

# Neutrino properties

—  
role for (*r*-process) nucleosynthesis

Tobias Fischer

Russbach, March, 2013



Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski

In collaboration with:

L. Huther

K. Langanke

A. Lohs

G. Martinez-Pinedo

S. Typel

M. Hempel

M. Liebendörfer

F.-K. Thielemann

# Scopes

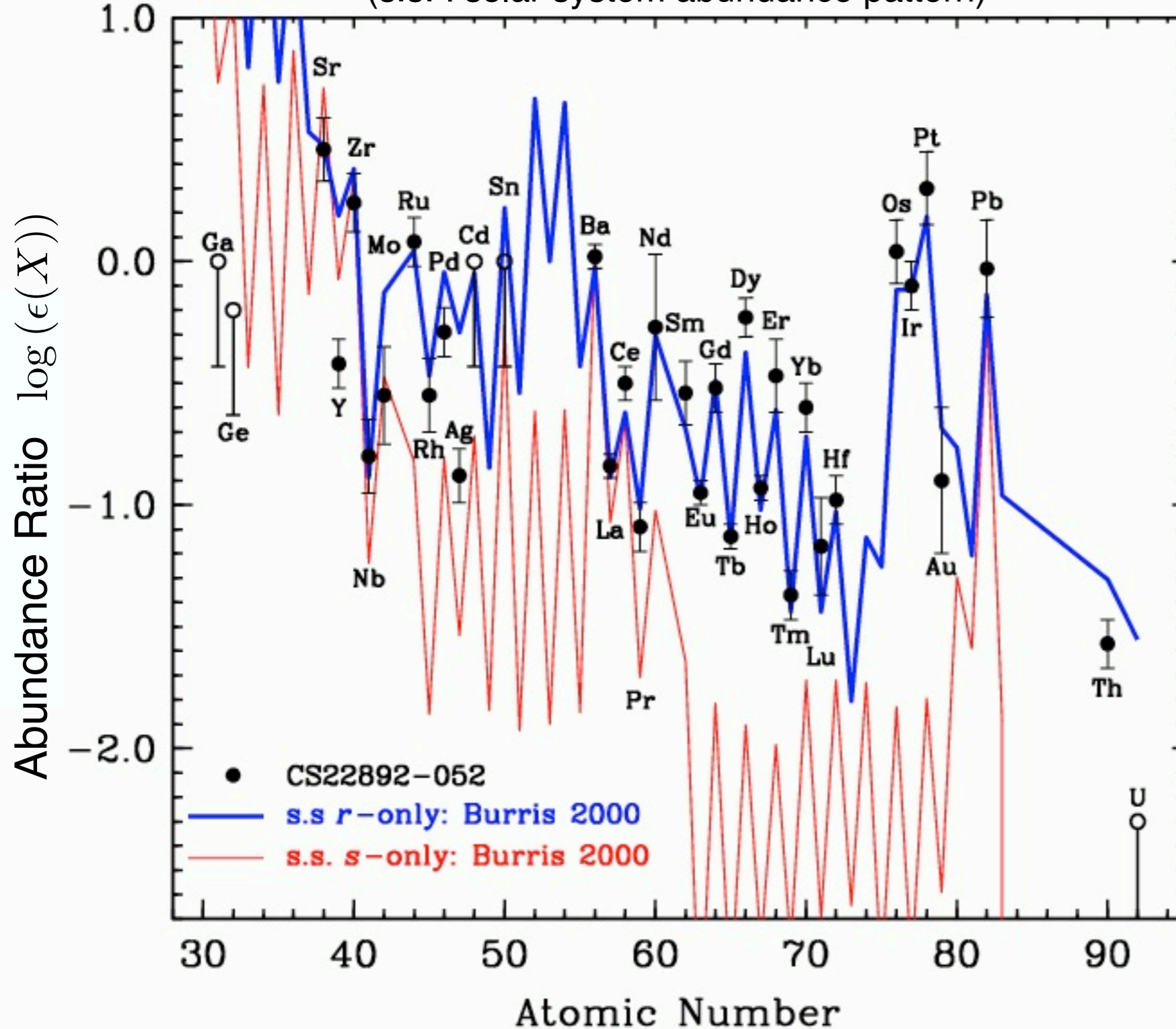
---

- Introduction  
(nucleosynthesis patterns)
  - Evolution of (proto)neutron stars (PNS)  
(mass ejection and nucleosynthesis of heavy elements?)
  - Neutrino emission during PNS deleptonization  
(luminosities/spectra, neutrino opacity/reaction rates, EOS impact)
  - Some nucleosynthesis results from recent models
  - Summary and conclusions
-

# Introduction

# Cosmic fingerprints from heavy-elements

(s.s. : solar system abundance pattern)

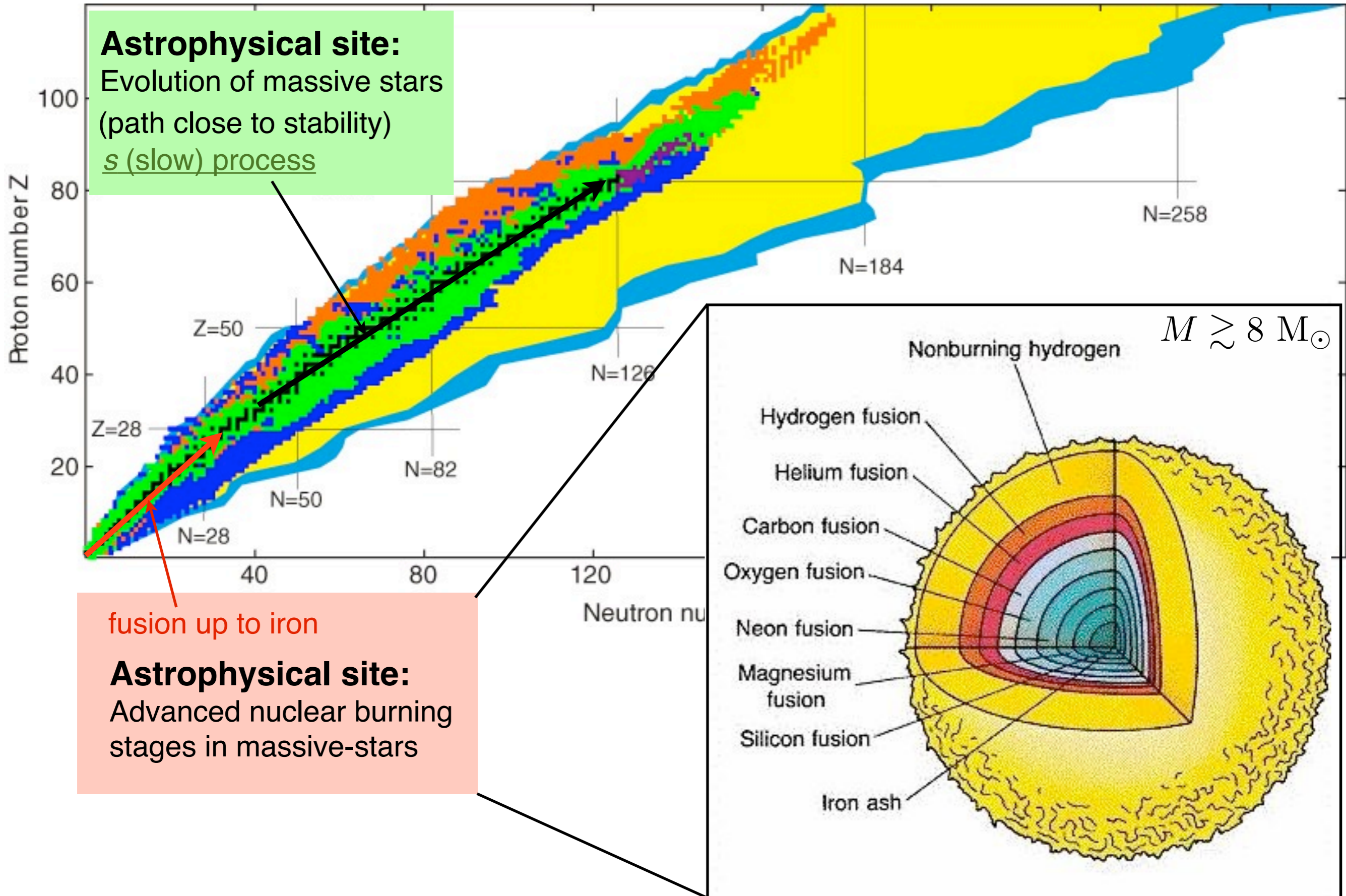


**CS22892-052: metal-poor star**  
(metallicity  $\sim$  age)

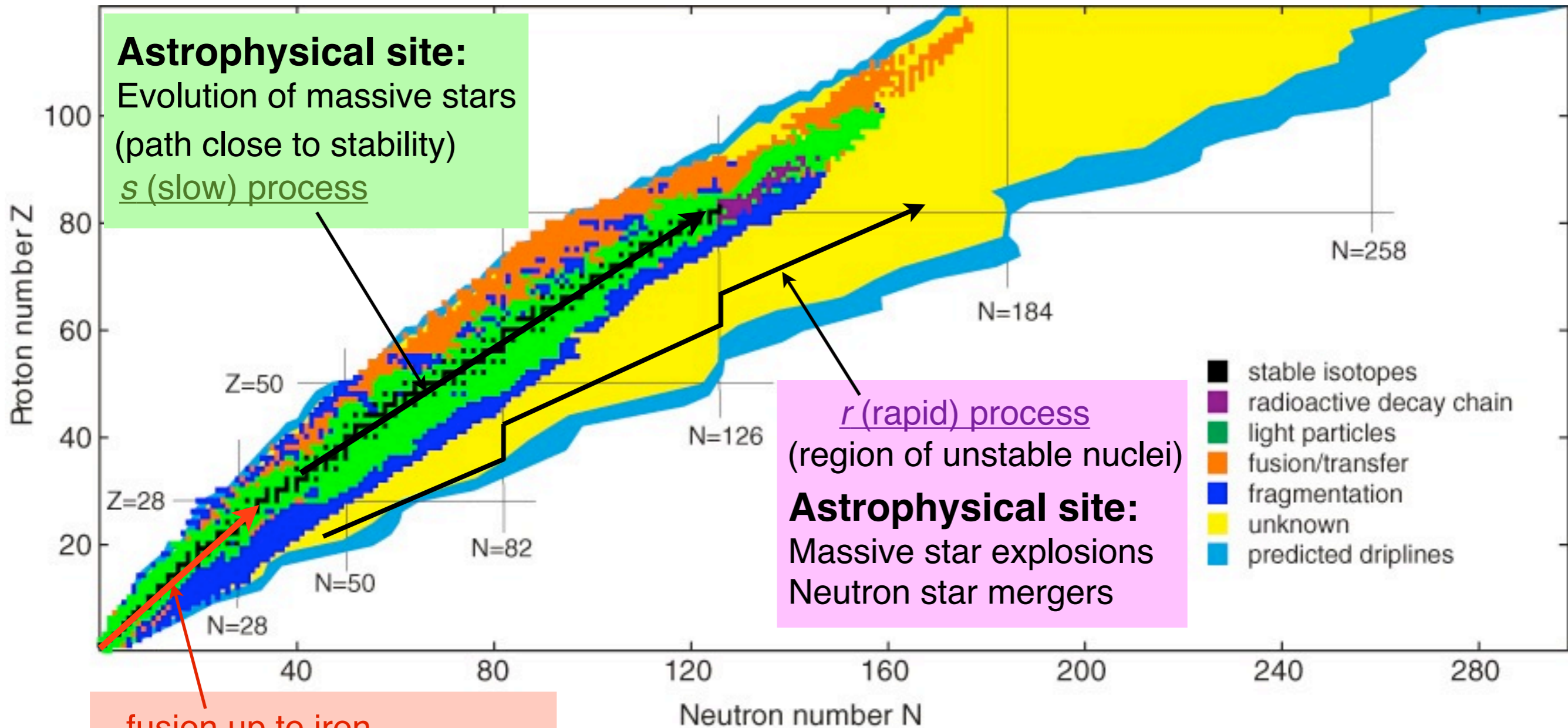
- Robust enrichment of heavy *r*-process elements ( $Z > 52$ ) and poor in iron [ $\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}$ ]  $> 1.0$  (*r-II* stars)
- Consistent with [solar \*r\*-process abundance](#)

$$\left\{ \log(\epsilon(X)) = \log\left(\frac{N_X}{N_H}\right) + 12 \right\}$$

# Relation to nuclear physics



# Relation to nuclear physics



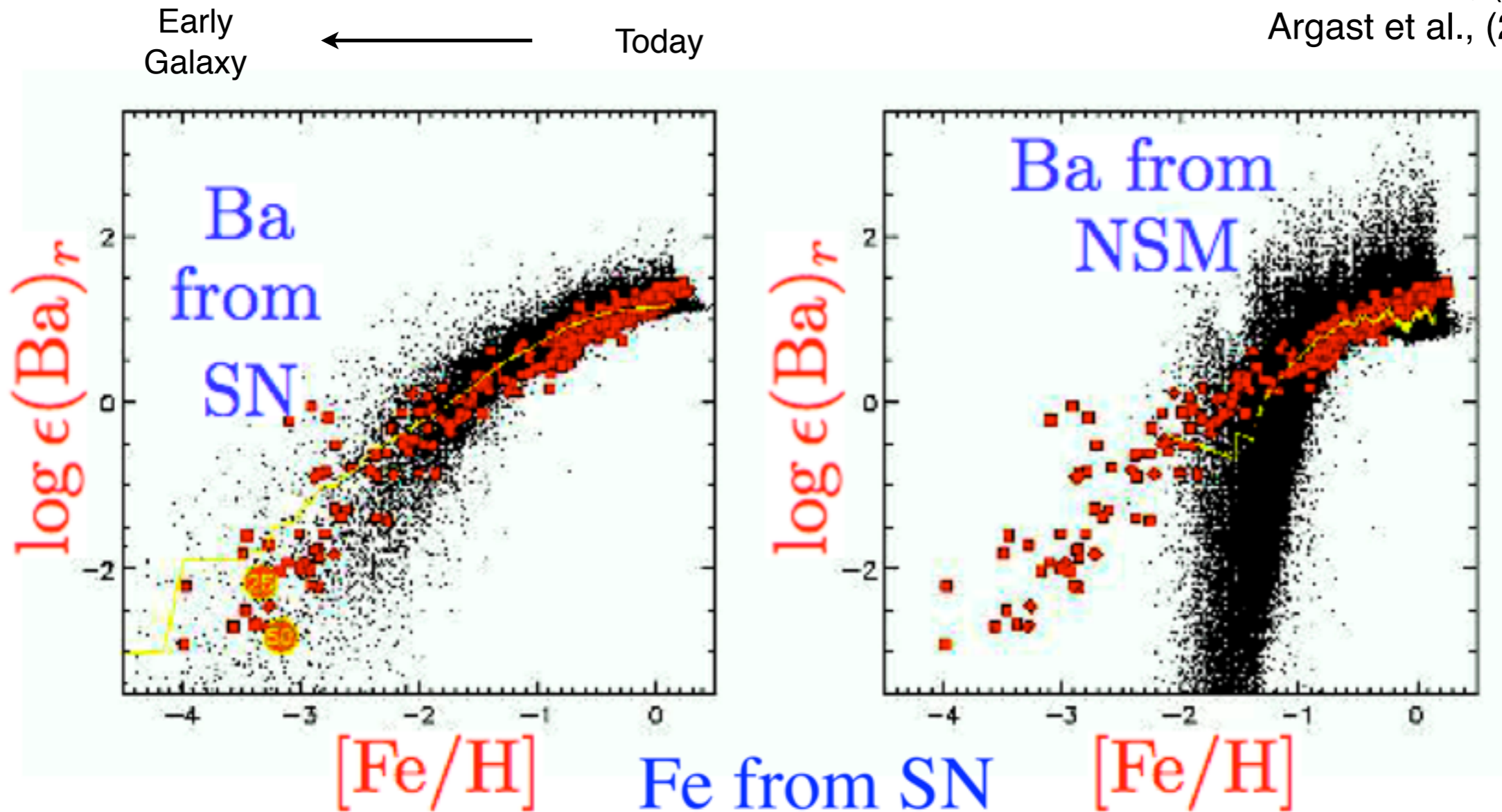
fusion up to iron

**Astrophysical site:**  
Advanced nuclear burning stages in massive-stars

**There's a problem. . .**

# Chemical evolution of the Galaxy

Qian, (2000), ApJ, 534, 67  
Argast et al., (2004) A&A 416, 997



Note at low metallicity:

massive star-explosions primary site (still under debate)

neutron star mergers take too long

**current SN models:** no strong ( $Z > 50$ )  $r$ -process!

**The origin of these heavy elements is still a mystery**

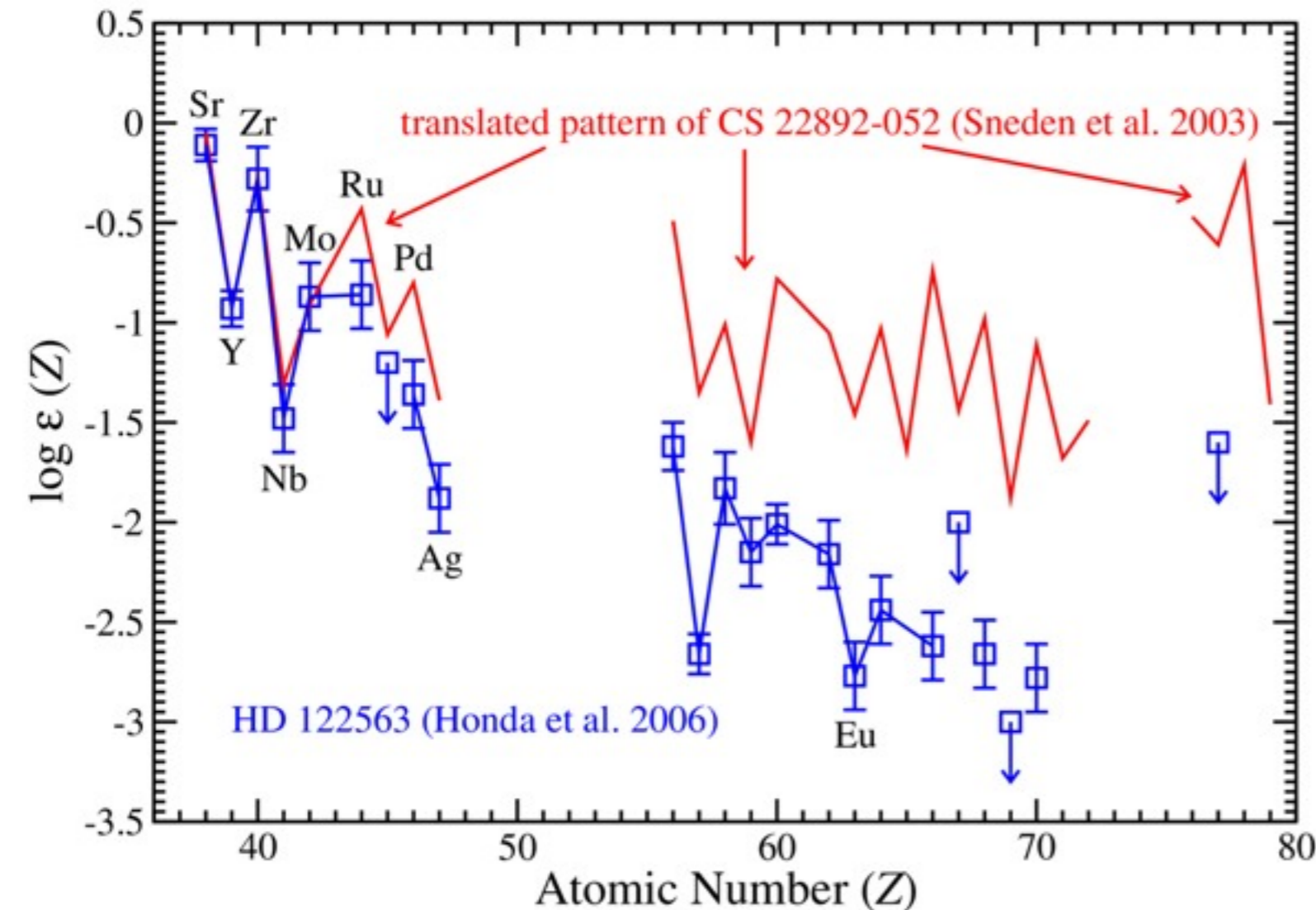
# Cosmic fingerprints from heavy-elements

There is hope . . .

