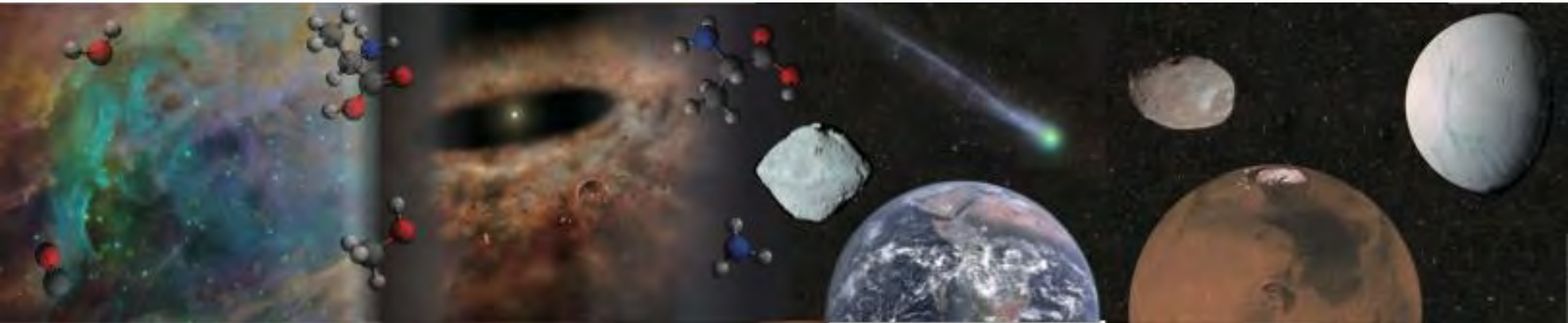


Photonics, Space, Lasers: Designing the Future Society– Vision 2040
Czech House, Expo 2025 Osaka, 10th Sep. 2025

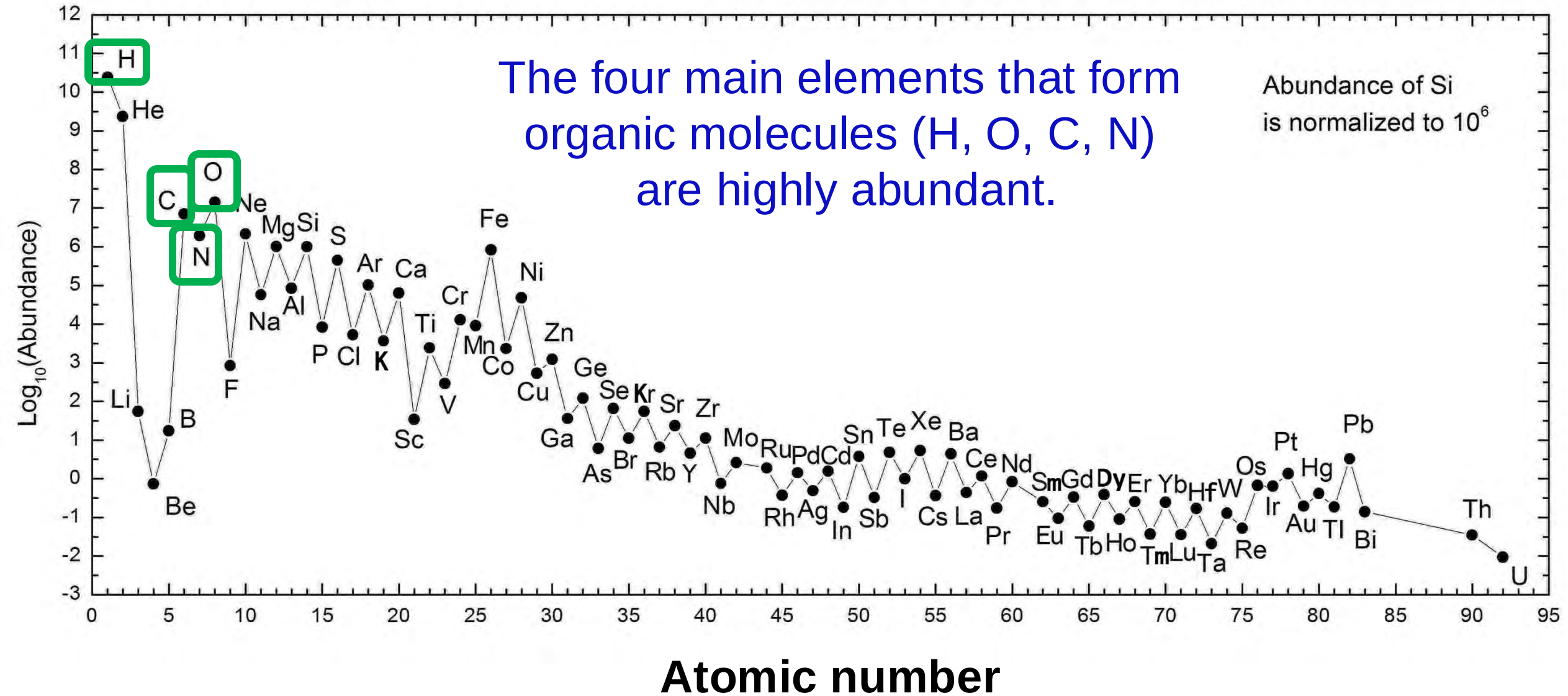
Analytical Chemistry in Space: Sample Return and Onboard Mass Spectrometry

