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## On the case for an icy origin of life

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A great deal of work is being carried out on the hot origin of life at hydrothermal vents, because the physics, chemistry, and geology all point to this being a very promising hypothesis. Yet at the same time the possibilities of a cold origin of life, either on Earth or elsewhere in the Solar System or beyond, ought not to be dismissed. Here I discuss work that I and others have been doing related to the role of ice along with liquid water in cold prebiotic environments in which life might emerge. Such environments might have been present on the early Earth, but also might be found on other Solar System bodies, in the icy moons of other planets, and in Kuiper-belt objects.