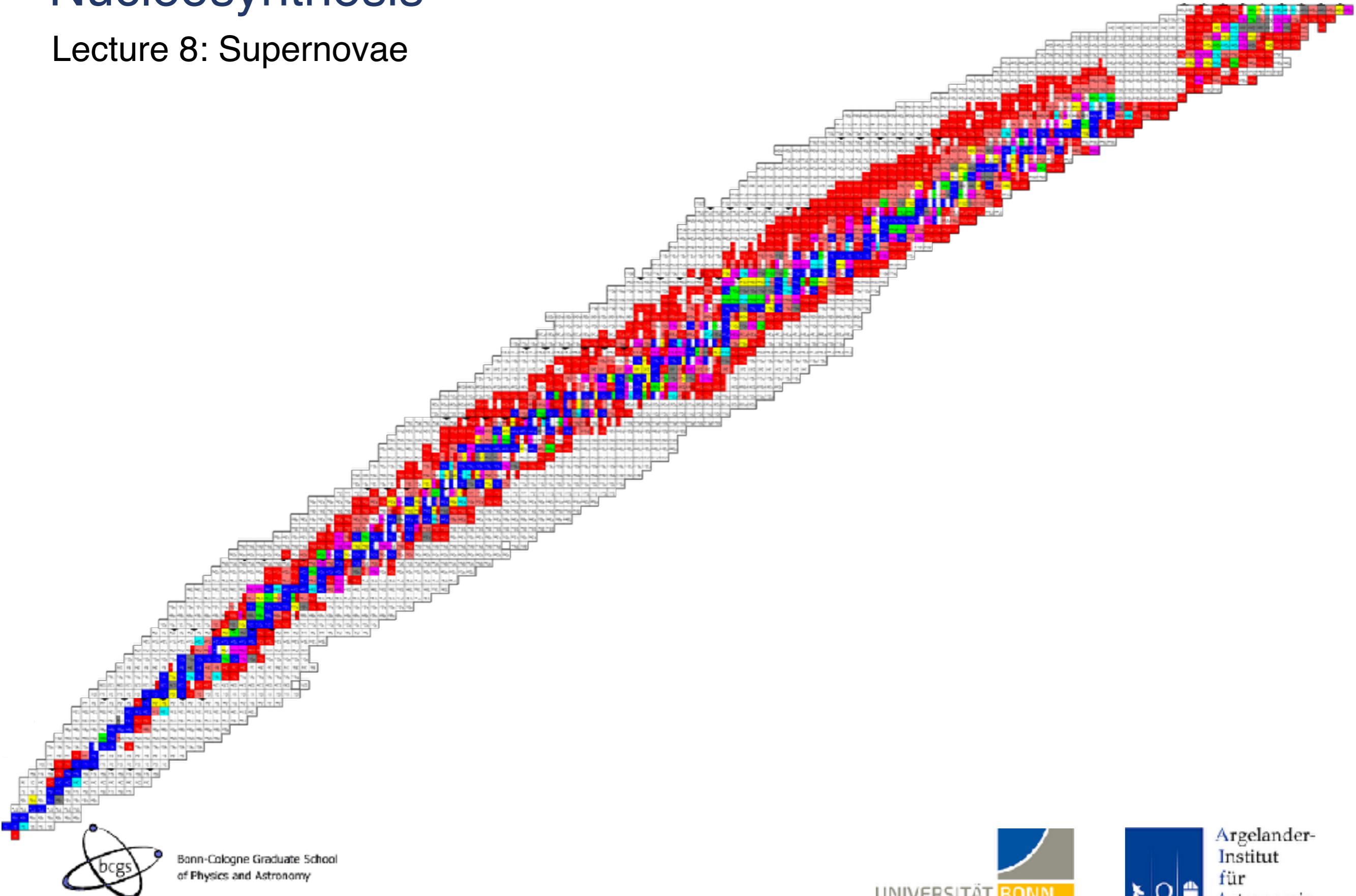


# Nucleosynthesis

## Lecture 8: Supernovae



Bonn-Cologne Graduate School  
of Physics and Astronomy



Argelander-  
Institut  
für  
Astronomie

# Overview

- Lecture 1: Introduction & overview
- Lecture 2: Thermonuclear reactions
- Lecture 3: Big-bang nucleosynthesis
- Lecture 4: Thermonuclear reactions inside stars – I (H-burning)
- Lecture 5: Thermonuclear reactions inside stars – II (advanced burning)
- Lecture 6: Neutron-capture and supernovae – I
- Lecture 7: Neutron-capture and supernovae – II
- [Lecture 8: Thermonuclear supernovae](#)
- Lecture 9: Li, Be and B
- Lecture 10: Galactic chemical evolution and relation to astrobiology

Paper presentations I

June 21

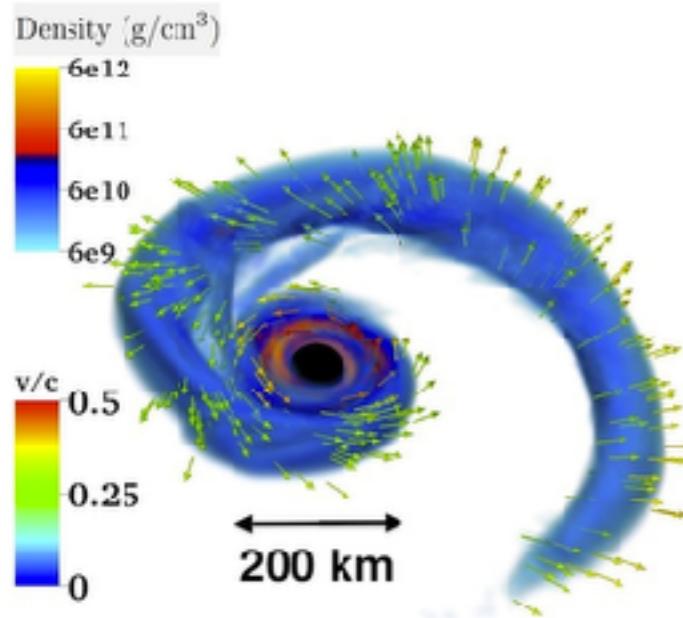
Paper presentations II

June 28

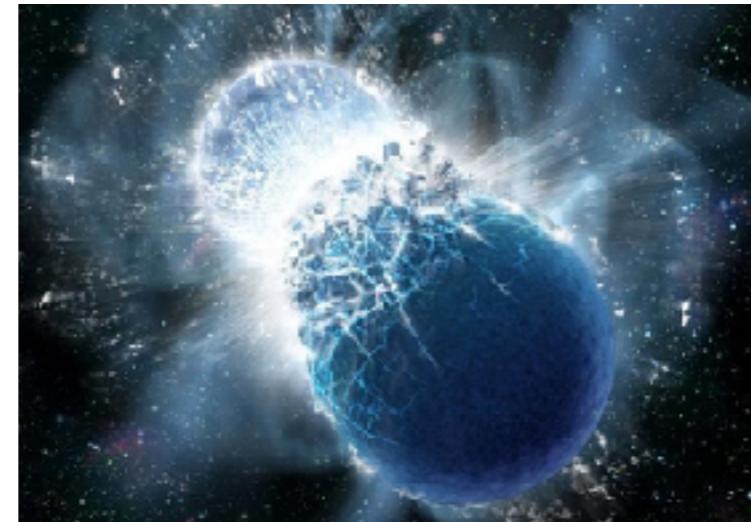
# nucleosynthesis in neutron star mergers

