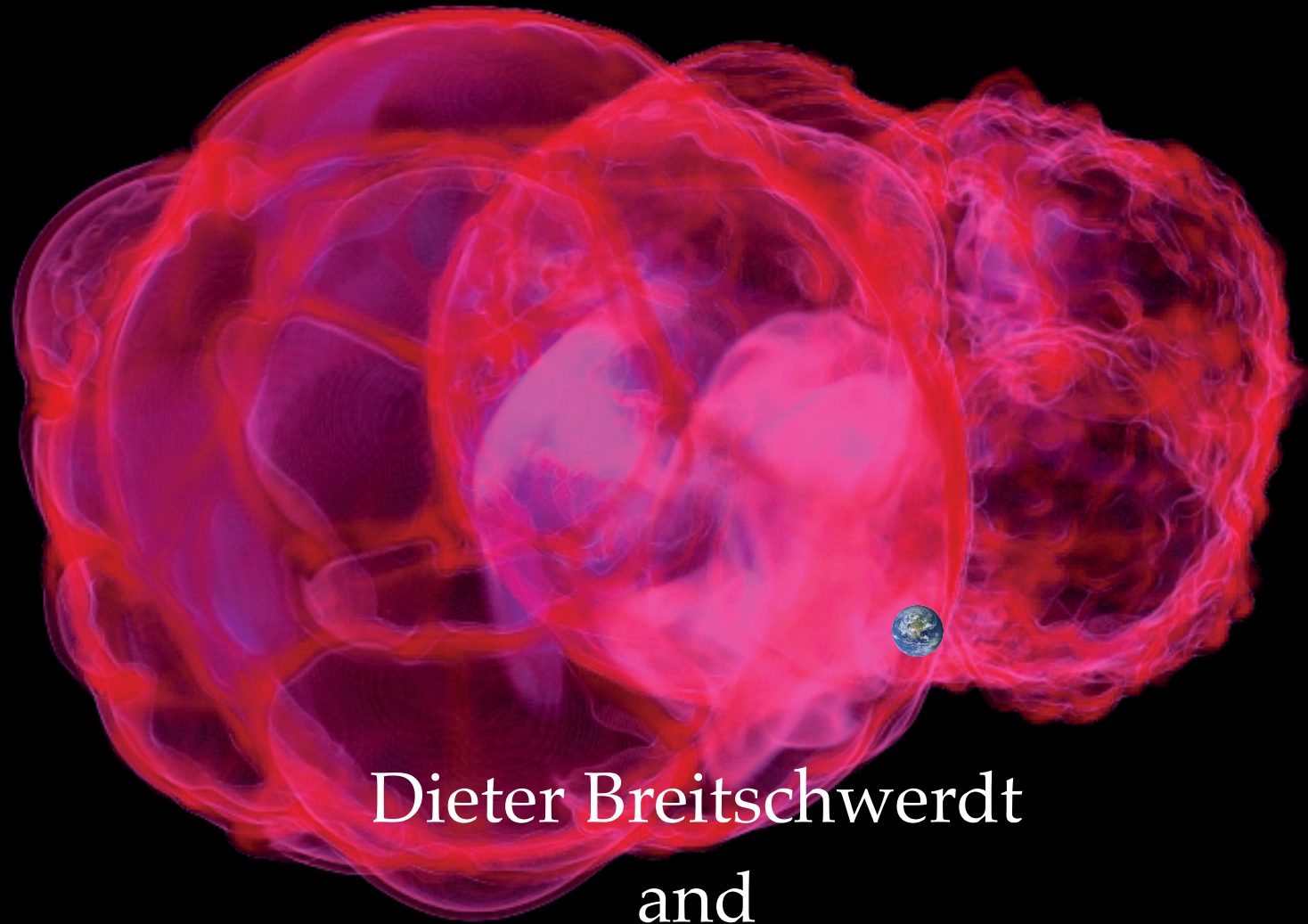


# Shock Waves Inside the Local Bubble



Dieter Breitschwerdt  
and

Michael Schulreich

Zentrum für Astronomie und Astrophysik  
Technische Universität Berlin

# Project Collaborators

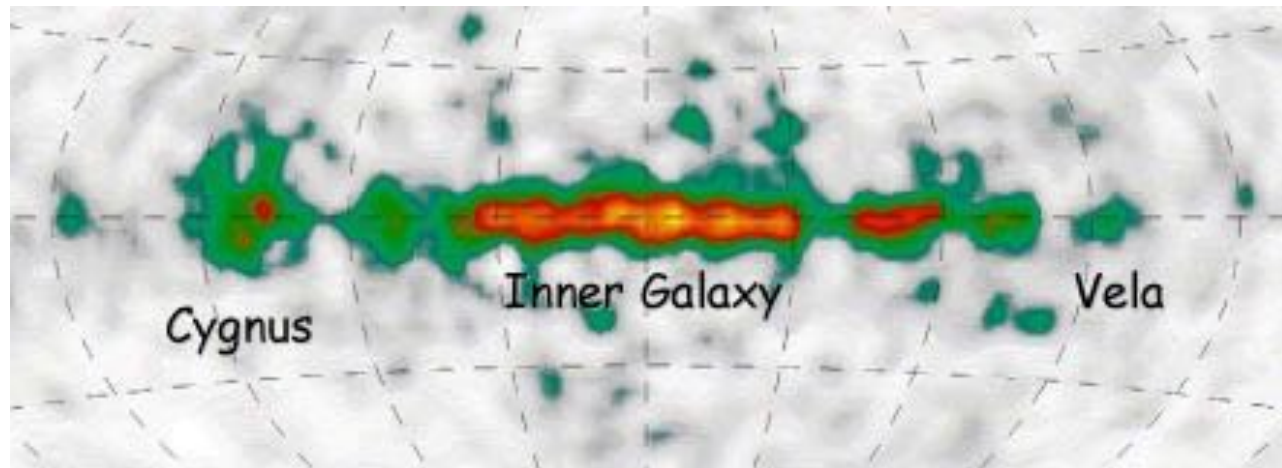
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- ✧ Jenny Feige (ZAA, TU Berlin)
- ✧ Miguel de Avillez (Evora, Portugal)
- ✧ Christian Dettbarn (ZAH, Heidelberg)



