

# Neutrinos, Rare Isotopes of Exotic Nuclei and Nuclear Astrophysics

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THE UNIVERSITY  
of  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON

# Where chemical elements are made

Big Bang

He, H, Li, D

Supernova of Pop III stars and formation of Pop II stars

C, N, O, Mg, Si,  
Ca, Fe, Sr, Ti, ...

Pop II stars going supernova

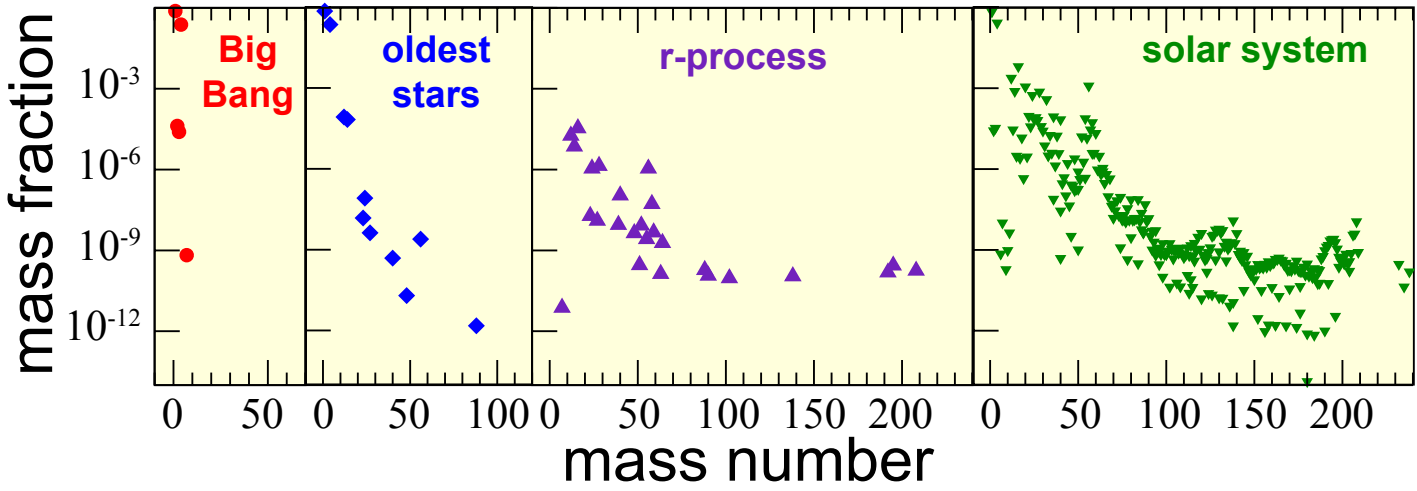
U, Eu, Th, ...  
(via r-process)

AGB stars

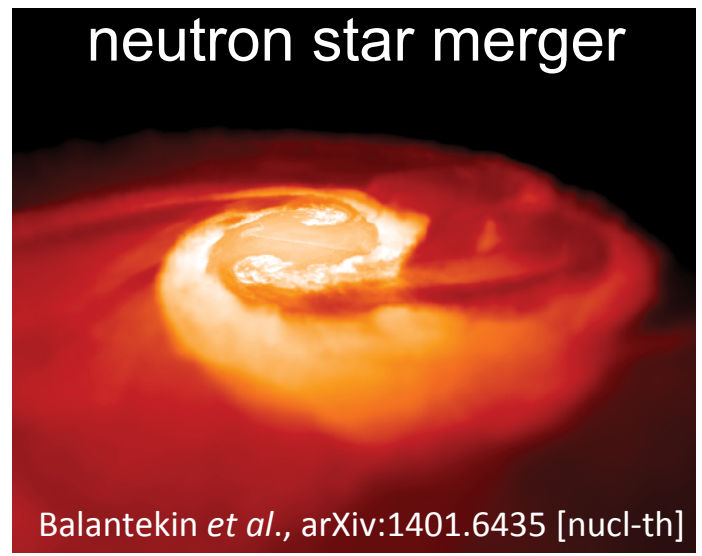
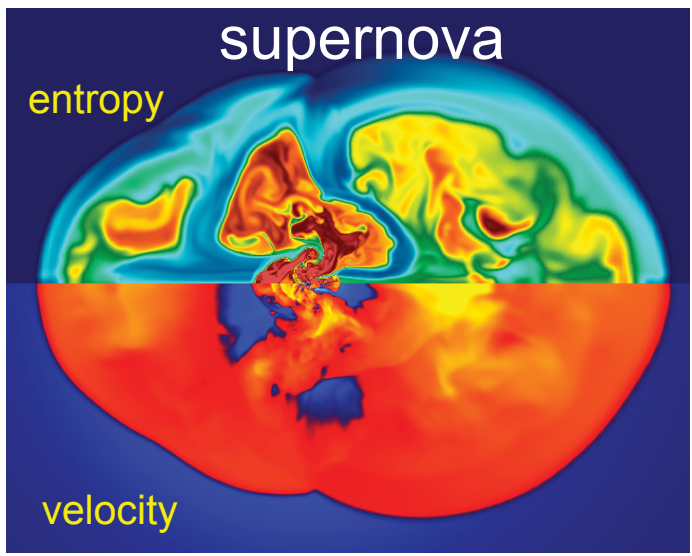
Ba, La, Y ... (via s-  
process)

Neutrinos play a crucial role in many nucleosynthesis scenarios.

# The origin of elements

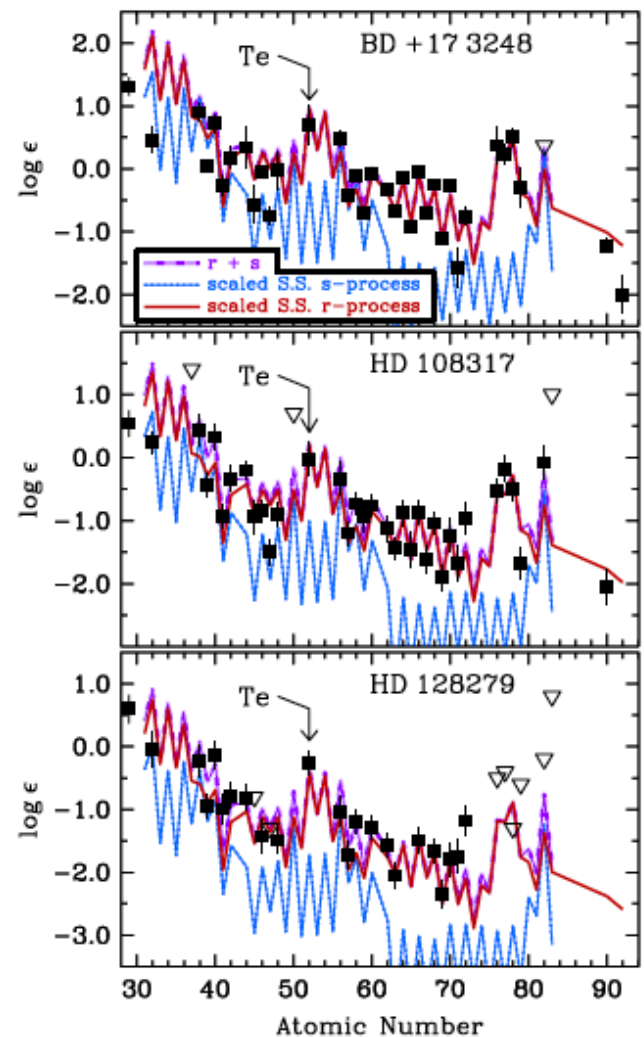
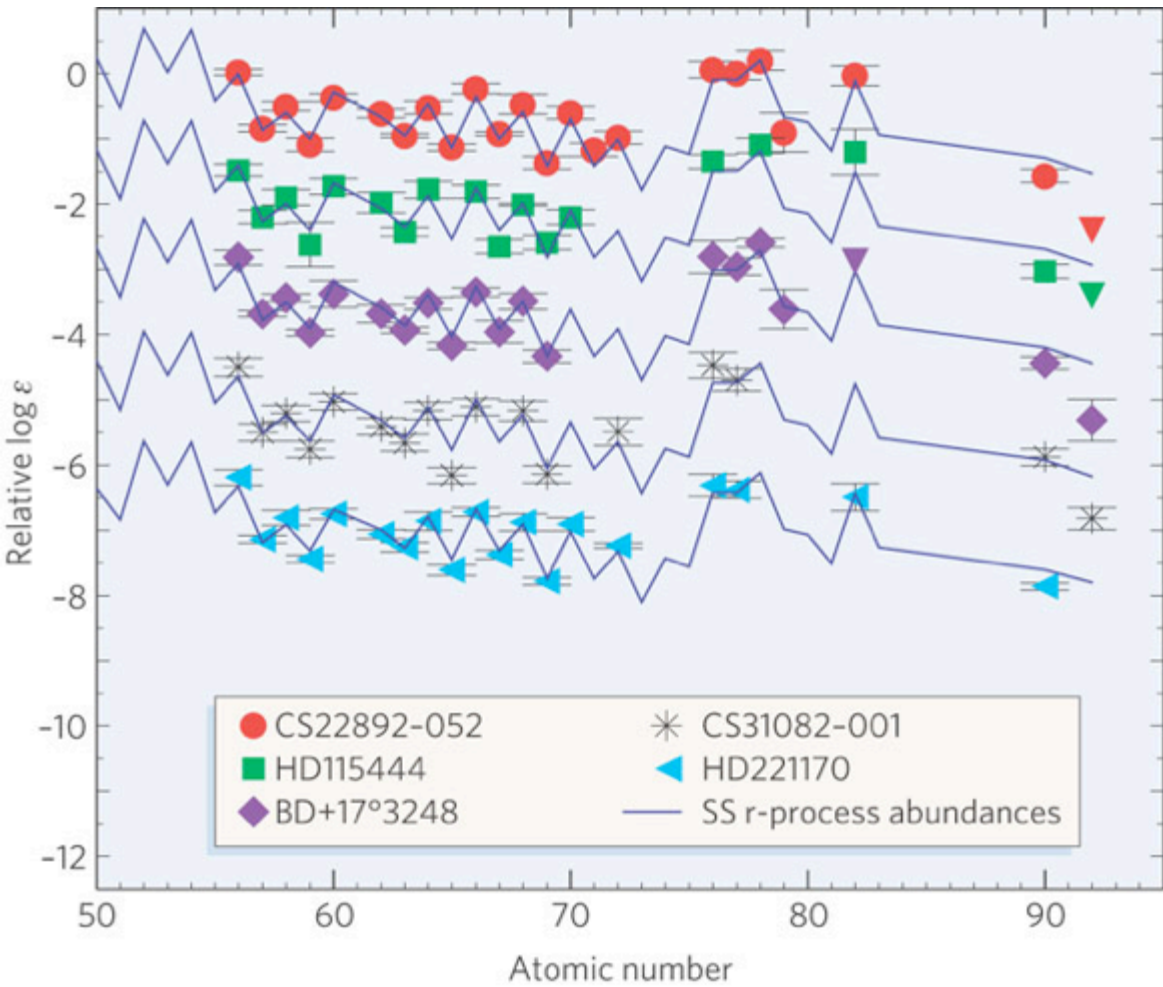


Neutrinos not only play a crucial role in the dynamics of these sites, but they also control the value of the electron fraction, the parameter determining the yields of the r-process.



Possible sites for the r-process

# r-process nucleosynthesis

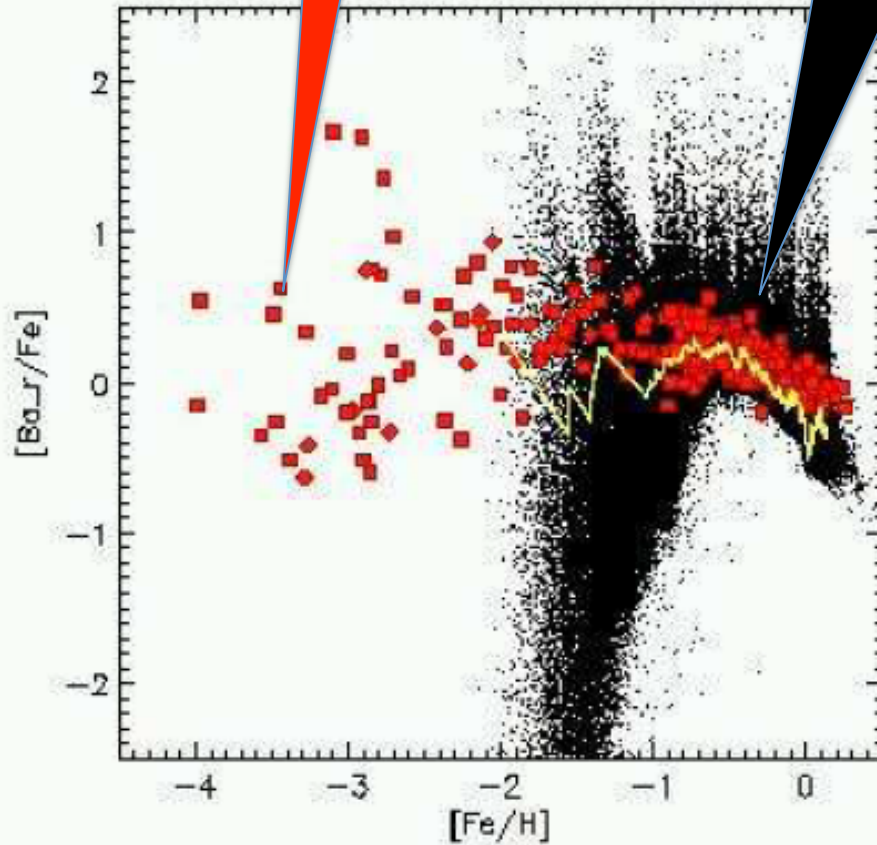


A  $> 100$  abundance pattern fits the solar abundances well.

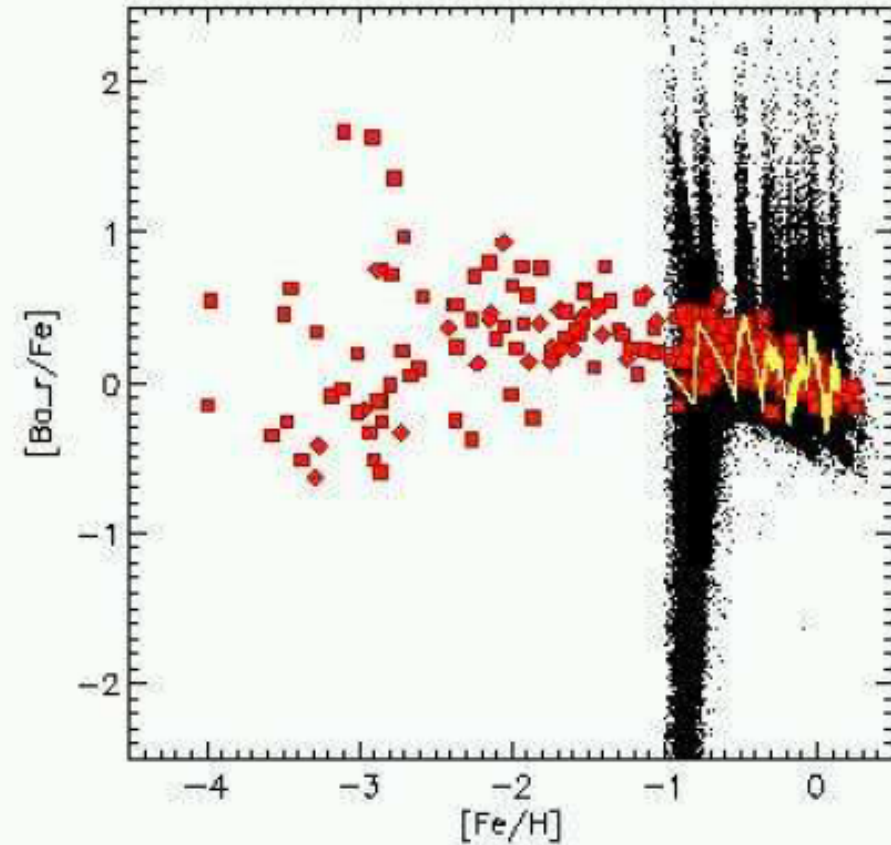
observations

Model calculations for  
neutron-star mergers

Coalescence  
timescale = 1 Myr



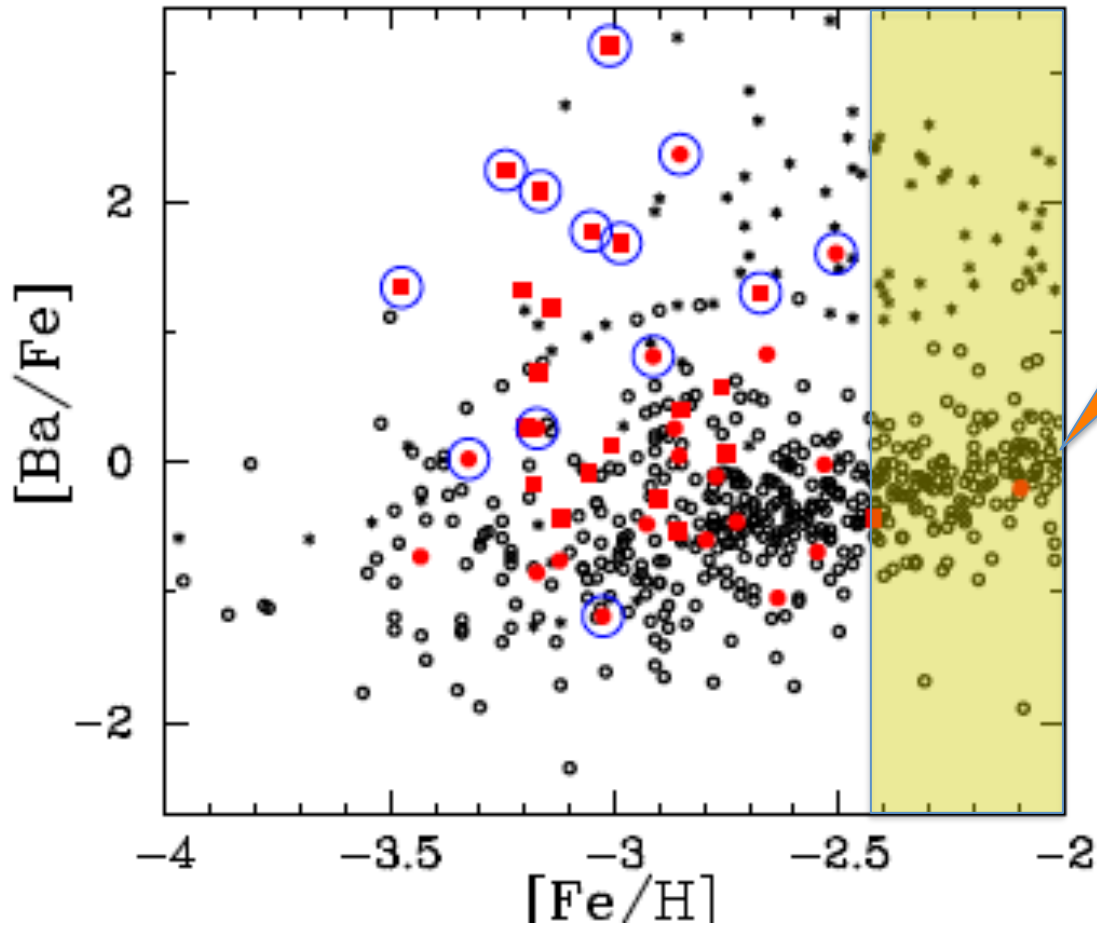
Average merger rate = 20/Myr



Average merger rate = 2/Myr

Star formation rate?

