

Limit on axion decay constant from the cooling neutron star in Cassiopeia A

Keisuke Yanagi
University of Tokyo

Based on Hamaguchi, Nagata, KY, Zheng, Phys. Rev. D98 (2018) 103015

Overview

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“Limit on axion decay constant from the cooling neutron star in Cassiopeia A”

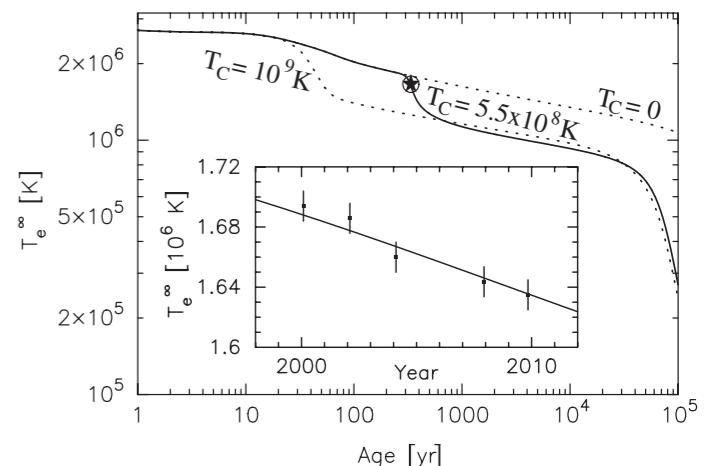
Well-motivated candidate of a new particle

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\partial_\mu a \right)^2 + \frac{1}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} a G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \sum_q \frac{C_q}{2f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q \partial_\mu a + \dots$$

[Pecci and Quinn (1977); Weinberg (1978); Wilczek (1978)]

NS cooling is observed

[Page et al. (2011)]



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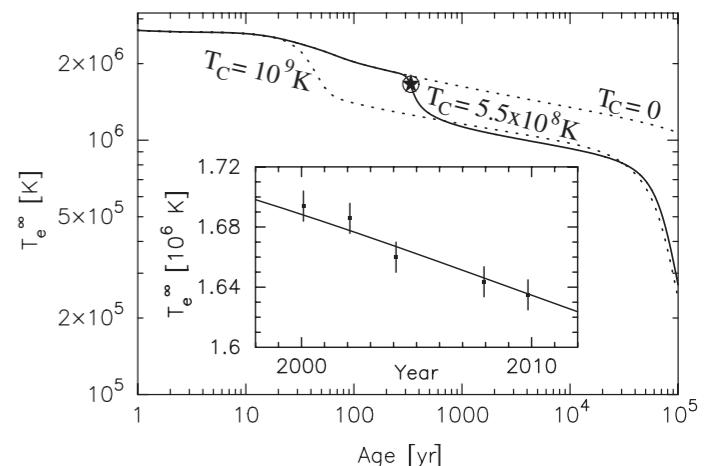
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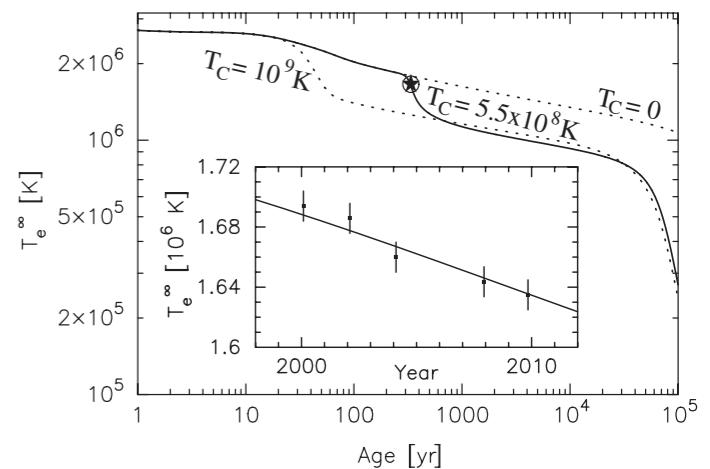
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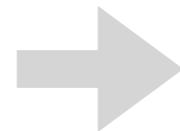
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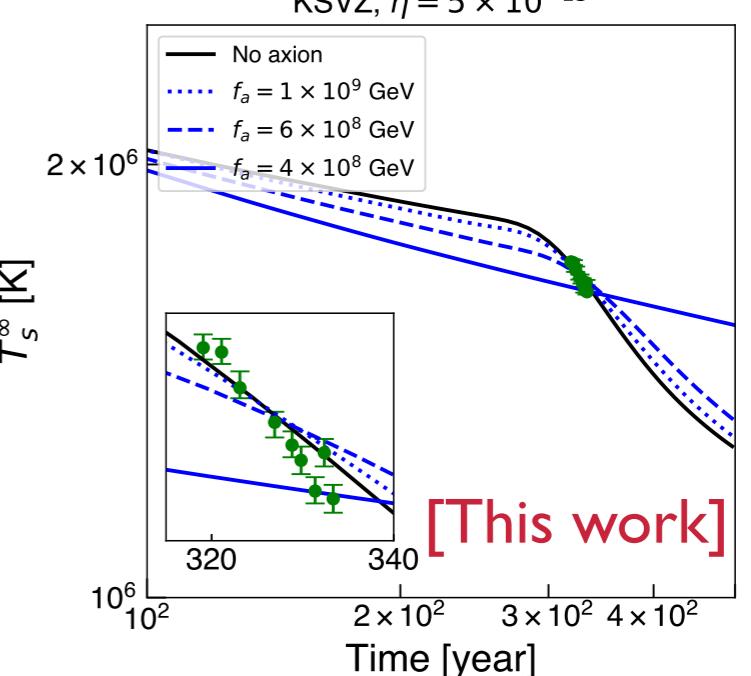
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comparable to the SN1987A limit



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Well-motivated

Cited by PDG 2019!

[Page et al. (2011)]

112. Axions and Other Similar Particles

⋮

There is another hint for excessive stellar energy losses from the neutron star (NS) in the supernova remnant Cassiopeia A (Cas A): its surface temperature measured over 10 years reveals an unusually fast cooling rate. This rapid cooling of the Cas A NS may be explained by NS minimal cooling with neutron superfluidity and proton superconductivity [93, 94]. The rapid cooling may also arise from a phase transition of the neutron condensate into a multicomponent state [95]. Recently, Ref. [96] analyzed Cas A NS cooling in the presence of axion emission and obtained

our work $g_{App}^2 + 1.6g_{Ann}^2 < 1 \times 10^{-18}$, (112.17)

- SM: constraints

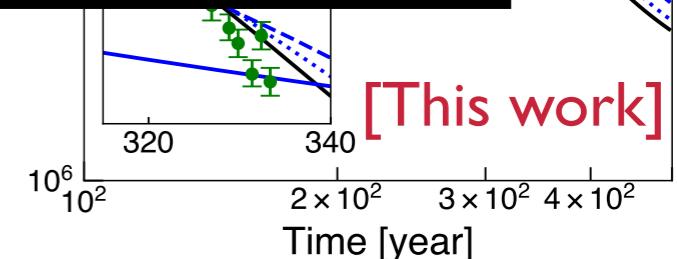
which is comparable to the SN 1987A bound. Refs. [97] put a more conservative bound without an

$$g_{ANN} = \frac{C_N m_N}{f_a}$$



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(review)

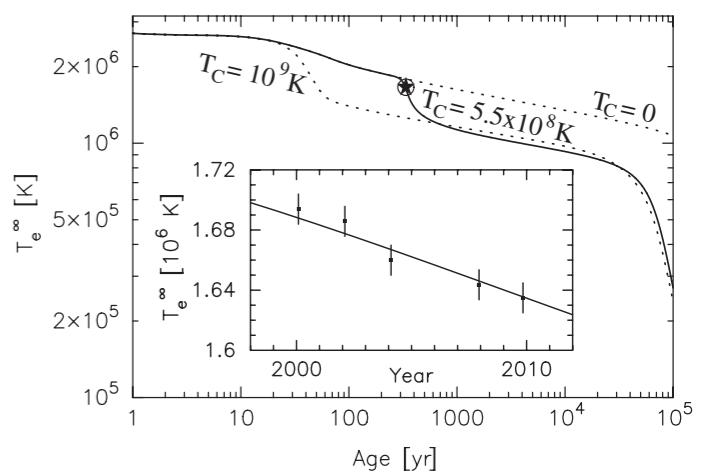
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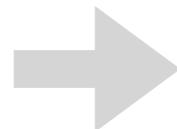
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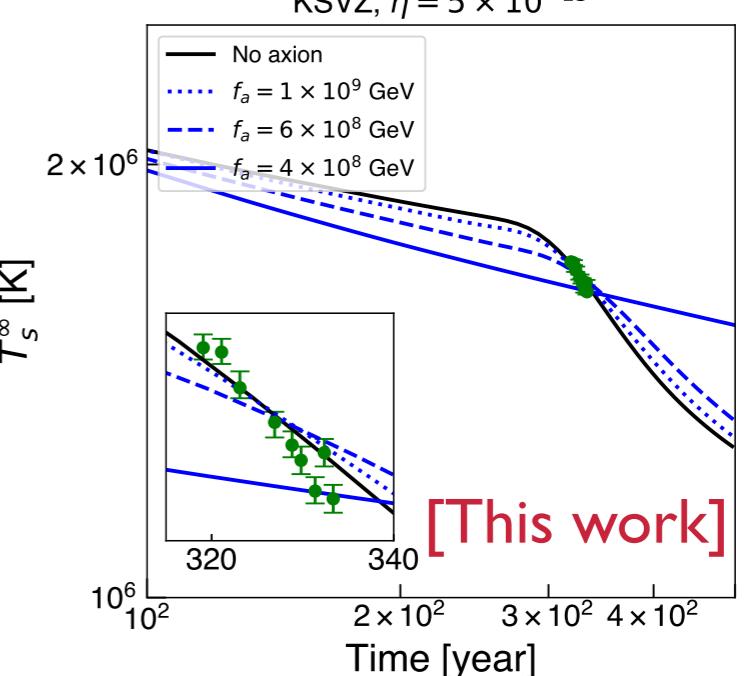
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Strong CP problem and axion

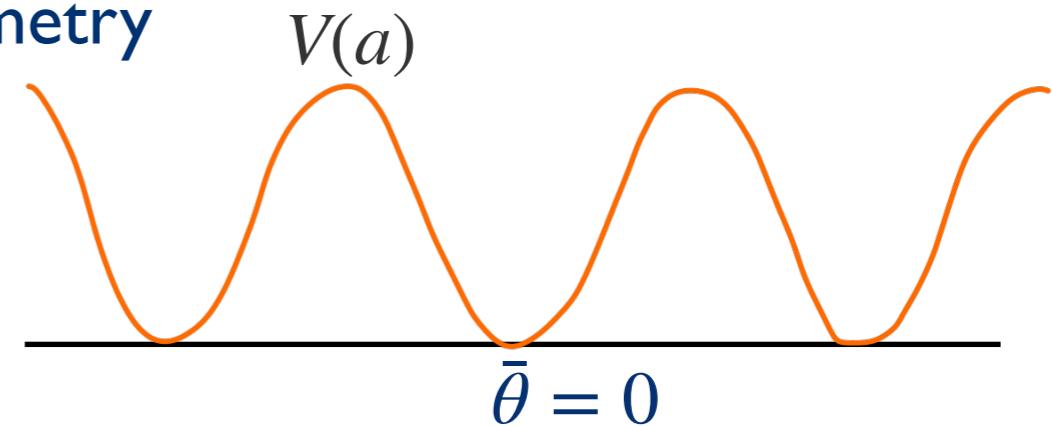
- Strong CP problem: why CP violation in strong interaction is so small?

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta = \theta \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\bar{\theta} = \theta + \text{argdet} M_q \rightarrow \bar{\theta} \lesssim 10^{-10} \text{ from neutron EDM [Baker et al. (2006)]}$$

- Axion: pseudo-NG boson of $U(1)_{\text{PQ}}$ symmetry

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \left(\frac{a}{f_a} + \theta \right) \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$



CP conserving minimum is dynamically chosen

Axion models

- Axion couples to nucleons

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} a G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \sum_q \frac{C_q}{2f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q \partial_\mu a + \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L} = \sum_{N=n,p} \frac{C_N}{2f_a} \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 N \partial_\mu a$$

- Coupling constant depends on models

- KSVZ axion model [Kim (1979); Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov ((1980))]

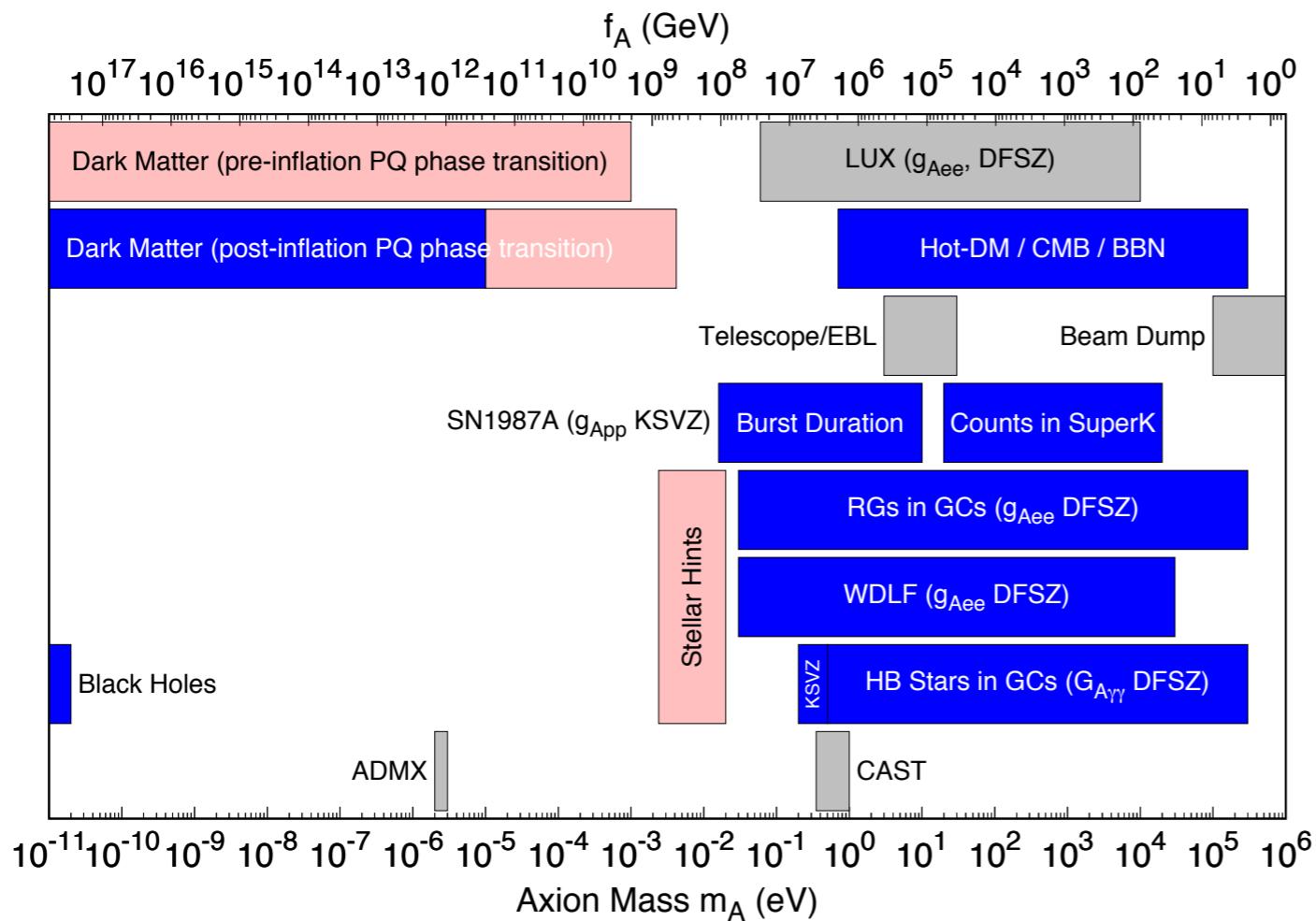
$$C_p = -0.47(3), C_n = -0.02(3) \quad (C_q = 0)$$

- DFSZ axion model [Zhitnitsky (1980); Dine, Fischler, Srednicki (1981)]

$$C_p = -0.182(25) - 0.435 \sin \beta^2$$

$$C_n = -0.160(25) + 0.414 \sin \beta^2 \quad (C_{u,c,t} = \frac{1}{3} \cos^2 \beta, C_{d,s,b} = \frac{1}{3} \sin^2 \beta)$$

Previous constraints on axion



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} a G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \sum_q \frac{C_q}{2f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q \partial_\mu a + \dots$$

[PDG 2018]

$$m_a = \mathcal{O}(m_\pi f_\pi / f_a)$$

SN1987A: $f_a \gtrsim 10^8$ GeV

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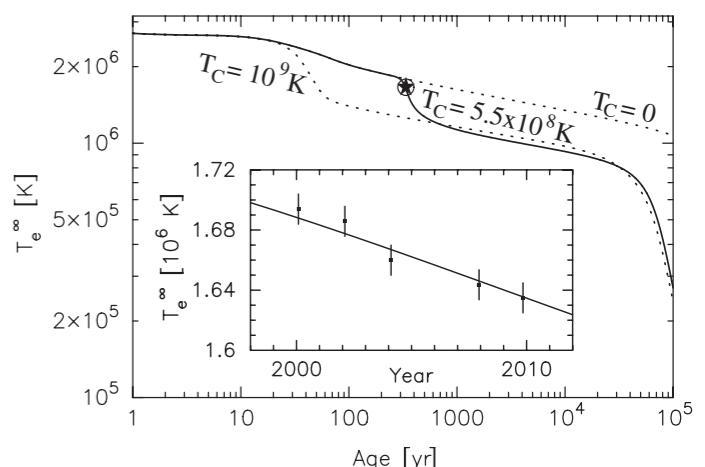
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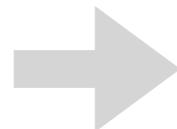
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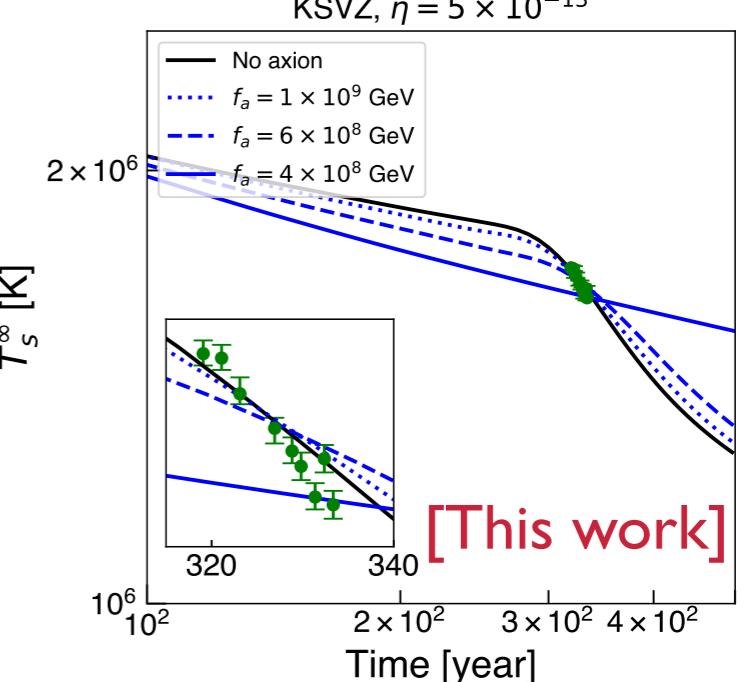
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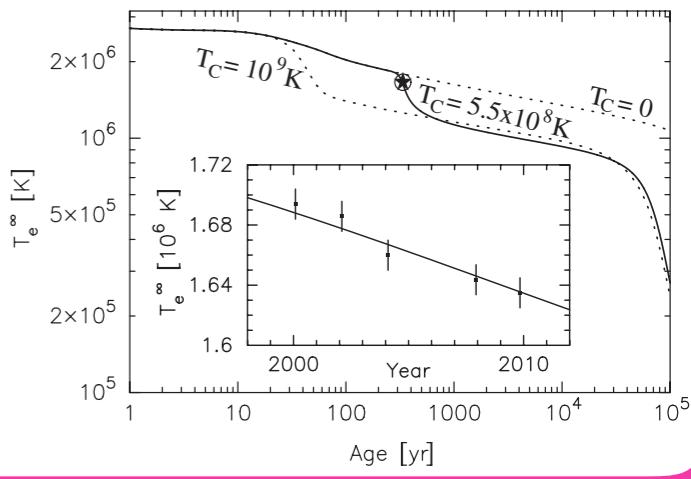
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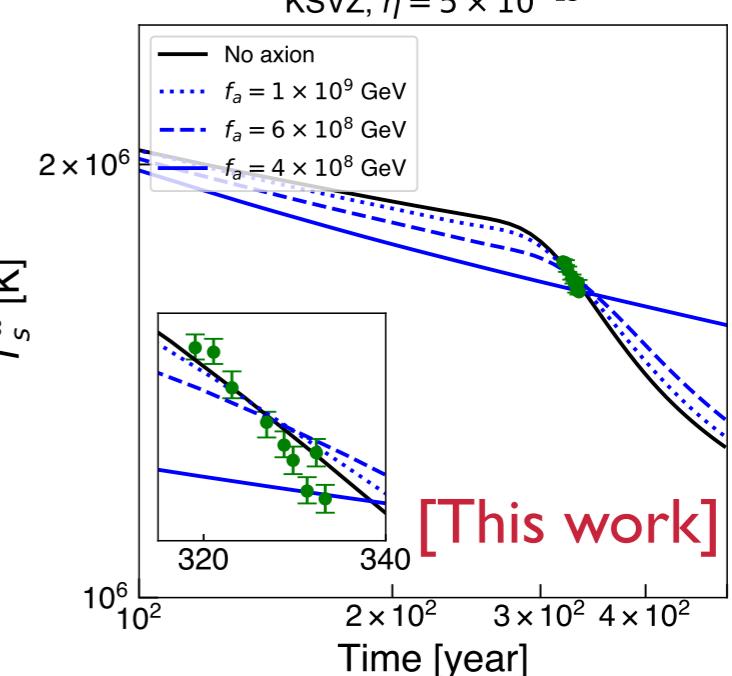


