Determination of the ¹²C/¹³C ratio in the solar wind



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Why did we come to MPS Göttingen?

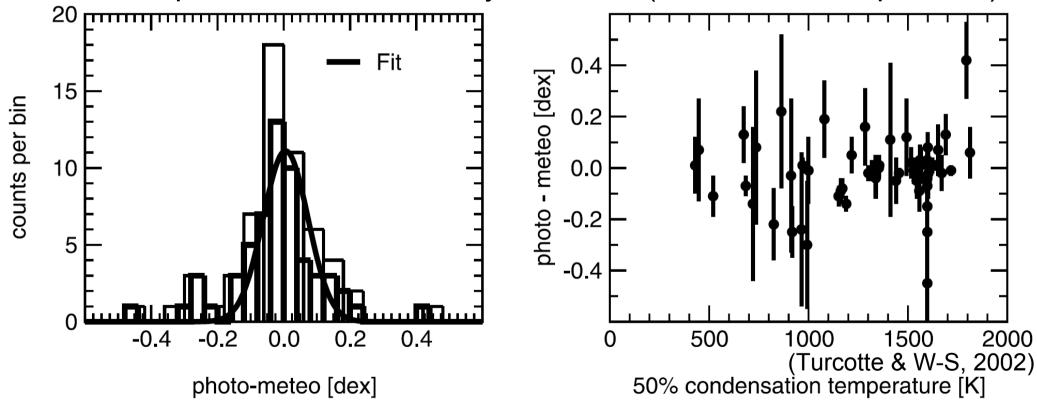


Contents

- Carbon and its isotopes
- ACE/SWICS
- Data analysis
- Results
- Discussion & Conclusions
- Near-term plans

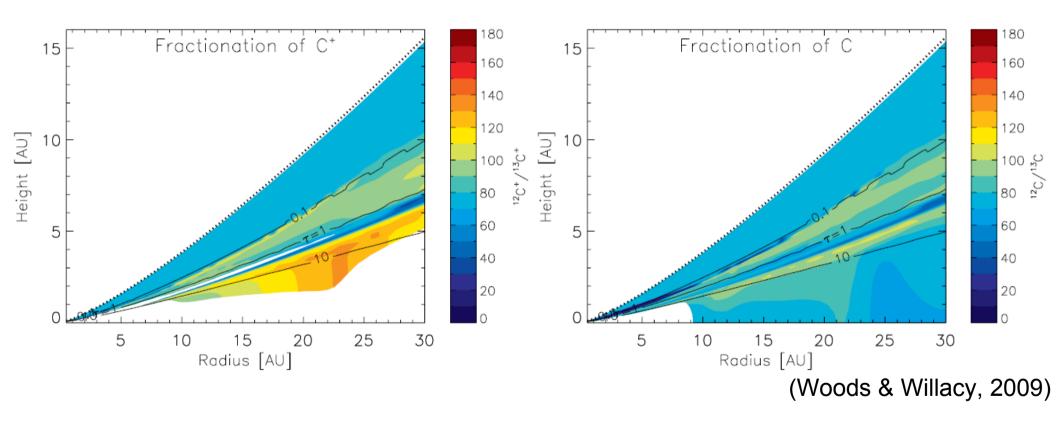
Abundances in the early solar system

Meteoritic elemental abundances agree well with photospheric ones. Isotopic abundances well-known for meteorites except for noble gases. Solar isotopic abundances mostly unknown (with some exceptions...).