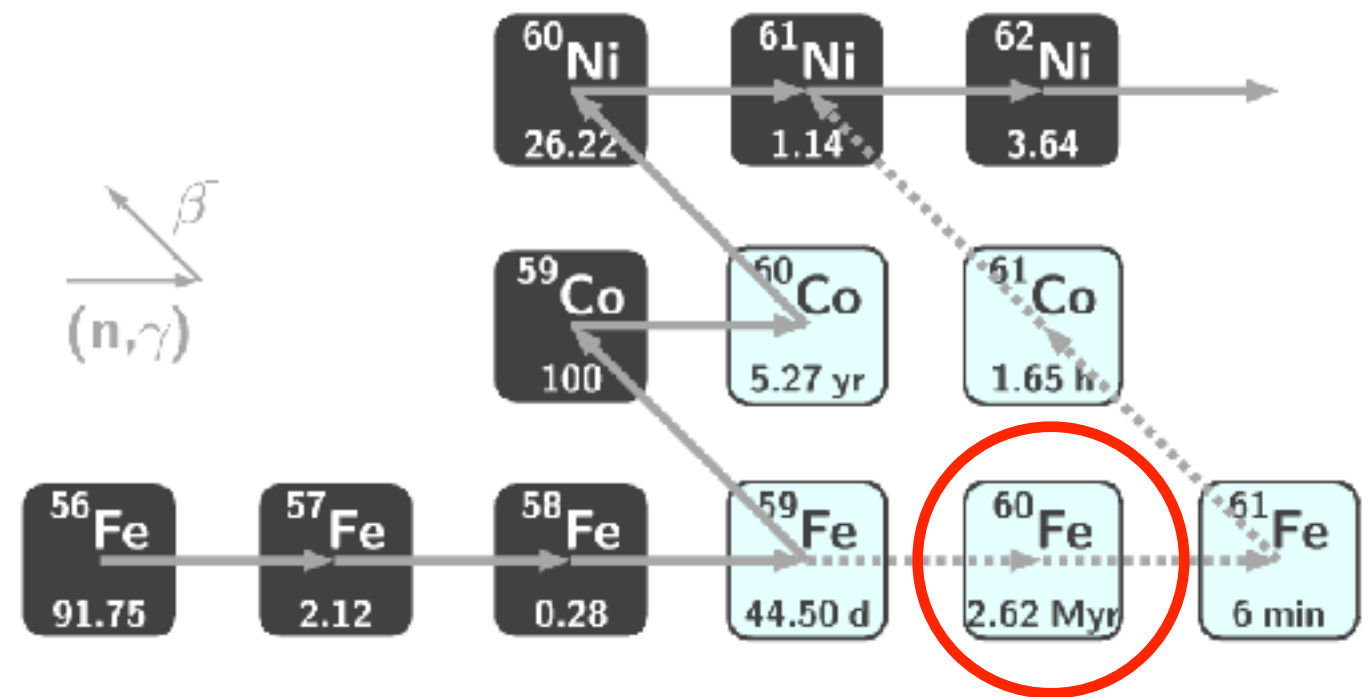
# $^{60}\text{Fe}$ as SN-Tracer

- $^{60}\text{Fe}$  ( $t_{1/2} \sim 2.6$  Myr) produced in late AGB stars ( $4 \cdot 10^8 < T < 5 \cdot 10^8$  K: C- core + He-shell burning) and explosive Ne-burning:  $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, n)^{25}\text{Mg} \rightarrow ^{58}\text{Fe}(n, \gamma)^{59}\text{Fe}(n, \gamma)^{60}\text{Fe}$
- $^{26}\text{Al}$  is SN generated
- INTEGRAL  $\gamma$ -line measurements show that  $^{26}\text{Al}$  and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  come from same places in the Milky Way

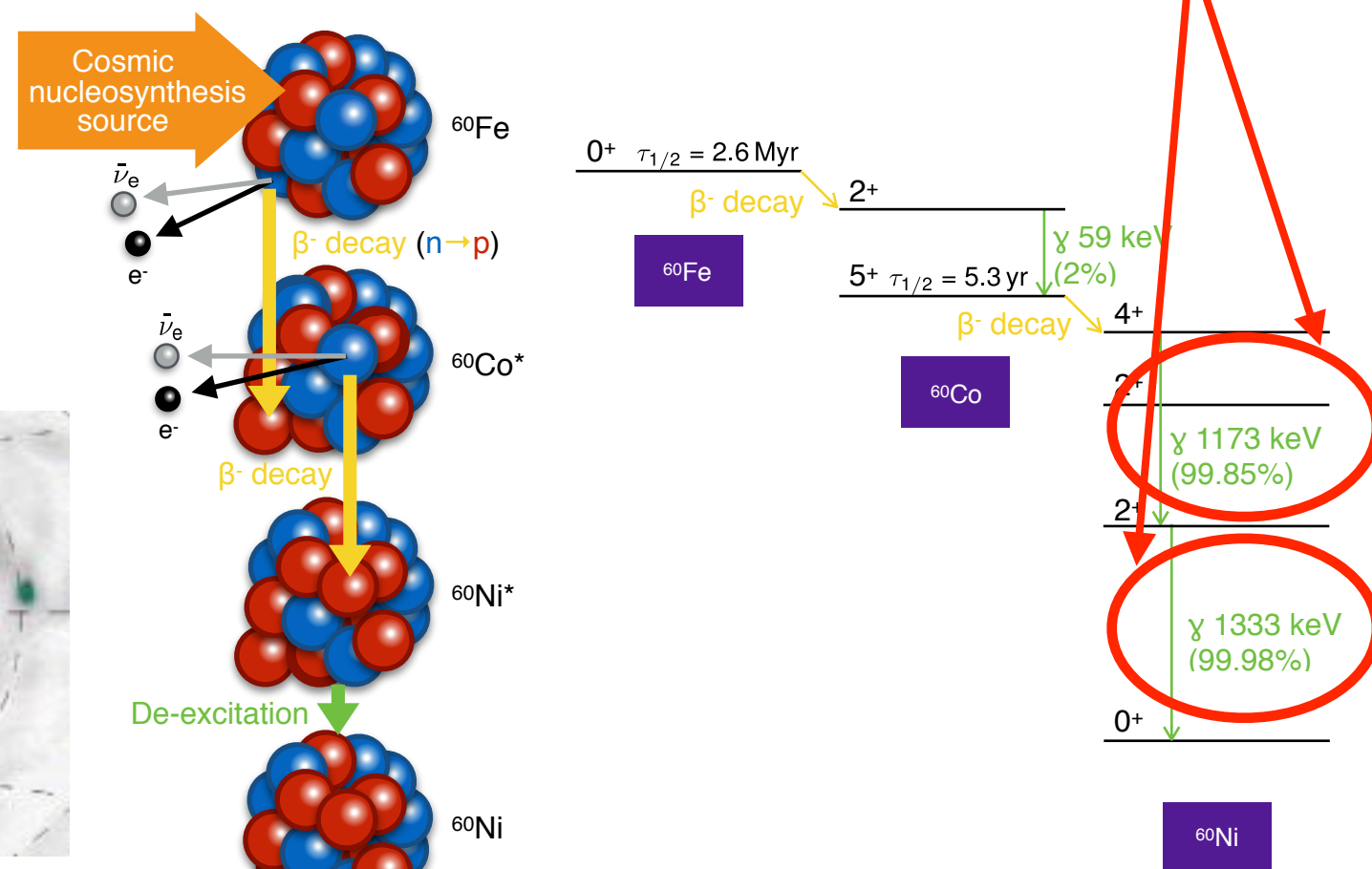


INTEGRAL map of  $^{26}\text{Al}$  from the Galaxy

Credit: R. Diehl, MPE



$^{60}\text{Fe}$  production and measurement via decay to Co and Ni by  $\beta$ -decay and emission of 2  $\gamma$ 's



# $^{60}\text{Fe}$ in the solar system?

## The Advent of Deep-Sea Astronomy

- ❖ Long-lived isotopes are best found and preserved in the ocean → archives with long memory
- ❖  $^{146}\text{Sm}$ ,  $^{182}\text{Hf}$ ,  $^{244}\text{Pu}$  also long-lived but ejected at much smaller quantities
- ❖ Deep-sea ferromanganese crust and nodules: low growth rate (mm/Myr) → ideal to incorporate  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  over long time:  $t_{1/2} \sim 2.6 \text{ Myr}$
- ❖ Deep-sea sediments: growth rate mm/kyr → higher time resolution



