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Origin of hydrogen isotopic variations in chondritic water and organics

Laurette Piani^{1,*}, Yves Marrocchi¹, Lionel G. Vacher², Hisayoshi Yurimoto³,
Martin Bizzarro⁴

¹Université de Lorraine, CNRS, CRPG, UMR 7358, Vandoeuvre les Nancy, France

²Laboratory for Space Sciences and the Department of Physics, Washington University in St.
Louis, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA

³Department of Natural History Sciences, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo,
Japan

⁴StarPlan - Centre for Star and Planet Formation, GLOBE Institute, University of
Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 5-7, Copenhagen, Denmark, DK-1350

*Corresponding author: laurette.piani@univ-lorraine.fr

Abstract:

Chondrites are rocky fragments of asteroids that formed at different times and heliocentric distances in the early solar system. Most chondrite groups contain water-bearing minerals, attesting that both water-ice and dust were accreted on their parent asteroids. Nonetheless, the hydrogen isotopic composition (D/H) of water in the different chondrite groups remains poorly constrained, due to the intimate mixture of hydrated minerals and organic compounds, the other main H-bearing phase in chondrites. Building on our recent works using *in situ* secondary ion mass spectrometry analyses, we determined the H isotopic composition of water in a large set of chondritic samples (CI, CM, CO, CR, CY, and C-ungrouped carbonaceous chondrites) and report that water in each group shows a distinct and unique D/H signature. Based on a comparison with literature data on bulk chondrites and their water and organics, our data do not support a preponderant role of parent-body processes in controlling the D/H variations among chondrites. Instead, we propose that the water and organic D/H signatures were mostly shaped by interactions between the protoplanetary disk and the molecular cloud that episodically fed the disk over several million years. Because the

37 preservation of D-rich interstellar water and/or organics in chondritic materials is only
38 possible below their respective sublimation temperatures (160 and 350–450 K), the H isotopic
39 signatures of chondritic materials depend on both the timing and location at which their
40 parent body formed.

41

42

43 **Keywords:**

44 chondrite, water, organic matter, hydrogen isotopes, disk, molecular cloud

45

46

47 **1. Introduction**

48

49 Molecular clouds correspond to cold regions (i.e., 10–30 K) of accumulated
50 interstellar gas (mainly H₂) and dust in the narrow midplanes of galactic disks. Their
51 isothermal gravitational collapse and fragmentation drive the formation of clusters of tens to
52 several hundreds of protostars; the Sun itself was likely born near a few hundred stars
53 (Gounelle and Meynet, 2012). The conservation of angular momentum induces the rapid
54 formation of protoplanetary disks around young stellar objects, through which materials from
55 molecular clouds are channeled and reprocessed (Pignatale et al., 2018). Protoplanetary disks
56 are expected to rapidly assemble from the infalling molecular clouds, reaching their
57 maximum masses within 300 kyr (Williams and Cieza, 2011; Yang et al., 2013). In contrast,
58 the lifetimes of star-forming molecular clouds are estimated to be ~20–30 Myr (Murray,
59 2011), and recent hydrodynamic simulations suggest that they can fuel the formation of
60 protoplanetary disks episodically throughout their evolution (Kuznetsova et al., 2020).

61 Chondrites are rocks leftover from the evolution of the solar protoplanetary disk 4.56
62 Ga. They are partially composed of high-temperature components (refractory inclusions,
63 chondrules, and Fe-Ni metal nuggets) formed by various nebular and/or planetary processes.
64 These components are surrounded by complex, volatile-rich, fine-grained matrix material
65 hosting the two main chondritic hydrogen-bearing phases: fluid-derived phyllosilicates and
66 both soluble and insoluble organic matter (Le Guillou and Brearley, 2014). Matrix modal
67 abundances are highly variable among chondrites, ranging from <5% in CB/CH chondrites to
68 >95% in CI chondrites (Scott and Krot, 2014). Although the fine-grained matrices of different
69 types of chondrites contain variable amounts of fluid-derived phyllosilicates and organic
70 matter implying that their parent bodies accreted different amounts of water-ice grains and
71 organic materials (Alexander et al., 2012; Vacher et al., 2020), matrix-rich chondrites (i.e., CI
72 and CM carbonaceous chondrites) are enriched in H and C compared to their matrix-poor
73 counterparts (i.e., ordinary and enstatite chondrites; Alexander et al., 2012; Vacher et al.,
74 2020; Piani et al., 2020).

75 The source of the original water-ice grains and organics accreted by chondritic parent
76 bodies is a long-standing debate. Hydrogen isotopes (expressed as D/H ratios) are powerful
77 tracers of their origins because water-ice and organic grains inherited from the molecular
78 cloud should be enriched in deuterium by ~2–3 orders of magnitude relative to those formed
79 during the evolution of the protoplanetary disk (Ceccarelli et al., 2014; Cleaves et al., 2014;
80 2016). In the solar system, the H isotopic composition of water in planetary objects is
81 generally thought to increase from very low values near the Sun ($D/H \approx 20 \times 10^{-6}$; Geiss and
82 Gloecker, 2003) to intermediate D/H ratios in the inner solar system (e.g., $D/H \approx 150 \times 10^{-6}$
83 in Earth's ocean and bulk carbonaceous chondrites; e.g. Alexander et al., 2012; Vacher et al.,
84 2020) and high D-enrichments in the outer solar system (e.g., up to 530×10^{-6} in comet
85 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko; Altwegg et al., 2015). Nonetheless, direct comparisons

86 between different planetary objects are not obvious because bulk chondrites correspond to
87 complex mixtures of organics and hydrated minerals that cannot be mechanically separated
88 for measurement of their specific D/H compositions. Consequently, chondrite bulk D/H ratios
89 do not correspond to those of water-ice grains accreted by their respective parent bodies. In
90 addition, the D/H ratios of cometary water are estimated from remote sensing measurements
91 of deuterated vs. non-deuterated water molecules (HDO/H₂O) or fragments (e.g., OD/OH) in
92 the vapor sublimated from comets (Bockelée-Morvan et al., 2015 and references therein),
93 which cannot account for inputs from organic components and may be affected by
94 sublimation-induced isotopic fractionations. Therefore, caution should be exercised when
95 comparing the D/H ratios of different solar system objects and drawing conclusions on the
96 origin(s) of water accreted by asteroidal and cometary bodies.

97 To better understand the process(es) responsible for the hydrogen isotopic variations
98 observed among chondrites, we determined the D/H ratios of water in different types of
99 carbonaceous chondrites (CI-, CM-, CO-, CR-type and Ungrouped) via *in-situ* secondary ion
100 mass spectrometry (SIMS) measurements of the C/H and D/H ratios of chondritic matrices
101 (Piani et al., 2018; Piani and Marrocchi, 2018). This technique allows the D/H ratios of
102 hydrous minerals, and thus of initial water-ice grains accreted by chondritic parent bodies, to
103 be determined without hydrogen contamination from adjacent organic grains (Piani et al.,
104 2018). By comparing our isotopic results to literature data on water and organics, we propose
105 a protoplanetary disk evolution scenario accounting for the D/H ratios observed in all
106 chondrite groups. Our model reveals that the infall of molecular-cloud material (i)
107 significantly contributed to chondritic water and organic budgets and (ii) occurred
108 episodically for several millions of years, likely through filaments connecting the protosolar
109 molecular cloud to the protoplanetary disk.

110

111 **2. Material and methods**

112

113 SIMS hydrogen isotopic measurements were performed on five CM-type (each with
114 different degrees of aqueous alteration: Aguas Zarcas CM2.2, Martin and Lee, 2020; Jbilet
115 Winselwan CM2.4/2.7, King et al., 2019b; Lonewolf Nunataks, LON 94101 CM2.2/2.3,
116 Lindgren et al., 2011; Maribo CM2.6/2.7, van Kooten et al., 2018; and Mukundpura CM2.0,
117 Rudraswami et al., 2019), one CR-type (Renazzo), one CO-type (Dominion Range, DOM
118 08006), two CI-type (Alais, Orgueil), one CY-type (Yamato, Y 980115) and three ungrouped
119 (Bells, Essebi, and Tagish Lake) carbonaceous chondrites. Sub-millimeter pieces of each
120 chondrite were handpicked under a stereomicroscope and pressed in pure indium. The Bells,
121 Essebi, and DOM 08006 chondrites were taken from powders prepared for previous studies
122 (Alexander et al., 2012, 2013; Howard et al., 2011, 2015). The Bells powder was made from
123 two different pieces: samples C, from a stone recovered shortly after the fall, and W, from a
124 stone recovered after a hurricane (Alexander et al., 2012). The pressed samples were not
125 polished to avoid contamination and/or removal of soluble organics by the use of solvents.
126 The workable nature of the fine-grained matrix material allows us to obtain flat areas of
127 several hundreds of micrometers. The matrix areas were then identified using a polarized
128 reflected-light microscope and backscattered electron images and chemical maps acquired by
129 dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). Chondrule fragments, areas with large silicates or holes
130 were avoided based on EDS maps. A final verification was performed after SIMS
131 measurements to verify the position of the SIMS analyses. Analyses with positions that did
132 not correspond to flat fine-grained matrix were removed from the final dataset. The samples
133 were stored in a vacuum cabinet before and after analyses and were introduced in the SIMS
134 instruments several days before measurement.

