

# UNDERSTANDING THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF EXOPLANET ATMOSPHERES

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# ARIEL Chemistry Working group



- An understanding of the chemistry in exoplanet atmospheres is crucial to get a proper interpretation of ARIEL observations
- In the ARIEL ChWG we explore potential atmospheric compositions and the impact of diverse physical processes on such chemical species
- Today we will present only a selection of the work of the ARIEL ChWG

# Hydrogen-dominated planets

## *Effect of horizontal mixing*

- Tidally-locked planets might have big day-night temperature gradients, and thus, their chemical composition could also vary.
  - ▮▮▮ **Important variation of emission spectra with orbital phase**
- However, horizontal winds can transport chemicals in the atmosphere from one side to another (quenching), thus reducing the chemical gradient.
  - ▮▮▮ **Less variation of emission spectra with orbital phase**
- **Questions:** which planets might have variations of composition with phase? Which ones have a chemical composition horizontally quenched?
  - ▮▮▮ **2D models for a grid of warm-Neptunes :  $500 \text{ K} < T_{\text{eff}} < 2500 \text{ K}$   
metallicity : 1, 10, 100, 1000 x solar.**

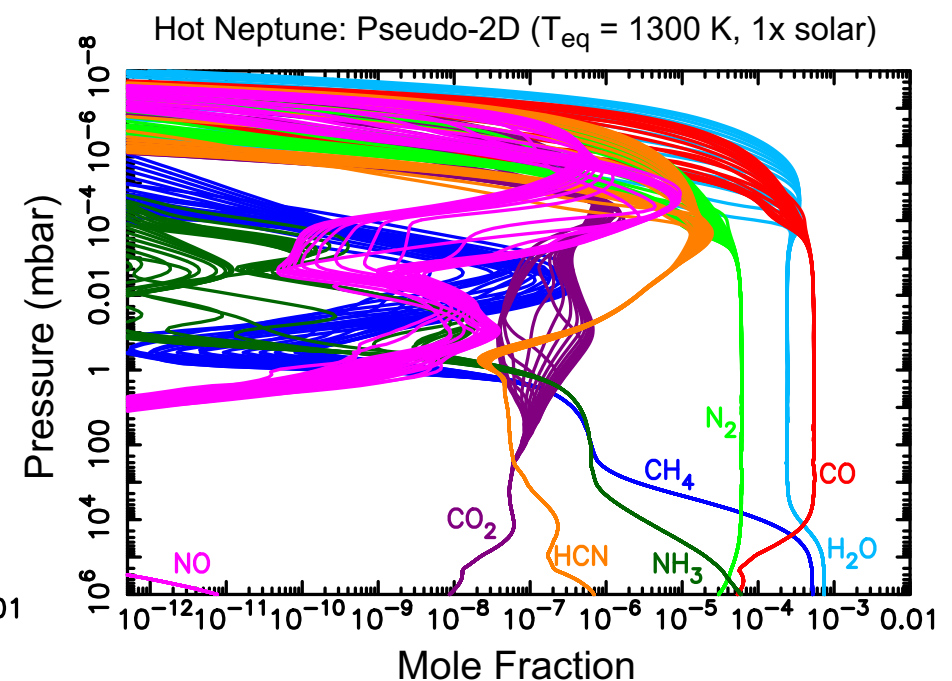
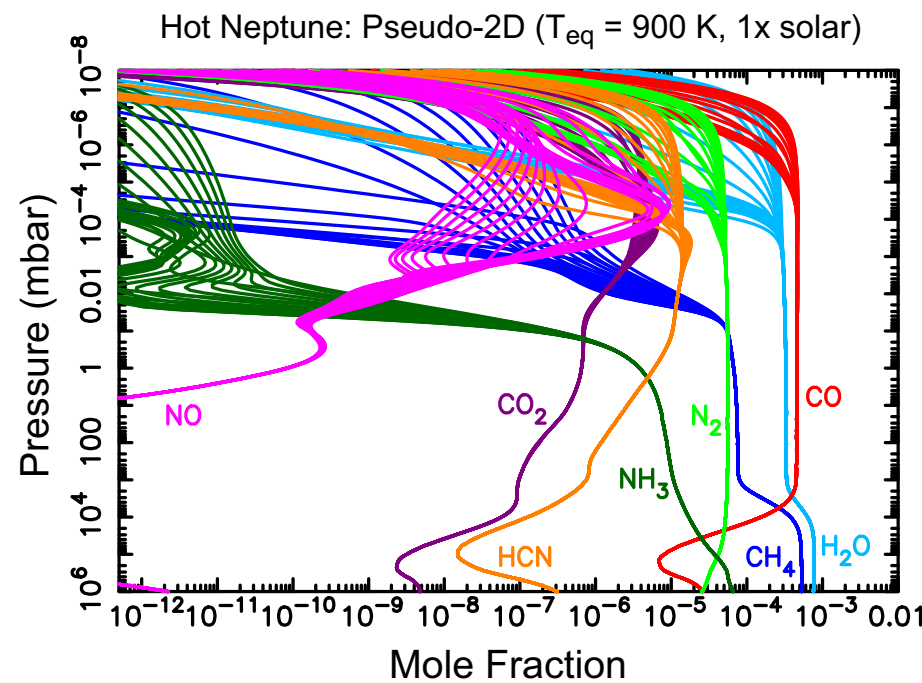
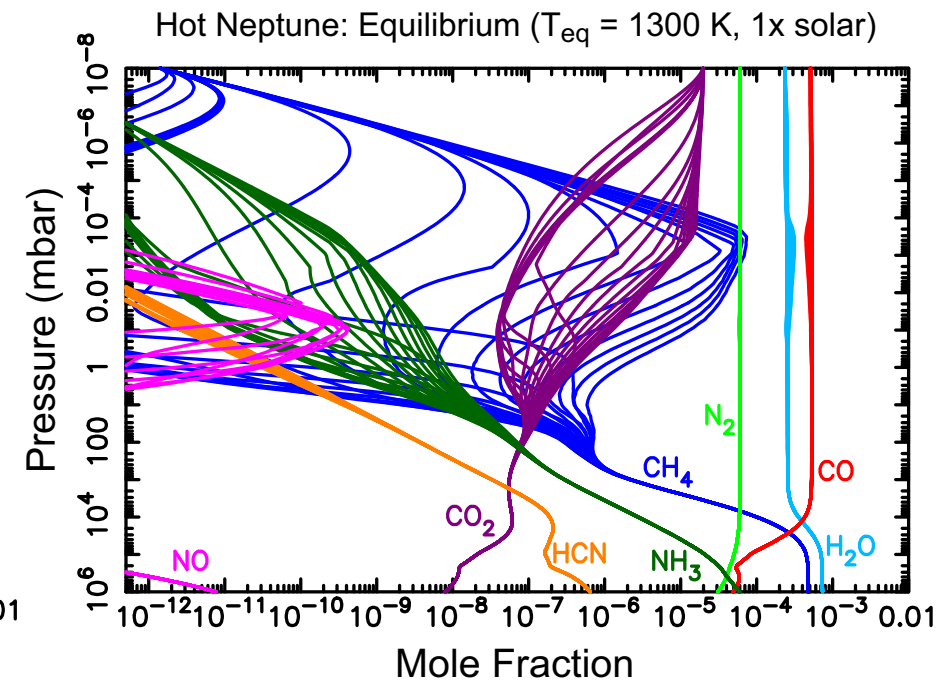
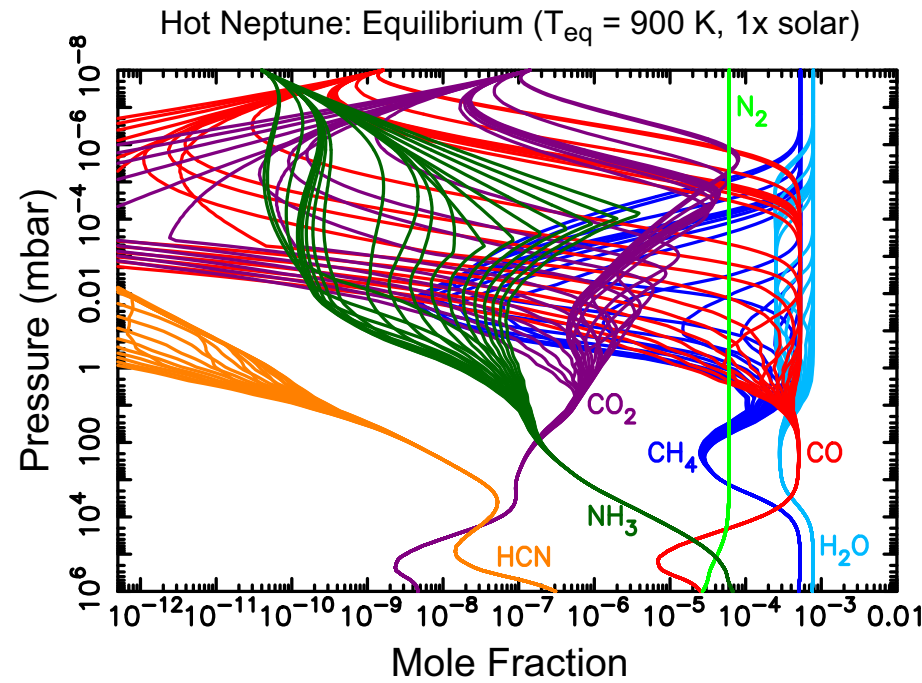
*PT grid from 2D-ATMO (P. Tremblin)  
chemical models of J. Moses*

# Hydrogen-dominated planets

## *Effect of horizontal mixing*

### Chemical composition

- photolysis, vertical and horizontal mixing affect the chemical composition.
- globally, we see an homogenisation of abundances with longitude, but still some variations at high altitude



