

# La mission Stardust: Une comète au laboratoire

Matthieu Gounelle

Laboratoire d'Étude de la Matière Extraterrestre (LEME),  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

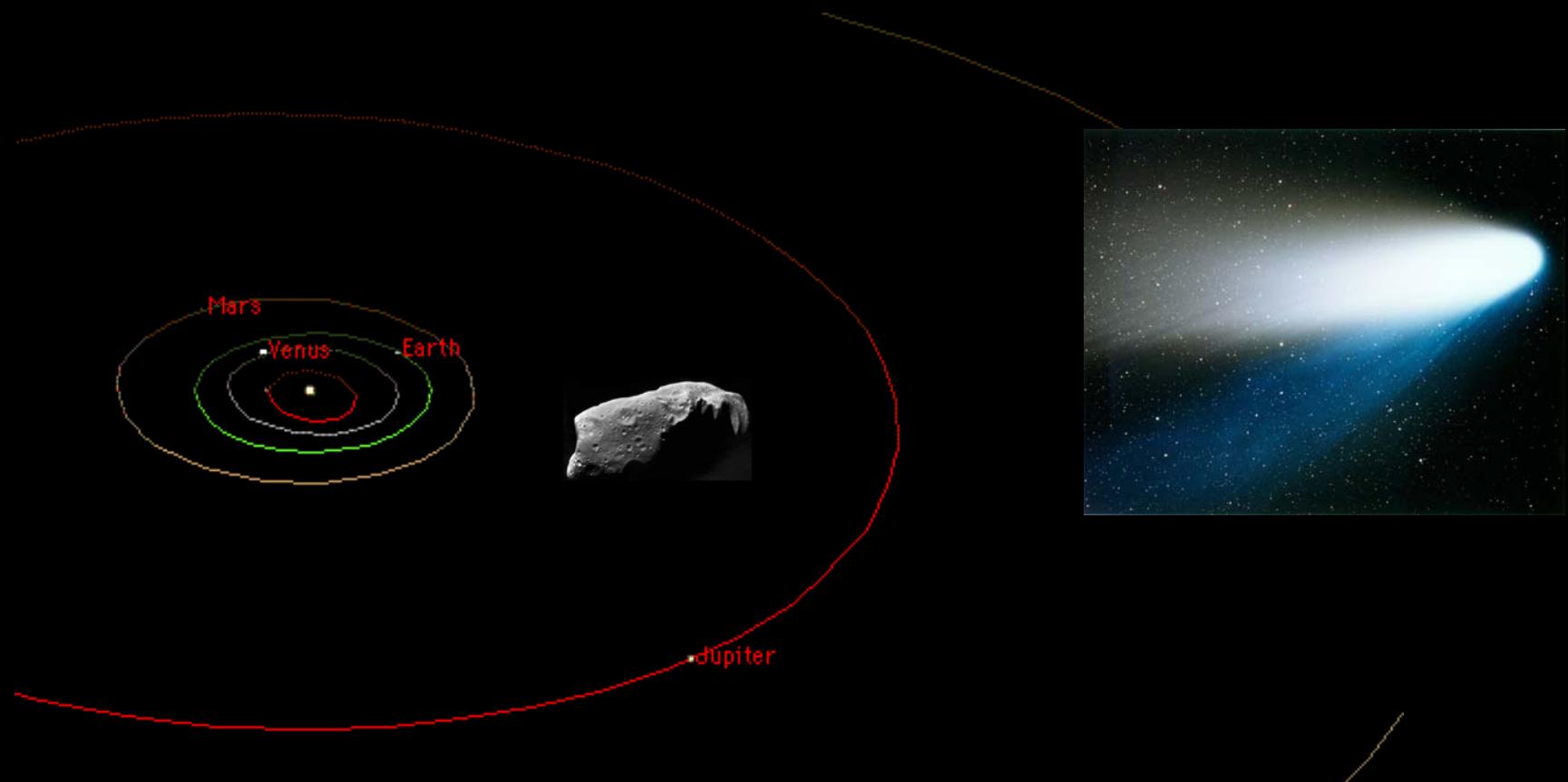


# 1. Remarques liminaires

# Small bodies are *primitive*

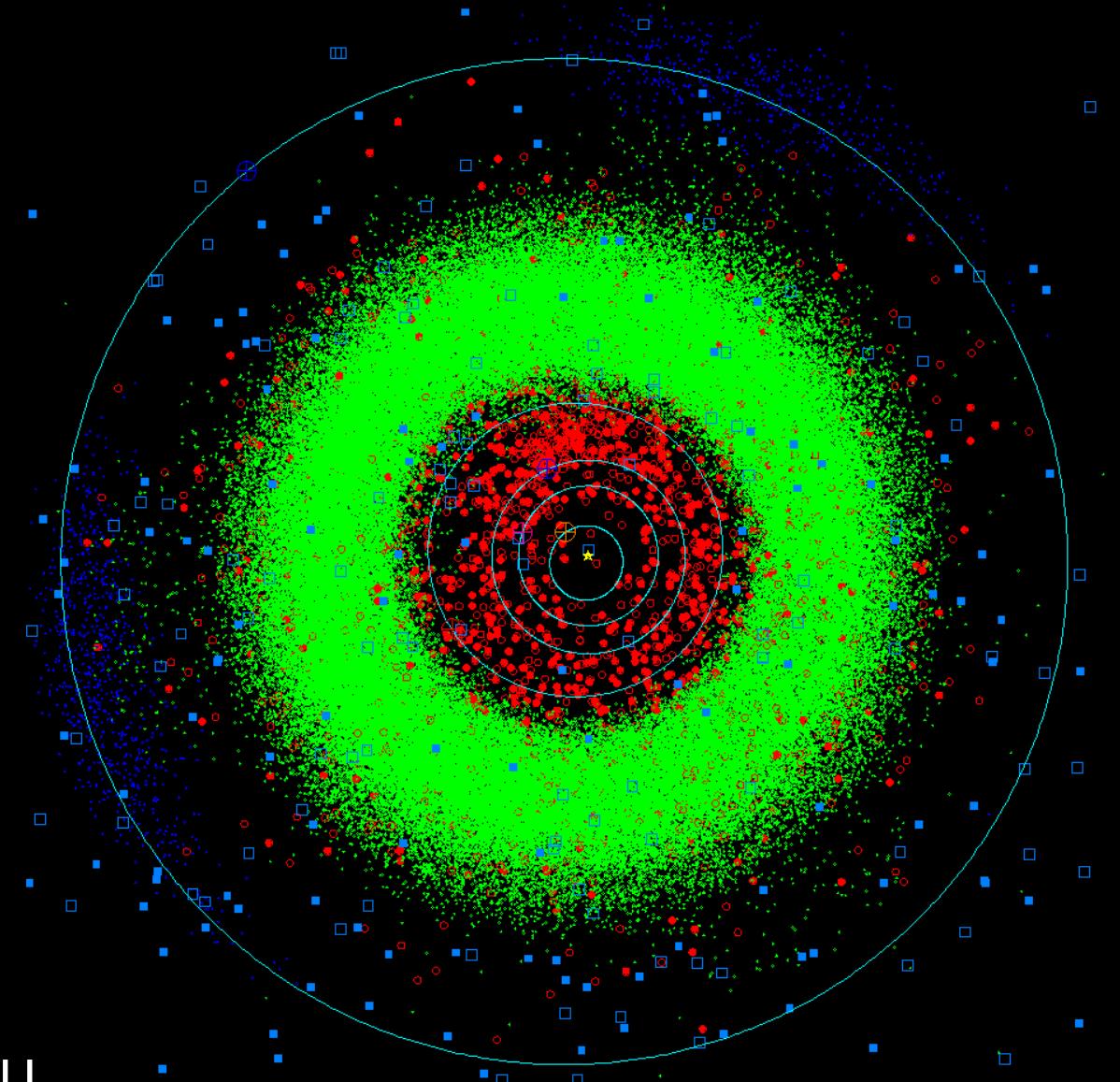


# The inner and outer Solar System



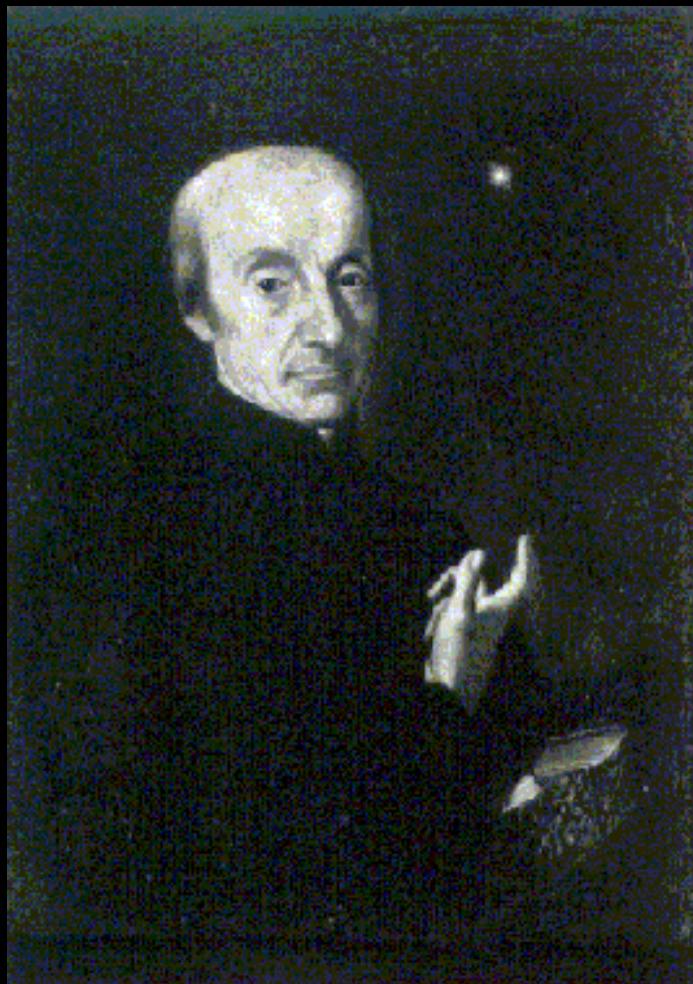
## 2. Asteroids

# Asteroids: Where?

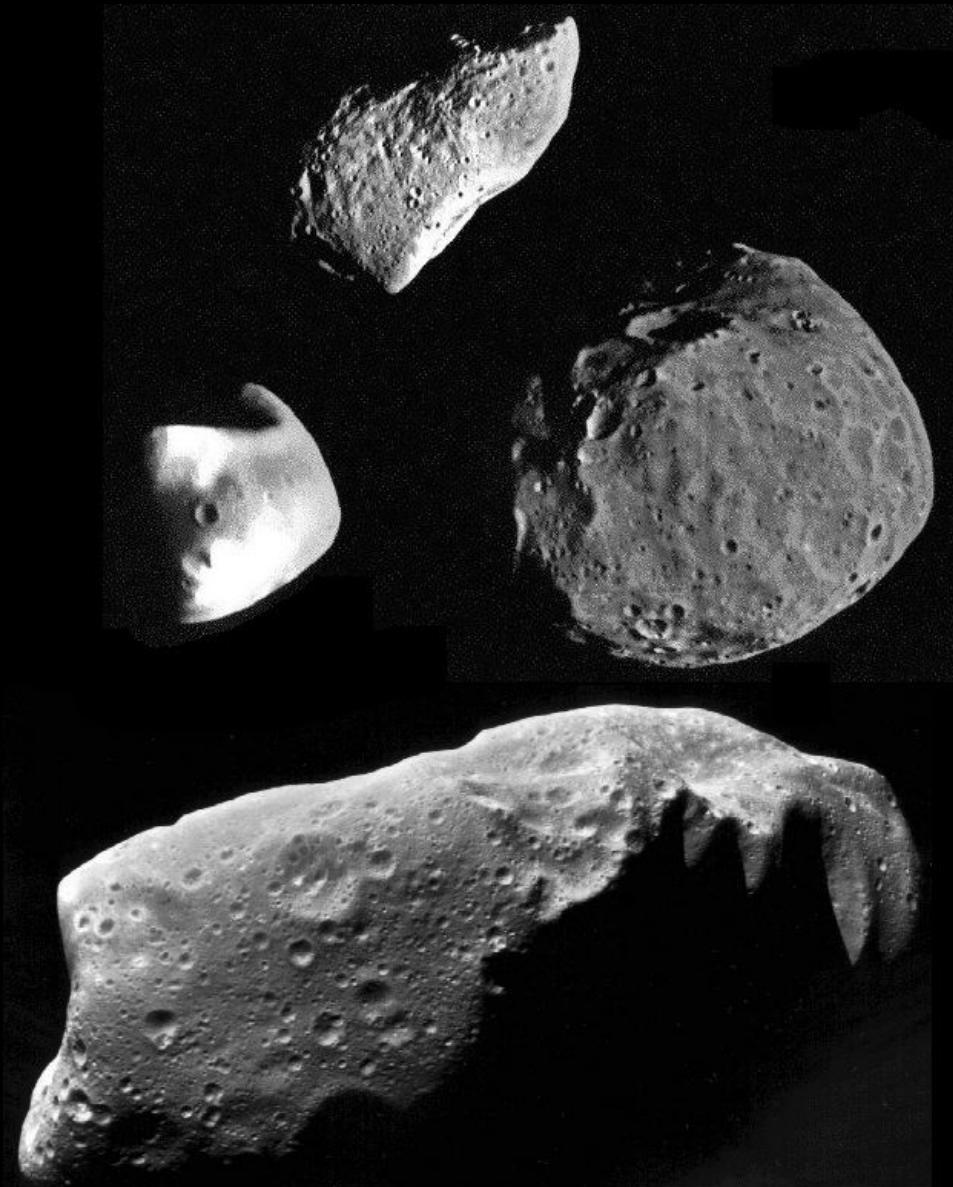


# Asteroids: General

- First discovered is Ceres 1801 (948 km)
- Soon followed by
  - Pallas 1802 (532 km)
  - Juno 1805
  - Vesta 1807 (529 km)
- Next discoveries: 1854
- Total mass ~ 4 % of the Moon
- Tens of thousands of asteroids known
- 1 to 2 million asteroids with diameter > 1 km



# Asteroids: What?



- Corps **rocheux**
- Faible densité:  $0.96 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$  (Eunomia) à Eros ( $2.12 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ )
- Certains contiennent de la glace

### 3. Les comètes

# Comets

They are rich in water

→ They have an extended coma  
(up to  $100 \times 10^6$  km)

They have eccentrical and inclined orbits

→ They come back

They come from the outer solar system



1997 comète Hale Bopp

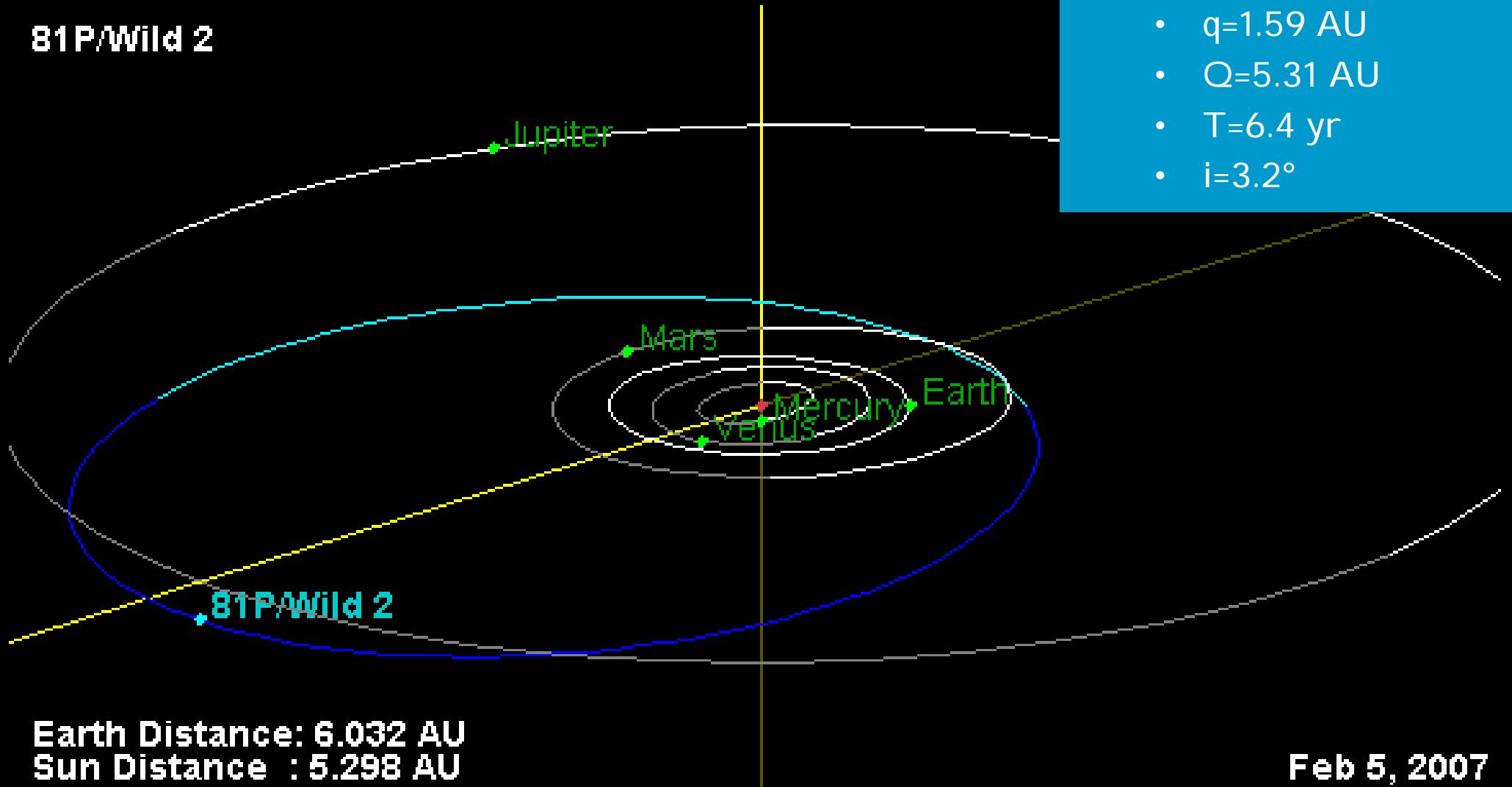
# Two types of comets

- Short period comets ( $T < 200$  yr)
  - $T < 20$  yr Jupiter type
  - $T > 20$  yr Halley type
- Long period comets ( $T > 200$  yr)
  - Oort cloud comets



# Jupiter family comets

81P/Wild 2

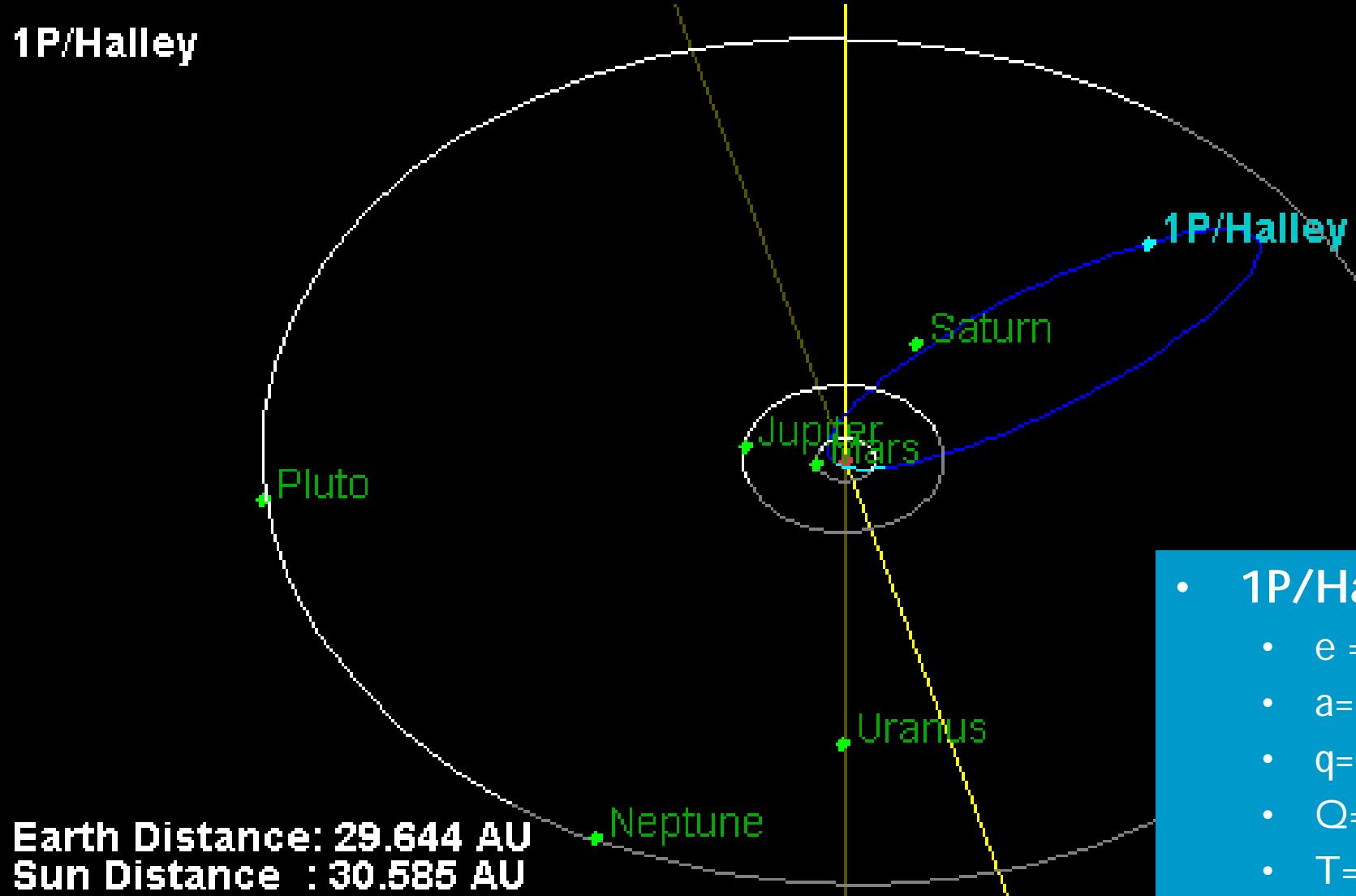


- Wild 2
  - $e = 0.538$
  - $a = 3.45 \text{ AU}$
  - $q = 1.59 \text{ AU}$
  - $Q = 5.31 \text{ AU}$
  - $T = 6.4 \text{ yr}$
  - $i = 3.2^\circ$

Feb 5, 2007

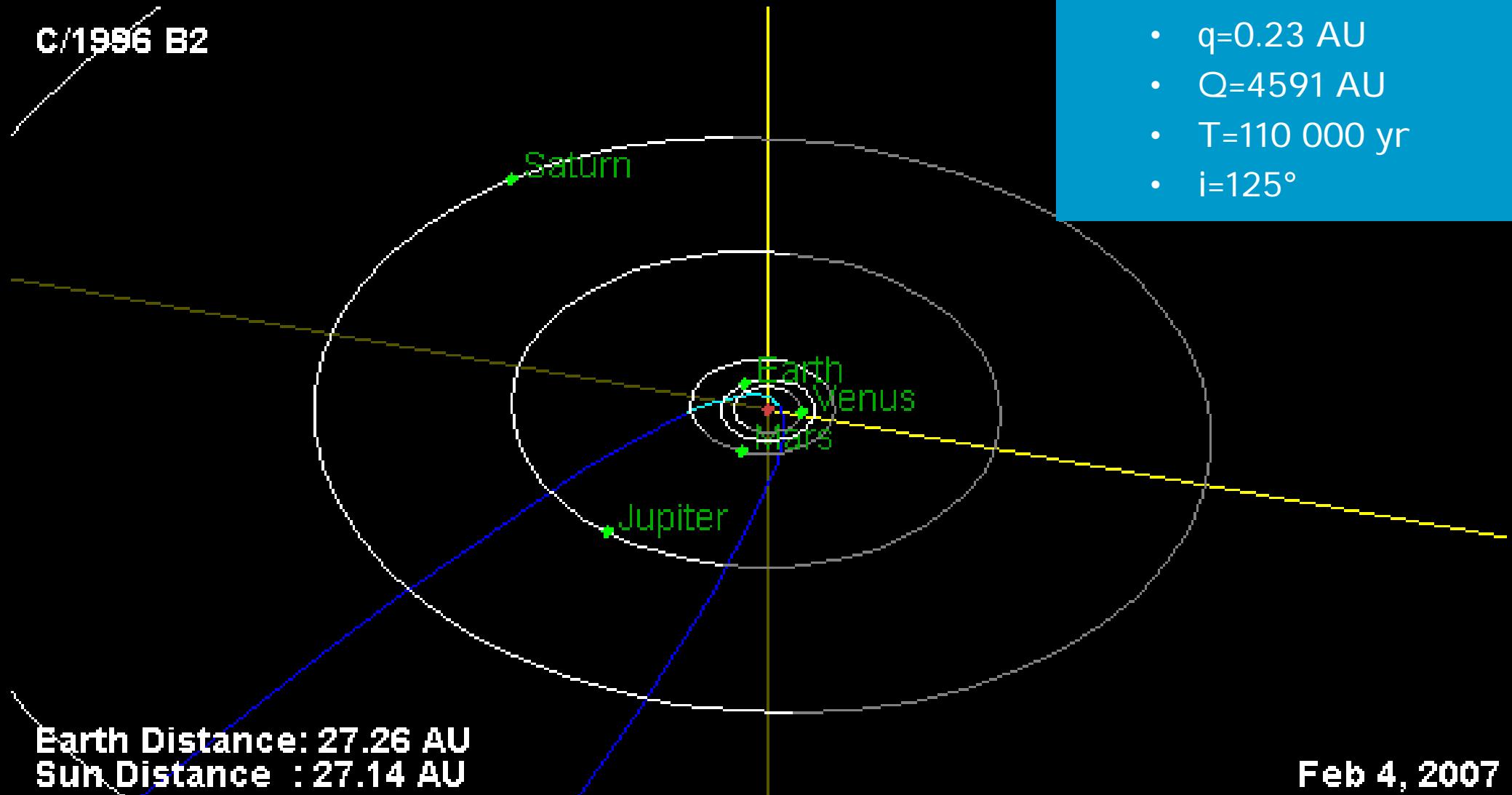
# Halley type comets

1P/Halley

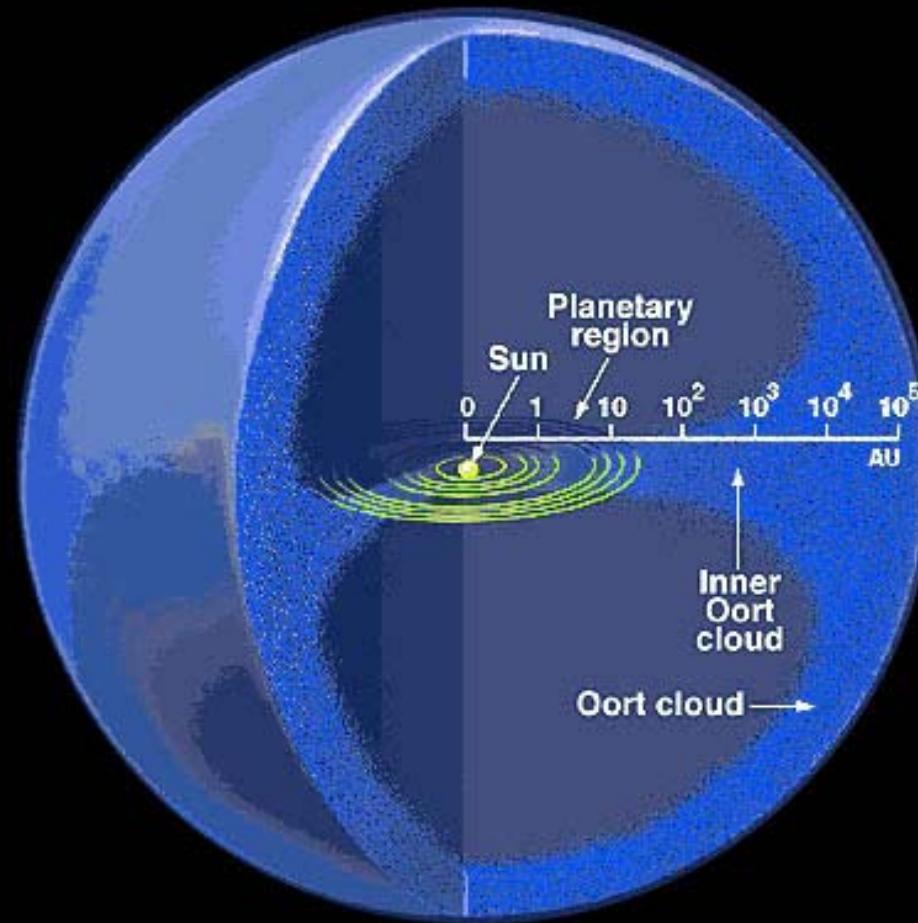


- 1P/Halley
  - $e = 0.967$
  - $a = 17.83 \text{ AU}$
  - $q = 0.586 \text{ AU}$
  - $Q = 3.5.08 \text{ AU}$
  - $T = 75.3 \text{ yr}$
  - $i = 162^\circ$

