

# Neutrino Self-Interaction and Core-Collapse Supernovae

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**Anna M. Suliga**

with Cheong, Froustey, Fuller, Graf, Kherer, Shalgar, Scholer  
PRL accepted

Neutrino Theory Network Fellow  
New York University

**CIPANP 2025, Madison, WI**

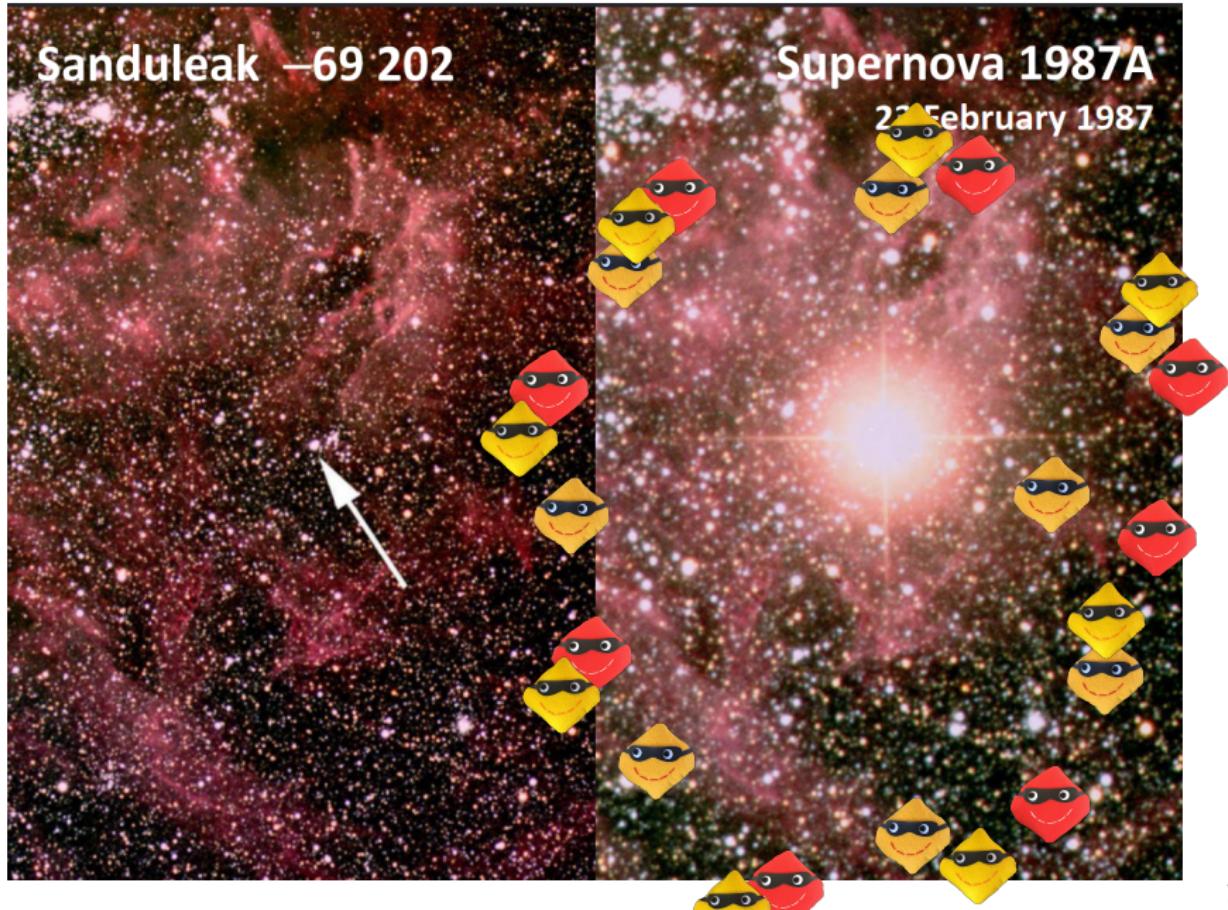
June 12, 2025



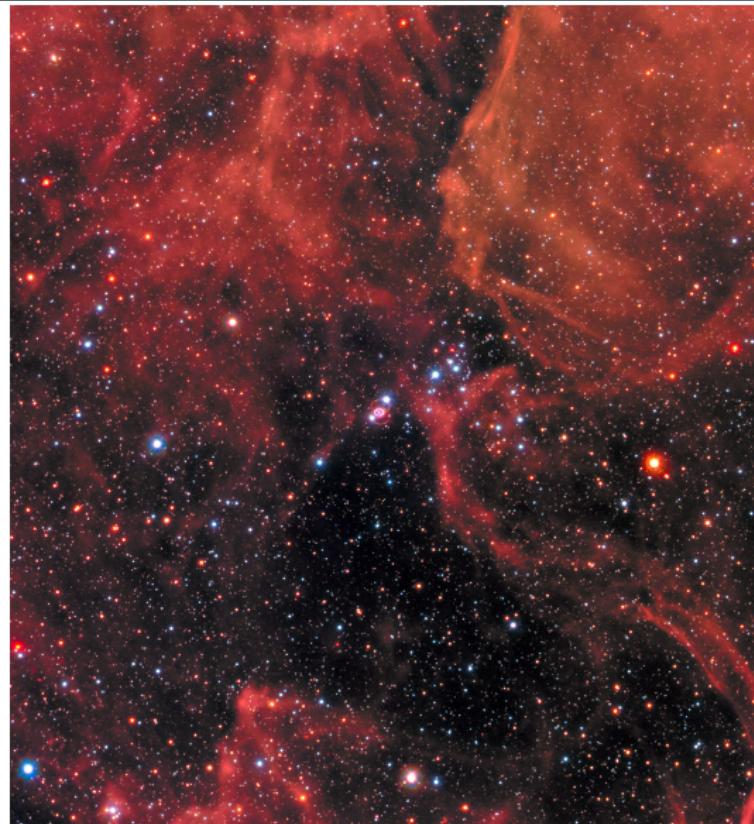
# Why is studying astrophysical neutrinos crucial?