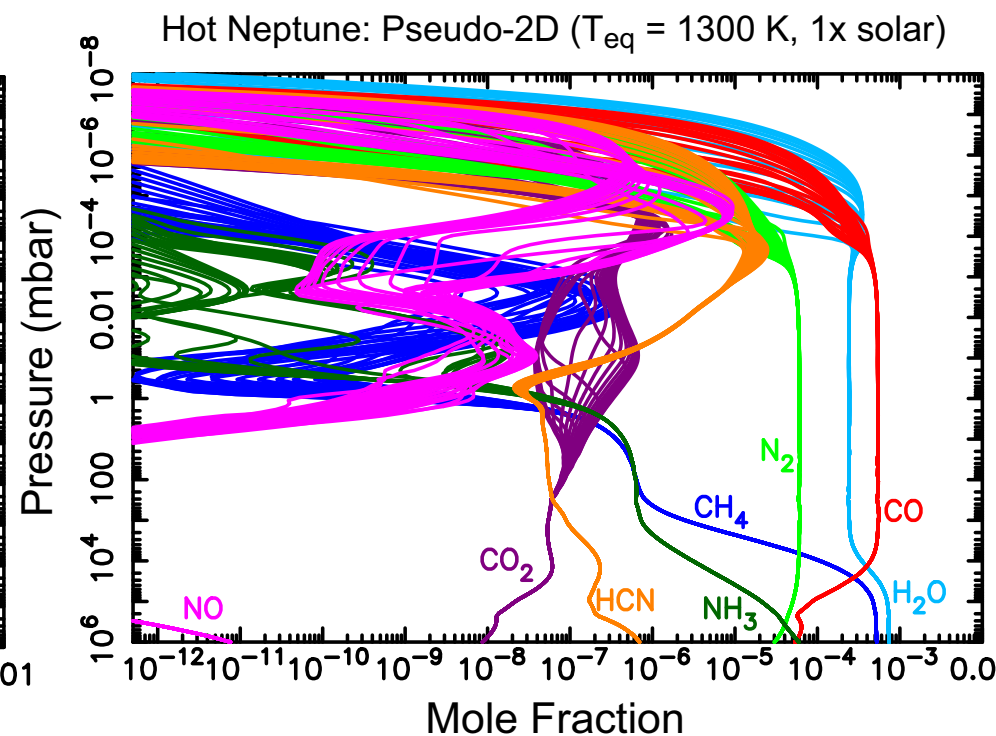
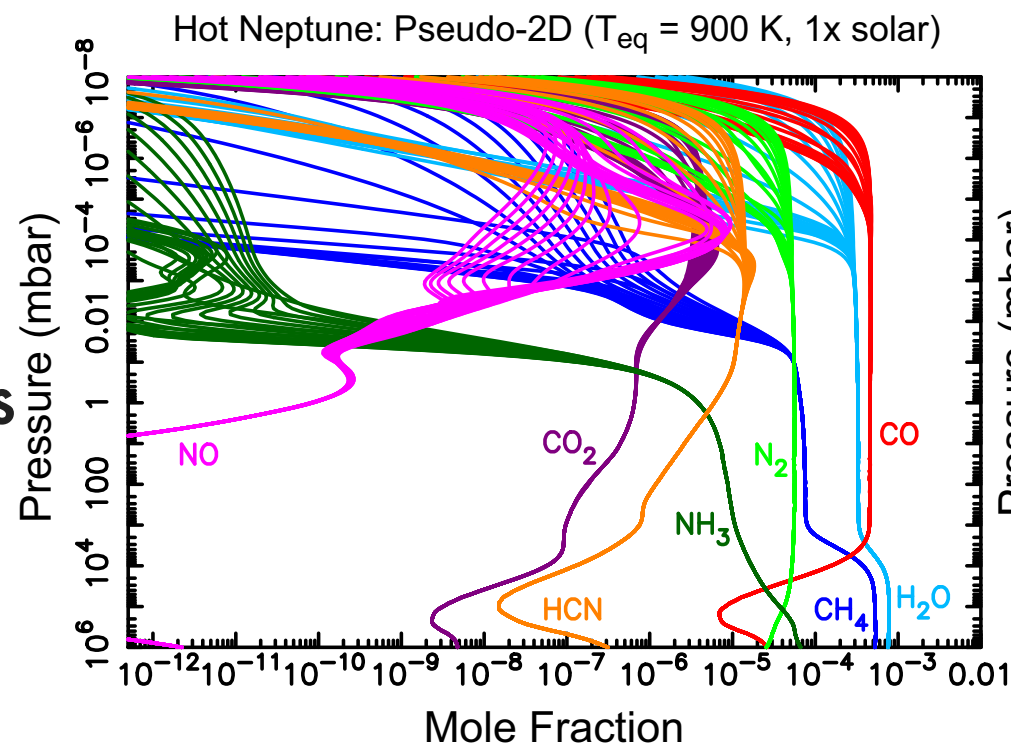
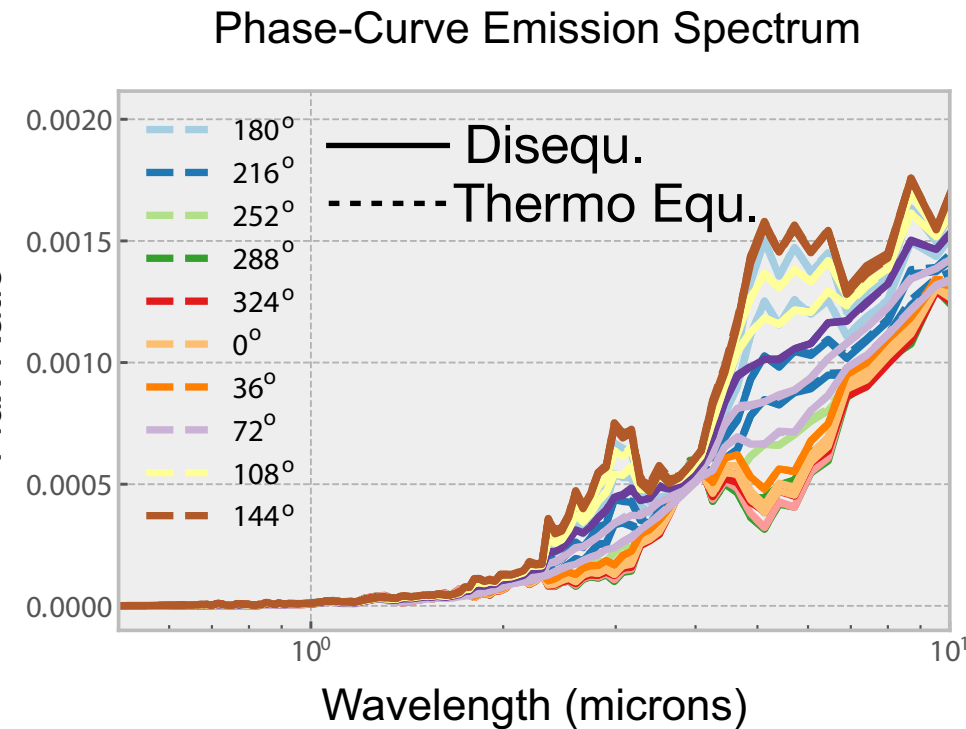
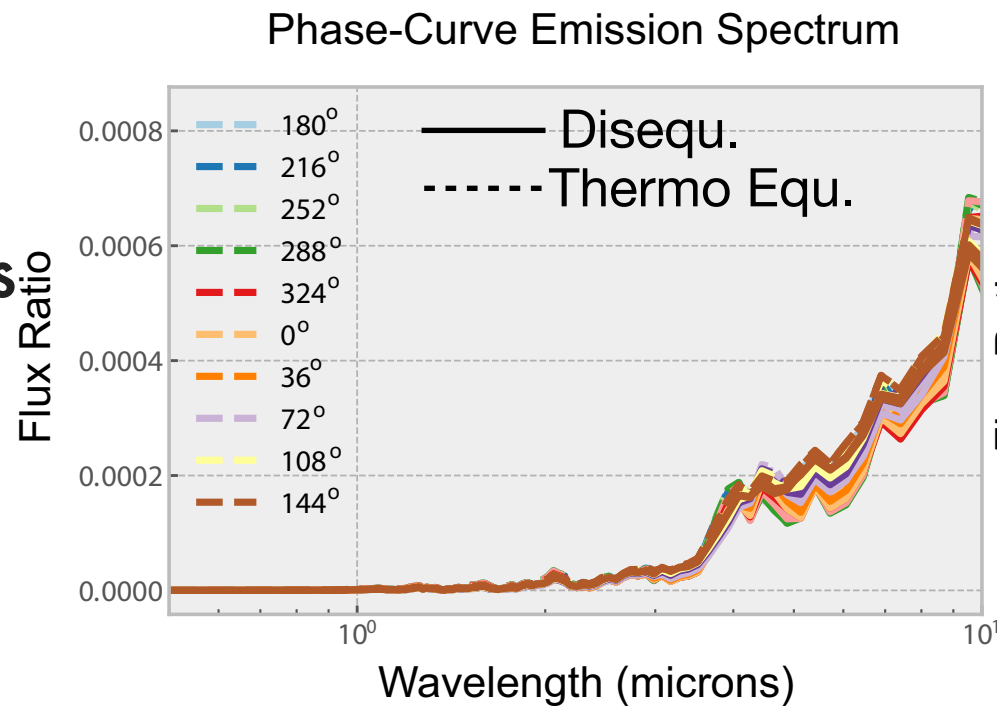


# Hydrogen-dominated planets

## Effect of horizontal mixing

### Phase curves:

- similar between equilibrium and disequilibrium models because:
  - the low pressures do not contribute much to the emission spectra
  - the dominant active species ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CO}$ ) show only minor differences between eq. and diseq. models
- variations due to differences of temperature



