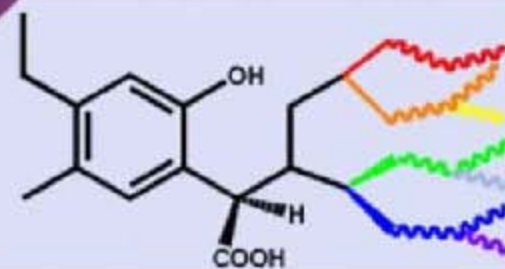


# HiT2010 Conference



First International Conference on Humics-based Innovative Technologies

«Natural and Synthetic Polyfunctional Compounds and Nanomaterials in  
Medicine and Biomedical Technologies»

November 4-8, 2010, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

***N. Hertkorn, Ph. Schmitt-Kopplin, et al.,***

*HelmholtzZentrum Muenchen  
German Research Center for Environmental Health  
Institute of Ecological Chemistry,  
85758 Neuherberg, Germany*

**HelmholtzZentrum münchen**  
Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt



**BRUKER  
DALTONICS**



SOUTH CAROLINA



AWI



THE HEBREW  
UNIVERSITY OF  
JERUSALEM



HELMHOLTZ  
GEMEINSCHAFT



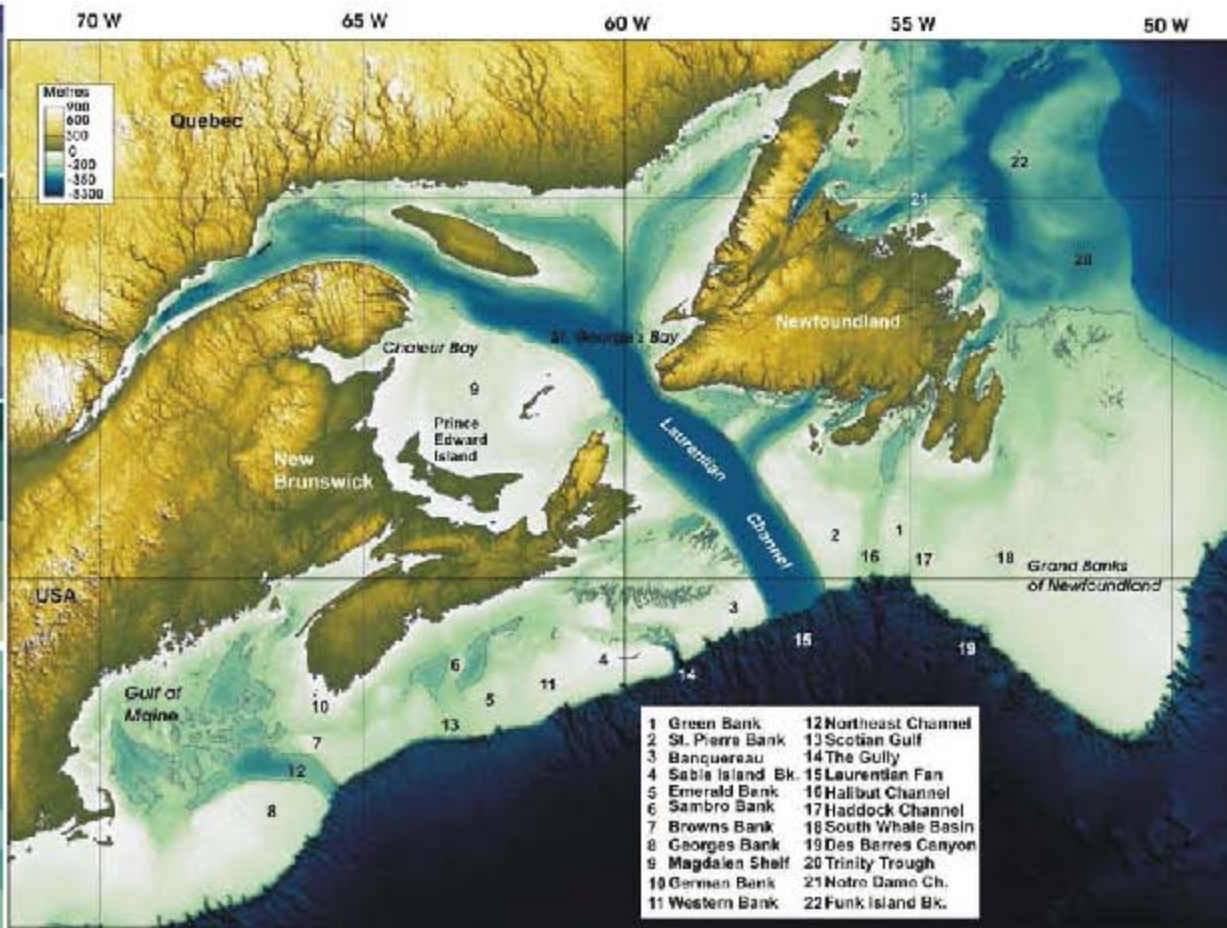
# ten-year-vision:

authentic molecular representation of complex natural systems

2005



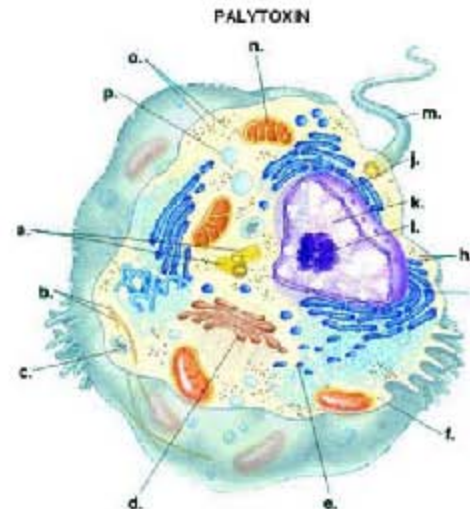
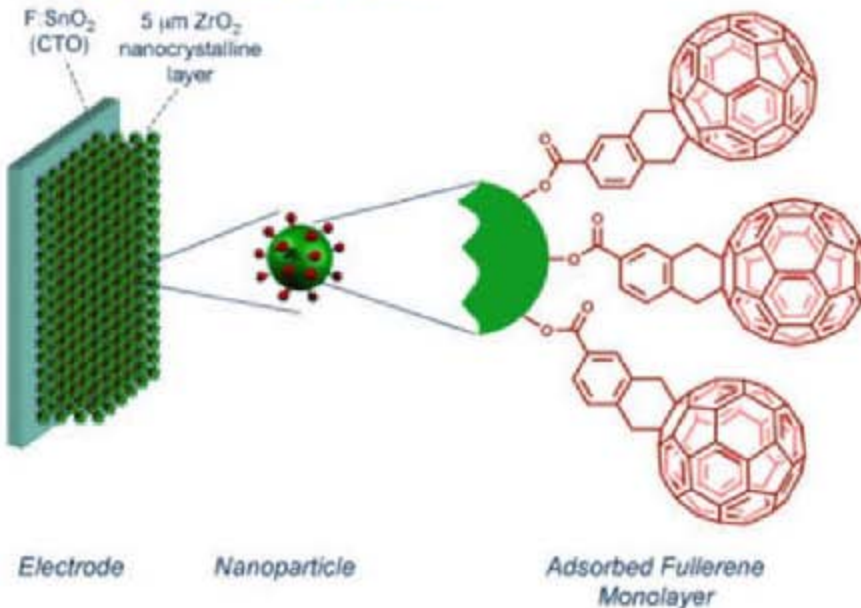
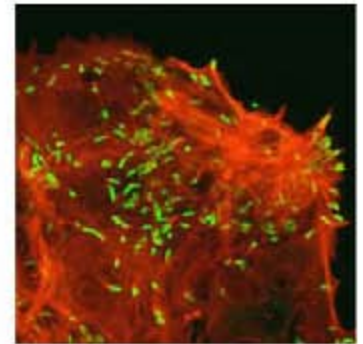
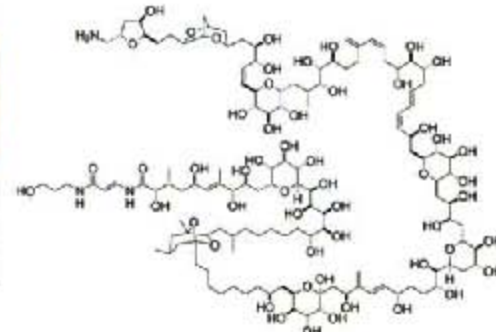
2015





# complex systems

any "**non-repetitive**" *non-protein*  
natural or synthetic material



# isolation of natural organic matter

*method of NOM isolation defines the material itself more than anything else*  
*retain organics, discard anything else.....*

*extensive structural selectivity in case of chemical methods*

physical and chemical extraction



extraction / adsorption

XAD family

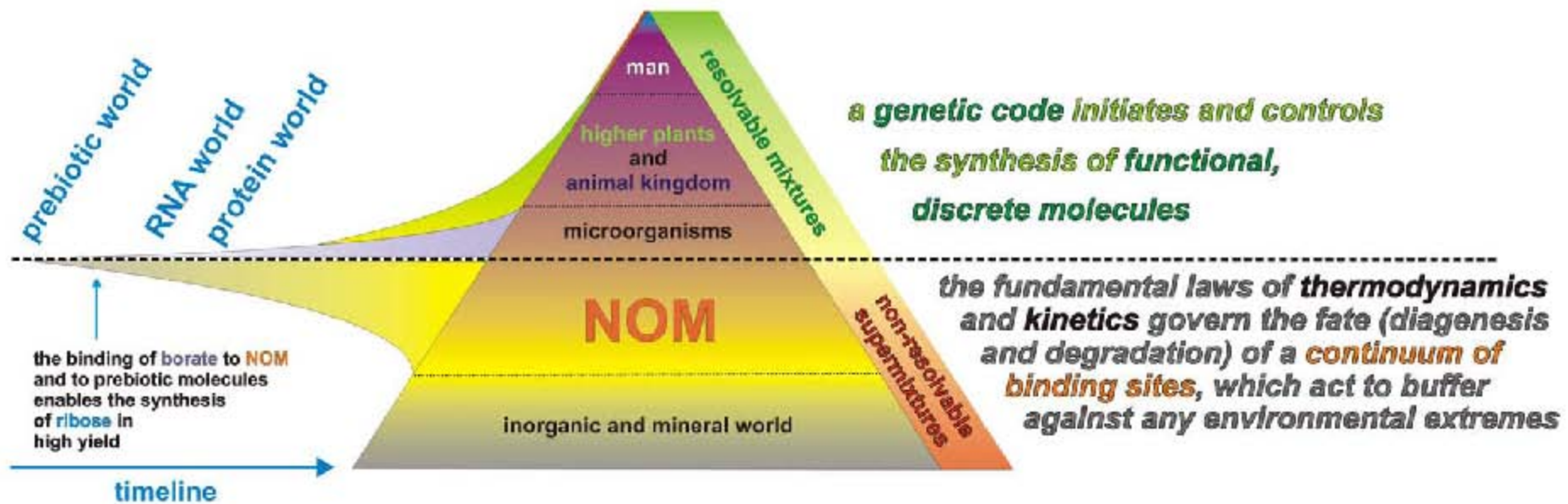
solid phase extraction **SPE**

(PPL, C18, C8, C2, CN-E, etc....)

tangential ultrafiltration **UF**

reverse osmosis / electrodialysis **ROED**

# coevolution of biochemistry and natural organic matter (NOM)

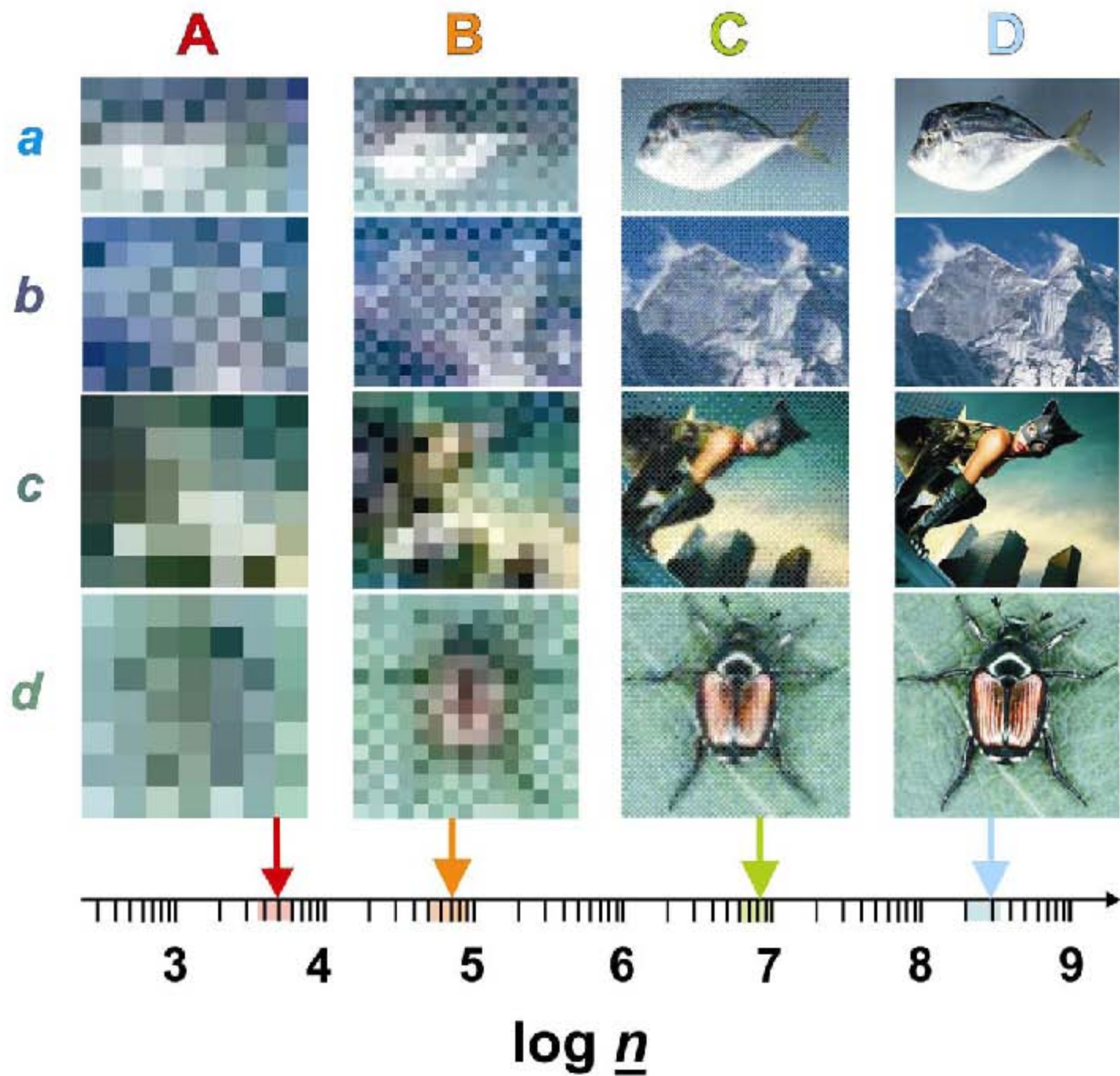




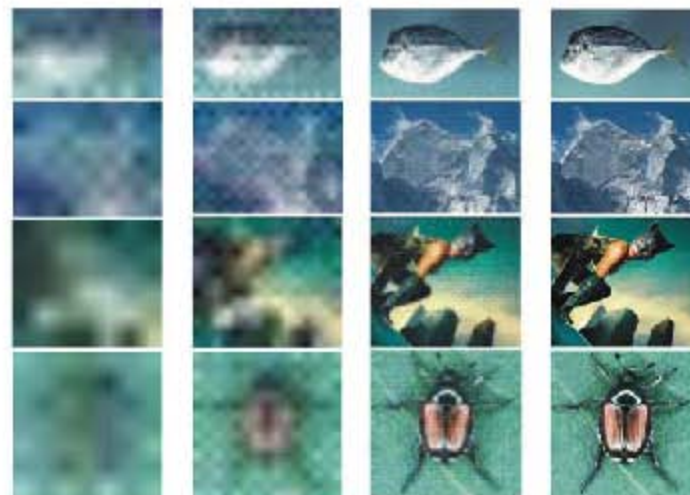
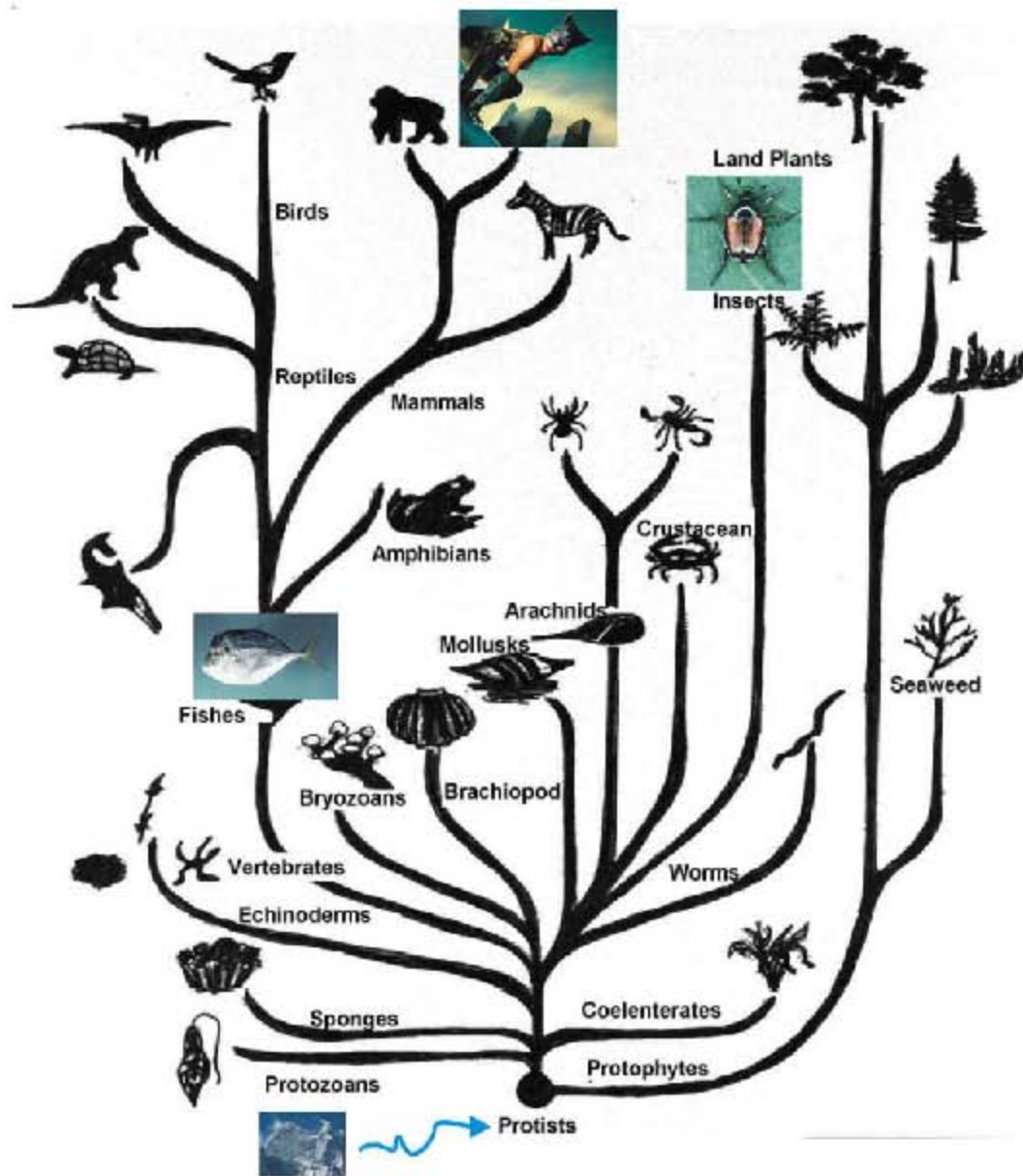


**UV/VIS titration**  
**elemental analysis**

why do all NOM  
appear to be  
so similar ?



# sufficient resolution allows meaningful analysis of processes





# aspects of molecular complexity

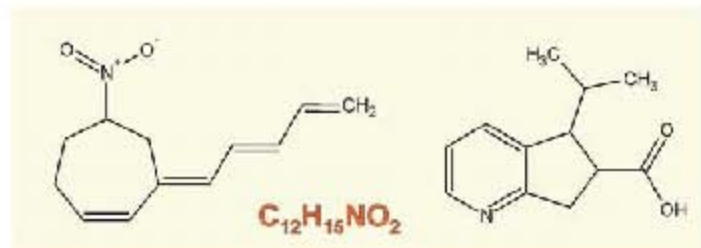
compositional



molecular formula

*FTICR mass spectrometry*

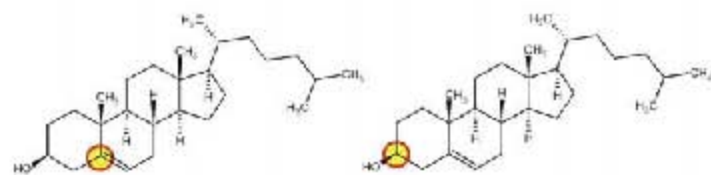
isomeric structures



atomic connectivities and spatial orientation

*NMR spectroscopy*

isotopomers



positions of (stable) isotopes within molecules

*NMR spectroscopy*

# introduction

$$h\nu(^{133}\text{Cs}) = 9.192.631.770 \text{ Hz}$$

**high precision frequency measurements** are  
manna from heaven for **molecular-level  
resolution structural analysis**



*Nobel price 2005 (MPI Munich)*



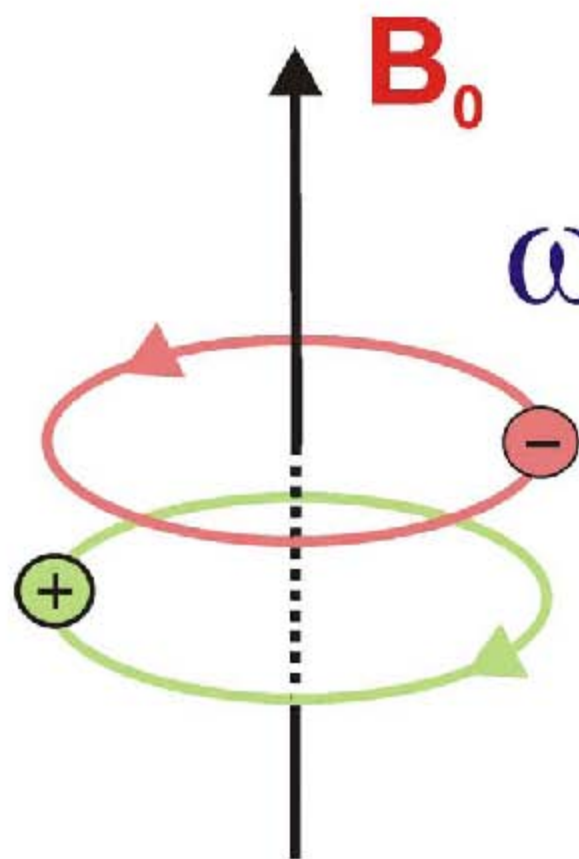
*today:*

*molecular-level perception of natural  
ecosystems requires educated handling  
of huge data sets in excess of  $10^9$  "pixels"*



# FTICR mass spectrometry / molecular process

orbital frequency  $\nu_c$  directly relates to  $m/z$

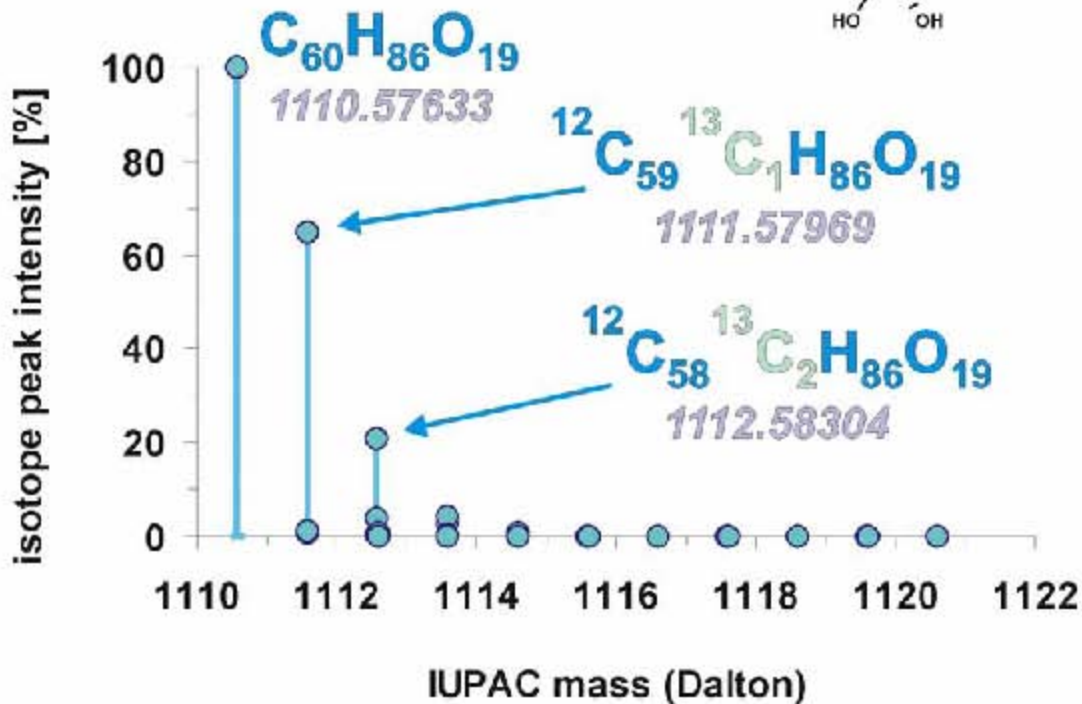
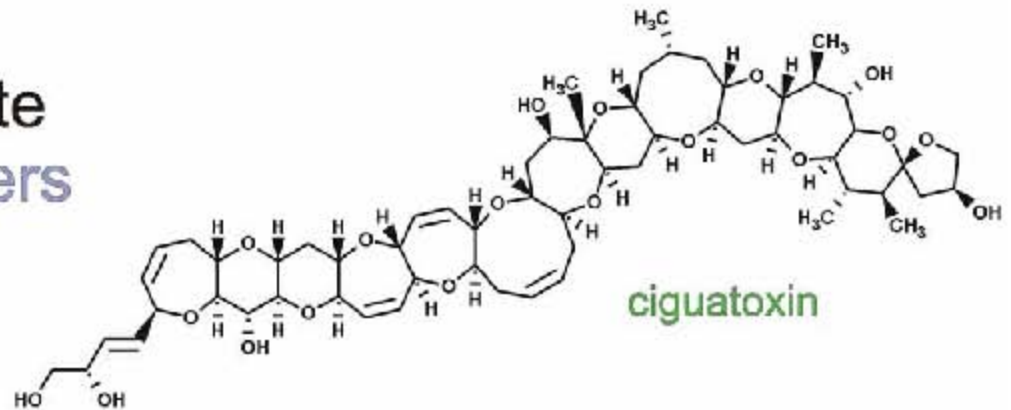


$$\omega_c = z \cdot B_0 / m$$

$$\omega_c = \frac{\nu_c}{2\pi} = \frac{1.535611 B_0 \cdot z}{m}$$

# FTICR mass spectrometry / molecular process

FTICR mass spectra indicate  
**molecular ions** of isotopomers

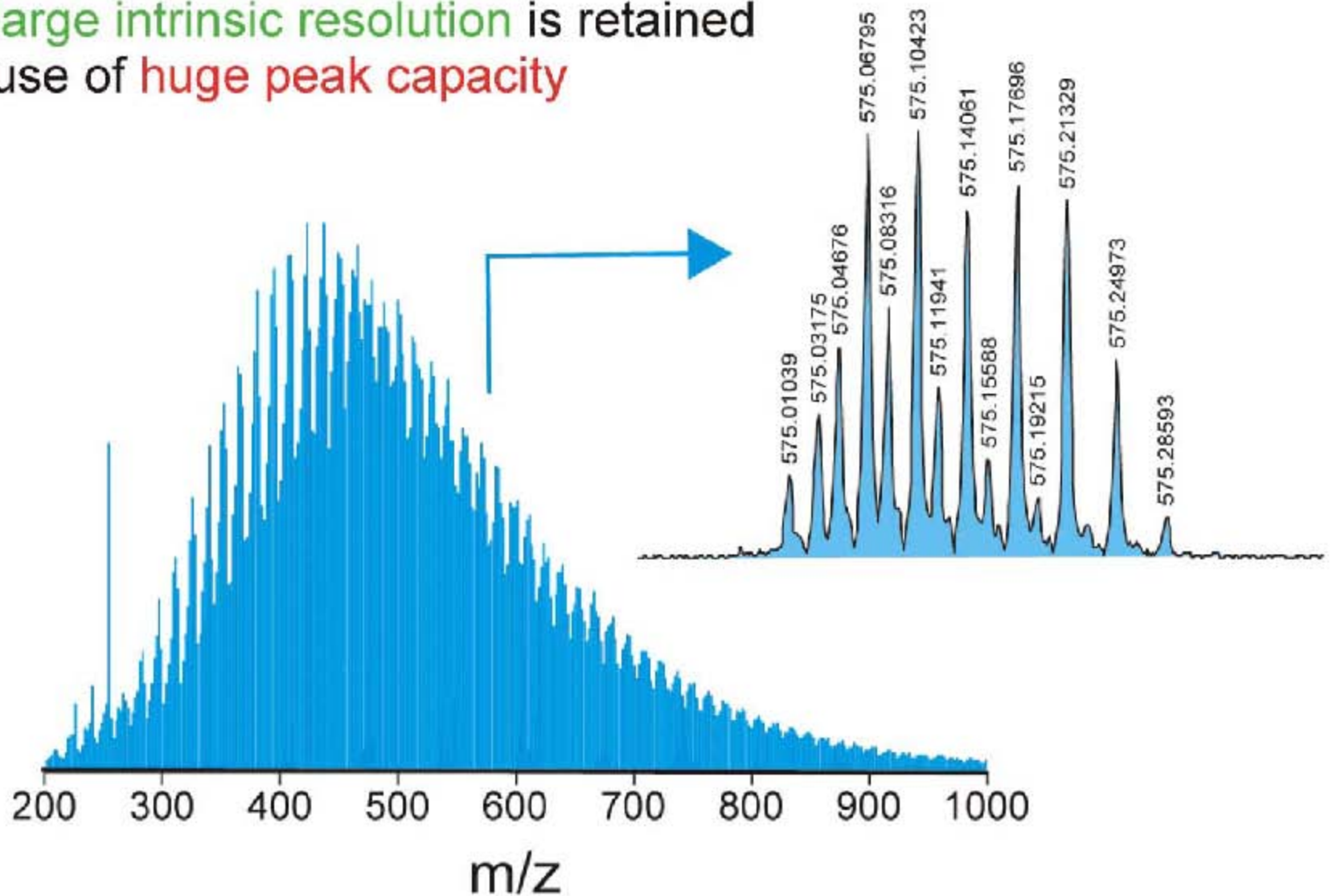


IUPAC mass of ciguatoxin  
 $C_{60}H_{86}O_{19} = 1111.313$  Da  
(reflecting average isotopic composition)



# FTICR mass spectrometry / complex system

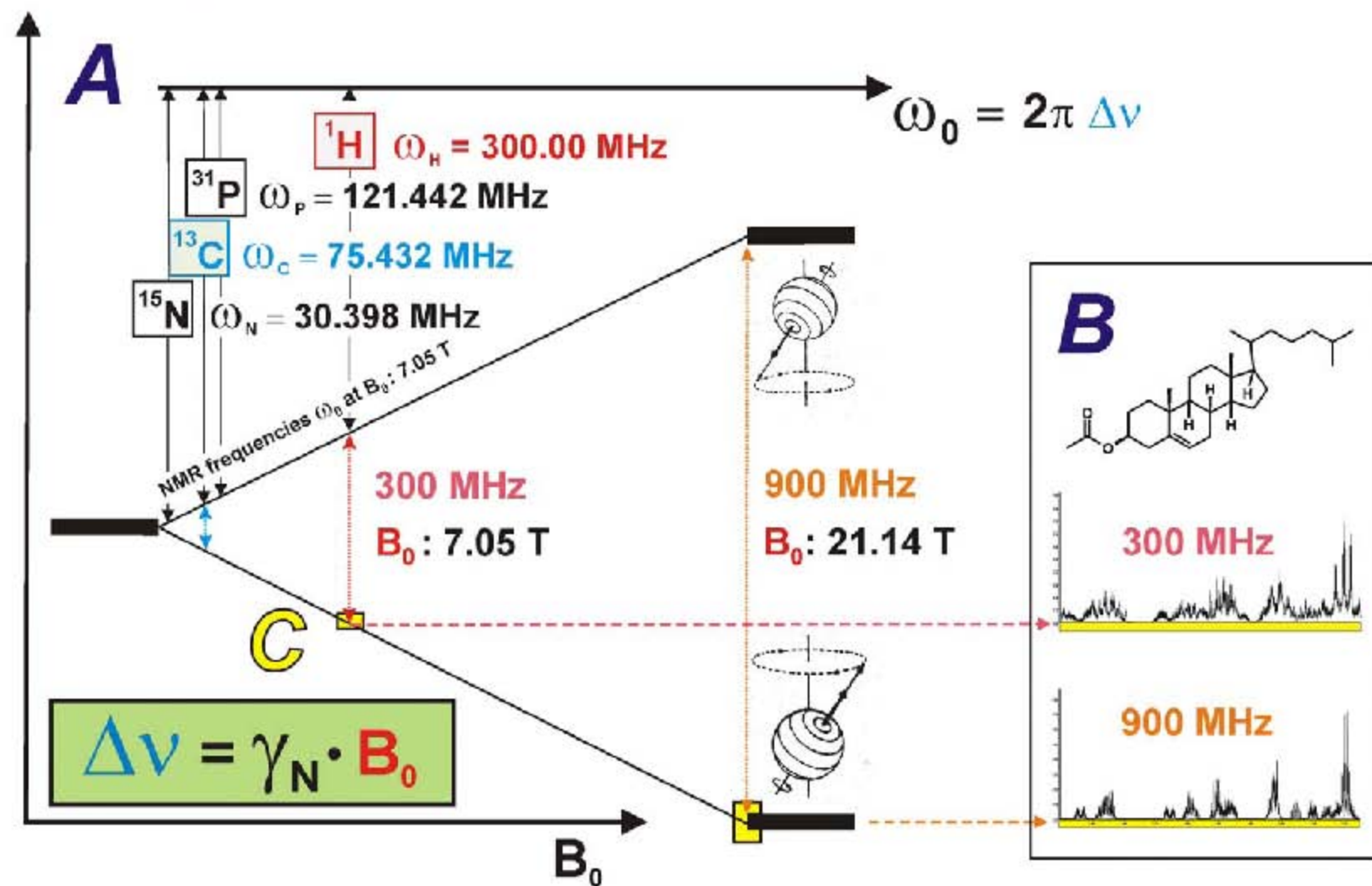
very large intrinsic resolution is retained  
because of huge peak capacity