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Hubble (2017)



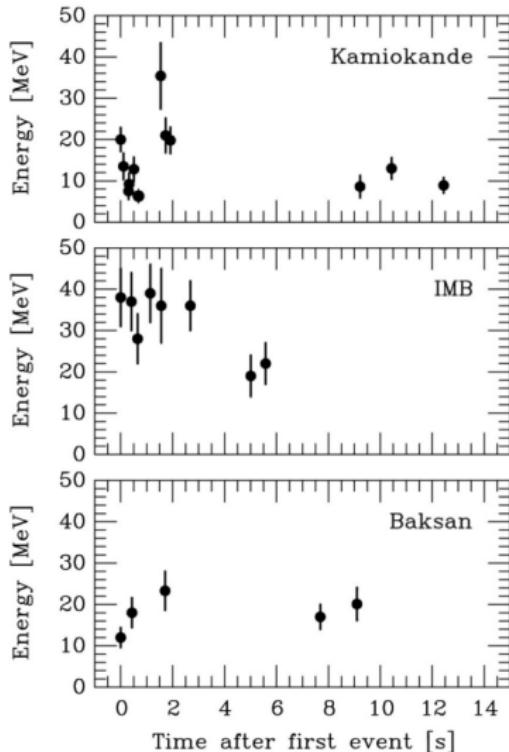
JWST (2023)

- Neutron star remnant
- Binary system

Fransson et al. (2024)

Morris & Podsiadlowski (2007), (2009)

# Established track record of neutrino discoveries: SN 1987A



Courtesy of G. Raffelt



- Neutrino detection from SN 1987A:
  - confirmed the core-collapse scenario
  - 99% of the energy emitted in neutrinos
  - best limit at the time on the  $\nu$  mass

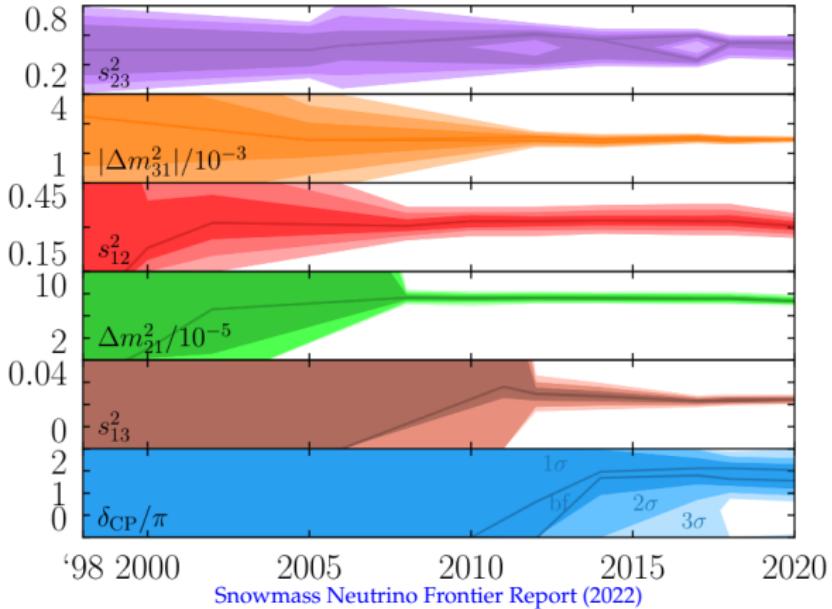
# Towards Precise Neutrino Properties Measurements

We known now:

- large mixing angles
- non-zero masses

Remaining questions

- Majorana vs Dirac
- absolute masses
- degree of CP violation



## Fermions

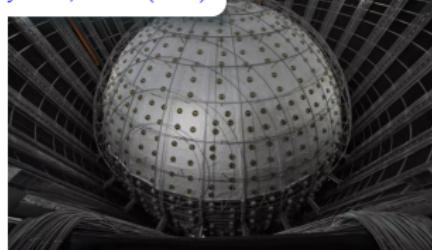
Leptons	Quarks			Force carriers		
	u <sub>up</sub>	c <sub>charm</sub>	t <sub>top</sub>	γ <sub>photon</sub>	H <sub>Higgs boson</sub>	Z <sub>Z boson</sub>
e <sub>electron</sub>	v <sub>e</sub> <sub>neutrino</sub>	v <sub>μ</sub> <sub>neutrino</sub>	v <sub>τ</sub> <sub>neutrino</sub>	g <sub>gluon</sub>		
μ <sub>electron</sub>				Z <sub>Z boson</sub>		
τ <sub>electron</sub>				W <sub>W boson</sub>		

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{bmatrix} = U \begin{bmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

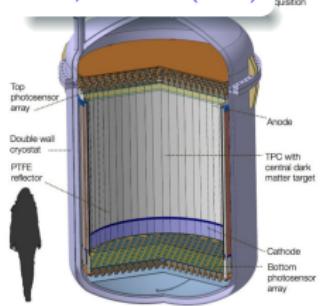
$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{CP}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta_{CP}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# How to achieve full picture of neutrinos? All hands on deck!

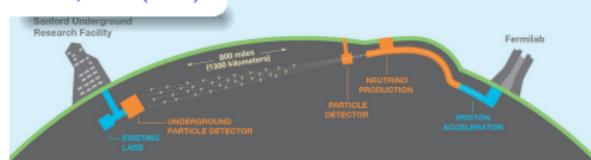
JUNO, China (2025)



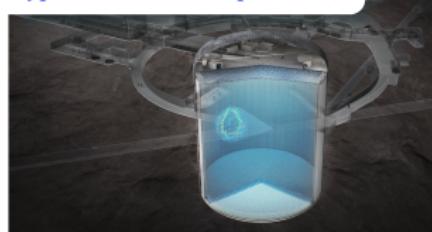
XLZD, DARWIN (20XX)



DUNE, USA (2030)



Hyper-Kamiokande, Japan (2027)



