

## Interstellar catalysts and the PAH universe

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## Propositions accompanying the doctoral thesis Interstellar Catalysts and the PAH Universe

- 1. Superhydrogenation of linear PAHs might provide the first step for nanotube formation in space (Chapter 2).
- 2. Structural defects might play an important role in interstellar catalysis (Chapters 3 and 5).
- 3. A high level of theory does not always provide the most accurate result (Chapter 4).
- 4. Forsterite can catalyze the fragmentation of PAHs, which is a necessary step to link them to the emergence of life (Chapter 5).
- 5. Just as experimentalists use the best setup to run the best experiment, those who make use of theory must use the best functional that provides the best accuracy.
- 6. Catalysts are important on Earth for life's basic functions. Hence, they might play an important role in the formation of molecular species in interstellar space as well.
- 7. Quantum chemistry is an essential part of astrochemistry. Hence, quantum chemistry should be part of astronomy curricula and astrochemistry should be part of chemistry curricula.
- 8. Quantum computers and machine learning are the future, but a blank piece of paper and a pen are the cradle of good ideas.
- 9. We would live in a better world if researchers would earn more than soccer players.
- 10. Being yourself is tiring, being someone else is exhausting.
- 11. Like a song has its own rhythm, a scientific project has its own time.
- 12. Being vaccinated for COVID-19 is an act of love for yourself and for your loved ones.

Dario Campisi Leiden, 14 September 2021