

# Supernovae:

Remarkable Physics Triggering  
Extraordinary Stellar Explosions

Brian P. Schmidt

Mount Stromlo Observatory



# What is a Supernova?



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No formal definition!





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latin: *Super* + *Nova*





# What is a Supernova?

**No formal definition!**

**latin: *Super* + *Nova***

*A cataclysmic event which irreversibly disrupts or transforms a star or stellar remnant on the time scale of a day or less...*





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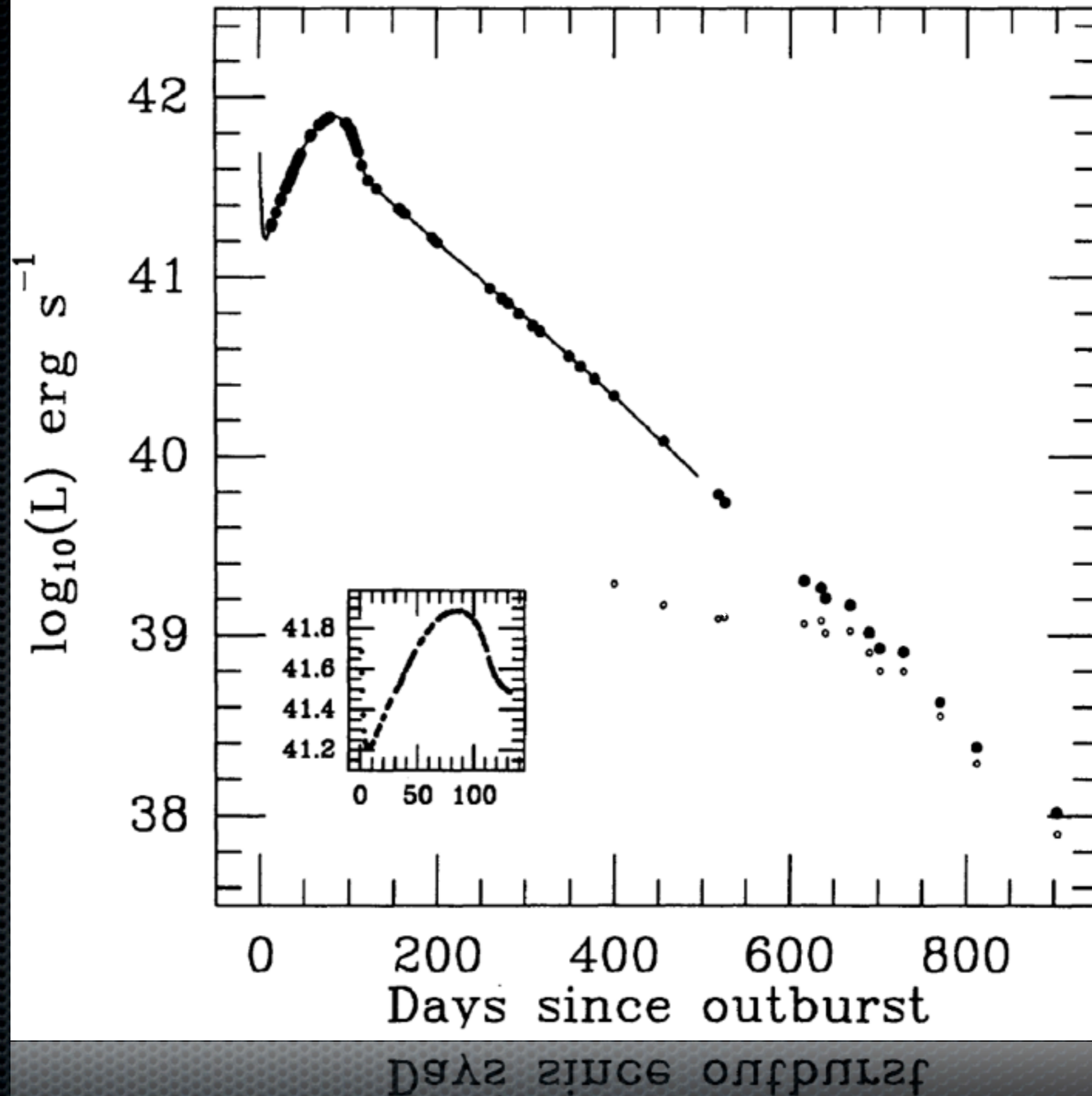
**The Most Common -  
The Core Collapse of a Massive Star  
SN 1987A: In the Large Magellanic Cloud**



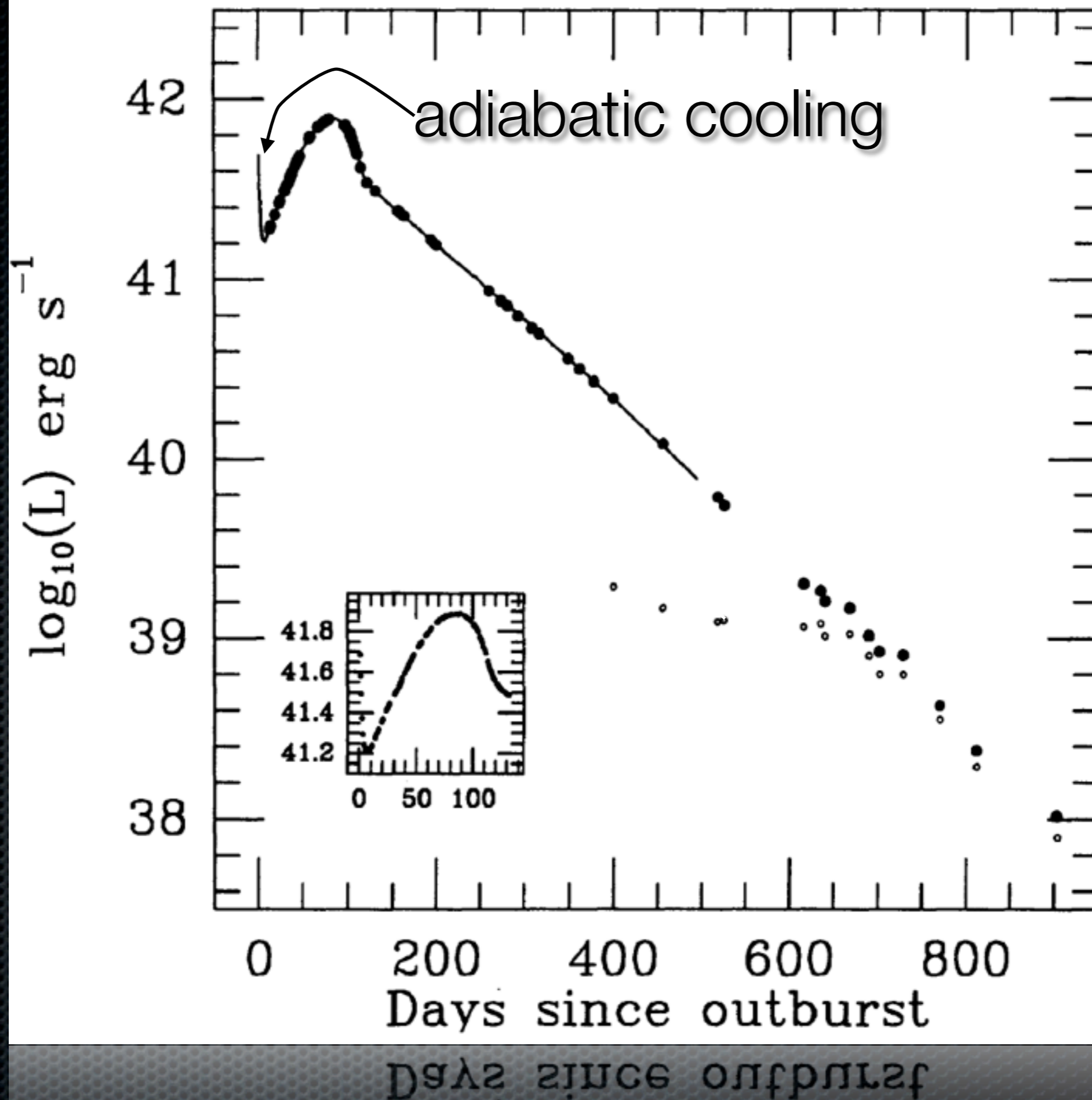


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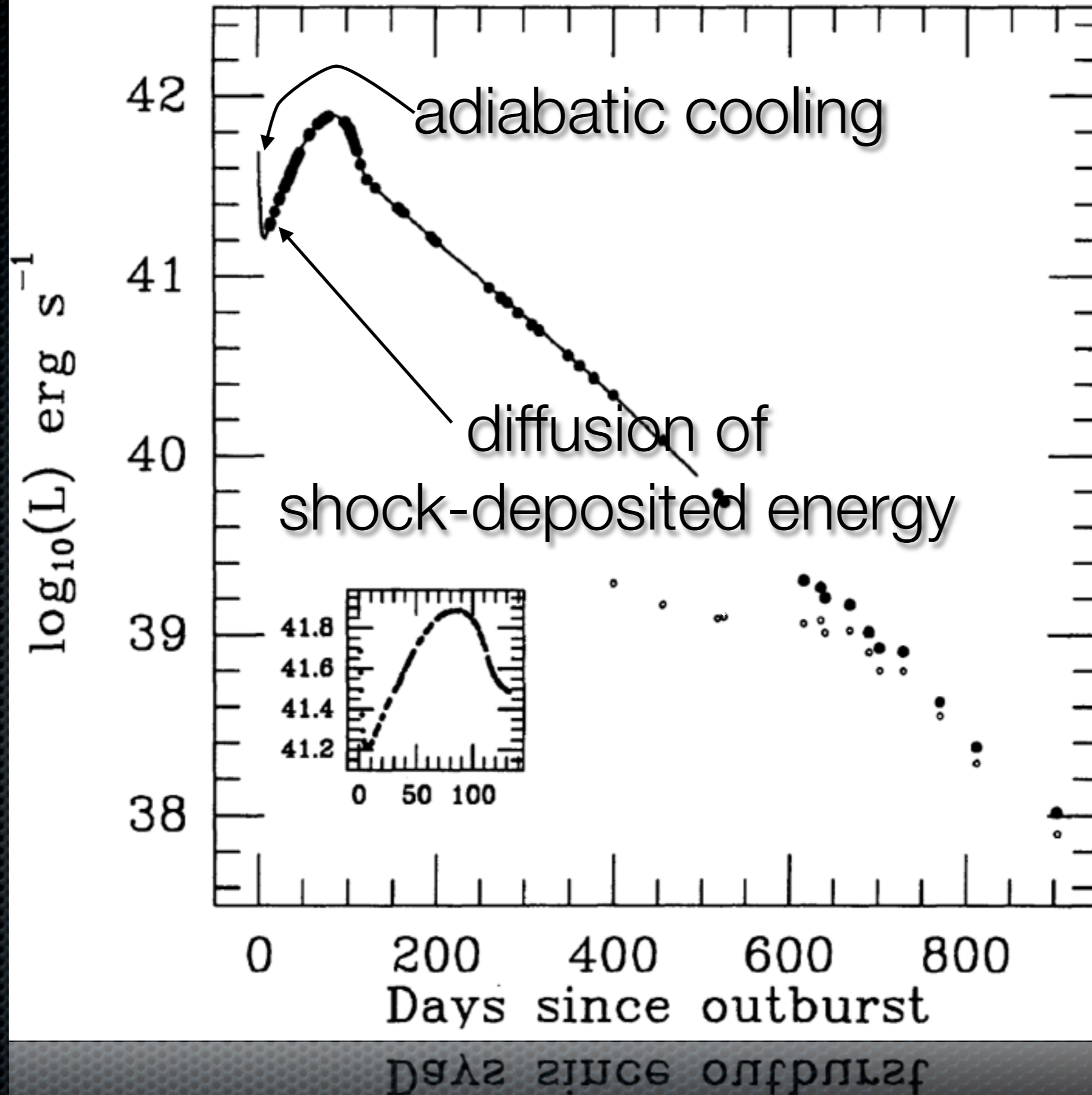




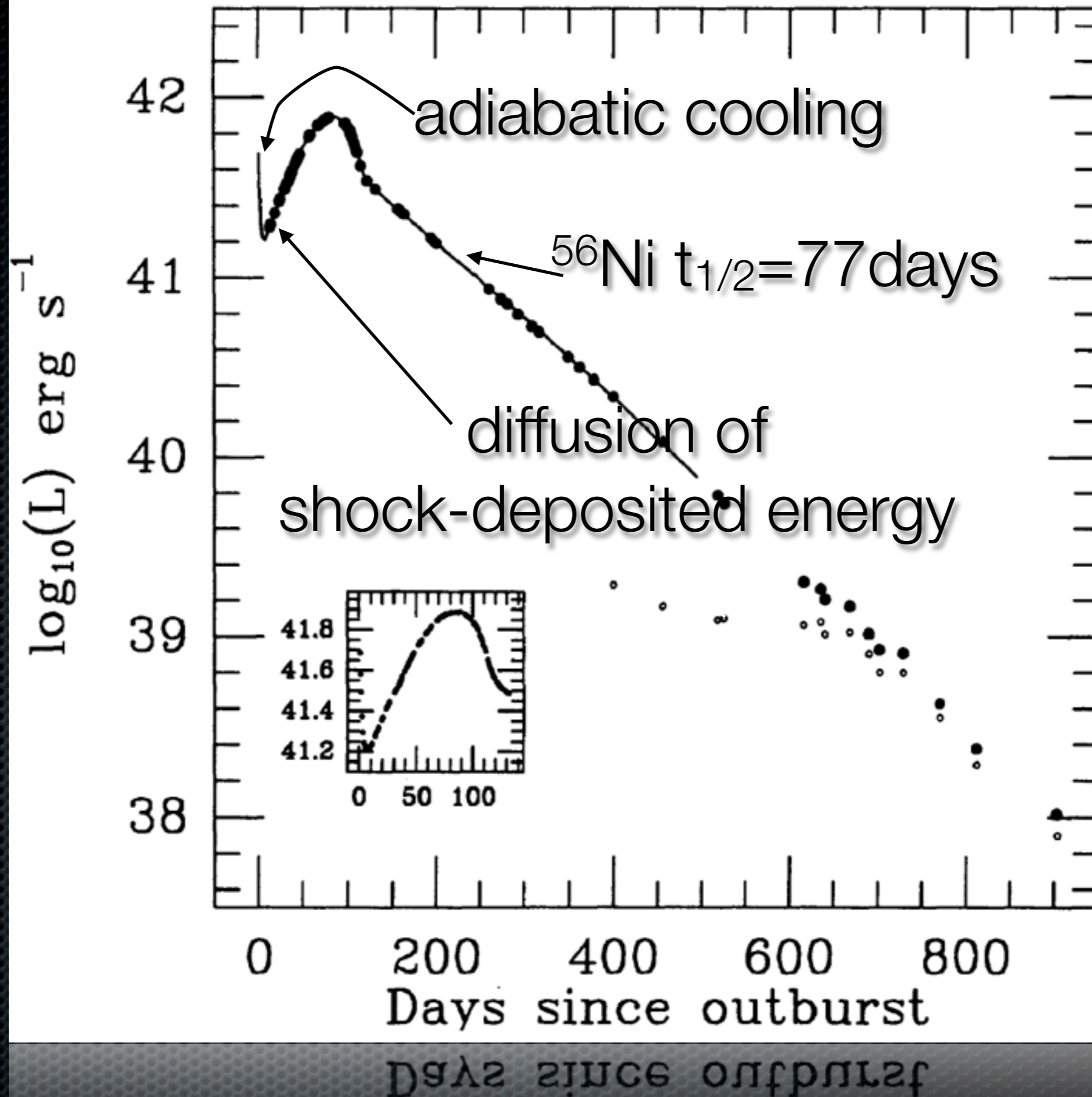












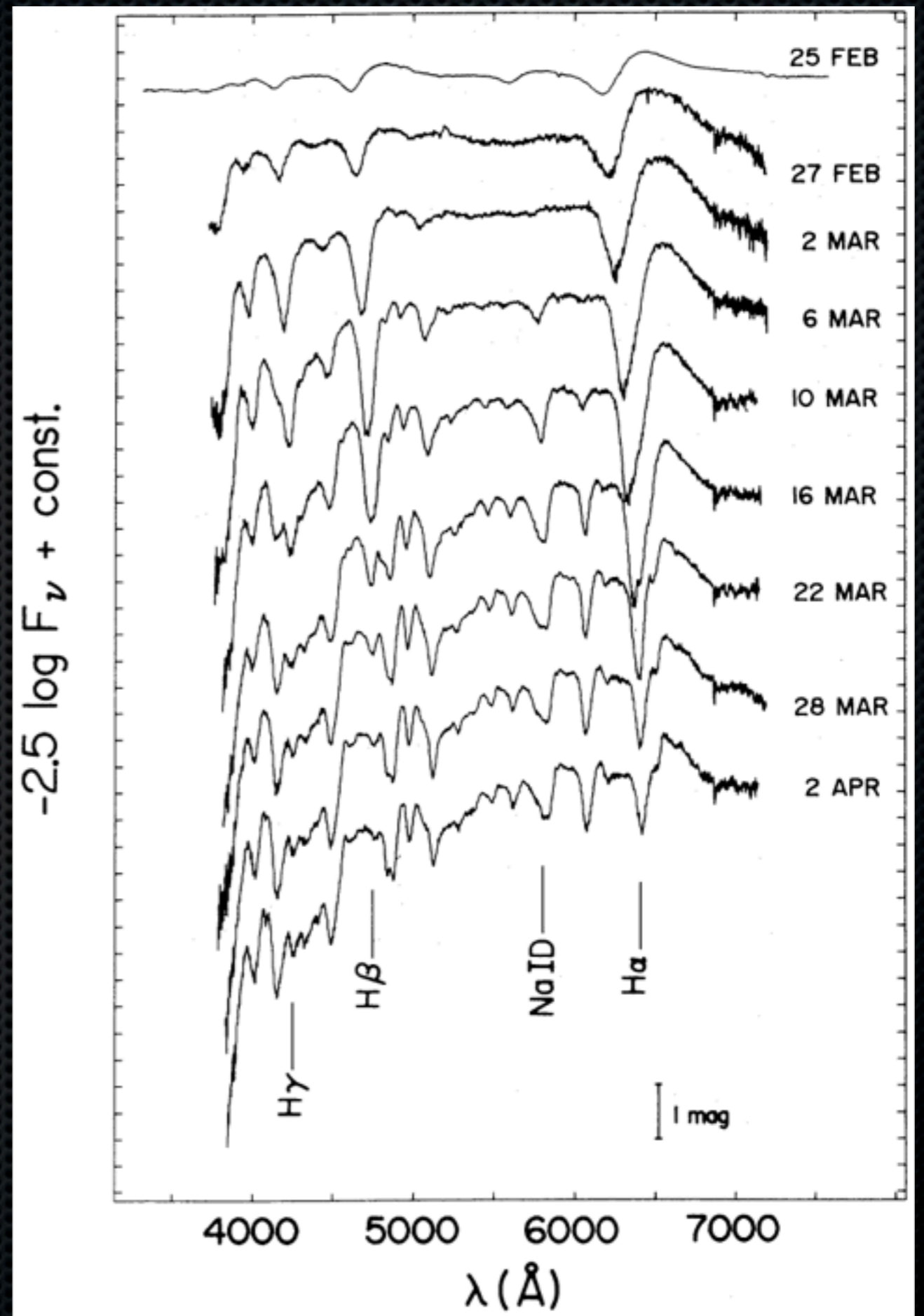


# Spectral Evolution of SN 1987A

T: 15000K...5000K

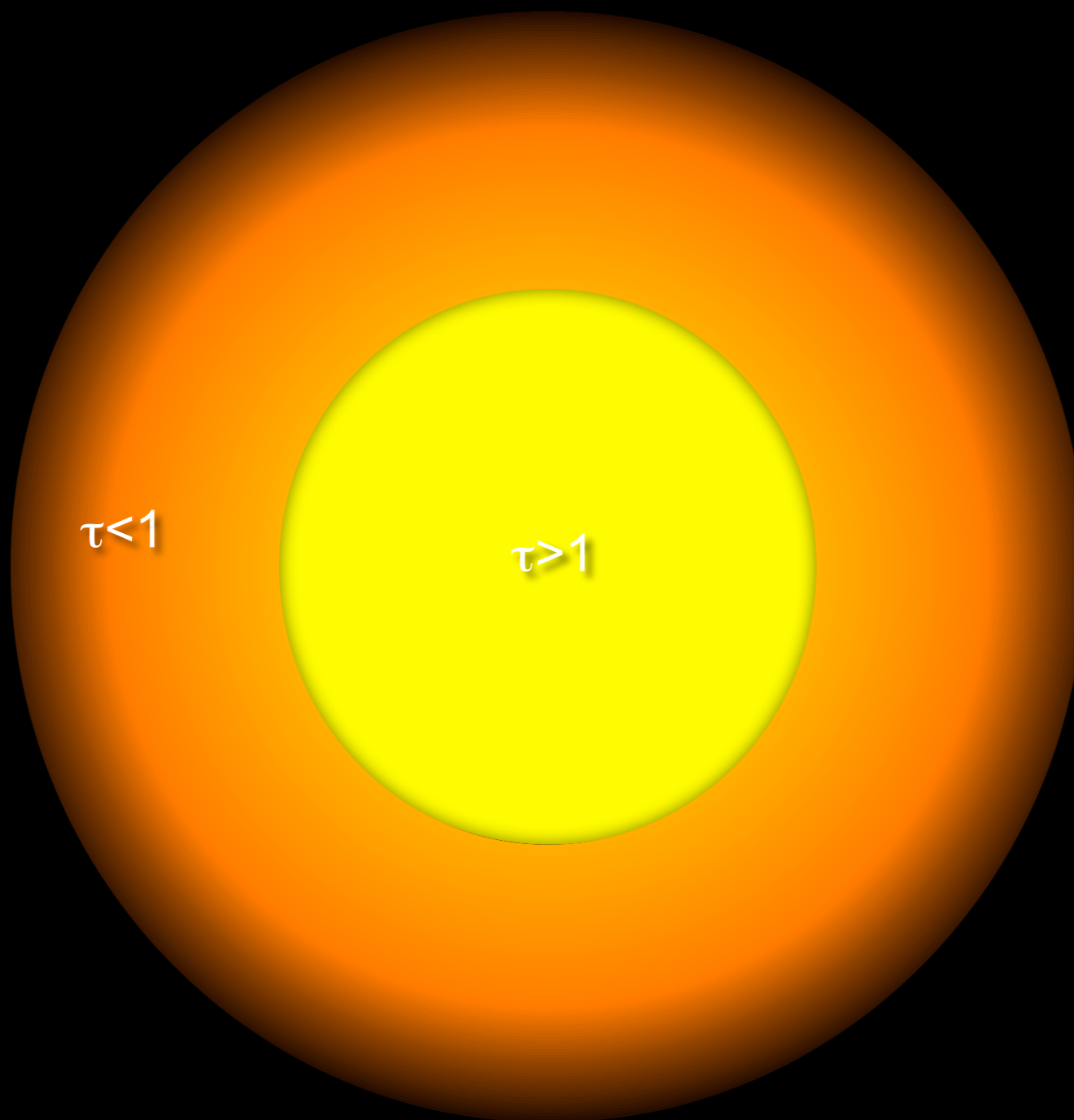
vel: 20000 km/s ...

2000 km/s

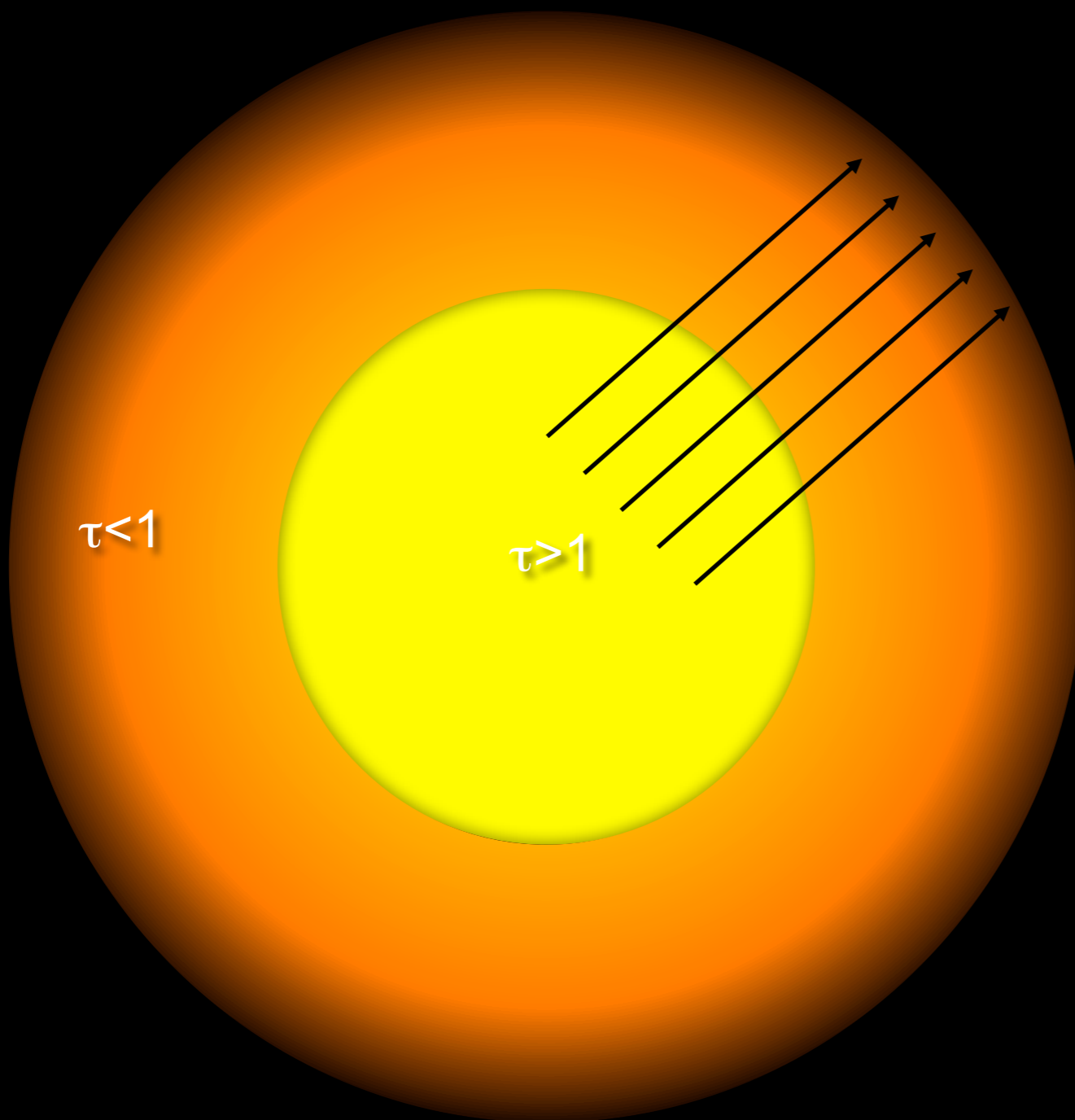


Blanco et al 1987

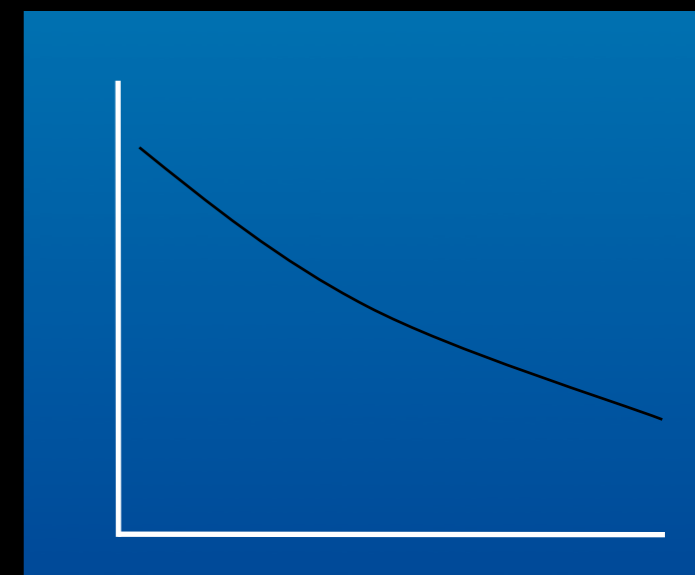
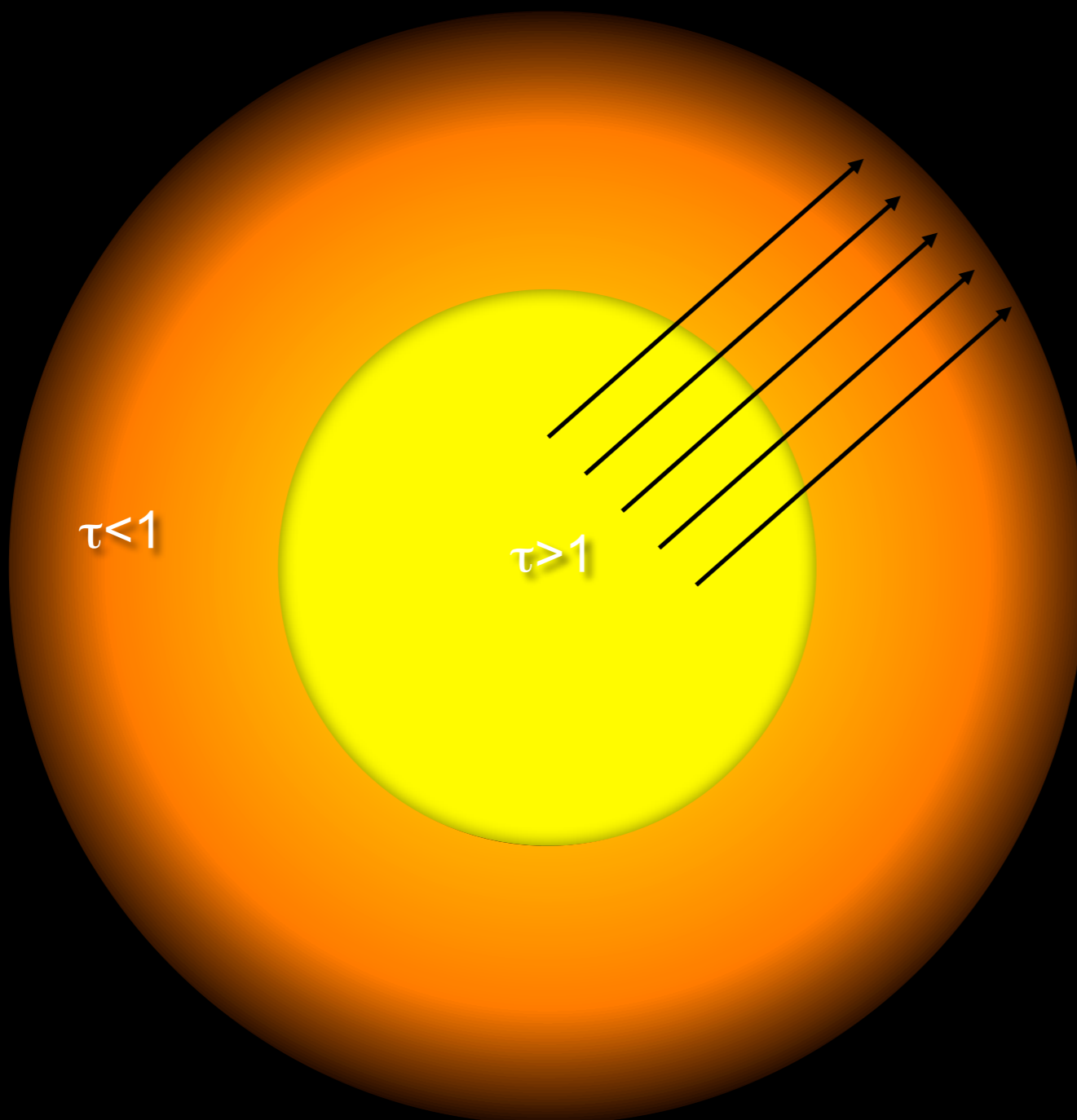




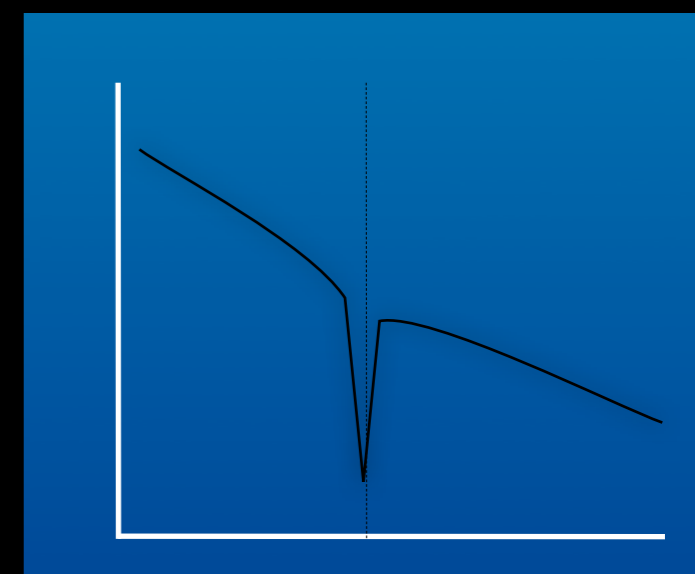
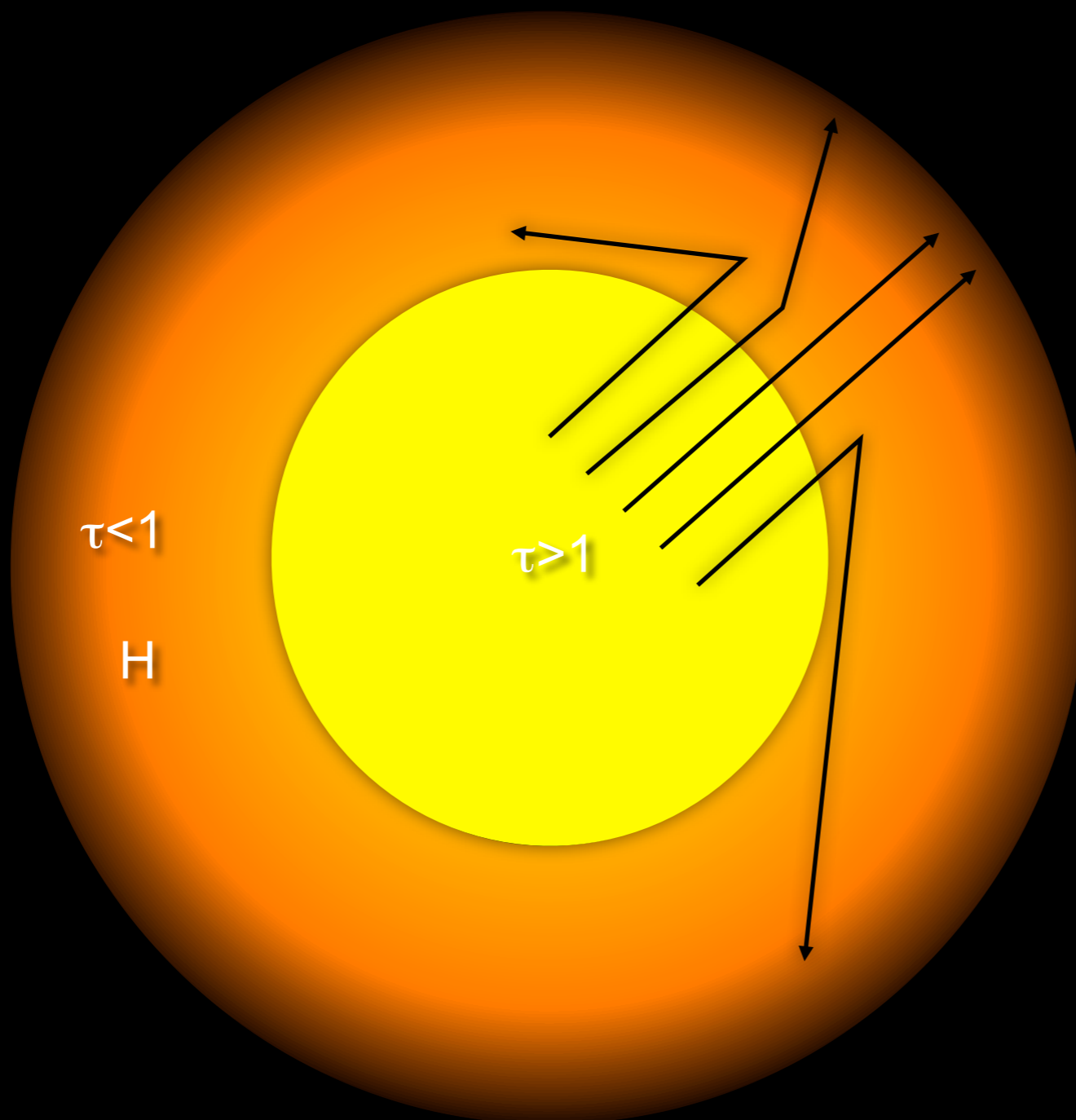




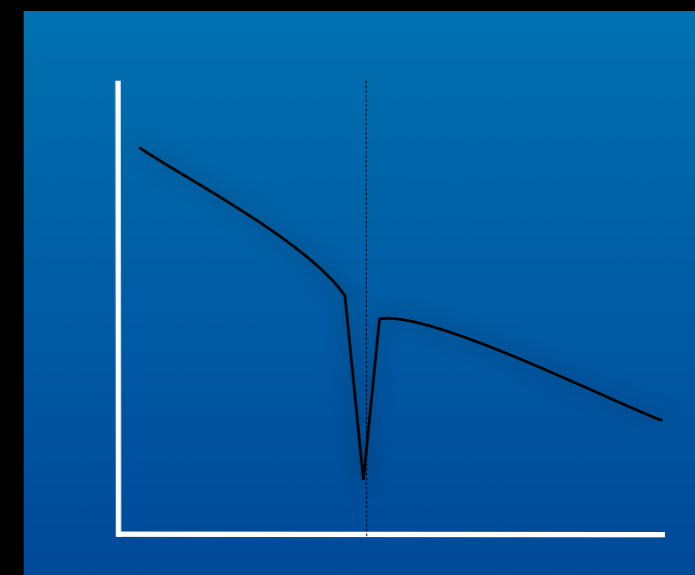
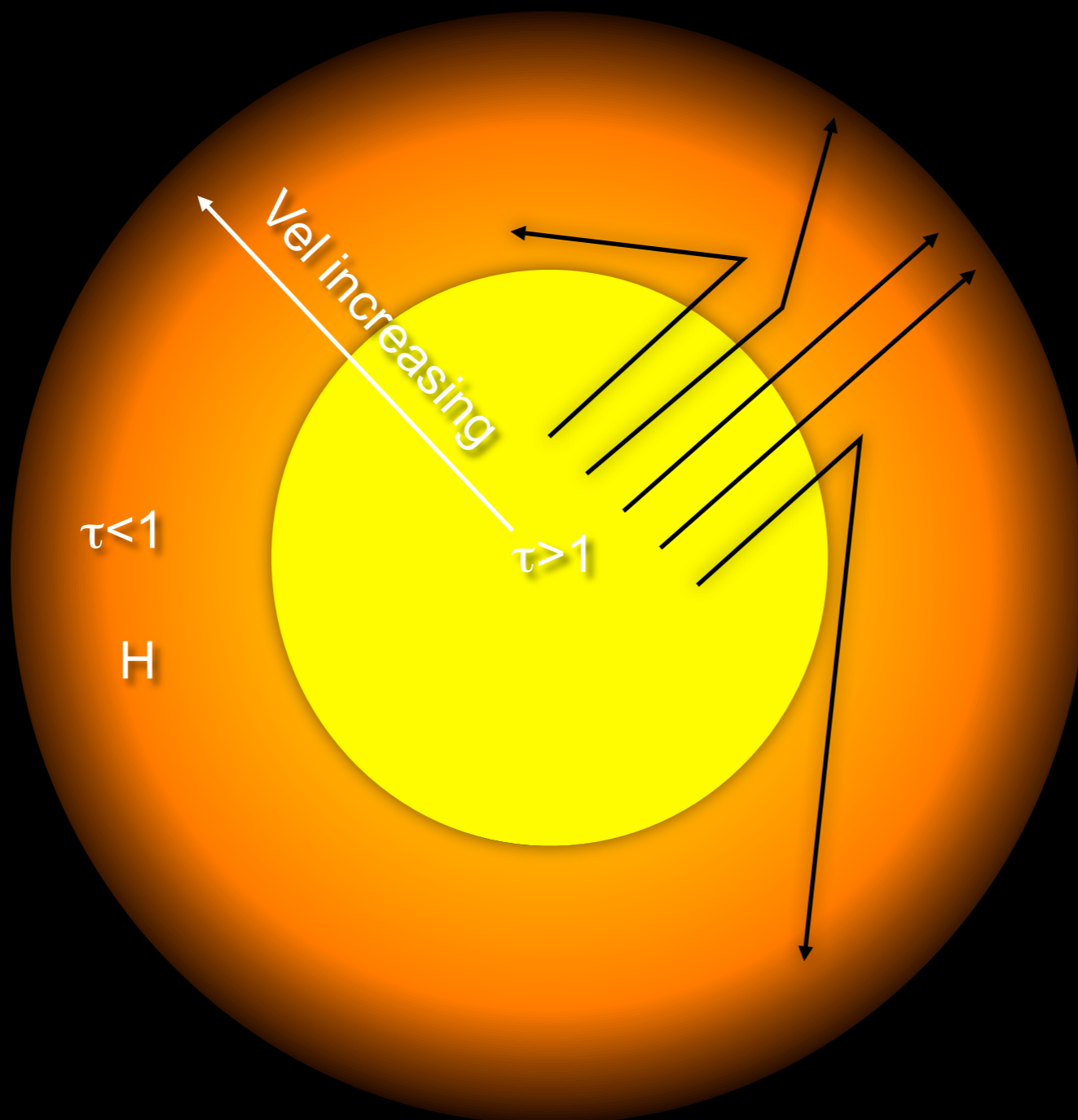




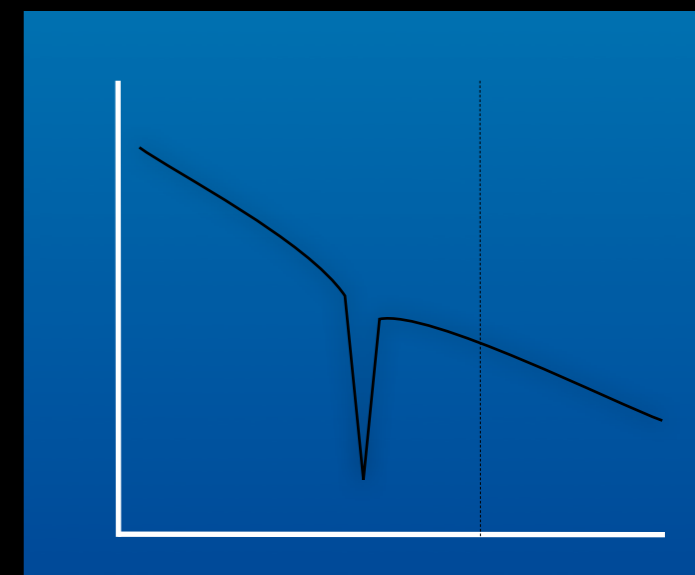
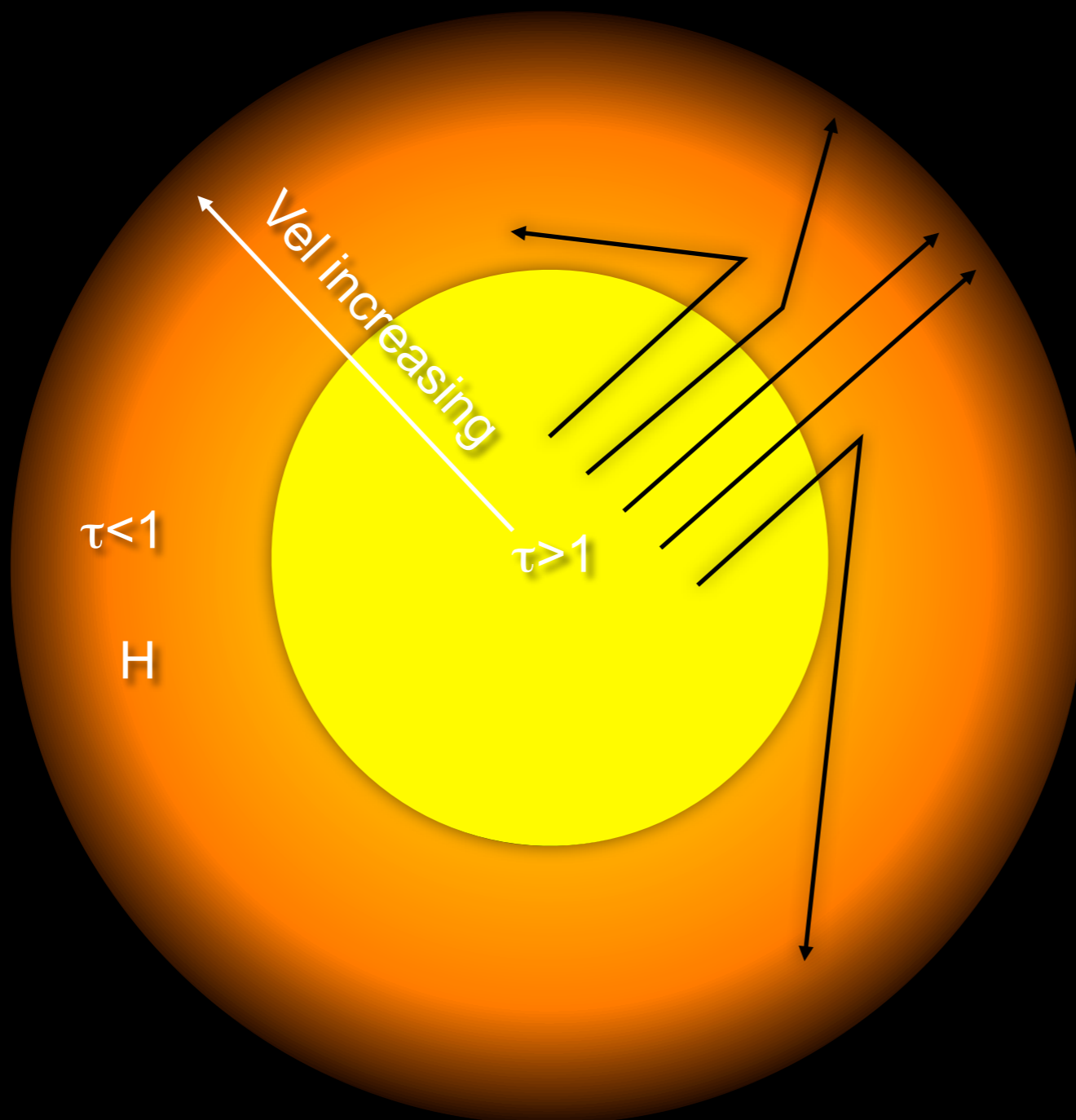




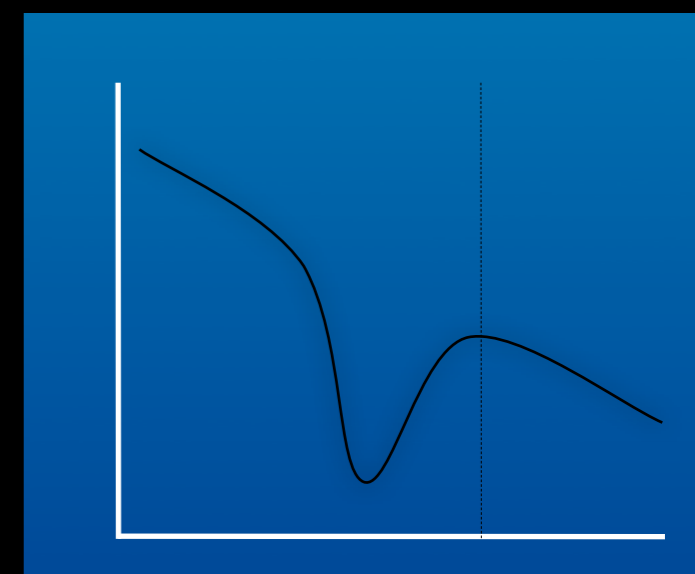
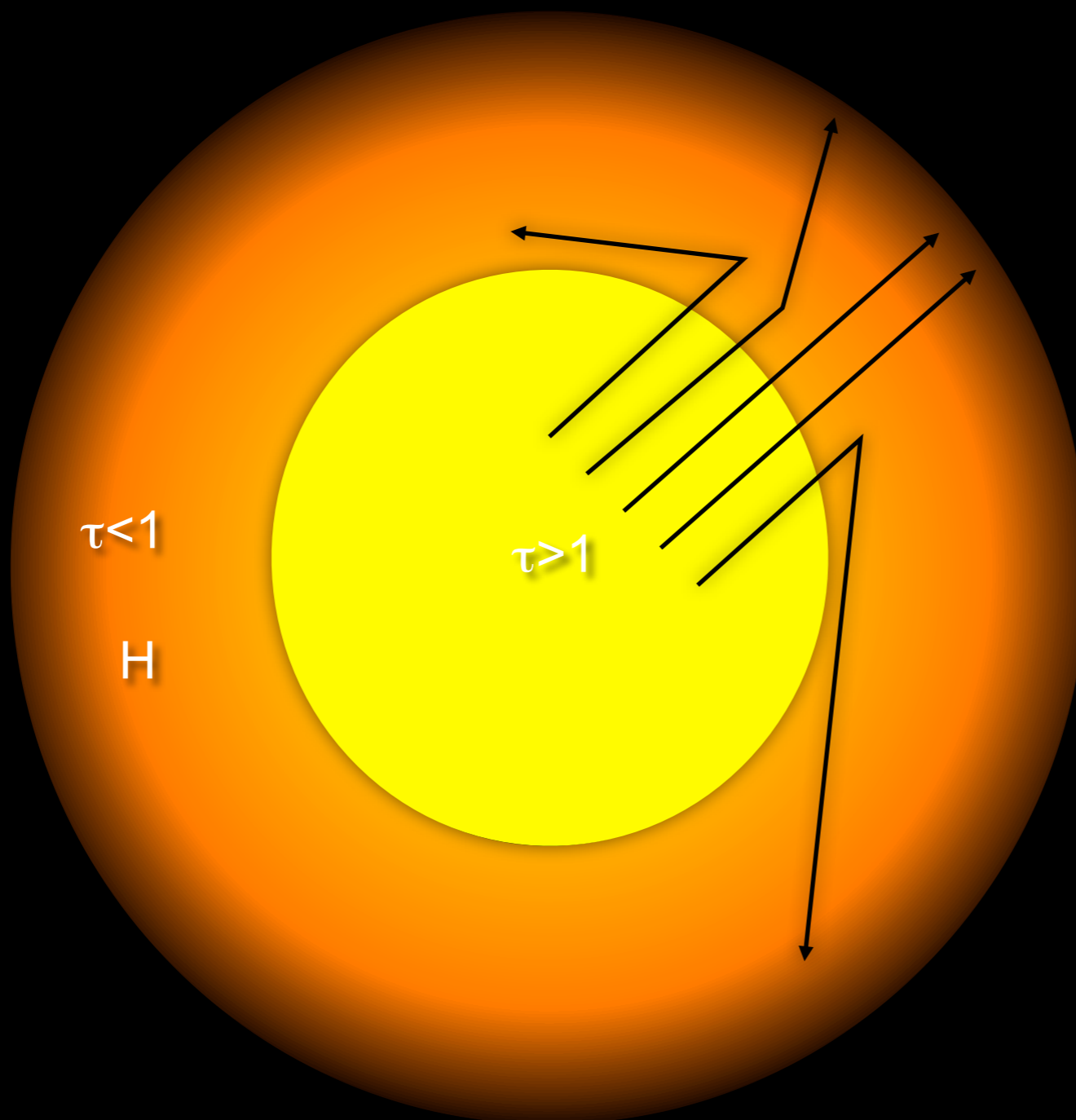




