

## Supporting information

# Surface Interaction of Ribonucleic Acid Constituents with Spinel Ferrite Nanoparticles: A Prebiotic Chemistry Experiment

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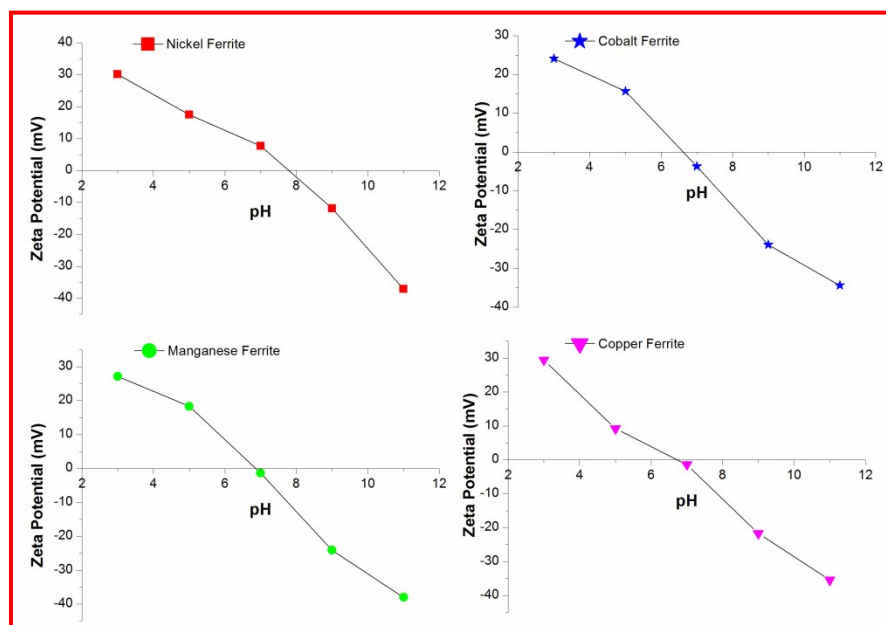


Figure S1: Zero point charge curve of metal ferrites

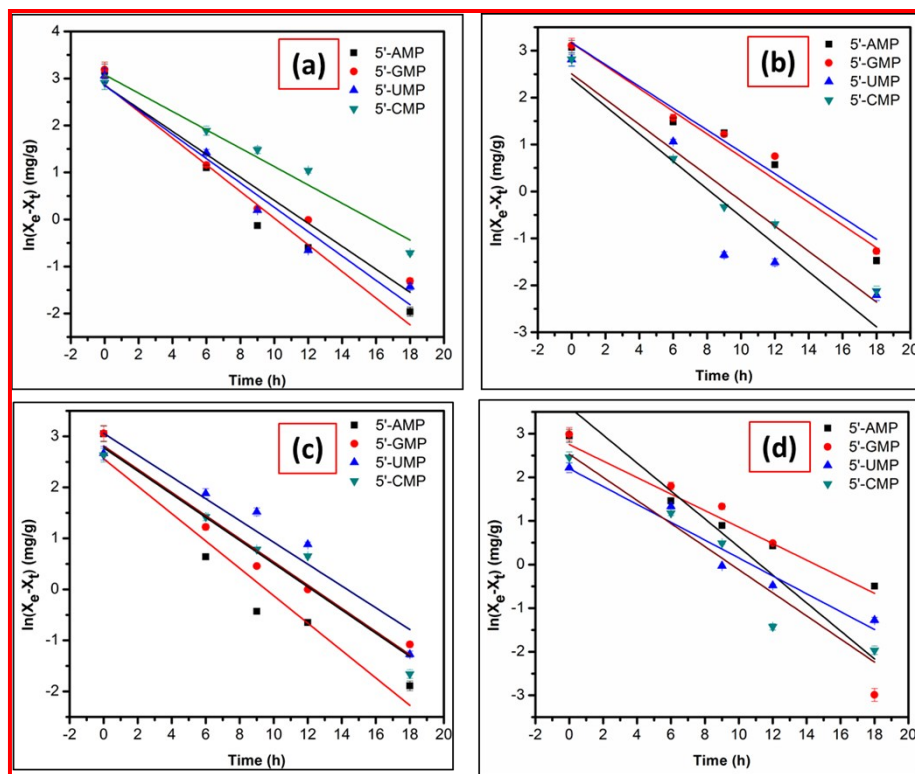


Figure S2: The pseudo first order plots of metal ferrites (a)  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (b)  $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (c)  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  and (d)  $\text{MnFe}_2\text{O}_4$