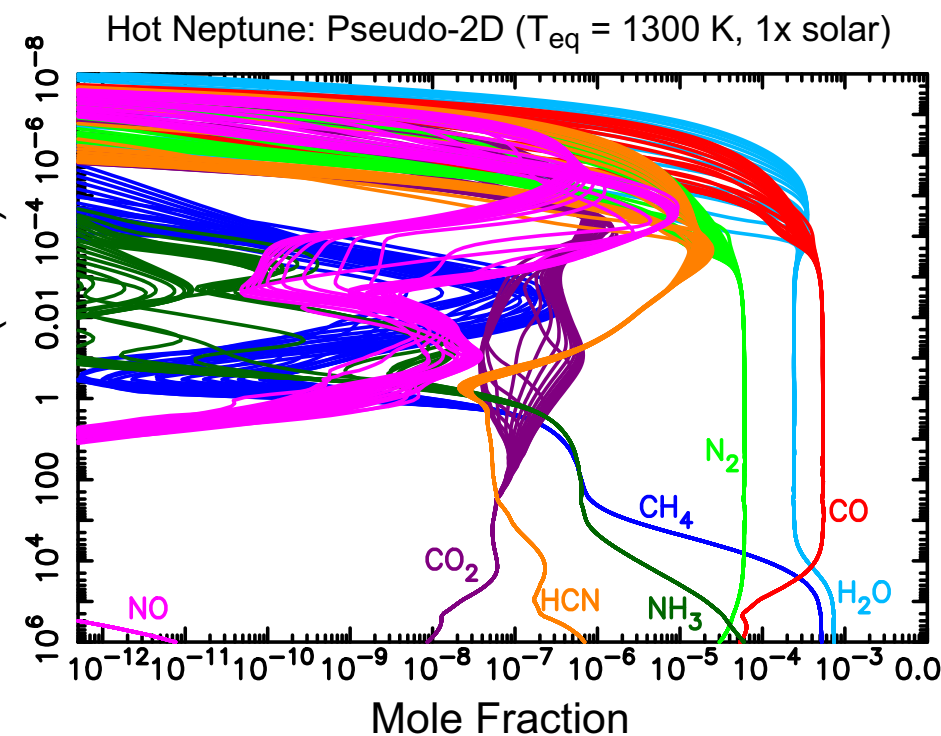
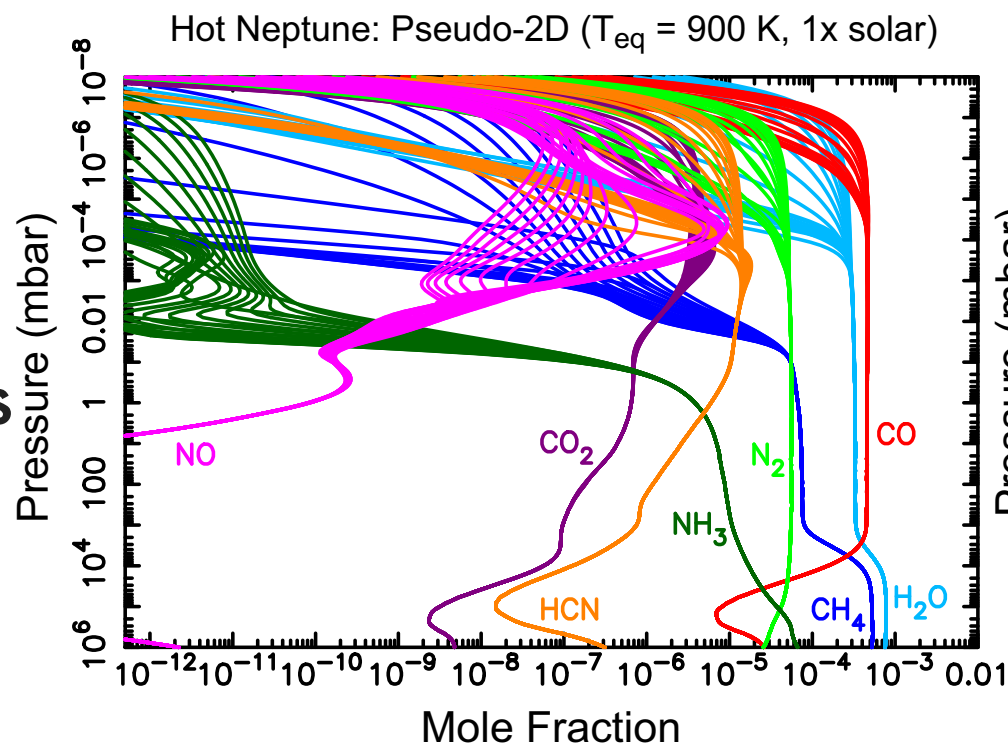
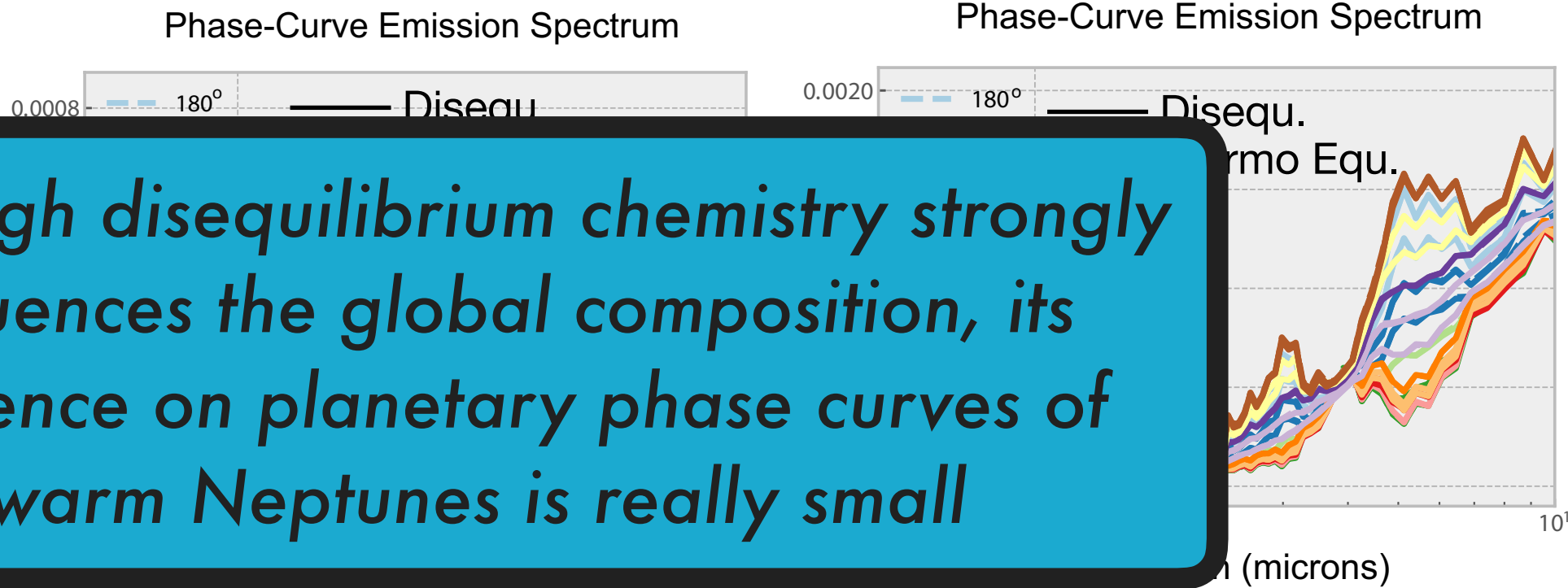
# Hydrogen-dominated planets

## Effect of horizontal mixing

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*Although disequilibrium chemistry strongly influences the global composition, its influence on planetary phase curves of warm Neptunes is really small*