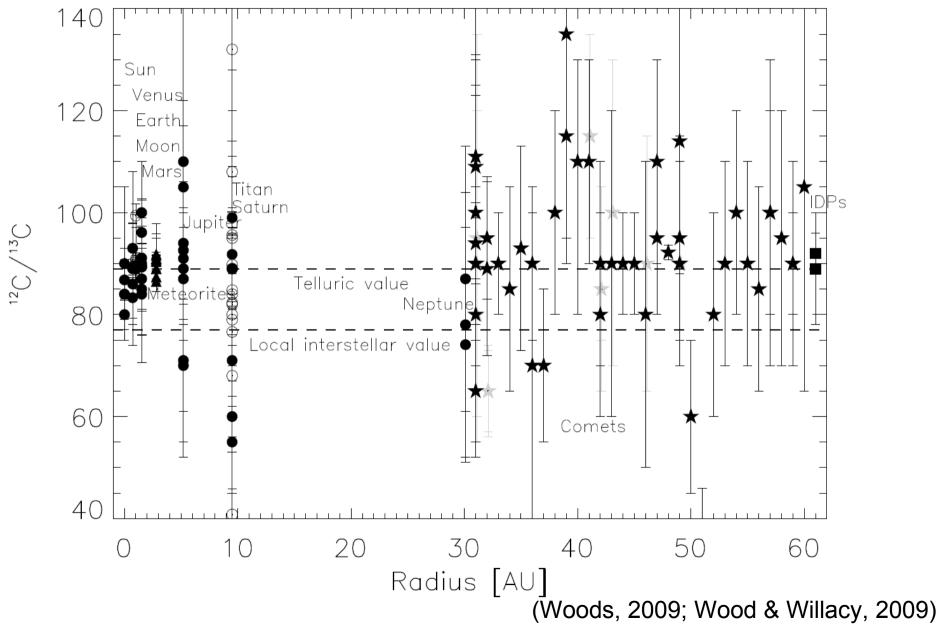
Limits to heterogeneity of proto-solar disk and planet formation

Inhomogeneity of carbon isotopes in a model proto-planetary disk

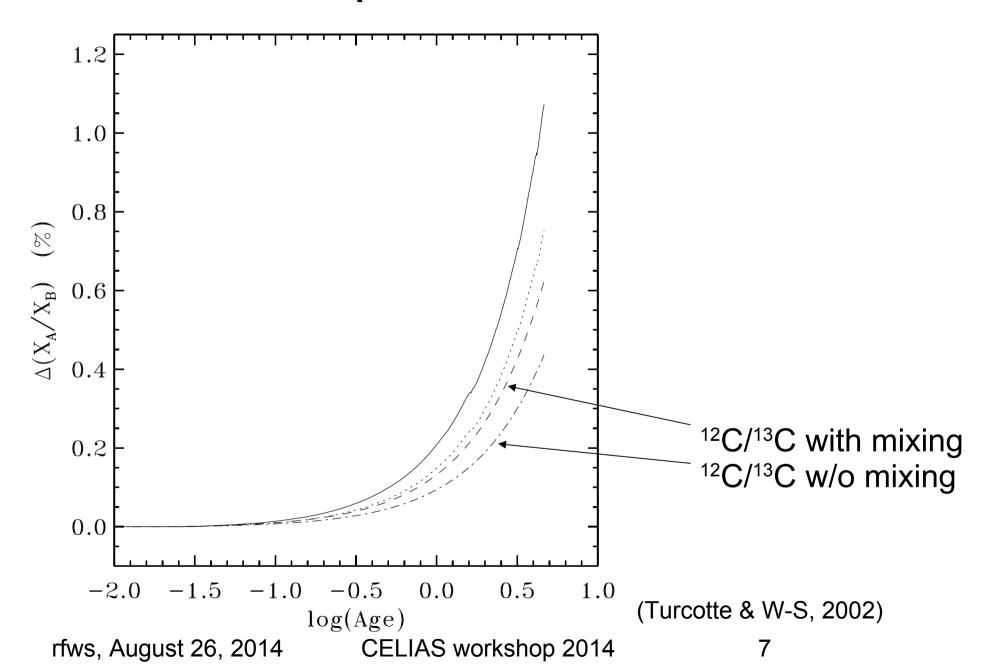


Considerable inhomogeneity is seen throughout the disk.

