

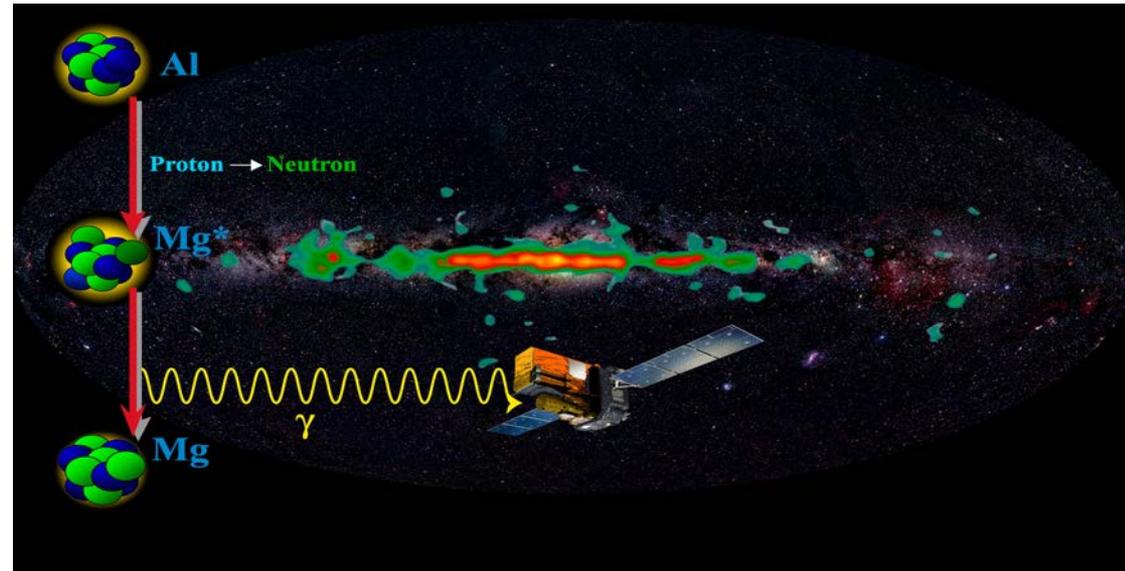
# Learning about cosmic nucleosynthesis from gamma-ray observations

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Beihang University, Beijing, China

## *About measurements of cosmic $\gamma$ -rays and their interpretations*



with work from (a.o.)

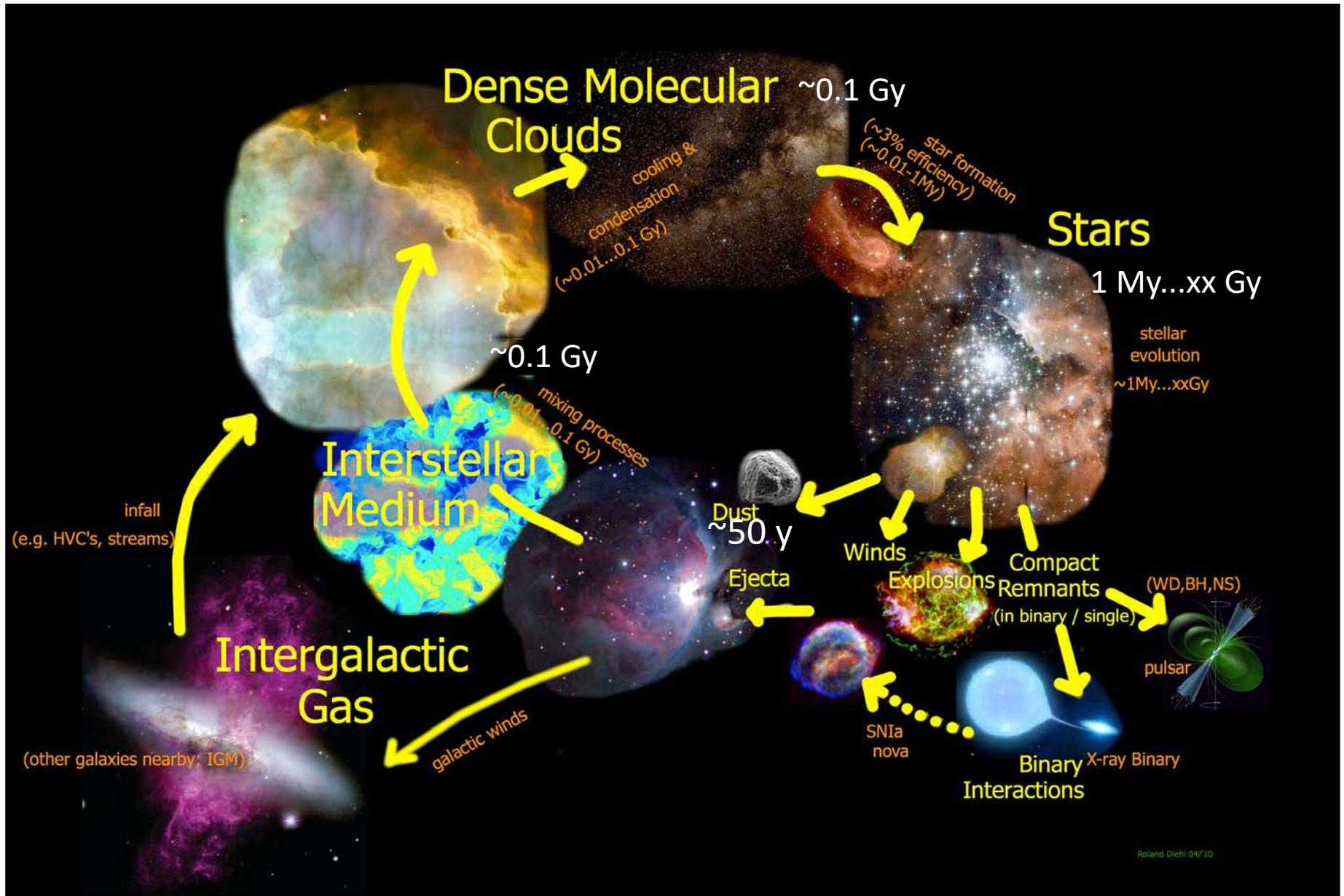
Martin Krause, Karsten Kretschmer, Moritz Pleintinger, Thomas Siegert, Rasmus Voss, Wei Wang, Christoph Weinberger

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Tools of gamma-ray astronomy
3. Supernovae and gamma rays
4. Gamma-rays and the matter cycle

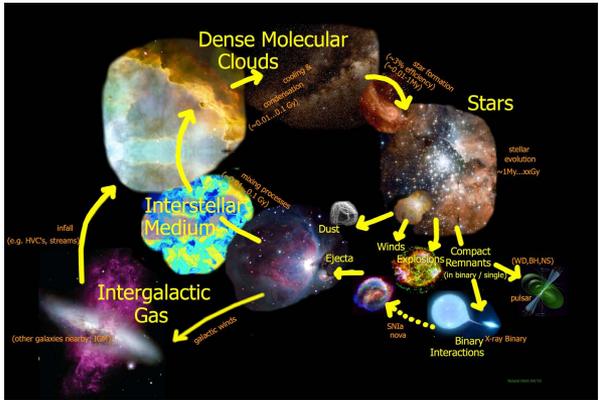


# On-going Enrichments from Nucleosynthesis Sources



Roland Diehl 04/10

# Modeling Compositional Evolution



## ★ Changes in the forms of cosmic matter:

☞ stars and gas flows:

$$m = m_{\text{gas}} + m_{\text{stars}} + m_{\text{infall}} + m_{\text{outflow}}$$

$$\frac{dm_G}{dt} = -\Psi + E + [f - o]$$

$\Psi(t)$  is the Star Formation Rate (SFR) and  $E(t)$  the Rate of mass ejection

☞ gas which is ejected from stars: when?

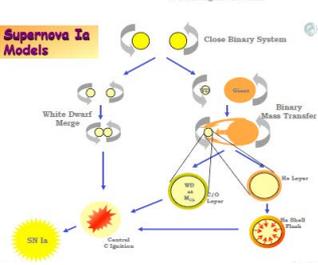
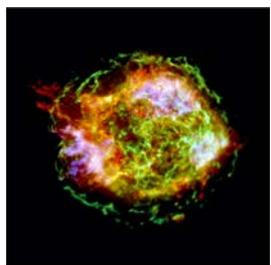
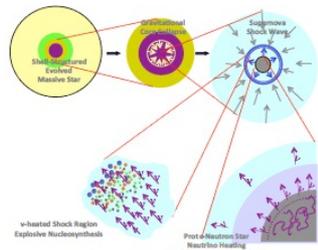
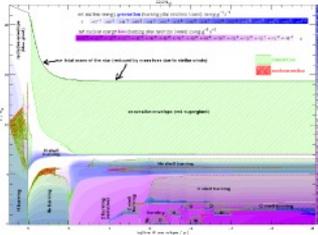
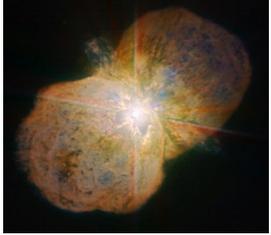
$$E(t) = \int_{M_t}^{M_U} (M - C_M) \Psi(t - \tau_M) \Phi(M) dM$$

☞ newly-contributed ashes from nucleosynthesis: what?

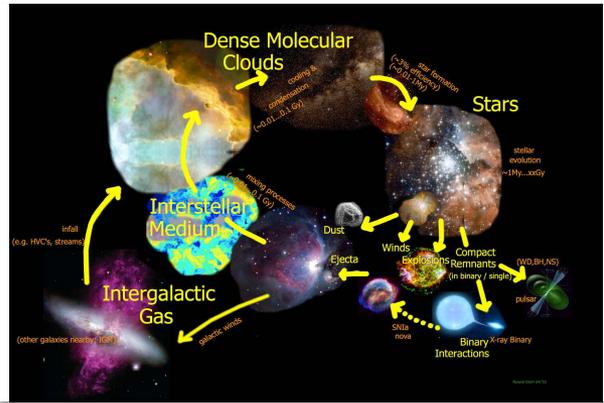
The mass of element/isotope  $i$  in the gas is  $m_i = m_G X_i$

$$\frac{d(m_G X_i)}{dt} = -\Psi X_i + E_i + [f X_{i,f} - o X_{i,o}]$$

$$E_i(t) = \int_{M_t}^{M_U} Y_i(M) \Psi(t - \tau_M) \Phi(M) dM$$



# Modeling Compositional Evolution



★ Changes in the forms of cosmic matter:

☞ stars and gas flows:

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★ Ingredients:

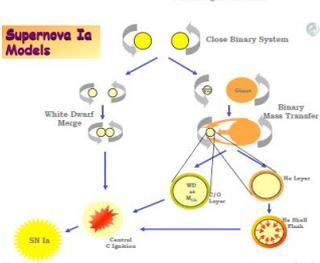
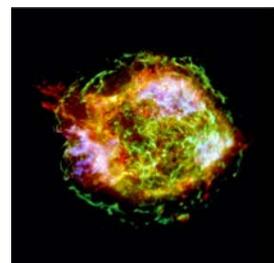
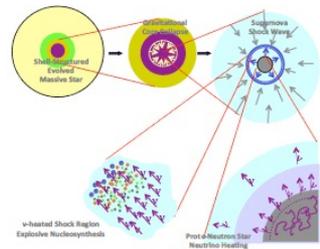
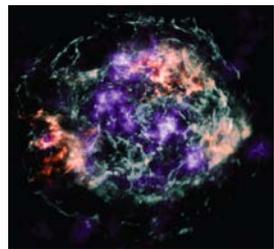
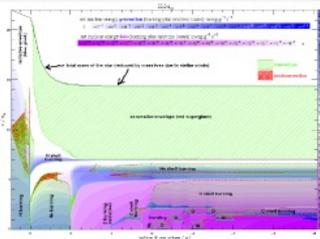
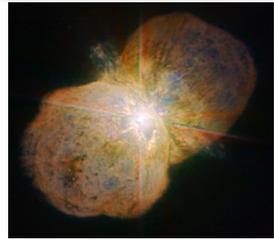
☞ Sources: How fast do they evolve to return (new) gas?

the star of mass  $M$ , created at the time  $t - \tau_M$ , dies at time  $t$

☞ Sources: How much of species  $i$  do they eject (and/or bury)?

$Y_i(M)$  the mass ejected in the form of that element by the star of mass  $M$

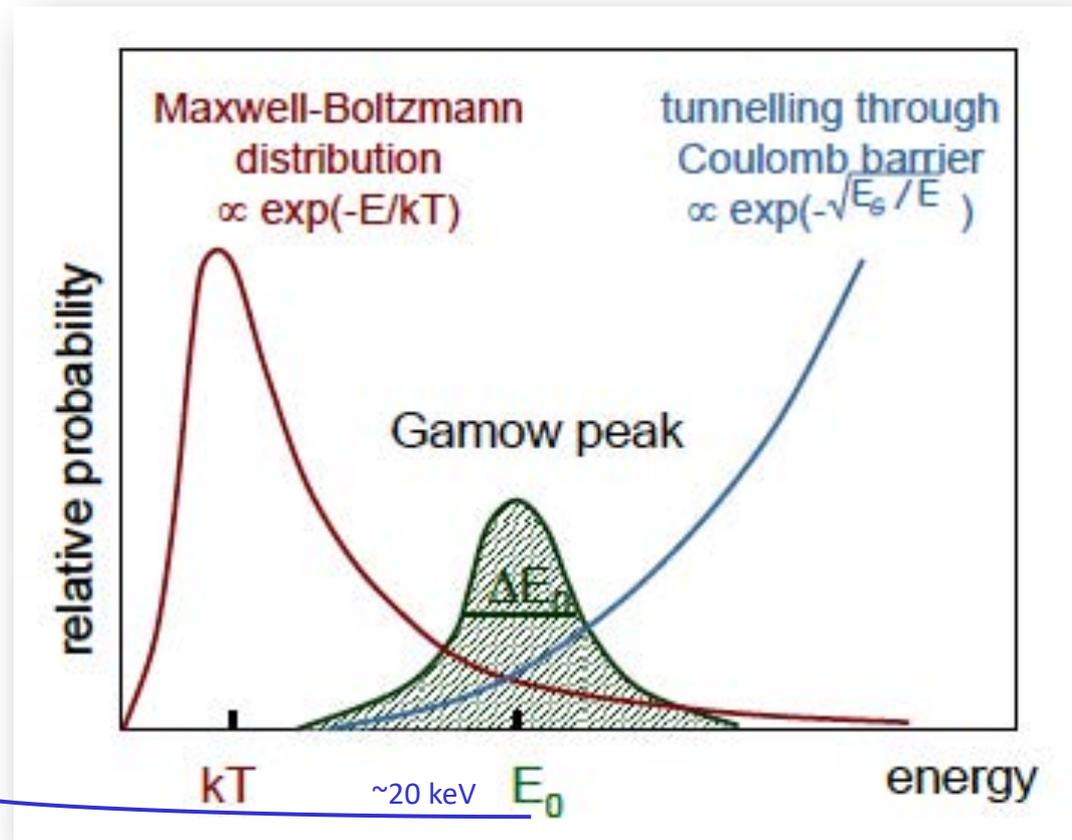
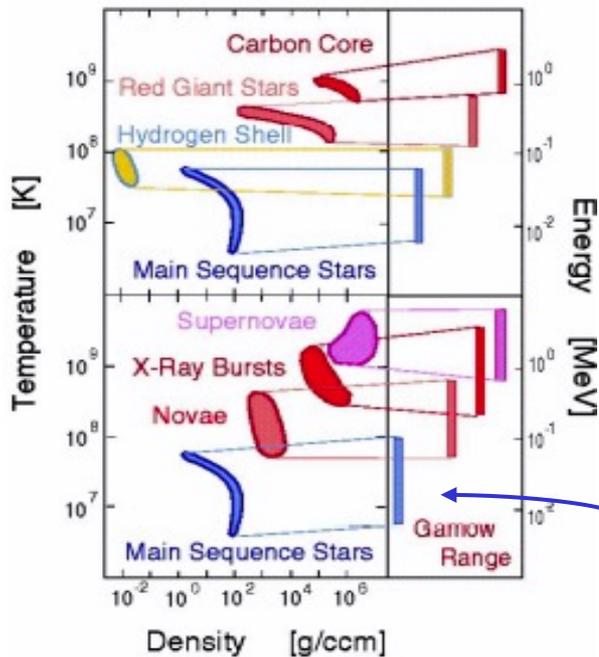
☞ ... (locations and environments of star formation, gas flows, ...)



# Nuclear reactions in cosmic environments

major challenge:

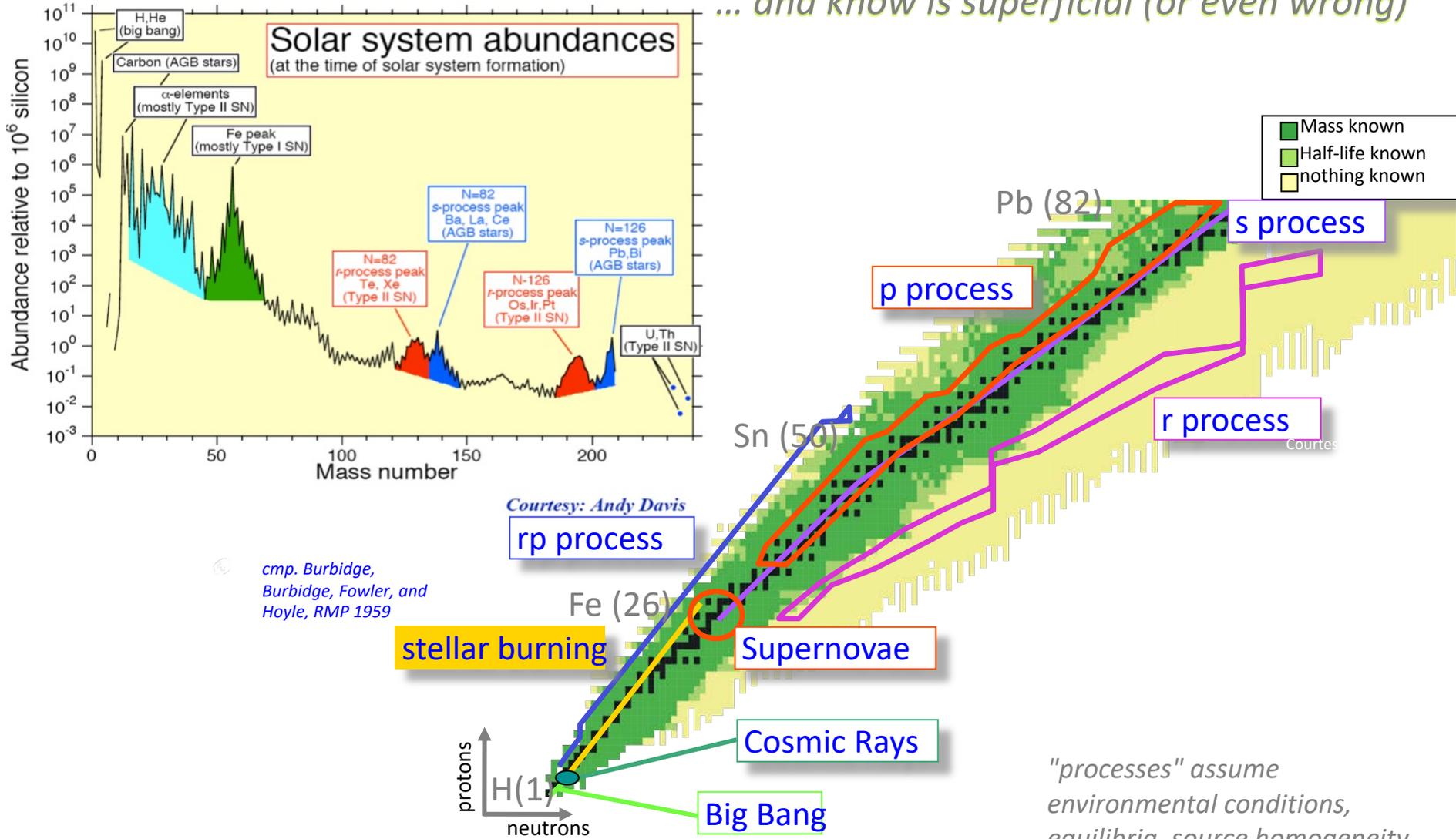
- ★ plasma in the Universe is very different from the conditions in terrestrial laboratory experiments
- ★ quantum tunnelling dominates in cosmic-environment reactions



# Cosmic origins of the variety of nuclides

Associating different “processes” with nuclide groups – *that’s what we teach...*

*... and know is superficial (or even wrong)*



*"processes" assume environmental conditions, equilibria, source homogeneity, ...*

# Chemical Evolution: ...there are issues ...

☆ model description fails for several elements

- even for elements from same source type...

☆ inconsistencies with modeled vs observed nucleosynthesis event rates

- ~350 radio+X SNR (~10000y) vs. ccSN rate 1/70y

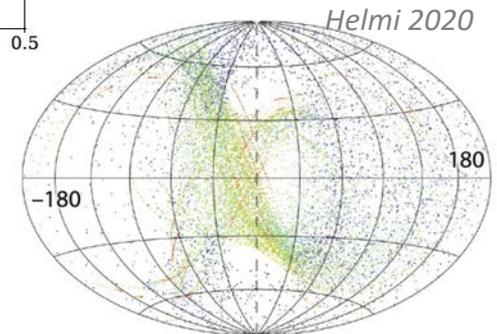
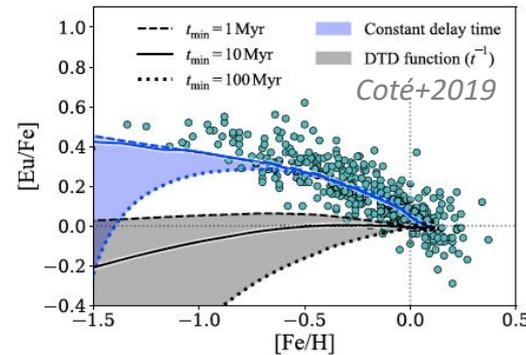
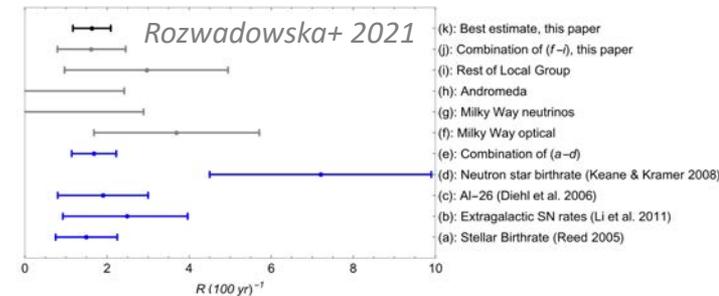
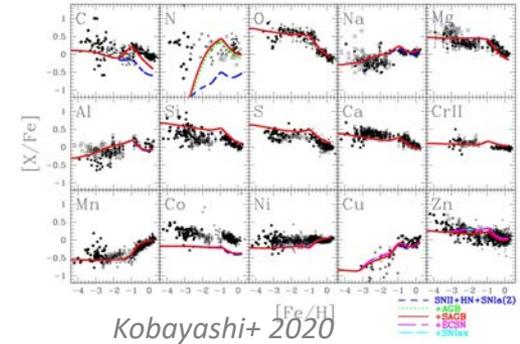
☆ unclear impacts from rare sources with rich specific contributions

- neutron star mergers?
- jet supernovae?
- hypernovae?

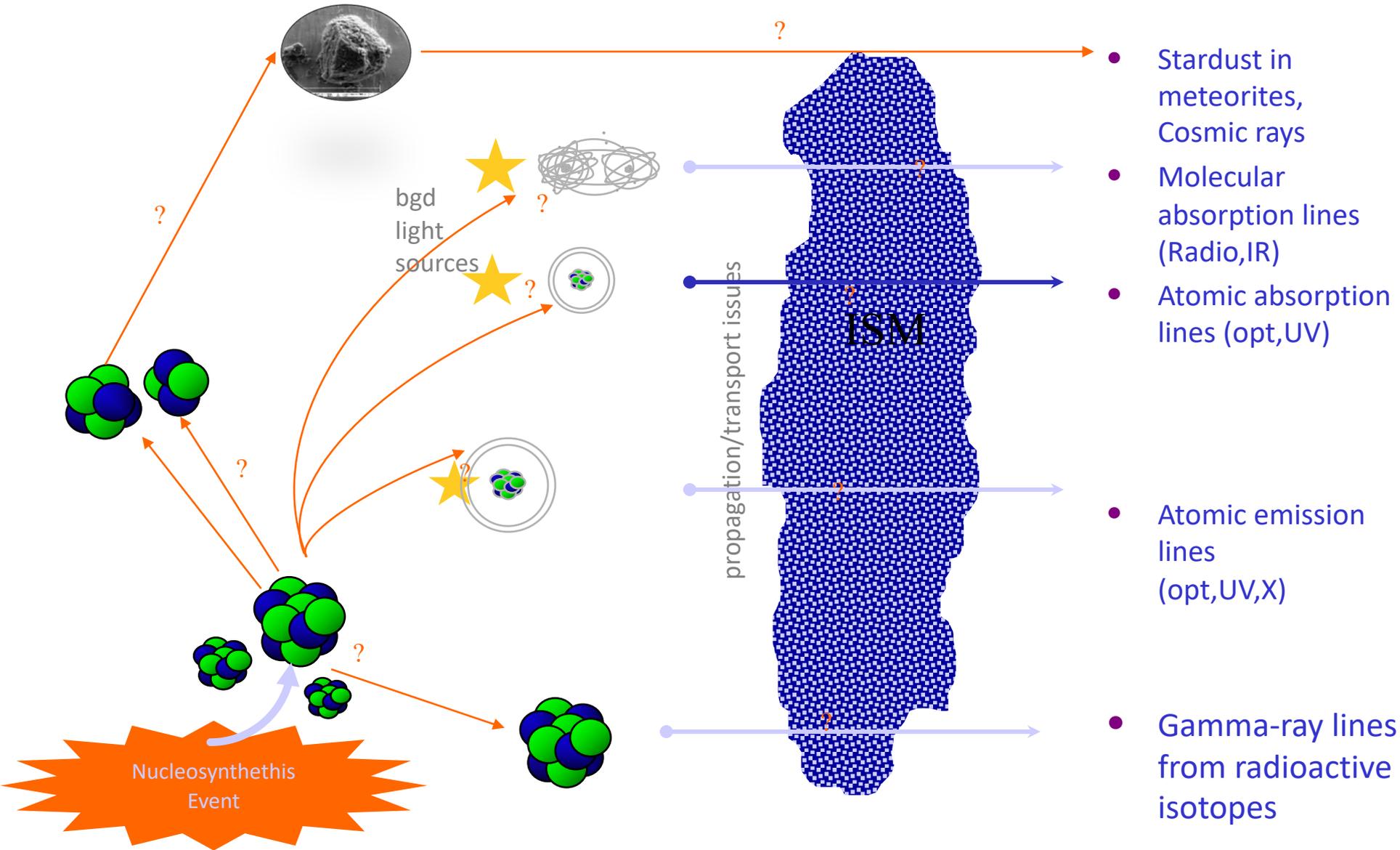
☆ mixing with stars & gas from galaxy collisions in the past

☆ early evolution: very massive stars & ccSNe

☆ but also something else (binaries!)



