



The Abdus Salam  
International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics

# Searching for mixtures of planetary ices

V. Naden Robinson,<sup>1,3</sup> Miriam Marquez<sup>1</sup>, J. Christiansen<sup>1</sup>, Y. Wang,<sup>2</sup>  
Y. Ma,<sup>2</sup> and A. Hermann<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Edinburgh

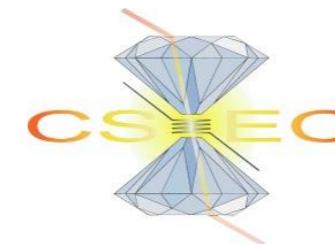
<sup>2</sup> State Key Laboratory for Superhard Materials, Jilin University

<sup>3</sup> International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste

Workshop on Crystal Structure Prediction, ICTP – January 2019

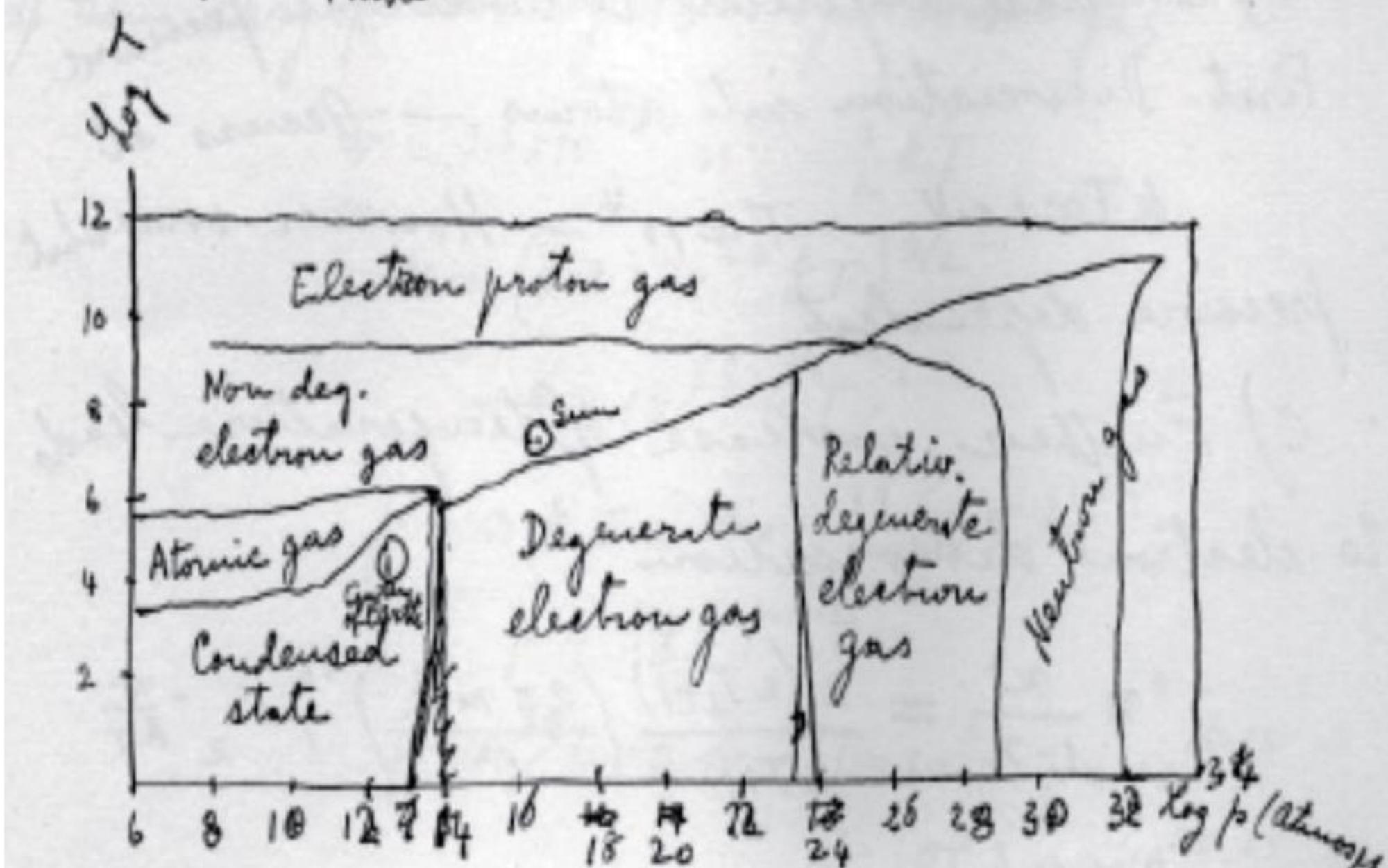


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## 70 - Matter in unusual conditions

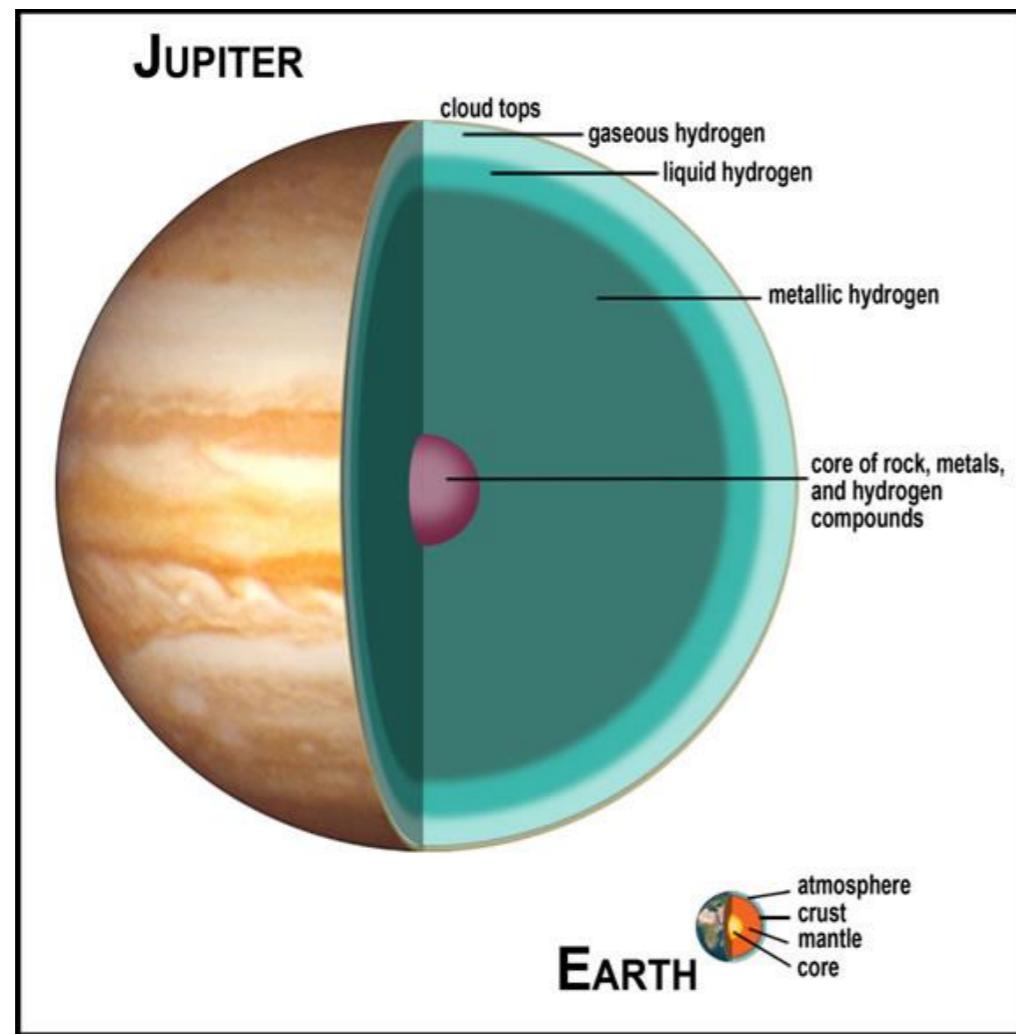
70 a



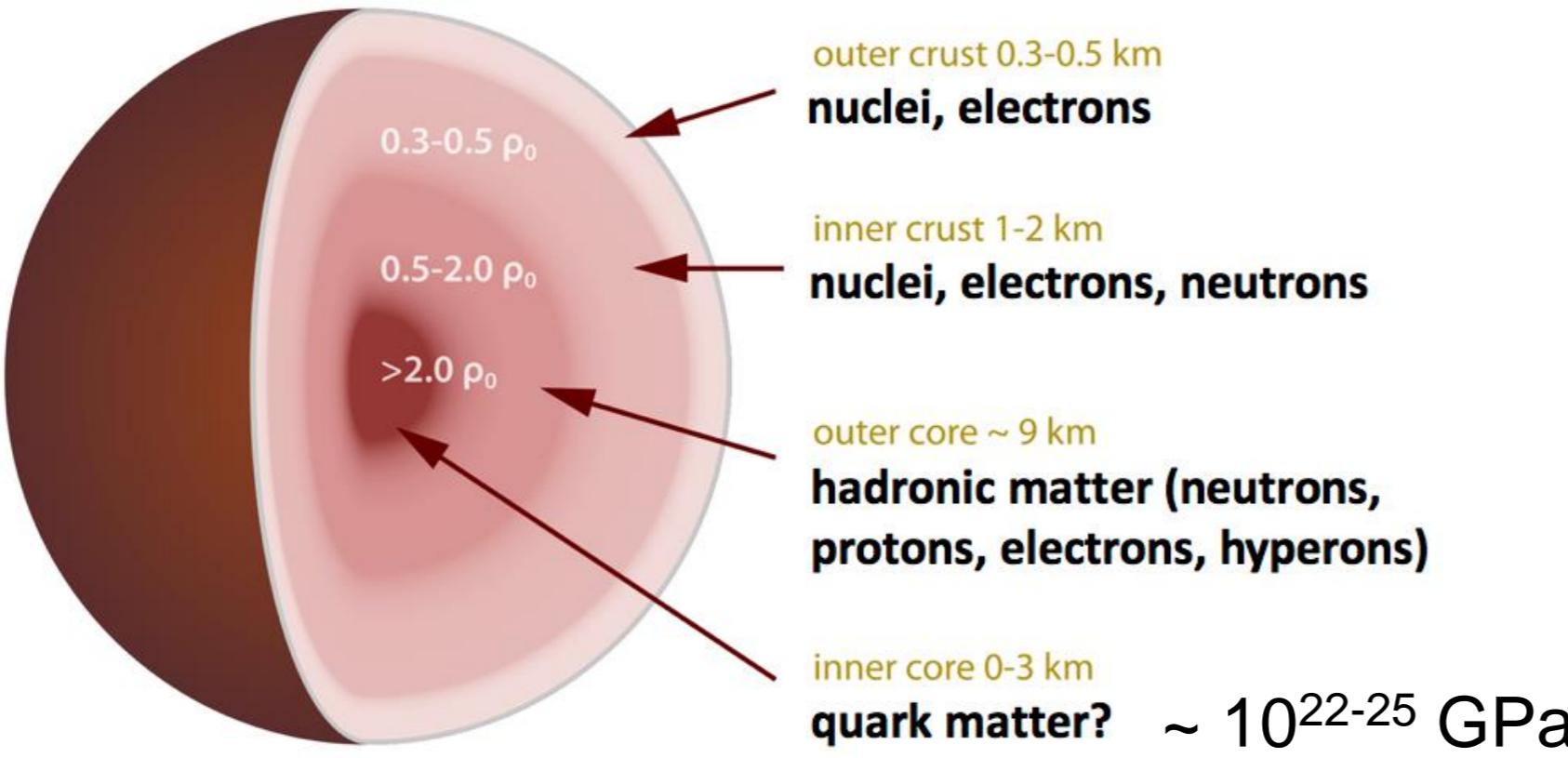
Start from ordinary condensed matter with  
~~ordinary~~ equation of state controlled by ordinary  
chemical forces.

E. Fermi:

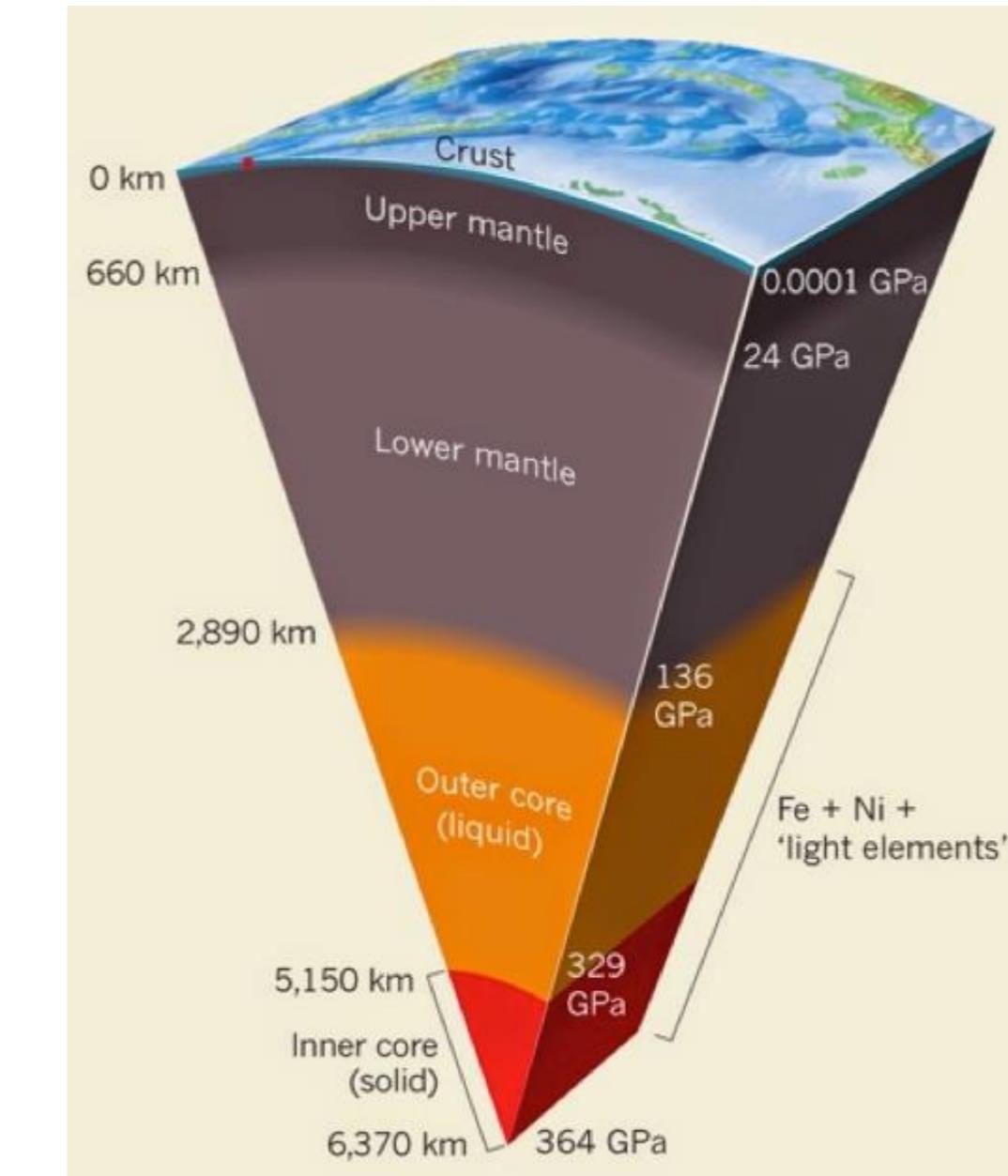
Notes on thermodynamics and statistics, 1953



~ 20,000 GPa



## Earth



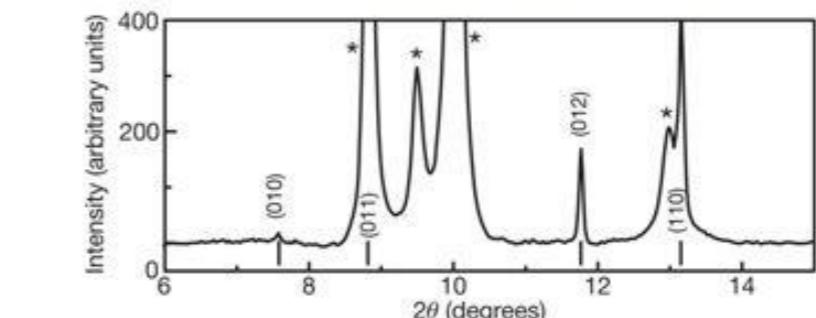
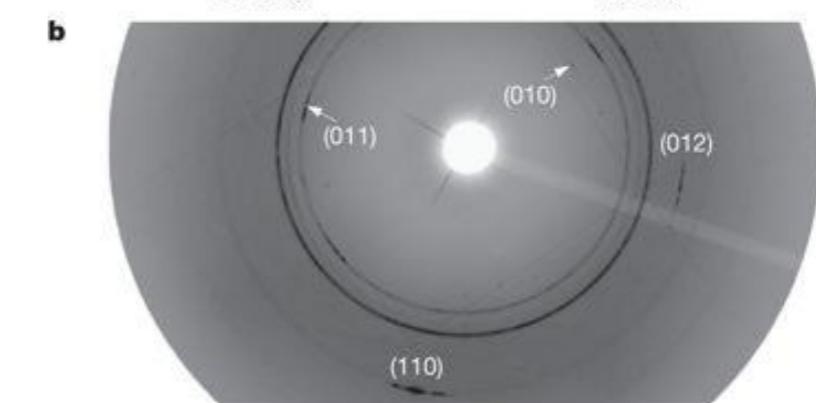
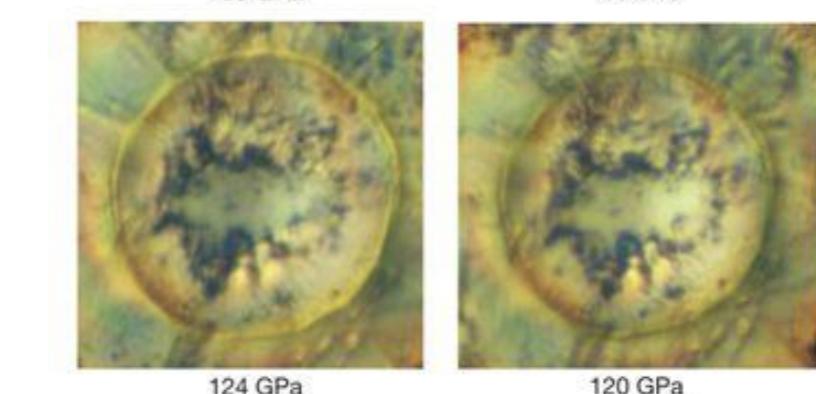
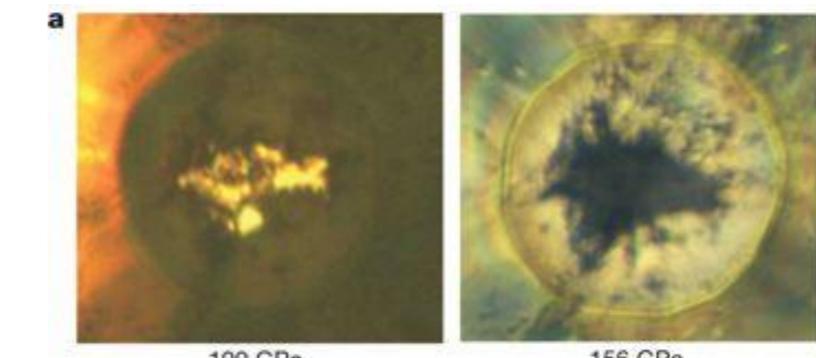
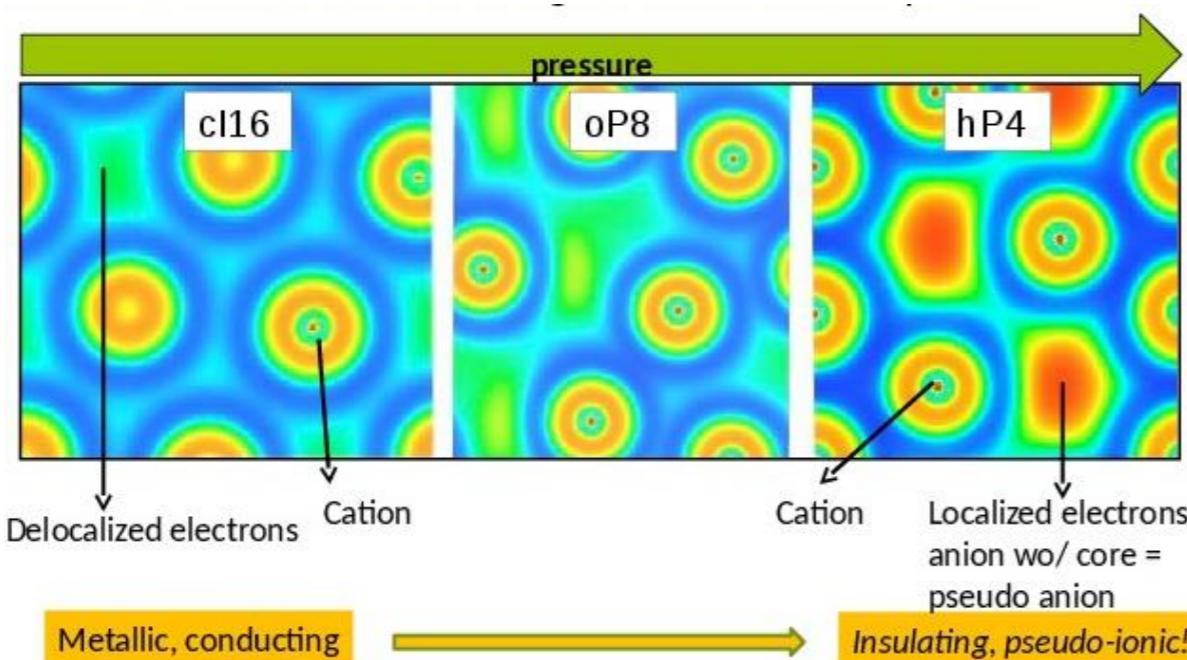
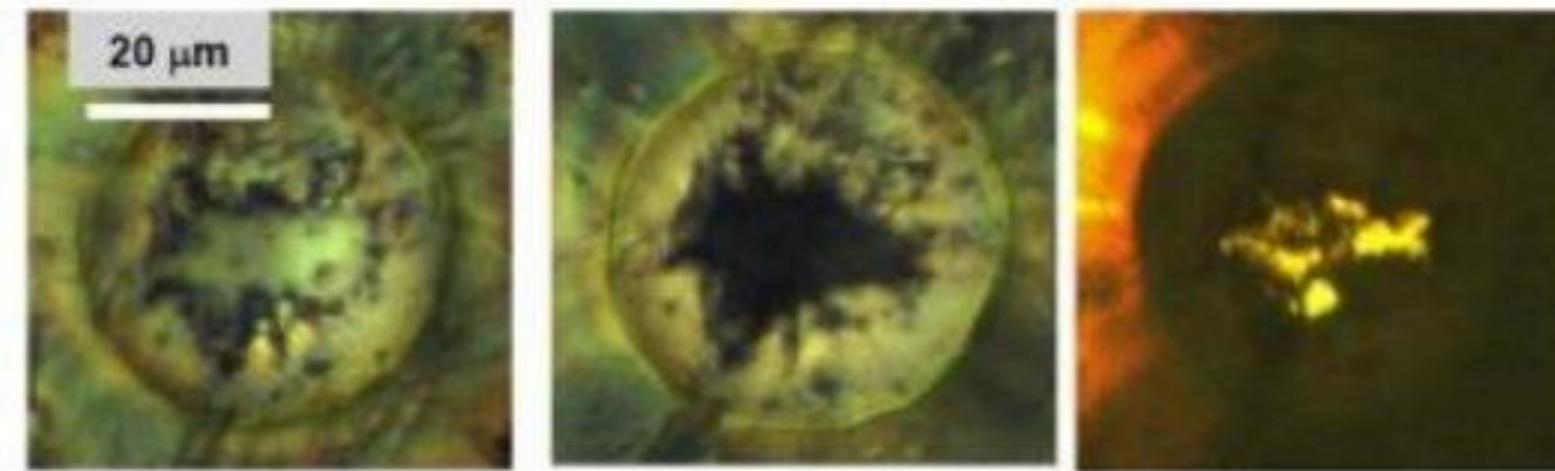
# High Pressure

## Transparent dense sodium

Yanming Ma , Mikhail Eremets, Artem R. Oganov, Yu Xie, Ivan Trojan, Sergey Medvedev, Andriy O.

Lyakhov, Mario Valle & Vitali Prakapenka

Nature **458**, 182–185 (12 March 2009) | Download Citation  

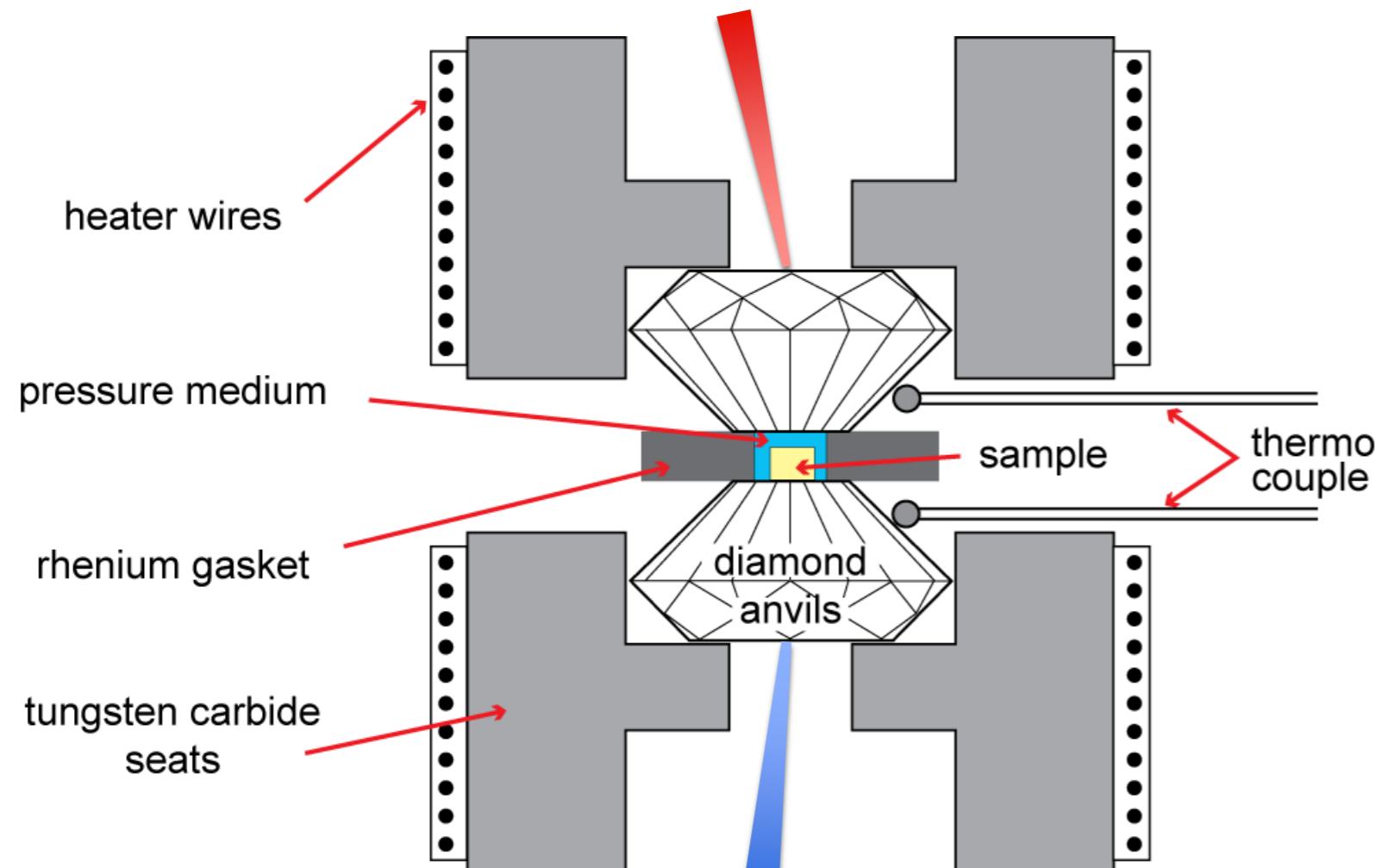


[Static]

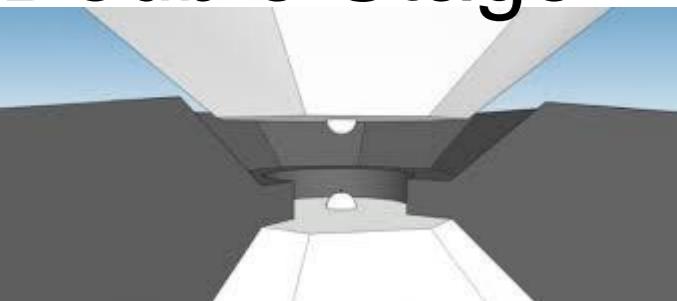
# Experiments

[Dynamic]

## Diamond Anvil Cell (DAC)



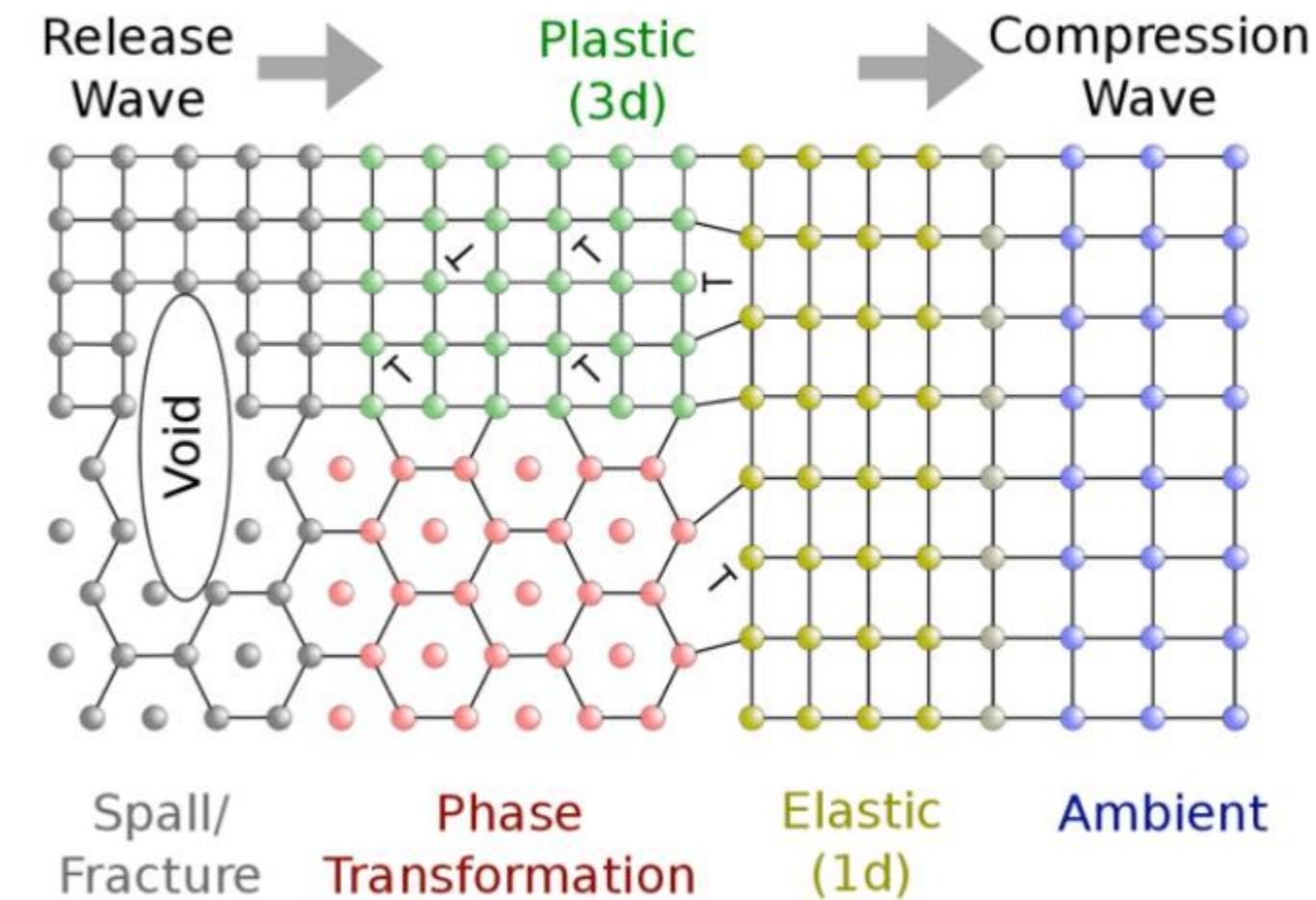
Double Stage



X-ray  
Neutron  
Raman-IR  
Camera

NMR  
Conductivity

## Shock Compression



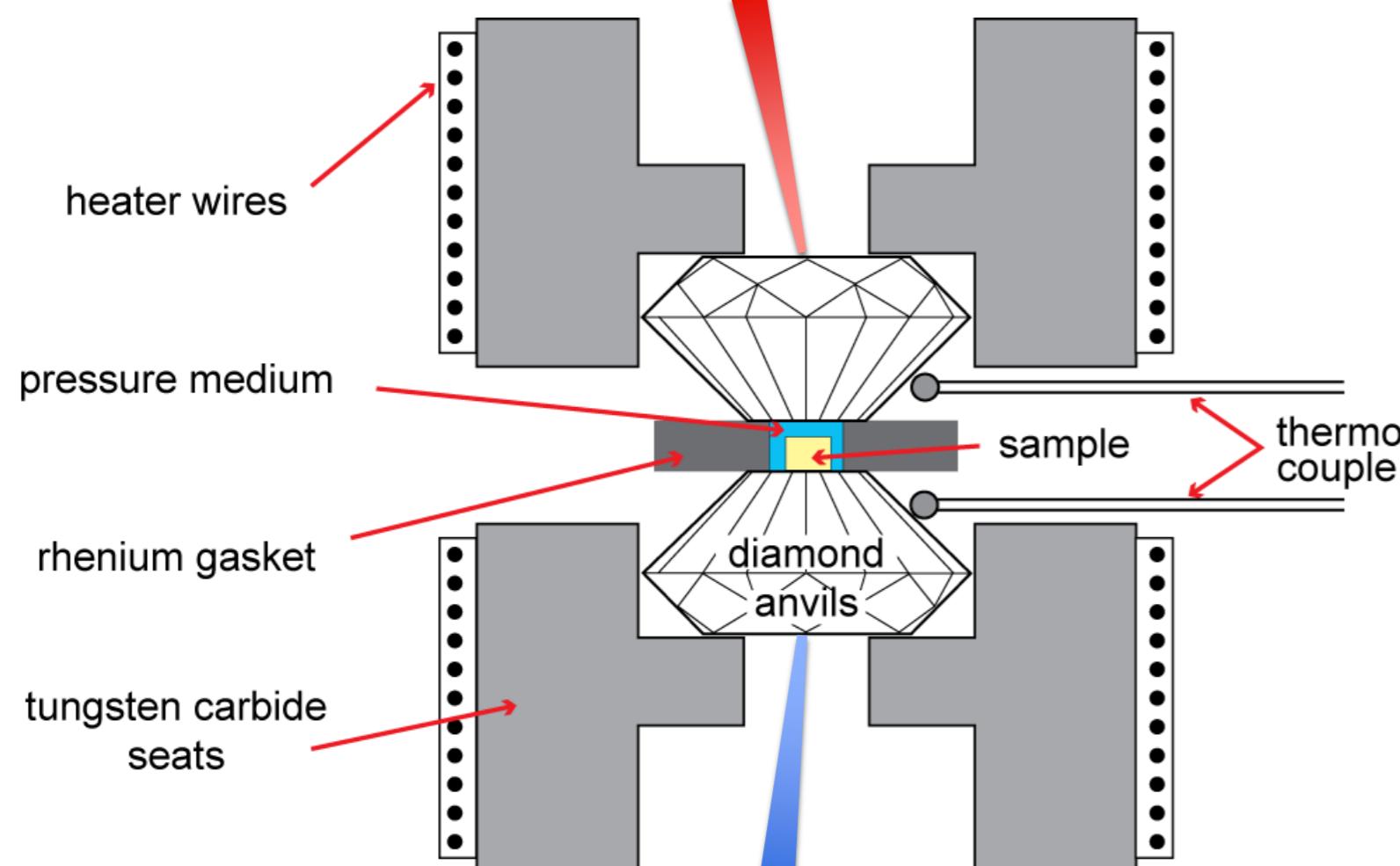
Generally non equilibrium

[Static]

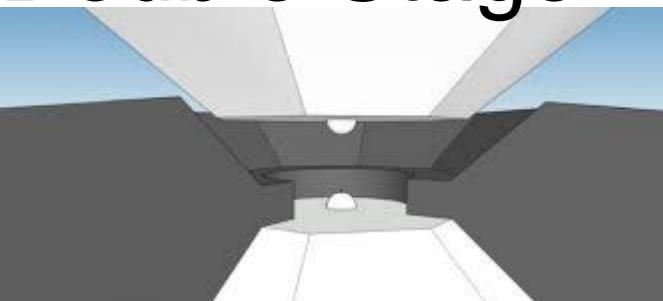
# Experiments

[Dynamic]

## Diamond Anvil Cell (DAC)

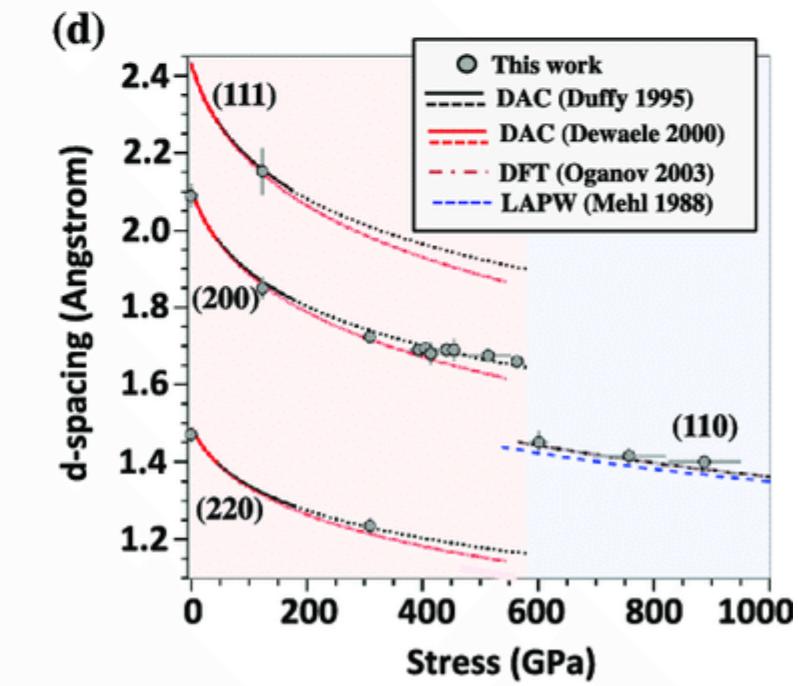
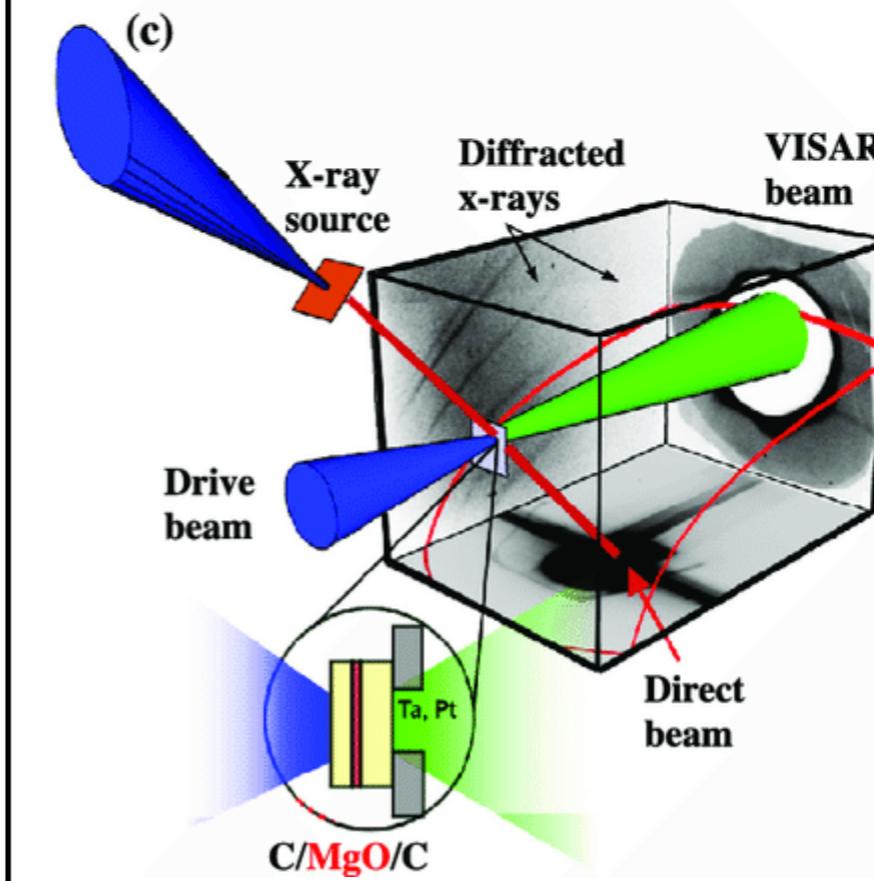
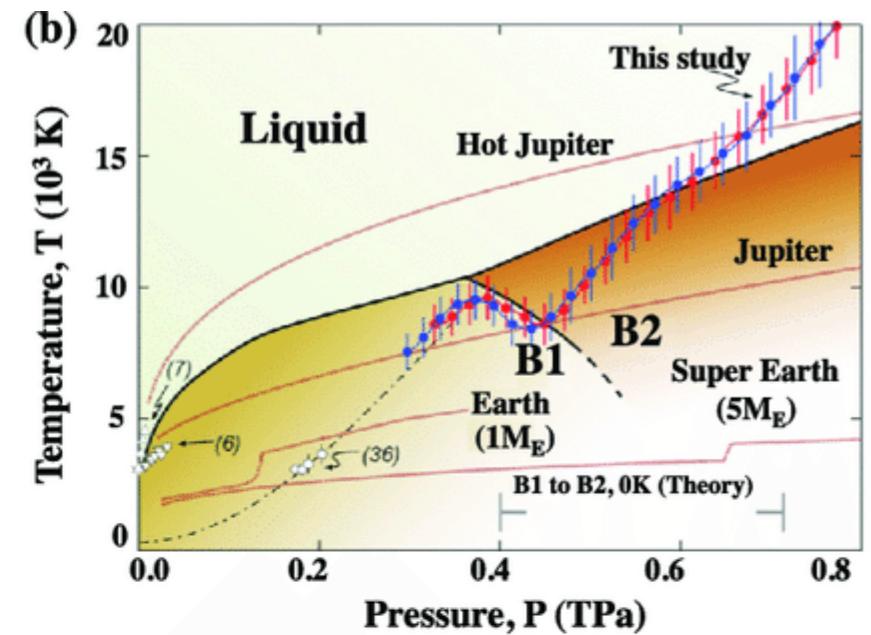
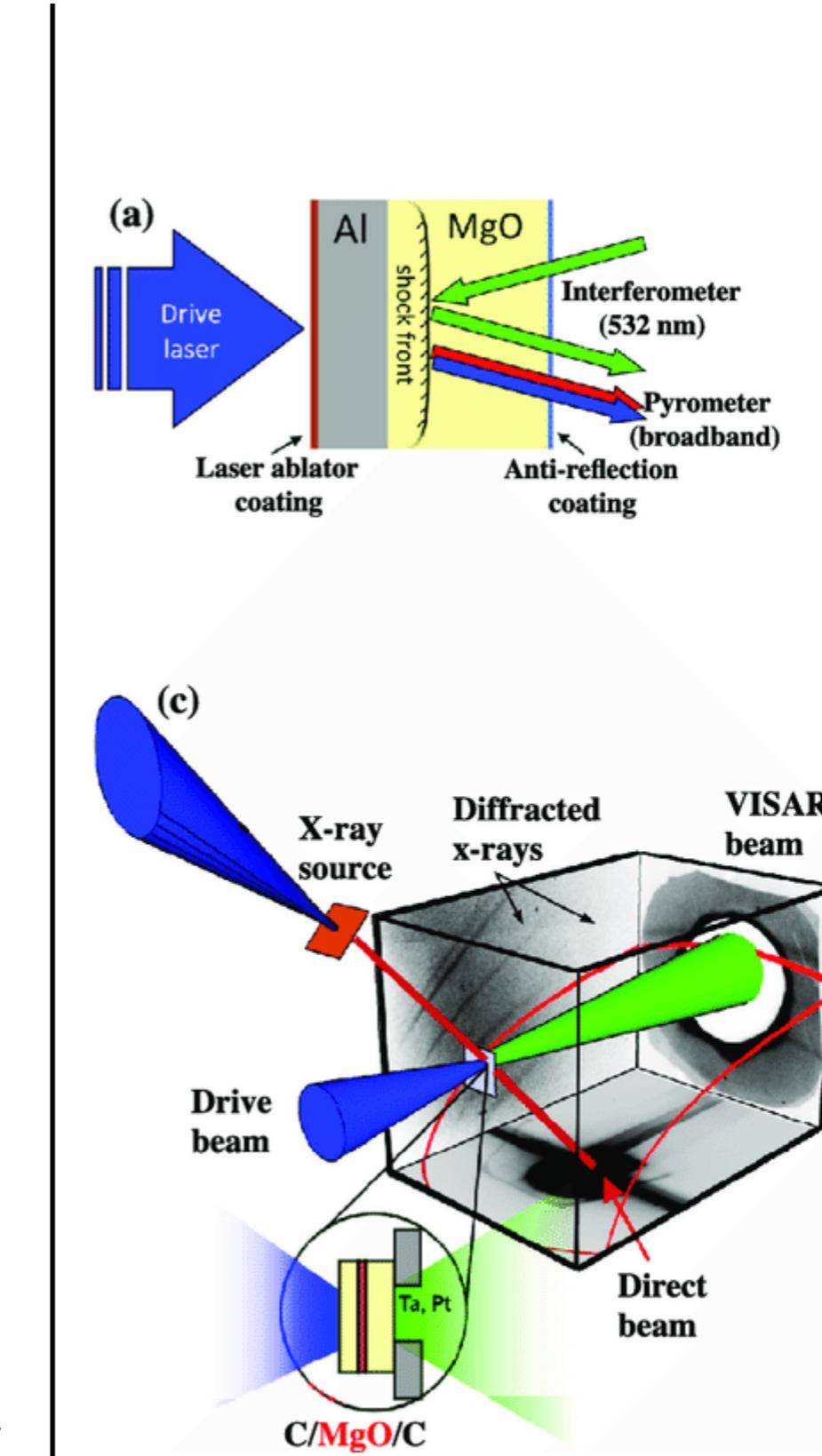


## Double Stage



X-ray  
Neutron  
Raman-IR  
Camera

## NMR Conductivity



# High Pressure

- Strange Phenomenon

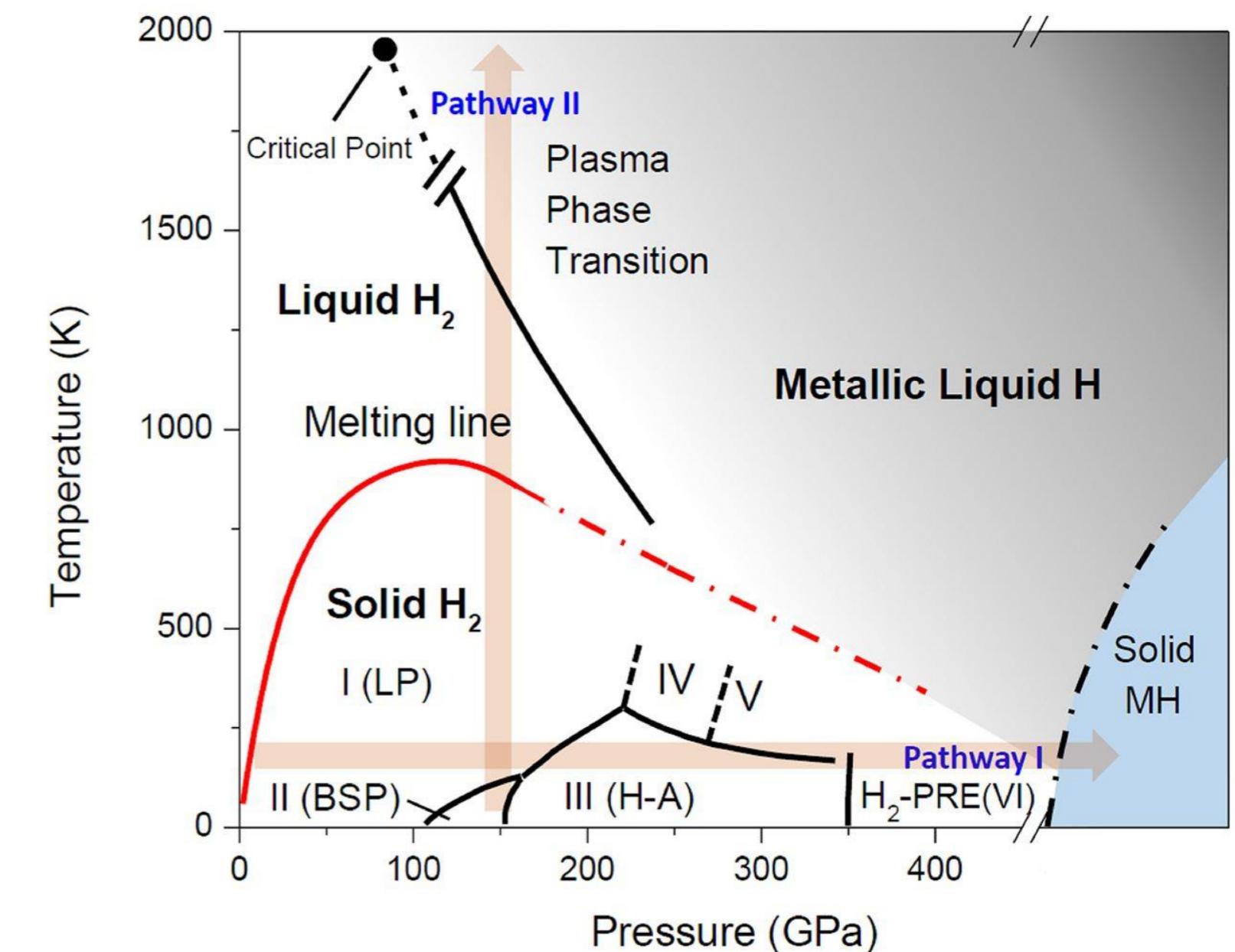
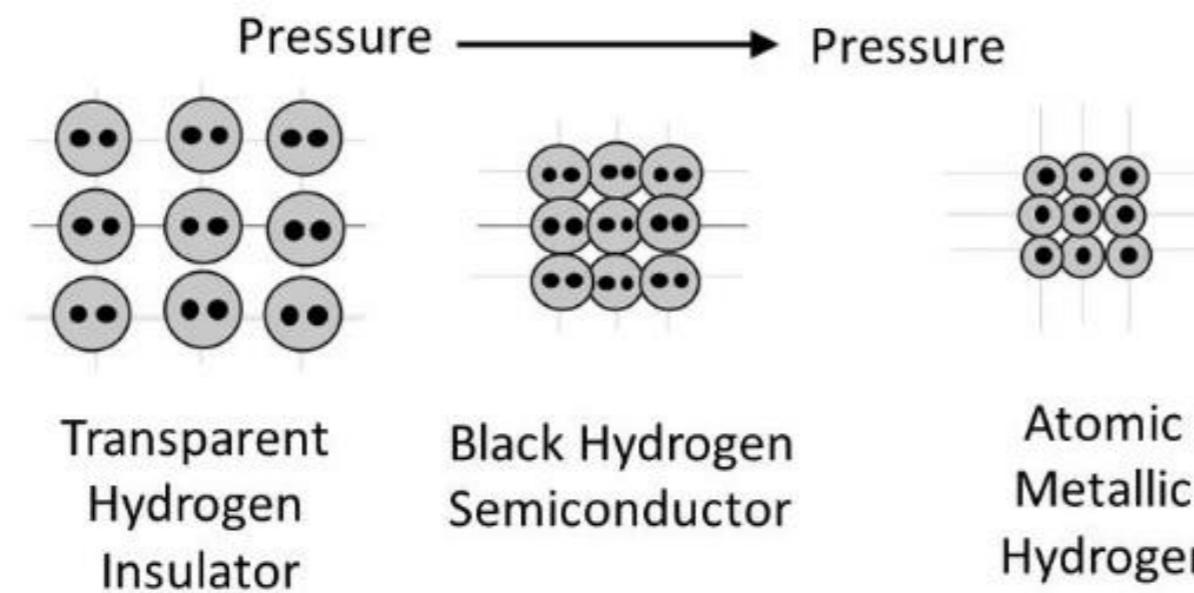
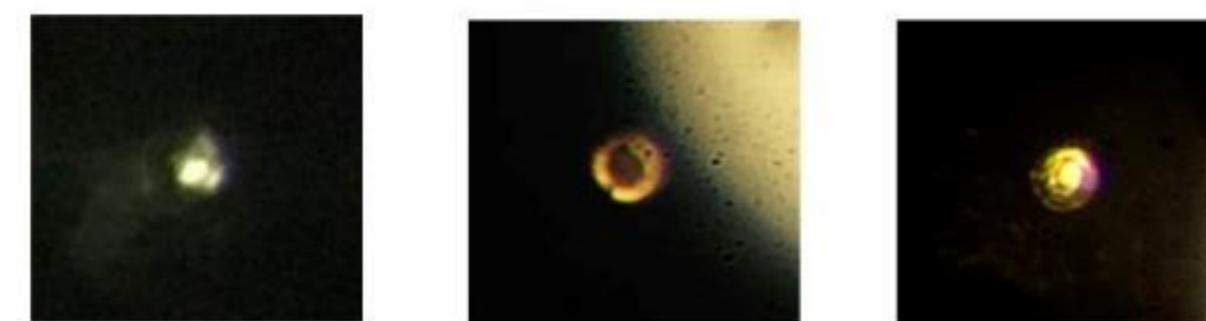
RESEARCH ARTICLE | HIGH-PRESSURE PHYSICS

## Observation of the Wigner-Huntington transition to metallic hydrogen

Ranga P. Dias, Isaac F. Silvera\*

\* See all authors and affiliations

Science 26 Jan 2017:  
eaal1579  
DOI: 10.1126/science.aal1579

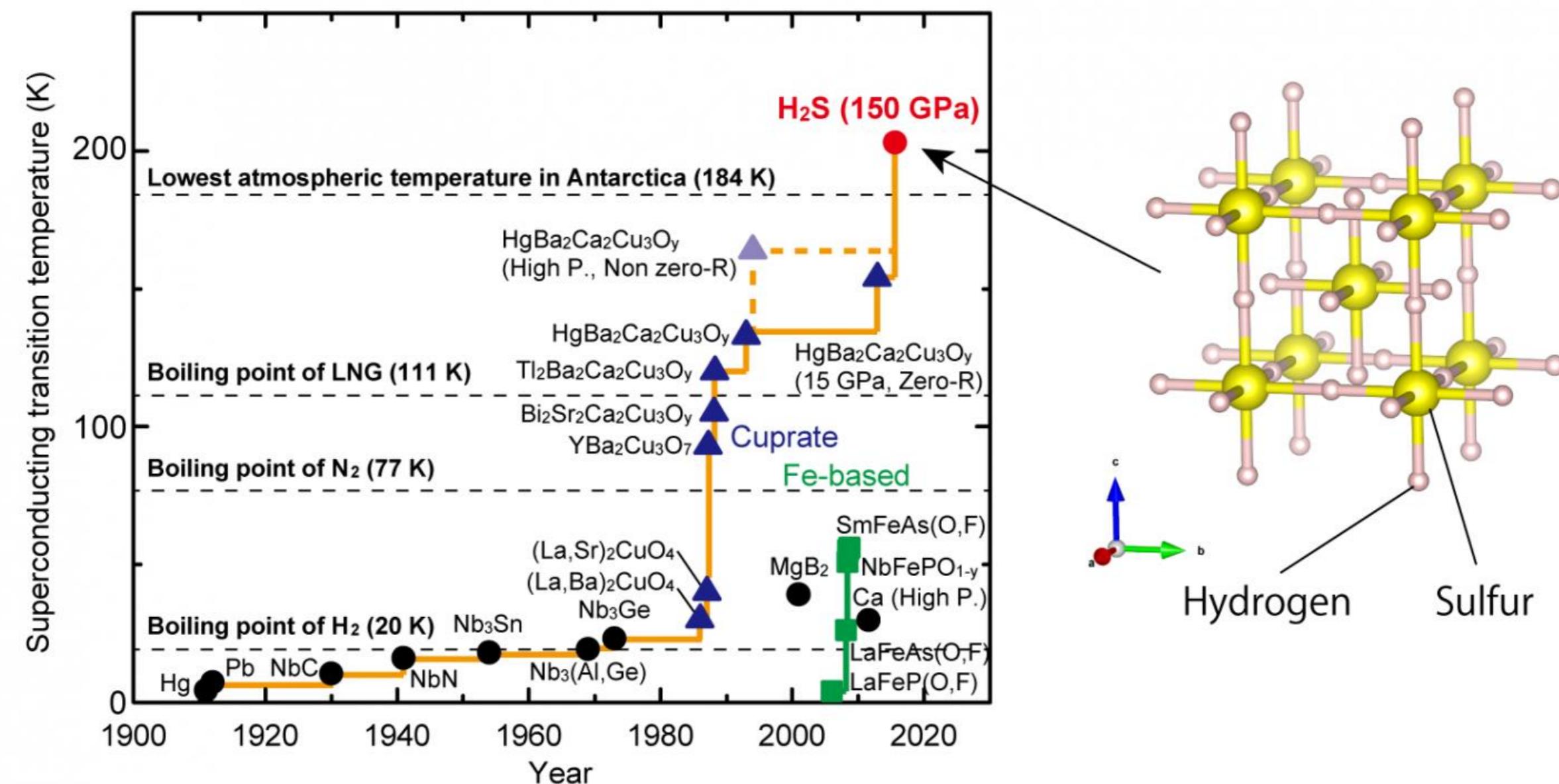


# Conventional superconductivity at 203 kelvin at high pressures in the sulfur hydride system

# High $T_c$

A. P. Drozdov, M. I. Eremets , I. A. Troyan, V. Ksenofontov & S. I. Shylin

Nature 525, 73–76 (03 September 2015) |



# Exotic states of matter

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### New scientific finding

The superionic form of water, both liquid and solid

15/02/2018 - Trieste

Water is liquid. Indeed, this is true at ambient conditions, as experienced in our daily life. But what would happen under extreme pressures and temperatures such as those inside planets rich in water like Uranus or Neptune? According to scientists, a new phase would appear, a form of water both liquid and solid: a "superionic" water. A team of researchers at ICTP and SISSA, among which Sandro Scandolo and Erio Tosatti, already theoretically predicted this almost 20 years ago in a study published in *Science* in 1999. Their paper was recently cited by a research team from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Rochester, which has provided the first experimental evidence for the existence of superionic water. A recent note about the study, featured in *Nature Physics*, was posted by the *New York Times* last week.

