



# Classical Novae and the Physics of Exploding Stars

Jordi José

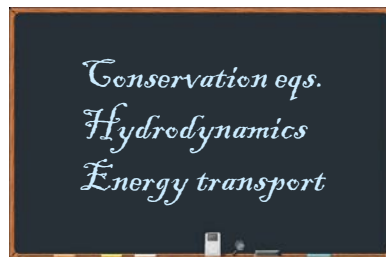
Dept. Física, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)  
& Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya (IEEC), Barcelona



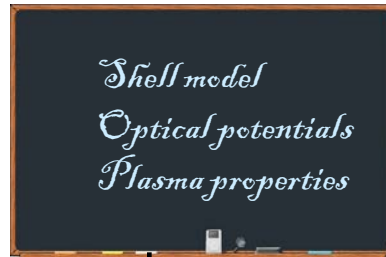
## Observational Astronomy



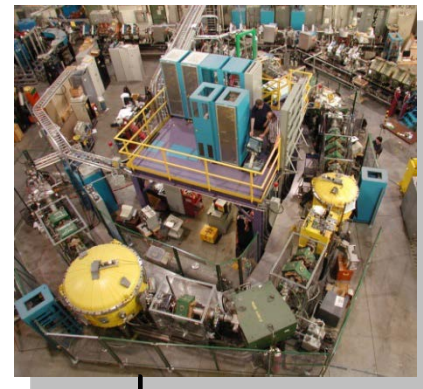
## Theoretical Astrophysics



## Nuclear & Atomic Theory



## Nuclear Experiments



~10 m

~1 – 10  $\mu\text{m}$

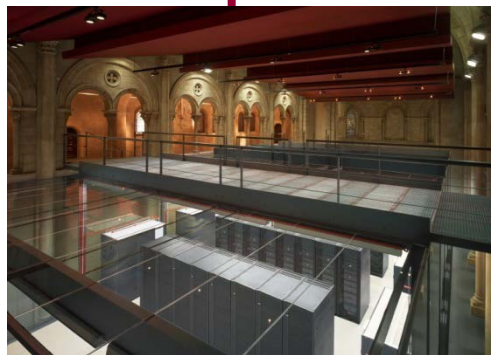
Reaction rates,  
EOS, opacities...

Astrophysical  
Models

Observables:  
light curves, spectra,  
abundances...



Cosmochemistry

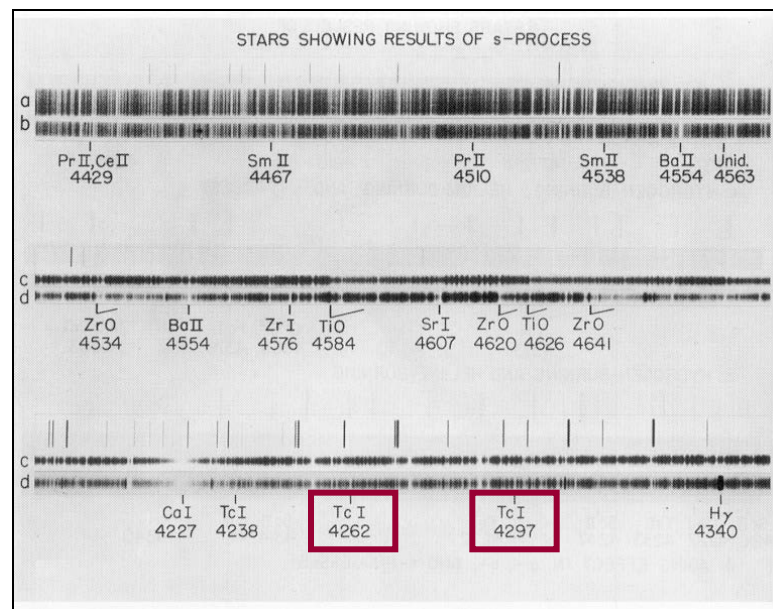


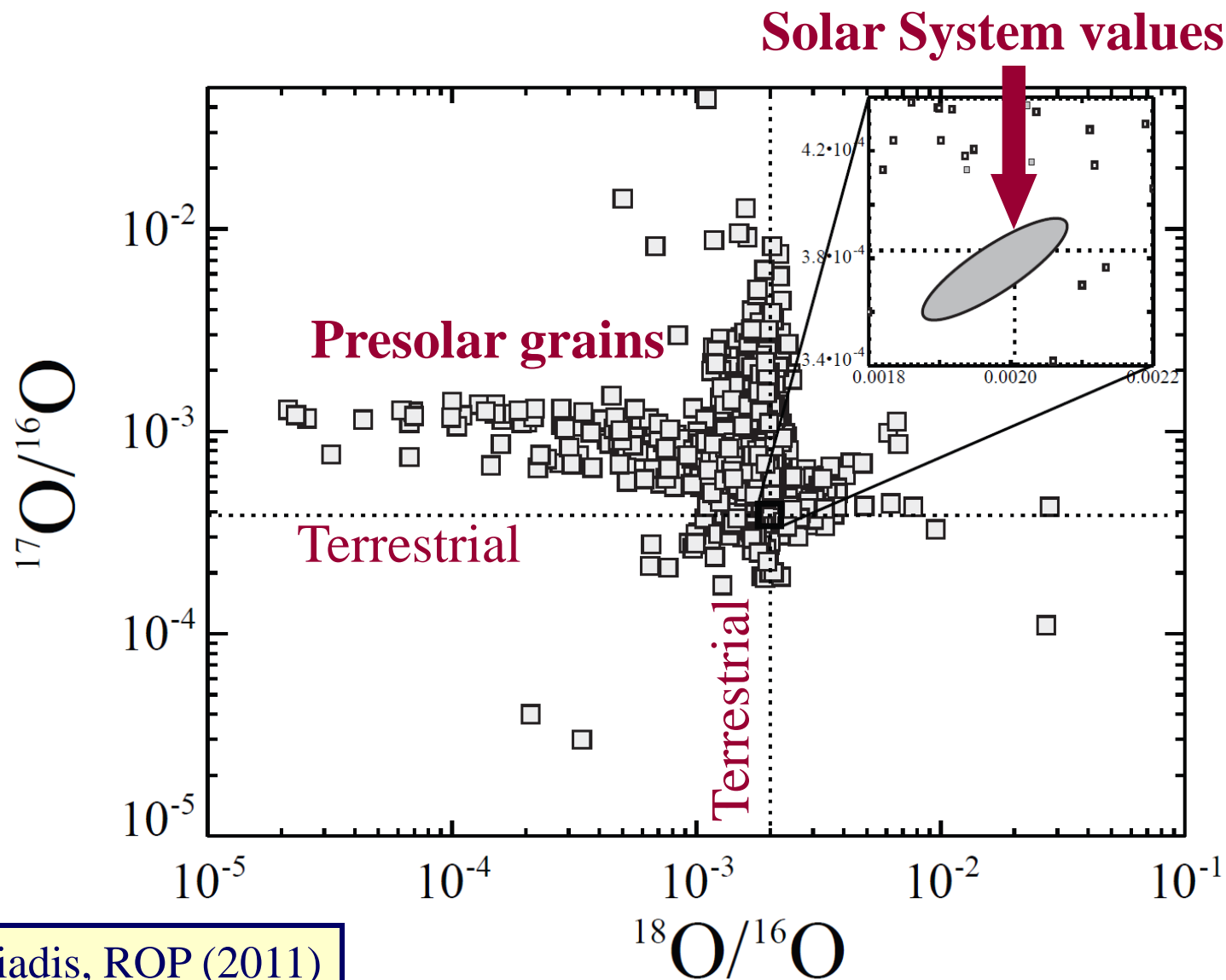
Spectroscopy, photometry

## I. Stars as Nuclear Factories

The idea that **elements** could be **synthesized in stellar environments** was developed in the mid 1940s by **F. Hoyle** (following early work on 1920/30s by Bethe, Gamow, von Weizsäcker, and others...)

**P.W. Merrill** detected *technecium* (1952) in several S stars  $\rightarrow$  Tc has no stable isotopes (longest lived:  $\tau \sim 4$  Myr): **Stellar nucleosynthesis**