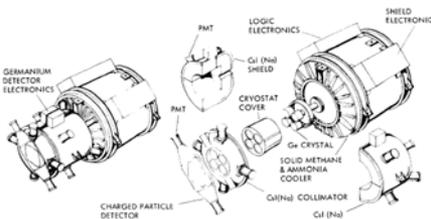
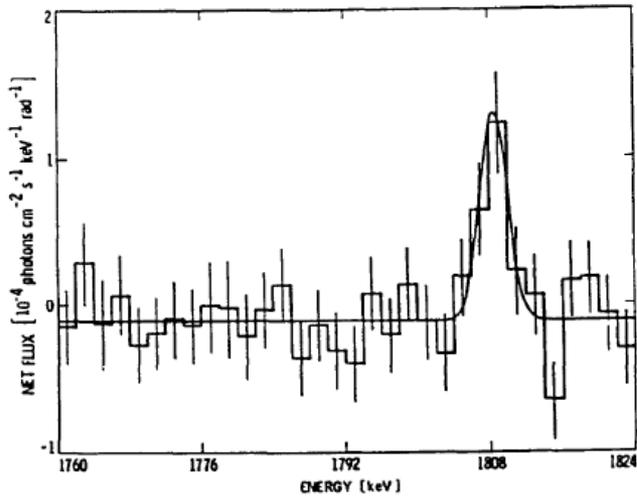
# Different Complementing Observing Methods



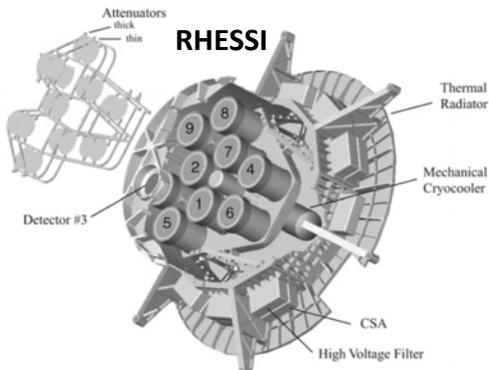
# Radio-Isotopes with ~My lifetimes: $^{26}\text{Al}$ , $^{60}\text{Fe}$

## Discoveries

Mahoney+1982

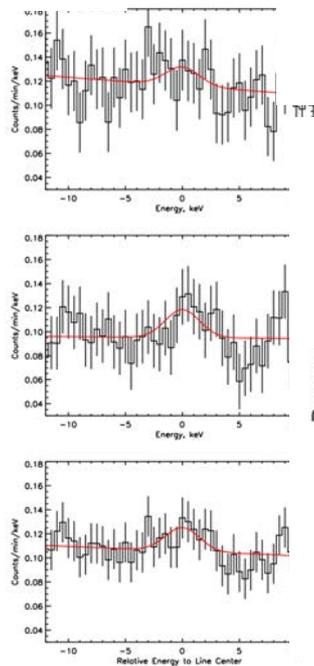


HEAO-C

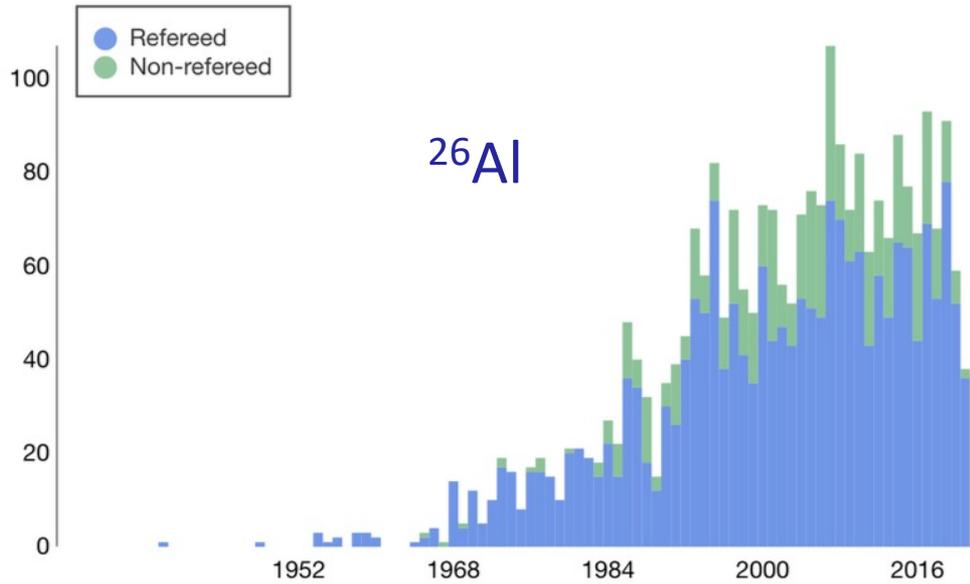


RHESSI

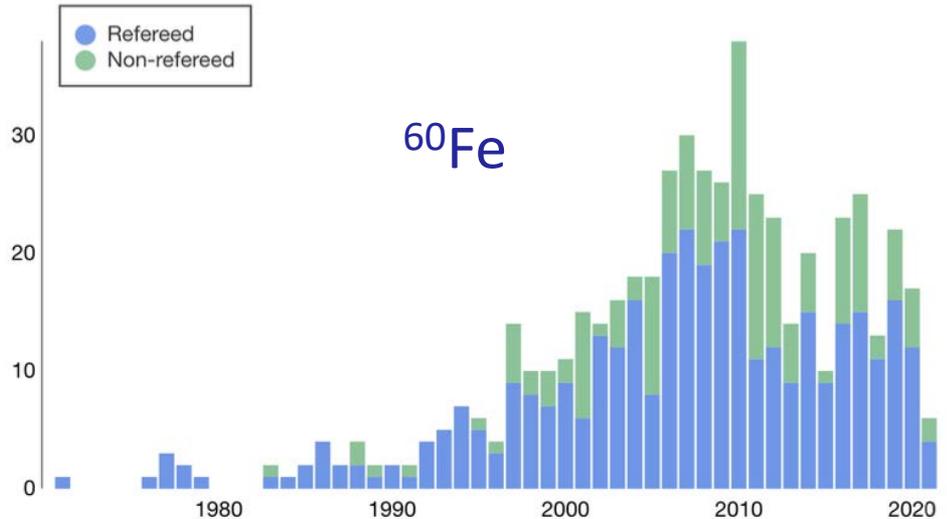
Smith+2005



## Temporal evolution of studies



$^{26}\text{Al}$



$^{60}\text{Fe}$

# Gamma-Ray Lines from Cosmic Radioactivity

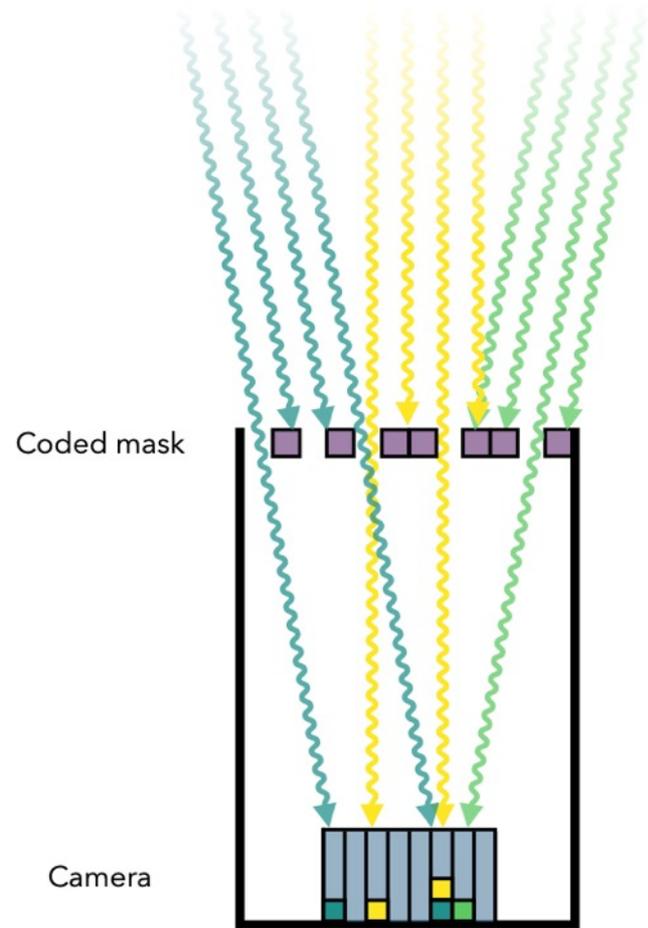
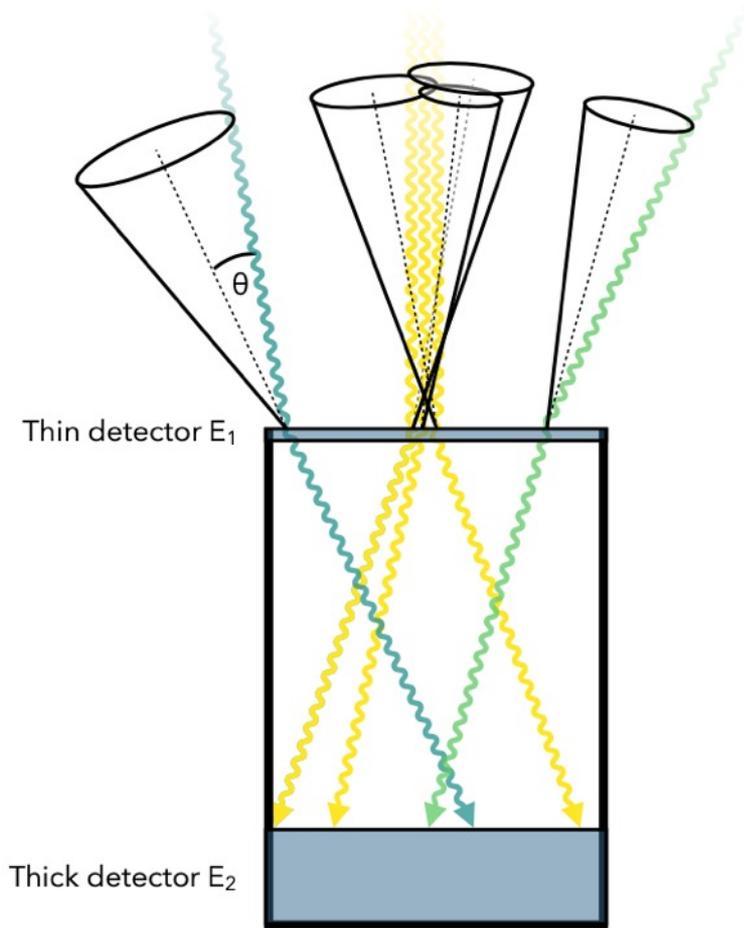
Radioactive trace isotopes are by-products of nucleosynthesis reactions  
Released into circum-source ISM, we can observe gamma-ray afterglows:

Isotope	Mean Decay Time	Decay Chain	$\gamma$ -Ray Energy [keV]	Detected Source	Source Type
${}^7\text{Be}$	77 d	${}^7\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li}^*$	478	(none)	Novae
${}^{56}\text{Ni}$	8.8 d; 111 d	${}^{56}\text{Ni} \rightarrow {}^{56}\text{Co}^* \rightarrow {}^{56}\text{Fe}^* + e^+$	158, 812; 847, 1238	SN2014J; SN1987A, SN1991T(?)	Supernovae
${}^{57}\text{Ni}$	390 d	${}^{57}\text{Co} \rightarrow {}^{57}\text{Fe}^*$	122	SN1987A	Supernovae
${}^{22}\text{Na}$	3.8 y	${}^{22}\text{Na} \rightarrow {}^{22}\text{Ne}^* + e^+$	1275	(none)	Novae
${}^{44}\text{Ti}$	85 y	${}^{44}\text{Ti} \rightarrow {}^{44}\text{Sc}^* \rightarrow {}^{44}\text{Ca}^* + e^+$	78, 68; 1157	SNR Cas A	Supernovae
${}^{229/230}\text{Th}$	$\sim 1.0 \cdot 10^5$ y	${}^{229/230}\text{Th} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow {}^{206}\text{Pb}$	352... 609...2615	(none)	Neutron Star Mergers, SNe
${}^{126}\text{Sn}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^5$ y	${}^{126}\text{Sn} \rightarrow {}^{126}\text{Sb}^* \rightarrow {}^{126}\text{Te}$	666; 695; 87; 64	(none)	Neutron Star Mergers, SNe
${}^{26}\text{Al}$	$1.04 \cdot 10^6$ y	${}^{26}\text{Al} \rightarrow {}^{26}\text{Mg}^* + e^+$	1809	Massive-Star Groups Cyg, Ori...	Stars, Novae Supernovae
${}^{60}\text{Fe}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^6$ y	${}^{60}\text{Fe} \rightarrow {}^{60}\text{Co}^* \rightarrow {}^{60}\text{Ni}^*$	59, 1173, 1332	Galaxy (?)	Supernovae, Stars
$e^+$	$10^5 \dots 10^7$ y	$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \text{Ps} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma..$	511, <511	Galactic Bulge, Disk	Supernovae, Novae, Pulsars, Microquasars...

- Only the most-plausible candidates per source type are listed  
(abundance; decay time (weeks  $< \tau < 10^8$  y) long enough to survive ejection/not too long to be bright)

# MeV Range Gamma-Ray Telescope Imaging Principles

## ● Compton Telescopes and Coded-Mask Telescopes



Achievable Sensitivity:  $\sim 10^{-5}$  ph  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ , Angular Resolution  $\geq$  deg

# Current Nuclear Gamma-Ray Line Telescopes

## INTEGRAL

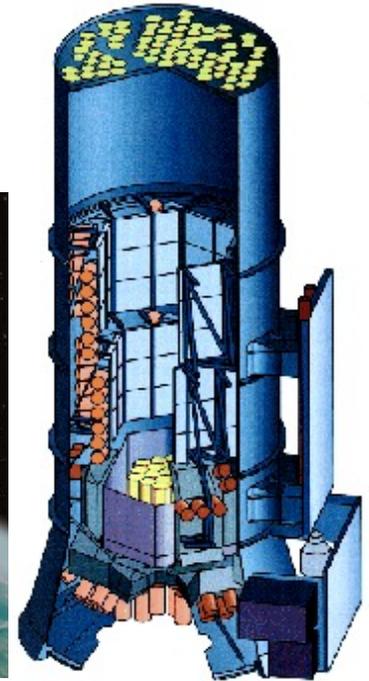
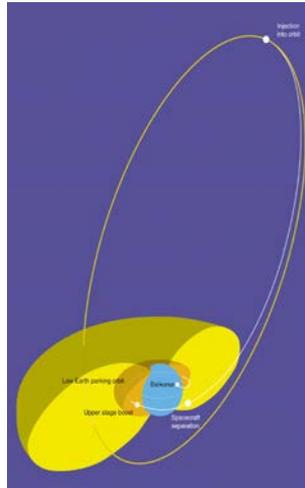
2002-(2023+..2029)

ESA

high E resolution

Ge detectors

15-8000 keV



## NuSTAR (only <80 keV!)

2012-(2022+) ...

NASA

hard X ray

imaging <80 keV

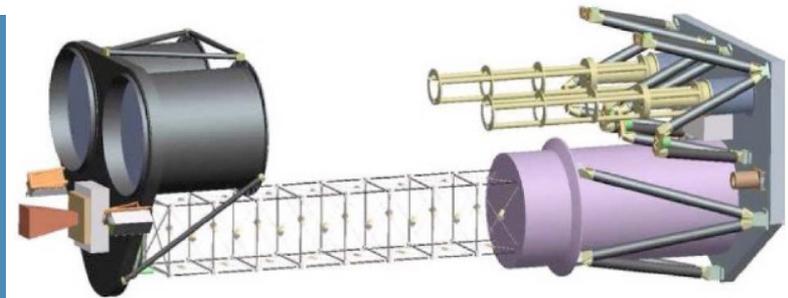
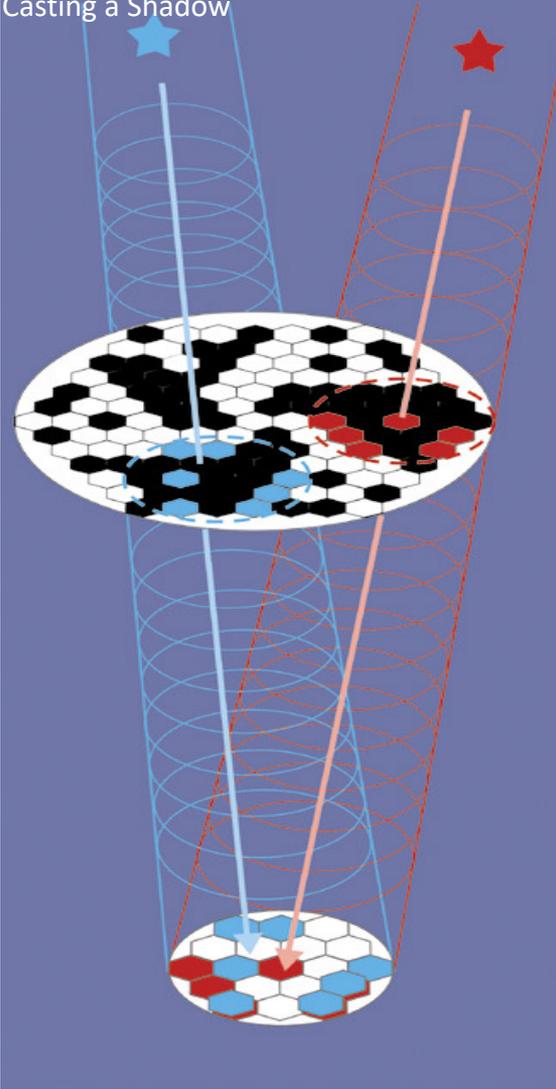


Fig. 1. NuSTAR telescopes in deployed configuration

Coded Mask Telescope:  
Casting a Shadow



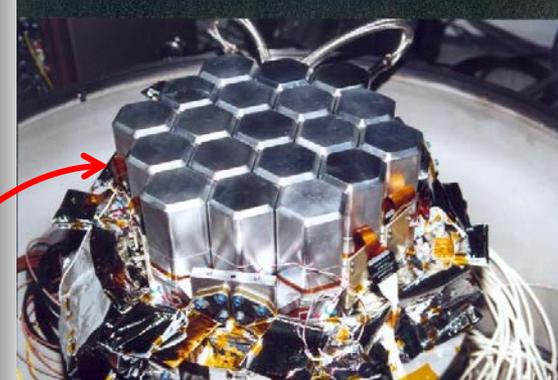
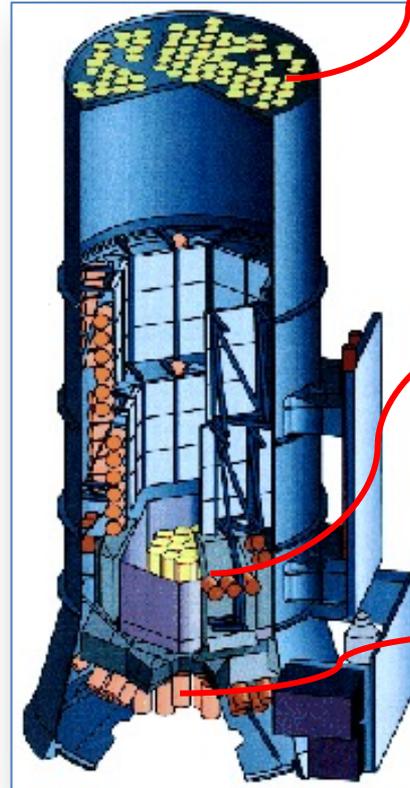
## Coded-Mask Telescope

Energy Range 15-8000 keV

Energy Resolution  $\sim 2.2$  keV @ 662 keV

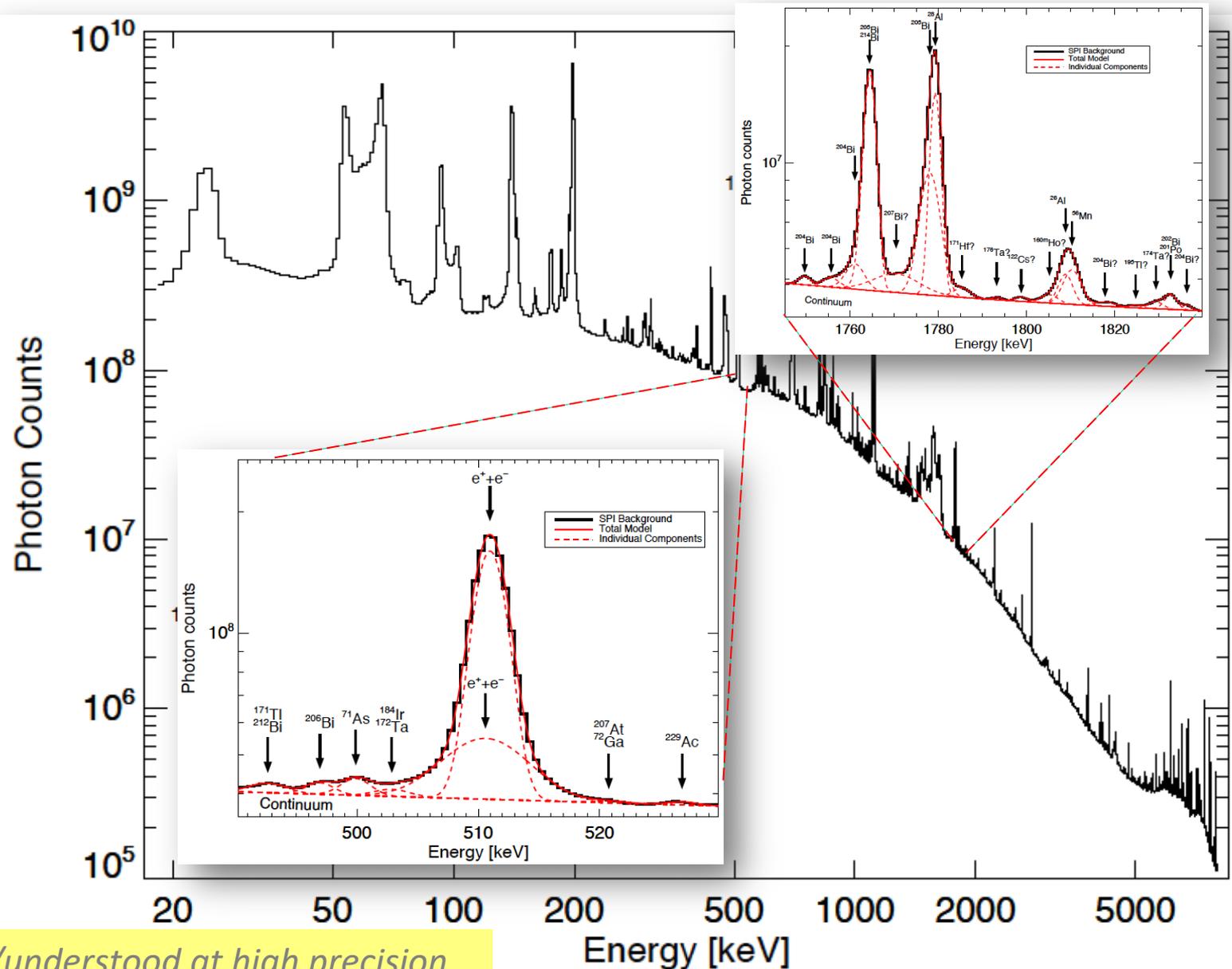
Spatial Precision  $2.6^\circ$  /  $\sim 2$  arcmin

Field-of-View  $16 \times 16^\circ$



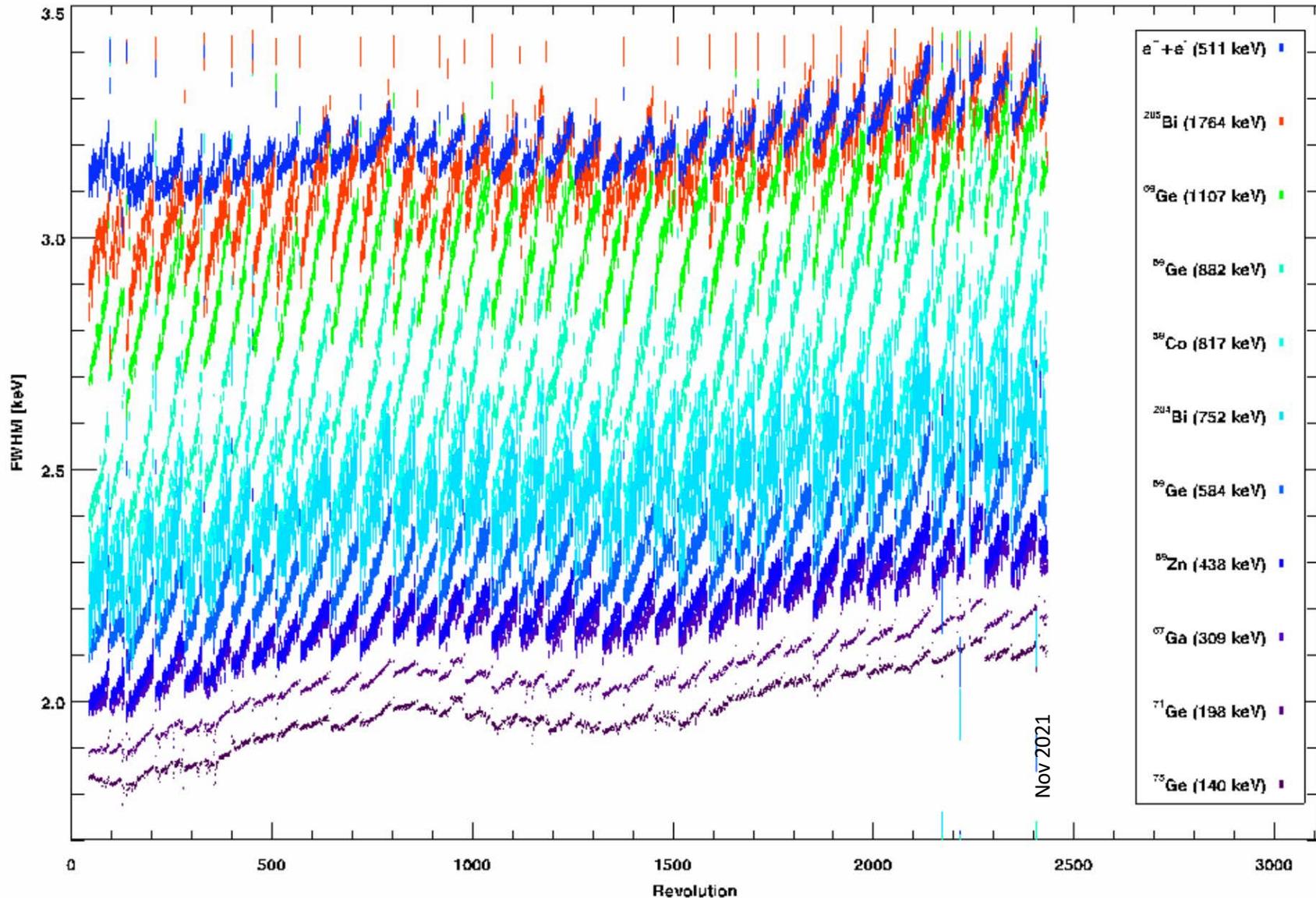
# INTEGRAL: Dominance of instrumental background

## SPI Ge detector spectra



# INTEGRAL/SPI Performance Monitoring

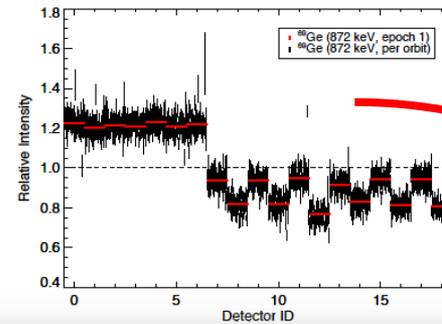
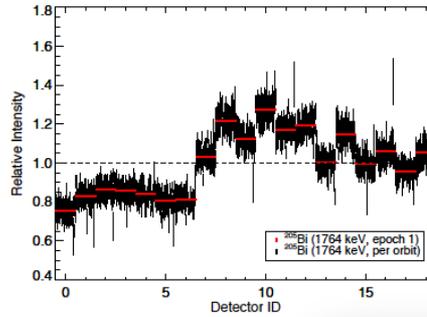
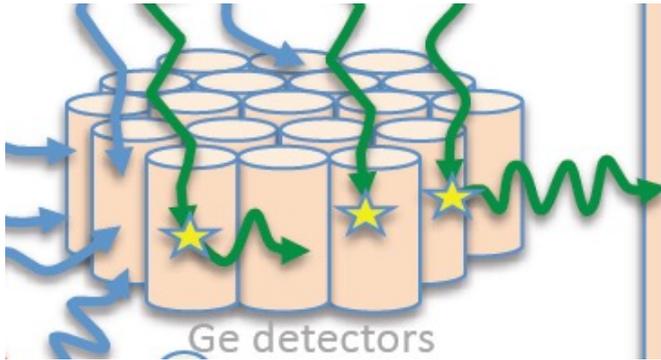
Spectral Resolution in Detail: regular annealings are essential



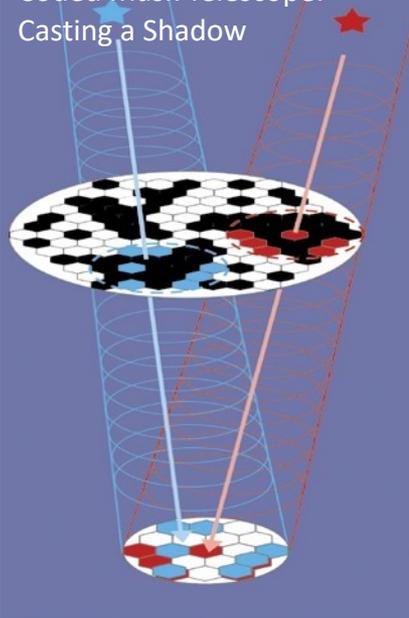
39th annealing just completed (Sep 2022)!