# NMR spectroscopy / atomic process

transitions among individual atomic energy levels

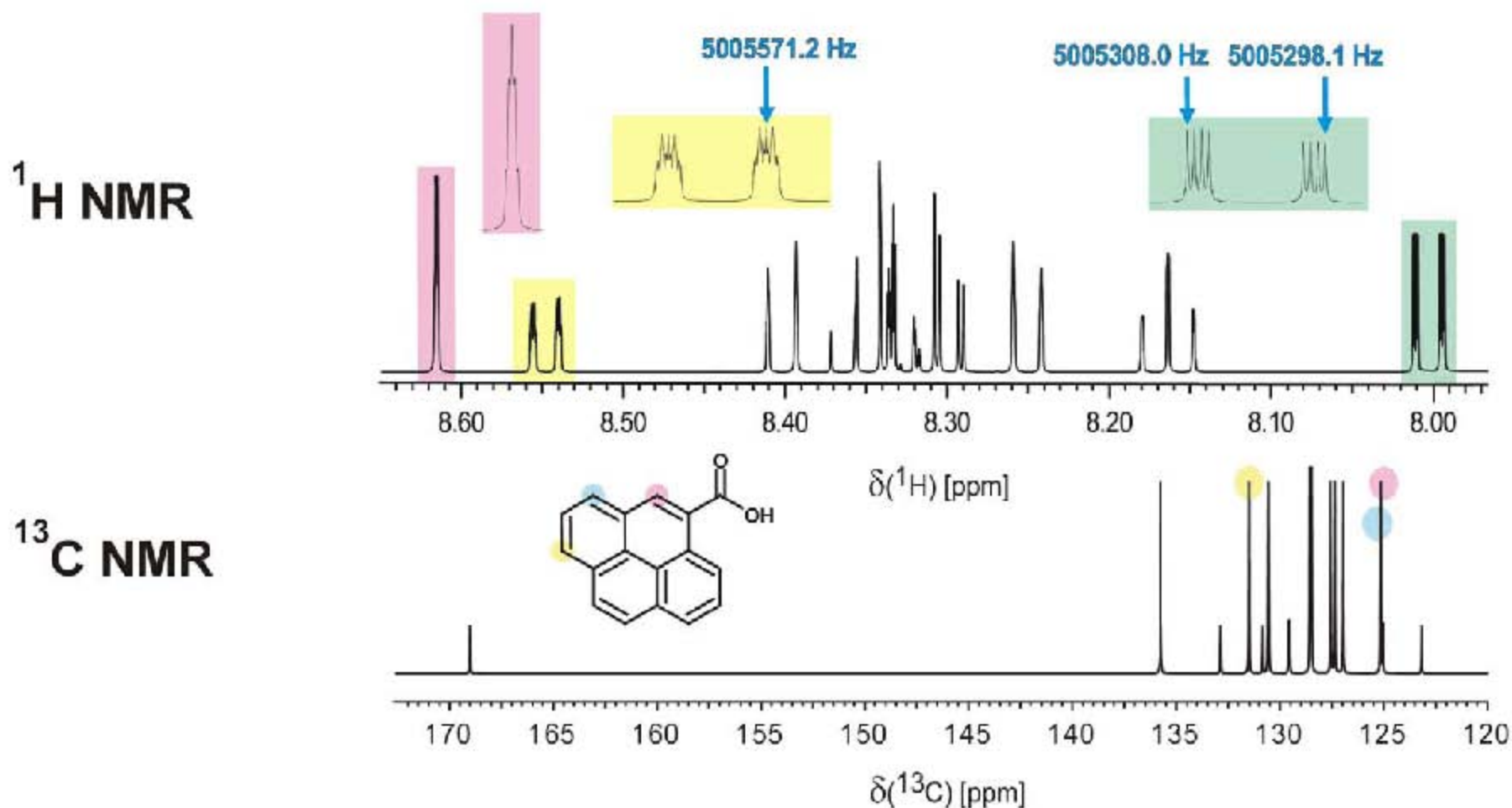
$$\Delta E = h \Delta \nu$$





# NMR spectroscopy / molecular process

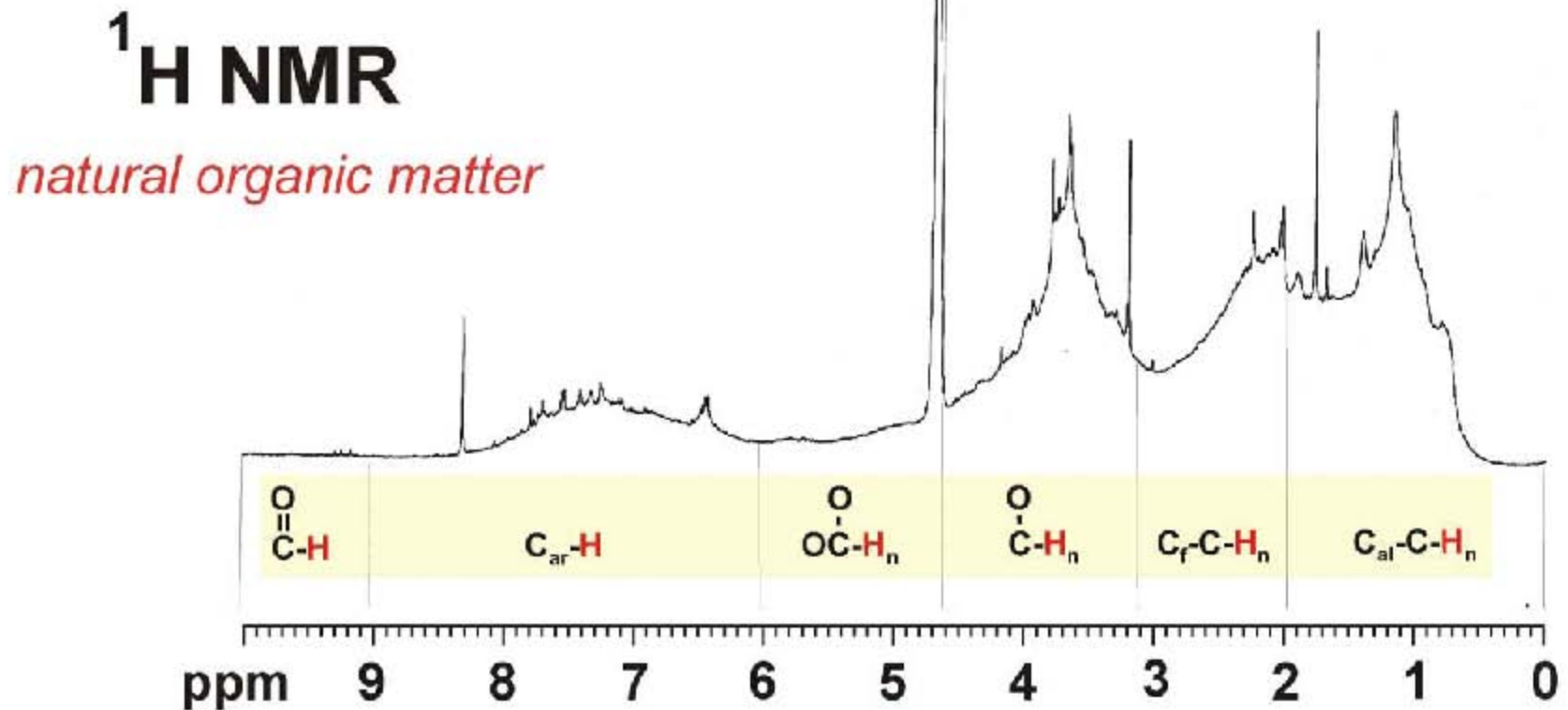
atomic signatures in molecules allow  
unambiguous assembly of (isomeric) structures



# NMR spectroscopy / complex systems

NMR section integrals indicate fundamental substructure regimes

massive overlap interferes with resolution





the total space of  
molecular structures

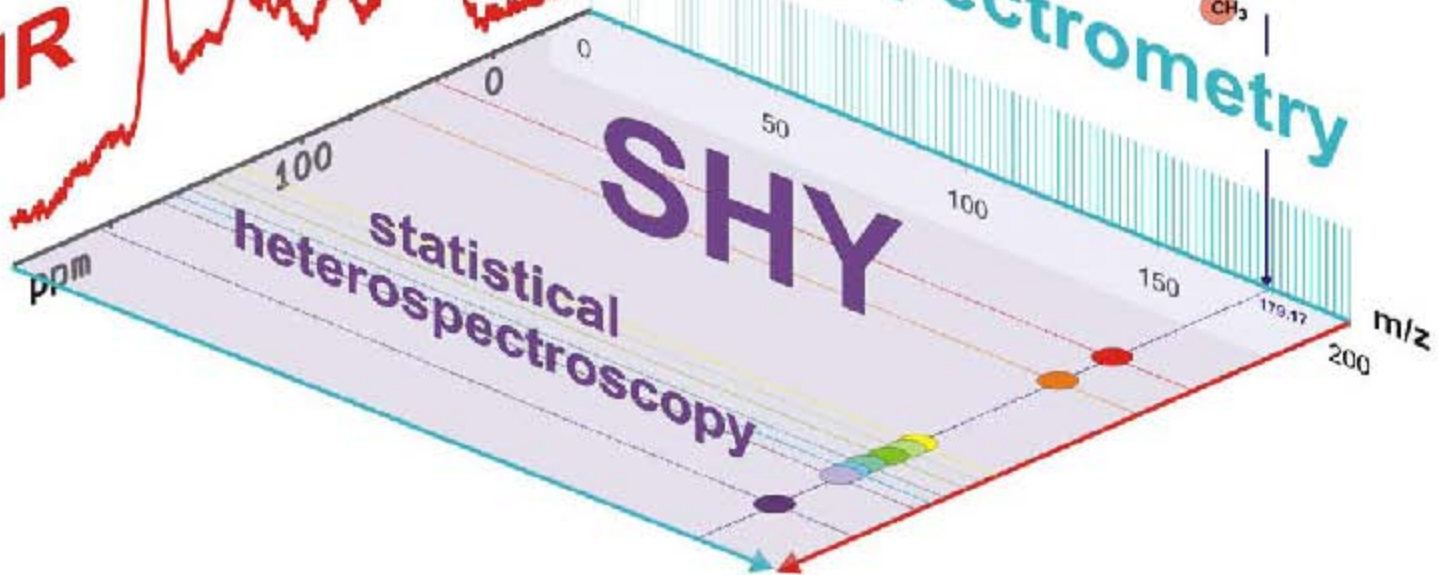
$10^{60-200}$

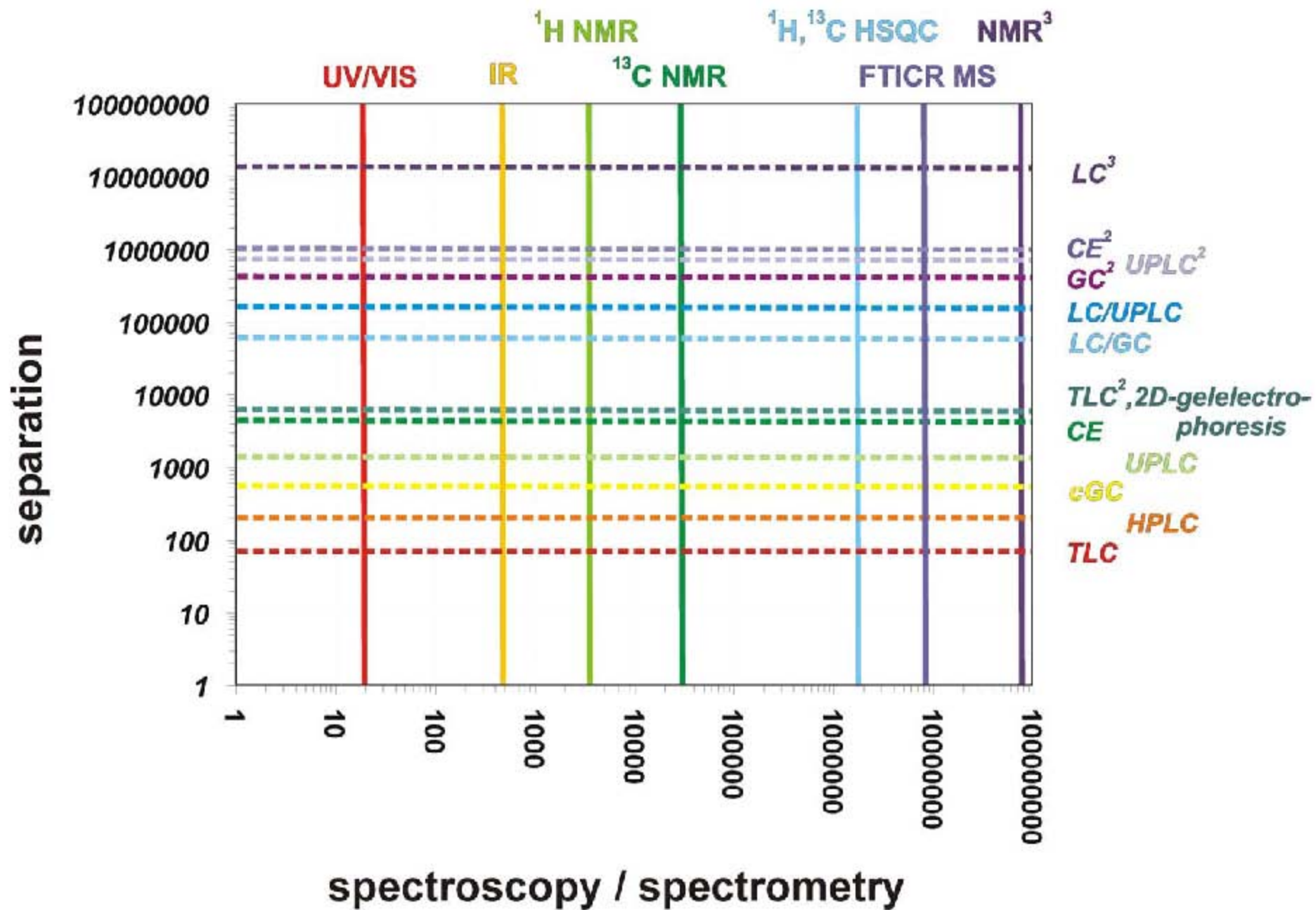
isotope-specific  
projection of  
atomic environments

isomer-filtered projection results in  
the compositional space

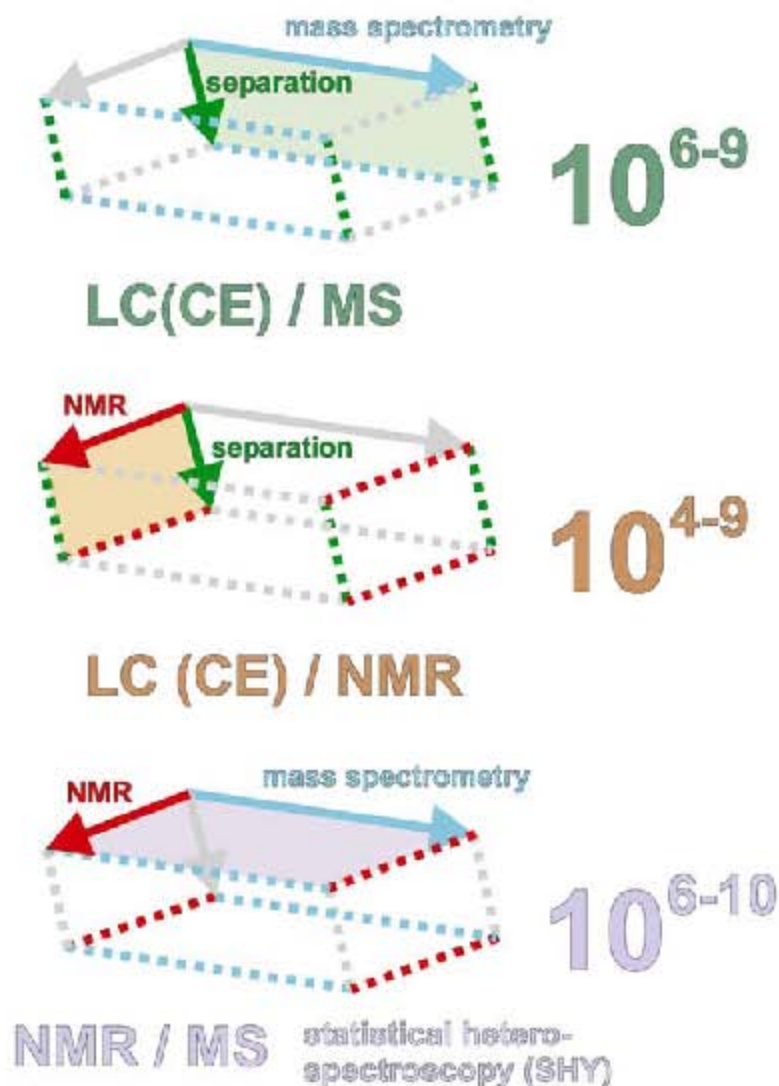
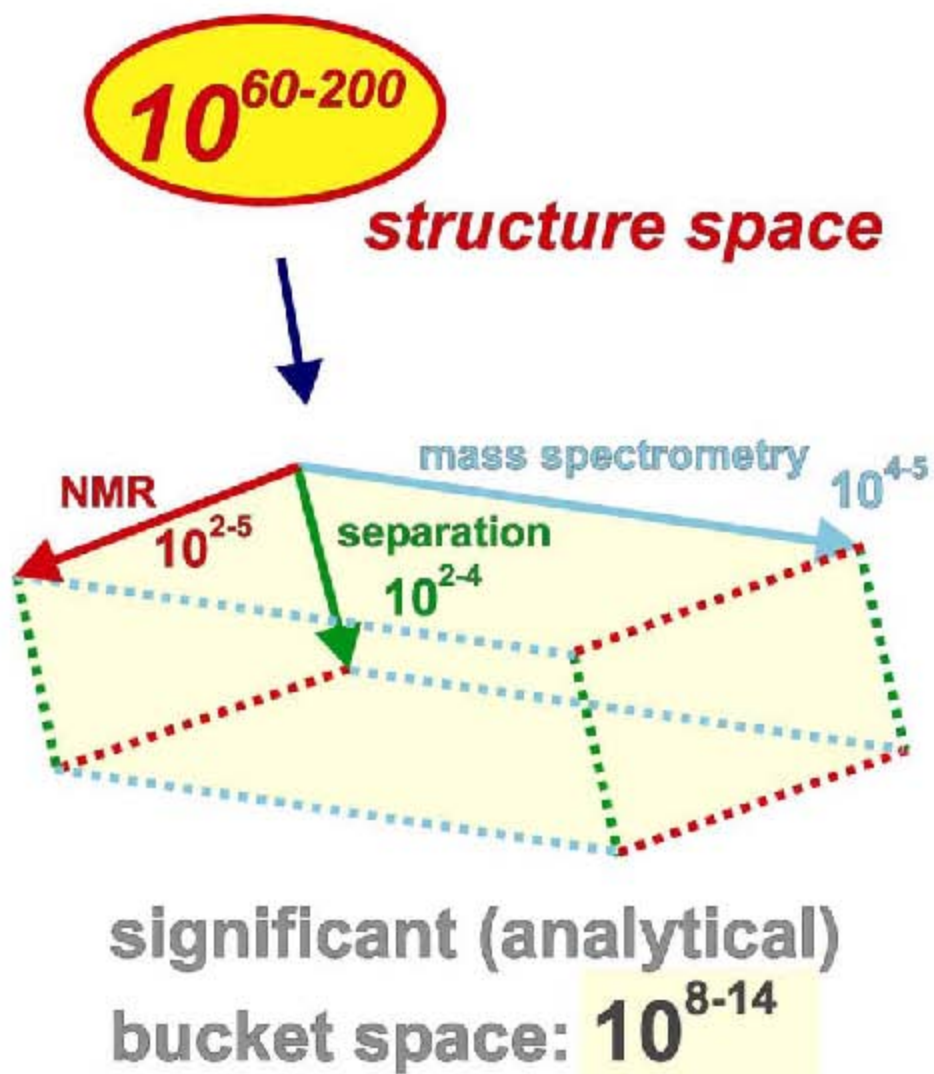
NMR

mass spectrometry

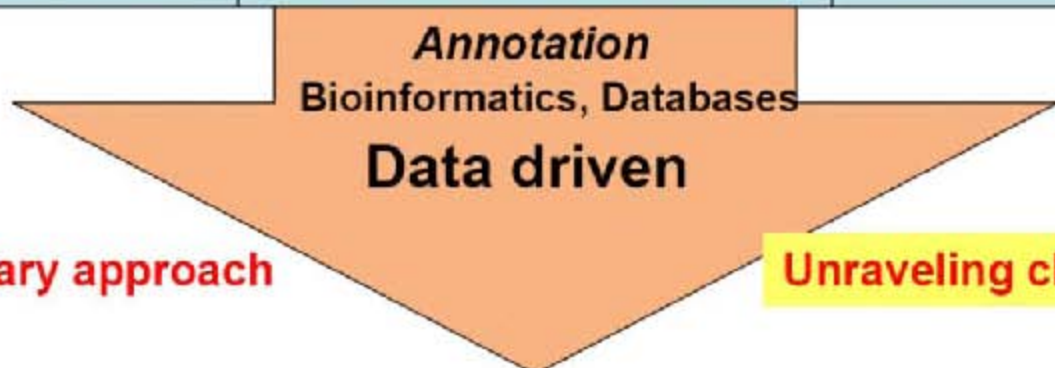
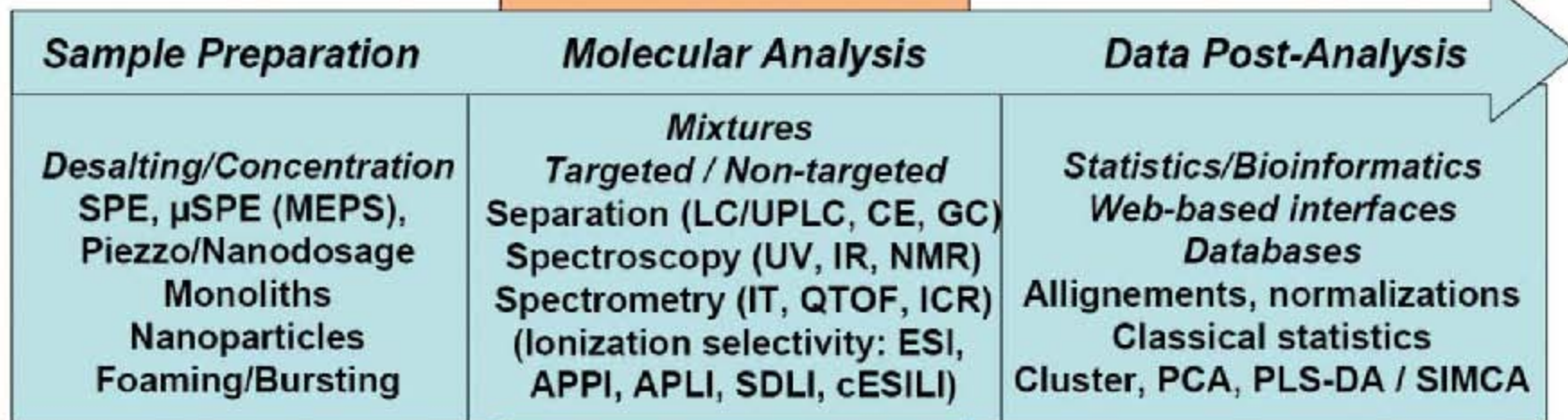
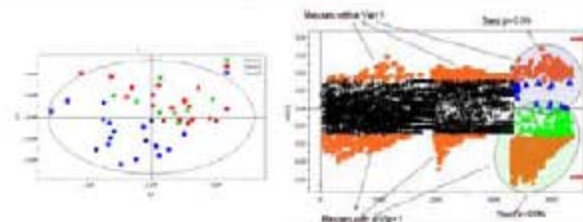
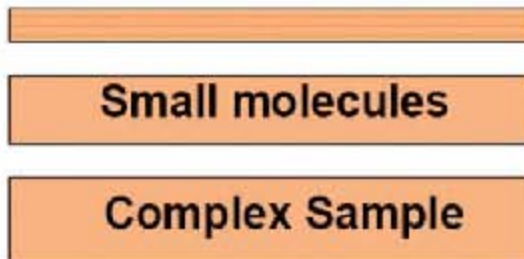
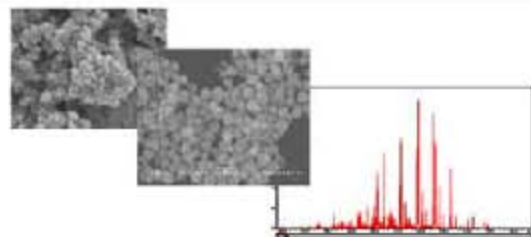




# our current capacity to depict molecular dissimilarity





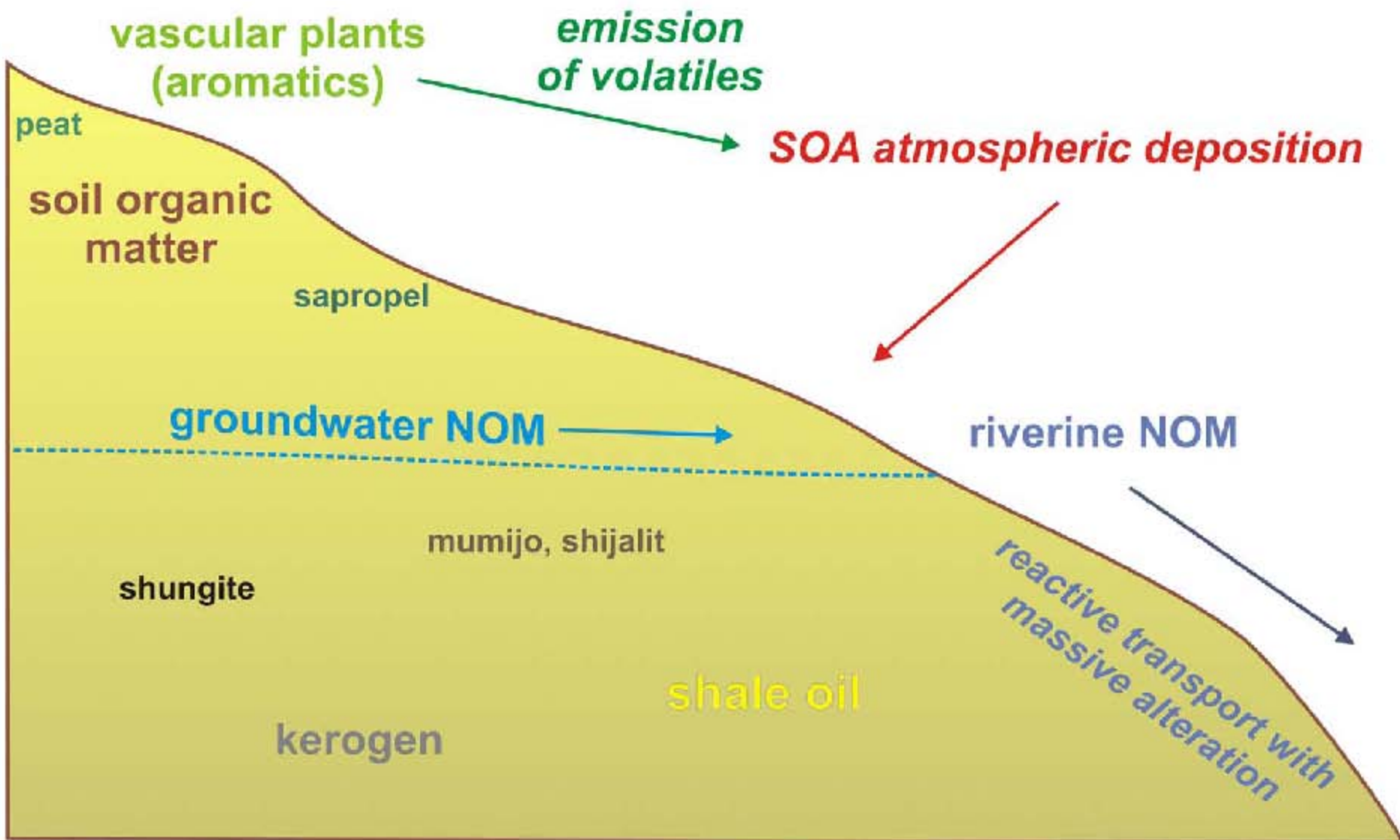


Multidisciplinary approach

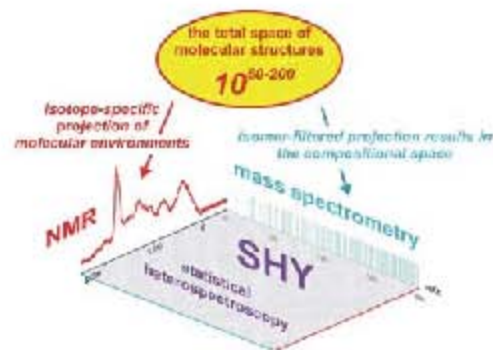
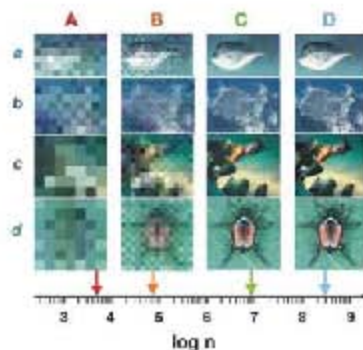
Unraveling chemical complexity

$\Delta$ Metabonomics, Systems Biology

# terrestrial organic matter



...what is the utility of these novel tools....?



