

Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

**On the Formation and the Isomer Specific Detection of Methylacetylene
(CH₃CCH), Propene (CH₃CHCH₂), Cyclopropane (c-C₃H₆), Vinylacetylene
(CH₂CHCCH), and 1,3-Butadiene (CH₂CHCHCH₂) from Interstellar
Methane Ice Analogues**

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Calibration ices. Calibration ices of pure methylacetylene (Organic Technologies, 99%), propene (Aldrich, $\geq 99\%$), 1,3-butadiene (Aldrich, $\geq 99\%$), and 1% methylacetylene, 1% propene, and 1% 1,3-butadiene in methane were also studied (Tables S2 and S3). The pure ices were deposited to thicknesses between 600-700 nm utilizing refractive indices of 1.38, 1.32, 1.39 for methylacetylene, propene, 1,3-butadiene, respectively. The pure ices allowed for the calibration of the infrared absorption coefficients (Table S2) as the amount deposited, measured via laser interferometry, was able to be accurately determined. The experimentally determined absorption coefficients for each of these hydrocarbons was then used to determine the amount of each present in the mixed calibration ice. Next, by monitoring these hydrocarbons via PI-ReTOF-MS the number of integrated counts, corrected for flux and photoionization cross section for each molecule, can be correlated to amount determined to be in the ice. This calibration factor for the PI-ReTOF-MS was then utilized to determine the yield of the C₃ and C₄ products in the irradiated ice.

Yield calculation. Using this PI-ReTOF-MS calibration factor and knowing the dose deposited into the ice via 5 keV electrons from the CASINO calculations (Table S1) allows for the yield per energy deposited of individual molecules to be determined from only PI-ReTOF-MS counts corresponding to a molecule and that molecule's PI cross section (Table S4). For methylacetylene and vinylacetylene no other isomers were detected, and their yields were determined, after flux and photoionization cross section correction, to be $2.17 \pm 0.95 \times 10^{-4}$ and $1.90 \pm 0.84 \times 10^{-5}$ molecules eV^{-1} , respectively (Table 1). However, multiple isomers were detected corresponding to the ion signal of C_3H_6 and C_4H_6 . Therefore, to determine the yields of the C_3H_6 isomers the ion signal recorded for $m/z = 42$ at the photoionization energy of 9.77 eV, which was used to calculate the yield of cyclopropane to be $1.23 \pm 0.77 \times 10^{-4}$ molecules eV^{-1} , was subtracted from its corresponding signal at 10.49 eV. The remaining counts were then used to calculate the yield of propene to be $3.7 \pm 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$ molecules eV^{-1} (Table 1). Similarly, this was done for the C_4H_6 isomers 1-butyne, 2-butyne, 1,2-butadiene, and 1,3-butadiene utilizing the ion signals from $m/z = 54$ at photoionization energies of 9.15, 9.45, 9.77, and 10.49 eV, which resulted in yields of $1.28 \pm 0.65 \times 10^{-4}$, $4.01 \pm 1.98 \times 10^{-5}$, $1.97 \pm 0.98 \times 10^{-4}$, and $1.41 \pm 0.72 \times 10^{-4}$ molecules eV^{-1} , respectively.