We have interviewed ICTP researcher Sandro Scandolo to find out more about the relevance and the impact of this new finding.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

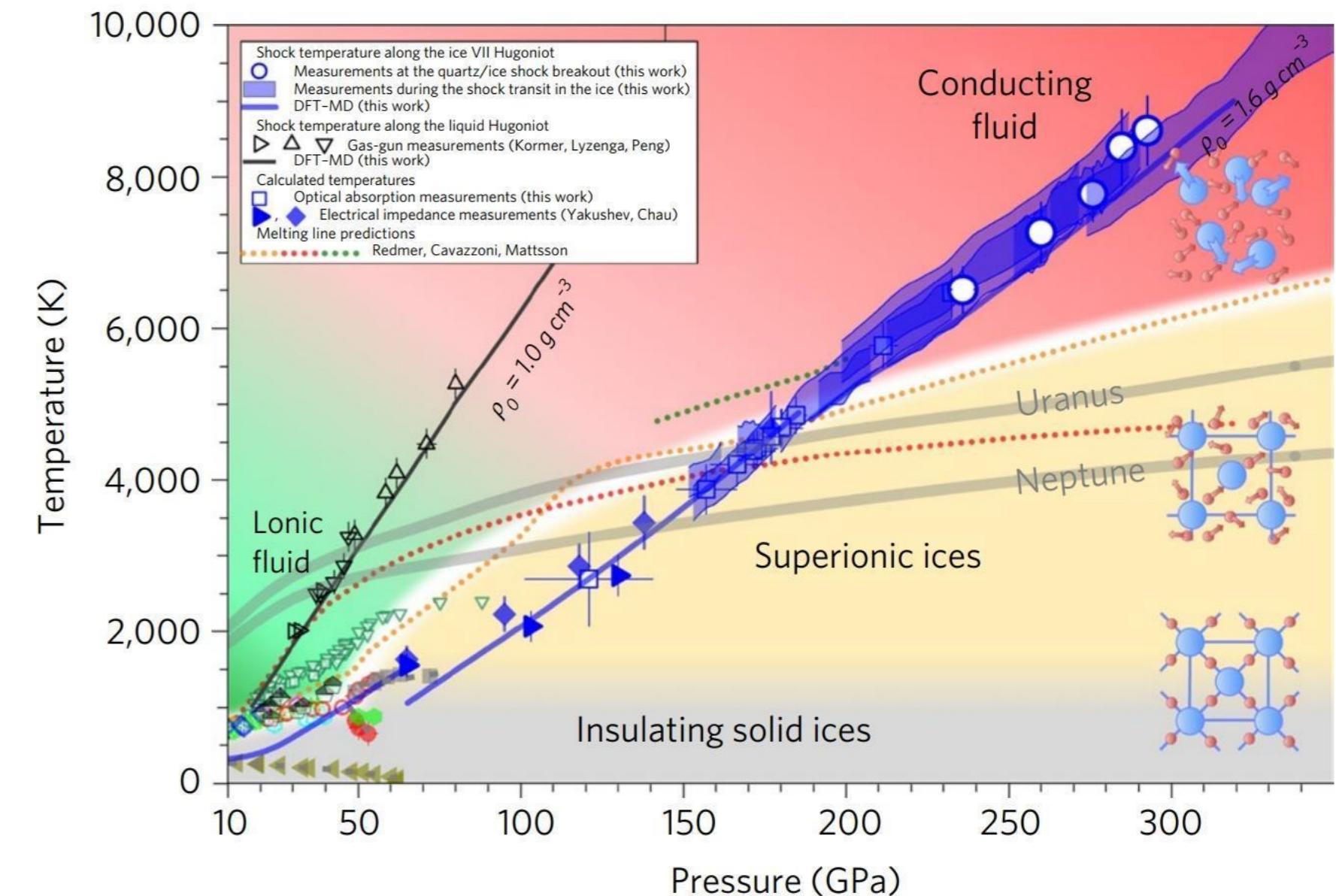
### Superionic Phase Validated?

31/03/2005

An article in *Nature* reports that recent experiments may have confirmed the existence of a superionic phase of water, a concept that previously existed solely as a theory. Superionic material represents a strange state that is halfway between solid and liquid. In the case of water, for example, the oxygens under ultra-high pressure remain solid, but the hydrogens flow like liquid. The findings seem to confirm, in simulation, the existence of deep ice layers in Uranus and Neptune, which formed under ultra-high pressures and temperatures. The superionic state had been predicted theoretically in the late 1990s by a group of scientists that includes former ICTP acting director Erio Tosatti and ICTP staff scientist Sandro Scandolo. The lead author in the *Science* article that first presented this theory was Carlo Cavazzoni, a former student at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA).



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Experimental evidence for superionic water ice using shock compression

Marius Millot , Sébastien Hamel, J. Ryan Rygg, Peter M. Celliers, Gilbert W. Collins, Federica Coppari, Dayne E. Fratanduono, Raymond Jeanloz, Damian C. Swift & Jon H. Egger

# Exotic states of matter

## SUPERIONIC TRANSITION IN ICE

I.A. Ryzhkin

Institute of Solid State Physics, Academy of Sciences of USSR, Chernogolovka, 142432, USSR

(Received 20 May 1985 by V.M. Agranovich)

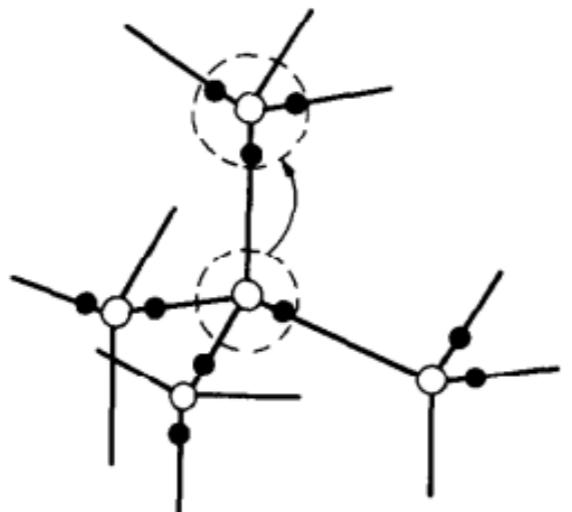
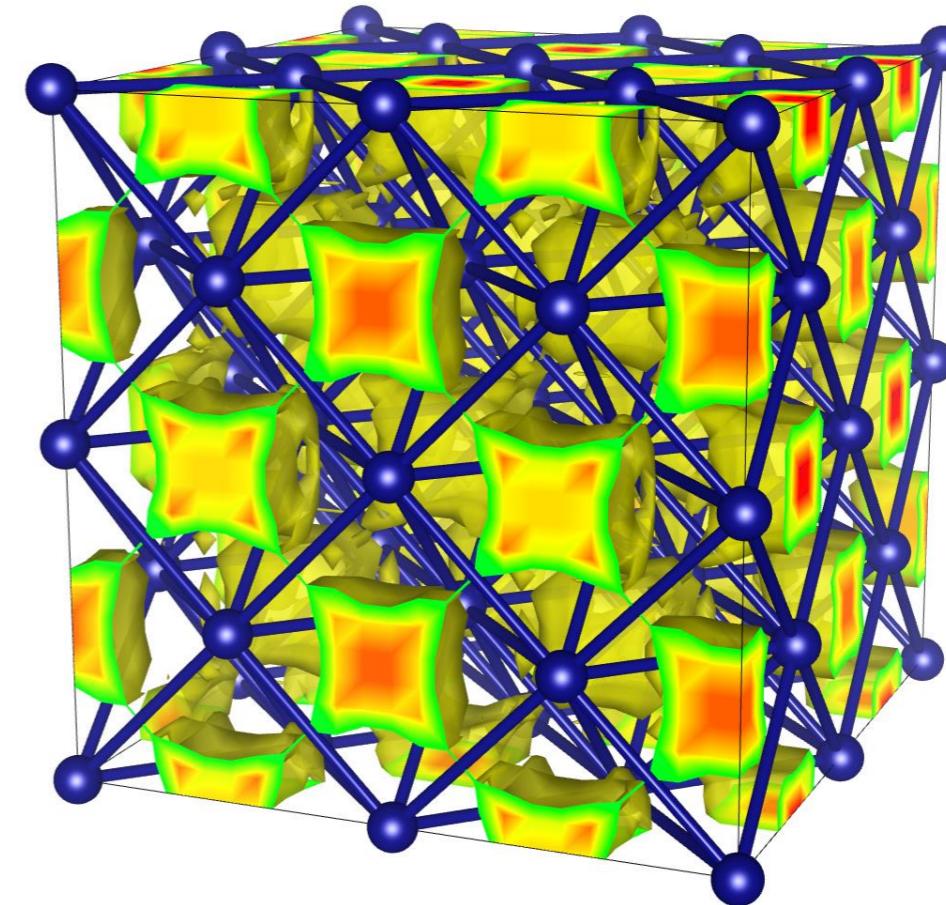


Fig. 2. Proton configuration with one pair of ionic defects.

Solid State Communications, Vol. 56, No. 1, pp. 57–60, 1985.  
Printed in Great Britain.

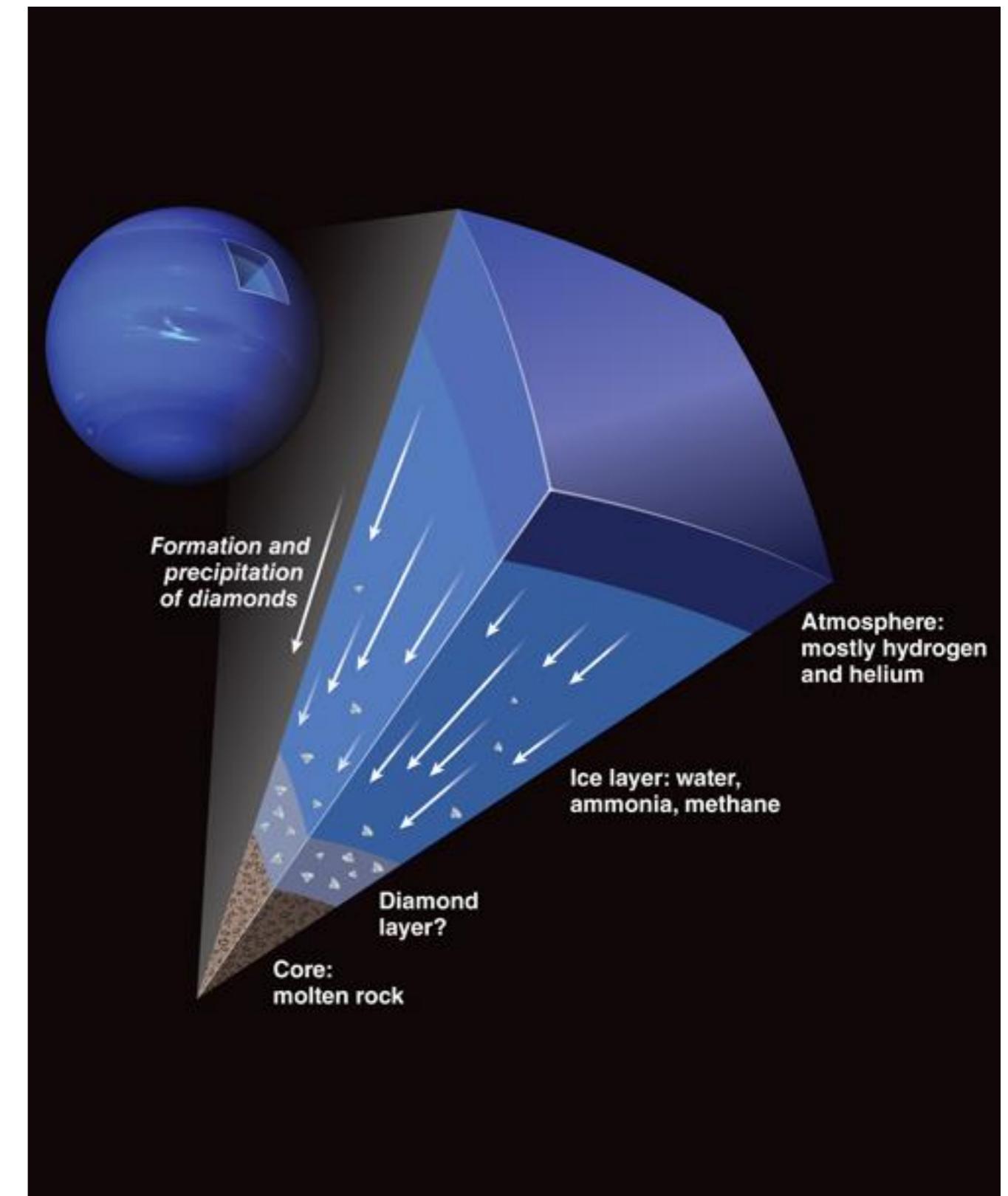
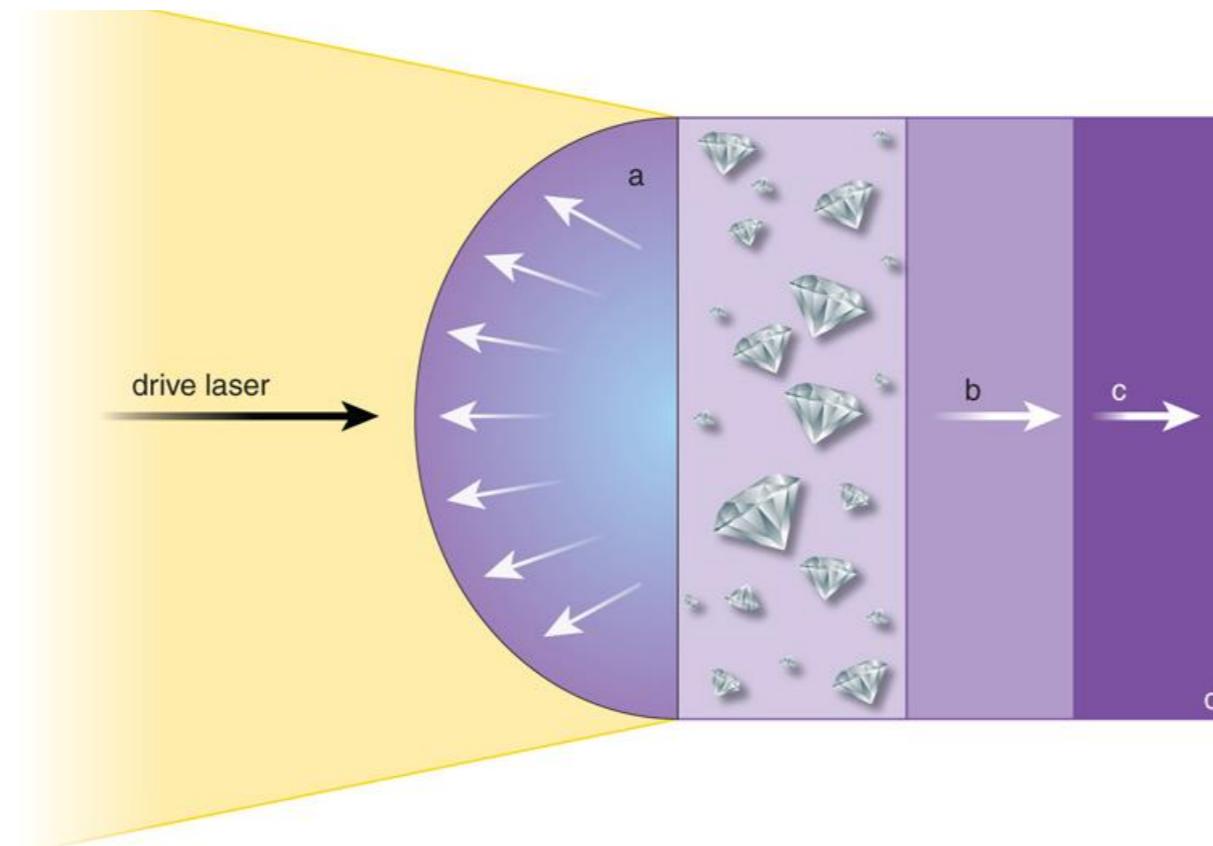


**Superionic to superionic phase change in water:  
Consequences for the interiors of Uranus and Neptune**  
[Hugh F. Wilson, Michael L. Wong, Burkhard Militzer](#) [Phys.Rev.Lett. 110 \(2013\) no.15, 151102](#)

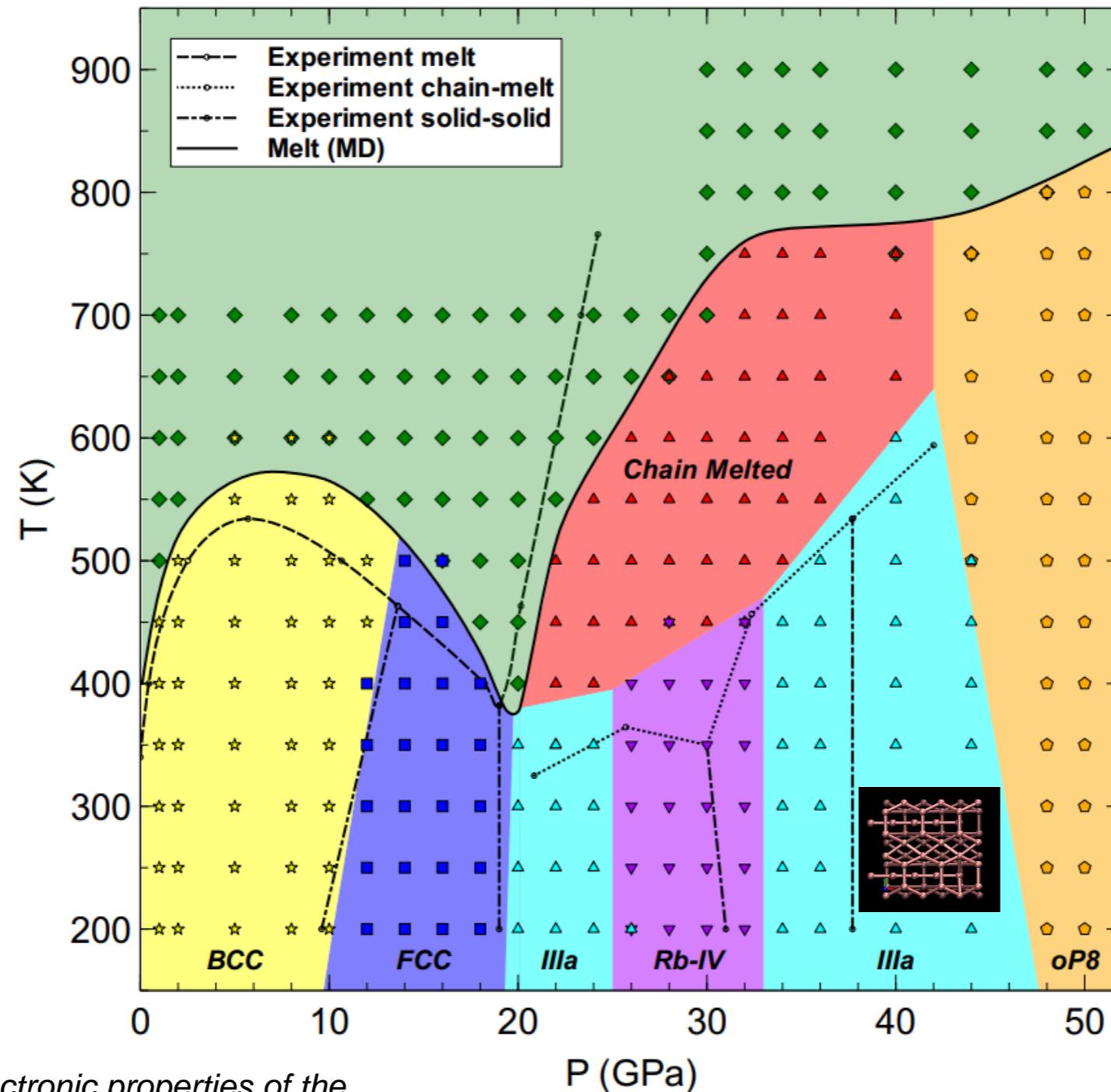
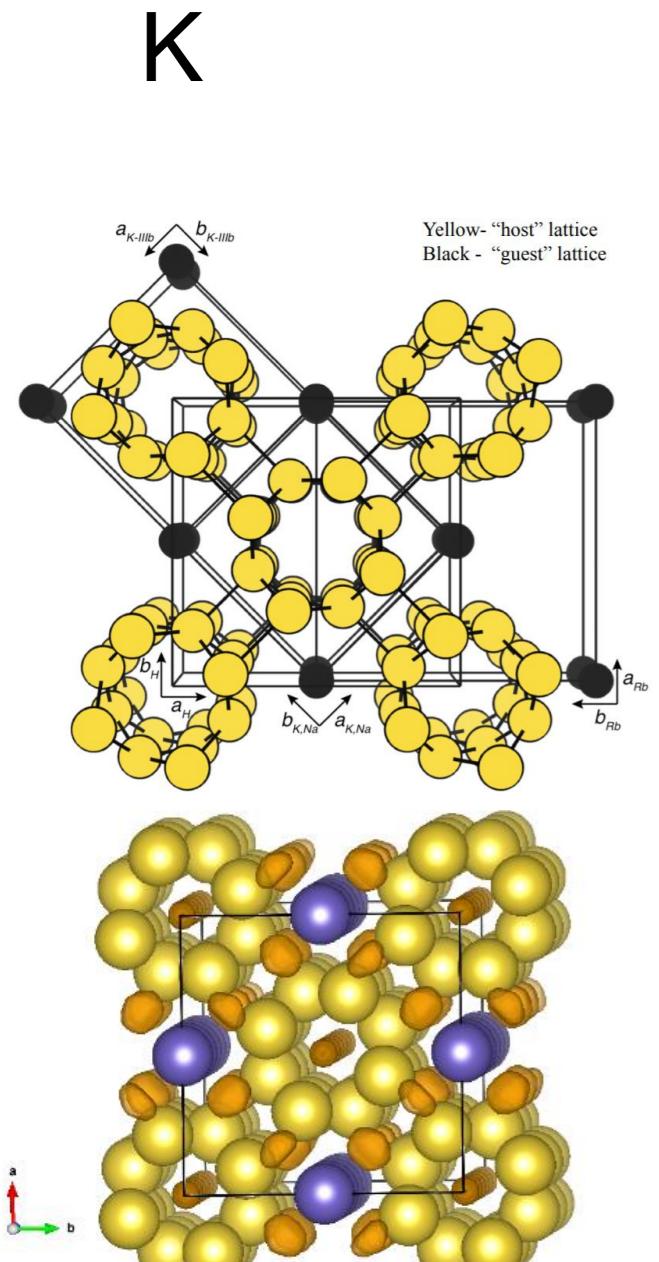
# Formation of diamonds in laser-compressed hydrocarbons at planetary interior conditions

D. Kraus , J. Vorberger, A. Pak, N. J. Hartley, L. B. Fletcher, S. Frydrych, E. Galtier, E. J. Gamboa, D. O. Gericke, S. H. Glenzer, E. Granados, M. J. MacDonald, A. J. MacKinnon, E. E. McBride, I. Nam, P. Neumayer, M. Roth, A. M. Saunders, A. K. Schuster, P. Sun, T. van Driel, T. Döppner & R. W. Falcone

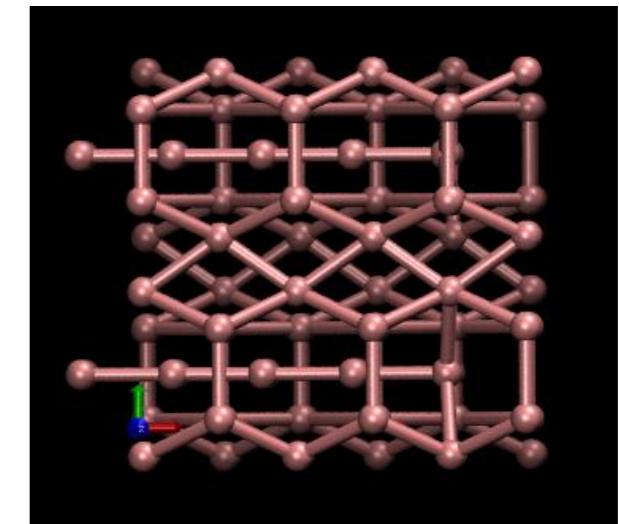
*Nature Astronomy* **1**, 606–611 (2017) |



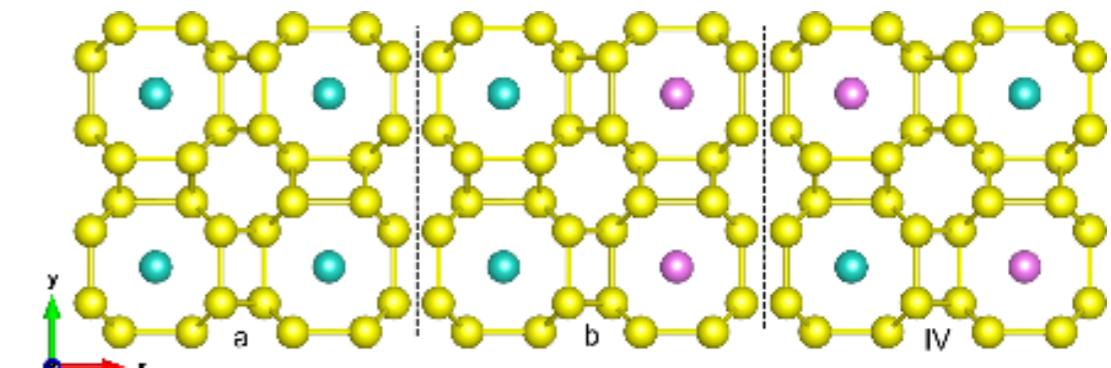
# Partial Melts



Machine  
Learned  
Force-field



40 GPa  
200 K

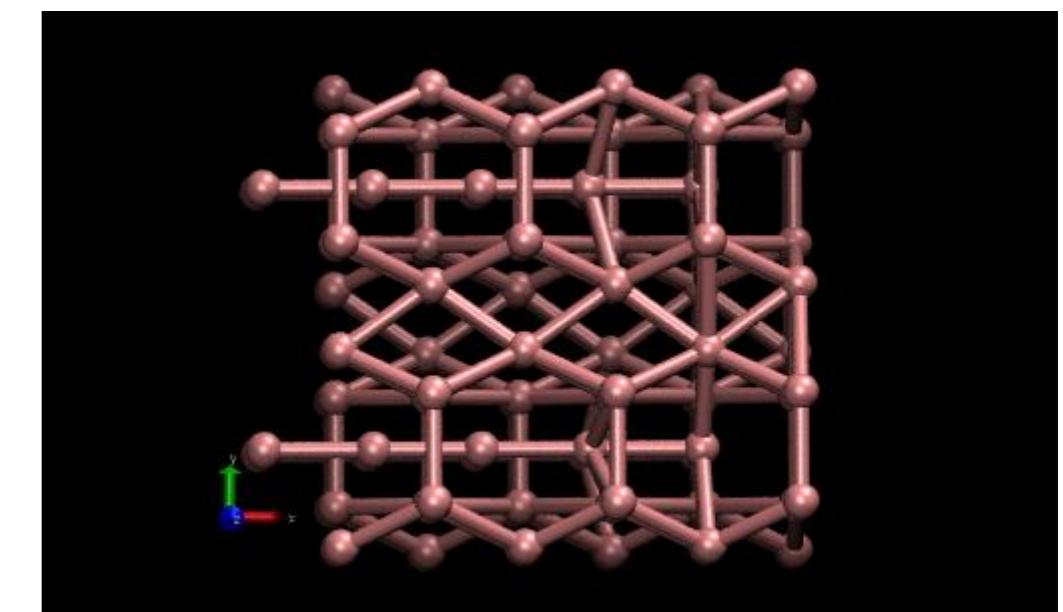
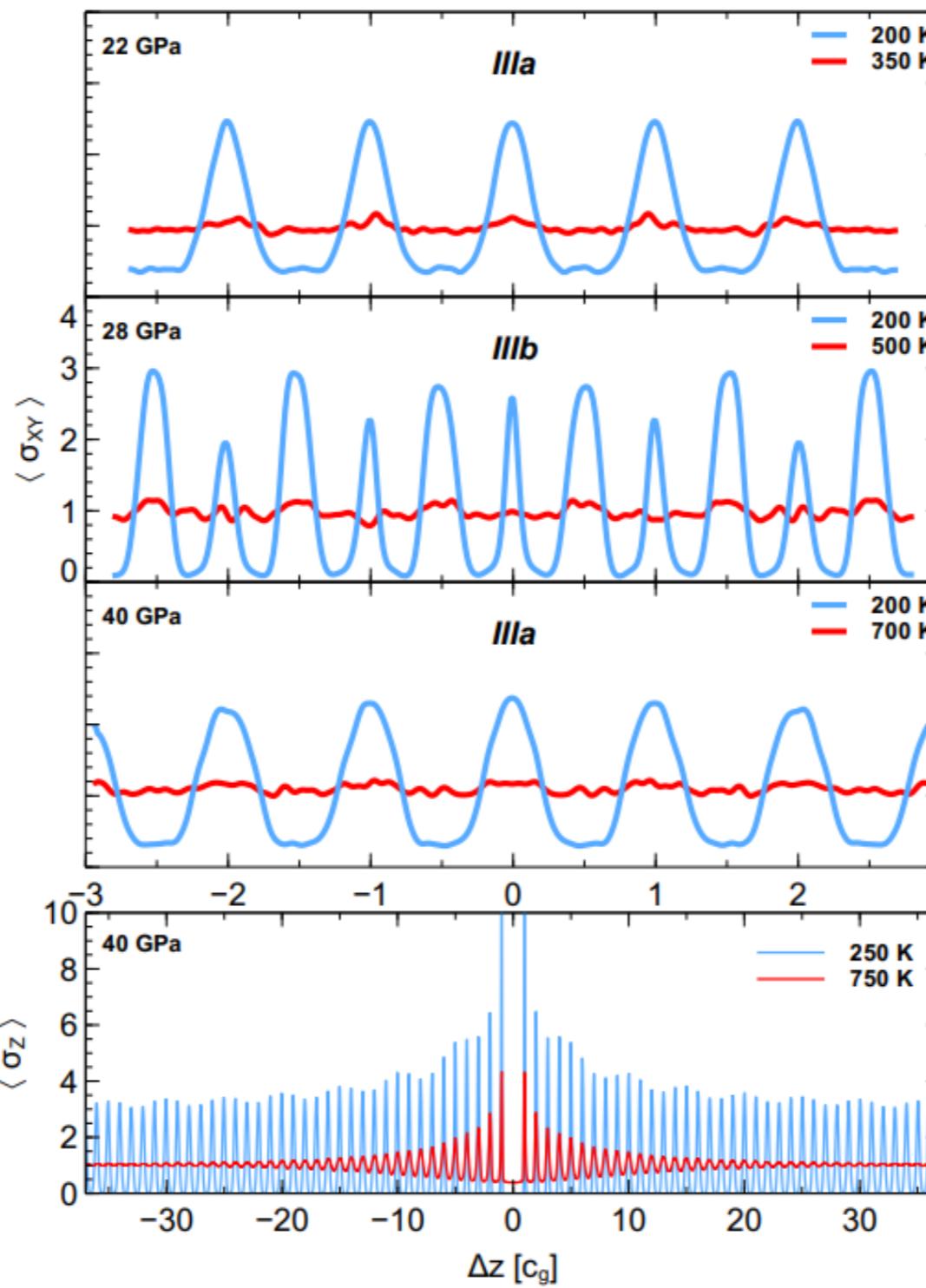
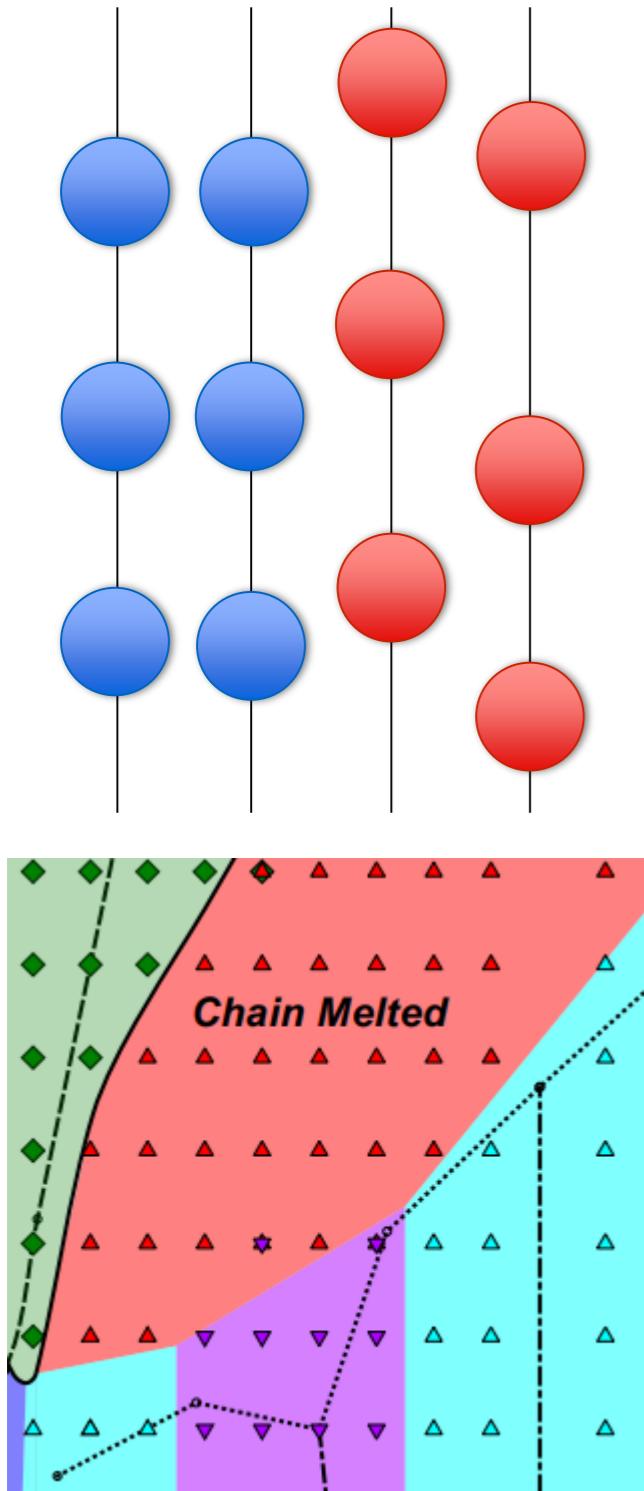


Submitted

[1] Woolman, Gavin, et al. "Structural and electronic properties of the alkali metal incommensurate phases." *Physical Review Materials* 2.5 (2018): 053604.

[2] Emma E McBride, Keith A Munro, Graham W Stinton, Rachel J Husband, Richard Briggs, H-P Liermann, and Malcolm I McMahon.

# Partial Melts

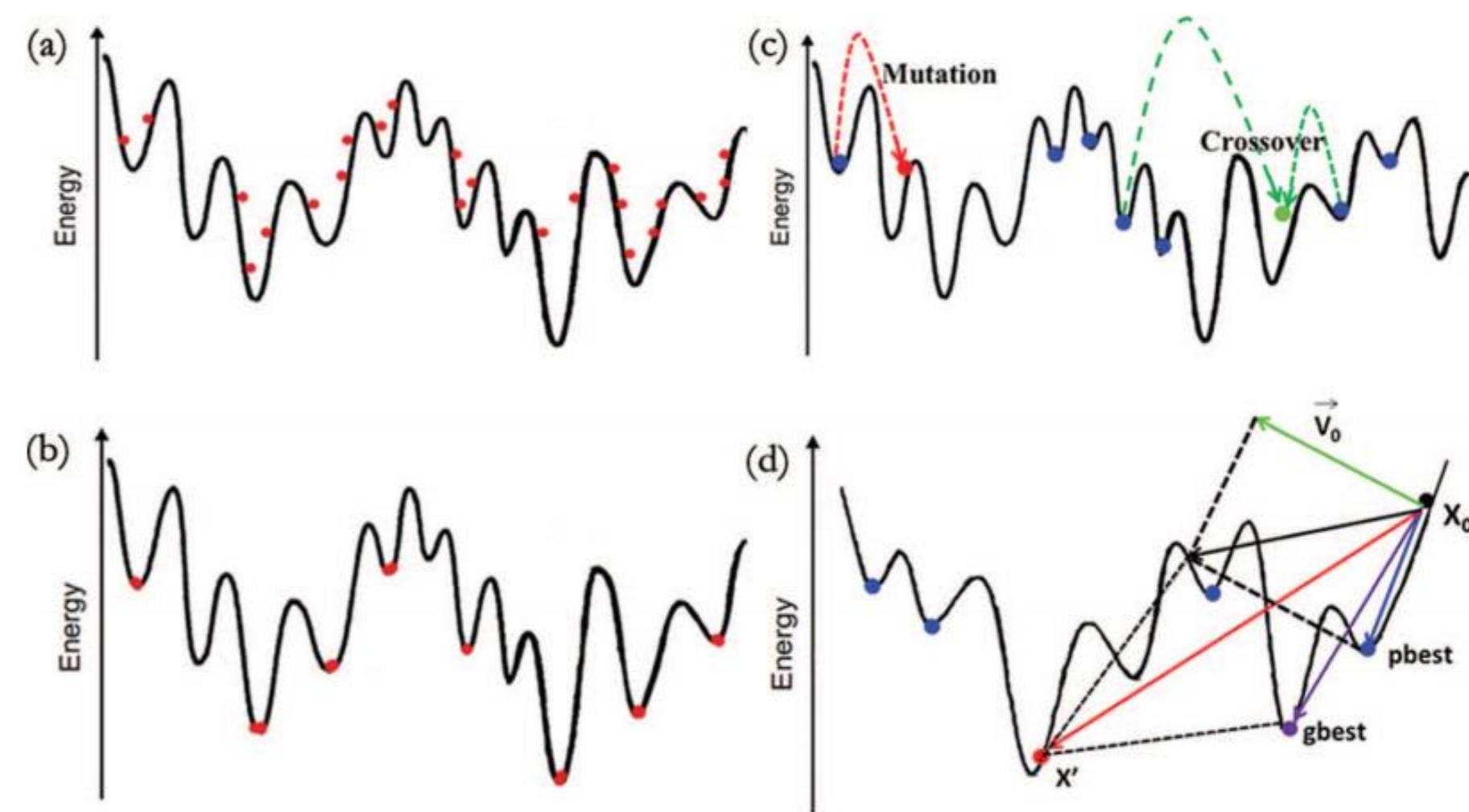
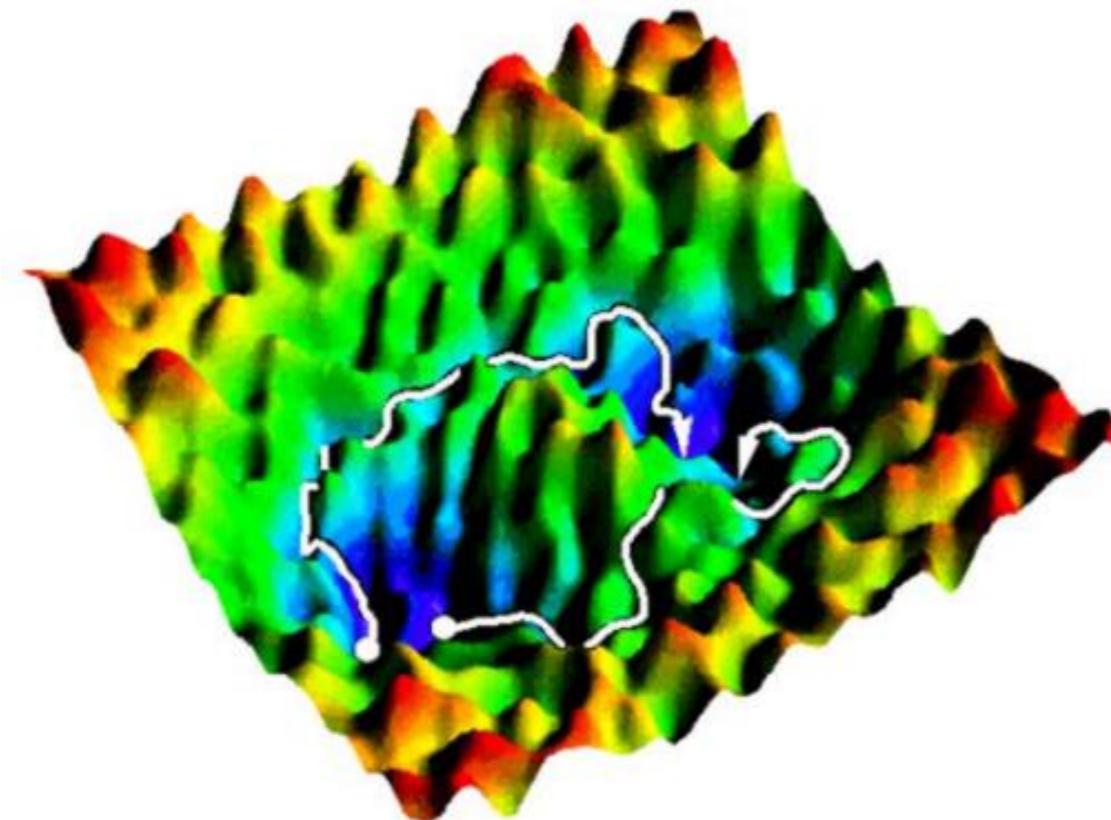


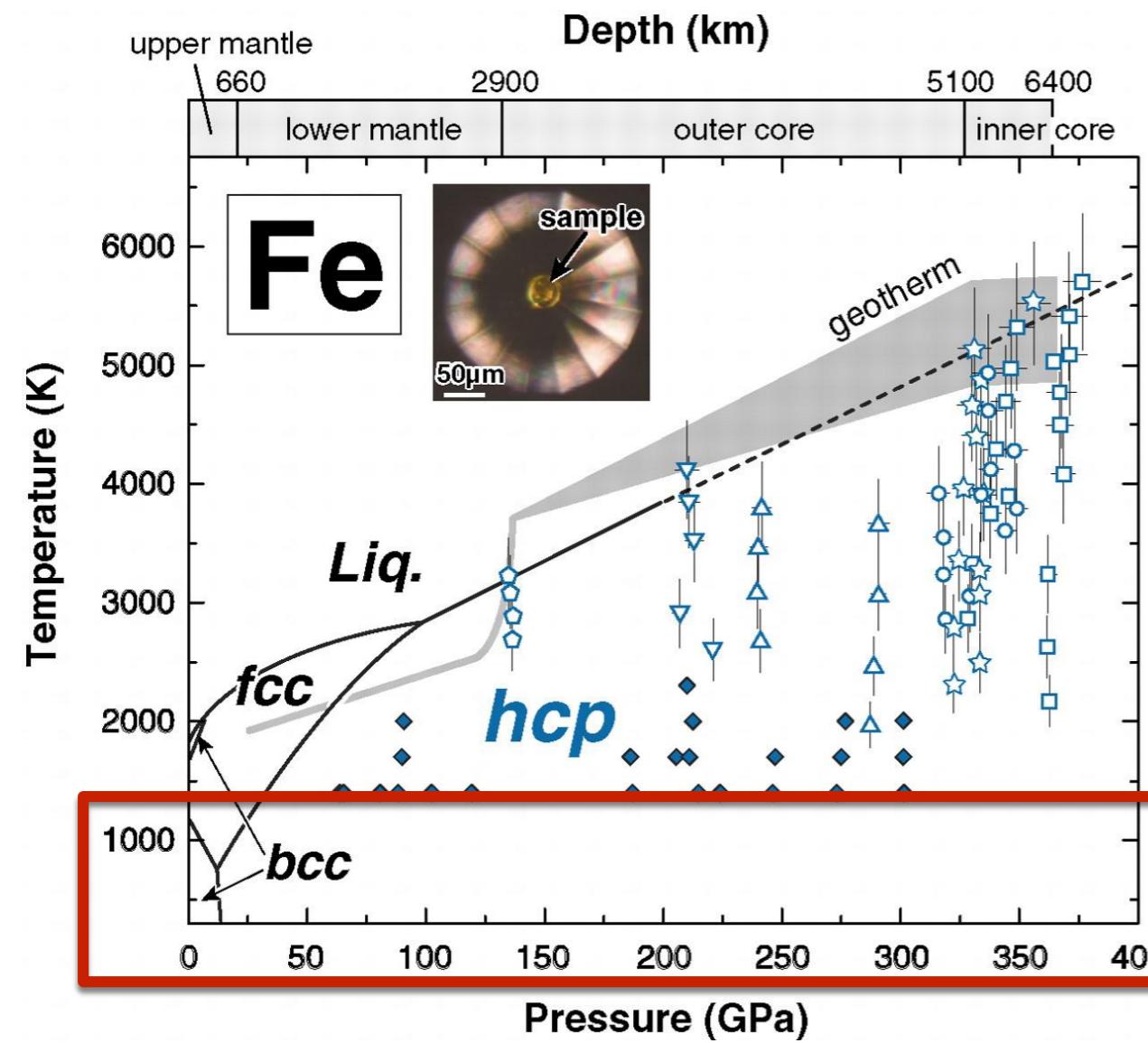
1000 K

Submitted

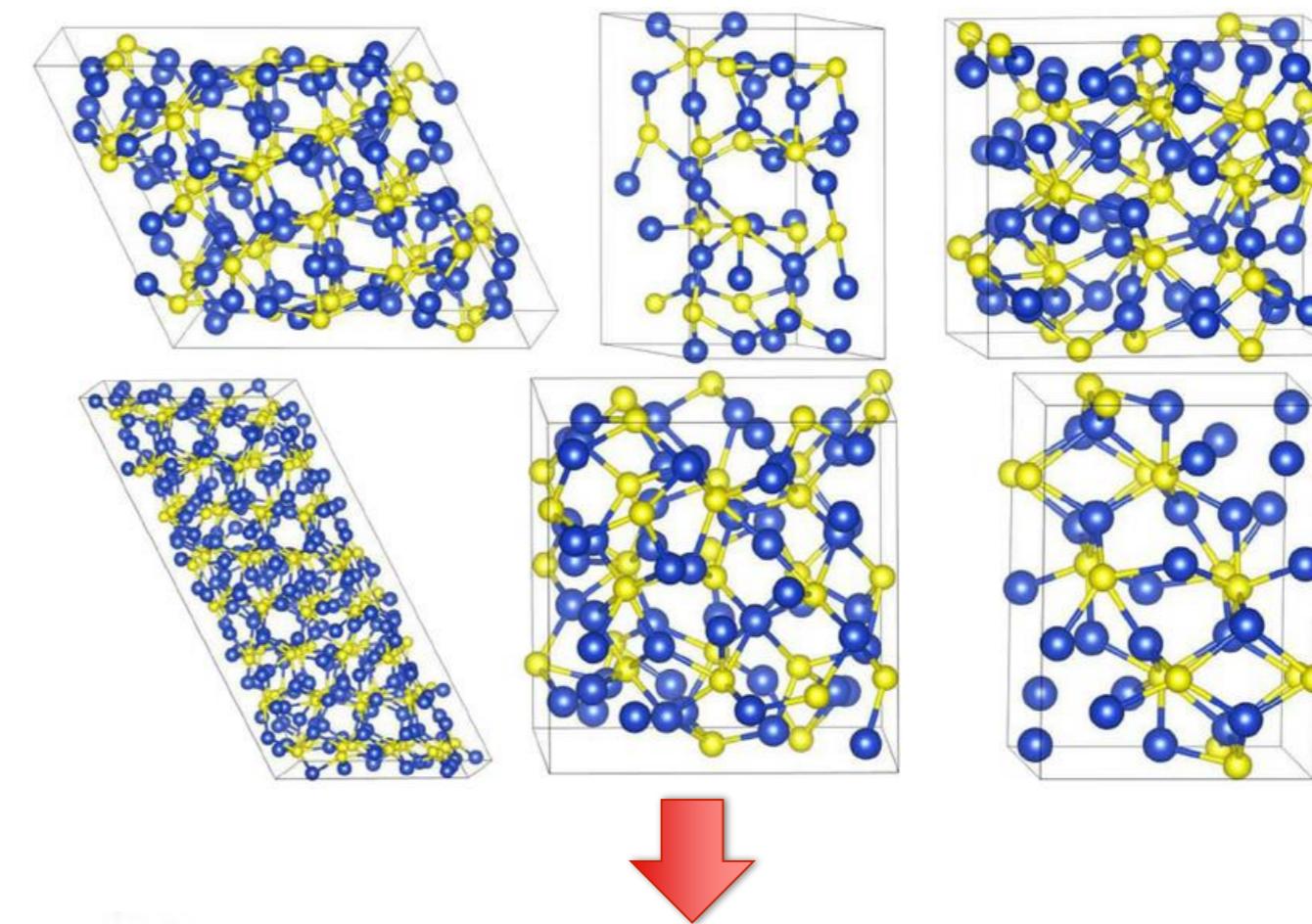
# Crystal Structure Prediction

- Simplest form: Relax **many random** unit cells → lowest energy





**many random unit cells**



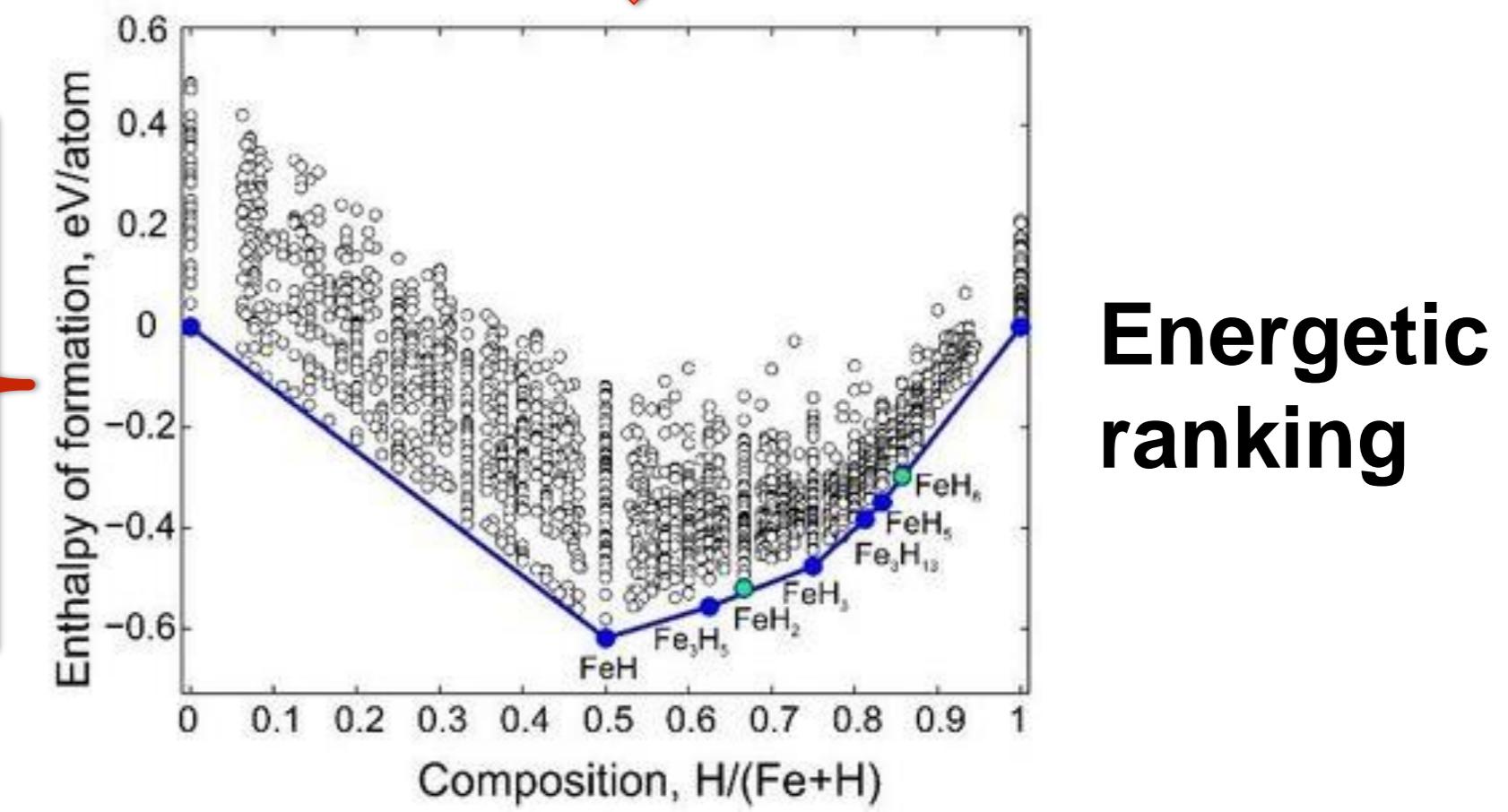
Machine Learning  
Learning  
Ab initio (DFT)  
QMC