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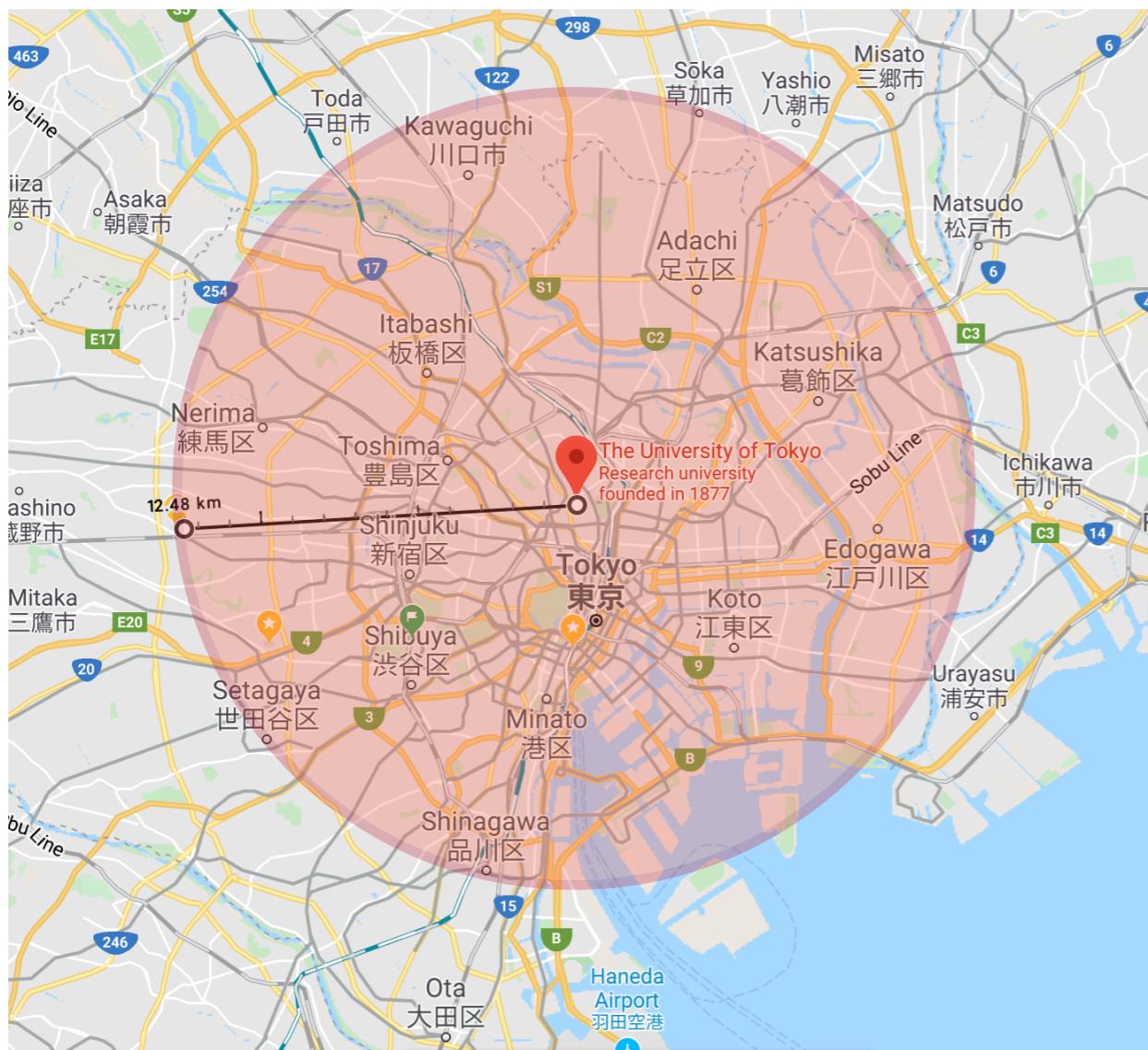
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Neutron star

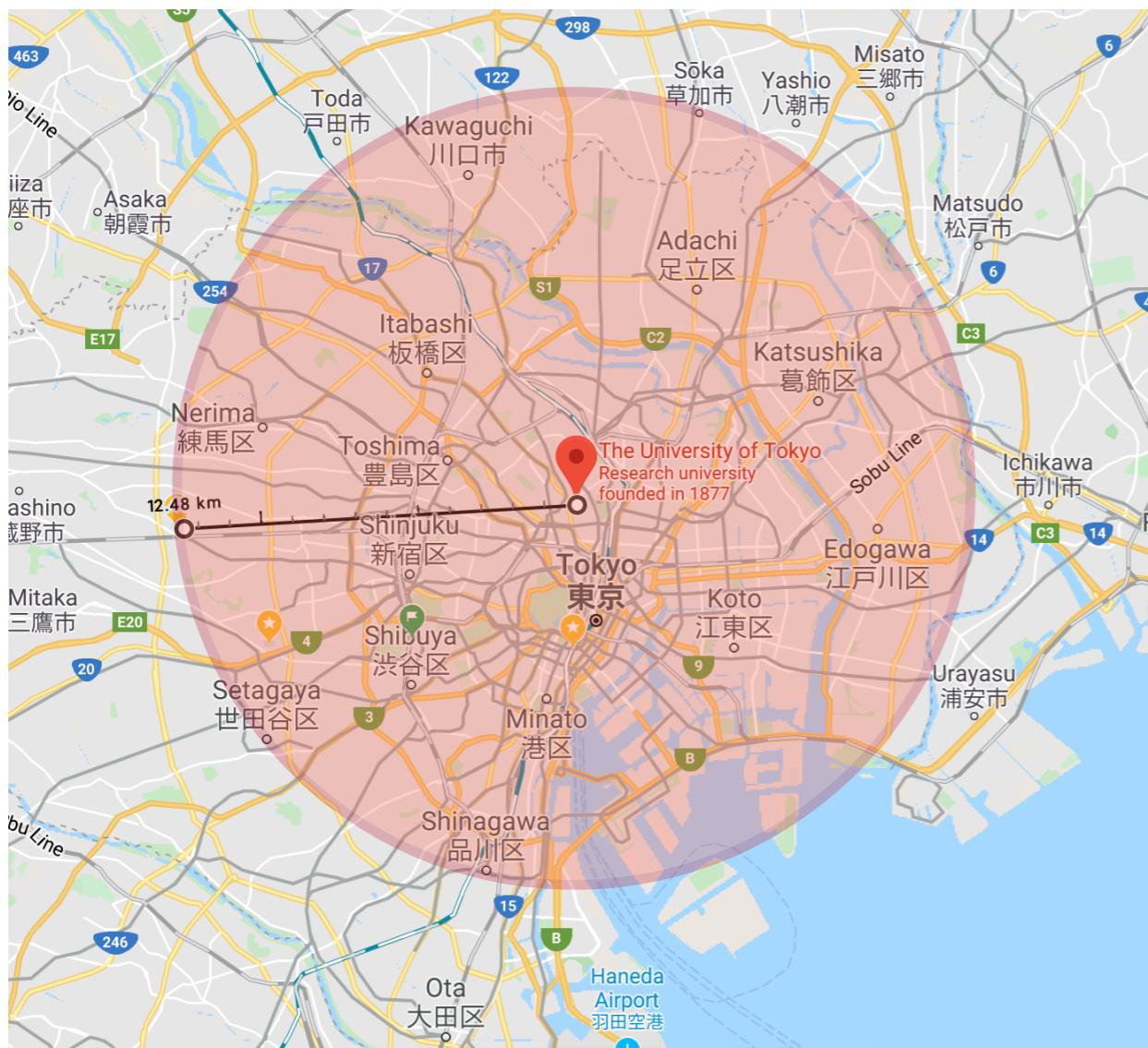
Compact astrophysical object: $M \sim 1.4M_{\odot}$ in $R \sim 10$ km



Tokyo area

Neutron star

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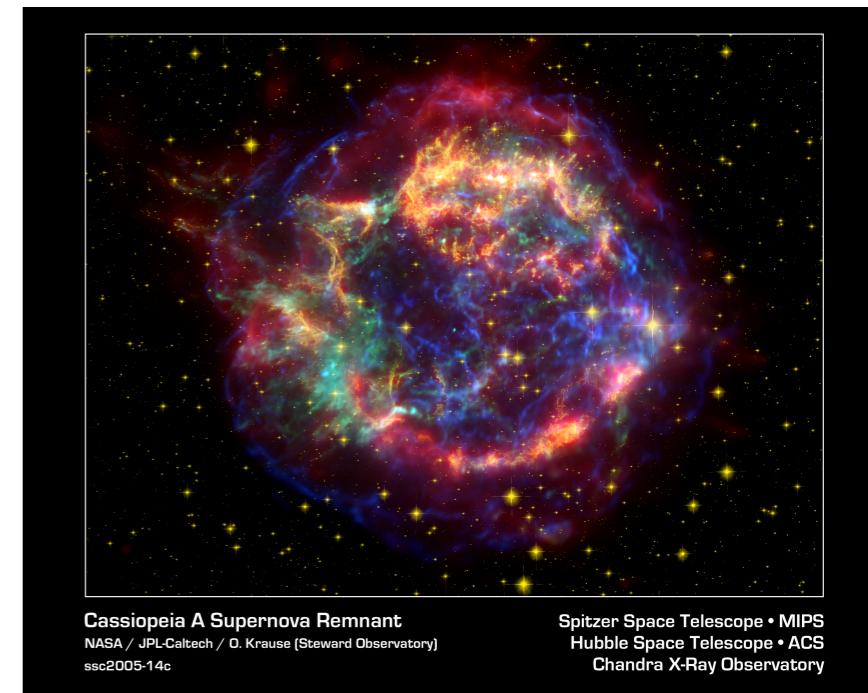
Tokyo area

- Mostly consists of neutrons
 $p_{F,n} \sim O(100) \text{ MeV}$
- Small amount of proton, electron, muon
 $p_{F,e,p,\mu} \sim O(10) \text{ MeV}$

These particles are degenerate: $p_F \gg T$

NS in Cassiopeia A

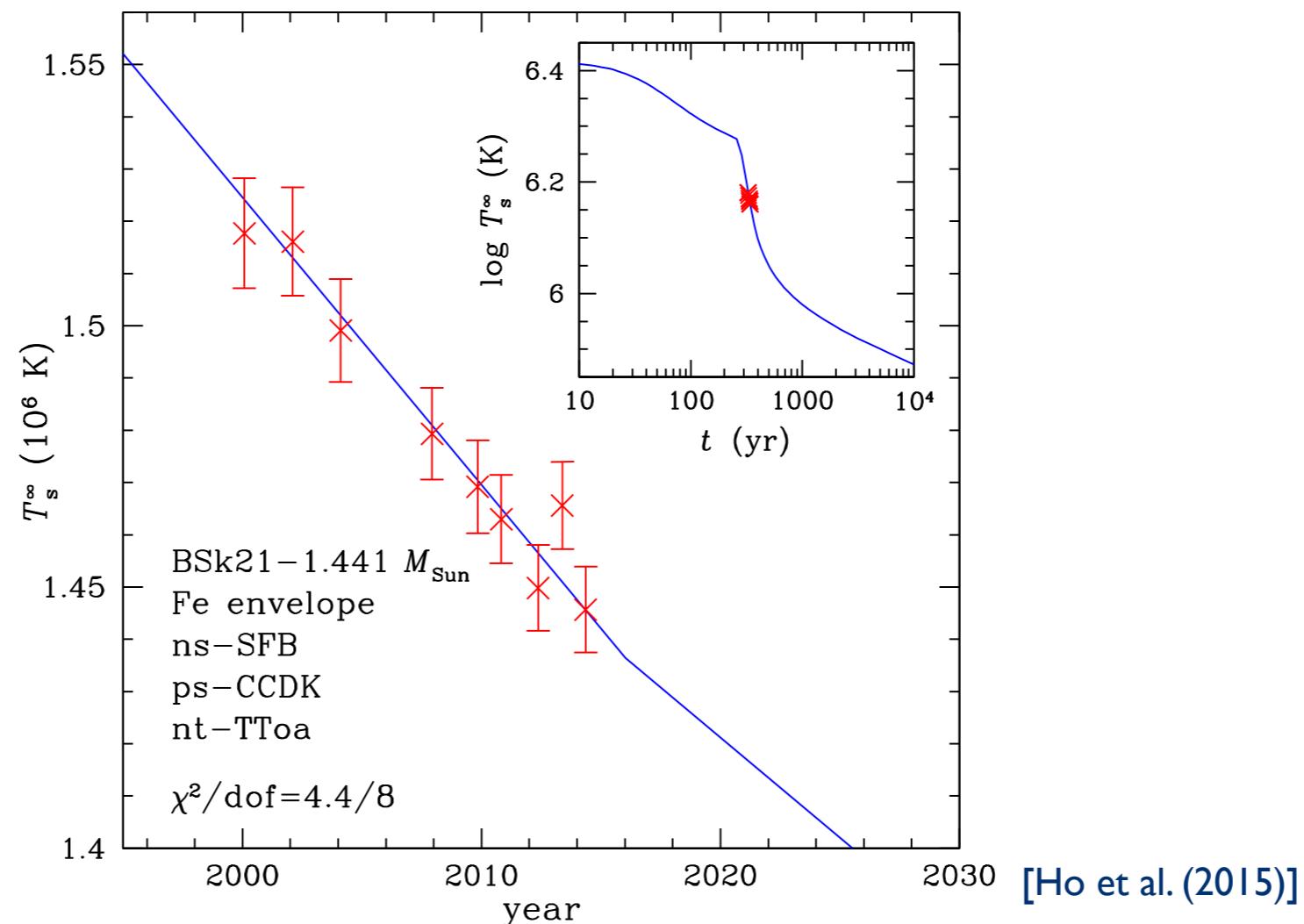
- Cassiopeia A (Cas A): Supernova remnant in the Cassiopeia constellation
 - Age: ~ 340 yr
 - from remnant expansion
[R.A. Fesen et al. (2006)]
 - Perhaps from record by J. Flamsteed at Aug. 16, 1680
[W.B. Ashworth, Jr. (1980); K.W. Kamper (1980); D.W. Hughes (1980).]
- Neutron star at the center of Cas A (Cas A NS)
 - Thermal emission is detected



[Atlas Coelestis (1729)]

Cooling of Cas A NS

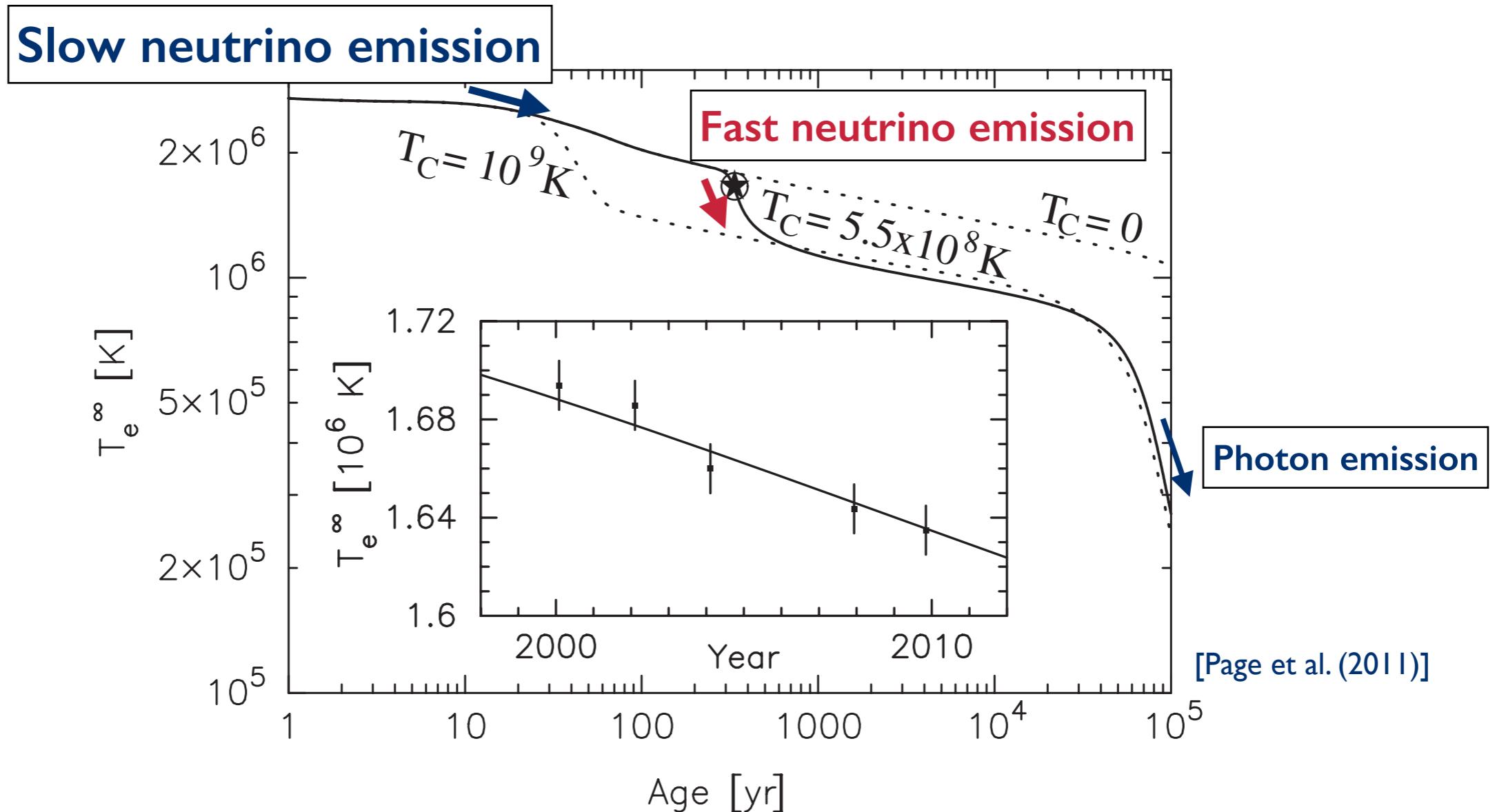
Temperature is decreasing for ~ 10 years



$$\left(\frac{\Delta T_s^\infty}{T_s^\infty} \right)_{\text{CasA}} = 3 - 4 \% / 10 \text{ year}$$