# Discriminating Background and Sky Signals in SPI Data

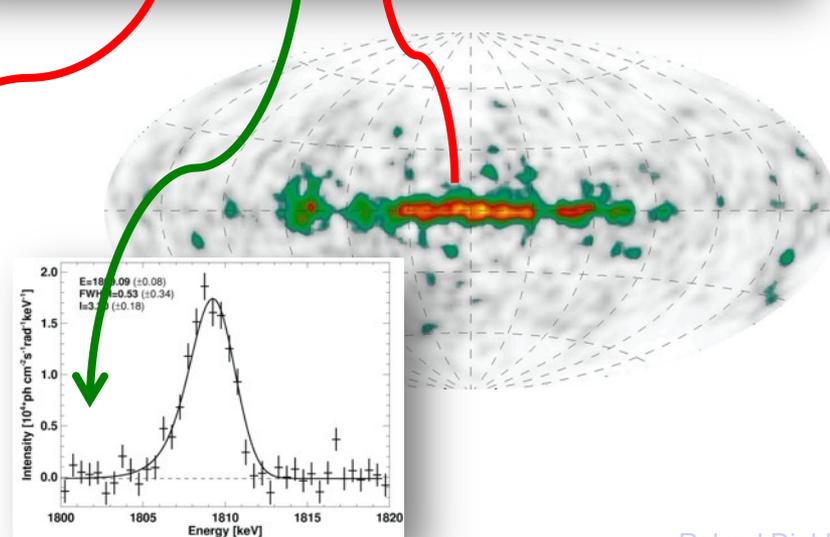
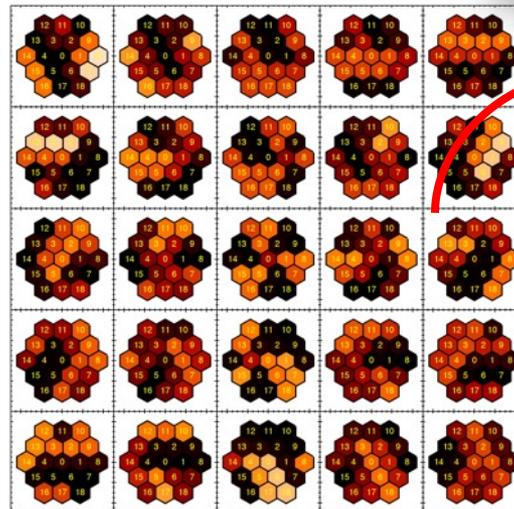
- Tracking the relative count rate ratios among detectors
  - characteristic signatures from celestial sources with coded mask, and from background events



Coded Mask Telescope:  
Casting a Shadow



$$d_k = \sum_j R_{jk} \sum_{i=1}^{N_I} \theta_i M_{ij} + \sum_t \sum_{i=N_I+1}^{N_I+N_B} \theta_{i,t} B_{ik}$$



# Gamma ray spectroscopy with SPI

...it works! example:

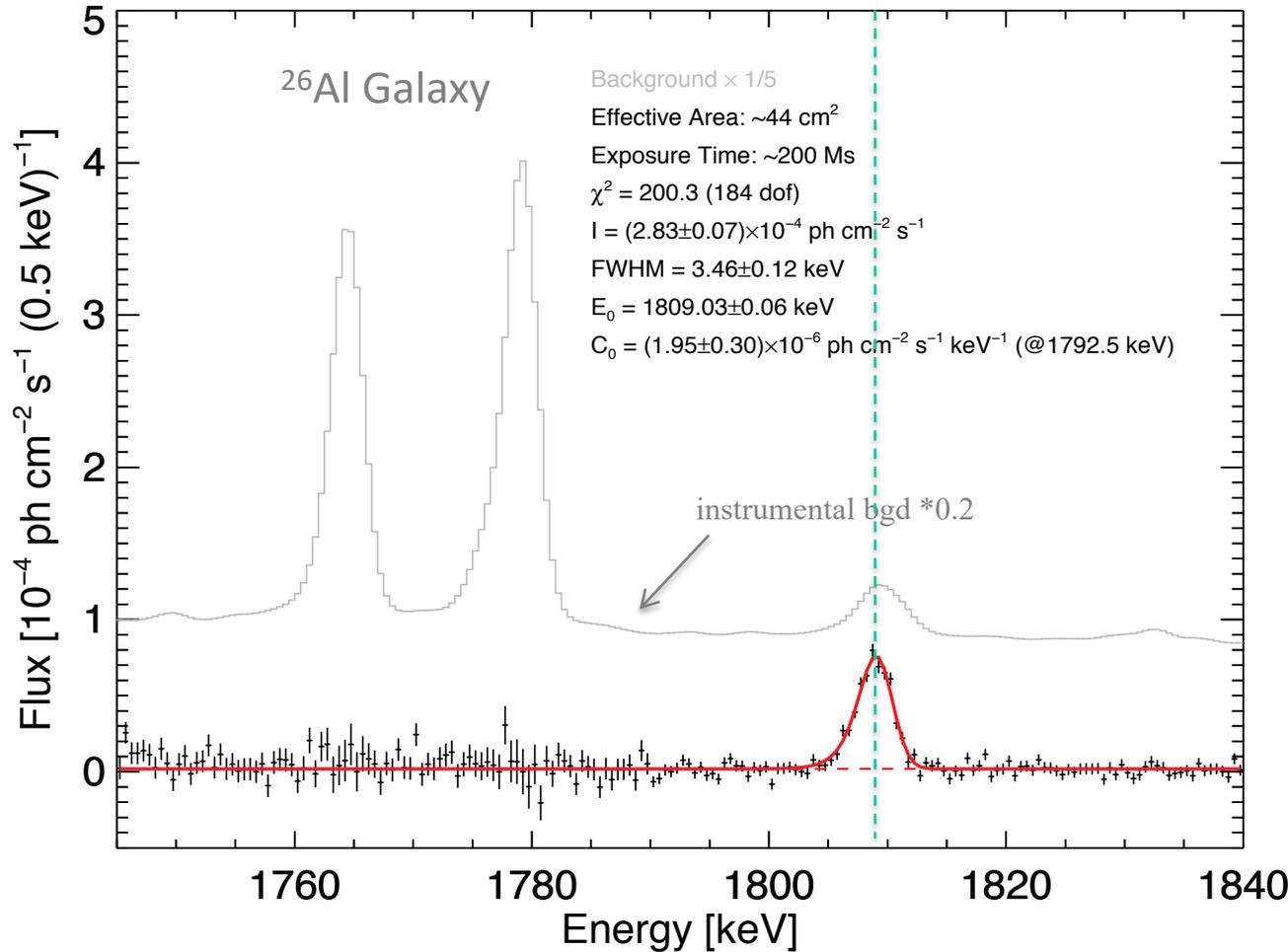
$^{26}\text{Al}$  line 1808.6 keV

instrumental lines

1810 keV

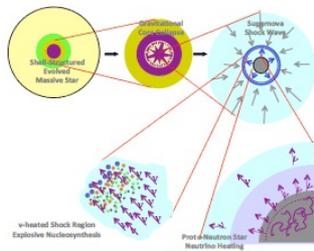
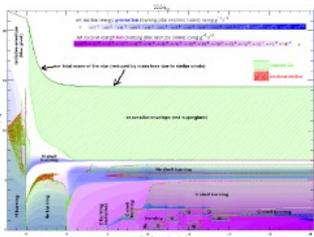
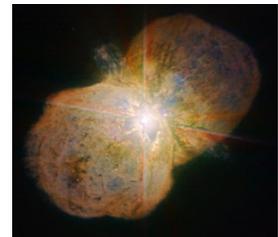
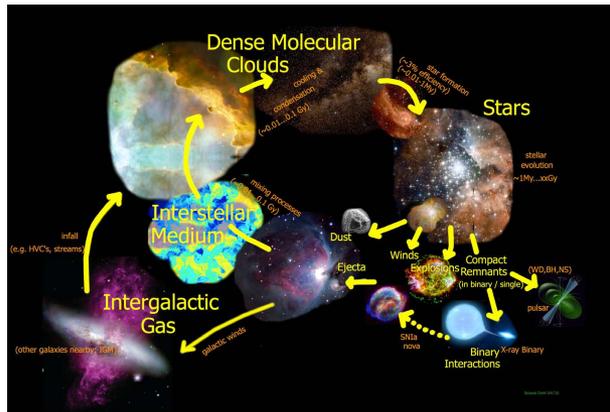
1779 keV

1764 keV

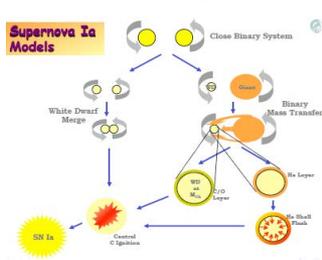
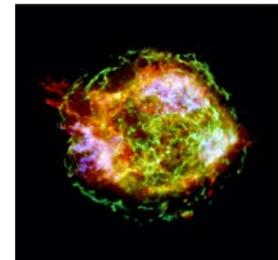


# Lessons from radioactive isotopes

★ Trace the flows of cosmic matter

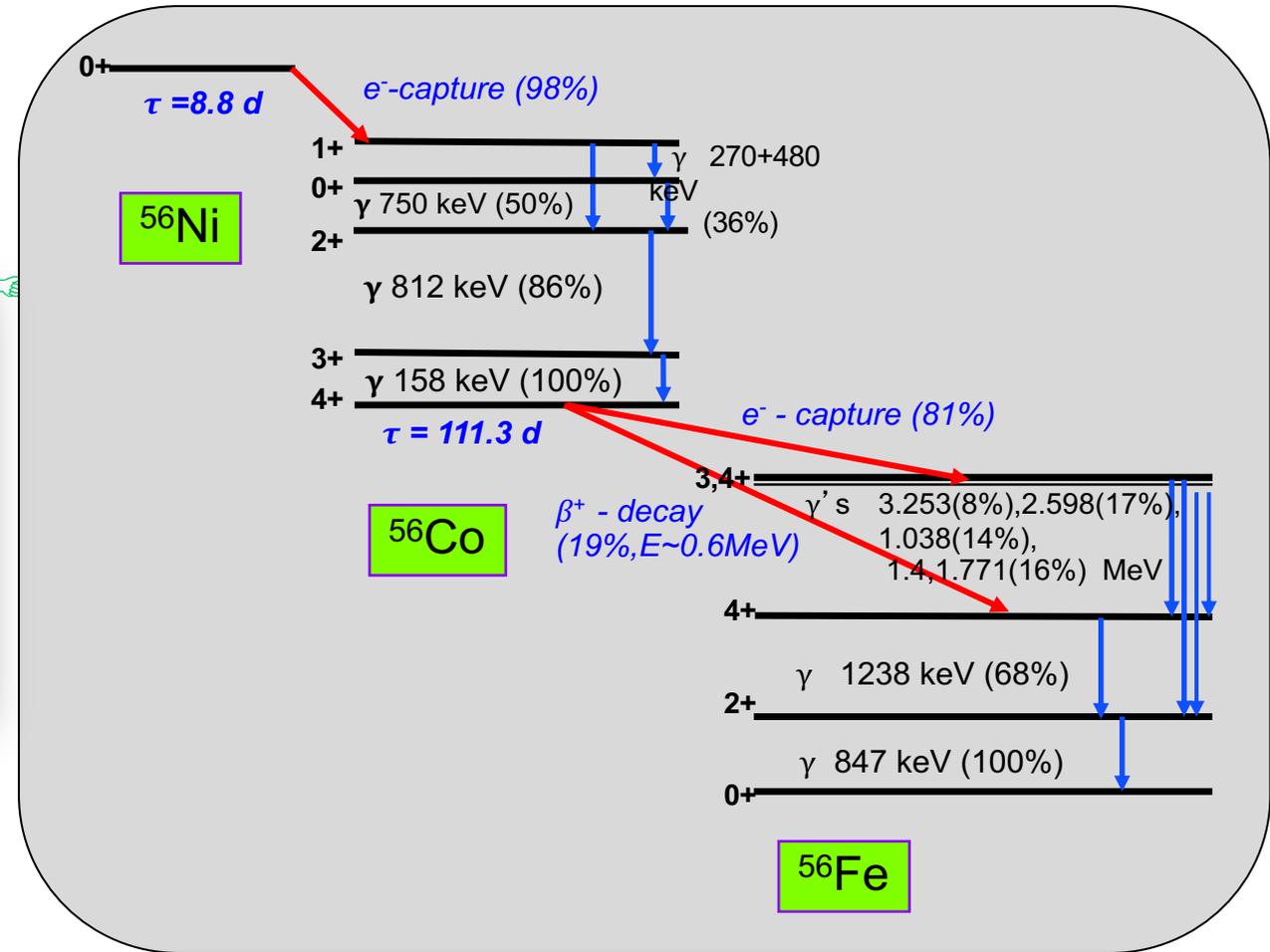
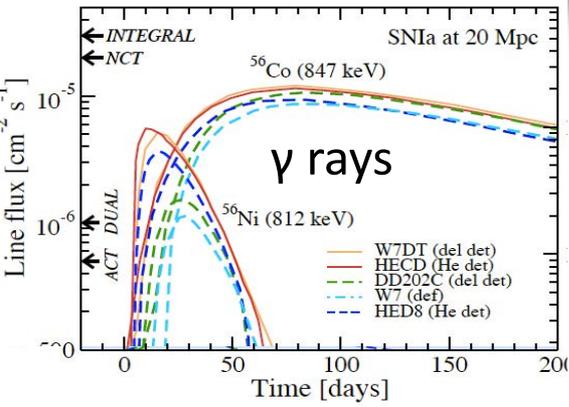
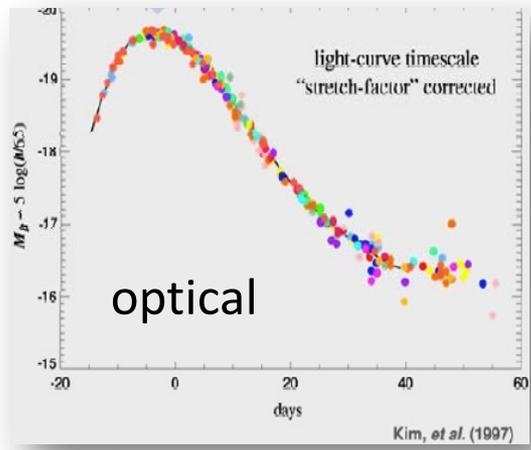
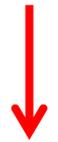


★ Understand the sources of new nuclei



# $^{56}\text{Ni}$ radioactivity $\rightarrow \gamma$ -Rays, $e^+$ $\rightarrow$ leakage/deposit evolution

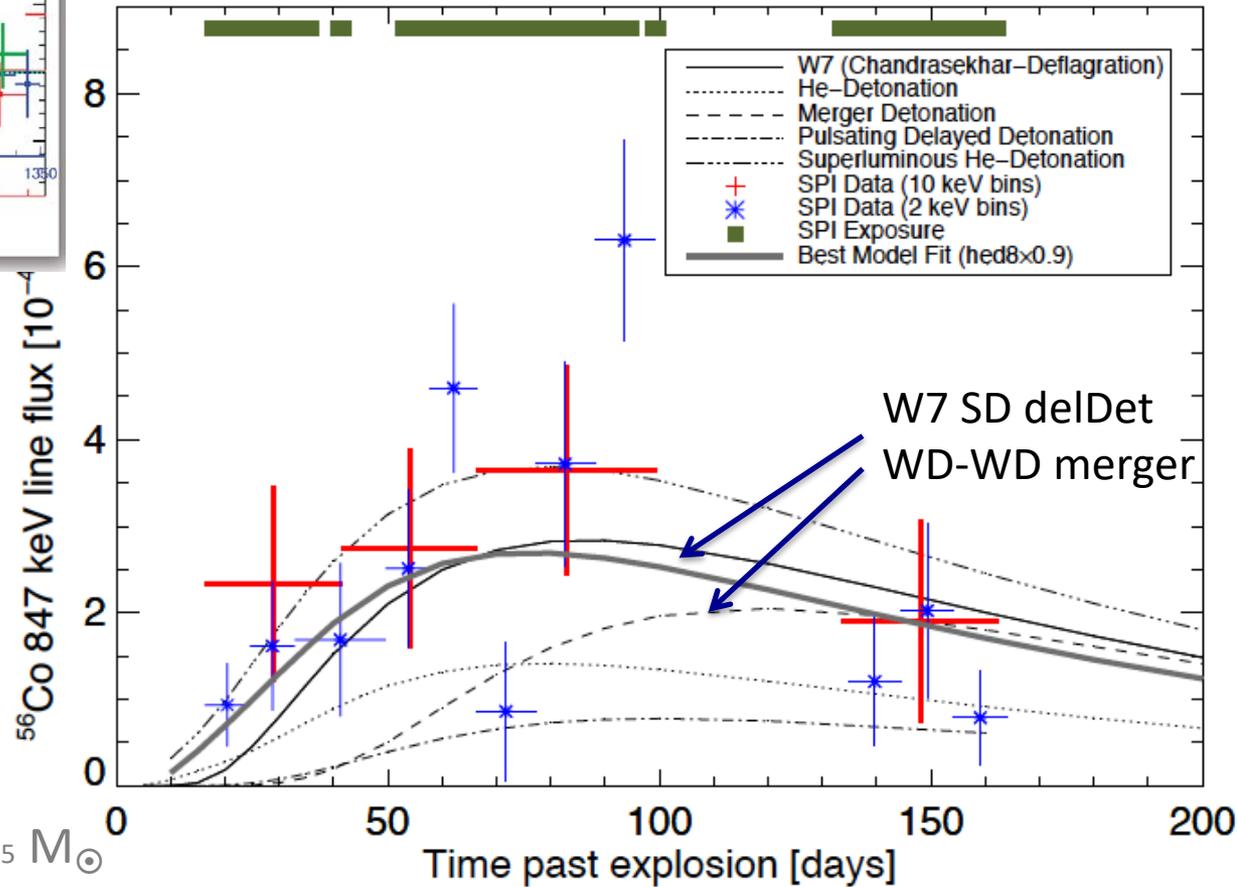
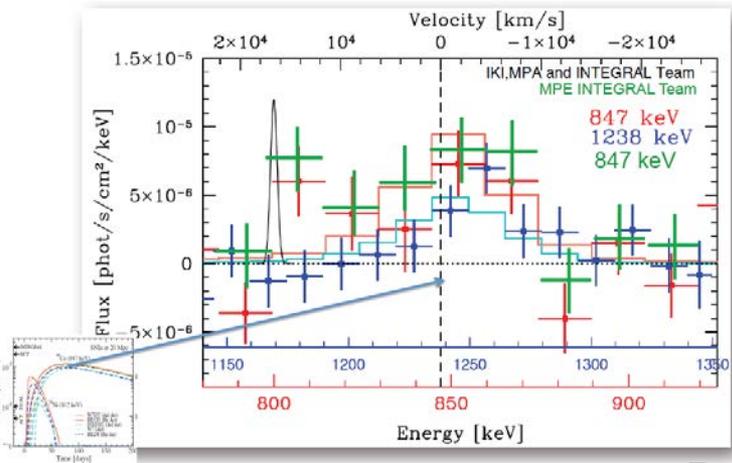
**SN Ia**



- $\rightarrow$  Nuclear BE release from  $0.6M_{\odot}$  [ $\text{C}, \text{O} \rightarrow ^{56}\text{Ni}$ ] =  $\sim 1.1 \cdot 10^{51}$  erg ( $> 2 \cdot \text{BE}_{\text{WD}}$ )
- $\rightarrow$  Deposit of  $\gamma$  rays and  $e^+$  in expanding/diluting envelope
- $\rightarrow$  Re-radiation of deposited energy in low-energy (thermal) radiation

# SN2014J light evolution in the 847 keV $^{56}\text{Co}$ line

## INTEGRAL/SPI $\gamma$ ray measurements



★  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  mass:  $0.49 \pm 0.09 M_{\odot}$

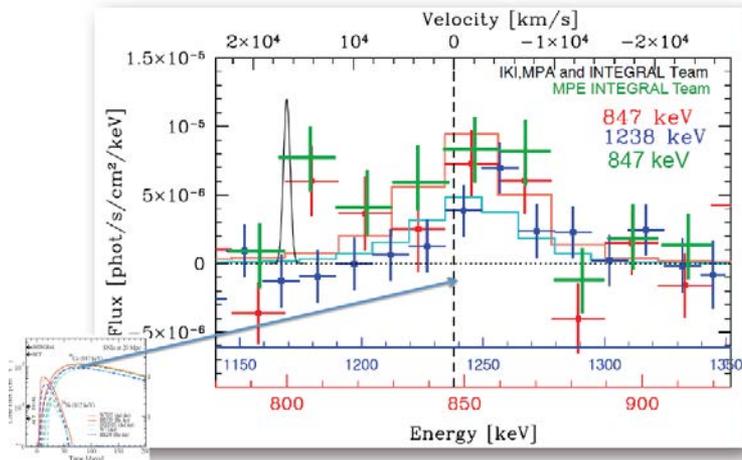
(cmp from bol. Light  $\rightarrow 0.42 \pm 0.05 M_{\odot}$ )

from models  $\rightarrow 0.5 \pm 0.3 M_{\odot}$

👉 Diehl et al., A&A 2015

# SN2014J data Jan – Jun 2014: $^{56}\text{Co}$ lines

☆ Doppler broadened ✓



☆ Split into 4 time bins

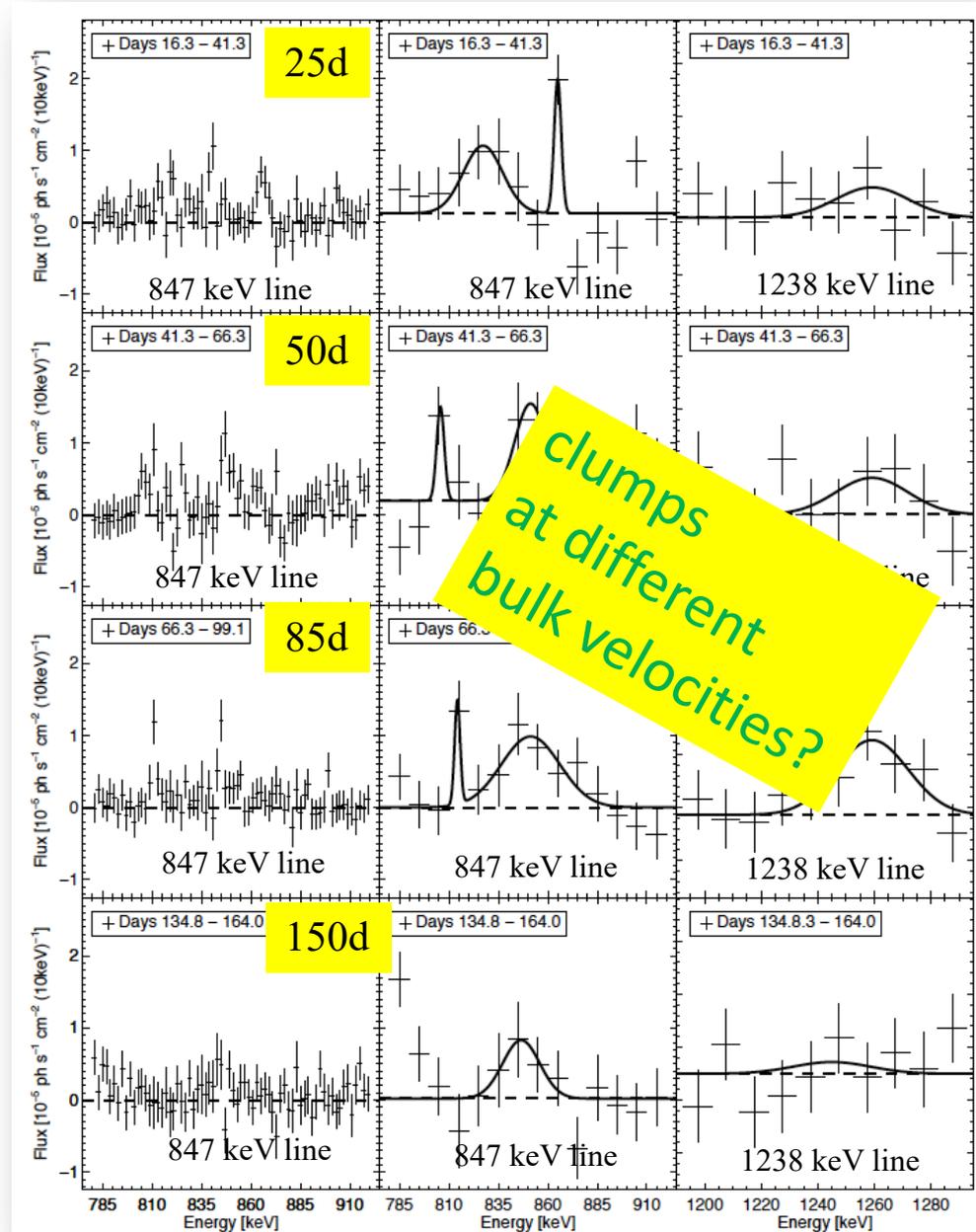
☆ Coarse & fine spectral binning

→ Observe a structured and evolving spectrum

– expected:  
gradual appearance  
of broadened  $^{56}\text{Co}$  lines

👉 Diehl et al., A&A (2015)

☆ note: normally, we do not see such fluctuations in 'empty-source' spectra!