There is another class of observations:

(Honda et al. 2006)

- Poor in **heavy neutron-capture elements** ( $Z > 47$ )
- large abundances of **light neutron-capture elements** ( $38 < Z < 47$ , Sr, Y, Zr)
- **Production of light and heavy neutron-capture elements seems intrinsically decoupled: 2 different (astrophysical) sites?**



Astrophysical scenario discovered (?)

**neutrino-driven winds from core-collapse supernova explosions/  
(proto)neutron stars**



Protonneutron star (PNS)  
evolution

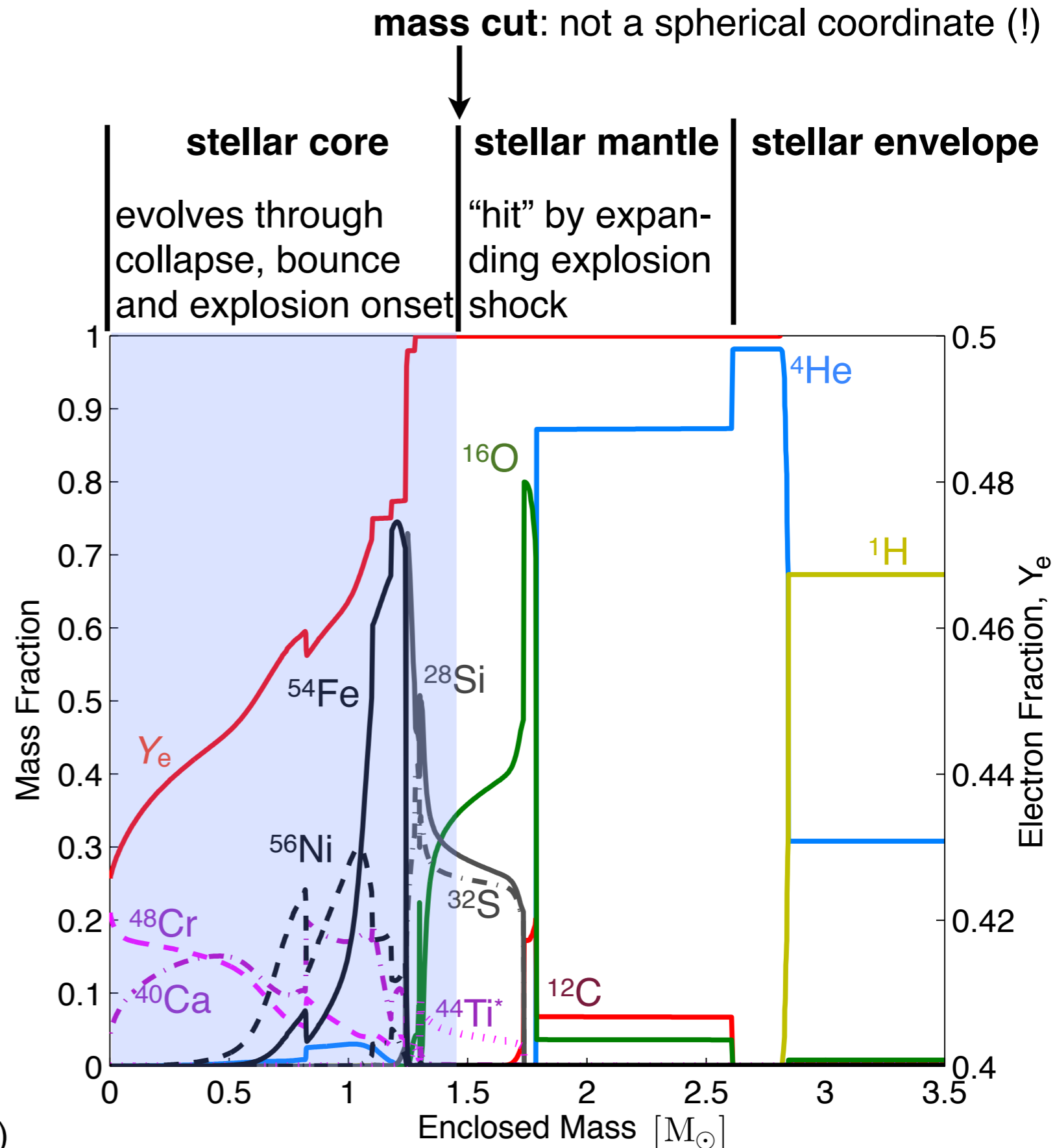
–

Deleptonization phase

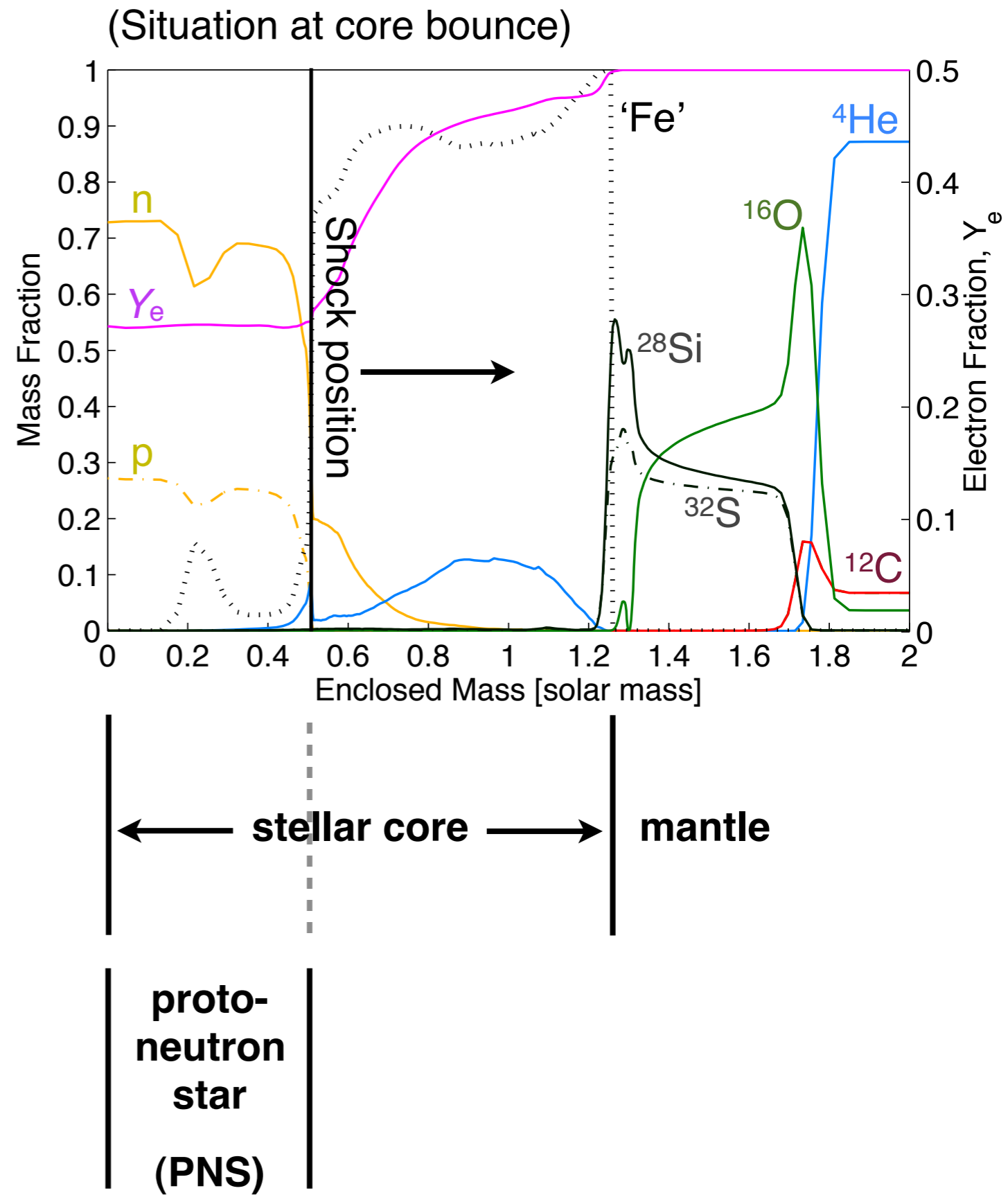
# But first: ejection of the stellar mantle

- PNS born in the event of core-collapse supernova explosion
- Supernova explosion associated with shock expansion
- “**direct**” ejection of stellar mantle; outer layers of progenitor star  
 $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ , ...  
 $^{28}\text{Si}$ ,  $^{40}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ , Fe-group nuclei depends on details of explosion and progenitor composition  
 (in particular, on temperature at shock front,  $Y_e$ , and progenitor composition)

11.2  $M_{\odot}$  progenitor  
 (Woosley, et al., (2002) Rev Mod Phys. 74)



Early shock propagation – high temperatures destroy ‘most’ nuclei

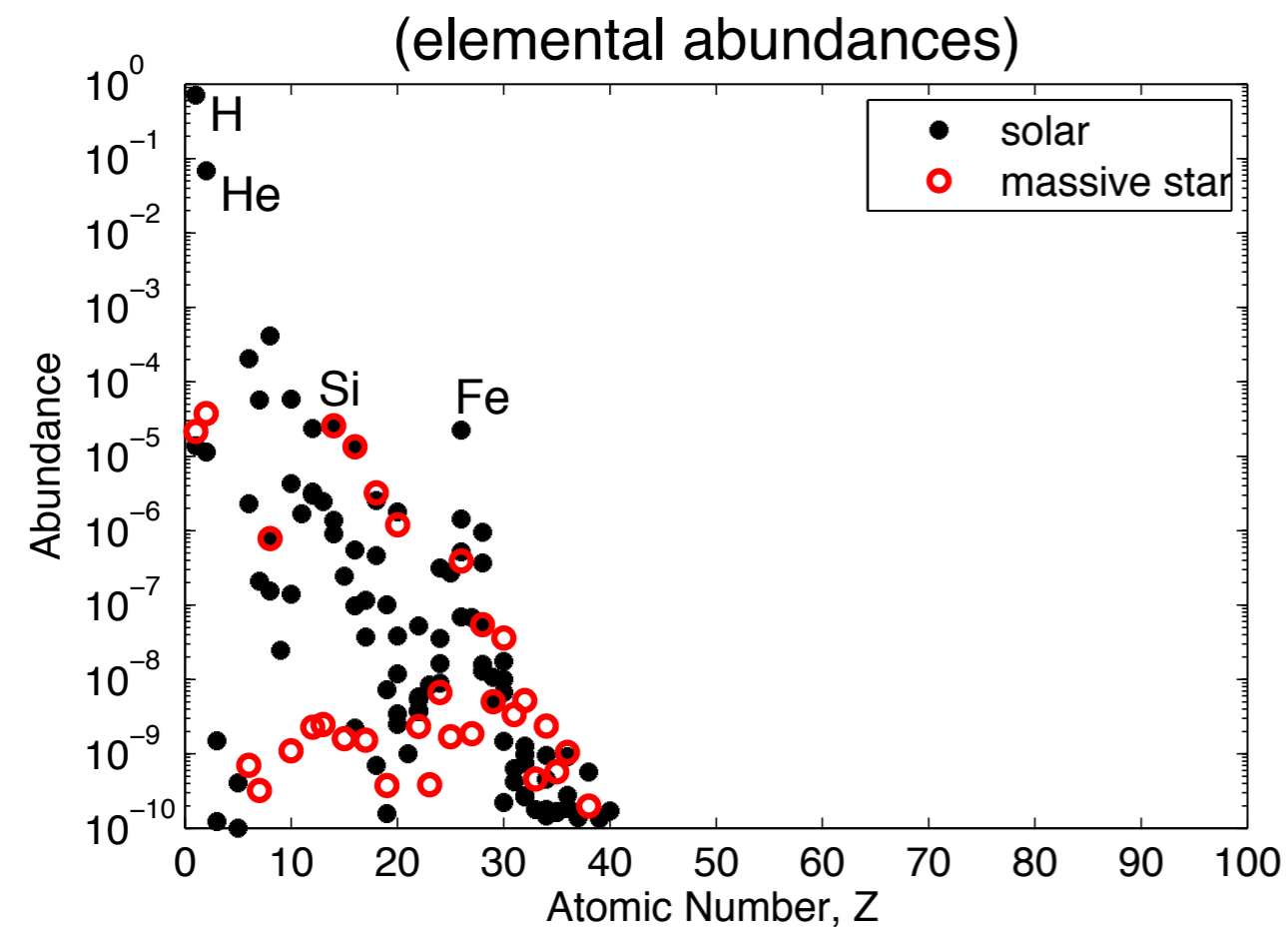
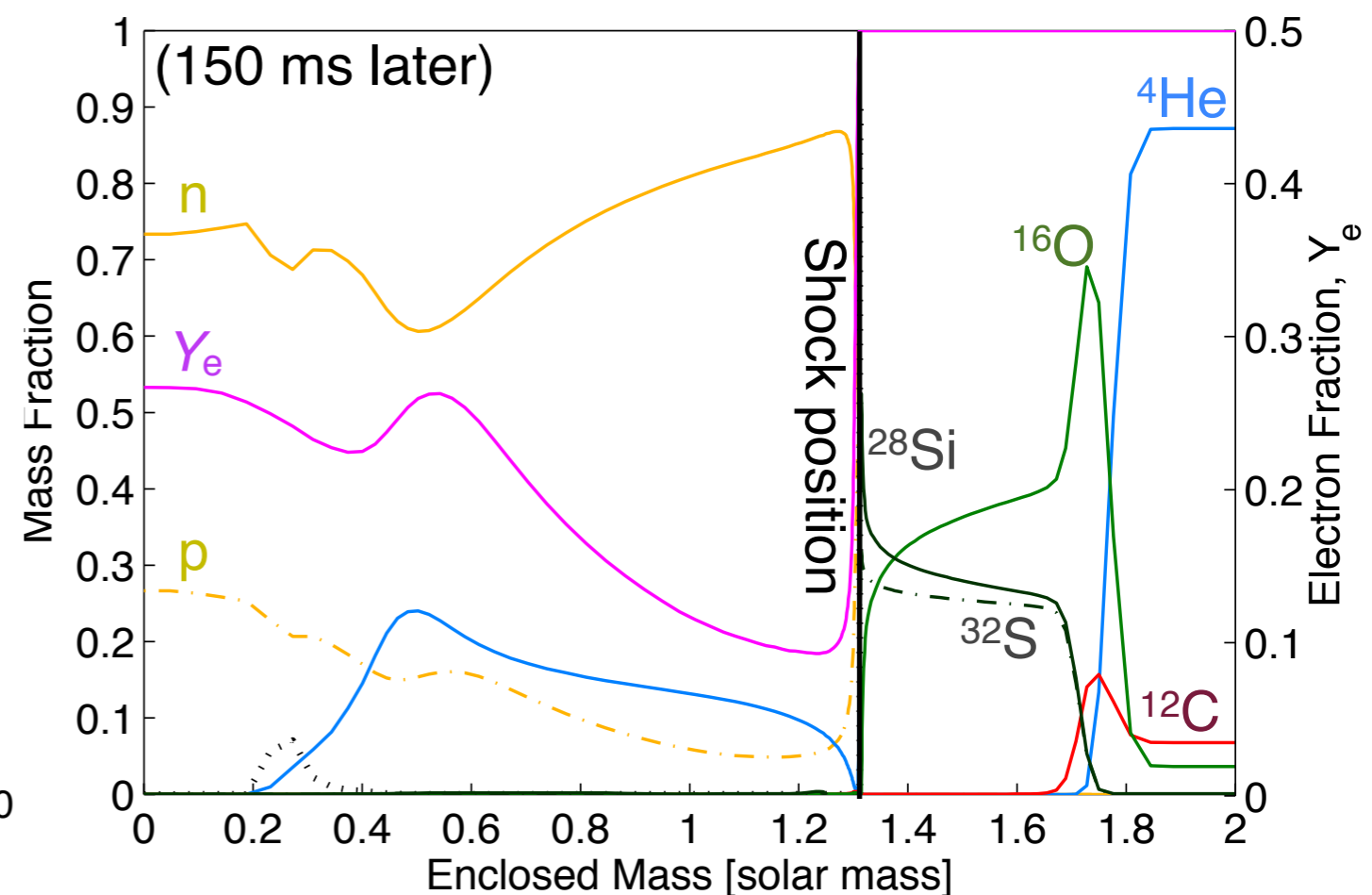
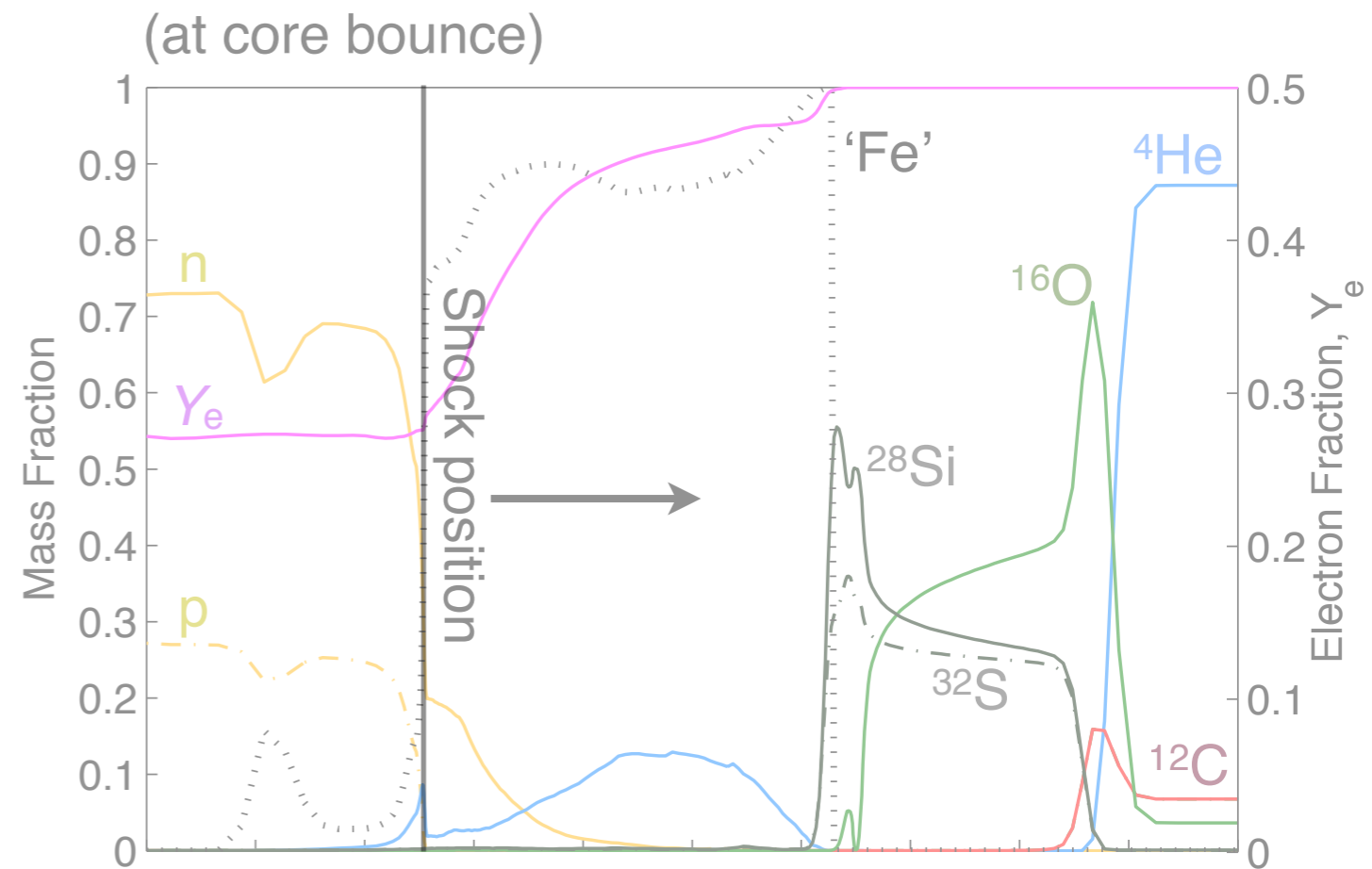


Early shock propagation – high temperatures destroy ‘most’ nuclei

Explosive Si-burning ( $Y_e \approx 0.5$ )

