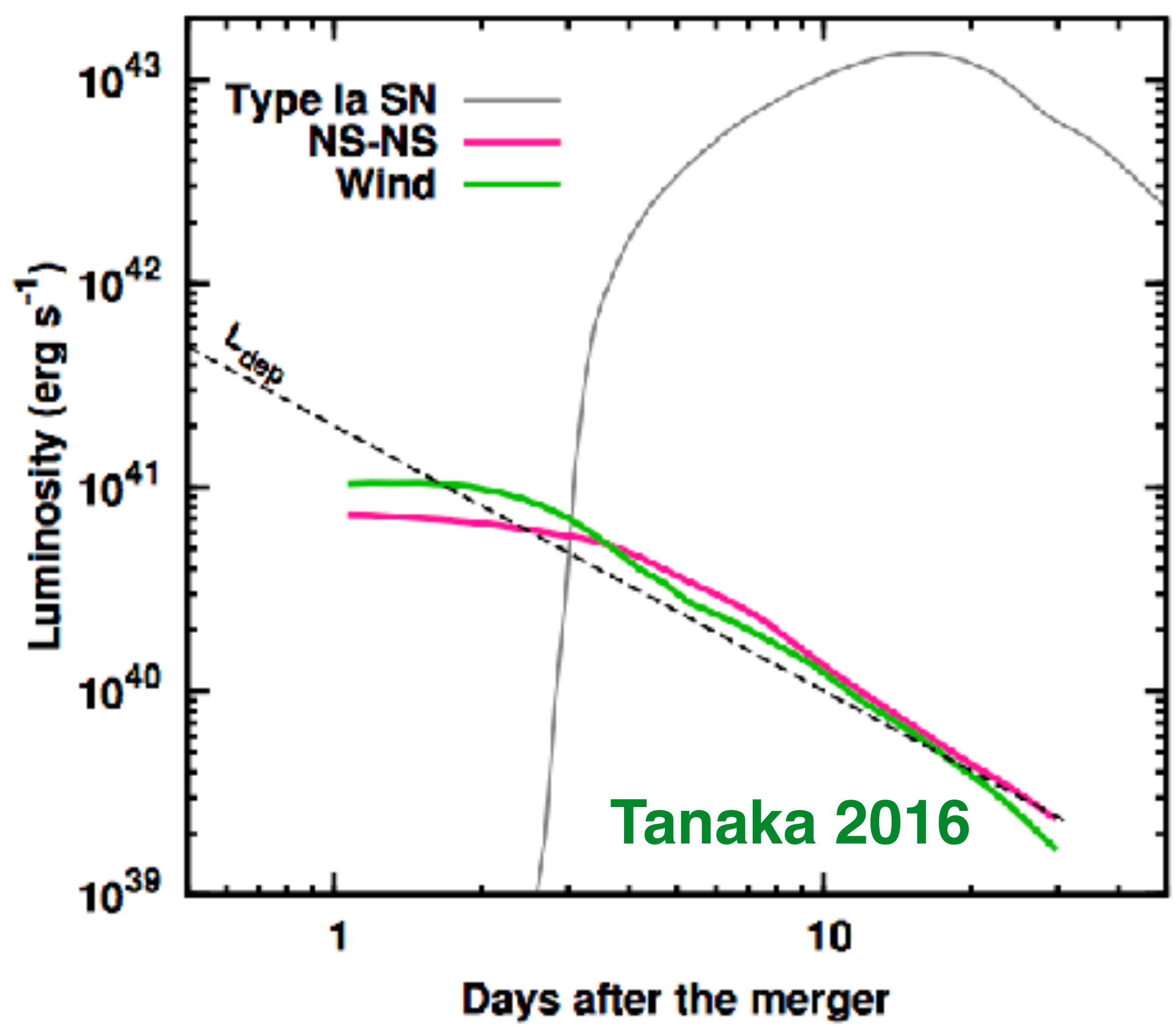
Light curves and spectra of kilonovae

Current expectations and possibilities

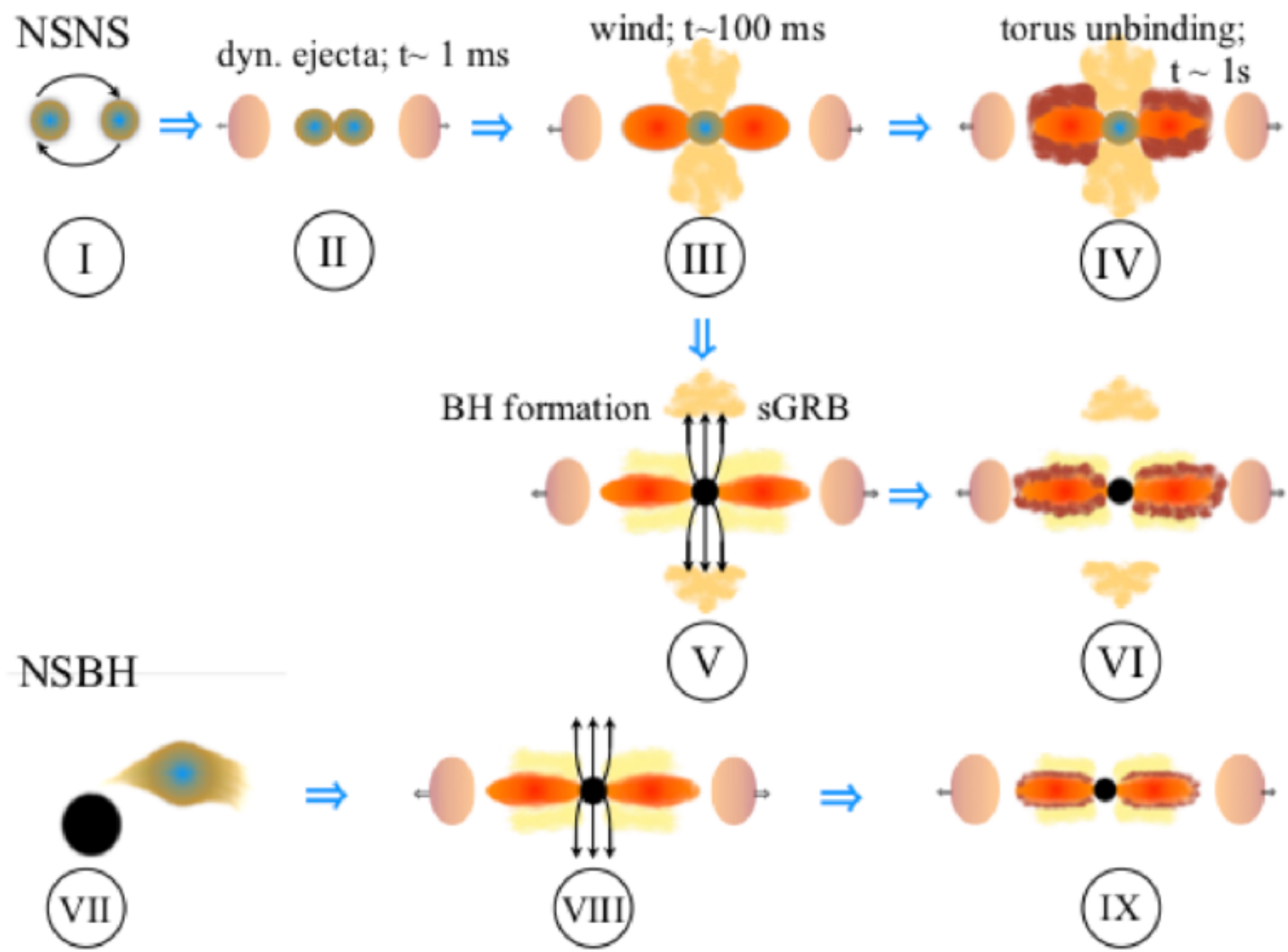


Anders Jerkstrand, MPA

Ingredients to predict observables

1. Mass, velocity and Ye of ejecta
2. Radioactivity and thermalization
3. Opacity and radiation transport

Overview of merging process



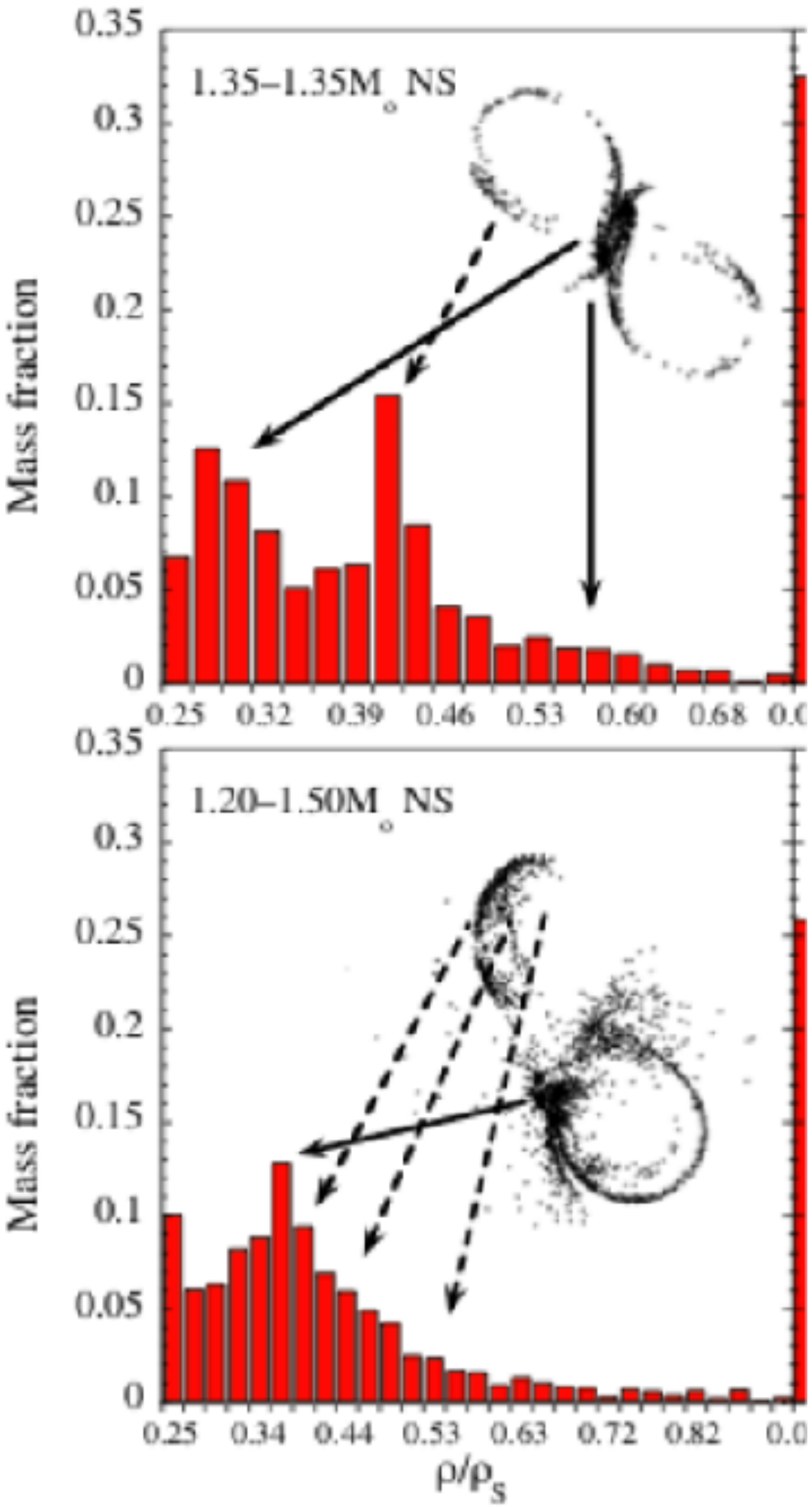
Rosswog 2017

Dynamic ejecta

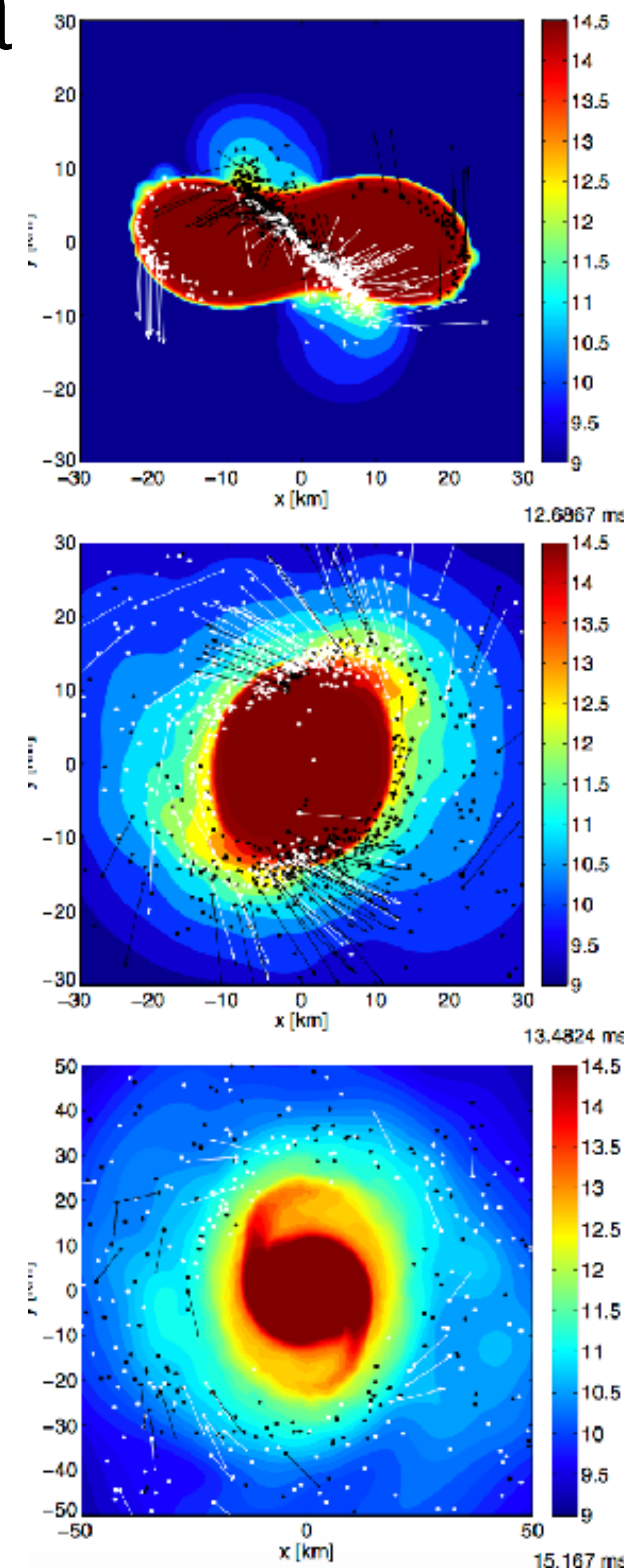
- Significant differences in recent GR simulations to older Newtonian.
- Min 3 “parameters” (M_1, M_2, EOS). May also add eccentricity, spins,..
- Two components: tidal tails and interface squeezing.
- **Mass**: <~ 0.01 M_{sun} (Bauswein 2013, Hotokezaka 2013, Sekiguchi 2016). Higher for more asymmetry.
- **Velocity:** 0.1-0.4c.
- **Ye**:
  - Old simulations (no neutrinos) <~ 0.1.
  - Newer with neutrinos and e-e+: Broader distribution, up to 0.4 (Wanajo 2014, Sekiguchi 2016).

Dynamic ejecta

75% from contact interface
25% from other parts ("Tidal tail")