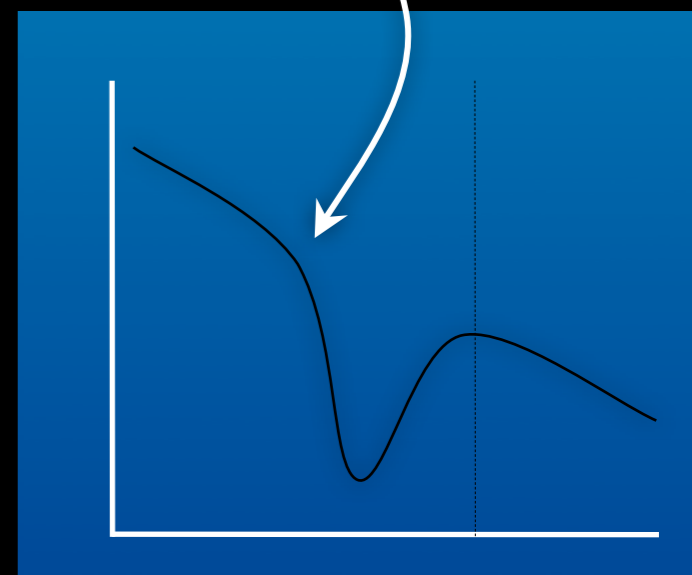
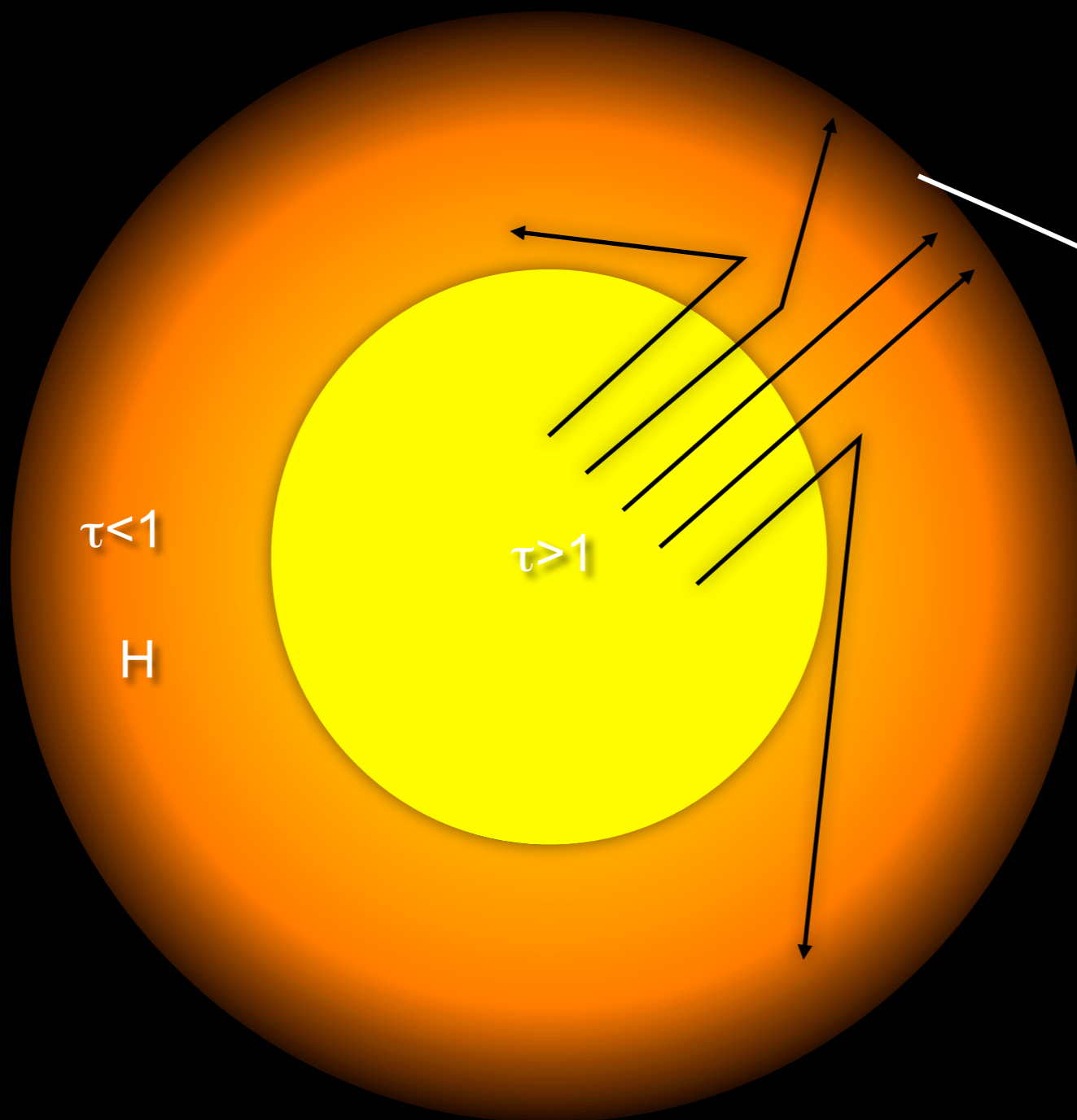






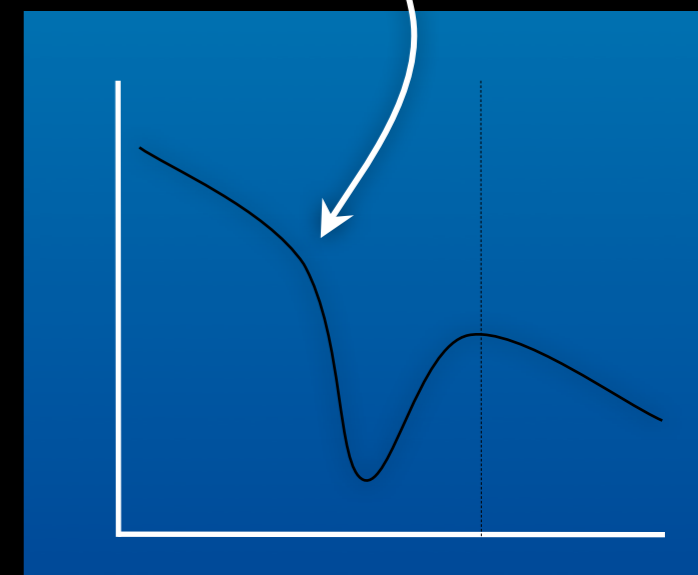
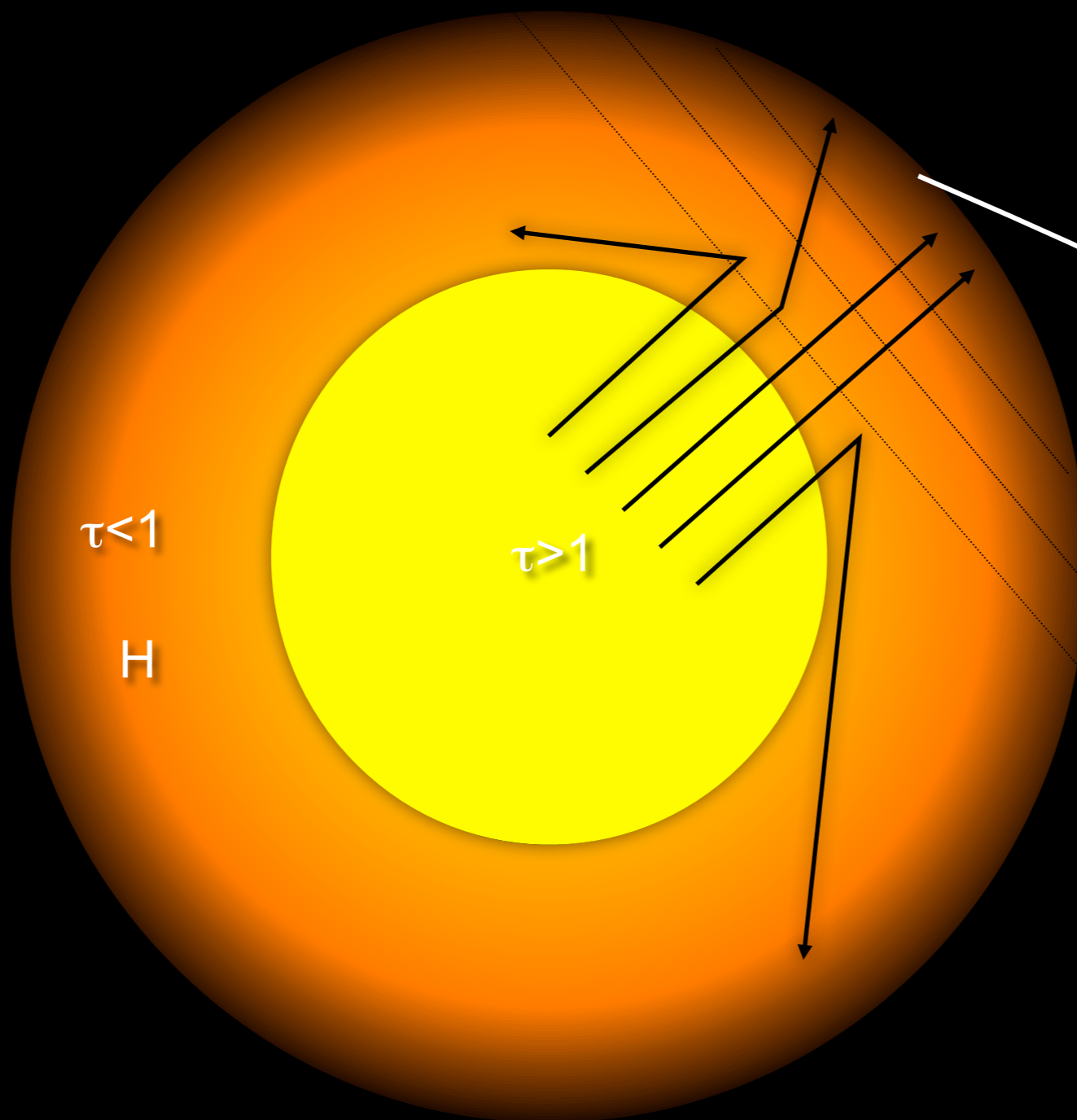




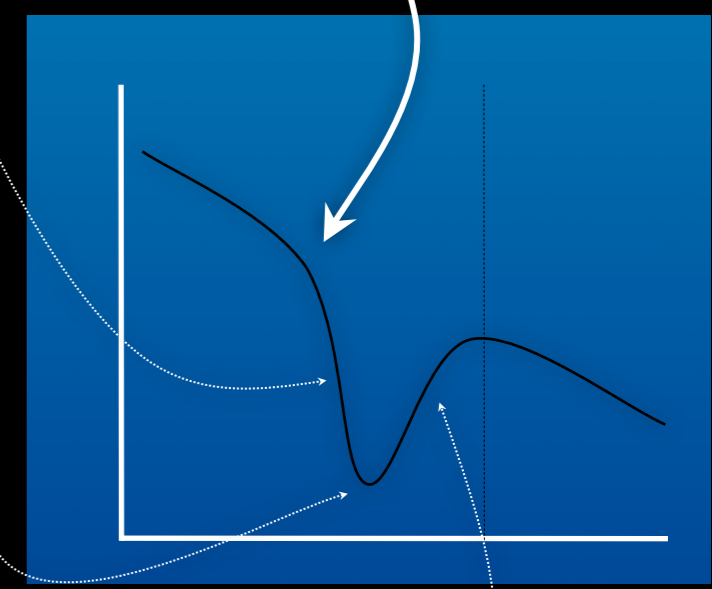
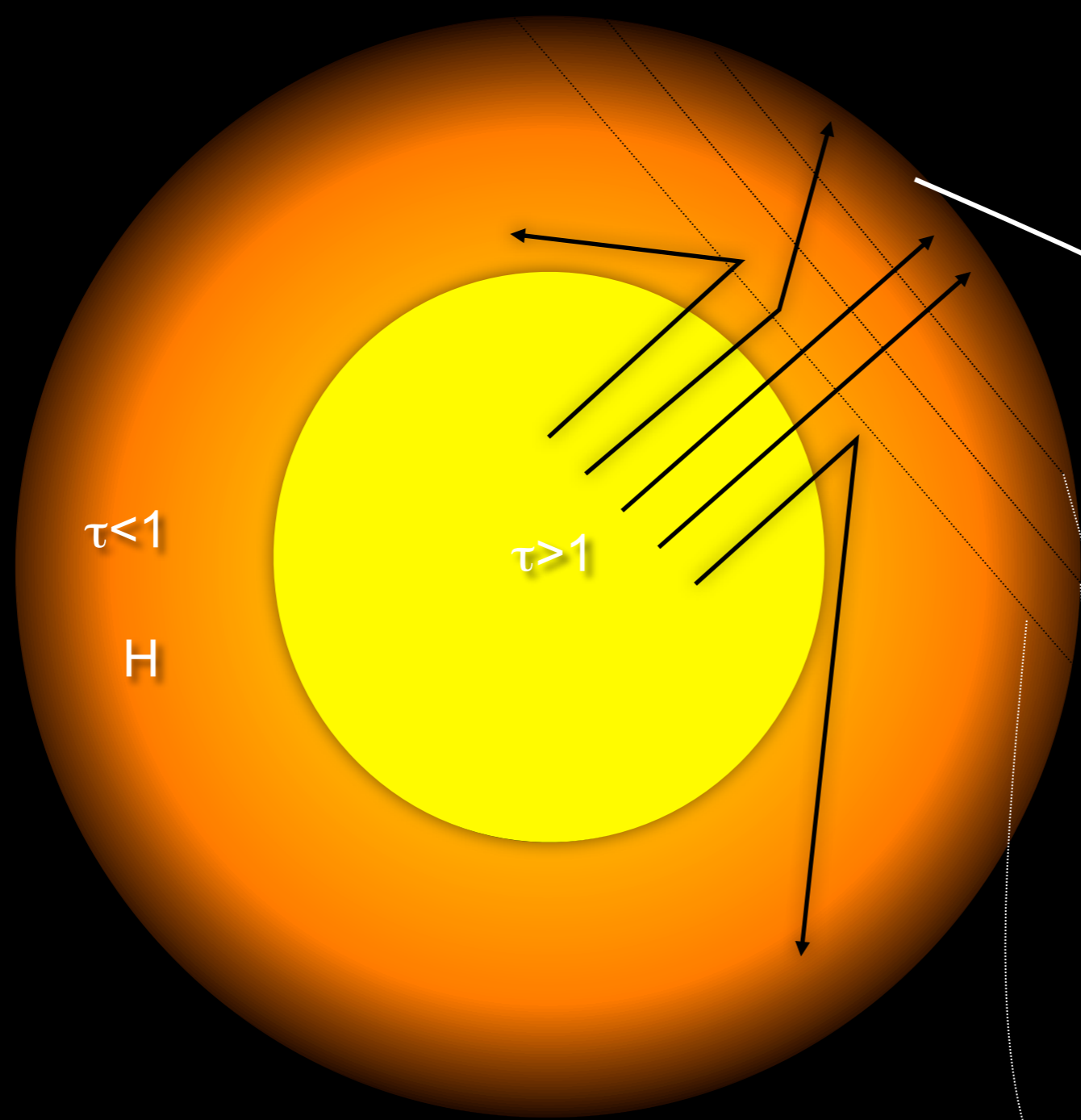


$v_{max}$

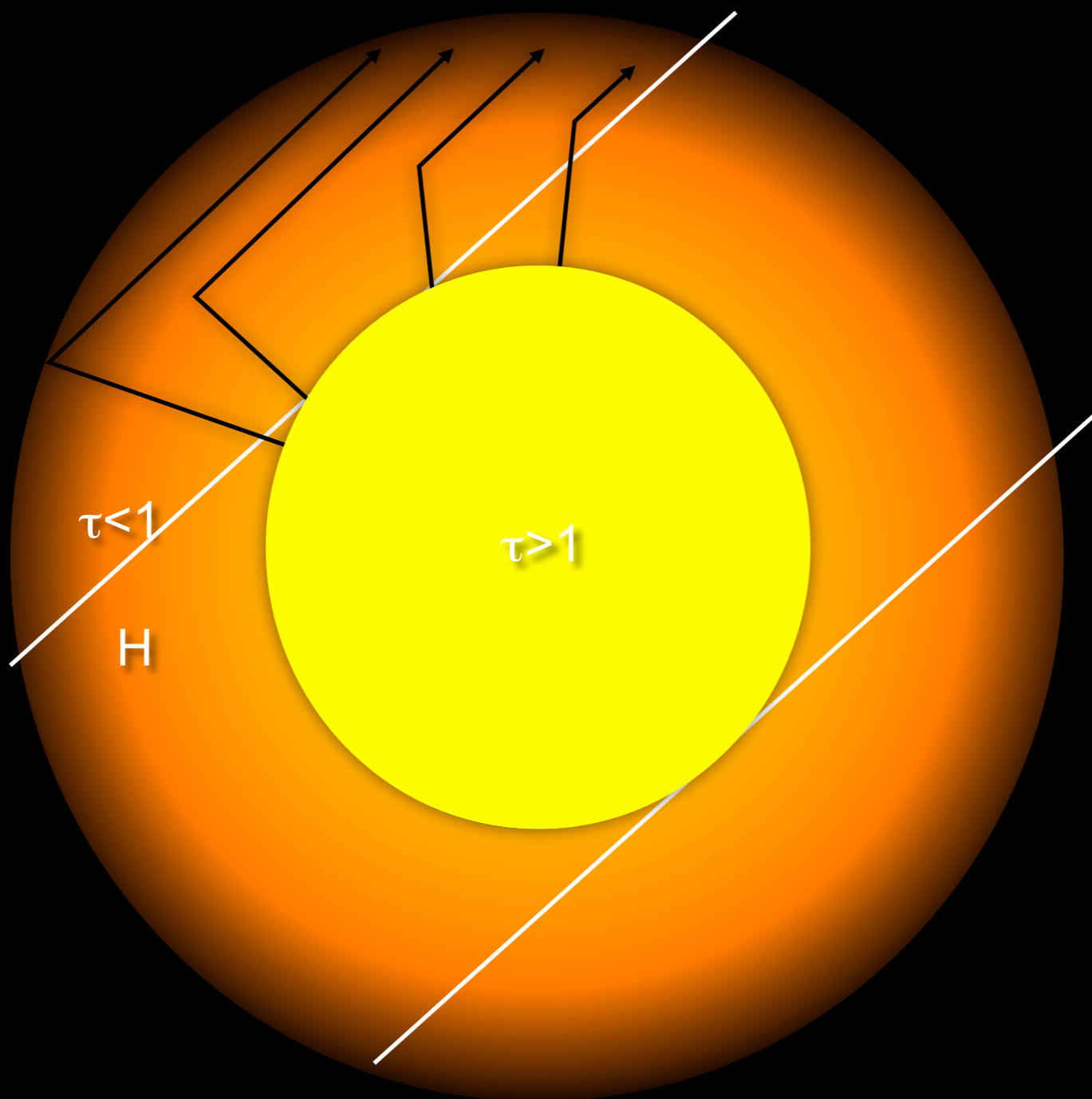




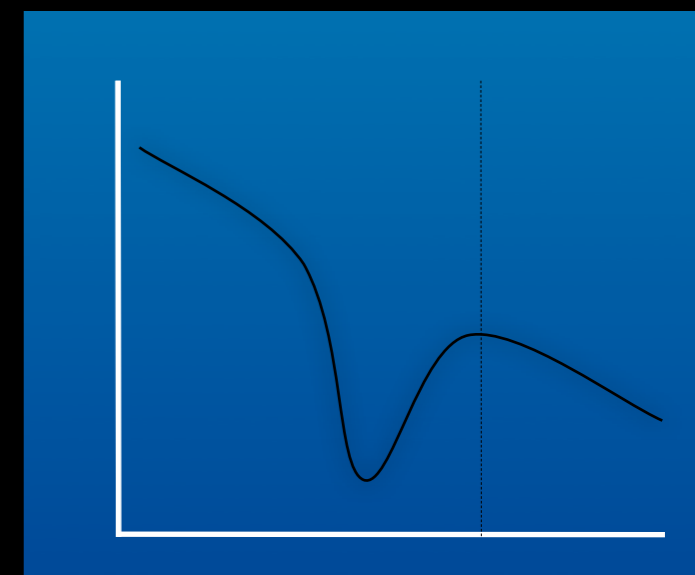
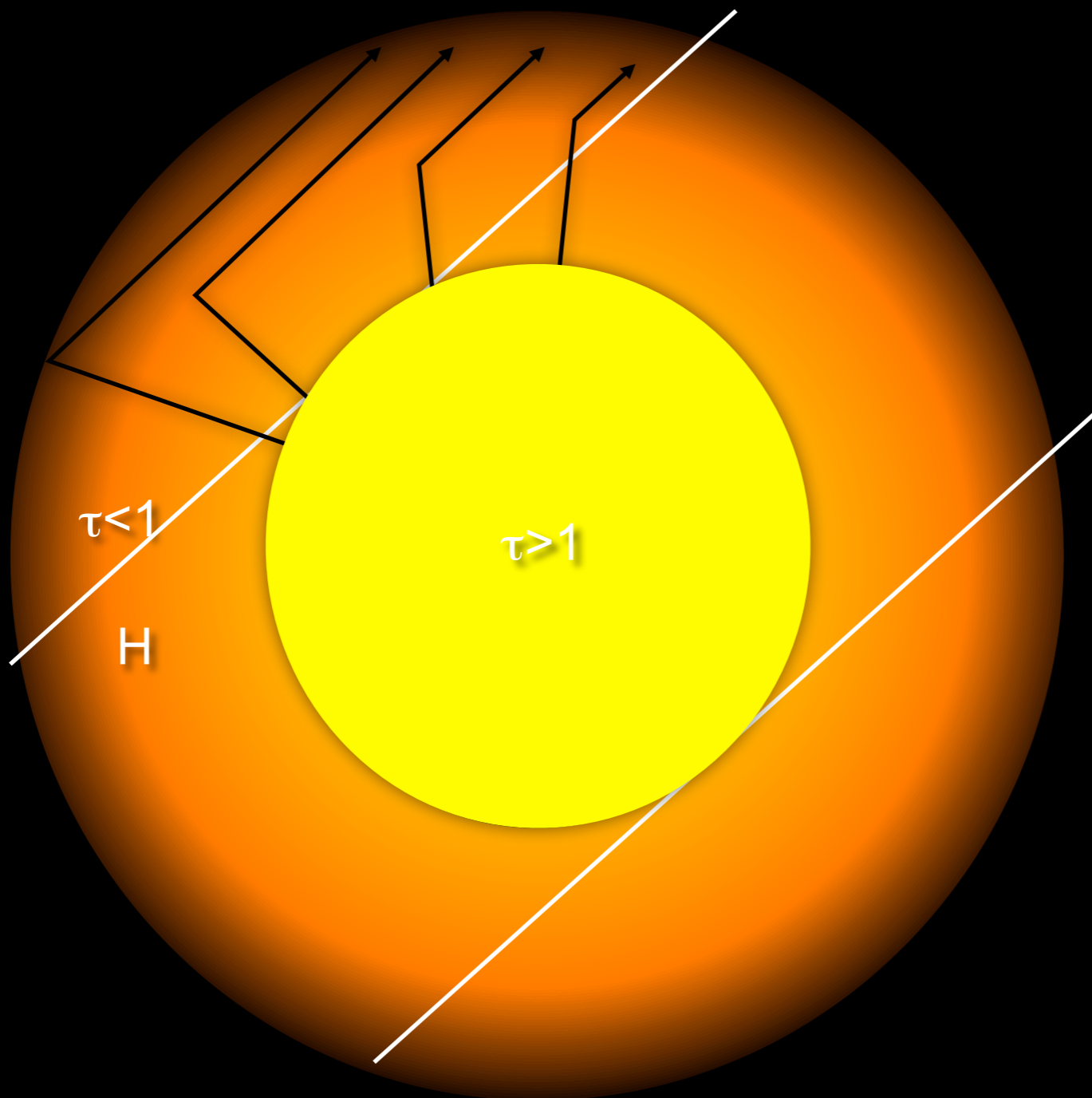




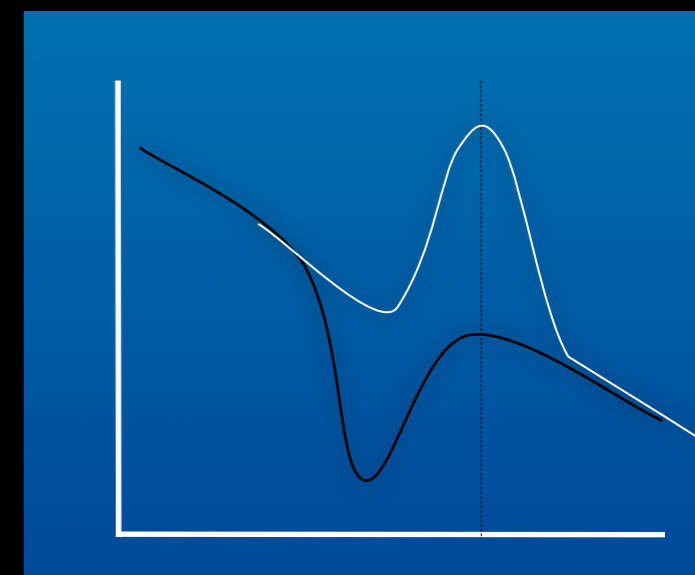
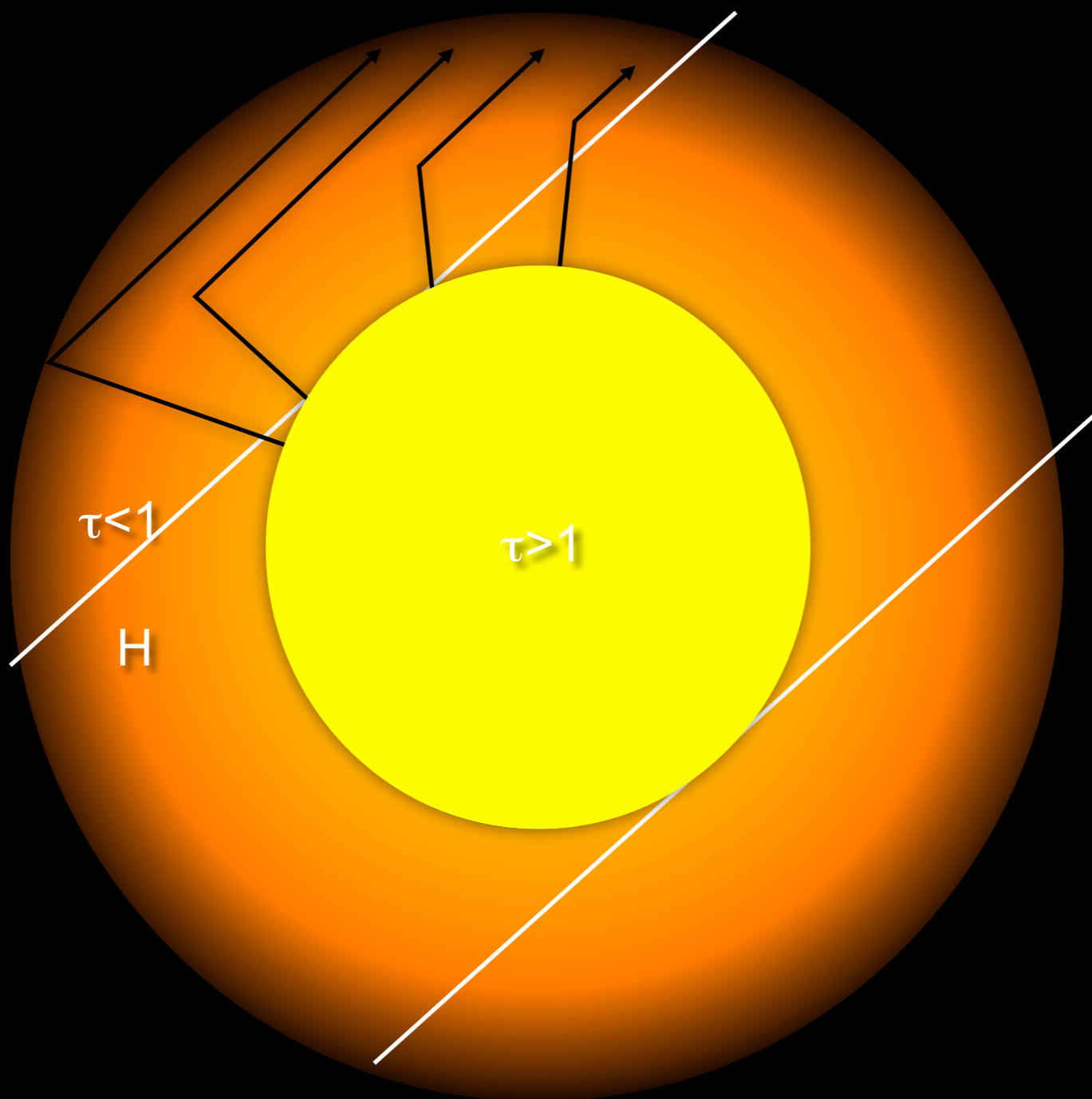




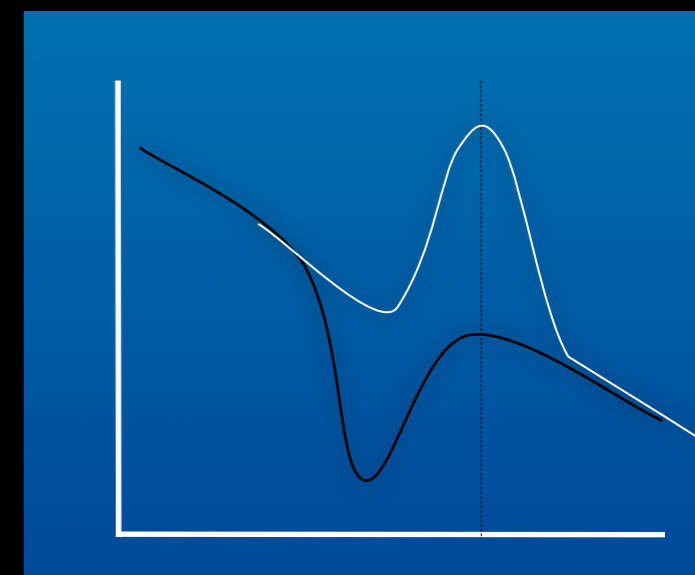
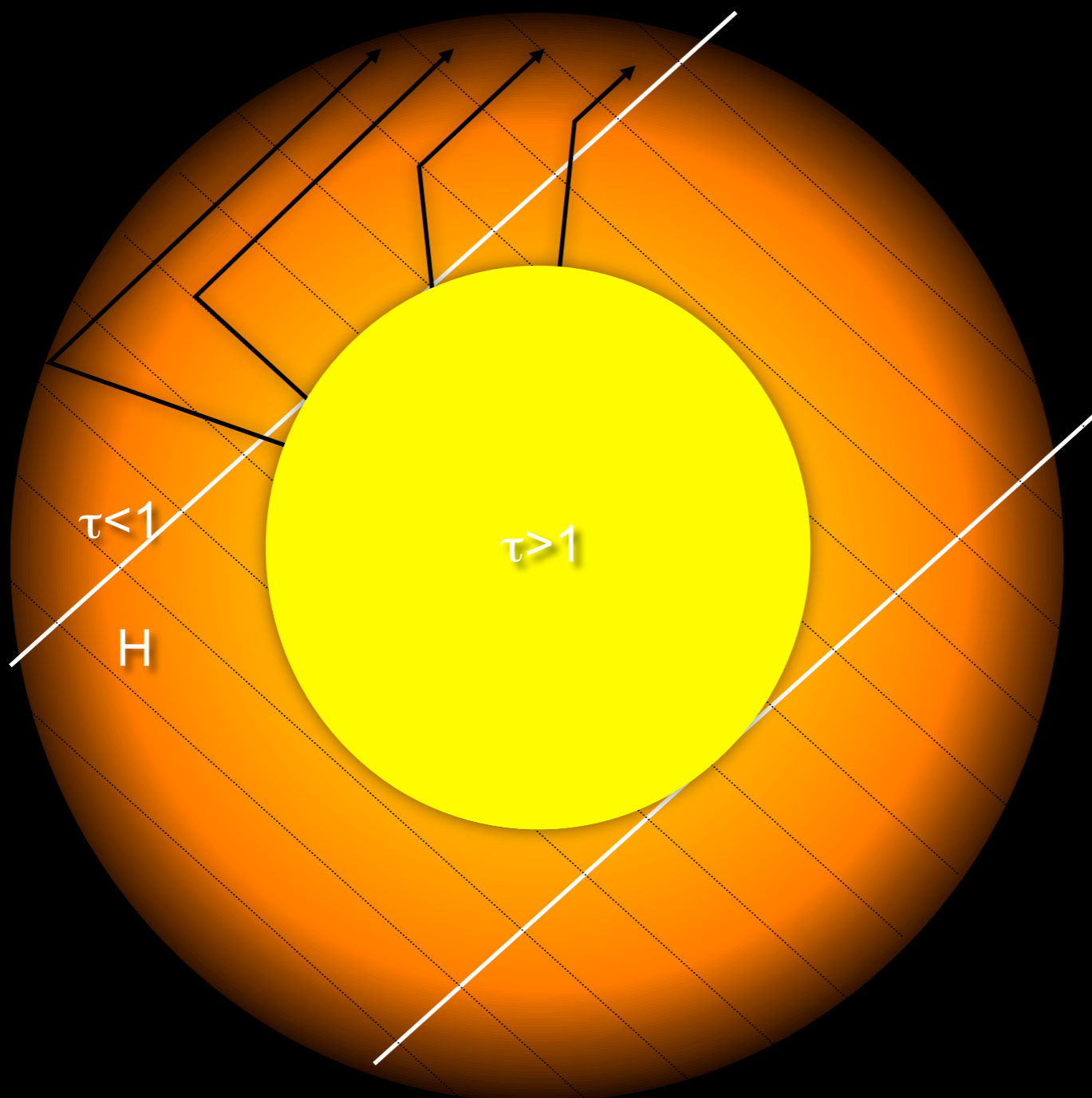




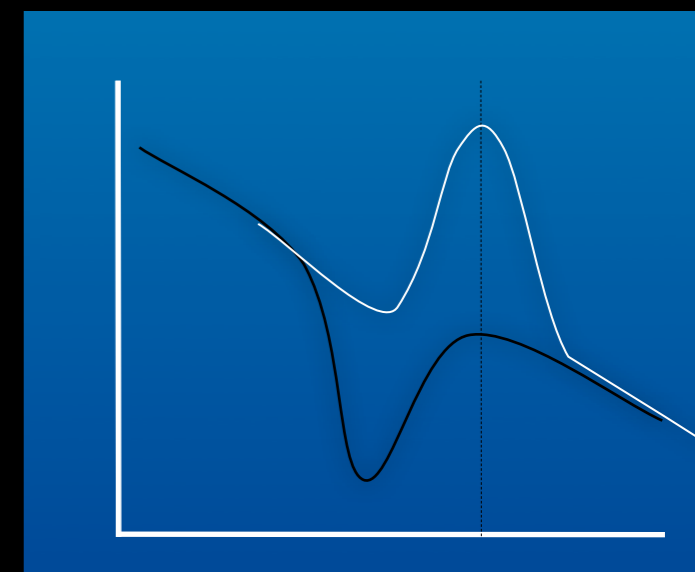
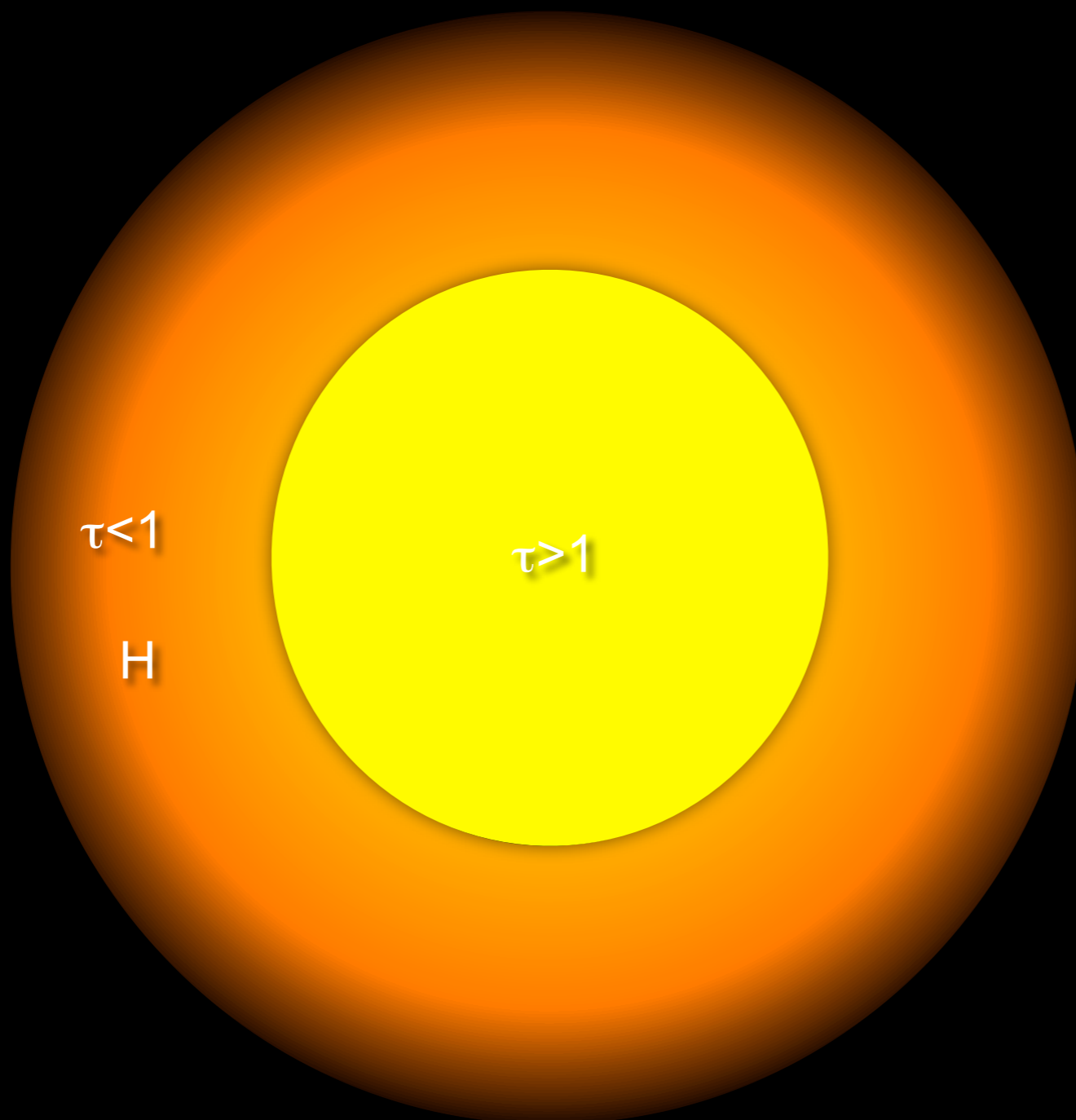




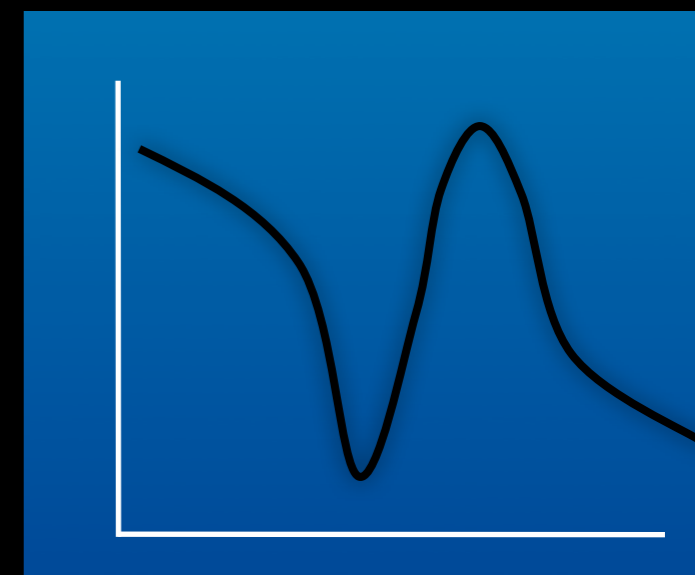
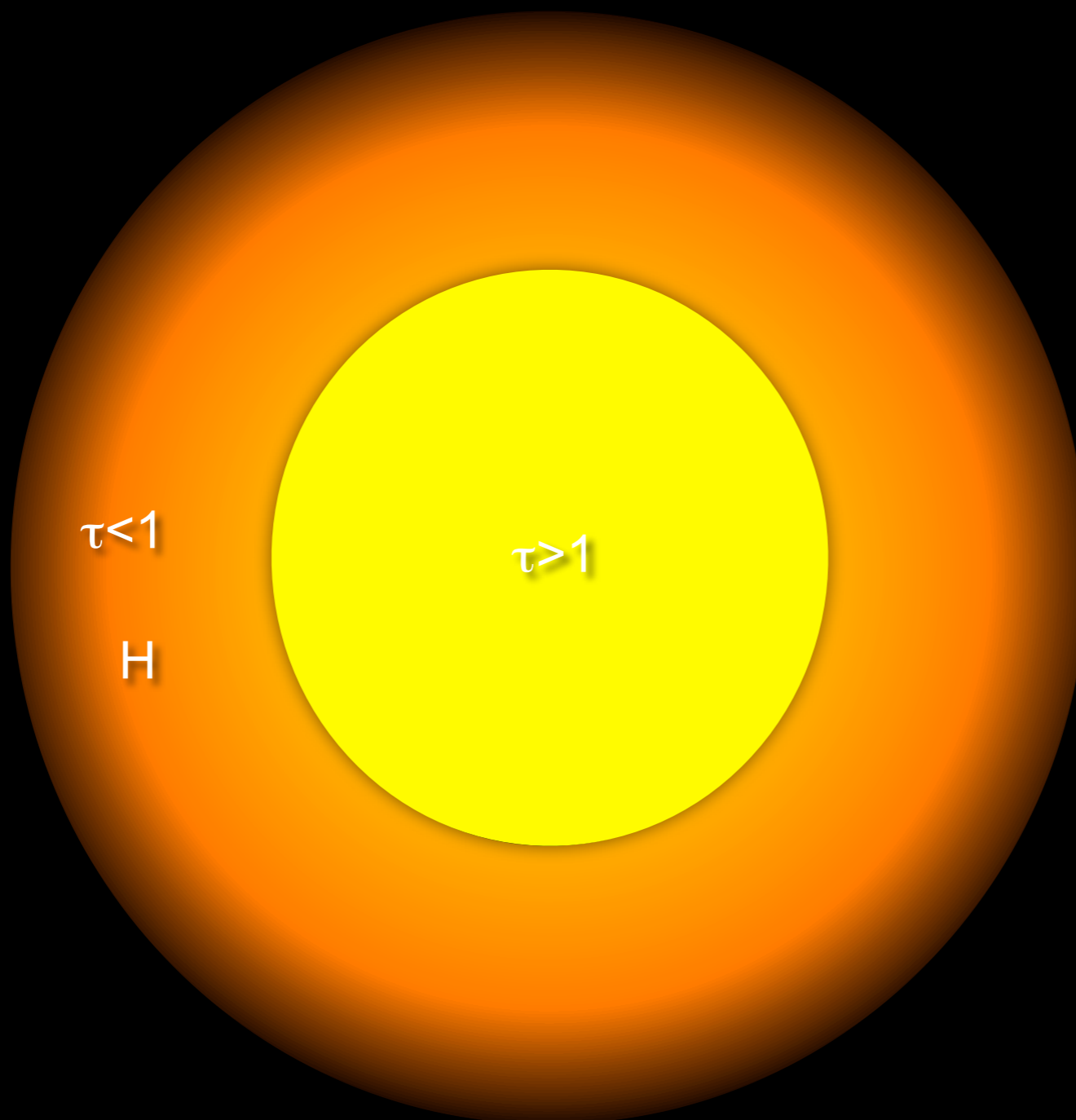




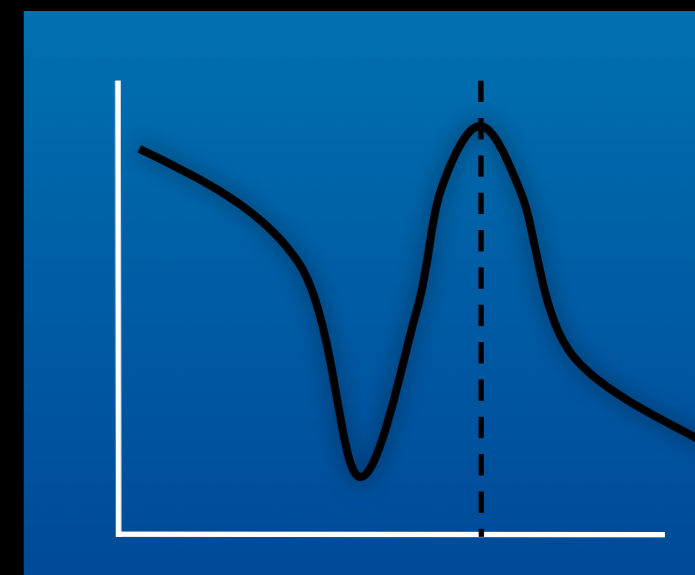
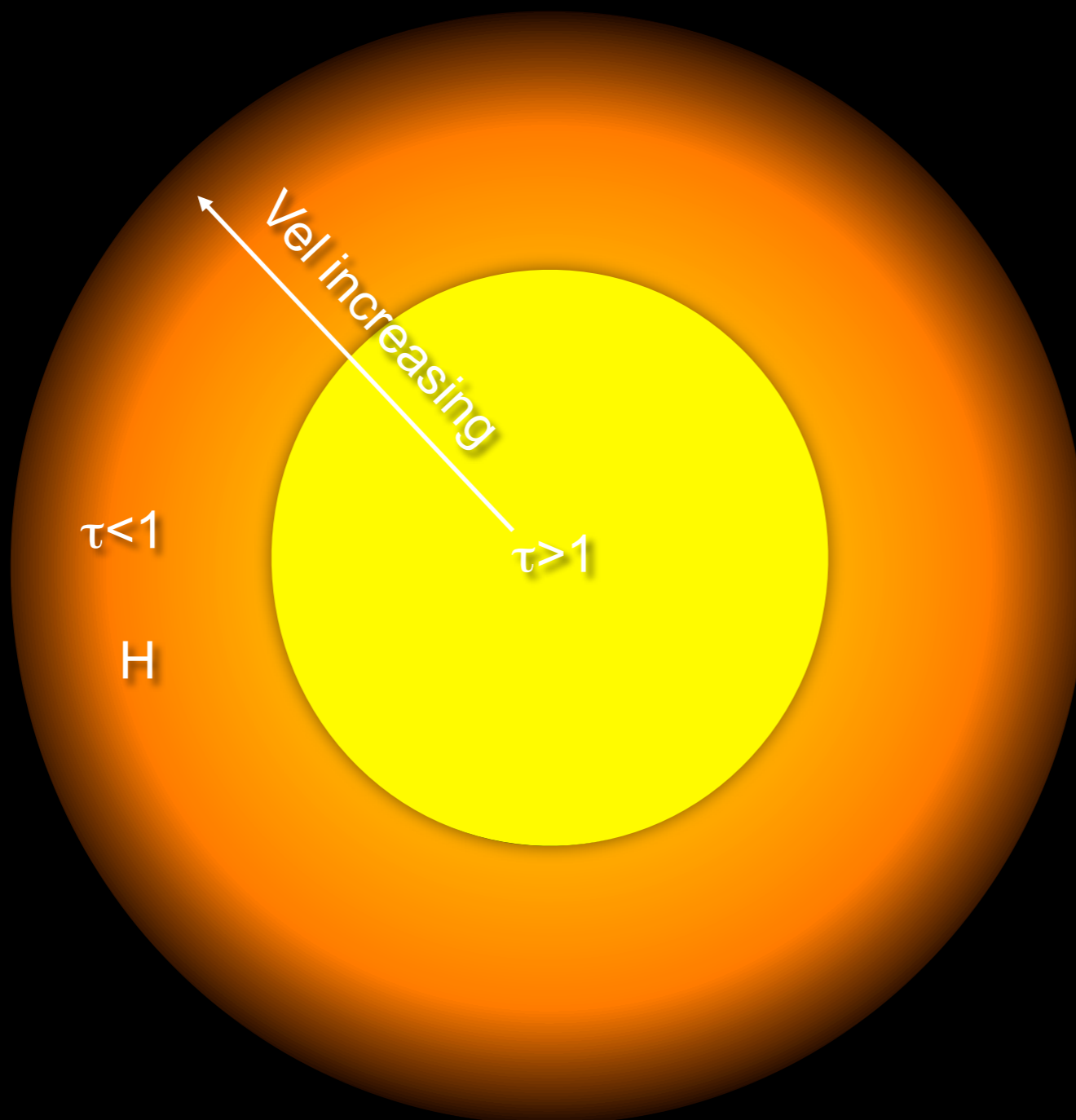




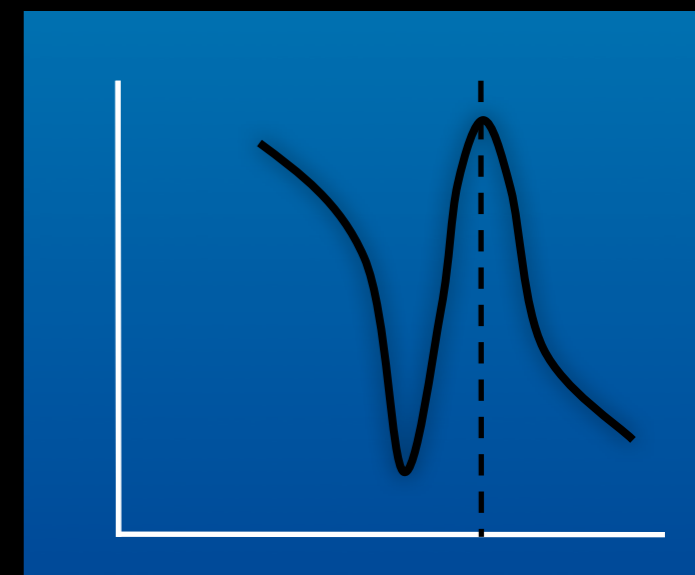
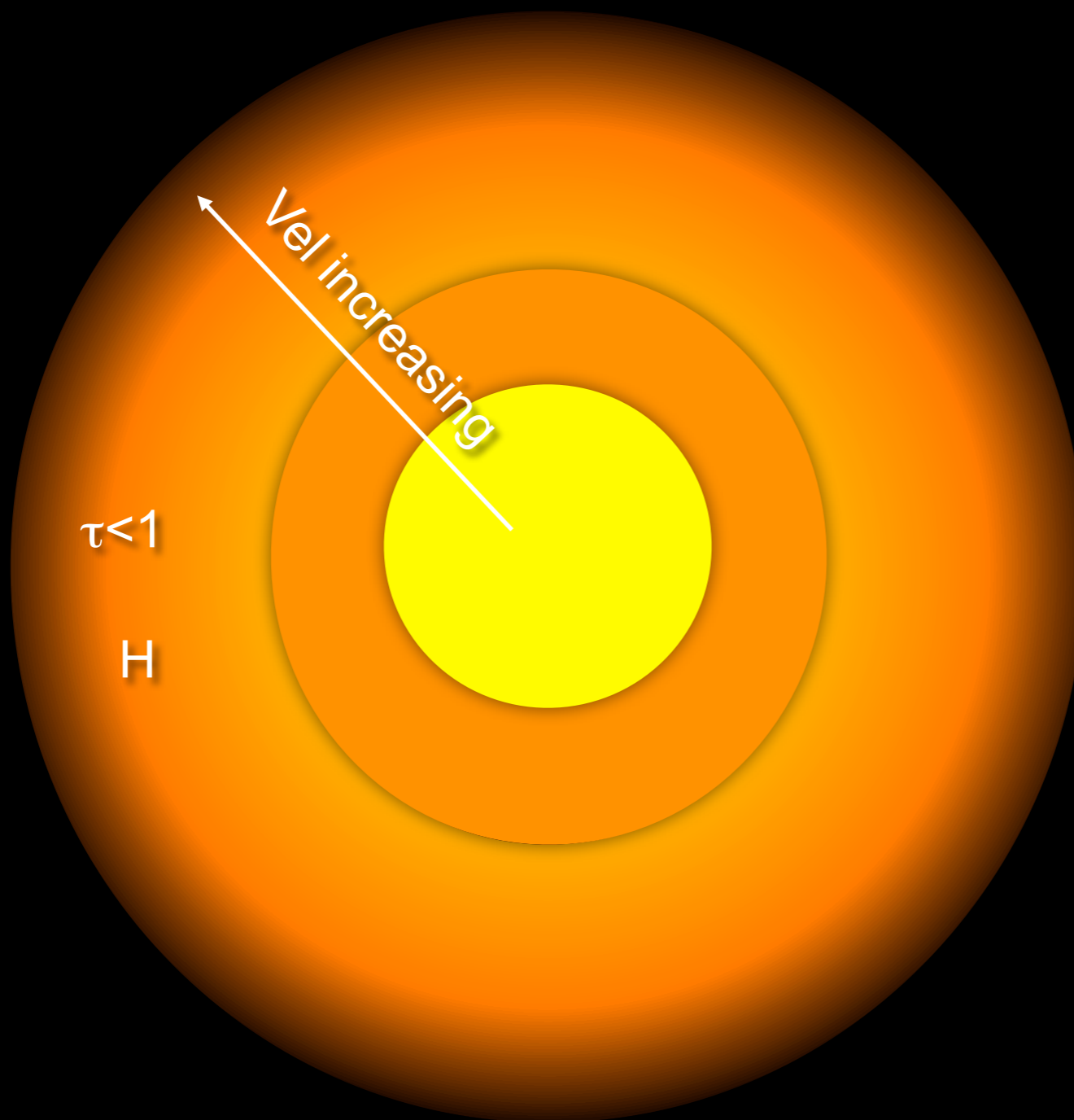




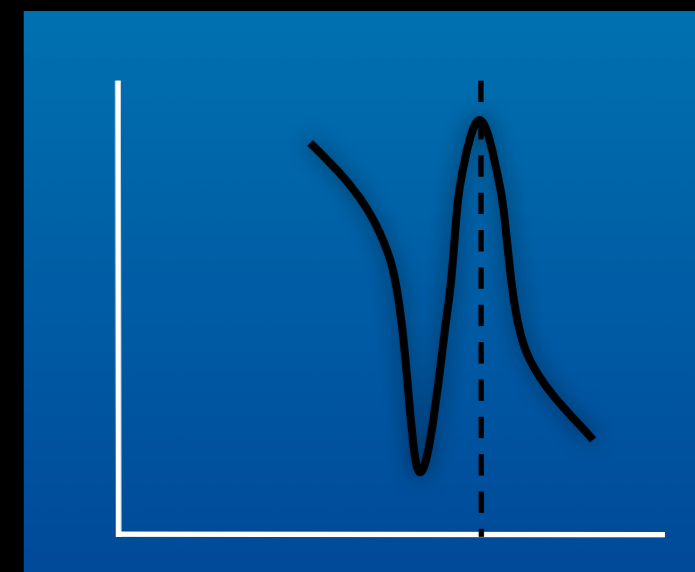
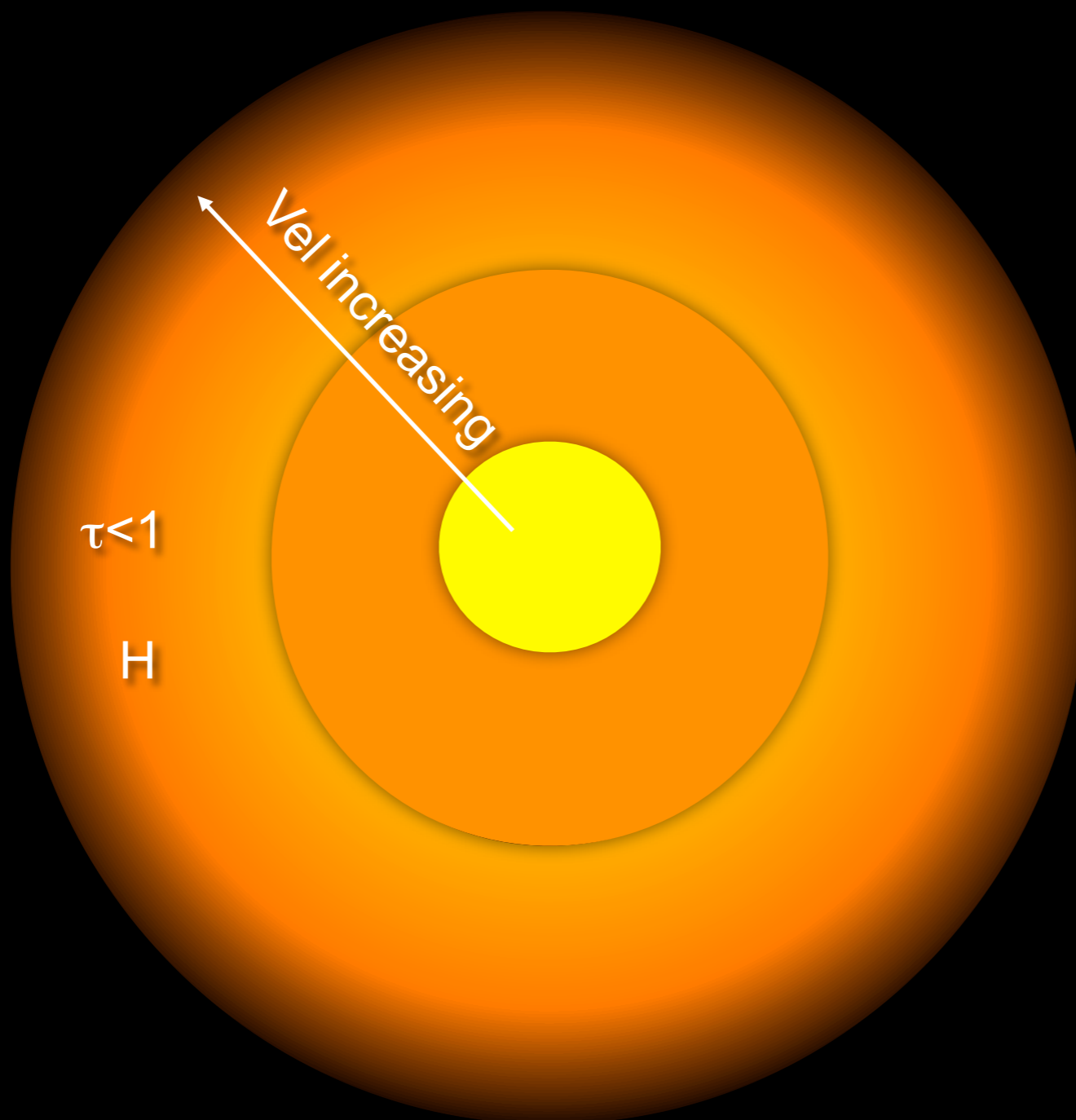














- So SN 1987A was a hot ball of expanding Hydrogen, Helium, with smaller amounts (Solar Abundance more or less) of heavier elements.
- As it aged, the expanding ball cooled from 15000 K to 5000K,
- And the photosphere moved inward from gas travelling more than 20,000km/s to about 2000 km/s



# Model the system...

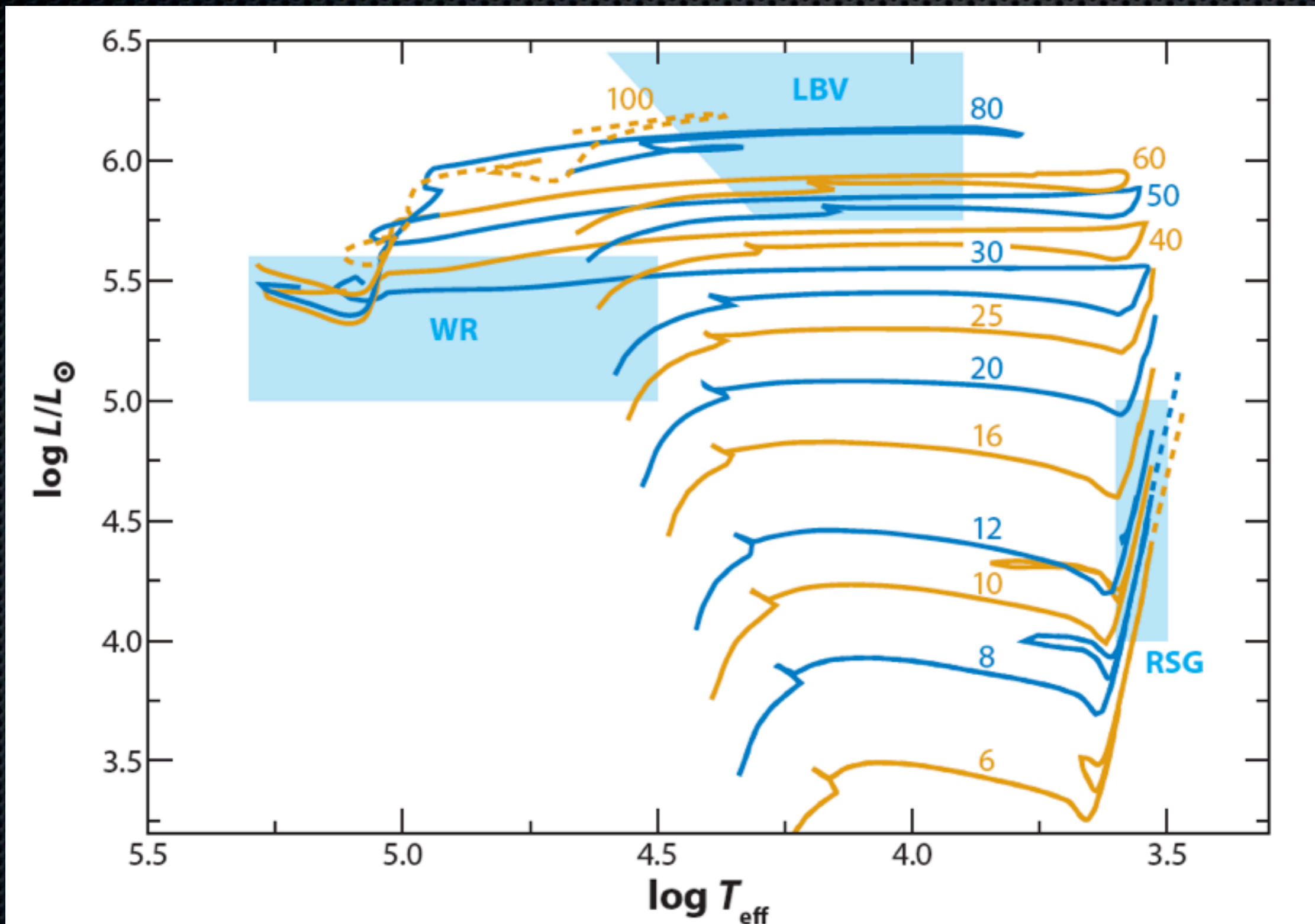
- ✦ Evolve a star
- ✦ Inject Energy in its center and let a hydrodynamics code follow the shock wave to expand the object
- ✦ Use a radiation Transfer code to model the spectrum of the object.
- ✦ Add some additional energy from due to  $^{56}\text{Ni}$

**SN 1987A:** 15 Solar Mass Blue Super Giant  
with  $10^{51}$  ergs ( $10^{44}$  Watts) of Energy and  
 $0.07M_{\odot}$   $^{56}\text{Ni}$



But Life is not simple...