Potentials

↑

↓

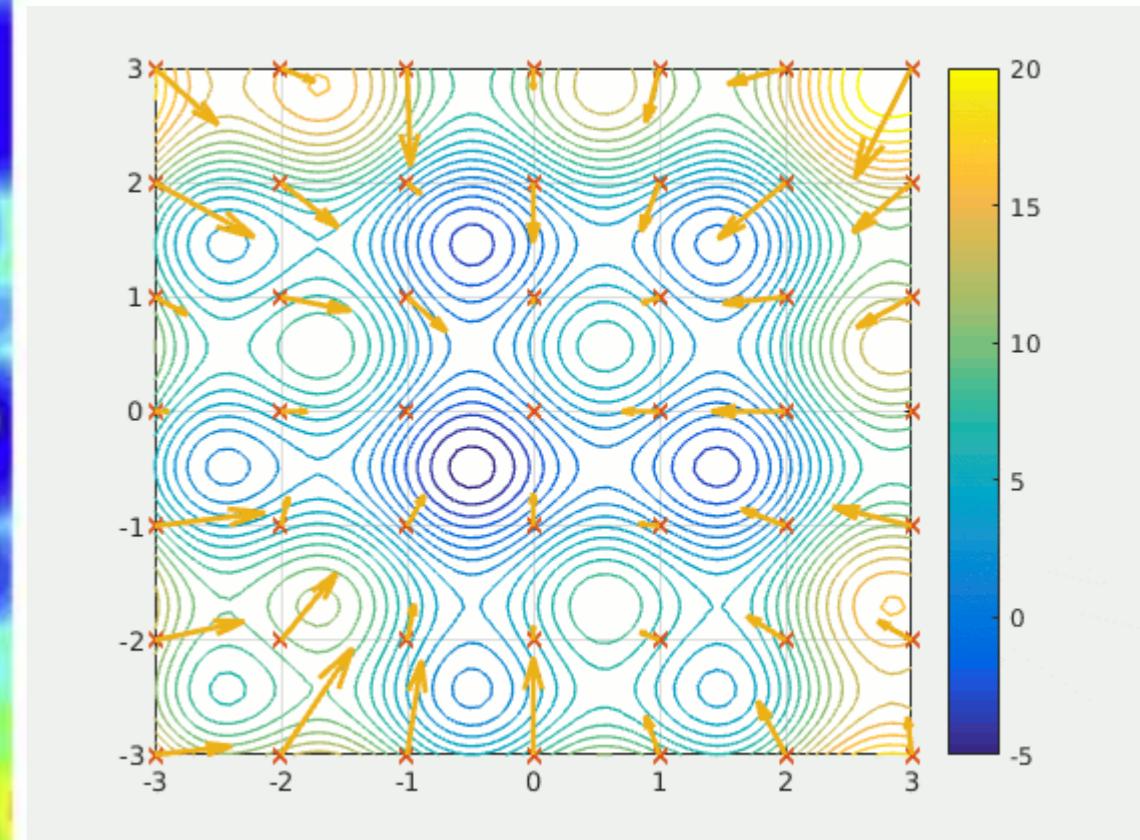
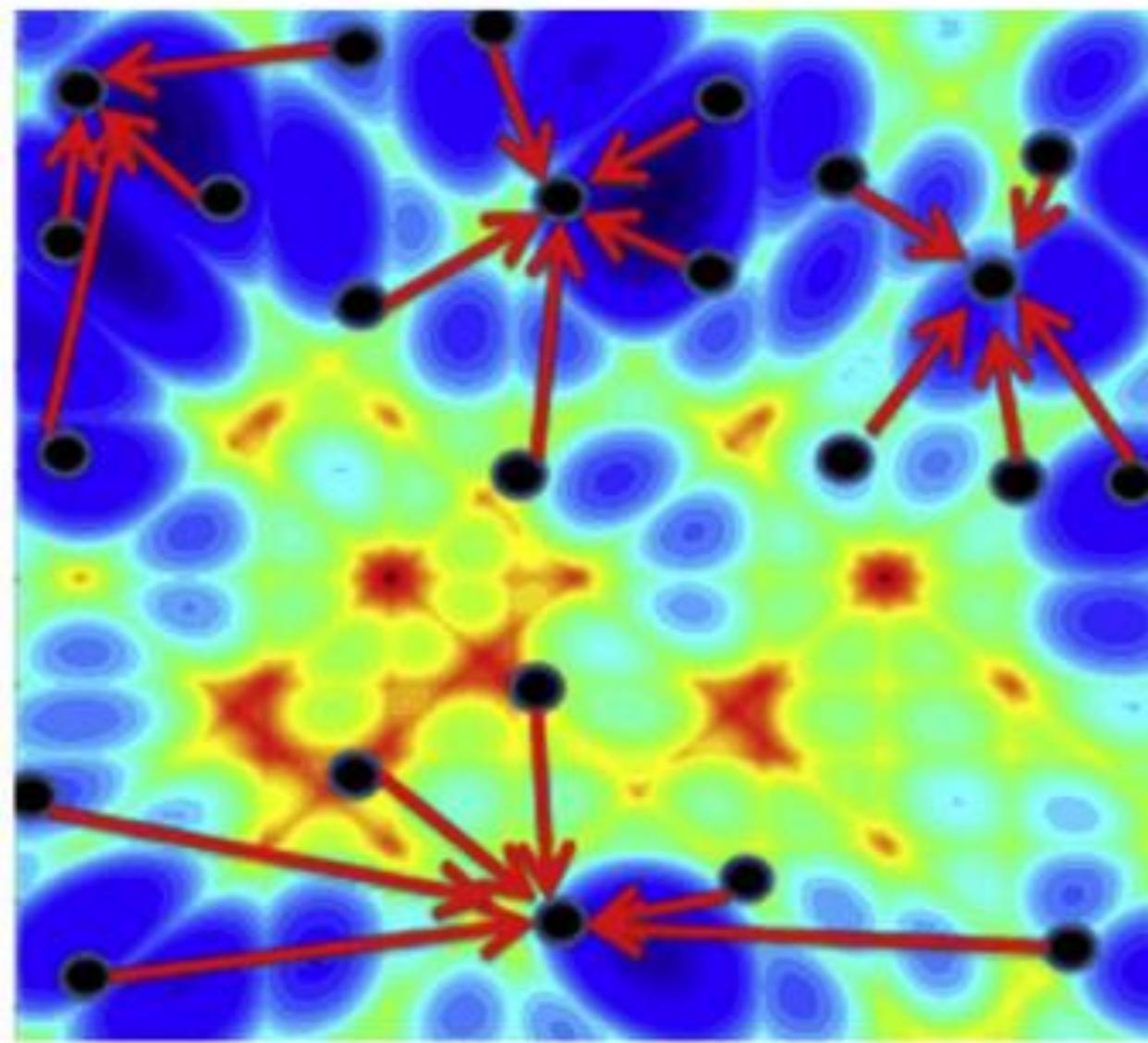
]



# Crystal structure prediction



- Particle-swarm optimization
- Up to four formula units, 500,000 + structures
- Pressures 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 80, 100 ... 1000 GPa



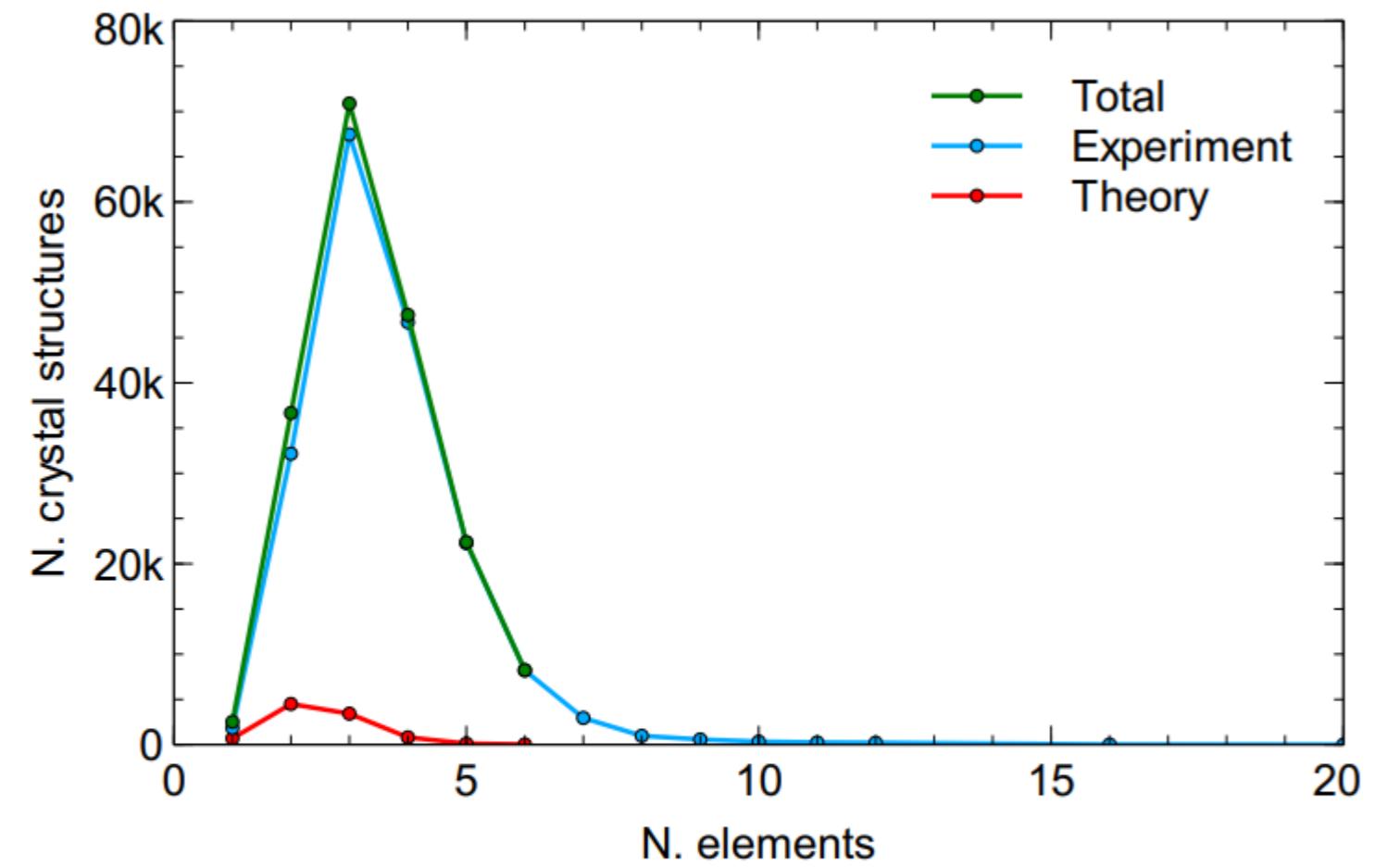
TOPICAL REVIEW

*Ab initio* random structure searching

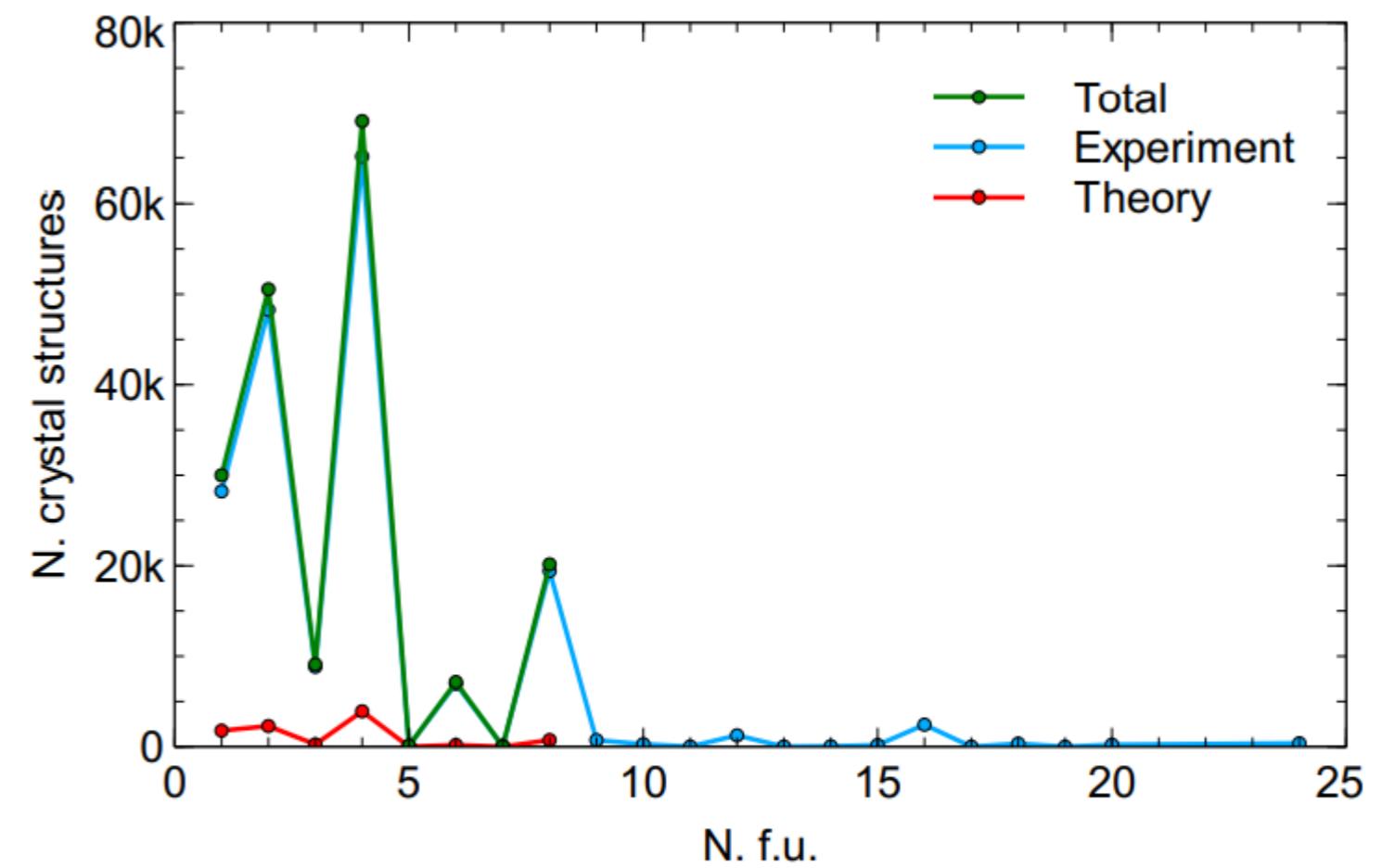
Chris J Pickard<sup>1</sup> and R J Needs<sup>2</sup>

Published 5 January 2011 • IOP Publishing Ltd

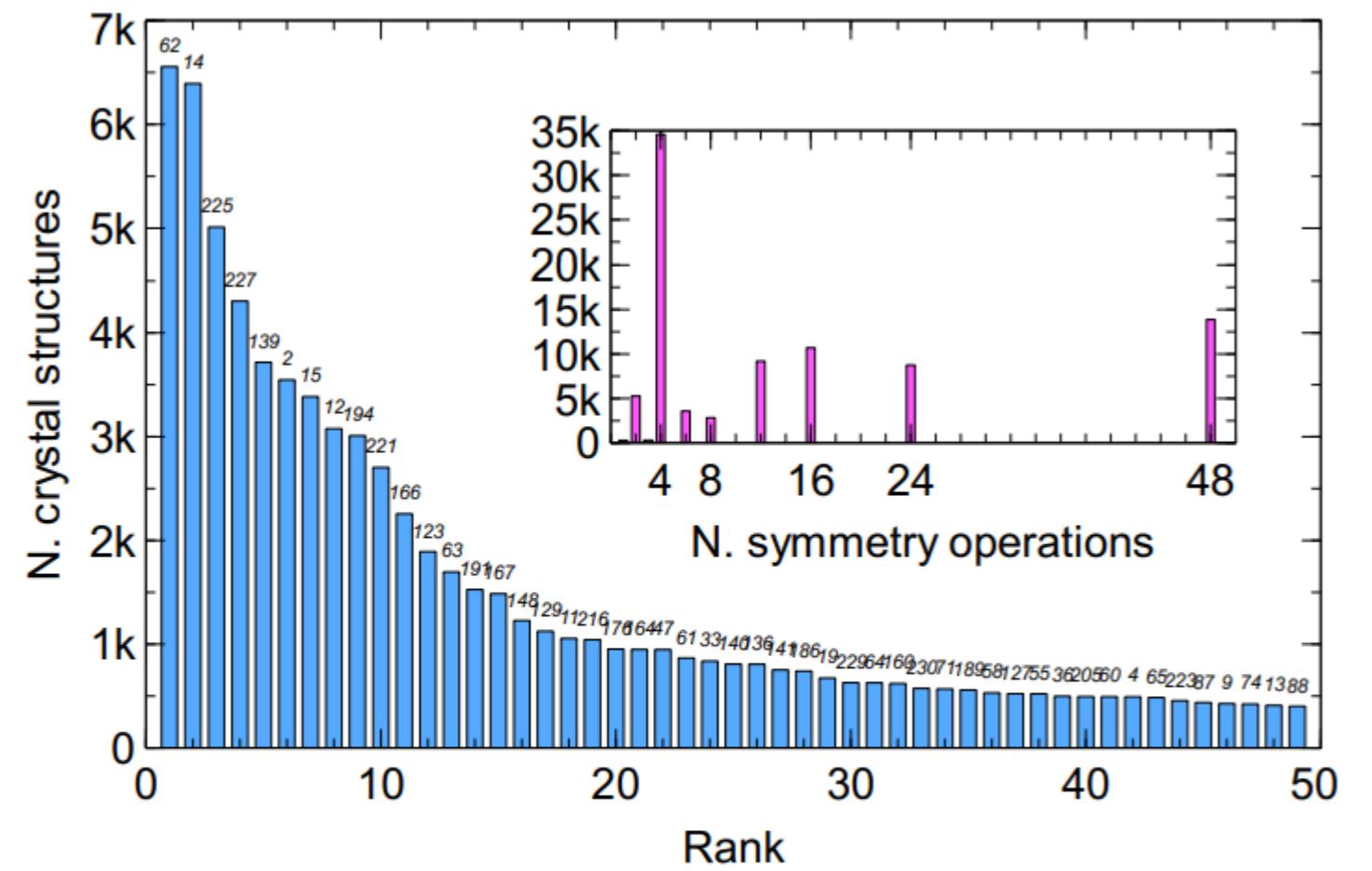
[Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter, Volume 23, Number 5](#)



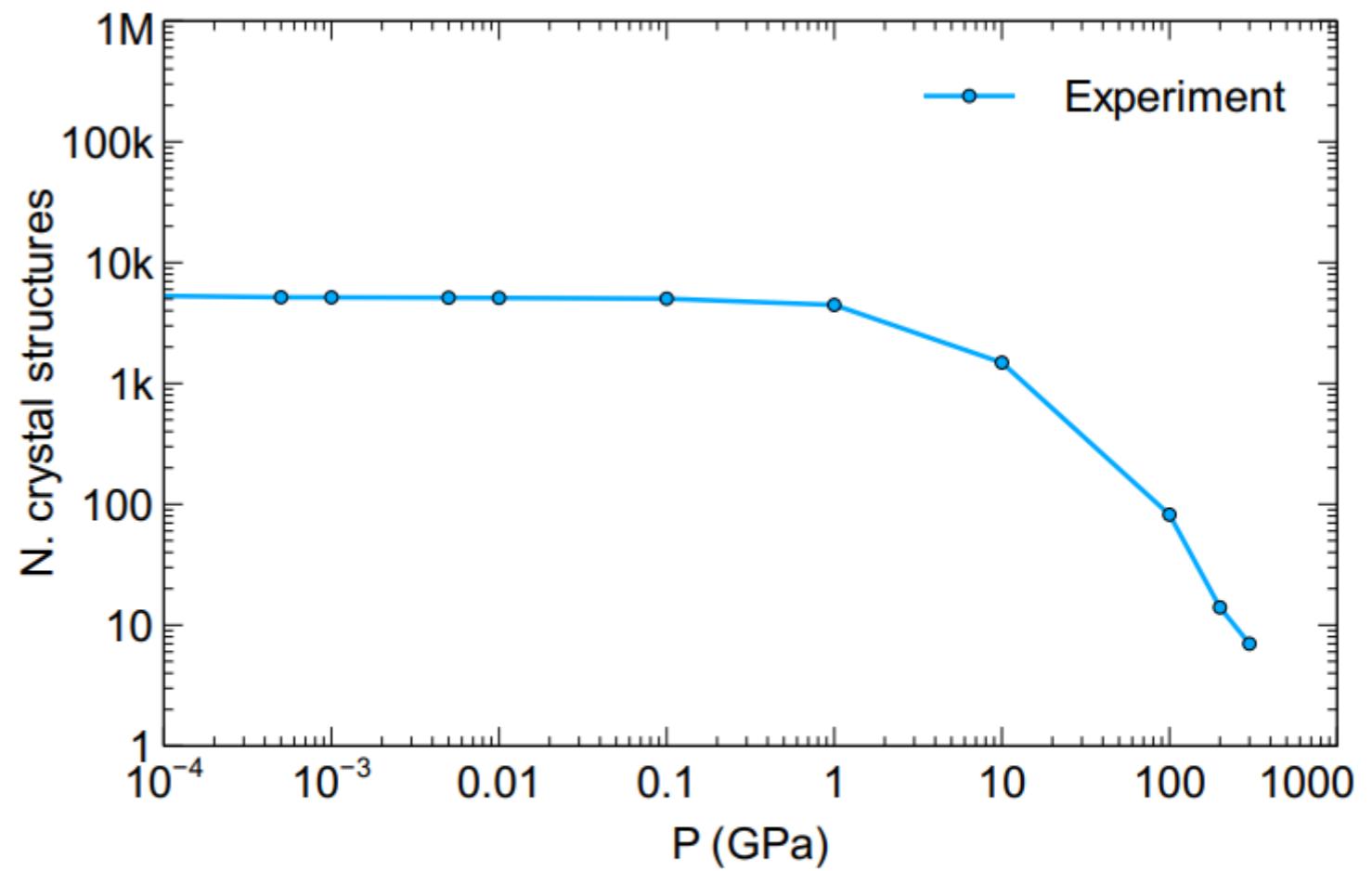
**Figure 2.5** ICSD statistics taken for the number of crystal structures consisting of a certain number of elements starting from unary, binary, ternary and so forth.



**Figure 2.6** ICSD statistics taken for the number of crystal structures with an integer number of formula units and any chemical composition.



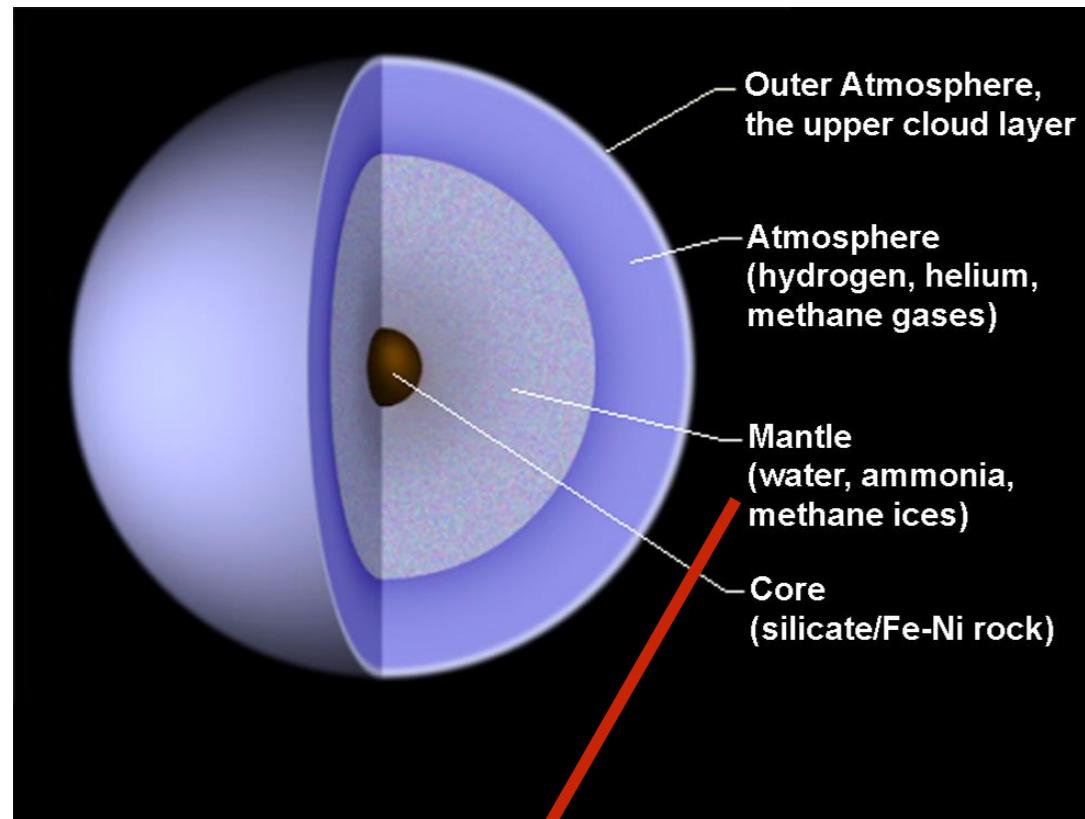
**Figure 2.8** ICSD statistics showing the number of crystal structures for the 50 most common space groups labeled with their space group number. Inset shows the number of structures with a certain integer number of symmetry operations.



**Figure 2.7** ICSD statistics taken for the number of crystal structures stored up to a given pressure. Note that the value for zero pressure is 182,757 crystal structures and pressures are not always given in the metadata.

# Planetary ice mixtures

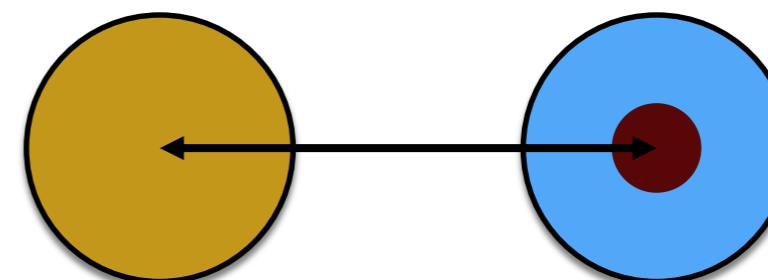
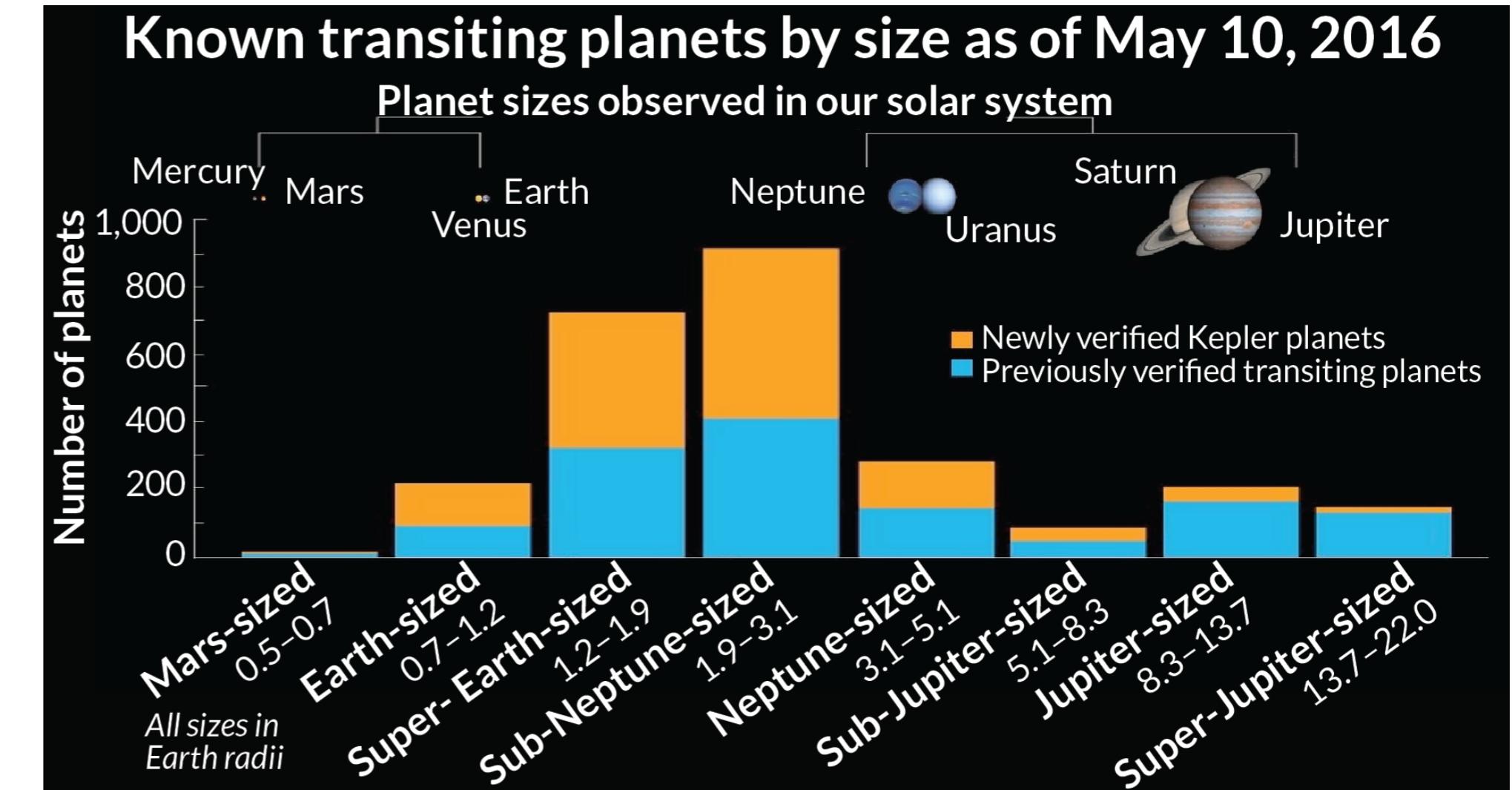
## Our picture of icy planets



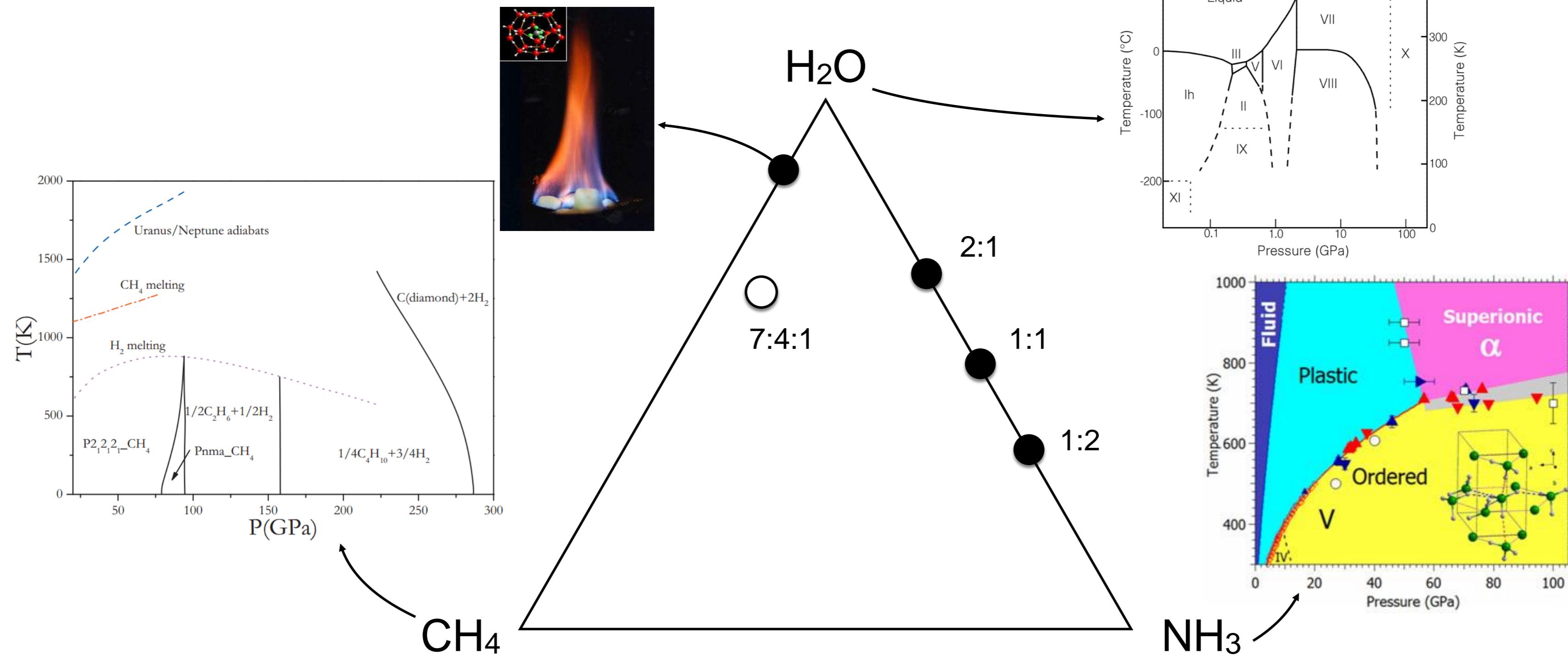
### Planetary ices

- Mixtures of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$
- Mixing vs de-mixing?
- Stoichiometric compounds?
- Ground state vs high temperature?

## Exoplanets: super-Earths & mini-Neptunes



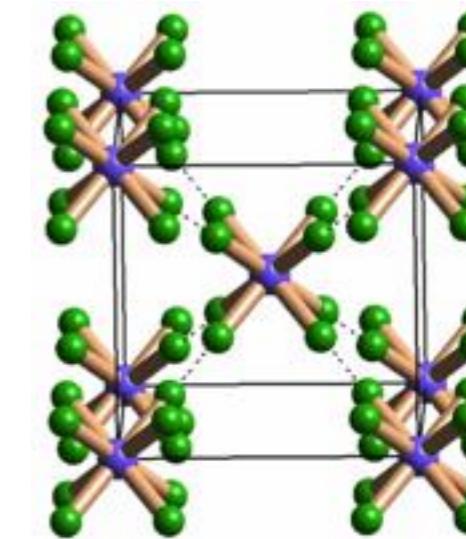
# Planetary ice mixtures



# Ammonia hydrates

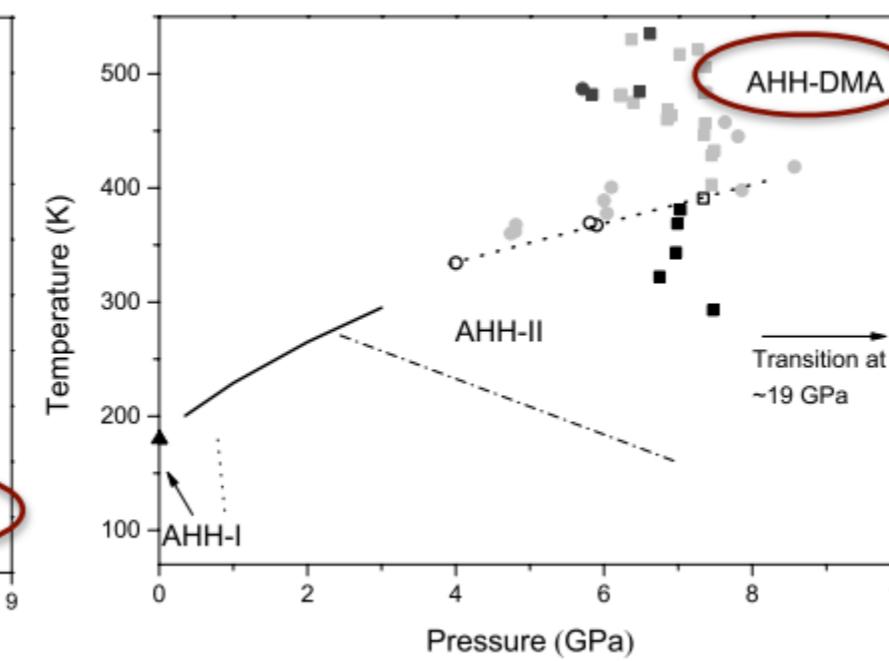
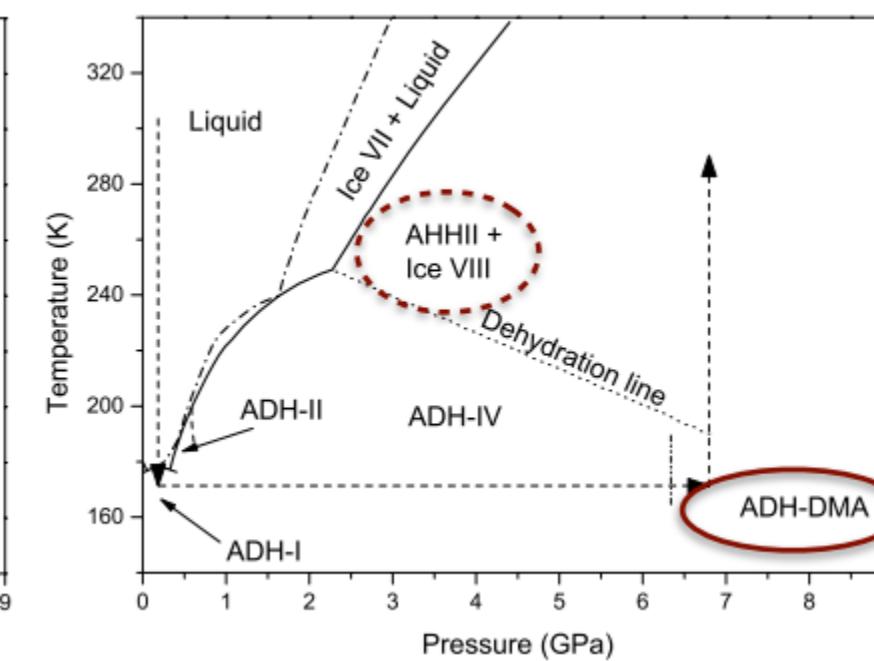
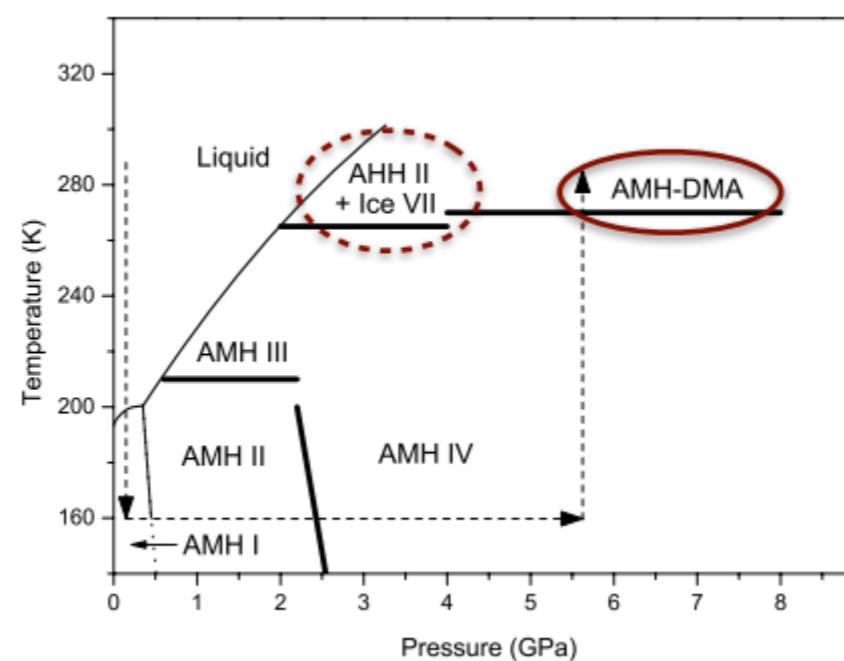
Three known phases:

- **AMH:** ammonia **monohydrate**,  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{NH}_3)$
- **ADH:** ammonia **dihydrate**,  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NH}_3)$
- **AHH:** ammonia **hemihydrate**,  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{NH}_3)_2$

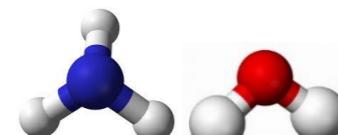


Experimental phase diagrams:

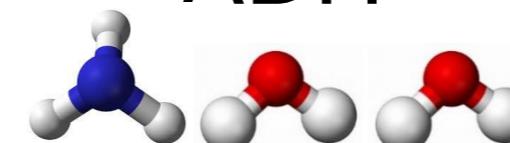
C.W. Wilson et al., *J. Chem. Phys.* 2015.  
J.S. Loveday, R.J. Nelmes, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 1999.



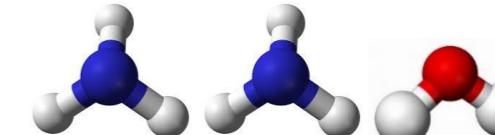
AMH



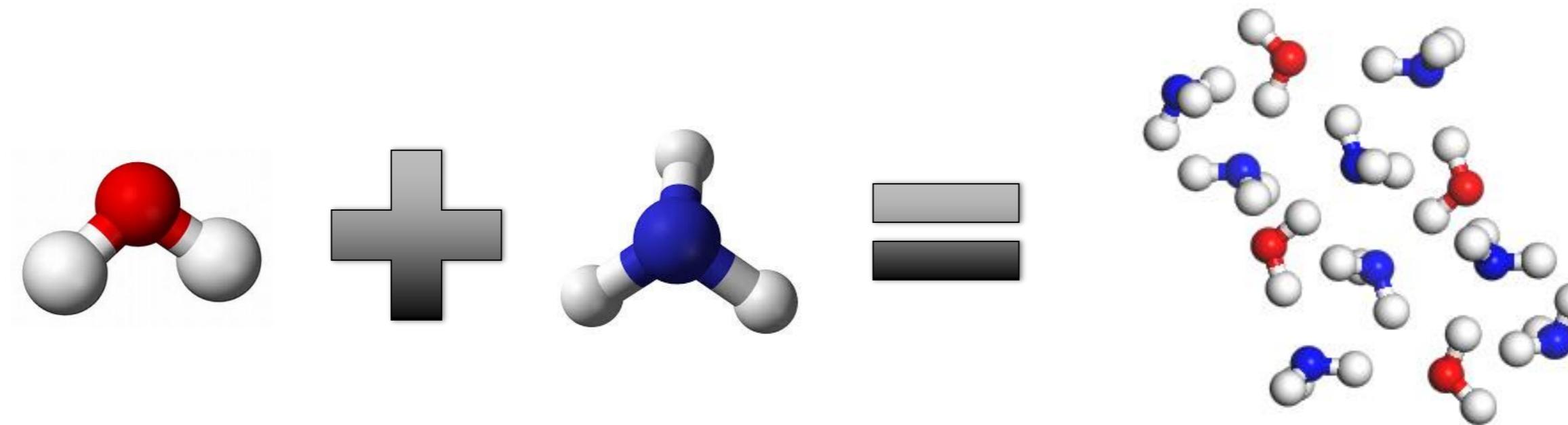
ADH



AHH

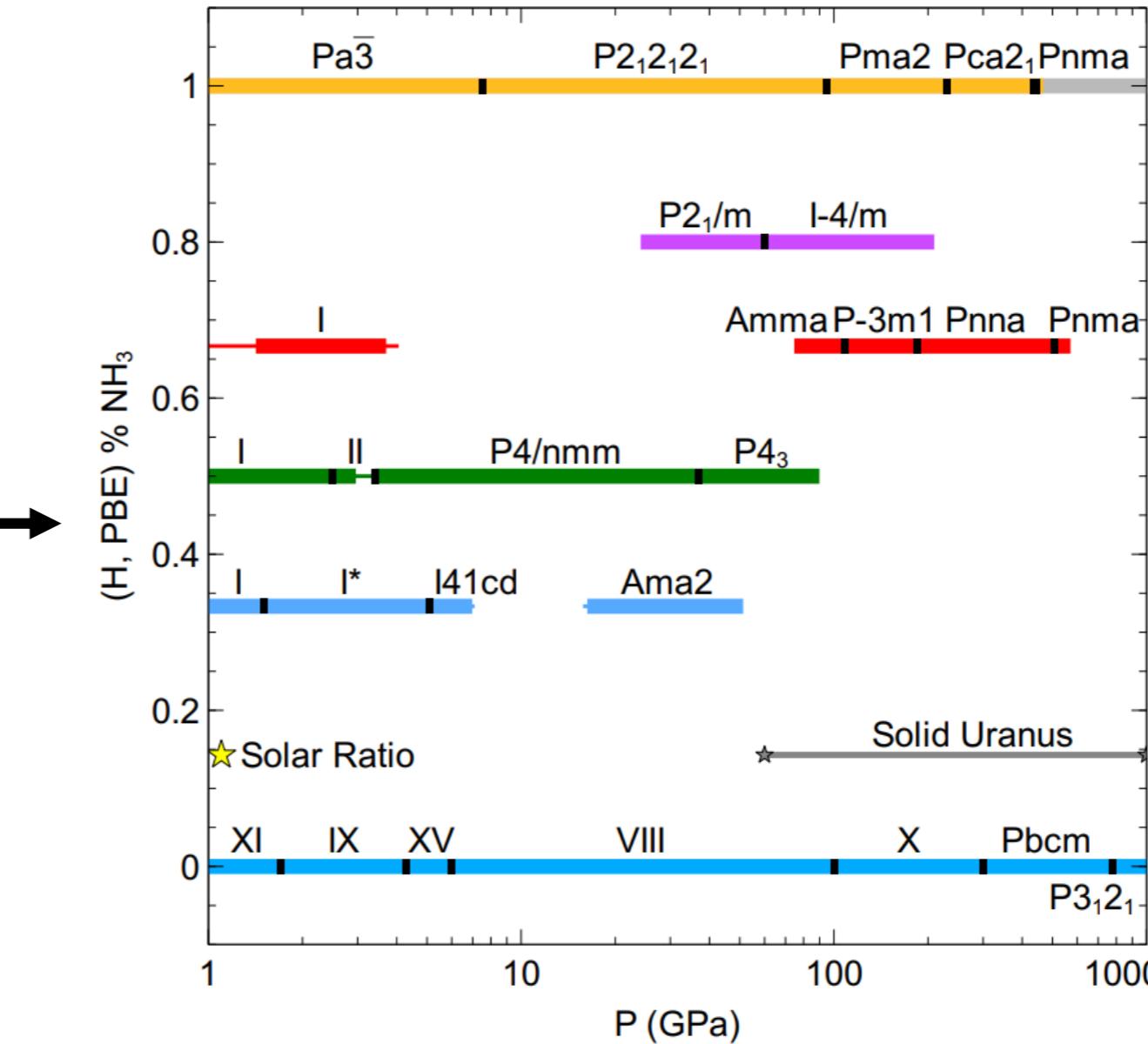
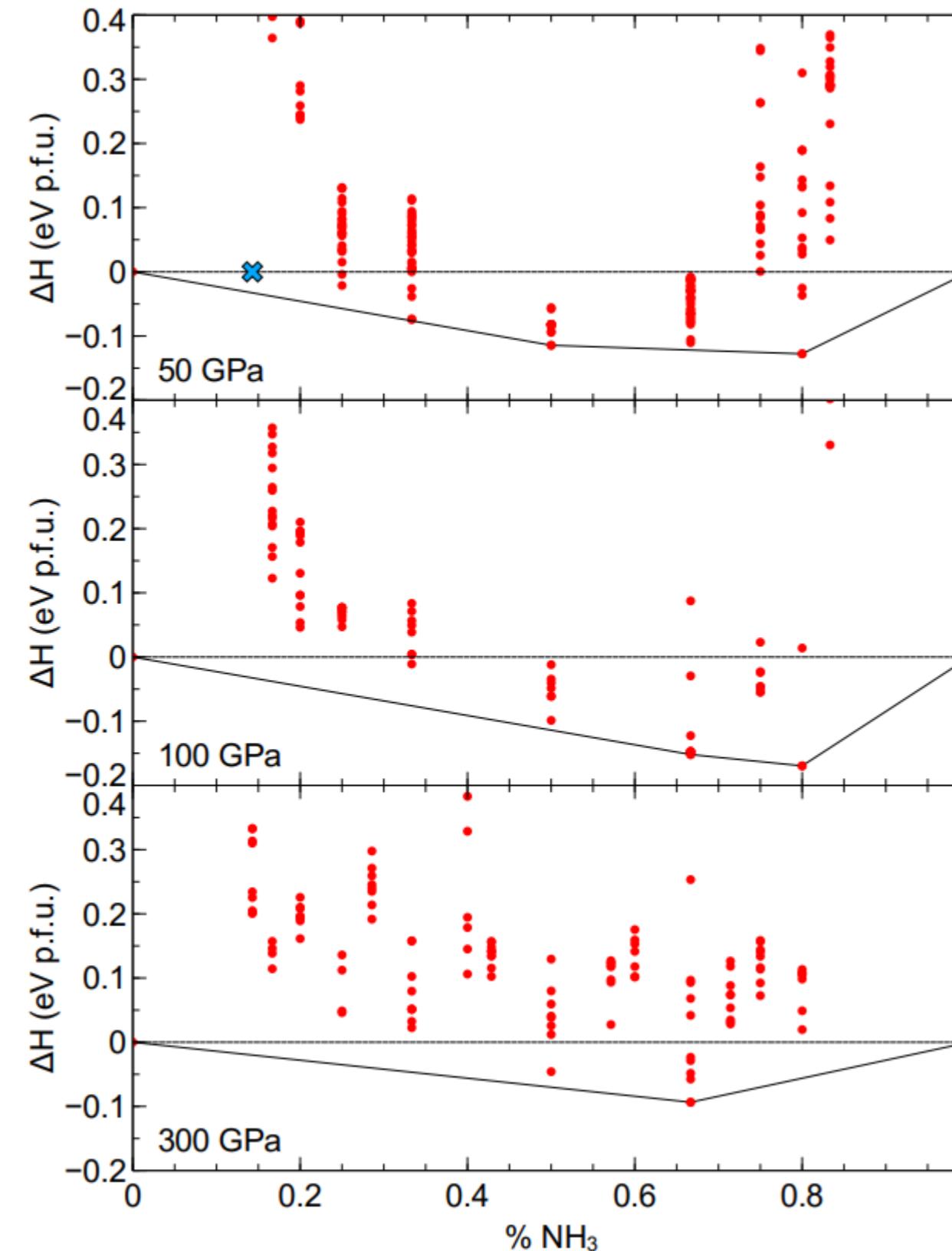


# Ammonia water



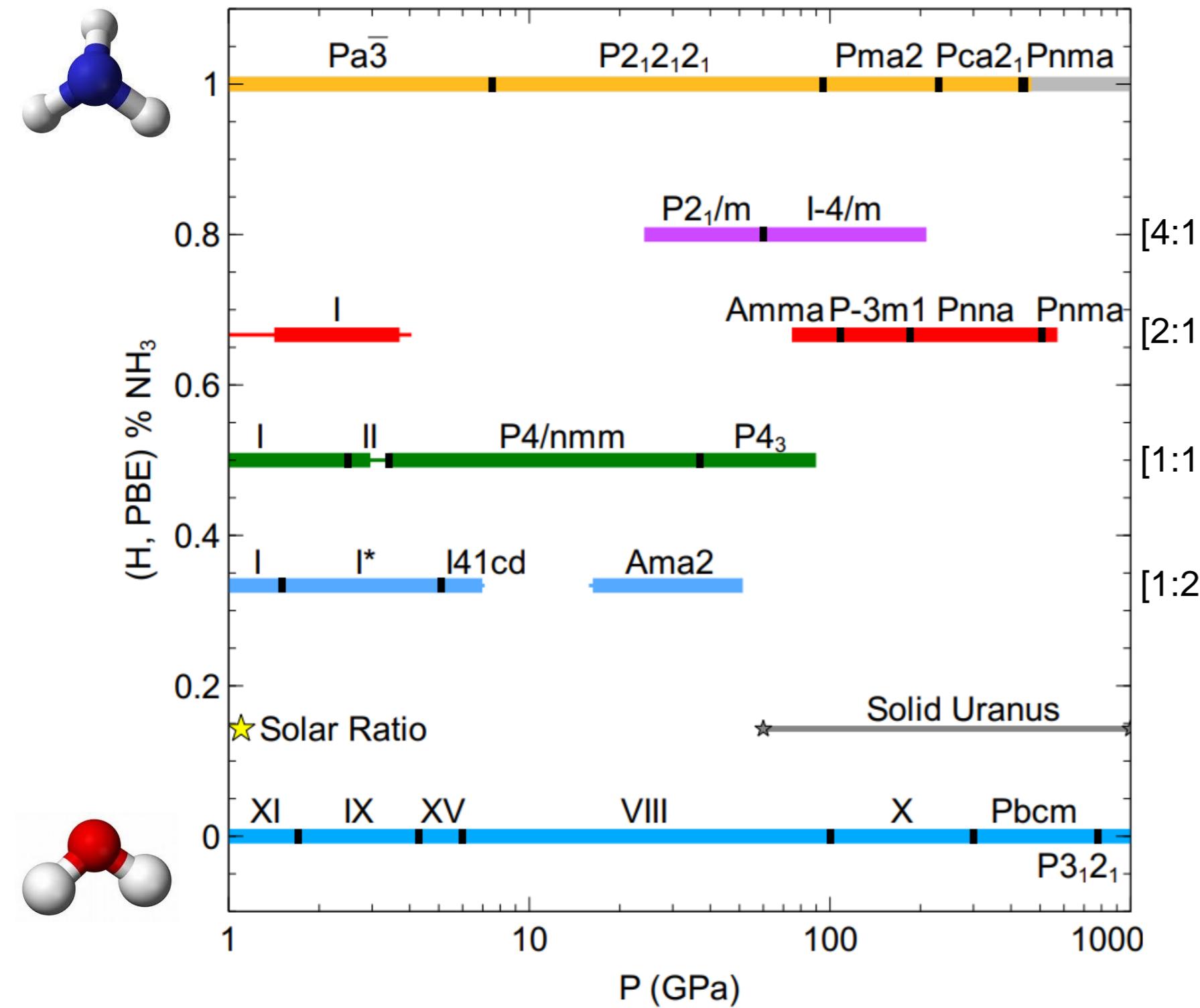
High pressure?