**High-resolution organic structural spectroscopy** already has advanced crucial **paradigm shifts** in structural characterization of **natural organic matter (NOM)**

*Hertkorn et al., Anal. Bioanal. Chem. 2006, 389, 1311-1327*

- discovery of **carboxyl-rich alicyclic molecules (CRAM)** as **major constituents** of **NOM**

*Hertkorn et al., GCA 2006, 71, 2995-3010*

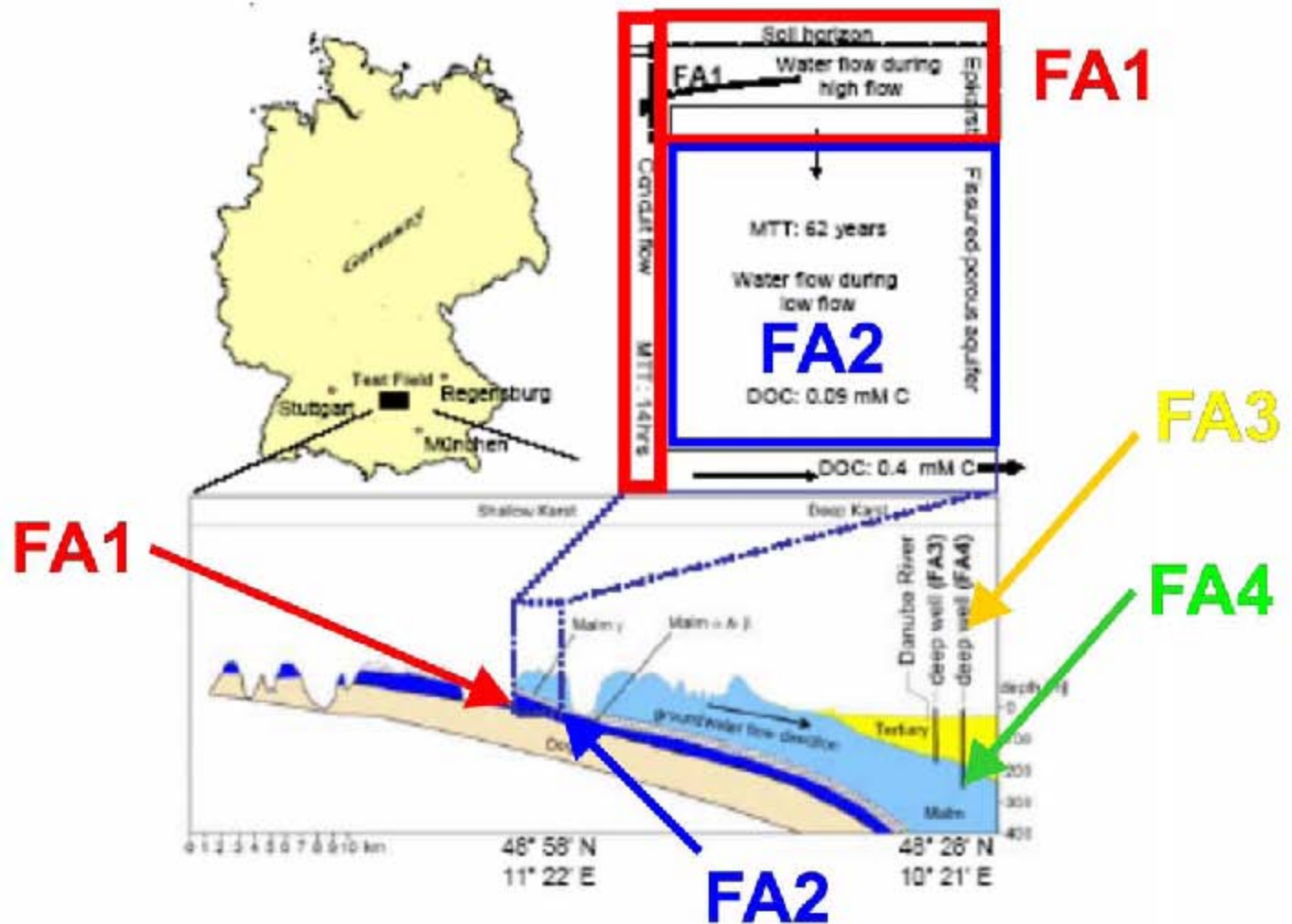
*Lam et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2007, 54, 8240-8247*

- large-scale **molecular turnover** of **NOM** on **short time scales**

*Einsiedl et al., GCA, 2007, 71, 5474-5482*

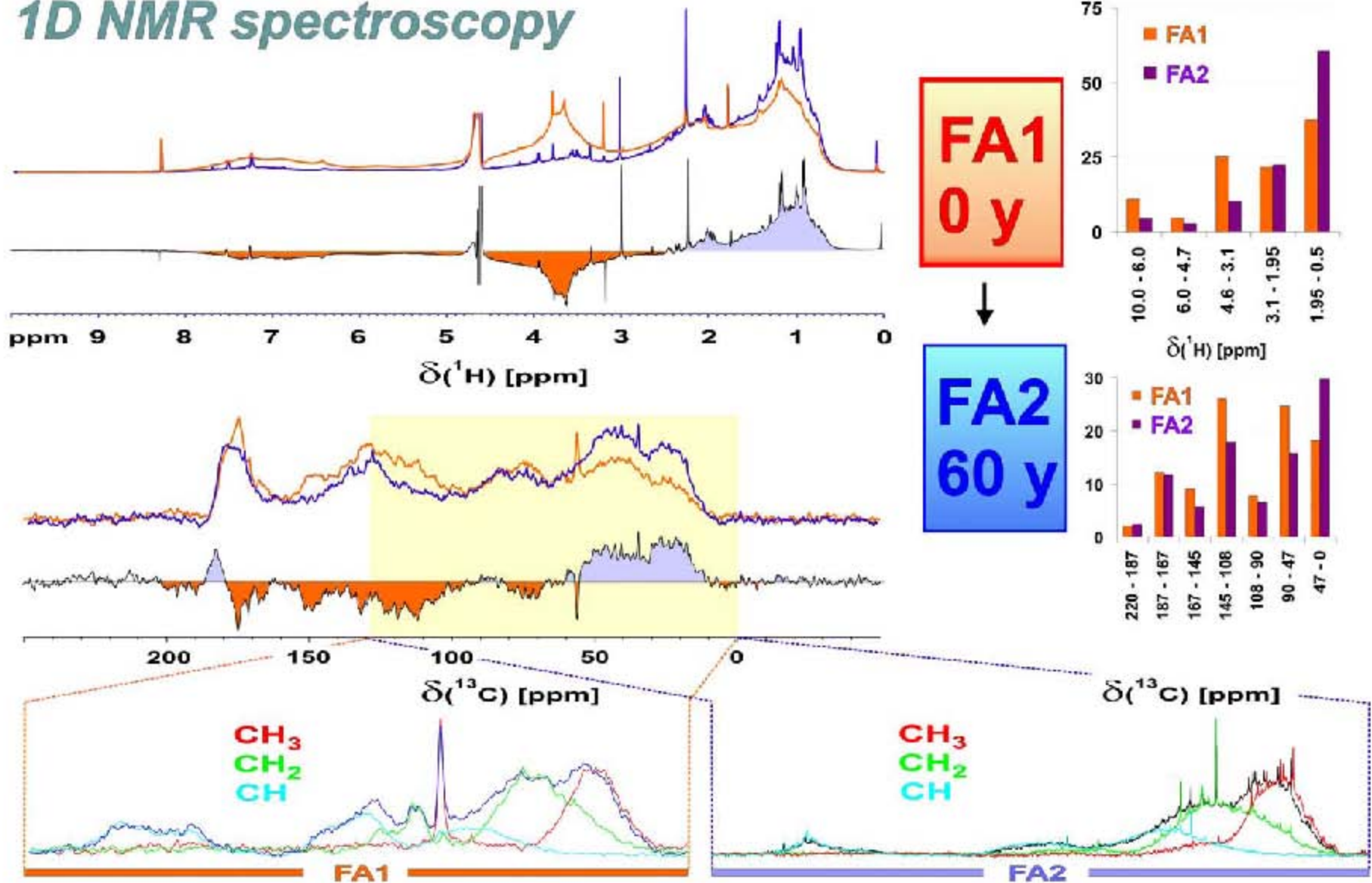


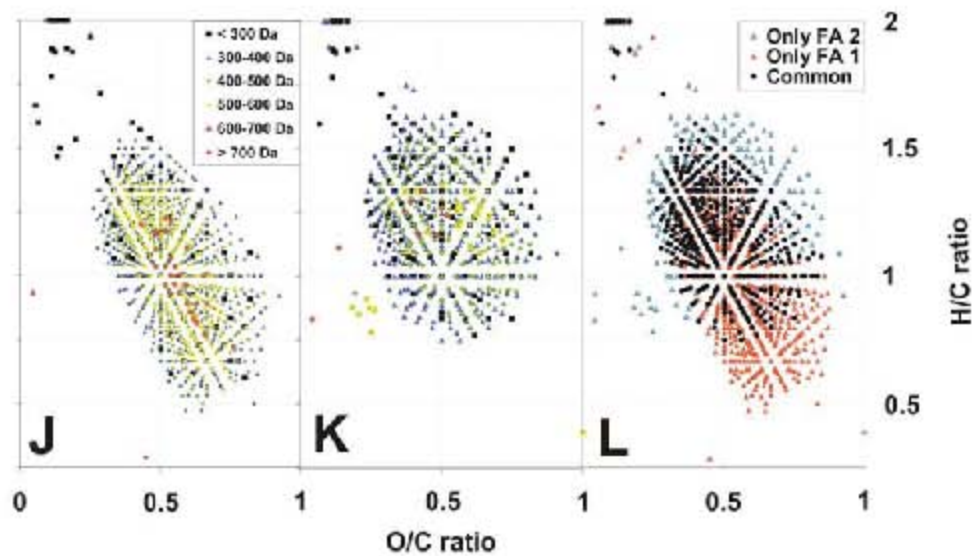
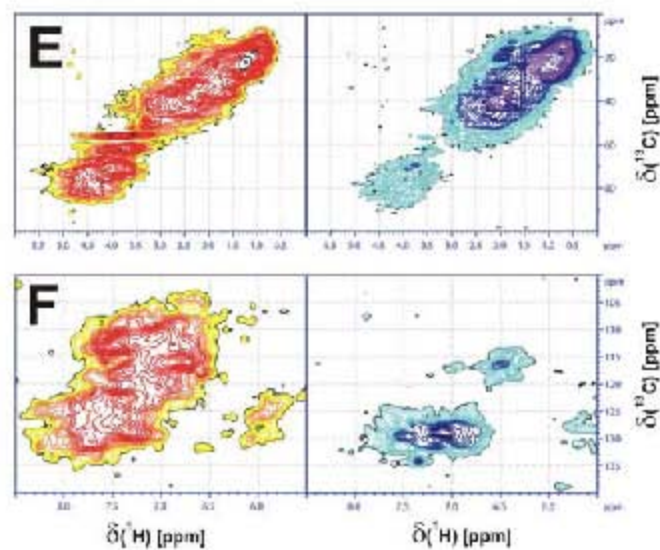
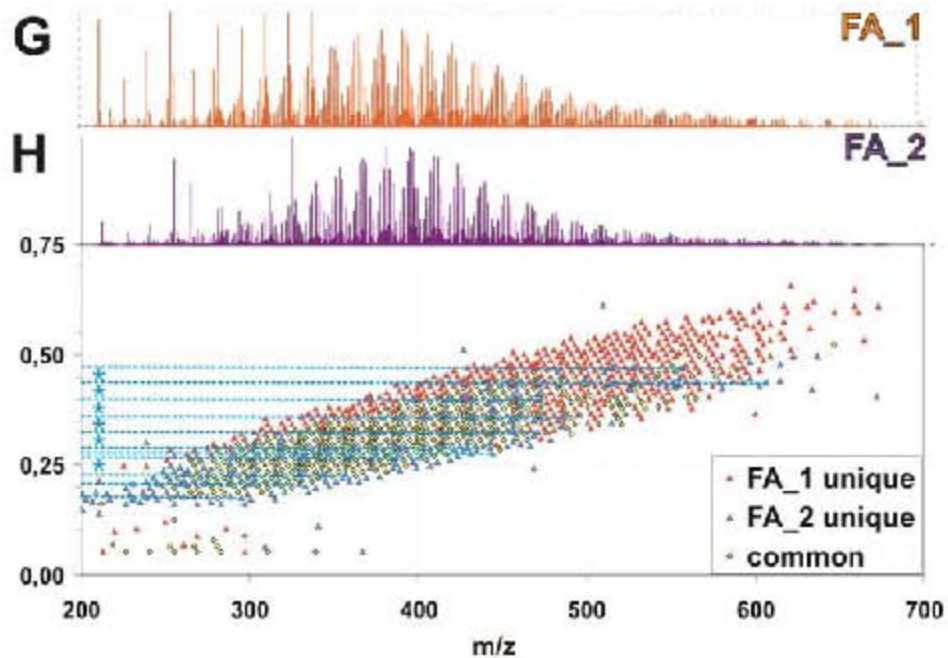
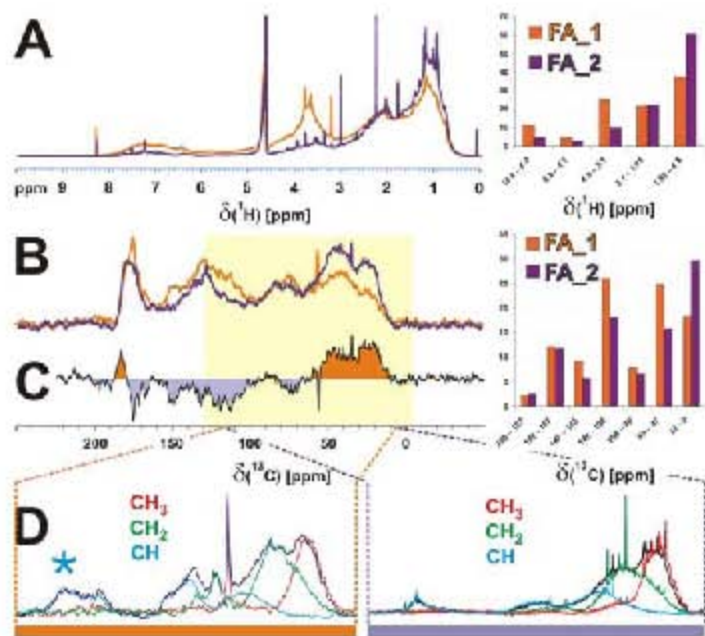
# field study: evolution of groundwater during 13000 years



# time evolution of groundwater: 60 years

## 1D NMR spectroscopy





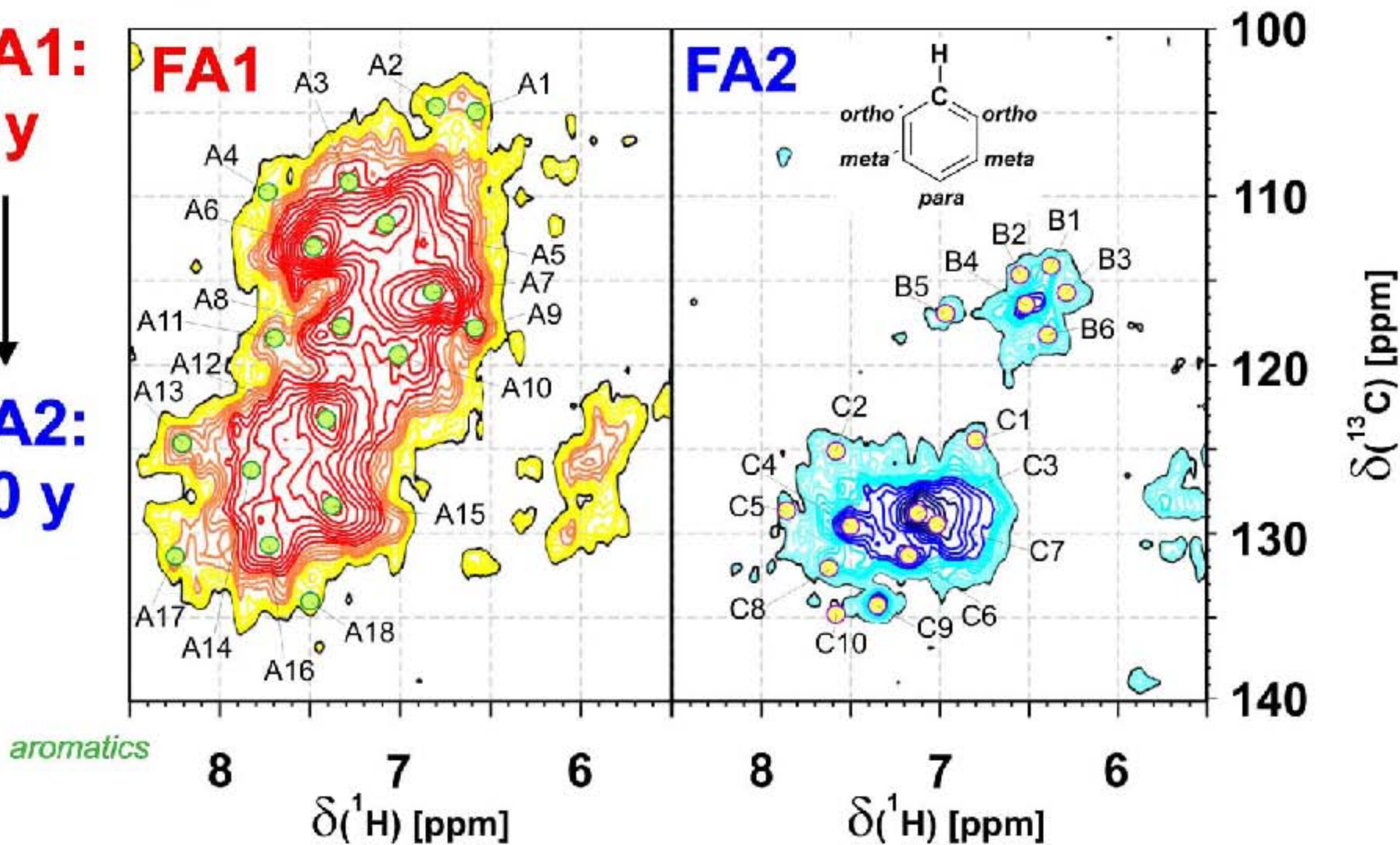


# evolution of groundwater during 60 years

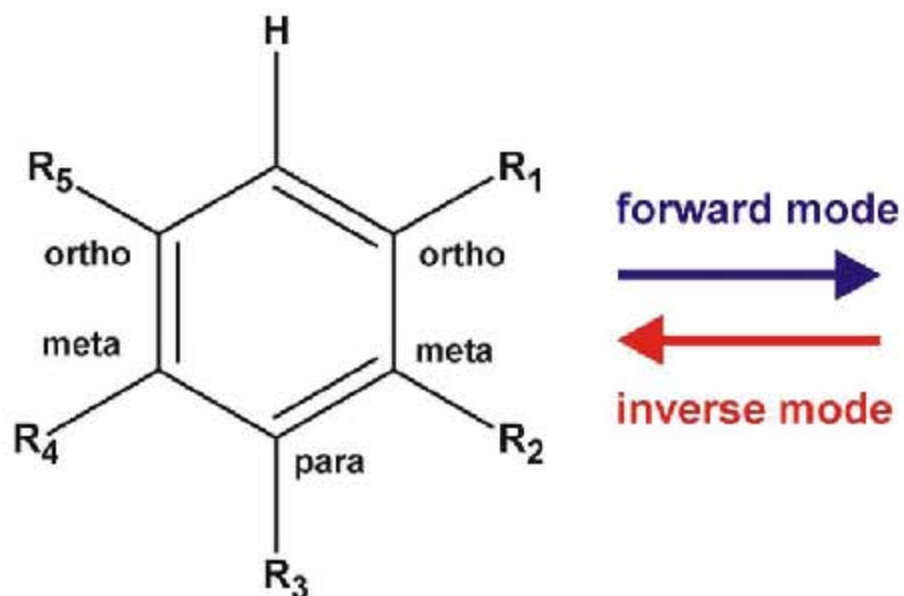
SPARIA analysis (Substitution Patterns in Aromatic Rings by Icrement Analysis)

**FA1:**  
**0 y**

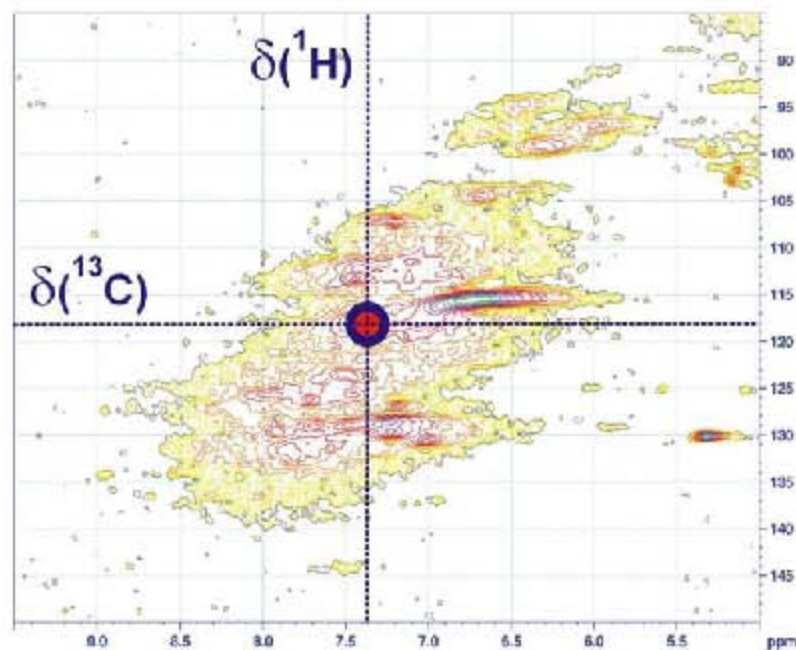
**FA2:**  
**60 y**



# Prediction of substitution patterns in aromatic rings by increment analysis (SPARIA)



$^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR of Suwannee River NOM



neutral	Ar-CO-X	Ar-O-X
-H	-COOCH <sub>3</sub>	-OCH <sub>3</sub>
-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	-COC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	-OH
-CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	-COOH	

8 substituents in 5 positions =  
32768 combinations



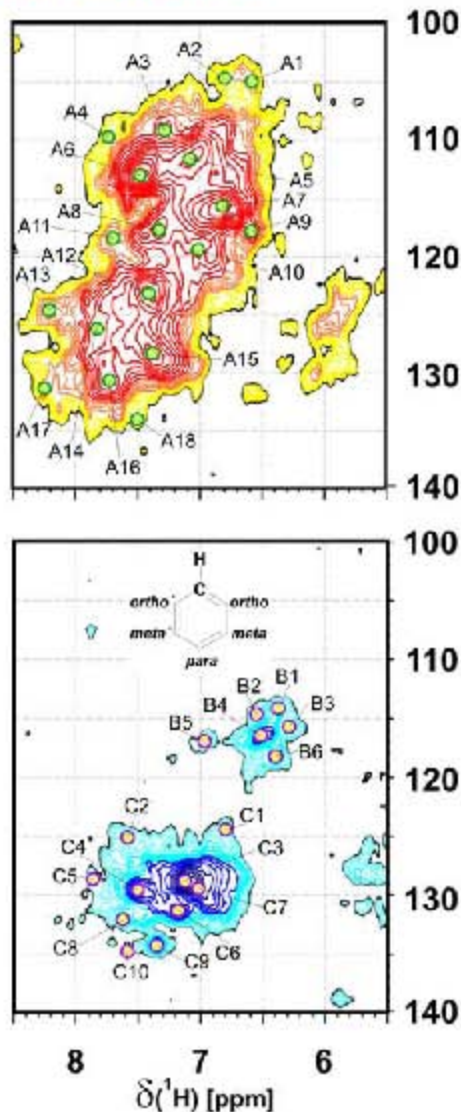
# evolution of groundwater during 60 years

SPARIA analysis (Substitution Patterns in Aromatic Rings by Increment Analysis)

FA1  
0 y



FA2  
60y



FA1									
peak	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ [ppm]	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ [ppm]	ortho	meta	para	meta'	ortho'	percent	ne
A1	6.57	104.6						27	67
A2	6.79	104.4						45	20
A3	7.28	108.7						37	45
A4	7.73	109.5						50	2
A5	7.08	111.4						32	38
A6	7.49	112.6						41	59
A7	6.82	115.5						19	52
A8	7.33	117.4						17	69
A9	6.57	117.6						33	36
A10	7.13	120.2						31	78
A11	7.39	118.2						17	78
A12	7.42	122.8						14	114
A13	8.21	124.2						25	75
A14	7.63	126.0						14	122
A15	7.38	128.0						28	43
A16	7.74	130.3						33	812
A17	8.25	131.1						41	87
A18	7.50	133.6						52	48
FA2									
peak	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ [ppm]	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ [ppm]	ortho	meta	para	meta'	ortho'	percent	ne
B1	6.39	113.9						36	33
B2	6.53	114.6						36	29
B3	6.29	115.3						100	10
B4	6.52	116.0						23	26
B5	6.97	116.6						24	104
B6	6.39	117.9						36	14
C1	6.79	124.1						33	30
C2	7.58	124.8						21	63
C3	7.12	128.3						19	36
C4	7.51	129.1						29	59
C5	7.86	128.3						28	87
C6	7.17	131.0						28	42
C7	7.05	128.9						43	30
C8	7.62	131.6						33	93
C9	7.34	133.8						36	56
C10	7.59	134.4						87	15

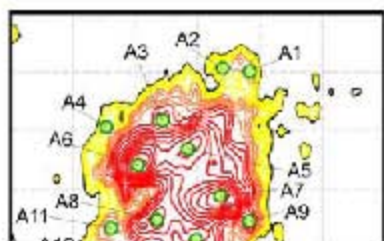
■ aromatic substitution, composed of hydrogen  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of neutral carbon substituents  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of electron-withdrawing carbonyl derivative substituents  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of electron-donating oxygen substituents



# evolution of groundwater during 60 years

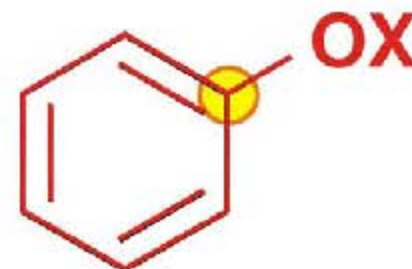
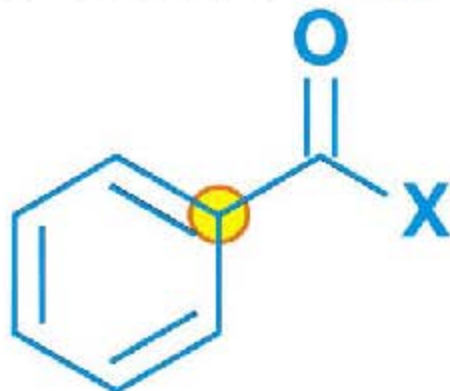
SPARIA analysis (Substitution Patterns in Aromatic Rings by Increment Analysis)

FA1

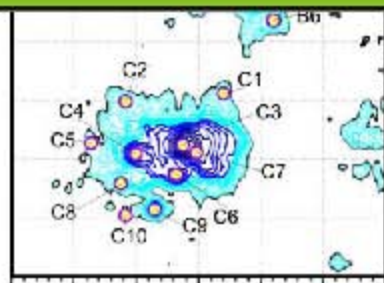


100  
110  
120  
[ppm]

		FA1							
peak	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ [ppm]	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ [ppm]	ortho	meta	para	meta'	ortho'	percent	ne
A1	6.57	104.6						27	67
A2	6.79	104.4						45	20
A3	7.28	108.7						37	45
A4	7.73	108.5						50	2
A5	7.08	111.4						32	38
A6	7.49	112.6						41	59



FA2  
60y



8 7 6  
 $\delta(^1\text{H})$  [ppm]

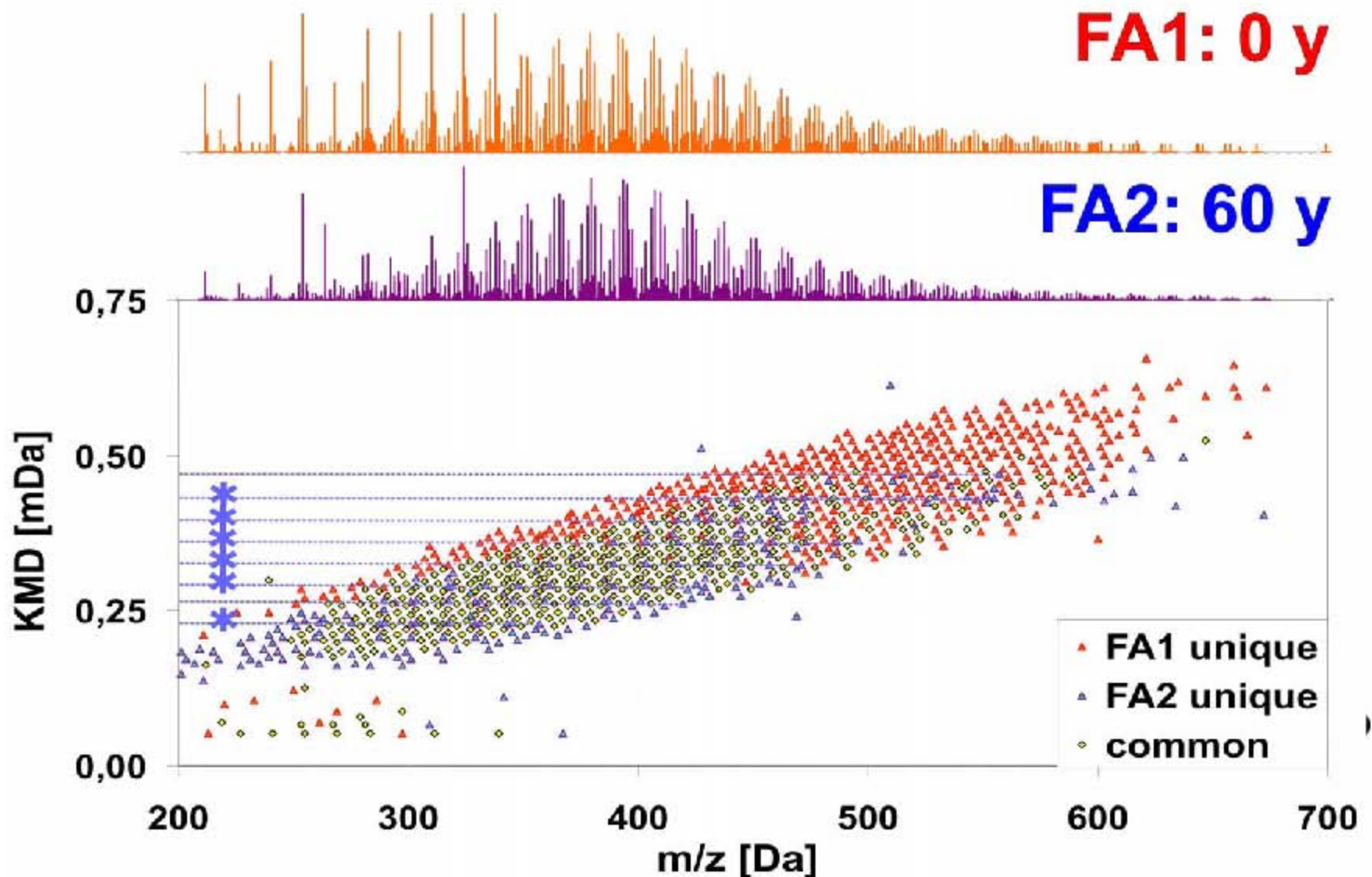
120  
130  
140  
 $\delta(^{13}\text{C})$  [ppm]

B5	6.39	117.9						36	14
C1	6.79	124.1						33	30
C2	7.58	124.8						21	63
C3	7.12	128.3						19	36
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C9	7.34	133.8						36	56
C10	7.59	134.4						87	15

■ aromatic substitution, composed of hydrogen  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of neutral carbon substituents  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of electron-withdrawing carbonyl derivative substituents  
■ aromatic substitution, composed of electron-donating oxygen substituents

# evolution of groundwater during 60 years

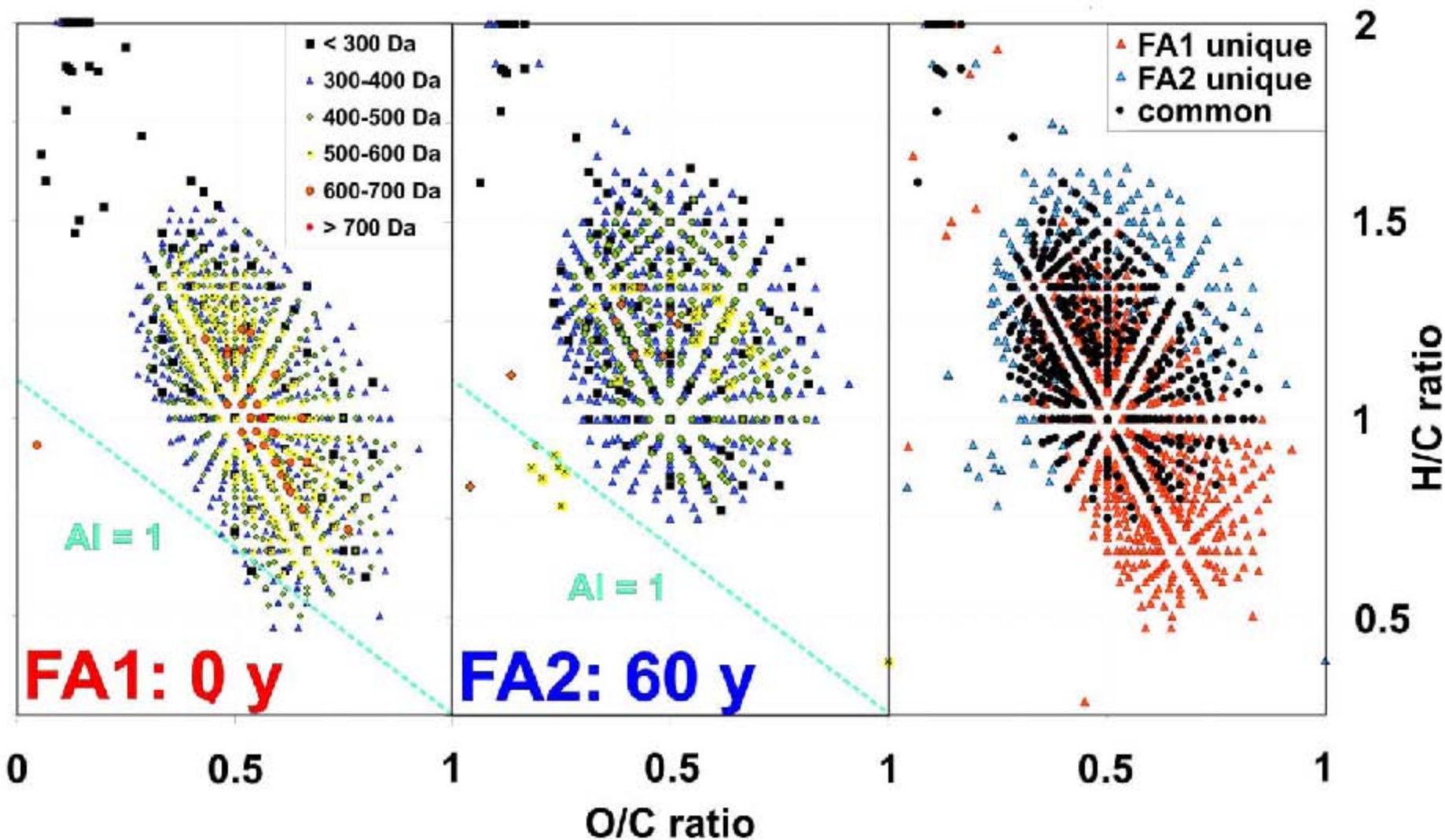
*FTICR mass spectrometry: Kendrick mass defect analysis*





