*Transactions IAU, Volume XXVIIA*
*Reports on Astronomy 2009-2012*
*Karel A. van der Hucht, ed.*

DOI: 00.0000/X000000000000000X

# DIVISION XII / COMMISSION 14 / WORKING GROUP SOLIDS AND THEIR SURFACES

**CHAIR** **Gianfranco Vidali**

## TRIENNIAL REPORT 2009-2011

## 1. Introduction

The *ISO* and *Spitzer* space observatories yielded a treasure trove of data on dust and ices covering dust grains. Now *Herschel*, and soon *SOFIA* and *ALMA*, will provide unprecedented views of the molecular world of the interstellar medium (ISM). It is on dust grains that key ISM molecules, such as hydrogen, formaldehyde, methanol, and water are formed. As a result of these new observations, there is a great need to know more about the interaction processes of atoms and molecules with dust grains. (The Proceedings of the 2010 NASA Laboratory Astrophysics Workshop (www-cfadc.phy.ornl.gov/nasa_law/) give a good view of recent accomplishments in the study of atom/molecule - solid interactions as well as other aspects of laboratory astrophysics.)

In the last decade and a half there has been a tremendous increase of interest in laboratory studies of ISM processes occurring on interstellar dust grains. This has prompted the entrance into this field of a number of laboratories with a tradition in surface science. Besides the standard probes that have been used in the past, techniques are now available that can give precise information at the atomic/molecular level about the formation of molecules on dust, including: Thermal Programmed Desorption (TPD), Reflection Absorption Infrared Spectrometry (RAIRS), Resonant Enhanced Multiphoton Ionization (REMPI), and Atom Force Microscopy (AFM). These techniques yield information about the kinetics and energetics of atomic/molecular diffusion on and desorption from surfaces, the products of reactions, the ro-vibrational state of ejected products, and the morphology of the solid surfaces, respectively. The success of research in atom/molecule/charged particle/photon-dust interaction has produced a surge of publications. Studies of interest to astrochemistry are now regularly published in chemical physics/ surface science journals. A representative sample of such literature is listed below. It can be of use to astronomers and astrochemists in understanding the crucial steps of reactions on dust analogues.

In theoretical research, there are two developments of note: the use of new stochastic tools to predict the molecule formation process on grains of different sizes, and the study of reaction mechanisms (Langmuir-Hinshelwood, Ealy-Rideal, and hot-atom) on surfaces of materials of astrophysical interest. Most of these studies pertain to hydrogen interaction with graphite/graphene/PAHs and appear in the chemical-physics literature.

Several research groups that are currently working in this area are listed here, each with its group leader and main research focus:

- Syracuse University USA, G.Vidali (formation of $H_2$ and water on dust grain analogues)
- University College London, S. Price ($H_2$ formation on graphite)

- Hokkaido University, N. Watanabe / A. Kouchi (ice formation, photon-ice interaction)
- NASA Ames Research Center, L. Allamandola (UV on ices, PAHs)
- NASA Ames Research Center, F. Salama (Dust Exposure, Dust formation, PAHs)
- Catania Observatory, E. Palumbo (ions in ices)
- NASA - Goddard Space Flight Center, M. Moore (ions in ices)
- University of Hawai'i, R. Kaiser (keV electron in ices)
- Leiden University, H. Linnartz / E. van Dishoeck (photodesorption from ices, water formation on ices)
- Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh, M. R. S. McCoustra (desorption of mixed ices)
- University College London, W. A. Brown (desorption of mixed ices)
- University of Chergy-Pontoise, J.-L. Lemaire ($D_2$ on ices, silicates)

## 2. Meetings

During the reporting period, a number of meetings containing sessions about atomic and molecular interaction with surfaces have been held. They are often featured at regularly scheduled COSPAR, American Astronomical Society and Lunar and Planetary Institute meetings. Unfortunately, meeting Web sites may no longer be accessible.

Important meetings (listed in inverse chronological order):

- European Conference on Laboratory Astrophysics, Paris, France, 2011
- The Molecular Universe, IAU Symposium 280, Toledo, Spain 2011
- Fifth Workshop on Titan Chemistry, Kauai, Hawai'i, 2011 (http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/Bil301/Titan2011.html)
- Herschel and the Characteristics of Dust in Galaxies, Lorentz Center, Leiden, Netherlands, 2011
- Pacifichem, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA, 2010
- NASA Laboratory Astrophysics Workshop, Gatlinburg, TN, USA, 2010
- Stormy Cosmos: the Evolving ISM from Spitzer to Herschel and Beyond, Pasadena, CA, USA, 2010
- WittFest: Origin and Evolution of Dust, Toledo, OH, USA, 2010
- Molecules in Galaxies, Oxford Physics Conference Series, Oxford, United Kingdom, 2010
- Dust and Ice: Their Roles in Astrophysical Environments, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA, 2010
- Recent Advances in Experimental and Observational Astrochemistry, Amer.Chem.Soc. Symposium, San Francisco, CA, USA, 2010
- Infrared Emission, ISM and Star Formation, MPI, Heidelberg, Germany, 2010
- International Conference on Laboratory Astrophysics, Dunhuang, Gansu, China, 2009
- Bridging Laboratory and Astrophysics: Molecules, Dust and Ices in Regions of Stellar and Planetary Formation, AAS $214^{th}$, Pasadena, CA, 2009
- The Chemical Enrichment of the Intergalactic Medium, Lorentz Center, Leiden, the Netherlands, 2009
- Interstellar Surfaces: from Laboratory to Models, Lorentz Center, Leiden, the Netherlands, 2009

## 3. Notable publications

Most of the works cited below regard the laboratory experiments and theories of photon and particle interaction with solid surfaces that are relevant to understanding similar processes occurring in space. Included in this selection are papers about PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) that are relevant to atom/surface interactions. Additional information on PAHs can be obtained in the report of the Commission 14 Working Group on Molecular Data. Key observations that are related to dust are included.

Gianfranco Vidali
*Chair of Working Group*
*Solids and Their Surfaces*

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