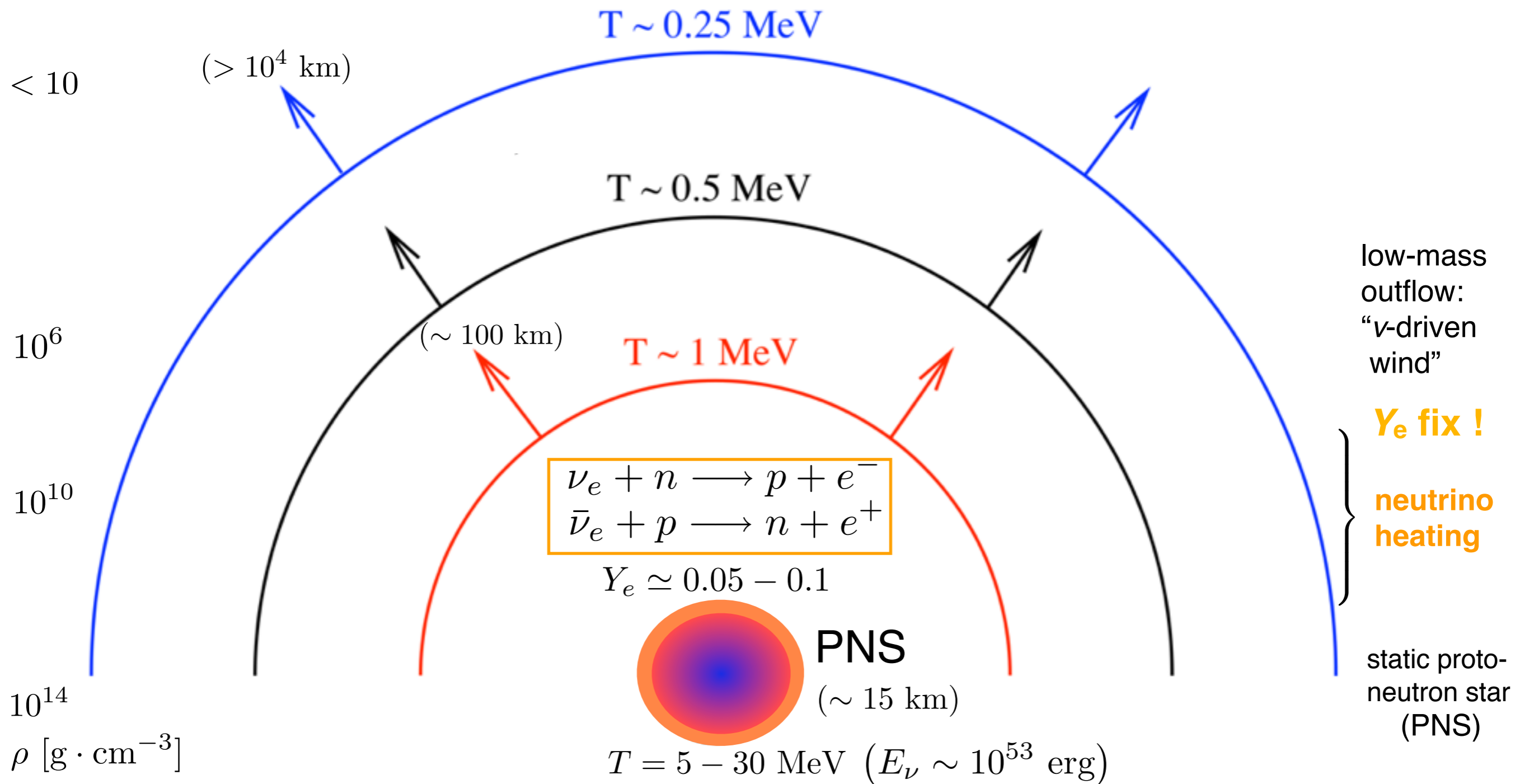
Nucleosynthesis outcome highly stellar model dependent

Sharp drop at  $Z \geq 35-40$   
(no heavy elements produced)

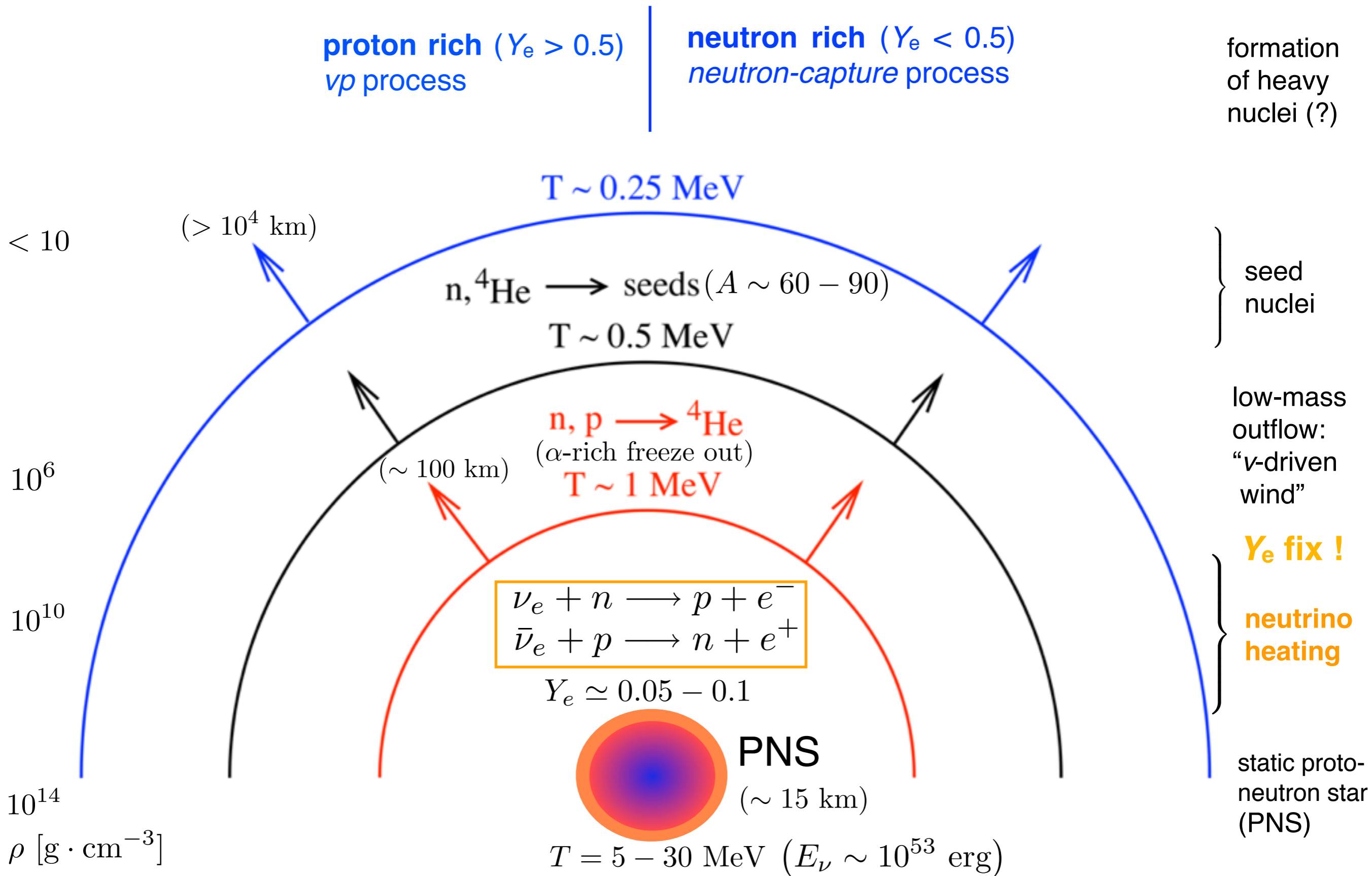


# After the explosion onset. . .

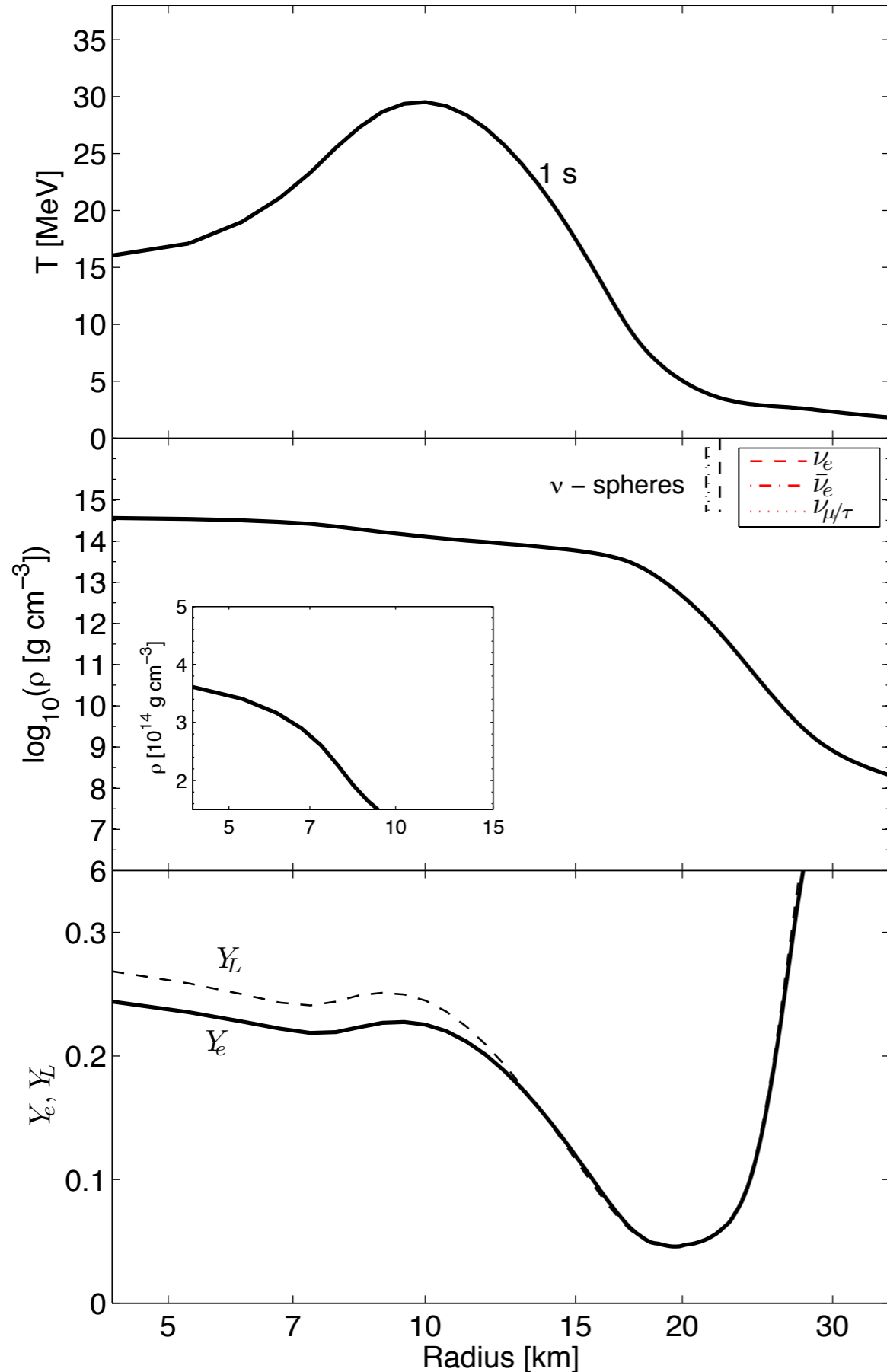
Supernova shock propagates to increasingly larger radii



# Schematic picture of “late”– time mass ejection



# PNS evolution during deleptonization



(11.2  $M_{\odot}$  progenitor)

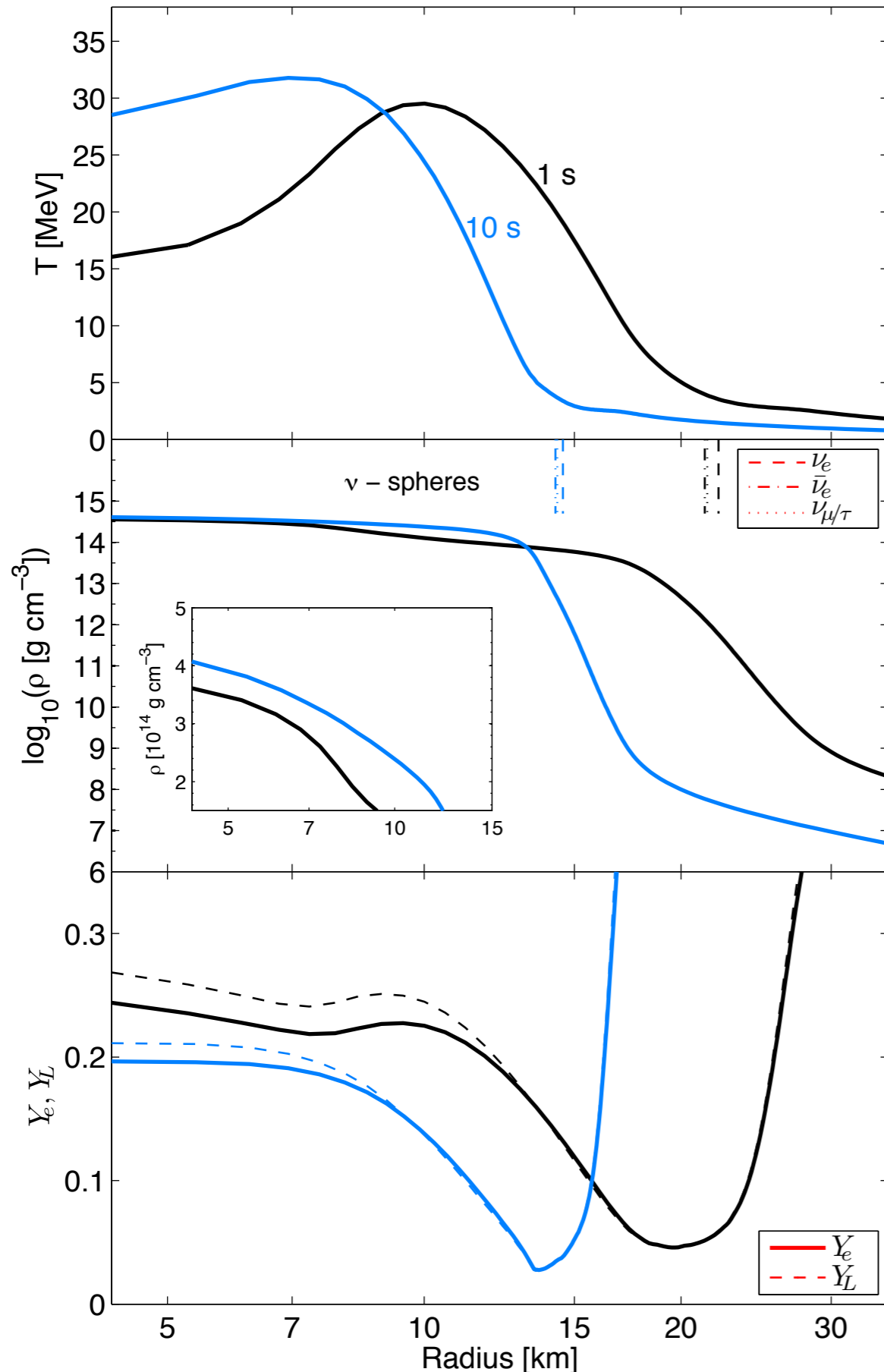
- Non-monotonous  $T$ -profile; large neutron excess ( $Y_e \sim 0.05$ ); relic from supernova history
- Sharp density gradient at PNS surface; important for  $\nu$ -decoupling
- Still substantial abundance of neutrinos trapped inside PNS;  $Y_L = Y_e + Y_{\nu_e} - Y_{\bar{\nu}_e}$

$$\rho|_{R_{\nu_e}} \simeq 5 \times 10^{11} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

$$\rho|_{R_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}}} \simeq 10^{12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

(neutrino decoupling)

# PNS evolution during deleptonization



(11.2  $M_{\odot}$  progenitor)

- Non-monotonous  $T$ -profile; large neutron excess ( $Y_e \sim 0.05$ ); relic from supernova history
- Sharp density gradient at PNS surface; important for  $\nu$ -decoupling
- Still substantial abundance of neutrinos trapped inside PNS;  $Y_L = Y_e + Y_{\nu_e} - Y_{\bar{\nu}_e}$
- Substantial PNS contraction due to loss of pressure support; central density &  $T$  rise
- Steepening of the density profile at the PNS surface
- $\nu$ -decoupling shifts to higher density BUT remain at  $T \sim 5$  MeV;  $Y_e$  and  $Y_L$  drop continuously

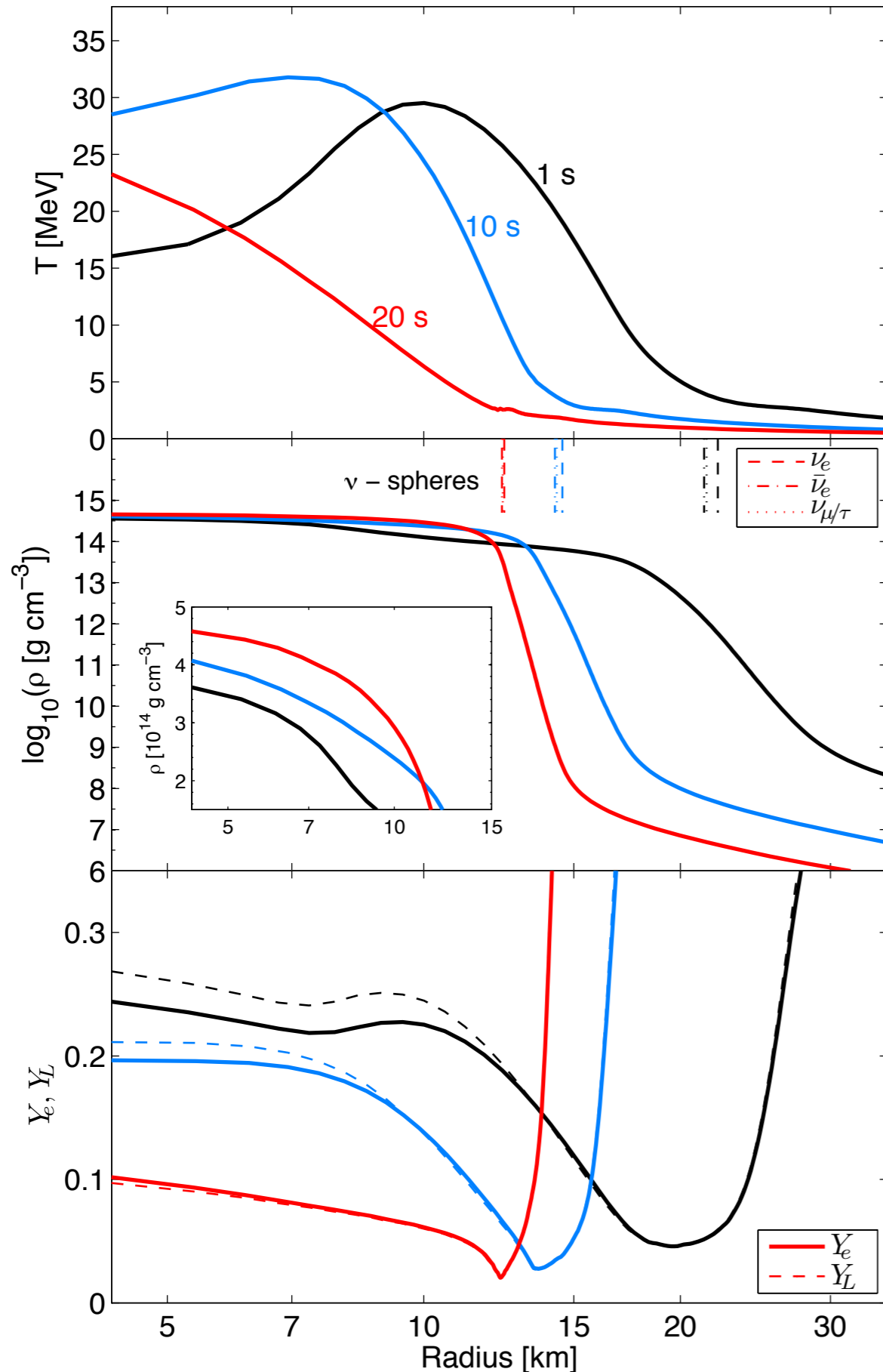
$$\rho|_{R_{\nu_e}} \simeq 10^{12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

$$\rho|_{R_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}}} \simeq 10^{13} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

(neutrino decoupling)