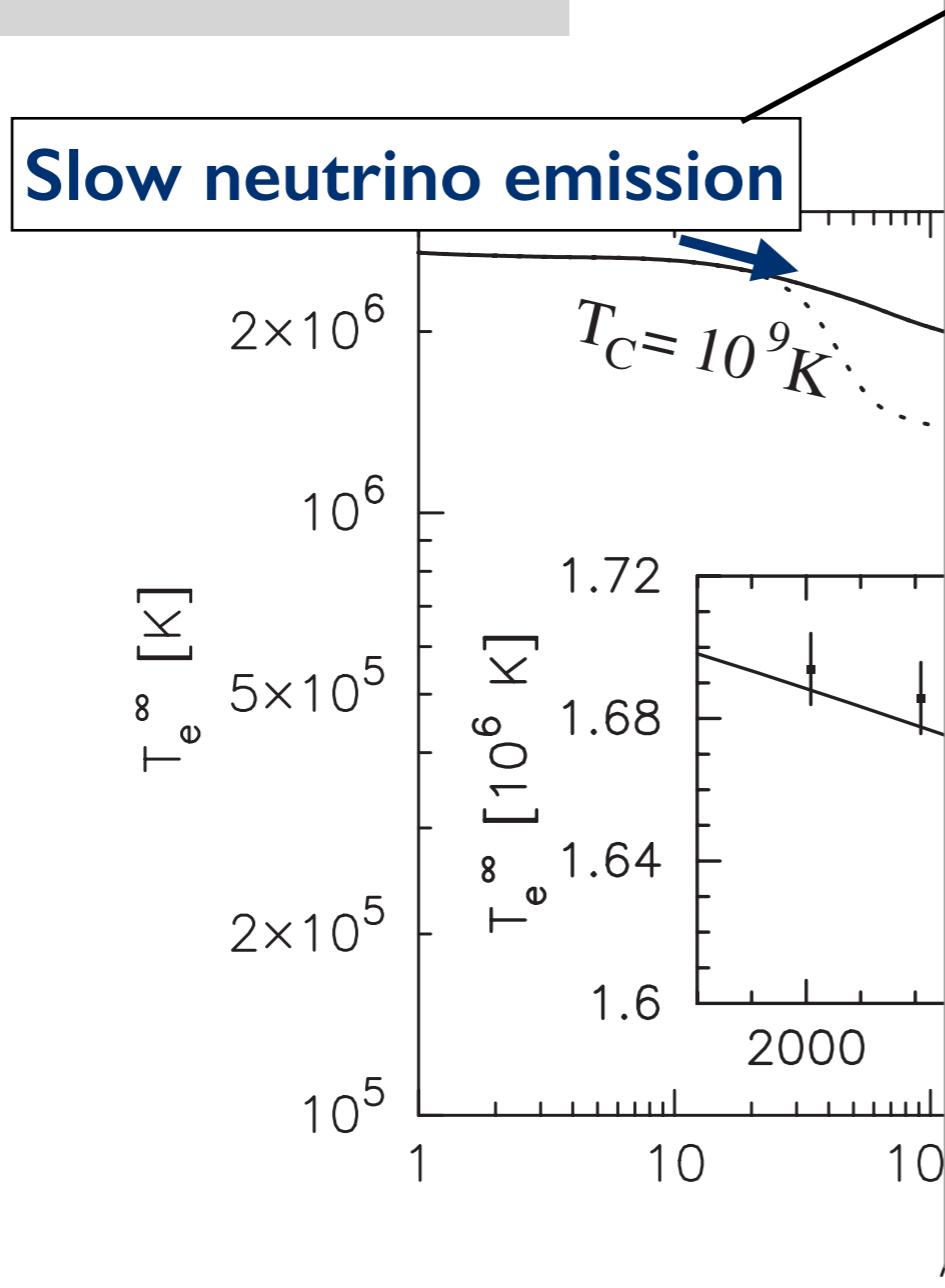
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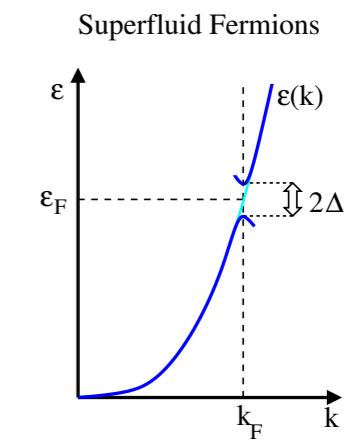
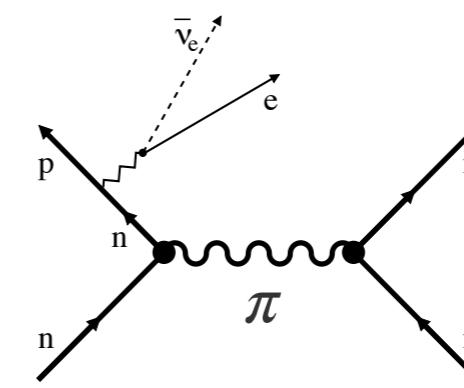


Modified Urca process



$N = n, p$

- Because of attractive nuclear force, nucleon Cooper pairing occurs
- $L_\nu \propto T^8 \times (\text{suppression by nucleon Cooper pairing})$
- At $t \lesssim 100 \text{ yr}$, only proton forms pair

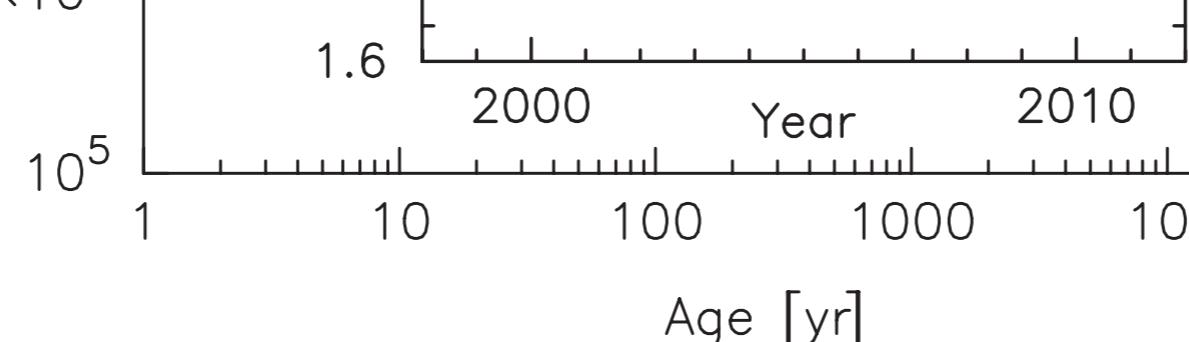
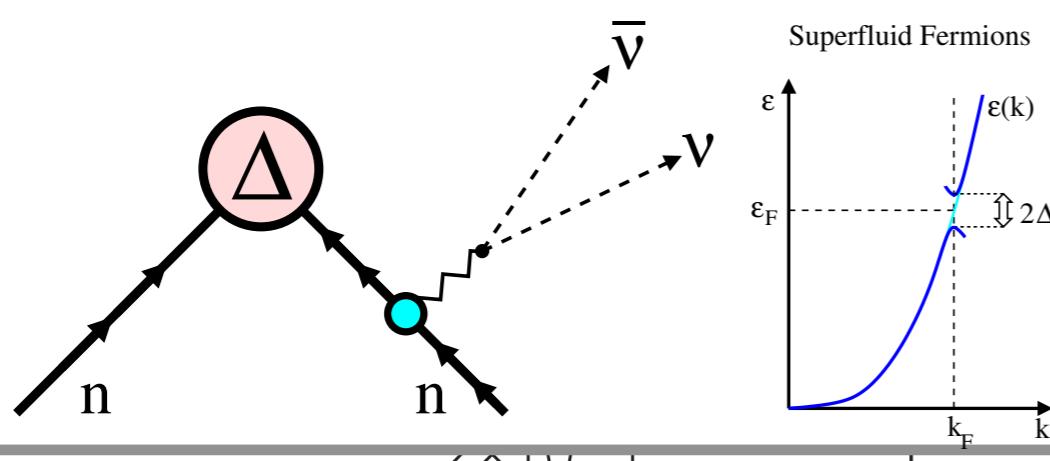


Standard cooling explains temperature decline

Cooper pair-breaking and formation (PBF)



- If neutron triplet pairing occurs at $t \sim 320$ yr, PBF explains Cas A NS cooling



Fast neutrino emission

$T_C = 5.5 \times 10^8$ K

Photon emission

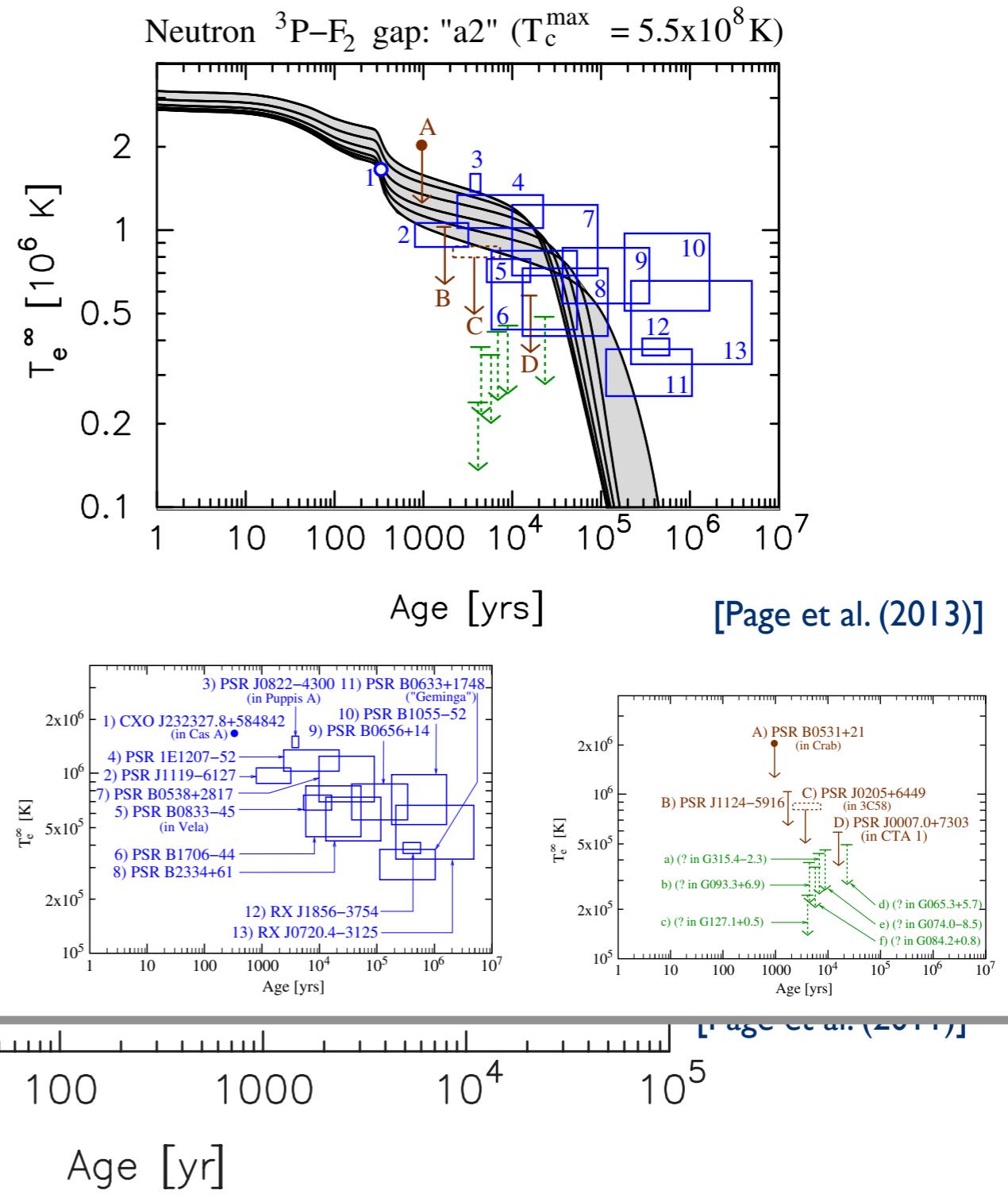
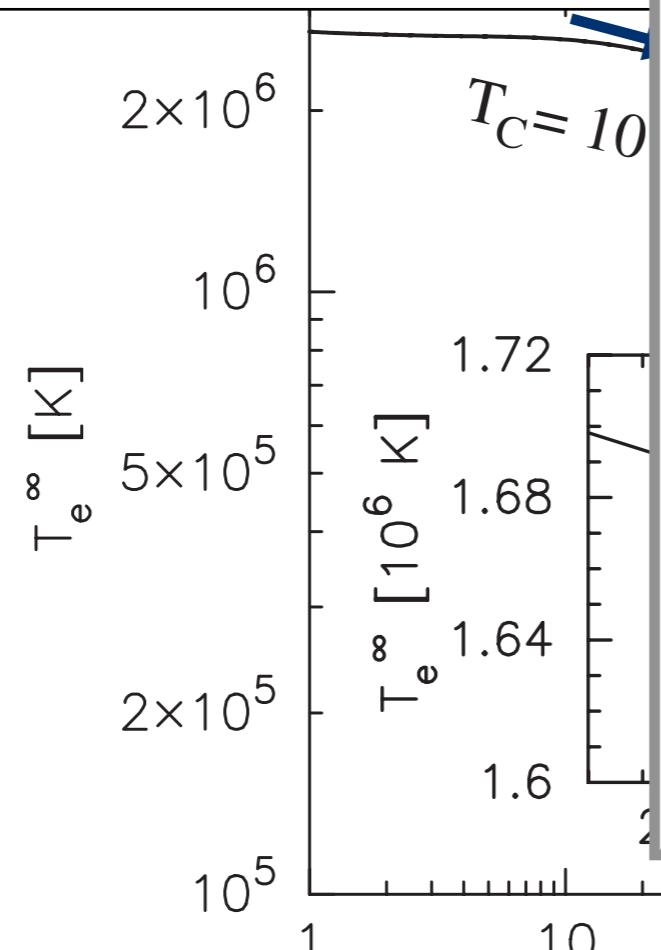
[Page et al. (2011)]

Standard cooling explains other NS

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$$C \frac{dT}{dt} = -L_\nu - L_\gamma$$

Slow neutrino emission



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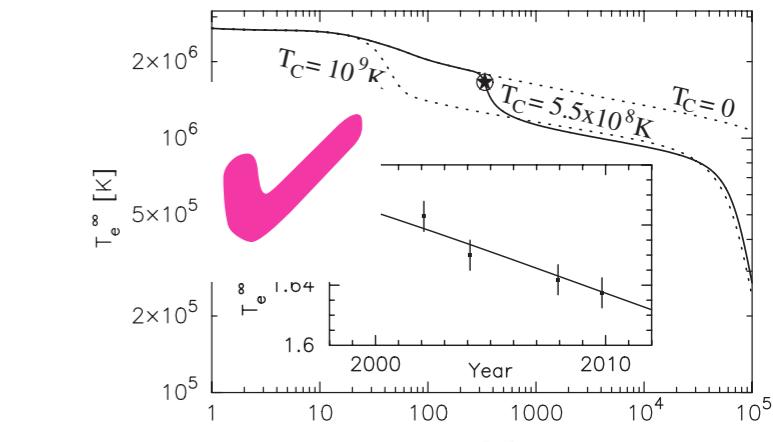
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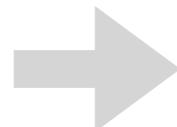
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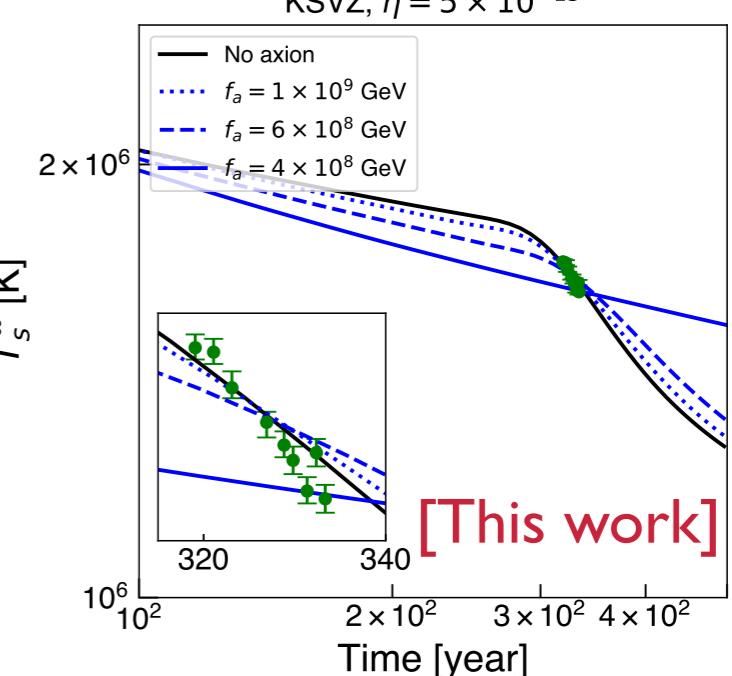


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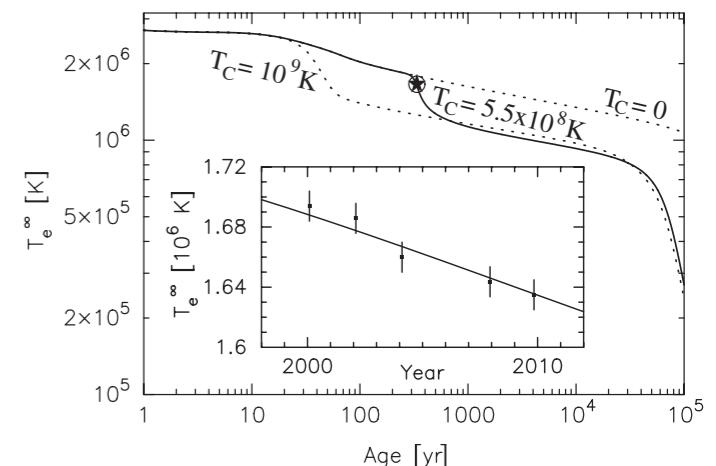
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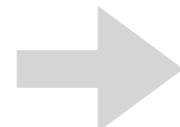
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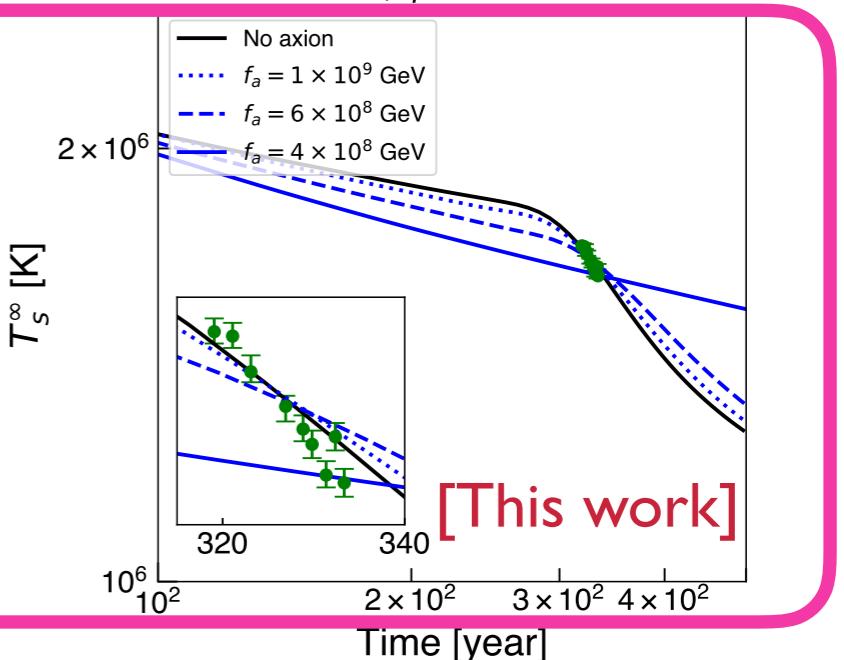
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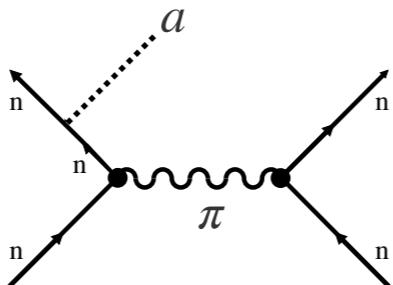
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Axion emission processes