Stellar evolution codes do not predict a star should be a blue supergiant when it explodes...







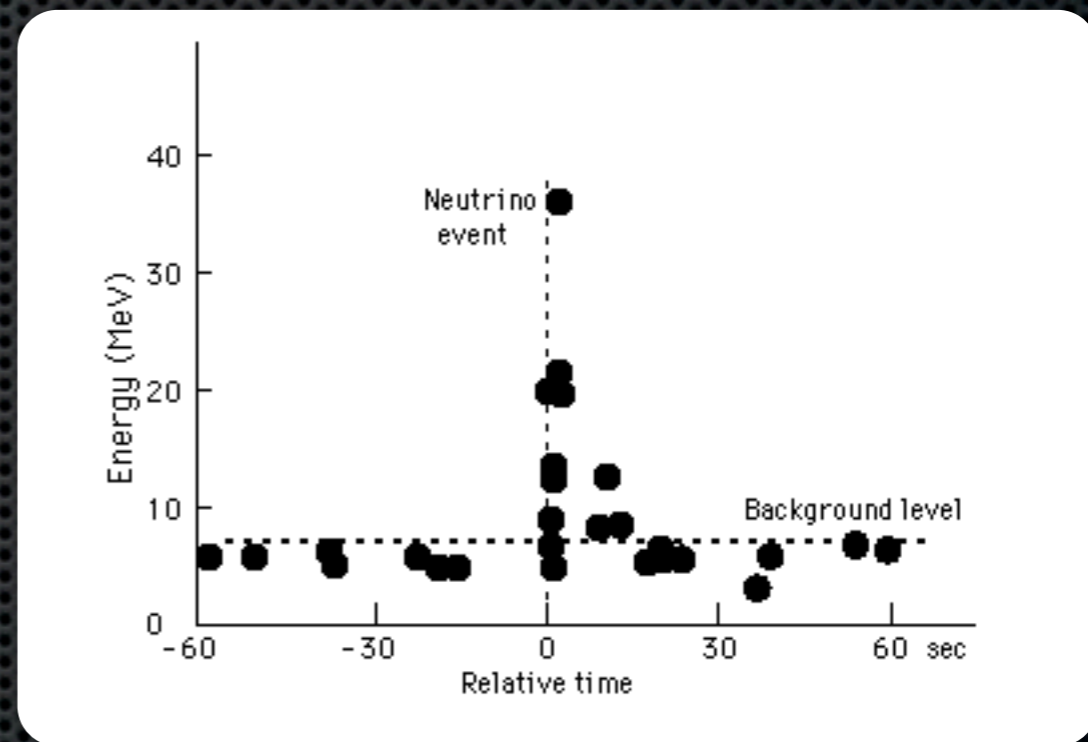






Event	Event time (s)	Electron energy (MeV)	Electron angle (degrees)
<b>Kamiokande II:</b>			
1	0.0	$20.0 \pm 2.9$	$18 \pm 18$
2	0.107	$13.5 \pm 3.2$	$40 \pm 27$
3	0.303	$7.5 \pm 2.0$	$108 \pm 32$
4	0.324	$9.2 \pm 2.7$	$70 \pm 30$
5	0.507	$12.8 \pm 2.9$	$135 \pm 23$
6	0.686	$6.3 \pm 1.7$	$68 \pm 77$
7	1.541	$35.4 \pm 8.0$	$32 \pm 16$
8	1.728	$21.0 \pm 4.2$	$30 \pm 18$
9	1.915	$19.8 \pm 3.2$	$38 \pm 22$
10	9.219	$8.6 \pm 2.7$	$122 \pm 30$
11	10.433	$13.0 \pm 2.6$	$49 \pm 26$
12	12.439	$8.9 \pm 1.9$	$91 \pm 39$
<b>IMB:</b>			
1	0.0	$38 \pm 7$	$80 \pm 10$
2	0.41	$37 \pm 7$	$44 \pm 15$
3	0.65	$28 \pm 6$	$56 \pm 20$
4	1.14	$39 \pm 7$	$65 \pm 20$
5	1.56	$36 \pm 9$	$33 \pm 15$
6	2.68	$36 \pm 6$	$52 \pm 10$
7	5.01	$19 \pm 5$	$42 \pm 20$
8	5.58	$22 \pm 5$	$104 \pm 20$

<sup>a</sup> The first events were detected on February 23, 1987, at about 7 hr 36 m UT. The angle in the last column is relative to the direction of the LMC. The errors are estimated  $1\sigma$  uncertainties.

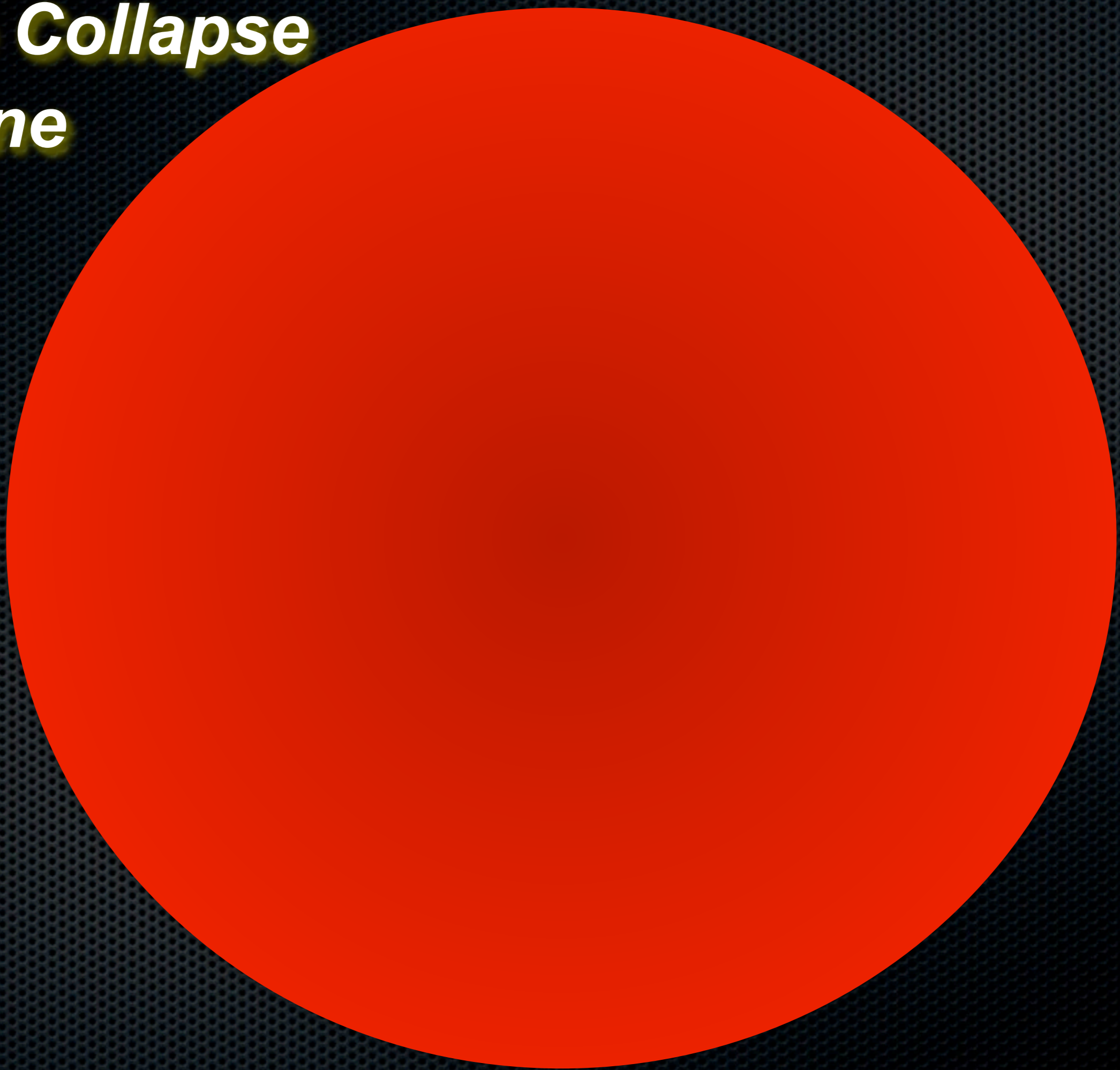




# ***Core Collapse Engine***



# ***Core Collapse Engine***





# ***Core Collapse Engine***

**Oxygen Burning**



# **Core Collapse Engine**

**Oxygen Burning  
Silicon Burning**

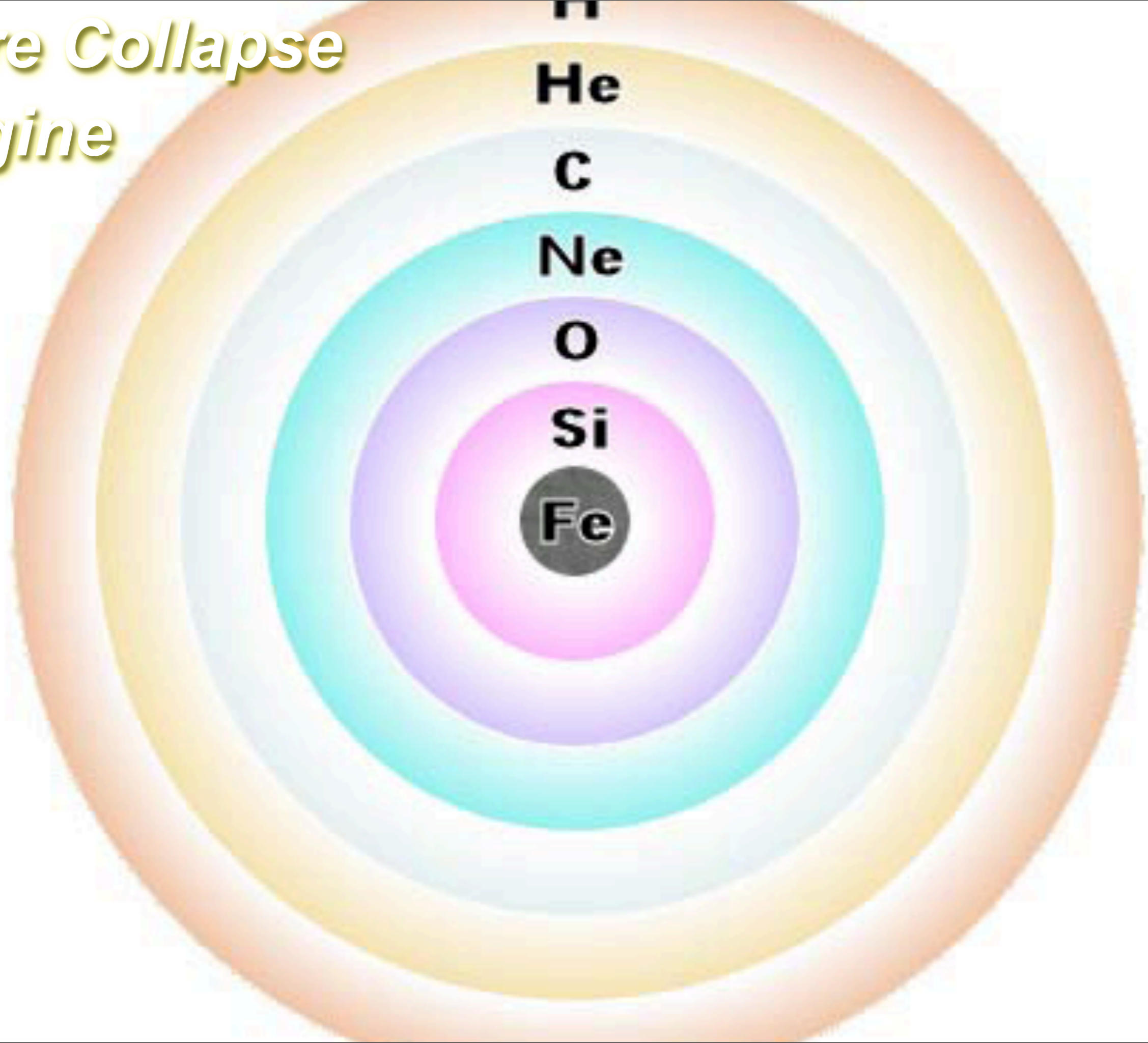


# **Core Collapse Engine**

**Oxygen Burning**  
**Silicon Burning**  
**Iron Burning**

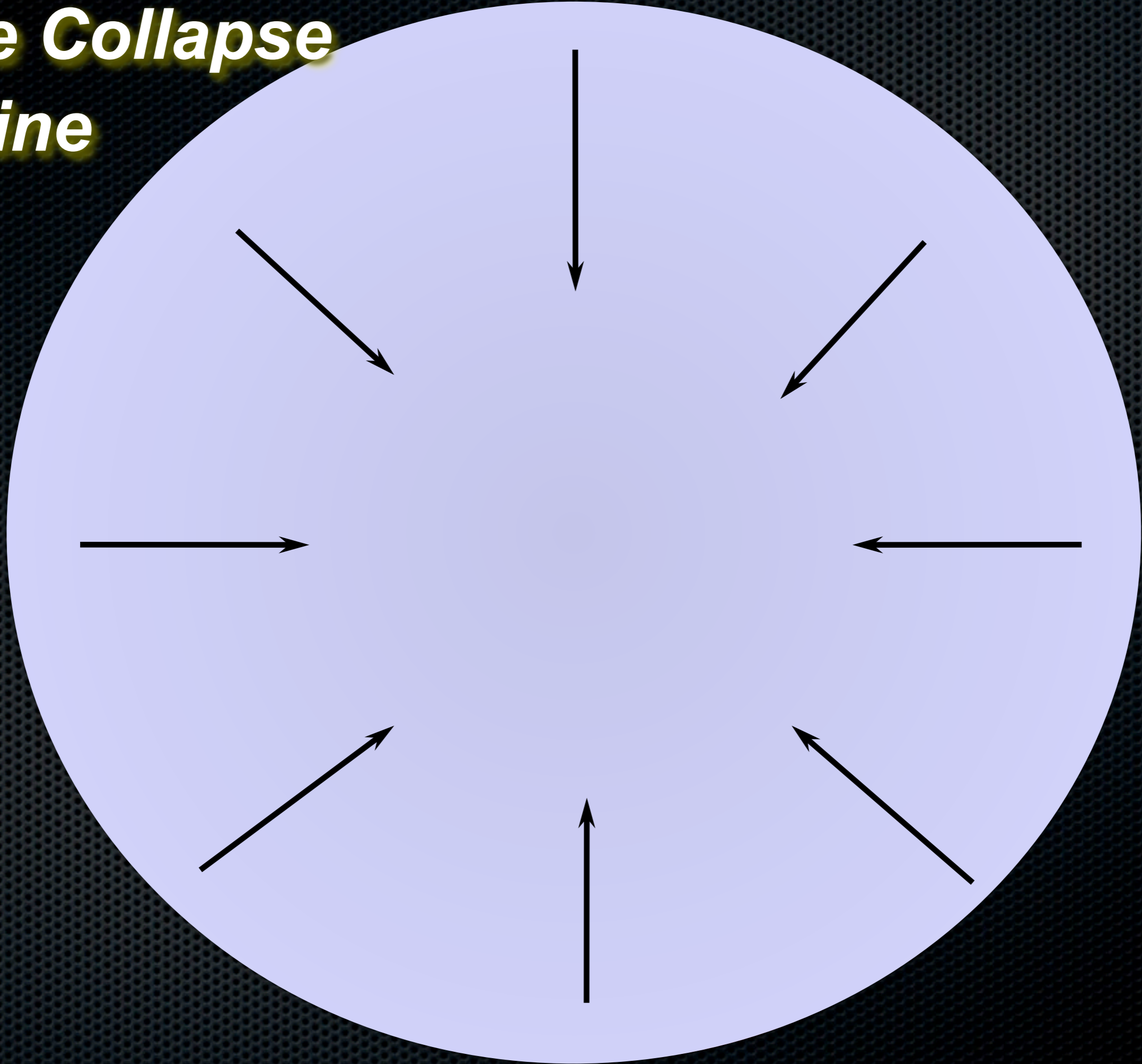


*Core Collapse  
Engine*





# **Core Collapse Engine**





# ***Core Collapse Engine***





# Core Collapse Engine

*Forming Neutron Star*

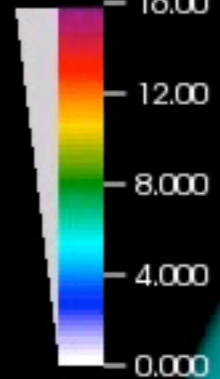




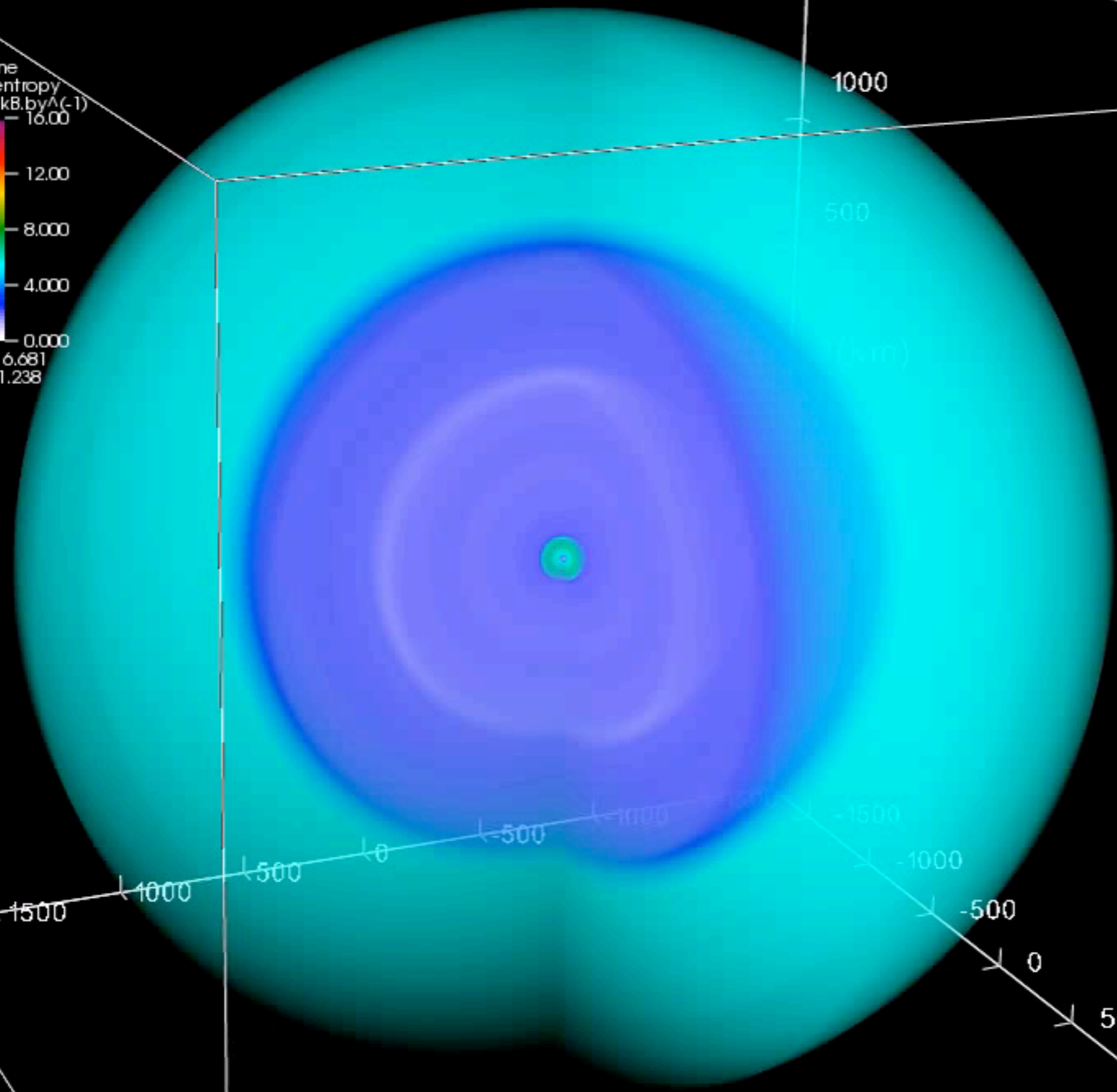




Volume  
Var: entropy  
Units: kB.by<sup>(-1)</sup>



Max: 6.681  
Min: 1.238



1500

1000

500

(km)

1500

1000

500

0

-500

-1000

-1500

-1000

-500

0

500

1000

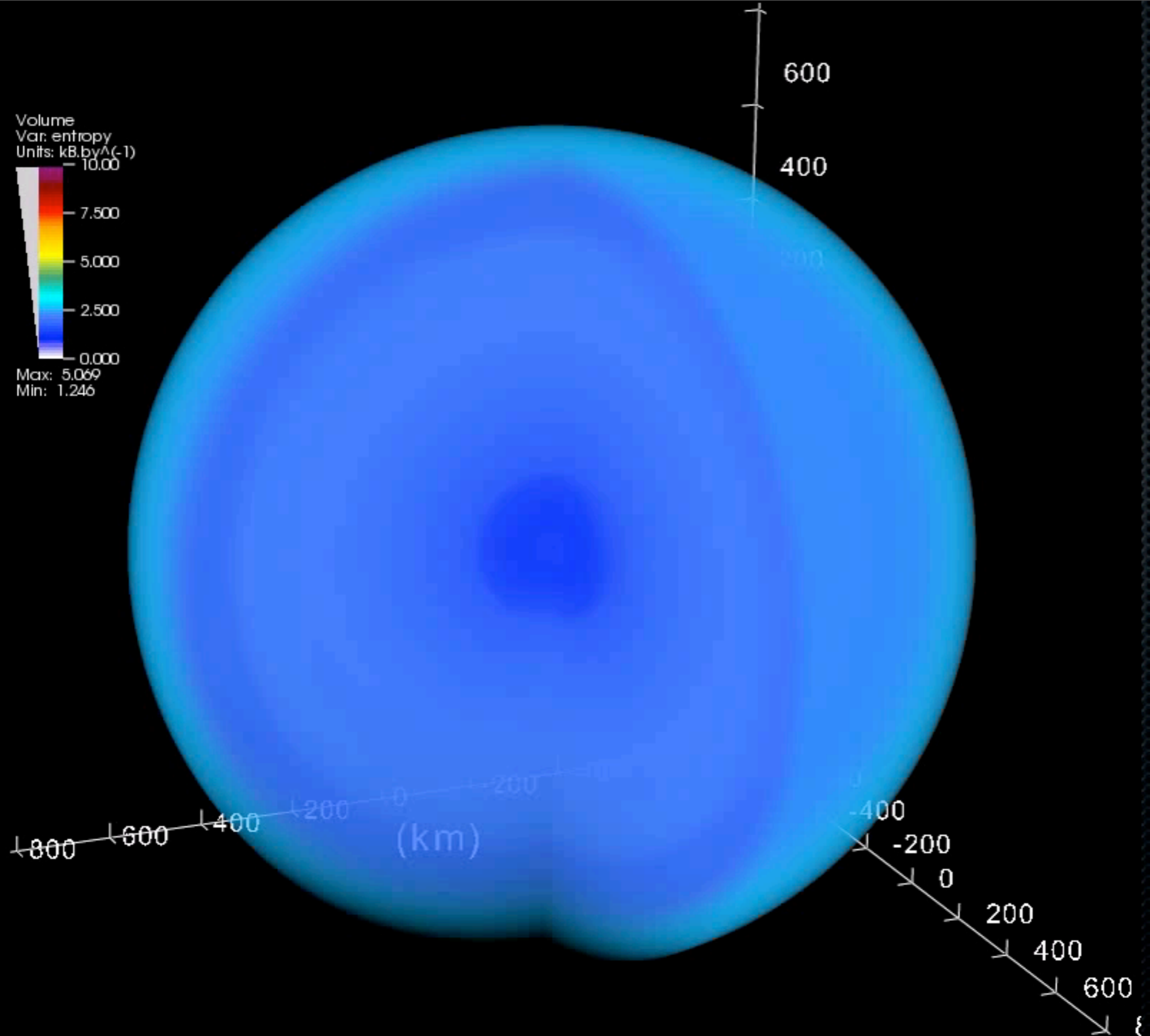
time=0.0130 s







Volume  
Var: entropy  
Units: kB.by<sup>-1</sup>  
10.00  
7.500  
5.000  
2.500  
0.000  
Max: 5.069  
Min: 1.246



time=0.0000 s

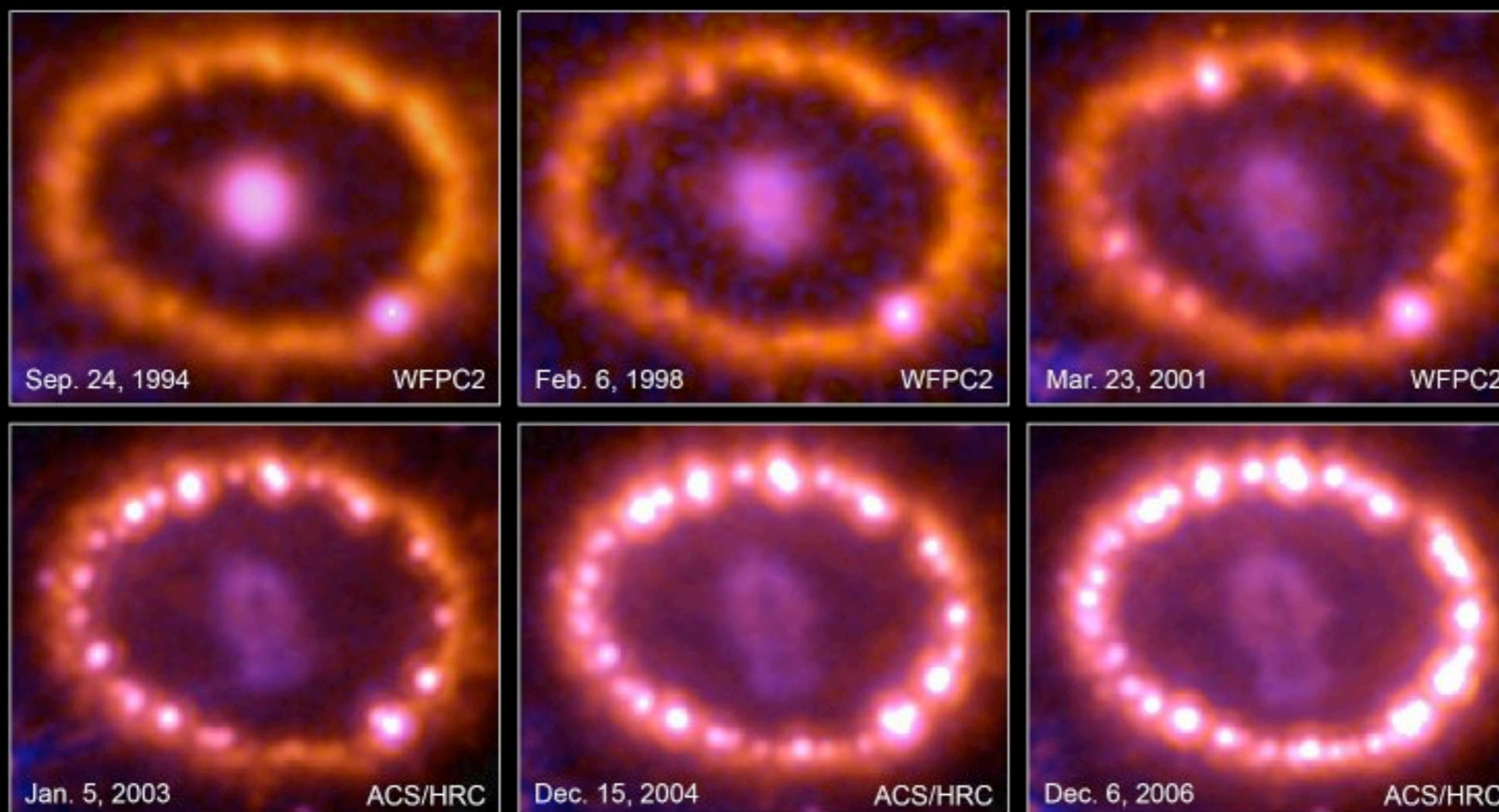


# Picture is not yet clear

- Various Groups can get 8-11  $M_{\odot}$  Stars to explode  
Because Graviational Binding Energy is less
- But with higher mass stars, how and when objects explode depends on who is blowing them up.
- Yet, we are pretty sure that some of these do explode as Supernovae - like SN 1987A



# SN 1987A inner core



**Supernova 1987A • 1994-2006**  
*Hubble Space Telescope • WFPC2 • ACS*

NASA, ESA, P. Challis, and R. Kirshner (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics)

STScI-PRC07-10b



# Nucleosynthesis in Core Collapse Objects

- ✦ Core Supernovae are thought to be responsible for enriching the Universe with most elements between Carbon and Uranium
- ✦ Yields as a function of mass are key input to people who model the chemical evolution of the Universe



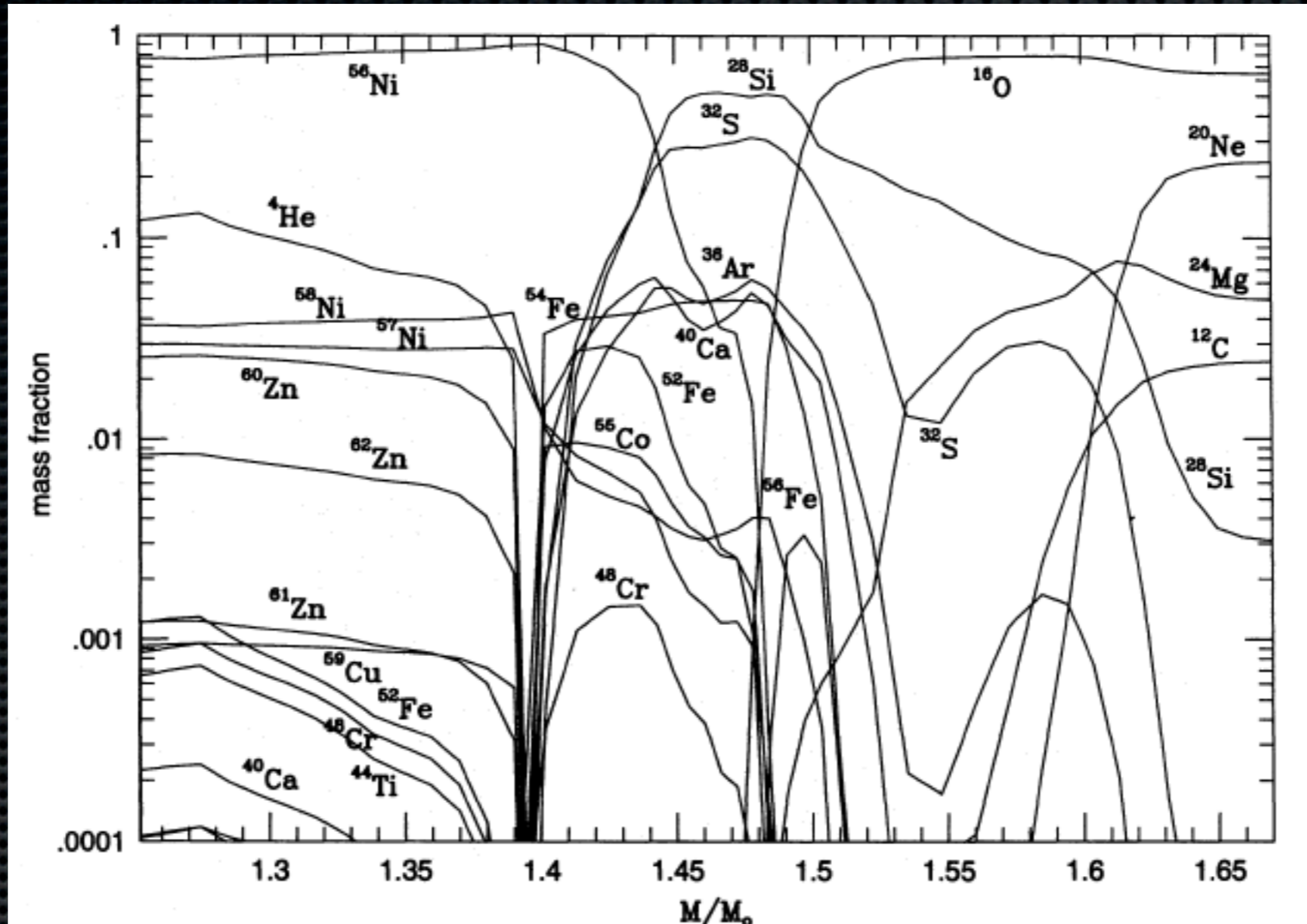
# Nuclear Yields

- Take models of Stars of 8,9,10...40,50,60  $M_{\odot}$
- Explode them simply, by putting an impulse of energy in their centre.
- Calculate nucleosynthesis in 1-d
- Play with mass cut to give appropriate  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  amounts and where data not available, make physical guess, or choose to match observations.
- Integrate using number of stars as a function of mass.

**Seems to work!** - at least in the average. But we know the physics is so much more complicated...

Dangerous to assume these are right - especially when applied to individual stars.



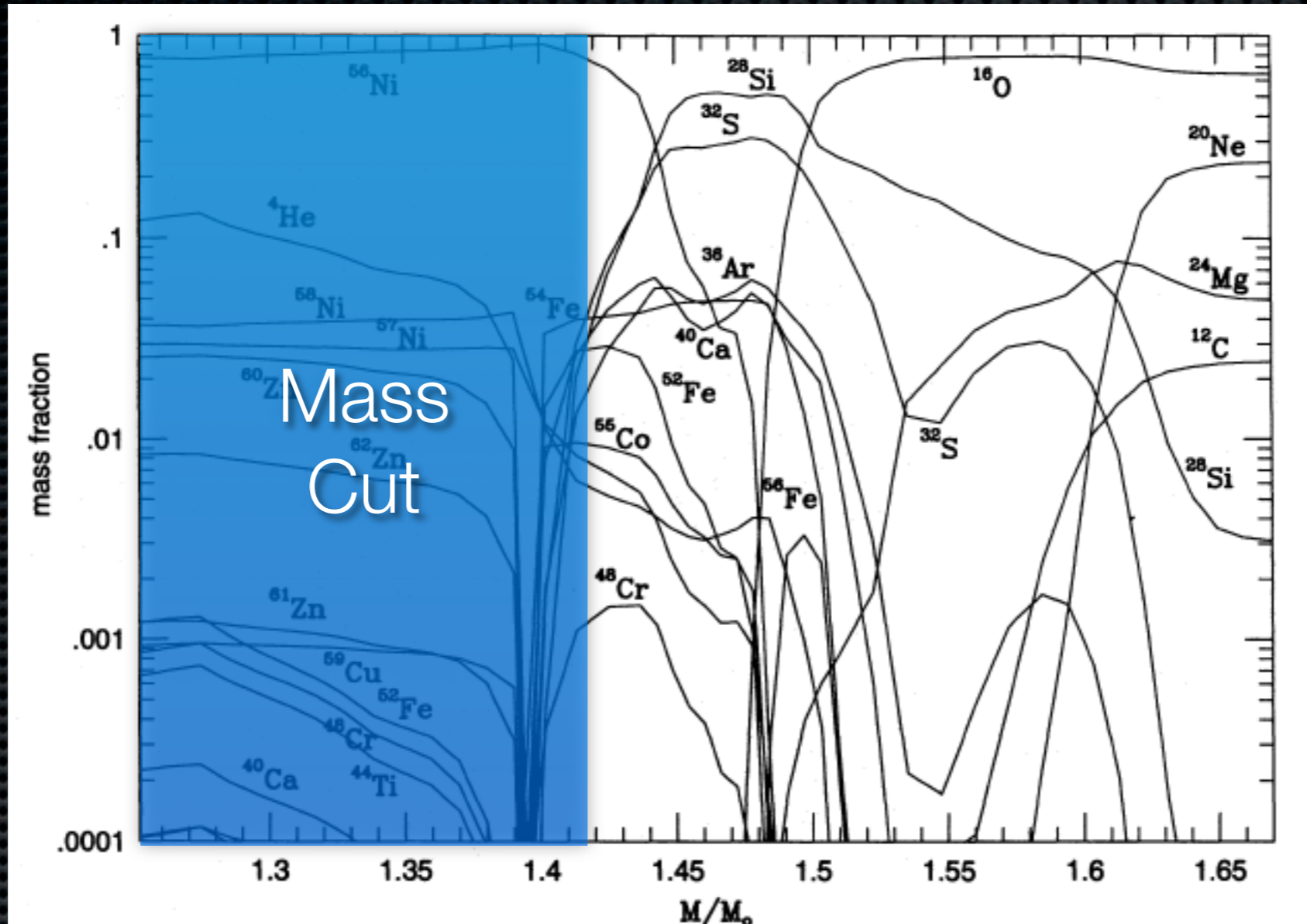


# Yield of a 13M<sub>⊙</sub> Star

Thielemann, Nomoto, & Hashimoto

Chieffi and Limongi (04), Woosley Weaver 95





# Yield of a $13M_{\odot}$ Star

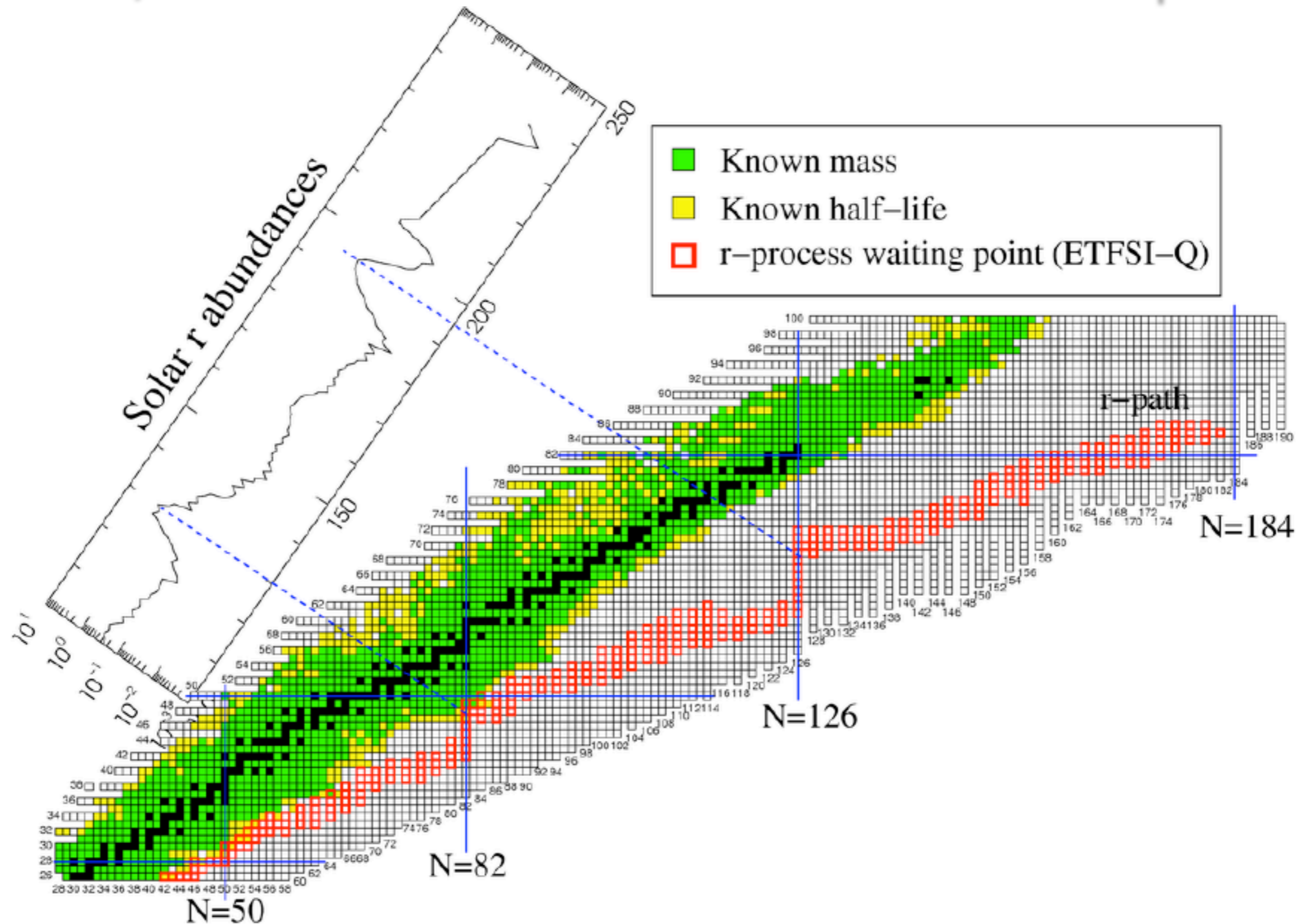
Thielemann, Nomoto, & Hashimoto

Chieffi and Limongi (04), Woosley Weaver 95



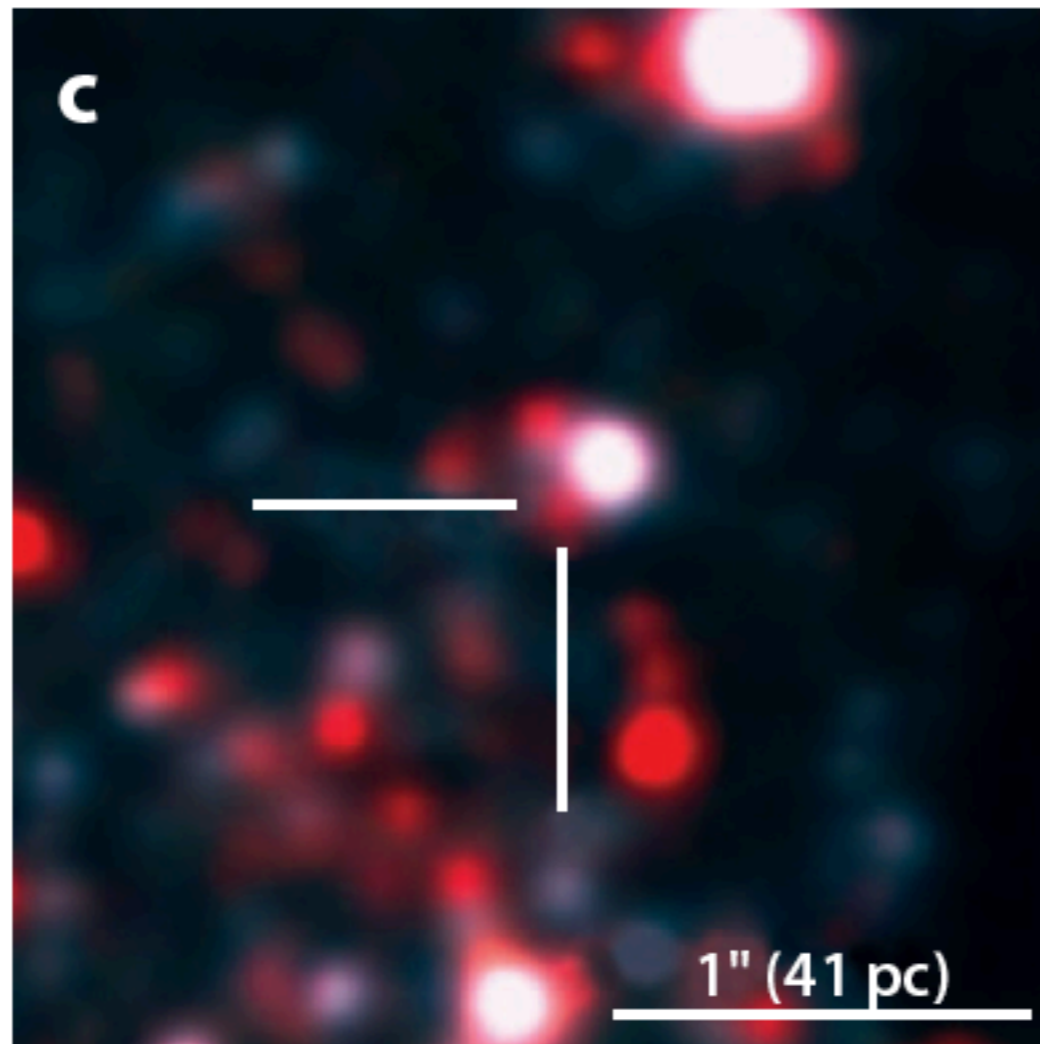
# The R-Process - Heavy Elements

Assumed, but not shown to occur in Core Collapse SN

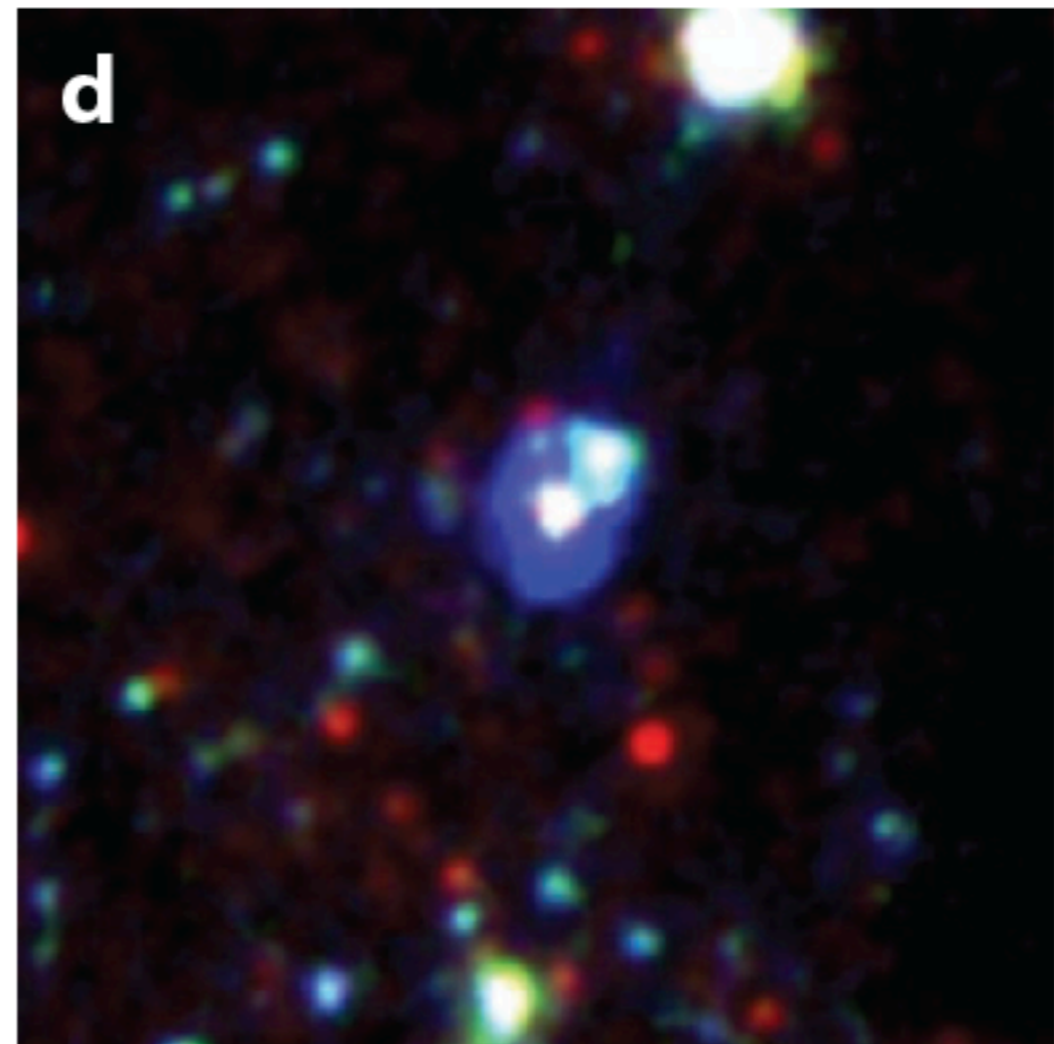




WFC F439W, F555W, F814W

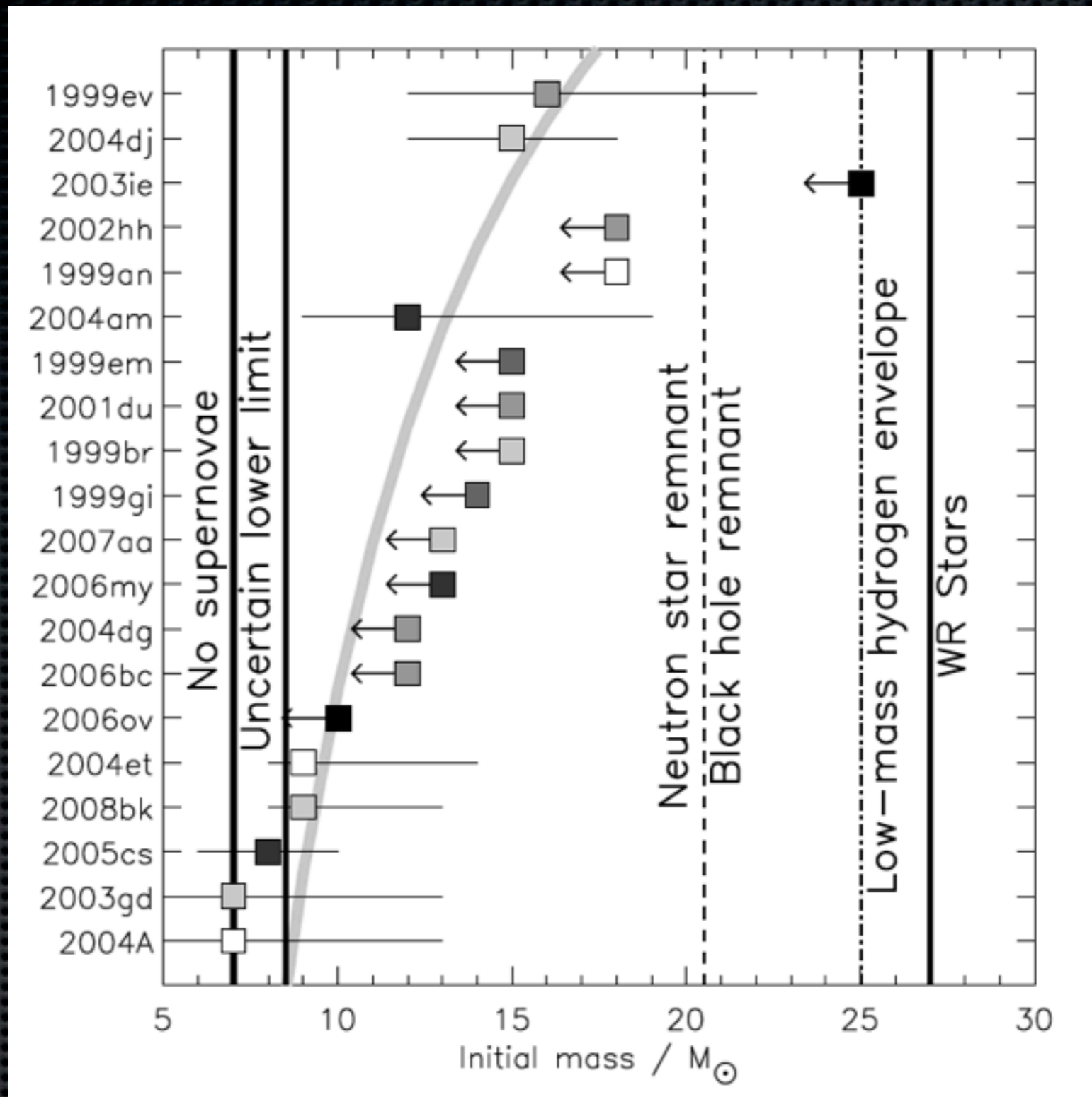


ACS HRC F330W, F555W, F814W



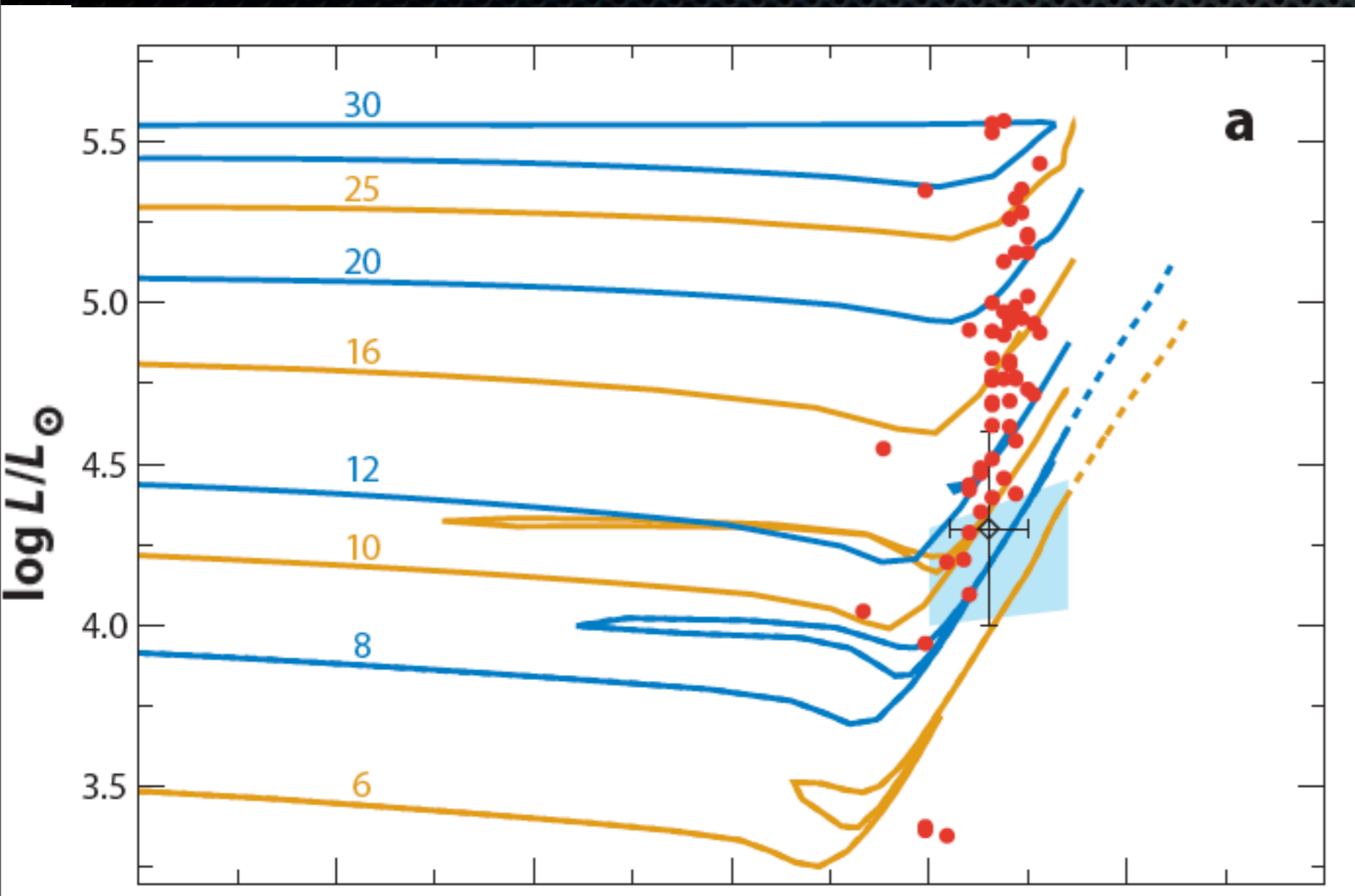
So what explodes as a SN II  
HST (and some 8-m) images of galaxies before  
stars explode  
Smartt 10 ARAA