# PNS evolution during deleptonization

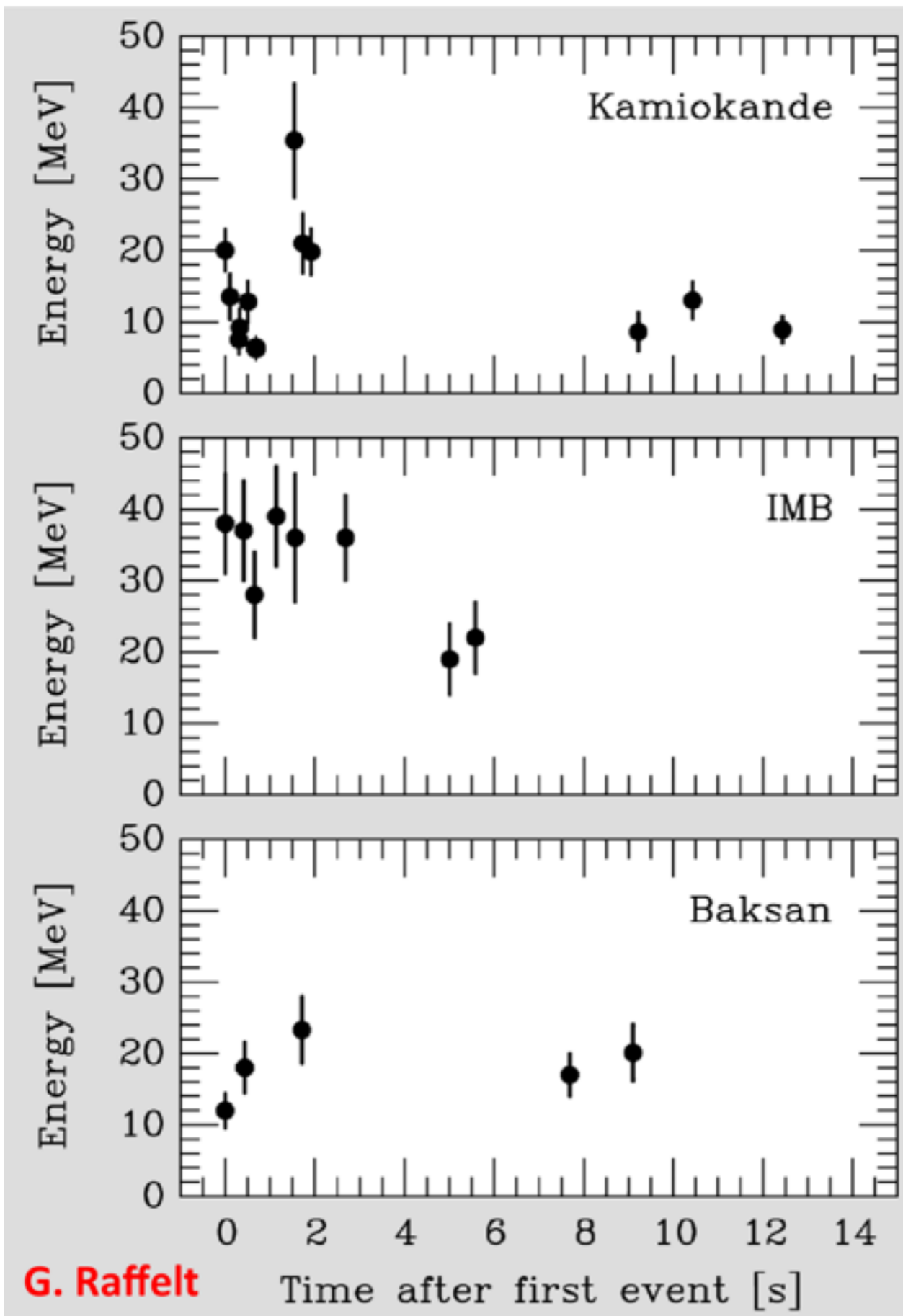


(11.2  $M_{\odot}$  progenitor)

- Non-monotonous  $T$ -profile; large neutron excess ( $Y_e \sim 0.05$ ); relic from supernova history
- Sharp density gradient at PNS surface; important for  $\nu$ -decoupling
- Still substantial abundance of neutrinos trapped inside PNS;  $Y_L = Y_e + Y_{\nu_e} - Y_{\bar{\nu}_e}$
- Substantial PNS contraction due to loss of pressure support; central density &  $T$  rise
- Steepening of the density profile at the PNS surface
- $\nu$ -decoupling shifts to higher density BUT remain at  $T \sim 5$  MeV;  $Y_e$  and  $Y_L$  drop continuously
- Continuous contraction BUT now central  $T$  starts to decrease;  $Y_{\nu} \rightarrow 0$  (!)
- Average  $\nu$ -decoupling  $\sim 10^{14} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$

# Neutrino emission during PNS deleptonization

# Neutrinos from SN1987A



G. Raffelt

## SN rates:

1SN s<sup>-1</sup> universe<sup>-1</sup>

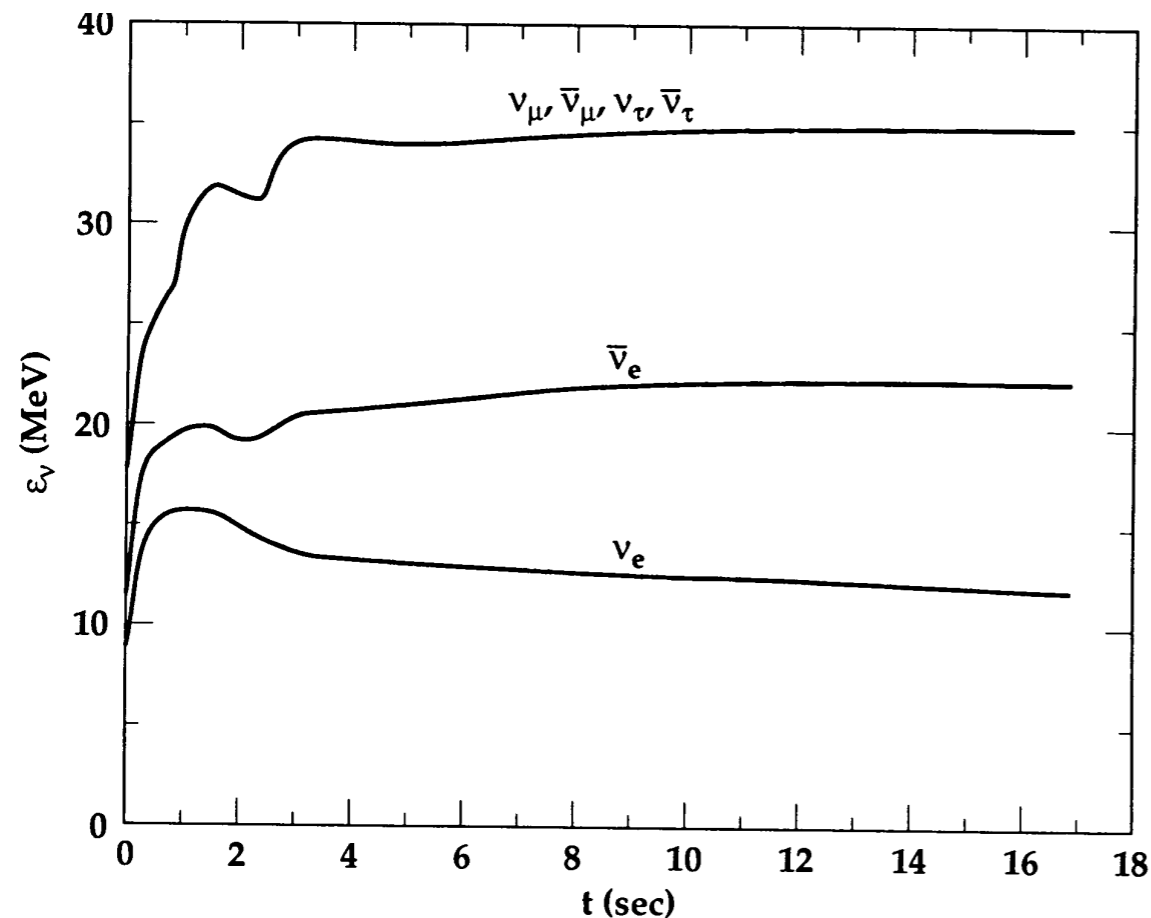
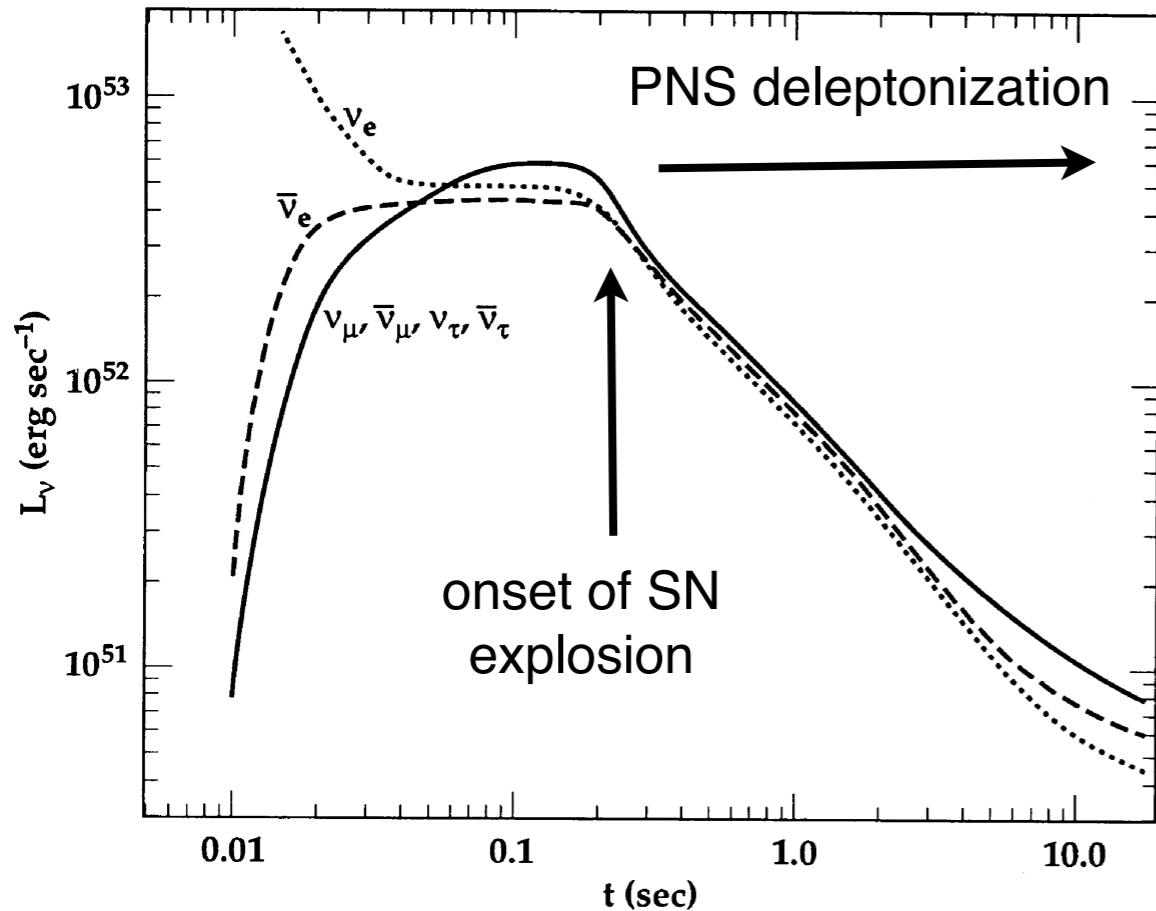
1SN year<sup>-1</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> pc<sup>-1</sup>

1SN 100 years<sup>-1</sup> Milky Way<sup>-1</sup>

## Insights from SN1987A (large Magellanic Cloud):

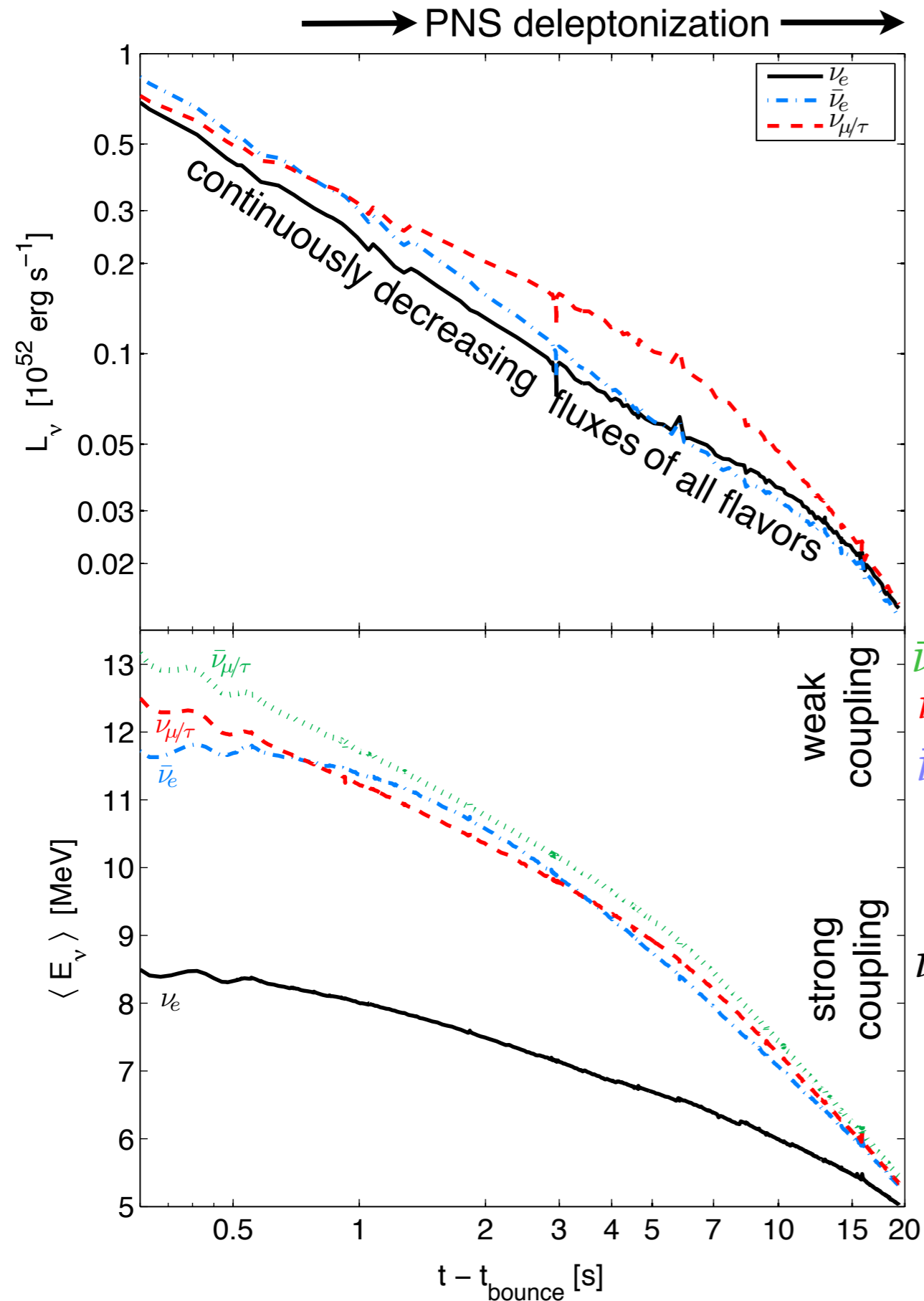
- Progenitor star 18 M<sub>⊙</sub>
- Confirmation of the basic model
- Stellar collapse to a (proto) neutron star ~3 x 10<sup>53</sup> erg
- 99% emitted in neutrinos over ~10 seconds
- Explosion energy (kinetic energy of ejecta at stellar surface) ~10<sup>51</sup> erg

# Some historical remark: the early 1990s



- Woosley et al. (1994) ApJ 433, 229 (first complete “modern” simulation incl. neutrino transport)
- Continuously decreasing neutrino fluxes; flavor differences depend on details of weak rates
- Problem with average energies
- Unphysically high entropy per baryon ( $\sim 300 k_B$ )
- Increasing neutron excess of ejected matter and strong  $r$ -process ( $A=195$ , 3<sup>rd</sup> peak)

# Current state-of-the-art

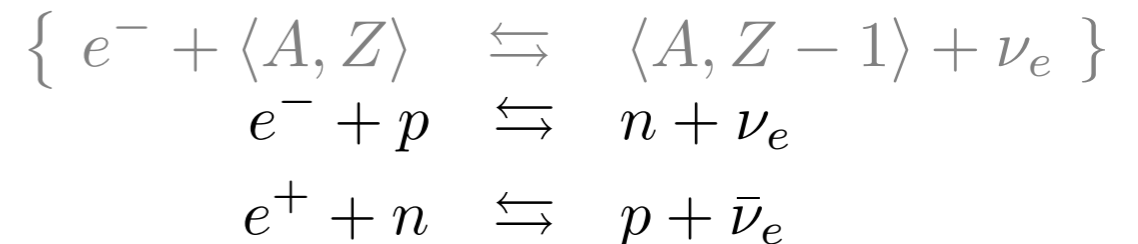


Neutrino transport and input physics improved over the years. . .

Set of weak processes considered:

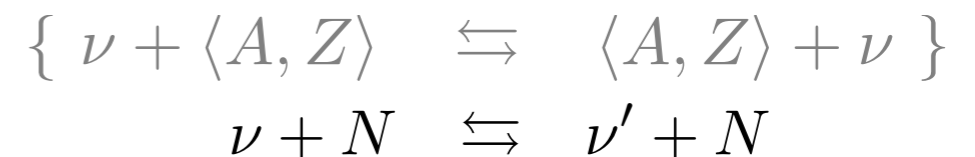
## charged current reactions

(dominant energy exchange; strong coupling to matter)



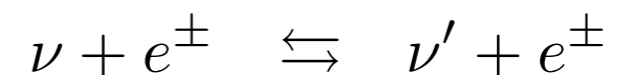
## elastic scattering

(momentum exchange; largest opacity)



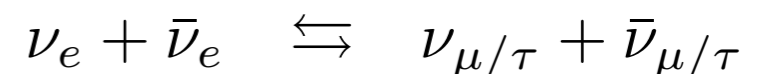
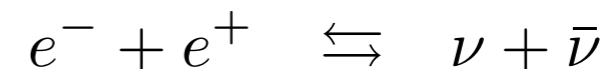
## inelastic scattering

(thermalization of  $\nu$ -spectra)

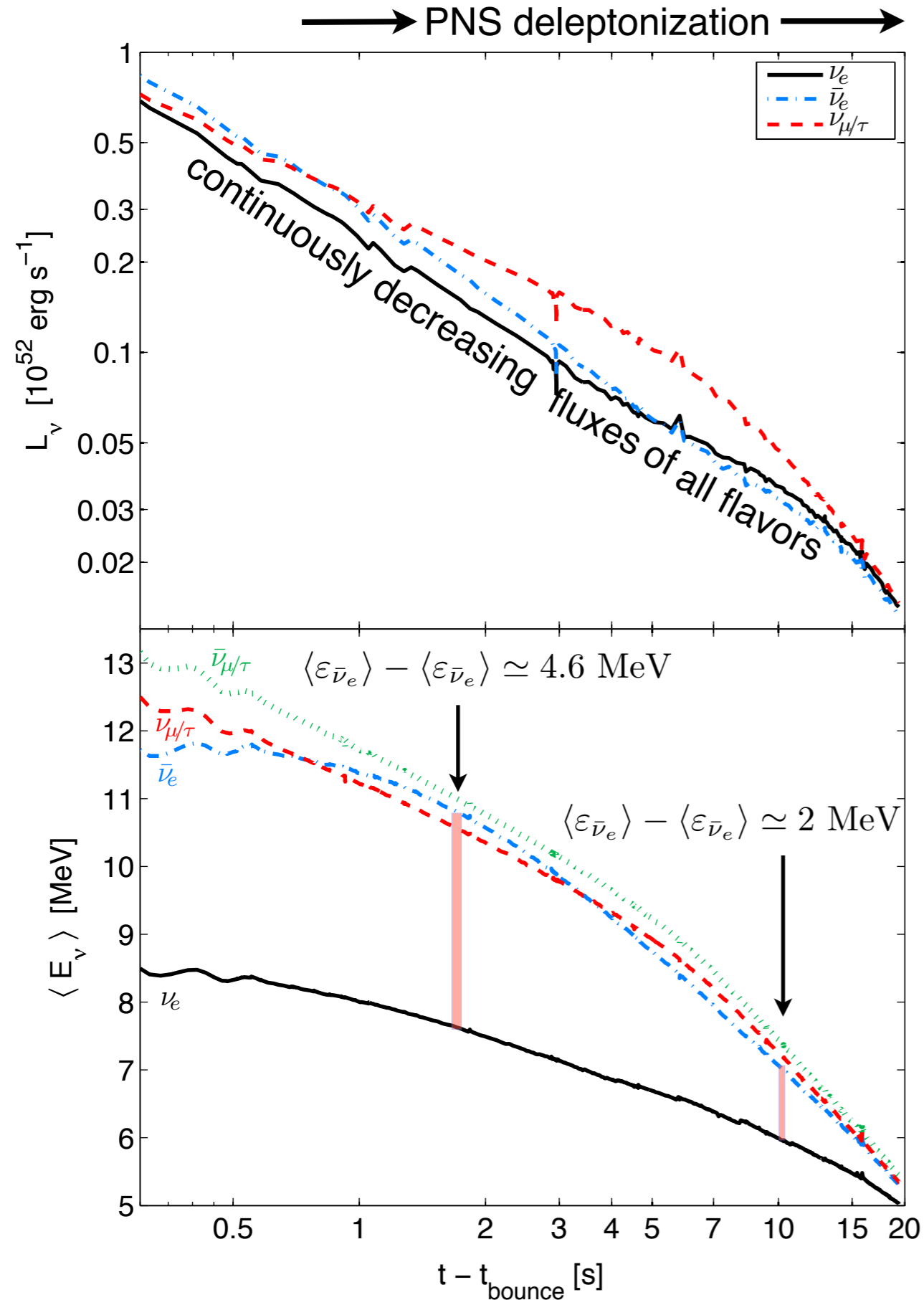


## pair processes

(production of heavy flavor  $\nu$ 's)



# Neutrino luminosities and average energies



Continuously reducing spectral differences between all neutrino species.