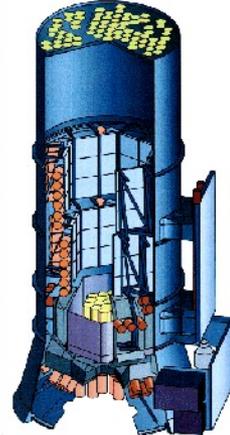
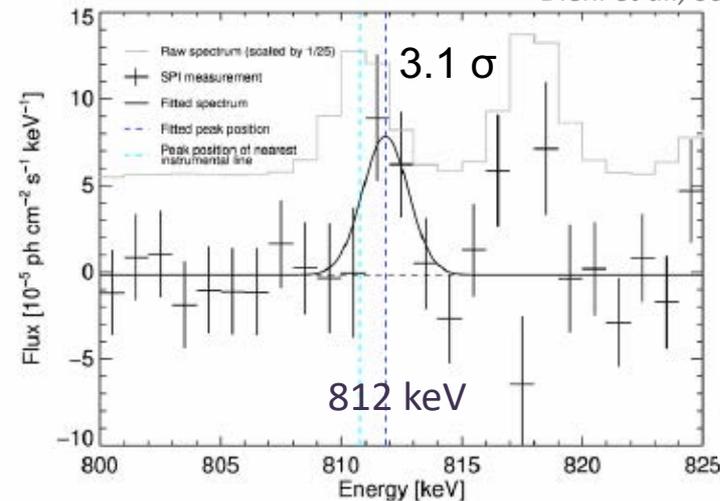
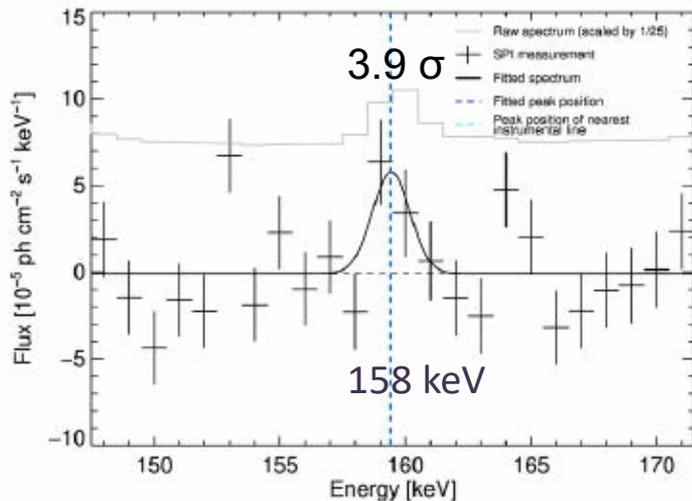


# SN Ia and SN2014J: Early $^{56}\text{Ni}$ ( $\tau \sim 8.8\text{d}$ )

Spectra from the SN at  $\sim 20$  days after explosion

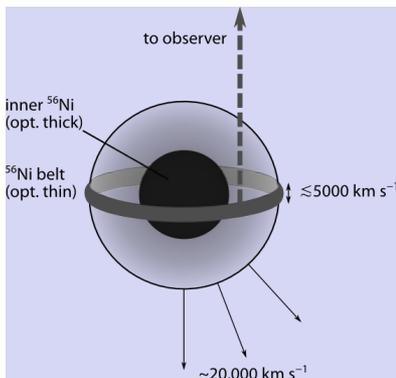
Clear detections of the two strongest lines expected from  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  (should be embedded!)

*Diehl et al., Science (2014)*



$^{56}\text{Ni}$  mass estimate (backscaled to explosion):  $\sim 0.06 M_{\odot}$  ( $\sim 10\%$ )

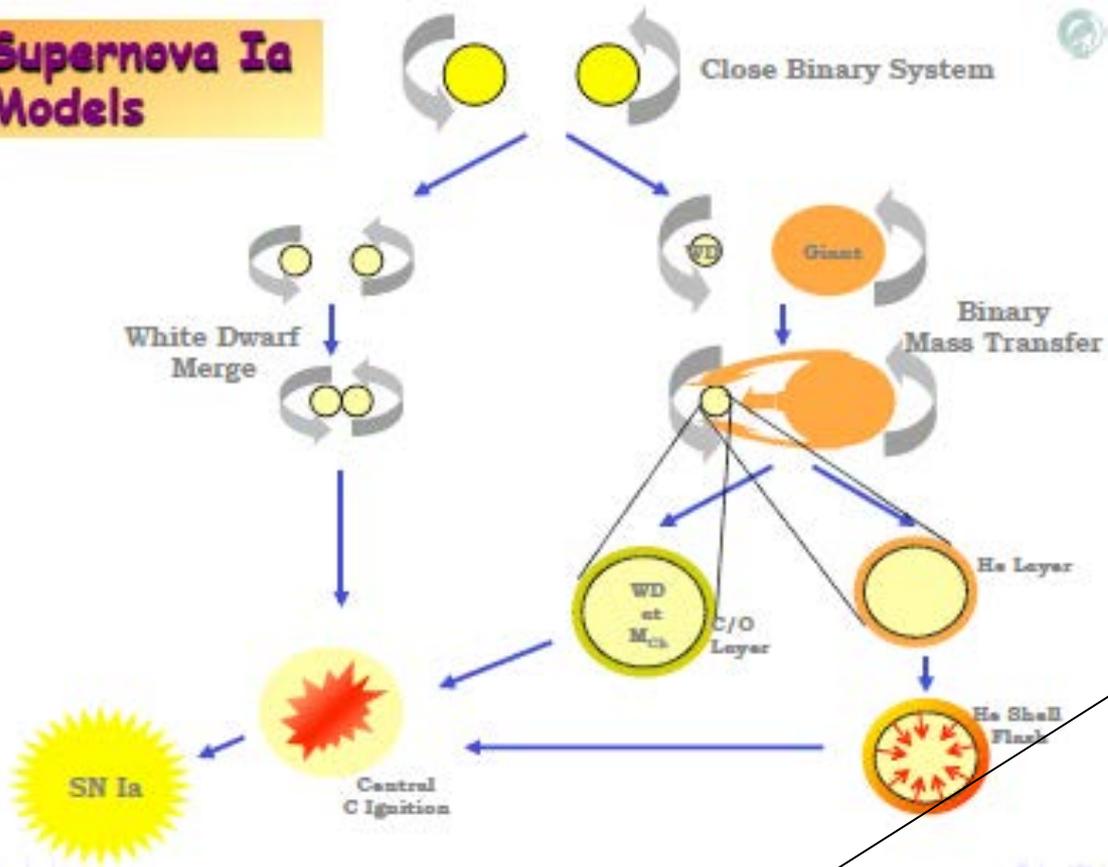
i.e.: not the single-degenerate  $M_{\text{chandra}}^{\text{sekhara}}$  model,  
but 2 WDs (double-degenerate)



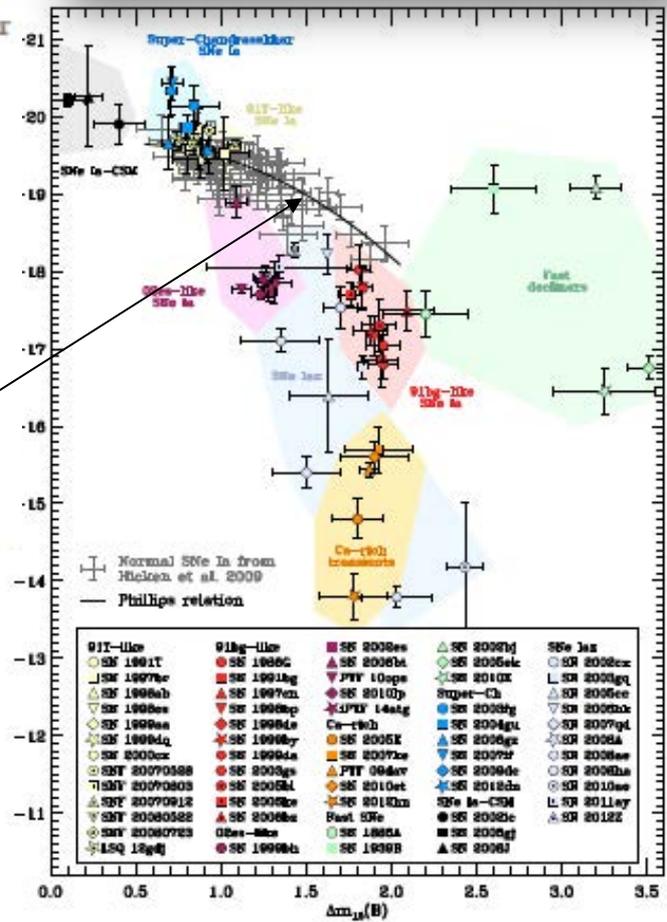
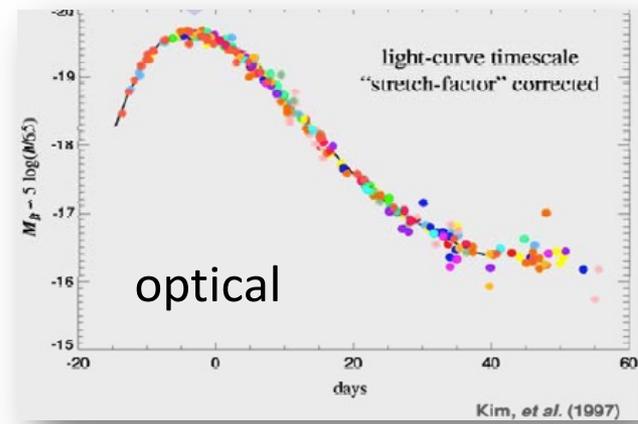
$\rightarrow$  SN Ia are a variety

# Supernovae of type Ia

## Supernova Ia Models



→ SN Ia are a variety "standardizable candles"??



Taubenberger 2017

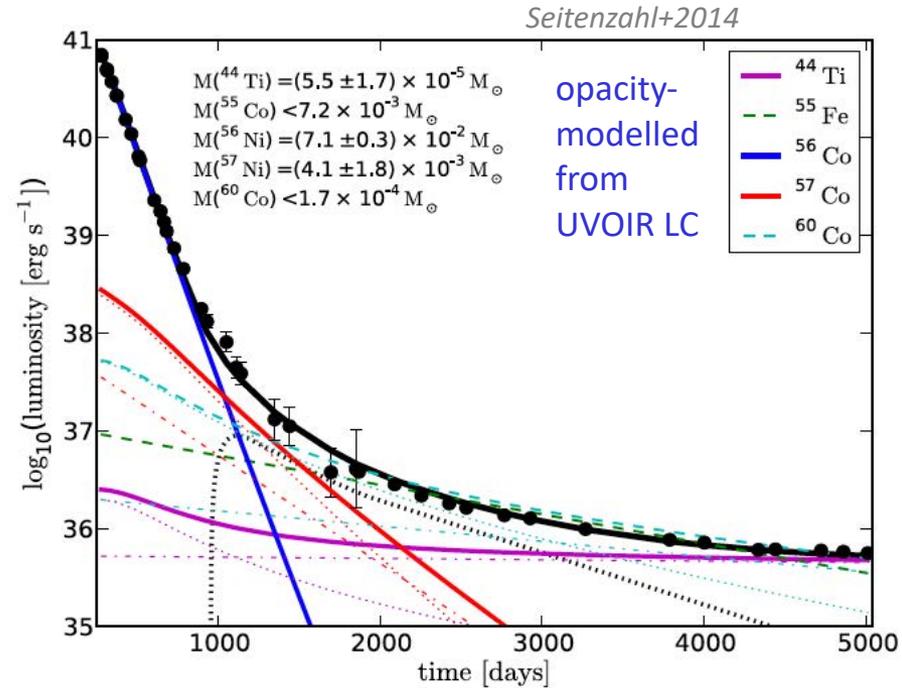
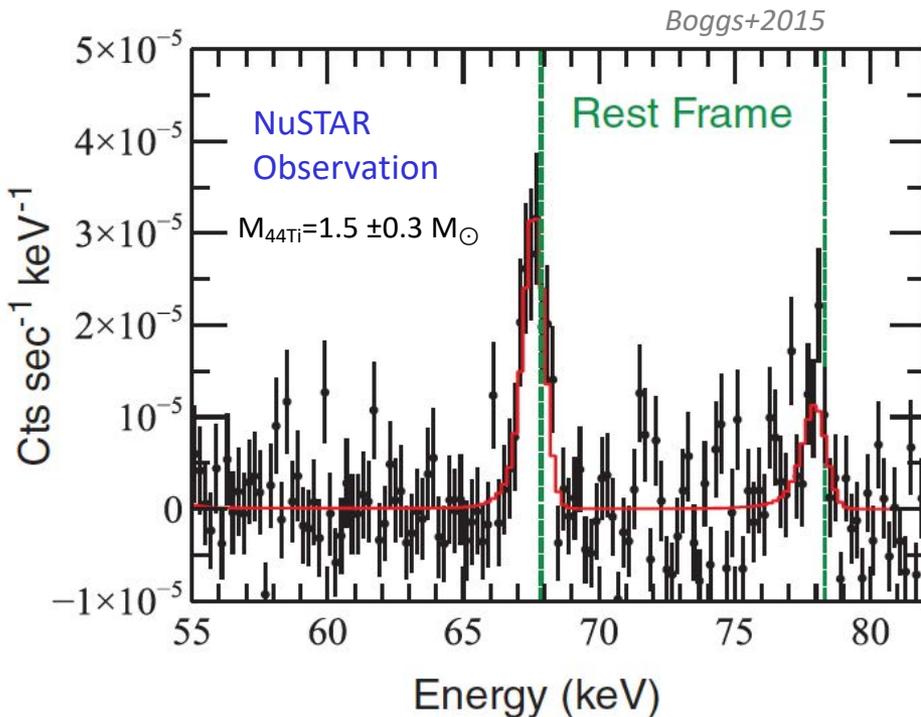
# $^{44}\text{Ti}$ from SN1987A

★ ab-initio models

→  $M_{^{44}\text{Ti}} \approx 0.x \cdot 10^{-5} M_{\odot}$  (spherical)  
to  $0.x \cdot 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$  (aspherical)

★ UVOIR LC + energy deposition models

→  $M_{^{44}\text{Ti}} \approx 0.5 \dots 5 \cdot 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$



★  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  X-ray result NuSTAR

→  $M_{^{44}\text{Ti}} \approx 1.5 \pm 0.3 \cdot 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$

★  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  line measurements INTEGRAL

→  $M_{^{44}\text{Ti}} < 3.1 \pm 0.8 \cdot 10^{-4} M_{\odot} (2\sigma)$  (IBIS)

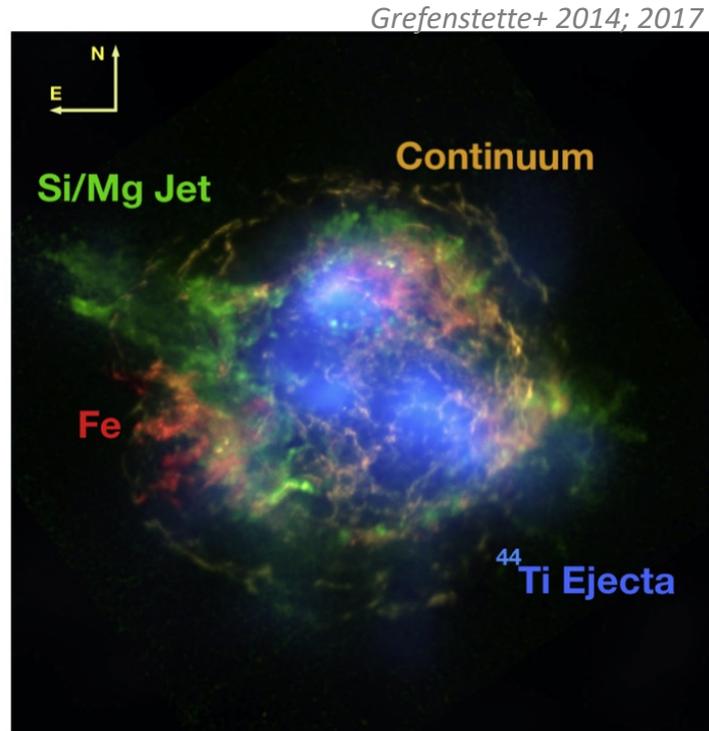
★ →  $M_{^{44}\text{Ti}} < 7.5 \cdot 10^{-4} M_{\odot} (2\sigma)$  (SPI)

# $^{44}\text{Ti}$ radioactivity in Cas A: Locating the inner Ejecta

NuSTAR Imaging in hard X-rays (3-79 keV;  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  lines at 68,78 keV) →

👉 first mapping of radioactivity in a SNR

- Both  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  lines detected clearly
- redshift  $\sim 0.5$  keV  
→ 2000 km/s asymmetry
- $^{44}\text{Ti}$  flux consistent with earlier measurements
- Doppler broadening:  
( $5350 \pm 1610$ ) km s $^{-1}$
- Image differs from Fe!!



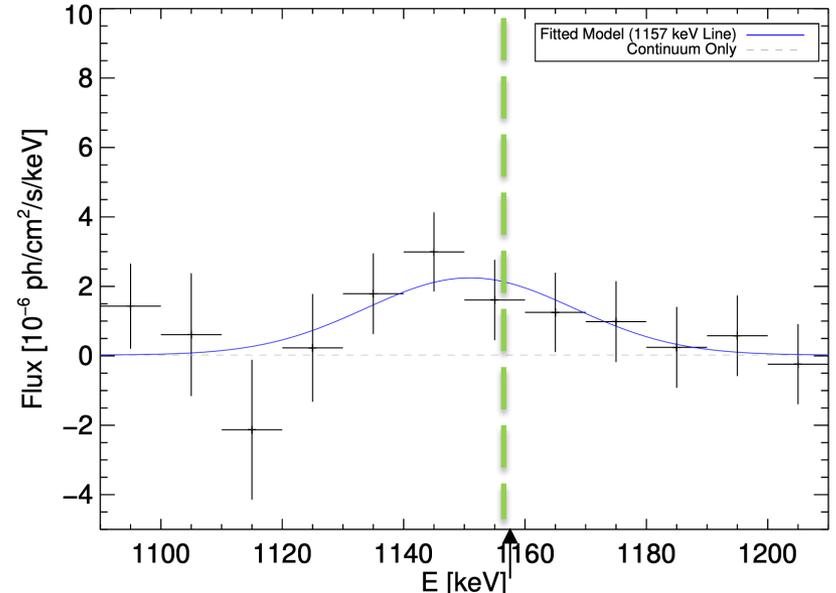
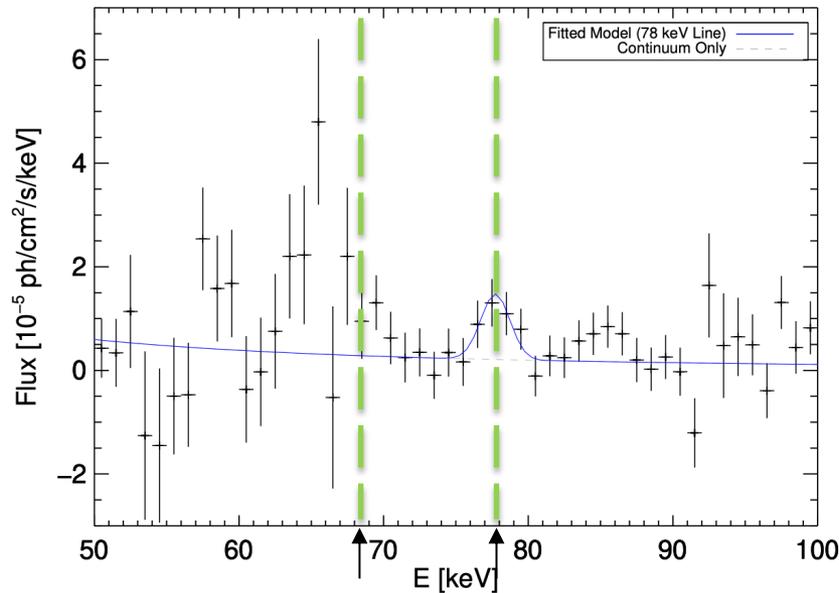
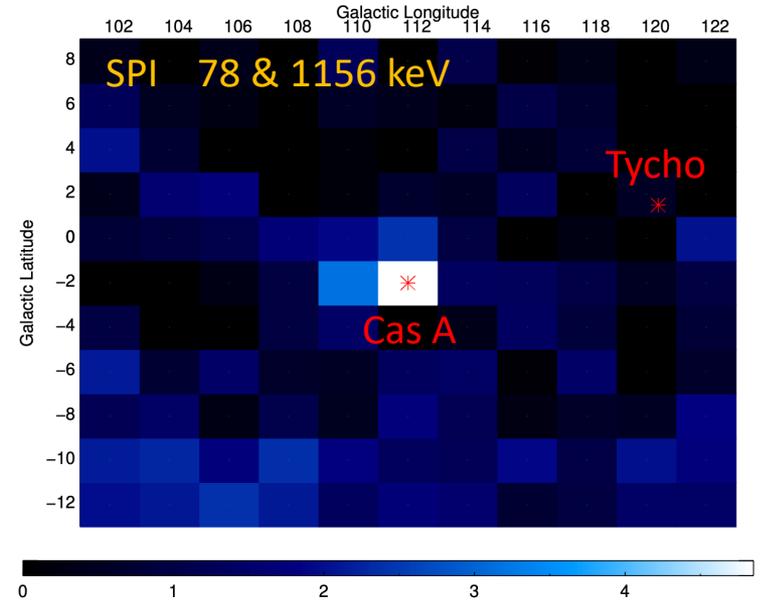
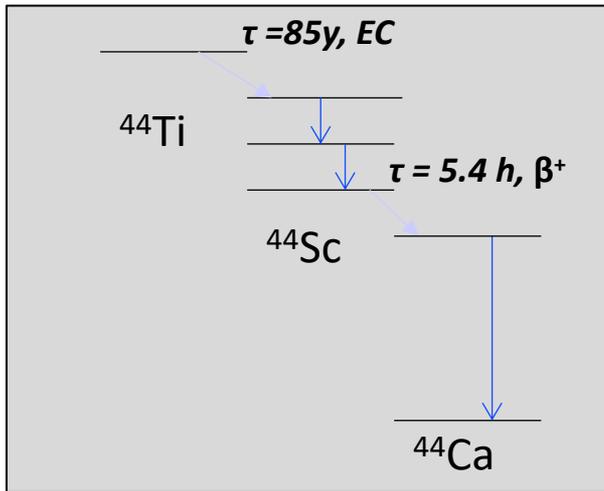
👉  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  → TRUE locations of ejecta from the inner supernova

👉 Fe-line X-rays are biased from ionization of shocked plasma

# $^{44}\text{Ti}$ in Cas A: INTEGRAL/SPI contributions

Weinberger+ 2021

The  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  decay chain with INTEGRAL/SPI:

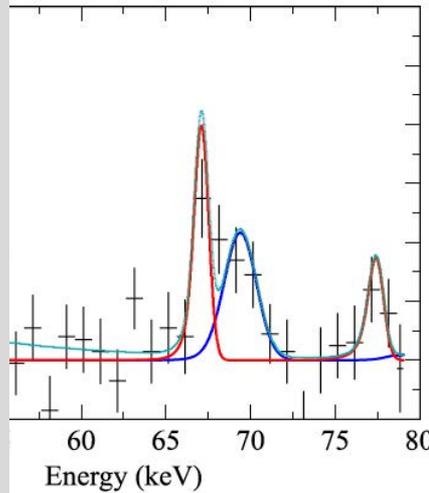
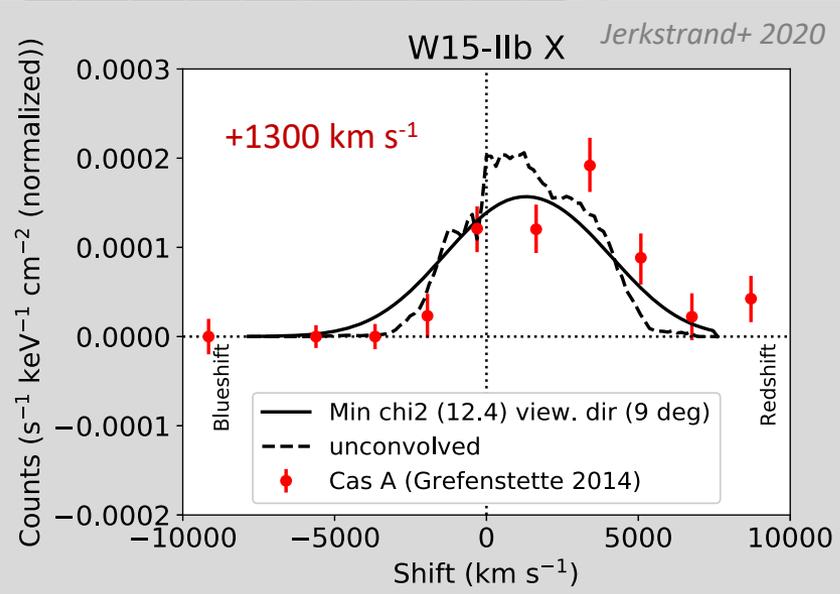
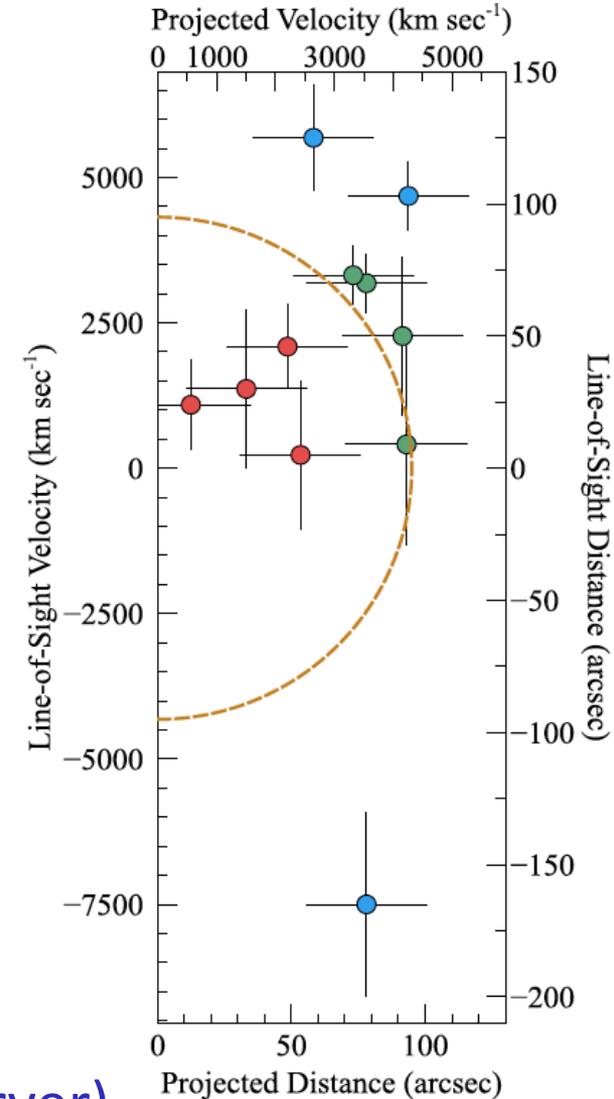
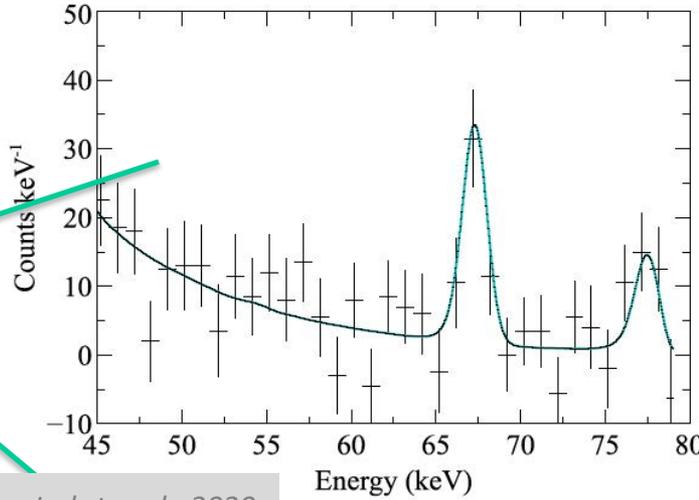
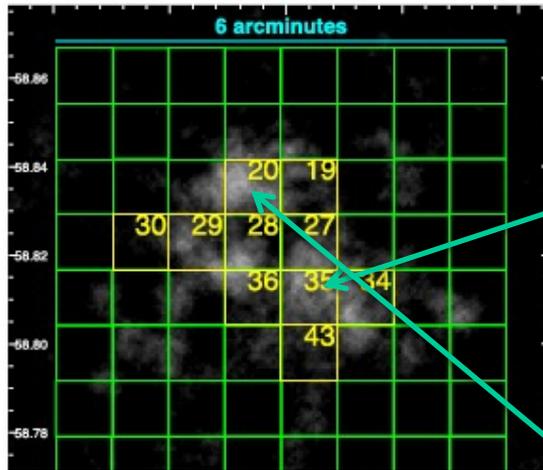


→ bulk red-shifted  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  (away from observer)

# NuSTAR update: $^{44}\text{Ti}$ in Cas A

★ Imaging resolution allows to spatially resolve Cas A's  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ :

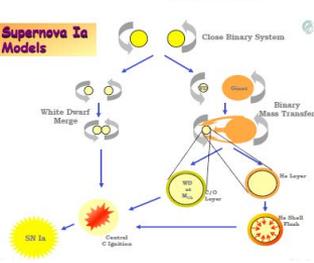
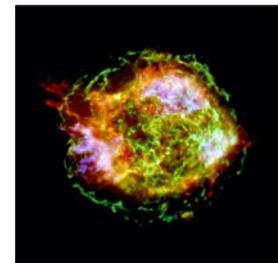
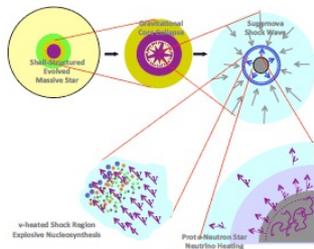
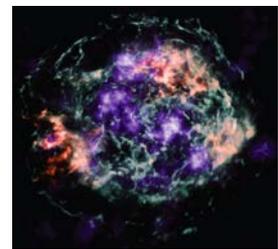
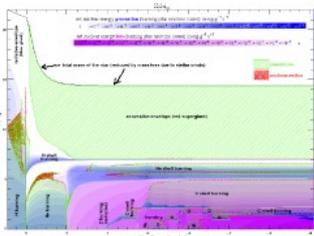
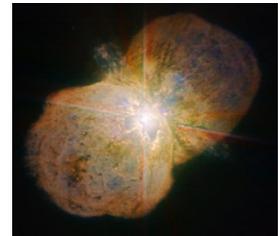
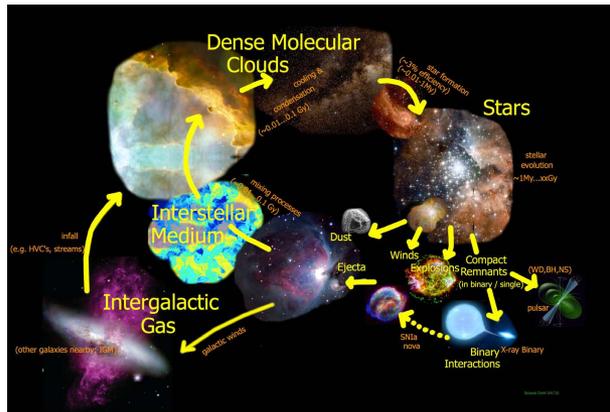
2.4 Msec NuSTAR campaign  
Grefenstette et al. 2017



→ bulk red-shifted  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  (away from observer)

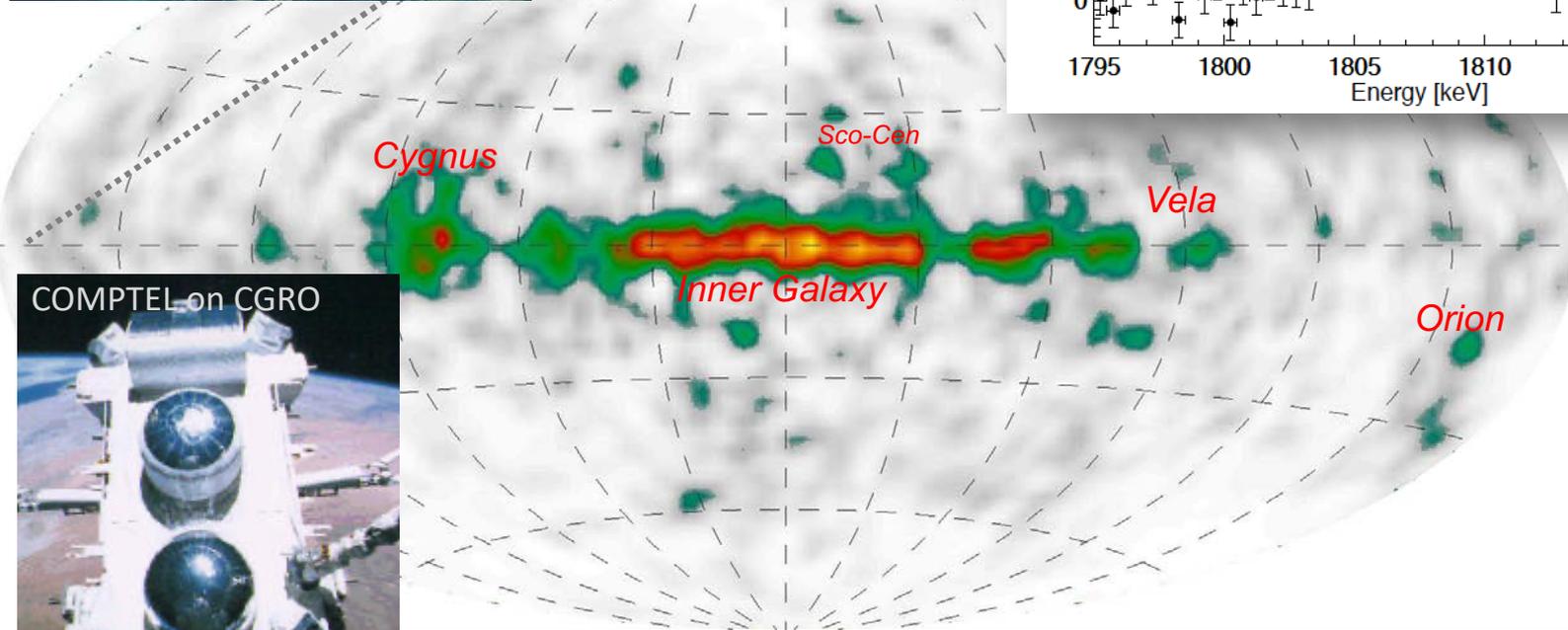
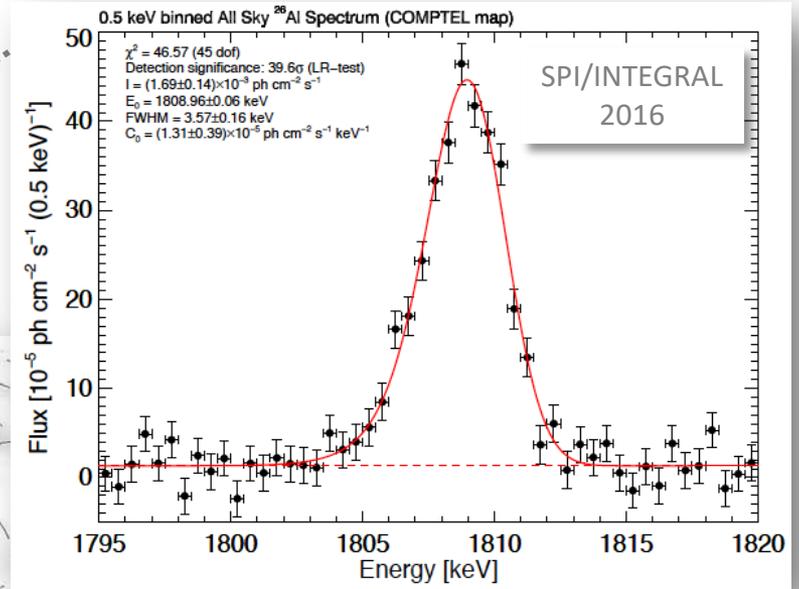
# Lessons from radioactive isotopes

★ Trace the flows of cosmic matter



★ Understand the sources of new nuclei

# $^{26}\text{Al}$ $\gamma$ -rays from the Galaxy



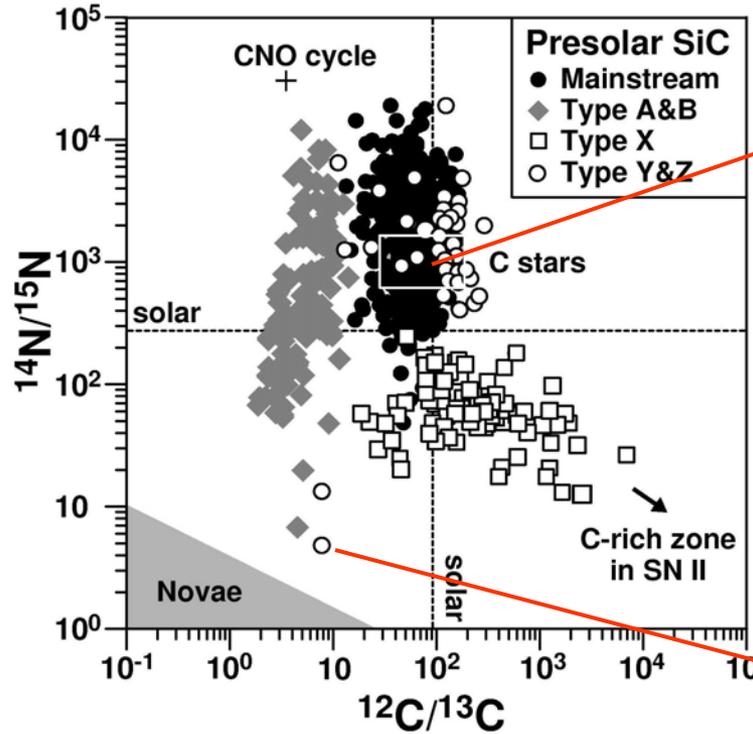


← 1  $\mu\text{m}$  →

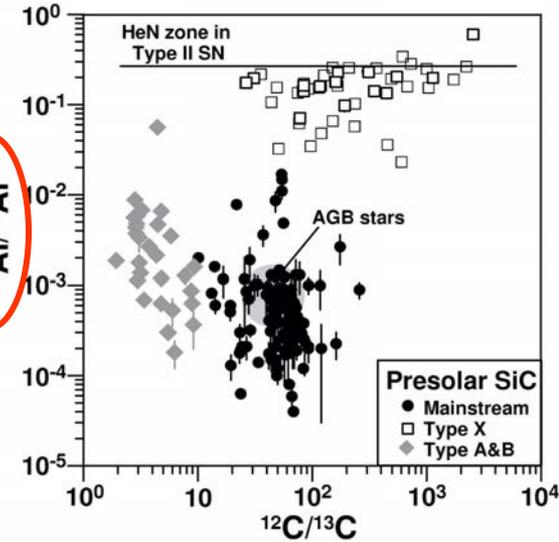
# Hints from Presolar Grains

Isotopic Ratios in C,N,Si,... → Source Type of Presolar Grain

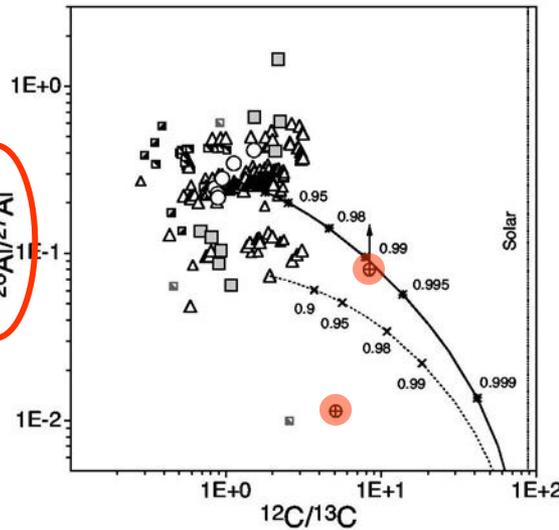
- AGB Stars
- Supernovae
- Novae



$^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$



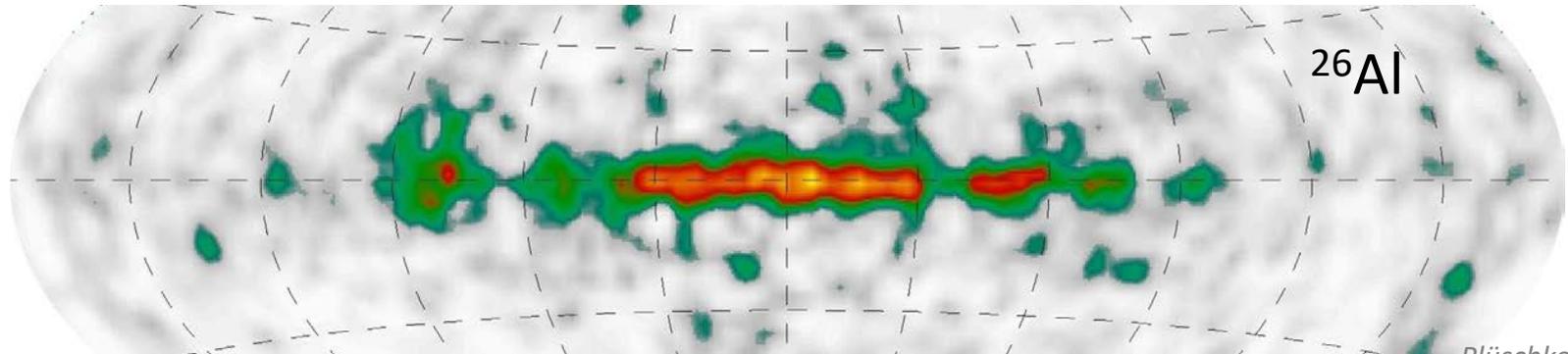
$^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$



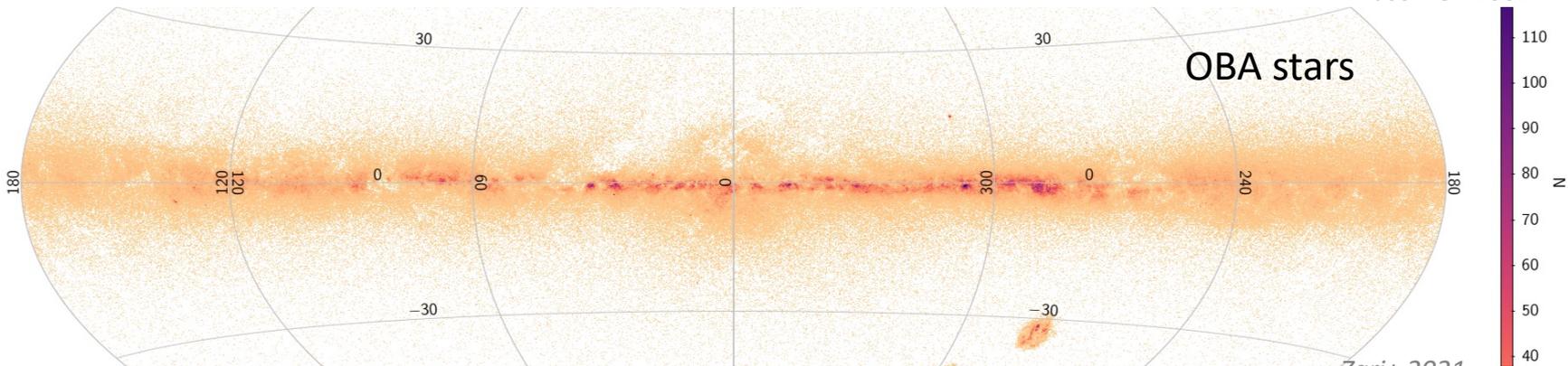
*Amari, Nittler,  
Hoppe, Zinner,  
... et al.*

$^{26}\text{Al}$  Found  
in ~ALL Candidate Sources

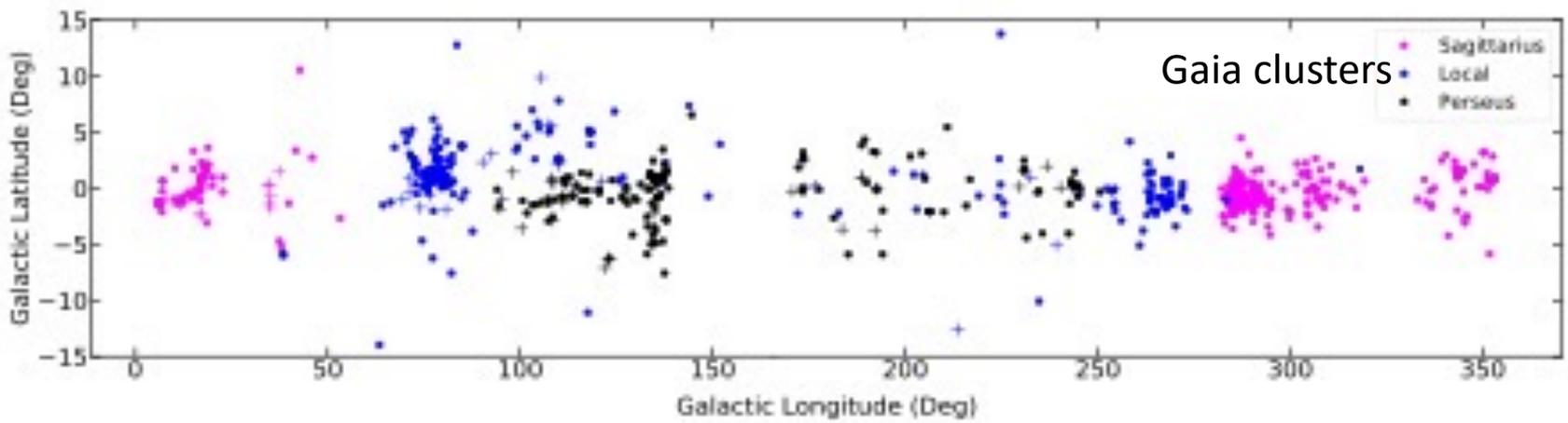
# Massive stars and $^{26}\text{Al}$ radioactivity



Plüschke+ 2001



Zari+ 2021



Xu+ 2021

# The Al Isotope Ratio $^{26}\text{Al}/^{27}\text{Al}$

$^{27}\text{Al}$  is enriched with Galactic Evolution, i.e.  $\sim$ time

$^{26}\text{Al}$  decays, so from current/recent nucleosynthesis only

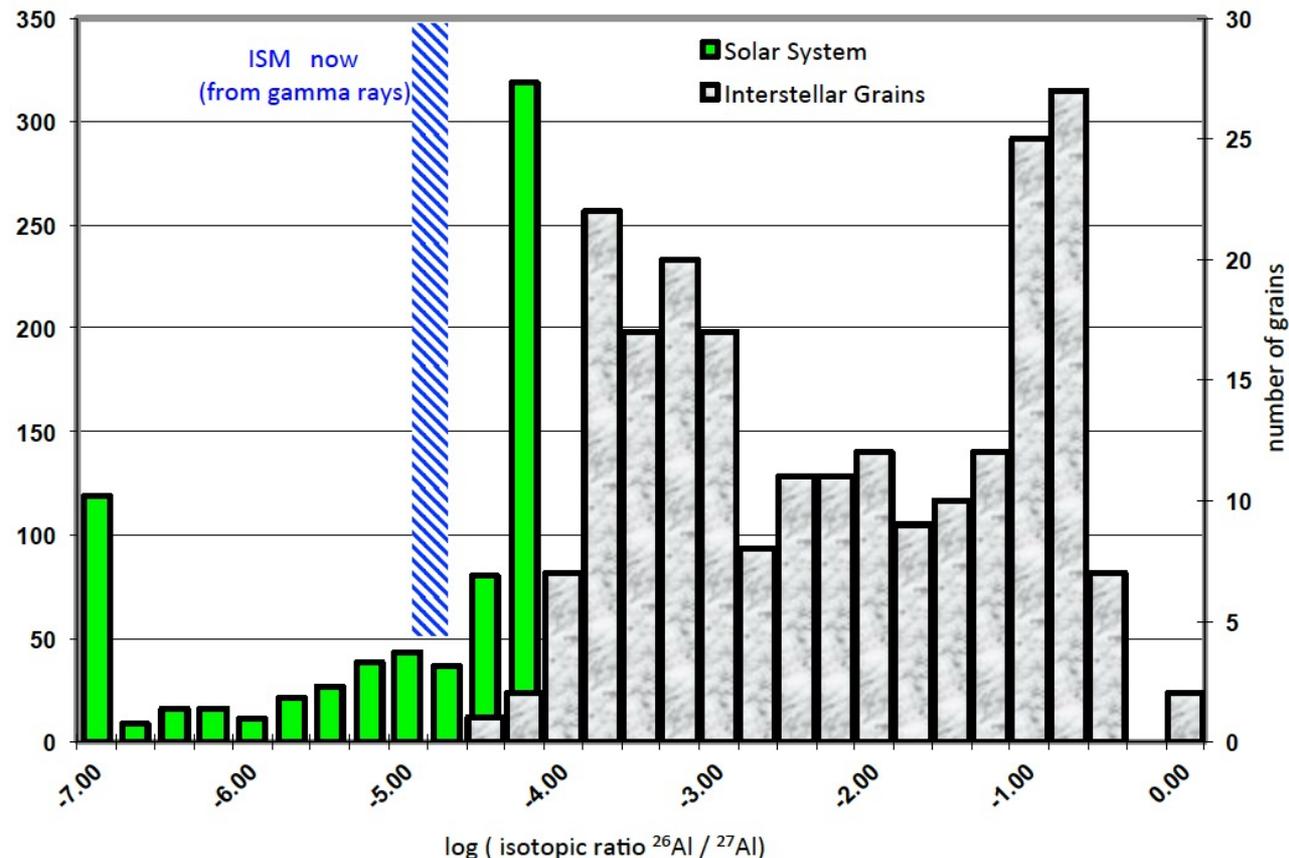
Early solar system meteorites measure ESS environment ( $\rightarrow$   $^{26}\text{Al}$  enriched?)