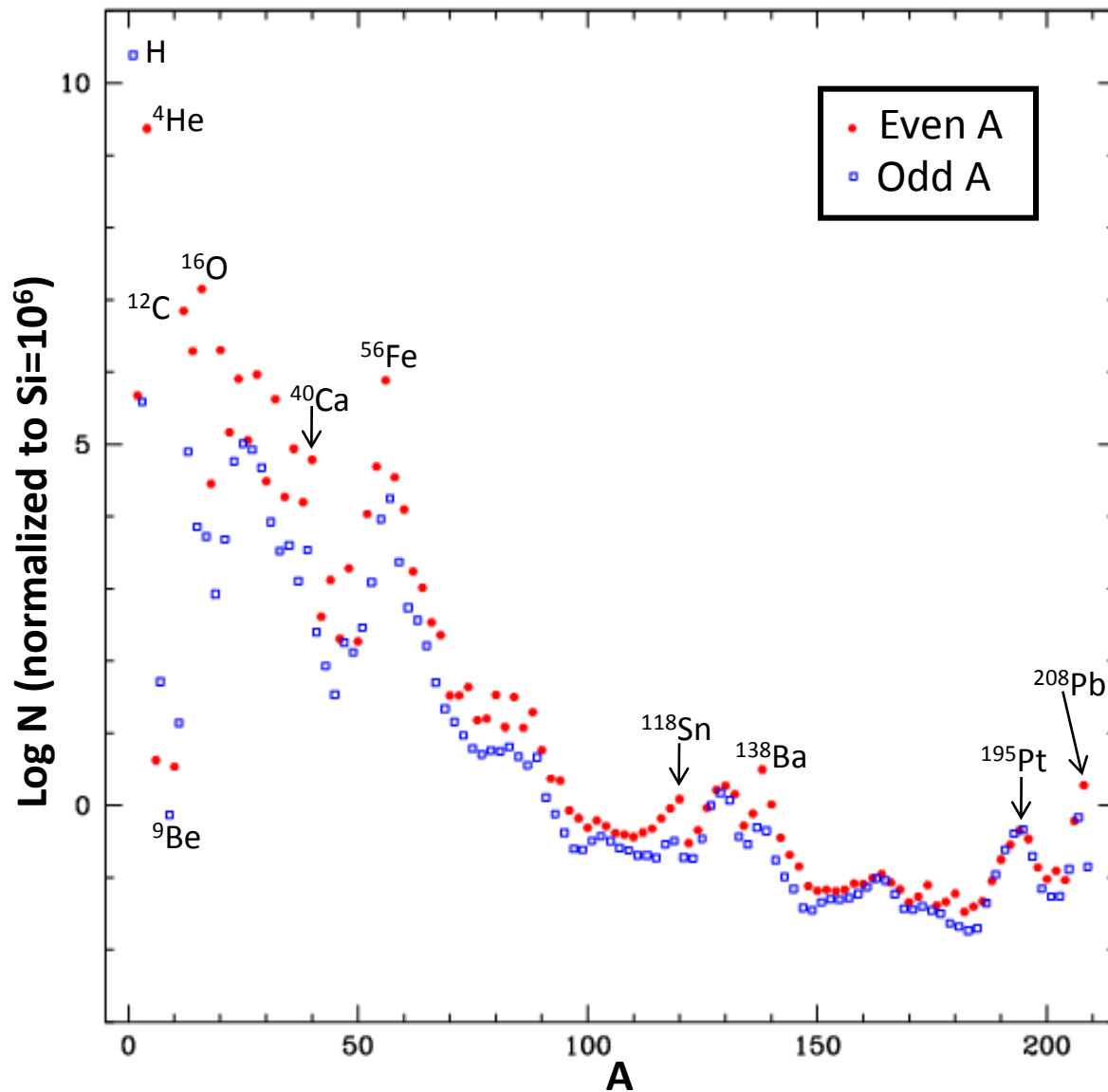




# The Physics of Exploding Stars

Stars as Nuclear Factories || Type Ia Supernovae || Classical Novae || X-Ray Bursts

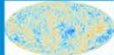





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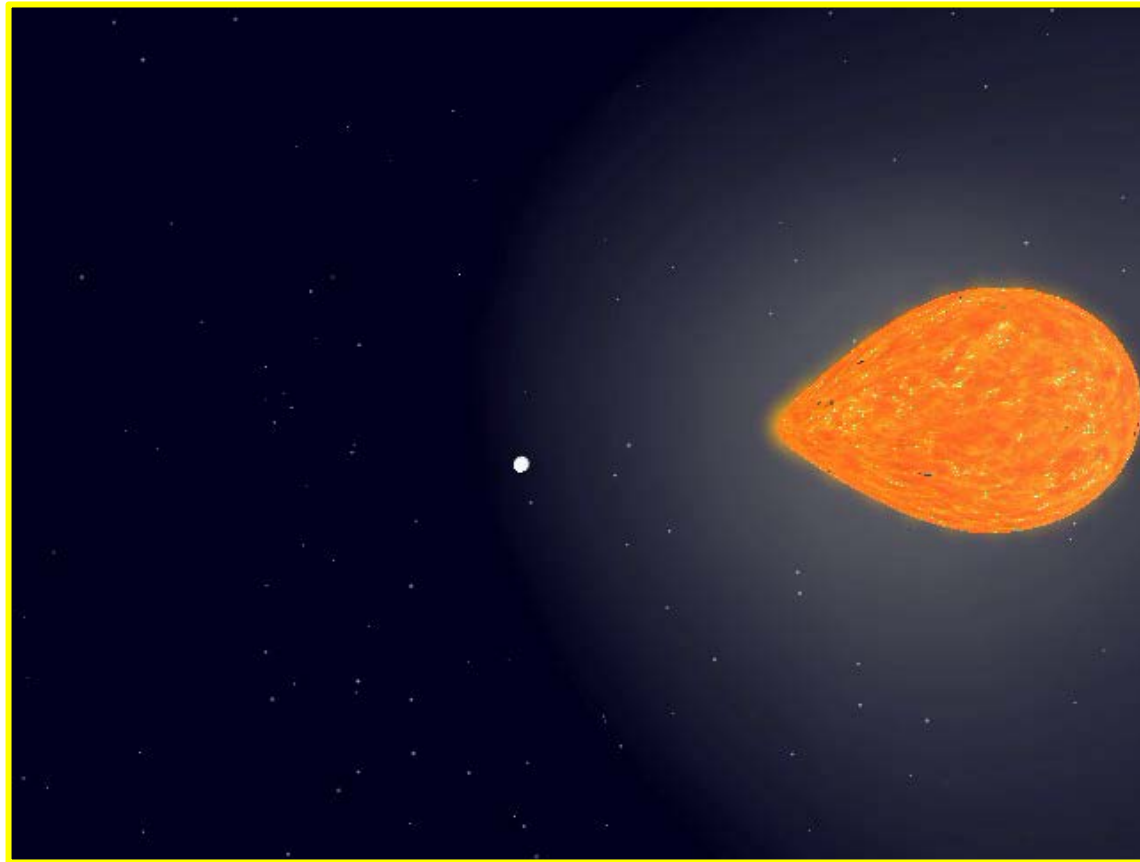


JJ & Iliadis (2011),  
ROP



# The Origin of the Solar System Elements

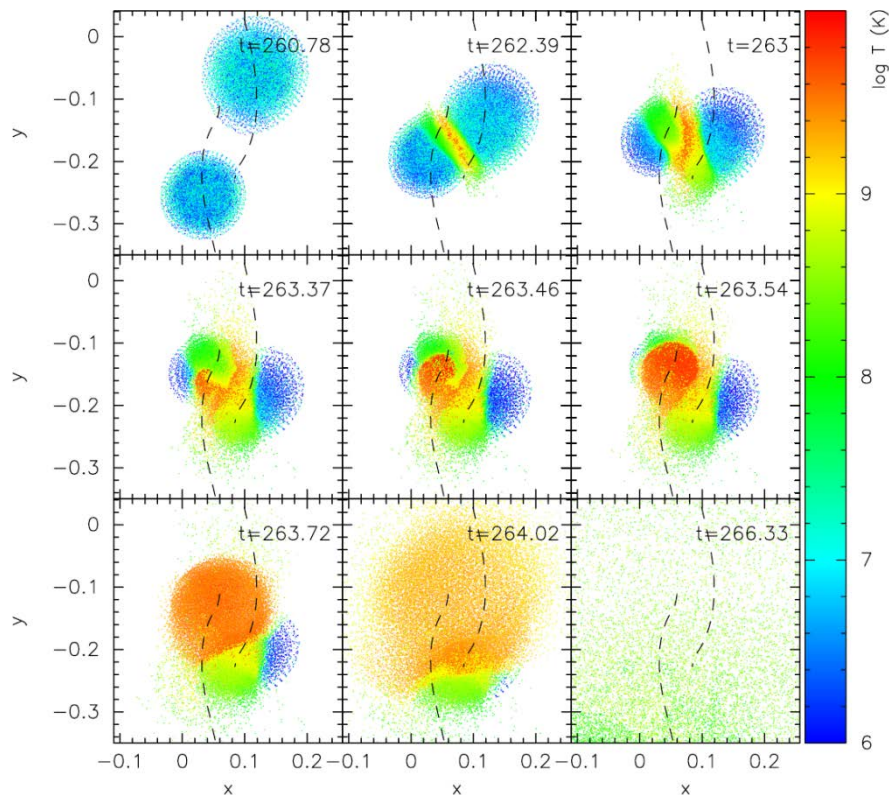
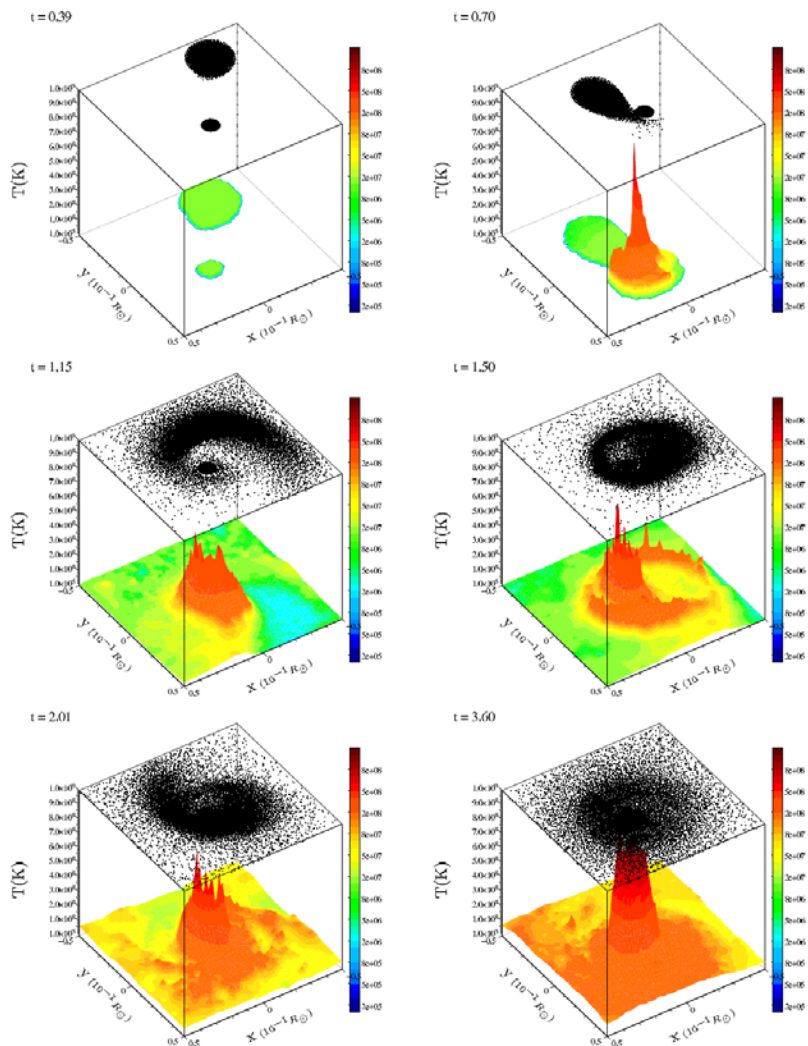
1 H		big bang fusion 						cosmic ray fission 						2 He																					
3 Li		4 Be		merging neutron stars 						exploding massive stars 						5 B		6 C		7 N		8 O		9 F		10 Ne									
11 Na		12 Mg		dying low mass stars 						exploding white dwarfs 						13 Al		14 Si		15 P		16 S		17 Cl		18 Ar									
19 K		20 Ca		21 Sc		22 Ti		23 V		24 Cr		25 Mn		26 Fe		27 Co		28 Ni		29 Cu		30 Zn		31 Ga		32 Ge		33 As		34 Se		35 Br		36 Kr	
37 Rb		38 Sr		39 Y		40 Zr		41 Nb		42 Mo		43 Tc		44 Ru		45 Rh		46 Pd		47 Ag		48 Cd		49 In		50 Sn		51 Sb		52 Te		53 I		54 Xe	
55 Cs		56 Ba				72 Hf		73 Ta		74 W		75 Re		76 Os		77 Ir		78 Pt		79 Au		80 Hg		81 Tl		82 Pb		83 Bi		84 Po		85 At		86 Rn	
87 Fr		88 Ra																																	
				57 La		58 Ce		59 Pr		60 Nd		61 Pm		62 Sm		63 Eu		64 Gd		65 Tb		66 Dy		67 Ho		68 Er		69 Tm		70 Yb		71 Lu			
				89 Ac		90 Th		91 Pa		92 U																									