¹²C/¹³C isotopes in the solar system



Carbon isotope evolution in the Sun



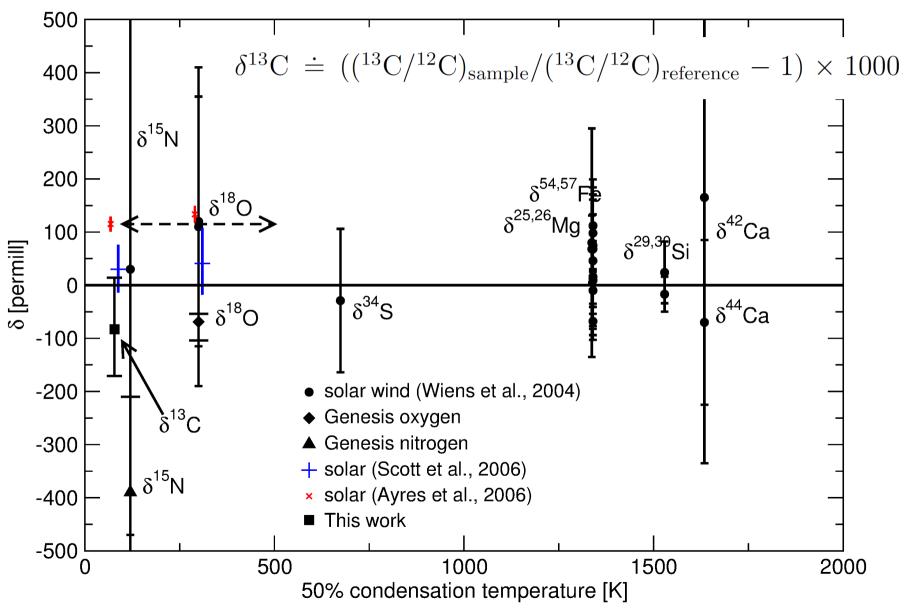
The delta-notation is often used to makes differences more visible

$$\delta^{13}C \doteq ((^{13}C/^{12}C)_{sample}/(^{13}C/^{12}C)_{reference} - 1) \times 1000$$
 Your sample standard difference

In this notation

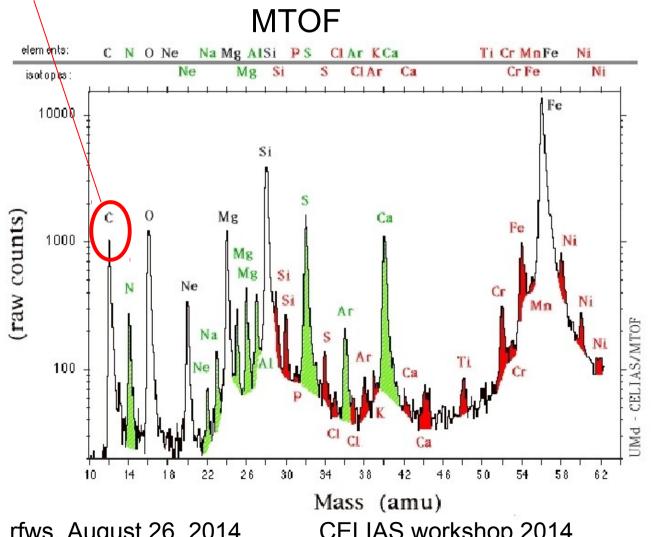
- the standard has a delta of 0 per mill
- a doubling of ¹³C relative to std. leads to a delta of 1000 per mill

"Solar" isotopic composition



CELIAS/MTOF can't measure ¹²C/¹³C, neither can Genesis...