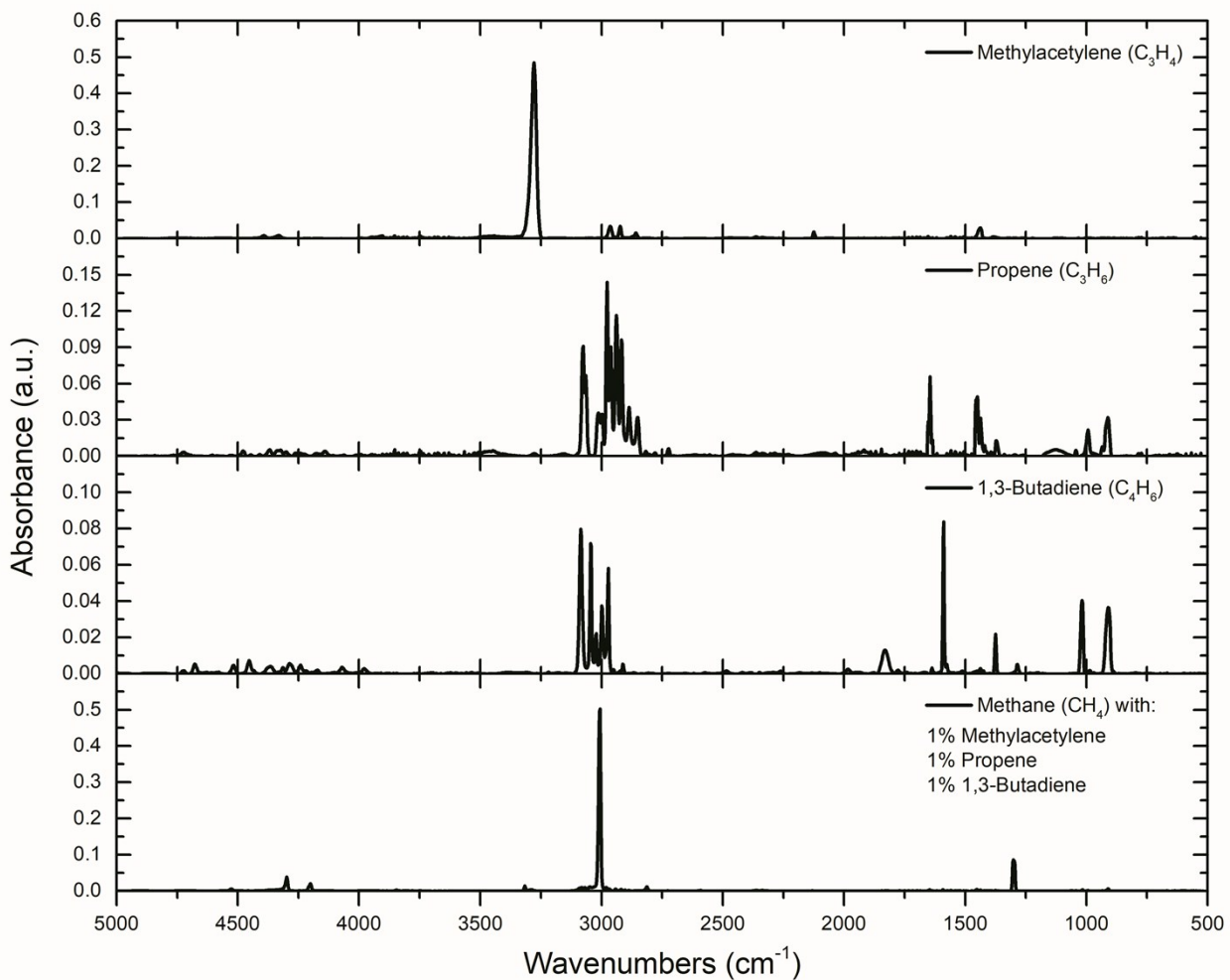


Fig. S1 Infrared spectra from 5000-500 cm⁻¹ of calibration ices used for the calibration of the PI-ReTOF-MS signals to determine yields with assignments in Table 2.