nodules



# Deep-Sea Astronomy I



237KD

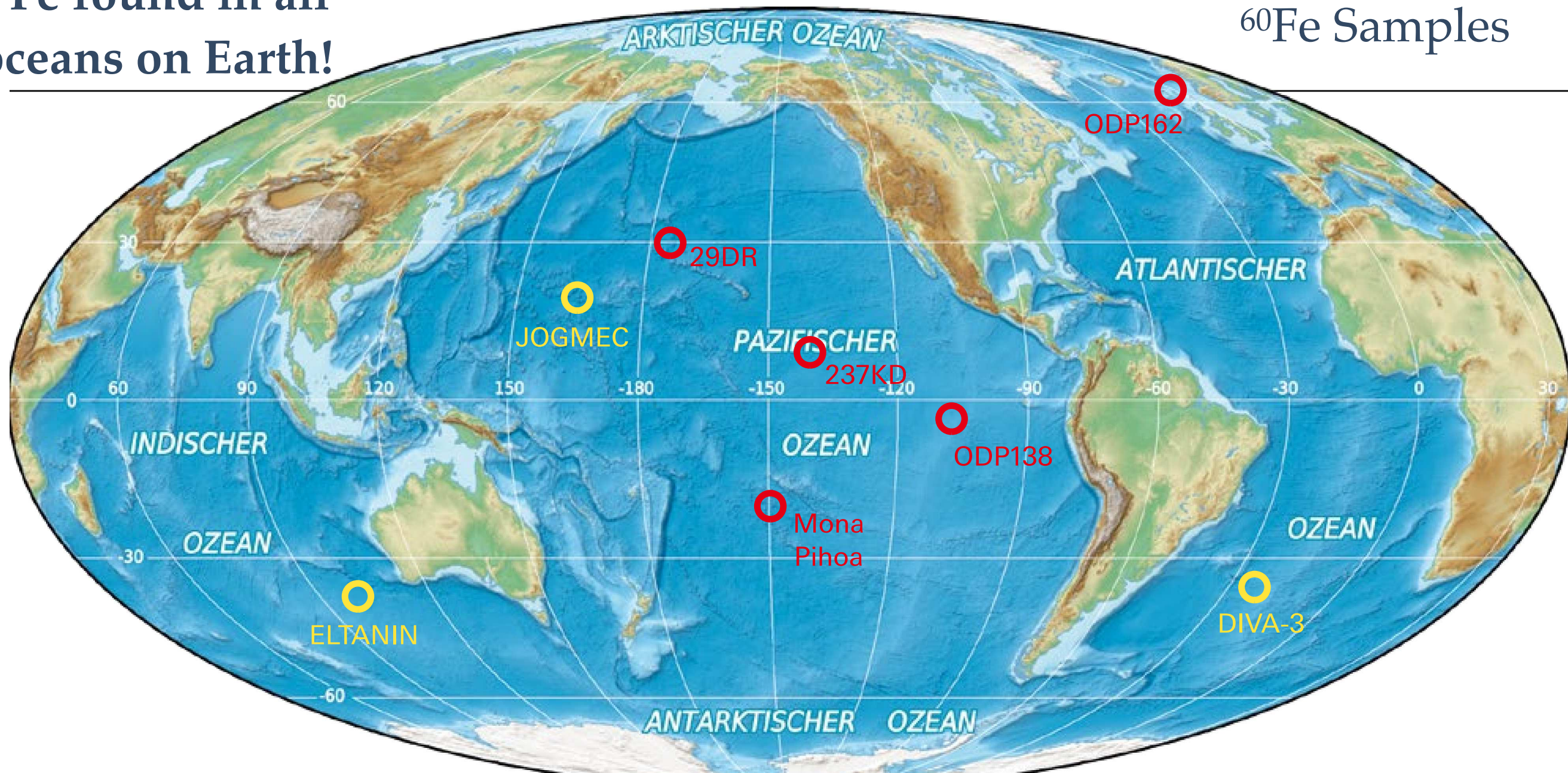
©K. Knie/M. Poutivtsev



# Deep-Sea Astronomy II

$^{60}\text{Fe}$  found in all  
oceans on Earth!

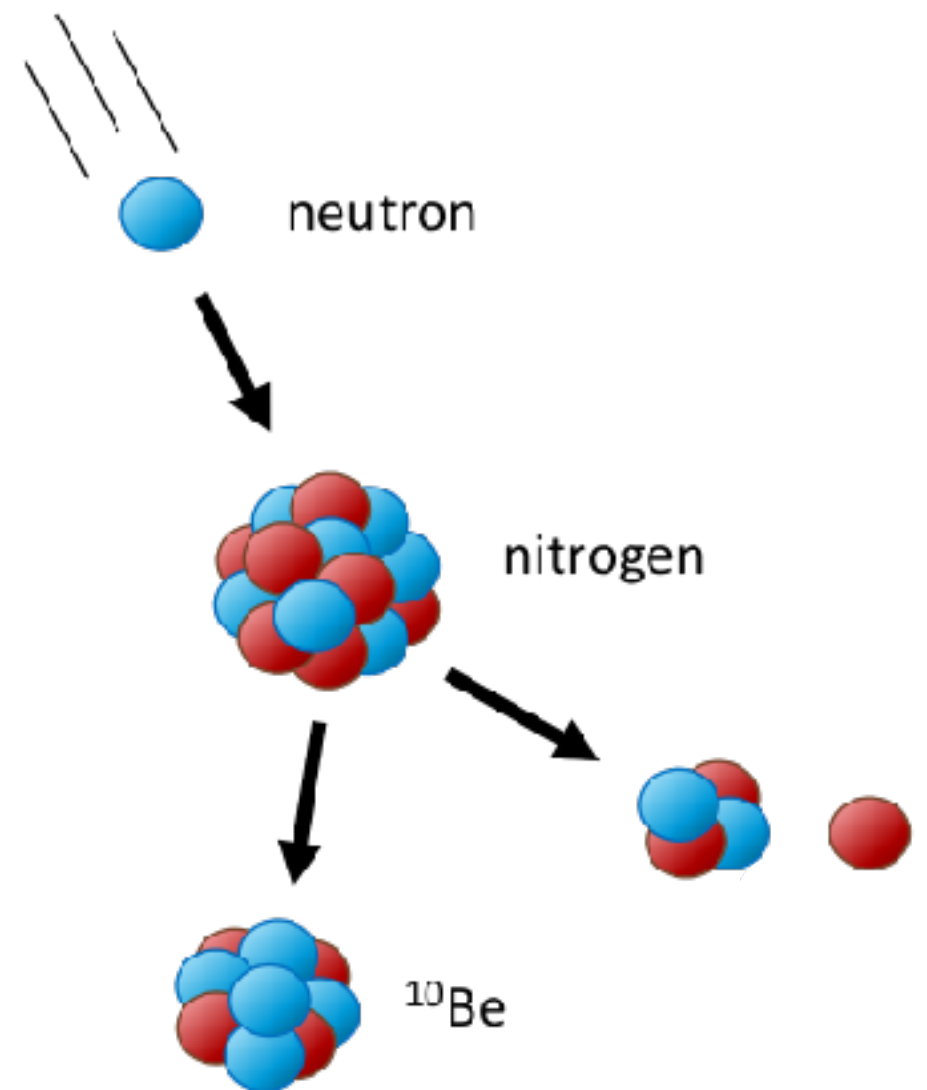
Locations of  
 $^{60}\text{Fe}$  Samples





# How to determine the age?

- ❖ Setting the clock by  **$^{10}\text{Be}$  isotopic dating**
- ❖  $^{10}\text{Be}$  ( $t_{1/2} \sim 1.4 \text{ Myr}$ ) constantly produced by cosmic ray spallation in the upper atmosphere (e.g.  $^{14}\text{N}$ )
  - ➔ relatively constant  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux over time
- ❖  $^{10}\text{Be}$  also present in crust/sediments
- ❖  $N(t) = N_0 \exp[-\lambda t]$  with
- ❖  $N(t) \dots ^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ -ratio at a certain depth
- ❖  $N_0 \dots ^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ -ratio at the sediment's surface
- ❖  $\lambda \dots$  decay constant for  $^{10}\text{Be}$ 
  - ➔  $t \dots$  age of sample (sediment/crust)

