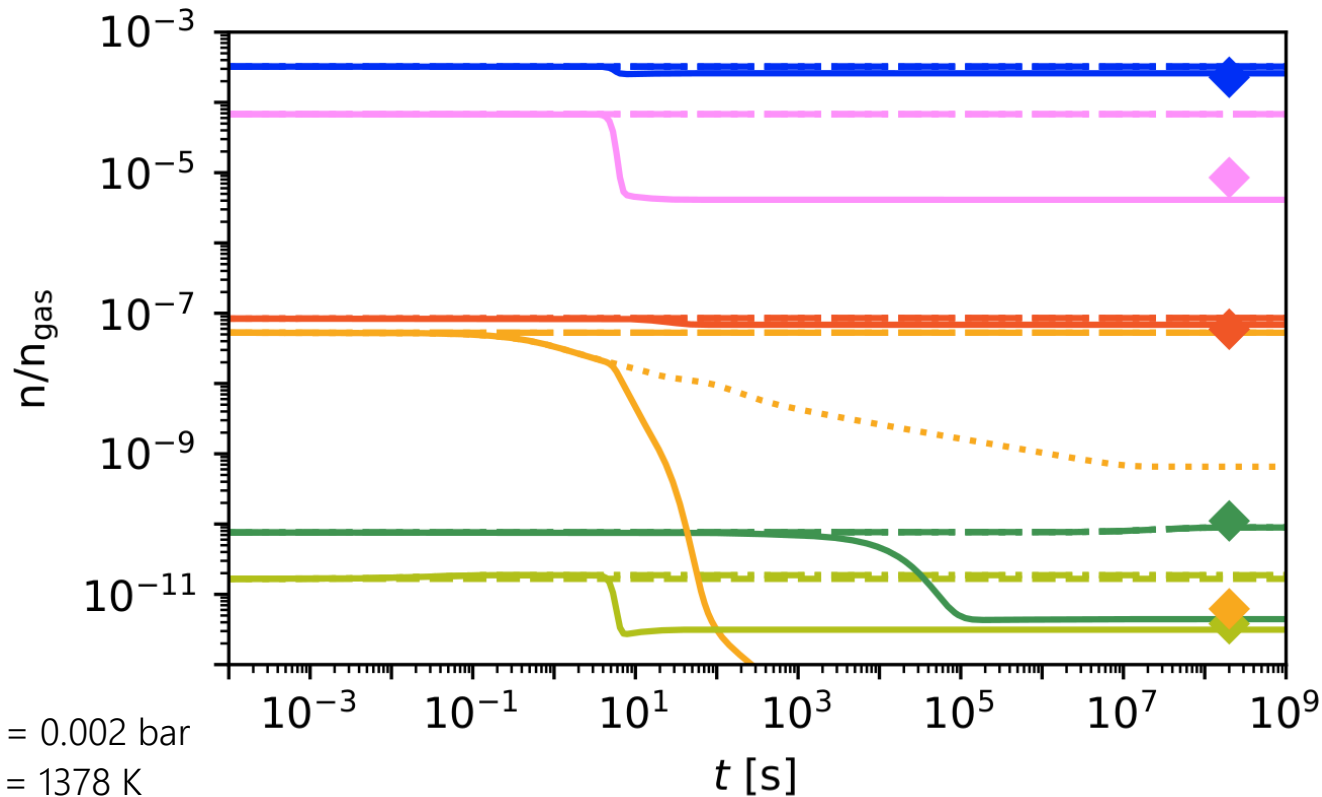


P = 0.002 bar

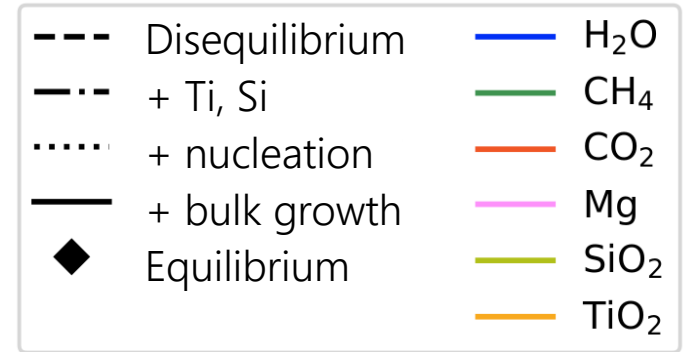
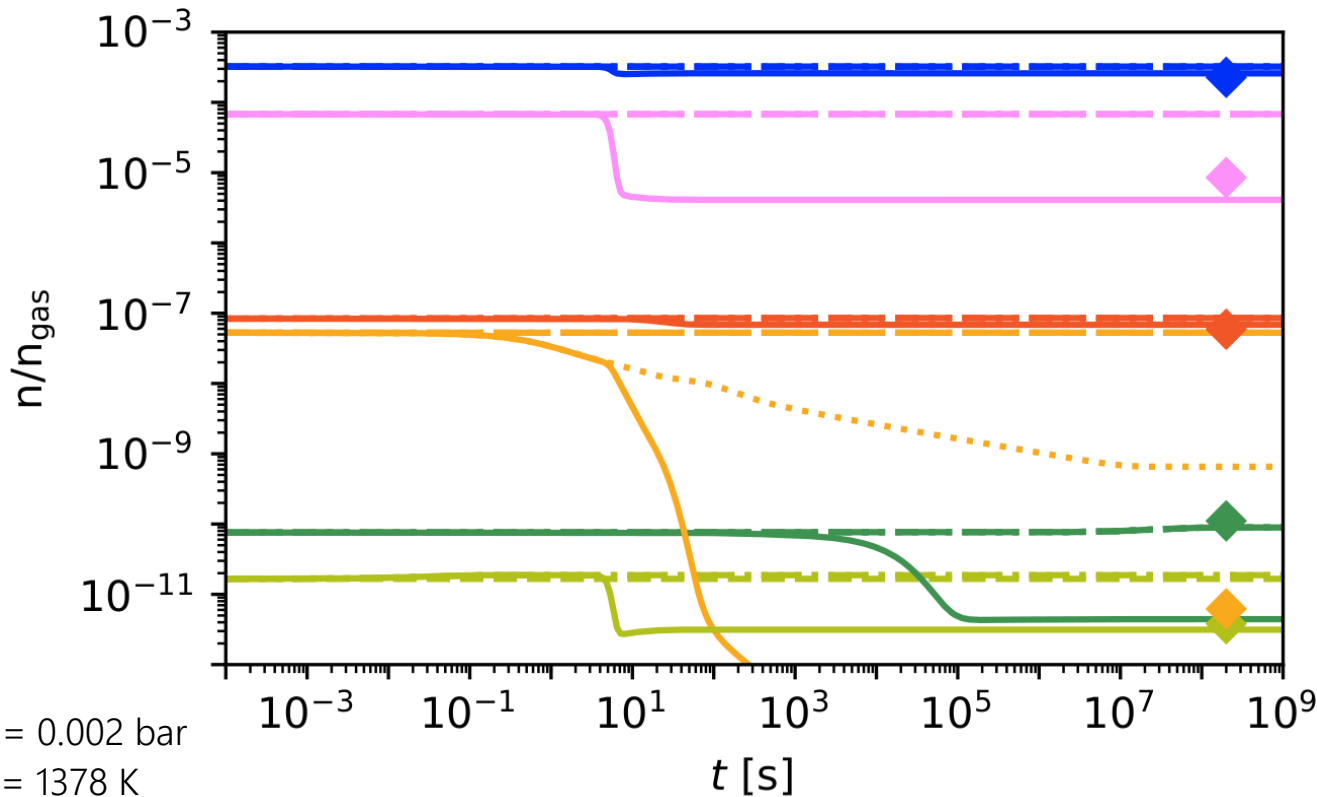
T = 1378 K