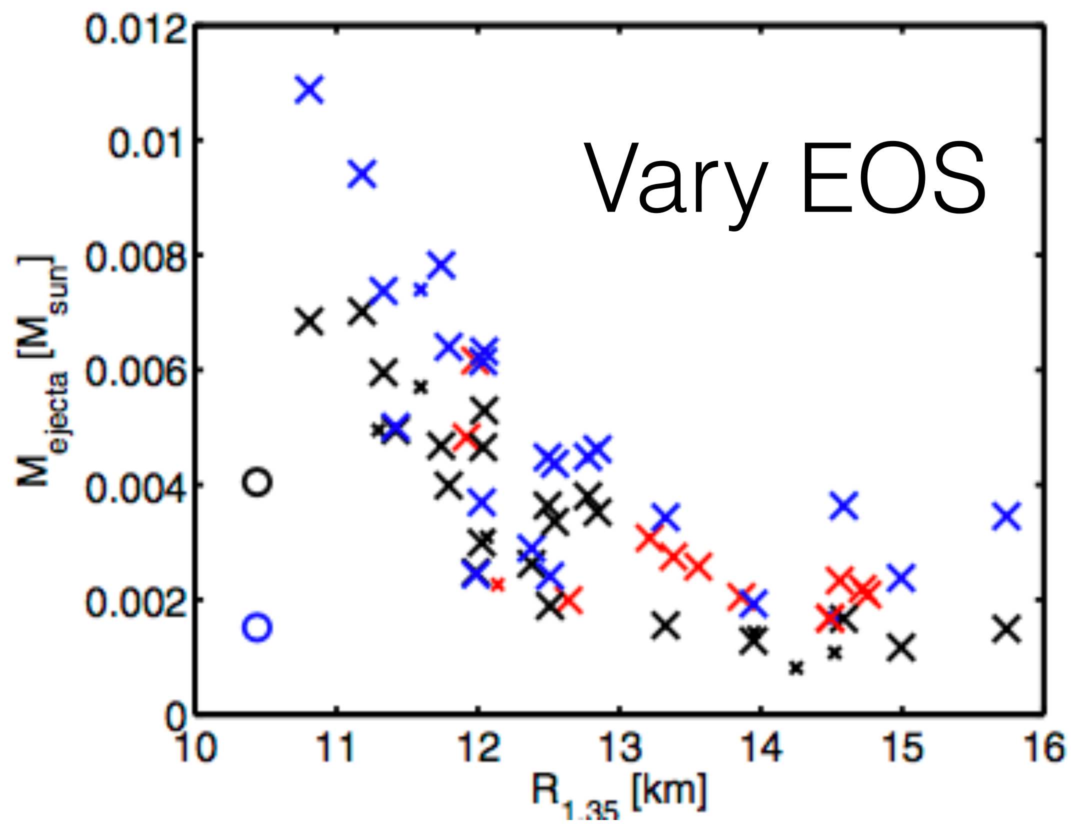
Goriely 2011



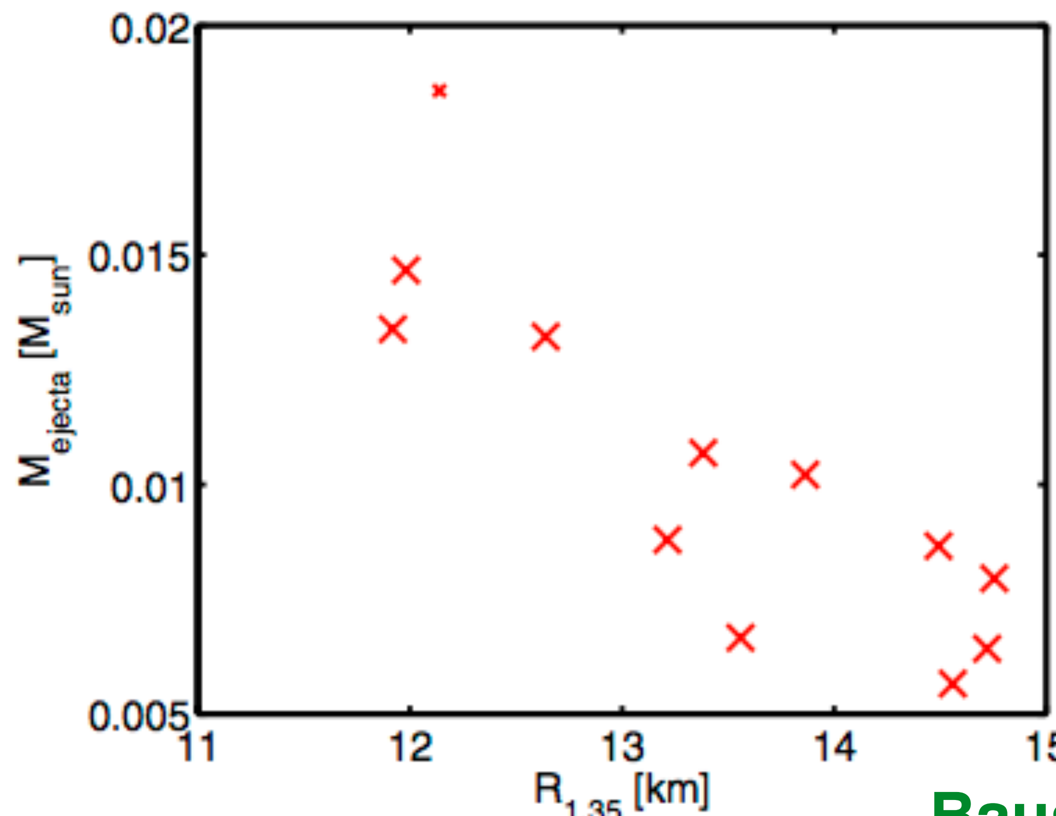
Bauswein 2013

Dynamic ejecta : mass and velocity

1.35 + 1.35 M_{sun}

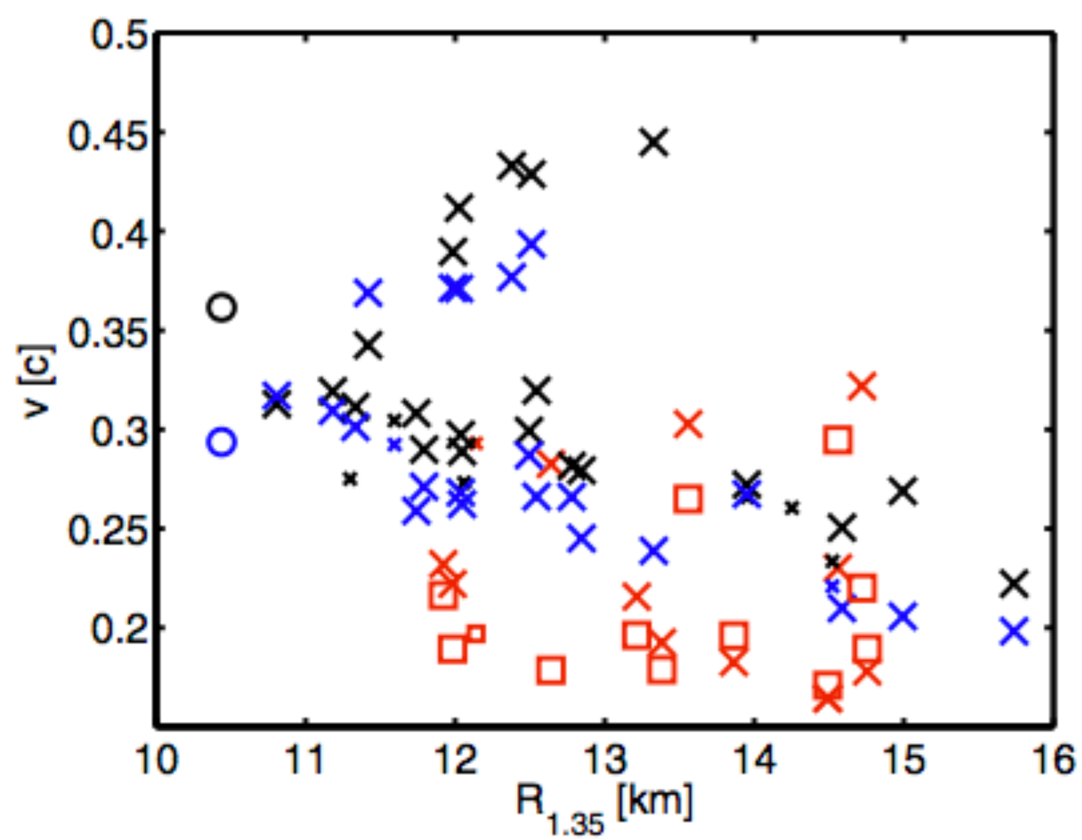


1.2 + 1.5 M_{sun}



Bauswein 2013

- Mass typically less than 0.01 M_{sun}
- Asymmetric NSs eject more



NS-BH particulars

Kawaguchi 2015
(spin misalignment)

- Relative rate to NS-NS mergers largely unknown. No progenitor systems known.

- Larger dynamic ejecta masses, up to 0.1 M_{sun} (Kawaguchi 2016), but requires quite specific system parameters (low BH mass and/or large spin).

- More asymmetric ejecta : flattened and one-sided.