Pre-solar grains measure nucleosynthesis in dust-producing sources ( $\rightarrow$  much larger)

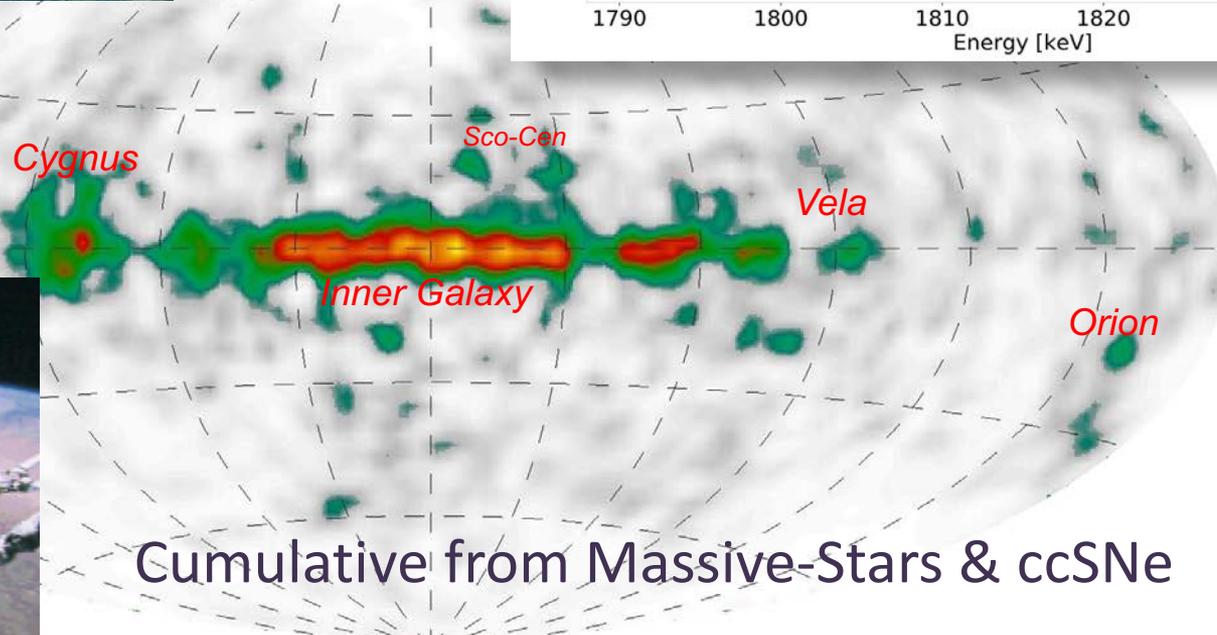
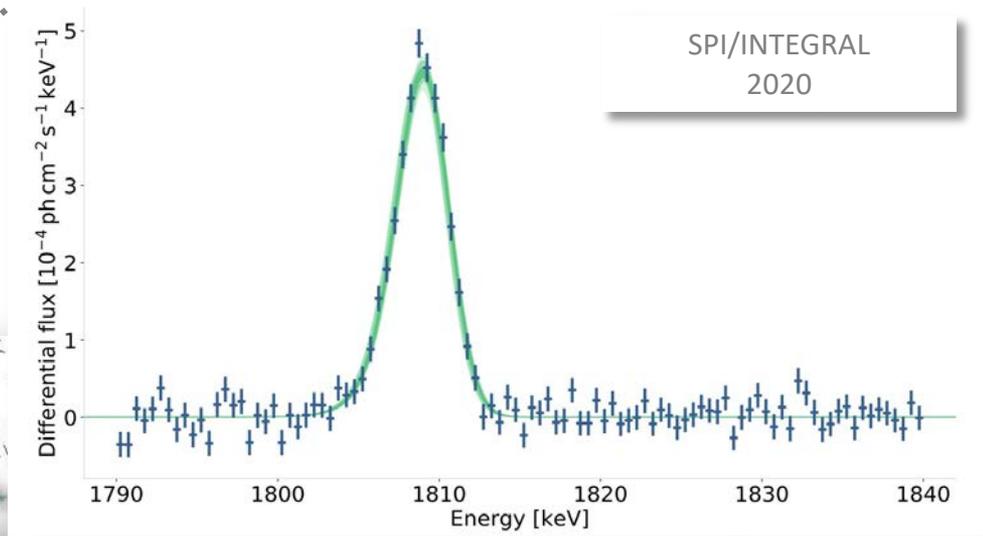
‘canonical’ value  
for ESS of  $\sim 5 \cdot 10^{-5}$   
(McPherrson+1995)

‘supra-canonical’  
up to  $6.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$  ??  
(Krot+2012, Makide+ 2013 ...)

Consolidated ESS  
( $5.23 \pm 0.13$ )  $10^{-5}$   
(Jacobsen+2013)



# $^{26}\text{Al}$ $\gamma$ -rays and the galaxy-wide massive star census

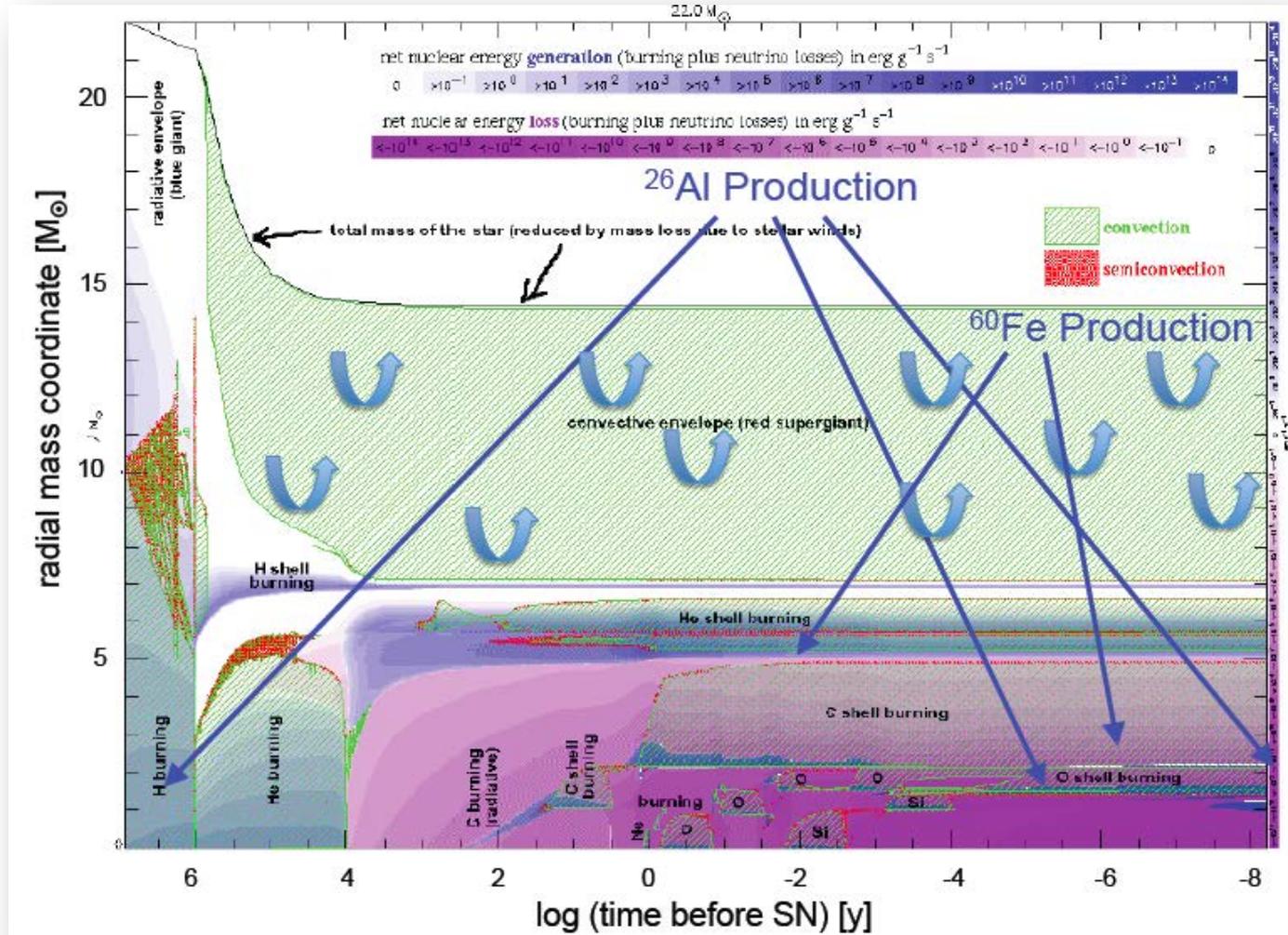


$\gamma$ -ray flux  $\rightarrow$  cc-SN Rate =  $1.3 (\pm 0.6)$  per Century

# Radioactivities from massive stars: $^{60}\text{Fe}$ , $^{26}\text{Al}$

→ Messengers from Massive-Star Interiors!

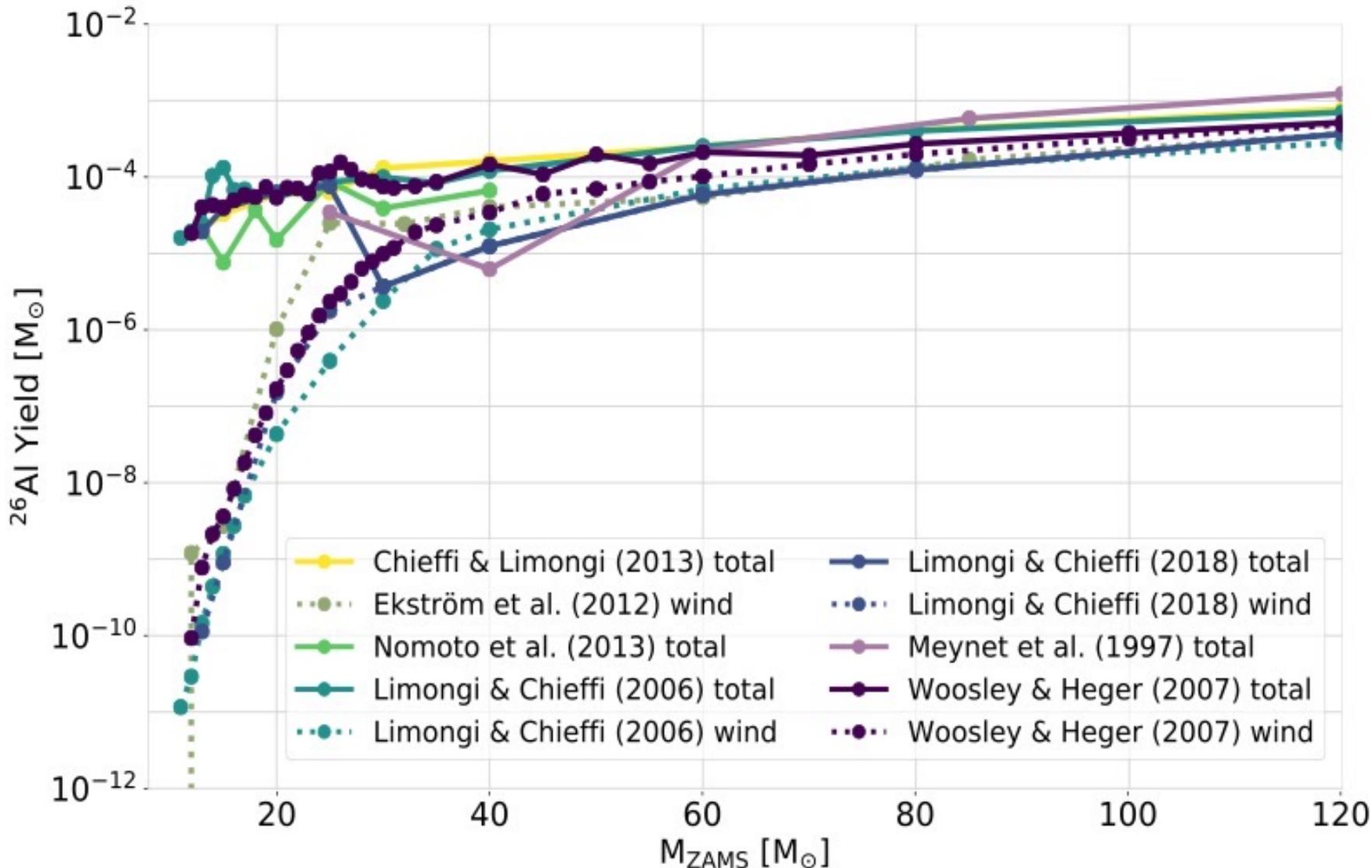
...complementing neutrinos and asteroseismology!



Processes:

- ☆ Hydrostatic fusion
- ☆ WR wind release
- ☆ Late Shell burning
- ☆ Explosive fusion
- ☆ Explosive release

# $^{26}\text{Al}$ Yields versus mass, for massive stars and their SNe



👉 ccSNe dominate for lower-mass range,  
winds dominate over explosive ejecta for more-massive stars

# Massive-Star Groups: Population Synthesis

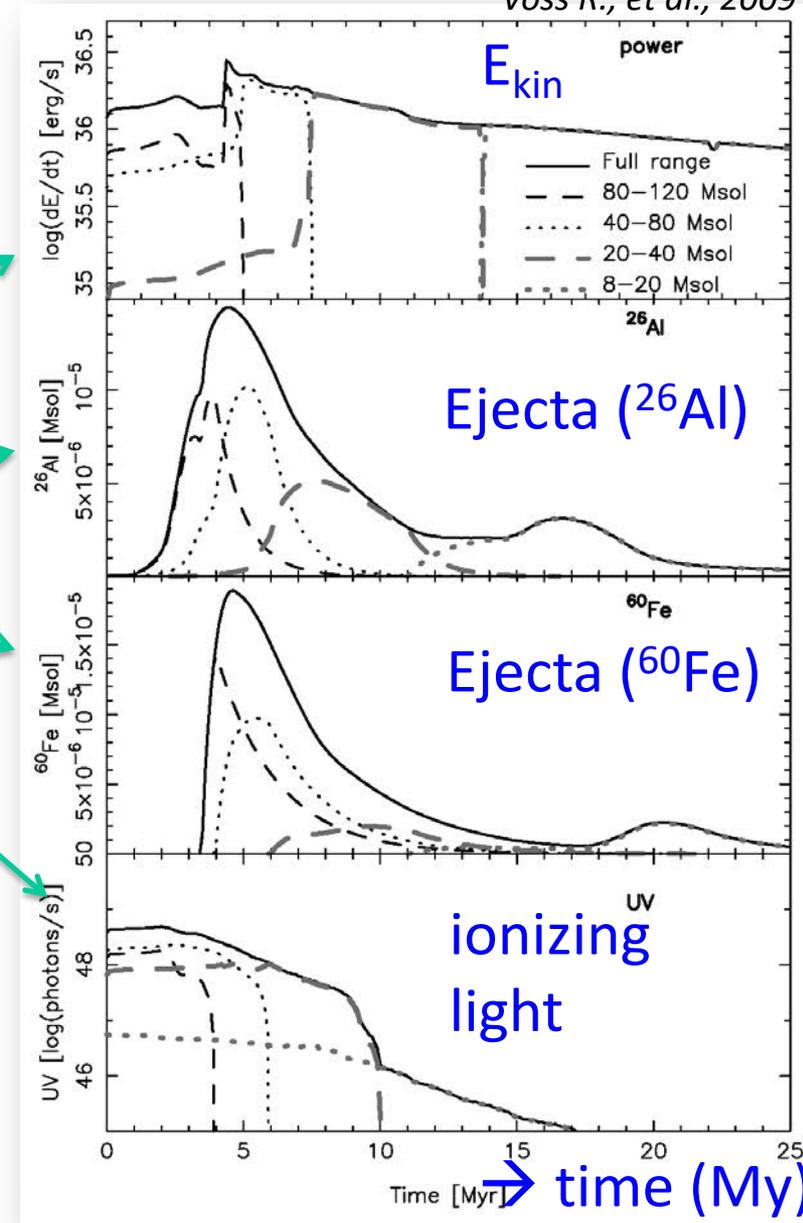
Voss R., et al., 2009

- We model the “outputs” of massive stars and their supernovae from theory

- Winds and Explosions
- Nucleosynthesis Ejecta
- Ionizing Radiation

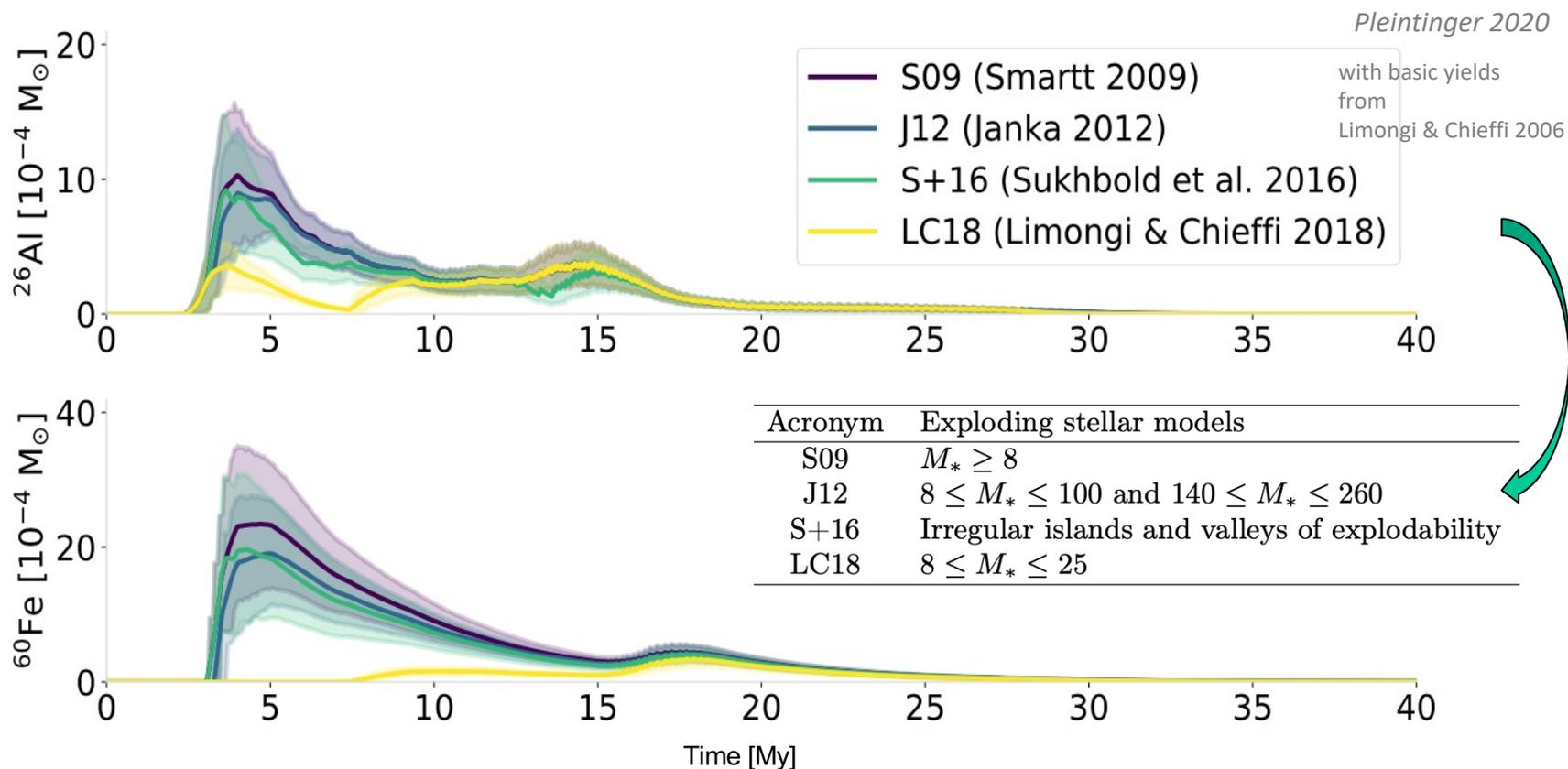
- We get observational constraints from

- Star Counts
- ISM Cavities
- Free-Electron Emission
- Radioactive Ejecta



# Population synthesis: impact of different inputs on groups

variation of explodability (*i.e.*: not all stars of high mass make a SNI)



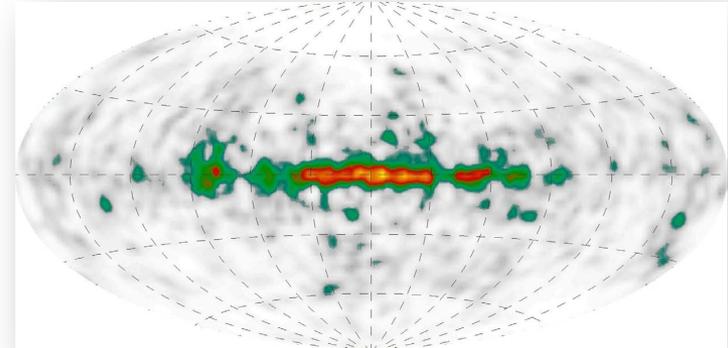
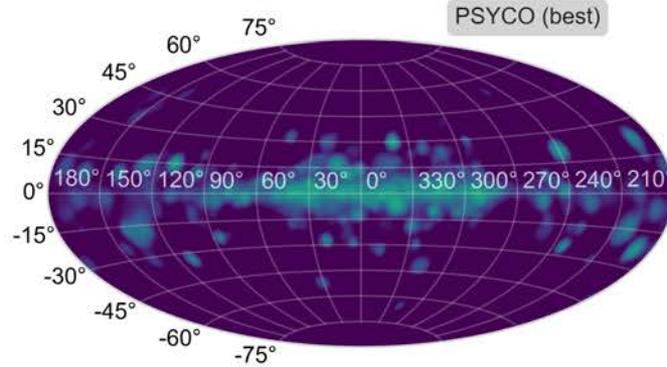
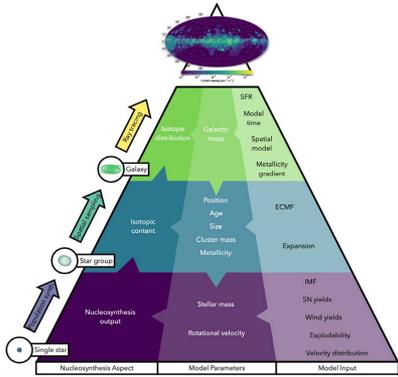
👉 contributions from early (*i.e.* most-massive-stars') SNe eliminated if non-exploding



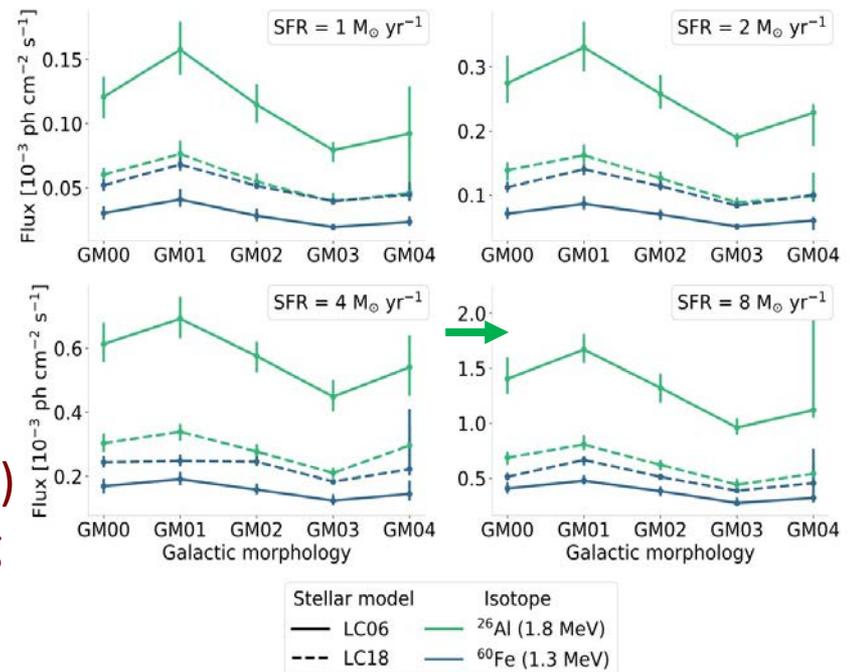
# Diffuse radioactivity throughout the Galaxy

Galactic Population Synthesis Modelling versus observations

Pleintinger 2020  
Siegert+ 2022

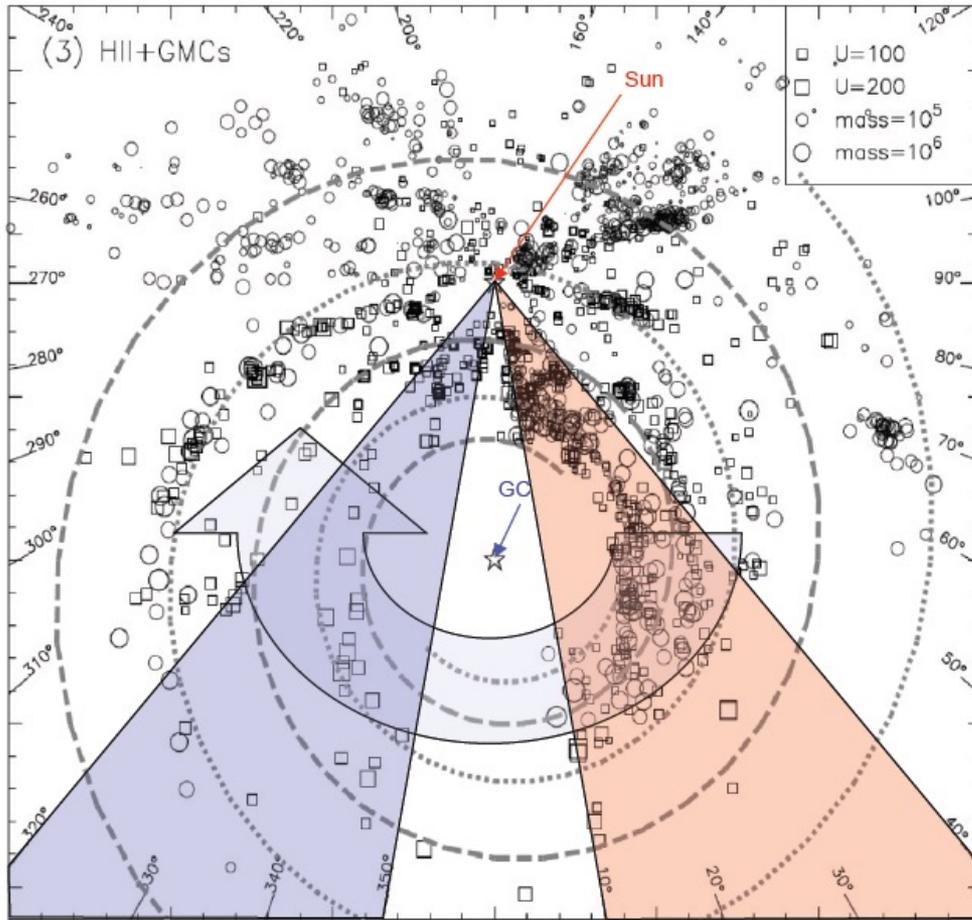


- 👉 PSYCO 30000 sample optimisation  
→ 4-arm spiral 700 pc, LC06 yields, SN explosions up to  $25 M_{\odot}$
- 👉 observed full sky flux:  
 $(1.84 \pm 0.03) 10^{-3} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- 👉 model-predicted  $^{26}\text{Al}$ :  
→  $\approx x 10^{-4} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  → too low
- 👉 Best-fit details (yield, explodability) depend on superbubble modelling (here: sphere only)