**Type Ia (or thermonuclear) Supernovae [SN Ia]**  
**Classical Nova Outbursts [CN]** } **WD**

**X-Ray Bursts [XRBs]: NS**

## Stellar Mergers and Collisions



**Detonations in WD dynamic interactions**  
 Aznar-Siguán, García-Berro, Lorén-Aguilar, JJ &  
 Isern, MNRAS (2013)



## II. Type Ia Supernovae

## Thermonuclear (Type Ia) Supernovae

$v \sim 10^4$  km/s,  $L_{\text{Peak}} \sim 10^{10} L_{\odot}$ ,  $E \sim 10^{51}$  erg,  $M_{\text{ej}} = 1.4 M_{\odot}$

**no remnant left**

\* **homogeneity**: ~70% of all **SN Ia** have similar spectra, light curves and peak absolute magnitudes (Li et al. 2011): **diversity of SNIa progenitors??**

\* Scenario: not fully understood

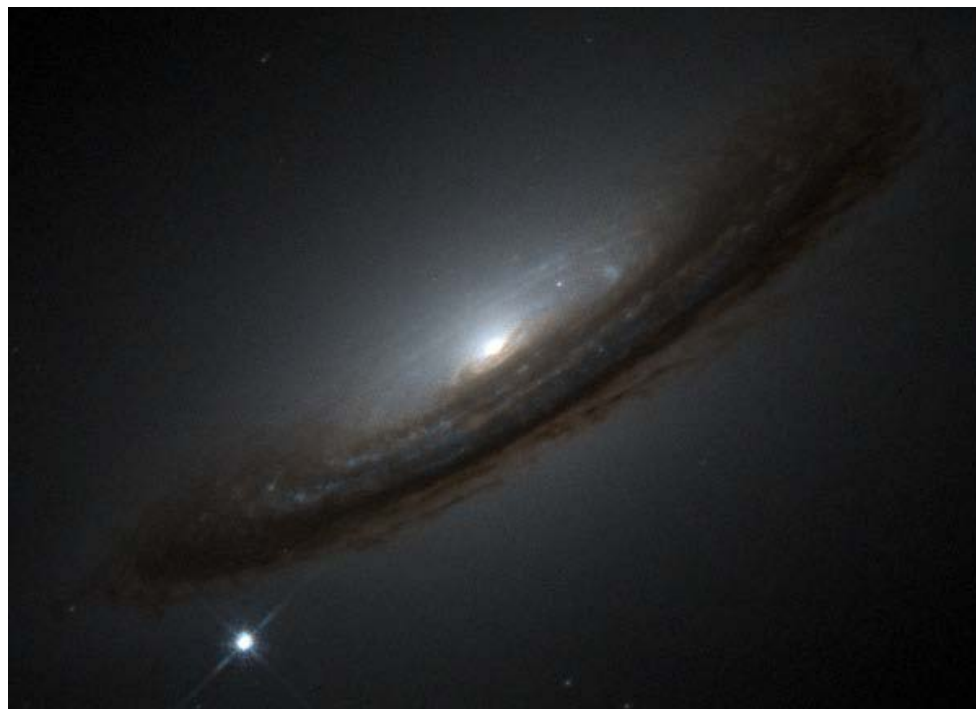
- Single degenerate scenario:

**WD + 'Normal' companion**

- Double degenerate scenario:

**WD + WD**

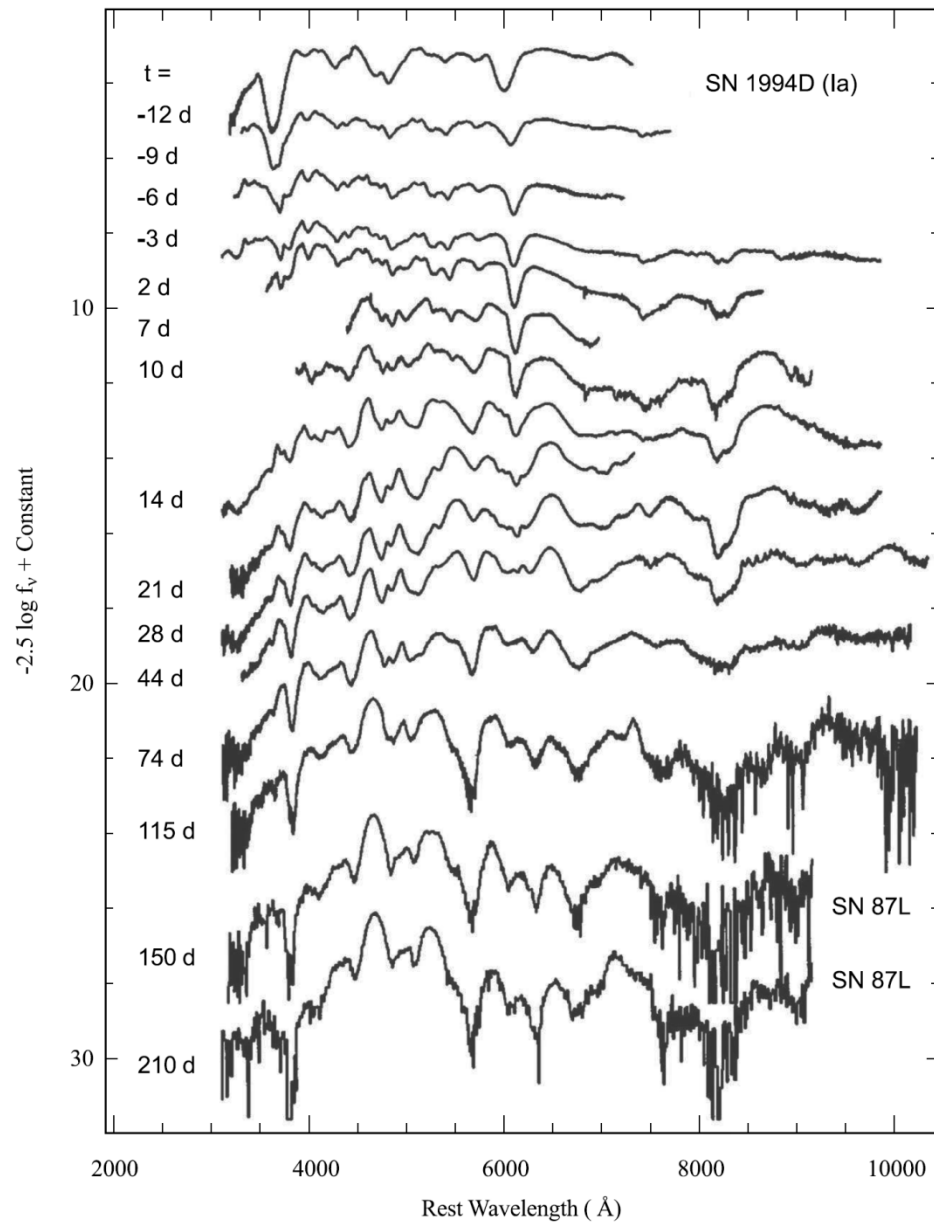
\* main **Fe factories**



# The Physics of Exploding Stars

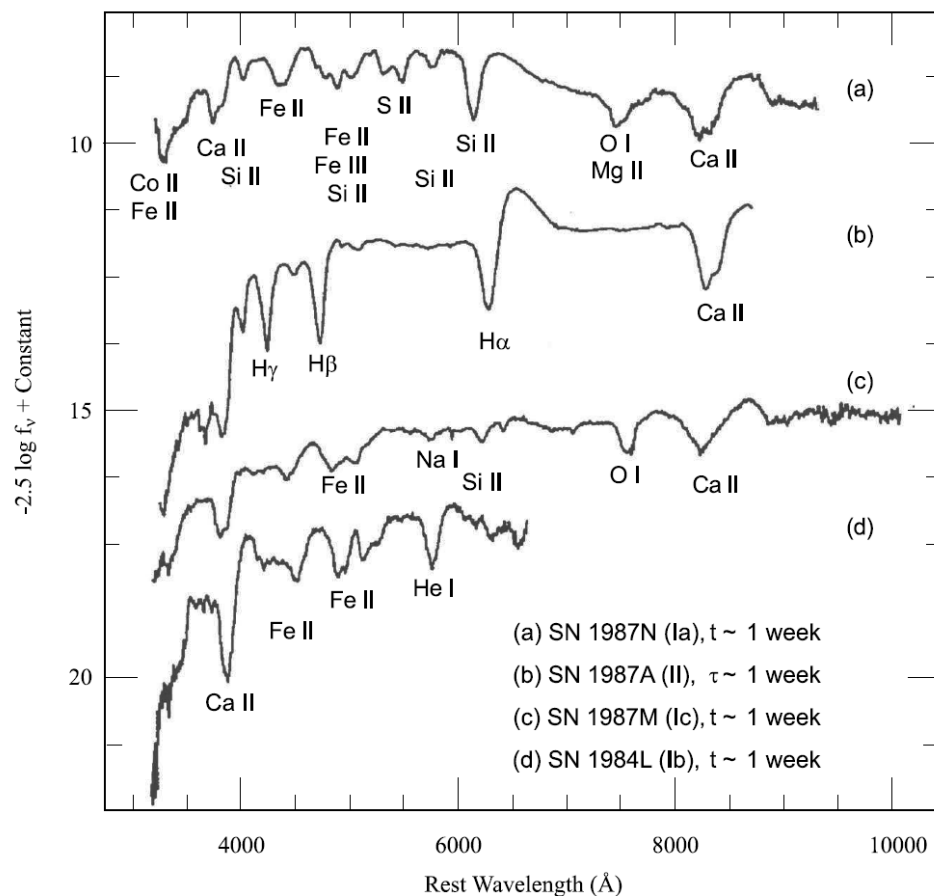
Stars as Nuclear Factories || Type Ia Supernovae || Classical Novae || X-Ray Bursts

