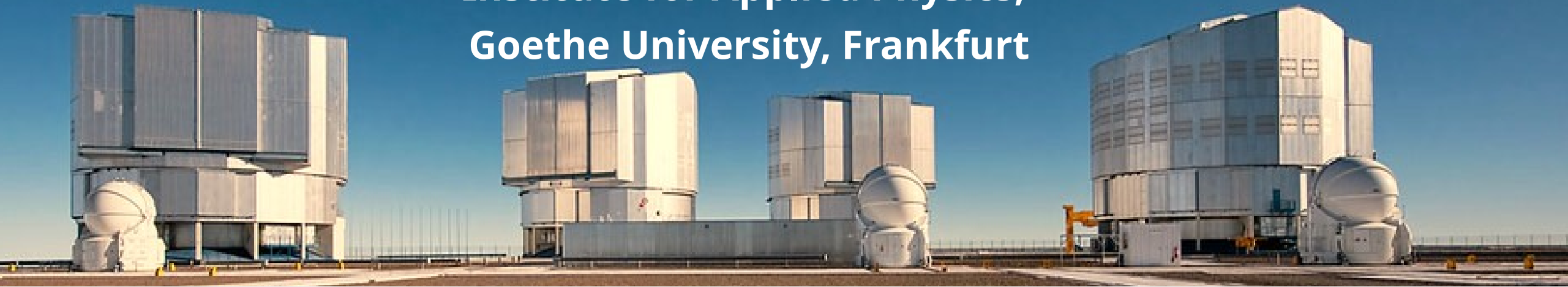


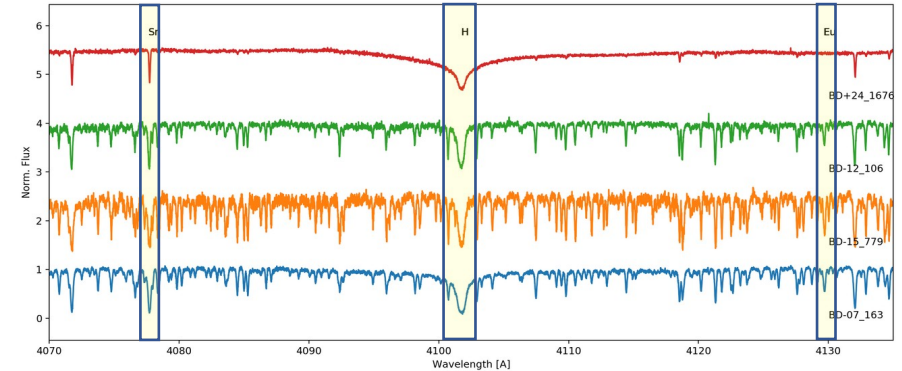
From stellar observations to nuclear reactions

Camilla Juul Hansen
Institute for Applied Physics,
Goethe University, Frankfurt



Outline

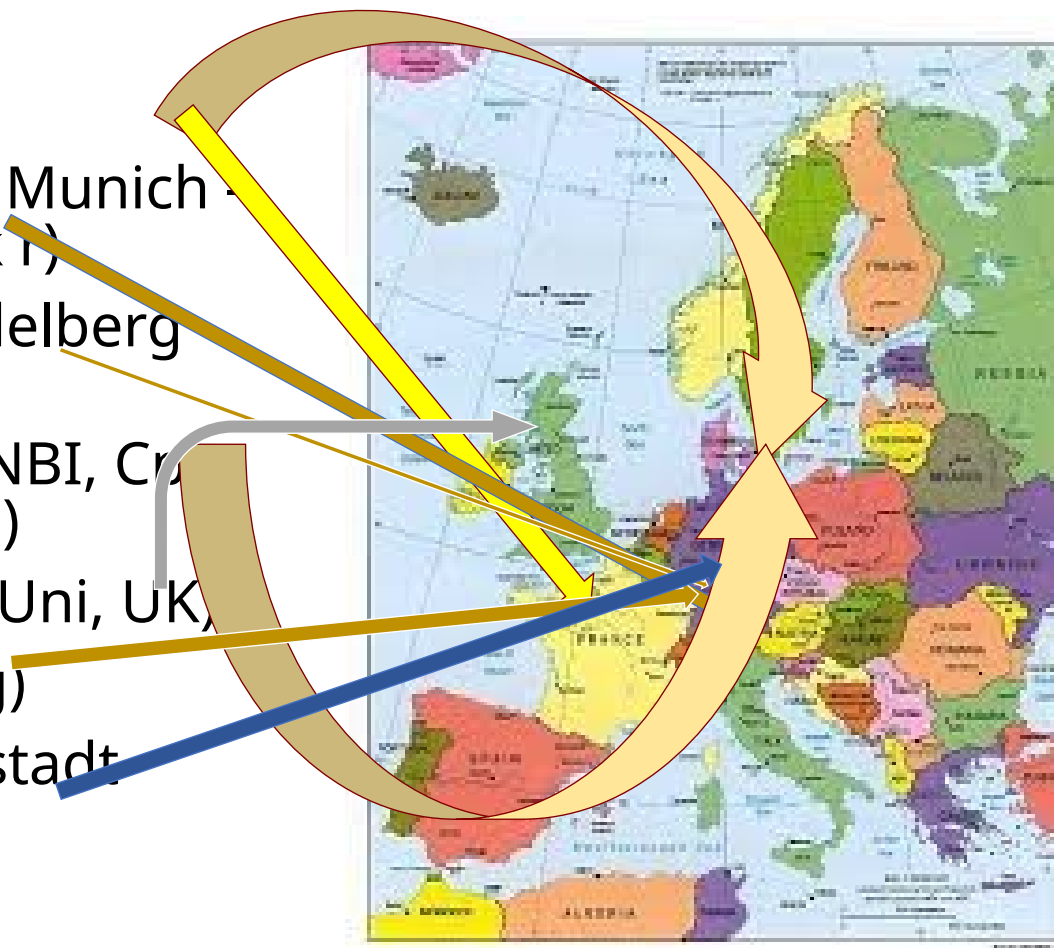
- Stellar observations
- Stellar parameters and abundances
- Tracing nuclear formation processes
- Chemical evolution



Who am I?



- MSc in Astrophysics (NBI, Cph+Paris)
- PhD in Astrophysics (ESO, Munich spectroscopy Ag+Pd weak r)
- Postdoc ('Milky Way', Heidelberg Uni)
- Fellow @ Niels Bohr Ins. (NBI, Cph Nucleosynthesis+kilonova)
- Science visitor (Lancaster Uni, UK)
- Postdoc MPIA (Heidelberg)
- Staff Technical Uni. Darmstadt
- Prof. IAP, Frankfurt



The Night sky

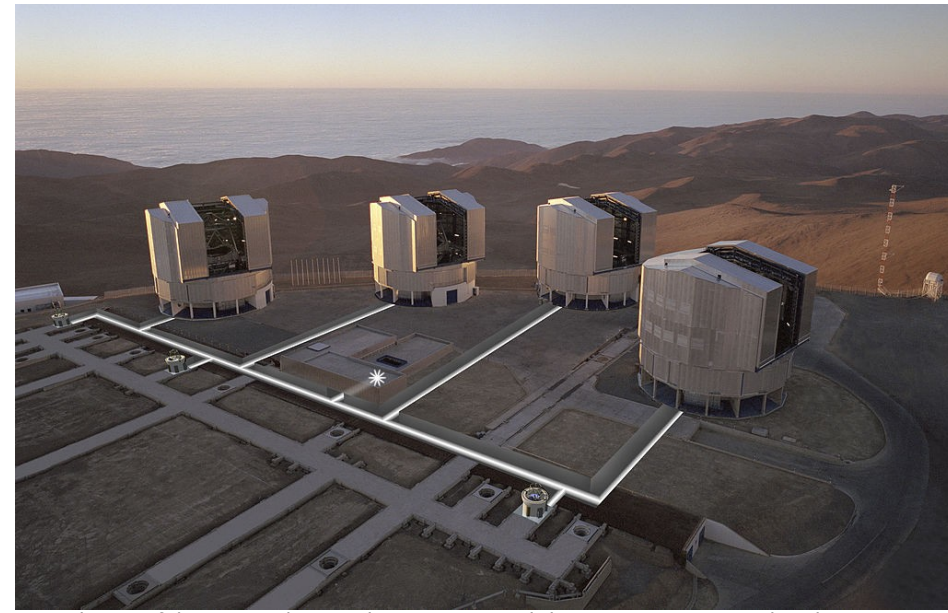


What can we observe?

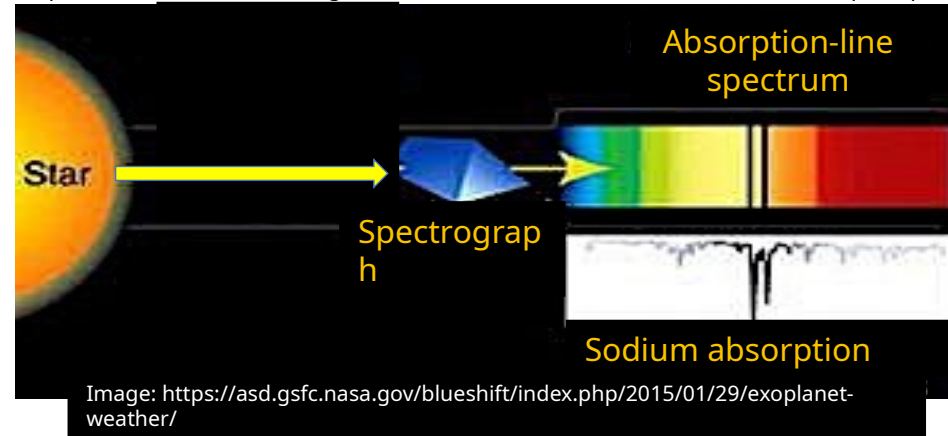
What can we observe?

1 H 1.008																	2 He 4.003				
3 Li 6.941	4 Be 9.012															5 B 10.81	6 C 12.01	7 N 14.01	8 O 16.00	9 F 19.00	10 Ne 20.18
11 Na 22.99	12 Mg 24.30															13 Al 26.98	14 Si 28.09	15 P 30.97	16 S 32.06	17 Cl 35.45	18 Ar 39.95
19 K 39.10	20 Ca 40.08	21 Sc 44.96	22 Ti 47.87	23 V 50.94	24 Cr 52.00	25 Mn 54.94	26 Fe 55.84	27 Co 58.93	28 Ni 58.69	29 Cu 63.55	30 Zn 65.38	31 Ga 69.72	32 Ge 72.64	33 As 74.92	34 Se 78.96	35 Br 79.90	36 Kr 83.80				
37 Rb 85.47	38 Sr 87.62	39 Y 88.91	40 Zr 91.22	41 Nb 92.91	42 Mo 95.96	43 Tc (98)	44 Ru 101.1	45 Rh 102.9	46 Pd 106.4	47 Ag 107.9	48 Cd 112.4	49 In 114.8	50 Sn 118.7	51 Sb 121.8	52 Te 127.6	53 I 126.9	54 Xe 131.3				
55 Cs 132.9	56 Ba 137.3	57 La 138.9	72 Hf 178.5	73 Ta 180.9	74 W 183.8	75 Re 186.2	76 Os 190.2	77 Ir 192.2	78 Pt 195.1	79 Au 197.0	80 Hg 200.6	81 Tl 204.4	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 209.0	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)	86 Rn (222)				
87 Fr (223)	88 Ra (226)	89 Ac (227)	104 Rf (267)	105 Db (268)	106 Sg (271)	107 Bh (272)	108 Hs (270)	109 Mt (276)	110 Ds (281)	111 Rg (280)	112 Cn (285)	113 Nh (284)	114 Fl (289)	115 Mc (288)	116 Lv (293)	117 Ts (294)	118 Og (294)				
58 Ce 140.1	59 Pr 140.9	60 Nd 144.2	61 Pm (145)	62 Sm 150.4	63 Eu 152.0	64 Gd 157.2	65 Tb 158.9	66 Dy 162.5	67 Ho 164.9	68 Er 167.3	69 Tm 168.9	70 Yb 173.1	71 Lu 175.0								
90 Th 232.0	91 Pa 231.0	92 U 238.0	93 Np (237)	94 Pu (244)	95 Am (243)	96 Cm (247)	97 Bk (247)	98 Cf (251)	99 Es (252)	100 Fm (257)	101 Md (258)	102 No (259)	103 Lr (262)								

Observing remote stars...



"Aerial View of the VLT with Tunnels Superimposed" by ESO - ESO. Licensed under CC BY 4.0 via Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aerial_View_of_the_VLT_with_Tunnels_Superimpose



More on
instruments → SNAQs
by H.
Korhonen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFUNy9TnNz0>

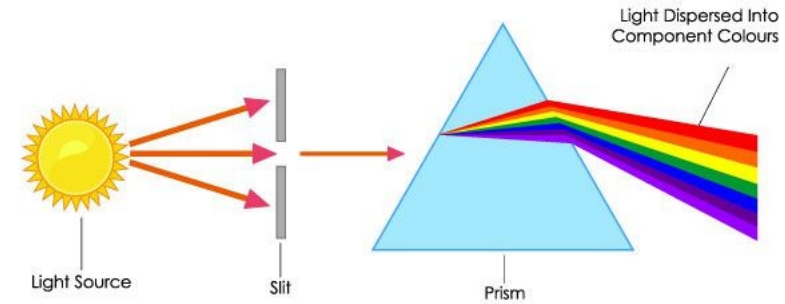
Spectral analysis



Kirchhoff & Bunsen
~1860

Image: H. Roscoe;
<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/newsroom/laboratorien-kirchhoff-und-bunsen-werden-historische-erinnerungsstaette-der-physik>

Dispersion of Light Through Prism



<https://lab-training.com/2017/09/26/understanding-of-light-dispersing-elements-in-a-spectrometer/>

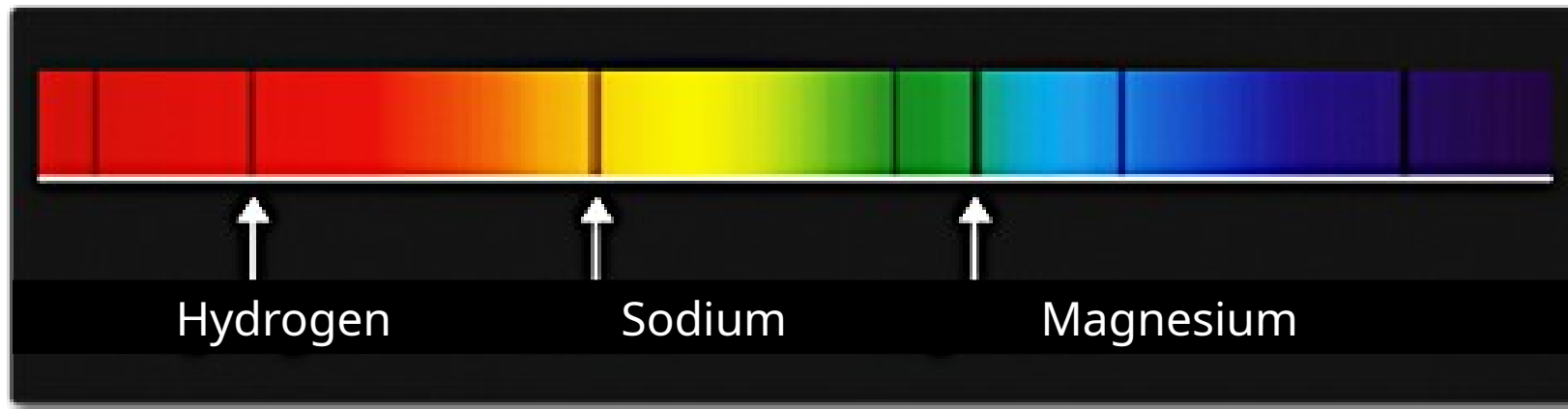


Image:
https://science.nasa.gov/ems/09_visiblelight

Our reference star – the Sun

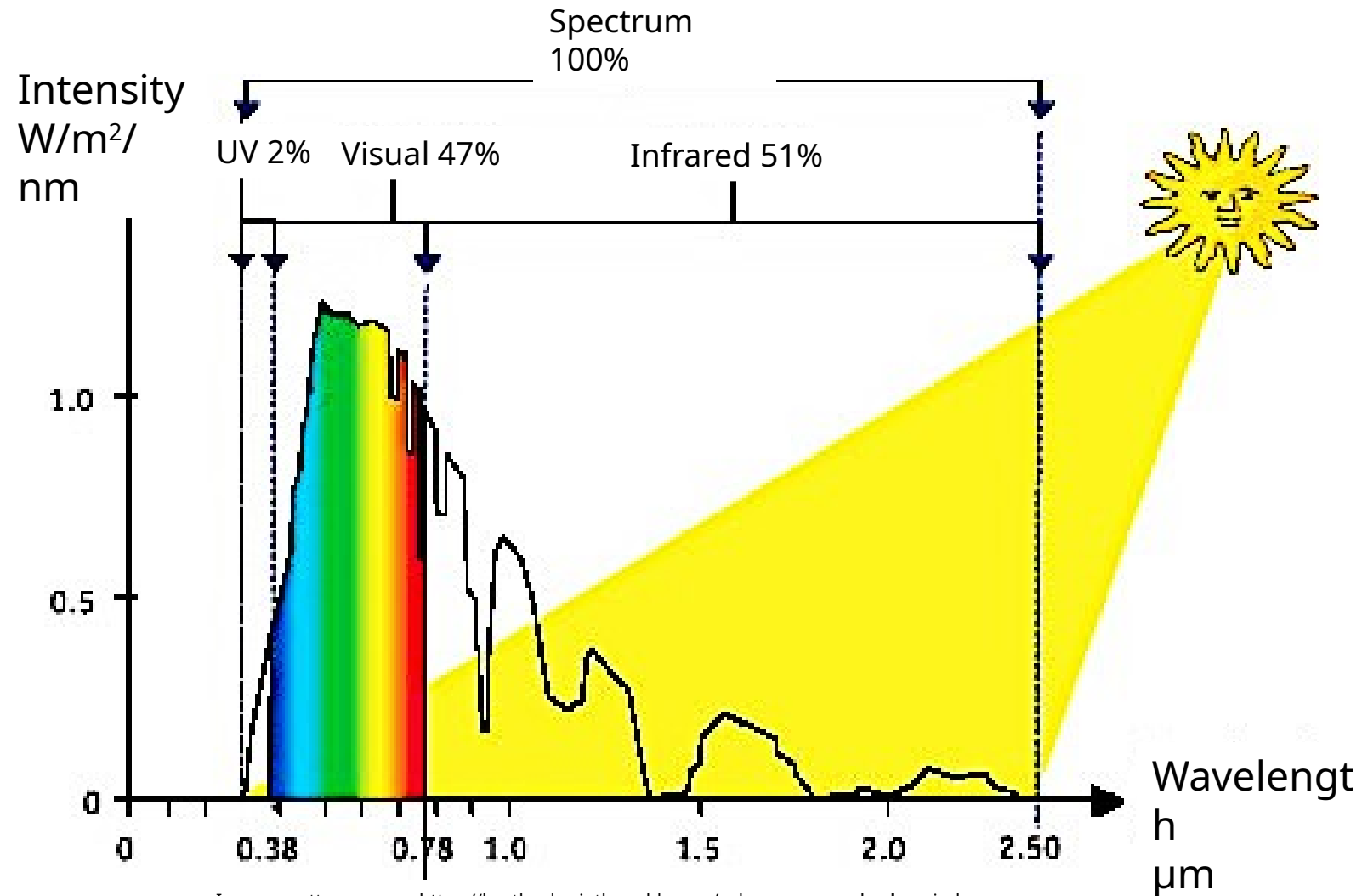
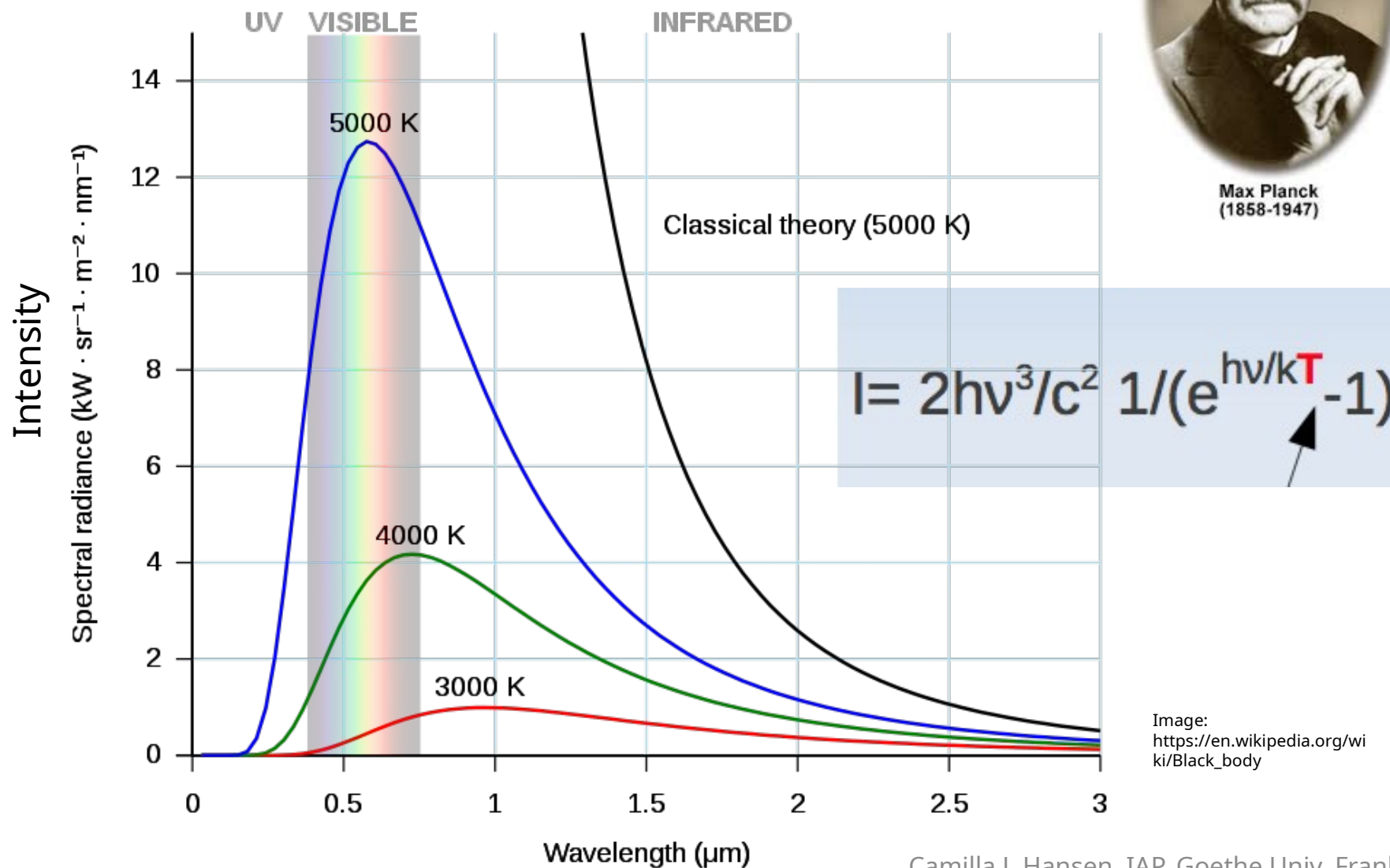


Image: scottamxx.com, <https://bestleader-intl.weebly.com/solar-energy-and-solar-window-film.html>

Camilla J. Hansen, IAP, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt

Temperature in Stars



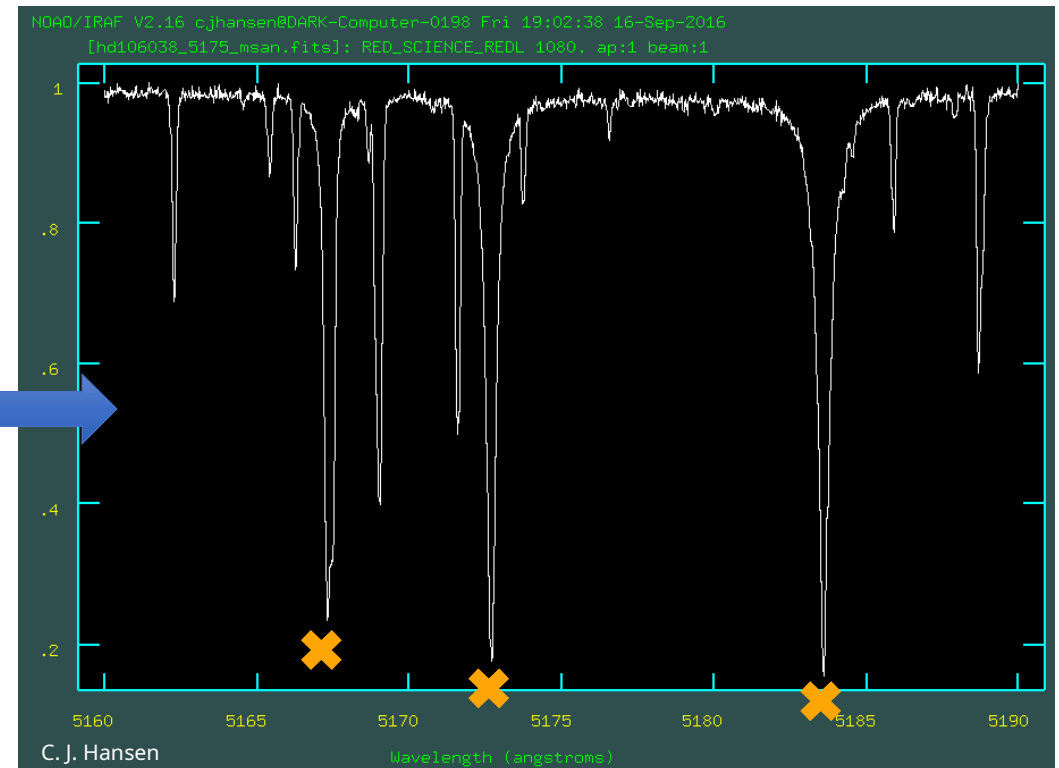
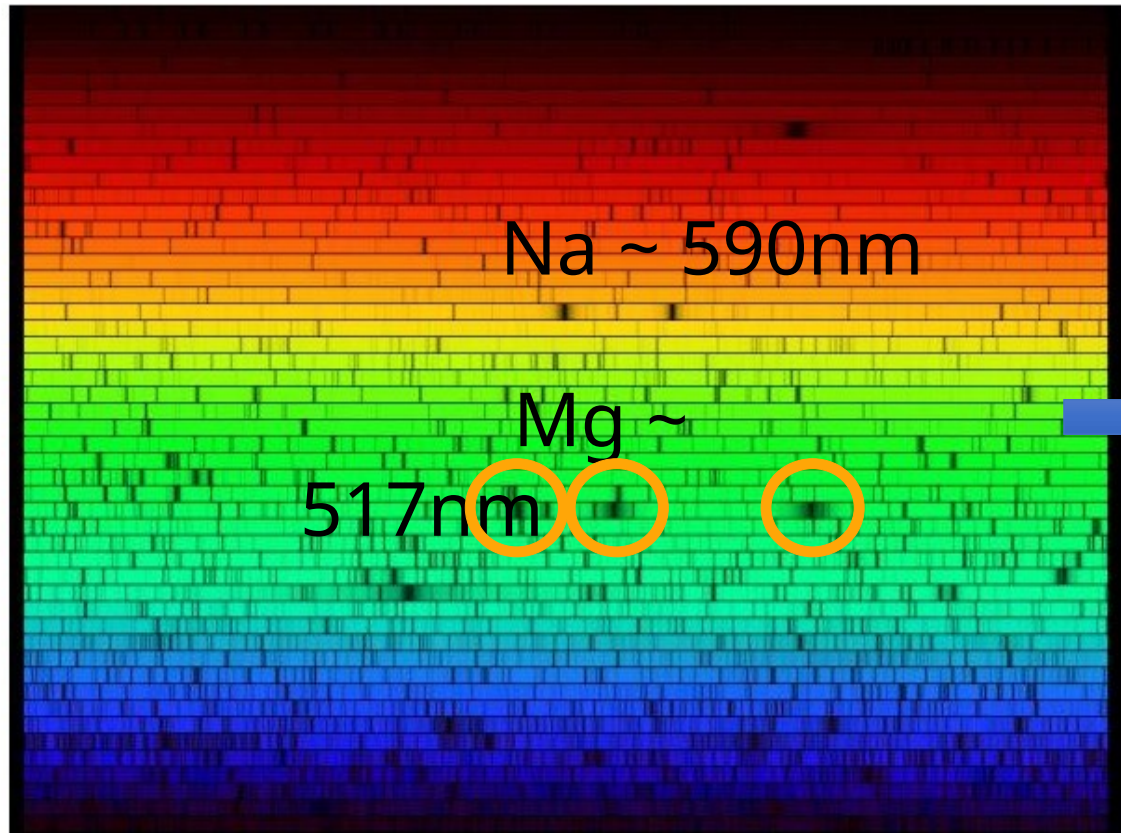
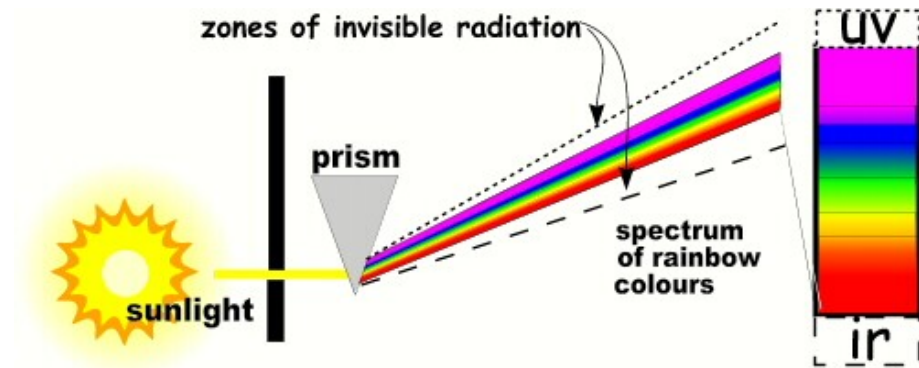
Max Planck
(1858-1947)

Image:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_body



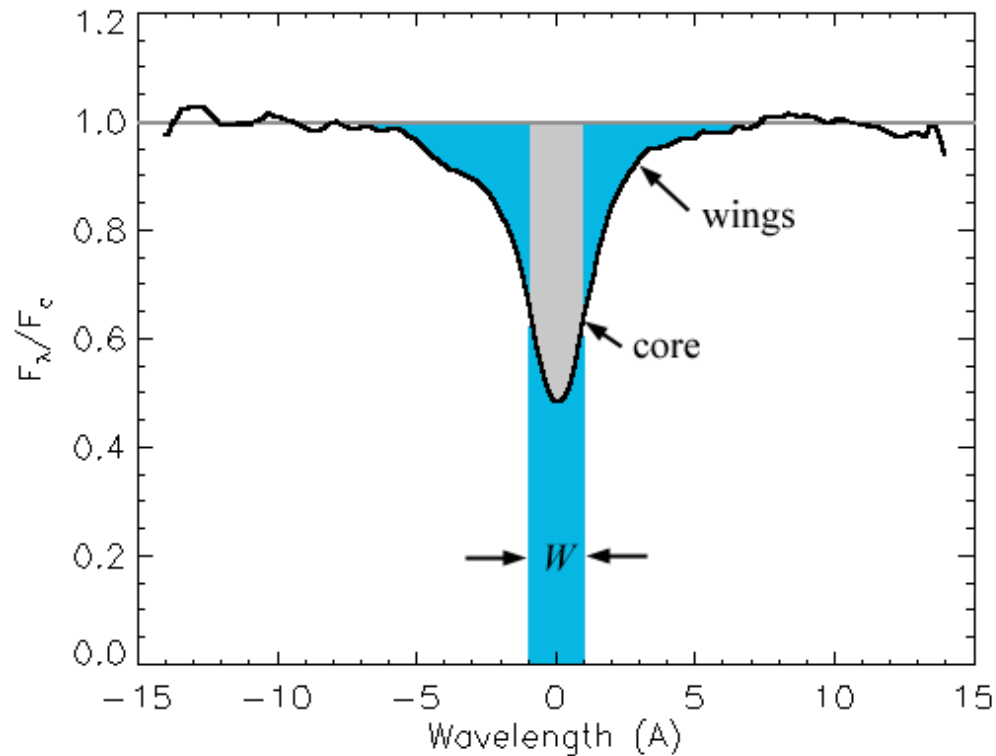
Camilla J. Hansen, IAP, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt

Spectral analysis & Data reduction



Spectral analysis

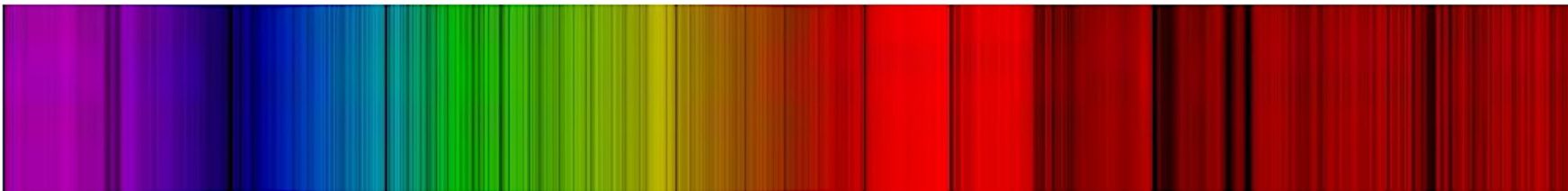
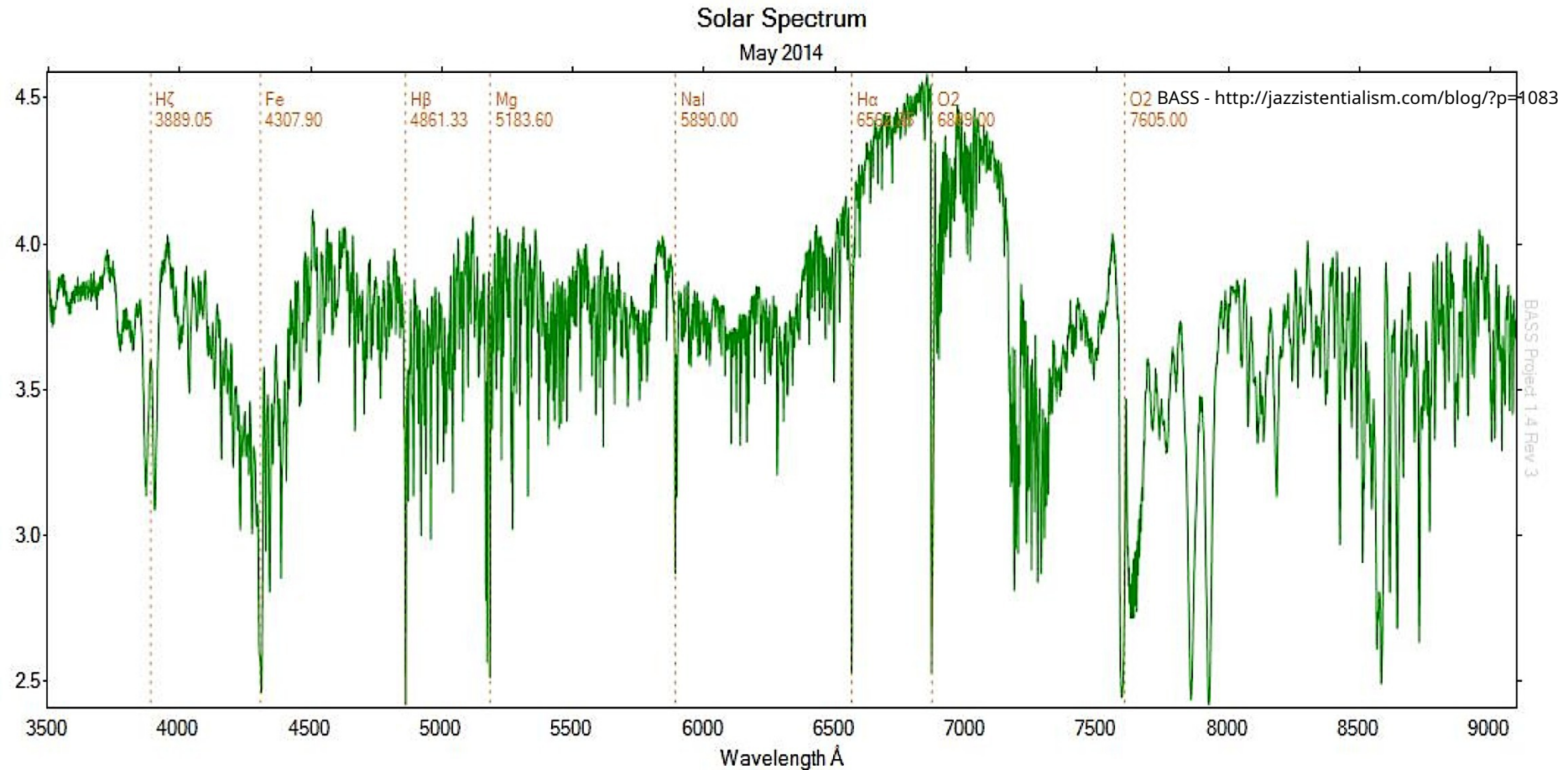
$$W_{\lambda} = \int_{\text{line}} \frac{\mathcal{F}_c - \mathcal{F}_{\lambda}^l}{\mathcal{F}_c} d\lambda.$$



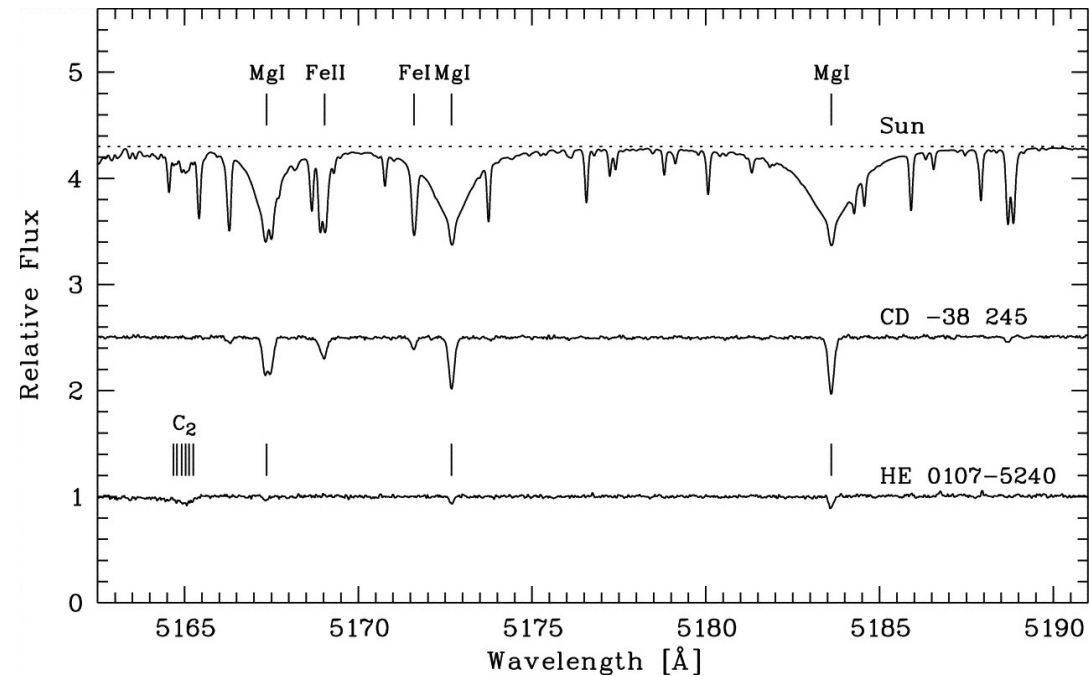
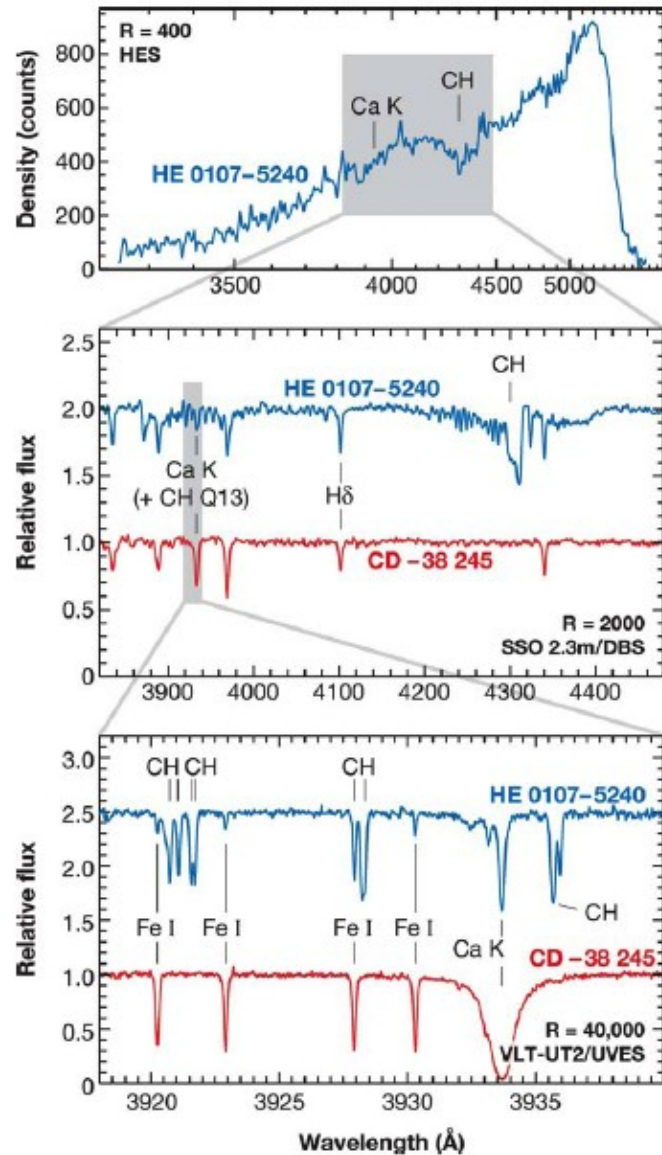
Equivalent Width (EW or W)



Solar spectrum & Information



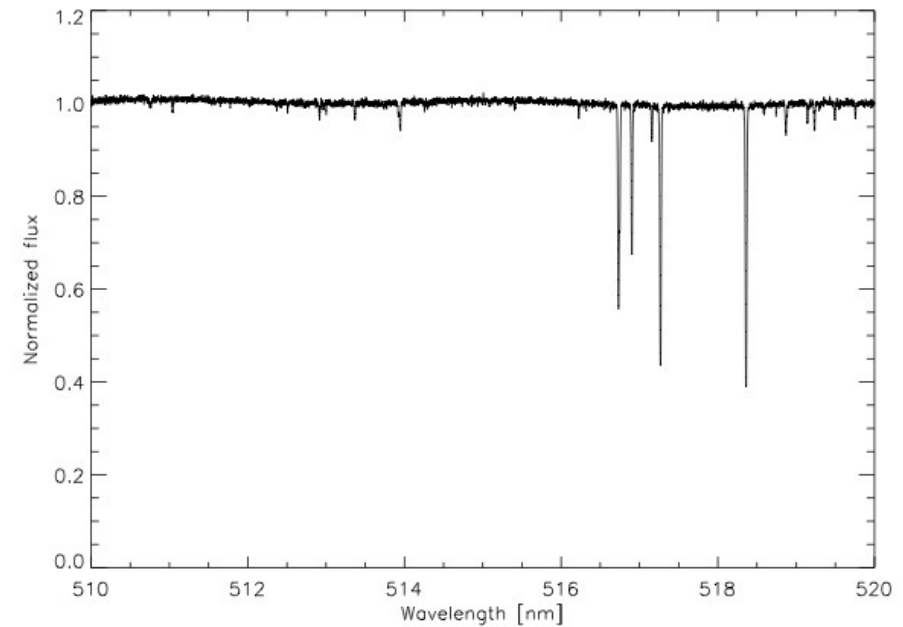
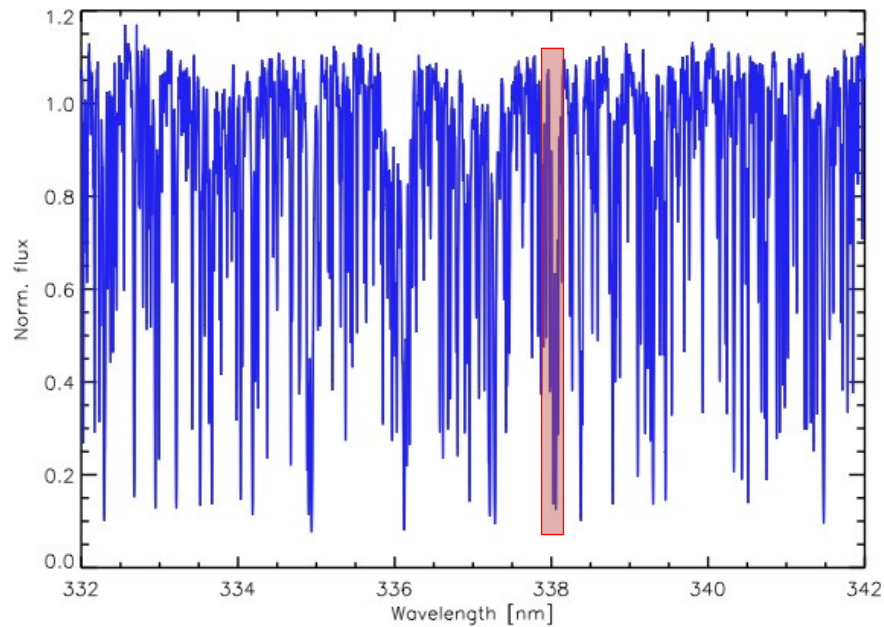
Old stars vs the Sun



Beers & Christlieb 2005,
ARA&A

Spectral analysis

Blue vs visual spectra

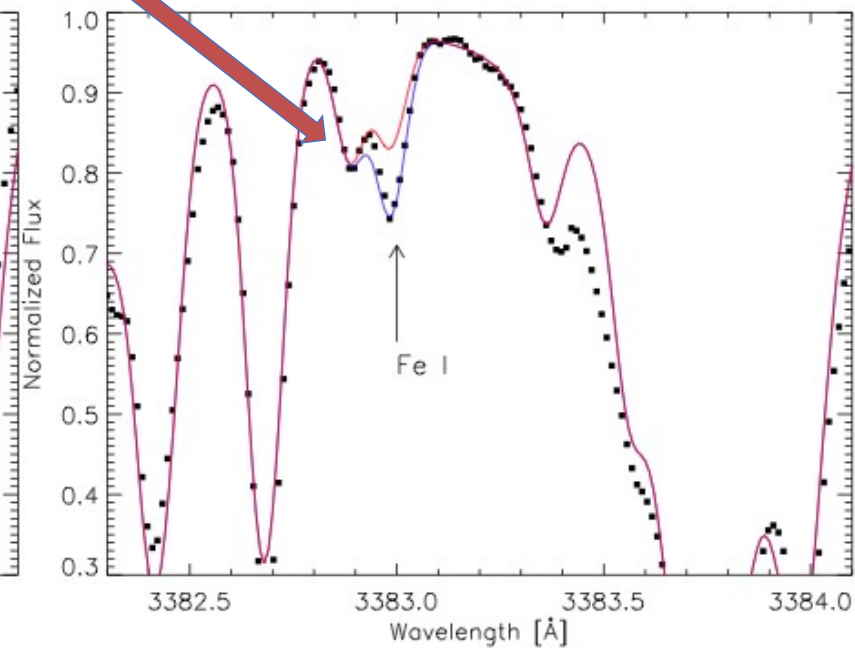
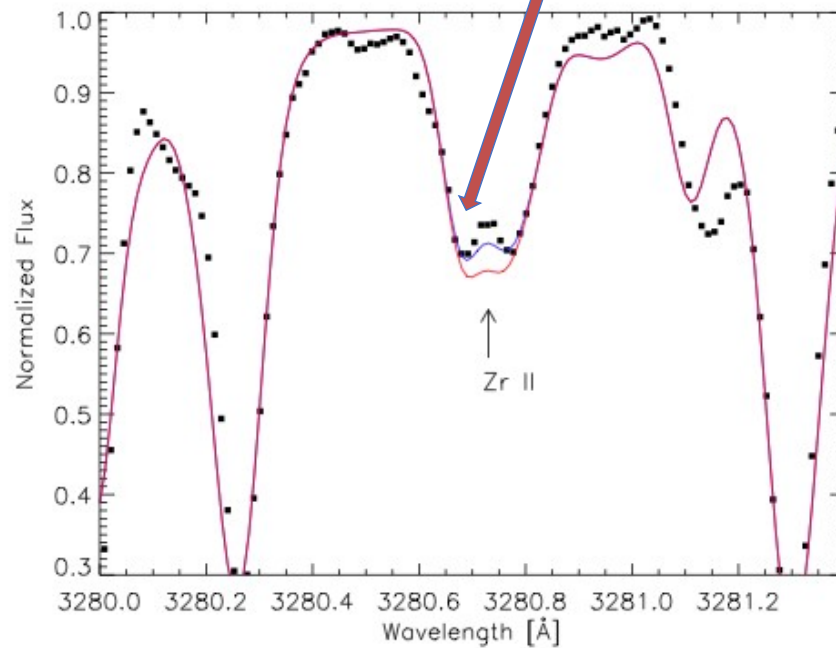


Images: C. J.
Hansen

Analysing UV-Linies



Silver (Ag, Nr.
47)

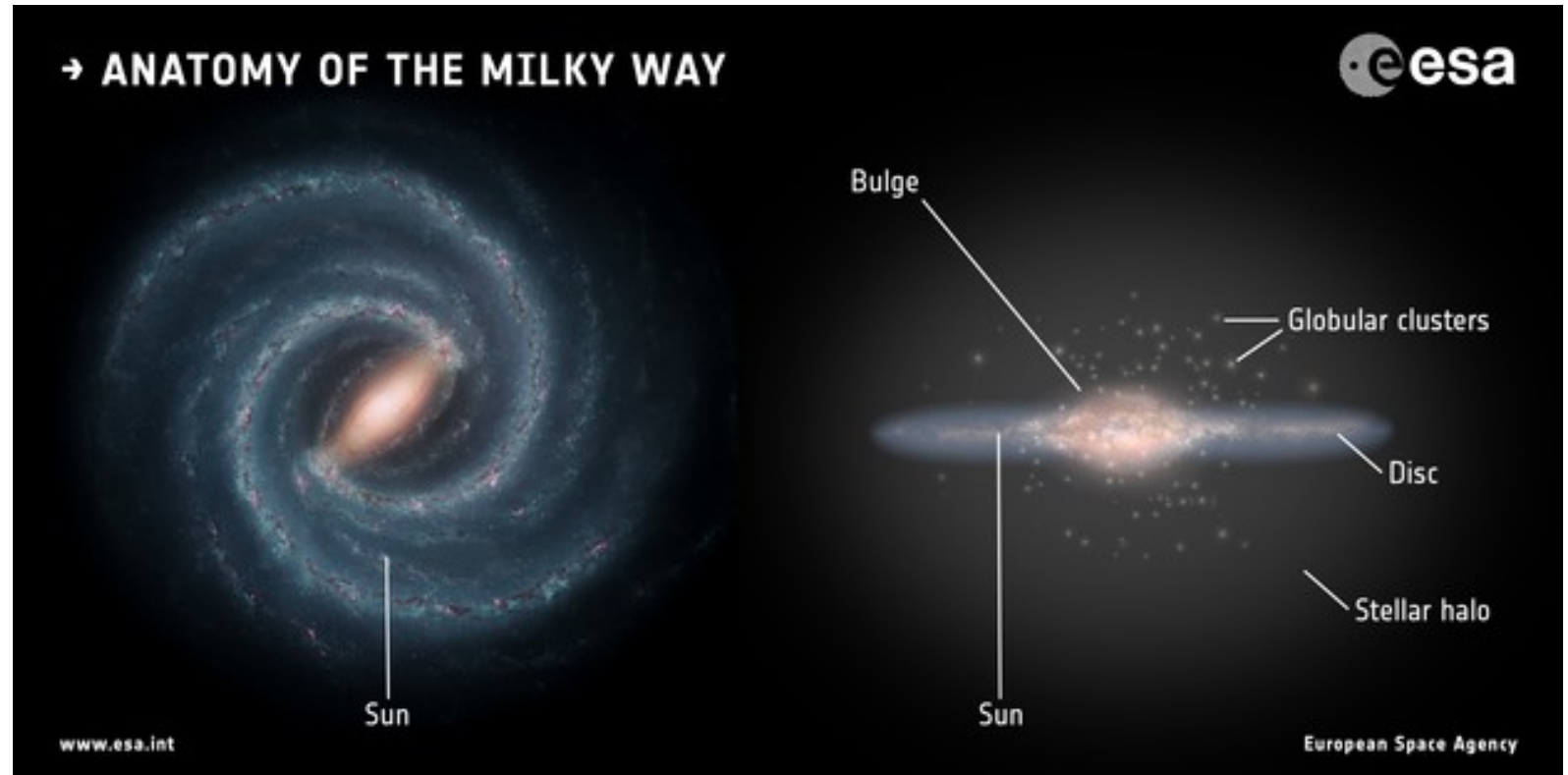


Hansen et al.

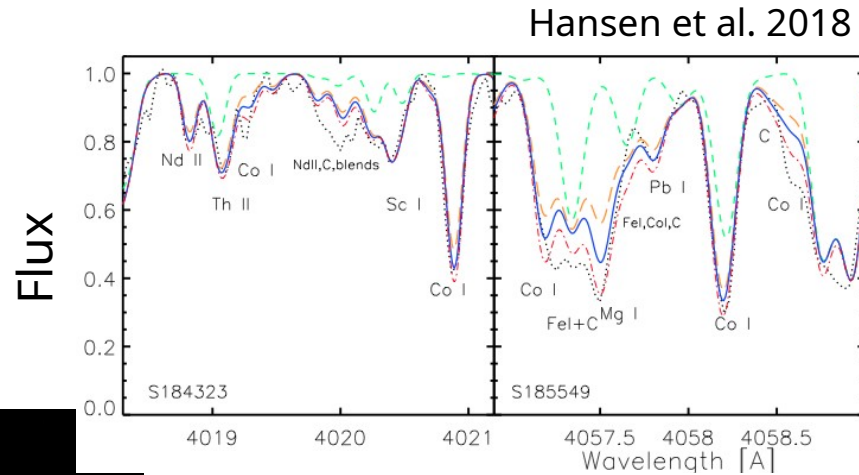
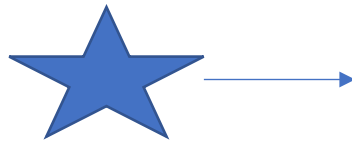
2012

The Milky Way and its stars

- Tracing the r-process is easiest in old metal-poor stars → chemically speaking simpler
- Major components: Halo, disks, bulge
- Old stars in halo & bulge
- Observational pros/cons

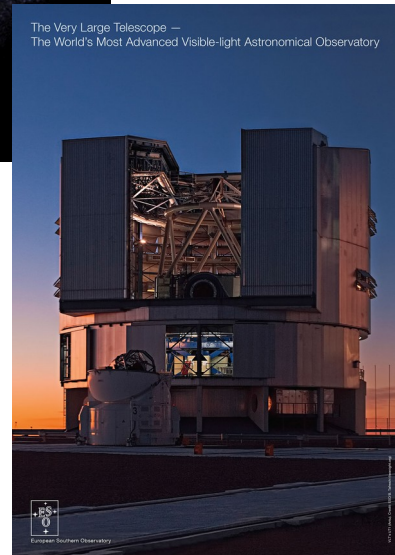
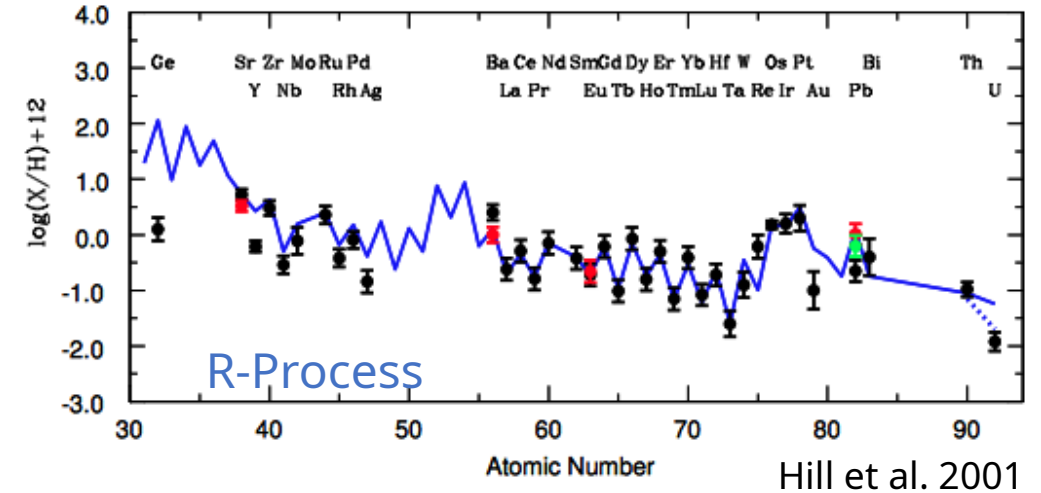


Old Stars



Th & Eu → Age

Old stars provide the first insight into how heavy elements were created. These are 'frozen' in the stellar surfaces and today allow for studies of nucleosynthetic events that occurred 13 billion years ago.



Spectral analysis

Tools of the astronomer/spectroscopist:

- Spectra (observations)
- Stellar models: Temperature, pressure, etc.
- Atomic data
- Programs

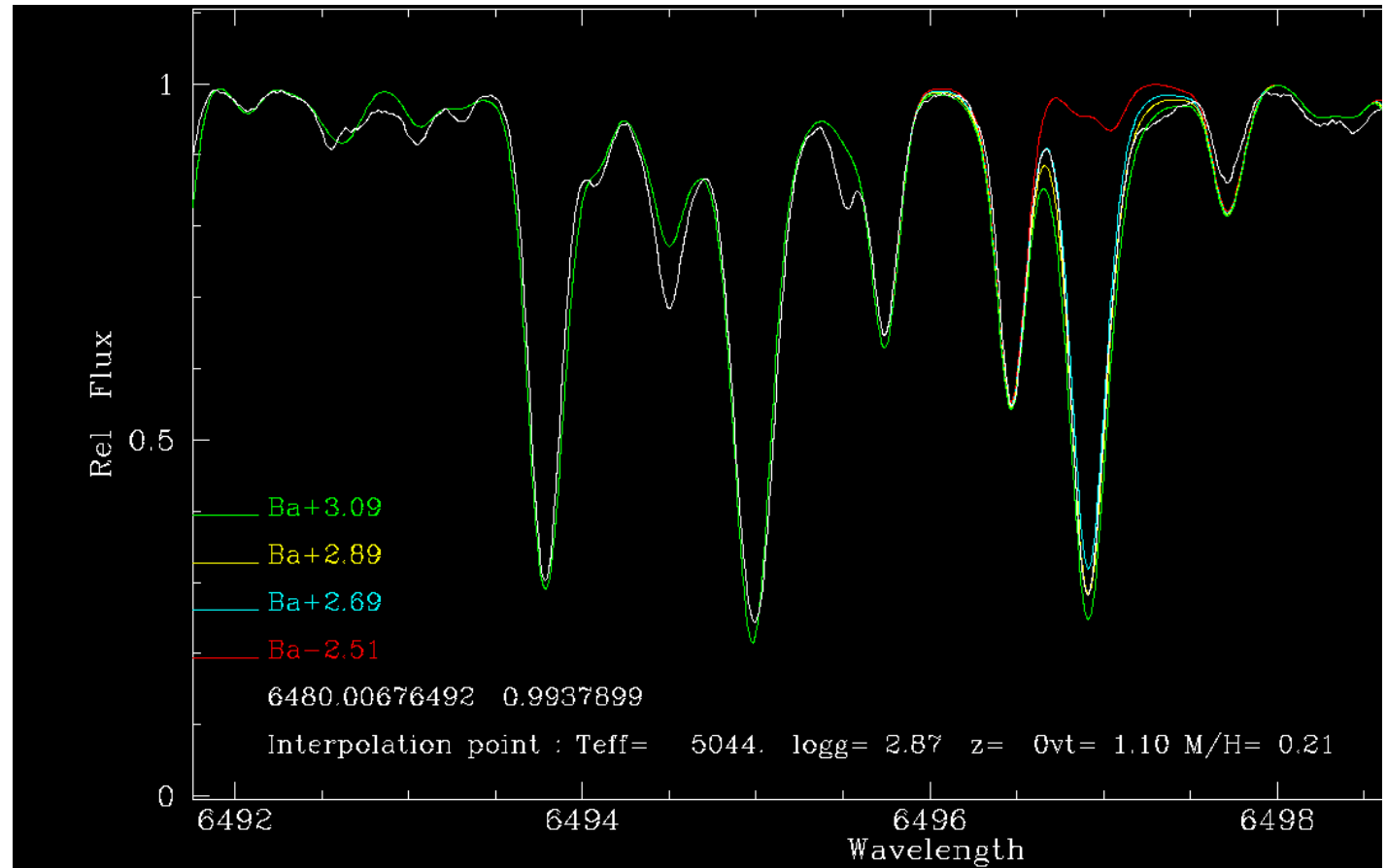


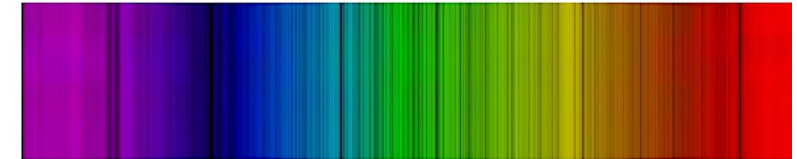
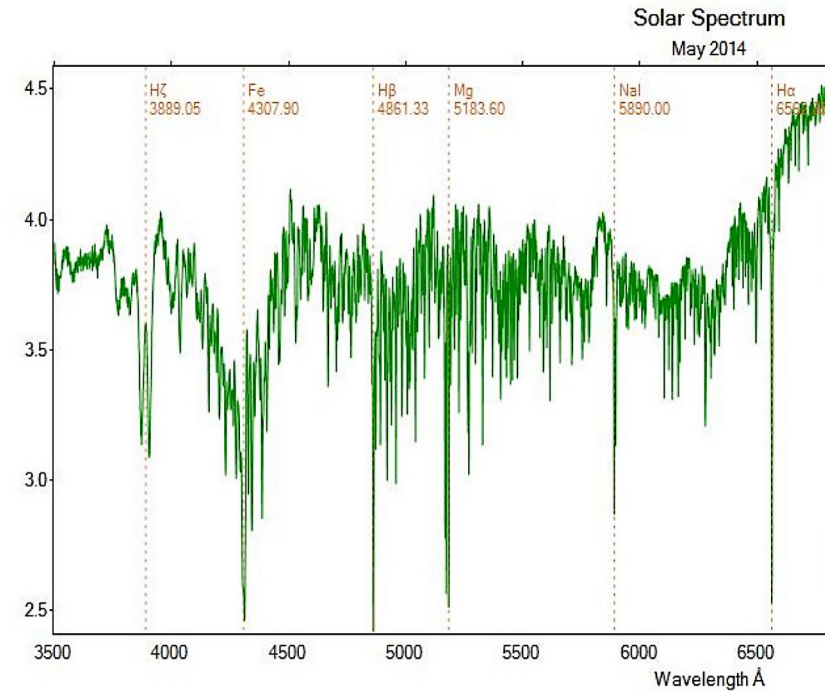
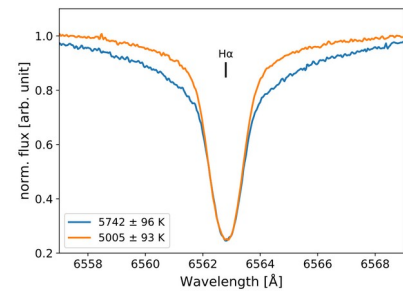
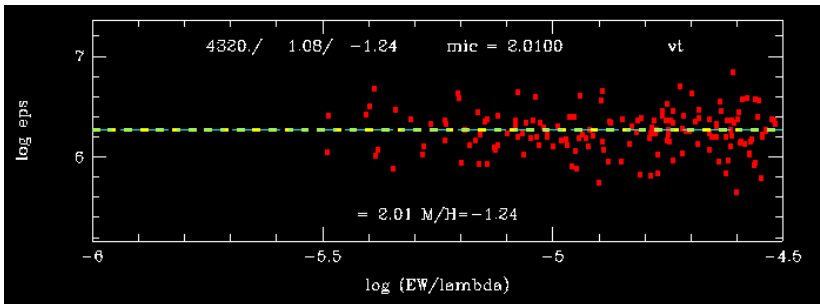
Image: C. J. Hansen

Questions

- How can we derive stellar temperatures from a spectrum?
- What can we learn from a stellar spectrum in general?
- Where can we easiest observe stars (where is it not easy)?
Why?
- Which 2-3 things should we always think about before observing?