## Potential sources of ejecta in neutron star mergers

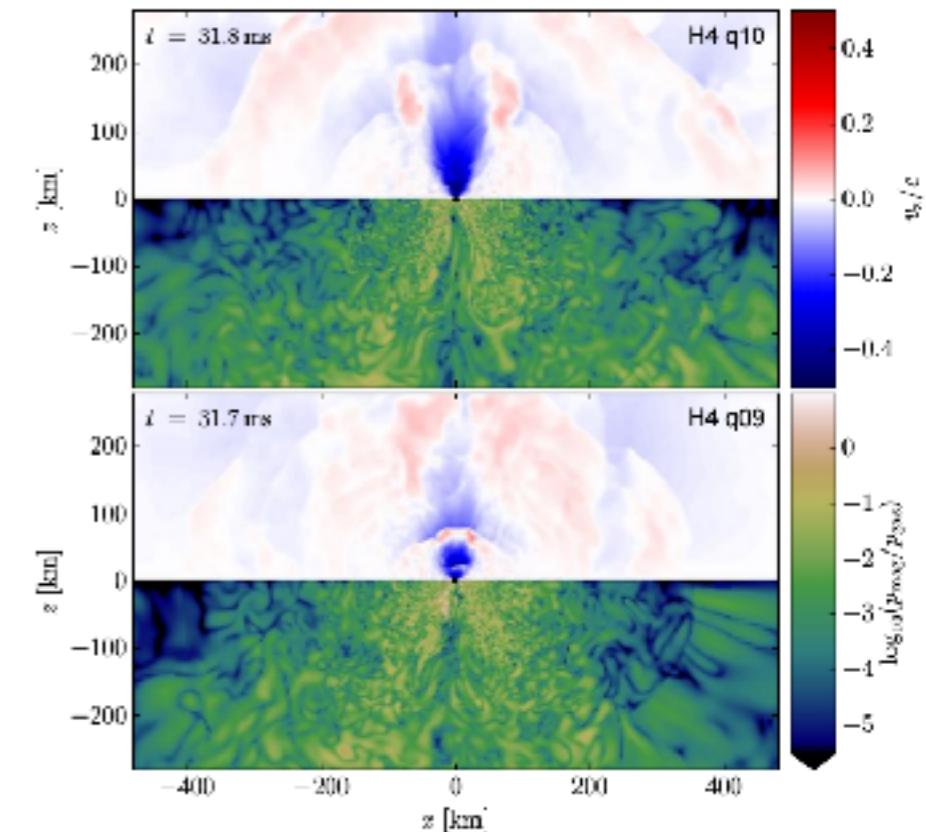
tidal ejecta



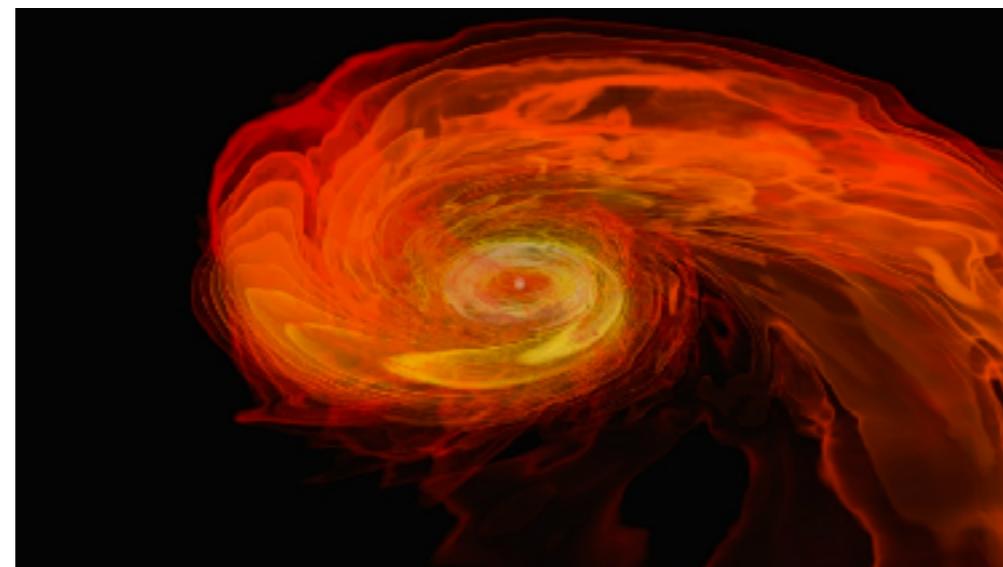
collision heated ejecta



v- and B-driven winds

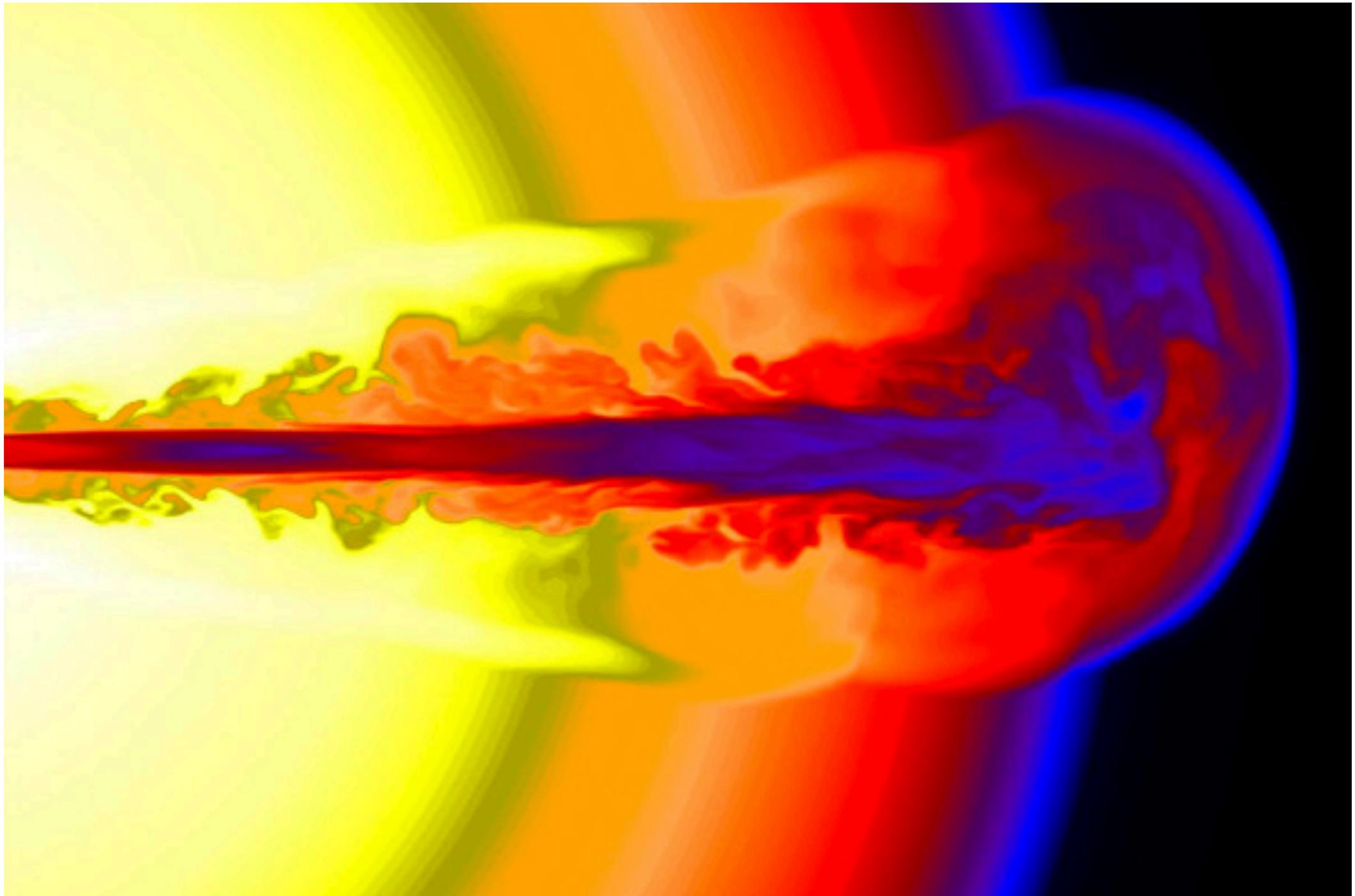


post-merger accretion disk



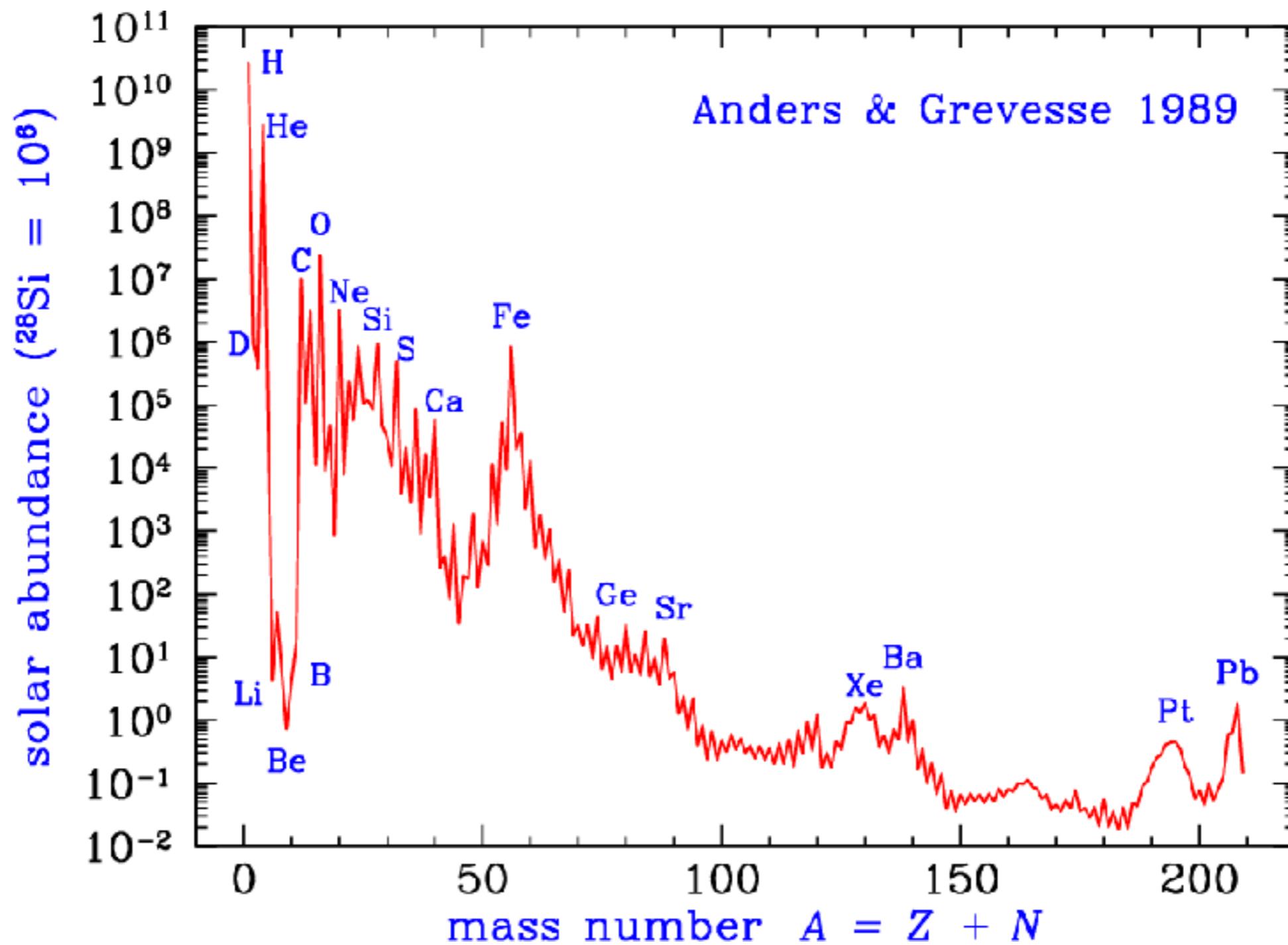
## nucleosynthesis in neutron star mergers

Primary r-process elements are most likely created in “NS merger”-like collapsar accretion disks



# nucleosynthesis in supernovae

Stellar explosions are the most important source of enrichment in galaxies



# Supernovae



宋曾要言星  
卷之八百三

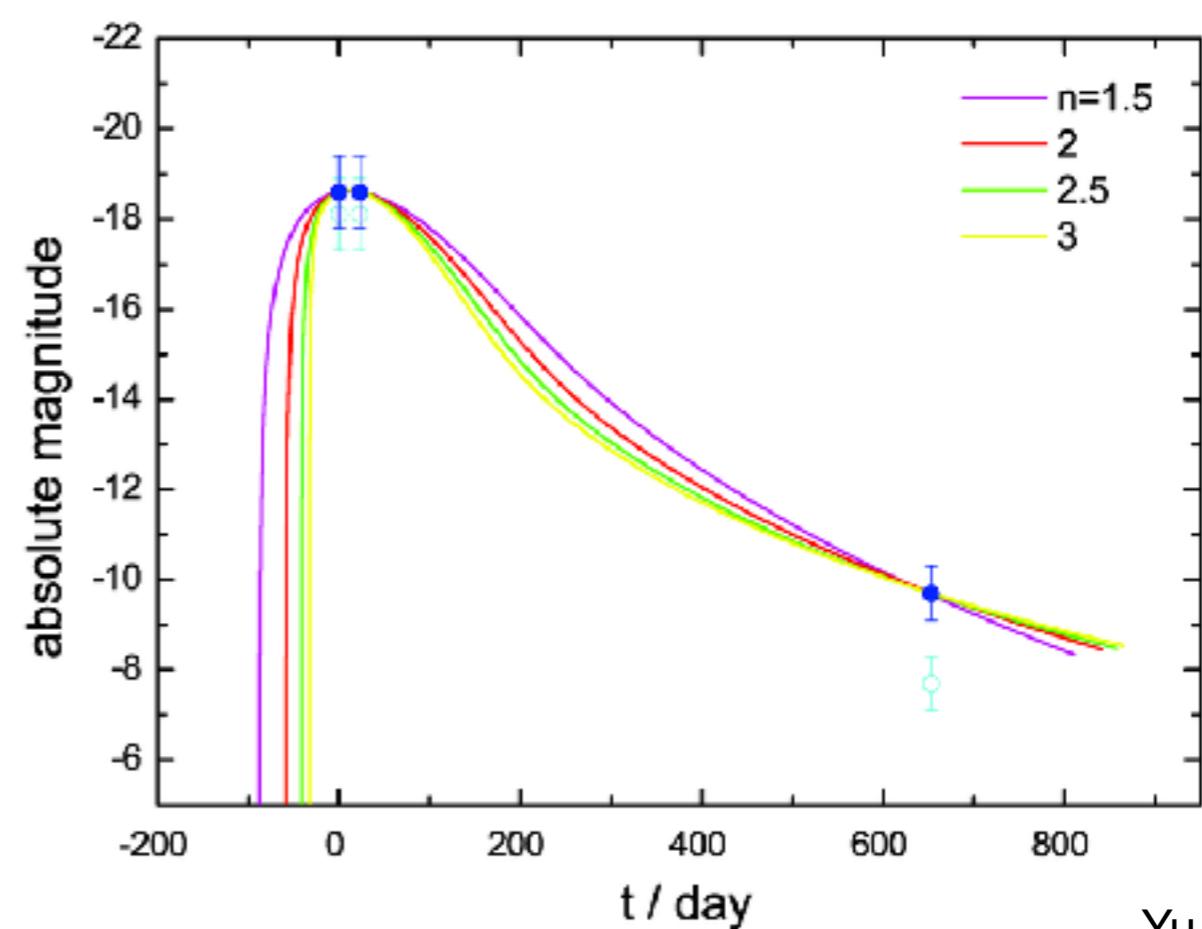
至和元年七月二十二日，守將作監致仕楊雖德言狀。  
觀客星出見其星上微有光移，黃色，逕，乘皇帝掌權占。  
云客星不犯卑明，歲有土，國有大賀。已付天官，容百官。  
憲賀詔達史館。嘉祐元年三月，司天監言客星及客。  
去之先也。初至和元年五月辰，出東方，守天門，至太白芒角四出，色赤白，凡見二十三日。