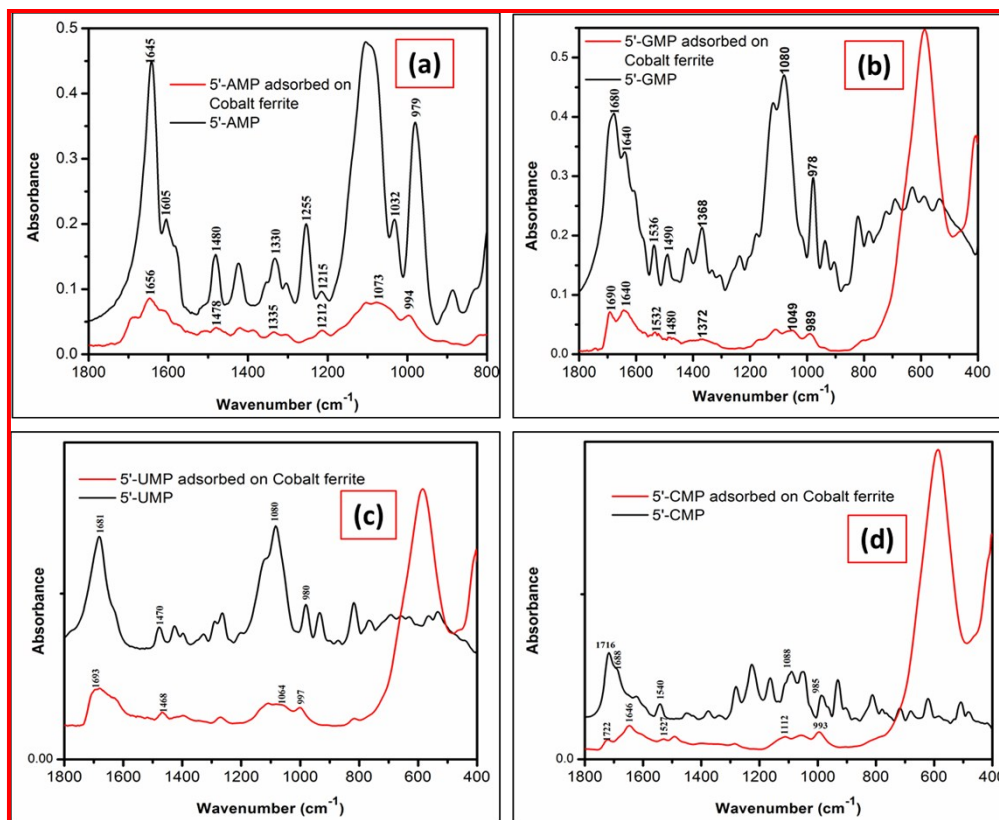


Figure S3: Infra-red spectra of ribonucleotides (a) 5'-AMP, (b) 5'-GMP, (c) 5'-UMP and (d) 5'-CMP before and after interaction with cobalt ferrite