# evolution of groundwater during 60 years

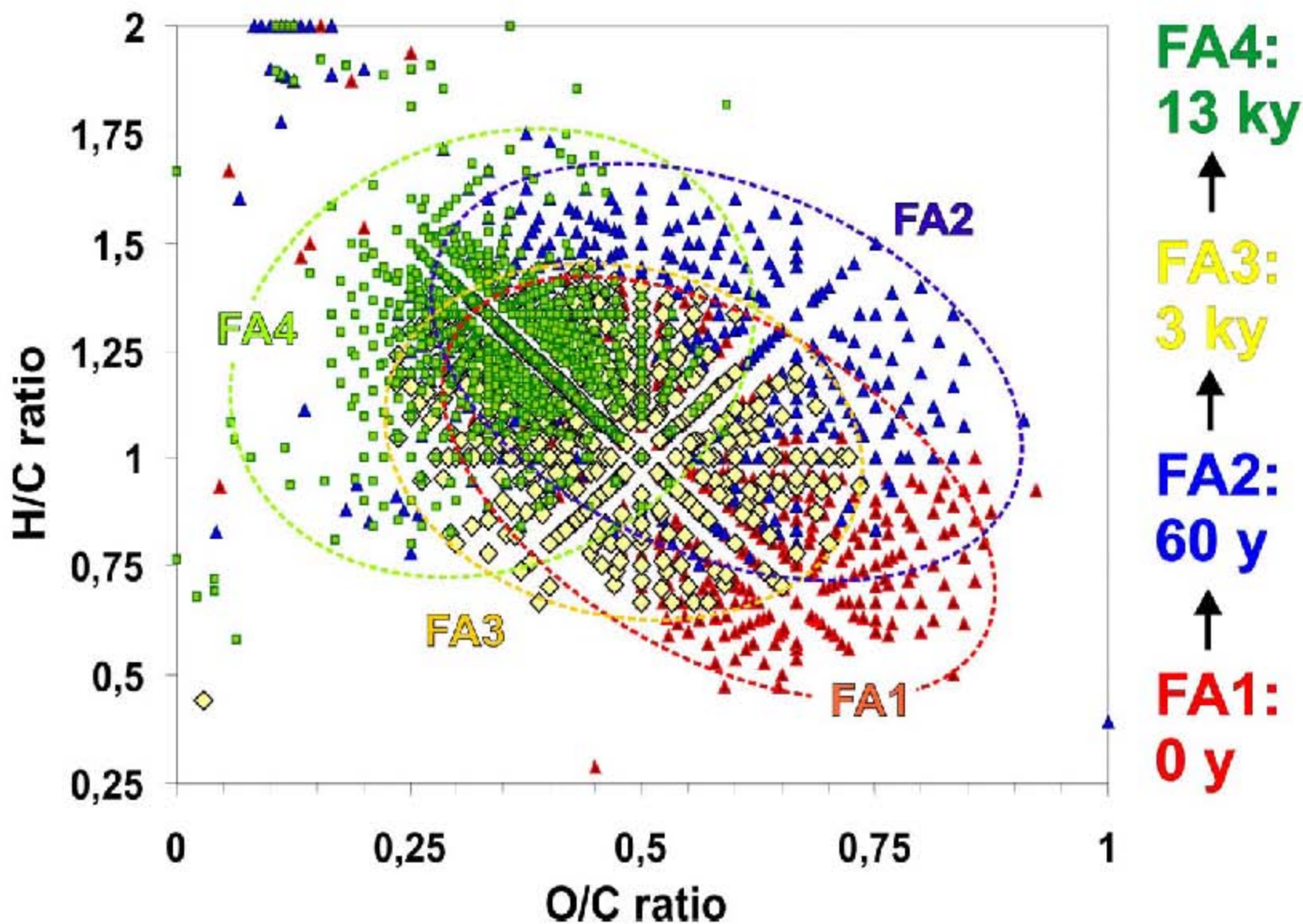
van Krevelen diagrams derived from FTICR mass spectra





# groundwater evolution during 13000 years

van Krevelen diagram derived from FTICR mass spectra



# conclusions (groundwater NOM)

**near complete turnover of NOM** is observed within decades in a representative groundwater aquifer

**formation of novel compounds** is observed by both NMR and FTICR mass spectrometry

**oxygen is depleted from** aliphatic and aromatic **carbon environments** during processing of a plant-derived into a microbially-derived NOM

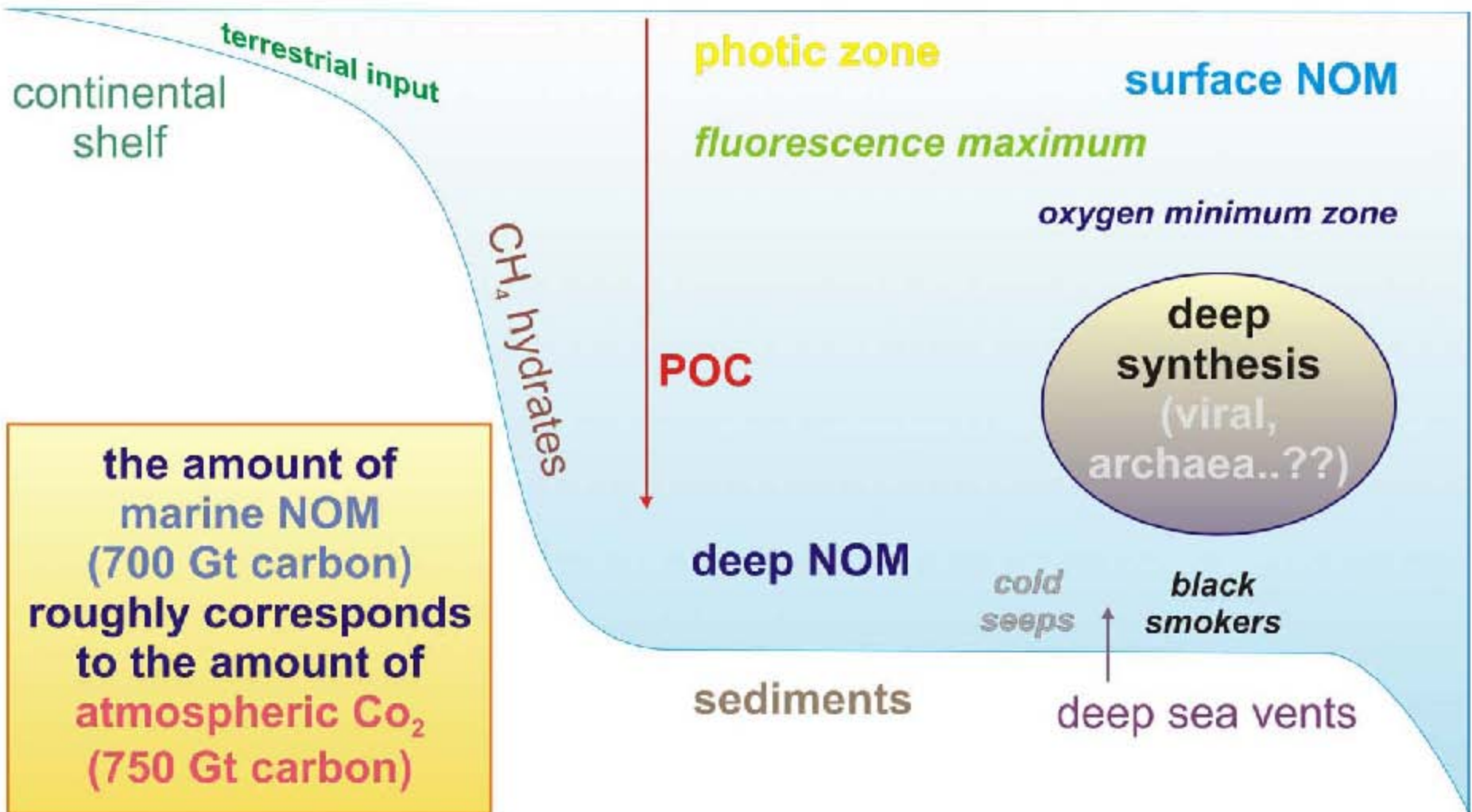
**meaningful molecular level analysis** of complex unknowns requires data from **complementary analytical methods** and **joint mathematical data analysis**

**intrinsic averaging** would mask the detection of these rather **drastic molecular-level alterations** in case of low-resolution methods used for analysis



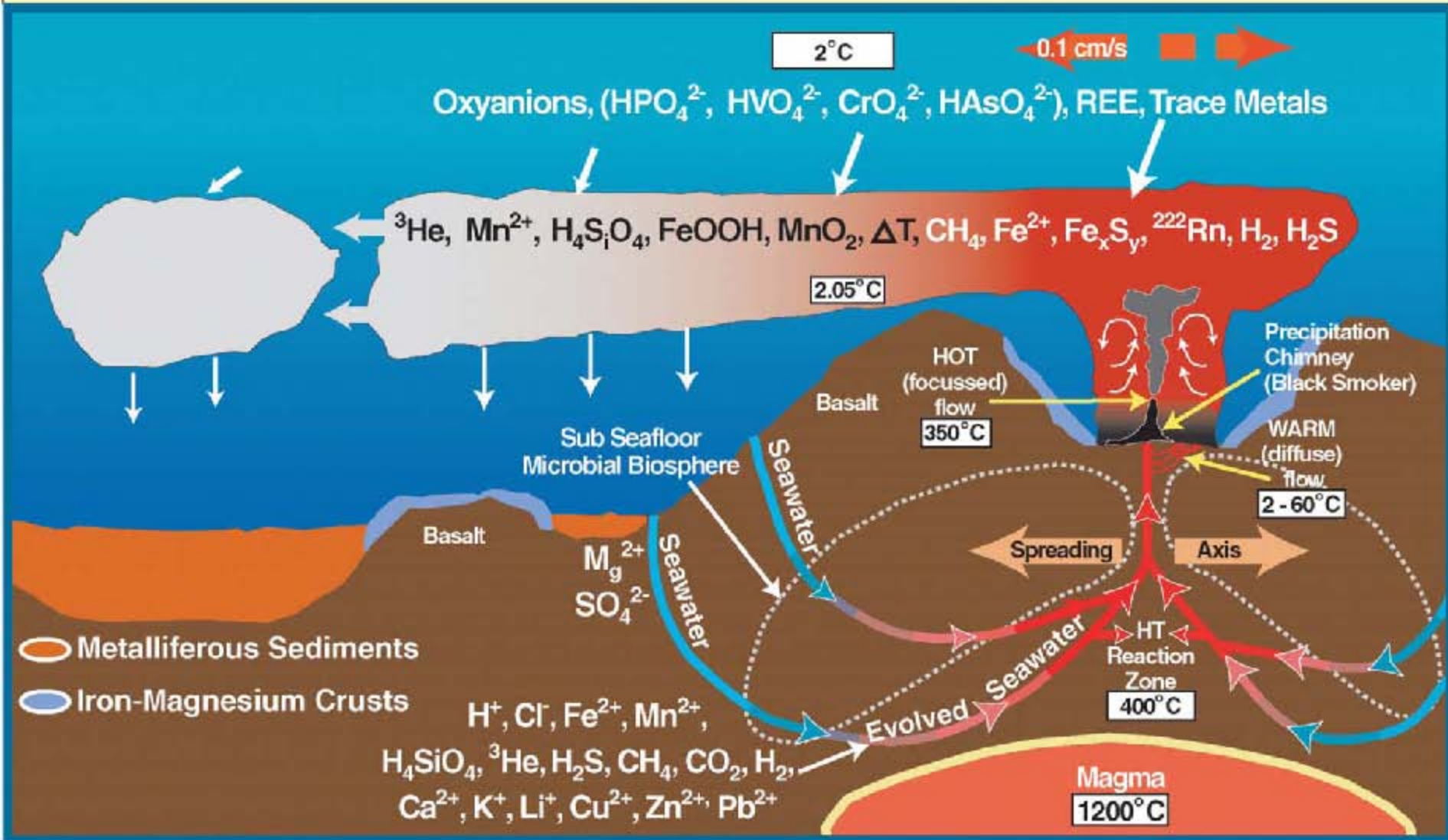
# natural organic matter in the oceans

*atmospheric input (minerals)*

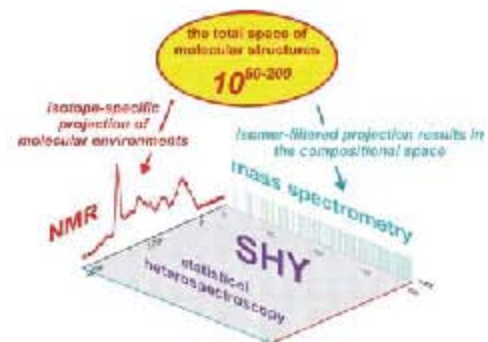
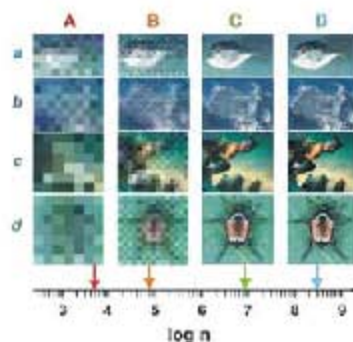




# deep sea vents : complex microbial contributions are feasible



...what is the utility of these novel tools....?



**High-resolution organic structural spectroscopy** already has advanced crucial **paradigm shifts** in structural characterization of **natural organic matter (NOM)**

*Hertkorn et al., Anal. Bioanal. Chem. 2006, 389, 1311-1327*

- discovery of **carboxyl-rich alicyclic molecules (CRAM)** as **major constituents** of **NOM**

*Hertkorn et al., GCA 2006, 71, 2995-3010*

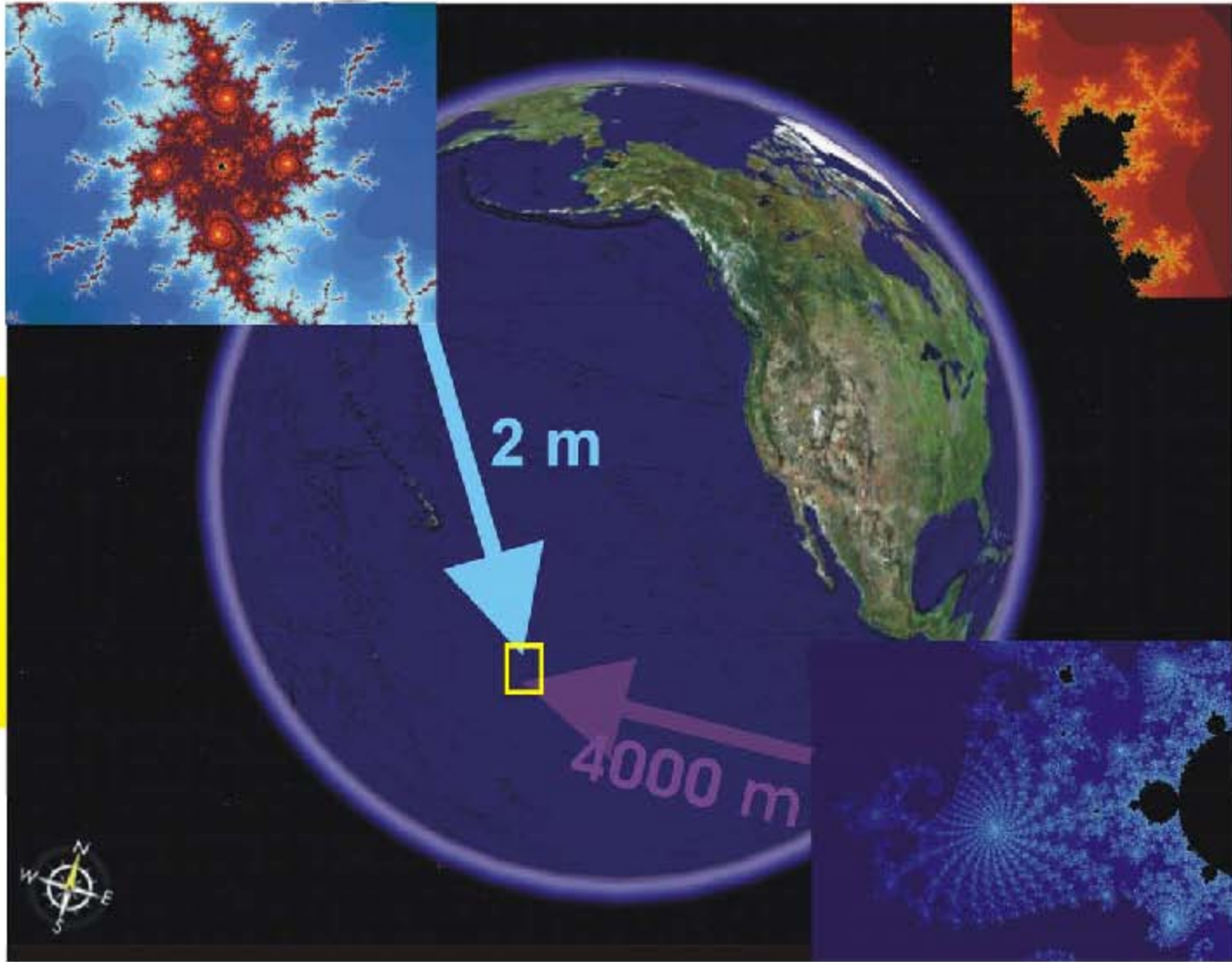
*Lam et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2007, 54, 8240-8247*

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*Einsiedl et al., GCA, 2007, 71, 5474-5482*

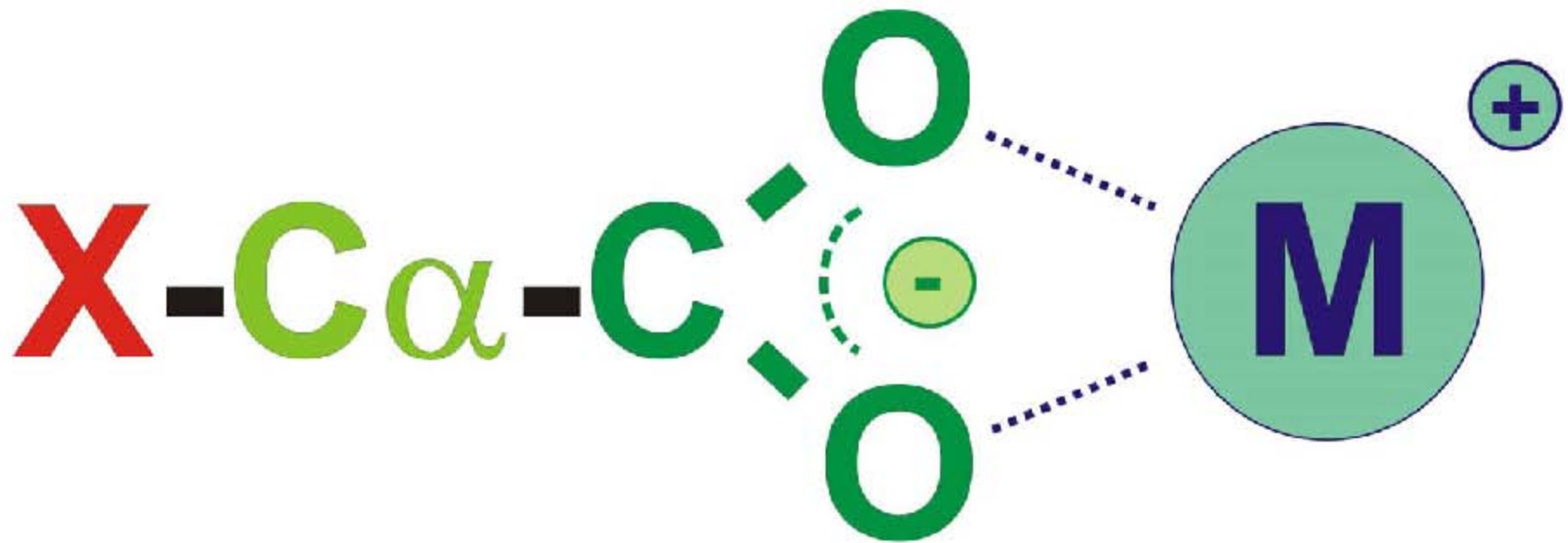


**CRAM** (carboxyl-rich alicyclic molecules) have been first identified in the surface and deep Pacific ocean; there is good reason to postulate **CRAM** as a major constituent of any **NOM**





# aliphatic polycarboxylic acid

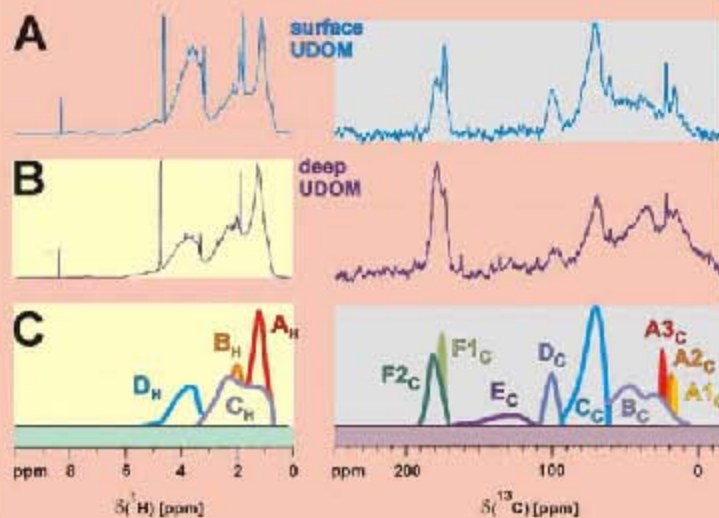


carboxyl-rich **alicyclic** molecules CRAM

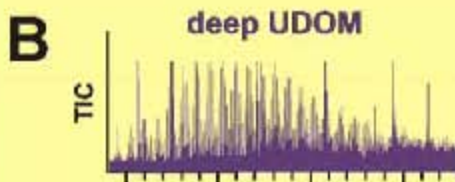
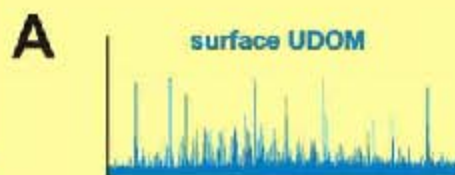


complementary techniques have led to the identification of **CRAM** (carboxylic-rich alicyclic molecules) in **NOM**

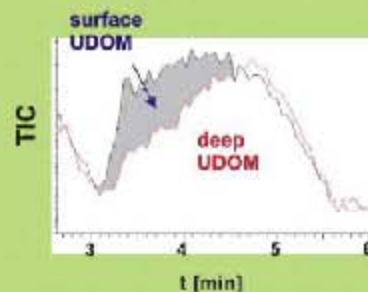
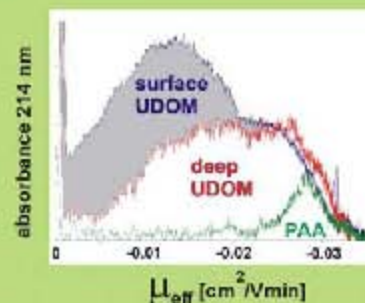
## NMR quantification



ACS allow comp. methods



mass  
spectrometry  
resolution



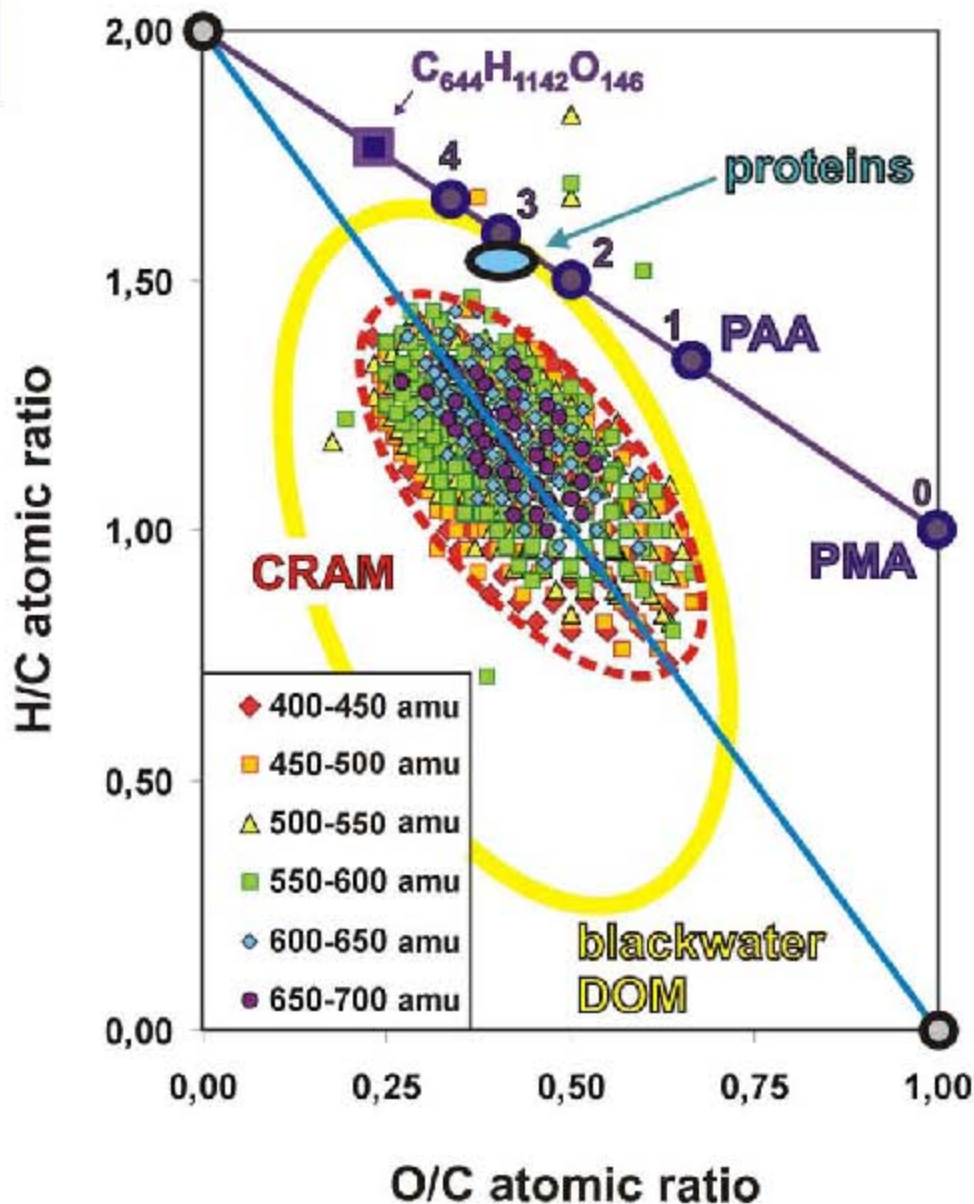
capillary electrophoresis  
validation

# van Krevelen diagram

Visser, ES&T, 17 (1983) 412-417.

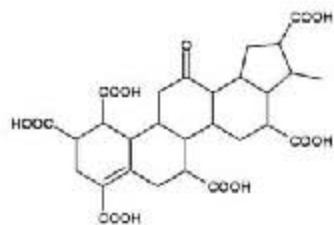
a powerful visual representation of complex mass spectra, with far reaching implications for the structural analysis of NOM

indicates unsaturation of CRAM in excess of carboxylic groups

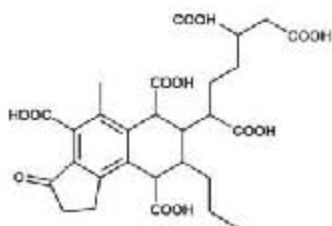
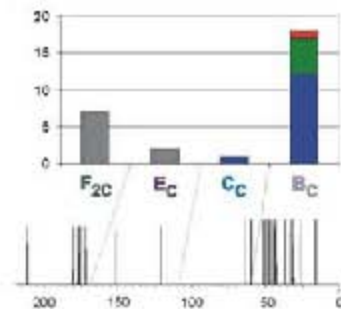
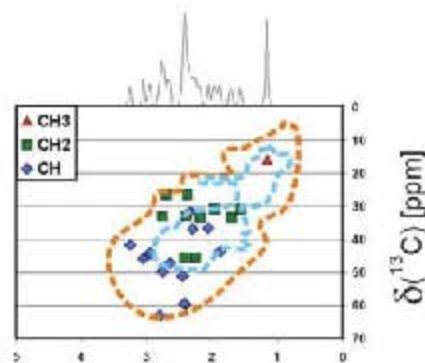




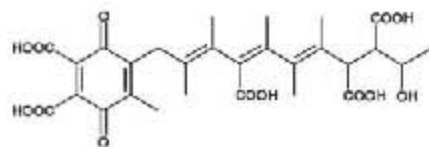
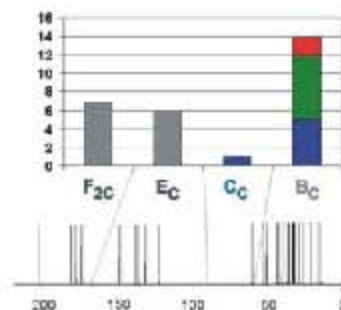
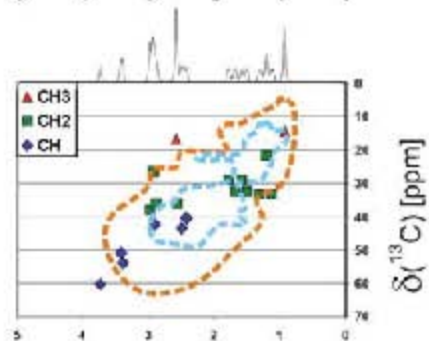
# NMR properties serve to discriminate between (*classes of*) $C_{28}H_{32}O_{13}$ isomers (IUPAC mass: 576.546 Da)



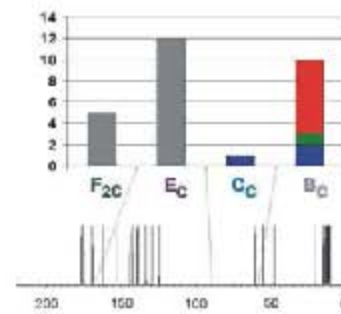
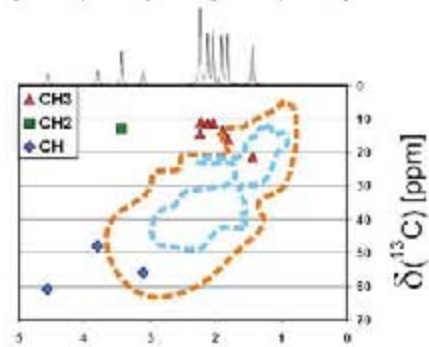
*isomer I*



*isomer II*



*isomer III*



$\delta(^1H)$  [ppm]

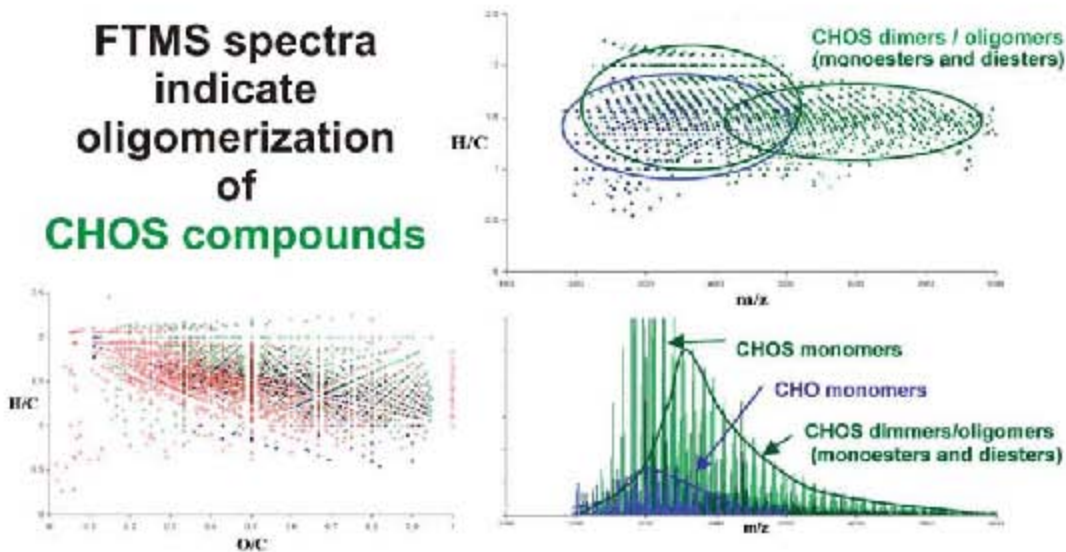
$\delta(^{13}C)$  [ppm]



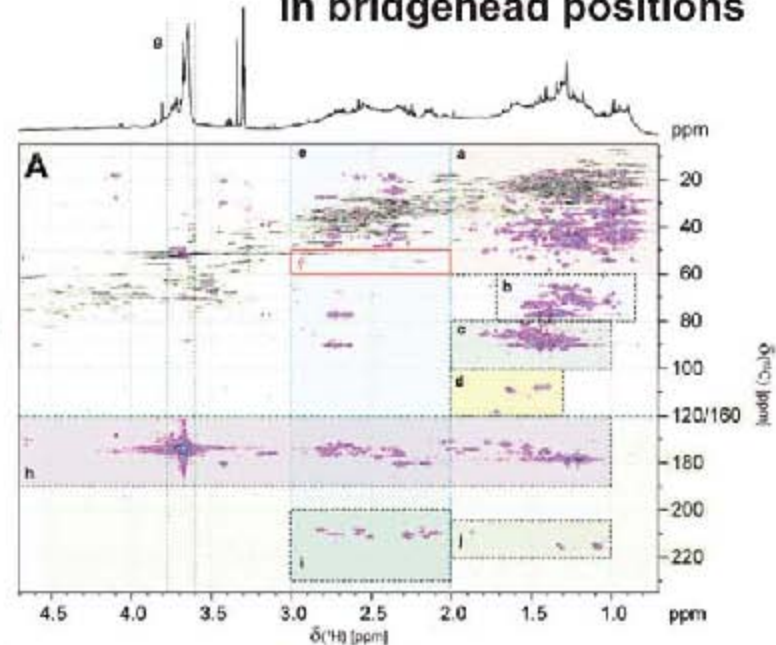


# SOA structural elucidation with FTICR/MS and NMR

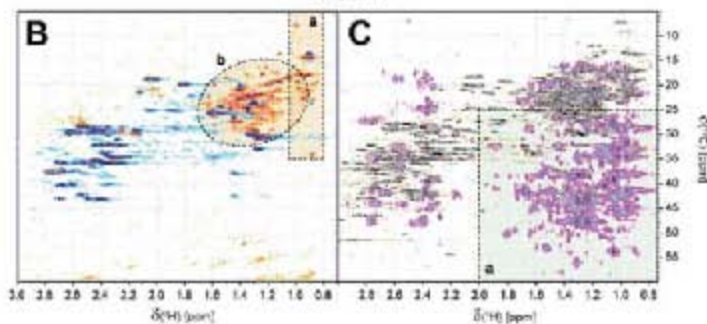
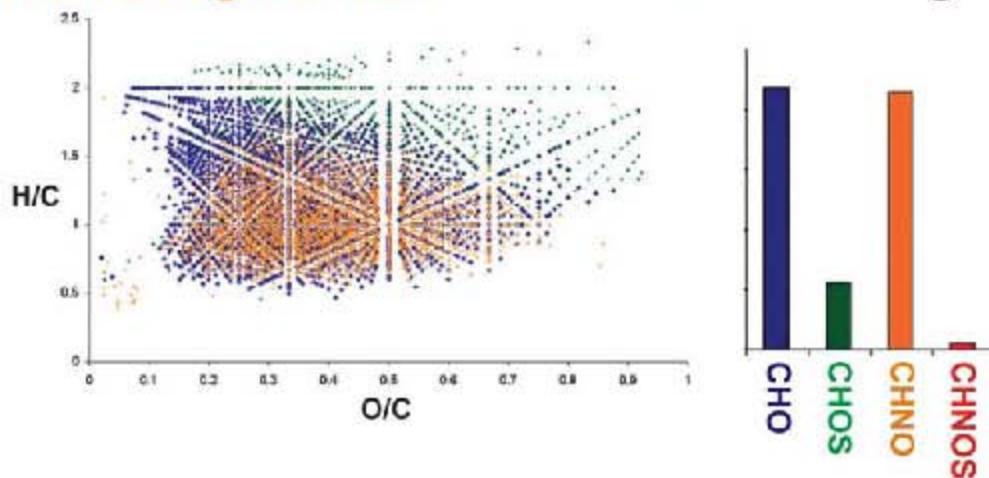
FTMS spectra indicate oligomerization of CHOS compounds



