

# Just the tip of the iceberg: Our mid- and far-infrared ice legacy

Dr. Melissa K. McClure

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & VIDI LAUREATE  
LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

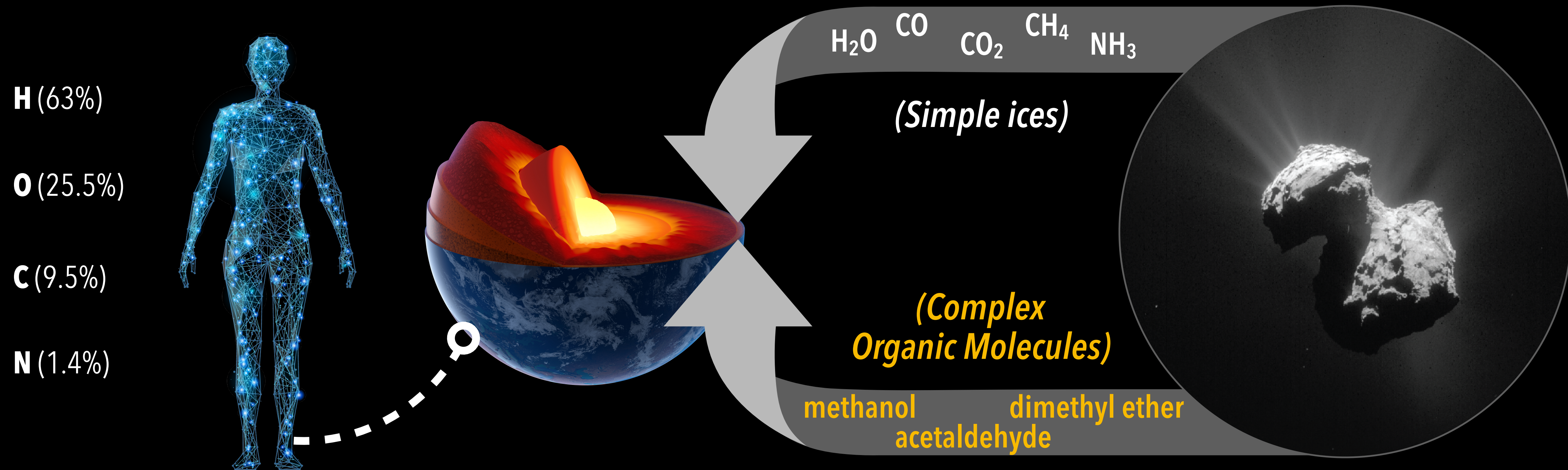
FIR2025

APRIL 2-4, 2025  
LEIDEN, NL



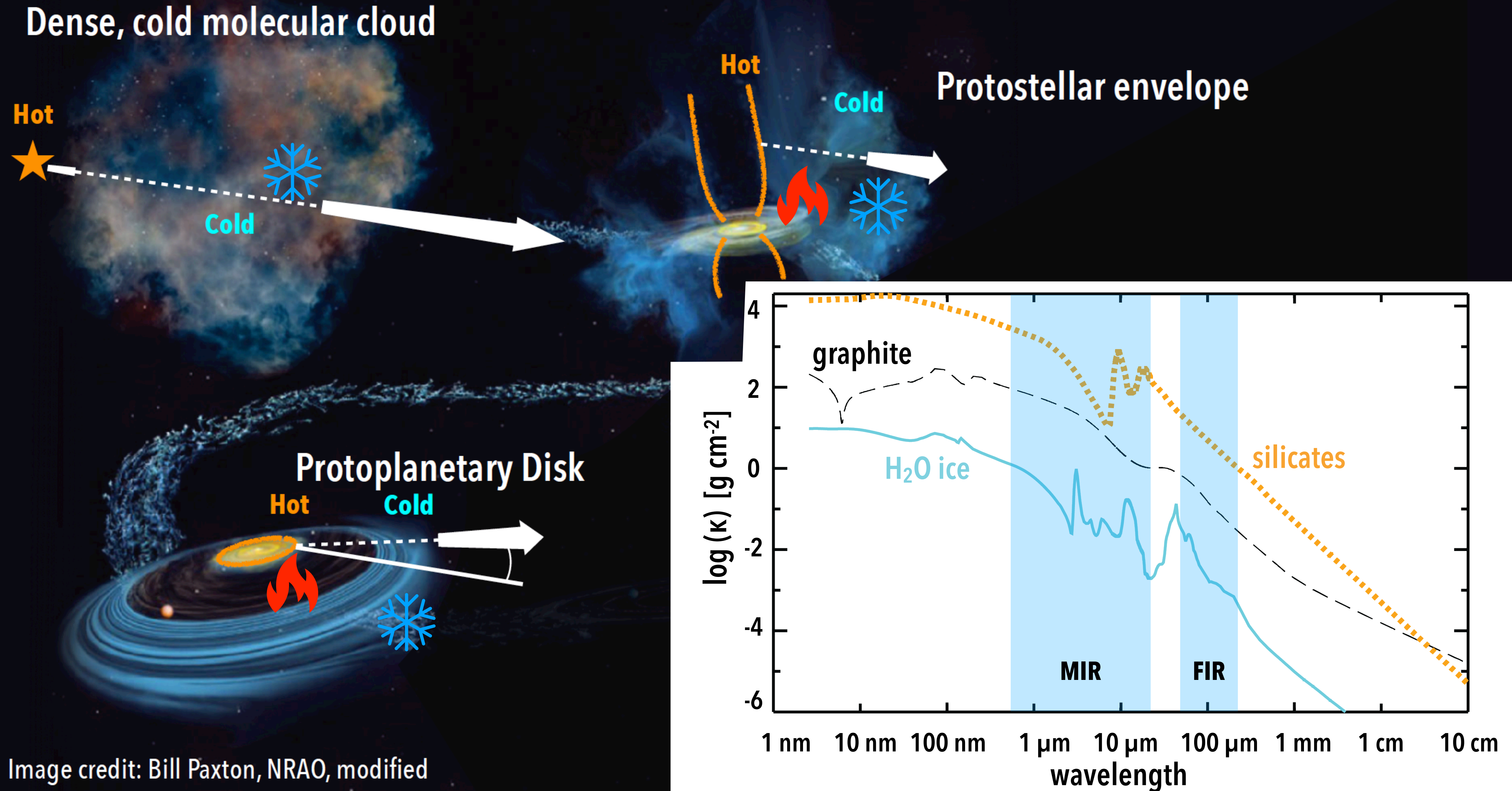


# Volatile elements on Earth and other planets originated as ices.



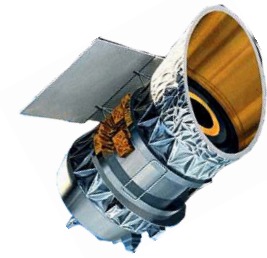


# Planetary ices (partially?) inherited from molecular cloud ices

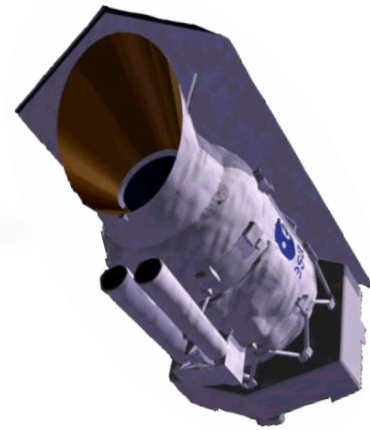




# Icy legacy of space-based **InfraRed** telescopes



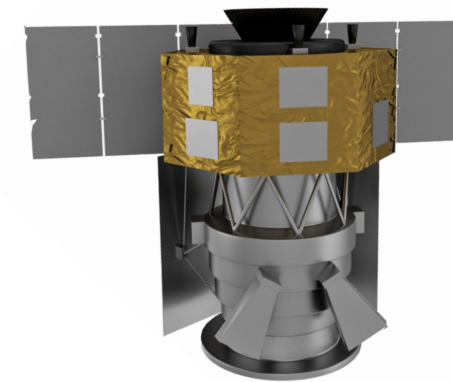
1983  
*IRAS*



1995  
*ISO*



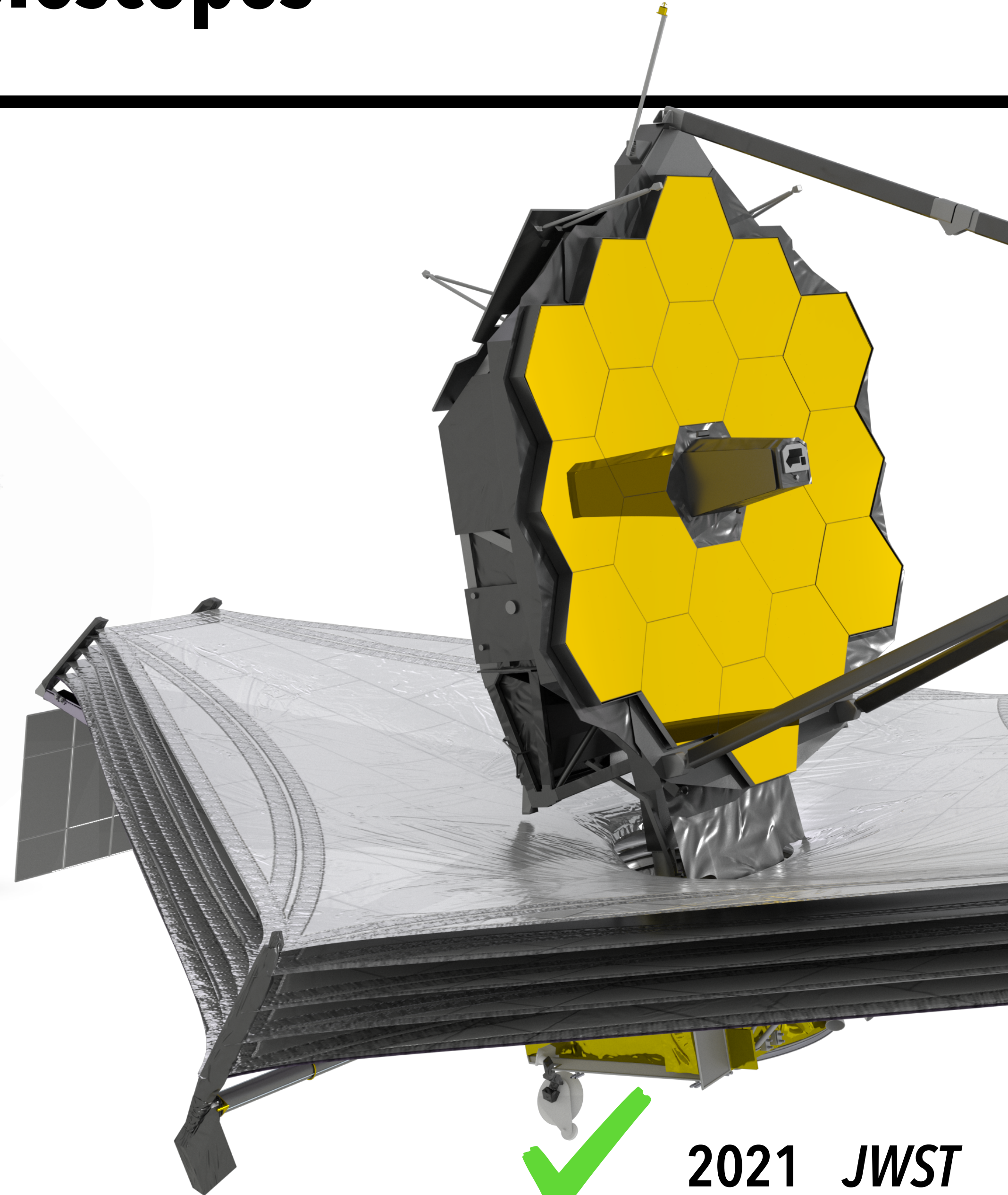
2003  
*Spitzer*



2006  
*AKARI*



2009  
*Herschel*

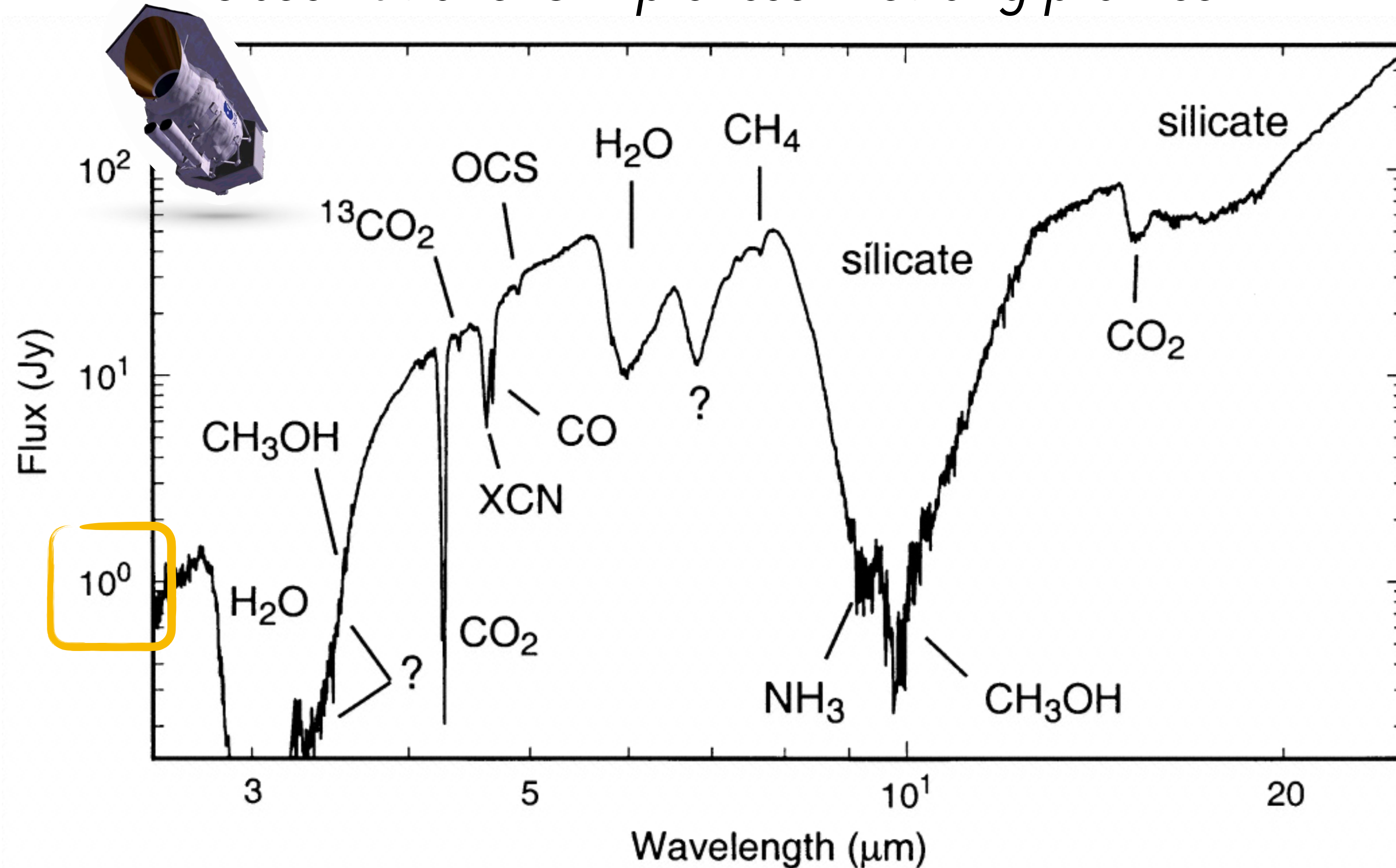


2021 *JWST*



# ISO SWS/LWS: Diversity of ice species seen towards select, bright targets.

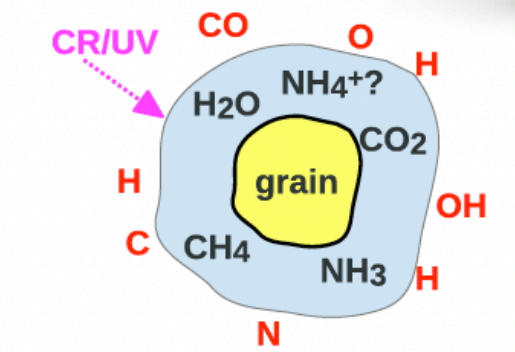
*Observations: Simple ices + strong profiles*



*Chemistry theory*

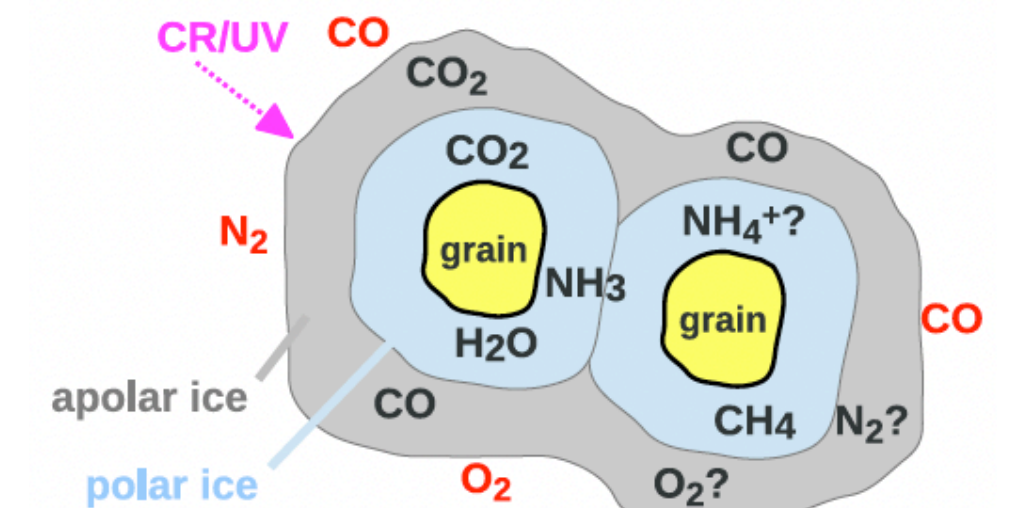
1.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -rich layer:

$$T > 20 \text{ K}, \\ n \geq 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