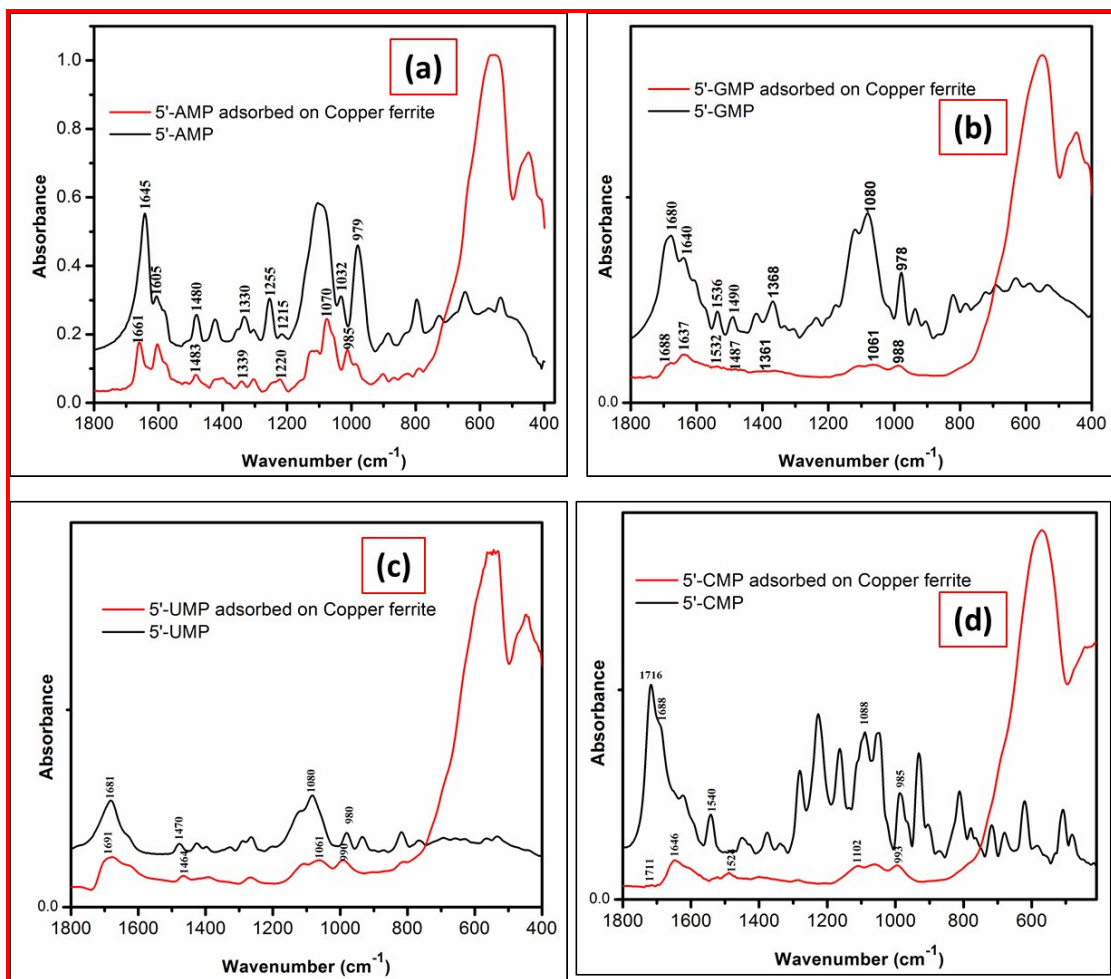


Figure S4: Infra-red spectra of ribonucleotides (a) 5'-AMP, (b) 5'-GMP, (c) 5'-UMP and (d) 5'-CMP before and after interaction with copper ferrite

