

### Supplementary Information

| Case | $P-T$ profile | $P_b$ /bar | Star  | Boundary Condition                      | $C_2H_2$ | $C_2H_6$ | HCN     | $HC_3N$ | $CH_3OH$ |
|------|---------------|------------|-------|---|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1    | PT1           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 3.0E-06  | 7.5E-05  | 1.2E-07 | 9.0E-07 | 4.3E-06  |
| 2    | PT2           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 6.5E-06  | 1.3E-03  | 3.4E-07 | 2.1E-05 | 9.9E-05  |
| 3    | PT3           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 1.6E-05  | 8.6E-03  | 4.1E-06 | 1.3E-04 | 3.7E-04  |
| 4    | PT1           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 3.1E-17  | 5.9E-11  | 9.3E-07 | 3.2E-14 | 1.2E-08  |
| 5    | PT3           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 1.7E-12  | 8.5E-07  | 5.5E-08 | 4.1E-10 | 2.5E-07  |
| 6    | PT4           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 1.3E-06  | 1.3E-06  | 2.5E-06 | 6.7E-07 | 7.3E-16  |
| 7    | PT1           | 100        | young | fixed $H_2O$ , $CH_4$ , $NH_3$          | 2.8E-07  | 2.2E-04  | 3.0E-05 | 5.8E-05 | 2.5E-09  |
| 8    | PT4           | 1          | young | fixed $H_2O$ , $CH_4$ , $NH_3$          | 5.8E-03  | 6.8E-04  | 2.1E-05 | 6.7E-07 | 2.9E-19  |
| 9    | PT1           | 100        | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.4E-02$ | 6.0E-17  | 1.31E-08 | 8.4E-09 | 5.7E-13 | 4.3E-11  |
| 10   | PT1           | 100        | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.0E-06$ | 6.2E-21  | 1.2E-11  | 2.6E-10 | 6.3E-18 | 2.9E-15  |
| 11   | PT4           | 1          | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.0E-01$ | 9.1E-13  | 1.7E-10  | 2.0E-12 | 5.0E-13 | 2.4E-09  |

**Table S1** Model assumptions and volume mixing ratios at 1 mbar of prominent molecules for Hycean cases explored with the photochemical calculations in this work (see sections 2.2 and 3.2). The initial metallicity is assumed to be  $100\times$  solar.  $P_b$  is the pressure at the lower boundary. The boundary conditions are those considered at the lower boundary of the atmosphere. The first six cases consider zero-flux boundary conditions, i.e. an unreactive surface, whereas the last five cases consider boundary conditions as discussed in sections 2.2 and 3.2. Cases 7 and 10 compute chemistry at an age of  $\sim 30$  Myr in the early evolution of the planet starting with reduced boundary conditions corresponding to an initial equilibrium composition for  $100\times$  solar metallicity. The last five columns show the volume mixing ratios at 1 mbar of prominent CNO molecules ( $C_2H_2$ ,  $C_2H_6$ , HCN,  $HC_3N$  and  $CH_3OH$ ) expected in  $H_2$ -rich atmospheres.

| Case | $P-T$ profile | $P_b$ /bar | Star  | Boundary Condition                      | $H_2O$  | $CH_4$  | $NH_3$  | $CO_2$  | CO      |
|------|---------------|------------|-------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1    | PT1           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 2.4E-02 | 1.1E-02 | 4.2E-05 | 1.3E-02 | 7.5E-06 |
| 2    | PT2           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 1.0E-02 | 6.7E-03 | 1.5E-04 | 4.5E-03 | 5.1E-05 |
| 3    | PT3           | 100        | old   | zero flux                               | 2.8E-03 | 2.5E-03 | 3.3E-04 | 3.5E-04 | 2.5E-04 |
| 4    | PT1           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 2.4E-02 | 6.8E-06 | 3.4E-09 | 4.1E-02 | 1.9E-03 |
| 5    | PT3           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 2.3E-02 | 8.2E-05 | 1.0E-11 | 4.3E-02 | 9.3E-04 |
| 6    | PT4           | 1          | old   | zero flux                               | 4.8E-08 | 7.8E-05 | 2.2E-07 | 9.4E-15 | 3.0E-09 |
| 7    | PT1           | 100        | young | fixed $H_2O$ , $CH_4$ , $NH_3$          | 2.5E-02 | 5.0E-02 | 1.5E-02 | 4.0E-05 | 2.3E-05 |
| 8    | PT4           | 1          | young | fixed $H_2O$ , $CH_4$ , $NH_3$          | 4.7E-08 | 4.9E-02 | 1.4E-02 | 1.8E-19 | 2.4E-10 |
| 9    | PT1           | 100        | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.4E-02$ | 2.4E-02 | 1.2E-04 | 3.7E-10 | 1.3E-02 | 2.2E-06 |
| 10   | PT1           | 100        | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.0E-06$ | 2.4E-02 | 3.6E-06 | 6.2E-10 | 1.0E-06 | 1.3E-08 |
| 11   | PT4           | 1          | old   | fixed $N_2$ , $H_2O$ ; $CO_2 = 1.0E-01$ | 4.7E-08 | 5.6E-08 | 4.8E-14 | 1.0E-01 | 6.4E-03 |

**Table S2** Model assumptions and volume mixing ratios at 10 mbar of prominent molecules for Hycean cases explored with the photochemical calculations in this work (see sections 2.2 and 3.2). The initial metallicity is assumed to be  $100\times$  solar.  $P_b$  is the pressure at the lower boundary. The boundary conditions are those considered at the lower boundary of the atmosphere. The first six cases consider zero-flux boundary conditions, i.e. an unreactive surface, whereas the last five cases consider boundary conditions as discussed in section 2.2 and 3.2. Cases 7 and 10 compute chemistry at an age of  $\sim 30$  Myr in the early evolution of the planet starting with reduced boundary conditions corresponding to an initial equilibrium composition for  $100\times$  solar metallicity. The last five columns show the volume mixing ratios at 10 mbar of prominent CNO molecules ( $H_2O$ ,  $CH_4$ ,  $NH_3$ ,  $CO_2$  and CO) expected in  $H_2$ -rich atmospheres. The  $H_2O$  abundance is controlled by saturation at the lower boundary, that is mixing ratios of  $\sim 2\times 10^{-2}$  for the 100-bar cases, except when condensation occurs at higher altitudes (e.g., PT2, PT3 and PT4 profiles), where the saturation minimum becomes  $\sim 1\times 10^{-2}$  for PT2,  $\sim 3\times 10^{-3}$  for PT3, and lower for PT4. We note that cooler temperature profiles can decrease the  $H_2O$  abundance further and affect the abundances of other molecules, especially decrease the  $CO_2$  abundance.