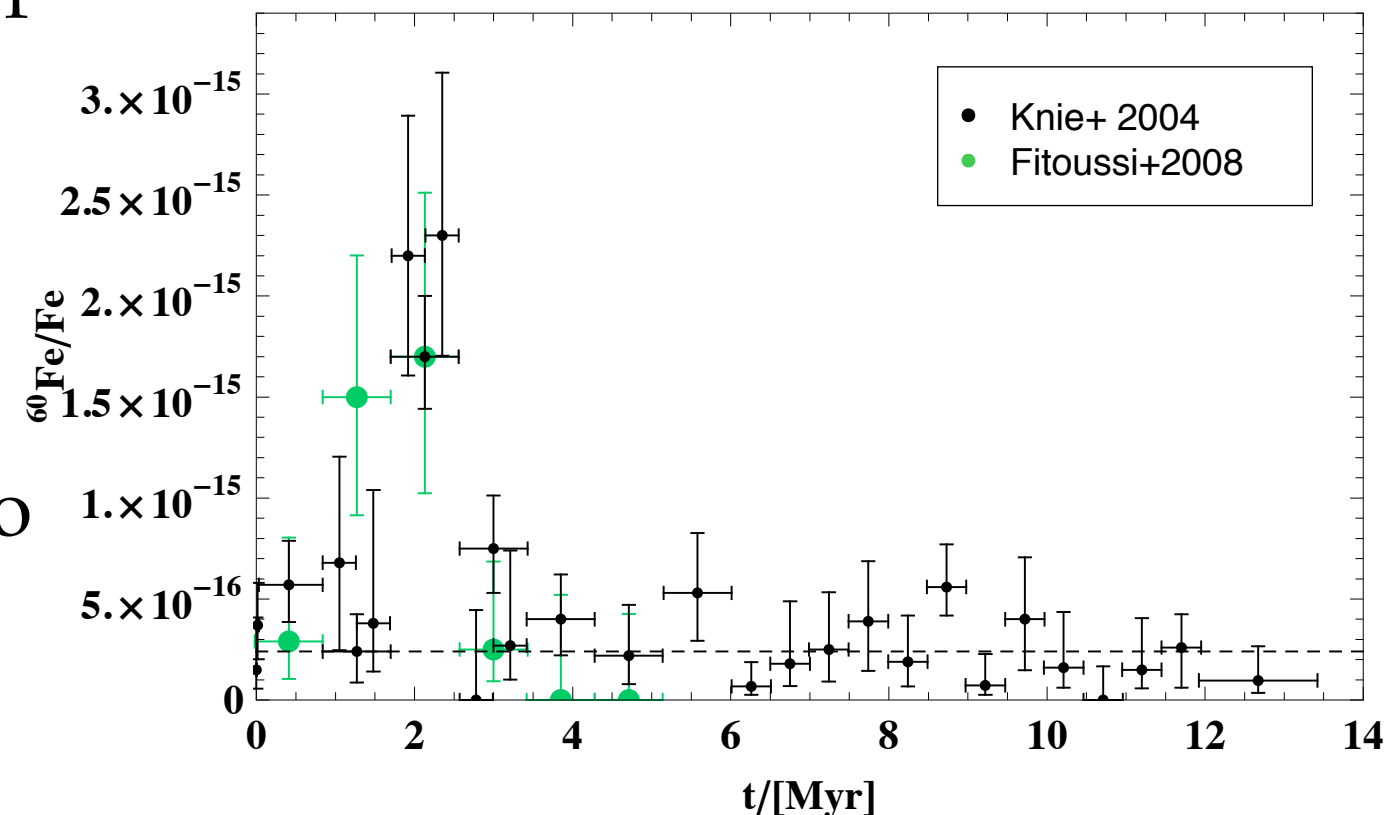




# Global Signal I

## - $^{60}\text{Fe}$ in the oceans -

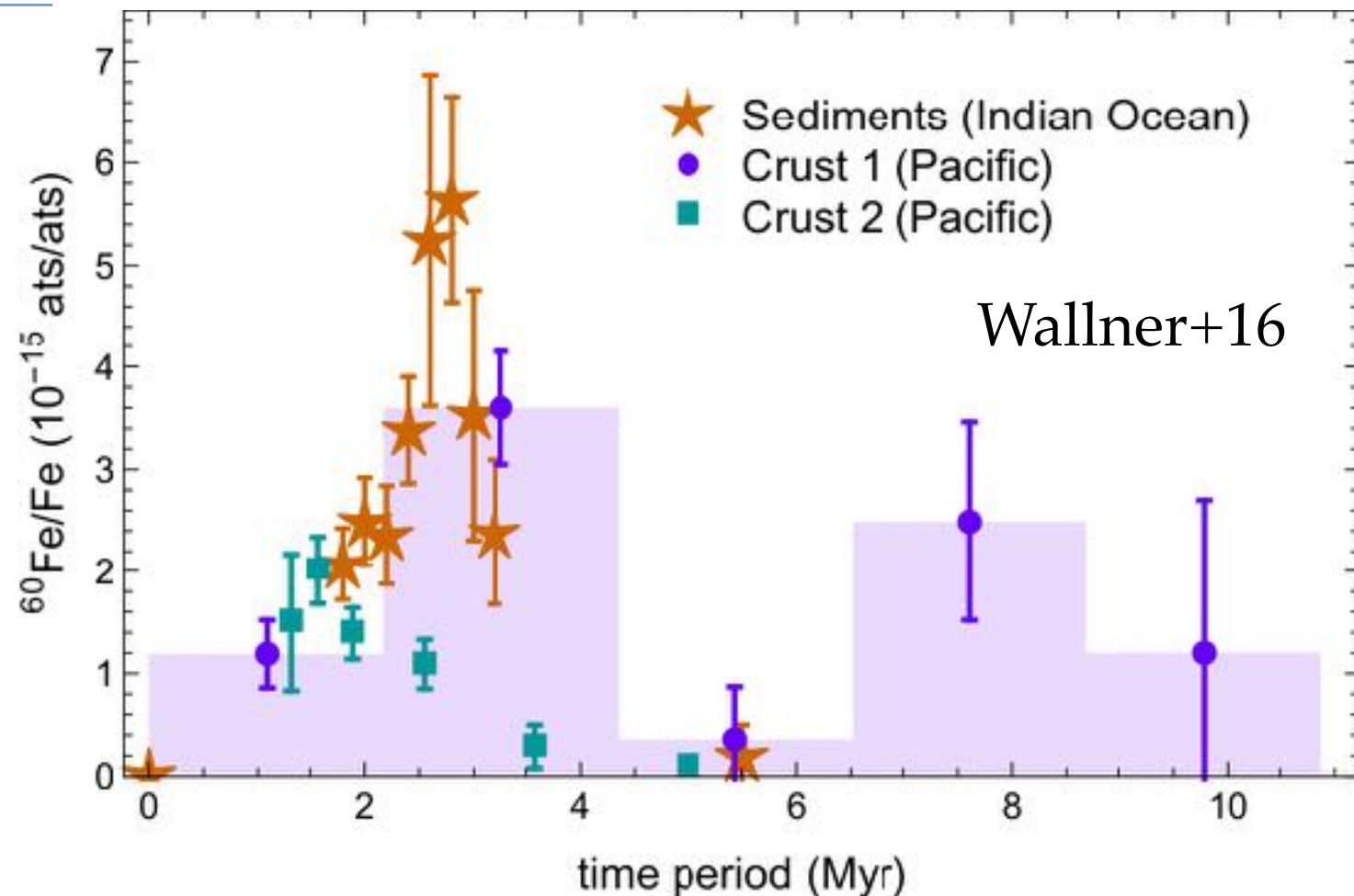
- ❖ Small quantities of long-lived isotopes are best measured by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS), e.g. 14 MV Tandem accelerator at TU München
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  signal in 1.7 - 2.6 Myr old layer detected in crust 237KD
- ❖ 2 mm  $\approx$  800 kyr
- ❖ each layer defines range on time axis
- ❖ all terrestrial  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  decayed long ago  
→ low terrestrial background