三月丁巳，詔禮部貢舉，帝朱，司天監言，自至和元年五月，客星晨出東方守天門，至是夜，壬申，遣官謝天瑞，宗廟、社稷、寺廟、諸祠。癸酉，契丹遣使來謝。

閏月癸未朔，以王安石參知政事，程摯為樞密副使，留前後殿閣日親事，  
安上門，門頭列，慶宮私庫舍數萬匹。諸路官庫，河失蓄，河北尤甚。

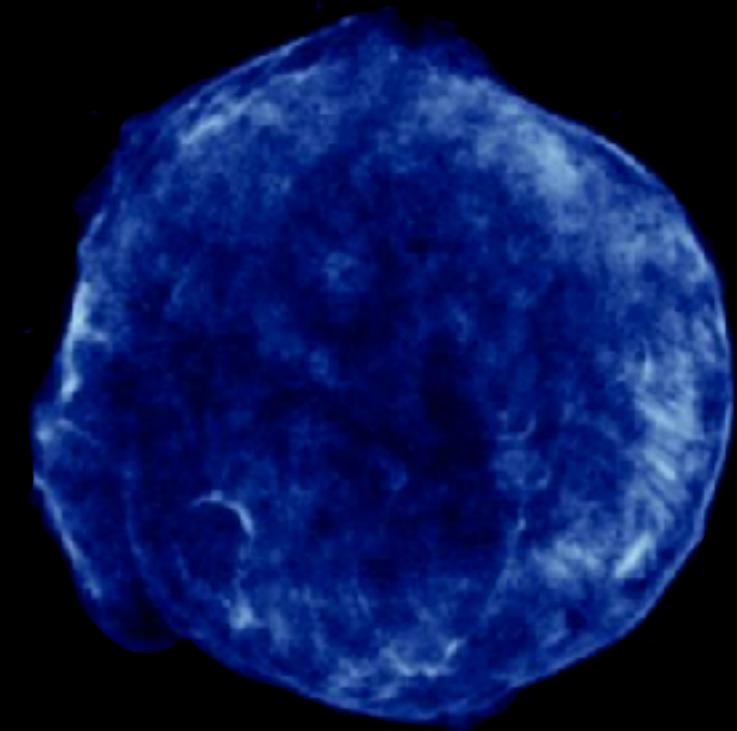
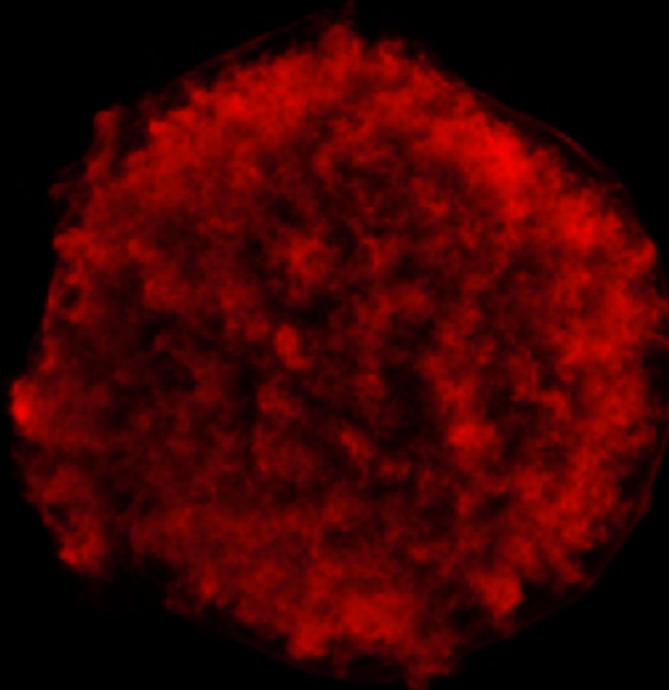
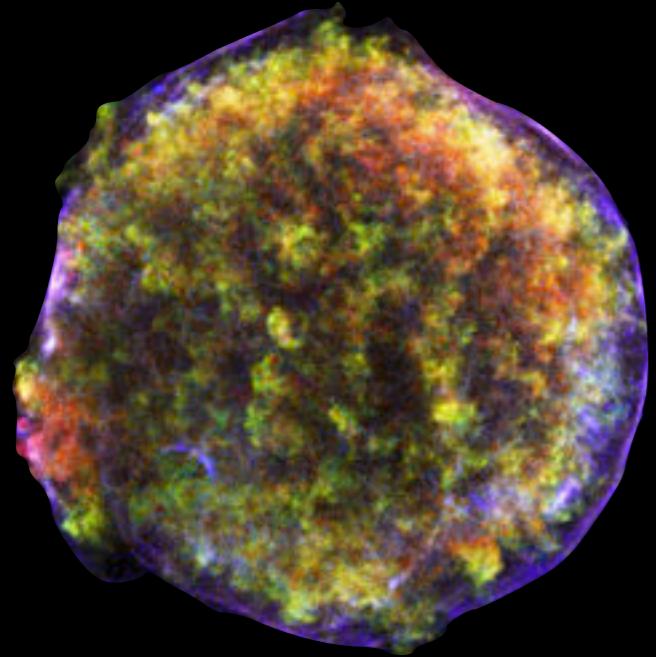
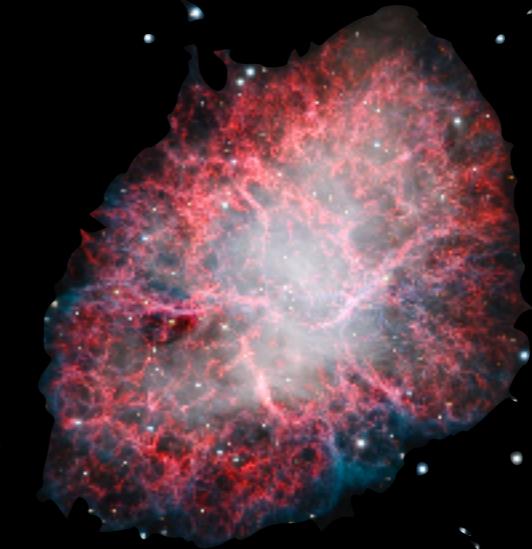
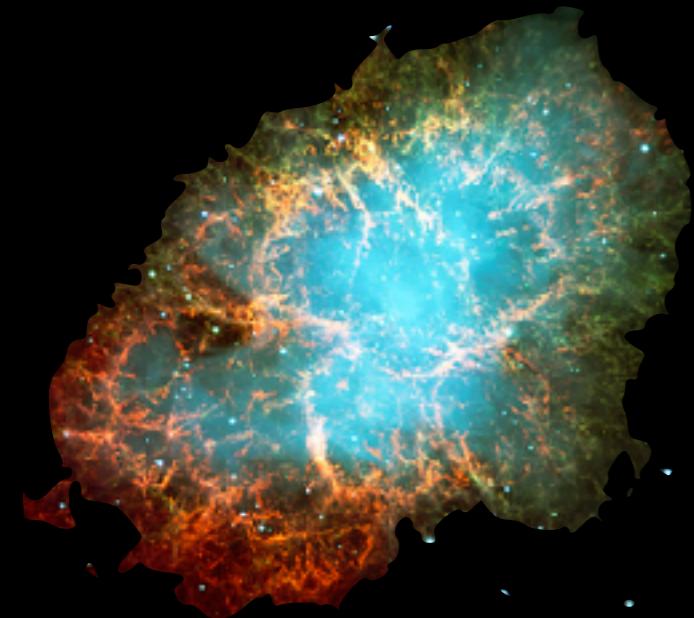
二三九