NMR indicates extensive aliphatic branching with many methyl groups in bridgehead positions



CHNO signatures from biomass burning





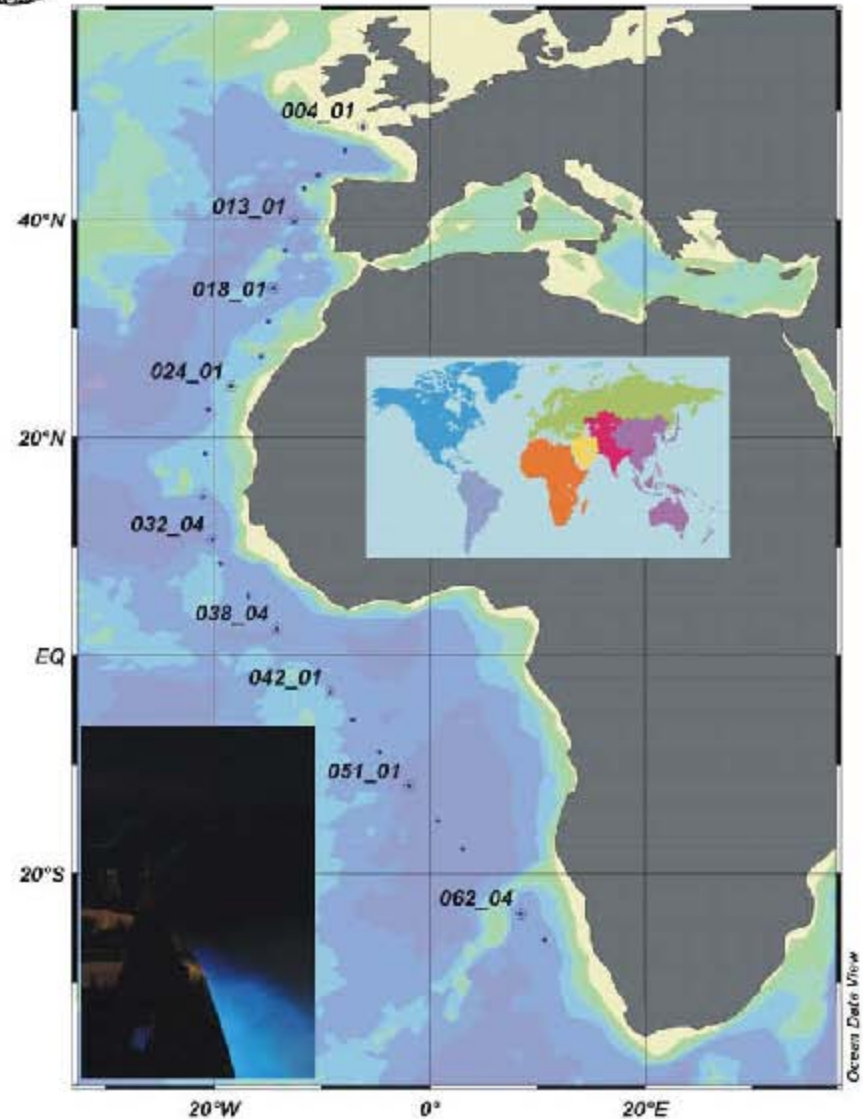
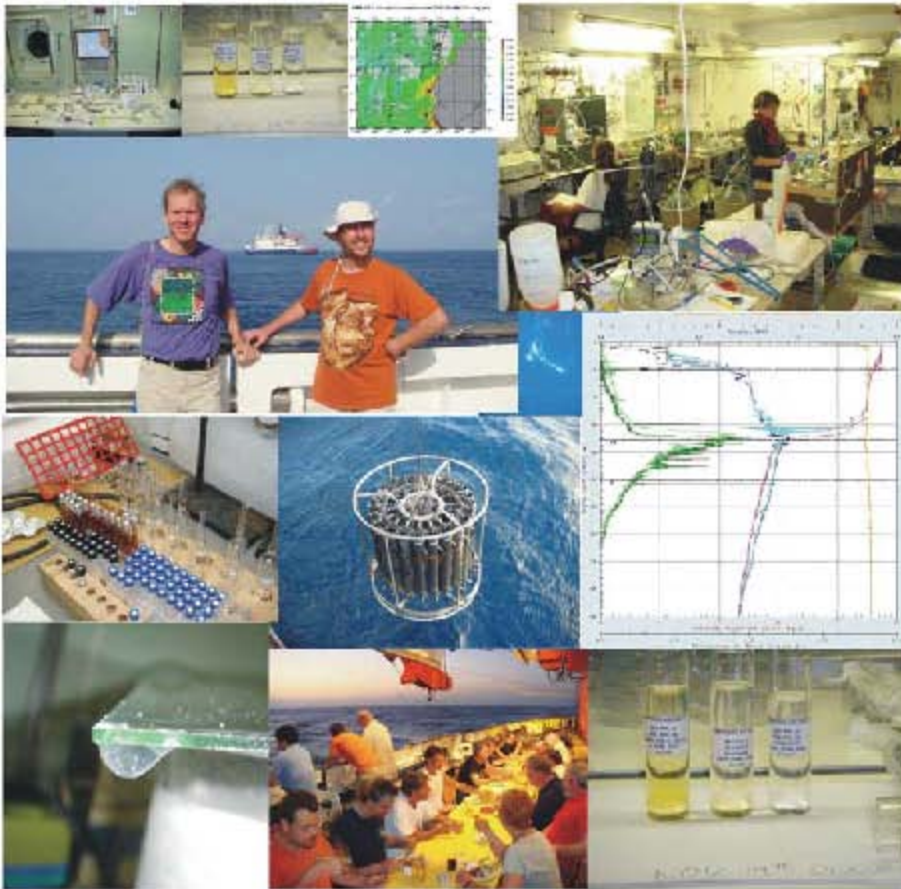
# Polarstern ANT-XXV-1

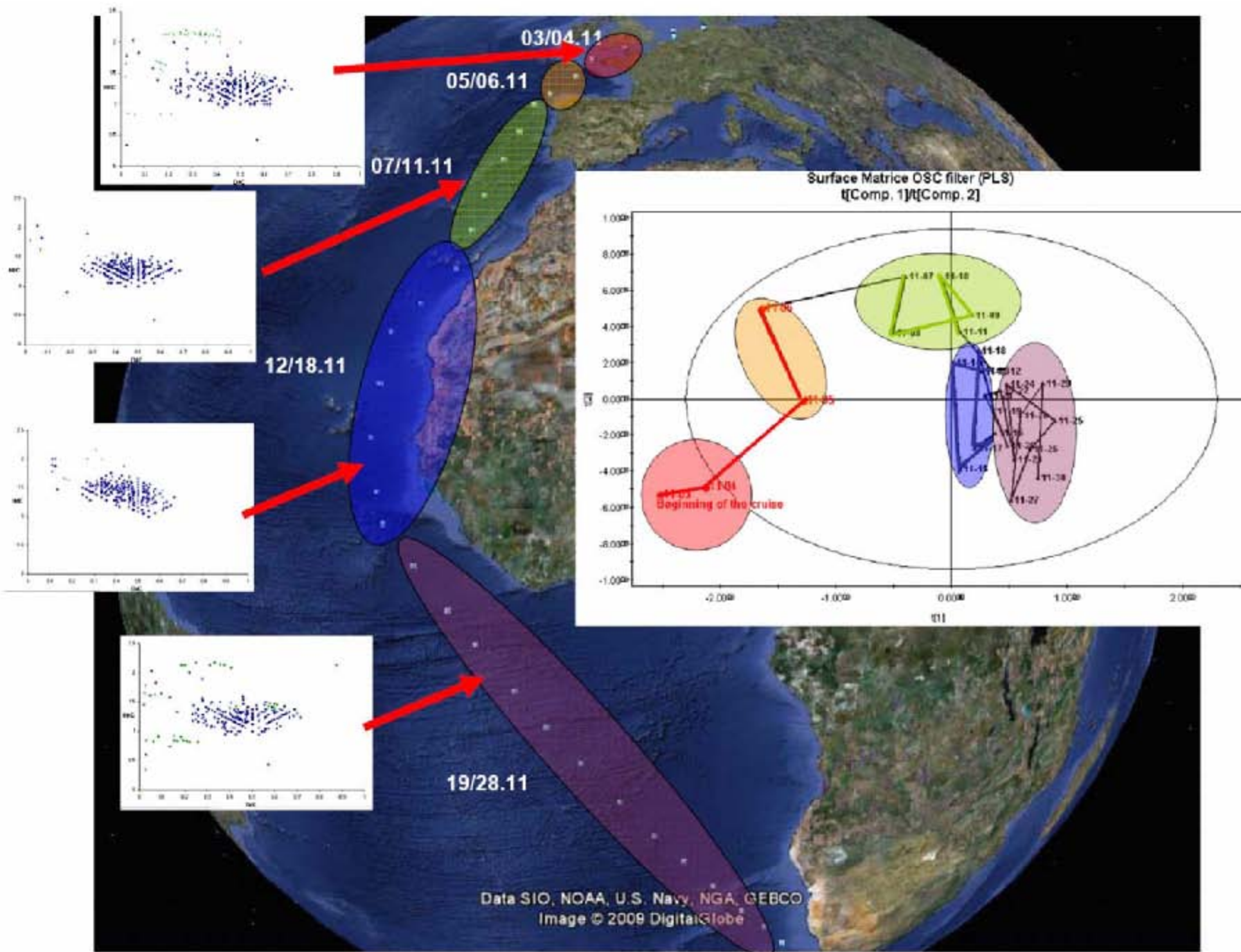


Bremerhaven - Cape Town  
(31.10.- 3.12.2009)

**chemistry**  
**physics**  
**biology**

*atmospheric and marine  
natural organic matter*  
*biogeochemical  
complex materials*







# molecular bodies in the universe

progressive  
ionization ↑

planetary  
nebulae



$10^4$  80000 K

dissociation, ionization

carbon stars



$10^3$

brown dwarfs

HOT JUPITERS



volcanism,  
up to 2500 K

surface temperature  
135 K

IO



temperature [K]

earth

mars

jupiter

$10^2$

saturn

ENCELADUS

TITAN

HYPERION

neptune

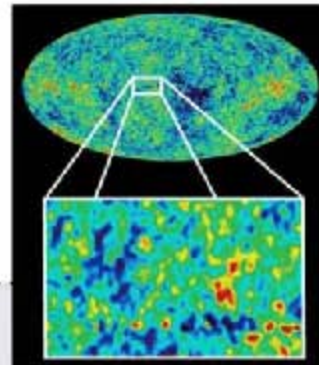
TRITON

$10^1$  pluto / charon  
eris

JAPETUS



liquid methane  
lakes on TITAN



high-energy  
radiation at  
low temperature enables  
active chemistry

black body radiation

2.725 K (160.2 GHz,  $\lambda = 1.9$  mm)

$10^0$



# planetary systems are composed of molecules

## HOT JUPITERS

800 K



2000 K



$\text{NH}_4\text{HS}$

TITAN



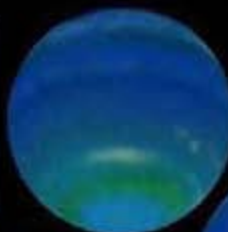
MARS



PLUTO (artists view)



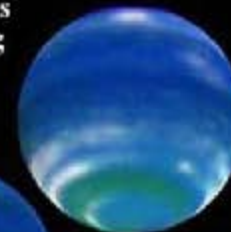
Neptune's  
changing  
face



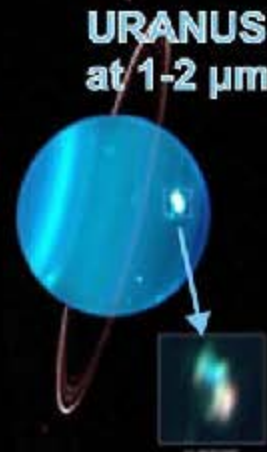
1996



1998



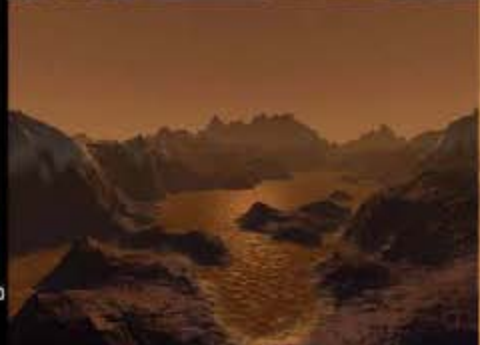
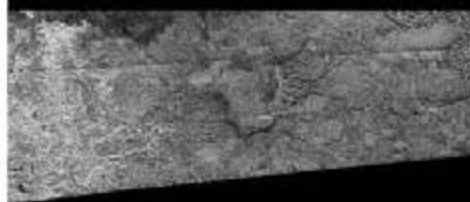
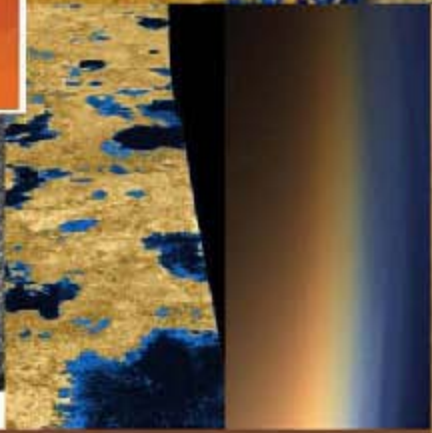
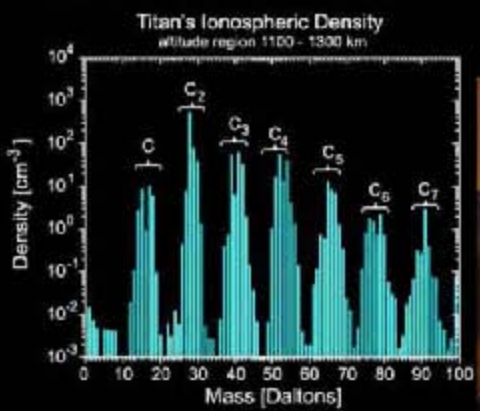
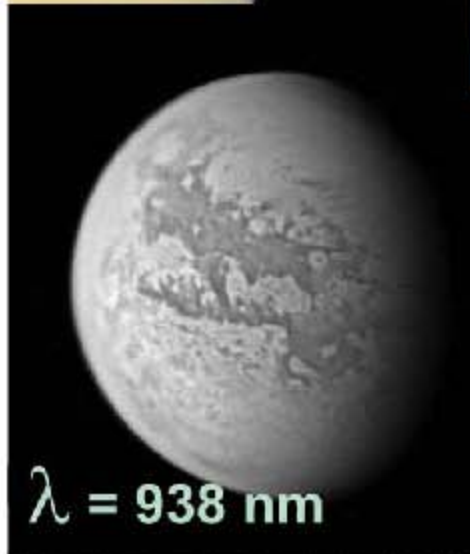
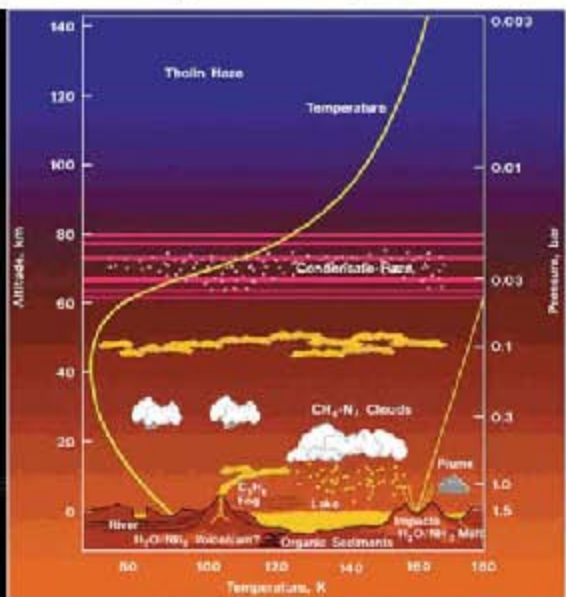
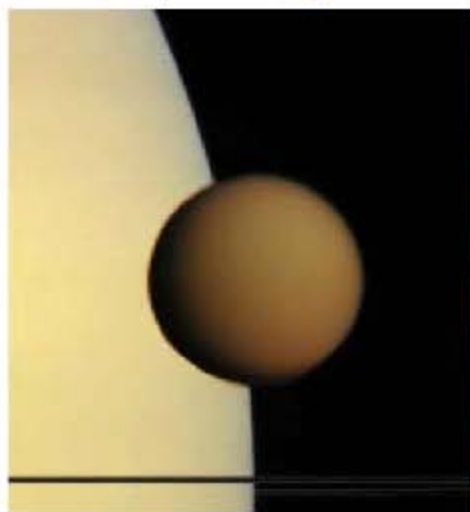
2002



URANUS  
at 1-2  $\mu\text{m}$



**TITAN** (the **only moon** with fully developed **atmosphere** :  $N_2$  (98.4%),  $CH_4$  (1.4%),  $H_2$  (0.2%))





# tholins : nitrogen containing organic matter on Saturn moon Titan

allows exploration of the **C,H,N compositional space**

**Titan**: the second largest moon in the solar system (diameter : 5150 km)

the only moon with a **dense atmosphere**

98.4 % N<sub>2</sub>

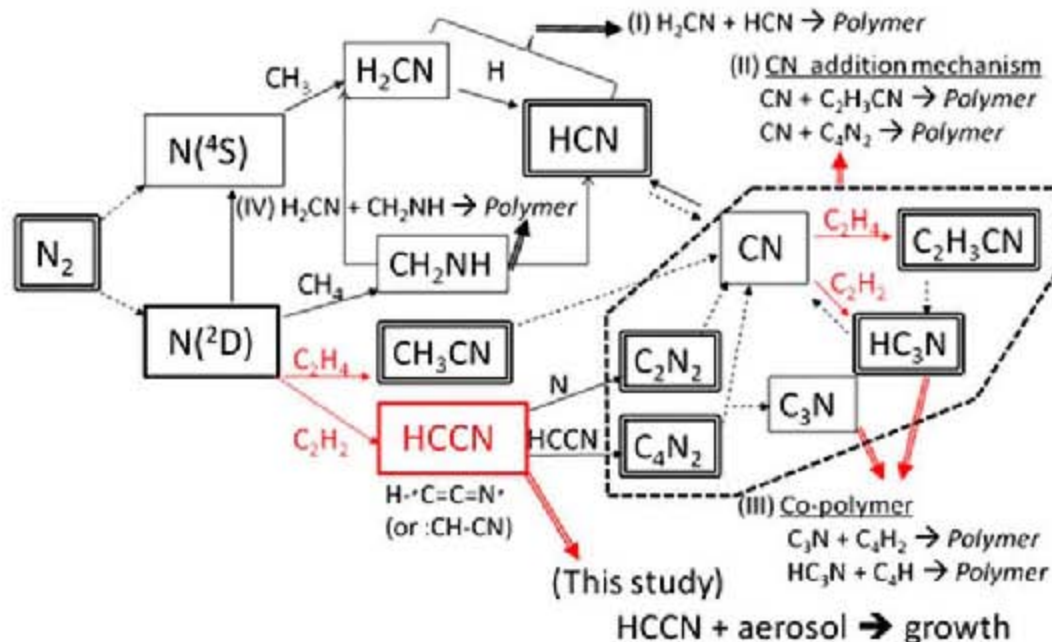
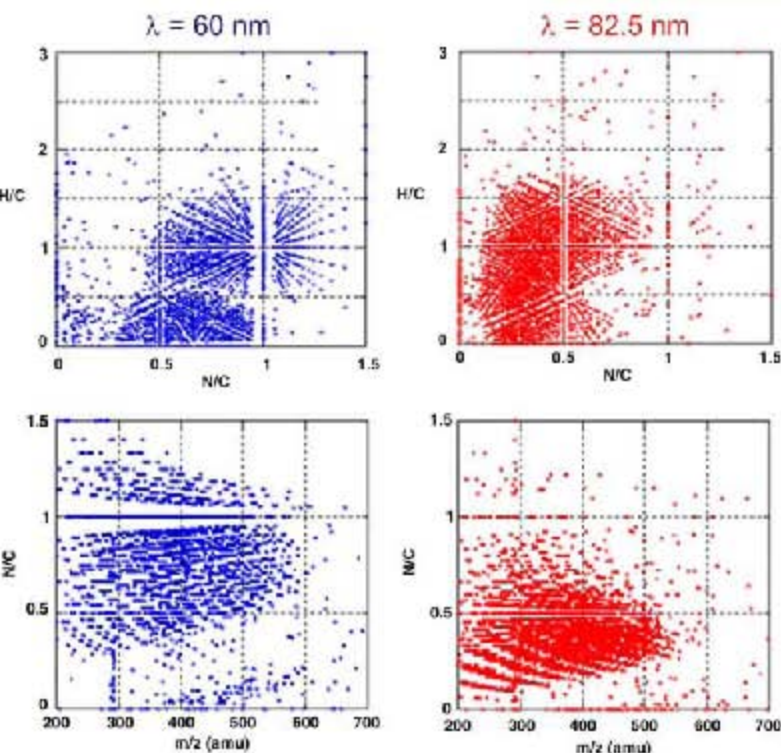
95 % N<sub>2</sub>

1.4 % CH<sub>4</sub>

4.9 % CH<sub>4</sub>

stratosphere

troposphere

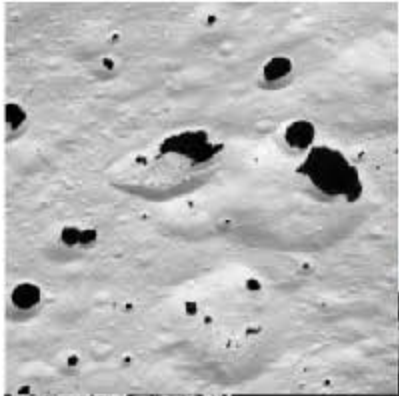


**strongly hydrogen deficient molecules,  
contributions of HCN in lab experiments**

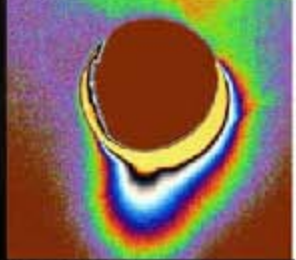
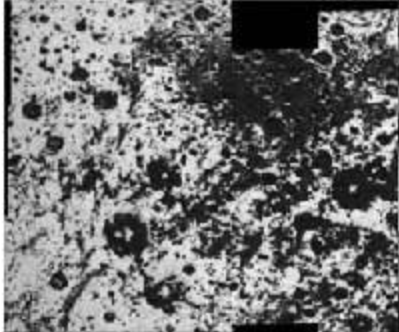
**complex chemistry,  
initial stages well constrained**



# „organic“ Saturn moons



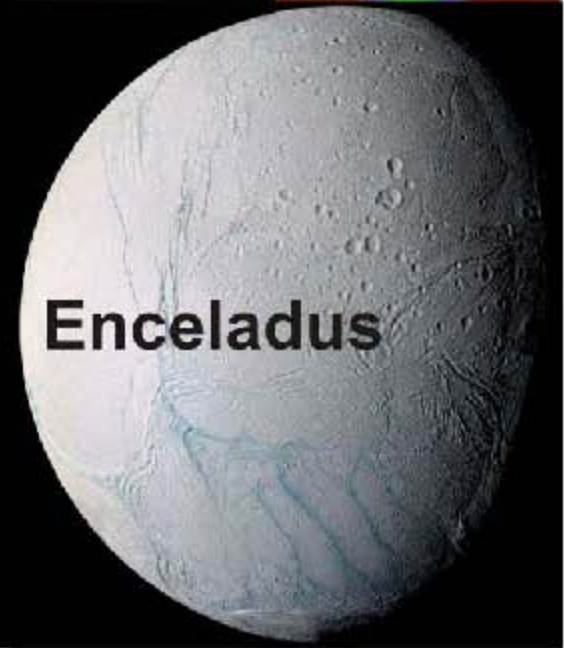
Pandora



Hyperion



Iapetus

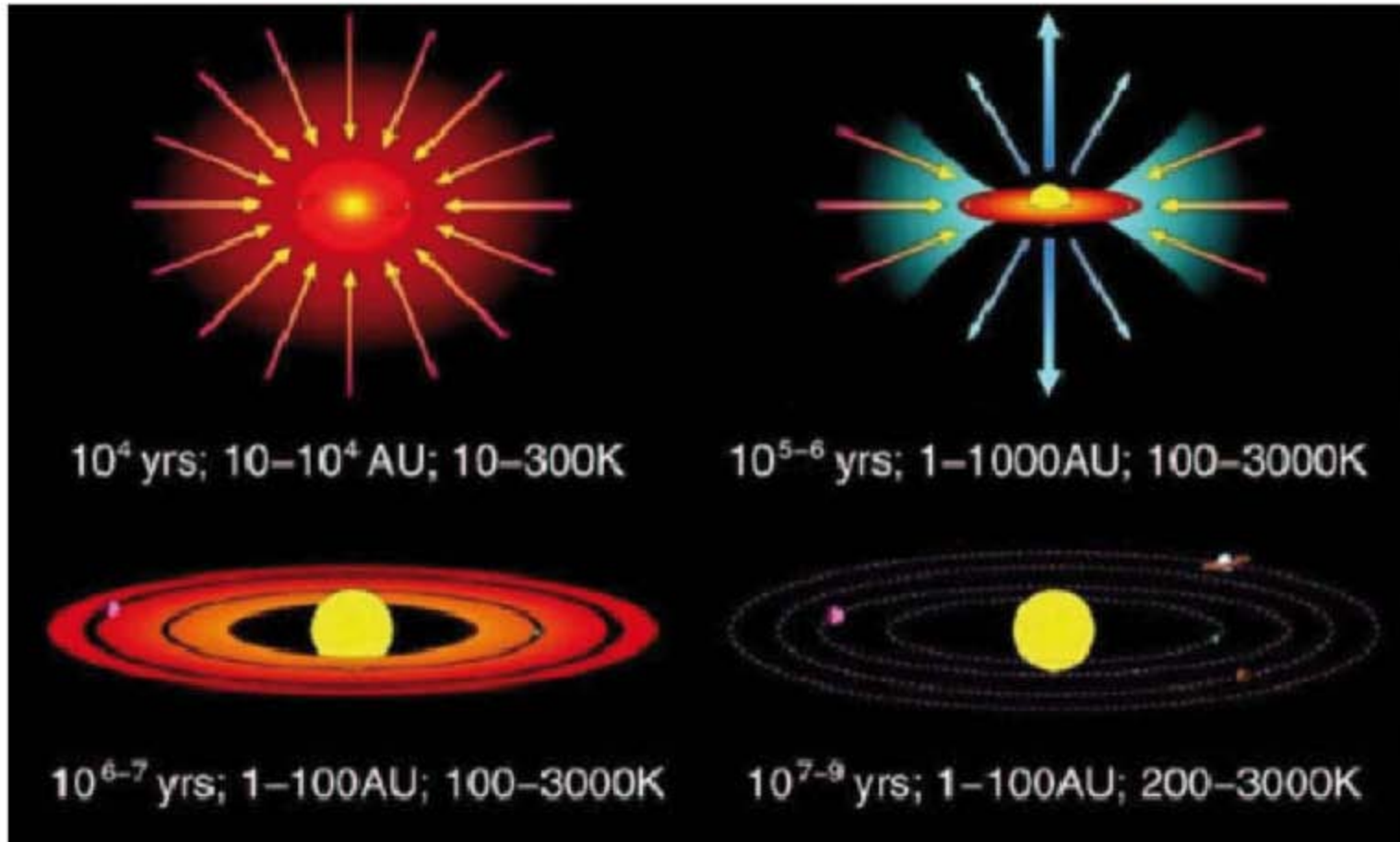


Enceladus

# early stages of stellar evolution (sun-like star)

contraction of  
molecular cloud

formation of  
protoplanetary disk

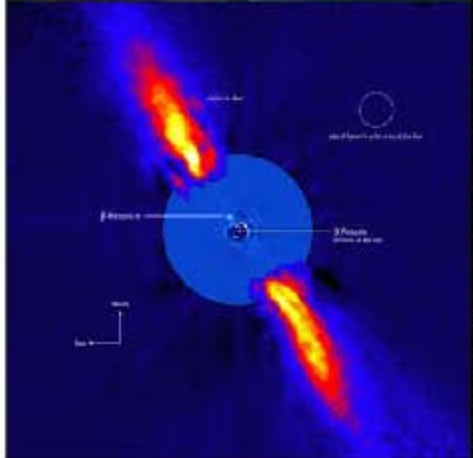
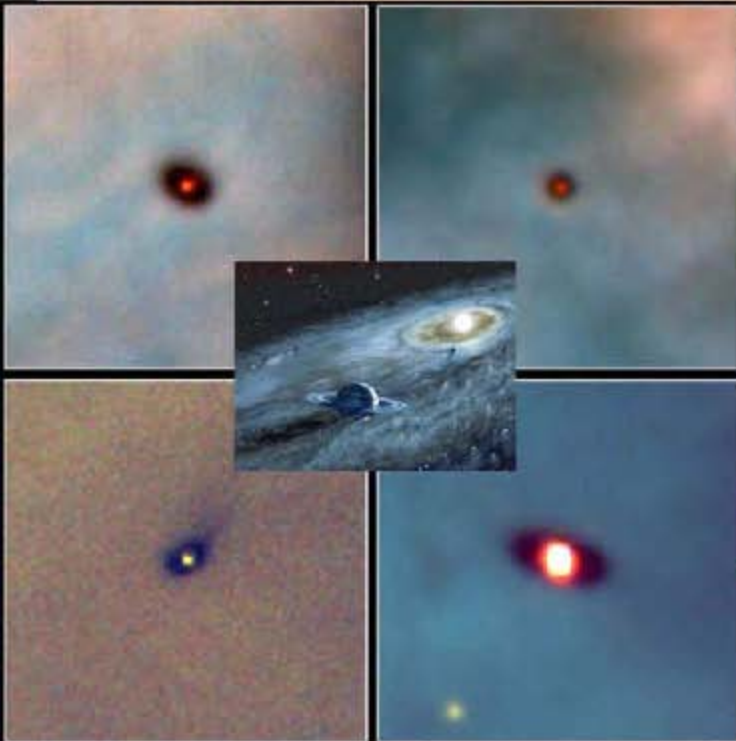
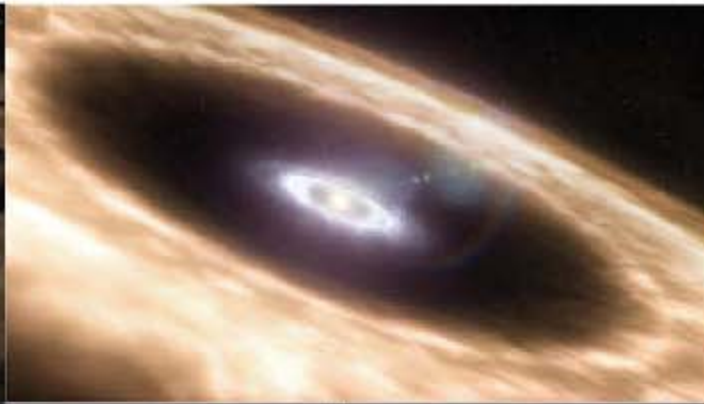