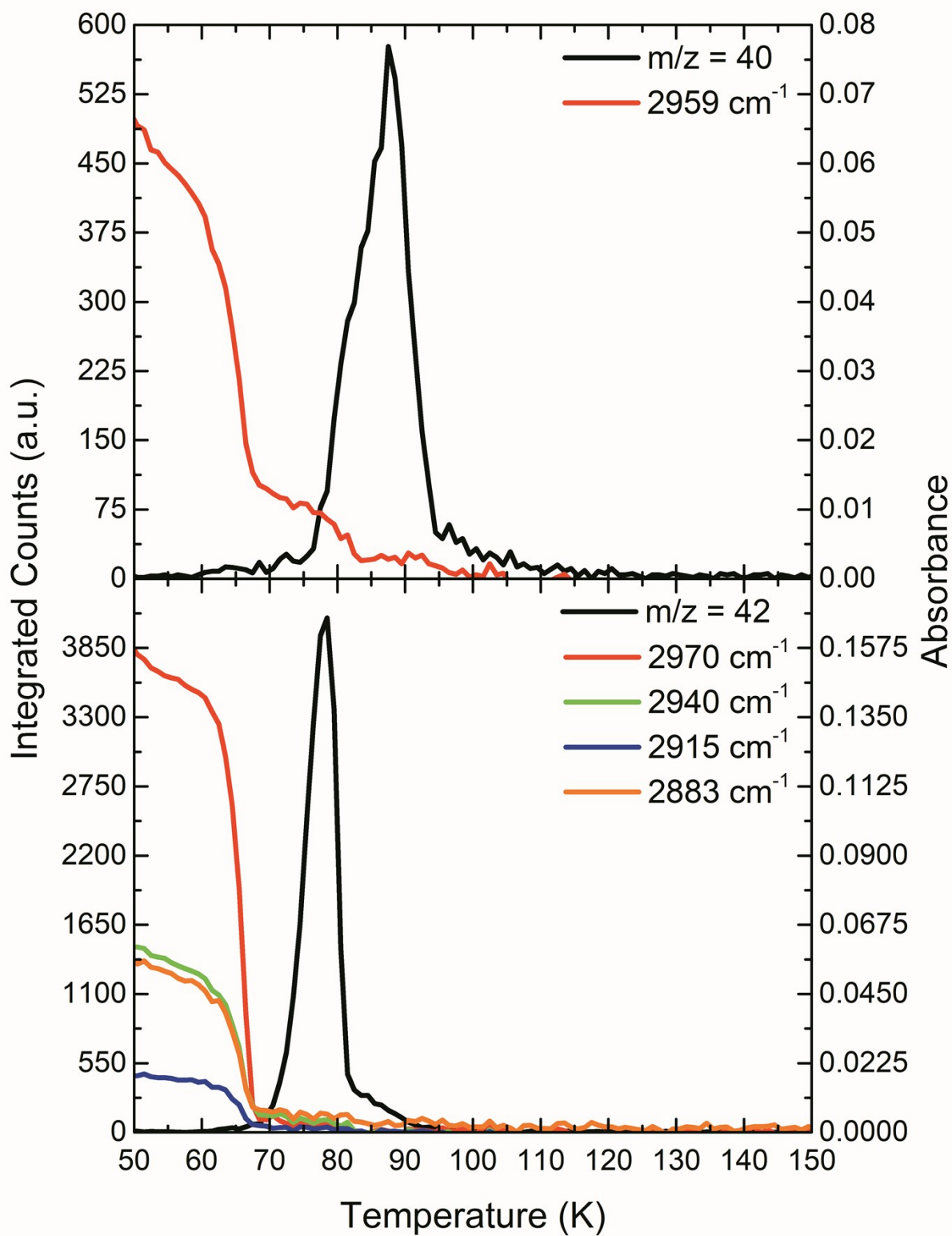


Fig. S2 Overlay of integrated infrared areas corresponding to sublimation events of methylacetylene (top) or propene (bottom) detected from the irradiated methane ice.