Low mass limit for SN II:  $8.5 \pm 1 M_{\odot}$  Smartt 10 ARAA  
 High mass limit for SN II?????:  $16.5 \pm 1.5 M_{\odot}$

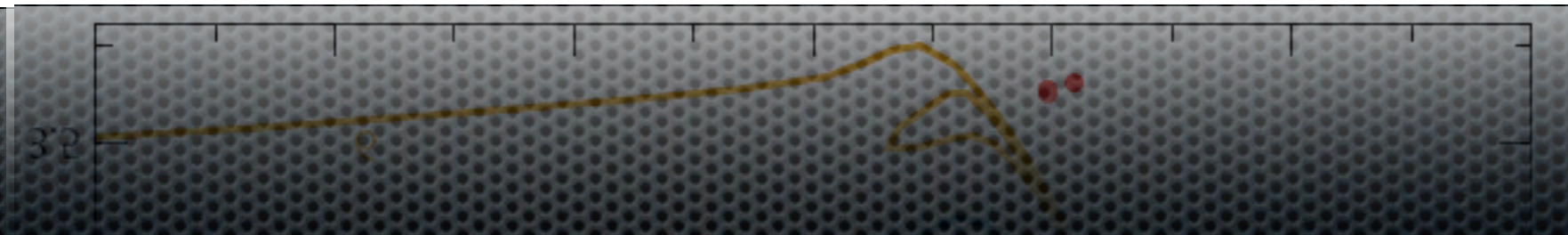




There are stars larger than 16  $M_{\odot}$  which should core collapse.

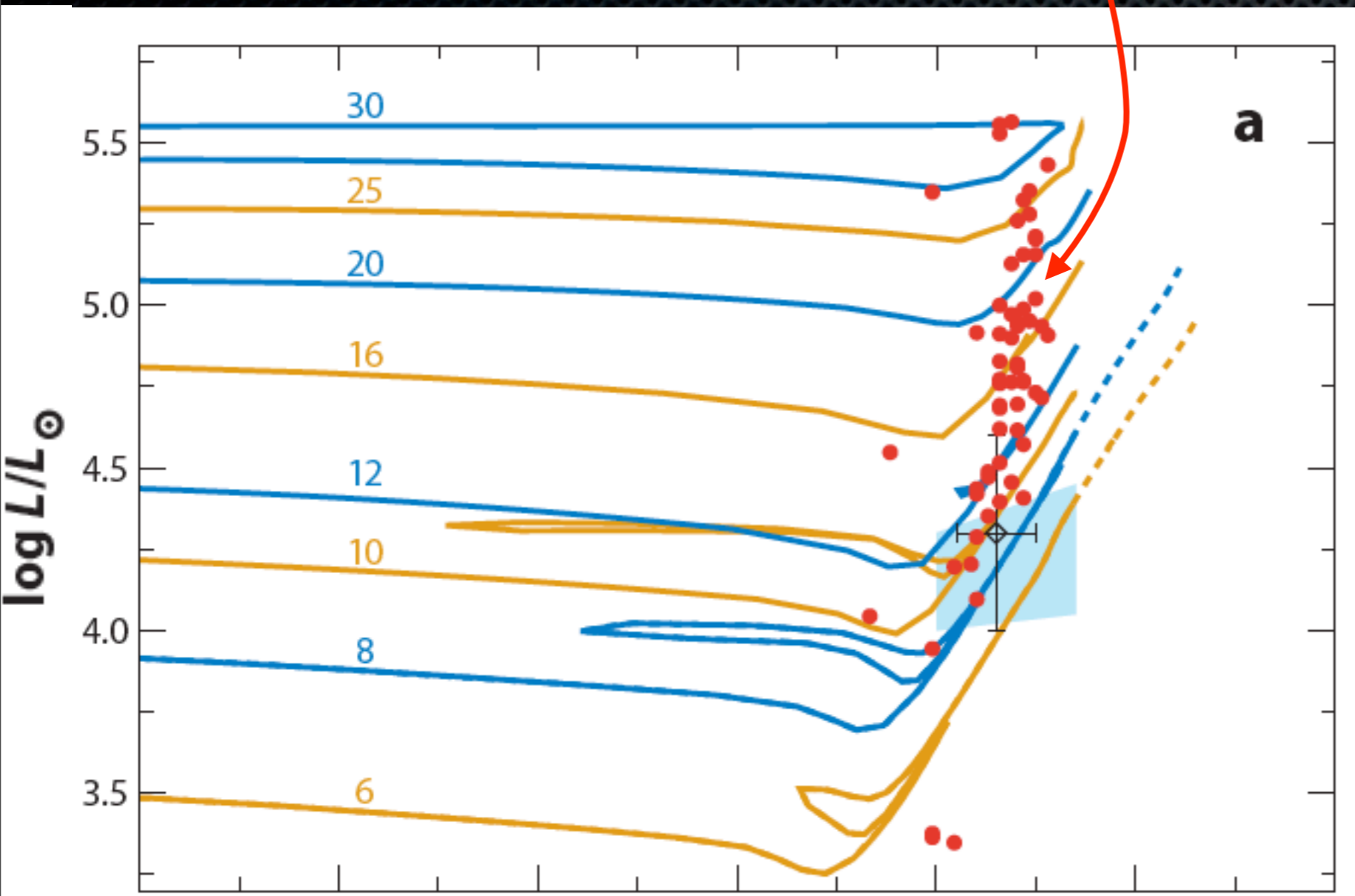
Perhaps they do not explode!

Smartt 10 ARAA





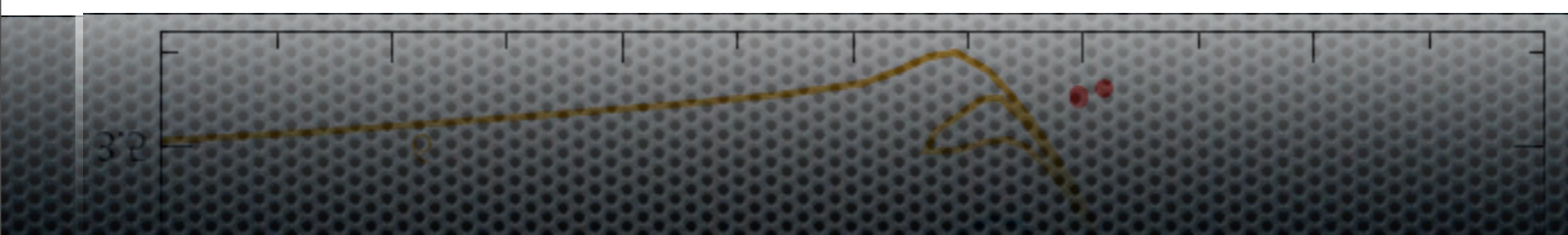
# Red Giants in Milky Way



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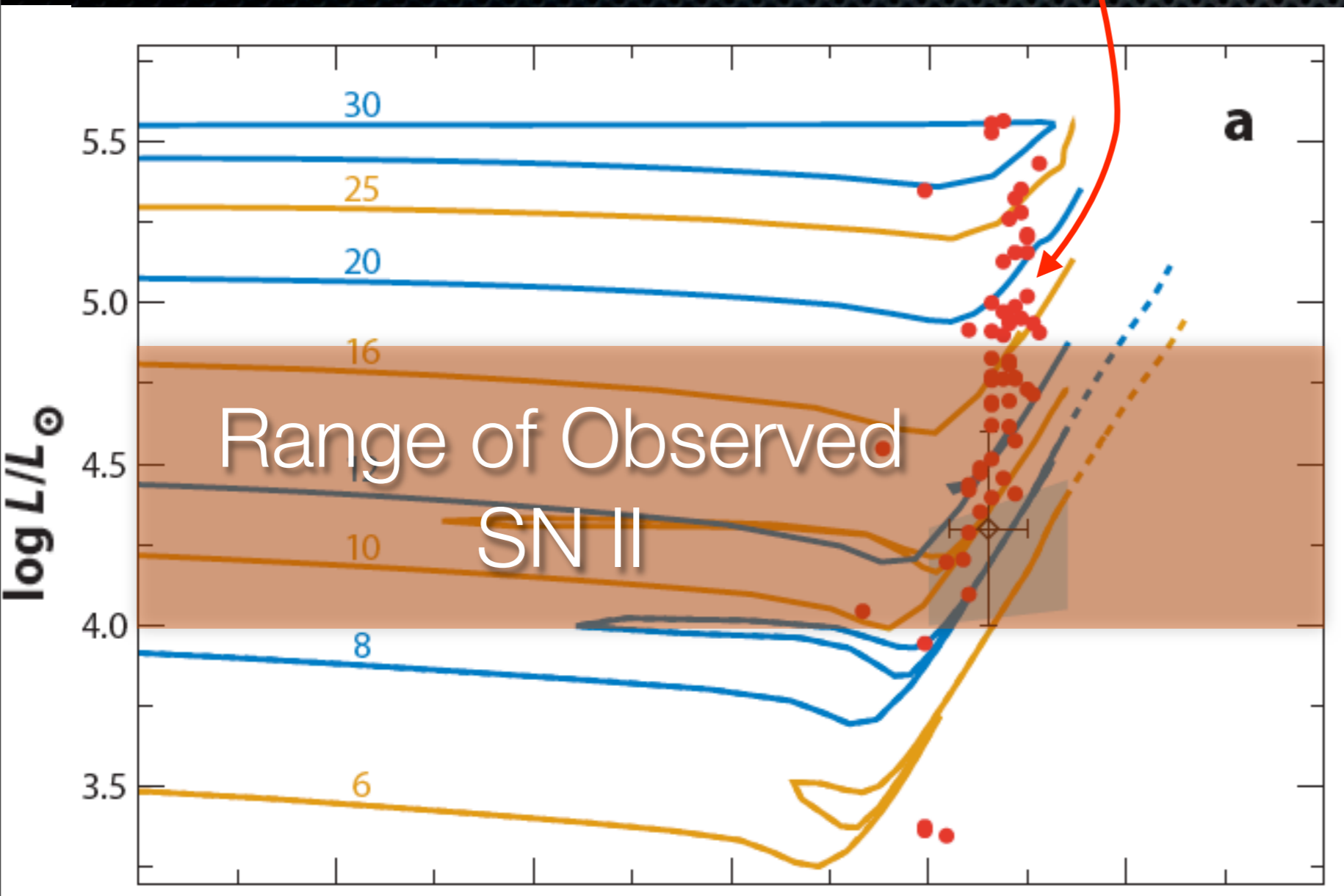
Perhaps they do not explode!

Smartt 10 ARAA





# Red Giants in Milky Way



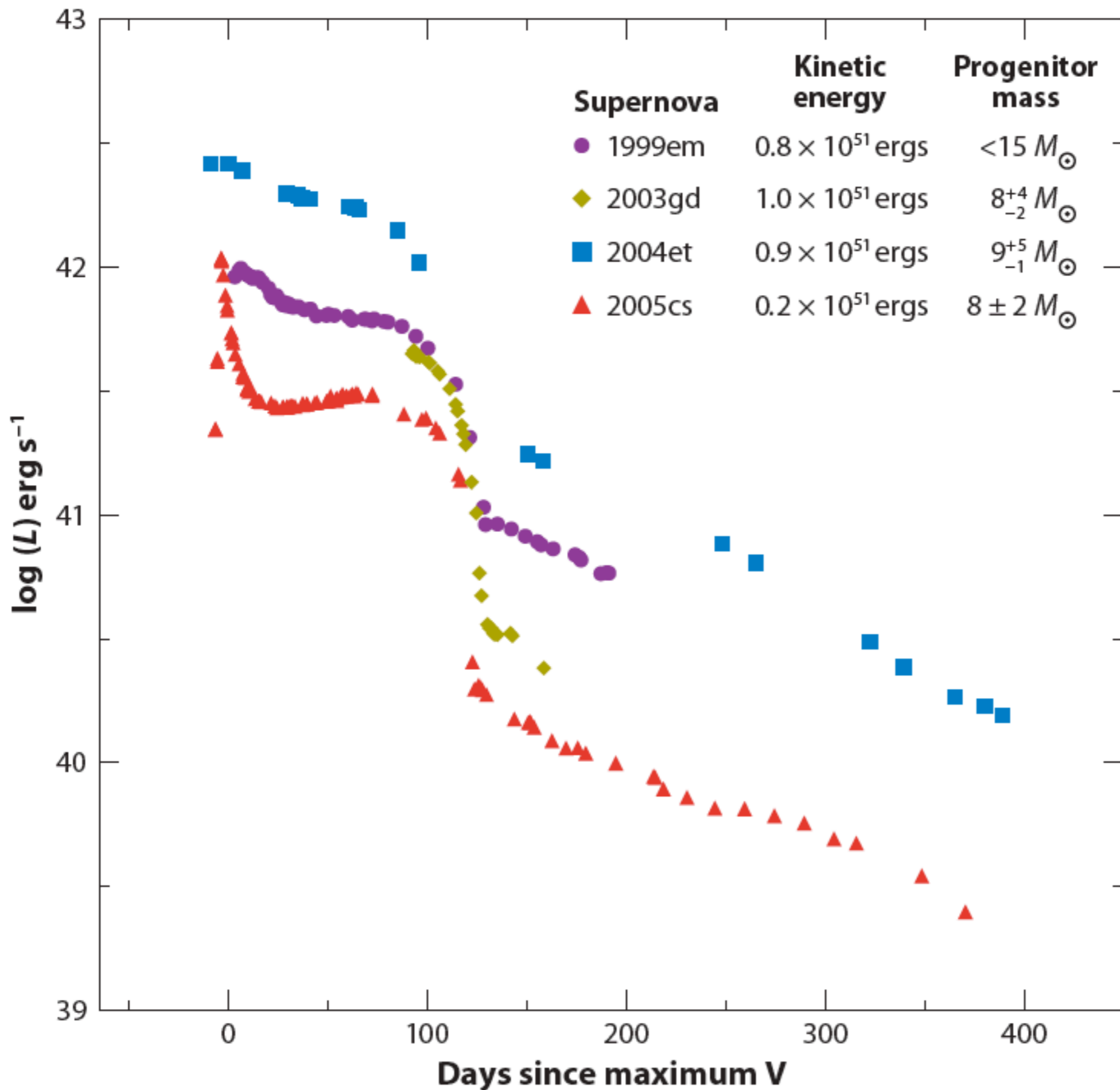
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Perhaps they do not explode!

Smartt 10 ARAA

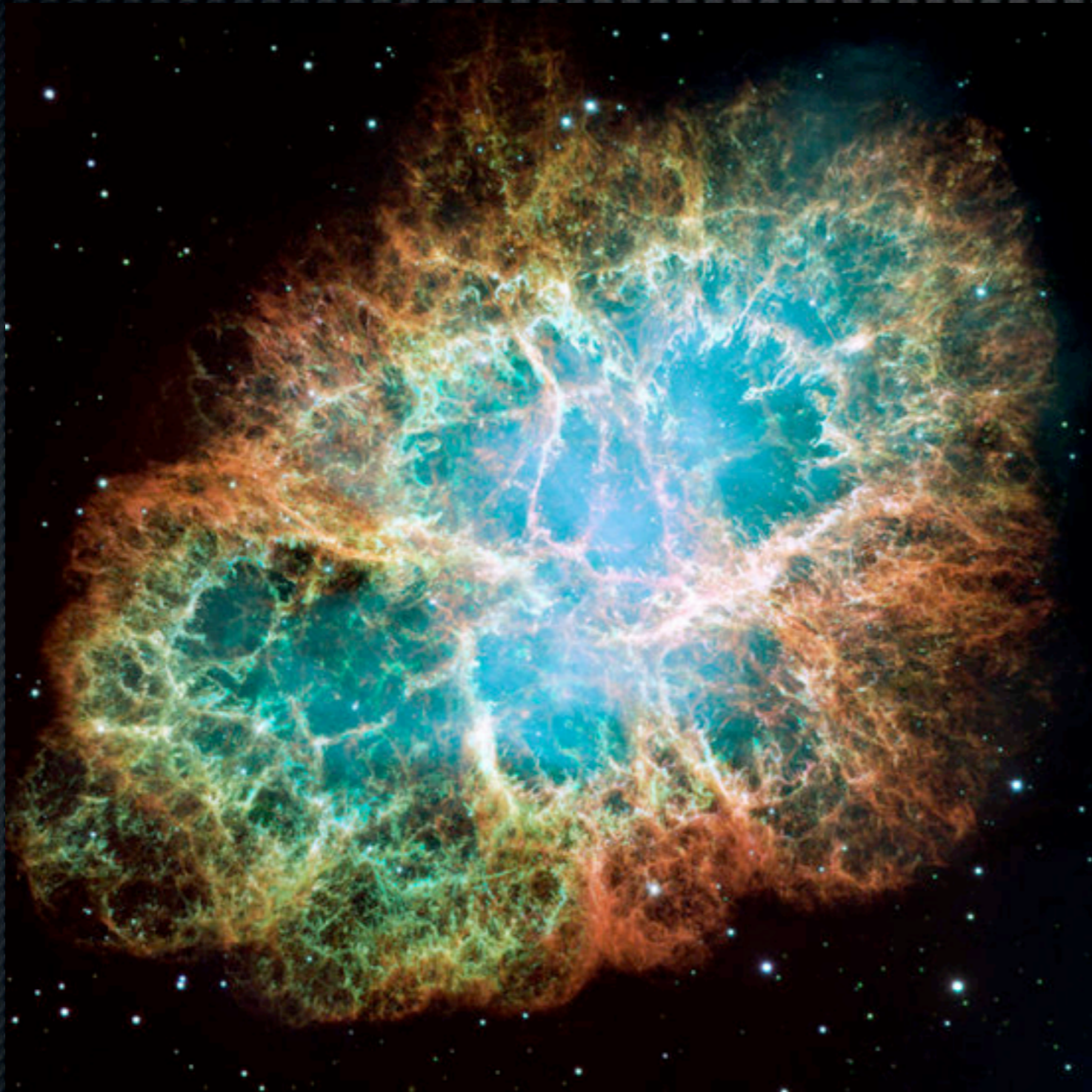


SN  
Explosions  
seem to  
vary  
greatly for  
stars of  
similar  
mass.





# Perhaps two types of Core Collapse? Electron Capture Supernova



Nomoto 84

- 
- 
-



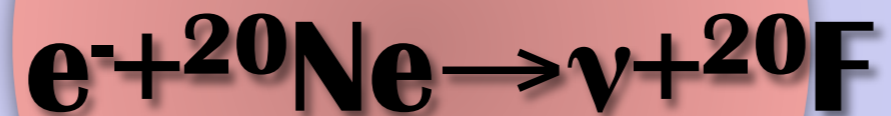
# Core Collapse Engine





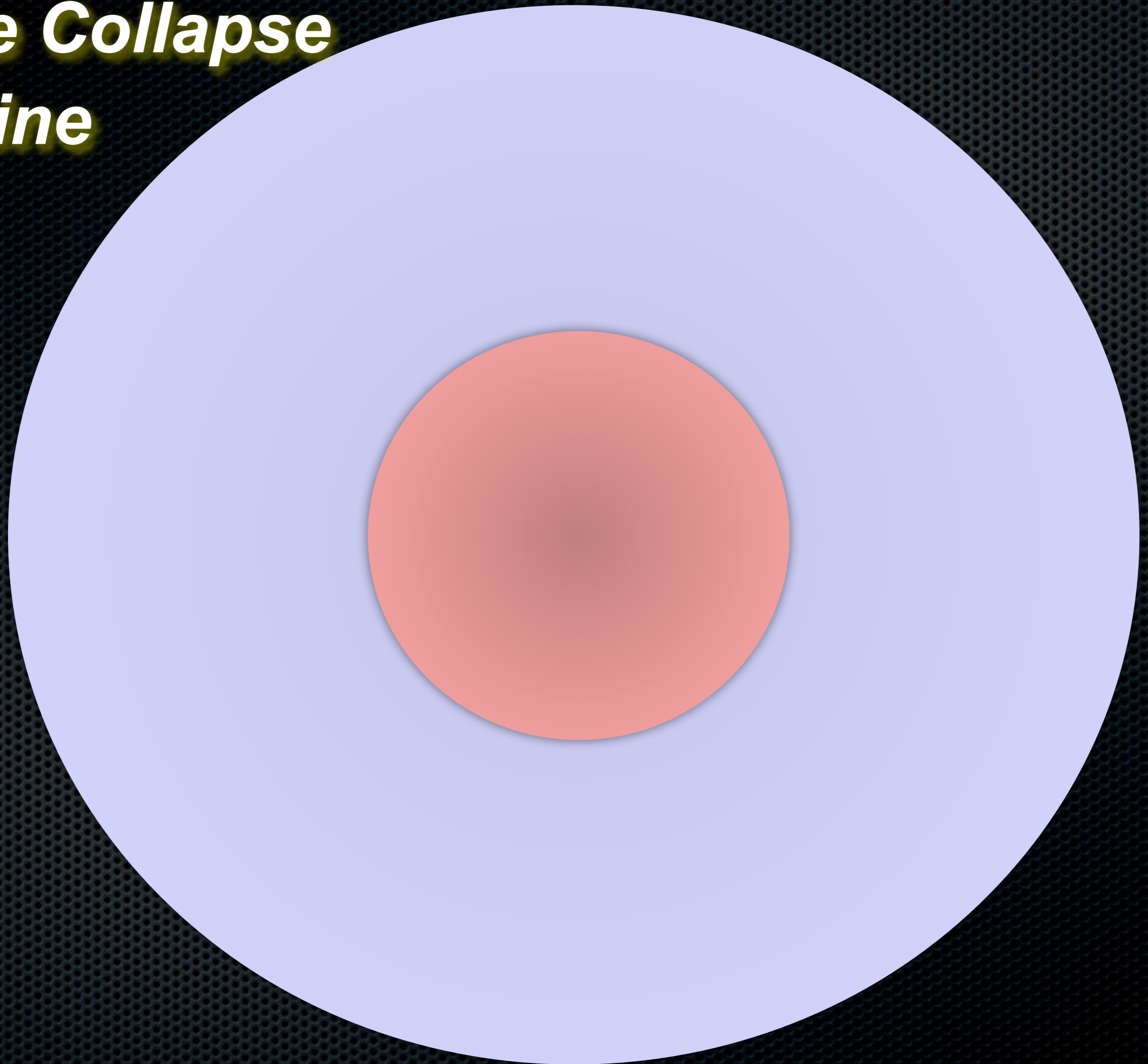
# Core Collapse Engine

**Mg-Ne-O core  
becomes degenerate**



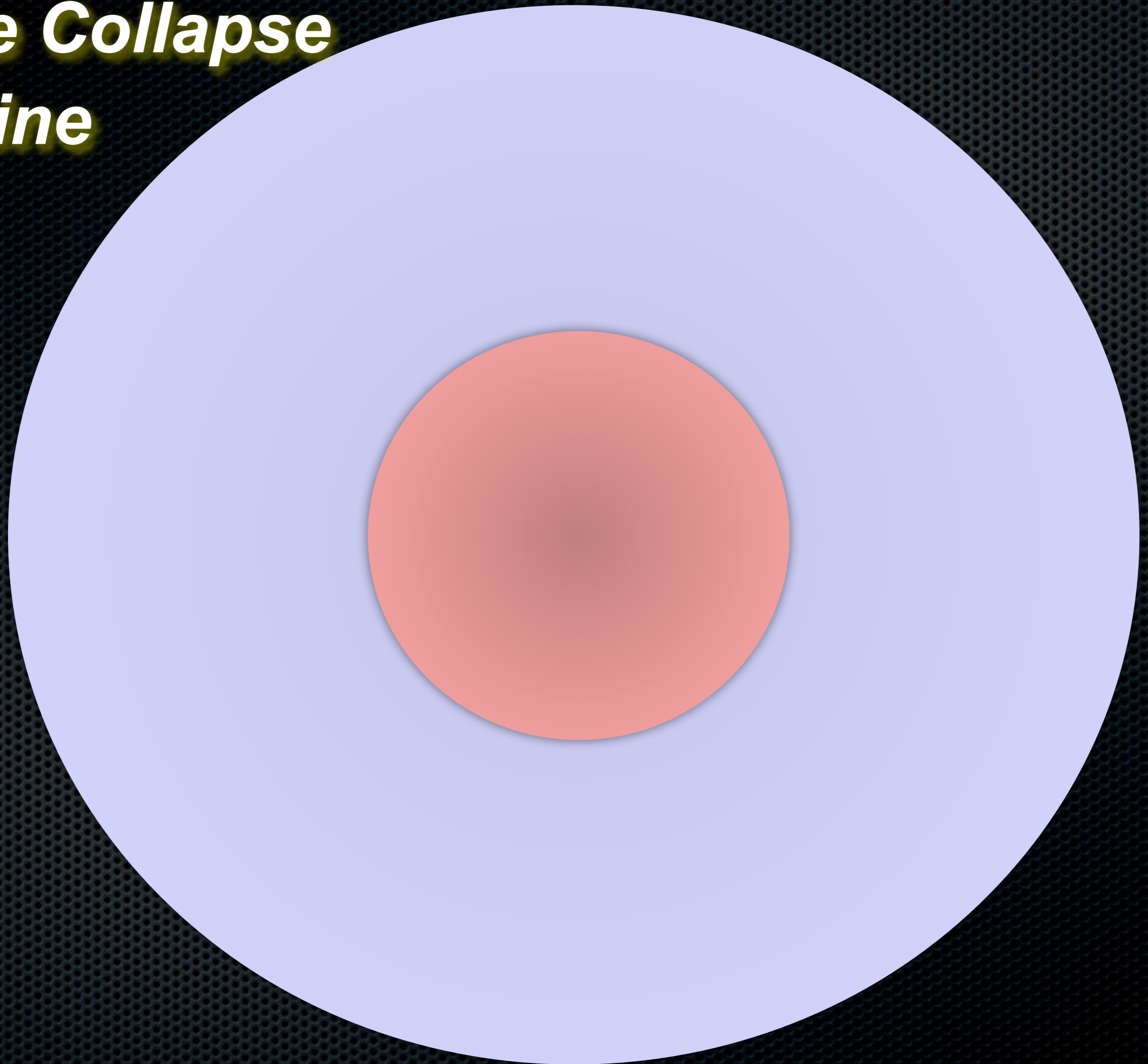


# ***Core Collapse Engine***





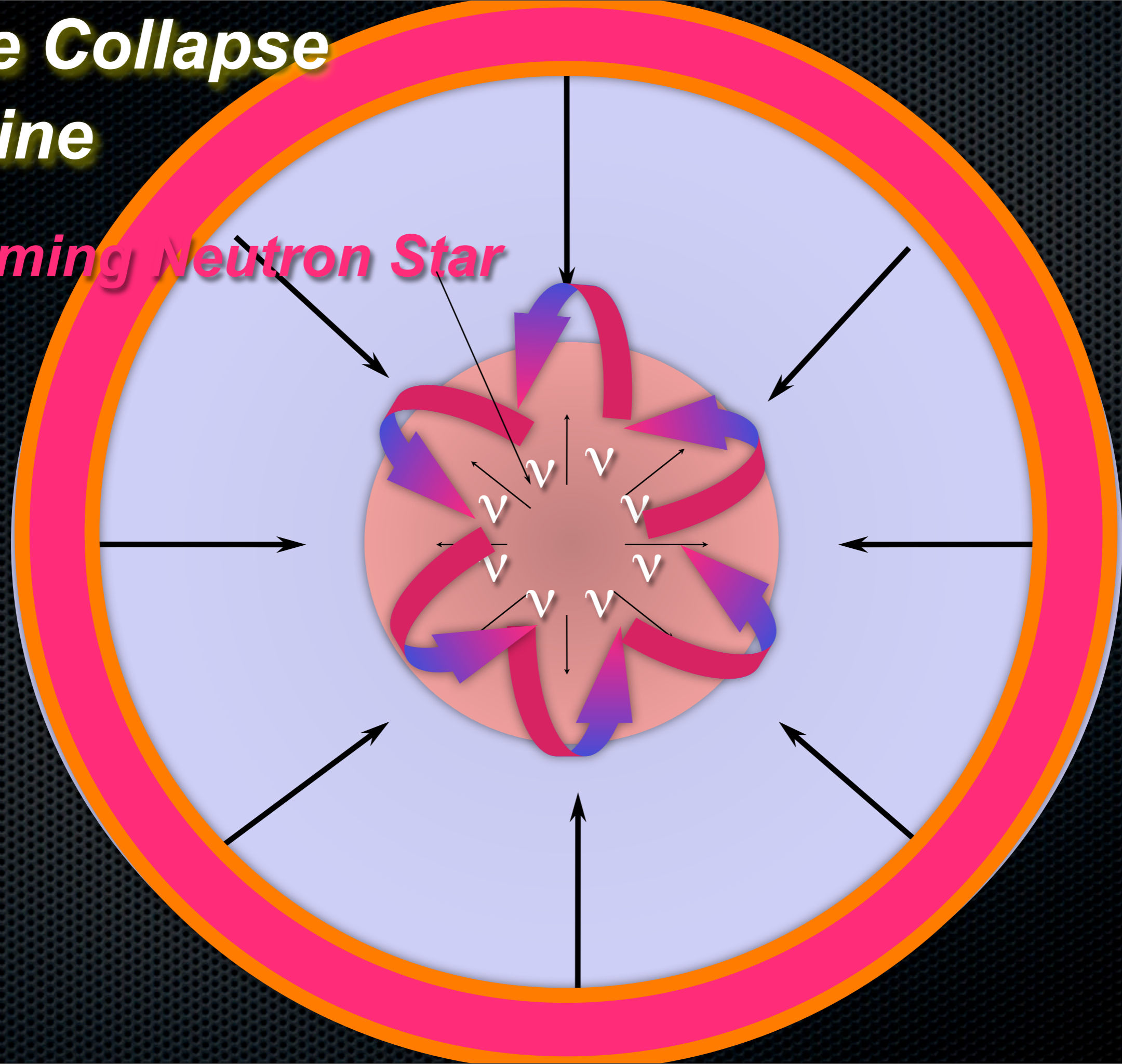
# ***Core Collapse Engine***





# Core Collapse Engine

*Forming Neutron Star*





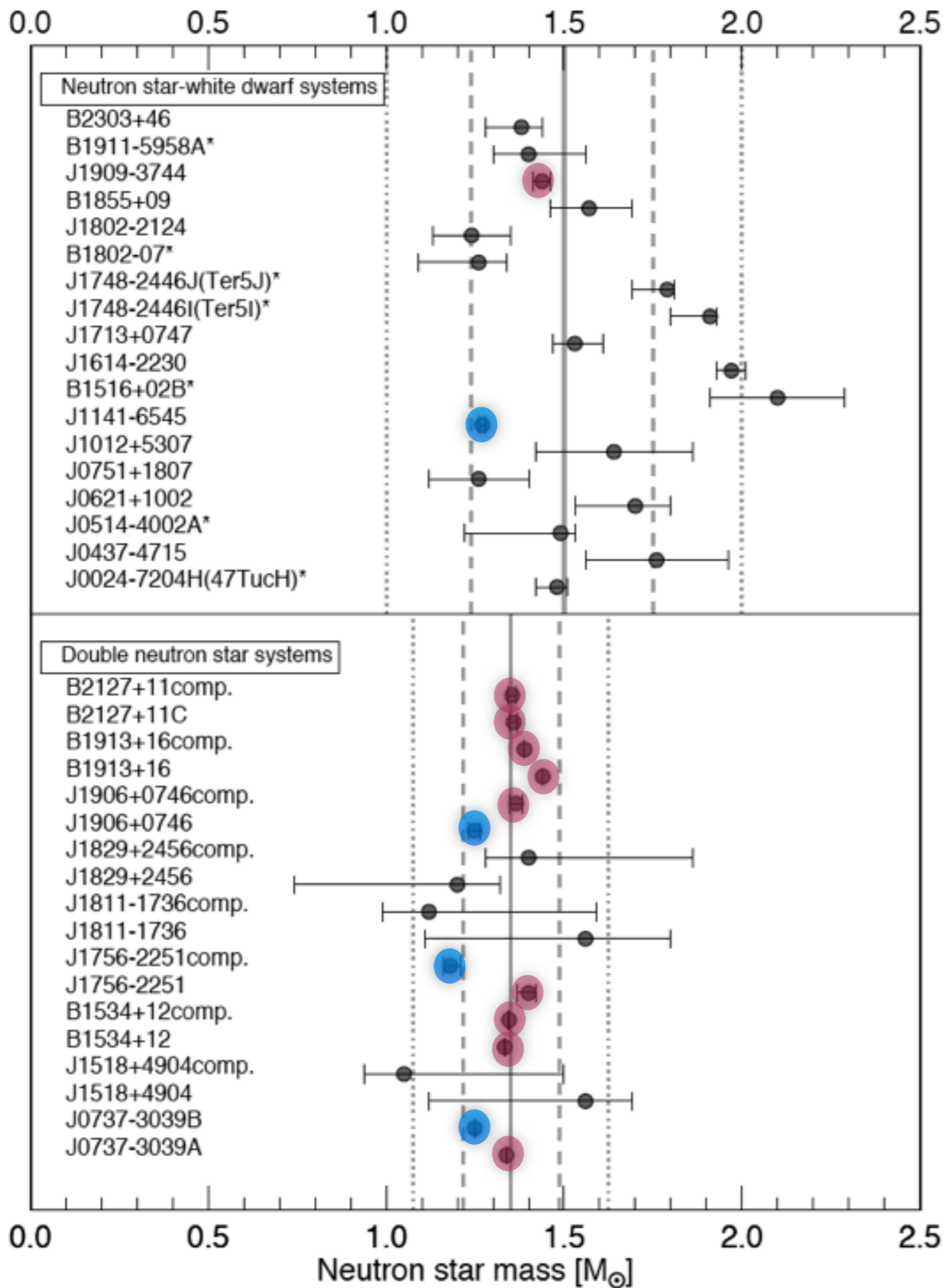


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

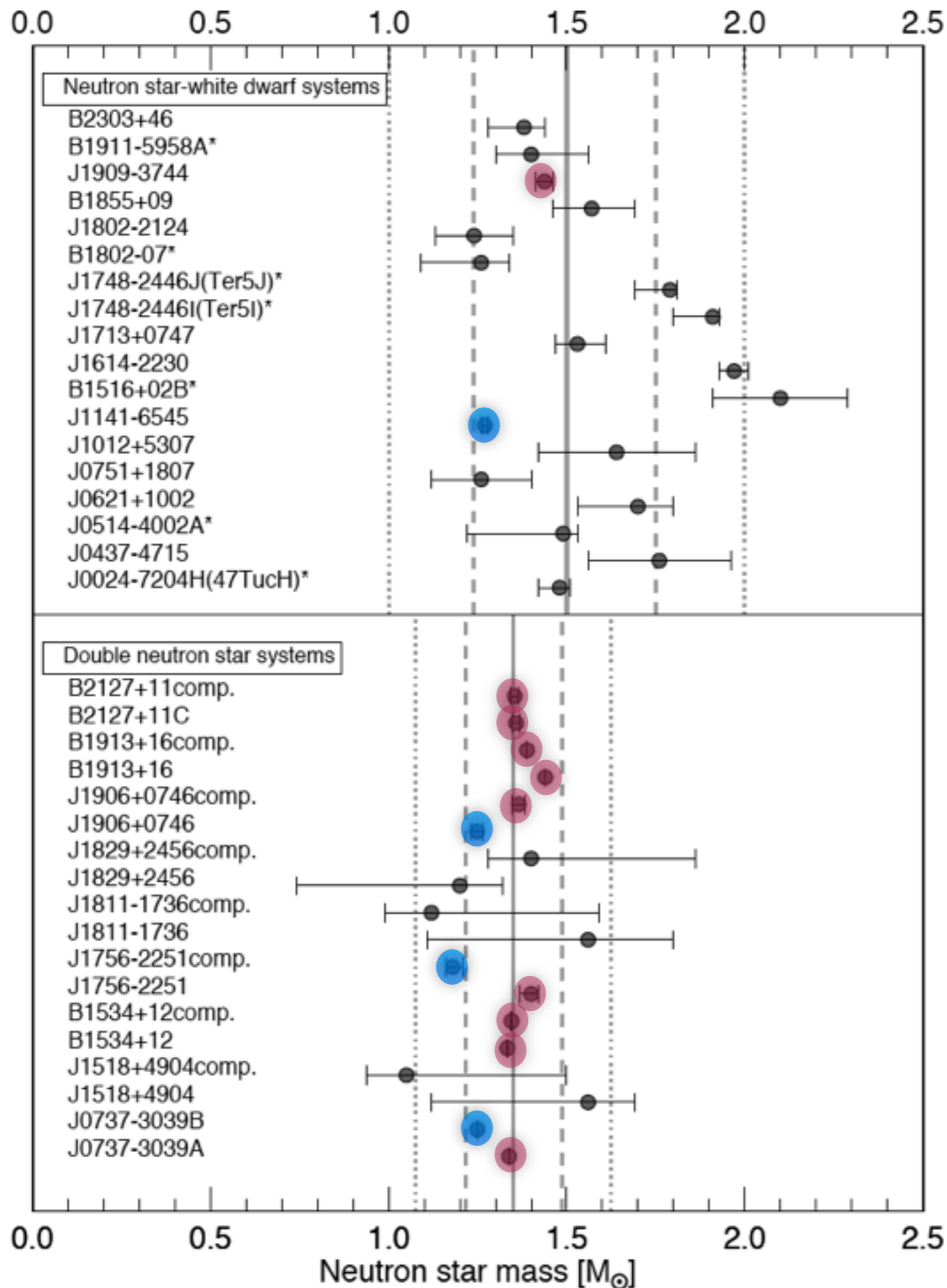


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

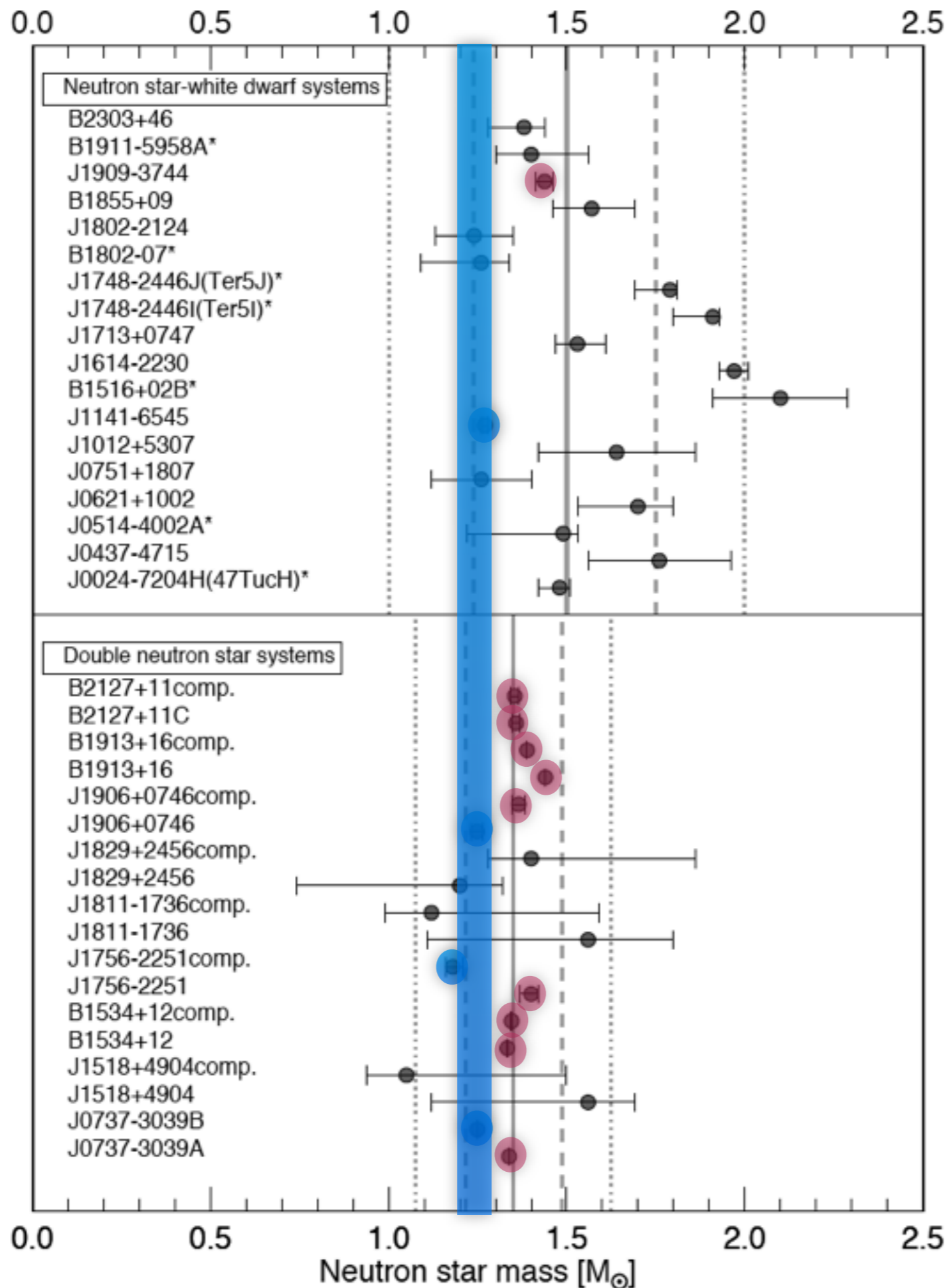


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

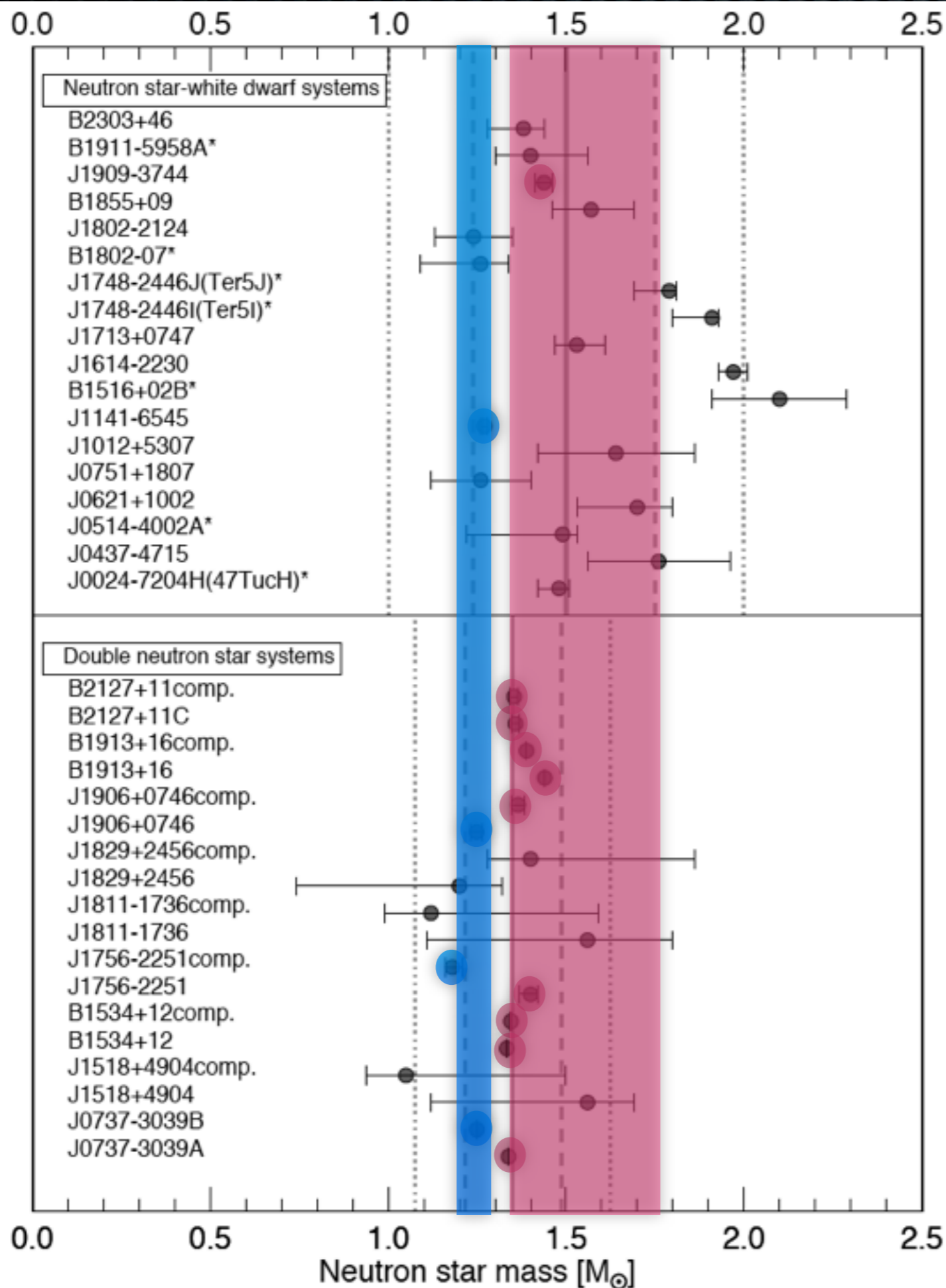


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

O-Ne-Mg electron capture SNe should produce lower mass Neutron stars - preferred in binaries (Podsiadlowski 2004)

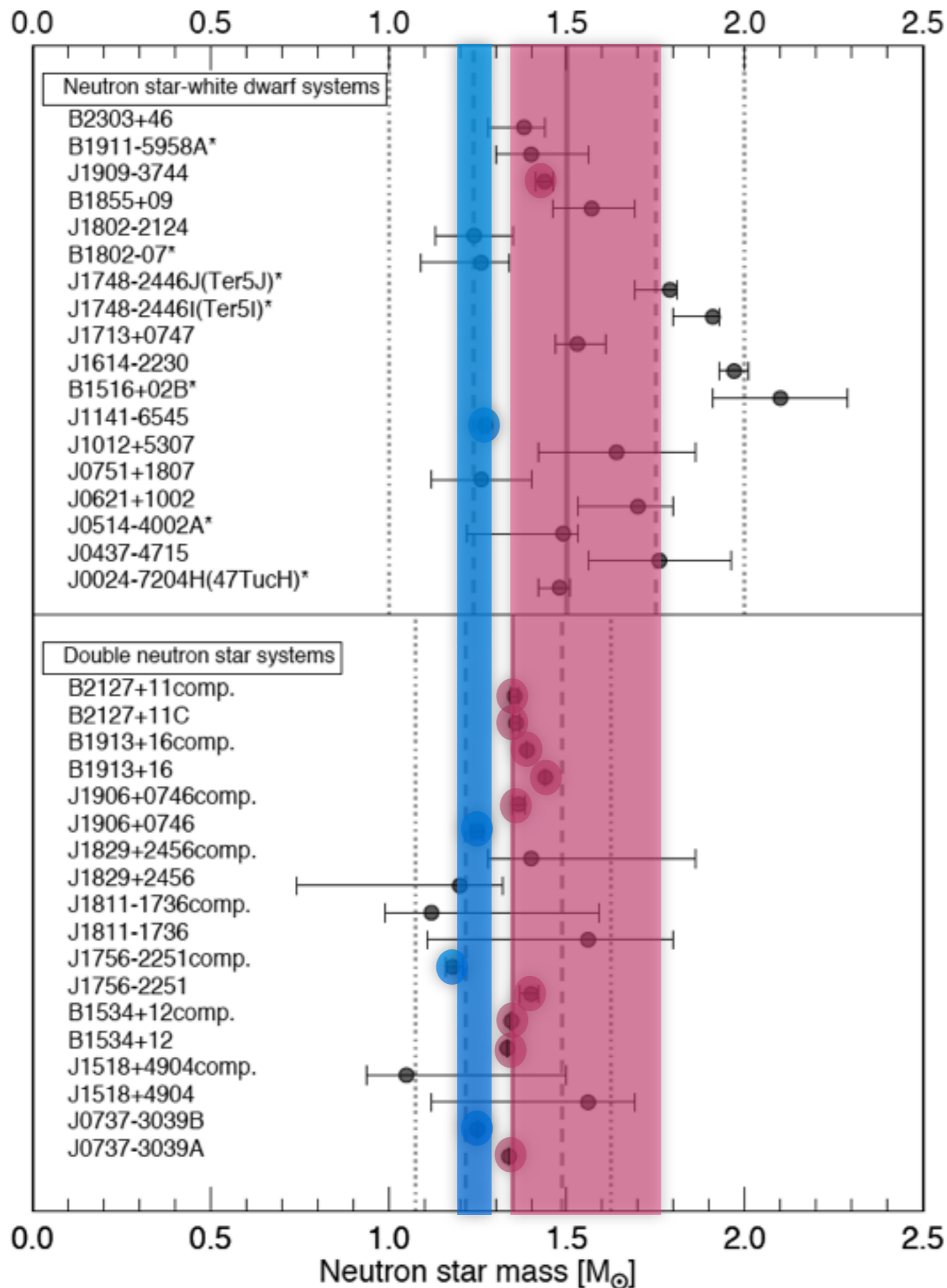


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

O-Ne-Mg electron capture SNe should produce lower mass Neutron stars - preferred in binaries (Podsiadlowski 2004)

Very large Neutron stars are a recent mystery.