- **Axion Bremsstrahlung**

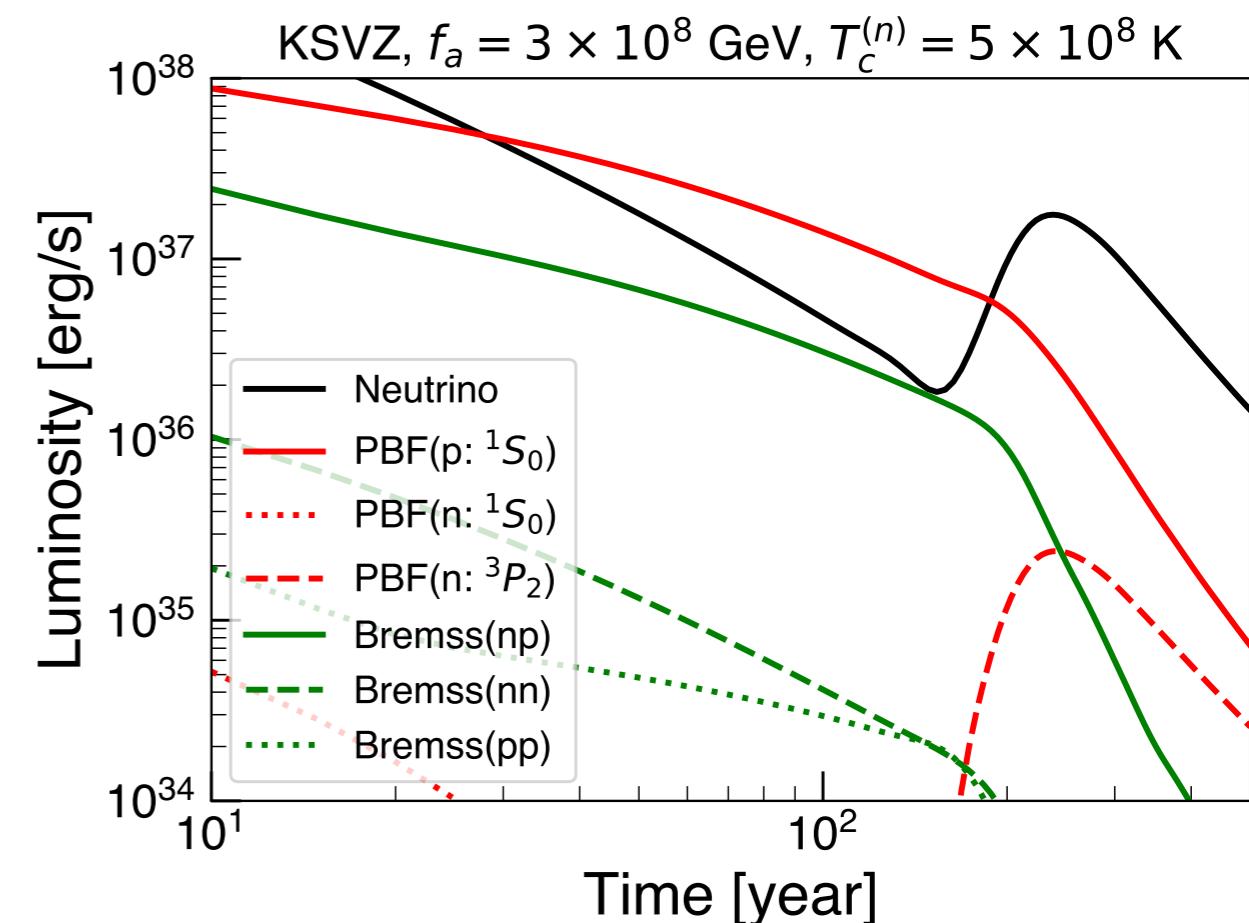
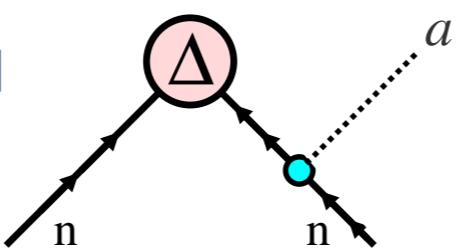
[Iwamoto (1984, 2001); Nakagawa et al. (1987, 1988)]



- **Axion PBF**

$$\tilde{N} + \tilde{N} \rightarrow [\tilde{N}\tilde{N}] + a$$

[Leinson (2014); Sedrakian (2016)]



- Even if $C_n \sim 0$ (KSVZ), axion emission is sizable due to the proton contribution

[Hamaguchi, Nagata, KY, Zheng (2018)]

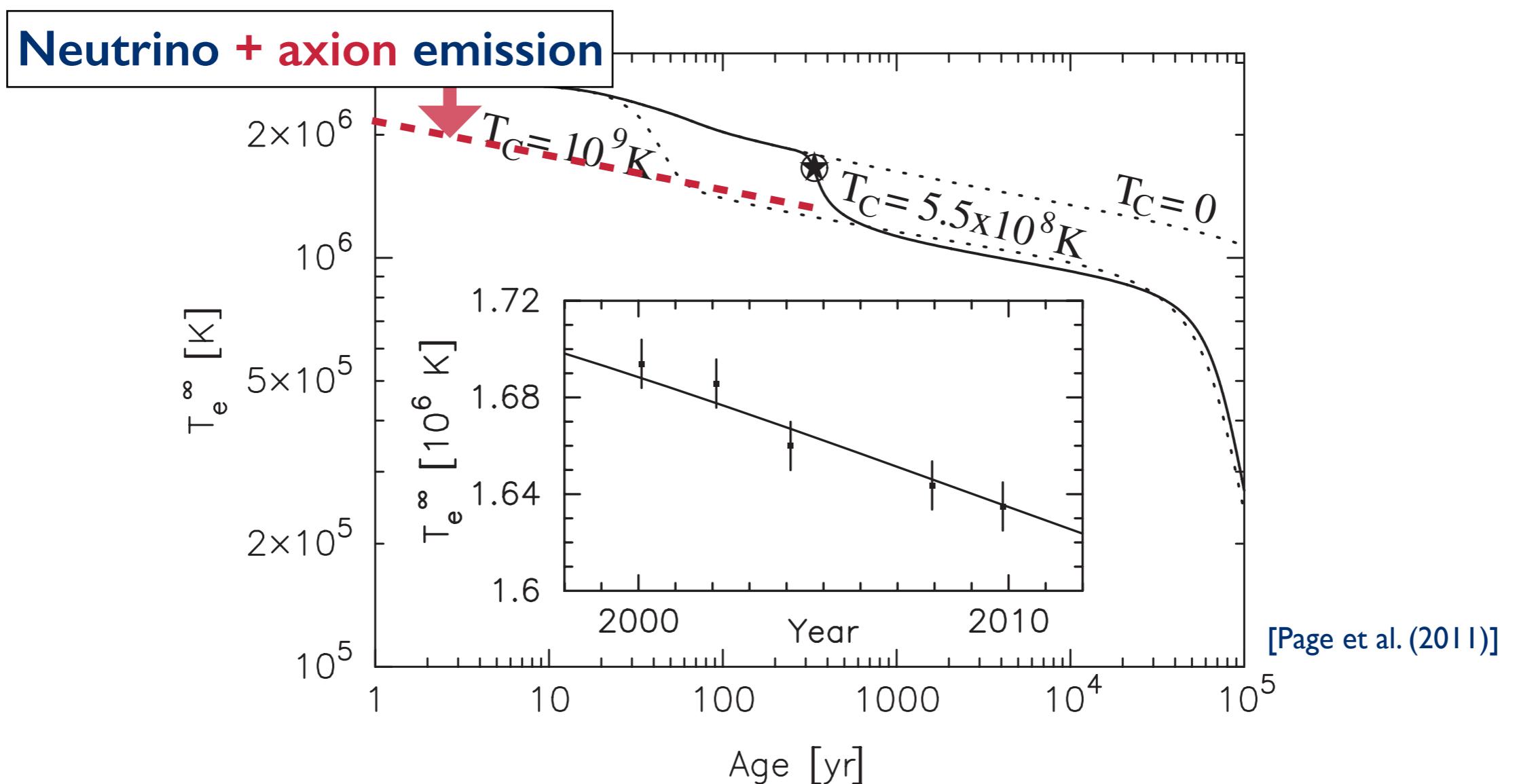
KSVZ: $C_p = -0.47(3)$, $C_n = -0.02(3)$ $\mathcal{L} = \sum_{N=n,p} \frac{C_N}{2f_a} \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 N \partial_\mu a$

Axion emission enhances cooling

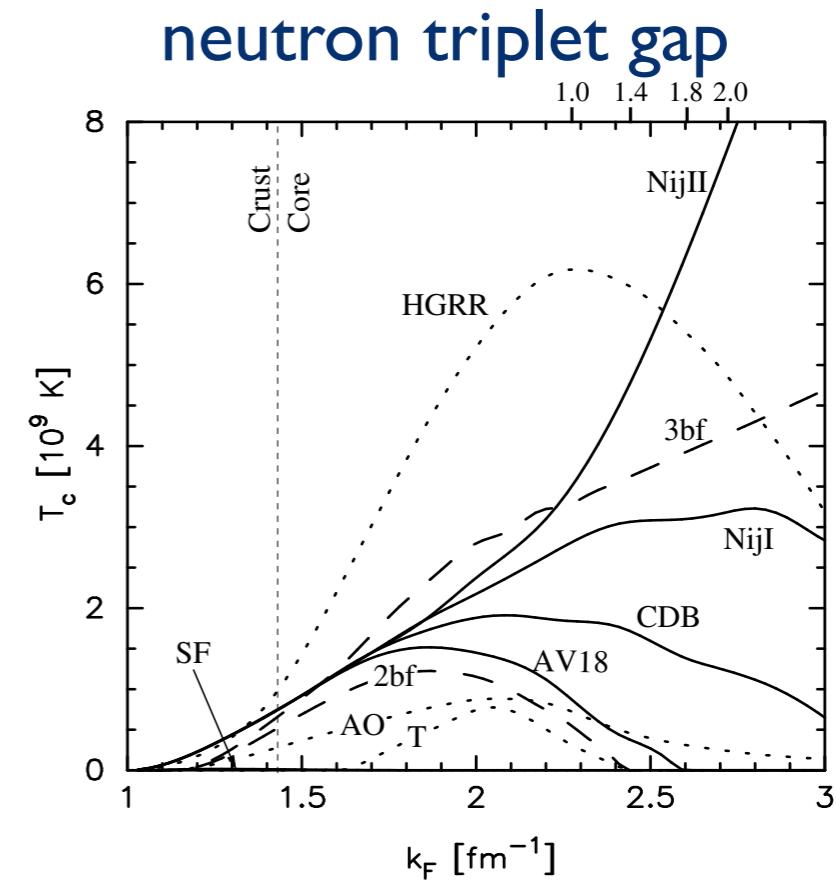
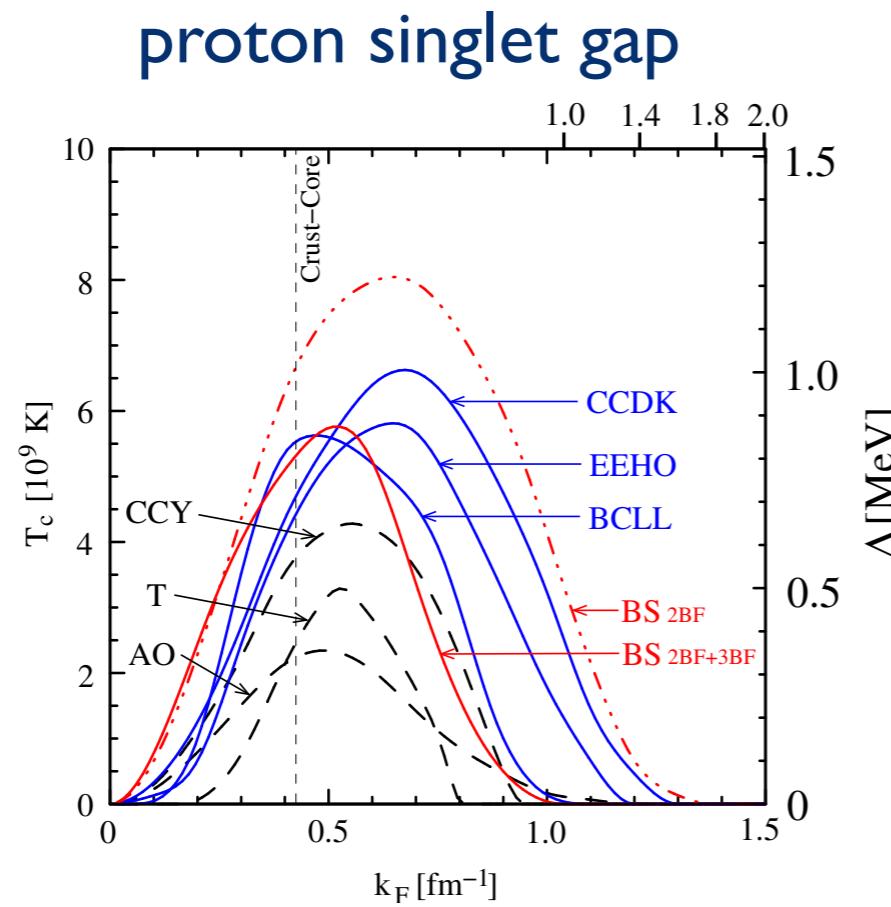
If f_a is too small, the Cas A NS would be overcooled

→ Constraint on f_a

$$\text{coupling} \sim \frac{C_N}{f_a}$$



Detail I: Gap models



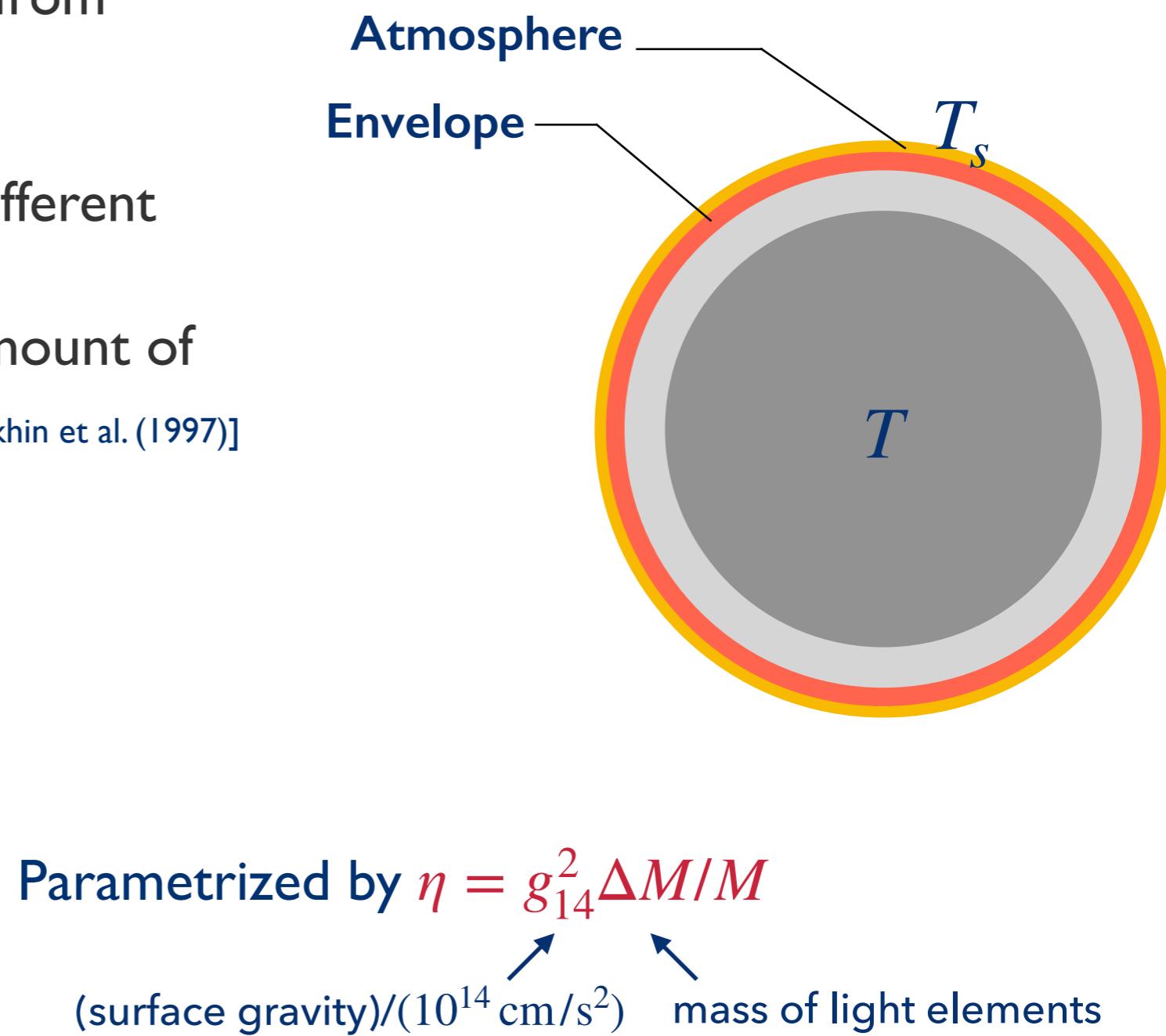
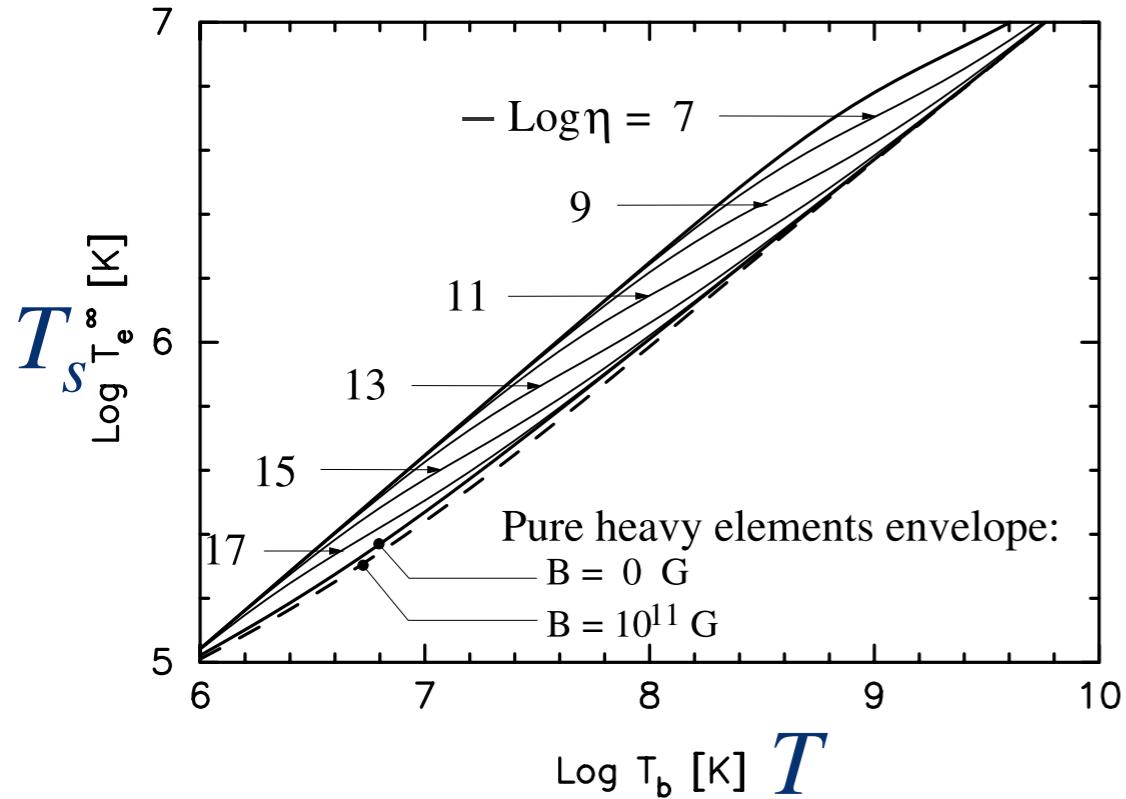
$$\epsilon_N(\mathbf{p}) \simeq \mu_N + \text{sign}(p - p_{F,N}) \sqrt{\Delta_N^2 + v_{F,N}^2(p - p_{F,N})^2}$$

[Figures from Page et al. (2013)]