宋史卷十二 仁宗



# Supernovae

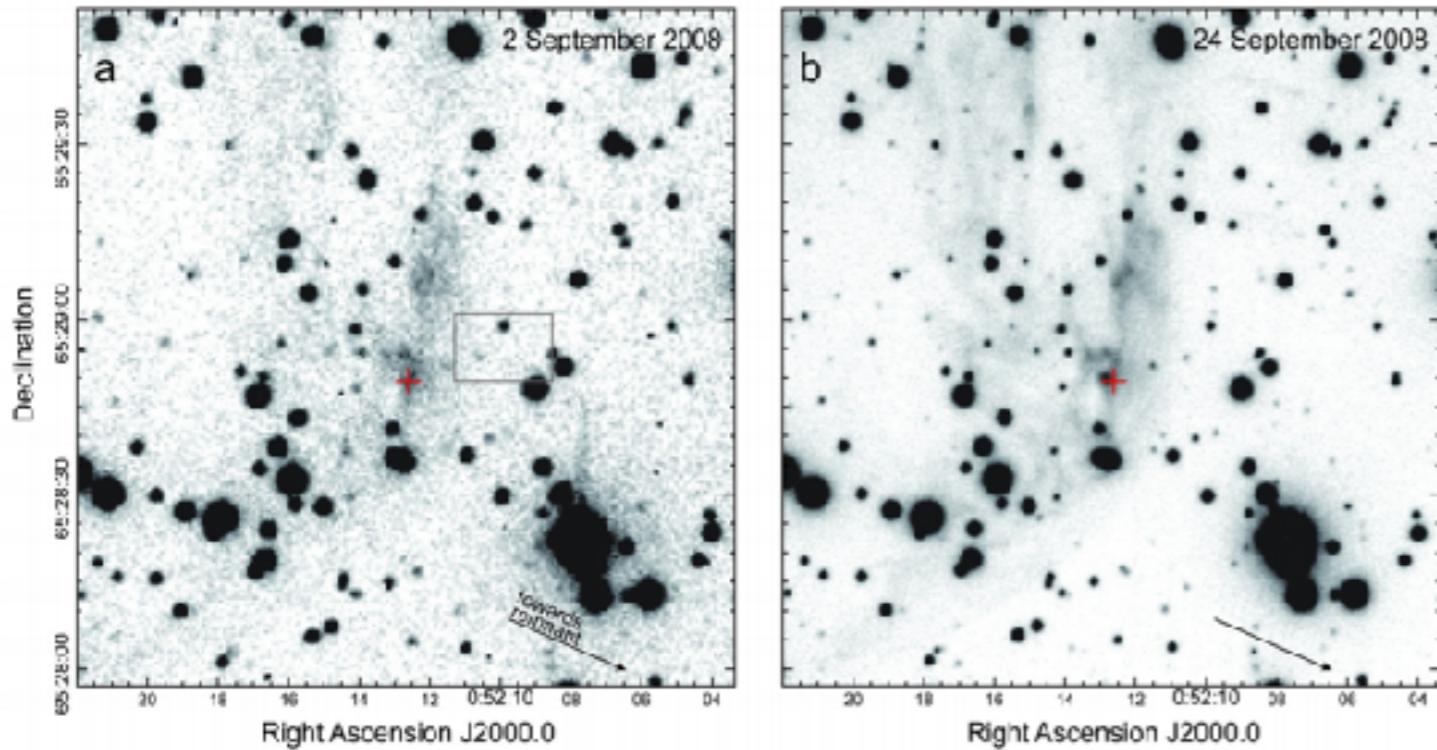
SN 1054



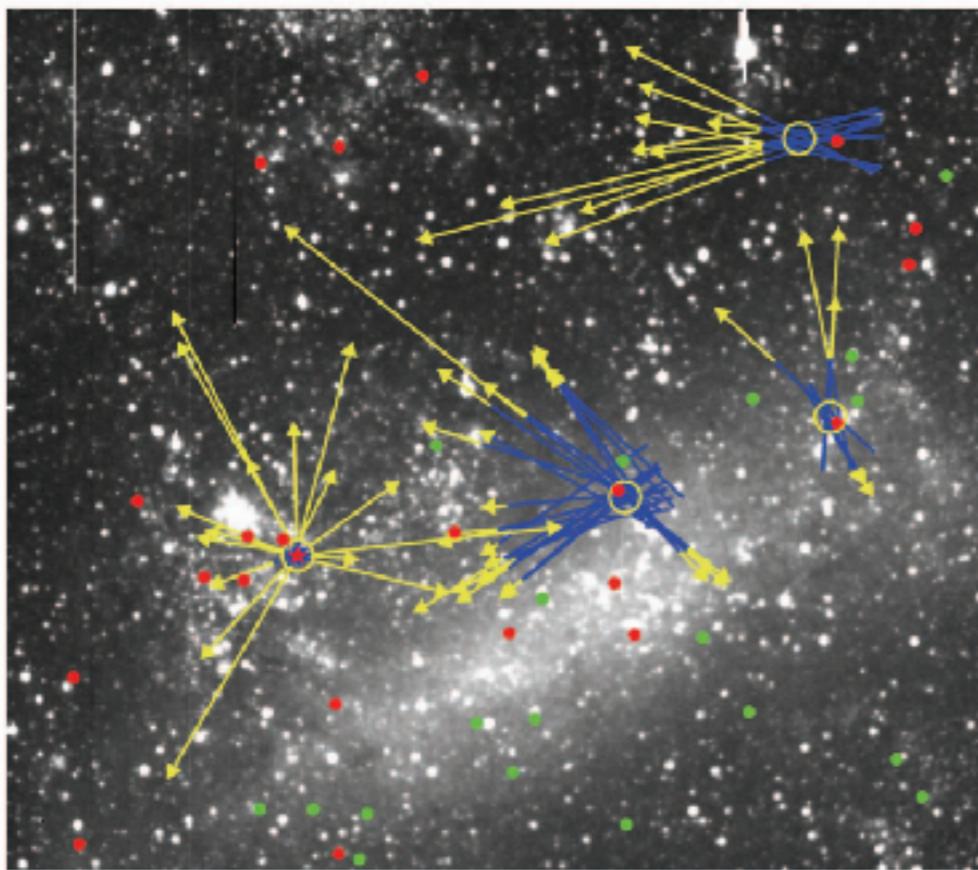
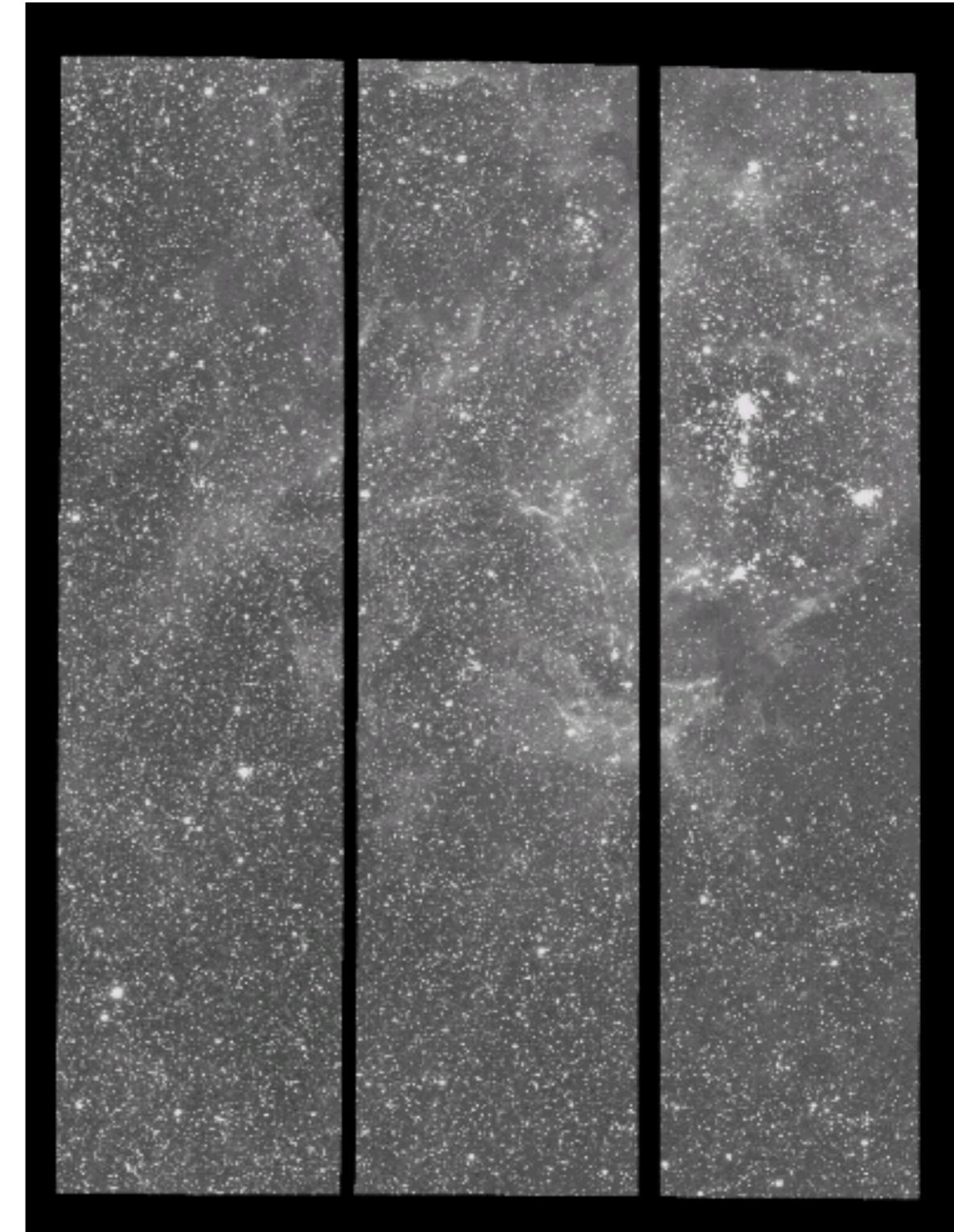
SN 1572