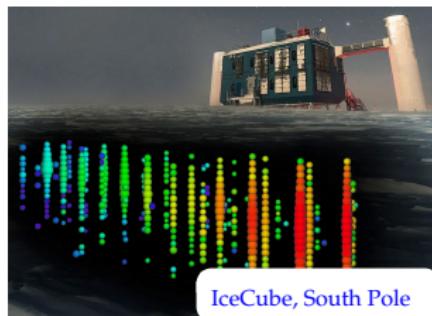
Rubin Observatory, Chile (2025)



- Complementarity with:

- reactor and accelerator searches
- electromagnetic surveys
- other astrophysical messengers

IceCube, South Pole



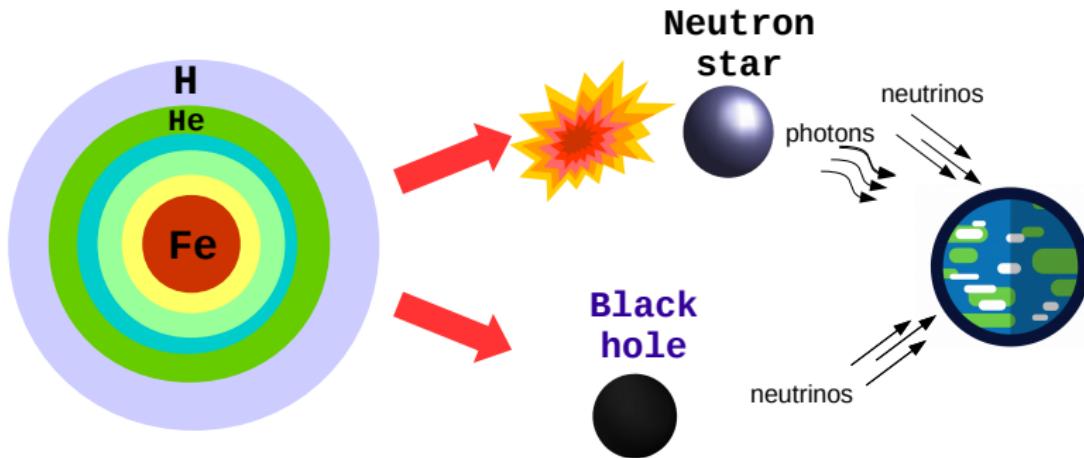
# Neutrinos from Core-collapse Supernovae

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# Why are neutrinos important for a core-collapse supernova?

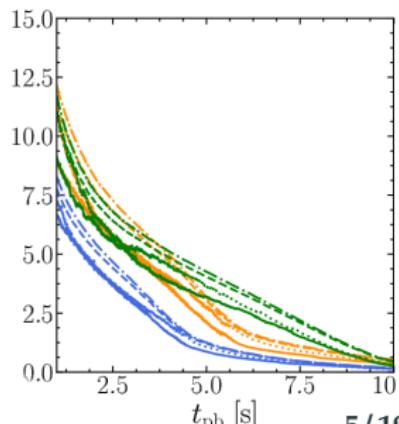
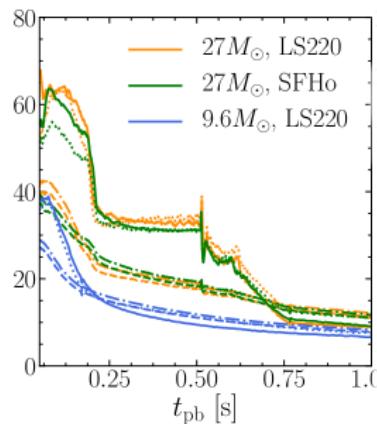
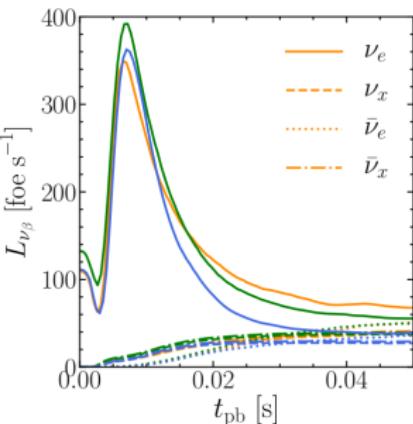
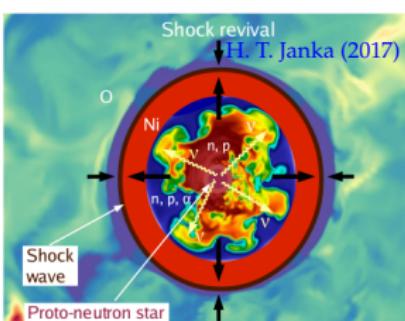
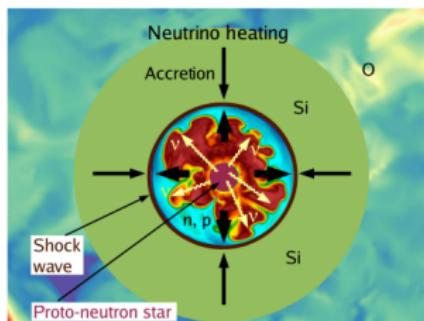
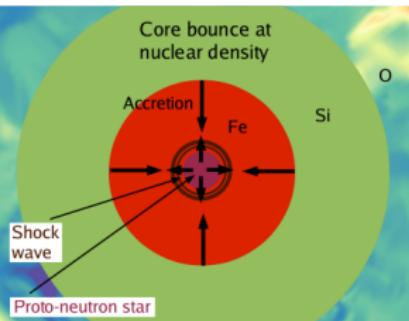
## Neutrinos:

- $\sim 10^{58}$  of them emitted from a single core collapse
- only they can reveal the deep interior conditions
- only particles detectable from the collapse to a black hole



# Different Phases of Supernova Explosion

- Infall phase,  
 $\nu_e$  burst  $\sim 40$  ms
- Accretion phase,  
 $\sim 100$  ms
- Cooling phase,  
 $\sim 10$  s