Haruna Sugahara

Institute of Space and Astronautical Science,
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

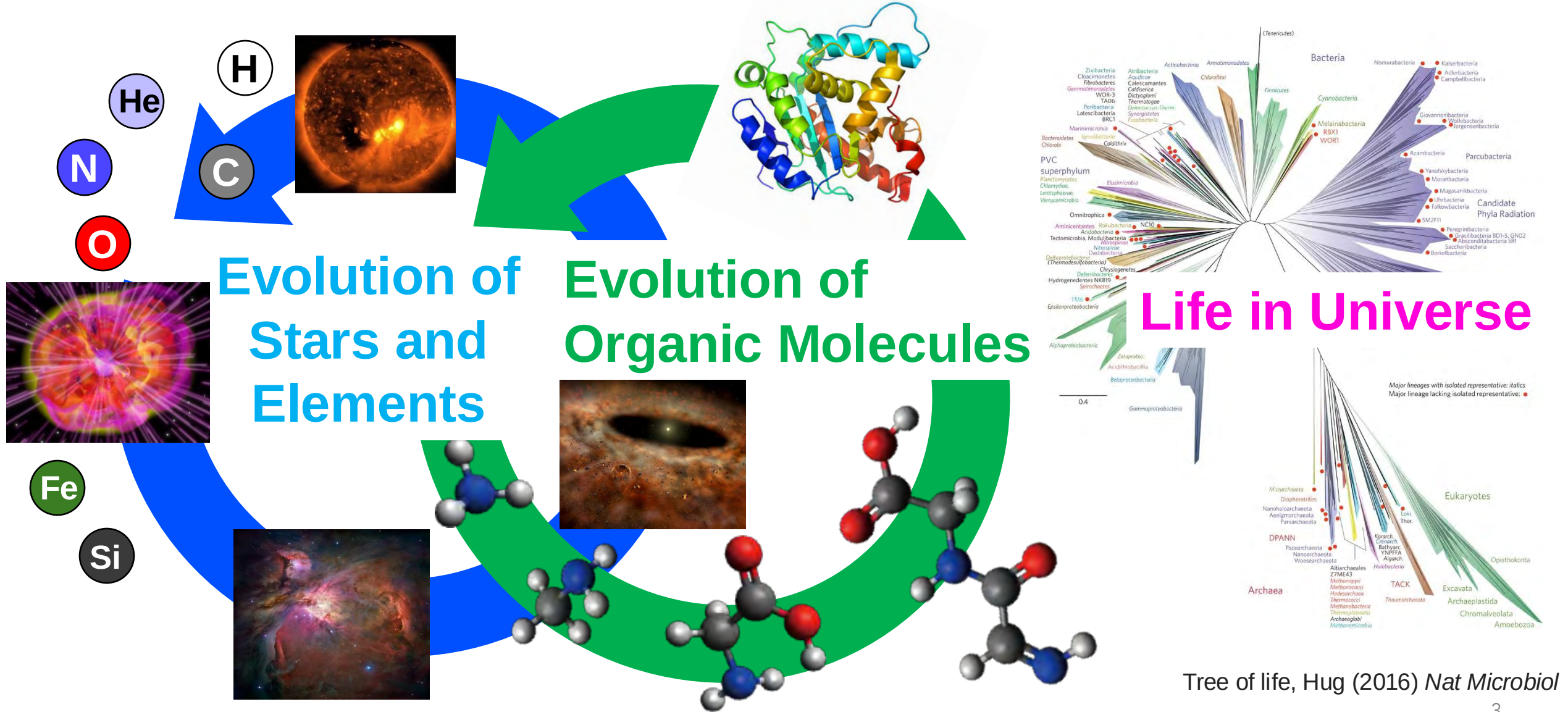


Elemental Abundance in the Solar System



The elements that constitute life exist abundantly in the universe.

How, when, where did organic molecules evolve in the universe, and lead to the emergence of life?