Argast *et al.*, A&A, 416, 997 (2003)

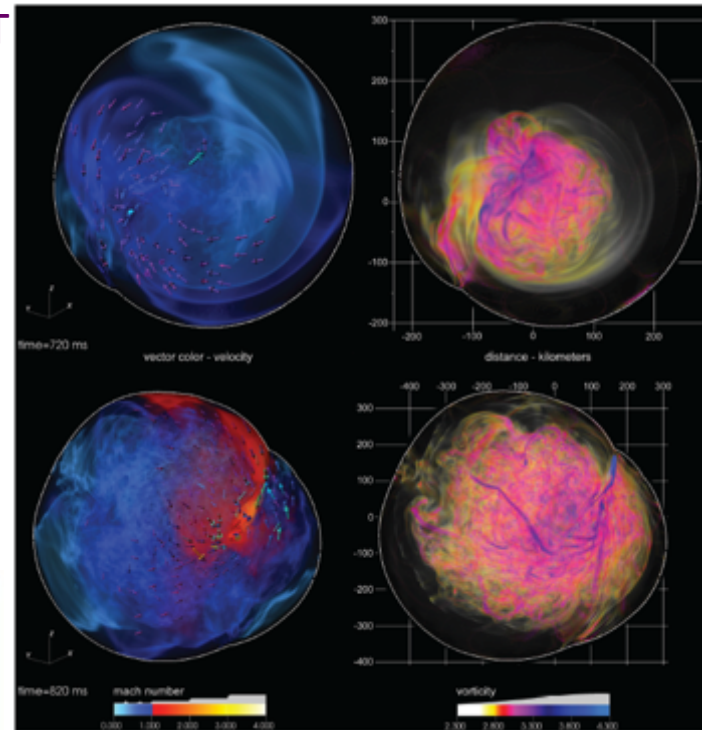
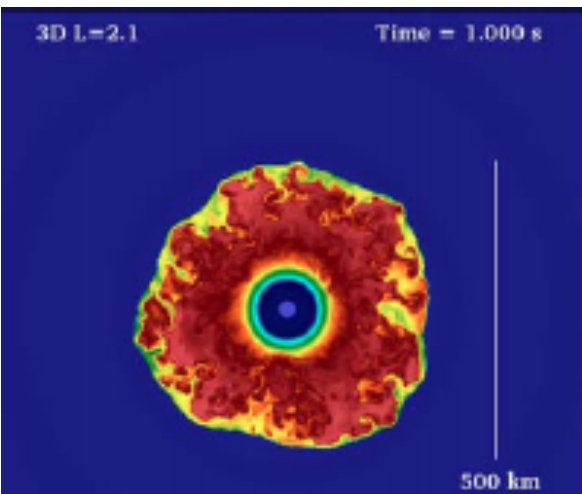


Yield of neutron  
star mergers

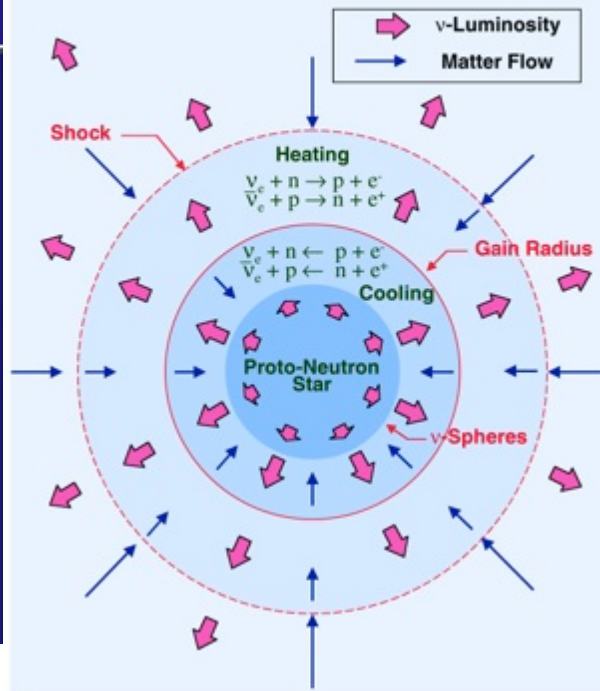
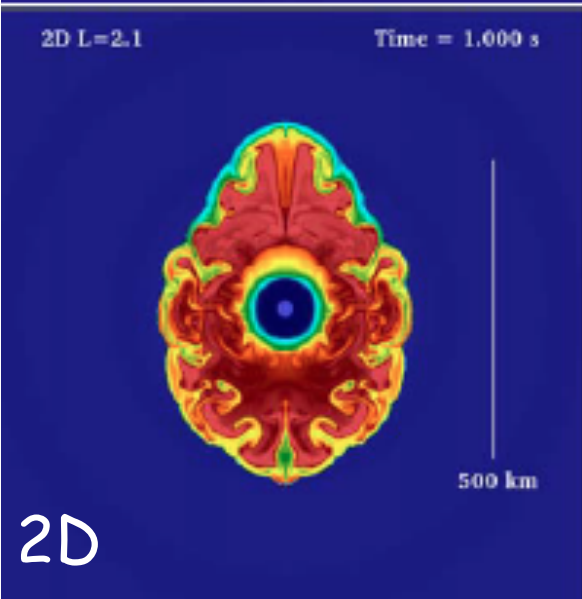
# The core-collapse supernovae



Development of 2D and 3D models for core-collapse supernovae: Complex interplay between turbulence, neutrino physics and thermonuclear reactions.

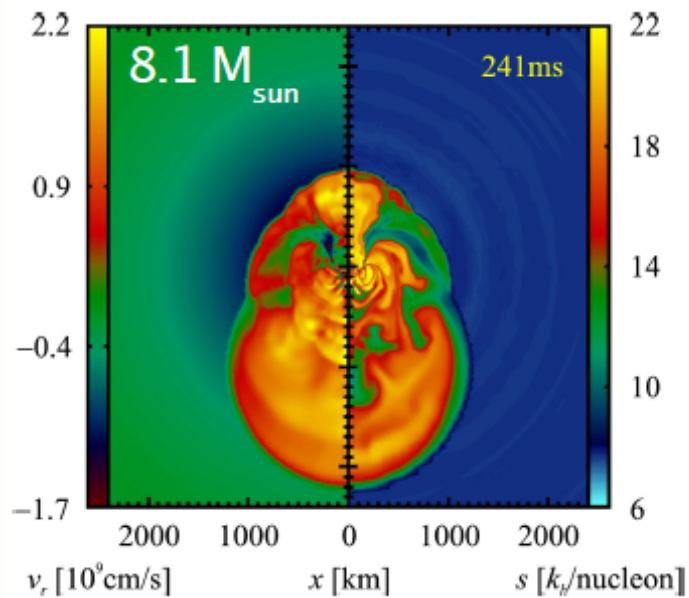


3D



2D

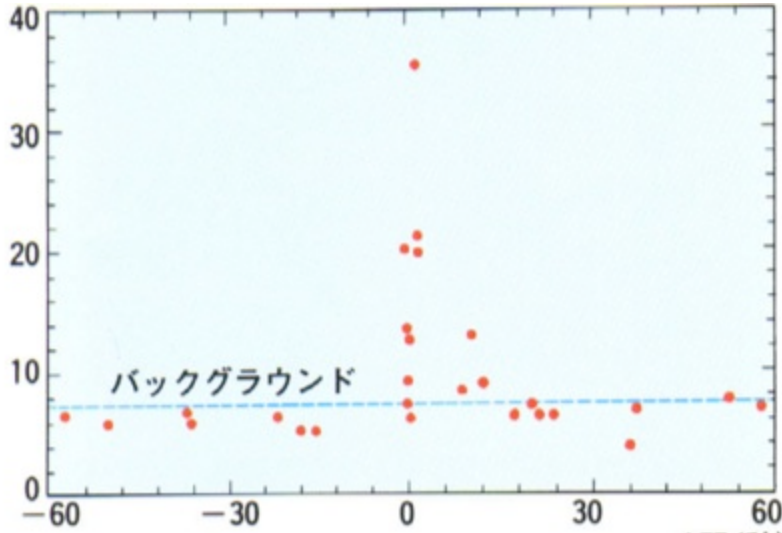
Princeton



Munich

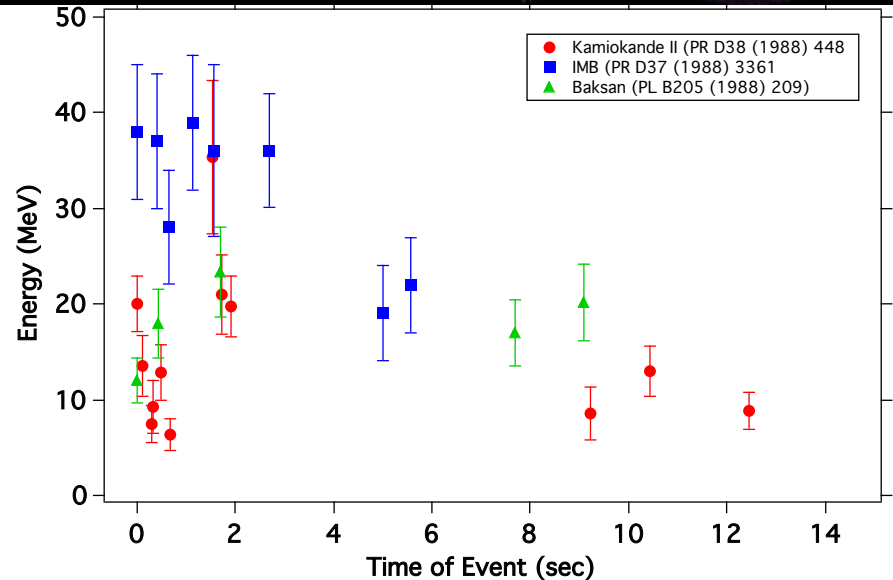
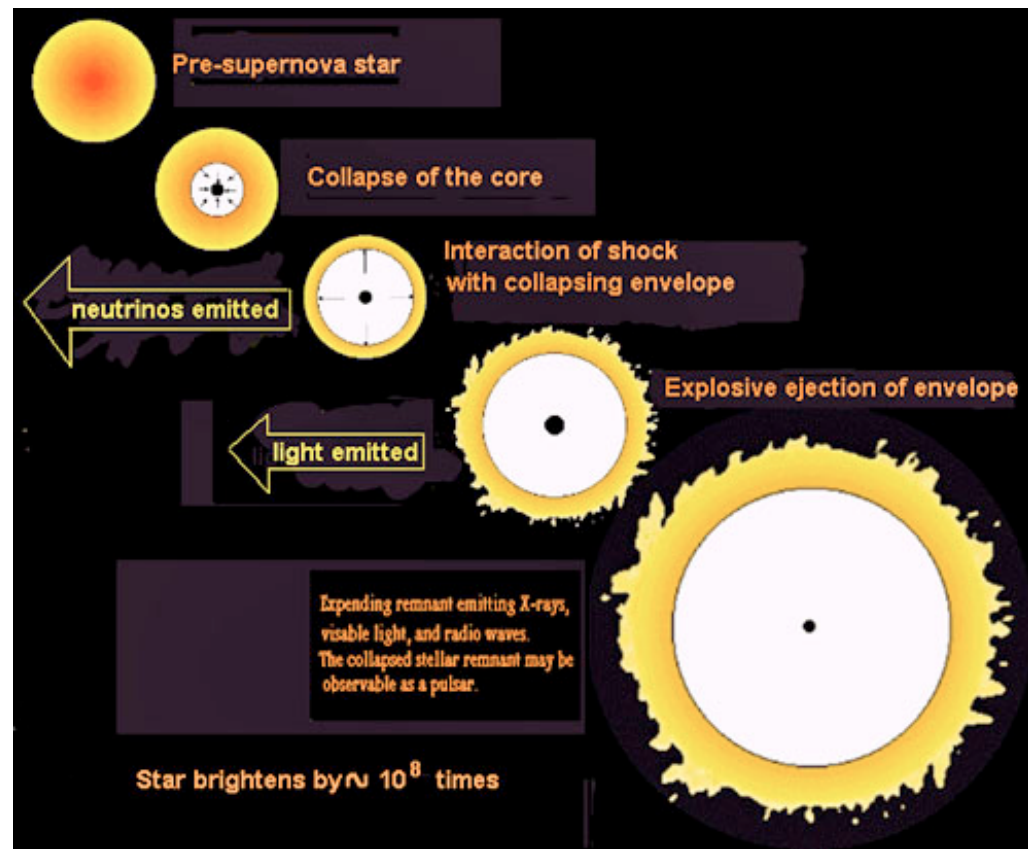


# Neutrinos from core-collapse supernovae



•  $M_{\text{prog}} \geq 8 M_{\text{sun}} \Rightarrow \Delta E \approx 10^{53} \text{ ergs} \approx 10^{59} \text{ MeV}$

• 99% of the energy is carried away by neutrinos and antineutrinos with  $10 \leq E_{\nu} \leq 30 \text{ MeV} \Rightarrow 10^{58}$  neutrinos



# Neutrinos dominate the energetics of core-collapse SN

Total optical and kinetic energy =  $10^{51}$  ergs

Explosion only 1%  
of total energy

Total energy carried by neutrinos =  $10^{53}$  ergs

10% of star's rest  
mass

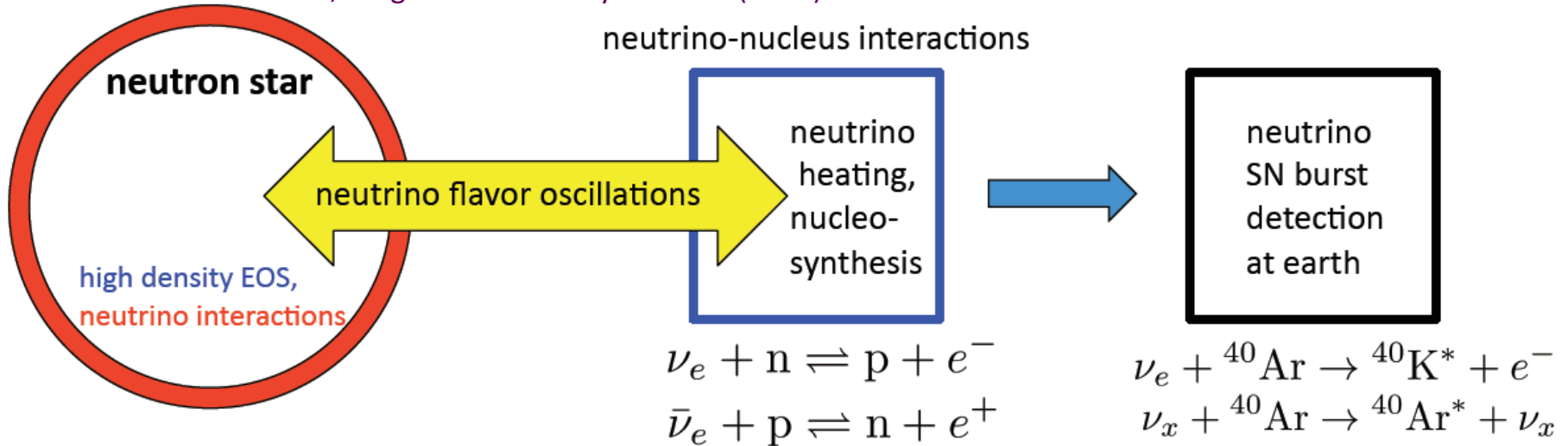
$$E_{grav} \cong \frac{3}{5} \frac{GM_{ns}^2}{R_{ns}} \approx 3 \times 10^{53} \text{ ergs} \left( \frac{M_{ns}}{1.4M_{sun}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{10\text{km}}{R_{ns}} \right)$$