# Global Signal II

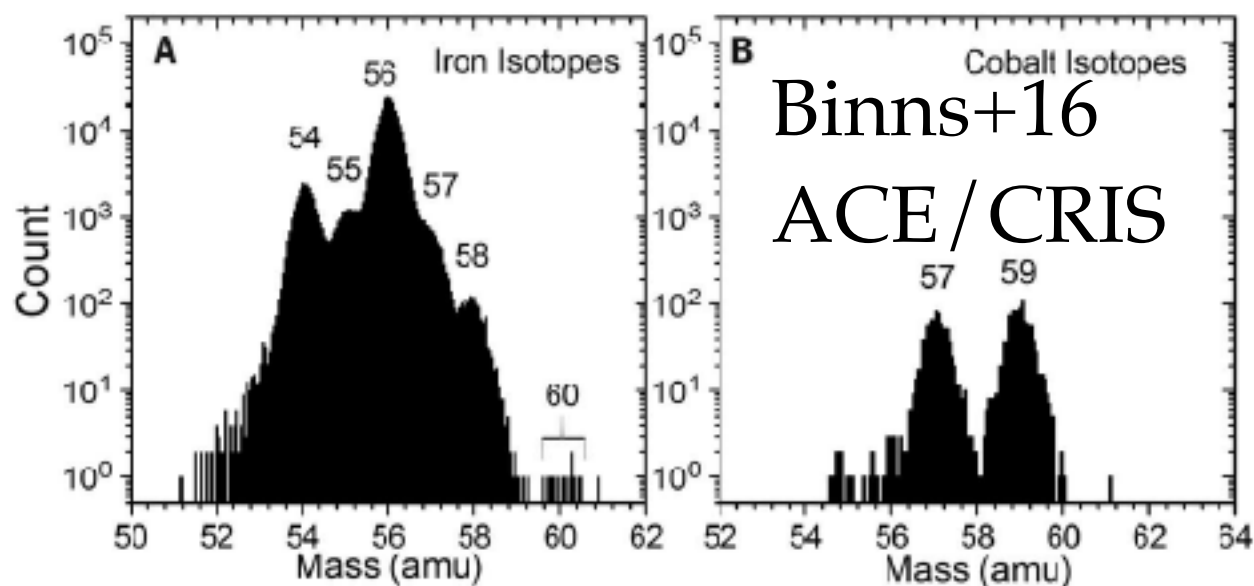
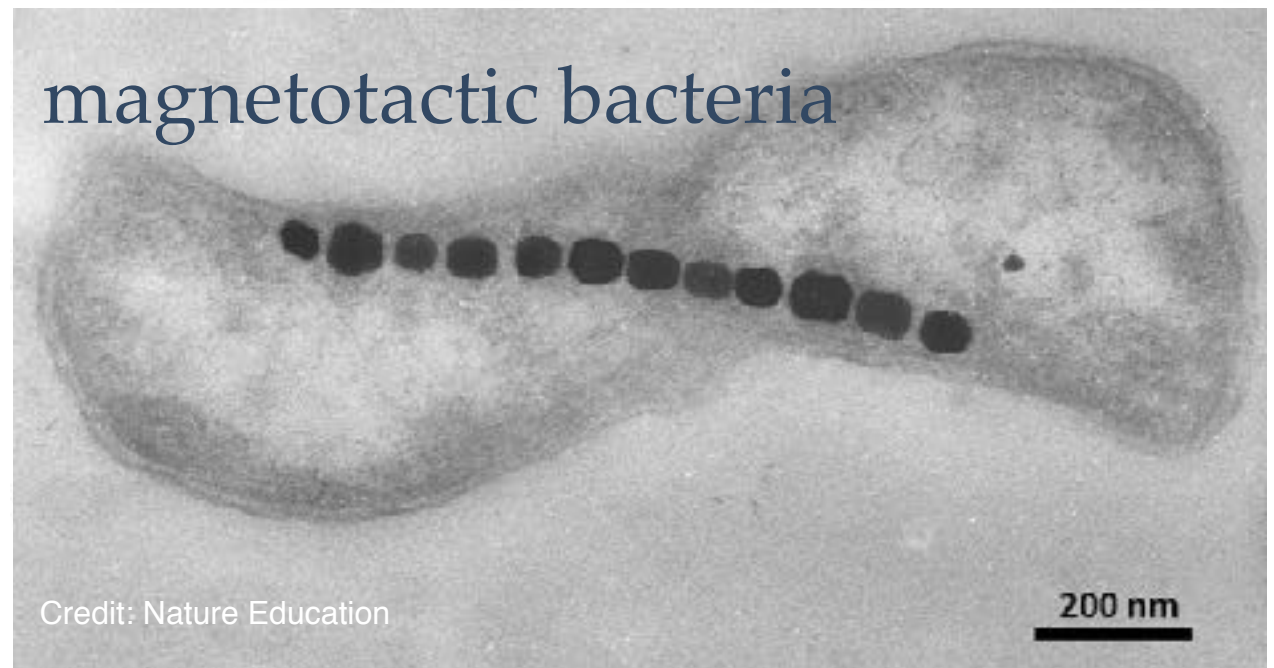
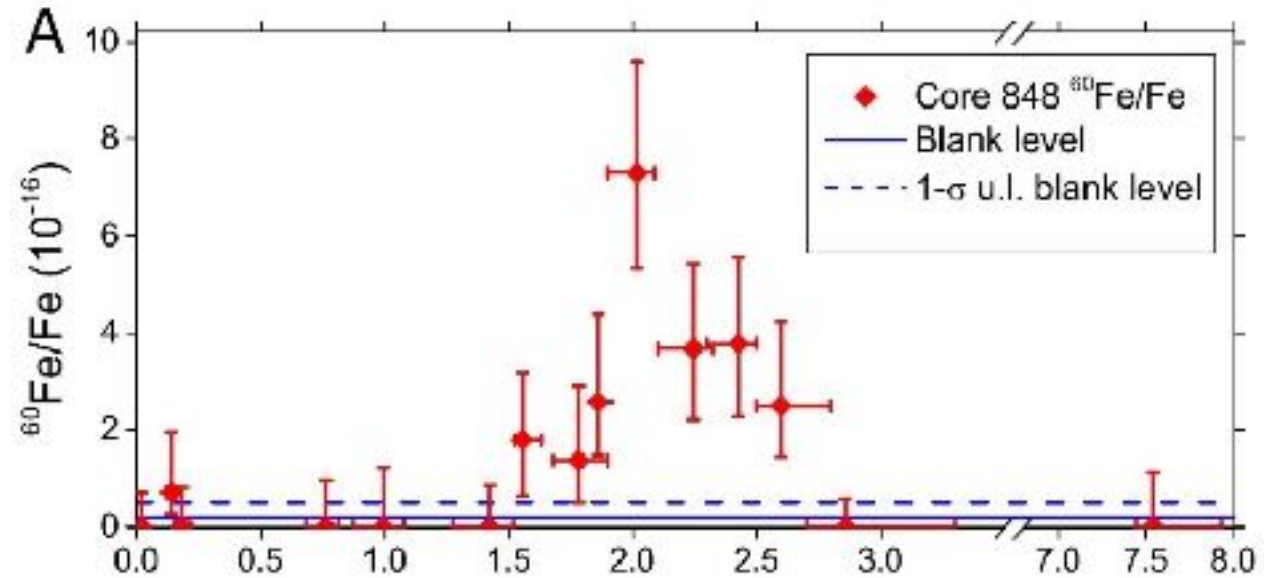
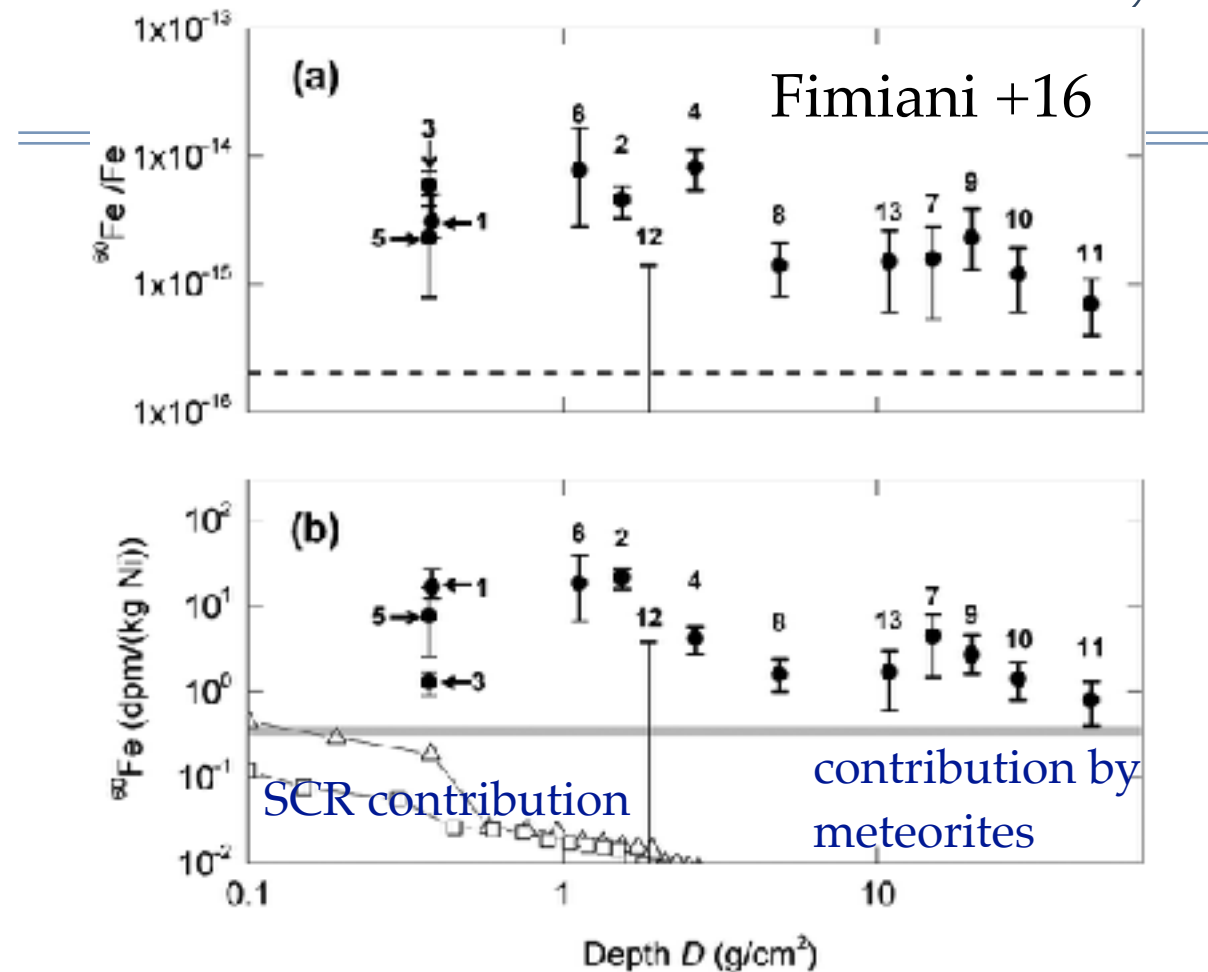
## - $^{60}\text{Fe}$ in the oceans -