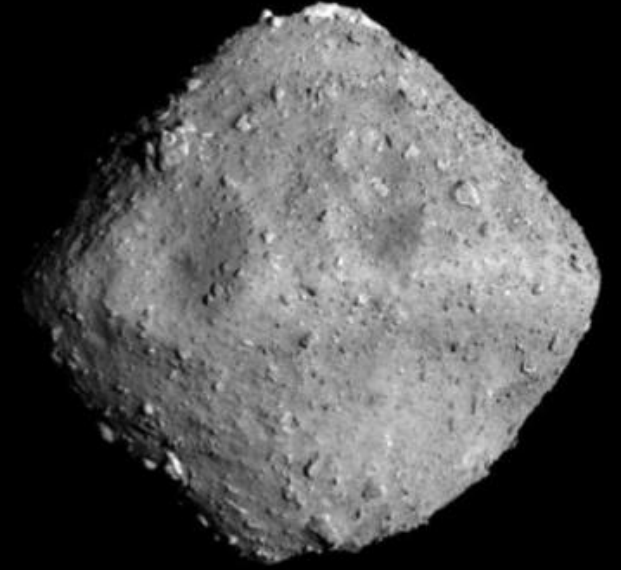


Sample Return Mission: Hayabusa2

Carbonaceous (C)-type Asteroid:

A time capsule preserving information from the early Solar System

Near-Earth
C-type Asteroid Ryugu



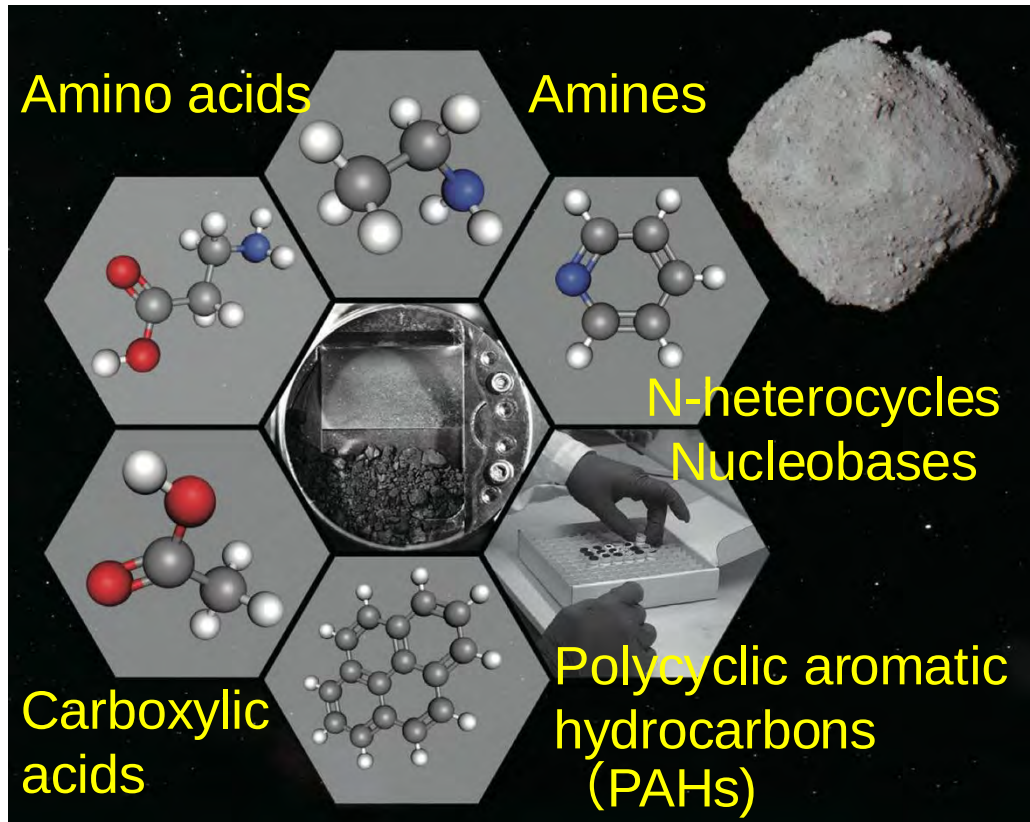
Collection of >5g of sample
by two times of touch down