[http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/images/birth\\_of\\_stars.jpg](http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/images/birth_of_stars.jpg)

formation of multibody (oligarchs)  
protoplanetary system

evolution into a contemporary  
planetary system



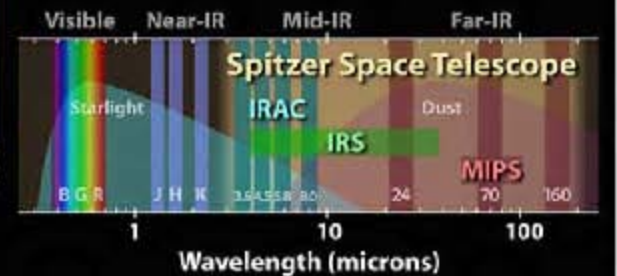


**Protoplanetary Disks  
Orion Nebula**

HST - WFPC2

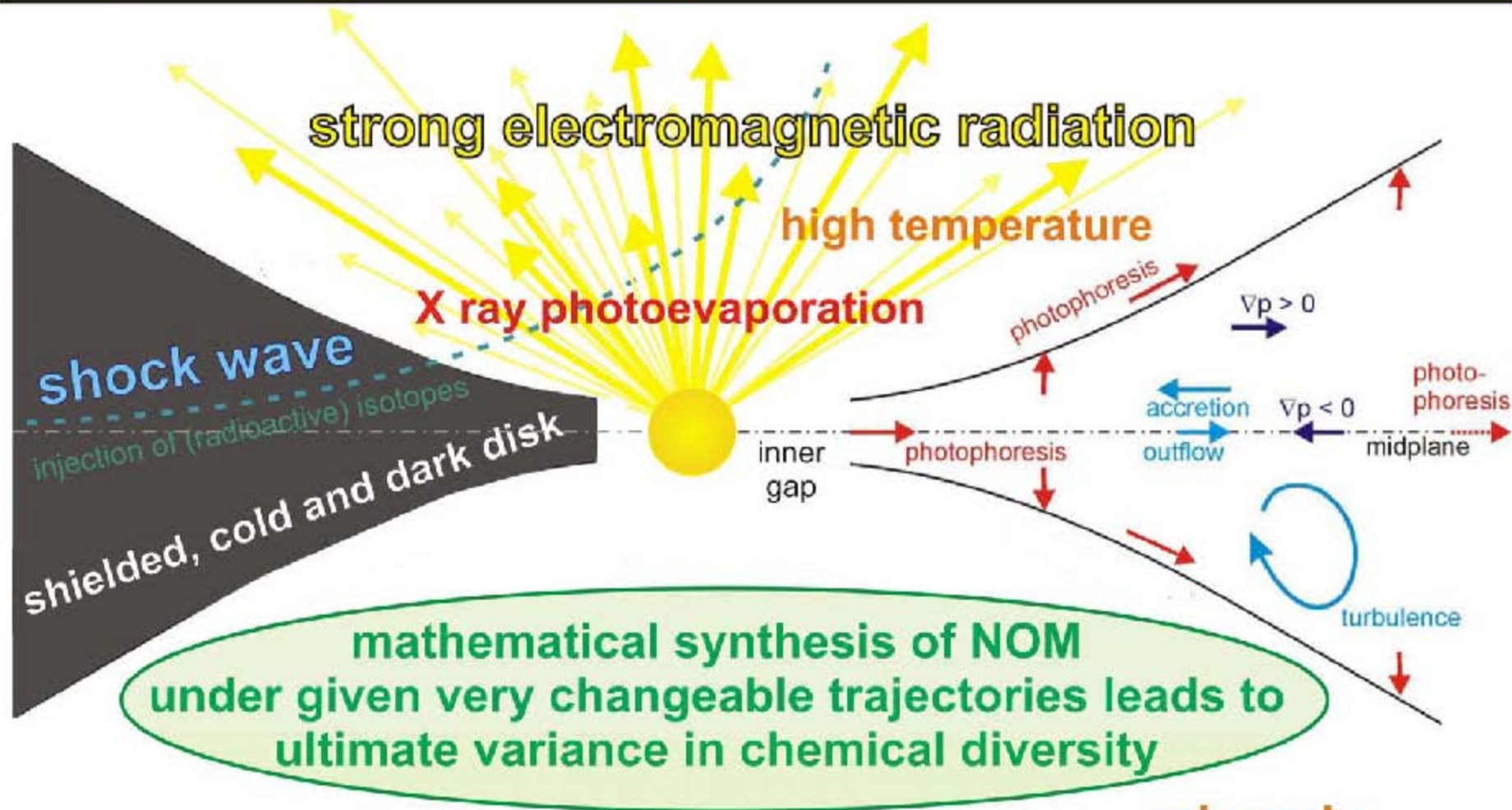
PRC95-45b · ST Sci OPO · November 20, 1995

M. J. McCaughrean (MPIA), C. R. O'Dell (Rice University), NASA



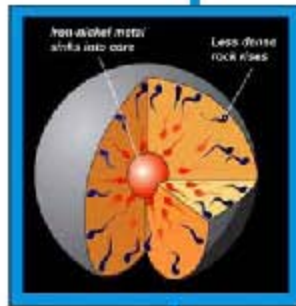


small body accretion within **strongly anisotropic** protoplanetary disks :  
formation of **extraterrestrial organic matter**

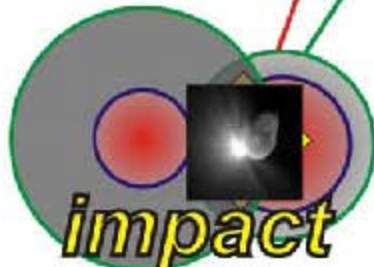


**conserved heterogeneity on all size scales in** **minerals**  
**isotopes**  
**organic matter**

# (asteroid) impacts create the various classes of meteorites



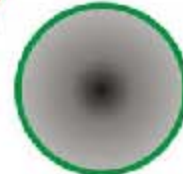
differentiation



iron-nickel  
meteorite  
parent body

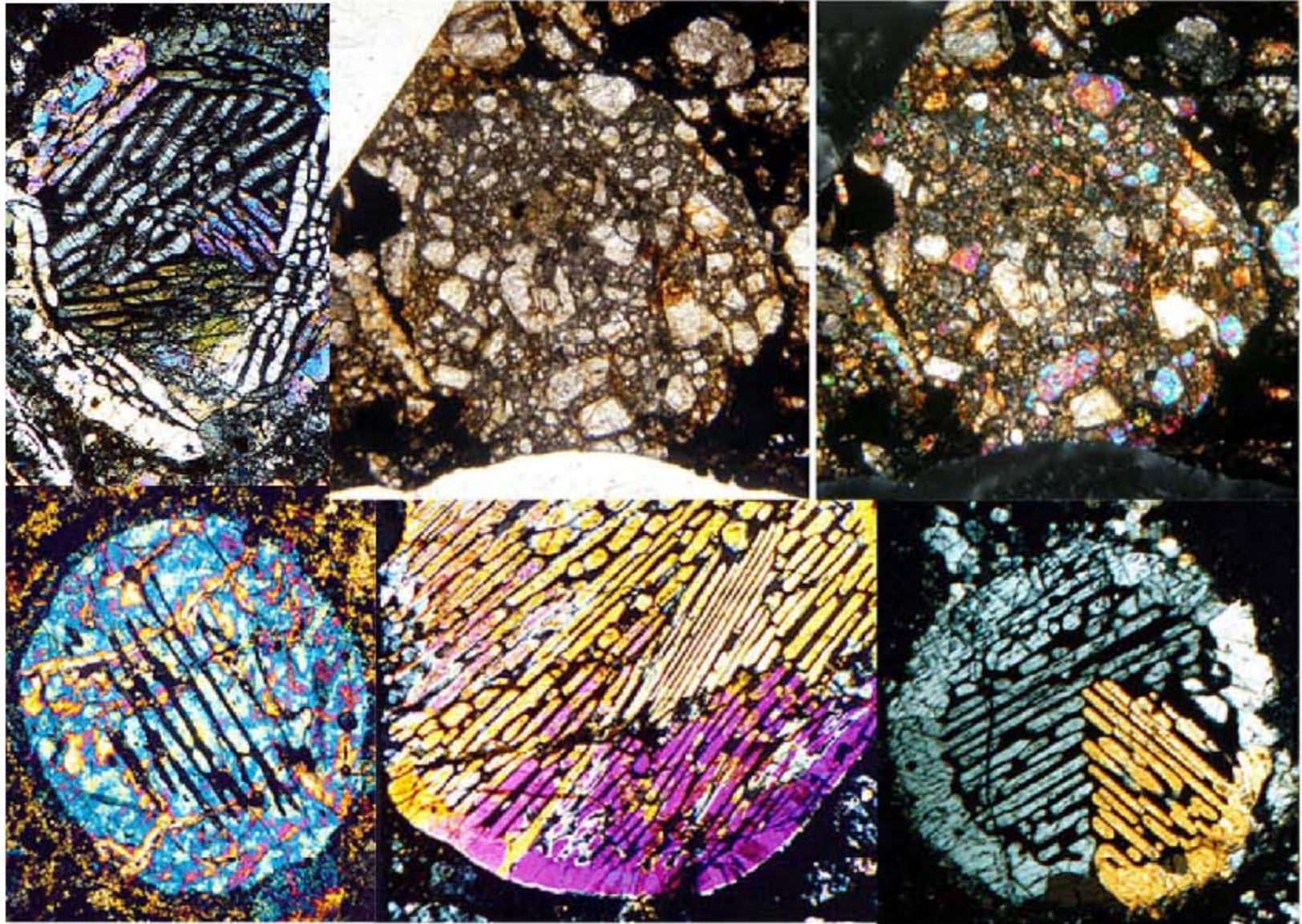


stony meteorite  
parent body





the **mineral composition** of **meteorites** has been analyzed with high resolution



however, analysis of **organic compounds** has been restricted to **target analyses**





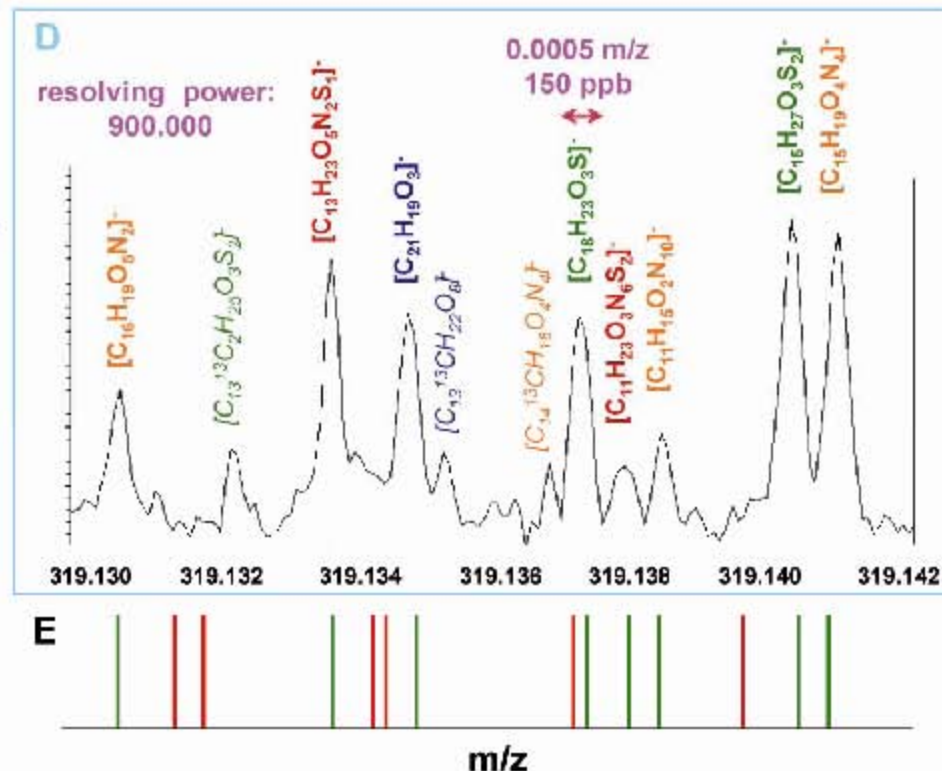
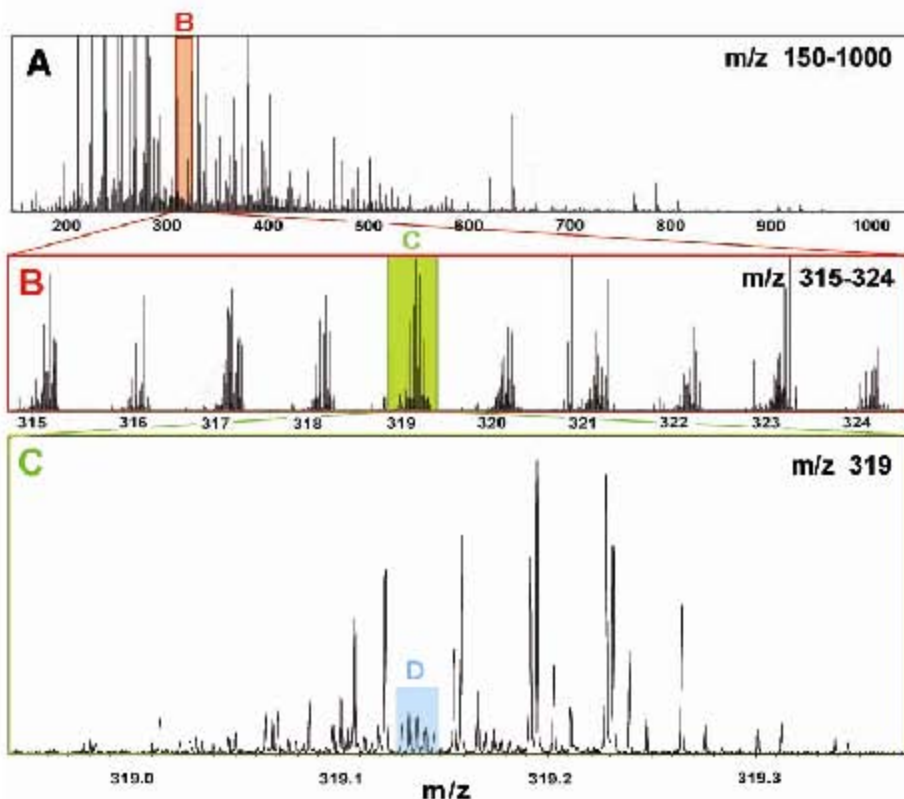
Lolland/Maribo 2009



TC32008, Soudan 2008



# FTICR mass spectra of Murchison methanolic extract



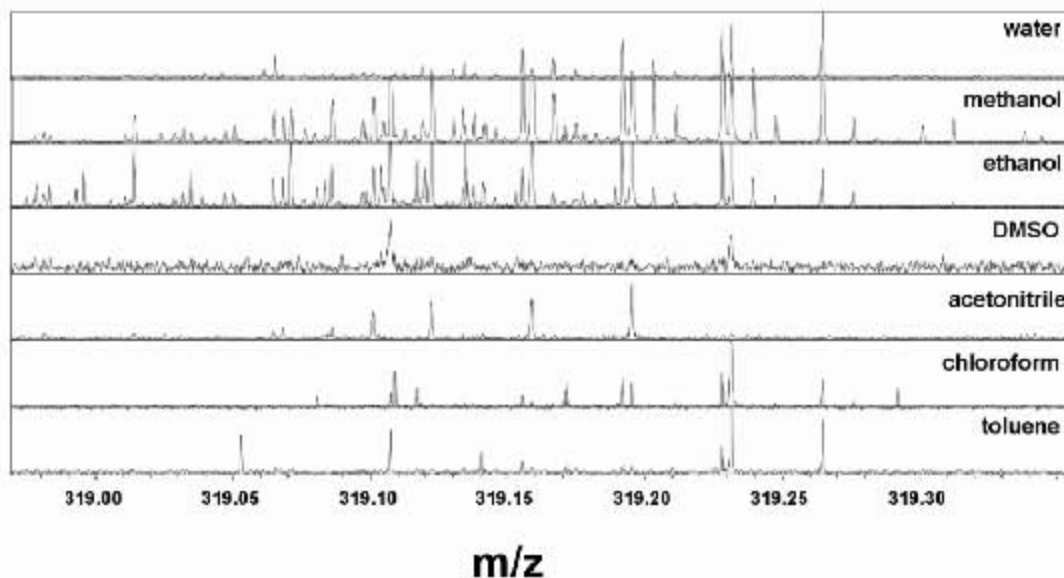
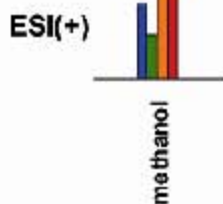
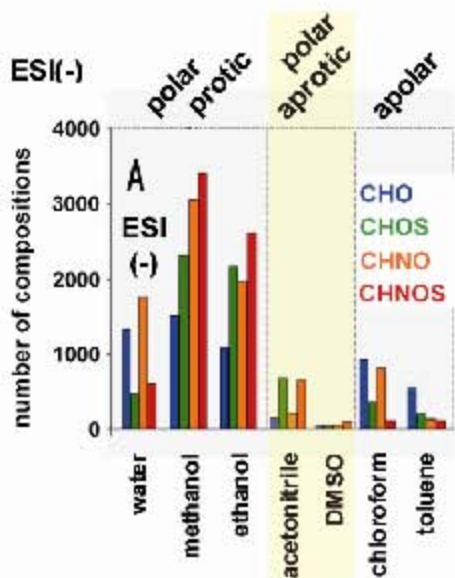
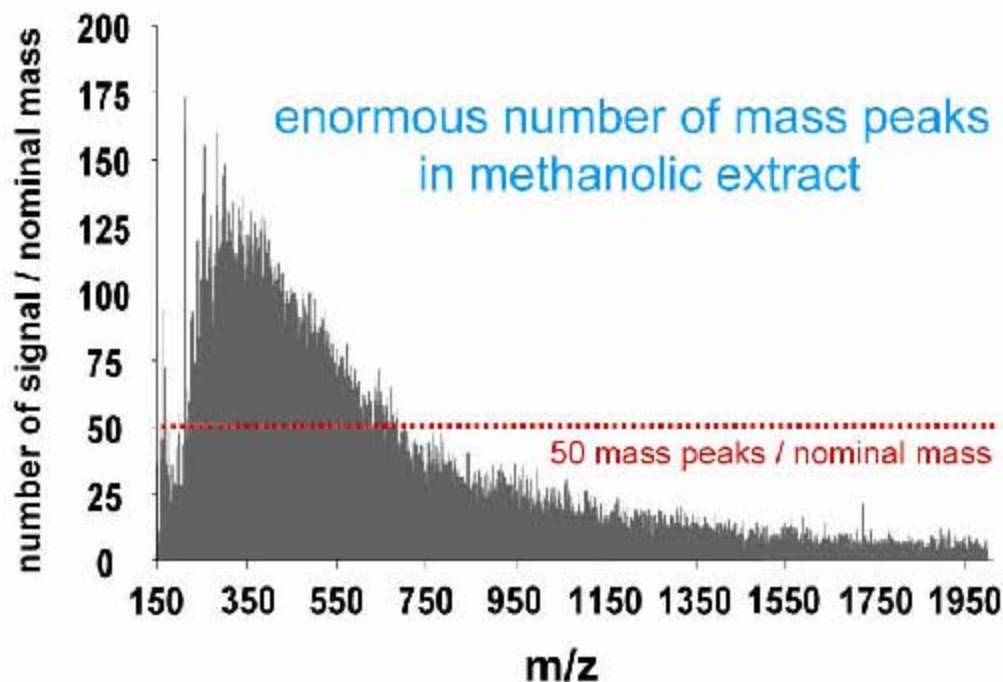
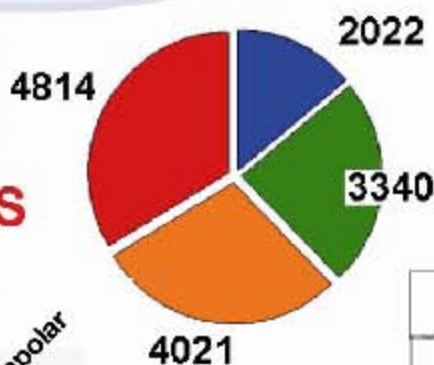
enormous number of resolved mass peaks

sizable coverage of the CHNOS compositional space

selectivity of  
Murchison  
carbonaceous chondrite  
extraction

molecular series

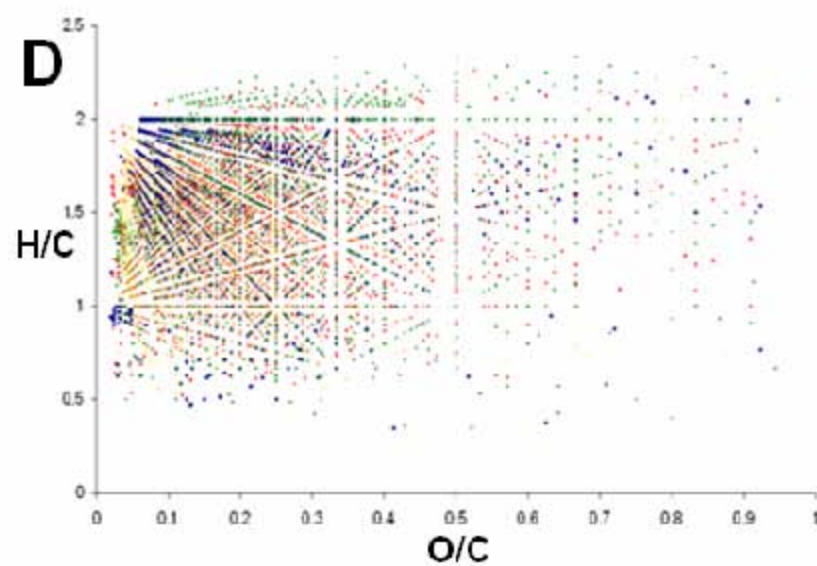
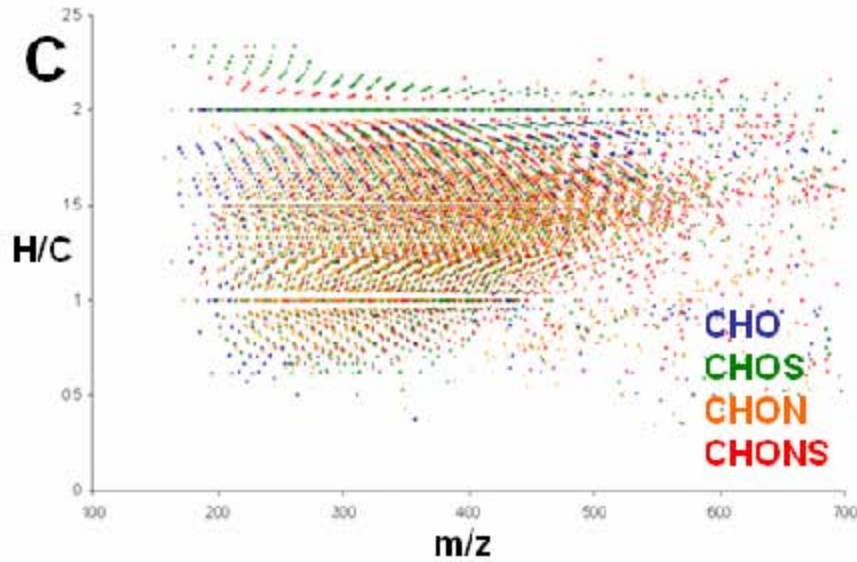
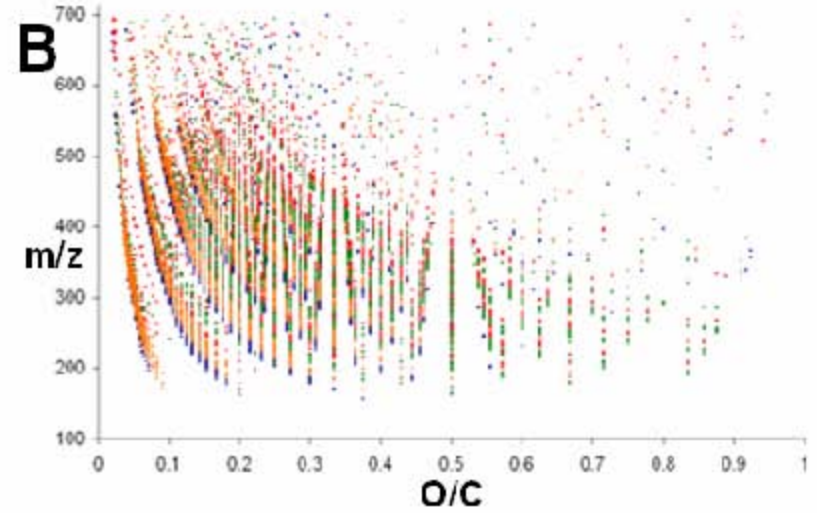
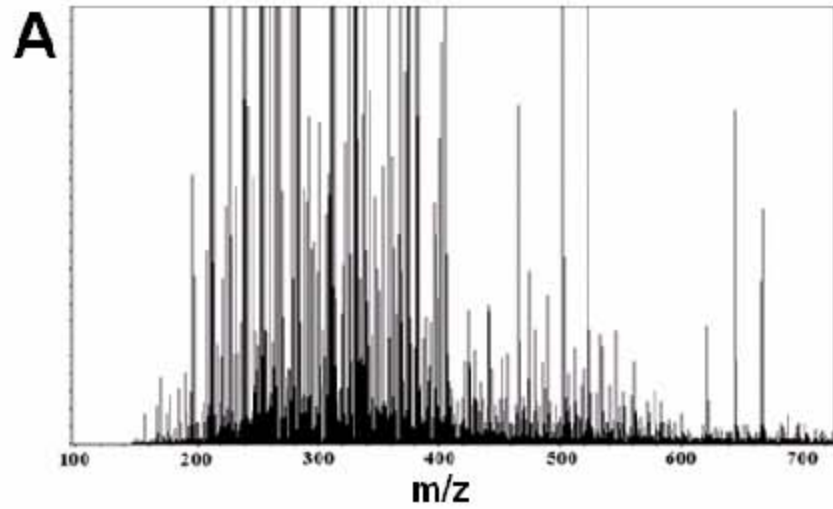
CHO CHOS  
CHNO CHNOS



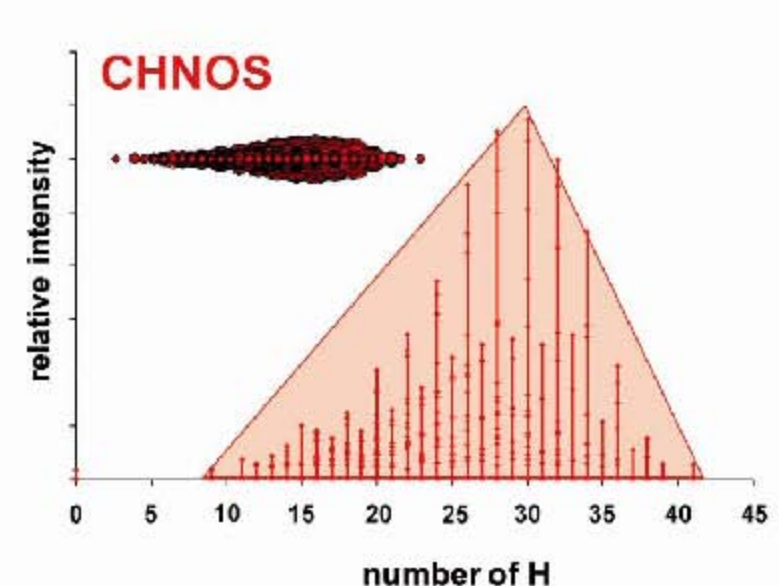
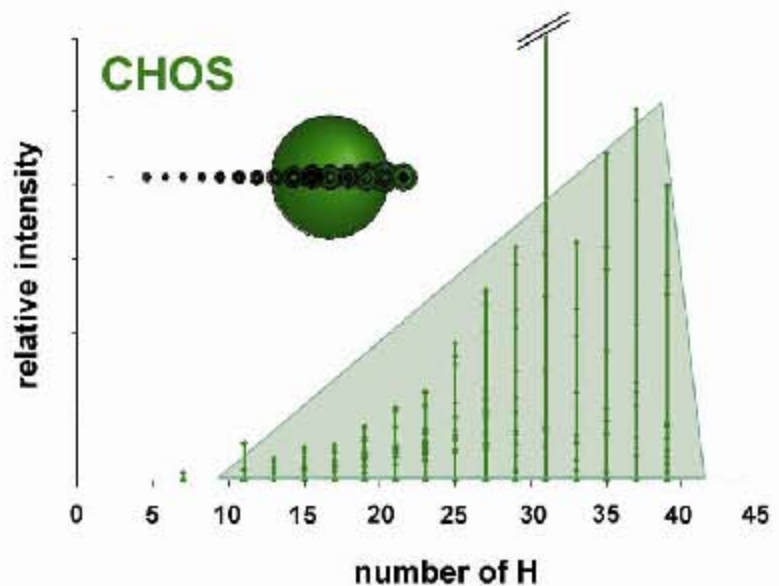
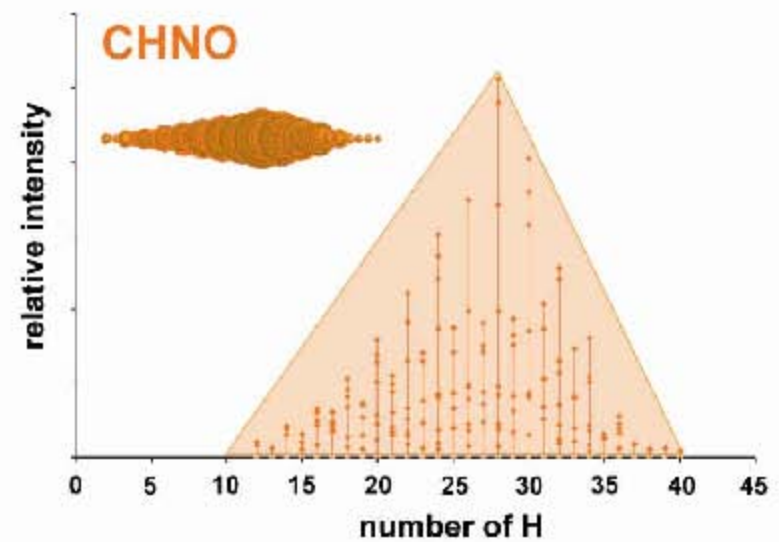
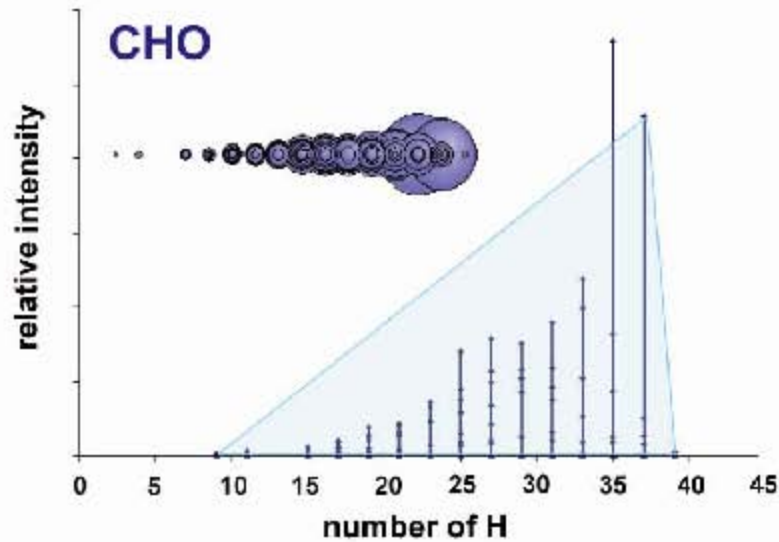




## Total ESI(-) spectrum

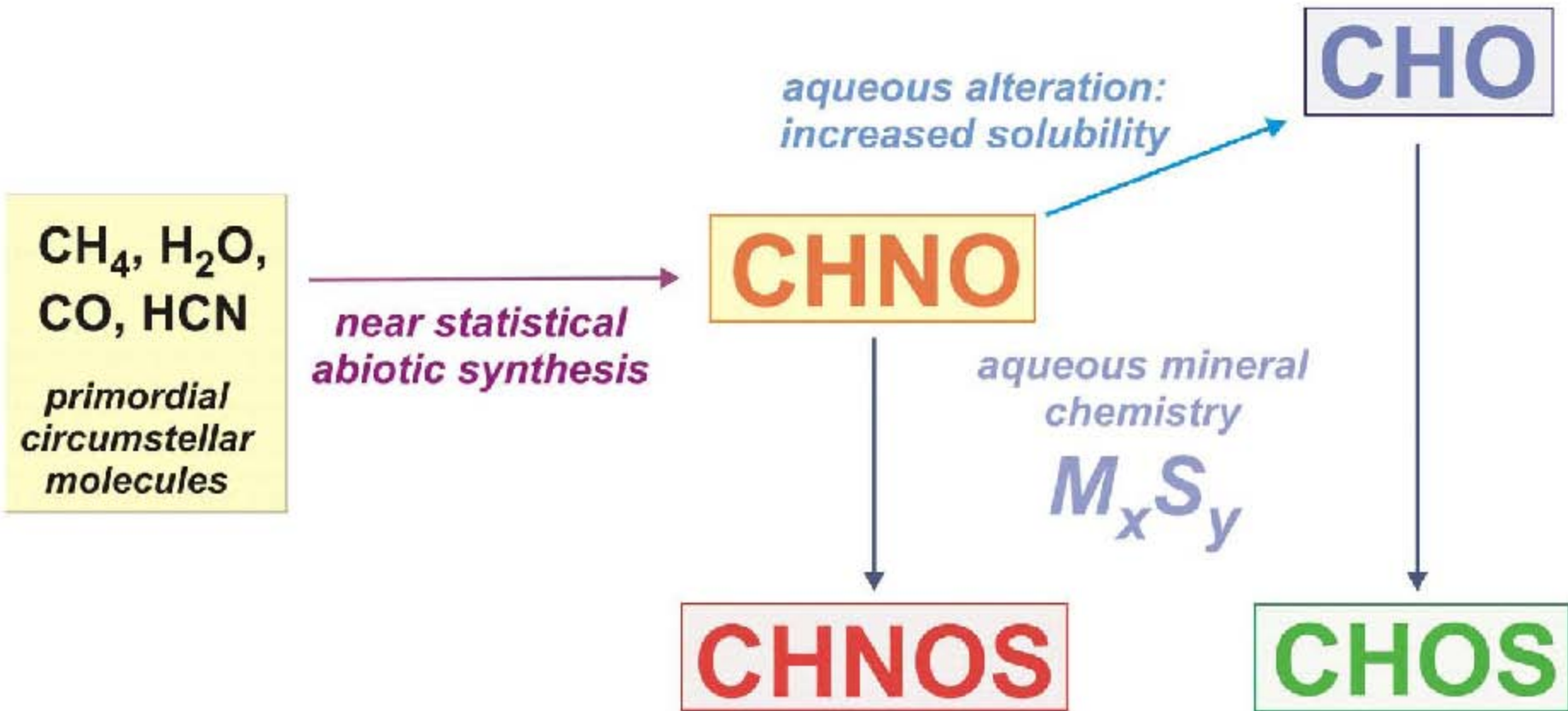


distribution of mass peaks within molecular series indicates chronological order of molecule formation