135 Following our previous works (Piani et al., 2018; Piani and Marrocchi, 2018), a series
136 of reference materials including hydrated minerals (montmorillonite and serpentine),
137 hydrogen-bearing glasses, and terrestrial and extraterrestrial D-rich organic matter were used
138 to calibrate the SIMS and correct for instrumental mass fractionation on the D/H ratio. All
139 samples and standards were pressed in indium and gold-coated before analysis.

140 All SIMS analyses were performed using the CAMECA IMS-1280HR2 instruments
141 installed at Hokkaido University (Japan) and the CRPG-CNRS (France) during five analytical
142 sessions between December 2015 and July 2019. The analytical conditions used are detailed
143 in Piani et al. (2018) and Piani and Marrocchi (2018) and briefly summarized here. A 10 keV
144 Cs⁺ primary beam was used for the measurements. The vacuum in the analytical chamber was
145 always below 5×10^{-9} mbar. Prior to analyses, the samples were pre-sputtered at high current
146 (1.5–2.5 nA) for 5–8 minutes to clean the sample surface, remove the adsorbed H and reach
147 the sputtering steady-state. The samples were then sputtered with a 80–500 pA beam either
148 (1) shaped by an aperture in the primary column, allowing a large homogeneous ellipsoidal
149 shape with a major axis of about 70 μm and a minor axis of about 50 μm , or (2) rastered over
150 a $50 \times 50 \mu\text{m}^2$ area. A high-magnification mode (Max Area 40) and a small field aperture (FA
151 2000) were used to minimize H contamination that would diffuse from the border of the
152 beam. A normal-incidence electron gun was used for charge compensation. In the case of the
153 shaped beam, the analyzed area was restricted to a $10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}^2$ area in the center of the
154 ellipse by using the small field aperture and high-magnification mode to remove H coming
155 from the border of the analyzed area. In the case of the rastered beam, the analyzed area was
156 additionally restricted to a $15 \times 15 \mu\text{m}^2$ area in the center of the rastered area by using a 30%
157 electronic gate to remove H coming from the border. Identical results were obtained for the
158 standards and some reference samples with the two beam settings (Piani et al., 2018; Piani
159 and Marrocchi, 2018). H⁻, D⁻, ¹³C⁻, and ²⁹Si⁻ ions were collected successively by changing

160 the magnetic field and counted with the monocollection electron multiplier. The mass
161 resolution power was set to $M/\Delta M = 3,300$ to avoid interferences on $^{13}\text{C}^-$ by $^{12}\text{CH}^-$ and on
162 $^{29}\text{Si}^-$ by $^{28}\text{SiH}^-$. For each analysis, 30–50 cycles were collected with 1 s of counting time per
163 cycle for H^- , $^{13}\text{C}^-$, and $^{29}\text{Si}^-$ and 10–20 s per cycle for D^- , totaling 30 minutes per analyses.
164 Due to the lower abundance of ^{13}C compared to ^{12}C , we were able to measure carbon with the
165 electron multiplier across the entire range of C concentrations, from the C-poorest to the C-
166 richest matrix areas. No clear relation between $^{29}\text{Si}^-$ and $^{13}\text{C}^-$, H^- , or D^-/H^- was observed in
167 the matrices. The statistical error on D/H in the sample having the lowest D/H ratio was 3 %
168 (2σ) and the reproducibility on the reference materials was $\leq 8\%$ (2σ standard deviation). The
169 statistical error for the $^{13}\text{C}/\text{H}$ ratio on the samples with low C-content is typically of 6 % (2σ).
170 The D/H ratios estimated for water in chondrites were corrected for instrumental mass
171 fractionation using a calibration line determined using the standard materials (Remusat et al.,
172 2016; calibration parameters in Table 1).

173 The zero-intercept of the D^-/H^- vs. C^-/H^- correlation in each chondrite's matrix was
174 used to estimate the D/H ratio of water in that chondrite (Table 1; see Piani et al., 2018 for
175 details). Because the main H-bearing phases in carbonaceous chondrite matrices correspond
176 to hydrated silicates (Fe-Mg serpentine, saponite, and cronstedtite), and because the
177 equilibrium isotopic fractionation factor α between hydrated silicates and water is lower than
178 the D/H reproducibility on the reference materials, we consider the zero-intercept to be a
179 direct proxy for the D/H ratio of the water from which the minerals formed (Piani et al., 2018;
180 Piani and Marrocchi, 2018).

181

182 **3. Results**

183

184 From our SIMS data measured in the chondrite matrices, we obtained correlations
185 between D/H and C/H for ten of the twelve analyzed chondrites (Pearson coefficients from
186 0.33 to 0.78; Table 1; Figs. 1 and S1). No correlation was observed for the chondrites Tagish
187 Lake (ungrouped) and Y-980115 (CY; Table 1; Figs. 1b and S1). For the ten others, the D/H
188 ratio of water was estimated from the zero-intercept and corrected for instrumental mass
189 fractionation using the standard calibration measured during the same session (Table 1, Fig.
190 1).

191 Water in four of the five CM-type carbonaceous chondrites has D/H ratios that are
192 identical within error (2σ , Table 1): Aguas Zarcas ($107 \pm 41 \times 10^{-6}$), LON 94101 ($94 \pm 24 \times$
193 10^{-6}), Maribo ($90 \pm 27 \times 10^{-6}$), and Mukundpura ($105 \pm 18 \times 10^{-6}$). As observed by Piani et
194 al. (2018), the degree of aqueous alteration of a chondrite does not obviously affect the D/H
195 ratio of its water. Compared to the other CM chondrites, only water in Jbilet Winselwan (CM)
196 has a distinctly higher D/H ratio ($162 \pm 87 \times 10^{-6}$) and a lower regression coefficient (Pearson
197 coefficient of 0.33) indicating greater scattering of the data around the regression line (Table
198 1). Water in the two CI chondrites Alais and Orgueil has consistent D/H values of $170 \pm 39 \times$
199 10^{-6} and $172 \pm 42 \times 10^{-6}$, respectively (Table 1). Water in the CO chondrite DOM 08006 is
200 estimated to have a D/H ratio of $203 \pm 21 \times 10^{-6}$ (Table 1), although the correlation in this
201 sample shows a low Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.33 (Table 1). Water in the two
202 ungrouped chondrites Essebi and Bells has D/H ratios of $220 \pm 46 \times 10^{-6}$ and $210 \pm 19 \times 10^{-6}$,
203 respectively (Table 1; Fig. 1), and is thus enriched in deuterium compared to water in the CI,
204 CM, and CO chondrites. In contrast to the Bells C sample ($D/H = 210 \pm 19 \times 10^{-6}$), water in
205 the Bells W sample presents a lower D/H value ($167 \pm 22 \times 10^{-6}$) that might indicate either
206 terrestrial contamination of this late-recovered sample or heterogeneity within the Bells
207 chondrite. Water in the CR chondrite Renazzo has a D/H ratio of $360 \pm 32 \times 10^{-6}$ (Table 1),
208 the most deuterium-rich value yet obtained for water in carbonaceous chondrite matrices.