# Hydrogen-dominated planets

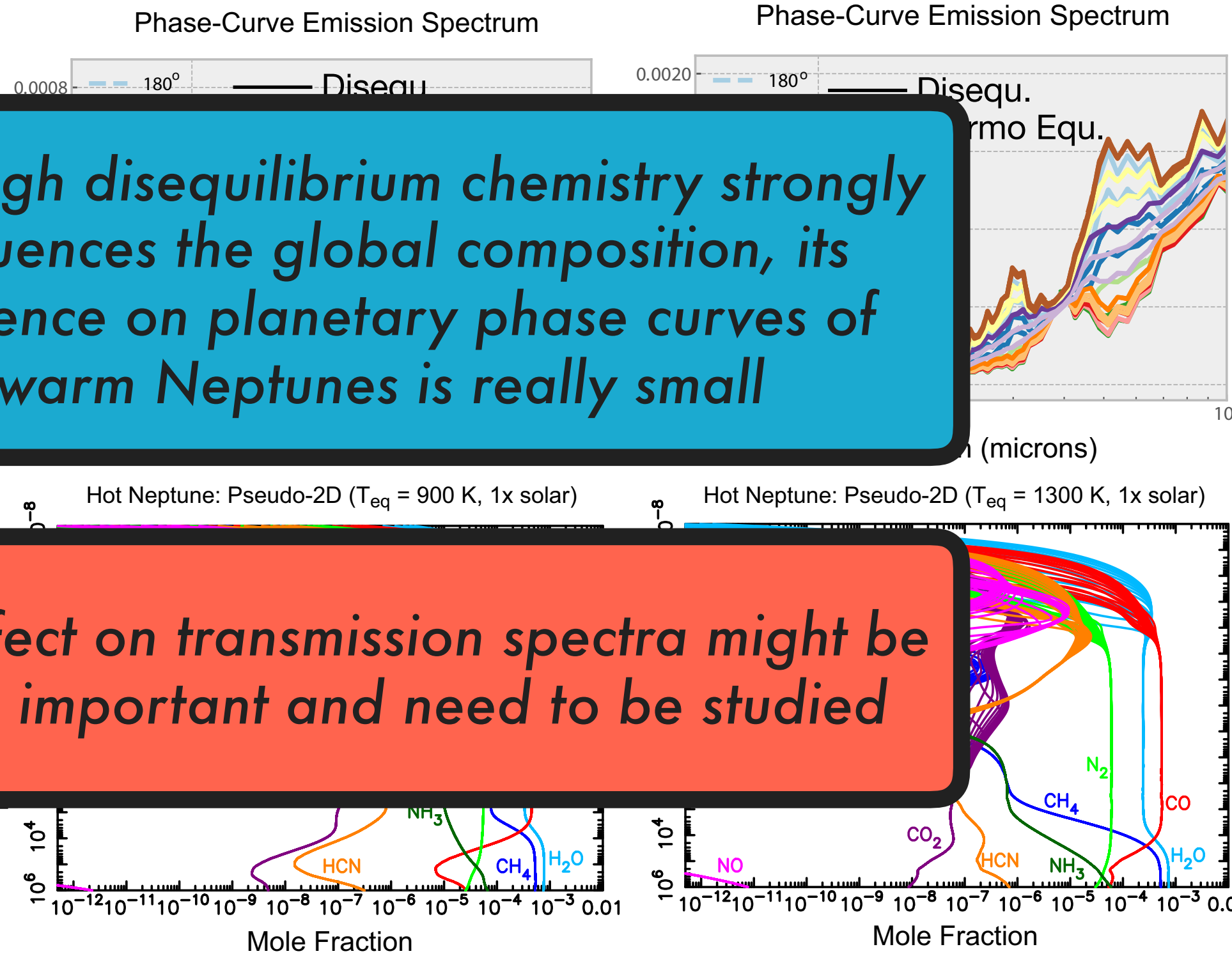
## Effect of horizontal mixing

### Phase curves:

- similar between equilibrium and disequilibrium phase curves because:
  - the low pressure regions do not contribute much to the total flux
  - the dominant active species (H<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>) show only minor differences between equilibrium and disequilibrium
- variations due to temperature differences

*Although disequilibrium chemistry strongly influences the global composition, its influence on planetary phase curves of warm Neptunes is really small*

*The effect on transmission spectra might be more important and need to be studied*

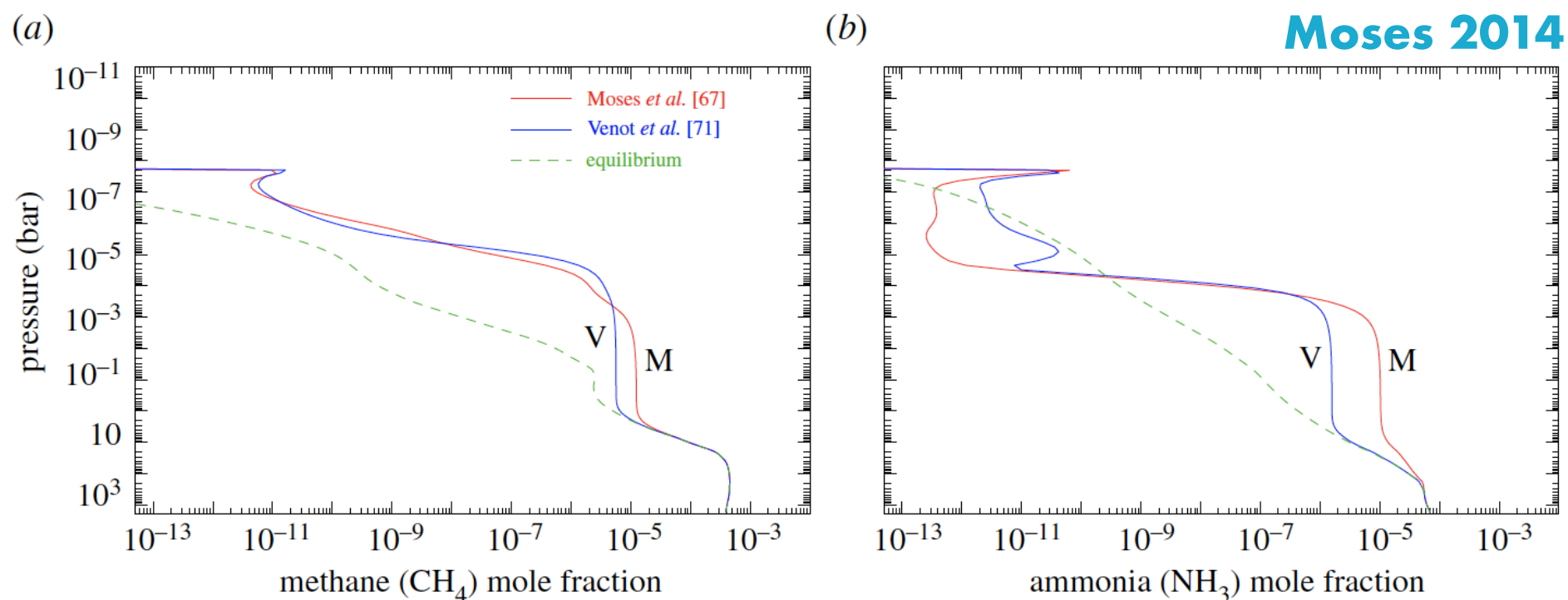


# Importance of chemical scheme

## *Update of Methanol chemistry*

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- The chemical scheme is one of the most important ingredients in kinetic models
- The list of reactions and the associated rates adopted are not always consensus and are sometimes subject to debate.
- In particular, methanol's reactions could be at the root of differences between Venot et al. (2012) and Moses et al. (2011)





# Importance of chemical scheme

## *Update of Methanol chemistry*



- The chemical scheme is one of the most important ingredients in kinetic models
- The list of reactions and the associated rates adopted are not always consensus and are sometimes subject to debate.
- In particular, methanol's reactions could be at the root of differences between Venot et al. (2012) and Moses et al. (2011)
- Venot+2020 has revised Venot+2012 's network, in particular methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) sub-scheme, using recent combustion studies

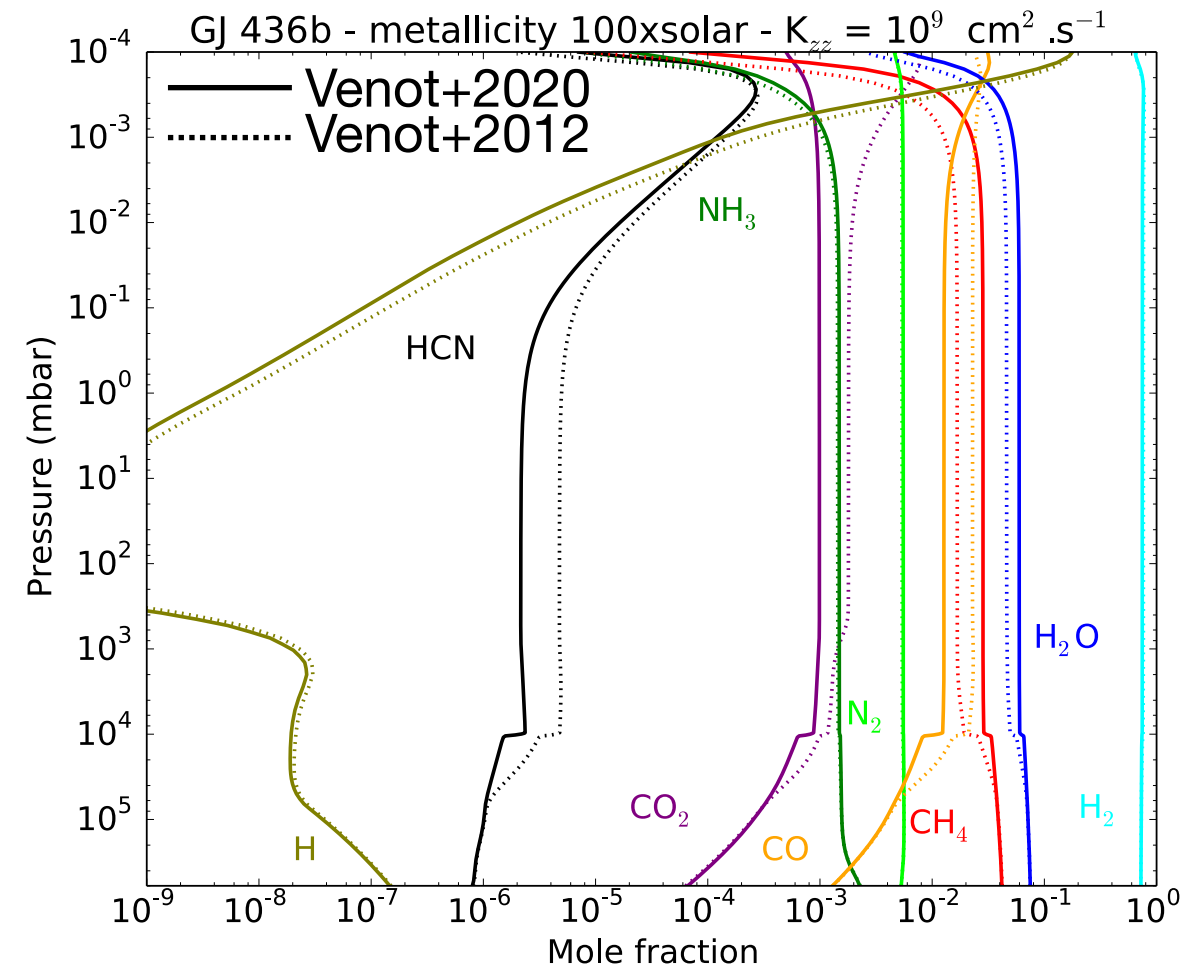
▣▣▣ ***New scheme: 108 species and 1906 reactions***