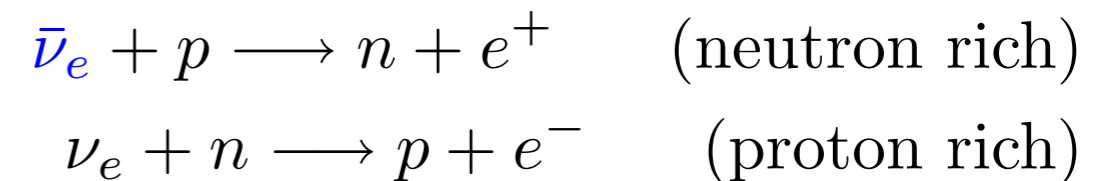
Relevance for nucleosynthesis:  
(Qian et al. (1996), ApJ 471, 331)

$$L_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}} > L_{\nu_e} \simeq L_{\bar{\nu}_e} \quad \langle E_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}} \rangle \simeq \langle E_{\bar{\nu}_e} \rangle > \langle E_{\nu_e} \rangle$$

$$\langle \epsilon_{\bar{\nu}_e} \rangle - \langle \epsilon_{\nu_e} \rangle \begin{cases} \gtrsim 5 \text{ MeV} & (Y_e < 0.5) \\ & \text{neutron rich} \\ < 5 \text{ MeV} & (Y_e > 0.5) \\ & \text{proton rich} \end{cases}$$

$$(\langle \epsilon_\nu \rangle = \langle E_\nu^2 \rangle / \langle E_\nu \rangle)$$

Dominant weak processes:



**What determines the magnitude of spectral differences?**

# Charged-current weak rates in supernova simulations

---

- Neutrino opacity/reaction rate (charged-current weak processes):  $\nu_e + n \longrightarrow e^- + p$

$$1/\lambda(E_{\nu_e}) = \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{\pi(\hbar c)^7} (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) \int \frac{d^3 p_e}{(2\pi)^3} (1 - F_e(E_e)) S(q_0, q)$$

$$q_0 = E_\nu - E_e, \quad q = |\mathbf{p}_\nu - \mathbf{p}_e|$$

$$1/\lambda_\nu(E_\nu) \simeq \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{\pi(\hbar c)^7} (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) p_e E_e (1 - F_e(E_e)) \frac{n_n - n_p}{1 - e^{\beta(\mu_p^0 - \mu_n^0)}}$$

(zero-momentum transfer approximation)

# Charged-current weak rates in supernova simulations

---

- Neutrino opacity/reaction rate (charged-current weak processes):  $\nu_e + n \longrightarrow e^- + p$

$$1/\lambda(E_{\nu_e}) = \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{\pi(\hbar c)^7} (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) \int \frac{d^3 p_e}{(2\pi)^3} (1 - F_e(E_e)) S(q_0, q)$$

$$q_0 = E_\nu - E_e, \quad q = |\mathbf{p}_\nu - \mathbf{p}_e|$$

$$1/\lambda_\nu(E_\nu) \simeq \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{\pi(\hbar c)^7} (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) p_e E_e (1 - F_e(E_e)) \frac{n_n - n_p}{1 - e^{\beta(\mu_p^0 - \mu_n^0)}}$$

(zero-momentum transfer approximation)

- Description of weak processes based on **free-Fermi gas** model

$$(\mu_n^0, \mu_p^0) \text{ (free Fermi-gas chemical potentials)}$$

- Supernova equations of state (EOS) are based on **interacting nucleons** and treat them as quasi-particles that move in a potential,  $U_N$  (!)

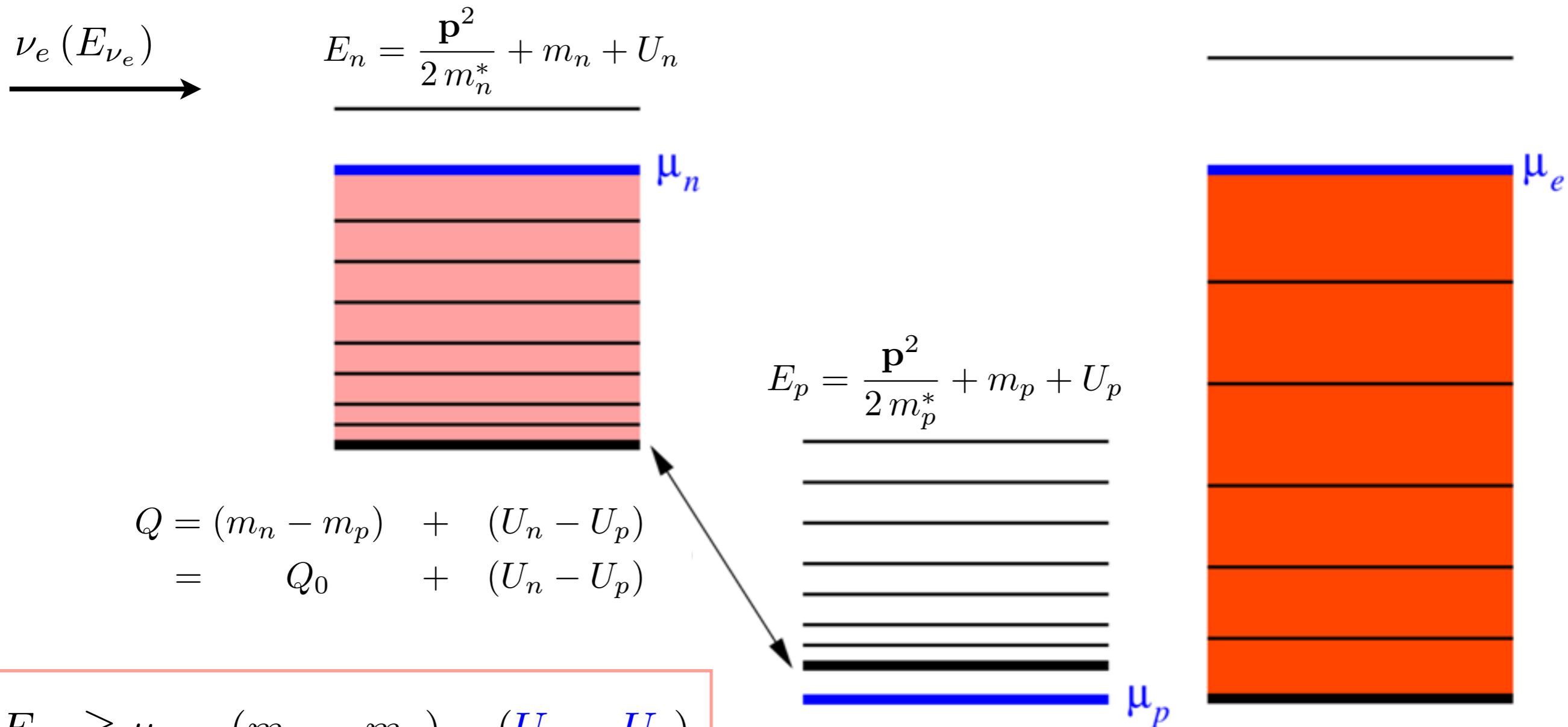
$$\mu_n^0 = \mu_n - U_n - m_n \quad (U_n, U_p) \text{ (nucleon self energies)}$$

$$\mu_p^0 = \mu_p - U_p - m_p$$



# Weak rates consistent with the equation of state

- Similar situation as in heavy neutron rich nucleus:  $\nu_e + n \longrightarrow e^- + p$

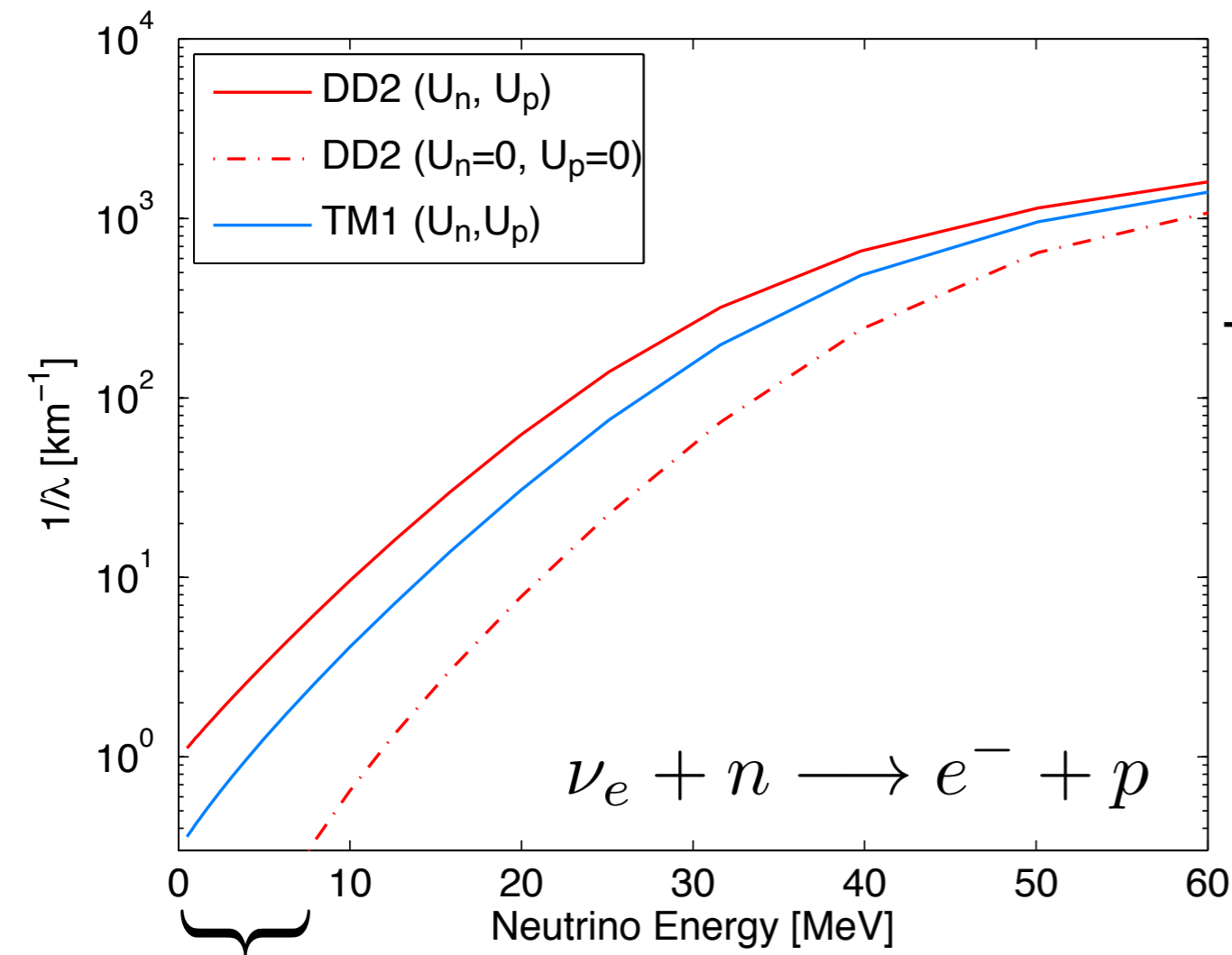


(Figure: G. Martinez-Pinedo)

$$(\mu_e \simeq 50 - 100 \text{ MeV})$$

$$(U_n - U_p \simeq 1 - 10 \text{ MeV})$$

# Neutrino opacity consistent with the EOS



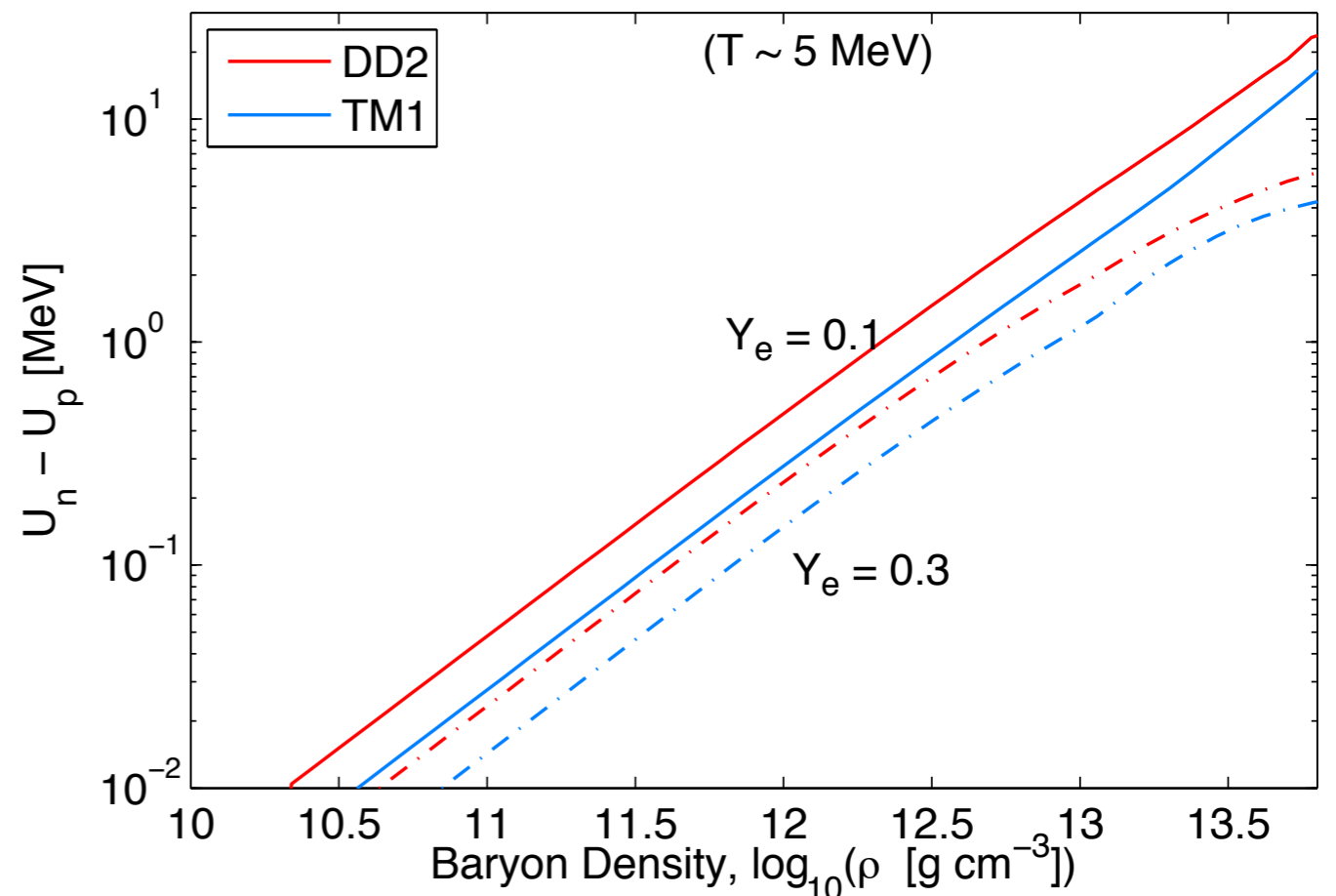
$$\sim (U_n - U_p)$$

Differences between **DD2** and **TM1** are due to different values of nucleon self-energies

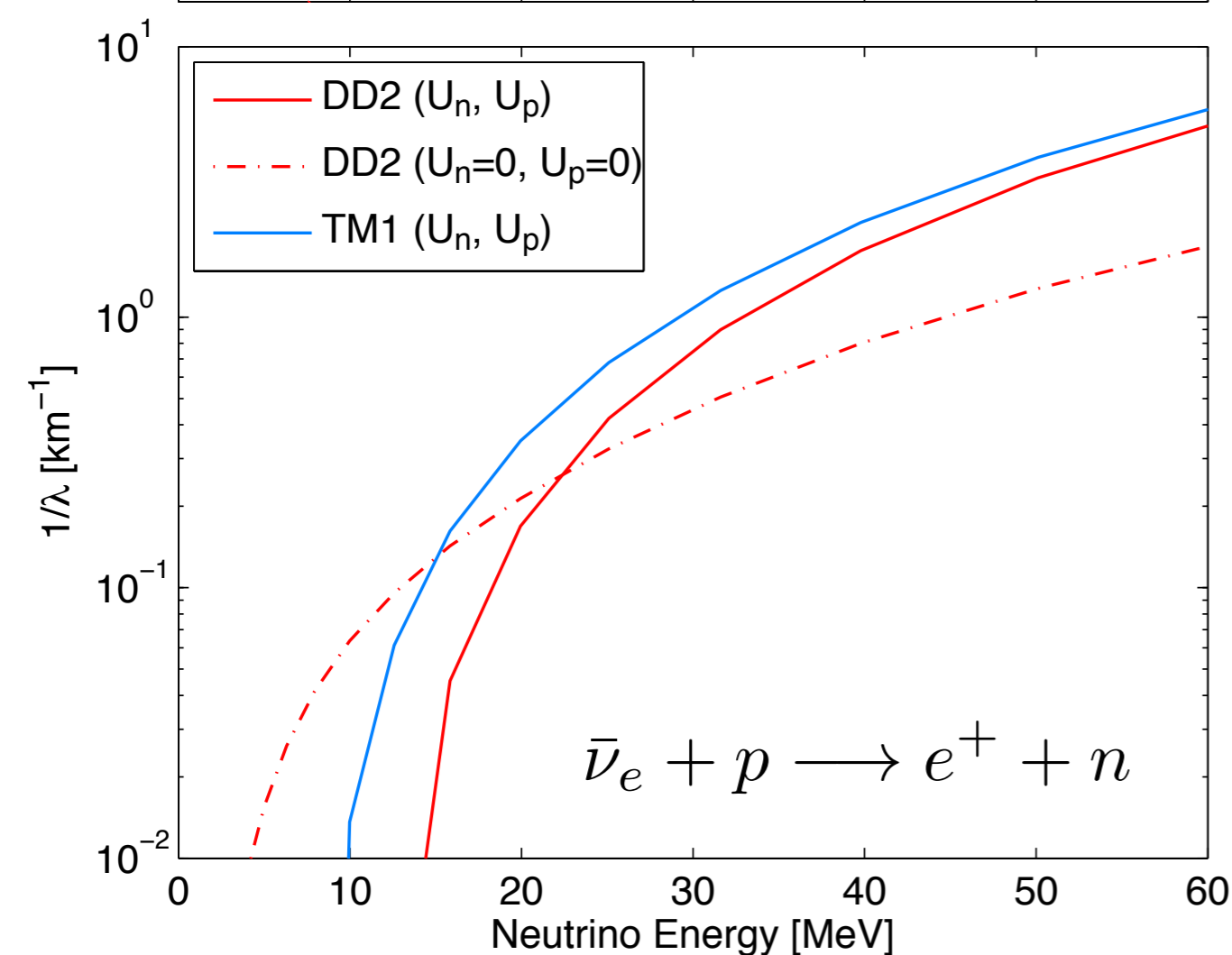
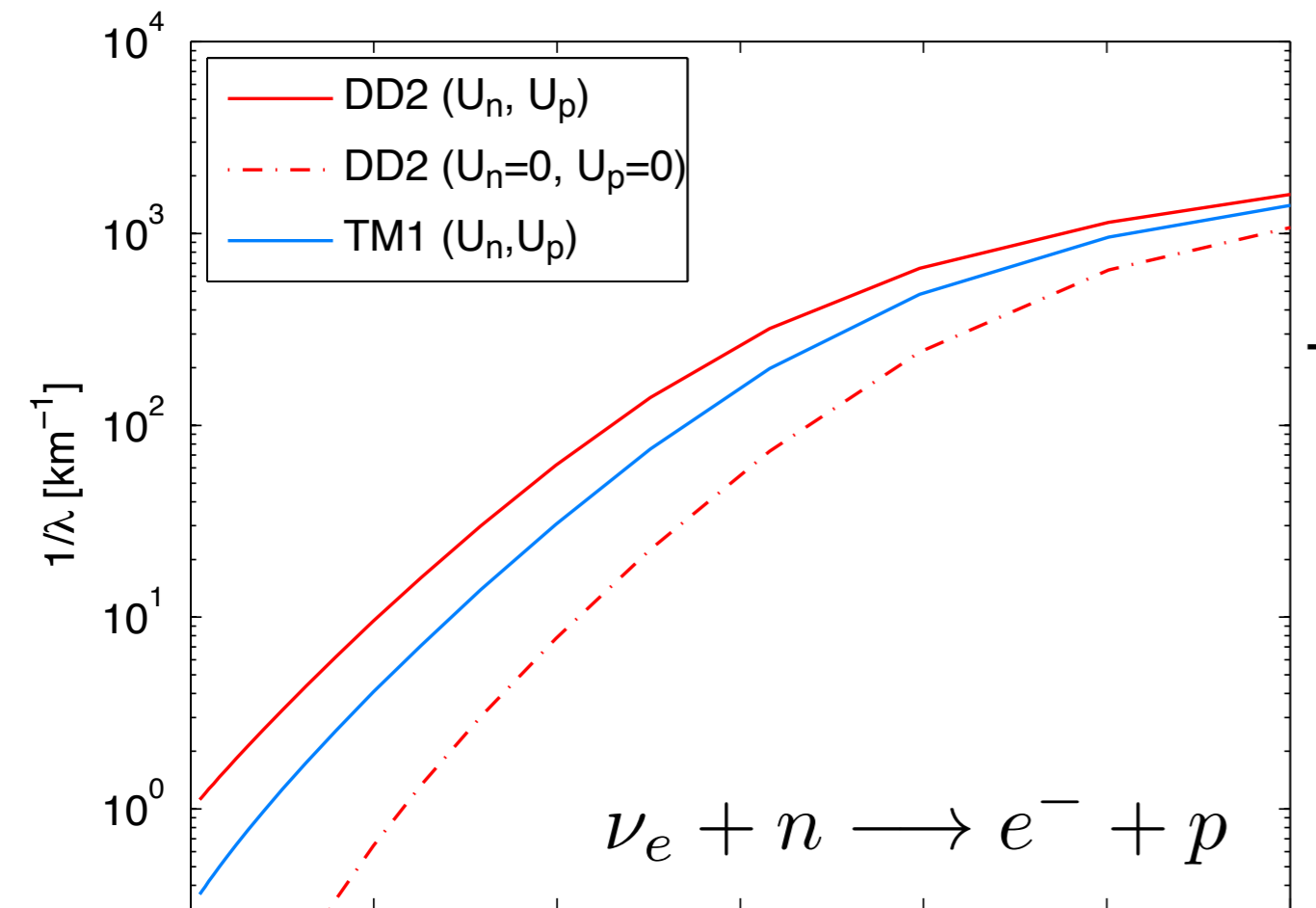
— — consistent description (**DD2** , **TM1**)  
- · - · - inconsistent description (**DD2**)