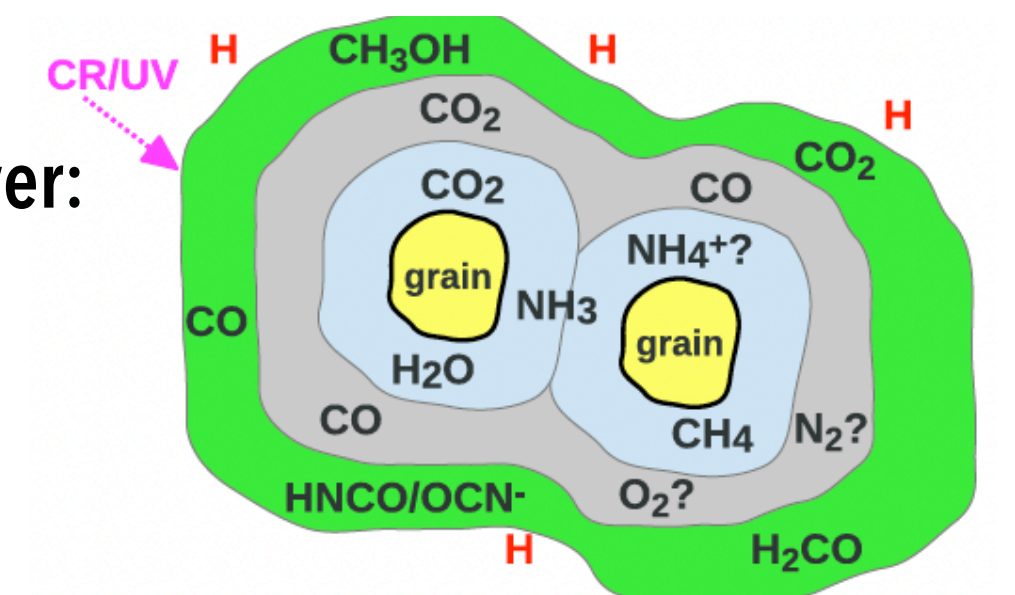
2.  $\text{CO}$ -rich layer:

$$T < 20 \text{ K}, \\ n \geq 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



3. Methanol-rich layer:

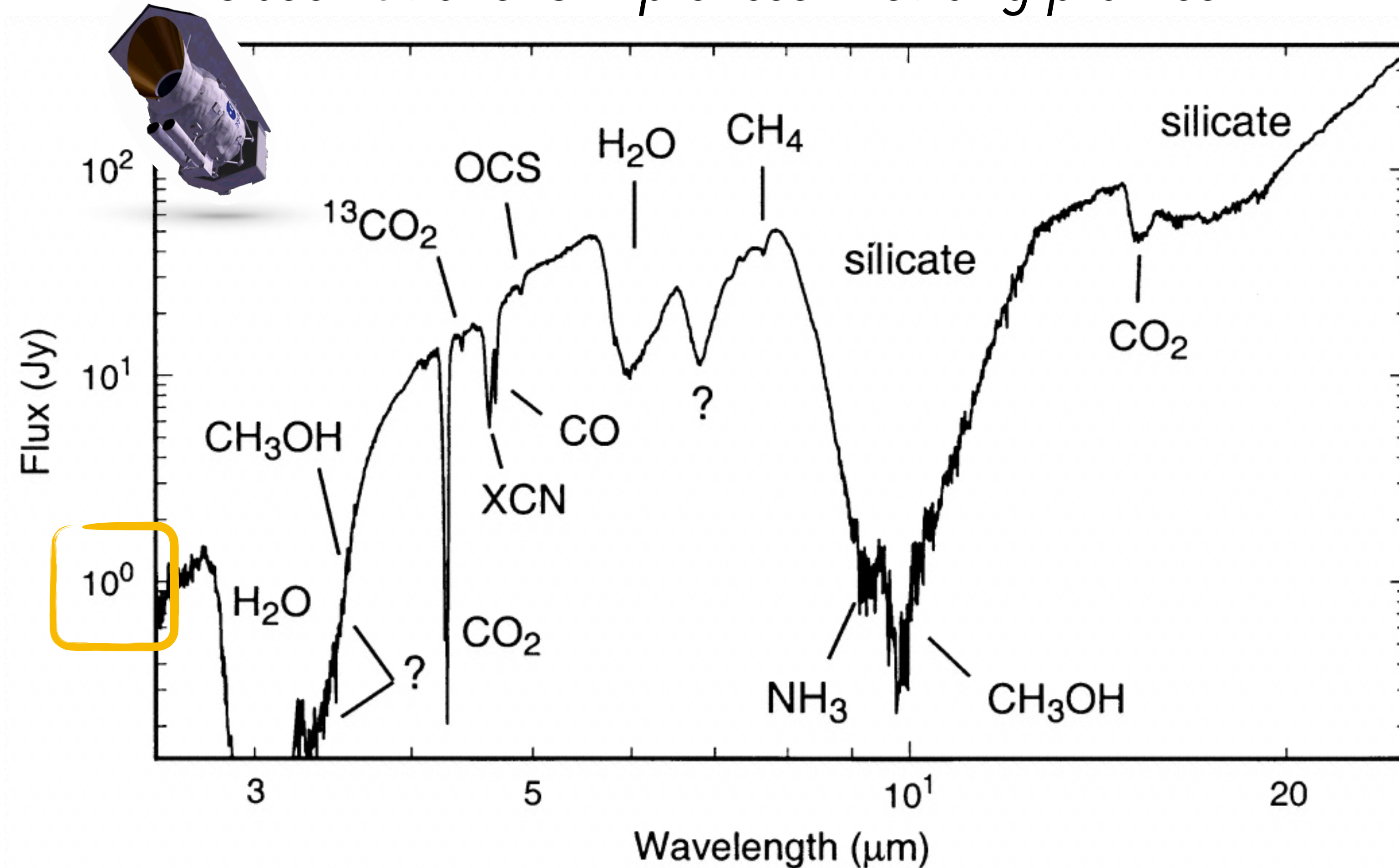
$$T < 20 \text{ K}, \\ n \geq 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$





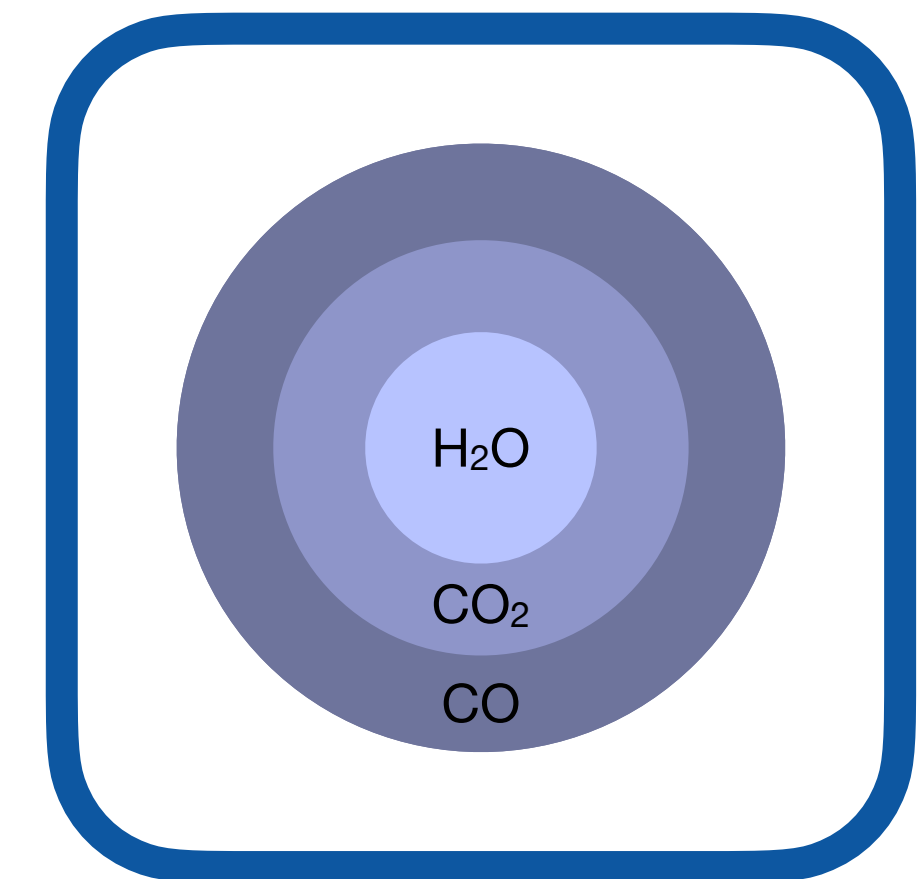
# ISO SWS/LWS: Diversity of ice species seen towards select, bright targets.

*Observations: Simple ices + strong profiles*



*Astronomer approximation*

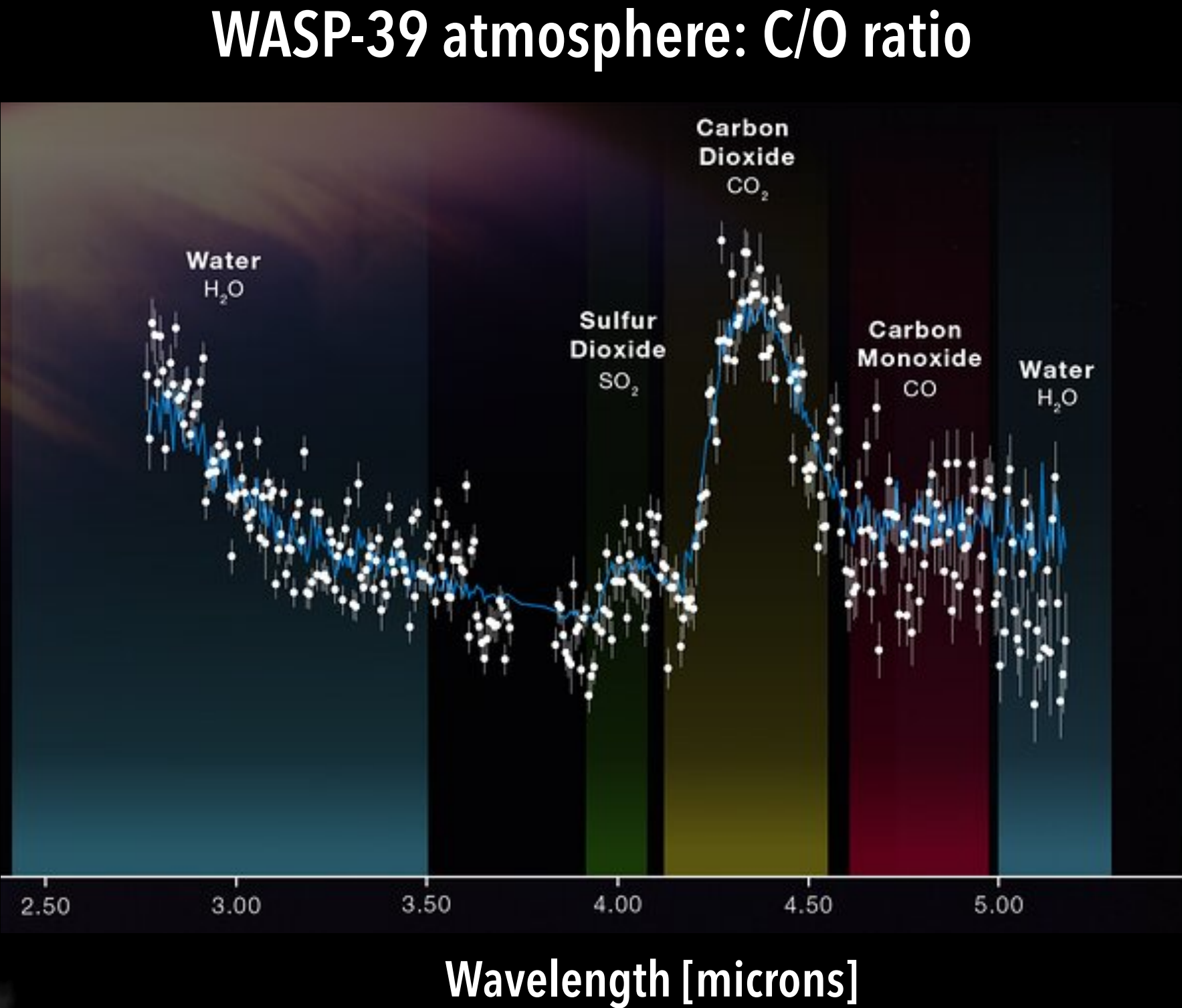
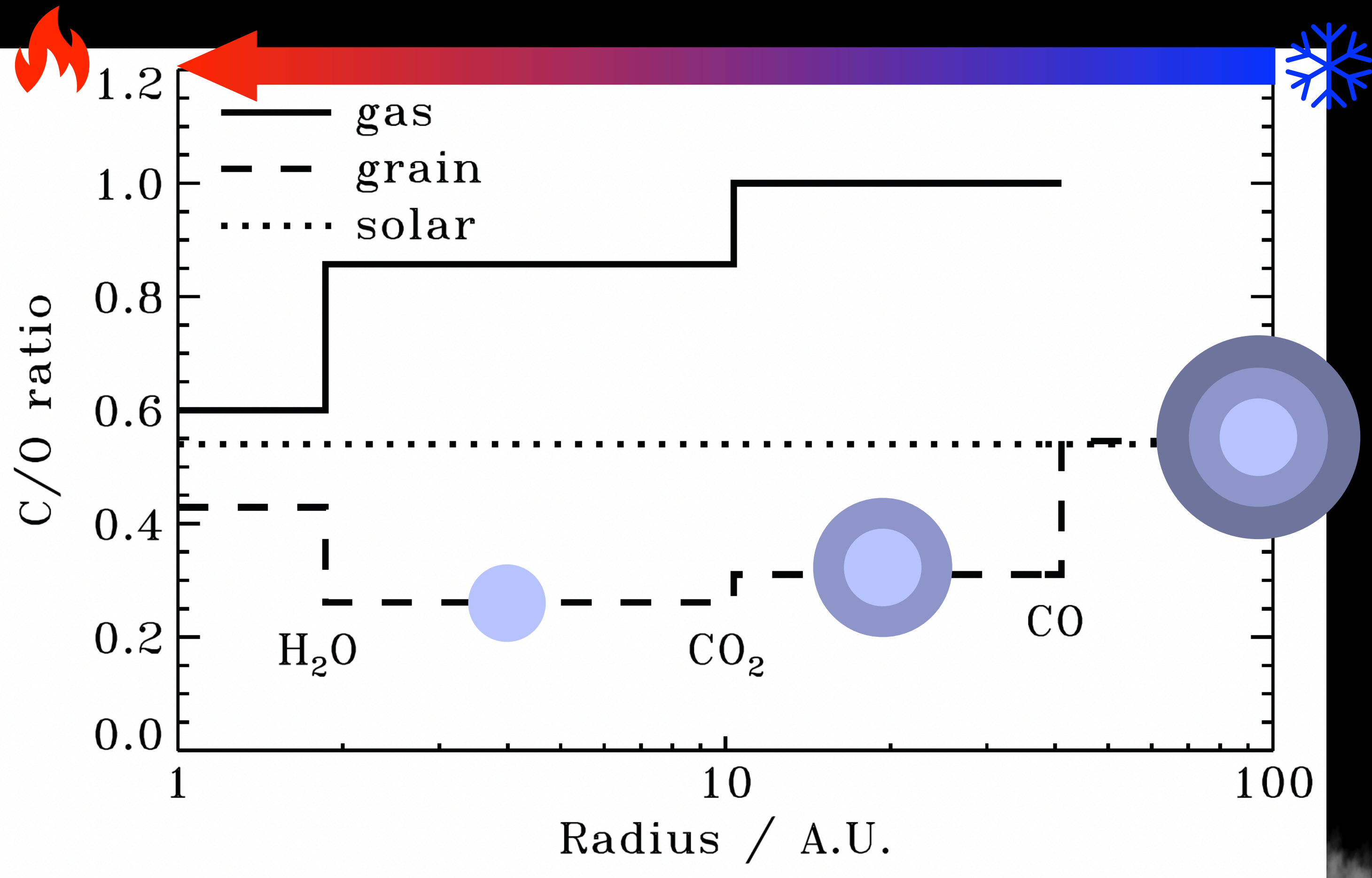
*Pure ice layers.*