# Importance of chemical scheme

## Update of Methanol chemistry

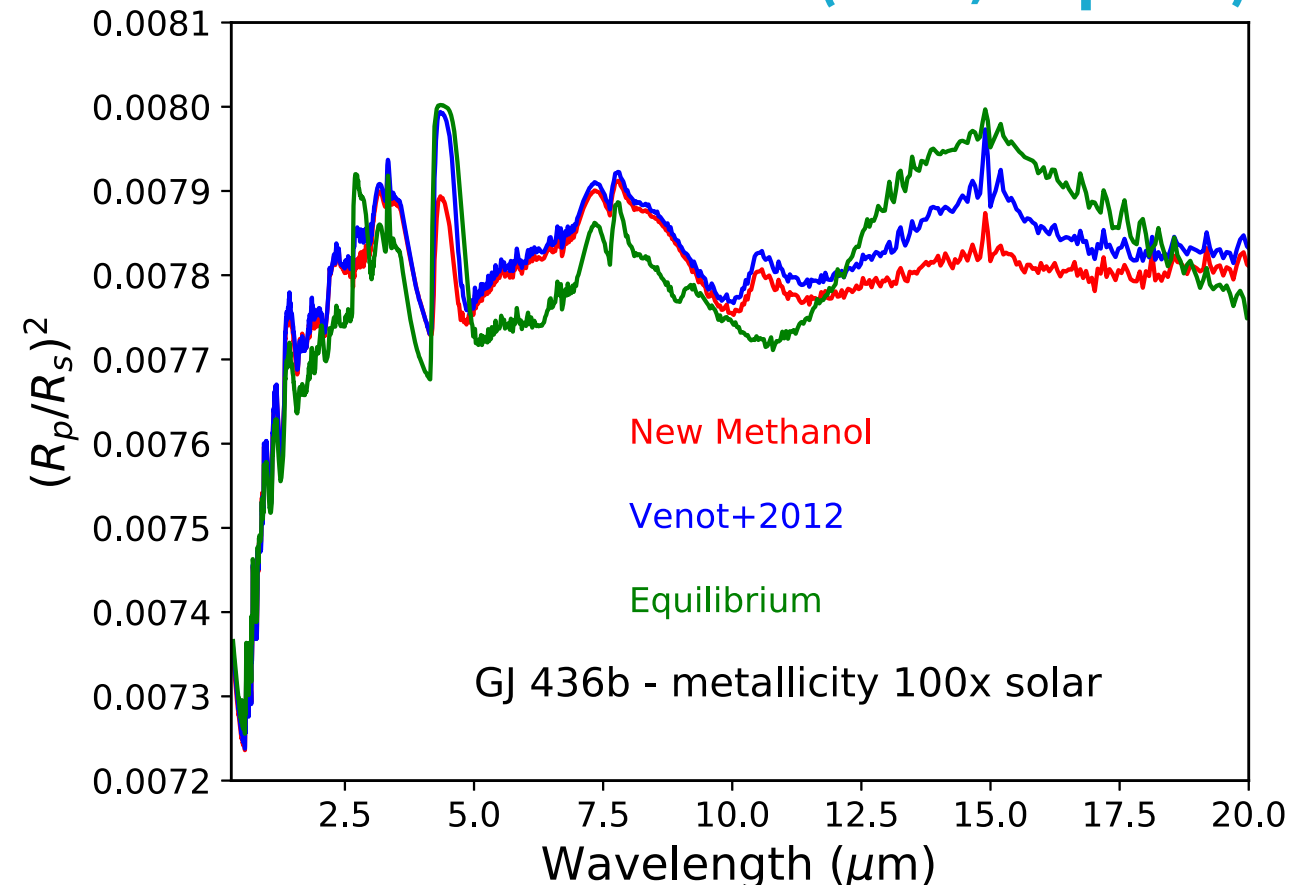


- Minor effect on hot Jupiters's atmospheres, but significant for warm Neptunes



- Quenching of CO and CH<sub>4</sub> happens deeper
- Can lead to a change of the main C-bearing species

Venot et al. 2020 (A&A, in press)



- Impact on transmission spectra (CO<sub>2</sub> bands @4.5 and 15 $\mu\text{m}$ )

- Such departures up to 100 ppm are largely above ARIEL error bars

# Importance of chemical scheme

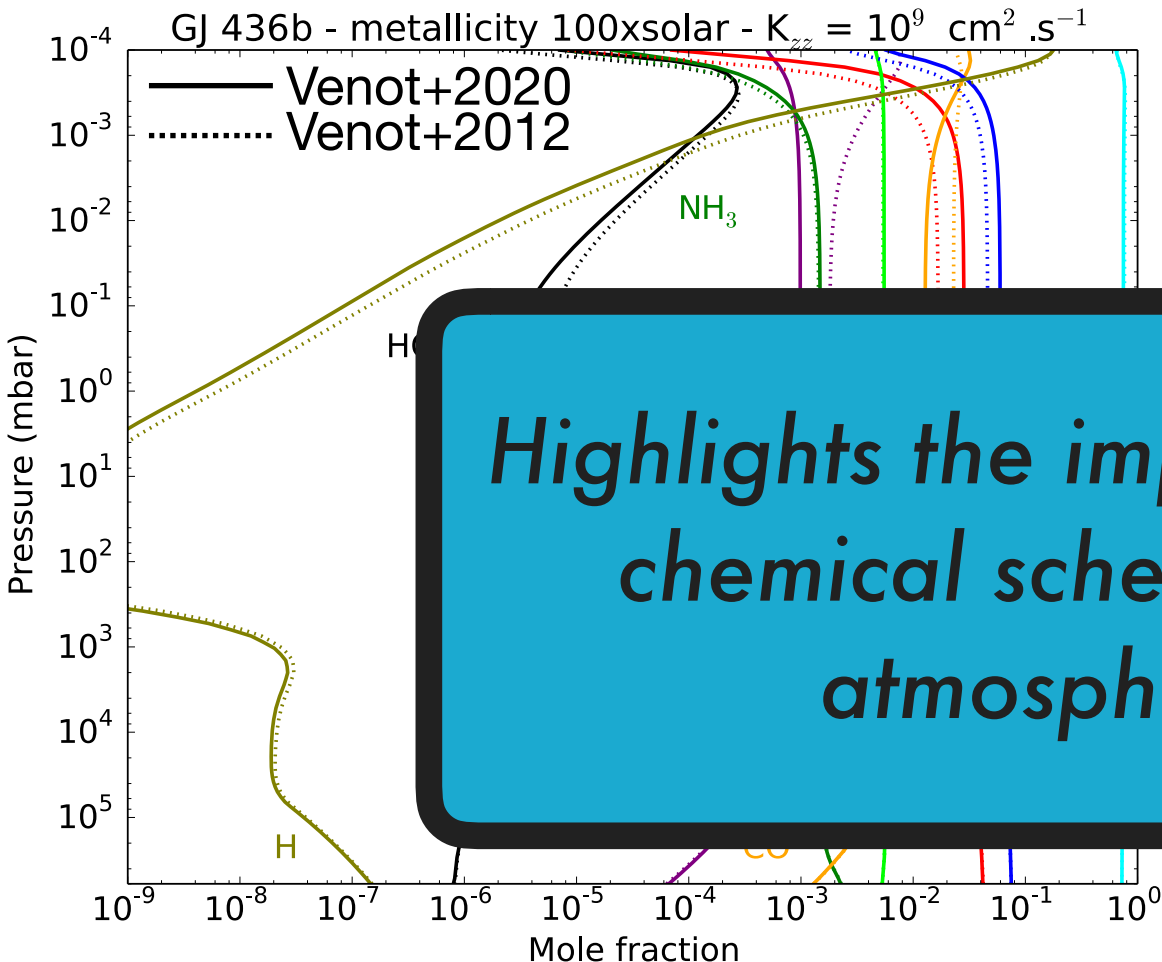
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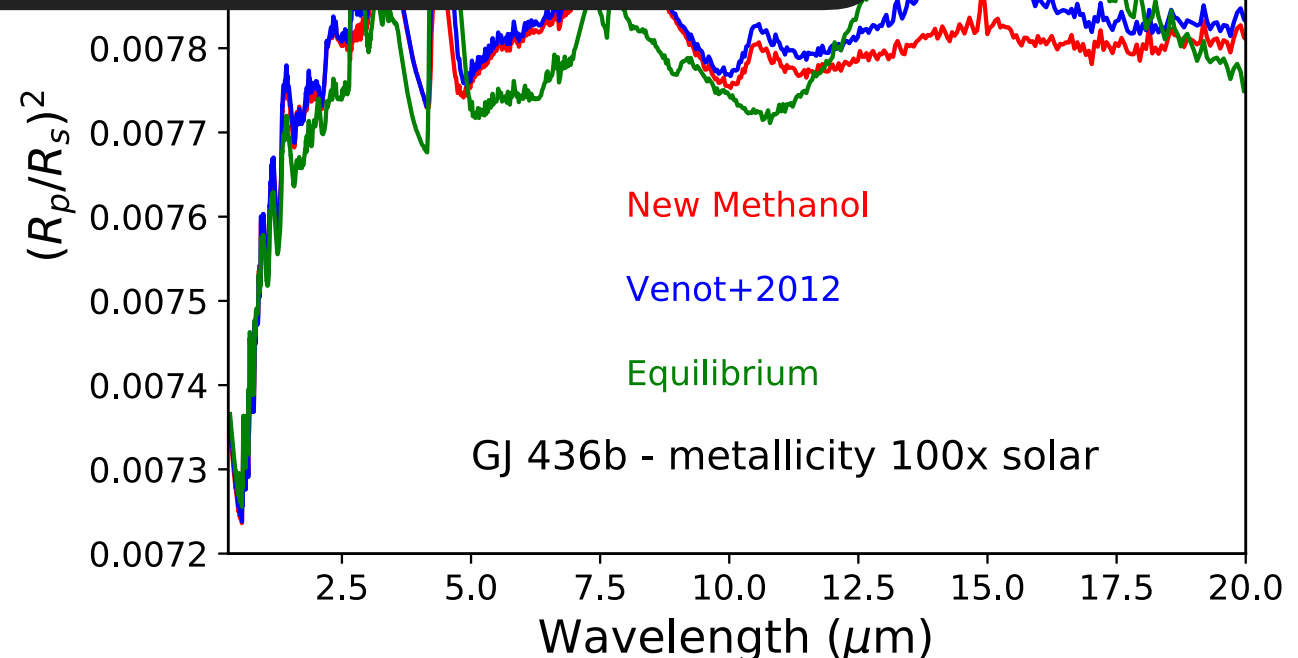
- Quenching of CO and CH<sub>4</sub> happens deeper