# Oort cloud comets

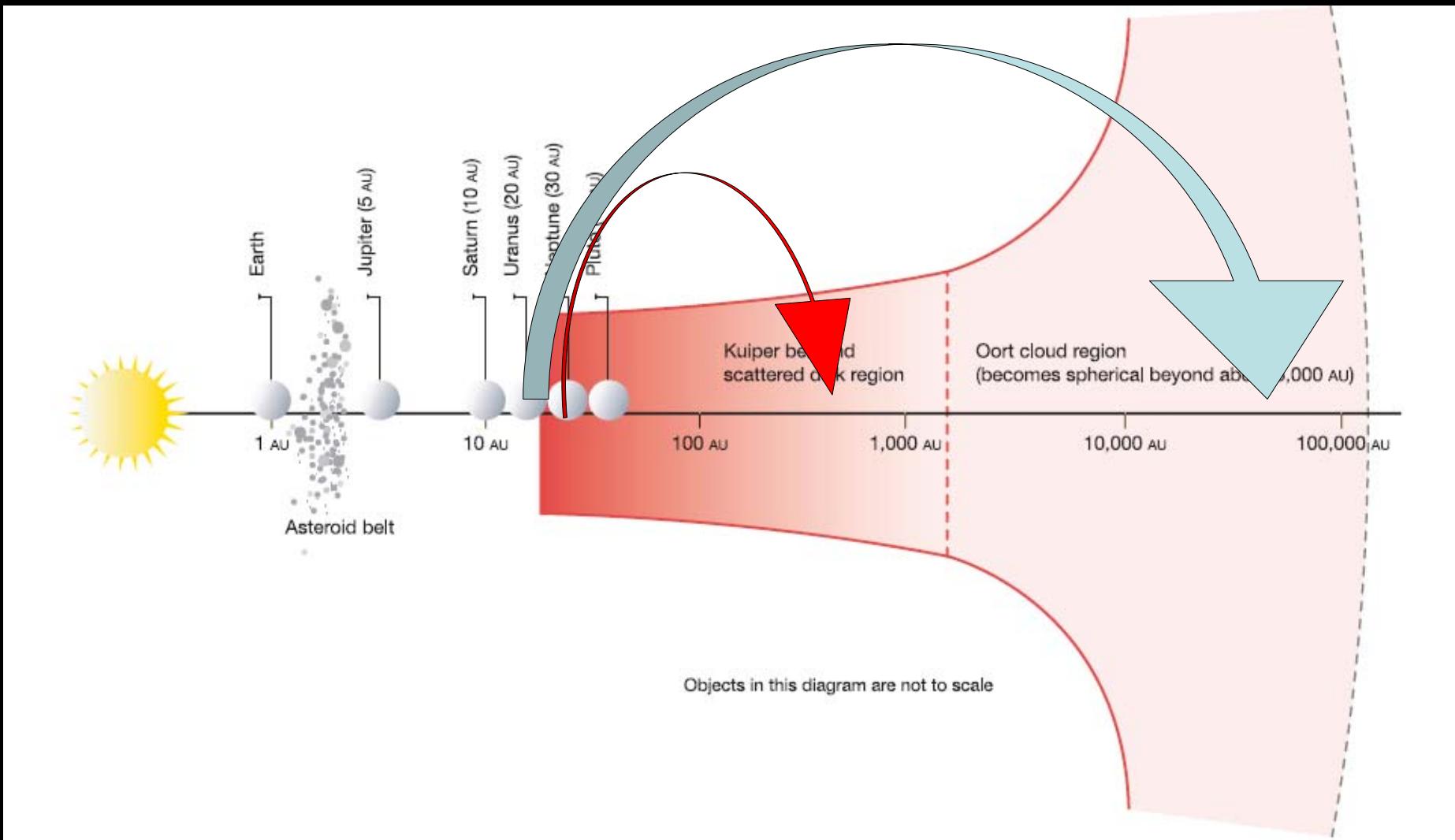


# The Oort cloud



Expelled from the Oort cloud to the inner  
Solar System because of a passing star

# “One” origin for comets



# Les comètes: propriétés observables

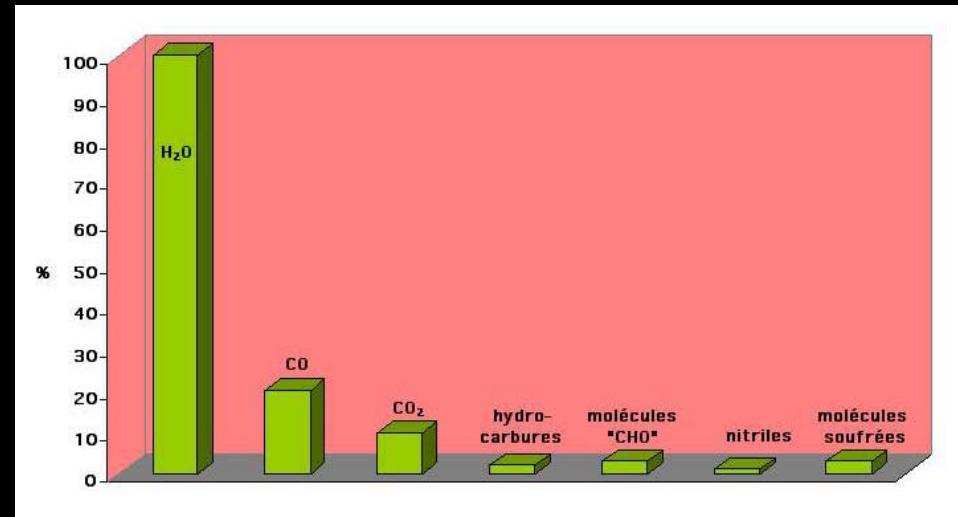
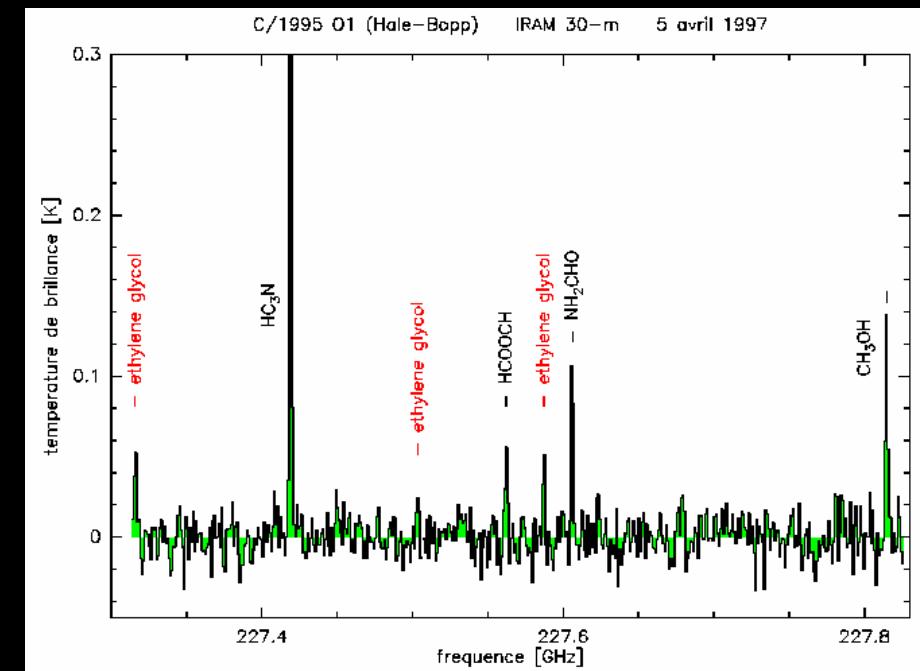
- **Objet actif**
  - Différence d'avec les astéroïdes
- **Noyau**
  - Difficile à observer depuis la Terre
- **Queues (coma)**
  - Ions (rectiligne, vent solaire)
  - Poussière (courbé)
  - Observations photométriques et spectroscopiques
  - Tonnes/seconde de gaz et poussières



# Comets: Radio observations

molécule		abondance relative	technique d'observation
eau	H <sub>2</sub> O	100	IR, radio
monoxyde de carbone	CO	23	radio, IR, UV
dioxyde de carbone	CO <sub>2</sub>	6	IR
méthane	CH <sub>4</sub>	0,6	IR
acétylène	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	0,1	IR
éthane	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0,3	IR
méthanol	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	2,4	radio, IR
formaldéhyde	H <sub>2</sub> CO	1,1	radio
éthylène glycol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	0,25	radio
acide formique	HCOOH	0,09	radio
éthanal	CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	0,02	radio
formiate de méthyle	HCOOCH <sub>3</sub>	0,08	radio
ammoniac	NH <sub>3</sub>	0,7	radio, IR
cyanure d'hydrogène	HCN	0,25	radio, IR
isocyanure d'hydrogène	HNC	0,04	radio
cyanure de méthyle	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0,02	radio
cynoacétylène	HC <sub>3</sub> N	0,02	radio
acide isocyanique	HNCO	0,1	radio
formamide	NH <sub>2</sub> CHO	0,015	radio
sulfure d'hydrogène	H <sub>2</sub> S	1,5	radio
monoxyde de soufre	SO	0,3	radio
dioxyde de soufre	SO <sub>2</sub>	0,2	radio
oxysulfure de carbone	OCS	0,4	radio, IR
disulfure de carbone	CS <sub>2</sub>	0,2	UV, radio
thioformaldéhyde	H <sub>2</sub> CS	0,02	radio
disoufre	S <sub>2</sub>	0,005	UV

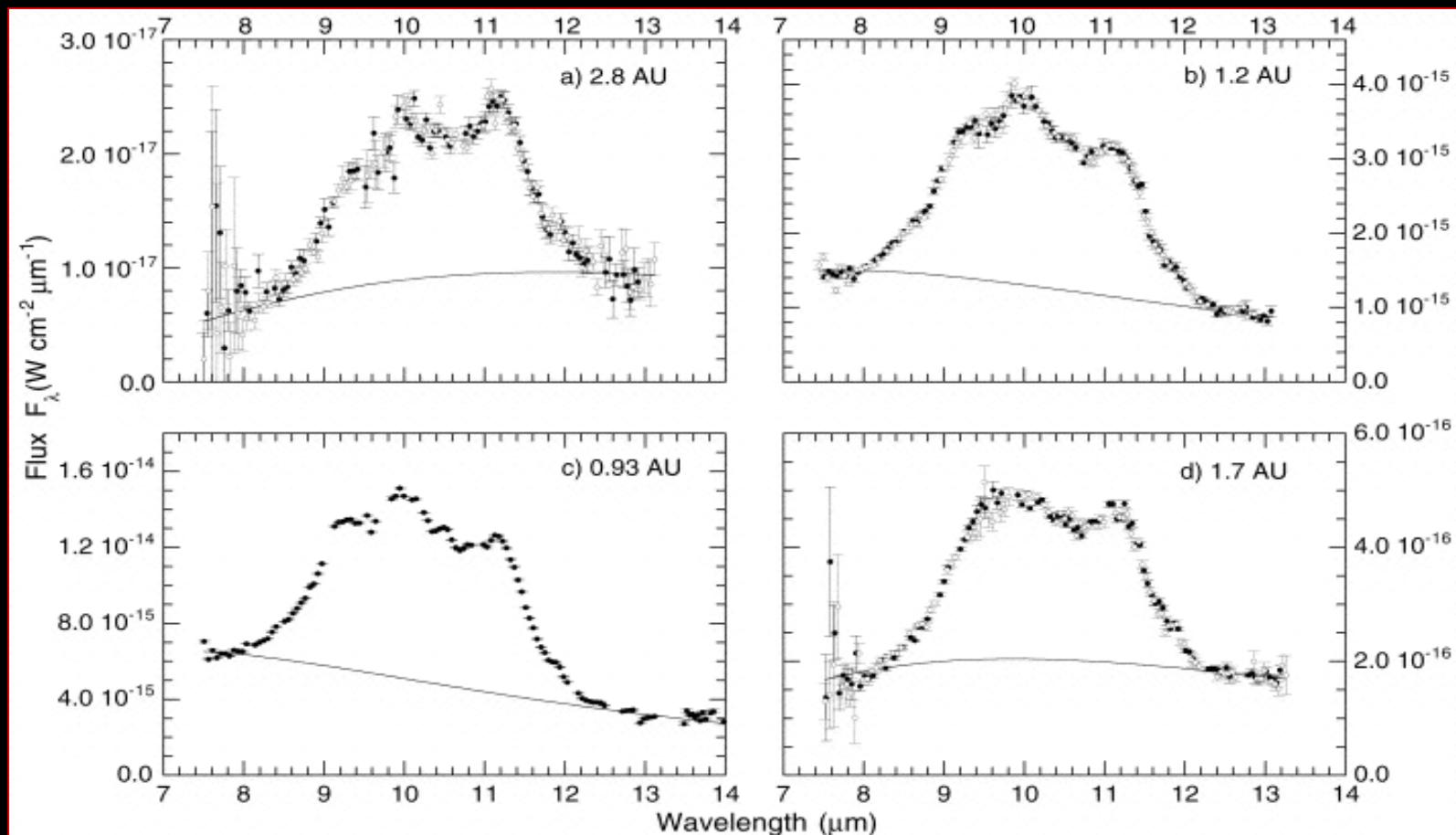
Les "abondances relatives" sont données ici en nombre de molécules par rapport à l'eau.



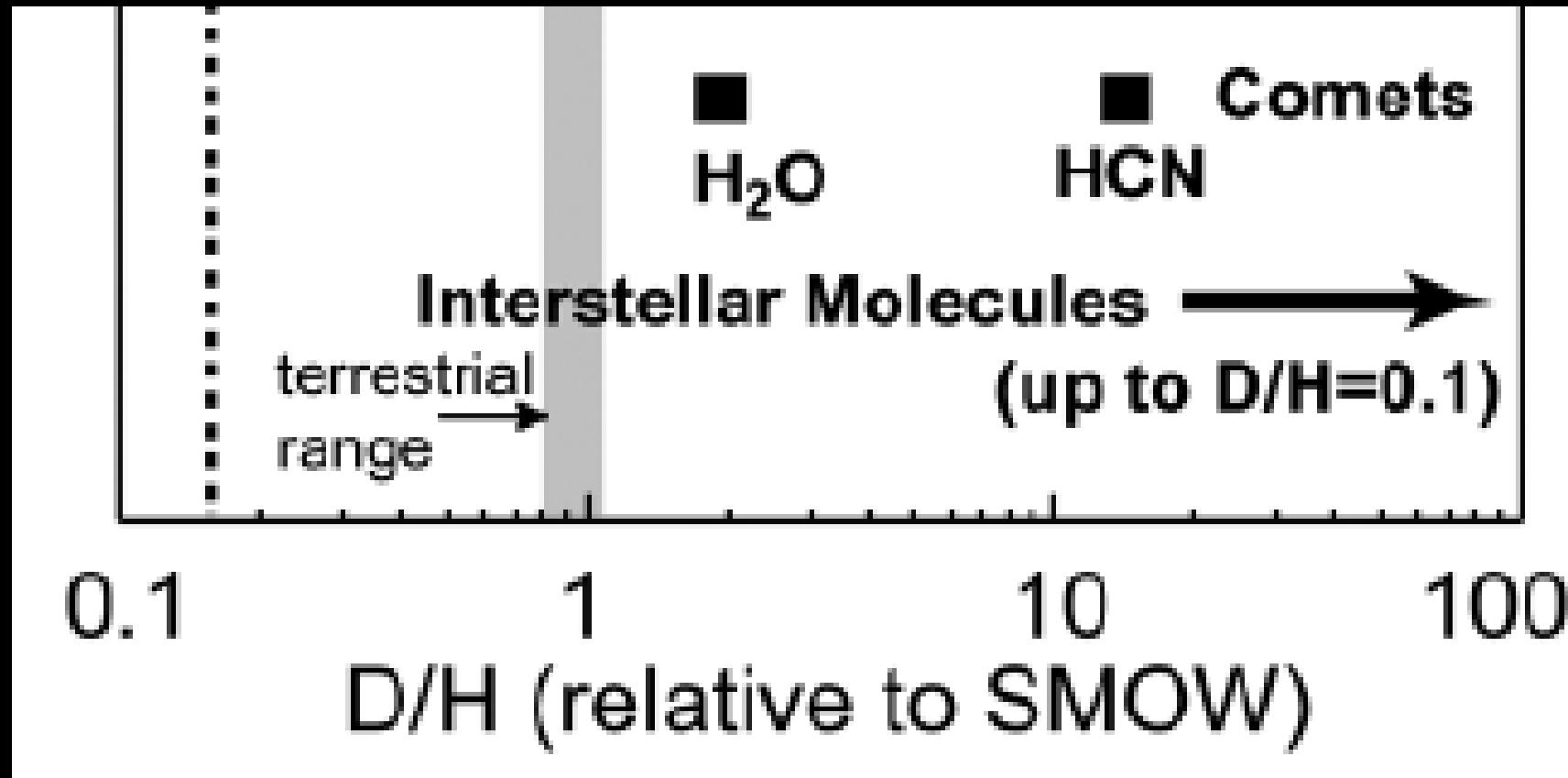
Radio observations provide  
the ice composition

# IR emission of dust grains from the coma

- Depends on temperature, size, crystallinity
  - Detection of olivine and pyroxene

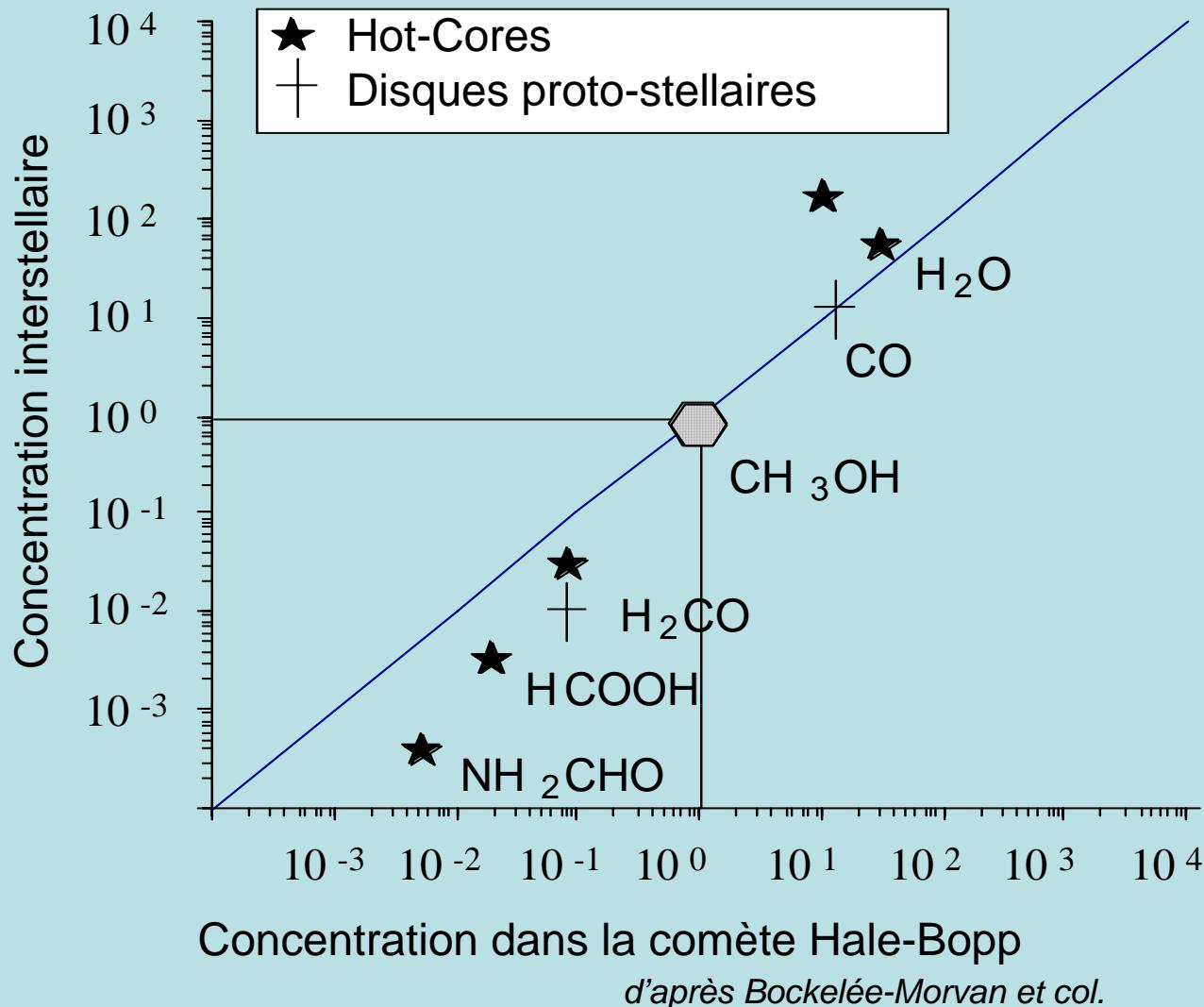


# Comets and the interstellar medium



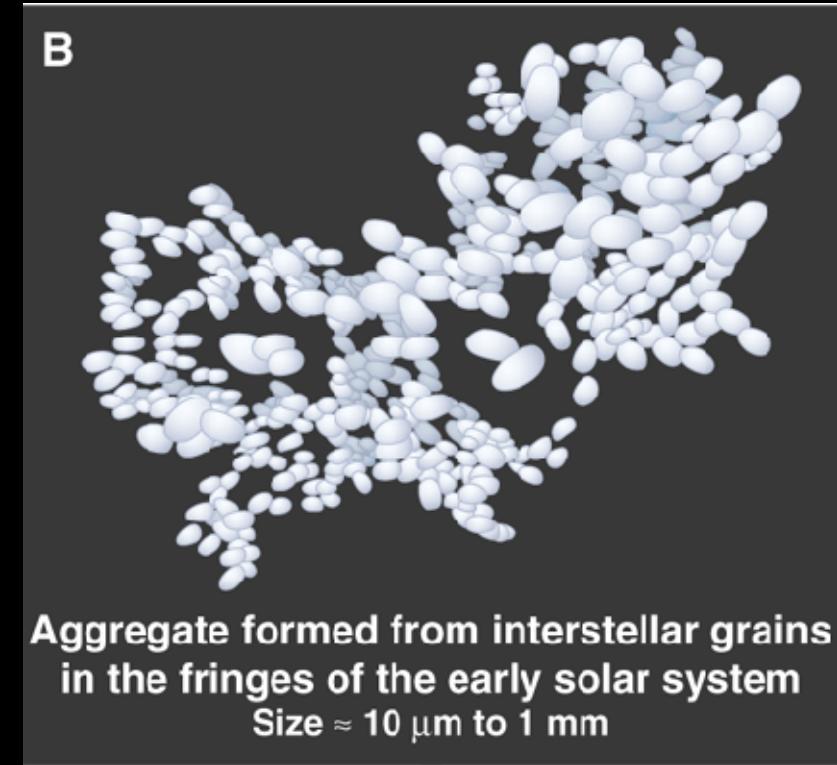
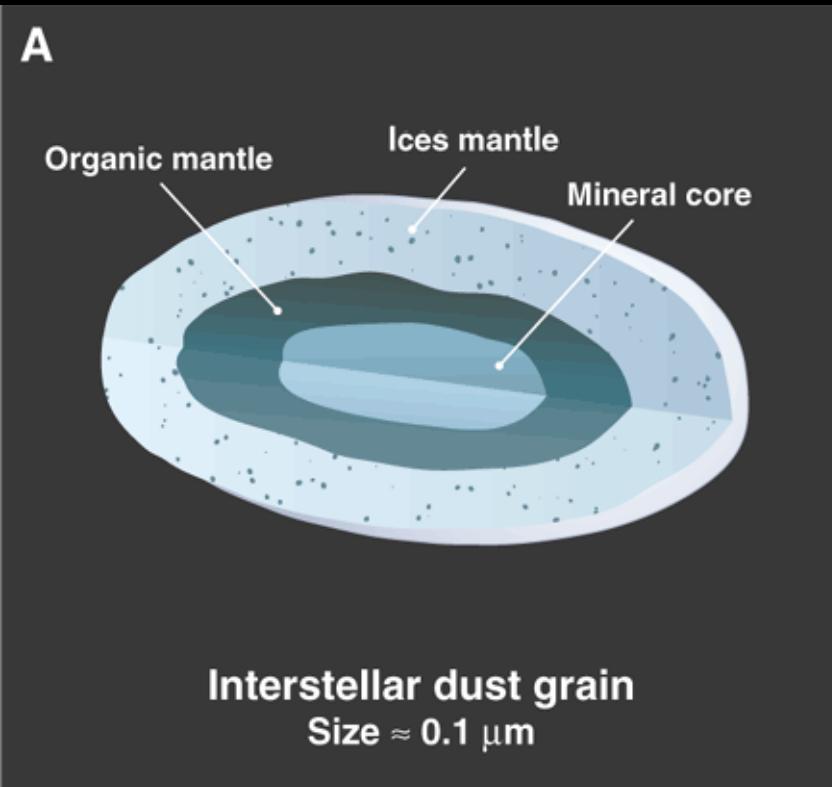
Deuterium enrichments made by ion molecule reactions

# Comets and the interstellar medium



d'après Bockelée-Morvan et col.