Stellar parameters

- Temperature: T
- Gravity: $\log g$
- Metallicity: $[Fe/H]$
- Microturbulence: V_t (or ξ)



What does a star's colour tell us?

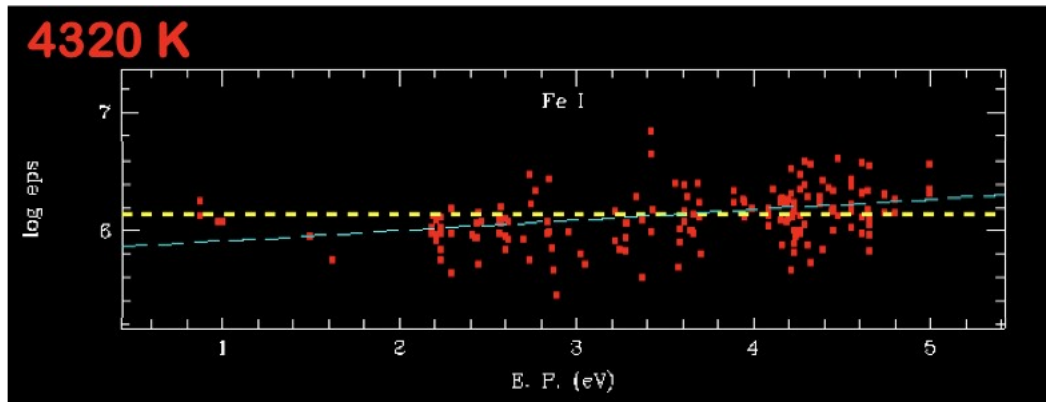
Temperature

- Photometry (InfraRed Flux

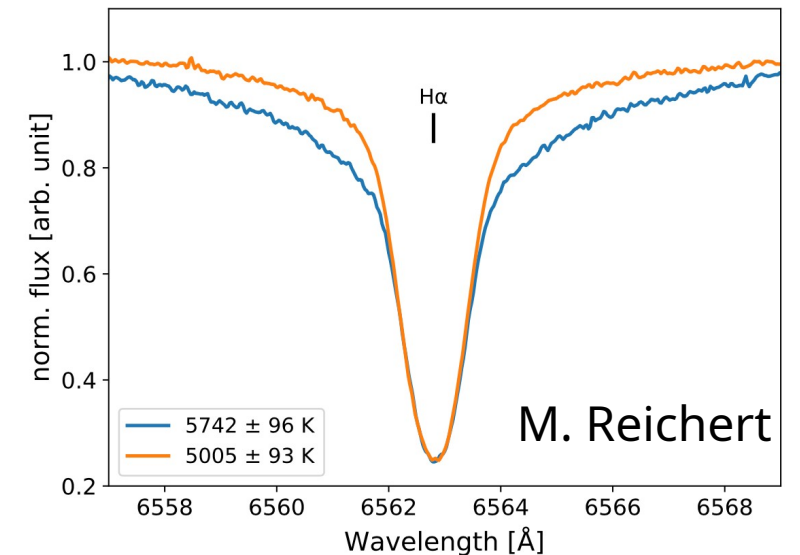
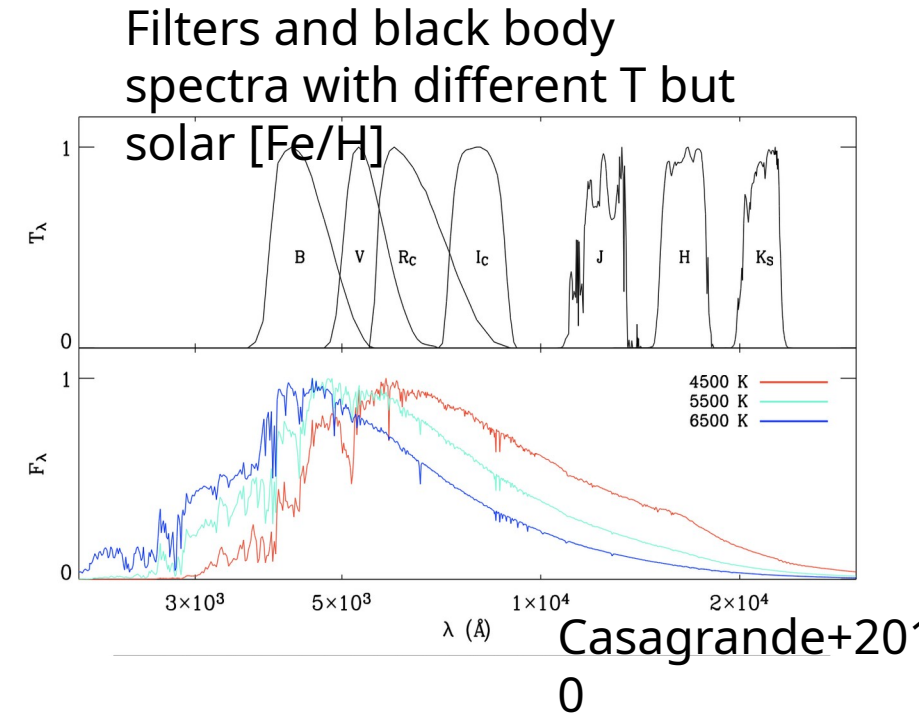
$$\theta_{\text{eff}} = a_0 + a_1 X + a_2 X^2 + a_3 X[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] + a_4 [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] + a_5 [\text{Fe}/\text{H}]^2$$

where $\theta_{\text{eff}} = 5040/T_{\text{eff}}$, X represents the colour

- Spectroscopy: T sensitive lines (Fe, H) – e.g., excitation potential balance wrt abundance.



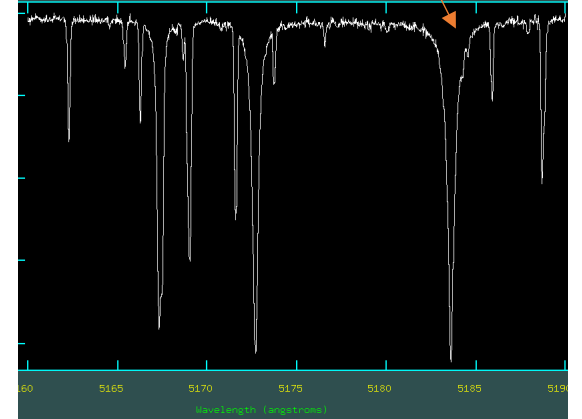
Camilla J. Hansen, IAP, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt



Gravity

- Spectroscopic (Fe, Mg) – either fit Mg triplet wings or enforce ionisation balance ($A(\text{FeI}) = A(\text{FeII})$) - sensitive to Fe abundance assumption, LTE)

Gravity $\propto$ pressure
 $P_g \sim \text{const } g^{2/3}$

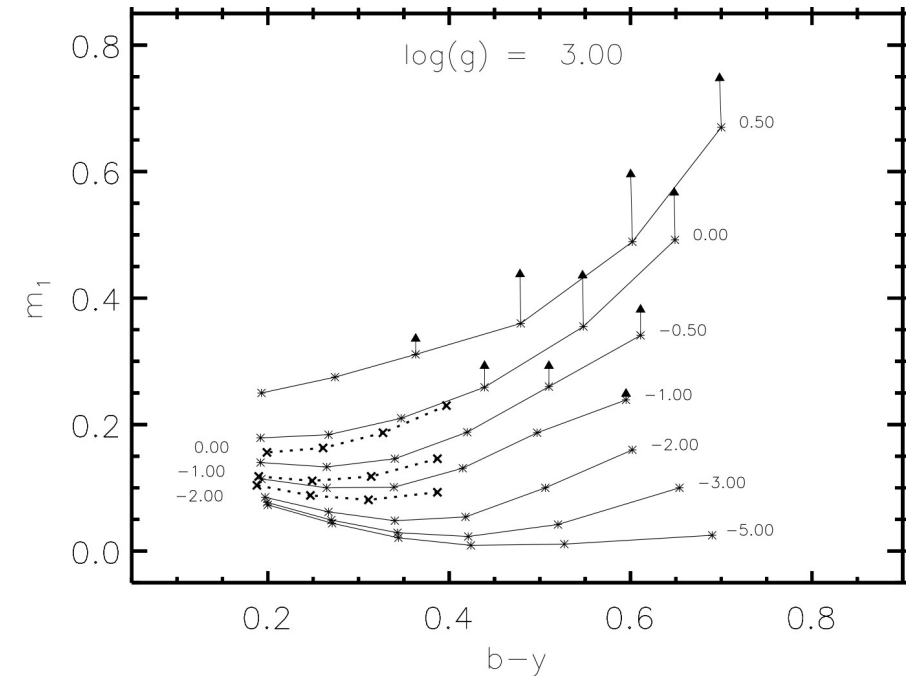
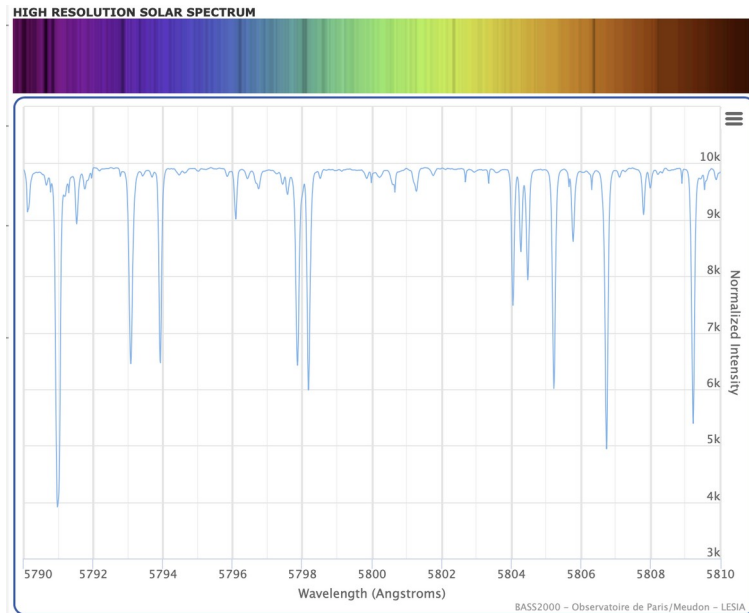


- Astrometry (parallaxes)
depends on T, and mass, and
bolometric correction (BC)

$$\log \frac{g}{g_{\odot}} = \log \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} + 4 \log \frac{T_{\text{eff}}}{T_{\text{eff}_{\odot}}} + 0.4V_0 + 0.4BC + 2 \log \pi + 0.12$$

Metallicity, [Fe/H]

- Photometry (Strömgren) – m_1 vs $(b$
- Spectroscopy – EW of Fe lines – ave



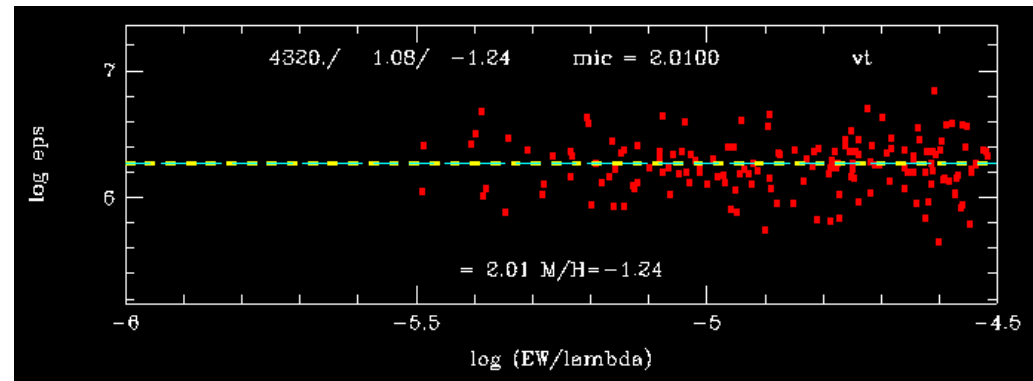
Önehag+2008 – atmosphere models

BASS2000 high-res.
Spectrum
https://bass2000.obspm.fr/solar_spect.php

Microturbulence, V_t (ξ)

A fudge parameter used in 1D atmospheres to make up for the improper treatment of convection (possible in 3D). V_t can e.g., help desaturate strong lines.

- Typically Fe lines of various strength $\rightarrow$ Balance of abundances & EW



Stellar abundances

- Two ways of deriving stellar abundances accurately:

Equivalent widths &
spectrum synthesis

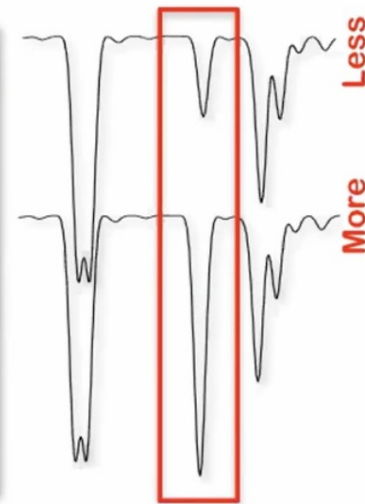
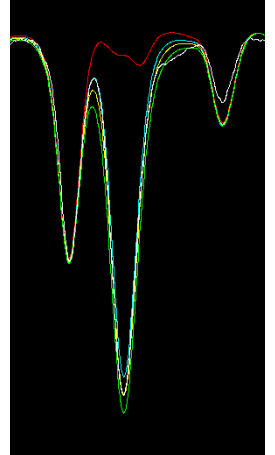
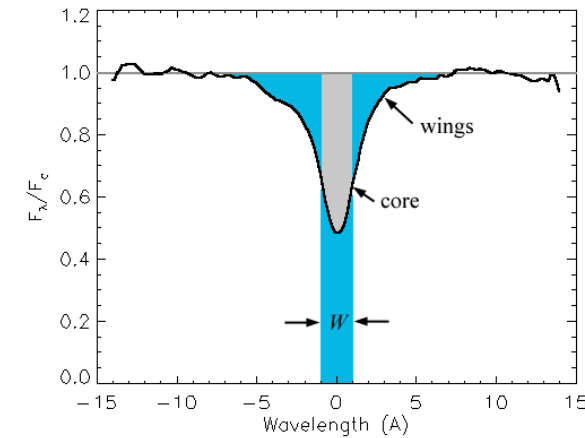
- Absolute and relative abundances:
"Amount" of absorbers in a stellar atmosphere, normalized to a reference value. It reflects the atmosphere's *chemical composition*.

→ **Absolute abundance** $\log A(X) = \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_X}{N_H} \right) + 12$

→ **Abundance ratio** $[X/Y] = \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_X}{N_Y} \right)_* - \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_X}{N_Y} \right)_\odot$

→ The Sun: $[X/Y] = 0$

A.Koch-Hansen



For more details on stellar parameters and abundances:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_Mmx9JXymE

SNAQs by A. Koch-Hansen

Abundances (A)

$$\log\left(\frac{w}{\lambda}\right) = \log\left[\text{constant} \frac{\pi e^2}{mc^2} \frac{N_j/N_E}{u(T)} N_H\right] + \log A + \log g_n f \lambda - \theta_{\text{ex}} \chi - \log \kappa_v$$

$$= \log C + \log A + \log g_n f \lambda - \theta_{\text{ex}} \chi - \log \kappa_v. \quad (16.4)$$

EW
Equivalent width

Const. Abundance

Atomic data
(oscillator strength)

Temp.

Absorption coefficient
→ pressure/log g

Atomic data

- Excitation potentials
- Oscillator strengths

→ Li: only at 6707 Å , (6103 Å).
 → Mg: broad range of lines across blue to near-IR
 (e.g., 4571 Å ... 8808 Å) + H-band region of APOGEE.

Line lists:

→ VALD (<http://vald.astro.uu.se/>)
 → NIST (https://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/ASD/lines_form.html)

- Wavelength coverage
- Line selection

Main Parameters Spectrum e.g., Fe I or Na;Mg; Al or mg i-iii or 198Hg I

Limits for Wavelengths Lower: 5700
 Upper: 5800

Wavelength Units:

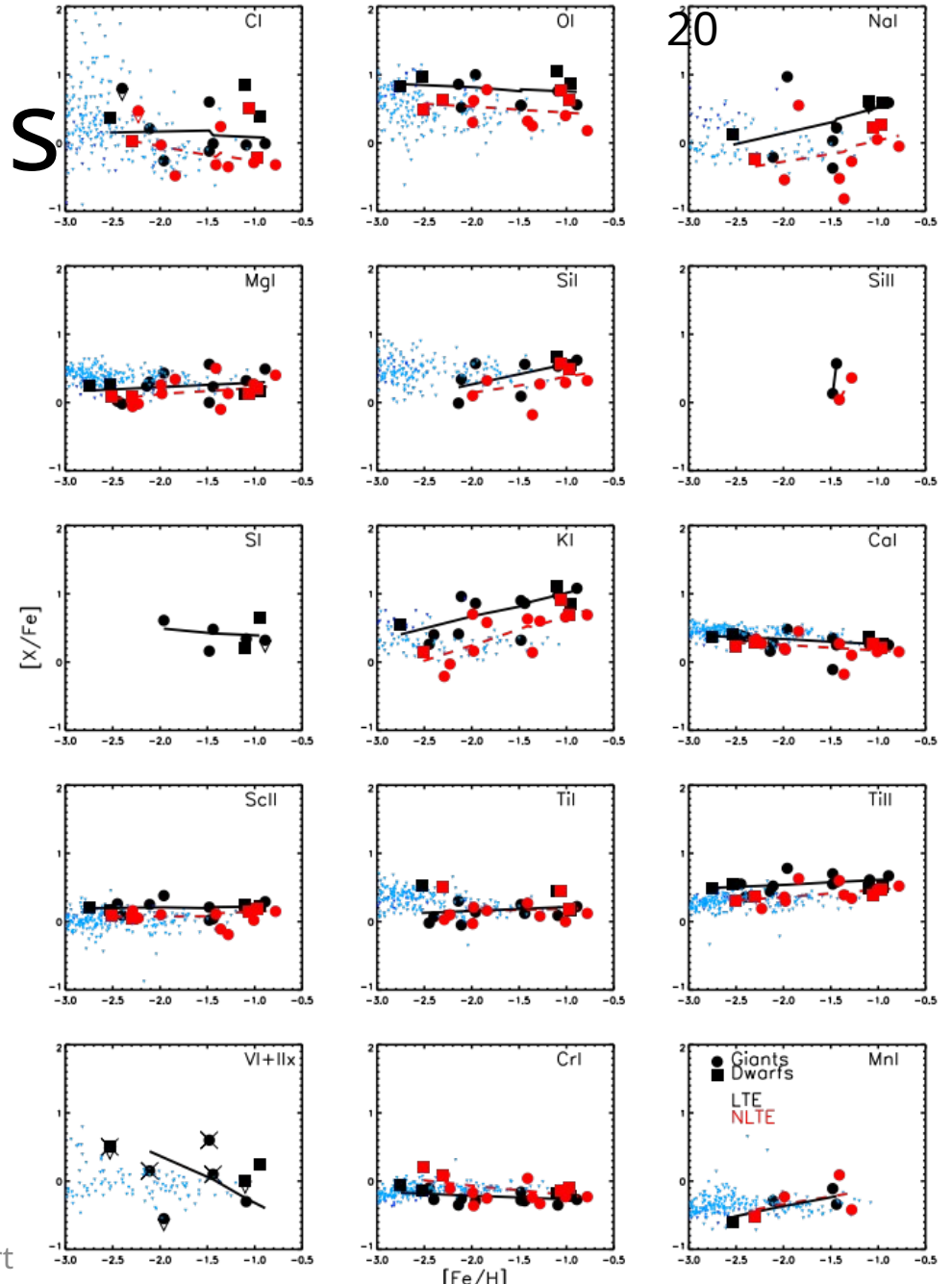
Ion	Observed Wavelength Air (Å)	Ritz Wavelength Air (Å)	Rel. Int. (%)	A_{ki} (s ⁻¹)	log(g/f _{ik})	Acc.	E_i (eV)	E_k (eV)	Lower Level Conf., Term, J	Upper Level Conf., Term, J	Type	TP Ref.	Line Ref.
Mg I	5 711.0880	5 711.0880	30	3.86e+06	-1.724	B	4.3458029	6.5161391	3s3p 1p° 1	3s5s 1S 0		T5539	L7428

A.Koch-Hansen
SNAQs

Abundance assumptions

- Stellar atmospheres are assumed to be in Local Thermodynamic Equilibrium (LTE) and 1-D.
 - Velocity distribution Maxwellian, excitations & ionisations described by Boltzmann & Saha equations, and one local T describing the stellar atm. layer

$$[X/Y] = \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_X}{N_Y} \right)_* - \log_{10} \left(\frac{N_X}{N_Y} \right)_{\odot}$$



What can we observe?

What can we observe?

1 H 1.008																	2 He 4.003				
3 Li 6.941	4 Be 9.012															5 B 10.81	6 C 12.01	7 N 14.01	8 O 16.00	9 F 19.00	10 Ne 20.18
11 Na 22.99	12 Mg 24.30															13 Al 26.98	14 Si 28.09	15 P 30.97	16 S 32.06	17 Cl 35.45	18 Ar 39.95
19 K 39.10	20 Ca 40.08	21 Sc 44.96	22 Ti 47.87	23 V 50.94	24 Cr 52.00	25 Mn 54.94	26 Fe 55.84	27 Co 58.93	28 Ni 58.69	29 Cu 63.55	30 Zn 65.38	31 Ga 69.72	32 Ge 72.64	33 As 74.92	34 Se 78.96	35 Br 79.90	36 Kr 83.80				
37 Rb 85.47	38 Sr 87.62	39 Y 88.91	40 Zr 91.22	41 Nb 92.91	42 Mo 95.96	43 Tc (98)	44 Ru 101.1	45 Rh 102.9	46 Pd 106.4	47 Ag 107.9	48 Cd 112.4	49 In 114.8	50 Sn 118.7	51 Sb 121.8	52 Te 127.6	53 I 126.9	54 Xe 131.3				
55 Cs 132.9	56 Ba 137.3	57 La 138.9	72 Hf 178.5	73 Ta 180.9	74 W 183.8	75 Re 186.2	76 Os 190.2	77 Ir 192.2	78 Pt 195.1	79 Au 197.0	80 Hg 200.6	81 Tl 204.4	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 209.0	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)	86 Rn (222)				
87 Fr (223)	88 Ra (226)	89 Ac (227)	104 Rf (267)	105 Db (268)	106 Sg (271)	107 Bh (272)	108 Hs (270)	109 Mt (276)	110 Ds (281)	111 Rg (280)	112 Cn (285)	113 Nh (284)	114 Fl (289)	115 Mc (288)	116 Lv (293)	117 Ts (294)	118 Og (294)				

Ground

Isotopes

Not measurable

Space

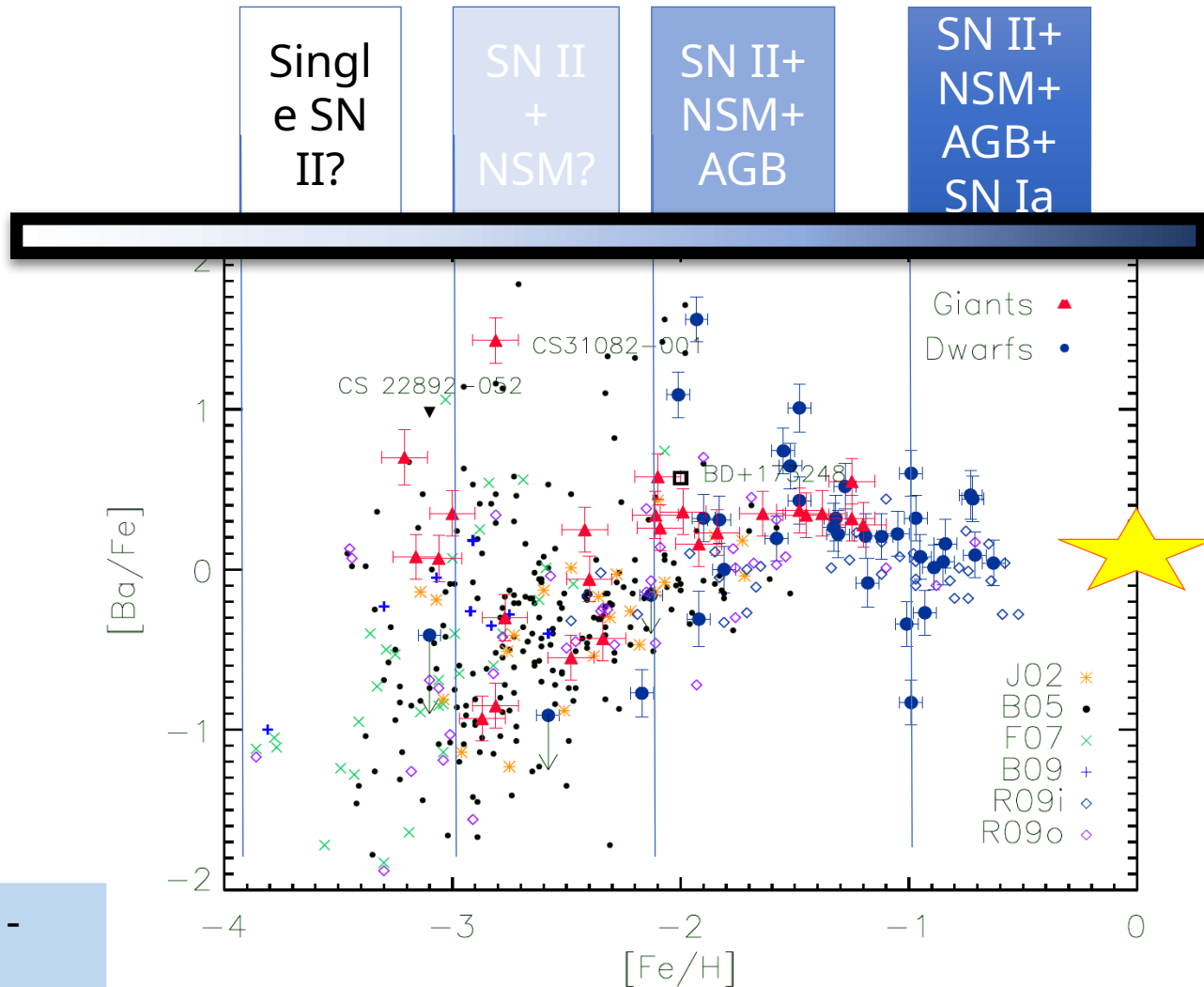
58 Ce 140.1	59 Pr 140.9	60 Nd 144.2	61 Pm (145)	62 Sm 150.4	63 Eu 152.0	64 Gd 157.2	65 Tb 158.9	66 Dy 162.5	67 Ho 164.9	68 Er 167.3	69 Tm 168.9	70 Yb 173.1	71 Lu 175.0
90 Th 232.0	91 Pa 231.0	92 U 238.0	93 Np (237)	94 Pu (244)	95 Am (243)	96 Cm (247)	97 Bk (247)	98 Cf (251)	99 Es (252)	100 Fm (257)	101 Md (258)	102 No (259)	103 Lr (262)

Chemical Evolution of the Milky Way

- The Sun ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]=0$)
- Traces of SN Ia ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] > \sim -1$)
- AGB stars ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] > \sim -2.5$)
- NSM (NS-NS merger)
- Core-collapse supernovae

$$[\text{Ba}/\text{Fe}] = \log(\text{Ba})_* - \log(\text{Ba})_{\square} - (\log(\text{Fe})_* - \log(\text{Fe})_{\square})$$