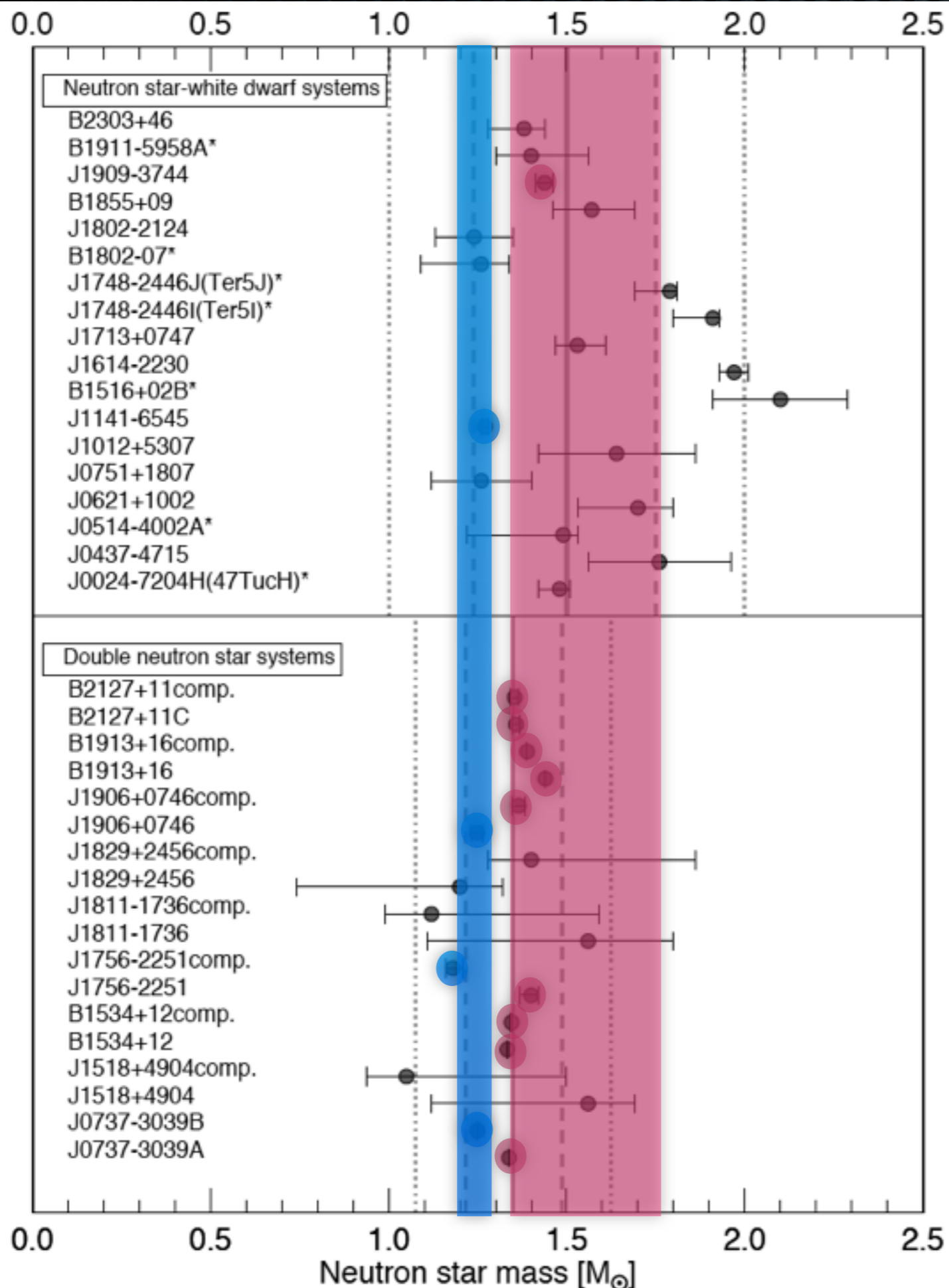


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Mass measurements of Neutron stars from Pulsar Studies

O-Ne-Mg electron capture SNe should produce lower mass Neutron stars - preferred in binaries (Podsiadlowski 2004)

Very large Neutron stars are a recent mystery.

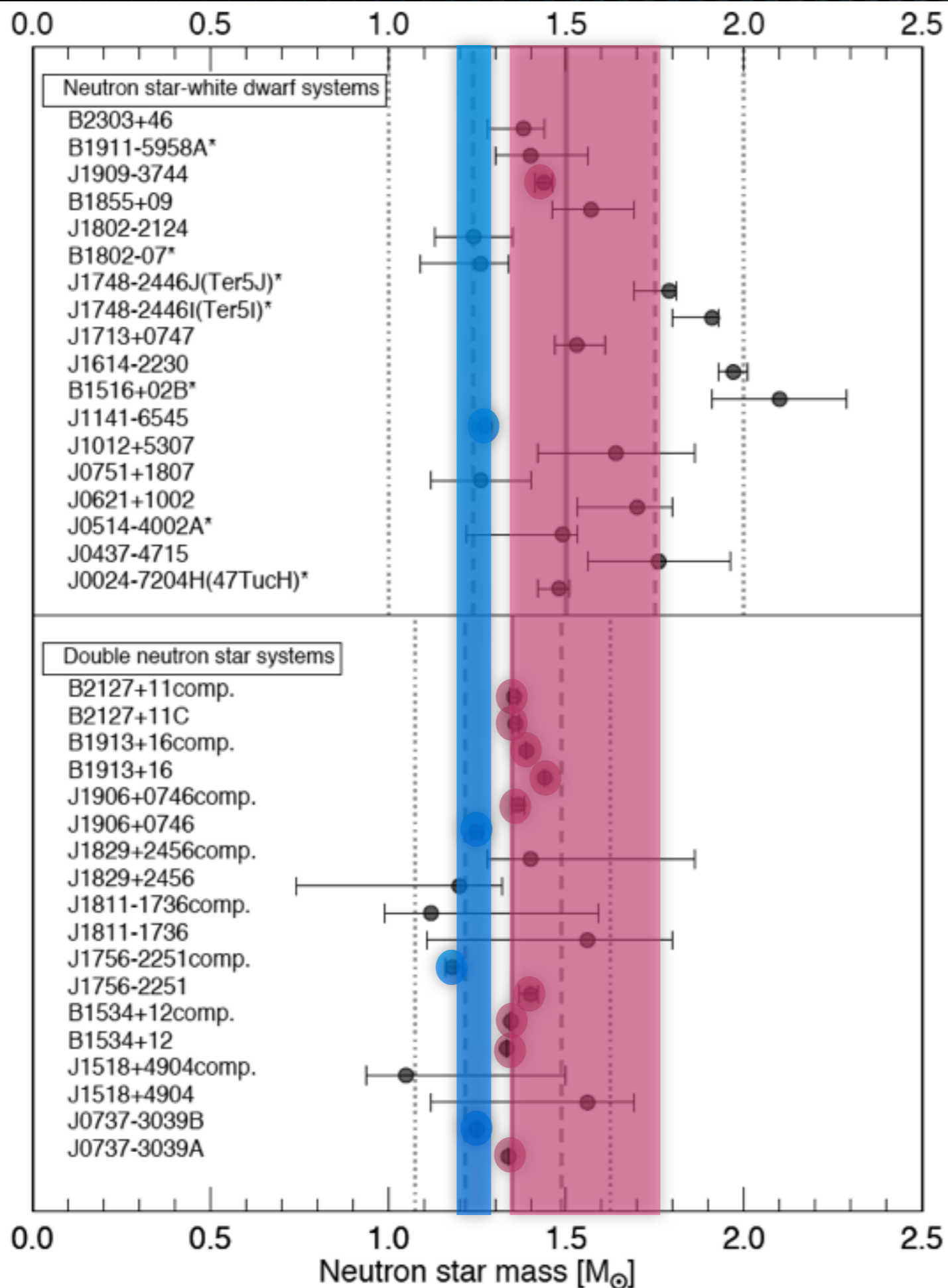
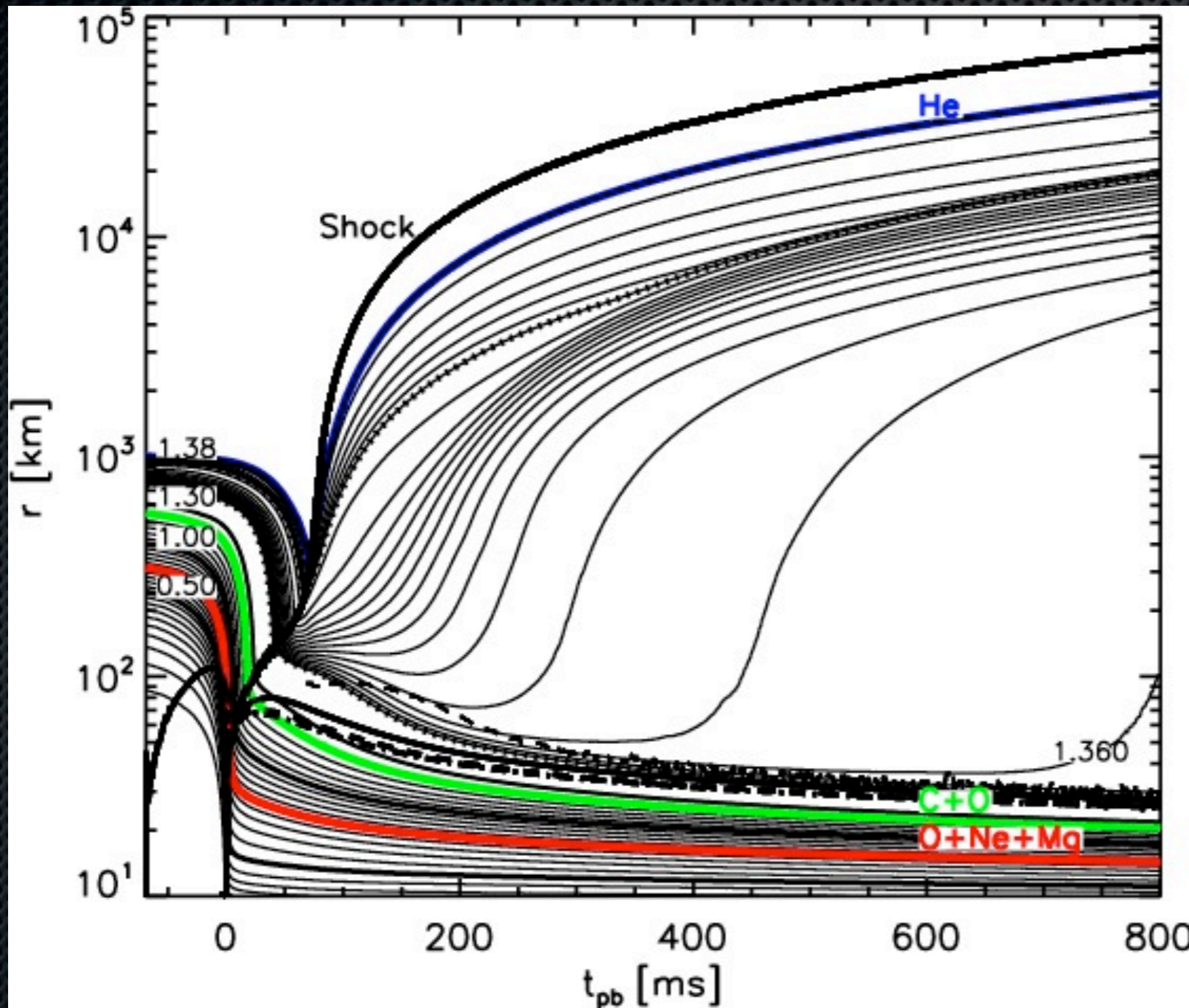


fig from Kiziltan et al. 2010



# Electron Capture SN



Janka et al 2006...  
Explode like others and produces larger neutron stars, but weak explosions..

But if true, where do the low mass Neutron Stars come from?



# Rates of SN within 30 Mpc

Type	per year	fraction
SN II	6	43%
SN Ib/c	3.2	23%
SN Ia	3.7	27%
Others	0.9	7%

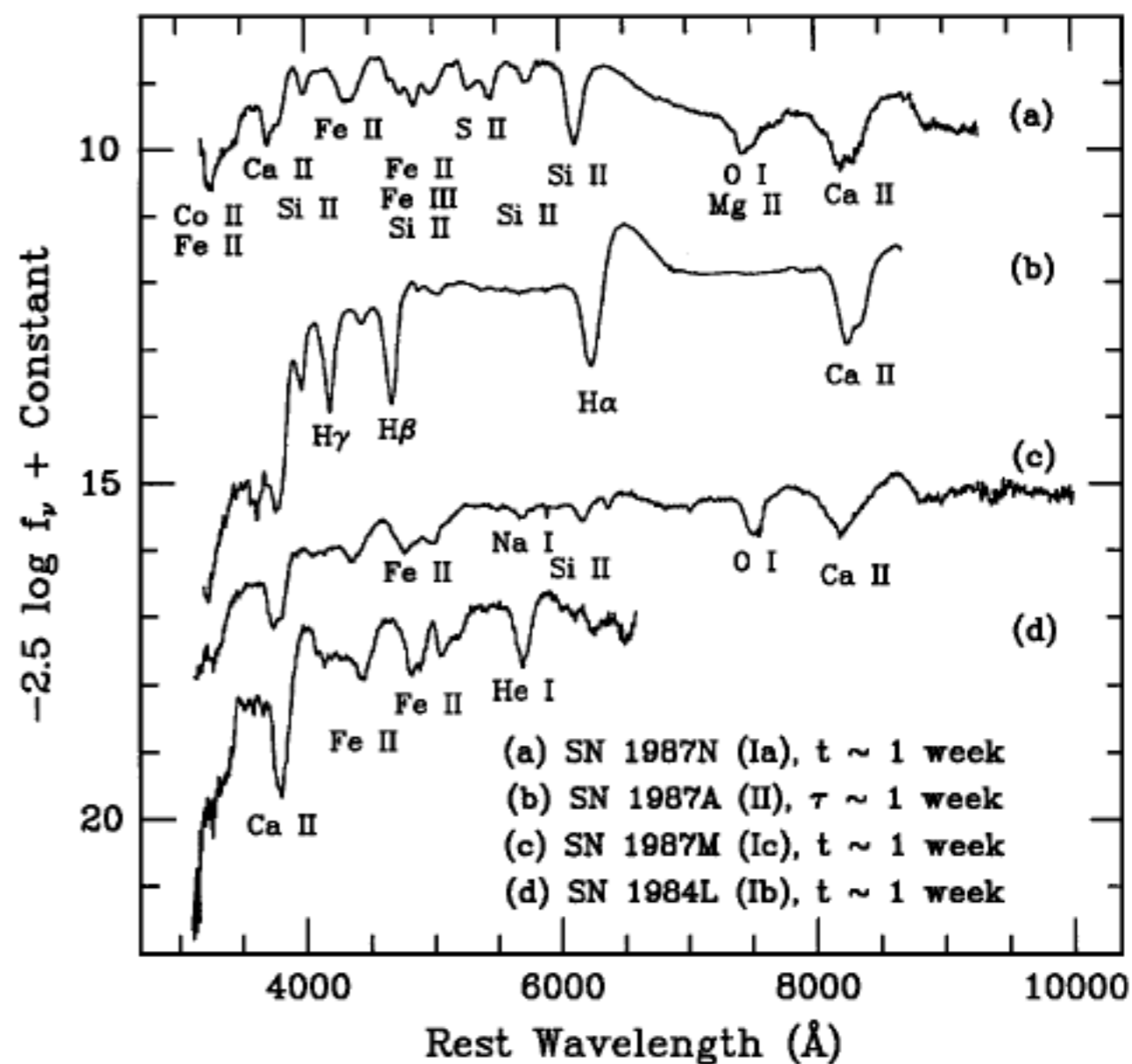
adapted from  
Smartt et al 09



# SN Ib/c

- ✦ Little or no Hydrogen
- ✦ Occur in star forming galaxies near the sites star formation
- ✦ Have wide range of ejected masses
- ✦ Do not have identified progenitors

312 FILIPPENKO





# What Makes SN Ib/c?

## Massive Stars?

lose mass due to radiative driven winds and are known as Wolf Rayet Stars.

State of star at explosion can give range of explosions.

- SN Ib/c occur near H II regions
- Too many compared to Wolf Rayet Numbers
- Mant SN only have 2-4 ejected mass - too small
- No progenitor detections yet.



# What Makes a typical SN Ib/c?

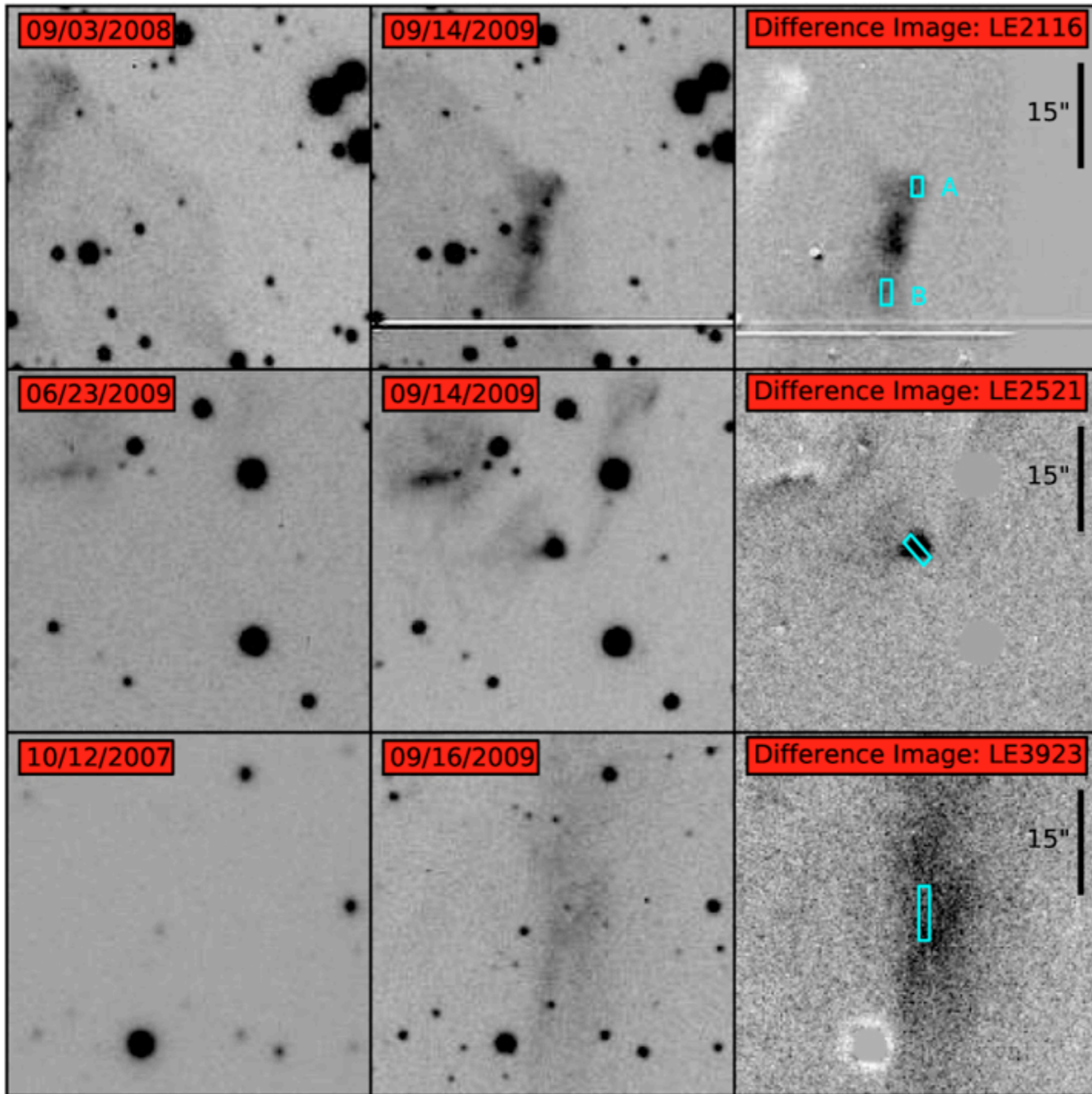
## Binary Stars?

Interaction causes stars to shed most or all of their envelopes

>30% of all massive stars are in appropriate binaries

- SN Ib/c occur near H II regions
- Right Numbers
- many SN only have 2-4 ejected mass
- No detections yet.
- 93J and 87A?



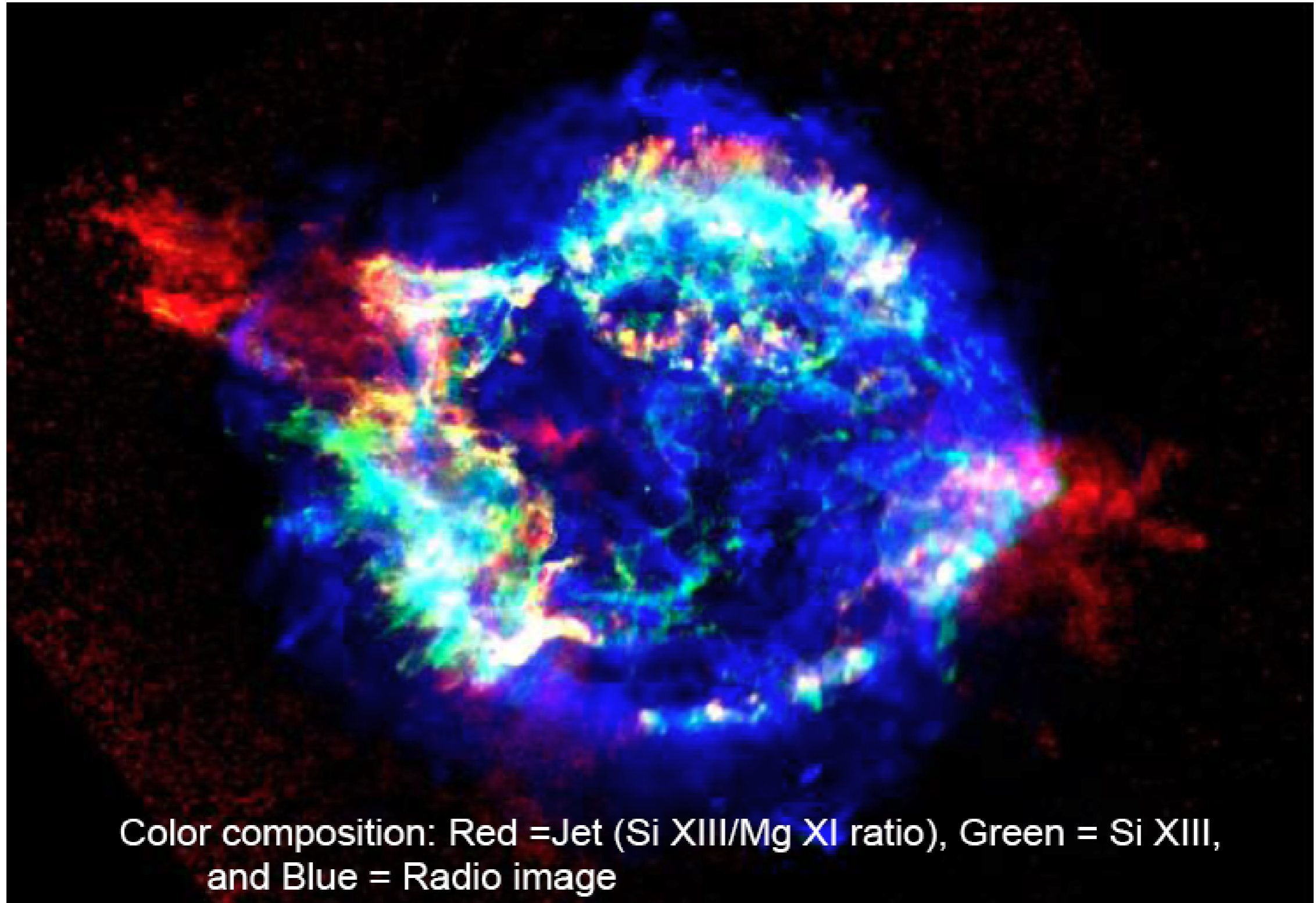


Light echoes allow us to look into the past

Cas A was a IIb - a SN II that turned into a SN Ib  
 Krause 08  
 Rest 09



The X-ray properties of the jets show them to be chemically different from the rest of the remnant's outlying ejecta.

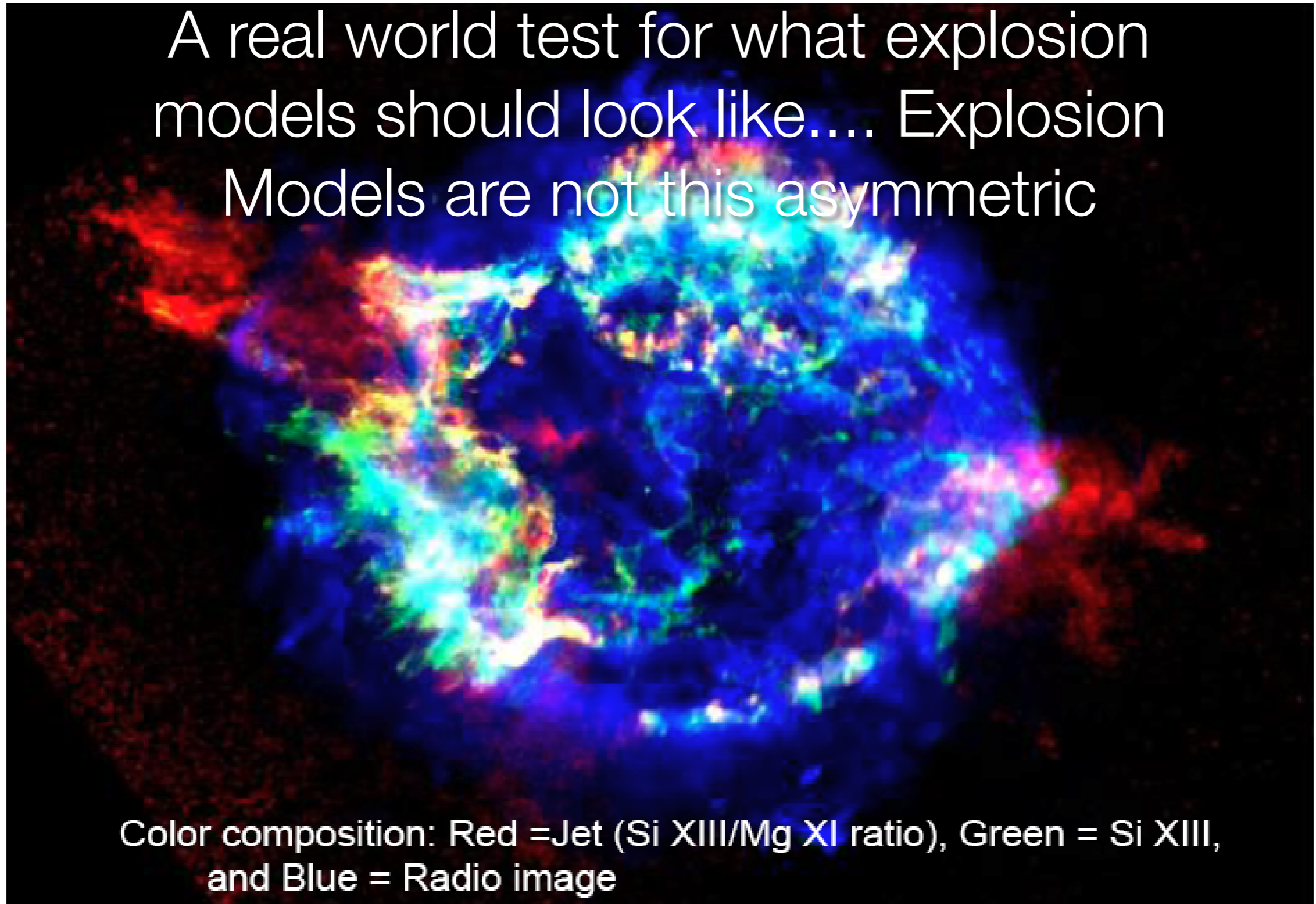


Vink 2004



The X-ray properties of the jets show them to be chemically different from the rest of the remnant's outlying ejecta.

A real world test for what explosion models should look like.... Explosion Models are not this asymmetric



Color composition: Red = Jet (Si XIII/Mg XI ratio), Green = Si XIII, and Blue = Radio image

Vink 2004



# Core Collapse SNe

- ✦ Overall picture more or less clear
  - ✦ Stars between 8-16M explode as SN via core collapse - some after Fe burning, some via electron capture on O-Ne-Mg cores
  - ✦ Core collapse mechanism where neutrinos interacting with infalling material seems to be able to explode lowest mass stars.
- ✦ But questions remains
  - ✦ Where are the high mass SN II? R-process?
  - ✦ How do larger mass cores explode, or do they not?
  - ✦ Are SN Ib/c's binaries, the massive stars, or a mix?



# SN Ia





# SN Ia

Show a remarkable homogeneity with respect to

- Light Curve Shape
- Absolute Magnitude
- Spectral Evolution



# SN Ia

Show a remarkable homogeneity with respect to

- Light Curve Shape
- Absolute Magnitude
- Spectral Evolution

**Boring**



# SN Ia

Show a remarkable homogeneity with respect to

- Light Curve Shape
- Absolute Magnitude
- Spectral Evolution

*But all Type Ia SN are not the same...*

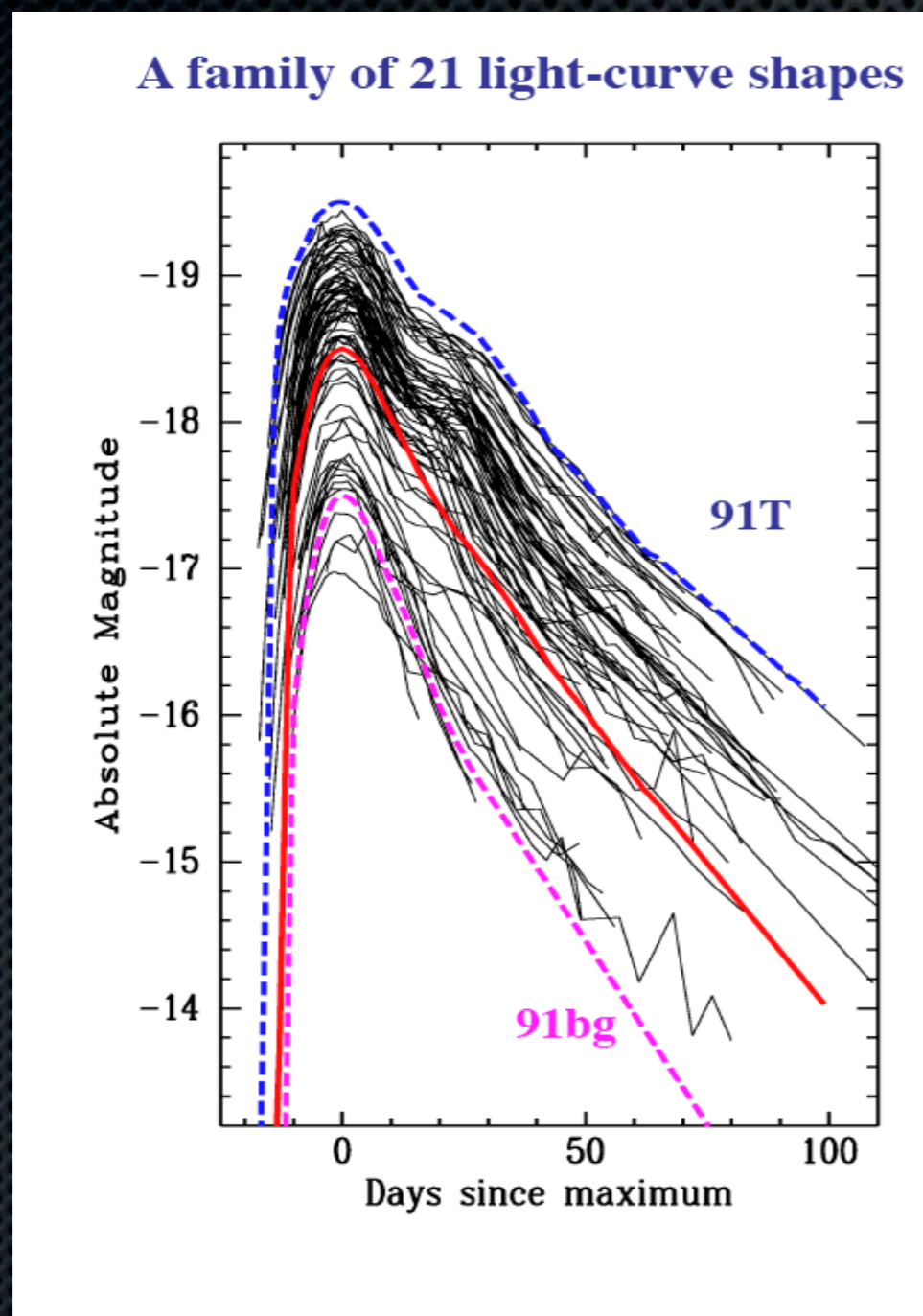


# SNe Ia Are Not All Identical

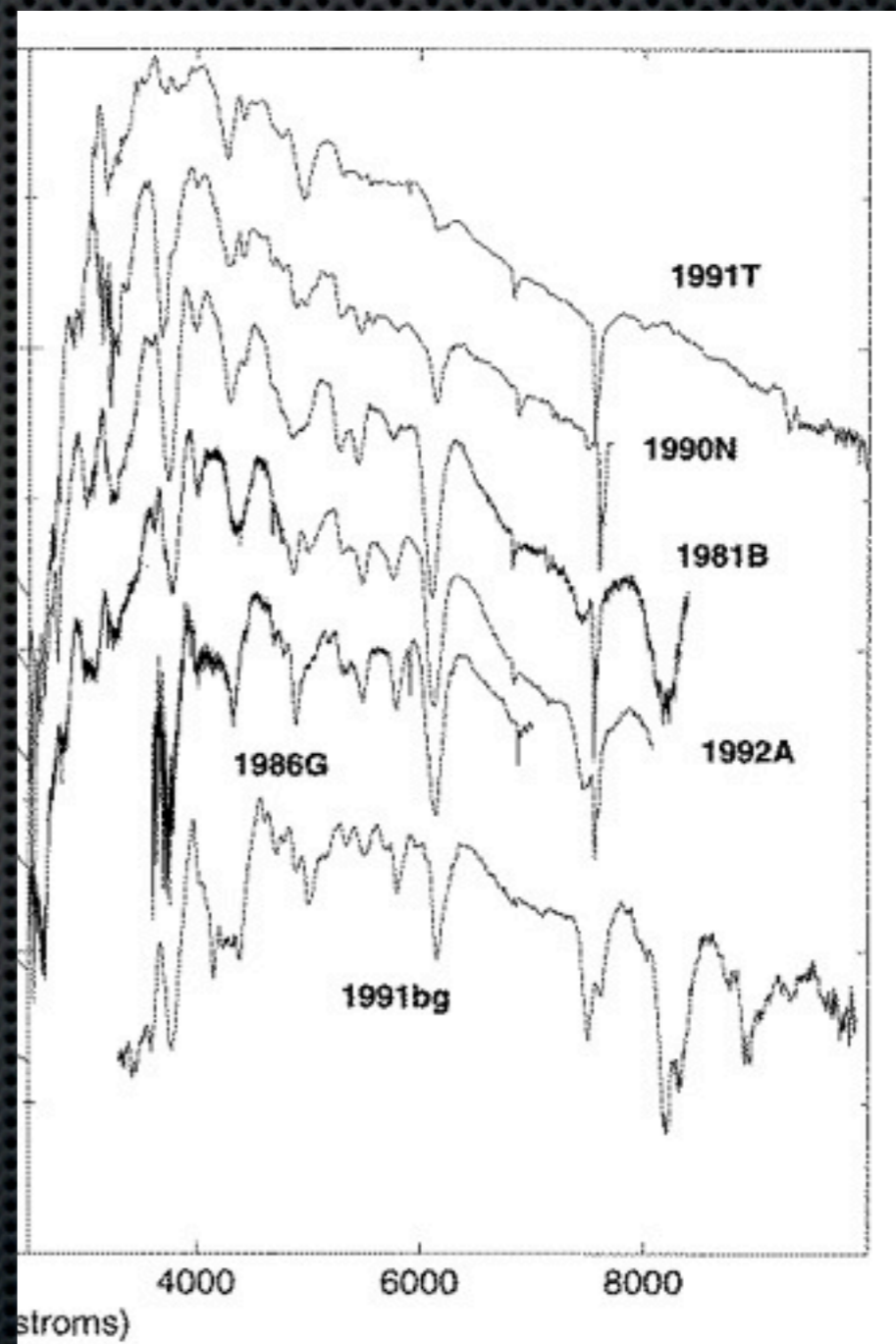
- Light Curves Show Variety within a theme
  - *Exhibit a relationship between light curve width and Absolute Magnitude*
- Spectra Show Variety also within a theme
  - *Exhibit a spectral sequence related to Temperature and composition of the ejecta*



# SN Ia Observations



Filippenko 09



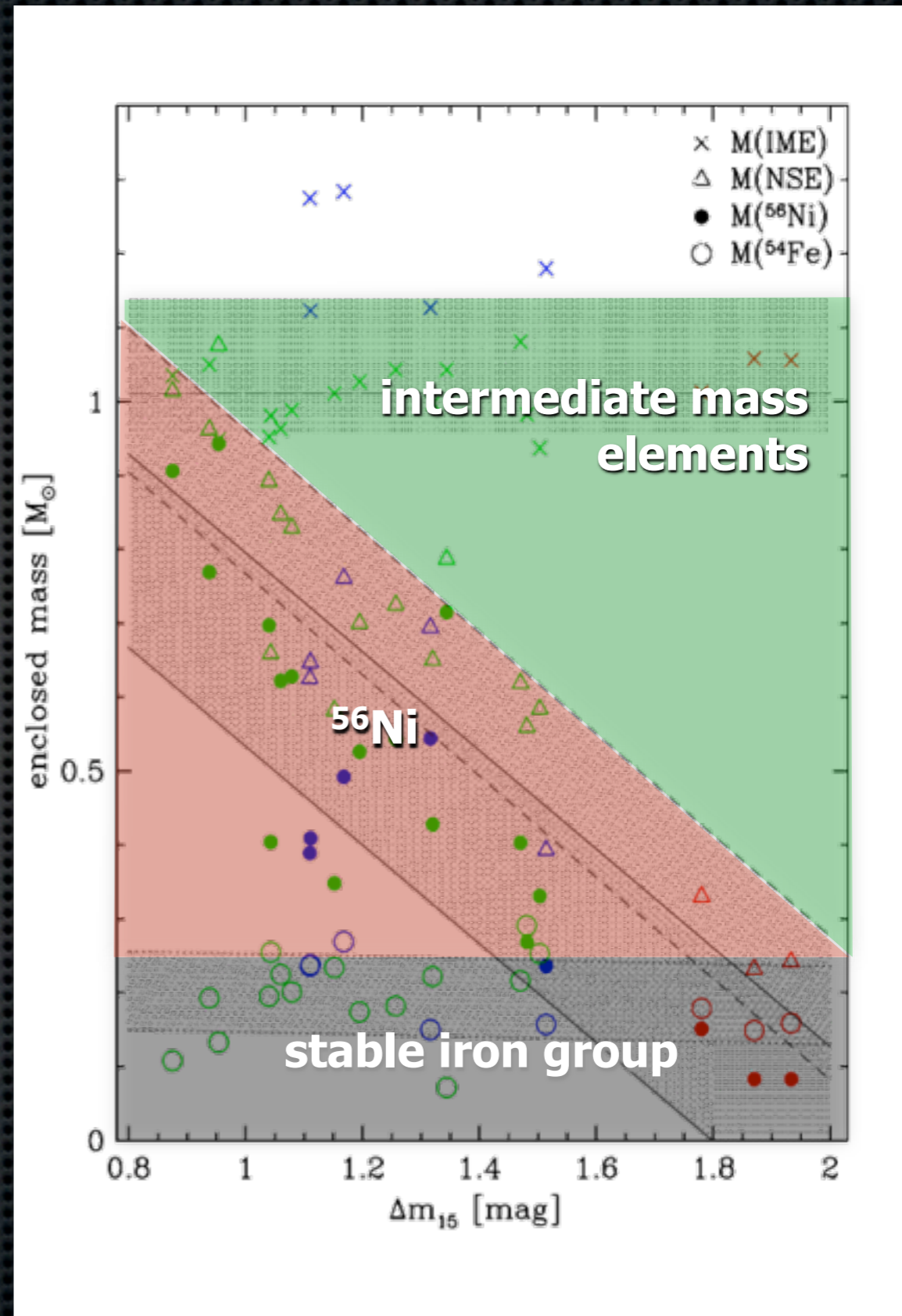
Nugent 95



# Nucleosynthetic Production

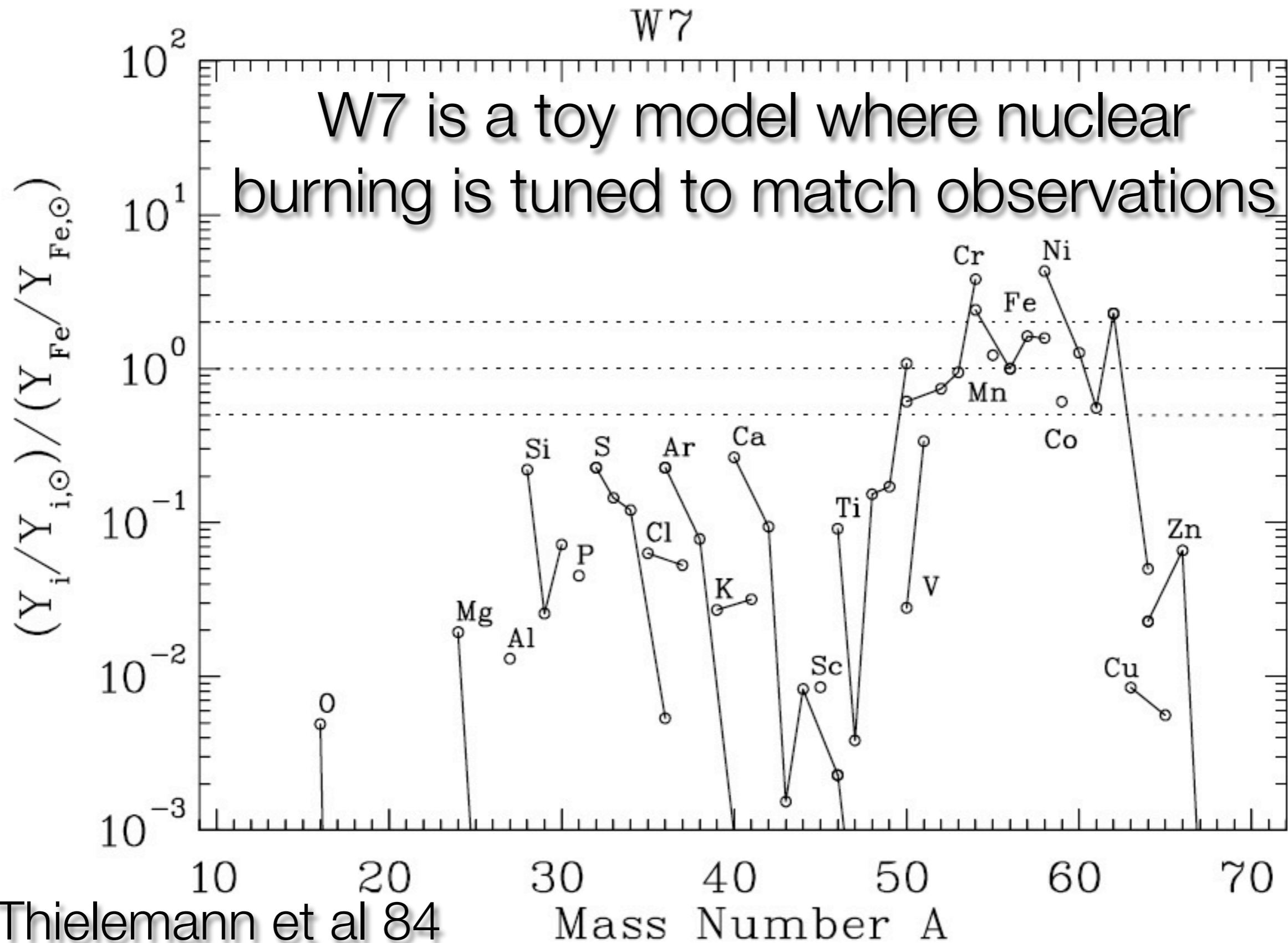
Mazzali et al. used light curves and spectra to estimate synthesized material in SN Ia

Constant amount of stable Fe group,  
Constant Mass, but Intermediate Mass to Nuclear Stable Equilibrium varies...





# Nucleosynthetic Production in SN Ia



Thielemann et al 84



# SN PROGENITOR POSSIBILITIES

- **WD Accretes material from friend and exceeds  $1.38 M_{\odot}$  (Odds on favourite)**
  - accretion rates need to be very specific so Novae explosions do not cause Mass-loss
- **WD-WD merger exceeds  $1.38 M_{\odot}$  (Long shot)**
  - long thought to lead to neutron star, Pakmor '10 suggest two  $0.9M_{\odot}$  can lead to a sub-luminous Ia-like event.
- **WD accretes Helium, sub  $1.38M_{\odot}$  edge-lit detonation**
  - on again, off-again possibility. Sim '10, Fink '10 seem to show it could work?