# Comets and the interstellar medium



- This is the dominant model for cometary dust

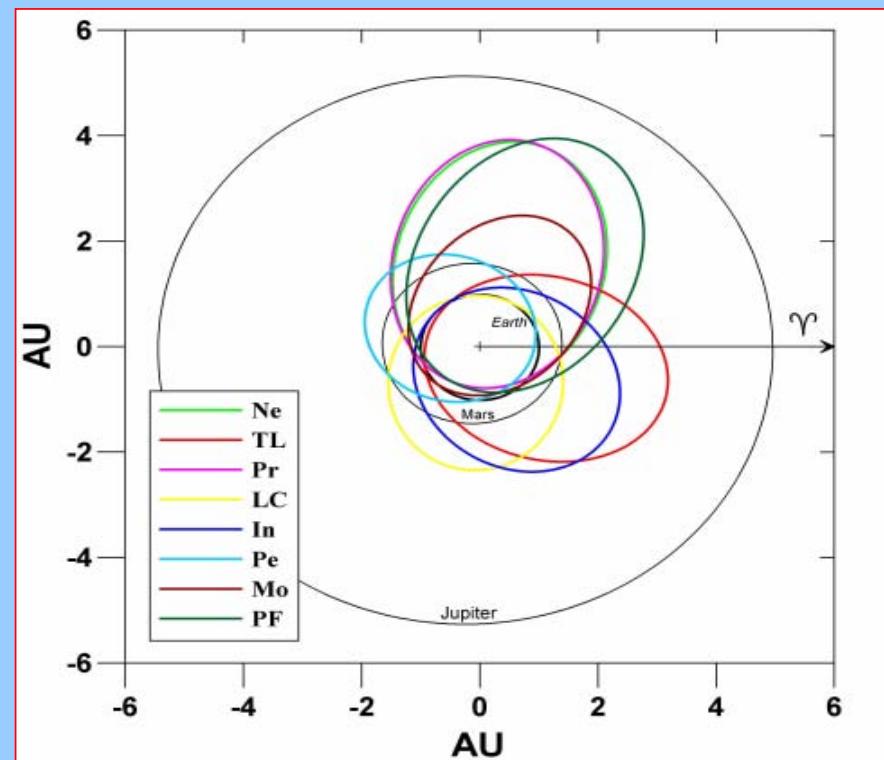
# Comets : Summary

- Formed further away than asteroids
  - Comets are rich in ice
  - They contain dust (what nature, how much?)
  - They are supposed to be primitive (sampling the interstellar medium)

## 4. La matière extraterrestre sur Terre

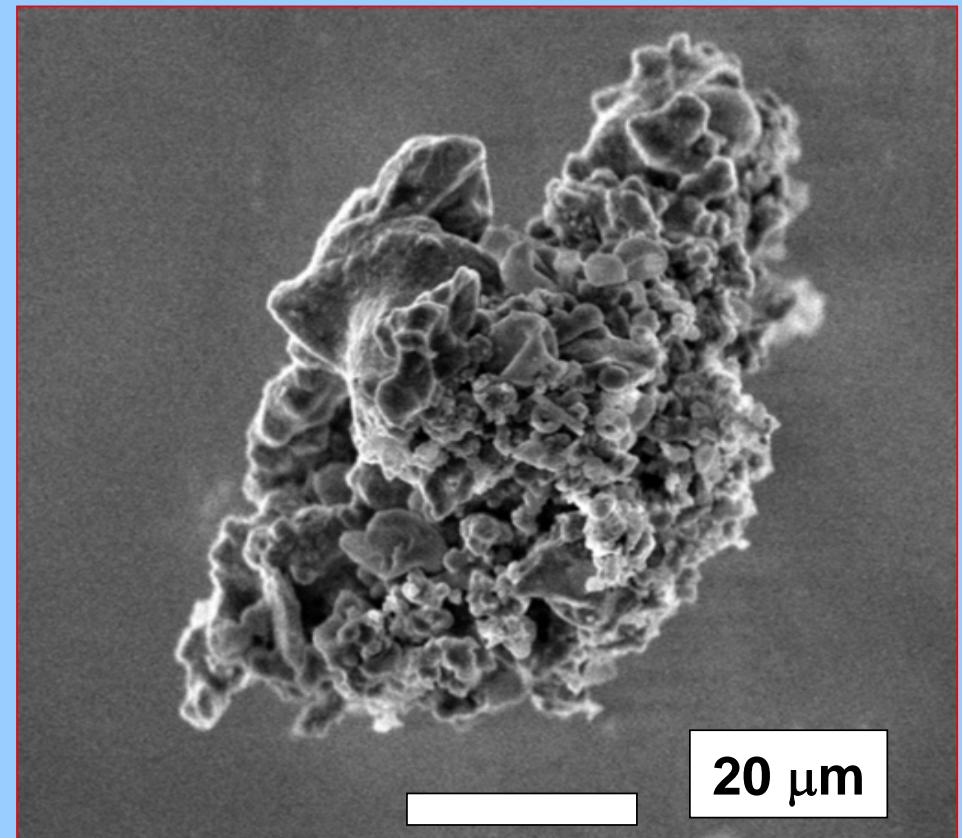
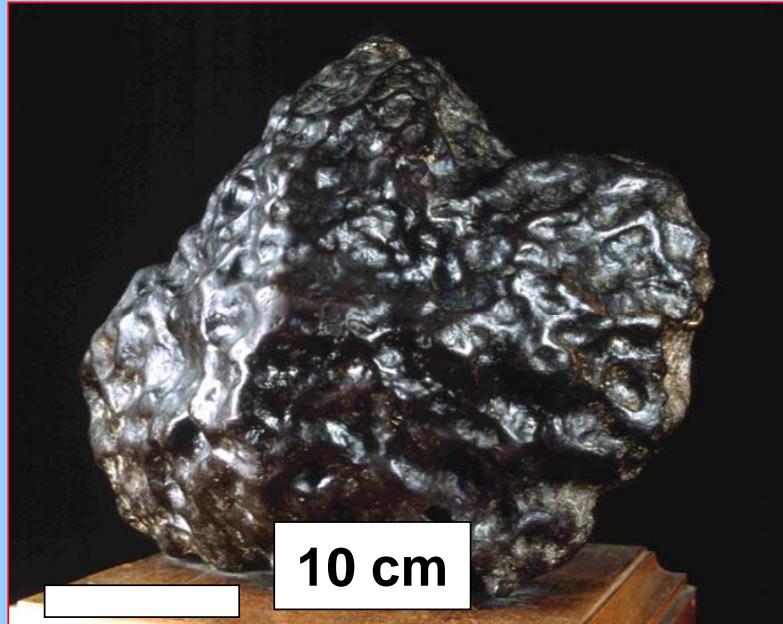
# Meteorites come from asteroids

- ★ The origin of meteorites has been disputed since their identification as extraterrestrial objects
  - ★ First calculation from Biot (1803)
- ★ Only the orbit of 8 meteorites is known
  - ★ All come from the asteroid belt
- ★ It is now widely accepted that
  - ★ Most meteorites come from asteroids
  - ★ 26 meteorites come from Mars
  - ★ 32 meteorites come from the Moon



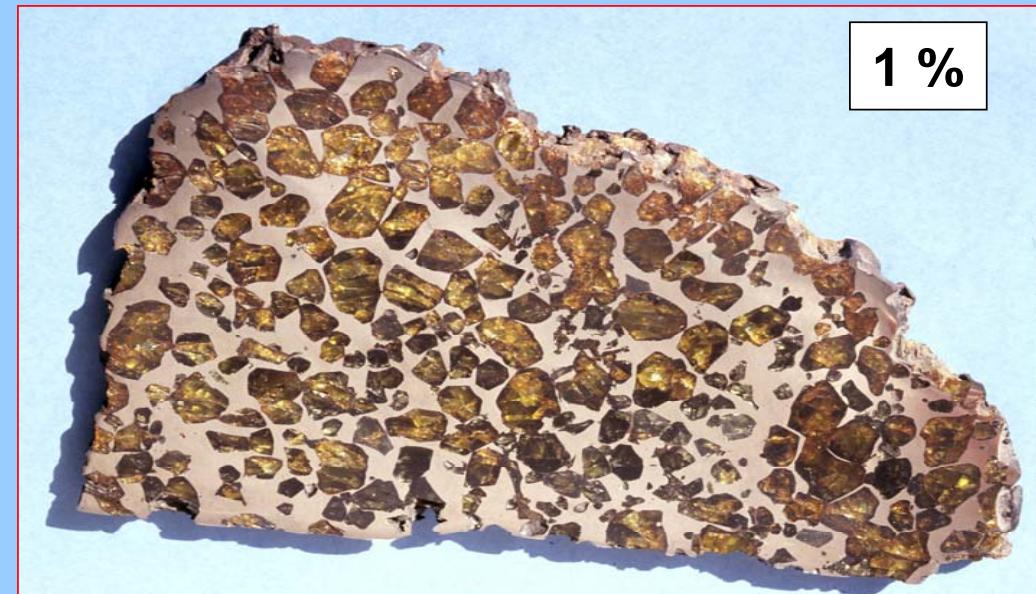
# Meteorites: some definitions

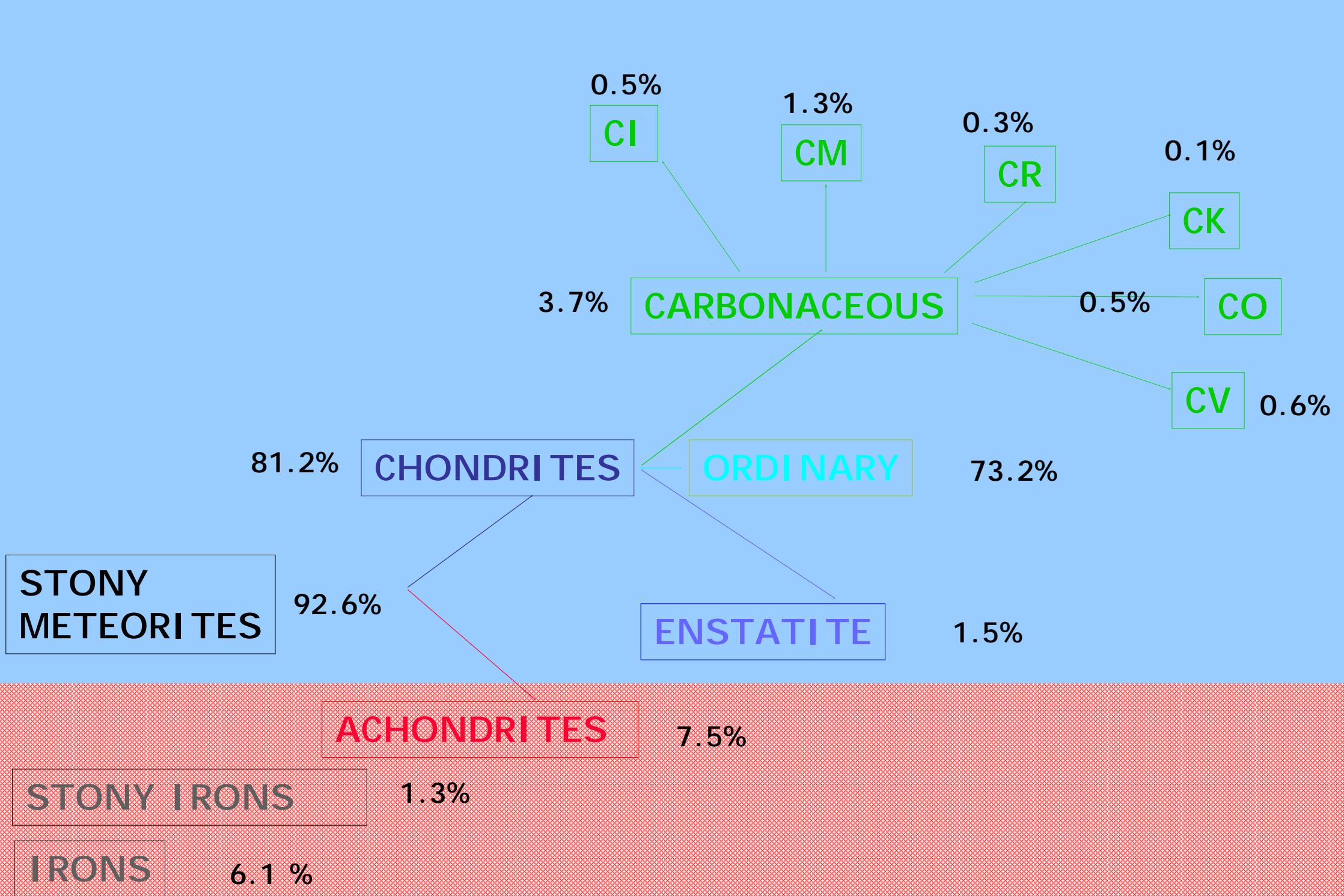
- ★ Micrometeorites: size < cm
  - ★ Antarctic micrometeorites
  - ★ IDPs
- ★ Meteorites: cm <size < 100 m (?)



# Meteorites

- ★ There are 3 main types of meteorites
  - ★ Stones [93 %]
  - ★ Irons [6 %]
  - ★ Stony-irons [1 %]



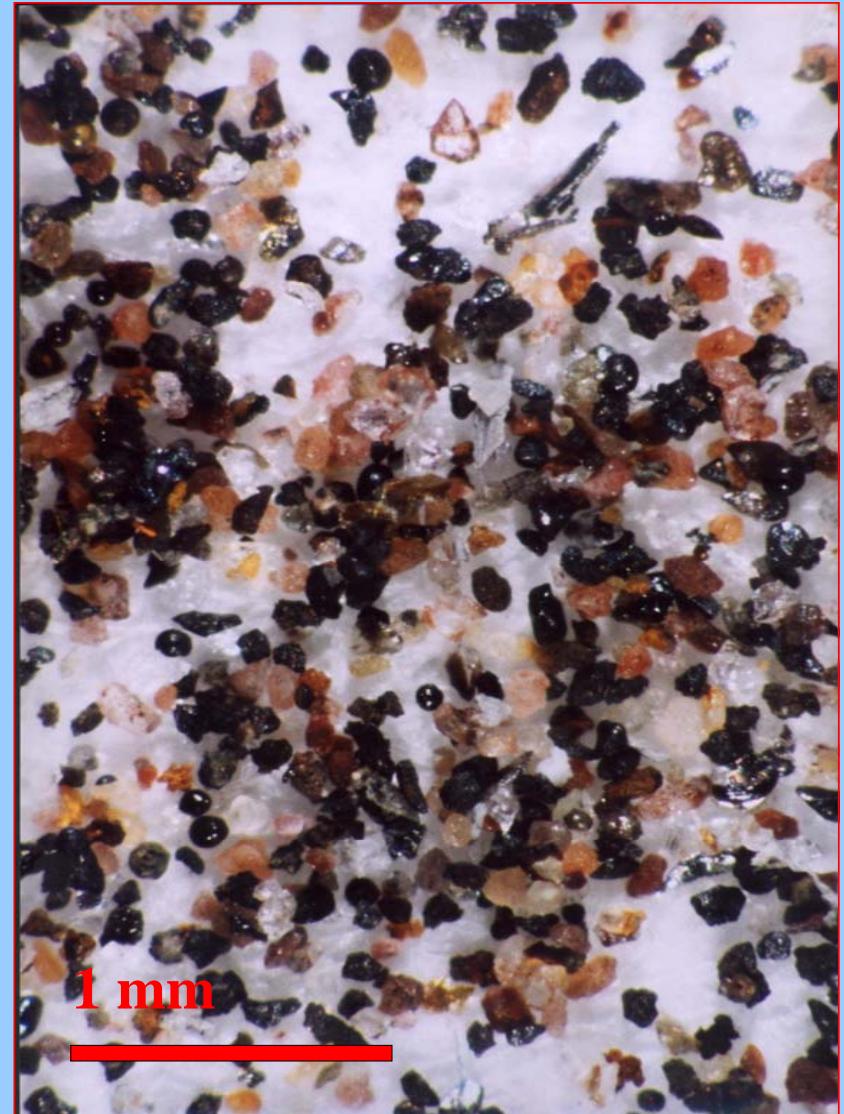
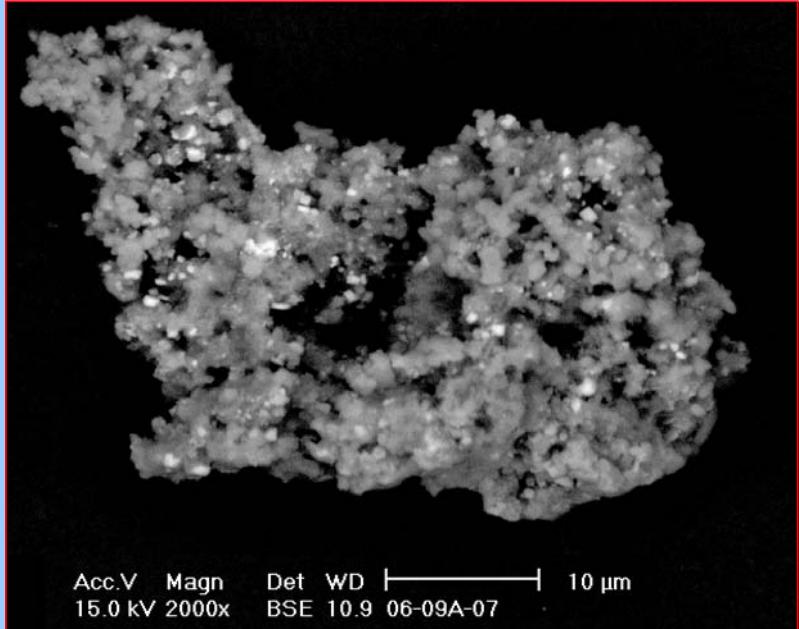


# Les Micrométéorites Antarctiques



Collectes développées  
par le CSNSM (Orsay)

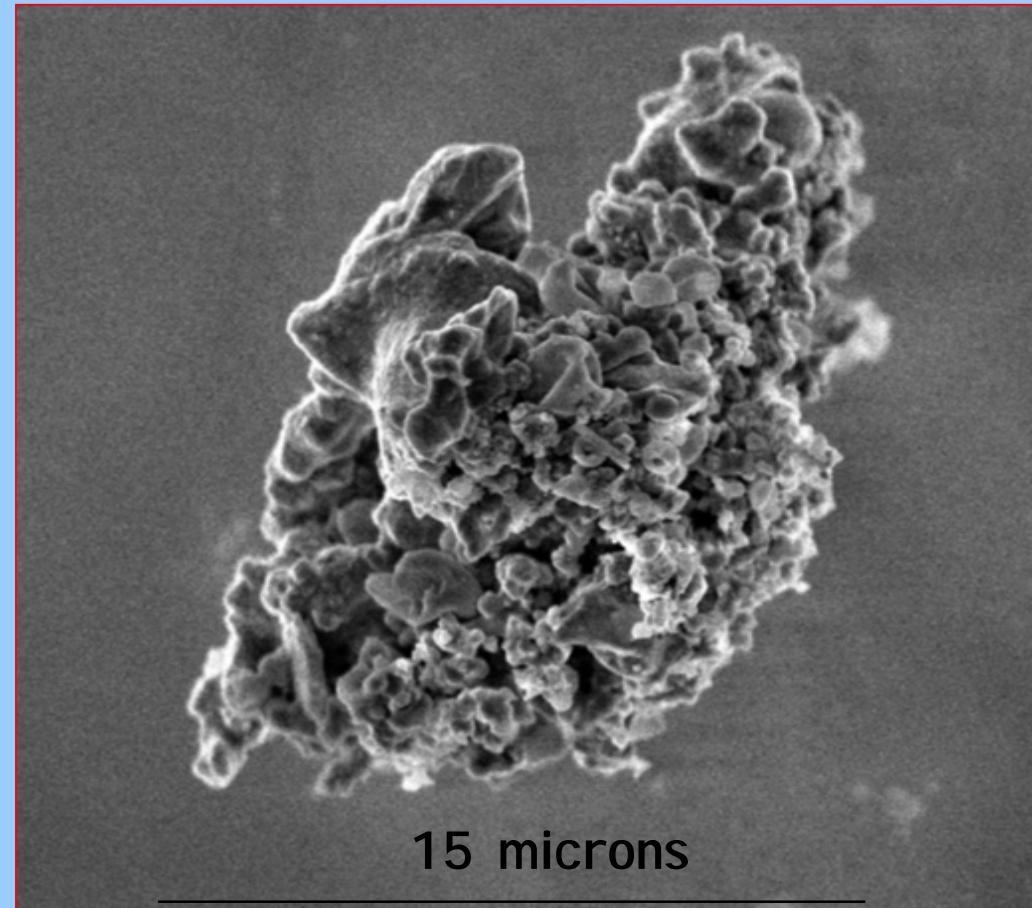
M. Maurette *et al.*, *Nature*  
(1991)  
Duprat et al. ASR 2007



# Interplanetary Dust Particles (IDPs)



 Dryden Flight Research Center EC97-44304-8 Photographed 4NOV1997  
Lockheed ER-2 high-altitude research aircraft (NASA photo/Carla Thomas) 



Interplanetary Dust Particles are collected in the Earth's atmosphere by NASA ER-2's

# Primitivity

- ★ Primitivity is an ambiguous word depending on what you are interested in
- ★ Carbonaceous chondrites, IDPs and Antarctic micrometeorites are considered primitive
  - ★ Chemical composition close to that of the Sun
  - ★ Rich in presolar grains (interstellar dust)
  - ★ Rich in isotopic anomalies (H, C, N – interstellar heritage)
- ★ Did not suffer secondary modifications such as hydrothermalism or metamorphism
- ★ Oldest objects

# Components of chondrites

## ★ Chondrules

- ★ Silicate/metal beads
- ★ Varying sizes (10 µm- few mm)

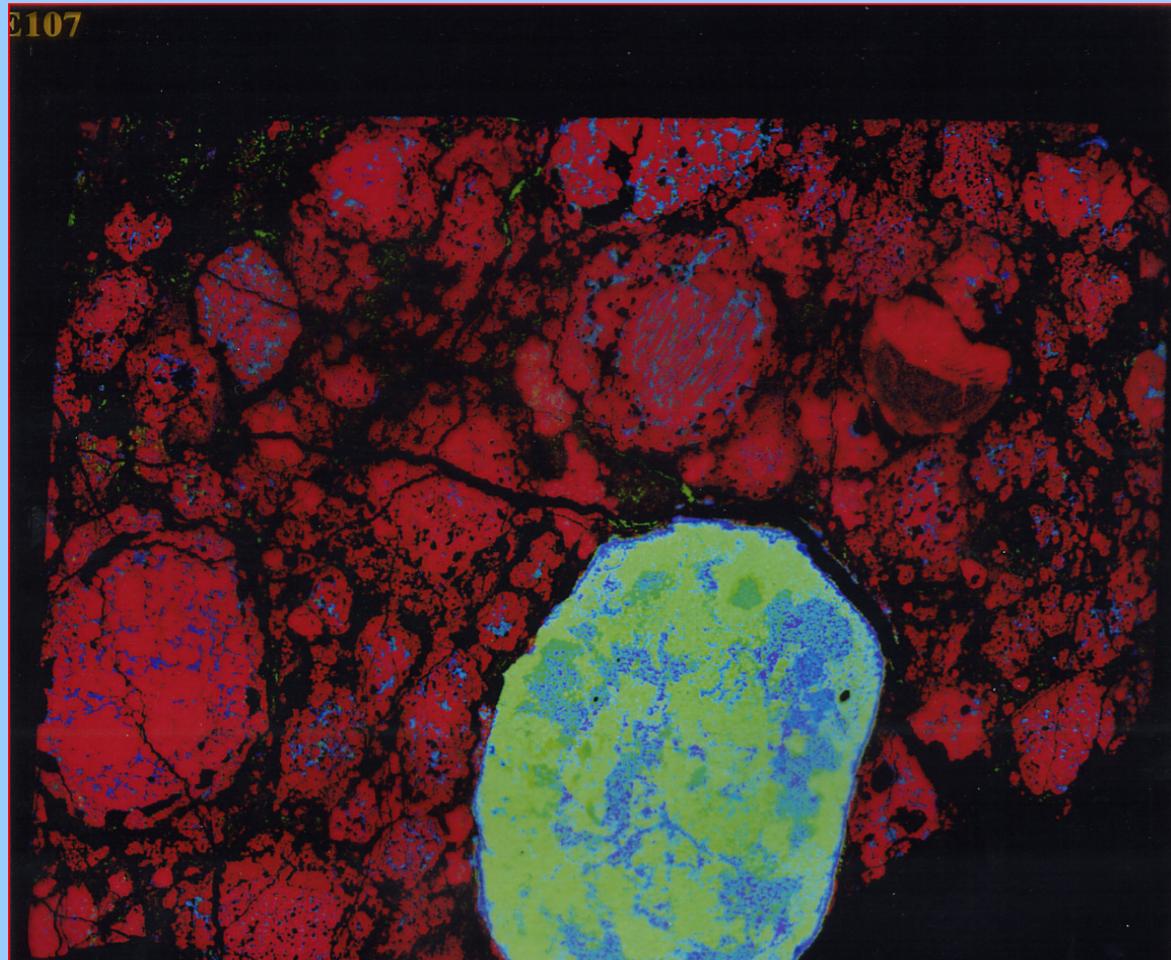
## ★ Refractory inclusions

- ★ Contain Ca- and Al-rich minerals
- ★ Varying sizes (10 µm- few cm)

## ★ Matrix

- ★ Silicates, oxides, amorphous
- ★ Fine-grained (< µm)

Mg: red Ca: green Al: blue

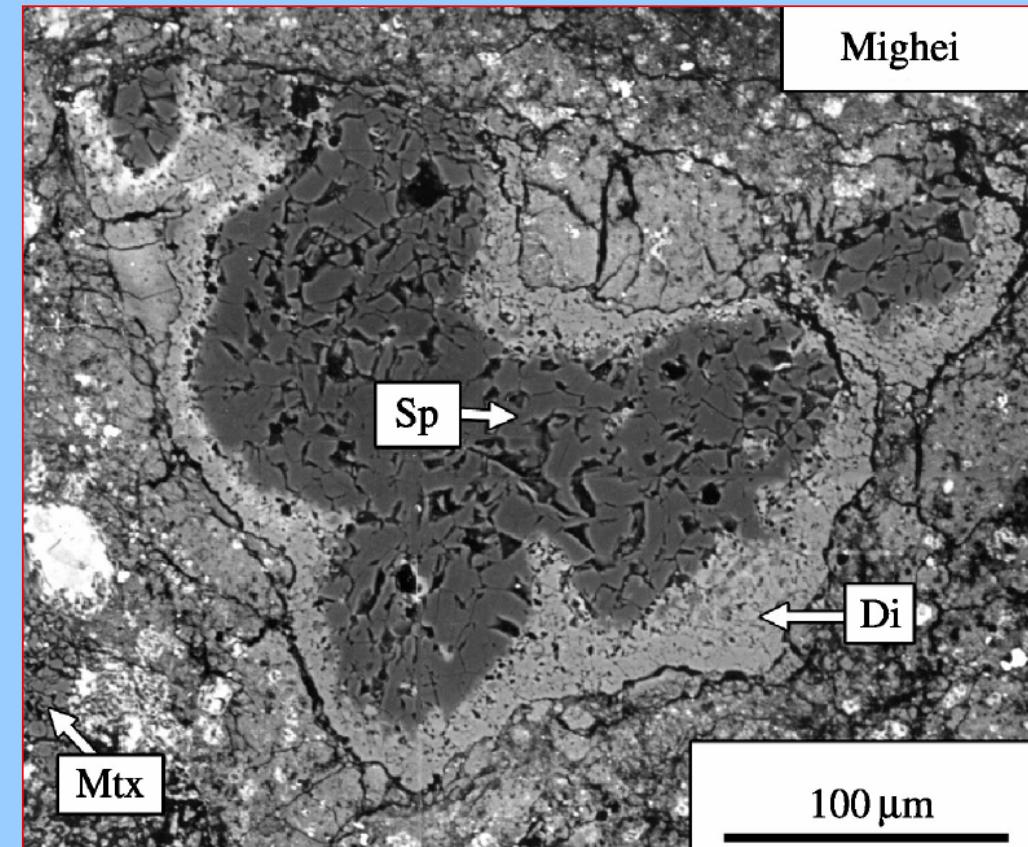


Picture Sasha Krot

1 mm

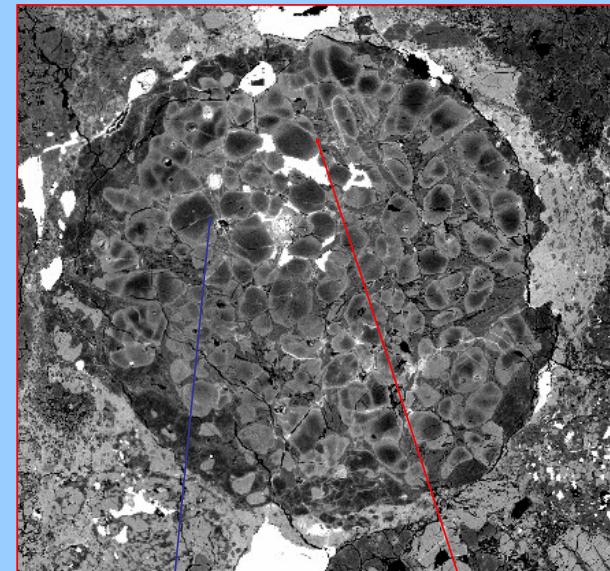
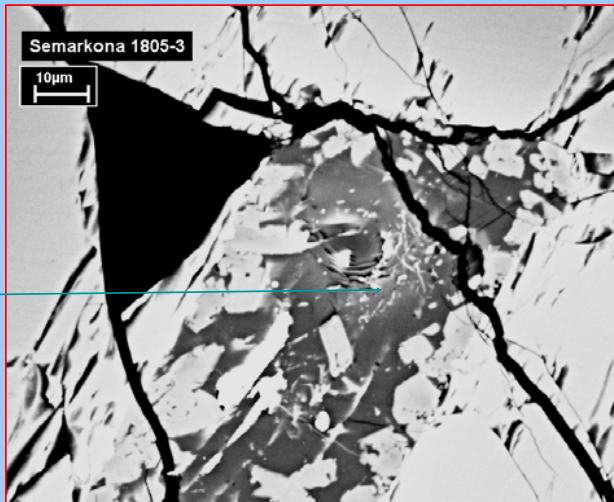
# The mineralogy of Calcium-, Aluminium-rich Inclusions