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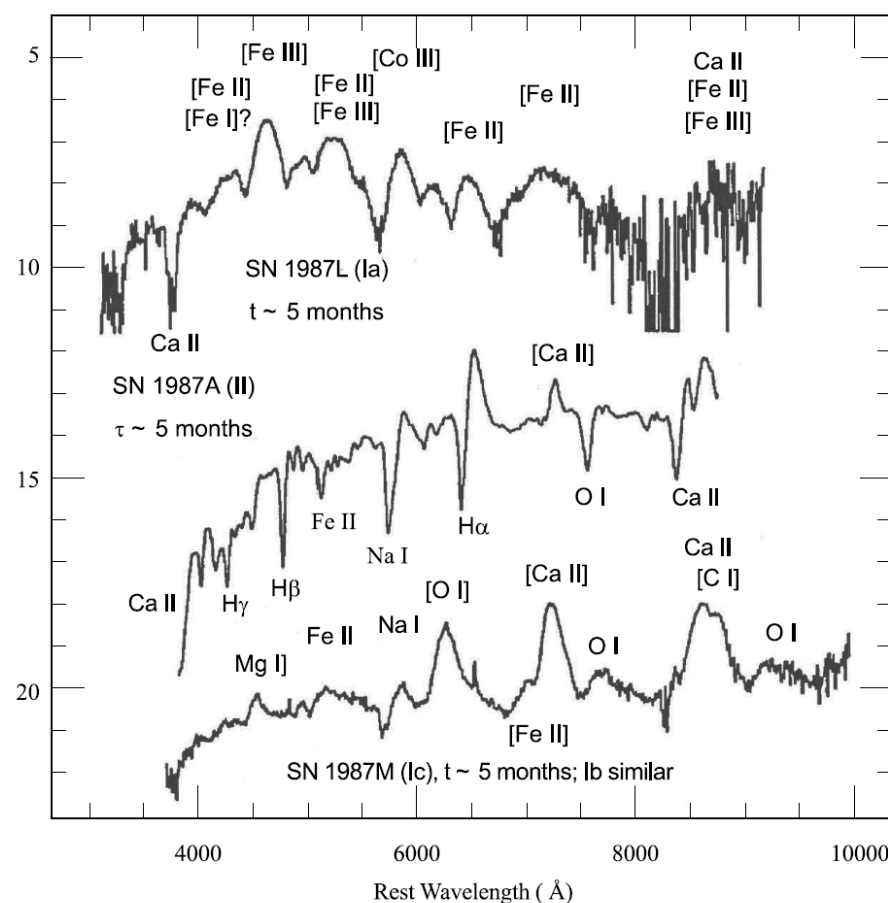


## Intermediate-mass elements



## Early spectra

## Fe-peak elements



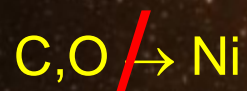
## Late spectra

## Thermonuclear Supernovae: Ignition mechanism

Central C-ignition in  
Chandrasekhar-mass WDs

$$M_{\text{CO}} \sim 1.4 M_{\odot}$$

Detonation: supersonic flame



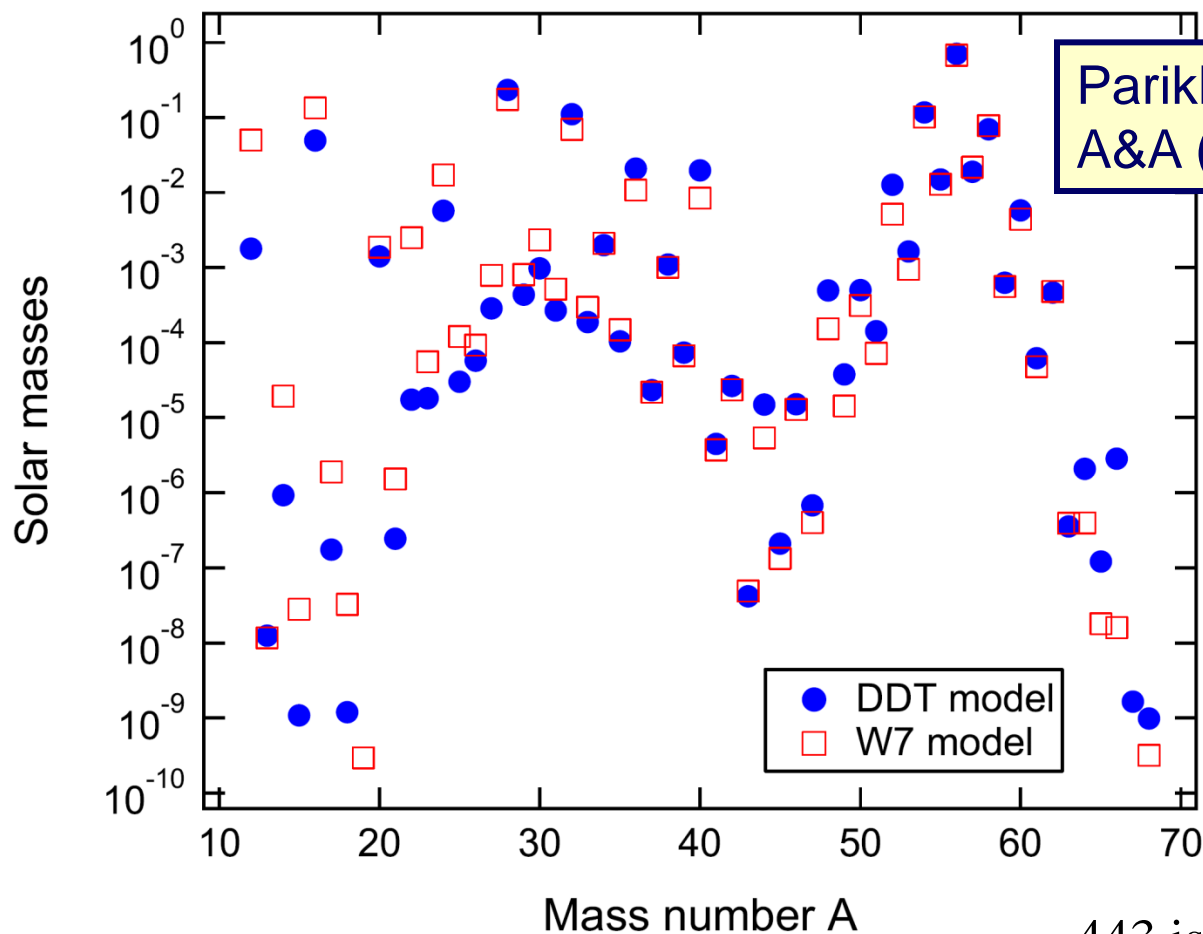
Deflagration: subsonic velocity

Deflagration  $\longleftrightarrow$  detonation:  
Delayed detonation



## Thermonuclear Supernovae: Nucleosynthesis

Supernovae are crucial for life... But never get too close!



Parikh, JJ, Seitenzahl & Röpke, A&A (2013)

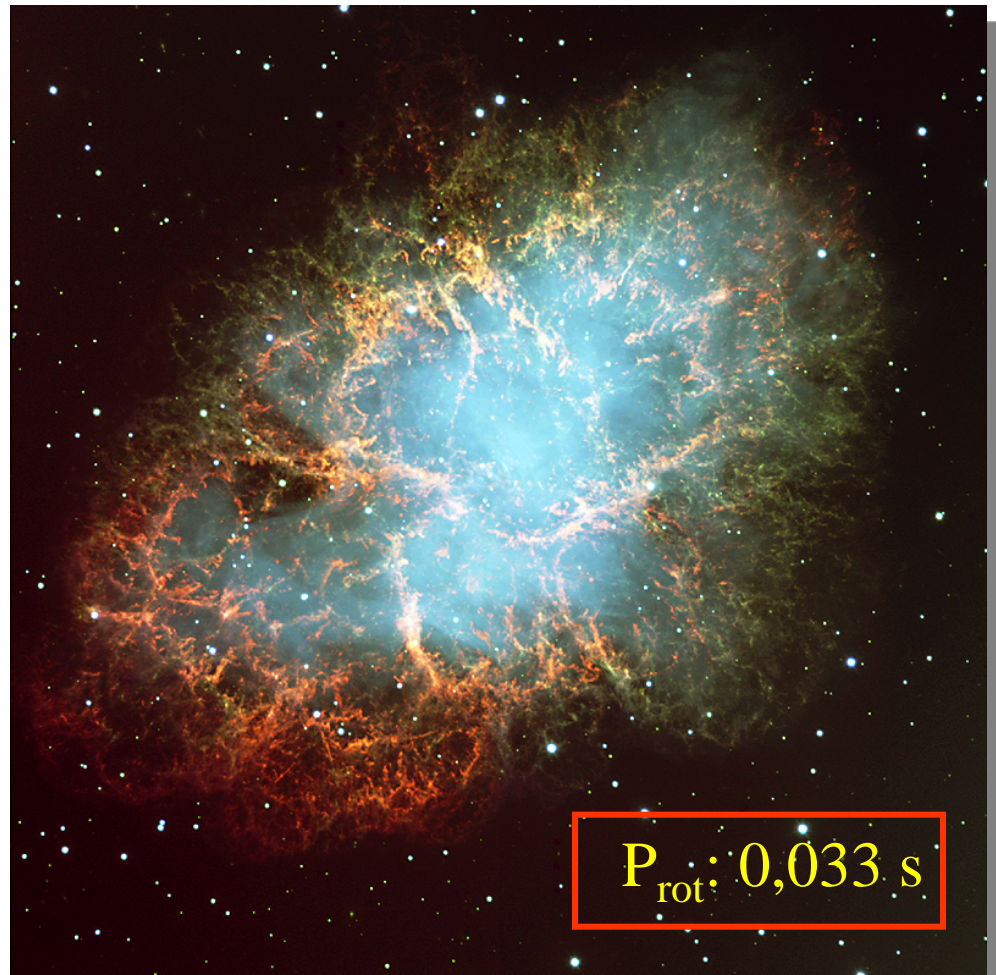
443 isotopes (H – Kr); 5267 links



## Historical Supernovae:

185 aC, 386, 393, 1006,  
1054, 1181, 1572, 1604

**Frequency:** ~1 supernova  
every ~30 years per Galaxy



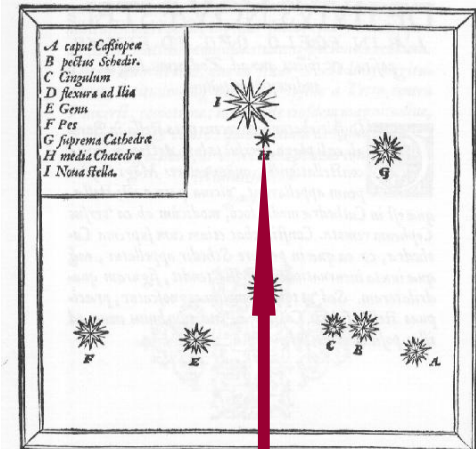
# The Physics of Exploding Stars

Stars as Nuclear Factories || Type Ia Supernovae || Classical Novae || X-Ray Bursts