209

210 **4. Discussion**

211

212 **4.1 Hydrogen isotopic compositions of chondritic water**

213

214 The D/H ratios determined in this study for water in CM, CI, CO, and CR chondrites
215 span a large range of values, from 90 to 360×10^{-6} (Fig. 2, Table 1). In Figure 2, these values
216 are reported alongside those estimated in our previous works for water in CV and other CM
217 chondrites (Piani et al., 2018; Piani and Marrocchi, 2018) and by bulk analyses of CM and
218 CR chondrites (Alexander et al., 2012). Except for Jbilet Winselwan, our D/H ratios estimated
219 for water in CM chondrites ($90\text{--}107 \times 10^{-6}$) are similar within errors to the mean value
220 obtained previously using the same technique ($101 \pm 6 \times 10^{-6}$, Fig. 2; Piani et al., 2018).
221 Excluding the peculiar CM chondrites Jbilet Winselwan and the D-rich Paris (Vacher et al.,
222 2016; Piani et al., 2018), the average D/H ratio of water in all CMs analyzed is $100 \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$
223 (2σ). This value is in agreement with those inferred from hydrated minerals in Maribo (103--
224 114×10^{-6} ; van Kooten et al., 2018), but is slightly higher than that determined from the bulk
225 measurements of 45 CM chondrites characterized by different degrees of aqueous alteration
226 ($87 \pm 8 \times 10^{-6}$, 2σ , Fig. 2; Alexander et al., 2012). Our D/H ratio for water in the CR
227 chondrite Renazzo ($360 \pm 32 \times 10^{-6}$, 2σ) is significantly higher than that estimated from bulk
228 measurements of 11 CR carbonaceous chondrites ($96_{-65}^{+110} \times 10^{-6}$, 2σ ; Alexander et al., 2012).
229 However, we consider that their D/H value for water is more representative than our estimate
230 based on a single meteorite. Because only a single CO chondrite was measured in this study,
231 our estimate might not be representative of water in other CO chondrites and will be omitted
232 from further discussion.

233 An important outcome of our results is that the average D/H ratios of water are distinct
234 among the different chondrite groups: $149 \pm 10 \times 10^{-6}$ (2σ), $100 \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$ (2σ), $171^{+17}_{-10} \times 10^{-6}$
235 (1σ ; Alexander et al., 2012), $171 \pm 16 \times 10^{-6}$ (2σ), and $215 \pm 10 \times 10^{-6}$ (2σ) in CV, CM,
236 CR, CI, and ungrouped chondrites, respectively (Fig. 2). These values are either similar to
237 (CV, CI, and ungrouped) or lower than (CM and CR) those obtained for the bulk chondrites
238 (Fig. 3; Table S1 and references therein), likely reflecting the accretion of variable amounts of
239 organic matter with varying D enrichments. The range of water D/H values observed in
240 carbonaceous chondrites (CCs) is thus small and D-depleted compared to the most pristine
241 ordinary chondrite (OC) Semarkona ($D/H = 393\text{--}609 \times 10^{-6}$; Deloule and Robert, 1995; Piani
242 et al., 2015) and cometary water ($D/H = 140\text{--}650 \times 10^{-6}$; Altwegg et al., 2017 and references
243 therein; Fig. 3 and 4).

244 The D/H ratios of the main component of chondritic organic matter, insoluble organic
245 matter (IOM), have been measured in a large set of samples (Alexander et al., 2007) and show
246 a wider range than those of water in both CCs and non-carbonaceous chondrites (NCs; Fig.
247 4). IOM D/H ratios in the three groups of OCs (870×10^{-6} , 660×10^{-6} , and 710×10^{-6} in H,
248 L, and LL groups, respectively; Table S1) are about 4 times the average value of IOM in
249 enstatite chondrites ($D/H = 153 \times 10^{-6}$; Table S1, Fig. 4; Alexander et al., 2007; Piani et al.,
250 2012). In carbonaceous chondrites, IOM D/H ratios increase from CV/CO ($\sim 220 \times 10^{-6}$) to
251 CM/CI ($\sim 300 \times 10^{-6}$) and finally to CR/ungrouped ($>600 \times 10^{-6}$; Table S1; Fig. 4).

252 The origin of these large hydrogen isotopic variations in chondritic water and IOM in
253 both NCs and CCs remains unclear and controversial. These variations have been attributed to
254 several processes and/or locations within the protoplanetary disk, including early fluid
255 circulation during the evolution of chondritic parent bodies, physico-chemical processes
256 operating in the solar protoplanetary disk, and inheritance from the molecular cloud. In the
257 following section, we discuss these different possibilities in light of our new results and using

258 diagrams compiling the D/H values of chondritic water, IOM, and the bulk meteorites (Fig. 3
259 and 4).

260

261 **4.2 Origin of hydrogen isotopic variations in chondritic water and organics**

262

263 *4.2.1 Role of parent-body processes*

264

265 It has been proposed that secondary parent-body processes could be at the origin of the
266 hydrogen isotopic variations observed in chondrites due to (1) the aqueous oxidation of iron-
267 bearing phases followed by H₂ loss and Rayleigh-type isotopic fractionation (Alexander et al.,
268 2010; Sutton et al., 2017) and/or (2) hydrogen isotopic exchange between organic
269 components and aqueous fluids (Alexander et al., 2010; Bonal et al., 2013). The former
270 process is considered to be most effective for enriching the most water-depleted chondrites
271 (i.e., OCs, CV and CO-type CCs) in deuterium because their bulk D/H ratios are not buffered
272 by the large amount of remaining water (Alexander et al., 2010). The efficiency of the latter
273 process should depend on the temperature and duration of the interaction between water and
274 organics as well as the nature of the organics and their ability to exchange hydrogen with
275 water (e.g., Sessions et al., 2004). However, no experimental study has measured the putative
276 H isotopic fractionation produced through the anaerobic corrosion of metal, and tests of
277 water-organic isotopic exchanges under asteroidal conditions revealed complex patterns
278 (Foustoukos et al., 2021). In addition, these models are based on the strong and debatable
279 assumptions that (i) all chondrites accreted water-ice and organic matter with similar
280 respective D/H ratios and (ii) asteroidal parent-body processes have swamped any D
281 enrichments inherited from solar-system or molecular-cloud processes (Alexander et al.,
282 2010; Sutton et al., 2017). Consequently, the parent-body model remains speculative and

283 difficult to comprehend given the complexity of organic components in meteorites (De
284 Gregorio et al., 2010; Remusat et al., 2010). Based on our data and a comprehensive
285 hydrogen isotopic database, we show in the following paragraphs that secondary parent-body
286 processes, although important, cannot be advocated as the main processes controlling the
287 observed D/H variations of chondrites and their constituents.

288

289 *Ordinary chondrites.* Highly heterogeneous D/H values and extreme D-enrichments
290 up to $D/H = 1,800 \times 10^{-6}$ have been reported in the matrix of the least altered OC LL3.00
291 Semarkona (Deloule and Robert, 1995; Grossman and Brearley, 2005; Piani et al., 2015).
292 Although OCs display the most D-rich bulk values among chondrites, their IOM is less
293 enriched in D and more homogenous (showing only rare, micron-sized D-rich anomalies, or
294 "hotspots"; Remusat et al., 2016) than some of the extremely heterogeneous hydrated
295 minerals found in Semarkona (Piani et al., 2015). These facts do not support OM-water
296 isotopic exchanges following the D enrichment of water through Rayleigh-type fractionations
297 (Alexander et al., 2010). Moreover, if IOM was enriched in D by isotopic exchange with
298 water that was itself enriched in D due to H₂ loss, the bulk D/H ratios of moderately
299 metamorphosed OCs should be enriched in D compared to the least metamorphosed OCs.
300 However, D enrichments are observed even in the most pristine OCs (i.e., <3.2; Marrocchi et
301 al., 2020) whereas mildly to highly metamorphosed chondrites show D-poor bulk
302 compositions (McCubbin and Barnes, 2019; Vacher et al., 2020). This strongly suggests that
303 the D enrichments and heterogeneities observed at both mineral and bulk scales in OCs do not
304 result from H₂ loss during parent-body processes but were inherited from ice precursors.

305

306 *CM chondrites.* Excluding Paris and Jbilet Winselwan, water in all CM chondrites
307 displays similar D/H ratios, regardless of the degree of alteration (Fig. 2; Piani et al., 2018).