# Disequilibrium gas-phase



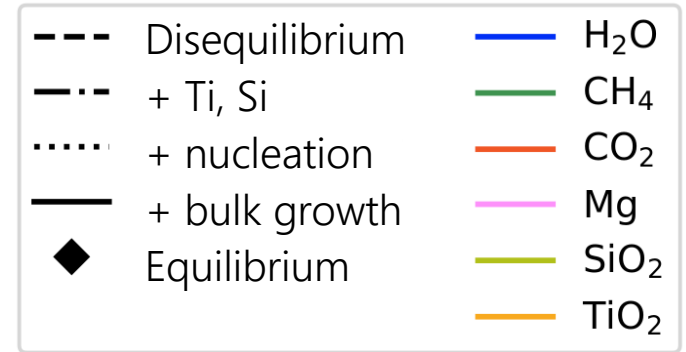
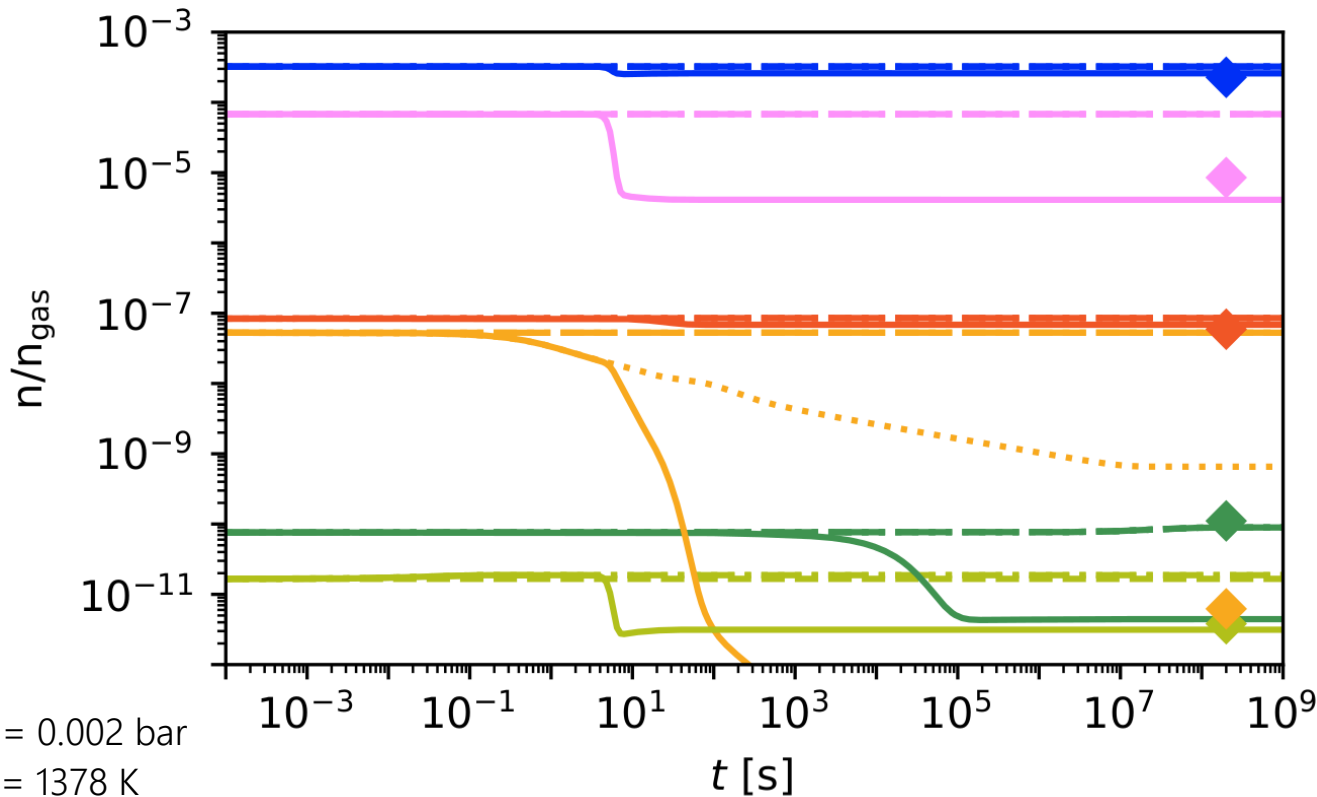
# Disequilibrium gas-phase



Effect of clouds:

1) Depletion of e.g. Mg, Si, Ti

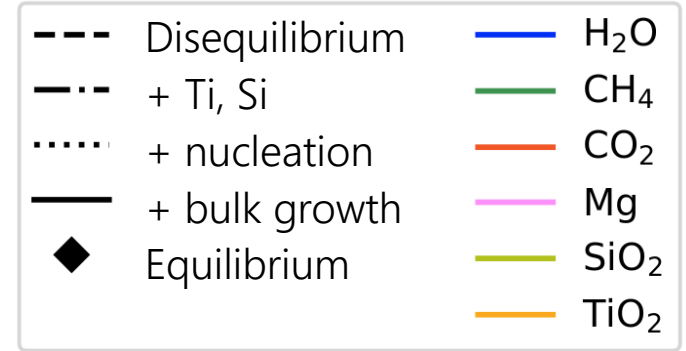
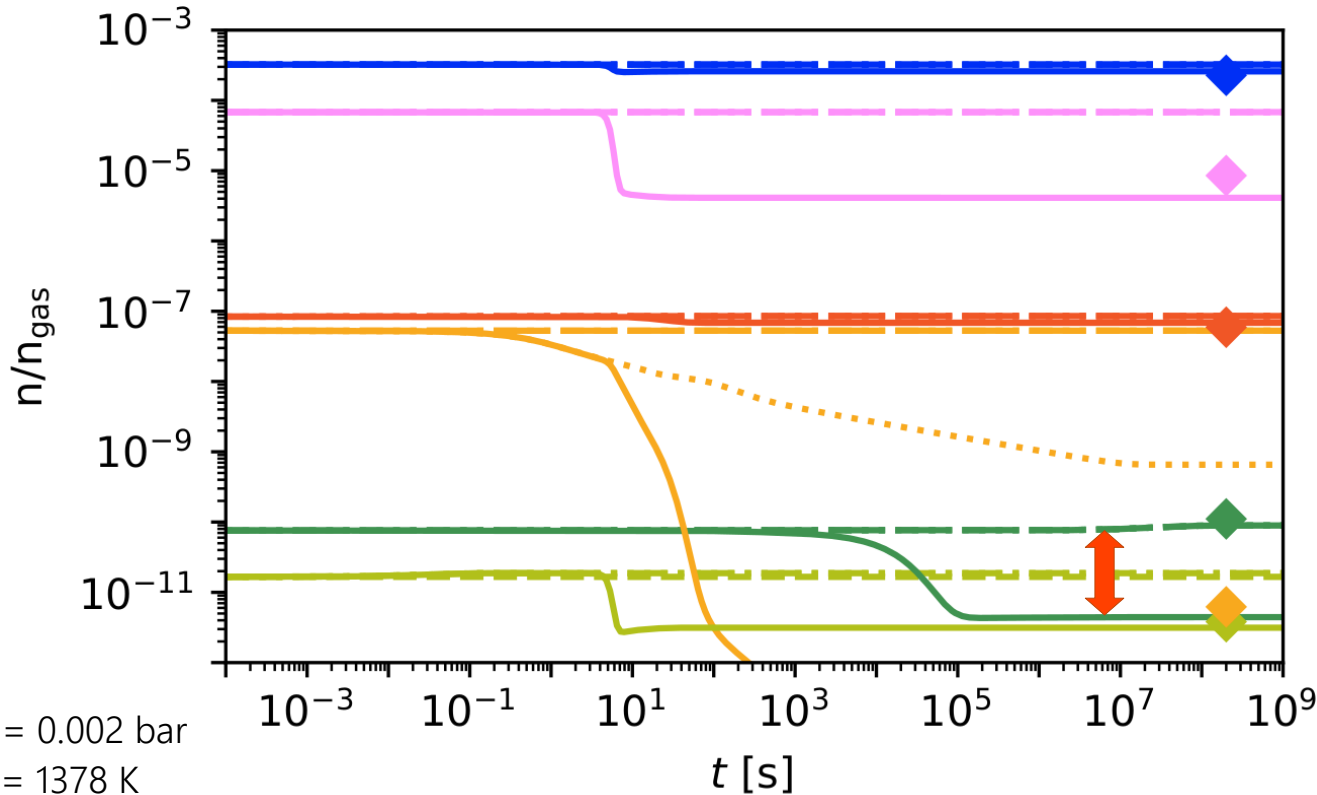
# Disequilibrium gas-phase



Effect of clouds:

- 1) Depletion of e.g. Mg, Si, Ti
- 2) Depletion of oxygen

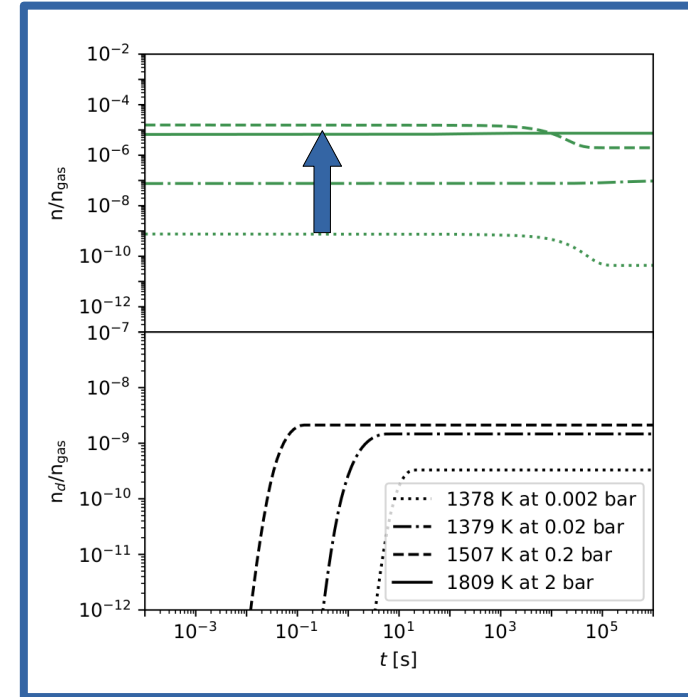
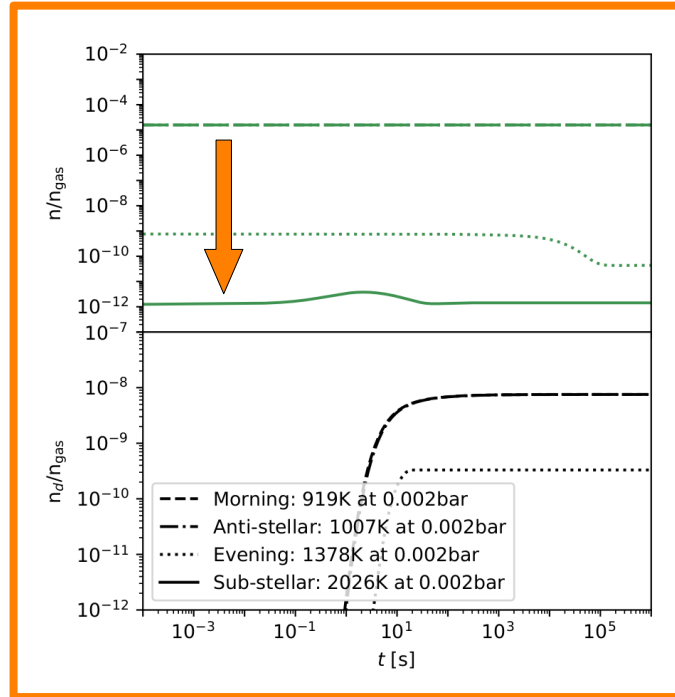
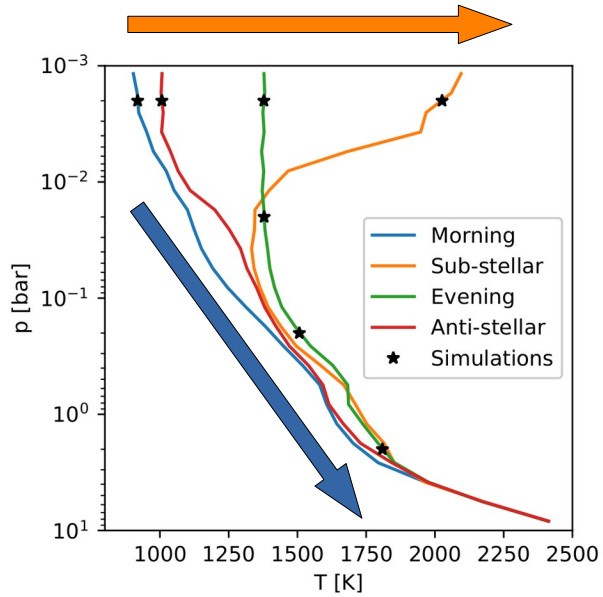
# Disequilibrium gas-phase



Effect of clouds:

- 1) Depletion of e.g. Mg, Si, Ti
- 2) Depletion of oxygen
- 3) What happens to CH<sub>4</sub>?

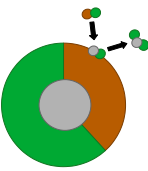
# A well known hot Jupiter: HD 209458 b



→ CH<sub>4</sub> depletion depends on temperature and pressure

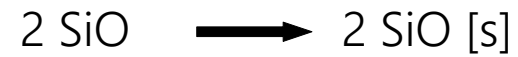
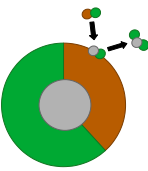
What happens to CH<sub>4</sub>?

# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle



Nidhi Bangera

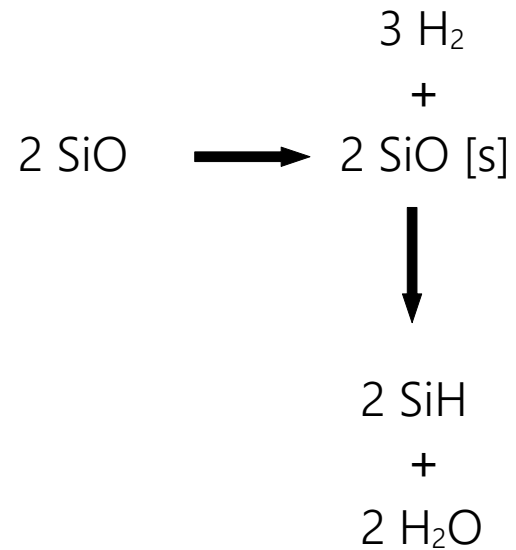
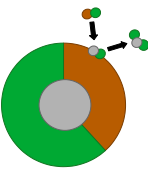
# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle



Nidhi Bangera

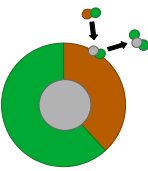


# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle

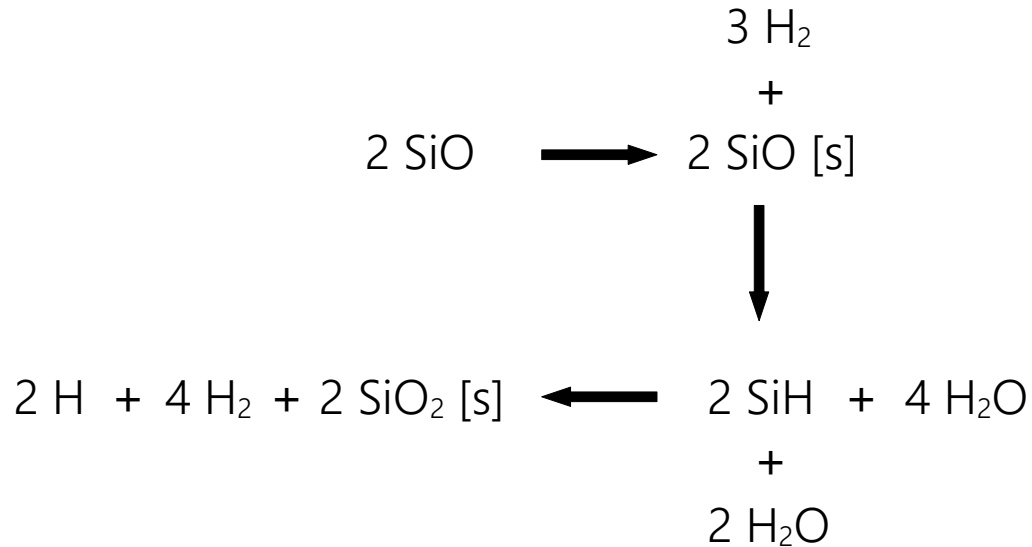


Nidhi Bangera

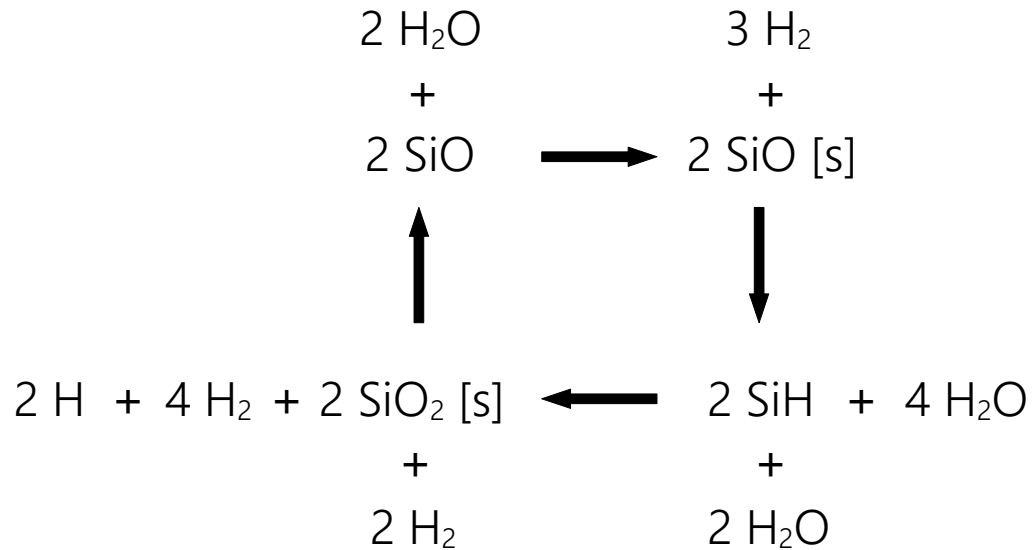
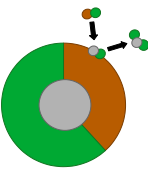
# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle



Nidhi Bangera

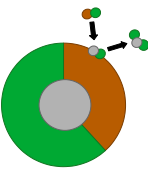


# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle

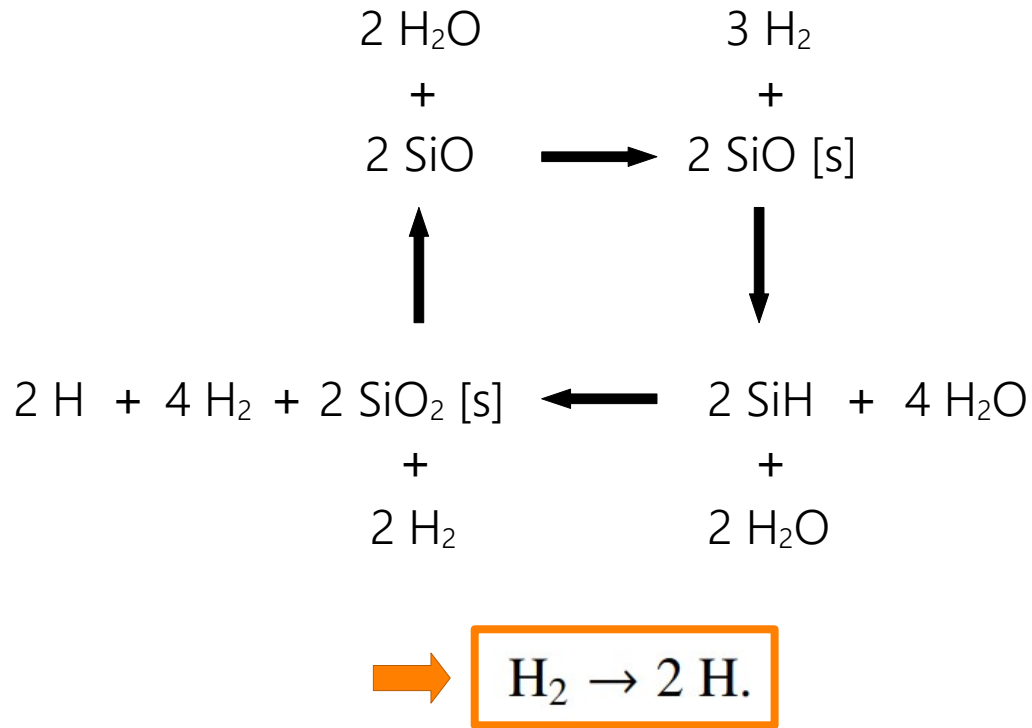


Nidhi Bangera

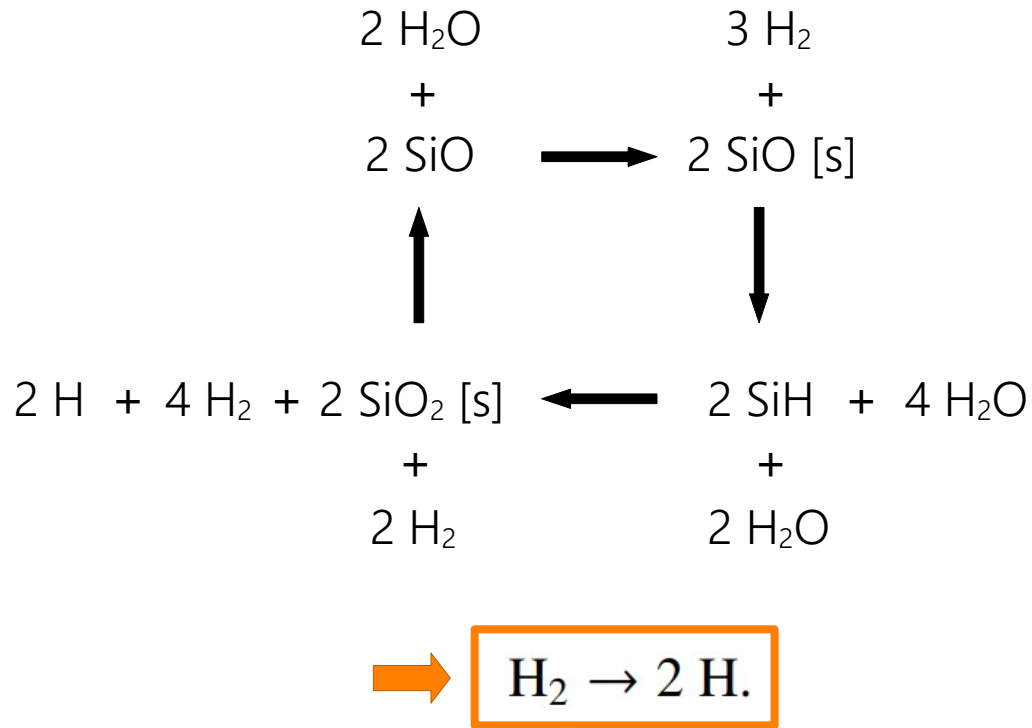
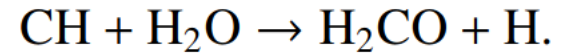
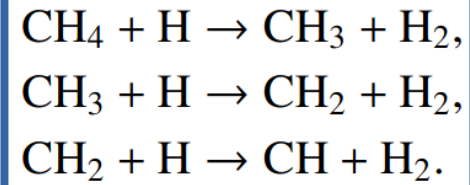
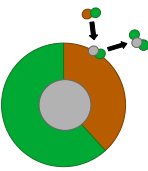
# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle



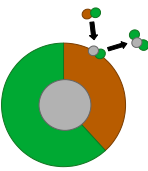
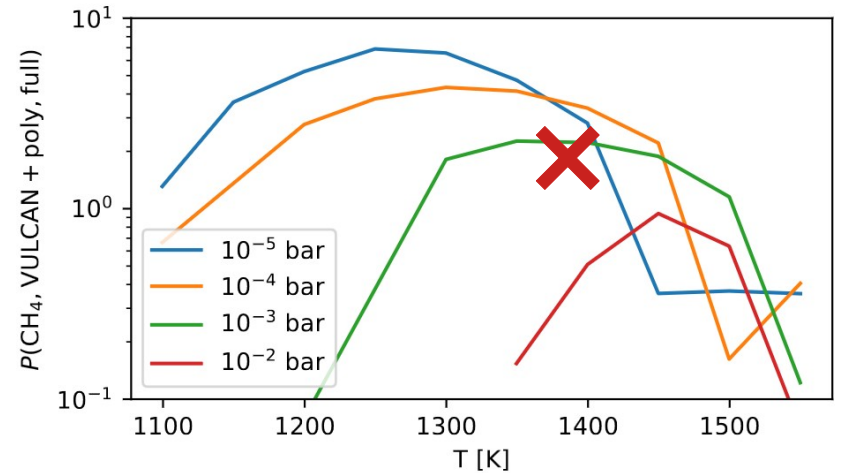
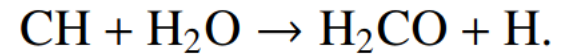
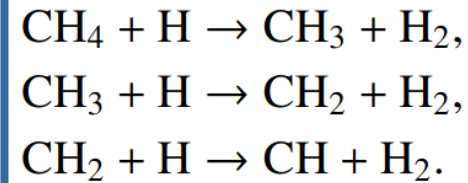
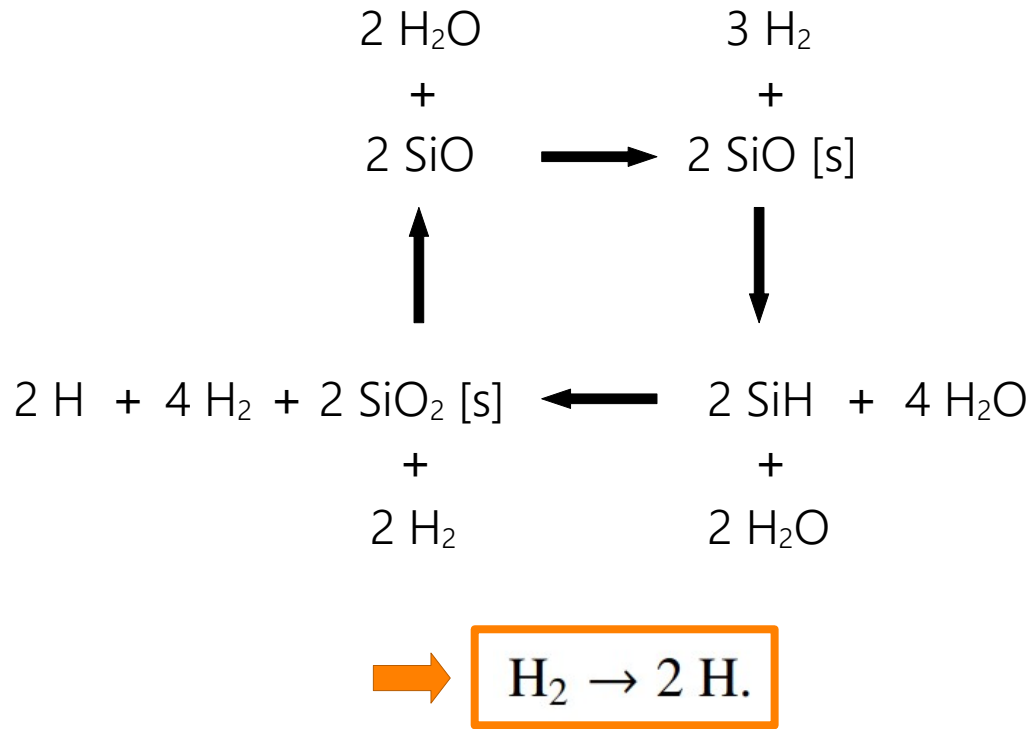
Nidhi Bangera



# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle



# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle

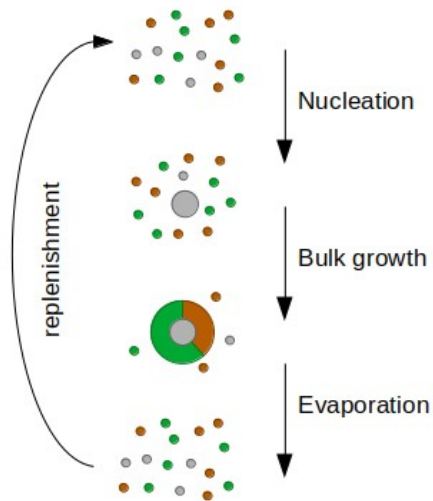


# Summary

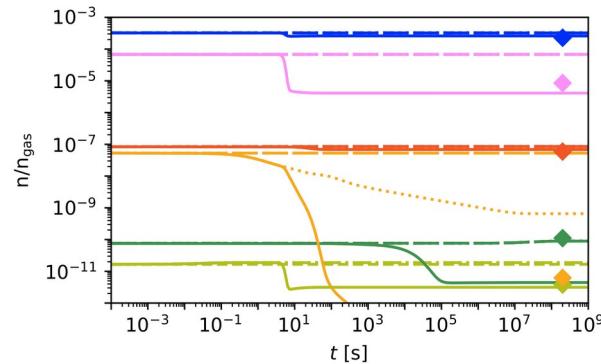
svn.kiefer@kuleuven.be  
Kiefersv.github.io  
@ExoSvenK



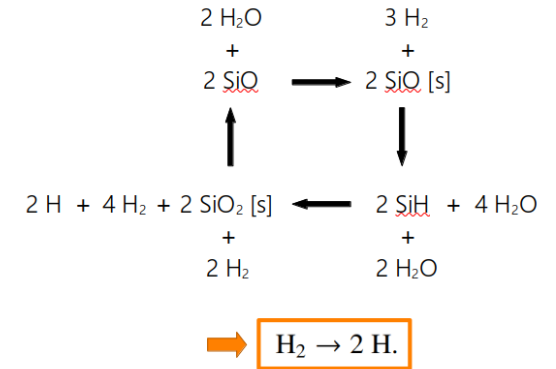
Clouds in hot Jupiters form from refractory materials



Clouds deplete the local gas-phase abundances



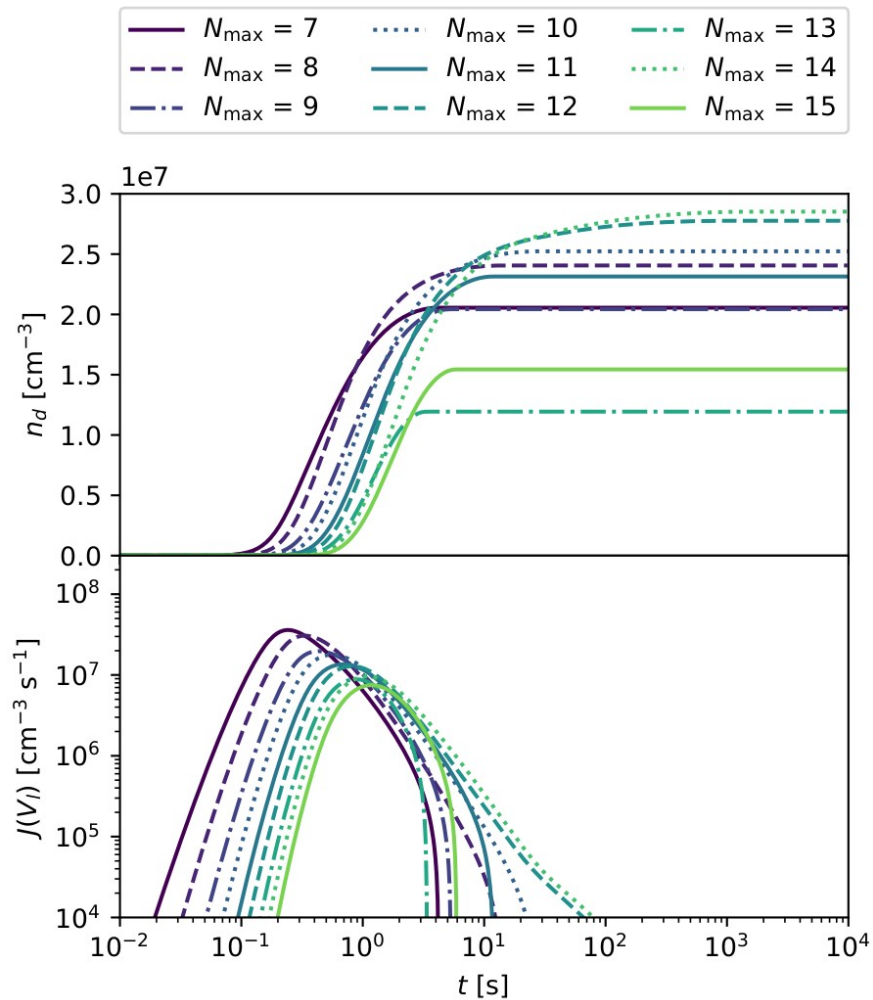
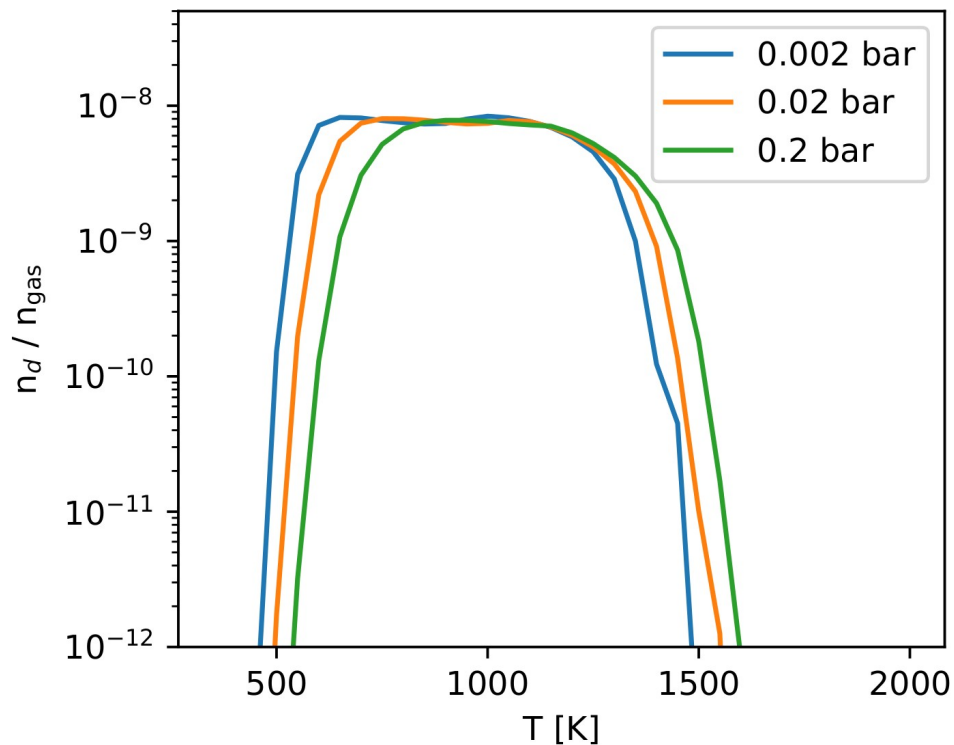
A catalytic  $\text{SiO-SiO}_2$  cycle impacts  $\text{CH}_4$  abundances



