



# PUSHING THE (MASSIVE STAR) ENVELOPE WITH STELLAR ENGINEERING

Lecturer: Jared A. Goldberg (Flatiron Institute CCA; [jgoldberg@flatironinstitute.org](mailto:jgoldberg@flatironinstitute.org))

TAs: Ethan Winch (Armagh Observatory), Annachiara Picco (KU Leuven), Aldana Grichener (Technion → UArizona)

# OVERVIEW OF THE 3 “MINI” LABS

---

# OVERVIEW OF THE LAB STRUCTURE:

---

- ▶ Minilab 1: The impact of “flux engineering” on the outer stellar structure
- ▶ Minilab 2: The impact of mixing length on stellar radius + local and global thermal timescales
- ▶ Minilab 3: Mass loss and the transition to stripped-envelope stellar structure

# MINILAB 1: FLUX ENGINEERING

---

# WHY ARE MASSIVE STARS HARD?

---

(PHYSICALLY AND  
NUMERICALLY)

# STARS 101: HYDROSTATIC BALANCE WITH GAS PRESSURE

Let's get down to physics! We start with Hydrostatic Balance:

$$\rightarrow \frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho g, \text{ where } g(r) = \frac{Gm(r)}{r^2}$$

Within the star, m=total mass M, r=radius R, yielding:

$$\frac{P}{R} \sim \rho \frac{GM}{R^2}, \text{ combine with ideal gas } P \approx \frac{\rho k_B T}{\mu m_p}$$

Yielding an approximate relation for the central temperature,  $T_c$

$$k_B T_c \approx \frac{GM\mu m_p}{R} \quad \text{so, roughly, } T \propto M/R$$

# ESTIMATING THE STELLAR LUMINOSITY

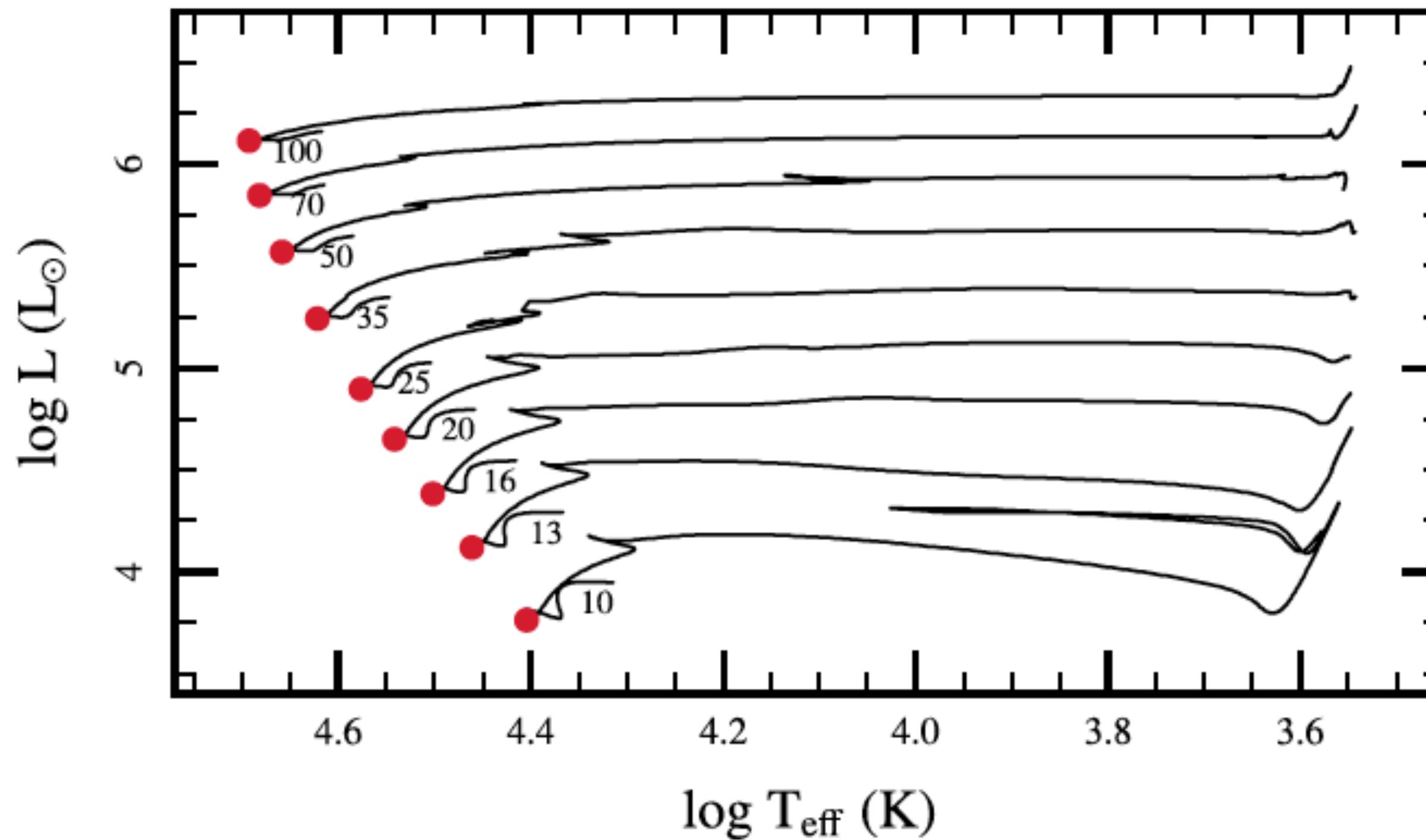
Luminosity is determined by heat transport. For the diffusion of photons, we can guess:

$$F = -\frac{c}{3\kappa\rho} \frac{daT^4}{dr}$$

Where the last step assumed that the opacity,  $\kappa$ , is constant and we used the hydrostatic balance relations assuming only **ideal gas pressure** from the previous slide.

# NEARLY CONSTANT L AS R CHANGES, + STRONG MASS DEPENDENCE

7



# THE TRANSITION TO RADIATION PRESSURE

---

Ok, but, was ideal gas pressure (which got us  $T \propto M/R$ ) an ok assumption?? Let's check:

$$\frac{P_{\text{rad}}}{P_{\text{gas}}} \propto \frac{T^3}{\rho} \approx 10^{-4} \left( \frac{M}{M_c} \right)^2$$

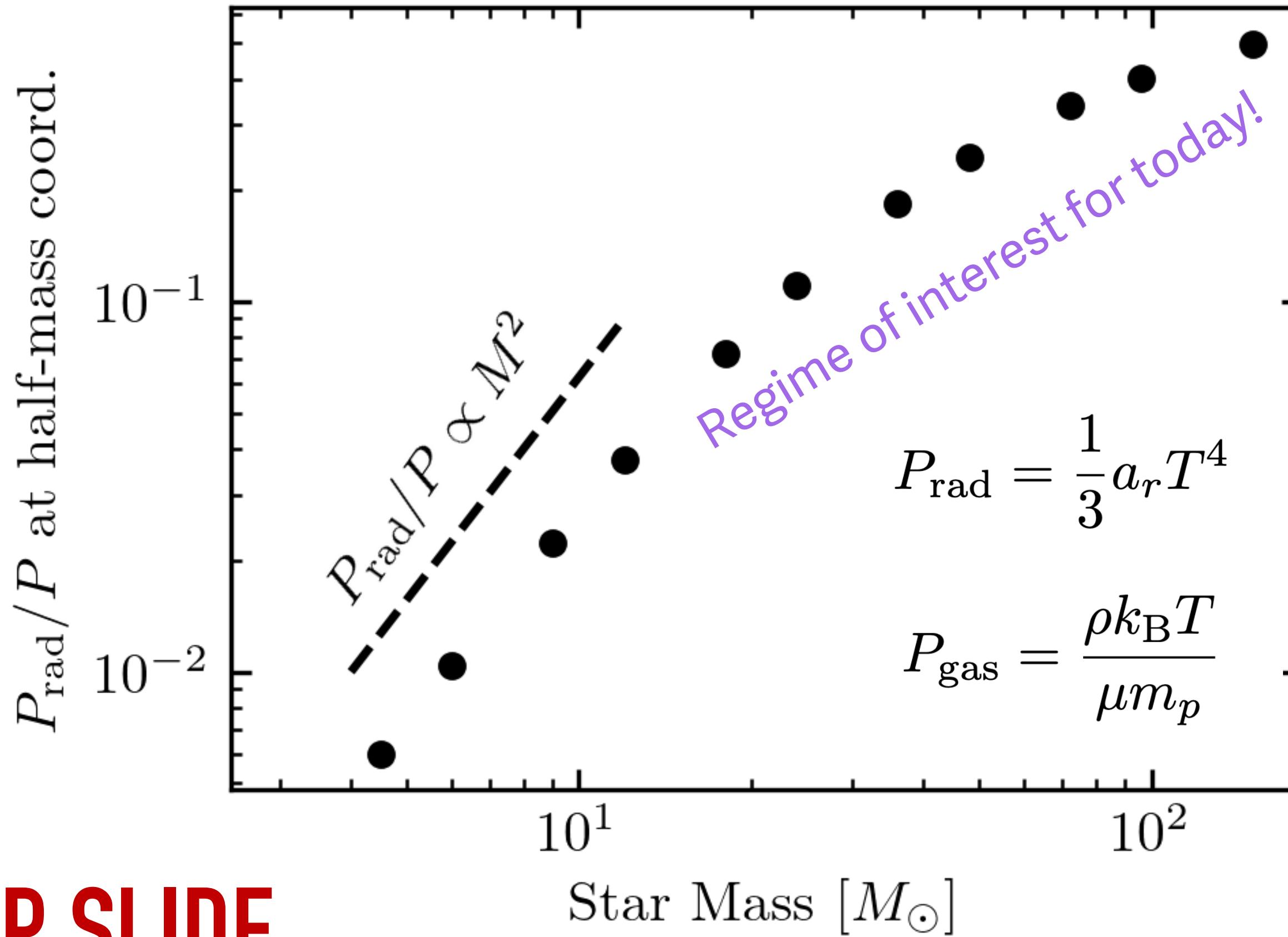
Where the physical mass scale is set by fundamental constants massaged from  $a_{\text{rad}}$ ,  $k_b$ , etc:

$$M_c \approx m_p \left( \frac{\hbar c}{G m_p^2} \right)^{3/2} \sim M_\odot$$

A nice example of ``deriving'' the solar mass scale in terms of fundamental constants !!

# INCREASING RADIATION PRESSURE IMPORTANCE

9



**BACKUP SLIDE**

# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STELLAR LUMINOSITY?

10

Let's check the extreme limit where radiation pressure dominates. Then, hydrostatic balance

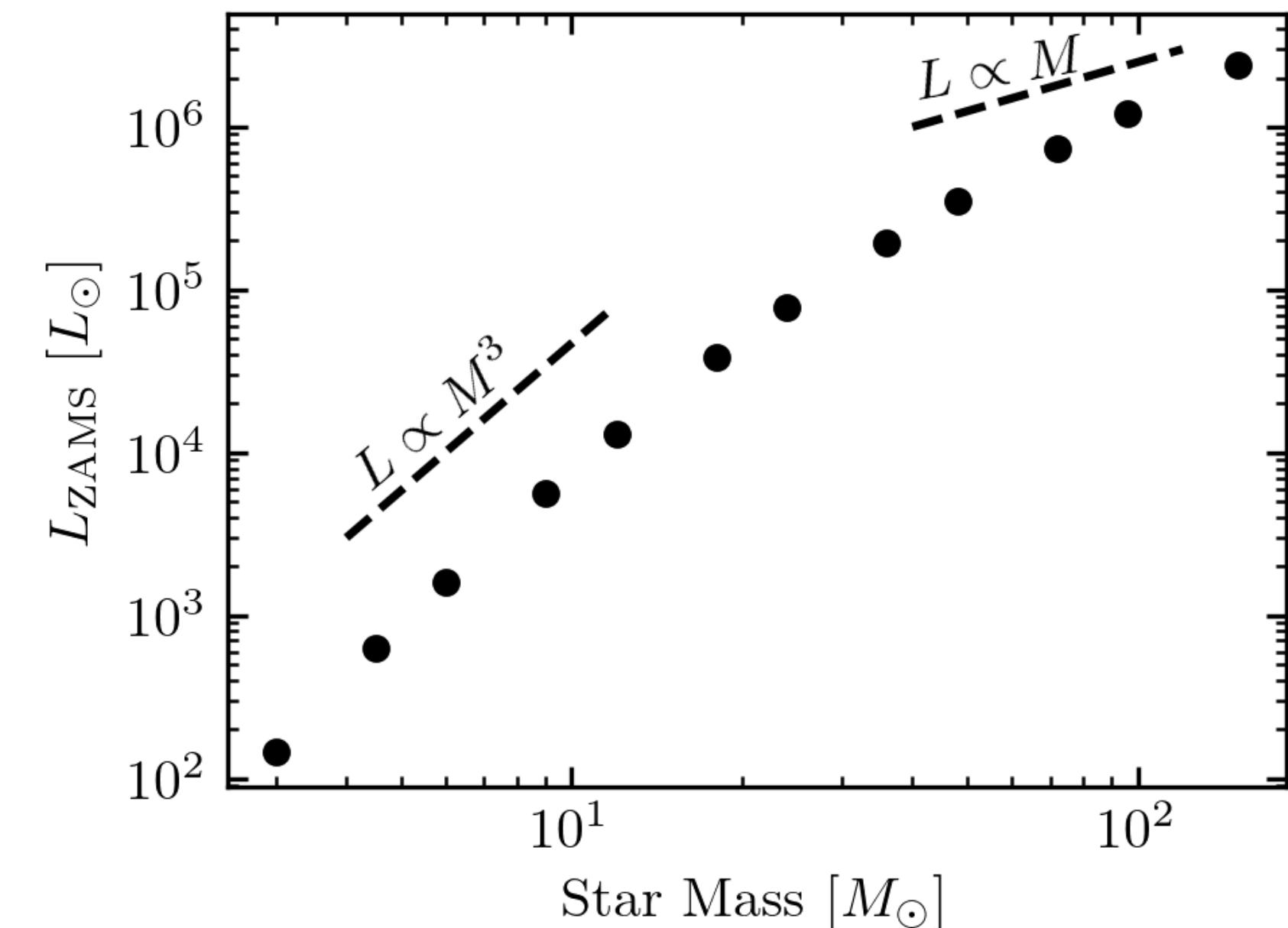
$$P_{\text{rad}} = \frac{1}{3} a_r T^4$$

$$\approx a T_c^4$$

Plugging this into the radiation pressure equation and assuming  $T_c \propto M^{-1/2}$ , we recover:

$$P_{\text{gas}} = \frac{\rho k_B T}{\mu m_p}$$

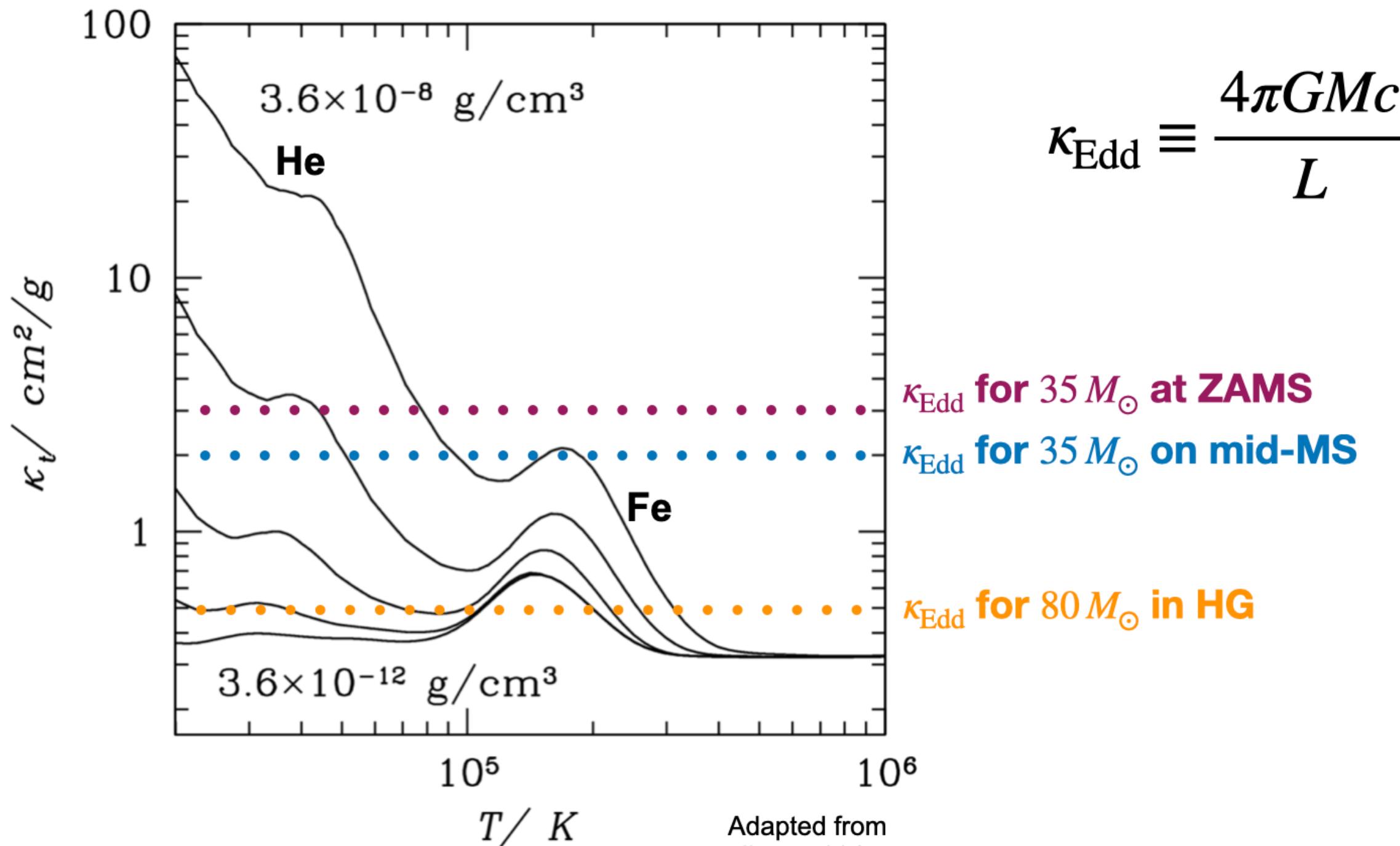
$$L \rightarrow L_{\text{Edd}} \equiv \frac{4\pi c G M}{\kappa} \approx 3 \times 10^4 L_\odot \left( \frac{M}{M_\odot} \right)$$



# CAN WE EXCEED $L_{\text{Edd}} \equiv \frac{4\pi cGM}{\kappa}$ ? LOCALLY, YES!

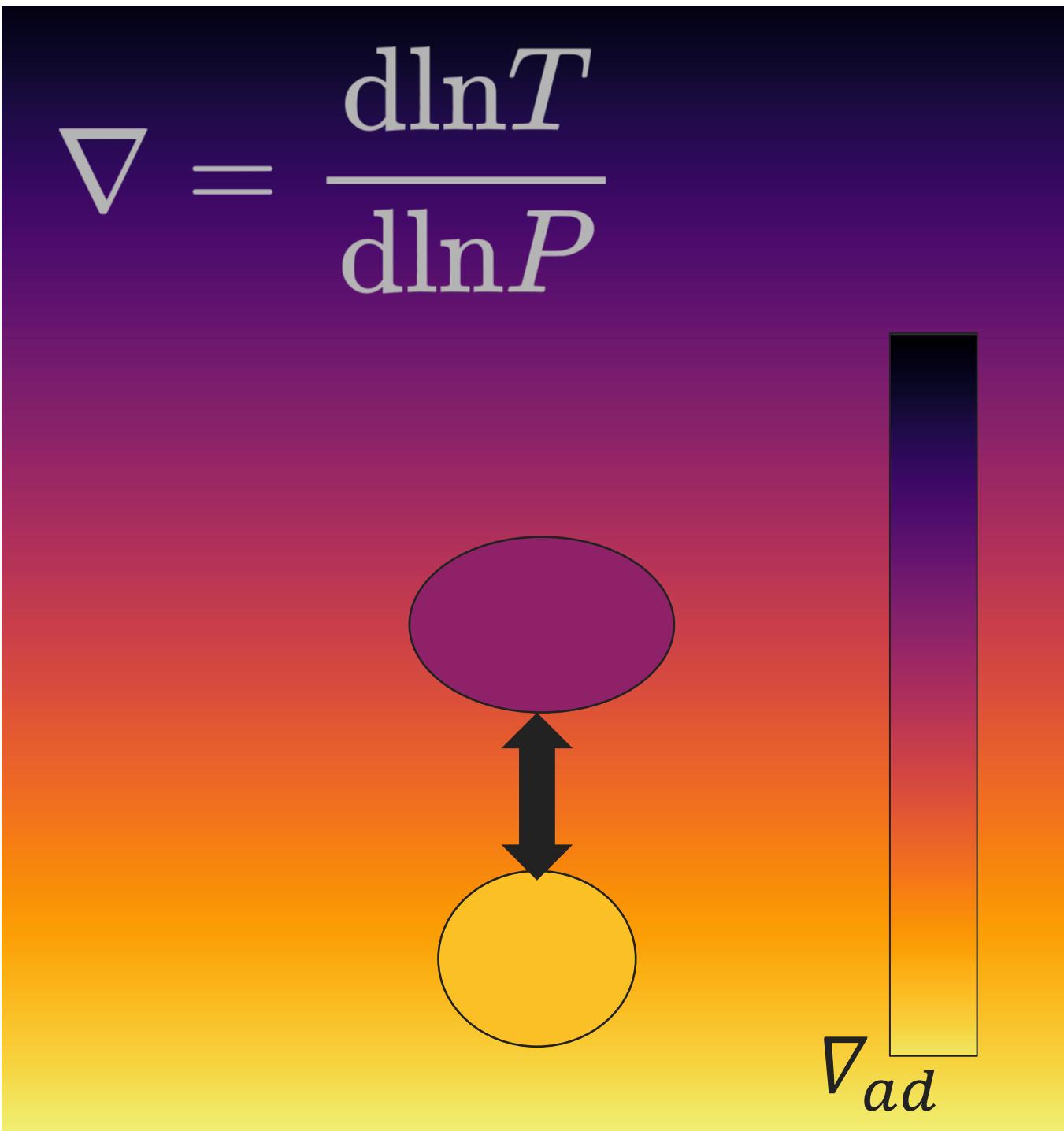
11

- If *local* opacity is high,  $L_{\text{Edd}}$  is *locally* low. Radiation can't carry the flux, so we need **convection**!