308 The Paris chondrite is a specific case because water in the least altered lithology is
309 significantly enriched in D compared to the more altered lithology, which shows D/H values
310 close to the average for CM water (Piani et al., 2018). Because Fe-Ni metal beads have been
311 highly oxidized in the altered Paris lithology but remain unaltered in the most pristine regions
312 (Hewins et al., 2014; Marrocchi et al., 2014), the opposite isotopic characteristics are
313 expected if Rayleigh-type fractionation following metal oxidation and H₂ loss were the
314 dominant processes controlling D/H variations. Furthermore, the similarity of the water D/H
315 ratios estimated by SIMS ($100 \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$; Piani et al., 2018) and bulk measurements ($87 \pm 8 \times$
316 10^{-6} ; Alexander et al., 2012) implies that isotopic re-equilibration between water and organics
317 was extremely limited during the evolution of the CM parent body(ies). Indeed, any isotopic
318 exchange would have increased the D/H ratio of water while decreasing that of organics, the
319 intensity of isotopic variations being dependent on their relative proportions (e.g., Foustoukos
320 et al., 2021). If that were the case, important isotopic differences would be particularly
321 expected for chondrites characterized by varying degrees of alteration, such Cold Bokkeveld
322 (CM2.2, highly altered), LON 94101 (CM2.2/2.3, mildly altered), and Murray (CM2.5,
323 poorly altered), which is not the case (Fig. 2 and Fig. 5; Piani et al., 2018). The lack of IOM-
324 water isotopic equilibration in CMs implies the existence of an additional C-bearing
325 component having higher D/H values than IOM. Importantly, recent bulk hydrogen
326 measurements performed on a series of CCs and OCs revealed the importance of removing
327 atmospheric contamination when measuring H contents and isotopic compositions (Vacher et
328 al., 2020). They performed pre-degassing at 120 °C during 48 h under vacuum prior to H
329 measurements to remove atmospheric water adsorbed on the sample surface. The lower slope
330 obtained in the D/H vs. C/H plot for samples for which the atmospheric contamination was
331 reduced (Fig. 6A) is inconsistent with the IOM of CMs being initially as D-rich as the IOM in

332 CRs (Fig. 6B), indicating that they inherited isotopically distinct IOM in their respective
333 parent bodies.

334

335 *CI, CR, and Bells/Essebi chondrites.* These chondrites are characterized by (i) D-rich
336 water and IOM compared to CMs (Fig. 4) and (ii) the presence of D-rich hotspots in IOM
337 (e.g., Busemann et al., 2006). In addition, large D/H variations have been reported in hydrated
338 minerals in CR chondrites (Bonal et al., 2013). These characteristics imply that water-IOM
339 isotopic exchanges cannot be at the origin of the H isotopic differences between these
340 meteorites and CMs. In addition, Rayleigh-type fractionation is not expected to be efficient in
341 water-rich meteorites (Sutton et al., 2017). Furthermore, small-scale heterogeneities in IOM
342 and hydrated minerals are unlikely to result from parent-body processes unless invoking
343 unconstrained, localized kinetic reactions.

344

345 *CV chondrites.* The D/H ratios of water and IOM in oxidized CVs are D-rich and D-
346 poor, respectively, compared to CM water and IOM (Alexander et al., 2007; Piani and
347 Marrocchi, 2018). These peculiar characteristics could result from isotopic exchange during
348 parent-body alteration, assuming an initial CM-like H isotopic composition for water and
349 organics (Piani and Marrocchi, 2018). However, they could also result from the accretion of
350 water-ice and organics from different reservoirs characterized by variable H isotopic
351 compositions (Piani and Marrocchi, 2018).

352

353 *Jbilet Winselwan (CM), Tagish Lake (C-ungrouped), and Y-980115 (CY).* The absence
354 of a positive correlation between D/H and C/H in these peculiar chondrites (Table 1) may
355 suggest perturbations of the initial isotopic signatures of their organic and water components.
356 Such perturbations might have resulted from impact-induced dehydration in Jbilet Winselwan

357 (King et al., 2019a), thermal metamorphism (>500 °C, King et al., 2019b) and/or terrestrial
358 weathering in Y-980115 (e.g., Alexander et al., 2018), or IOM-water isotopic exchange
359 and/or the possible loss of a D-rich component in Tagish Lake (Herd et al., 2011). Another
360 possible explanation for Tagish Lake could be that the abundant carbonates, that can represent
361 half of the total carbon content (Grady et al., 2002), could influence the measured C/H ratio
362 independently to the D/H ratio.

363 Thus, the H isotopic compositions of bulk CCs and their water and IOM do not
364 support a preponderant role of parent-body processes in controlling D/H variations among
365 chondrites. CV chondrites are the only group in which isotopic exchanges between water and
366 organics remain possible or even favorable due to the high hydrothermal temperatures of the
367 CV parent body (Ganino and Libourel, 2017). In addition, only a few specific meteorites
368 (Jbilet Winselwan, Tagish Lake, Y-980115) experienced hydrothermal alteration and impact
369 heating sufficient to modify their primordial isotopic signatures. These results thus suggest
370 that the H isotopic features of chondrites are mostly inherited from processes that operated
371 within the solar system and/or the parent molecular cloud.

372

373 *4.2.2 Fingerprints of the protosolar molecular cloud in meteoritic water and organics*

374

375 Astronomical observations have revealed that water molecules in the interstellar
376 medium (ISM) are significantly enriched in deuterium relative to molecular hydrogen, with
377 D/H ratios of water in protostars reaching up to a few 10^{-2} (e.g., Ceccarelli et al., 2014 and
378 references therein). Similarly, highly D-rich organics (i.e., $2-7 \times 10^{-2}$; Roberts et al., 2002)
379 are produced in dense regions of the ISM due to the cold temperatures and high levels of
380 galactic cosmic radiation (Geiss and Gloeckler 2003). Protoplanetary disks are by-products of
381 star formation, resulting from the conservation of angular momentum of the parent molecular

382 cloud from which they formed. Observational and theoretical evidence show that
383 protoplanetary disks are initially compact, with most infalling material from the molecular
384 cloud being injected close to the protostars (Fig. 7; Pignatale et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2020).
385 While being fed by the molecular cloud, the disks expand through viscous spreading (Hueso
386 and Guillot, 2005) and their centrifugal radii, the distance within which the parental cloud
387 material is injected, increase with time.

388 Infalling D-rich interstellar water-ice grains will experience sublimation upon
389 injection into the inner tens of astronomical units of protoplanetary disks (Visser et al., 2009).
390 Subsequently, the D/H ratio of water will decrease toward bulk chondrite values (i.e., $\sim 150 \times$
391 10^{-6}) through isotopic exchange with the D-poor protosolar H_2 (Jacquet and Robert, 2013;
392 Yang et al., 2013) via the reaction:



394 whose equilibrium fractionation factor $\alpha_{H_2O-H_2}$ is temperature-dependent, increasing with
395 decreasing temperature (Richet et al., 1977). Later ionization-driven chemical reactions
396 during the disk's evolution do not efficiently enrich water in deuterium (Cleeves et al., 2014;
397 Roskosz et al., 2016). This implies that the range of water D/H ratios observed among
398 chondrites (i.e., $90\text{--}500 \times 10^{-6}$; Figs. 3 and 4) corresponds to a mixture between (i) water
399 formed by sublimation, high-temperature isotopic equilibration, and/or recondensation during
400 the evolution of the disk and (ii) inherited D-enriched interstellar ices unaffected by disk
401 processes (Jacquet and Robert, 2013; Yang et al., 2013). The inheritance of molecular cloud
402 material may become even more obvious when considering organic grains because, compared
403 to chondritic water, they show higher and more variable D/H (e.g., Busemann et al., 2006;
404 Alexander et al., 2007; 2012) that cannot be reproduced by disk-ionization models (Cleeves et
405 al., 2016). Nonetheless, organo-synthesis triggered by organic radicals produced in ionized

406 disk environments may at least partly explain the D/H heterogeneities observed in meteoritic
407 organics (Robert et al., 2017).

408 Based on the above observations, we propose a model in which incoming water-ice
409 and organic grains from the molecular cloud episodically fuel the solar protoplanetary disk
410 throughout its evolution. The lifetimes of star-forming molecular clouds are estimated to be
411 ~20–30 Myr (Murray, 2011), implying that D-rich water-ice and organic grains from the ISM
412 can be injected into protoplanetary disks throughout their evolution and until their dissipation
413 (i.e., 5–10 Myr). Water-ice and organic grains have different vaporization temperatures (the
414 so-called snow and tar lines; Figs. 7 and 8), with refractory organic grains being stable at
415 much higher temperatures (i.e., above 350–450 K) than water-ice grains (i.e., ~160 K, Fig. 7;
416 Nakano et al., 2003; Kuramoto and Yurimoto, 2005; Bermingham et al., 2020). Consequently,
417 the tar line is inward of the snow line, defining three regions in the disk (#1–3, Fig. 8) where
418 (#1) refractory organic and water-ice grains are sublimated, (#2) refractory organic grains are
419 stable but water is in vapor form, and (#3) both refractory organic and water-ice grains are
420 unaffected. As the disk temperature drops, region #2 will grow due to (i) the inward drift of
421 the tar line and (ii) the fossilization of the snow line at 3 astronomical units (Morbidelli et al.,
422 2016). Consequently, within region #2, water-ice grains experience continued sublimation
423 and isotopic exchange with D-poor H₂ whereas refractory organics do not, leading to an
424 isotopic decoupling (Fig. 4). This implies that most organic grains are not affected by thermal
425 reprocessing in the disk and maintain their D enrichments and D/H variability. Moreover, the
426 synthesis of organic matter with D-poor signatures in ionized disk environments (e.g., Bekaert
427 et al., 2018) and/or under aqueous conditions on asteroidal parent bodies (e.g., Kebukawa et
428 al., 2013) may result in a final mixture of chondritic organic compounds bearing large H
429 isotopic variations. In contrast to refractory organics, water experiences isotopic exchange
430 with the gas until the disk temperature becomes cold enough for isotopic exchange reactions

431 and sublimation to be ineffective at ~200 K and 160 K, respectively (Fig. 7; Jacquet and
432 Robert, 2013). This naturally explains why hydrated chondritic minerals (and thus water) are
433 less enriched in deuterium and less isotopically variable than organics (Fig. 4; Alexander et
434 al., 2010, 2012; Piani et al., 2015). Thus, depending on the timing of accretion of chondritic
435 parent bodies, water and organics may be characterized by drastically different D/H ratios.

