

Nucleosynthesis in classical novae

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OUTLINE

- Scenario of nova explosions: thermonuclear runaway – Mixing between core and envelope material
- Properties of the underlying white dwarf: CO and ONe
- Theoretical models: general predictions as compared with observations
- Relevance of nucleosynthesis in classical novae:
 - chemical evolution of the Galaxy
 - presolar meteoritic grains
 - gamma-ray emission

Scenario

Mass transfer from the companion star onto the **white dwarf** (cataclysmic variable)



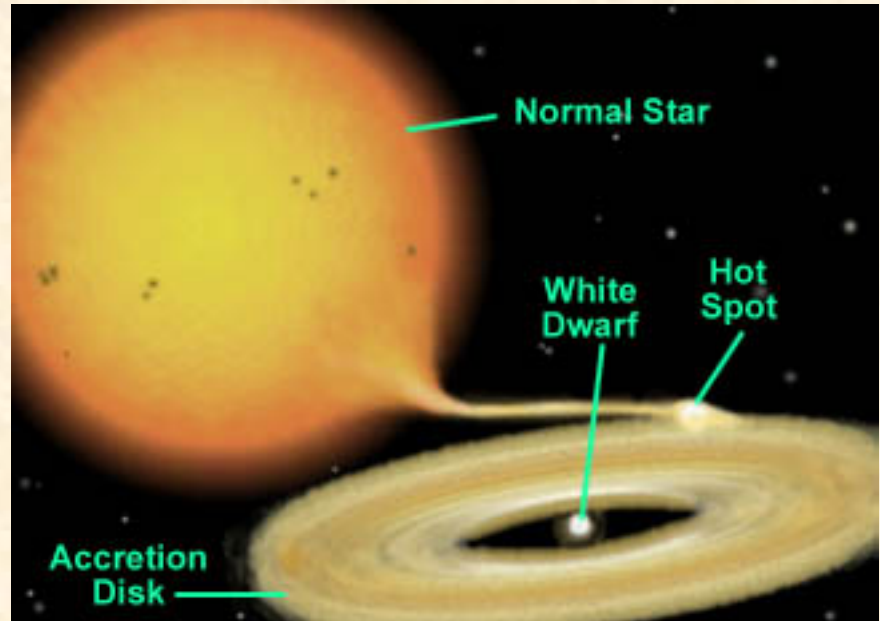
Hydrogen burning in degenerate conditions on top of the **white dwarf**



Thermonuclear runaway



Explosive H-burning

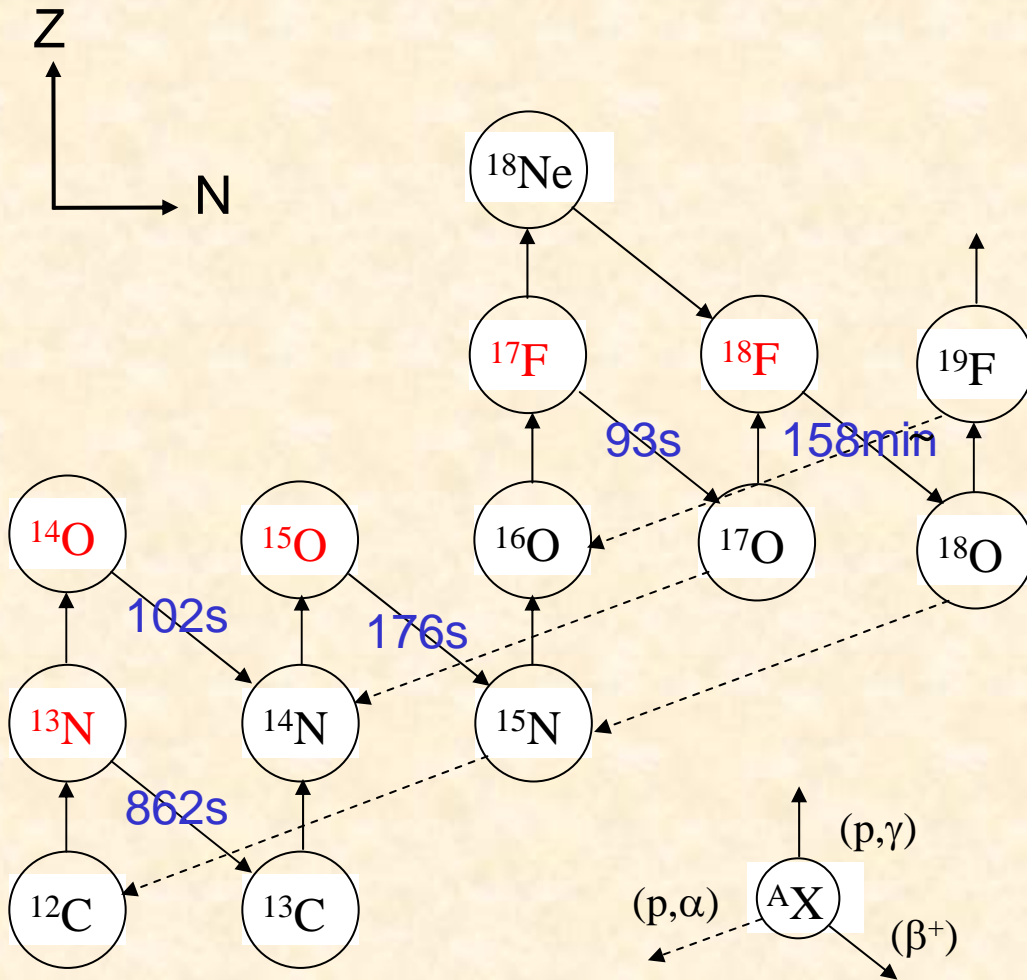


Decay of short-lived radioactive nuclei in the outer envelope (transported by convection)



Envelope expansion, L increase and **mass ejection**

Nova Models: Thermonuclear Burning of Hydrogen. CNO cycle



- Start: $\tau_{\beta^+} < \tau(p, \gamma)$
 \downarrow
 CNO cycle operates in equ.
 - $T \sim 10^8 \text{ K}$: $\tau_{\beta^+} > \tau(p, \gamma)$
 \downarrow
 CNO cycle β^+ -limited
 (bottle neck)
 - Convection:
 - fresh fuel brought to the burning shell
 - $\tau_{\text{conv}} < \tau_{\beta^+}$: β^+ -unstable nuclei to external cooler regions where they are preserved from destruction
- Later decay on the surface leads to expansion and luminosity increase*

Novae observations: spectra - abundances determinations

Expansion velocities $\sim 10^2$ - 10^3 km/s

Ejecta often enhanced in C, N, O, Ne

Metallicities \gg Solar

NOVA ABUNDANCES—OBSERVATIONS (LIVIO & TRURAN 1994)

| Nova | Year | X | Y | Z | CNO/Z | C/N | O/N | O/(C + N) |
|-----------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| T Aur | 1891 | 0.47 | 0.40 | 0.13 | 1.00 | ... | 0.65 | 0.65 |
| RR Pic | 1925 | 0.53 | 0.43 | 0.043 | 0.74 | 0.18 | 0.26 | 0.22 |
| DQ Her | 1934 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.57 | 1.00 | 0.20 | 0.76 | 0.63 |
| | | 0.34 | 0.09 | 0.57 | 1.00 | 0.20 | 1.26 | 1.05 |
| HR Del | 1967 | 0.45 | 0.48 | 0.077 | 0.96 | ... | 1.74 ^a | 1.74 |
| V1500 Cyg | 1975 | 0.49 | 0.21 | 0.30 | 0.92 | 0.93 | 1.73 | 0.90 |
| | | 0.57 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.93 | 1.41 ^b | 1.22 | 0.51 |
| V1688 Cyg | 1978 | 0.45 | 0.22 | 0.33 | 1.00 | 0.50 | 0.86 | 0.57 |
| | | 0.45 | 0.23 | 0.32 | 0.98 | 0.34 | 0.93 | 0.70 |
| V693 CrA | 1981 | 0.29 | 0.32 | 0.39 | 0.52 ^c | 0.06 | 1.50 | 1.42 |
| V1370 Aql | 1982 | 0.04 | 0.10 | 0.86 | 0.32 ^c | 0.06 | 0.19 | 0.15 |
| GQ Mus | 1983 | 0.27 | 0.32 | 0.41 | 0.97 | 0.08 | 1.00 | 0.93 |
| PW Vul | 1984 | 0.47 | 0.23 | 0.30 | 0.99 | 0.52 | 0.59 | 0.39 |
| | | 0.54 | 0.28 | 0.18 | 1.00 | 0.29 | 0.35 | 0.27 |
| | | 0.69 | 0.25 | 0.067 | 0.99 | 0.67 | 0.29 | 0.27 |
| QU Vul | 1984 | 0.33 | 0.26 | 0.40 | 0.63 ^c | 0.13 | 2.30 | 2.04 |
| V842 Cen | 1986 | 0.41 | 0.23 | 0.36 | 0.99 | 0.57 | 0.14 | 0.09 |
| V827 Her | 1987 | 0.36 | 0.29 | 0.35 | 0.98 | 0.36 | 0.07 | 0.05 |
| QV Vul | 1987 | 0.68 | 0.27 | 0.053 | 0.96 | ... | 4.10 ^a | 4.10 |
| V2214 Oph | 1988 | 0.34 | 0.26 | 0.40 | 0.93 | ... | 0.19 | 0.19 |
| V977 Sco | 1989 | 0.51 | 0.39 | 0.10 | 0.72 | ... | 0.71 | 0.71 |
| V443 Sct | 1989 | 0.49 | 0.45 | 0.062 | 0.97 | ... | 0.13 | 0.13 |
| LMC | 1990A | 0.37 | 0.59 | 0.039 | 0.35 ^c | 0.08 | 0.82 | 0.76 |

^a Exceptionally high O/N and C/N \sim 0.

^b Exception to C/N < 1.

^c Novae with low CNO/Z ratios—probably ONeMg progenitors.

0.73

3.1

9.7

2.4 SOLAR

C/N < 1

TABLE 2
HEAVY-ELEMENT MASS FRACTIONS IN NOVAE FROM OPTICAL AND ULTRAVIOLET SPECTROSCOPY

| Object | Year | Reference | H | He | C | N | O | Ne | Na-Fe | Z | (Z/Z _⊙) | (Ne/Ne _⊙) | CNO/Ne-Fe |
|-----------|------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Solar | ... | 1 | 0.71 | 0.27 | 0.0031 | 0.001 | 0.0097 | 0.0018 | 0.0034 | 0.019 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.7 |
| T Aur | 1891 | 2 | 0.47 | 0.40 | ... | 0.079 | 0.051 | ... | ... | 0.13 | 6.8 | ... | ... |
| RR Pic | 1925 | 3 | 0.53 | 0.43 | 0.0039 | 0.022 | 0.0058 | 0.011 | ... | 0.043 | 2.3 | 6.3 | 2.9 |
| DQ Her | 1934 | 4 | 0.34 | 0.095 | 0.045 | 0.23 | 0.29 | ... | ... | 0.57 | 30. | ... | ... |
| DQ Her | 1934 | 5 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.058 | 0.29 | 0.22 | ... | ... | 0.57 | 30. | ... | ... |
| HR Del | 1967 | 6 | 0.45 | 0.48 | ... | 0.027 | 0.047 | 0.0030 | ... | 0.077 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 25. |
| V1500 Cyg | 1975 | 7 | 0.49 | 0.21 | 0.070 | 0.075 | 0.13 | 0.023 | ... | 0.30 | 16. | 13. | 12. |
| V1500 Cyg | 1975 | 8 | 0.57 | 0.27 | 0.058 | 0.041 | 0.050 | 0.0099 | ... | 0.16 | 8.4 | 5.6 | 15. |
| V1668 Cyg | 1978 | 9 | 0.45 | 0.23 | 0.047 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.0068 | ... | 0.32 | 17. | 3.9 | 47. |
| V1668 Cyg | 1978 | 10 | 0.45 | 0.22 | 0.070 | 0.14 | 0.12 | ... | ... | 0.33 | 17. | ... | ... |
| V693 CrA | 1981 | 11 | 0.40 | 0.21 | 0.004 | 0.069 | 0.067 | 0.023 | ... | 0.39 | 21. | 128. | ... |
| V693 CrA | 1981 | 12 | 0.29 | 0.32 | 0.046 | 0.080 | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.016 | 0.39 | 21. | 97. | 1.3 |
| V693 CrA | 1981 | 10 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.0078 | 0.14 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.030 | 0.66 | 35. | 148. | 1.2 |
| V1370 Aql | 1982 | 13 | 0.053 | 0.088 | 0.035 | 0.14 | 0.051 | 0.52 | 0.11 | 0.86 | 45. | 296. | 0.36 |
| V1370 Aql | 1982 | 10 | 0.044 | 0.10 | 0.050 | 0.19 | 0.037 | 0.56 | 0.017 | 0.86 | 45. | 296. | 0.48 |
| GQ Mus | 1983 | 14 | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.0081 | 0.13 | 0.095 | 0.0023 | 0.0039 | 0.24 | 13. | 1.2 | 38. |
| PW Vul | 1984 | 15 | 0.69 | 0.25 | 0.0033 | 0.049 | 0.014 | 0.00066 | ... | 0.067 | 3.5 | 0.38 | 100. |
| PW Vul | 1984 | 10 | 0.47 | 0.23 | 0.073 | 0.14 | 0.083 | 0.0040 | 0.0048 | 0.30 | 16. | 2.3 | 34. |
| PW Vul | 1984 | 16 | 0.617 | 0.247 | 0.018 | 0.069 | 0.0443 | 0.001 | 0.0027 | 0.14 | 7.7 | 1. | 31. |
| QU Vul | 1984 | 17 | 0.30 | 0.60 | 0.0013 | 0.018 | 0.039 | 0.040 | 0.0049 | 0.10 | 5.3 | 23. | 1.3 |
| OU Vul | 1984 | 10 | 0.33 | 0.26 | 0.0095 | 0.074 | 0.17 | 0.086 | 0.063 | 0.40 | 21. | 49. | 1.7 |
| QU Vul | 1984 | 18 | 0.36 | 0.19 | ... | 0.071 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.0014 | 0.44 | 23. | 100. | 1.4 |
| V842 Cen | 1986 | 10 | 0.41 | 0.23 | 0.12 | 0.21 | 0.030 | 0.00090 | 0.0038 | 0.36 | 19. | 0.51 | 77. |
| V827 Her | 1987 | 10 | 0.36 | 0.29 | 0.087 | 0.24 | 0.016 | 0.00066 | 0.0021 | 0.35 | 18. | 0.38 | 124. |
| QV Vul | 1987 | 10 | 0.68 | 0.27 | ... | 0.010 | 0.041 | 0.00099 | 0.00096 | 0.053 | 2.8 | 0.56 | 26. |
| V2214 Oph | 1988 | 10 | 0.34 | 0.26 | ... | 0.31 | 0.060 | 0.017 | 0.015 | 0.40 | 21. | 9.7 | 12. |
| V977 Sco | 1989 | 10 | 0.51 | 0.39 | ... | 0.042 | 0.030 | 0.026 | 0.0027 | 0.10 | 5.3 | 15. | 2.5 |
| V433 Sct | 1989 | 10 | 0.49 | 0.45 | ... | 0.053 | 0.0070 | 0.00014 | 0.0017 | 0.062 | 3.3 | 0.80 | 33. |
| V351 Pup | 1991 | 19 | 0.37 | 0.25 | 0.0056 | 0.076 | 0.19 | 0.11 | ... | 0.38 | 20. | 63. | 2.4 |
| V1974 Cyg | 1992 | 18 | 0.19 | 0.32 | ... | 0.085 | 0.29 | 0.11 | 0.0051 | 0.49 | 27. | 68. | 3.2 |
| V1974 Cyg | 1992 | 20 | 0.30 | 0.52 | 0.015 | 0.023 | 0.10 | 0.037 | 0.075 | 0.18 | 9.7 | 21. | 3.1 |
| V838 Her | 1991 | 11 | 0.60 | 0.31 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.004 | 0.056 | ... | 0.09 | 0.11 | 31. | ... |

Abundance determinations from IR observations

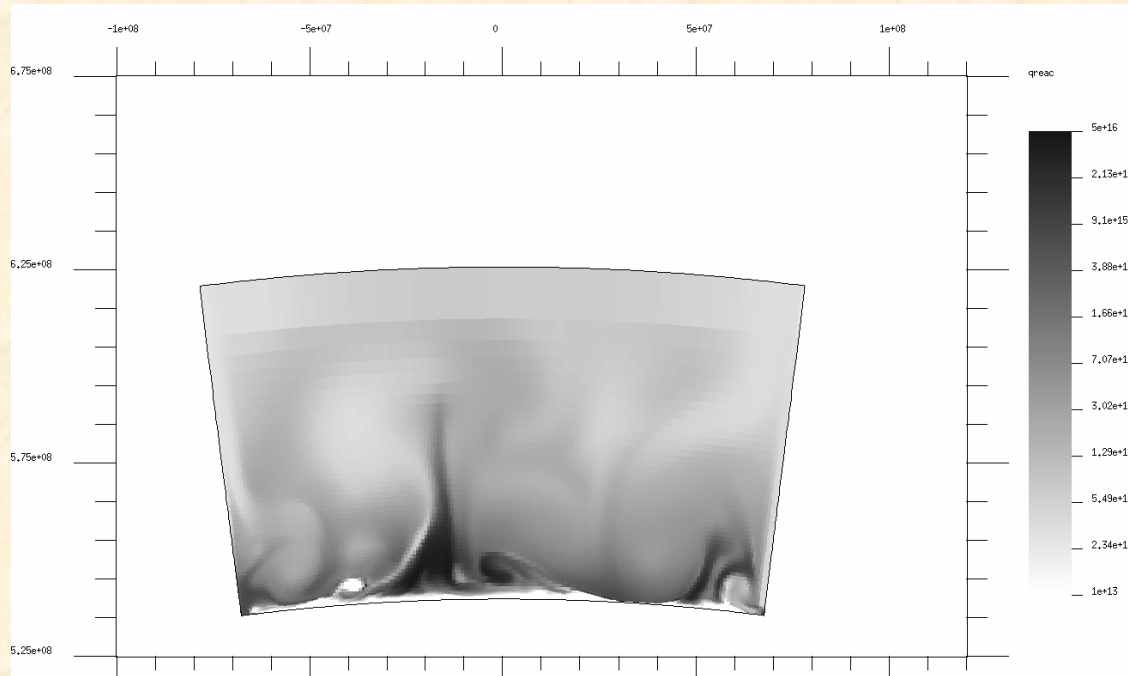
Gehrz et al 1998, PASP

| Nova | X | Y | $\frac{(n_x/n_y)}{(n_x/n_y)_\odot}$ |
|----------------------|-----------|----|-------------------------------------|
| QU Vul/1984 #2 | Ne | H | ≥ 1.2 |
| QU Vul/1984 #2 | Al | Si | 70 |
| QU Vul/1984 #2 | Mg | Si | 4.7 |
| QU Vul/1984 #2 | Ne | Si | ≥ 6.4 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ne | H | ≥ 4 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ne | H | ≥ 10 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ne | Si | ≈ 35 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Al | Si | ≈ 5 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Mg | Si | ≥ 3 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | C | H | ≈ 12 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | N | H | ≈ 50 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | O | H | ≈ 25 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ne | H | ≈ 50 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Mg | H | ≈ 5 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Al | H | ≈ 5 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Si | H | ≈ 6 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | S | H | ≈ 5 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ar | H | ≈ 5 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Fe | H | ≈ 4 |
| V1974 Cyg/1992 | Ne | O | ≈ 4 |
| V705 Cas/1993 | Silicates | H | ≈ 15 |
| V705 Cas/1993 | C | H | ≈ 45 |
| Nova Aql/1995 | C | H | ≤ 0.6 |

Nova Models: need of core-envelope mixing

- Z observed \gg solar \rightarrow **mixing** CO or ONe core – solar envelope accreted
- Explosion itself (fast nova) \rightarrow initial overabundance of CNO \rightarrow **mixing**

Nova Models: need of core-envelope mixing



Logarithm of the burning rates close to the peak of the runaway

Glasner et al. 1997

Glasner & Livne 2002

Shear instabilities of the transversal component of the convective flow induce mixing of CNO elements from the core.