Neutrino diffusion time,  $\tau_\nu \sim 2\text{-}10$  s

$$L_\nu \approx \frac{GM_{ns}^2}{6R_{ns}} \frac{1}{\tau_\nu} \approx 4 \times 10^{51} \text{ ergs} / \text{s}$$

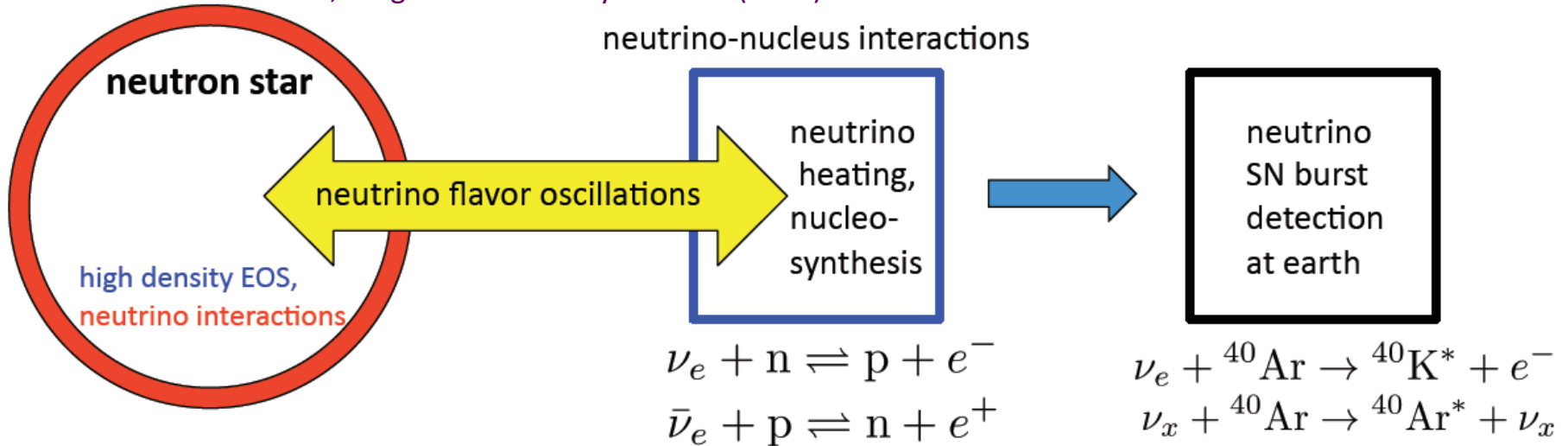
For example understanding a core-collapse supernova requires answers to a variety of questions some of which need to be answered by nuclear physics, both theoretically and experimentally.

Balantekin and Fuller, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **71** 162 (2013)

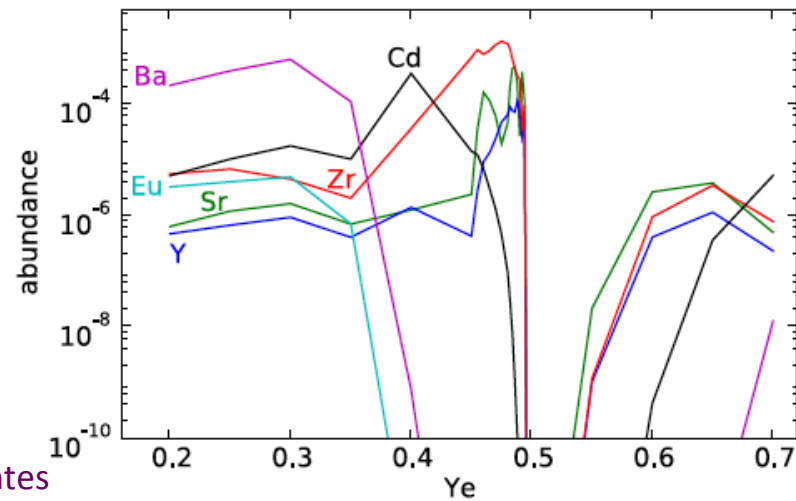


For example understanding a core-collapse supernova requires answers to a variety of questions some of which need to be answered by nuclear physics, both theoretically and experimentally.

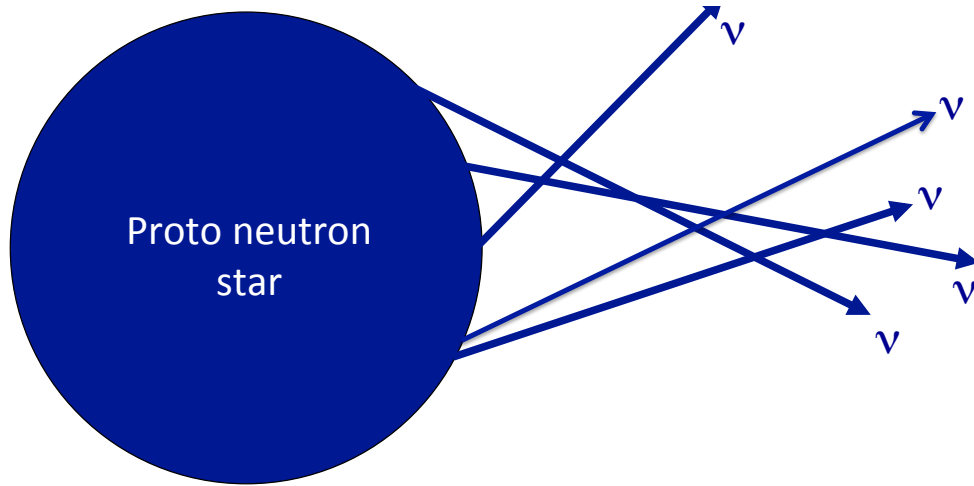
Balantekin and Fuller, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **71** 162 (2013)



$$Y_e = \frac{N_p}{N_p + N_n} = \frac{1}{1 + \lambda_p / \lambda_n}$$



Arcones and Montes



Energy released in a core-collapse SN:  $\Delta E \approx 10^{53}$  ergs  $\approx 10^{59}$  MeV  
 99% of this energy is carried away by neutrinos and antineutrinos!  
 $\sim 10^{58}$  Neutrinos!  
 This necessitates including the effects of  $\nu\nu$  interactions!

$$H = \underbrace{\sum a^\dagger a}_{\text{describes neutrino oscillations interaction with matter (MSW effect)}} + \underbrace{\sum (1 - \cos\theta) a^\dagger a^\dagger a a}_{\text{describes neutrino-neutrino interactions}}$$

The second term makes the physics of a neutrino gas in a core-collapse supernova a very interesting many-body problem, driven by weak interactions.

Neutrino-neutrino interactions lead to novel collective and emergent effects, such as conserved quantities and interesting features in the neutrino energy spectra (spectral "swaps" or "splits").

## Many neutrino system

This is the only many-body system driven by the weak interactions:

Table: Many-body systems

<b>Nuclei</b>	Strong	at most $\sim 250$ particles
<b>Condensed matter</b>	E&M	at most $N_A$ particles
<b><math>\nu</math>'s in SN</b>	Weak	$\sim 10^{58}$ particles

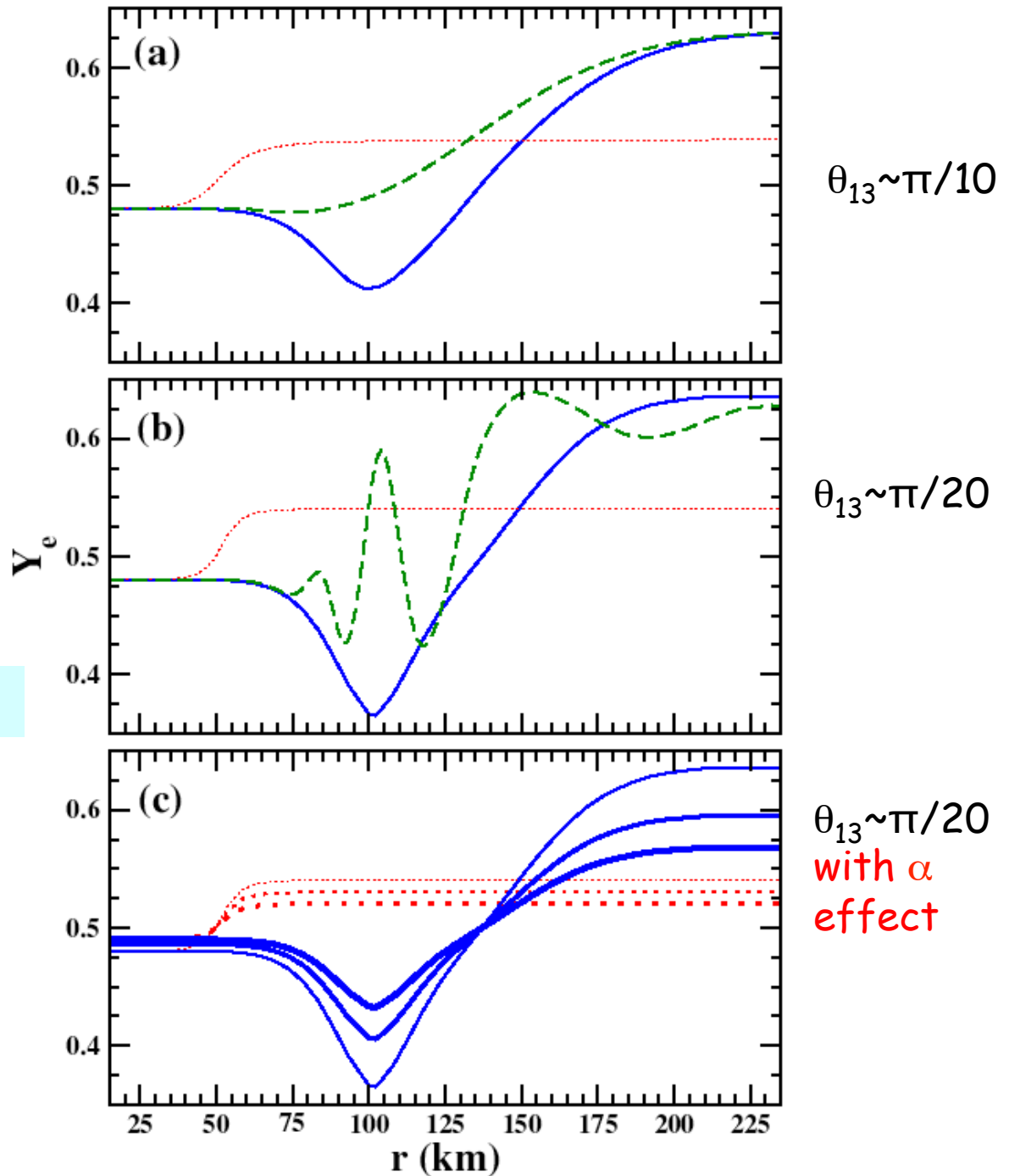
Astrophysical extremes allow us to test physics that cannot be tested elsewhere!

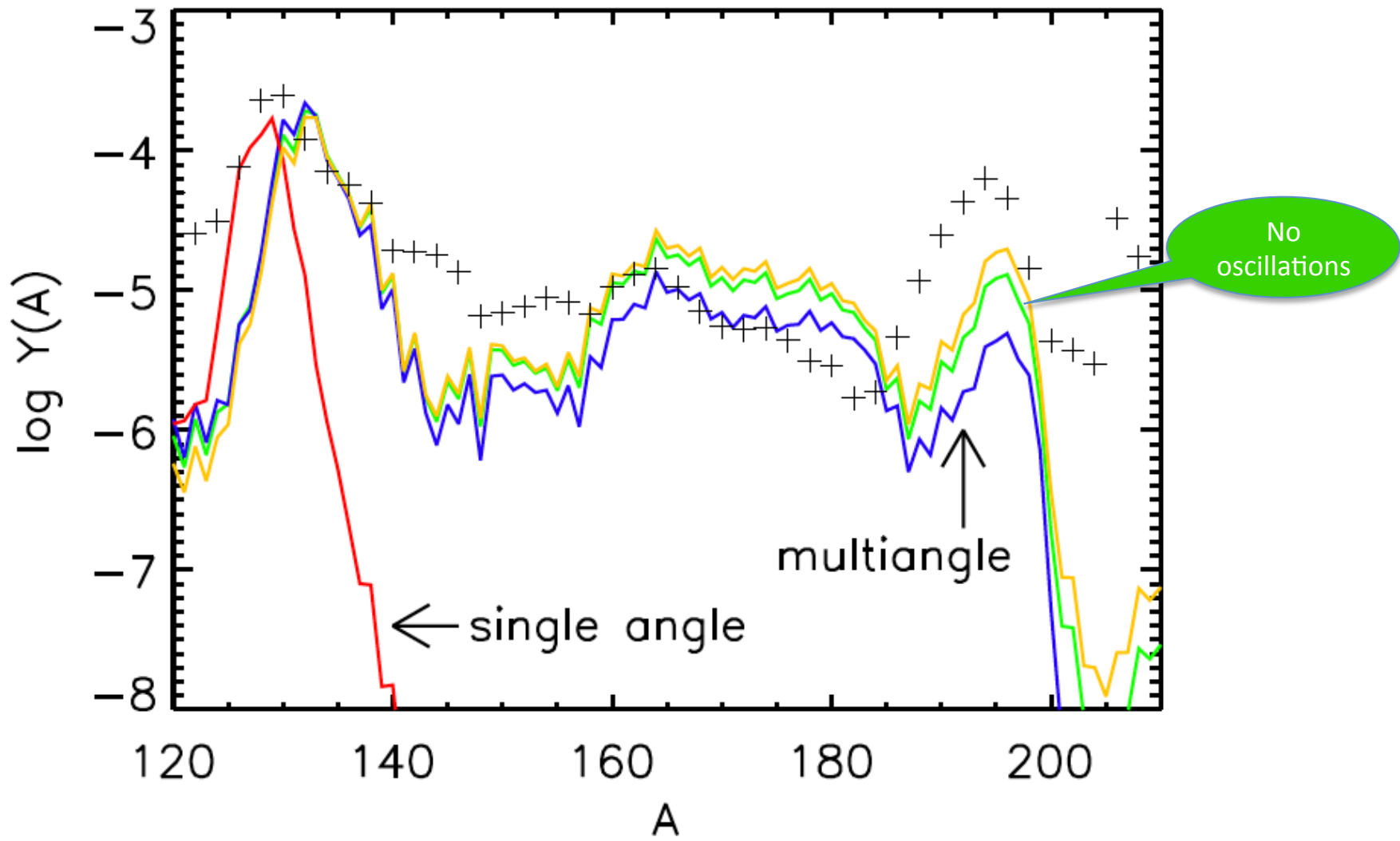
Equilibrium electron fraction with the inclusion of  $\nu\nu$  interactions

$L^{51} = 0.001, 0.1, 50$

Balantekin and Yuksel

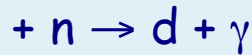
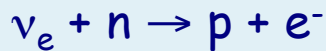
$X_\alpha = 0, 0.3, 0.5$  (thin, medium, thick lines)







Neutrino spallation on alphas produce too many seed nuclei and too few free neutrons (wrecks the r-process at especially high entropy)



(pushes  $Y_e$  toward 0.5)

$$Y_e = \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_p + \lambda_n} + \frac{1\lambda_p - \lambda_n}{2\lambda_p + \lambda_n} X_\alpha$$

If alpha particles are present

$$Y_e^{(0)} = \frac{1}{1 + \lambda_{\bar{\nu}_e}/\lambda_{\nu_e}}$$

If alpha particles are absent

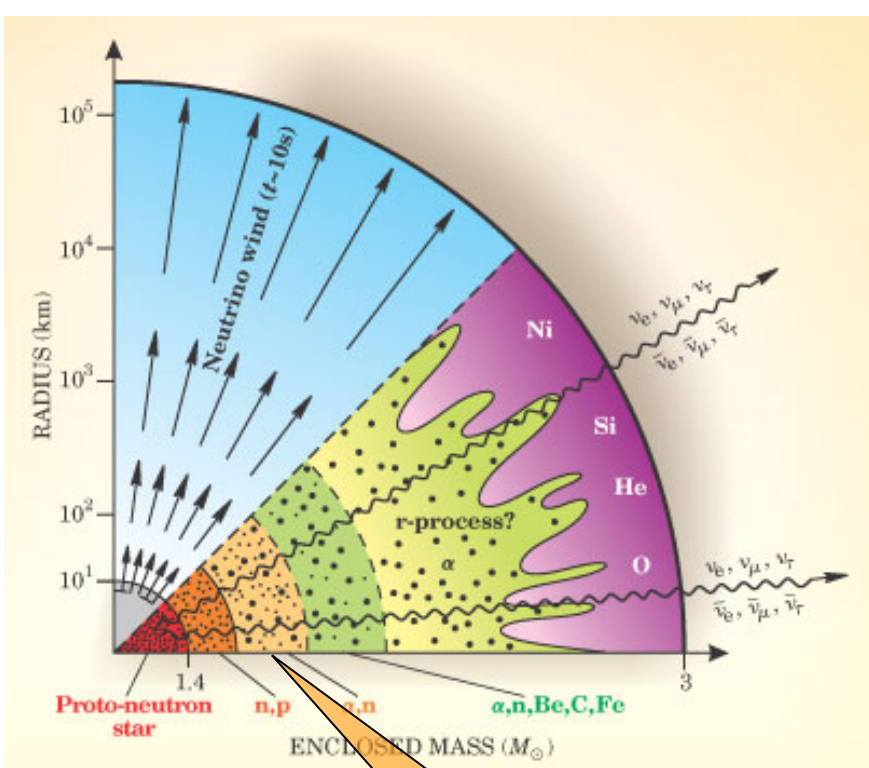
$$Y_e = Y_e^{(0)} + \left( \frac{1}{2} - Y_e^{(0)} \right) X_\alpha$$

If  $Y_e^{(0)} < 1/2$ , non-zero  $X_\alpha$  increases  $Y_e$ .  
 If  $Y_e^{(0)} > 1/2$ , non-zero  $X_\alpha$  decreases  $Y_e$ .