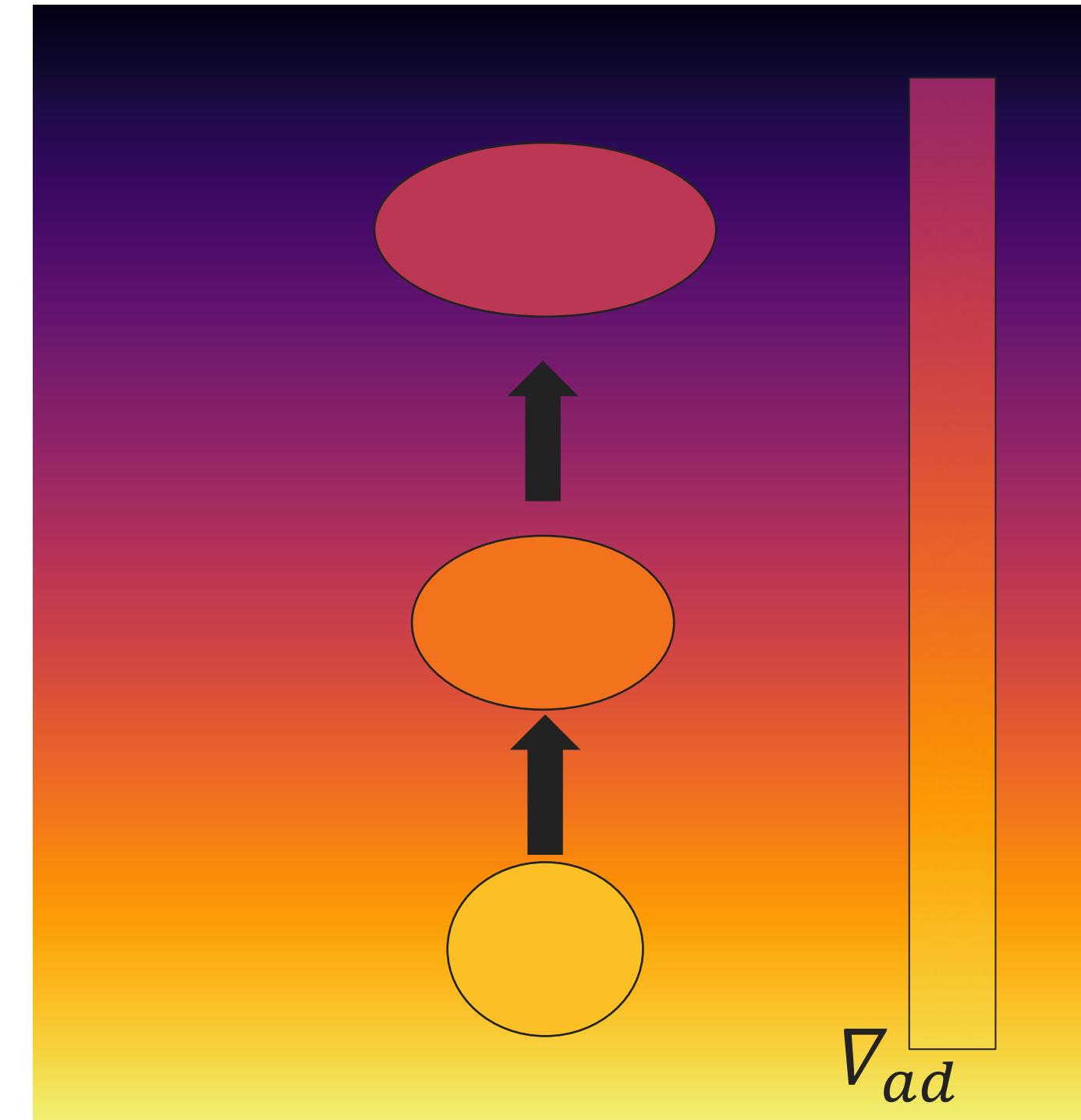
# WHEN AND HOW DOES CONVECTION CARRY FLUX?

12



Buoyantly Stable

$$\nabla < (\nabla_e \approx \nabla_{ad})$$



Convectively Unstable

$$\nabla > (\nabla_e \approx \nabla_{ad})$$

- ▶ Thermodynamic gradients (e.g.  $d\ln T/d\ln P$ ) are all tied to the entropy profile, and determine the ability of a fluid parcel to carry heat outwards!

# BUT... CAN CONVECTION CARRY THE FLUX?

---

- We can write down a convective efficiency:

$$\gamma \equiv \frac{\nabla - \nabla_{\text{eddy}}}{\nabla_{\text{eddy}} - \nabla_{\text{ad}}}$$

$$\nabla \equiv \frac{d \ln T}{d \ln P}$$

- Where  $\gamma \gg 1$ , convection is *efficient*: a rising plume (eddy)'s temperature obeys the adiabat
- Where  $\gamma \ll 1$ , convection is *inefficient*: A plume loses heat (via radiation diffusion) on its way up!
- Radiatively inefficient regions entail large deviations from the adiabat

# WHERE DOES THIS TRANSITION HAPPEN?

15

- ▶ In the optically thick limit, we can cast this efficiency  $\gamma$  in terms of the ratio of convective to radiative fluxes

$$\gamma \sim \frac{F_{\text{conv}}}{F_{\text{rad}}} \sim \frac{(P_{\text{rad}} + P_{\text{gas}})v_c}{P_{\text{rad}} \left( \frac{c}{\tau} \right)}$$

$$\tau_{\text{crit}} \equiv \frac{c}{v_c} \frac{P_{\text{rad}}}{(P_{\text{rad}} + P_{\text{gas}})}$$

- ▶ So  $\gamma \sim \tau / \tau_{\text{crit}}$
- ▶ If convection occurs where  $\tau < \tau_{\text{crit}}$ , radiative diffusion will carry significant flux
- ▶ For the Sun,  $\tau_{\text{crit}} \sim$  a few. For massive stars,  $\tau_{\text{crit}} \sim 10^3 - 10^4$

# WHEN DOES THAT BECOME A PROBLEM?

- Let's go back to radiative diffusion:

$$L_{\text{rad}} = - \frac{4\pi r^2 c}{\rho \kappa} \frac{dP_{\text{rad}}}{dr},$$

- And combine with Hydrostatic balance:

$$\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{Gm(r)}{r^2}$$

- We get:  $\frac{dP_{\text{rad}}}{dP} = \frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{L_{\text{Edd}}}.$

- For  $P = P_{\text{rad}} + P_{\text{gas}}$ , this implies  $\frac{dP_{\text{gas}}}{dr} = \left( \frac{dP_{\text{rad}}}{dr} \right) \left[ \frac{L_{\text{Edd}}}{L_{\text{rad}}} - 1 \right]$

- Which means that for  $L_{\text{rad}} > L_{\text{edd}}$ , the gas pressure and thereby density profile slope wants to change sign; i.e. form a "density inversion"!

# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN 1D?

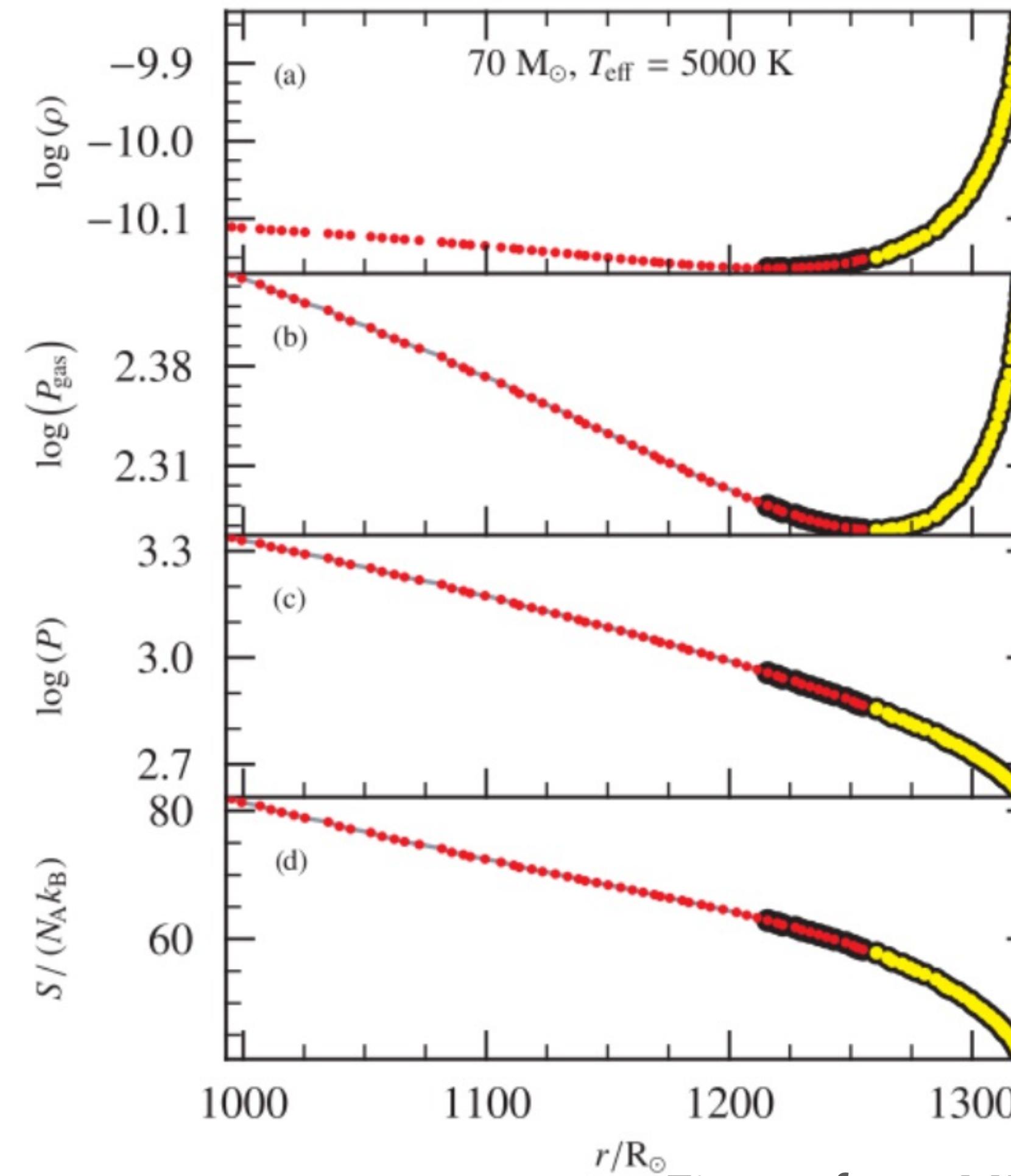
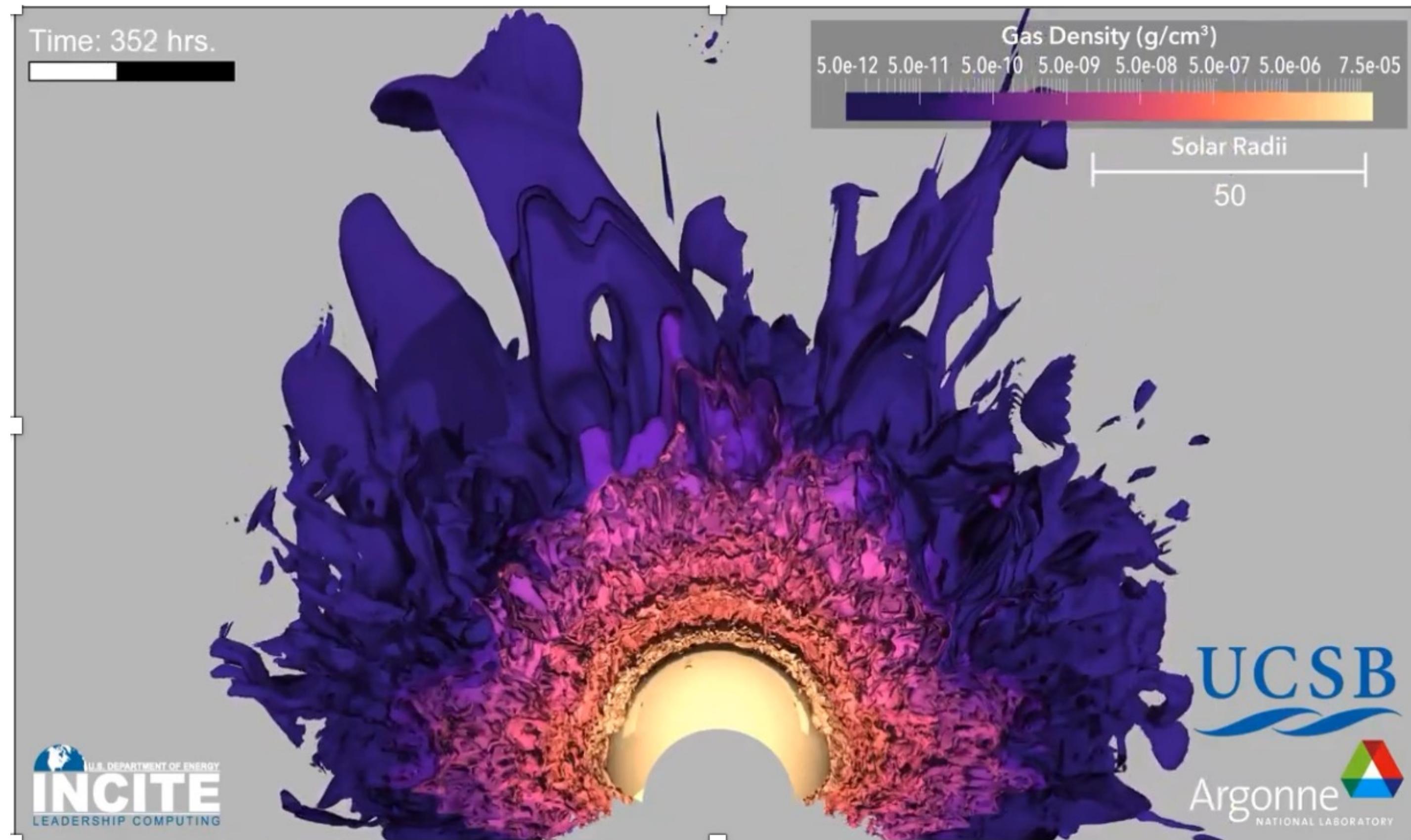


Figure from MESA II Paxton+2013

+ A whole  
bunch of  
associated  
convergence  
problems

# WHAT HAPPENS IN 3D?

18



Adapted from Jiang+2018

# CAN WE MITIGATE HIGH $L_{\text{RAD}} / L_{\text{EDD}}$ PROBLEMS?

---

19

- ▶ **EVERY CODE THAT ATTEMPTS TO DO MASSIVE STARS HAS SOME ENGINEERING TRICK!** The following is not exhaustive:
  - ▶ Bonn (BoOST): No treatment, just envelope inflation (see, e.g., Sanyal et al. 2015)
  - ▶ STARS / BPASS: non-Lagrangian mesh (see Stancliffe 2006 for an overview) + lower resolution in the outer layers seems to mitigate issues (Eggleton 1973; Eldridge et al. 2017) / Ask Jan ...
  - ▶ FRANEC: remove all the mass outside the location where  $L = L_{\text{Edd}}$  (see e.g. Limongi & Chieffi 2006)
  - ▶ GENEC: Strong winds + Use of Density scale height in MLT rather than Pressure scale height (see e.g. Maeder & Meynet 1987)
  - ▶ Kepler: increase the surface pressure of the star (see e.g. Woosley & Heger 2002, Sukhbold+16) - MESA also has this in Pextra\_factor
  - ▶ PARSEC: limit T gradient so that the density gradient is always negative (see e.g. Chen+2015)
- ▶ MESA: adjust thermodynamic gradients so that convection can carry the flux: MLT++ (MESA II -- Paxton+2013) and new superad\_reduction (MESA VI -- Jermyn+2023)

# SUPERAD\_REDUCTION

---

- ▶  $L_{\text{rad}}$  is too high!
- ▶ What if we force convection to carry the flux? Nature finds a way™
- ▶ We want to reduce  $ds/dr \sim 0$ . We do this by modifying the radiative temperature gradient

$$\nabla_{\text{rad,new}} - \nabla_L = \frac{\nabla_{\text{rad}} - \nabla_L}{f_\Gamma},$$

- ▶ where

$$f_\Gamma = 1 + \frac{\alpha_1 g(\Gamma_{\text{Edd,exp}}/\Gamma_c - 1) + \alpha_2 g(\Gamma_{\text{exp}}/\Gamma_{\text{inv}} - 1)}{\sqrt{\beta}} \times h((\nabla_{\text{exp}} - \nabla L)/\delta_c)$$

and

$$g(x) \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ x^2/2 & 0 < x < 1 \\ x - 1/2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

- ▶ And  $\Gamma_{\text{inv}} \equiv 4(1 - \beta)/(4 - 3\beta)$  where  $\beta = P_{\text{gas}}/P_{\text{total}}$

- ▶ Many advantages of new implicit superad method:  
tunable engineering, strictly local, timestep can be large, & more!

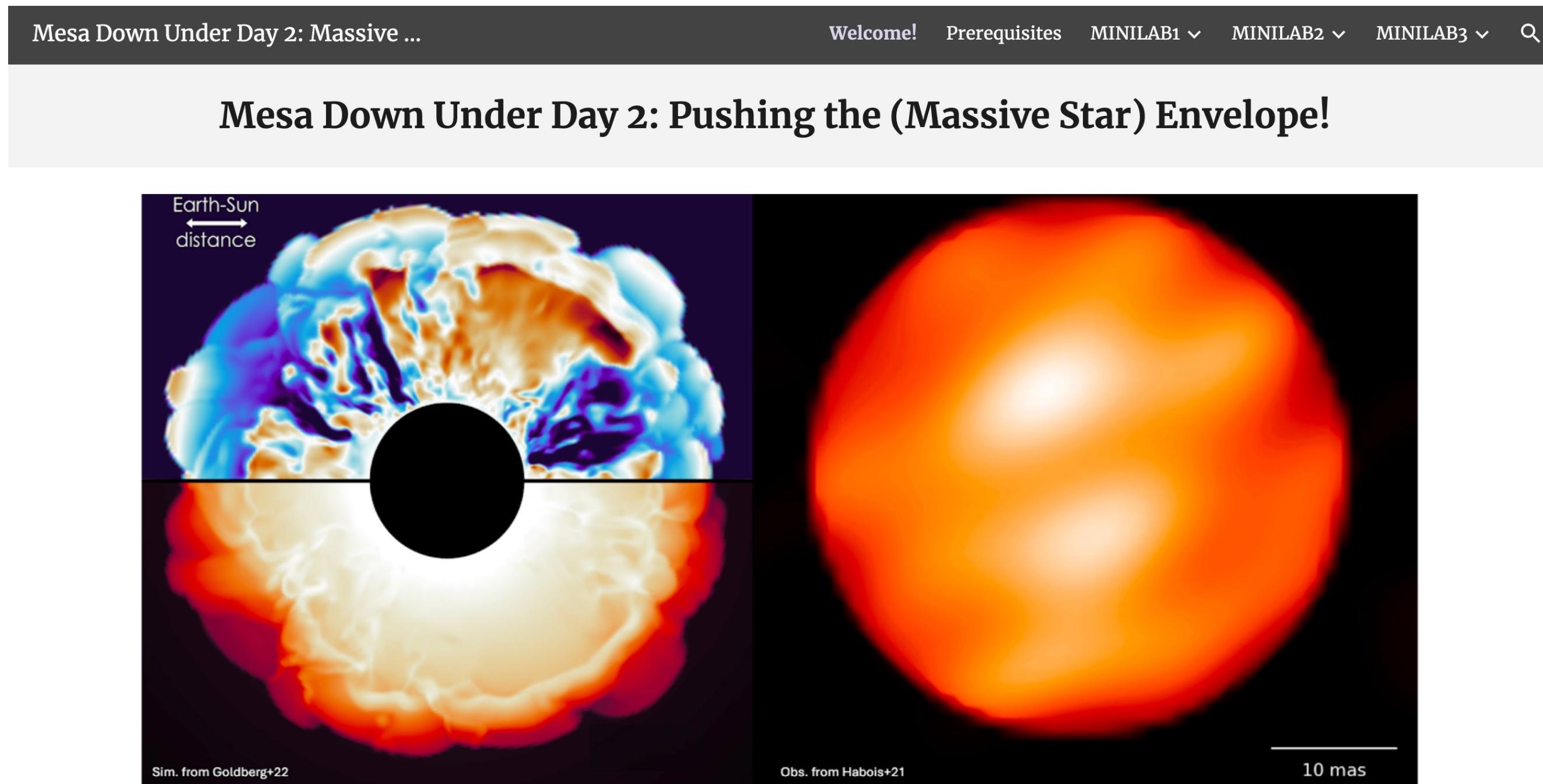
$$h(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \leq 0 \\ 6x^5 - 15x^4 + 10x^3 & 0 < x \leq 1 \\ 1 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:  
HOW DOES STELLAR ENGINEERING  
AFFECT THE STELLAR STRUCTURE?

---

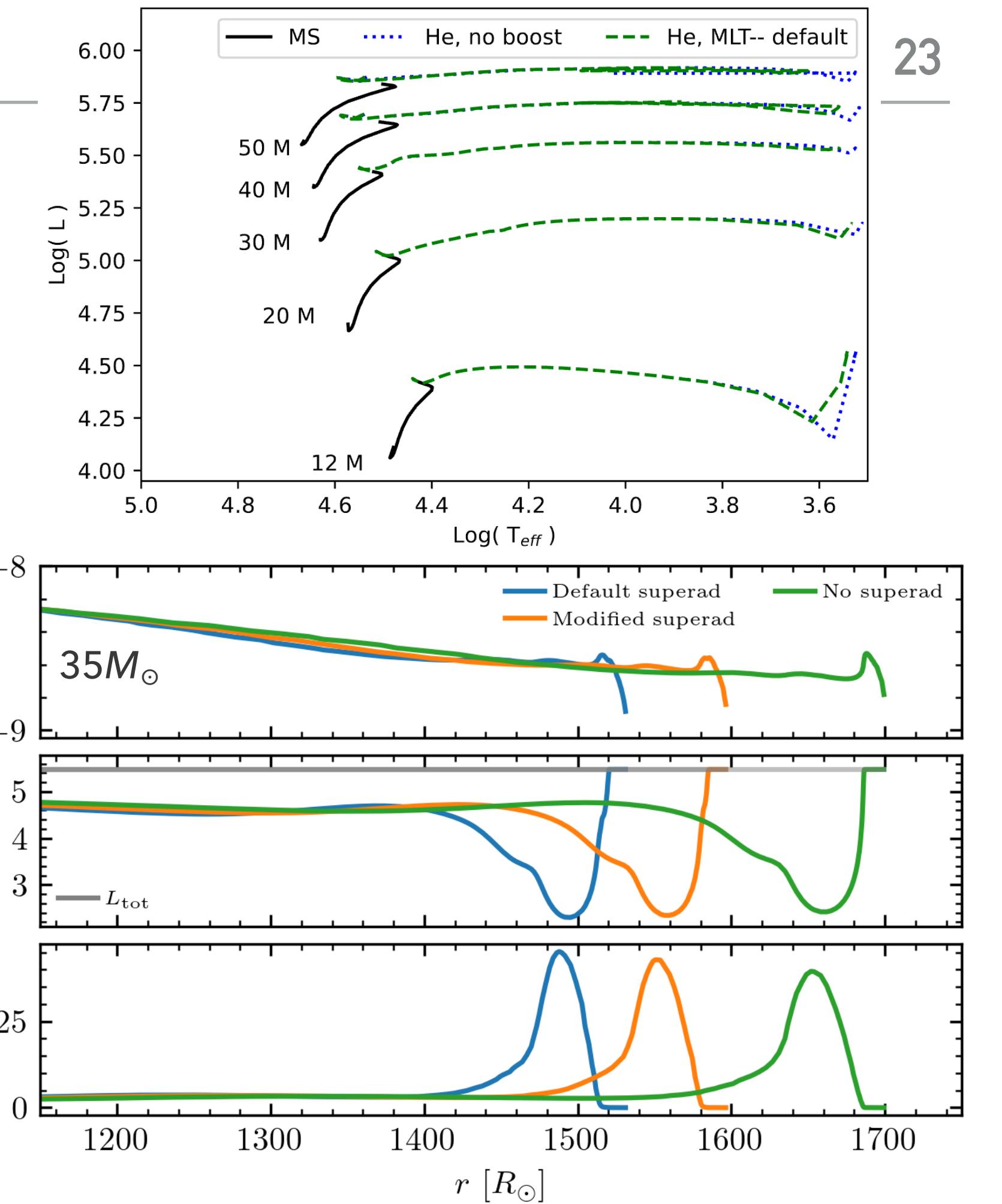
Download all lab materials from drive linked in Prerequisites Tab:

<https://sites.google.com/view/massive-stars-mesa-down-under/prerequisites>



# WHAT WE LEARNED

- ▶ For lower masses, `superad_reduction` doesn't do **\*that\*** much. At higher masses, it can have a huge impact on the stellar structure and surface temperature
- ▶ Increased `superad_reduction` weakens the density inversion, shifts more flux to convection



# LAB 2: MIXING LENGTH THEORY, THE STELLAR RADIUS, AND THE THERMAL TIMESCALE

---

- ▶ As the star crosses the Hertzsprung gap, its radius expands rapidly on a thermal time, becoming a **Red Supergiant**

Some important questions here, e.g. :

- ▶ Just how big does the star get?  
(bigger star = brighter explosion!)
- ▶ If the envelope finds itself in contact with a companion's gravitational potential, how much mass can it give, and how fast?

2 IMPORTANT CONCEPTS TO MAKE  
PROGRESS ON THESE IMPORTANT ?'S:

---

MIXING LENGTH & THERMAL TIMESCALES

RSG ENVELOPES ARE  
FULLY CONVECTIVE

---

# CONVECTION ON EARTH

- ▶ In the conventional picture of convection: hot, underdense material rises, and cold, overdense material sinks.
- ▶ What is the size scale of the flow?