- ★ Acronym is CAIs
- ★ Also named white inclusions or refractory inclusions
- ★ Discovered in 1967 by Madame Christophe in the Vigarano meteorite (CV3)
- ★ CAIs are made of Ca- and Al-rich oxides and silicates
  - ★ Melilite  $[\text{CaAl}_{2x}\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Si}_{2-x}\text{O}_7]$
  - ★ Spinel  $[\text{Mg}_2\text{AlO}_4]$
  - ★ Anorthite  $[\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8]$
  - ★ Perovskite  $[\text{CaTiO}_3]$
  - ★ Diopside  $[\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6]$
- ★ They are believed to be the first objects to have formed in the accretion disk



# The mineralogy of chondrules

- ★ Chondrules are made of
  - ★ Olivine  $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})\text{Si}_2\text{O}_4$
  - ★ Pyroxene  $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}, \text{Ca})\text{SiO}_3$
  - ★ Metal ( $\text{Fe}, \text{Ni}$ )
  - ★ Glass  $\text{SiO}_2$ - and alkali-rich [ $\text{K}, \text{Na}$ ]
  - ★ Iron sulfide  $\text{FeS}$
- ★ The glass phase is interstitial
  - ★ Mesostasis



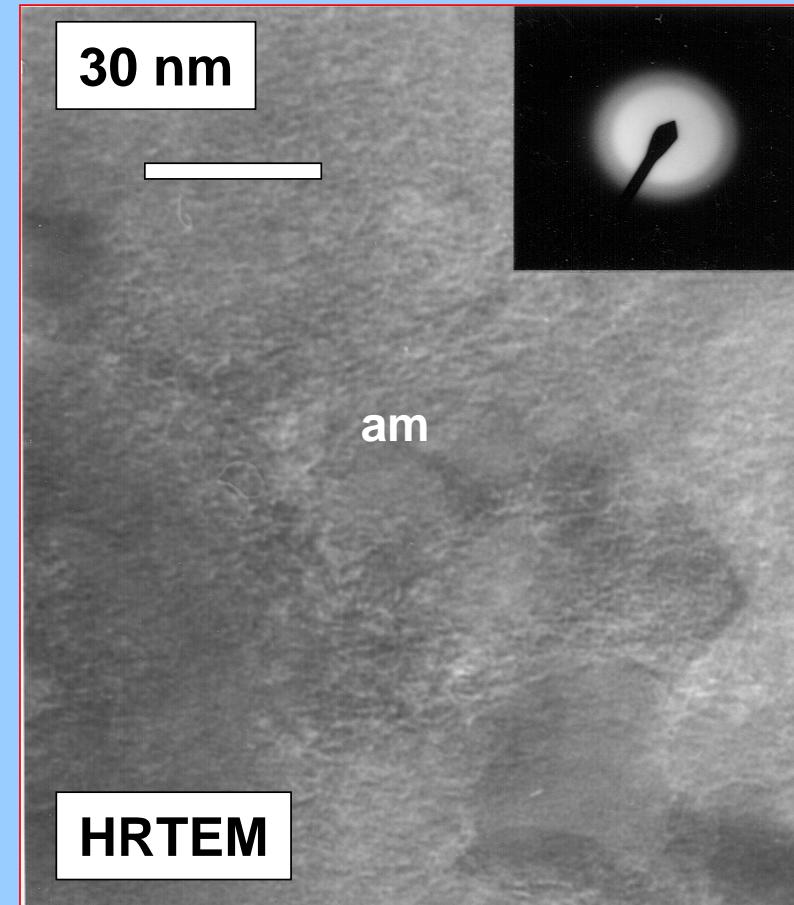
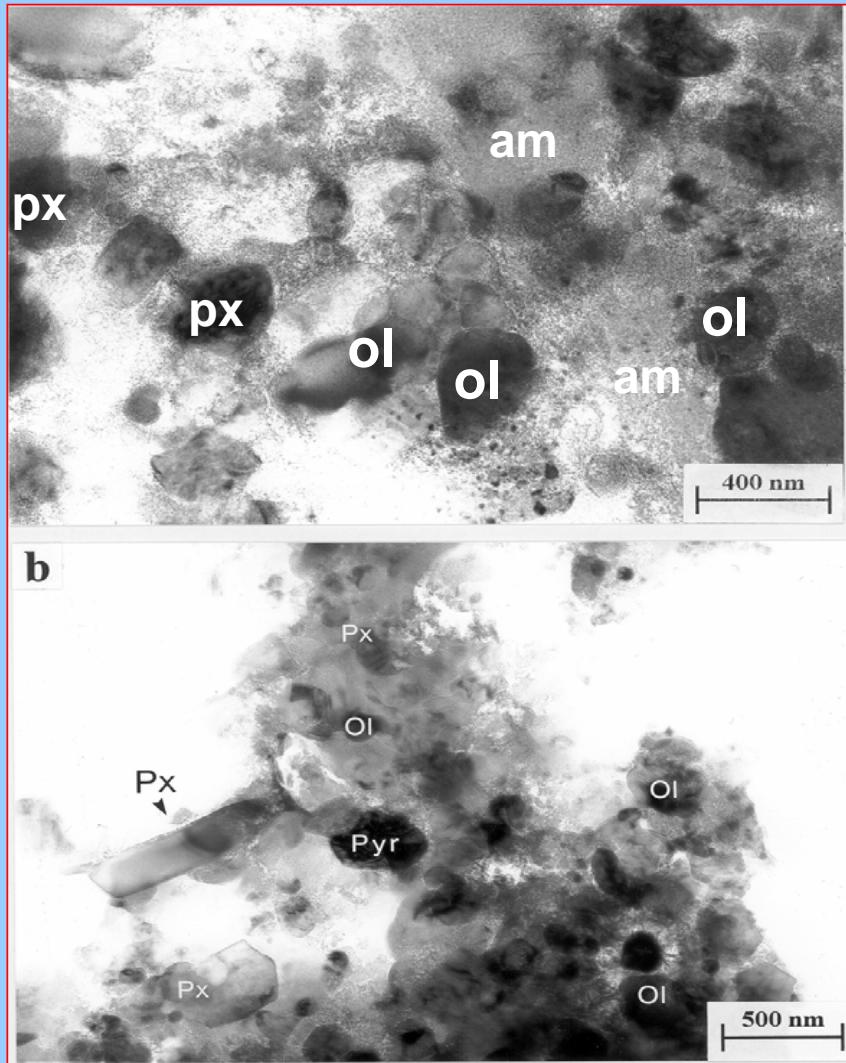
Glass

Olivine

Metal

# The matrix of Acfer 094

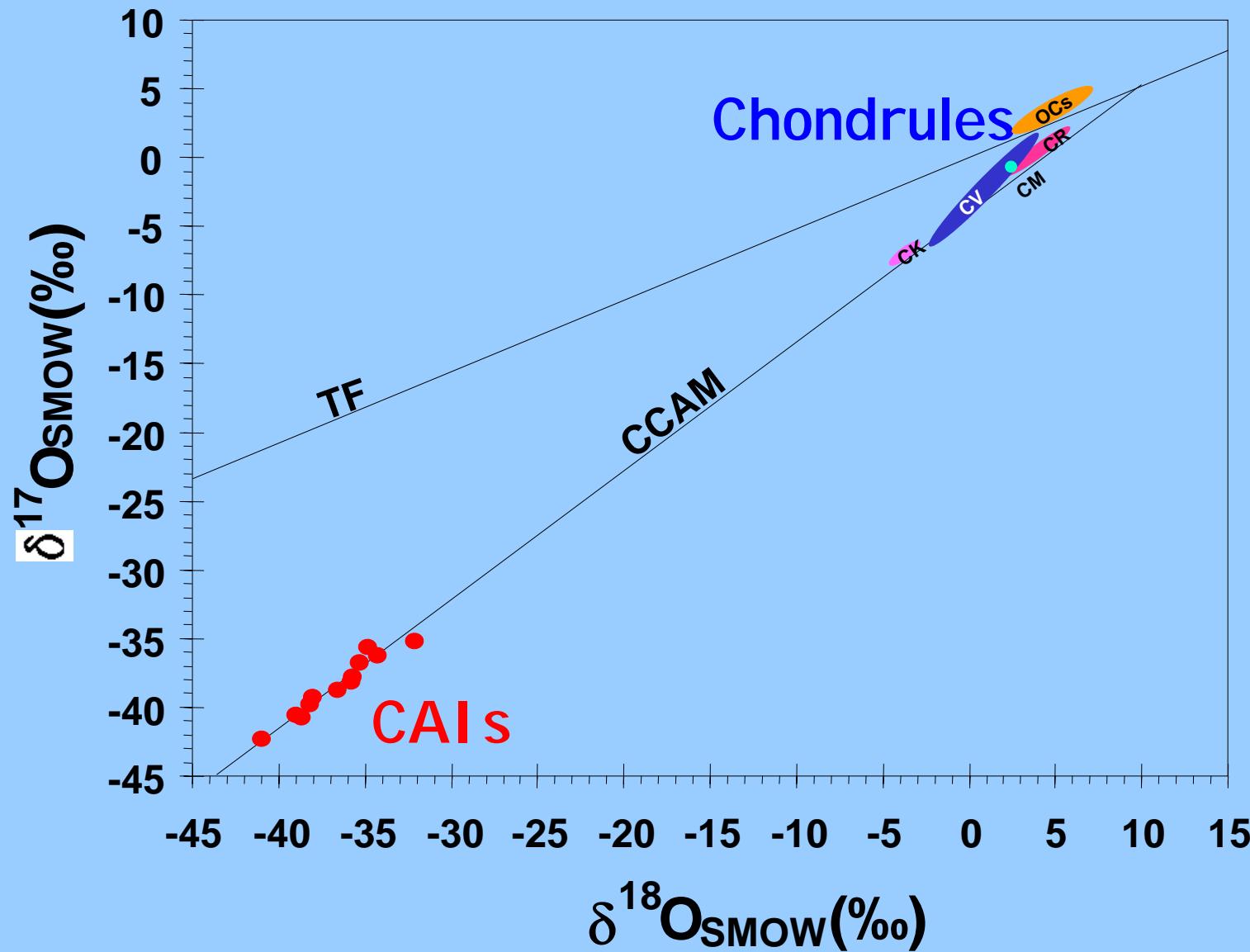
- ★ The matrix consists of small olivines (ol), pyroxenes (px) and sulfides (pyr) embedded in an amorphous groundmass (am)



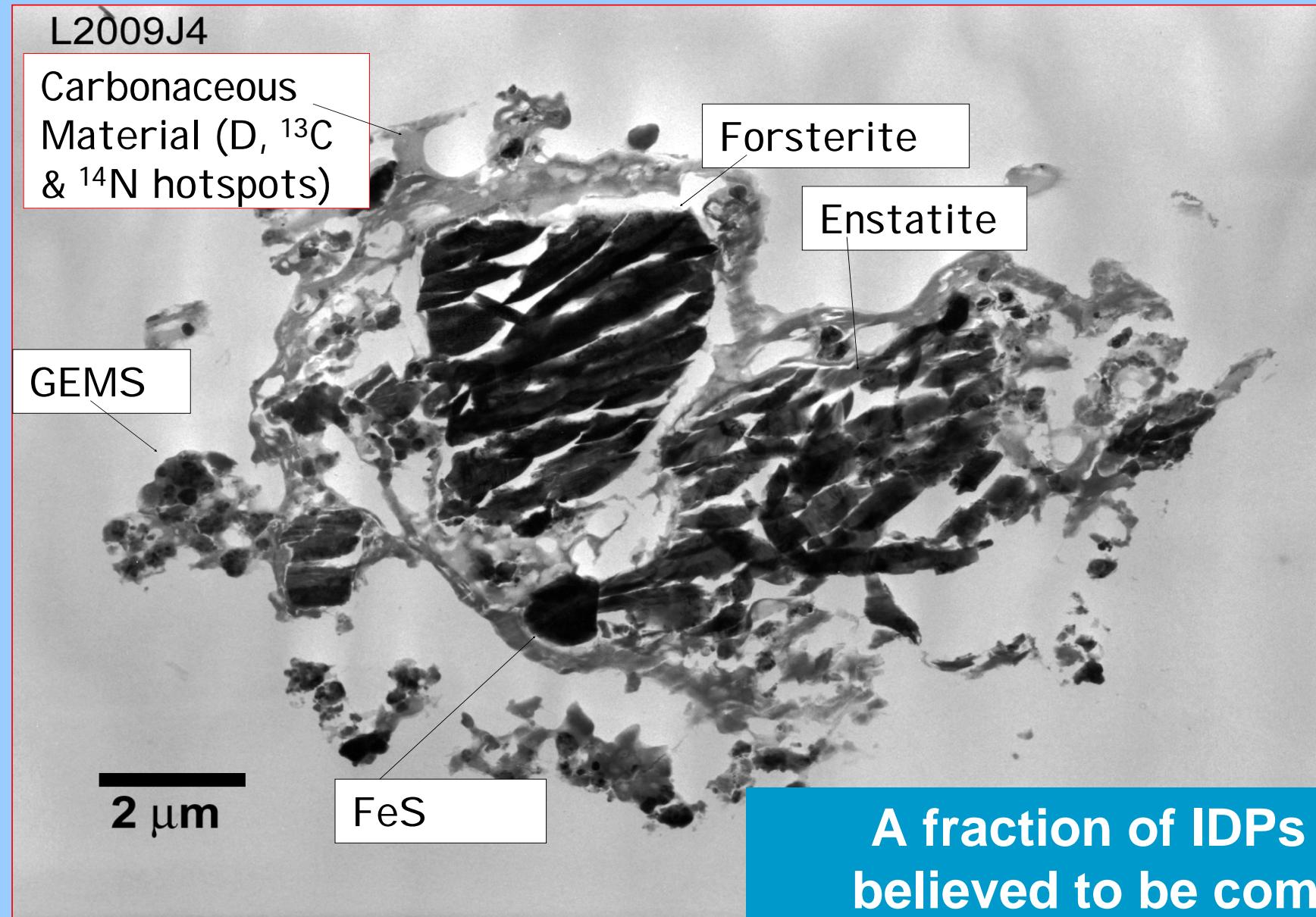
Greshake, GCA 1997

# Chondrules and CAIs in meteorites

- ★ CAIs have  $^{16}\text{O}$ -rich oxygen isotopic composition



# TEM view of an interplanetary dust particle



## 5. Do we have cometary meteorites in our collections?

# The special nature of CI 1 chondrites

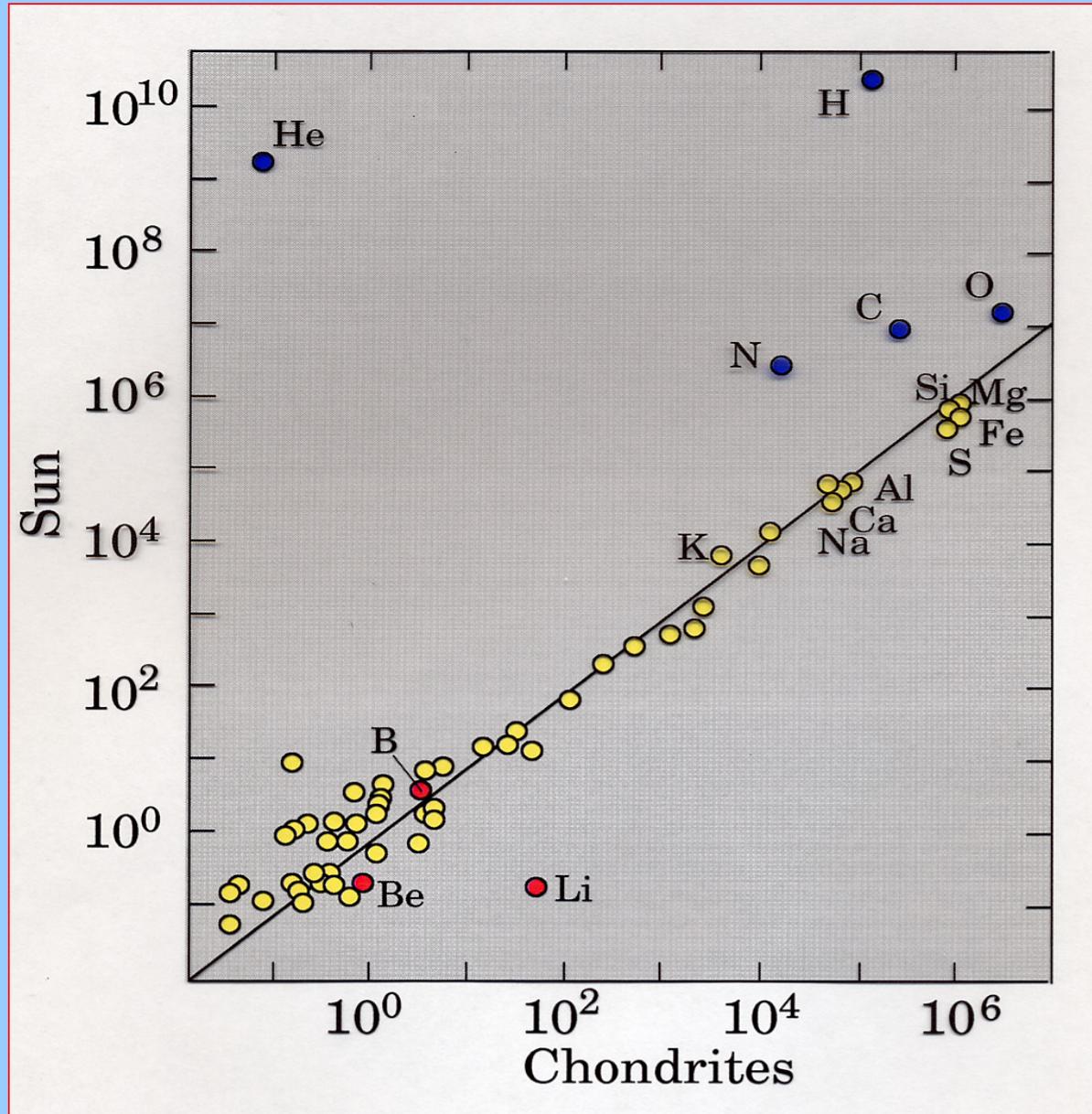
- ★ Rare rocks (Orgueil, Alais, Ivuna, Tonk, Revelstoke)
  - ★ CI 1 chondrites represent 0.5 % of the meteorites falls
- ★ Extremely porous rocks (up to 35 %)
- ★ Very dark rocks (low albedos)
- ★ CI 1 chondrites strongly interact with the atmosphere (formation of sulfate veins)

Orgueil (CI1)



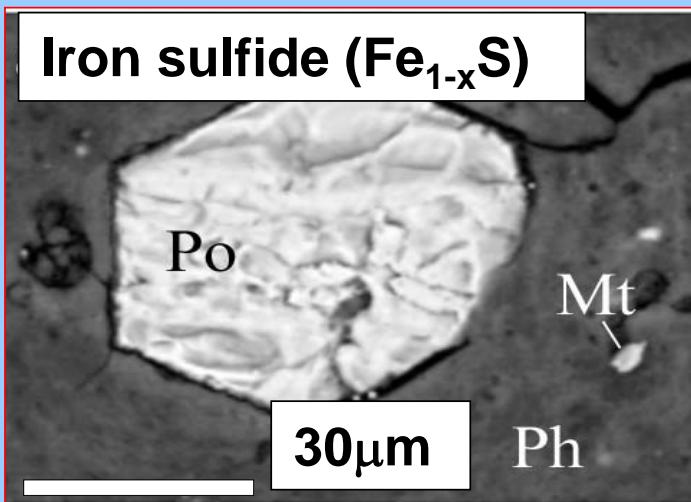
Gounelle & Zolensky 2001

# The chemical composition of CI 1 chondrites

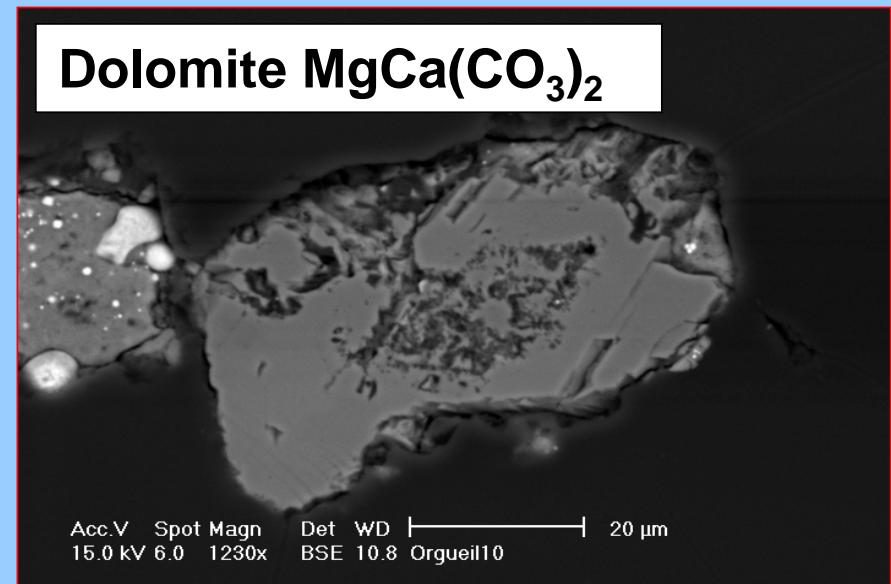
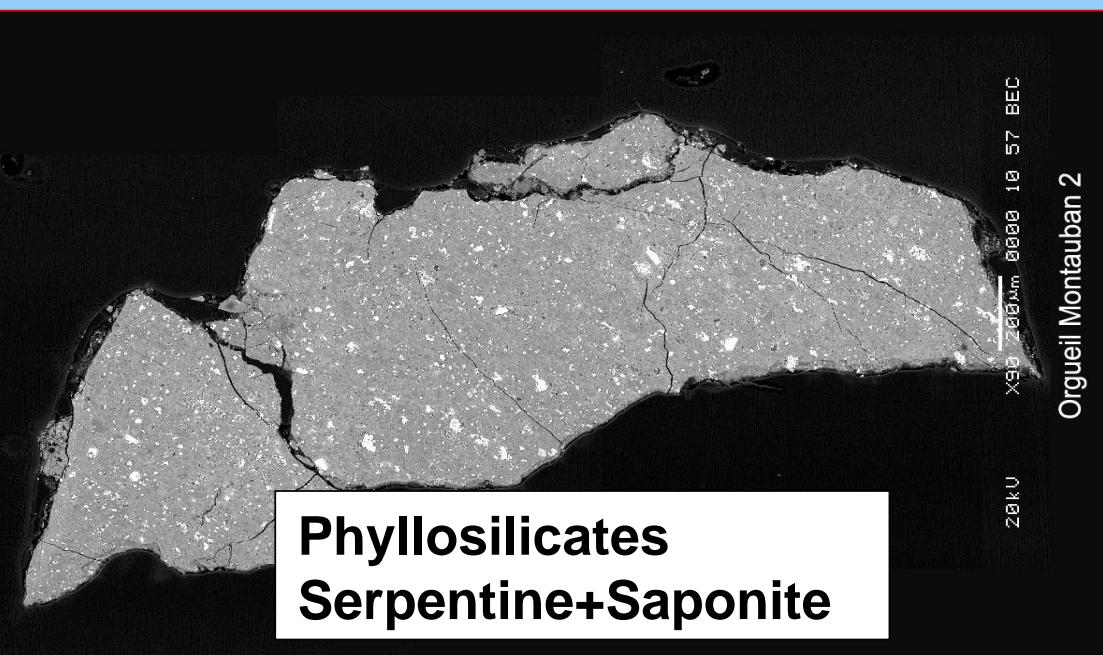


- ★ Best chemical match with the solar photosphere of all chondrites

# Secondary minerals in CI 1 chondrites



★ Although chemically pristine, CI 1 chondrites are the most hydrothermally altered chondrites (serpentine, saponite, sulfides, Ca-Mg carbonates, magnetite)



# The fall of the Orgueil meteorite

- ☆ Orgueil meteorite fell May 18<sup>th</sup> 1864 in southern France
- ☆ Fireball seen from north of France to north of Spain
- ☆ **10 pages** of visual observations published by Daubrée in the main scientific journal of the time
  - ☆ Compte Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris

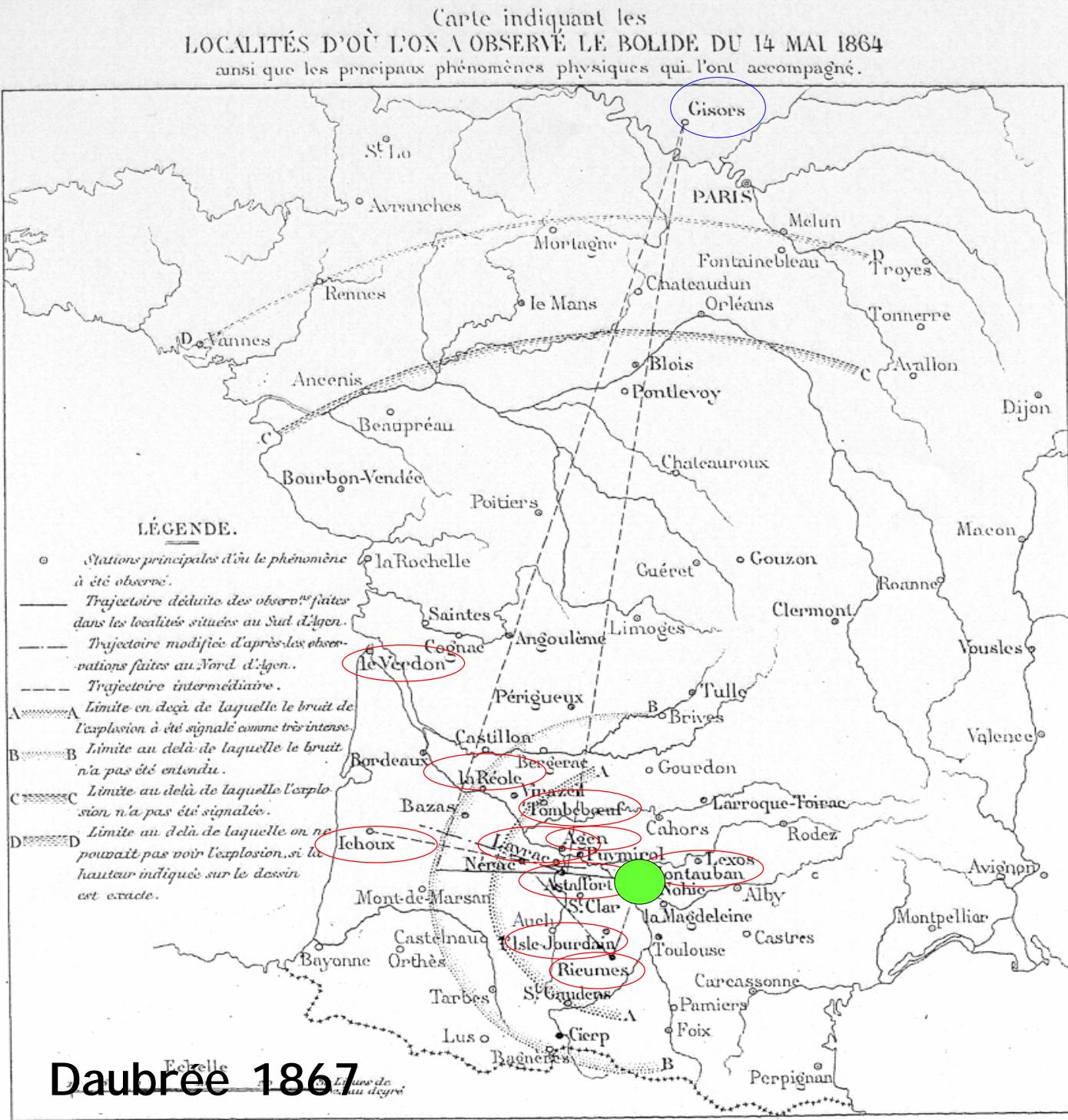
# The Orgueil fireball observations

## Letter of M. d'Esparbès à M. Le Verrier

A 8 heures 13 minutes du soir, un effet de lumière prodigieux est venu inonder la ville. Chacun a cru se trouver au milieu des flammes. Cet effet a duré quelques secondes; il a été produit par quelque chose de la grosseur de la Lune au plein, qui s'est dirigé comme une étoile filante, laissant à sa suite une traînée de feu légèrement bleuâtre. Cette traînée a disparu aussi peu à peu, et le ciel est redevenu serein; cependant, dix minutes après, ça produisait encore l'effet d'un long nuage fixe.