# Why core-collapse supernovae are good physics probes?

## Advantages

- extreme physical conditions not accessible on Earth
- within the reach of existing and upcoming detectors

## What can we learn with a variety of detectors?

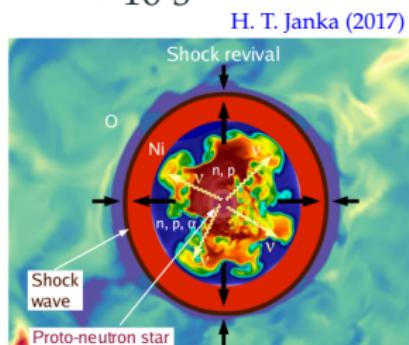
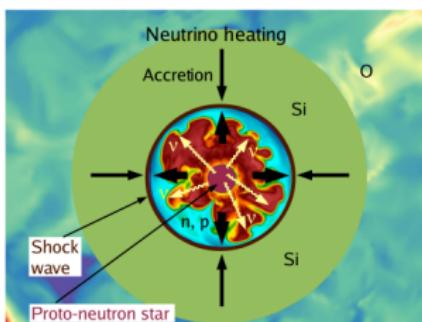
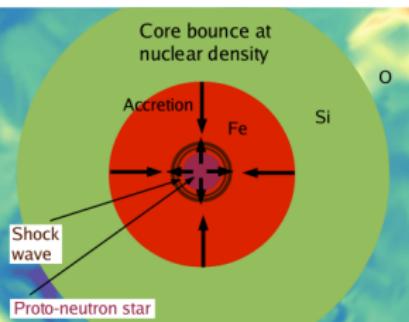
- explosion mechanism Bethe & Wilson (1985),  
Fischer et al. (2011)...
- nucleosynthesis Woosley et al. (1994),  
Surman & McLaughlin (2003)...
- compact object formation Warren et al. (2019),  
Li, Beacom et al. (2020)...
- neutrino mixing Balantekin & Fuller (2013),  
Tamborra & Shalgar (2020)...
- non-standard physics McLaughlin et al. (1999),  
de Gouv  a et al. (2019) ...

# Neutrinos from Supernovae as Probes of New Physics

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# Different Phases of Supernova Explosion

- Infall phase,  
 $\nu_e$  burst  $\sim 40$  ms
- Accretion phase,  
 $\sim 100$  ms
- Cooling phase,  
 $\sim 10$  s



H. T. Janka (2017)

New neutrino physics affects the core-collapse supernovae:

- change diffusion time  $\rightarrow$  possible change in the star's fate
- changed diffusion time  $\rightarrow$  changed duration of the neutrino signal
- new cooling channel  $\rightarrow$  affects explosion probability

astrophysical feedback often ignored

## **How important is astrophysical feedback?**

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# **Do non-standard neutrino self-interactions help or inhibit supernova explosion?**

In collaboration with P. Cheong, J. Froustey, G. Fuller,  
L. Graf, K. Kherer, S. Shalgar, O. Scholer

PRL accepted

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# Do Neutrinos Have Self-Interactions?

IL NUOVO CIMENTO

VOL. XXXIII, N. 5

1º Settembre 1964

## Do Neutrinos Interact between Themselves?

Z. BIALYNICKA-BIRULA

*Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences - Warsaw*

(ricevuto il 26 Giugno 1964)



### 1. – Introduction.

The neutrino is the only elementary particle, which, according to our present knowledge, does not take part in other than weak and gravitational interactions. Its role in nature is not yet fully understood and its interaction properties are only partially known.

The purpose of this note is to answer the following question: Do the present experimental data allow for the existence of interactions between neutrinos much stronger than their weak interactions? The answer to this question is positive. It turns out that such interactions even if they were  $10^6$  times stronger than weak interactions could not be detected with the present experimental accuracy.

Zofia Bialynicka-Birula (1964)

# Lepton number violating neutrino self-interactions

**Motivation** - to be taken with a grain of salt:

- lepton number conservation - accidental symmetry
- potential cosmological hints

Barenboim et al. (2019), Song, Gonzalez-Garcia, Salvado (2018), ..

- strong impact on core-collapse supernova

Kolb et al. (1982), Fuller et al. (1988), Farzan et al. (2018), AMS, Tamborra (2020), ...

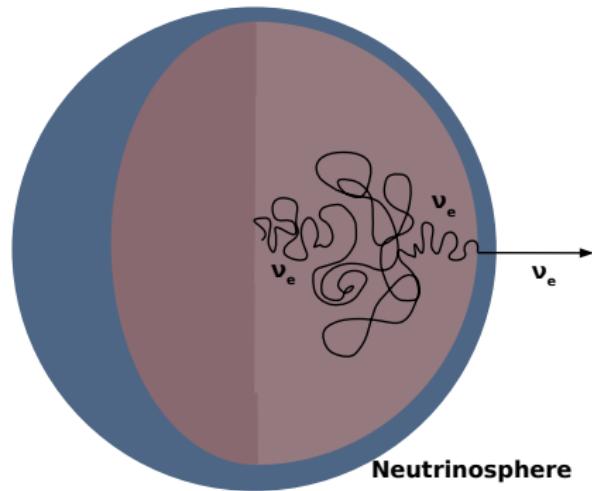
## New Interaction Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}^\phi = g_{\phi,\alpha\beta} \phi \overline{\nu_{L,\alpha}} \nu_{L,\beta}^c$$

## Probability of the New Interaction

$$\sigma_{\nu\text{SI}} \approx \frac{G_{\nu\text{SI}}^2}{8\pi} E_\nu^1 E_\nu^2 (1 - \cos \theta)$$

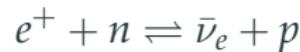
# Neutrino Trapping and $\beta$ -equilibrium