Partially also knock-on C from C-foil

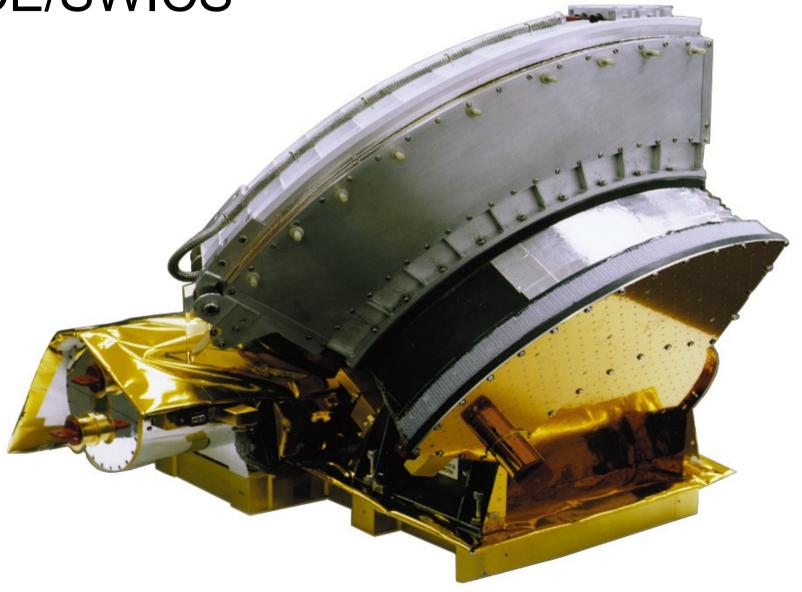


Genesis

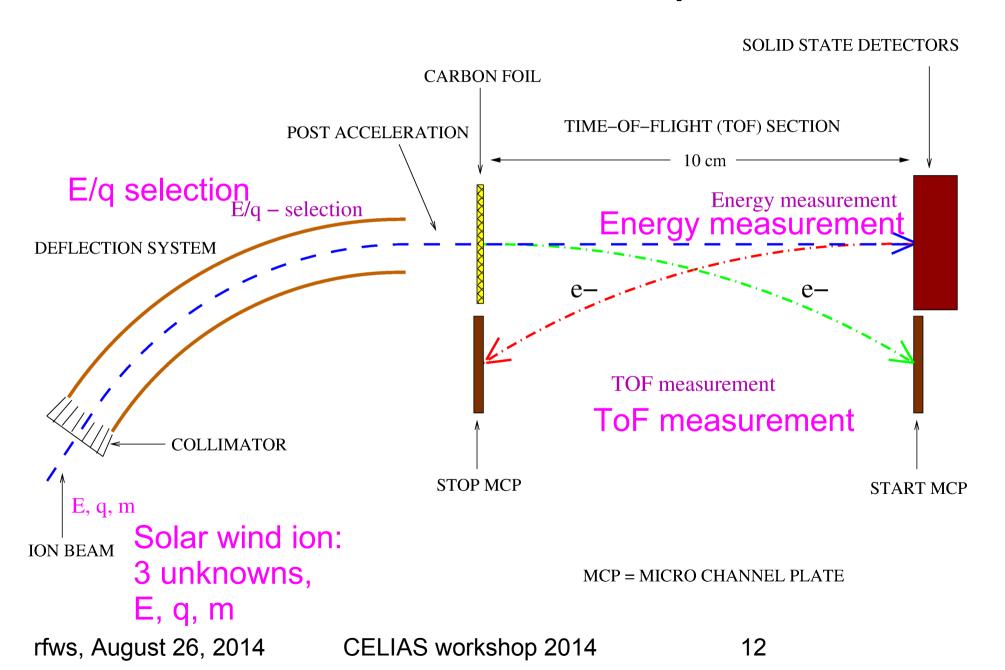
Key issues:

- terrestrial contamination
- hydrogenated C interferes with ¹³C

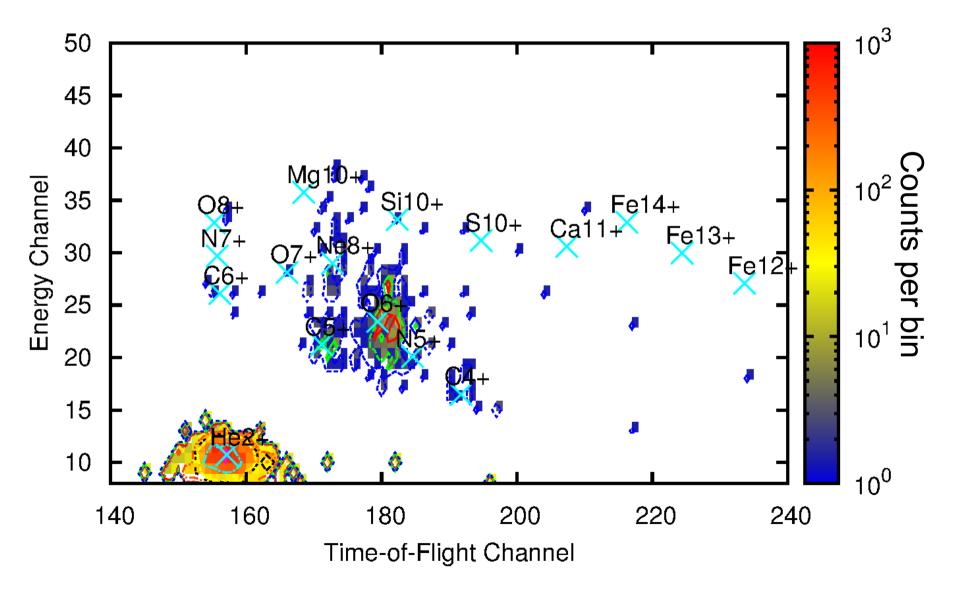
CELIAS workshop, but discuss ACE/SWICS



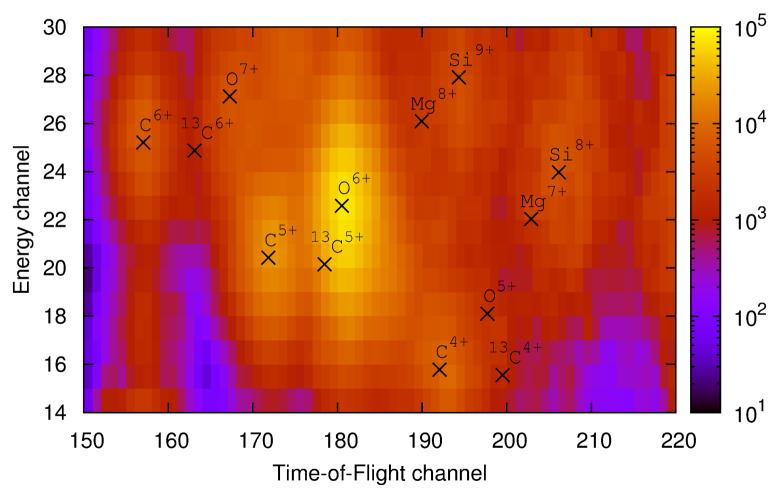
ACE/SWICS – linear ToF spectrometer



One hour's worth of data for one E/q step

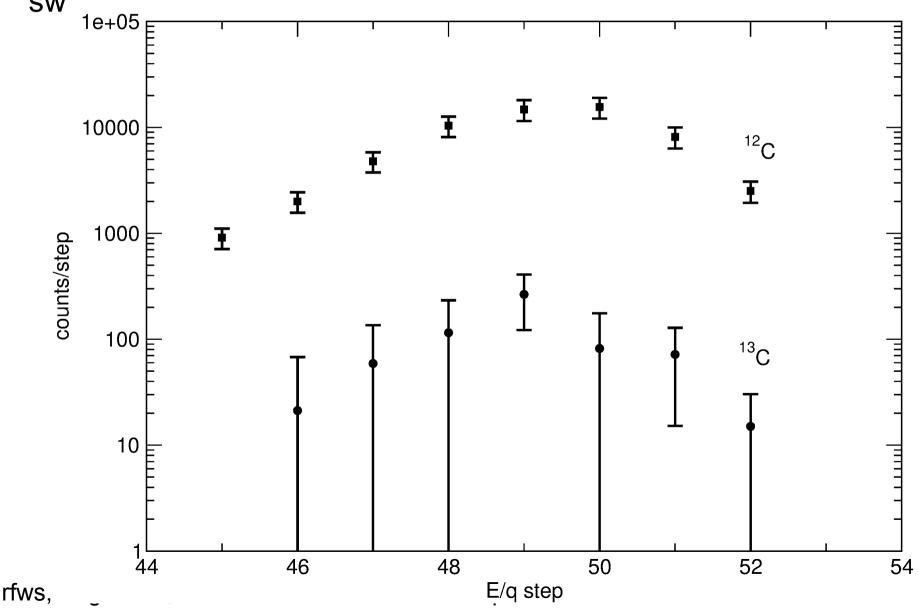


ET-matrix for 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2007 and E/q step 30