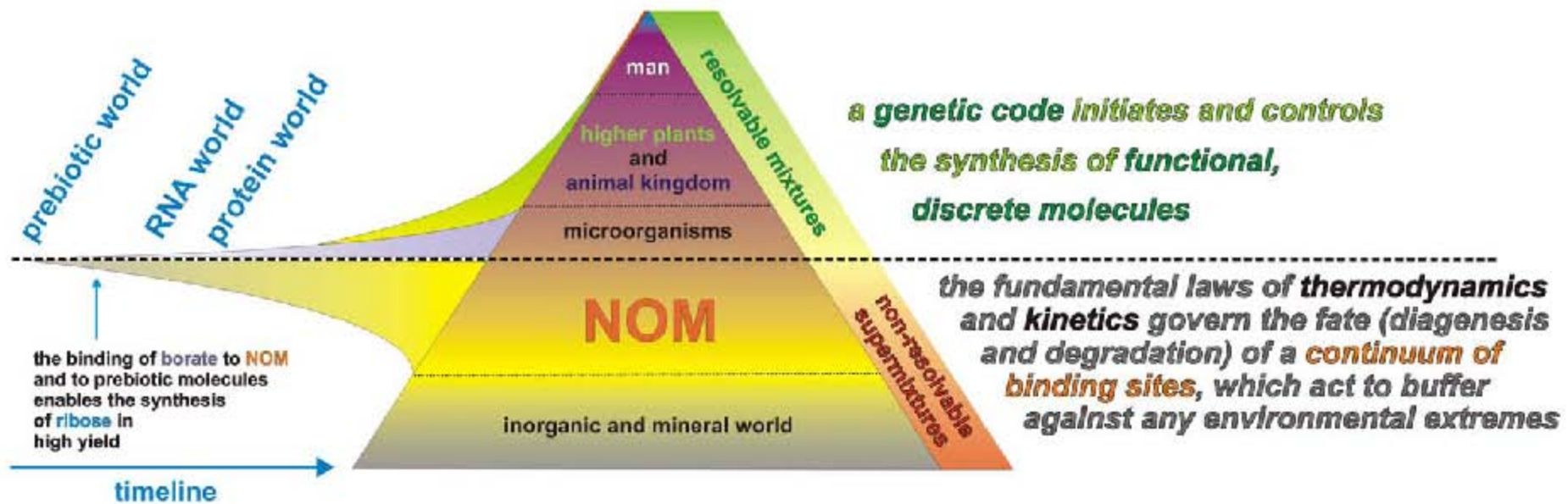




# Murchison sulfur chemistry chronology



# coevolution of biochemistry and natural organic matter (NOM)



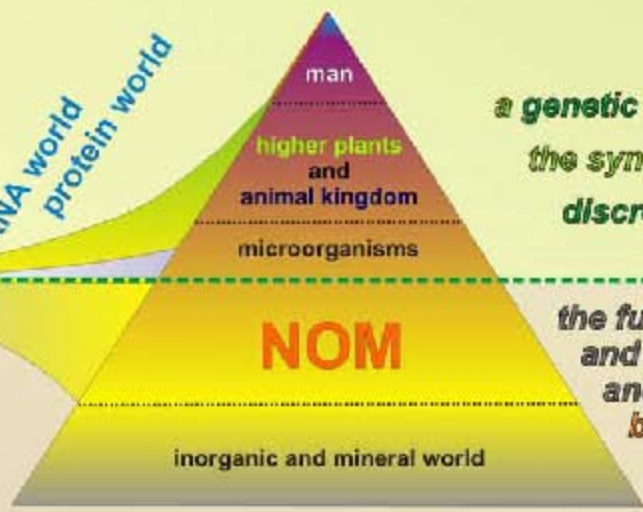


prebiotic earth

biotic evolution (red queen concept) : biotic interactions in ecosystems: competition, predation (operate local and on short time scales)



RNA world  
protein world



a genetic code initiates and controls the synthesis of functional, discrete molecules

extraterrestrial abiotic synthesis

the fundamental laws of thermodynamics and kinetics govern the fate (diagenesis and degradation) of a continuum of binding sites, which act to buffer against any environmental extremes

abiogenic evolution (court jester concept) : large patterns of biodiversity are driven by physical environment: tectonic, climate, landscape (extinction) (regional and global large-scale patterns and extended time scales)

timeline



# fundamental building blocks of terrestrial life

4 nucleobases

20 proteinaceous amino acids

> 2 lipid precursors

## characteristics of terrestrial biosignatures

enantiomeric excess

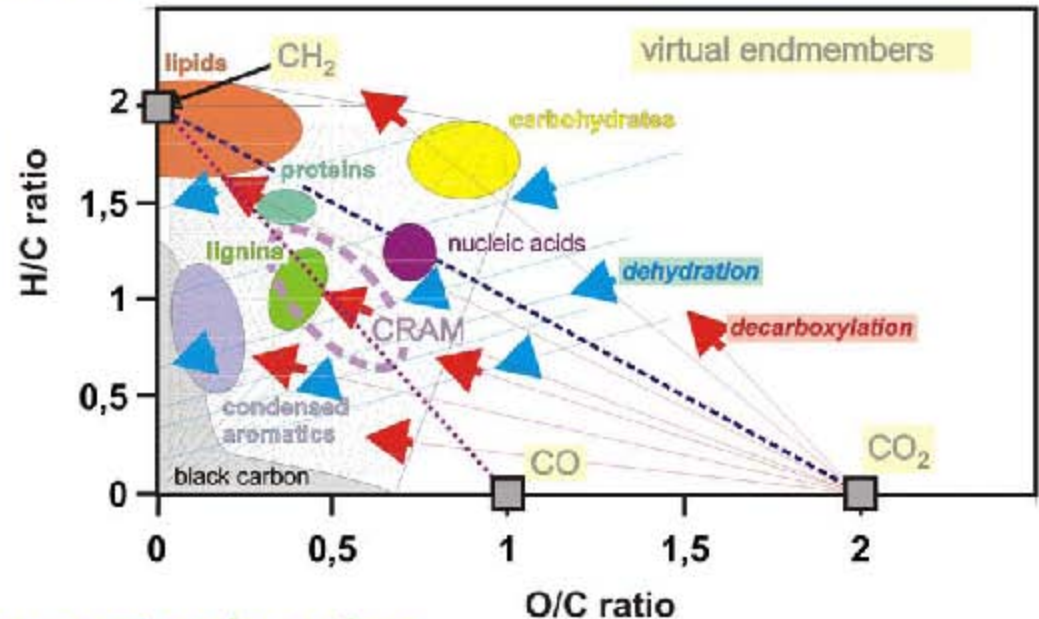
diastereomeric preference

structural isomer preference

repeating constitutional sub-units or atomic ratios

systematic isotopic ordering at molecular and intermolecular levels

uneven distribution patterns [carbon numbers, concentrations,  $\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ ]

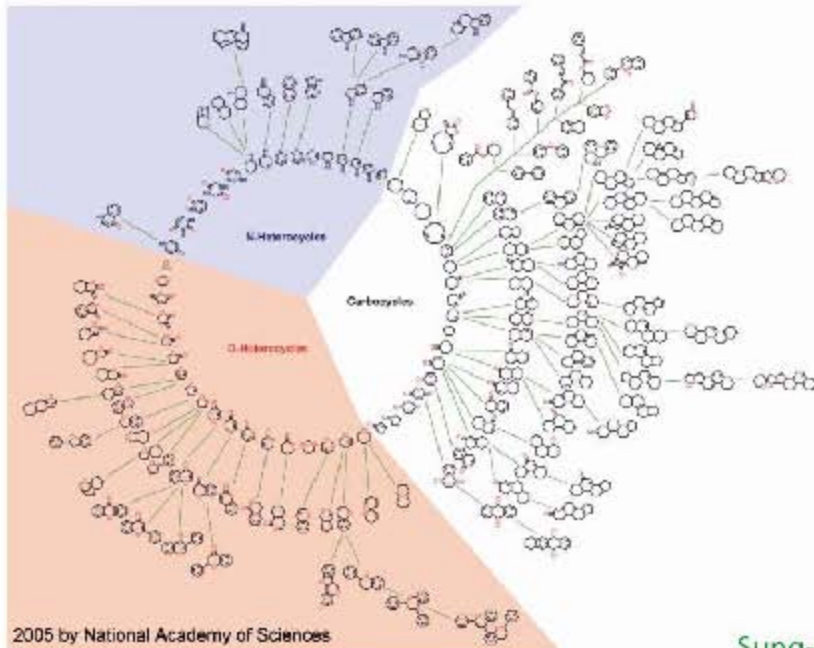




# sorting schemes of the biochemical space

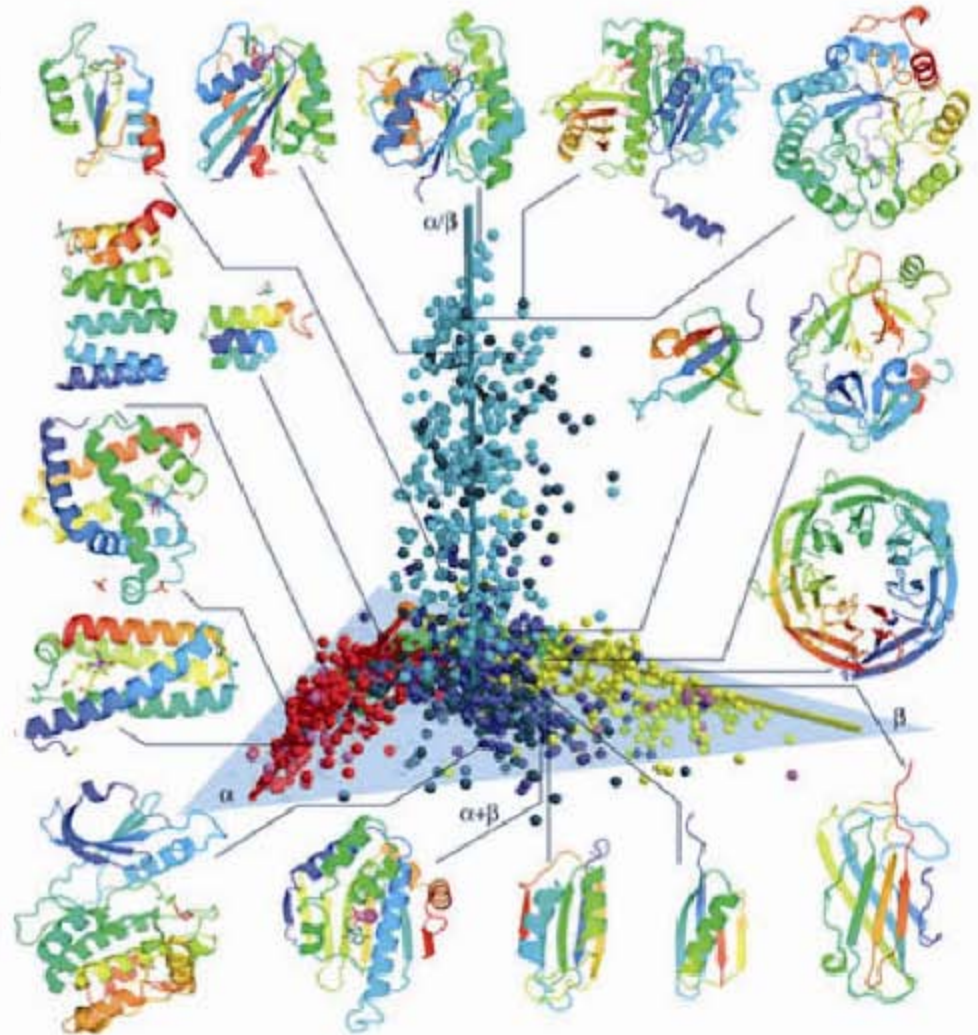
**protein structure space map (SSM)**, shows each of the known 1,898 unique protein structures [Classification of Proteins (SCOP) system].

graphical star-like representation of a scaffold tree of natural products, termed **periodic table of the natural products**.



2005 by National Academy of Sciences

Koch M A et al. PNAS 2005;102:17272-17277



Sung-Hou Kim (UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory LBL):

[http://www.lbl.gov/Publications/Currents/Archive/view-assets/Apr-01-2005/cover\\_ex2.jpg](http://www.lbl.gov/Publications/Currents/Archive/view-assets/Apr-01-2005/cover_ex2.jpg)

## characteristics of abiotic synthesis

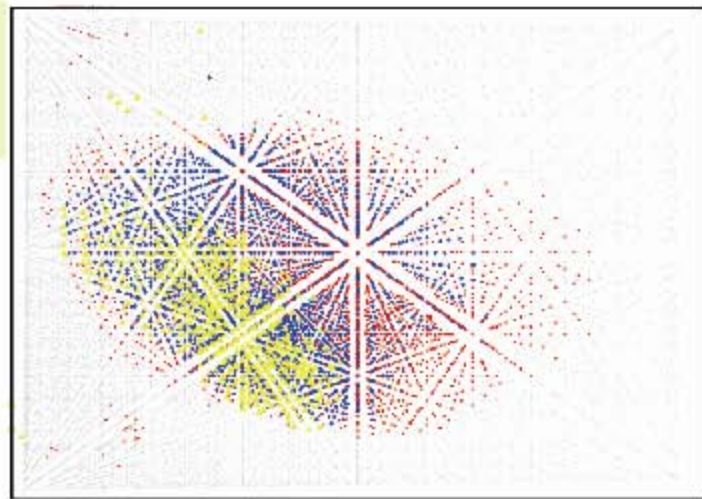
early **small molecules** ( $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ,  $\text{HCN}$ ,....) already form very elaborate **mixtures** of **CHNO molecules**

**high-energy irradiation** at rather **low temperatures** enables and sustains vigorous **chemistry** with **radical recombination** as a likely key mechanism

huge **variance** of formation conditions initiates extensive **heterogeneity** on all size scales with respect to **composition** and **isotope distribution**

***sizable coverage of mathematical compositional space is usually observed***

**deviation from statistical distributions** allow **mechanistic conclusions** : in Murchison, the distribution of mass peaks suggests a chronological order of compound formation





# trajectories of organic matter formation

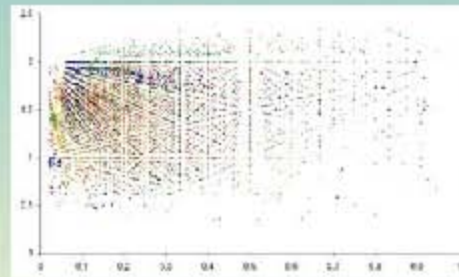
extreme environments



OXIC, ANOXIC, VARIABLE TEMPERATURE

biological origin

abiotic synthesis



atmospheric organic matter (SOA)  
HIGHLY OXIDIZED HETEROATOM-RICH

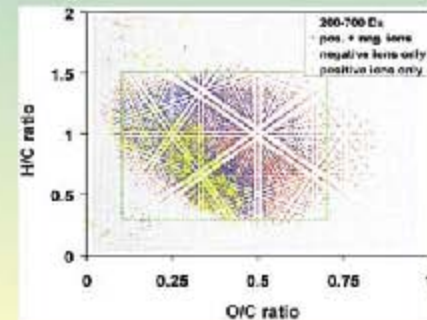
extraterrestrial organic matter

LOW TEMPERATURE  
HIGH-ENERGY RADIATION

CHN-tholins

TEMPERATE, OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE

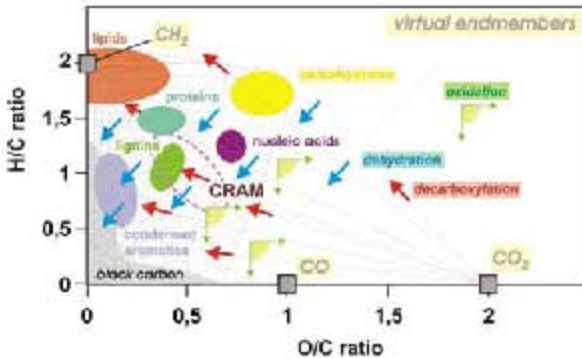
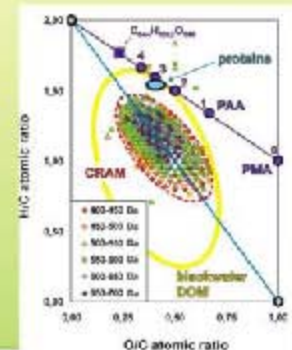
biogeochemical synthesis



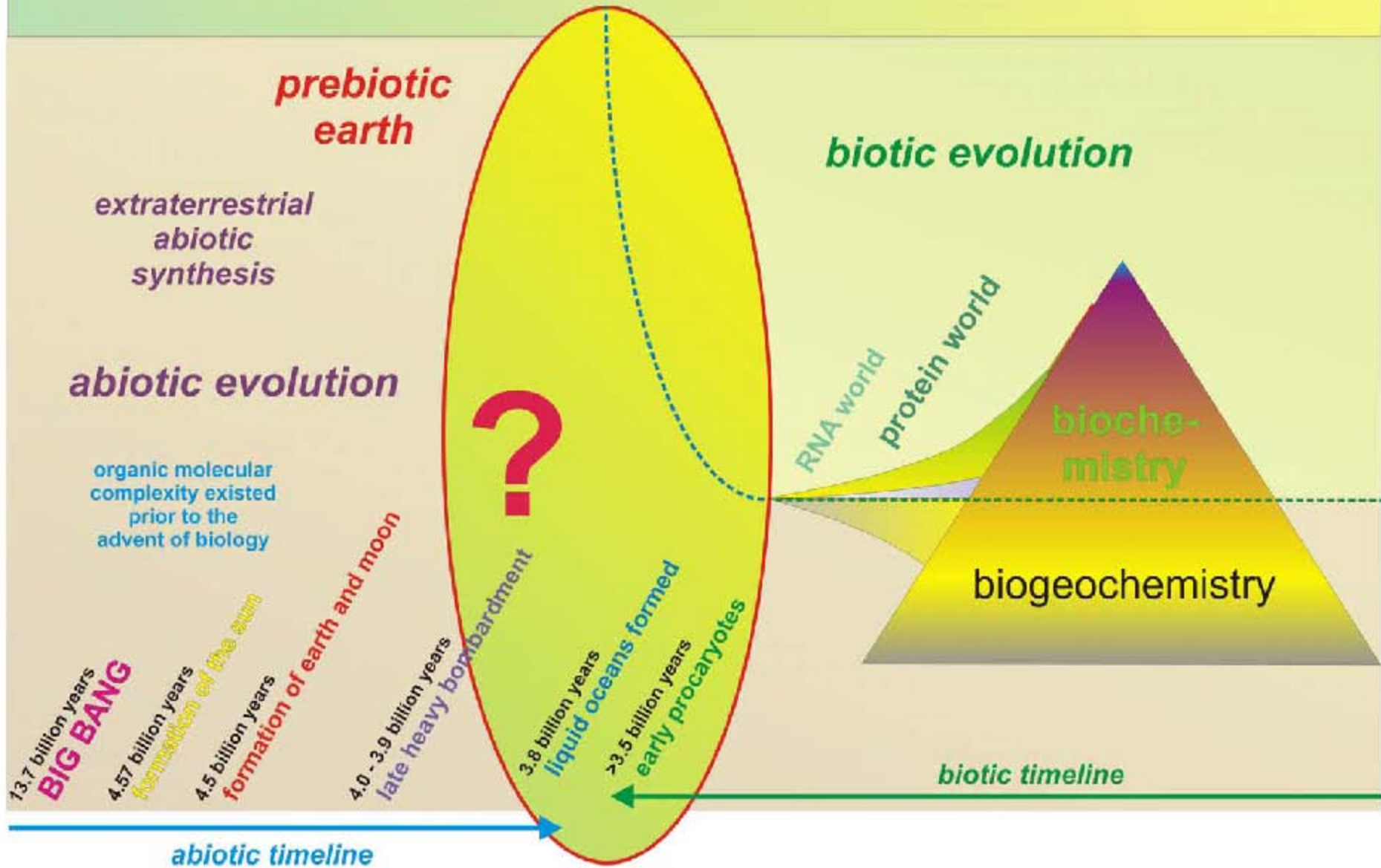
freshwater organic matter      marine organic matter

soil organic matter  
AROMATIC-RICH

ALIPHATIC



# interactions between the **abiotic** and **biotic** world

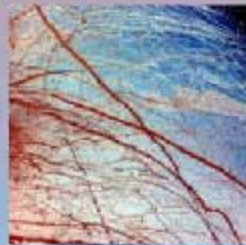




# *islands of life in the (extraterrestrial) continuum of natural organic matter*



Titan's  
CHN-tholins



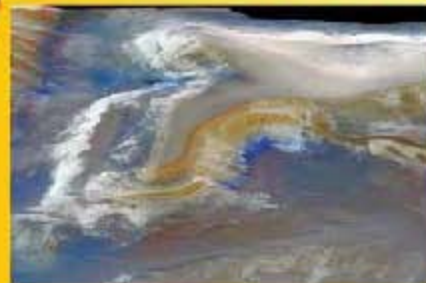
*Europa's  
inner ocean*



*terrestrial  
biomolecules*



**Gliese 581d**



*martian organics*

**ALH 84001**



## conclusions

molecular level characterization of natural organic matter requires complementary high-resolution organic structural spectroscopy aided by mathematical data analysis (and separation)

soil-derived, freshwater, marine and atmospheric NOM as well as extraterrestrial NOM have revealed remarkable structural variance which allows detailed conclusions about their formation history

the complexity of extraterrestrial organic matter represents a near statistical distribution of molecules generated under highly variable conditions; it rivals and possibly exceeds that of bio(geo)molecules found on earth

abiotic molecular diversity severely contrasts with terrestrial biocomplexity which reveals itself by a rich diversity of three-dimensional structures, ultimately derived from a very few general precursor molecules

the relationships between abiotic chemical and biological evolution are not yet understood



# molecular-level structural analysis of non-repetitive complex unknowns



4000000 \$



complementary techniques, aspects, **brains**

**NMR**

*quantification*

**mass spectrometry**

*resolution*

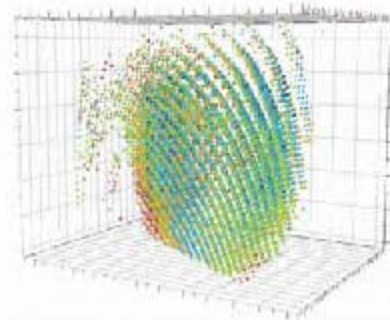
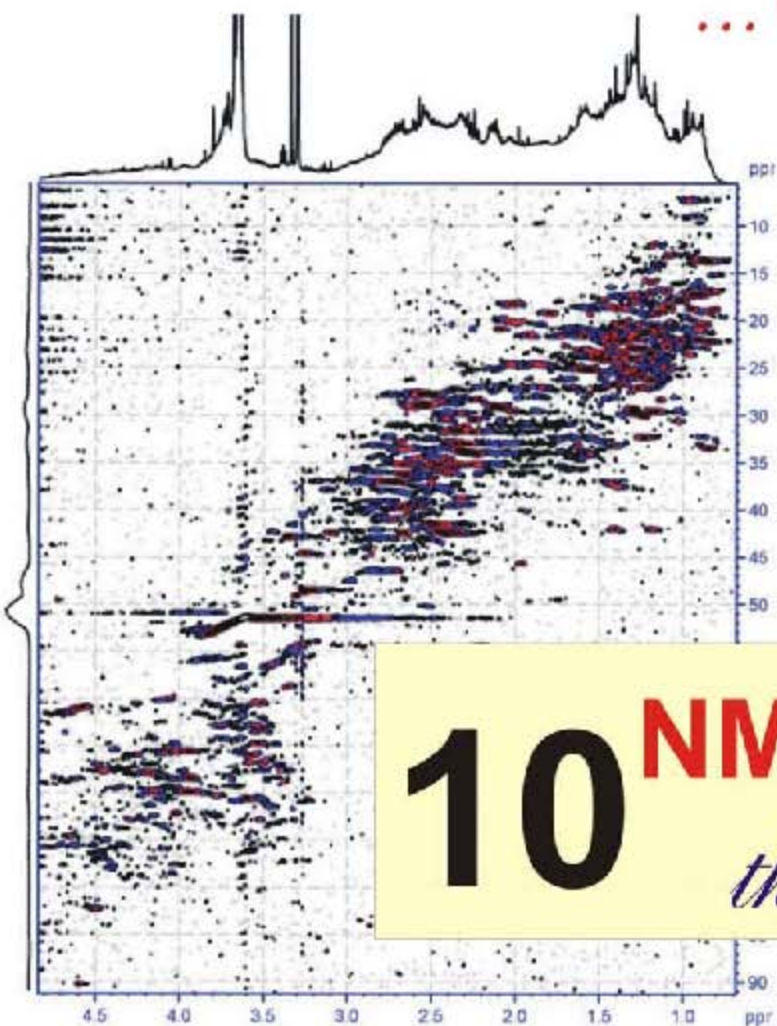
**high-performance separation**

*validation*

***integrated mathematical systems analytics***

*conclusion*

*... I want to stay in NMR*



**10** **NMR+FTMS+sep+**  $e^{i\pi} = -1$

*the unbeatable combination*





*thank you*



**HelmholtzZentrum münchen**  
Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt



a teaser from **Ron Benner**:

chemical degradation of a complex organic matter  
with a supposed number of  $10^{6-14}$  **different chemical environments** of carbon produces **individual**

*carbohydrates*

*amino acids*

*CuO lignin oxidation products*

*common biomarkers*

up to the **low percent** range

*This is NOT (so) bad after all.....*







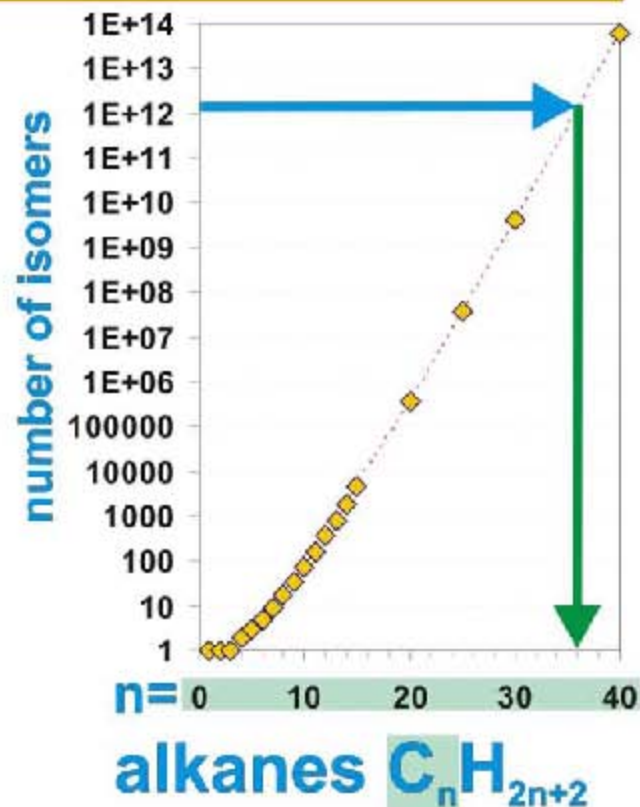


# the total space of molecular structures

$10^{60-200}$

*current understanding implies:  
the volume of our universe is*

$2 \cdot 10^{89} \text{ nL}$



mass spectrometry provides:

isomer-filtered complement  
of the total **molecular space**

# the total space of molecular structures

$10^{60-200}$

mass spectrometry provides:

isomer-filtered complement of the **total molecular space**: **compositional space**

$C_{14}H_{30}$   
1858 isomers

198.388 Da

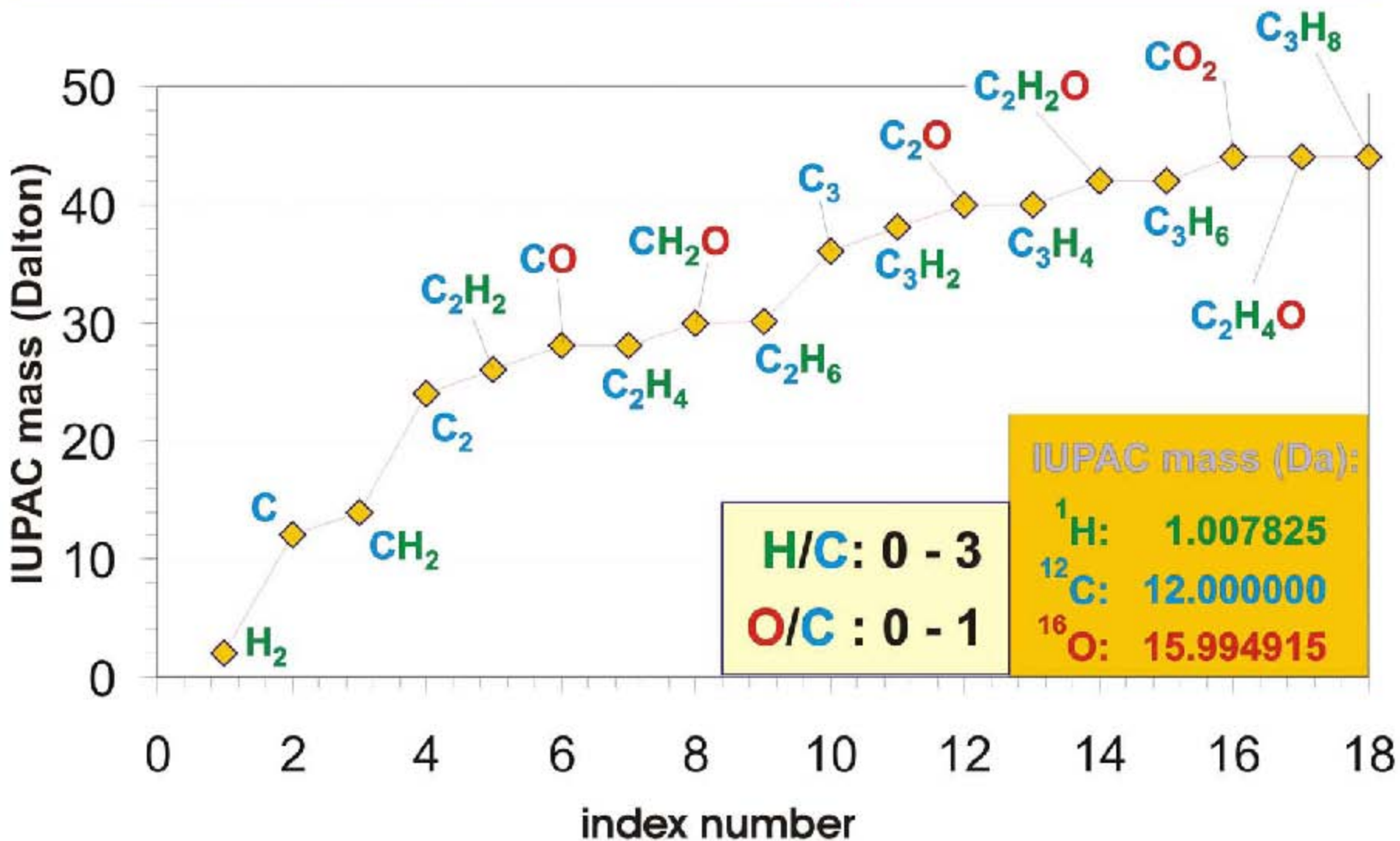
781 combinations of  $C_nH_mO_q$  molecules