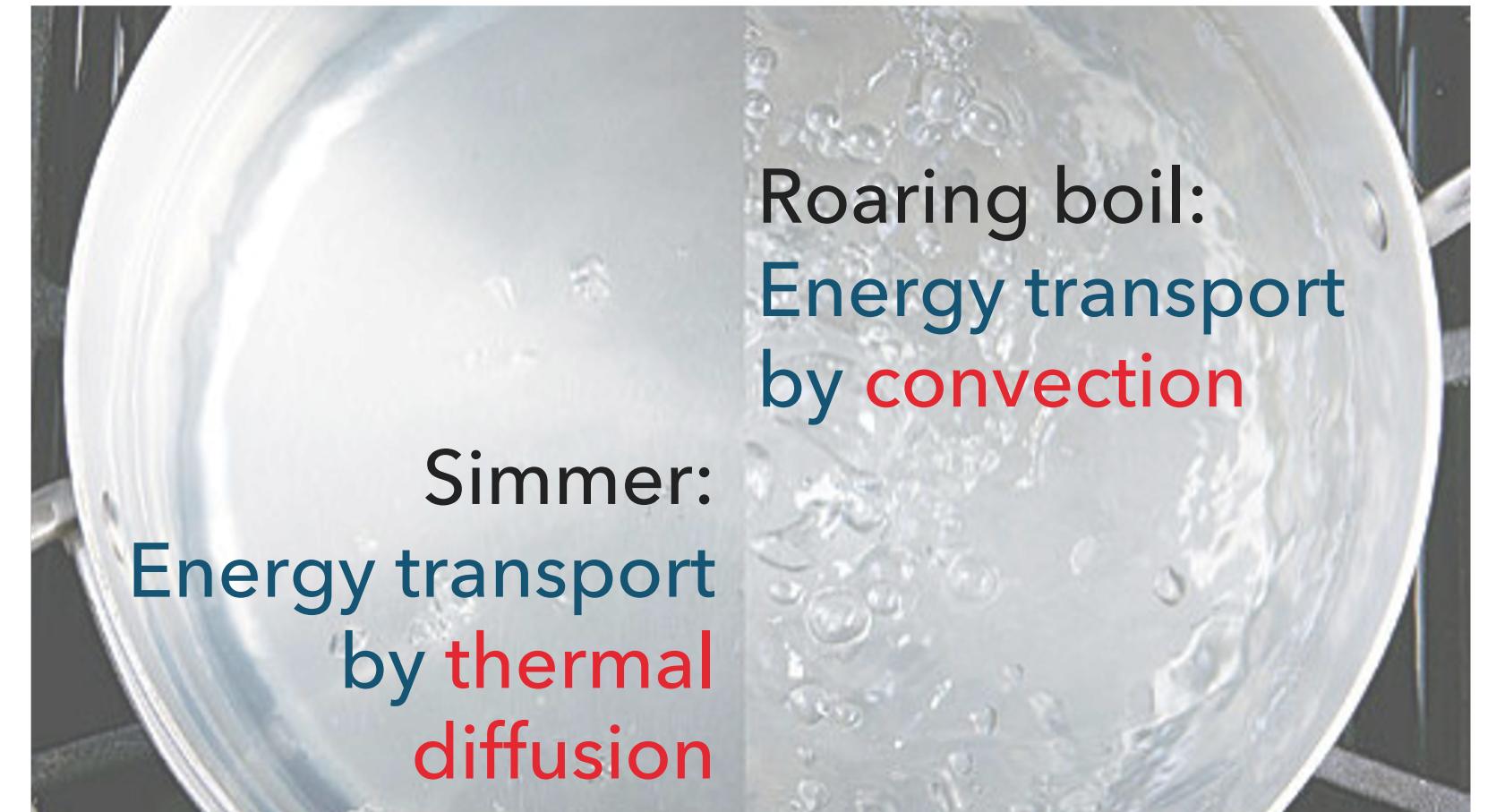
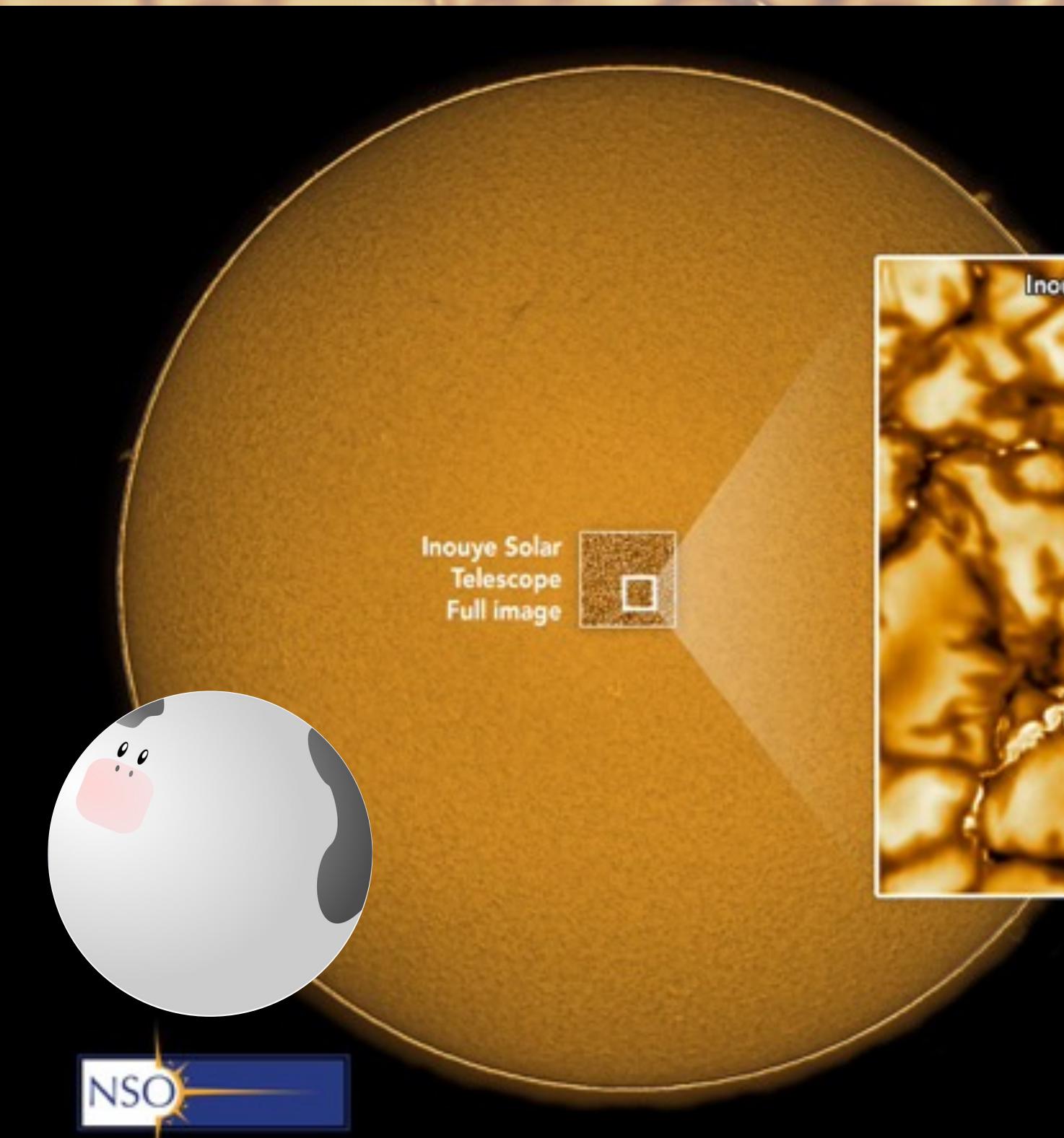
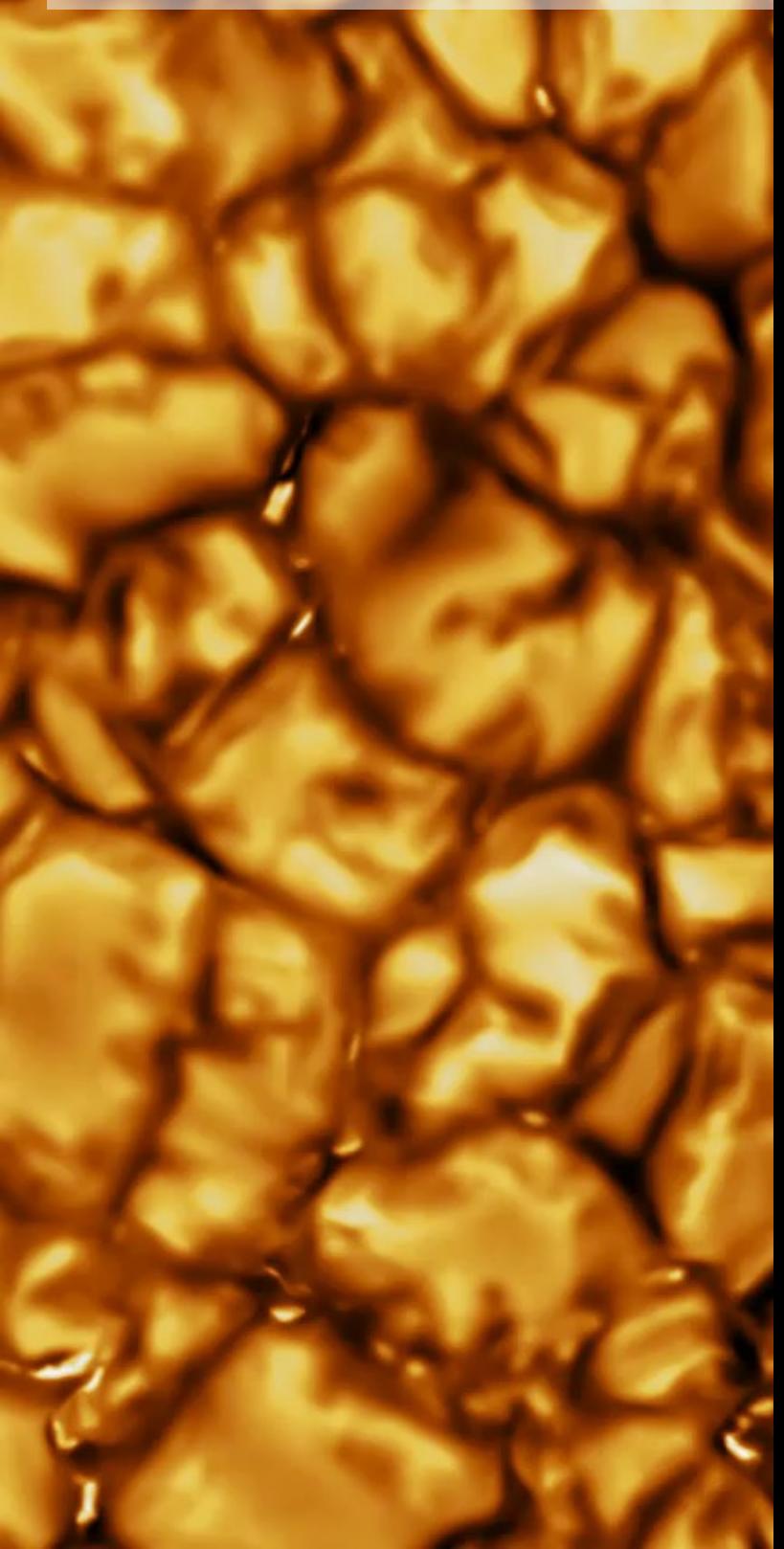


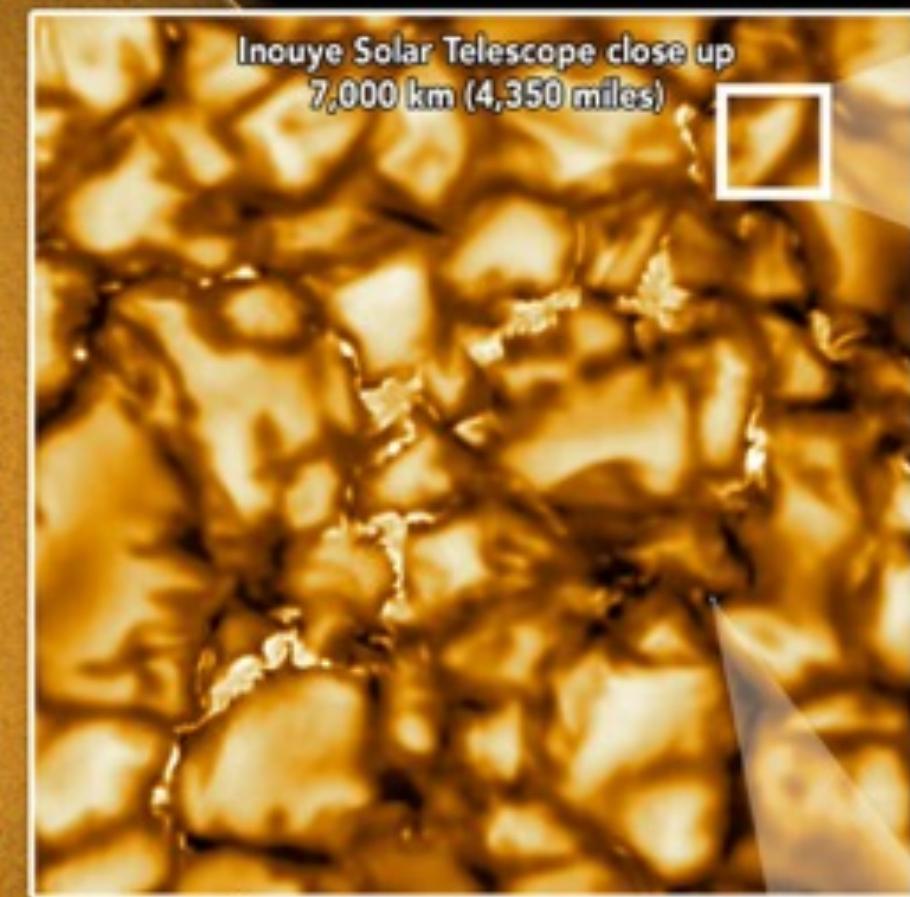
Image courtesy of [finecooking.com](http://finecooking.com)

# CONVECTION IN THE SUN

Data courtesy of DKIST



Inouye Solar  
Telescope  
Full image



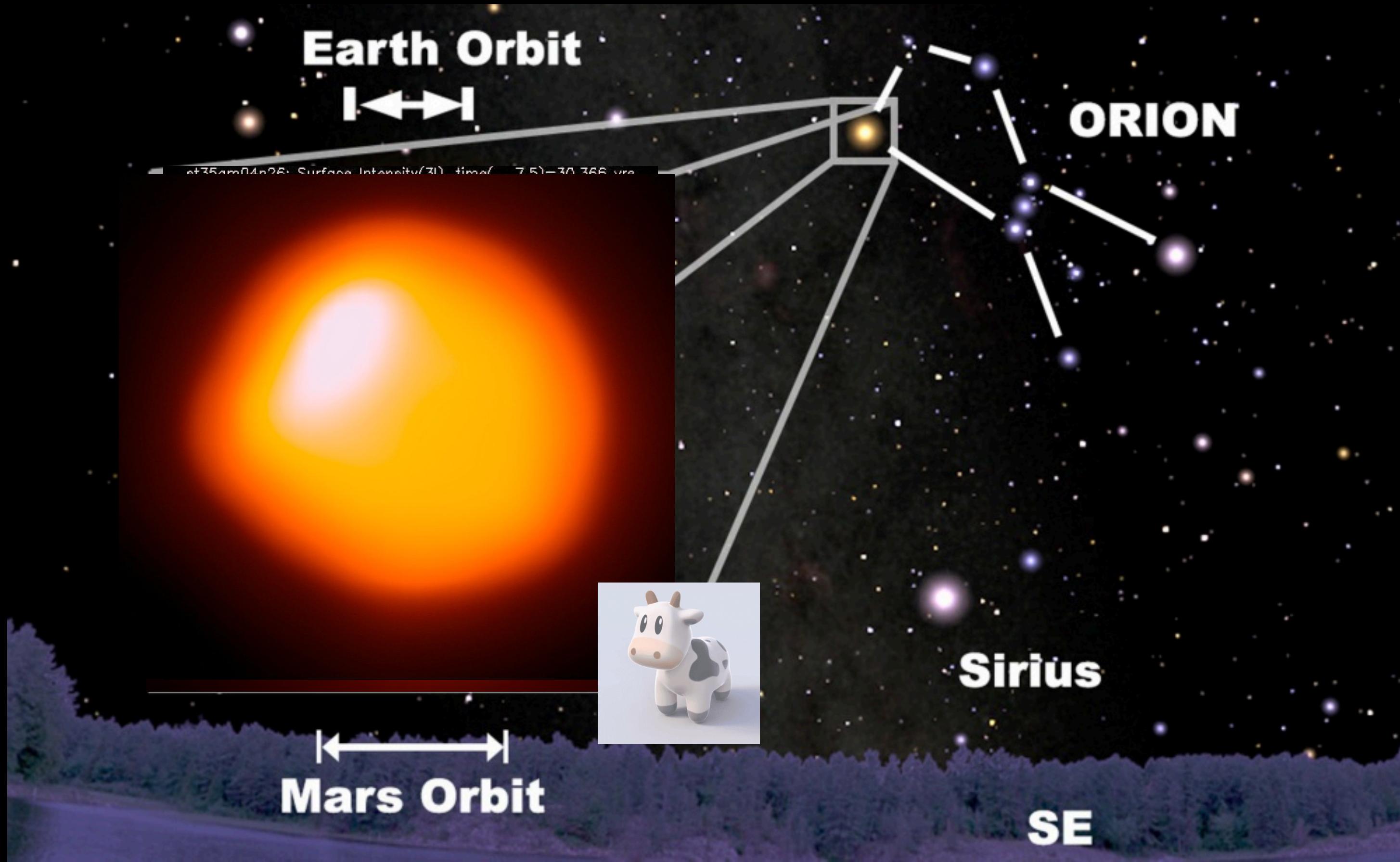
Inouye Solar Telescope close up  
7,000 km (4,350 miles)



31UT

The Inouye Solar Telescope sees large bubbling cells the size of Texas but can also see tiny features as small as Manhattan Island. This is the first time these tiny features have ever been resolved. The Inouye Solar Telescope is showing us three times more detail than anything we've ever seen before. For more information about this telescope, visit [www.nso.edu](http://www.nso.edu)

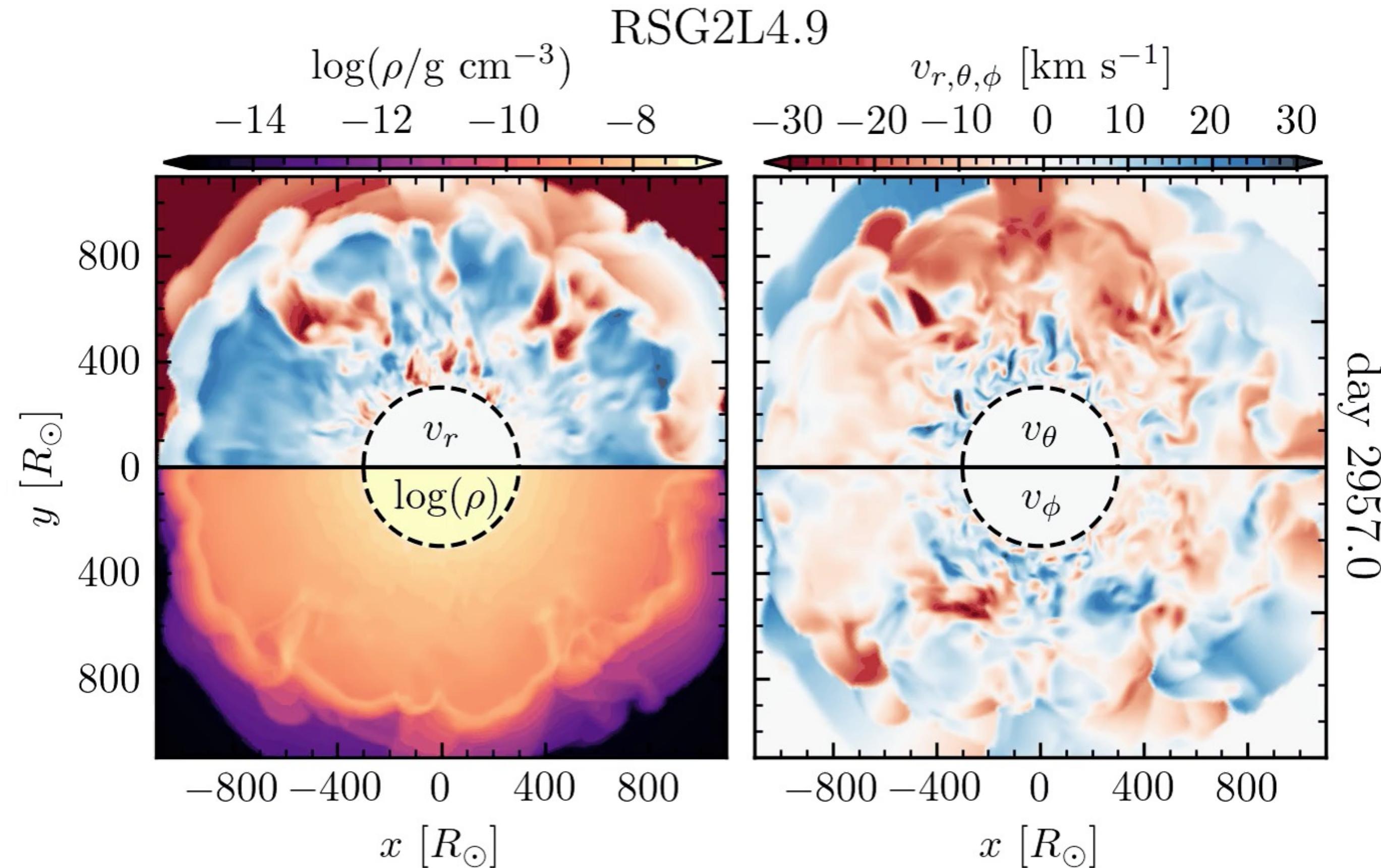
# CONVECTION IN A RED SUPERGIANT



CO<sup>5</sup>BOLD simulations from website of Bernd Freytag; see also Chiavassa+ 2009, 2010a,b, 2011, 2012; Arroyo-Torres+15, Kravchenko +2018; Chiavassa, Kravchenko, & Goldberg 2023

# RSG ENVELOPES: LARGE-SCALE, TRANS-SONIC CONVECTION

31



Adapted from Goldberg et al 2022a

# MIXING LENGTH THEORY OF CONVECTION

---

32

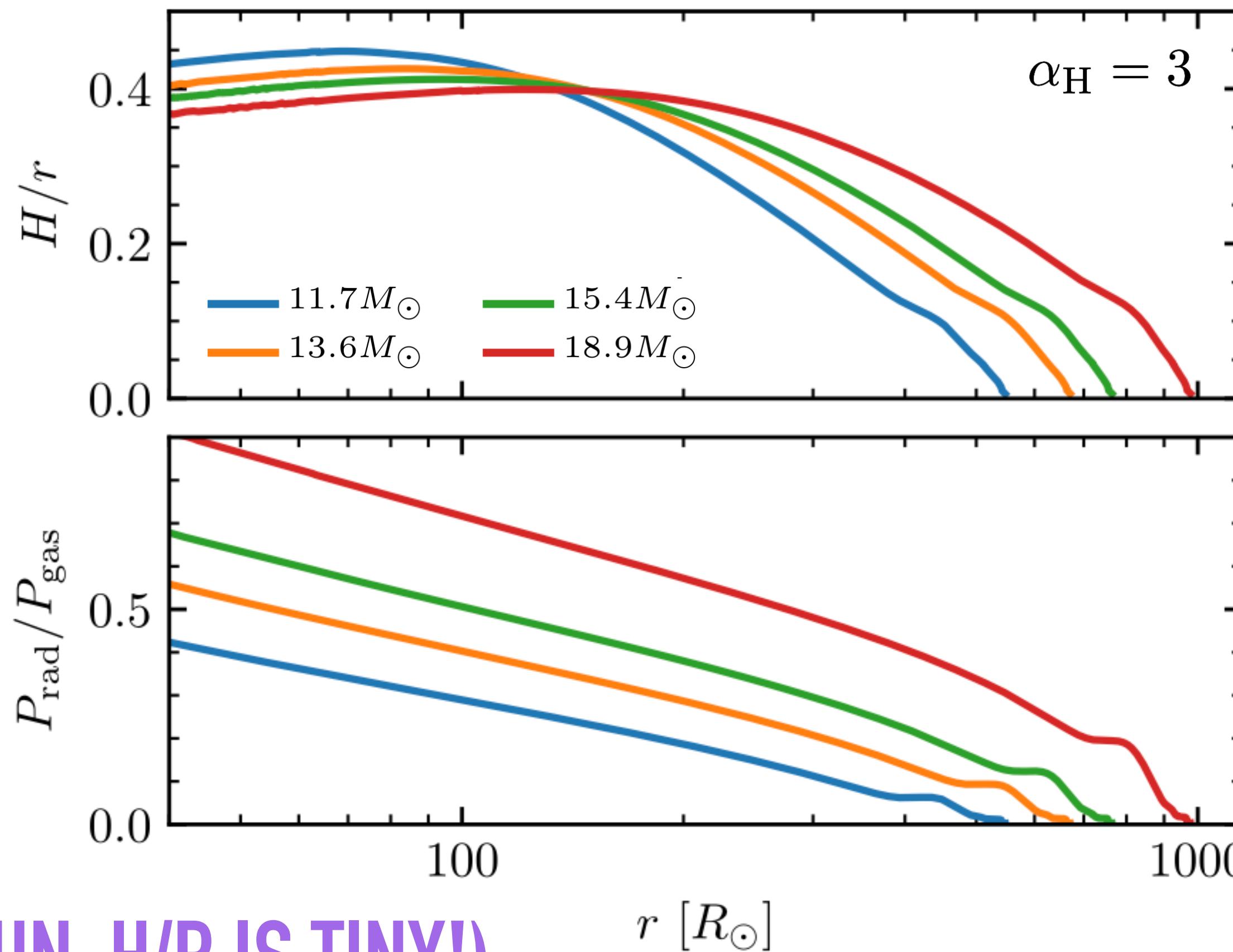
- ▶ The basic picture (Bohm-Vitense 1958) is that a parcel of hot fluid will rise a *mixing length* proportional to the pressure scale height,

$$\ell = \alpha H$$

- ▶ In reality, turbulence has eddies and motion at many scales, but you can kind of think of this as the coherence length of a convective plume... Really, it's a characteristic length scale for energy transport!