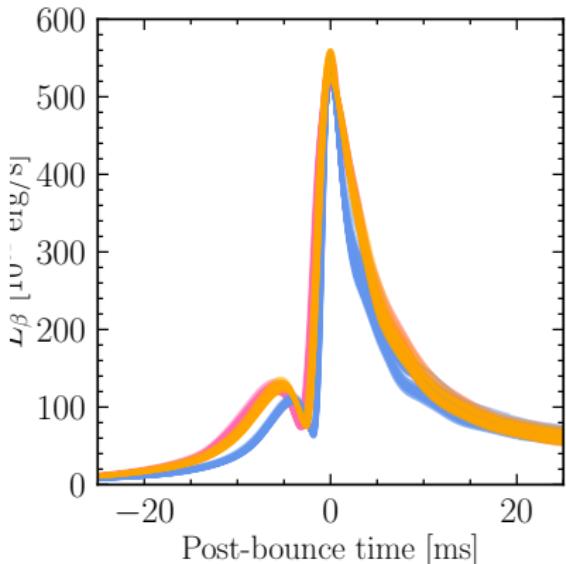
**Neutrino trapping**



**$\beta$ -equilibrium**



# Neutrino Trapping and $\beta$ -equilibrium



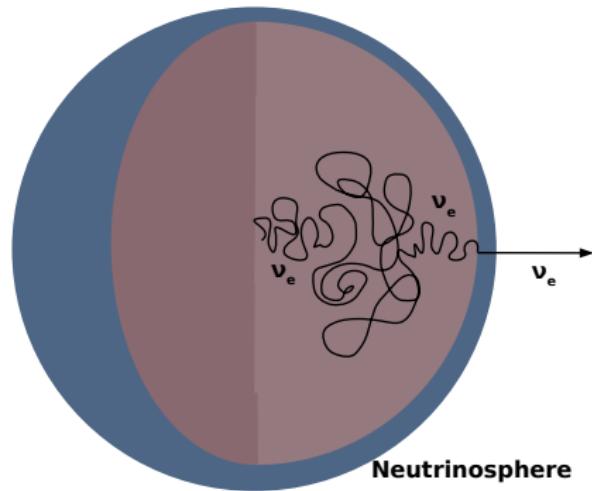
**Neutrino trapping**



**$\beta$ -equilibrium**



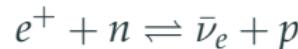
# Neutrino Trapping and $\beta$ -equilibrium



**Neutrino trapping**



**$\beta$ -equilibrium**



## LNV $\nu$ SI Implementation:

Thermalize the population of  $\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  once  $\rho \sim 10^{11} - 10^{12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$

$$\nu_e \rightleftharpoons \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e, \nu_\mu, \bar{\nu}_\mu, \nu_\tau, \bar{\nu}_\tau, \quad \nu_e \rightleftharpoons \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e, \nu_x, \bar{\nu}_x, \quad \nu_e \rightleftharpoons \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e$$

# LNV $\nu$ SI in supernovae illustrated by cats

Without LNV  $\nu$ SI



Pics credit: Tony Zhou who was courageously cat sitting Aurora and Beetle

# LN $V$ $\nu$ SI in supernovae illustrated by cats

With LN $V$   $\nu$ SI



Pics credit: Tony Zhou who was courageously cat sitting Aurora and Beetle

# Static, Homogenous and Isotropic Boltzmann Equation

## Boltzmann Equation

$$\frac{df_\nu}{dt} = (1 - f_\nu) j_\nu - f_\nu \chi_\nu ,$$

Electron fraction evolution - weak rates



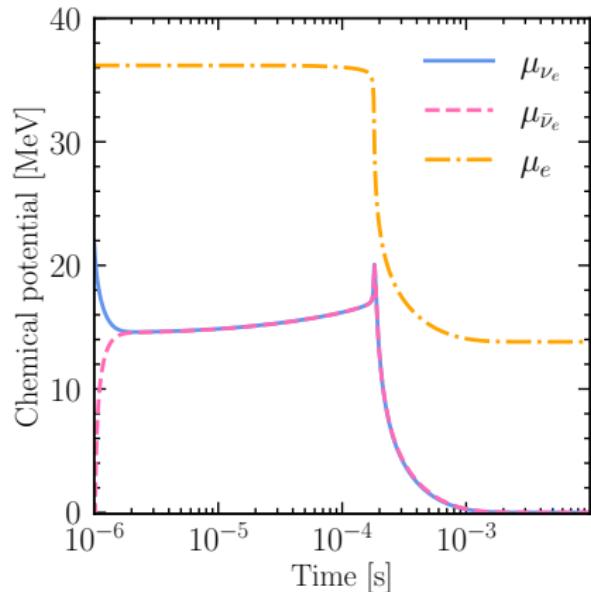
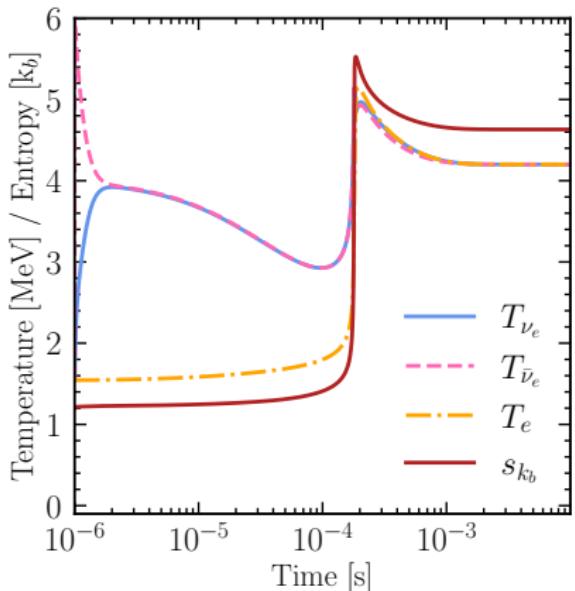
$$\frac{dY_e}{dt} = R_{\nu_e} - R_{\bar{\nu}_e} - R_{e^-} + R_{e^+} , \quad e^+ + n \rightleftharpoons \bar{\nu}_e + p$$

Temperature and chemical potential evolution for leptons

$$\frac{dT_i}{dt} = \left( \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial \mu_i} \frac{dn_i}{dt} - \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu_i} \frac{d\rho_i}{dt} \right) / \left( \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T_i} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial \mu_i} - \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu_i} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial T_i} \right) ,$$