*Last on, first off  
(with increasing  $T$ ).*



# Ices determine initial exoplanet atmospheric compositions.



Oberg, Murray-Clay, & Bergin (2011), NASA

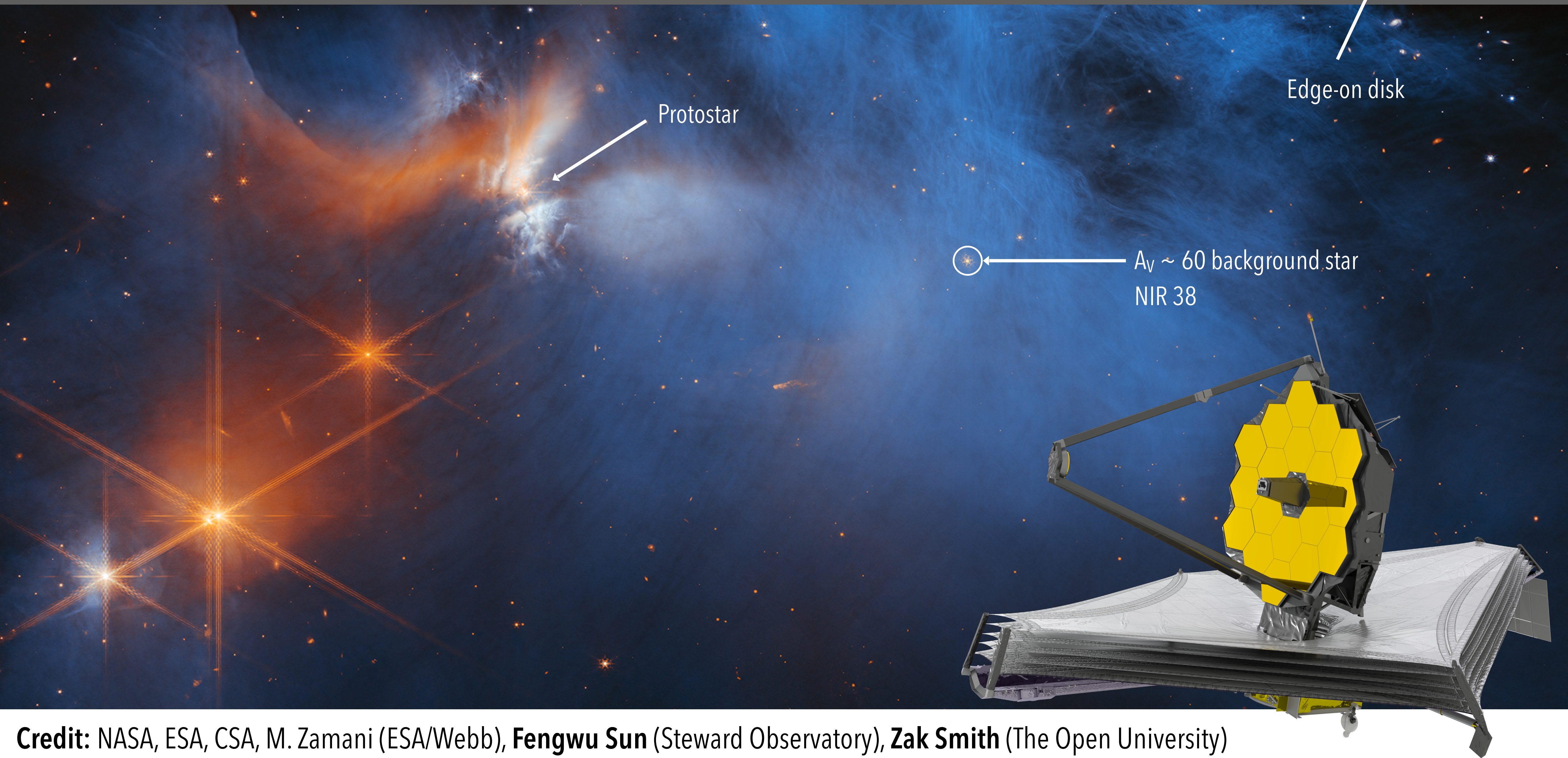






# JWST ERS program "Ice Age"

PI. McClure, co-PIs Boogert, Linnartz<sup>†</sup>

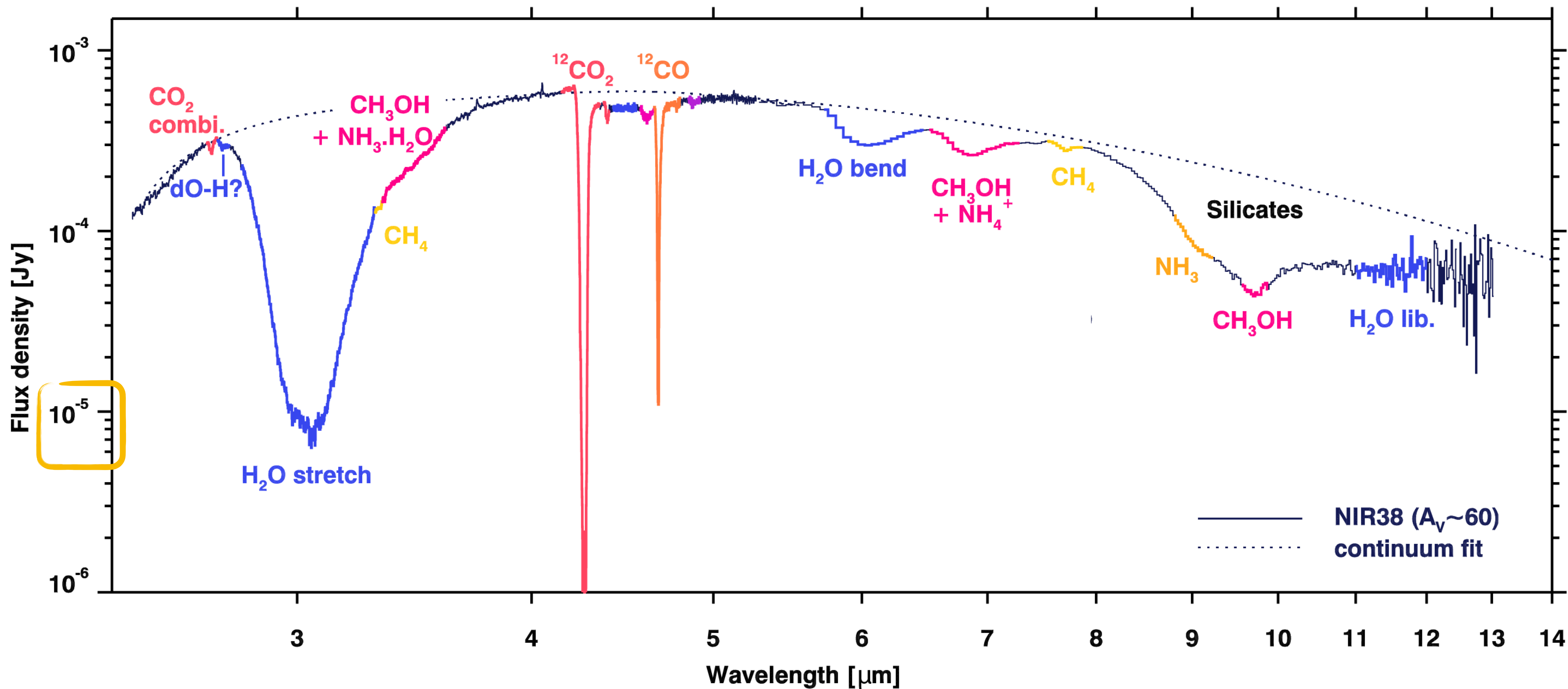


**Credit:** NASA, ESA, CSA, M. Zamani (ESA/Webb), **Fengwu Sun** (Steward Observatory), **Zak Smith** (The Open University)





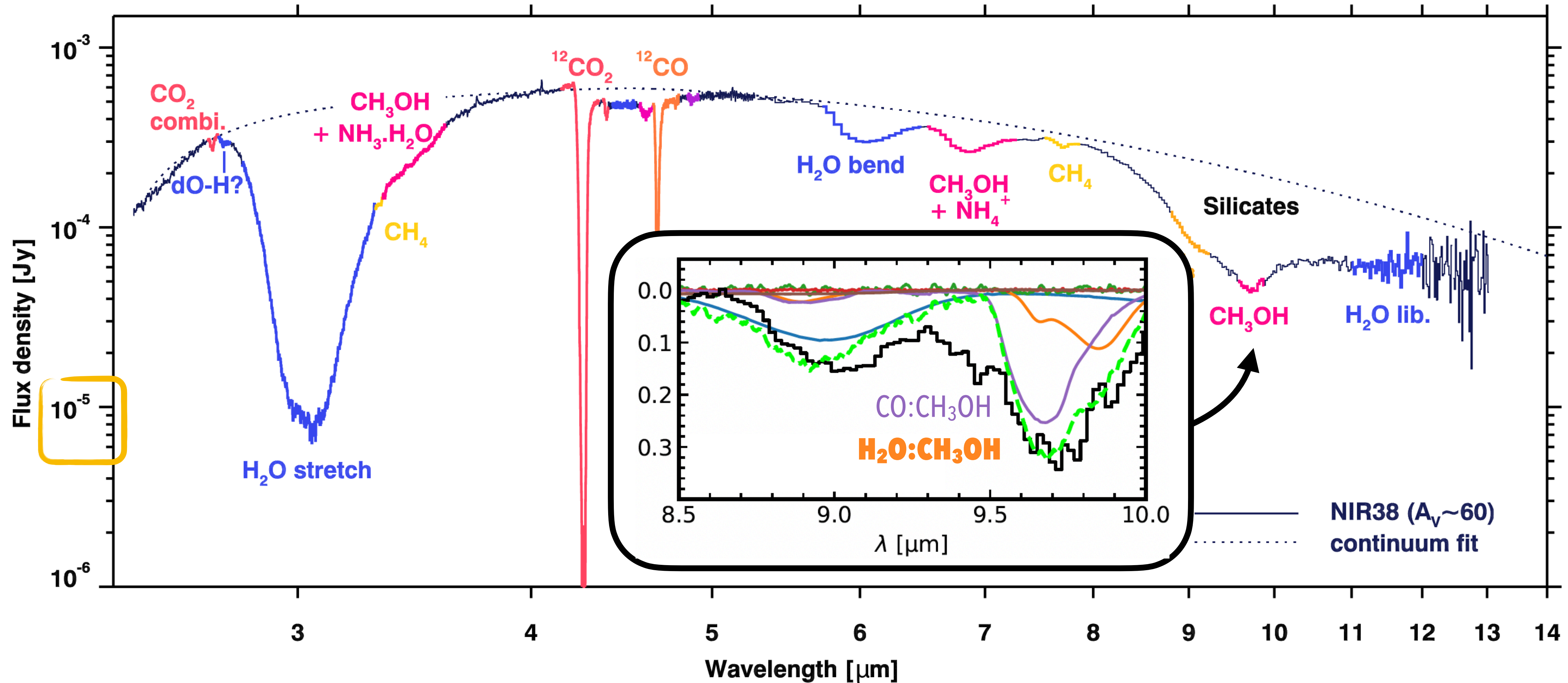
# JWST gets >ISO resolution, even towards extremely faint targets.







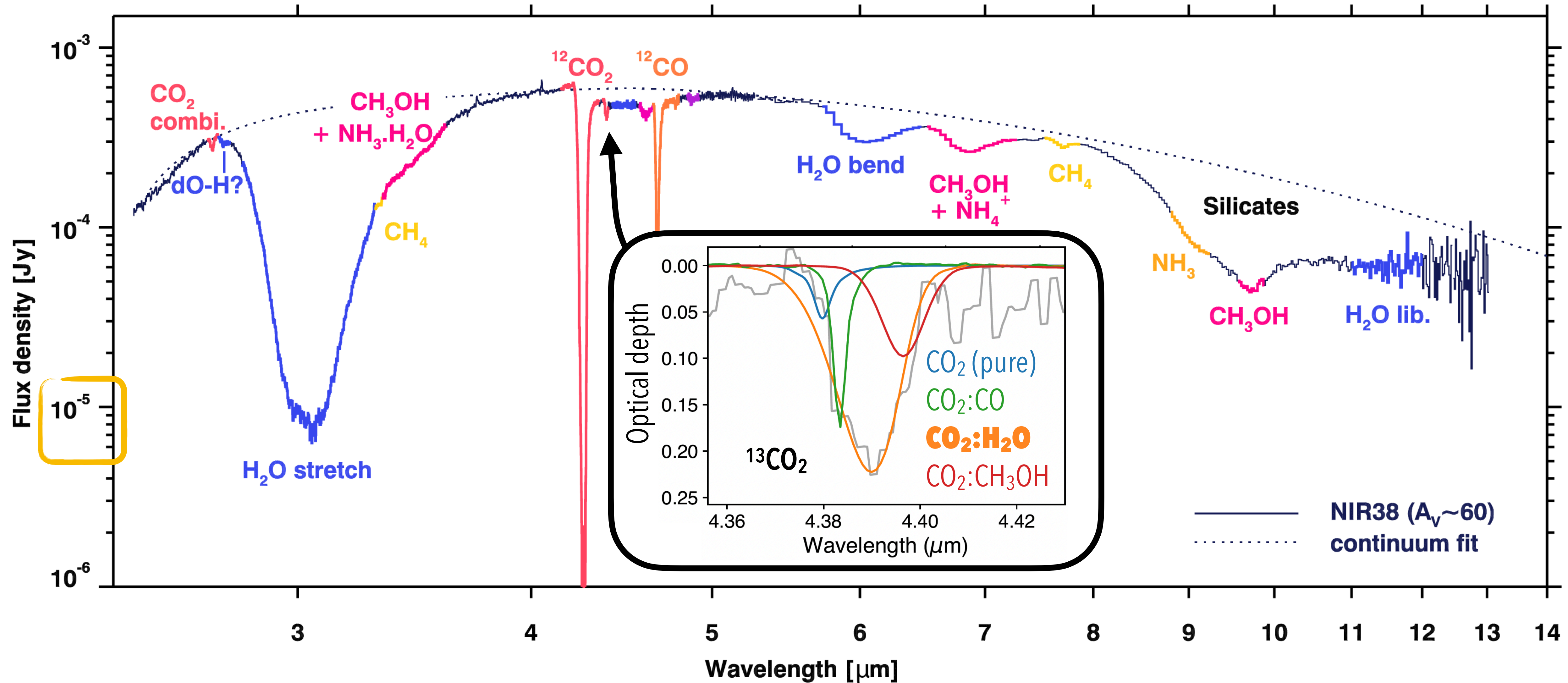
Now see that ices are *highly* mixed with H<sub>2</sub>O matrix, scrambling layers...







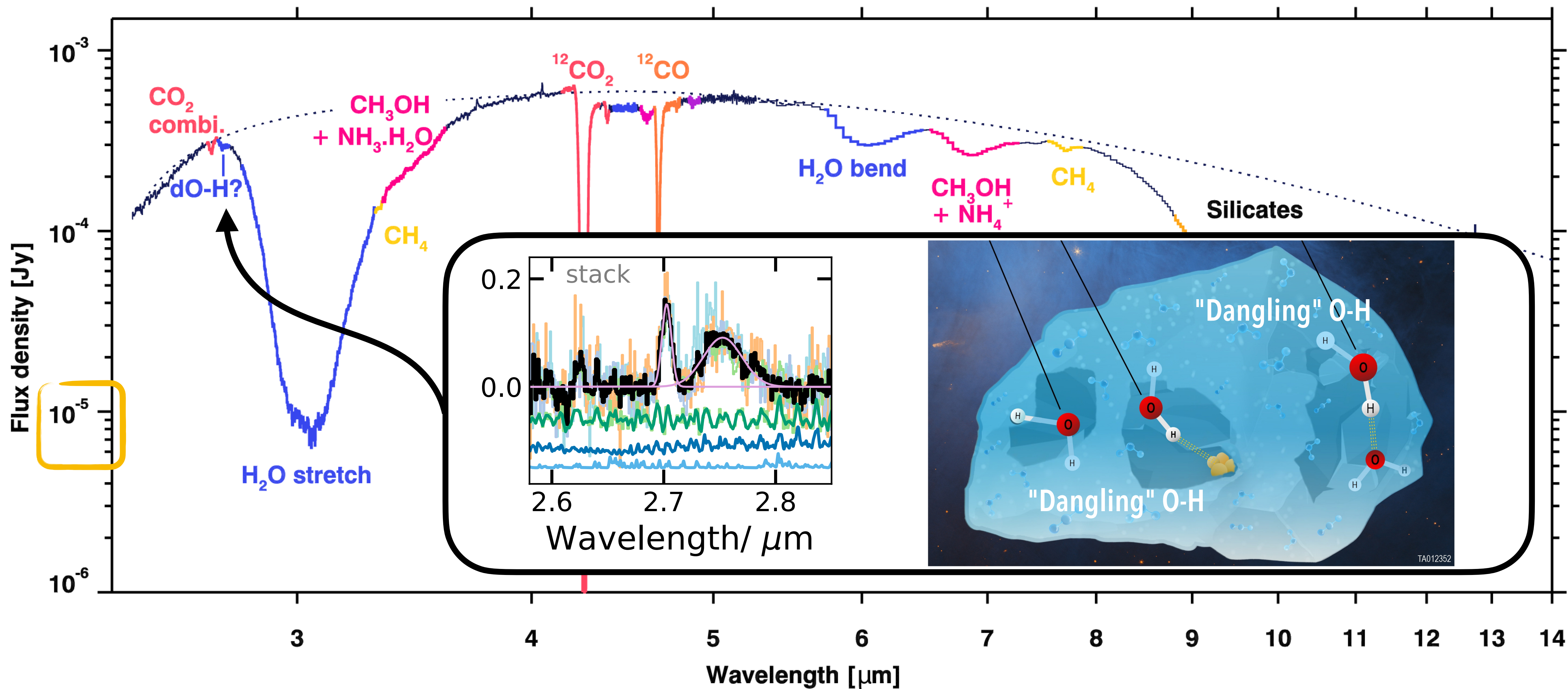
Now see that ices are *highly* mixed with H<sub>2</sub>O matrix, scrambling layers...