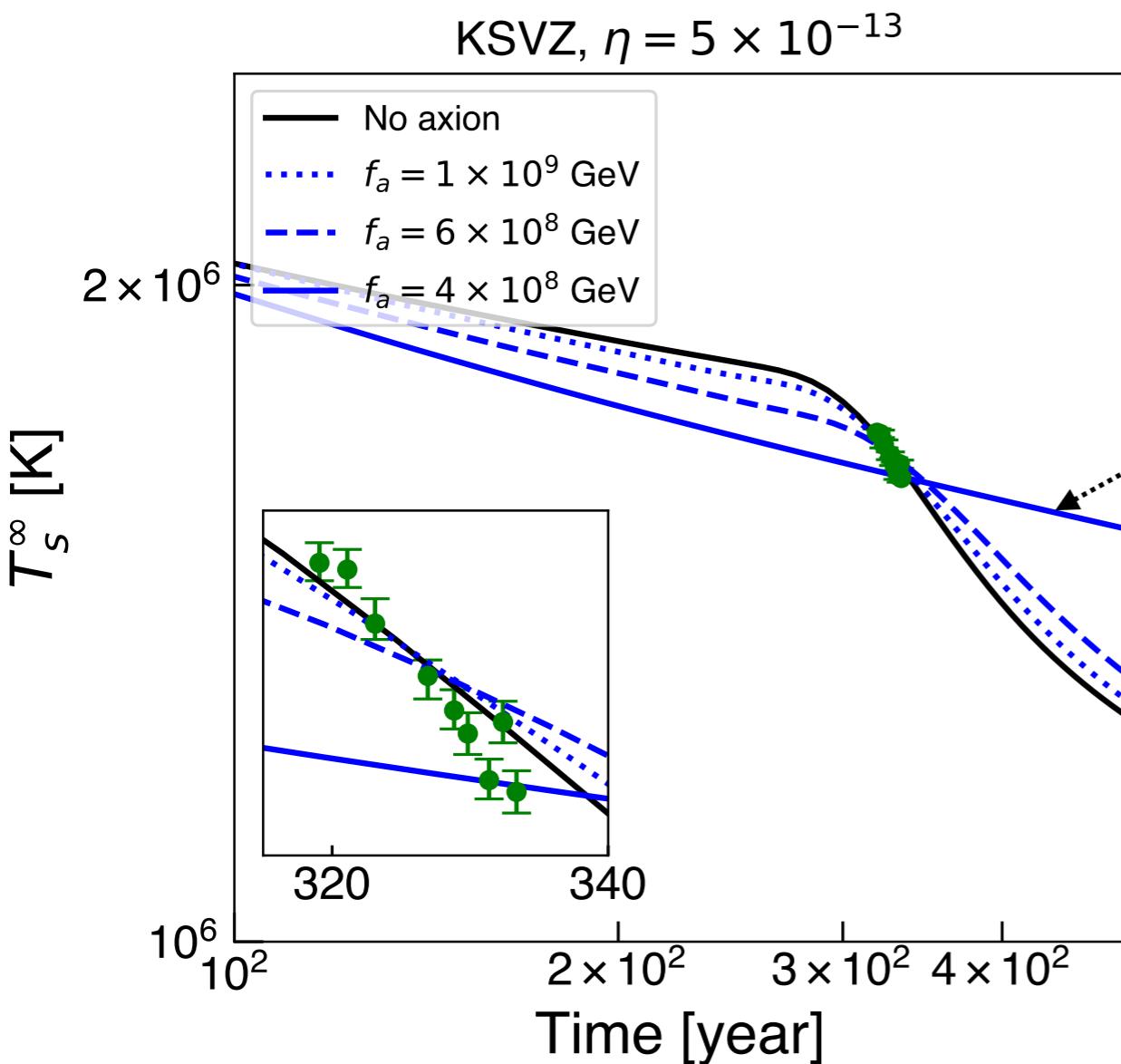
- Gap amplitude has uncertainties due to nuclear potential modeling
- We use CCDK model for proton gap to suppress early time modified Urca
- We take neutron triplet gap as a free parameter to fit Cas A NS cooling

Details 2: Envelope

- Envelope shields atmosphere from core and crust
- Surface T and internal T are different
- $T - T_s$ relation depends on amount of light element in envelope [Potekhin et al. (1997)]



Result



We vary neutron triplet gap to fit the Cas NS cooling data

$f_a = 4 \times 10^8$ GeV

Fit fails for any neutron gap profile
NS is overcooled before neutron triplet pairing

[Hamaguchi, Nagata, KY, Zheng (2018)]

Limit on f_a of KSVZ (DFSZ, $\tan \beta = 10$) model: $f_a \gtrsim 5(7) \times 10^8$ GeV
comparable to the limit from SN1987A: $f_a \gtrsim 10^8$ GeV
 $\mathcal{O}(1)$ uncertainty from the choice of η

Summary

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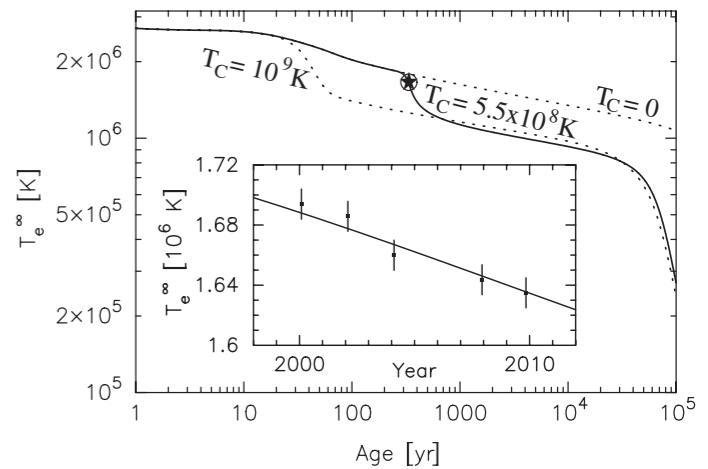
Well-motivated candidate of a new particle

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\partial_\mu a \right)^2 + \frac{1}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_S}{8\pi} a G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \sum_q \frac{C_q}{2f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q \partial_\mu a + \dots$$

[Pecci and Quinn (1977); Weinberg (1978); Wilczek (1978)]

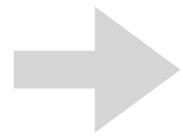
NS cooling is observed

[Page et al. (2011)]



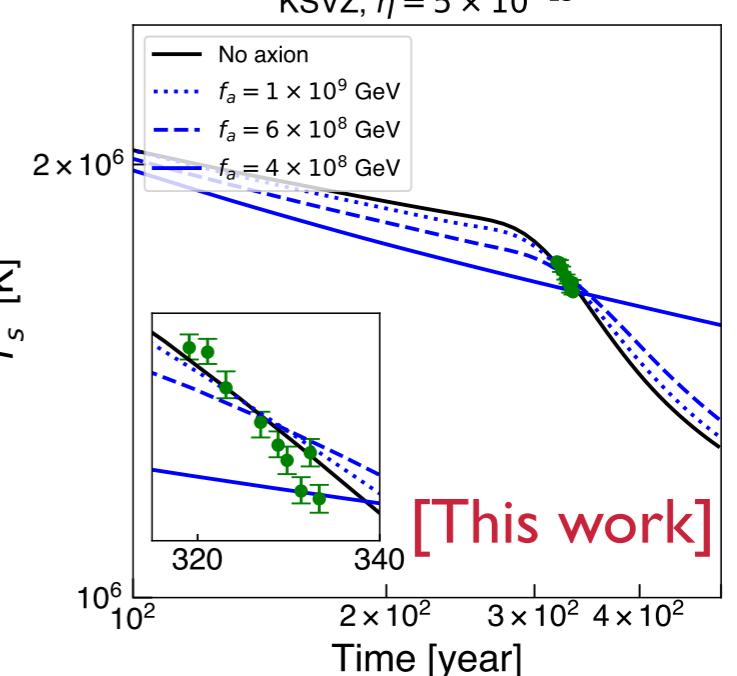
- **SM:** Cooling of Cas A NS can be explained by standard cooling theory [Page et al. (2011); Shternin (2011)]

- **SM + Axion:** if axion-nucleon coupling is too large, theory cannot explain the data



$f_a \gtrsim (5 - 7) \times 10^8 \text{ GeV}$ [This work]

O(1) uncertainty from envelope
comparable to the SN1987A limit



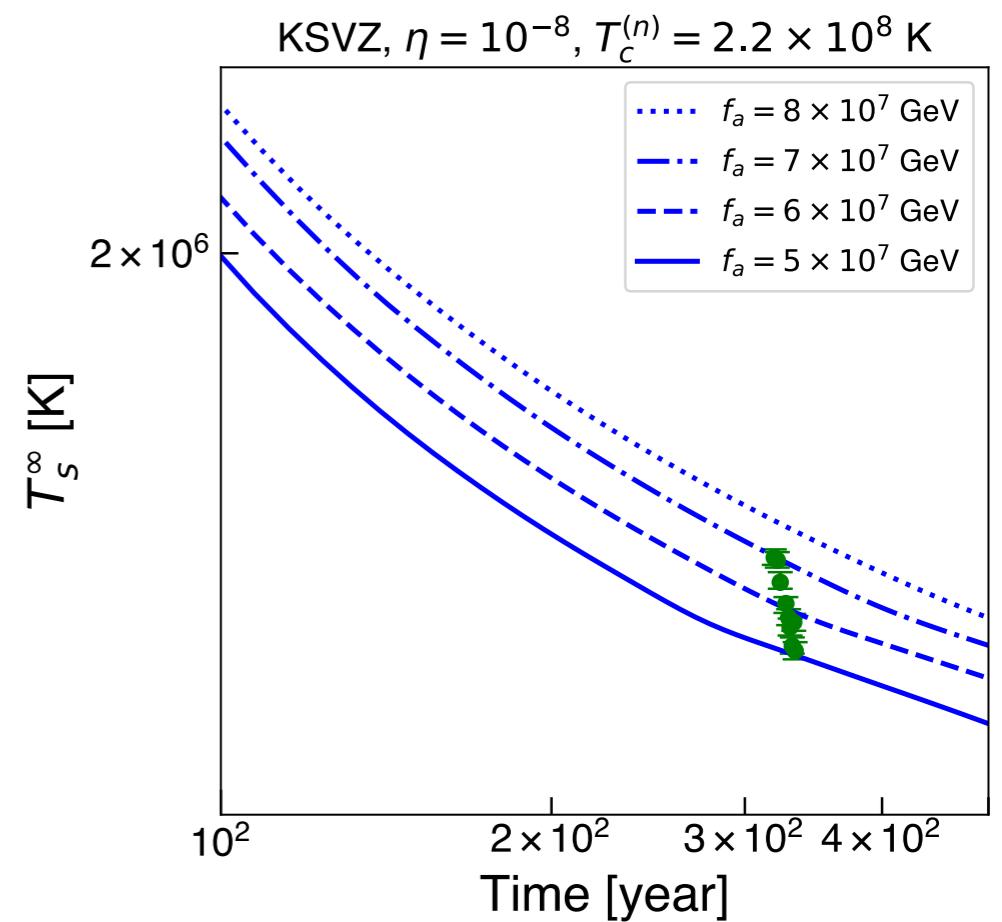
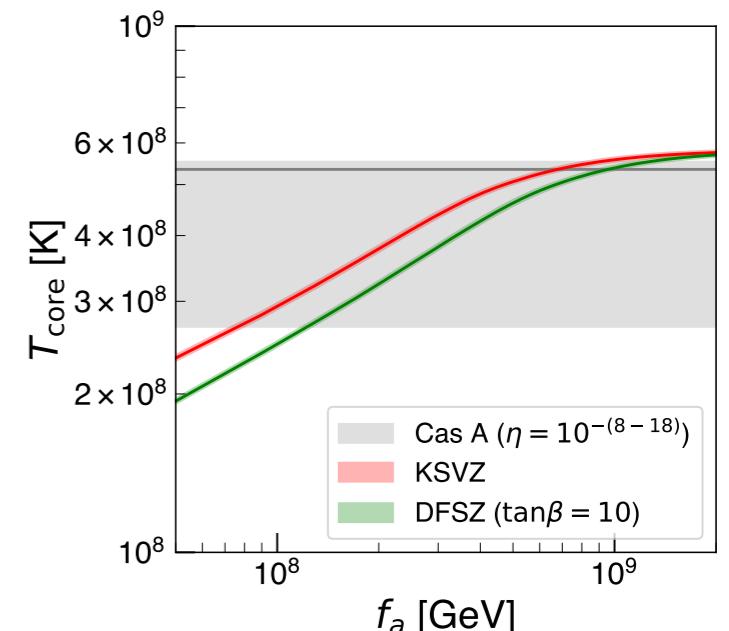
Backup

More on uncertainty from light element in envelope

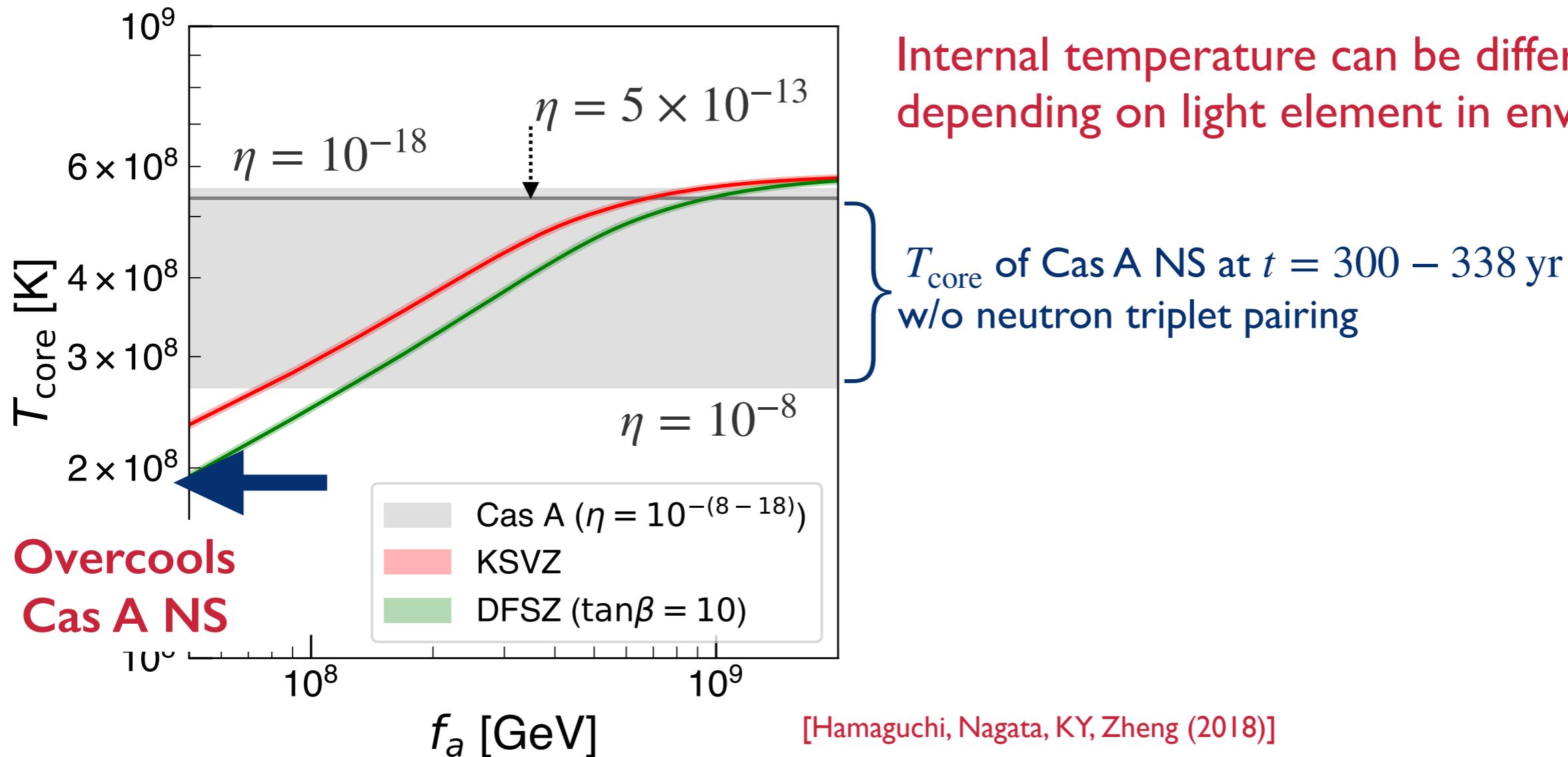
Envelope parameter η can be varied

Large η can weaken the limit

- KSVZ: For large $\eta \sim 10^{-8}$, internal T is too low to explain cooling rate
 $\rightarrow f_a \gtrsim 4 \times 10^8 \text{ GeV}$ is rather stringent
- DFSZ: For large η , axion emission from neutron PBF may help explain the curve



Uncertainty from envelope



- More conservative limit: $f_a \gtrsim 10^8$ GeV
- This limit does not rely on the temperature decline

Details 3: procedure to limit axion

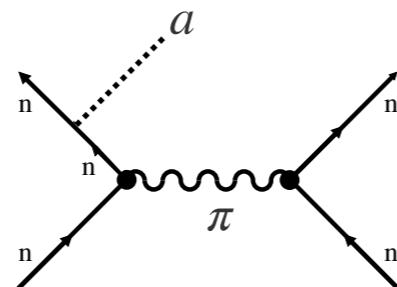
- Fix axion model (KSVZ/DFSZ and f_a)
- Try to fit the Cas A NS cooling rate varying neutron triplet gap profile
 - neutron triplet gap is modeled by Gaussian shape w/ 3 free parameters
- If the fit fails, such an axion model is disfavored
- For other NS parameters, we use
 - CCDK model for proton singlet gap (insensitive to this choice if the gap is sufficiently large)
 - APR EOS
 - $M = 1.4 M_\odot$
 - SFB model for neutron singlet pairing in crust

$$C \frac{dT}{dt} = -L_\nu - L_\gamma - L_a$$

DFSZ axion model

- **Axion Bremsstrahlung**

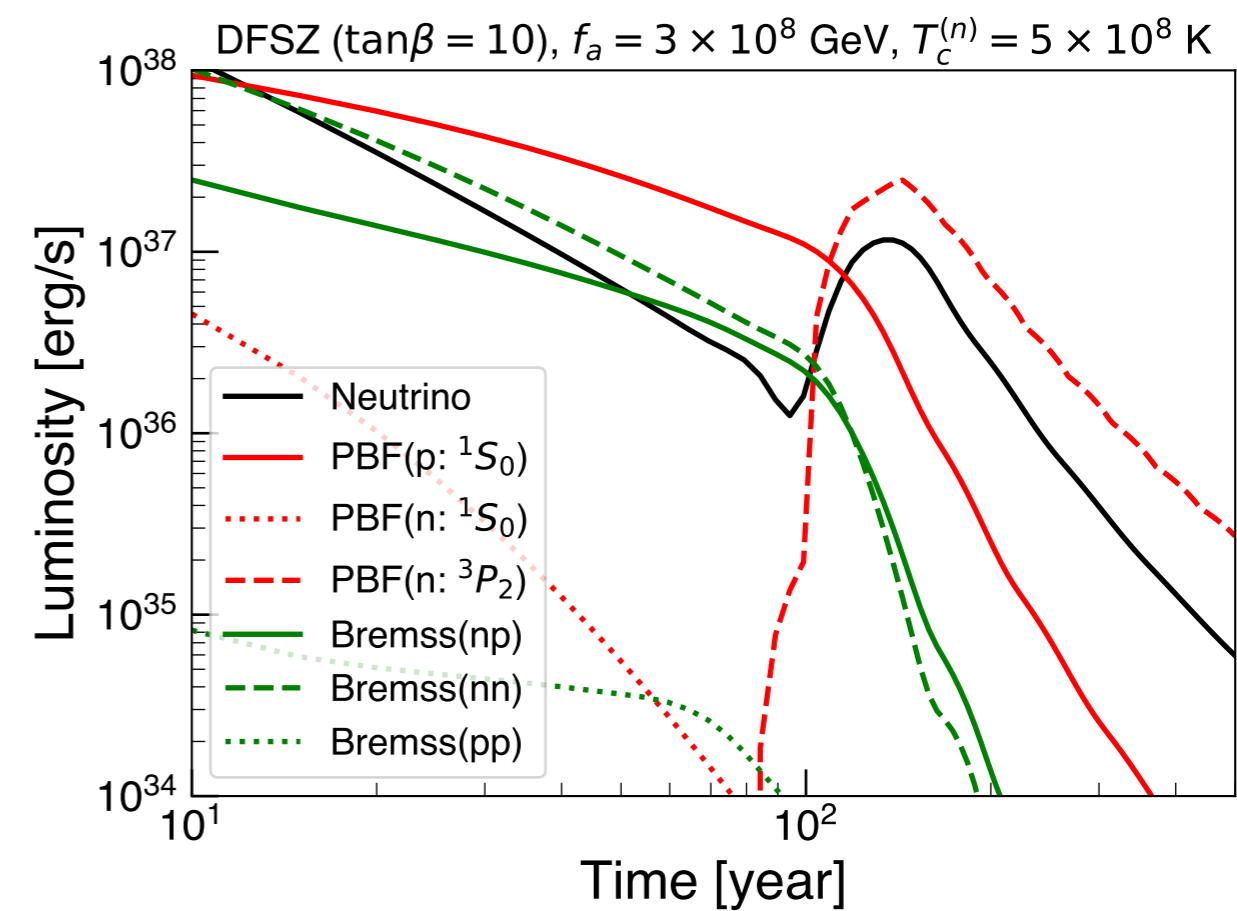
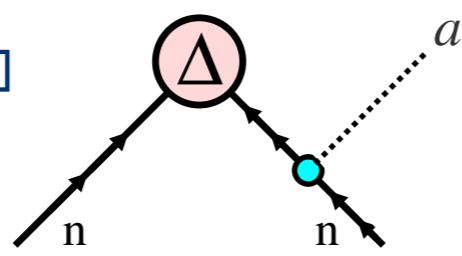
[Iwamoto (1984, 2001); Nakagawa et al. (1987, 1988)]