Non-zero  $X_\alpha$   
 pushes  $Y_e$  to 1/2

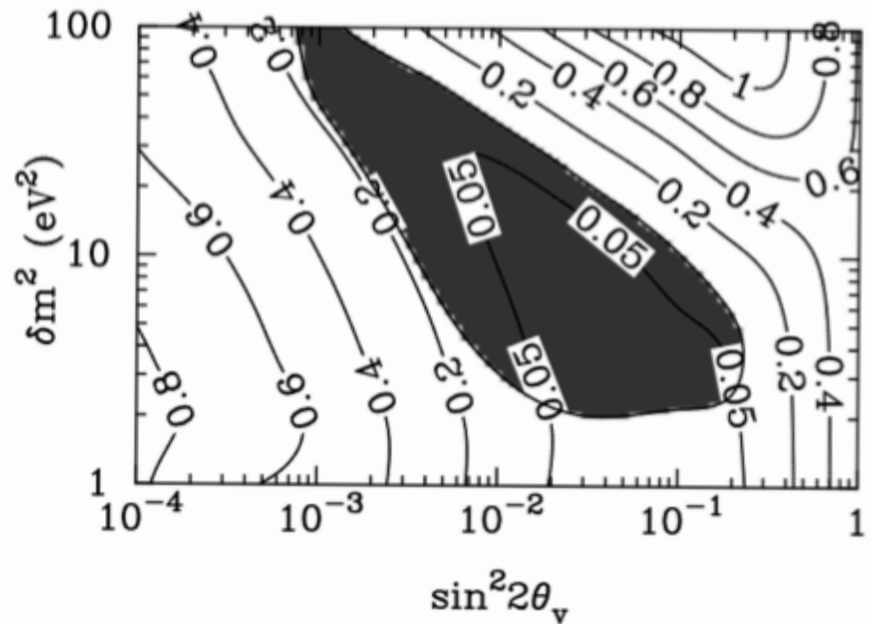
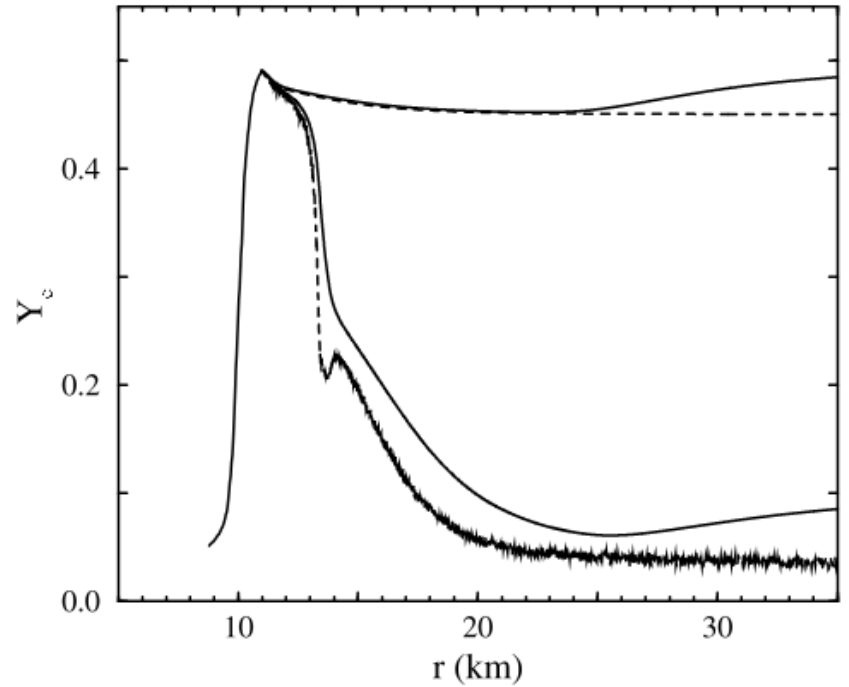
Alpha effect



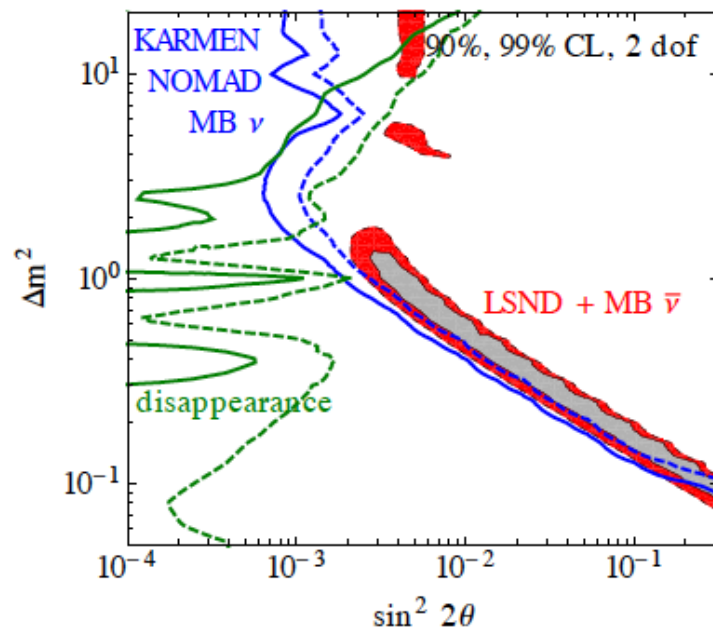
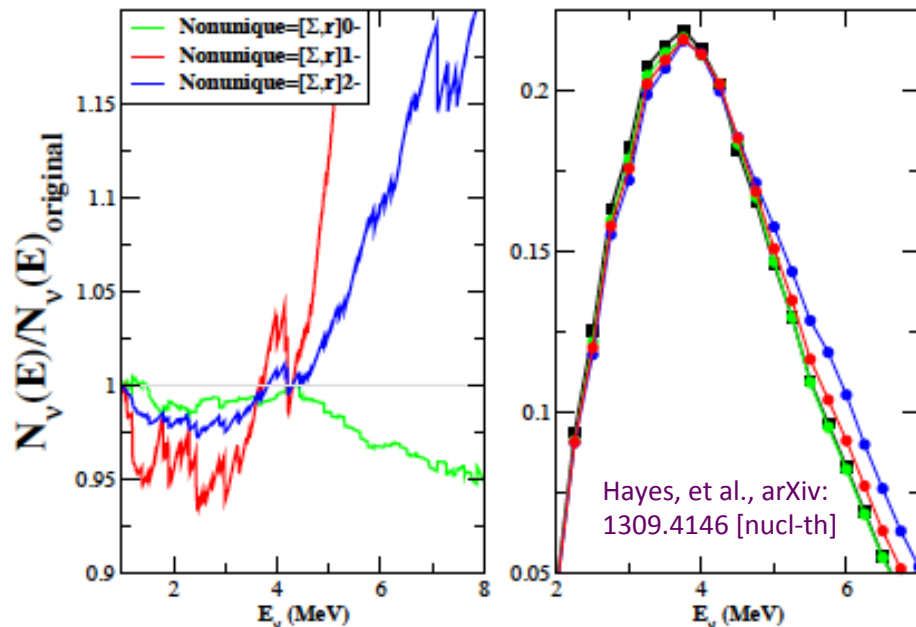
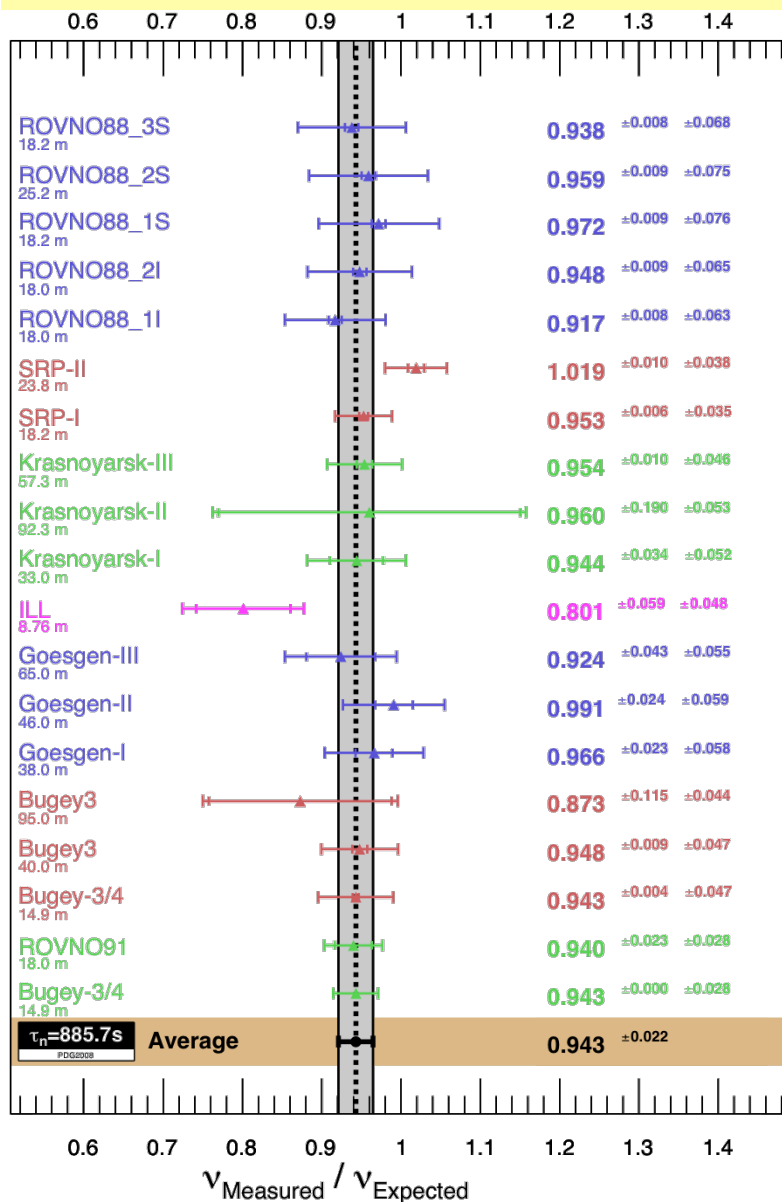
Alpha effect

Active-sterile mixing

McLaughlin, Fetter, Balantekin,  
Fuller, *Astropart. Phys.*, 18, 433  
(2003)



# Does the reactor-flux anomaly imply active-sterile neutrino mixing?



Can we know the reactor neutrino flux ever as well as we need?

# Are Light Sterile Neutrinos Consistent with Supernova Explosions?

Meng-Ru Wu,<sup>1</sup> Tobias Fischer,<sup>2,1</sup> Gabriel Martínez-Pinedo,<sup>1,2</sup> and Yong-Zhong Qian<sup>3</sup>

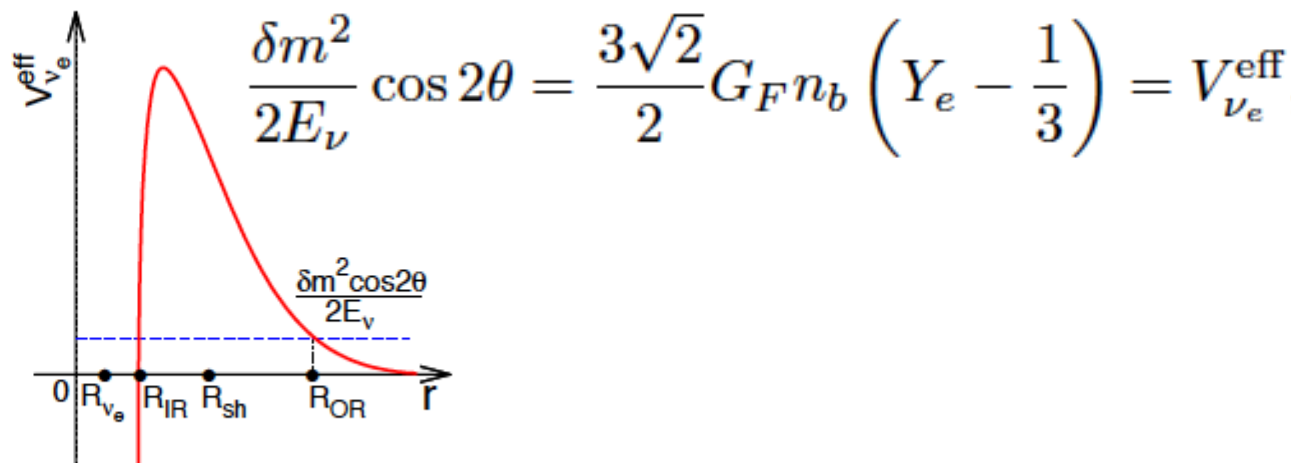
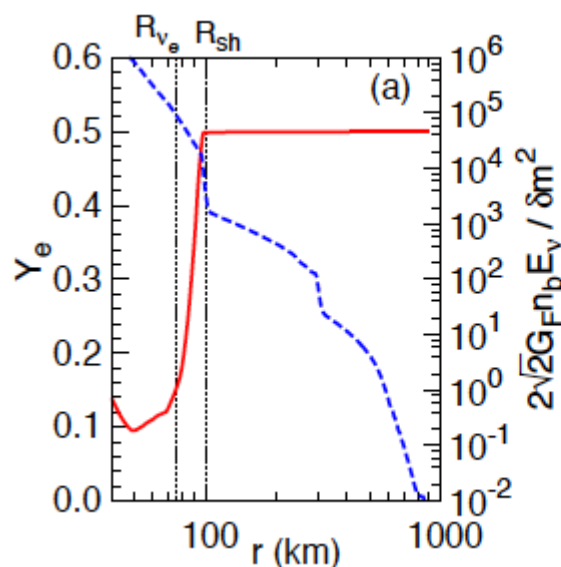
<sup>1</sup>*Institut für Kernphysik (Theoriezentrum), Technische Universität Darmstadt,  
Schlossgartenstraße 2, 64289 Darmstadt, Germany*

<sup>2</sup>*GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Planckstraße 1, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany*

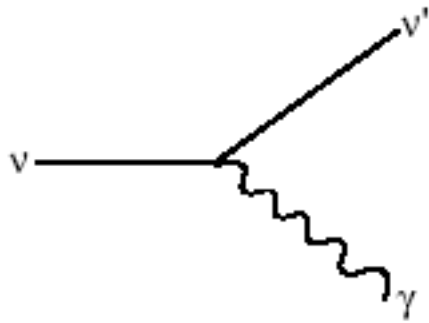
<sup>3</sup>*School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455*

(Dated: May 13, 2013)