 Big Bang



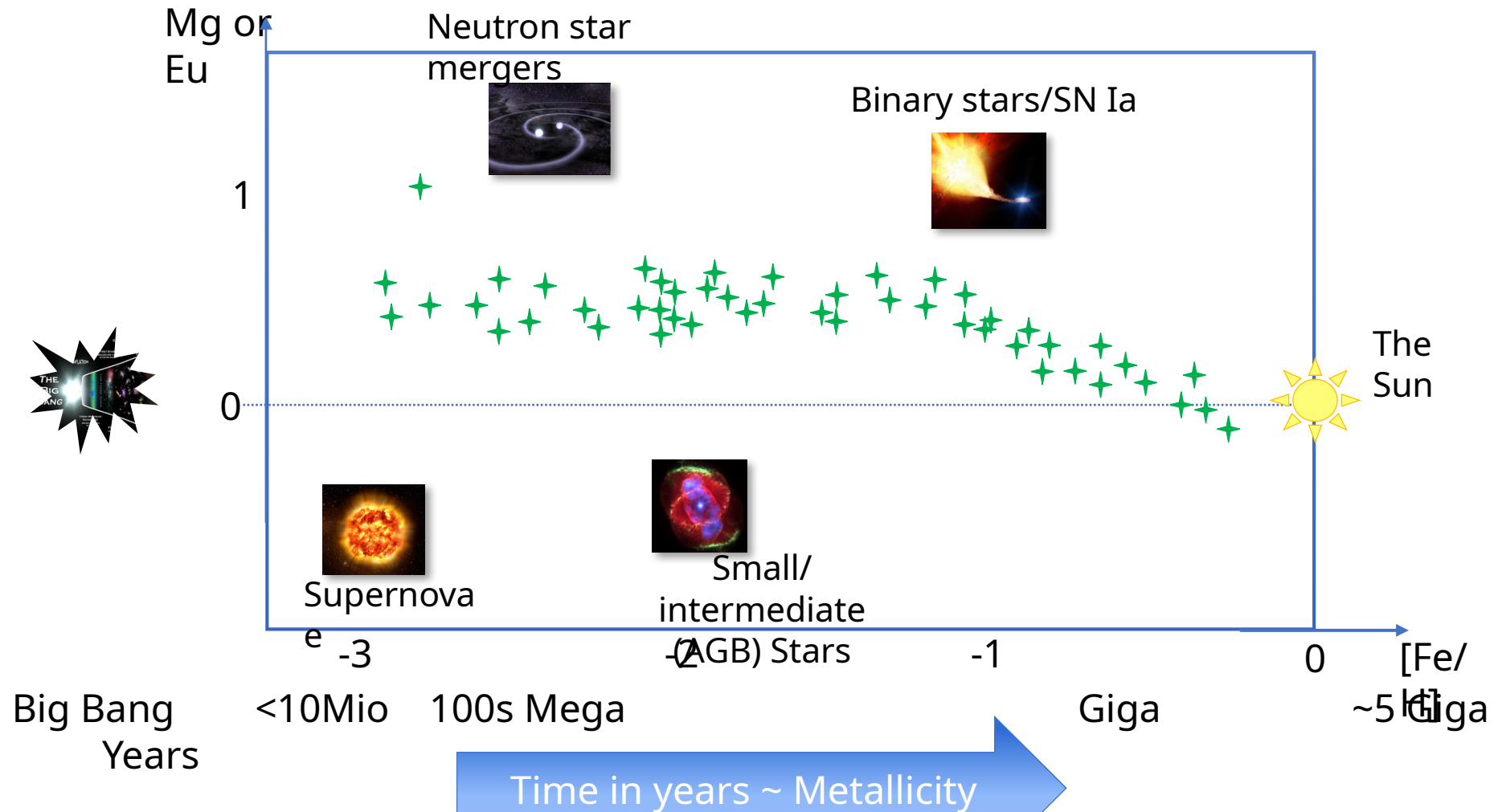
Looking back


Chemical concentration

The Sun as reference:
 $[\text{X}/\text{Fe}]=0$

Hansen et al. 2012

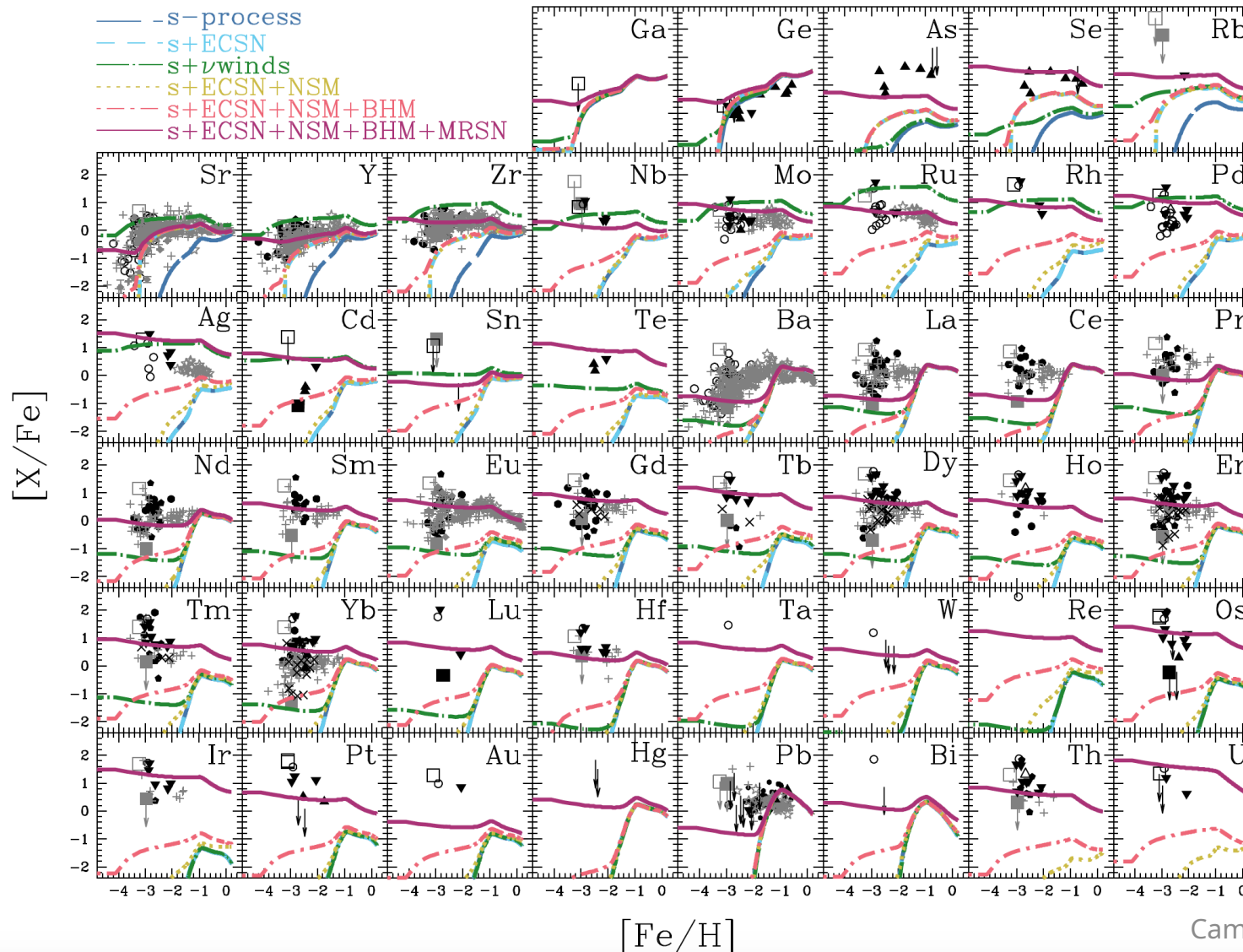
The Milky Way



Galactic chemical evolution

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 900:179 (33pp), 2020 September 10

Kobayashi, Karakas, & Lugaro

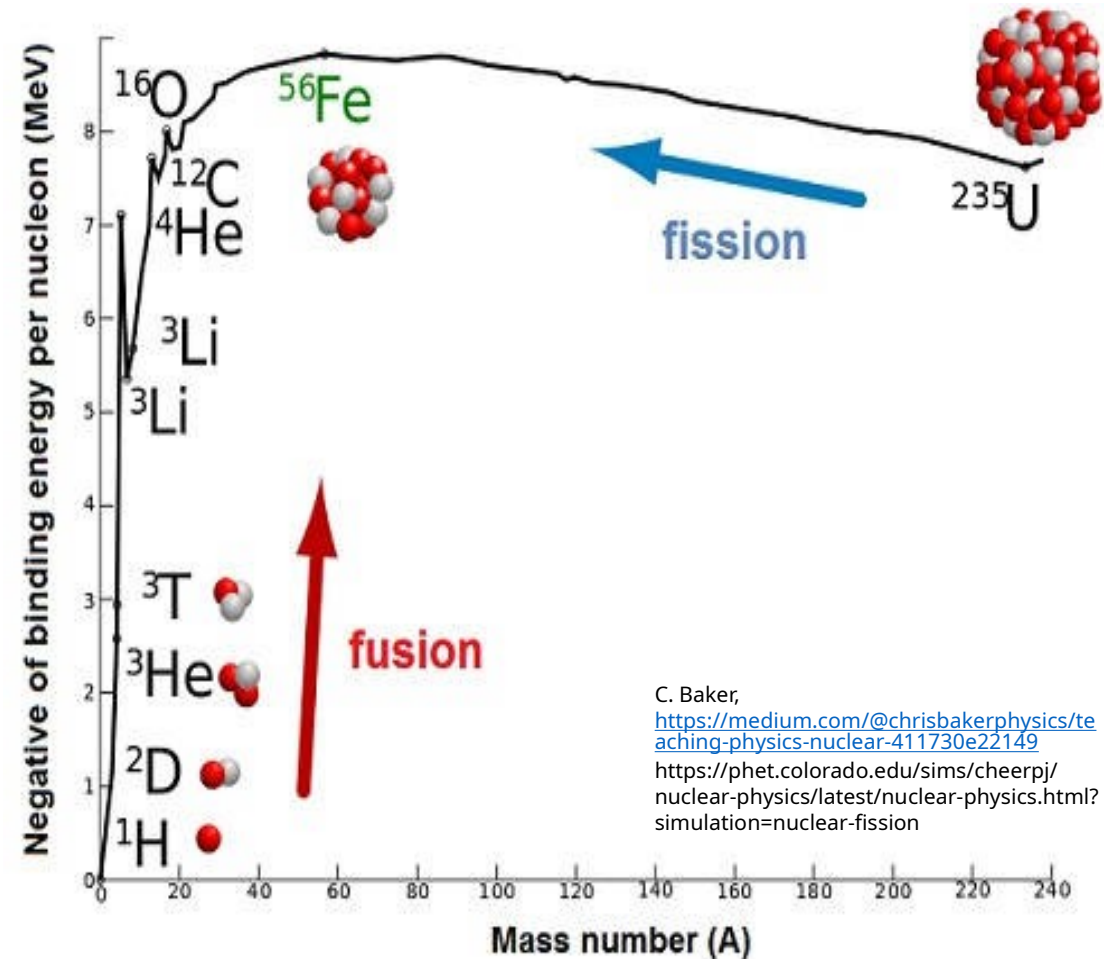


What do
you notice
here??

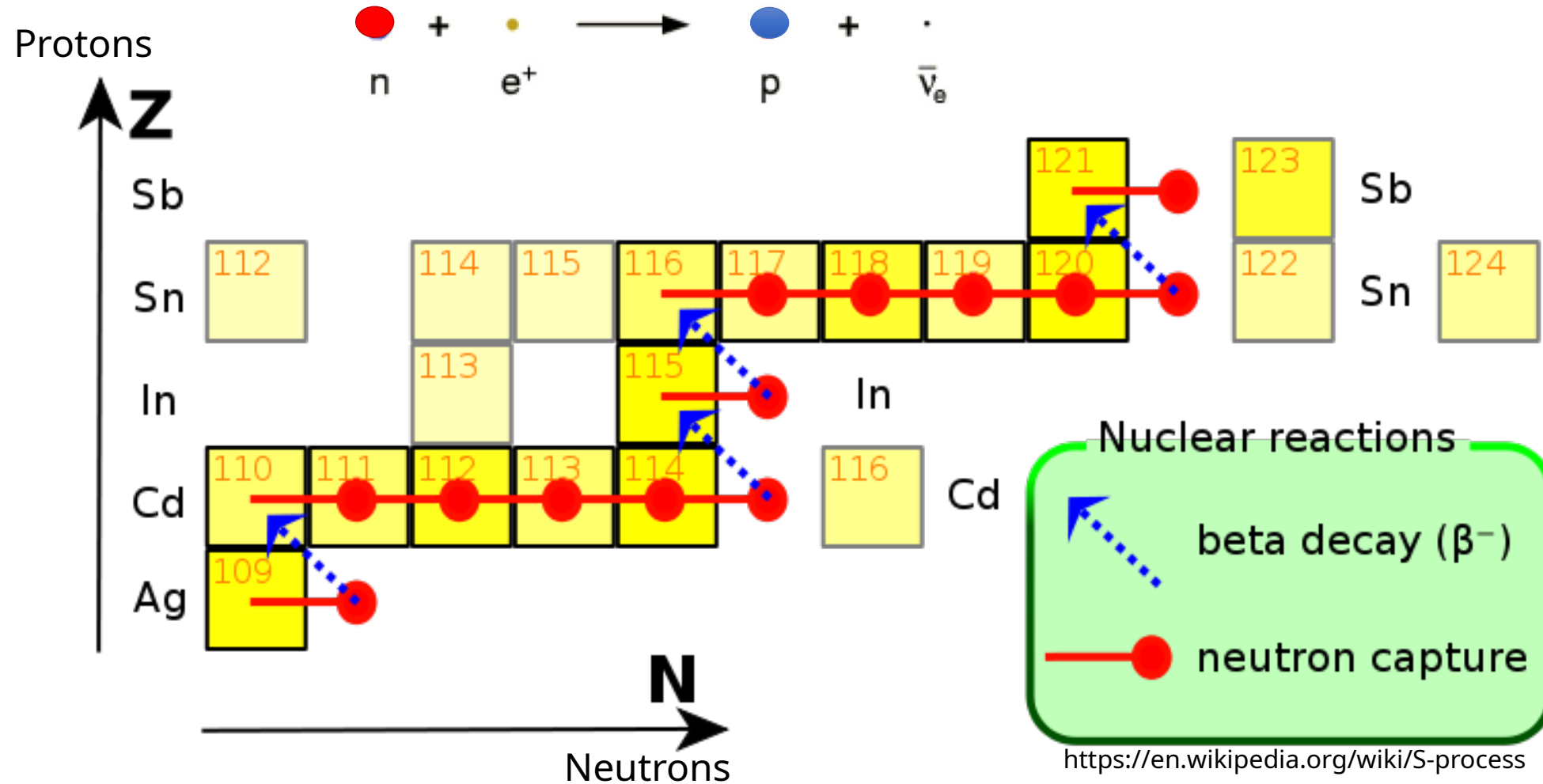
2 2 He Helium 4.002602	79 2 8 18 32 18 1 Au Gold 196.966569	23 2 8 11 2 V Vanadium 50.9415	39 2 8 18 9 2 Y Yttrium 88.90585
63 2 8 18 25 8 2 Eu Europium 151.964	116 2 8 18 32 32 18 6 Lv Livermorium [293]	63 2 8 18 25 8 2 Eu Europium 151.964	25 2 8 13 2 Mn Manganese 54.938045
63 2 8 18 25 8 2 Eu Europium 151.964	7 2 5 N Nitrogen 14.0067	69 2 8 18 31 8 2 Tm Thulium 168.93421	16 2 8 6 S Sulfur 32.065

How do heavy elements form?

- Stars form up to Fe during their lives
- Heavier atoms have larger positively charged nuclei that repel protons
- Elements $> \text{Fe}$ mostly form via neutron captures

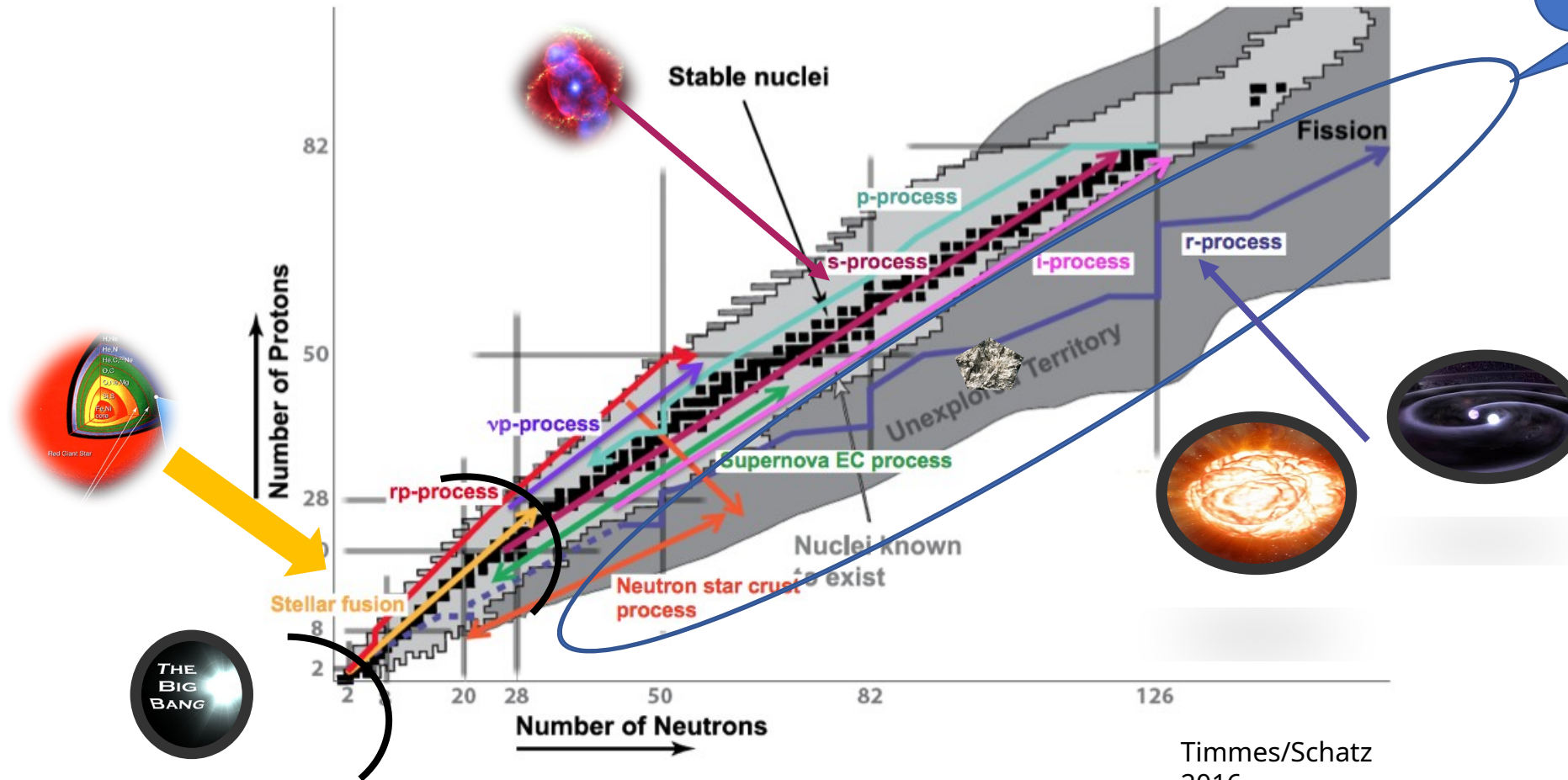


Neutron capture & decay



Nuclear reactions

Unknown Reactions!



Timmes/Schatz
2016

The Periodic Table – n-capture processes

r- and s-process elements (Arlandini+1999)

S-process																R-process															

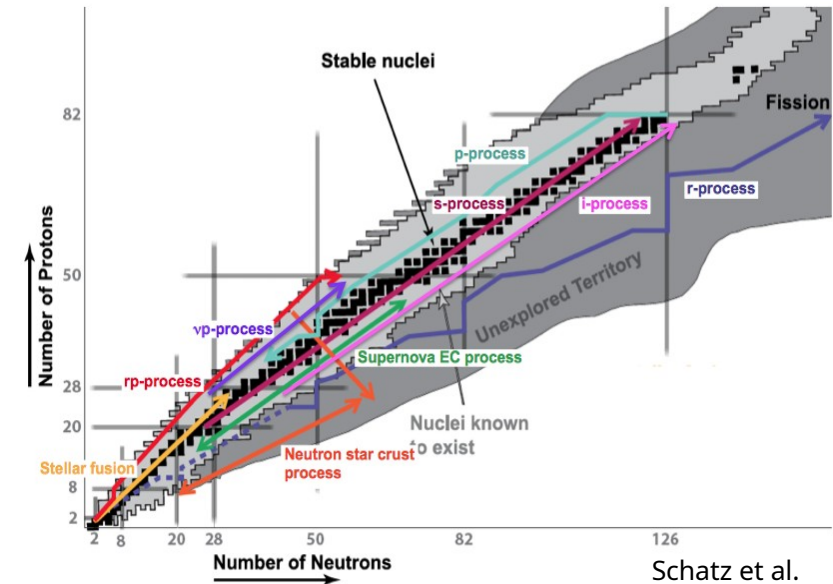
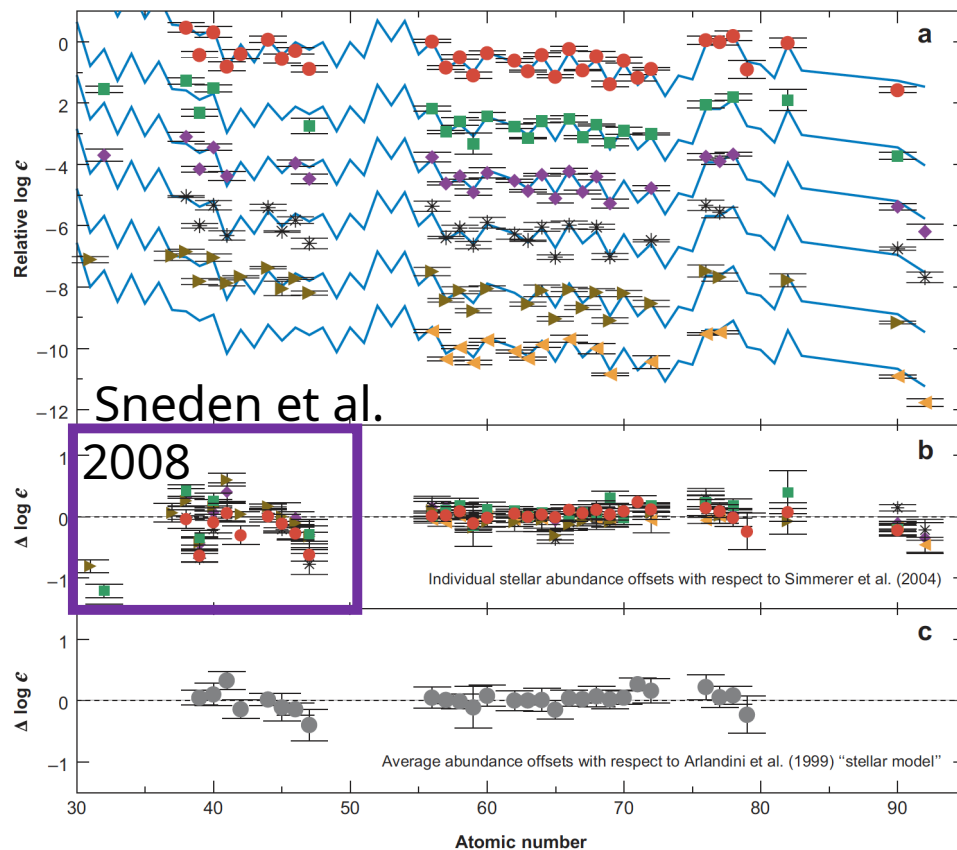


Figure 1. Schematic overview of the nuclear processes in the universe on the chart of nuclides (adapted from figure by F. Timmes).

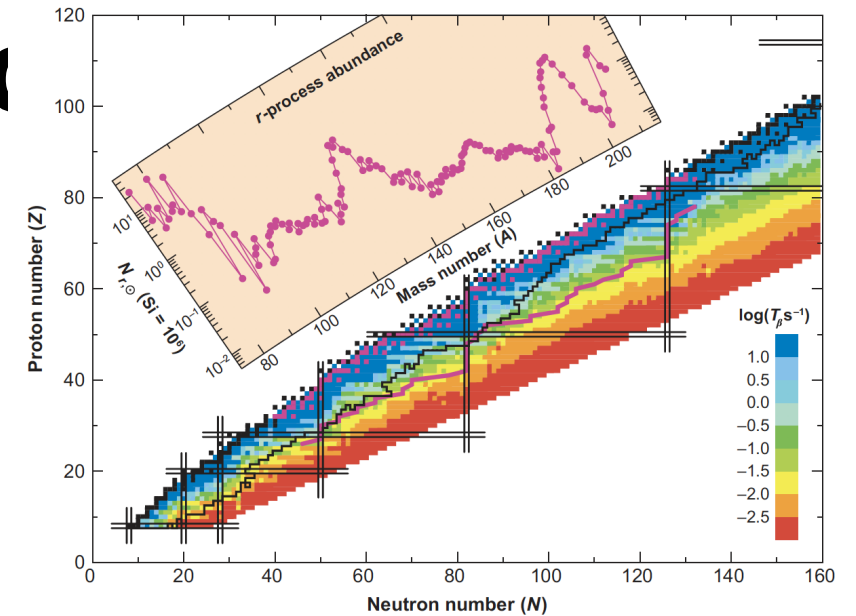
Heavy element abundance

- Different stars show different patterns

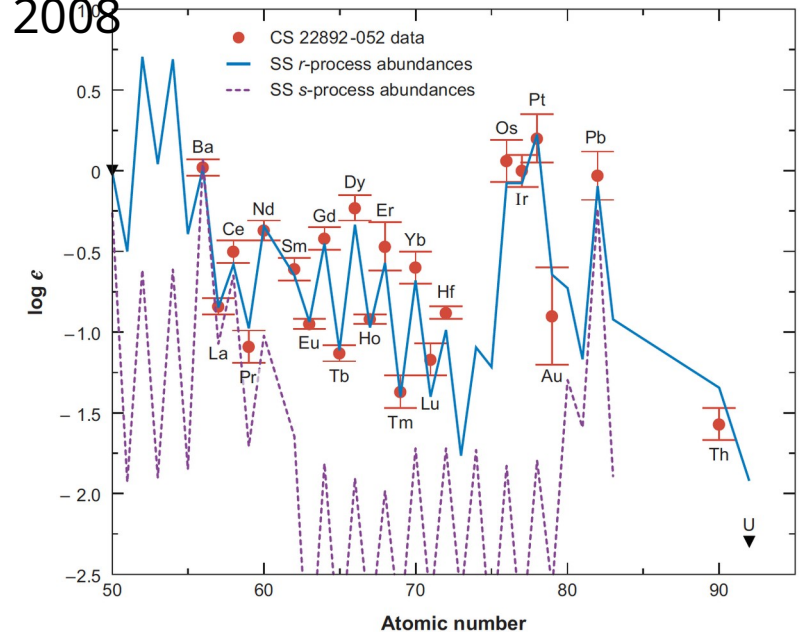
• Compared to different elements, than



Large residuals for $Z=30-50 \rightarrow$ Solar-s=r not sufficient!



^Møller et al. 1997; v Sneden et al. 2008



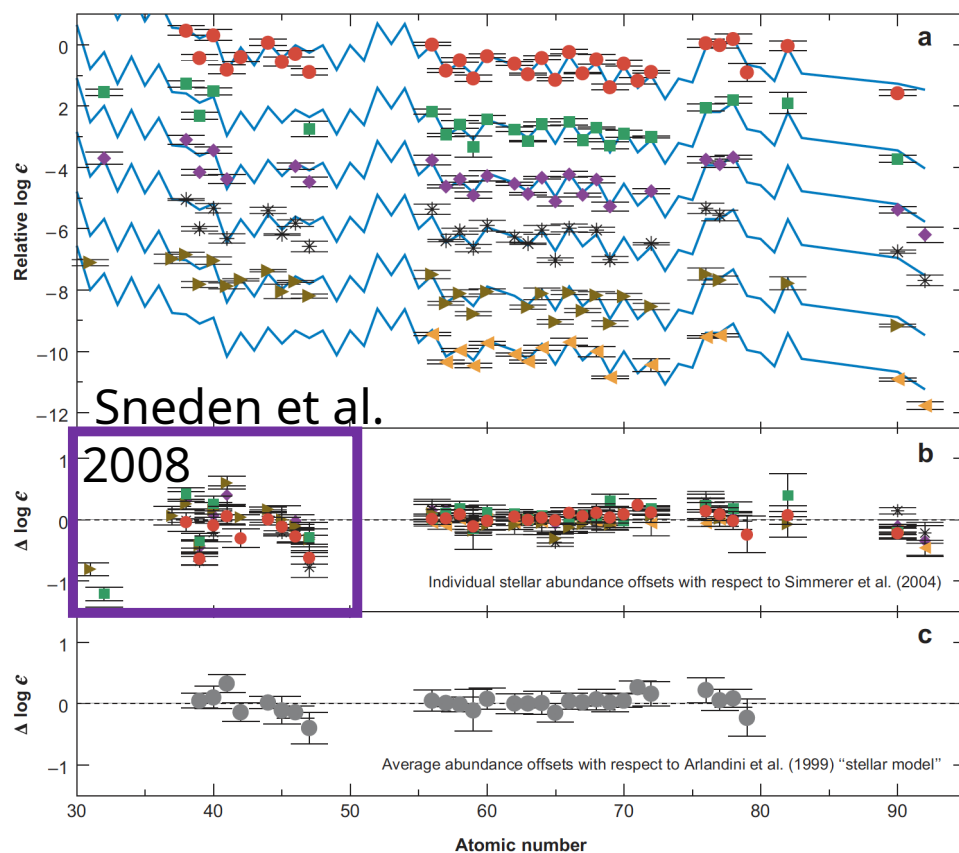
Heavy element abundances

- Different stars show different patterns

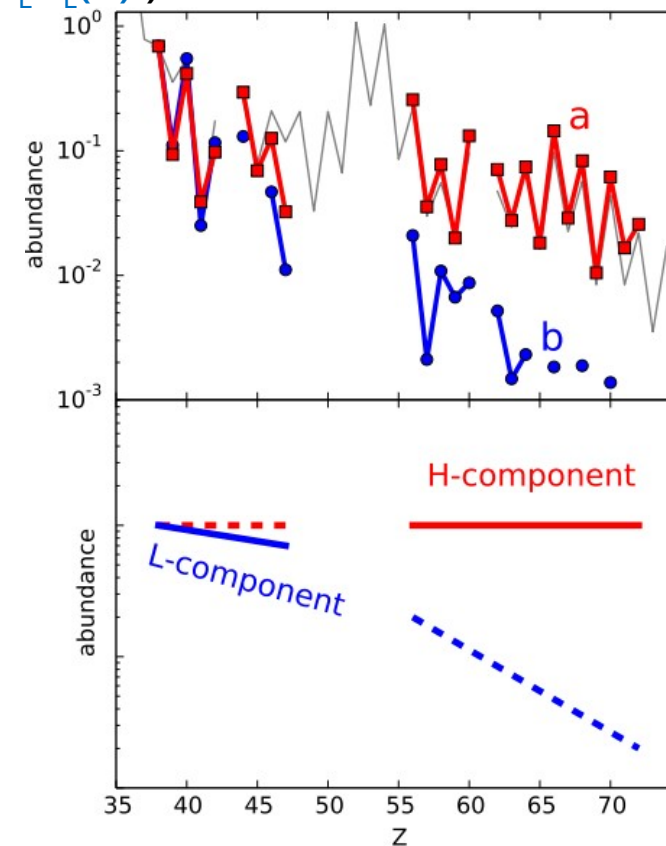
No site – just observations
H represented by r-rich stars
L represented by r-poor stars

$$\text{Abun}(Z) = (C_H A_H(Z) + C_L A_L(Z)) * 10^{[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]}$$

than



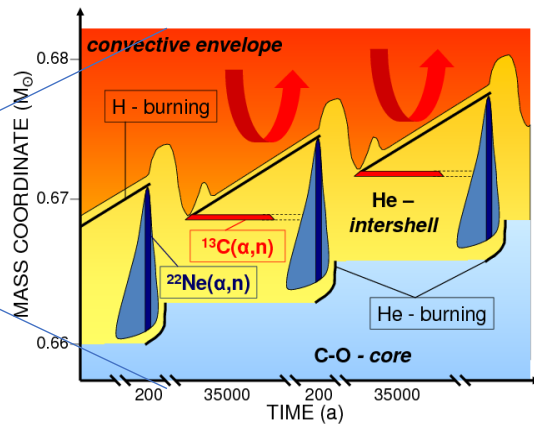
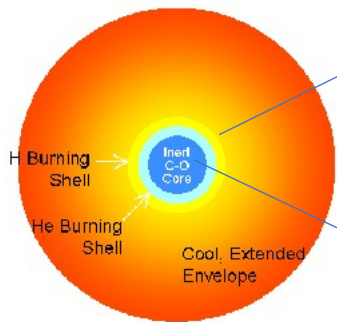
Large residuals for $Z=30-50 \rightarrow$ Solar-s=r not sufficient!