# THIS IS WHY RSG CONVECTION IS SO LARGE-SCALE!

33



(IN THE SUN, H/R IS TINY!)

Fig adapted from Goldberg et al 2022a

# MIXING LENGTH THEORY OF CONVECTION

34

- ▶ In this framework, we can write down a convective velocity as a function of  $\ell$  and the thermodynamic gradients ( $\nabla = d \ln T / d \ln P$ 's,  $Q = -D \ln T / D \ln \rho$ ):

$$v_c^2 = g Q (\nabla - \nabla_e) \frac{\ell^2}{\nu H},$$

- ▶ where  $\nu$  is a geometric factor encoding plume geometry
- ▶ The flux from convection can then be calculated

$$F_{\text{conv}} = \rho c_P T \sqrt{g Q} \frac{\ell^2}{\sqrt{\nu}} H^{-3/2} (\nabla - \nabla_e)^{3/2}$$

- ▶ Since  $\ell = \alpha H$ ,  $\alpha$  is sometimes discussed as a "convective efficiency" parameter, in that it also scales the flux convection can carry, but this is different than in the radiative sense

# FULL MLT SKETCH FROM KIPPENHAHN'S BOOK

---

- We start with saying the convective flux is the heat contained in a convective parcel traveling at velocity  $v$

$$F_{\text{con}} = \rho v c_P D T$$

The elements passing at a given moment through a sphere of constant  $r$  will have different values of  $v$  and  $D T$  since they have started their motion at quite different distances, from zero to  $\ell_m$ . We assume, therefore, that the “average” element has moved  $\ell_m/2$  when passing through the sphere. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{D T}{T} &= \frac{1}{T} \frac{\partial(D T)}{\partial r} \frac{\ell_m}{2} \\ &= (\nabla - \nabla_e) \frac{\ell_m}{2} \frac{1}{H_P}. \end{aligned} \tag{7.4}$$

# FULL MLT SKETCH FROM KIPPENHAHN'S BOOK

The density difference [for  $DP = D\mu = 0$ , see (6.3) and (6.5)] is simply  $D\varrho/\varrho = -\delta DT/T$  and the (radial) buoyancy force (per unit mass),  $k_r = -g \cdot D\varrho/\varrho$ . On average, half of this value may have acted on the element over the whole of its preceding motion ( $\ell_m/2$ ), such that the work done is

$$\frac{1}{2}k_r \frac{\ell_m}{2} = g\delta(\nabla - \nabla_e) \frac{\ell_m^2}{8H_P}. \quad (7.5)$$

For geometric nu=8

Let us suppose that half of this work goes into the kinetic energy of the element ( $v^2/2$  per unit mass), while the other half is transferred to the surroundings, which have to be “pushed aside”. Then, we have for the average velocity  $v$  of the elements passing our sphere

$$v^2 = g\delta(\nabla - \nabla_e) \frac{\ell_m^2}{8H_P}. \quad (7.6)$$

- ▶ Along with expression for  $DT$ , plug this into  $F_{\text{con}} = \varrho v c_P DT$ :

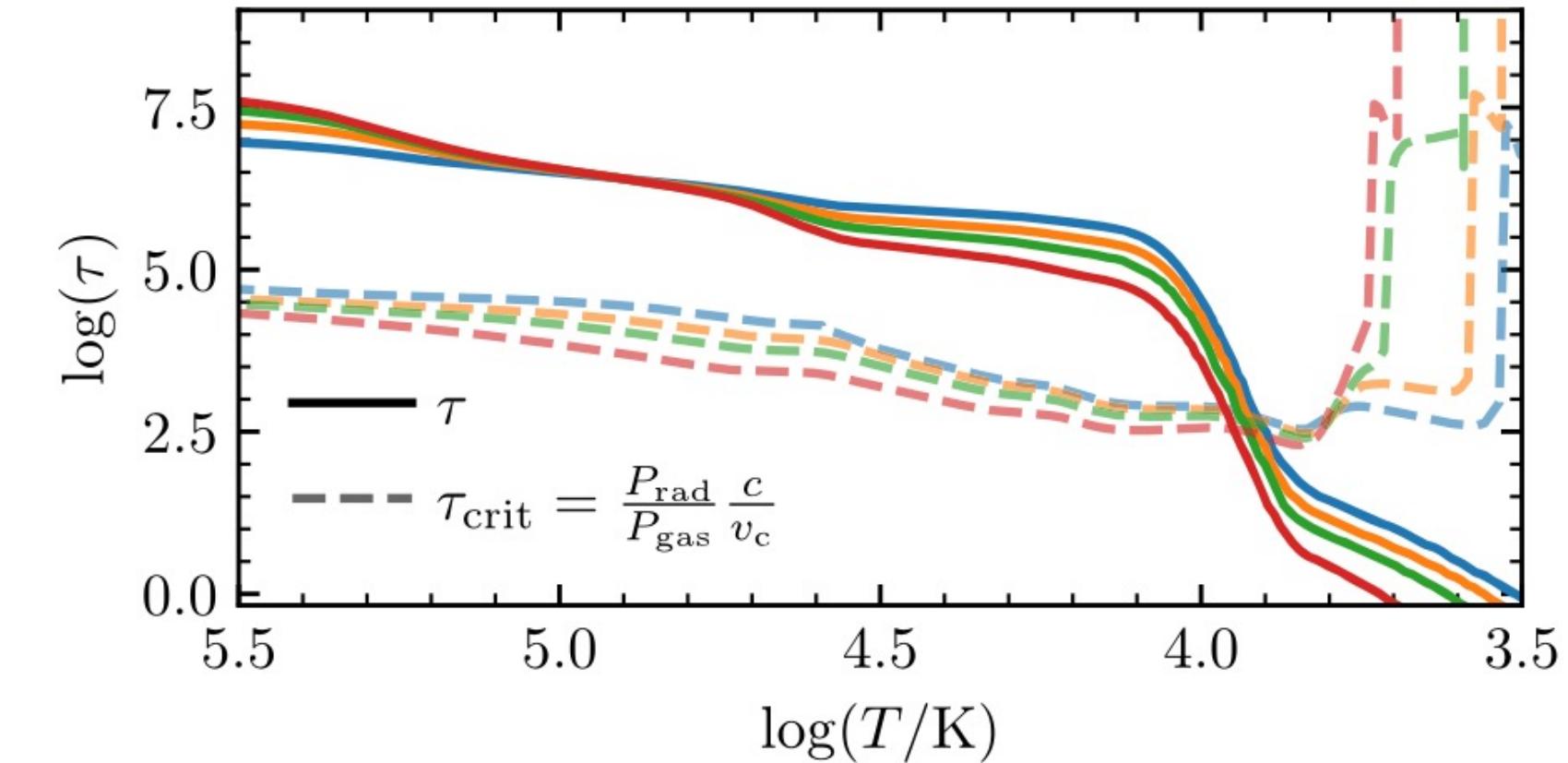
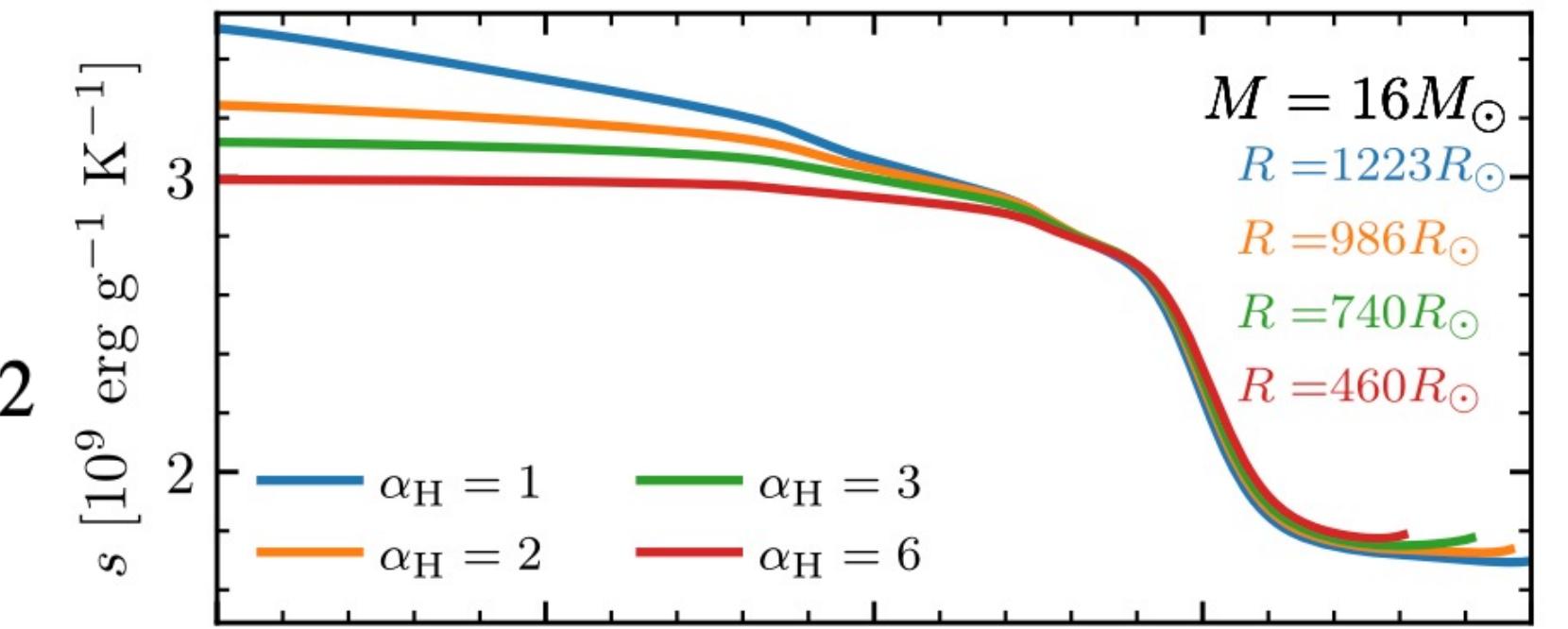
$$F_{\text{con}} = \varrho c_P T \sqrt{g\delta} \frac{\ell_m^2}{4\sqrt{2}} H_P^{-3/2} (\nabla - \nabla_e)^{3/2}$$

# ALPHA MLT AND SUPERADIABATICITY

37

$$F_{\text{conv}} = \rho c_P T \sqrt{gQ} \frac{\ell^2}{\sqrt{\nu}} H^{-3/2} (\nabla - \nabla_e)^{3/2}$$

$\alpha$  ↓      superadiabaticity ↑



# ALPHA IS ALSO [CALIBRATED] STELLAR ENGINEERING!

Some examples:

- Calibration to observations from [Chun+18](#)
- Calibration to 3D sims from [Goldberg+22a](#)

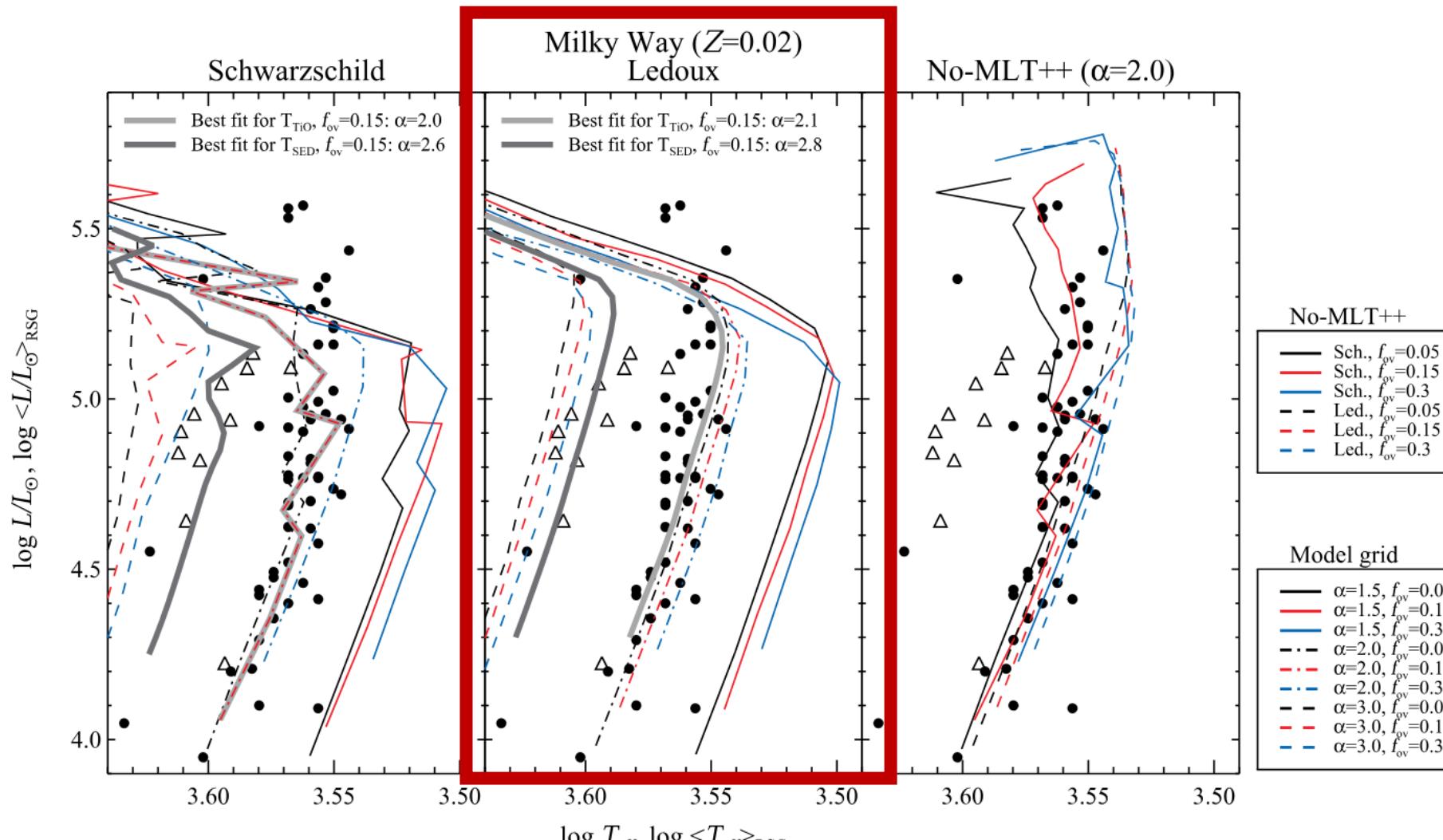
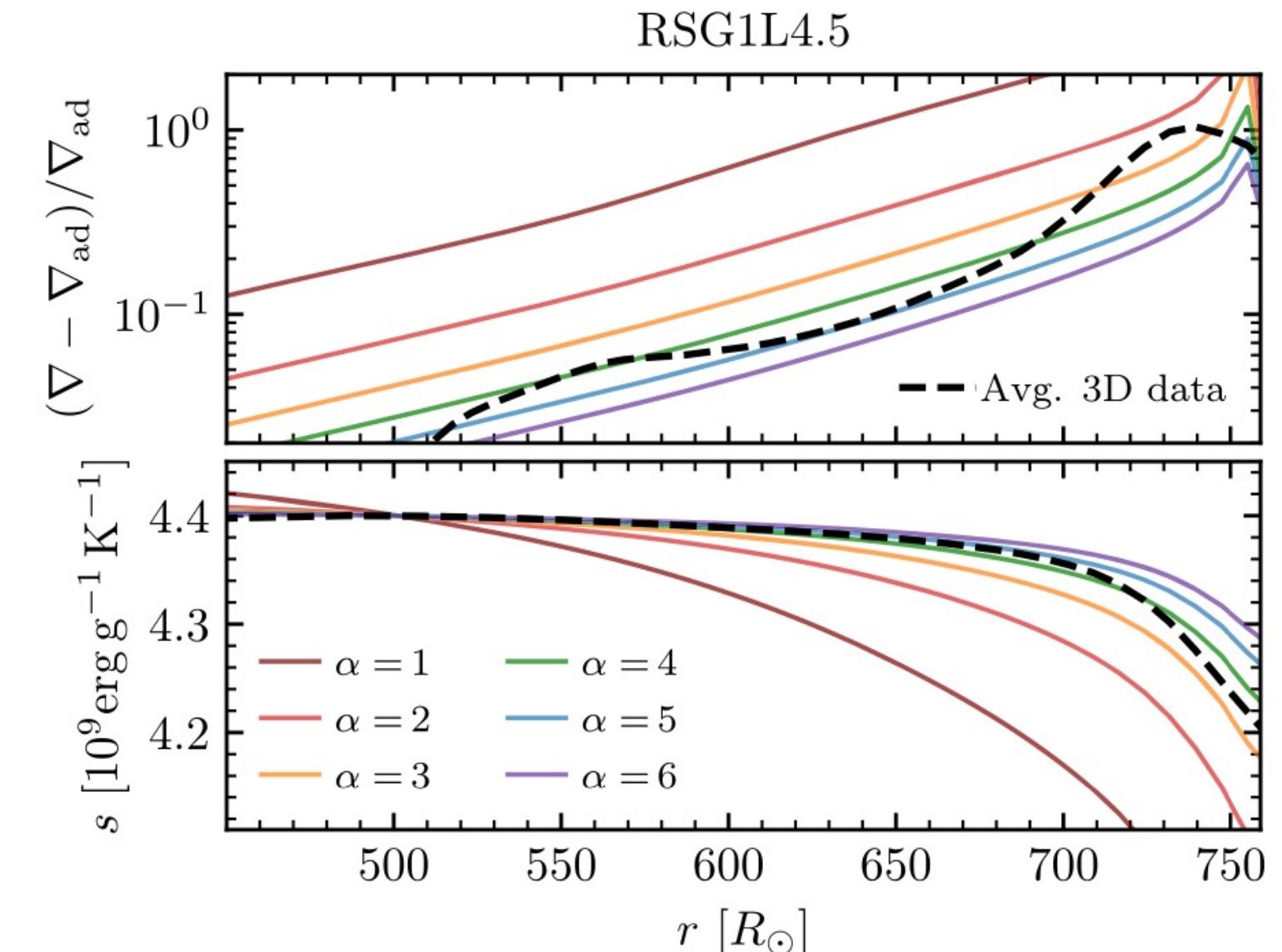
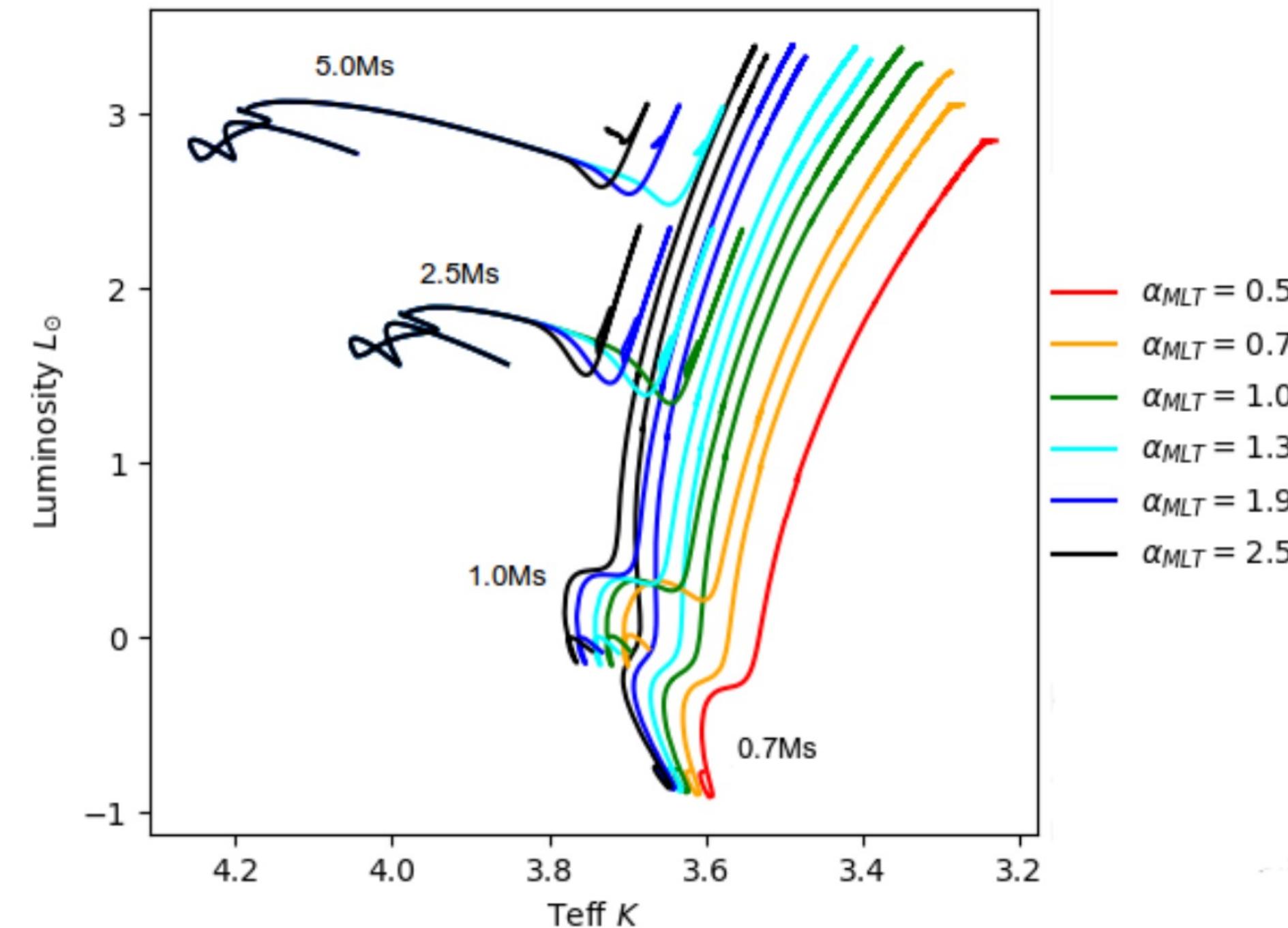


Figure 11. Same as Figure 7, but for solar metallicity ( $Z = 0.02$ ). The results without the MLT++ treatment and with  $\alpha = 2.0$  are also plotted in third panel for comparison. The compared Galactic RSG samples are taken from Levesque et al. (2005, TiO temperatures; filled circles) and Gazak et al. (2014, SED temperatures; open triangles).



