## Cosmic rays & their interstellar medium environment CRISM-2011



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## Ion irradiation experiments relevant to the astrophysics ices

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Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) ices are present in various astrophysical environments, from dense molecular clouds to several small objects in the outer solar system, in particular on Saturn satellite Triton and to be a constituent of the icy mantle on interstellar grain [1]. There is a clear lack of information about the phenomena induced by the heavy-ion component of cosmic-rays in the electronic-energy-loss regime.

In this work, the chemical and physical effects induced by fast heavy ions irradiation on frozen pure methane and methanol at 15 K are studied. Measurements were performed at the medium energy

beam-line of the heavy ion accelerator GANIL (Grand Acc\'el\'erateur National d'Ions Lourds), Caen-France [2]. The analysis was done by infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) during irradiation by 220 MeV  $^{16}\text{O}^{7+}$  ion beam. For the case of methane, the principal molecular species identified as a product after irradiation are: CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>. For methanol ices are: H<sub>2</sub>CO, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, HCO and HCOOCH<sub>3</sub> other products are identified with ambiguity. Their formation and dissociation cross sections are determined. The cross section of CH<sub>4</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>OH and its daughters species follows a power law as a function of the electronic stopping power. It is found that, some daughters species cross sections increase with the electronic stopping power roughly as  $\sigma \propto S_e^{3/2}$ . As astrophysical implication, the  $S_e^n$  power law, where  $n \approx 3/2$  should be very helpful for predicting the CH<sub>4</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>OH formation and the dissociation cross sections for other ion beam projectiles and energies in the ISM rich in hydrocarbons that are continuously bombarded by cosmic rays.

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