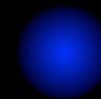








0 days



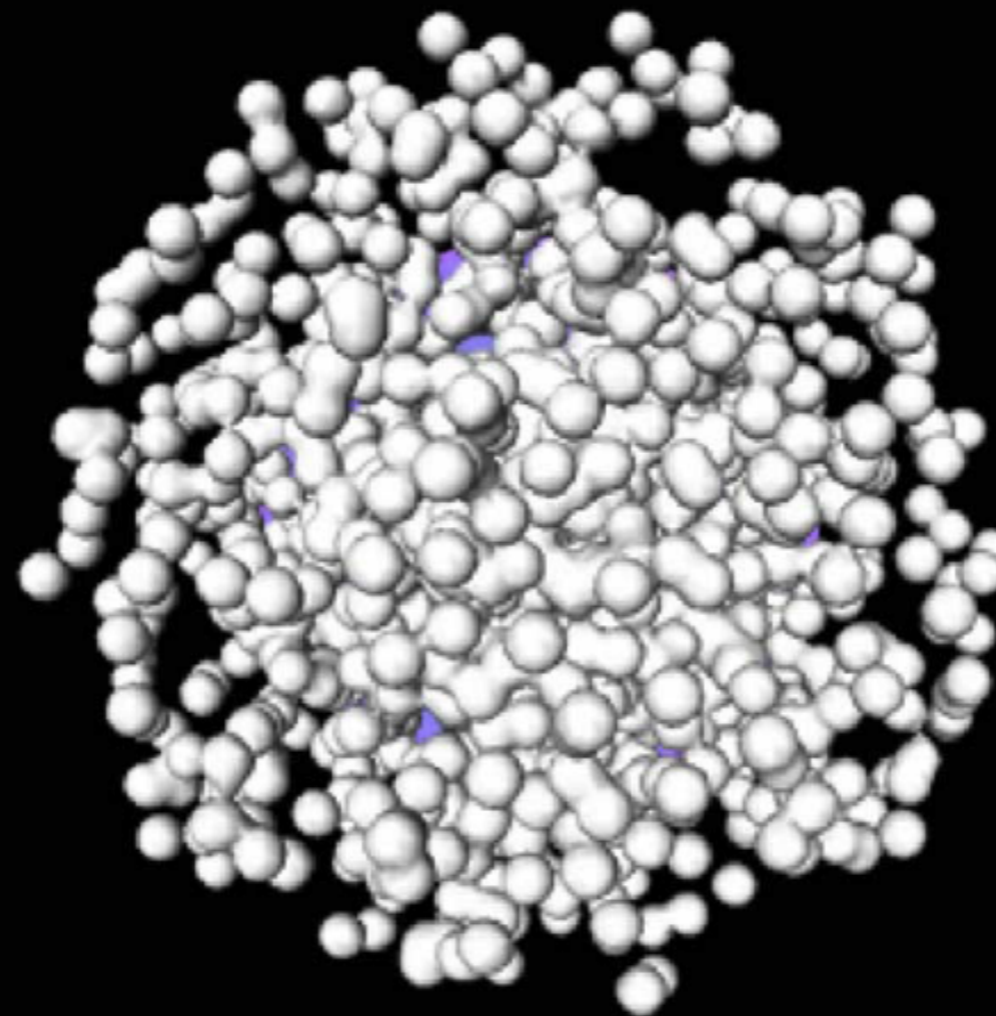






# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

$t = 0.025 \text{ sec}$





# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

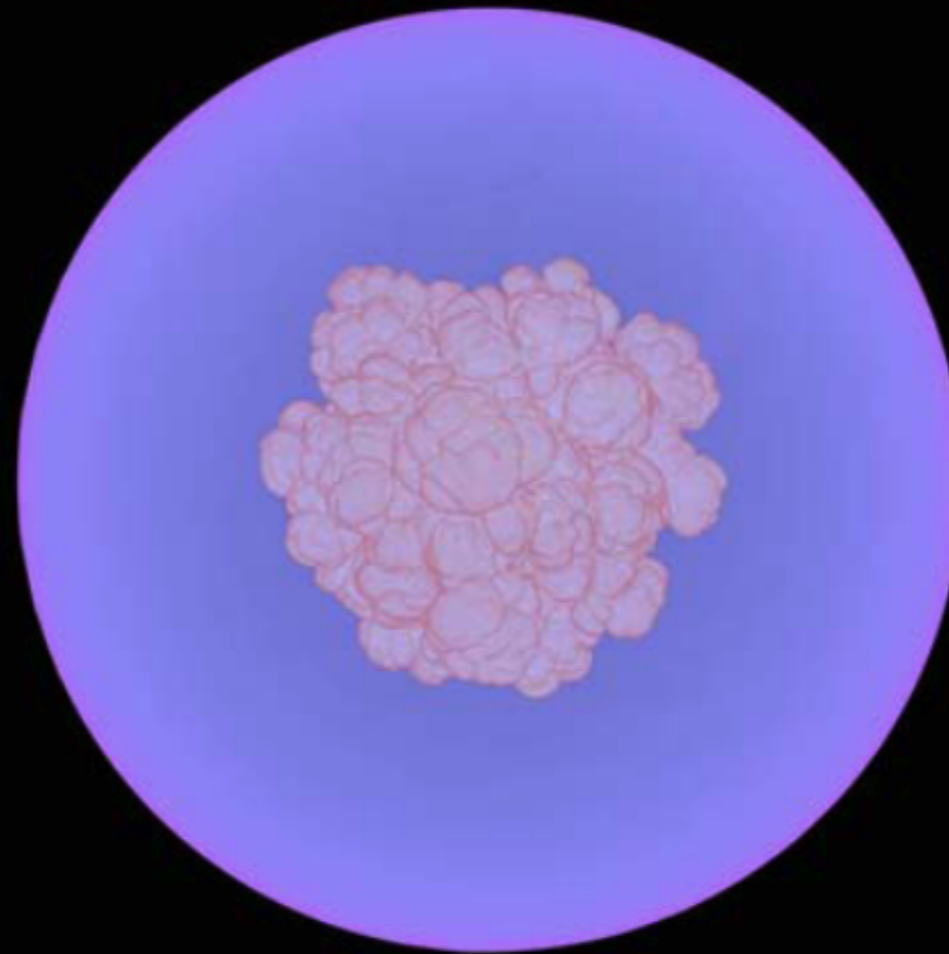
$t = 0.200 \text{ sec}$





# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

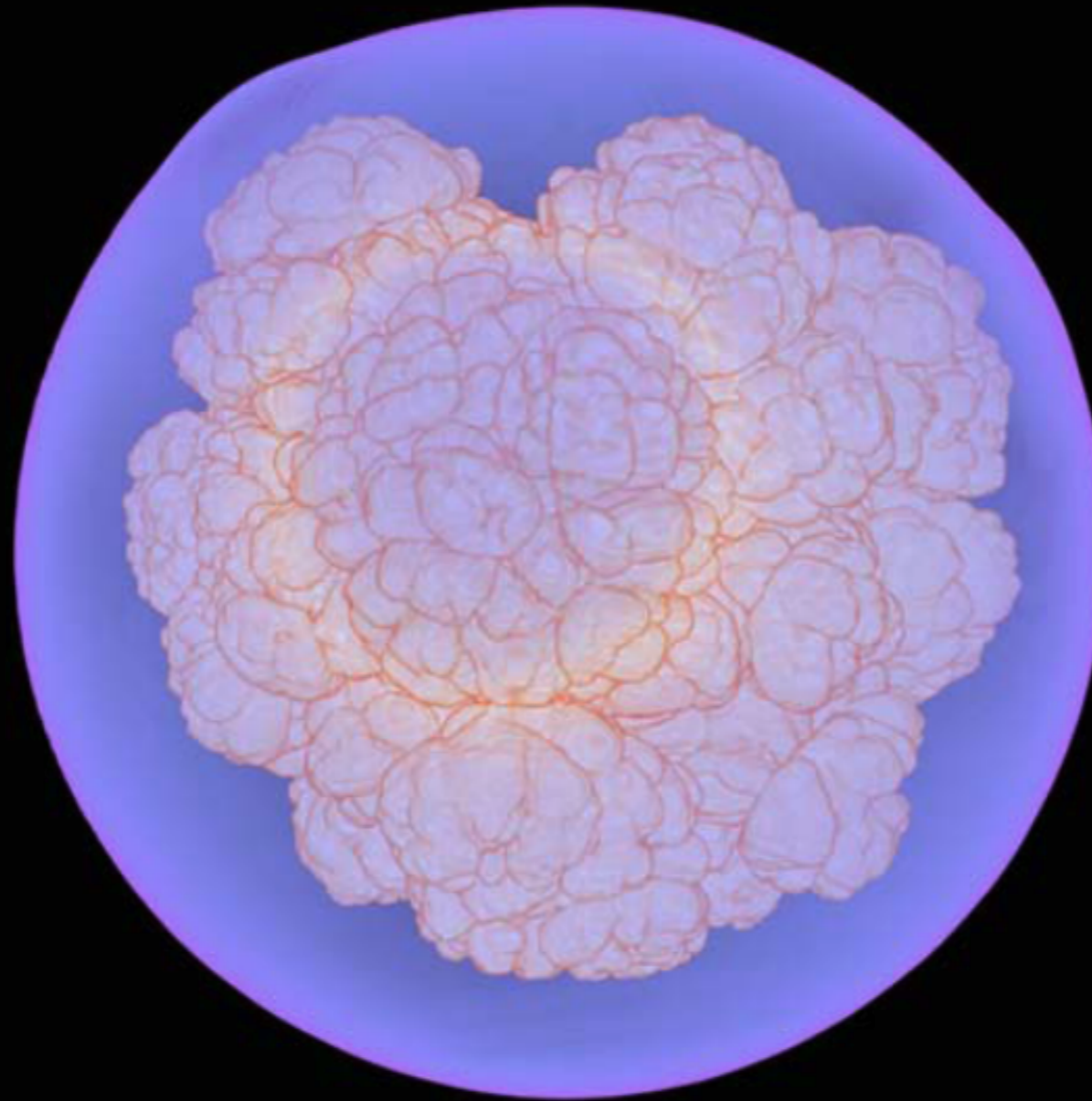
$t = 0.600 \text{ sec}$





# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

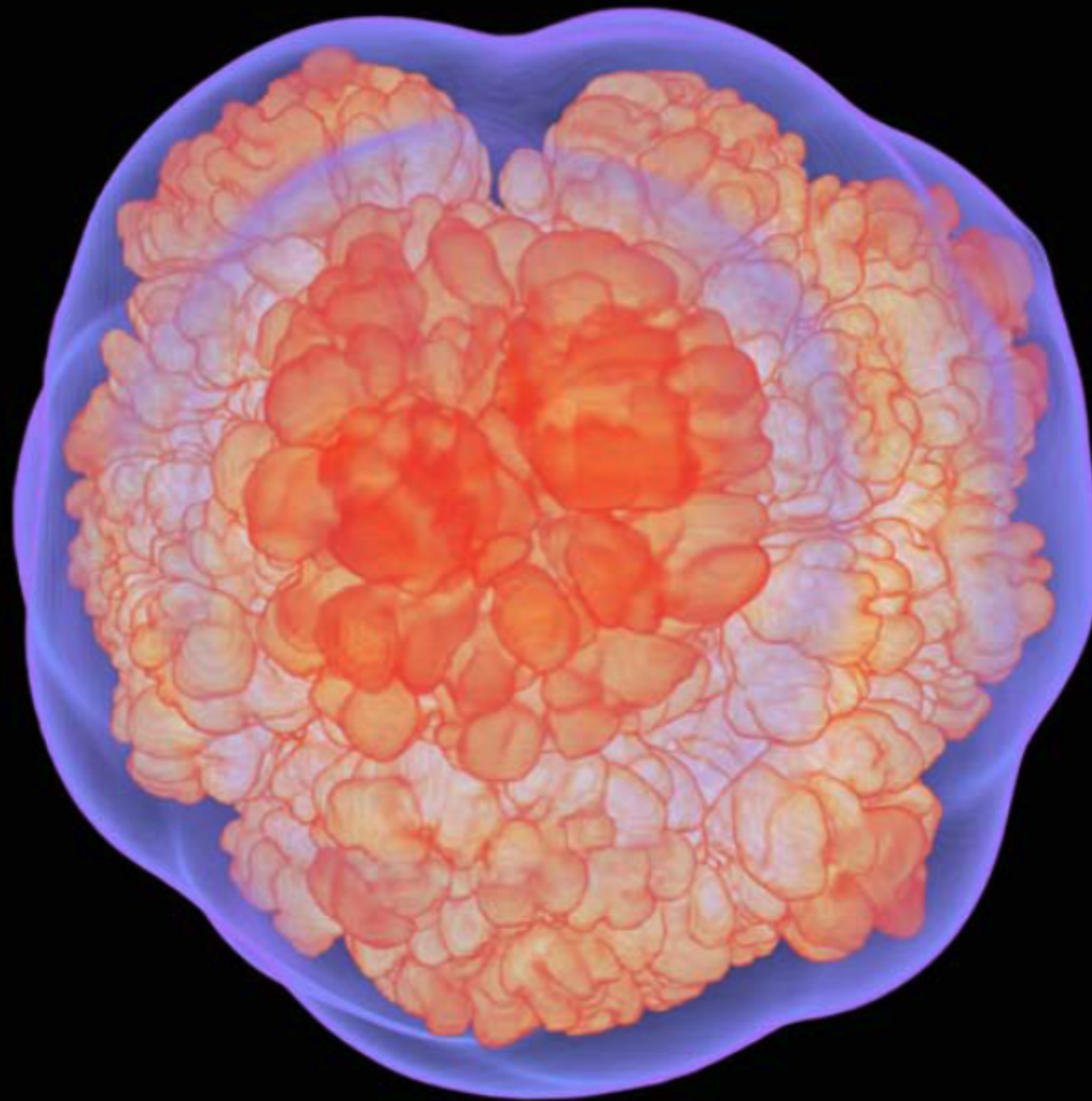
$t = 1.000 \text{ sec}$





# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

$t = 1.600 \text{ sec}$





# Deflagration SN Ia simulation

$t = 3.000 \text{ sec}$

asymtotic kinetic energy of explosion:  $\sim 0.58 \text{ B}$

$M(^{56}\text{Ni}) \sim 0.32 \text{ M}_\odot$

$M(\text{IGE}) \sim 0.55 \text{ M}_\odot$

$M(\text{IME}) \sim 0.16 \text{ M}_\odot$

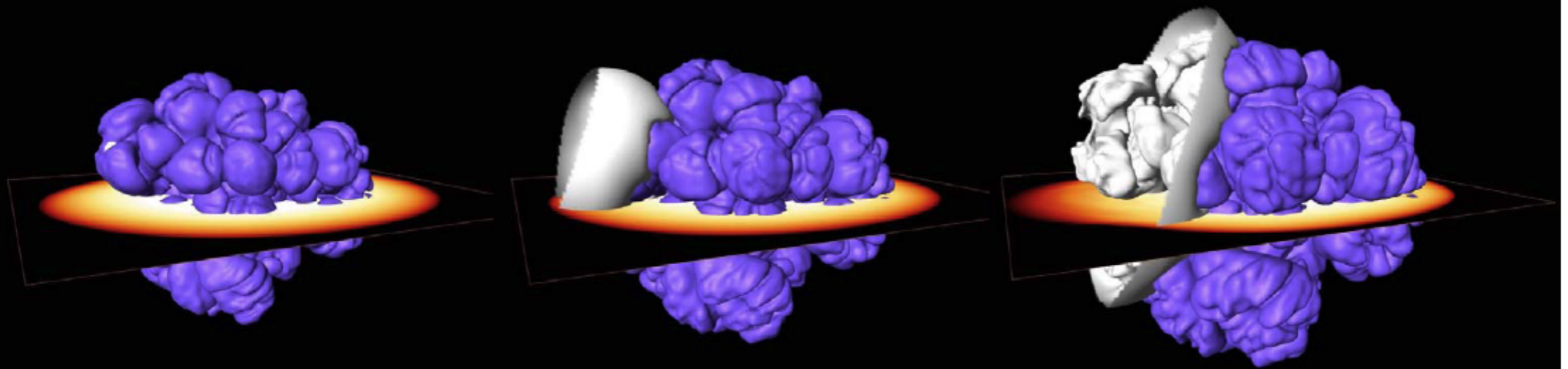
$M(\text{C}) \sim 0.31 \text{ M}_\odot$

$M(\text{O}) \sim 0.39 \text{ M}_\odot$

→ faint, low energy event



## Delayed detonation models



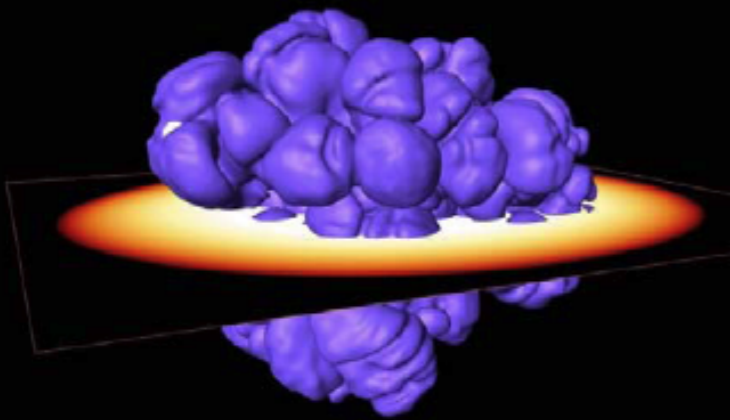
FR & Niemeyer, 2007  
Mazzali et al., 2007

preliminary test calculations:

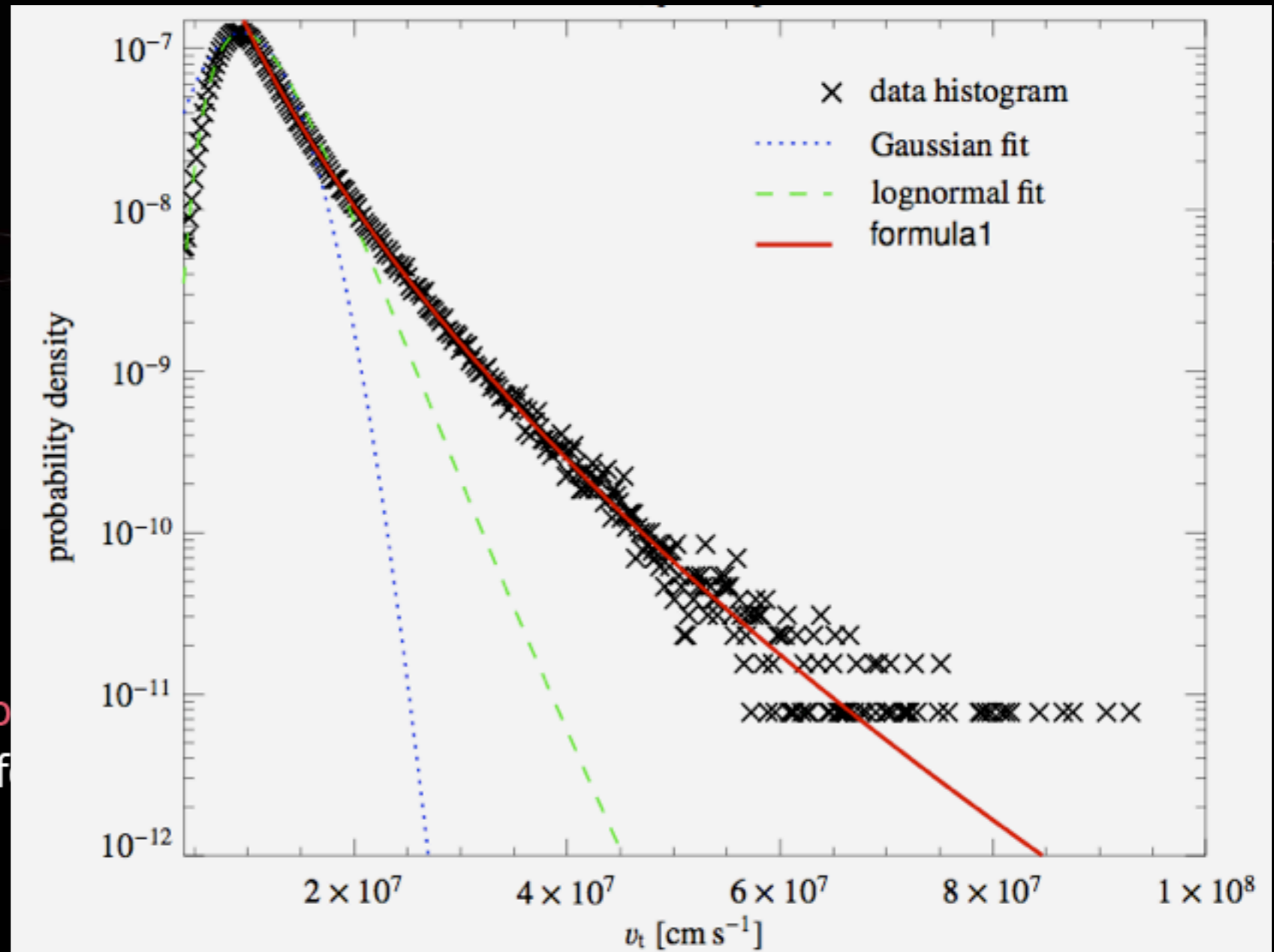
- ▶ promising candidate for explaining normal to bright SNe Ia



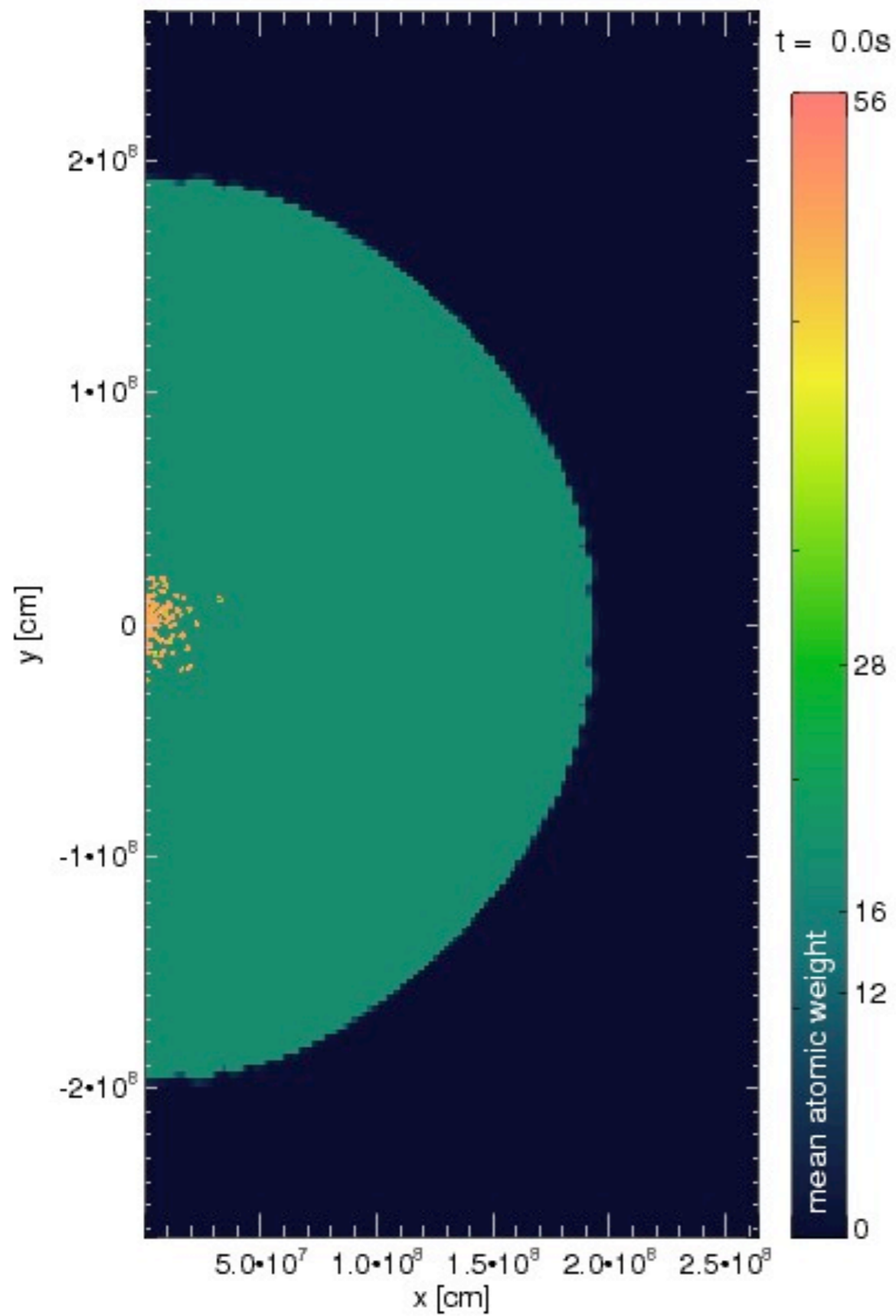
# Delayed detonation models



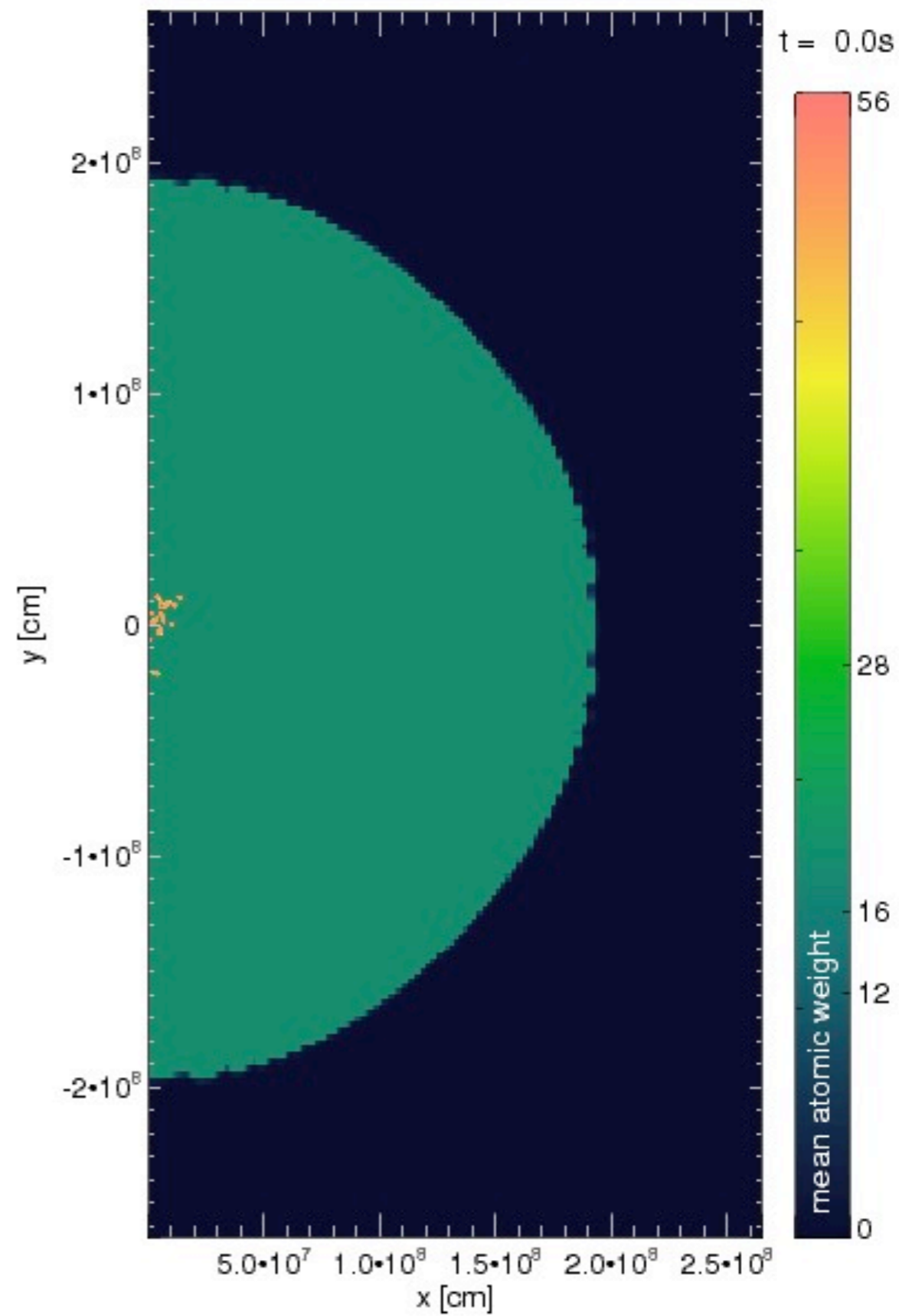
preliminary test calculation  
 ▶ promising candidate for



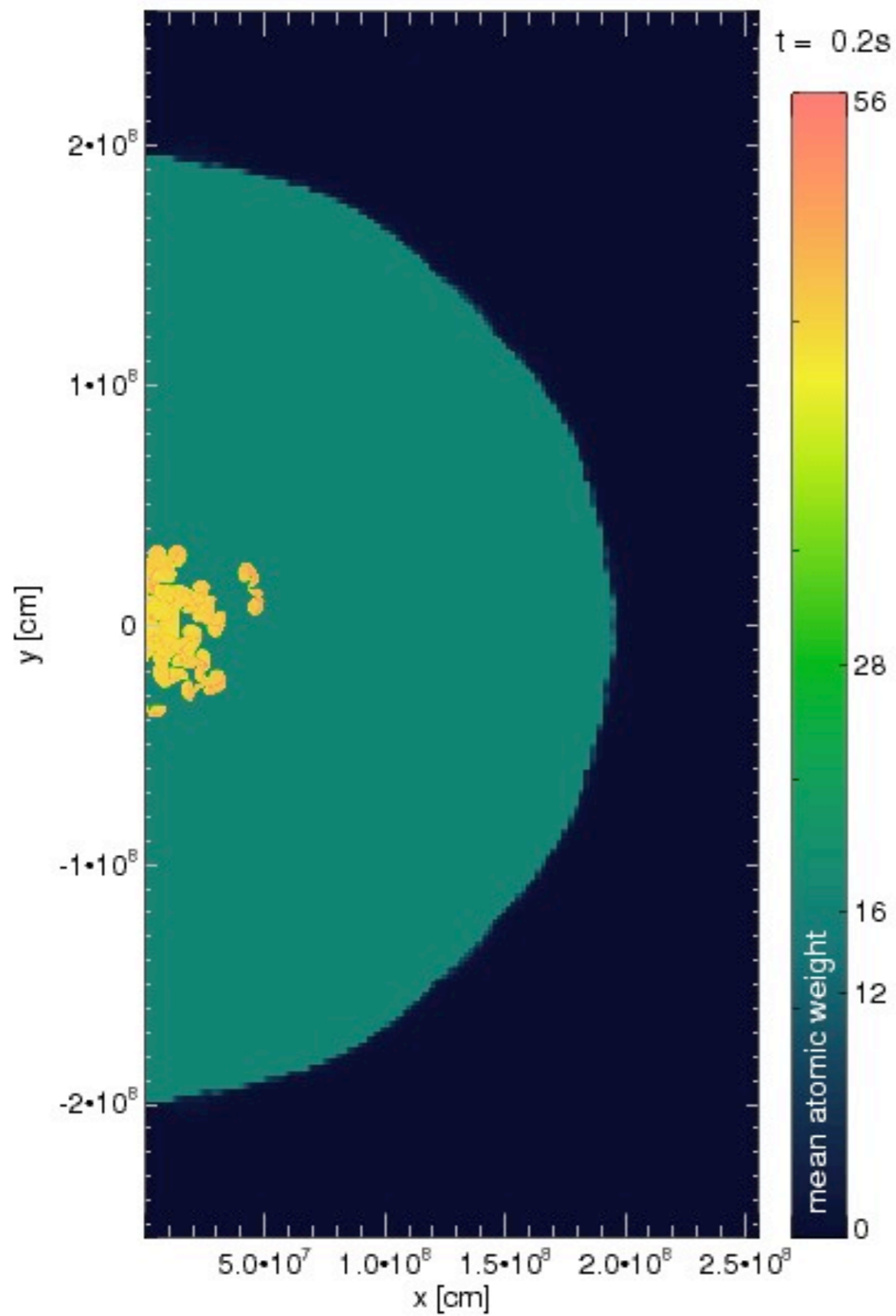




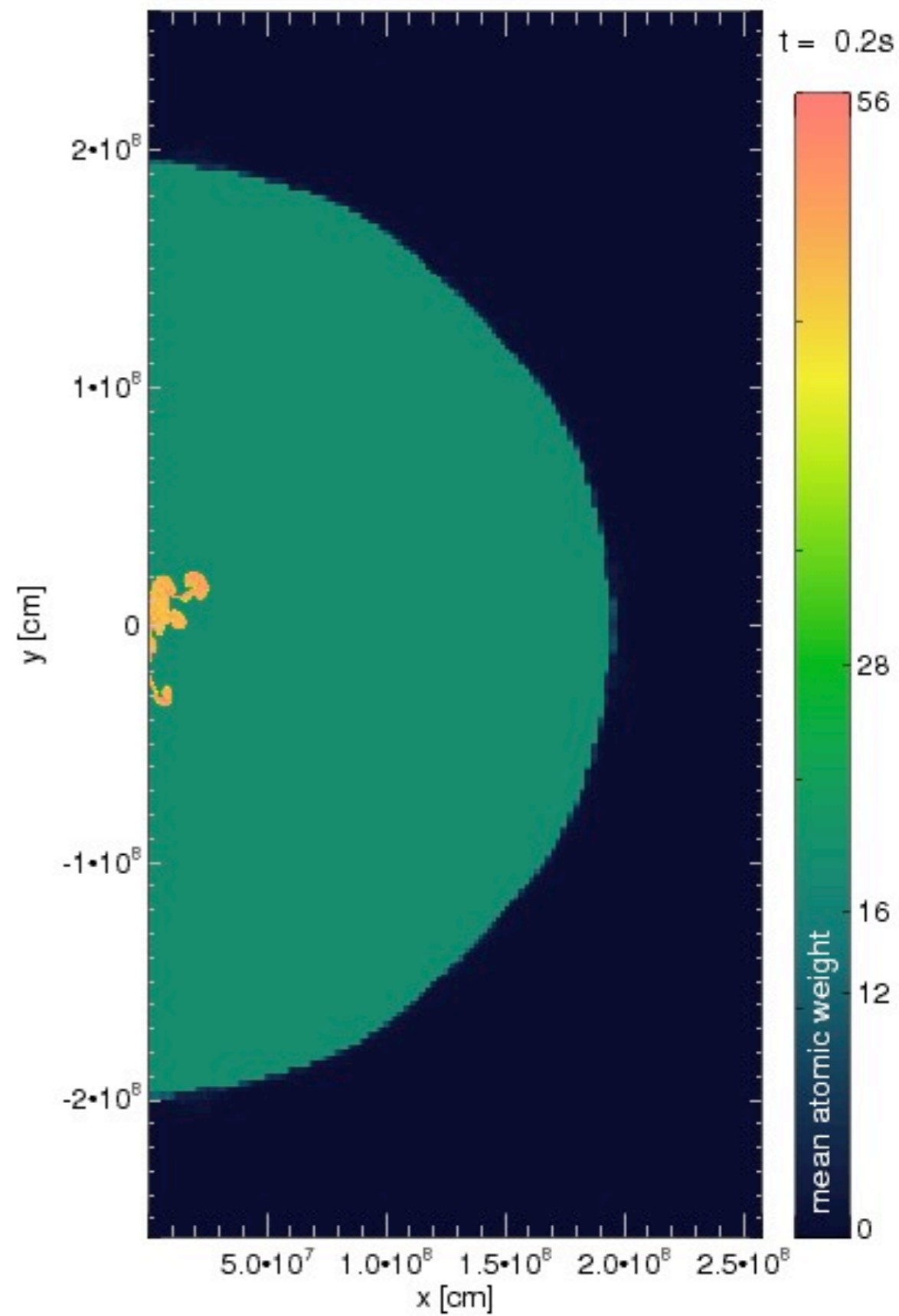
3d



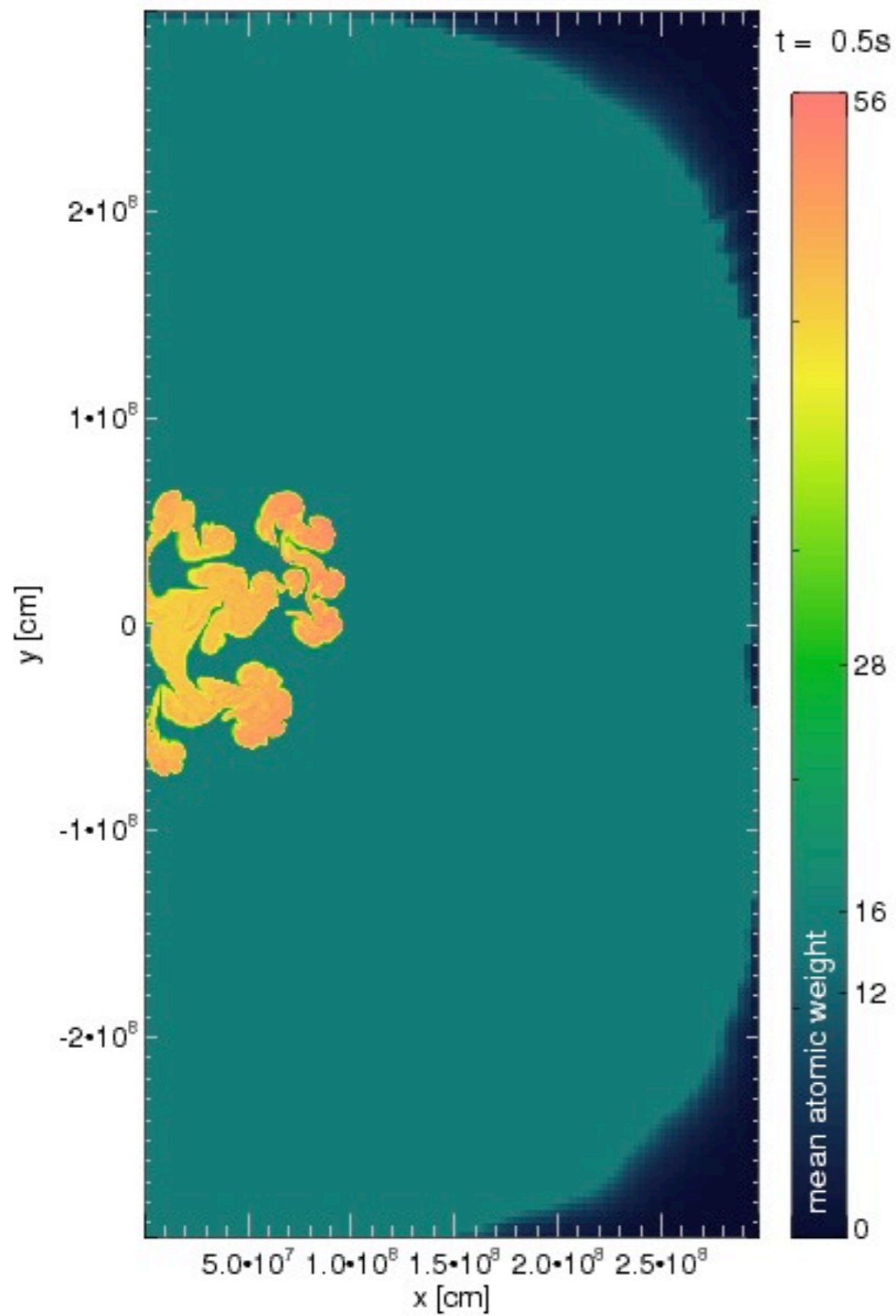




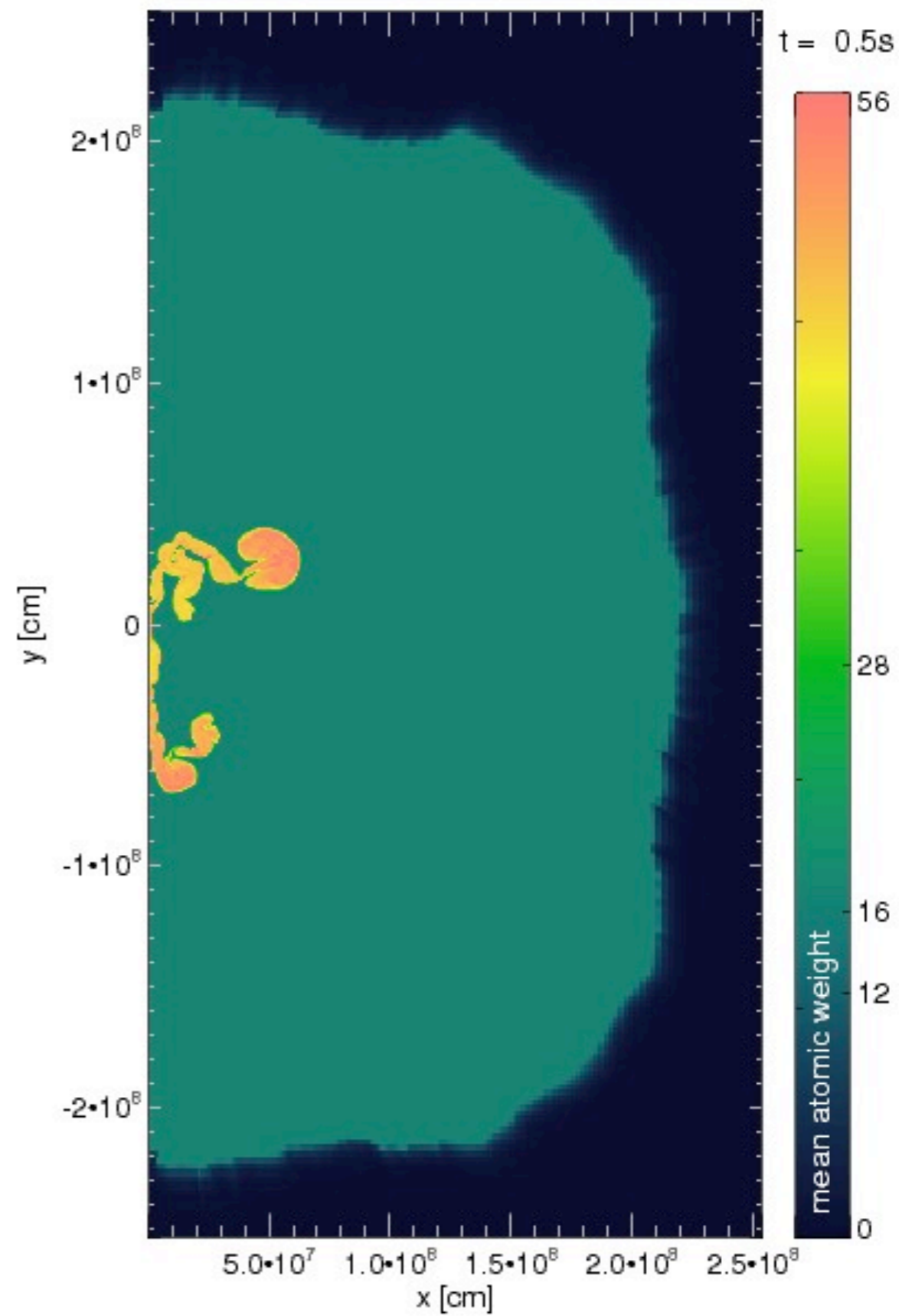
b



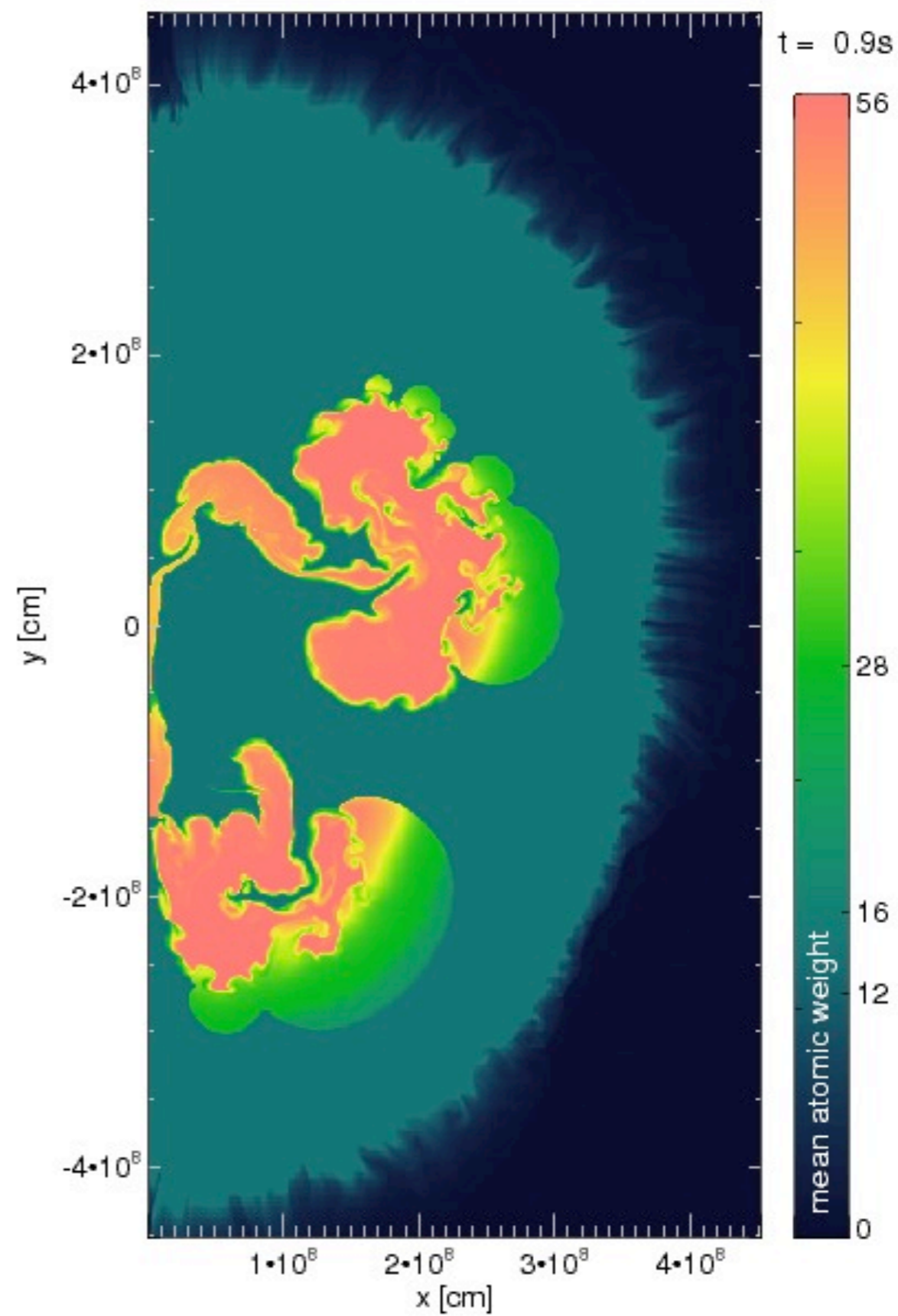
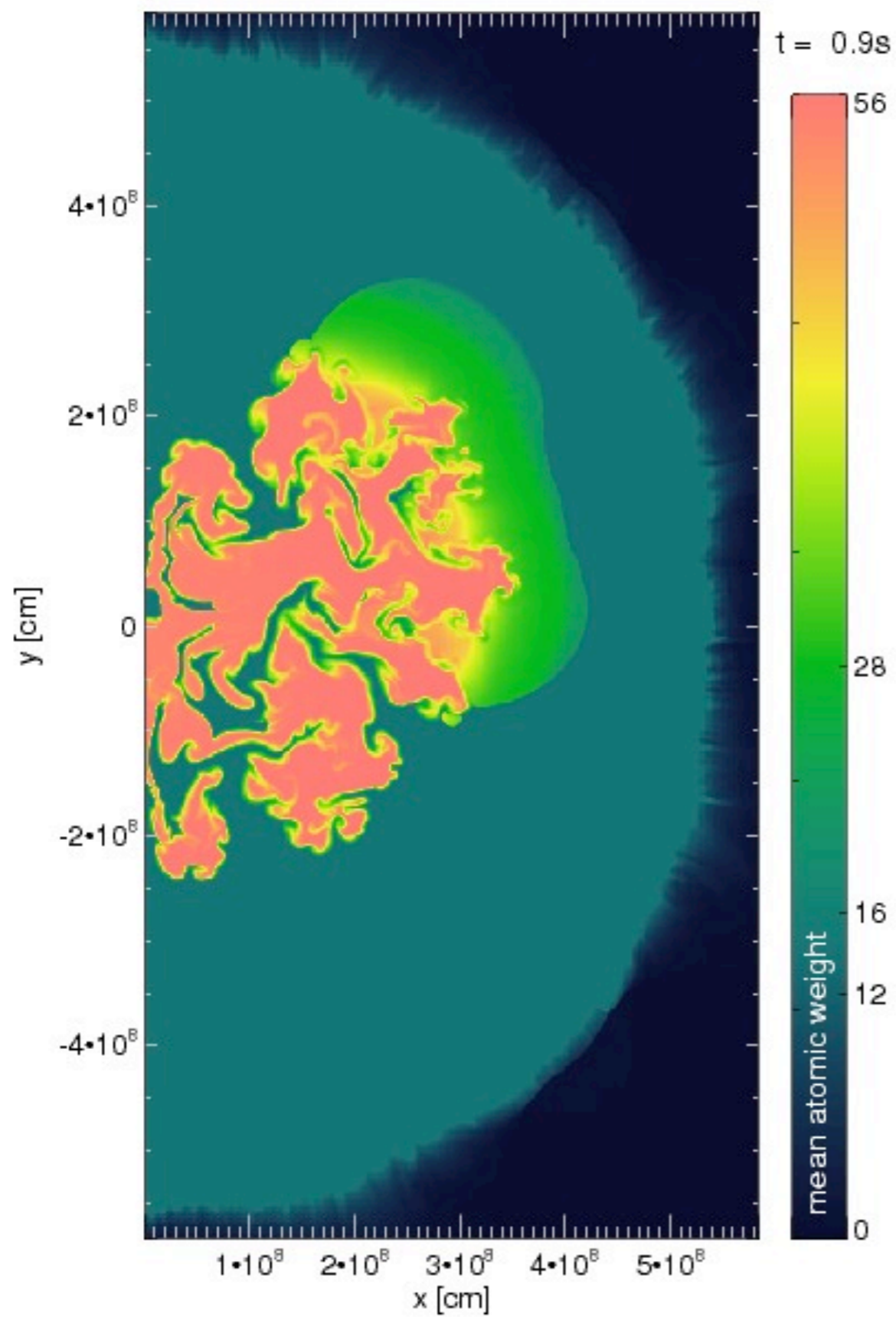




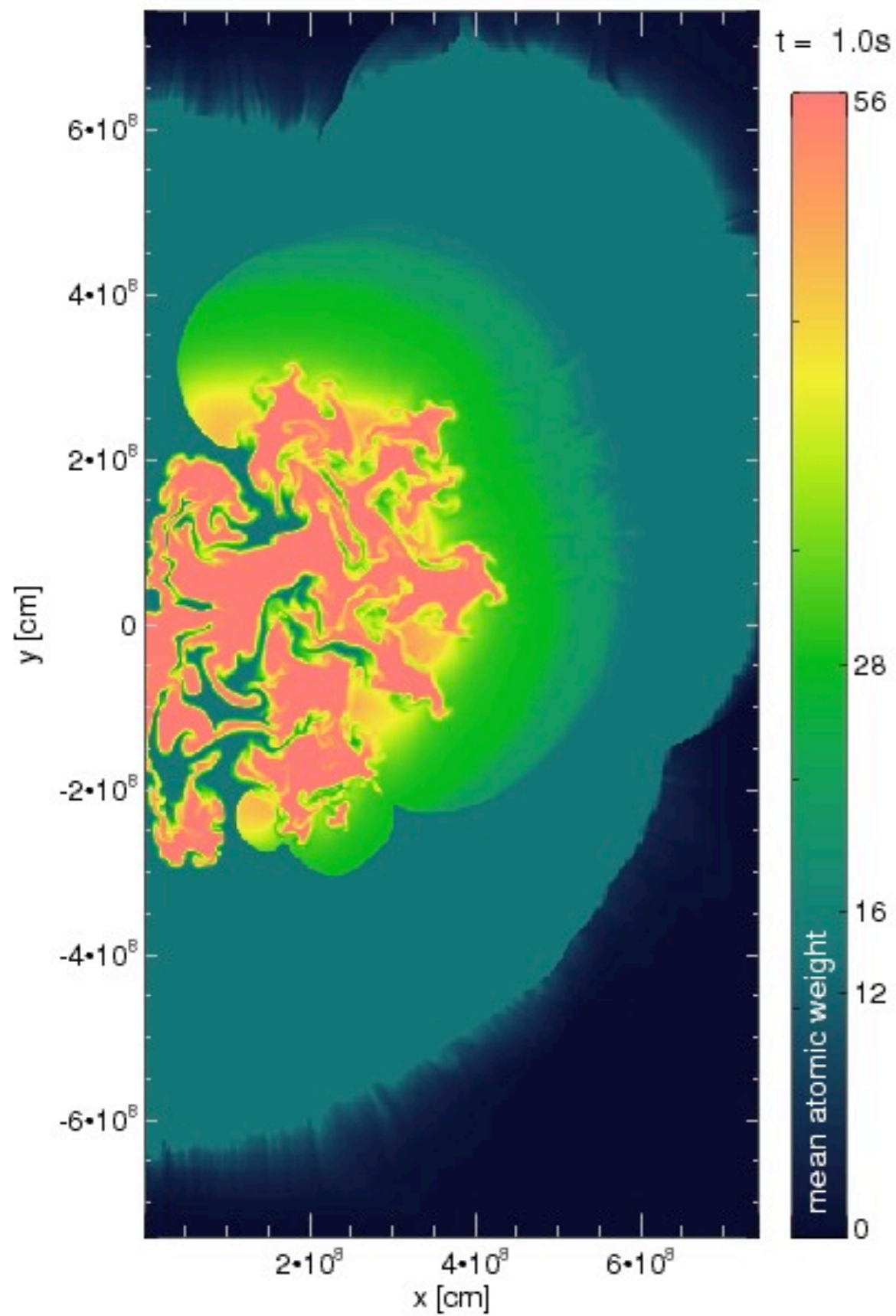
3d



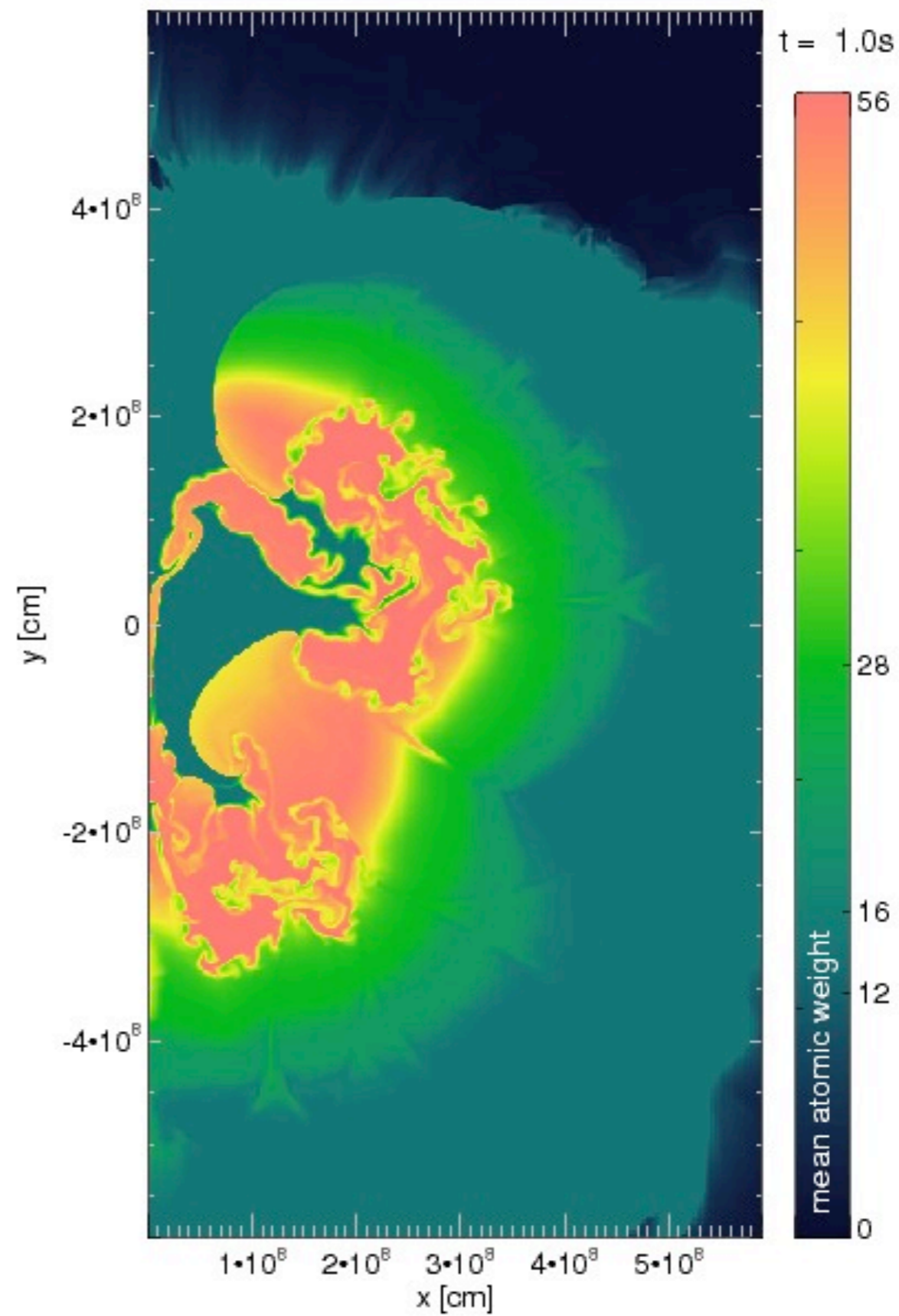




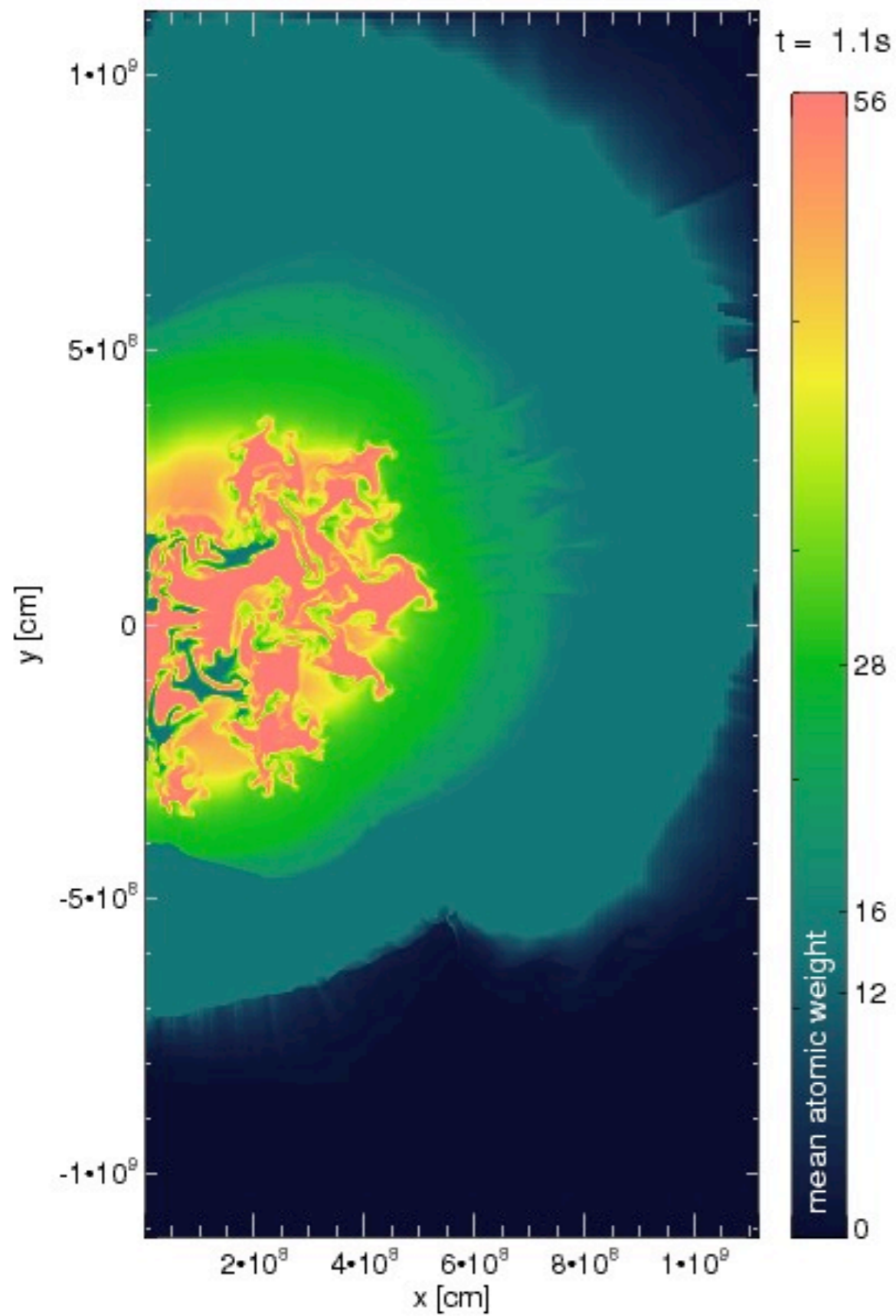




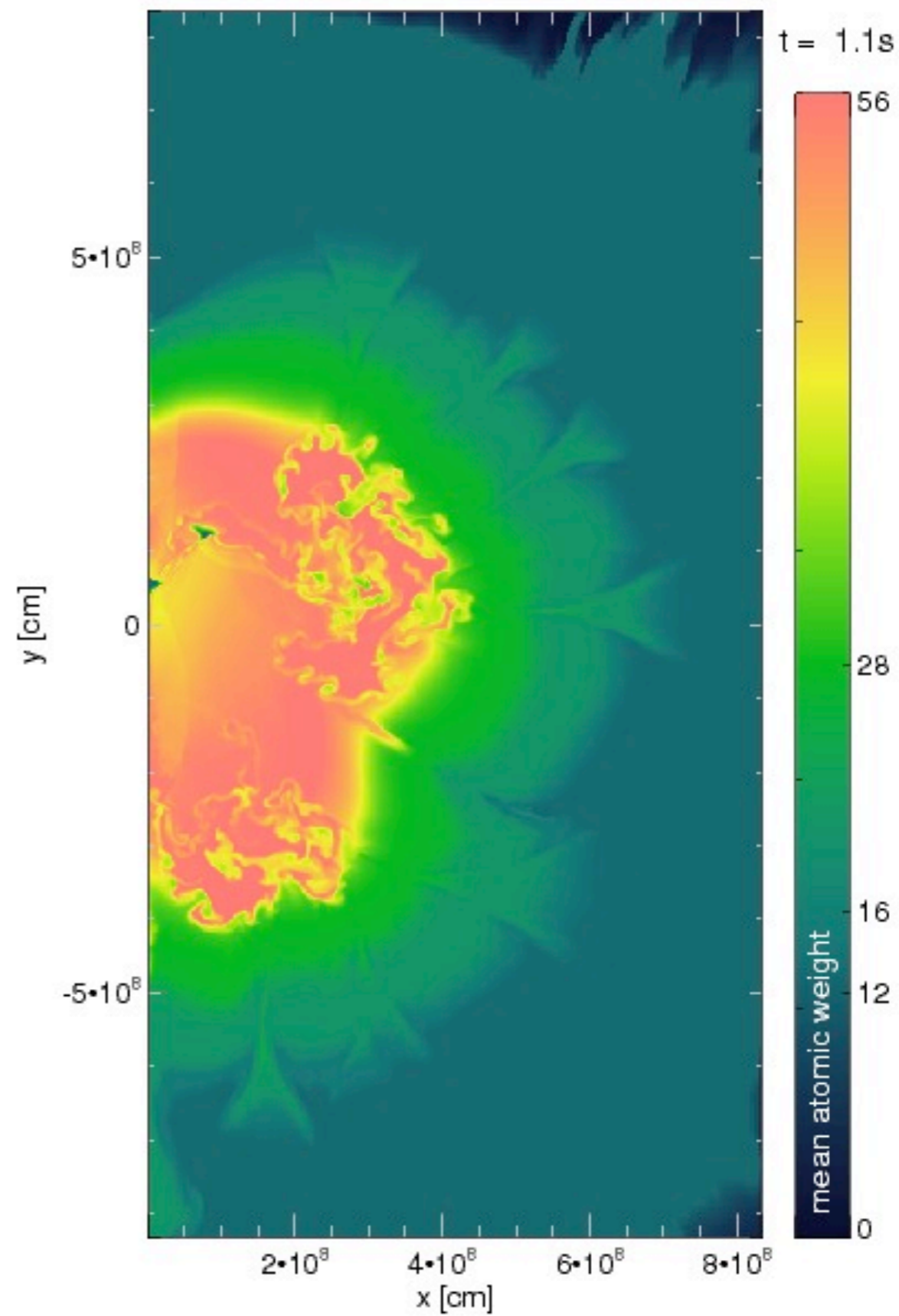
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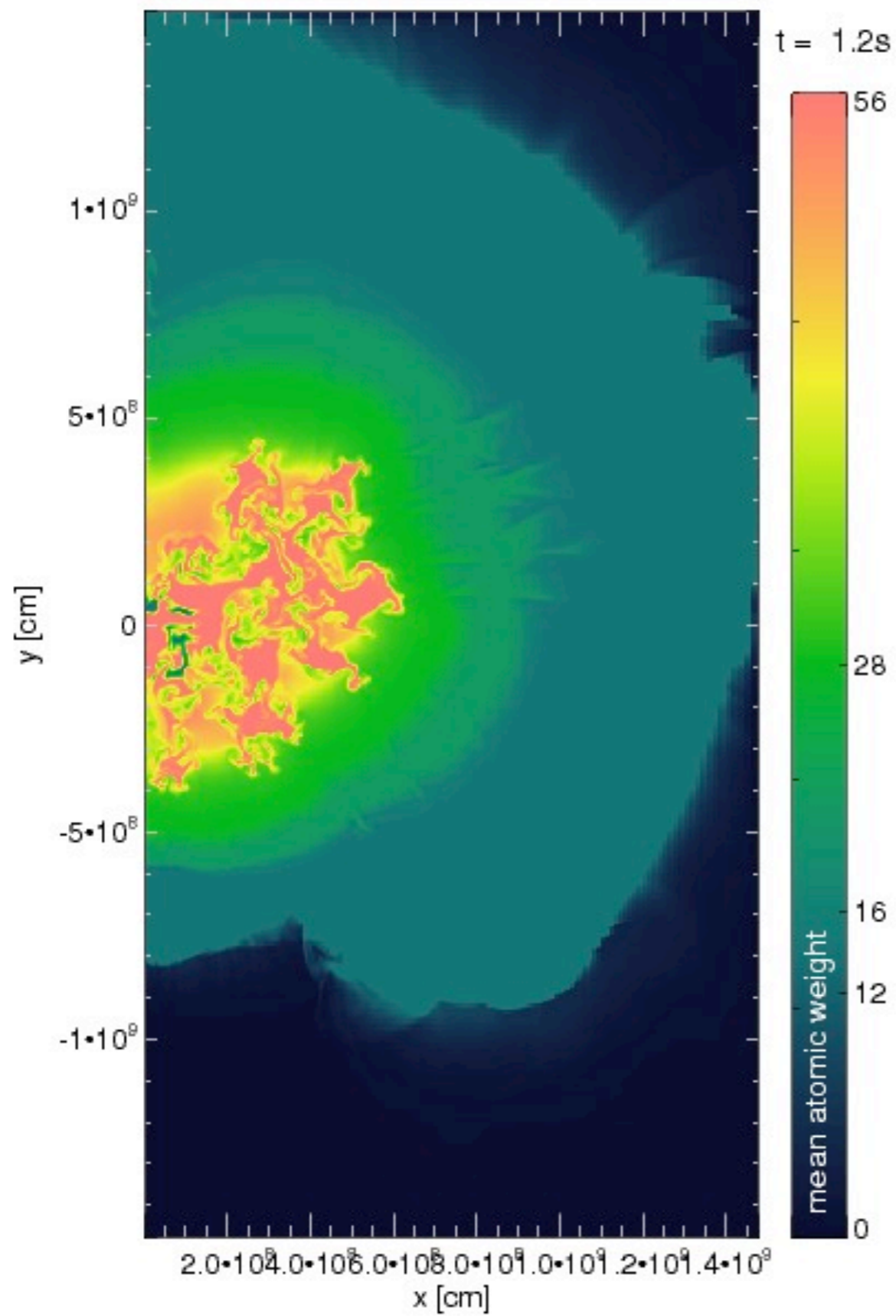