Launch: December 2014
Earth Return: December 2020

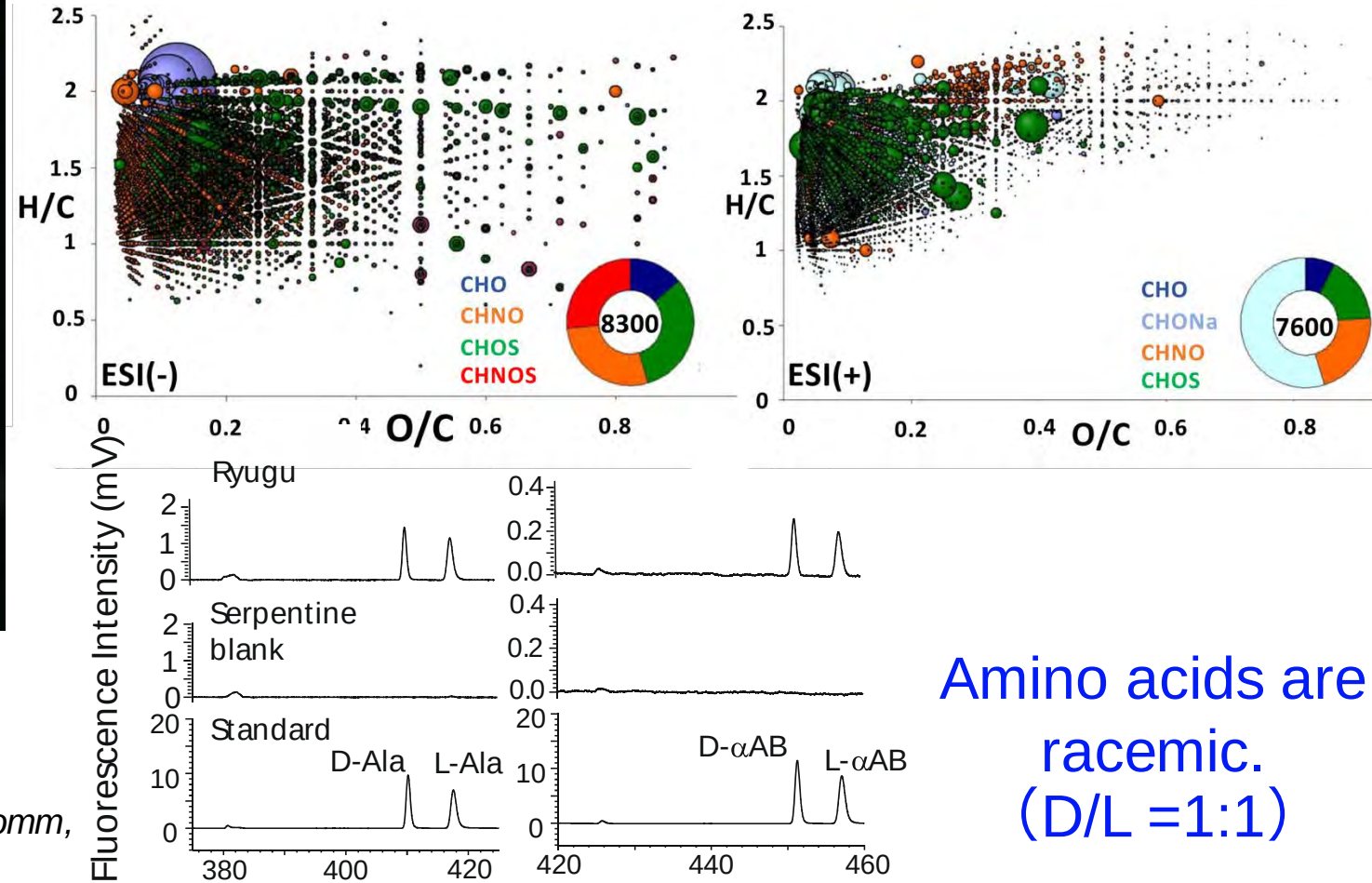
Analytical Results of Organic Molecules in Ryugu

>20,000 Molecular species that contain C, H, N, O, S have been detected.



Diverse Organic Molecules Exist in Ryugu.

Naraoka *et al.* (2023) *Science*, Takano *et al.* (2024) *Nature Comm*, Schmitt-Kopplin *et al.* (2023) *Nature Comm*,



Amino acids are racemic.
(D/L = 1:1)

Aqueous alteration on the Ryugu parent body plays an important role in the formation of organic molecules.

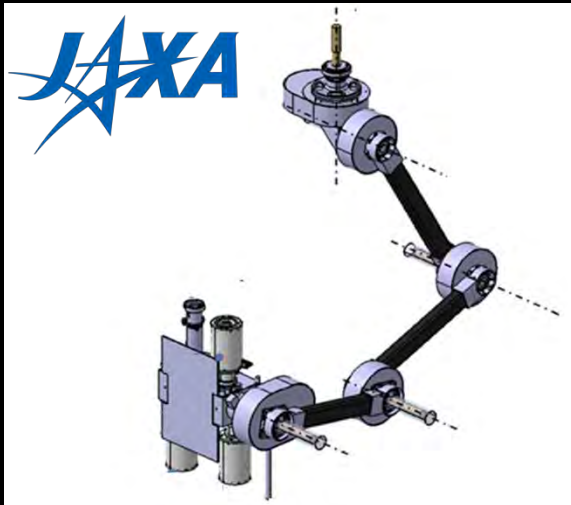
Our Next Upcoming Mission: **M**artian **M**oons **eX**ploratin

Sample Return Mission from the Martian Moon Phobos

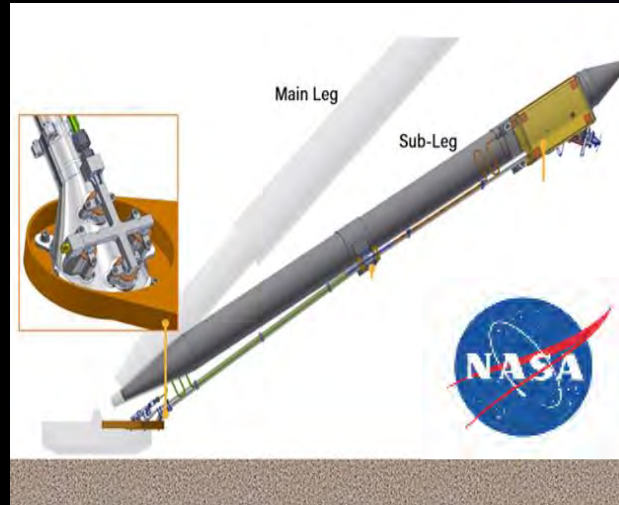
- (1) Origin of Martian Moons
- (2) Delivery of Water and Organic Molecules