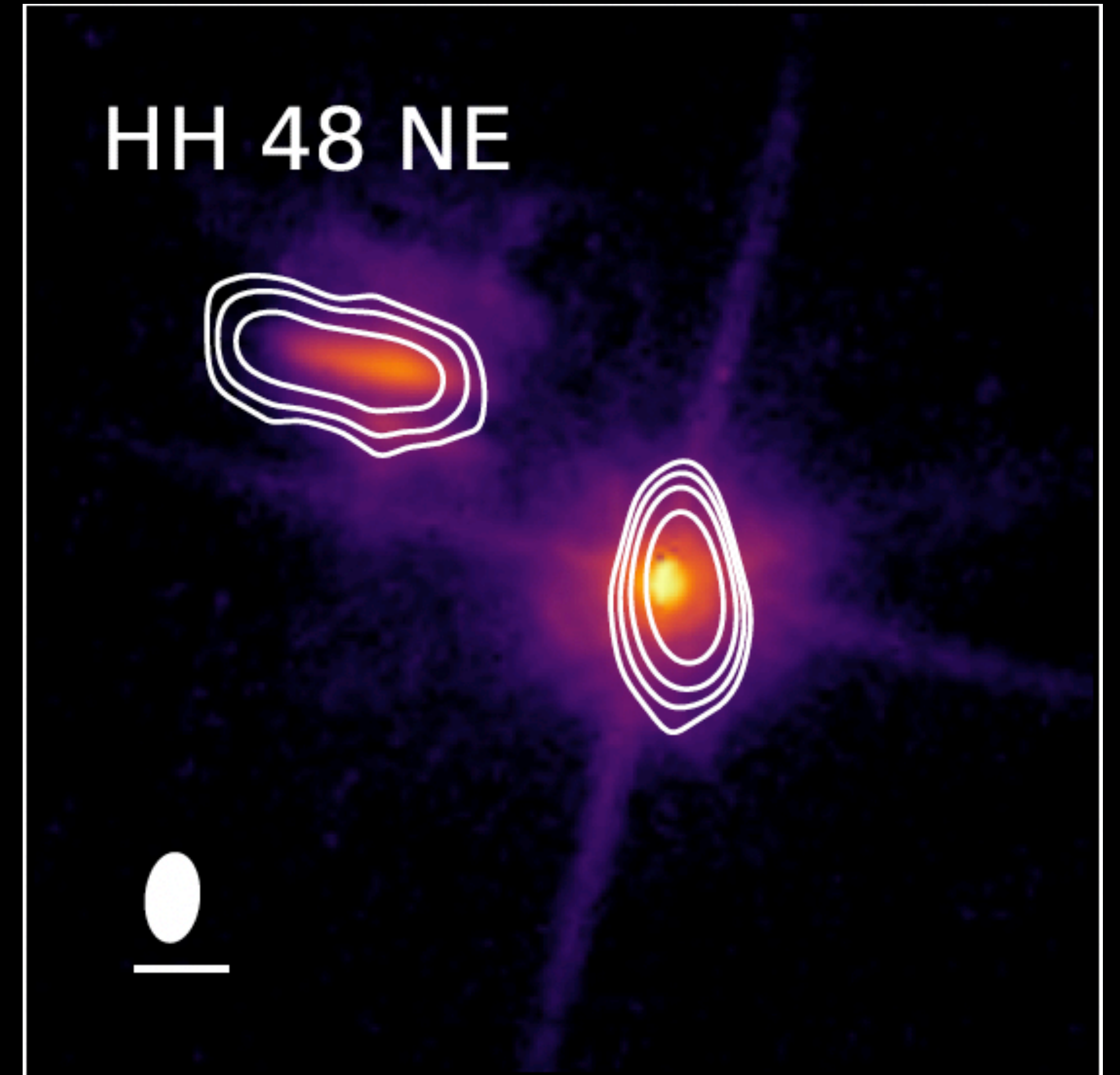


Now see that ices are *highly* mixed with H<sub>2</sub>O matrix, scrambling layers...





# So what does an inheritance of mixed cloud ices mean for disks and exoplanets?

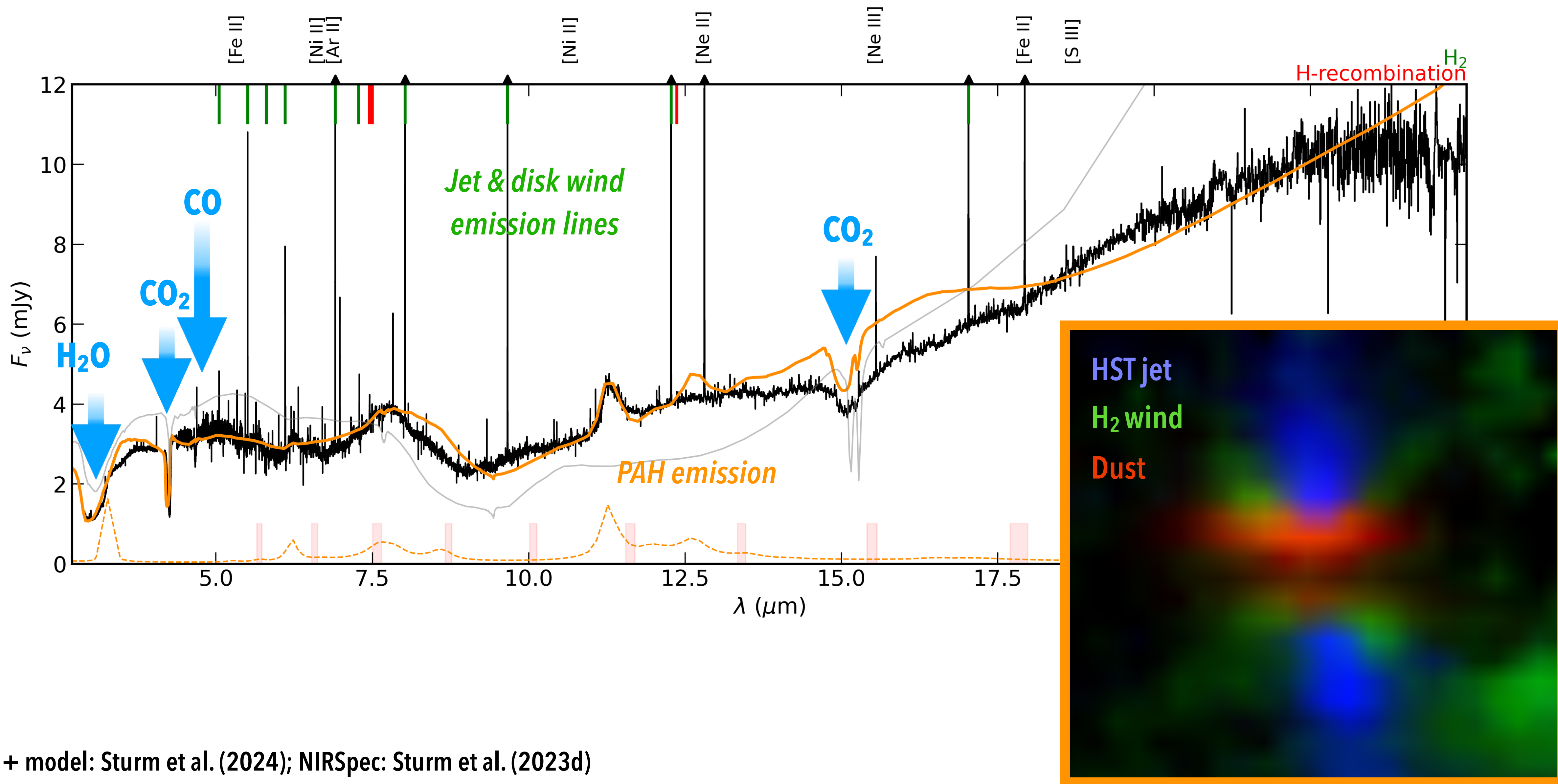


MIRI image of Tau 042021 disk, **Duchene et al. (2023)**, ALMA/HST image of HH48 NE, **Villenave et al. (2020)**





# JWST Ice Age: NIRSpec+MIRI spatially resolve ice inventory in protoplanetary disks!

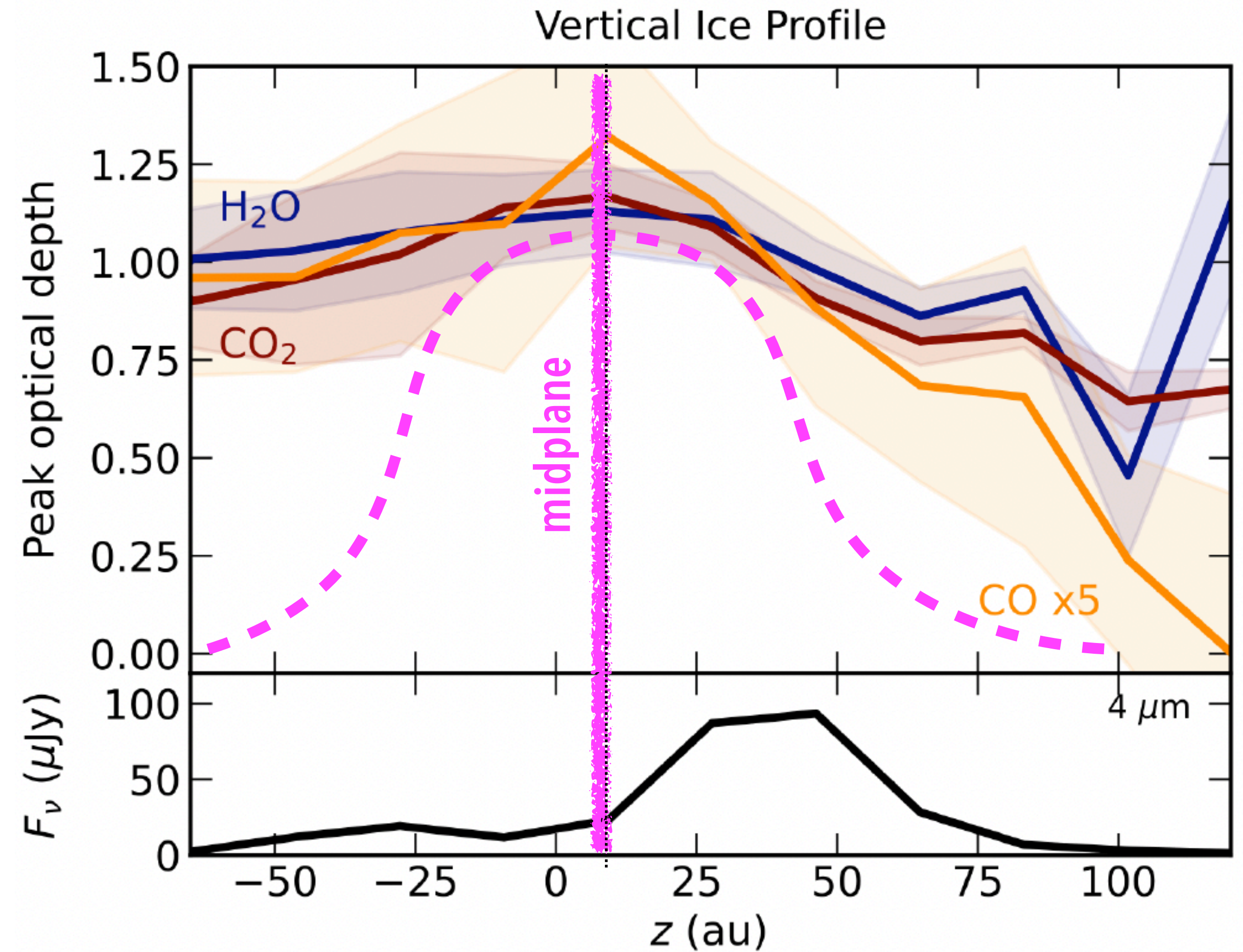
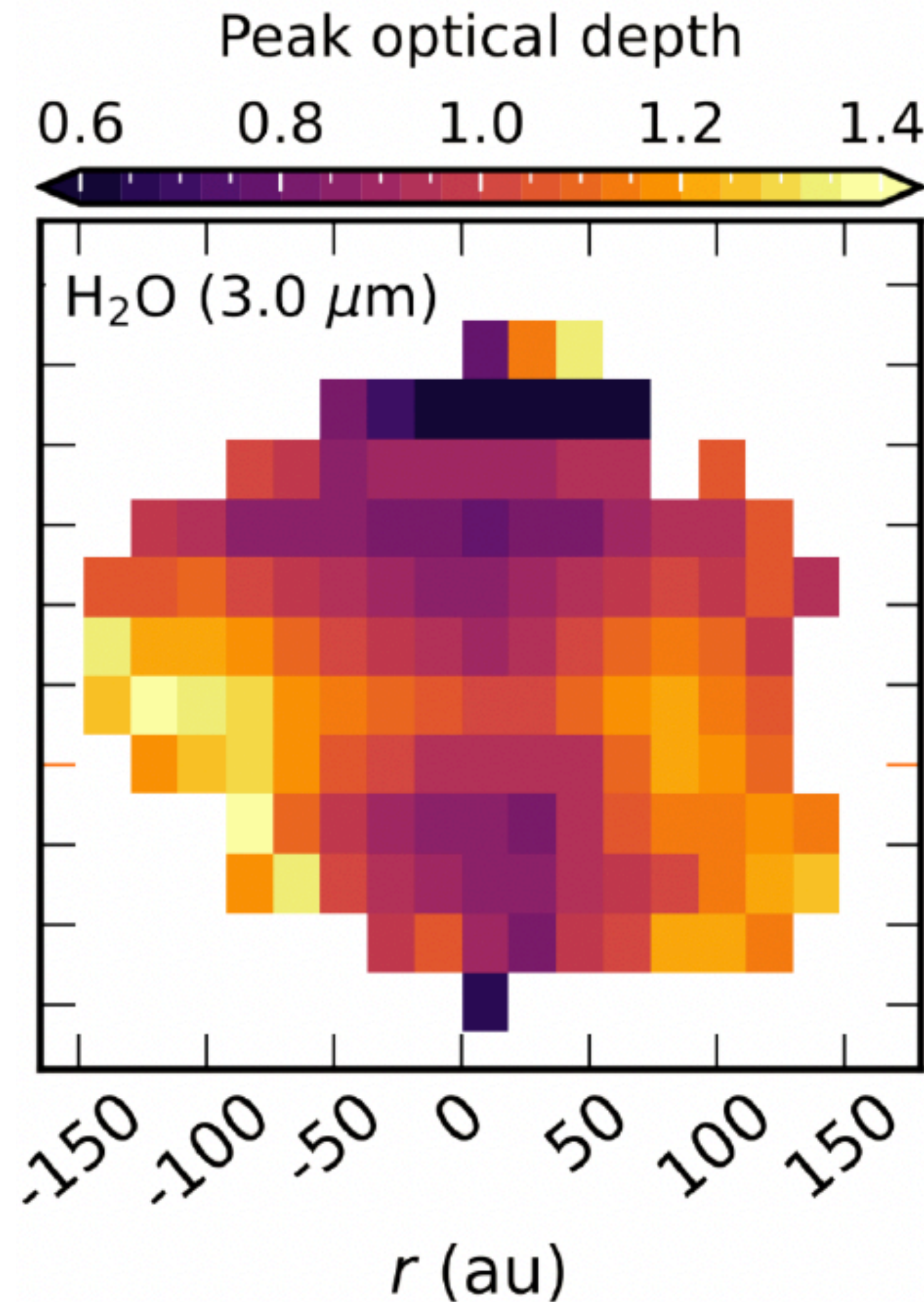


MIRI + model: Sturm et al. (2024); NIRSpec: Sturm et al. (2023d)