Large suppression of low-energy neutrinos

$$E_{\nu_e} = E_{e^-} - (m_n - m_p) - (U_n - U_p)$$



# Neutrino opacity consistent with the EOS



— — consistent description (**DD2**, **TM1**)  
 - · - · inconsistent description (**DD2**)

Large suppression of low-energy neutrinos

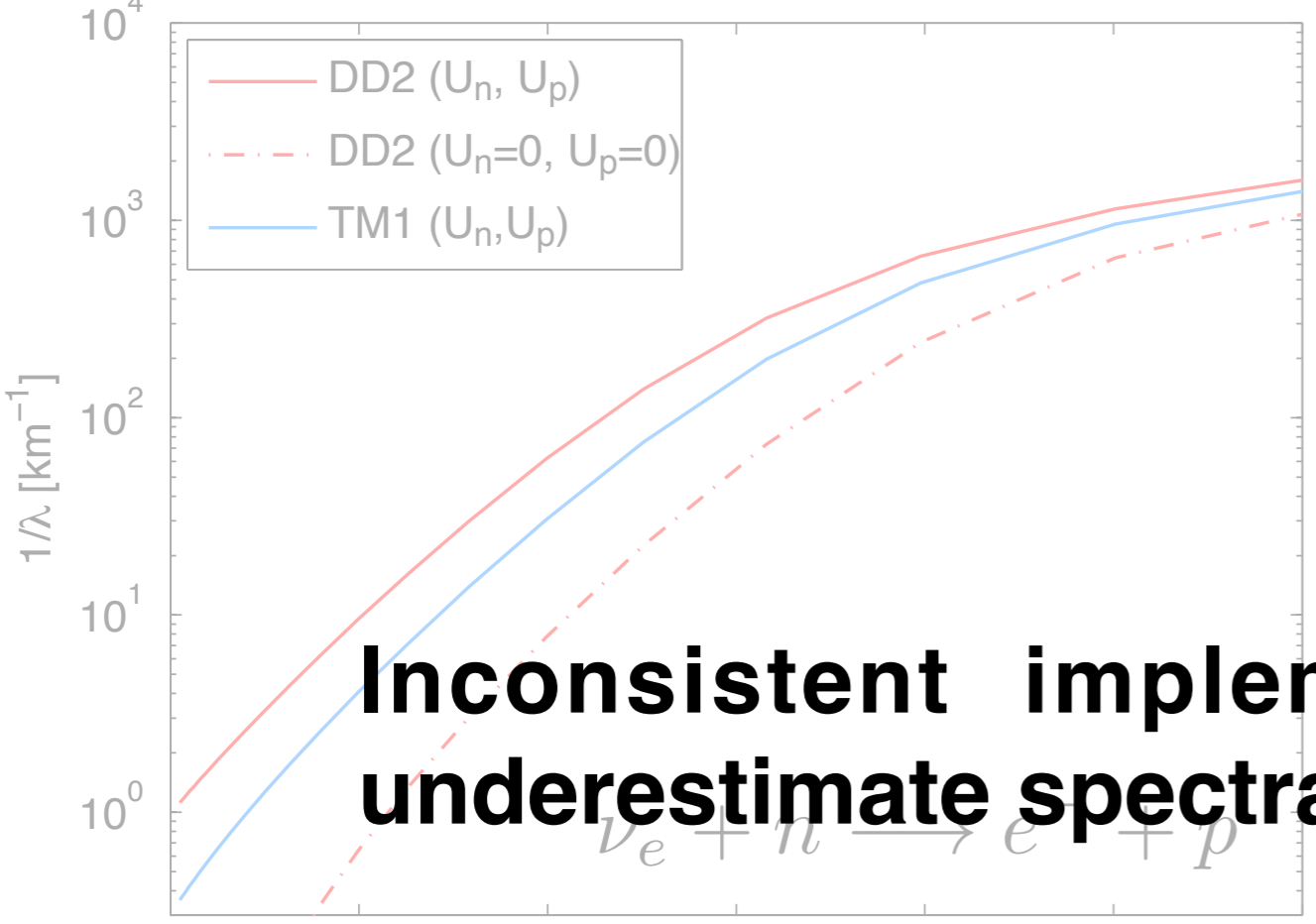
$$E_{\nu_e} = E_{e^-} - (m_n - m_p) - (U_n - U_p)$$

Differences between **DD2** and **TM1** are due to different values of nucleon self-energies

Overestimated low-energy anti neutrinos

$$E_{\bar{\nu}_e} = E_{e^+} + (m_n - m_p) + (U_n - U_p)$$

# Neutrino opacity consistent with the EOS



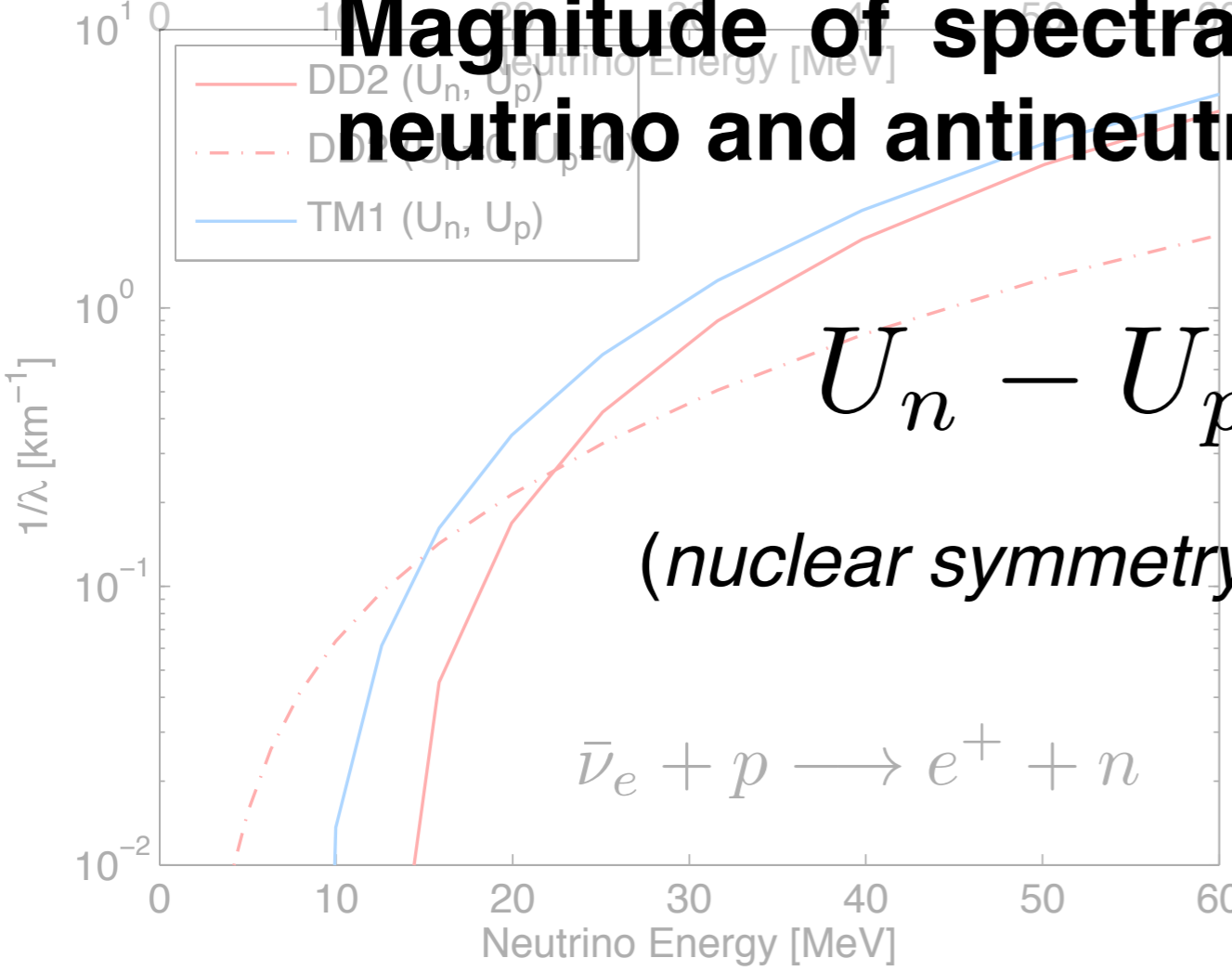
**Inconsistent implementation: tends to underestimate spectral differences**

— consistent description (DD2, TM1)  
 - - - inconsistent description (DD2)

Large suppression of low-energy neutrinos

$$E_{\nu_e} = (m_n - m_p) - (U_n - U_p)$$

**Magnitude of spectral differences between neutrino and antineutrino given by:**



$$U_n - U_p \sim S_B^F(\rho)$$

(nuclear symmetry energy; EOS quantity)

Differences between DD2 and TM1 are due to different values of nucleon self-energies

Overestimated low-energy anti neutrinos

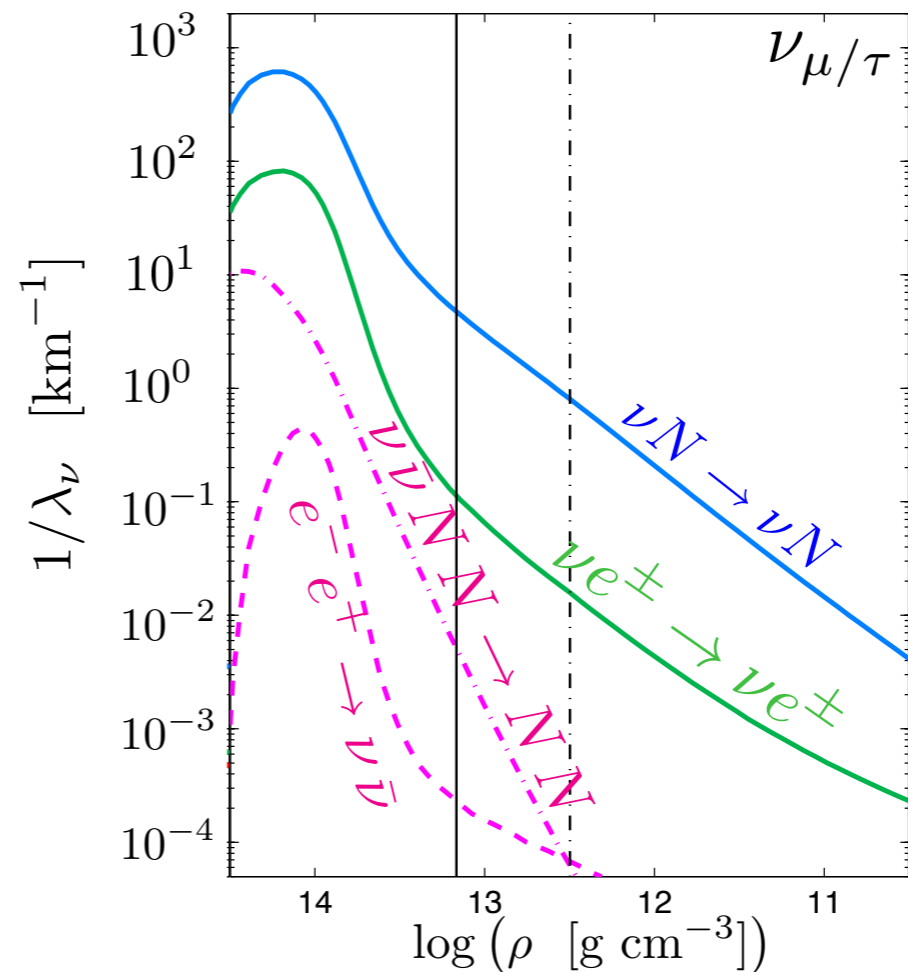
$$E_{\bar{\nu}_e} = (m_p - m_n) + (U_n - U_p)$$

# Opacity during deleptonization

Neutrino energy integration:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_\nu} \left[ \frac{1}{\text{km}} \right] \propto \int E^2 dE \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(E)} f_\nu(E)$$

(Note: no charged-current processes for  $\mu$ -neutrinos)



1 second after explosion onset

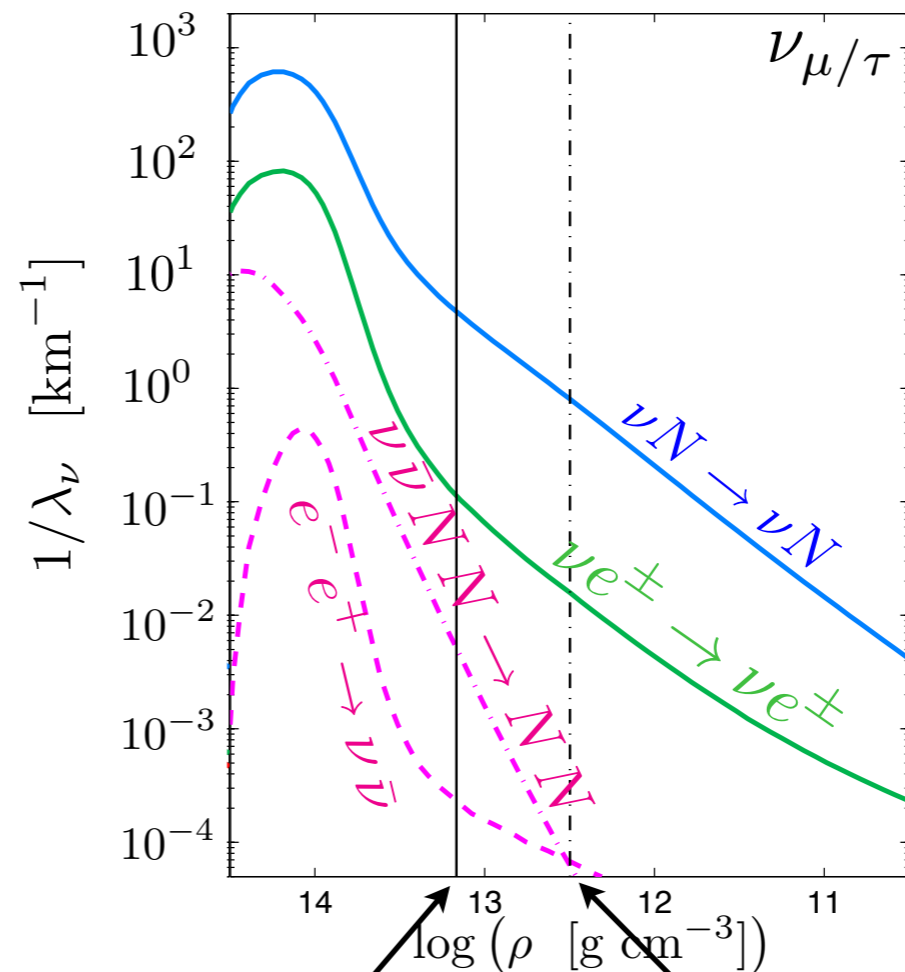
← PNS →

# Opacity during deleptonization

Neutrino energy integration:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_\nu} \left[ \frac{1}{\text{km}} \right] \propto \int E^2 dE \frac{1}{\lambda_\nu(E)} f_\nu(E)$$

(Note: no charged-current processes for  $\mu$ -neutrinos)



1 second after explosion onset

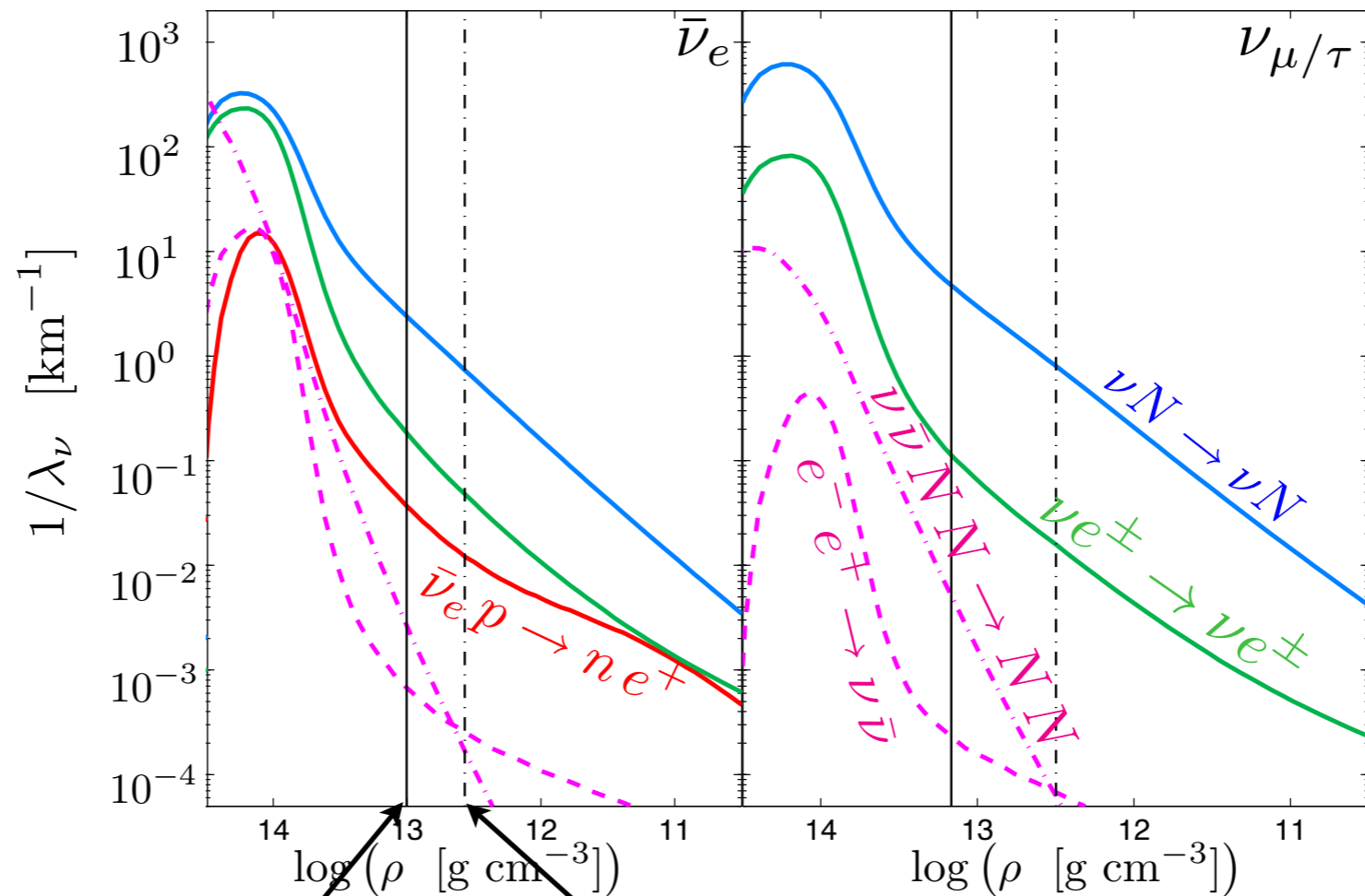
Neutrinospheres: last energy exchange

last scattering

Largest opacity: scattering on nucleons (elastic process)