Two Sampling Systems

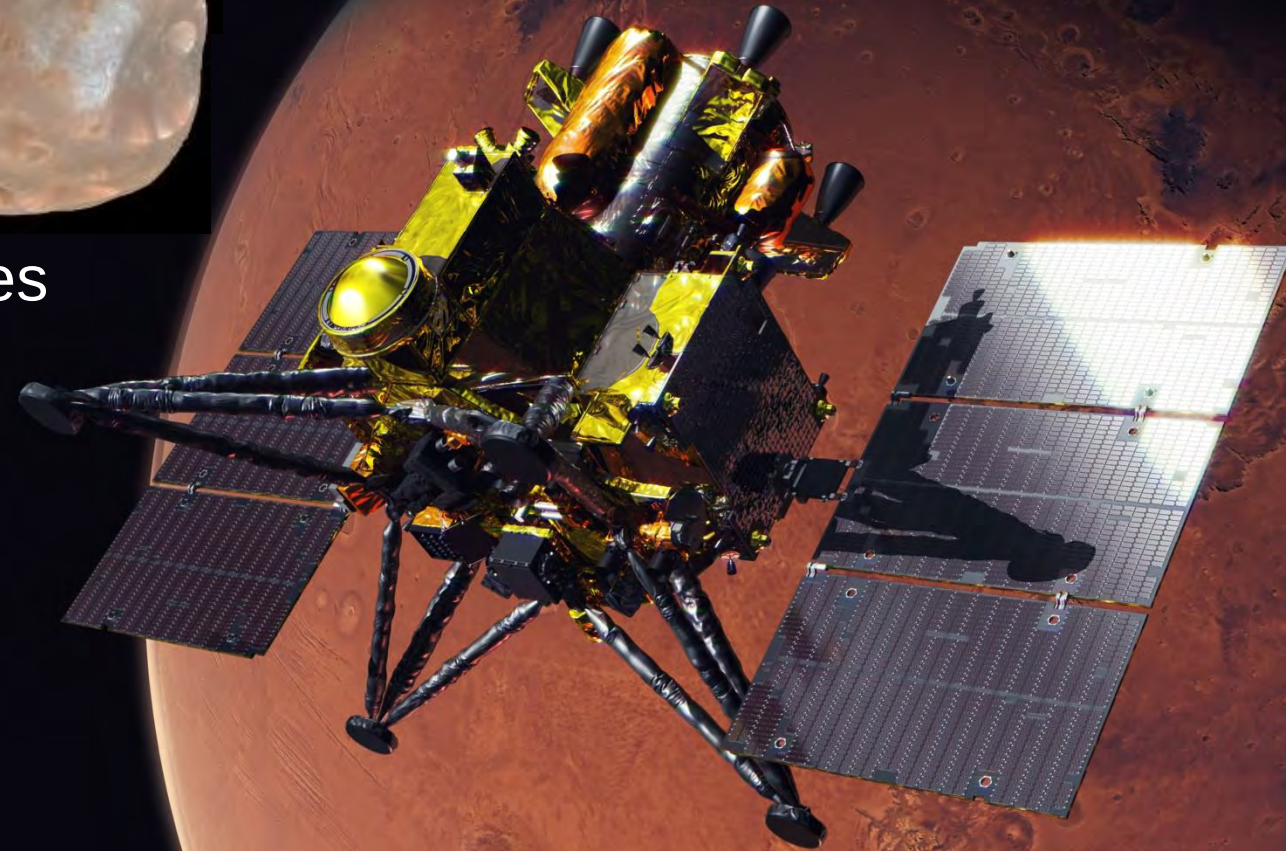
Coring (C)-Sampler



Pneumatic (P)-Sampler



MMX
Martian Moons eXploration



Launch: Fall 2026!