Disk wind

- Disk can be produced in both NS-NS and BH-NS mergers (Duez 2010). Mass 0.01-0.3 M_{sun}.

- Also two components (or more), neutrino ejecta and MRI/viscous ejecta.

- **Mass**: Several % of disk mass typically ejected. Up to ~ 0.1 M_{sun}. Larger the longer the HMNS survives.

- **Velocity:** Similar, but somewhat lower than dynamic ejecta.

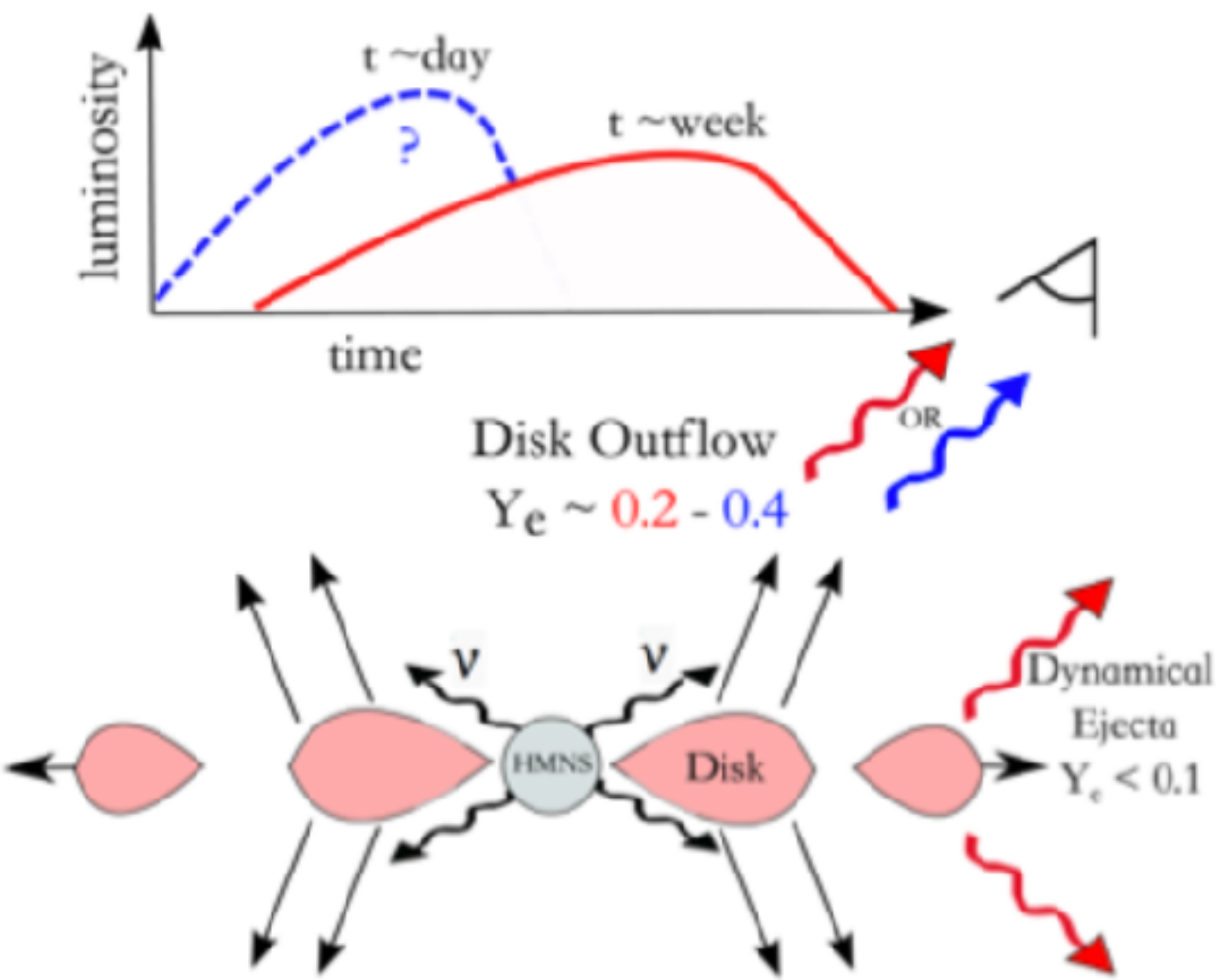
- **Ye**: 0.1-0.4. Higher Ye —> lighter elements. Few lanthanides for Ye >~ 0.25.

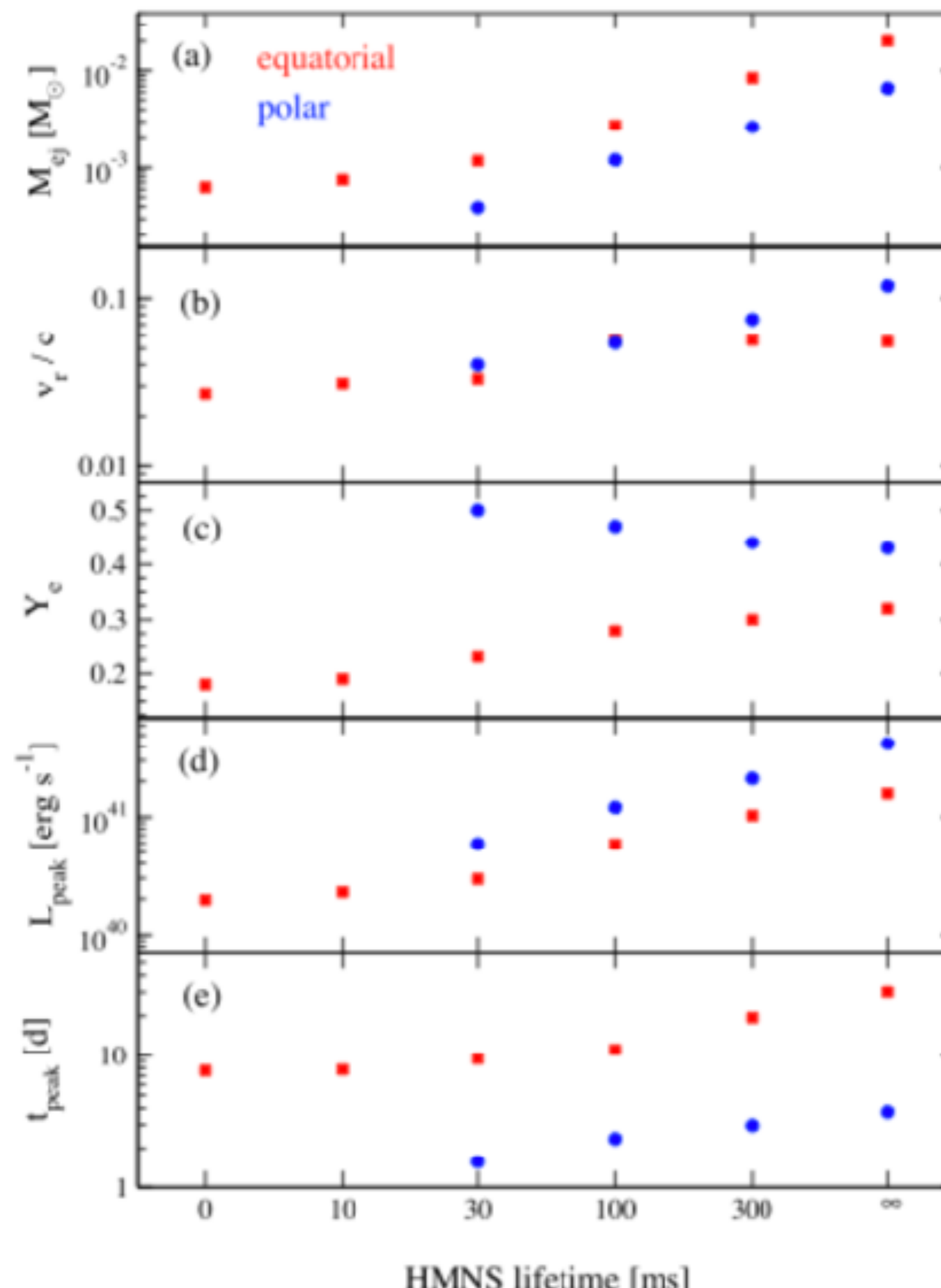
Wind : sensitivity to HMNS formation

Threshold at 2.8 M_{sun}

Neutrino irradiation in particular along polar directions.