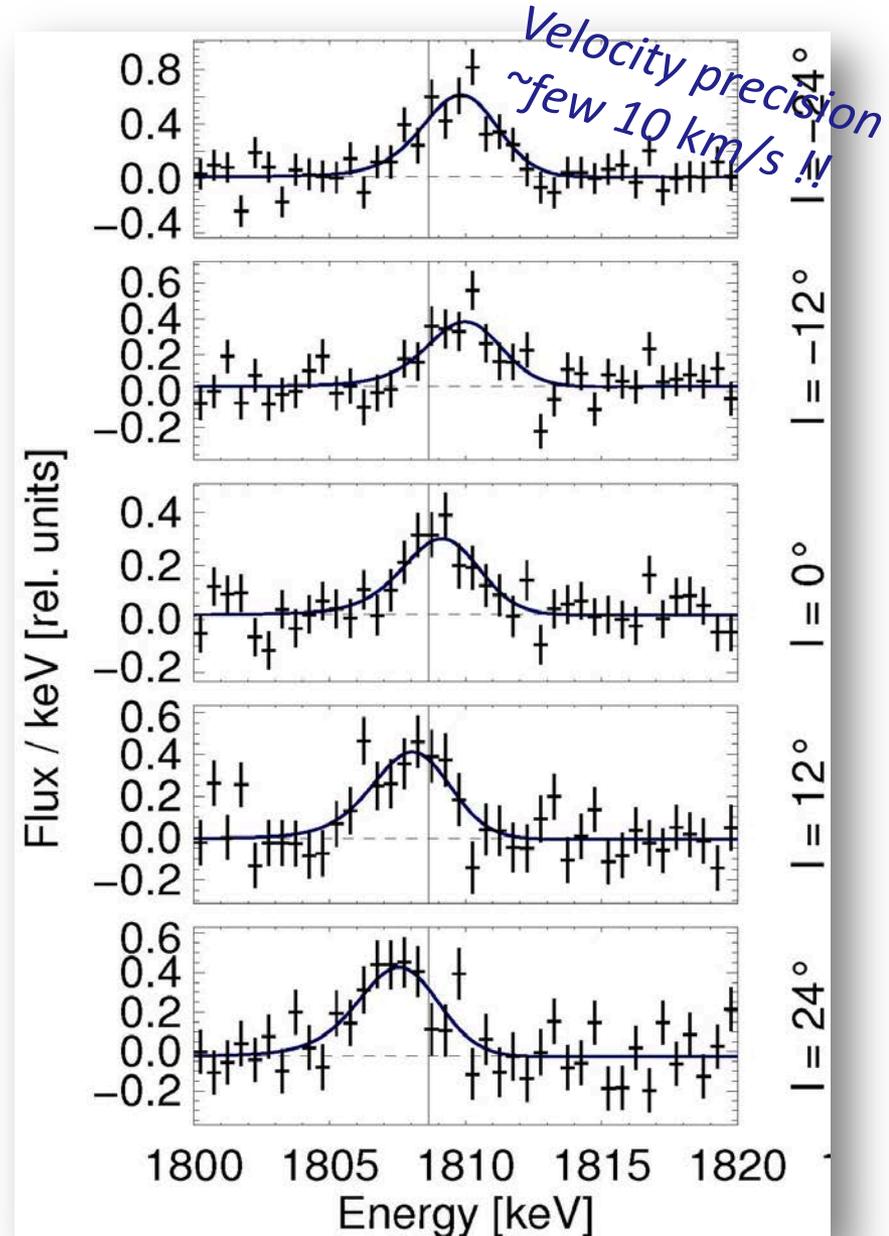


# Massive Star Groups in our Galaxy: $^{26}\text{Al}$ $\gamma$ -rays

👉 Large-scale Galactic rotation

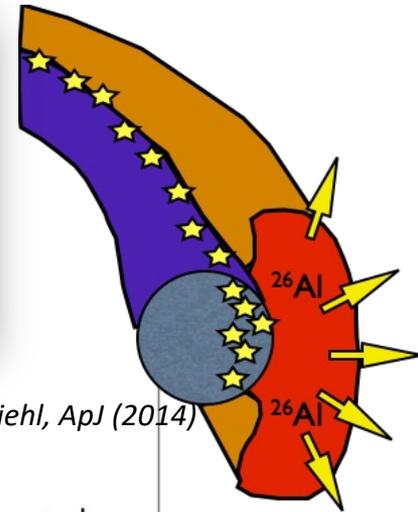
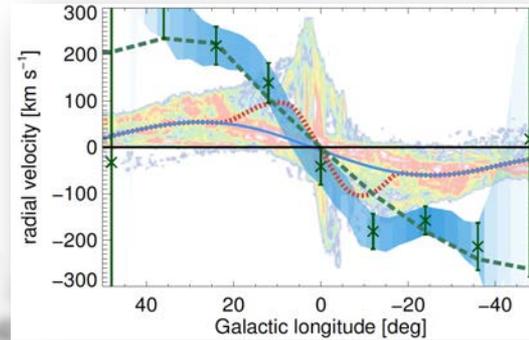


Kretschmer et al., A&A (2013)



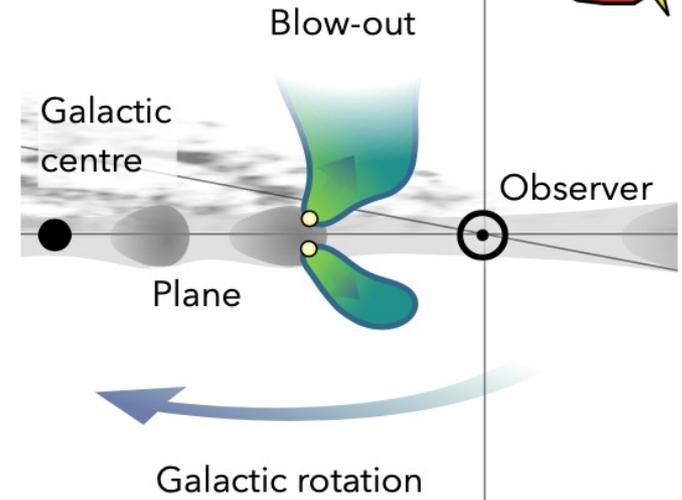
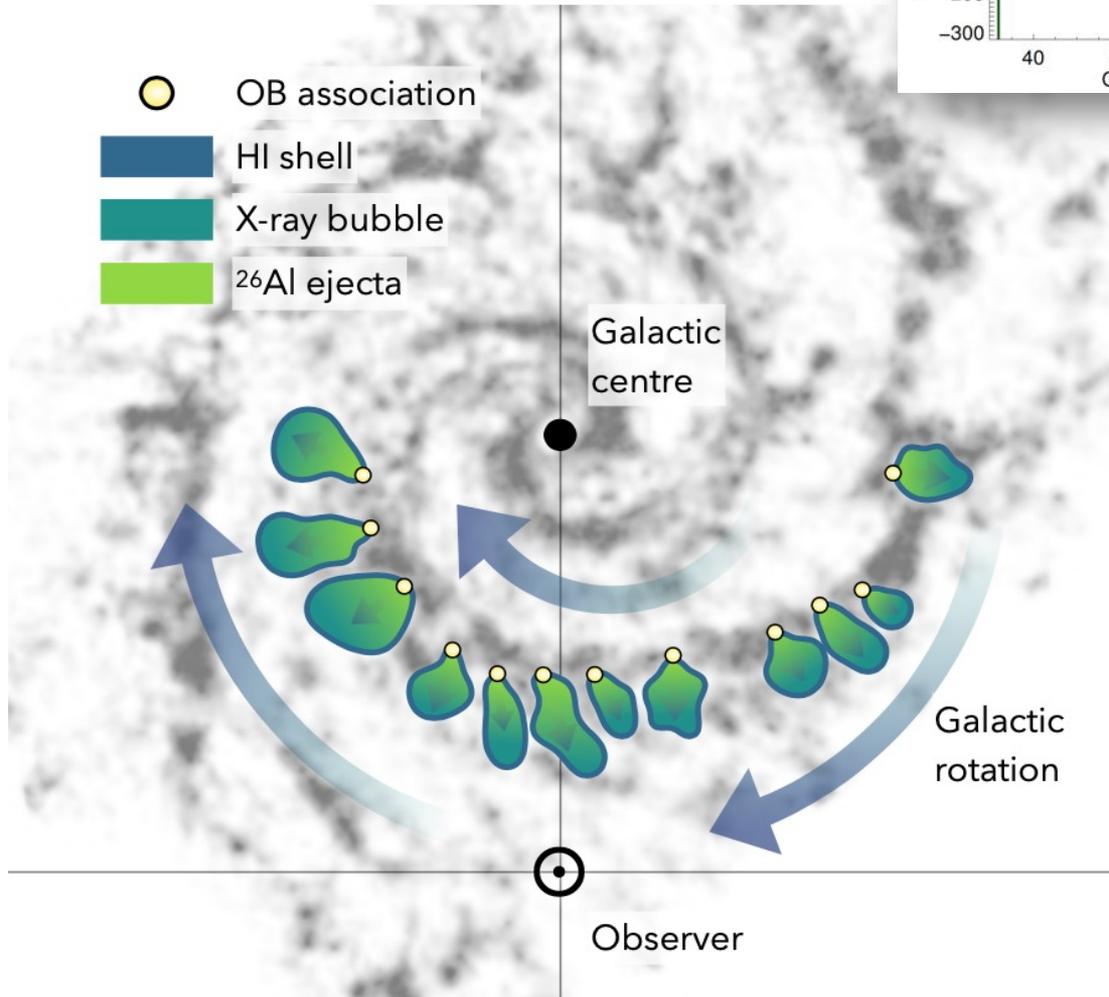
# How massive-star ejecta are spread out...

Superbubbles extended away from massive-star groups



*Krause & Diehl, ApJ (2014)*

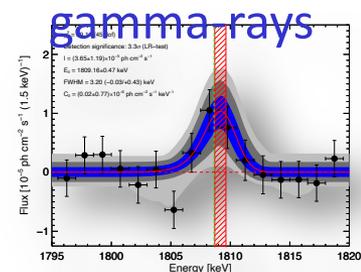
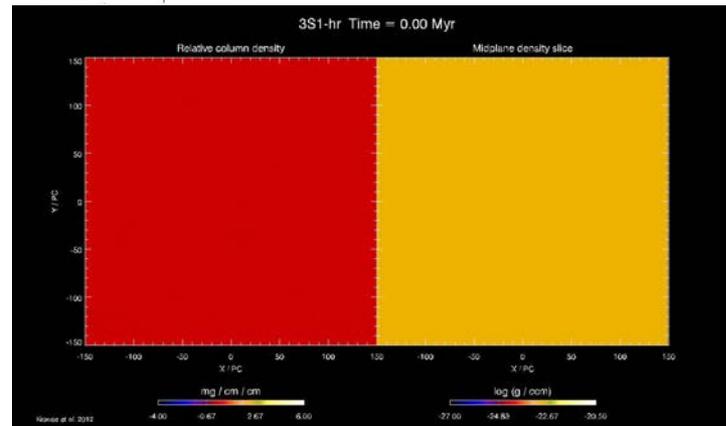
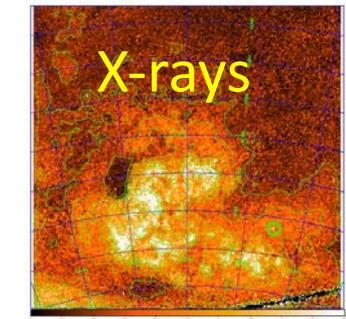
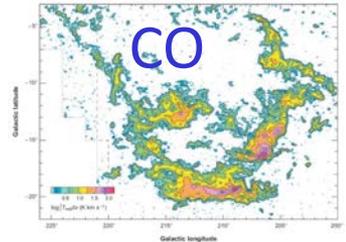
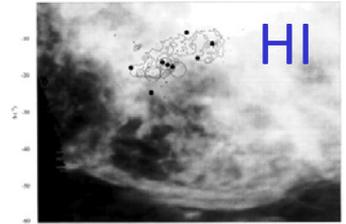
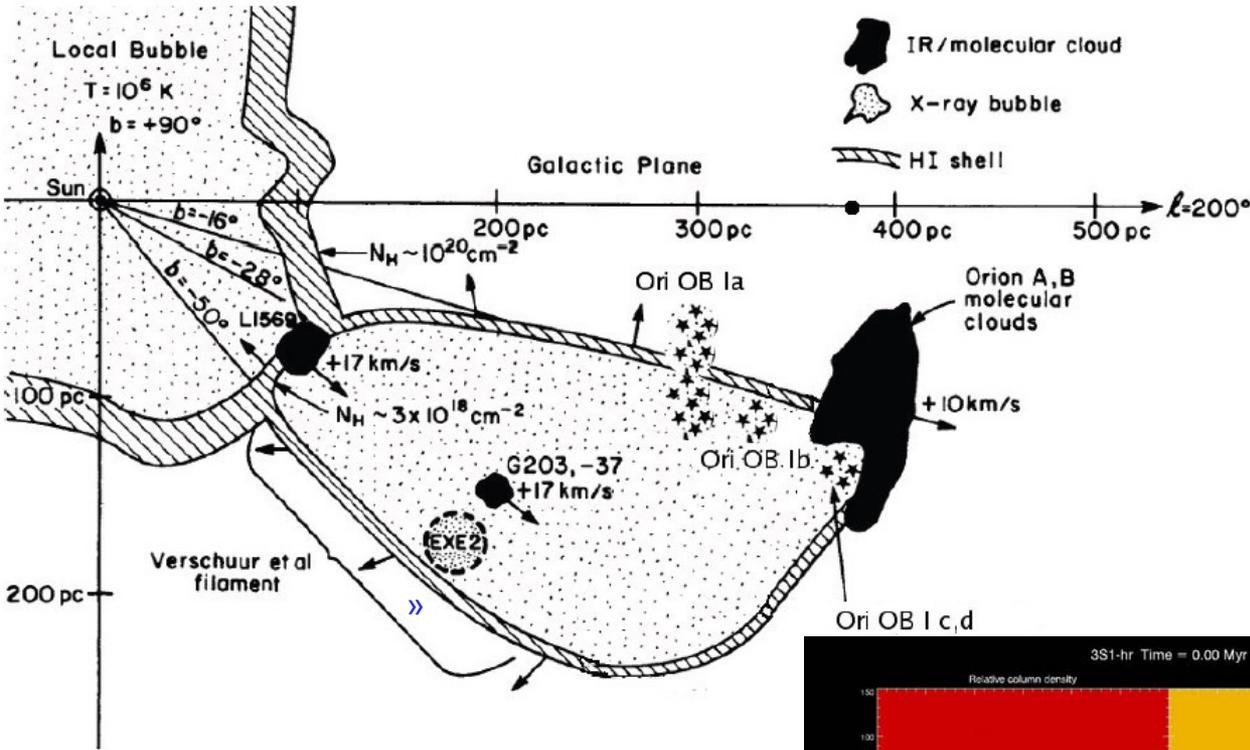
- OB association
- HI shell
- X-ray bubble
- <sup>26</sup>Al ejecta



*Illustration by M. Pleintinger (2020)*

# Orion-Eridanus: A superbubble blown by stars & supernovae

ISM is driven by stars and supernovae → Ejecta commonly in (super-)bubbles



Krause+ 2014, Fierlinger+ 2016,  
Voss+ 2010, Diehl+2003

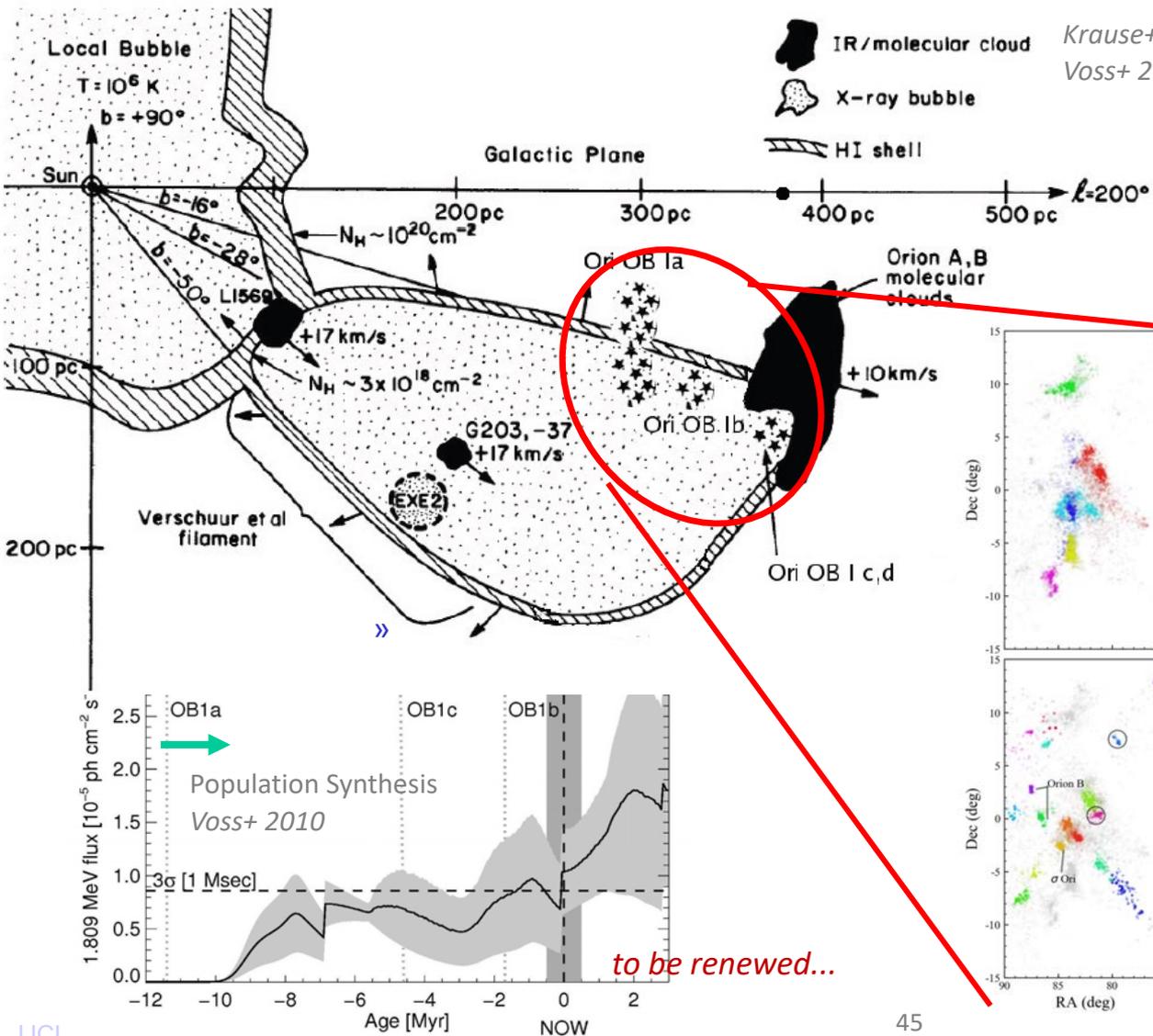
3D MHD sim, 0.1..0.005 pc resolution

Krause+ 2013ff

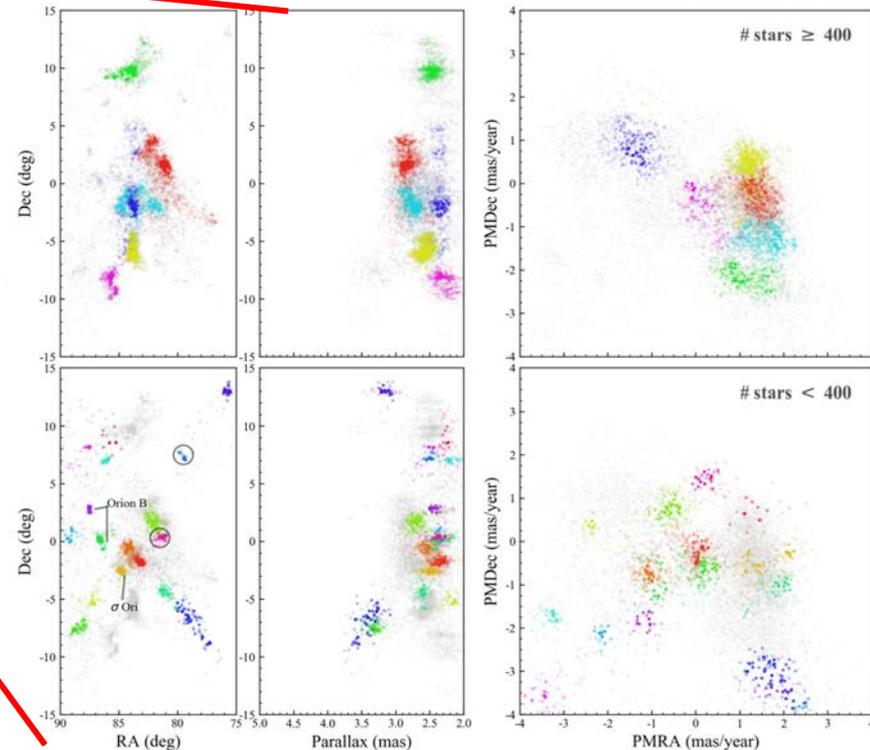
# Stars, structures, & shells

ISM is driven by stars and supernovae

→ Use stellar census for estimation of driving energy & nucleosynthesis ( $^{26}\text{Al}$ )



Gaia parallax analyses  
 → 22 stellar groups  
 -150pc < MCs < 50pc  
 Chen+2020



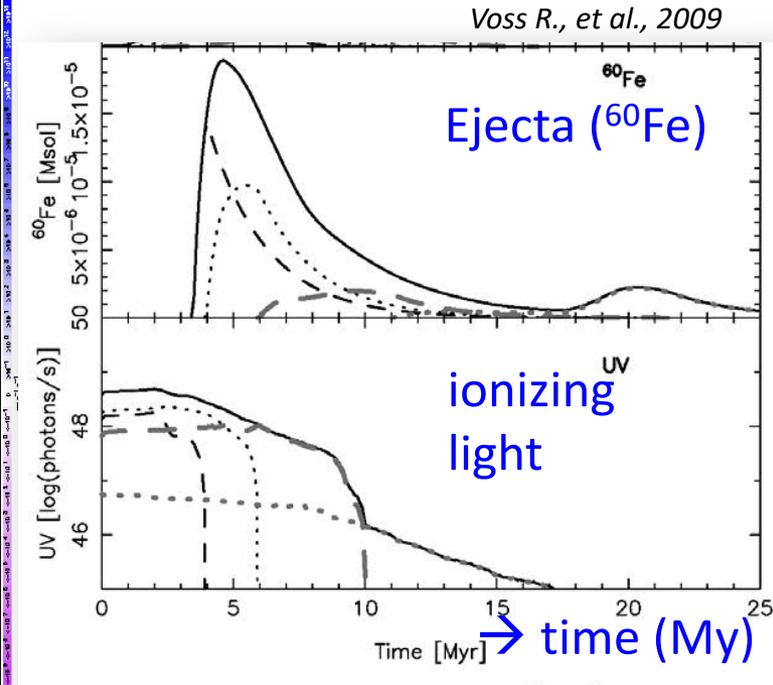
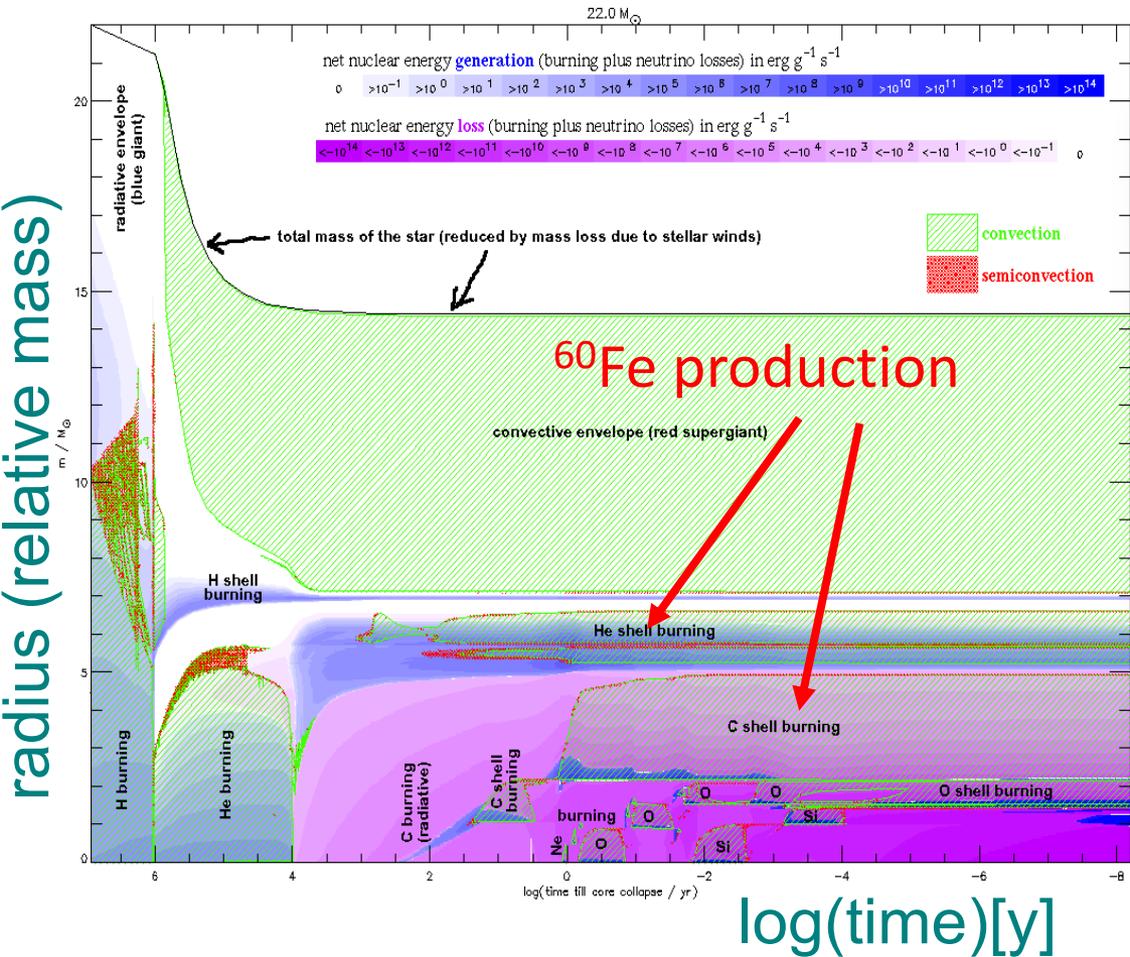
# How massive stars evolve towards the ccSN