ABSENT SUCH CALIBRATIONS FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL STAR, OFTEN  
THE BEST WE CAN DO IS VARY  $\alpha$  AND SEE HOW IT IMPACTS THE STAR

# THIS ISN'T JUST A "MESA" THING! NOR JUST MASSIVE STARS! 39



**Figure 3.** Stellar tracks computed using the Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program (DSEP) for a range of masses and mixing lengths.

- ▶ From Joyce & Tayar 2023 review.  $\alpha$  matters when the envelope is convective!

# ANOTHER IMPORTANT PIECE OF PHYSICS: THERMAL TIMESCALES

40

- ▶ If a star is contracting, how long can it shine?
  - ▶  $t_{KH} = \frac{E_{\text{thermal}}}{L} \approx \frac{|E_{\text{grav}}|}{L} = \frac{GM^2}{2RL}$
  - ▶ This is the Kelvin-Helmholtz timescale;  $\sim 10^7$  years for the Sun
  - ▶ We can also ask this question locally in a star about how fast it can radiate the energy content contained above that location:
    - ▶  $t_{\text{th}} = \frac{E_{\text{thermal}}(m)}{L} \approx \frac{\int_m^M c_P T dm}{L}$
  - ▶ The thermal timescale is very relevant for binary mass-transfer, as it mediates how much mass a star can donate and accept!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:  
CHANGING ALPHA?  
GLOBAL VERSUS LOCAL?

---

Download all lab materials from drive linked in Prerequisites Tab:

<https://sites.google.com/view/massive-stars-mesa-down-under/prerequisites>

The screenshot shows a dark-themed web page with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes links for 'Welcome!', 'Prerequisites', 'MINILAB1', 'MINILAB2', 'MINILAB3', and a search icon. The main content area features a large title 'MINILAB2' in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'Convection and Thermal Content' in a slightly smaller white font. Below the title, there is a section titled 'Physics concepts' in a large, bold, black font. A horizontal line separates this section from the bottom of the page.

(If the equations in this page are not rendering correctly, just refresh your browser a few times)

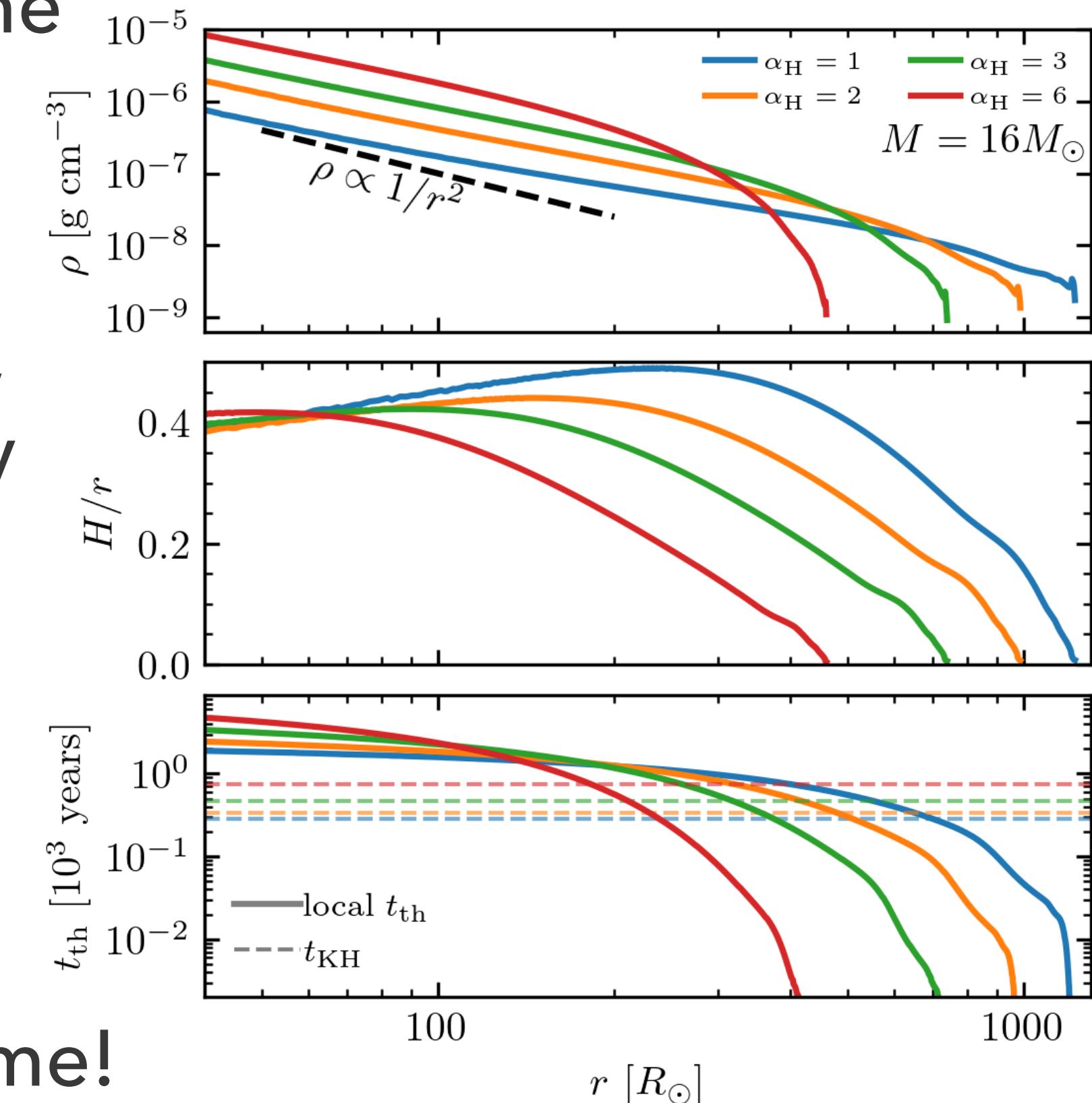
What is the mixing length theory  $\alpha_{MLT}$ ?

- ▶ How does changing  $\alpha_{\text{MLT}}$  change the stellar structure?
- ▶ In particular, how does varying the mixing length impact the stellar radius and the thermal timescales?
- ▶ How big of a difference do you see when comparing the local versus global thermal timescales, compared to the difference in KH timescales for models with different values of  $\alpha_{\text{MLT}}$  ?

# WHAT WE LEARNED

44

- ▶ For fully convective envelopes in the RSG regime, lower  $\alpha_{\text{MLT}}$   $\rightarrow$  larger R
- ▶ Local  $t_{\text{th}} \sim$  orders-of-magnitude variation throughout the envelope, whereas varying alpha varies  $t_{\text{KH}}$  by  $\sim$ a factor of 2-3
- ▶ For predicting R,  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ? Think about  $\alpha_{\text{MLT}}$ !
- ▶ For binary mass transfer stability? Consider global vs local thermal time!



# MINILAB 3: ENVELOPE STRUCTURE AS A FUNCTION OF MASS LOSS

AKA . . .

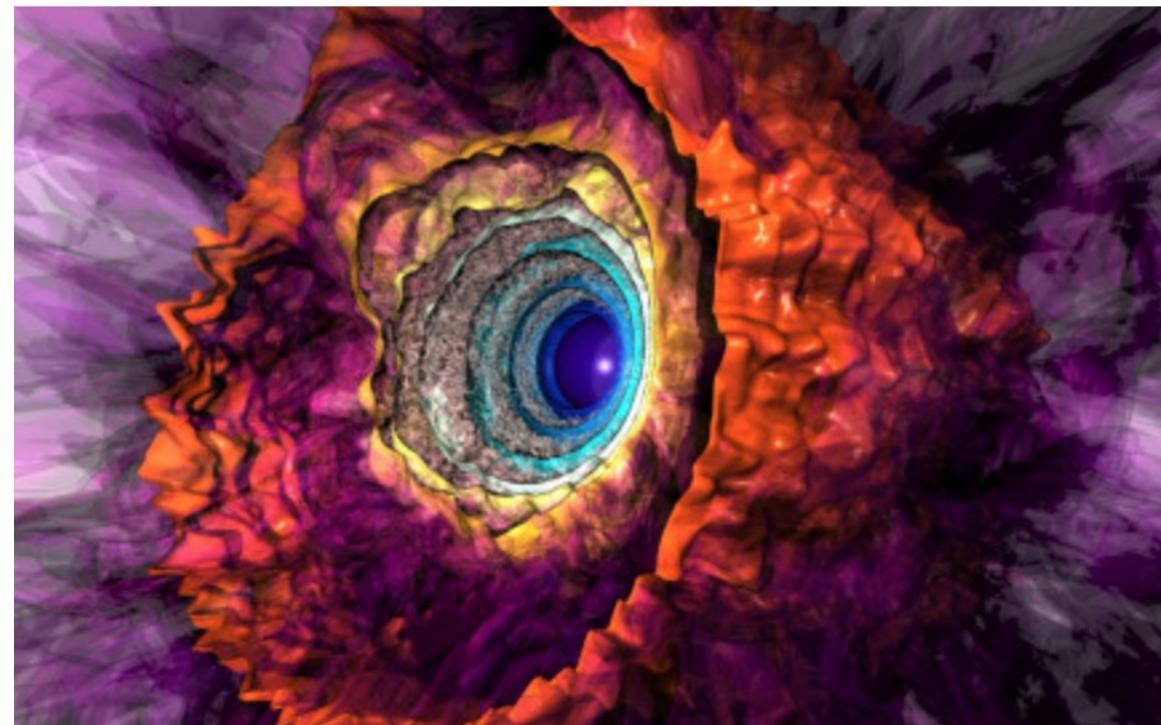
# MINILAB 3: EXPANDING ON BONUS ACTIVITIES FROM MINILABS 1&2

# WHY DO (MASSIVE) STARS LOSE MASS?

47



STELLAR WINDS



ERUPTIVE EVENTS (e.g. LBV Outbursts)



BINARY MASS TRANSFER

AND MANY OTHER UNCERTAIN/CONSTRAINABLE PROCESSES!

# HOW IS THIS TYPICALLY CAPTURED IN MESA?

48

- ▶ Various prescriptions for winds are implemented in MESA
- ▶ Most common is 'dutch' which interpolates rates in the HR diagram from a number of papers
- ▶ You also can implement your wind prescription (and today, you will)
- ▶ Rates are a matter of hot debate in the literature!

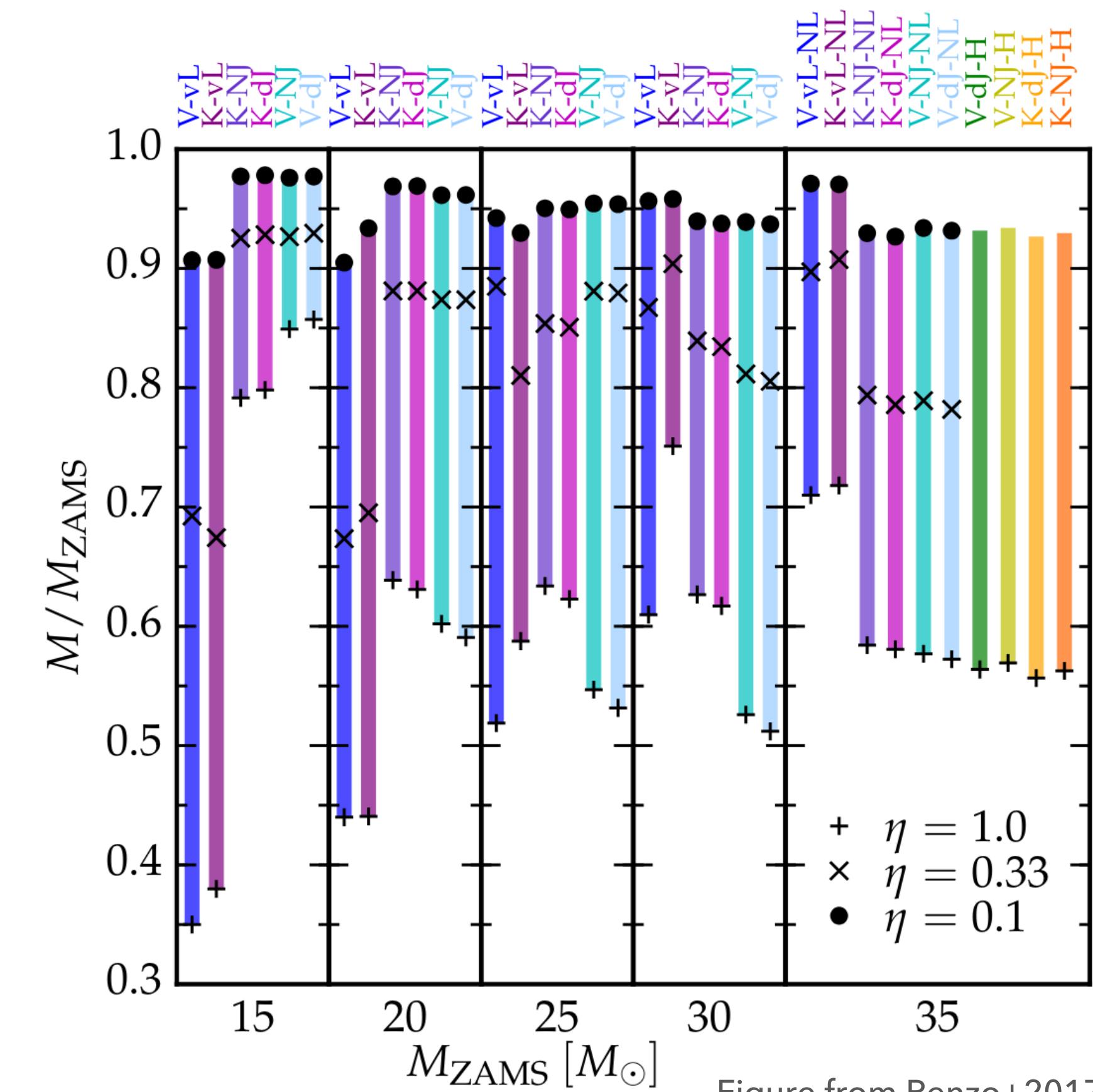


Figure from Renzo+2017

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MASSIVE STARS LOSE MASS?

49

## Shapes supernova lightcurves

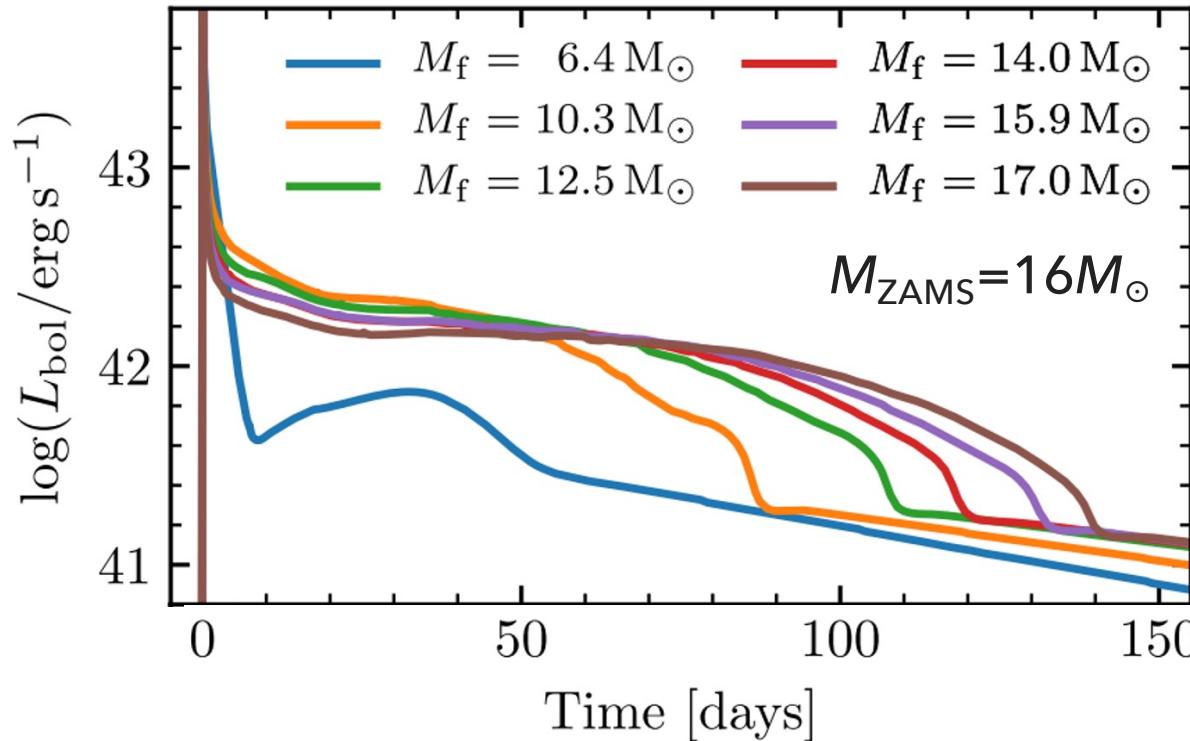
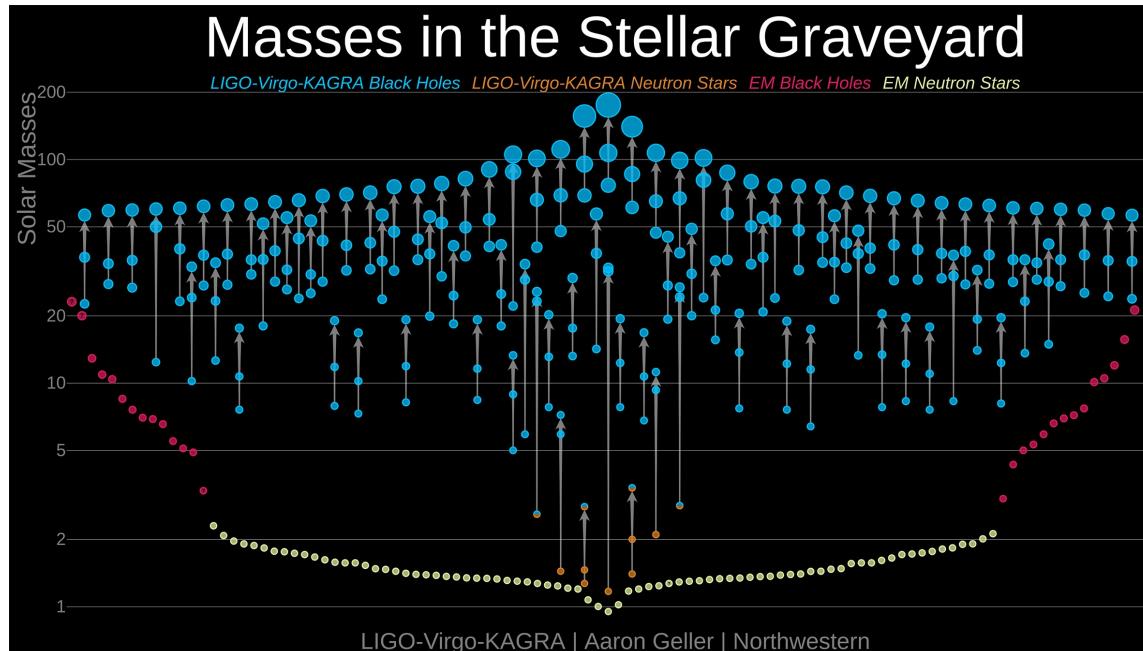
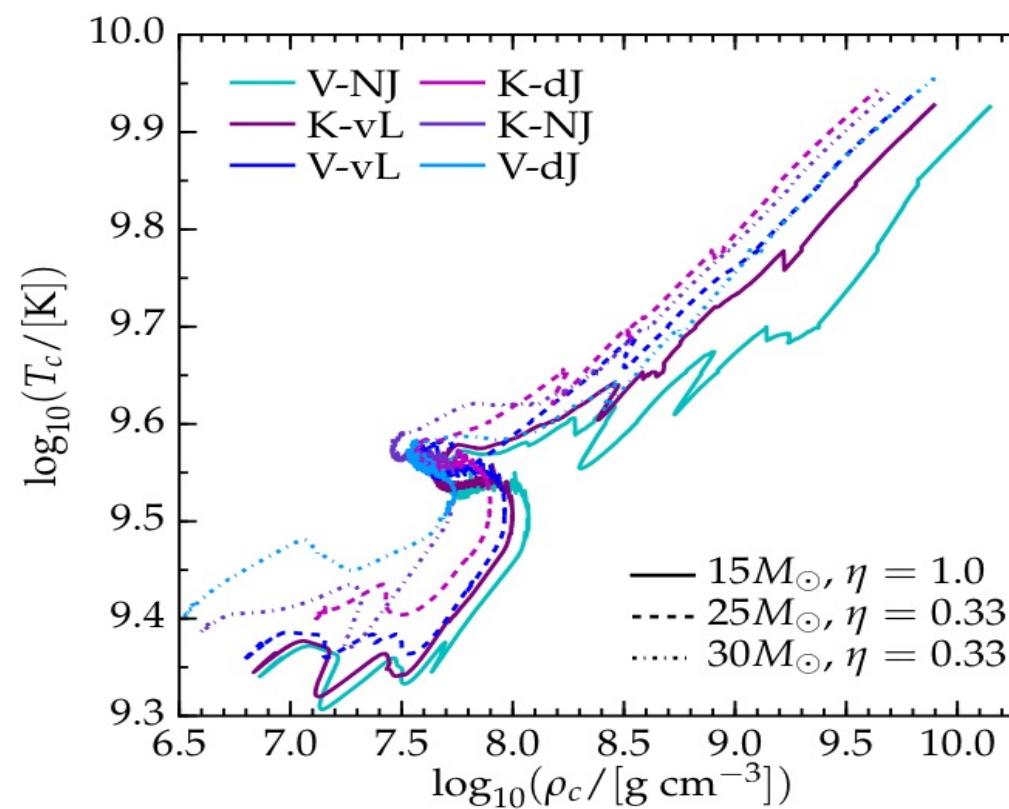


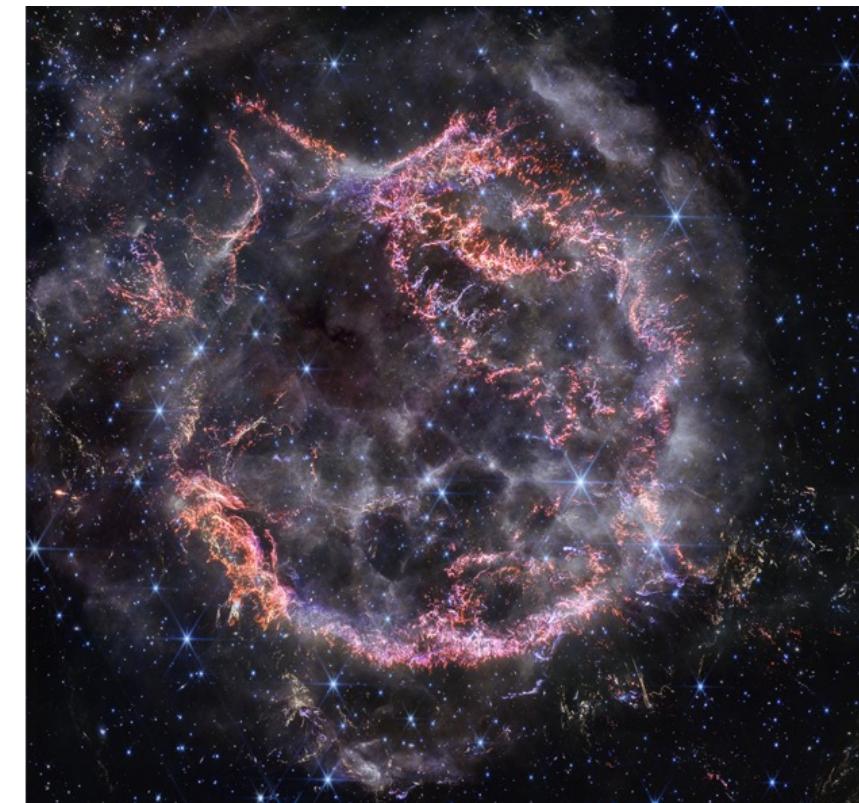
Fig. adapted from MESA IV Paxton+2018



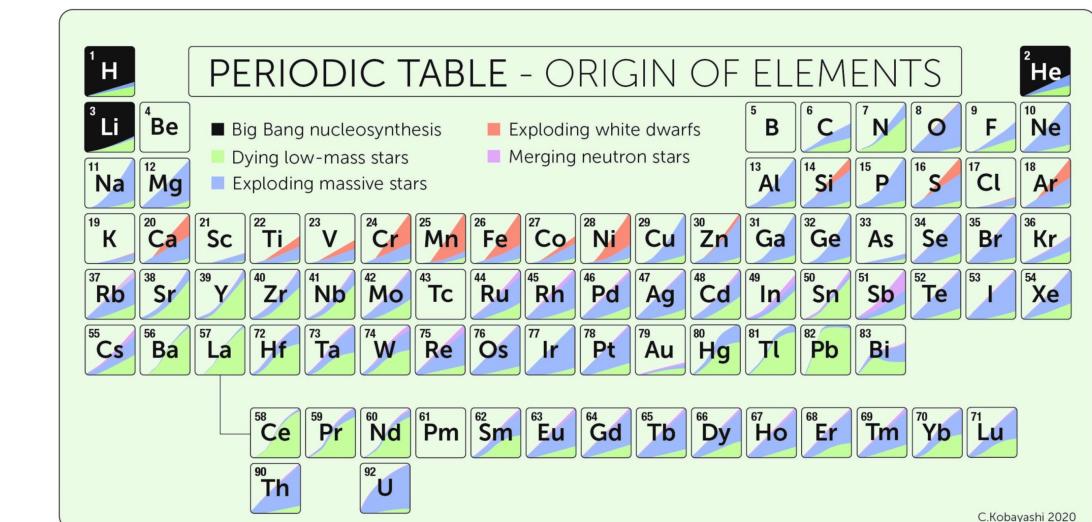
Shapes compact object populations through impact on binary evolution



Changes core evolution  
Fig. from Renzo+2017



Shapes SN remnant environment  
Image: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, Danny Milisavljevic, Ilse De Looze, Tea Temim



Stellar Wind Feedback & Galactic Chemical Enrichment  
Figs by Kobayashi 2020, NASA

# ON WHAT TIMESCALE CAN STARS RESPOND TO MASS LOSS?

50

- ▶ Back to Astrophysics Essentials™ : Hydrostatic balance will be recovered on a *Dynamical Timescale*

$$\triangleright t_{\text{dyn}} = \frac{R}{v_{\text{esc}}} = \sqrt{\frac{R^3}{2GM}}$$

- ▶ And the thermal structure can adjust on a Kelvin-Helmholtz (or Thermal) Timescale (discussed last lab!)

$$\triangleright t_{KH} = \frac{E_{\text{thermal}}}{L} \approx \frac{|E_{\text{grav}}|}{L} = \frac{GM^2}{2RL}$$

- ▶ Thus, a natural “limiting” mass loss rate for the star to be able to *thermally* adjust to mass loss is

- ▶ 
$$\dot{M}_{\text{KH}} \approx \frac{M_{\text{star}}}{t_{\text{KH}}} = \frac{2RL}{GM}$$

$$\approx 6.7 \times 10^{-7} \left( \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{R}{R_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \right) M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$$

# HOW WILL WE MAKE THE STARS LOSE MASS?

---

52

- ▶ In the last lab, we opened `src/run_star_extras.f90` and created custom history and profile outputs
- ▶ As we learned this morning, `run_star_extras` can also be a place where you insert your own physics!
- ▶ Conveniently, there are hooks for mass loss/mass accretion!
- ▶ For arbitrary  $\dot{M}$ , we can use `other_adjust_mdot`.
- ▶ Since we want to implement a negative  $\dot{M}$ , i.e. a wind, we can (and will) use the `other_wind` routine.