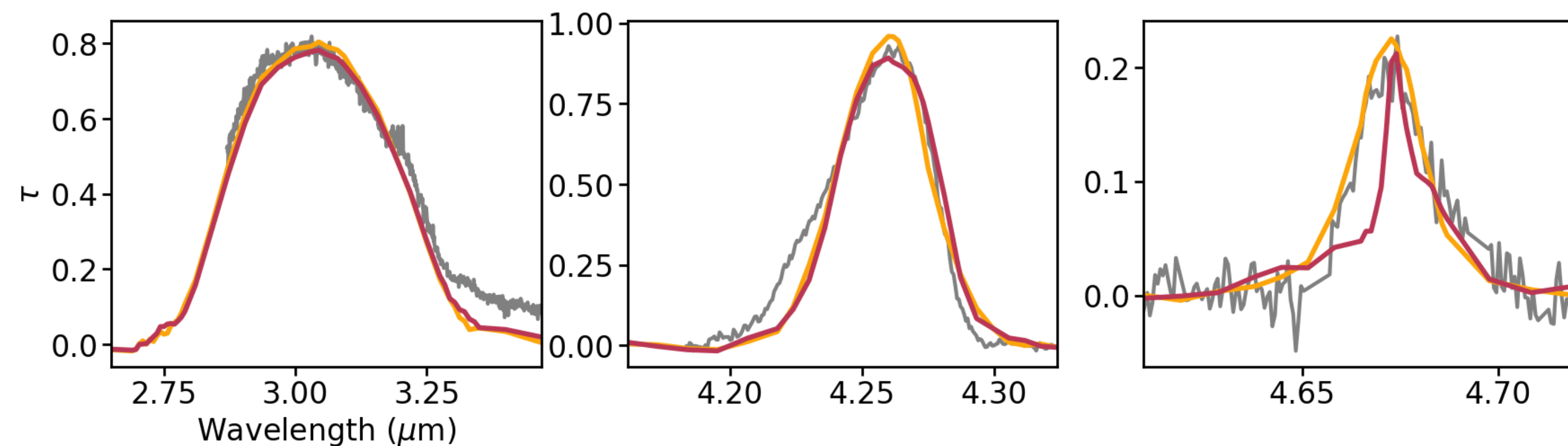
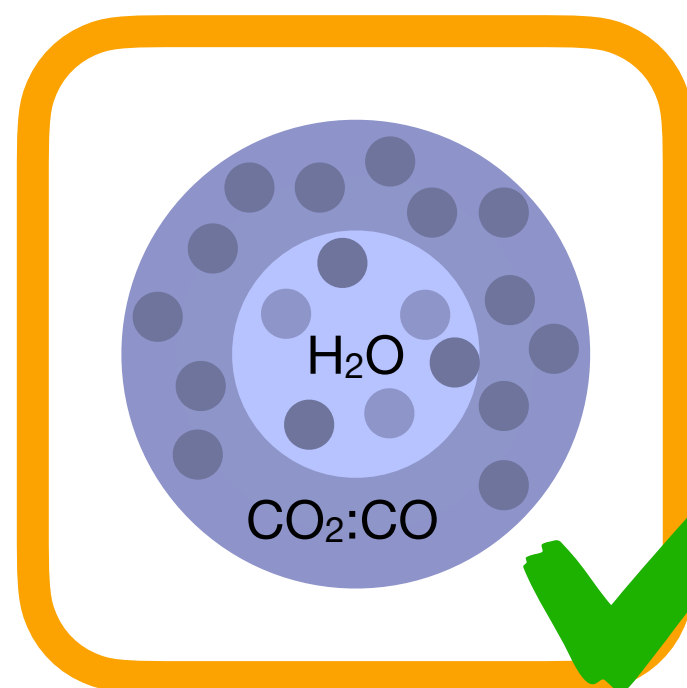
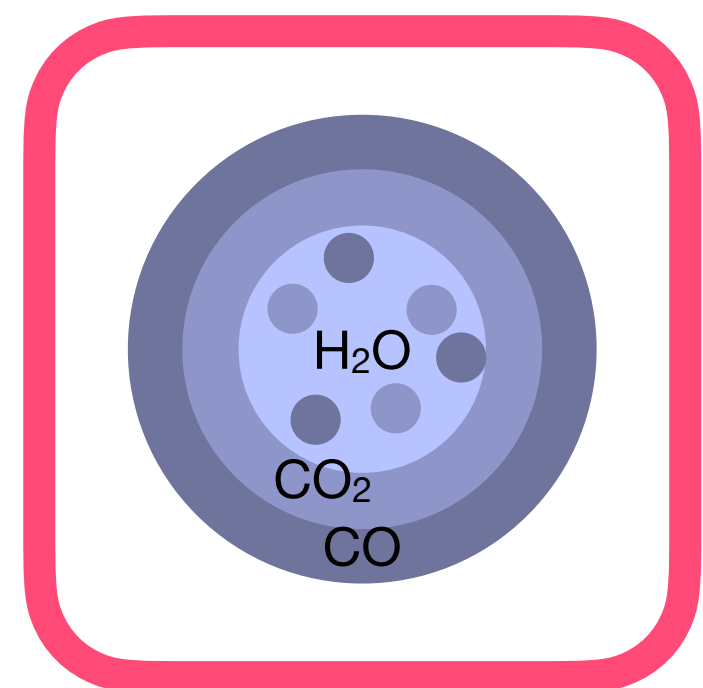
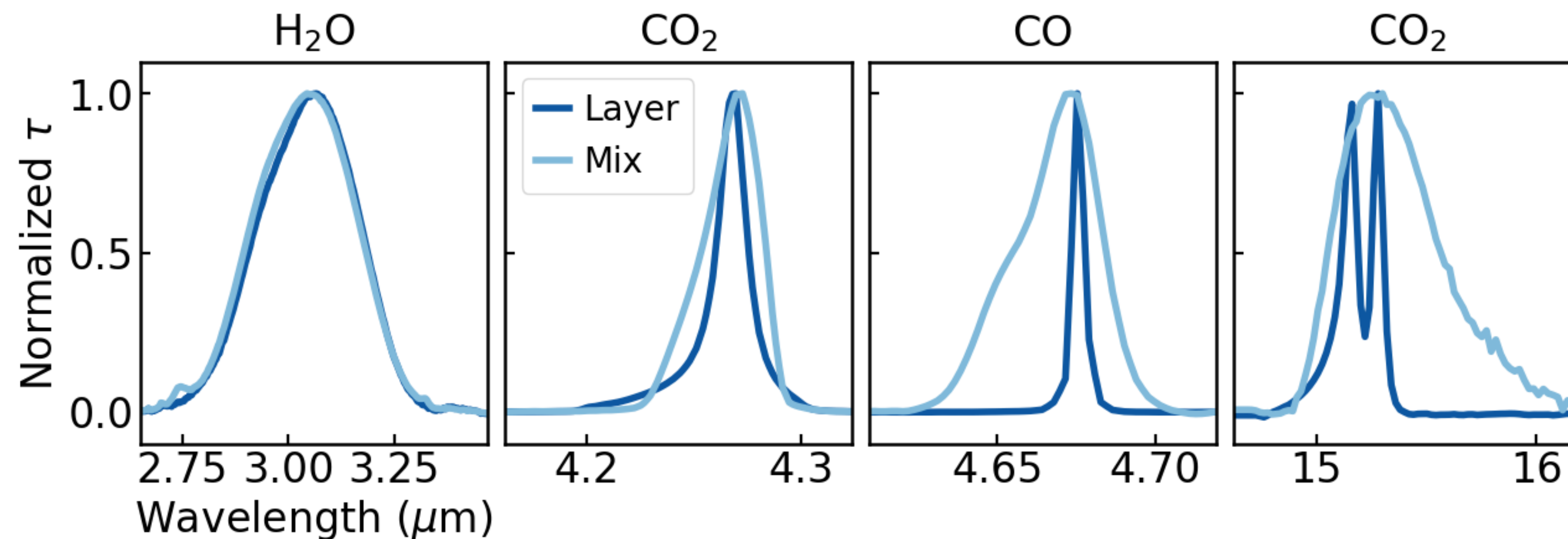
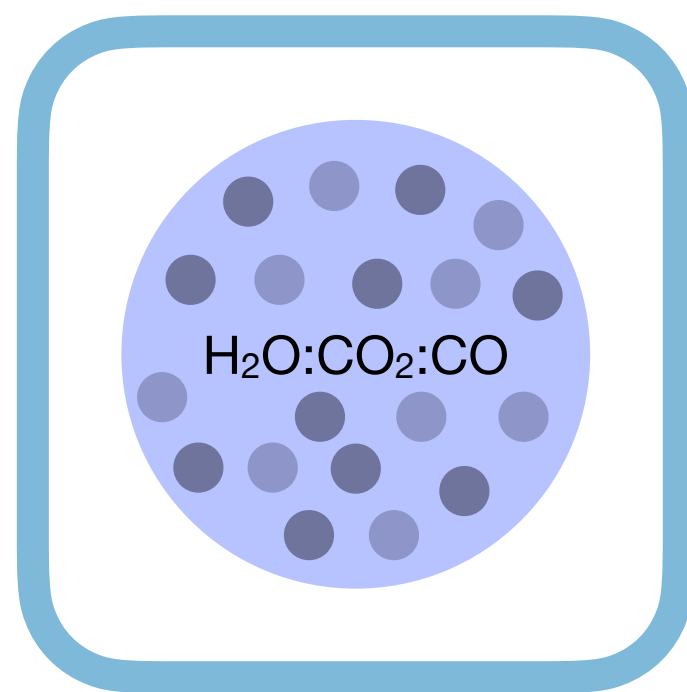
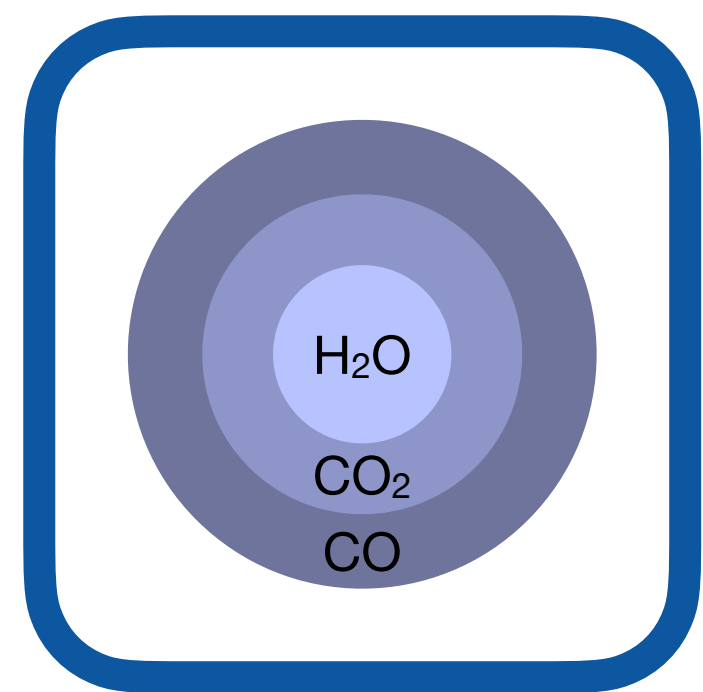
# Ice maps show no radial or vertical snowlines, even for CO ice...





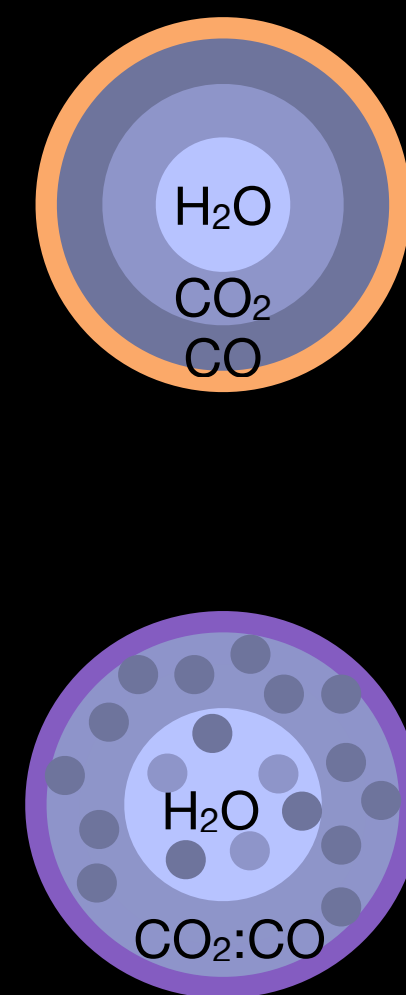
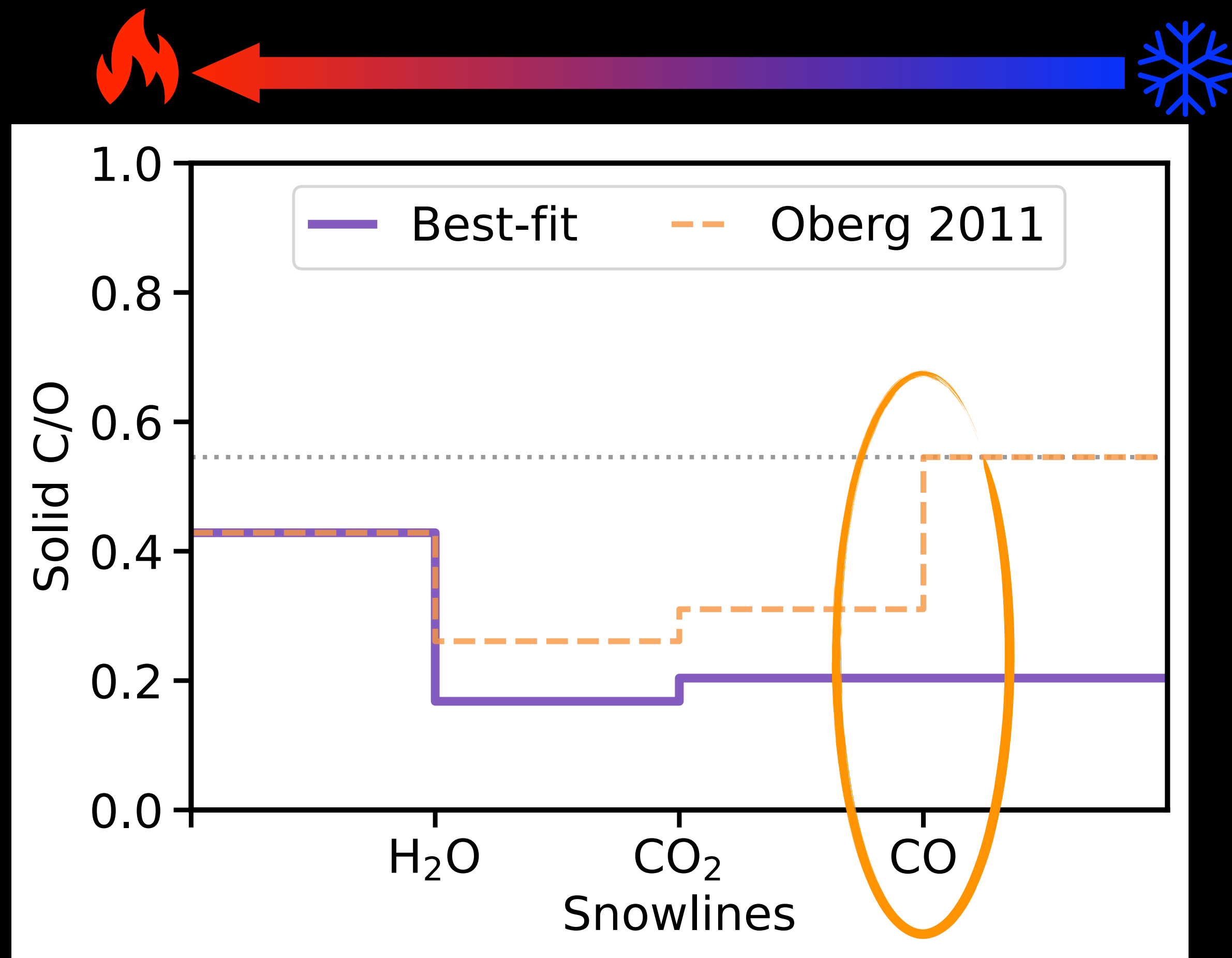