# supernovae

Light echoes from SN 1572



Light echoes from SN 1987A



Krause et al. 2008, Rest et al. 2005

## stellar explosions

The simplest model for a supernova explosion is that of a conventional bomb



Large amount of energy on  
the verge of being released

+

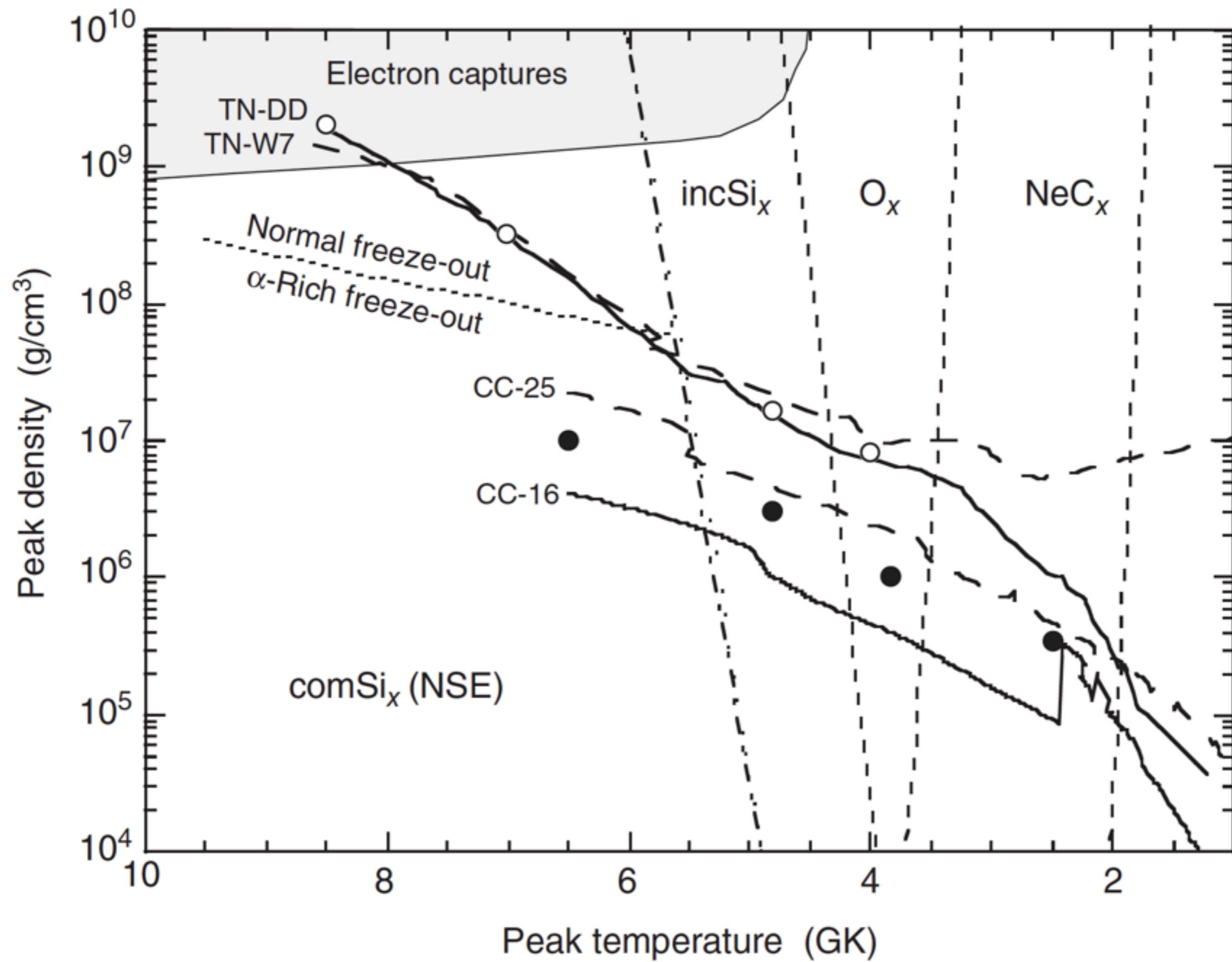
trigger

Bombs often fail because they are not triggered in the right way.

So do most of our *model* supernova explosions!!!

**Still not in a position to explain stellar explosions from first principles**

# microphysics



## nuclear statistical equilibrium

A system at *any temperature and density* will come into equilibrium, provided it is maintained for long enough

The nuclear statistical equilibrium most relevant for astrophysics is one in which strong and EM interactions participate. The abundance of each element is given in terms of its nuclear properties and the local plasma conditions

$$X_i(A_i, Z_i, T, \rho) = \frac{A}{N_A \rho} G(A, Z, T) \left( \frac{2\pi k T M(A_i, Z_i)}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \exp \left[ \frac{\mu(A_i, Z_i) + B(A_i, Z_i)}{kT} \right]$$

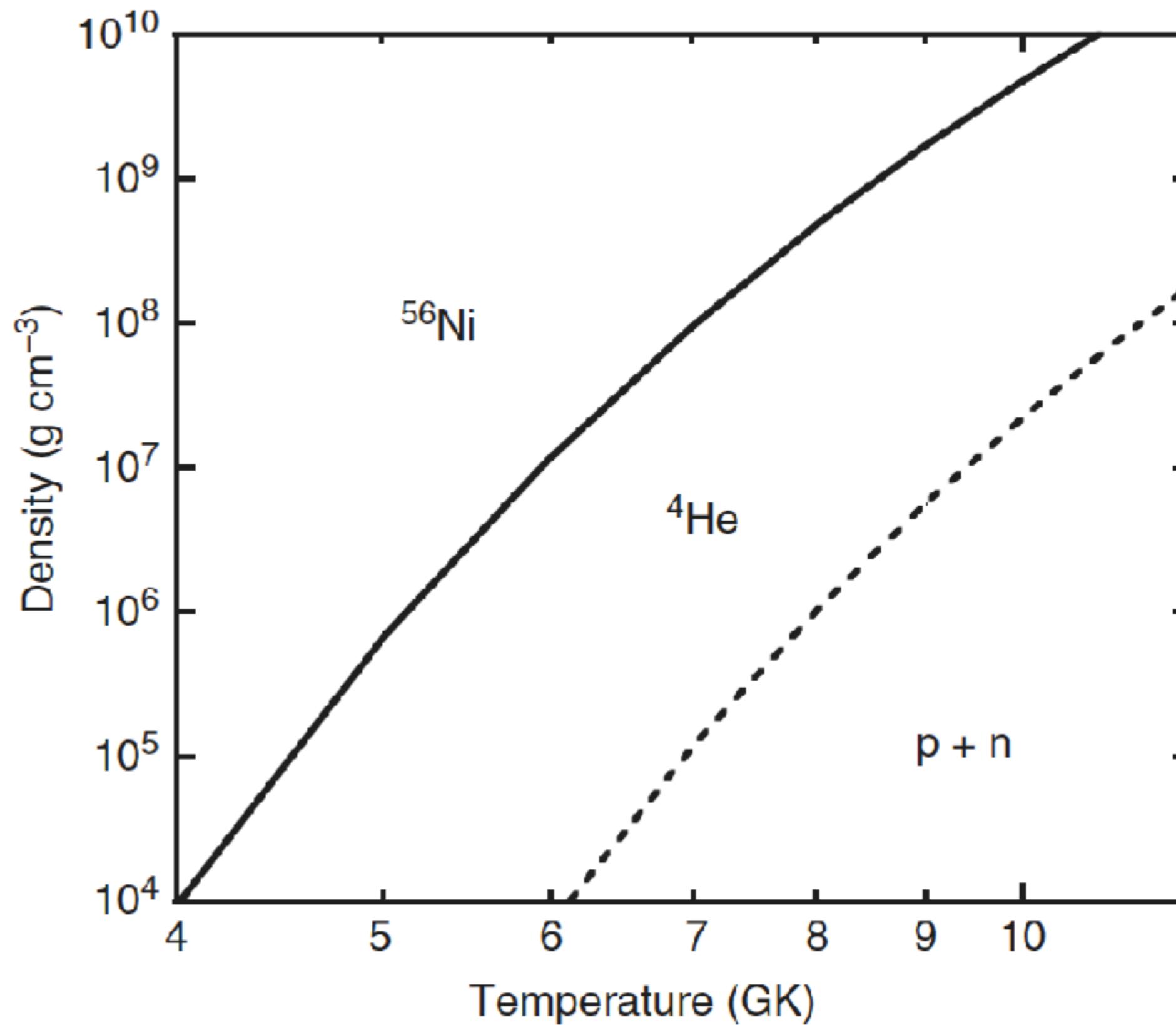
$$\mu(A_i, Z_i) = Z_i \mu_p + N_i \mu_n = Z_i \mu_p + (A_i - Z_i) \mu_n$$

Mass (baryon number is conserved). Because weak interactions do not participate in the equilibrium, charge is also conserved (number of protons, neutrons)

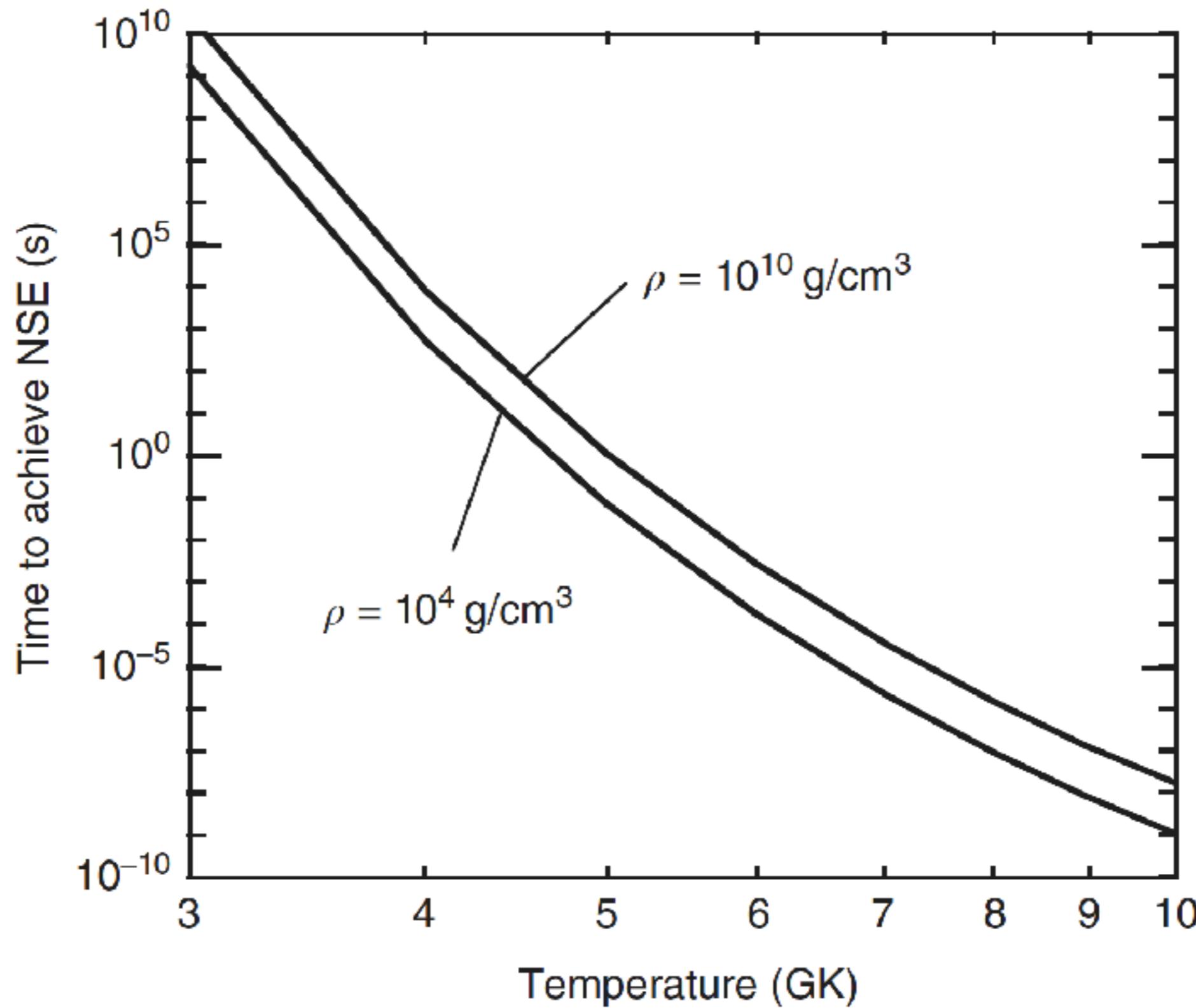
$$\sum_i X_i = 1; \quad Y_e = \sum \frac{Z_i}{A_i} X_i$$

With the above, each triplet  $(T, \rho, Y_e)$  yields a unique solution for  $(X_i, \mu_p, \mu_n)$