☆ neutron-releasing reactions only in He and C burning

☆  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  production only in late evolution  $\rightarrow$  released only with ccSN

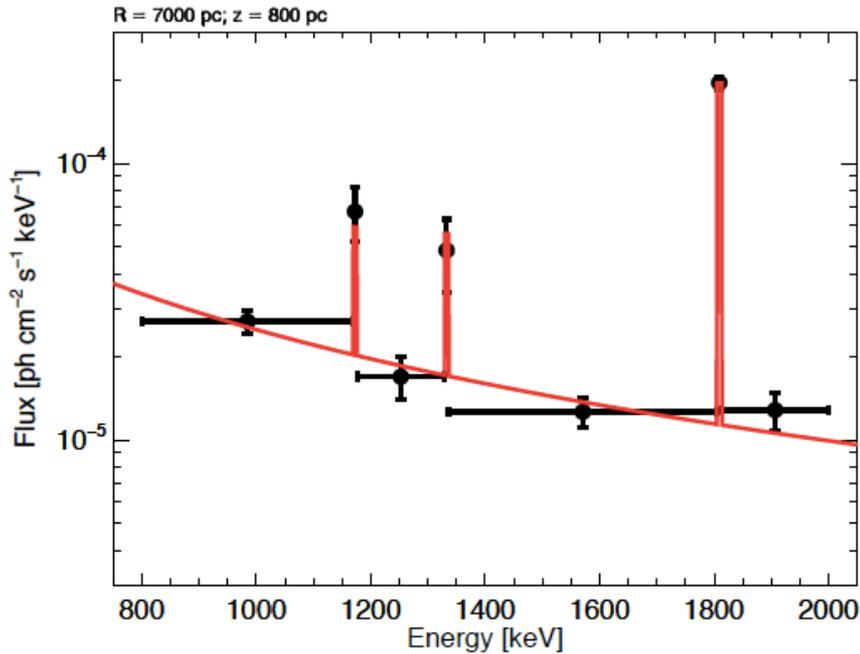
Kippenhahn diagram of stellar evolution

evolution of a group of stars (popSyn)



# Diffuse gamma-ray emission from $^{60}\text{Fe}$ in the Galaxy

$^{26}\text{Al}$  and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  analysis with same INTEGRAL dataset (15+ years) and models



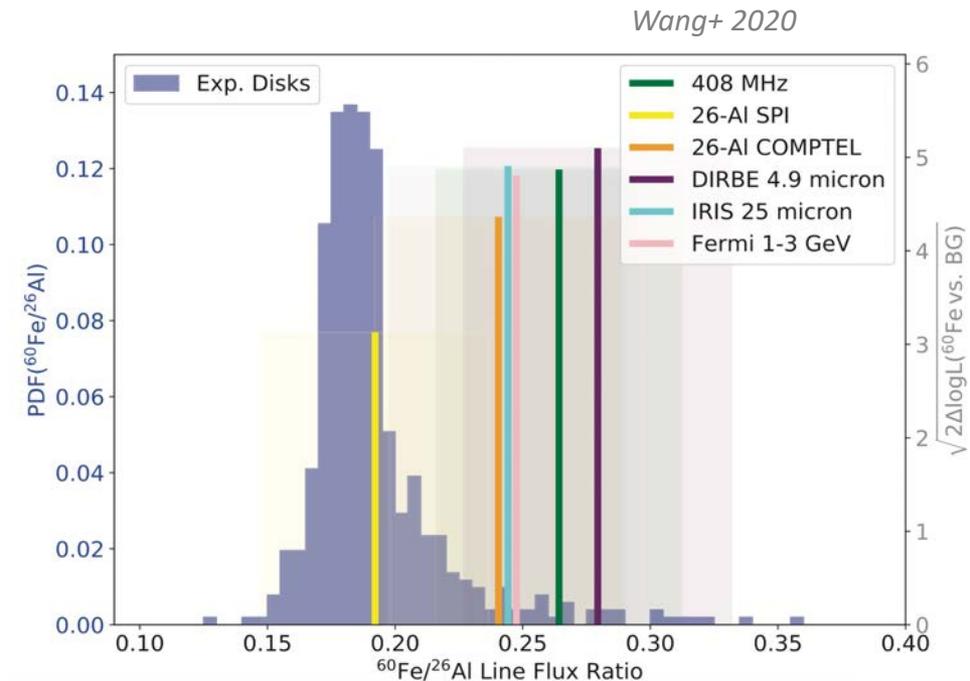
$^{60}\text{Fe}$  emission too faint for imaging etc

Variability study on  $^{60}\text{Fe}/^{26}\text{Al}$  ratio

(systematics!)

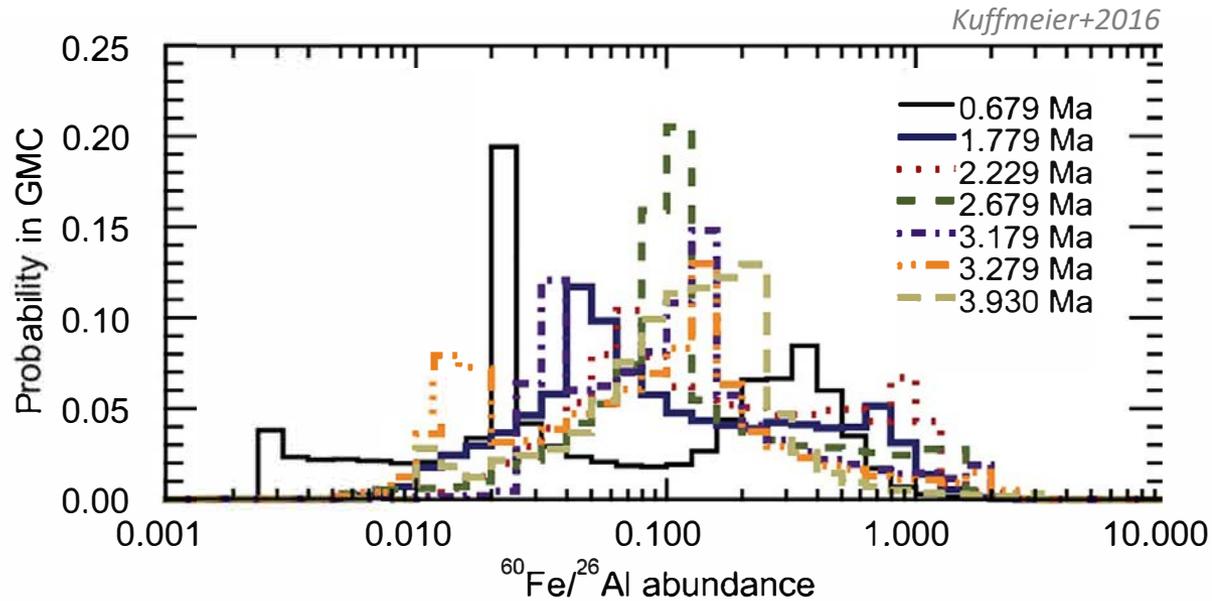
➔  $^{60}\text{Fe}/^{26}\text{Al} < 0.4$  in Galaxy

cmp theory: 0.2...1,  
and oceancrusts:  $> 0.2$



# Ejecta in star-forming regions

- The composition will vary locally, near newly-ejected ashes



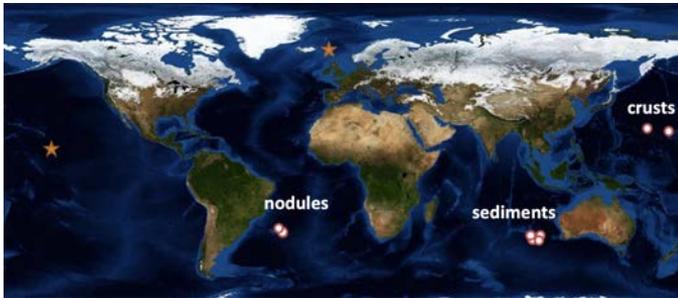
👉 major dependencies on assumptions about GMC morphology (→ 'feedback'?!)

- Newly ejected ashes could be incorporated into 2<sup>nd</sup> gen stars
- The Galaxy at large has  $^{60}\text{Fe}/^{26}\text{Al} \sim 0.5$ ,  
the ESS had  $\sim 0.002$  – can we get more & different viewpoints?

# $^{60}\text{Fe}$ and $^{244}\text{Pu}$ from nearby nucleosynthesis found on Earth

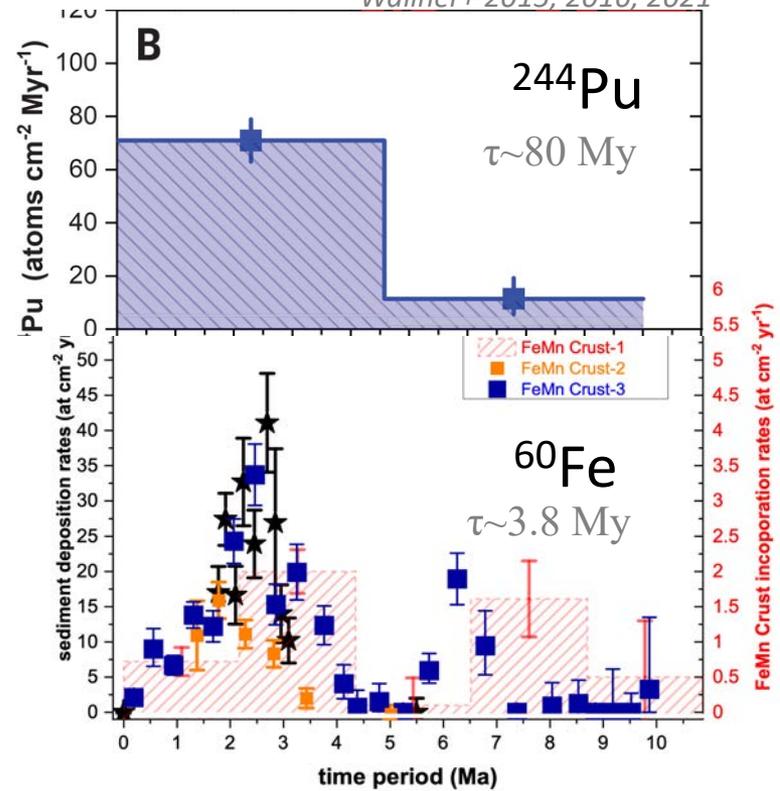


Knie+ 2004, Fimiani+ 2016, Ludwig+ 2016, Koll+ 2019, ....



+ lunar material probes; + antarctic snow

Wallner+ 2015, 2016, 2021



peak of radioactivity influx  
 $\approx 3$  &  $6-8 \text{ My}$  ago!

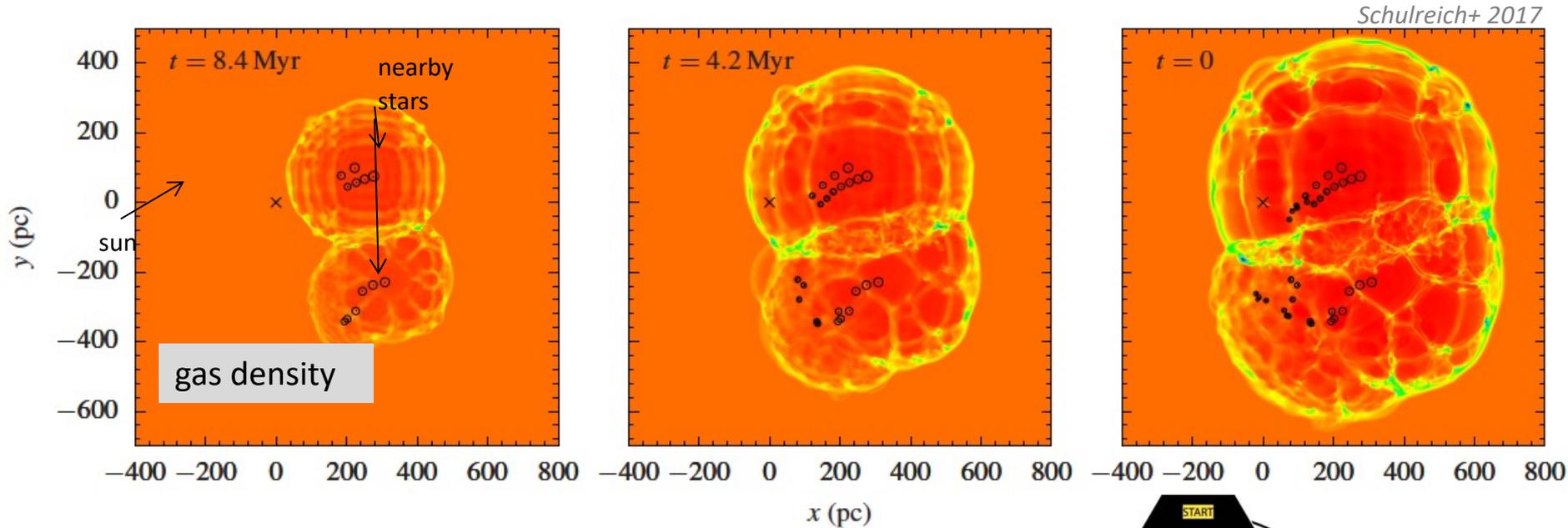
What are its sources?

How did these traces of nucleosynthesis get here?

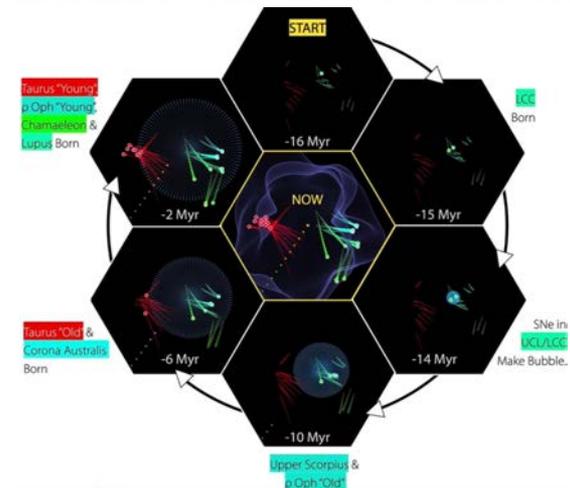
# $^{60}\text{Fe}$ on Earth from recent nearby supernovae?

The Sun is located inside a hot cavity (Local Bubble & Loop-1)

SN explosions within LB  $\rightarrow$  ejecta flows reach the Solar System

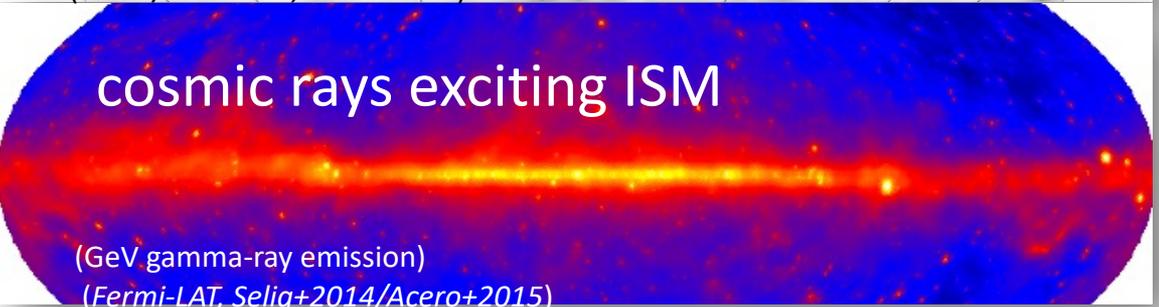
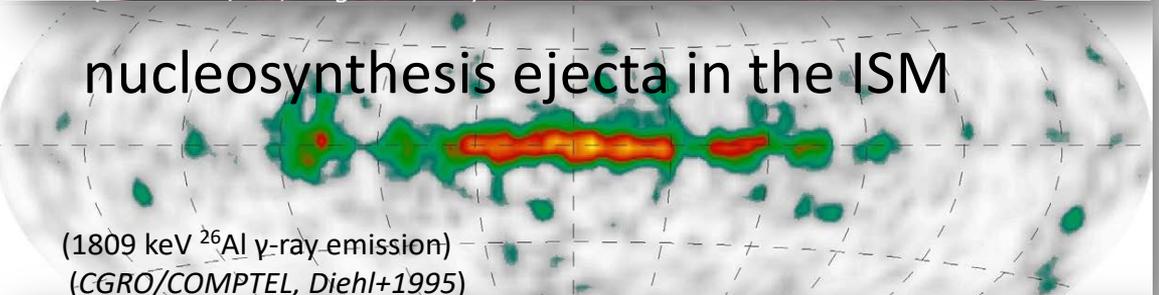
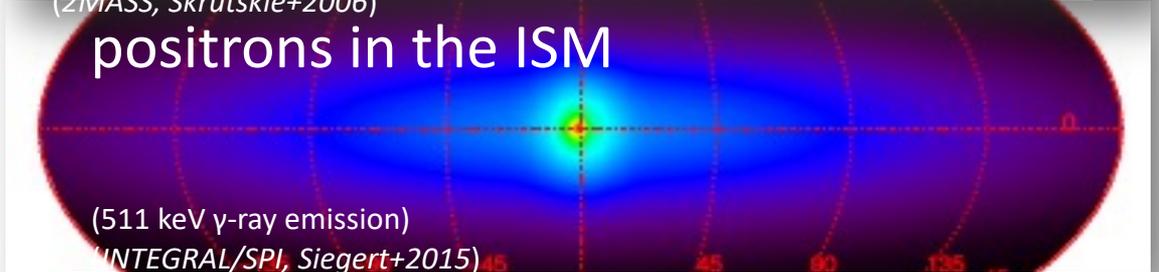
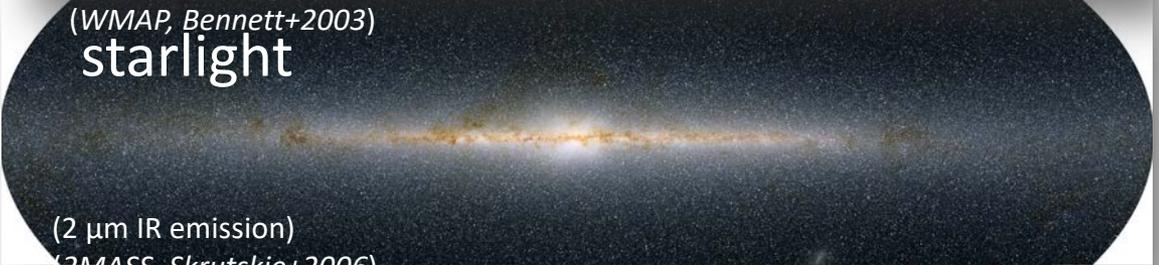
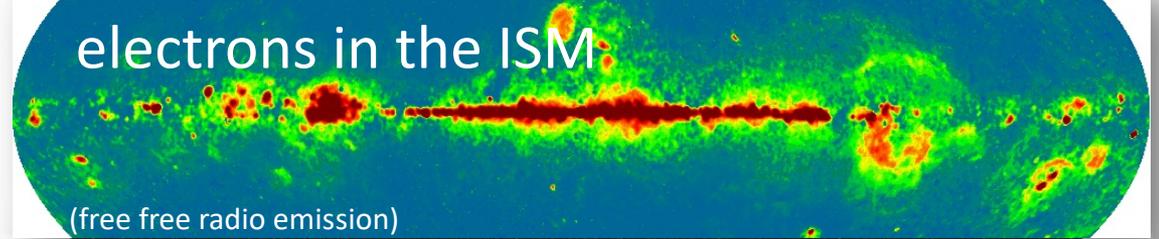


see also Zucker+ 2022 for a recent update on the Sco-Cen SN activity



# $^{26}\text{Al}$ Radioactivity: Special Messengers

- Radioactivity provides a clock
- $^{26}\text{Al}$  radioactivity gamma rays trace nucleosynthesis ejecta over  $\sim$ few Myrs
- Radioactive emission is independent of density, ionisation states, ...



# Nucleosynthesis & Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy - Summary

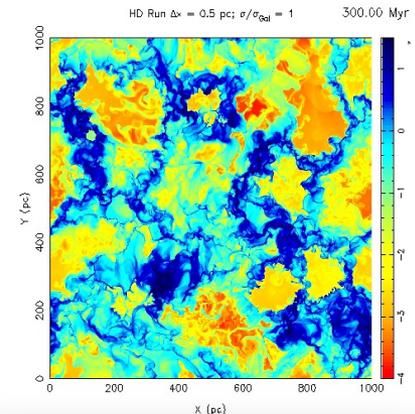
★ Supernova explosions are not entirely spherically symmetric

- ☞  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  and how it reveals its radiation in SN2014J  
→ SN Ia diversity; sub-Chandra models?
- ☞  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  image and line redshift in CasA; SN87A  
→ ccSupernovae are fundamentally 3D/asymmetric



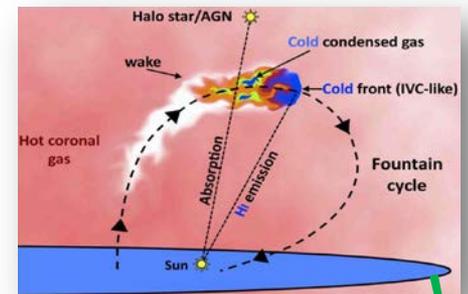
★ Cycling of cosmic gas through sources and ISM is a challenge

- ☞  $^{26}\text{Al}$  preferentially appears in superbubbles  
→ massive-star ingestions rarely due to single WR stars or SNe
- ☞ the current Galactic SN rate is  $\sim 1/70$  years
- ☞  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  is a SN/wind ejecta diagnostic (SBs older than for  $^{26}\text{Al}$ )



★ Varied messengers complement each other with essential diagnostics

- ☞ Radioactivity provides a unique and different view on cosmic isotopes (via gamma rays, stardust, CRs, sediments)
- ☞ A next gamma-ray telescope (light-weight Compton telescope) is a dream 2040+; INTEGRAL ends 2029; COSI is a step (2027)...



# a new brochure on nuclear astrophysics (by ChETEC/COST)

in case you'd like a PDF of this brochure: email rod@mpe.mpg.de

## NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS: COSMIC ORIGINS

How scientists explore the creation of all the elements that we find on Earth and across the Universe

### THE CREATION OF THE NUCLEI AND THEIR ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE

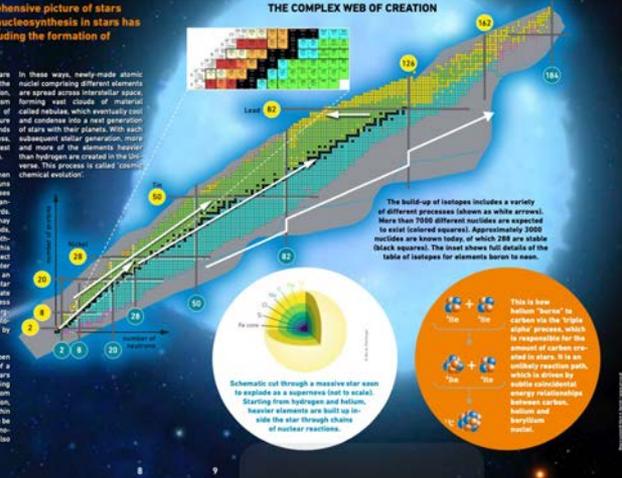
Over the past century, we have built up a comprehensive picture of stars and their diverse and cyclic evolution, and how nucleosynthesis in stars has shaped the evolution of the entire Universe, including the formation of planets such as ours.

Today we understand classic nucleosynthesis as the result of a complex series of reaction networks occurring at different stages in a star's evolution. These occur according to the star's current mass. For most of their lives, stars burn hydrogen to helium, but as the hydrogen is used up, helium starts burning to form carbon and oxygen.

This is what will happen in the Sun. When all the hydrogen fuel is used up, it will shrink under gravity to form a dense core, and the heat given off will cause the outer layers to swell, creating a red giant. Eventually, the outer gas layers puff off, leaving behind a dense remnant a white dwarf, consisting mostly of the products of helium burning: carbon and oxygen.

Much more massive stars later burn carbon to build up heavier elements such as neon and silicon, finally burning up silicon to produce elements up to nickel and iron. The final stages become more sporadic, but they can last for millions of years or more. In the last stages, oxygen or neon starts to burn, but the reaction stops almost as fast as it begins.

Other types of explosions can happen from a white dwarf that is part of a binary system, and most stars are. Re-ignition of nuclear burning may occur on the white dwarf from the emission of an electron, triggering a 'nova' explosion. Within such systems, the white dwarf can be driven to self-destruct in a 'thermonuclear' or supernova explosion, also called 'type Ia'.



### WHY DOES THE SUN SHINE?

The Sun is an ordinary middle-aged star of 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone. The Sun consists of hydrogen (it is made of protons and neutrons) and helium (two protons and two neutrons). These, the light elements, are, thought to have made in primordial processes, just minutes after the Big Bang, 14 billion years ago. Such nuclear gas gradually condenses up, gravity pulls it into incandescent balls of gas – the first stars.

Inside, tremendous pressures and drive the nuclear-fusion reaction of hydrogen nuclei to produce helium (as well as carbon, oxygen and other nuclei), with the release of huge amounts of energy (nuclear binding energy). We see manifestation of this in the sun's heat and warmth that sustains life on Earth.

But also in the variety of elements around us – the oxygen we breathe, the carbon that is the basis of life, as well as fossil fuel.

Eventually, the material dispersed by this catastrophic end of a star's life condenses into new stars, perhaps with accompanying planets that could support life. We are, indeed, the children of stardust!

Nuclear astrophysicists investigate the processes underlying the creation of the elements and their influence on biological evolution, from gas, stars, galaxies, and in their evolution.

### THE ELEMENTS AND THEIR ISOTOPES: MADE BY NUCLEAR REACTIONS

In atomic nuclei, protons and neutrons are bound together by the strong nuclear force against the electrostatic repulsion of the electric charge of protons. A nucleus is very compact, and ten thousand times smaller than the electron cloud that determines the size of the atom. The different number of neutrons that can be bound to the same number of protons make up the variety of isotopes, and these determine the characteristics of nuclear reactions. These reactions re-arrange the mix of protons and neutrons, thus creating new isotopes from existing ones. In cosmic environments, nuclear reactions often involve unstable and rare isotopes. Thus, from the primordial elements hydrogen and helium, elements such as carbon, oxygen, iron, and gold, and all their isotopes, are made.