# Ice profiles show CO ice doesn't form pure layer; diffuses into CO<sub>2</sub> ice matrix!

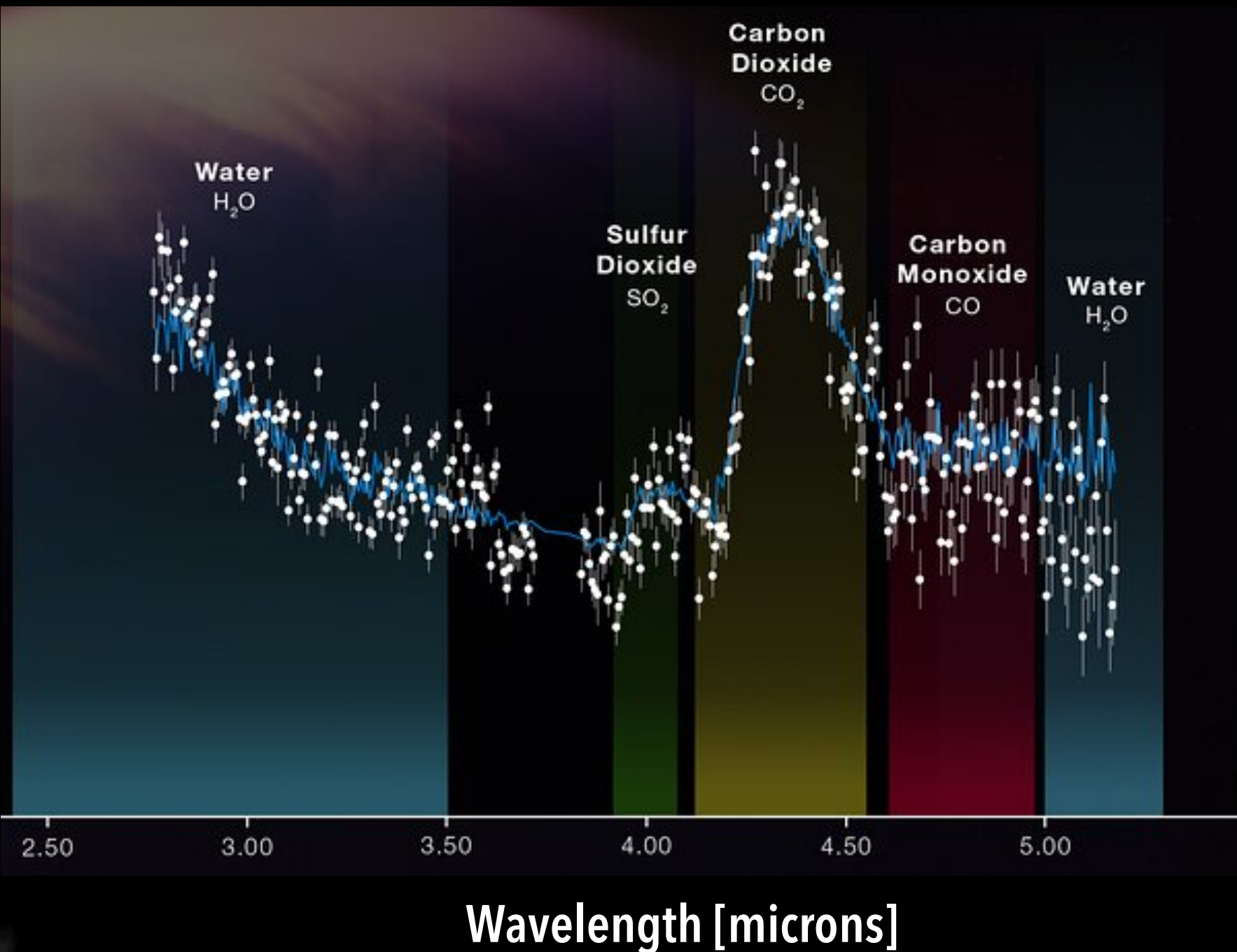




# Mixed ice revision to exoplanet atmosphere formation tracer. Sufficient?



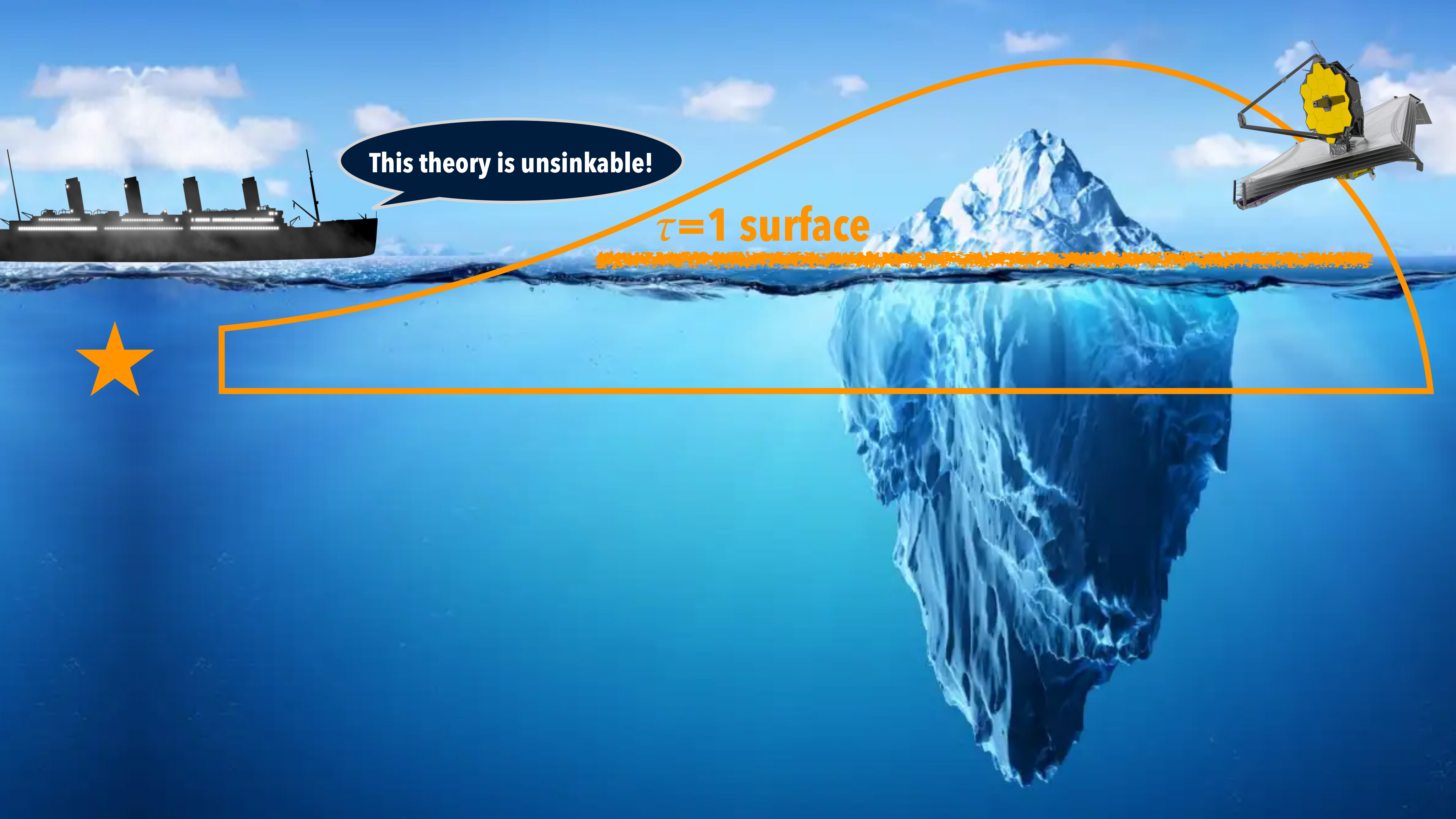
WASP-39 atmosphere: C/O ratio



Oberg, Murray-Clay, & Bergin (2011), NASA



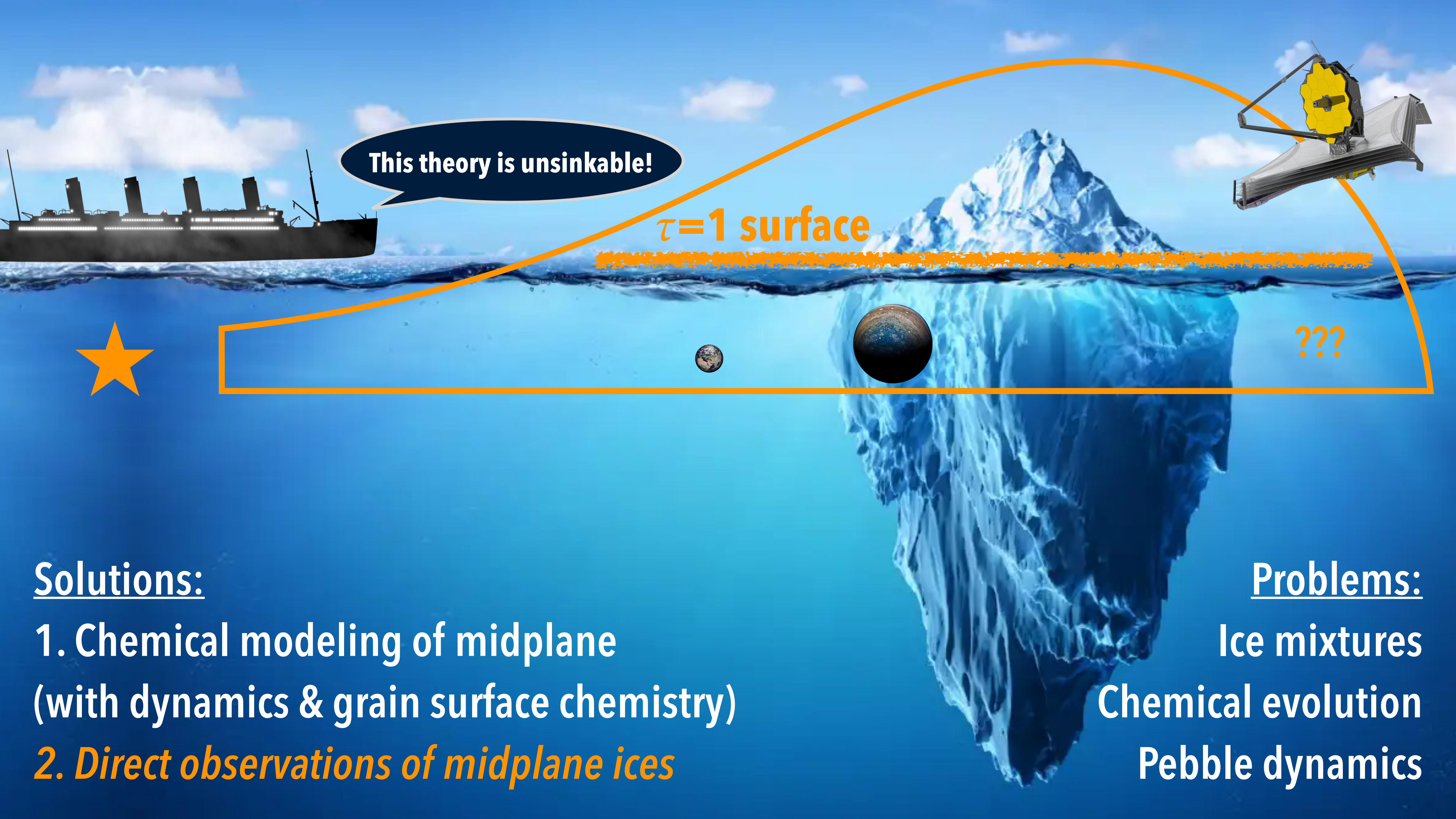




This theory is unsinkable!

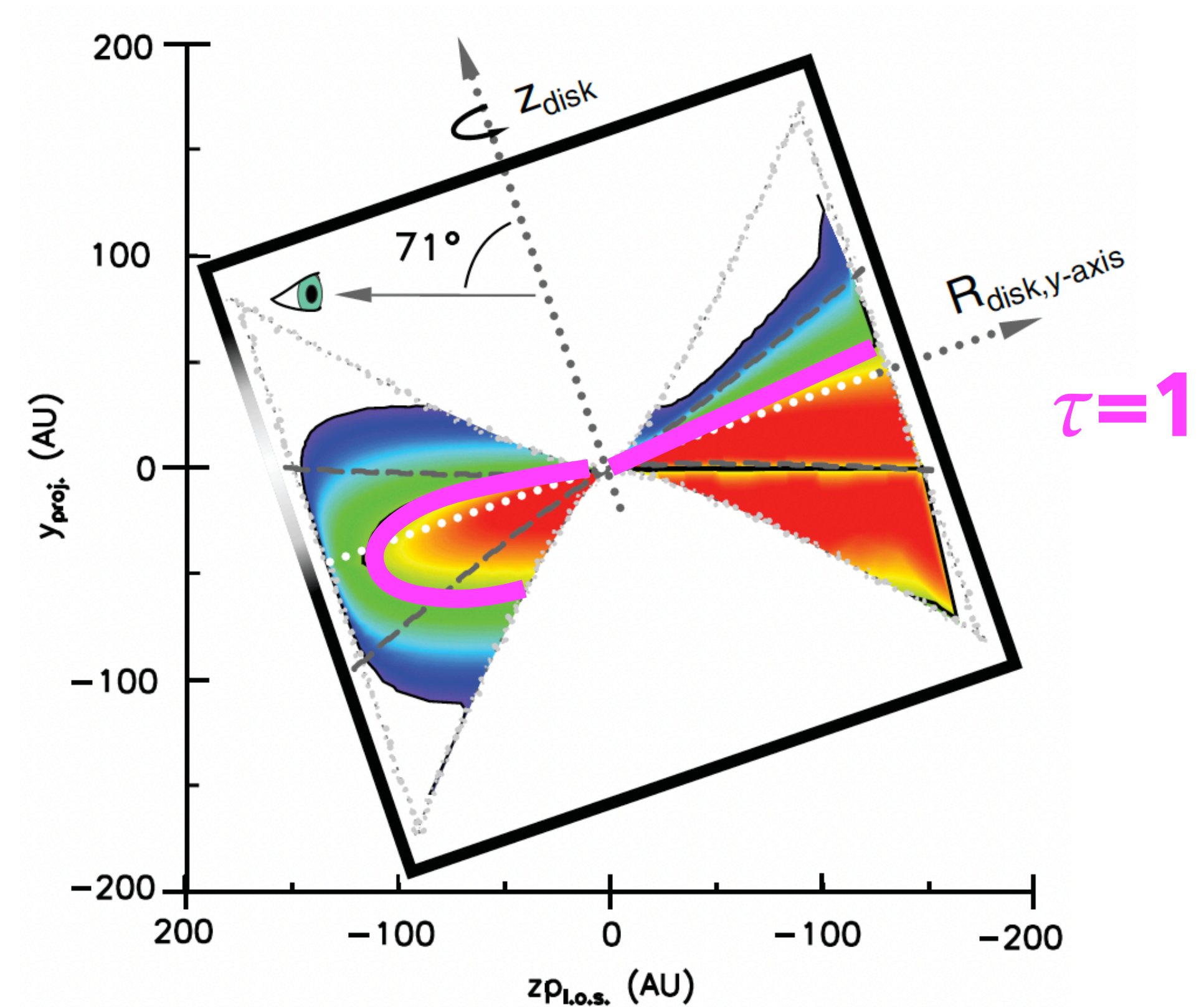
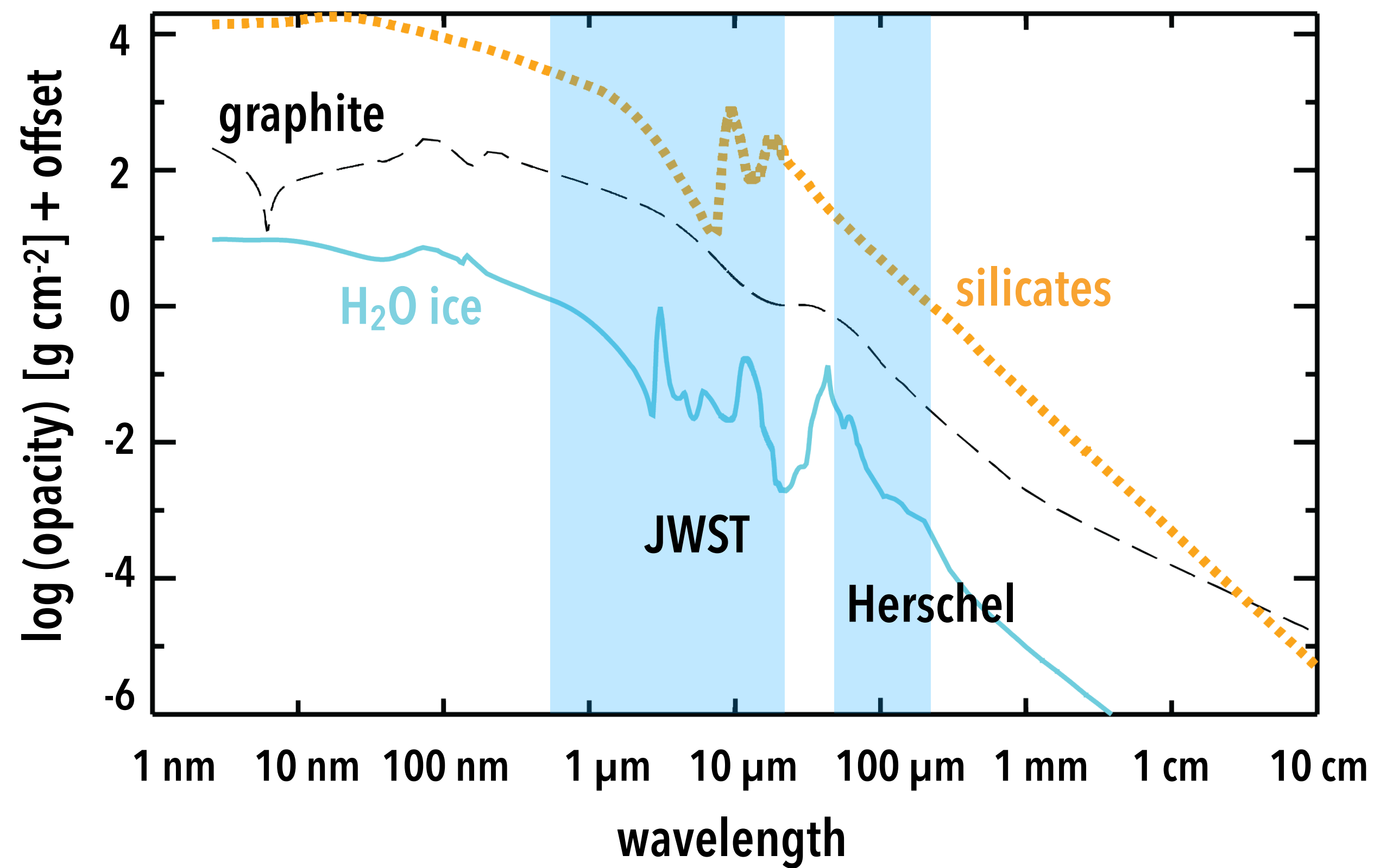
$\tau=1$  surface