Earth Return: 2031

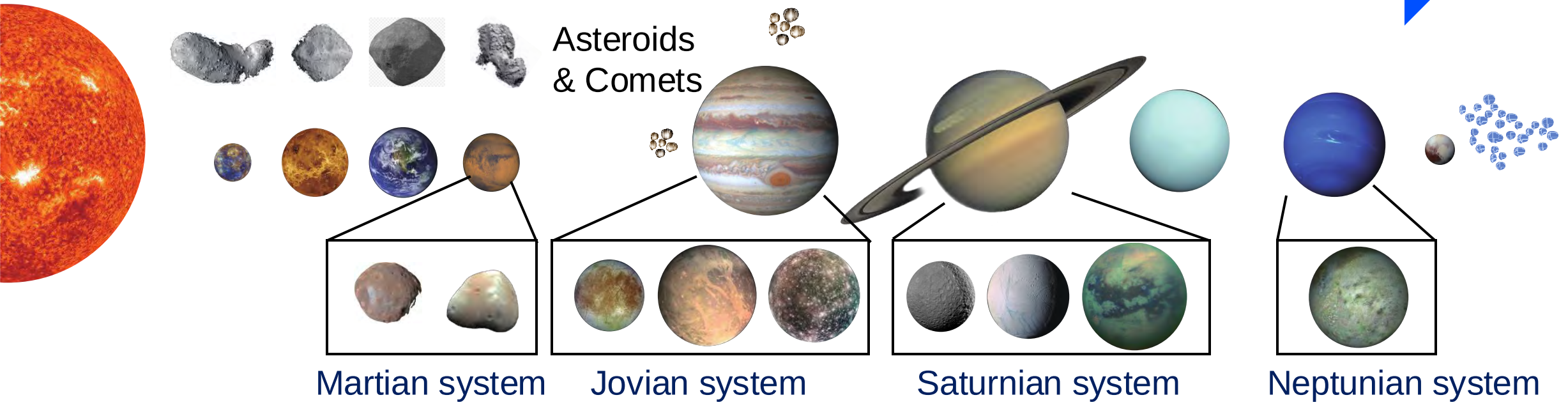
**Sample return mission can provide a lot of information.
However, there is a limit to the number of times
and the distance we can go.**

Round trip 5-10 years

Sample Return

One way 5-10 years

Onsite analysis on the celestial bodies

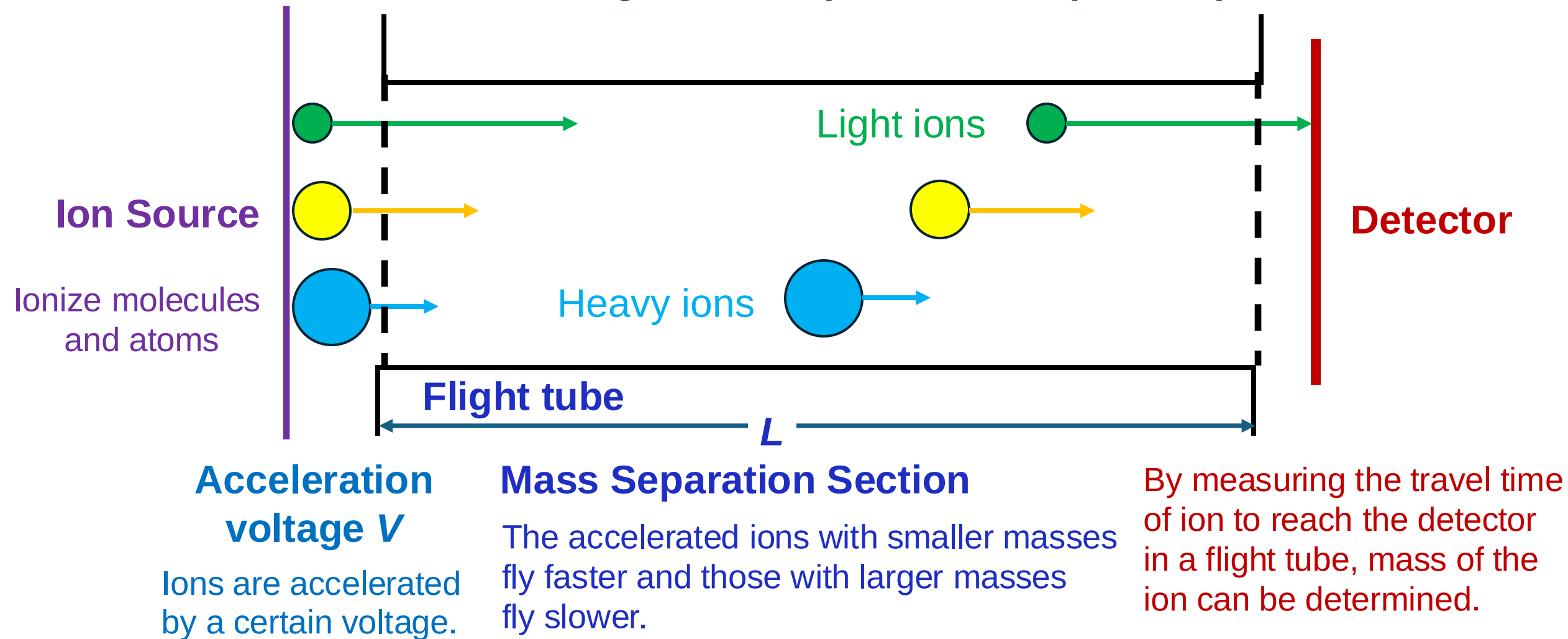


Onboard Mass Spectrometer can achieve Chemical Analysis on the celestial bodies.