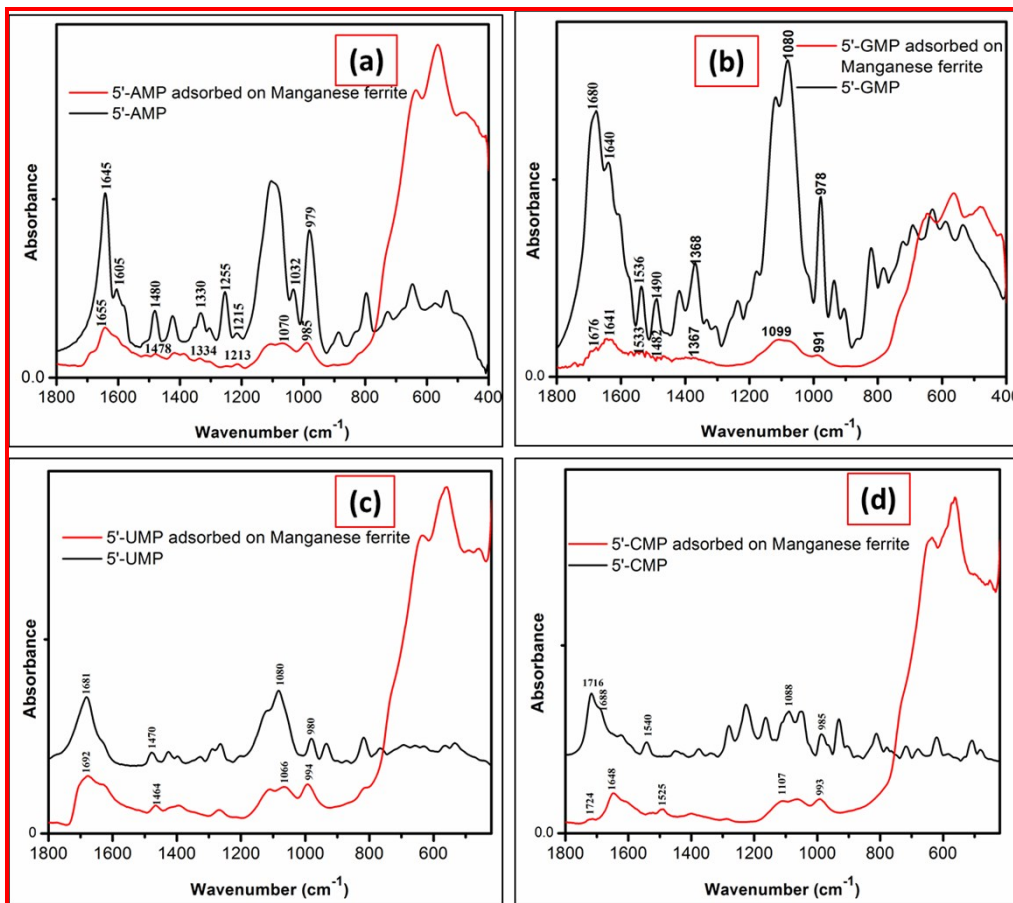


Figure S5: Infra-red spectra of ribonucleotides (a) 5'-AMP, (b) 5'-GMP, (c) 5'-UMP and (d) 5'-CMP before and after interaction with manganese ferrite

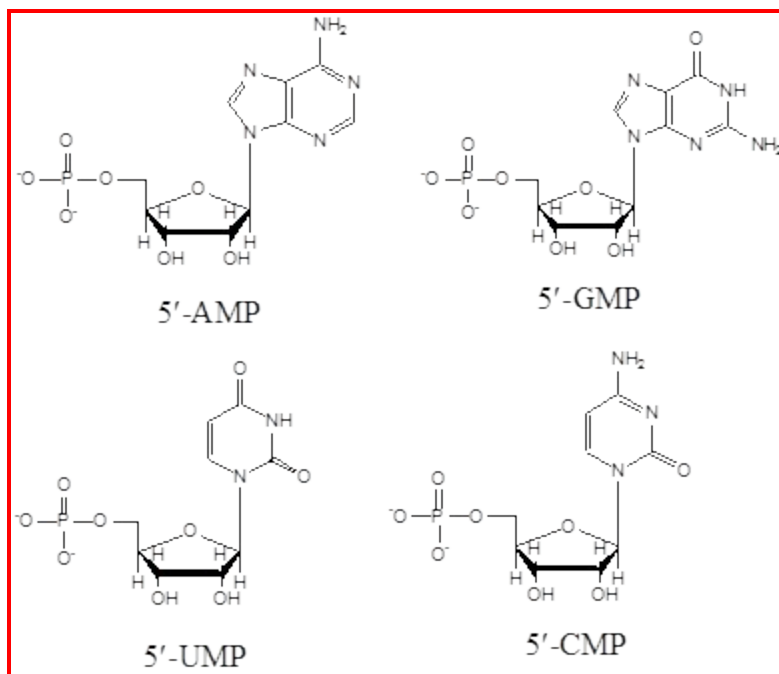


Figure S6: Structure of purine (5'-AMP and 5'-GMP) and pyrimidine (5'-UMP and 5'-CMP) ribonucleotides