436 Accordingly, in this model, several scenarios are possible:

437 1) Chondrites that accreted early in the disk's history are characterized by D-poor
438 water and organics (e.g., enstatite chondrites, COs, and CVs; Fig. 4).

439 2) Chondrites that accreted below the organic sublimation temperature comprise D-
440 rich organics, but water variably depleted in deuterium compared to the organics (e.g., CMs,
441 CIs, and C-ungrouped; Fig. 4). The D-depleted water in CM chondrites could thus be the
442 result of a more efficient isotopic re-equilibration with H₂, possibly at higher temperatures
443 and/or during longer interactions than for CI and C-ungrouped chondrites.

444 3) Finally, chondrites that accreted when the disk cooled to <200 K comprise both D-
445 rich water and organic grains (e.g., OCs and CRs; Fig. 4).

446 This model implies that chondrites have continuously recorded processes (i.e.,
447 sublimation and isotopic exchange) that eventually became inefficient during the evolution of
448 the protoplanetary disk, thus allowing for the highly heterogeneous isotopic compositions of
449 their constituent hydrated minerals (Bonal et al., 2013; Piani et al., 2015) and/or organics
450 (Busemann et al., 2006).

451 A key question regarding chondrites concerns their accretion ages. As the background
452 temperature of the disk controlled the efficiency of sublimation and isotopic exchange
453 processes (e.g., Jacquet and Robert, 2013), our model suggests that the H-isotopic
454 compositions of both water and organics are also directly related to the timing of accretion of
455 chondrites. It also suggests that the isotopic decoupling between water-ice grains and IOM

456 may have occurred asynchronously between the NC and CC reservoirs because their
457 respective thermal evolutions likely differed, in line with recent models (e.g., Lichtenberg et
458 al., 2021). Of note, our qualitative model is coherent with estimates of the timing of accretion
459 of chondritic parent bodies, with (i) enstatite chondrites having accreted before OCs and CCs
460 and (ii) among CCs, water-poor CO, CV, and CK chondrites having accreted before water-
461 rich CR, CM, and CI chondrites (Sugiura and Fujiya, 2014; Desch et al., 2018). Sugiura and
462 Fujiya (2014) also suggest that OCs, which formed in the inner regions of the disk, may have
463 been accreted before CCs, making the large H isotopic variabilities observed in OCs
464 counterintuitive, as one would expect that the inner disk remained hotter for a longer duration
465 than the outer disk. However, recent estimates of the ages of OC chondrules using Al-Mg and
466 Pb-Pb systematics have shown that they formed up to 3 Myr after the formation of Ca- and
467 Al-rich inclusions (Bollard et al., 2017; Pape et al., 2019). Because chondrules formed before
468 the accretion of planetesimals, this implies that the OC and CC parent body(ies) formed
469 contemporaneously, further highlighting the isotopic decoupling between water-ice grains and
470 IOM (Fig. 4).

471 Because some D-rich organics and waters are not at isotopic equilibrium with the gas
472 of the disk (i.e., largely different water and IOM values per chondrite class in Fig. 4), our data
473 suggest that they did not experience the high-temperature chondrule-forming events that
474 would have induced sublimation, isotopic exchange, and/or recondensation. Hence, we
475 propose that the isotopically heterogeneous D-rich ices and organics observed in OCs and
476 CRs correspond to materials that arrived and were reprocessed late in the history of the disk.
477 Interestingly, this suggests that both the inner and outer parts of the disk were, at some point,
478 cold enough for unprocessed, D-rich interstellar water-ice and organic grains to accrete (Fig.
479 7). This also reiterates that the parent molecular cloud episodically fed the disk for at least
480 several million years, and possibly throughout the disk's history, through filaments

481 connecting both structures (Hennebelle et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2020). Such structures
482 –observed at all scales in the interstellar medium, from molecular clouds to individual stars–
483 result from prominent contracting forces induced by gravity, turbulences and/or magnetic
484 fields (e.g., Federrath, 2016). They play a key role in the star-forming processes and could
485 have contributed to the establishment of the peculiar H isotopic signature of our solar system.

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490 **5. Concluding remarks**

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492 We determined the hydrogen isotopic compositions of water in a large set of
493 chondritic samples (CI, CM, CO, CR, CY, and C-ungrouped) by *in-situ* SIMS analyses. Our
494 main result is that the D/H ratios of chondritic water appear to be distinct and unique among
495 the different groups of carbonaceous chondrites. This result can be used for the
496 characterization and comparison of the samples returned from the asteroids Ryugu and Bennu
497 by the spatial missions Hayabusa 2 (JAXA; 5.4 g of samples delivered to Earth in December
498 2020) and OSIRIS-REx (NASA; to be returned on Earth in 2023). Waters in CCs are D-
499 depleted and show a restricted range of D/H values relative to the most pristine ordinary
500 chondrite and cometary water.

501 From these results, and by comparison with literature data on chondritic water and
502 organics, we drew the following conclusions.

503 (i) The D/H ratios of water and IOM do not support a preponderant role of parent-
504 body processes in controlling the D/H variations of carbonaceous and ordinary chondrites.

505 (ii) D/H variations among chondrites represent a mixture between water formed by
506 sublimation, high-temperature isotopic equilibration, and/or recondensation during the
507 evolution of the disk and inherited D-rich interstellar ices unaffected by those processes.

508 (iii) Based on their different sublimation temperatures, water-ice experienced
509 sublimation and isotopic exchange with molecular H₂ for a longer duration than refractory
510 organics. This induced an isotopic decoupling through which organics preserve more D-rich
511 signatures than water.

512 (iv) Hydrated minerals and/or organics in later-accreted chondrites may record
513 extreme and highly heterogeneous D/H values inherited from the interstellar medium.

514 (v) The molecular cloud episodically fed the protoplanetary disk for several millions
515 of years through filaments connecting both structures.

516

517 **Appendix A. Supplementary material**

518 Table S1 presents the literature data for bulk, IOM and water D/H ratios used in Fig. 3 and 4.

519 Fig. S1 presents the measured D/H vs. ¹³C/H ratios measured by SIMS in the matrices of all
520 carbonaceous chondrites analyzed in the present study (Table 1). Linear fits (solid lines) and
521 95% confidence interval bands (dashed lines) are shown for all chondrites. Error bars
522 represent 2σ internal errors.

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524 **Appendix B. Supplementary material**

525 SIMS data related to this article can be found on-line at <https://doi.org/10.24396/ORDAR-61>.

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775 **Figure caption**

776

777 **Fig. 1.** Measured D/H vs. $^{13}\text{C}/\text{H}$ ratios in the matrices of representative carbonaceous
778 chondrites Mukundpura (CM), Jbilet Winselwan (CM), Aguas Zarcas (CM), Essebi
779 (Ungrouped), Bells (pieces C and W; Ungrouped), Alais (CI), and Y-980115 (CY). The data
780 were acquired during two analytical sessions in April 2018 (left) and July 2019 (right). Linear
781 fits (solid lines) and 95% confidence interval bands (dashed lines) are shown for all
782 chondrites except Y-980115, which does not show any correlation (see Table 1). Error bars
783 represent 2σ internal errors.

784

785 **Fig. 2.** D/H ratios of water estimated from the D/H vs. C/H correlation measured by SIMS for
786 all chondrites measured so far by SIMS. Error bars indicate the 95% error estimated from
787 SIMS analyses of the samples and standards. Water D/H ratios estimated from bulk
788 measurements of CM and CR chondrites (Alexander et al., 2012) are also reported with 2σ
789 errors. Superscripts indicate data references: 1, Piani et al., 2018; 2, Piani and Marrocchi,
790 2018; 3, this study; 4, Alexander et al., 2012.