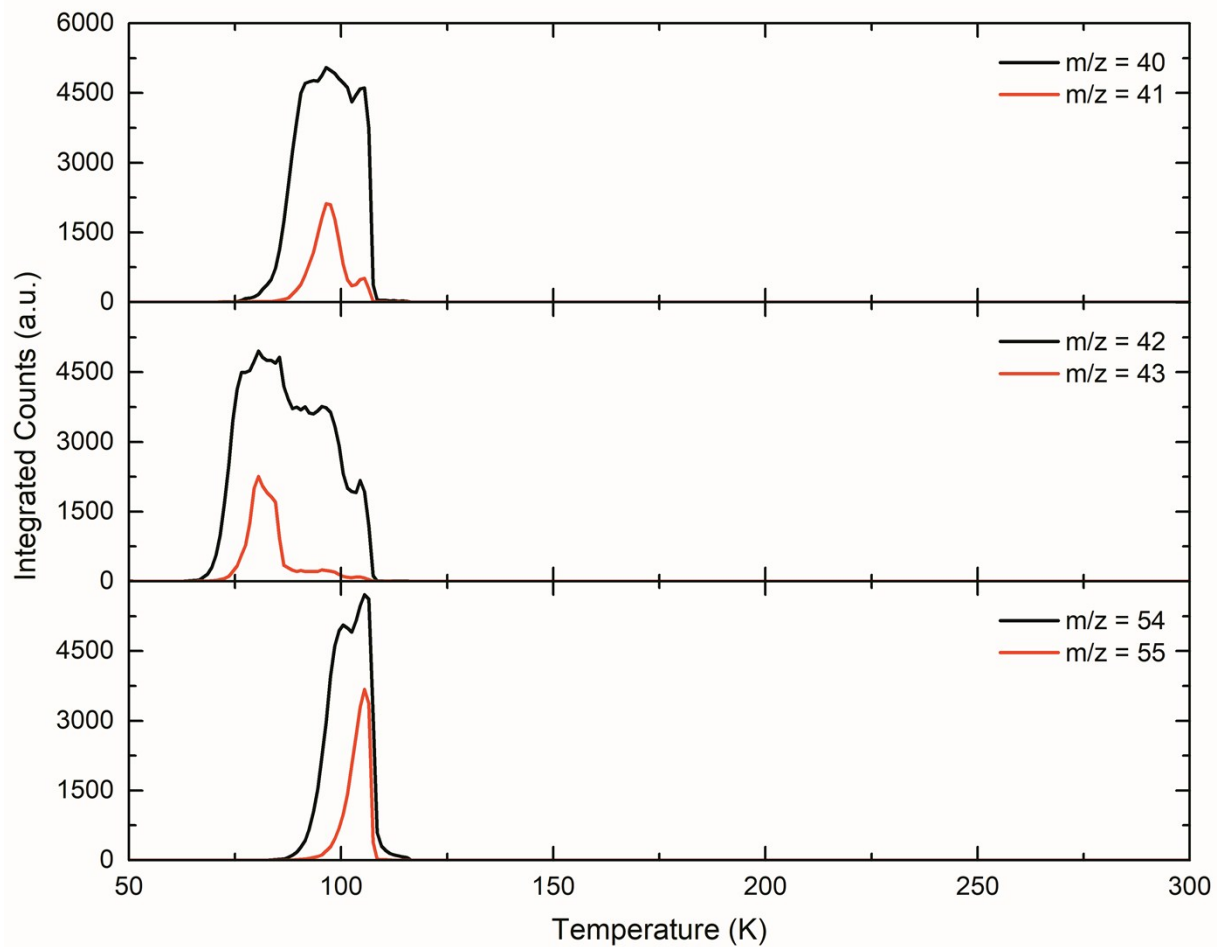


Fig. S3 PI-ReTOF-MS (PI = 10.49 eV) signals recorded during TPD of the calibration ice mixture of methane containing 1% methylacetylene ($m/z = 40$), 1% propene ($m/z = 42$), and 1% 1,3-butadiene ($m/z = 54$) shown in black along with their isotopologues (red).