- ❖ Signal is **extended** → probably more than one SN!
- ❖ 2nd peak at 6.5 - 8.7 Myr before present (= BP),  $4\sigma$  above background detected (Wallner+ 2016)
- ❖ note higher time resolution in sediments
  - signals rule out a constant background of  $^{60}\text{Fe}$
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  found in all oceans → **global**
- ❖ micrometeoritic origin excluded
  - dust influx 400x too low
- ❖ meteorite impact like in tertiary (65 Myr BP) would have a 4500 times too low  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  mass



# Global Signal III

## $^{60}\text{Fe}$ in bacteria, lunar samples, CRs



Age (Ma)  
Ludwig+2016, PNAS 113, 9232



# 1st Summary



Can we find out **when** and **where** these SNe exploded?



## LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature17424

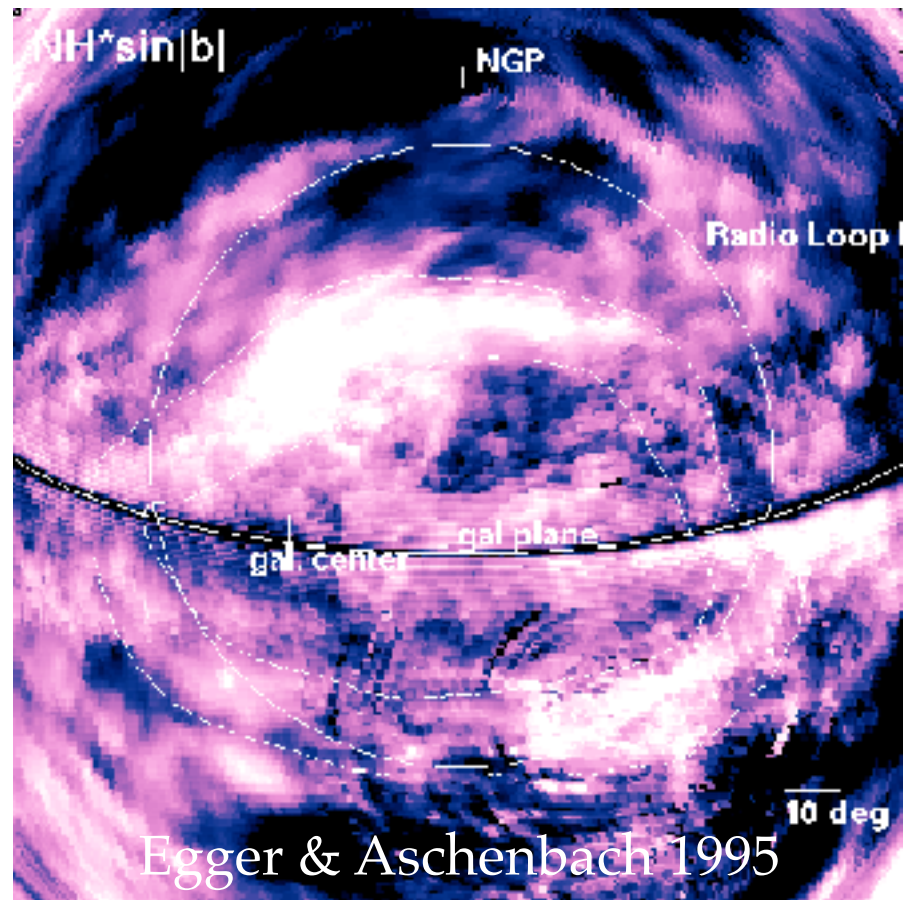
### The locations of recent supernovae near the Sun from modelling $^{60}\text{Fe}$ transport

D. Breitschwerdt<sup>1</sup>, J. Feige<sup>1</sup>, M. M. Schulreich<sup>1</sup>, M. A. de Avillez<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Dettbarn<sup>3</sup> & B. Fuchs<sup>3</sup>

- ❖ Enhancement of extraterrestrial  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  found in all oceans, in crusts, nodules and sediments, but also in bacteria, lunar rocks and in SN accelerated cosmic rays
- ❖ → **signal peak at 2.2 Myr BP**
- ❖ all  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  from the formation of solar system decayed
- ❖ cosmogenic  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  contribution from asteroids or micrometeorites is small
- ❖ all evidence points to **SN as source**
- ❖ time resolved measurements in sediments show wider peak (Wallner+16)
- ❖ → more than one SN responsible!