Deux minutes environ après ce résultat de lumière électrique produit, une détonation comparable au bruit d'une pièce de canon, se prolongeant de quatre-vingts à cent secondes, s'est fait entendre.

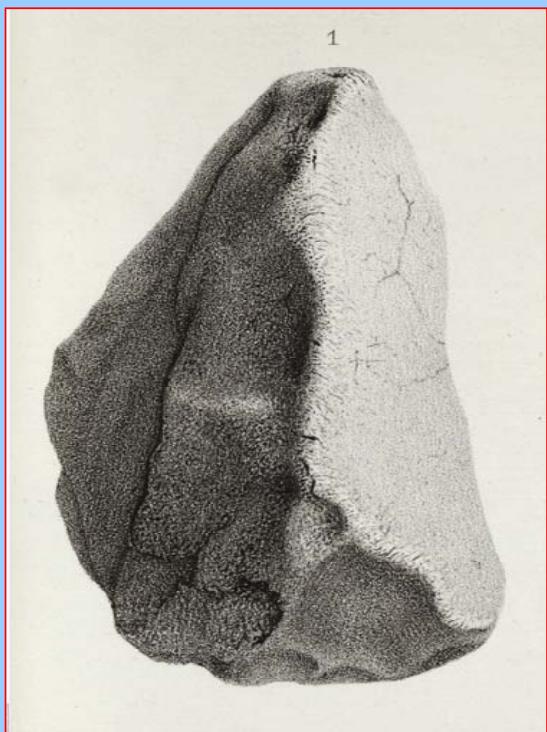
Il faisait une délicieuse soirée du mois de mai. Le temps était superbe.



Observations used for trajectory and orbit determination

More northern observation

Meteorites fall



Orbit calculations made by P. Spurný

# The Orgueil fireball observations

No.	Place of observation (Observer)	Geographic coordinates	Original values	Corrected values (used in computations)	Comments
1.	Rieumes (Lajous)	$\lambda=1.118^\circ$ E $\phi=43.414^\circ$ N	1. point A=156°, Z=68° 2. point A=205°, Z=73.5° (flare)	1. point A=156°, Z=68° 2. point A=205°, Z=73.5° (flare)	On the northern sky, from W to E Duration between both points 3s!! After 3 minutes loud sound
2.	Nerac (Lespiault)	$\lambda=0.336^\circ$ E $\phi=44.138^\circ$ N	1. A=87.7°, Z=52.6° (5° S from Pollux) 2. several degrees N from zenith 3. A=283°, Z=39.5° (¼ distance between ε and α Boo from ε) 4. A=300°, Z=65° (flare 15° N from Jupiter)	1. not used – too close to radiant 2. A=180°, Z=1° - rather almost zenith, slightly to N 3. A=287°, Z=39.5° 4. A=288°, Z=65°	Sound exactly 3 minutes after flare
3.	Montauban (Pauliet)	$\lambda=1.353^\circ$ E $\phi=44.019^\circ$ N	1. SW 2. Constellation Leo $\approx$ A=0°, Z=30° 3. A=324°, Z=56° (left from Saturn and α Vir) 4. A=307°, Z=82° (slightly below Jup.)	1. not used 2. A=0°, Z=38° 3. and 4. not used because these are beyond the impact area	Sound after 1-2 minutes
4.	Agen (Bourrieres)	$\lambda=0.625^\circ$ E $\phi=44.198^\circ$ N	1. over the town, somewhat to the S	1. A=0°, Z=18°	
5.	Layrac (Daubree paper)	$\lambda=0.661^\circ$ E $\phi=44.133^\circ$ N	1. close to the zenith, literally “flew over heads”.	1. A=0°, Z=10°	
6.	Astaffort (Lafitte)	$\lambda=0.650^\circ$ E $\phi=44.061^\circ$ N	from NW to SE, very high – in zenith, terminated about 30° above SE horizon	1. A=110°, Z=20° 2. A=0°, Z=0° 3. A=290°, Z=45°	observed at 8 hours and several minutes in the evening sound after 4 minutes
7.	L'Isle Jourdain (Jacquot)	$\lambda=1.080^\circ$ E $\phi=43.613^\circ$ N	almost horizontal flight above northern horizon from west to east	1. A=130°, Z=62° 2. A=205°, Z=61°	sound after 3-4 minutes exploded and fragmented into many pieces; persistent train 15min
8.	Ichoux (newspaper)	$\lambda=0.968^\circ$ W $\phi=44.328^\circ$ N	almost perpendicularly to the horizon, direction from west to east	1. A=277°, Z=45° 2. A=284°, Z=83°	around 8 hours in the evening, duration several seconds, 3 detonations
9.	Verdon (Laussedat)	$\lambda=0.628^\circ$ E $\phi=44.814^\circ$ N	1. A=29.5°, Z=43.6° - across the Moon	1. A=29.5°, Z=54°	

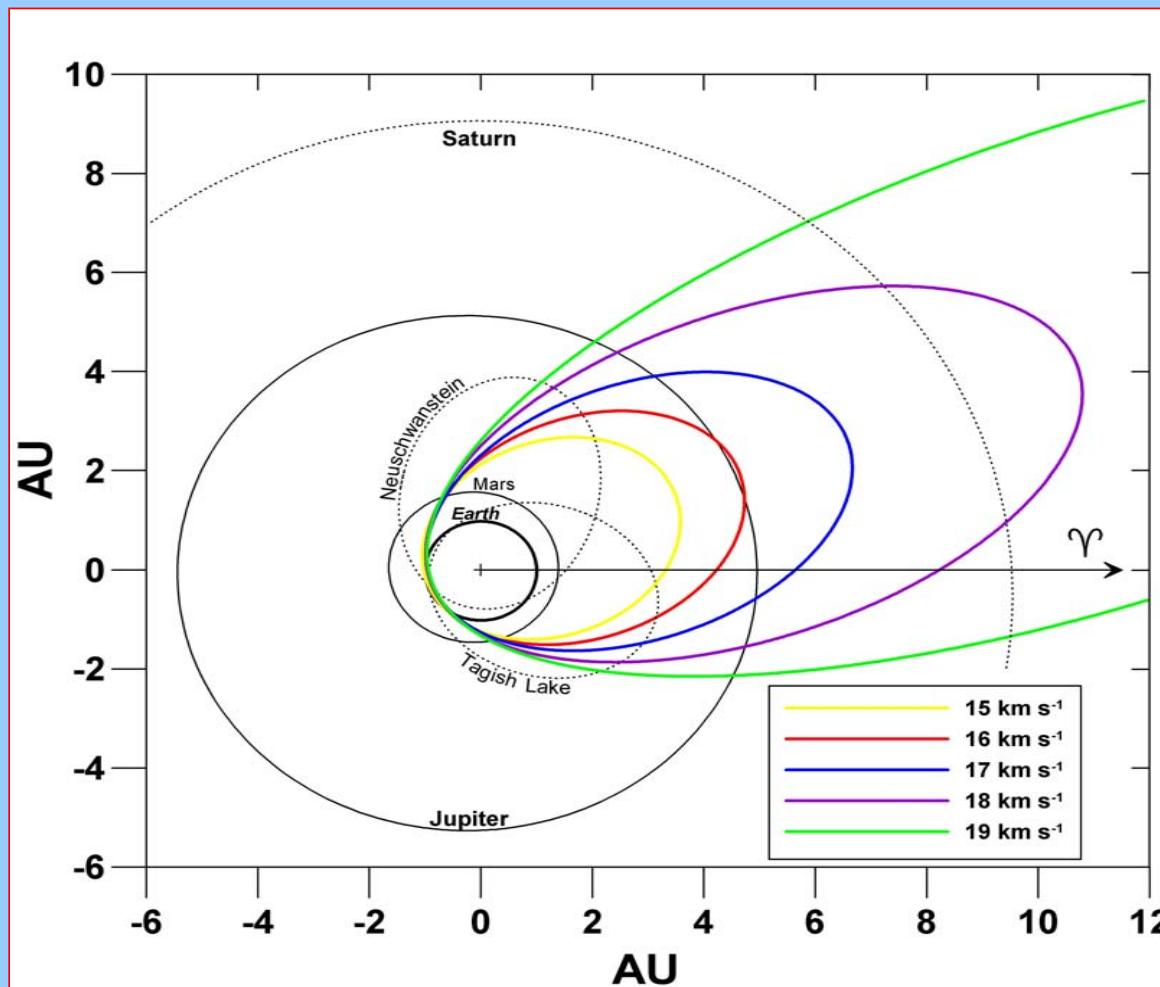
# The Orgueil fireball observations

10.	La Reole (Laussedat)	$\lambda=0.036^\circ$ W $\varphi=44.588^\circ$ N	1. A= $29.6^\circ$ , Z= $44.4^\circ$ (Moon position) above or across the Moon	1. A= $30^\circ$ , Z= $30^\circ$ shifted about $14^\circ$ above the Moon – in agreement with observation	
11.	Bezu-Saint-Eloi (Brongniart)	$\lambda=1.695^\circ$ E $\varphi=49.296^\circ$ N	On southern horizon, somewhat to the west, near horizon ( $\sim 10-15^\circ$ ), slope to the horizon about $20-25^\circ$	1. A= $15^\circ$ , Z= $86^\circ$ 2. A= $9^\circ$ , Z= $88^\circ$ must be much closer to horizon	between 7:50 and 8:00 in the evening
12.	Tombeboeuf (Cruzel)	$\lambda=0.455^\circ$ E $\varphi=44.508^\circ$ N	WNW → above Leo → left from Saturn and $\alpha$ Vir 1. point A= $49^\circ$ , Z= $20^\circ$ (above Leo) 2. point A= $330^\circ$ , Z= $55^\circ$ (flare, between Saturn and $\alpha$ Vir) 3. point A= $307^\circ$ , Z= $82^\circ$ (end near to Jupiter)	1. point A= $49^\circ$ , Z= $38^\circ$ 2. point A= $338^\circ$ , Z= $55^\circ$ 3. point A= $312^\circ$ , Z= $82^\circ$	sound 2.5 minutes after
13.	Orgueil (meteorite position)	$\lambda=1.400^\circ$ E $\varphi=43.875^\circ$ N	1. A= $0^\circ$ , Z= $0^\circ$ (in zenith)	1. A= $110^\circ$ , Z= $1^\circ$ (in zenith)	impact place

- ★ From all these observations reported by Daubrée in the Compte-rendus, we  
**(Pavel Spurný)**
  - ★ Calculated the atmospheric trajectory of the Orgueil meteor
  - ★ Calculated the orbit of the Orgueil meteorid

# The orbit of the Orgueil meteorite

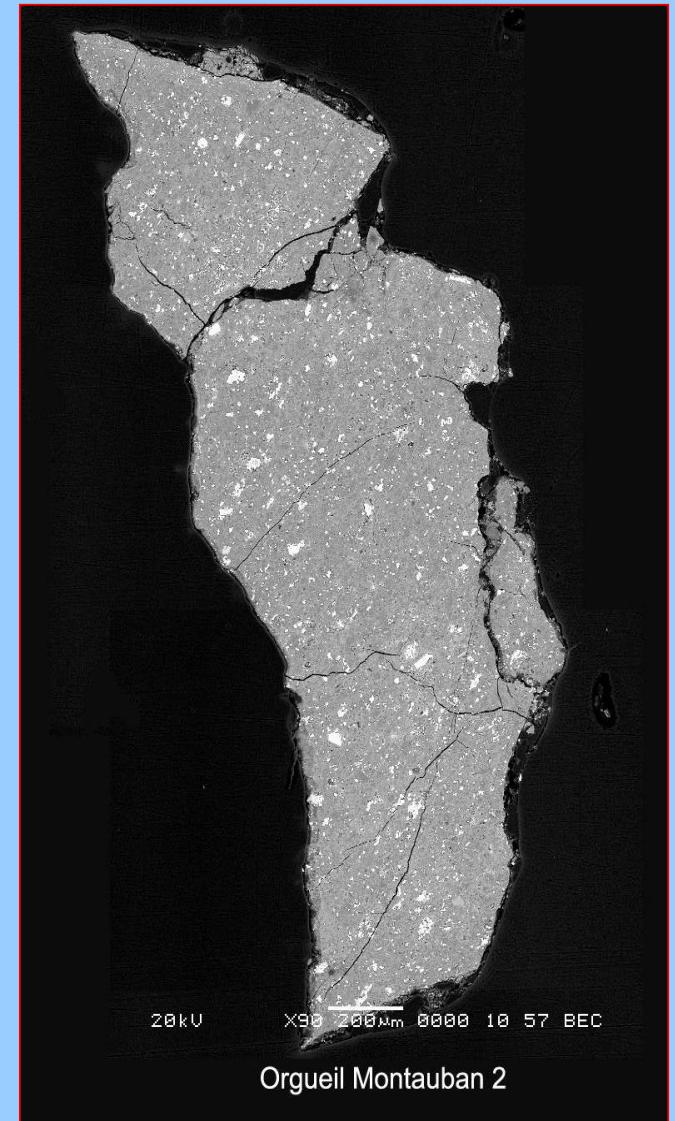
Velocity likely  $> 18$  km/s: Orgueil a cometary meteorite?



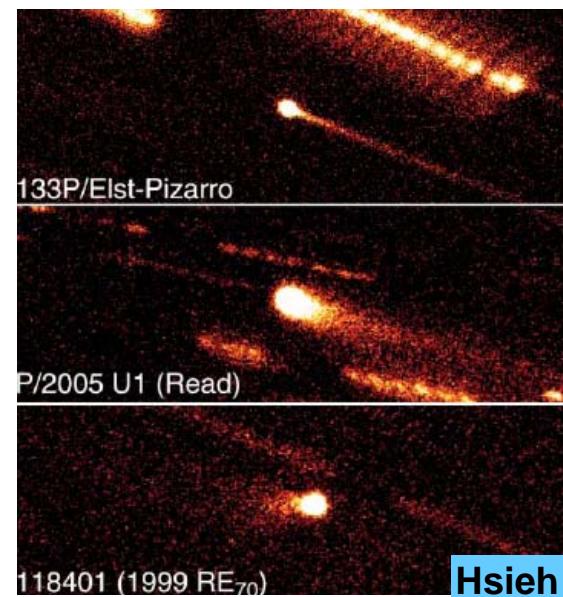
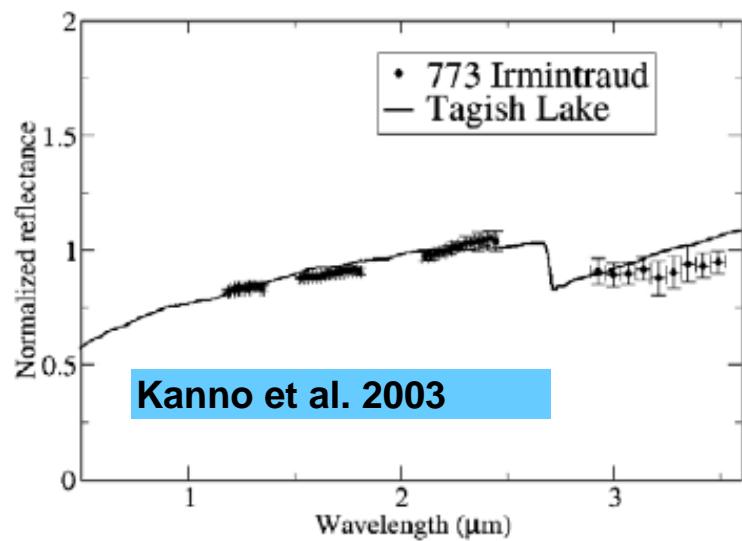
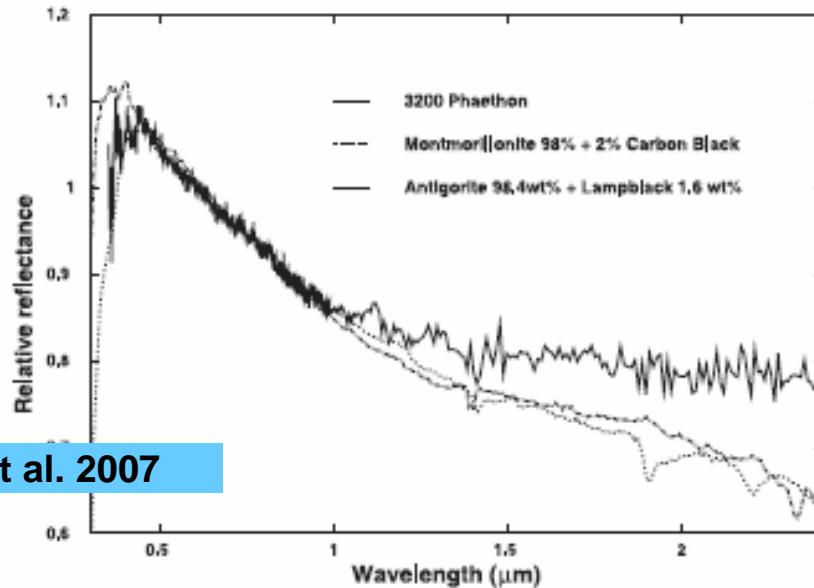
# Implications of a cometary origin for CI 1 chondrites

Comets are not primitive but processed  
Comets suffered hydrothermal alteration

There is a **continuum** between comets and asteroids



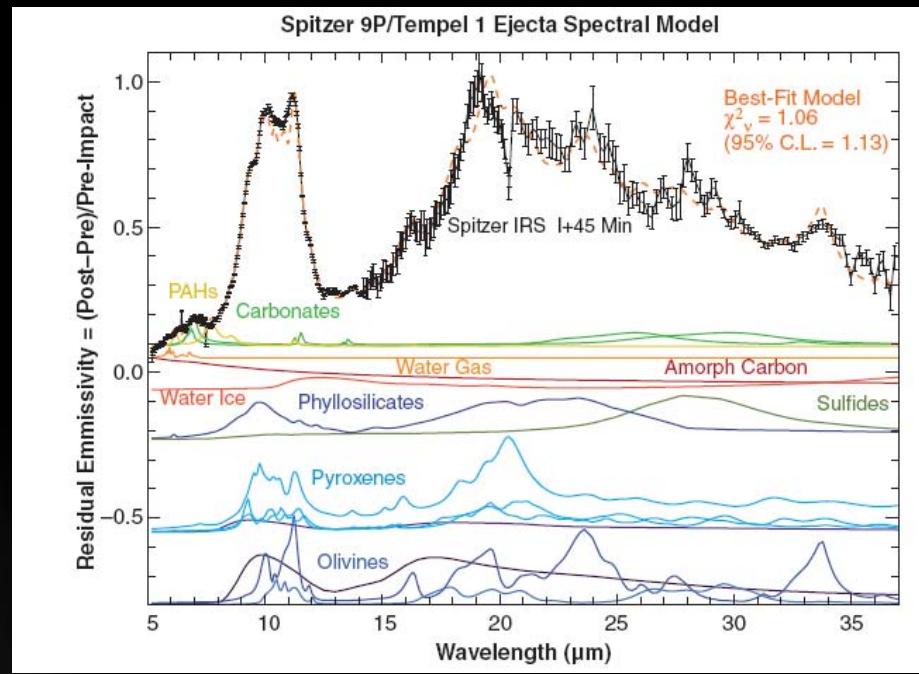
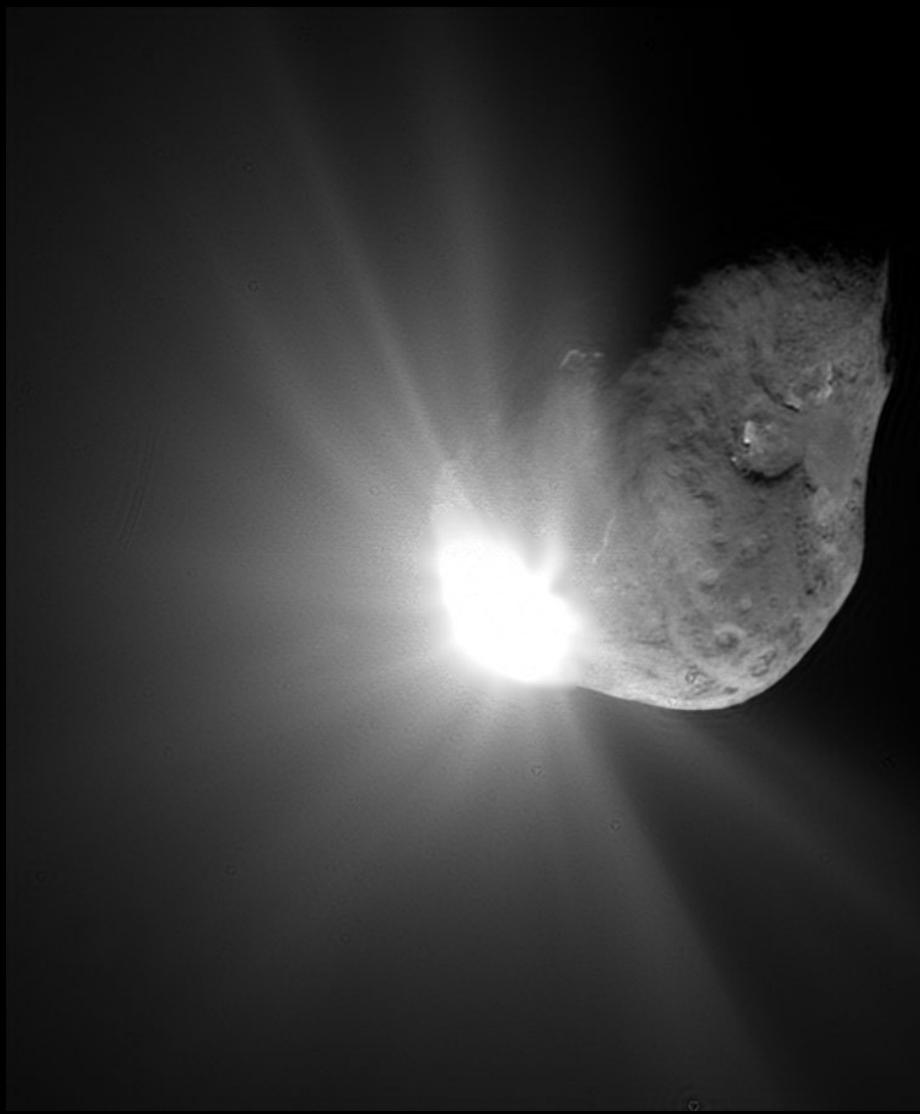
# The continuum asteroid-comet



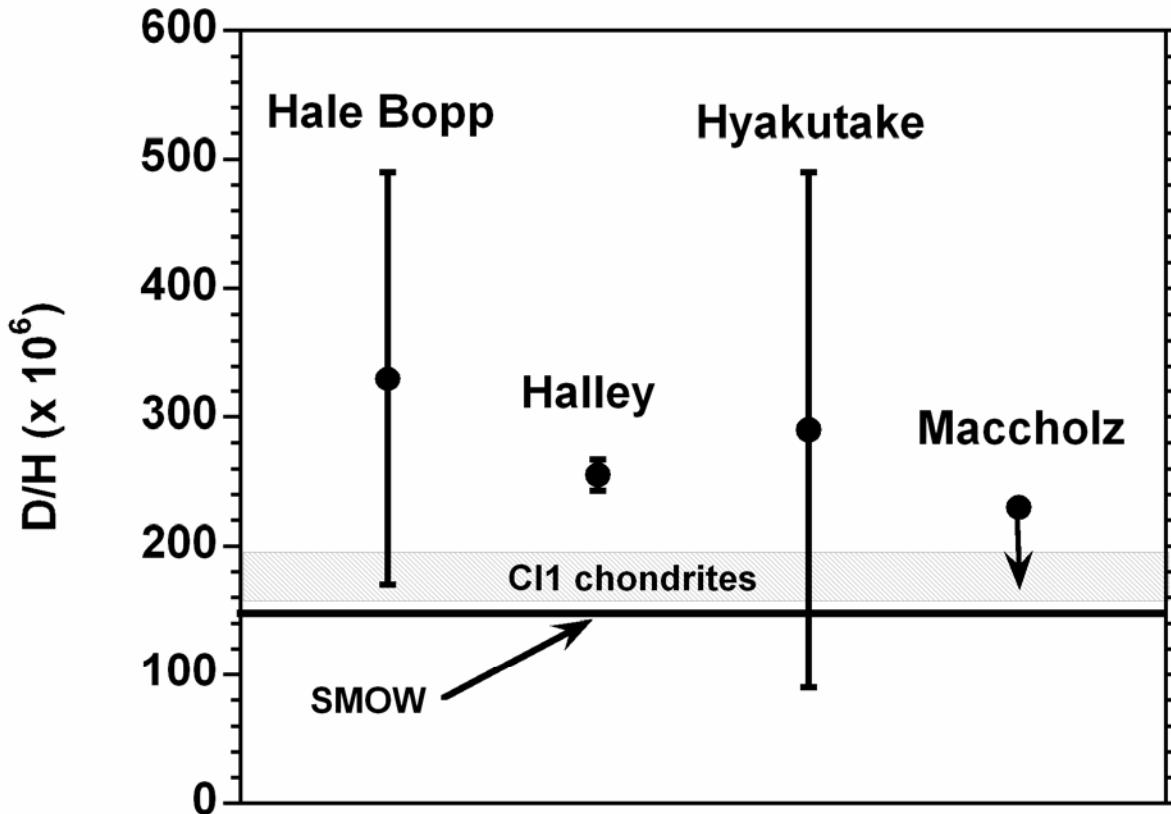
Hsieh & Luu 2006

# La mission Deep Impact

- 370 kg copper projectile
- Crater 200-300 m across

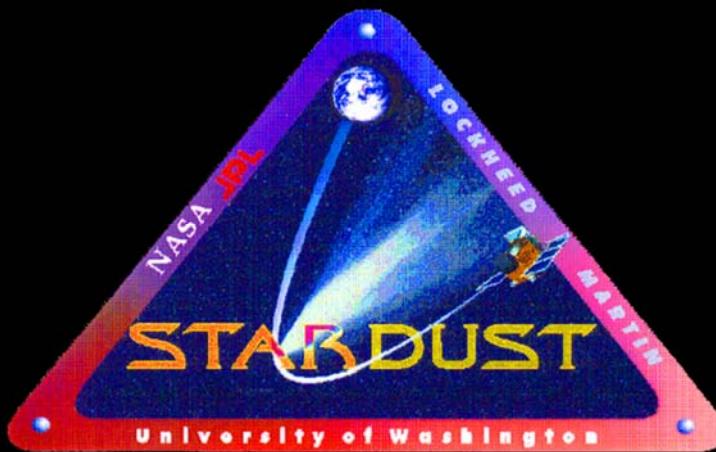


# The D/H problem



## **6. The Stardust mission**

# Stardust: Mission de retour d'échantillons cométaires



- ★ Programme *Discovery*: Des missions à forte composante scientifique et à faible coût
- ★ 168.4 millions de dollars US hors lancement
- ★ Responsable scientifique: Don Brownlee
- ★ Première mission de retour d'échantillons depuis Apollo

# Objectifs scientifiques de la mission

## Objectif prioritaire

Retour de poussières cométaires

## Objectifs secondaires

Retour de poussières interstellaires

Imagerie du noyau cométaire

# Questions scientifiques de la mission

Comparaison avec les astéroïdes

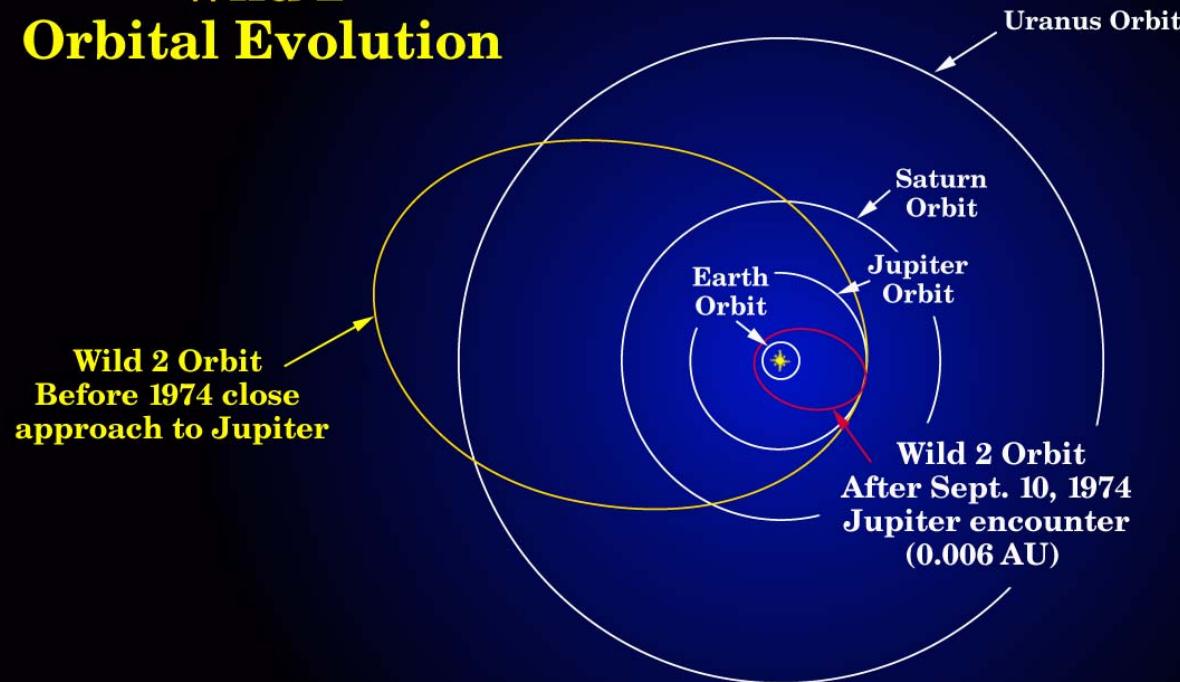
Matériaux cométaires: solaire ou interstellaire?