Convective cells and convective velocities are bigger than those predicted by the 1D MLT.

Nova Models: need of core- envelope mixing

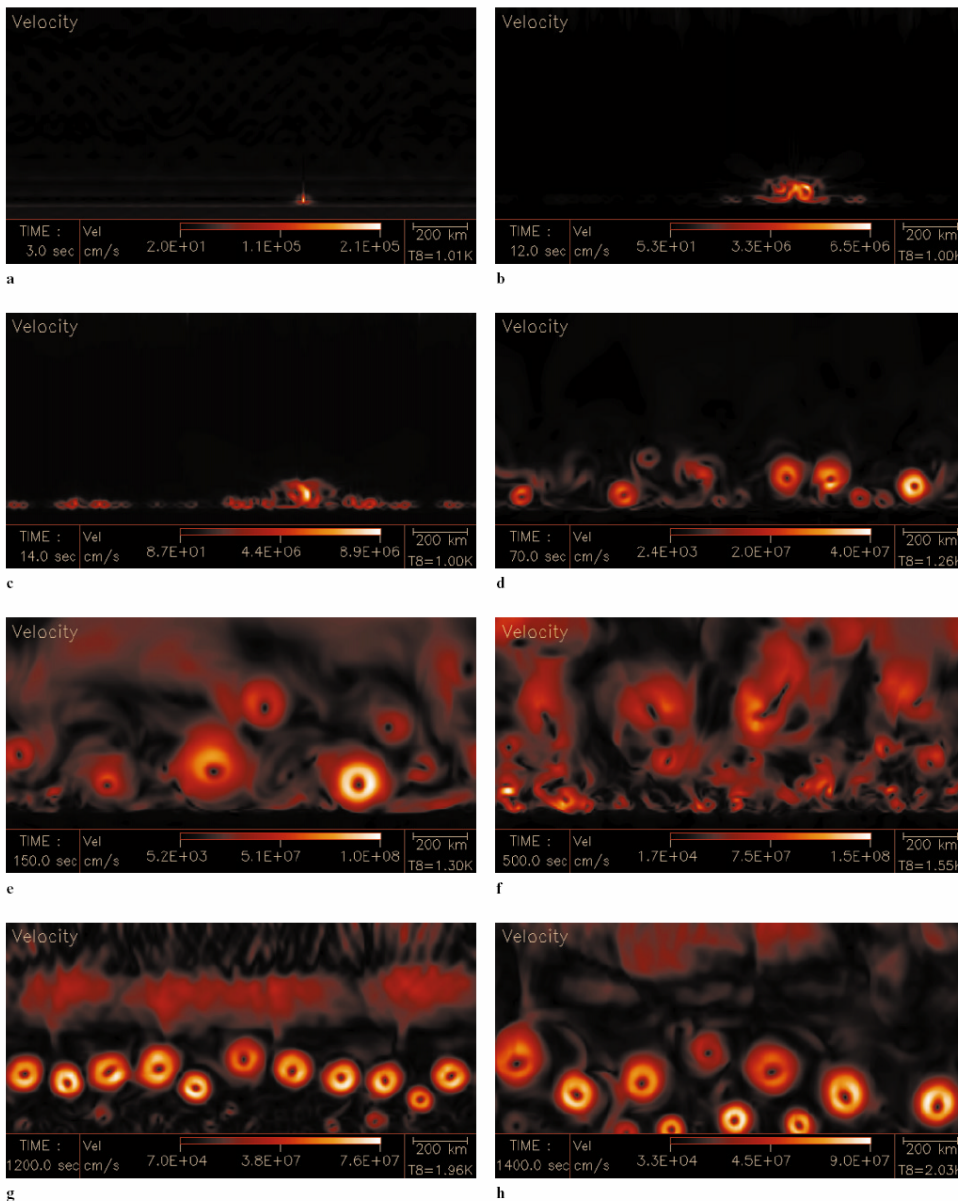


Fig. 1a-h. Velocity field at different stages of the evolution for the low resolution run. The color coding is done according to the absolute value of the velocity at each point. T8 denotes the temperature of the hottest individual zone.

Flow dominated by small convective eddies

More limited dredge-up and mixing

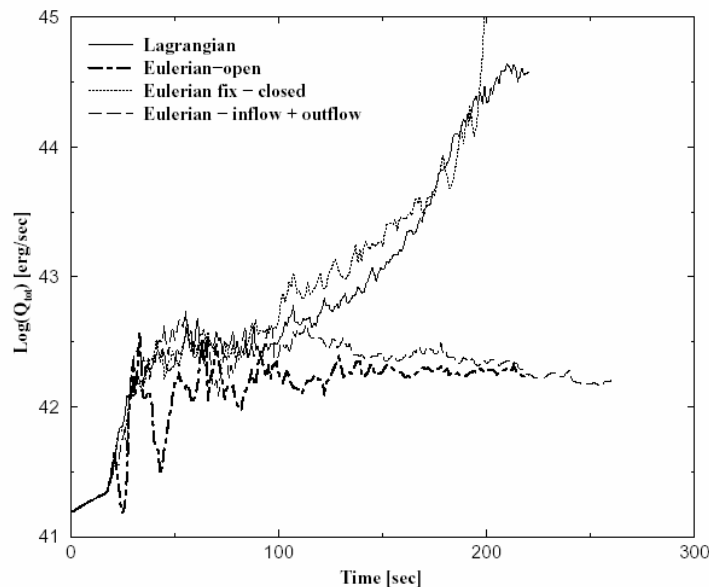
Kerckek et al. 1998, A&A

The Sensitivity of Multidimensional Nova Calculations to the outer Boundary Condition

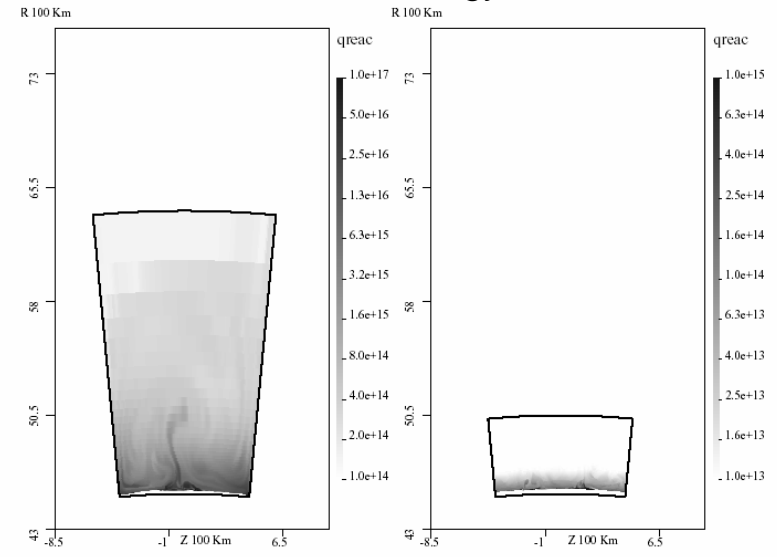
Glasner, Livne & Truran, 2005

In this study, we demonstrate that the imposed outer boundary condition can have a dramatic effect on the solution. Several commonly used choices for the outer boundary conditions are examined. It is shown that the solutions obtained from Lagrangian simulations, where the envelope is allowed to expand and mass is being conserved, are consistent with spherically symmetric solutions. In Eulerian schemes which utilize an outer boundary condition of free outflow, the outburst can be artificially quenched.

Total Energy Production Rate vs. Time



Nuclear energy



Lagrangian

Pure Eulerian

ON HEAVY ELEMENT ENRICHMENT IN CLASSICAL NOVAE

A. ALEXAKIS,^{1,2} A. C. CALDER,^{1,3} A. HEGER,^{1,4,5} E. F. BROWN,^{1,3} L. J. DURSI,^{1,3} J. W. TRURAN,^{1,3,4} R. ROSNER,^{1,2,3,4}
D. Q. LAMB,^{1,3,4} F. X. TIMMES,^{1,3} B. FRYXELL,^{1,4} M. ZINGALE,⁶ P. M. RICKER,^{7,8} AND K. OLSON^{1,9}

ApJ, 602 (2004)

Many classical nova ejecta are enriched in CNO and Ne. Rosner and coworkers recently suggested that the enrichment might originate in the resonant interaction between large-scale shear flows in the accreted H/He envelope and gravity waves at the interface between the envelope and the underlying C/O white dwarf. The shear flow amplifies the waves, which eventually form cusps and break. This wave breaking injects a spray of C/O into the superincumbent H/He.

In the absence of enrichment prior to ignition, the base of the convective zone, does not reach the C/O interface. As a result, there is no additional mixing, and the runaway is slow. In contrast, the formation of a mixed layer during the accretion of H/He, prior to ignition, causes a more violent runaway. The envelope can be enriched by $\leq 25\%$ of C/O by mass (consistent with that observed in some ejecta) for shear velocities, over the surface, with Mach numbers ≤ 0.4 .

ON HEAVY ELEMENT ENRICHMENT IN CLASSICAL NOVAE

A. ALEXAKIS,^{1,2} A. C. CALDER,^{1,3} A. HEGER,^{1,4,5} E. F. BROWN,^{1,3} L. J. DURSI,^{1,3} J. W. TRURAN,^{1,3,4} R. ROSNER,^{1,2,3,4}
D. Q. LAMB,^{1,3,4} F. X. TIMMES,^{1,3} B. FRYXELL,^{1,4} M. ZINGALE,⁶ P. M. RICKER,^{7,8} AND K. OLSON^{1,9}

ApJ, 602 (2004)

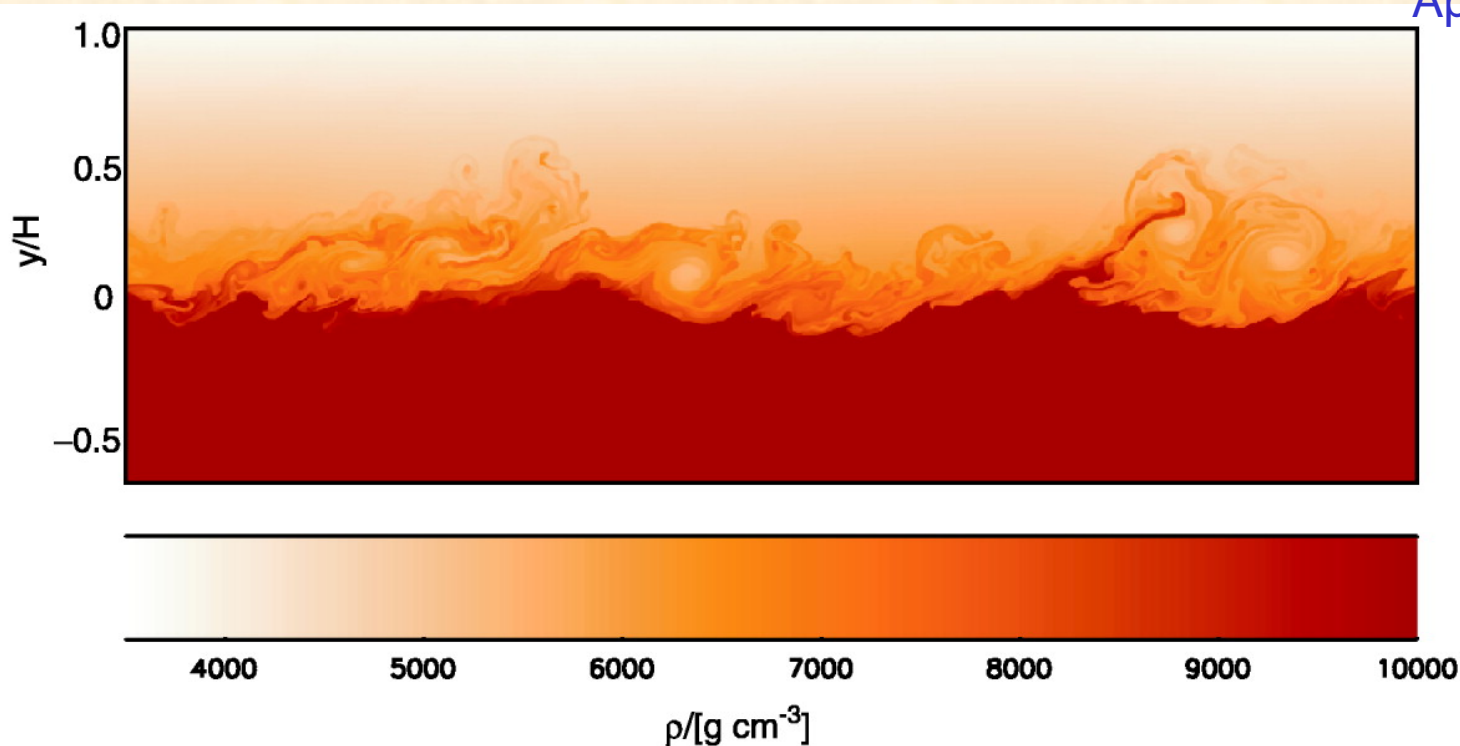


FIG. 1.—Breaking C/O waves, as determined by simulations in two dimensions. Gravity points toward the bottom of the figure, with the vertical distance y in units of the pressure scale height H , as evaluated just above the interface. The color scale indicates the mass density in units of g cm^{-3} .

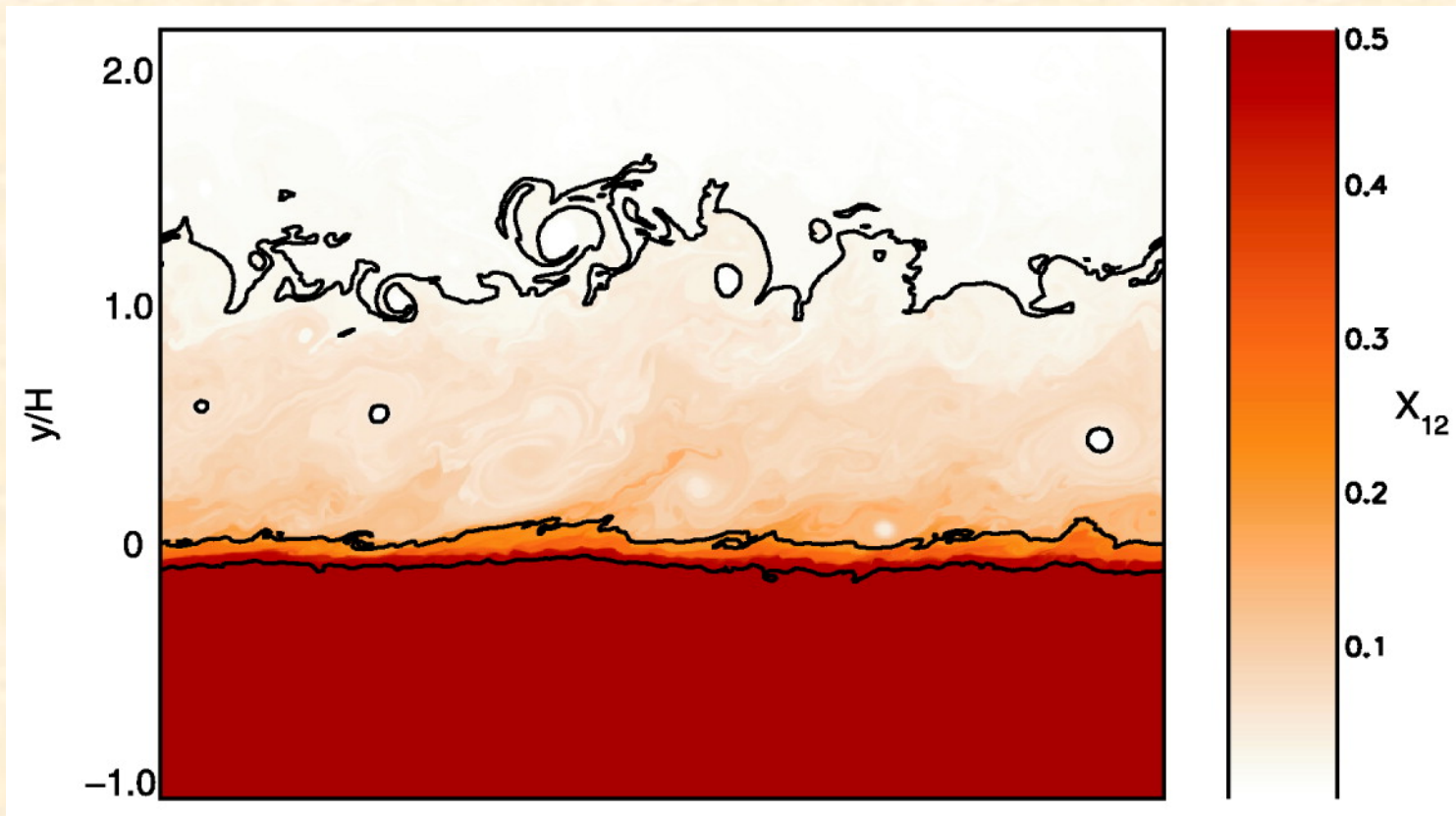


FIG. 2.—Mass fraction of ^{12}C for $\delta/H = 0.04$ after $t = 3500\delta/U$. The vertical dimension is scaled to the pressure scale height H as evaluated just above the interface. The contours for ^{12}C mass fractions are, from top to bottom, 0.02, 0.20, and 0.49.

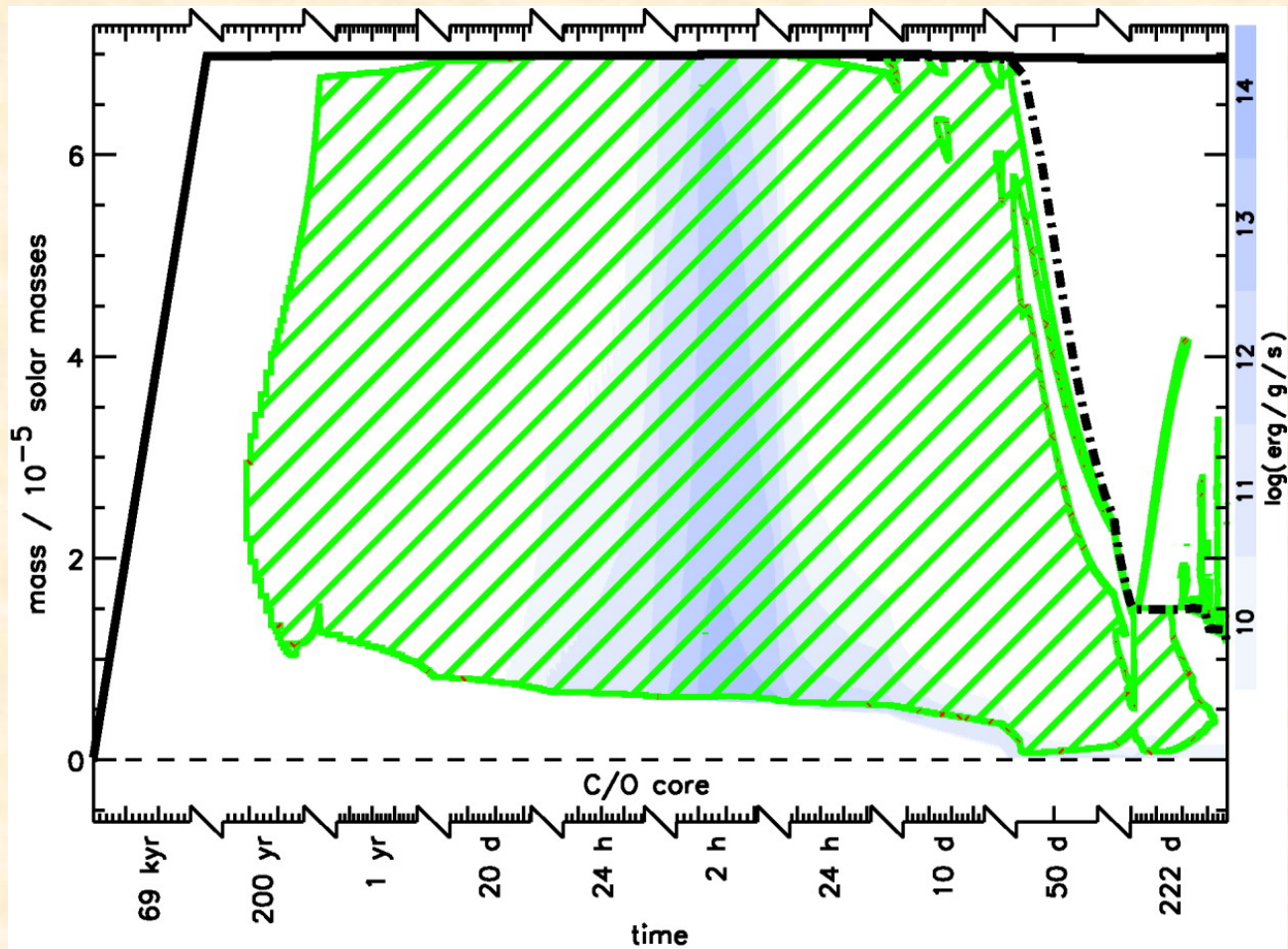


FIG. 4.—Kippenhahn diagram of a nova without enrichment. The x -axis indicates time intervals for the different evolution stages, and the y -axis gives the mass above the C/O WD substrate. Green hatching (framed by a green line) indicates convection, blue shading indicates nuclear energy generation, for which each level of darker blue denotes an increase by 1 order of magnitude, starting at 10^{10} ergs g^{-1} s^{-1} . The thick black line shows the total mass of the star (including ejecta), increasing through accretion; the dash-dotted line indicates the mass outside of 10^{12} cm; and the dashed line marks the interface between the C/O WD substrate and the accreted layers.