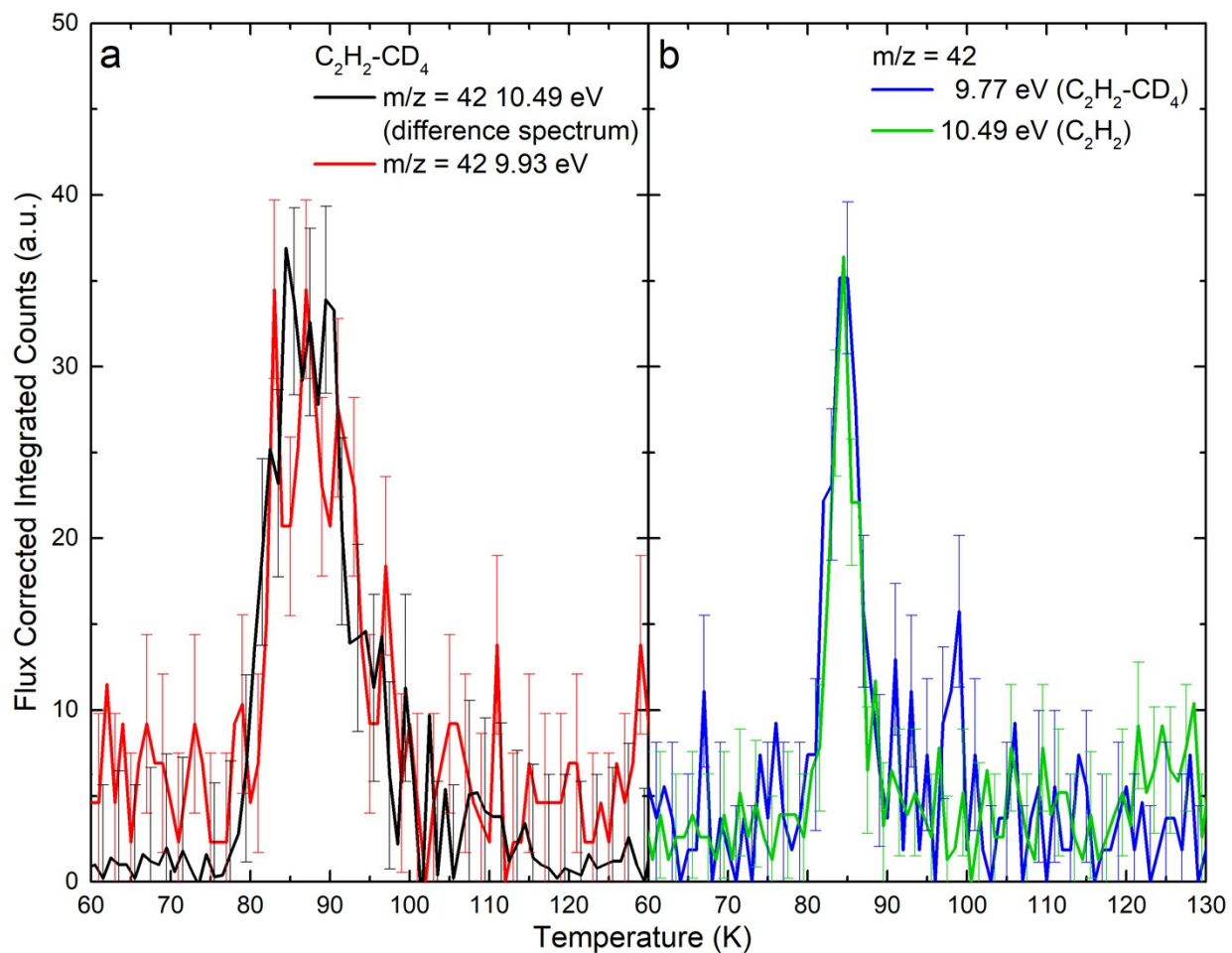


Fig. S4 (a) The residual peak (black) remaining after the subtraction of the scaled methylacetylene peak from the full TPD profile of $m/z = 42$ from the $C_2H_2-CD_4$ ice, which matches the TPD profile recorded for $m/z = 42$ at PI 9.93 eV (red) which will no longer detect any contribution due to methylacetylene and (b) the profile of $m/z = 42$ recorded using PI = 9.77 eV (blue) which can be due to allene, cyclopropene, and/or propene and $m/z = 42$ recorded using PI = 10.49 eV (green) from irradiated acetylene.