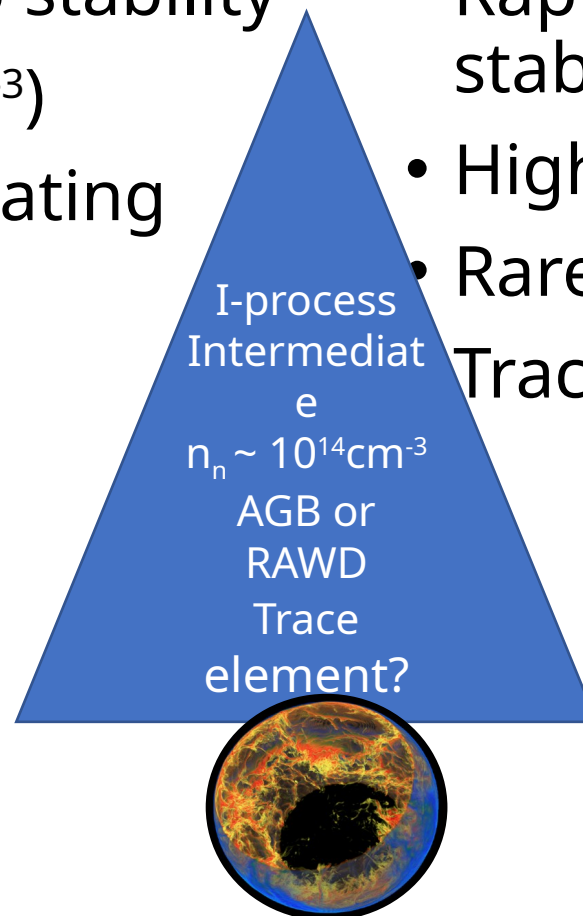
Indirect tracers of n-capture processes

- S-process
- Slow ($t_{\text{cap}} \sim t_{\beta}$) & close to stability
- Low n-density ($\sim 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-3}$)
- AGB or massive fast rotating stars
- Trace element: Ba

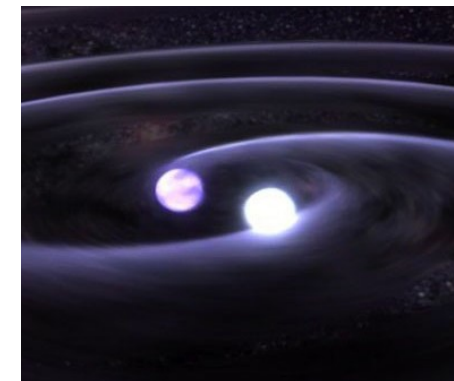
- R-process
- Rapid ($t_{\text{cap}} < t_{\beta}$) & far from stability
- High n-density ($> 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$)
- Rare SN or NS mergers
- Trace element: Eu



M. Heil, 2005,
<https://doi.org/10.1063/1.1945255>

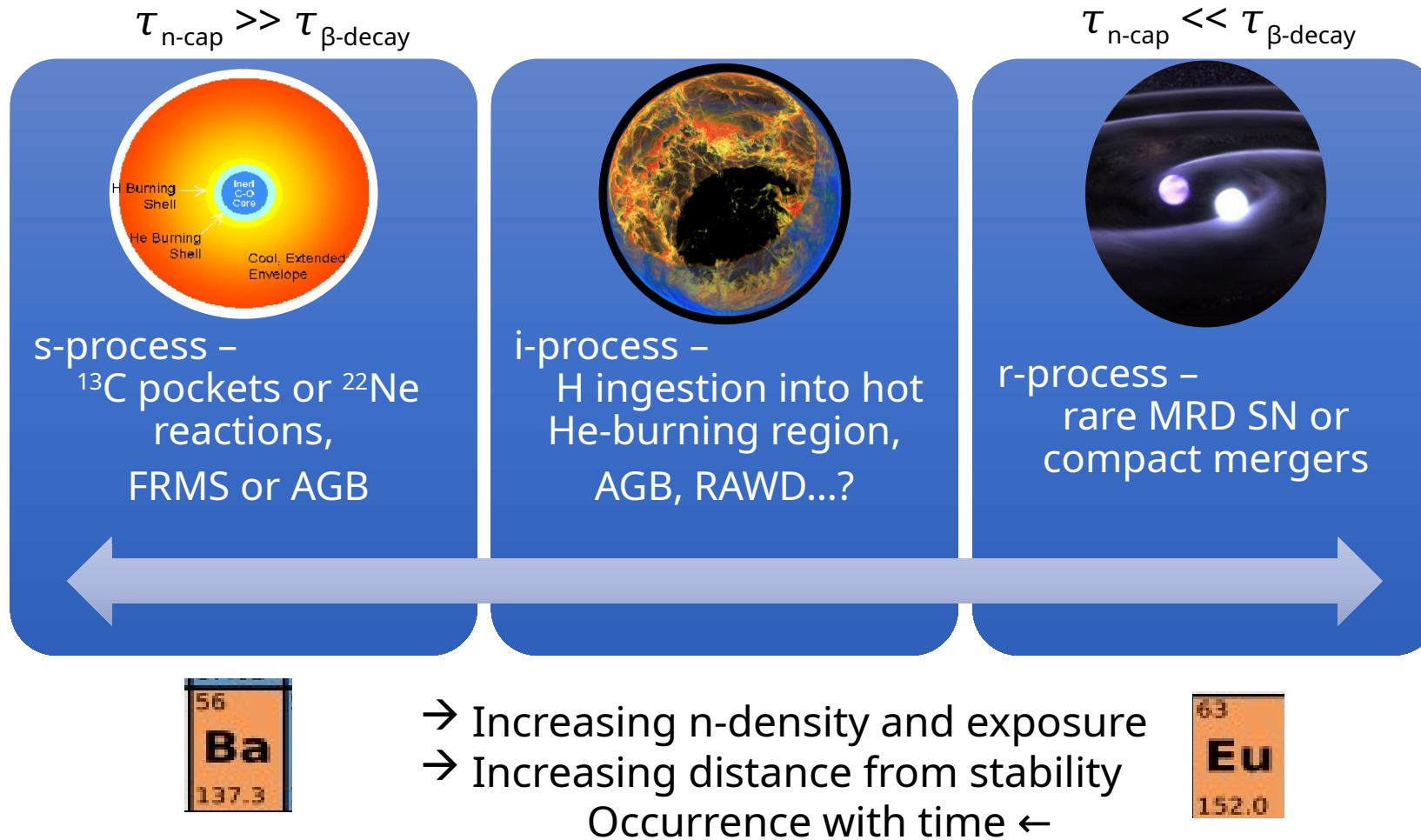


Camilla J. Hansen, IAP, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt

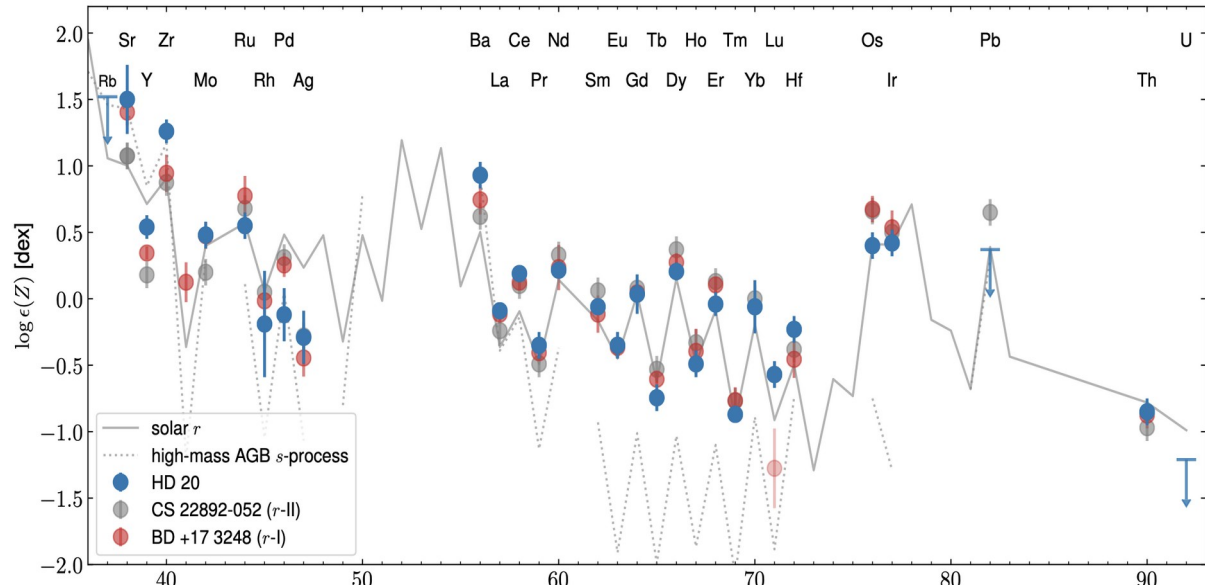


<http://public.virgo-gw.eu/the-gravitational-wave-universe/>

Neutron-capture processes

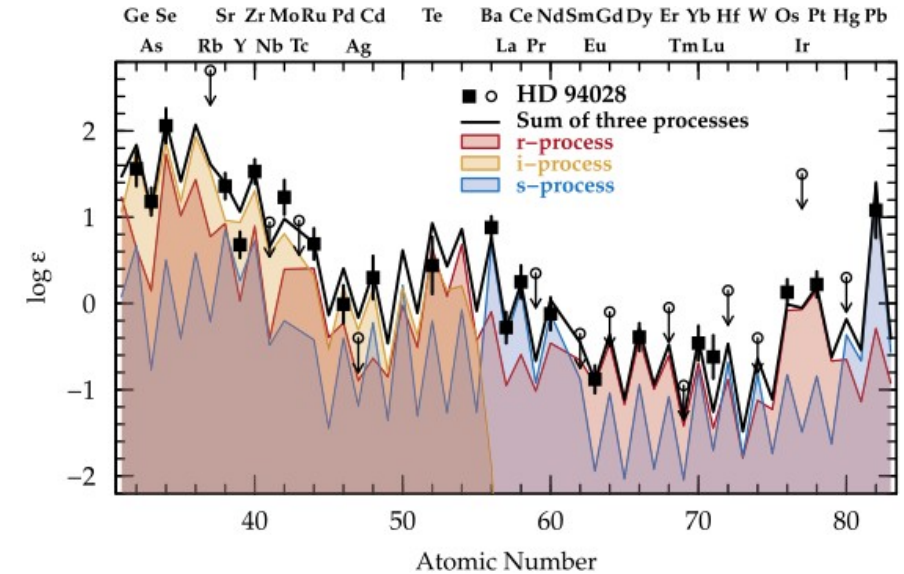


Formation processes

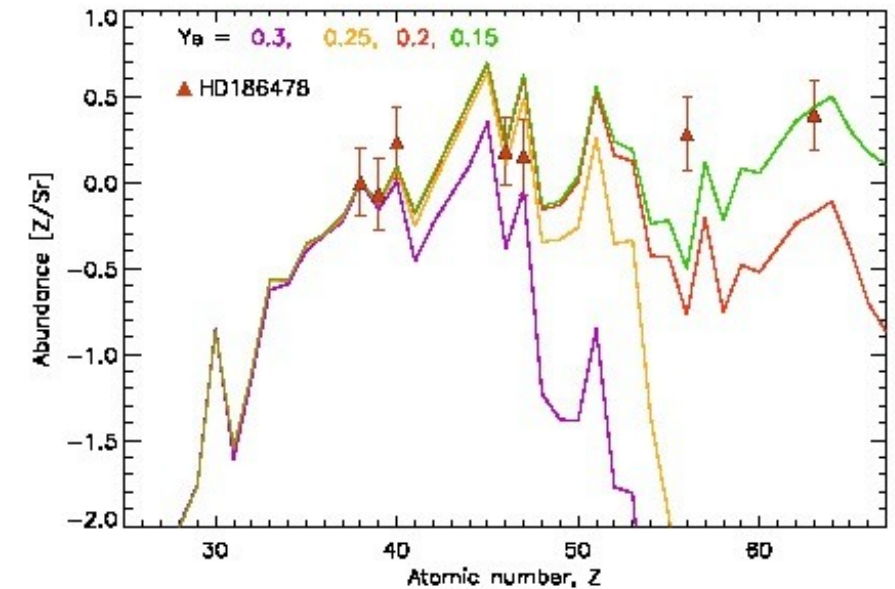


Hanke, CJH et al. 2020

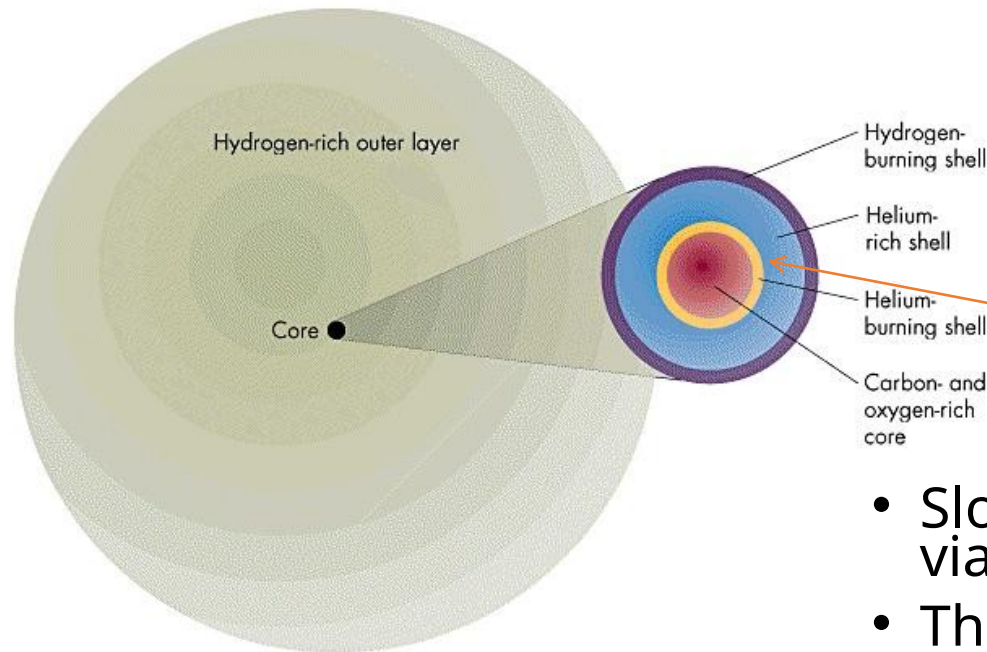
A generic comparison to the neutron-capture process
 □ dominant formation processes
 Following we can try to constrain the free parameters/micro-physics of the process



Roederer et al. 2016

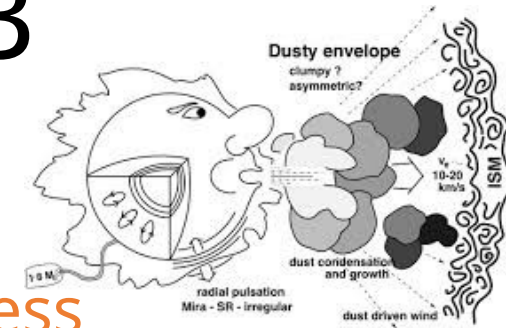


CJH et al. 2012

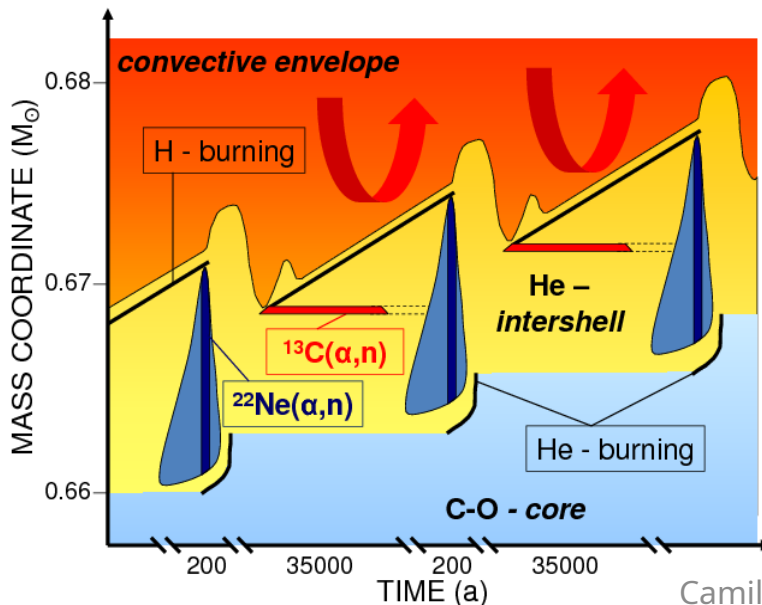


AGB

s-process

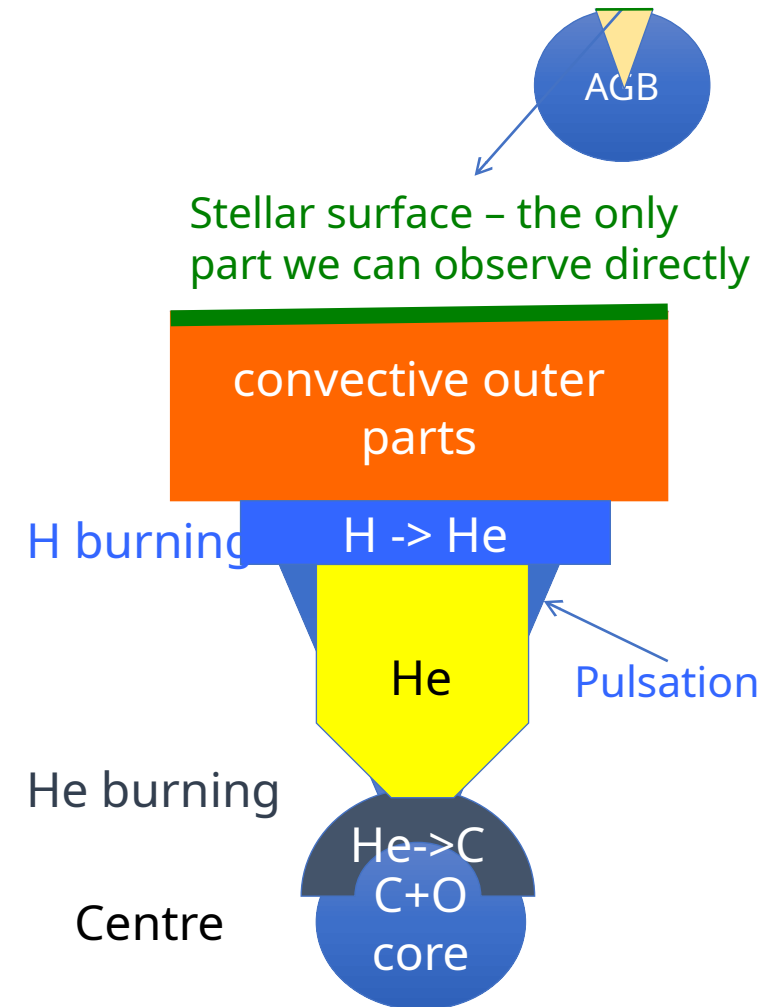
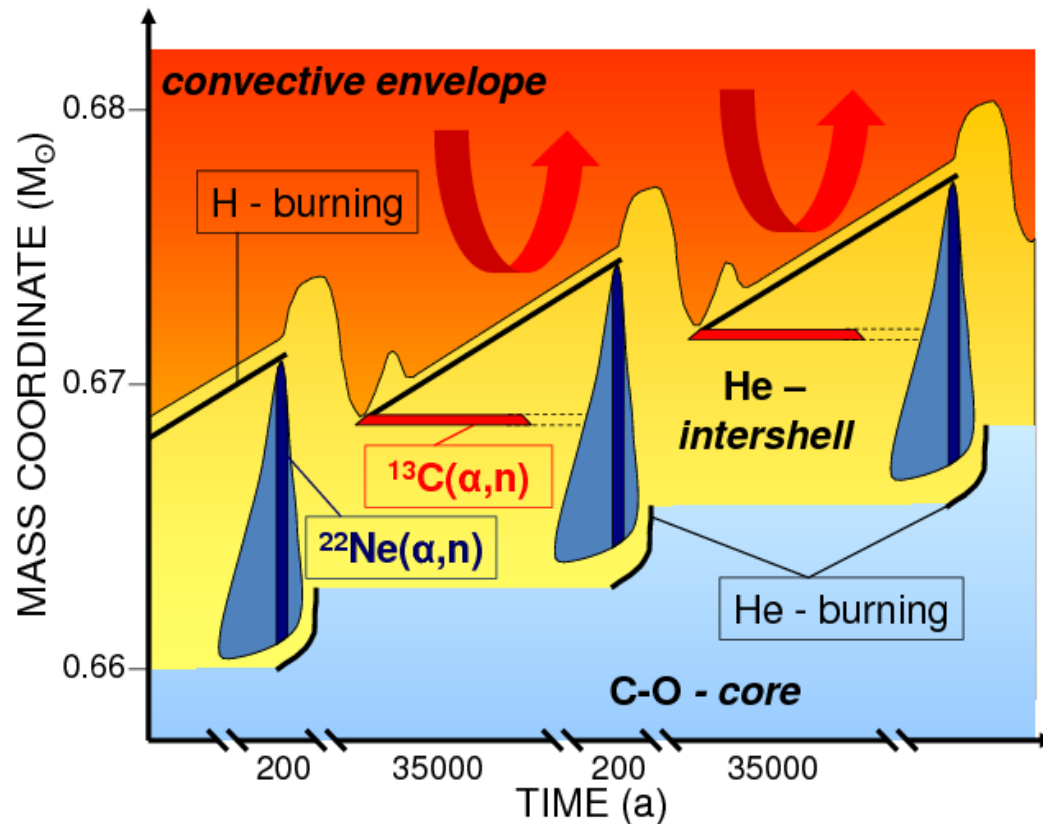


- Slow neutron-capture process (*s-process*) via C- or Ne-reactions
- The s-process can only take place after seeds like C atoms have formed and only in evolved stars → time delay
- Lead (Pb), and barium (Ba) are formed in deeper layers of AGB stars (only little Pb forms!)
- Tc is a direct indicator of ongoing s-process



Where does the s-process occur?

- In AGB Stars - ^4He , ^{12}C , s-process (Ba, Pb....) between pulsations (1.000-10.000 yrs)



Supernovae

Image: ESO/L. Calçada

- The first stars were massive and exploded as supernovae releasing energy and particles.
- Newly released particles were captured and formed elements like magnesium and calcium
- A rapid neutron capture process (*r*-process) can take place in the explosion and form elements like Strontium (Sr, Nr. 38) and Silver (Ag, Nr. 47)



Supernova Mass > 8 Solar masses
Typically 10-40 Solar masses

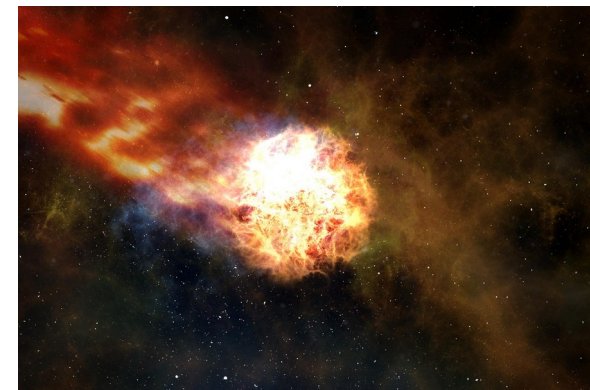


Image: <https://scitechdaily.com/supercomputer-simulations-of-core-collapse-supernovae-reveal-complicated-physics-of-exploding-massive-stars/>

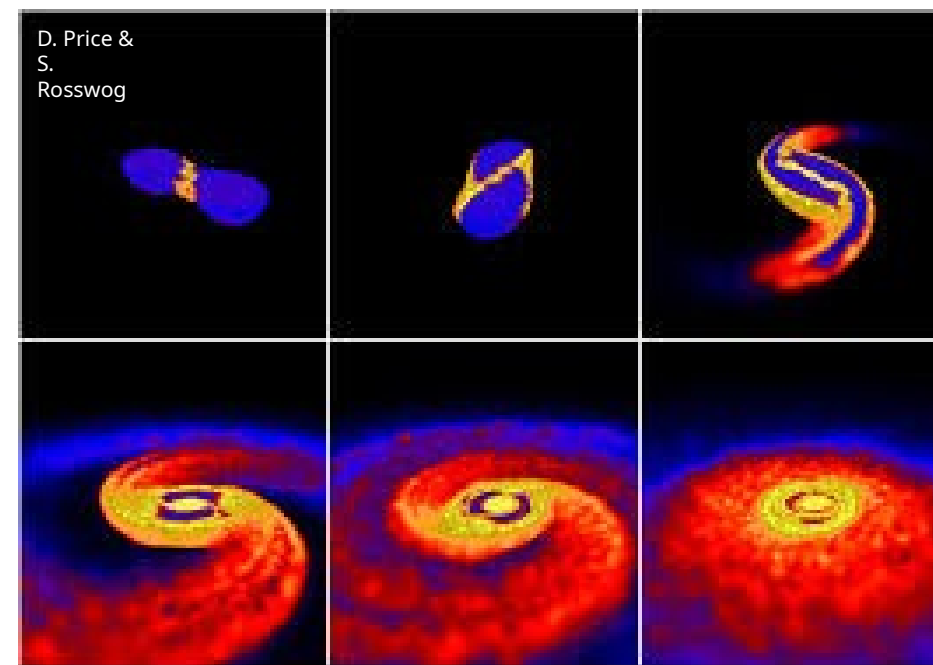
Neutron star mergers



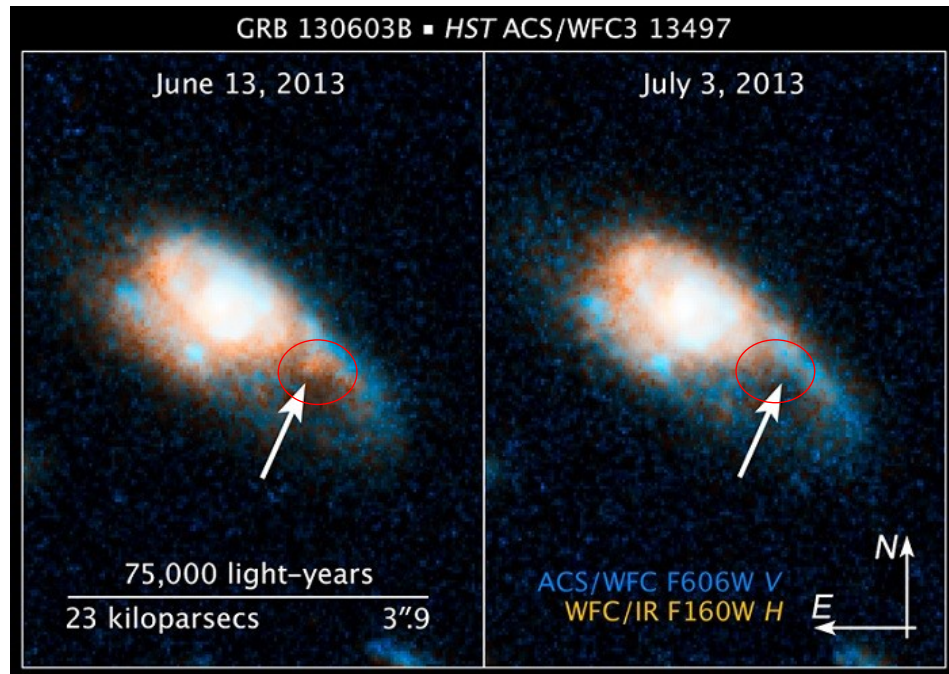
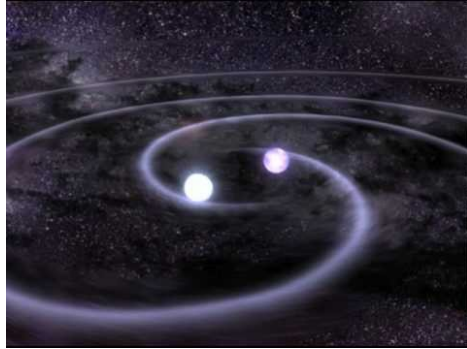
<http://public.virgo-gw.eu/the-gravitational-wave-universe/>

- 2 Supernovae $\rightarrow$ 2 Neutron stars
- Neutron stars are full of neutrons that can be captured and via an *r-process* form elements like silver (Ag, No. 47), europium (Eu, No. 63), gold (Au, No. 79) or uranium (U, No. 92)

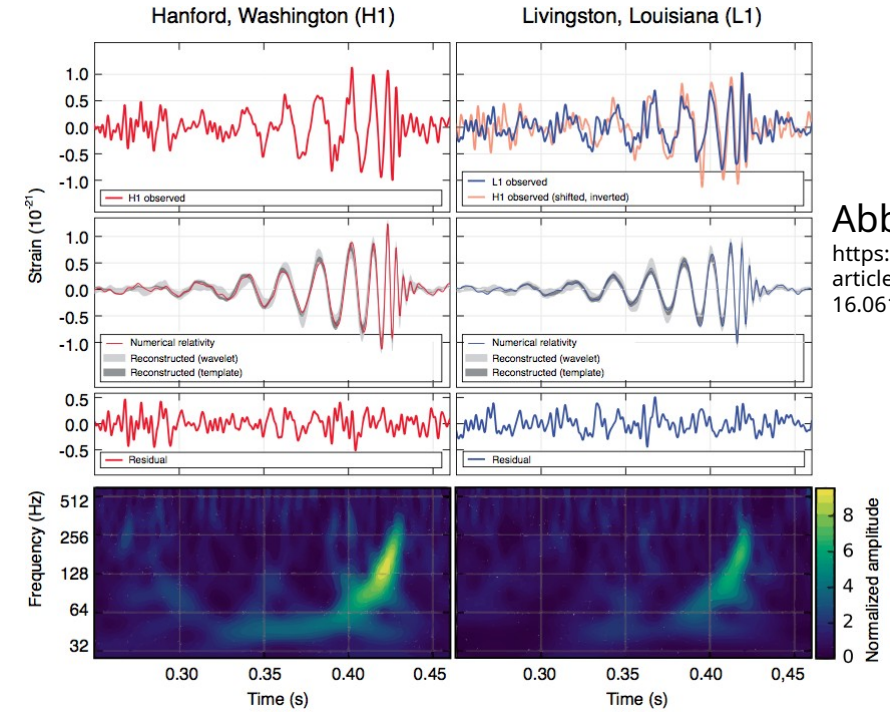
~ 10
ms!