# Binary Searches



$$\Delta H((H_2O)_m + (NH_3)_n) = \frac{1}{m+n} [((H_2O)_m + (NH_3)_n) - m \cdot (H_2O) - n \cdot (NH_3)] \quad 23$$

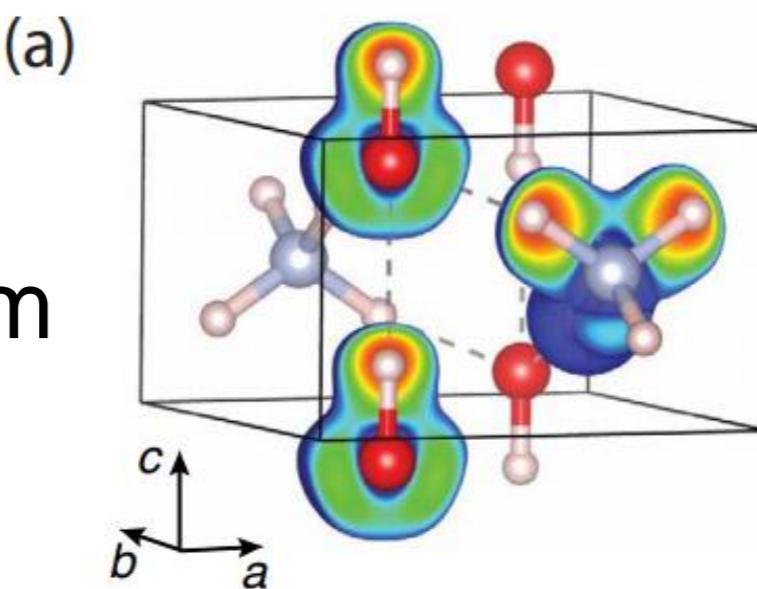
# [NH<sub>3</sub>:H<sub>2</sub>O] phase diagram



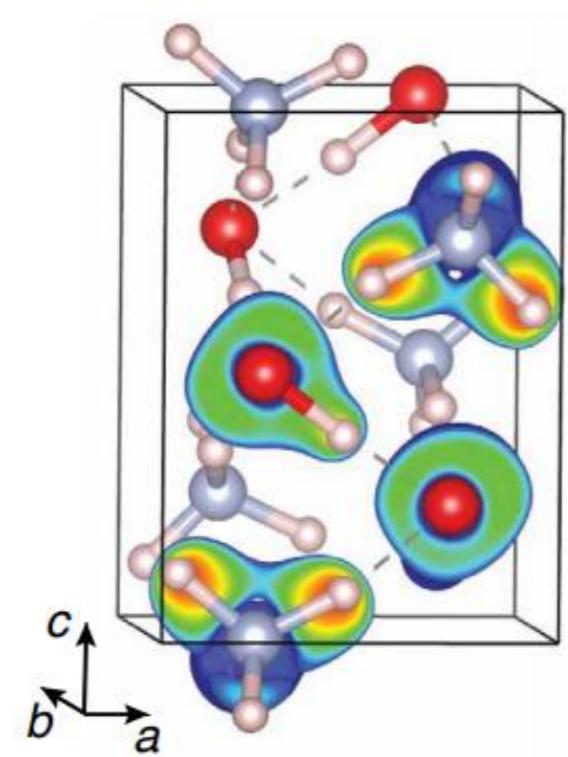
- AMH, ADH: decompose below 1 Mbar
- AHH, AQH: stable up to 5 Mbar
- Stabilization by water ionization
- High pressure favors mixtures with  $\text{NH}_3:\text{H}_2\text{O} \geq 2$

# Ionization of Water

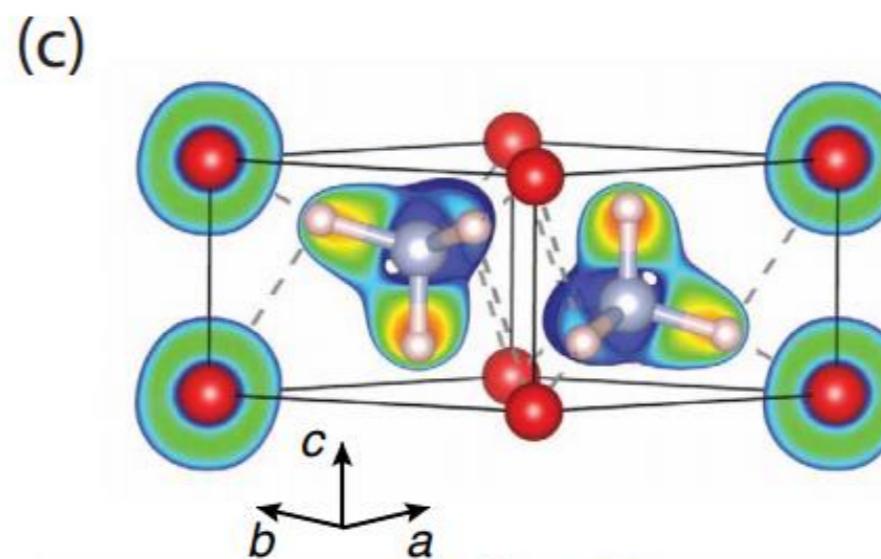
AMH [1:1] P4/nmm



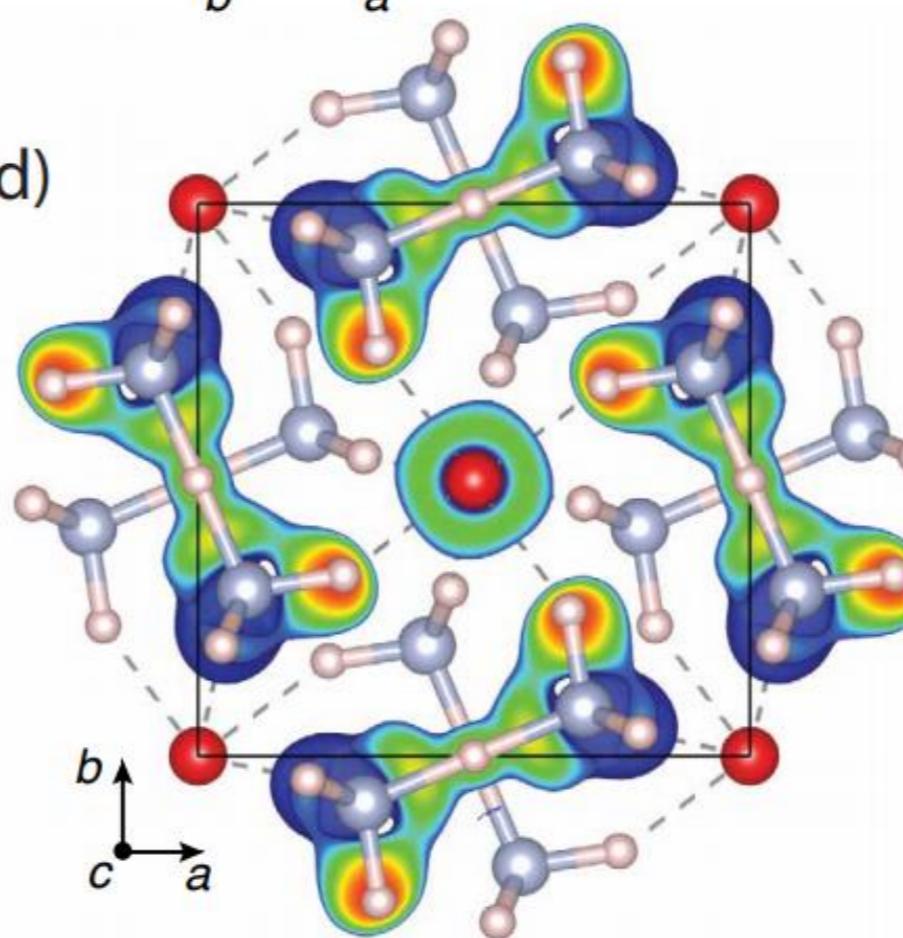
AMH [1:1] P43



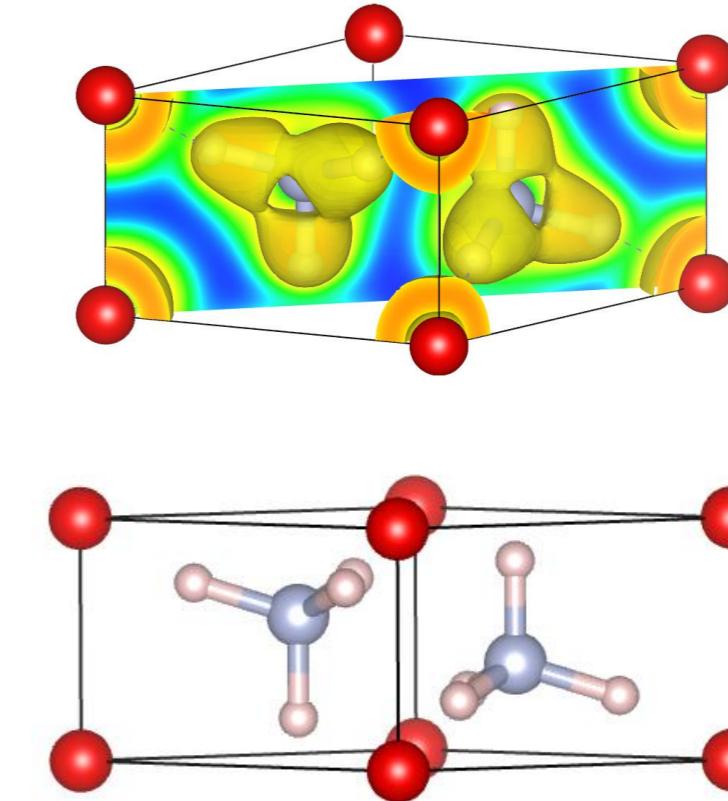
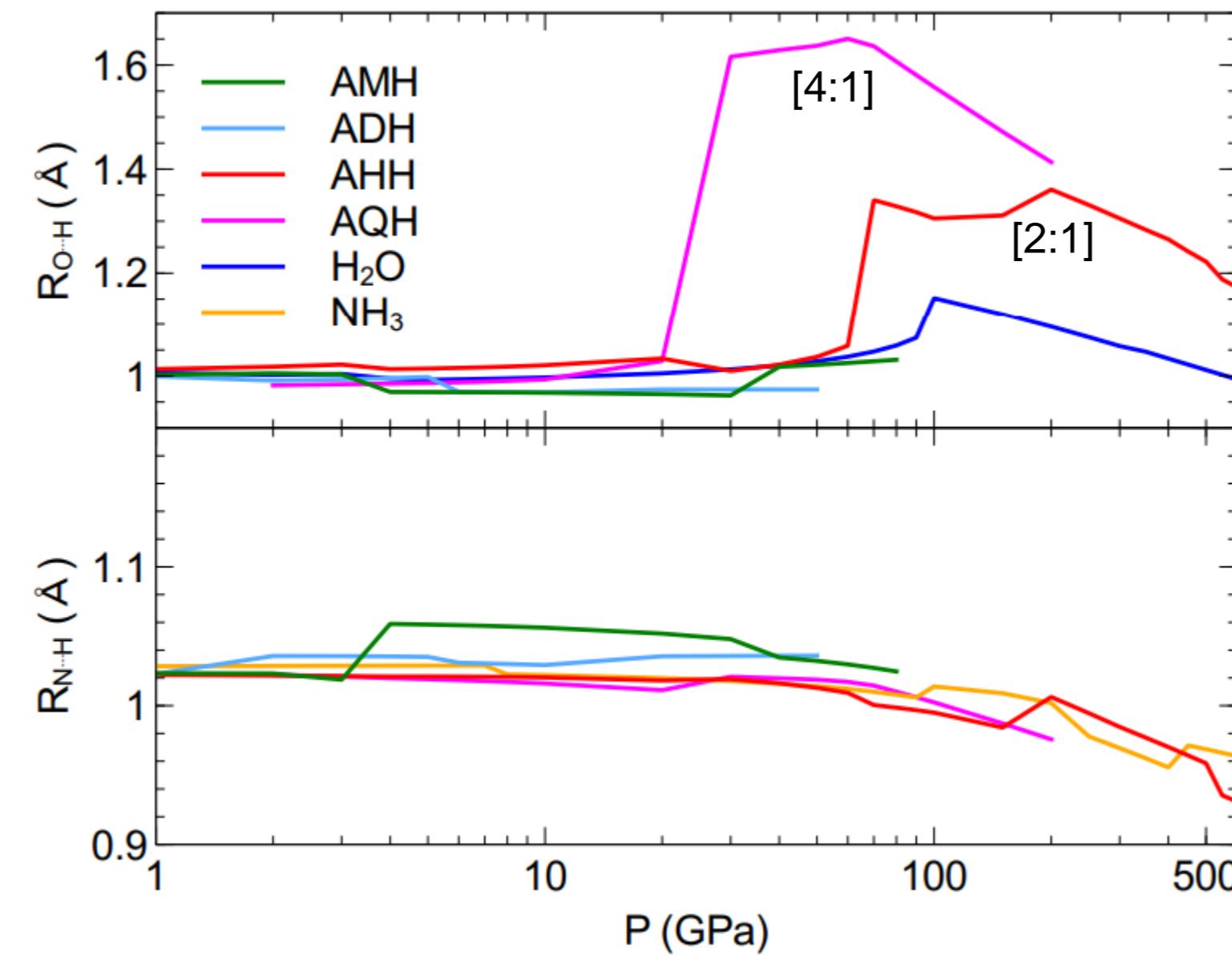
AHH [2:1] I4/m



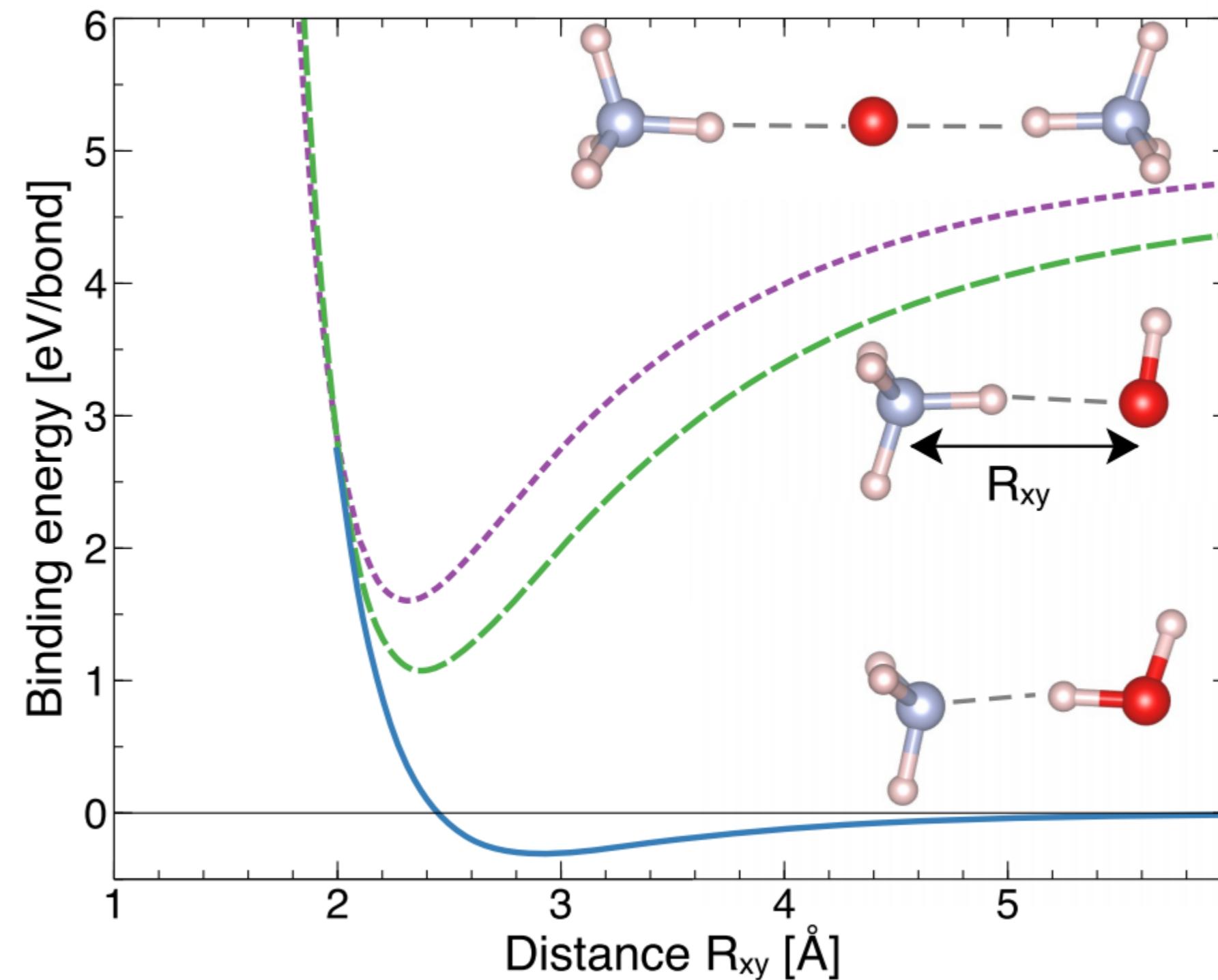
AQH [4:1] I4/m



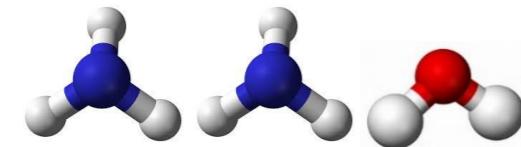
# Proton Transfer



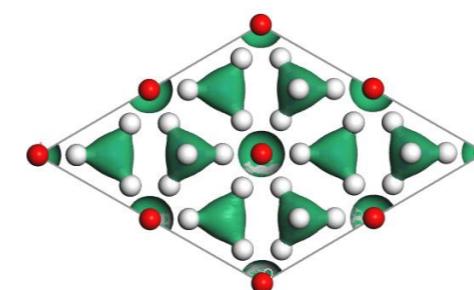
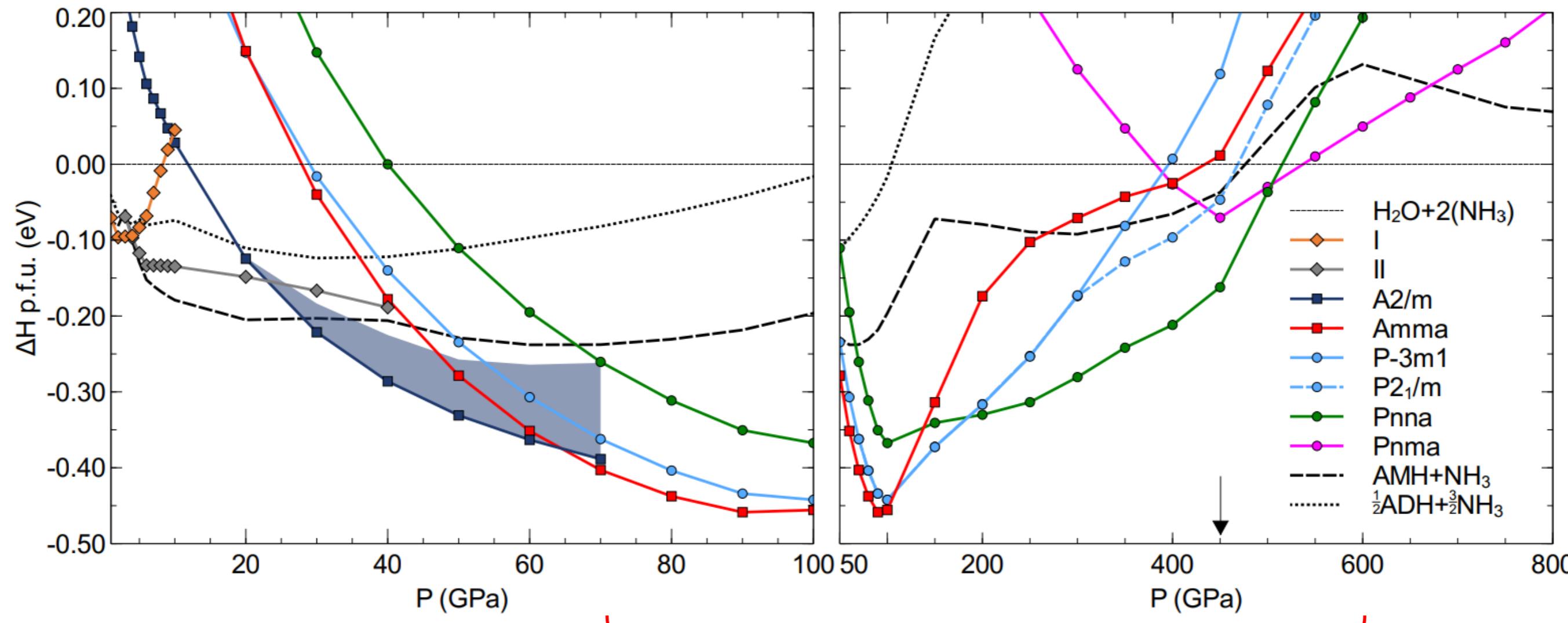
# Ionization Energy Cost



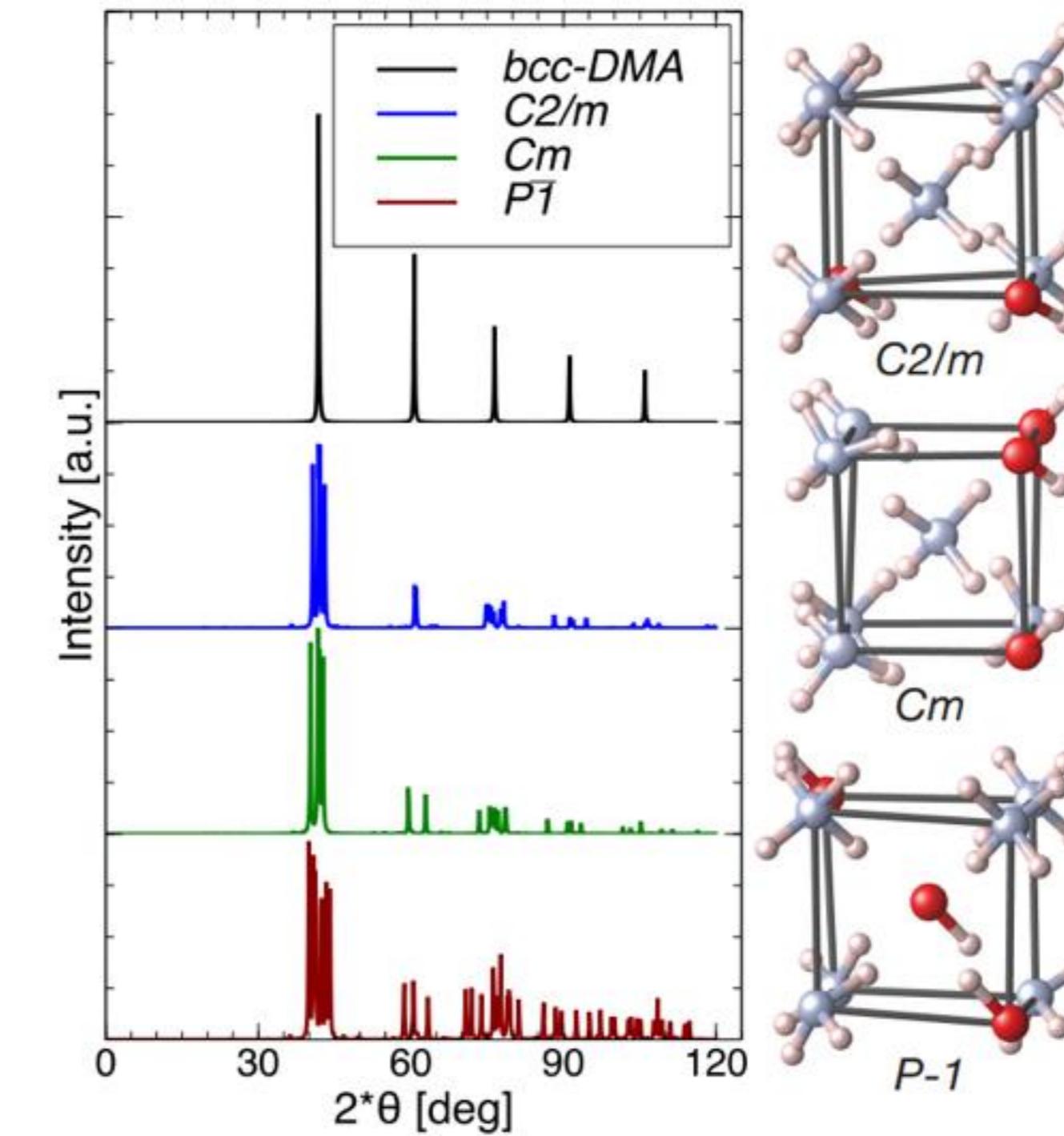
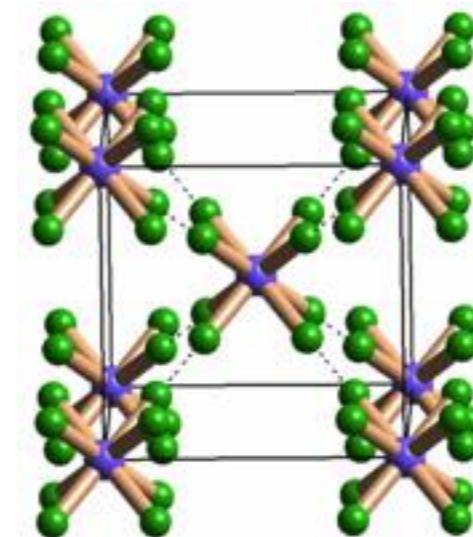
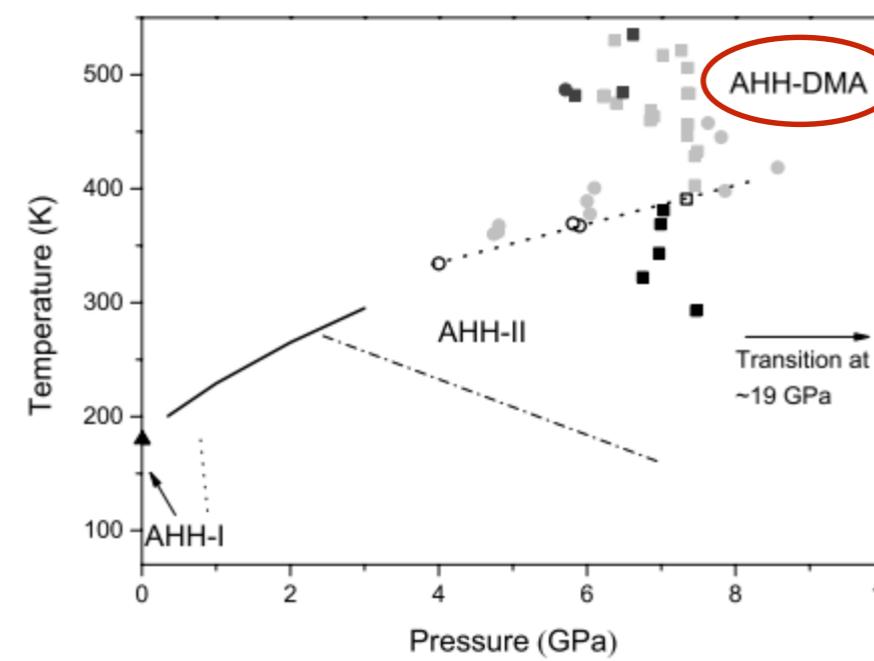
# AHH [2:1] Higher-pressure phases



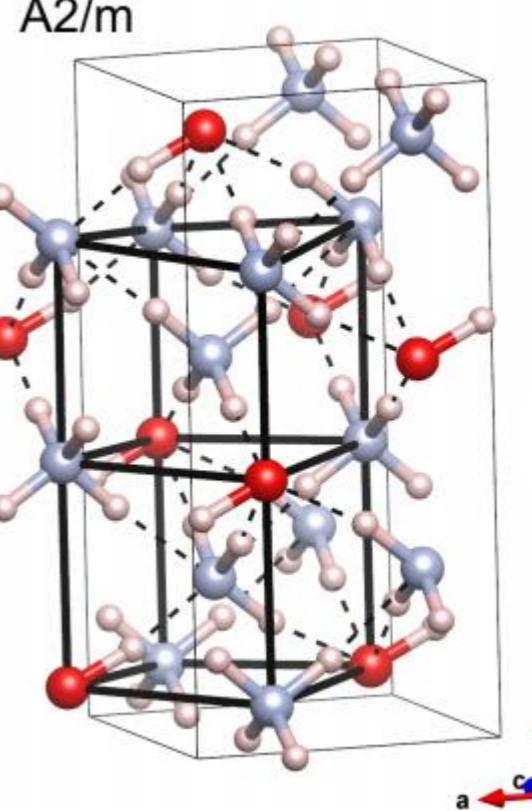
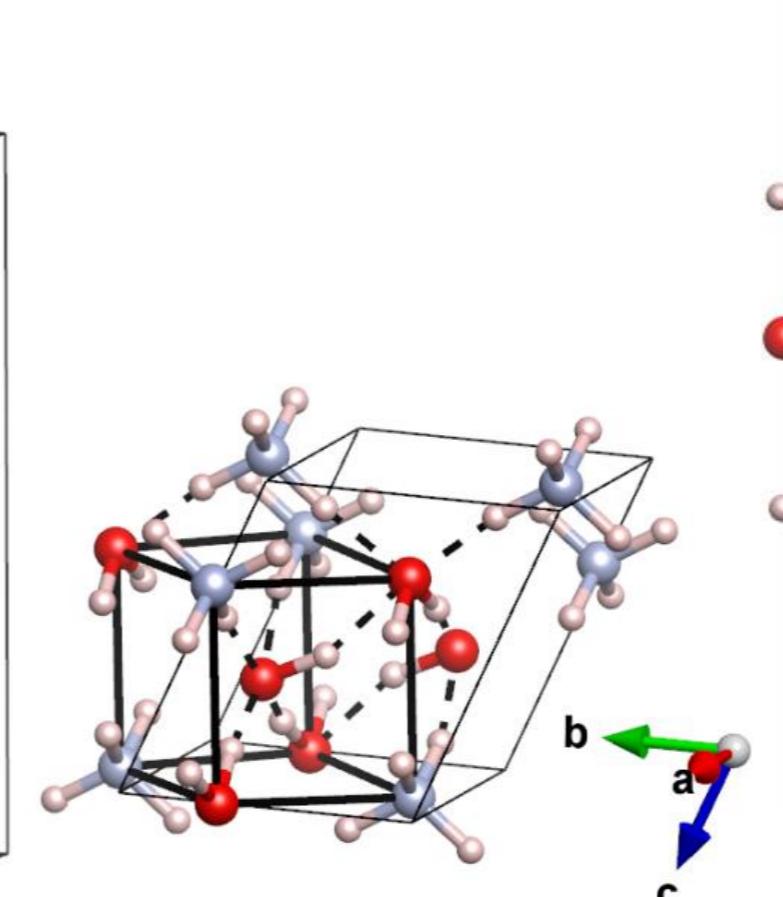
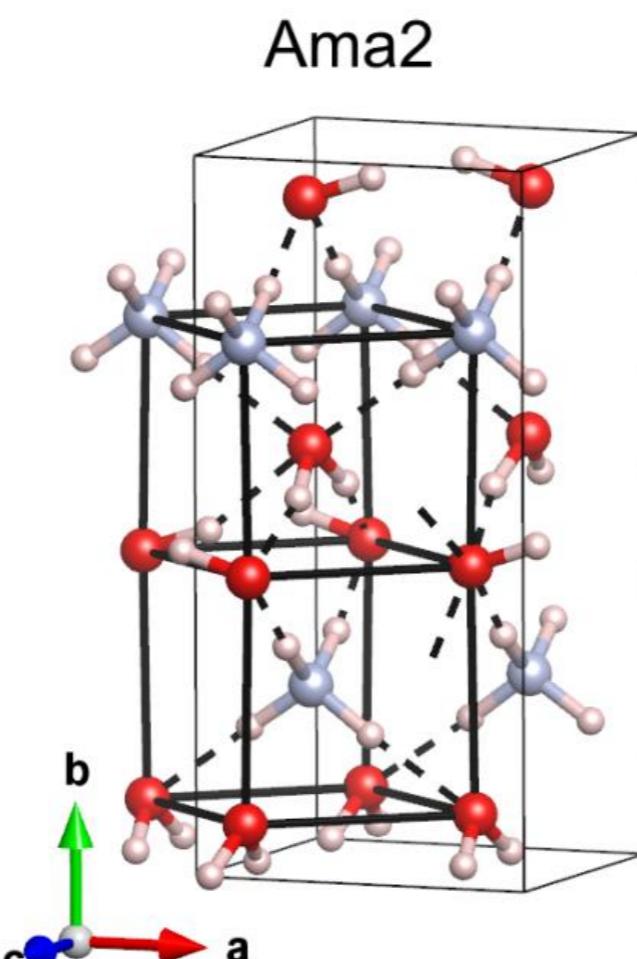
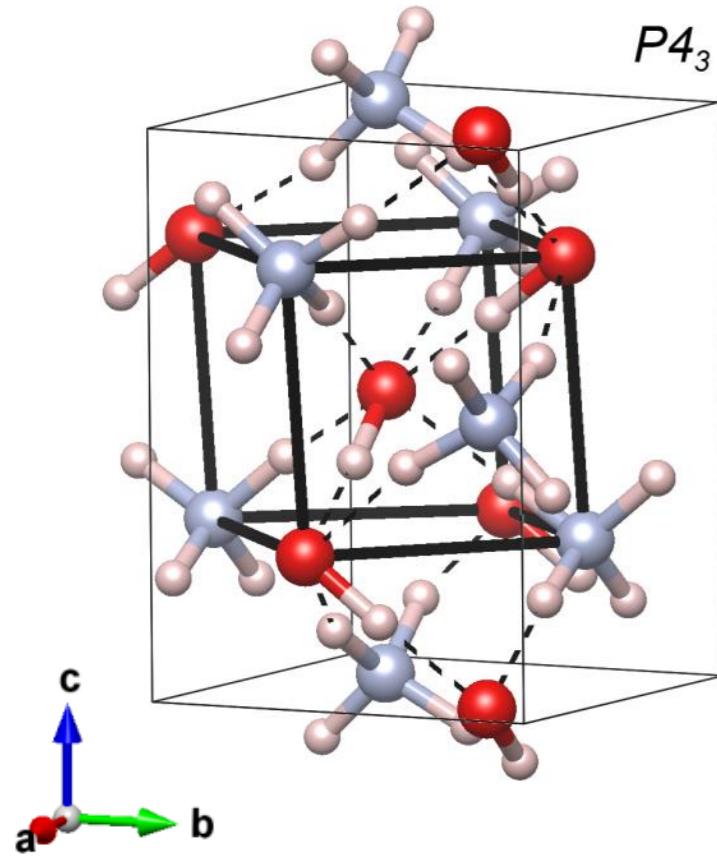
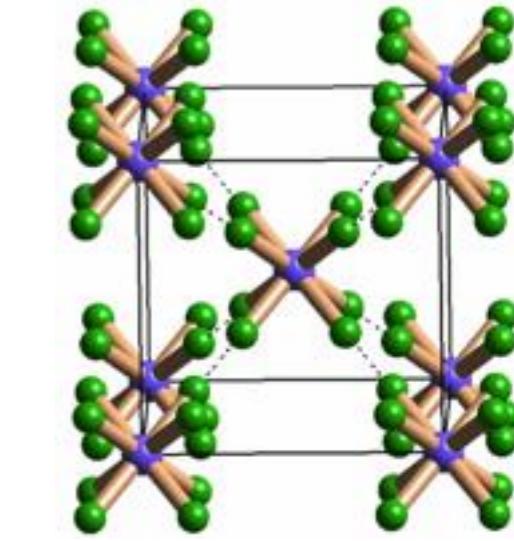
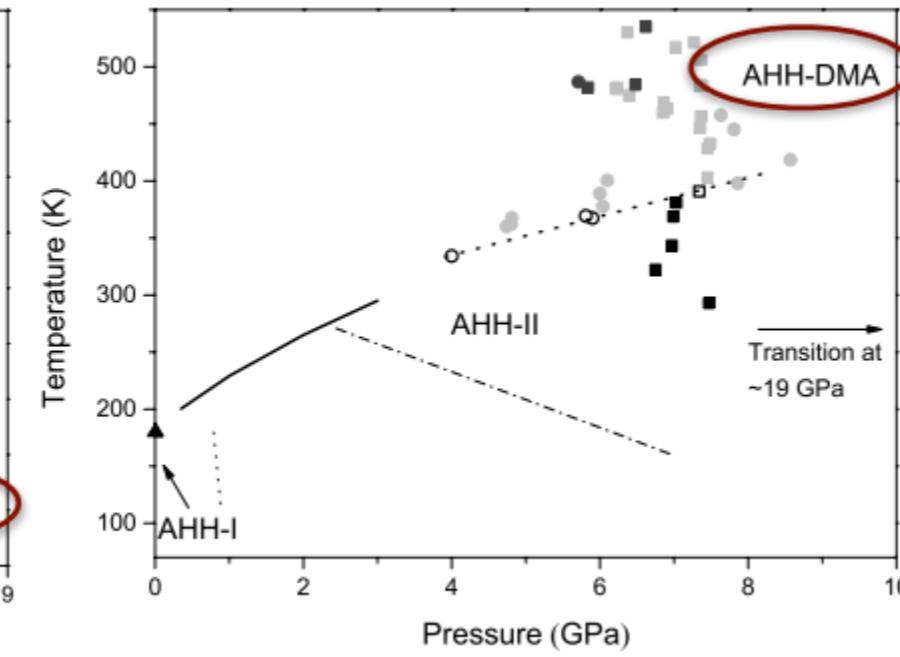
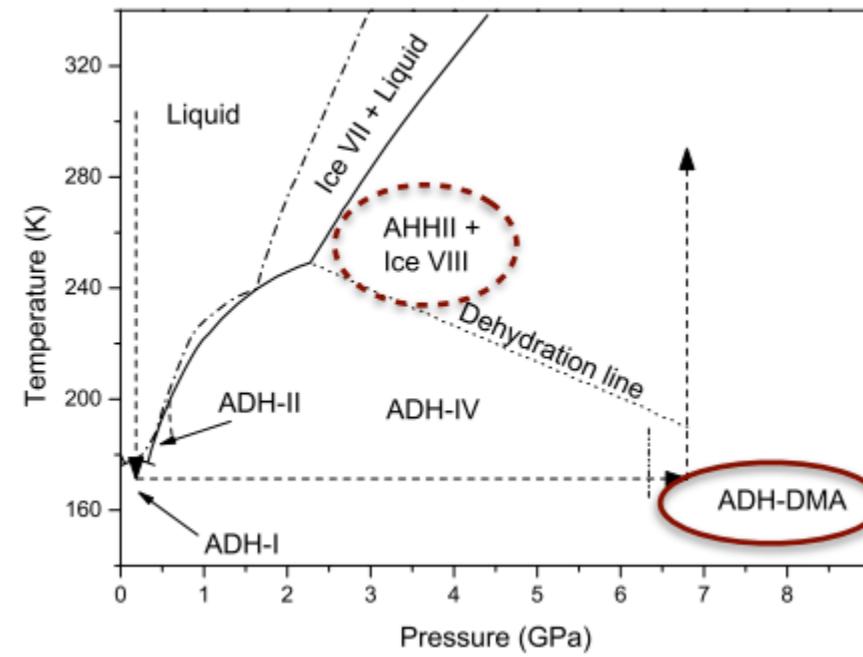
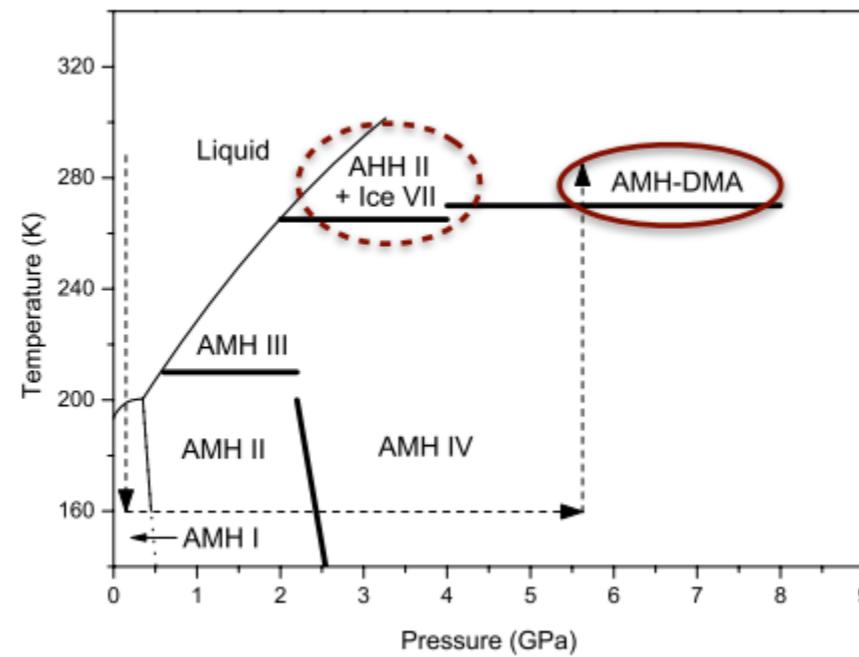
Stability to 550 GPa



# DMA approximants

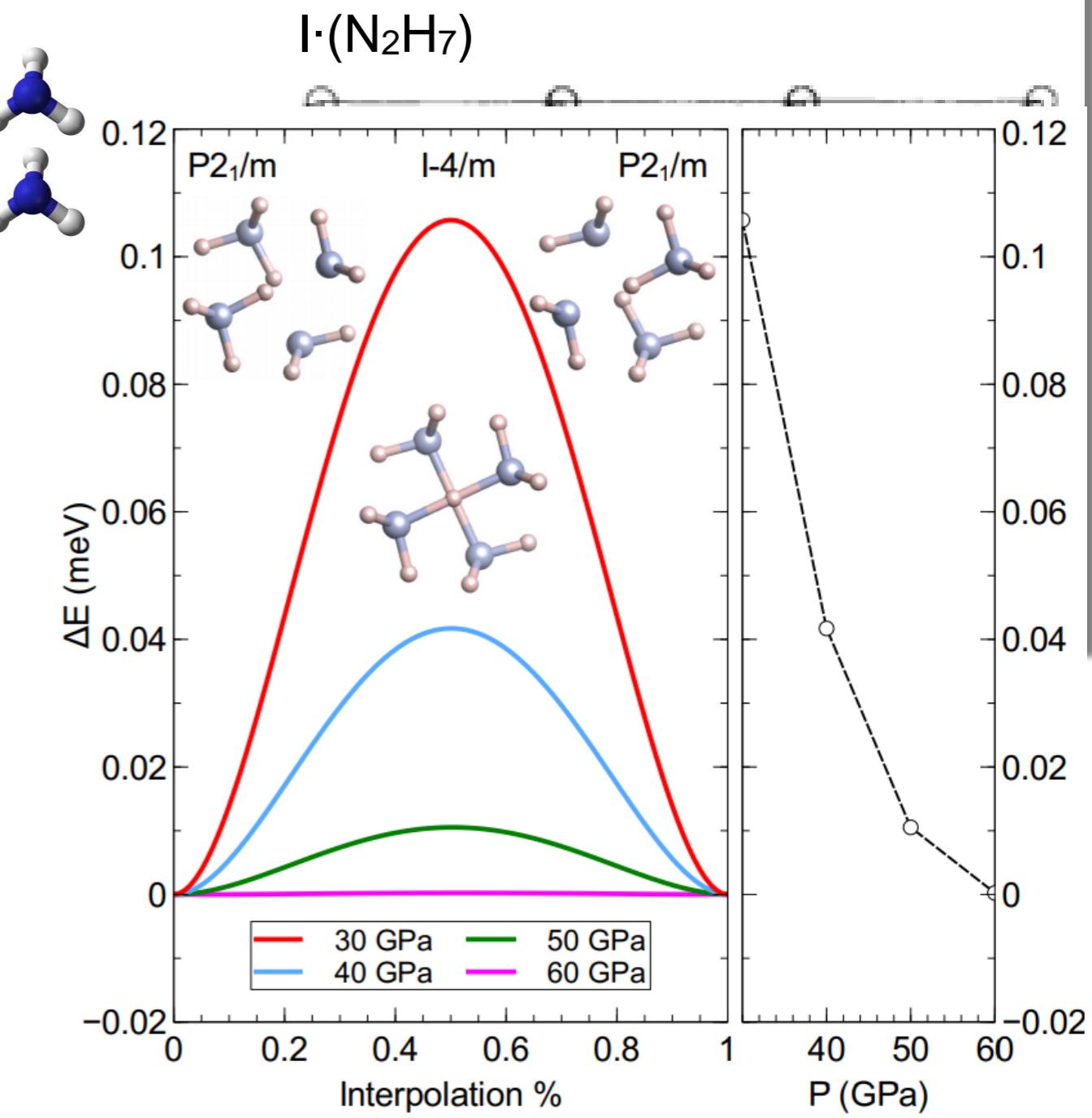
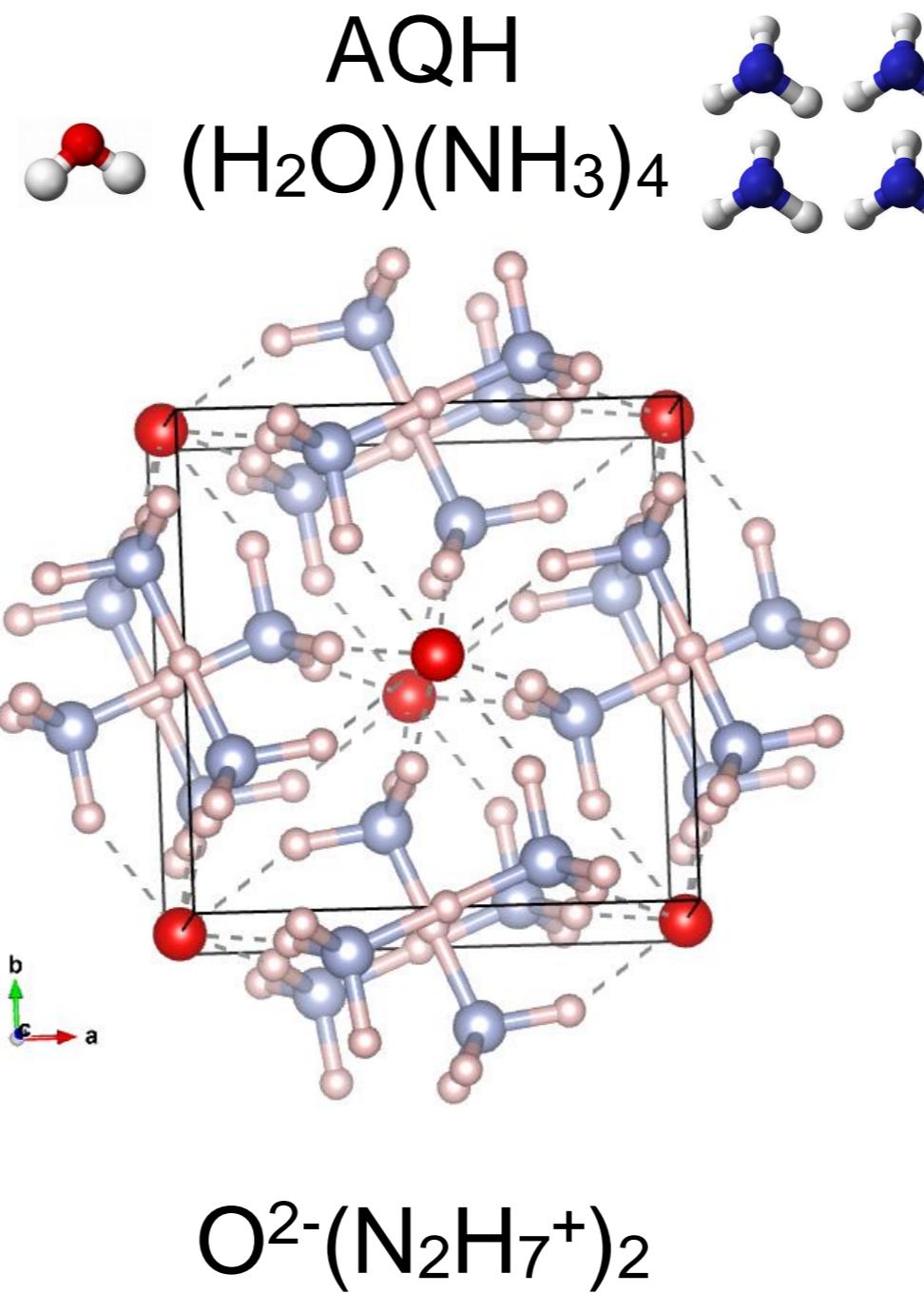
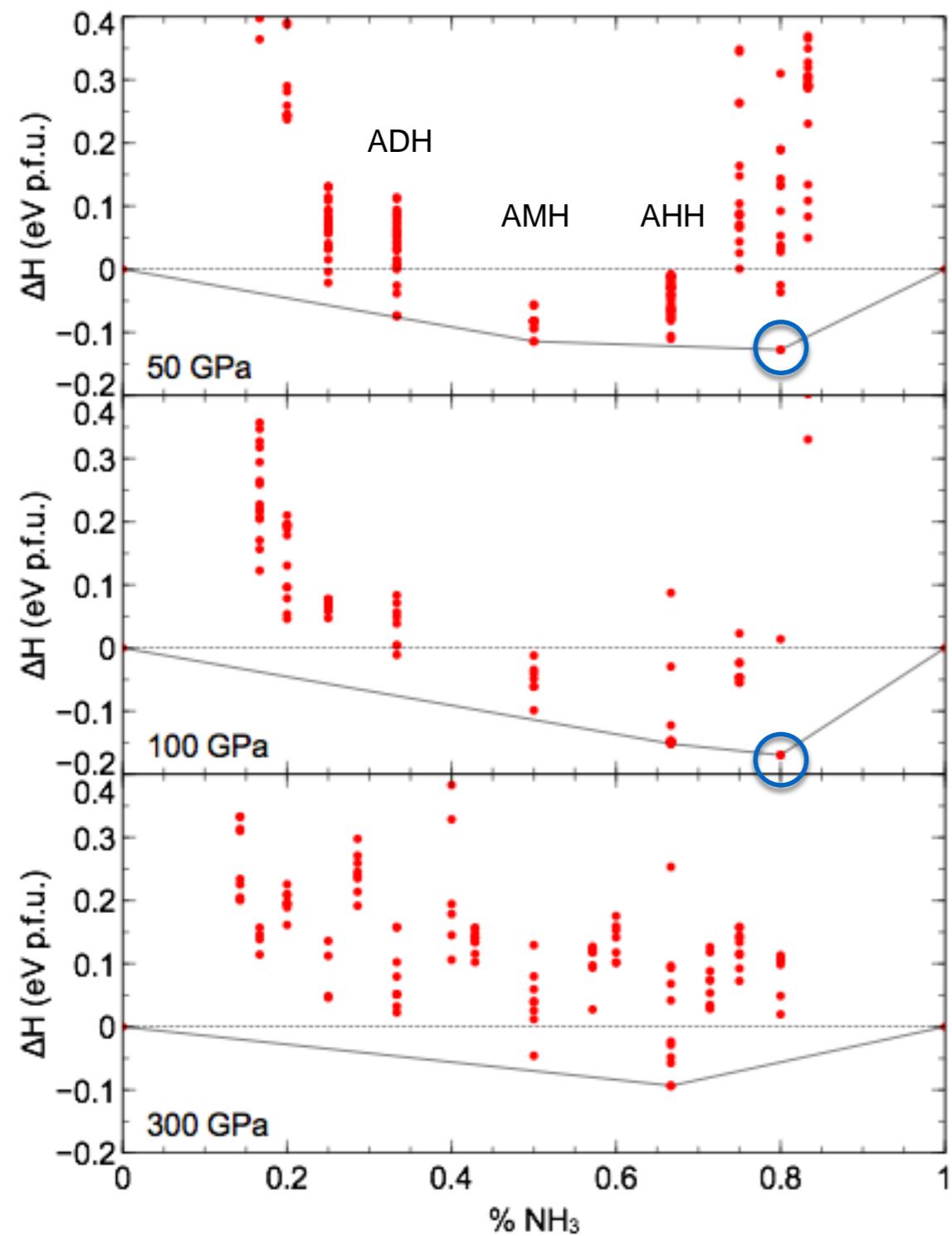


# In all hydrates



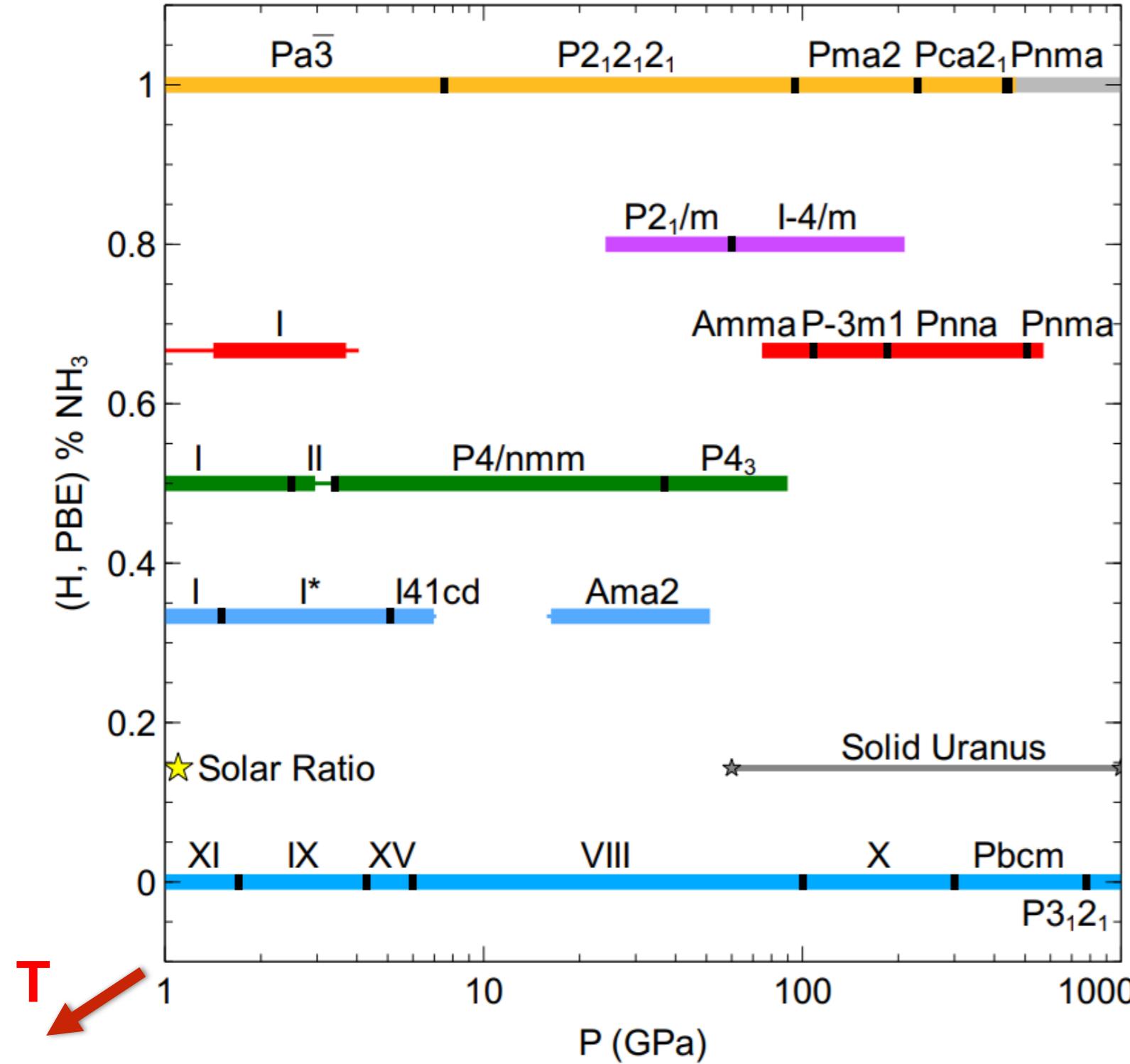
# More ammonia-rich phases?

## Ammonia Quarterhydrate



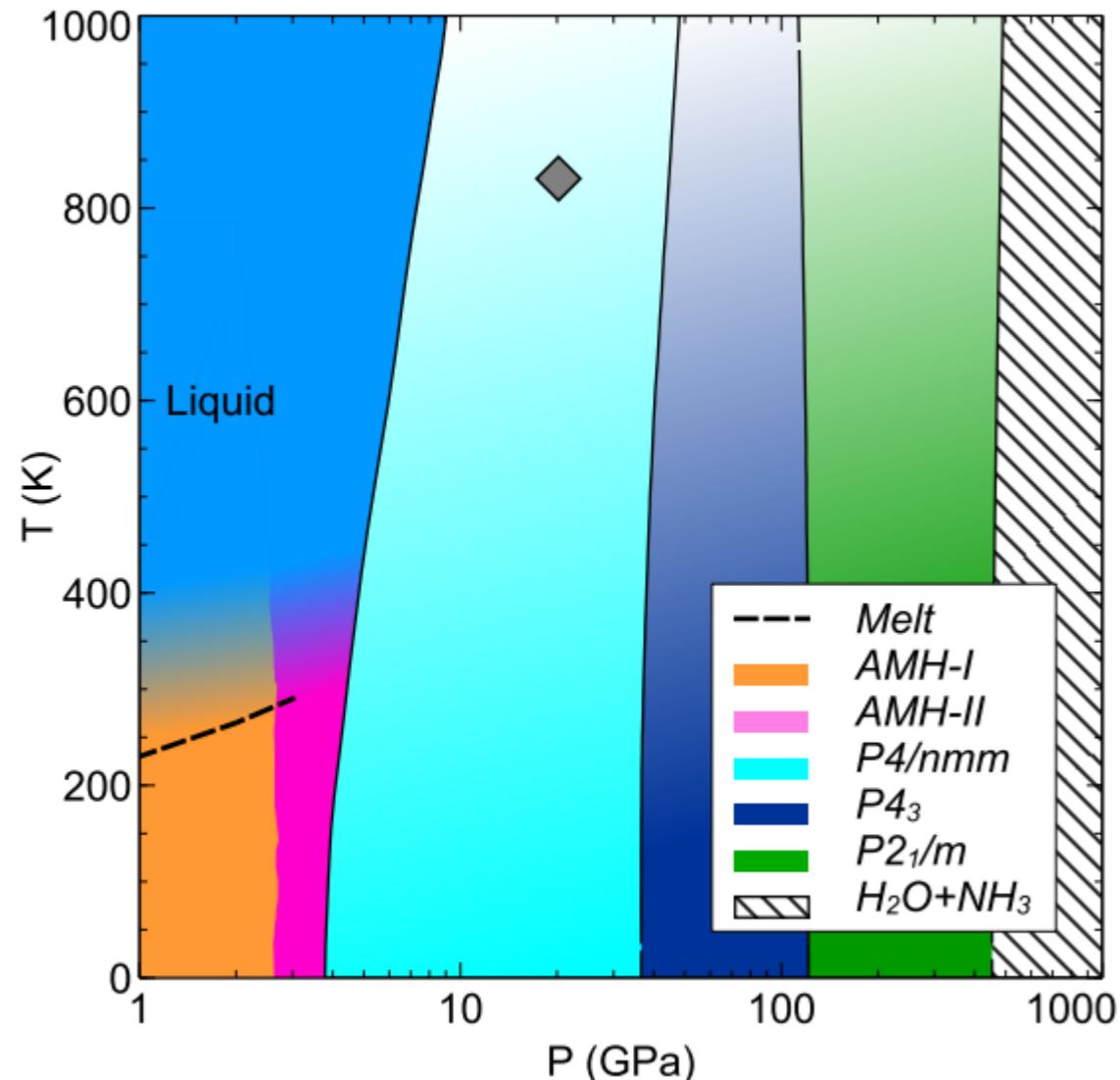
Berthold et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 1988.