Altération hydrothermale dans les comètes?



# La comète Wild 2

## Wild 2 Orbital Evolution



4.5 km de diamètre

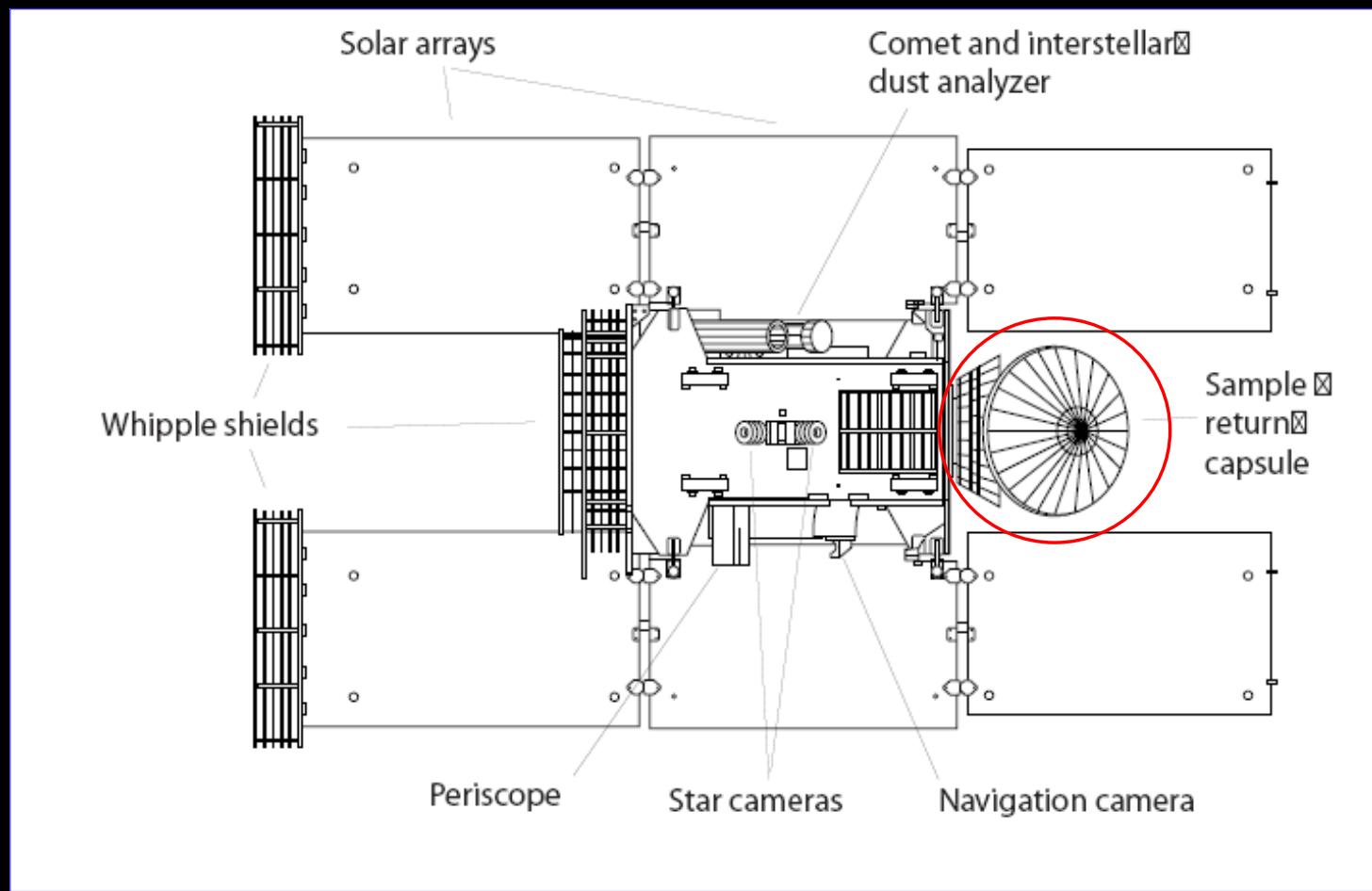
Découverte par Monsieur Wild en 1978

Depuis ~30 ans dans son orbite actuelle

Période de révolution 6.39 ans

Echelle de temps dynamique ~ 10 000 ans

# Décollage de la sonde le 7 février 1999 à Cap Kennedy



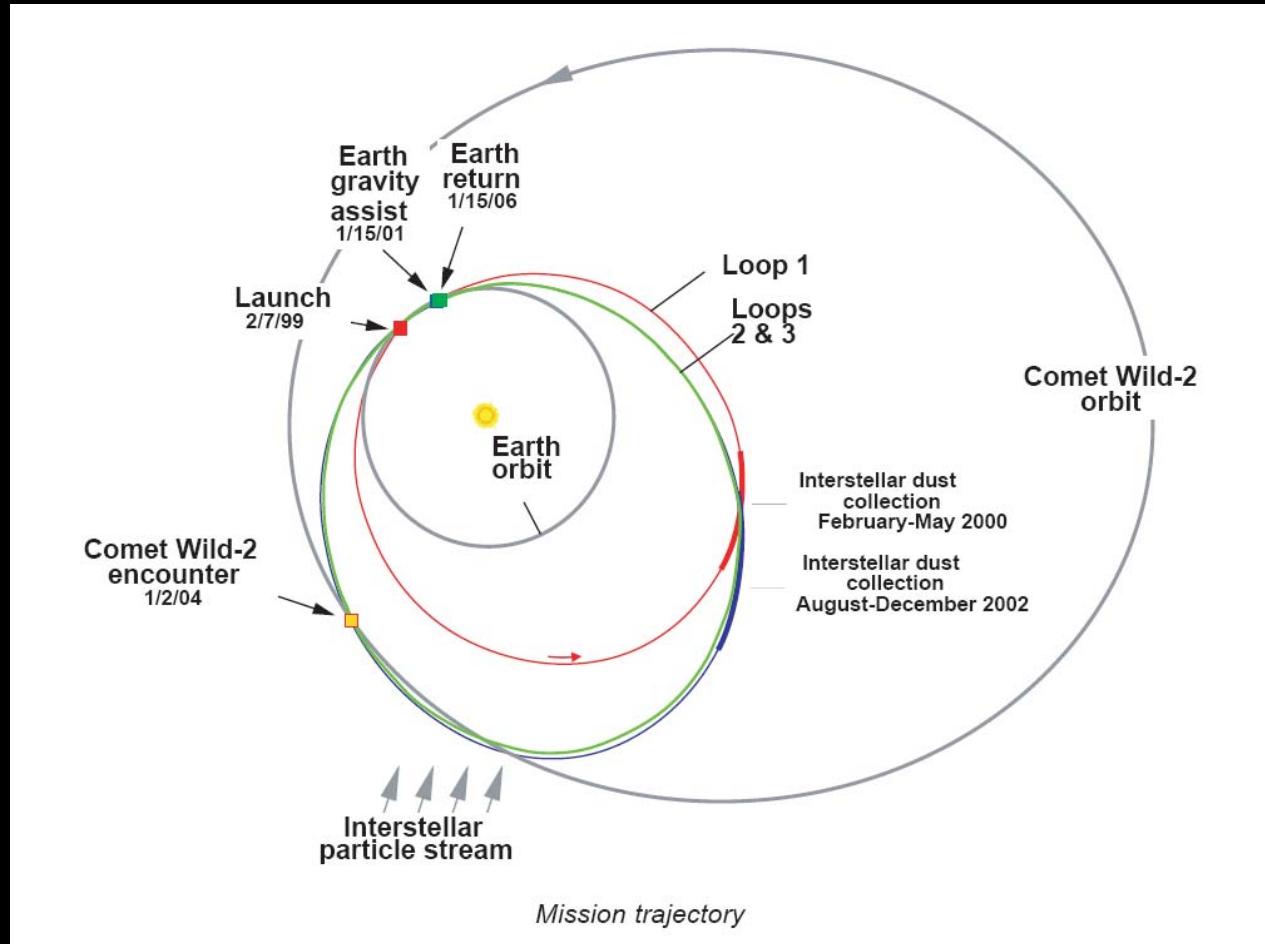
Fusée Delta

Poids total : 385 kg

Carburant 85 kg

Capsule 45.7 kg

# Trajectoire de la sonde Stardust



**3 boucles autour de la Terre**

**Voyage aller: 4 ans et demi**

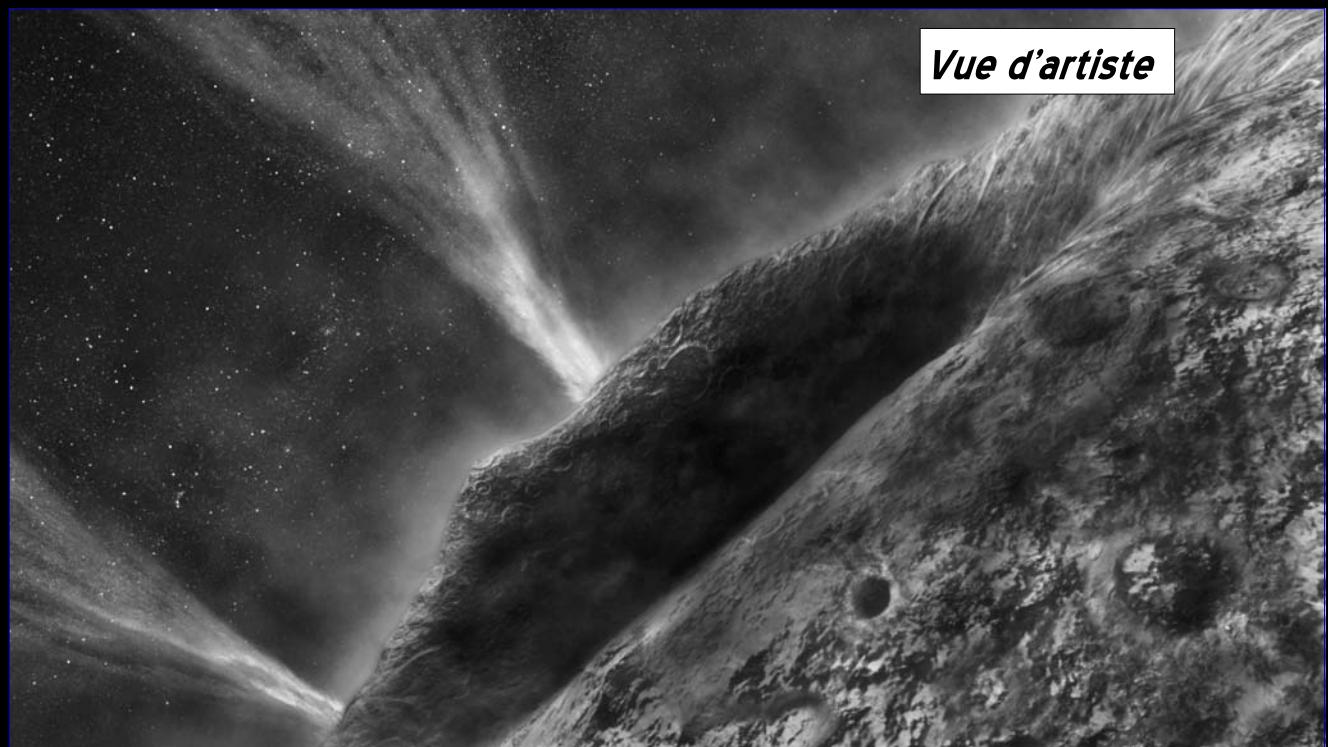
**Voyage retour: 2 ans**

# La rencontre: 2 janvier 2004 à 11.40 (PST)

*Image depuis la  
sonde Stardust*



*Vue d'artiste*



Passage à 236 km de la comète

Vitesse relative des poussières cométaires et de la sonde = 6.1 km/s

*Vue d'artiste*



# Capture dans une raquette d'aérogel

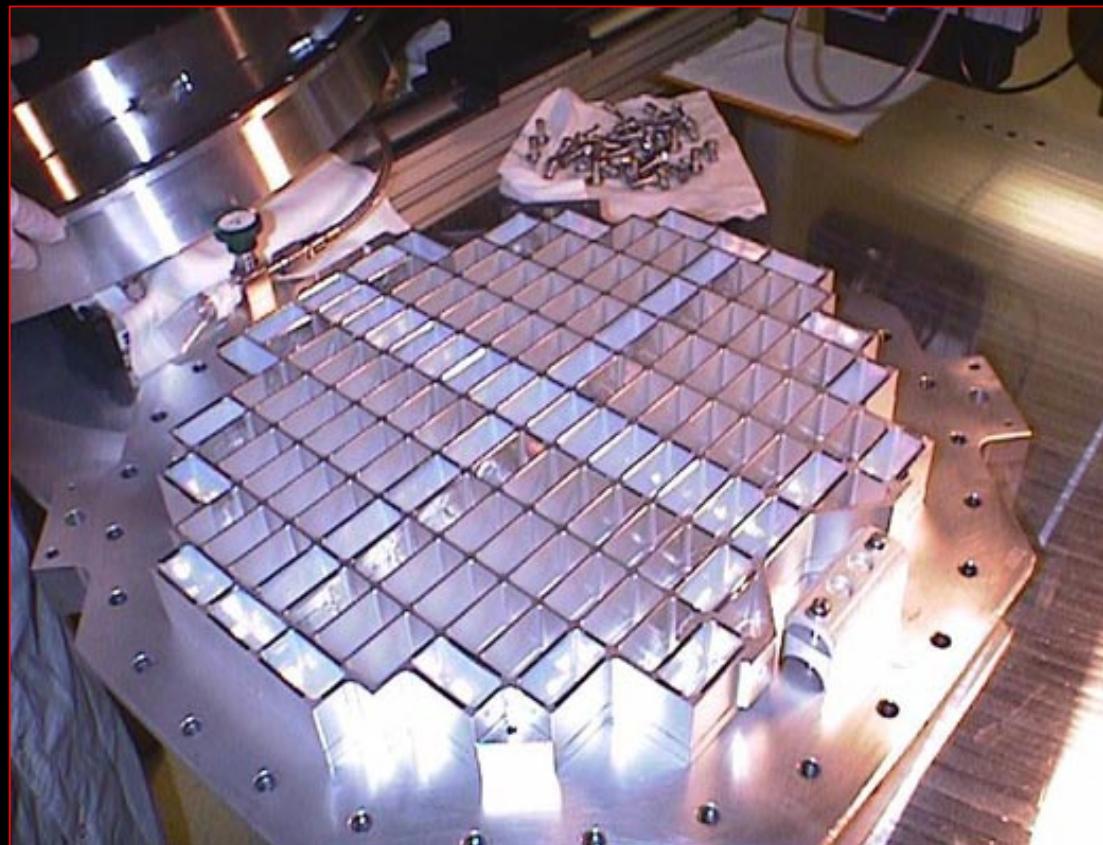


Gel de silice

Composé de vide à 99.8 %

1000 fois moins dense que le verre

Les montants en aluminium sont aussi des détecteurs



130 parallélépipèdes d'aérogel 2 x 4 cm

Surface totale de collection: 1000 cm<sup>2</sup>

A side: poussières cométaires

B side: poussières interstellaires

# Capture dans une raquette d'aérogel

Movie

# Cometary flyby

Movie

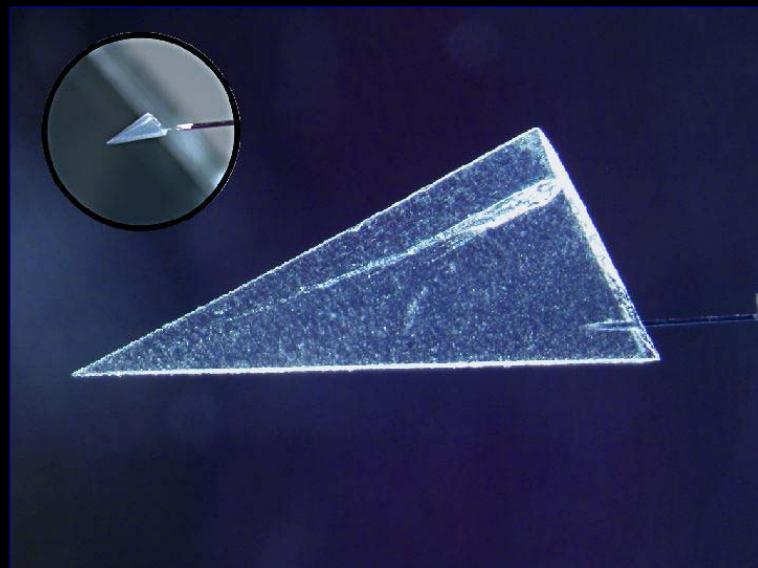
# Retour sur Terre des échantillons le 15 janvier 2006



Entrée dans l'atmosphère terrestre à la vitesse de 46 400 km/h

Température maximale du bouclier thermique: 2700 °C

# Extraction des particules dans la salle blanche de la NASA



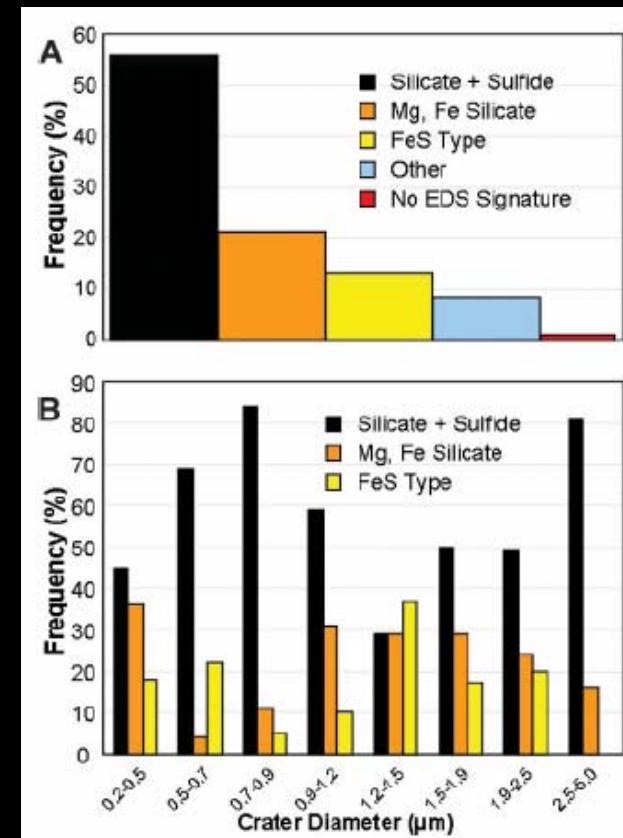
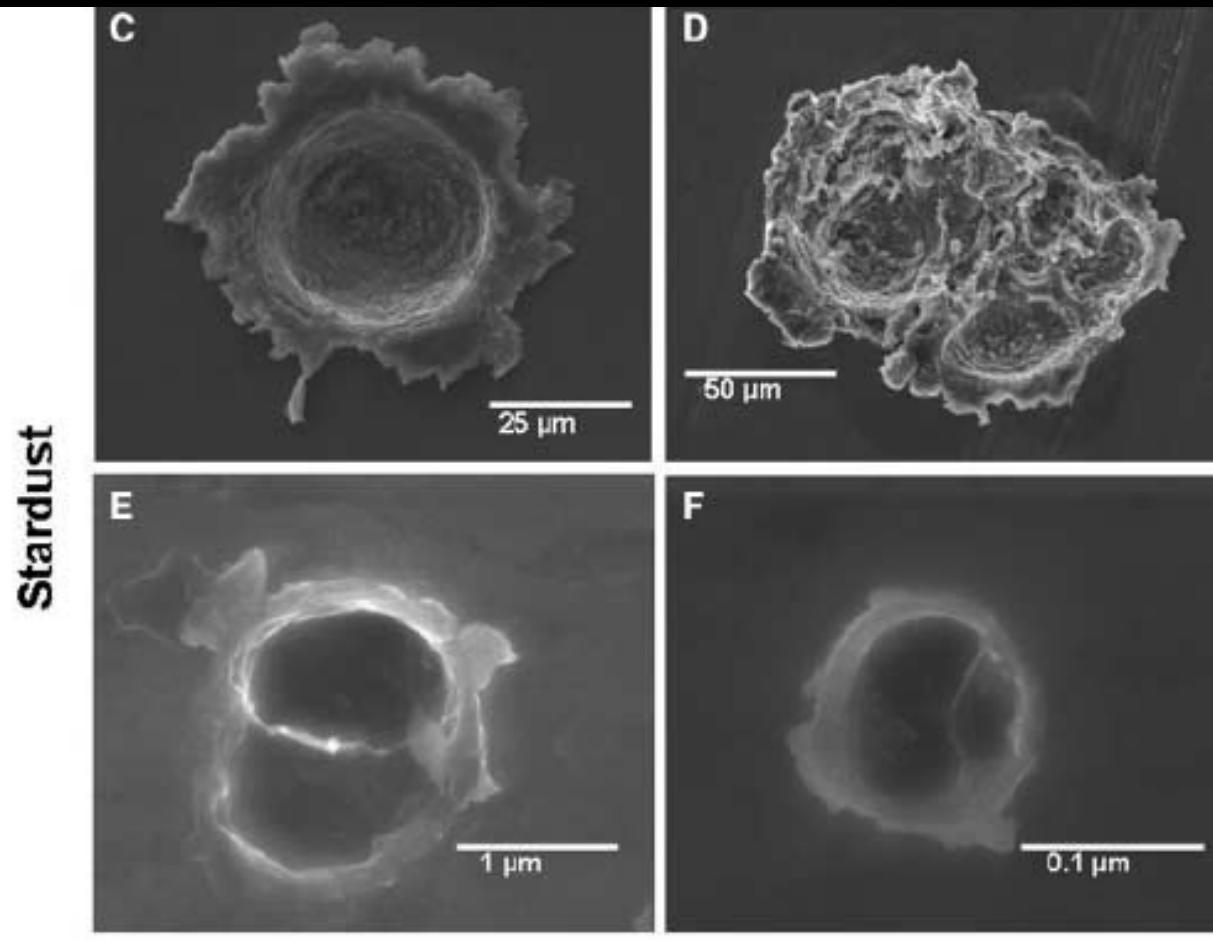
Environ un millier de grains de taille supérieure à 5 µm  
100 µg de matière

## 7. The Stardust mission: Results

Special issue of Science, 15 december 2006

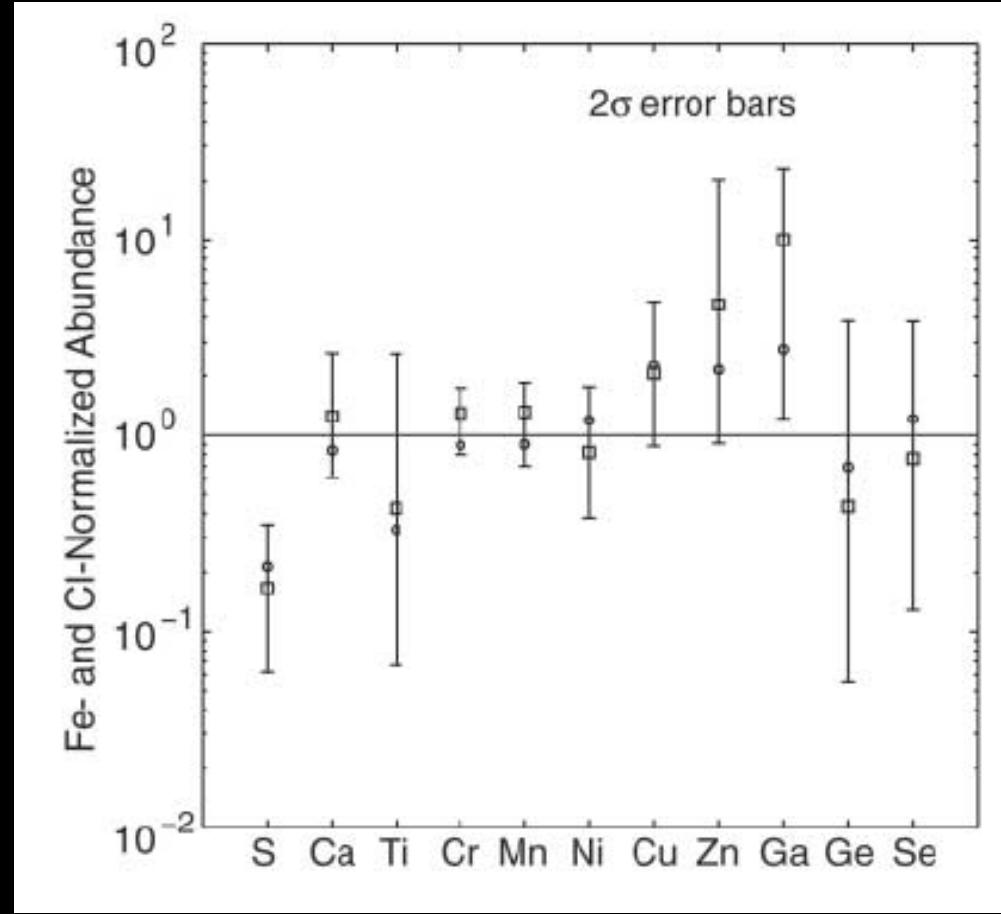
Brownlee, Zolensky, McKeegan, Sandford, Horz...