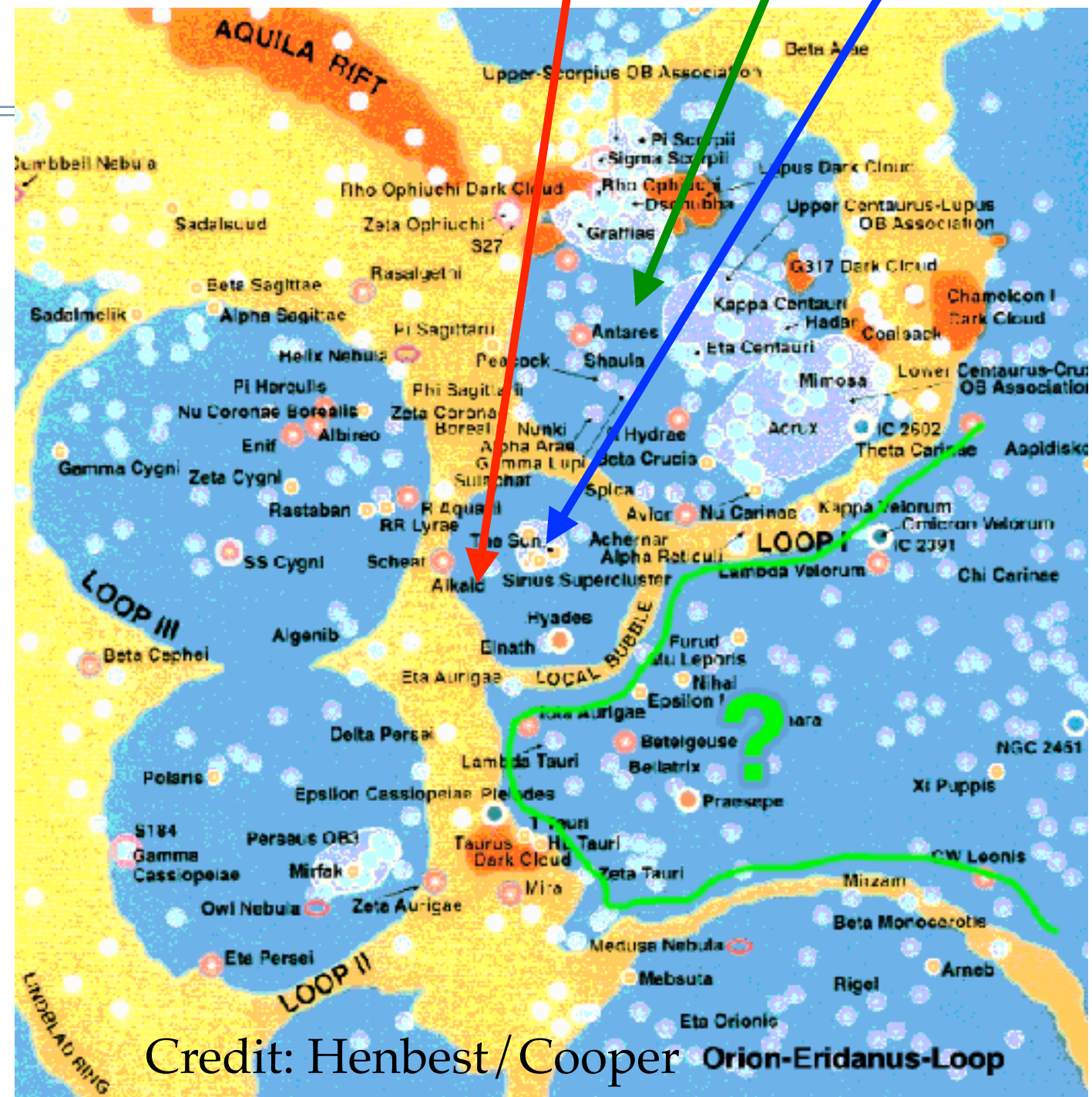
# Solar Neighbourhood I

Local Bubble    Loop I    Solar System



*X-rays from Local Bubble and Loop I - anticorrelated with neutral hydrogen emission*

- ❖ Solar system embedded in local superbubble: **Local Bubble (LB)**
- ❖ low density, high  $T \sim 10^6$  K
- ❖ LB in interaction with Loop I (Egger & Aschenbach 1995)
- ❖ **no young star cluster inside LB!**