Mergers – black holes and neutron stars



Tanvir et al. 2013, source: Hubble



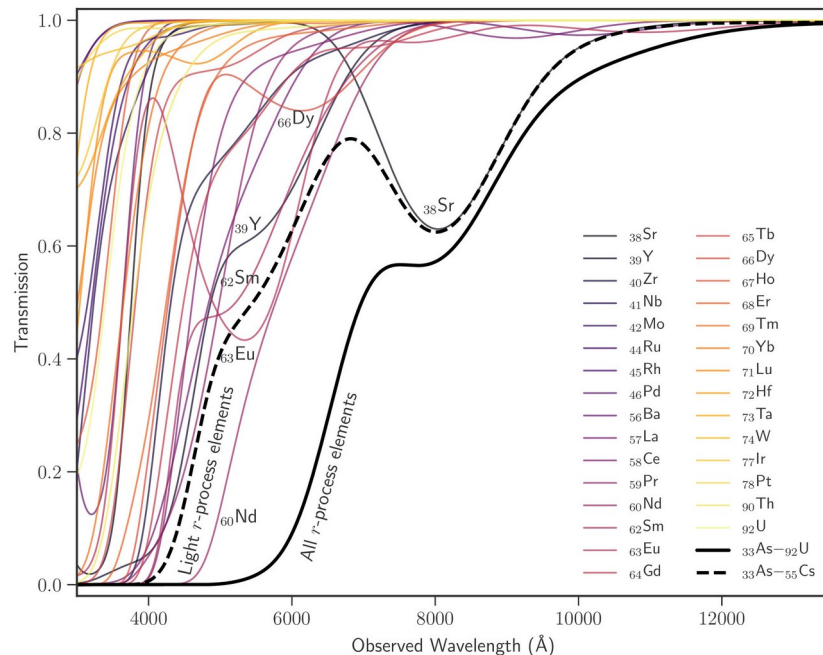
Abbott et al. 2016,
<https://physics.aps.org/featured-article-pdf/10.1103/PhysRevLett.116.061102>



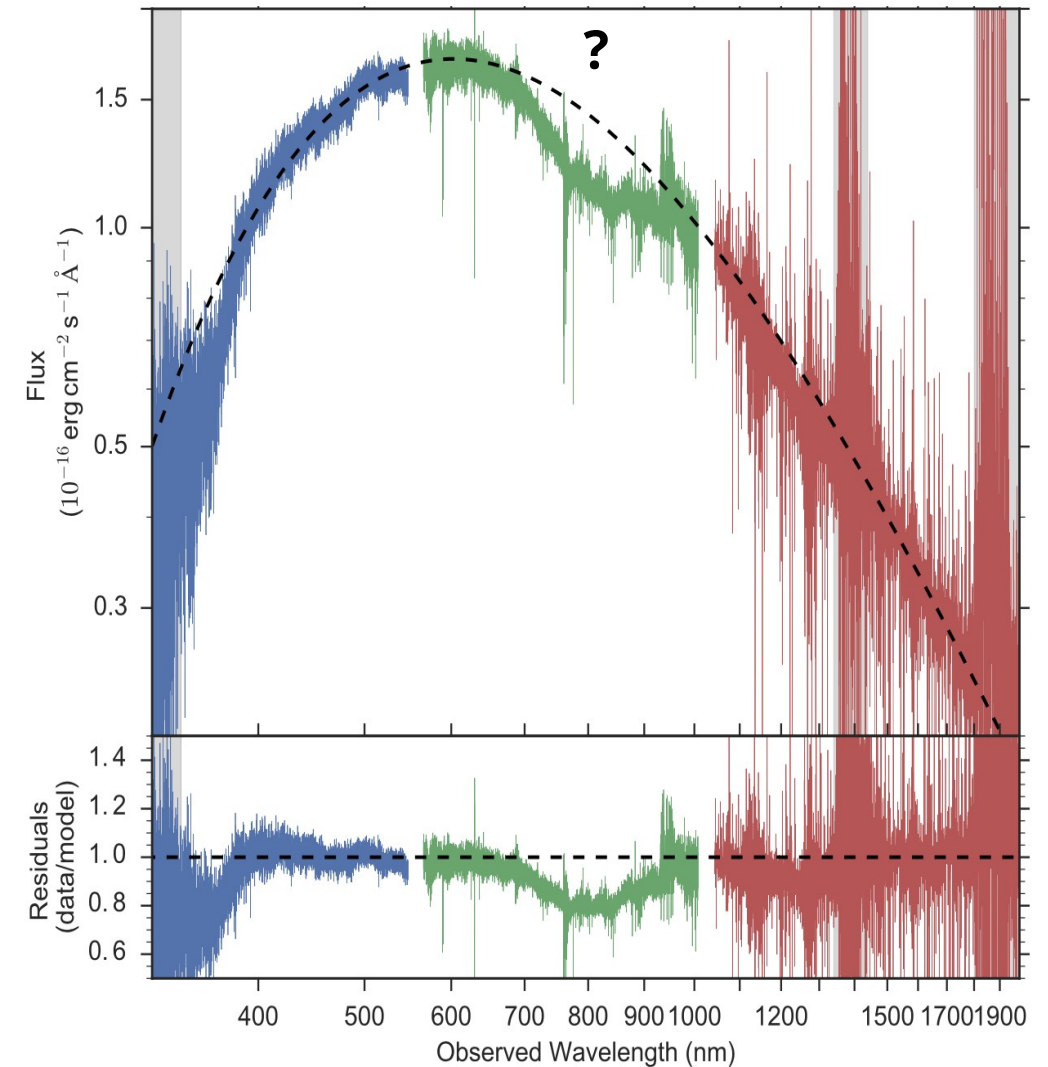
LIGO;
<https://physicsworld.com/a/ligo-upgrade-to-allow-almost-daily-detection-of-gravitational-waves/>

The blue kilonova

- Observations with the Very Large Telescope, Chile
- Modelled all heavy elements between As & U



Watson,
Hansen,
Selsing et
al. 2019,
Nature

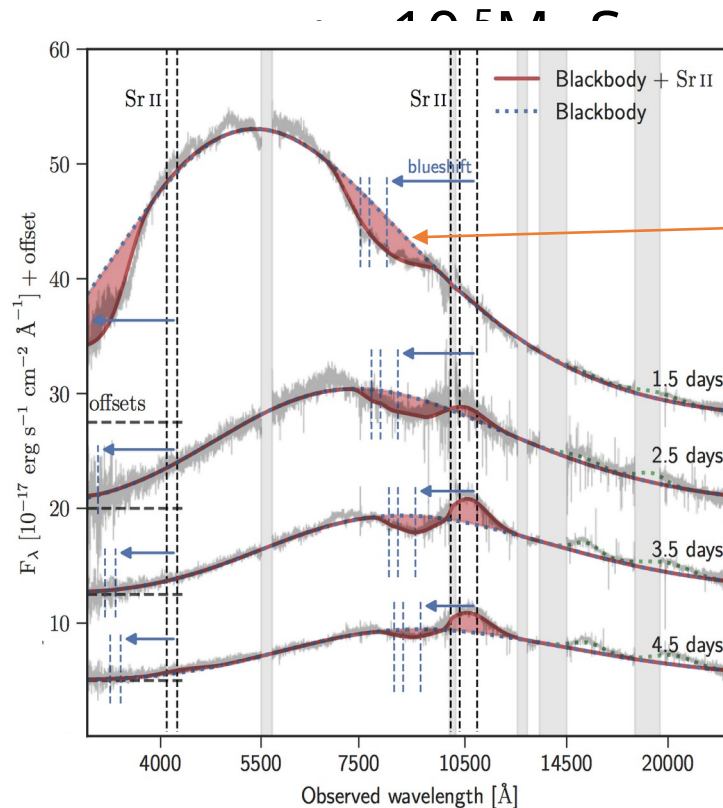


More than lanthanides in mergers! Direct detection of n-captures

- The 2017 kilonova was blue
- This does not agree with lanthanide production
- Expanding gas as is blueshifted by $0.2c$



Very Large Telescope (VLT), Chile

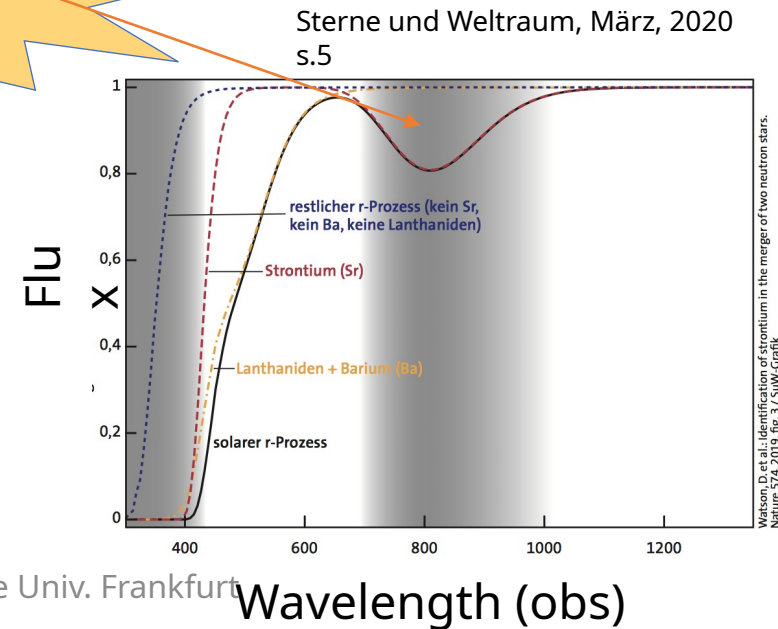


produced

First **direct**
detection of
Sr in a
merger

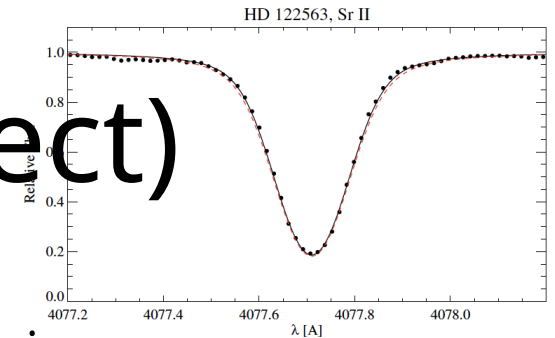
Watson et al. 2019, Nature 574, 479

Camilla J. Hansen, IAP, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt



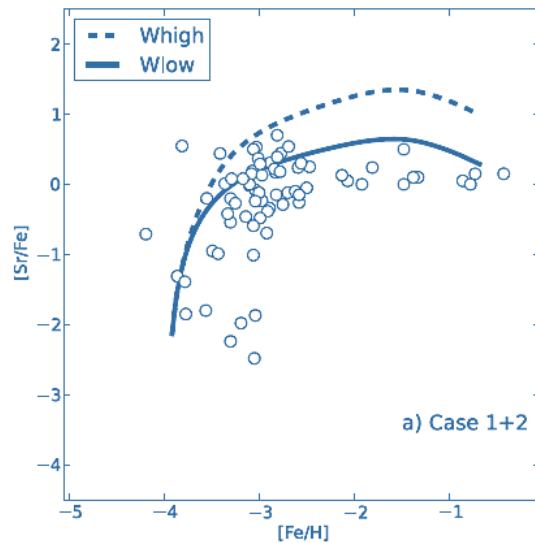
Wavelength (obs)

Formation of Sr over time (indirect)

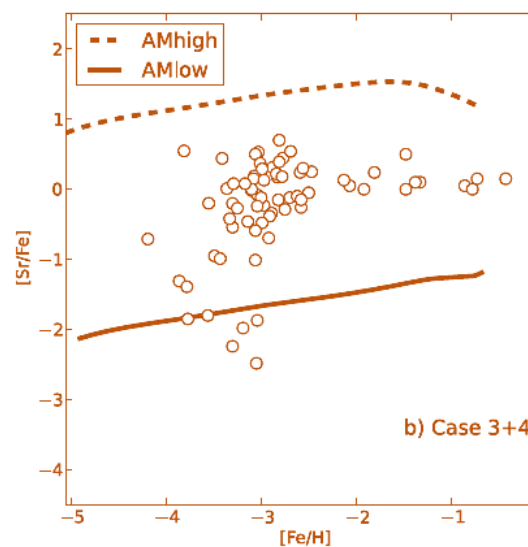


Hansen et al. 2013

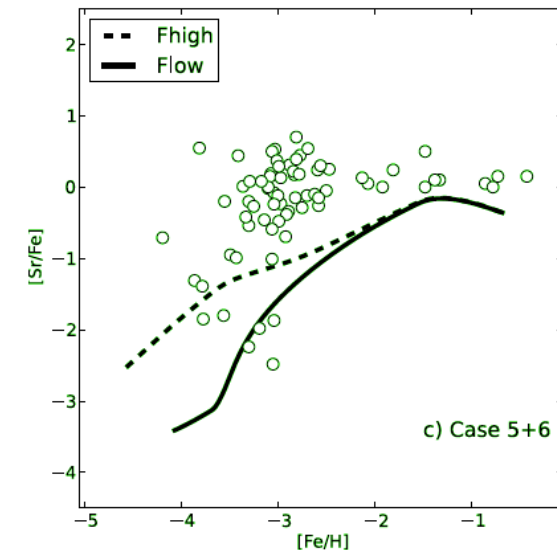
- Sr is the n-capture element that shows the strongest line → good to study in stars
- Sr ($Z=38$) can be formed in a number of processes and sites
- In the Solar System – Sr is formed mainly via the s-process in **AGB stars** but at low metallicity the r-process can form Sr – different sites produce different amounts



Electron capture SN –
r (Wanajo et al. 2011)

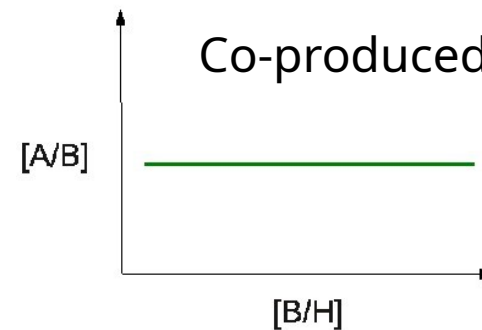
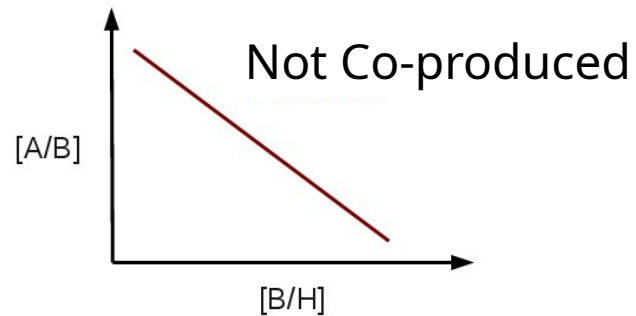


ν -driven winds from SN
– r

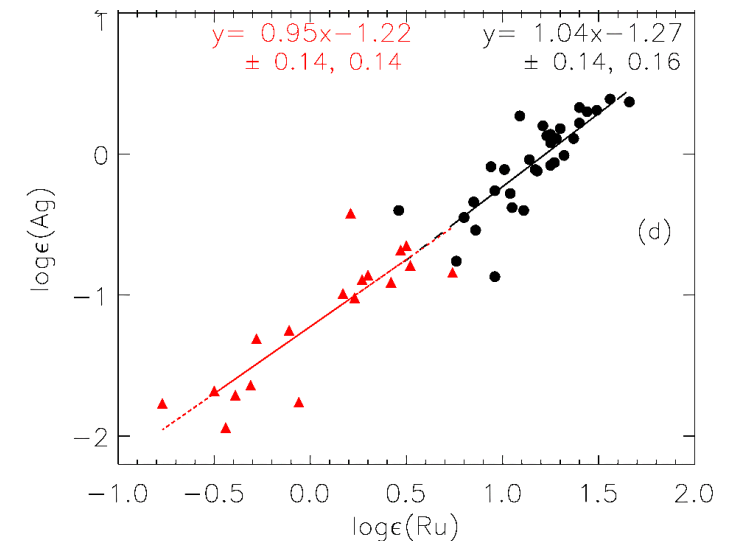
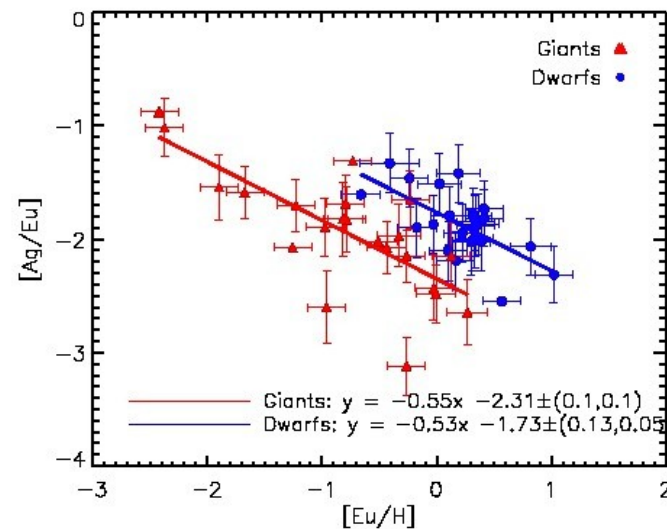
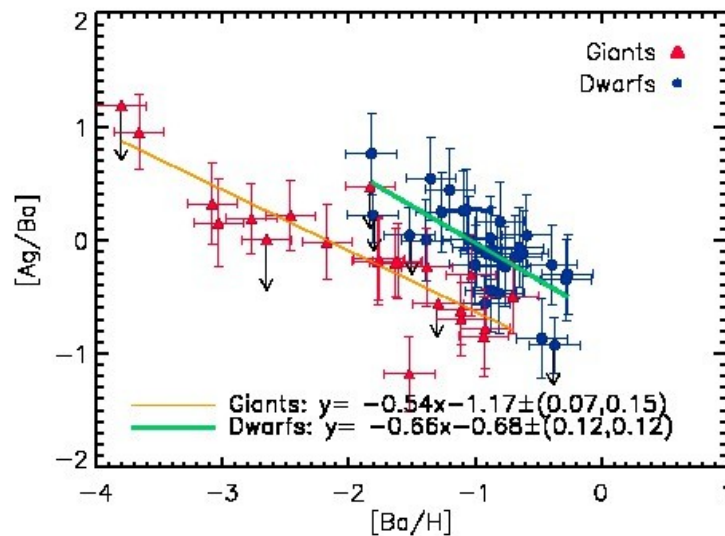


Fast rotating massive stars
(early s)
(Frischknecht et al. 2012)

R-process – not universal?!



Ag not co-produced
with Ba (s) nor Eu (r) □
A need for a weak r-
process/ different
conditions/
physics/sites

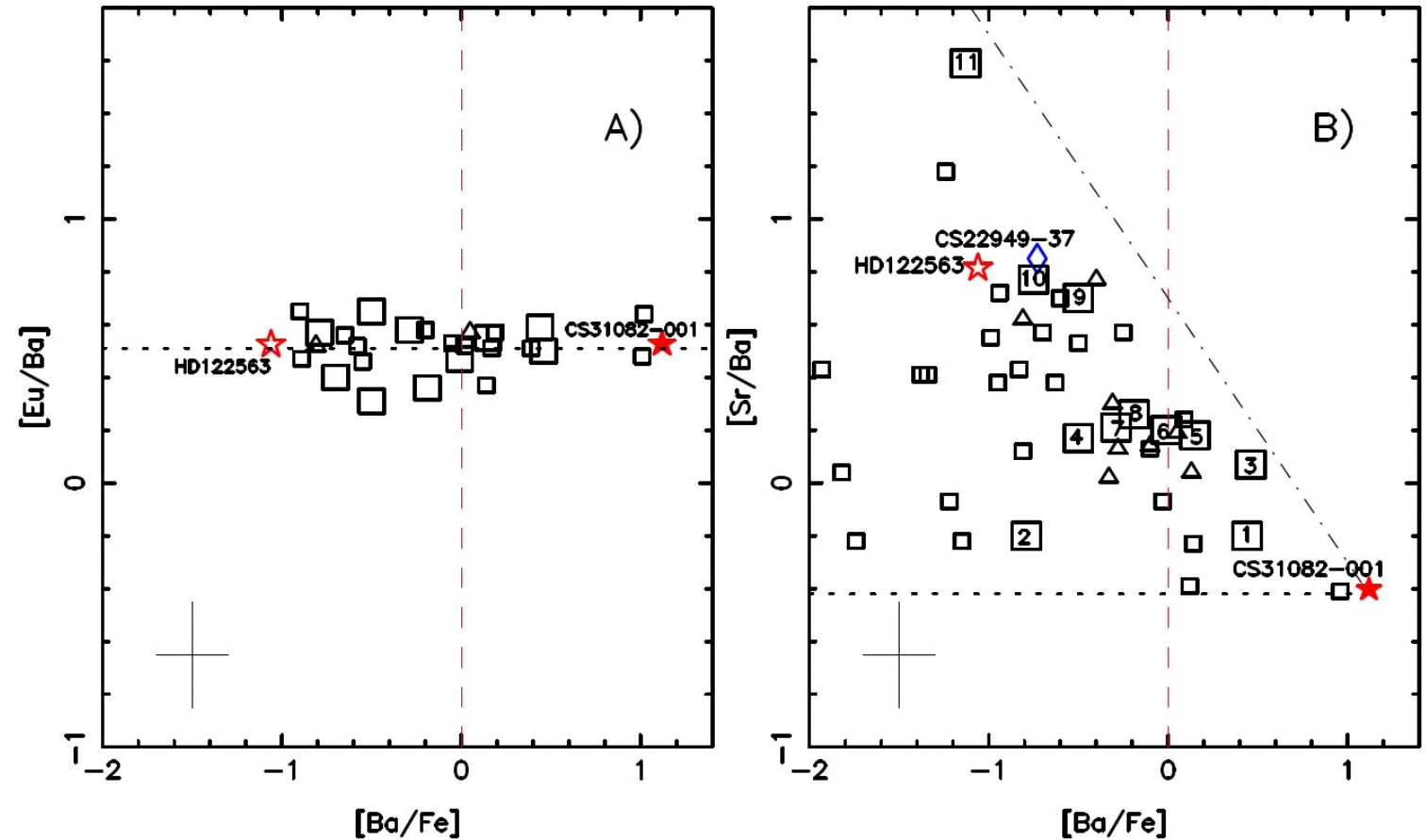


Hansen et al. 2012, 2014

Weak r-process

Spite et al. 2018

- Sr and Ba do not correlate
- Min and max in $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}]$!



Chemical Evolution of R-process Elements in Stars – CERES

CERES: PI C. J. Hansen

Goal: Improve knowledge of the physical conditions and formation sites of r-process elements

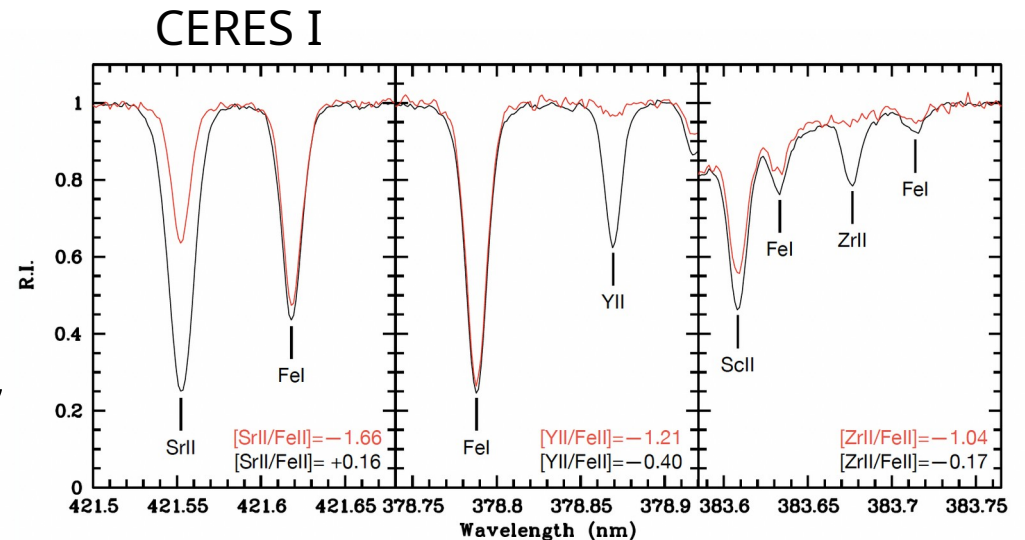
Data: High-resolution ($R > 40000$), high signal-to-noise ratio ($\text{SNR} > 50$ @ 390 nm) spectra obtained with ESO VLT/UVES ($> 100\text{h}$ observing time)

Sample: 52 giant stars with few known heavy element abundances

Method: Fully homogeneous analysis (1D, LTE models, codes, data, line lists...)

Status: Li, C, N, O, Na – Zr, [Zr-Ag], Ba – Eu, Hf, Os, Ir, Pt, [Th,U]

CERES I - IV



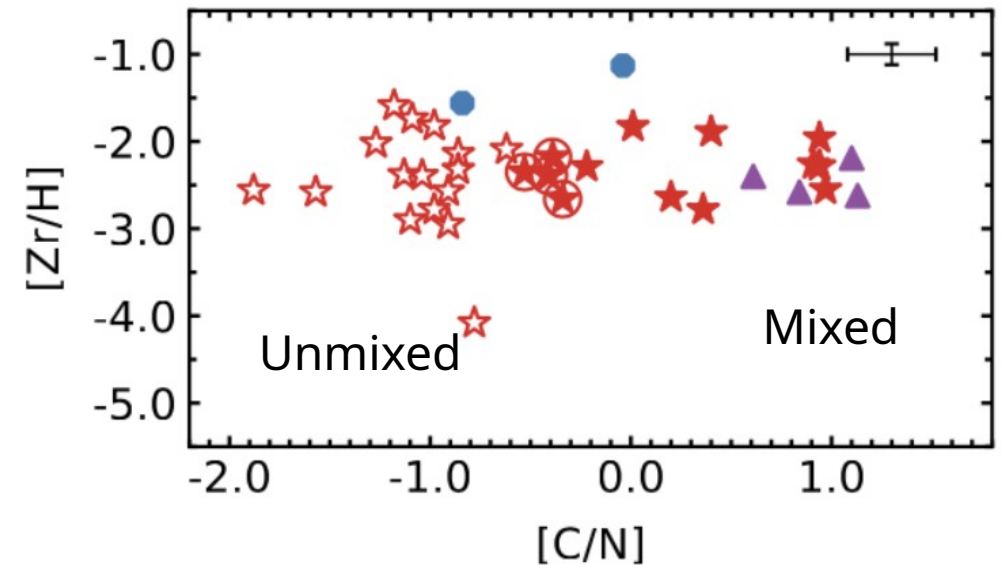
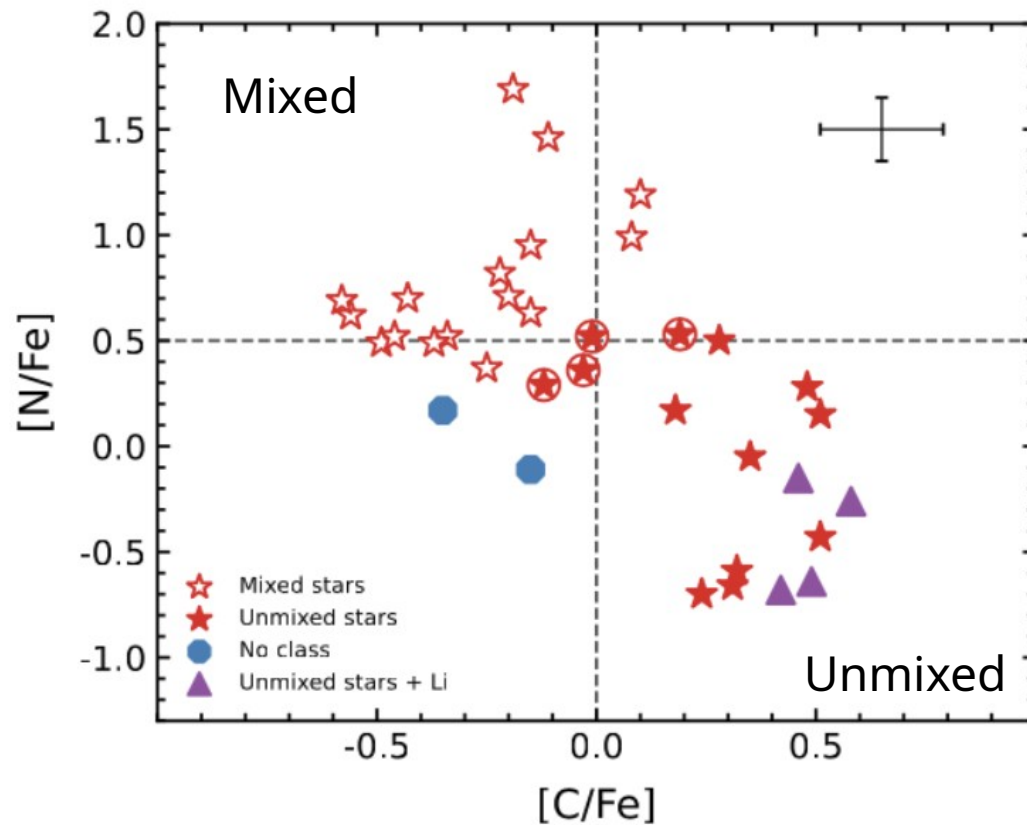
Lombardo et al. 2022

Combining light and heavy elements

Fernandes de Melo et al. 2024
CERES II



Raphaella Fernandes de Melo
PhD Student

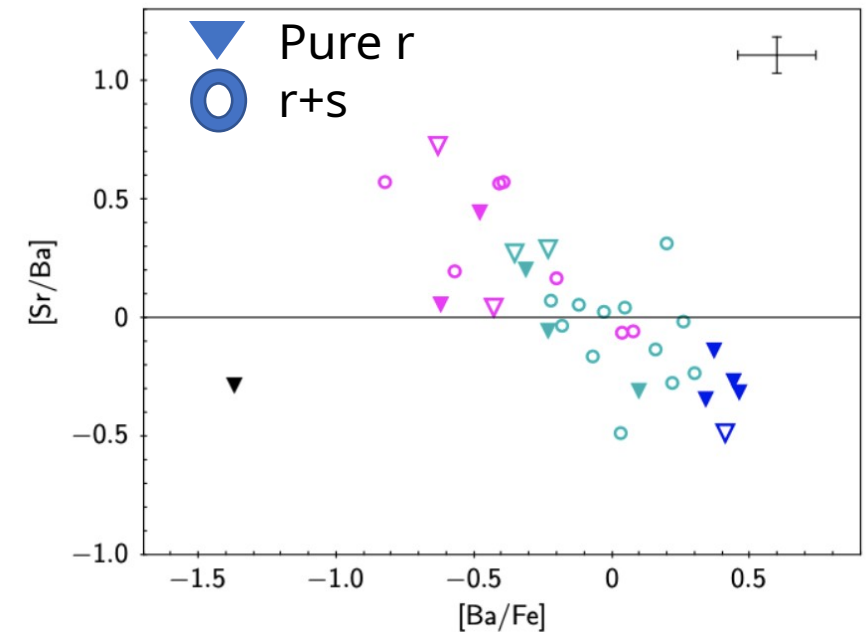
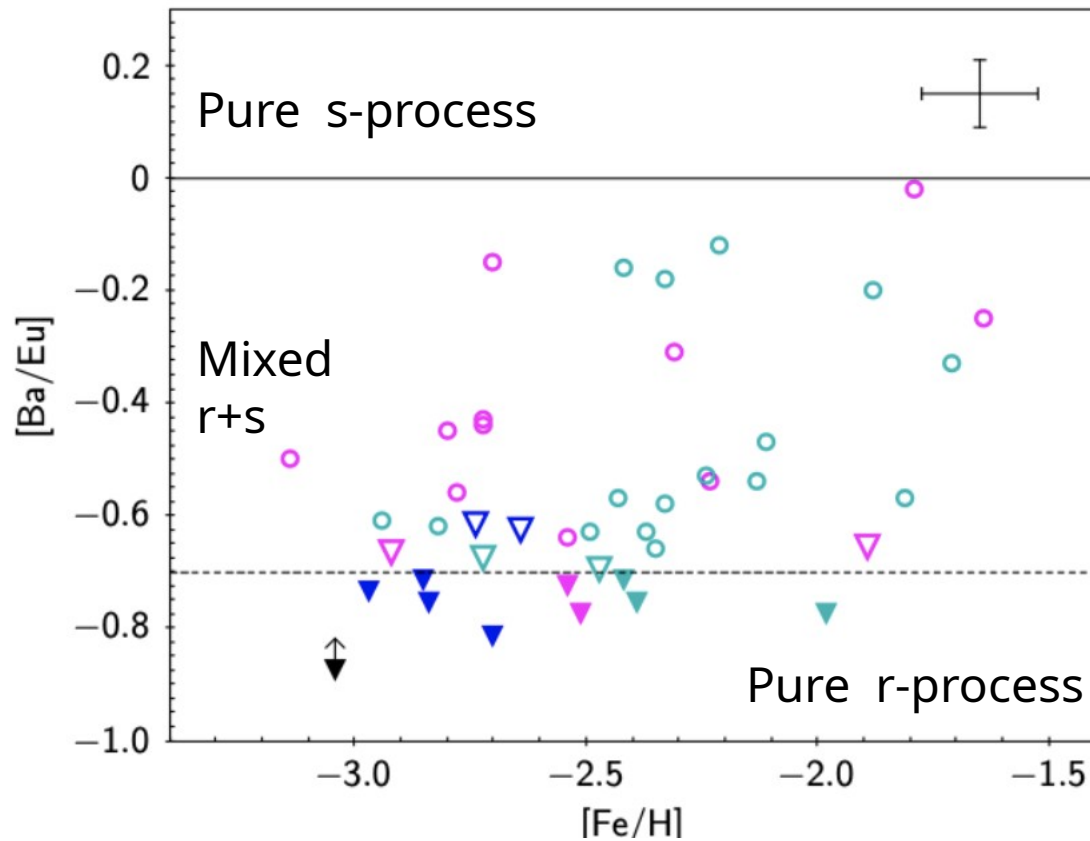