Whole wind may become blue.

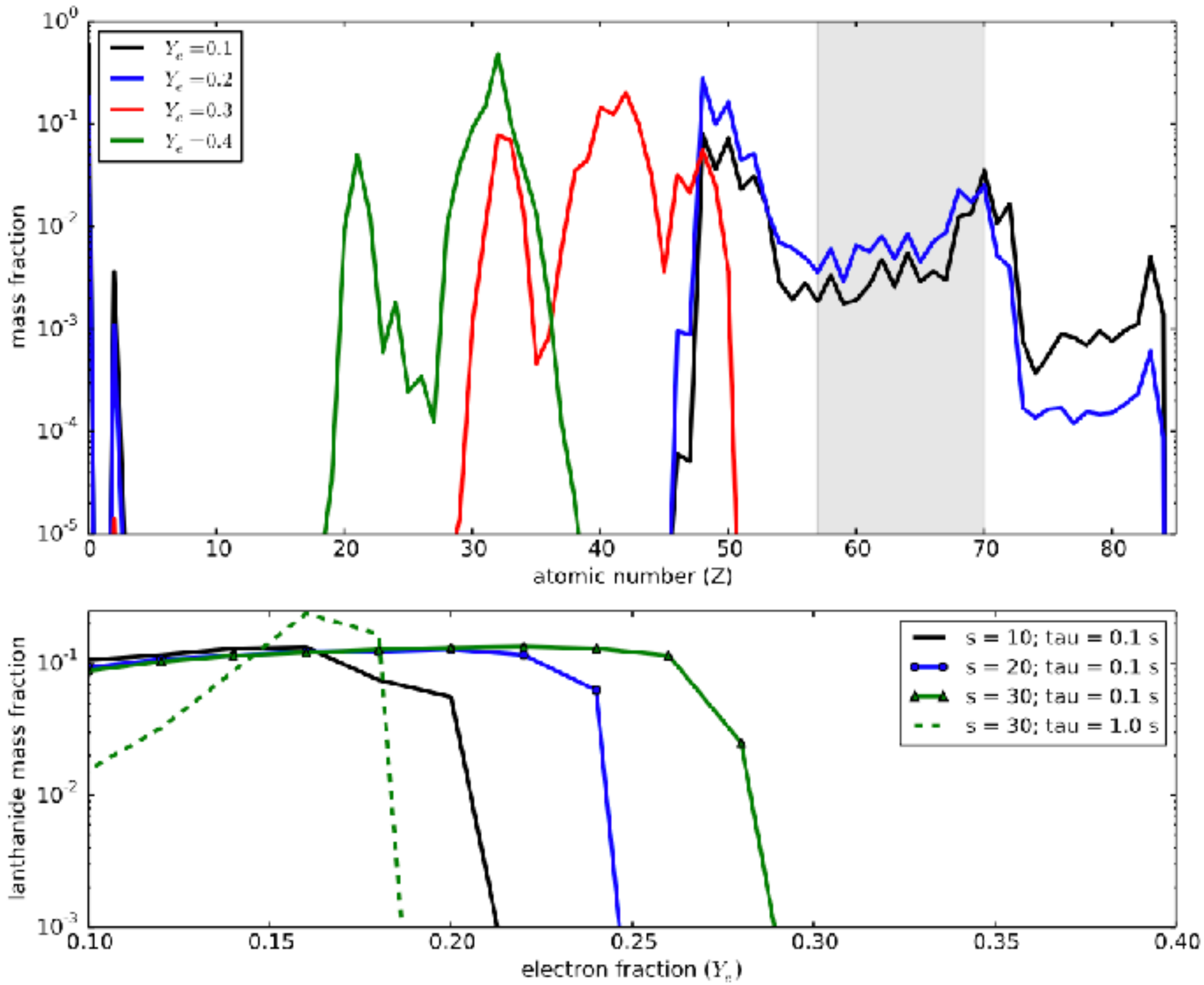




Metzger 2014

HMNS can survive for ~0.1-1 s

The crucial role of Ye: higher Ye leads to lighter elements



Kasen+2015

Powering

- Large number of radionuclides: $t^{-1.3}$ power law. Current uncertainties allow -1 to -1.5 exponent.

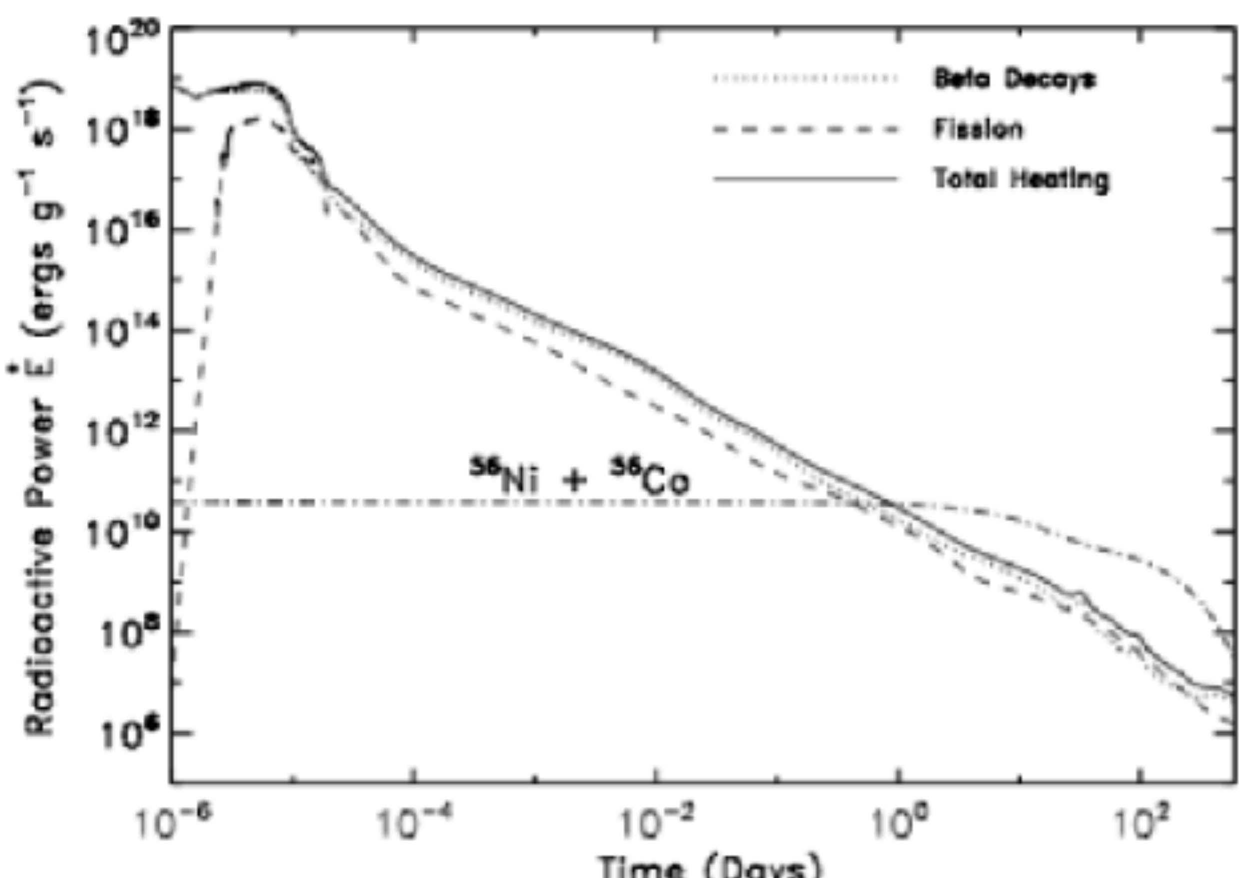
$$R = \int_0^\infty E\left(\frac{E^5}{t_0}\right) f(E) \exp(-E^5 t/t_0)\, dE. \qquad (84)$$