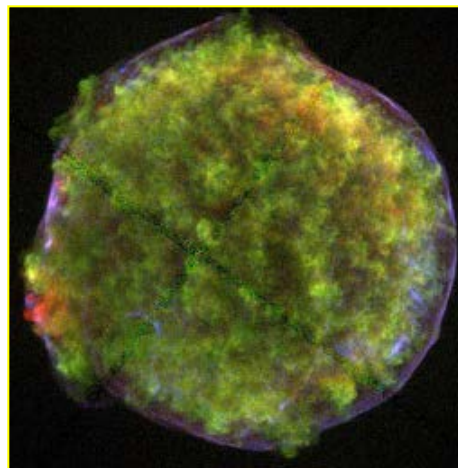
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"On the 11th day of November in the evening after sunset... I noticed that a **new and unusual star**, surpassing the other stars in brilliancy, was shining... and since I had, from boyhood, known all the stars of the heavens perfectly, it was quite evident to me that **there had never been any star in that place of the sky** [...] I was so astonished of this sight [...] a miracle indeed, one that has never been previously seen before our time, in any age since the beginning of the world."

SN 1572 (Tycho)



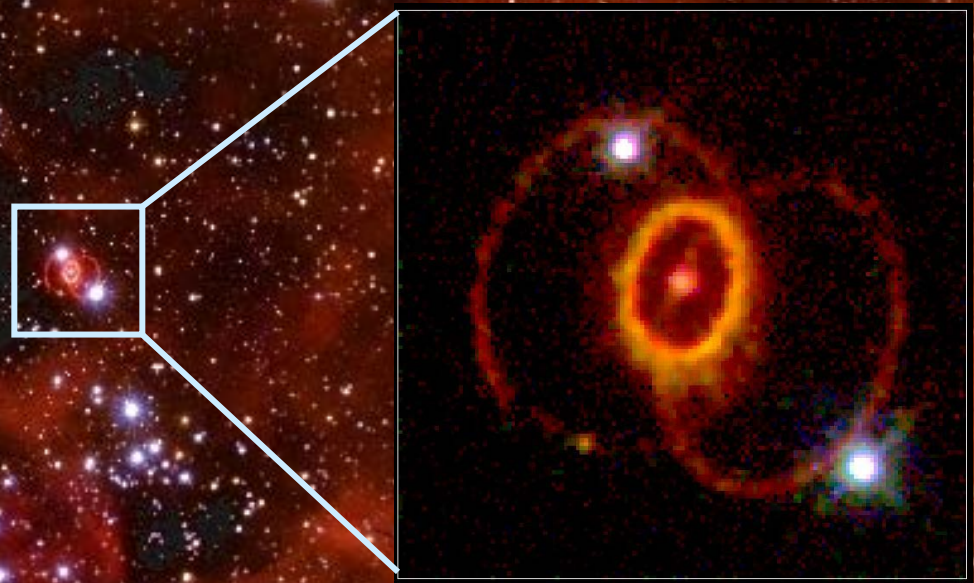
*Distantium vero huius stellae à fixis aliquibus in hac Cassiopeiae constellatione, exquisito instrumento, et omnium minorum capacitate aliquoties observavi. Inveni autem eam distare ab eadem quae est in pectore, Schedir appellata B, 7. partibus et 55. minutis: à superiori vero*



A "new star"  
(*nova stella*)  
**Nov. 11, 1572**  
**Tycho Brahe**



## **SN 1987A: the closest supernova observed since the discovery of the telescope**

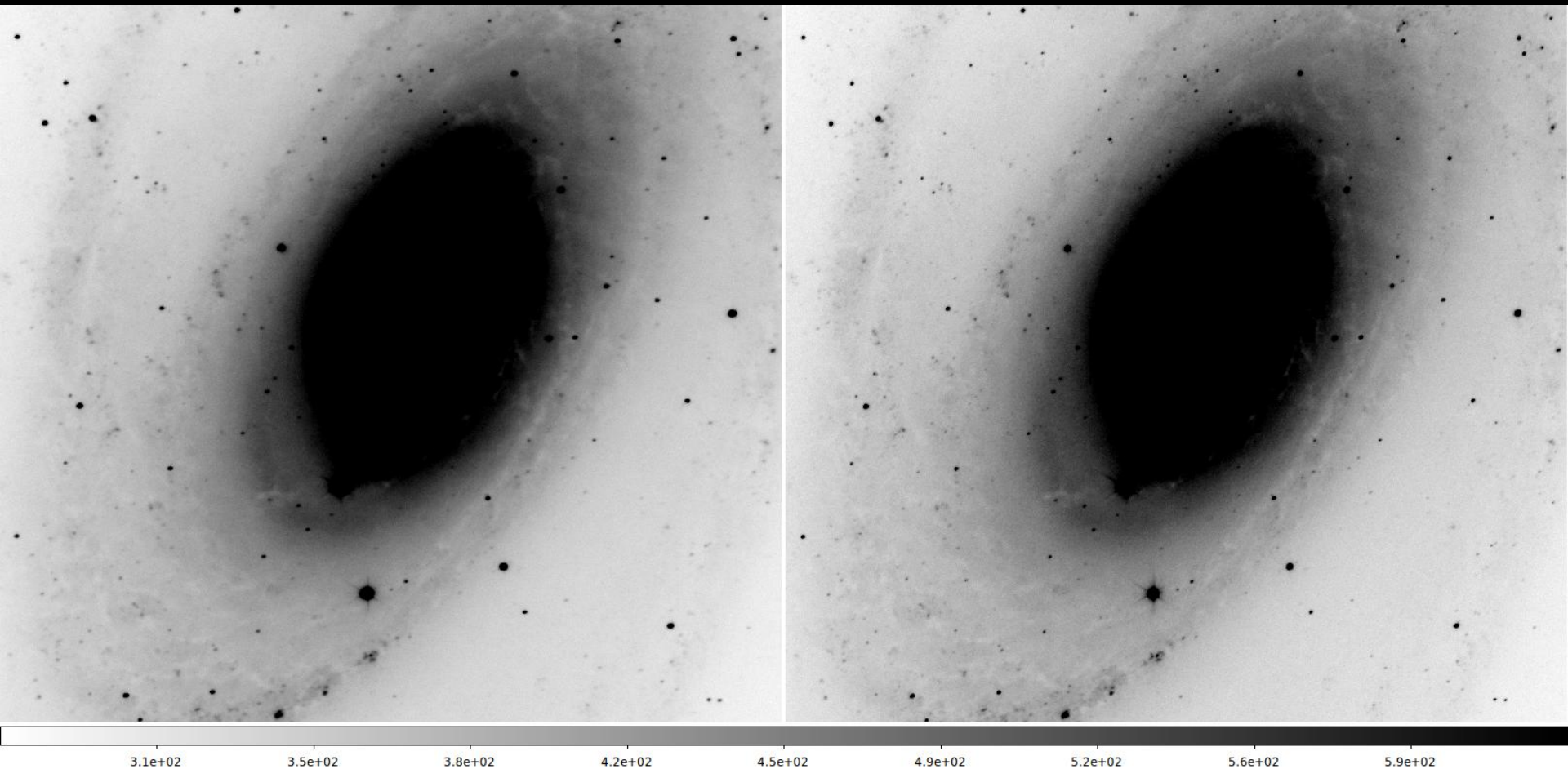




## III. Classical Novae



Nova Cygni 1975



M81 Galaxy, observed with the 80 cm Joan Oró robotic telescope, Montsec Observatory (near Barcelona)  
April 2016





TJO. 2016-03-10



TJO. 2016-03-29 UT 21:43:41

SPOILER Alert!!