The underlying white dwarf

White dwarfs are the endpoints of the stellar evolution of stars with masses below $11-12 M_{\odot}$.

➤ $M \leq 8-10 M_{\odot} \rightarrow$ CO white dwarfs (He burning)

➤ $8-10 M_{\odot} \leq M \leq 12 M_{\odot} \rightarrow$ ONe white dwarfs (C burning)

$10 M_{\odot} \rightarrow 1.2 M_{\odot}$ ONe core

The underlying white dwarf

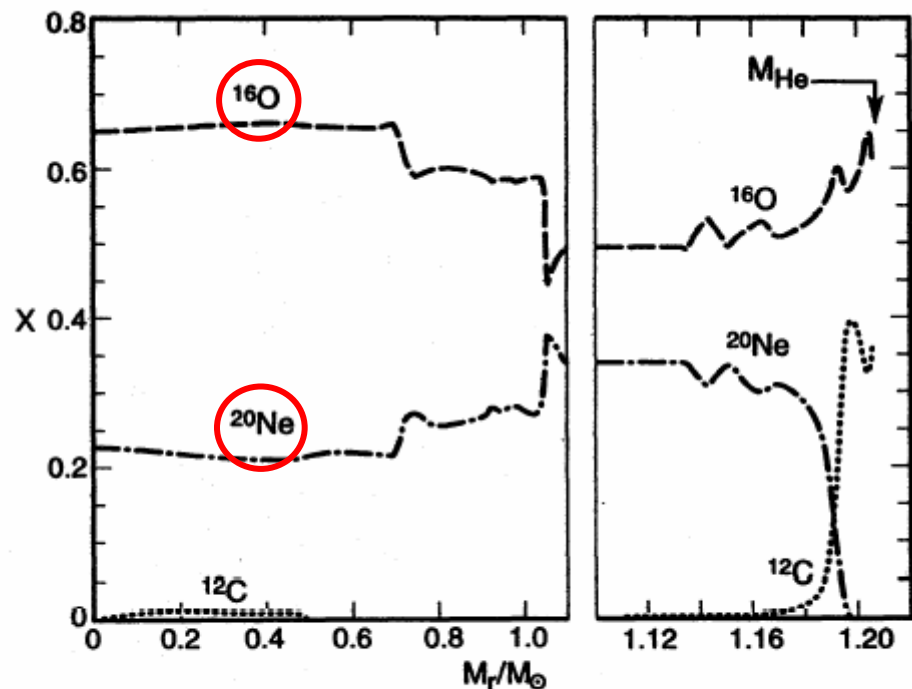


FIG. 7.—Abundances by mass of the major isotopes in the helium-exhausted interior at the end of the carbon-burning phase ($t = 7.1895212 \times 10^{14}$ s).

$10M_{\odot}$ mass Population I star evolved from the H-burning main sequence through carbon burning



$1.2M_{\odot}$ **O**Ne core

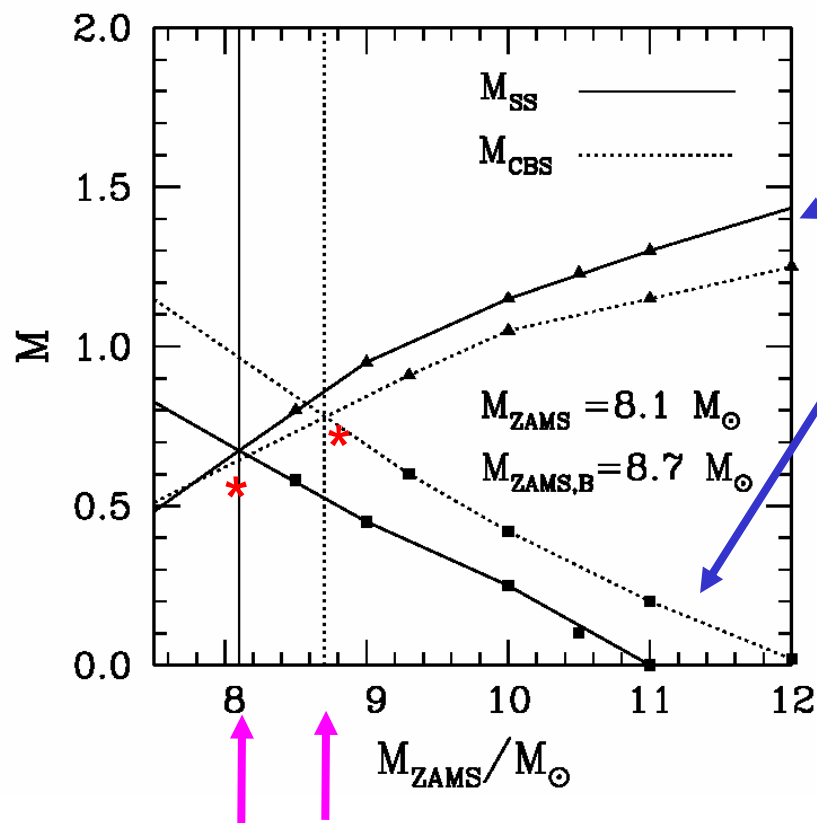
≠

ONeMg core predicted by hydrostatic C-burning (Arnett & Truran, 1969)

Ritossa, García-Berro & Iben, 1996, ApJ

see also Domínguez, Tornambè & Isern 1993

The underlying white dwarf



Size of the CO core at the beginning of C burning, for single and binary evolution

Mass point at which C is ignited

Minimum mass required for C-ignition to take place (*): $8.1 M_{\odot}$ (single) and $8.7 M_{\odot}$ (binary)

Off-center C-ignition

Central C ignition:

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 11 M_{\odot} \text{ for single evolution} \\ 12 M_{\odot} \text{ for binary evolution} \end{array} \right.$

Gil Pons, García-Berro, José, Hernanz & Truran, 2003, A&A

The underlying white dwarf

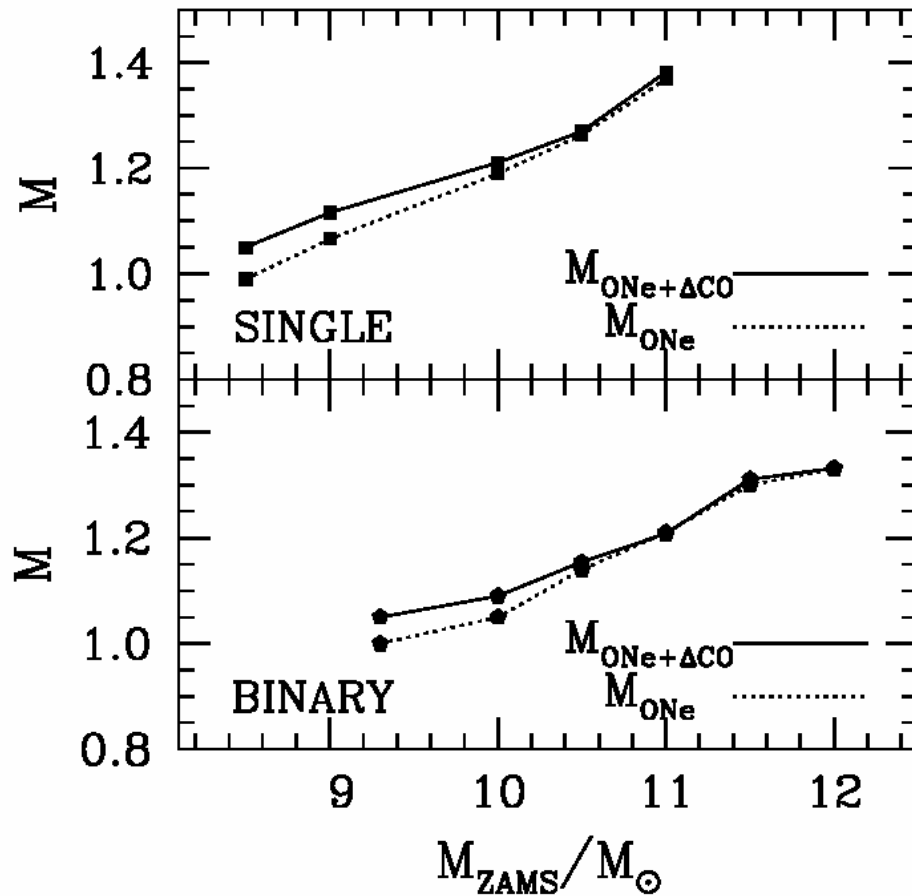


Fig.3. Size of the final cores as a function of the ZAMS mass for single and binary star evolution.

ONe core mass with a “CO buffer” (binary evolution)

| M_{ZAMS} | M_{ONe} | $M_{\text{ONe}+\Delta\text{CO}}$ |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9.3 | 1.00 | 1.07 |
| 10.0 | 1.05 | 1.09 |
| 10.5 | 1.14 | 1.15 |
| 11.0 | 1.21 | 1.22 |
| 11.5 | 1.30 | 1.31 |
| 12.0 | 1.33 | 1.33 |

Gil-Pons, García-Berro, José, Hernanz, Truran, 2003, A&A

Size of the final core for single and binary evolution: relevance of new $M_{\text{initial}}-M_{\text{final}}$ mass relation for the fraction of novae hosting ONe white dwarfs: smaller number but still around 30%

The underlying White Dwarf

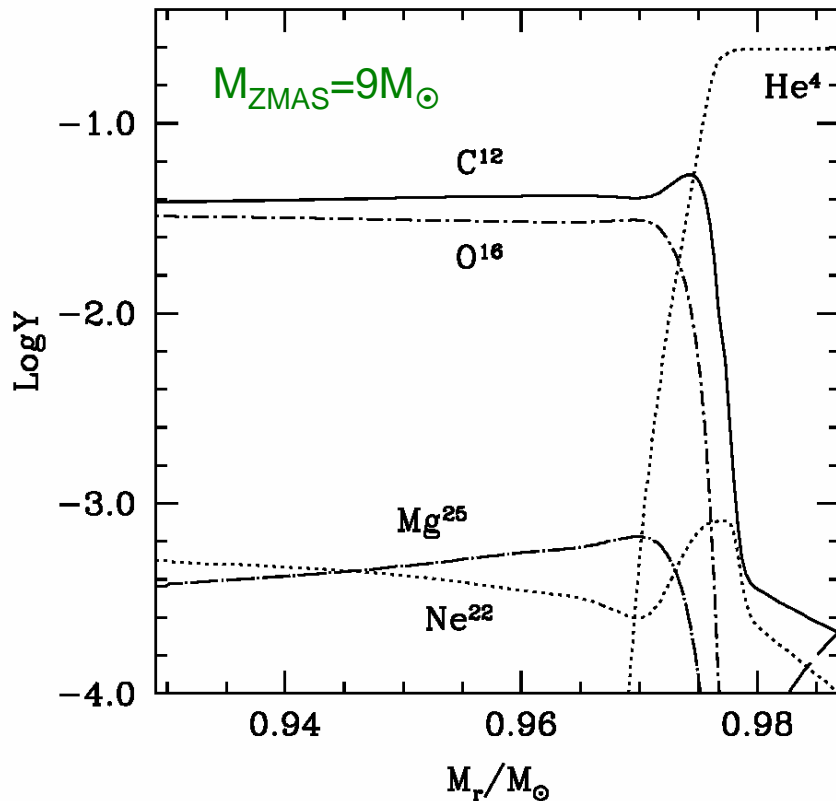


Fig. 6. Number abundances of the CO core resulting from 9 M_⊙ ZAMS primary component in a CBS.

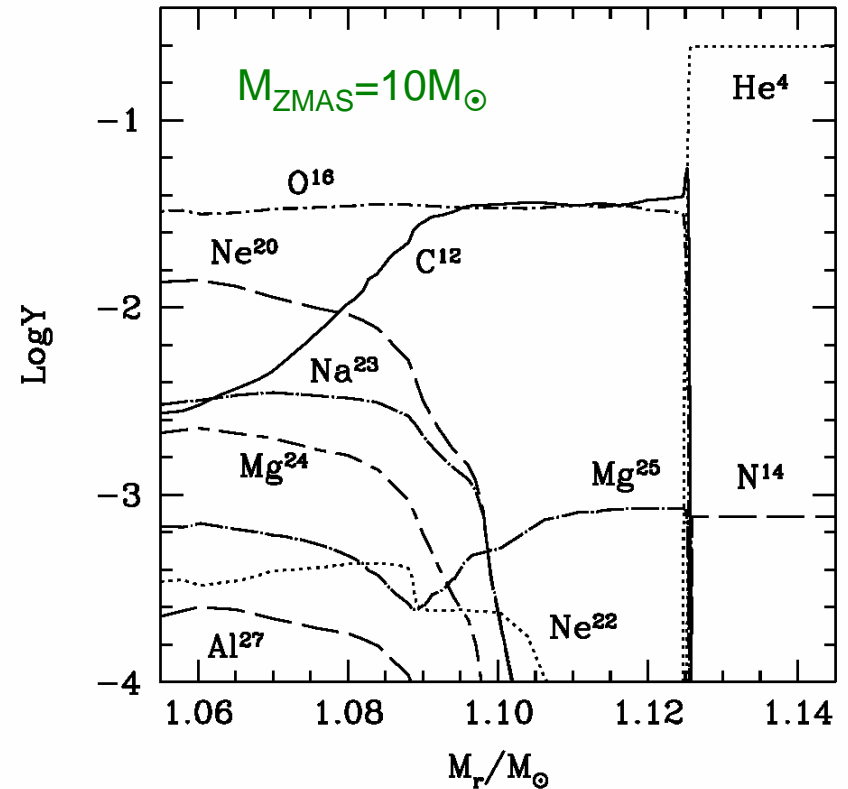


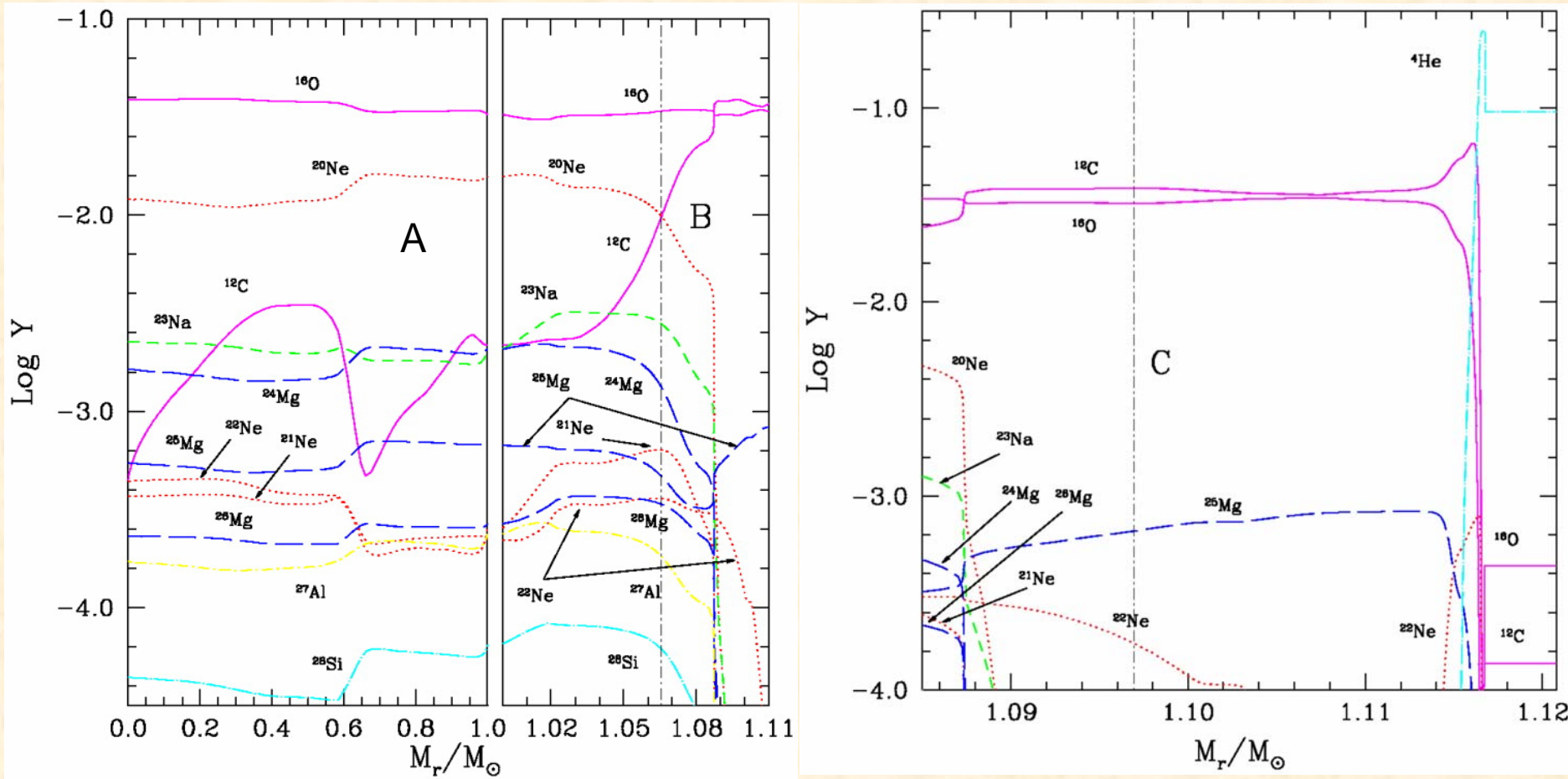
Fig. 5. Number abundances of the uppermost regions of an ONe white dwarf resulting from the evolution of a 10 M_⊙ ZAMS primary component in a close binary system.