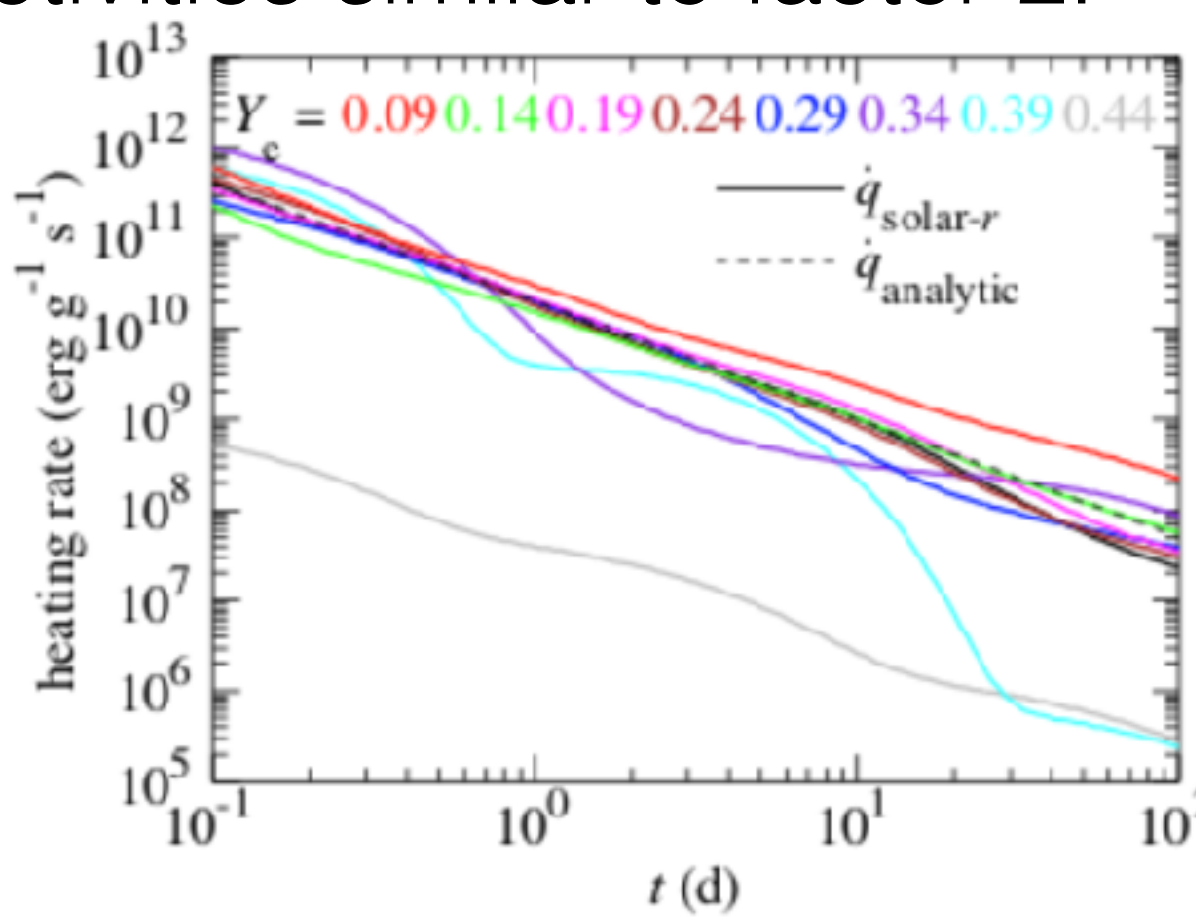
Since all decay energies $E \leq E_0$ are approximately equally probable where E_0 is the upper limit of the distribution $f(E)$, then $f(E) \simeq f_0$ for $E < E_0$, and a change of variables gives

$$R = \frac{\beta_0}{t_0}\left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right)^{-1.4}, \qquad (85)$$

Colgate and McKee 1966
Li & Paczynski 1998

- Dynamic and wind radioactivities similar to factor 2.





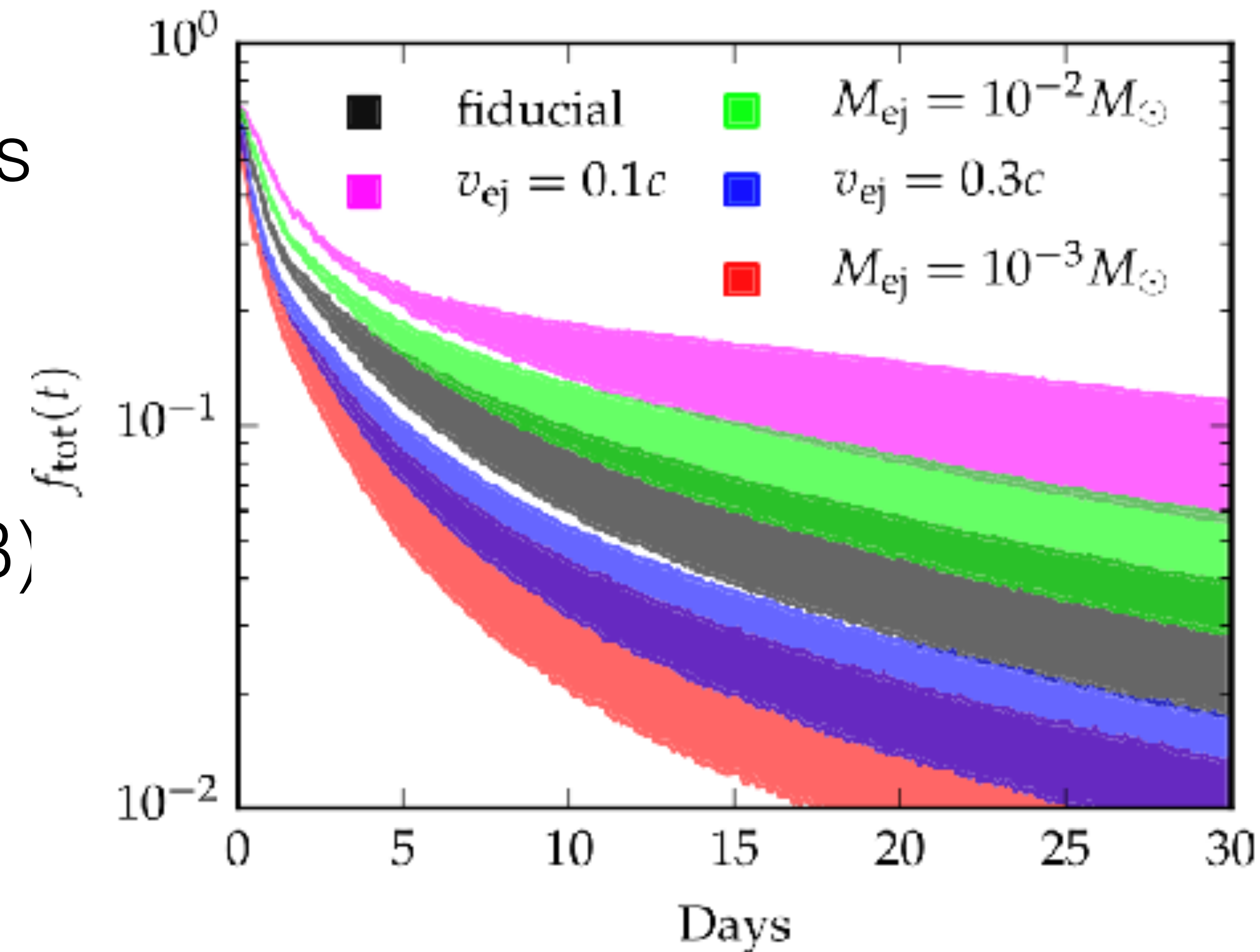
Metzger+2010
Processing of 11 year old simulation (Freiburghaus 1999)