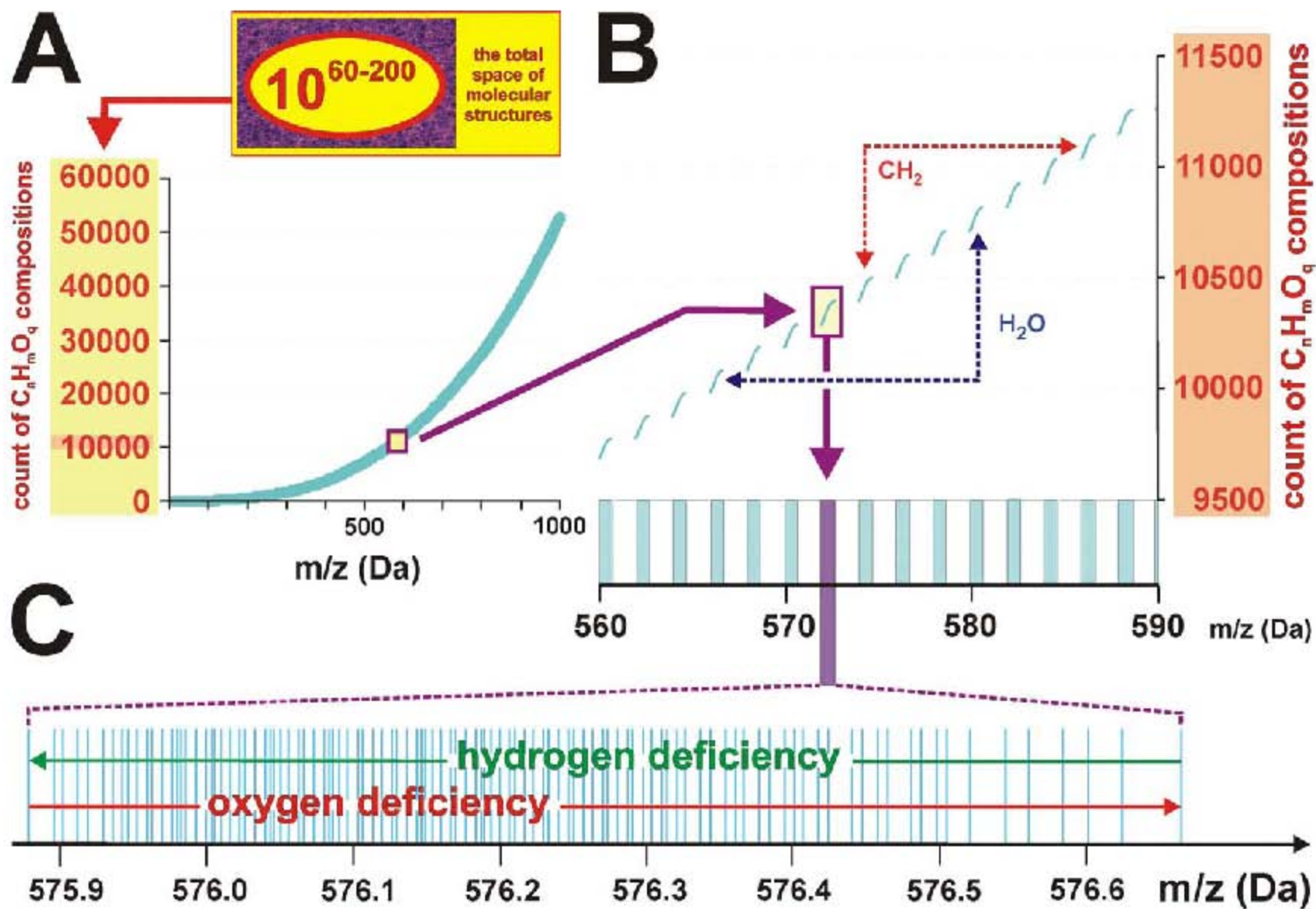


tremendous data reduction, shown for  $C_nH_mO_q$  compositions

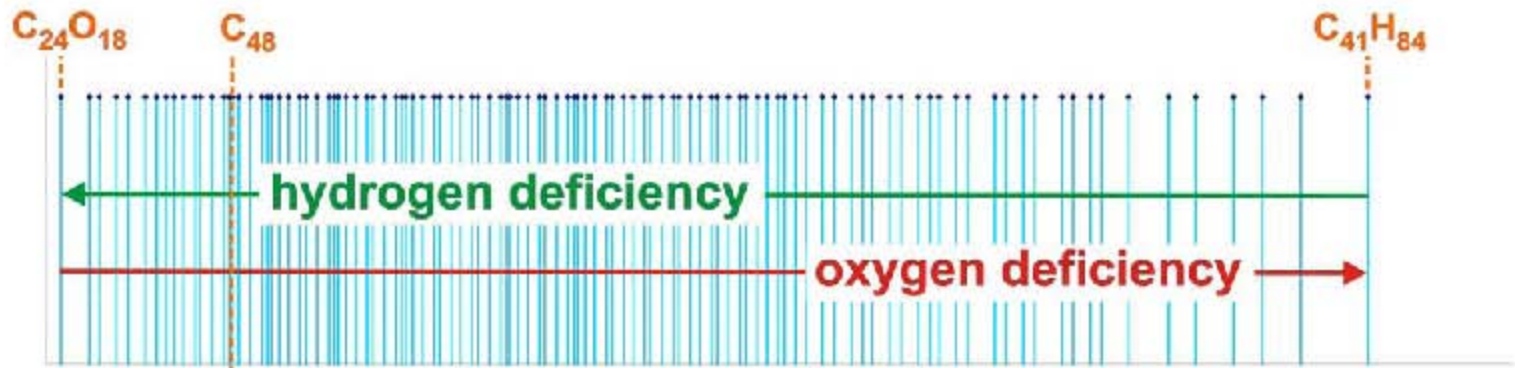
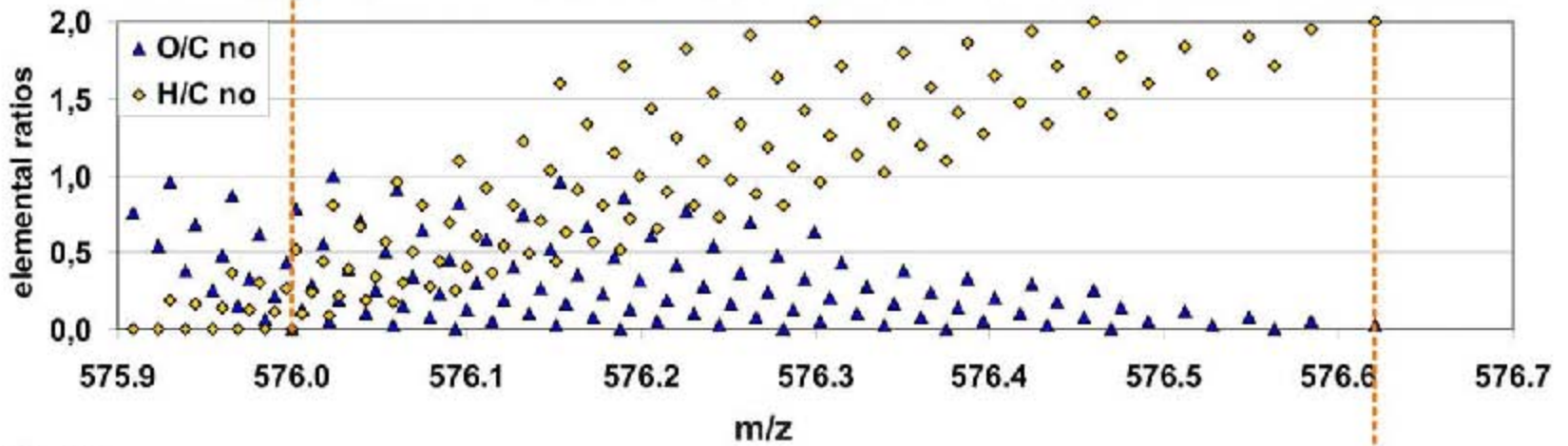
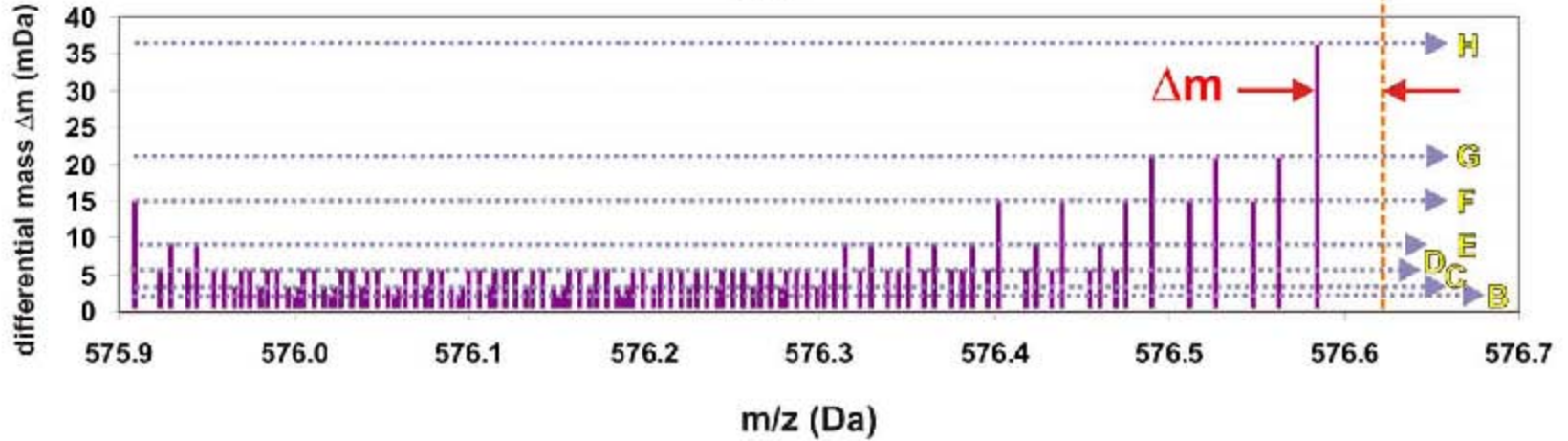


the lower mass range of the  $C_nH_mO_q$  compositional space





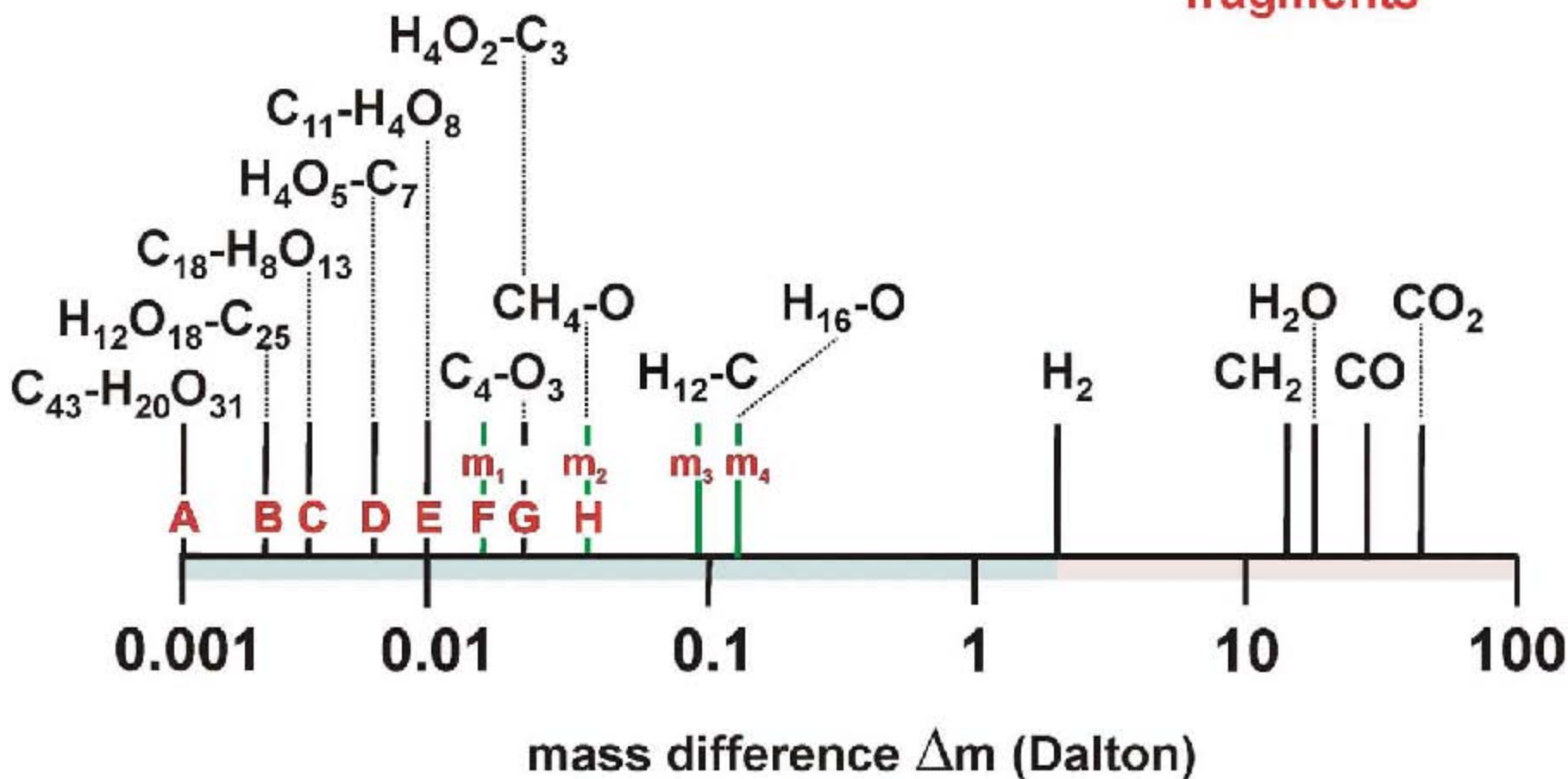


**A****B****C**

unique mass differences  $\Delta m$  which define any spacing between adjoining C,H,O-molecules within nominal mass clusters

elemental composition

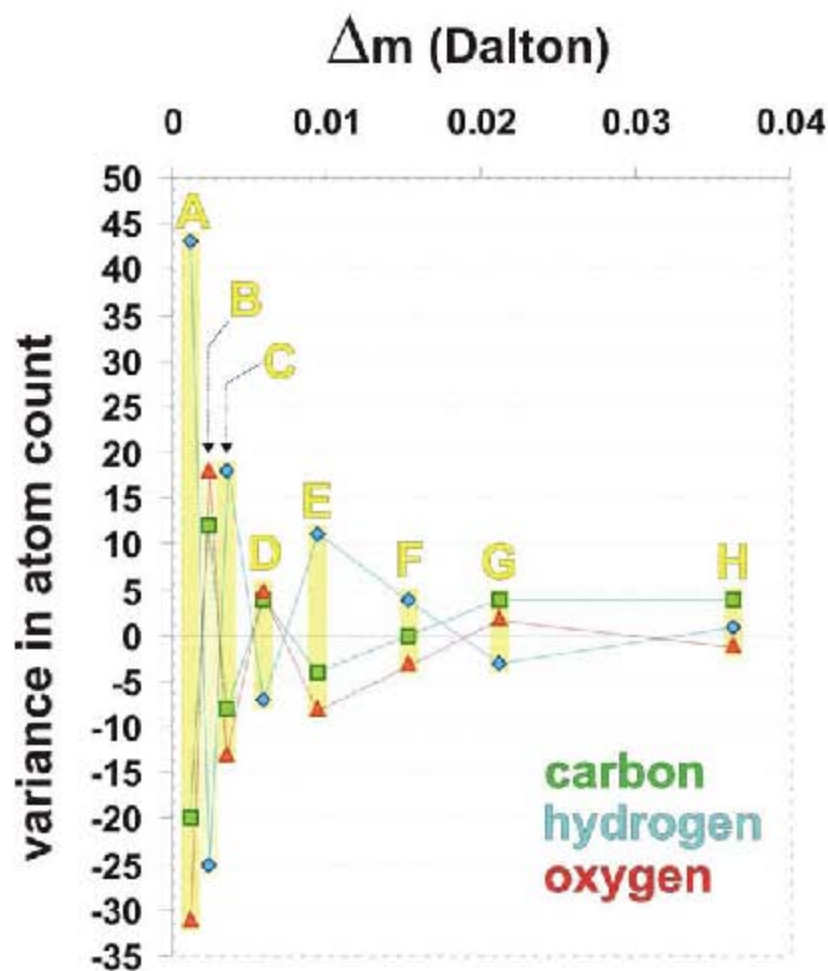
molecular fragments





# mandatory compositional dissimilarity against $\Delta m$

within C,H,O-nominal mass clusters



A

$\Delta m$  (mDa)

1.147



B

2.363



C

3.510



D

5.873



E

9.383



F

15.256



G

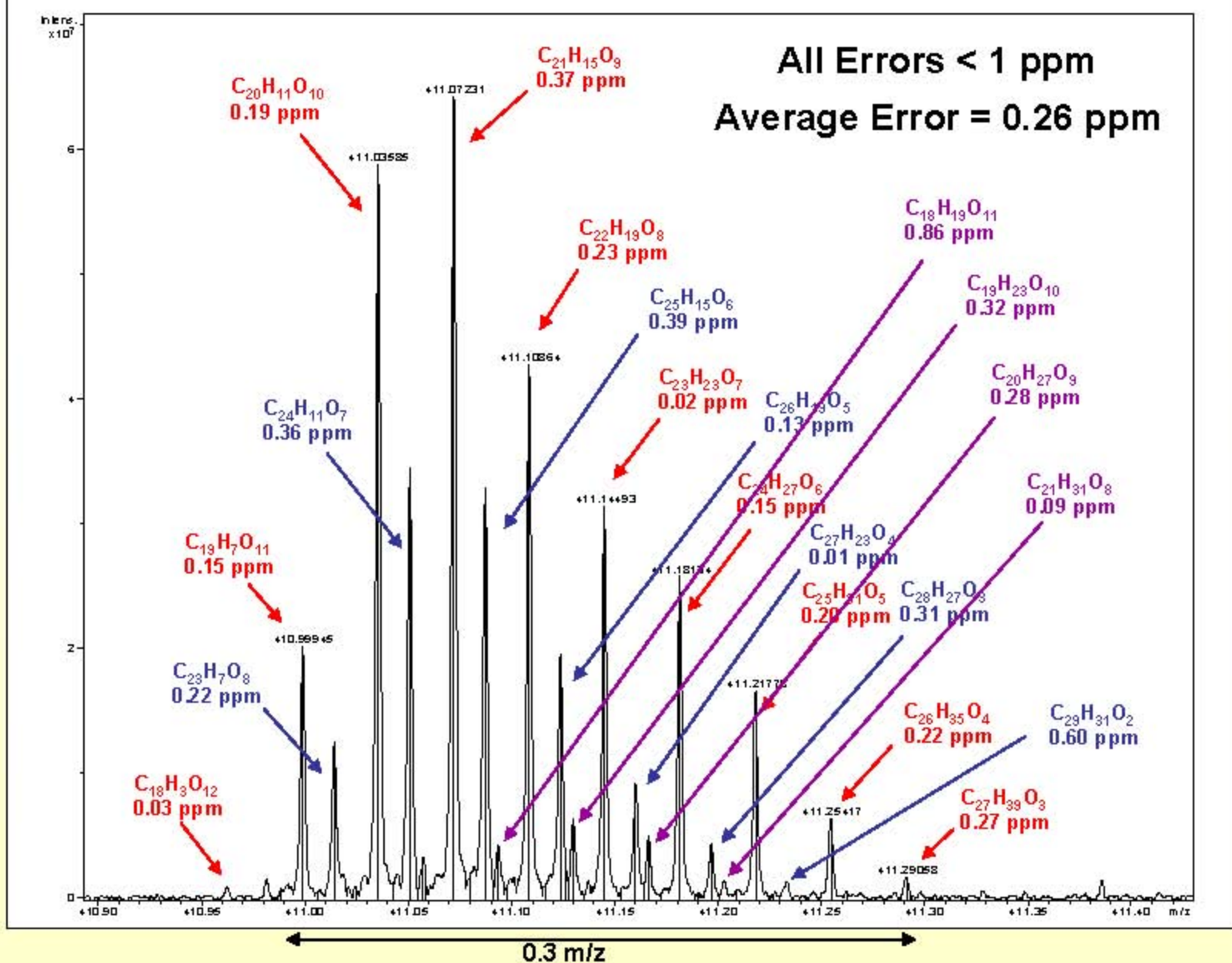
21.129



H

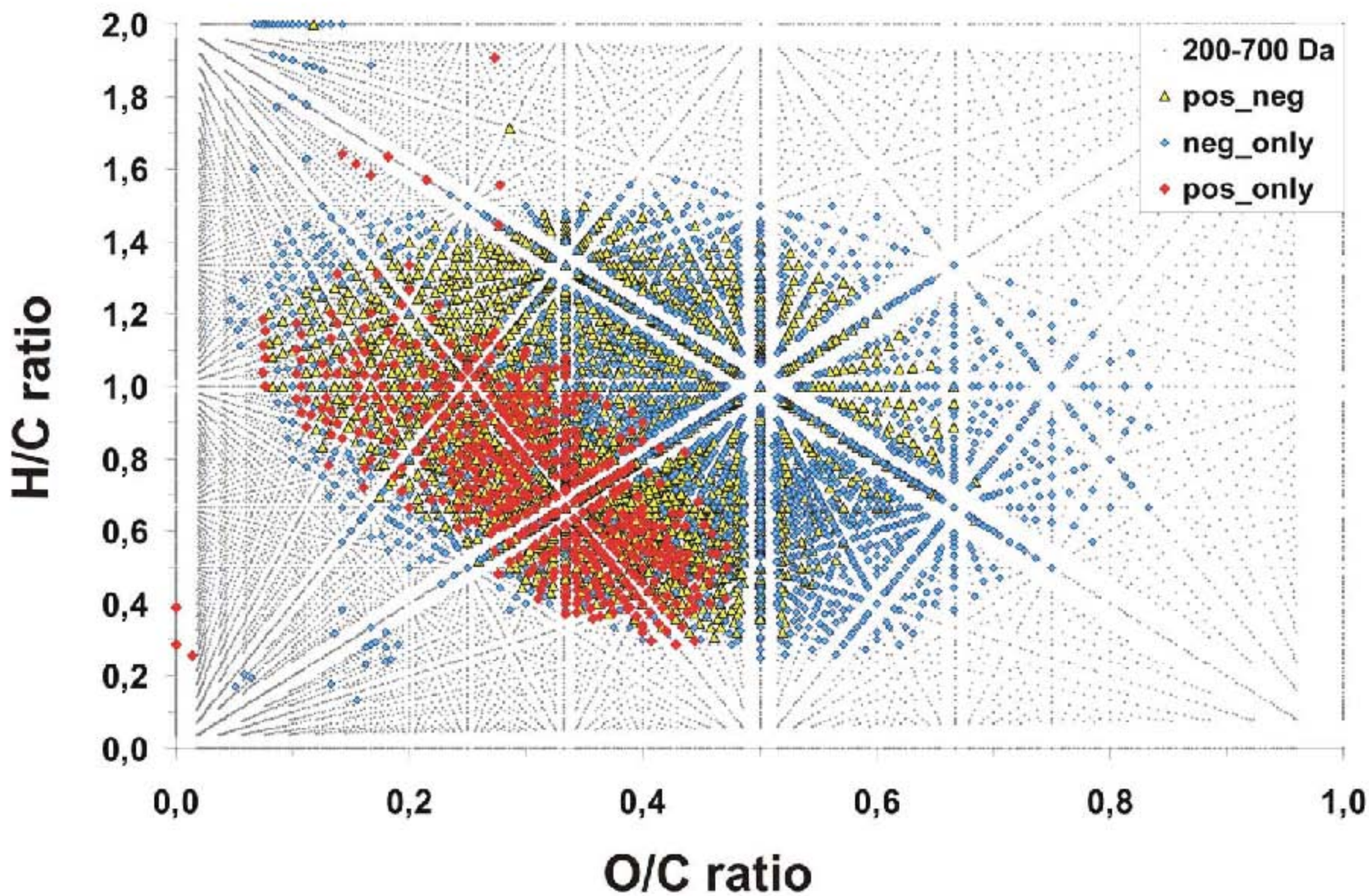
36.385







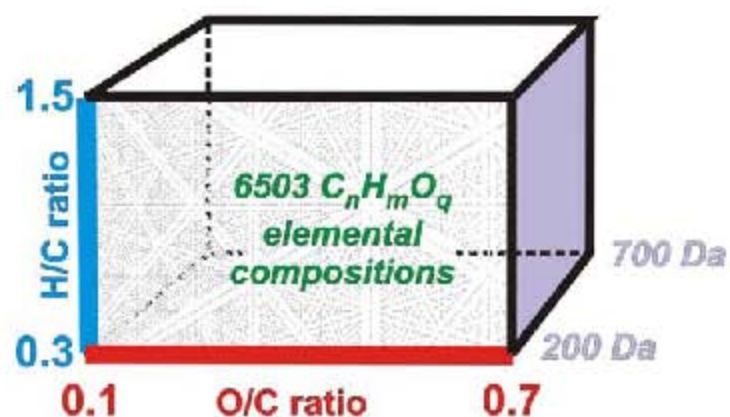
# coverage of CHO compositional space by SuwFA



# count of ions and of C,H,O-chemical environments in SuwFA

minimum consolidated SuwFA C,H,O ions 4270 (out of 19403 peaks)

C,H,O compositional space 6503 (65.7 % coverage)



## total count of C,H,O chemical environments

carbon	hydrogen	oxygen
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118513	100672	46158
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196146	171494	59102
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minimum SuwFA chemical environments

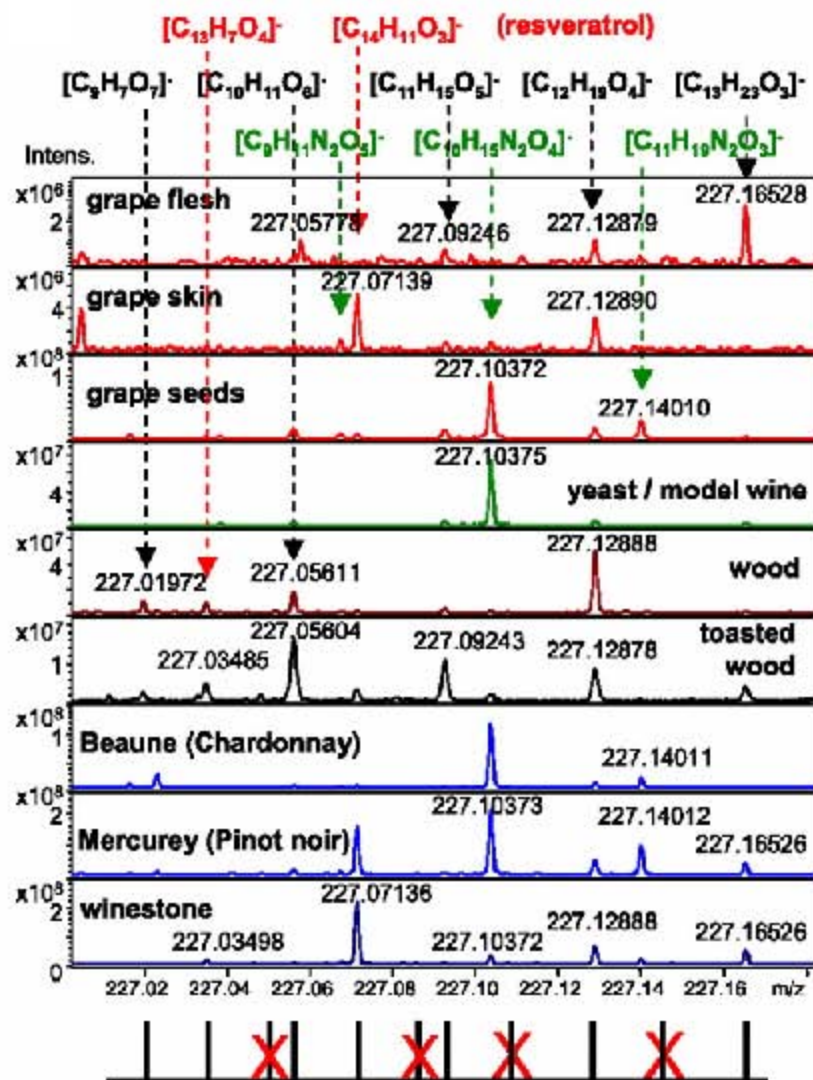
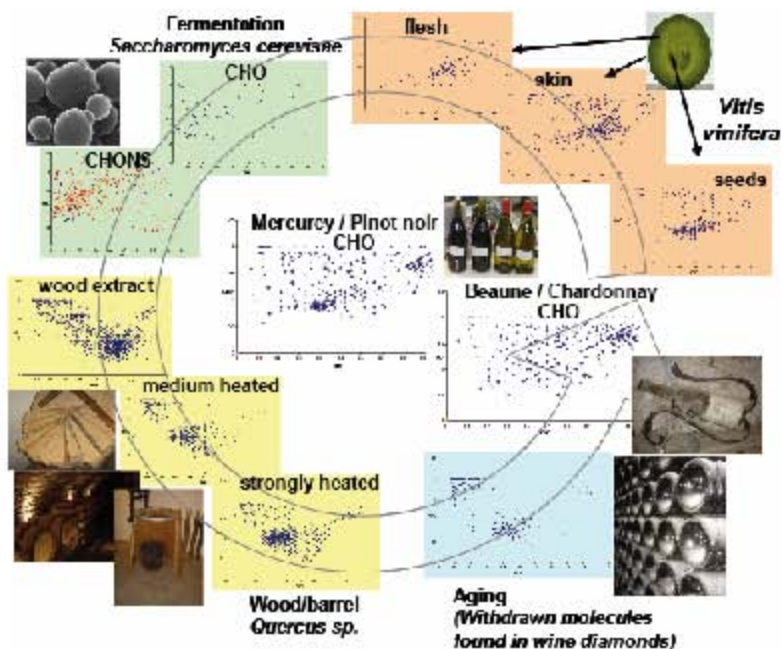
C,H,O compositional space

percent coverage by SuwFA molecules

60.4 %	58.7 %	78.1 %
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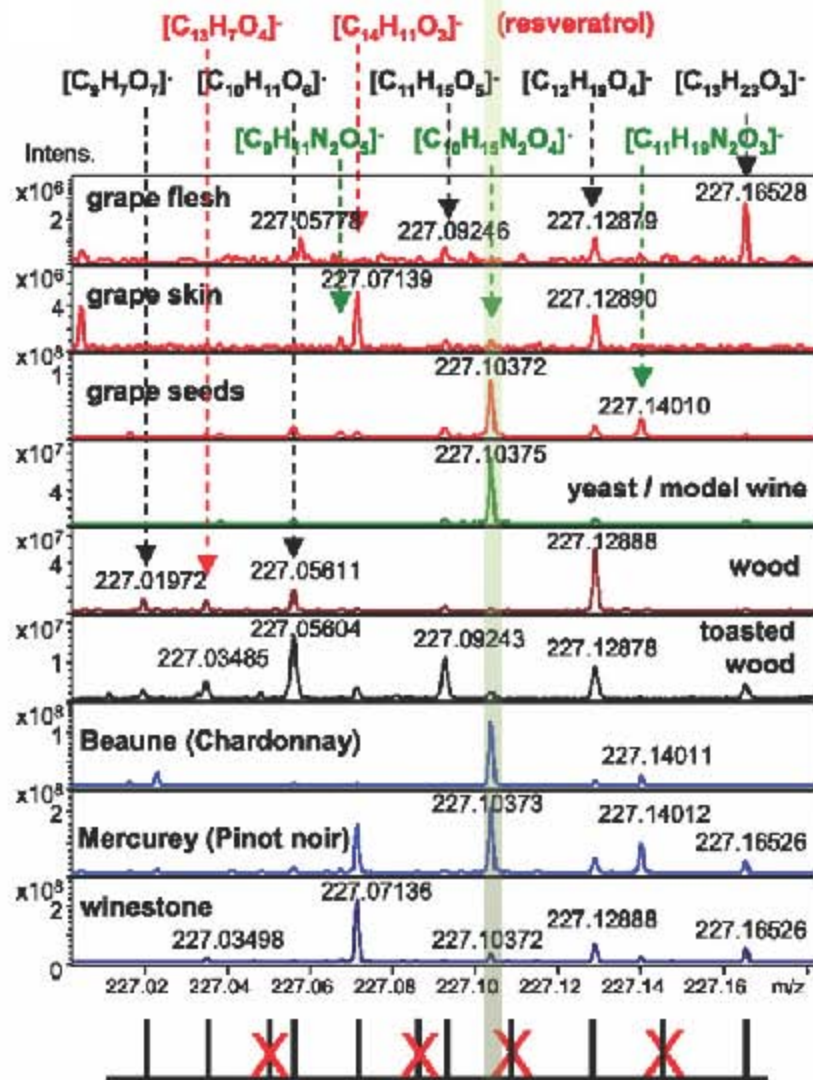
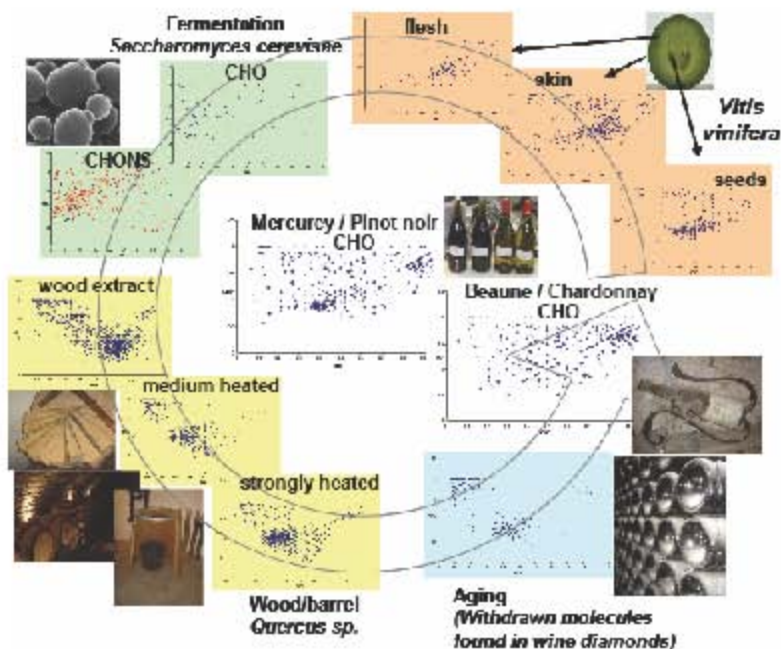


the knowledge of the (e.g.)  
**C,H,O-compositional space**  
 can be used for  
**mass spectral peak assignment**  
 in complex materials



**C,H,O-compositional  
 space**

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**C,H,O-compositional space**  
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 in complex materials



**C,H,O-compositional space**



## mass spectrometry of natural organic matter (NOM)

the **compositional space of molecules** represents the **isomer-filtered complement** of the **entire chemical space**. It is quantized and can be probed with **ultrahigh-resolution FTICR mass spectrometry**

**NOM** is a very complex mixture: it occupies a sizable section of the (mathematically accessible) **compositional space**

**pairs of mass peaks** differing by **zero-mass units  $\Delta m$**  show **ever increasing mandatory dissimilarity** in composition (and structure) with **decreasing  $\Delta m$**  for **any composition  $C_nH_mO_qZ_\Sigma$**

novel and useful criteria for **signal assignment** of **complex materials** emerge, when the **substance-specific order of mass spectra** is projected upon the **intrinsic order of the quantized compositional space** of molecules