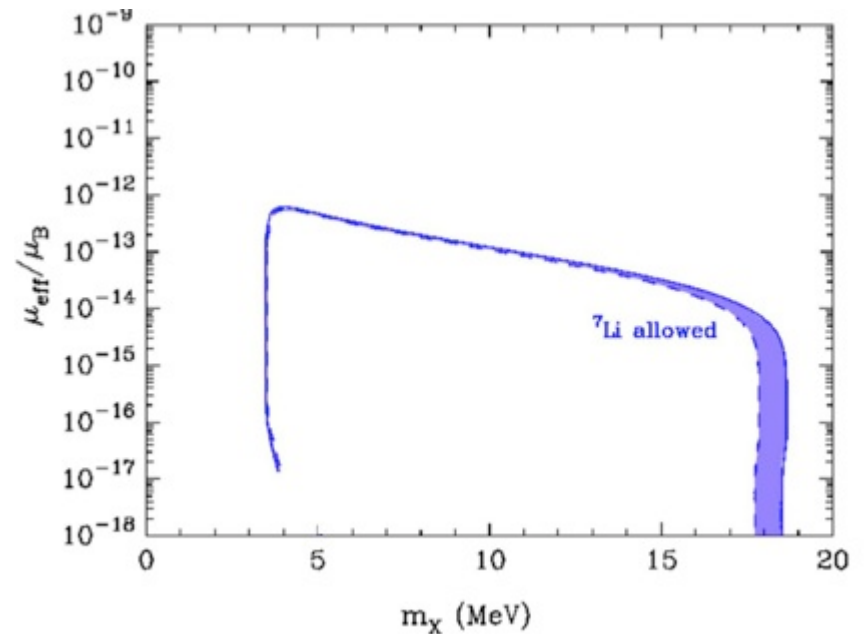
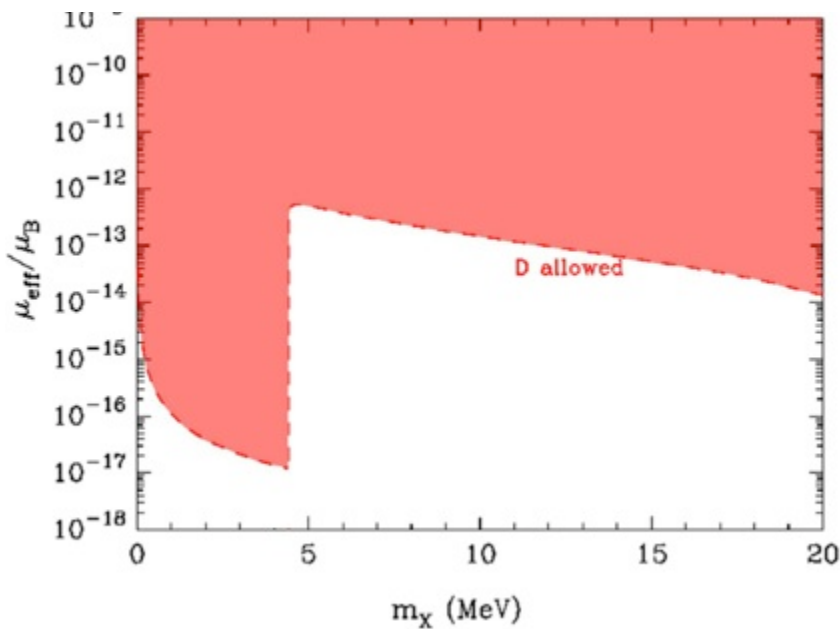
We point out that for sterile neutrinos of the eV mass scale with mixing parameters suggested by the reactor neutrino anomaly, substantial flavor transformation occurs in both  $\nu_e$ - $\nu_s$  and  $\bar{\nu}_e$ - $\bar{\nu}_s$  channels near a supernova core where the electron-to-baryon ratio is  $\approx 1/3$ . We show that the rate of heating by neutrino reactions in the shocked material is significantly reduced for  $\sim 100$  ms after the launch of the shock in spherically symmetric models of  $8.8$  and  $11.2 M_\odot$  supernovae. While the exact



# Sterile neutrino decay and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis



$$\Gamma_{i \rightarrow j} = \frac{|\mu|^2}{8\pi} \left( \frac{m_i^2 - m_j^2}{m_i} \right)^3 = 5.308 s^{-1} \left( \frac{\mu_{eff}}{\mu_B} \right)^2 \left( \frac{m_i^2 - m_j^2}{m_i^2} \right)^3 \left( \frac{m_i}{eV} \right)^3$$



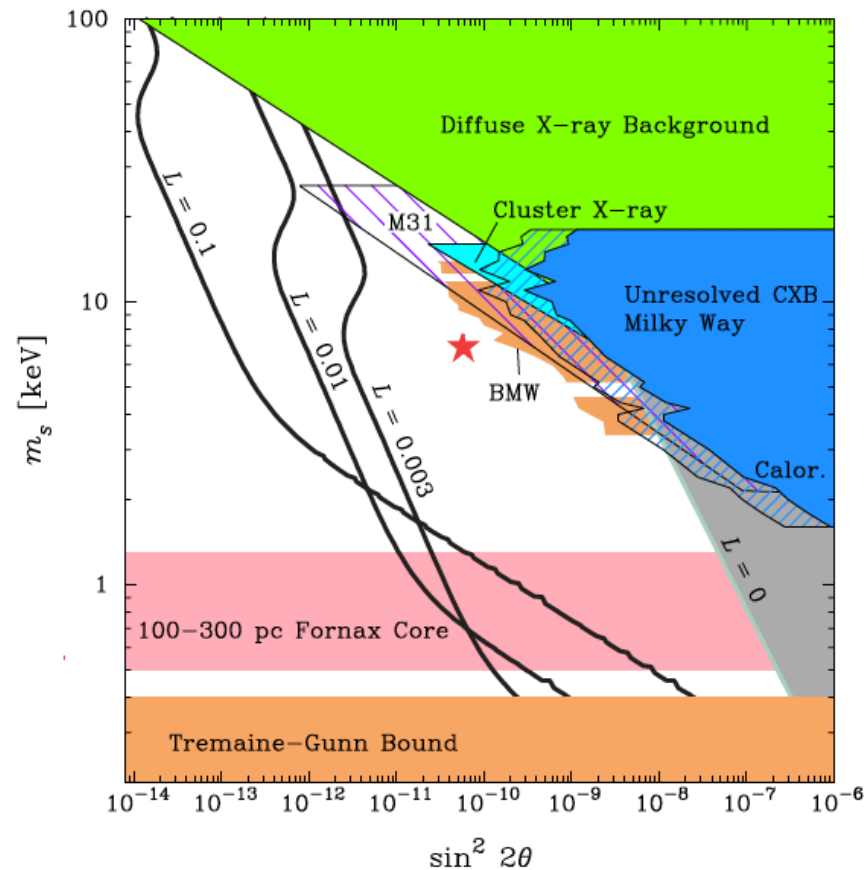
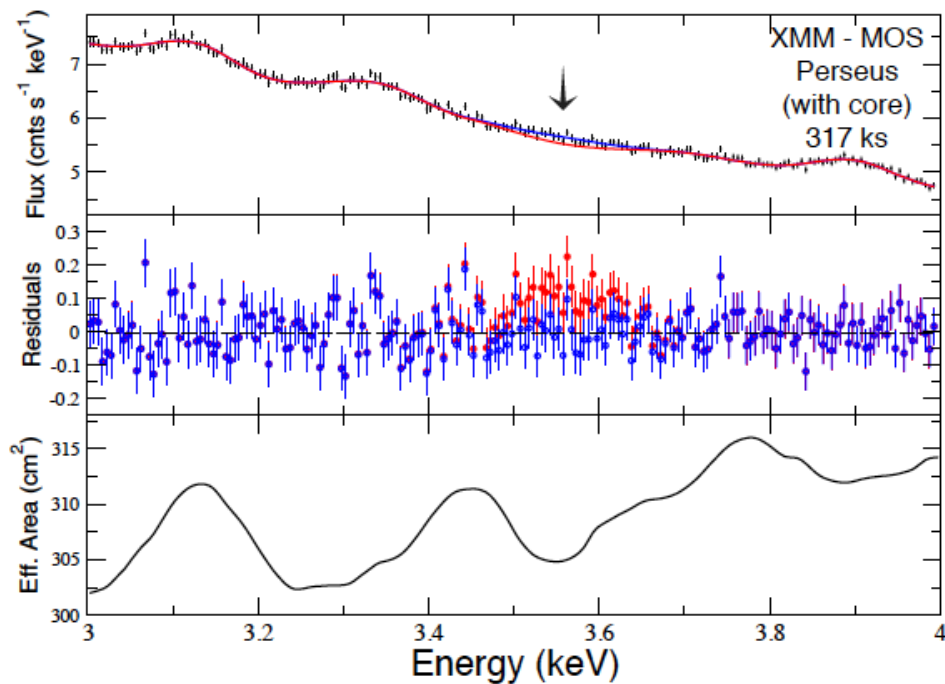
# DETECTION OF AN UNIDENTIFIED EMISSION LINE IN THE STACKED X-RAY SPECTRUM OF GALAXY CLUSTERS

ESRA BULBUL<sup>1,2</sup>, MAXIM MARKEVITCH<sup>2</sup>, ADAM FOSTER<sup>1</sup>, RANDALL K. SMITH<sup>1</sup>, MICHAEL LOEWENSTEIN<sup>2</sup>, AND SCOTT W. RANDALL<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

<sup>2</sup> NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA.

*Submitted to ApJ, 2014 February 10*



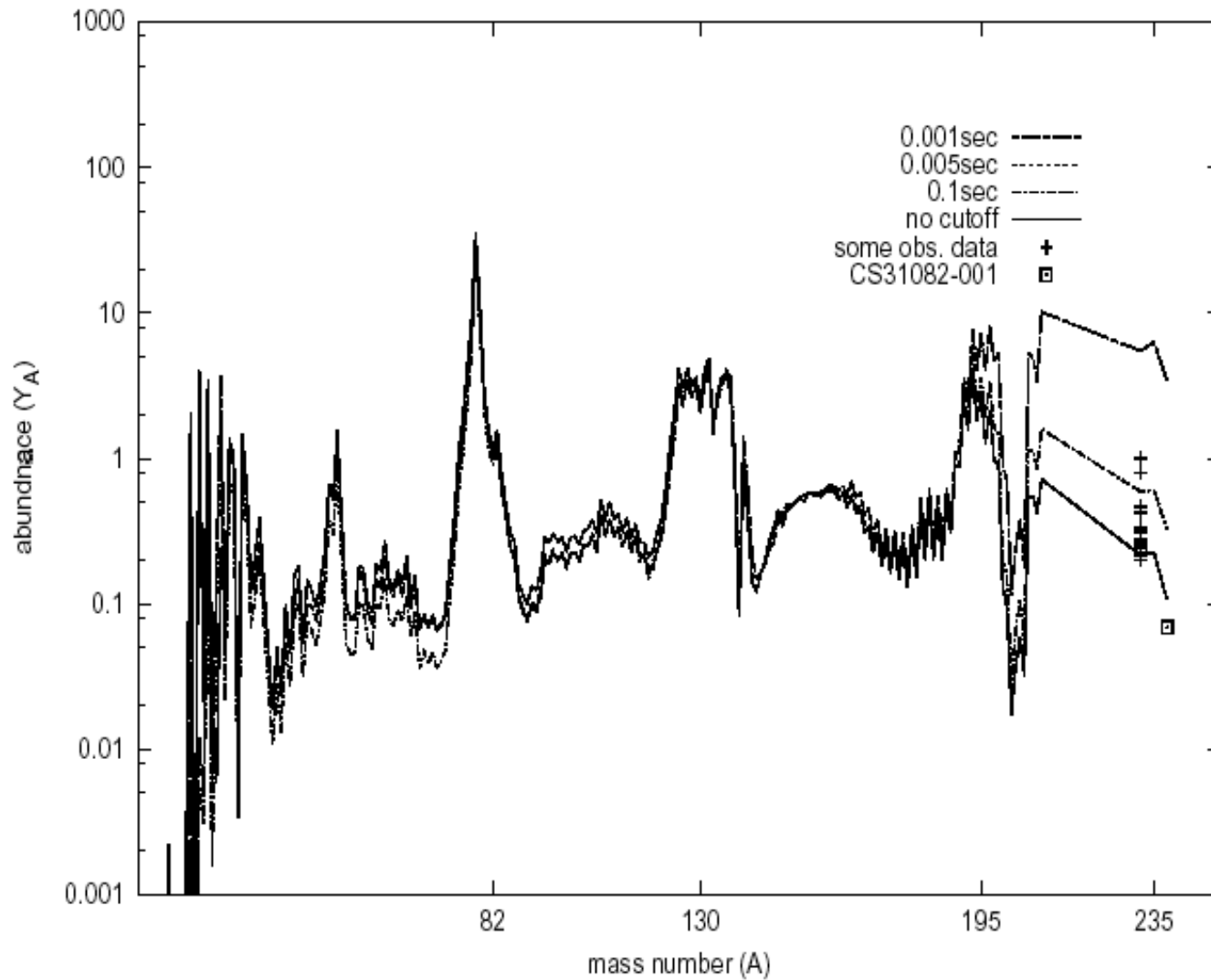
See also : [arXiv:1204.5477](https://arxiv.org/abs/1204.5477) [hep-ph],  
[F. Bezrukov](#), [A. Kartavtsev](#), [M. Lindner](#)

Sterile neutrino mass	How it asserts itself	What does it solve?
~ 1 eV	Mixing with active flavors	Reactor anomaly, IceCube data
~ 7 keV	Electromagnetic decay	Gammas rays from the galactic centers
~ 4-5 MeV	Electromagnetic decay	${}^7\text{Li}$ problem in BBN

Are we cooking up a separate magic potion for each malady?



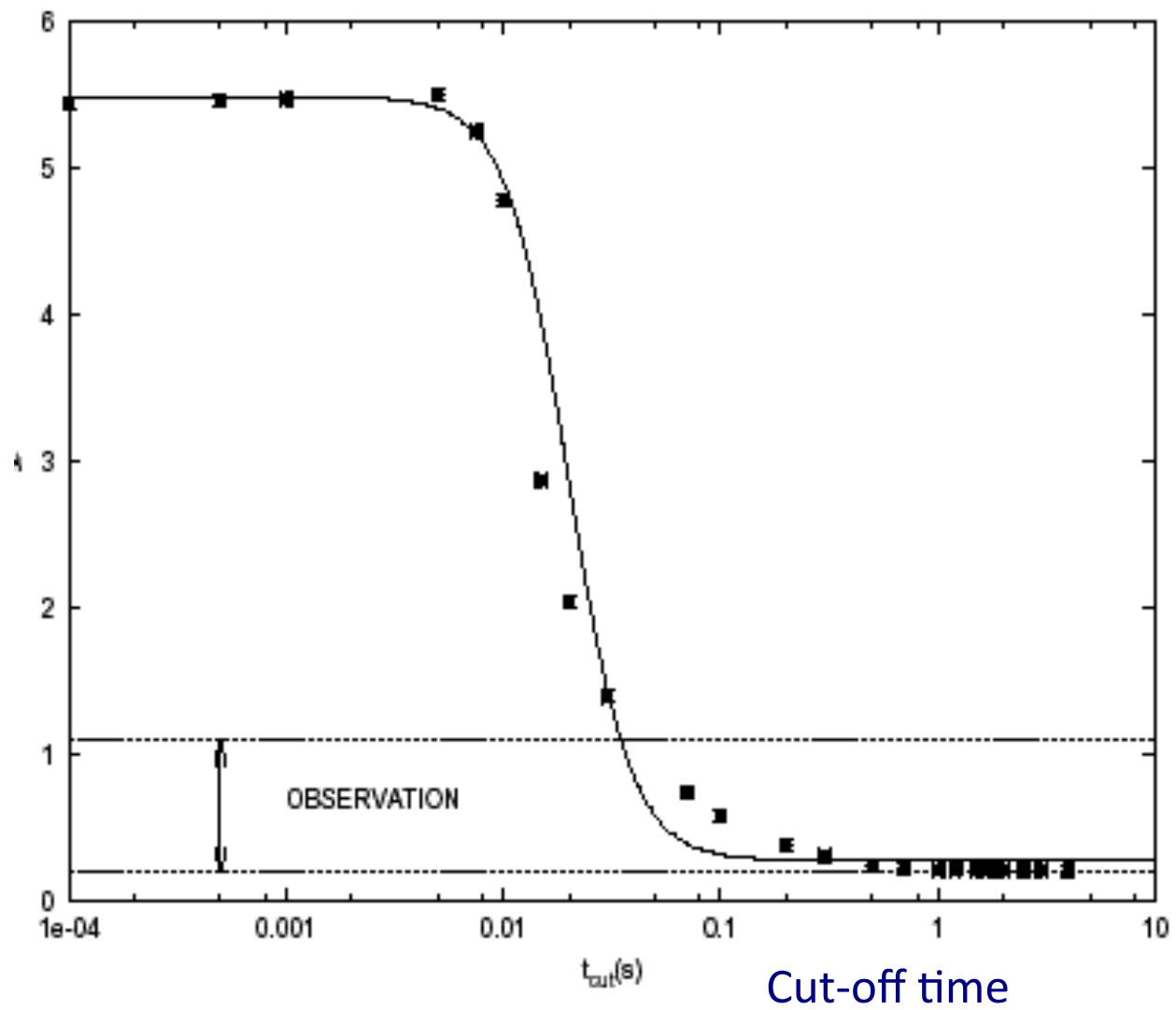
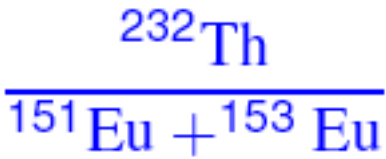
# Black hole or neutron star?