“CO buffer” on top of an ONe core

(Gil-Pons et al., 2003, A&A)

The underlying White Dwarf

CO buffer on top of ONe core: weird nucleosynthesis potentially leading to misclassification of novae



José, Hernanz, García-Berro, Gil-Pons, 2003, ApJL

The underlying White Dwarf

Relevance of CO buffer on top of ONe WD for nova nucleosynthesis:
 lack of Ne in the ejecta:
 misclassification of novae (non-Ne nova \neq CO nova)

TABLE 1
 RESULTS OF THE EVOLUTION OF $1.25 M_{\odot}$ ONe WHITE DWARFS

| Parameter | A | B | C |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| $X(^{12}\text{C})_{\text{initial}}$ | 6.1 (-3) | 6.0 (-2) | 0.23 |
| $X(^{16}\text{O})_{\text{initial}}$ | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.26 |
| $X(^{20}\text{Ne})_{\text{initial}}$ | 0.16 | 0.10 | 8.1 (-4) |
| $\Delta M_{\text{env}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 2.20 | 1.54 | 1.23 |
| $t_{\text{rise}} (10^5 \text{ s})$ | 121 | 33.7 | 2.54 |
| $t_{\text{max}} (\text{ s})$ | 313 | 134 | 45 |
| $T_{\text{peak}} (10^8 \text{ K})$ | 2.51 | 2.31 | 2.22 |
| $K_{\text{ejec}} (10^{45} \text{ ergs s}^{-1})$ | 1.52 | 1.13 | 1.04 |
| $\Delta M_{\text{ejec}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 1.79 | 1.25 | 1.00 |
| $X(^1\text{H})$ | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| $X(^4\text{He})$ | 0.22 | 0.21 | 0.18 |
| $X(^7\text{Li})$ | 7.7 (-7) | 8.4 (-6) | 1.1 (-5) |
| $X(^{12}\text{C})$ | 2.4 (-2) | 3.0 (-2) | 4.7 (-2) |
| $X(^{13}\text{C})$ | 3.3 (-2) | 4.1 (-2) | 7.3 (-2) |
| $X(^{14}\text{N})$ | 3.9 (-2) | 3.9 (-2) | 1.1 (-1) |
| $X(^{15}\text{N})$ | 4.3 (-2) | 5.2 (-2) | 6.8 (-2) |
| $X(^{16}\text{O})$ | 6.8 (-2) | 1.3 (-1) | 1.9 (-1) |
| $X(^{17}\text{O})$ | 5.5 (-5) | 5.5 (-5) | 5.5 (-5) |
| $X(^{18}\text{F})^{\text{a}}$ | 2.8 (-4) | 3.4 (-4) | 3.0 (-4) |
| $X(^{20}\text{Ne})$ | 1.7 (-1) | 1.2 (-1) | 9.4 (-4) |
| $X(^{22}\text{Na})$ | 3.3 (-4) | 2.2 (-4) | 9.3 (-7) |
| $X(^{26}\text{Al})$ | 6.0 (-4) | 6.0 (-4) | 3.7 (-4) |
| $X(^{28}\text{Si})$ | 5.8 (-2) | 4.4 (-2) | 6.6 (-3) |
| $X(^{29}\text{Si})$ | 1.1 (-3) | 4.8 (-4) | 4.4 (-5) |
| $X(^{30}\text{Si})$ | 6.3 (-3) | 1.3 (-3) | 4.7 (-5) |

^a The mass fraction of the radioactive isotope ^{18}F is given at 40 minutes after T_{peak} .

José, Hernanz, García-Berro, Gil-Pons, 2003, ApJL

- Scenario of nova explosions: thermonuclear runaway – Mixing between core and envelope material
- Properties of the underlying white dwarf: CO and ONe
- **Theoretical models: general predictions as compared with observations**
- Relevance of nucleosynthesis in classical novae:
 - chemical evolution of the Galaxy
 - presolar meteoritic grains
 - gamma-ray emission

Nova models : general properties

| Parameter | CO1 | CO2 | CO3 | CO4 | CO5 | CO6 | CO7 ^a |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| $M_{\text{wd}} (M_{\odot})$ | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.15 |
| Mixing (%)..... | 25 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 50 | 75 | 50 |
| $\Delta M_{\text{env}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 9.7 | 8.8 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.9 |
| $t_{\text{acc}} (10^5 \text{ yr})$ | 3.1 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| $t_{\text{rise}} (10^6 \text{ s})$ | 2.8 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 0.43 | 0.72 | 0.48 | 1.7 |
| $\epsilon_{\text{nuc,max}} (10^{16} \text{ ergs g}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$ | 0.05 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| $T_{\text{max}} (10^8 \text{ K})$ | 1.45 | 1.51 | 1.70 | 2.03 | 2.05 | 2.08 | 1.73 |
| $t_{\text{max}} (\text{s})$ | 454 | 199 | 152 | 147 | 65 | 51 | 200 |
| $\Delta M_{\text{ejec}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 7.0 | 6.4 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.63 |
| $v_{\text{ejec}} (\text{km s}^{-1})$ | 800 | 1200 | 1900 | 2200 | 2700 | 2900 | 2700 |
| $K (10^{+3} \text{ ergs})$ | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.45 |

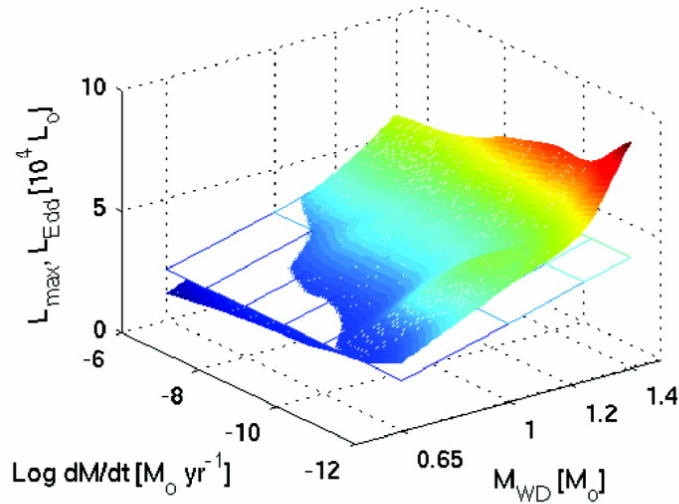
José & Hernanz, 1998, ApJ

| Parameter | ONe1 | ONe2 | ONe3 | ONe4 | ONe5 | ONe6 | ONe7 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| $M_{\text{wd}} (M_{\odot})$ | 1.00 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.35 |
| Mixing (%)..... | 50 | 25 | 50 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 75 |
| $\Delta M_{\text{env}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 6.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 0.54 | 0.58 |
| $t_{\text{acc}} (10^5 \text{ yr})$ | 3.3 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 0.31 | 0.33 |
| $t_{\text{rise}} (10^6 \text{ s})$ | 20 | 46 | 13 | 11 | 6.8 | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| $\epsilon_{\text{nuc,max}} (10^{16} \text{ ergs g}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$ | 0.29 | 0.36 | 0.76 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 19 | 14 |
| $T_{\text{max}} (10^8 \text{ K})$ | 1.98 | 2.21 | 2.19 | 2.48 | 2.44 | 3.24 | 3.32 |
| $t_{\text{max}} (\text{s})$ | 768 | 828 | 540 | 305 | 380 | 150 | 108 |
| $\Delta M_{\text{ejec}} (10^{-5} M_{\odot})$ | 4.7 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 0.44 | 0.34 |
| $v_{\text{ejec}} (\text{km s}^{-1})$ | 1600 | 2100 | 2400 | 2500 | 3100 | 4100 | 6000 |
| $K (10^{+3} \text{ ergs})$ | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 1.3 |

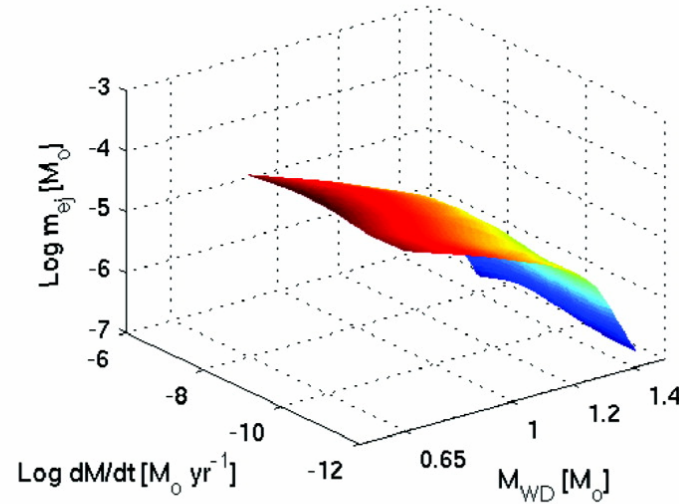
José & Hernanz 1998

Nova models : general properties

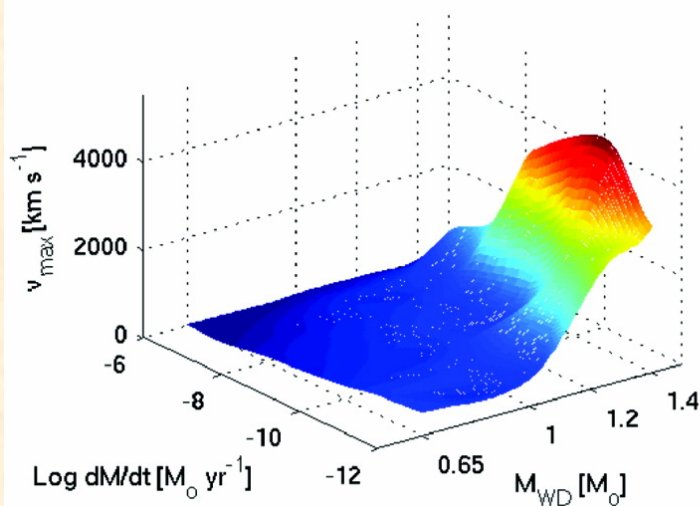
a. $L_{4,\max}$ for $T_{WD}=50$



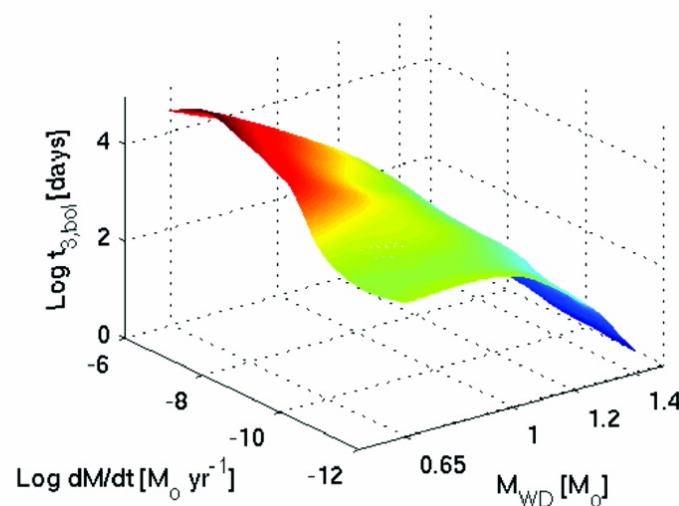
b. m_{ej} for $T_{WD}=30$



c. v_{\max} for $T_{WD}=30$



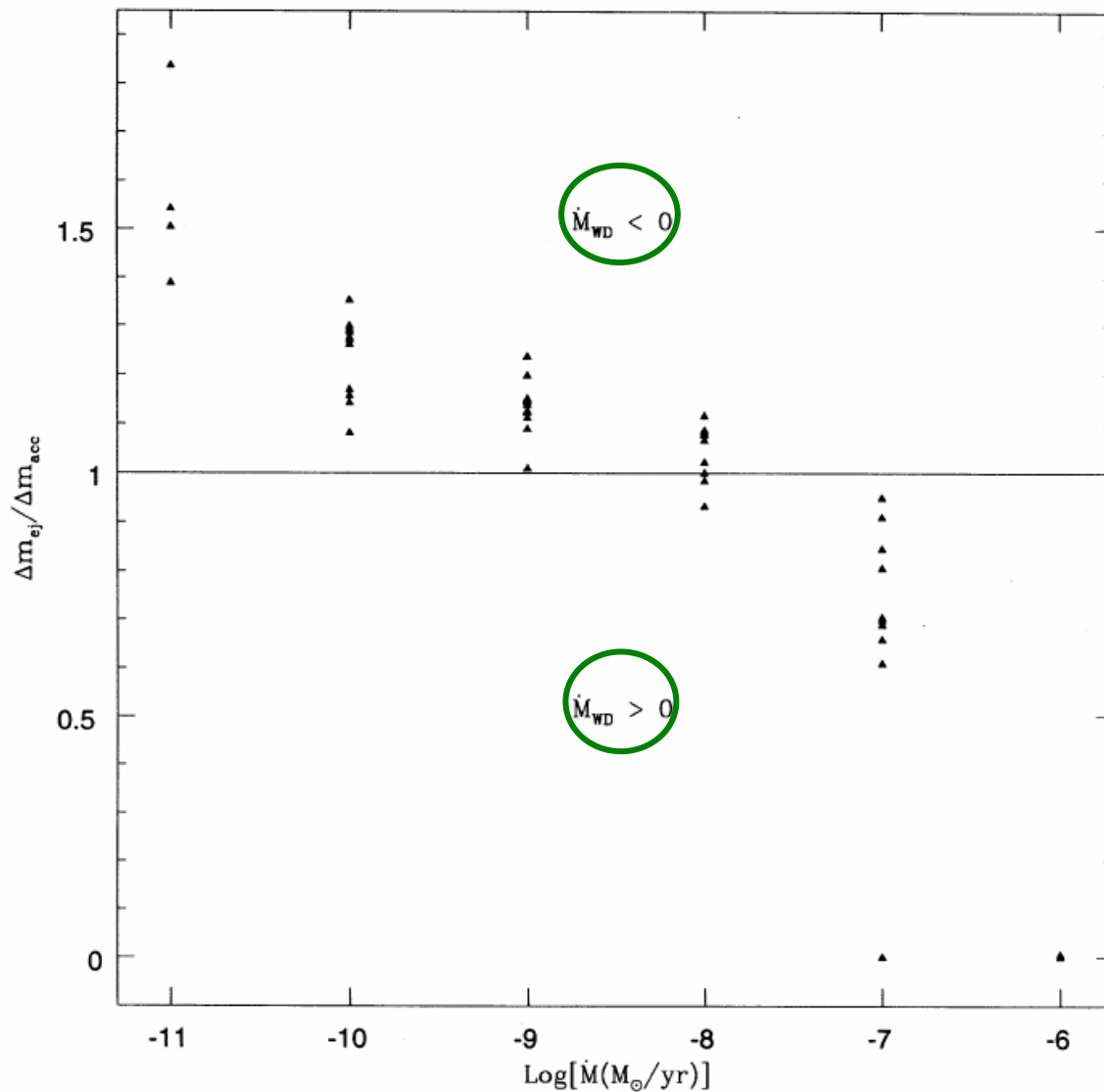
d. $t_{3,\text{bol}}$ for $T_{WD}=30$



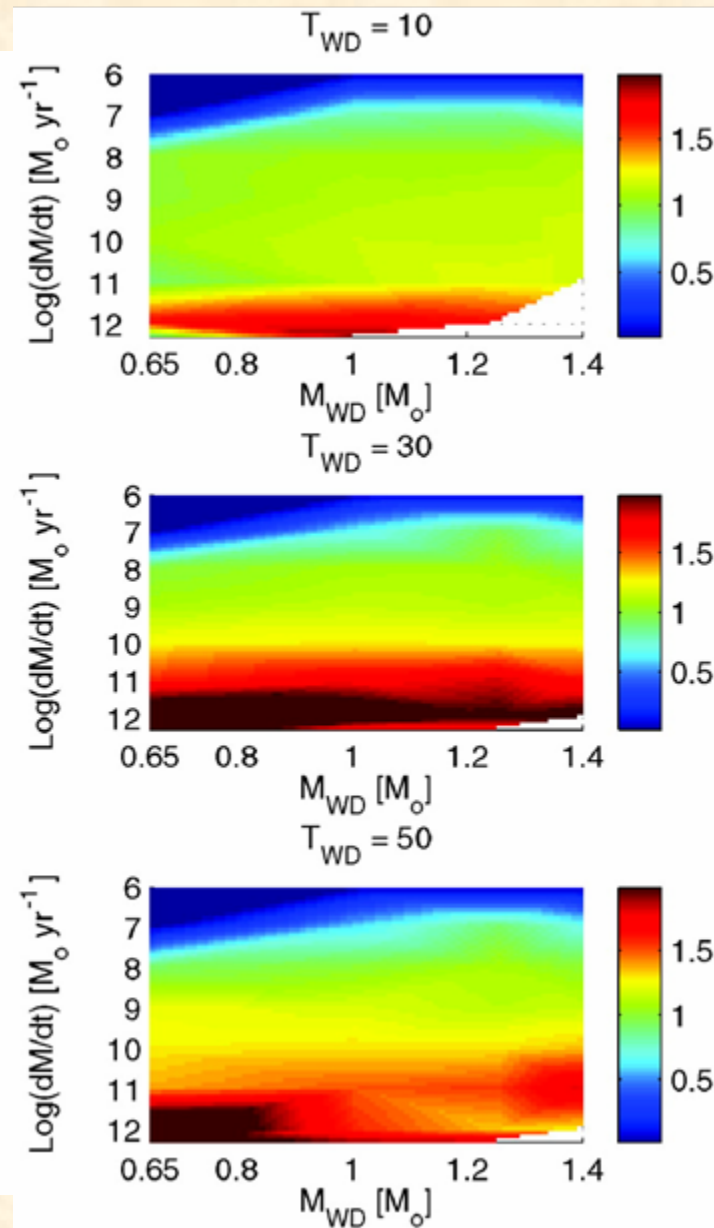
CO novae

Yaron,
Prialnik,
Shara &
Kovetz, 2005

Ratio of ejected to accreted mass



Prialnik & Kovetz, 1995



Yaron, Prialnik, Shara & Kovetz, 2005

Nova models: main nuclear reactions

O Ne nova

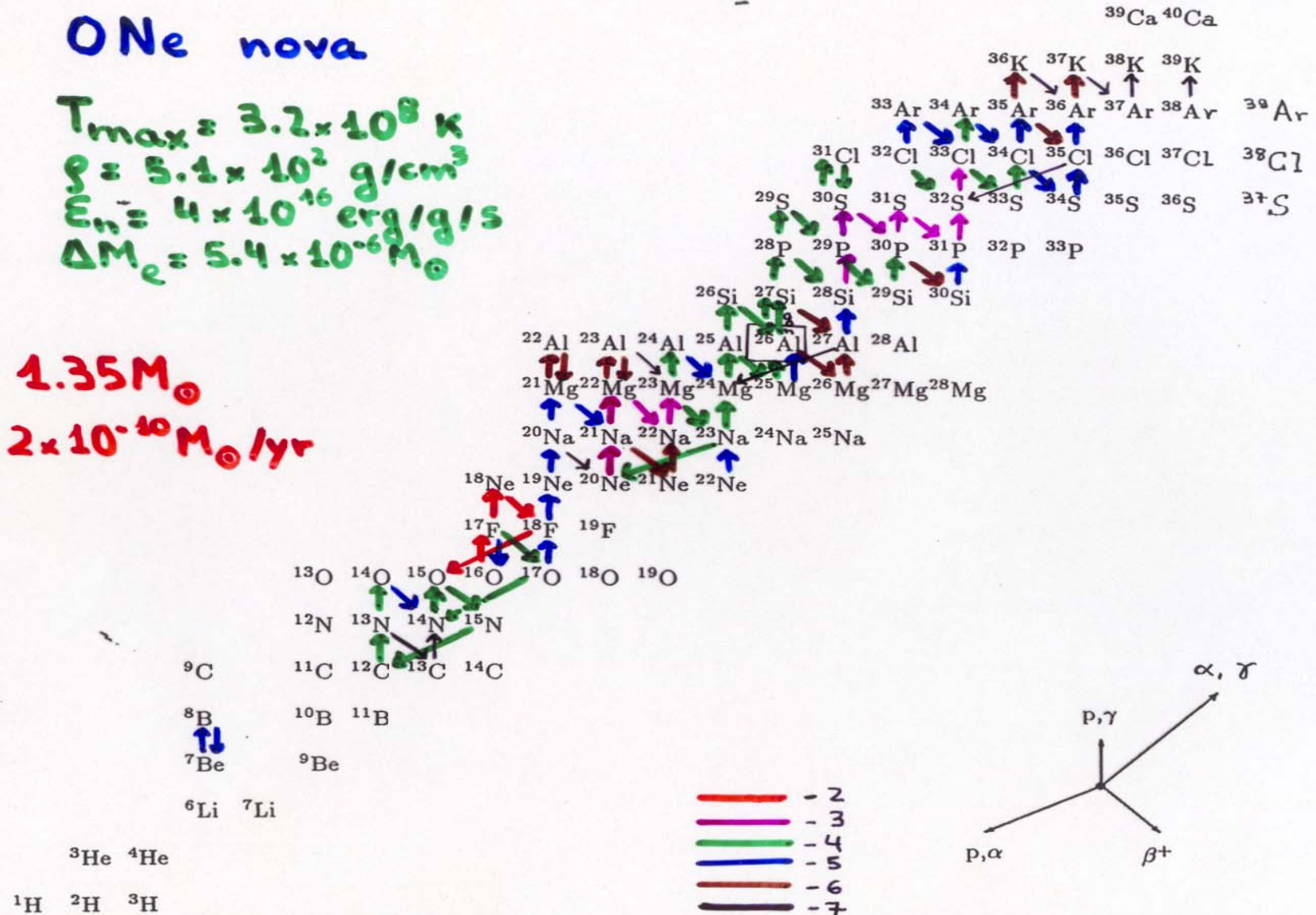
$T_{max} = 3.2 \times 10^8 \text{ K}$

$\rho = 5.1 \times 10^2 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$E_n = 4 \times 10^{16} \text{ erg/g/s}$