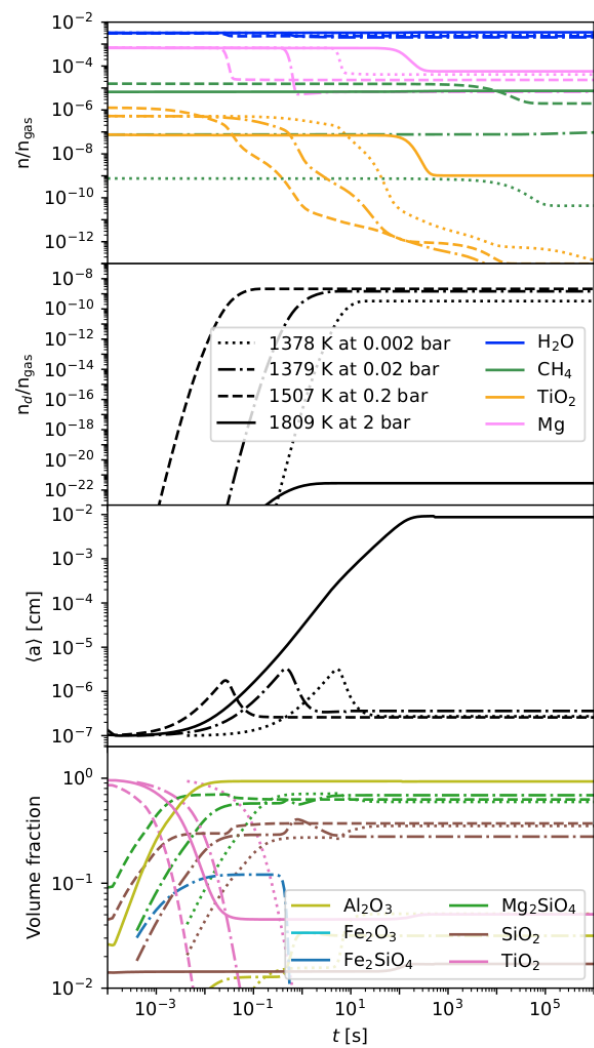
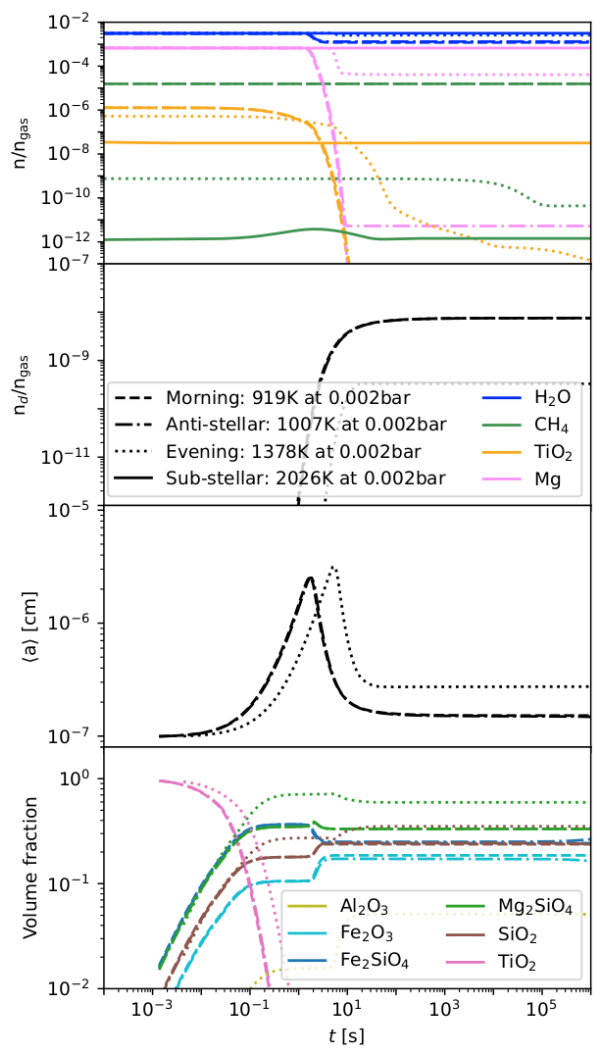
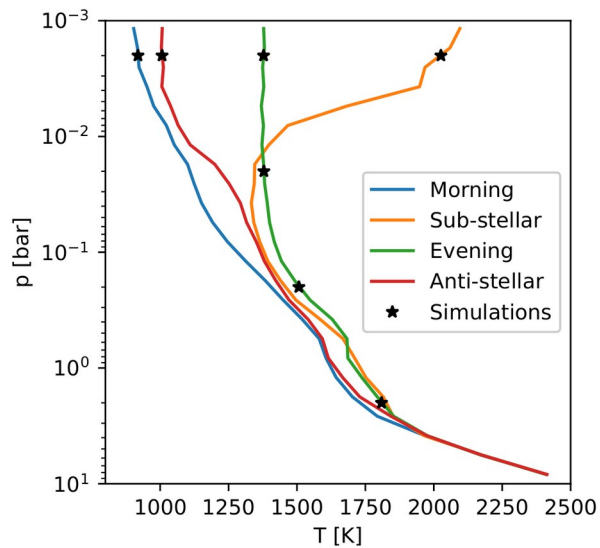
# Additional Slides