# Craters due to hypervelocity impacts



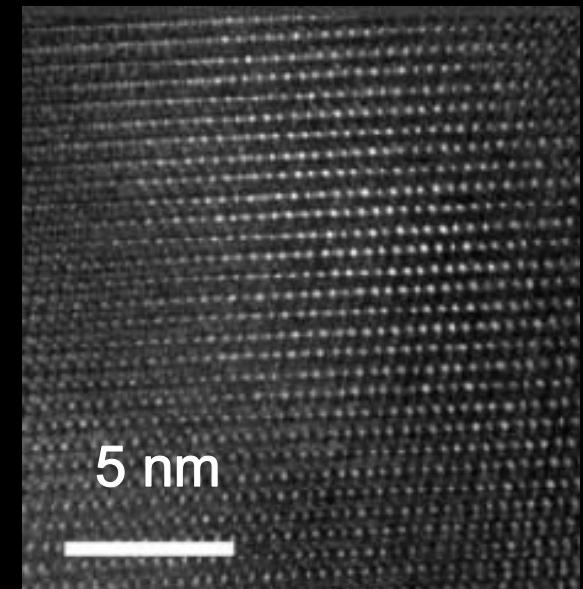
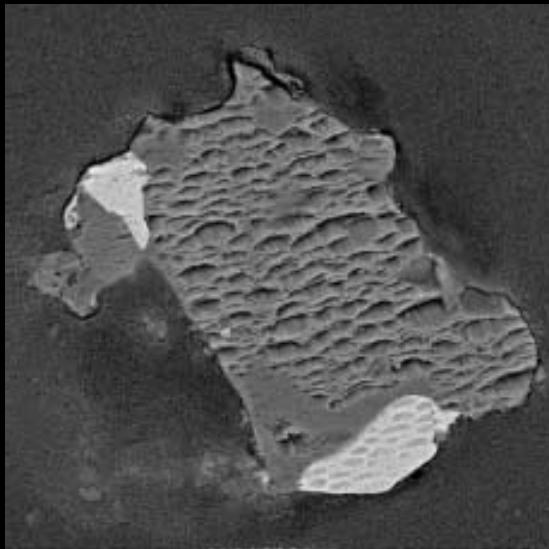
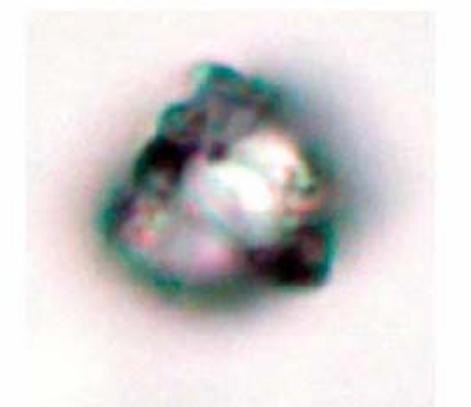
200 craters analyzed  
15 % of the total collection area

# Chemical composition



Difficult to obtain  
Roughly solar (Cl)

Extracted dust

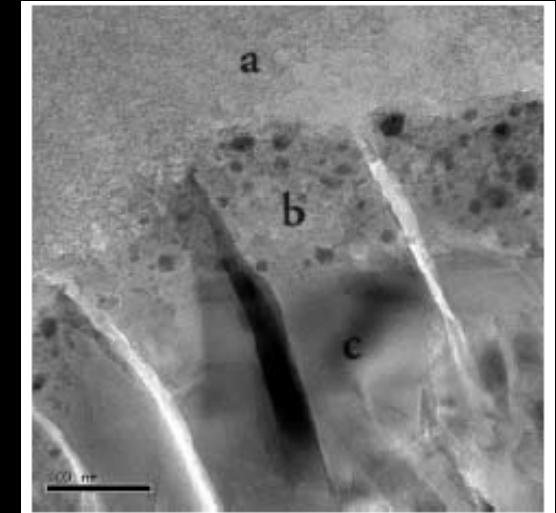
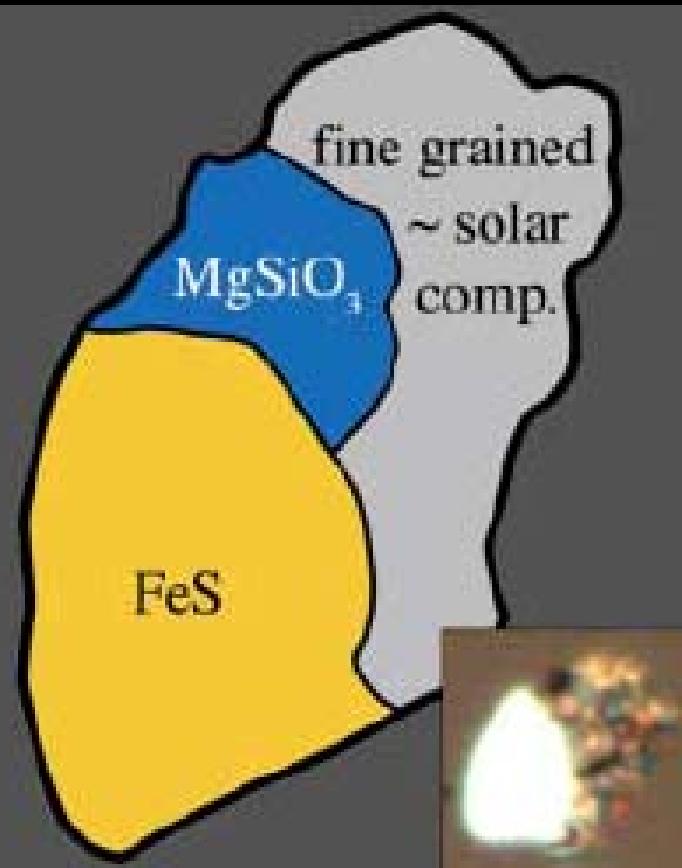
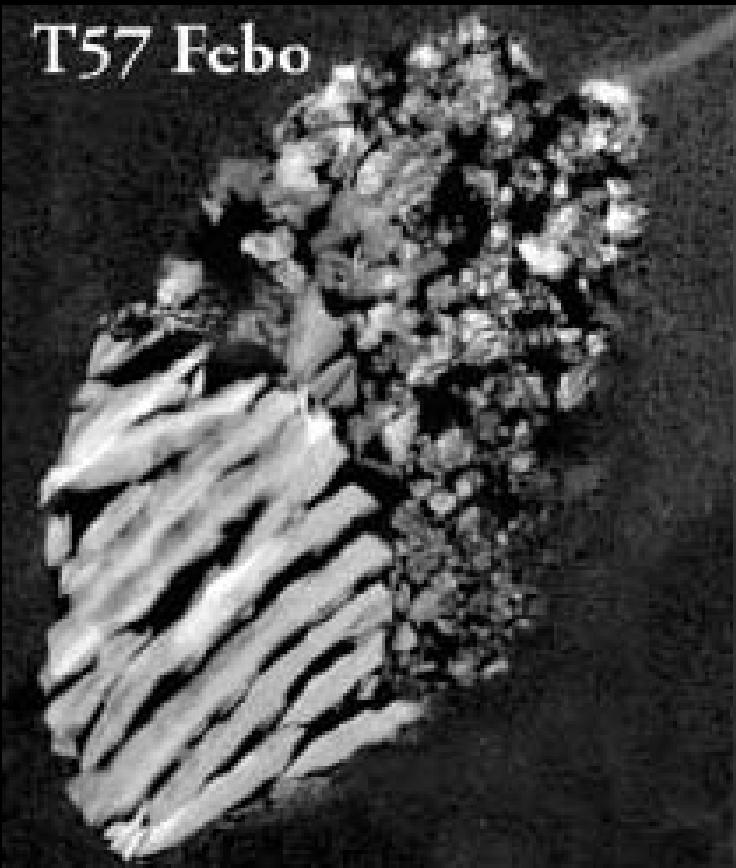


Track 27: Sitara (~ 2 mm)

Terminal particle is 8  $\mu\text{m}$

Not all tracks have a clear terminal particle

# Basic mineralogy

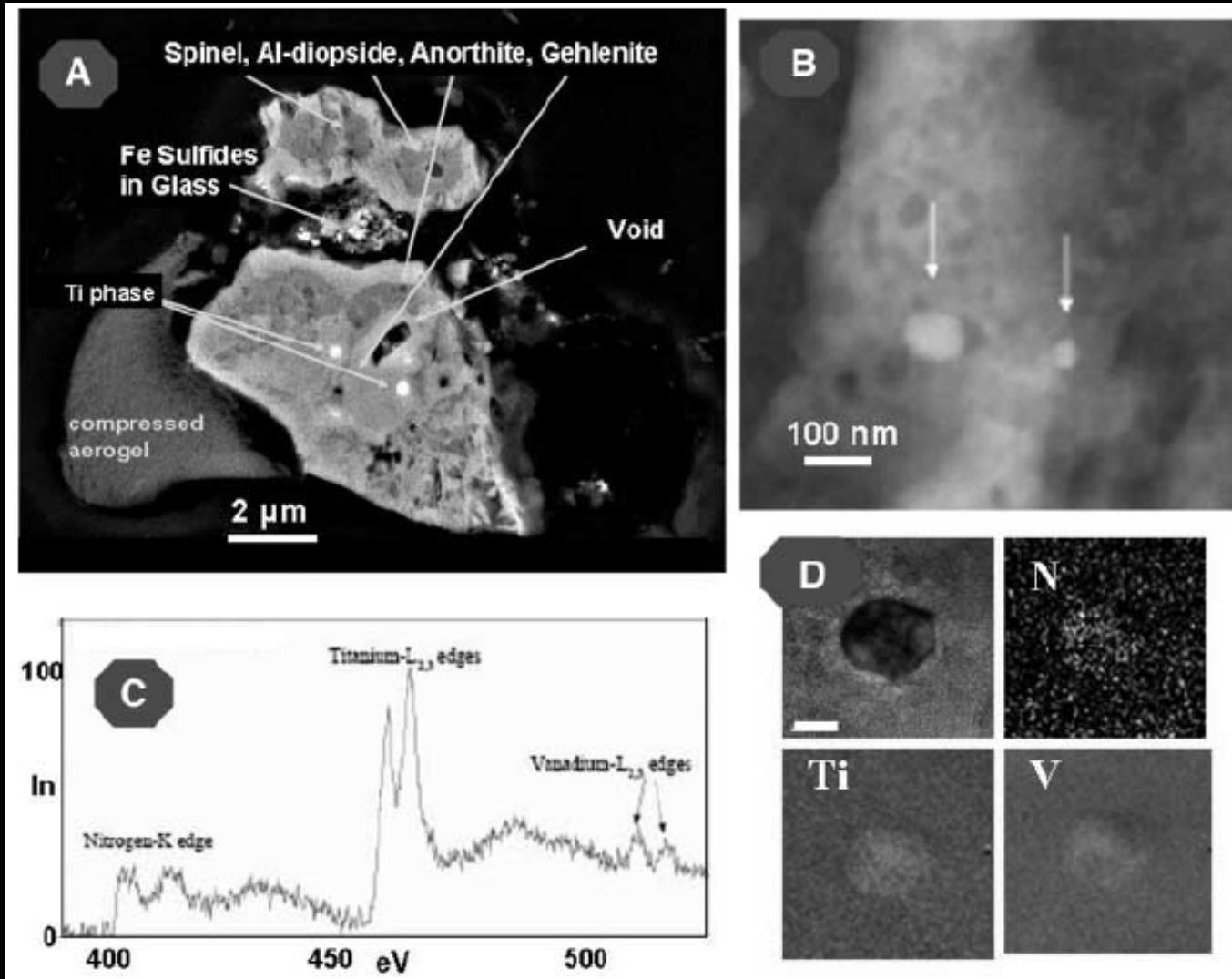


Olivine, pyroxene, sulfides, metal

Melted aerogel

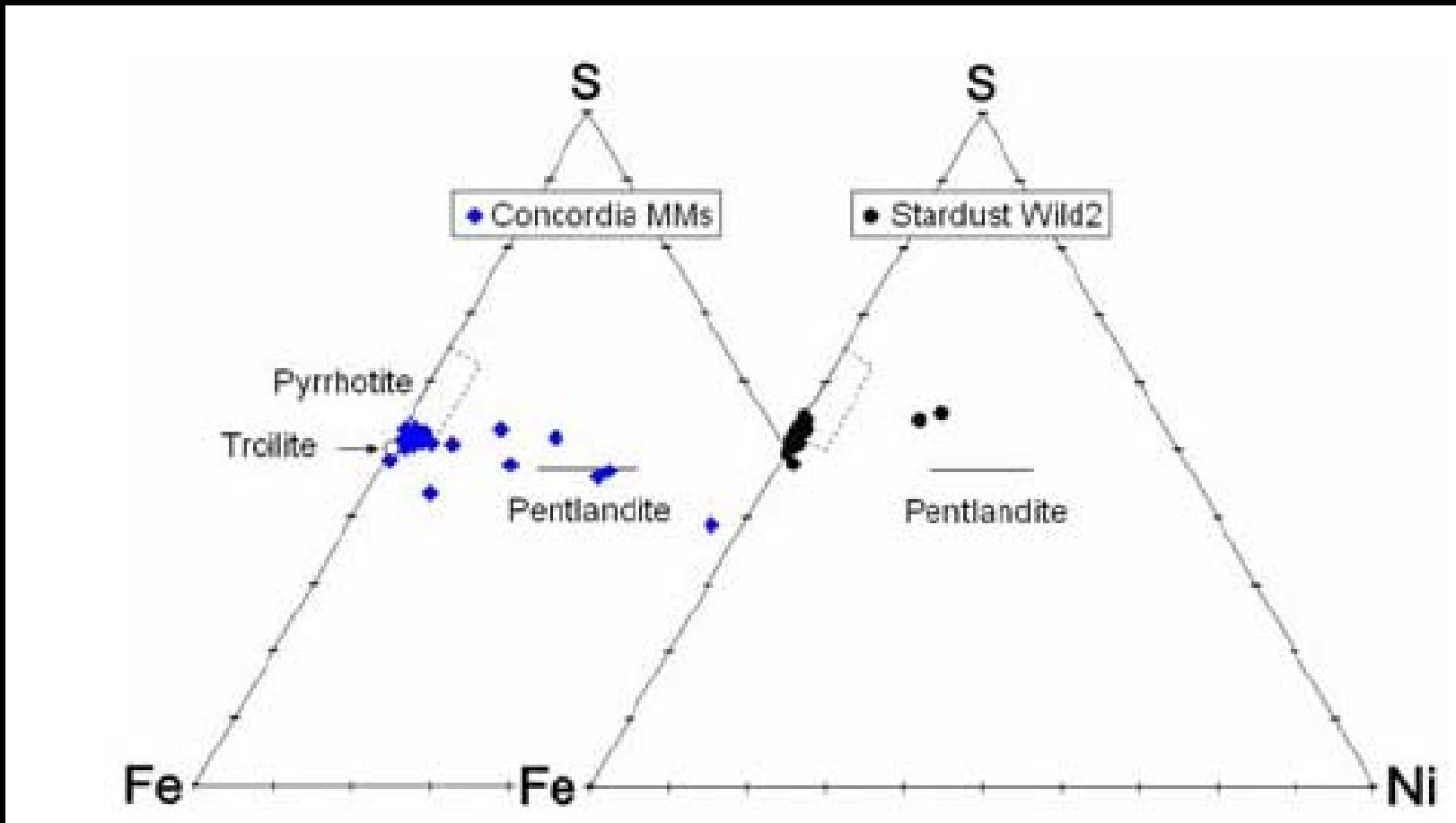
Similar to what is found in primitive meteorites

# Calcium-Aluminium-rich objects in comets

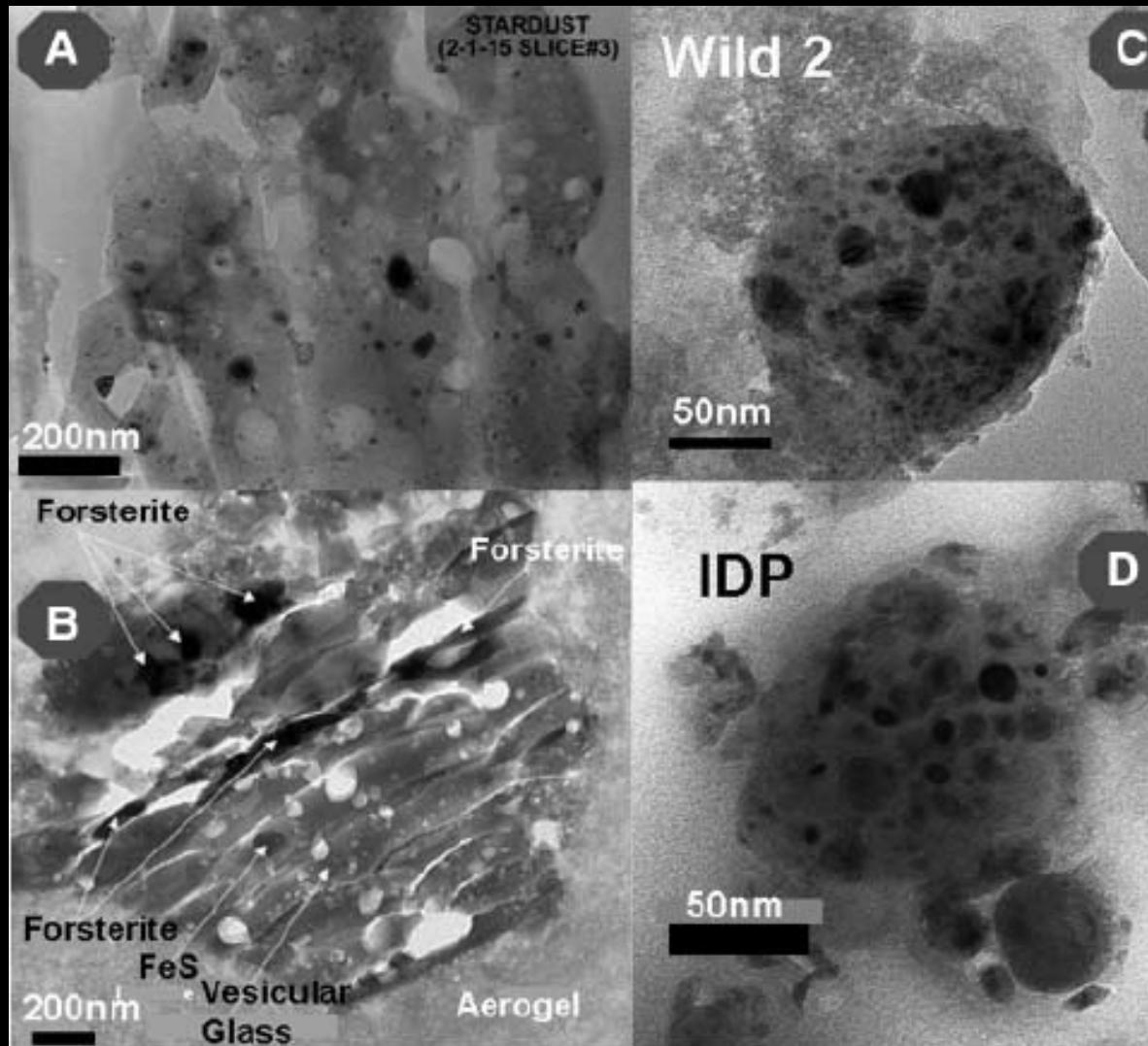


Important radial mixing in the Solar System

# Some similarities with Antarctic micrometeorites

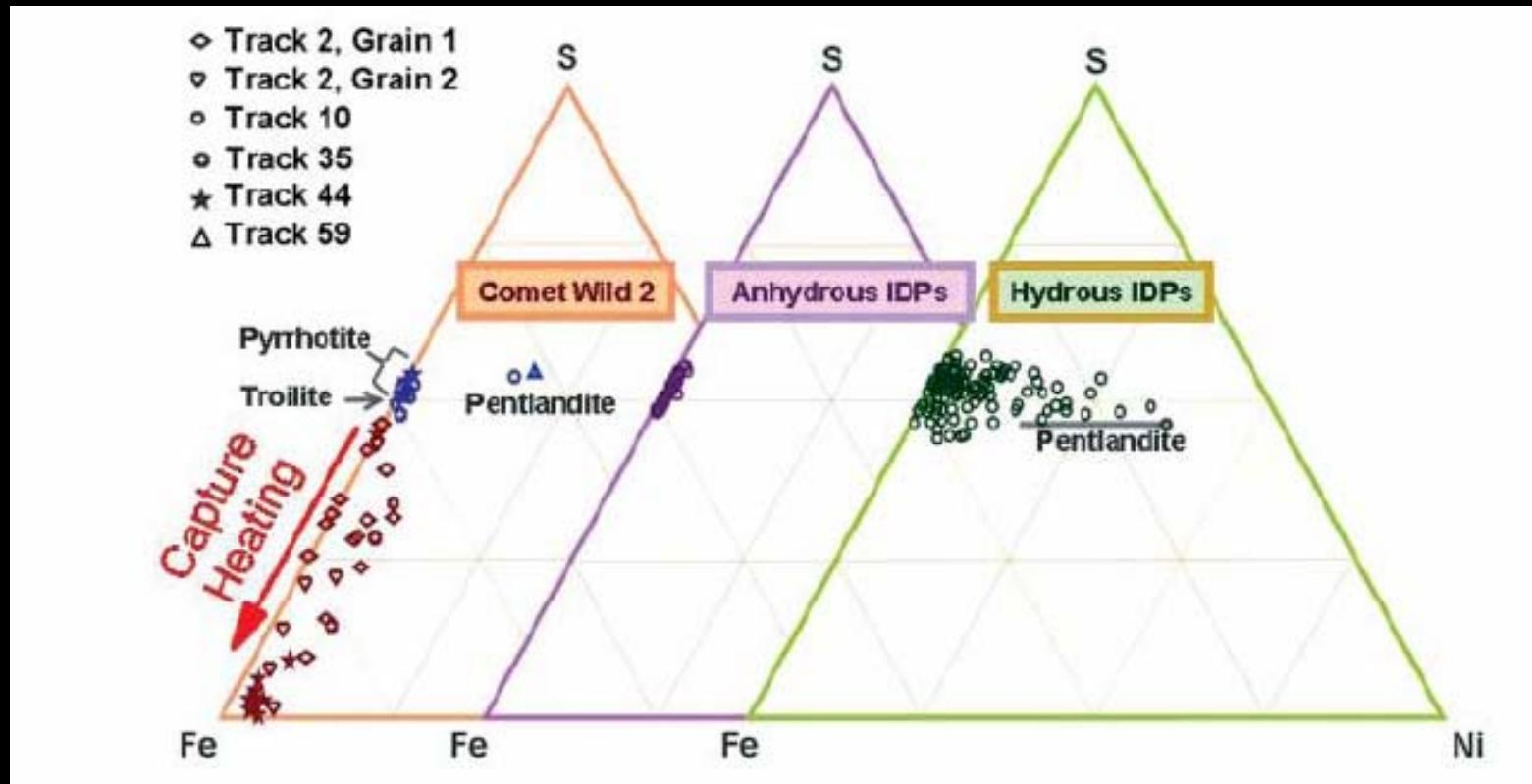


# Some similarities with IDPs

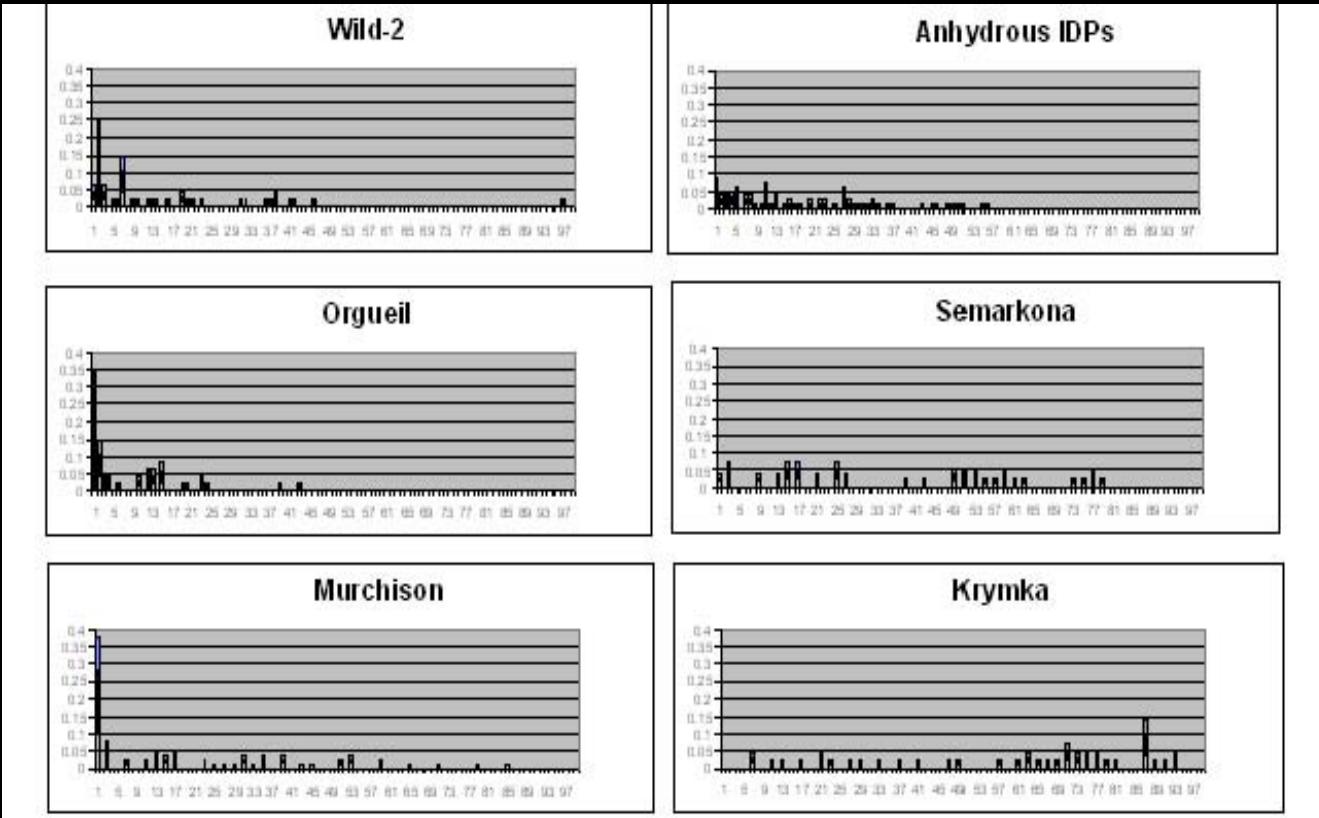


Presence of GEMs (Glass Embedded with Metal and Sulfide) or melted aerogel ?