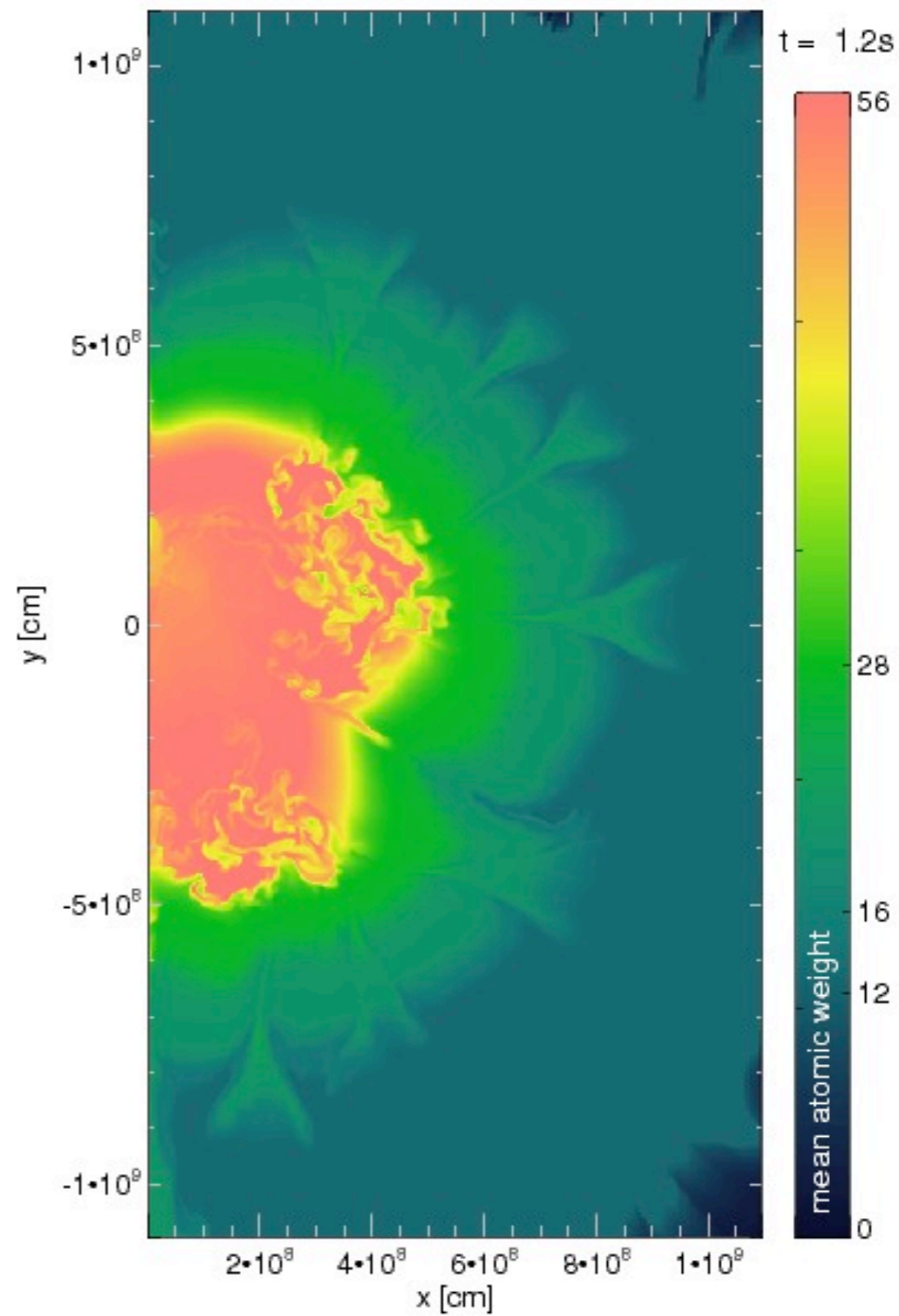
b





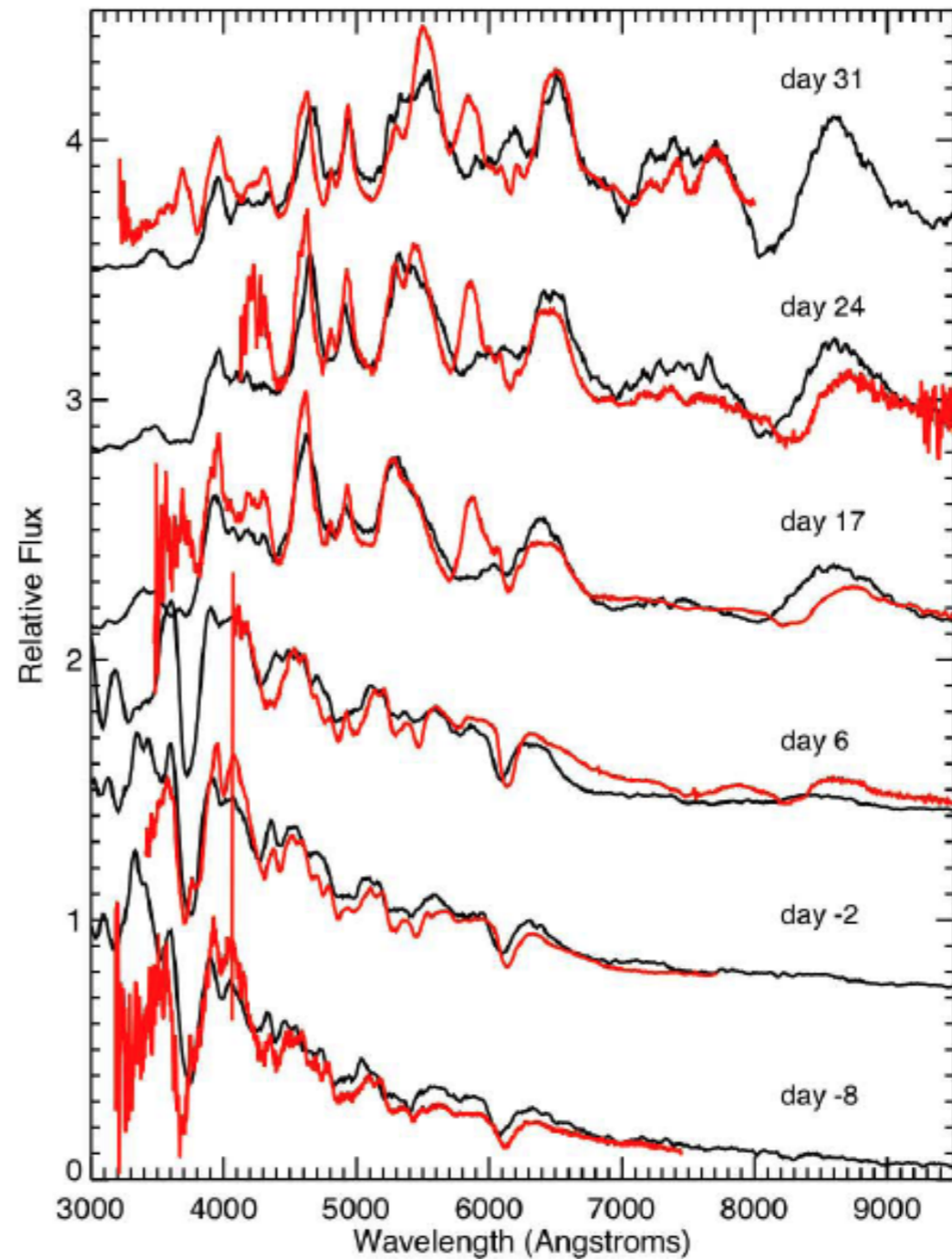
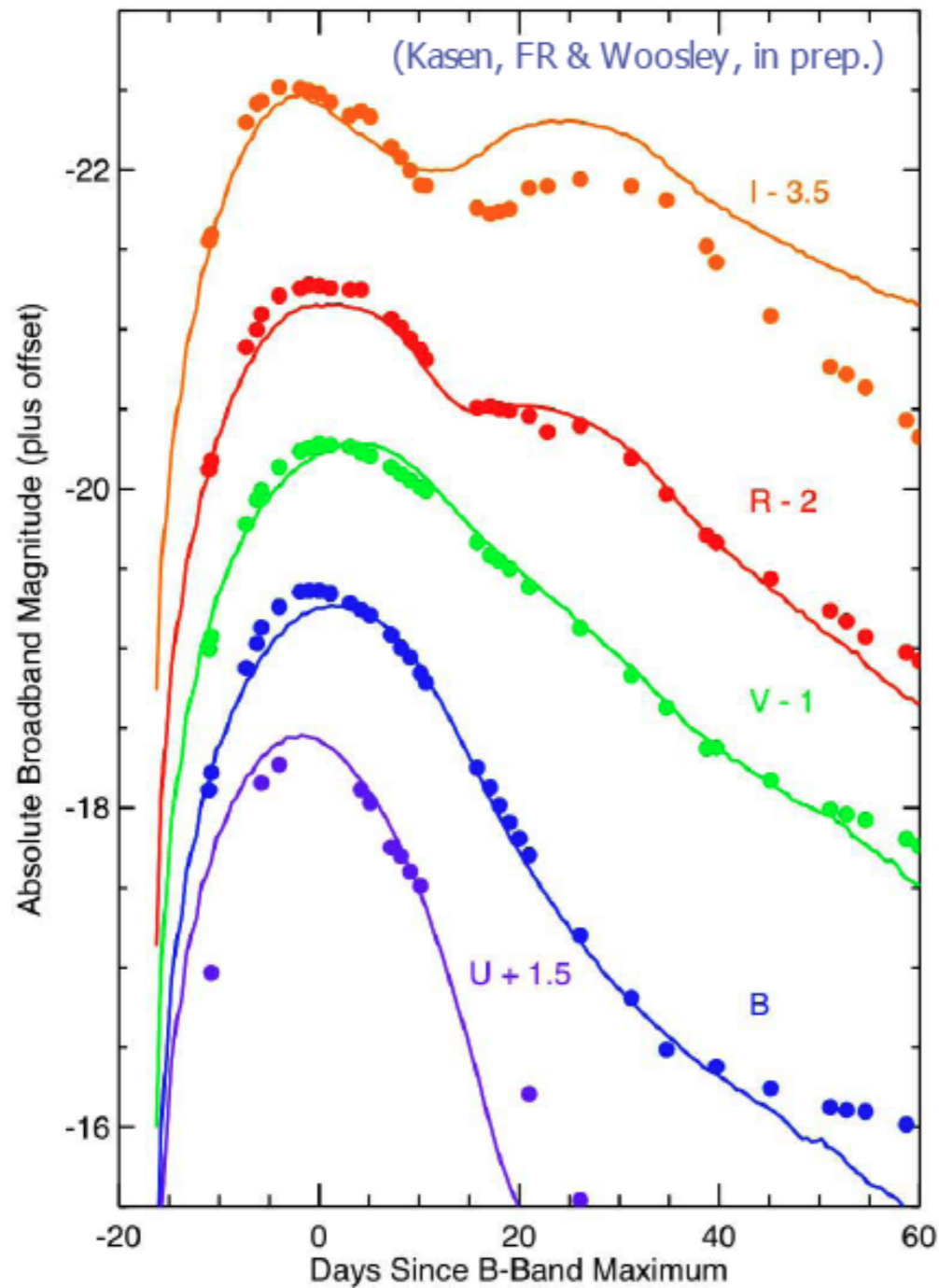


3





# Delayed Detonation Models



August 18, 2009

Friedrich Röpke, MPA

Hoflich and Khoklov - Kasen Röpke and Woosley 58

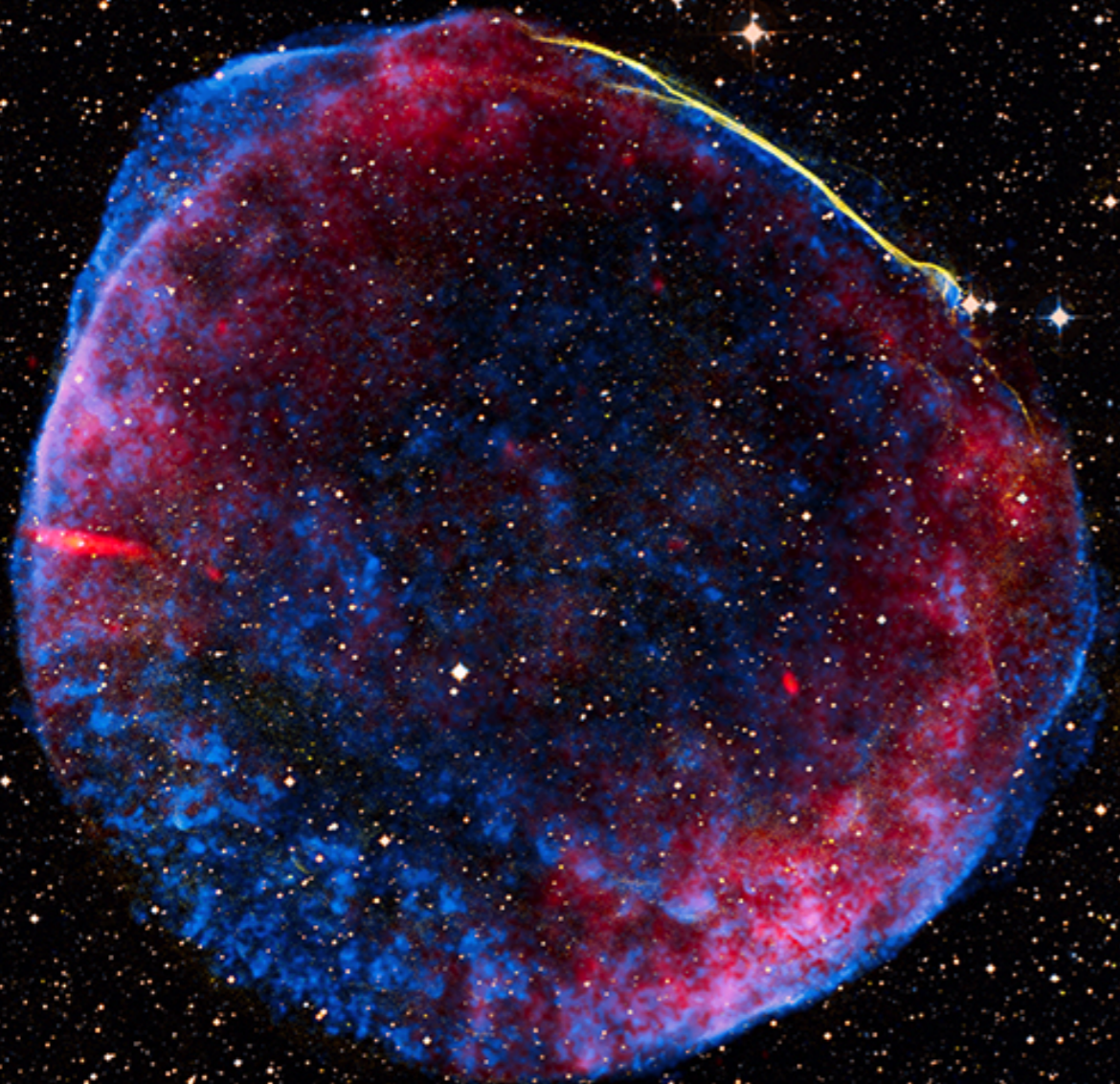


# SN Remnants

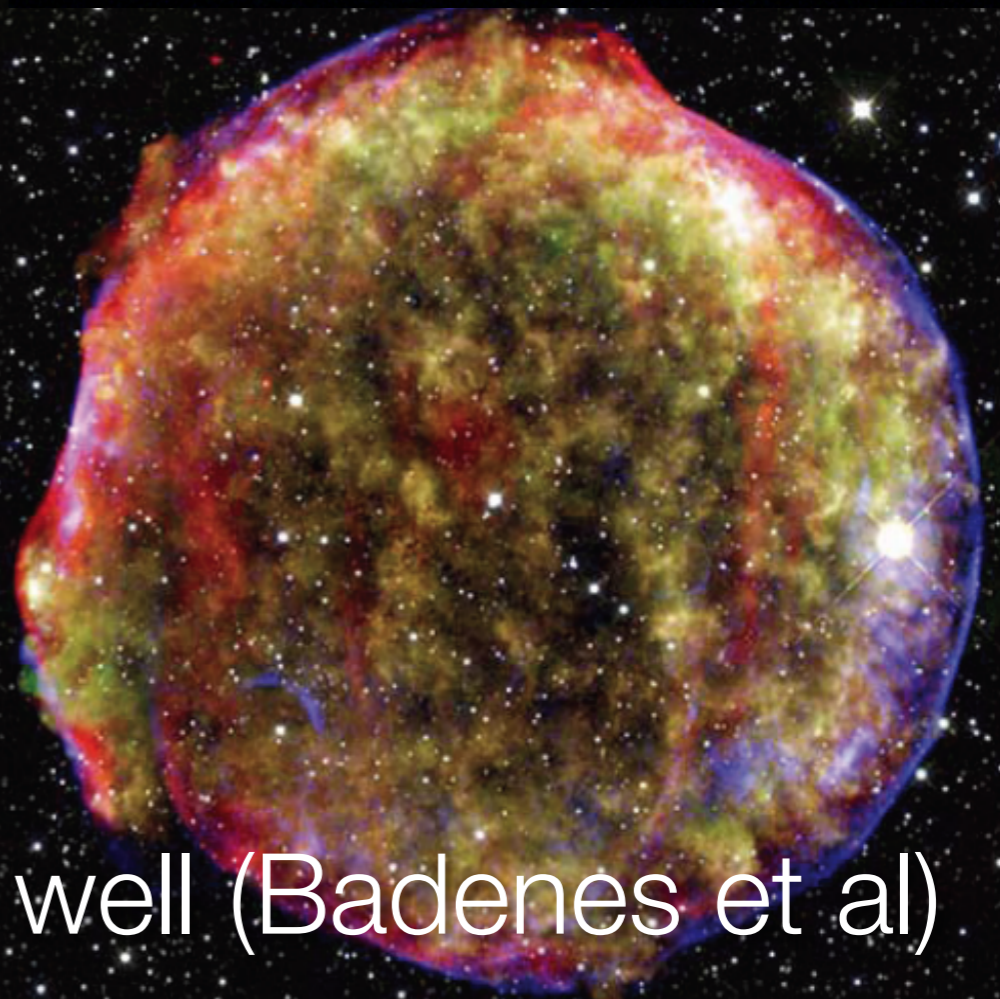
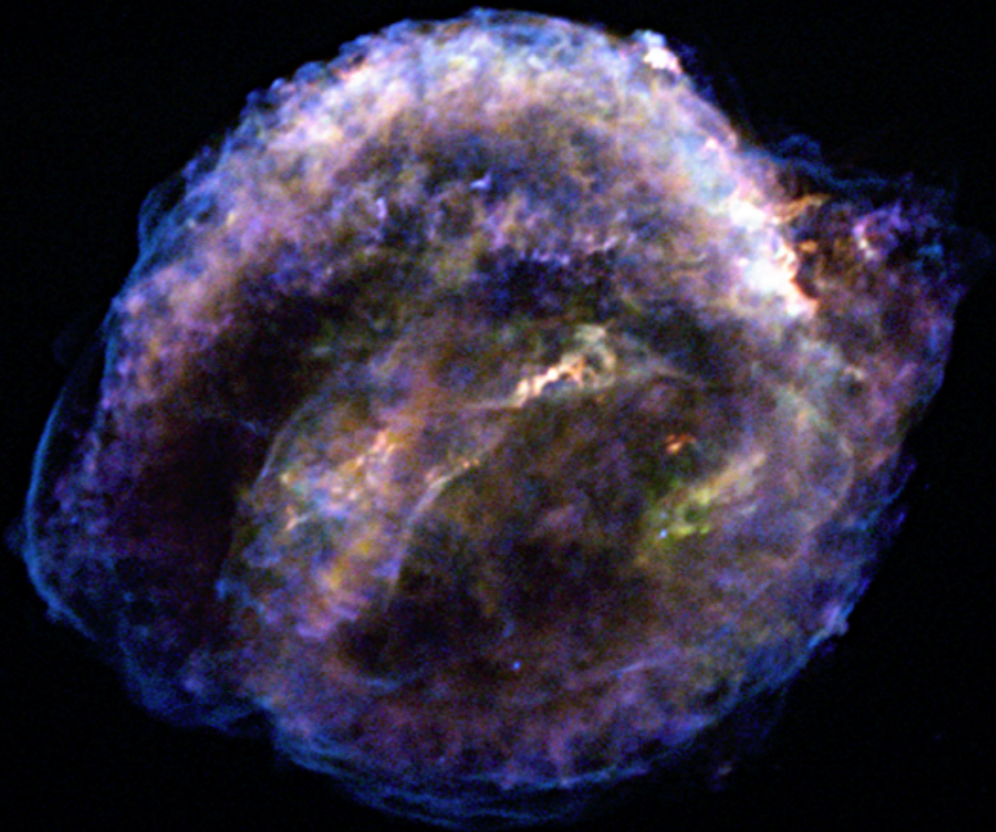
and DD models fit remnants well (Badenes et al)



# SN Remnants



Tycho's SNR  
SN 1572

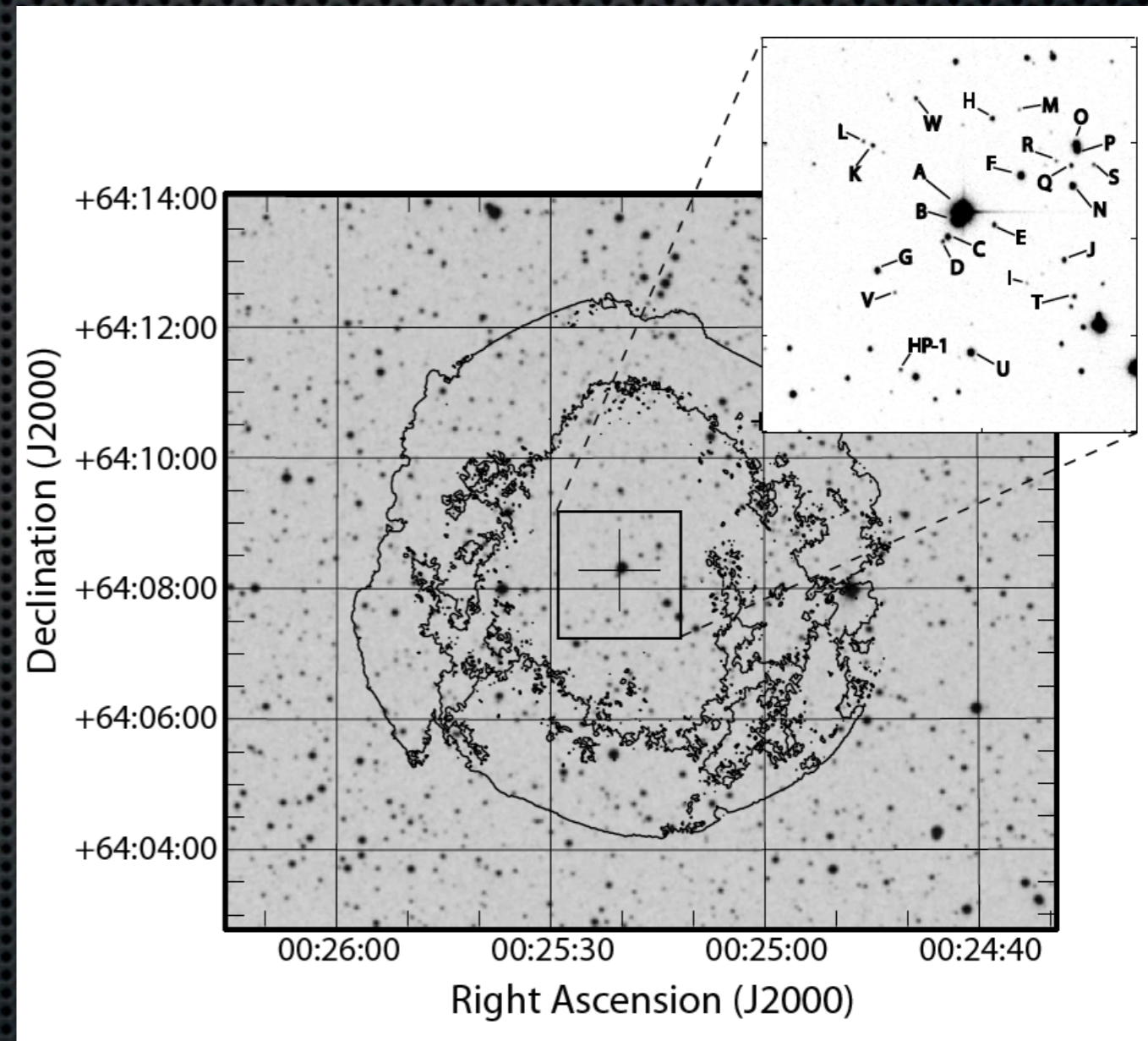


and DD models fit remnants well (Badenes et al)



# One Problem? Where are the Progenitors

Ruiz-Lapuente and Kerzendorf et al. Searched for star that donated mass. I believe no obvious candidates at this point, and they should be obvious From their motion and rotation, unless it is a helium star.







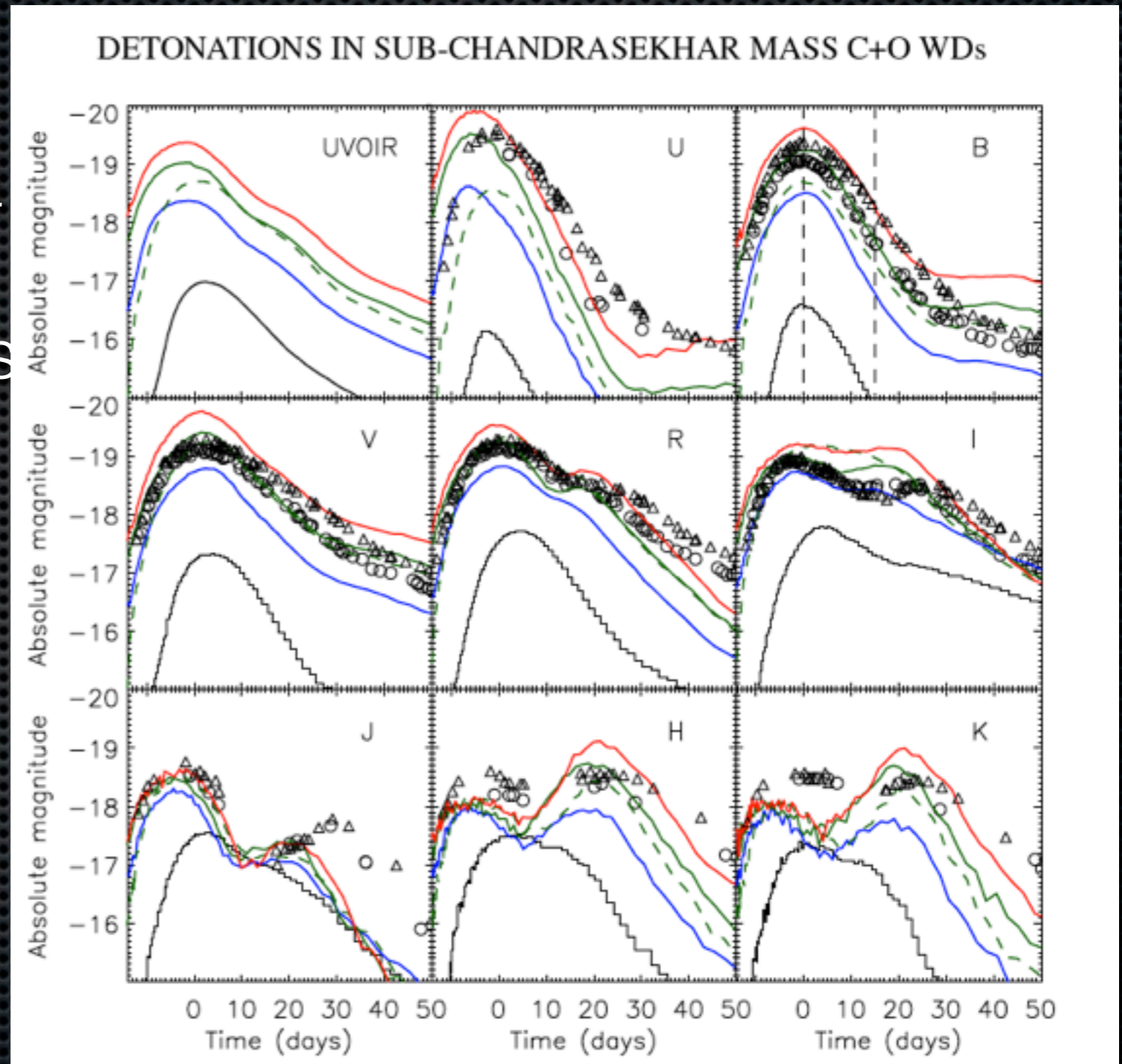






# Maybe Helium Detonations

- ✦ Light curves and spectra more or less look OK at least for brightest objects
- ✦ But where are the less massive ones?
- ✦ leaves a very faint secondary He star.



Livne ...Sim et al 2010



# Maybe two White Dwarfs?

**Are there enough progenitors?**

Maybe, but hard to know

**Do they give the right Age distribution?**

Probably OK

**Do they explode?**

Answer has typically been no...But hard problem, which out of desperation is being looked at again in detail. Some might. Most would say most do not, and the ones that do, don't look like normal Ia (but maybe like the faintest SN Ia)



# So a Major Mystery remains What makes a SN Ia?

Delayed Detonation Explosions look good, except they should leave their donor star as a calling card, some hydrogen left-over from the explosion, and probably a signature in the light curve - none of which are seen.

edge-lit Helium Detonations - low mass, unclear if there are enough, and why SN Ia are so homogenous

and White-Dwarf White-Dwarf mergers remain possibilities, but not clear that they can explain the bulk of SN Ia which are observed.

I suspect SN Ia population may potentially be a mix...



# Largest Bangs in the Universe....Since the Big One.

**There exist very rare events which are extremely energetic. These include**

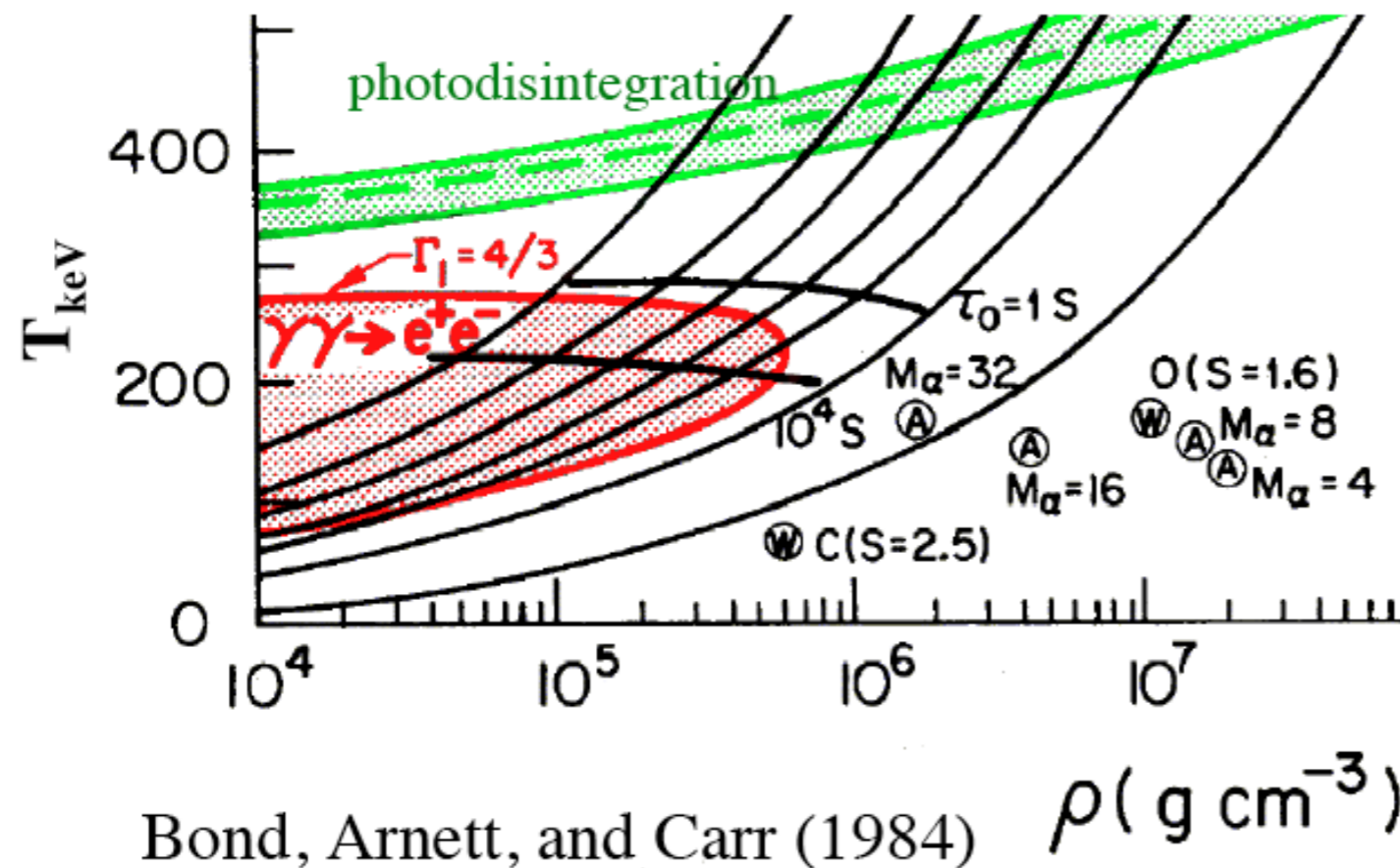
**Pair Production Supernova**

**Gamma Ray Bursts (two types)**



# Pair Instability

Stars of sufficiently high mass (central entropy) encounter a structural instability ( $\Gamma < 4/3$ ) and collapse following the end of helium burning. Explosive C, O, Si burning can reverse the implosion and make a thermonuclear explosion



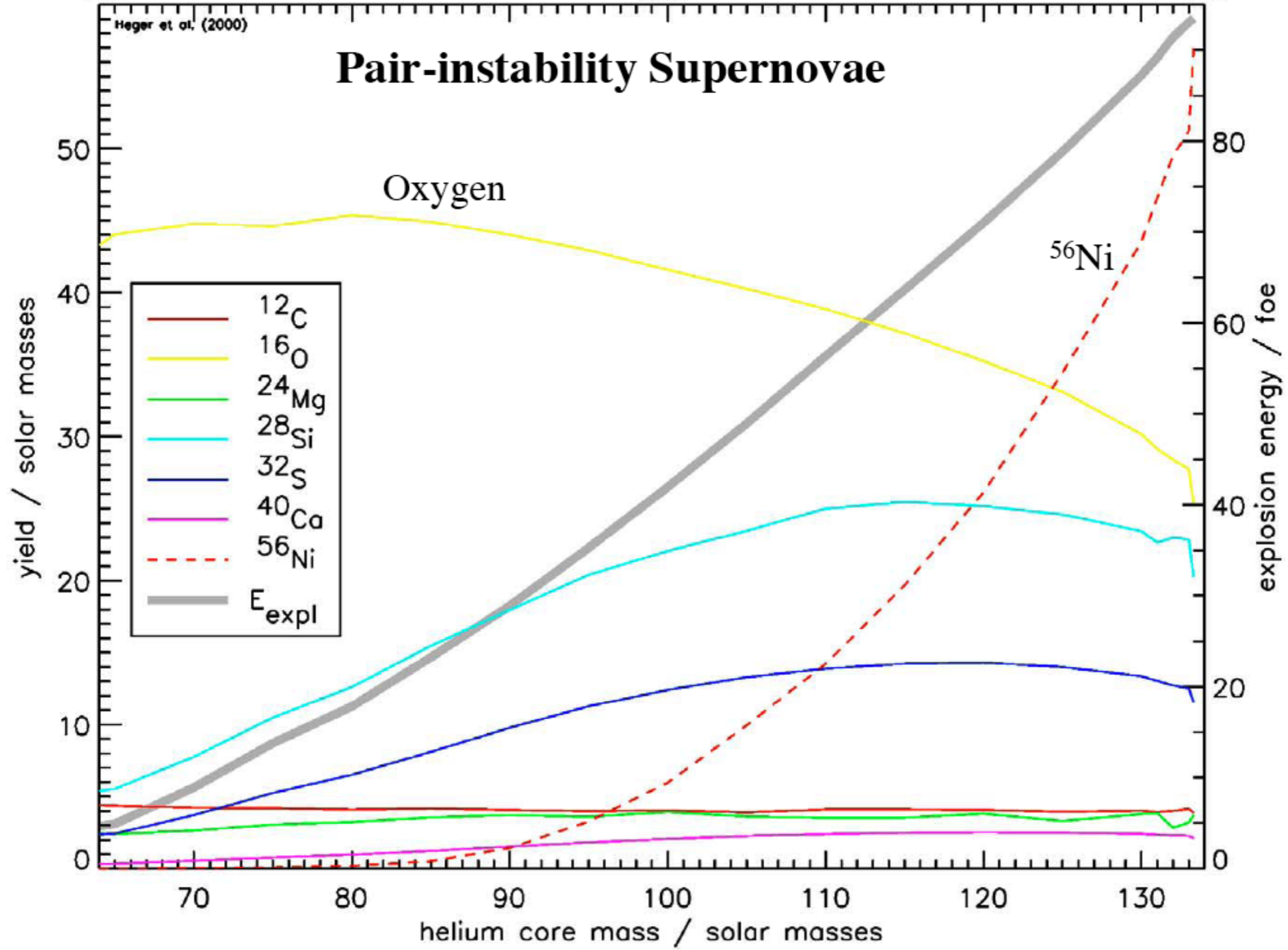
$$BE \sim \frac{GM^2}{R}$$

$$\text{Nuclear energy} \sim f M$$

Above some mass  
hard to explode



Initial total stellar mass / solar masses  
140 200 260



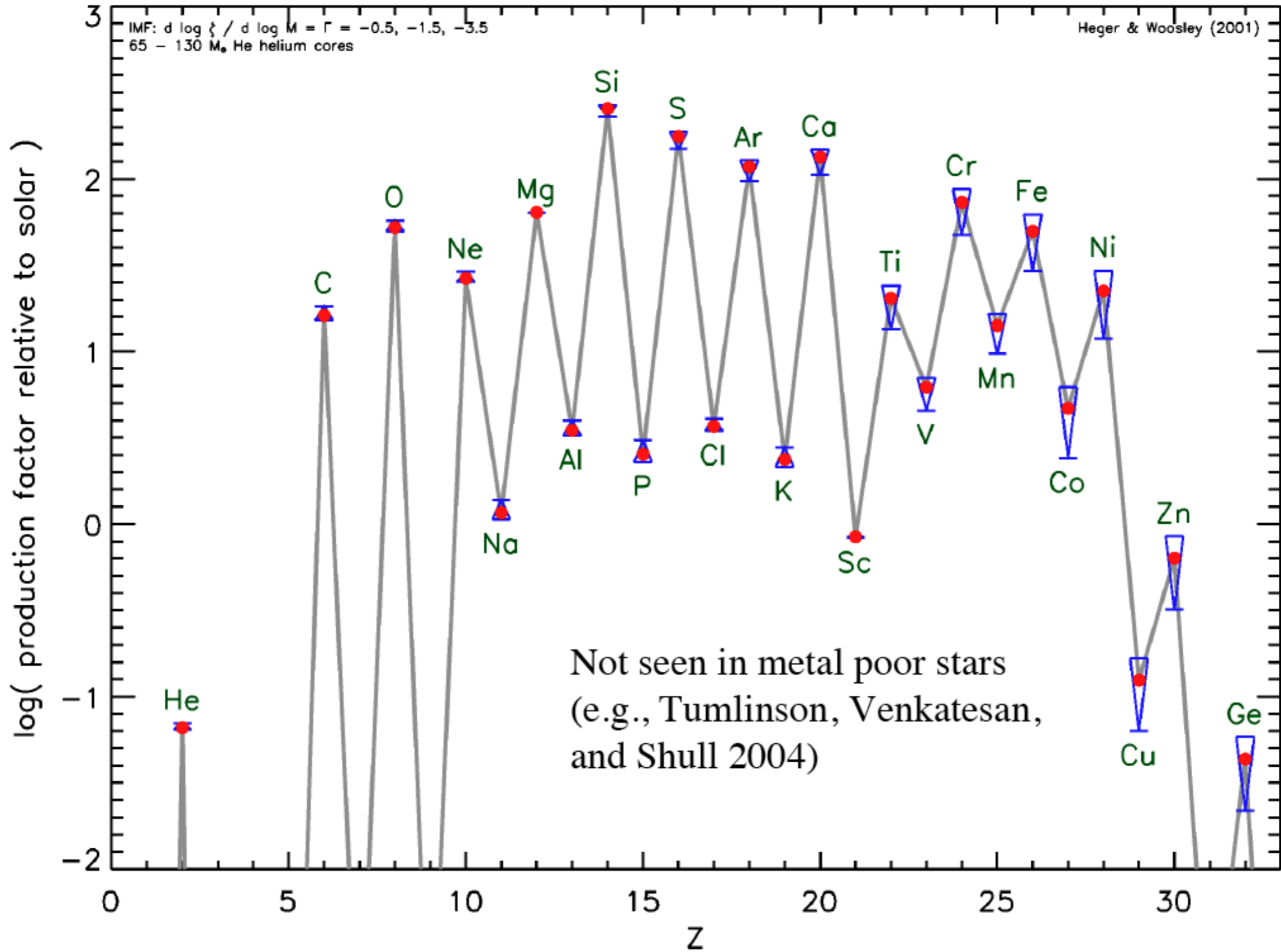


## Complications:

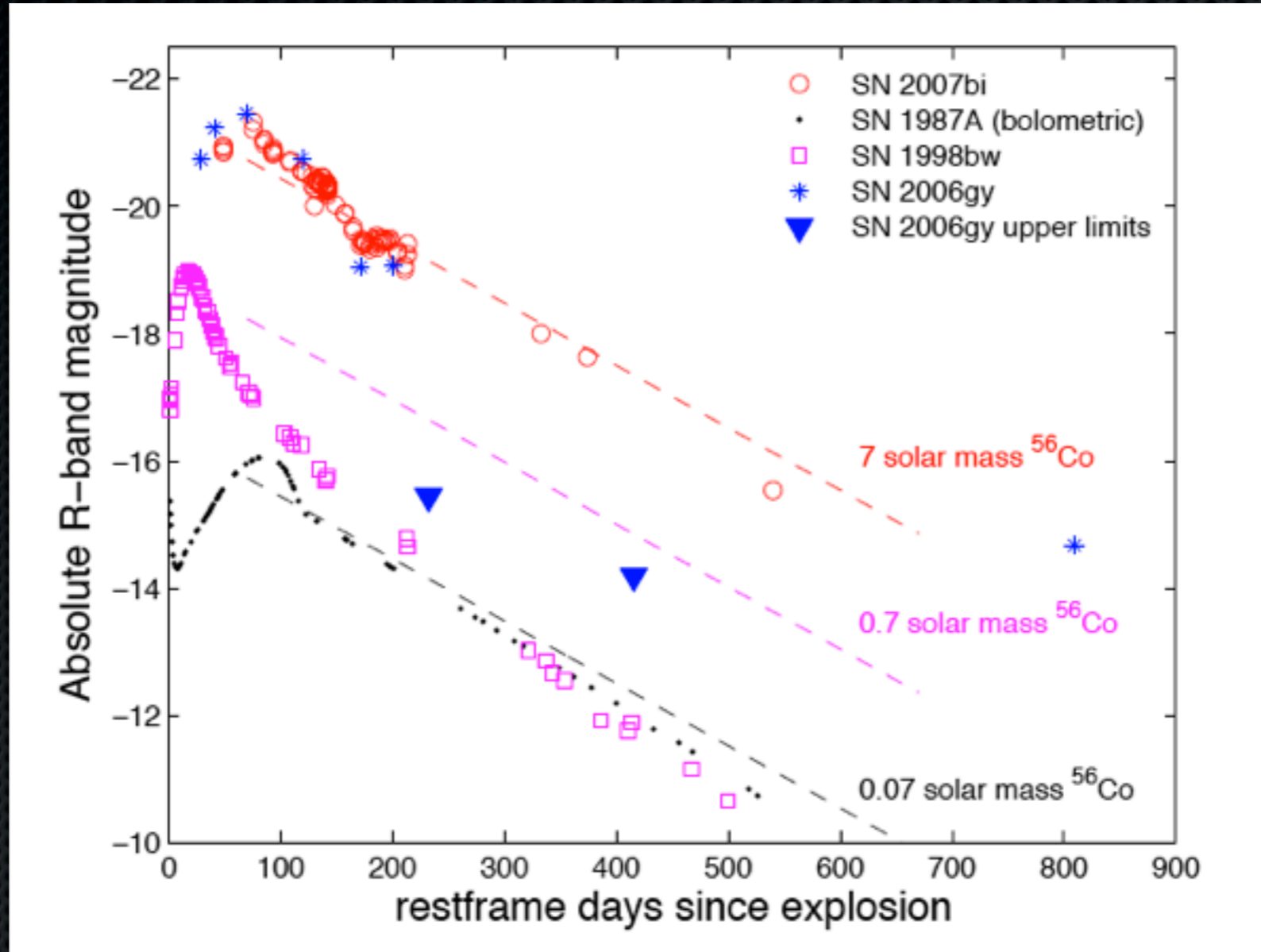
- **Did they, do they ever exist** and what was the heaviest?
- **Mass loss:** Eta Carina or  $\dot{M} \propto Z^n \rightarrow 0$  as  $Z \rightarrow 0$
- **Convection** and convective dredge up. Primary nitrogen production leads to red supergiant, otherwise blue. RSG may lose mass even at  $Z = 0$ .
- **Rotation** - increases He core mass, increases mixing and mass loss and may dominate the explosion mechanism in some mass range
- **Binary** - lose envelope?



# Production Factor of Pop III Pair Creation Supernovae







But they do seem to be seen in Nature  
 at least something that looks like them - but very  
 rare



# Gamma Ray Bursts



# THE DISCOVERY

Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) are Short (few seconds) bursts of 100keV-few MeV.