Largest energy exchange: scattering on  $e^\pm$

# Opacity during deleptonization



1 second after explosion onset

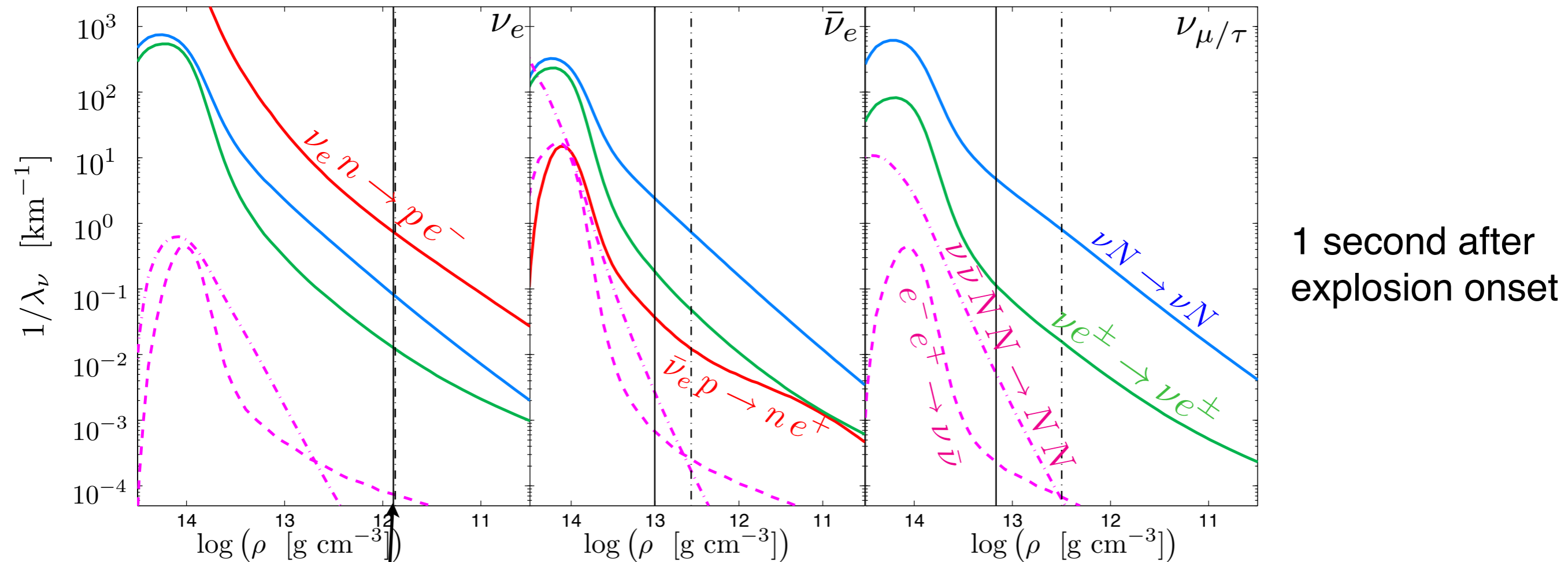
last energy exchange

last scattering

Largest opacity: **scattering on nucleons** (elastic process)

Largest energy exchange: **scattering on  $e^\pm$**   $\sim$  **absorption on protons**

# Opacity during deleptonization

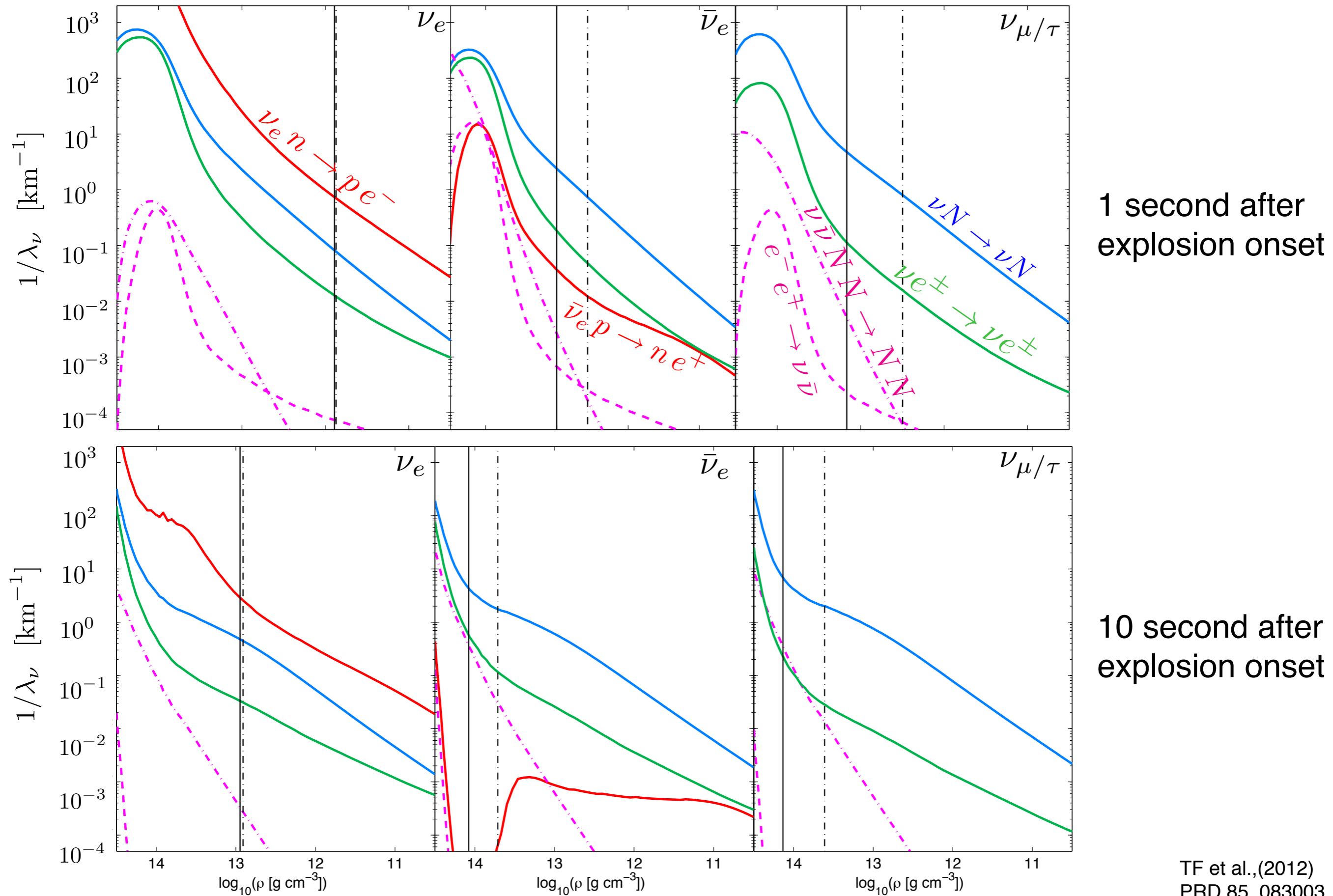


last energy exchange  $\sim$  last scattering

Largest opacity: **absorption on neutrons** (inelastic process)

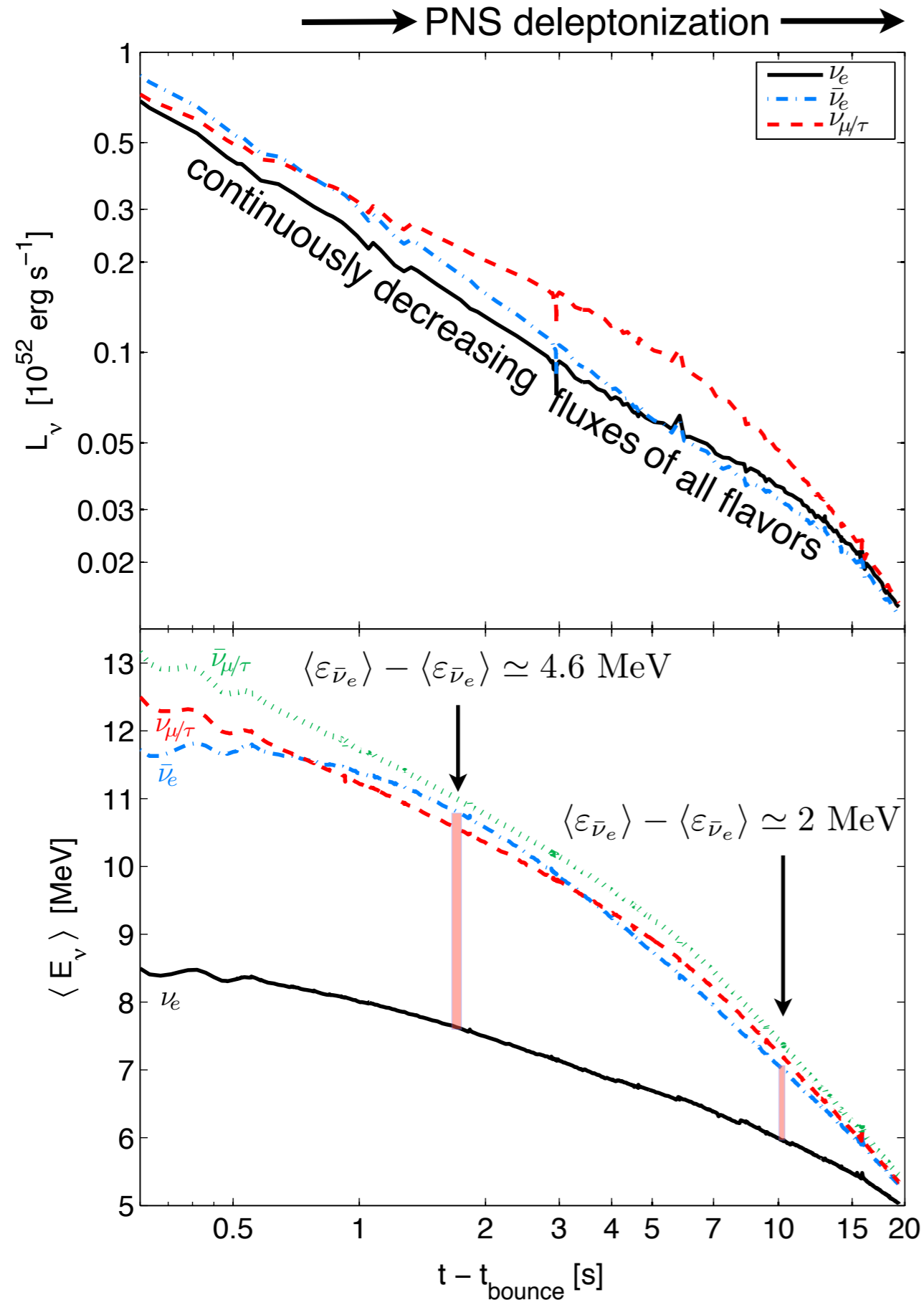


# Opacity during deleptonization



# Some nucleosynthesis results

# Neutrino luminosities and average energies



Continuously reducing spectral differences between all neutrino species.

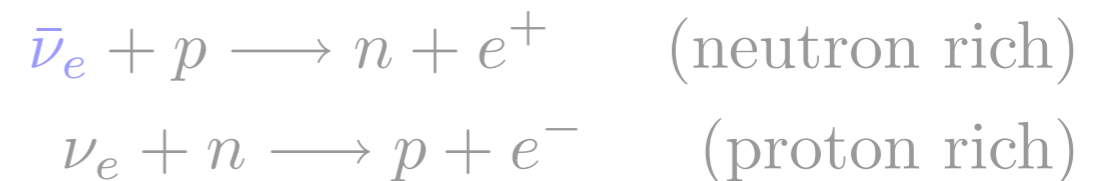
Relevance for nucleosynthesis:  
(Qian et al. (1996), ApJ 471, 331)

$$L_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}} > L_{\nu_e} \simeq L_{\bar{\nu}_e} \quad \langle E_{\nu_{\mu/\tau}} \rangle \simeq \langle E_{\bar{\nu}_e} \rangle > \langle E_{\nu_e} \rangle$$

$$\langle \epsilon_{\bar{\nu}_e} \rangle - \langle \epsilon_{\nu_e} \rangle \begin{cases} \gtrsim 5 \text{ MeV} & (Y_e < 0.5) \\ & \text{neutron rich} \\ < 5 \text{ MeV} & (Y_e > 0.5) \\ & \text{proton rich} \end{cases}$$

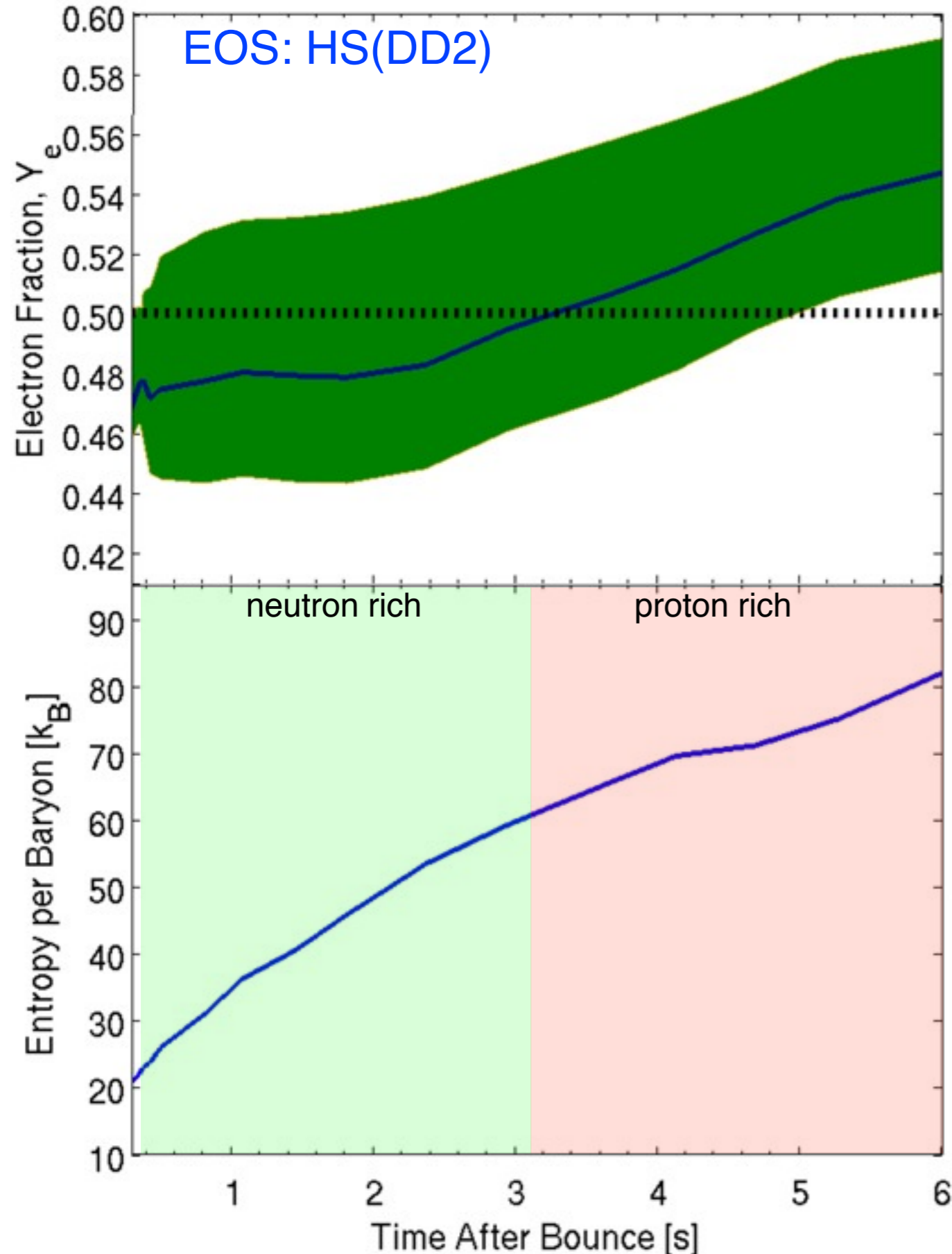
$$(\langle \epsilon_\nu \rangle = \langle E_\nu^2 \rangle / \langle E_\nu \rangle)$$

Dominant weak processes:



What determines the magnitude of spectral differences?