# Full NH<sub>3</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O phase diagram

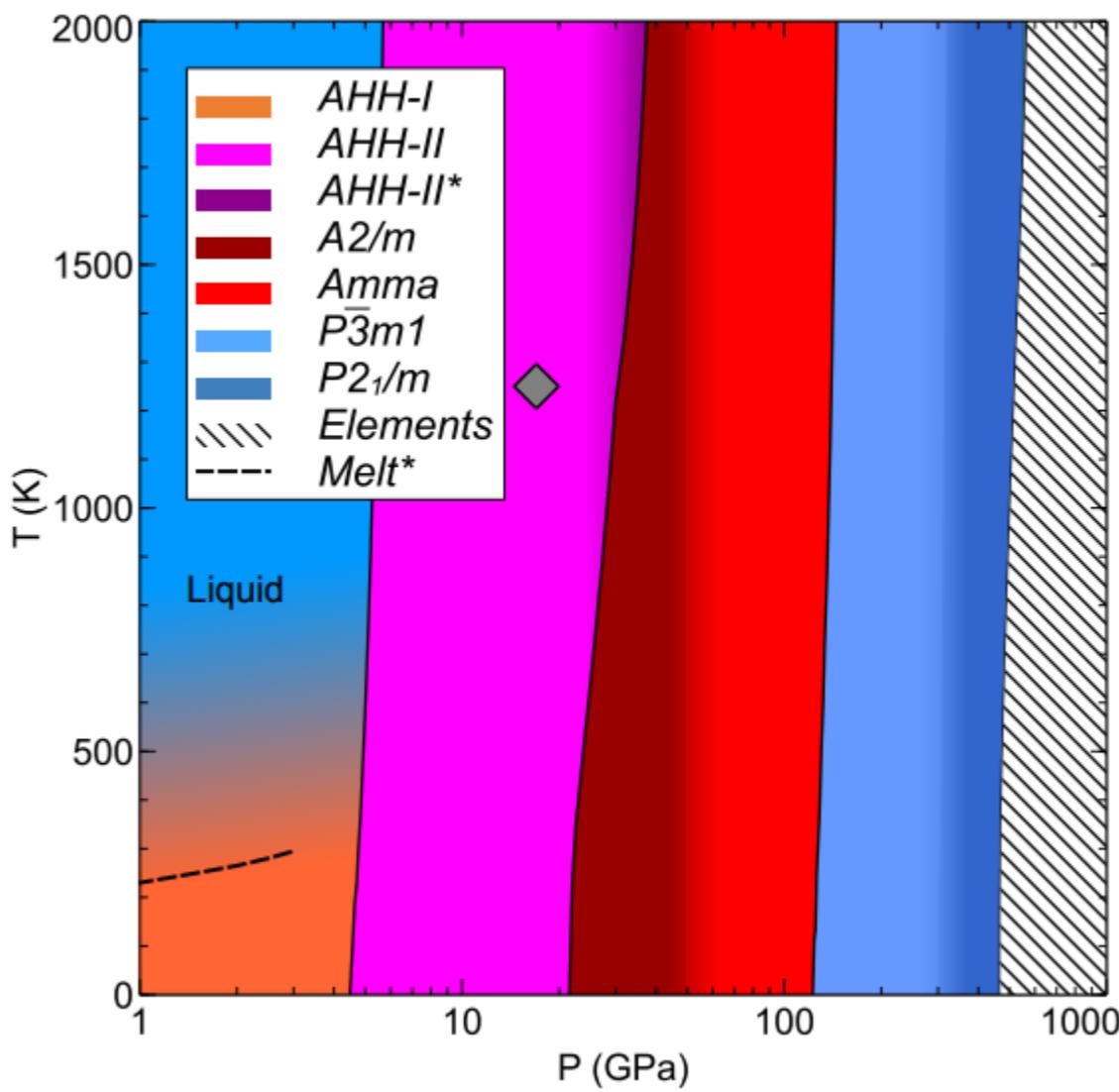


- AMH, ADH: decompose below 1 Mbar
- AHH, AQH: stable up to 5 Mbar
- Stabilization by water ionization
- High pressure favors mixtures with  $\text{NH}_3:\text{H}_2\text{O} \geq 2$

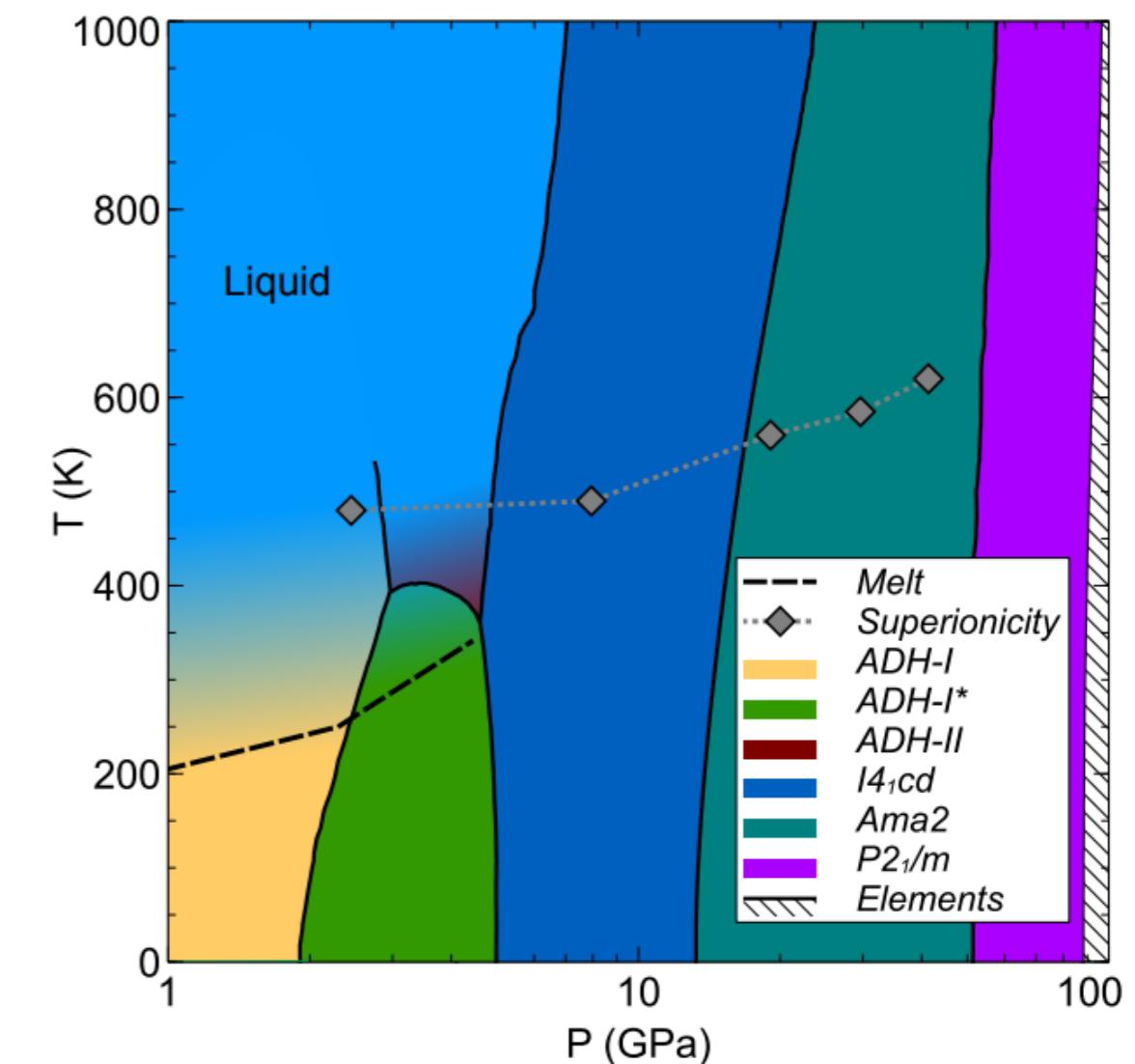
# Finite Temperature



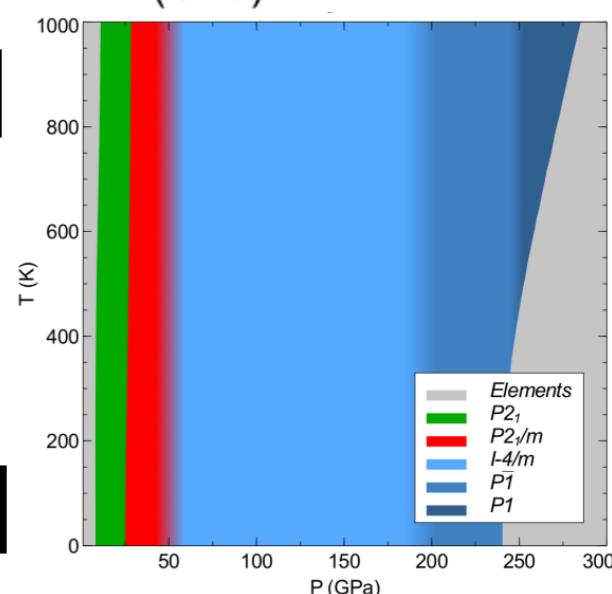
AMH [1:1]



AHH [2:1]



ADH [1:2]

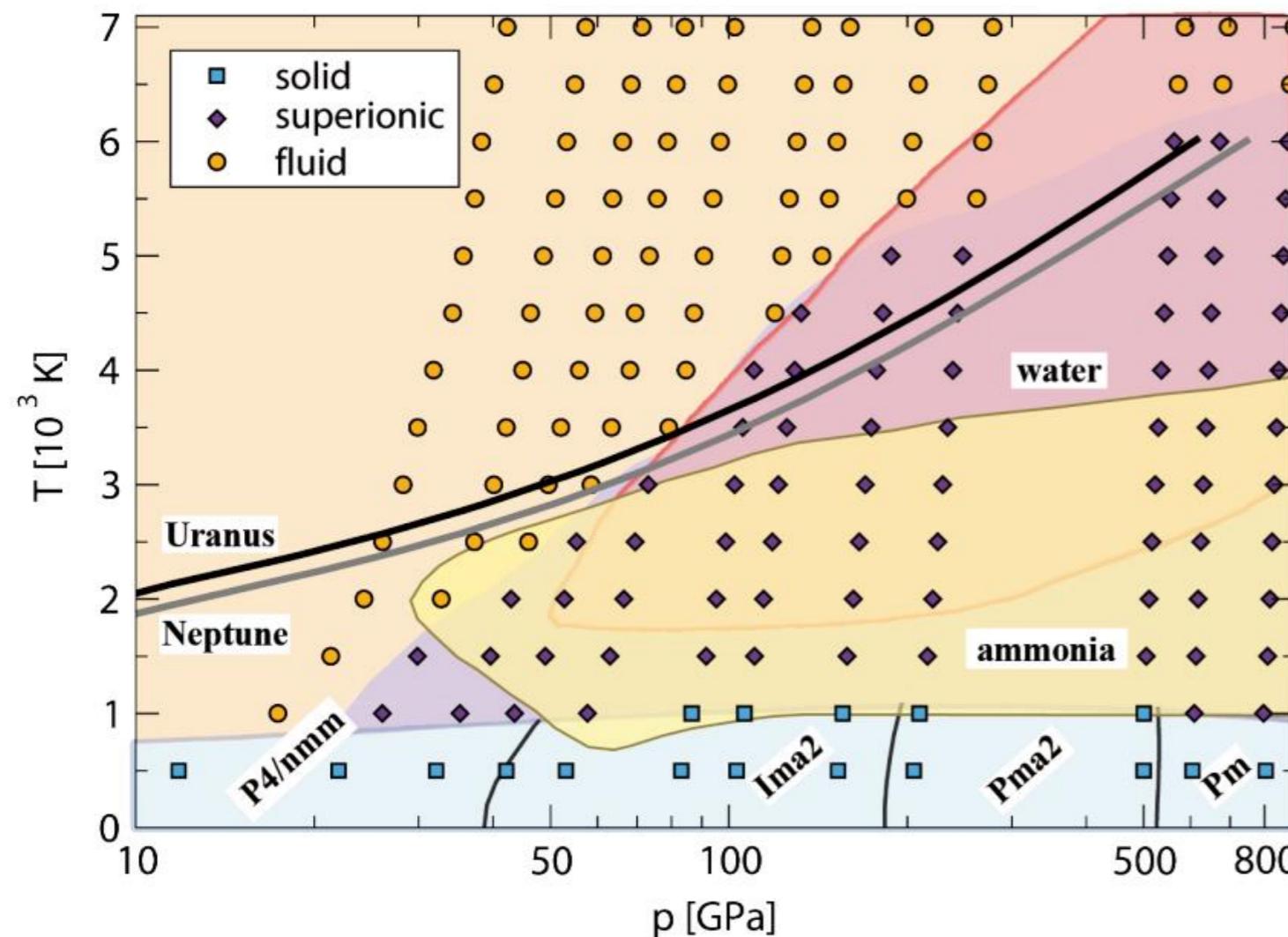


Harmonic approximation

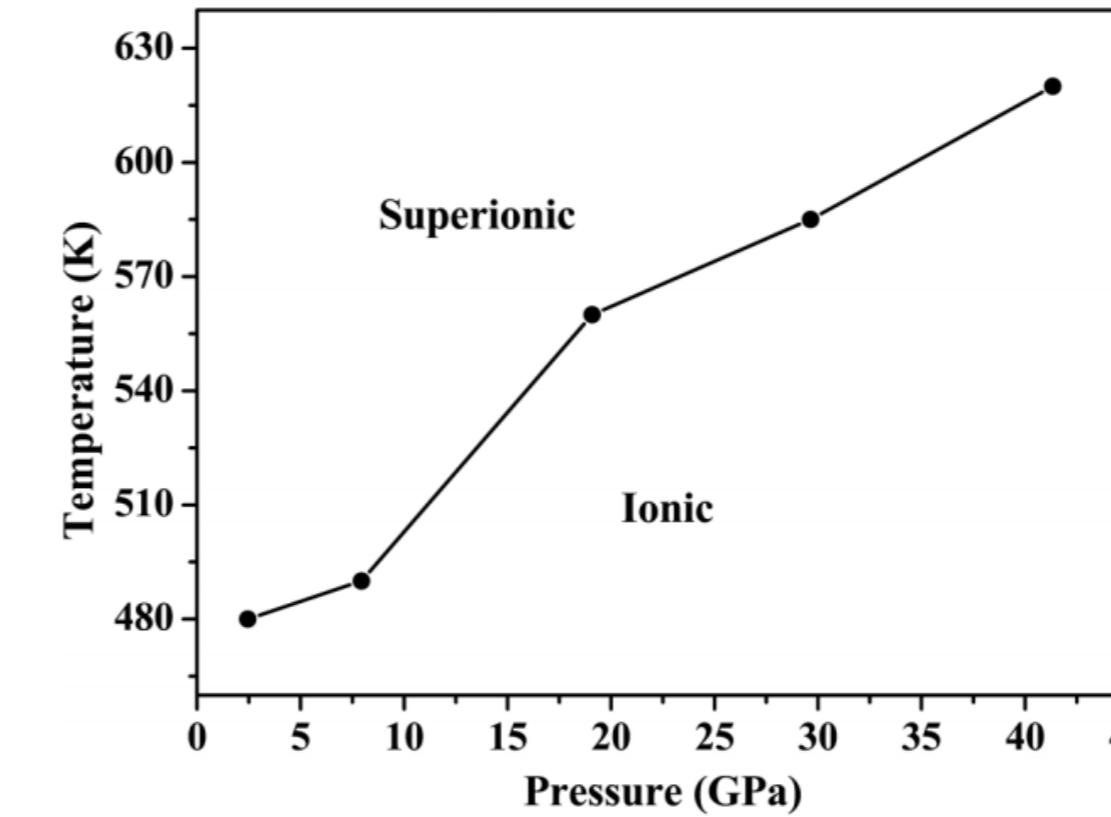
$$F(T, V) = E_0 - TS = E_0(V) + k_B T \int d\omega g(\omega) \ln \left[ 2 \sinh \left( \frac{\hbar \omega}{2k_B T} \right) \right]$$

# Computing simple mixtures

- Crystal structure searches
- *Ab initio* MD based on ground state structures
- Observables: EOS, conductivities, viscosities

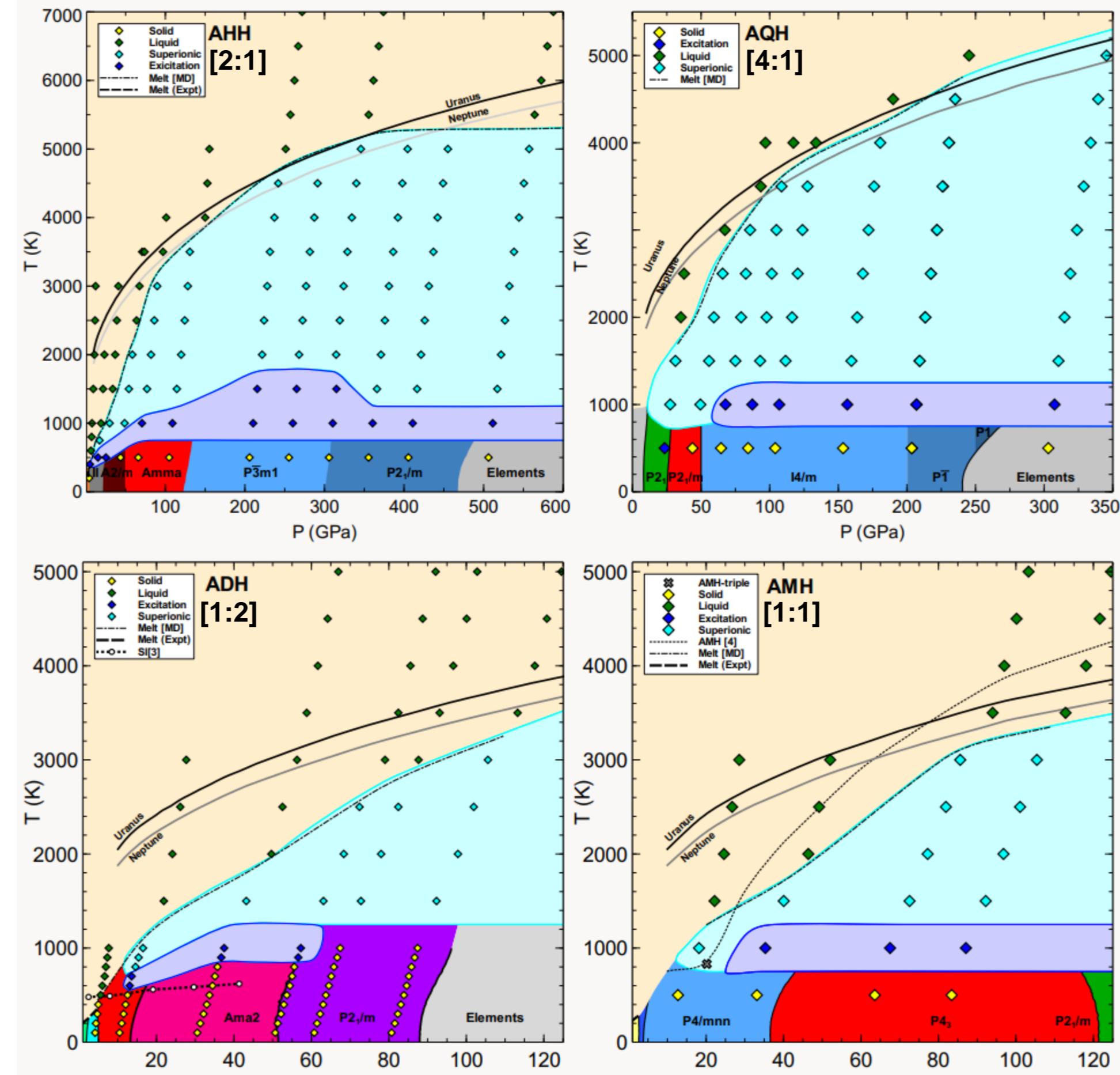


[1:1] (H<sub>2</sub>O)(NH<sub>3</sub>)



[1:2] (NH<sub>3</sub>)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>

# Phase Diagrams

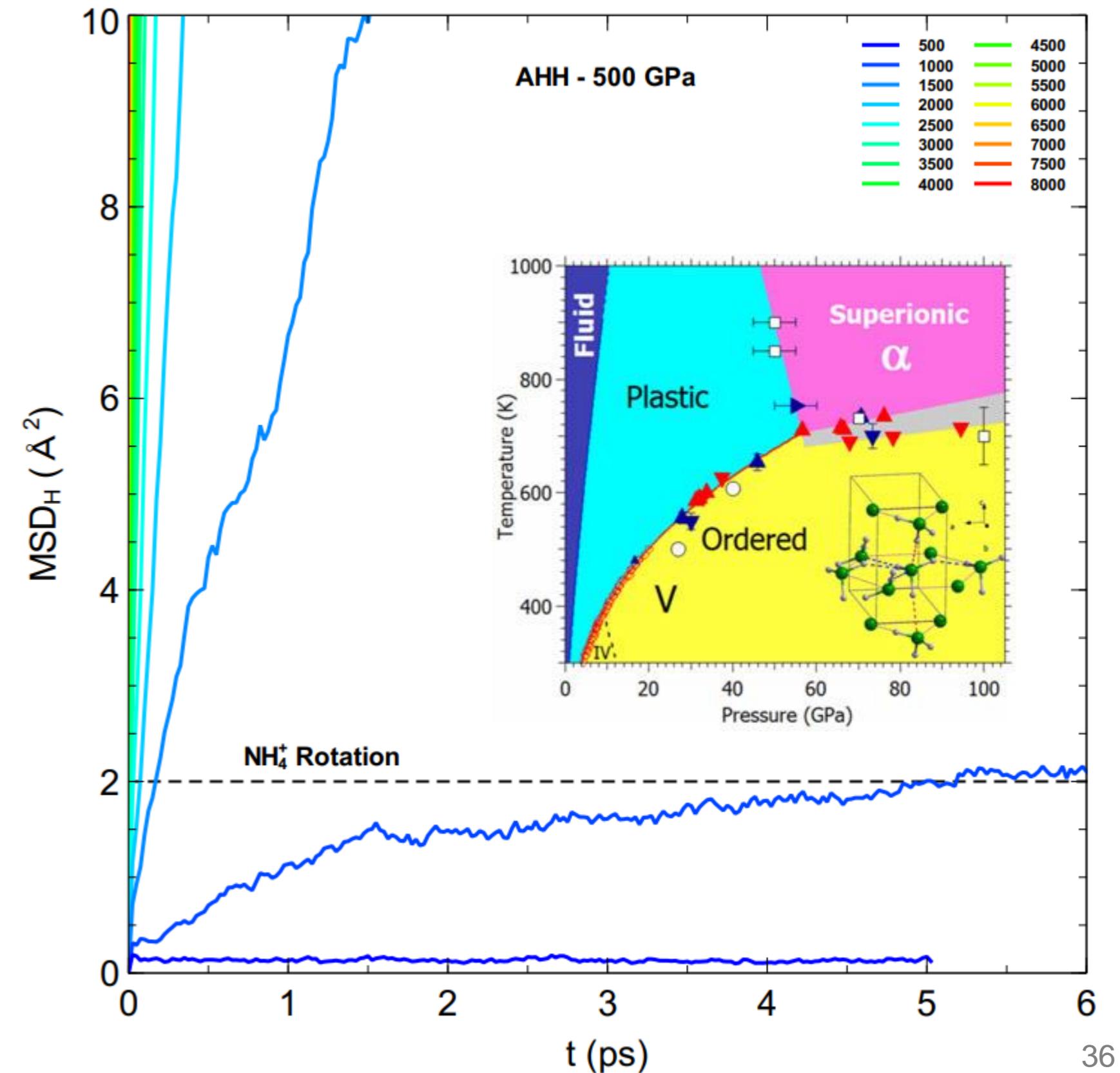
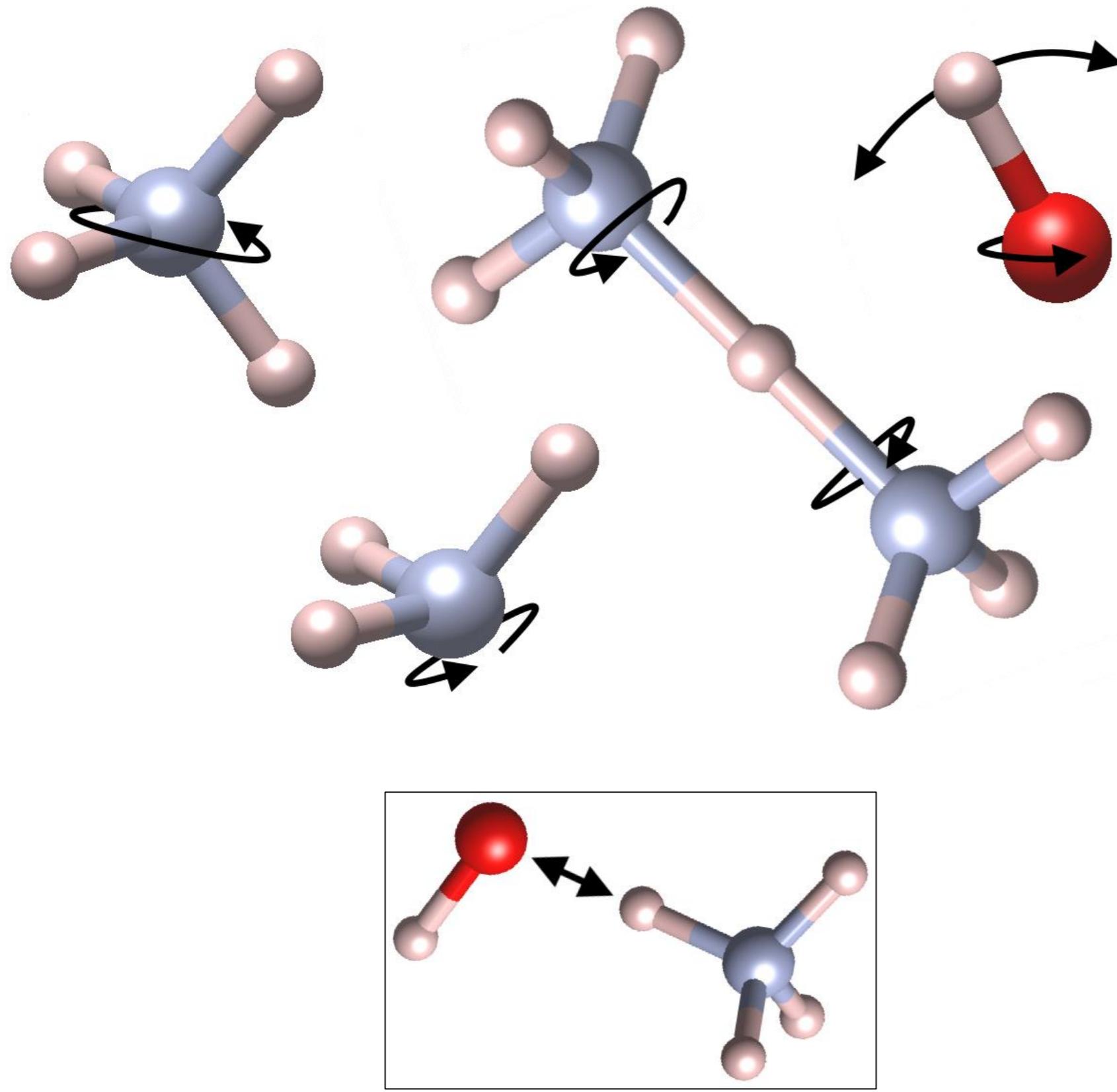


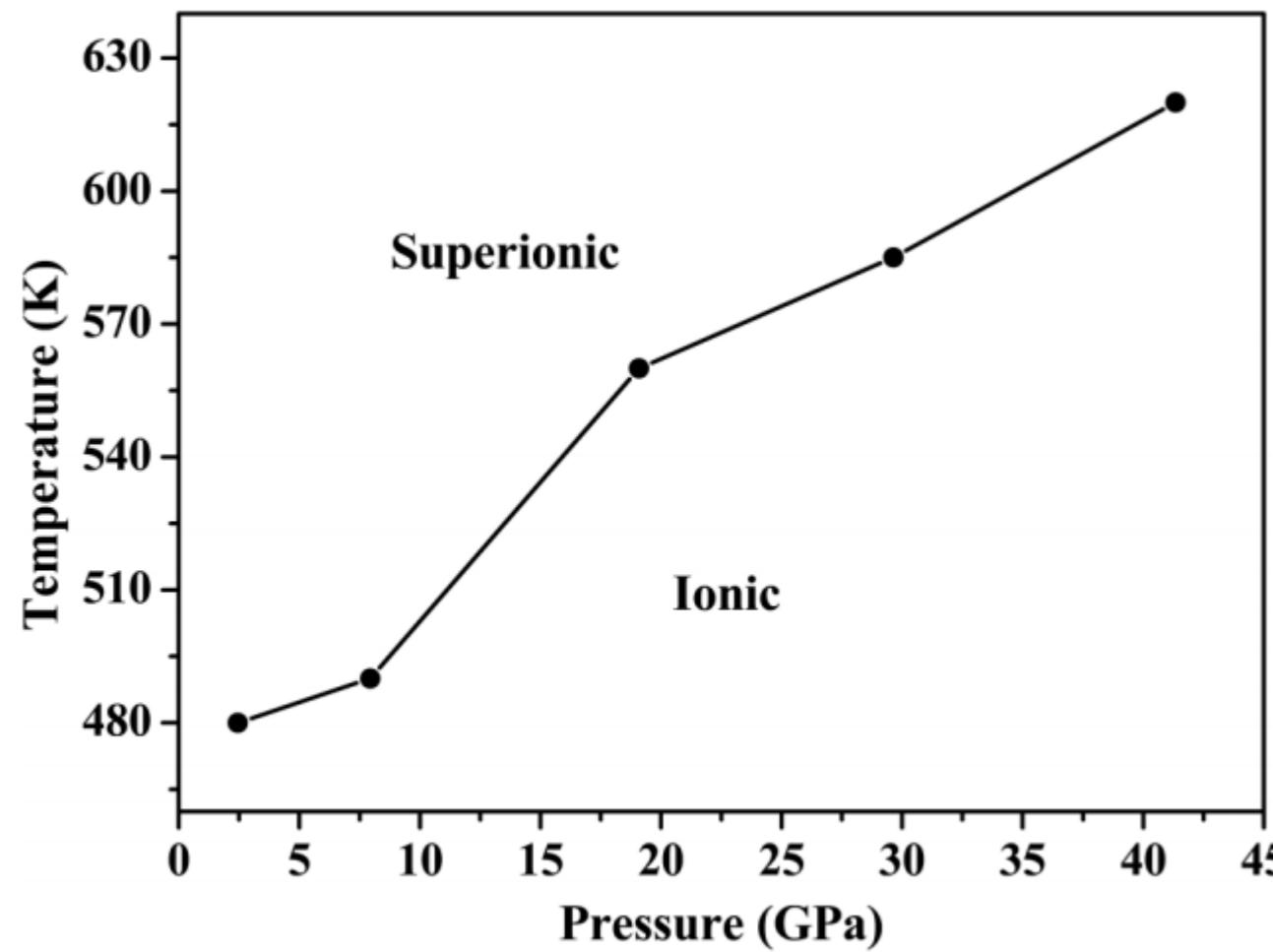
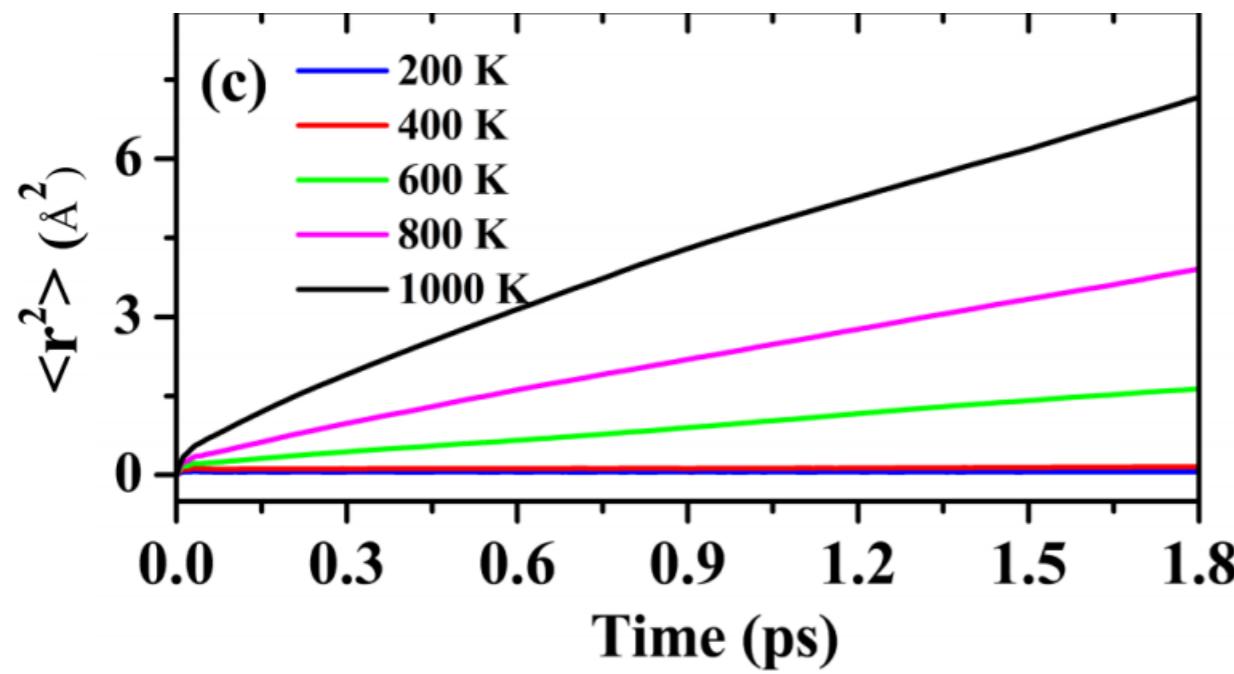
NVT AIMD  
CASTEP

$t_{\text{total}} = 1.53 \text{ ns}$

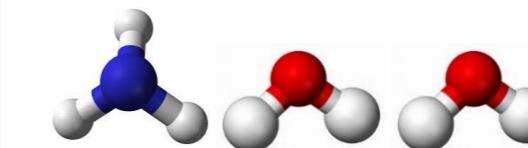
Up to:  
1280 atoms  
384 molecules

# Plasticity

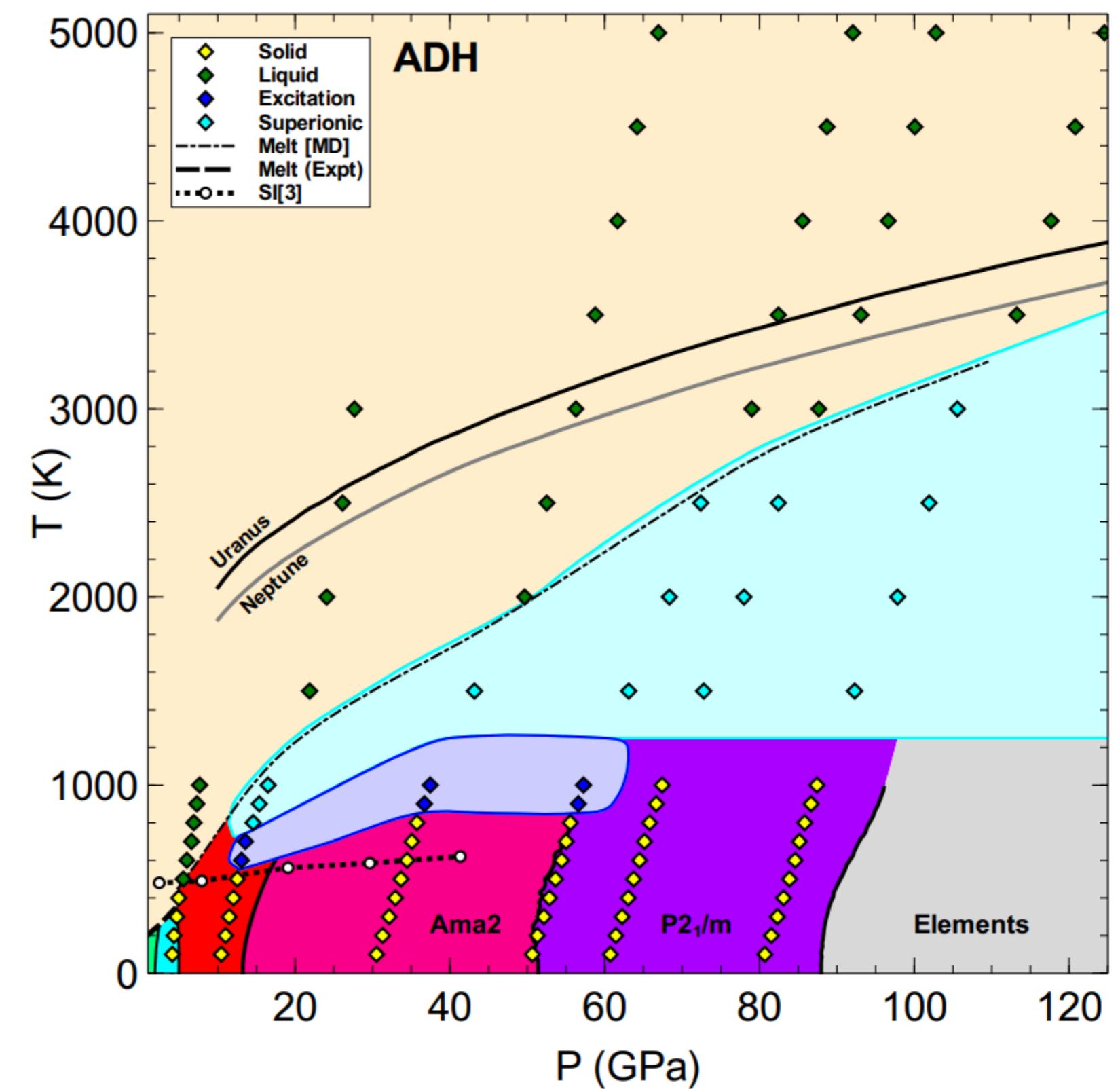


FIG. 7.  $P$ - $T$  phase diagram of ionic and superionic ADH phases.

# ADH [1:2]

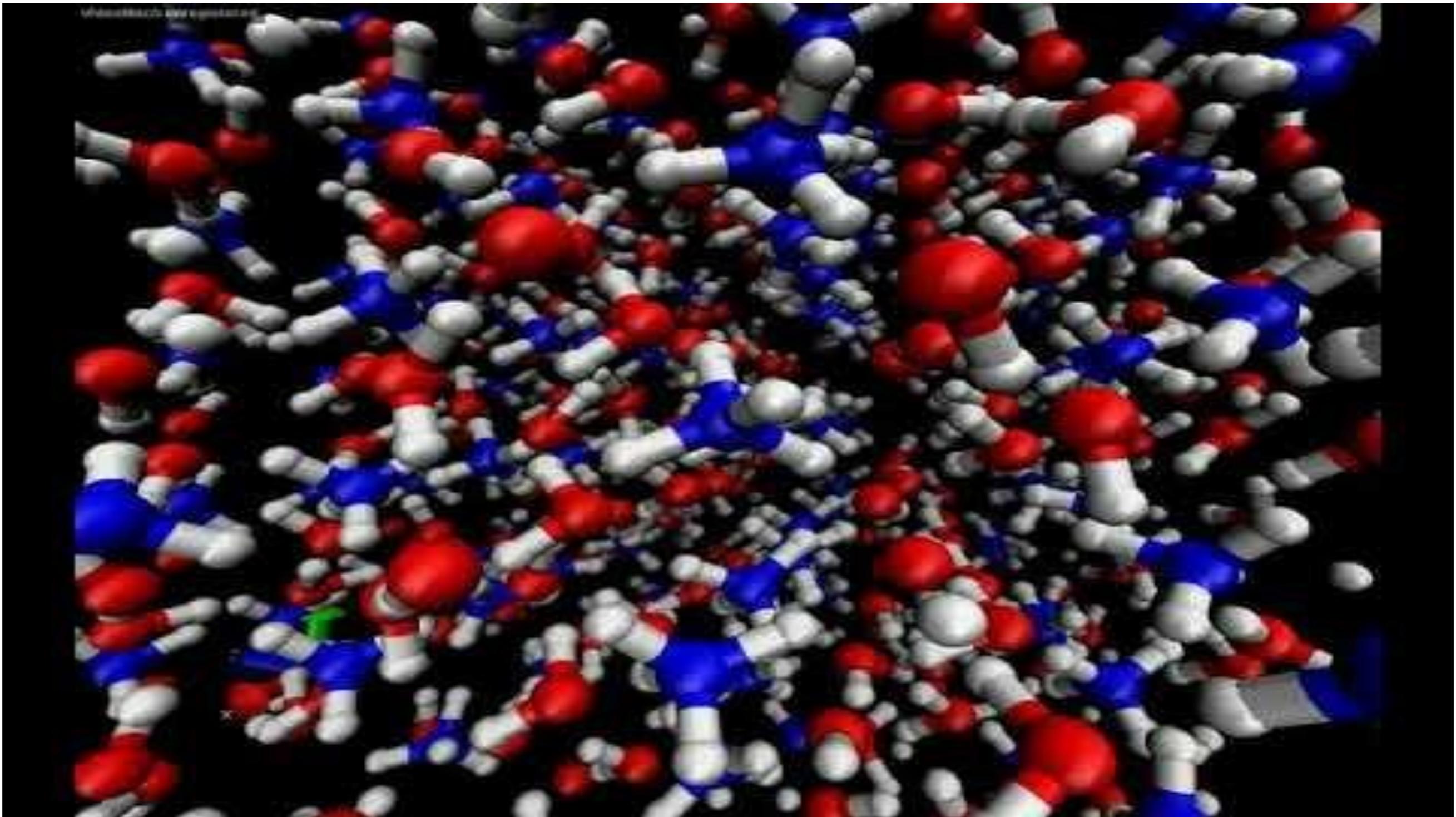


384 molecules



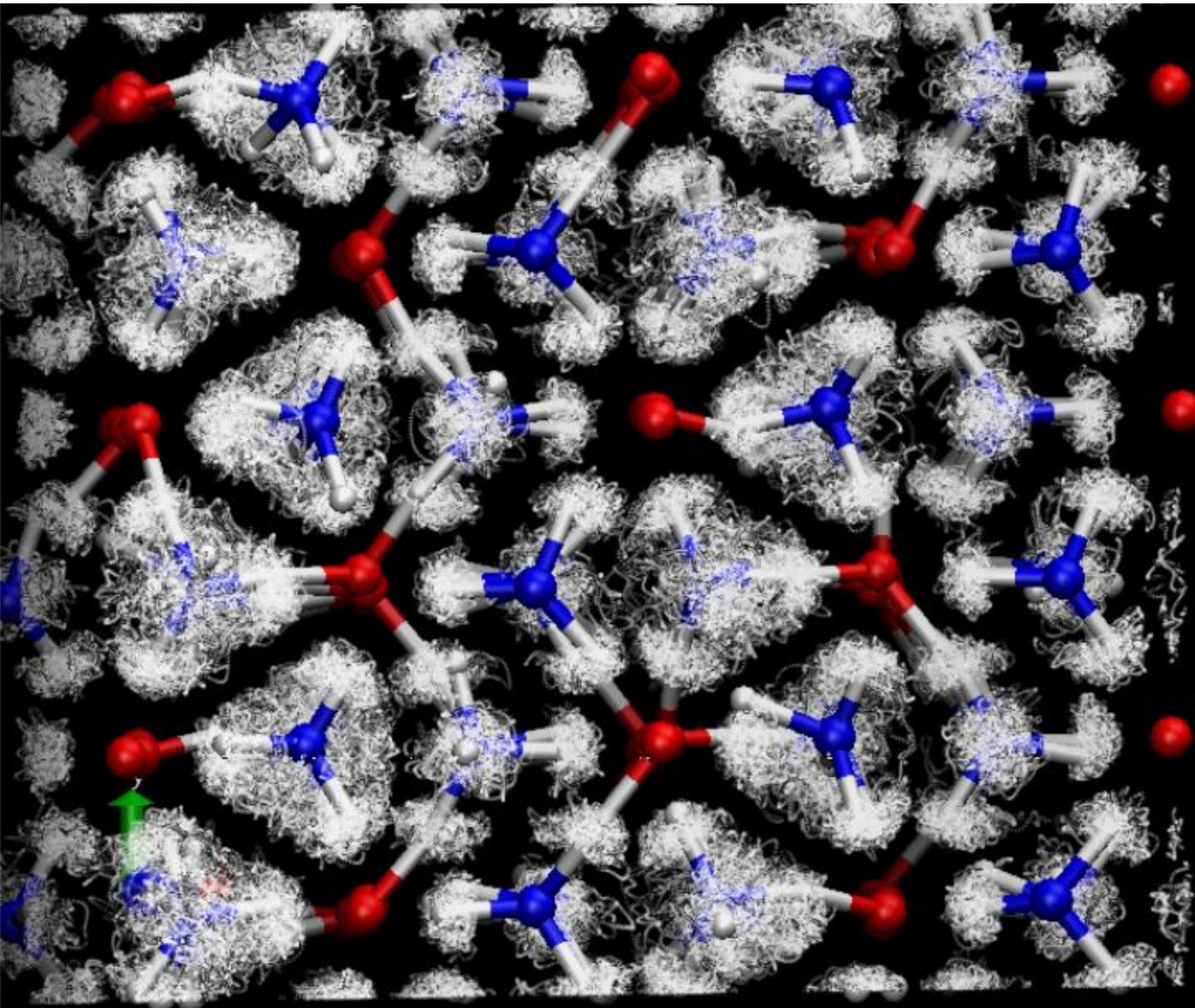
# Plasticity

& double well

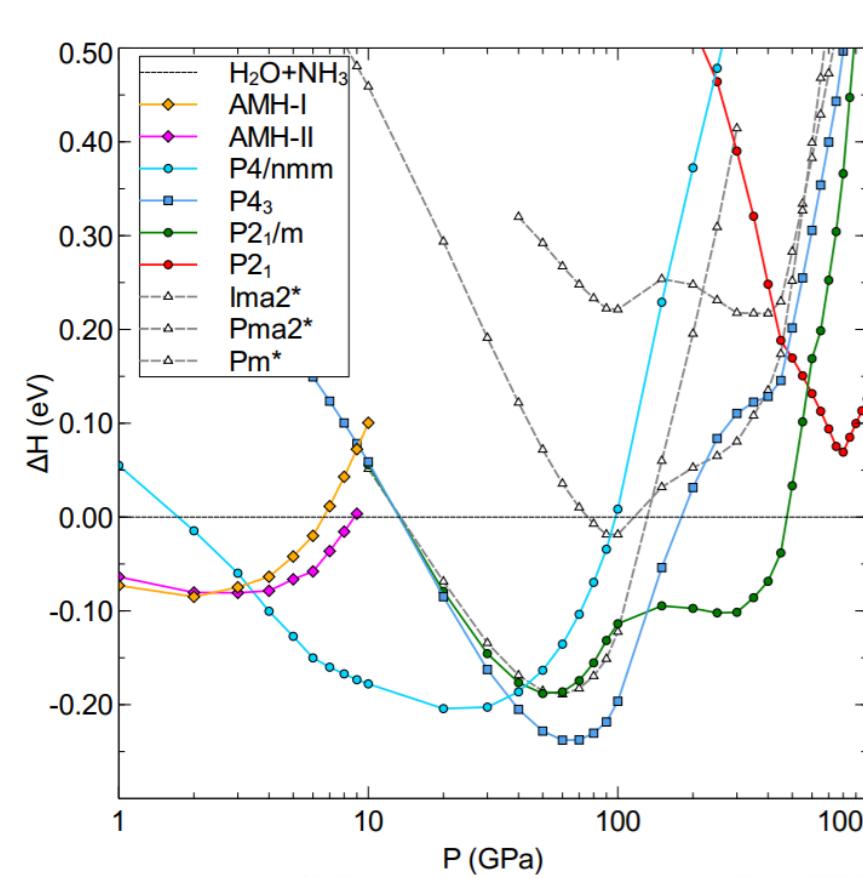


ADH[1:2] 10 GPa 700 K

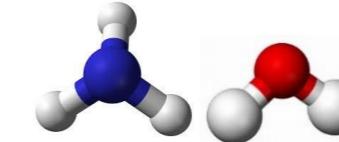
# Plasticity



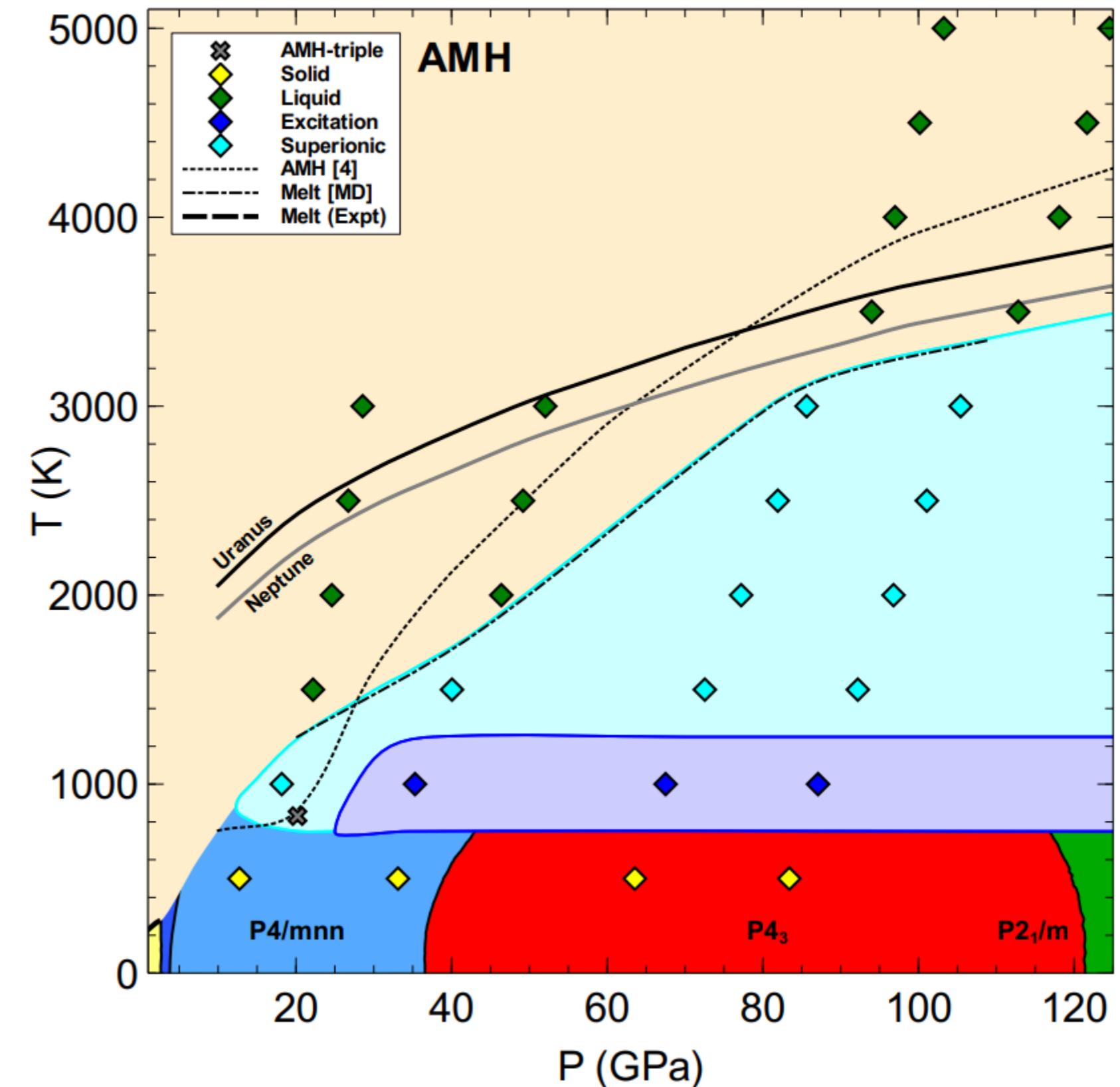
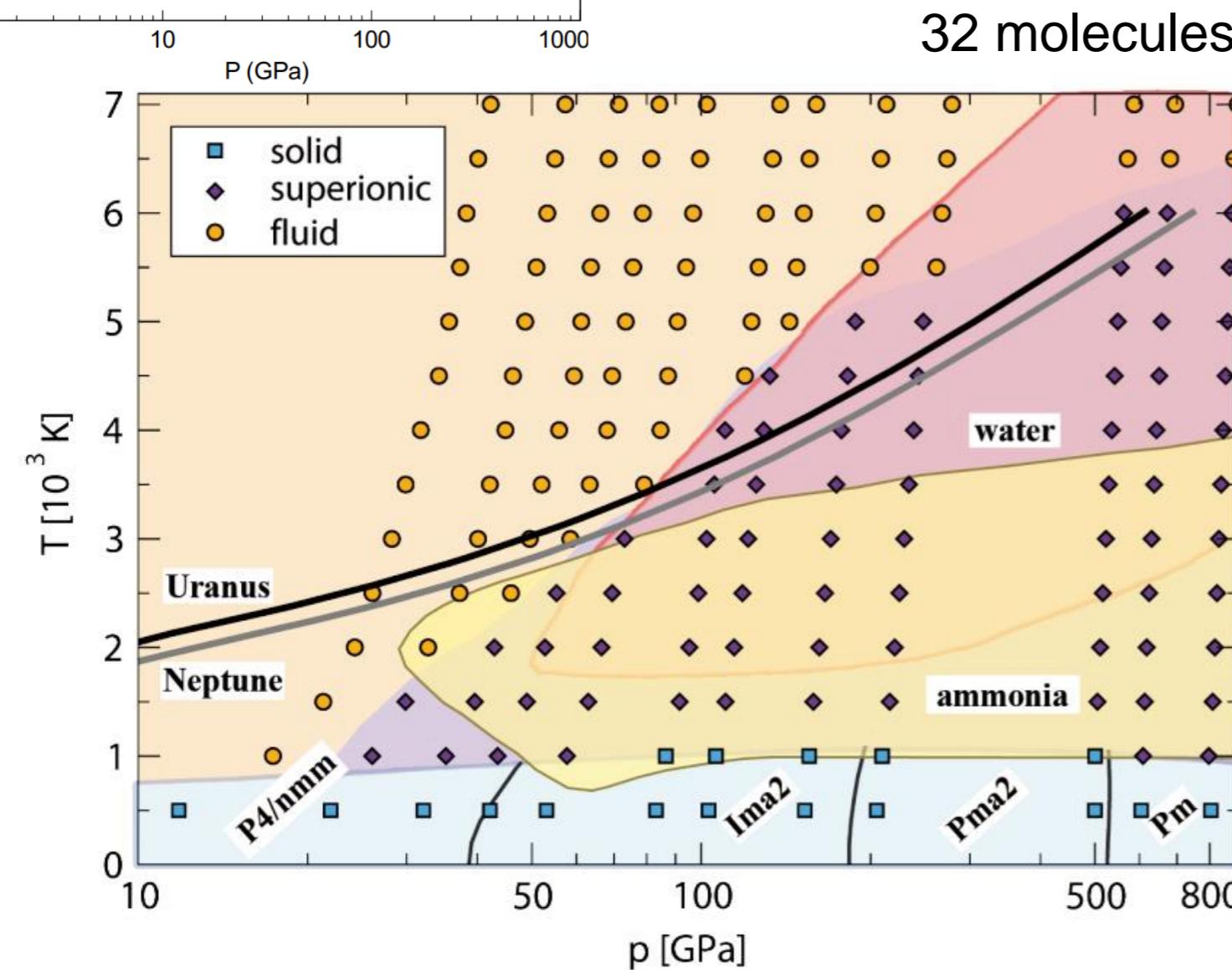
AHH[2:1] 500 GPa 1000 K



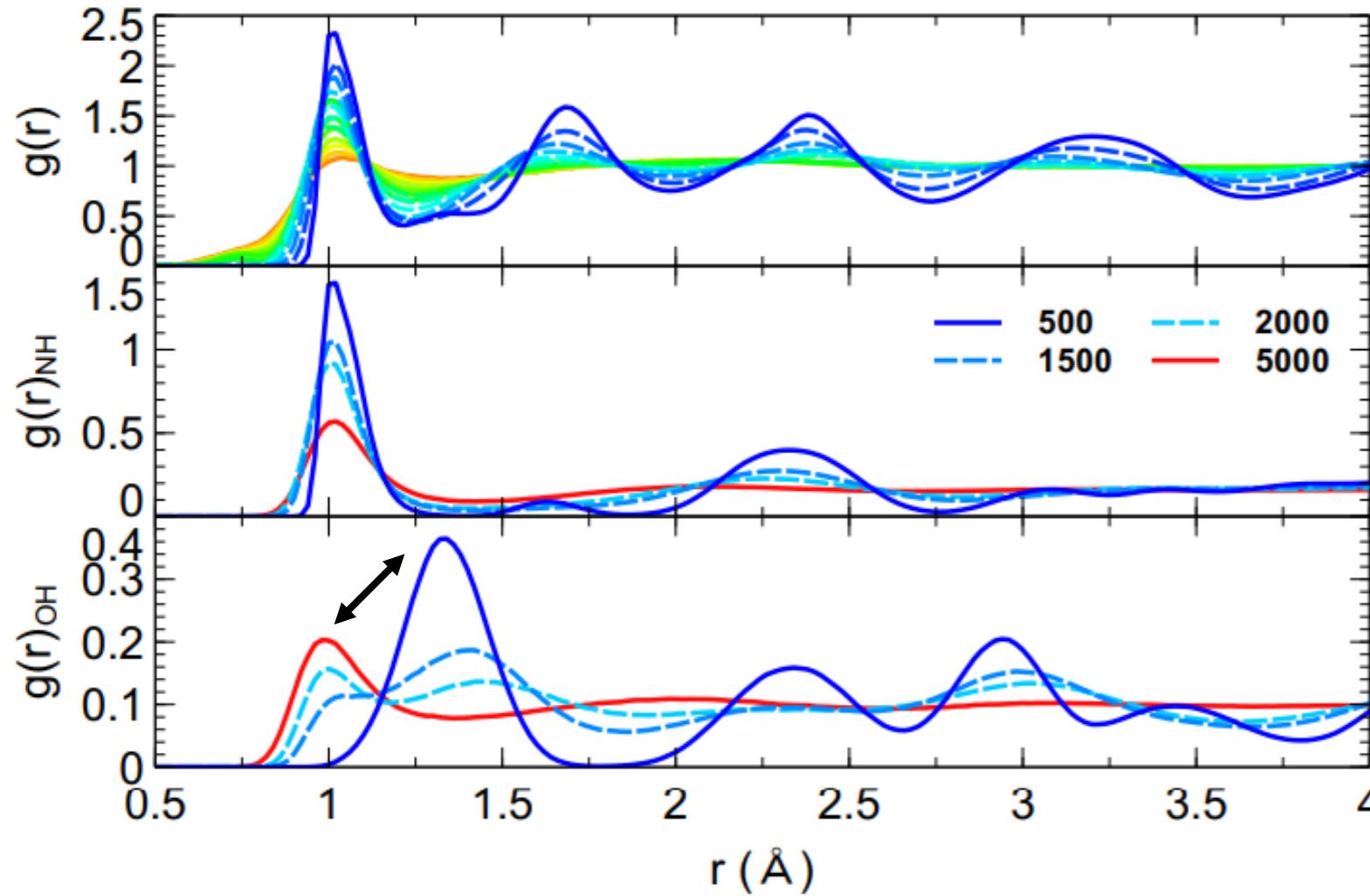
# AMH [1:1]