Table S1 Data applied to calculate the average dose per molecule in the methane (CH₄) and mechanism determination ices at 5 K.

| | CH ₄ ** | C ₂ H ₂ -CD ₄ | C ₂ D ₄ -CH ₄ | C ₂ D ₂ - ¹³ C ₂ H ₄ | C ₂ H ₂ |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Initial kinetic energy of the electrons, E _{init} | 5 keV | 5 keV | 5 keV | 5 keV | 5 keV |
| Irradiation current, I | 30 ± 2 nA | 20 ± 2 nA | 20 ± 2 nA | 20 ± 2 nA | 20 ± 2 nA |
| Total number of electrons | (6.7 ± 0.5) × 10 ¹⁴ | (1.1 ± 0.1) × 10 ¹⁴ | (1.1 ± 0.1) × 10 ¹⁴ | (1.1 ± 0.1) × 10 ¹⁴ | (1.1 ± 0.1) × 10 ¹⁴ |
| Average kinetic energy of backscattered electrons, E _{bs} * | 3.0 ± 0.3 keV | 3.2 ± 0.3 keV | 3.0 ± 0.3 keV | 3.2 ± 0.3 keV | 3.2 ± 0.3 keV |
| Fraction of backscattered electrons, f _{bs} * | 0.27 ± 0.03 | 0.30 ± 0.03 | 0.28 ± 0.03 | 0.31 ± 0.03 | 0.32 ± 0.03 |
| Average kinetic energy of transmitted electrons, E _{trans} * | 2.0 ± 0.3 keV | 0.1 ± 0.1 keV | 0.9 ± 0.3 keV | 0.7 ± 0.2 keV | 0.9 ± 0.3 keV |
| Fraction of transmitted electrons, f _{trans} * | 0.19 ± 0.01 | 0.00 ± 0.01 | 0.01 ± 0.01 | 0.00 ± 0.01 | 0.00 ± 0.01 |
| Average penetration depth, l* | 410 ± 20 nm | 340 ± 20 nm | 400 ± 20 nm | 320 ± 20 nm | 370 ± 20 nm |
| Density of the ice, ρ | 0.47 ± 0.07 g cm ⁻³ | 0.72 ± 0.09 g cm ⁻³ | 0.59 ± 0.08 g cm ⁻³ | 0.82 ± 0.09 g cm ⁻³ | 0.76 ± 0.09 g cm ⁻³ |
| Irradiated area, A | 1.0 ± 0.1 cm ² | 1.0 ± 0.1 cm ² | 1.0 ± 0.1 cm ² | 1.0 ± 0.1 cm ² | 1.0 ± 0.1 cm ² |
| Total molecules processed | (7.3 ± 1.2) × 10 ¹⁷ | (6.5 ± 1.2) × 10 ¹⁷ | (5.9 ± 0.9) × 10 ¹⁷ | (5.5 ± 0.9) × 10 ¹⁷ | (6.4 ± 1.2) × 10 ¹⁷ |
| Dose per molecule | 3.5 ± 1.1 eV | 0.7 ± 0.2 eV | 0.8 ± 0.2 eV | 0.8 ± 0.2 eV | 0.7 ± 0.2 eV |

*CASINO values; **Adapted from Abplanalp et al. (2018)

Table S2 Infrared absorption features of pure (a) methylacetylene ice (C₃H₄) (b) propene (C₃H₆) (c) vinylacetylene (C₄H₄) (d) 1,3-butadiene (C₄H₆) at 5 K