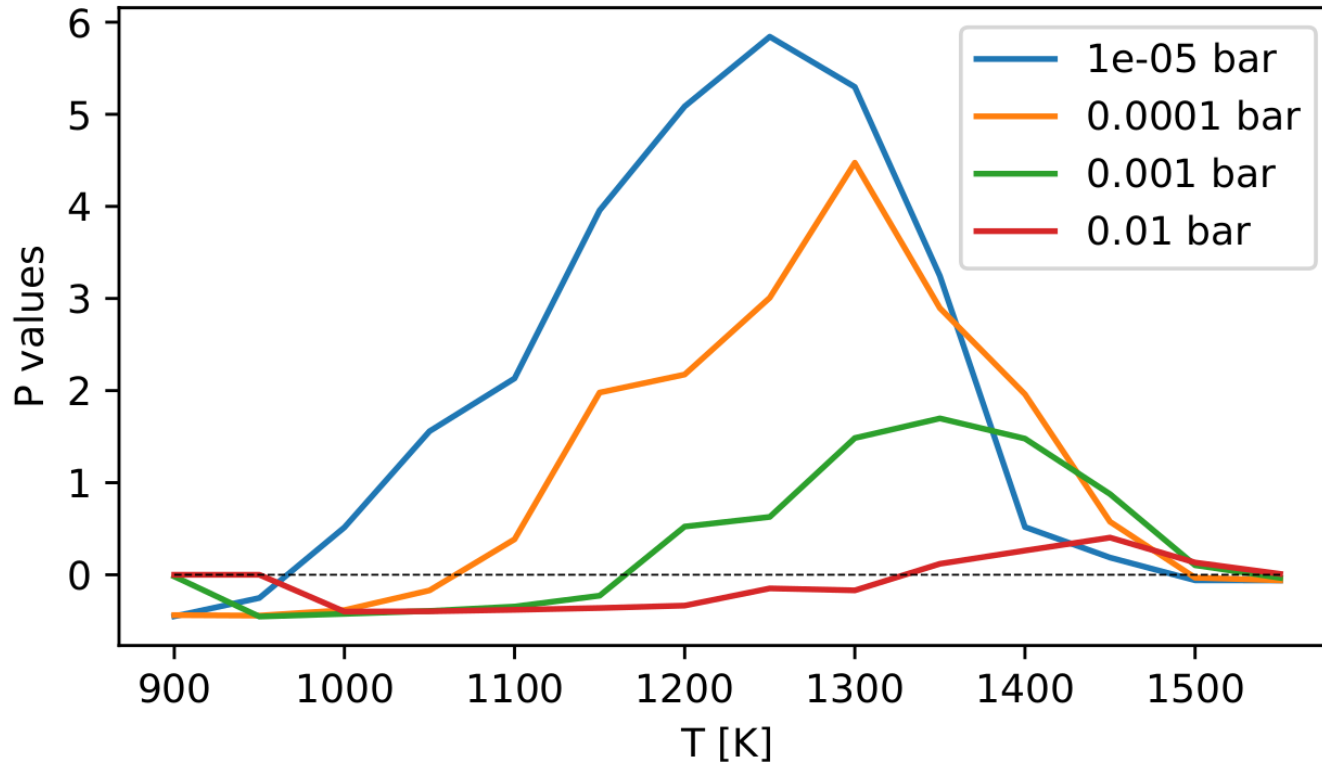
# Kinetic TiO<sub>2</sub> nucleation



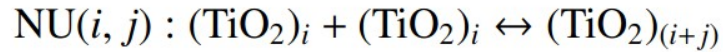
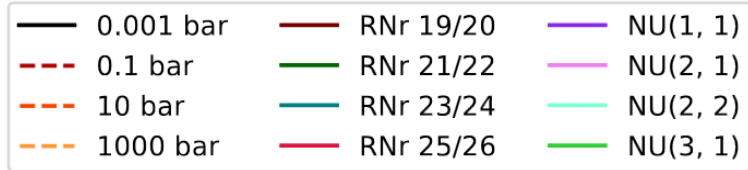
# HD 209458 b



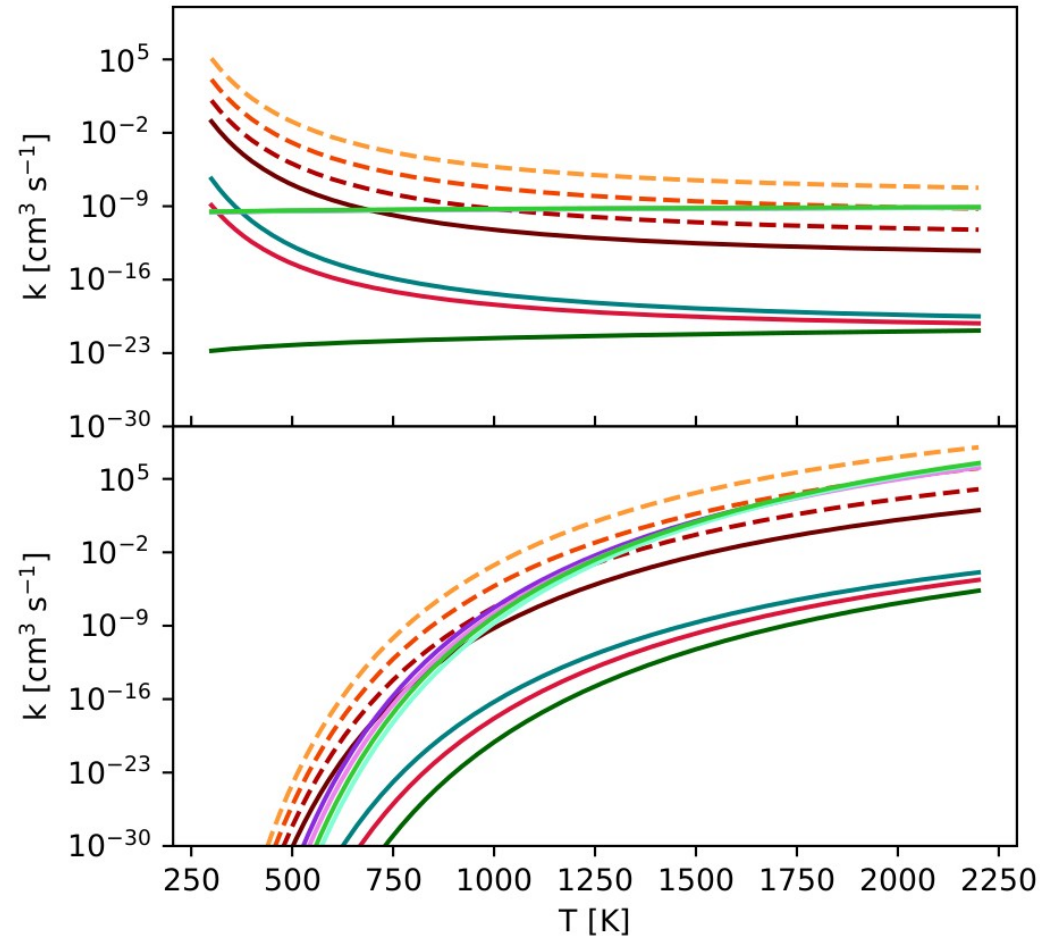
# SiO-SiO<sub>2</sub> cycle grid



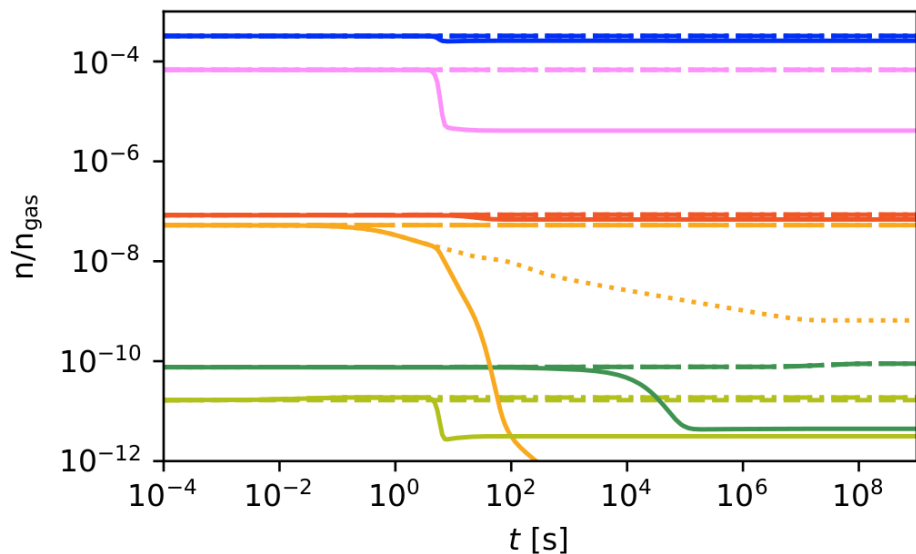
# Three Body Reactions



- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 19 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{TiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M}$         |
| 20 | $\text{TiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{M}$         |
| 21 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_3 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M}$     |
| 22 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_3 + \text{M}$     |
| 23 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_4 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_3 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M}$     |
| 24 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_3 + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_4 + \text{M}$     |
| 25 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_4 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_2 + (\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{M}$ |
| 26 | $(\text{TiO}_2)_2 + (\text{TiO}_2)_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow (\text{TiO}_2)_4 + \text{M}$ |



