# DMG, Hydrides & Aliens

## Di Li NAOC







### H<sub>2</sub> Formation

#### Hollenbach & Salpeter 1971: "defect sites"

$$f \equiv (N/N') \exp [-(D' - D)/kT] \ll 1;$$

$$D' - D'_2 \gg k50^\circ \text{ K} > kT$$
 (2)

(1)

#### III. THE STICKING COEFFICIENT AND SURFACE MOBILITY

In calculating the recombination efficiency  $\gamma$  for gas atoms on grain surfaces, we first need the "sticking coefficient" *S*, the fraction of all hydrogen atoms incident on the surface which becomes adsorbed. In principle, *S* depends on the grain temperature *T*, the gas temperature  $T_{\text{gas}}$ , and the adsorption binding energy *D*. In practice, we are interested only in cases where some inequalities apply,

$$kT < kT_{gas} \ll D. \tag{3}$$

Under these circumstances S is independent of T, and HS showed that its dependence on  $T_{\text{gas}}$  can be approximated by the relation

$$S(T_{gas}) = \frac{\Gamma^2 + 0.8 \ \Gamma^3}{1 + 2.4 \ \Gamma + \Gamma^2 + 0.8 \ \Gamma^3}, \quad \Gamma \equiv \frac{E_c}{k T_{gas}}, \quad (4)$$

- Cazaux & Tielens 2002: Physi+chemi-sorption
- Katz et al. 1999: Laboratory



### **Star Formation 'Law'**





Grenier et al. (2005) Science

#### Oust Opacity vs (HI+X\*CO Planck Collaboration (2011)



### HI Narrow Self - Absorption (HINSA)



**HINSA** measures cold HI cooled by collision with H<sub>2</sub>, thus providing a rare **robust chemical clock** of molecular formation.

#### Catching the Birth of a Dark Molecular Cloud for the First Time

Pei Zuo<sup>1,2,3</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, Di Li<sup>1,2,3</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, J. E. G. Peek<sup>4,10</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, Qiang Chang<sup>5</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, Xia Zhang<sup>5</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, Nicholas Chapman<sup>6</sup>, Paul F. Goldsmith<sup>7</sup><sup>(i)</sup>, and Zhi-Yu Zhang<sup>8,9</sup><sup>(i)</sup>



# **Molecular Cloud Formation**

 H<sub>2</sub> Formation On Dust Grains Production rate (s<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup>)

$$R_{H_2} = \frac{1}{2} n_g n_1 \sigma v S \eta$$
$$R_{H_2} = 2.1 \times 10^{-18} n n_1 \sqrt{T}$$

Hollenbach & Salpeter 1970; Buch & Zhang 1991

- H<sub>2</sub> Dissociation By Cosmic Rays Destruction Rate(cm<sup>-3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>)
  - $D_{H_2} = \xi n_2,$

where  $\xi \approx 3 \times 10^{-17} \text{s}^{-1}$ 

is the cosmic ray ionization rate.

#### Dark Cloud Age> 10Myr



Goldsmith & Li 2005 ApJ

The low abundance  $[HI]/[H_2] \sim 0.1\%$  rules out any fast cloud/star formation scenario, including stochastic H<sub>2</sub> formation in locally enhanced dense spots, and favors the canonical 'Shu' picture with ambipolar diffusion.

#### 2018.11 國家天文台首次發現新生暗云

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"A chilly cloud of molecular gas in the Milky Way is giving astronomers a rare look at one of the earliest steps in star formation.

The smallest, most fundamental molecules in the Universe are created when two hydrogen atoms bond to form hydrogen molecules (H2). But the molecule's formation is rarely observed, because **it's hard to distinguish atomic and molecular hydrogen** from other types of molecules and from each other.

Pei Zuo and Di Li at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and their colleagues used the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico to observe dark clouds in the cosmos. The team found that one cloud had an outer 'shell' of atomic hydrogen that was being converted into molecular hydrogen — the first such detection of a dark cloud's birth.

Further analysis of the rate of H2 formation suggested that the cloud is roughly 6 million years old. This finding could help to constrain models of star,

planet and galaxy formation, the authors write. (Zuo & Li et al. Astrophys. J. 867, 13 (2018))

#### Nature Research Highlight: Nov 2018





A dark Galactic cloud similar to the Coalsack nebula (central black blob above) has been seen for the first time in the act of generating molecular hydrogen. Credit: ESO/Digitized Sky Survey 2/Davide De Martin

#### ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS · 02 NOVEMBER 2018 Dark space cloud caught donning halo of hydrogen molecules

For the first time, a Galactic cloud is seen producing an ingredient that is fundamental in star formation.