| Absorptions (cm ⁻¹) | Assignment ^a | Carrier | Integrated Absorption Coefficient | References |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|
| (a) | | | | |
| 3280 | ν_1 | Acetylenic CH stretch | 1.22×10^{-17} | a |
| 2964 | ν_6 | CH ₃ degenerate stretch | | a |
| 2923 | ν_2 | Symmetric methyl CH stretch | | a |
| 2858 | $\nu_2 + 2\nu_7$ | Fermi resonance | | a |
| 2123 | ν_3 | C≡C stretch | 1.57×10^{-19} | a |
| 1436 | ν_7 | CH ₃ degenerate deformation | | a |
| 1382 | ν_4 | CH ₃ symmetric deformation | | a |
| (b) | | | | |
| 3075 | ν_1 | CH ₂ asymmetric stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| 3013 | ν_2 | CH stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| 2978 | ν_3 | CH ₂ symmetric stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| 2941 | ν_{15} | CH ₃ asymmetric stretch | 1.02×10^{-18} | b,c,d,e |
| 2918 | ν_4 | CH ₃ symmetric stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| 2886 | $2\nu_7$ | overtone | 2.80×10^{-19} | b,c,d,e |
| 2726 | $2\nu_9$ | overtone | 6.17×10^{-20} | b,c,d,e |
| 1645 | ν_6 | C=C stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| 1450 | ν_7 | CH ₃ asymmetric deformation | | b,c,d,e |
| 1437 | ν_{16} | CH ₂ scissor | | b,c,d,e |
| 1371 | ν_9 | CH ₃ deformation | | b,c,d,e |
| 993 | ν_{18} | CH ₂ twist | 2.33×10^{-19} | b,c,d,e |
| 911 | ν_{19} | C-CH ₃ stretch | | b,c,d,e |
| (c)* | | | | |
| 3912 | $\nu_1 + \nu_{11}/\nu_1 + \nu_{17}$ | Combination | | f,g |
| 3284 | ν_1 | Acetylenic CH stretch | | f,g |
| 3102 | ν_2 | CH ₂ asymmetric stretch | | f,g |
| 3049 | ν_3 | CH stretch | | f,g |

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| 3014 | ν_4 | CH ₂ symmetric stretch | f,g |
| 2973 | $\nu_6 + \nu_7$ | Combination | f,g |
| 2103 | ν_5 | C≡C stretch | f,g |
| 1954 | $\nu_9 + \nu_{10}$ | Combination | f,g |
| 1877 | $2\nu_{15}$ | Overtone | f,g |
| 1663 | $\nu_9 + \nu_{11}$ | Combination | f,g |
| 1599 | ν_6 | C=C stretch | f,g |
| 1418, 1407 | ν_7 | CH ₂ scissor | f,g |
| 1374 | $\nu_{10} + \nu_{12}$ | Combination | f,g |
| 128 | $\nu_9 + \nu_{12}$ | Combination | f,g |
| 1095, 1083 | ν_9 | CH ₂ rock | f,g |
| 979 | ν_{14} | C=C–H bend | f,g |
| 938 | ν_{15} | CH ₂ wag | f,g |
| 876 | ν_{10} | C–C stretch | f,g |
| 655 | ν_{16} | CH ₂ twist | f,g |
| 542 | ν_{12} | C=C–C bend | f,g |
| <hr/> | | | |
| (d) | | | |
| 3086 | ν_{17} | CH ₂ asymmetric stretch | h |
| 3044 | ν_{18} | CH stretch | h |
| 2972 | ν_{19} | CH ₂ symmetric stretch | h |
| 1589 | ν_{20} | C=C stretch | h |
| 1374 | ν_{21} | CH ₂ scissoring | h |
| 1285 | ν_{22} | CH bend | h |
| 1017 | ν_{10} | CH bend | h |
| 986 | ν_{23} | CH ₂ rock | h |
| 910 | ν_{11} | CH ₂ wag | h |

References & Notes: ^a(Ball et al. 1994); ^b(Comeford & Gould 1961); ^c(Chao & Zwolinski 1975); ^d(Zaera & Chrysostomou 2000); ^e(Stacchiola et al. 2003); ^f(Kim & Kaiser 2009); ^g(Tørneng et al. 1980); ^h(Hrbek et al. 2007); *adapted from (Kim & Kaiser 2009)

Table S3 Infrared absorption features recorded from calibration mixture methane ices (CH₄) at 5 K containing 1 % methylacetylene (C₃H₄), propene (C₃H₆), and 1,3-butadiene (C₄H₆)

