## **Organics in the Solar System**

Sun Kwok

## The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Complex organics are now commonly found in meteorites, comets, asteroids, planetary satellites, and interplanetary dust particles. The chemical composition and possible origin of these organics are presented. Specifically we discuss the possible link between Solar System organics and the complex organics synthesized during the late stages of stellar evolution. Implications of extraterrestrial organics on the origin of life on Earth and the possibility of existence of primordial organics on Earth will also be discussed.

## References

- Kwok, S. The Synthesis of Organic and Inorganic Compounds in Evolved Stars, *Nature*, 430, 985 (2004)
- Kwok, S. and Zhang, Y. Mixed aromatic/aliphatic organic nanoparticles as carriers of unidentified infrared emission features, *Nature*, 479, 80 (2011)
- Kwok, S. Complex organics in space: from Solar System to distant galaxies, A&A Rev., 24, 1-27 (2016)
- Kwok, S. Organic Matter in the Universe, Wiley, 2011.

Sun Kwok is the Director of the Laboratory for Space Research and Chair Professor of Space Science at the University of Hong Kong. He has previously served as Dean of Science of HKU between 2006 and 2016. He is the current President of IAU International Astronomical Union (IAU) Commission on Astrobiology, and before that, the President of IAU Commission on Interstellar Matter (2012-2015) and chairman of IAU Planetary Nebulae Working Group (1994-2001).

He is the author of many books, including *The Origin and Evolution of Planetary Nebulae* (Cambridge, 2000), *Cosmic Butterflies* (Cambridge, 2001), *Physics and Chemistry of the Interstellar Medium* (University Science Books, 2007), *Organic Matter in the Universe* (Wiley, 2011), *Stardust: the cosmic seeds of life* (Springer 2013) and *Our Place in the Universe* (Springer, 2017).