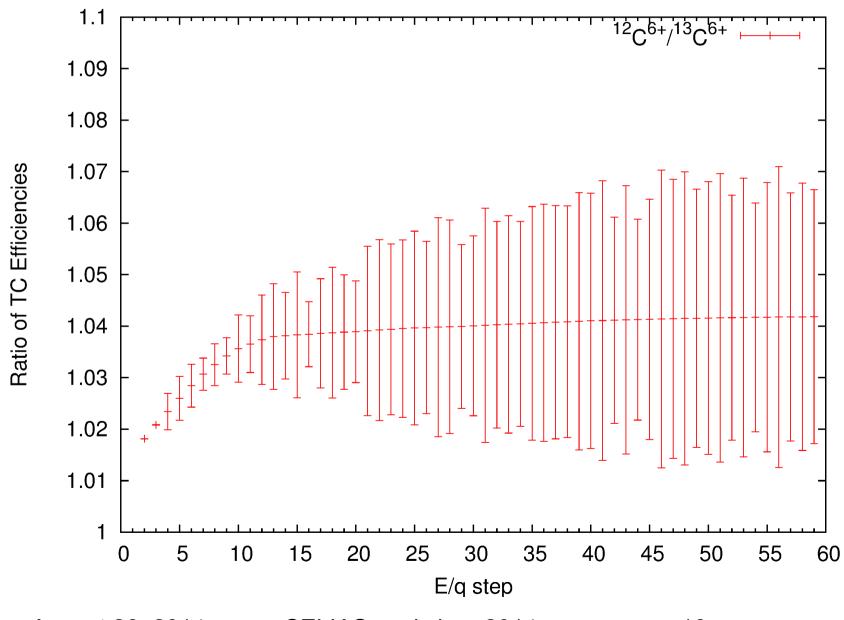


Need to add all years up to 2010

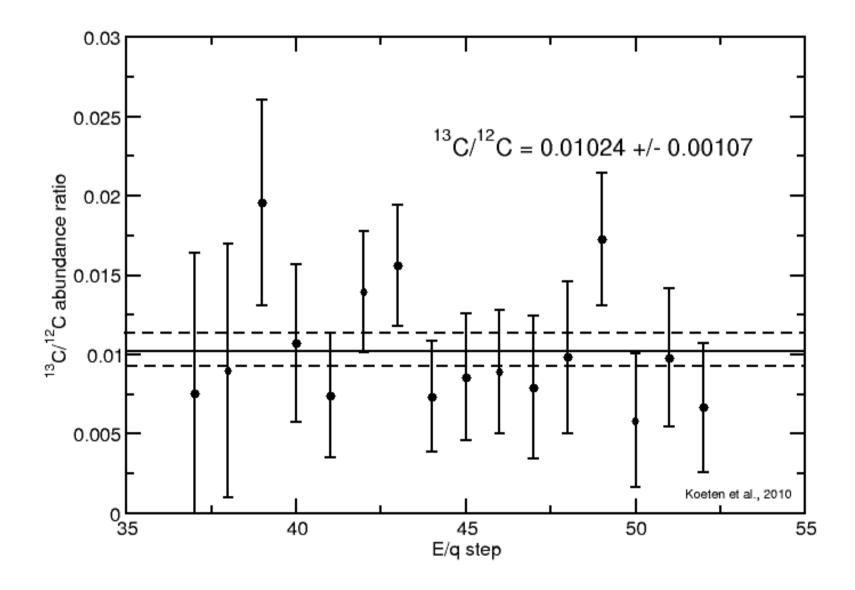
E/q spectrum for 12 C and 13 C for $v_{sw} = 360 \pm 20$ km/s