Download all lab materials from drive linked in Prerequisites Tab:

<https://sites.google.com/view/massive-stars-mesa-down-under/prerequisites>

The screenshot shows a dark-themed web page with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes links for 'Welcome!', 'Prerequisites', 'MINILAB1', 'MINILAB2', 'MINILAB3', and a search icon. The main title 'MINILAB3 - Mass Loss' is centered in large white font. Below the title, a section titled 'MINILAB3: Mass Loss and Massive Star Structure' is described in black text. The text explains that in MINILAB2, thermal timescales were calculated for stars evolved with different assumptions about convective efficiency. It then introduces the concept of 'thermal mass loss rate' as the rate at which the star would lose all its mass in one thermal time, relating it to another question about mass loss in a thermal timescale while adjusting structure.

## MINILAB3 - Mass Loss

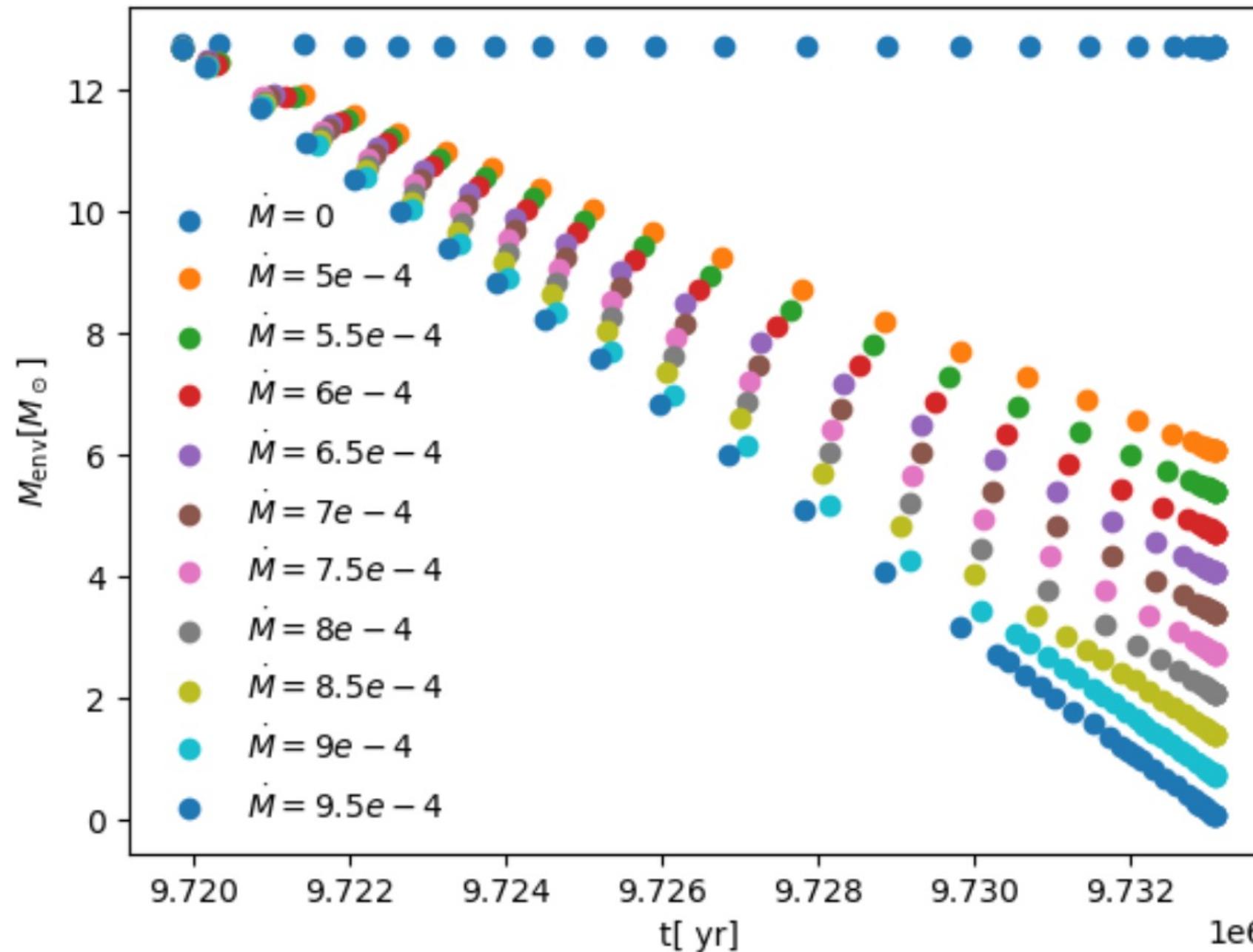
### MINILAB3: Mass Loss and Massive Star Structure

In MINILAB2, we calculated thermal timescales (both globally and locally as a function of mass coordinate) for stars evolved with different assumptions about convective efficiency. At the end, we began to think about the *thermal mass loss rate*, which is the rate at which the star would lose all of its mass in one thermal time. This is related to another interesting question - "How much mass can the star lose in a thermal timescale while being able to adjust its structure?"

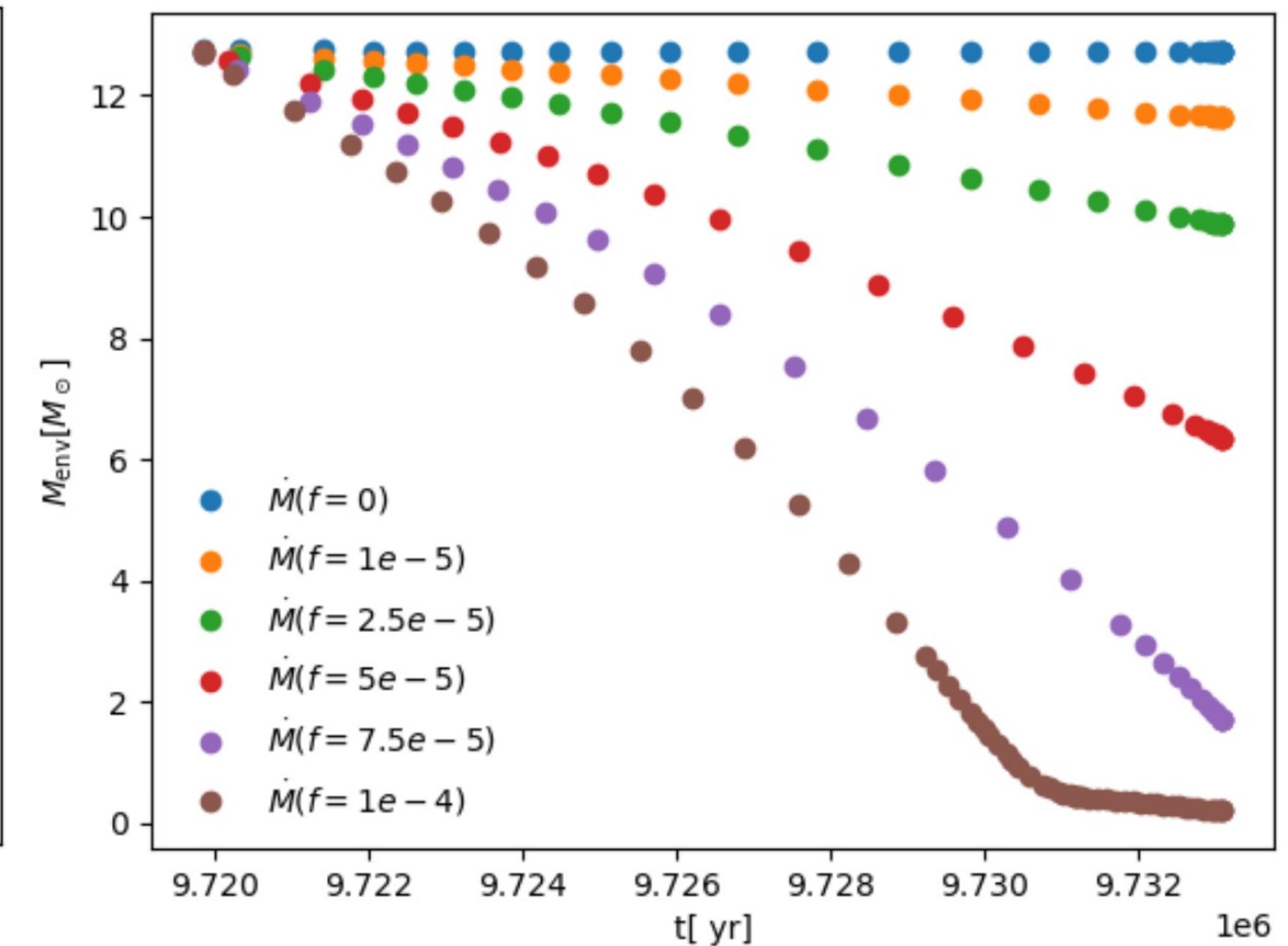
Here in MINILAB3, we will explore this concept of "thermal" mass loss in greater detail. We will also explore the structure of these stars as they lose mass. We will focus on two physical relationships: The relationship between stellar structure and **total mass lost** (or, if you prefer, the remaining envelope mass), and the star's response to increasing **mass loss rates** (relative to the thermal timescale).

- ▶ What happens to the stellar structure with increasing mass lost?
- ▶ In particular, how does varying mass loss impact the stellar radius?
- ▶ How much does the picture change when the mass loss is not constant, but rather a function of the thermal properties of the stars?

## CONSTANT MASS LOSS



## SUB-KH MASS LOSS

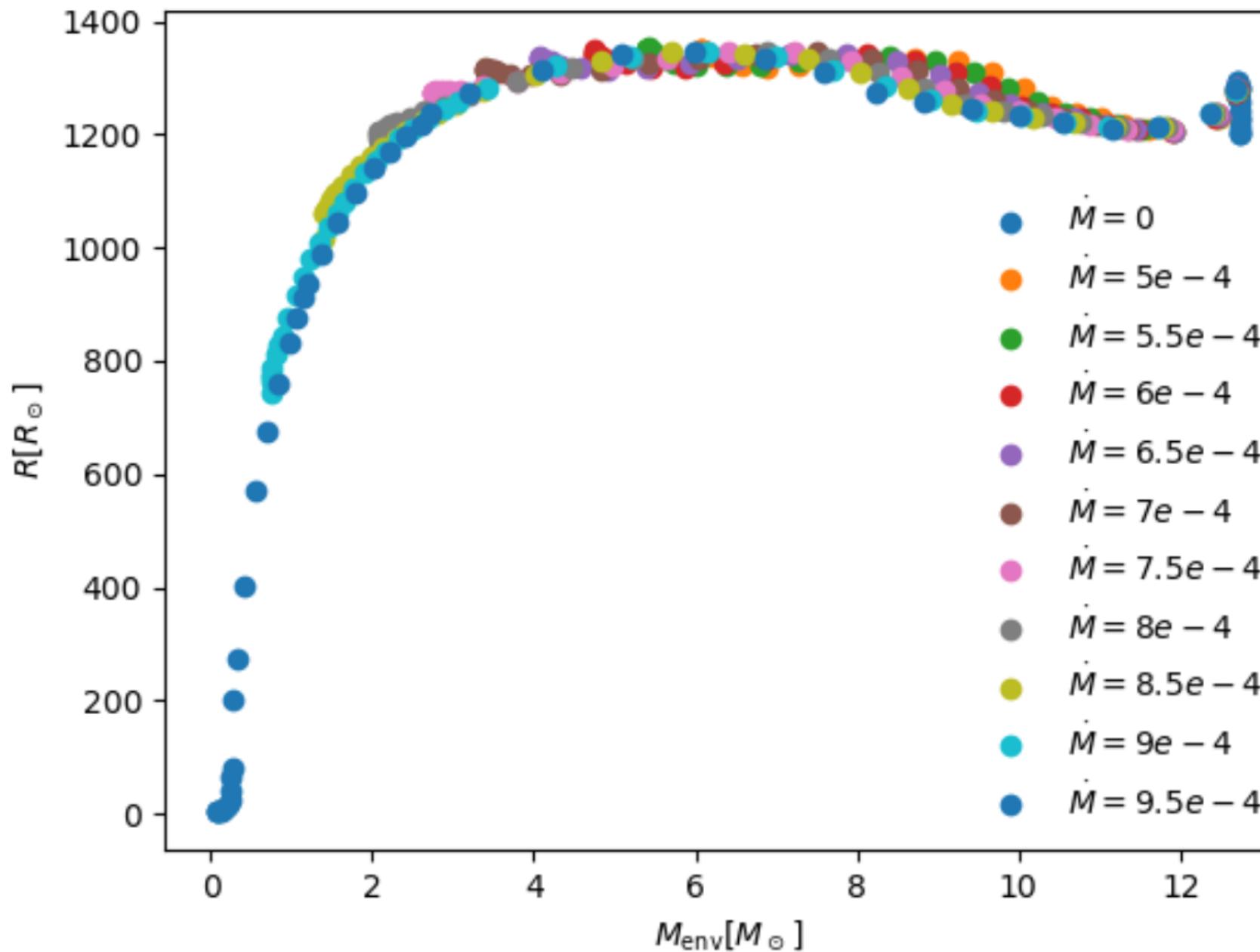


$M_{\text{ZAMS}}=20M_{\odot}$

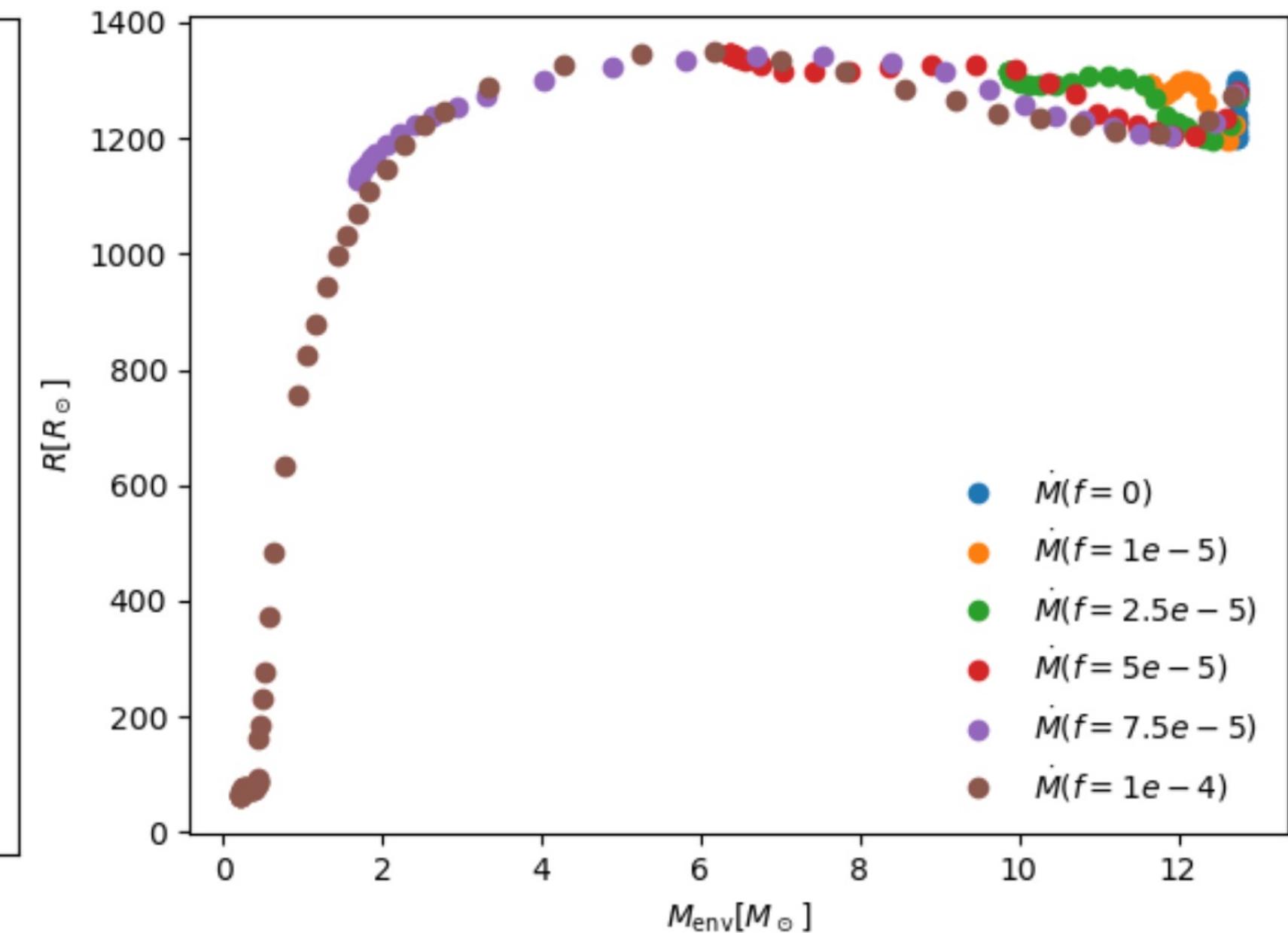
# ENVELOPE MASS DETERMINES THE RADIUS

56

CONSTANT MASS LOSS



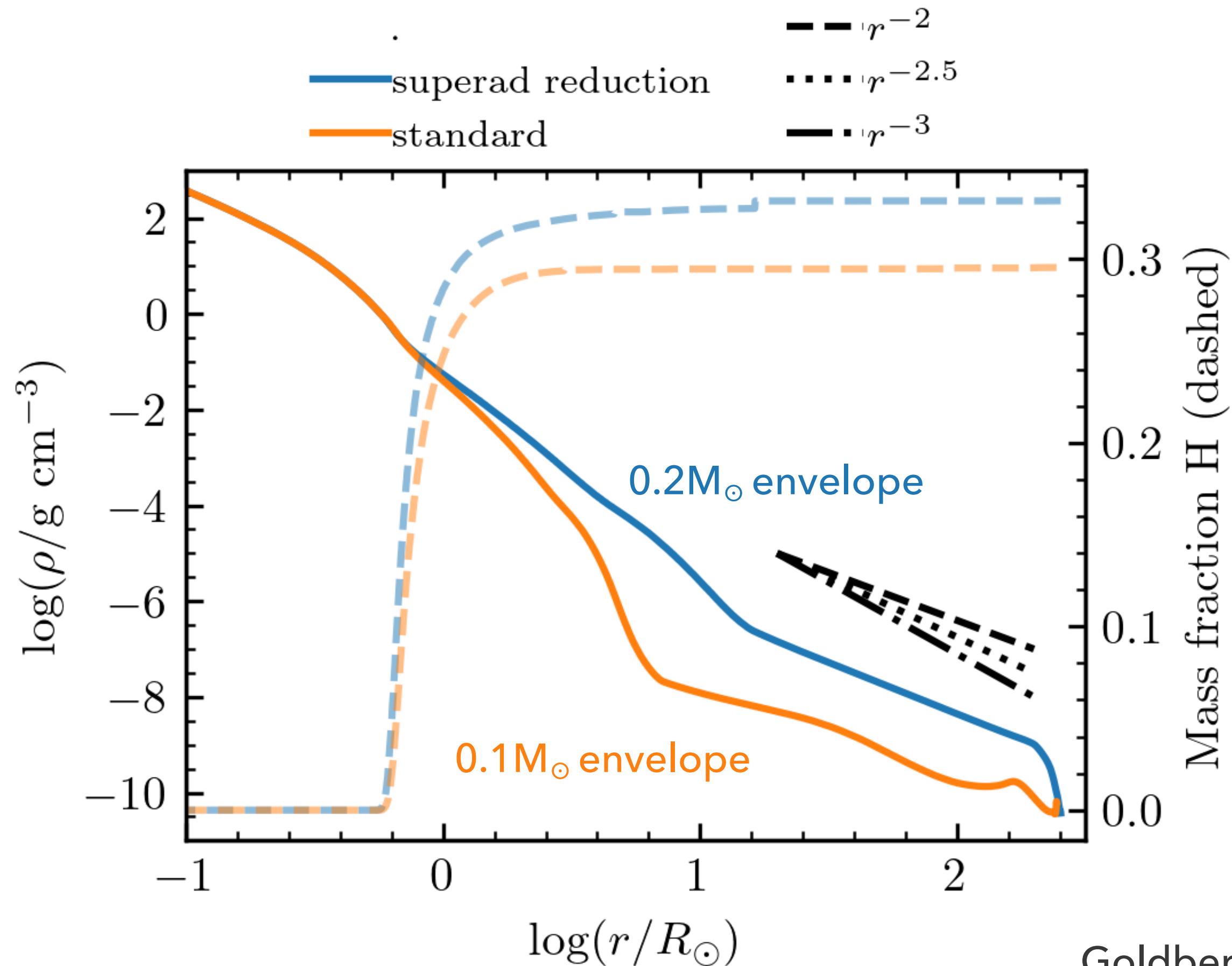
SUB-KH MASS LOSS



$M_{\text{ZAMS}} = 20M_\odot$

# REMEMBER: STELLAR ENGINEERING SHAPES THE ENVELOPE

57





# RECAP AND IMPLICATIONS

Wednesday, 19 June 2024, recapping labs from Day 2 (Tuesday)