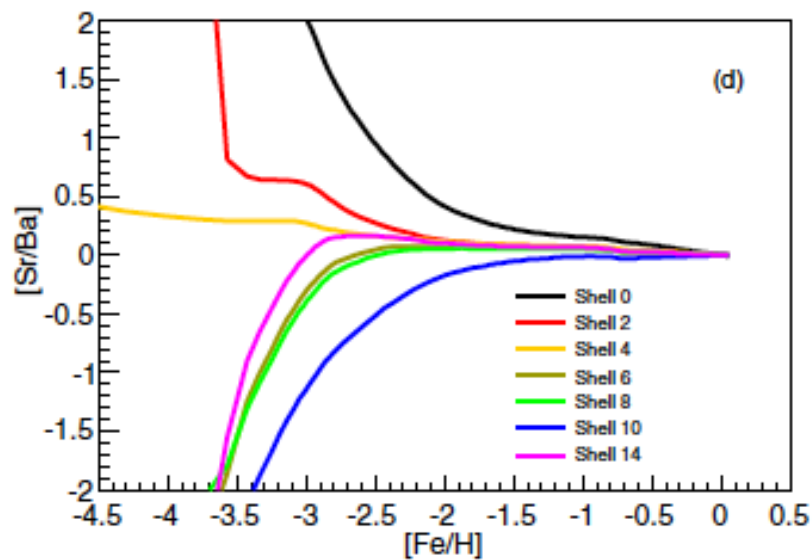
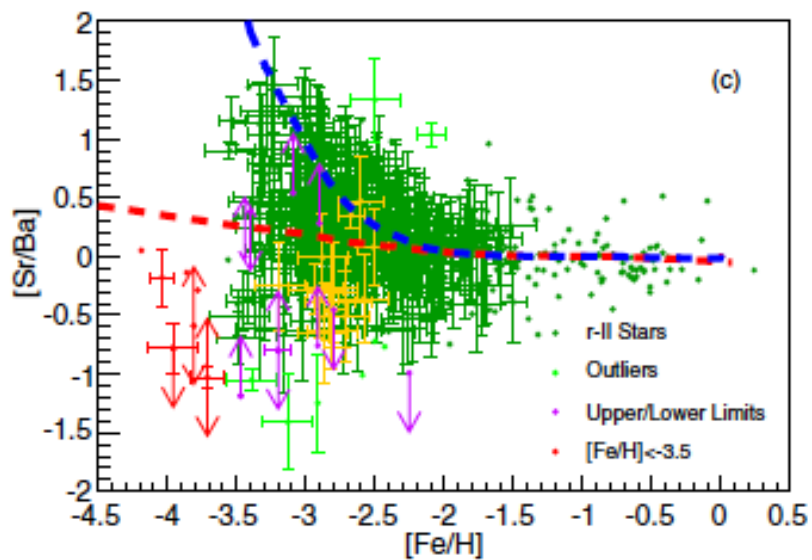
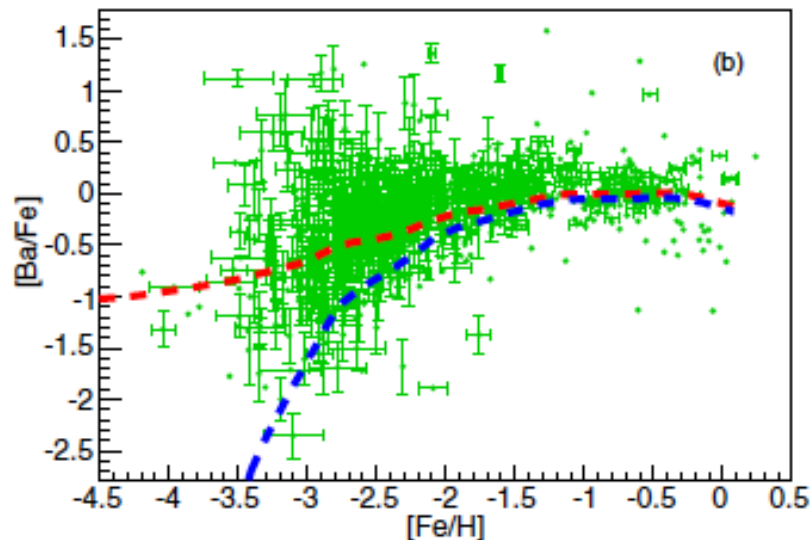
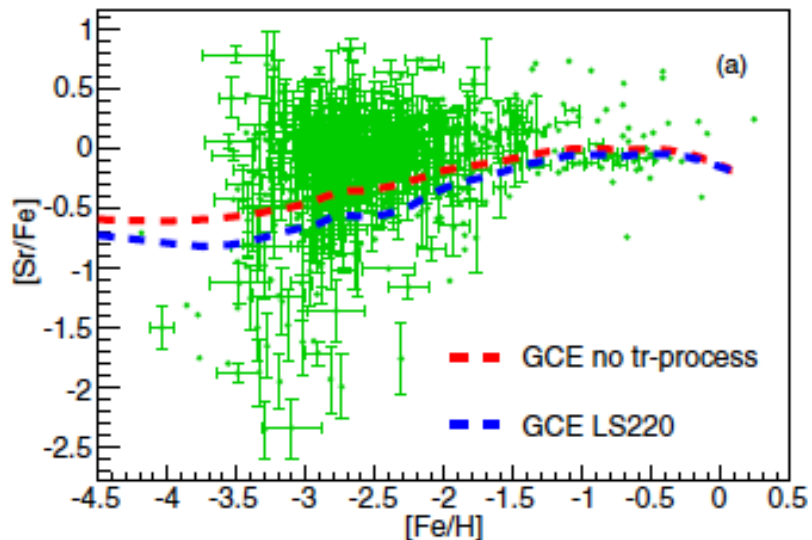
Sasaqui, Kajino, Balantekin, Ap. J 634, 534 (2005)



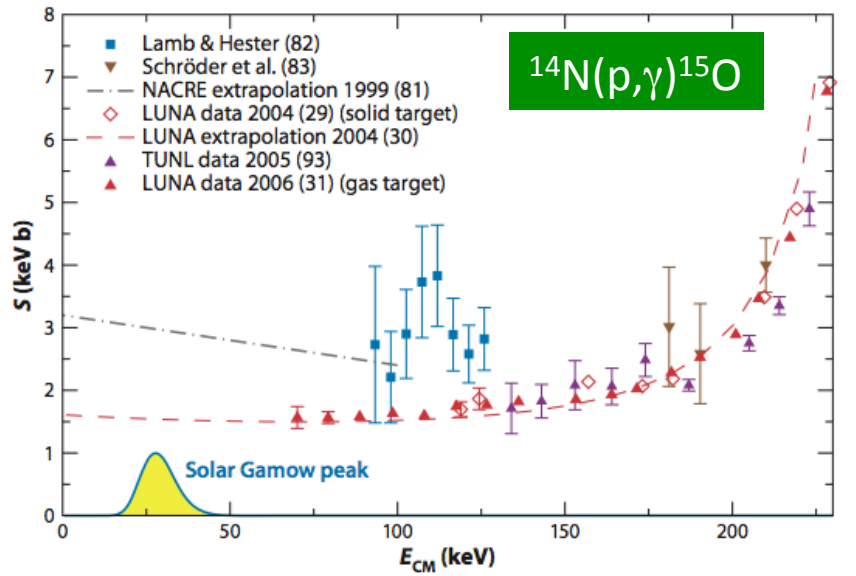
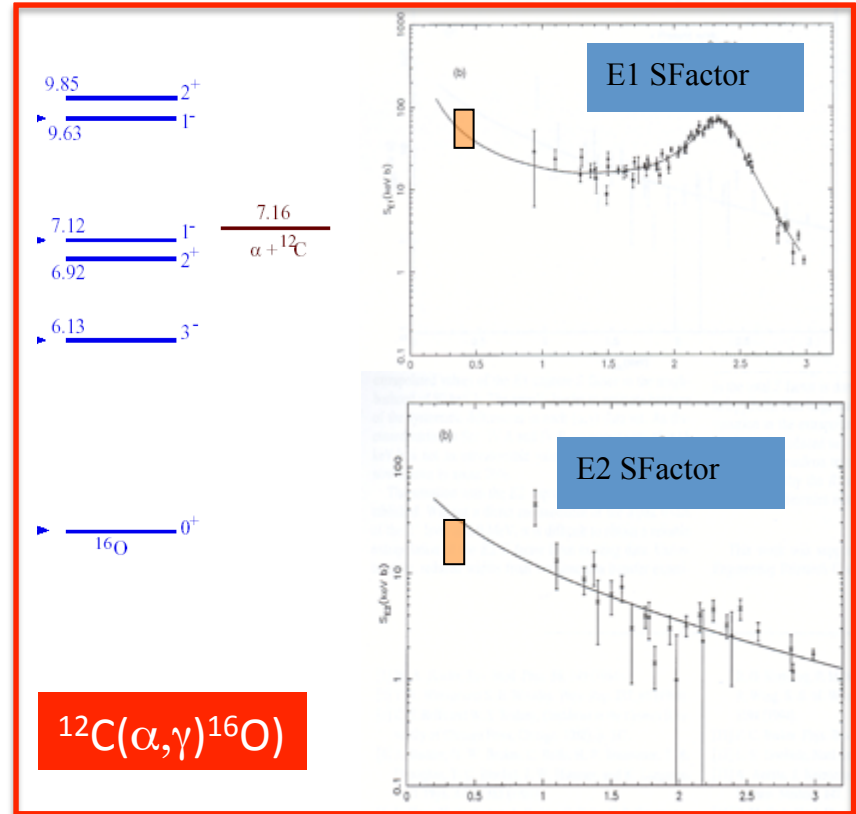
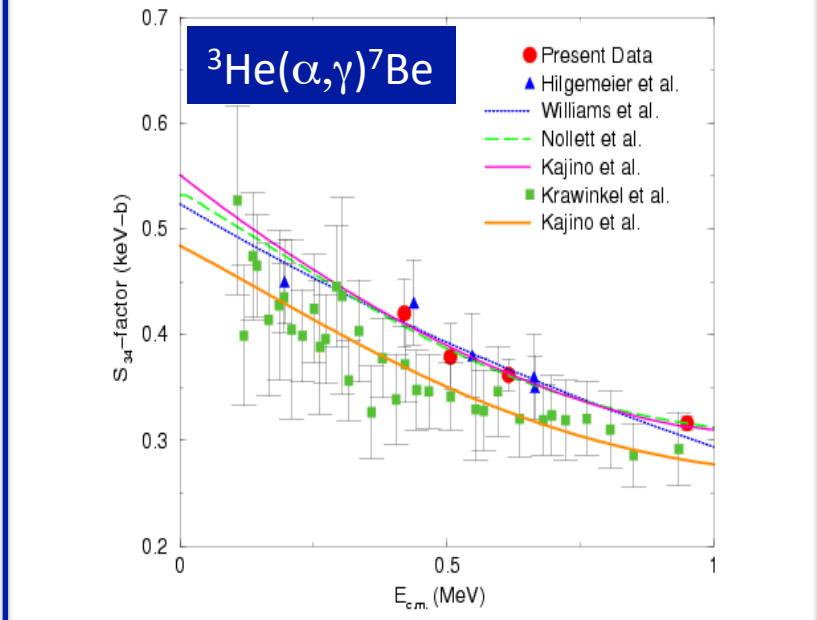
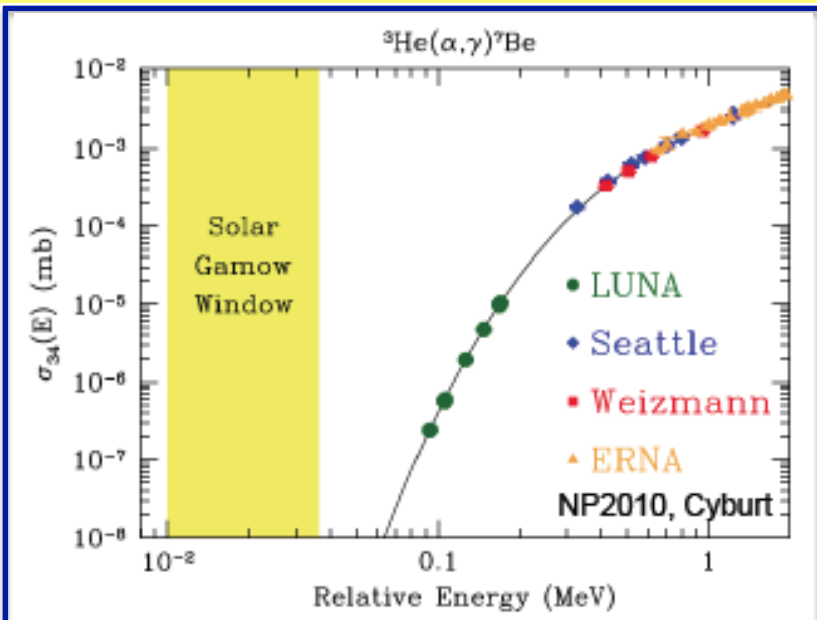
Black hole or neutron star?



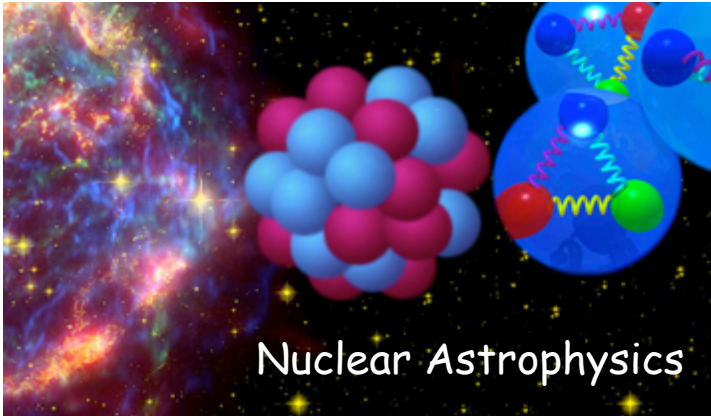
# Truncated r-process



# Three important "stable-beam" reactions for astrophysics

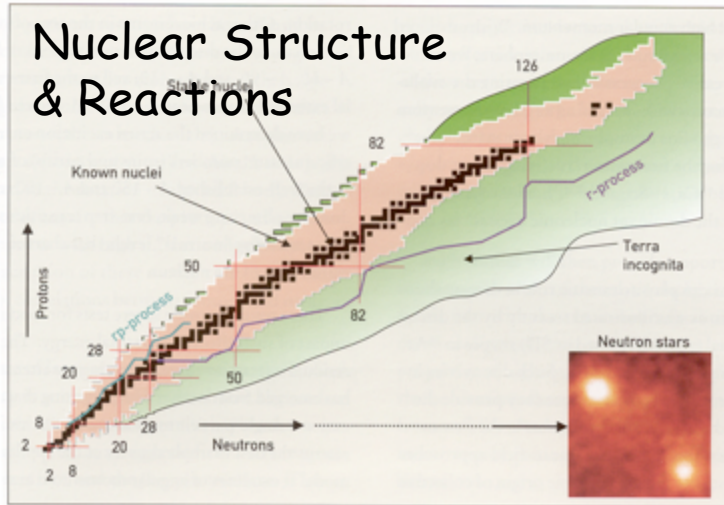


# Which science drives physics with rare isotopes?



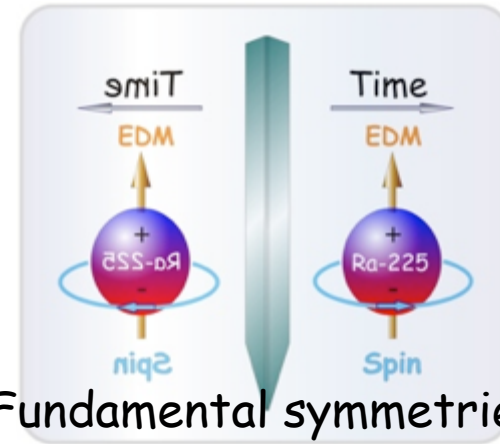
Nuclear Astrophysics

Origin of new elements, rare isotopes powering stellar explosions, neutron star crust



Nuclear Structure & Reactions

Limits of existence: what makes nuclei stable?  
New shapes, new collective behavior.



Fundamental symmetries

Use of rare isotopes as laboratories where symmetry violations are amplified.

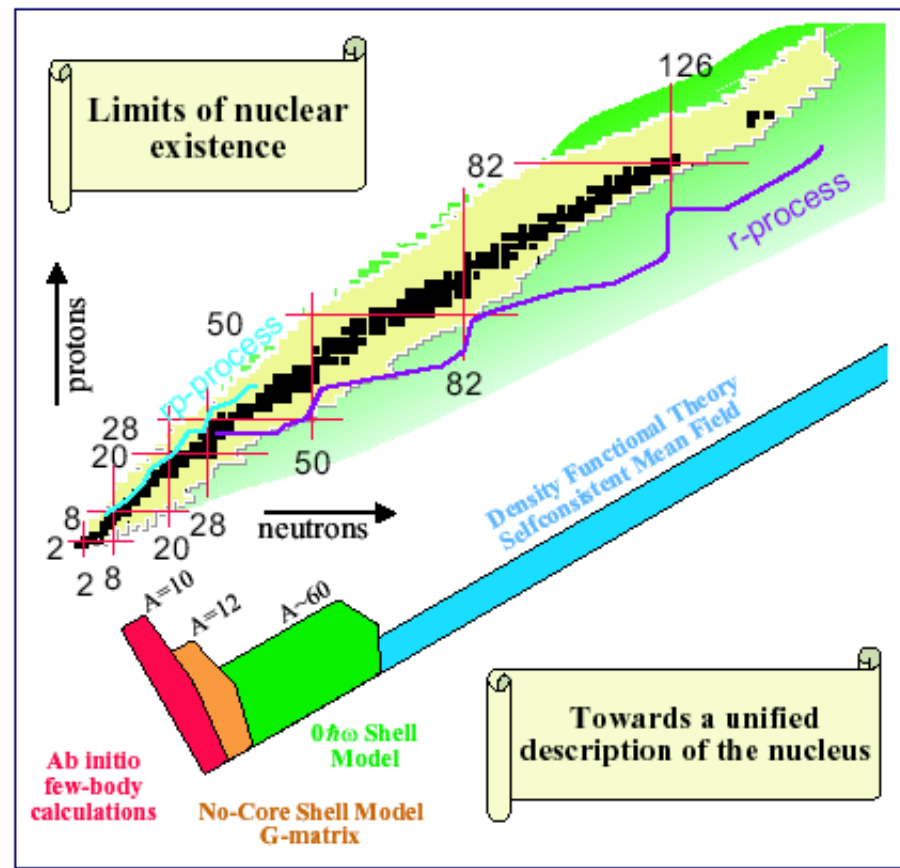


Nuclear applications

Materials, medical physics, reactors,...