Wanajo 2014

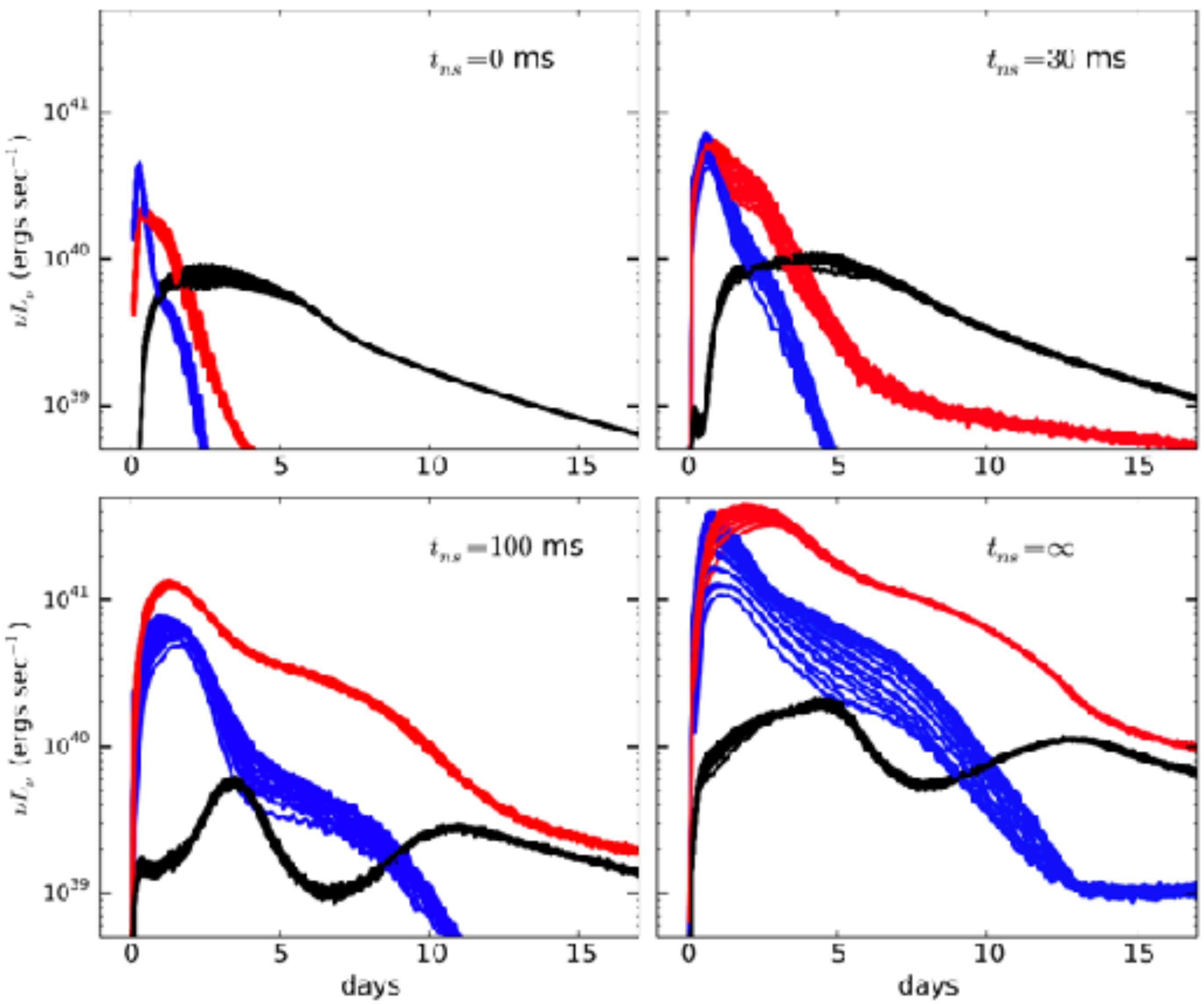
Trapping and thermalization

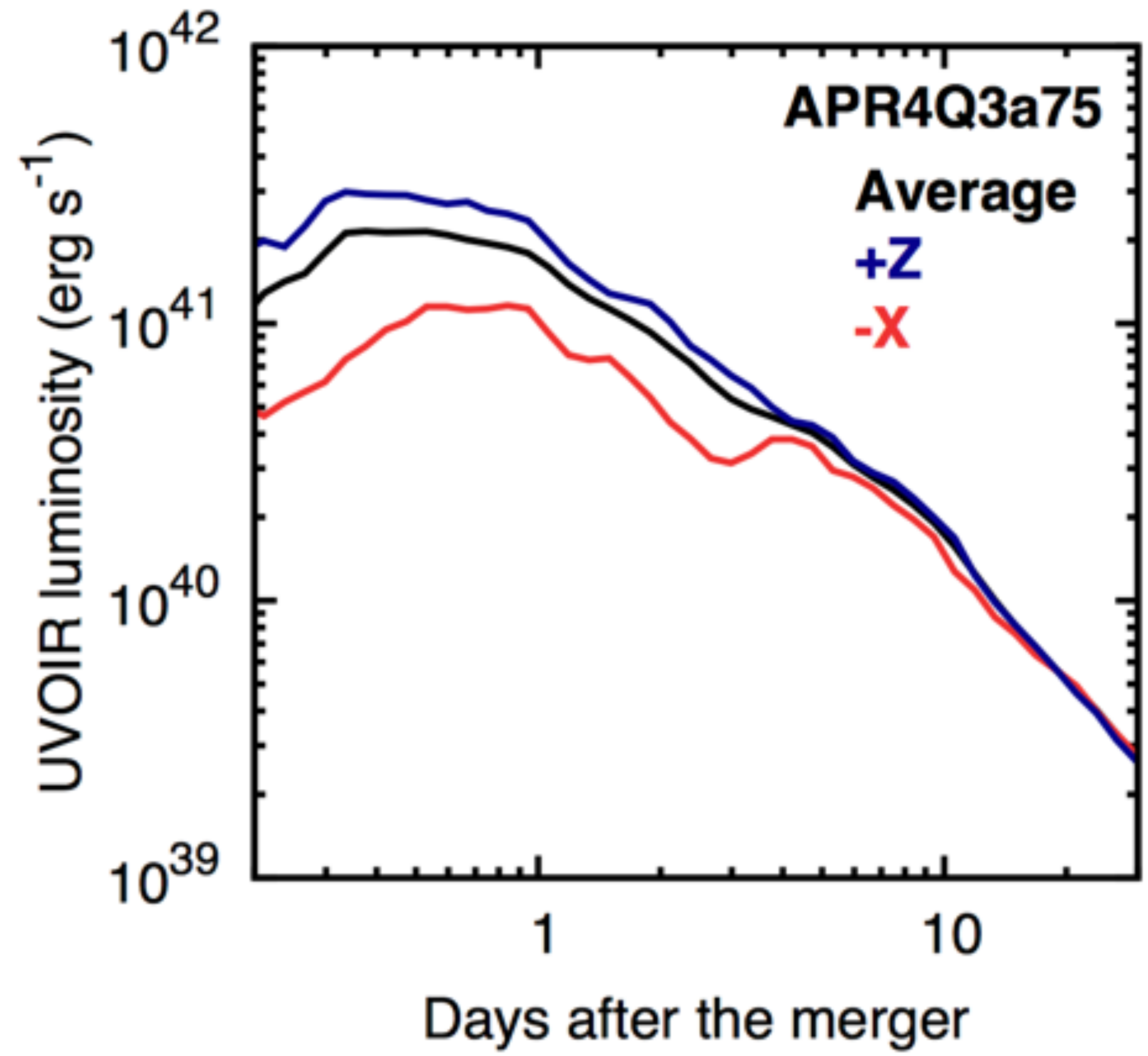
- **Neutrinos**: escape immediately.
- **Gammas**: escape early (hours).
- **Leptons** : escape within days/weeks (depend on B)
- **Alphas and fission products** : escapes within weeks (depend on B)
- Not only trapping matters, also the **time-scale** for thermalization.
- Current models: thermalization drops to 1-10% at 2 weeks.

Barnes 2016



Viewing angle effects





Kasen 2015 (wind)

Tanaka 2014 (dyn.)

Current spectral models

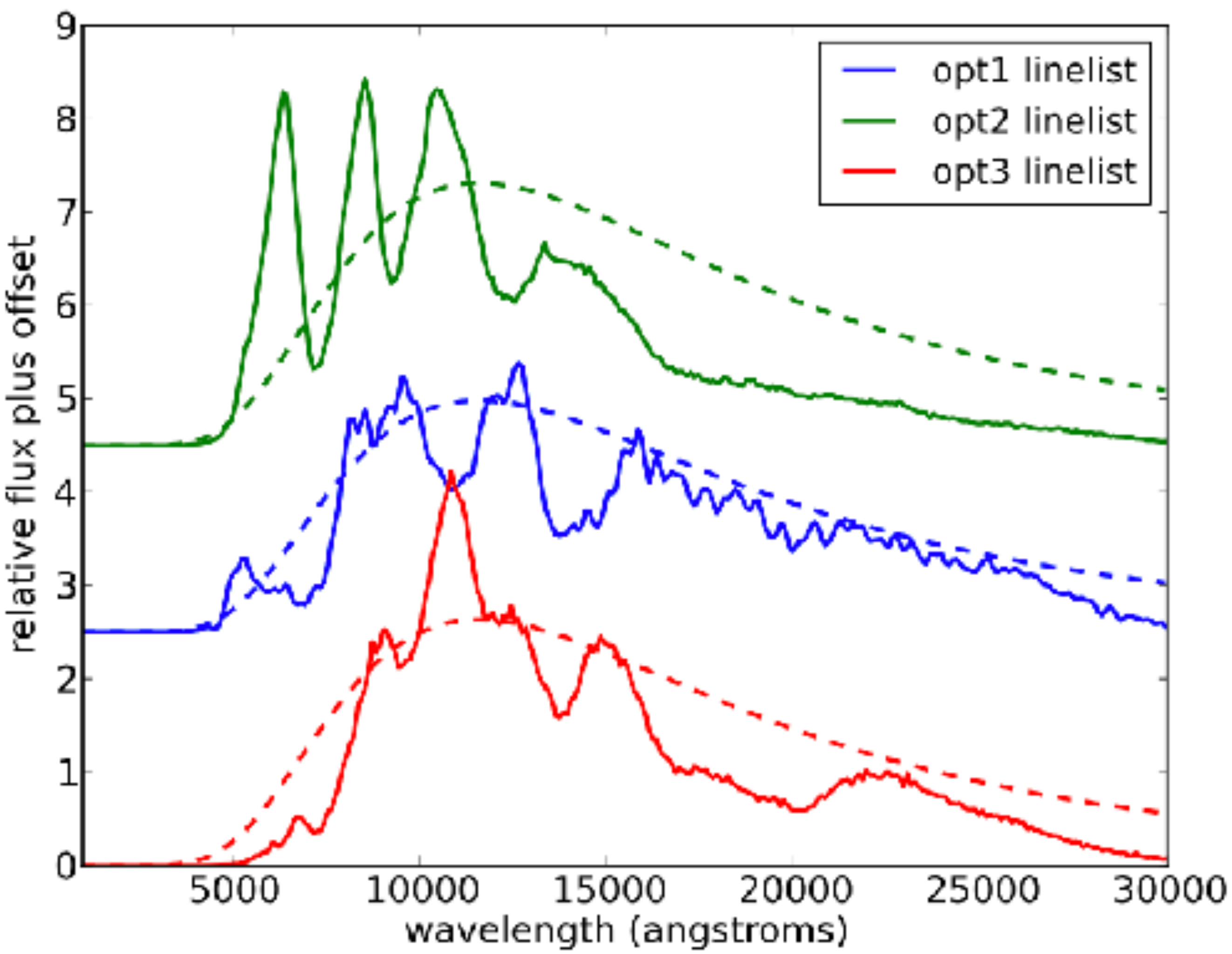
- **KASEN**
  - 3D Monte Carlo
  - LTE
  - Sobolev
  - Expansion opacity
  - Cs II-III, Nd I-IV, Os II, Sn II, ~30 million lines.

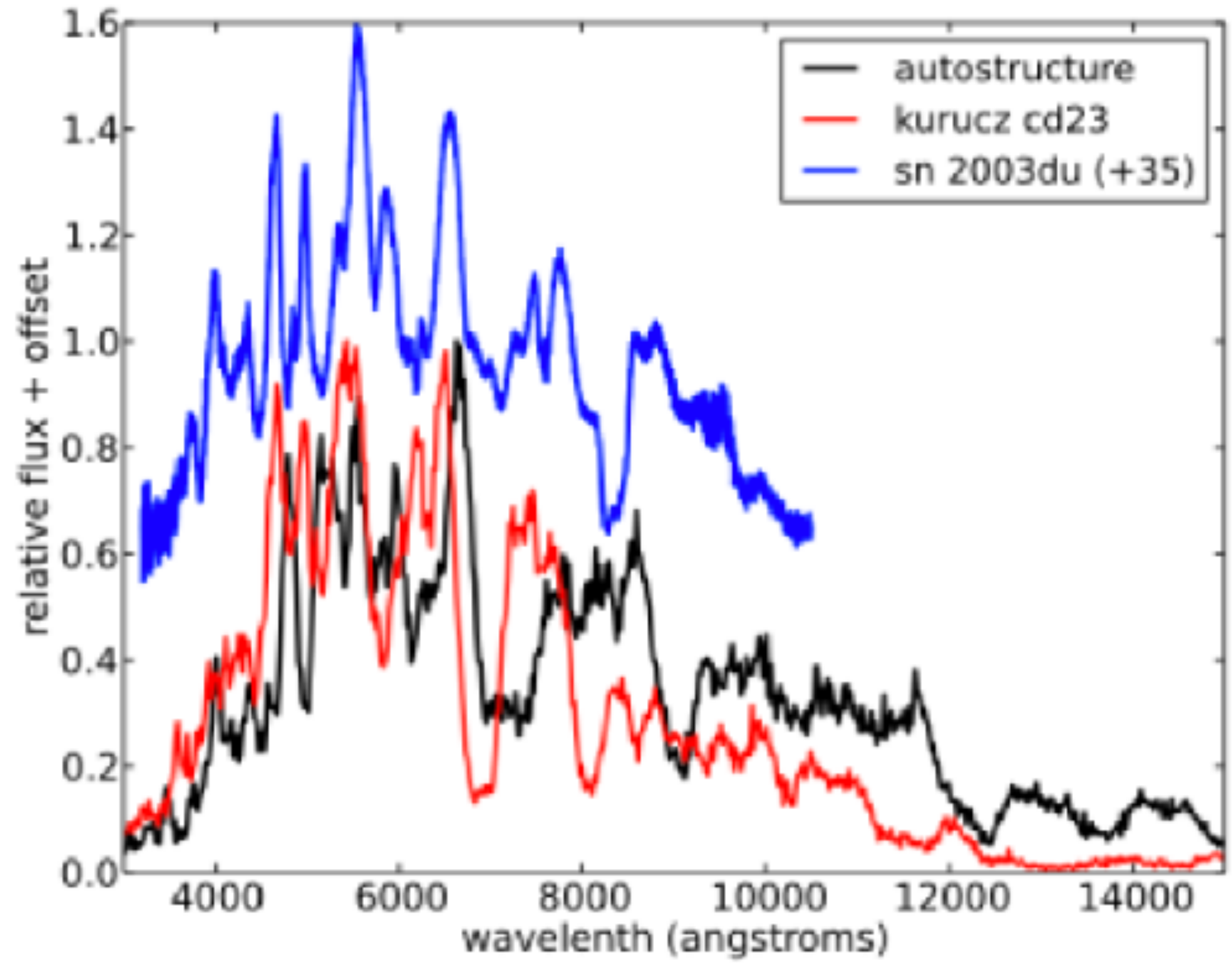
Kasen 2013, 2015, 2017

- **TANAKA**
  - 3D Monte Carlo
  - LTE
  - Sobolev
  - Expansion opacity
  - Se I-III, Ru I-III, Te i-III, Nd I-III, Er I-III, ~100 million lines.