# REMINDER: YESTERDAY'S LAB STRUCTURE

---

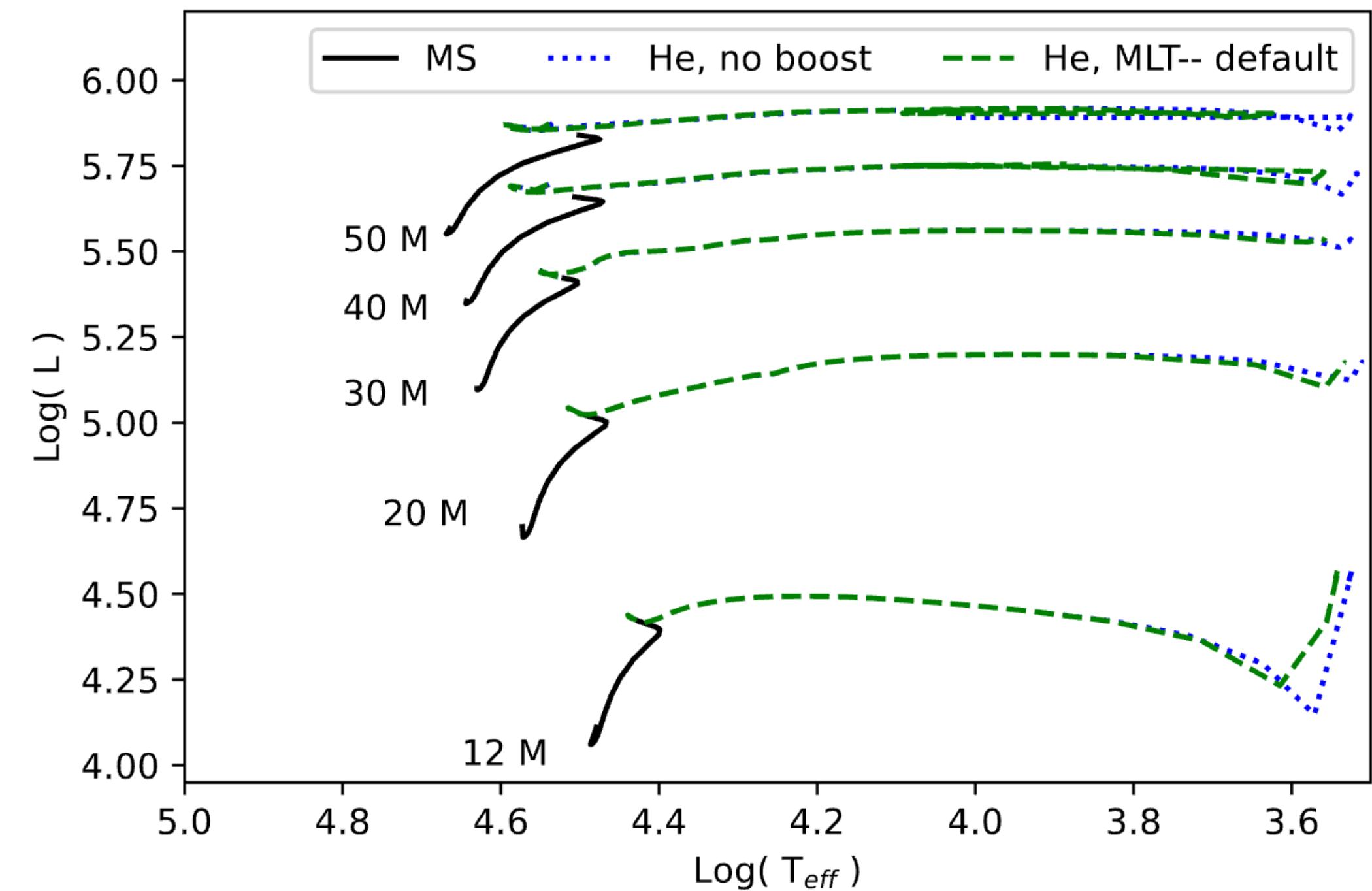
59

- ▶ Minilab 1: The impact of “flux engineering” on the outer stellar structure
- ▶ Minilab 2: The impact of mixing length on stellar radius + local and global thermal timescales
- ▶ Minilab 3: Mass loss and the transition to stripped-envelope stellar structure

# WHAT WE LEARNED (MINILAB1)

60

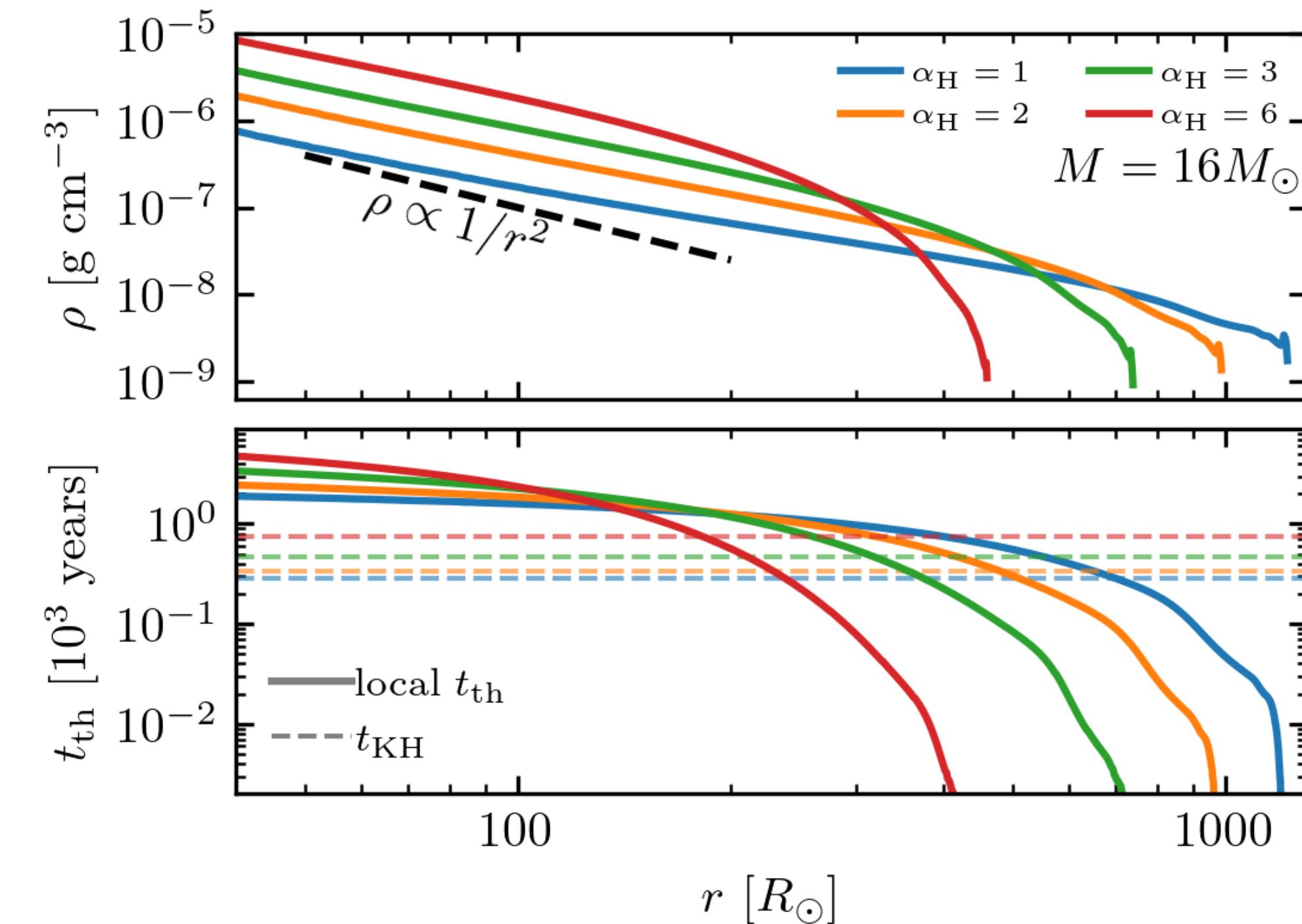
- ▶ Massive stars are very luminous!
- ▶ When they locally exceed the Eddington limit, we need to engineer a way to keep the star from trying to blow itself apart and crash the timestep.
- ▶ This impacts HR diagrams & surface properties!



# WHAT WE LEARNED (MINILAB2)

61

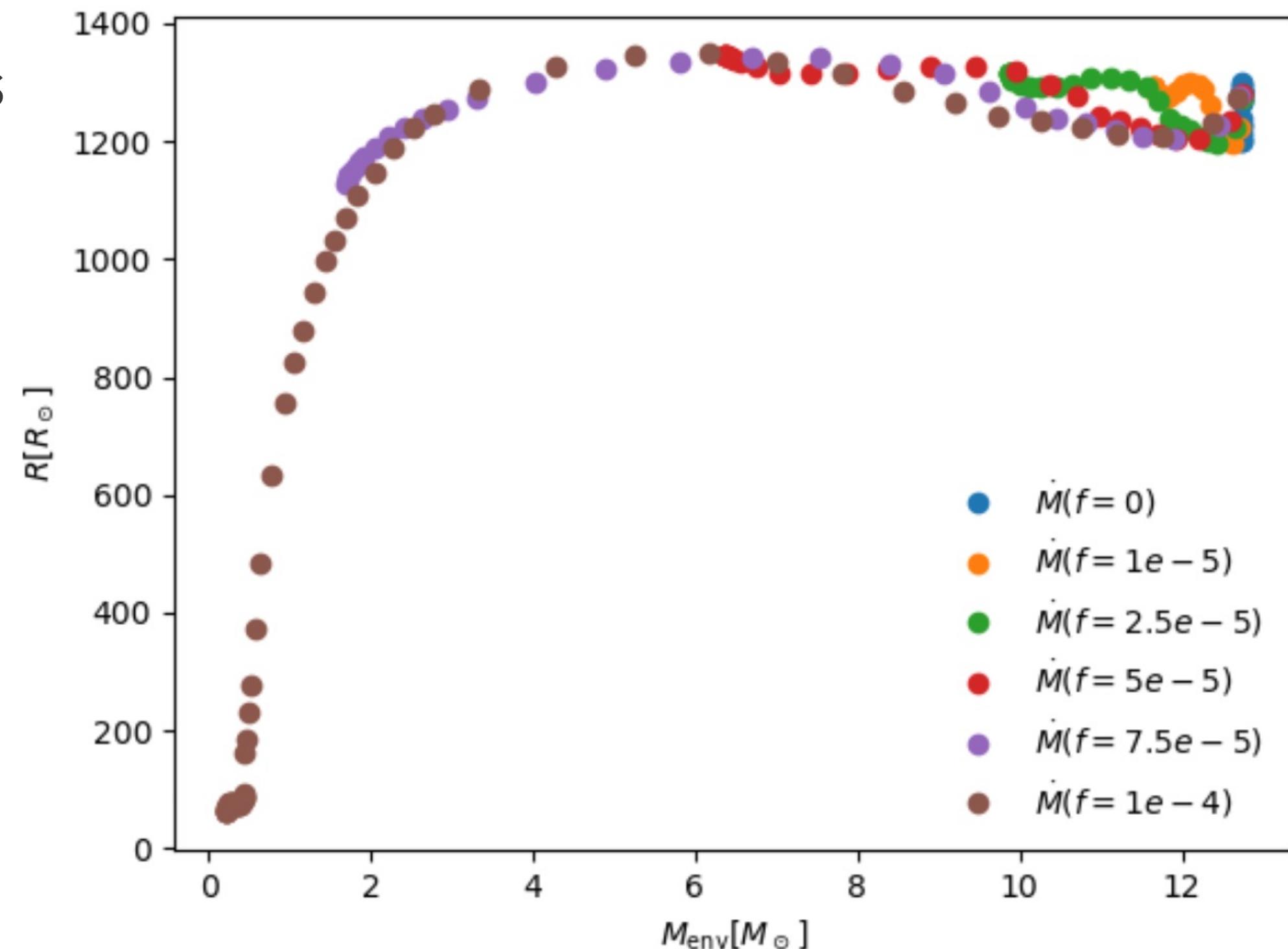
- ▶ Evolved massive star envelopes are convective (if sufficiently massive)! Thus, your assumed mixing length impacts the stellar radius.
- ▶ The radius then is factored into  $t_{\text{KH}} =$  (stay tuned for Thursday and Friday's labs!) - but reminder that the *local* thermal time varies even more!



# WHAT WE LEARNED (MINILAB3)

62

- ▶ The mass-loss rate impacts the envelope mass (perhaps duh)!
- ▶ If the envelope mass is sufficiently small, the star can't support such a large convective envelope!
- ▶ This leads to an even wider variety of envelope structures / stellar radii





---

# WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

---

# CONNECTIONS TO SUPERNOVAE:

<sup>64</sup>

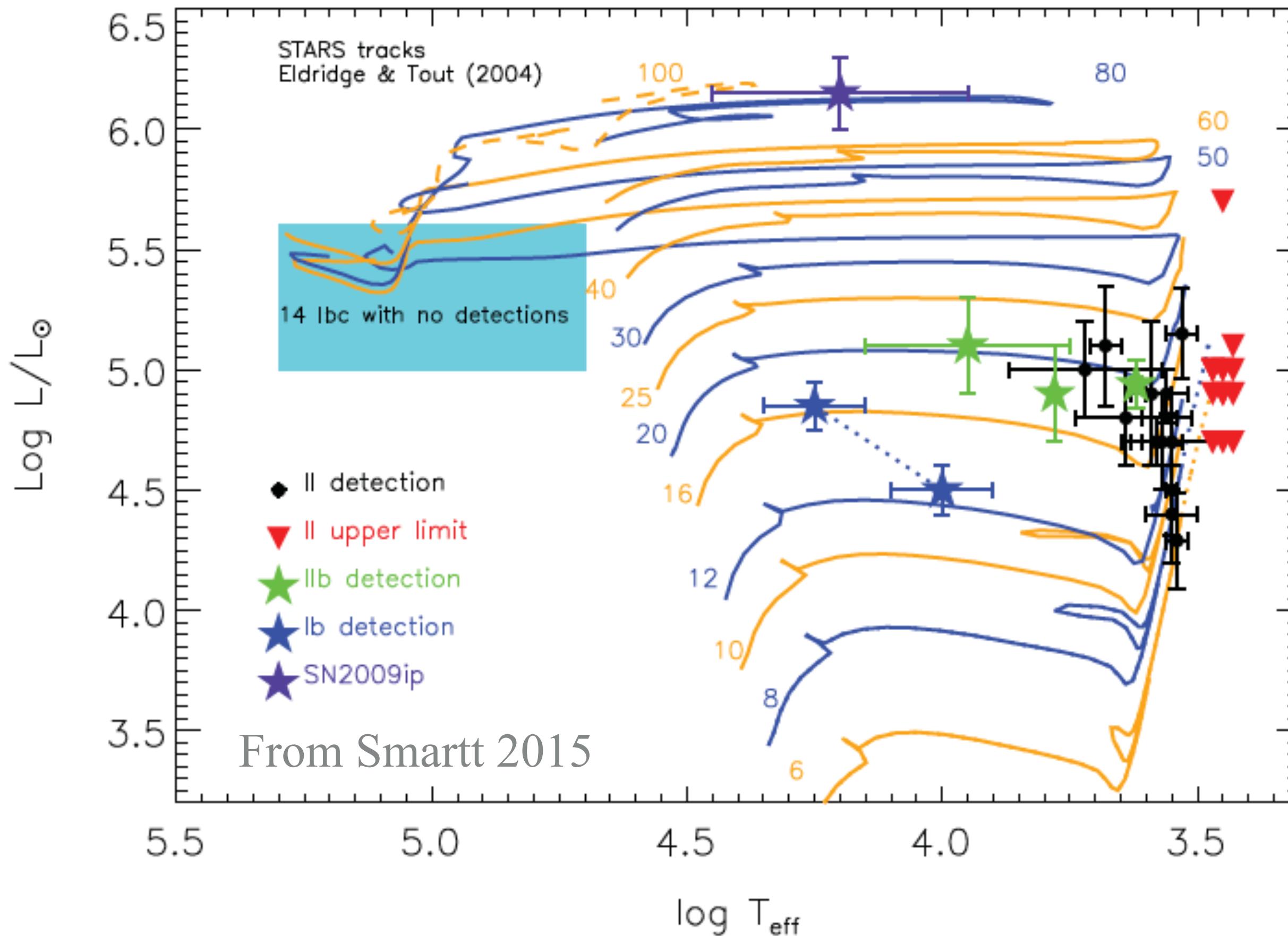
CORE PROPERTIES DETERMINE  
EXPLOSION ENERGY, REMNANT

ENVELOPE PROPERTIES DETERMINE

STELLAR OBSERVABLES AND  
SUPERNOVA EMISSION

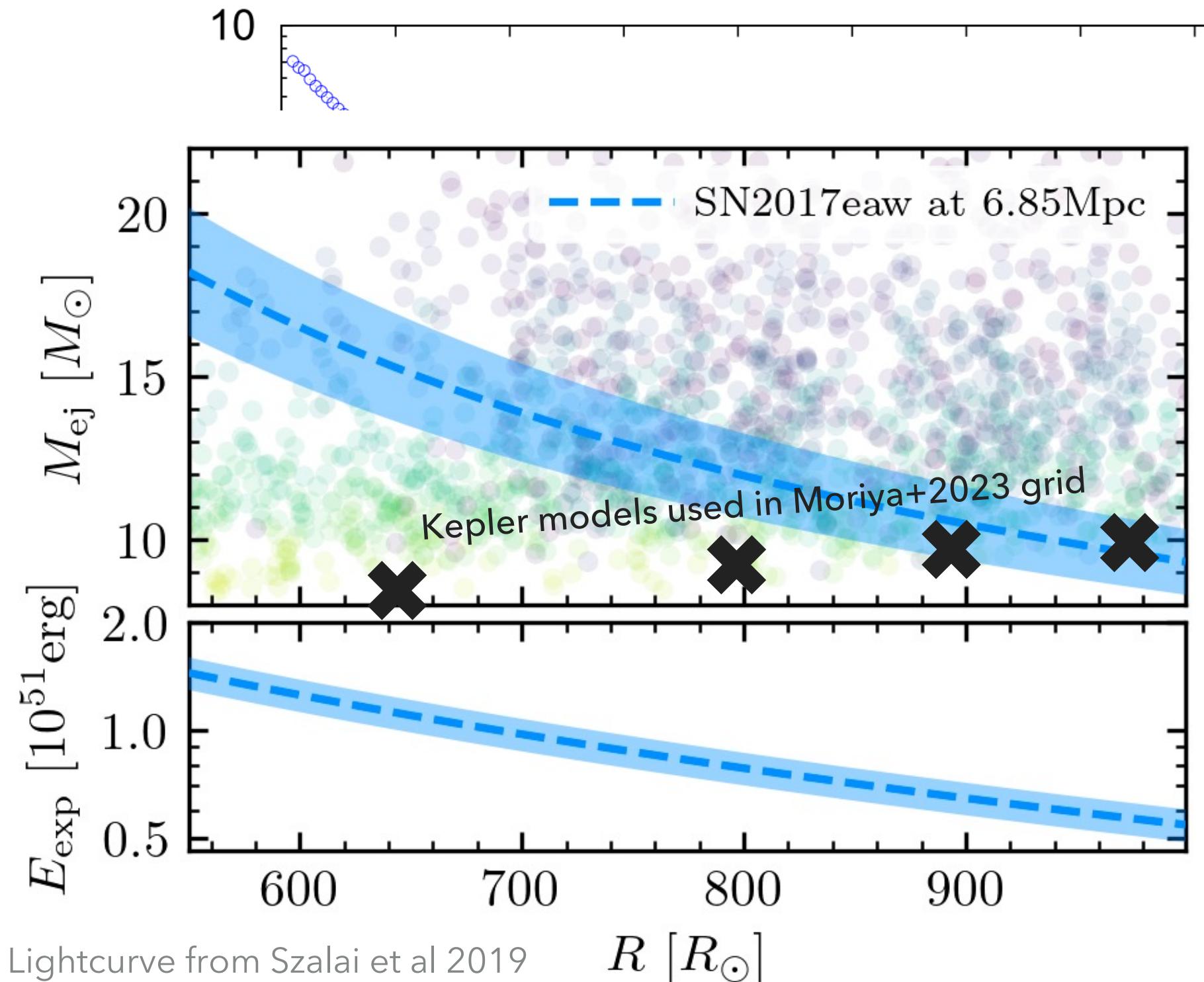
# SN PROGENITORS IN NEARBY GALAXIES: COOL SUPERGIANTS

65



# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STELLAR RADIUS (LAB2)