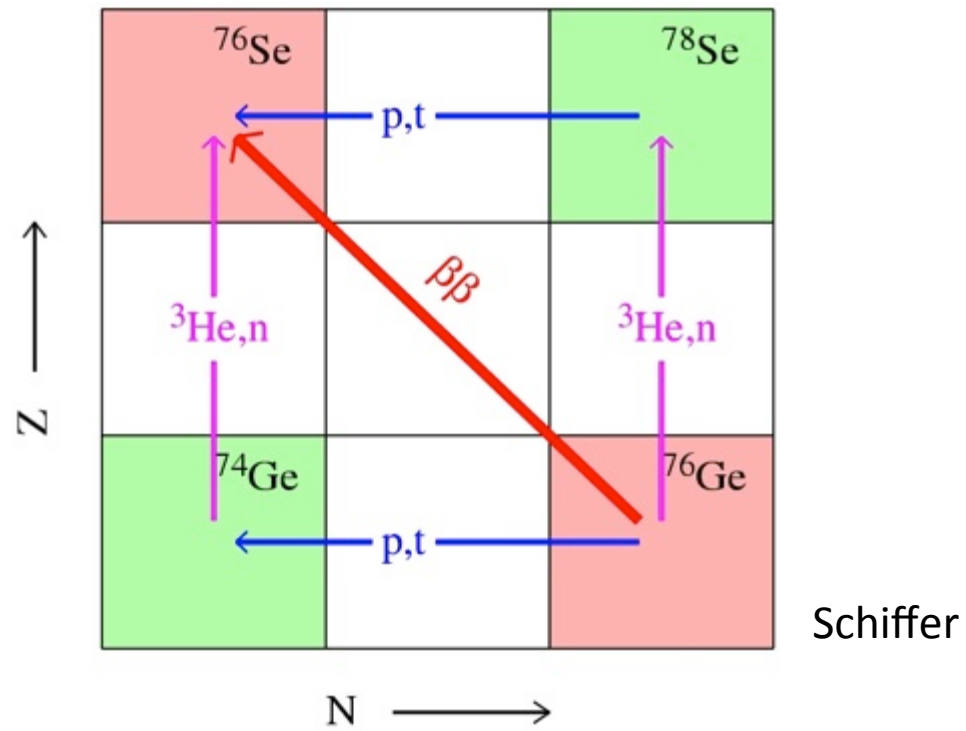
Part of the research program with exotic beams: to better understand the r-process. One needs to first learn beta-decays of nuclei both at and far-from stability:

- We need half-lives at the r-process ladders (N=50, 82, 126) where abundances peak ( $\Leftarrow$  direct measurements).
- We need accurate values of initial and final state energies ( $\Leftarrow$  direct measurements).
- Spin-isospin response: Matrix elements of the Gamow-Teller operator  $\sigma \cdot \tau$  between the initial and final states (measurements either with inverse kinematics or with beta-beams where RIB's are used to produce the beam).

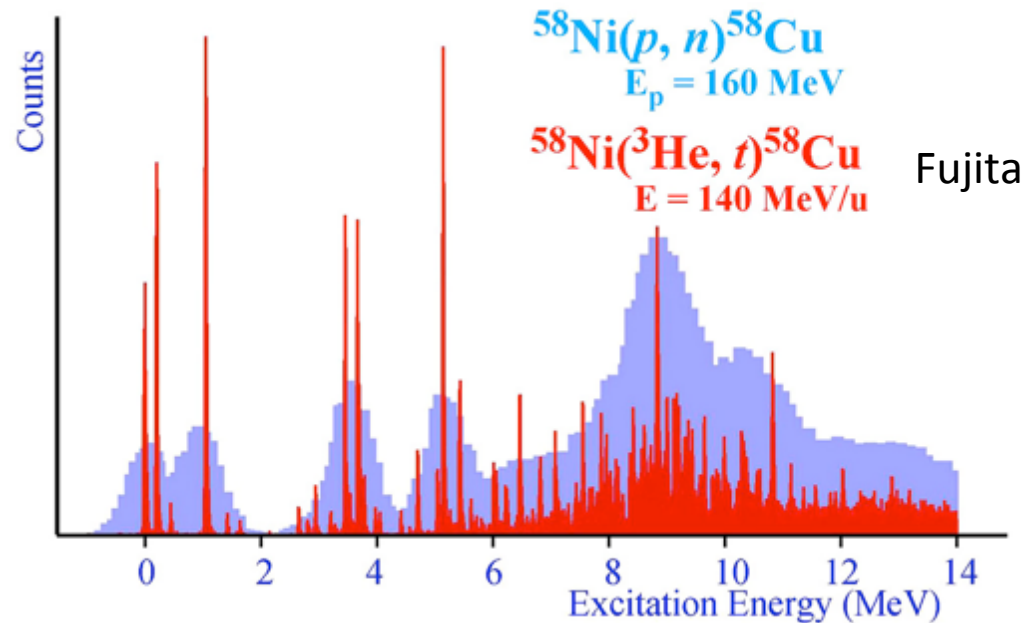


Understanding the spin-isospin response of a broad range of nuclei to a variety of probes is crucial for astrophysics applications!

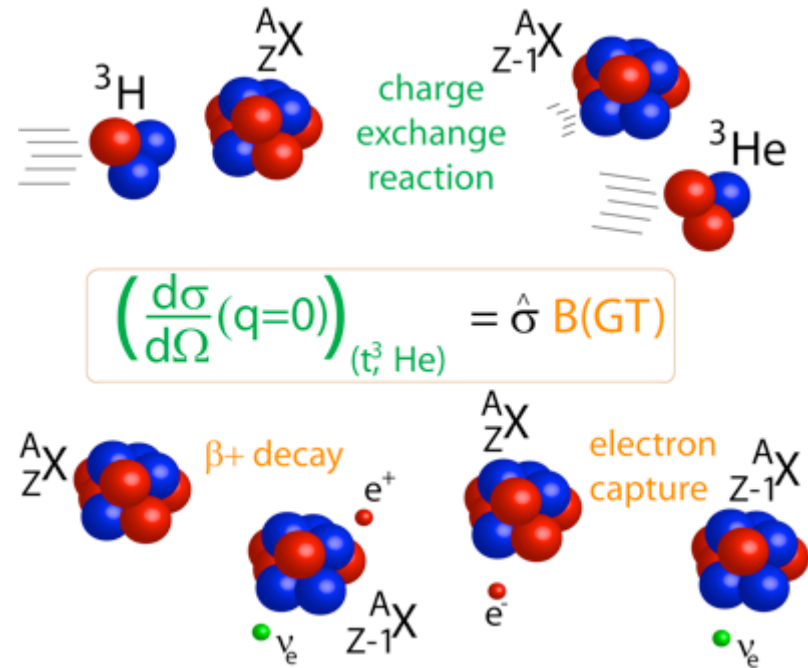
Charge-exchange reaction experiments both with direct and inverse kinematics will help. Recently there have been significant developments in this area.



Schiffer

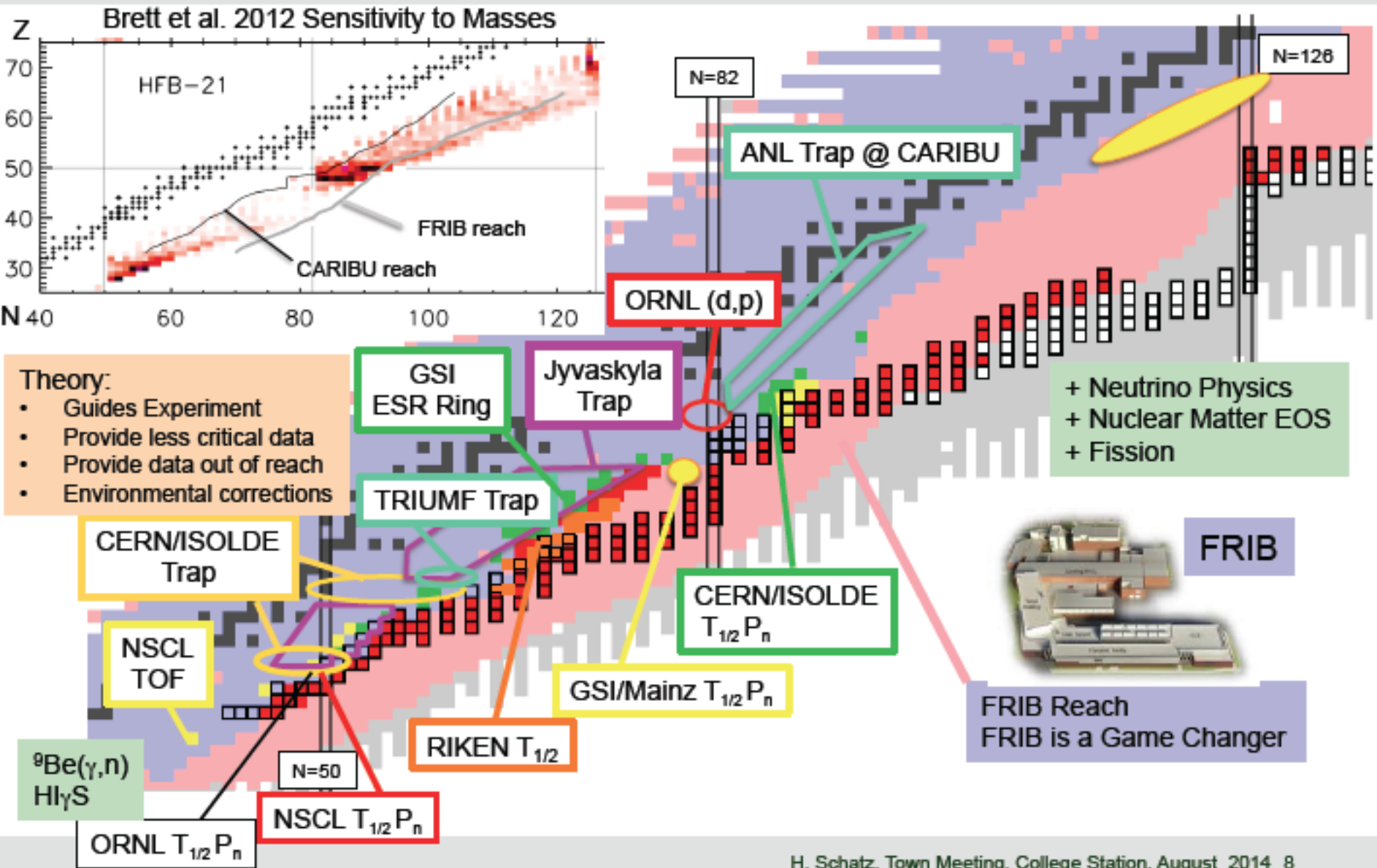


Fujita

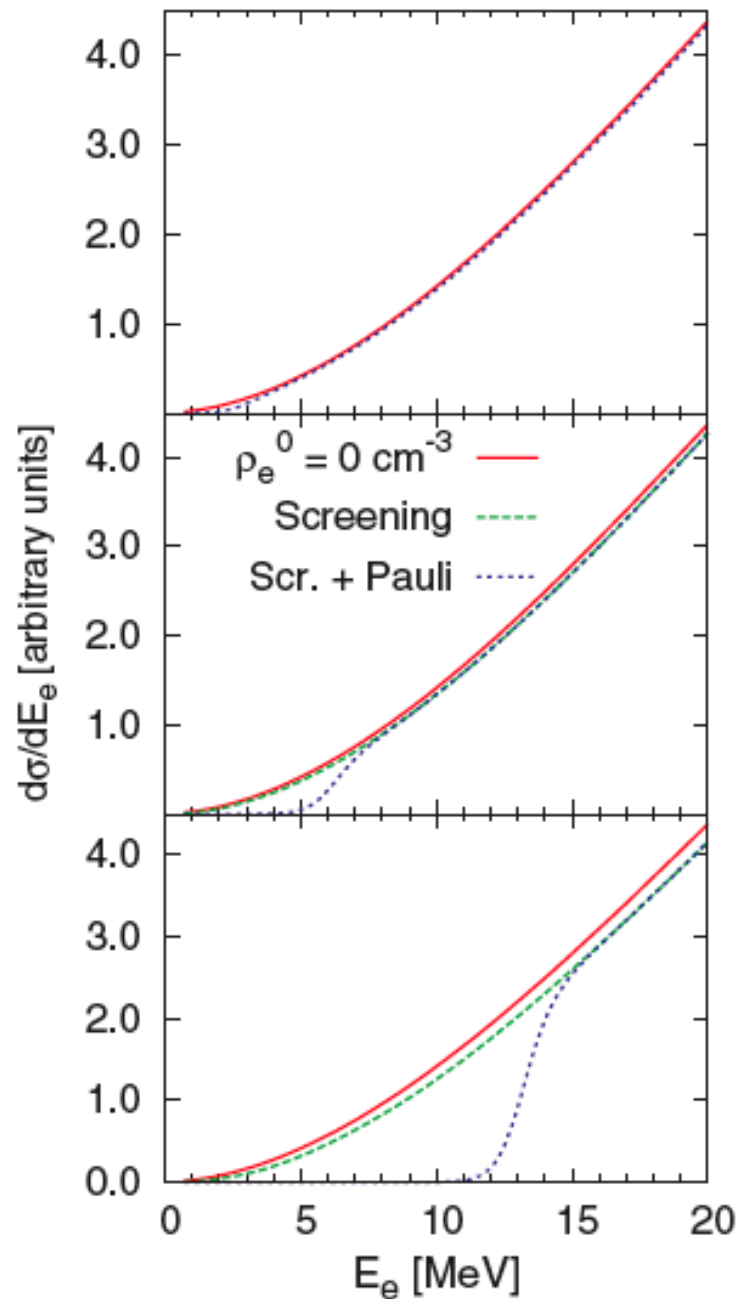
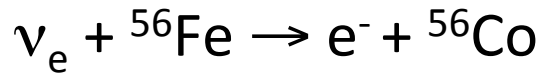


Zegers

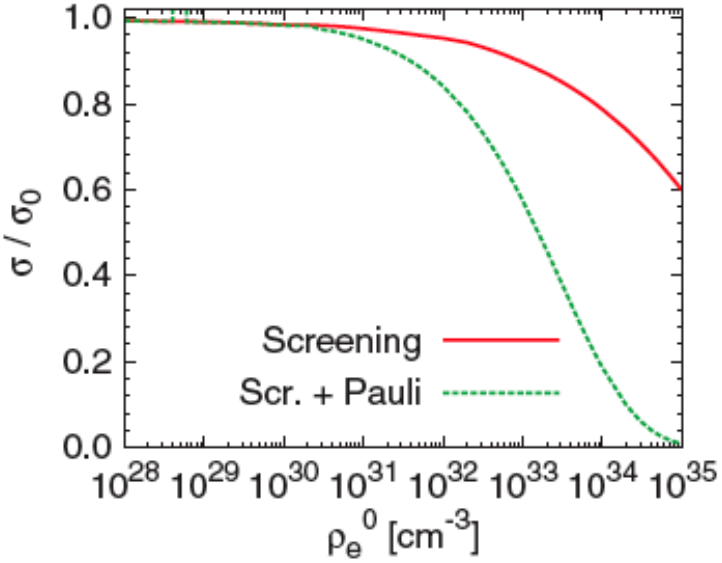
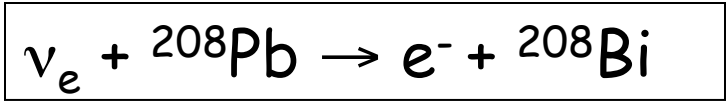
# The Quest for r-process Nuclear Physics



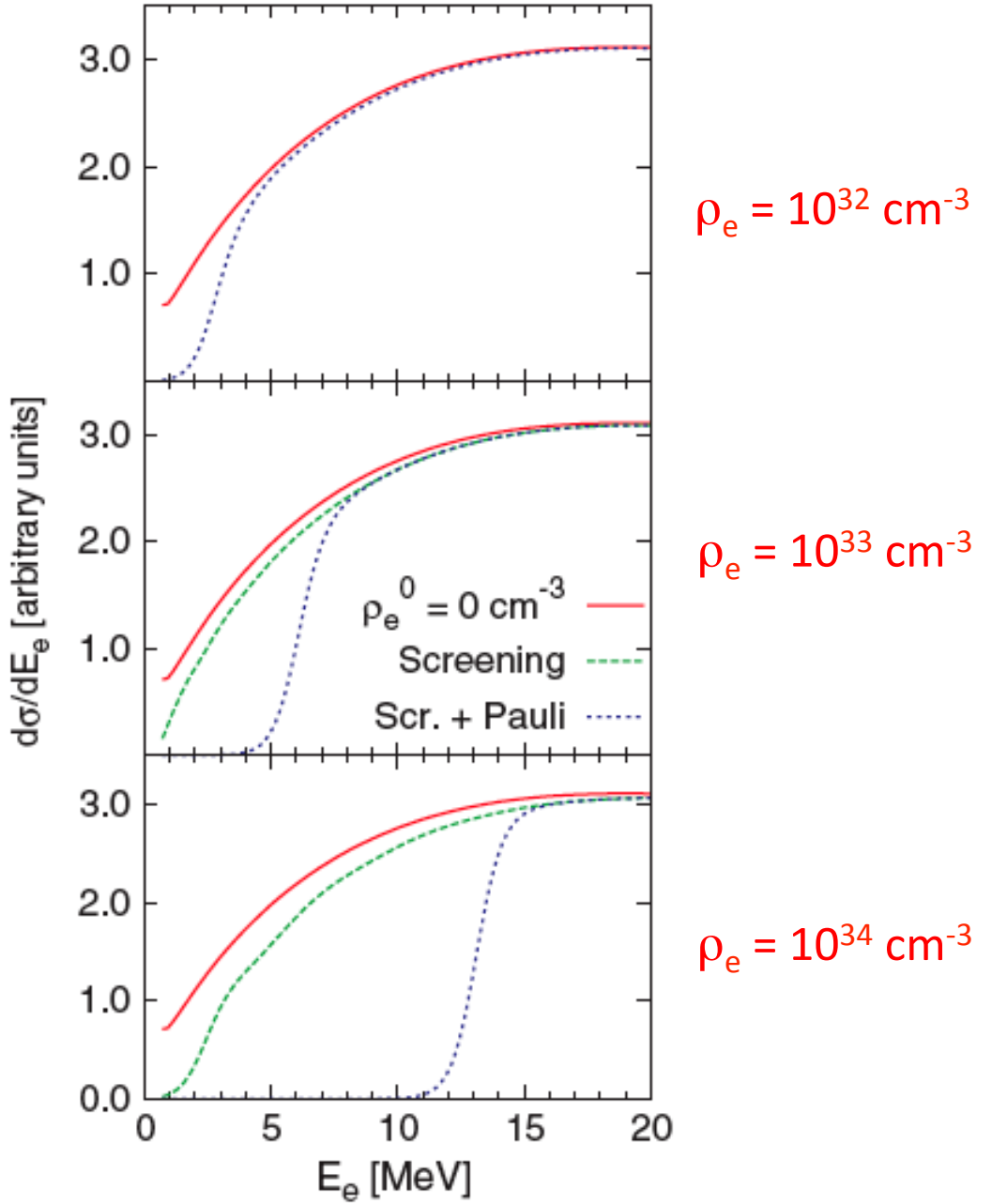
In astrophysical settings additional final-state effects may come into play; for example, in a core-collapse supernova neutrino capture reactions may be influenced by the Pauli-blocking by other electrons present.