$\Delta M_e = 5.4 \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot}$

1.35 M_{\odot}
 $2 \times 10^{-10} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$



MODELS VERSUS OBSERVATIONS OF SOME CLASSICAL NOVA SYSTEMS

| MODEL | ELEMENT | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------|
| | H | He | C | N | O | Ne | Na-Fe | Z |
| V693 CrA 1981 | | | | | | | | |
| Vanlandingham et al. 1997 | 0.25 | 0.43 | 0.025 | 0.055 | 0.068 | 0.17 | 0.058 | 0.32 |
| Model ONe3 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.051 | 0.045 | 0.15 | 0.18 | 0.065 | 0.50 |
| Andreä et al. 1994 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.0078 | 0.14 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.030 | 0.66 |
| Model ONe4 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.049 | 0.051 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.10 | 0.75 |
| Williams et al. 1985 | 0.29 | 0.32 | 0.0046 | 0.080 | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.016 | 0.39 |
| Model ONe5 | 0.28 | 0.22 | 0.060 | 0.074 | 0.11 | 0.18 | 0.071 | 0.50 |
| V1370 Aql 1982 | | | | | | | | |
| Andreä et al. 1994 | 0.044 | 0.10 | 0.050 | 0.19 | 0.037 | 0.56 | 0.017 | 0.86 |
| Model ONe7 | 0.073 | 0.17 | 0.051 | 0.18 | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.14 | 0.76 |
| Snijders et al. 1987 | 0.053 | 0.088 | 0.035 | 0.14 | 0.051 | 0.52 | 0.11 | 0.86 |
| Model ONe7 | 0.073 | 0.17 | 0.051 | 0.18 | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.14 | 0.76 |
| QU Vul 1984 | | | | | | | | |
| Austin et al. 1996 | 0.36 | 0.19 | ... | 0.071 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.0014 | 0.44 |
| Model ONe1 | 0.32 | 0.18 | 0.030 | 0.034 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 0.062 | 0.50 |
| Saizar et al. 1992 | 0.30 | 0.60 | 0.0013 | 0.018 | 0.039 | 0.040 | 0.0049 | 0.10 |
| Model ONe2 | 0.47 | 0.28 | 0.041 | 0.047 | 0.037 | 0.090 | 0.0035 | 0.25 |
| PW Vul 1984 | | | | | | | | |
| Andreä et al. 1994 | 0.47 | 0.23 | 0.073 | 0.14 | 0.083 | 0.0040 | 0.0048 | 0.30 |
| Model CO4 | 0.47 | 0.25 | 0.073 | 0.094 | 0.10 | 0.0036 | 0.0017 | 0.28 |
| V1688 Cyg 1978 | | | | | | | | |
| Andreä et al. 1994 | 0.45 | 0.22 | 0.070 | 0.14 | 0.12 | ... | ... | 0.33 |
| Model CO4 | 0.47 | 0.25 | 0.073 | 0.094 | 0.10 | 0.0036 | 0.0017 | 0.28 |
| Stickland et al. 1981 | 0.45 | 0.23 | 0.047 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.0068 | ... | 0.32 |
| Model CO1... .. | 0.51 | 0.21 | 0.048 | 0.096 | 0.13 | 0.0038 | 0.0015 | 0.28 |

José & Hernanz, 1998, ApJ

- Scenario of nova explosions: thermonuclear runaway – Mixing between core and envelope material
- Properties of the underlying white dwarf: CO and ONe
- Theoretical models: general predictions as compared with observations
- **Relevance of nucleosynthesis in classical novae:**
 - **chemical evolution of the Galaxy**
 - presolar meteoritic grains
 - gamma-ray emission

Nova Nucleosynthesis and chemical evolution of the Galaxy

$$M_{\text{ejec}}(\text{theor.}) \sim 2 \times 10^{-5} M_{\odot}/\text{nova}$$

$$R(\text{novae}) \sim 35 \text{ novae}/\text{yr}$$

$$\text{Age of the Galaxy} \sim 10^{10} \text{ yrs}$$



$$M_{\text{ejec, total}}(\text{novae}) \sim 7 \times 10^6 M_{\odot} = (7 \times 10^{-4} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}) \approx 1/3000 M_{\text{gal}}(\text{gas+dust})$$

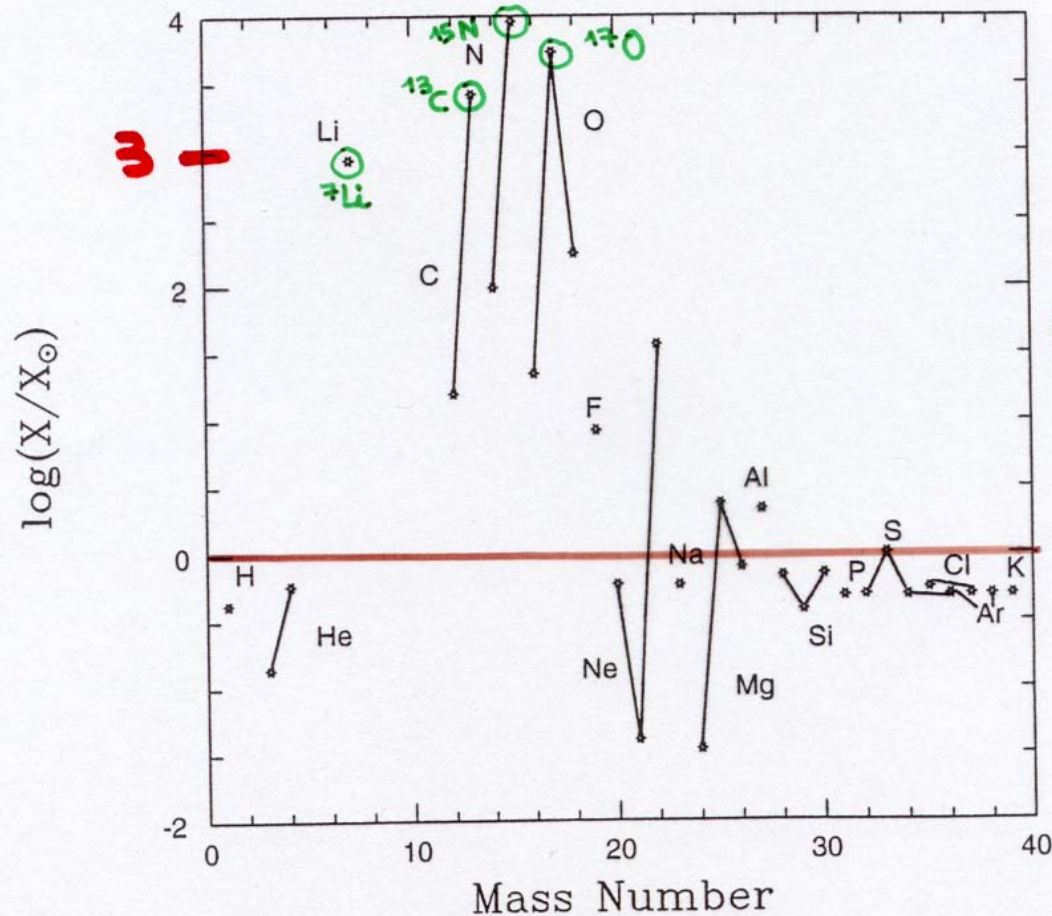


Novae can account for the galactic abundances of the isotopes they overproduce (w.r.t. sun) by factors ≥ 3000

Novae nucleosynthesis: overproductions w.r.t. solar

$$\dot{M} = 2 \times 10^{-10} M_{\odot} \cdot \text{yr}^{-1}$$

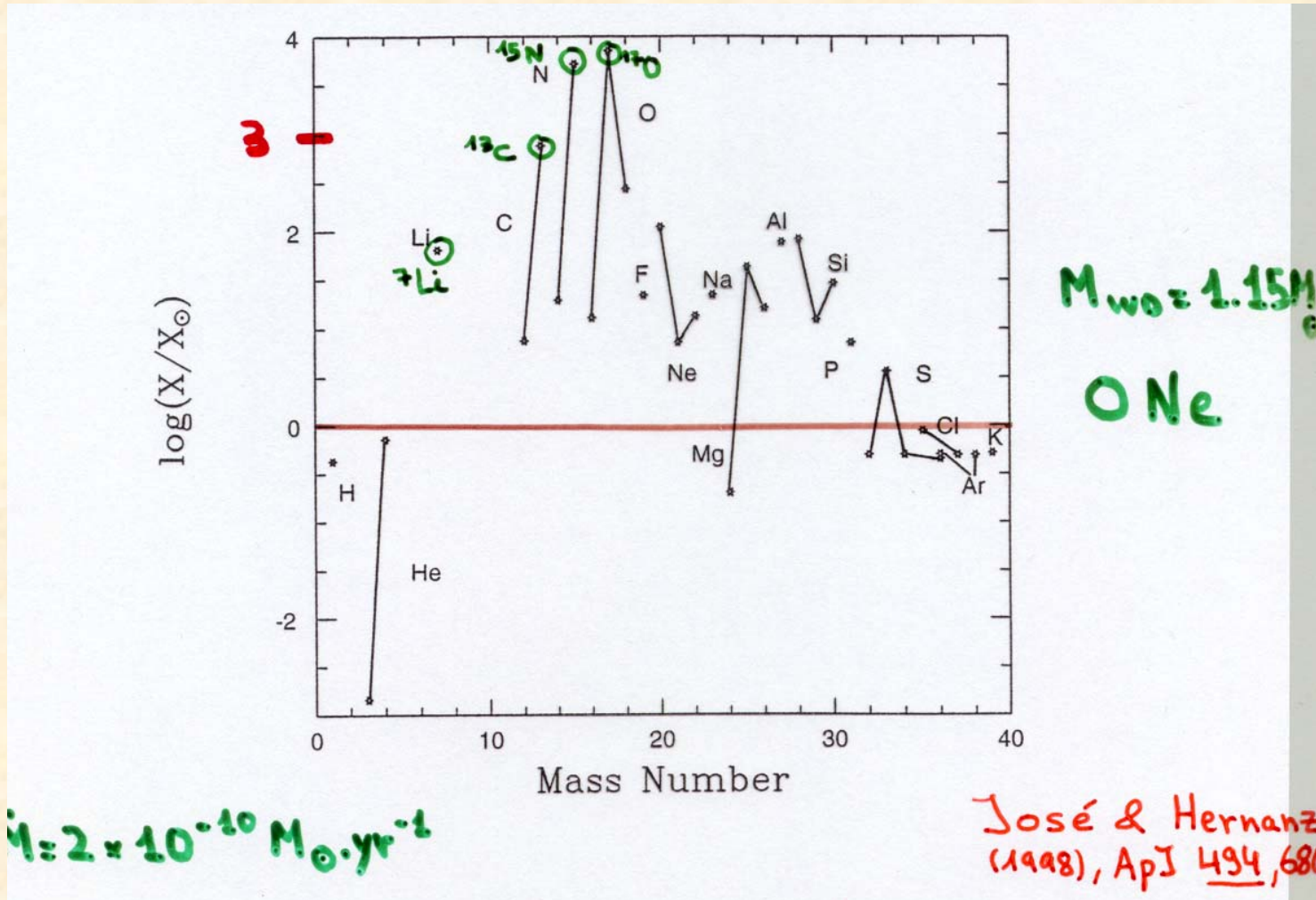
José & Hernanz
(1998), ApJ 494, 680



$M_{\text{wo}} = 1.15 M_{\odot}$

CO

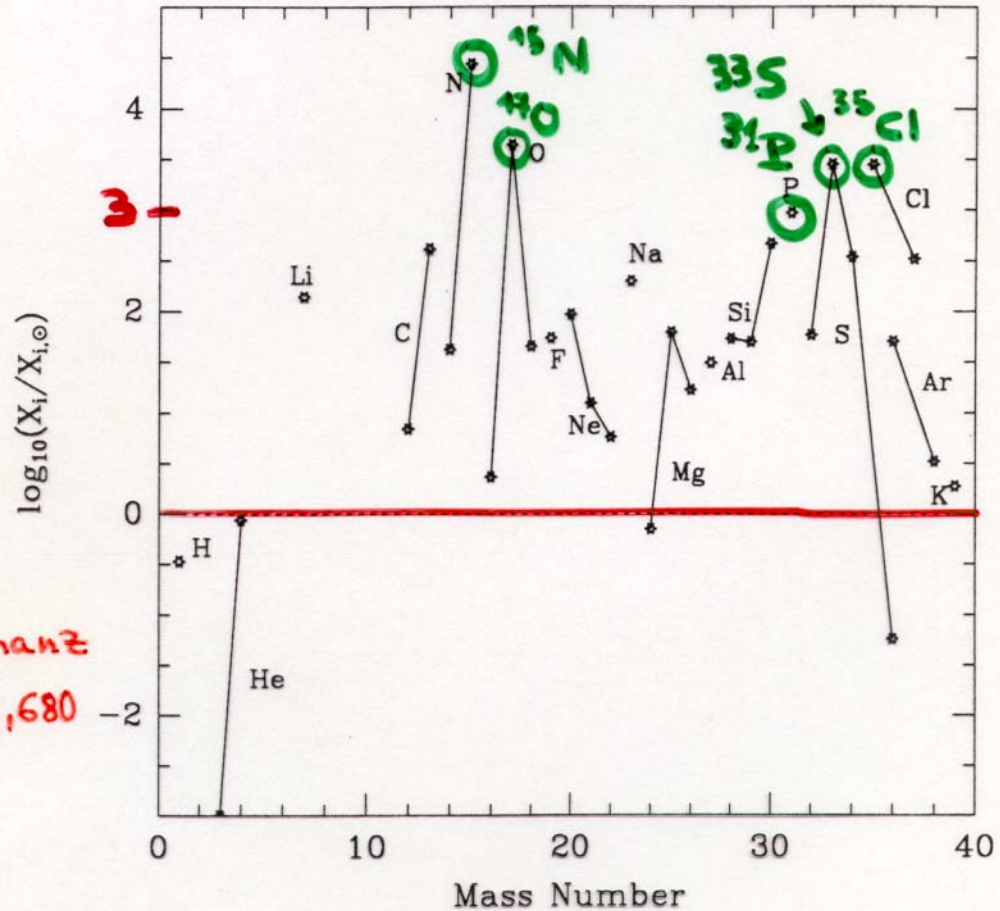
Novae nucleosynthesis: overproductions w.r.t. solar



Novae nucleosynthesis: overproductions w.r.t. solar

ONe
1.35M_⊙

José & Hernanz
(1998) ApJ 494, 680



Nova nucleosynthesis and Galactic evolution of the CNO isotopes

MNRAS, 2004

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In this paper, we adopt detailed nucleosynthesis in the ejecta of classical novae as published by José & Hernanz (1998) for a grid of hydrodynamical nova models spanning a wide range of CO and ONe WD masses ($0.8 - 1.35 M_{\odot}$) and mixing levels between the accreted envelope and the outermost shells of the underlying WD core (25% – 75%). We find that, when included in a detailed model for the chemical evolution of the Milky Way, they produce $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$, $^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$ and $^{16}\text{O}/^{17}\text{O}$ ratios decreasing with increasing metallicity, i.e., decreasing with time at the solar radius and increasing with Galactocentric distance at the present time, in agreement with the trends inferred from observations. However, if novae are

CNO: ^{13}C , ^{15}N , ^{17}O

The galactic lithium evolution revisited*

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Received 26 April 1999 / Accepted 5 October 1999

In order to reproduce the upper envelope of the $A(\text{Li})$ vs $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ diagram we need to take into account several stellar Li sources: AGB stars, Type II SNe and novae. In particular, novae are required to reproduce the steep rise of $A(\text{Li})$ between the formation of the Solar System and the present time, as is evident from the data we sampled. On the other hand, ^7Li yields for SNeII should be lowered by at least a factor of two in order to reproduce the extension of the Spite plateau.

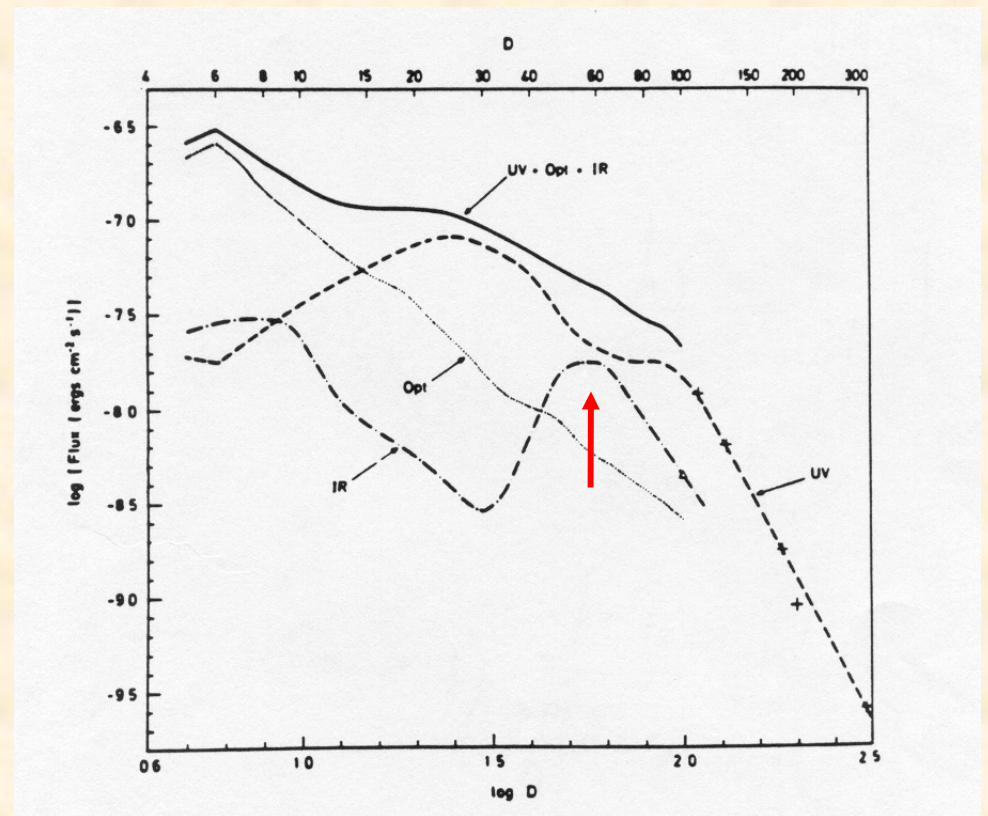
^7Li

- Scenario of nova explosions: thermonuclear runaway – Mixing between core and envelope material
- Properties of the underlying white dwarf: CO and ONe
- Theoretical models: general predictions as compared with observations
- **Relevance of nucleosynthesis in classical novae:**
 - chemical evolution of the Galaxy
 - **presolar meteoritic grains**
 - gamma-ray emission