Onboard Mass Spectrometer

An analytical instrument that ionises molecules and atoms and analyze their mass (m/z) and the amount of ionic current to qualify and quantify the substances in the sample

Time-of-flight Mass Spectrometer (TOFMS)



Development of a Compact Ultra-High Mass Resolution Onboard Mass Spectrometer

MULTUM (Multi-turn Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer)

TOFMS with multiple orbits of ions in the same orbit in a figure-of-eight configuration. The multiple orbits of the ions allow very long flight distances in a compact space and realize a high mass resolution. MULTUM was once considered for ESA's Rosetta Mission.

Powerful instrument for on-site organic chemical analysis in future solar system exploration.

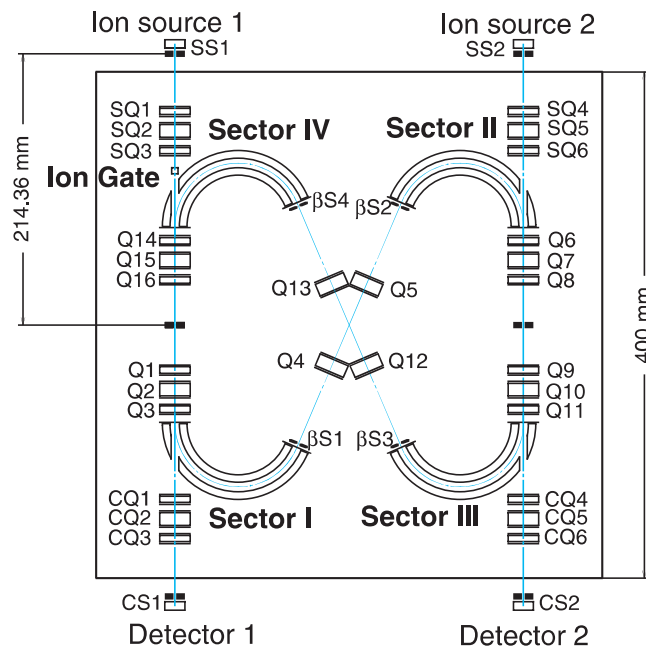
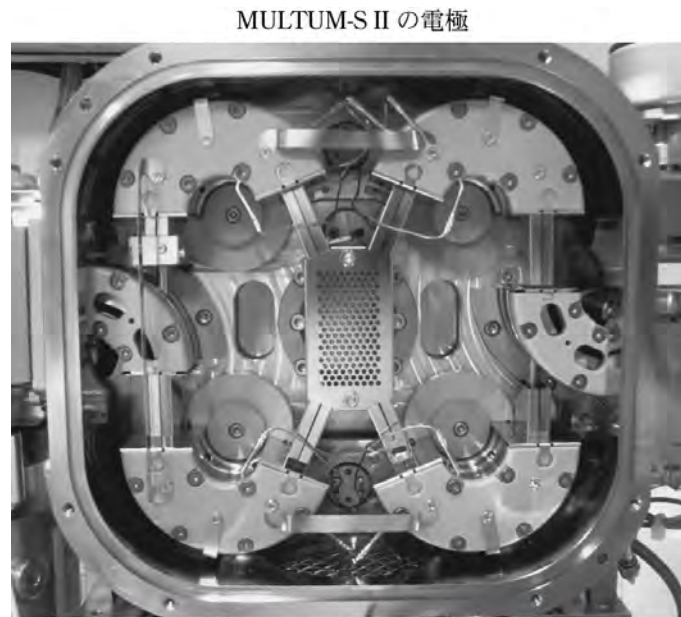


Figure 6. Schematic drawing of the MULTUM Linear plus.

Toyoda *et al.* (2019) *J Mass Spectrom*

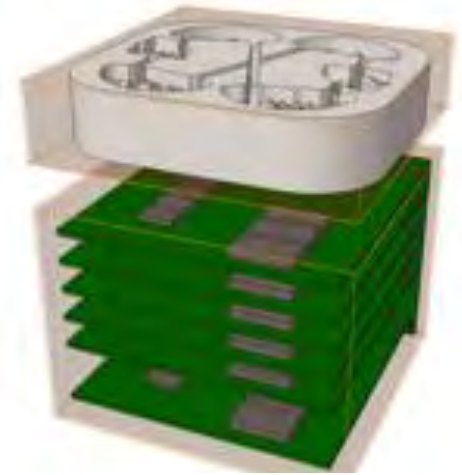


← 20 cm →

図 4 MULTUM-S II の電極

Aoki (2019) *Bunseki*

MULTUM-Sp (Under development)