Table S1: Langmuir constants for adsorption of ribose nucleotides on metal ferrite at pH~4.00

| Metal ferrite                    | 5'-AMP         |                       |   | 5'-GMP         |                       |   | 5'-UMP         |                       |   | 5'-CMP         |                       |   |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
|                                  | R <sup>2</sup> | X <sub>m</sub> (mg/g) | K <sub>L</sub> ×10 <sup>4</sup> (L/mol) | R <sup>2</sup> | X <sub>m</sub> (mg/g) | K <sub>L</sub> ×10 <sup>4</sup> (L/mol) | R <sup>2</sup> | X <sub>m</sub> (mg/g) | K <sub>L</sub> ×10 <sup>4</sup> (L/mol) | R <sup>2</sup> | X <sub>m</sub> (mg/g) | K <sub>L</sub> ×10 <sup>4</sup> (L/mol) |
| NiFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.99           | 33.78                 | 0.22                                    | 0.99           | 30.65                 | 0.22                                    | 0.99           | 25.13                 | 10.63                                   | 0.99           | 20.08                 | 8.41                                    |
| CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.98           | 30.20                 | 3.81                                    | 0.99           | 23.58                 | 4.13                                    | 0.97           | 21.56                 | 1.42                                    | 0.99           | 17.20                 | 3.30                                    |
| CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.99           | 22.57                 | 5.00                                    | 0.99           | 21.21                 | 4.59                                    | 0.98           | 14.10                 | 3.02                                    | 0.99           | 12.98                 | 2.21                                    |
| MnFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 0.98           | 21.54                 | 3.08                                    | 0.99           | 15.92                 | 12.38                                   | 0.99           | 9.56                  | 2.12                                    | 0.99           | 9.46                  | 1.88                                    |

Table S2: Comparison of rate constants calculated based on first-order and second-order kinetic models for NiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Kinetic model            | 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pseudo first order       |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.96   | 0.95   | 0.95   | 0.95   |
| k <sub>1</sub> (L/hr)    | 0.28   | 0.29   | 0.26   | 0.20   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 16.94  | 17.32  | 17.27  | 21.73  |
| Pseudo second order      |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.99   |
| k <sub>2</sub> (g/mg hr) | 0.09   | 0.07   | 0.06   | 0.02   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 23.75  | 24.78  | 21.88  | 19.71  |

Table S3: Comparison of rate constants calculated based on first-order and second-order kinetic models for CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Kinetic model            | 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pseudo first order       |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.96   | 0.96   | 0.83   | 0.96   |
| k <sub>1</sub> (L/hr)    | 0.24   | 0.23   | 0.29   | 0.27   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 23.57  | 23.80  | 11.02  | 12.25  |
| Pseudo second order      |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.99   |
| k <sub>2</sub> (g/mg hr) | 0.04   | 0.03   | 0.11   | 0.11   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 22.37  | 23.41  | 17.04  | 17.15  |

Table S4: Comparison of rate constants calculated based on first-order and second-order kinetic models for CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Kinetic model            | 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pseudo first order       |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.92   | 0.96   | 0.89   | 0.93   |
| k <sub>1</sub> (L/hr)    | 0.27   | 0.23   | 0.21   | 0.23   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 12.93  | 15.96  | 21.30  | 16.61  |
| Pseudo second order      |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.96   | 0.99   |
| k <sub>2</sub> (g/mg hr) | 0.10   | 0.06   | 0.01   | 0.03   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 21.74  | 21.99  | 17.09  | 14.88  |

Table S5: Comparison of rate constants calculated based on first-order and second-order kinetic models for MnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Kinetic model            | 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pseudo first order       |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.97   | 0.87   | 0.93   | 0.91   |
| k <sub>1</sub> (L/hr)    | 0.19   | 0.32   | 0.20   | 0.26   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 15.64  | 36.96  | 9.00   | 12.54  |
| Pseudo second order      |        |        |        |        |
| R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.99   | 0.99   | 0.98   | 0.99   |
| k <sub>2</sub> (g/mg hr) | 0.04   | 0.03   | 0.04   | 0.06   |
| X <sub>e</sub> (mg/g)    | 20.00  | 21.09  | 10.30  | 12.42  |