## nuclear statistical equilibrium



## nuclear statistical equilibrium



# SNe Ia

H- and He- deficient,  
strong silicon lines

$10^{10-11} L_{\text{sun}}$

$M_{56\text{Ni}} > 0.6 M_{\text{sun}}$

$v_{\text{ej}} > 10^3 \text{ km/s}$

$E_{\text{kin}} \sim 10^{51} \text{ erg}$

in both ellipticals+spiral

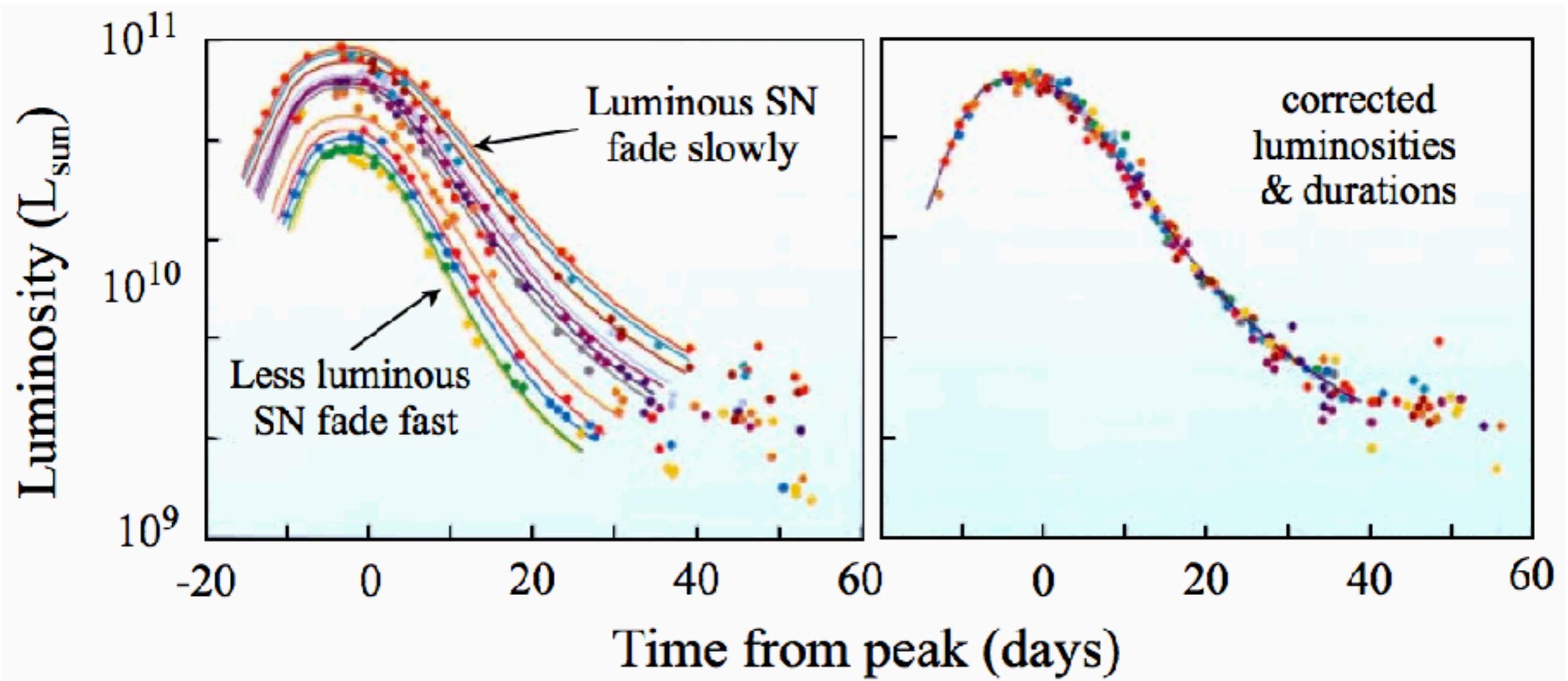
rate correlates with  
star formation in spiral

similar peak L and  
early spectra



## SNe Ia

Standardisable candles with high luminosities: can be used to measure cosmological distances (Phillips 1995)



## SNe Ia models

The origin of SNe Ia is still debated! Most models include a CO white dwarf that somehow approaches the Chandrasekhar limit

Problem: stellar evolution makes CO white dwarfs with masses up to  $\sim 1.1 \text{ M}_{\odot}$   
Somehow the white dwarf needs to gain  $\sim 0.2\text{-}0.3 \text{ M}_{\odot}$

### Three chief possibilities

#### **single-degenerate model Chandrasekhar mass model**

Mass accretion from a non-degenerate stellar companion until Chandrasekhar limit is reached. Carbon ignites in the centre due to compressional heating

#### **single-degenerate model sub-Chandrasekhar mass model**

Mass accretion from a non-degenerate stellar companion builds a thick He layer on top of CO core. Helium detonation leads to compression and carbon ignition

#### **double degenerate model**

Mass accretion in a merger

Each model has its own pros and cons. Still many aspects, including ignition and flame propagation are highly uncertain

## SNe Ia: SD scenario

### Accretion from a companion

if rate too high: common envelope

if rate too low: nova eruptions (mass likely decreases)

only seems possible for a small range accretion rates  $10^{-7} M_{\text{sun}}/\text{yr}$  for billions of years

possibly visible as soft x-ray sources



## SNe Ia: SD scenario

As the mass of the star increases due to accretion, so does the density/temperature in the core

$^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$  rate increases (highly screened!), at some point the energy generation rate becomes larger than the neutrino cooling rate —> **ignition**

Initially the extra energy drives convection which extends throughout the entire star —> **carbon shimmering**

As temperature increases, there comes a point at which  $\tau_{\text{burn}} \sim \tau_{\text{conv}}$

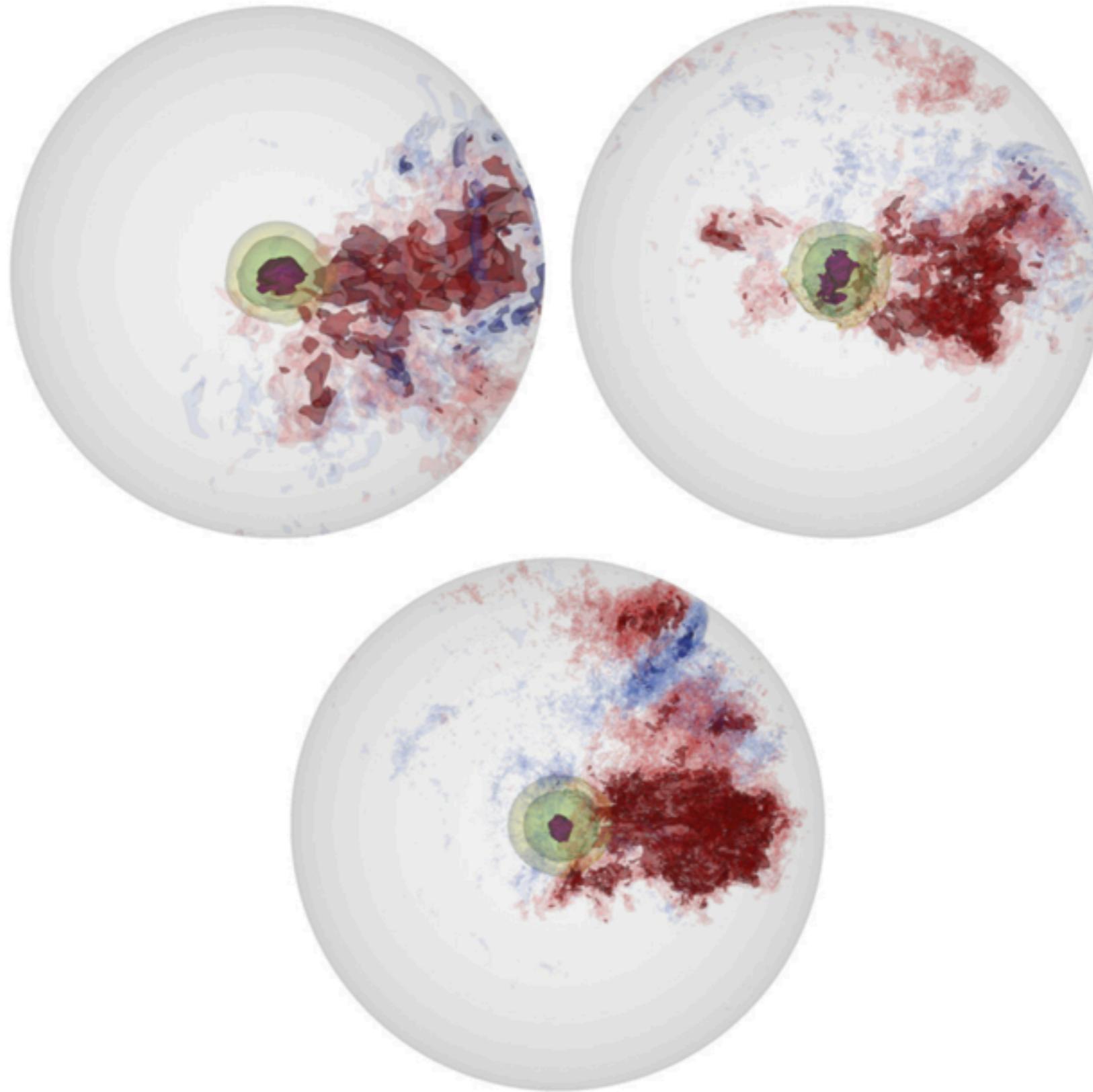
Runaway ensues! Burning becomes faster than the time it takes a sound wave to cross a pressure scale height