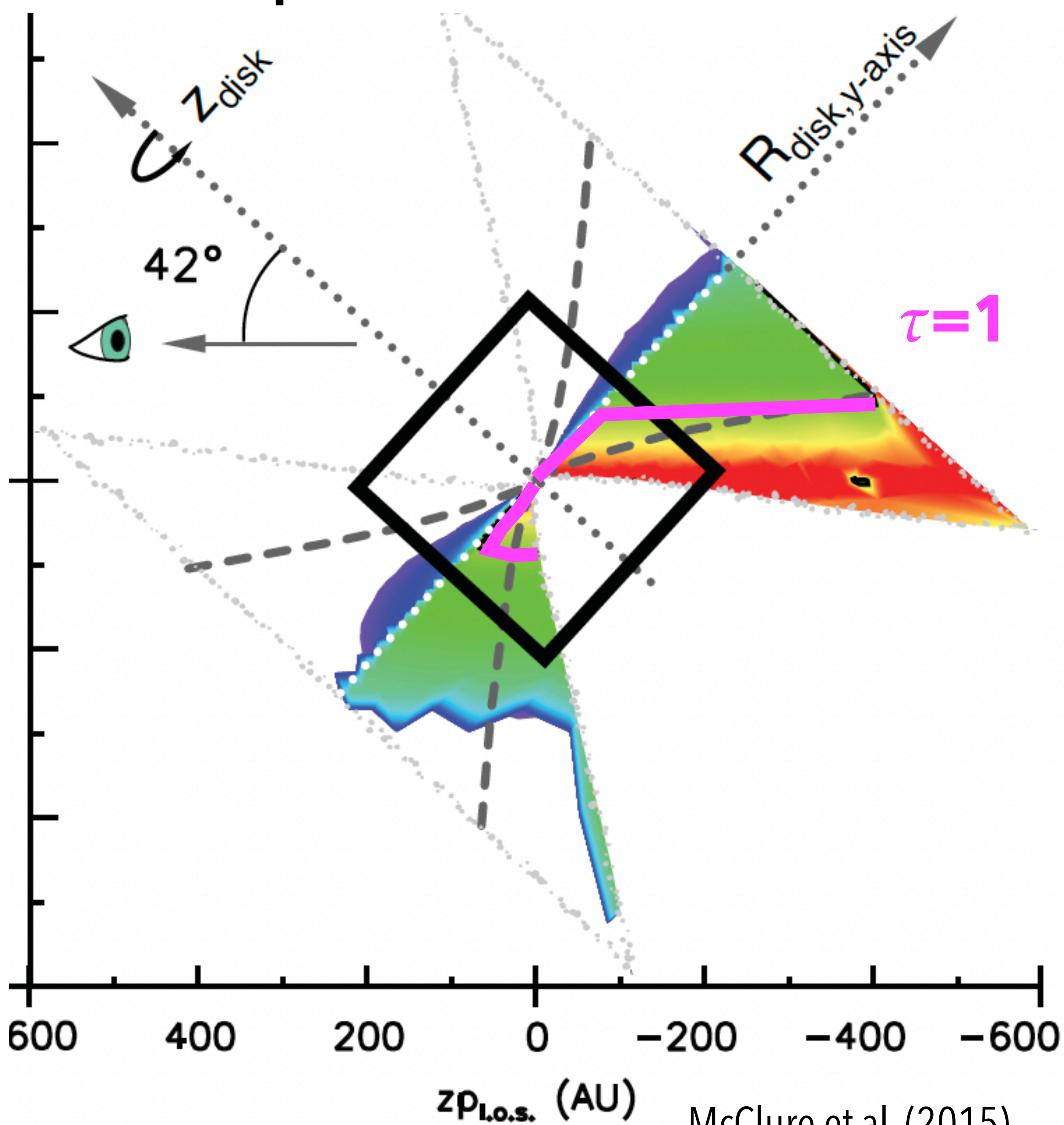
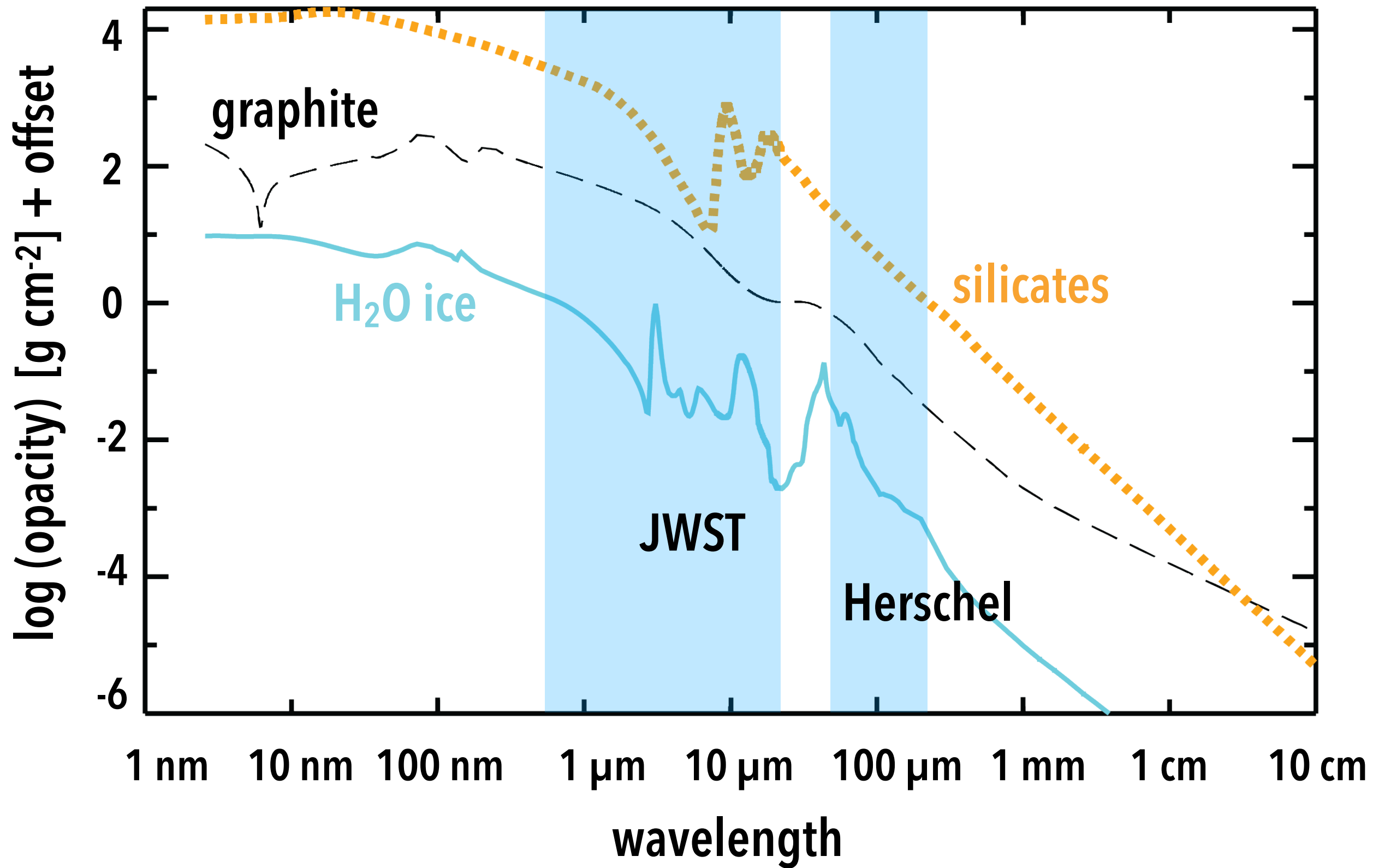


# Far-infrared thermal emission reveals midplane ice composition!





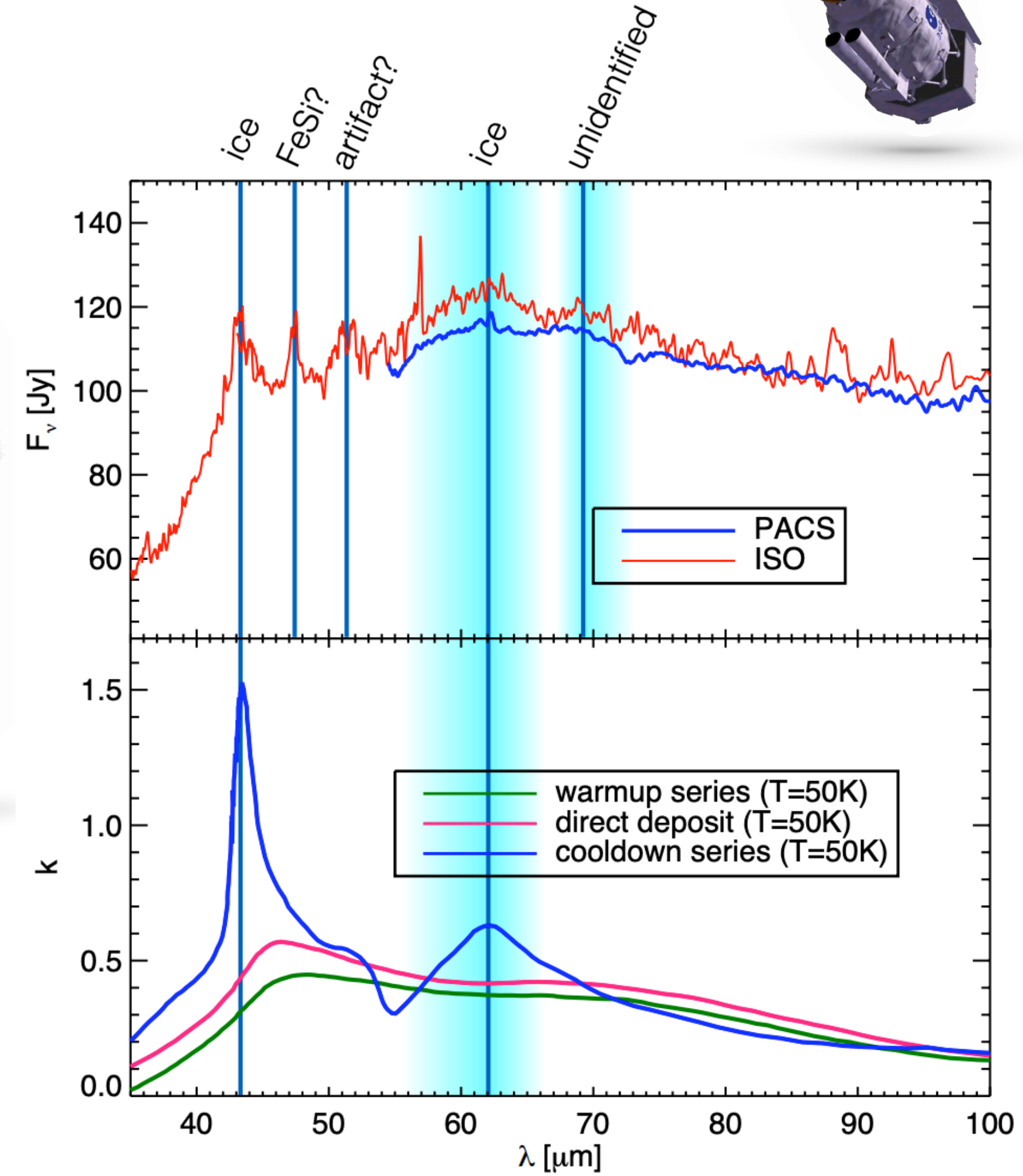
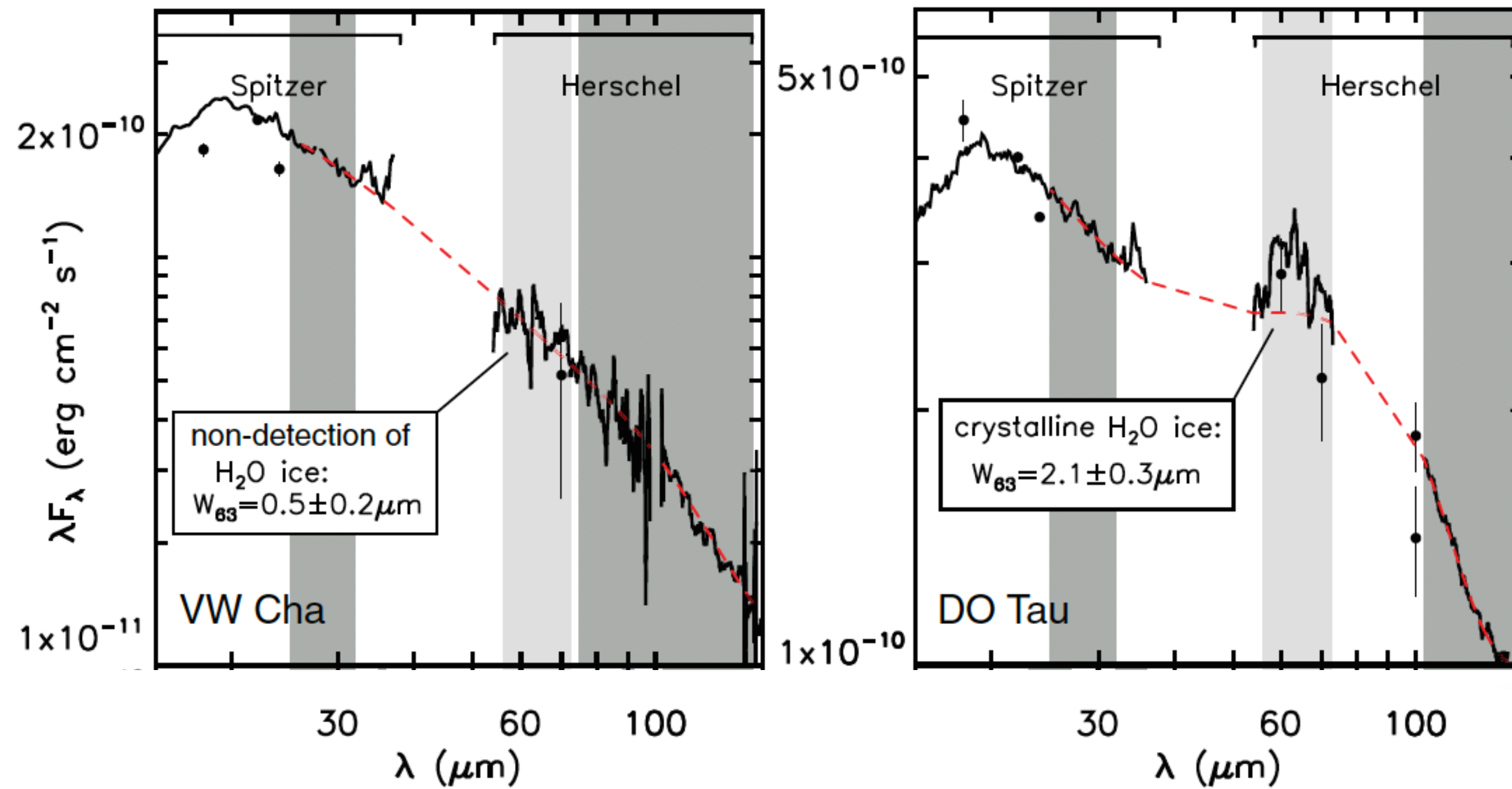
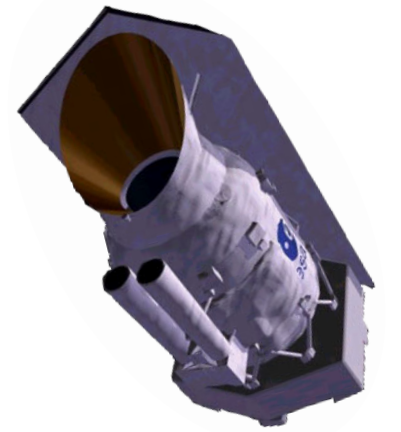
# Far-infrared thermal emission reveals midplane ice composition!



McClure et al. (2015)



# Herschel + ISO: Different midplane "ice/rock" ratios for MK/AeBe disks.



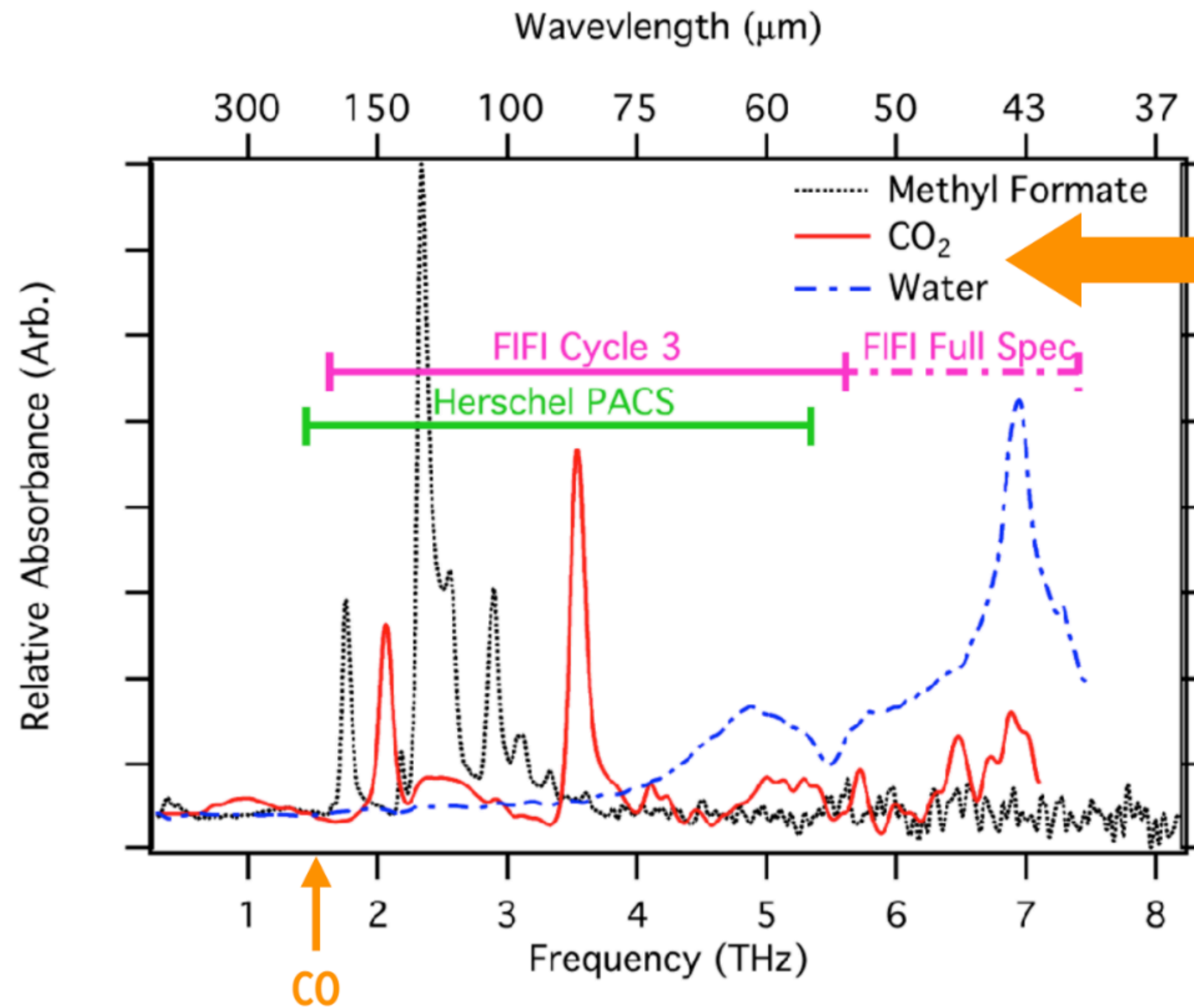
**Herschel:** McClure et al. (2012, 2015)  
Only 6% of 50 young disk sample show ice.  
**H<sub>2</sub>O ice/silicate rock ~ 0.5**