They were discovered accidentally by Klebesadal Strong and Olson in 1967 using the Vela satellites

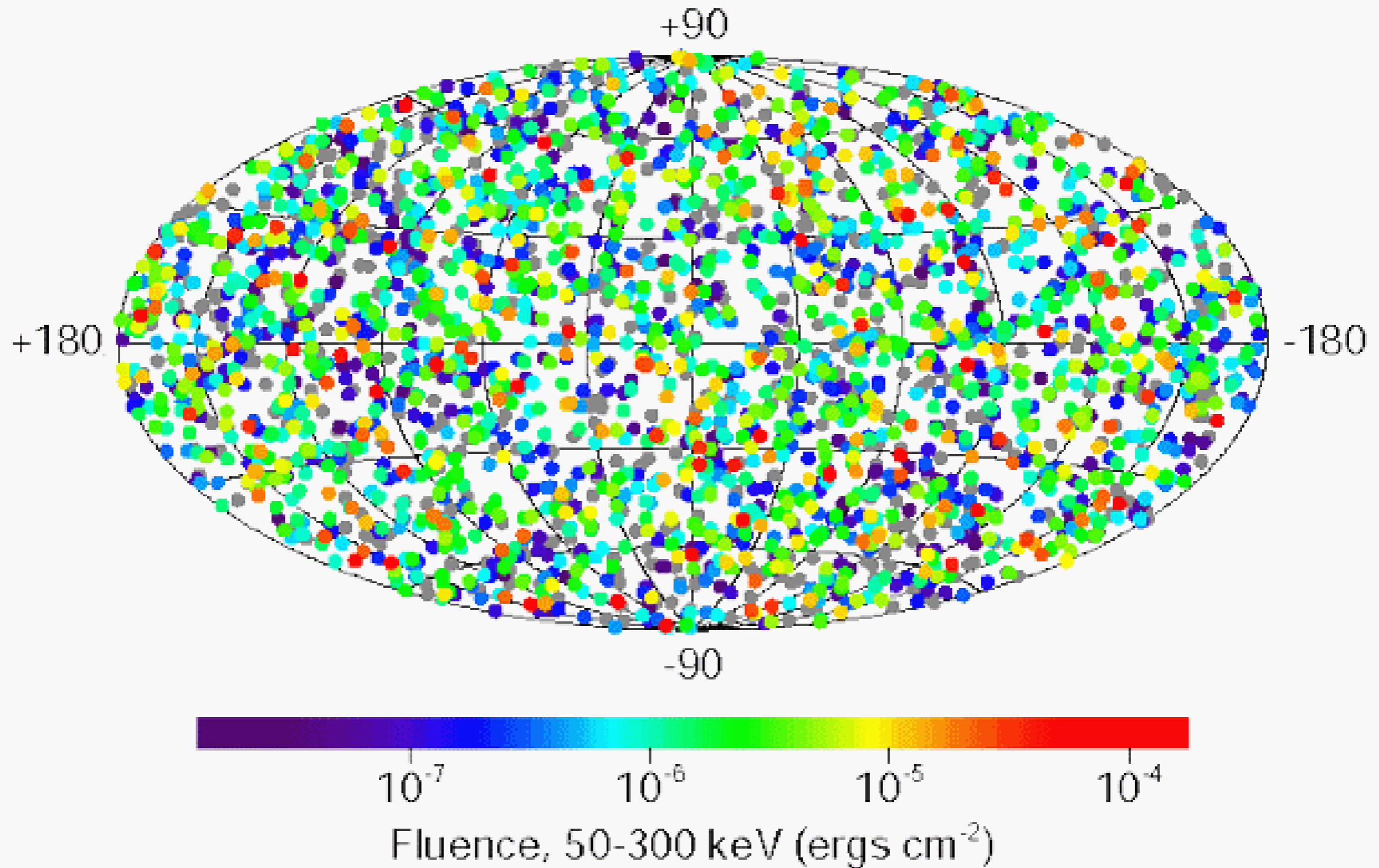
(defense satellites sent to monitor Atomic Bomb tests).

- The discovery was reported for the first time only in 1973.

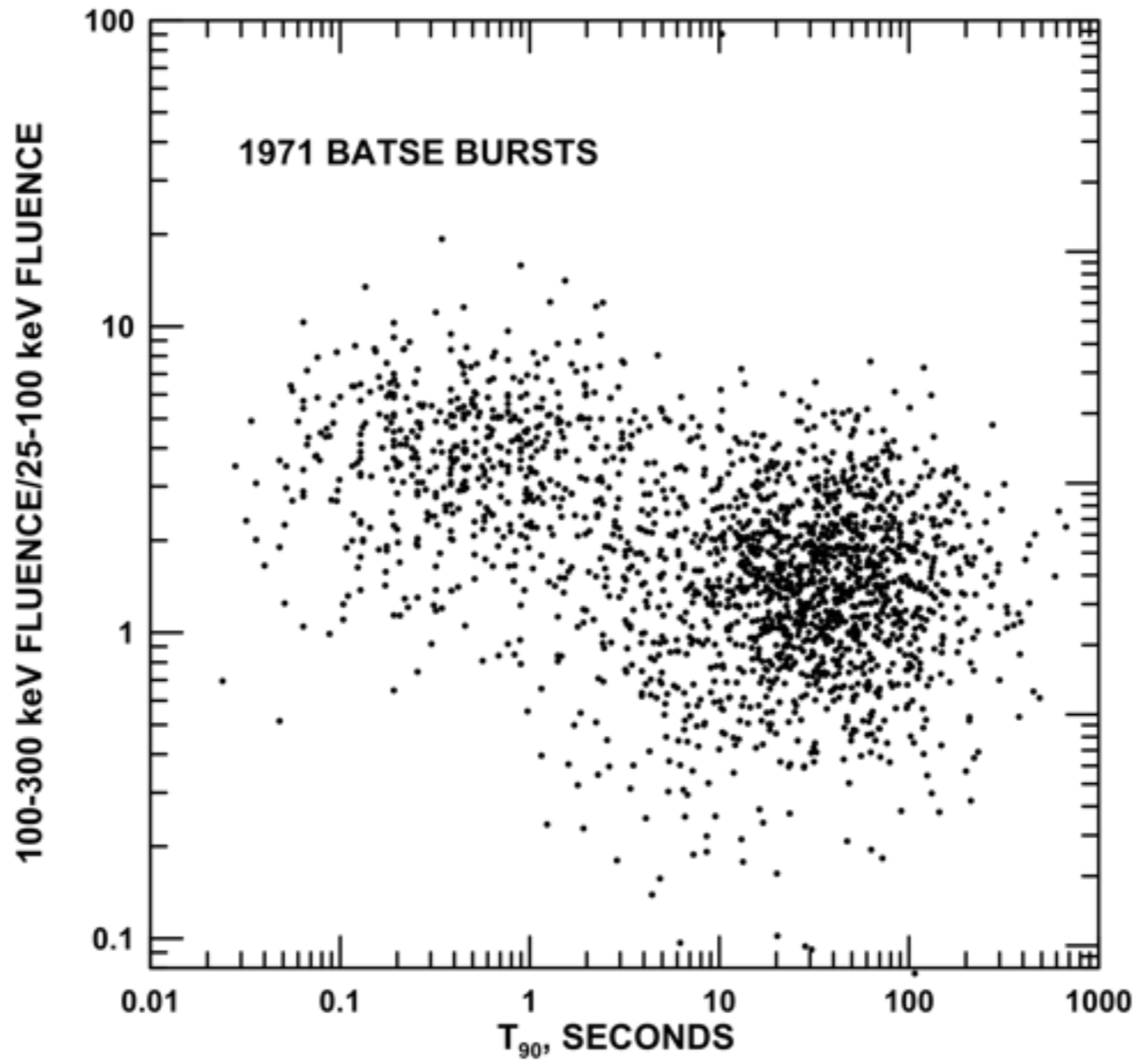




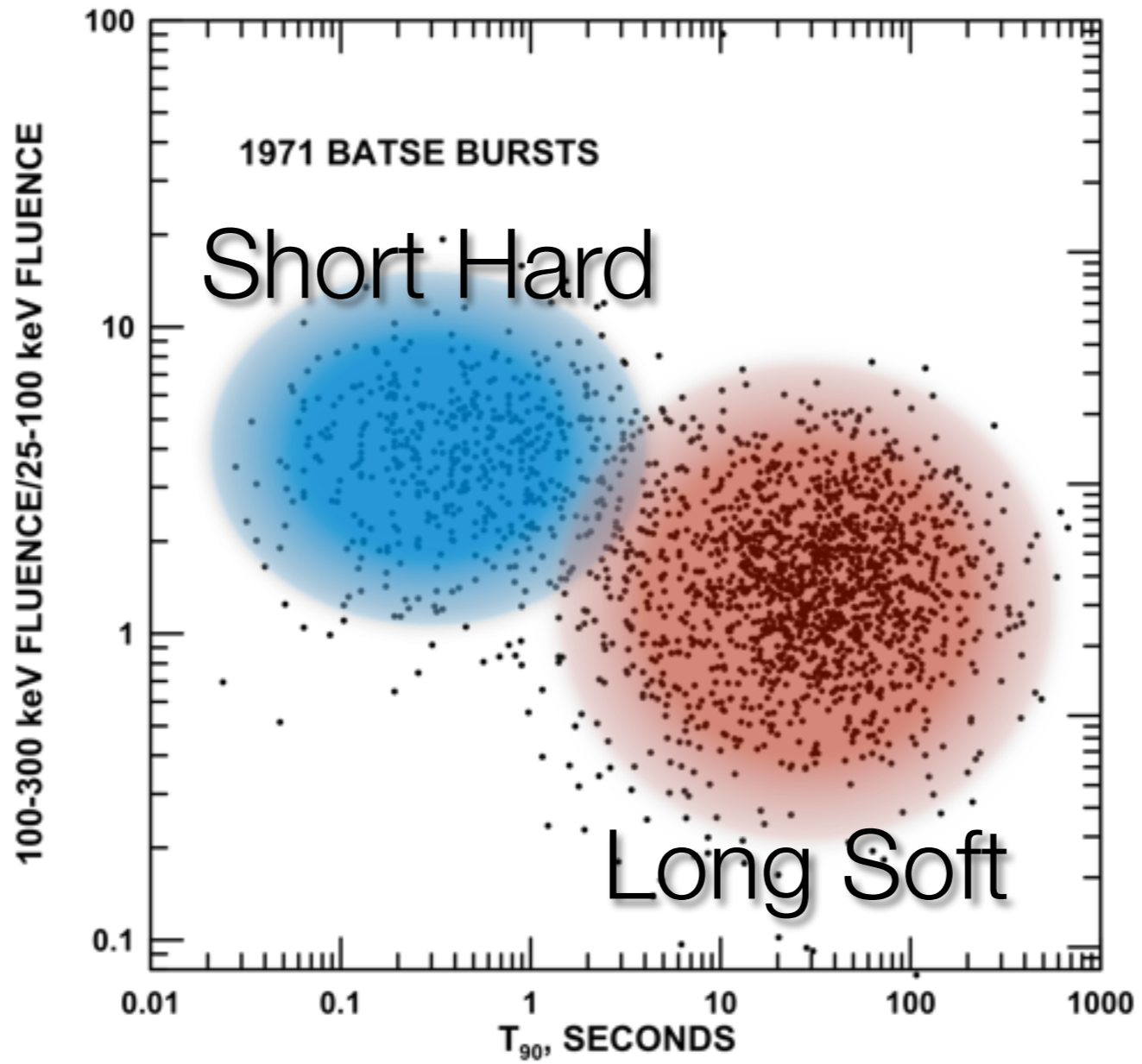
# 2704 BATSE Gamma-Ray Bursts









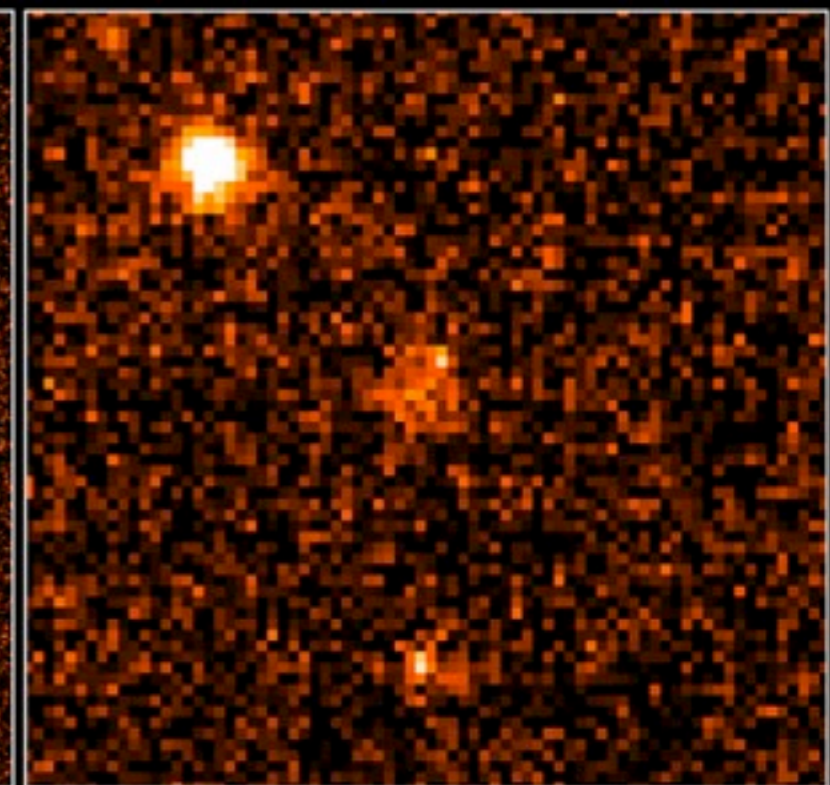
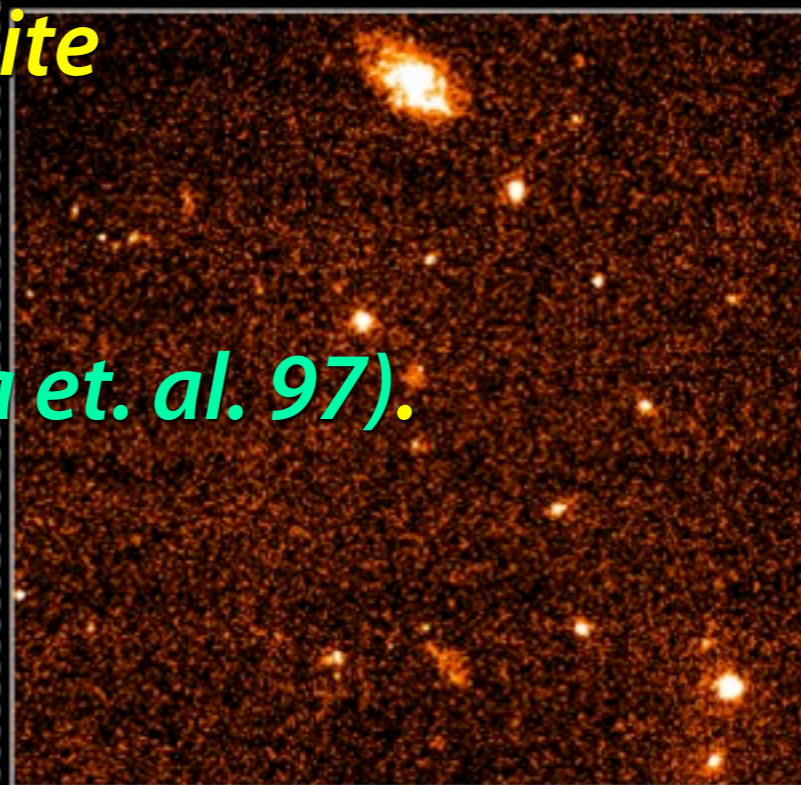




# Cosmological Origin!

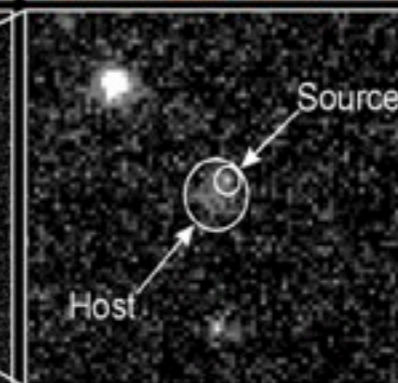
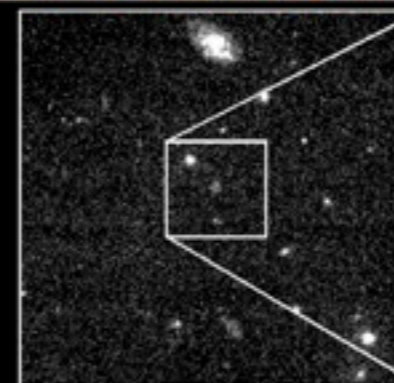


- *The Italian/Dutch satellite BeppoSAX discovered x-ray afterglow on 28 February 1997 (Costa et. al. 97).*
- *Immediate discovery of Optical afterglow (van Paradijs et. al 97).*



HST • STIS

Gamma Ray  
Burst  
GRB 970228

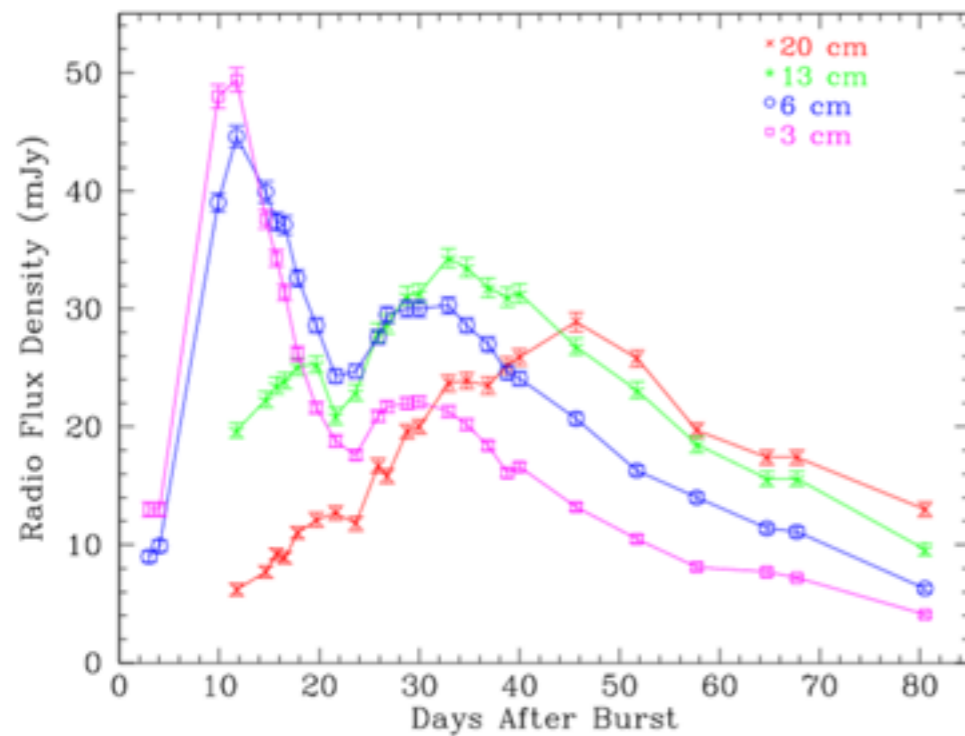
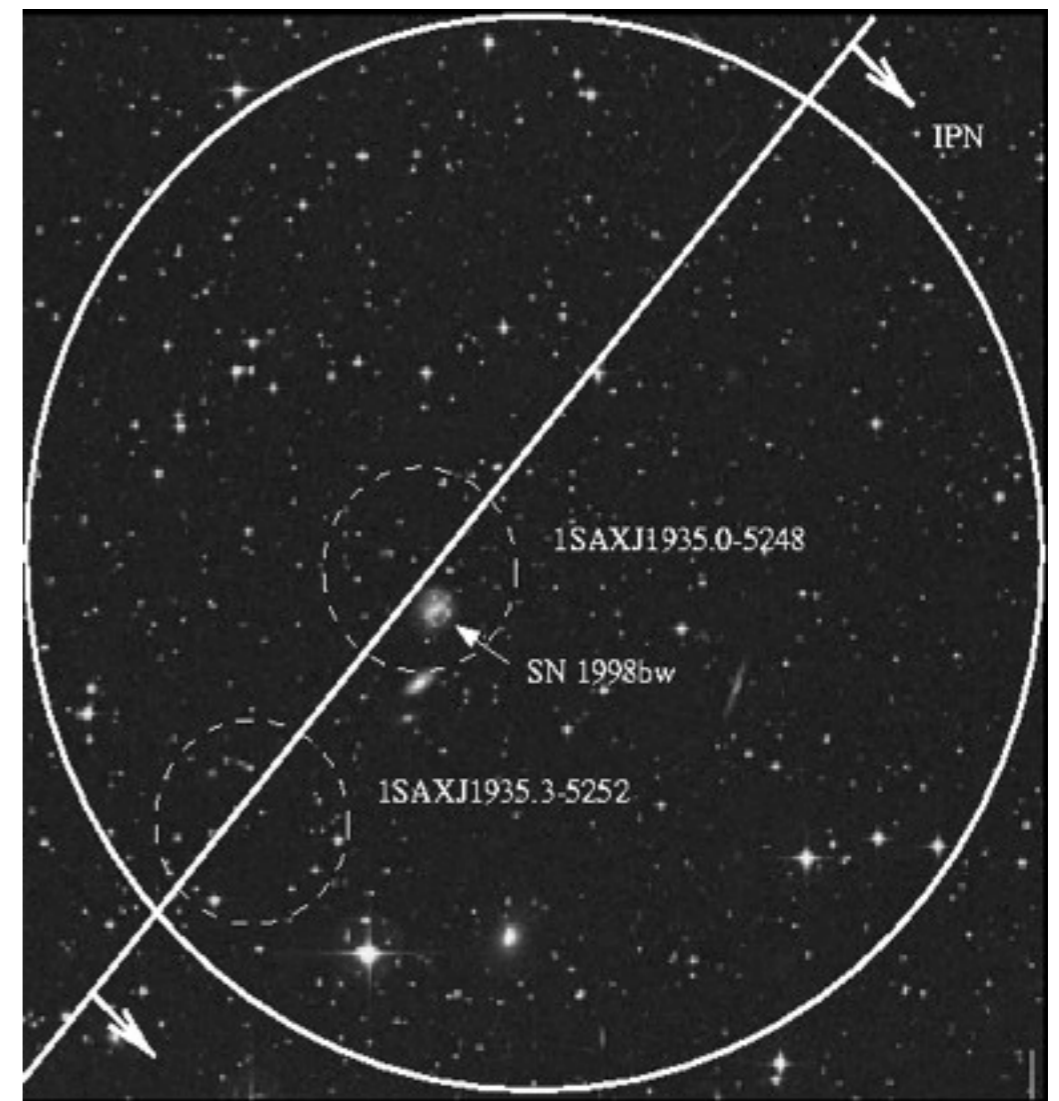
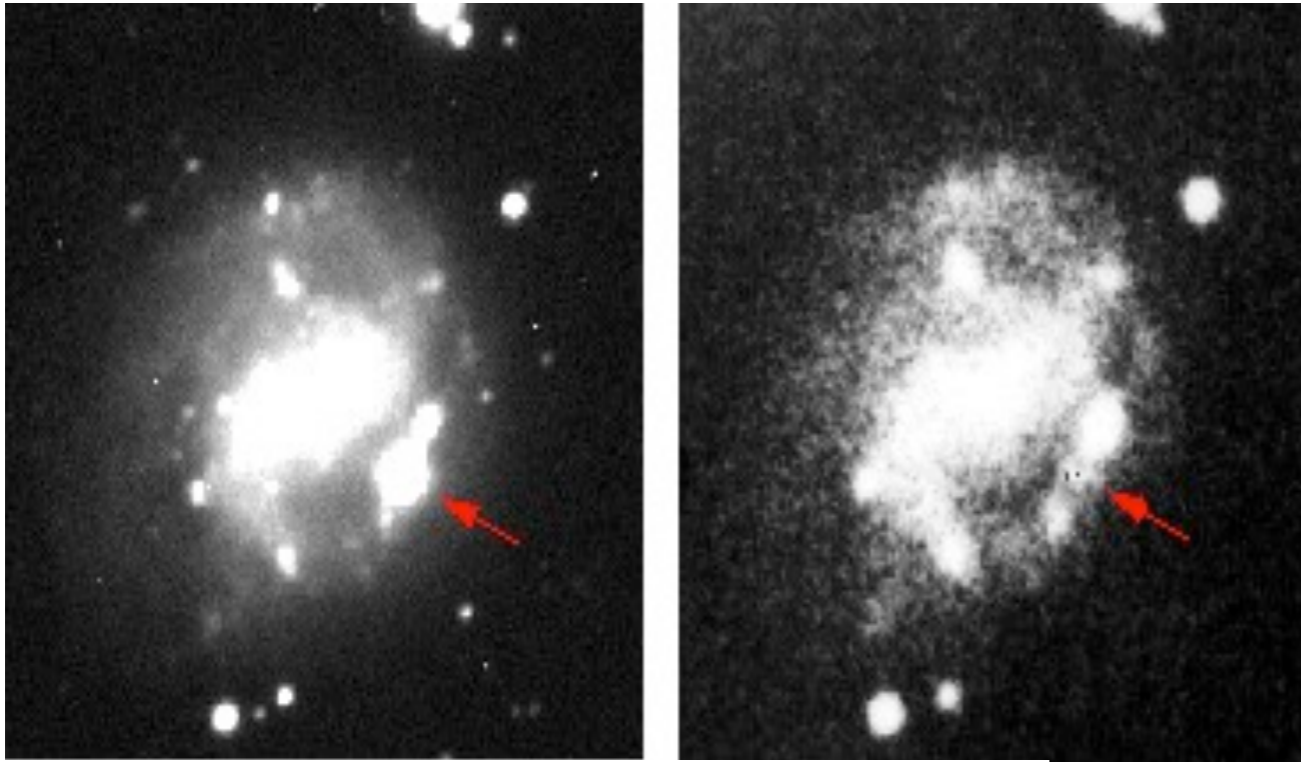


PRC97-30 • ST ScI OPO • September 16, 1997 • A. Fruchter (ST ScI) and NASA



# SN 1998bw was discovered in Gamma Rays

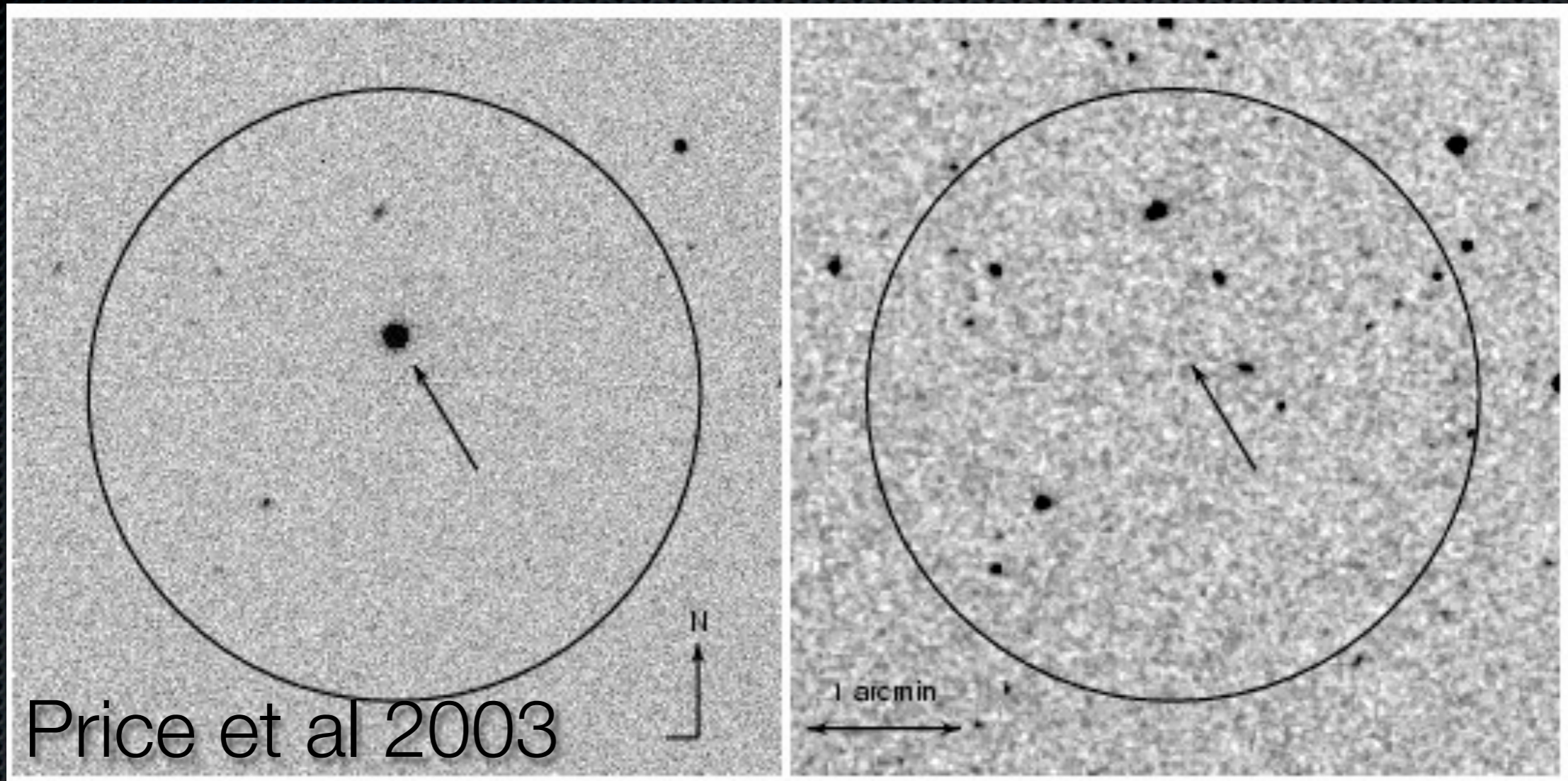
Beppo-Sax



Brightest Radio SN ever –  
Measurement indicate  
relativistic Ejecta... funny very  
high velocity  
Spectrum ... within a day of GRB

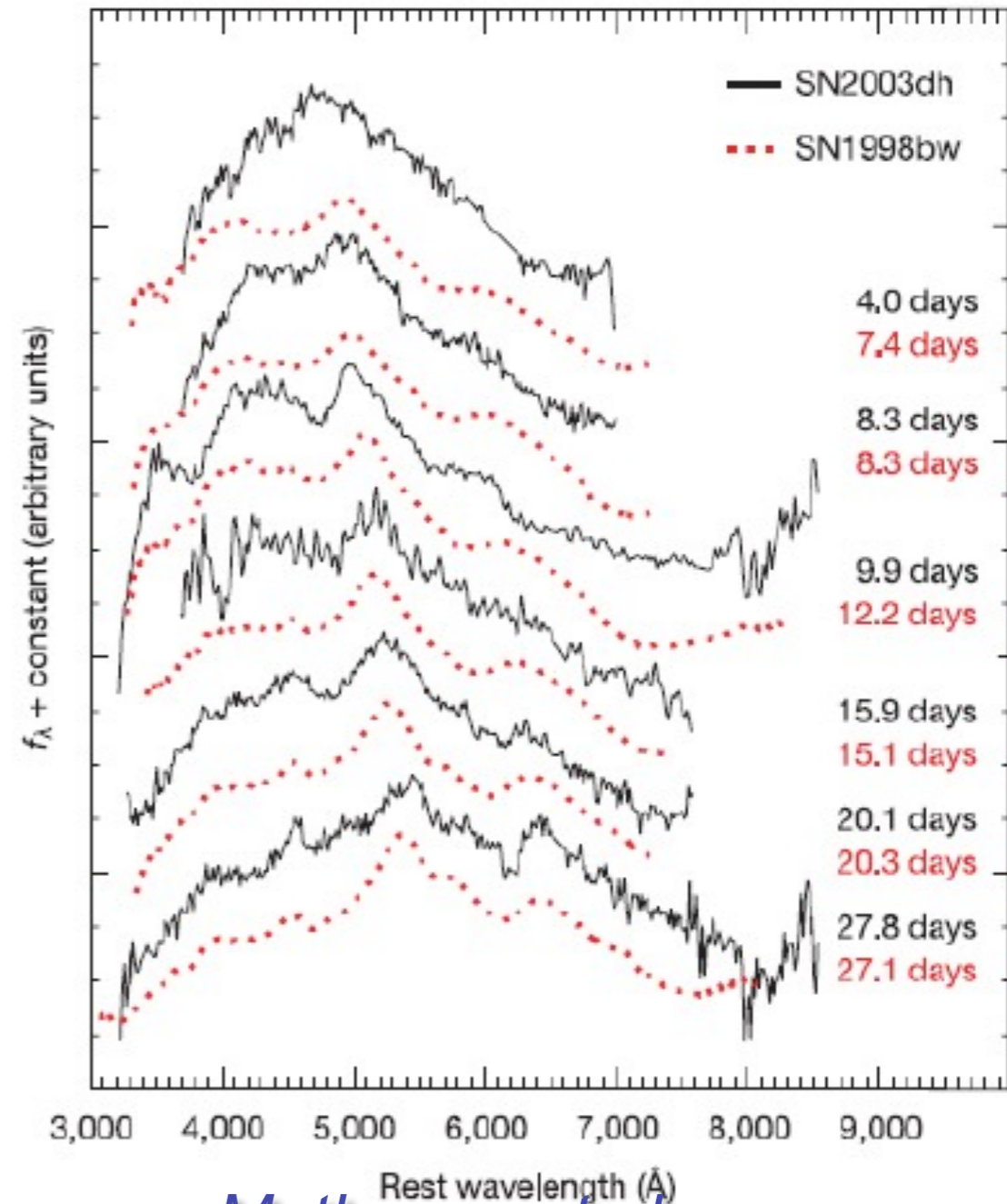
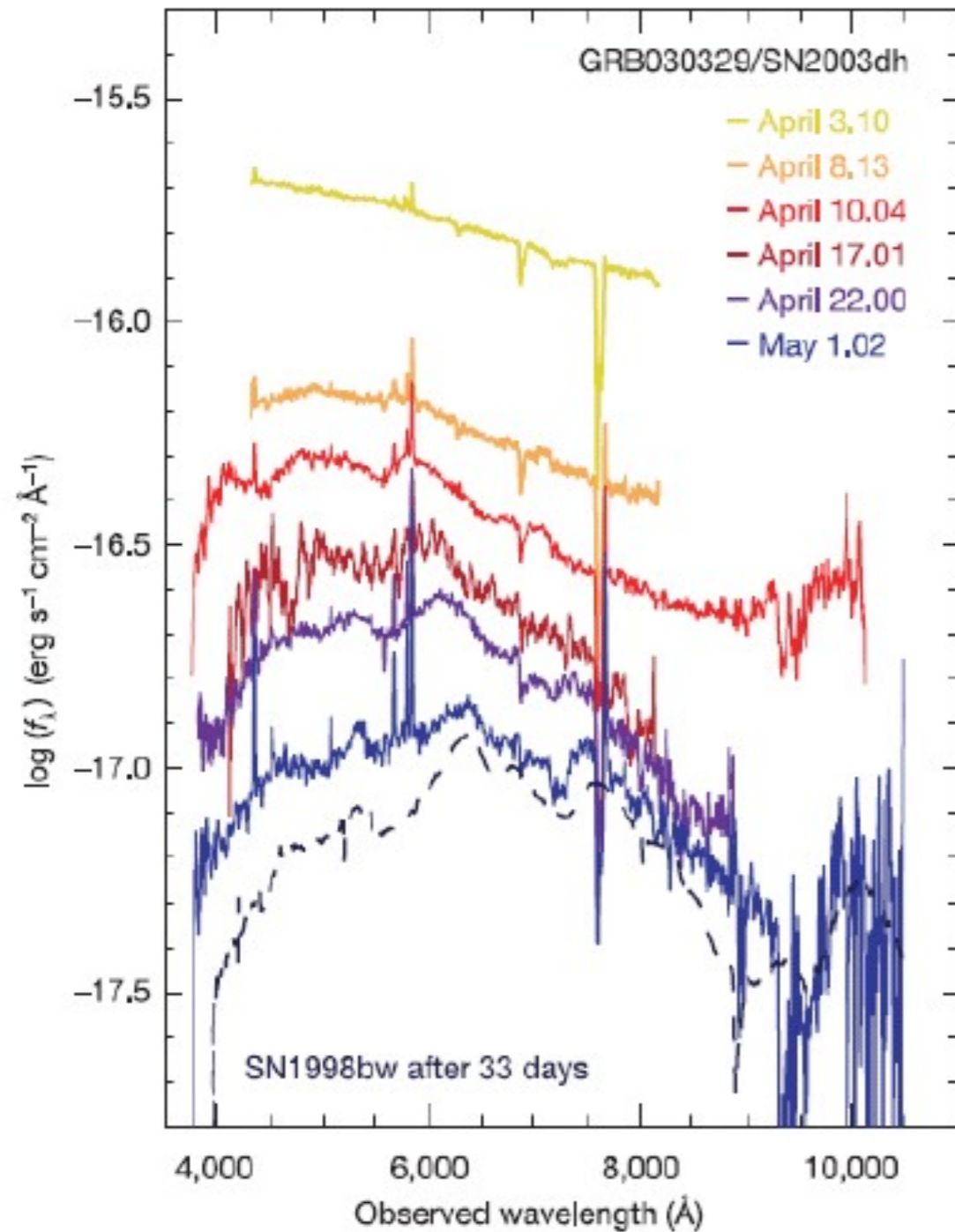


# SN 2003dh was also discovered in Gamma Rays and it was more typical GRB





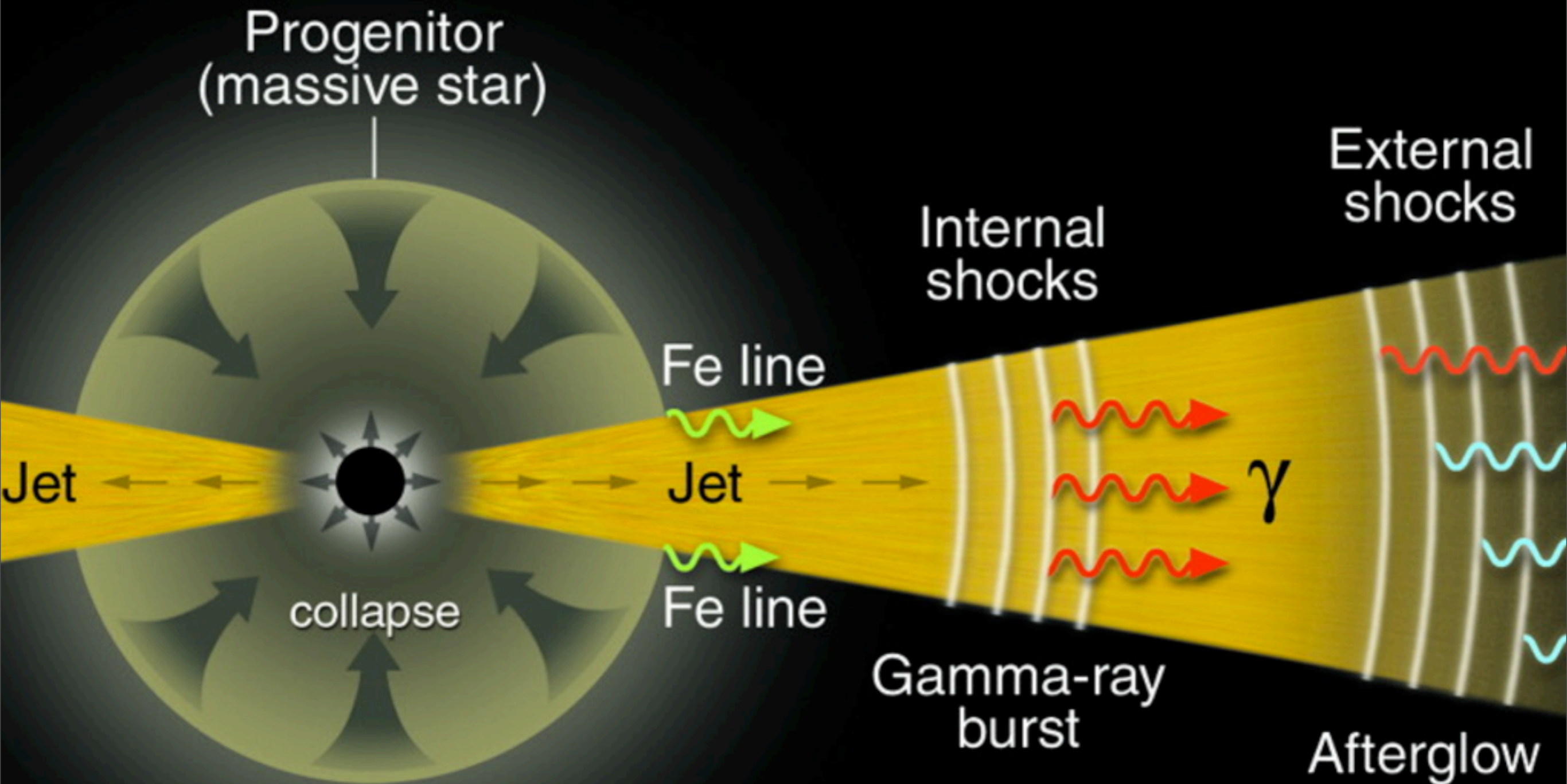
# SN 2003dh was also discovered in Gamma Rays and it was more typical GRB



*Matheson et al.*  
*Hjorth et al (2003)*



# Toy Model for GRB





# Do all Long GRBs have a SN?

- ✦ Only a few normal GRBs seen close enough
- ✦ Faint GRBs have all had a SN
- ✦ At present, GRB-SNe seem to be energetic Ib/c SN... that have a wide dispersion in energy and mass
- ✦ There are a few cases where no SN has been seen.

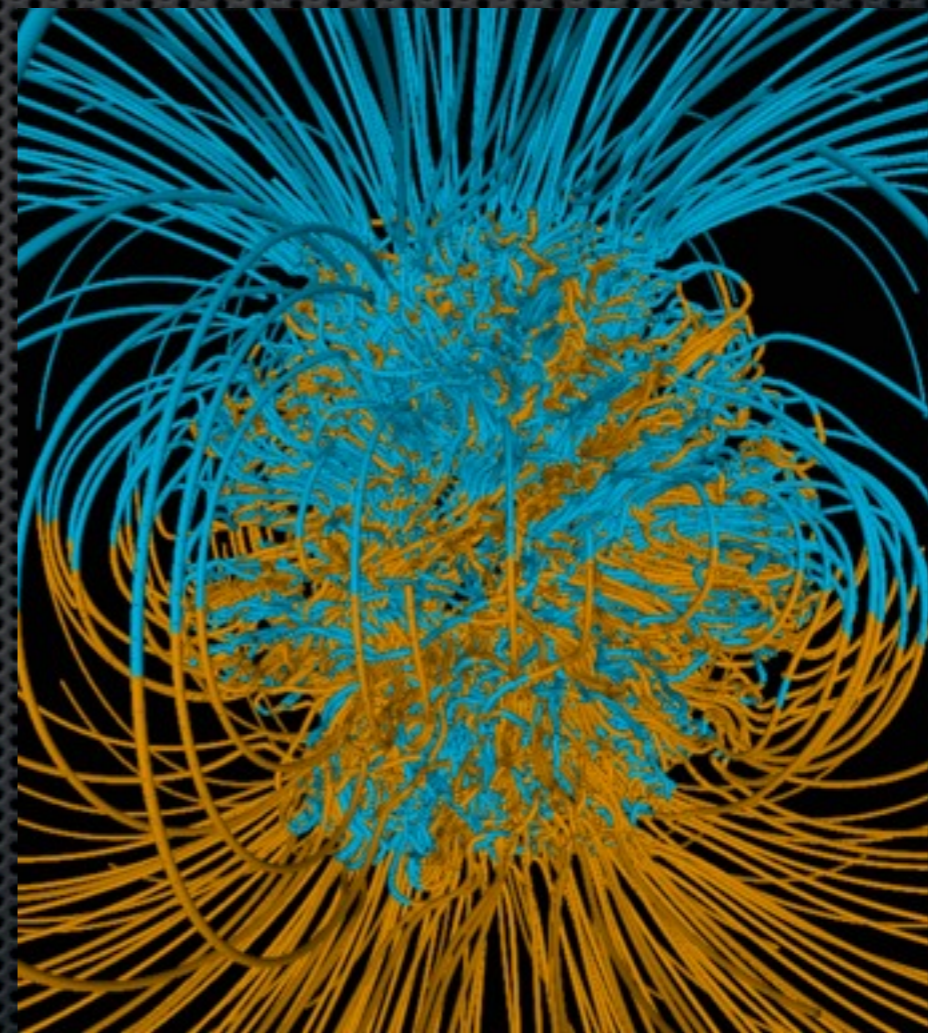
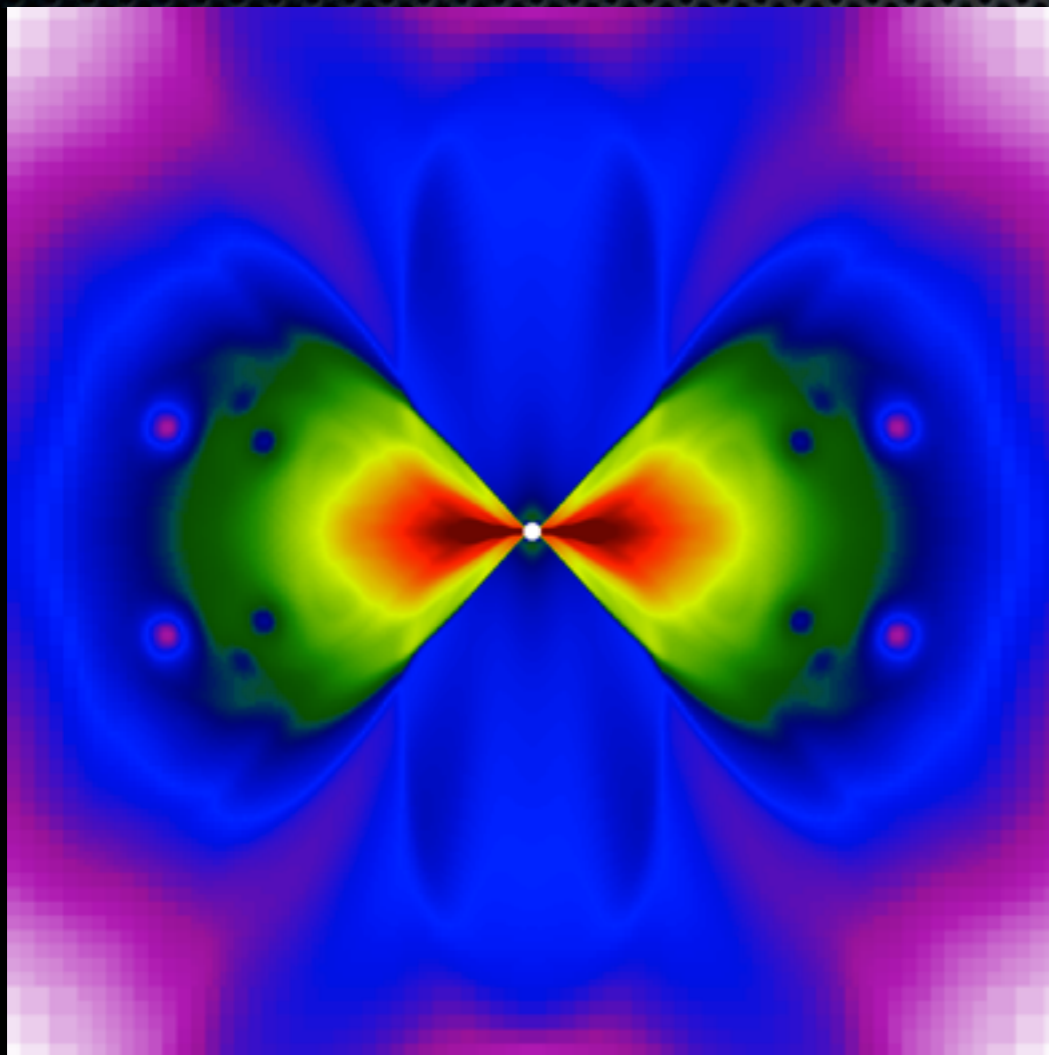
**GRBs formed by some very massive stars.  
Possibly some form blackholes directly, with no explosion. (This is a prediction of collapsar model)**



*Today, there are two principal models being discussed for GRBs of the “long-soft” variety:*

**The collapsar model**

**The millisecond magnetar**



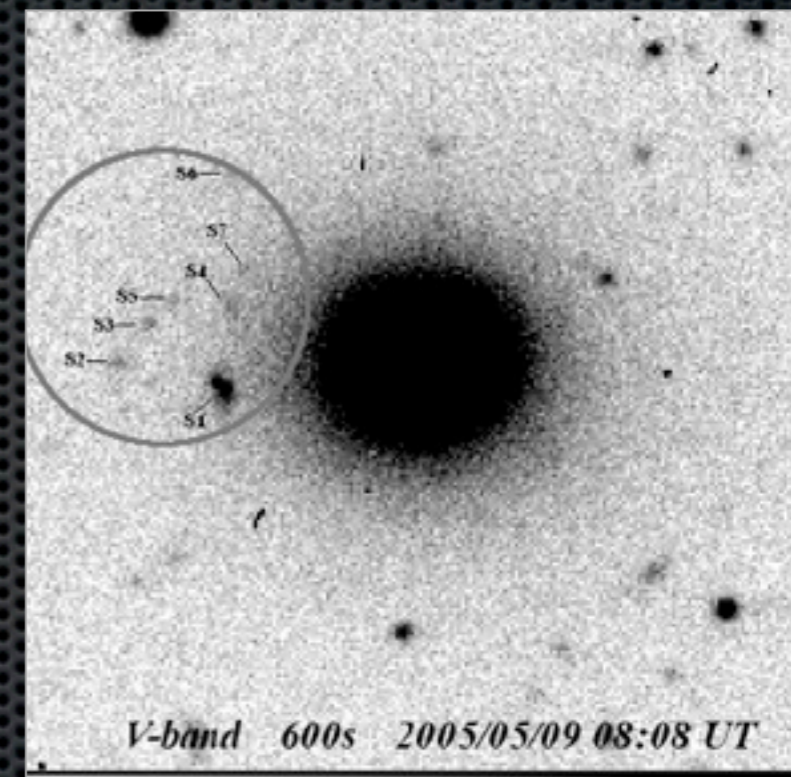
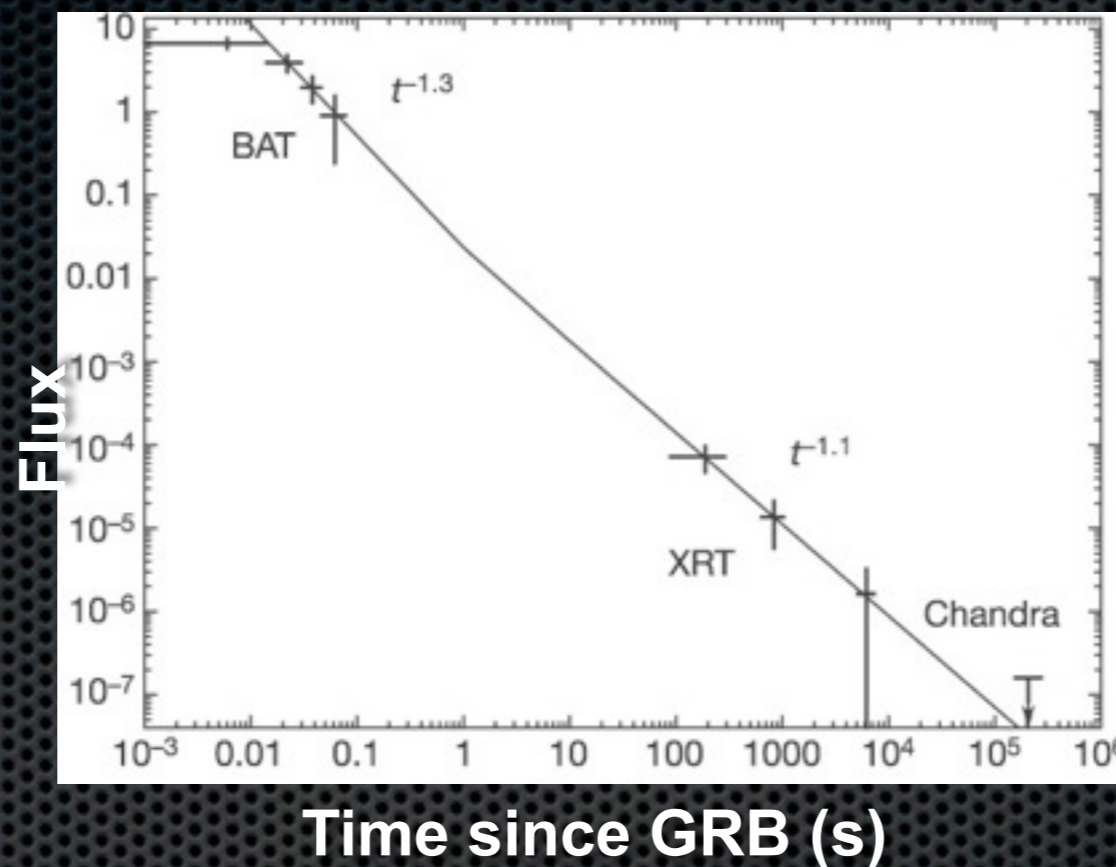
**The ultimate source of energy in both is rotation and both produce relativistic jets**



# Short Hard Bursts

Gehrels et al. 2005

GRB  
050509B  
first short  
GRB X-ray  
afterglow  
very faint!



GRB 050724 - the bright one: optical + X-ray





# Short Hard Bursts

In 2005 - 2006, several short hard bursts were localized by SWIFT and HETE-2 and coordinated searches for counterparts were carried out. The bursts were GRB 050509b ( $z = 0.2248$ , elliptical galaxy), 050709 ( $z = 0.161$ ) and 050724 ( $z = 0.258$ )

- The bursts were either on the outskirts of galaxies or in old galaxies with low star formation rate
- There was no accompanying supernova
- The redshifts were much lower than for the long soft bursts and thus the total energy was about two orders of magnitude less (because they are shorter as well as closer).
- All this is consistent with the merging neutron star (or merging black hole neutron star) paradigm.



# But Life is not so simple

- ✦ Since then, many Short GRBs have been found at high redshift, with the same energy as Long GRBs (Maybe two things make Short GRBs)
- ✦ And emission several hours was seen in Gamma Rays, which violates predictions of Neutron Star merger (which take a few seconds)...This now maybe explained from debris taking a long time to fall onto the merged Blackhole..



# And a lot more to come

- ✦ The transient Universe is being explored at a rate 100 times fast than a few years ago with Palomar Transit Factory, Pan Starrs, SkyMapper, and eventually LSST surveying the sky
- ✦ Lots of stuff will be found, but I think the big questions around SN II, SN Ia remain the most interesting - because they are the things that influence the evolution of universe