Dust in novae

IR observations indicate that dust grains are formed in many novae

Nova Cyg 1978

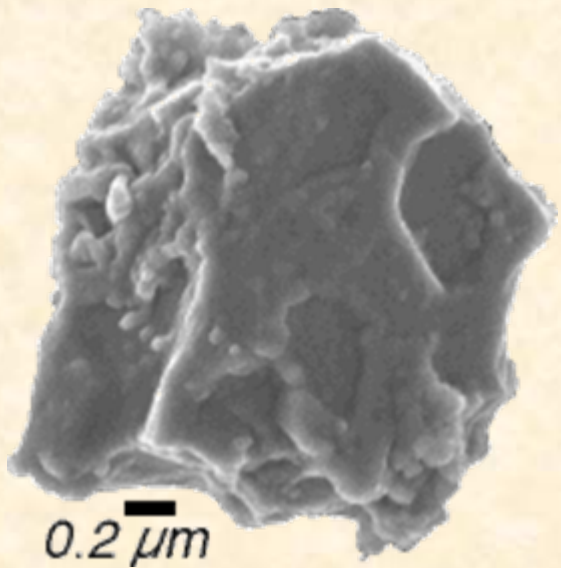


IR observations: dust formation

| Nova | Year | V_e (km s ⁻¹) | Types of Dust Formed ^b | M_{gas} (M_{\odot}) | M_{dust} (M_{\odot}) |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| FH Ser | 1970 | 560 | C | ... | ... |
| V1229 Aql | 1970 | 575 | C | ... | ... |
| V1301 Aql | 1975 | ... | C | ... | ... |
| V1500 Cyg ^a | 1975 | 1180 | ... | $0.05-8 \times 10^{-4}$ | ... |
| NQ Vul | 1976 | 750 | C | 10^{-4} | 2×10^{-7} |
| V4021 Sgr | 1977 | ... | C | ... | ... |
| LW Ser | 1978 | 1250 | C | 2×10^{-5} | 3.6×10^{-7} |
| V1668 Cyg | 1978 | 1300 | C | 2×10^{-5} | 2×10^{-8} |
| V1370 Aql ^d | 1982 | 2800 | C; SiC; SiO ₂ | ... | ... |
| GQ Mus | 1983 | 600 | No dust | $\leq 2.6 \times 10^{-6}$ | ... |
| PW Vul | 1984 #1 | 285 | C | $\leq 3.2 \times 10^{-6}$ | 5.1×10^{-10} |
| QU Vul ^a | 1984 #2 | 1-5000 | SiO ₂ | 3×10^{-4} | 10^{-8} |
| OS And ^{a,c} | 1986 | 900 | C? | ... | ... |
| V1819 Cyg ^a | 1986 | 1000 | No dust | ... | ... |
| V842 Cen | 1986 | 1200 | C; SiC; HC | ... | ... |
| V827 Her ^a | 1987 | 1000 | C | ... | ... |
| V4135 Sgr | 1987 | 500 | ... | ... | ... |
| QV Vul | 1987 | 700 | C; SiO ₂ ; HC; SiC | 3×10^{-5} | 3.4×10^{-8} |
| LMC 1988 #1 | 1988 #1 | 800 | C? | ... | ... |
| LMC 1988 #2 | 1988 #2 | 1500 | ... | ... | ... |
| V2214 Oph | 1988 | 500 | ... | ... | ... |
| V838 Her | 1991 | 3500 | C | $0.9-6.4 \times 10^{-4}$ | 3×10^{-5} |
| V1974 Cyg ^a | 1992 | 2250 | No dust | $2-5 \times 10^{-4}$ | ... |
| V705 Cas | 1993 | 840 | C; HC; SiO ₂ | $1-1.3 \times 10^{-5}$ | 2×10^{-6} |
| Aql 1995 ^a | 1995 | 1510 | C | ... | ... |

Novae and presolar meteoritic grains

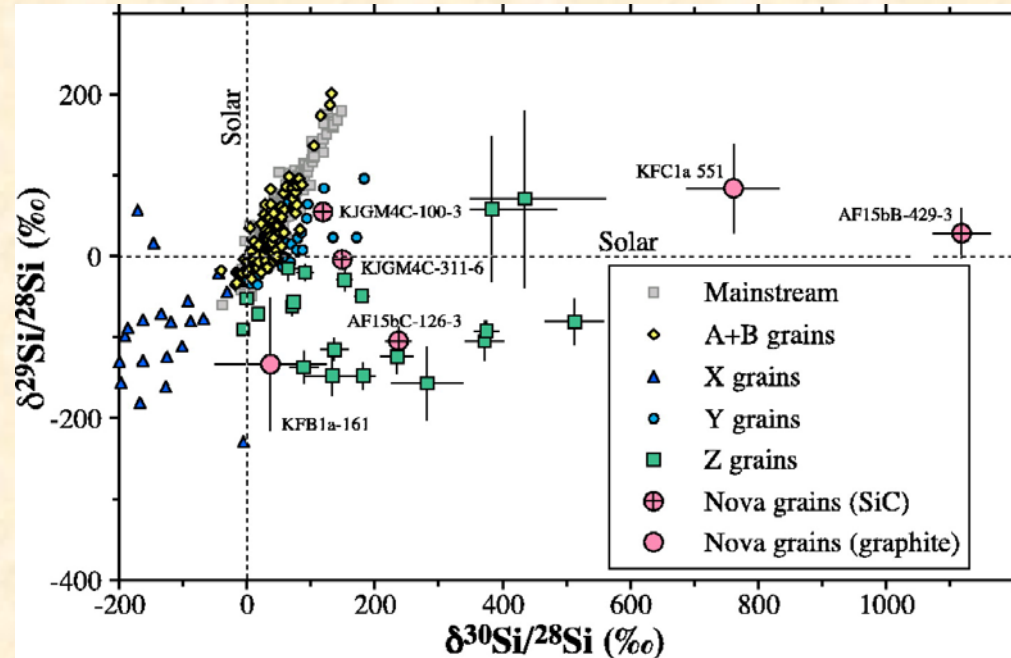
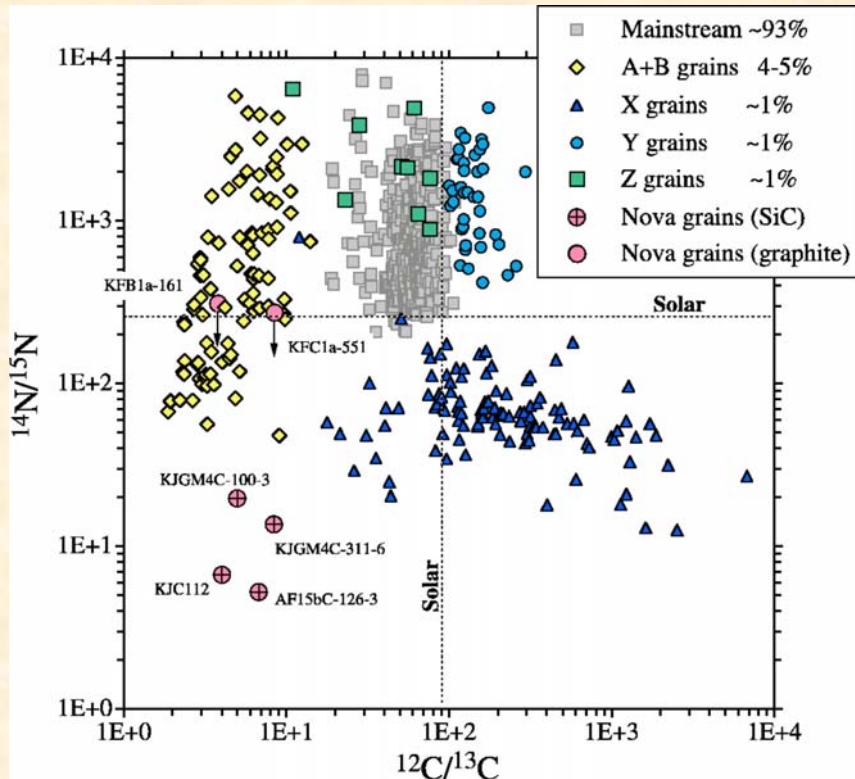
Primitive meteorites contain presolar grains, which condensed in stellar atmospheres or in supernova or nova ejecta, and survived their “interstellar trip” and solar system formation



***Isotopic abundances
measurements in lab
allow to ascertain
their origin***

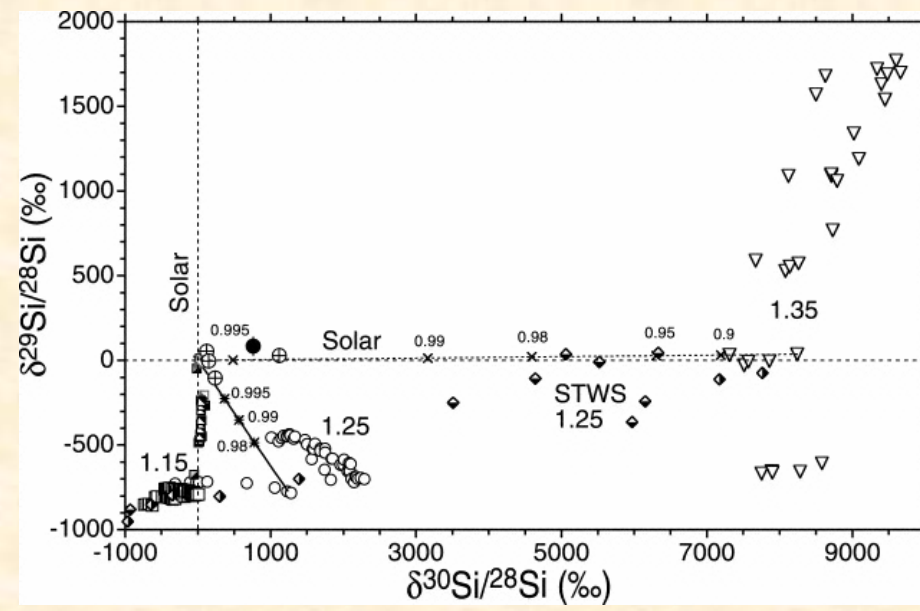
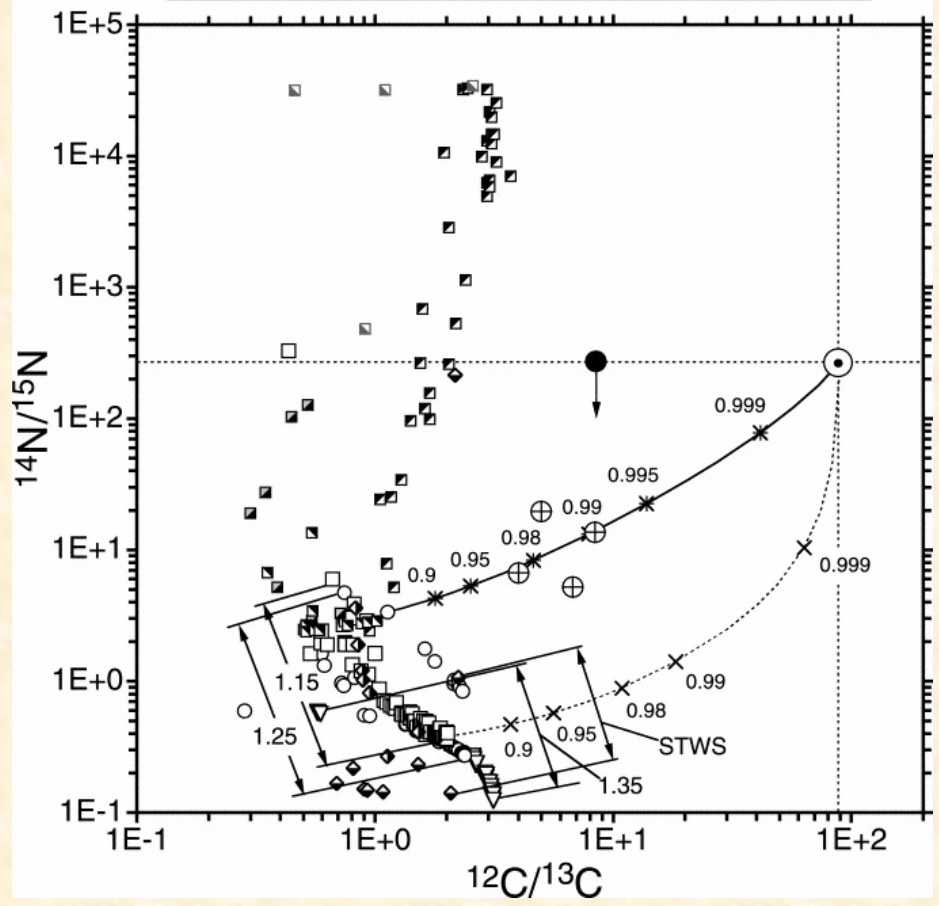
Novae and presolar meteoritic grains

Five **SiC** and two **graphite** grains from the Murchison and Acfer 094 meteorites show isotopic compositions indicating a nova origin: **Amari, Gao, Nittler, Zinner, José, Hernanz & Lewis (2001); José, Hernanz, Amari, Lodders & Zinner (2004)**



Novae and presolar meteoritic grains

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|-------------|
| ⊕ | SiC grains | ◆ | ONe.JH98 |
| ● | Graphite KFC1a-551 | ◆ | ONe.STWS98 |
| ◻ | CO.SGT97 | ◻ | 1.15ONe.J00 |
| ◼ | CO.KP97 | ○ | 1.25ONe.J00 |
| ◻ | CO.JH98 | ▽ | 1.35ONe.J00 |
| ◼ | CO.J00 | | |



Amari et al. 2001

- Scenario of nova explosions: thermonuclear runaway – Mixing between core and envelope material
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Why novae emit gamma-rays?

Explosive H-burning: synthesis of β^+ -unstable nuclei

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | ^{13}N | ^{14}O | ^{15}O | ^{17}F | ^{18}F |
| τ | 862s | 102s | 176s | 93s | 158min. |
| | | crucial for envelope expansion | | | |
| | | crucial for γ -ray emission (through e^-e^+ annihilation) | | | |

Other
radioactive
nuclei
synthesized

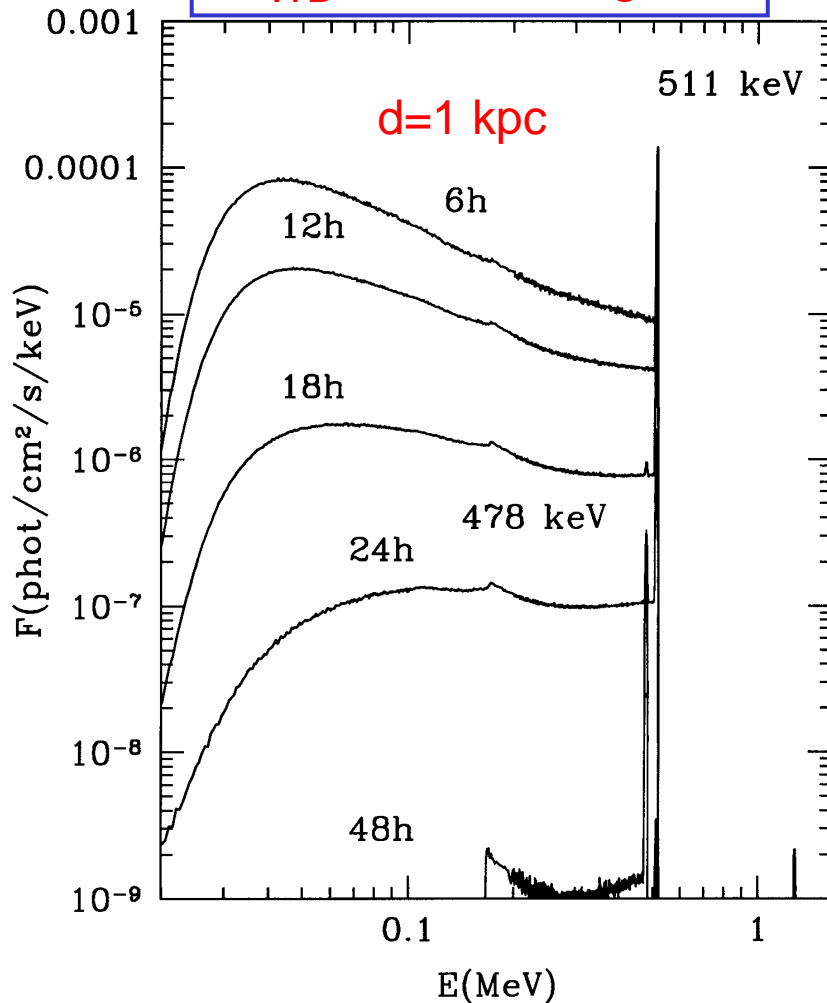
| | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | ^7Be | ^{22}Na | ^{26}Al |
| τ | 77days | 3.75yrs | 10^6 yrs |
| line | 478keV | 1275keV | 1809keV |
| | e-capture | e ⁺ -emission | |

Main radioactive isotopes synthesized in classical novae

| Nucleus | τ | Type of emission | Nova type |
|------------------|----------------------|--|------------|
| ^{13}N | 862 s | { 511 keV line continuum ($E < 511$ keV) | CO and ONe |
| ^{18}F | 158 min | { 511 keV line continuum ($E < 511$ keV) | CO and ONe |
| ^7Be | 77 days | 478 keV line | CO mainly |
| ^{22}Na | 3.75 yr | 1275 keV line | ONe |
| ^{26}Al | 1.0×10^6 yr | 1809 keV line | ONe |

Spectra of CO novae

$$M_{\text{WD}} = 1.15 M_{\odot}$$



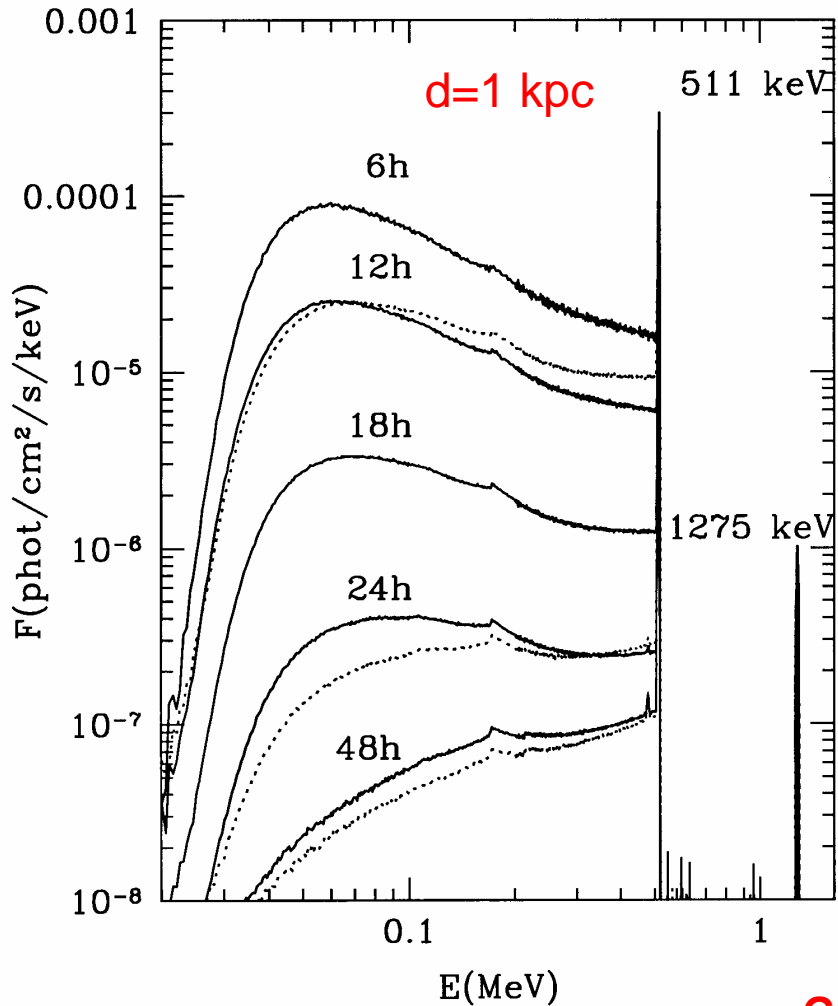
- e^+ annihilation and Comptonization \rightarrow continuum and 511 keV line; e^+ from ^{13}N and ^{18}F

\rightarrow predicted theoretically by Clayton & Hoyle 1974; Leising & Clayton 1987

- photoelectric absorption \rightarrow cutoff at 20 keV
- 478 keV line from ^7Be decay
- transparent at 48 h