- **Axion PBF**

$$\tilde{N} + \tilde{N} \rightarrow [\tilde{N}\tilde{N}] + a$$

[Leinson (2014); Sedrakian (2016)]



[Hamaguchi, Nagata, KY, Zheng (2018)]

DFSZ: $C_p = -0.182(25) - 0.435 \sin \beta^2$,
 $C_n = -0.160(25) + 0.414 \sin \beta^2$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{N=n,p} \frac{C_N}{2f_a} \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 N \partial_\mu a$$

Axion mean free path

- If f_a is too small, axion cannot escape from the NS ($R = 10$ km)
- In both KSVZ and DFSZ model, axion decays by $a \rightarrow \tilde{p} + \tilde{p}$ with

$$\Gamma \sim \frac{m_p^* p_F v_F^2 T}{3\pi f_a^2} \left(\frac{c_p}{2} \right)^2$$

[Keller and Sedrakian (2012)]

- For $p_F \sim 100$ MeV, $m_p^* \sim 1$ GeV, $T \sim \Delta_p \sim 1$ MeV, we need

$$f_a \gtrsim \left(\frac{c_p}{2} \right) \times 10^6 \text{ GeV}$$

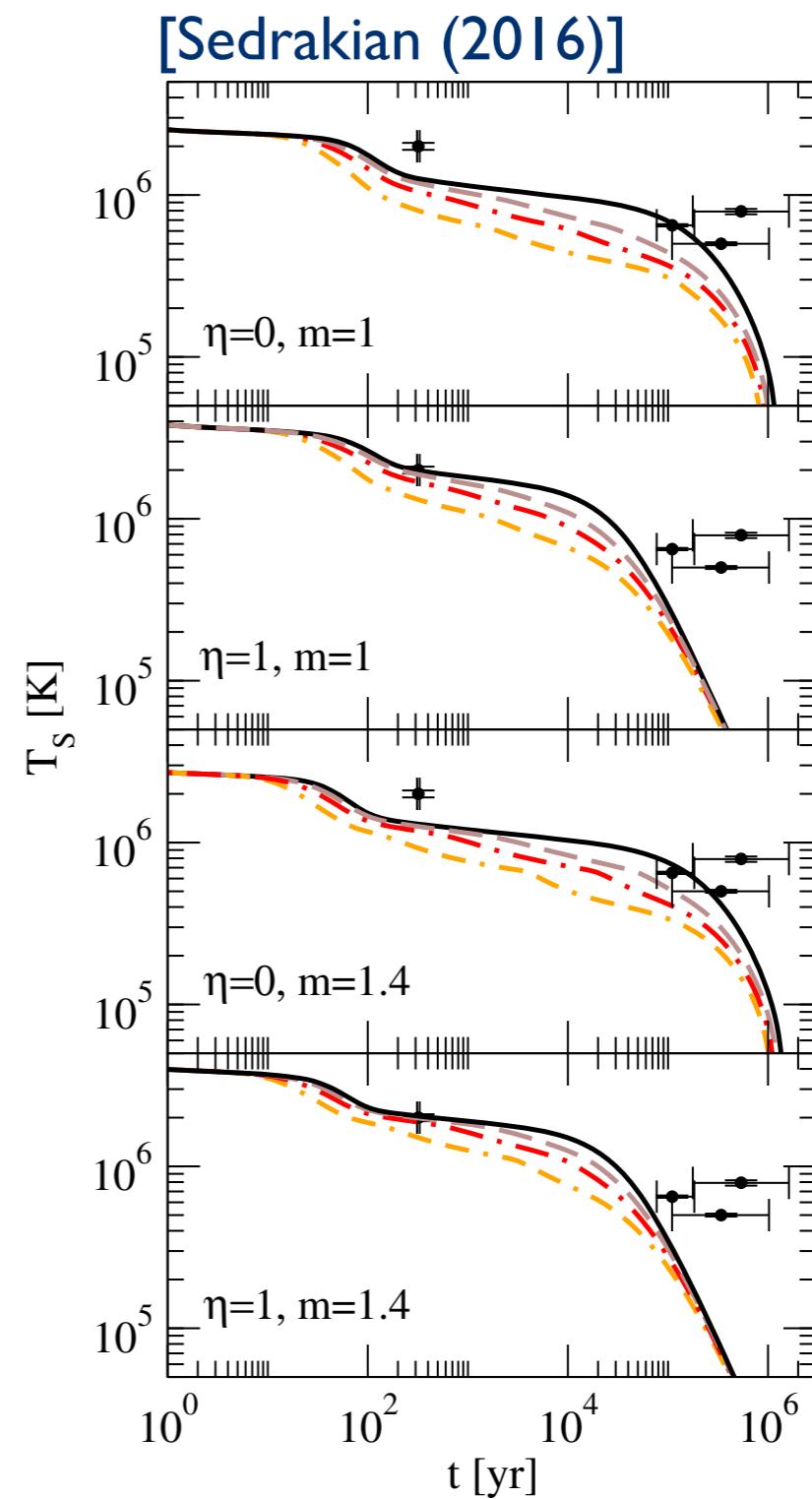
Related works

[Sedrakian (2016)]

- Cas A NS + PSR B0656+14,
Geminga, PSR B1055-52
- Temperature decline is not used
- $f_a > (5 - 10) \times 10^7$ GeV

[Leinson (2014)]

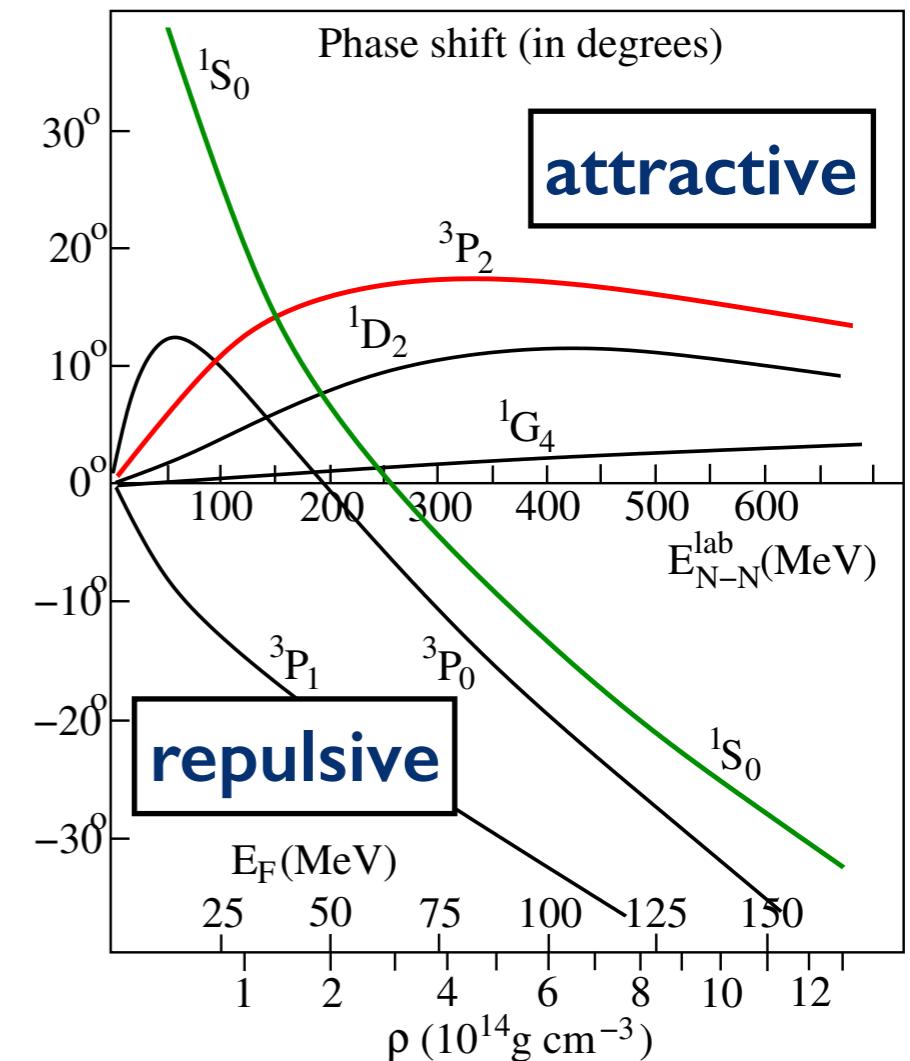
- Only axion-neutron PBF is considered
- Evolution of $t \lesssim 300$ yr is not considered



Nucleon Cooper pairing

- Attractive nuclear force induces the Cooper pairing of n-n and/or p-p
- In the core
 - n: spin-triplet (3P_2) pairing
 - p: spin-singlet (1S_0) pairing

this difference is due to the difference of Fermi energy
- In the crust:
 - n: spin-singlet (1S_0) pairing



[Calculation by Tamagaki (1970),
figure from Page et al. (2013)]

Neutron star in Cas A

- In 1999, Chandra detected hot point-like source at the center of Cas A

[Tananbaum (1999)]

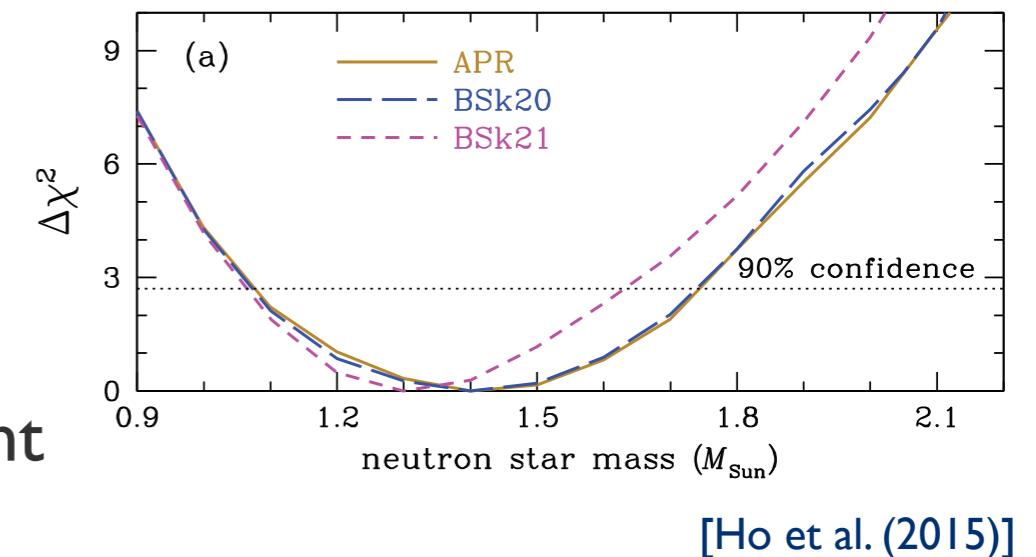
- No pulsation is detected
- The observed thermal spectrum is consistent with NS carbon atmosphere model

[Ho and Heinke (2009)]

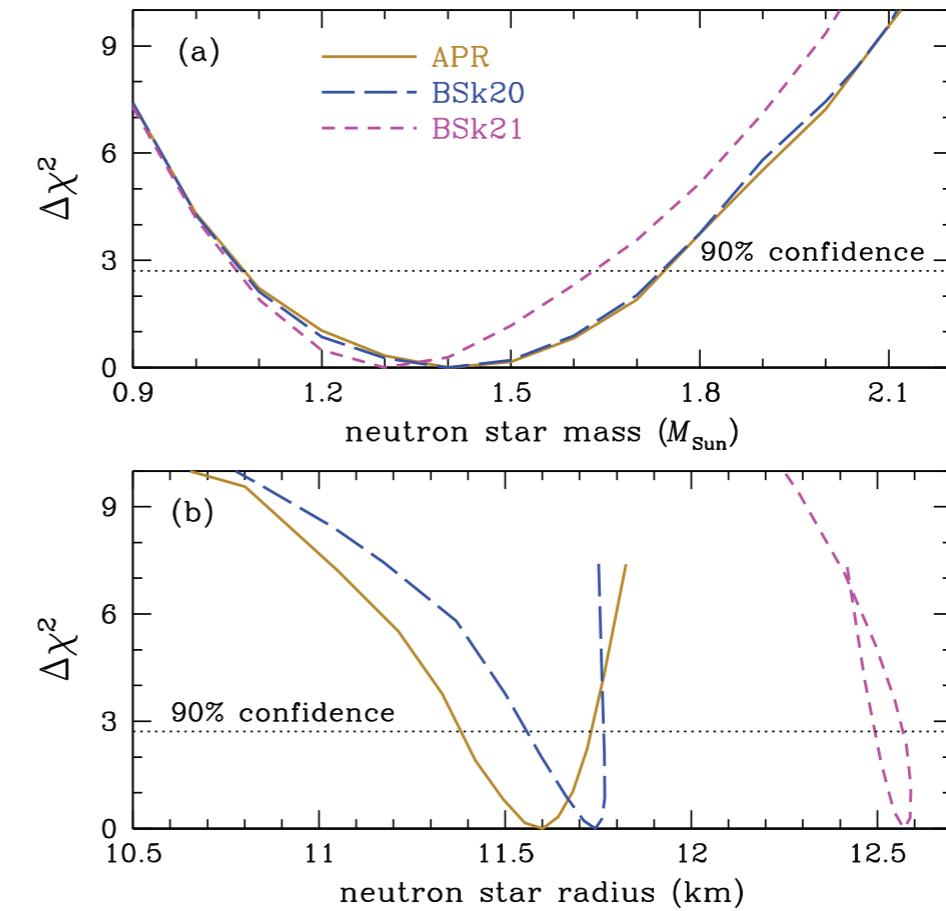
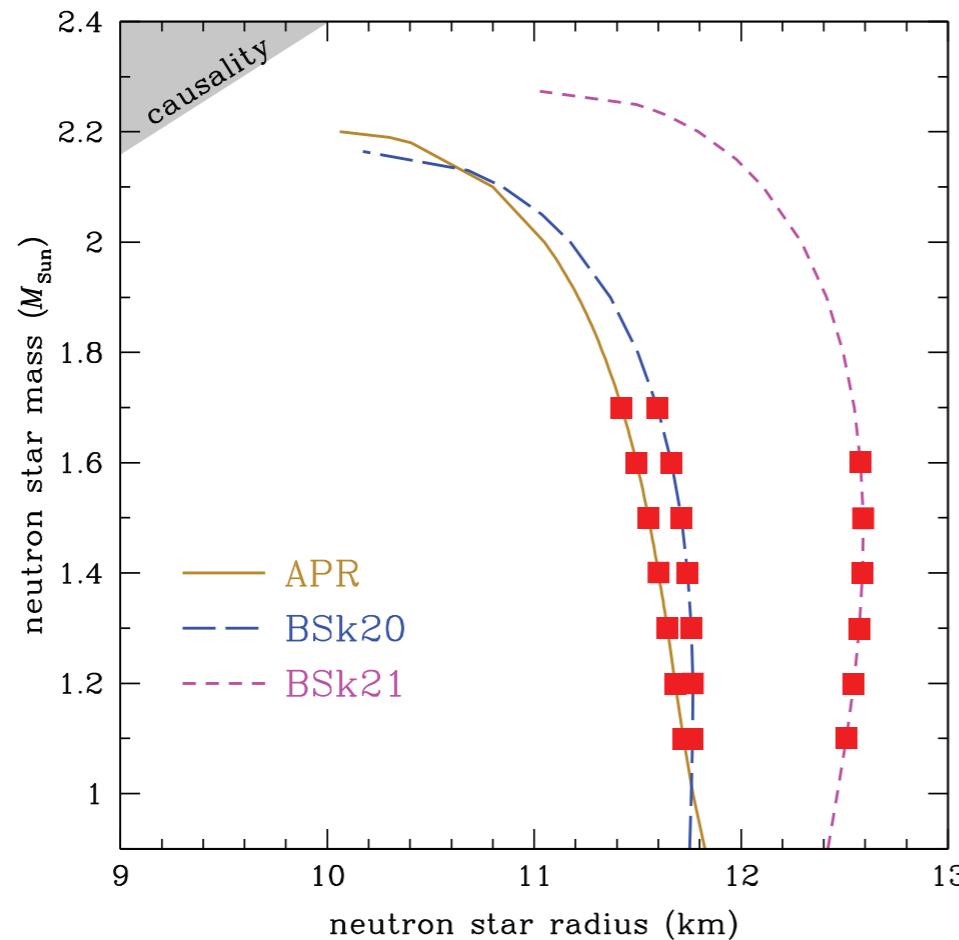
- The spectrum is fitted with

$$M = (1.4 \pm 0.3) M_{\odot} \quad R = (11 - 13) \text{ km}$$

[Ho et al. (2015)]



EOS dependence of M and R

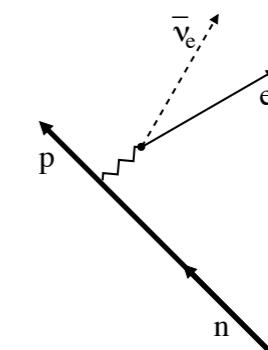


[Ho et al. (2015)]

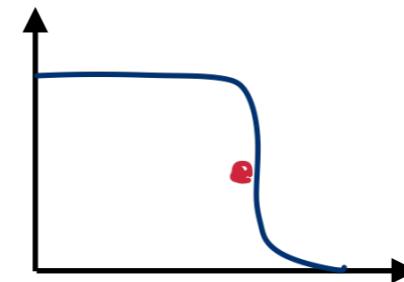
Direct Urca process



$$\ell = e, \mu$$



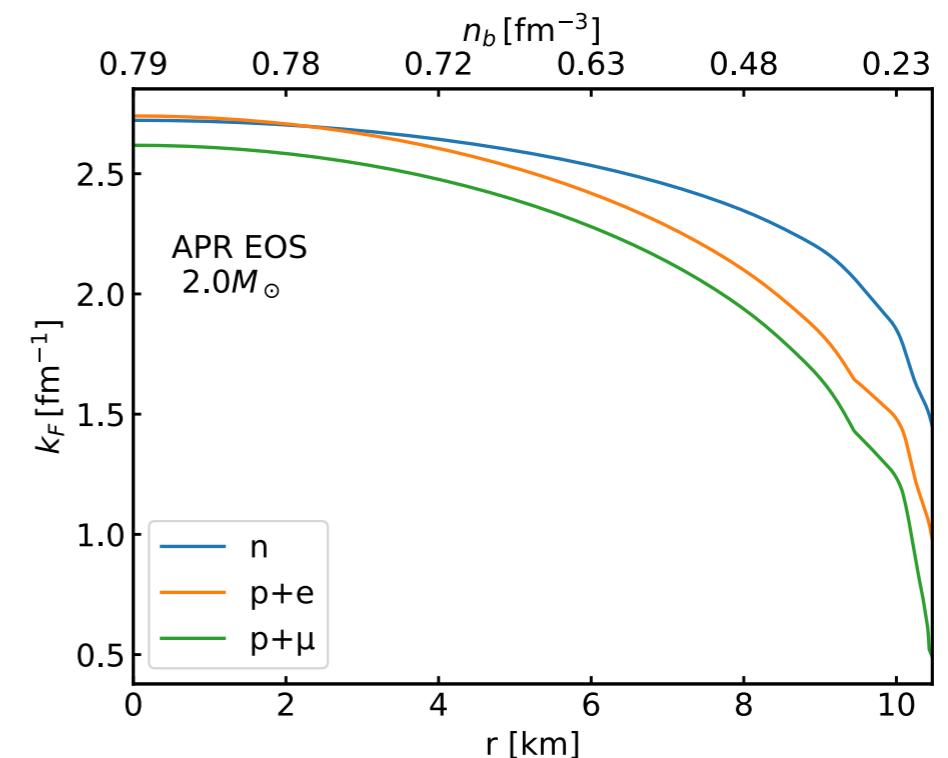
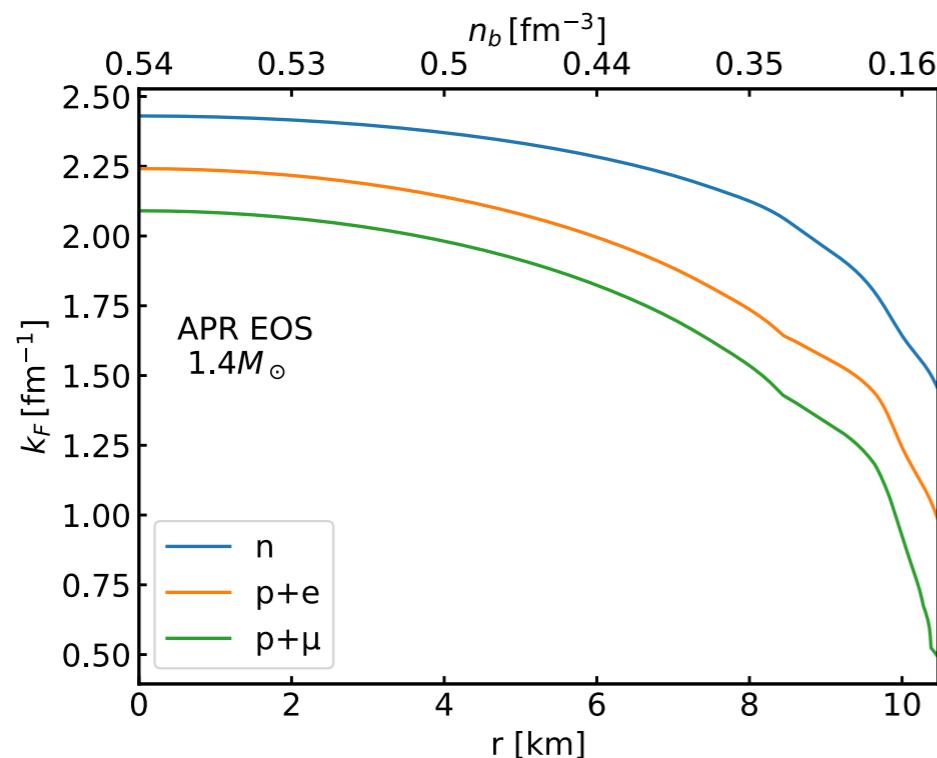
- Beta decay and its inverse
- Occurs around Fermi surface
- Direct Urca process does not operate unless NS is very heavy
 - due to the energy and momentum conservations around Fermi surface
 - E.g., for APR EOS, $M \gtrsim 1.97 M_\odot$ is required
 - We can neglect direct Urca in Cas A NS ($M \simeq 1.4 M_\odot$)