| Absorptions (cm ⁻¹) | Assignment |
|--|--|
| 5989, 5789, 5564, 4528, 4301, 4202, 4114, 3844 | 2ν ₃ , ν ₁ + ν ₃ , ν ₃ + 2ν ₄ , ν ₂ + ν ₃ , ν ₃ + ν ₄ , ν ₁ + ν ₄ , ν ₂ + 2ν ₄ , 3ν ₄ (CH ₄) |
| 3316 | methylacetylene |
| 3290 | Methylacetylene |
| 3089 | 1,3-butadiene |
| 3081 | propene |
| 3047 | 1,3-butadiene |
| 3008 | ν ₃ (CH ₄) |
| 2981 | propene |
| 2972 | methylacetylene/1,3-butadiene |
| 2941 | propene |
| 2919 | methylacetylene/propene |
| 2905 | ν ₁ (CH ₄) |
| 2888 | propene |
| 2857 | methylacetylene |
| 2814 | ν ₂ + ν ₄ (CH ₄) |
| 2726 | propene |
| 2591 | 2ν ₄ (CH ₄) |
| 2131 | methylacetylene |
| 1824 | 1,3-butadiene |
| 1646 | propene |
| 1592 | 1,3-butadiene |
| 1452 | propene |
| 1436 | methylacetylene/propene |
| 1377 | methylacetylene/1,3-butadiene |
| 1373 | propene |
| 1297 | ν ₄ (CH ₄) |
| 1016 | 1,3-butadiene |
| 993 | Propene/1,3-butadiene |
| 910 | Propene/1,3-butadiene |

Notes: See pure ice Table S2 for details

| Table S4 Photoionization cross sections for the C ₃ H ₄ , C ₃ H ₆ , C ₄ H ₄ , and C ₄ H ₆ isomers | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| Molecule (IE) | Photoionization cross sections (Mb) at specified photoionization energy | | | | | | |
| | 10.49 eV | 9.93 eV | 9.77 eV | 9.45 eV | 9.15 eV | 8.41 eV | References |
| C ₃ H ₄ | | | | | | | |
| Methylacetylene (10.36 eV) | 18.9; 23.06; 25.2 | - | - | - | - | - | a,b,c |
| Allene (9.69 eV) | 15.48; 21.6; 18.9 | 3.5; 4.4; 3.98 | 0.64; 0.66; 0.79 | - | - | - | d,e,f |
| Cyclopropene (9.67 eV) | 8 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | g |
| C ₃ H ₆ | | | | | | | |
| Cyclopropane (9.86 eV) | 6.57; 6.10 | 0.05; 0.18 | - | - | - | - | h,i |
| Propene (9.73 eV) | 9.09; 12; 8.6; 11.092 | 3.87; -; -; 5.6 | 1.01; -; -; 2.344 | - | - | - | a,d,i,j |
| C ₄ H ₄ | | | | | | | |
| Vinylacetylene (9.58 eV) | 32.45 | 22.08 | 15.9 | - | - | - | b |
| 1,2,3,-Butatriene (9.15 eV) | 8.17 | 7.71 | 6.60 | 3.35 | 0.71 | - | k |
| Cyclobutadiene (8.16 eV) | 12.598 | 9.74 | 9.58 | 7.58 | 7.42 | 2.38 | k |
| Methylenecyclopropene (8.15 eV) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| C ₄ H ₆ | | | | | | | |
| 1-Butyne (10.18 eV) | 21.82; 20 | | - | - | - | - | a,l |
| 2-Butyne (9.58 eV) | 96; 27.7 | 85.6; 13.18 | 58.39; 8.96 | - | - | - | l |
| 1,2-Butadiene (9.23 eV) | 14.7 | 10.45* | 9.5 | -; (7.2*) | - | - | l |
| 1,3-Butadiene (9.07 eV) | 16.29; 19; 8.32; 13.2 | 13.83; -; 7.51; - | 13.613; -; 6.995; - | 7.62; -; 3.77; - | 2.515; -; 1.35; - | - | a,b,f,j |
| C ₄ H ₂ | | | | | | | |
| Diacetylene (10.17 eV) | 23.82 | - | - | - | - | - | b |

References & Notes: ^aAdam and Zimmermann (2007); ^bCool et al. (2005); ^cHo and Lin (1998); ^dCool et al. (2003); ^eHolland and Shaw (1999); ^fYang et al. (2012); ^gGoulay et al. (2009); ^hWang et al. (2008); ⁱKoizumi (1991); ^jKanno and Tonokura (2007); ^kestimated; ^lPan et al. (2013); *extrapolated from known values; N/A (not available)

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