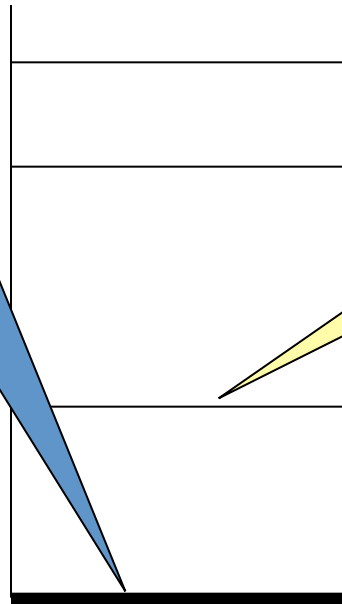


Minato, *et al.* Phys. Rev C **75**, 045802 (2007).



A pre-supernova star is a hot place where nuclei are excited!

Electron capture is not only on the ground state



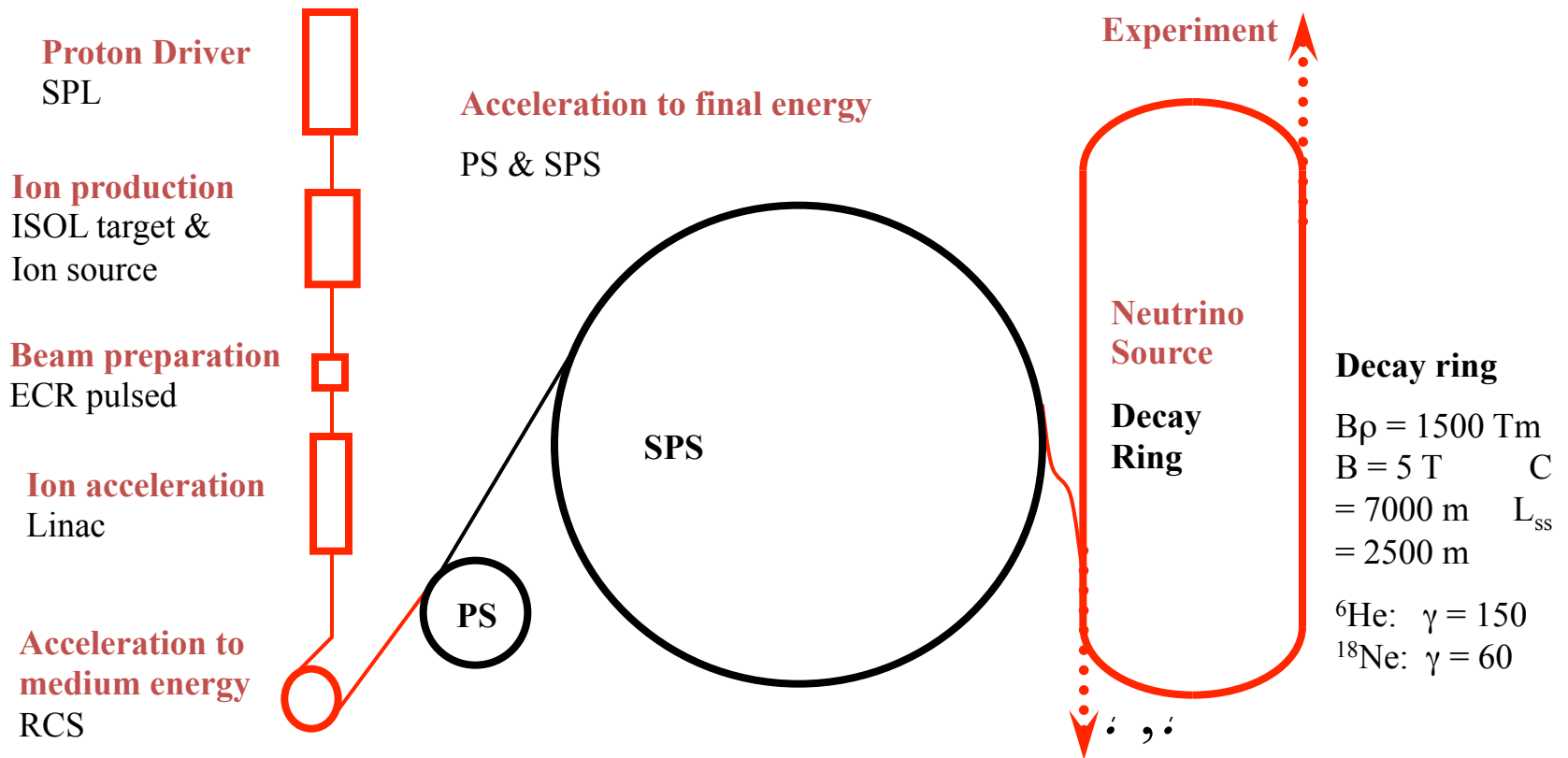
..but also on the excited states

...making theory input crucial!

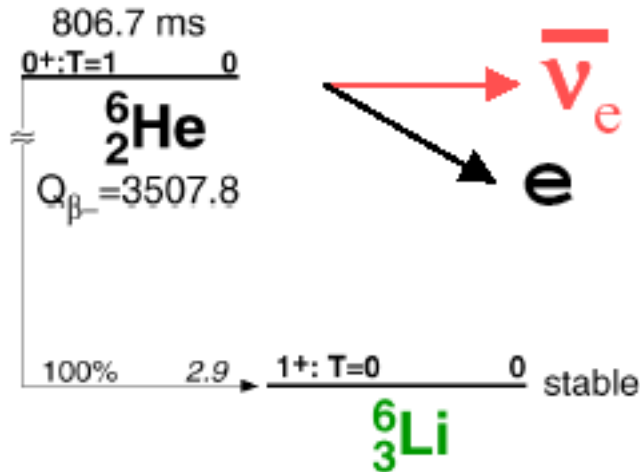
# The beta-beam concept

Use unstable nuclei as  $\nu$  sources

Zucchelli, PLB 2002

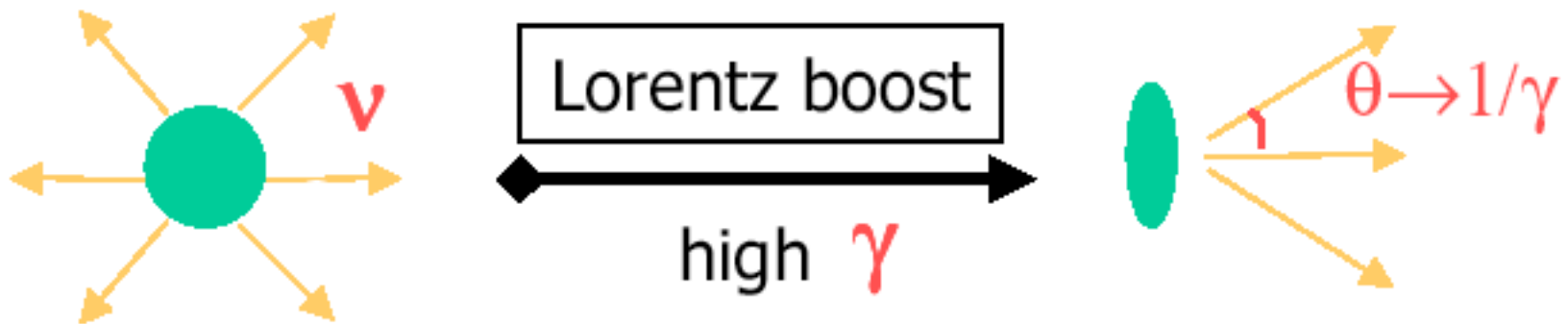


## Beta-beam concept



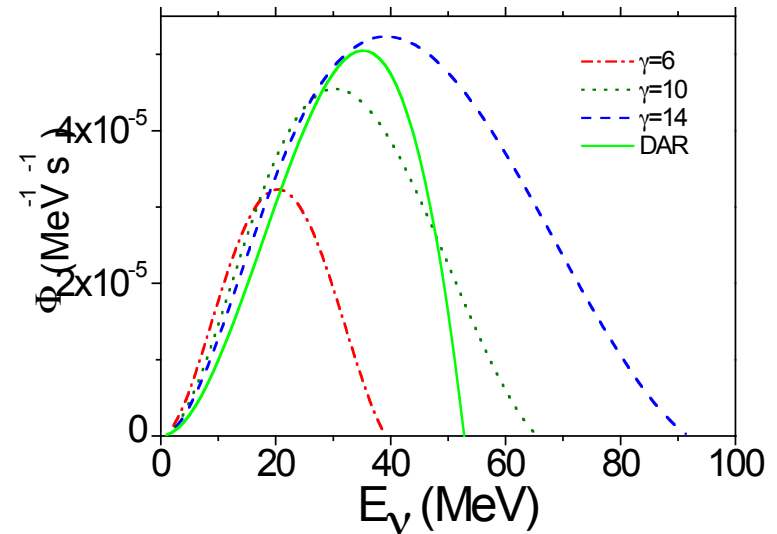
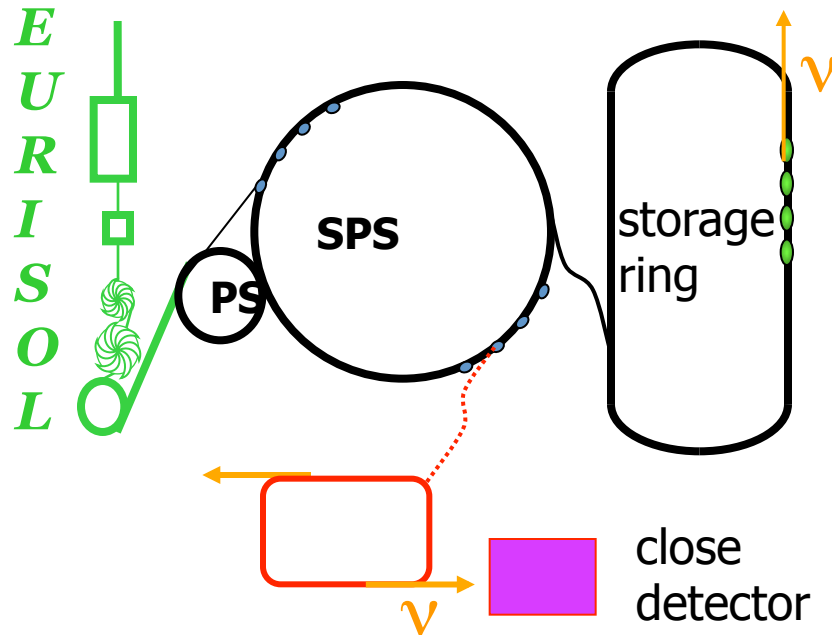
### Advantages:

- Can be done at a facility studying exotic nuclei with radioactive beams
- Pure beams of a single neutrino flavor
- Well-known spectra
- Strong collimation at higher energies

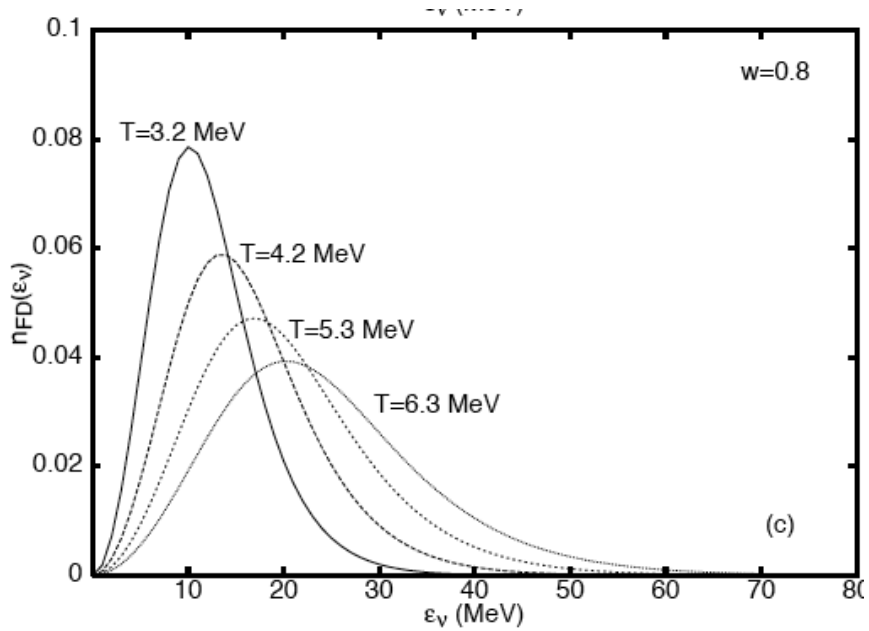


Original low-energy beta-beam idea (Volpe, JPG 30,2004):  
 To use the beta-beam concept to produce single-flavor low-energy neutrino beams (10 - 100 MeV with  $\gamma = 5 - 14$ )

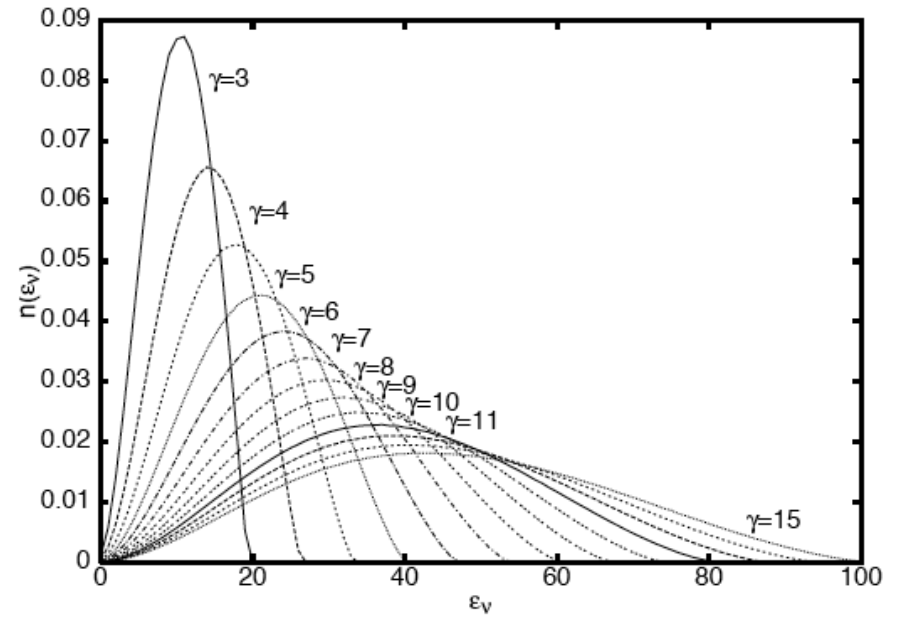
### The "Beta-beam" project at CERN




# Use beta-beams to mimic supernova neutrino spectra!



Supernova neutrino spectra



Normalized beta-beam spectra

A night sky filled with stars. A prominent bright yellow star is located in the center-right area, surrounded by a reddish, glowing nebula. The sky transitions from a dark blue at the top to a lighter, hazy blue near the horizon. The bottom portion of the image shows a dark, reflective surface, likely water, mirroring the sky above.

Thank you very much!