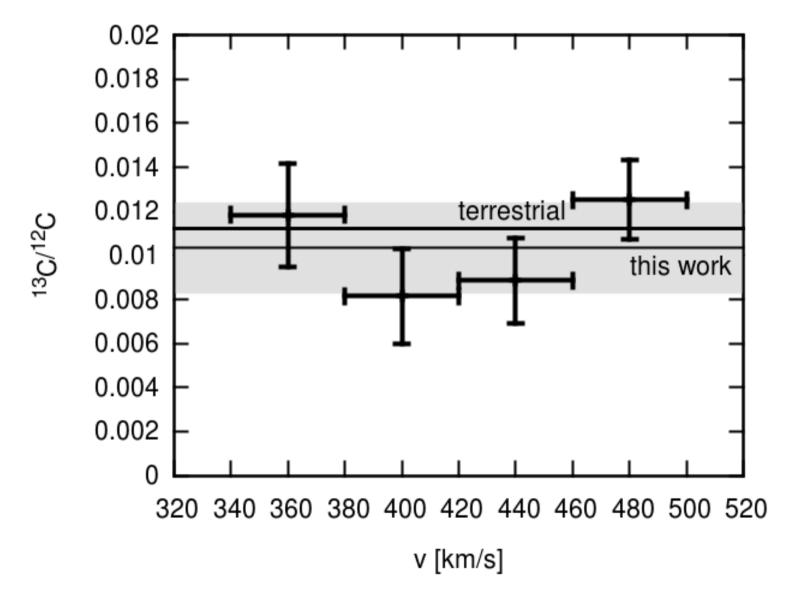
Instrument correction / efficiency



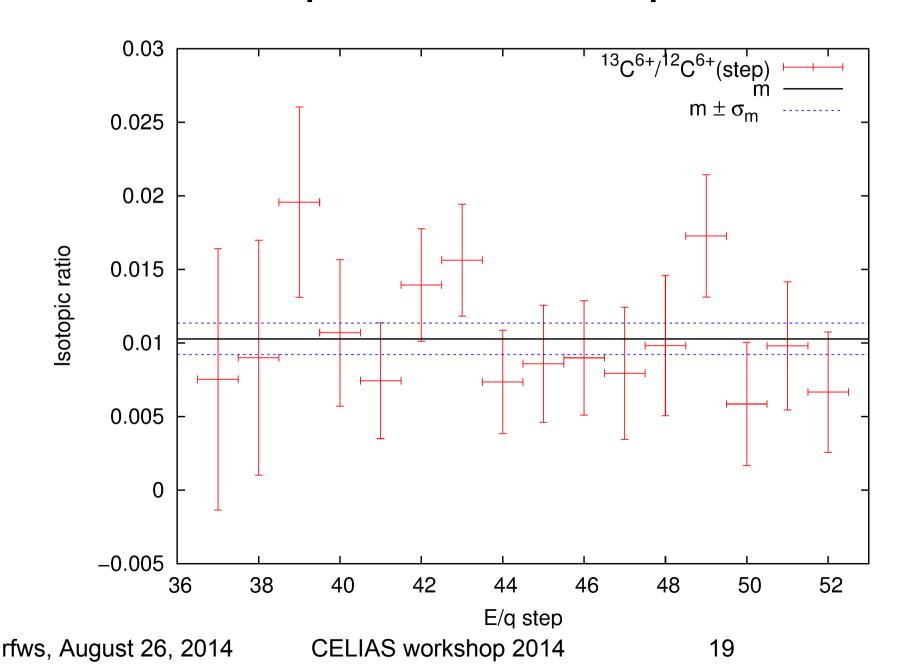
Carbon isotope ratio vs. E/q step



Carbon isotope ratio vs. solar wind speed



Carbon isotope ratio vs. E/q



Discussion & Conclusions

- ¹³C is visible in ACE/SWICS data and we can obtain E/q spectra
- This can be used to derive isotopic abundance
- Instrumental corrections are relatively small, but still larger than we'd like
- ¹²C/¹³C = 97.7 (+10.3/-9.3) indicative of an isotopically light Sun
- Premature, add more data..., better model for peak shape