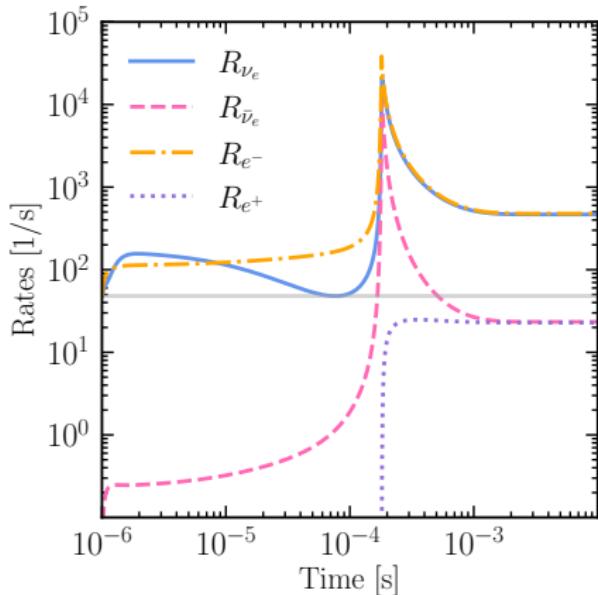
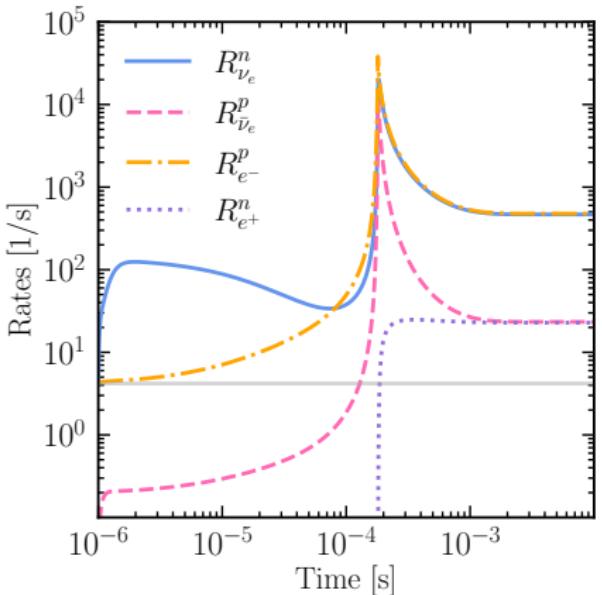
$$\frac{d\mu_i}{dt} = \left( \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial T_i} \frac{dn_i}{dt} - \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T_i} \frac{d\rho_i}{dt} \right) / \left( \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu_i} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial T_i} - \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T_i} \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial \mu_i} \right) .$$

# Evolution of Thermodynamical Quantities



- new interactions quickly equilibrate  $\nu_e$  and  $\bar{\nu}_e$  seas
- enhanced  $\nu_e$  and  $e^-$  captures heat up the matter
- similar results for all flavors equilibration

# Weak reaction rates



- initial increase in  $\nu_e + n$ ,  $\nu_e + A$  and  $e^- + A$
- enhanced  $\nu_e$  and  $e^-$  captures heat up the matter
- similar results for all flavors equilibration

# Fast LNV $\nu$ SI - Approximate Evolution

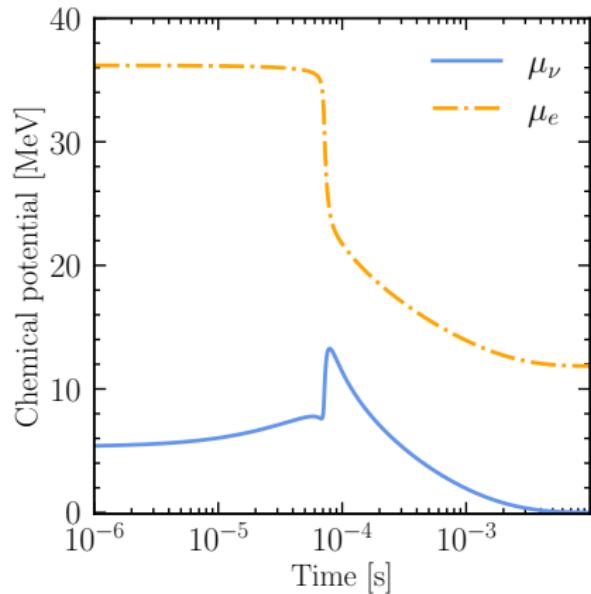
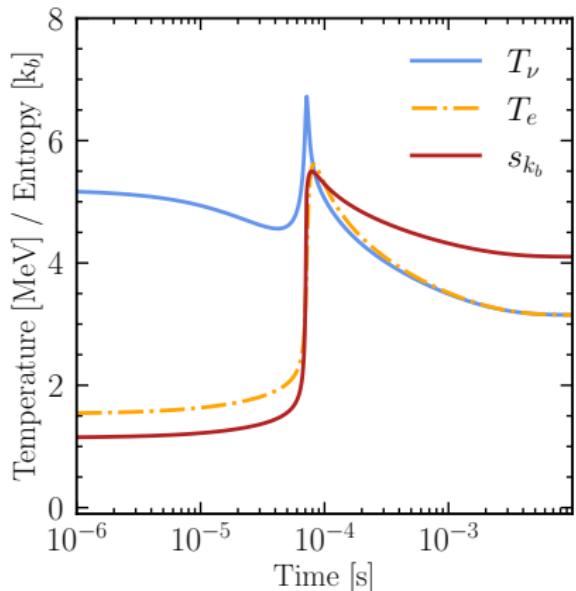
LNV  $\nu$ SI timescale much faster than weak timescale →  
a single  $\nu$  species evolution

$$\sum_{\alpha} \left( \frac{dn_{\nu\alpha}}{dt} + \frac{dn_{\bar{\nu}\alpha}}{dt} \right) = \frac{\delta n_{\nu}}{\delta t} \quad \text{sum over charged-current}$$
$$\sum_{\alpha} \left( \frac{d\rho_{\nu\alpha}}{dt} + \frac{d\rho_{\bar{\nu}\alpha}}{dt} \right) = \frac{\delta \rho_{\nu}}{\delta t} \quad \text{weak interactions}$$

$$\frac{dT_{\nu}}{dt} = \frac{\frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} \frac{\delta n_{\nu}}{\delta t} - \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} \frac{\delta \rho_{\nu}}{\delta t}}{2N_F \left( \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} \frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} - \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} \frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} \right)}$$