*Highlights the importance of using reliable chemical schemes to understand the atmosphere of exoplanets*



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&A, in press)

- Impact on transmission spectra (CO<sub>2</sub> bands @4.5 and 15μm)
- Such departures up to 100 ppm are largely above ARIEL error bars



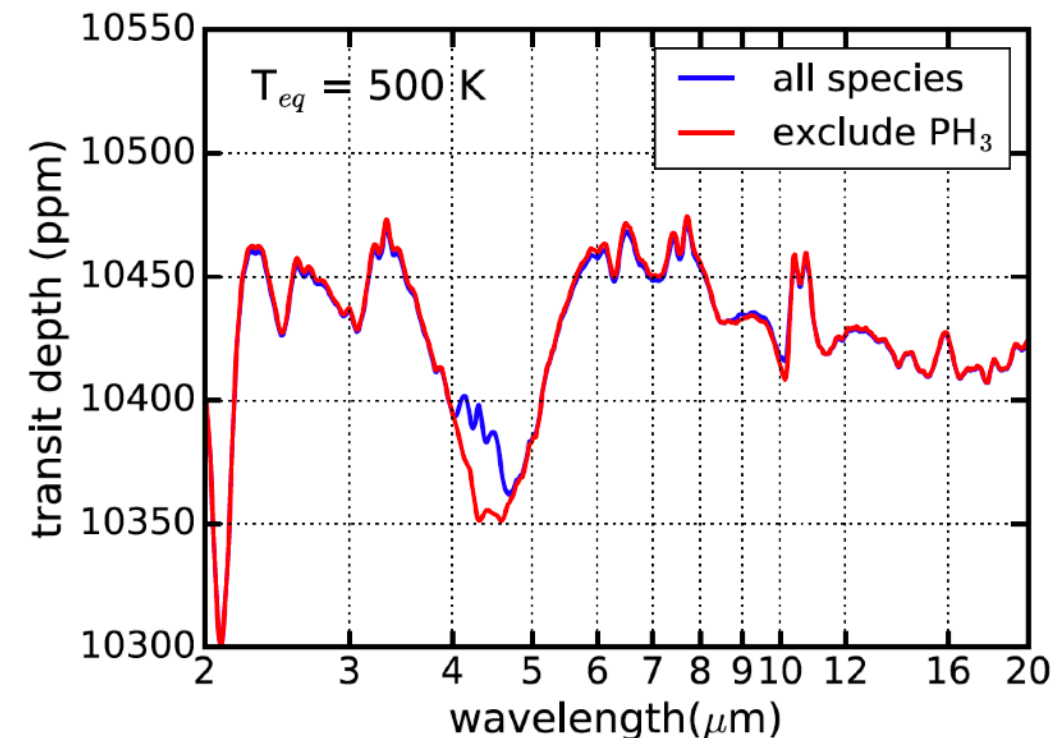
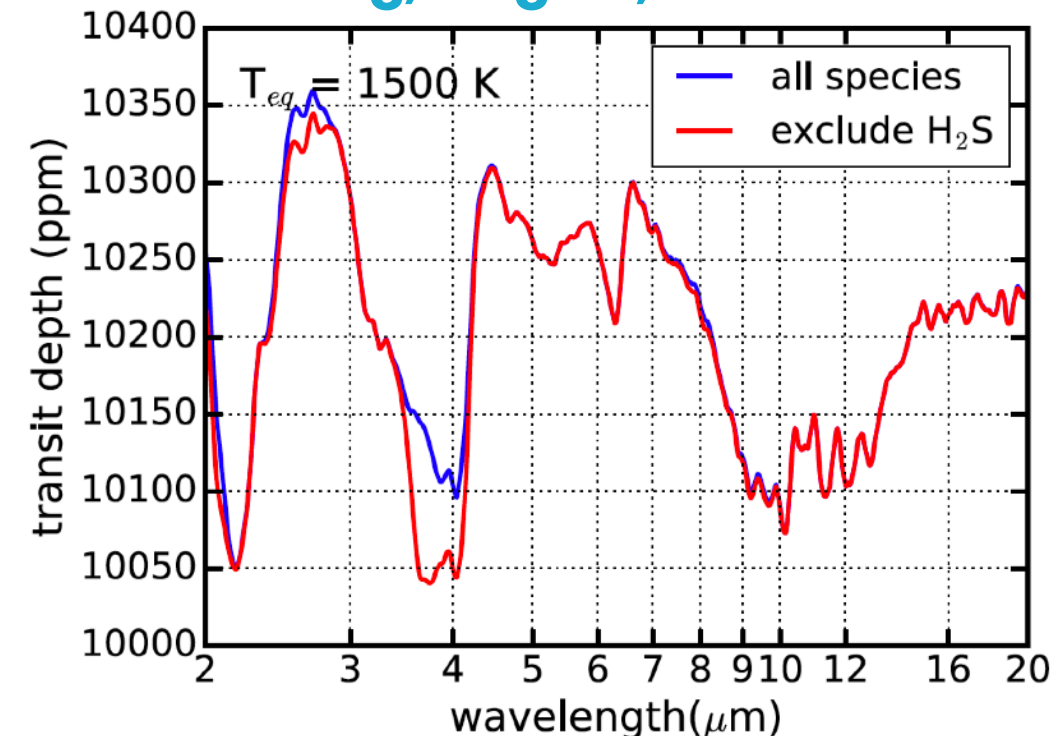
# Importance of chemical scheme

## *Sulfur and Phosphorous Species*

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Wang, Miguel, Lunine 2017

- P and S ignored in most chemical schemes
- Wang+2017 studied relevance of S- and P-species in  $M_{Jup}$ -planets with  $500K < T_{eq} < 2000K$ .
- Main species  $PH_3$  and  $H_2S$ , have deep features on emission and transmission spectra.
- $H_2S$  can be more abundant than  $NH_3$  for planets with  $T_{eq} > 1000 K$
- Feature of  $PH_3$  (@ $4.5\mu m$ ) relevant for planets with  $T < 500 K$
- Features of  $H_2S$  (@ $2.8$  and  $4\mu m$ ) relevant for planets with high T (1500 K)