3.2e+02

3.6e+02

3.9e+02

4.2e+02

4.5e+02

4.8e+02

5.1e+02

5.4e+02

5.7e+02

M81 Galaxy

Novae have been observed in all wavelengths (but **detected** in  $\gamma$ -rays only at  $E > 100 \text{ MeV}$ )

## The Classical Nova ID Card

Moderate **rise times** ( $< 1 - 2$  days):

8 – 18 magnitude increase in brightness

$L_{\text{Peak}} \sim 10^4 - 10^5 L_{\odot}$

**Stellar binary systems:** WD + MS  
(often, K-M dwarfs)

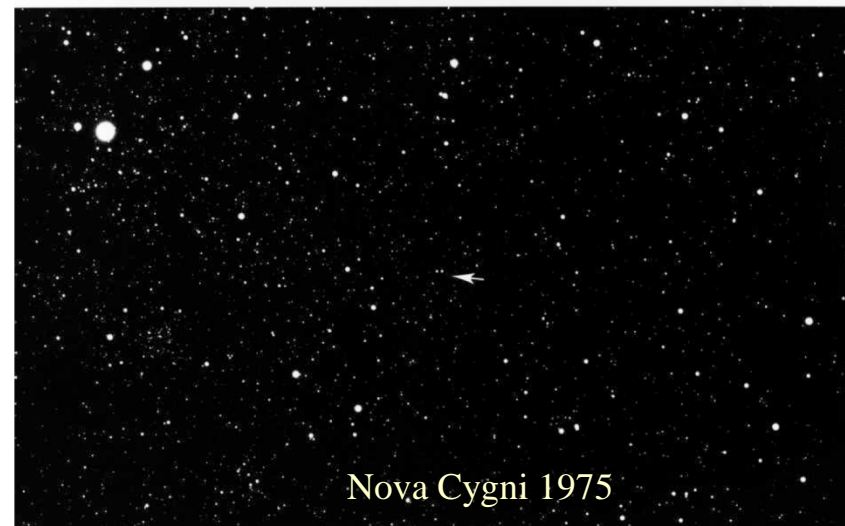
**Recurrence time:**  $\sim 1 - 10 \text{ yr}$  (RNe) –  
 $10^5 \text{ yr}$  (CNe)

**Frequency:**  $30 \pm 10 \text{ yr}^{-1}$

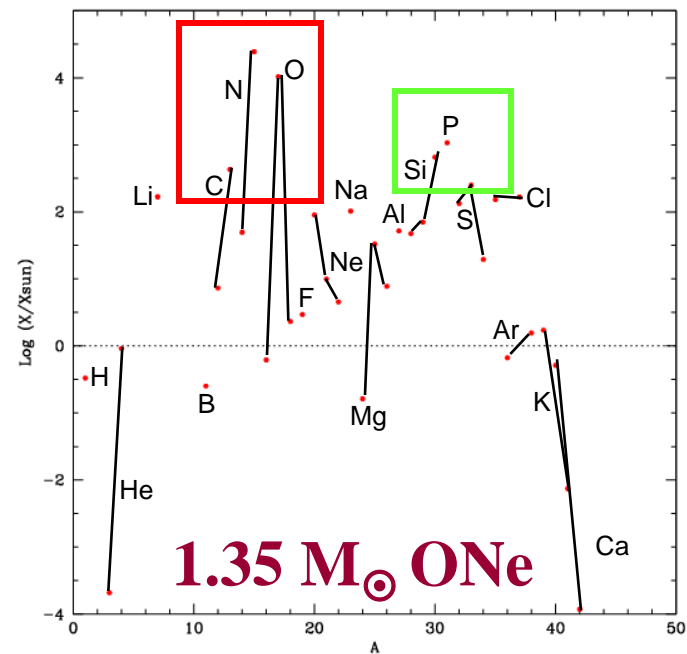
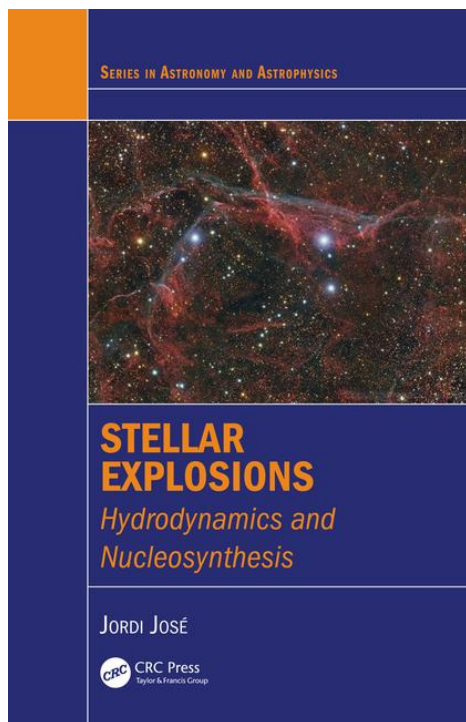
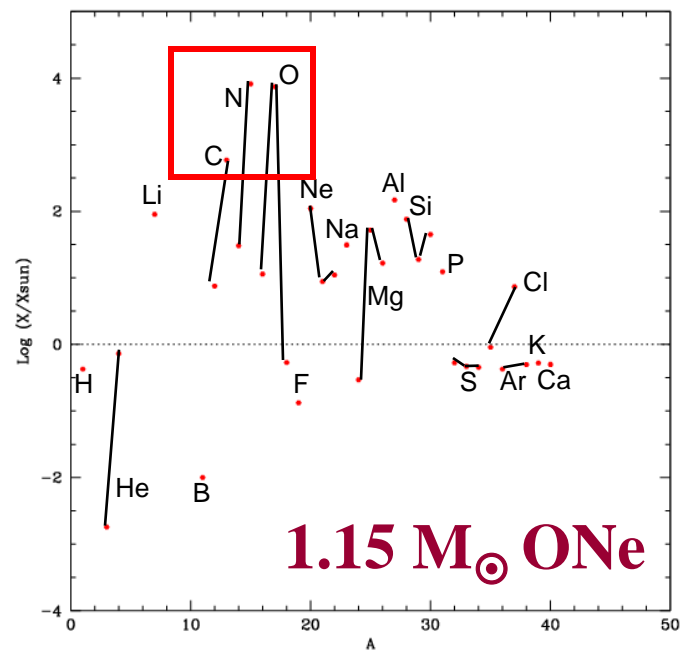
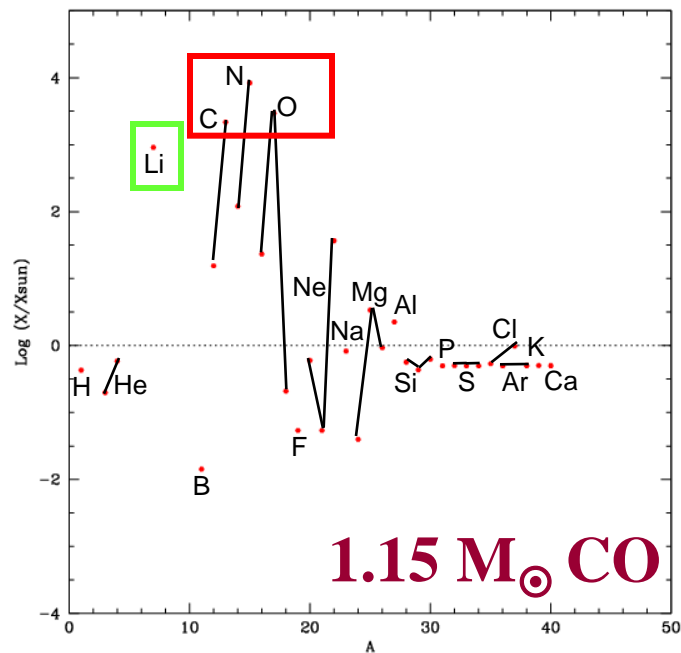
Observed frequency:  $\sim 10 \text{ yr}^{-1}$

$E \sim 10^{45} \text{ ergs}$

**Mass ejected:**  $10^{-3} - 10^{-7} M_{\odot}$   
( $\sim 10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ )



Nova Cygni 1975

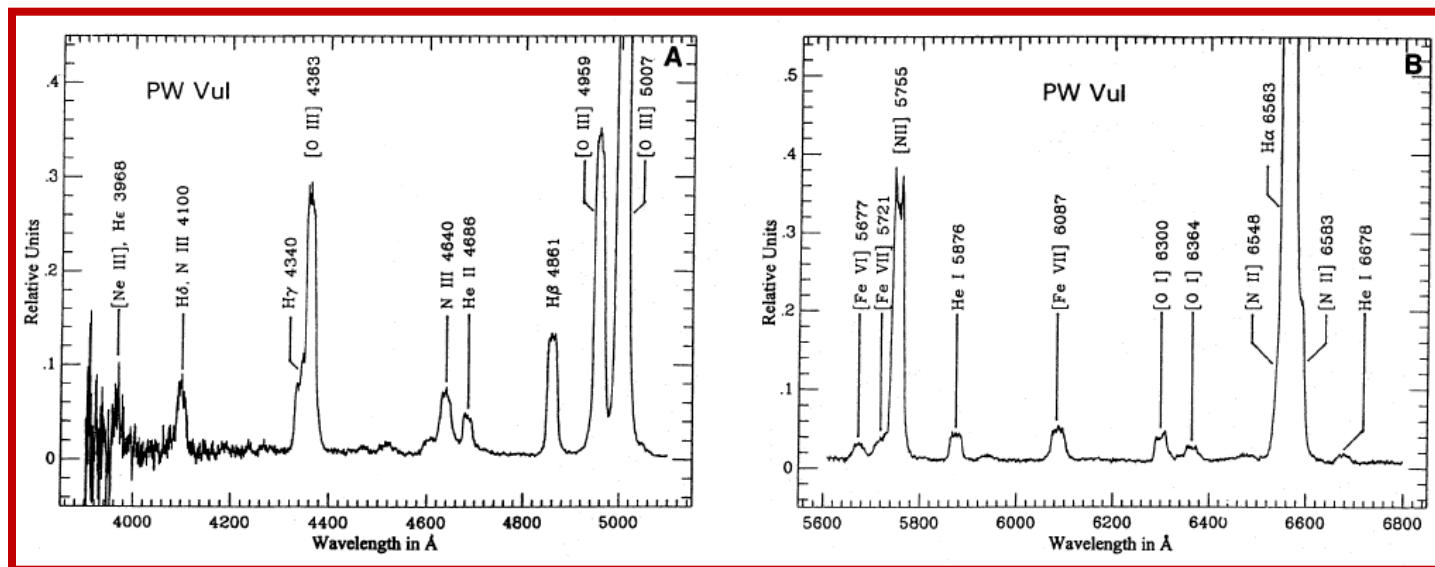




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Andr a et al.  
(1994)

## PW Vul 1984

	H	He	C	N	O	Ne	Na-Fe	<b>Z</b>
<b>Observation</b>	0.47	0.23	0.073	0.14	0.083	0.0040	0.0048	0.30
<b>Theory</b>	0.47	0.25	0.073	0.094	0.10	0.0036	0.0037	0.28

(JJ & Hernanz 1998)

## Presolar Grains and Dust

Evidence for **dust formation** (IR)  
accompanying nova outbursts



Gehrz et al. (1998)

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 203:490–496, 1976 January 15

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### GRAINS OF ANOMALOUS ISOTOPIC COMPOSITION FROM NOVAE

DONALD D. CLAYTON AND FRED HOYLE\*

Department of Space Physics and Astronomy, Rice University

Received 1975 April 28; revised 1975 June 26

Isotopic peculiarities:  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^{22}\text{Na}$ ,  $^{26}\text{Al}$ ,  $^{30}\text{Si}$