Table S6: Typical infrared spectral frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of ribonucleotides before and after absorption on NiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Group/Moiety   | 5'-AMP | Adsorbed 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | Adsorbed 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | Adsorbed 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP | Adsorbed 5'-CMP |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| NH <sub>2</sub>  | 1645   | 1655            | 1640   | 1640            | -      | -               | 1688   | 1645            |
| > C(6)=O   | -      | -               | 1680   | 1687            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| > C(2)=O   | -      | -               | -      | -               | 1681   | 1694            | 1716   | 1721            |
| Pyrimidine/Imidazole vibration                         | 1330   | 1336            | 1536   | 1533            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| Imidazole  | 1215   | 1212            | 1368   | 1364            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| νN-7-C-8 + δC-8-H                                      | 1480   | 1474            | 1490   | 1483            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> antisymmetric stretching | 1032   | 1061            | 1080   | 1056            | 1080   | 1057            | 1088   | 1114            |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> symmetric stretching     | 979    | 991             | 978    | 988             | 980    | 997             | 985    | 994             |



Table S7: Typical infrared spectral frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of ribonucleotides before and after absorption on CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Group/Moiety   | 5'-AMP | Adsorbed 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | Adsorbed 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | Adsorbed 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP | Adsorbed 5'-CMP |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| NH <sub>2</sub>  | 1645   | 1656            | 1640   | 1640            | -      | -               | 1688   | 1646            |
| > C(6)=O   | -      | -               | 1680   | 1690            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| > C(2)=O   | -      | -               | -      | -               | 1681   | 1693            | 1716   | 1722            |
| Pyrimidine/<br>Imidazole vibration                     | 1330   | 1335            | 1536   | 1532            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| Imidazole  | 1215   | 1212            | 1368   | 1372            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| $\nu$ N-7-C-8 + $\delta$ C-8-H                         | 1480   | 1478            | 1490   | 1480            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> antisymmetric stretching | 1032   | 1073            | 1080   | 1049            | 1080   | 1064            | 1088   | 1112            |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> symmetric stretching     | 979    | 994             | 978    | 989             | 980    | 997             | 985    | 993             |

Table S8: Typical infrared spectral frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of ribonucleotides before and after absorption on CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Group/Moiety   | 5'-AMP | Adsorbed 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | Adsorbed 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | Adsorbed 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP | Adsorbed 5'-CMP |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| NH <sub>2</sub>  | 1645   | 1661            | 1640   | 1637            | -      | -               | 1688   | 1646            |
| > C(6)=O   | -      | -               | 1680   | 1688            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| > C(2)=O   | -      | -               | -      | -               | 1681   | 1691            | 1716   | 1711            |
| Pyrimidine/<br>Imidazole vibration                     | 1330   | 1339            | 1536   | 1532            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| Imidazole  | 1215   | 1220            | 1368   | 1361            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| $\nu$ N-7-C-8 + $\delta$ C-8-H                         | 1480   | 1483            | 1490   | 1487            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> antisymmetric stretching | 1032   | 1070            | 1080   | 1061            | 1080   | 1061            | 1088   | 1102            |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> symmetric stretching     | 979    | 985             | 978    | 988             | 980    | 990             | 985    | 993             |

Table S9: Typical infrared spectral frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of ribonucleotides before and after absorption on MnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

| Group/Moiety   | 5'-AMP | Adsorbed 5'-AMP | 5'-GMP | Adsorbed 5'-GMP | 5'-UMP | Adsorbed 5'-UMP | 5'-CMP | Adsorbed 5'-CMP |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| NH <sub>2</sub>  | 1645   | 1655            | 1640   | 1641            | -      | -               | 1688   | 1648            |
| > C(6)=O   | -      | -               | 1680   | 1676            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| > C(2)=O   | -      | -               | -      | -               | 1681   | 1692            | 1716   | 1724            |
| Pyrimidine/<br>Imidazole vibration                     | 1330   | 1334            | 1536   | 1533            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| Imidazole  | 1215   | 1213            | 1368   | 1367            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| $\nu$ N-7-C-8 + $\delta$ C-8-H                         | 1480   | 1478            | 1490   | 1482            | -      | -               | -      | -               |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> antisymmetric stretching | 1032   | 1070            | 1080   | 1099            | 1080   | 1066            | 1088   | 1107            |
| PO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> symmetric stretching     | 979    | 985             | 978    | 991             | 980    | 994             | 985    | 993             |