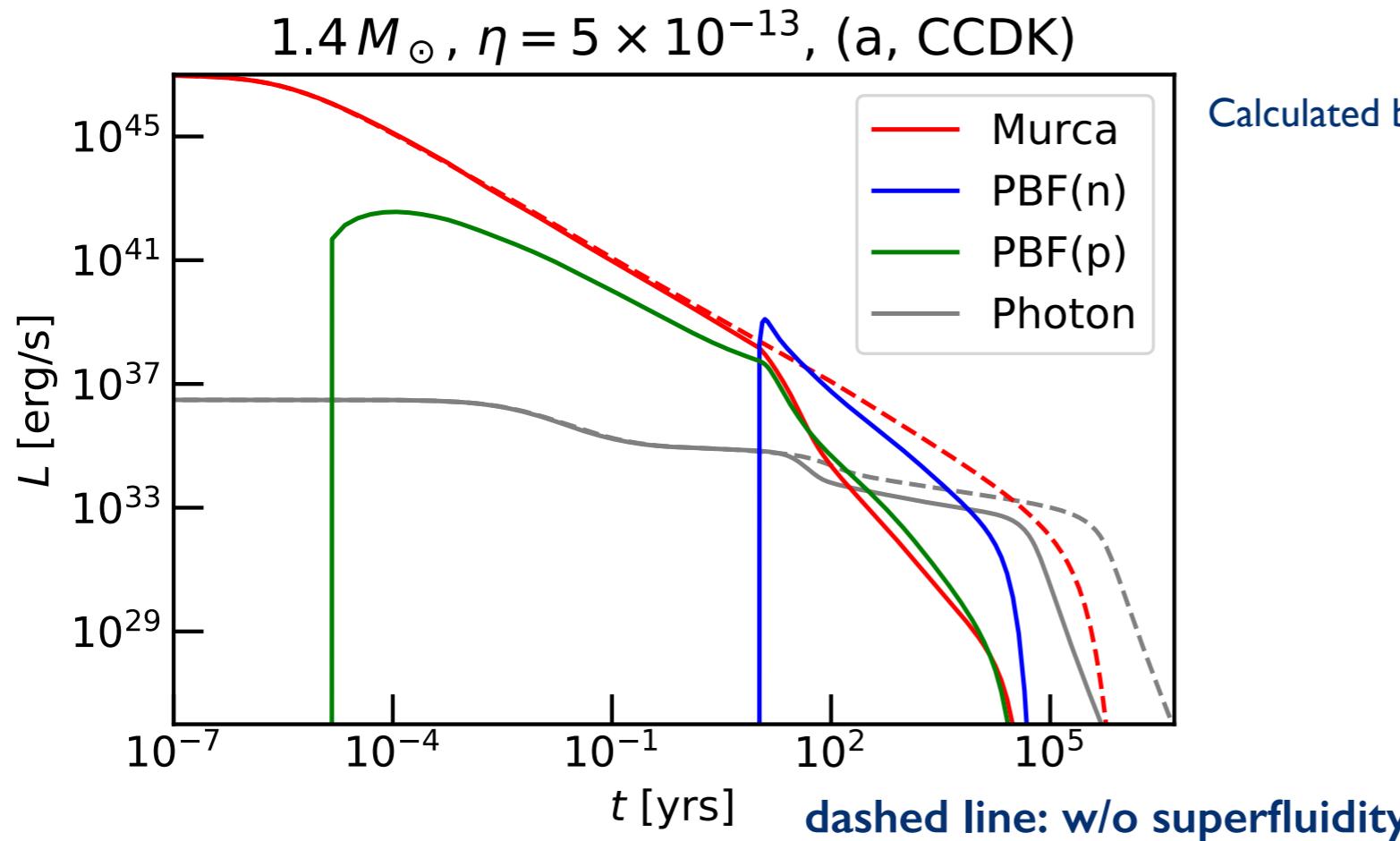
[e.g., Lattimer et al. (1991)]

Threshold of direct Urca

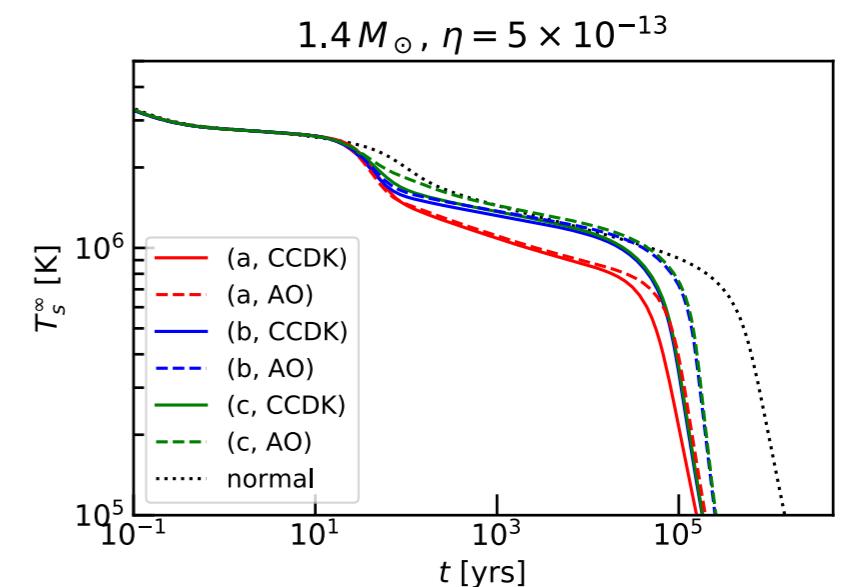
- Energy conservation $\varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_p + \varepsilon_\ell \pm \varepsilon_\nu$ and beta equilibrium $\mu_{F,n} = \mu_{F,p} + \mu_{F,\ell}$
 - Emitted neutrino momentum: $p_\nu \sim T \ll p_F$
- Momentum conservation: $\vec{p}_n \simeq \vec{p}_p + \vec{p}_\ell$
 - $p_{F,n} < p_{F,p} + p_{F,\ell}$, hence large proton fraction, is necessary



Luminosity evolution

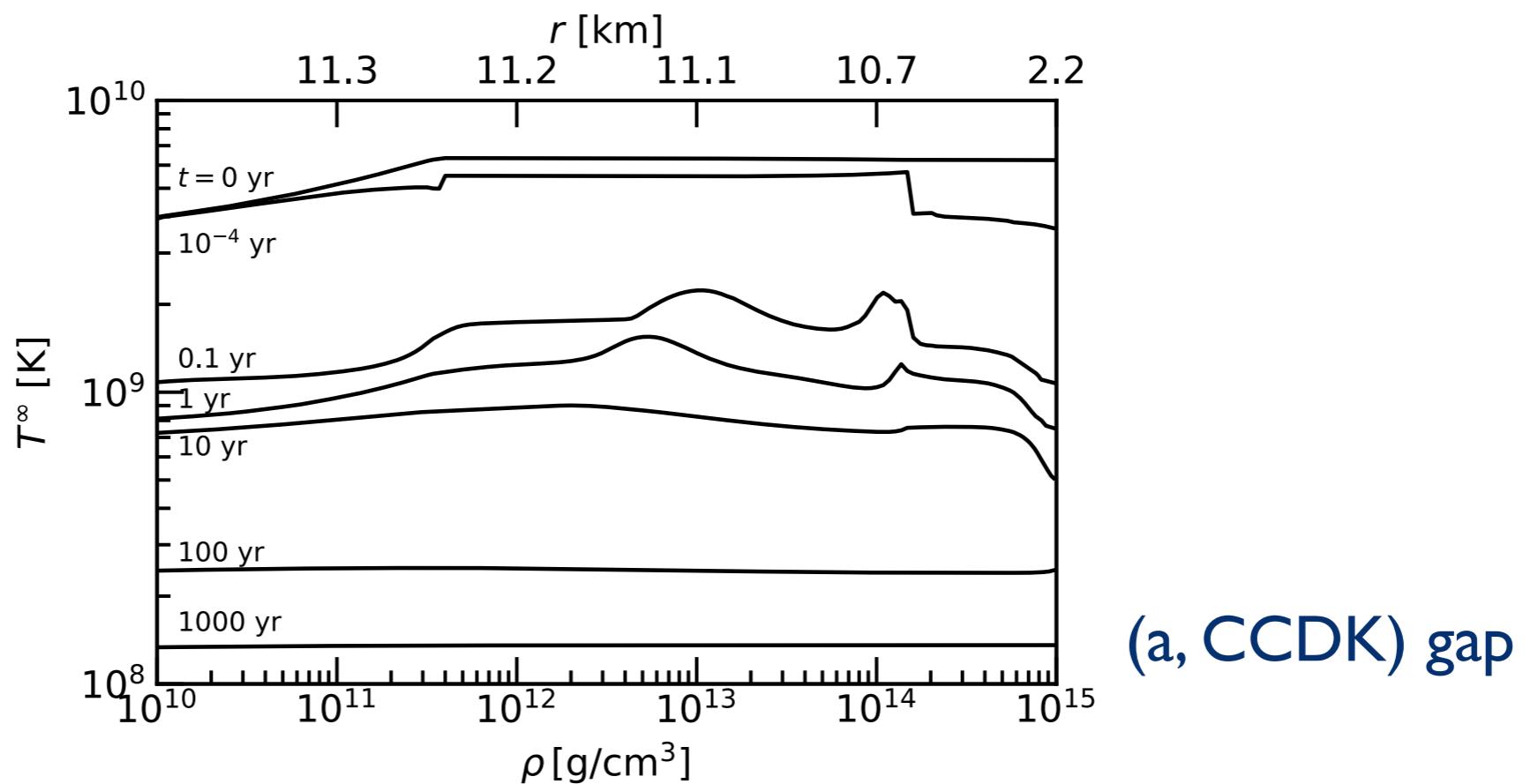


Calculated by NSCool



- Before neutron pairing: Modified Urca process dominates
- After neutron pairing : neutron PBF dominates
- Modified Urca process is suppressed by nucleon pairing

Thermal relaxation



- Relaxation time scale is $t \sim 10 - 100$ yr

Neutron singlet gap

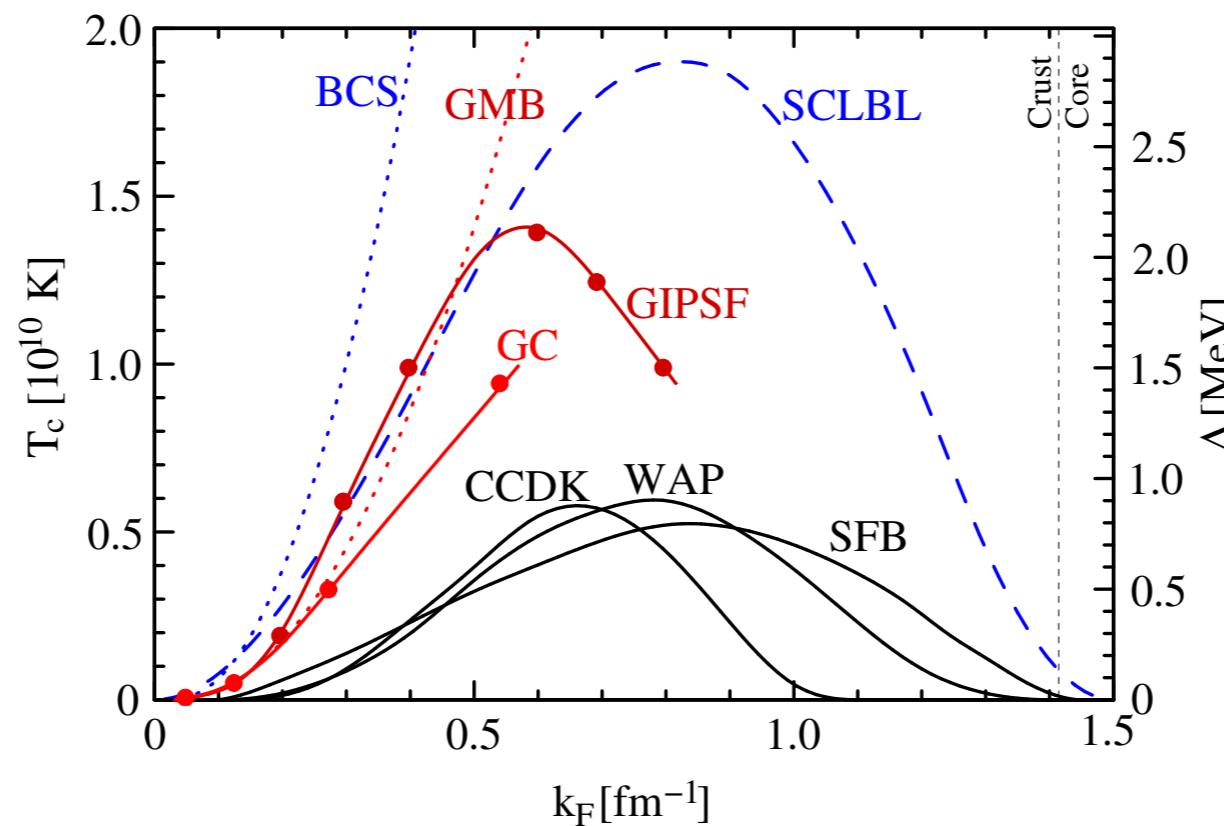
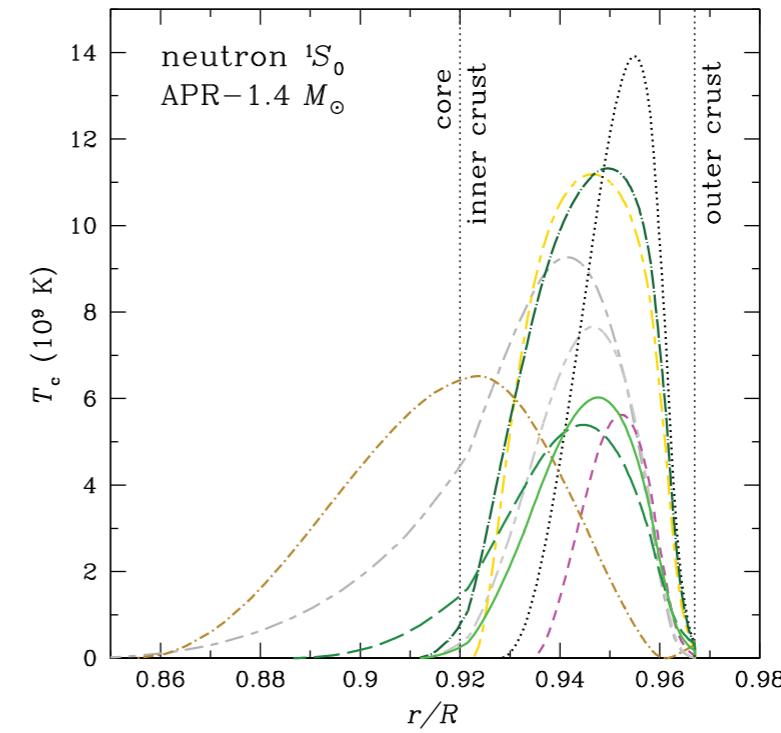
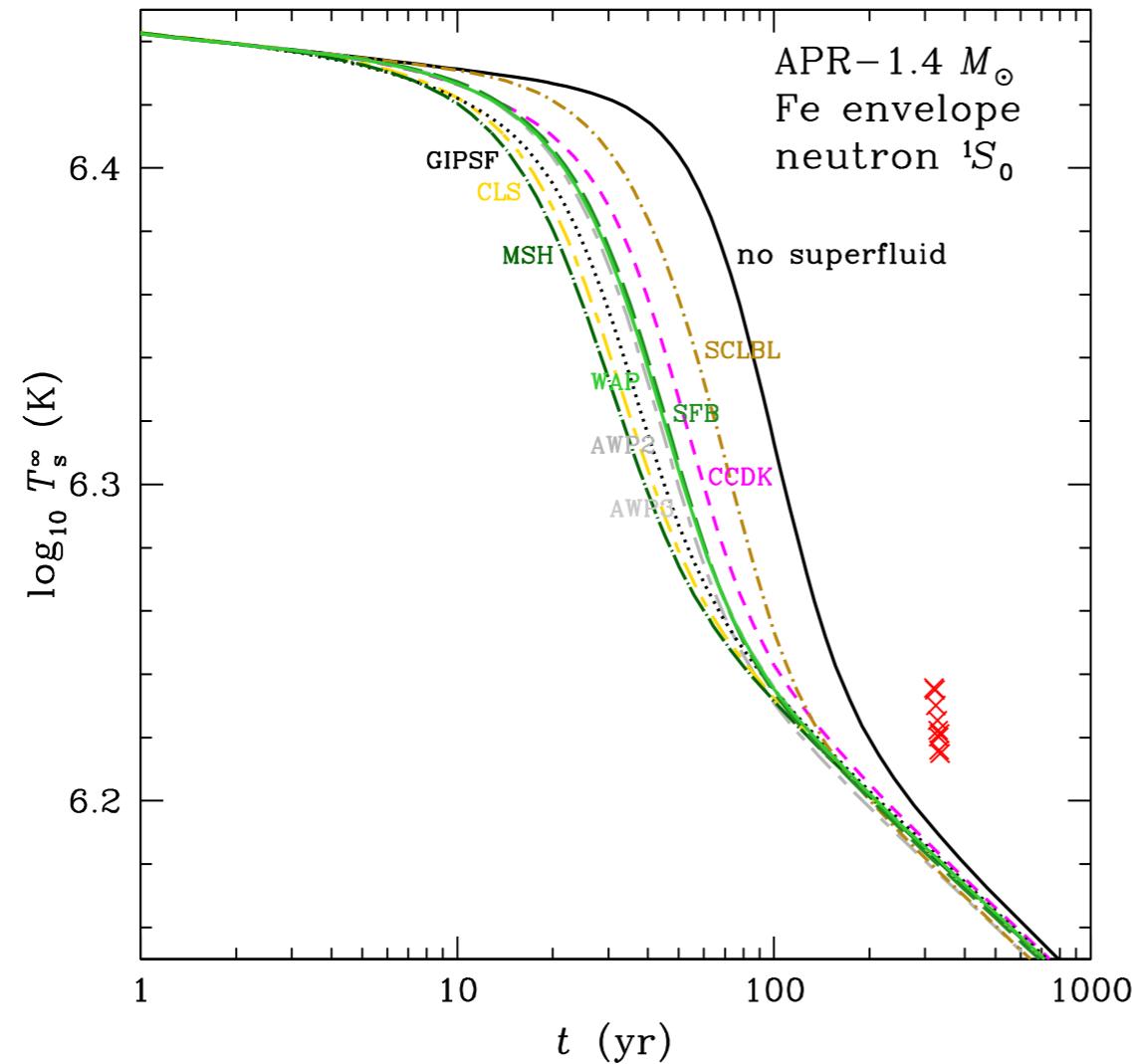


