International Symposium and Workshop on Astrochemistry - ISWA 2016

## Theoretical/Experimental Investigations of the Effects of Irradiation of Astrophysical ices

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# Astrophysical ices are impinged by radiation and solar wind



## Experiments used to reproduce the conditions of interstellar medium



## **Our Goals**

- Understand the synthesis of complex molecules in the interstellar medium
- Comprehend the planetary atmospheres formation
- Assist experimental measurements
  - Determination of structural and electronic parameters
  - Evaluation of relative stability of observed species
  - Describe the reactivity of formed species

## Systems studied

- Negative and positive formic acid clusters
  - Formed due to irradiation of frozen formic acid by <sup>252</sup>Cf fission fragments
- Negative and positive hydrocarbon clusters
  - Formed due to irradiation of frozen hydrocarbons by <sup>252</sup>Cf fission fragments and heavy ions
- Methane ions reactivity
  - Reactivity of such ions should help the knowledge about the synthesis of new molecules after bombardment of icy methane



2.4% of  $CH_4$  in the atmosphere



Hydrocarbons and formic acid has been observed in icy comets

## Formic Acid Clusters



D.P.P. Andrade et al. Journal of Electron Spectroscopy and Related Phenomena 155 (2007) 124–128 D.P.P. Andrade et al. J. Phys. Chem. C 2008, *112*, 11954–11961

## **Formic Acid Clusters**



Cluster stability is related to hydrogen migration between formic acid unities

The right assignment of (HCOOH)nH3O+ clusters is (HCOOH)n(H<sup>+</sup>)H2O

Born-Oppenheimer molecular dynamics at PBE1PBE/6-311G\*\*. Trajectory of 652 fs at 56K.

Baptista et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 2008, 112, 13382–13392

### Hydrocarbon clusters

- Can be observed after irradiation of solid hydrocabons, methanol, cholesterol and other targets by heavy ions and fission fragments
- It is observed regular patterns despite of the original target
- Cluster reactivity depends upon its structure



PDMS desorption yields from different targets

F. Fantuzzi et al Chemical Physics 410 (2013) 109–117

## Hydrocarbon clusters

- Were proposed the possible geometries for each cluster
- The relative stability of structures were evaluated
- Negative clusters
  - Geometry optimization at B3LYP and PBE1PBE level
  - Single point calculations at CCSD level
  - Basis: 6-311++G\*\*, 6-31++G\*\*, aug-cc-pvTZ, aug-cc-pvQZ

**Positive clusters** 

- Geometry optimization at B3LYP level
- Single point calculations at CCSD and CRCC(2,3) levels

## Hydrocarbon clusters-Results



F. Fantuzzi et al. / Chemical Physics 410 (2013) 109–117

## Hydrocarbon clusters-Results



F. Fantuzzi et al. / Chemical Physics 410 (2013) 109–117

## Hydrocarbon clusters-Results



a) trans-HCCH



b) cis-HCCH



$$\Delta E = E_{\rm cis} - E_{\rm trans}$$



#### *E* = E[vinyl<sup>+</sup> (nonplanar)]-E[vinyl<sup>+</sup> (planar)]

#### Vinylidene



Dihedral angle Planar 180° Nonplanar [155°-162°]

#### *E* = E[vinyl<sup>+</sup>(planar)]-E[ace<sup>+</sup>]

Acetylene



Pople basis: 6-31G(d, p) [**p1**]; 6-31G(0.25 0.15) [**pKB**]; 6-31++G(d,p) [**p1++**]; 6-311(d, p) [**p2**]; 6-311++(d, p) [**p2++**]; and 6-311++G(d, p) with diffuse functions exponent:  $\alpha_{H} = 0.05602$ ,  $\alpha_{C} 0.07434$  [**pG**]. Dunning/Huzinaga basis: cc-pvdz [**dh1**]; aug-cc-pvdz [**dh1aug**]; cc-pvtz [**dh2**]; aug-cc-pvtz [**dh2aug**].