Rare earth elements as nuclear tracers



Linda
Lombardo

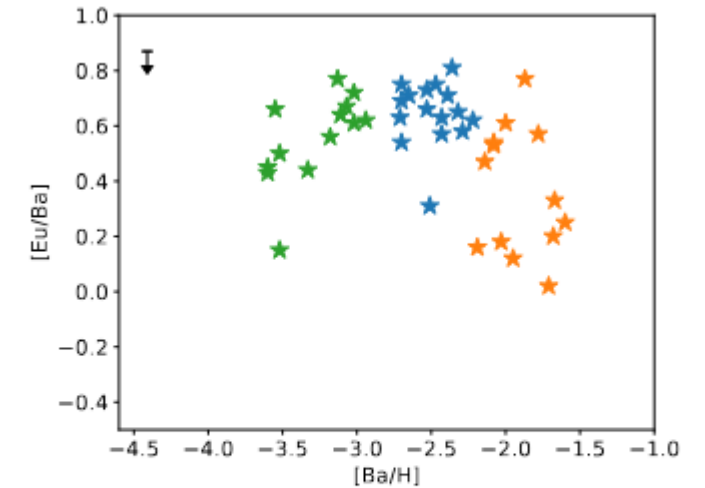
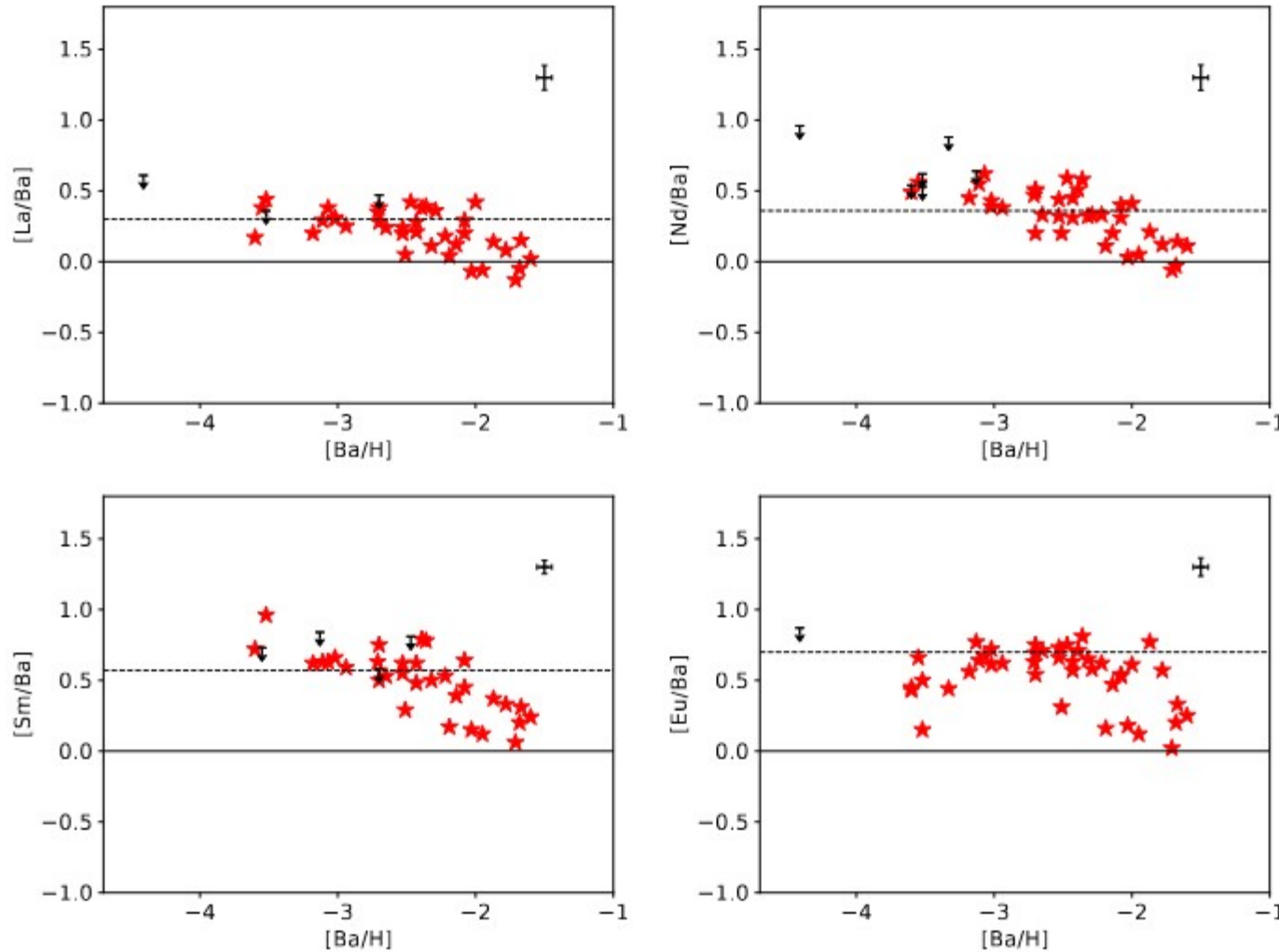
Lombardo et al. 2025
CERES III



Rare earth elements as nuclear tracers

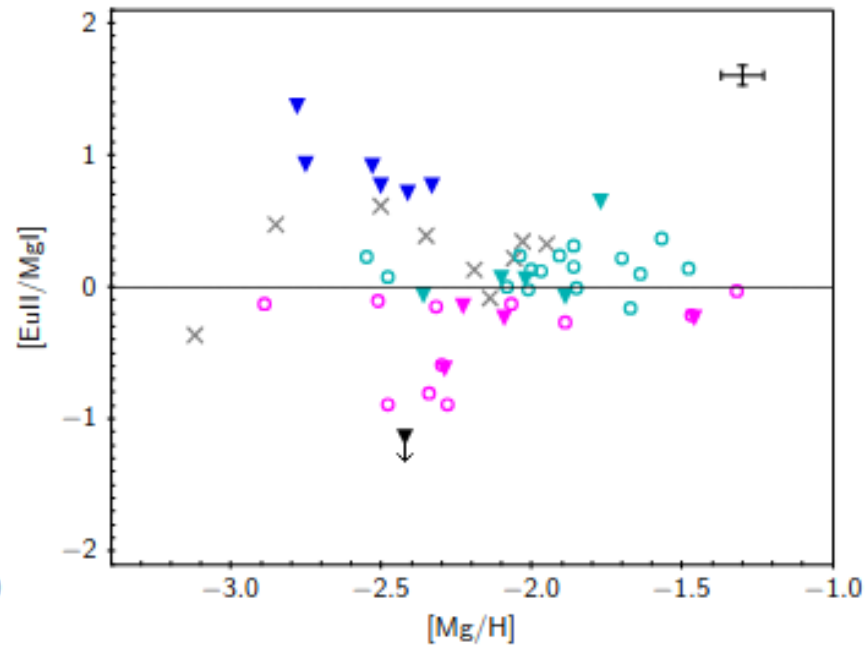
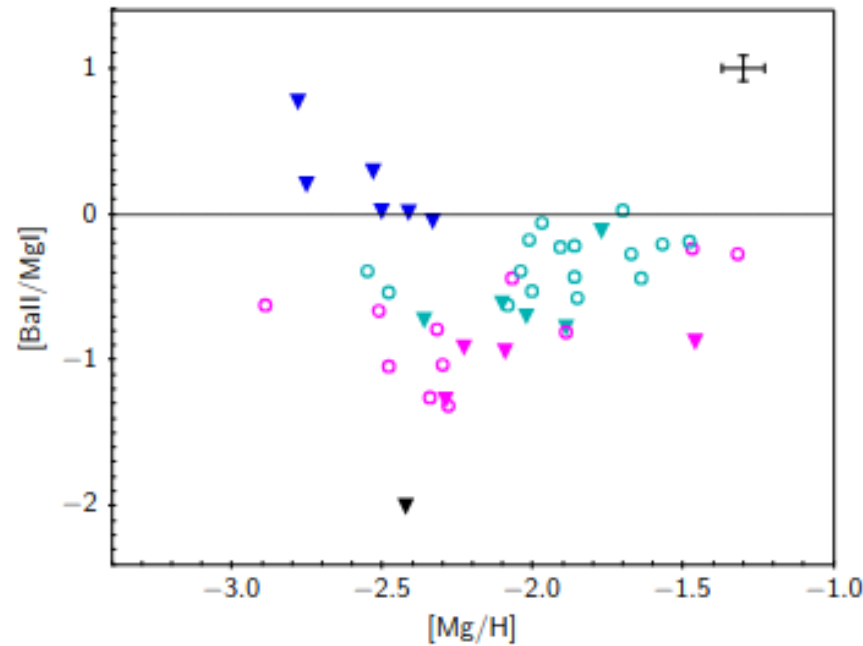
Lombardo et al. 2025
CERES III

Possible s-process onset



REE vs Mg – tracing massive stars (SN)

L. Lombardo et al.: Chemical Evolution of R-process Elements in Stars (CERES)



Legend:

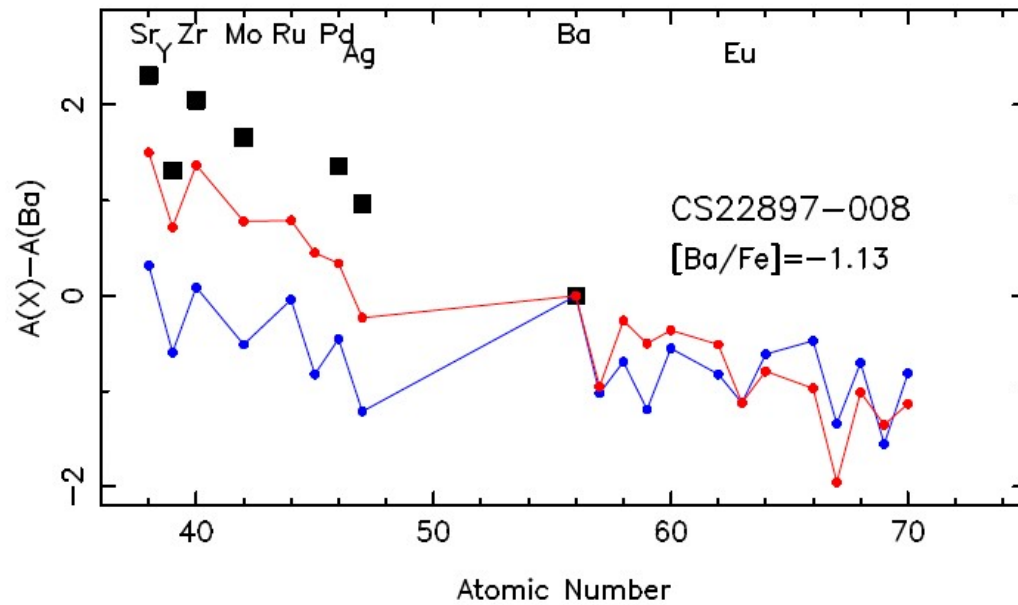
R-II

R-I

R-poor

Peculiar stars

Spite et al. 2018



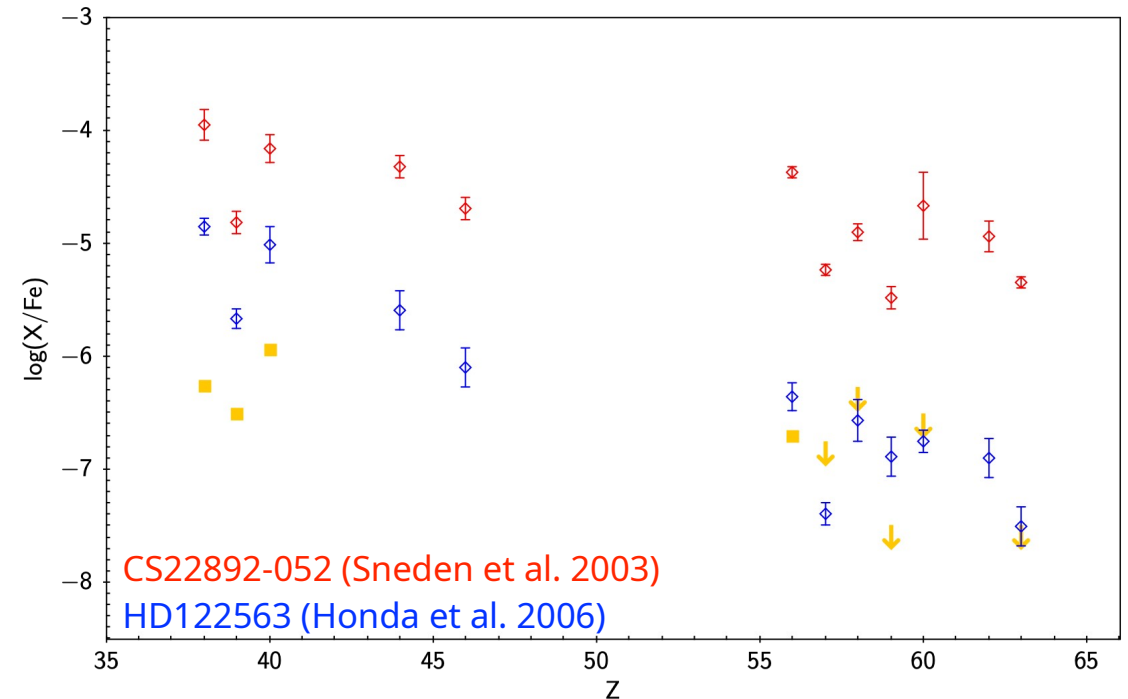
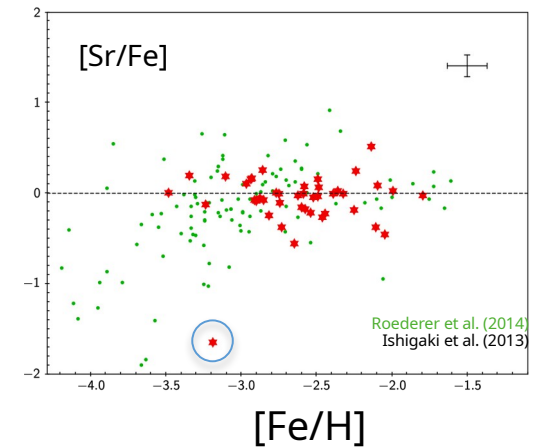
CS22897-008 $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}] \sim 1.6$

CS22892-052 (Snedden et al. 2003)

HD122563 (Honda et al. 2006)

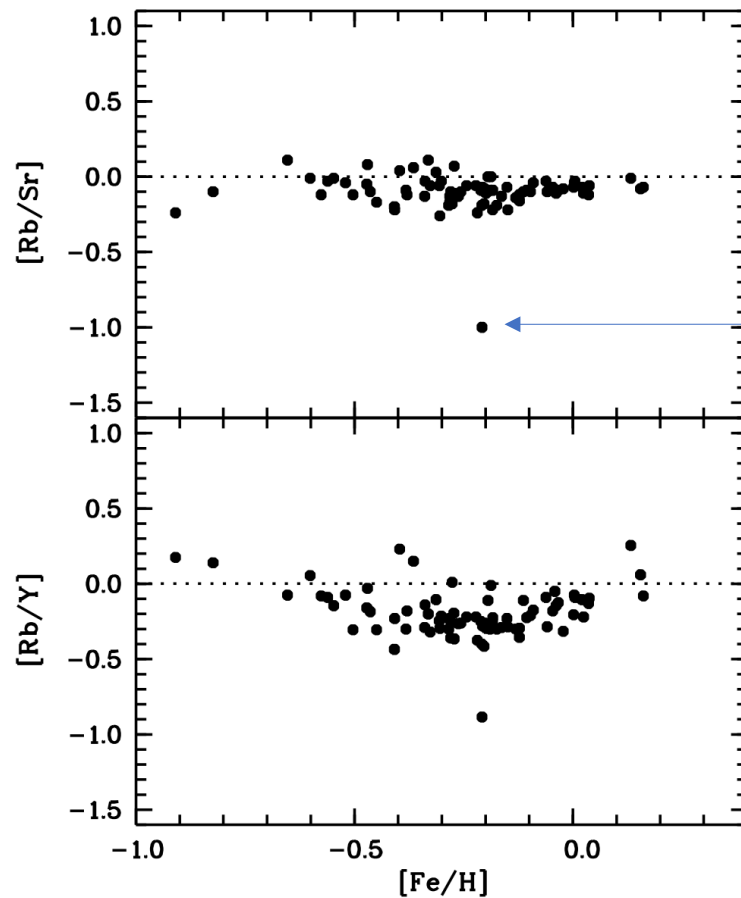
Lombardo et al, in prep. 2025,
2022

- **BS16085-0050**
- $[\text{Sr}/\text{Fe}] = -1.66$,
- $[\text{Y}/\text{Fe}] = -1.21$,
- $[\text{Zr}/\text{Fe}] = -1.04$



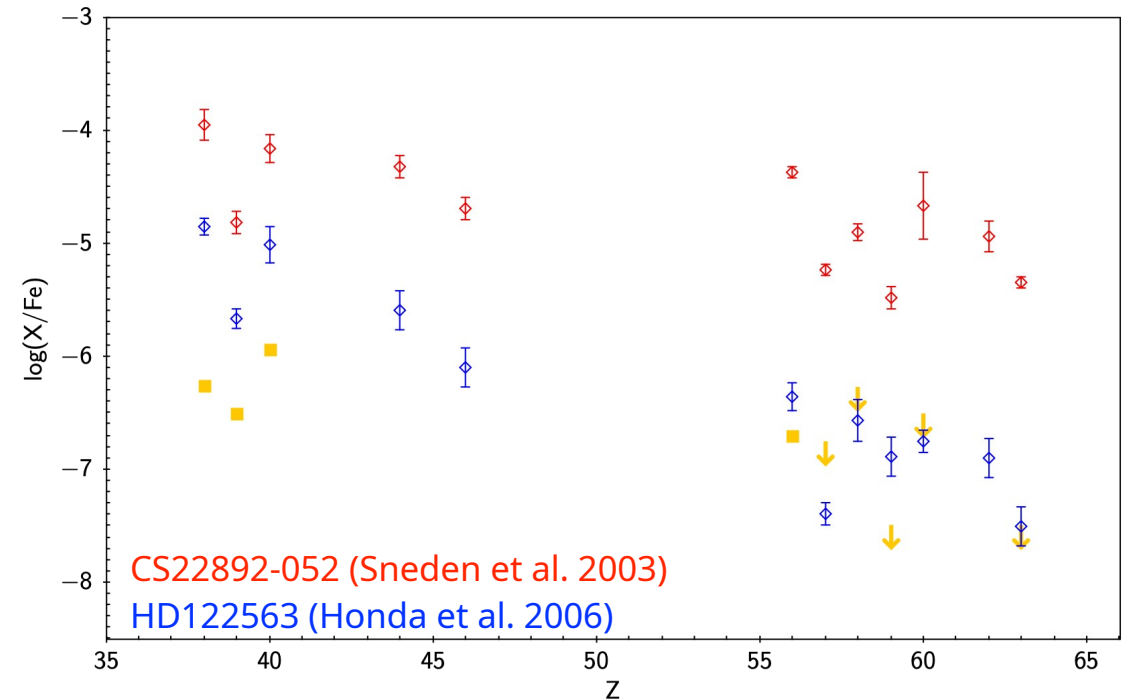
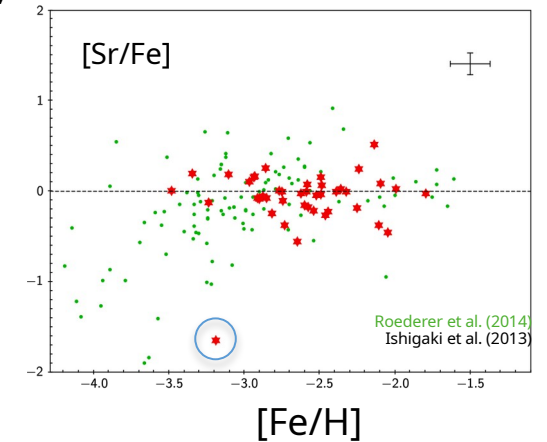
Peculiar stars

Caffau et al. 2016



- **BS16085-0050**
- $[\text{Sr}/\text{Fe}] = -1.66$,
- $[\text{Y}/\text{Fe}] = -1.21$,
- $[\text{Zr}/\text{Fe}] = -1.04$

Lombardo et al, in prep. 2025,
+ 2022, 2025

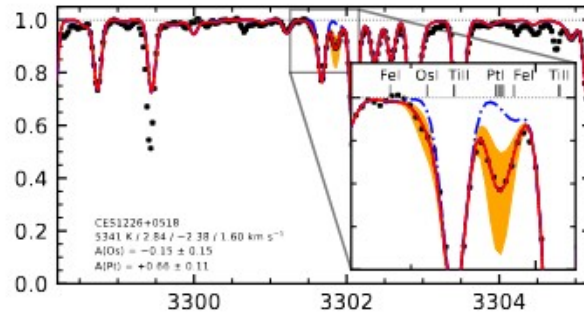


R-process in old, metal-poor stars

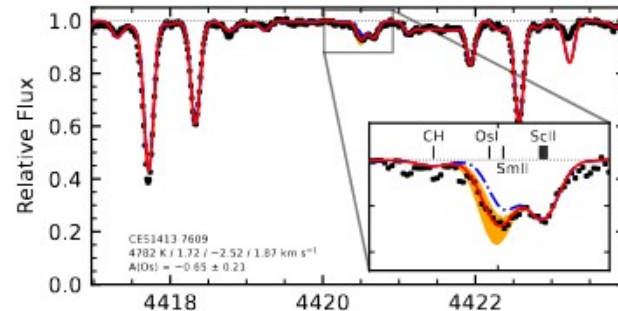
Arthur
Alencastro
Puls
Postdoc



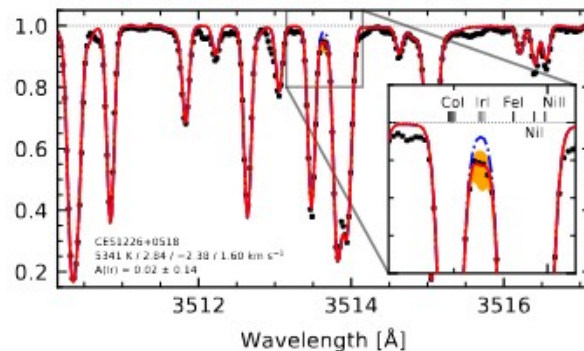
Pt



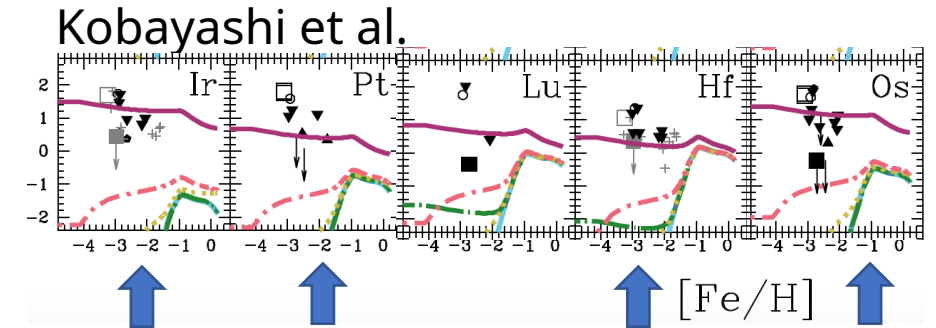
Os



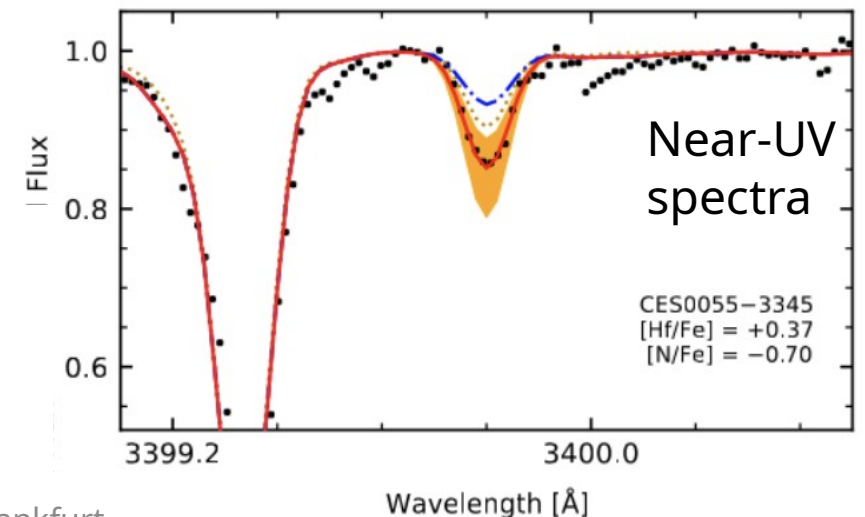
Ir



Alencastro Puls et al. 2025; CERES IV



Poorly studied heavy elements!



Hf



R-process in old, metal-poor stars

Alencastro Puls et al. 2025; CERES IV

A possible shift in the 3rd peak!

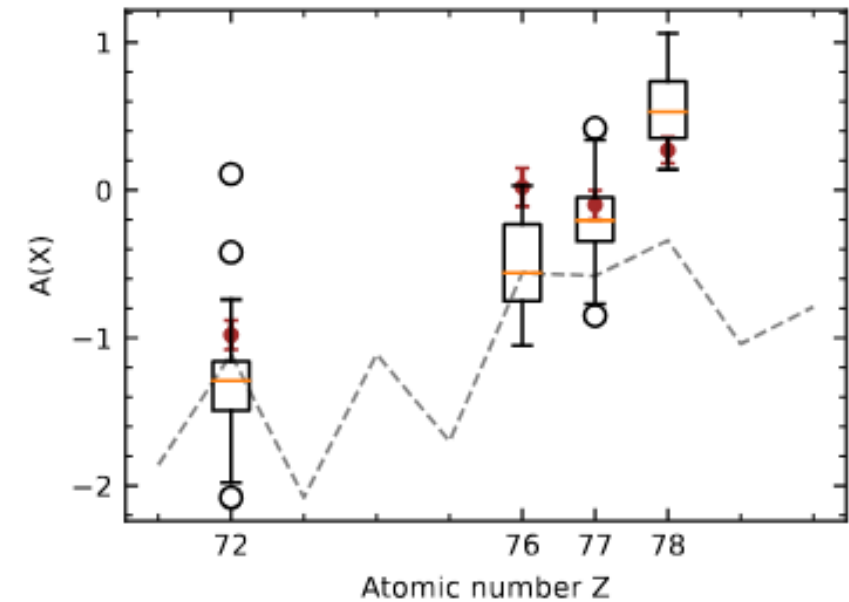
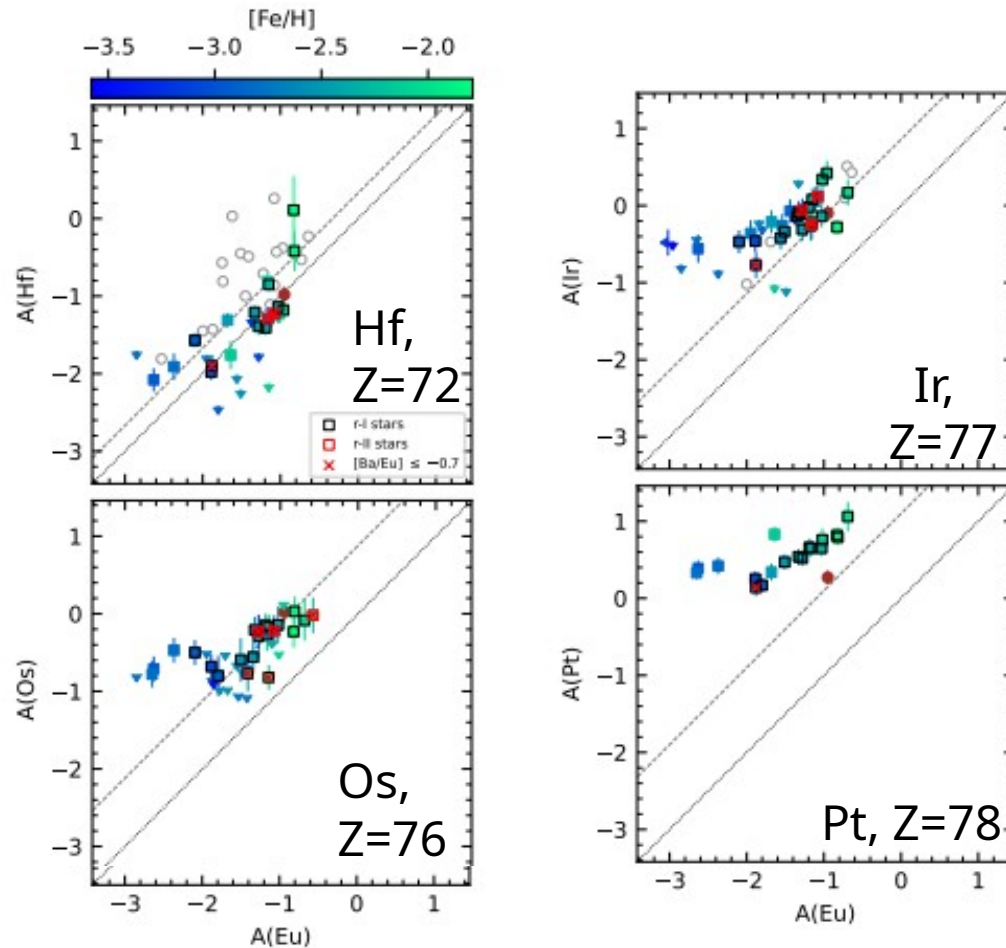
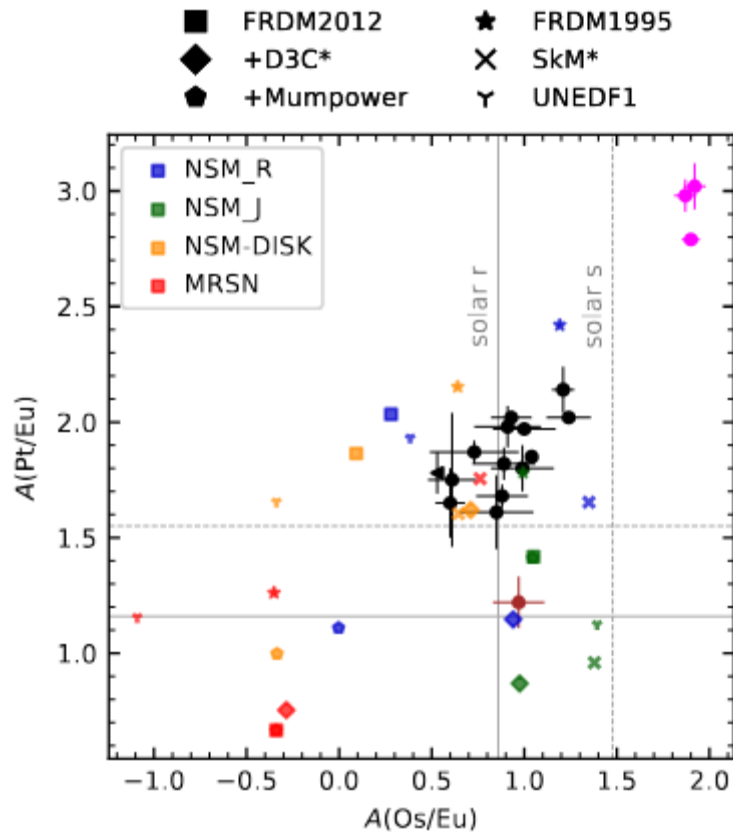
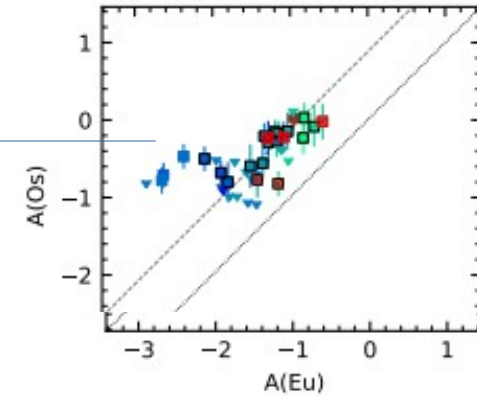


Fig. 9. Box plots representing the distributions of $A(\text{Hf}, \text{Os}, \text{Ir}, \text{Pt})$ in our sample. The orange lines represent the medians. The grey dashed line is the solar-scaled abundance normalised to the median of the Os abundances from this work. Open black circles are the outliers in our sample. The filled brown circles are the abundances for Sneden's star as published by [Sneden et al. \(2002\)](#).