Nova	Year	$V_{\infty}$ (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	Types of Dust Formed <sup>b</sup>
FH Ser .....	1970	560	C
V1229 Aql .....	1970	575	C
V1301 Aql .....	1975	...	C
V1500 Cyg <sup>a</sup> .....	1975	1180	...
NQ Vul .....	1976	750	C
V4021 Sgr .....	1977	...	C
LW Ser .....	1978	1250	C
V1668 Cyg .....	1978	1300	C
V1370 Aql <sup>d</sup> .....	1982	2800	C; SiC; SiO <sub>2</sub>
GQ Mus .....	1983	600	No dust
PW Vul .....	1984 #1	285	C
QU Vul <sup>a</sup> .....	1984 #2	1–5000	SiO <sub>2</sub>
OS And <sup>b*</sup> .....	1986	900	C?
V1819 Cyg <sup>a</sup> .....	1986	1000	No dust
V842 Cen .....	1986	1200	C; SiC; HC
V827 Her <sup>a</sup> .....	1987	1000	C
V4135 Sgr .....	1987	500	...
QV Vul .....	1987	700	C; SiO <sub>2</sub> ; HC; SiC
LMC 1988 #1 .....	1988 #1	800	C?
LMC 1988 #2 .....	1988 #2	1500	...
V2214 Oph .....	1988	500	...
V838 Her .....	1991	3500	C
V1974 Cyg <sup>a</sup> .....	1992	2250	No dust
V705 Cas .....	1993	840	C; HC; SiO <sub>2</sub>
Aql 1995 <sup>a</sup> .....	1995	1510	C

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J. José

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 551:1065–1072, 2001 April 20  
© 2001. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

## PRESOLAR GRAINS FROM NOVAE

SACHIKO AMARI, XIA GAO,<sup>1</sup> LARRY R. NITTLER,<sup>2</sup> AND ERNST ZINNER  
Laboratory for Space Sciences and the Physics Department, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899;  
sa@howdy.wustl.edu, ekz@howdy.wustl.edu

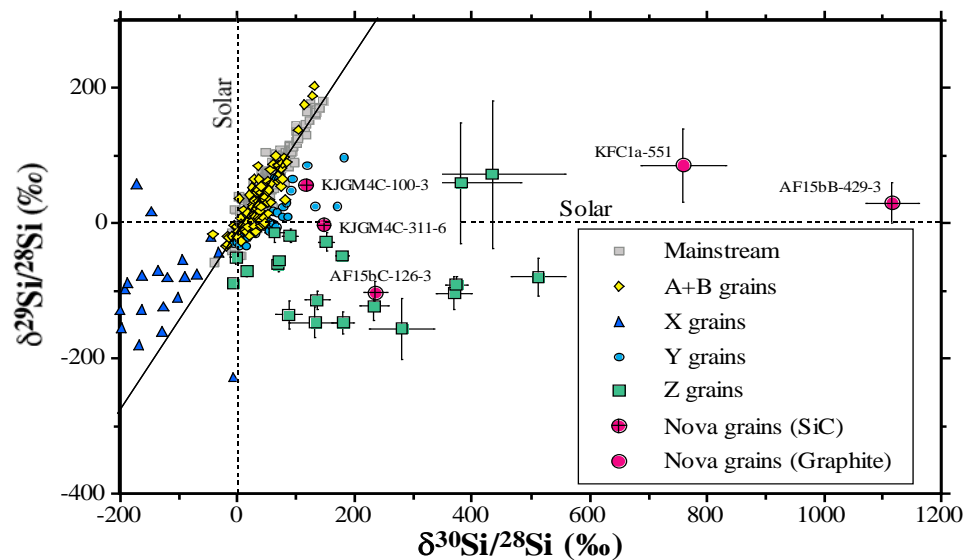
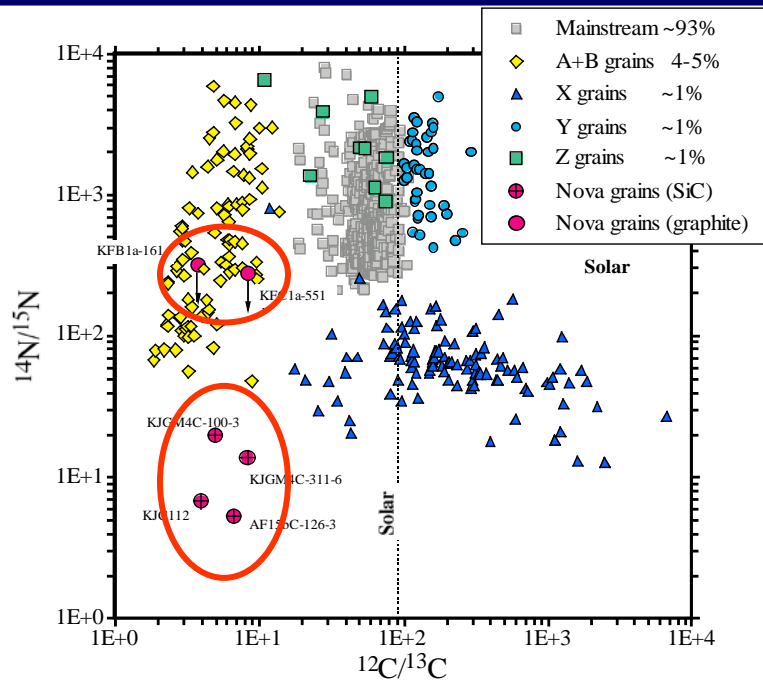
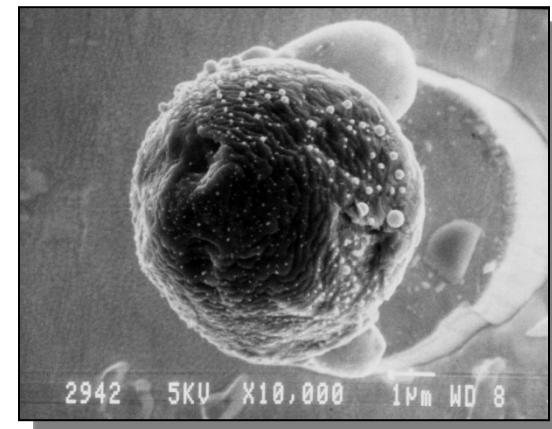
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Received 2000 September 15; accepted 2000 December 18

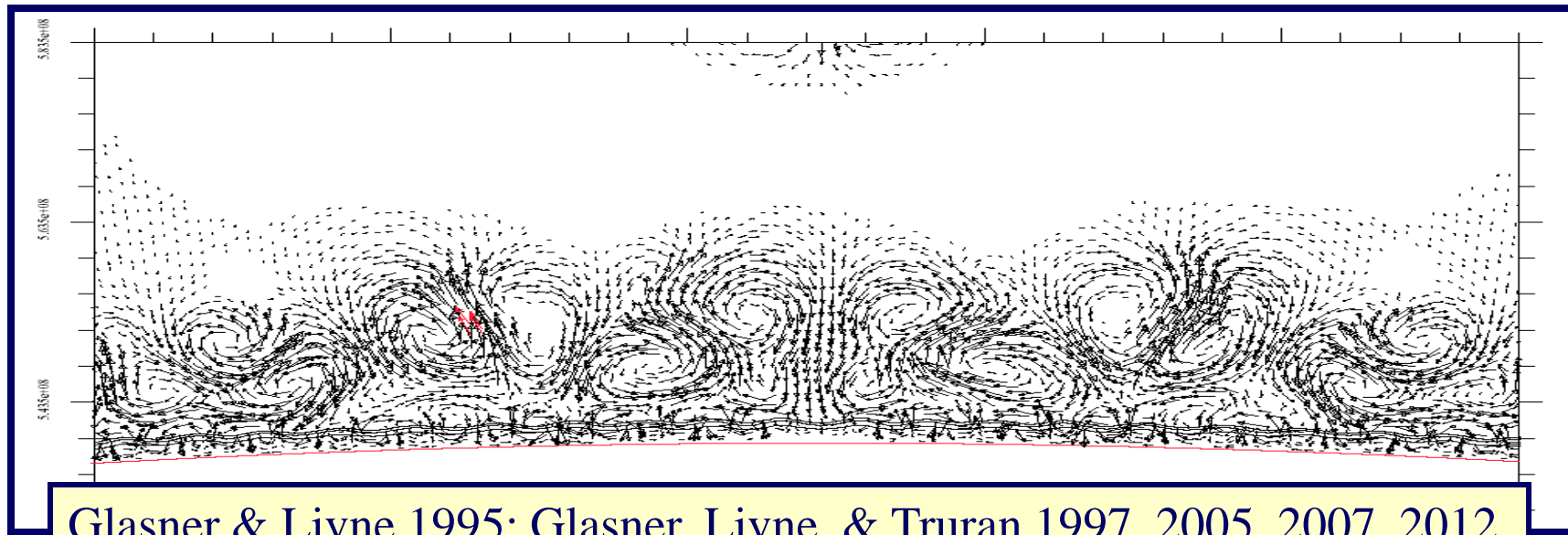
## Presolar Grains





## Current Challenges for Classical Novae

- The amount of **mass ejected** predicted by 1-D models is smaller than values *\*inferred\** observationally
- The **mixing** mechanism at work at the core-envelope interface during nova outbursts is not fully understood



Glasner & Livne 1995; Glasner, Livne, & Truran 1997, 2005, 2007, 2012

The build-up of **convective eddies** at the envelope's base (2-D) causes **shear flow** at the core/envelope interface [**Kelvin-Helmholtz instability**]: pure “solar-like” accreted material can be **enriched** at the late stages of the TNR by some sort of **convective overshoot** (Woosley 1986), leading to a powerful nova event!



**Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities**





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Casanova, JJ, García-Berro, Shore & Calder, Nature, 2011



**MareNostrum II** (BSC, 2006), 94.21 Tflops/s, 10,240 processors



**MareNostrum III** (BSC, Jan. 2013), >1 Petaflop/s, 48,000 processors  
[6,000 Intel SandyBridge chips (2,6 GHz), each with 8 cores]



## IV. Type I X-Ray Bursts



## The (Type I) X-Ray Burst ID Card

Prominent emitters in **X-rays** [discovered in the 1970s; Babushkina et al., Grindlay et al., Belian, Conner & Evans]

Very fast **rise times** (1 – 10 s),  $L_{\text{peak}} \sim 10^4 - 10^5 L_{\odot}$

$\alpha = L_{\text{persistent}}/L_{\text{burst}} \sim 100$

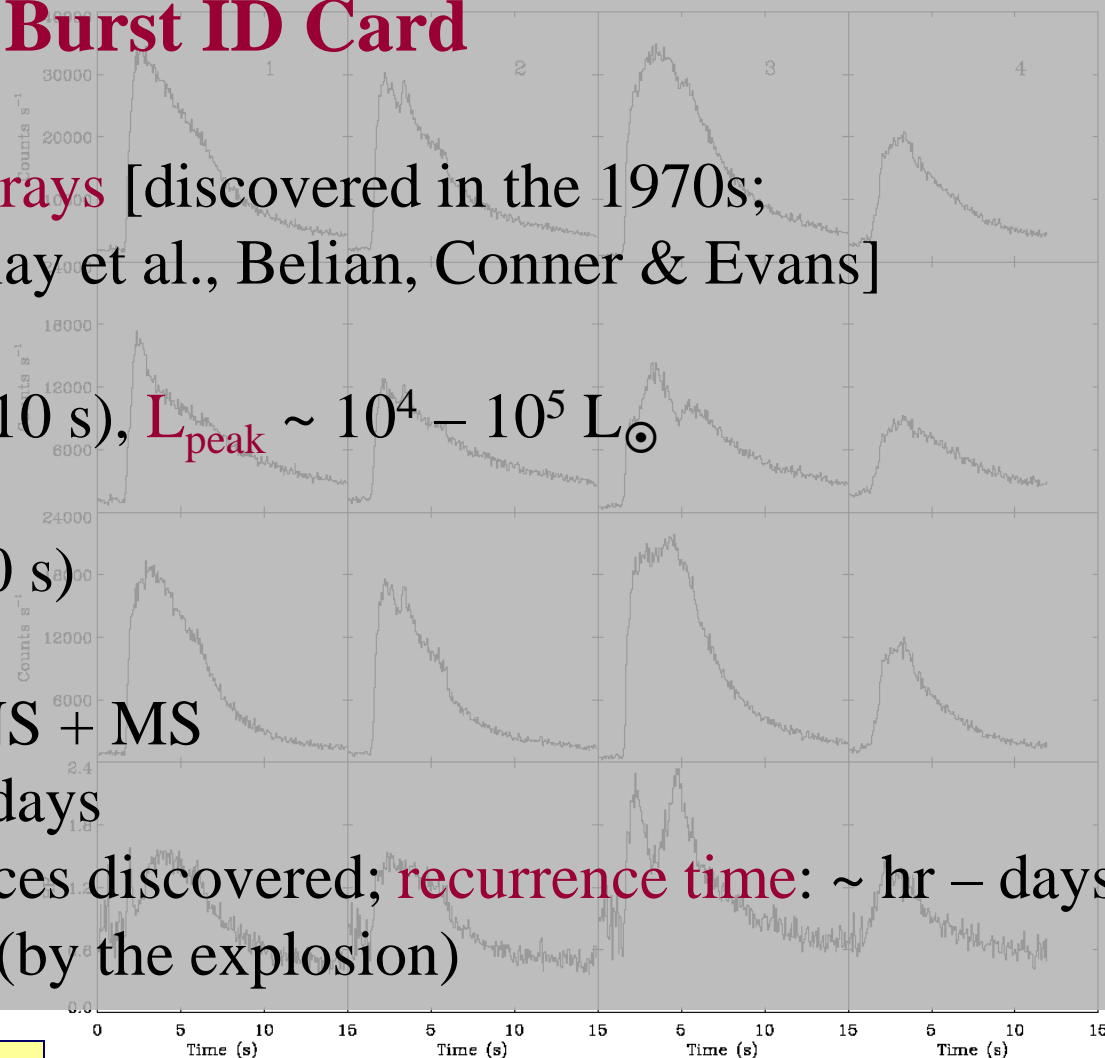
$E \sim 10^{39}$  ergs (in 10 - 100 s)

**Stellar binary systems:** NS + MS

**Recurrence time:**  $\sim$  hr – days

About 100 Galactic sources discovered; **recurrence time:**  $\sim$  hr – days

**Mass ejected?** Unlikely (by the explosion)



Strohmeyer & Bildsten (2002)  
4U 1728 –34, RXTE

## Nucleosynthesis in Type I X-Ray Bursts



Santa Fe, NM

$$\text{NS} \longrightarrow T_{\text{peak}} > 10^9 \text{ K}, \rho_{\text{max}} \sim 10^6 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$$

Detailed nucleosynthesis studies require **hundreds of isotopes**, up to **SnSbTe** mass region (**Schatz et al. 2001**) or beyond (the flow in **Koike et al. 2004** reaches  $^{126}\text{Xe}$ ), and **thousands** of nuclear interactions

Main nuclear reaction flow driven by the *rp-process* (rapid p-captures and  $\beta^+$ -decays), the *3 $\alpha$ -reaction*, and the  *$\alpha$ p-process* (a sequence of ( $\alpha$ ,p) and (p, $\gamma$ ) reactions), and proceeds away from the valley of stability, merging with the proton drip-line beyond **A = 38** (**Schatz et al. 1999**)

## Degeneracy

At the very early stages of accretion, the envelope in both CNe and XRBs is mildly degenerate  $\rightarrow$  A small T increase is enough **to lift degeneracy** ( $\sim 10\%$   $T_{\text{peak}}$ )

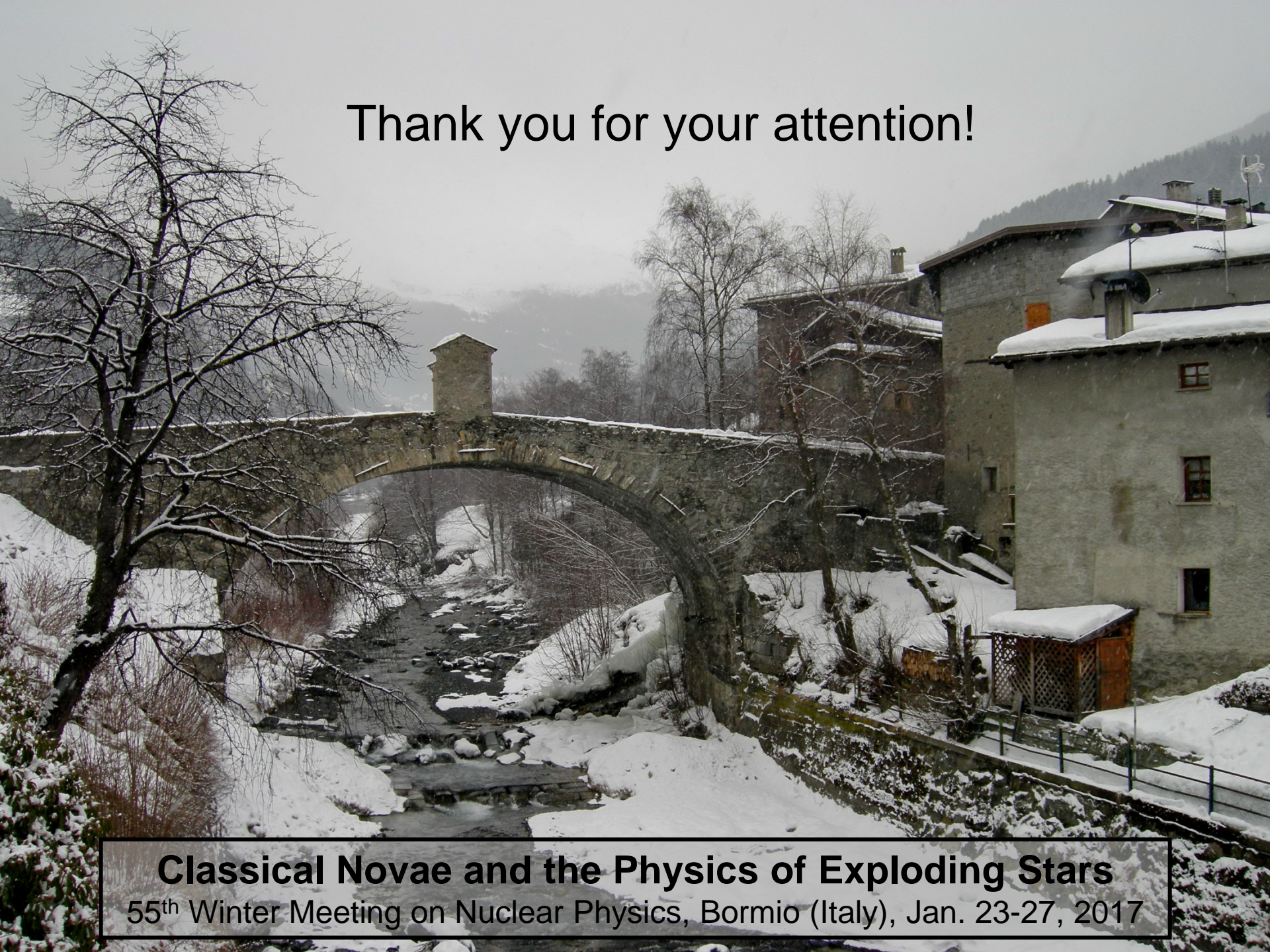
$$\text{NS} \rightarrow M_{\text{NS}} \sim 1.4 M_{\odot}, R_{\text{NS}} \sim 10 \text{ km} \rightarrow v_{\text{esc}} = \sqrt{2G M_{\text{NS}}/R_{\text{NS}}} \sim \mathbf{190,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}$$

$$\text{WD} \rightarrow M_{\text{WD}} \sim 1 M_{\odot}, R_{\text{WD}} \sim 6000 \text{ km} \rightarrow v_{\text{esc}} \sim \mathbf{7000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}$$

**➡ CNe are halted by expansion** while **XRBs are halted by fuel consumption** (due to efficient CNO–breakout reactions)



Thank you for your attention!



**Classical Novae and the Physics of Exploding Stars**  
55<sup>th</sup> Winter Meeting on Nuclear Physics, Bormio (Italy), Jan. 23-27, 2017