66



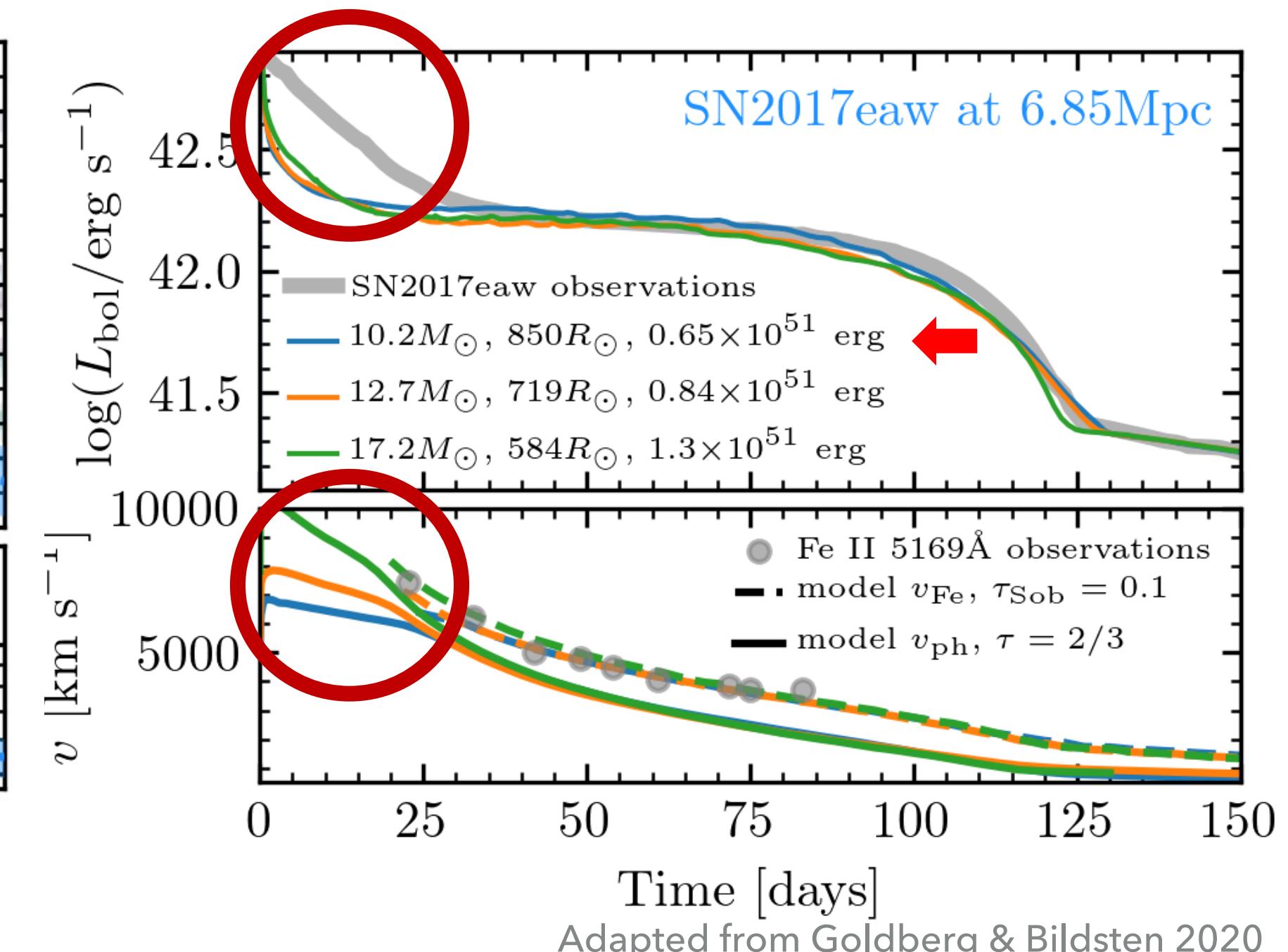
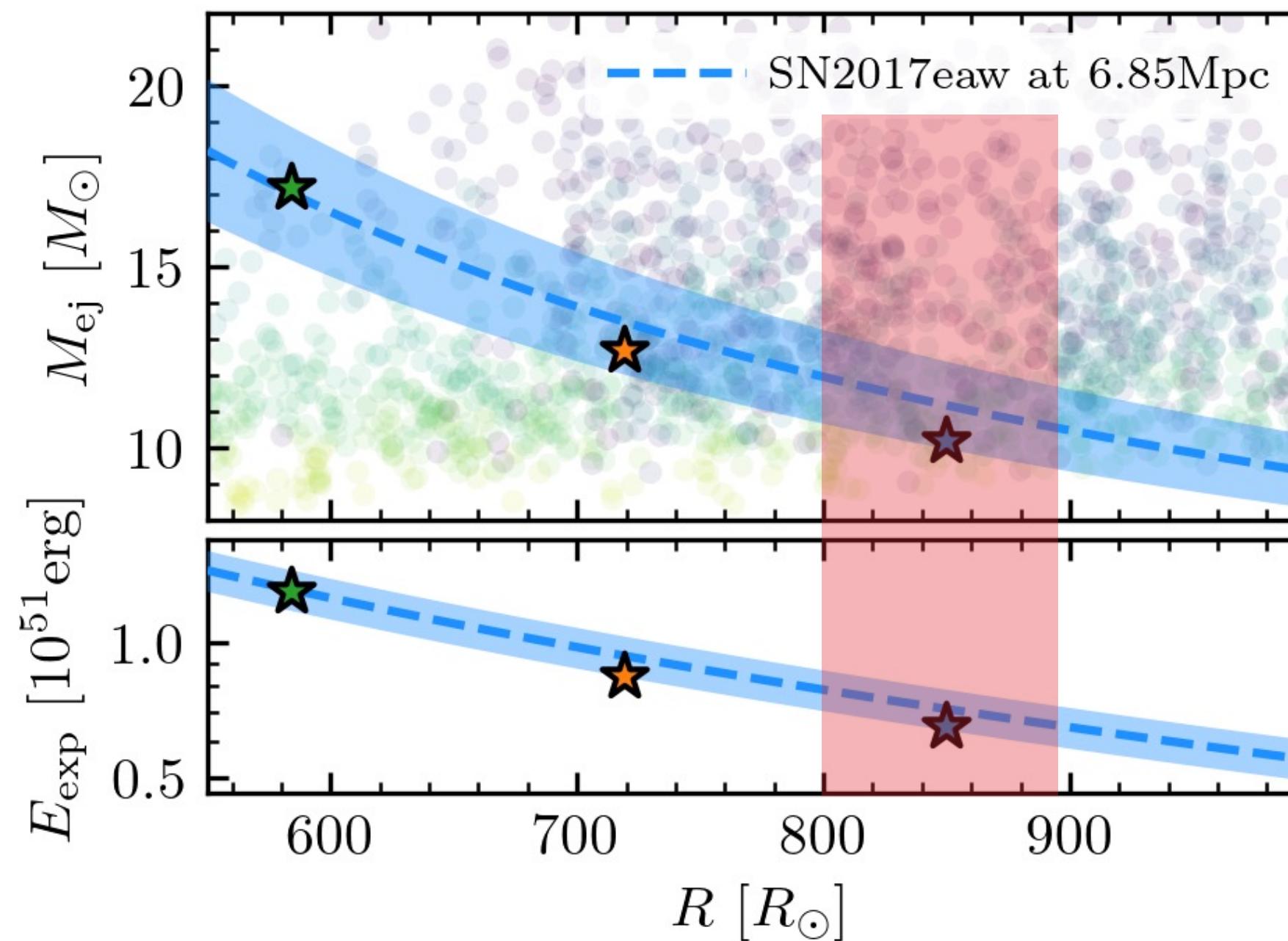
- Given supernova properties, semi-analytic scaling laws & modeling yield **families** of  $M_{ej}$  and  $E_{exp}$  as a function of  $R$
- How well do we theoretically constrain  $M_{ej}$  vs  $R$ ?
- If we fit observations and recover  $R$ , is that real, or an artifact of our grid?

# EXTRACTING EXPLOSION PROPERTIES FROM LIGHTCURVES

67

- Plateau velocity is a standard candle w/ Luminosity; does *not* identify a unique solution!

But given a progenitor  $R$ ,  $E_{\text{exp}}$  &  $M_{\text{ej}}$  can be inferred

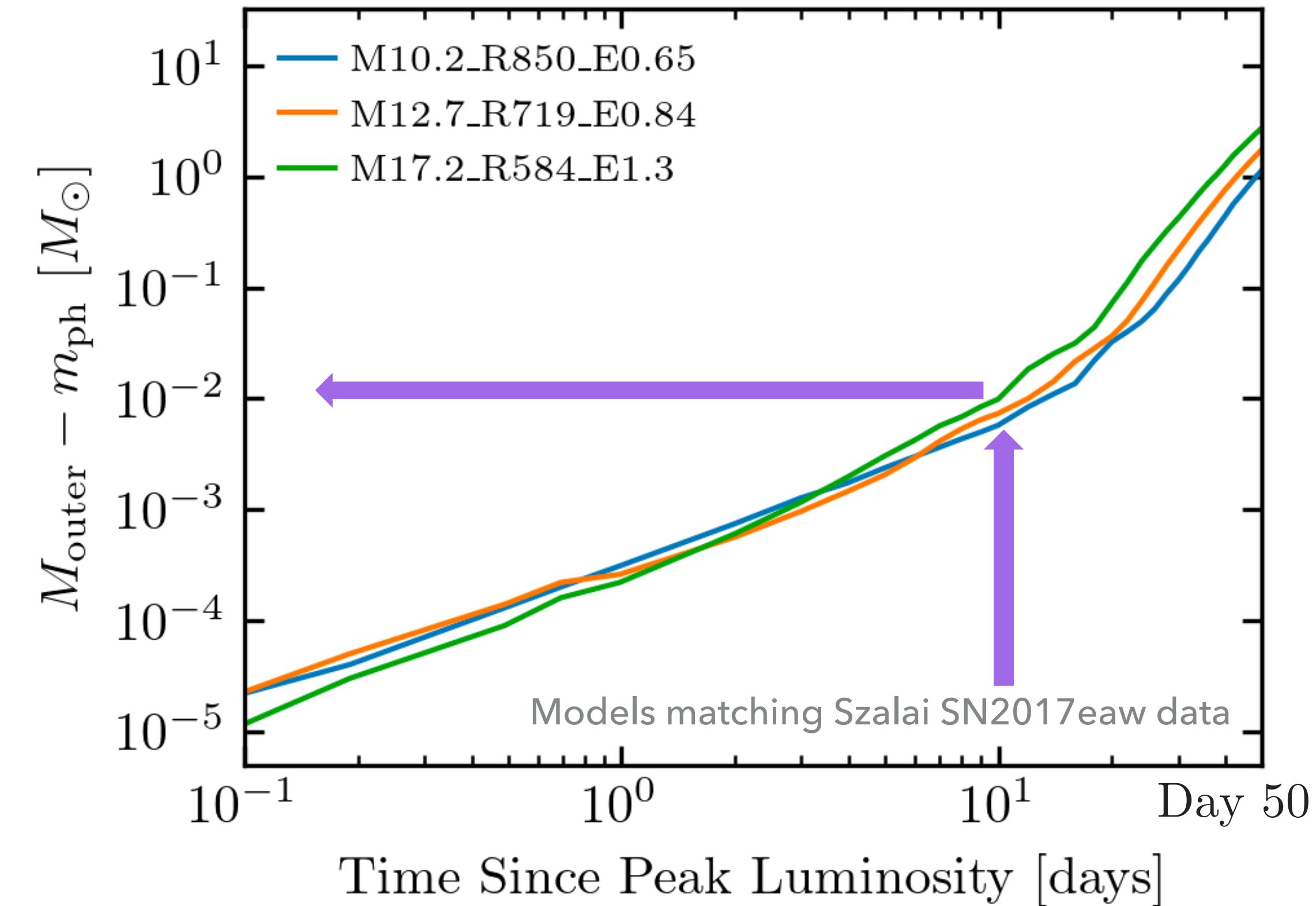


Adapted from Goldberg & Bildsten 2020

# WHAT TO MAKE OF EARLY-TIME EMISSION?

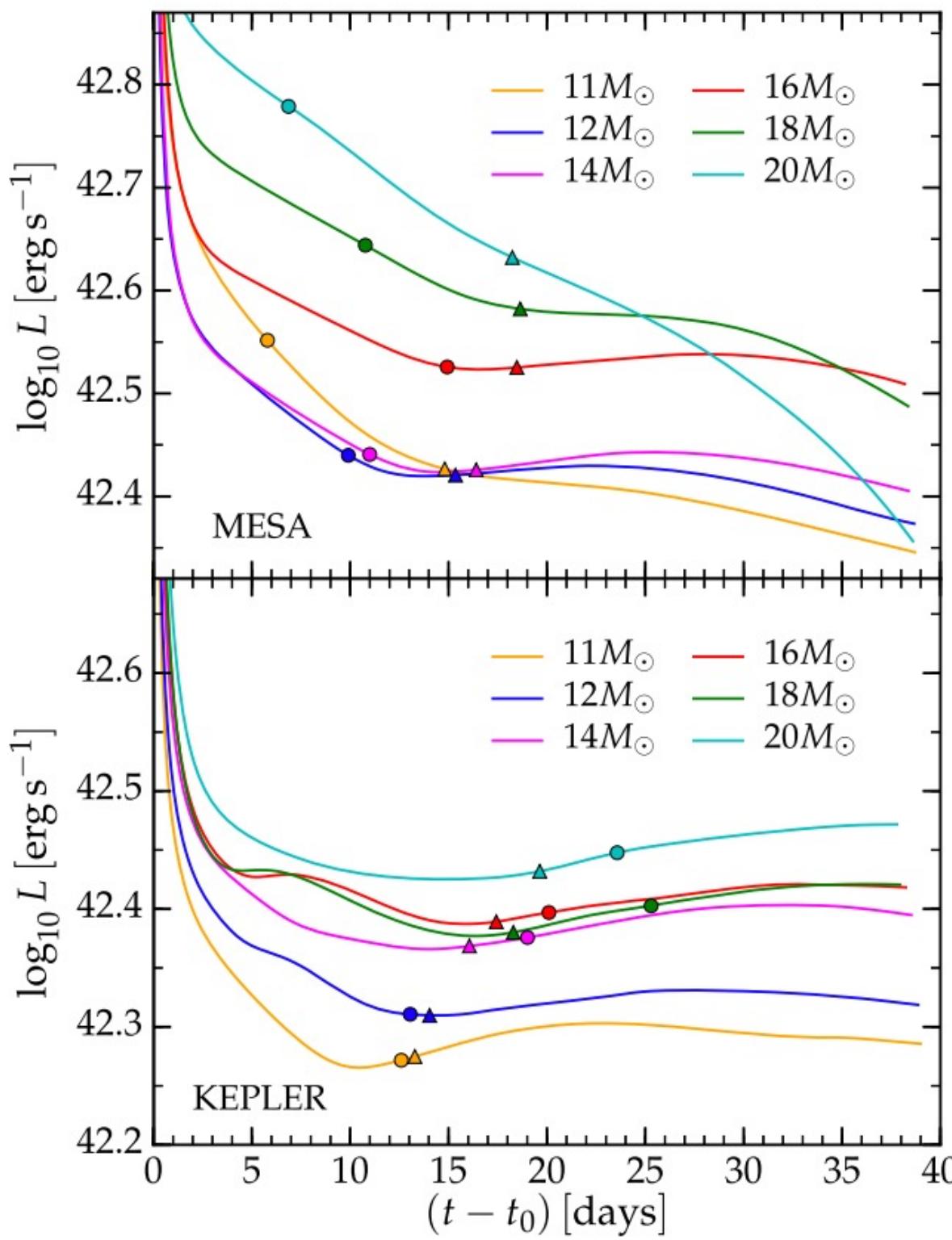
68

- ▶ First ~20 days of the SN = shock-cooling of the outermost  $\sim 0.01\text{-}0.1 M_{\odot}$
- ▶ What does the star look like there?

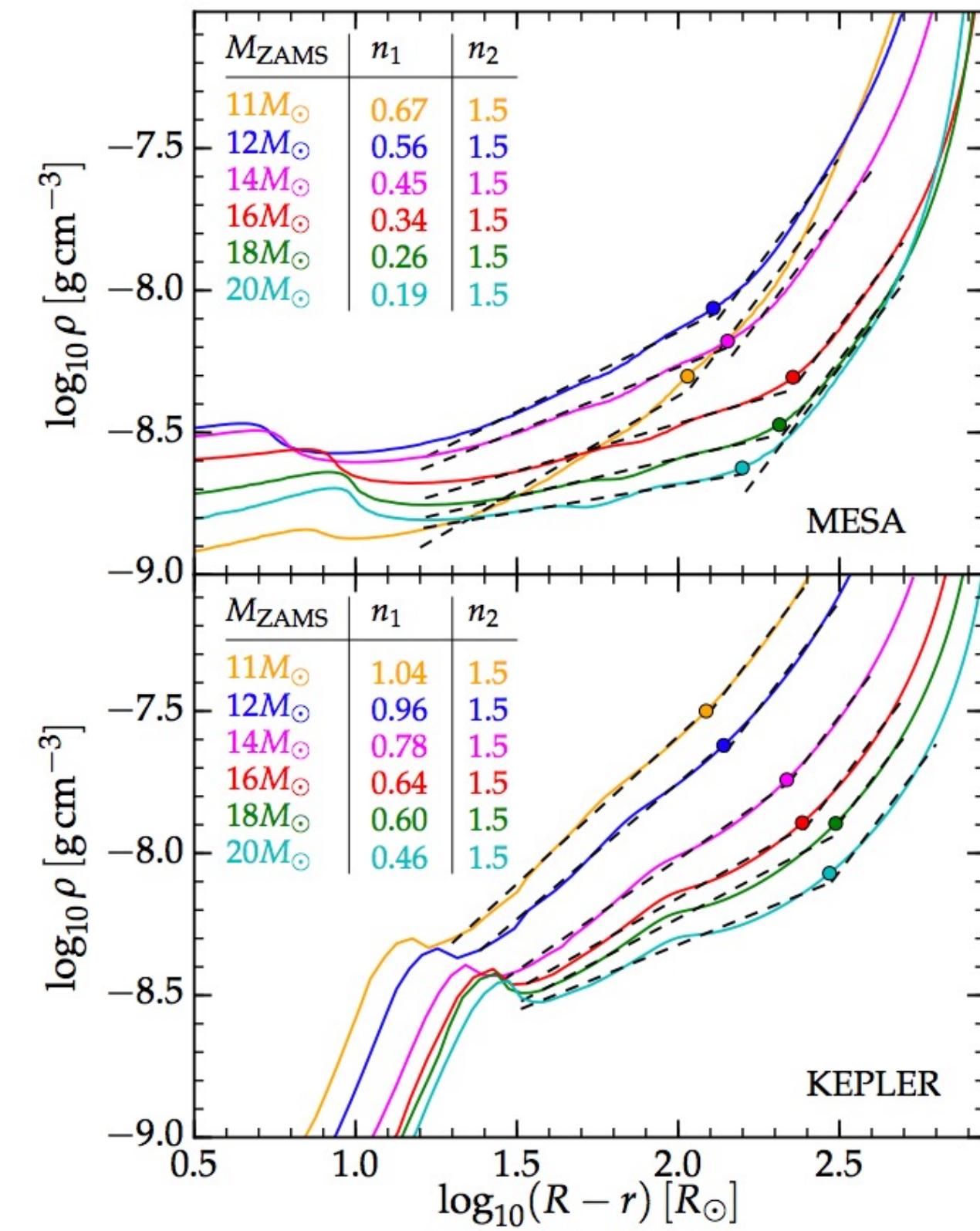


# EARLY-TIME SN SENSITIVE TO “SURFACE” & SURROUNDINGS (LAB1) 69

- ▶ Outer density profile varies w/ different physical and “engineering” assumptions
- ▶ This directly impacts early lightcurve predictions!



Figures from Morozova+16



# MASS LOSS (& BINARITY) LEAD TO A CONTINUUM OF TYPE II SNE (LAB3)

70

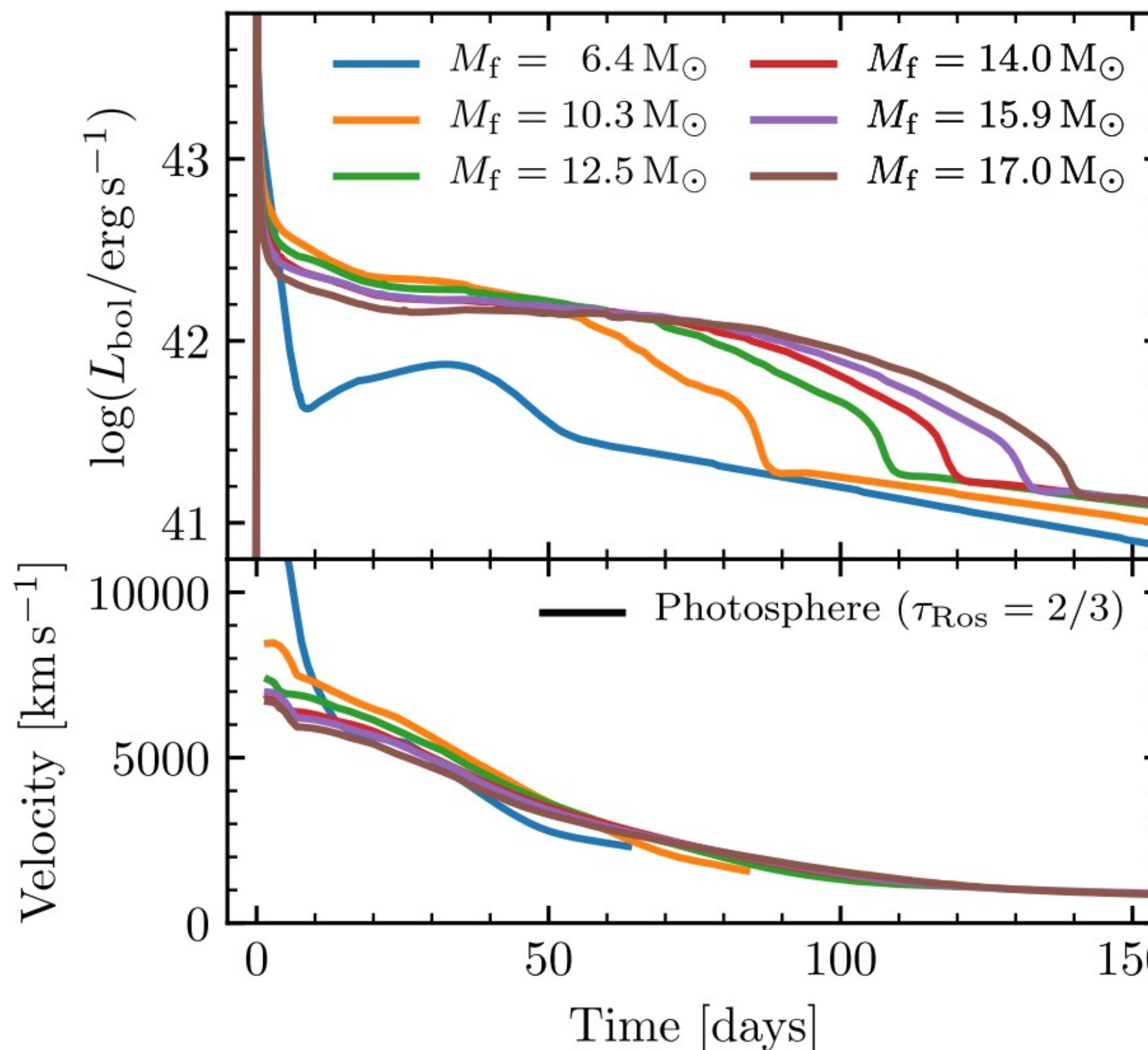
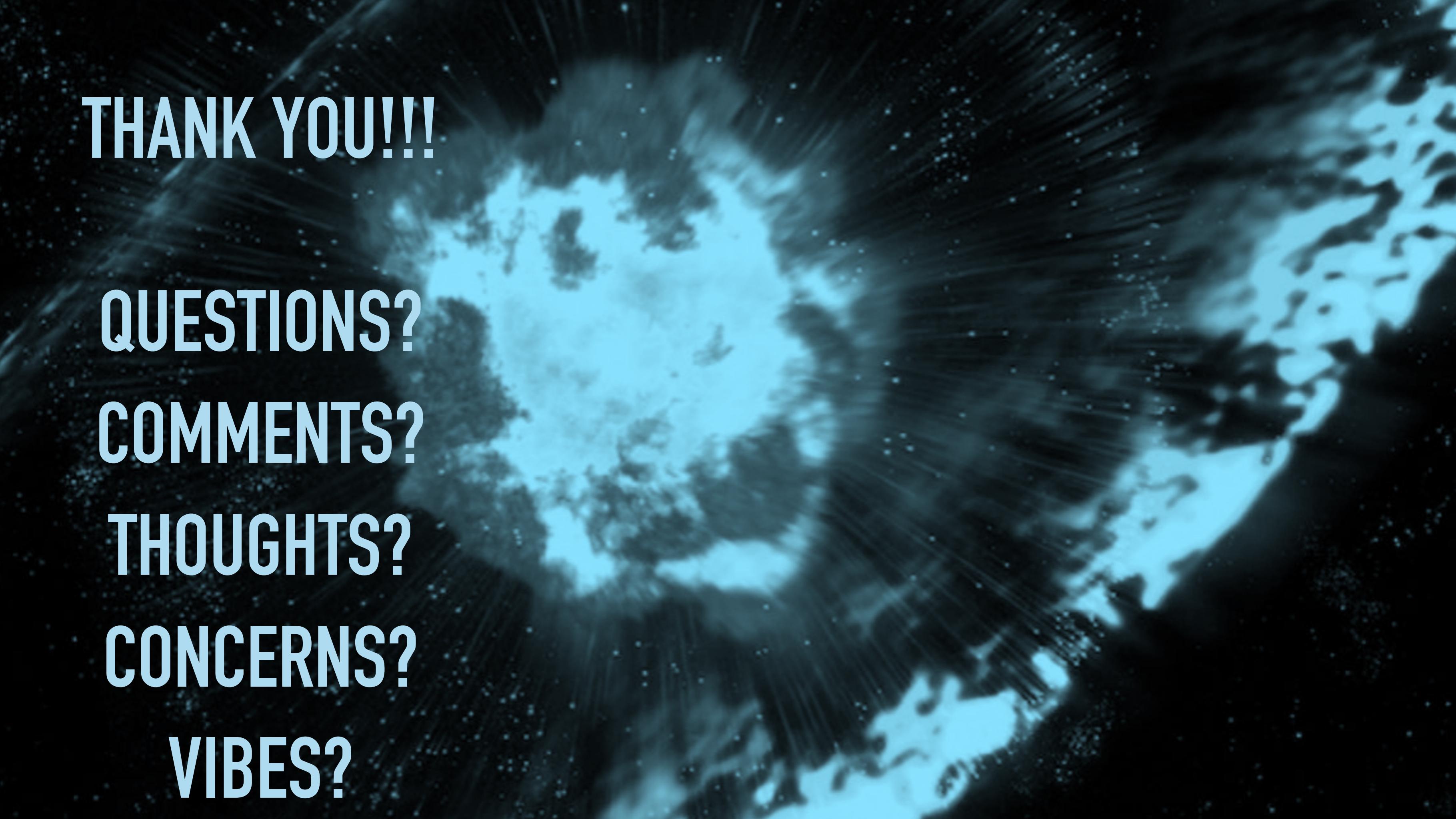


Figure from MESA IV  
Paxton et al 2018.

See also, e.g.,  
Arnett 1996,  
Heger+2003,  
Bayless+15,  
Morozova+15,  
Eldridge+2019,  
Hiramatsu+21,  
Ercolino+24,  
Dessart+24 &  
others &  
discussions &  
references therein

WHEN DOING STELLAR  
PHYSICS, KEEP IN MIND  
YOUR CHOICES IN  
“STELLAR ENGINEERING”



# THANK YOU!!!

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

THOUGHTS?

CONCERNS?

VIBES?