# SNe Ia: SD scenario

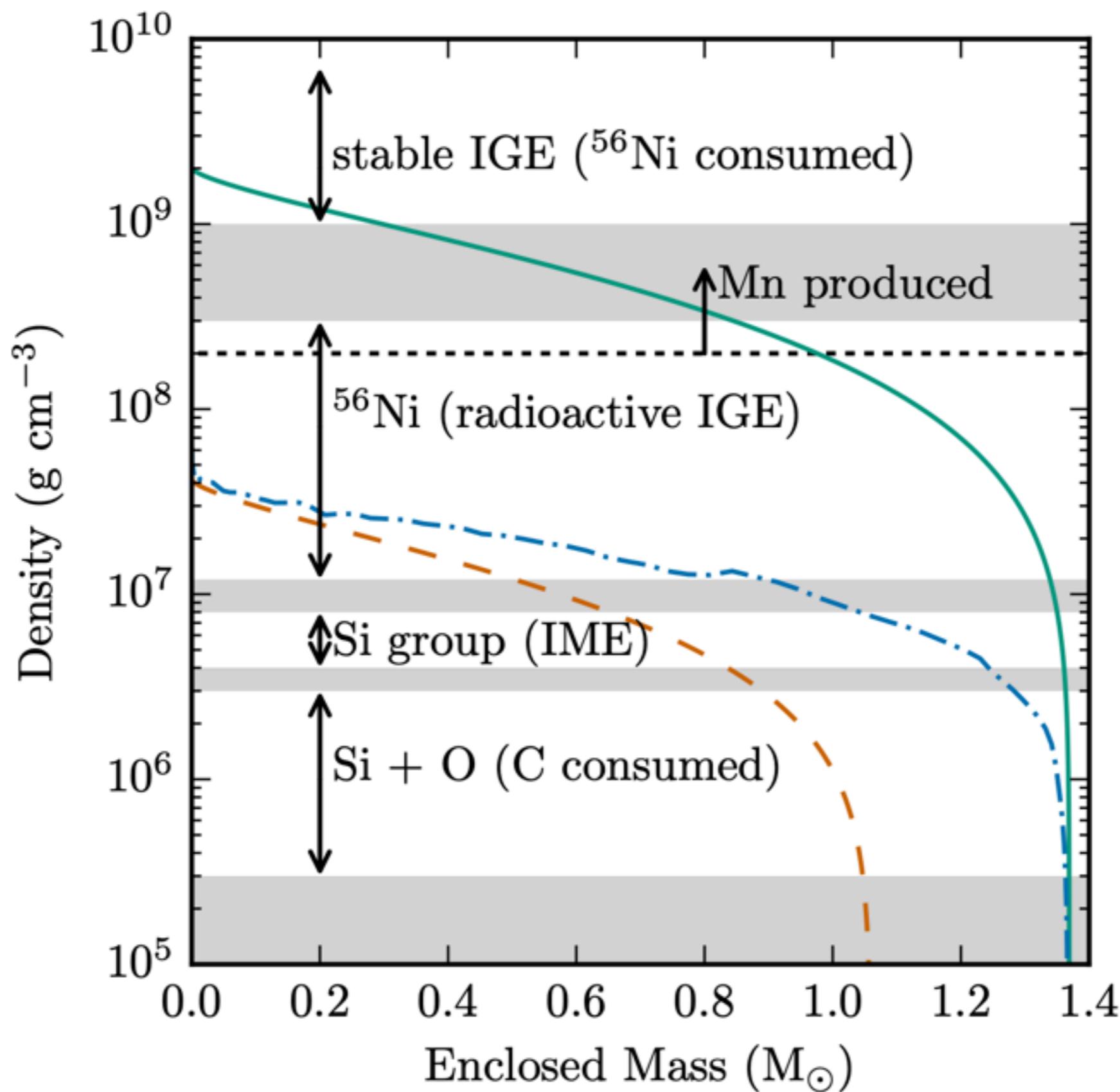
Ignition may start off-centre and propagate inwards

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 745:73 (22pp), 2012 January 20

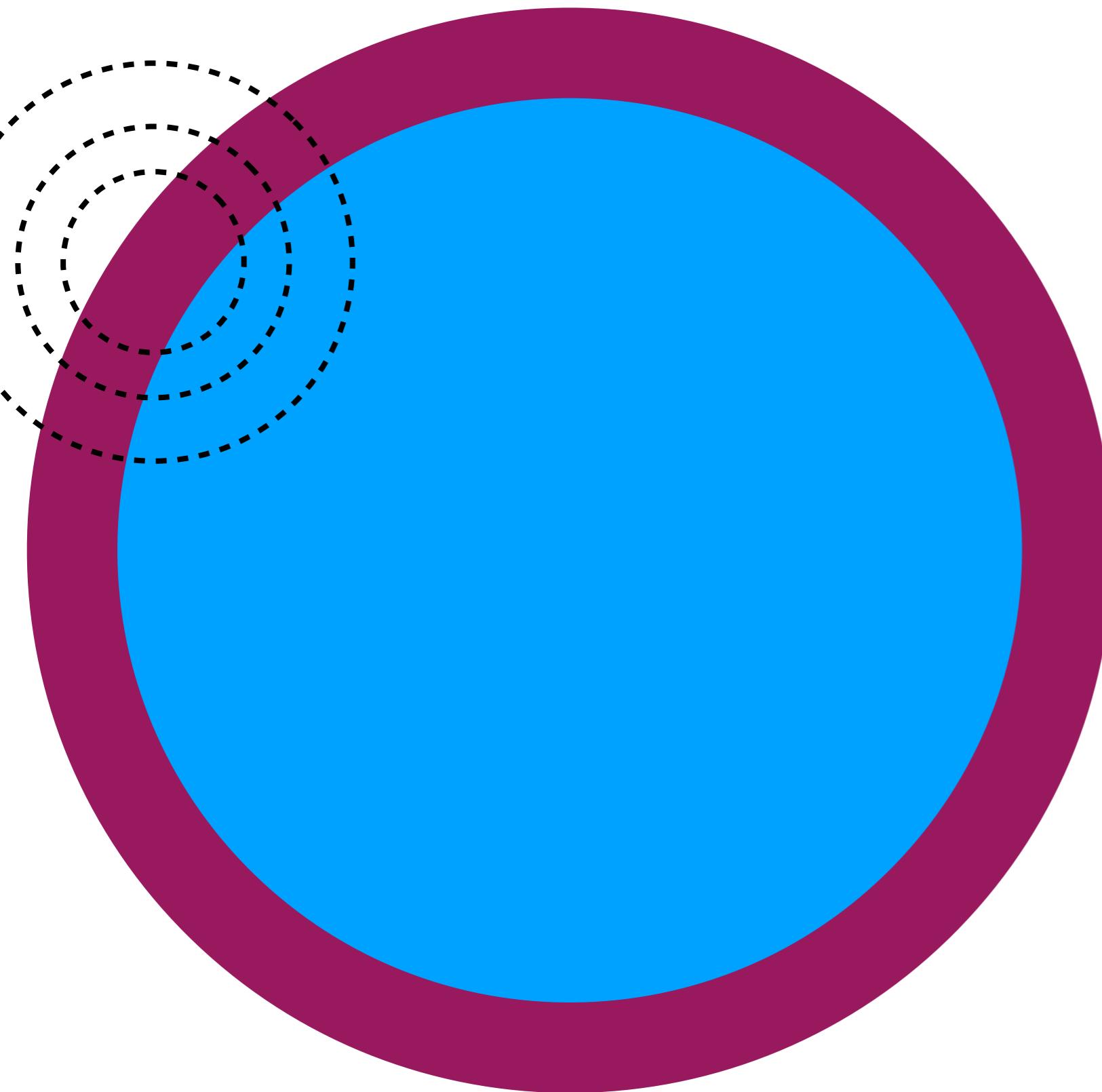
NONAKA ET AL.



## SNe Ia: deflagration, detonation or both?



## sub-Chandrasekhar mass models



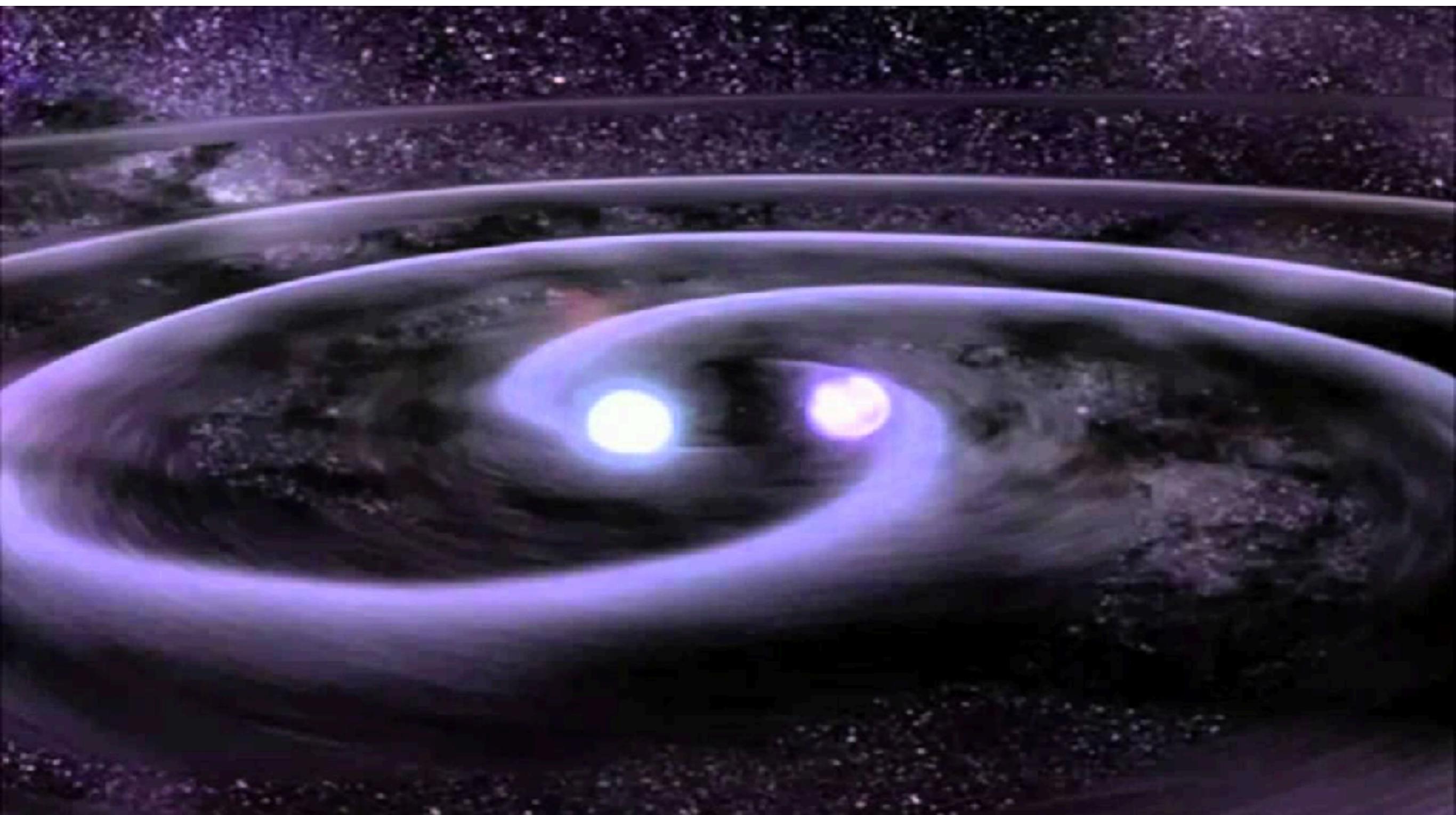
Helium layer should be thin enough  
to be invisible in the spectrum but  
thick enough to ignite  
(0.01-0.07 Msol)