791

792 **Fig. 3.** Bulk and water D/H ratios measured in carbonaceous chondrites plotted as a function
793 of the putative heliocentric distance at which their parent bodies formed (Desch et al., 2018).
794 Bulk data are from a literature compilation (see Table S1). Water D/H ratios are from
795 Alexander et al. (2012) for CR chondrites, Piani and Marrocchi (2018) for CV chondrites,
796 Piani et al. (2018) and the present study for CM chondrites, and only the present study for CI
797 and Ungrouped chondrites.

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799

800 **Fig. 4.** Bulk, water, and insoluble organic matter (IOM) D/H ratios of non-carbonaceous (NC)
801 and carbonaceous chondrites (CC). Bulk data are from a literature compilation (see Table S1)
802 and IOM data from Alexander et al. (2007).

803

804 **Fig. 5.** Schematic view of expected (A, B) and measured (C) D/H ratios of water in CM
805 chondrites. (A) Schematic view of the expected D/H ratio of CM water for the CM chondrites
806 C1, C2, and C3 proposed from bulk measurements by Alexander et al. (2012), assuming
807 isotopic exchange between water and organic matter. The initial D/H value of water would be
808 enriched in D due to isotopic exchange with D-rich organic matter (gray arrows). Bells
809 (ungrouped) is here considered to have behaved like a CM chondrite. (B) Based on bulk and
810 IOM data (Alexander et al., 2007, 2012) and assuming that organics were in H isotopic
811 exchange with water during parent-body alteration (Alexander et al., 2012), the D/H ratio of
812 water in decreasingly altered CMs (Cold Bokkeveld < LON 94101 < Murray) is expected to
813 increase from about 116×10^{-6} to 144×10^{-6} . The water in Bells is expected to have $D/H =$
814 103×10^{-6} . (C) As reported in this study (Table 1; Fig. 2) and schematically represented here,
815 such isotopic variations are not observed for CM water measured by SIMS: water in all CMs
816 displays the same value ($100 \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$) close to the initial D/H value of water estimated from
817 bulk measurements (Alexander et al., 2012), whereas water in Bells water has a significantly
818 higher D/H ratio of $210 \pm 19 \times 10^{-6}$ (Table 1).

819

820 **Fig. 6.** (A) Comparison of the bulk D/H and C/H ratios obtained for CM chondrites with
821 (Vacher et al., 2020) and without (Alexander et al., 2012) pre-degassing of the samples (48 h,
822 120 °C) prior to analyzing their hydrogen isotopic compositions (from Vacher et al., 2020).
823 Pre-degassing minimizes atmospheric contamination, resulting in the measurement of lower
824 H contents in CM chondrites (Vacher et al., 2020). The linear regressions obtained for these

825 two sets of data have distinct slopes but similar intercepts, within error. (B) Interestingly, the
826 D/H ratios of IOM in CM chondrite are consistent with the extrapolation of the regression
827 based on the pre-degassed measurements, but are inconsistent with those performed without
828 pre-degassing.

829

830 **Fig. 7.** Schematic model of chondrite formation during the growth of the protoplanetary disk
831 from the molecular cloud: (left) large-scale view, (center) view at the scale of the solar
832 system, and (right) the background temperature as a function of time. (A) The young,
833 compact disk receives material from the molecular cloud only in its most inner portions. At
834 this time, the temperature is sufficiently high to sublimate both water-ice and organic grains
835 inherited from the molecular cloud. (B, C) As the disk grows through viscous spreading,
836 continued injections of molecular-cloud material occur at increasing centrifugal radii. At this
837 time, the disk may have separated into inner and outer reservoirs, but both remained hot
838 enough to sublimate water and organics. (D) As the disk cools, an isotopic decoupling occurs,
839 in which water-ice grains continue to sublimate and experience isotopic exchange, whereas
840 organics do not due to their higher sublimation temperature. This implies that organics may
841 maintain D enrichments inherited from the interstellar medium, whereas water experienced
842 continued isotopic exchange with molecular H₂ until the disk cooled enough for isotopic
843 exchange to become inefficient.

844

845 **Fig. 8.** Schematic representation of the snow and tar lines. The snow line is the closest
846 distance to the Sun at which ice condenses, and the tar line is that at which organic grains are
847 stable. These lines define three regions where refractory organic and water-ice grains are
848 sublimated (region #1), only refractory organic grains are stable whereas water exists only in
849 vapor form (region #2), and both organic and water-ice grains are stable (region #3).

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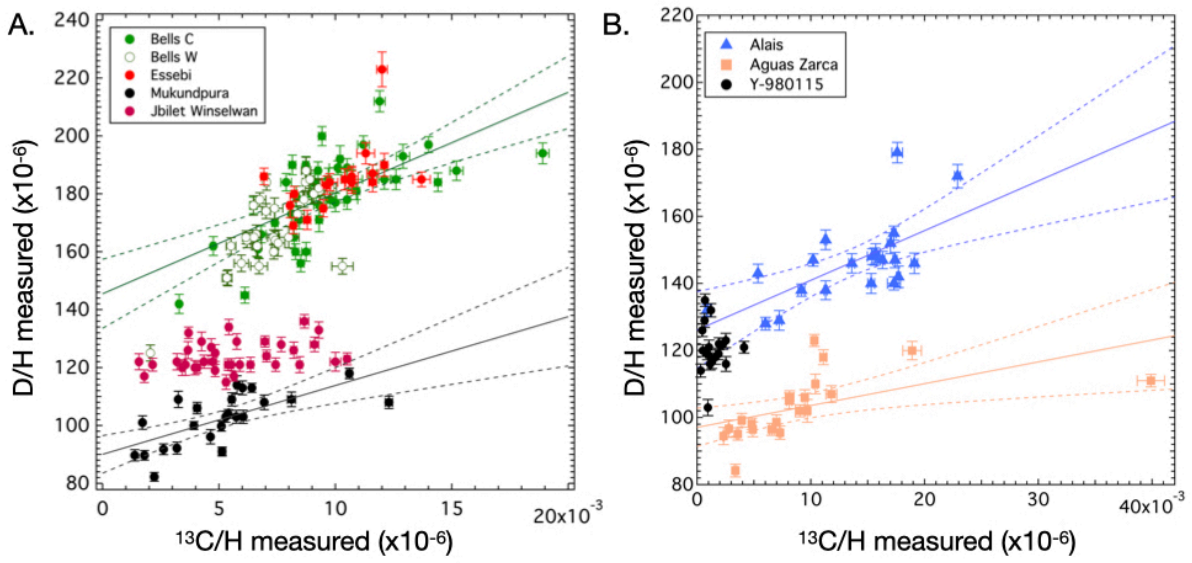
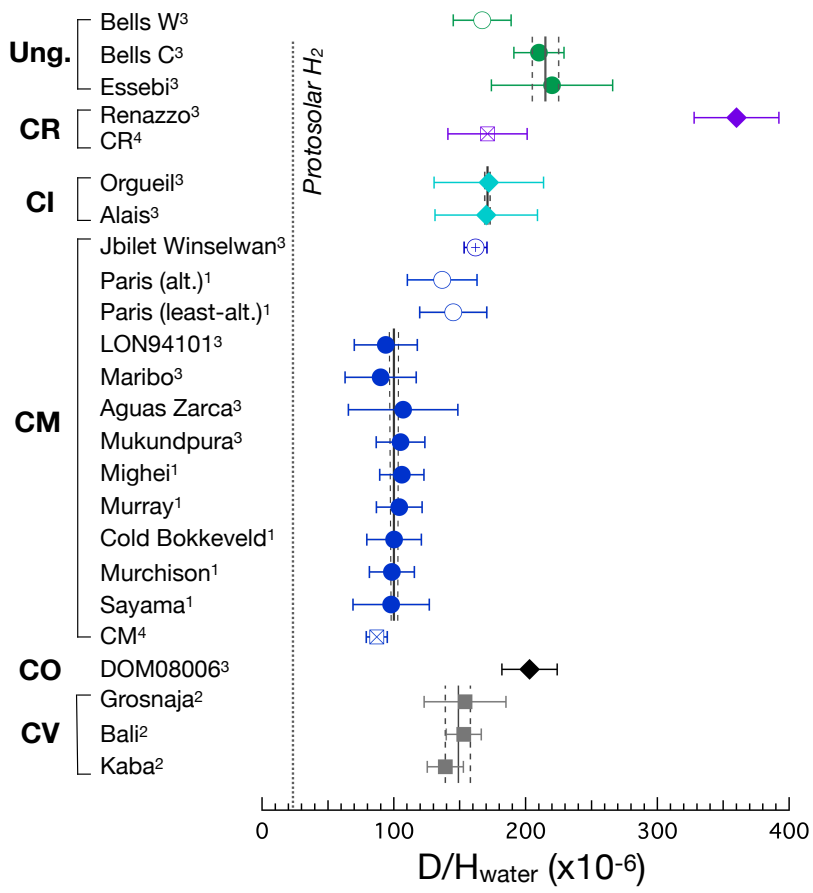