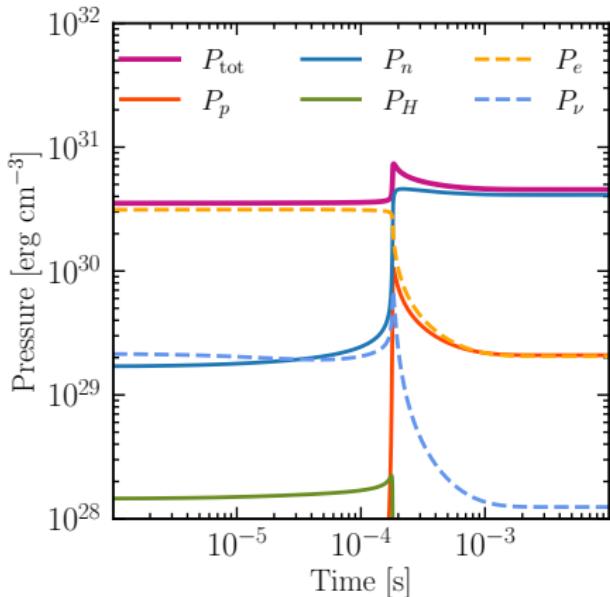
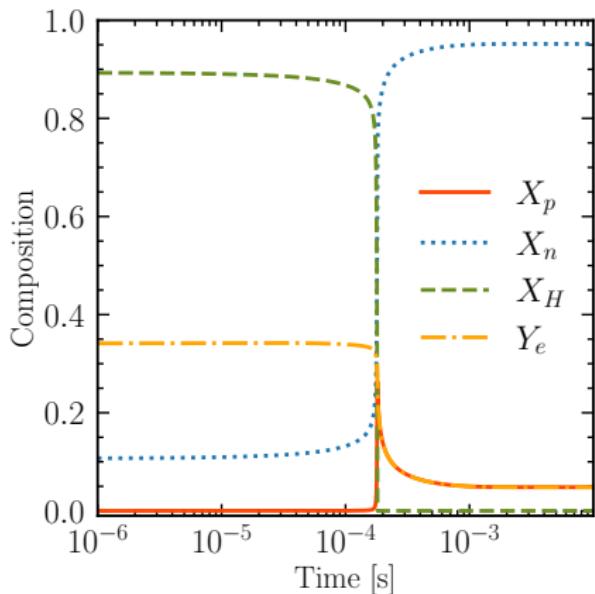
$$\frac{d\mu_{\nu}}{dt} = \frac{\frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} \frac{\delta n_{\nu}}{\delta t} - \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} \frac{\delta \rho_{\nu}}{\delta t}}{2N_F \left( \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} \frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} - \frac{\partial n_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} \frac{\partial \rho_{\nu}}{\partial \mu_{\nu}} \right)}$$

# Evolution of Thermodynamical Quantities



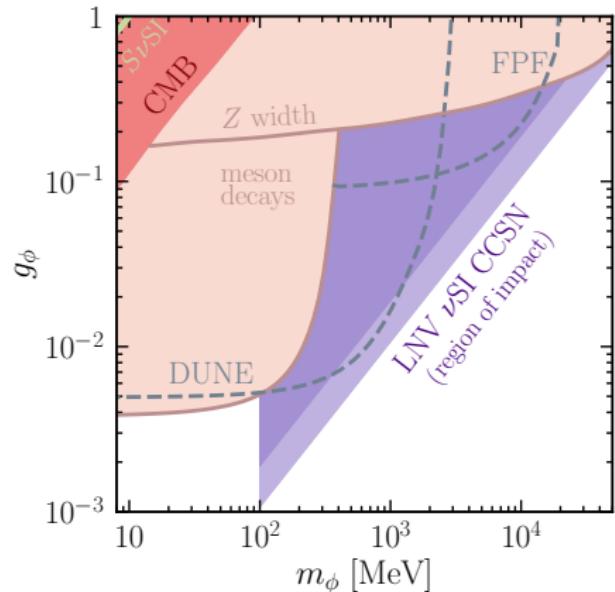
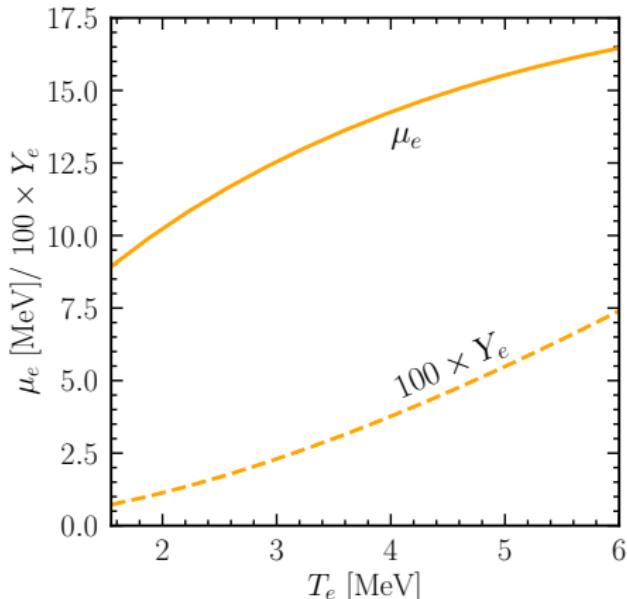
- the same qualitative results for all six flavor equilibration