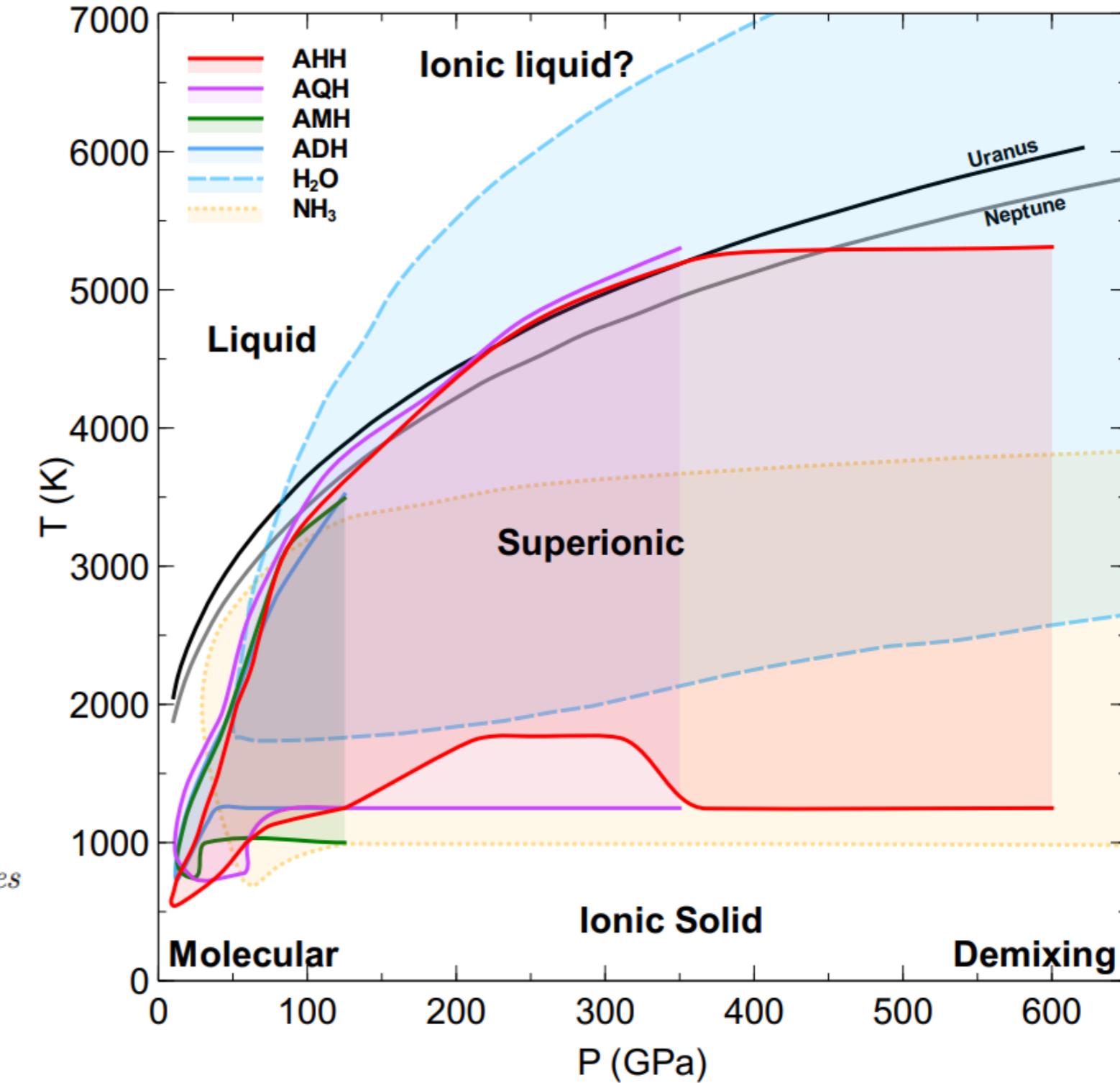
144 molecules



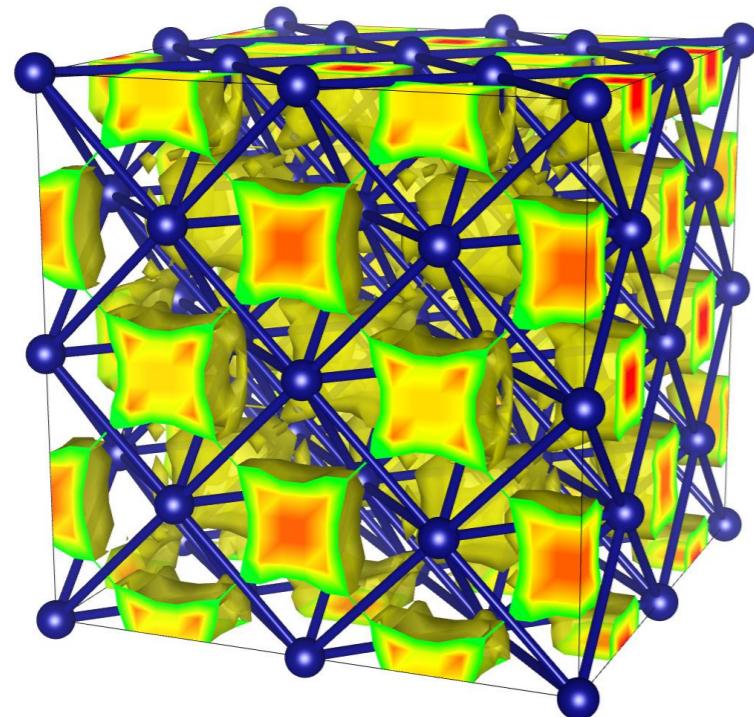
# Full NH<sub>3</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O phase diagram



**Figure 6.18** RDF's and PDF's for AHH at 100 GPa where dashed lines indicate the superionic phase.

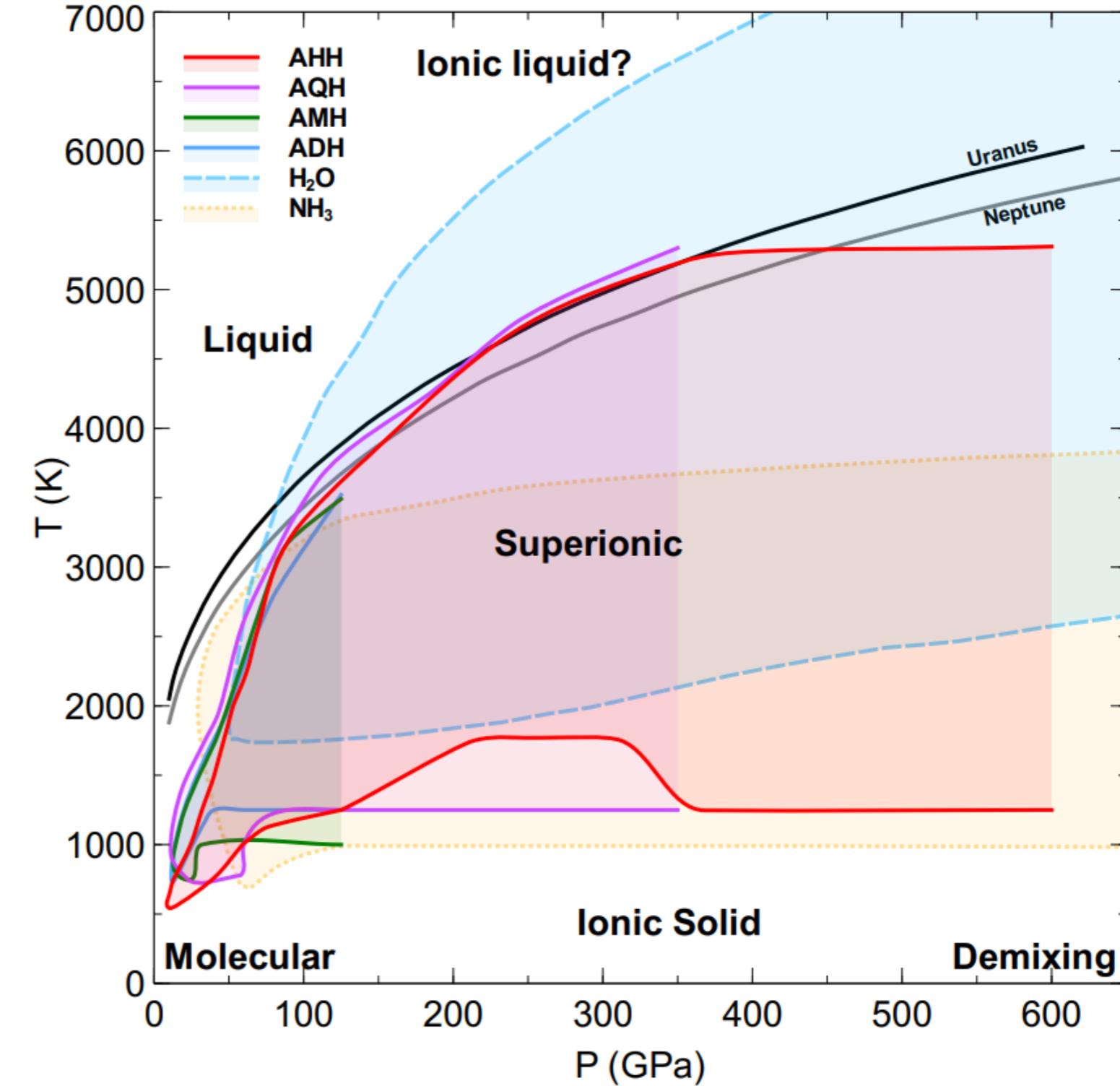


# Full NH<sub>3</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O phase diagram

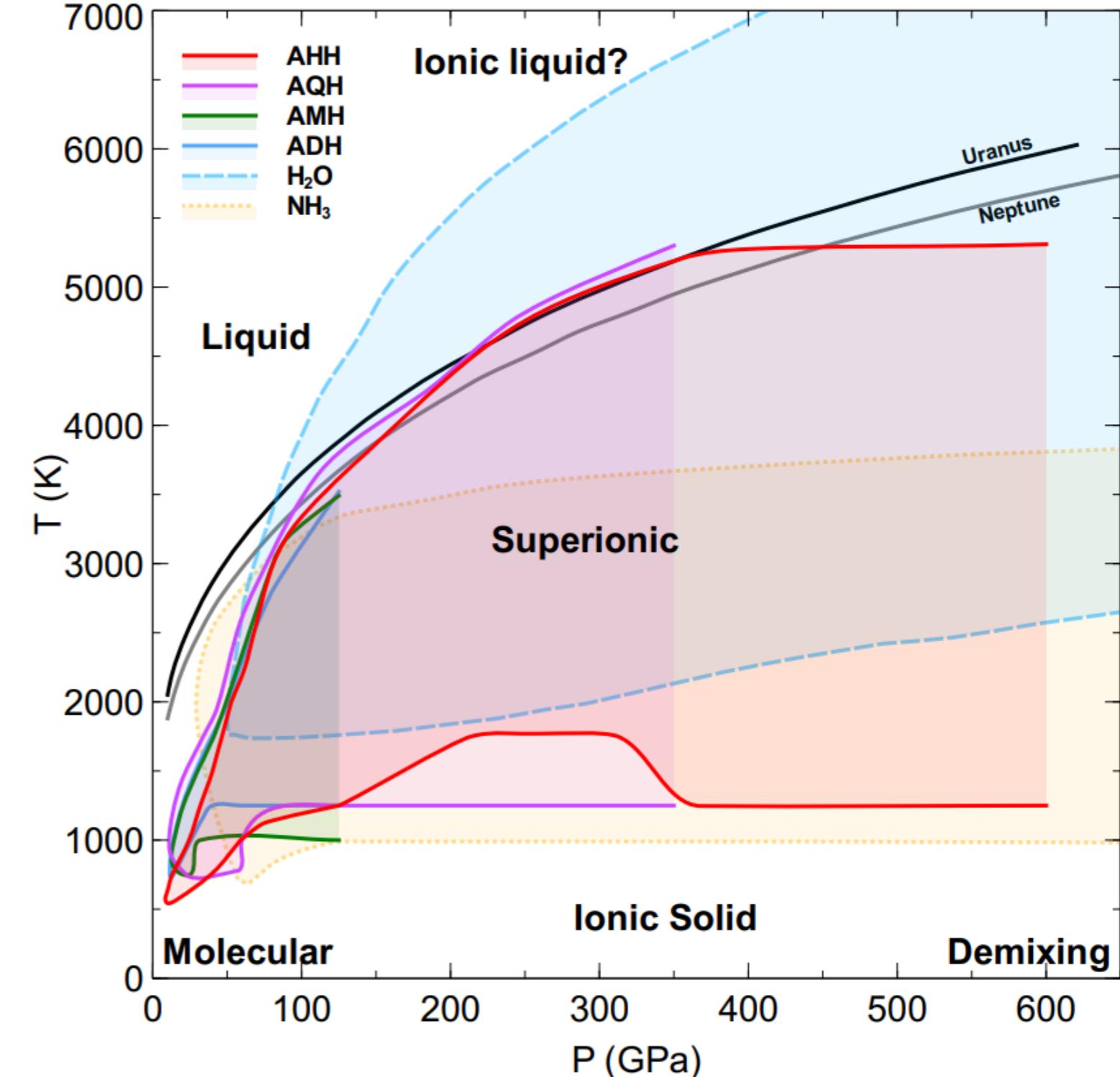
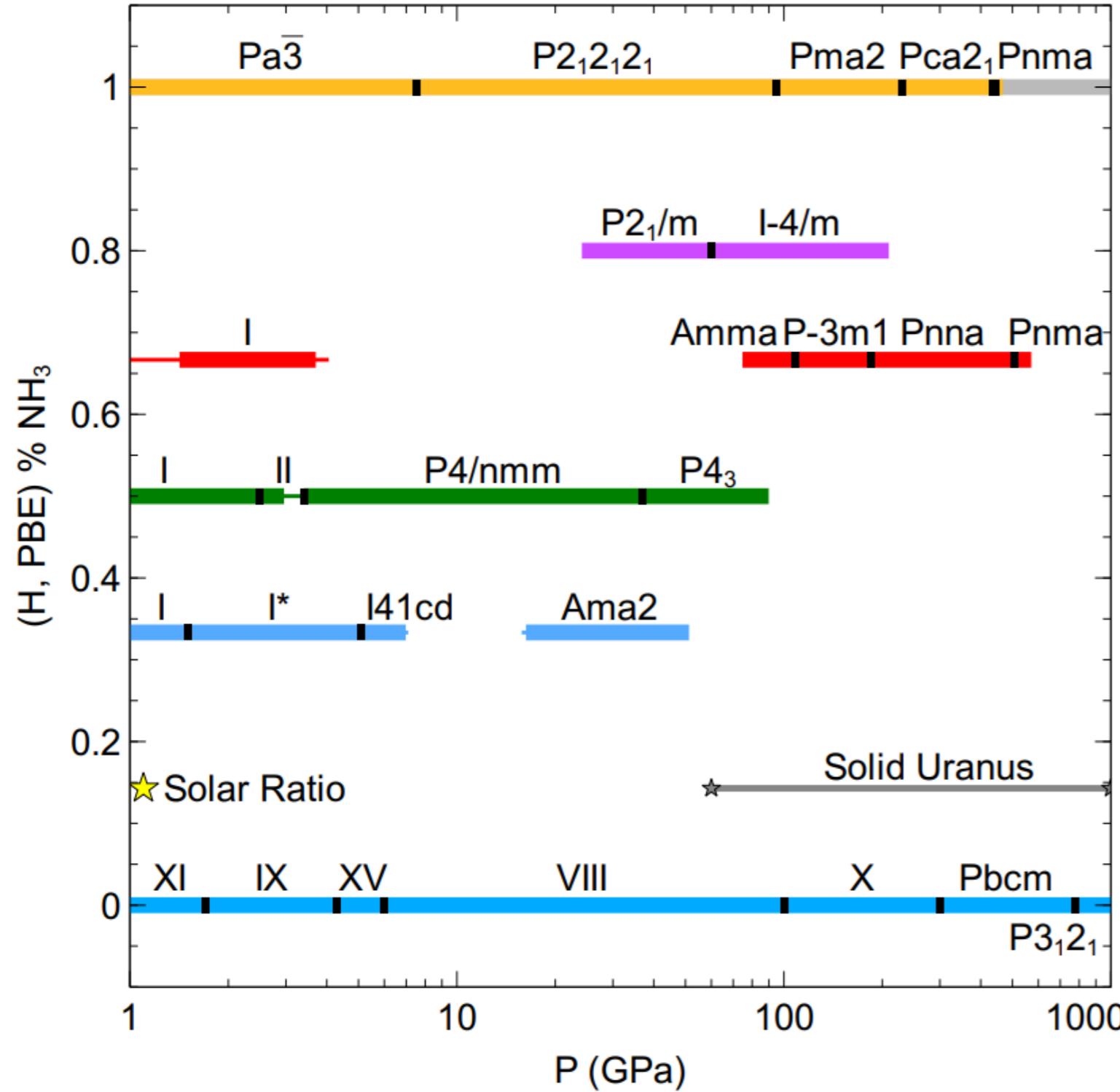


**Superionic to superionic phase change in water:  
Consequences for the interiors of Uranus and Neptune**

Hugh F. Wilson, Michael L. Wong, Burkhard Militzer Phys.Rev.Lett. 110 (2013) no.15, 151102



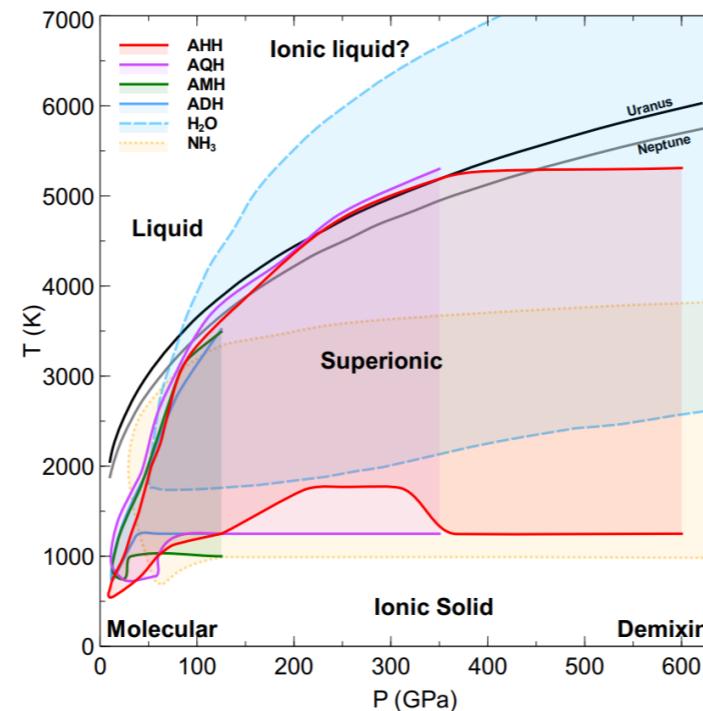
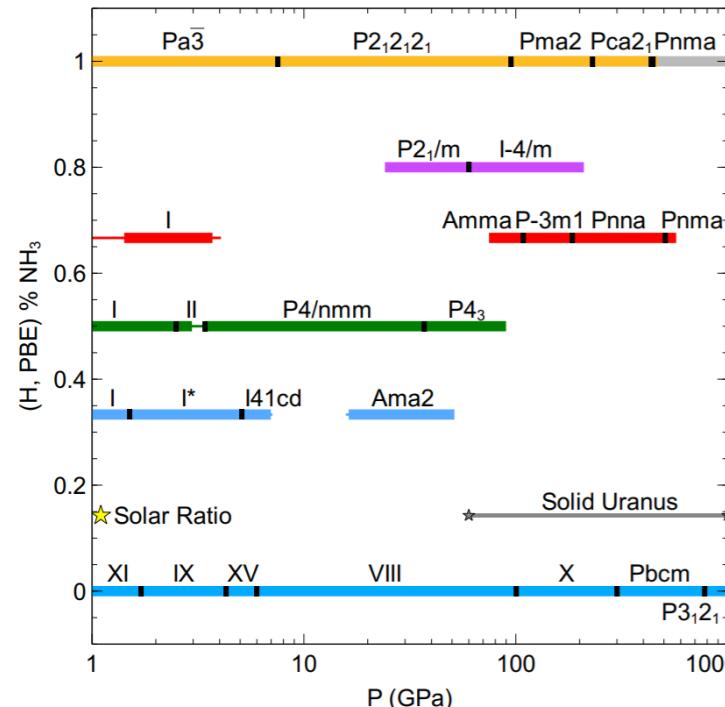
# Full NH<sub>3</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O phase diagram



# Summary & Acknowledgements

## Ammonia-water mixtures

- **AHH:** sequence of fully de-protonated, ionic structures  
DMA approximants  
Change in superionicity?
- **AMH:** updating high-pressure evolution  
H-bond network topologies
- Full binary  $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{NH}_3$  phase diagram  
New quarter-hydrate, **AQH**  
Ammonia-rich phases favored
- **Superionic, plastic, and melt** lines categorized for all mixtures



Supervisor  
Andreas Hermann



The Abdus Salam  
**International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics**

## Collaborators

Yanchao Wang  
Yanming Ma  
Miriam Marquez

Jacob F. Christiansen

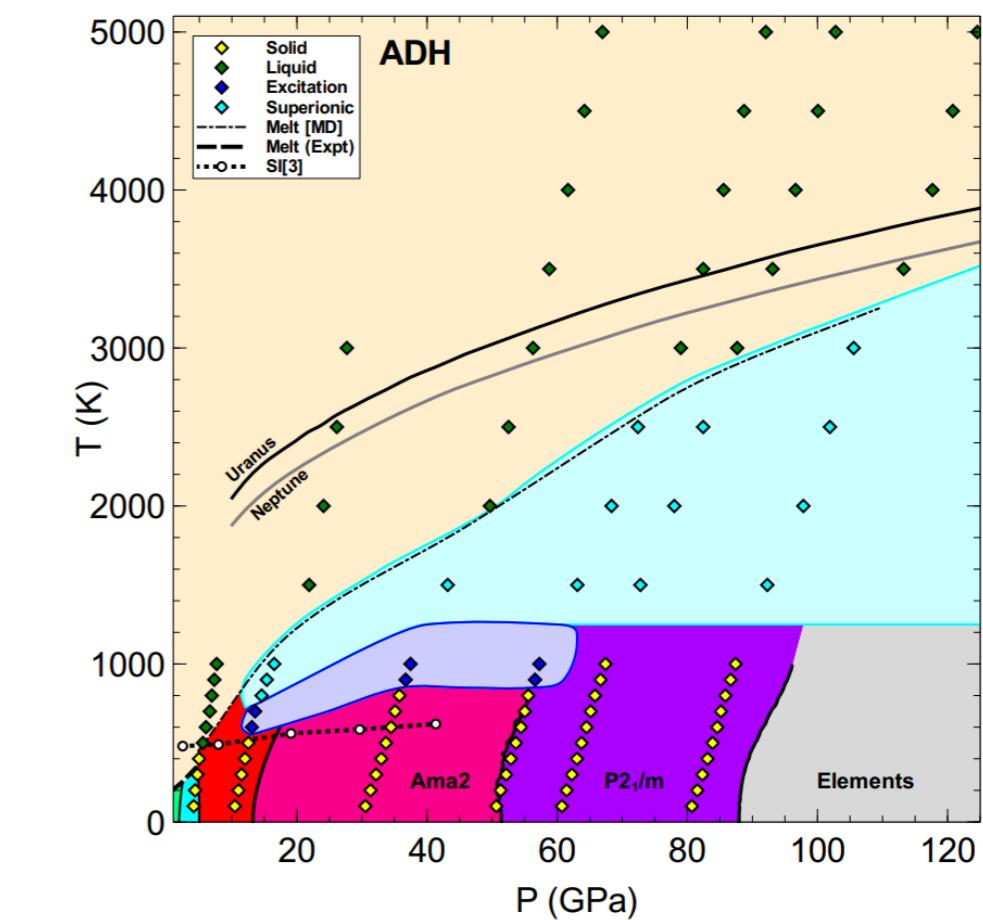
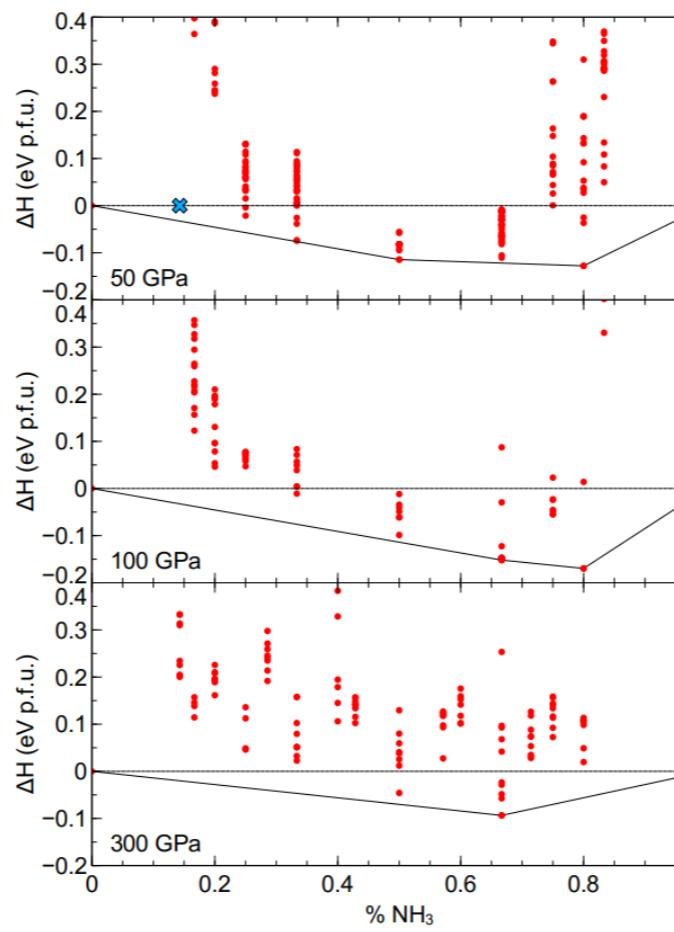
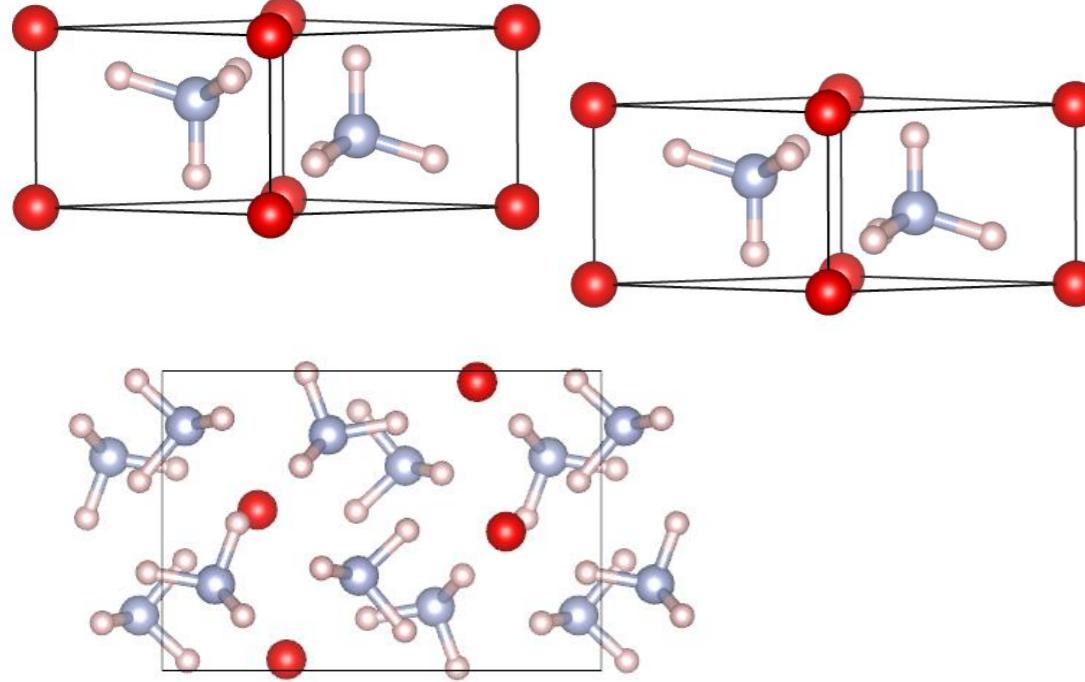
## Funding & Computing



# Research Structure



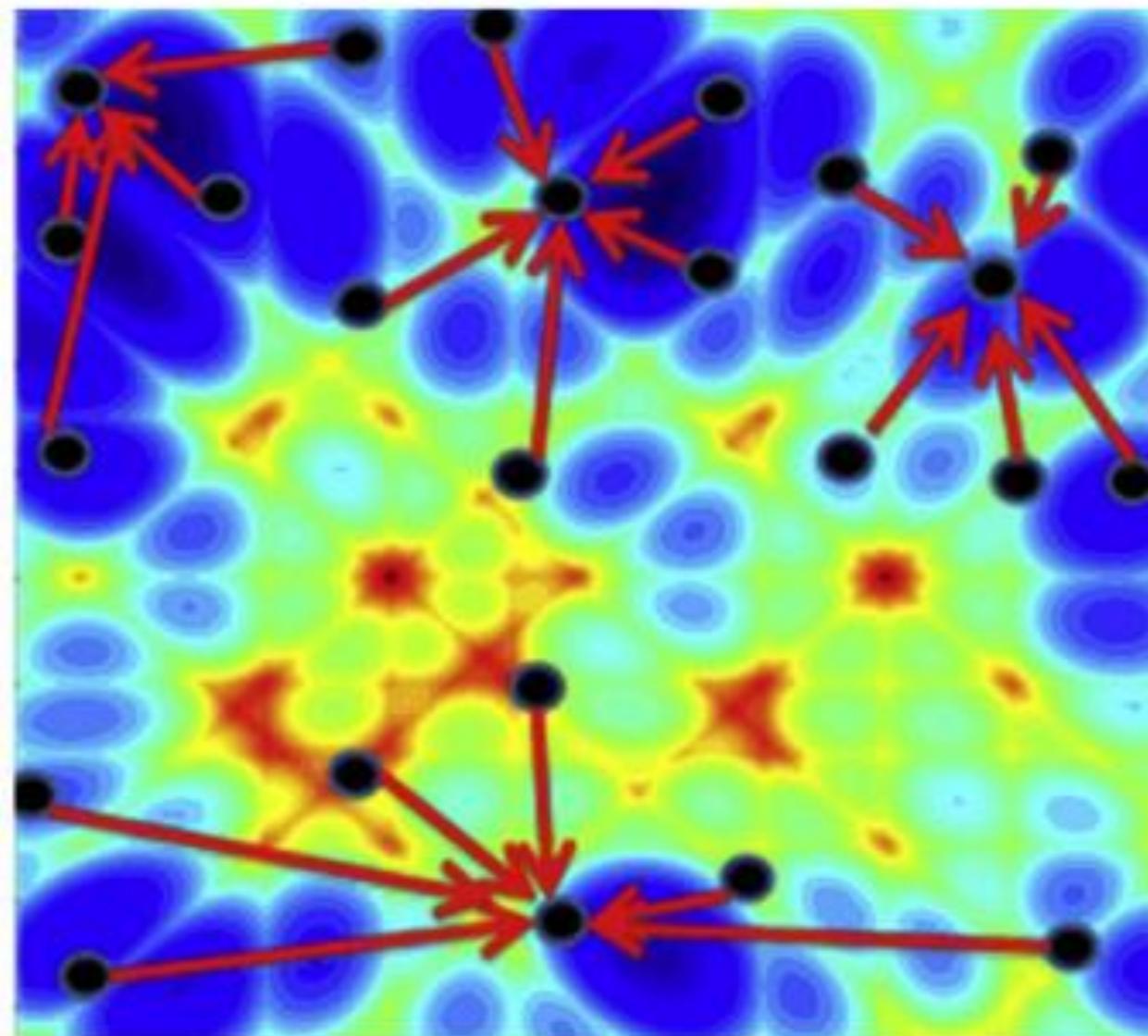
Crystal Structure Searching → Stable Mixture Stabilities → Finite Temperature MD

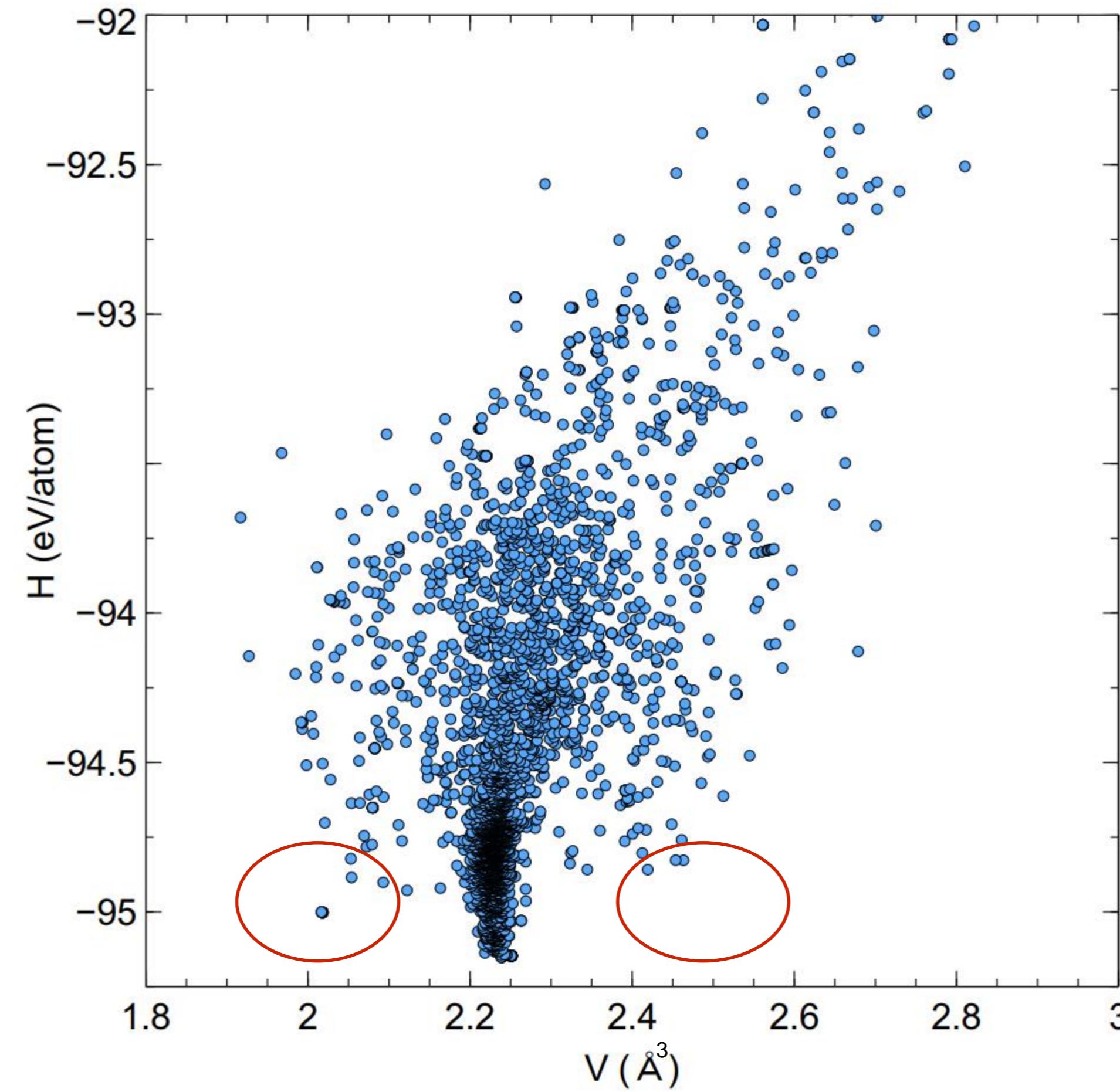


# Crystal structure prediction

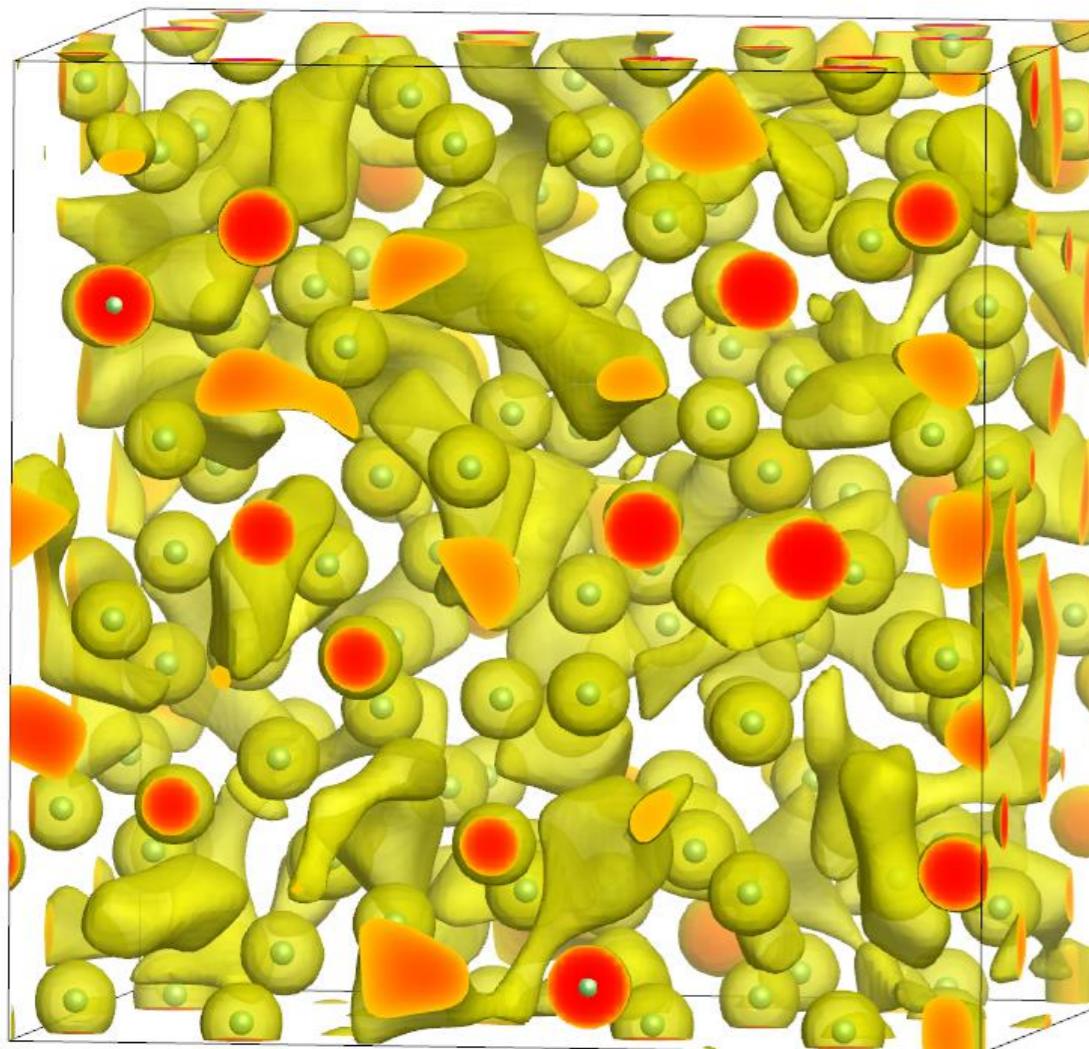


- Particle-swarm optimization
- CASTEP total energy calculations
- Up to four formula units, 200,000 + structures
- Pressures 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 80, 100 ... 1000 GPa

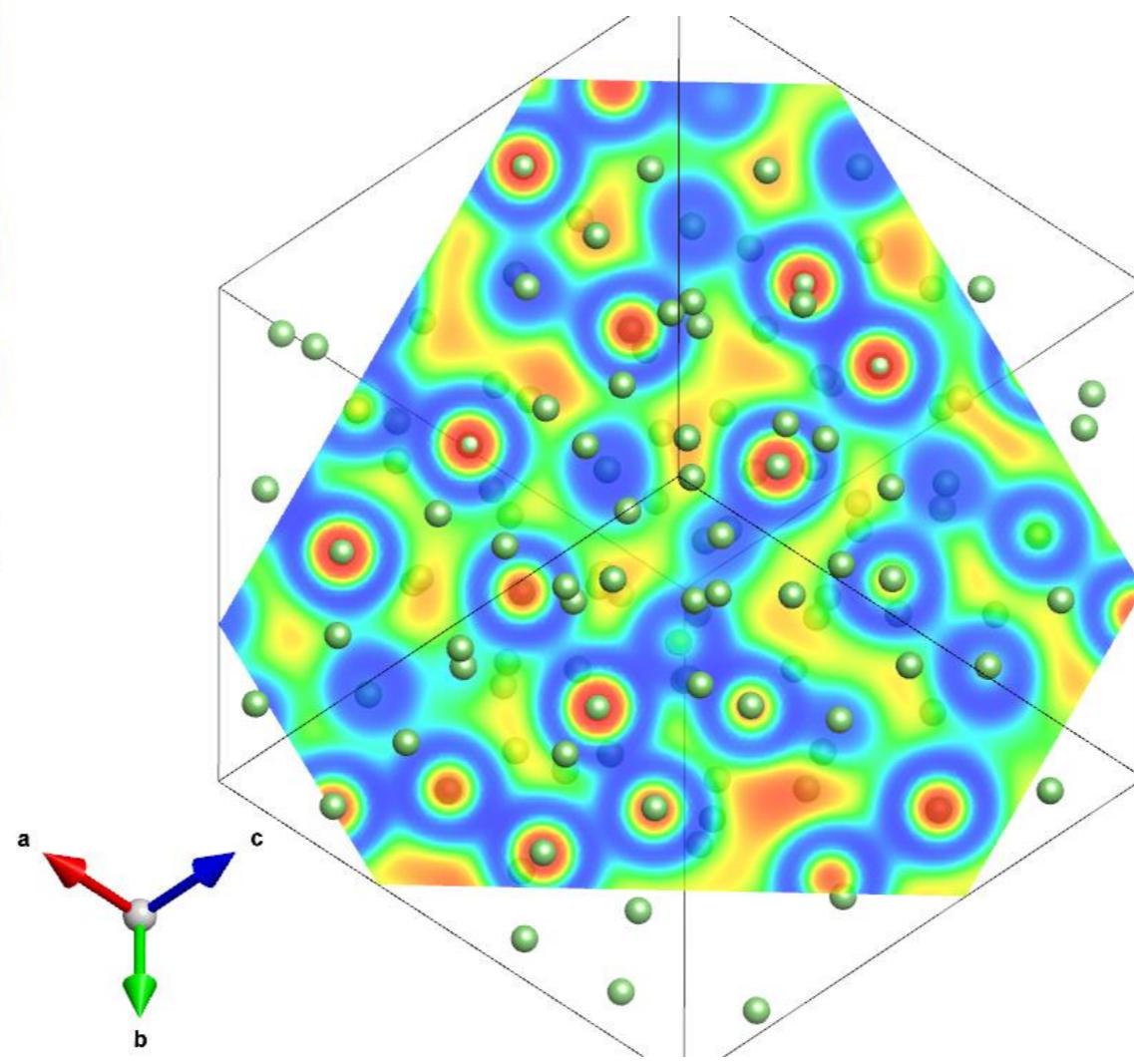




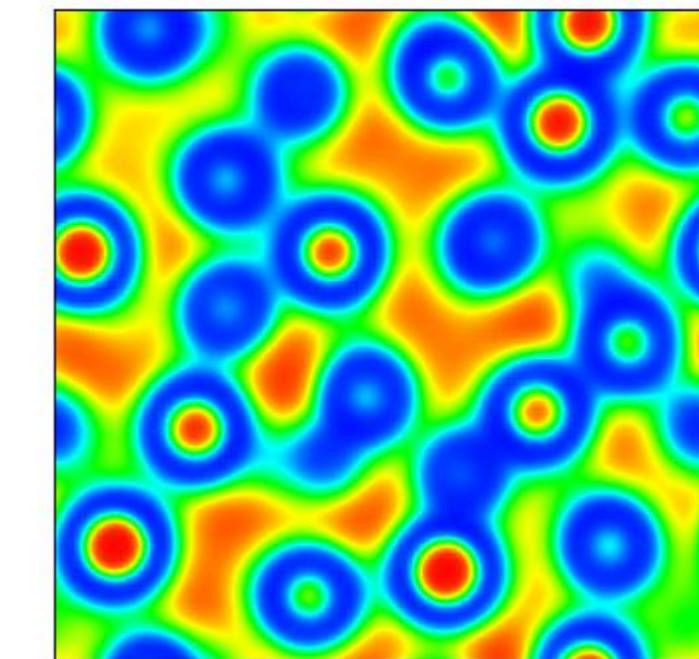
# Liquid Electrides



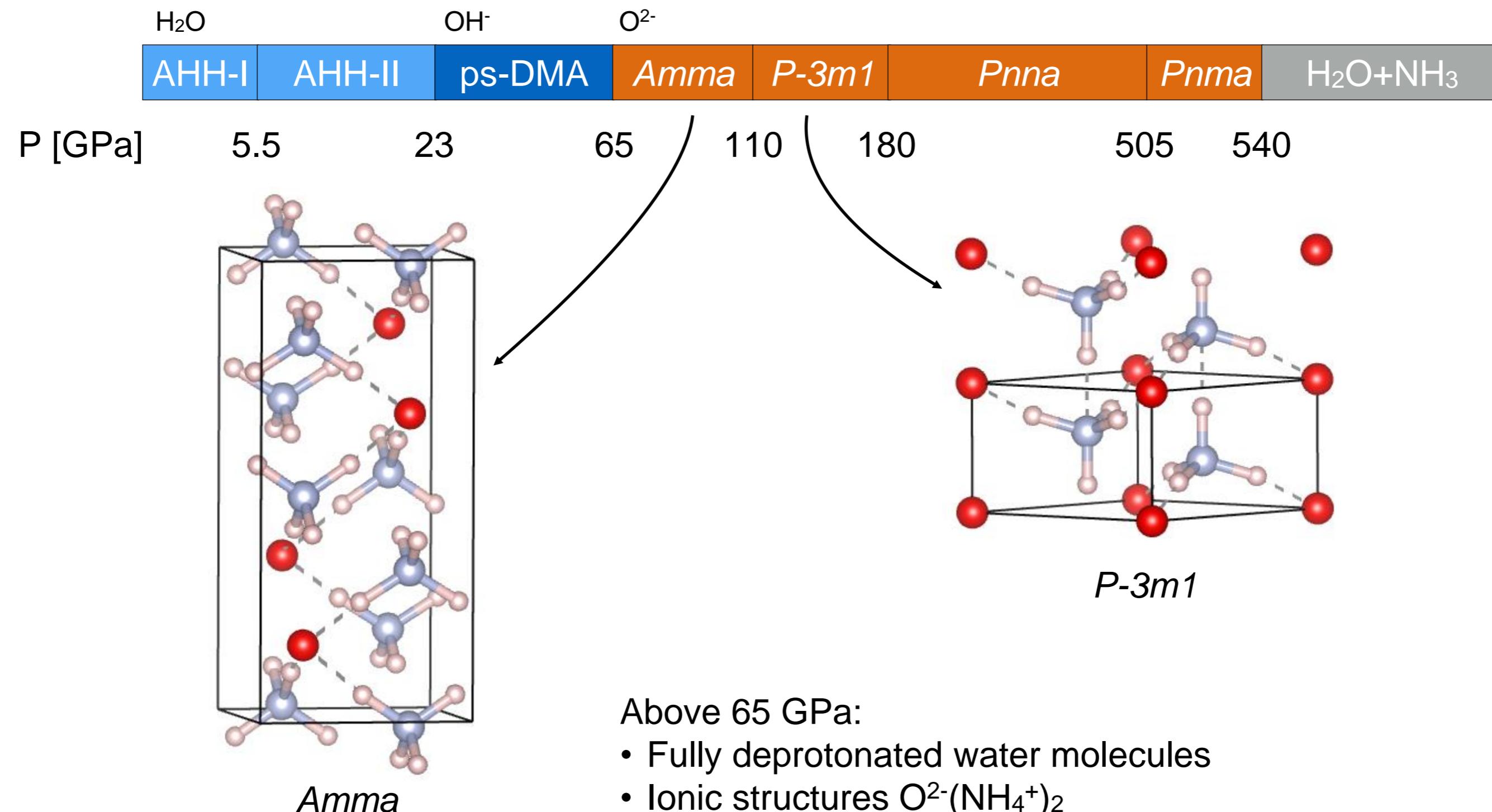
Li [90 GPa, 1500 K]



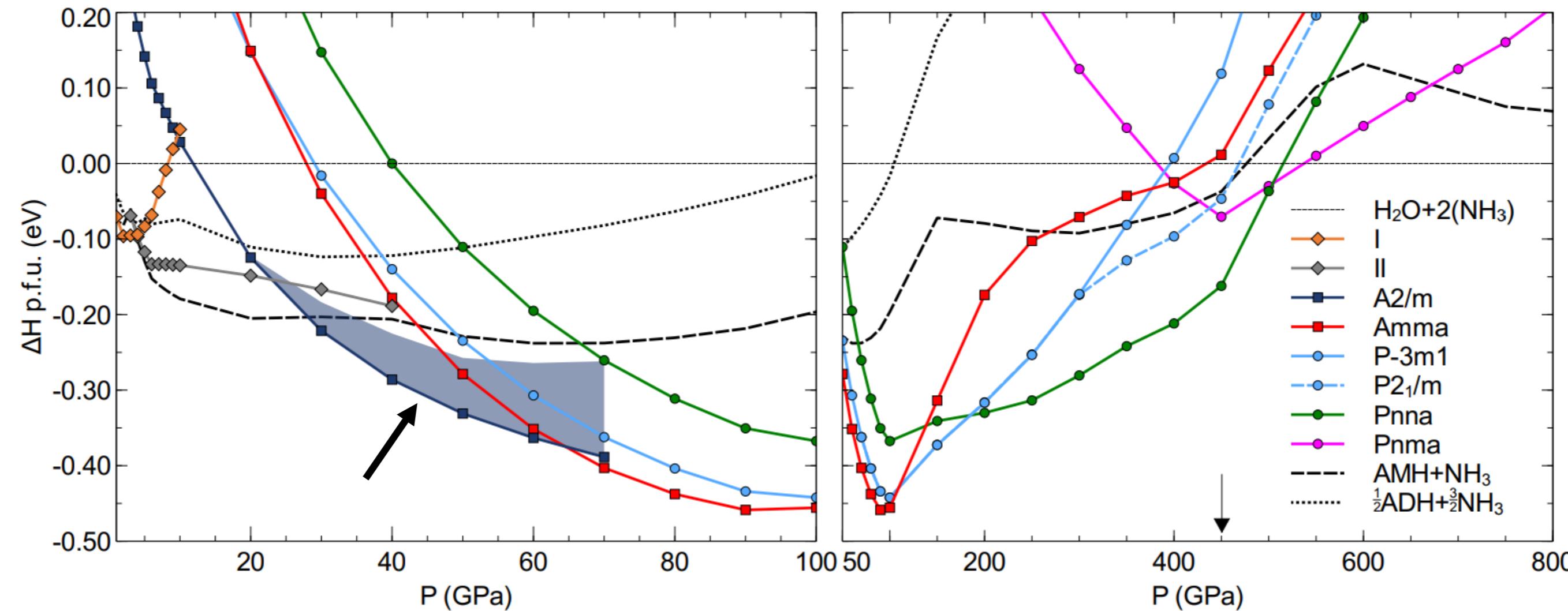
1.0  
0.0



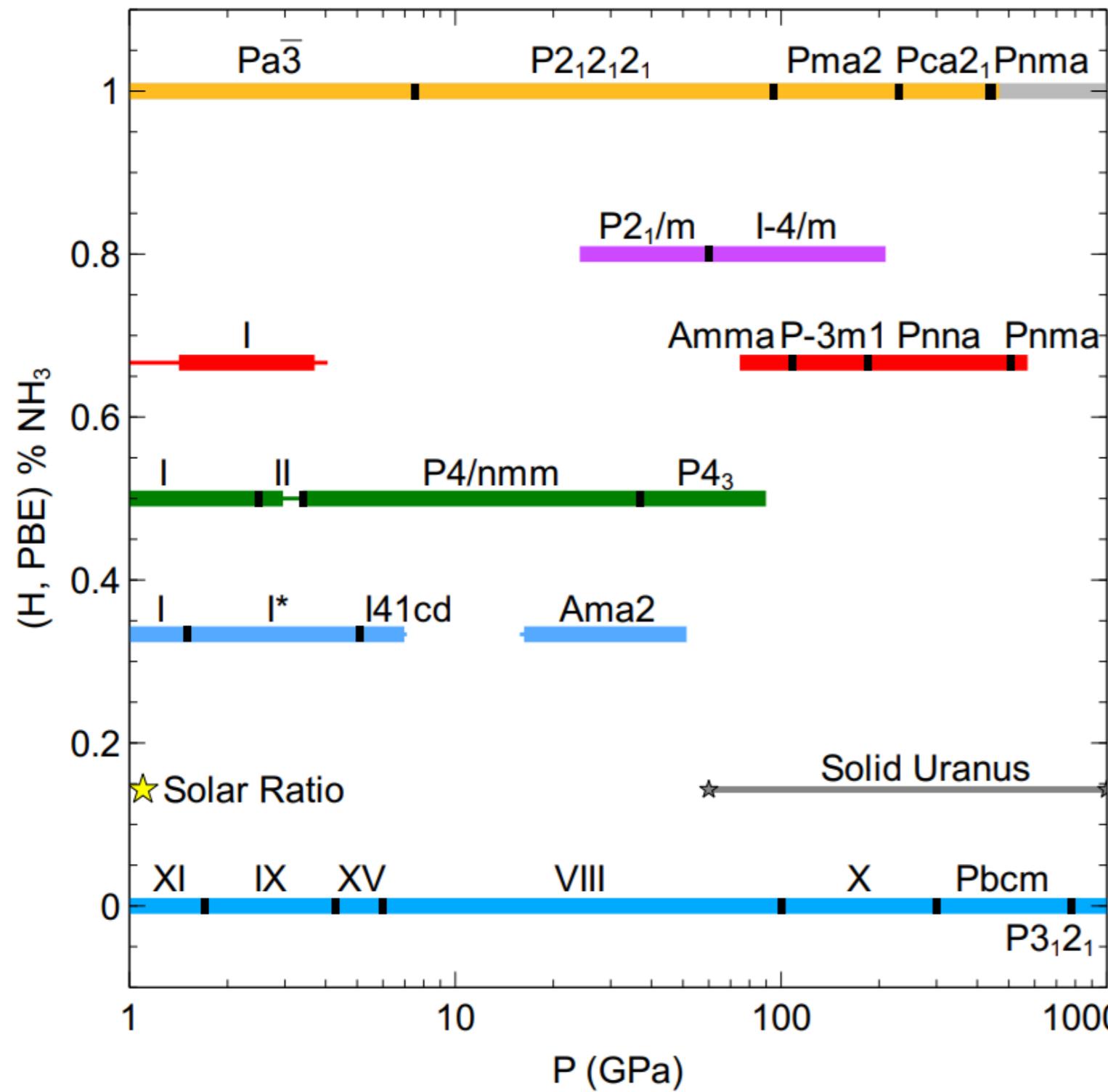
# AHH phase evolution



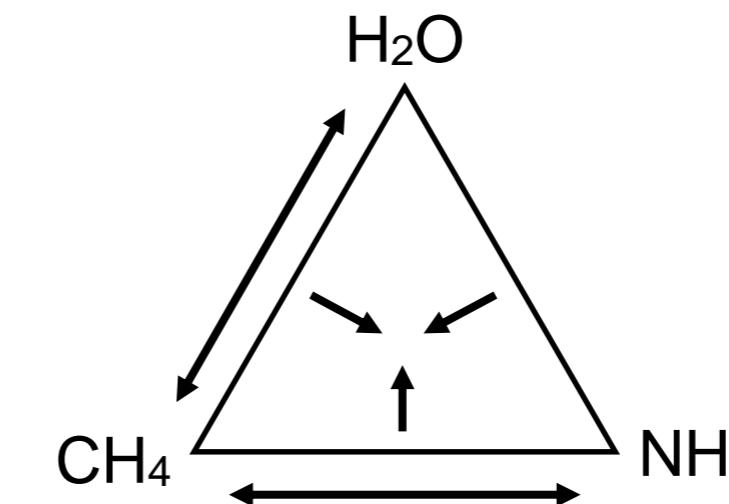
# Disordered region



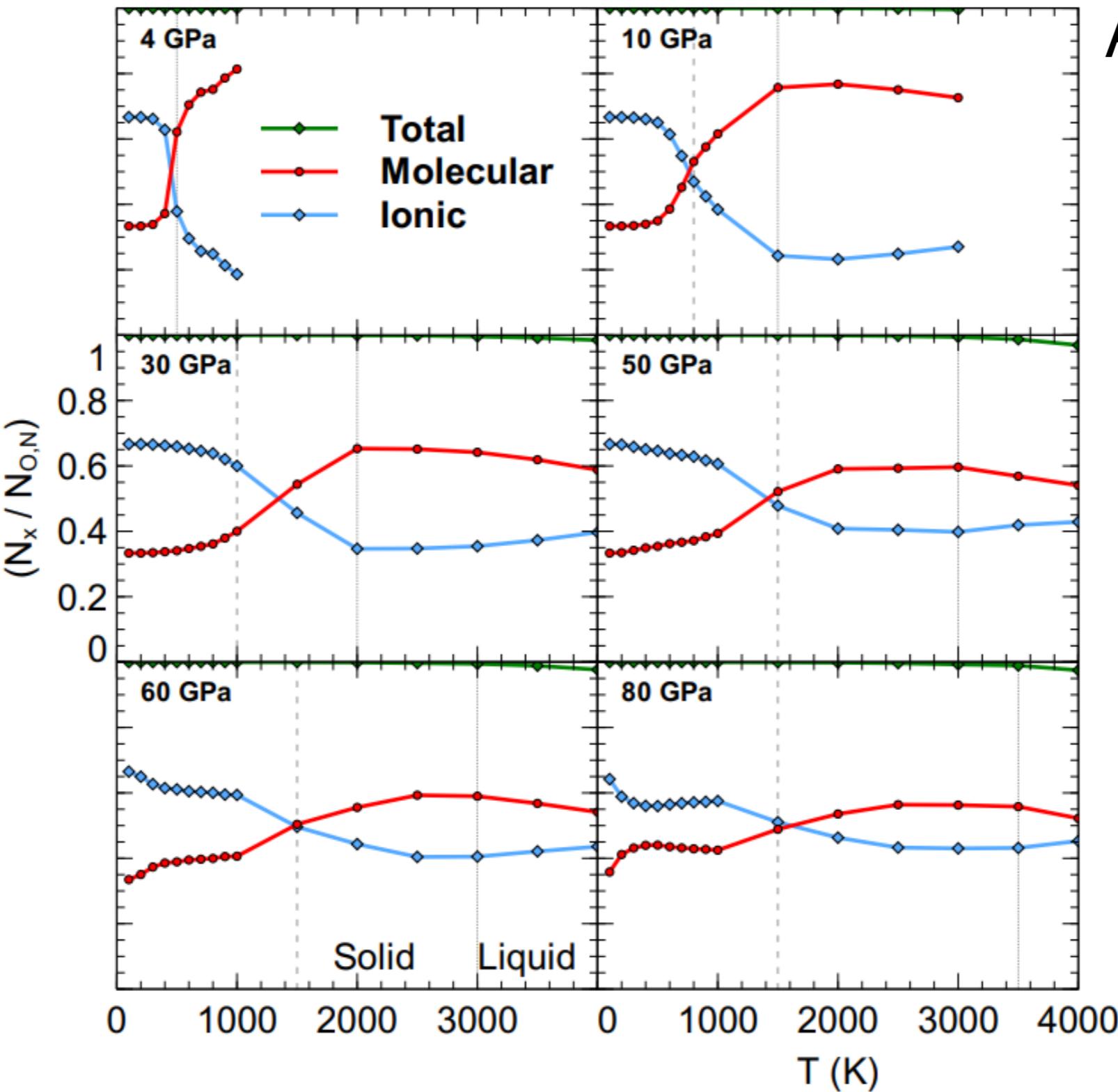
# What next?