Fig. 1

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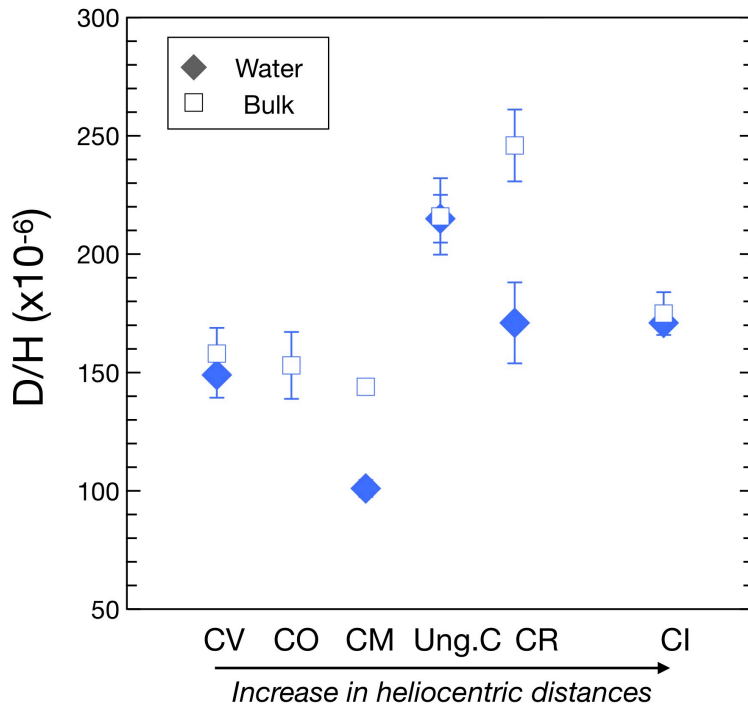
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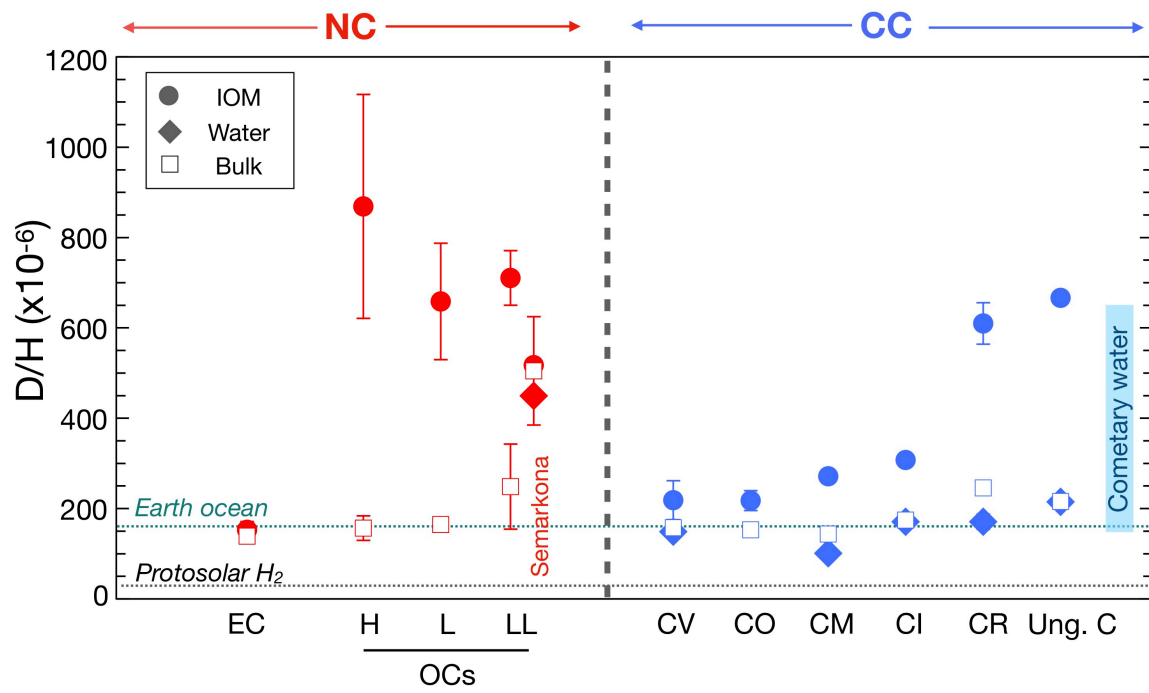
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Fig. 2



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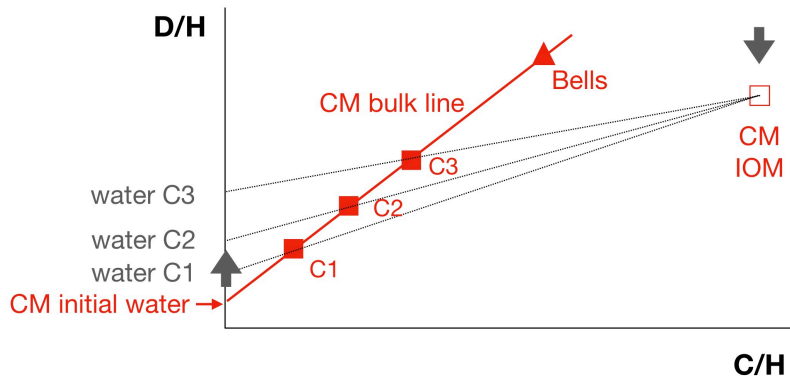
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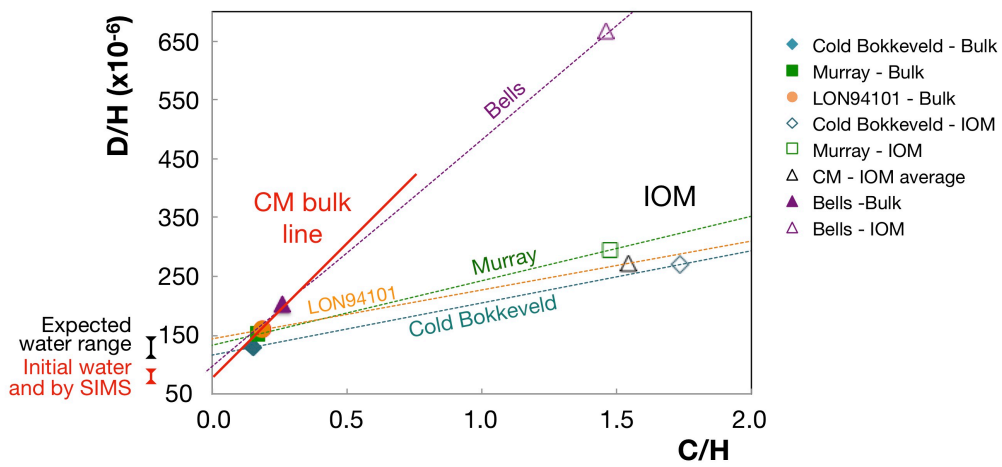
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Fig. 4

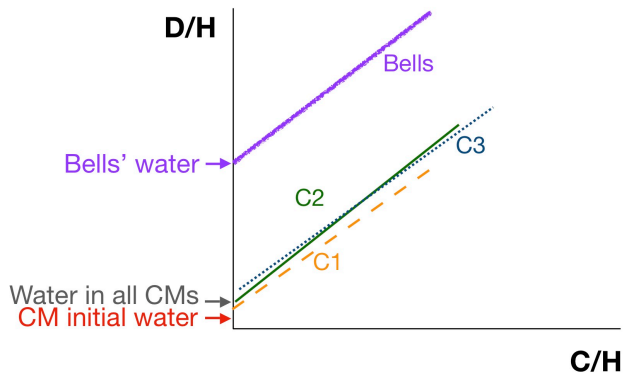
A. Expected if isotopic exchange occurred (schematic)