Diversity of possible outcomes

Can have multiple ignition points

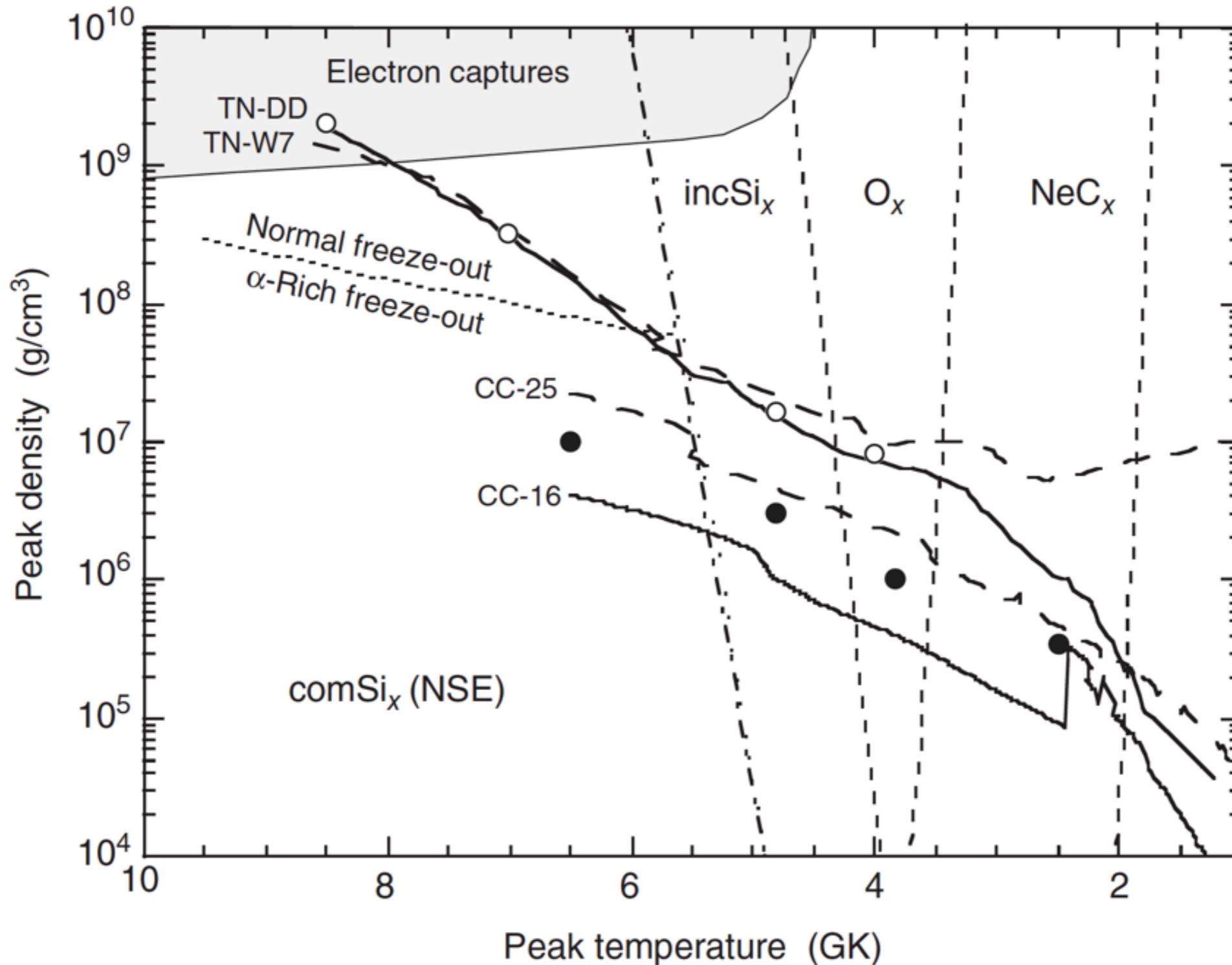
## mergers

Wide range of possible outcomes ranging from prompt detonation to a stable configuration depending on initial masses and compositions

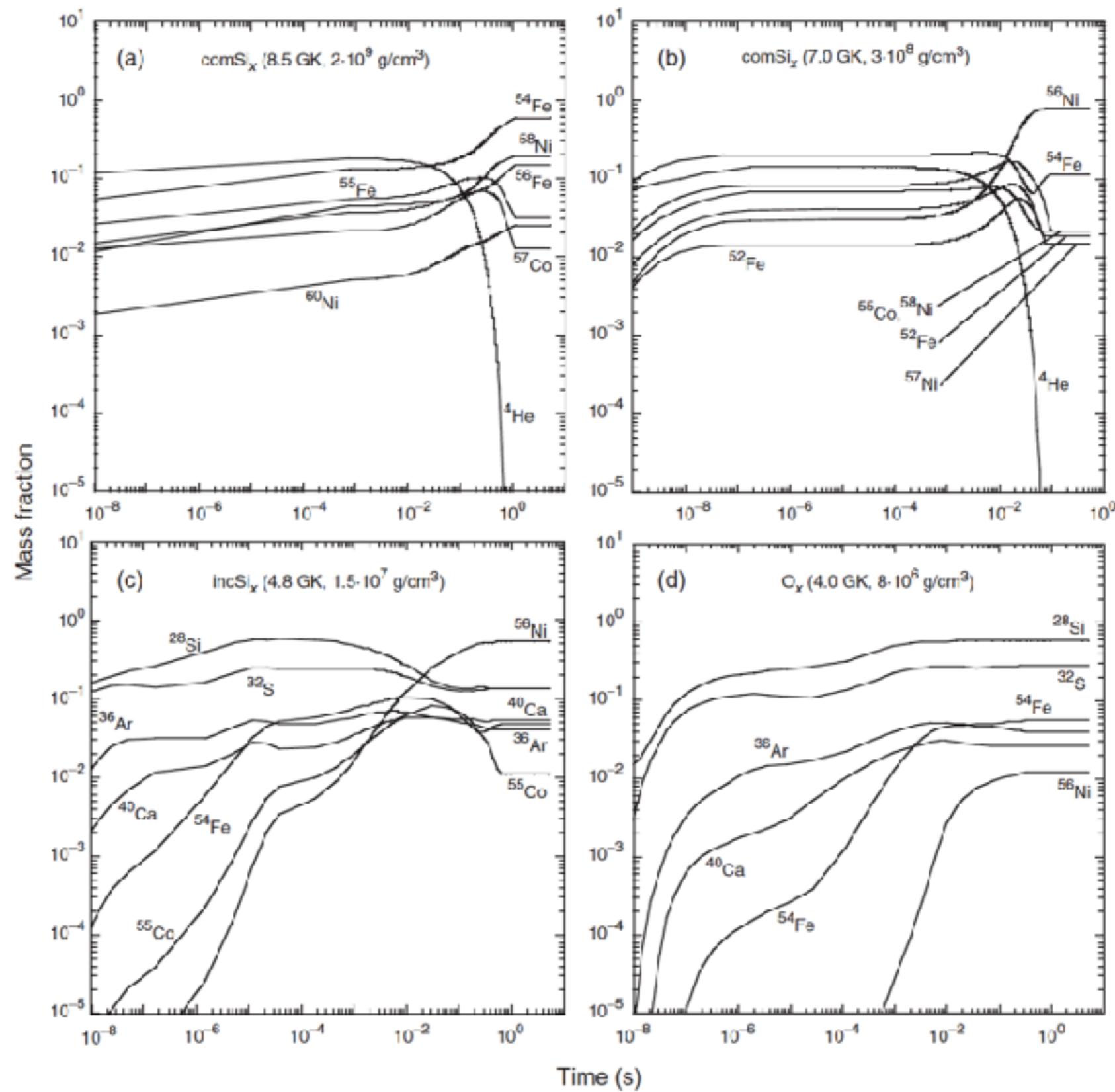


# SNe Ia nucleosynthesis

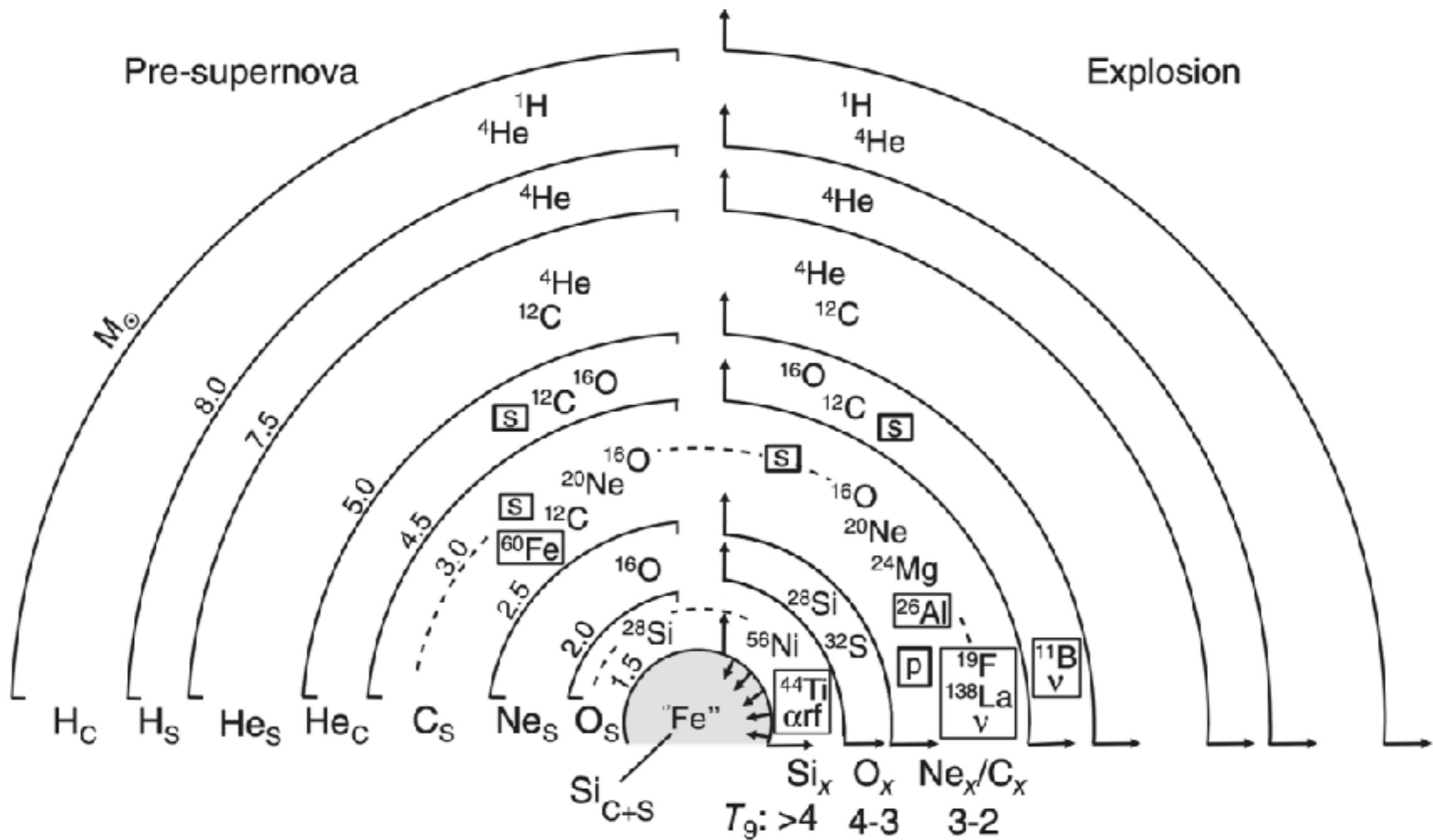
Consider simple detonation model and post-shock adiabatic cooling



# SNe la nucleosynthesis



# Pre-supernova structure and core-collapse



# Core-collapse supernovae