Gómez-Gomar, Hernanz, José, Isern, 1998, MNRAS

Spectra of ONe novae

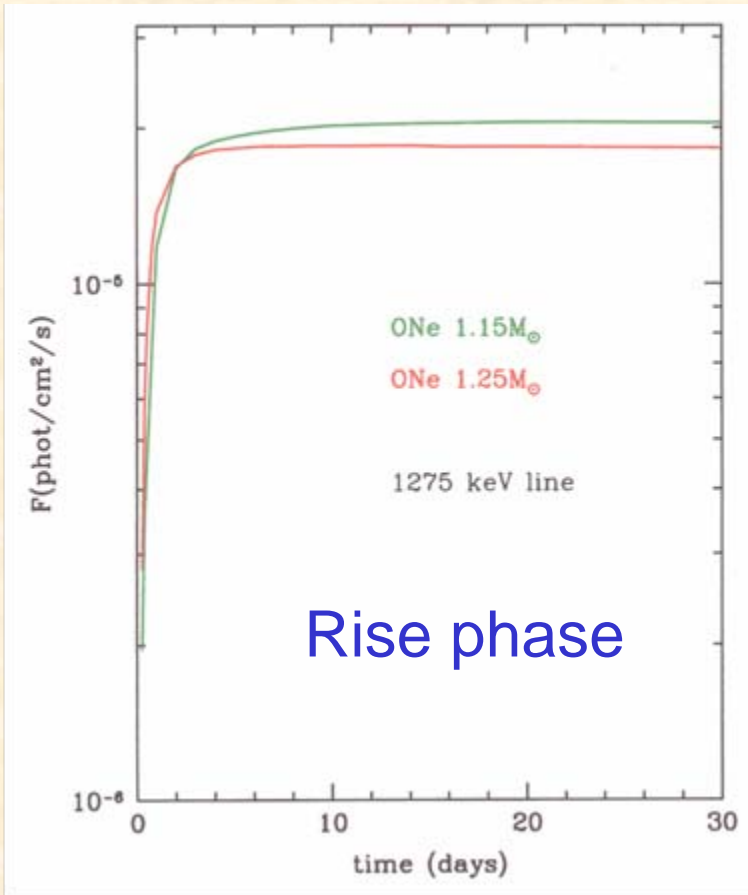


$M_{\text{WD}} = 1.15 M_{\odot}$ (solid)
 $1.25 M_{\odot}$ (dotted)

- photoelectric absorption \rightarrow cutoff at 30 keV
- continuum and 511 keV as in CO novae
- 1275 keV line from ^{22}Na decay
- similar behaviour for the 2 models, because of similar KE and yields

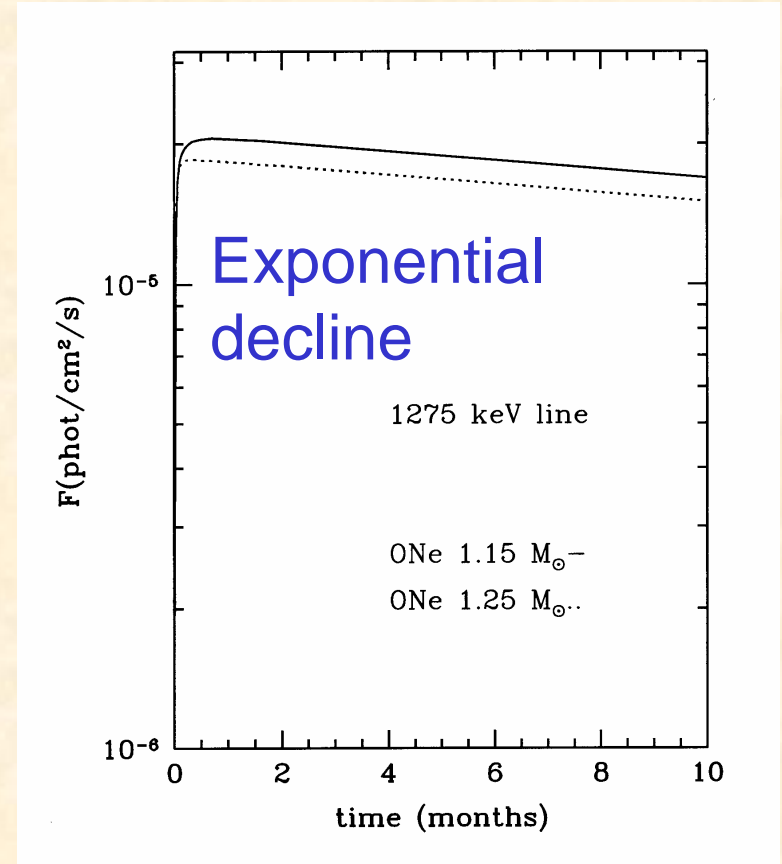
Gómez-Gomar, Hernanz, José, Isern, 1998, MNRAS

Light curves: 1275 keV (^{22}Na) line



Only in
ONe
novae

$d=1$ kpc

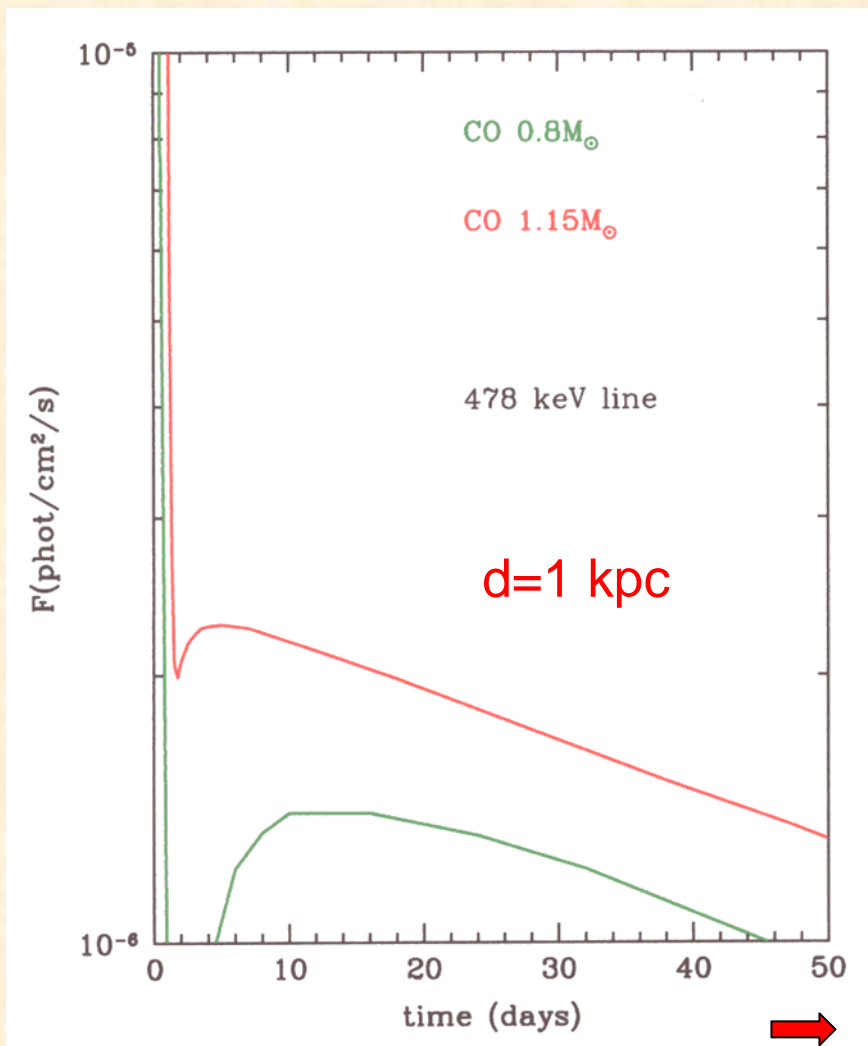


t_{max} : 20 days ($1.15M_{\odot}$), 12 days ($1.25 M_{\odot}$), line width ~ 20 keV; duration: months

Flux (max) $\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$ ph/cm²/s; $M_{\text{ejected}}(^{22}\text{Na}) \sim (6-7) \times 10^{-9} M_{\odot}$

→ predicted theoretically by Clayton & Hoyle, 1974

Light curves: 478 keV (${}^7\text{Be}$) line



Only in CO novae

t_{max} : 13 days (0.8 M_{\odot})

5 days (1.15 M_{\odot})

duration: some weeks

Flux $\sim (1-2) \times 10^{-6}$ ph/cm²/s

$M_{\text{ejected}}({}^7\text{Be}) \sim (0.7-1.1) \times 10^{-10} M_{\odot}$

Line width: 3-7 keV

predicted theoretically by Clayton 1981

Prospects for detectability with INTEGRAL/SPI

*Table 1. SPI 3σ detectability of ${}^7\text{Be}$ (478 keV) and ${}^{22}\text{Na}$ (1275 keV) lines from classical novae**

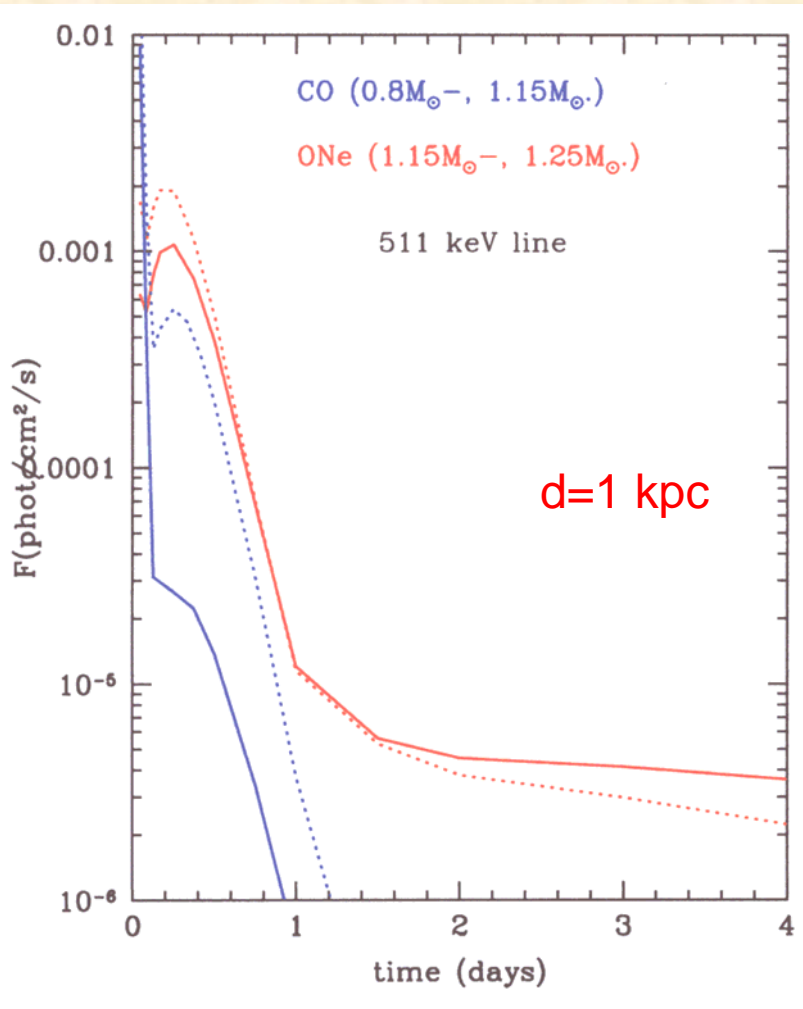
| Line (E Δ E, keV) | t_{obs} (ks) | F_{min} (ph/cm ² /s) | d(kpc) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------|
| 478 (8) | 10^3 | 7.98×10^{-5} | 0.16 |
| 478 (8) | 1.2×10^3 | 7.28×10^{-5} | 0.17 |
| 478 (8) | 2.4×10^3 | 5.15×10^{-5} | 0.20 |
| 1275 (20) | 10^3 | 7.28×10^{-5} | 0.52 |
| 1275 (20) | 1.2×10^3 | 6.64×10^{-5} | 0.55 |
| 1275 (20) | 2.4×10^3 | 4.70×10^{-5} | 0.65 |

* F_{min} are the fluxes which would give a 3σ detection of the lines, with the quoted observation times, which have been computed with the Observation Time Estimator for INTEGRAL OTE. The detectability distances have been computed adopting as model fluxes for the 478 keV and 1275 keV lines, at 1 kpc, 2×10^{-6} and 2×10^{-5} ph/cm²/s, for a typical CO and ONe nova, respectively (see Gómez-Gomar et al. (1998); Hernanz et al. (1999)).

Width of the lines fully taken into account
Future missions: MAX (γ -ray lens), ACT (Advanced Compton Telescope)

Light curves: 511 keV line

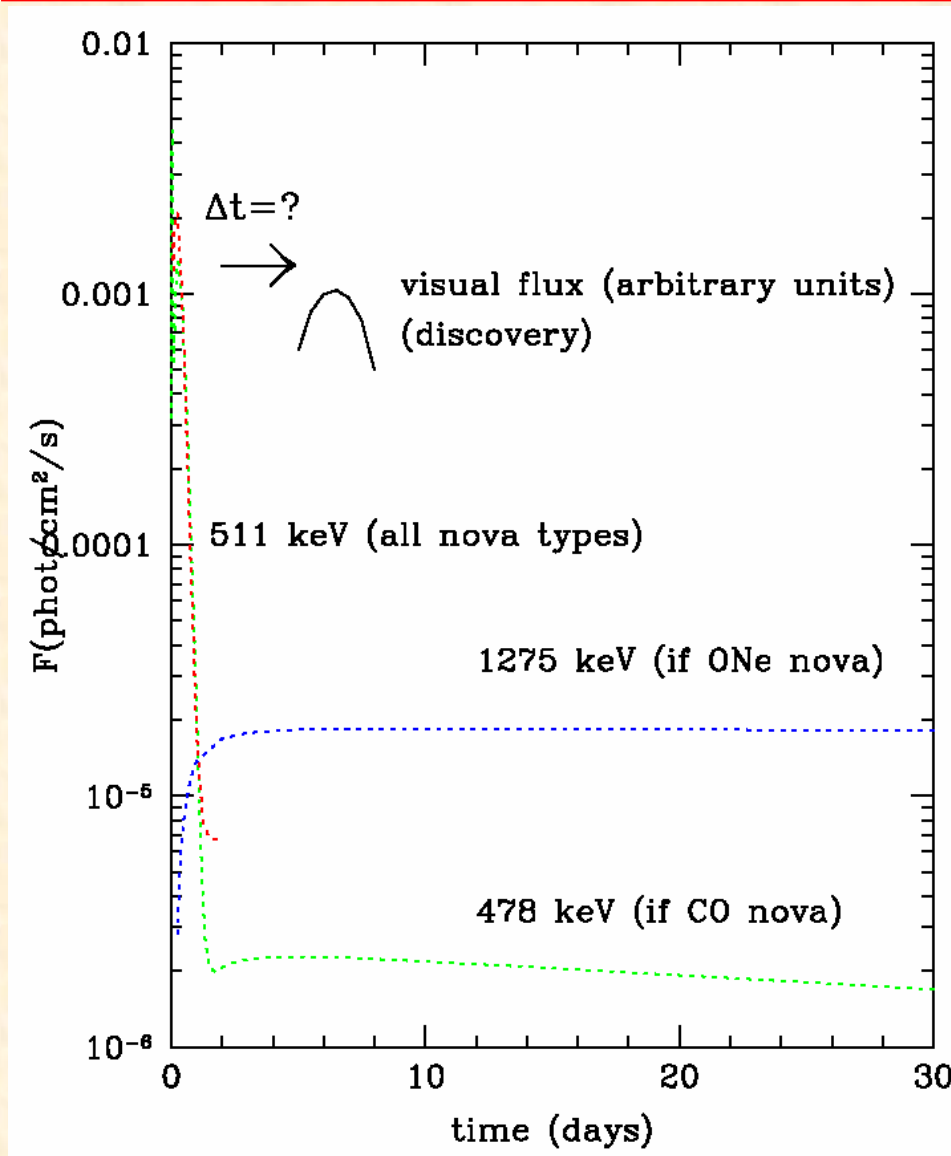
In CO and ONe novae



| Model | t_{\max}^* (h) | F_{\max} (ph/cm ² /s)** |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CO, 0.8 M_{\odot} | --- | 2.6×10^{-5} |
| CO, 1.15 M_{\odot} | 6.5 | 5.3×10^{-4} |
| ONe, 1.15 M_{\odot} | 6 | 1.0×10^{-3} |
| ONe, 1.25 M_{\odot} | 5 | 1.9×10^{-3} |

- 511 keV line in ONe novae remains after 2 days until ~ 1 week because of e^+ from ^{22}Na
- Intense (but short duration)
- Very early appearance, before visual maximum (i.e, before discovery)

Gamma-ray and visual light curves

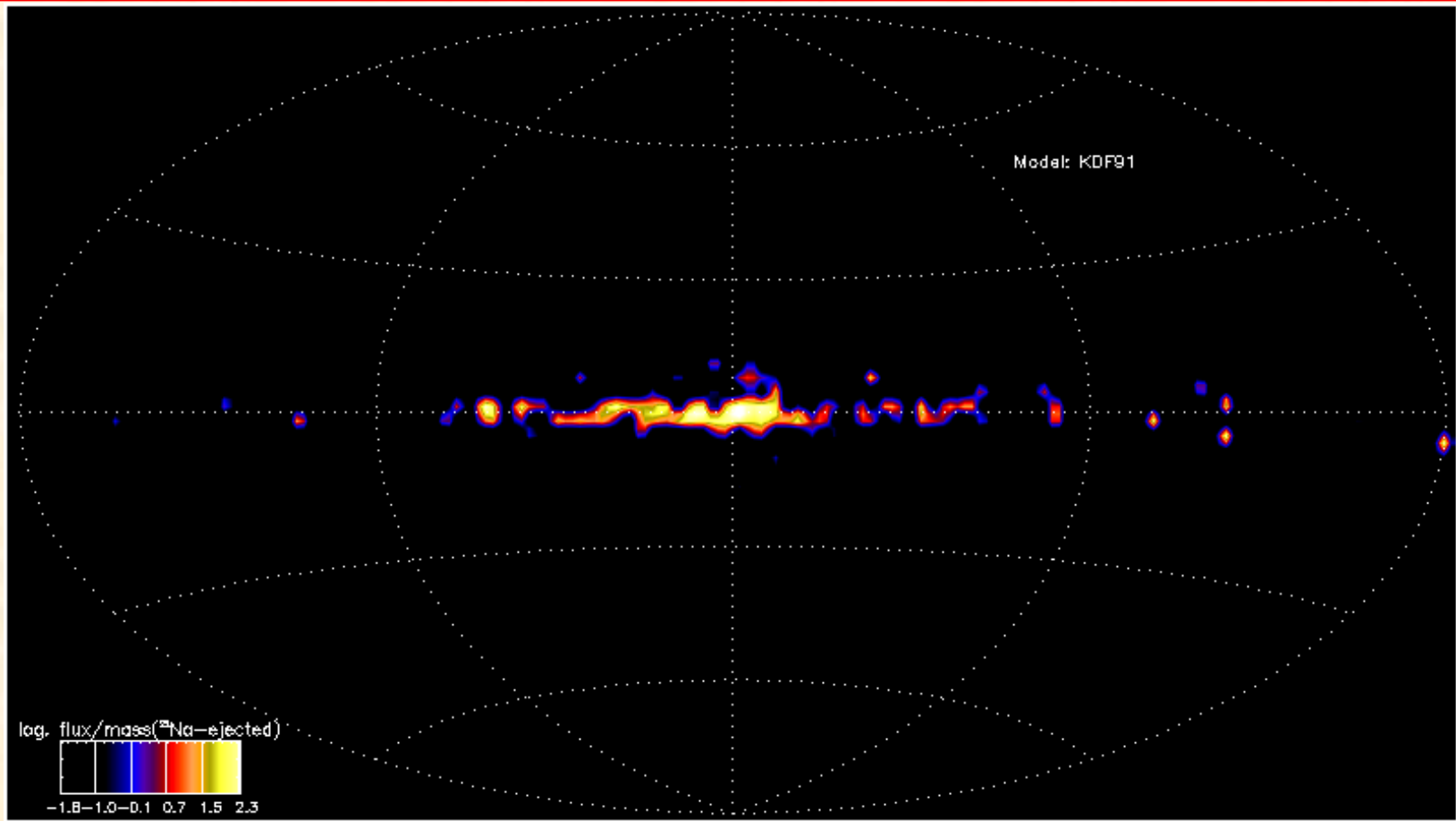


Visual maximum later than 511 keV and continuum maxima

The continuum and the 511 keV line, e^-e^+ annihilation, are the most intense γ -ray emissions, but their duration is very short and they appear before visual discovery