B. Expected if isotopic exchange occurred (from bulk measurements)



C. Measured with SIMS (schematic from data presented in Fig. 1)



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Fig. 5

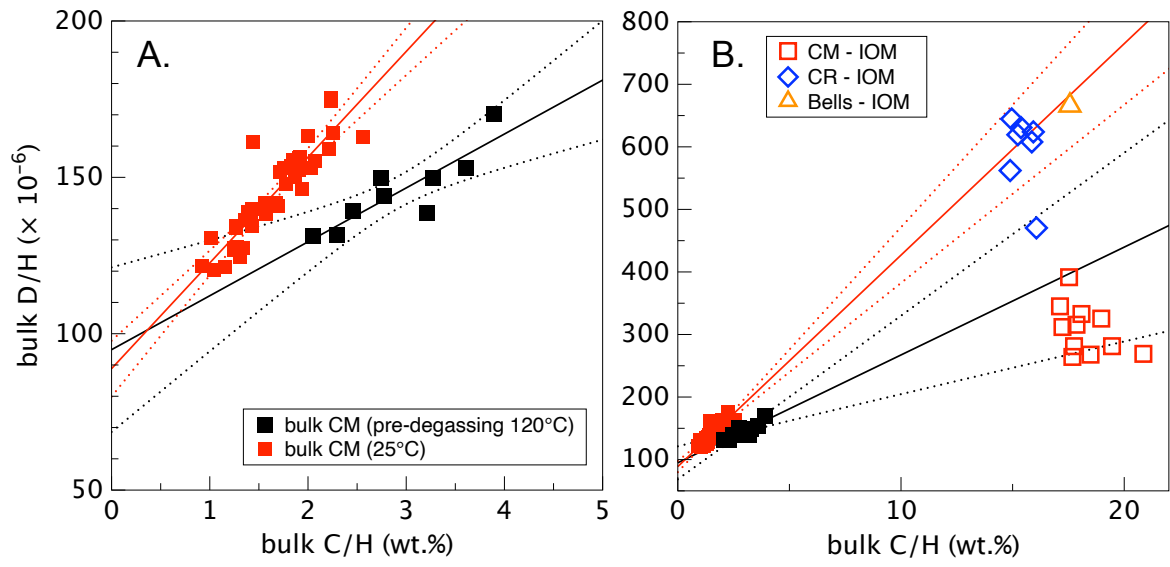
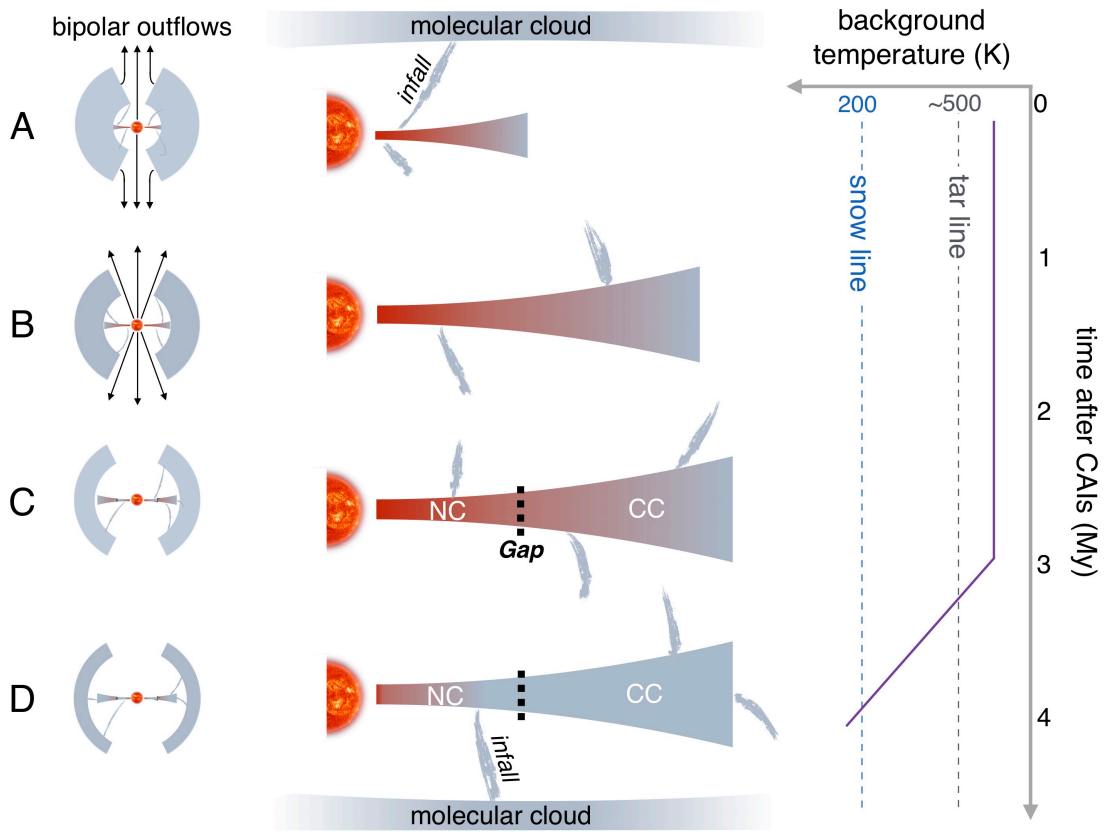


Fig. 6

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Fig. 7

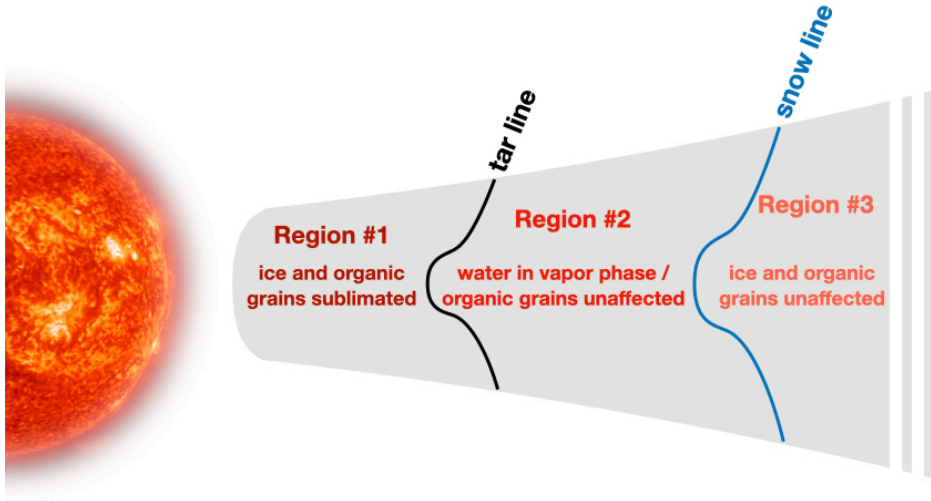


Fig. 8

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Meteorite	Type	Session	<i>N</i>	Pearson coeff.	(D/H) ₀ ×10 ⁻⁶	error ×10 ⁻⁶	<i>a</i> ×10 ⁻⁴	error ×10 ⁻⁴	<i>b</i>	error	D/H _{water} ×10 ⁻⁶	error ×10 ⁻⁶
Renazzo	CR2	Dec. 15	12	0.51	202	17	-1.03	0.2	2.29	0.09	360	32
Maribo	CM2	Oct. 17	25	0.77	100	14	-1.13	0.4	2.02	0.22	90	27
LON 94101	CM2	Oct. 17	22	0.78	102	4	-1.13	0.4	2.02	0.22	94	24
Mukundpura	CM2	Apr. 18	24	0.68	90	6	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	105	18
Jbilet Wins.	CM2	Apr. 18	35	0.33	120	4	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	162	9
Aguas Zarcas	CM2	July 19	21	0.55	97	6	-1.05	0.7	2.18	0.43	107	42
DOM08006	CO3	Apr. 18	14	0.33	141	14	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	203	21
Essebi	Ung. C	Apr. 18	18	0.52	150	31	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	220	46
Bells C	Ung. C	Apr. 18	44	0.68	145	12	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	210	19
Bells W	Ung. C	Apr. 18	32	0.73	122	15	-0.67	0.3	1.91	0.15	167	22
Tagish Lake	Ung. C	Apr. 16	21	-0.62								
Alais	CI	July 19	22	0.66	126	11	-1.05	0.7	2.18	0.43	170	39
Orgueil	CI	July 19	23	0.40	127	16	-1.05	0.7	2.18	0.43	172	42
Y-980115	CY	July 19	19	-0.06								

939

940 **Table 1.** Water D/H ratios estimated from SIMS measurements. *N*, number of SIMS analytical spots;
941 Pearson coeff., Pearson correlation coefficient; (D/H)₀, zero intercept of the D/H vs. C/H correlation
942 measured in the chondrite matrix; *a* and *b*, zero intercept and slope of the standard calibration used to
943 estimate the water D/H ratios; and Jbilet Wins., Jbilet Winselwan.
944