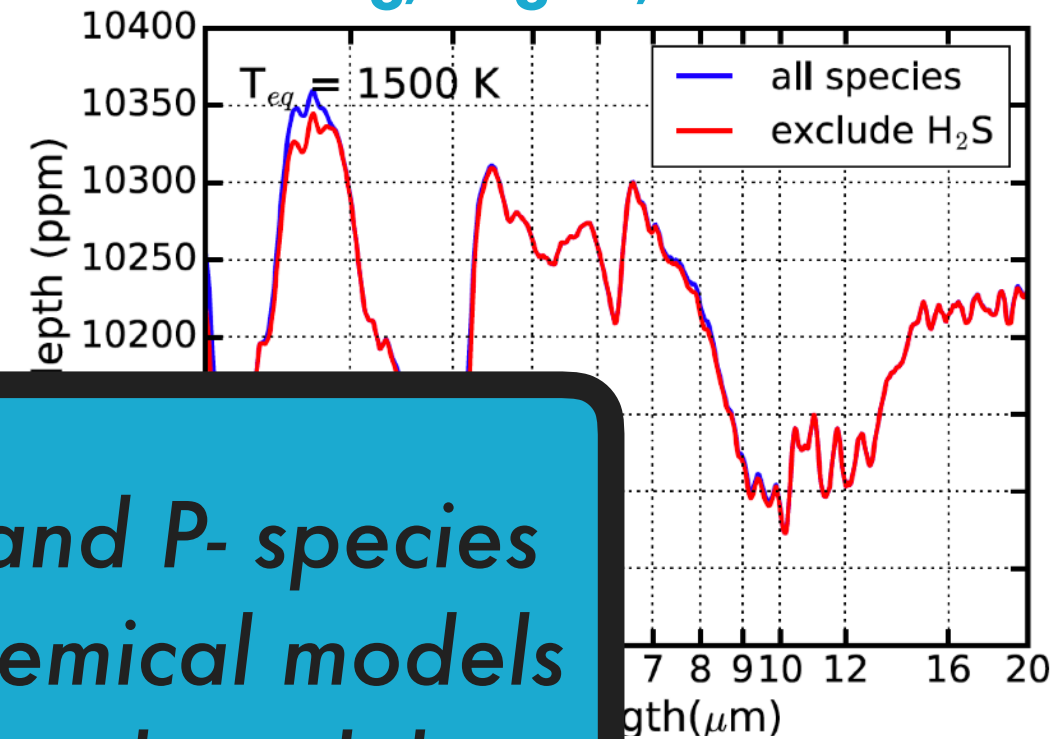
# Importance of chemical scheme

## *Sulfur and Phosphorous Species*



Wang, Miguel, Lunine 2017

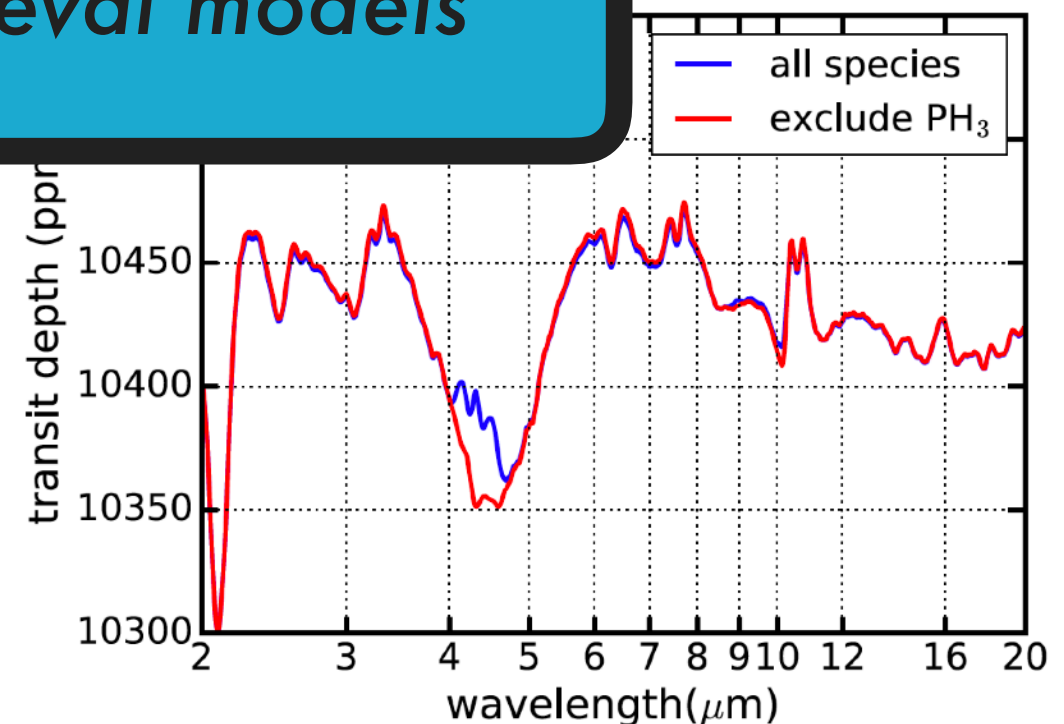
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- Main species features on
- $H_2S$  can be planets with

*Shows the importance of S- and P- species that should be included in chemical models but also forward and retrieval models*

- Feature of  $PH_3$  (@ $4.5\mu m$ ) relevant for planets with  $T < 500 K$
- Features of  $H_2S$  (@ $2.8$  and  $4\mu m$ ) relevant for planets with high T (1500 K)



# Key Points

## Hydrogen-dominated Atmospheres

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- Disequilibrium chemistry strongly influences the global composition, but the influence on planetary phase curves of warm Neptunes is rather small. The influence on transmission spectra might be studied further.
- Using reliable chemical schemes is paramount to understand the atmosphere of exoplanets atmospheres
- S- and P- species are important and should be included in all models used to interpret observations.
- Hazes can hide spectral features and their study will allow us to have a better interpretation of ARIEL data => *talk by Yui Kawashima*
- Carbon-rich Exoplanets with  $T > 1200\text{K}$  are not in equilibrium (Lab measurements – Fleury+2019)
- A transit spectra with signatures of photochemical organic aerosols, could indicate a high C/O ratio (Lab – Fleury+2019)
- The ionic chemistry is expected to be important => *talk by Jérémy Bourgalais*
- $\text{CO}_2$  cross section highly depend on temperature. Proper values need to be used for correct interpretation of ARIEL measurements (Lab – Venot+2018)

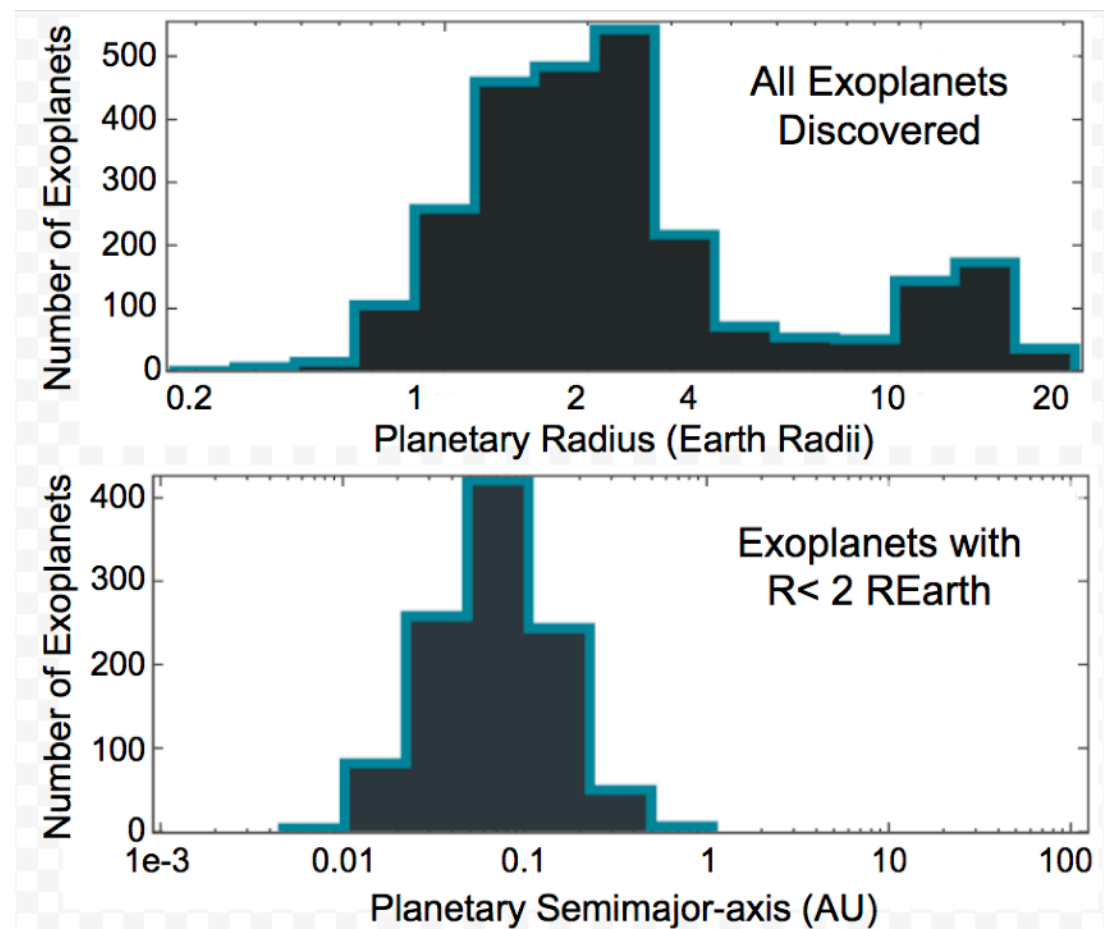
Further interesting work!!

# Hot Rocky Exoplanets's Atmospheres

*Good targets for ARIEL!*



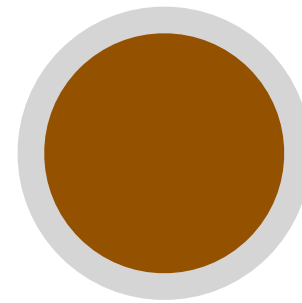
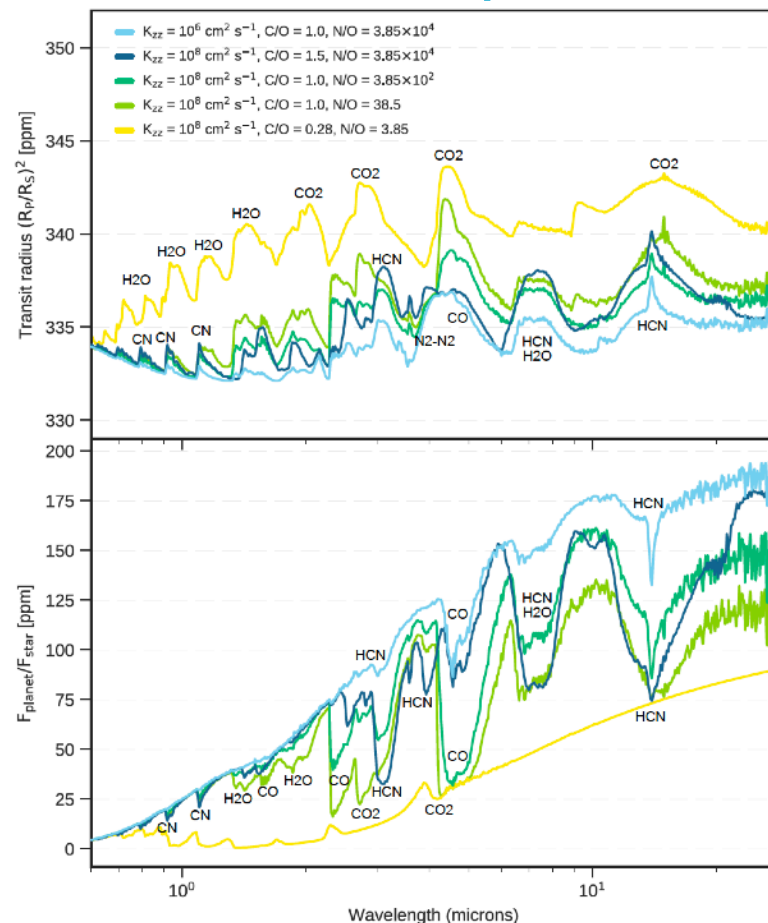
- Rocky planets and super-Earths are the most common exoplanets found.
- Some of the hottest ones are good targets for ARIEL.
- Their atmospheric composition is difficult to predict (secondary atmospheres)