# Nucleosynthesis relevant conditions

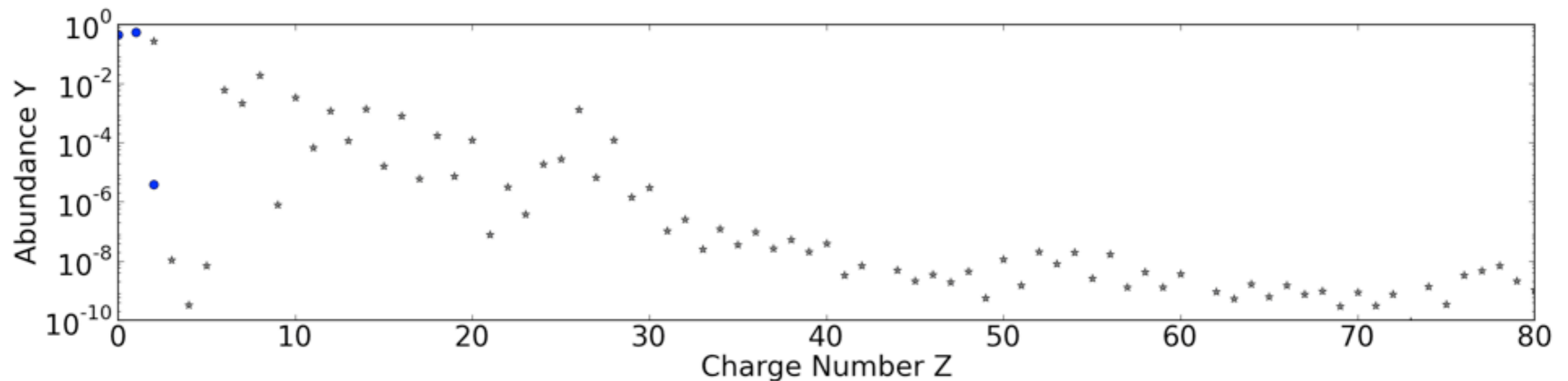
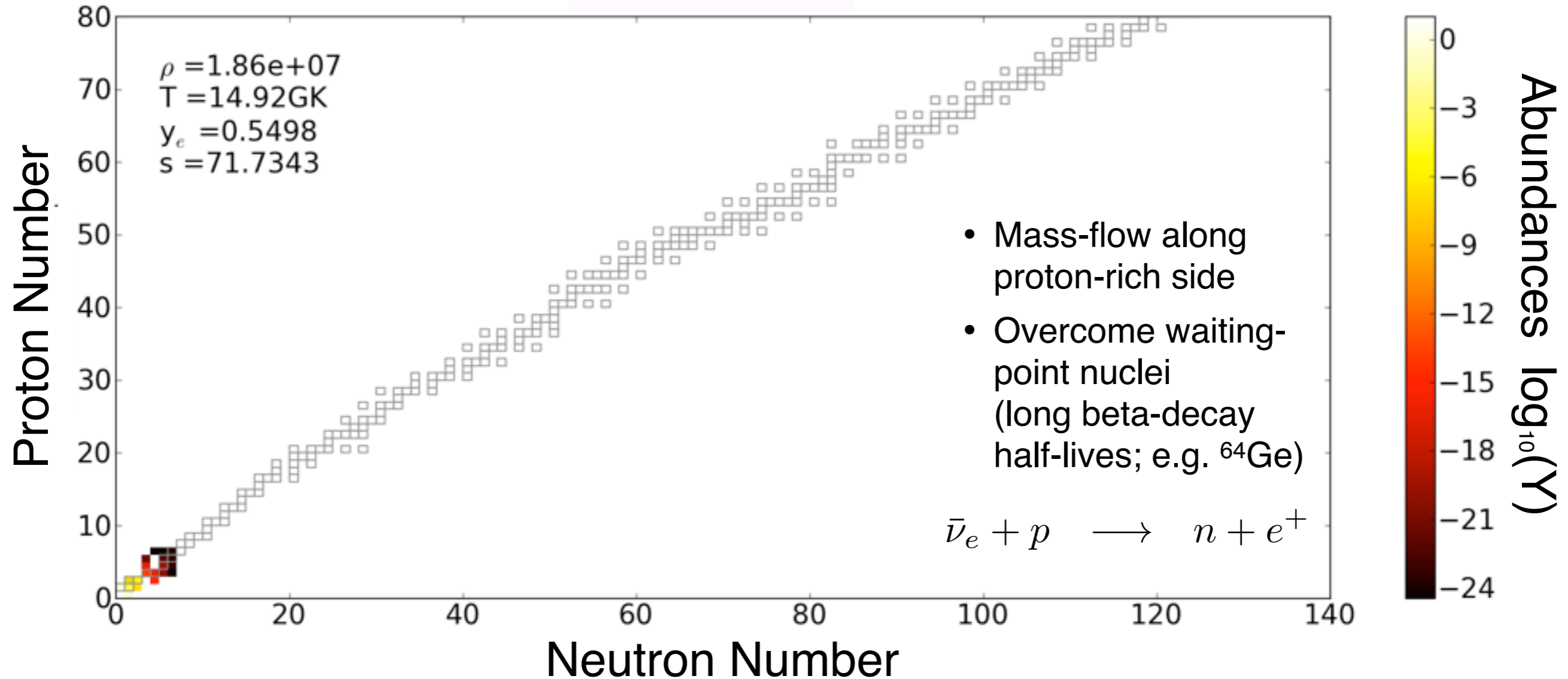


Early  $\nu$ -driven wind phase:  
neutron-rich ejecta

Late phase:  
ejecta become proton rich

- For the tested EOS, we find
  - early phase:  $Y_e \approx 0.48$  (0.44 – 0.54)
  - late phase:  $Y_e > 0.50$  (0.49 – 0.62)
- Moderate entropy per baryon
  - early phase:  $S \sim 20\text{--}65 k_B$
  - late phase:  $S \sim 65\text{--}120 k_B$
- Model uncertainties ( $\pm 10\%$ ):
  - weak rates, nuclear symmetry energy, weak magnetism, inelastic processes,
  - reverse shock,  $\nu$ -oscillations . . .
  - luminosity/energy enhancement from late-phase fall back

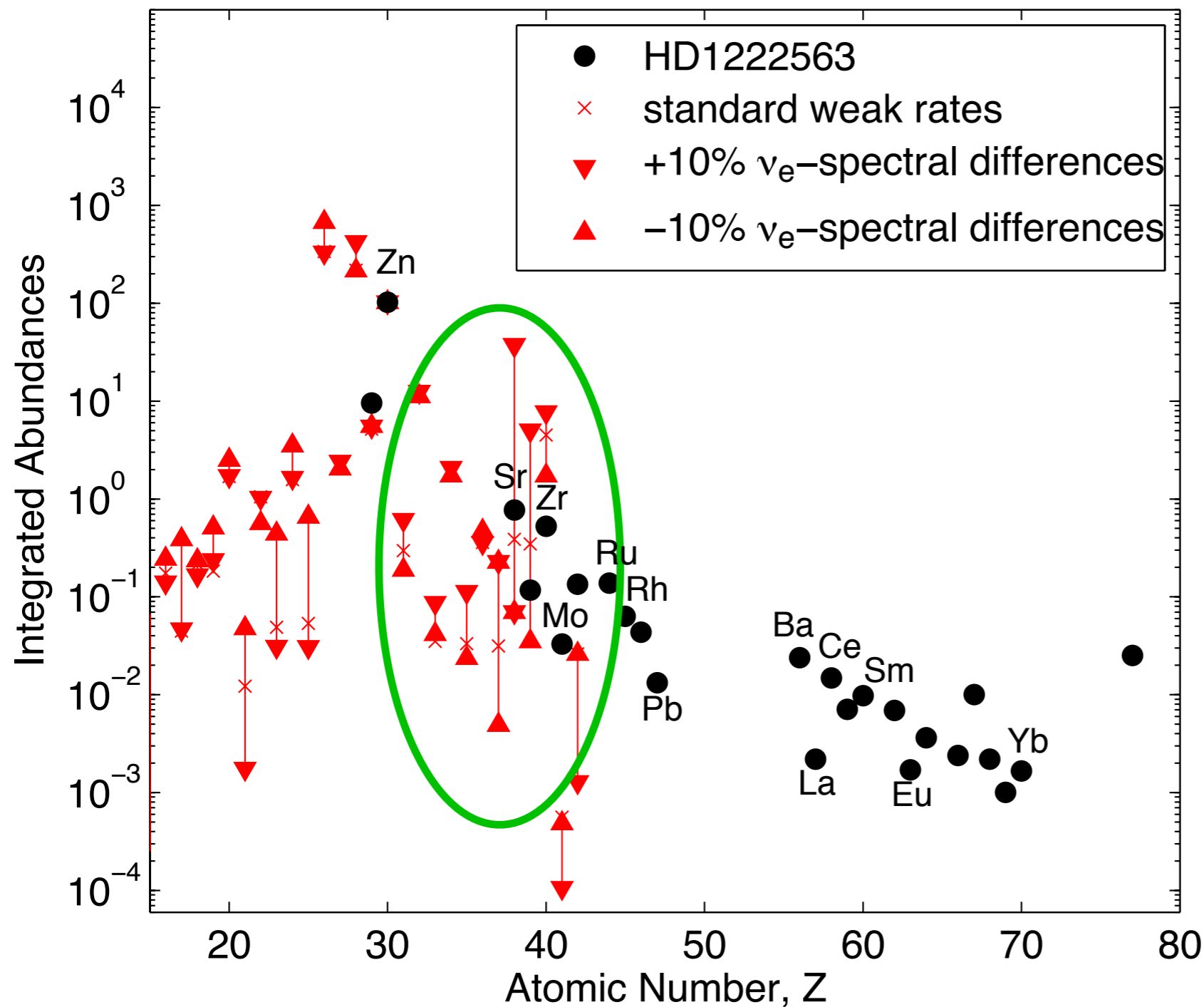
# Nucleosynthesis in proton rich conditions: $\nu p$ process



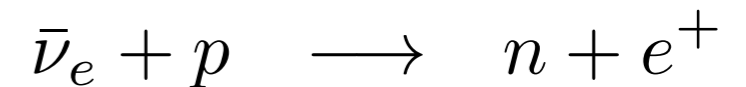
# Integrated nucleosynthesis analysis

## Elemental abundances:

(gauged to  $^{60}\text{Zn}$ )



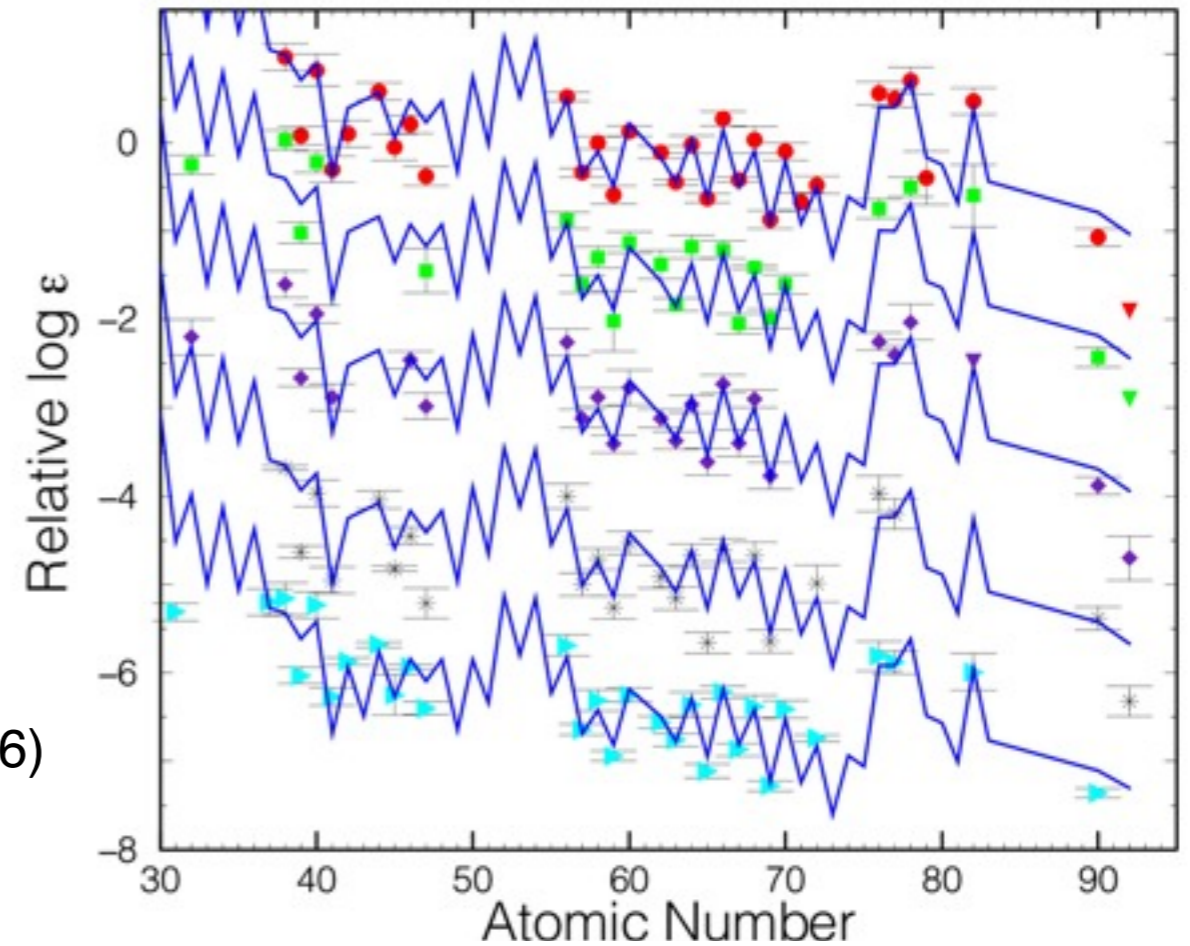
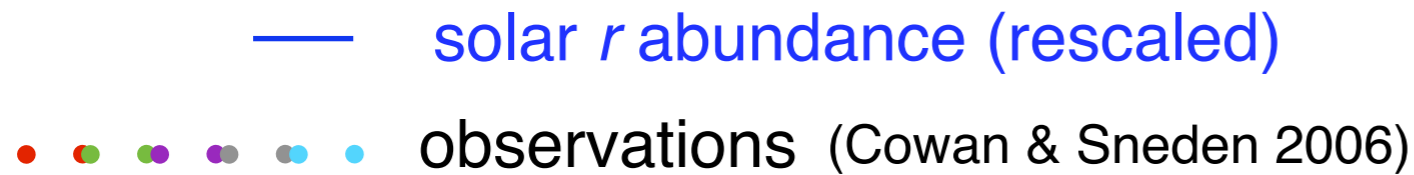
- Production of light neutron-capture elements
- Consistent with observations: (Honda stars: poor in heavy neutron-capture elements ( $Z > 45$ ) but large abundances of light neutron-capture elements  $38 < Z < 45$ , Sr, Y, Zr )
- Proton-rich ejecta: **vp process**  
Mass-flow along proton-rich side  
Overcome waiting-point nuclei (long beta-decay half-lives; e.g.  $^{64}\text{Ge}$ )



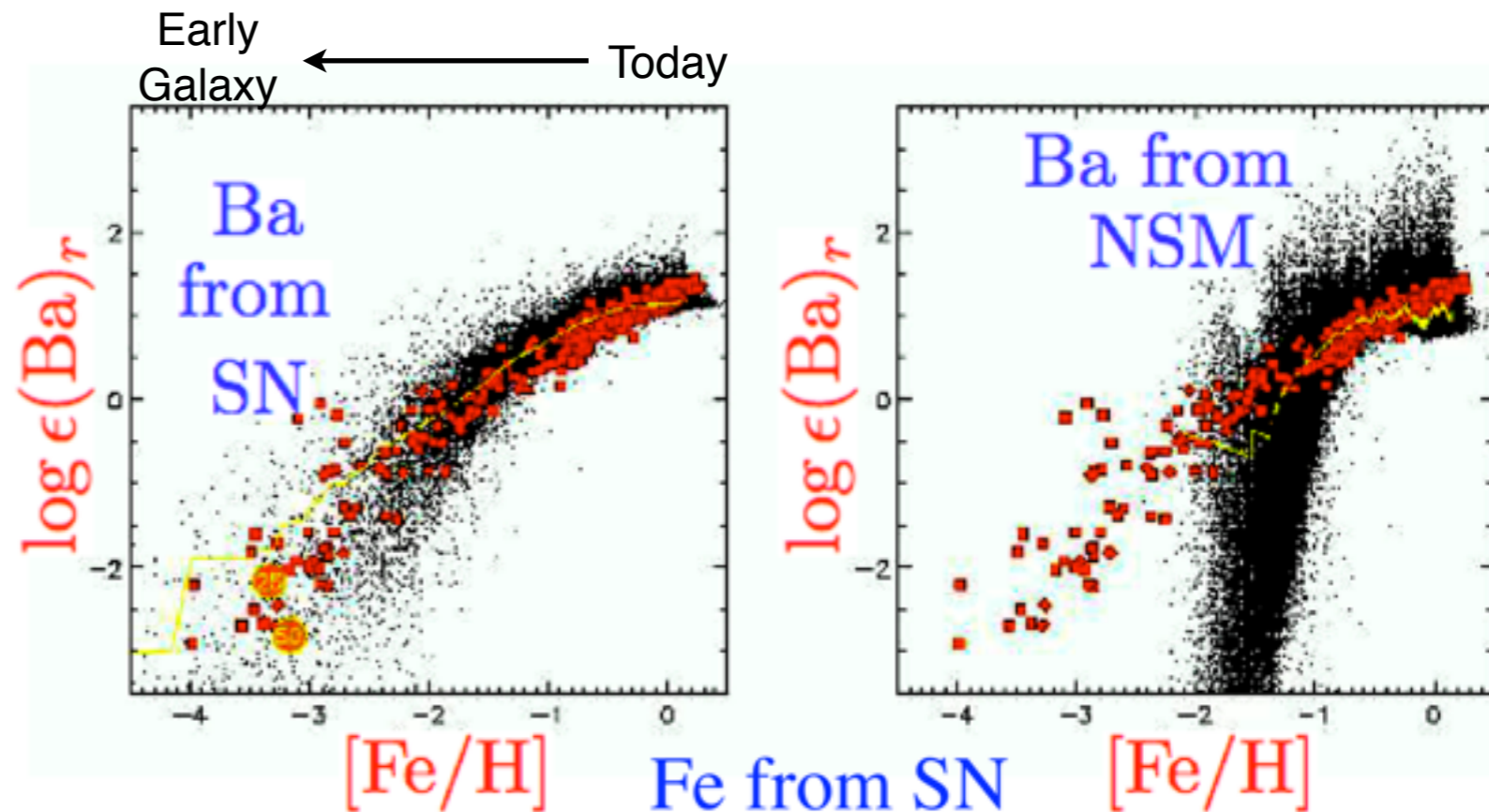
# Summary and Conclusions

# Summary and Conclusions I

- Observations of strong  $r$  process in metal-poor stars (young stars/early Galaxy)



- Standard supernova models cannot explain the strong  $r$  process ( $A \sim 195$ ) (low metallicity/early evolution of the Galaxy)



Qian, (2000), ApJ, 534, 67

Argast et al., (2004) A&A 416, 997



# Summary and Conclusions II

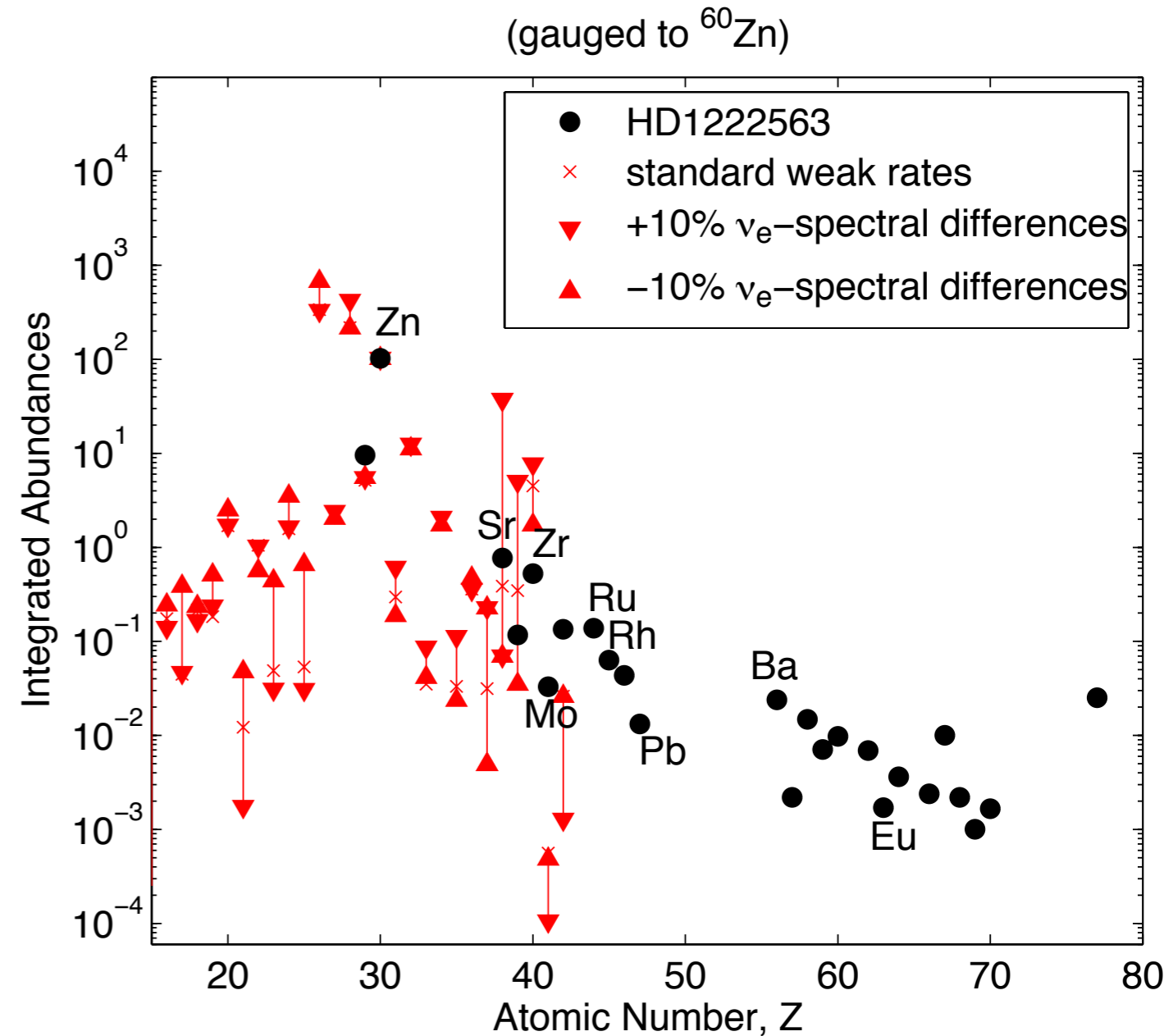
- Production site for light neutron-capture ( $38 < Z < 45$ ) elements found:

*neutrino driven winds* from  
protoneutron stars  
(Electron-capture supernovae)

slightly neutron rich,  $Y_e \sim 0.45-0.47$

moderately high entropy per baryon  
(50–100  $k_B$ )

- No production of heavy *r*-process elements ( $Z > 45$ ),  
not enough free neutrons  
available (!)



Thanks for your attention