Tanaka 2013, 2014, 2017

Huge challenge ahead: Impact of varying atomic data <u>method</u>

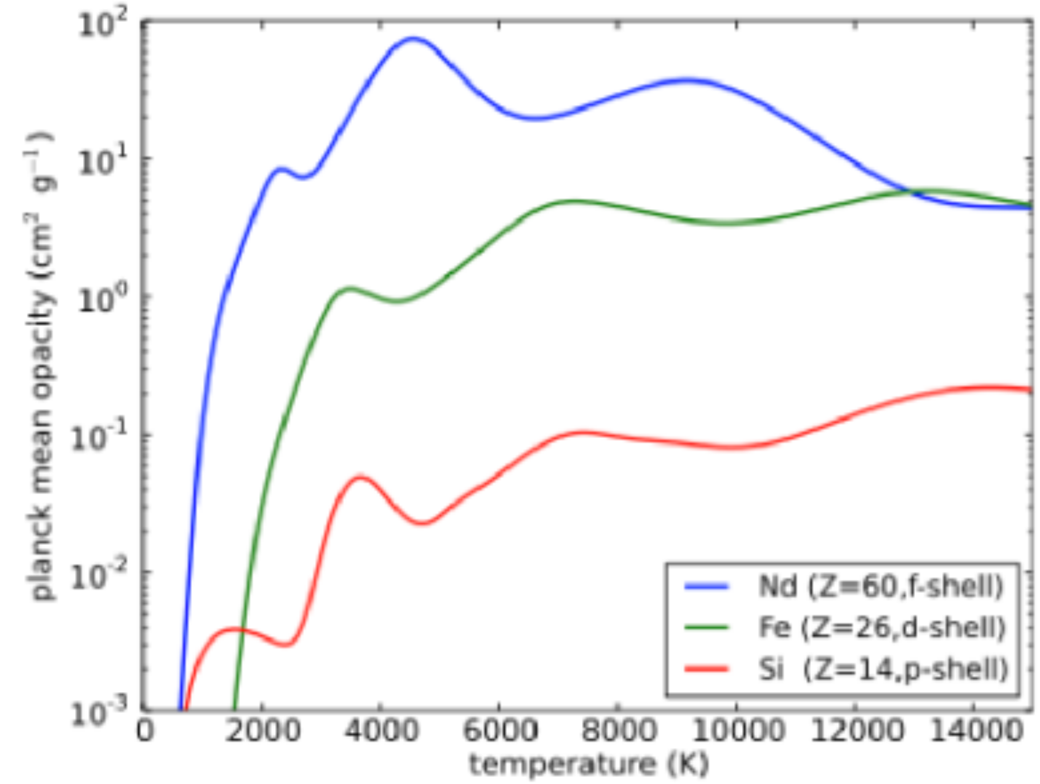


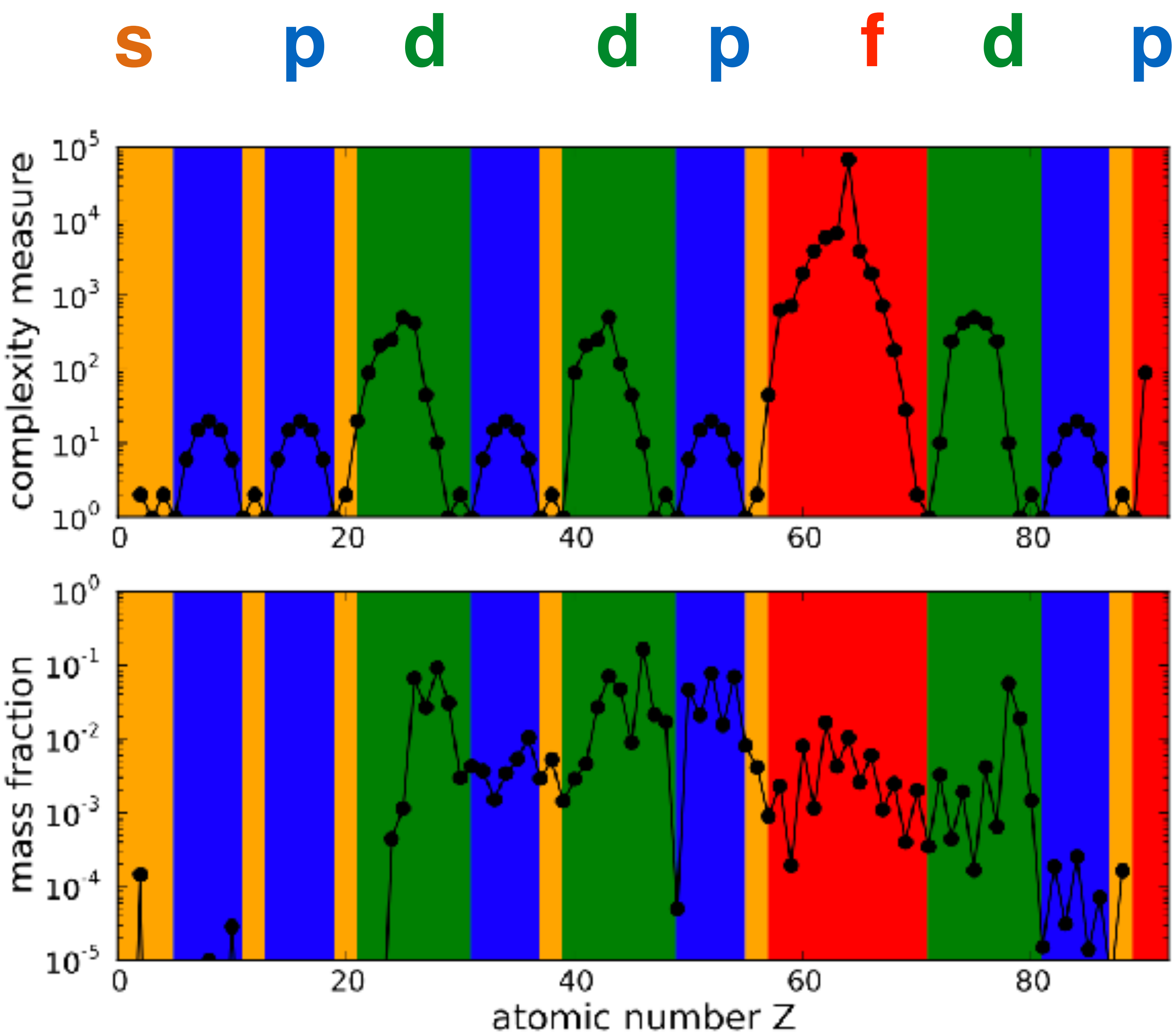


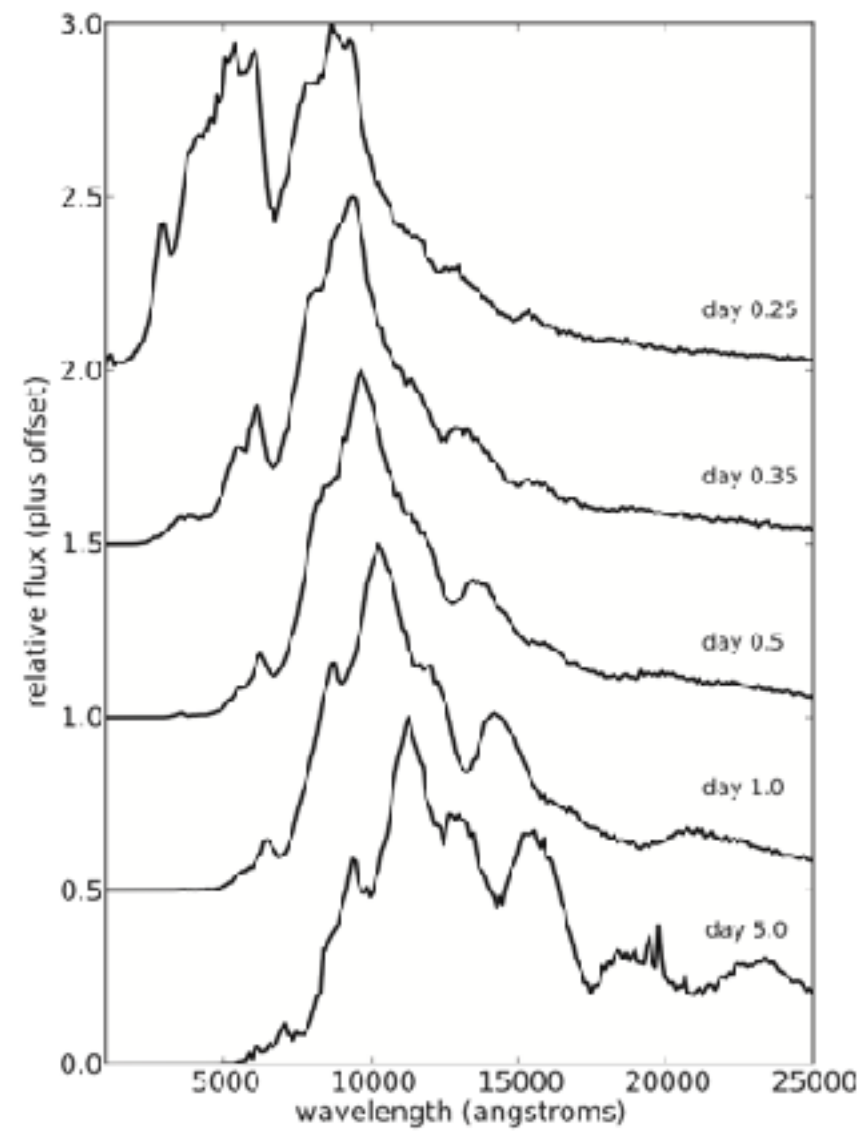
Kasen+2013 (0.01 Msun, 2.5d)