## Methane in the interstellar medium

- It is found in several icy bodies of Solar System:
  - Icy clouds of Jovian planets
  - Saturn's moon Titan
  - Surface of Pluto
- The exposion to radiation induces erosion of solids and synthesis of new molecules
- The incidence of cosmic rays in solids leads to the desorption of several species and formation o molecular clouds



2.4% of  $CH_4$  in the atmosphere

# Effect of radiolysis and heavy ion impact on solid methane

FT-IR measurements characterized C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> radical



A. L. F. de Barros A&A 531, A160 (2011)

## Objectives:

- Describe the reactivity of methane ions (gas phase)
- Study the dissociation recombination of ethane
- Calculate thermodynamics and kinetics parameters that roles the decomposition of these ions

 $CH_{4}^{+} \rightarrow CH_{2}^{+} + H_{2}$   $CH_{4}^{+} \leftrightarrow CH_{3}^{+} + H$   $CH_{4}^{-} \rightarrow Products$   $C_{2}H_{6} \leftrightarrow CH_{3} + CH_{3}$ 

 Relates the ions reactivity to the FT-IR measurements performed after heavy ion impact

### Reactions of CH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>



MRCISD(7,8)/6-311G(d,p)//NEVPT2(7,8)/6-311G(2df,2pd)

Baptista and da Silveira Phys. C hem. Chem. Phys. 16 (2014) 21867-21875

# Arrhenius equation were calculated in the range of 273-500K

• Electronic structure data: MRCISD(7,8)/6-311G(d,p)//NEVPT2(7,8)/6-311G(2df,2pd)

Rate coefficients: RRKM theory

$$\begin{array}{ll} CH_4^+ \to CH_2^+ + H_2 & k_{diss}^{\infty} = 9.18 \times 10^{1.4} \mathrm{exp}(\frac{55.77}{RT}) \\ CH_4^+ \to CH_3^+ + H & k_{diss}^{\infty} = 1.42 \times 10^{1.4} \mathrm{exp}(\frac{37.12}{RT}) \\ CH_3^+ + H & \to CH_4^+ & k_{rec}^{\infty} = 1.05 \times 10^{-08} \mathrm{exp}(\frac{0.23}{RT}) \end{array}$$

## Reactions of CH4<sup>-</sup>

| Reaction                          | $\Delta E$  |             | $\Delta E_0$ |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                   | CASSCF(9,8) | NEVPT2(9,8) | CASSCF(9,8)  | NEVPT2(9,8) |
| $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_3 + H^-$   | 67.6        | 69.8        | 58.0         | 55.6        |
| $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_3^- + H$   | 103.1       | 84.7        | 93.6         | 69.2        |
| $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_2 + H_2^-$ | 134.2       | 101.4       | 122.2        | 85.0        |
| $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_2^- + H_2$ | 89.2        | 71.5        | 76.4         | 53.0        |

All values are in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. All results were obtained with 6-311++G(d,p) basis set.



## Rate coefficients for CH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> decomposition

- Electronic structure data: NEVPT2(9,8)/6-311++G(d,p)
- Rate coefficients: canonical TST

 $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_3 + H^-$  k = 3.7 × 10<sup>-21</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for apical stretching (T = 298)

 $CH_4^- \rightarrow CH_2^- + H_2$  k = 1.0 × 10<sup>-42</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (T = 298)



Recommended cross sections for the formation of H and CH <sub>2</sub> and total dissociative electron attachment cross section from methane.

Song et al. J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, Vol. 44, No. 2, 2015

## Proposition of an initialization mechanism



## **Conclusions and Perspectives**

- Experimental studies associated with theoretical studies provides an insightful way to assign the chemical structure of species observed in the interstellar medium
  - Geometry and electronic structure will role the reactivity of molecules
- The electronic charge influences the geometry of carbon clusters
- The kinetic and thermodynamic parameters calculated for these species may be used to justify or predict the existence of some species in the interstellar medium
  - Formation of CH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>+ should be related to formation of new specis after irradiation of methane ices.

## Acknowledgments

- CAPES, CNPq and FAPERJ
- Prof<sup>a</sup>. Diana Andrade from UNIVAP for lending me some images
- Prof. Sérgio Pilling from UNIVAP
- Prof<sup>a</sup>. Heloisa M. Boechat-Roberty Observatório do Valongo UFRJ
- Prof<sup>a</sup>. Mária Luiza Rocco DFQ/UFRJ
- MSc Felipe Fantuzzi IQ/UFRJ

## Título e layout do conteúdo com gráfico



## Layout de duas partes de conteúdo com tabela

- Primeiro marcador aqui
- Segundo marcador aqui
- Terceiro marcador aqui

|          | Grupo 1 | Grupo 2 |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Classe 1 | 82      | 95      |
| Classe 2 | 76      | 88      |
| Classe 3 | 84      | 90      |