**vs.**

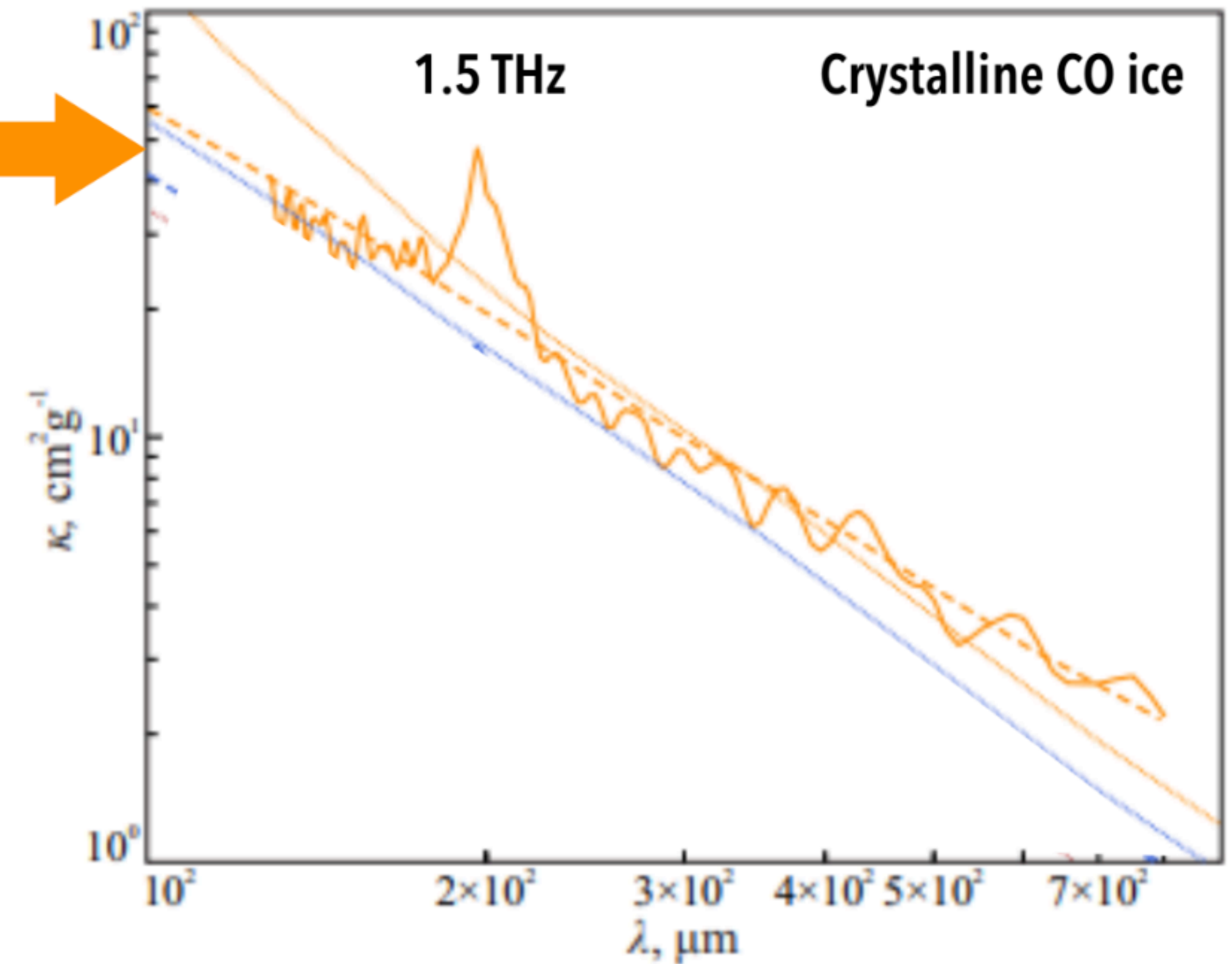
Min et al. (2016)  
1 high-mass older disk  
**"Solar" ice/rock ~ 1.6**



Three most abundant ice species ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ) have Far-IR features from 40-250  $\mu\text{m}$ .



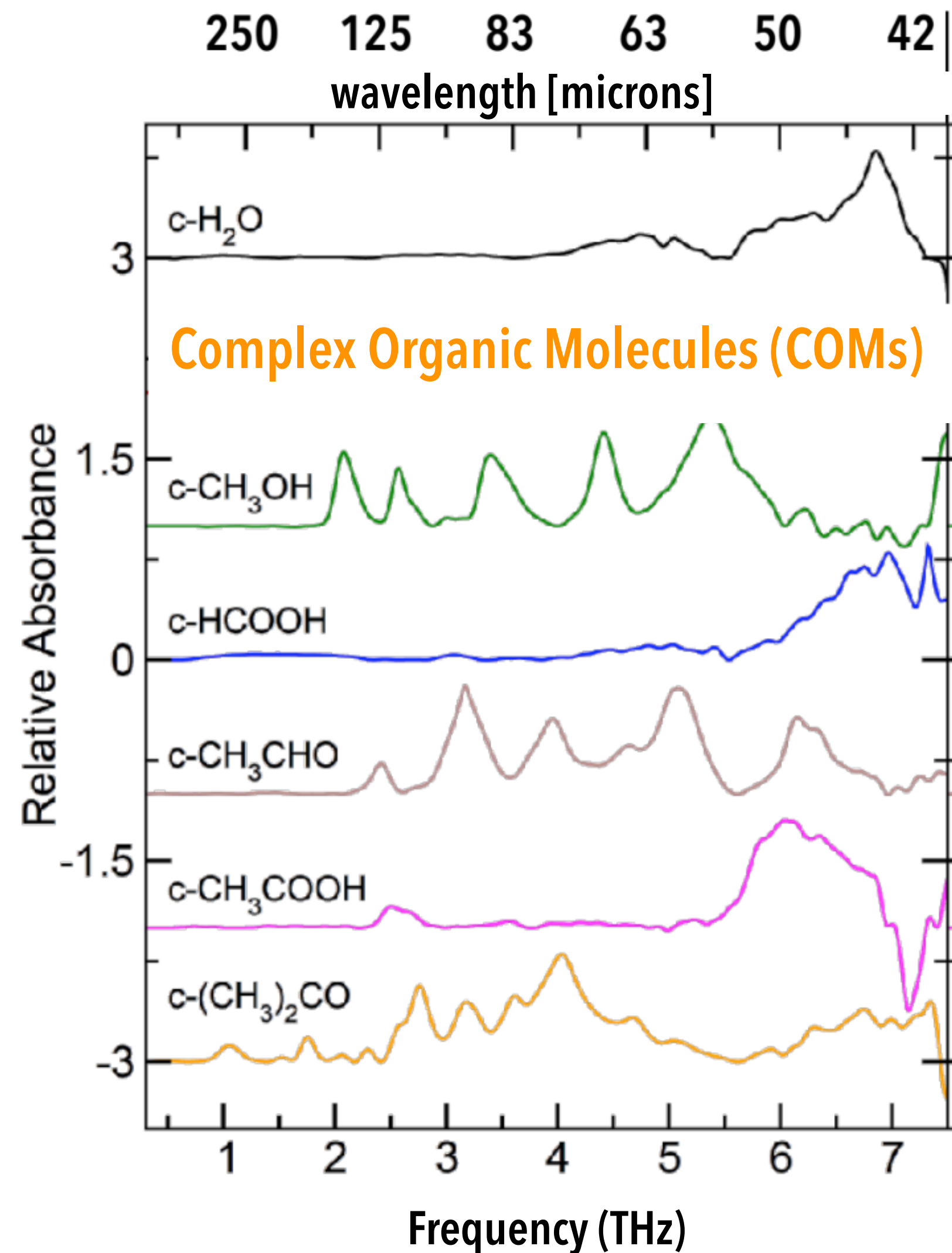
S. Ioppolo, private communication, McGuire, Ioppolo et al. (2016)



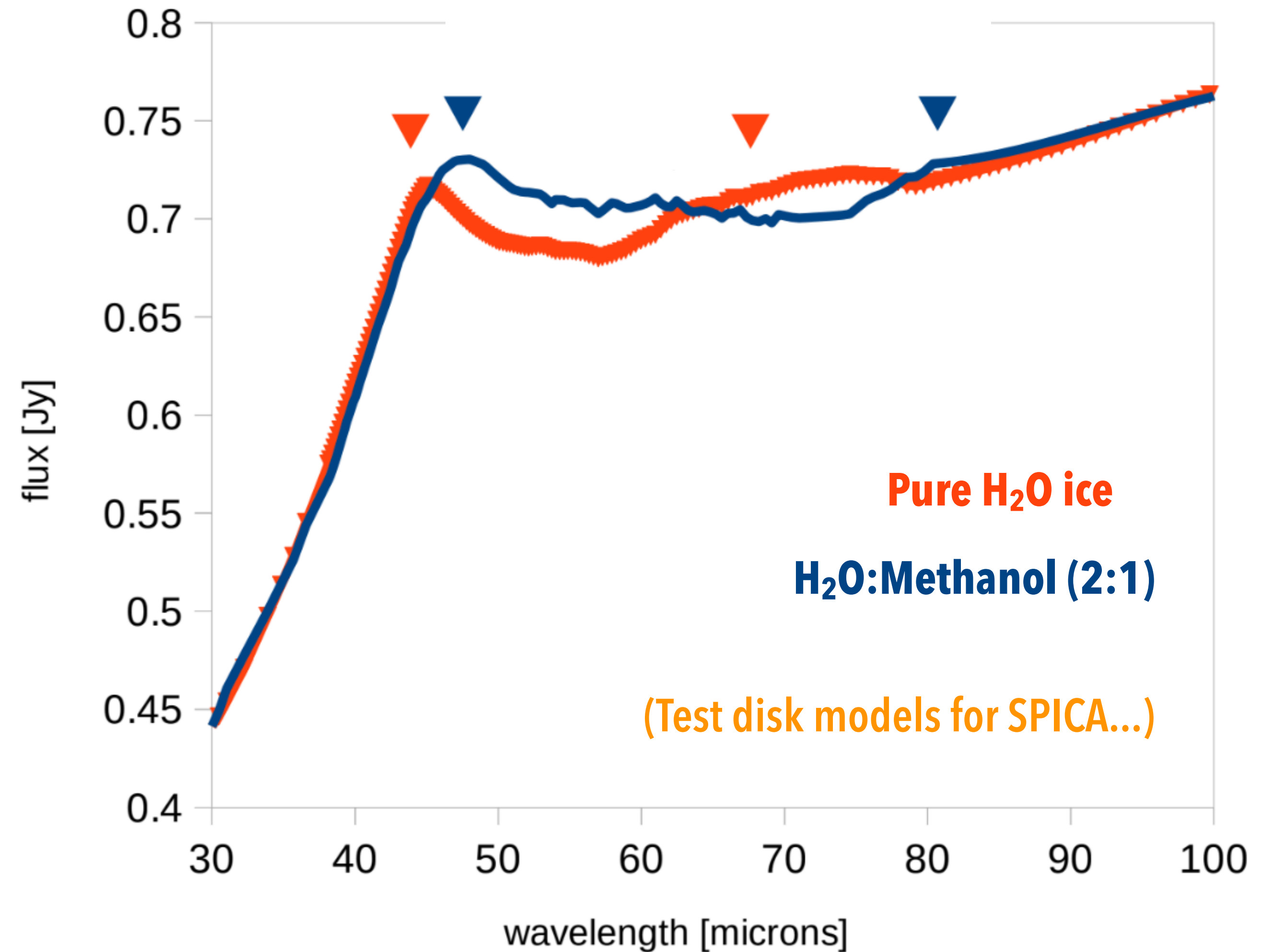
Giuliano et al. (2019)



# Ice mixtures and COMs (potentially) identifiable by wavelength shifts in Far-IR...



Ioppolo et al., FD168 (2014)



Opacities from Hudgins et al. (1993), models based on McClure et al. (2015)



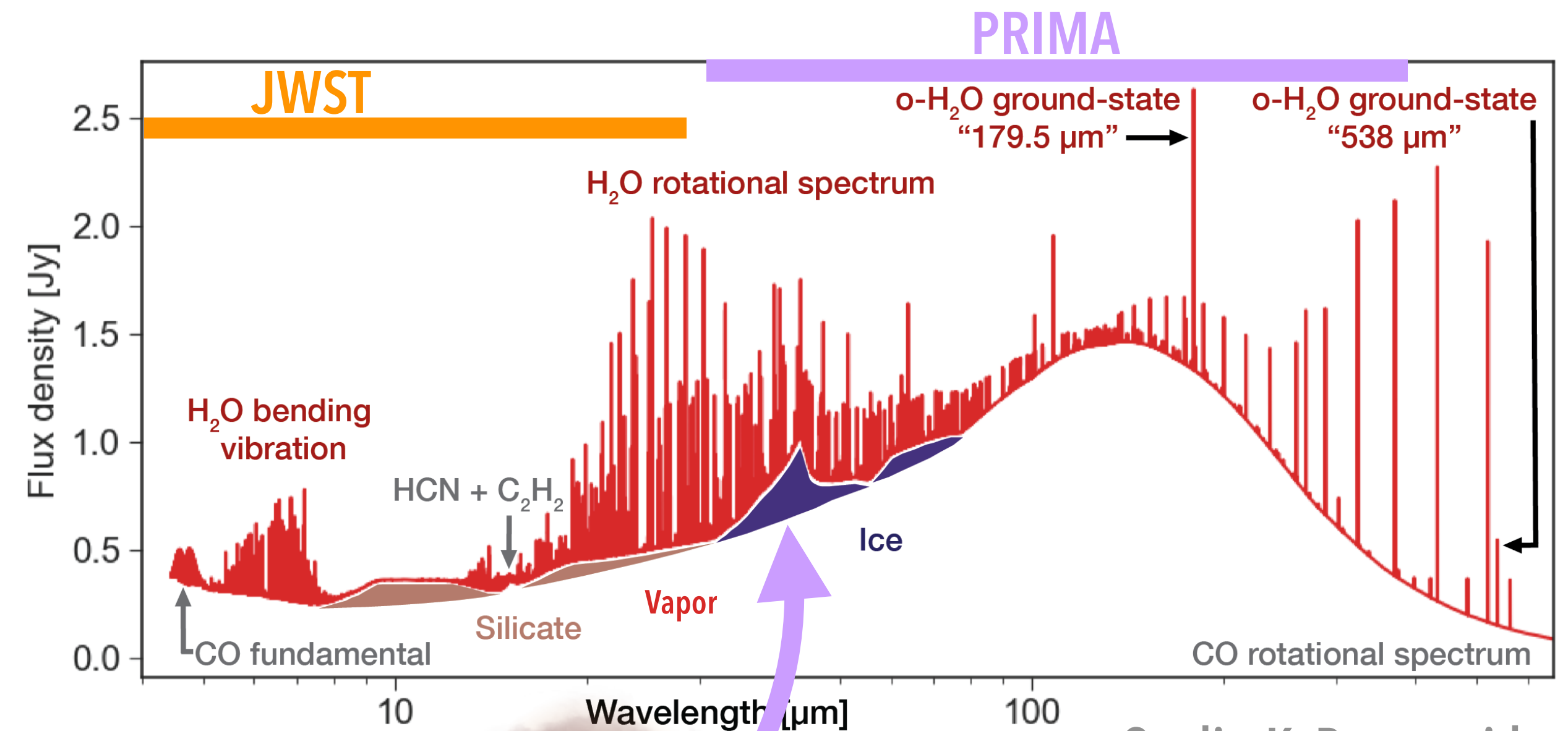


# *PRobe far-Infrared Mission for Astrophysics (PRIMA): NASA FIR Probe candidate*

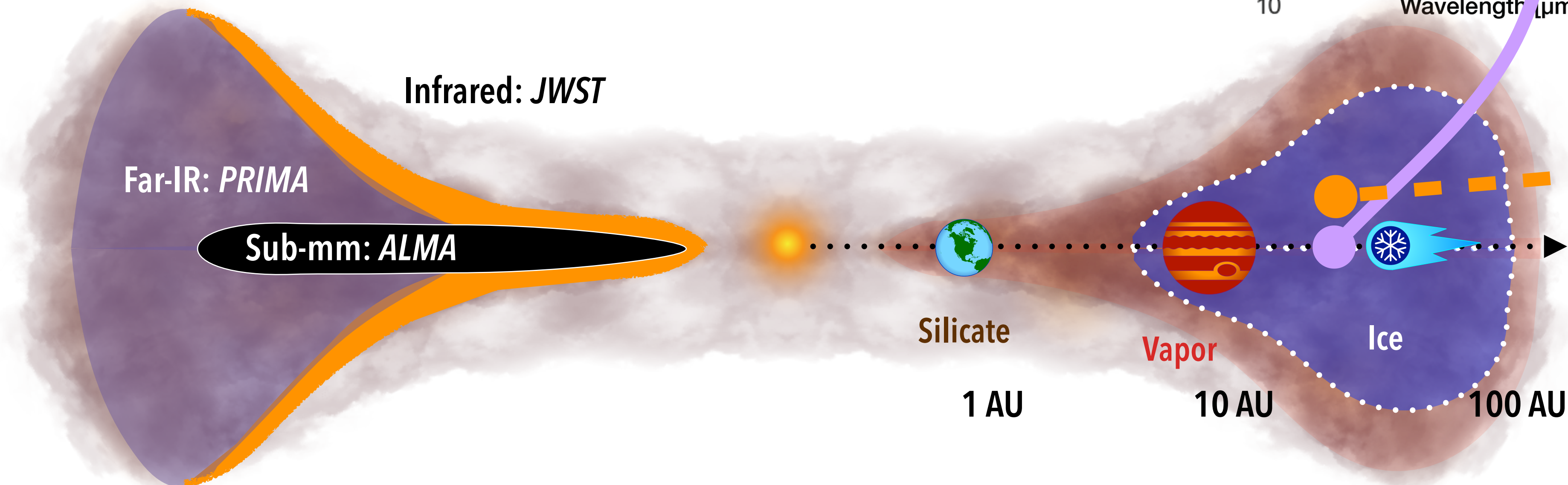
*Direct access to composition and structure of midplane planetary birth zones.*

PRIMA (launch 2031, if accepted fall 2025) would allow us to:

- Detect water vapor & ice content in cometary ice reservoir for planetary delivery,
- Measure major ice species and degree of complexity?
- Chart the evolution of ice and gas distributions.



Credit: K. Pontoppidan



Credit: M.K. McClure



# Summary & Conclusions

- Ice composition details matter for exoplanet atmosphere formation theory
- JWST reveals new mixed ice complexities
- Far-IR midplane ice observations are missing link to exoplanets