Opacity

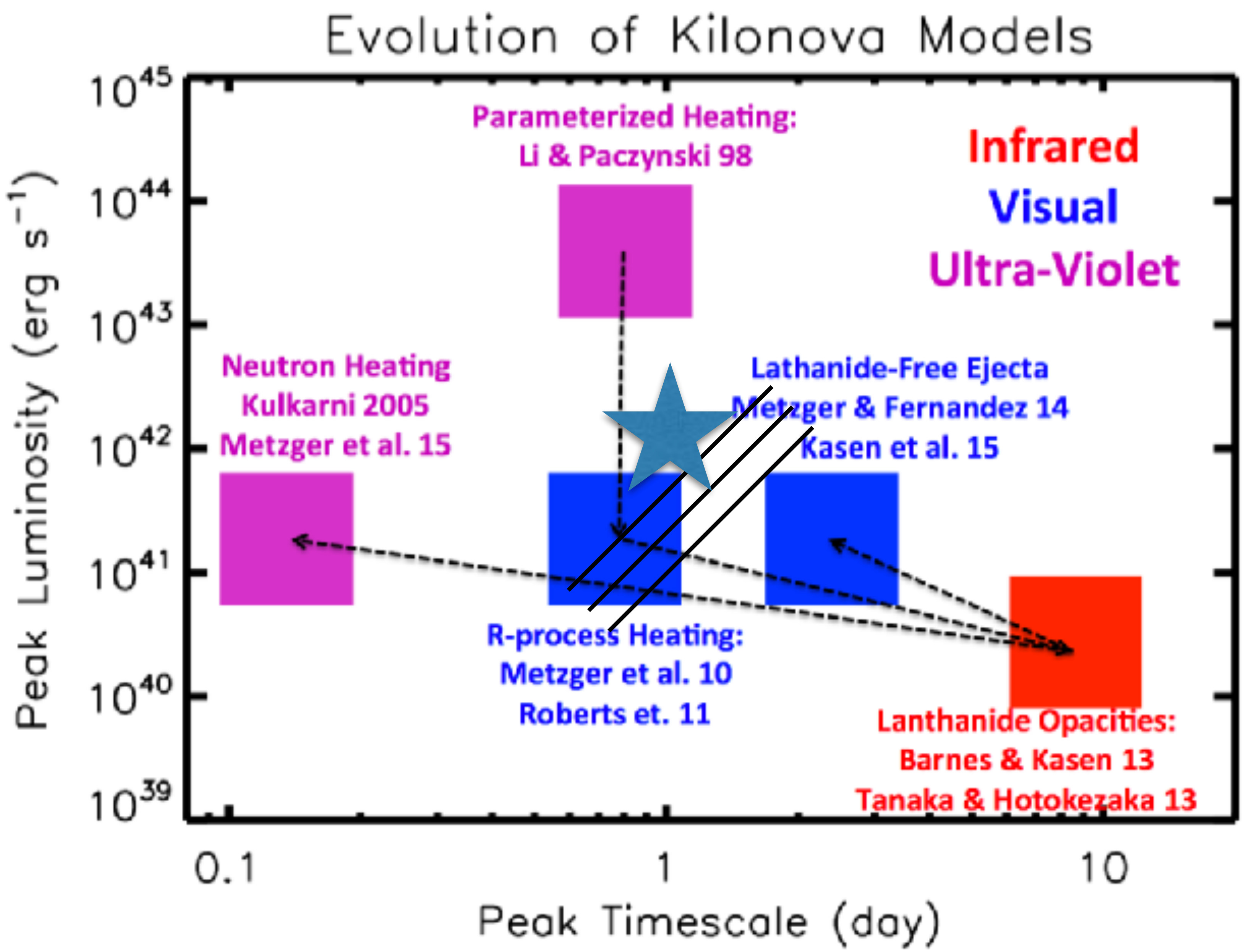
- Kasen 2013: **Lanthanides** (A=58-71) give high opacity.







The landscape with uncertainty in mass, heat rate and opacity

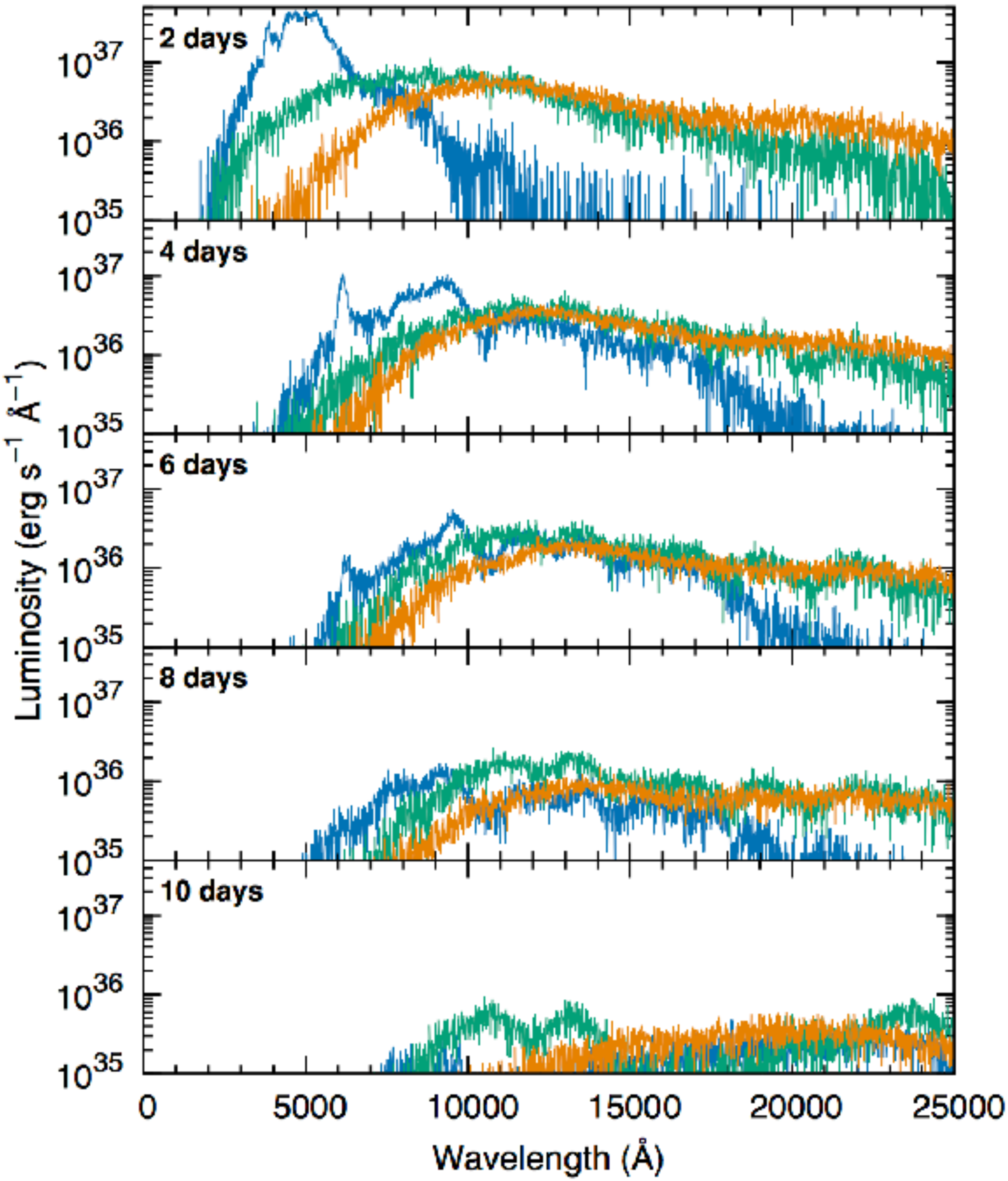


$t_{peak} \sim 1.6\text{d}\ M_{0.01}{}^{1/2}\ V_{0.1c}{}^{-1/2}\ \text{kappa}^{1/2}$

Metzger 2017

Tanaka 2017 models

- If Ye is a broad as indicated by recent models (orange) with neutrino processing, quite featureless spectra.
- Even single Ye models (blue and green) relatively featureless due to many lines.



Current limitations for spectral predictions

- **NLTE**. Density too low for collisional LTE within days. Radiation field may maintain LTE for 1-2 weeks, but beyond 1-2 weeks almost certain strong NLTE effects.

- **Sobolev**. Too many lines to be valid.

- **Expansion opacities**. Only rough transfer method. Possible that KNe need completely new transfer methods.

- **Atomic data.**

$$\alpha_{\exp}^{\mathrm{bb}}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{ct} \sum_{l} \frac{\lambda_l}{\Delta\lambda}(1 - e^{-\tau_l}),$$

  - Still only a few elements of ~100 implemented.

  - No known method to calculate accurately.

The possible variety

- Mass anywhere from 0 to 0.1 Msun: Be prepared for both dimmer and brighter compared to 2017gfo.
- Velocities anywhere from 0.05-0.4c.
- Opacity anywhere from 0.1 to 100 (and diverse composition).
- Strong viewing angle effects possible (in particular BH-NS mergers).
- Powering by central objects could add diversity.
- GRB may or may not associate (low mass NS don't make BH).

Necessary workflow

1. Bolometric light curves
    1. Unbiased approached (“I know no theory”)
    2. Theory guided
2. Photometry
3. Spectroscopy
    1. Not clear we will be able to interpret anytime soon
    2. Catch highly flattened systems to reduce blending?

Summary

- Predictions of ejecta properties have rapidly changed over last years, considering 3D, GR, neutrino irradiation, magnetic fields, …

- Two main components are expected: dynamic and disk wind, but these break up into subcomponents.

- Current picture has M_dyn <~ 0.01 Msun. Conflict with models for 2017gfo with M ~ 0.05 Msun and dynamic origin.

- Spectral modelling so far hampered by both atomic data and RT method limitations.

- Discussion points: Prospects for composition diagnostics.