Figure from Page et al. (2013)]

- $T_c \sim (0.5 - 2) \times 10^{10} \text{ K}$
- Singlet pairing occurs only in the crust

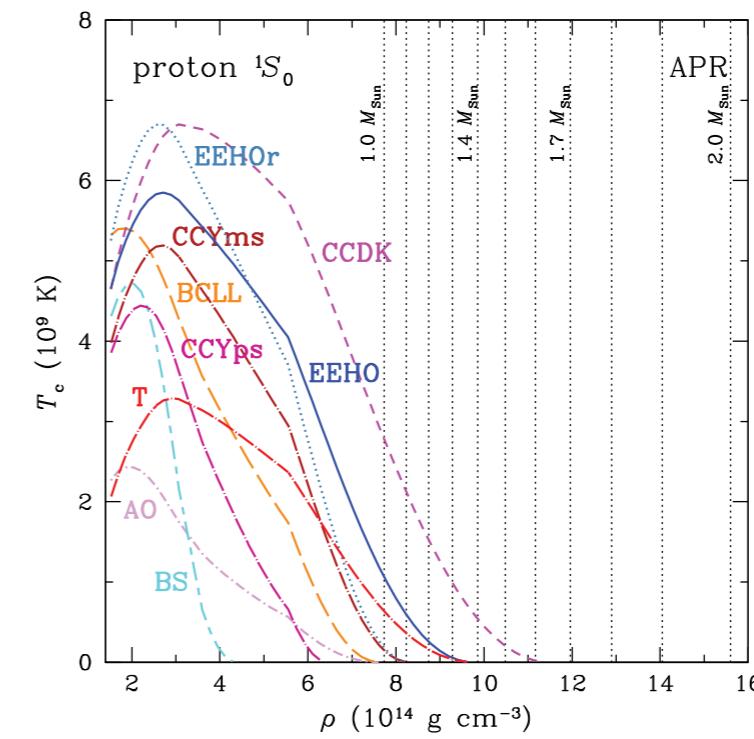
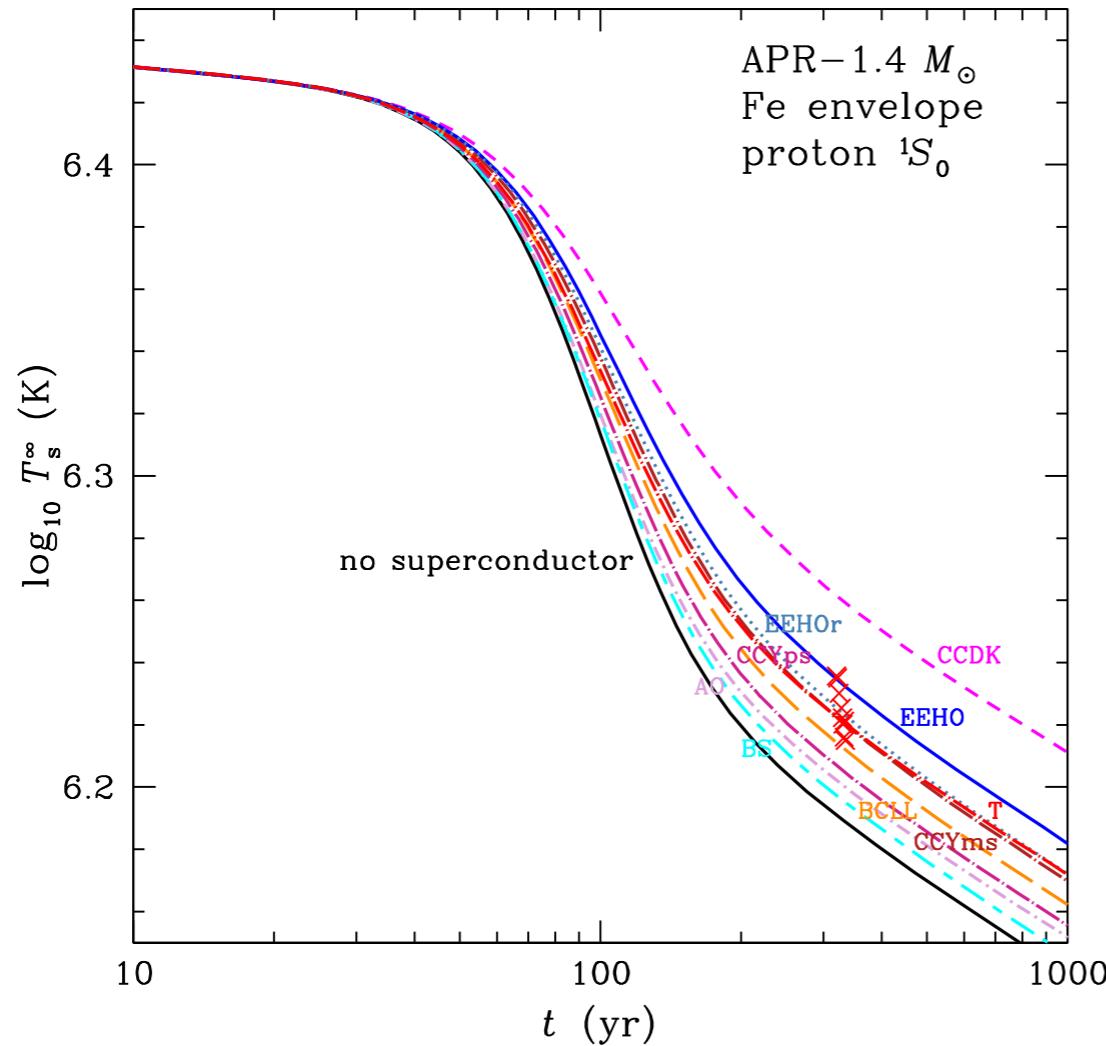
Neutron singlet pairing for Cas A NS cooling



[Ho et al. (2015)]

- Only singlet neutron pairing is included
- It affects earlier time evolution

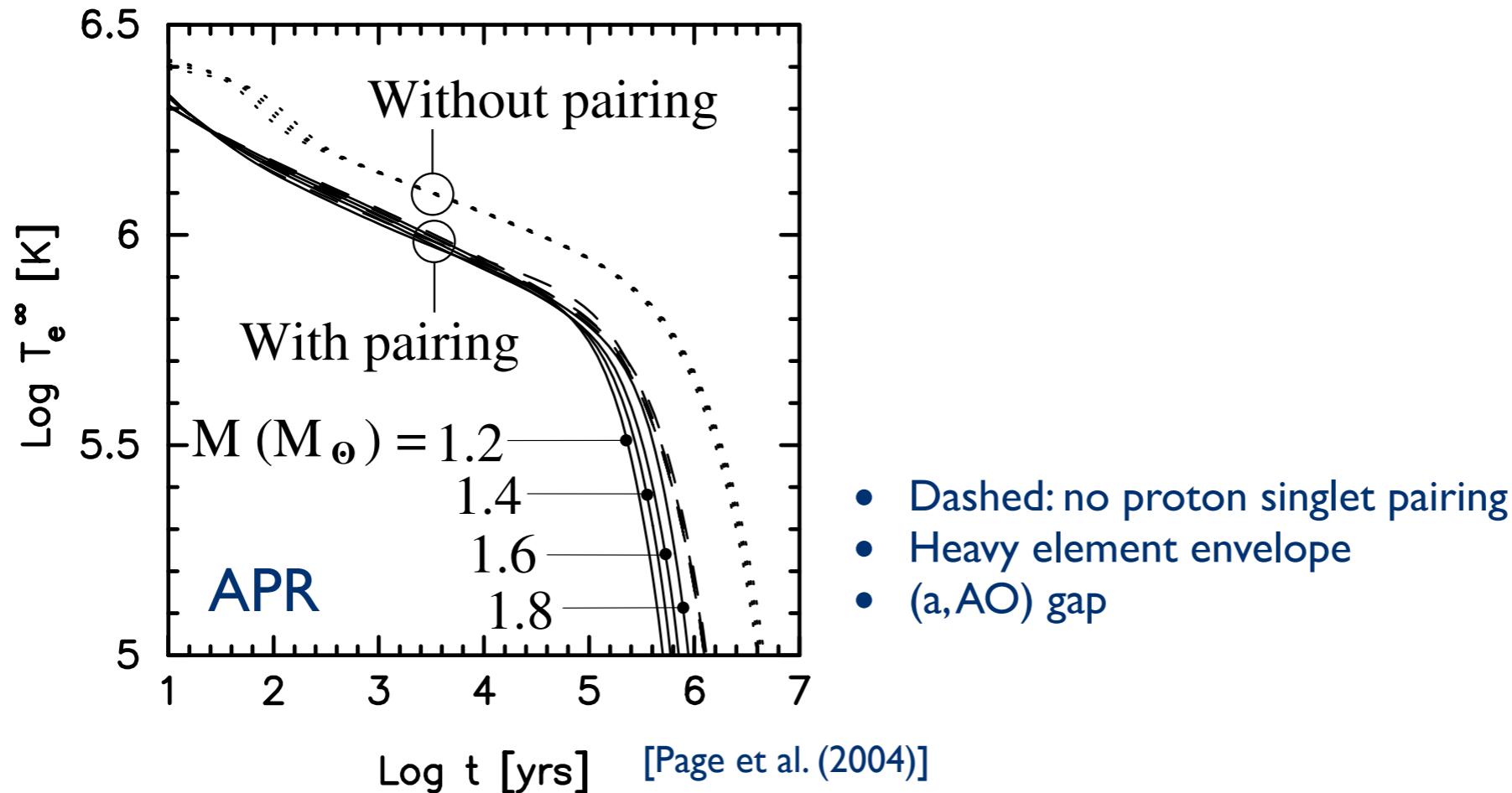
Proton singlet pairing for Cas A NS cooling



[Ho et al. (2015)]

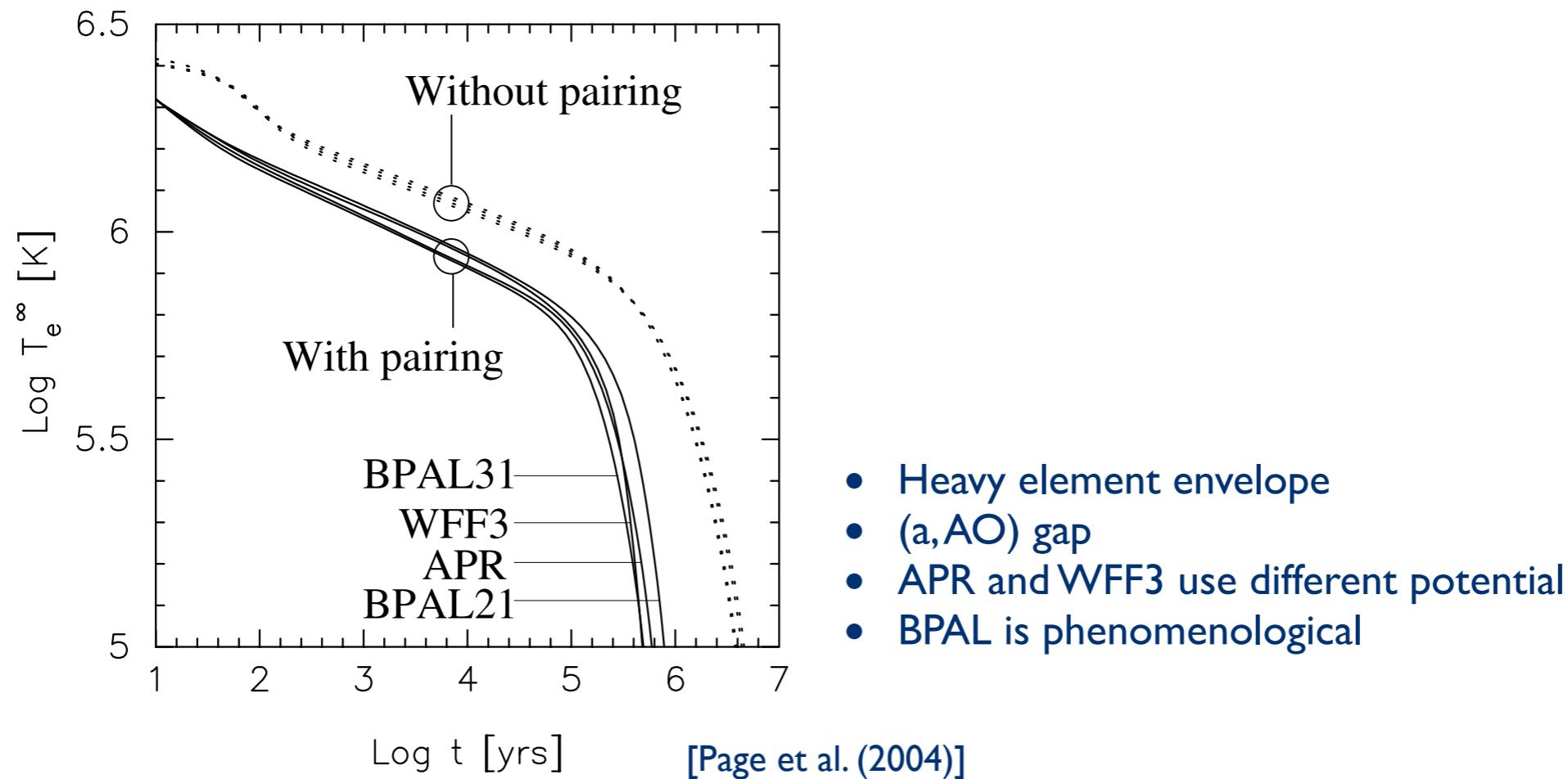
- Only singlet proton pairing is included
- Small proton gap is not favored by Cas A temperature

Mass for thermal evolution



- Difference is due to the density dependence of pairing gap
- Heat capacity and neutrino luminosity slightly change

EOS for thermal evolution

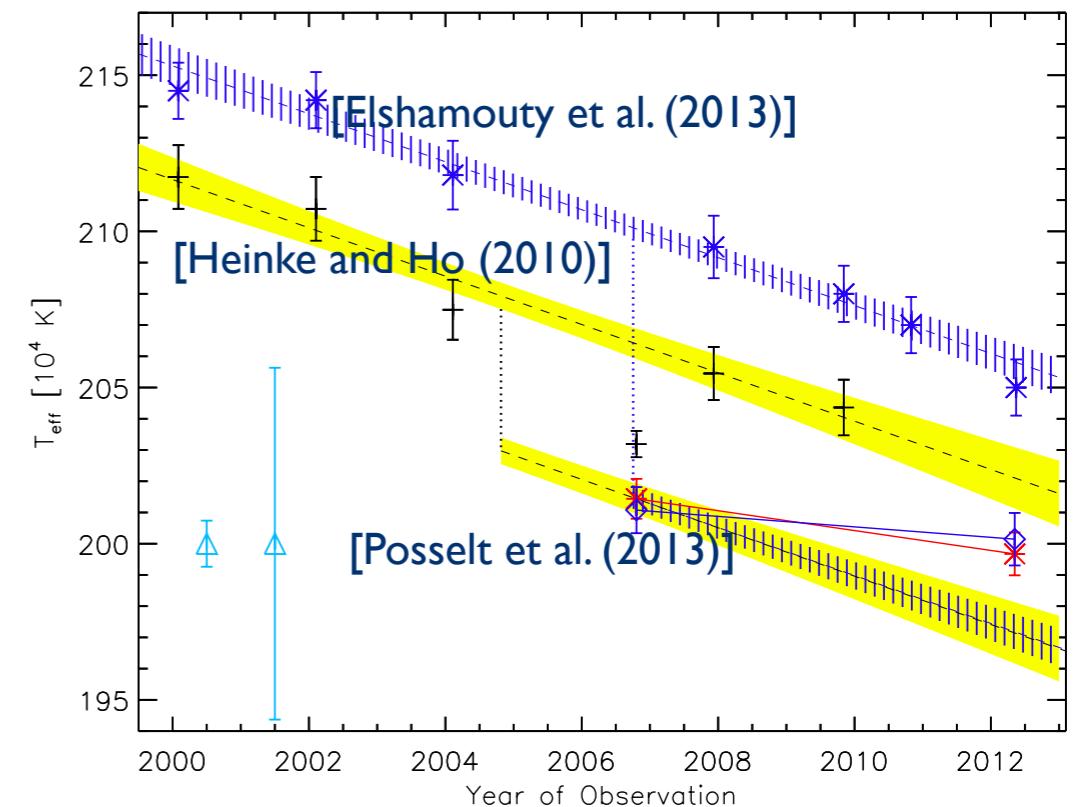
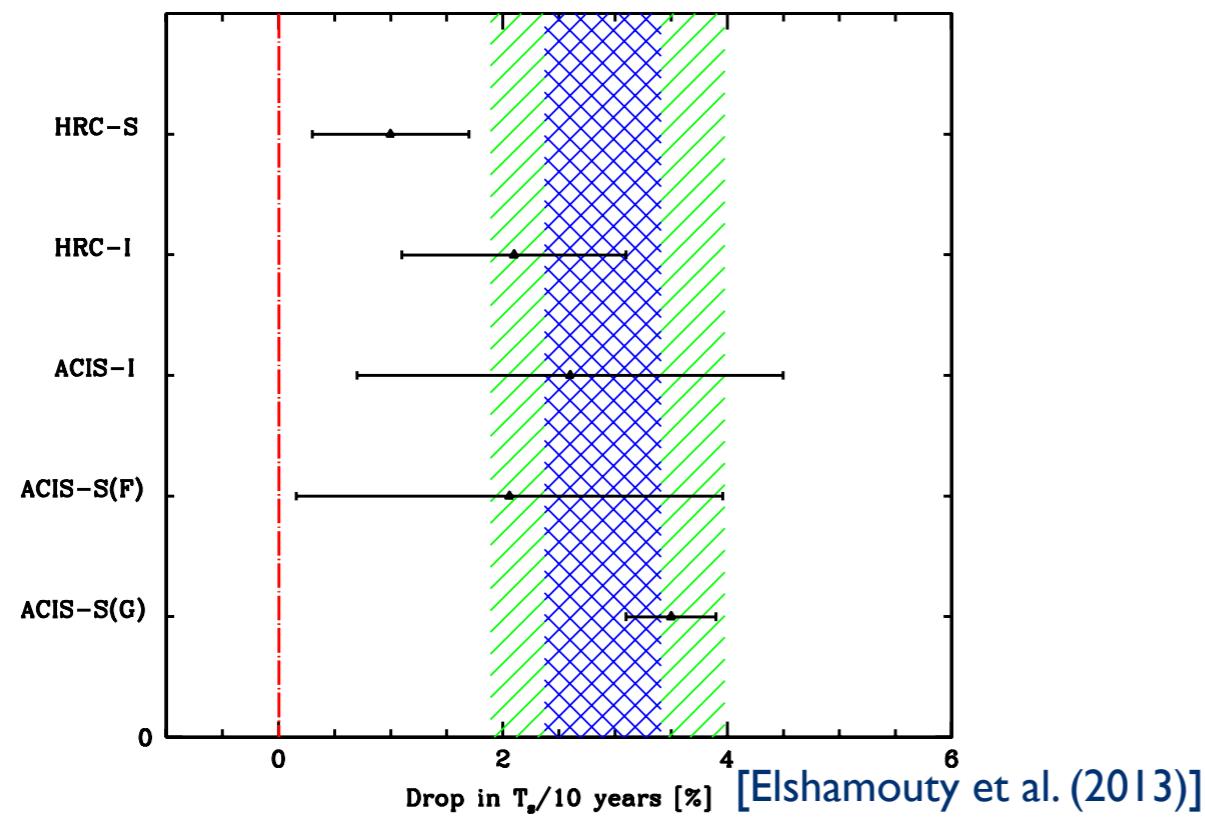


- Difference is also due to the density dependence of pairing gap

Other explanation of Cas A NS cooling

- Delayed thermal relaxation [Blaschke et al. (2012, 2013); Grigorian et al. (2016)]
- Rotation-driven direct Urca [Negreiros et al. (2013)]
- Recovery from r-mode heating [Yang et al. (2011)]
- Color superconductivity in quark phase [Noda et al. (2013); Sedrakian (2013)]
- Joule heating [Bonanno et al. (2014)]

Uncertainty of observation



- Lower cooling rate is reported
- Since modified Urca predicts $\Delta T/T \sim 0.3\% / 10 \text{ year}$, even 1 % decline requires fast cooling
- Even if there is no decline, our conservative limit $f_a \gtrsim 10^8 \text{ GeV}$ holds