# Composition and Pressure Support of the Core



- $s_{k_b}$  - entropy generation shifts composition towards no heavy nuclei  
$$X_H \propto s_{k_B}^{1-\langle A \rangle} n_p^Z n_n^N \exp(E_b/T_e)$$
- enhanced deleptonization changes the pressure support of the core

# New $\beta$ -equilibrium with LNV $\nu$ SI



- regardless of the final  $T_e$  the new equilibrium has a very low  $Y_e$   

$$\mu_e = \delta m_{np} - T_e \ln \left( \frac{Y_e}{1-Y_e} \right)$$
, with  $Y_e = \frac{1}{\pi^2 \rho} \int_0^\infty dp_e p_e^2 f_e(E_e, T_e, \mu_e)$
- complementarity with future accelerator-based experiments

# Conclusions

## Strong LNV $\nu$ SI

- can significantly affect the supernova core evolution
- can cause a multi-flavor neutrino burst
- overlap with the future terrestrial probes

## Detection of astrophysical neutrino fluxes

- brings us closer to fully understanding the physics inside the sources
- help us to probe potential new physics scenarios
- caution: full simulations still needed

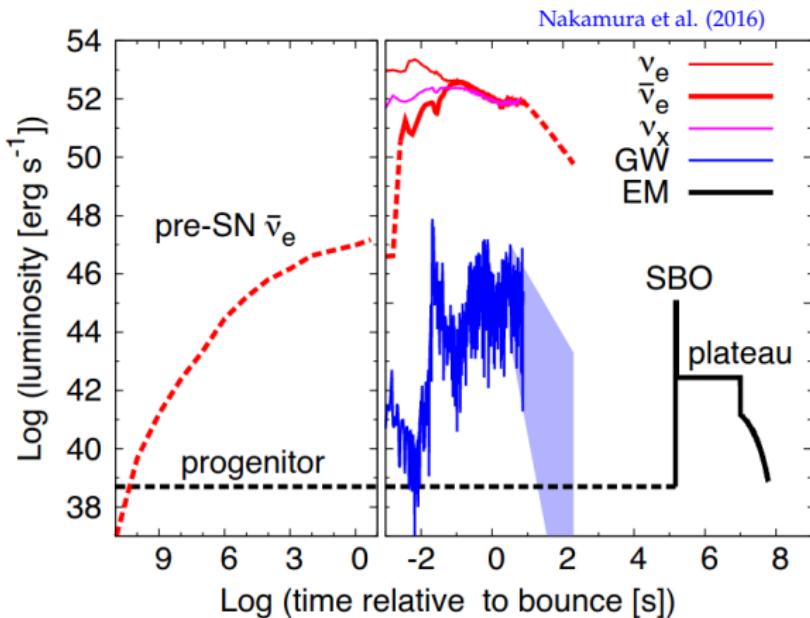
Exciting times ahead!

**Thank you for the attention!**

# Backup

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# Core-Collapse Supernova Light Curve



# Partial Derivatives for the Fermi-Dirac distributions

The partial derivatives for the Fermi-Dirac distributions are given by [Escudero \(2020\)](#)

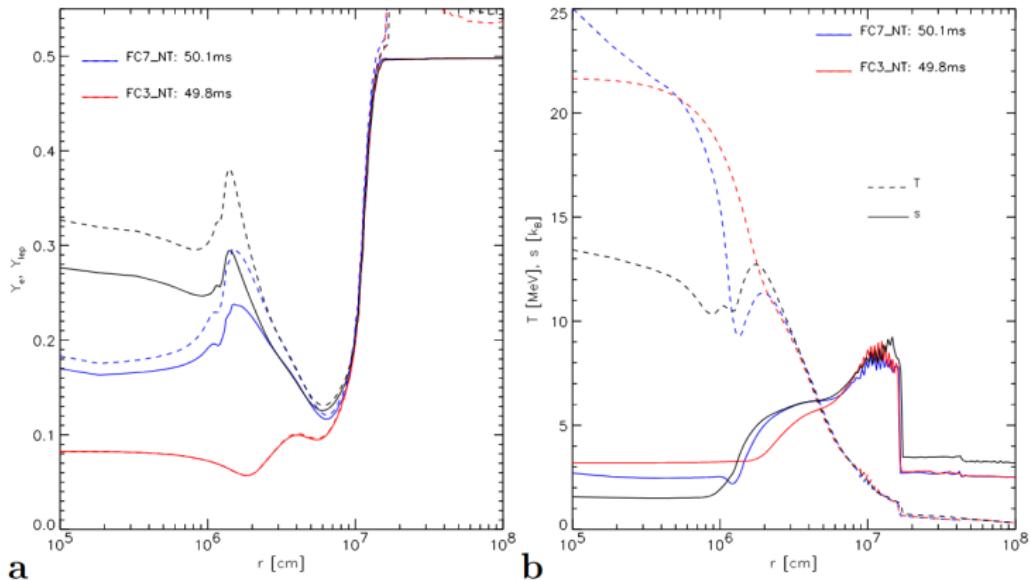
$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial T} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_m^\infty dE E \sqrt{E^2 - m^2} \frac{(E - \mu)}{4T^2} \cosh^{-2} \left( \frac{E - \mu}{2T} \right), \quad (1a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial T} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_m^\infty dE E^2 \sqrt{E^2 - m^2} \frac{(E - \mu)}{4T^2} \cosh^{-2} \left( \frac{E - \mu}{2T} \right), \quad (1b)$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_m^\infty dE E \sqrt{E^2 - m^2} \left[ 2T \cosh \left( \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right) + 2T \right]^{-1}, \quad (1c)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \mu} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_m^\infty dE E^2 \sqrt{E^2 - m^2} \left[ 2T \cosh \left( \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right) + 2T \right]^{-1} \quad (1d)$$

# Proxy "Internal Deleptonization"



M. Rampp et al. (2002)

# LS 220 Equation of State: impact of $\alpha$ particles