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A chilly cloud of molecular gas in the Milky Way is giving astronomers a rare look at one of the earliest steps in star formation.

The smallest, most fundamental molecules in the Universe are created when two hydrogen atoms bond to form hydrogen molecules (H<sub>2</sub>). This process usually takes place in cold, dark clouds. But the molecule's formation is rarely observed, because it's hard to distinguish atomic and molecular hydrogen from other types of molecules and from each other.

### **HISA: Cold HI Clouds**





### The Start of the "Chain"

### $HI + Dust \implies H_2$



#### Lucas and Liszt 1996

 $H_{2} + cosmicray \rightarrow H_{2}^{+} + e^{-}$   $H_{2}^{+} + H_{2} \rightarrow H_{3}^{+} + H$   $H_{3}^{+} + O \rightarrow H_{2} + OH^{+}$   $OH^{+} + H_{2} \rightarrow OH_{2}^{+} + H$   $OH_{2}^{+} + H_{2} \rightarrow H_{3}O^{+} + H$   $H_{3}O^{+} + e^{-} \rightarrow OH + H_{2}$ 

 $C^+ + OH \rightarrow CO^+ + H \quad ; \quad CO^+ + H_2 \rightarrow HCO^+ + H$ 

### Evolution of HI, OH, CH across the DMG Zone



#### CH AS A MOLECULAR GAS TRACER AND C-SHOCK TRACER ACROSS A MOLECULAR CLOUD BOUNDARY IN TAURUS

DUO XU(许铎)<sup>1,2,4</sup> AND DI LI(李菂)<sup>1,3</sup>



### DMG & DNM Intermediate Av ~ 0.1-2



Xu & Li+ 2016 paper I based on Lockett & Elitzur 2008



# Price Rim Interstellar Matter Observer

#### *"Where is OH and Does it Trace the Dark. Molecular Gas (DMG) ?"* Li, Tang, +PRIMO, ApJS, 235,1

"Dust–Gas Scaling Relations and OH Abundance in the Galactic ISM" Nguyen, Dawson,+PRIMO, ApJ

- OH excitation temperature peaks around CMB
- OH abundance tracks DMG fraction
- **FAST** will supersede Arecibo by x10. Tests underway



### **OH Excitation**





Li, Tang, Nguyen, Dawson+ PRIMO (2018)

### **OH Absorption Survey with FAST**

FAST



# **ALMA Absorption**





 $X_{CO} = 16 \pm 2/10^{20} cm^{-2} (K km s^{-1})^{-1}$ 2.1 (Pineda et al. 2010) 2.54 \pm 0.13 (Planck Collaboration et al. 2011)

Luo, Tang, DL 2019 in prep.



#### Galactic and Magellanic Evolution with the SKA

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Absorption Imaging



RA (J2000)

# **Pulsar-Stimulated Emission**





A Case Study for UWL: **OH + CH** simultaneously "A Follow-up Study of Stimulated Emission toward PSR B1641-45", **Li** & Hobbs + 2018, 2019 Parkes

# Conclusions

- HINSA traces cold HI mixed with CO and clock the chemical age of dark clouds at 10 Myr, more consistent with the 'classical' SF picture, which is favored over 'fast/dynamic' star formation (cf. Elmegreen+, Bergin+).
- Dark Molecular Gas (DMG) dominates intermediate extinction gas (Av
  0.2 1.5).

$$DGF = 0.90 \times exp\left(-\left(\frac{A_{\nu} - 0.79}{0.71}\right)^2\right).$$

- Simple hydrides, OH and CH, are better tracers of H<sub>2</sub> than CO.  $\mathbf{X}_{CH} = 1.0 \ge 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}/(\text{K kms}^{-1}) : \mathbf{X}_{OH} = 5.2 \ge 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}/(\text{K kms}^{-1})$ 

 $[OH]/[H_2] = 1.5 \times 10^{-7} + 9.0 \times 10^{-7} \times exp(-A_{\nu}/0.81)$ 

- All tracers have caveats: OH excitation temperature is close to CMB.
  Diffuse CO sub-thermally excited. C<sup>+</sup> fine structure line 91K above ground state. Modeling diffuse γ is uncertain.
- Absorption measurements from Arecibo, FAST, ATCA, VLA, ALMA, and SKA will quantify 'cold' ISM, including both CNM and DMG