- Independent of XC functional
- IR and Raman Spectroscopy
- Heat these up
- Low pressure regime
- (Superionic) Alloys in the Icy Planets



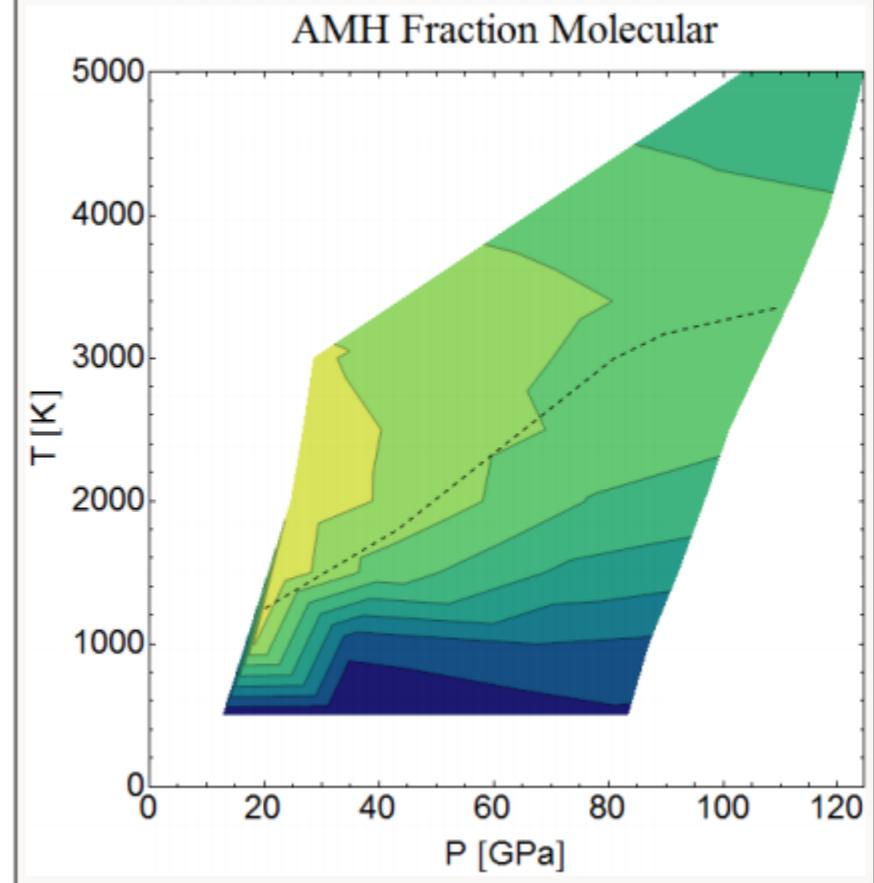
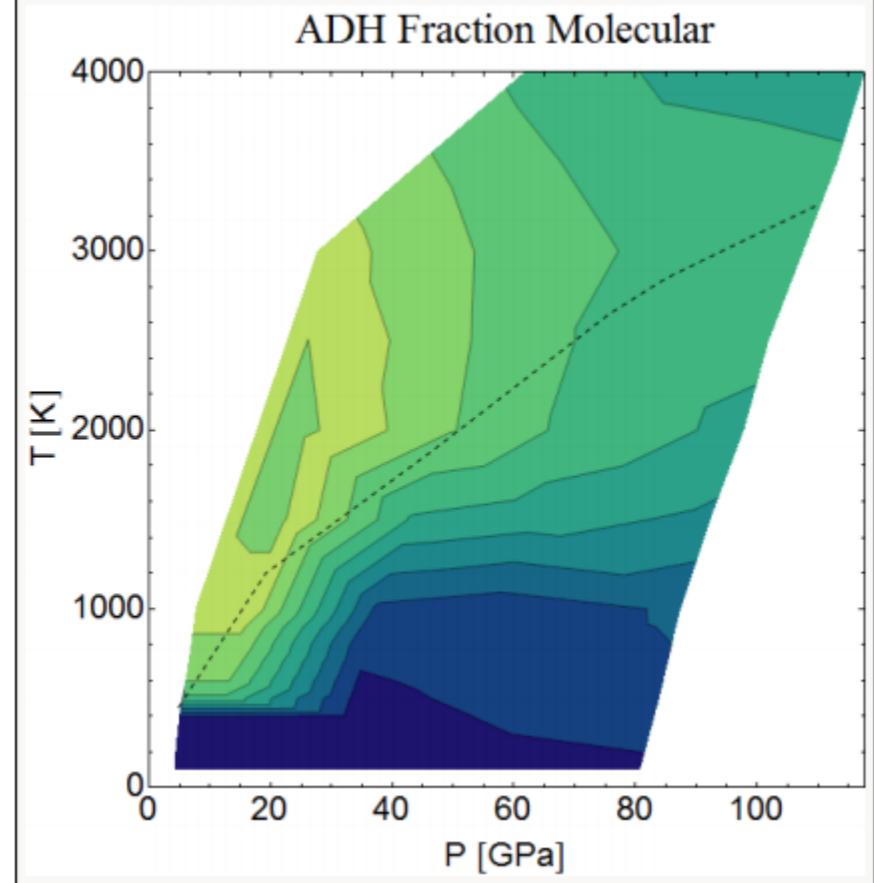
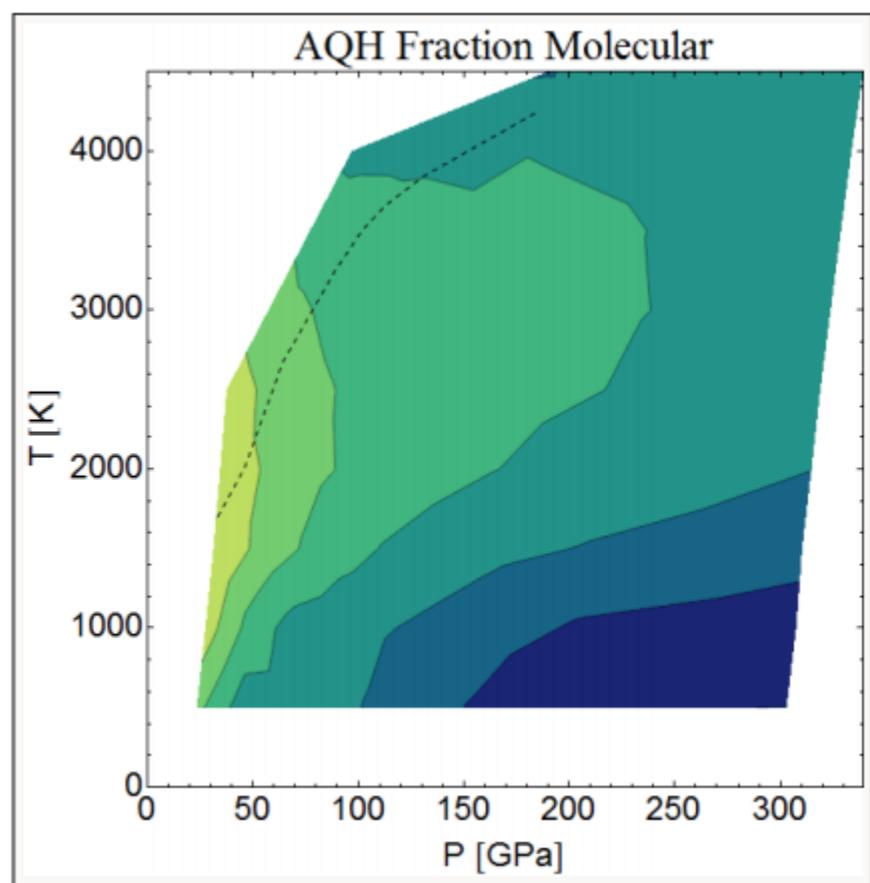
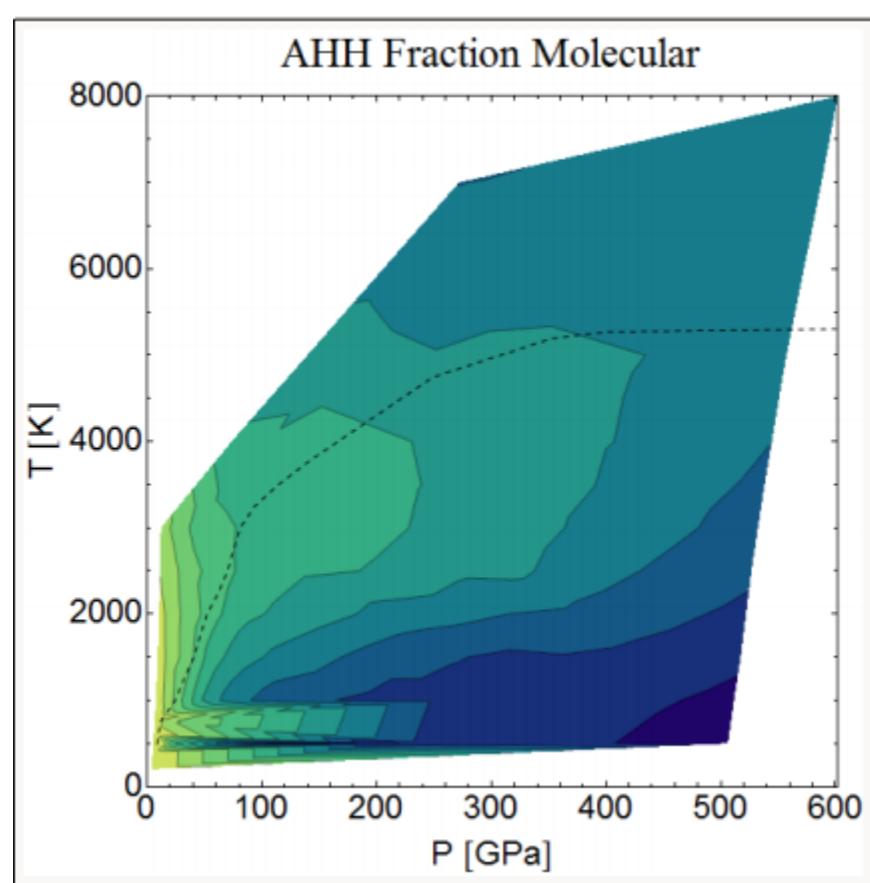
# What's inside?



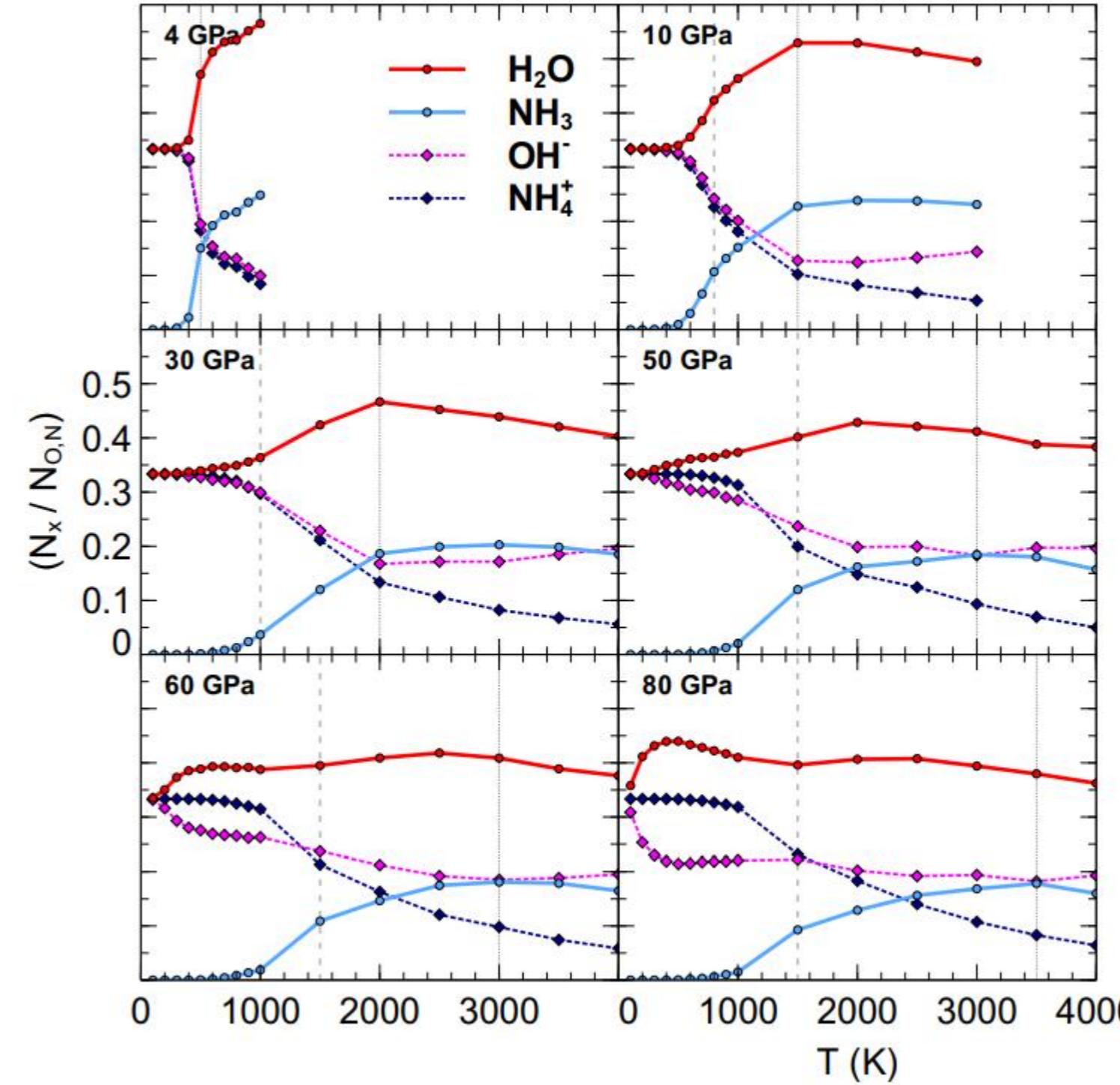
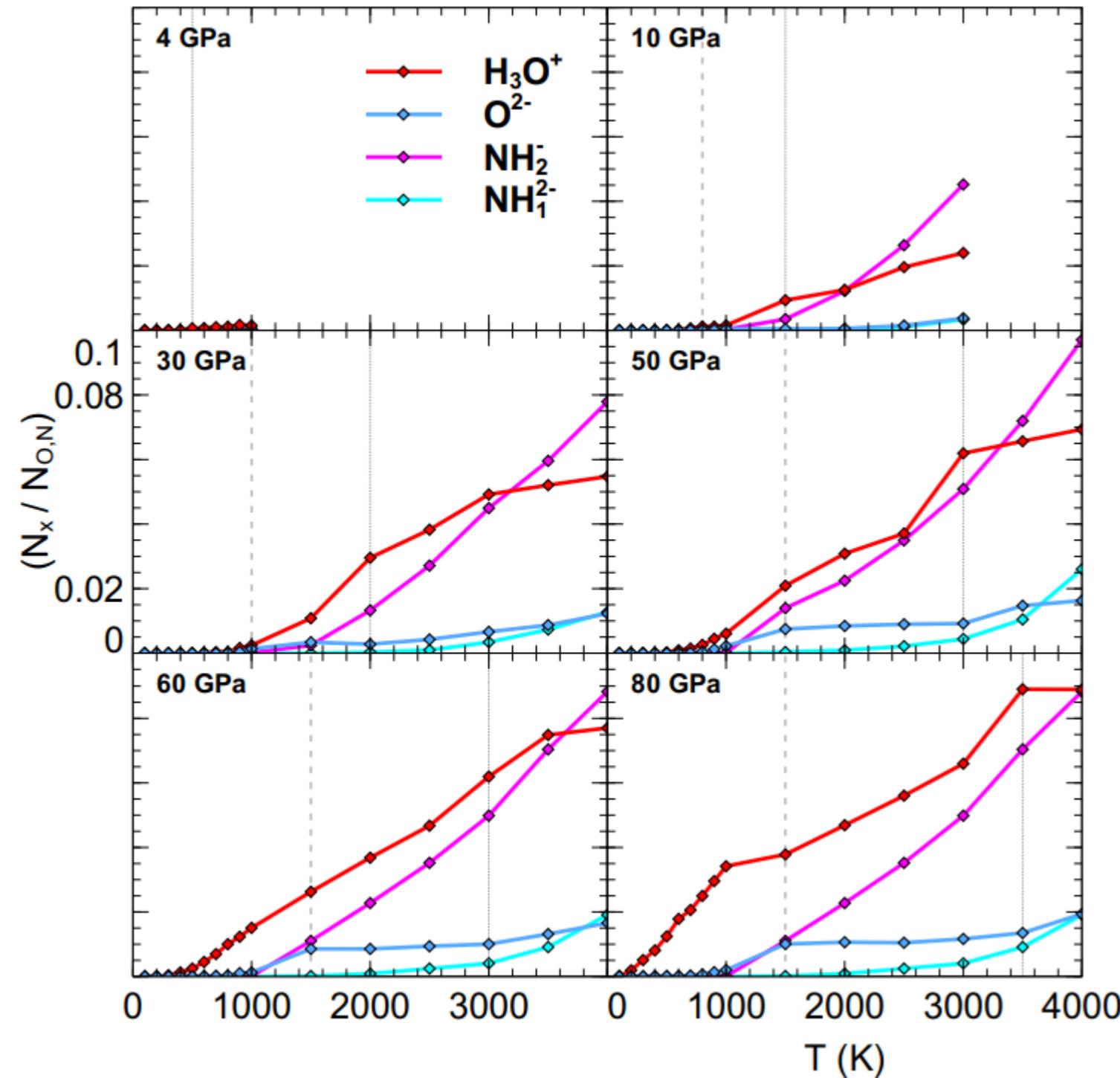
ADH [1:2]

$$r_{\text{cut}} = 1.15 \text{ \AA}$$

# Molecular Nature

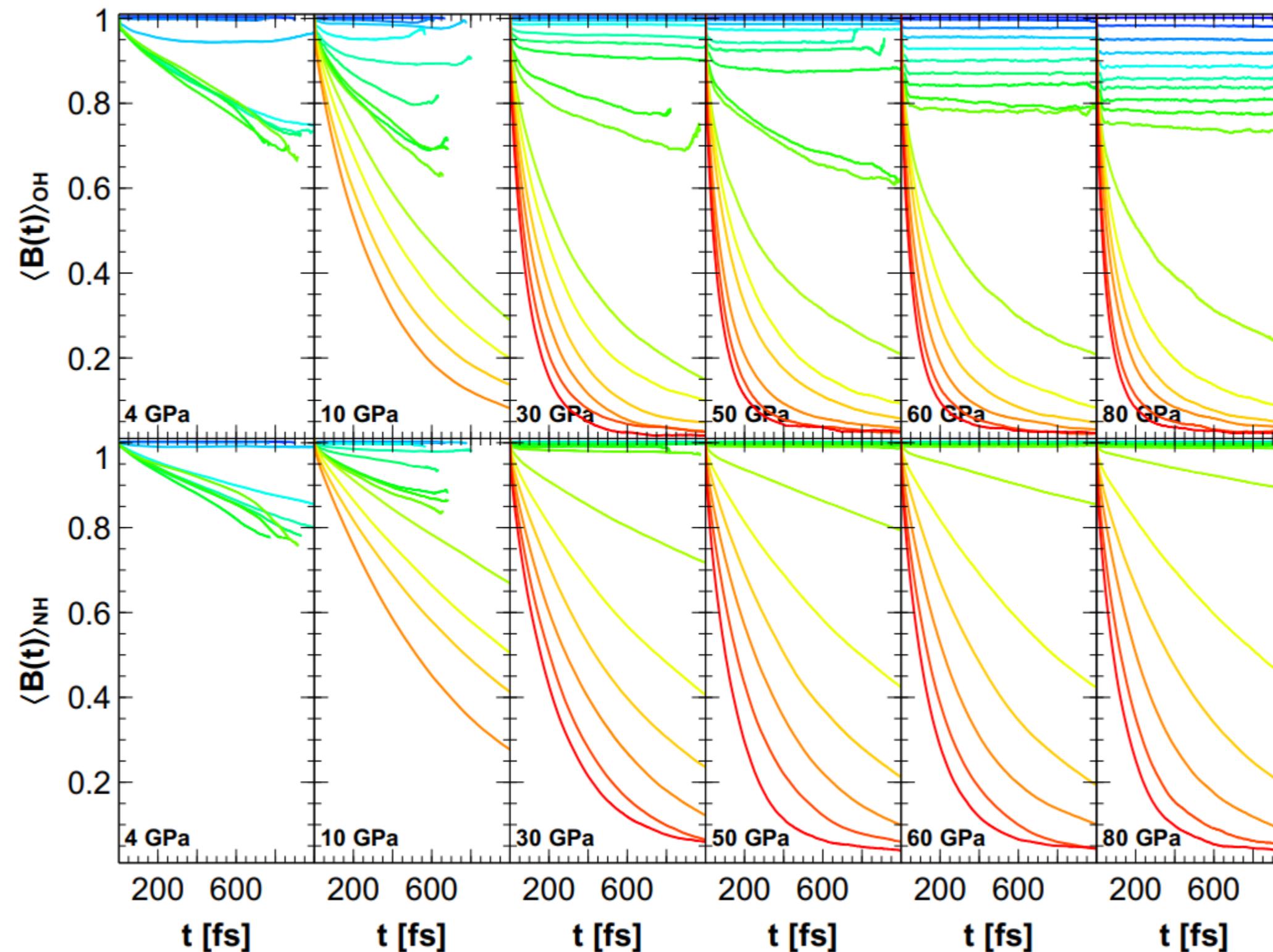


# Unit types

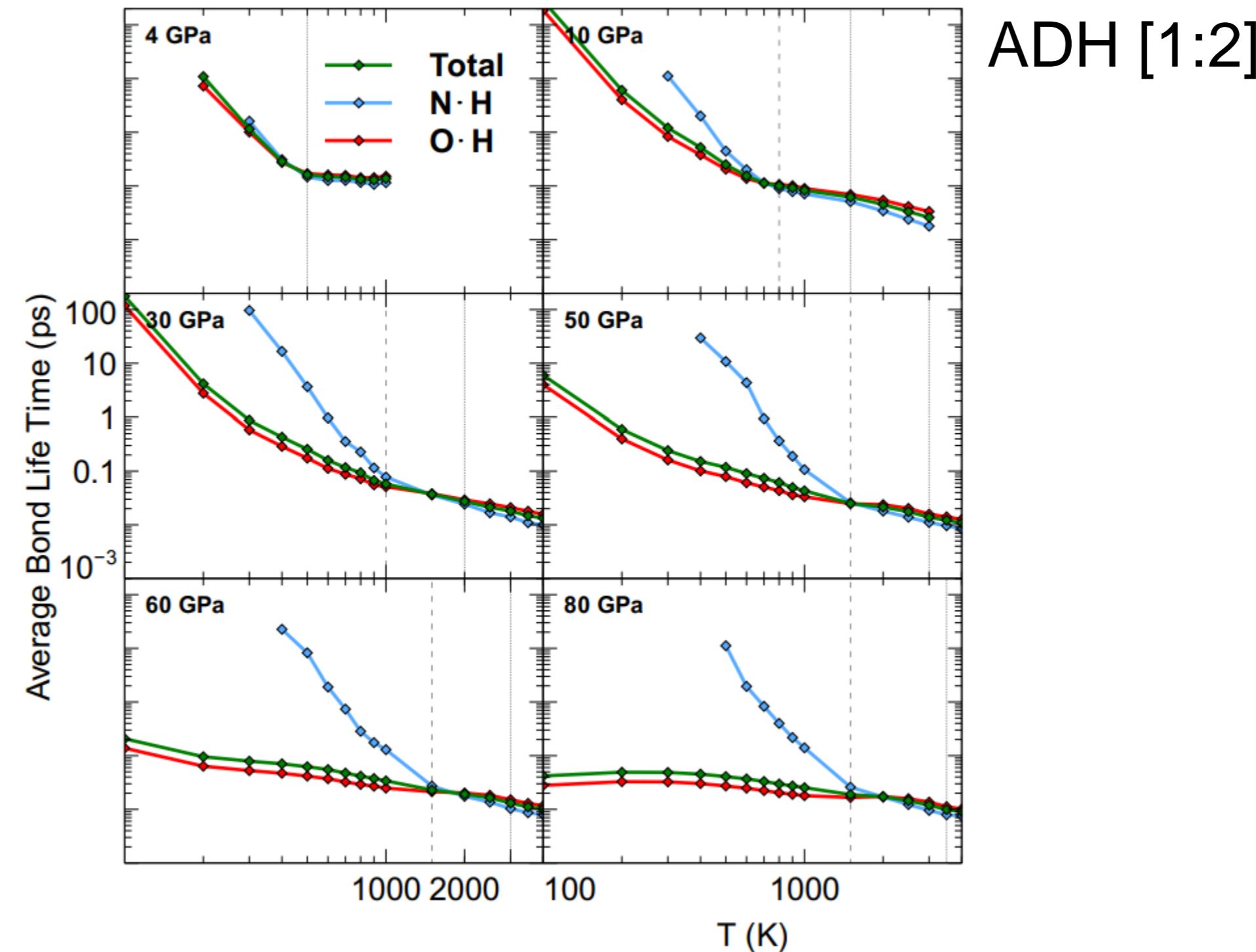


ADH [1:2]

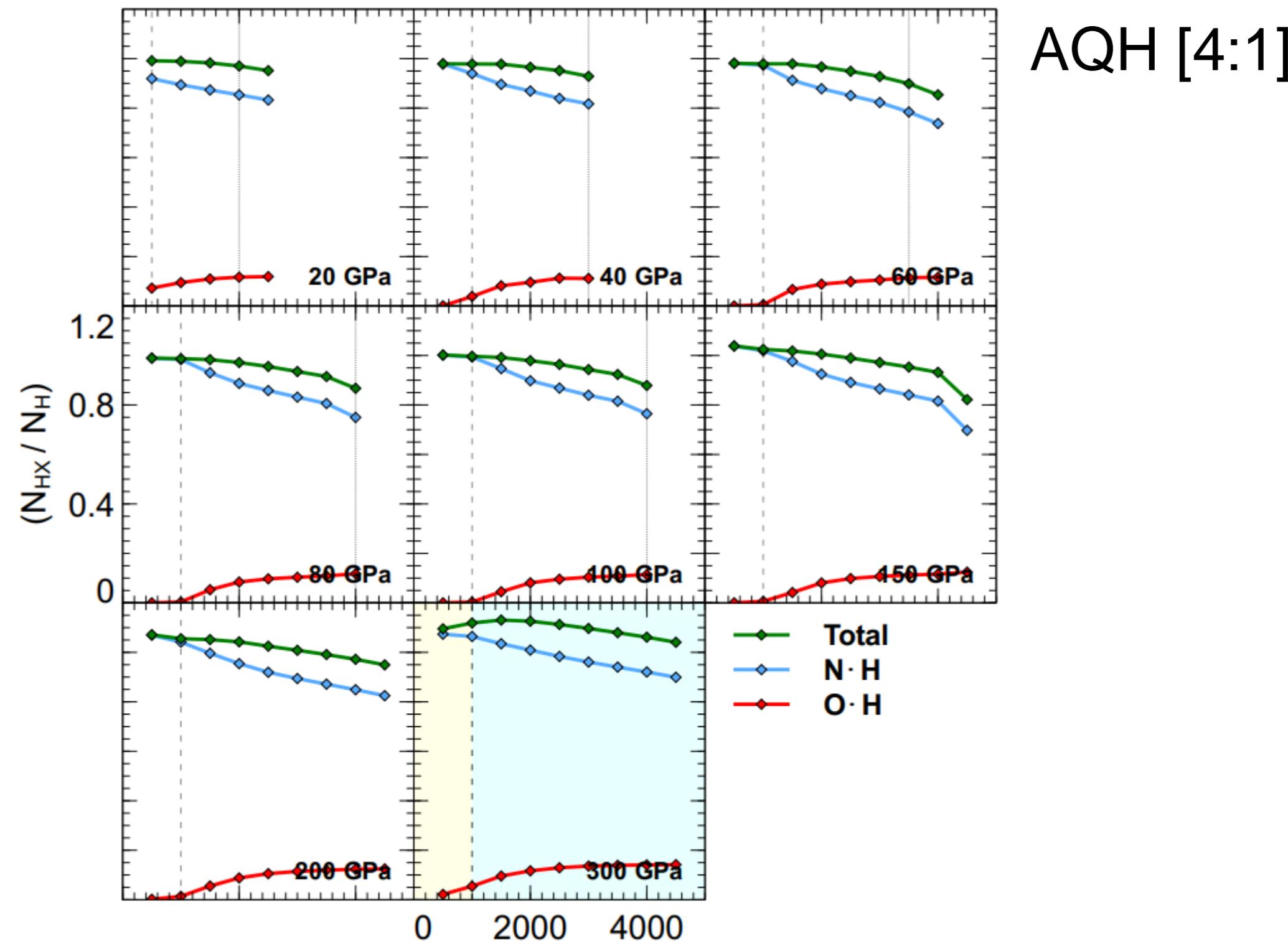
# BAC



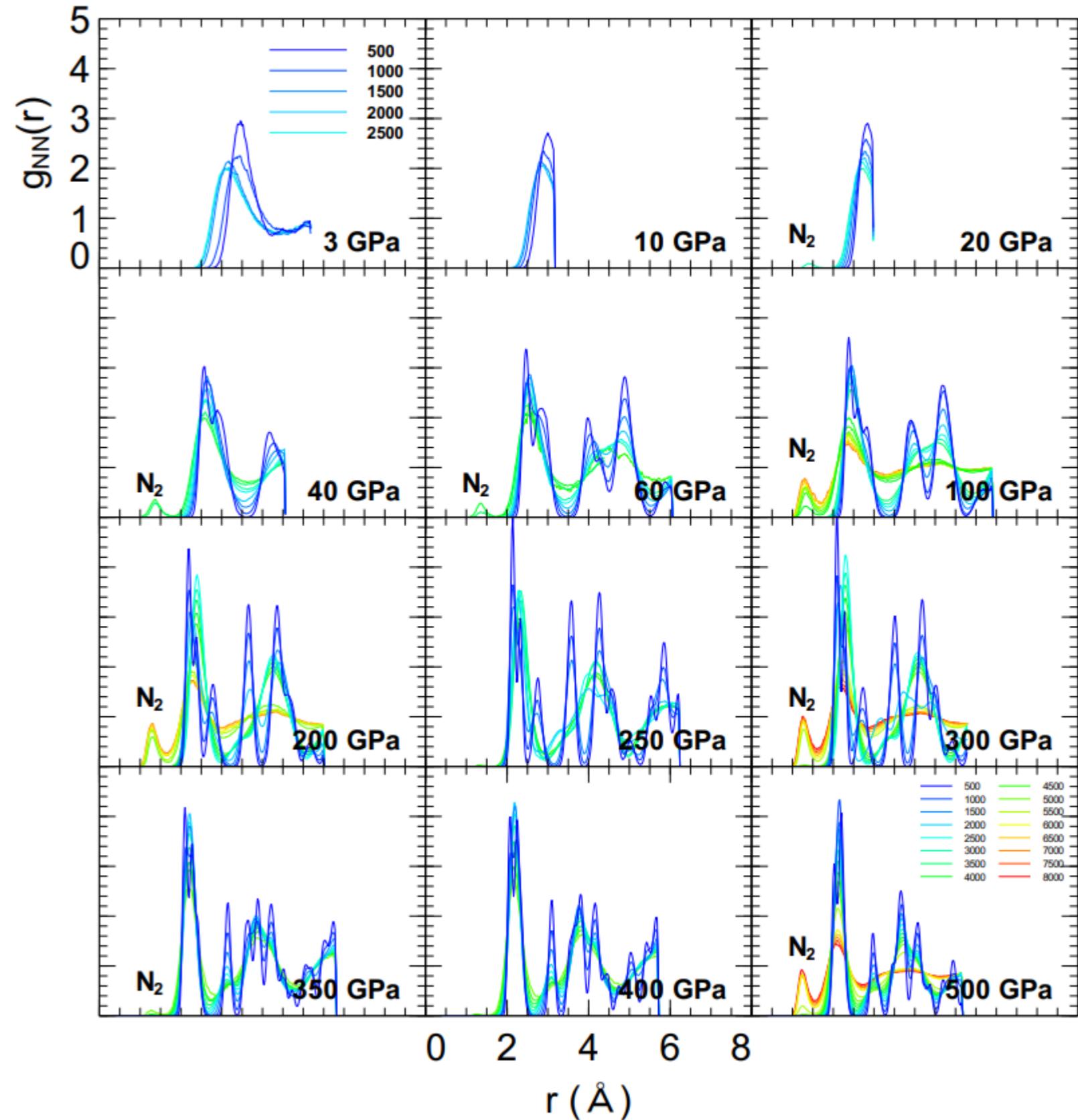
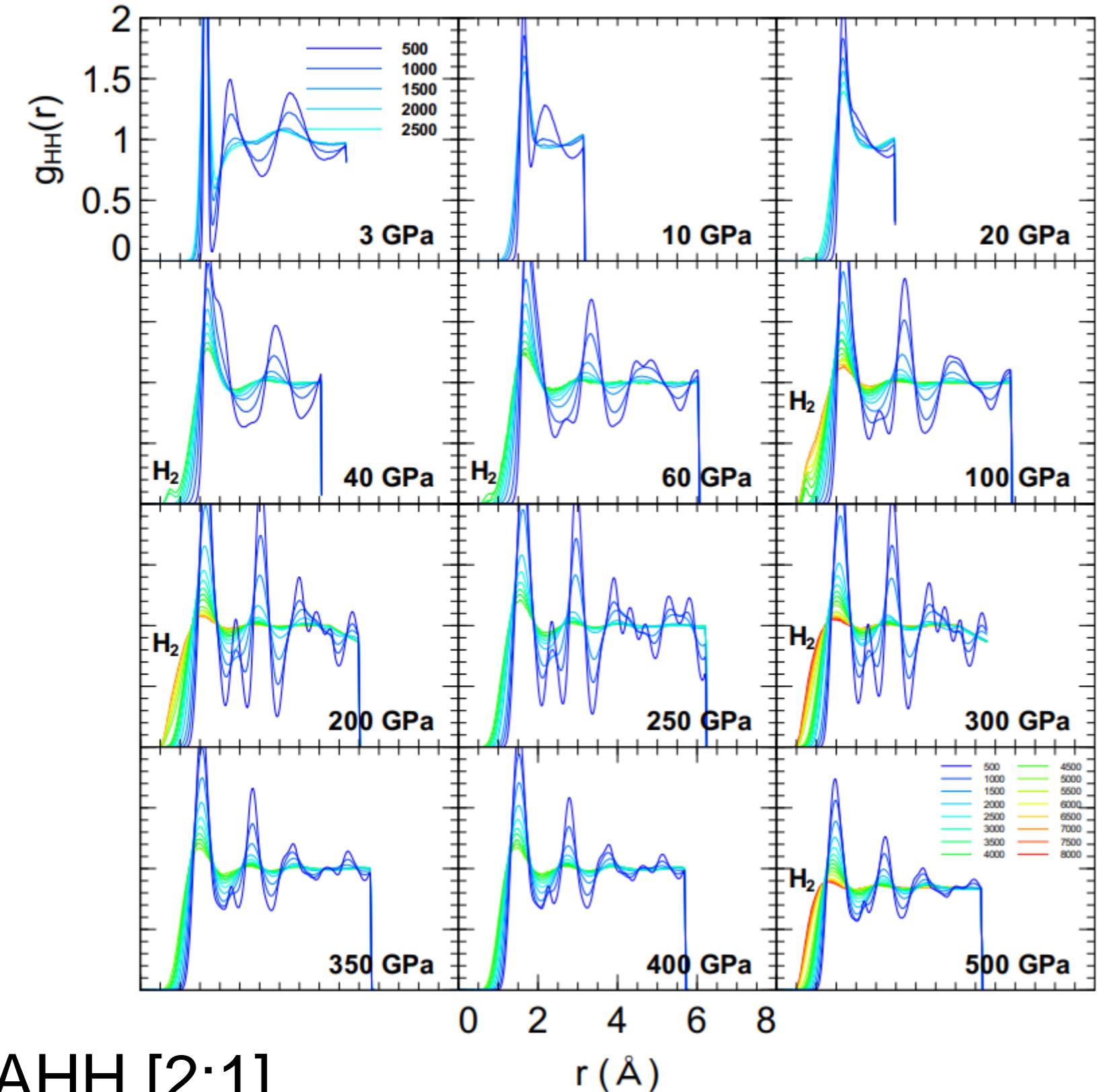
# Bond life times



# Number of O/N-H bonds

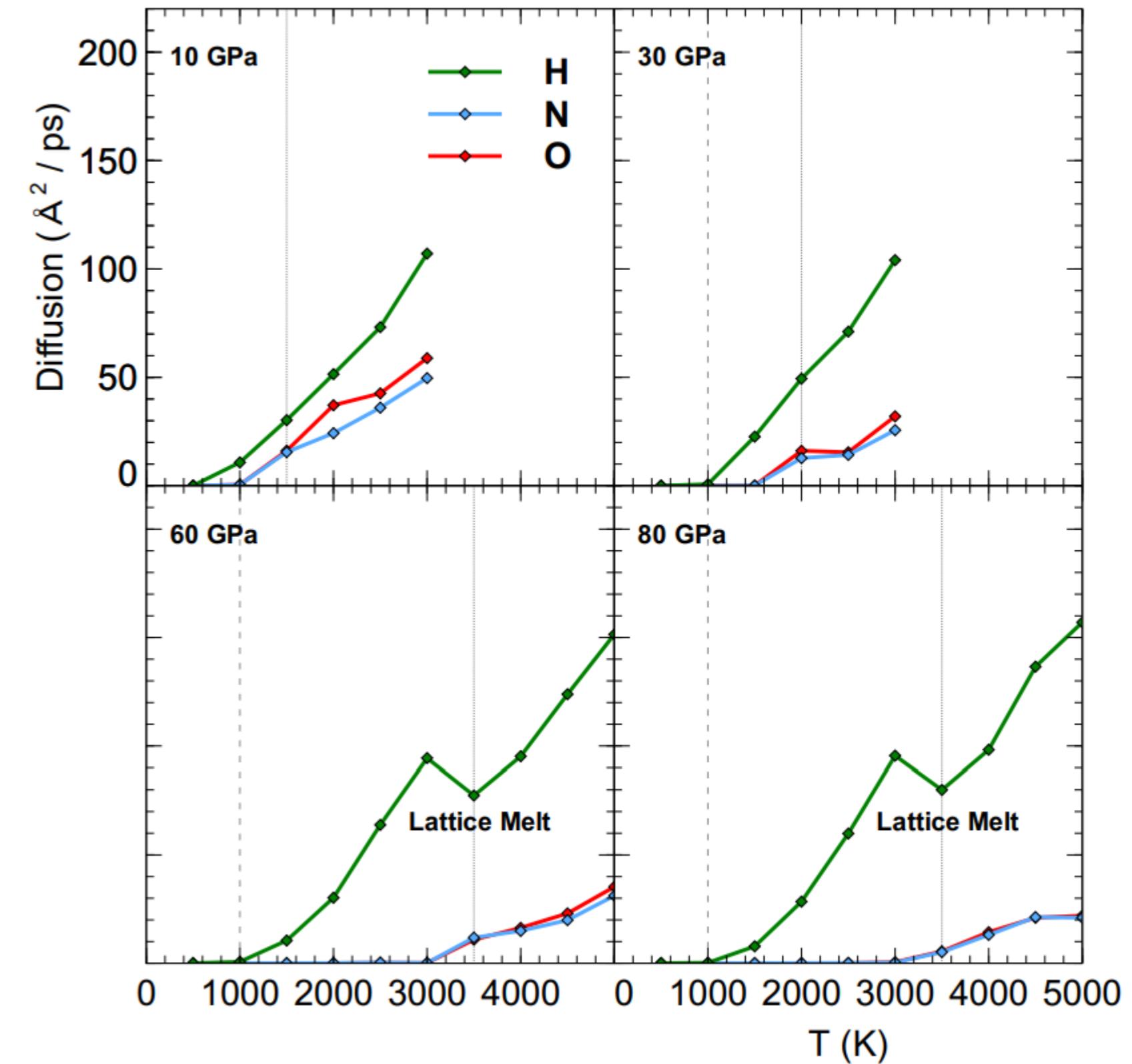
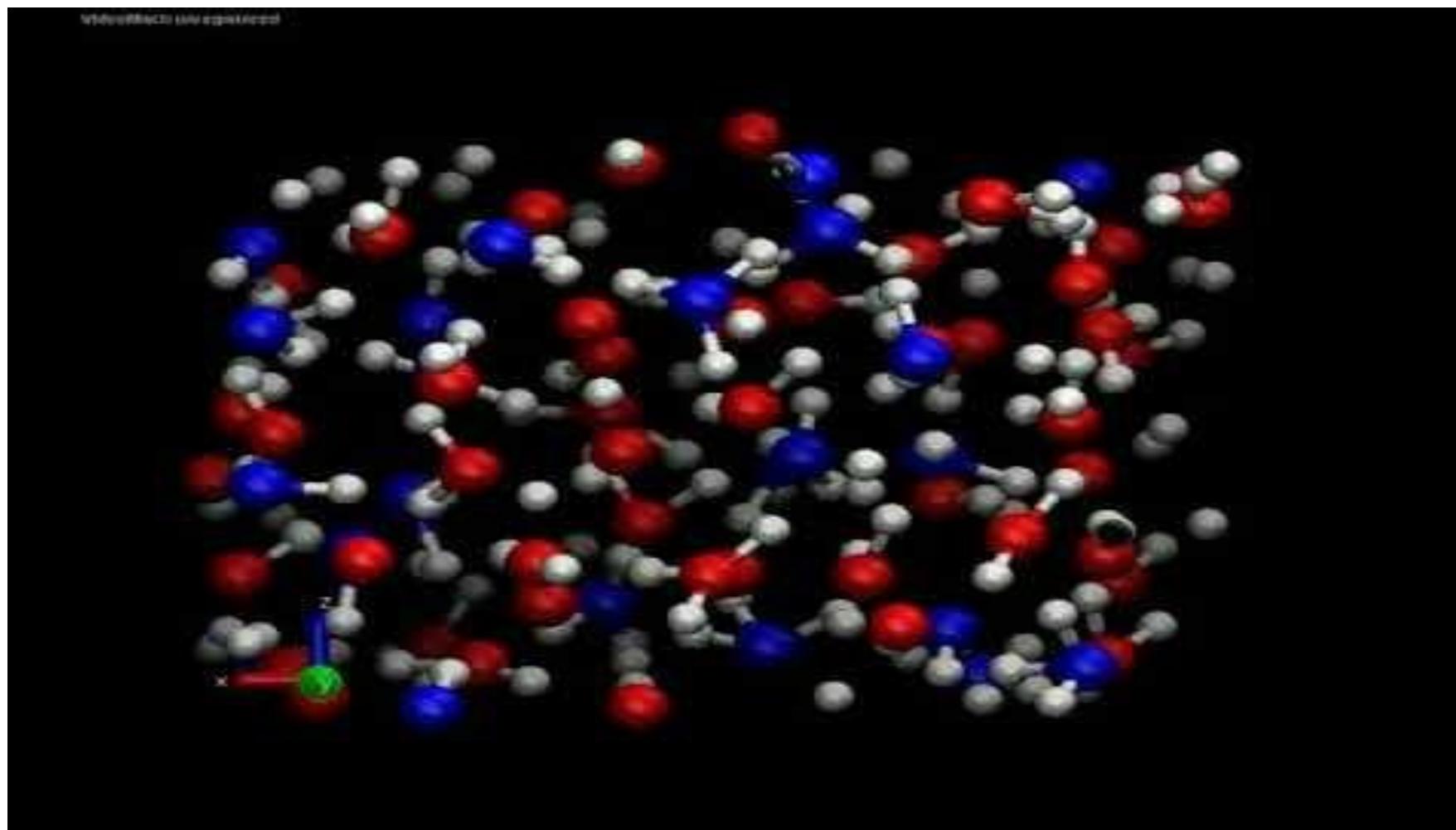


# Decomposition chemistry $\text{H}_2$ , $\text{N}_2$ , NO

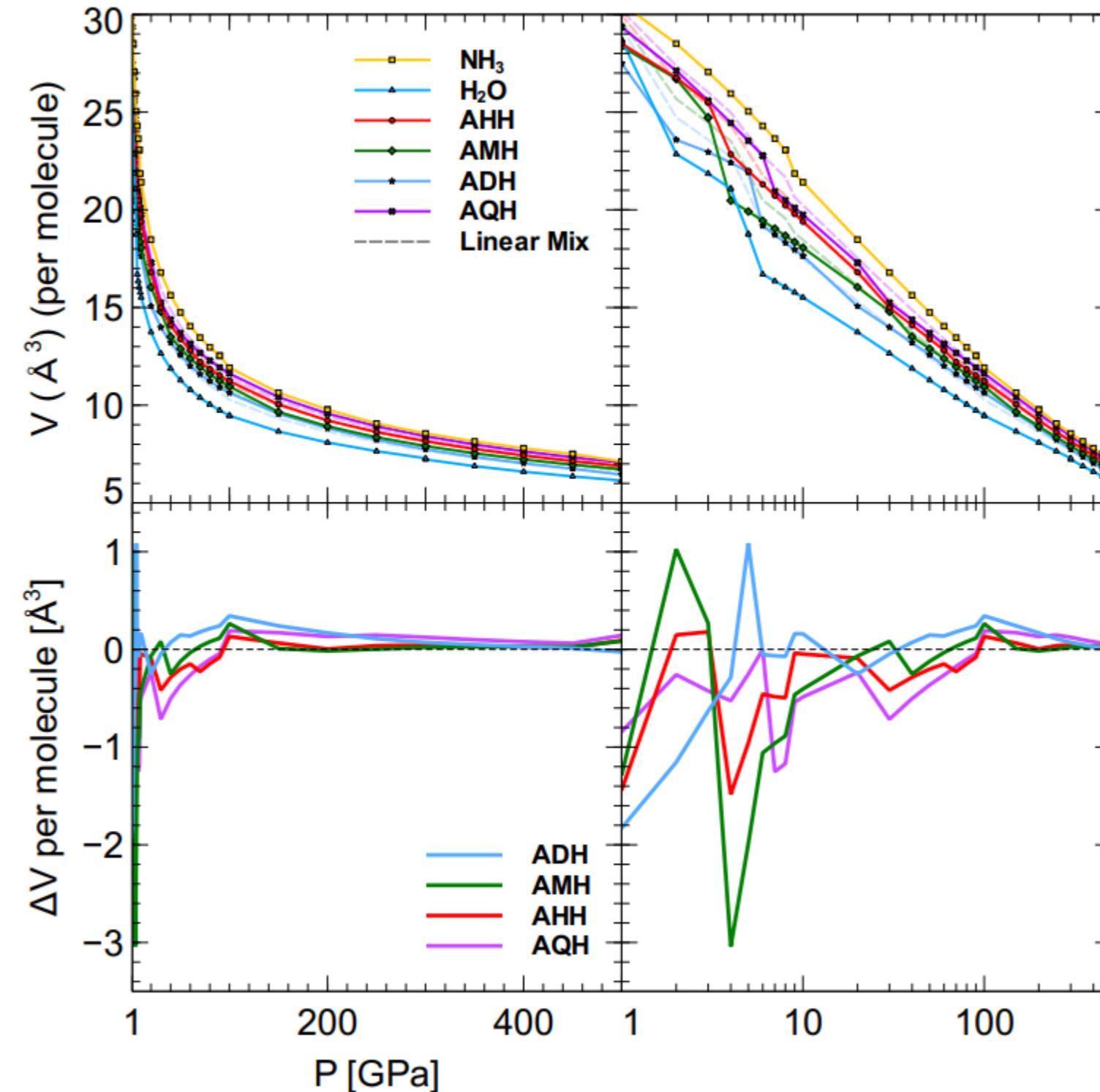


# Diffusion differences

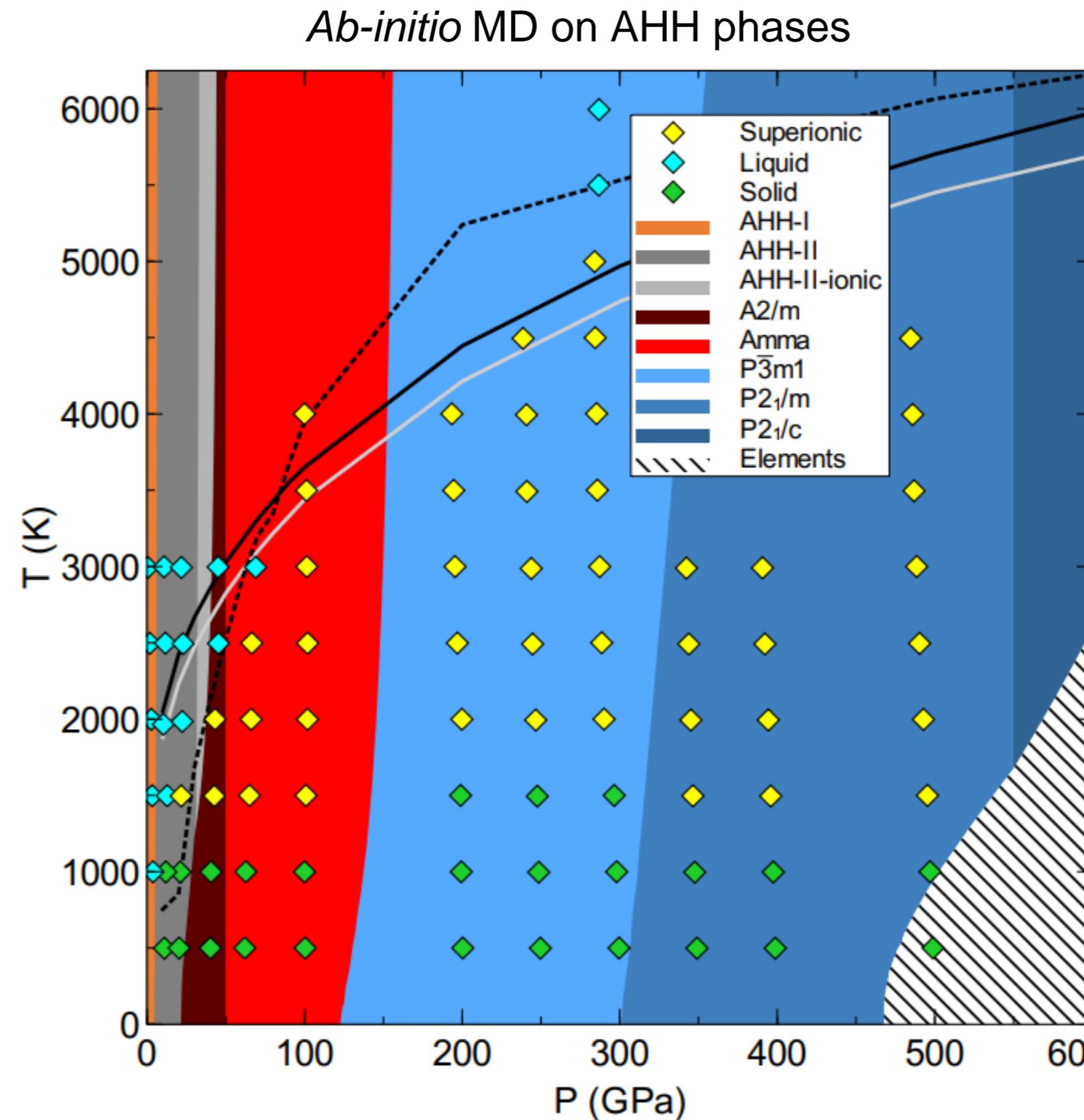
AMH [1:1]