No good match!?



Tail



NSM_R – Rosswog et al. 2013

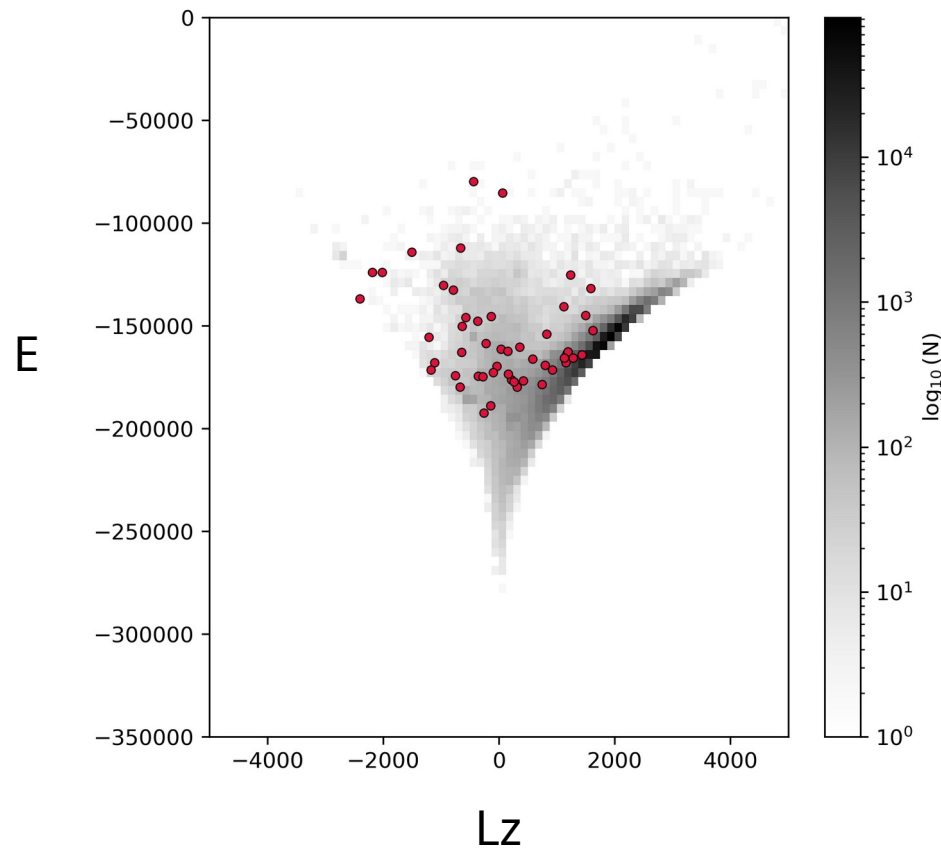
NSM_J – Jacobi et al. 2023

NSM-DISK – Wu et al. 2016

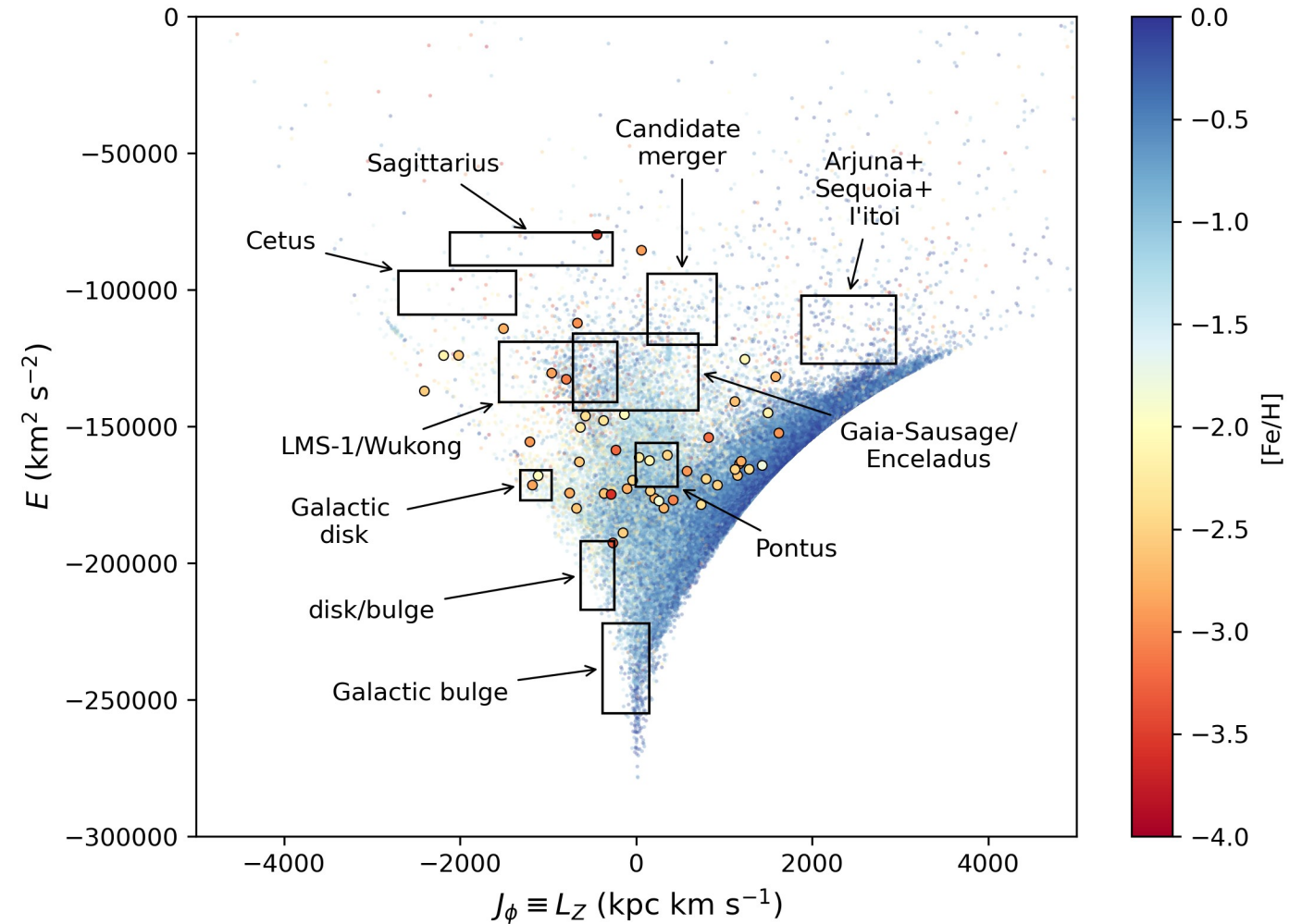
MRSN – Reichert et al. 2021

Kinematics

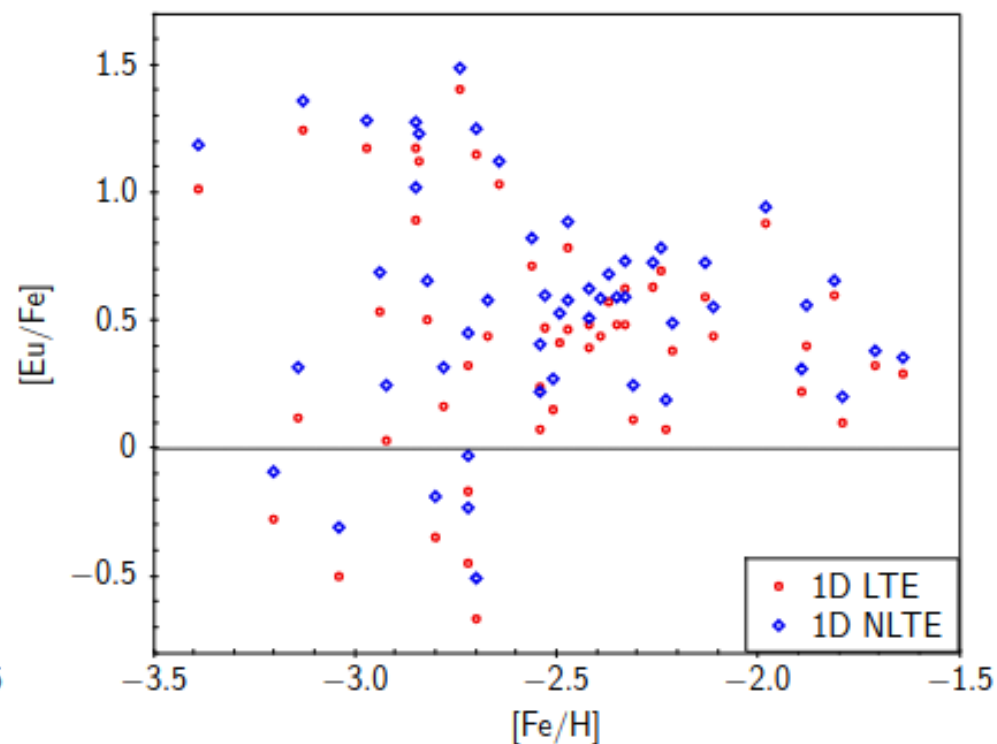
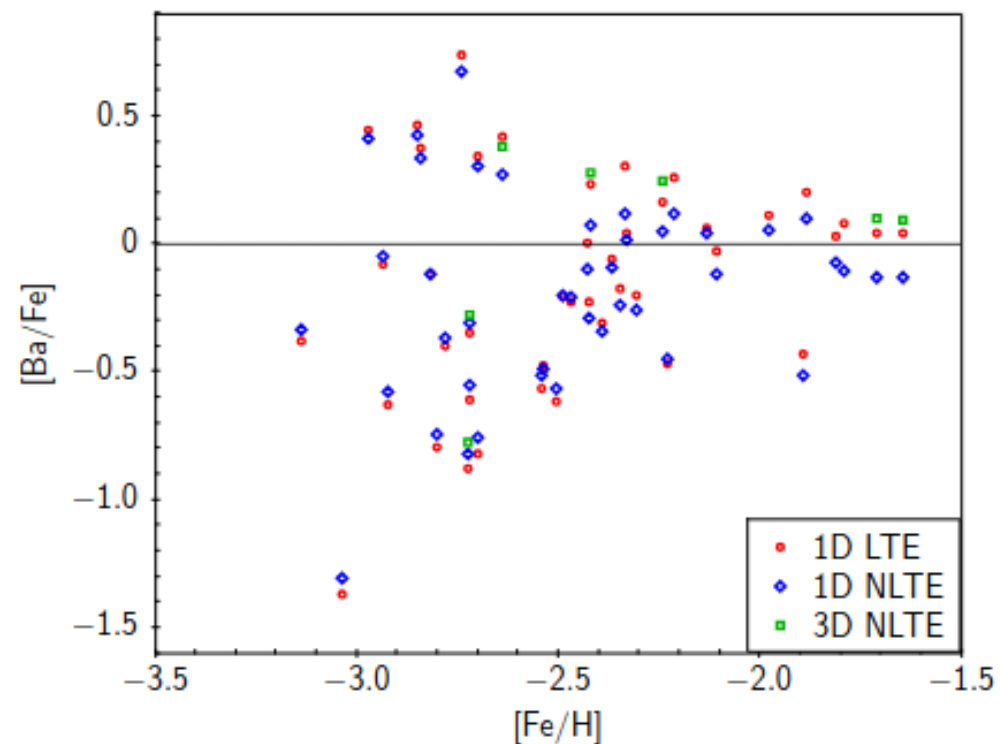
- Plonka in prep. (student)



CERES sample compared to GALAH data (background)



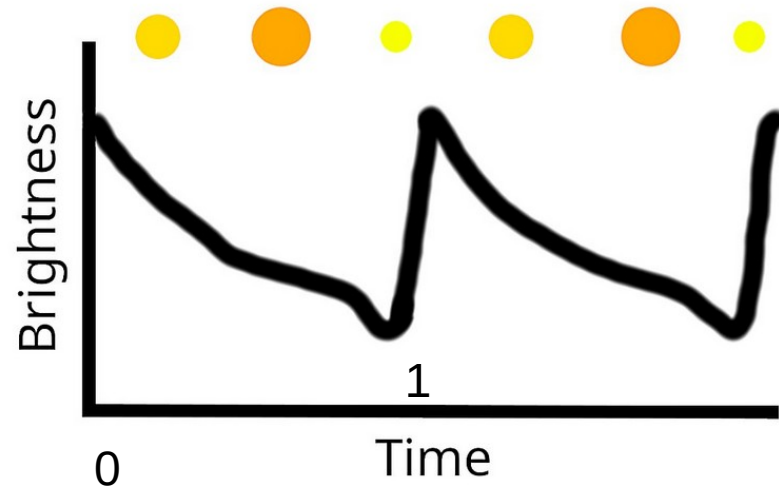
Ba in 1D LTE vs 3D NLTE – and Eu 1D NLTE



Lombardo et al. 2025,
CERES IV

Metal-poor, old, evolved RR Lyrae

Radial pulsations

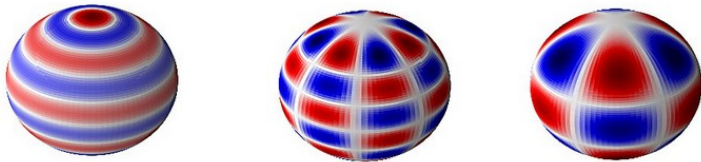


The variation in light comes from the pulsations → the size varies → stellar parameters vary:

T by $\sim 2000\text{K}$,
 Logg by ~ 1.5 dex
(Pena et al. 2009)

For spectroscopic analysis, phase 0.9 – 0.1 should be avoided due to the rapid atmosphere changes

Non-radial pulsations



Best phase is close to minimum light
(Kohlenberg et al. 2010)

Metal-poor, old, evolved RR Lyrae

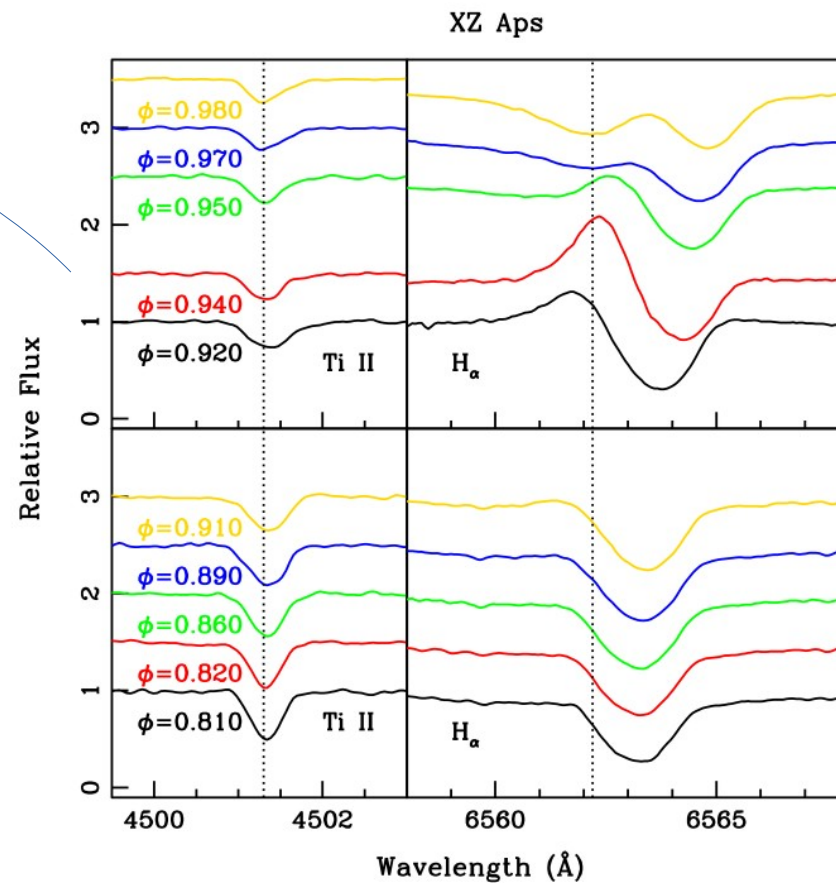
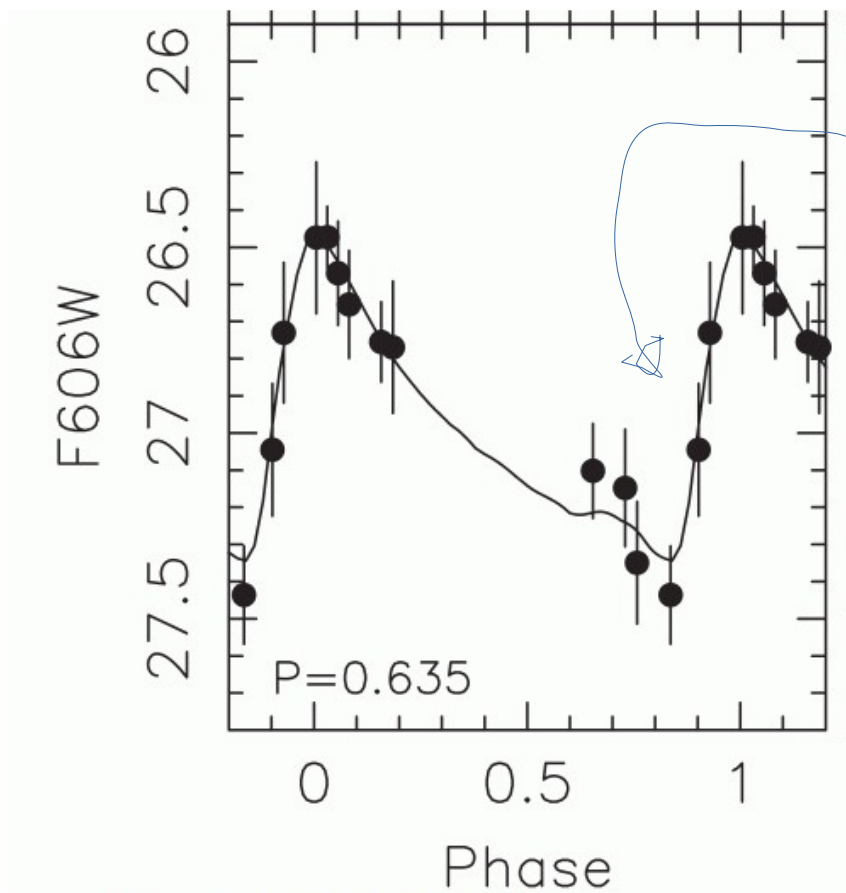
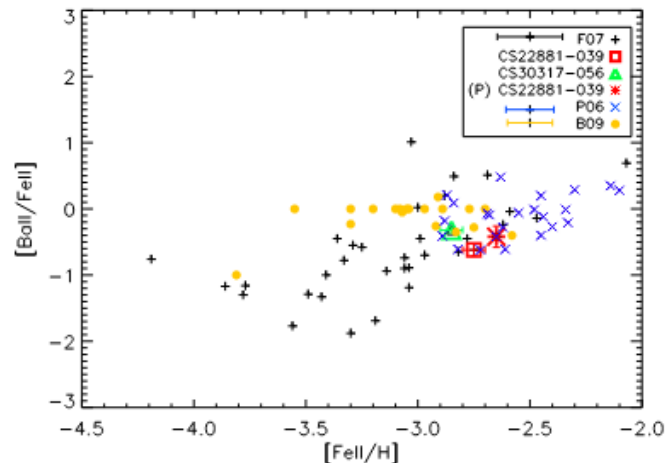
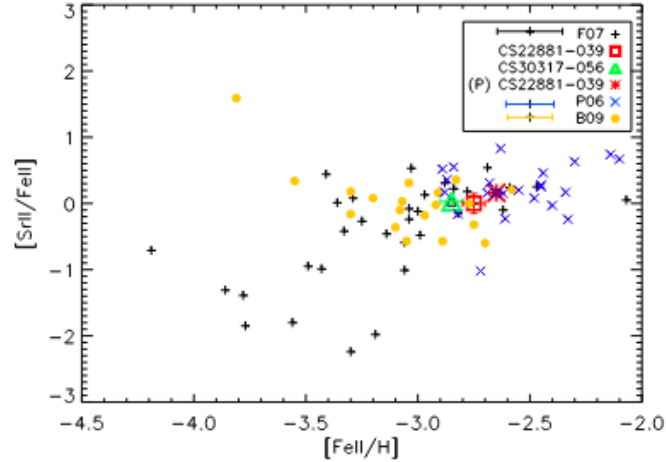


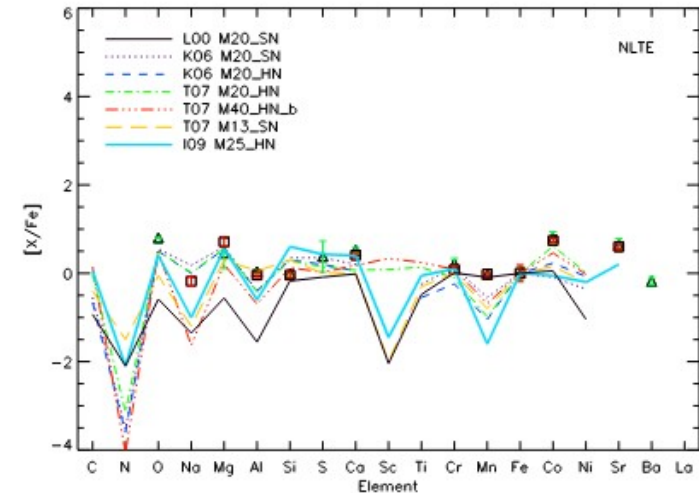
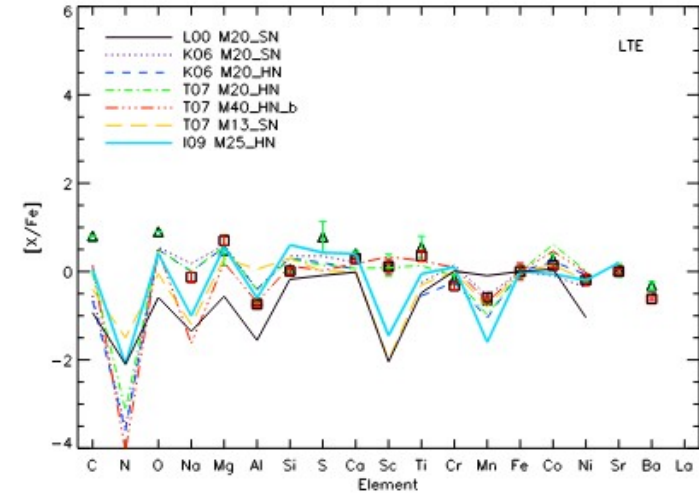
Figure taken from [Da Costa et al., AnI 708, 121 \(2010\)](#)

Metal-poor, old, evolved RR Lyrae



In a quiet phase, we can derive abundances from RR Lyr stars and place them in GCE context (left) or if we have a pattern we can look for possible formation sites, since these stars are truly old (right)

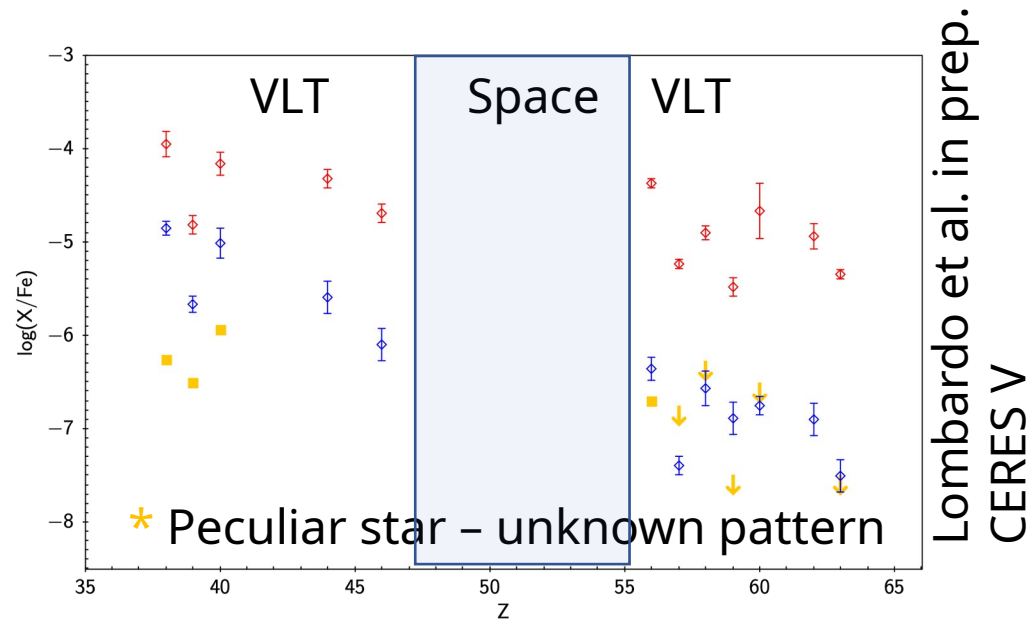
Hansen et al. 2011, see also D'Orazi et al. 2025



Summary

With almost complete abundance patterns of ~70 elements in old stars we can explore:

- Stellar evolution and self-enrichment
- Early chemical enrichment of the Galaxy
- Nuclear formation processes (physics)



What can we observe?

What can we observe?

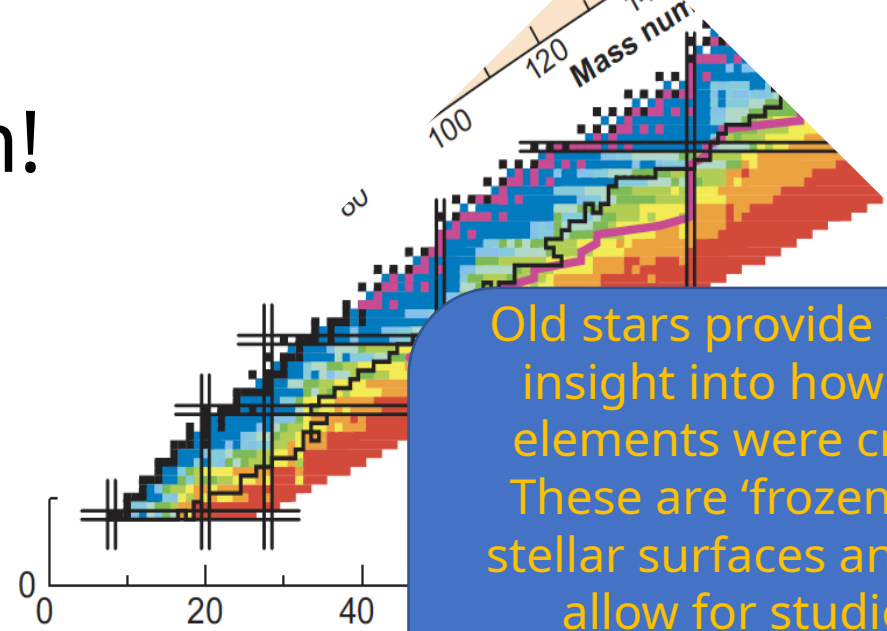
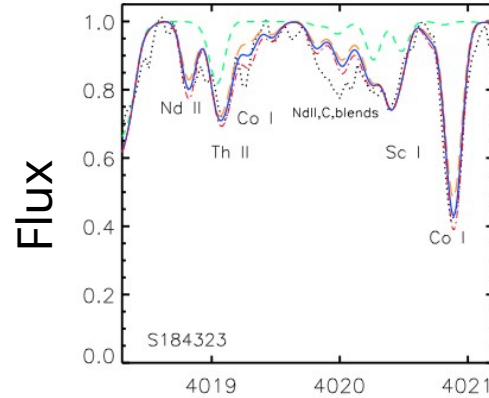
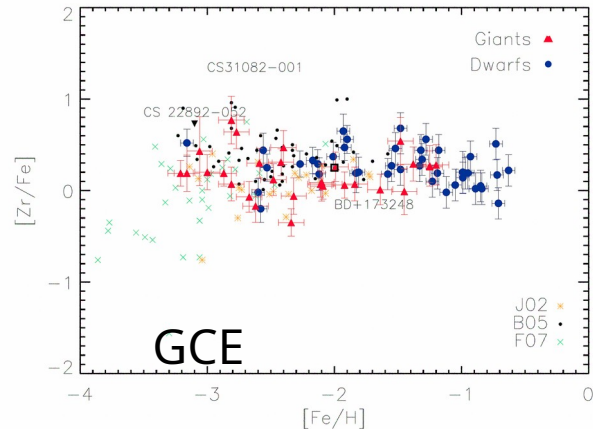
1																	2				
H																	He				
1.008																	4.003				
3	4															5	6	7	8	9	10
Li	Be															B	C	N	O	F	Ne
6.941	9.012															10.81	12.01	14.01	16.00	19.00	20.18
11	12															13	14	15	16	17	18
Na	Mg															Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
22.99	24.30															26.98	28.09	30.97	32.06	35.45	39.95
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr				
39.10	40.08	44.96	47.87	50.94	52.00	54.94	55.84	58.93	58.69	63.55	65.38	69.72	72.64	74.92	78.96	79.90	83.80				
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54				
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe				
85.47	87.62	88.91	91.22	92.91	95.96	(98)	101.1	102.9	106.4	107.9	112.4	114.8	118.7	121.8	127.6	126.9	131.3				
55	56	57	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86				
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn				
132.9	137.3	138.9	178.5	180.9	183.8	186.2	190.2	192.2	195.1	197.0	200.6	204.4	207.2	209.0	(209)	(210)	(222)				
87	88	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118				
Fr	Ra	Ac	Rf	Dh	Bg	Sh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og				
(223)	(226)	(227)	(267)	(268)	(271)	(272)	(270)	(276)	(281)	(280)	(285)	(284)	(289)	(288)	(293)	(294)	(294)				

58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
140.1	140.9	144.2	(145)	150.4	152.0	157.2	158.9	162.5	164.9	167.3	168.9	173.1	175.0
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103
Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr
232.0	231.0	238.0	(237)	(244)	(243)	(247)	(247)	(251)	(252)	(257)	(258)	(259)	(262)

Goals and limitations:

- More complete patterns
- Elemental abundances – not isotopic (only ~7 elements)
- 3D, NLTE (atomic data)
- ELT, CUBES, HST + smaller follow-up surveys needed...

Stars – and why we observe them!



Old stars provide the first insight into how heavy elements were created. These are 'frozen' in the stellar surfaces and today allow for studies of nucleosynthetic events that occurred 13 billion years ago.

Th & Eu $\rightarrow$ Age