- detection requires “a posteriori” analyses with wide FOV instruments (BATSE, TGRS, RHESSI)
- future hard X/soft γ -ray surveys like EXIST can provide unique information about the Galactic nova distribution

Galactic distribution of γ -ray emission from novae



Theoretical predictions: Jean, Hernanz, Gómez-Gomar, José, 2000, MNRAS

Observations (upper limits): Leising et al. 1988, Harris et al 1991, 1996

^{26}Al ejected masses by ONe novae

Nuclear uncertainties

| WD mass | Minimum | Best | Maximum | Max/Min |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1.15 | $8.6 \cdot 10^{-9}$ | $2.1 \cdot 10^{-8}$ | $3.1 \cdot 10^{-8}$ | 3.6 |
| 1.25 | $3.6 \cdot 10^{-9}$ | $1.2 \cdot 10^{-8}$ | $1.6 \cdot 10^{-8}$ | 4.4 |
| 1.35 | $6.6 \cdot 10^{-10}$ | $3.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ | $4.8 \cdot 10^{-9}$ | 7.3 |

(all in M_{\odot})

José, Coc and Hernanz 1999, ApJ

Contribution of novae to Galactic ^{26}Al :

$$M(^{26}\text{Al}) \approx 2.0 M_{\odot} * M_{\text{ej}}(^{26}\text{Al}) / (10^{-7} M_{\odot}) * R_{\text{N}} / (35 \text{ yr}^{-1}) * f_{\text{ONe}} / 0.5 \sim 0.4 M_{\odot}$$

$< M(^{26}\text{Al})$ from CGRO/COMPTEL 1809 keV map

Need of more sensitive instruments

Future missions

- **MAX** (γ -ray lens),
- **ACT** (Advanced Compton Telescope)

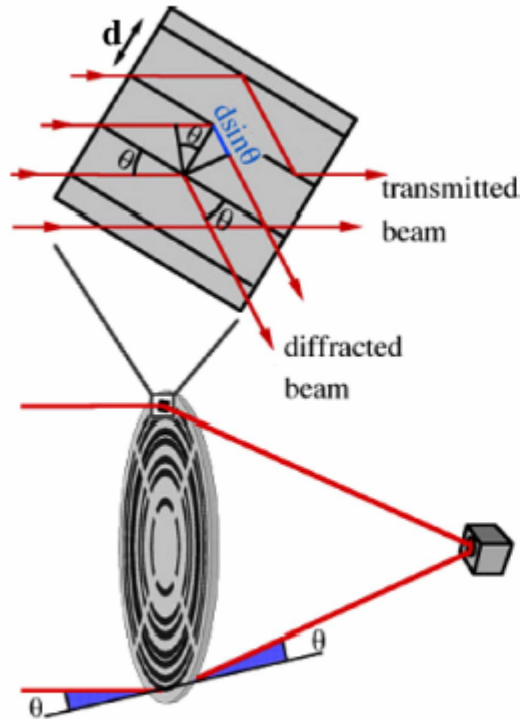
Why focusing γ -rays?

| | modulating aperture systems | Compton telescopes | crystal lens telescopes |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| aperture / effect | geometric optics absorption | quantum optics incoherent scattering | wave optics coherent scattering |
| aperture system | | | |
| detector | $A_{det} = A_{col}$ | $A_{det} = A_{col}$ | A_{det} |
| signal S | $\sim A_{col}$ | A_{col} | A_{col} |
| background B | $\sim V_{det} \sim A_{det} = A_{col}$ | $V_{det} \sim A_{det} = A_{col}$ | $V_{det} \sim A_{det} \ll A_{col}$ |
| S/B | $\approx \text{const}(A)$ | $\text{const}(A)$ | A_{col}/A_{det} |

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from Peter von Ballmoos, CERN, Toulouse

How to focus γ -rays?



$$\lambda(511 \text{ keV}) = 2.42632 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ \AA}$$

Bragg condition

$$2d \sin \theta = n\lambda$$

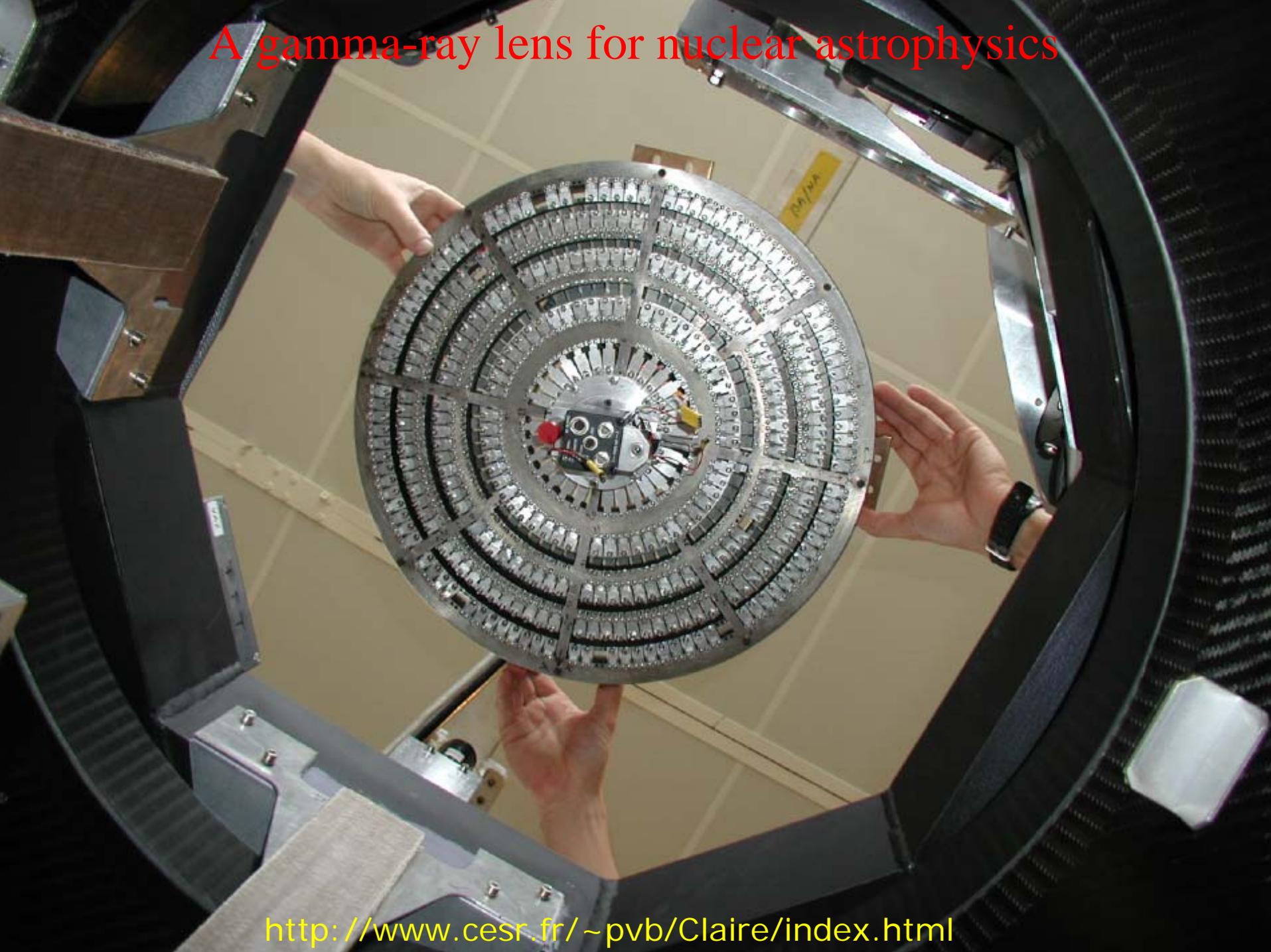
$$\begin{aligned} d[220] &= 2.0004 \text{ \AA} \\ \arcsin(\lambda/2d) &= 0.347^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Laue-type Gamma-ray lens

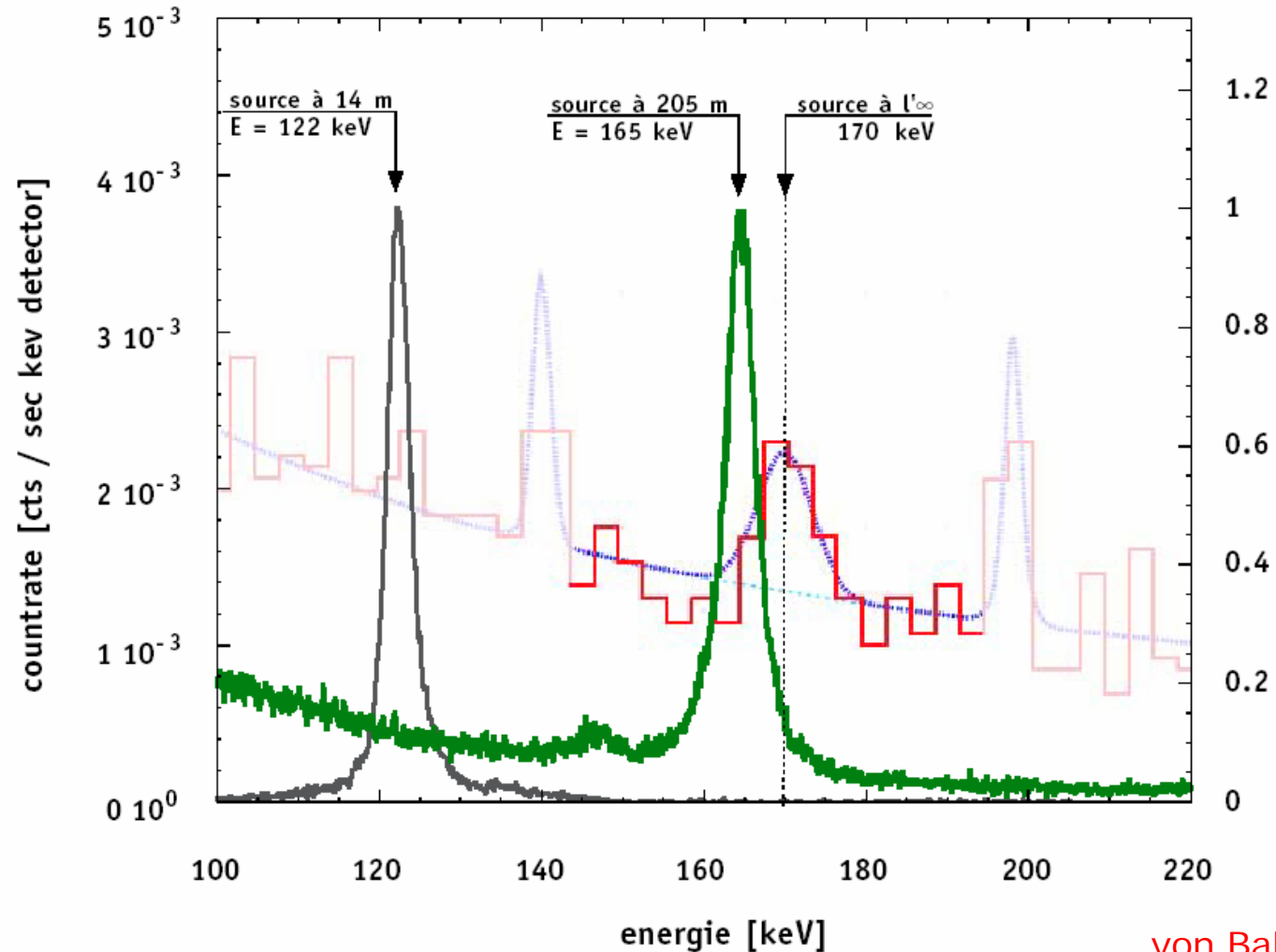
$$\begin{aligned} 2\theta &= 0.695^\circ \\ \text{ex. radius [220]} &= 10.1 \text{ cm} \\ \Rightarrow \text{focal length} &= 8.2 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

<http://www.cesr.fr/~pvb/Claire/index.html>

A gamma-ray lens for nuclear astrophysics



Is the lens performing as expected for sources at infinity?



von Ballmoos et al. 2004.

From CLAIRE to MAX (space mission)



www.cesr.fr/~pvb/MAX/

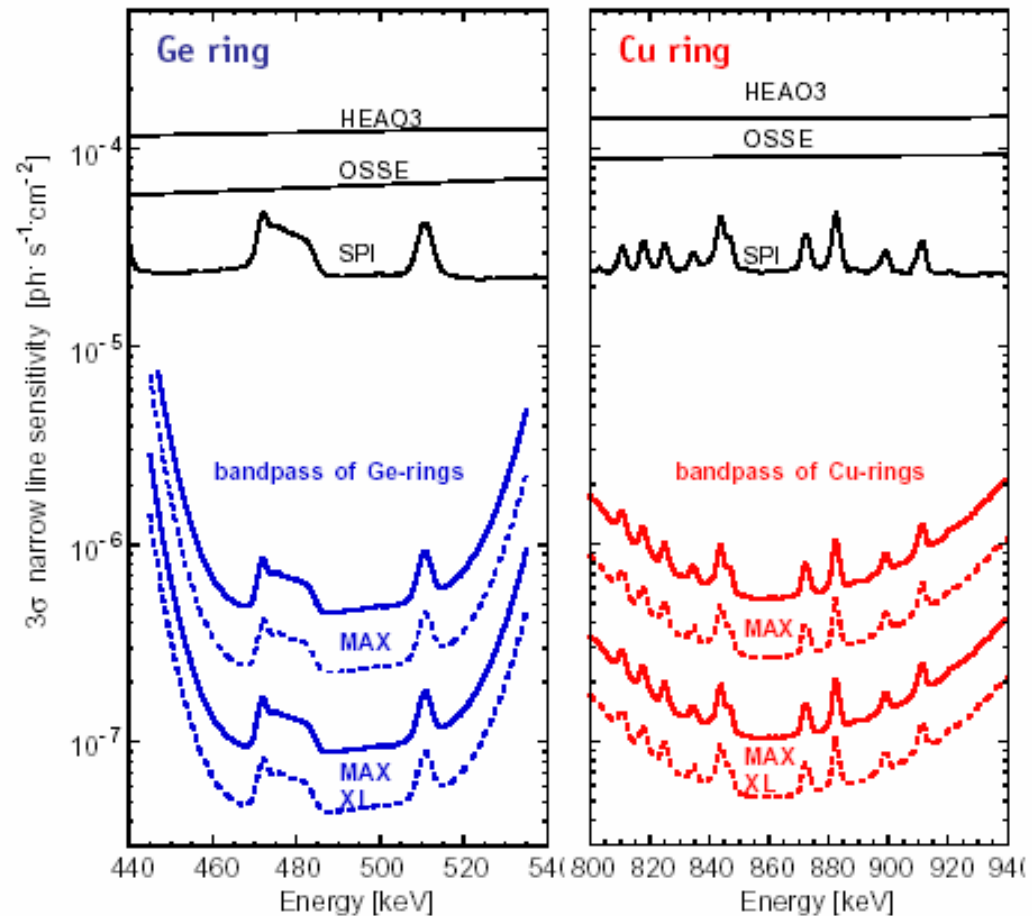
two 100 keV broad
energy bands
diffracting
simultaneously

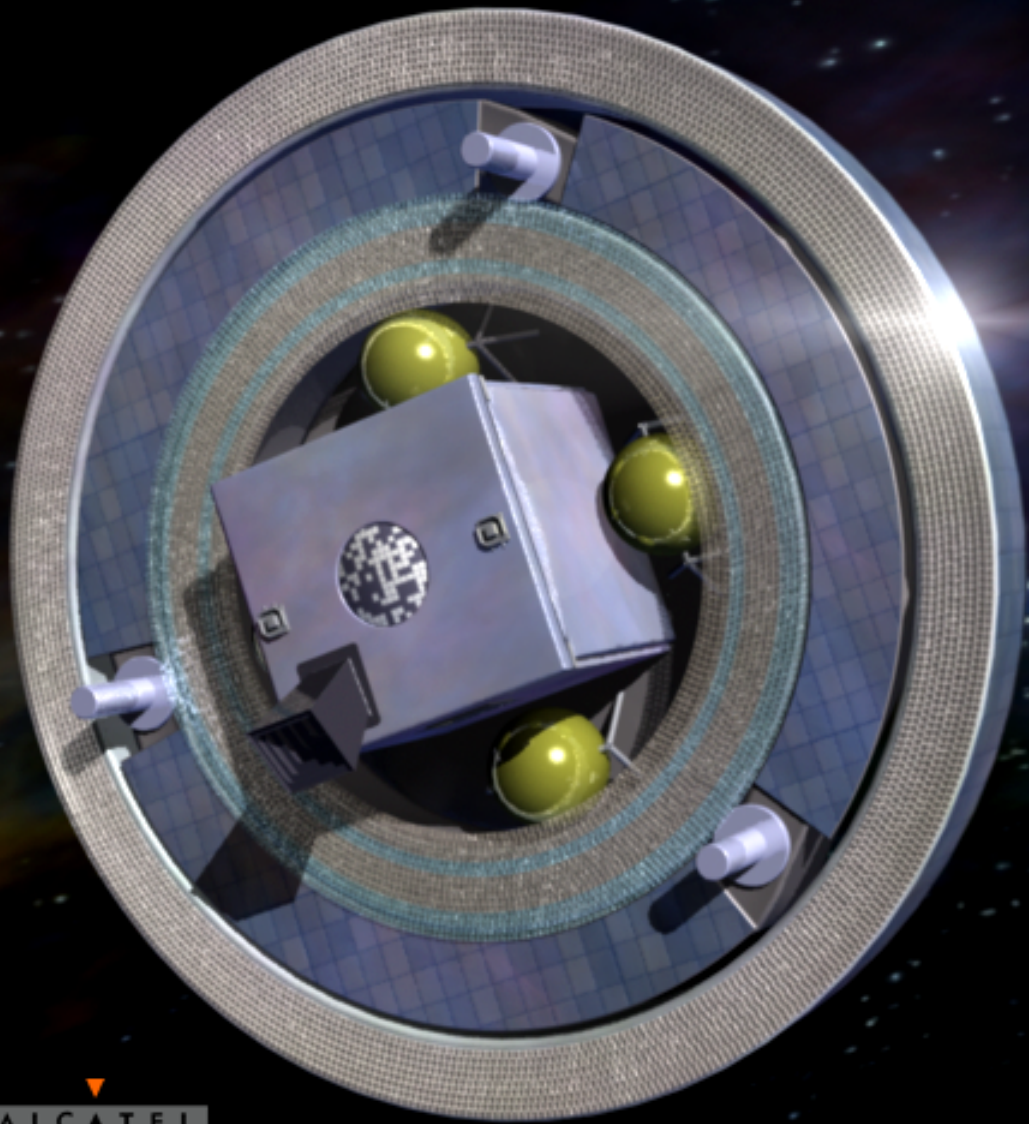
MAX

inner radius 86 cm
outer radius 111 cm
focal length 133 m

MAX XL

inner radius 193 cm
outer radius 250 cm
focal length 300 m





Summary

- White dwarf **mass** and **chemical composition** are not independent variables: **CO** ($M < 8-10 M_{\odot}$) and **ONe** ($(8-10) M_{\odot} < M < 12 M_{\odot}$).
- Need of **core-envelope mixing** to explain both the explosion itself and the observed ejecta abundances. Not self-consistent mechanism found to date.
- Observational diagnostics of nova nucleosynthesis: particular novae, isotopic abundances in meteorites, chemical evolution of the Galaxy, gamma-ray emission. Gamma-rays could provide information about the distribution of novae in the Galaxy, avoiding the problem of interstellar extinction.