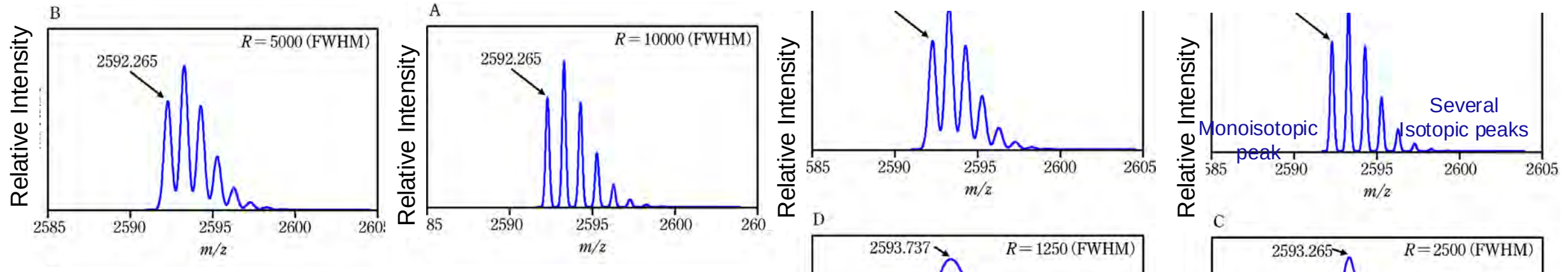


Target Specs

- Size : 10 cm cube
- Mass: TBD (~1.5 kg)
- Mass Resolution: >10,000

What MULTUM-Sp can do?

with Ultra-high Mass Resolution



Mass Resolution: R

Low resolution

1 broad peak

High resolution
7 peaks

1. Precise isotopic analysis of small molecules

Yoshino (2017) Bunseki

Methane CH_4 : Molecular Weight 16

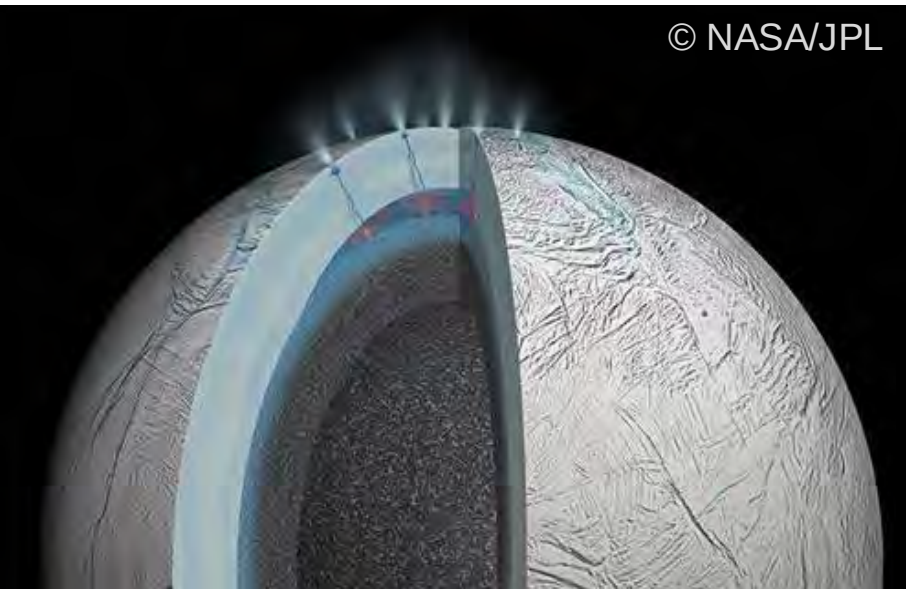
Integral mass (6 patterns) and Exact mass (10 species)

m/z 16	m/z 17	m/z 18	m/z 19	m/z 20	m/z 21
• $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ (16.0313)	• $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ (17.0347)	• $^{12}\text{CD}_2\text{H}_2$ (18.0439)	• $^{12}\text{CD}_3\text{H}$ (19.0501)	• $^{12}\text{CD}_4$ (20.0564)	• $^{13}\text{CD}_4$ (21.0598)
	• $^{12}\text{CDH}_3$ (17.0376)	• $^{13}\text{CDH}_3$ (18.0409)	• $^{13}\text{CD}_2\text{H}_2$ (19.0472)	• $^{13}\text{CD}_3\text{H}$ (20.0535)	

2. Analysis of Organic molecules with high molecular weight

Chemical Analysis that MULTUM-Sp can Realize

Flyby Analysis of the Plume materials of Icy Moons



**Saturnian satellites:
Enceladus**

Habitability

**Evolution of
Organic Molecules**

**Analysis of Solid Materials though Landing on
Comet, Mars, Moon, etc.**

By combining with various pre-treatment system
(e.g., Pyrolizer and Gas Chromatograph)

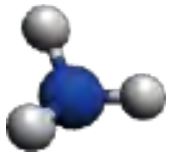


Comet

67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko



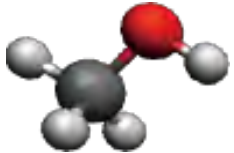
Mars



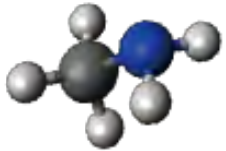
Take-home Messages



Sample return mission provide valuable samples that contain various and precise information about the Solar system.



However, the number of time and the distance we can go by sample return mission has limitation.



Onboard mass spectrometer with high mass resolution will expand the possibility for chemical analysis in space missions.