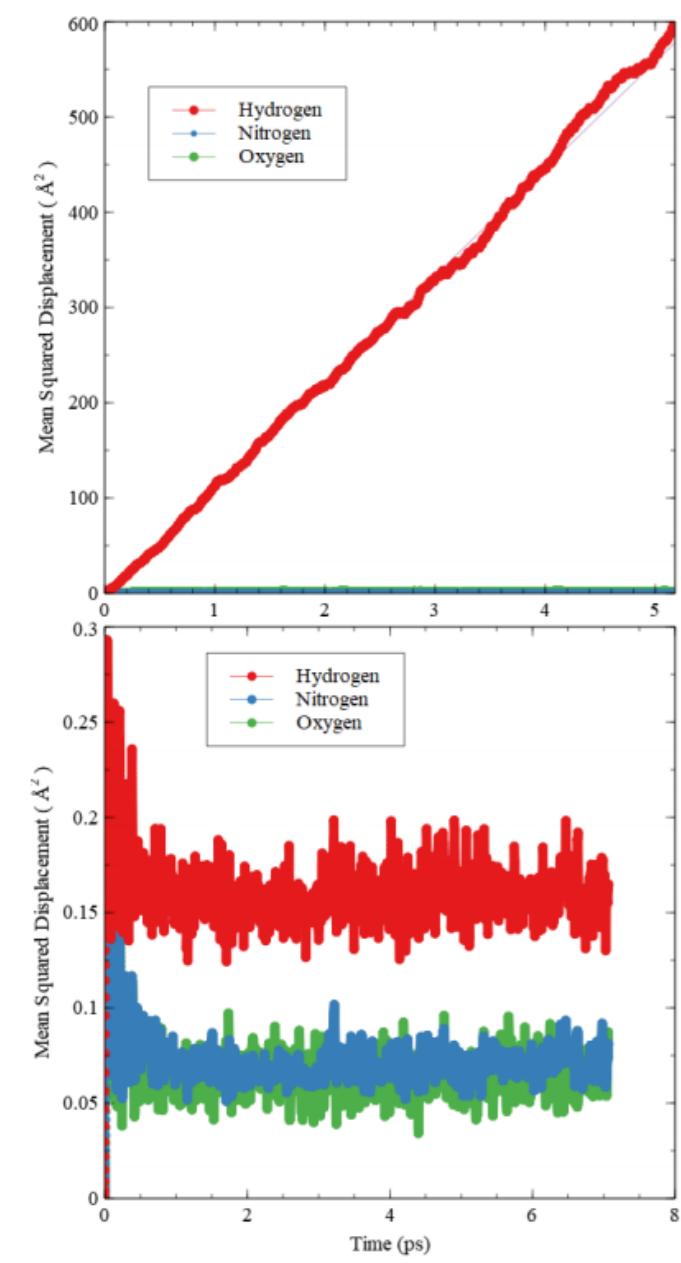
# Equation of State



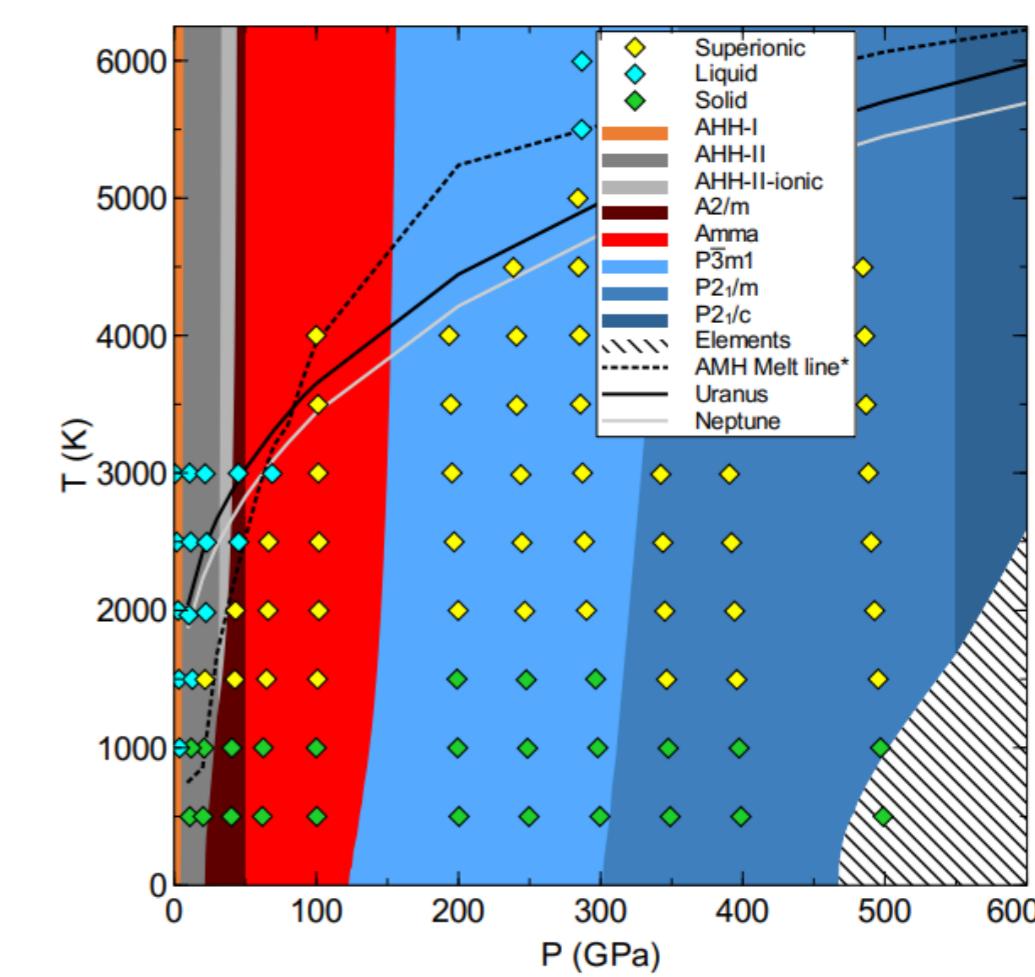
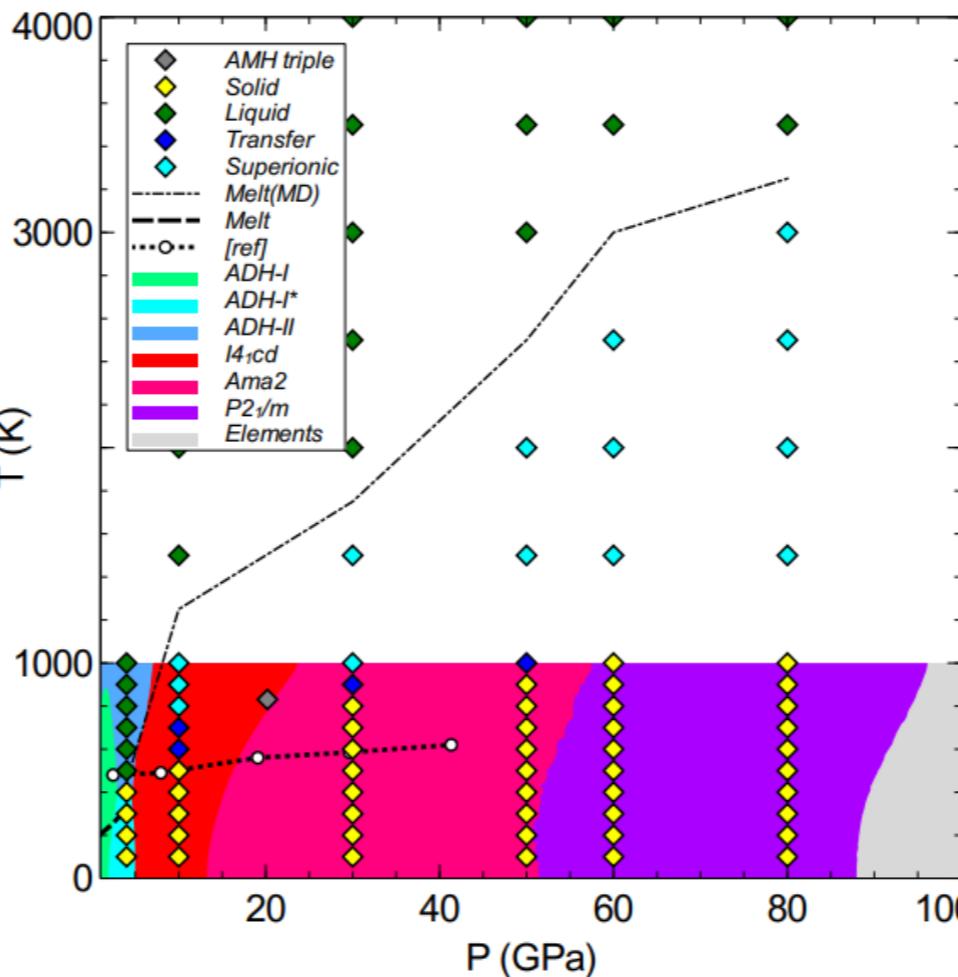
# Preliminary data on superionicity



# Superionicity (WIP)

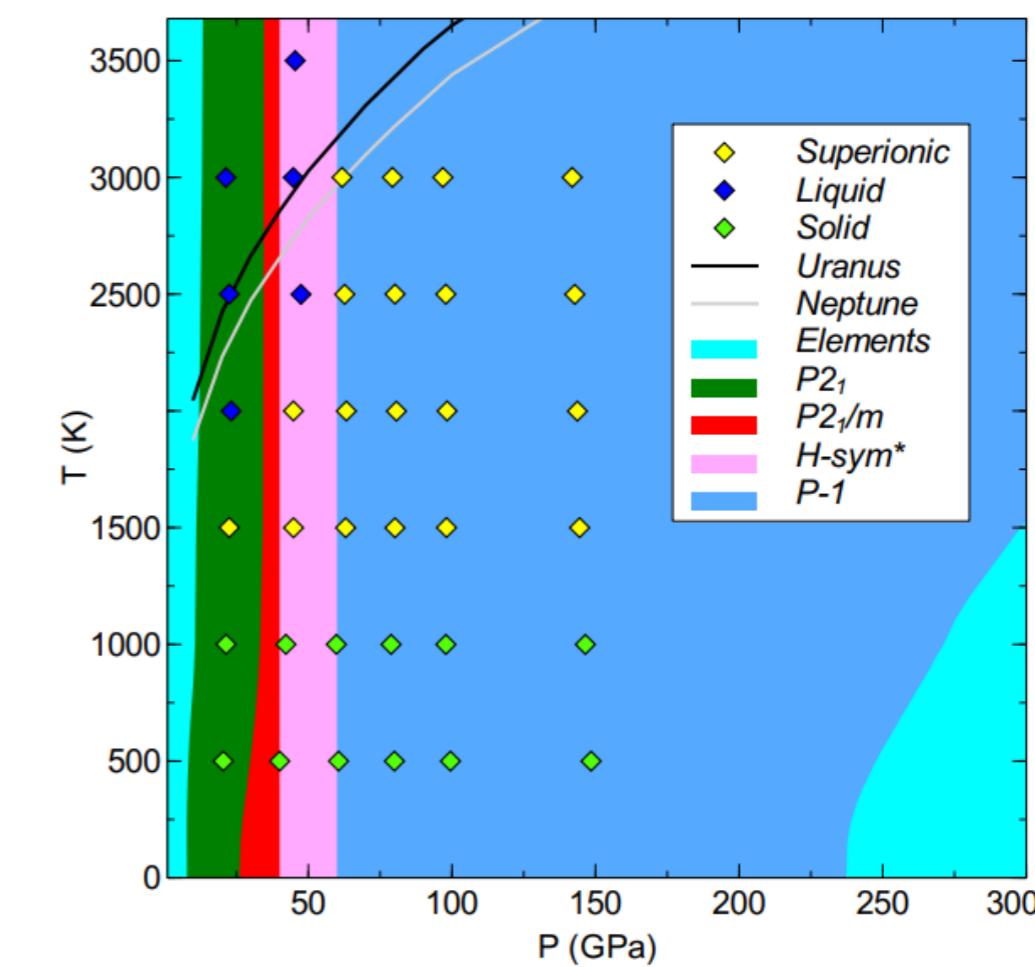
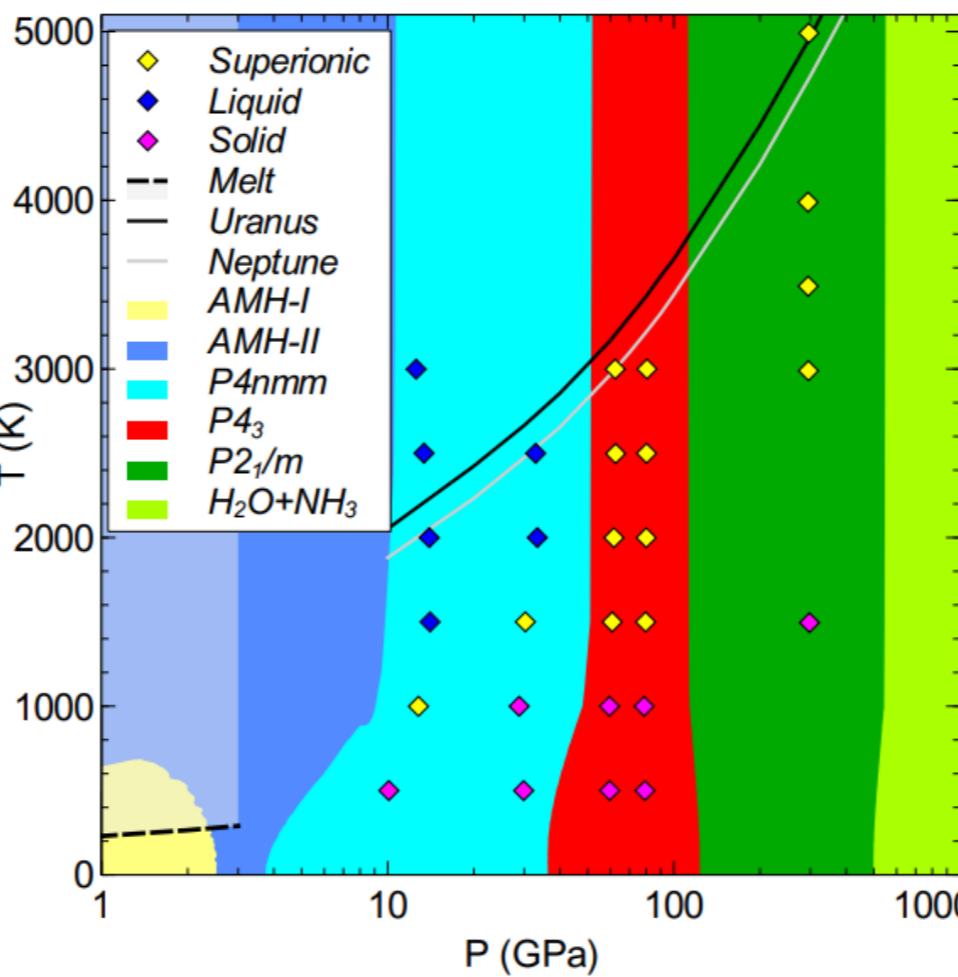


ADH



AHH

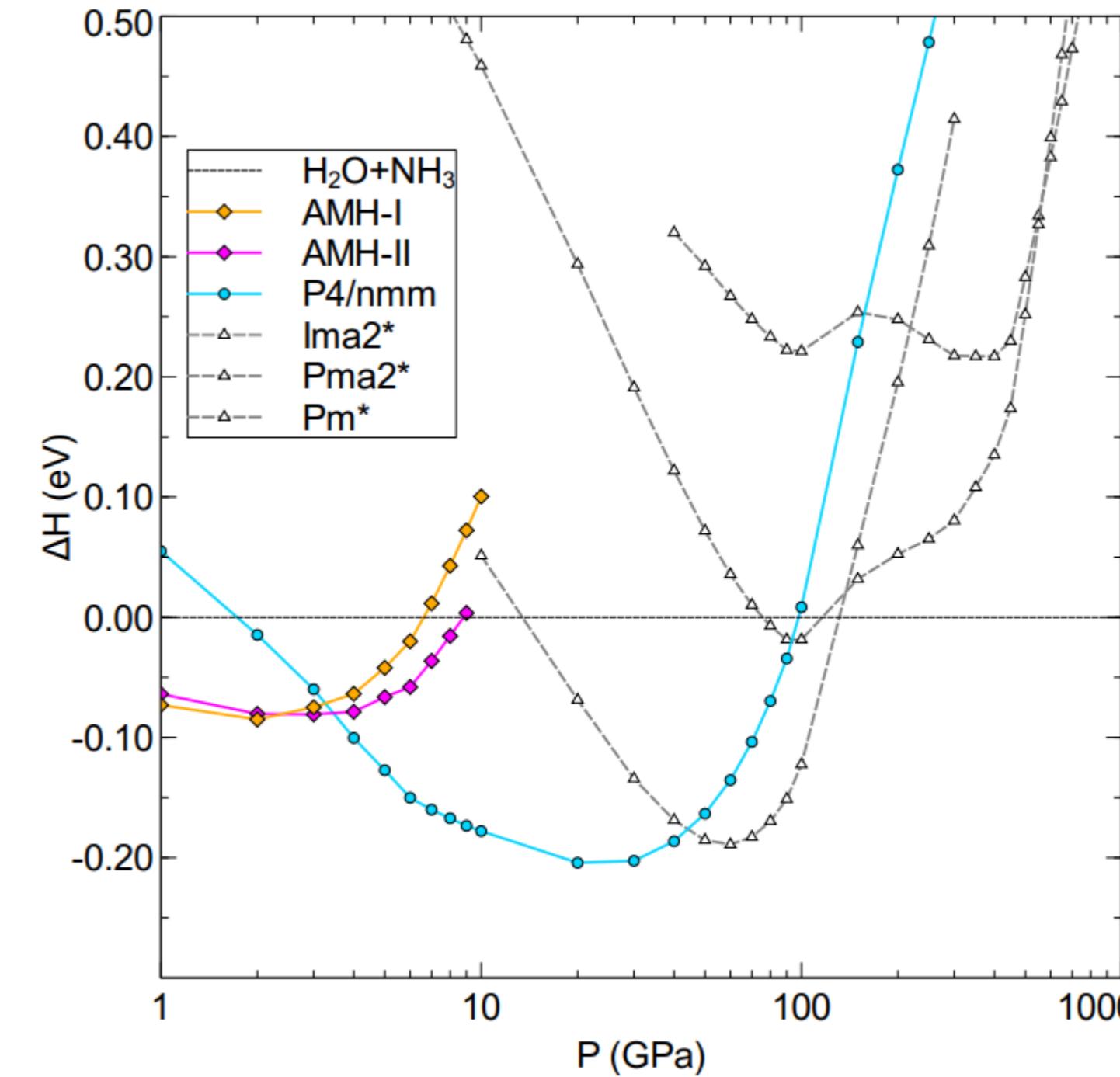
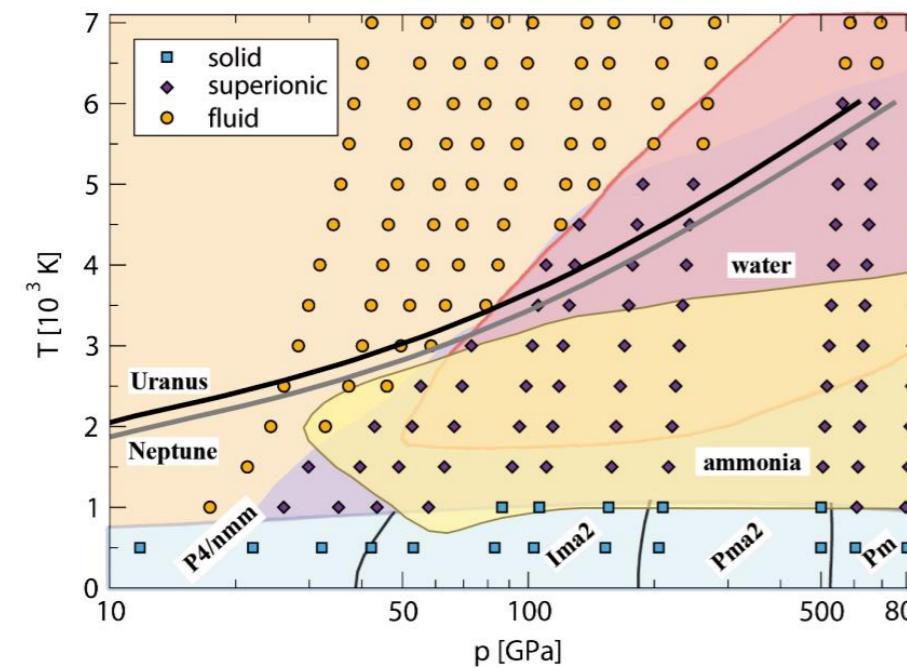
AMH



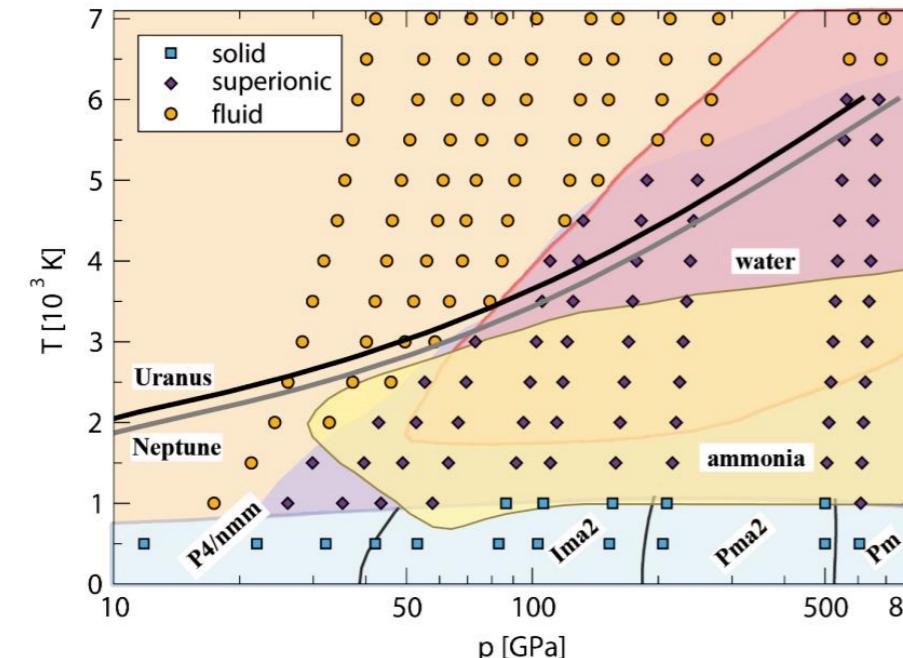
AQH

# Revisiting AMH

No stable phases at high pressures?

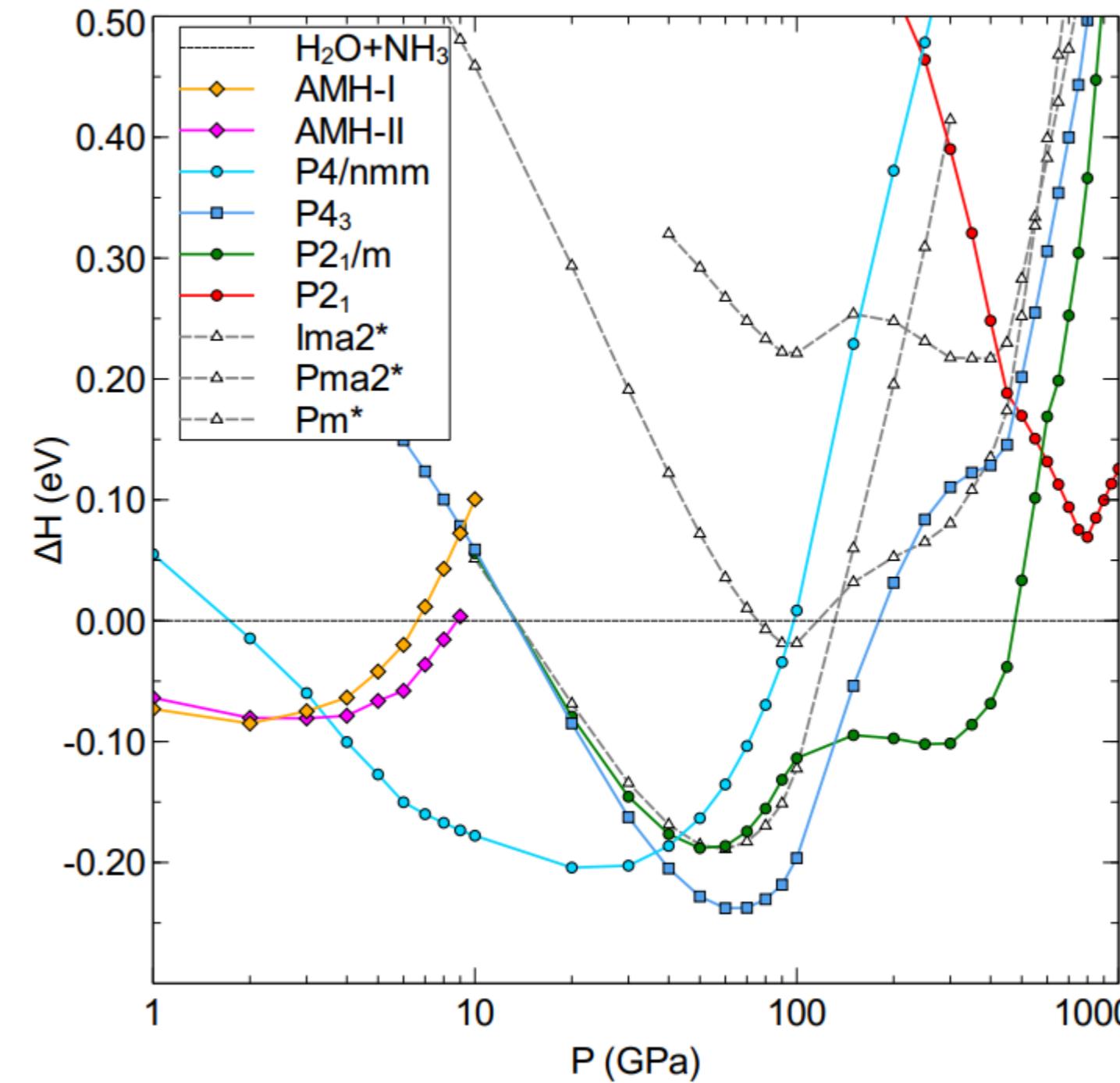


# AMH structure searching



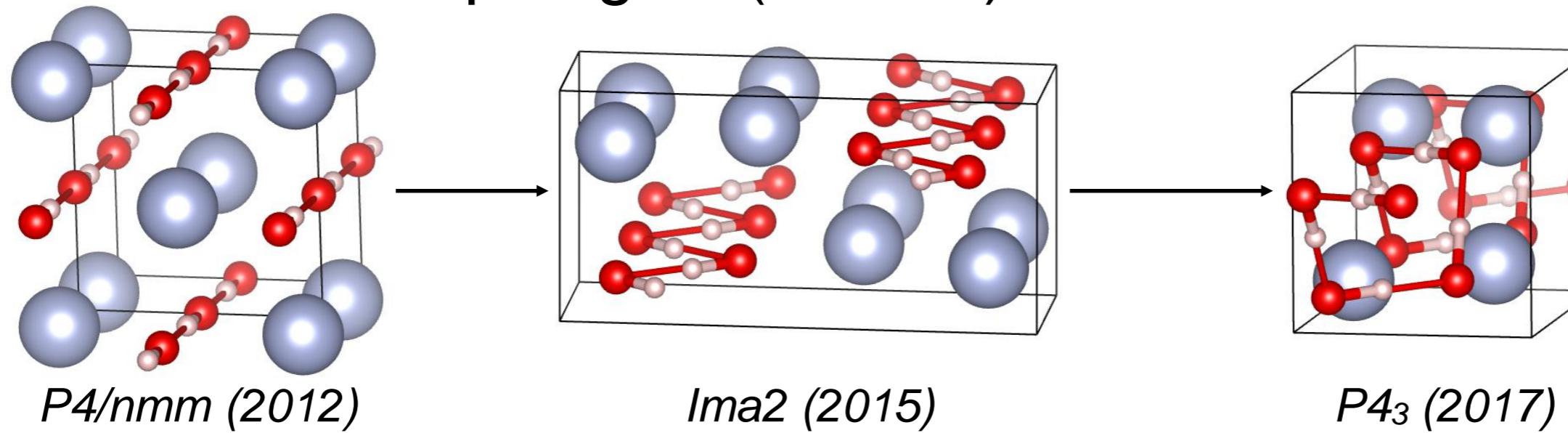
**Phase      Stable to**

AMH-I	2.5GPa
AMH-II	3.5GPa
<i>P</i> 4/nmm	35GPa
<i>P</i> 4 <sub>3</sub>	140GPa
<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> <i>m</i>	470GPa

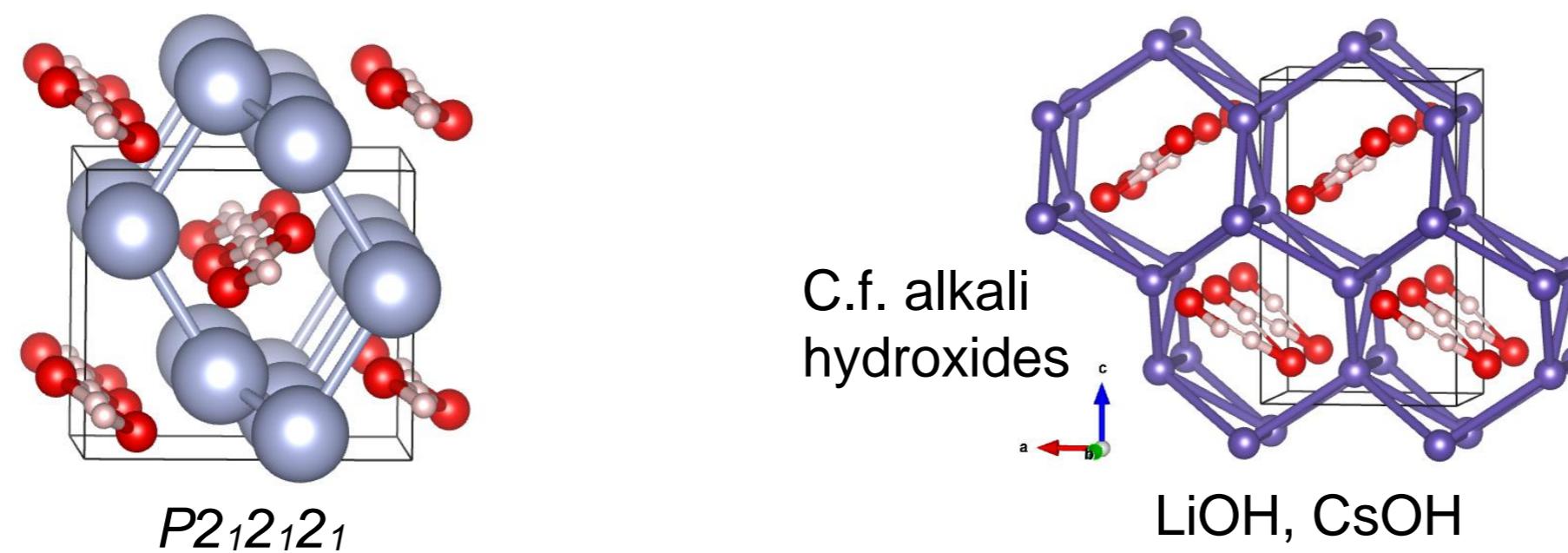


# AMH high-pressure phases

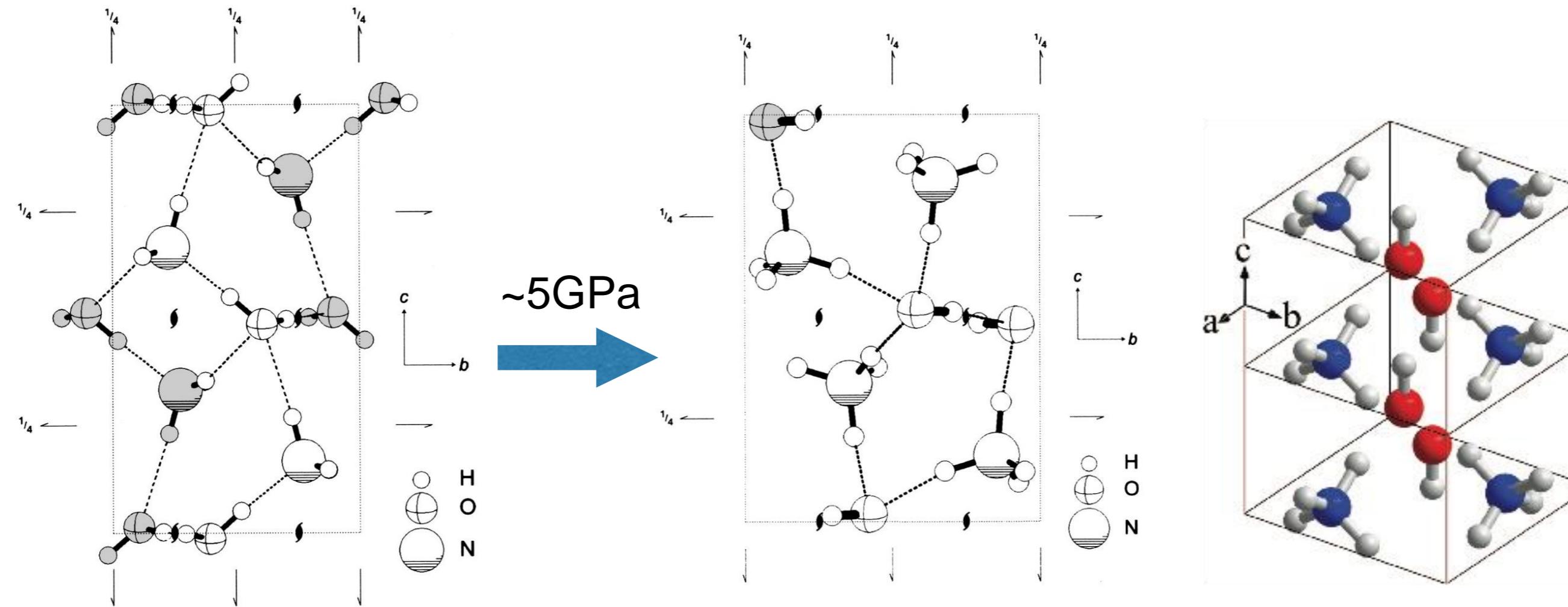
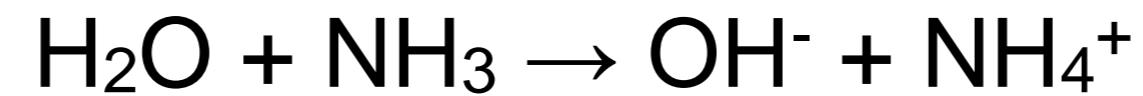
H-bond chain topologies (70GPa)



H-bond symmetrisation (140 GPa)

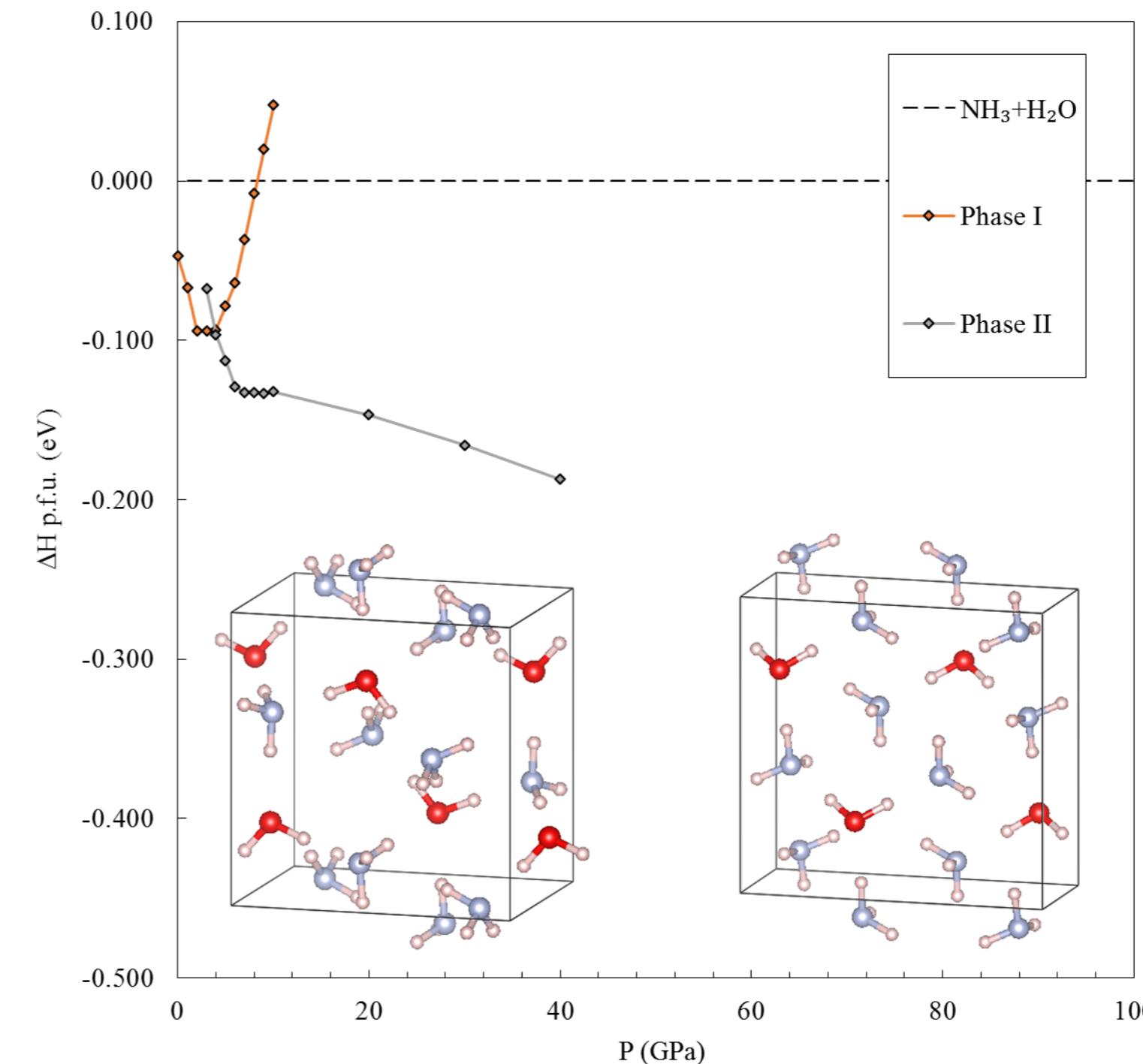
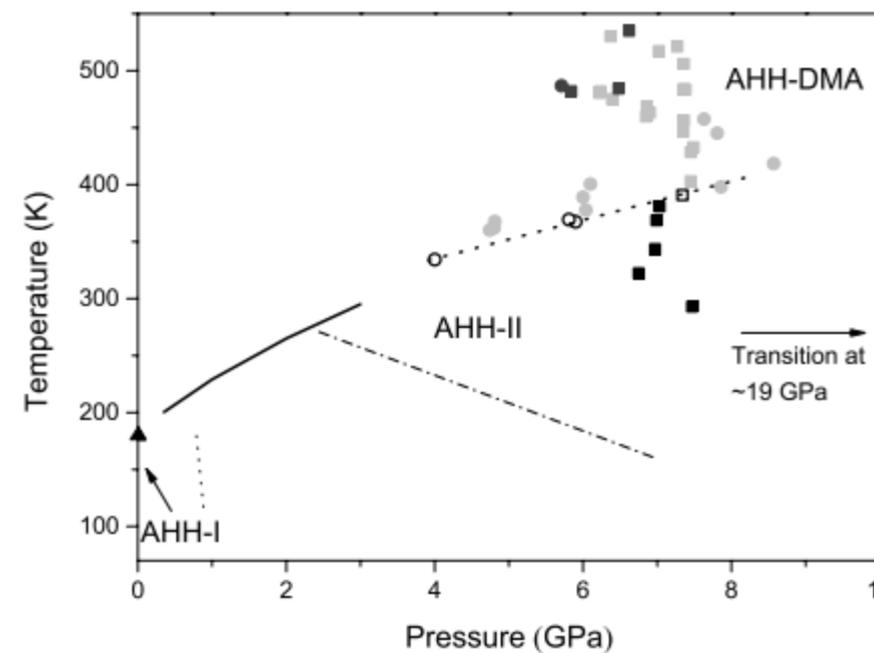


# Ionic phase transitions



# Ammonia hemihydrate

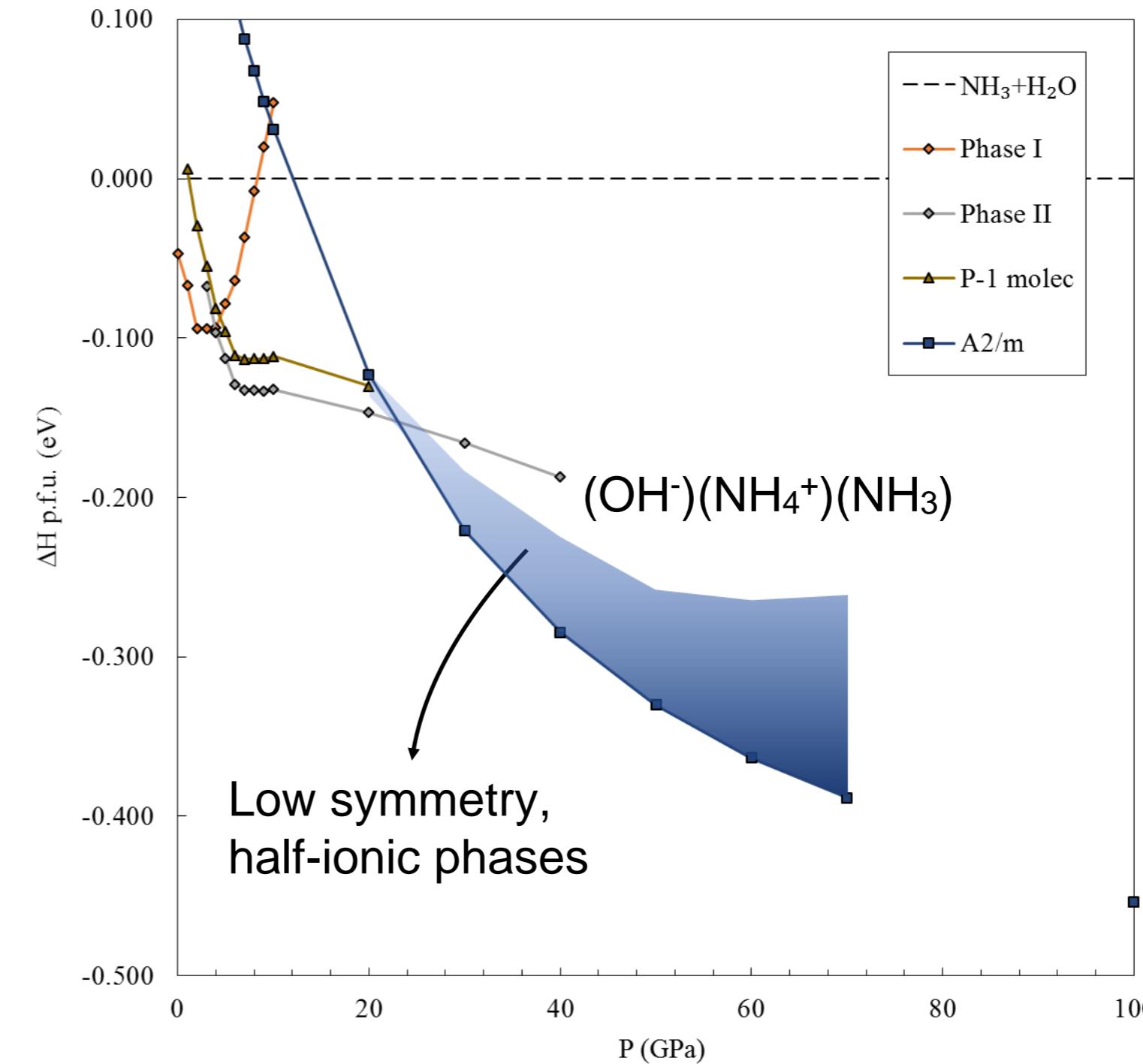
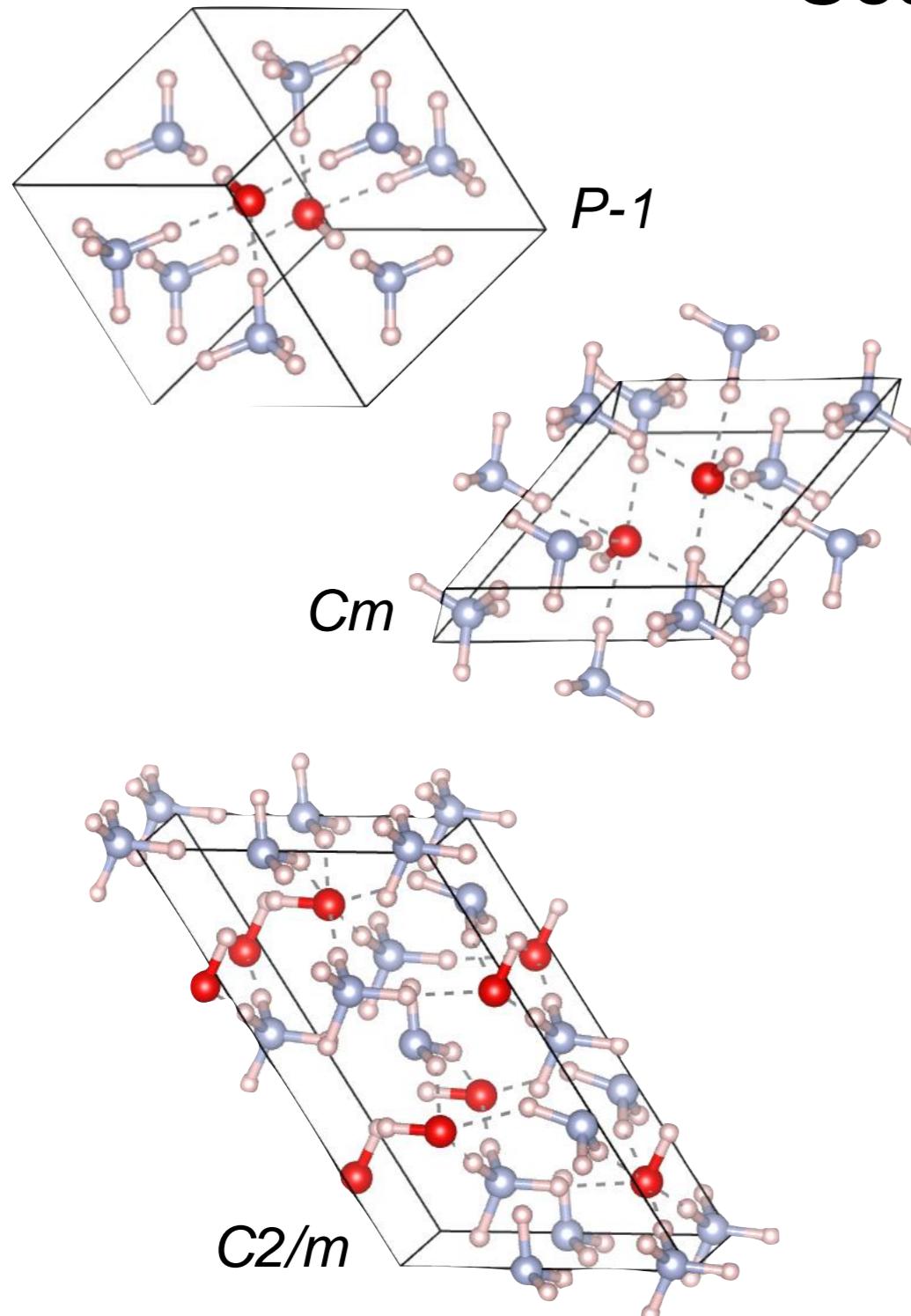
$(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{NH}_3)_2$  — molecular phases



- CASTEP code
- PBE functional
- 1000 eV cutoff
- Ultrasoft PP
- $r_{\text{O},\text{N}}=1.2\text{\AA}$ ,  $r_{\text{H}}=0.6\text{\AA}$

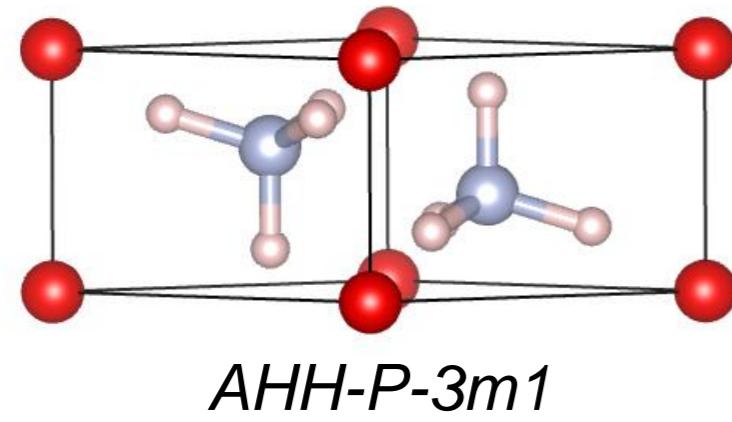
# Ammonia hemihydrate

Searching for disorder

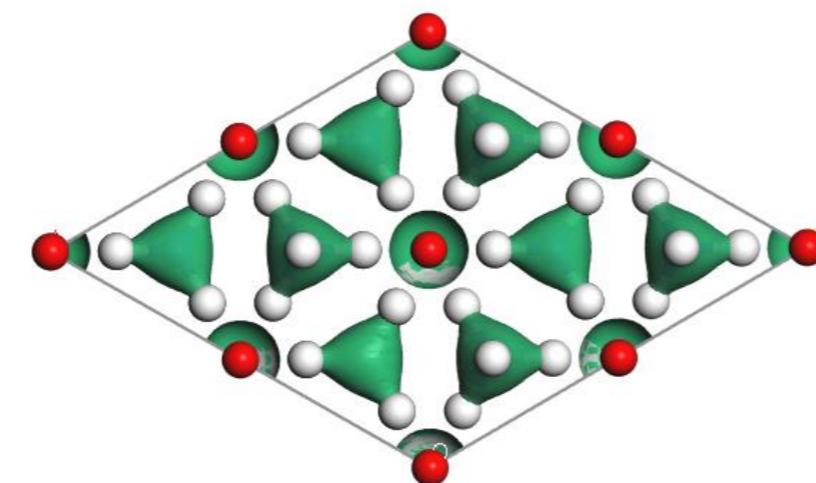


# Full ionisation of water

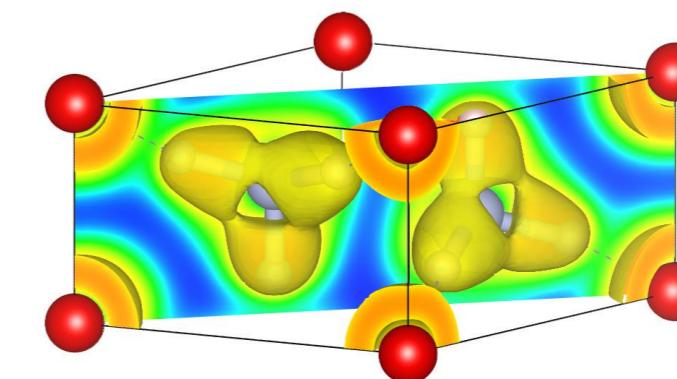
Ionic structures...



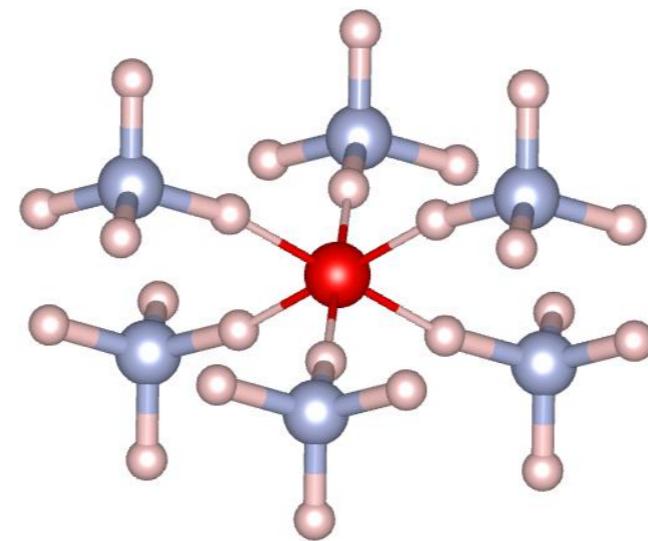
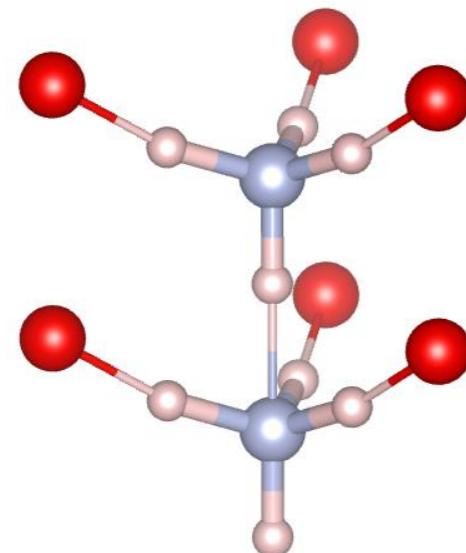
Charge density:



Electron Localization Function (ELF):

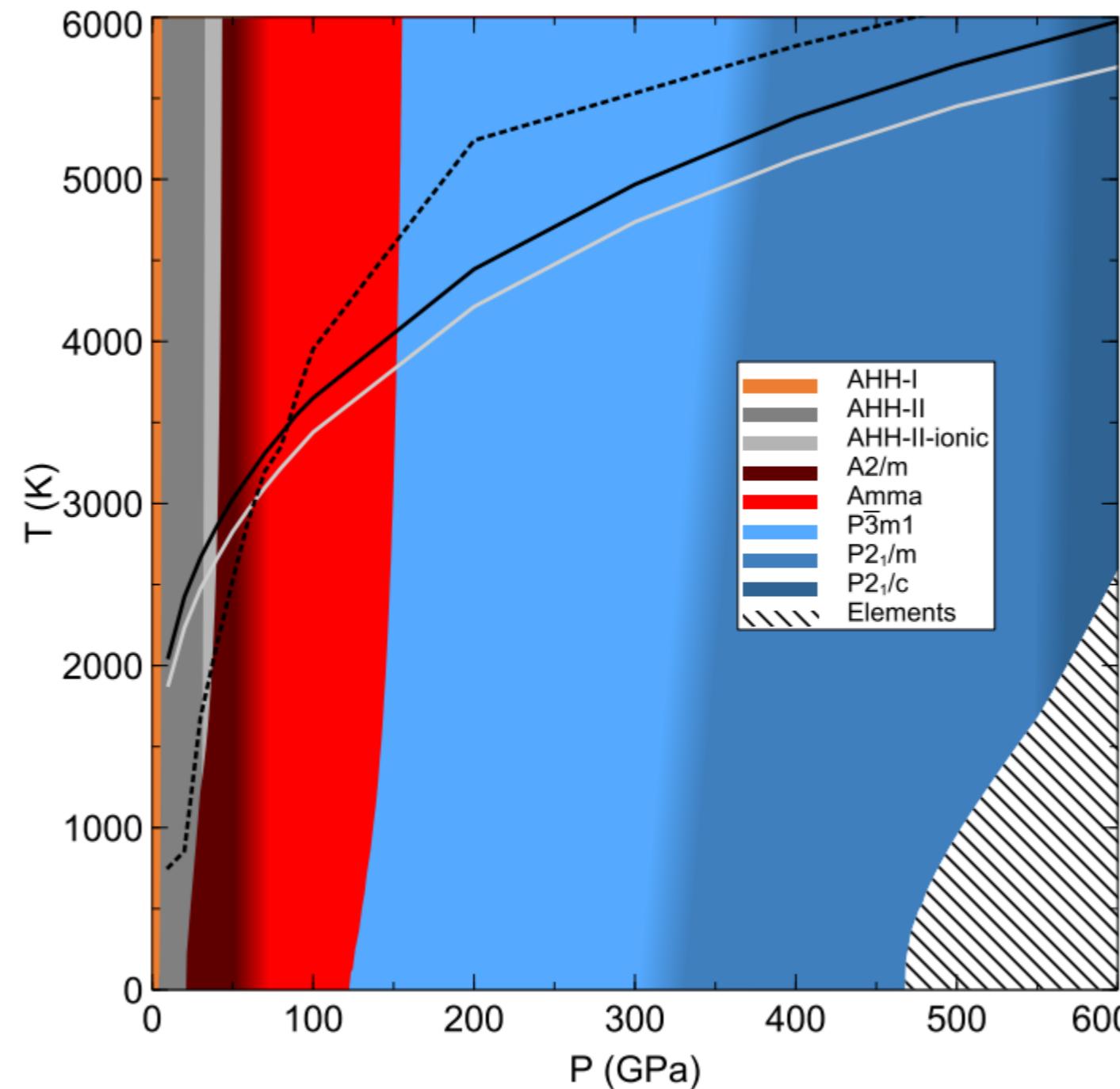


...and hydrogen bonding



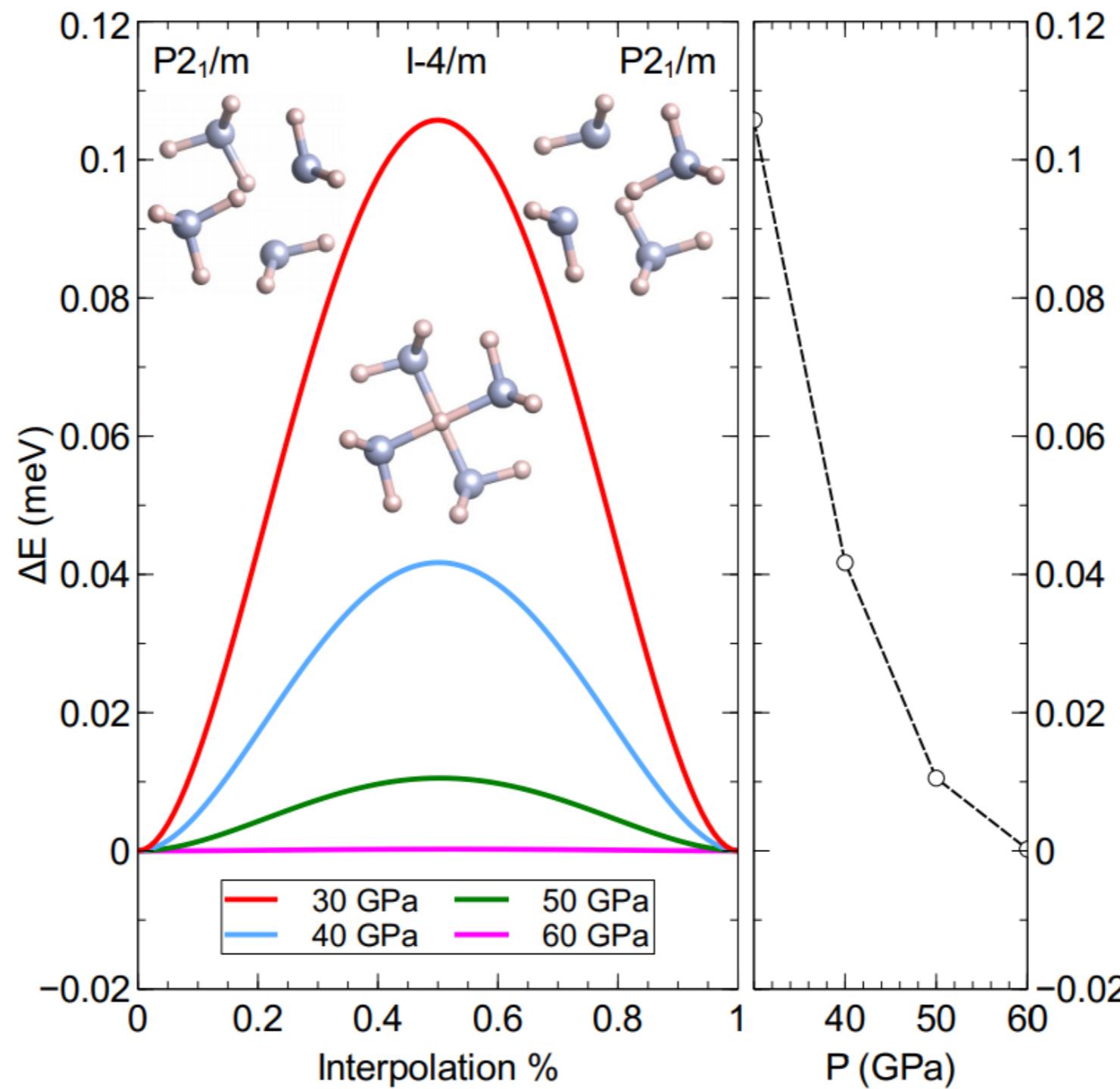
# Finite temperature stability

## Harmonic approximation



$$F(T, V) = E_0 - TS = E_0(V) + k_B T \int d\omega g(\omega) \ln \left[ 2 \sinh \left( \frac{\hbar \omega}{2k_B T} \right) \right]$$

# AQH h-bond Symmetrization



# ISIS – AMH DMA formation