# Network Test

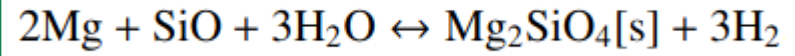


$$P(A, C_1, C_2) = \max\{|\log_{10}(n_{C_1}^A(t)/n_{C_2}^A(t))|, \forall t \in [10^{-4}, 10^9]\}$$

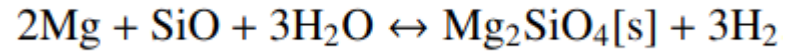
	H <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Mg
$P(A, \text{Equilibrium}, \text{VULCAN})$	4.84e-05	7.35e-03	1.58e-02	6.35e-02	-	-	-
$P(A, \text{VULCAN}, \text{VULCAN+})$	5.66e-11	1.34e-07	1.16e-05	1.17e-07	7.43e-04	5.25e-02	-
$P(A, \text{VULCAN+}, \text{VULCAN+poly})$	1.14e-07	1.32e-04	1.36e-04	1.32e-04	1.907	1.32e-04	-
$P(A, \text{VULCAN+poly}, \text{full})$	1.35e-03	0.107	9.52e-02	1.304	4.847	0.837	1.218

# Surface reaction

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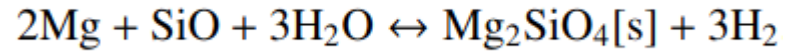
# Surface reaction



$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^{\circ}$$

# Surface reaction



$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

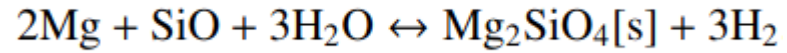
$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^\circ$$



$$S_r = \frac{R_f}{R_b}$$



# Surface reaction



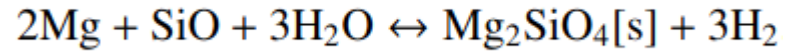
$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

$$\frac{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ}{n_{\text{SiO}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2}} \approx 1$$

$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^\circ$$

$$S_r = \frac{R_f}{R_b}$$

# Surface reaction



$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

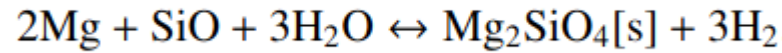
$$\frac{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ}{n_{\text{SiO}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2}} \approx 1$$

$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^\circ$$

$$S_r = \frac{R_f}{R_b}$$

$$S_r^2 = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2} = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3} \left[ \frac{n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \right] \approx \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3}{(n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \frac{(n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3}$$

# Surface reaction



$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

$$\frac{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ}{n_{\text{SiO}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2}} \approx 1$$

$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^\circ$$

$$S_r = \frac{R_f}{R_b}$$

$$S_r^2 = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2} = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3} \left[ \frac{n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \right] \approx \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3}{(n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \frac{(n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[ \sum_{j \in E} N_j G_j^\ominus + N_j k_B T_{\text{gas}} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_1 (C_1 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{SiO}})$$

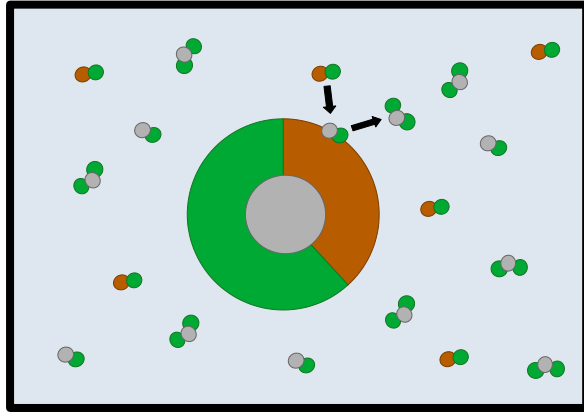
$$+ \lambda_2 (C_2 + 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})$$

$$+ \lambda_3 (C_3 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{A(N-1)})$$

$$+ \lambda_4 (C_4 - 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2})$$

$$+ \lambda_5 (C_5 - N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{A(N)}),$$

# Surface reaction



- Box with given abundances
- Only 1 surface reaction happens

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[ \sum_{j \in E} N_j G_j^\ominus + N_j k_B T_{\text{gas}} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_1 (C_1 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{SiO}})$$

$$+ \lambda_2 (C_2 + 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})$$

$$+ \lambda_3 (C_3 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{A(N-1)}})$$

$$+ \lambda_4 (C_4 - 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2})$$

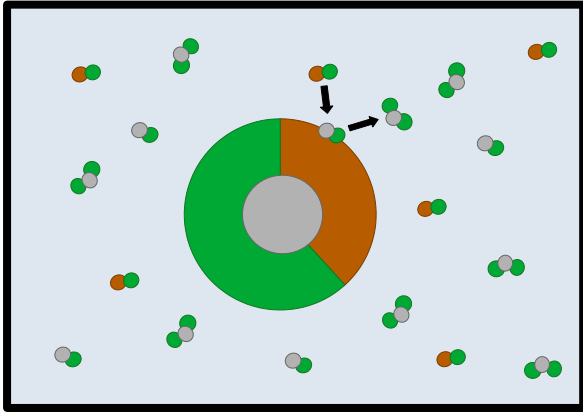
$$+ \lambda_5 (C_5 - N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{A(N)}}),$$



$$S_r^2 = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2} = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3} \left[ \frac{n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3}{n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \right] \approx \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3}{(n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \frac{(n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3}$$

# Surface reaction

$$S_r^{v_{\text{key}}} = \frac{\prod_{X \in F} n_X^{v_X}}{\prod_{Y \in D} n_Y^{v_Y}} \left( \frac{p^\ominus}{k_B T_{\text{gas}}} \right)^{l_Y - l_X} \exp \left( \frac{1}{k_B T_{\text{gas}}} \left[ G_A^\ominus - \sum_{X \in F} v_X G_X^\ominus + \sum_{Y \in D} v_Y G_Y^\ominus \right] \right)$$



- Box with given abundances
- Only 1 surface reaction happens

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[ \sum_{j \in E} N_j G_j^\ominus + N_j k_B T_{\text{gas}} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_1 (C_1 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{SiO}})$$

$$+ \lambda_2 (C_2 + 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})$$

$$+ \lambda_3 (C_3 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{A(N-1)}})$$

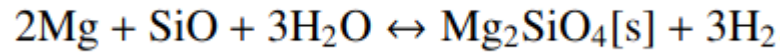
$$+ \lambda_4 (C_4 - 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2})$$

$$+ \lambda_5 (C_5 - N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{A(N)}}),$$

$$S_r^2 = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2} = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3} \left[ \frac{n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3}{n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \right] \approx \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3}{(n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \frac{(n_{\text{H}_2}^\ominus)^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\ominus)^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\ominus (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\ominus)^3}$$

# Surface reaction

$$S_r^{v_{\text{key}}} = \frac{\prod_{X \in F} n_X^{v_X}}{\prod_{Y \in D} n_Y^{v_Y}} \left( \frac{p^\ominus}{k_B T_{\text{gas}}} \right)^{l_Y - l_X} \exp \left( \frac{1}{k_B T_{\text{gas}}} \left[ G_A^\ominus - \sum_{X \in F} v_X G_X^\ominus + \sum_{Y \in D} v_Y G_Y^\ominus \right] \right)$$



$$R_f = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}$$

$$\frac{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ}{n_{\text{SiO}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ}{n_{\text{H}_2}} \approx 1$$

$$R_b = \left[ A_{A(N-1)} v_{\text{key}} \frac{1}{v_r^{\text{key}}} \right] n_{\text{key}}^\circ$$

$$S_r = \frac{R_f}{R_b}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[ \sum_{j \in E} N_j G_j^\ominus + N_j k_B T_{\text{gas}} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_1 (C_1 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{SiO}})$$

$$+ \lambda_2 (C_2 + 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})$$

$$+ \lambda_3 (C_3 + N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{A(N-1)})$$

$$+ \lambda_4 (C_4 - 3N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{\text{H}_2})$$

$$+ \lambda_5 (C_5 - N_{\text{Mg}} - 2N_{A(N)}),$$

$$S_r^2 = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2} = \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3} \left[ \frac{n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3 (n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3 (n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \right] \approx \frac{(n_{\text{Mg}})^2 n_{\text{SiO}} (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^3}{(n_{\text{H}_2})^3} \frac{(n_{\text{H}_2}^\circ)^3}{(n_{\text{Mg}}^\circ)^2 n_{\text{SiO}}^\circ (n_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^\circ)^3}$$