# Some similarities with IDPs

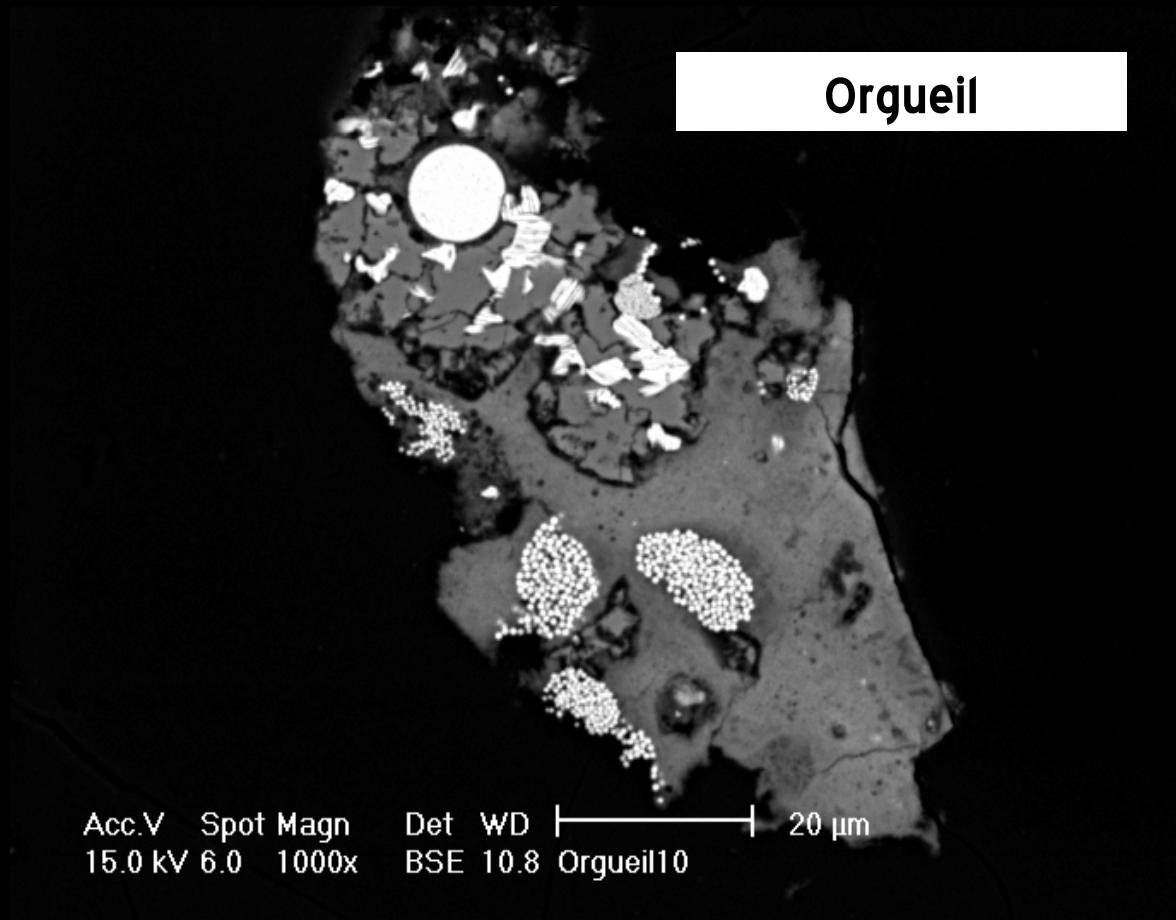


# Some similarities with carbonaceous chondrites



Olivine compositions similar to those of Orgueil (CI1)

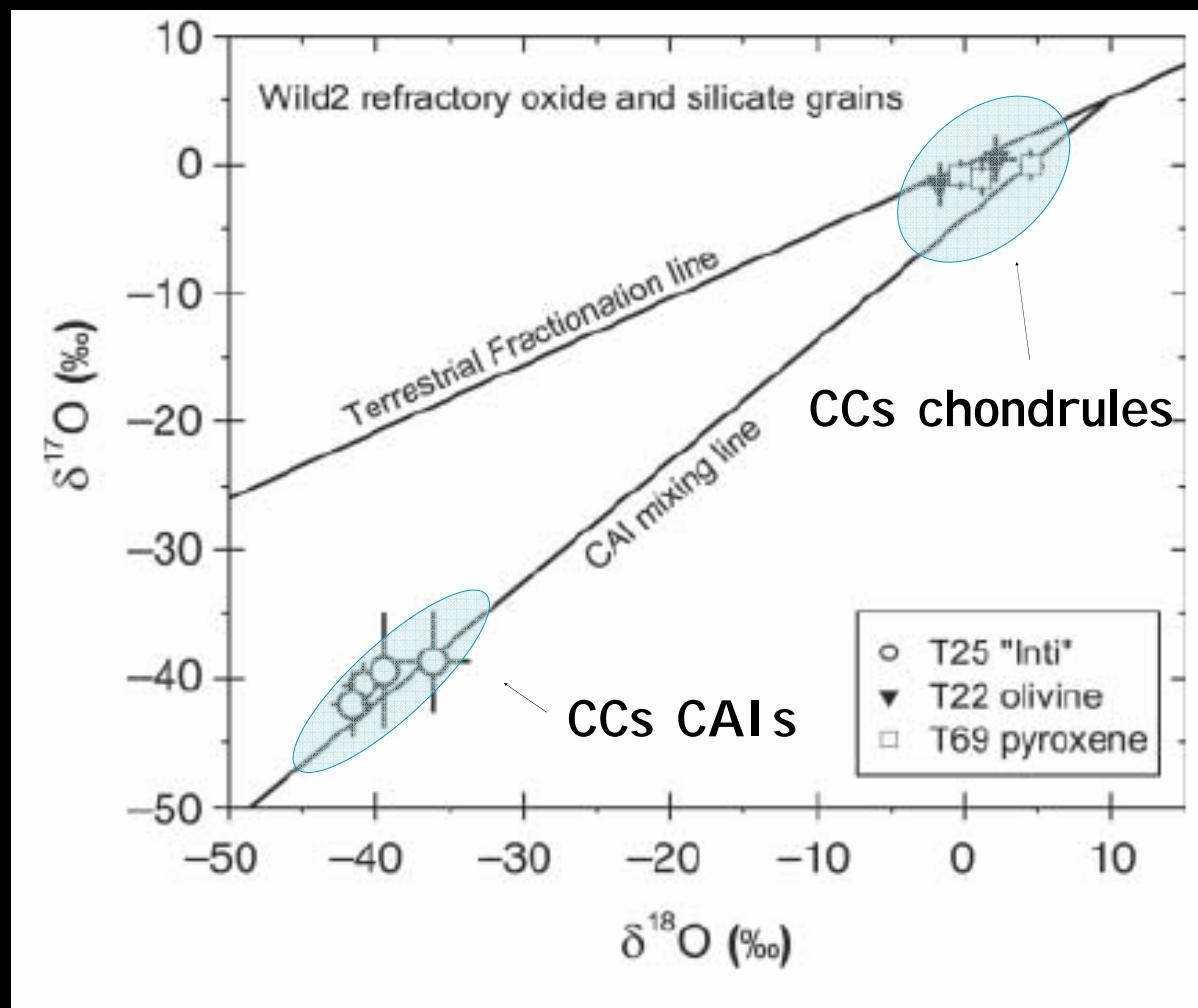
# What was not found...



Phyllosilicates not found yet

But carbonates recently identified

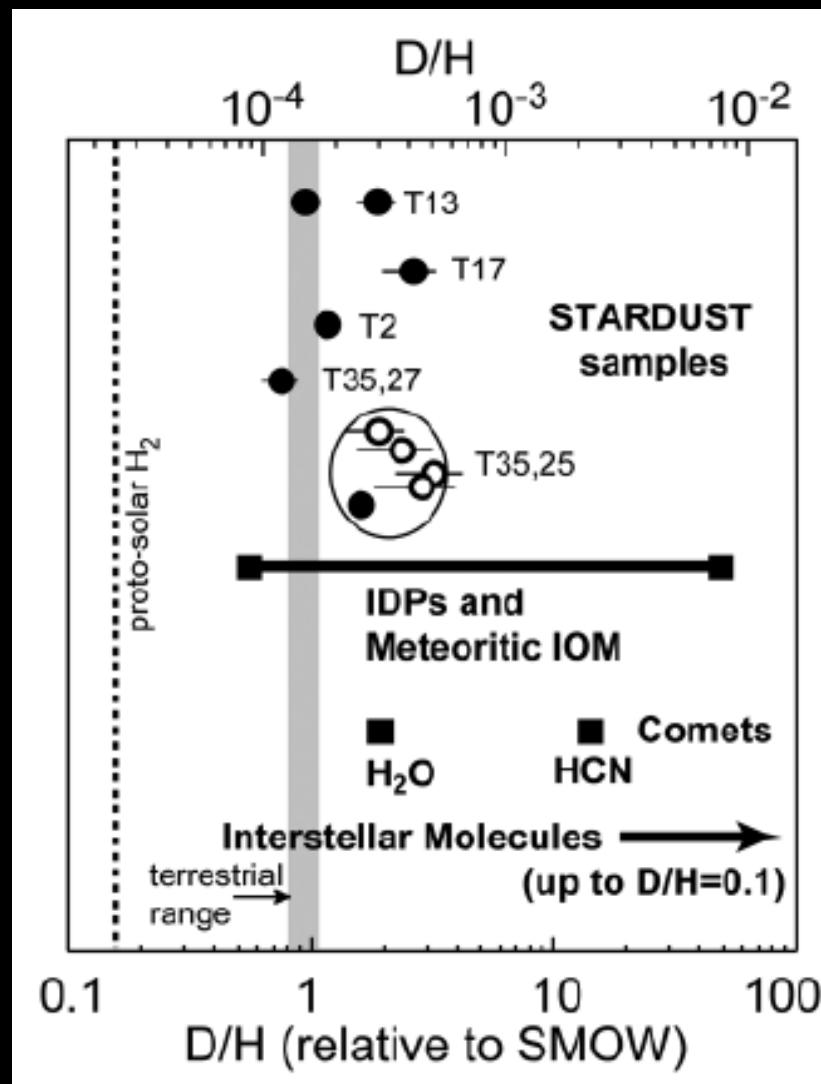
# Some similarities with carbonaceous chondrites



# Not such a strong link to the interstellar medium



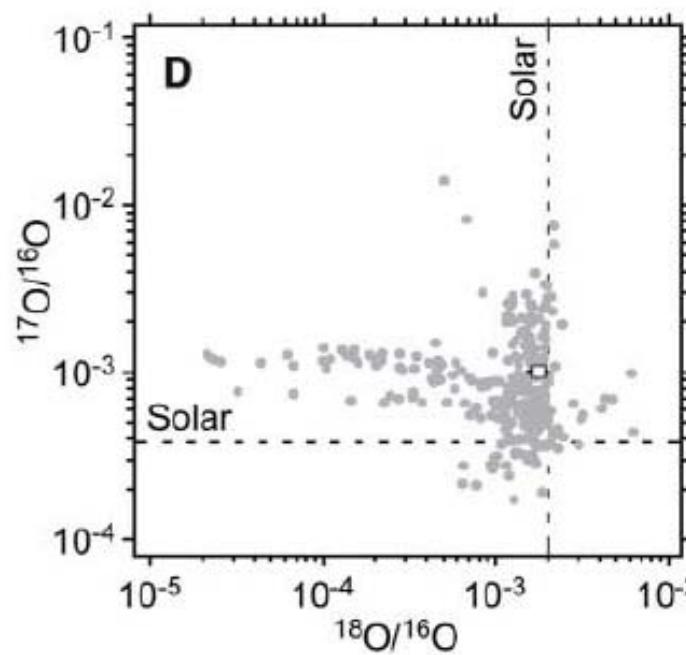
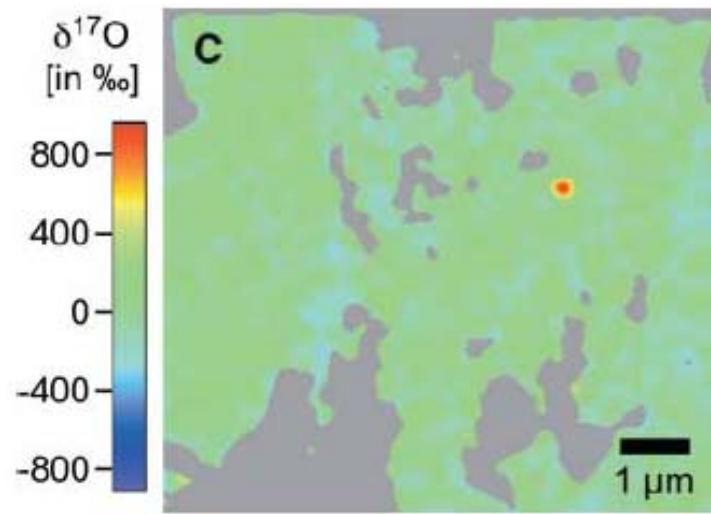
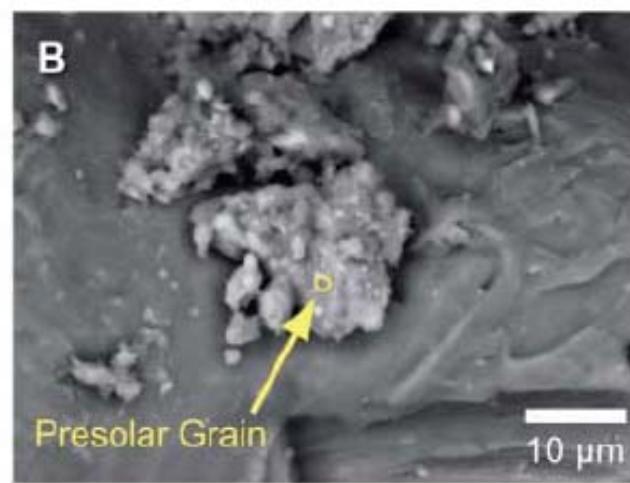
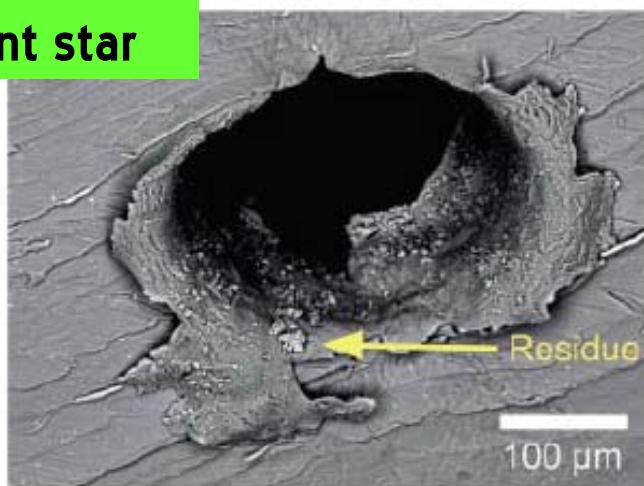
Movie



Note all particles enriched in deuterium

# Discovery of *one* presolar grain

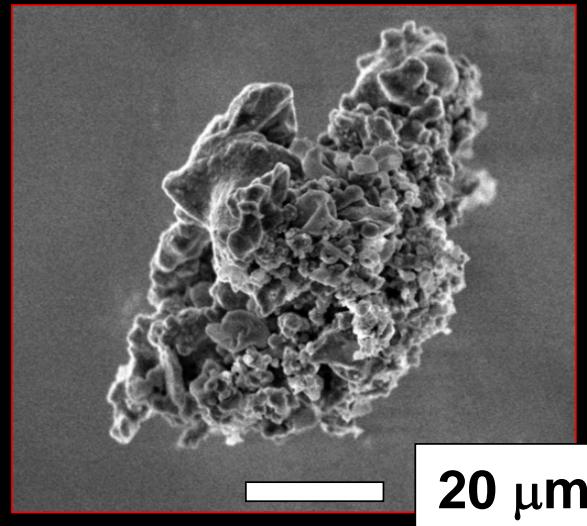
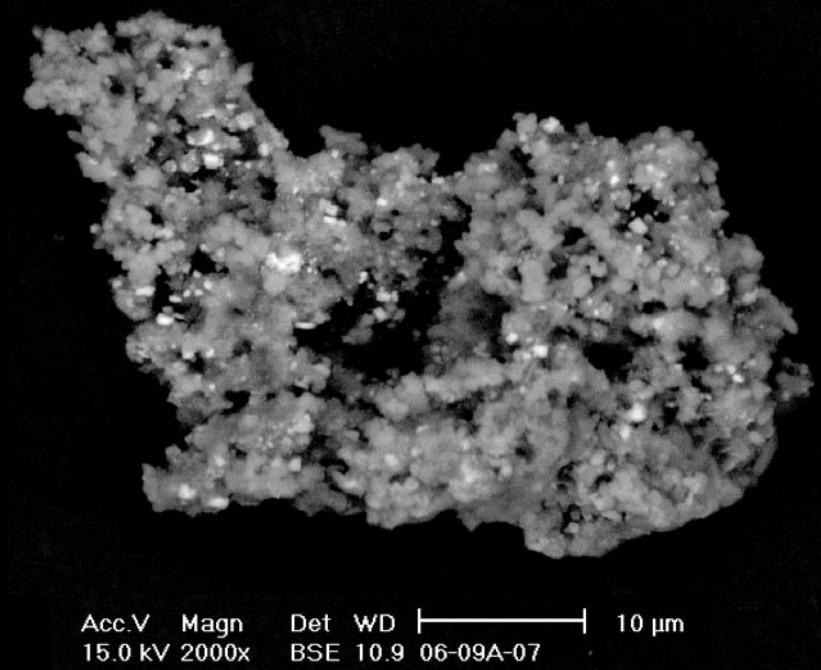
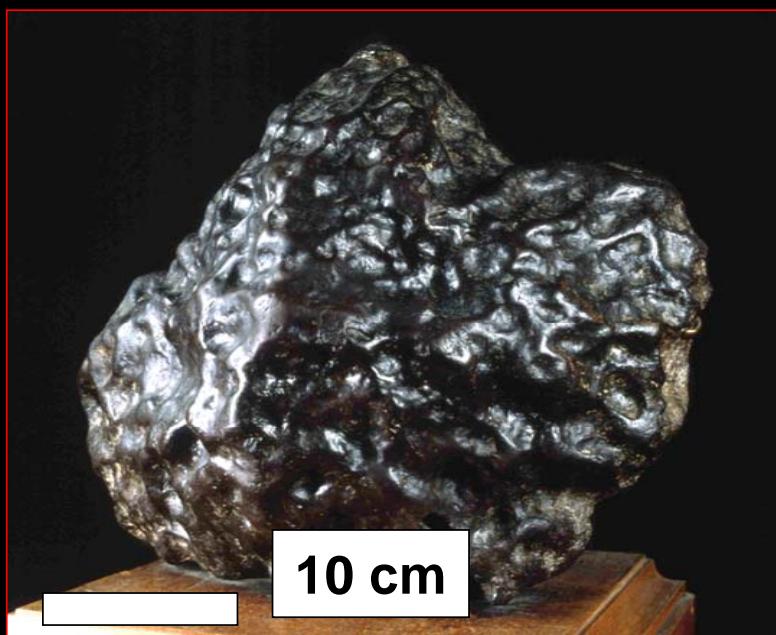
From a red giant star



Abundance of presolar grains similar to that of meteorites

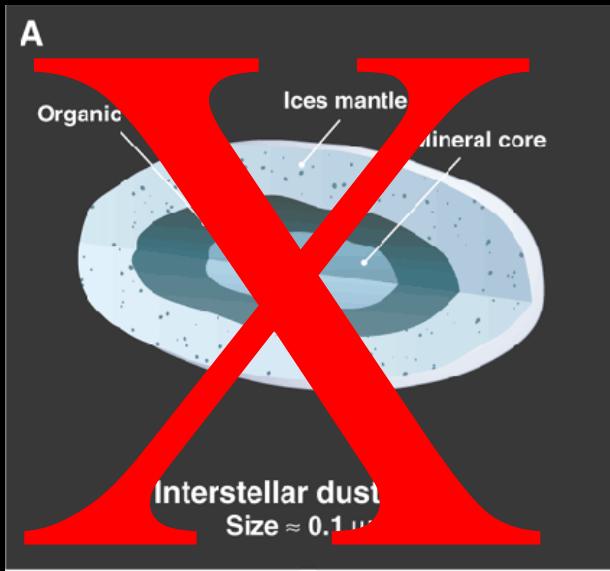
## 8. (Personal) conclusions

# Conclusions 1



Similarities and differences with carbonaceous chondrites, Antarctic micrometeorites and IDPs

## Conclusions 2



**A solar system matter**

- Chemistry
- Mineralogy
- Isotopic composition

**Similar to inner Solar System matter**

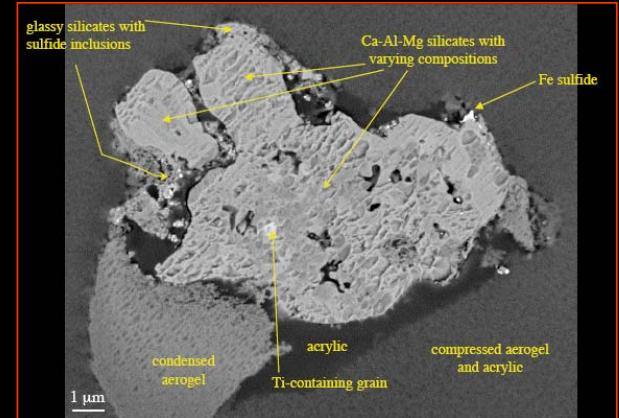
**Weak interstellar heritage**

# Conclusions 3

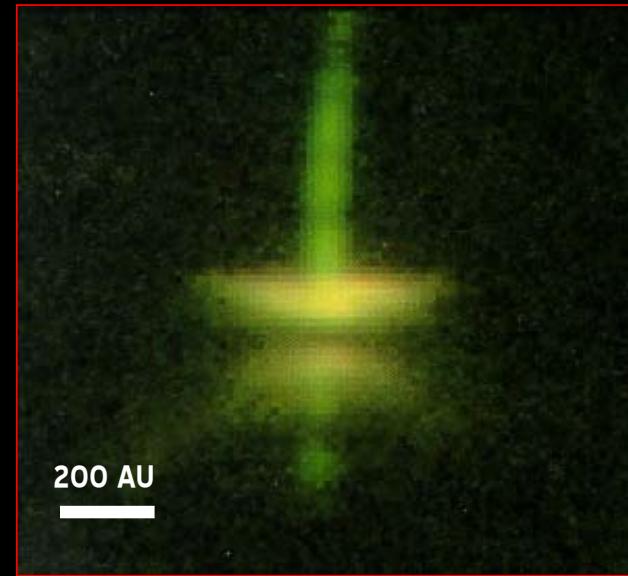
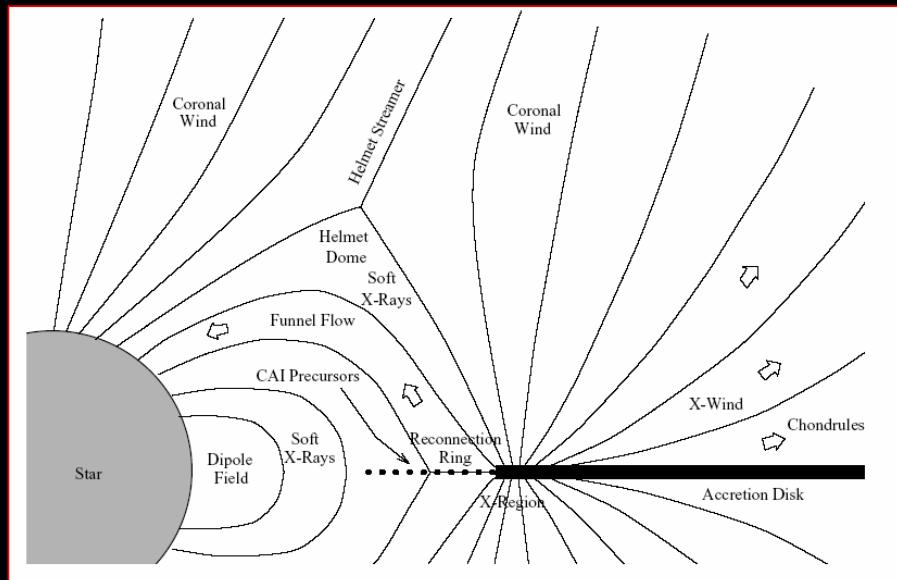
## Toward an Astrophysical Theory of Chondrites

Frank H. Shu,\* Hsien Shang, Typhoon Lee

at all distances from the sun. Thus, comets should also contain CAIs and chondrules.

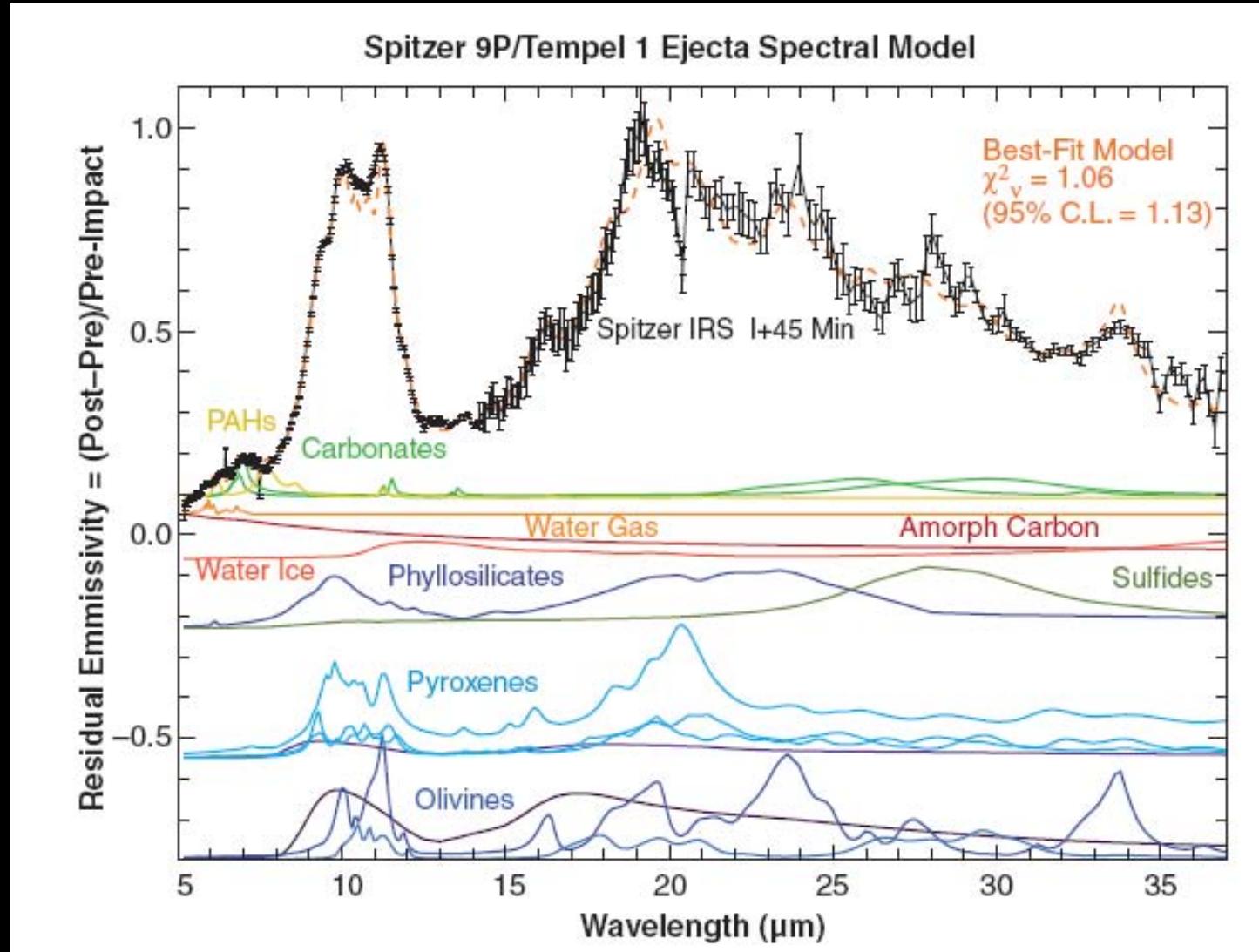


SCIENCE • VOL. 271 • 15 MARCH 1996



Mixing in the solar system  
-Stellar outflows - x-wind  
-Turbulence

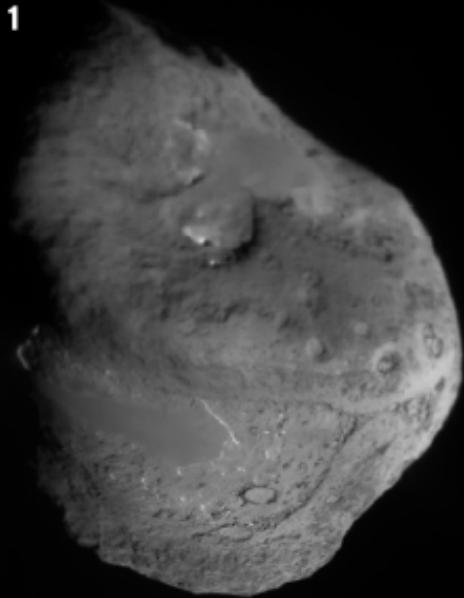
## Conclusions 4



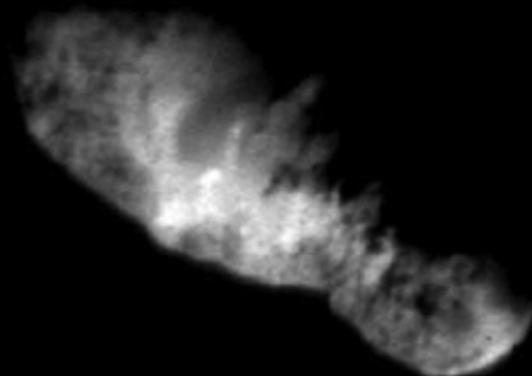
No aqueous alteration in comets?

## Conclusions 5

Tempel 1



Borrelly



Wild 2



Not all comets are the same

Less than a *mg* of *dust* from the *surface* of *one* comet