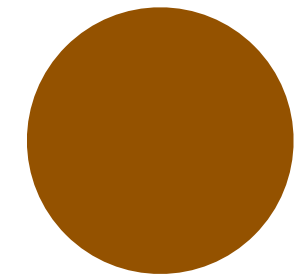
# Hot Rocky Exoplanets's Atmospheres

## Good targets for ARIEL!

Zilinkas+, submitted



Atmosphere  
from outgassing  
during evolution



No atmosphere

- Example: phase curves observations of 55 Cnc e point towards high- $\mu$ , potentially Nitrogen-dominated atmospheres

=>For N-dominated atmospheres: [poster by Mantas Zilinkas](#) (hint: features of HCN & CO -for high C/O. In atmospheres very H-depleted, features of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$  and CN)



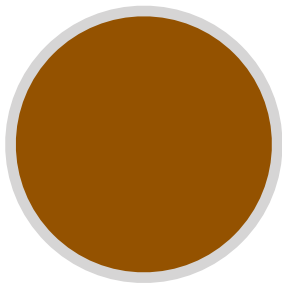
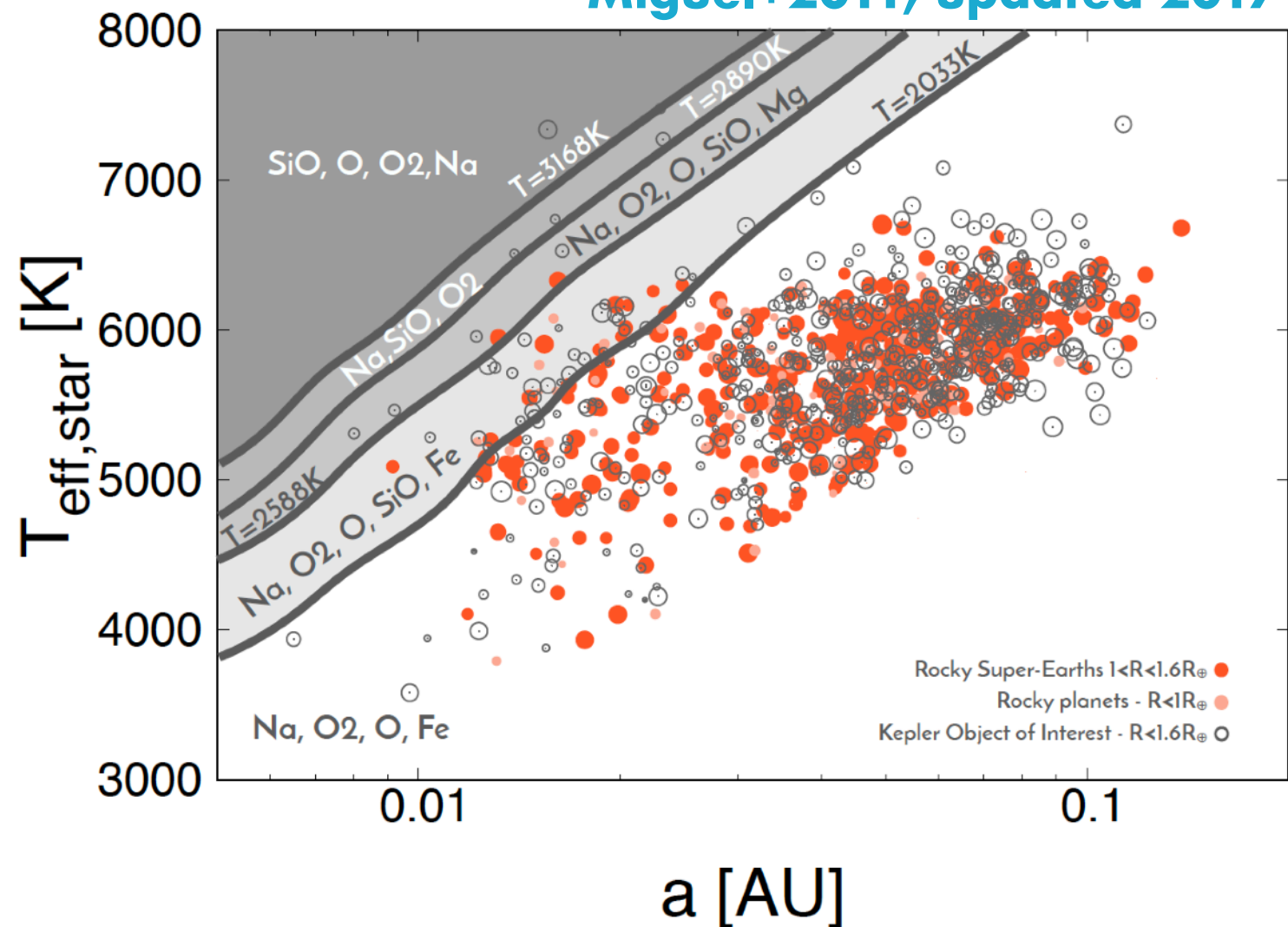
# Rocky Exoplanets's Atmospheres

## With Ultra Short Periods



- Some hot-rocky planets might have lost their volatiles and have an atmosphere made of vaporised magma
- Observability of hot-rocky exoplanet atmospheres => *talk by Yuichi Ito*

Miguel+2011, updated 2017



Thin atmosphere  
from vaporised magma

# Rocky Exoplanets's Atmospheres

## With Ultra Short Periods



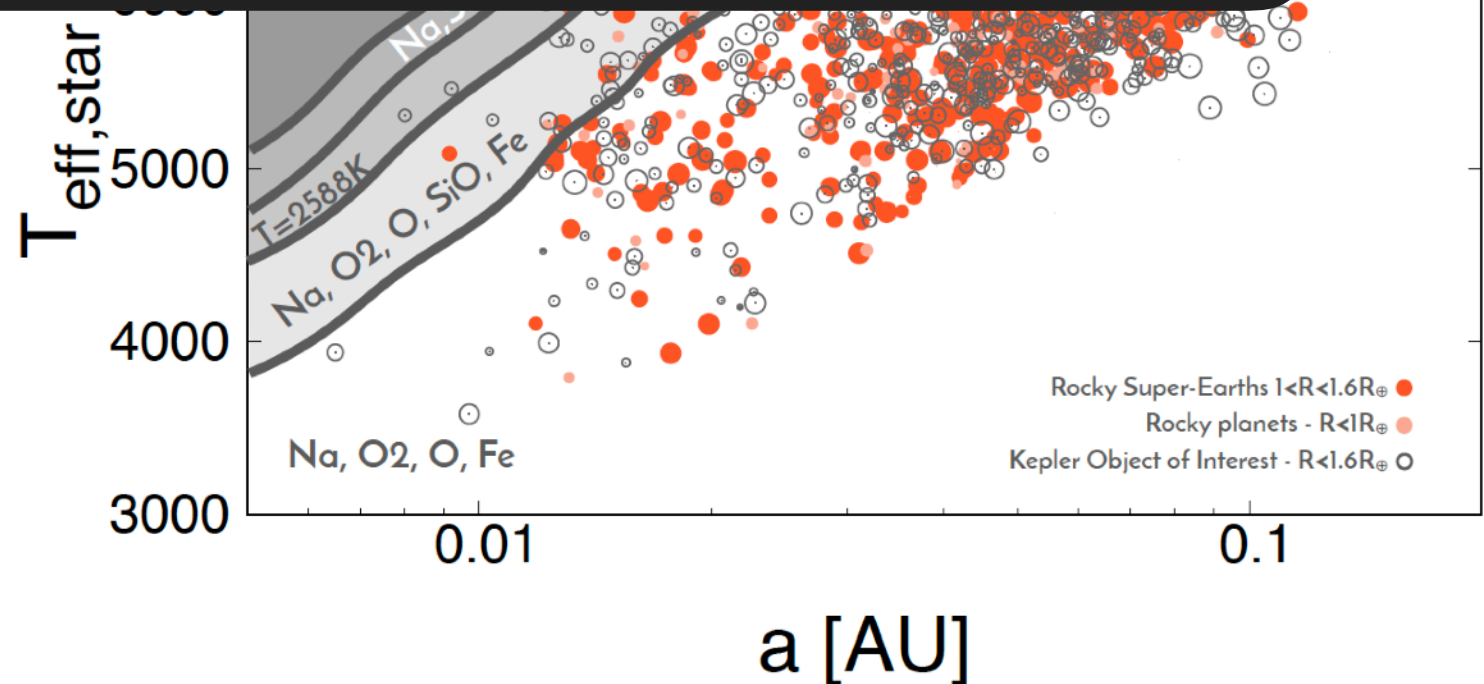
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*Hot-rocky exoplanets might have vaporised-rocks atmospheres, with features potentially observable with ARIEL*

2017



*Thin atmosphere  
from vaporised magma*



# Key Points

## Hot Rocky Exoplanets's Atmospheres

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- These are the most abundant planets found
  - Atmospheres largely unknown and with a potentially high diversity
  - 55 Cnc-e observations pointed towards N-dominated atmospheres, which might have features of HCN, CO (high C/O), and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and CN if highly depleted in H (Zilinskas+2020, sub)
  - Hot-rocky exoplanets might have vaporised-rocks atmospheres.
  - All these features are potentially observable with ARIEL.
- 
- Clouds might be present in these hot-rocky exoplanet atmospheres (results by Mahapatra+2017)
  - The ionic chemistry is expected to be important => *talk by Jérémy Bourgalais*

interesting work!!

Further