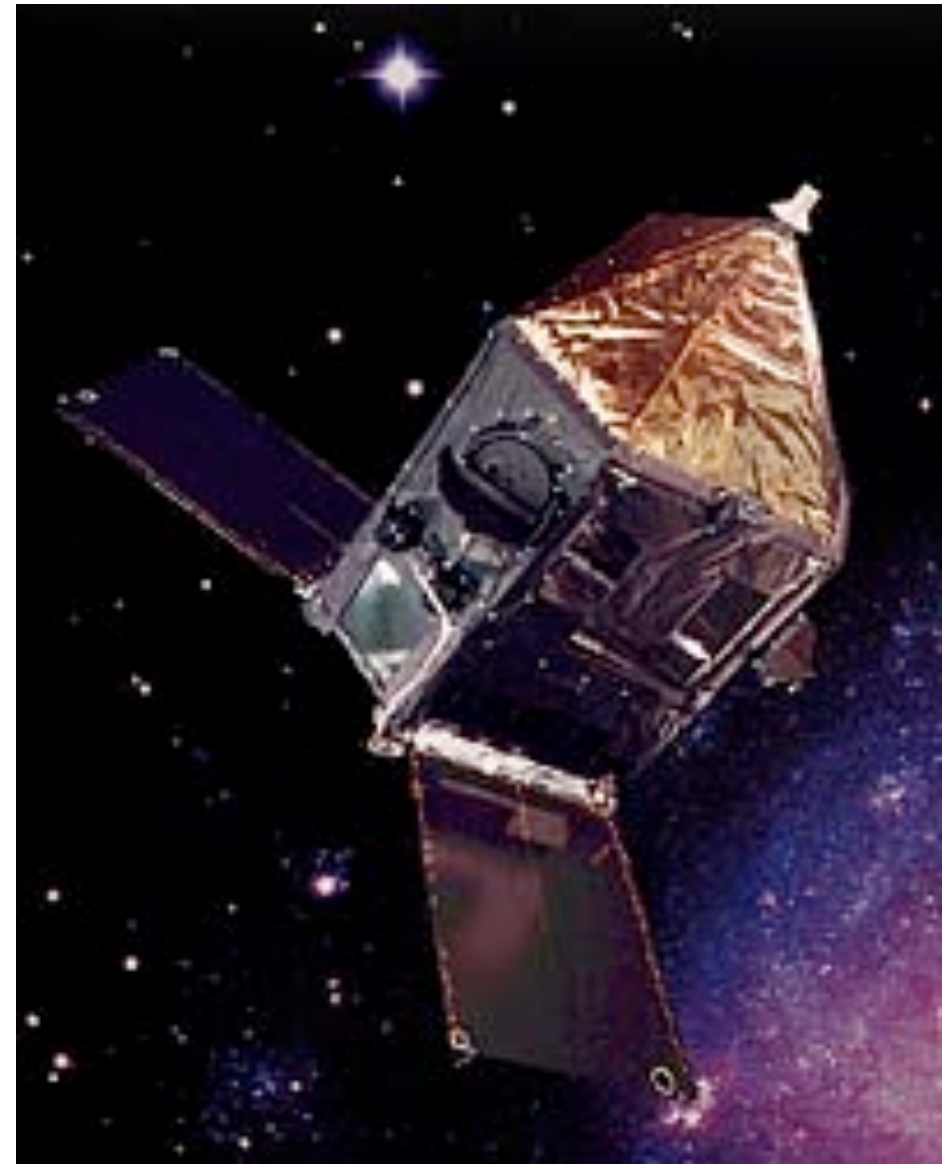


*Superbubbles in solar neighbourhood*



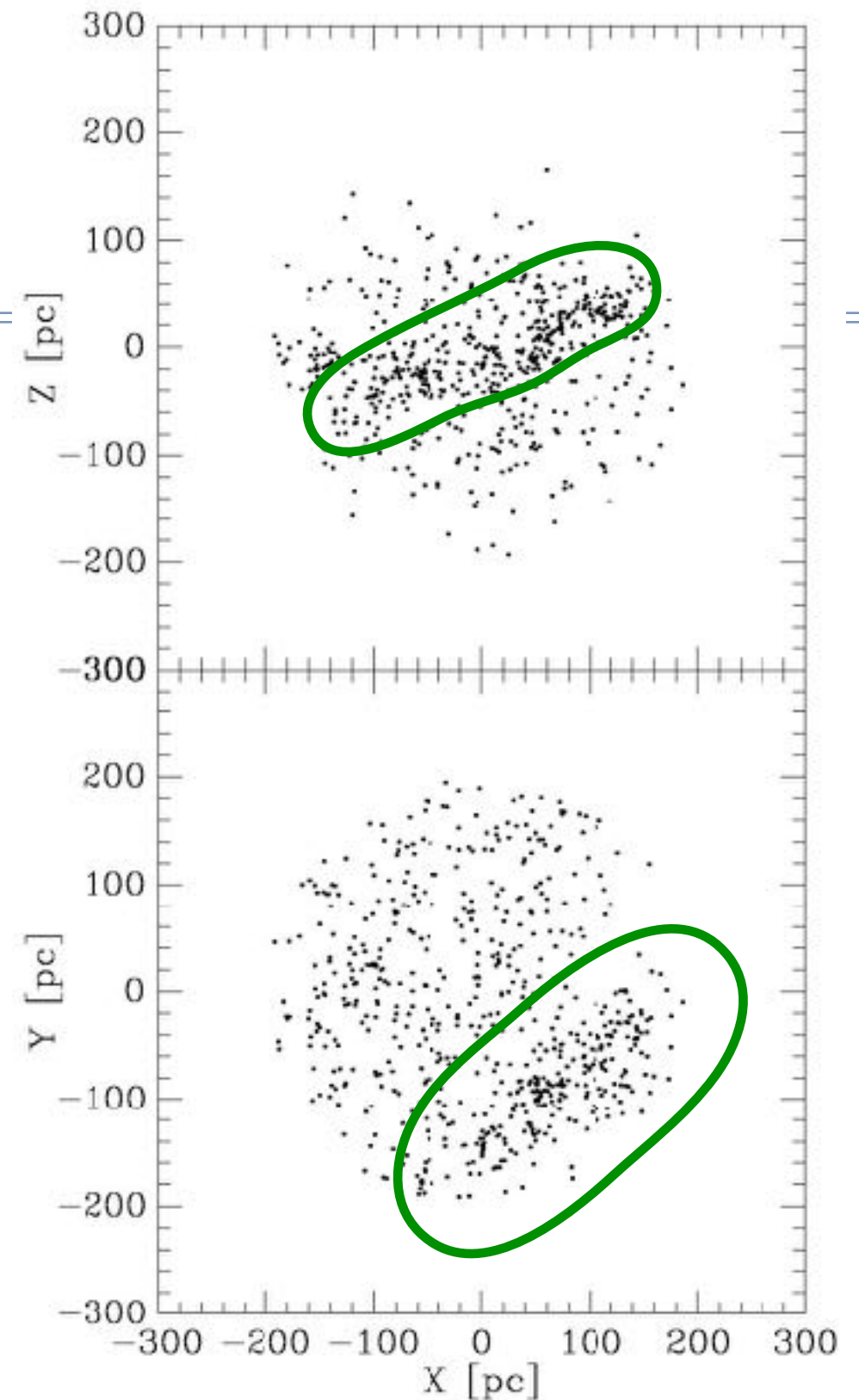
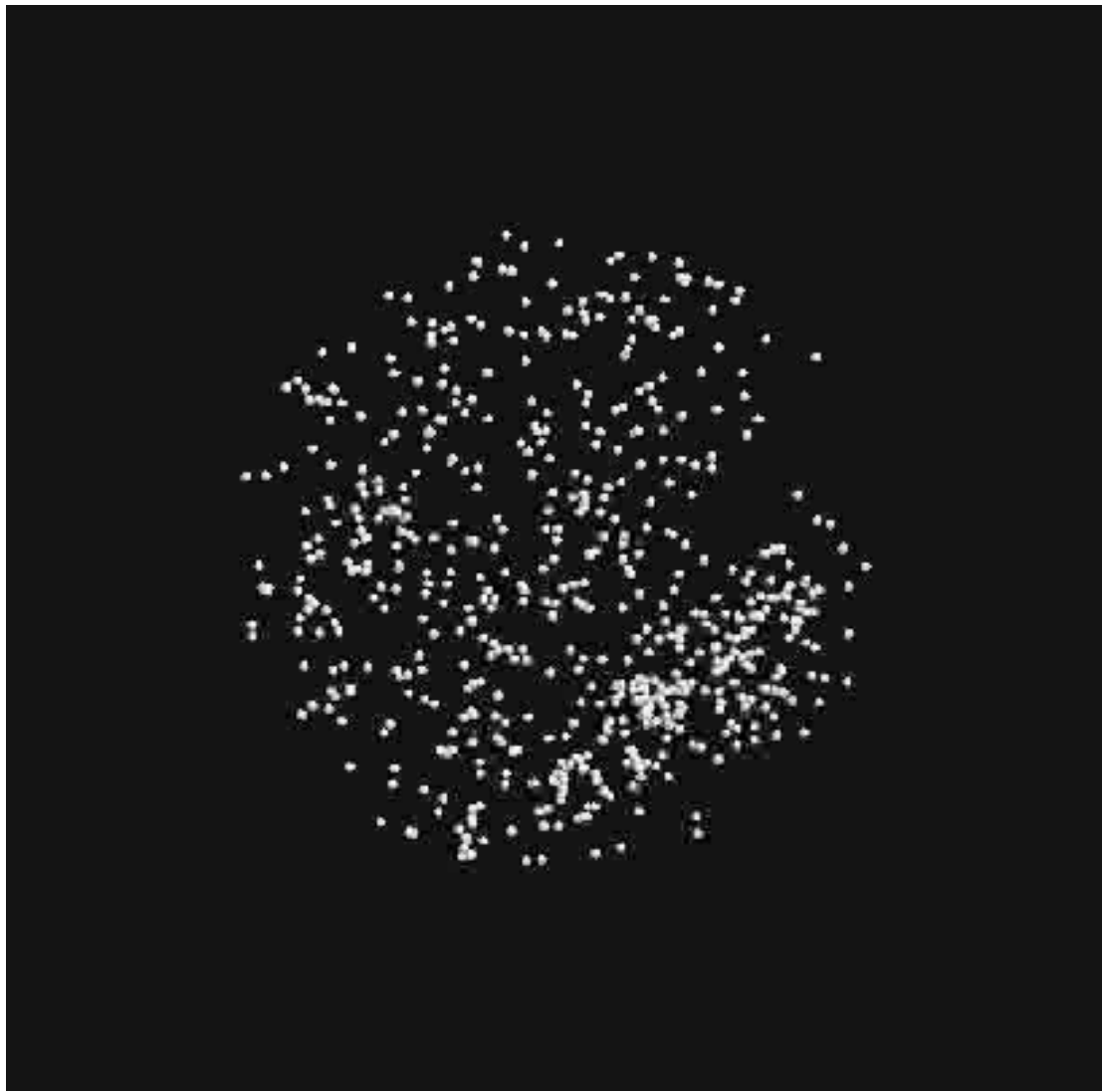
# Local Interstellar Medium (LISM) I

- ❖ LB could be the result of SNe (Sanders+77, Hartquist & Innes+84, Breitschwerdt & Schmutzler+94, Cox & Smith+01 etc.)
- ❖ But where is the star cluster in which massive members exploded?
- ❖ **Idea:** Stars exploded in moving group (Berghöfer & Breitschwerdt+02)
- ❖ Pleiades subgroup B1 (age 25 Myr) crossed LB during the last 20 Myr
- ❖ Fuchs+06 searched volume of 400 pc diameter centred at Sun using **Hipparcos** and **ARIVEL** data
  - ➔ 762 stars ➔ concentration in real and velocity space: 79 stars



Hipparcos Astrometry Satellite, Credit: ESA

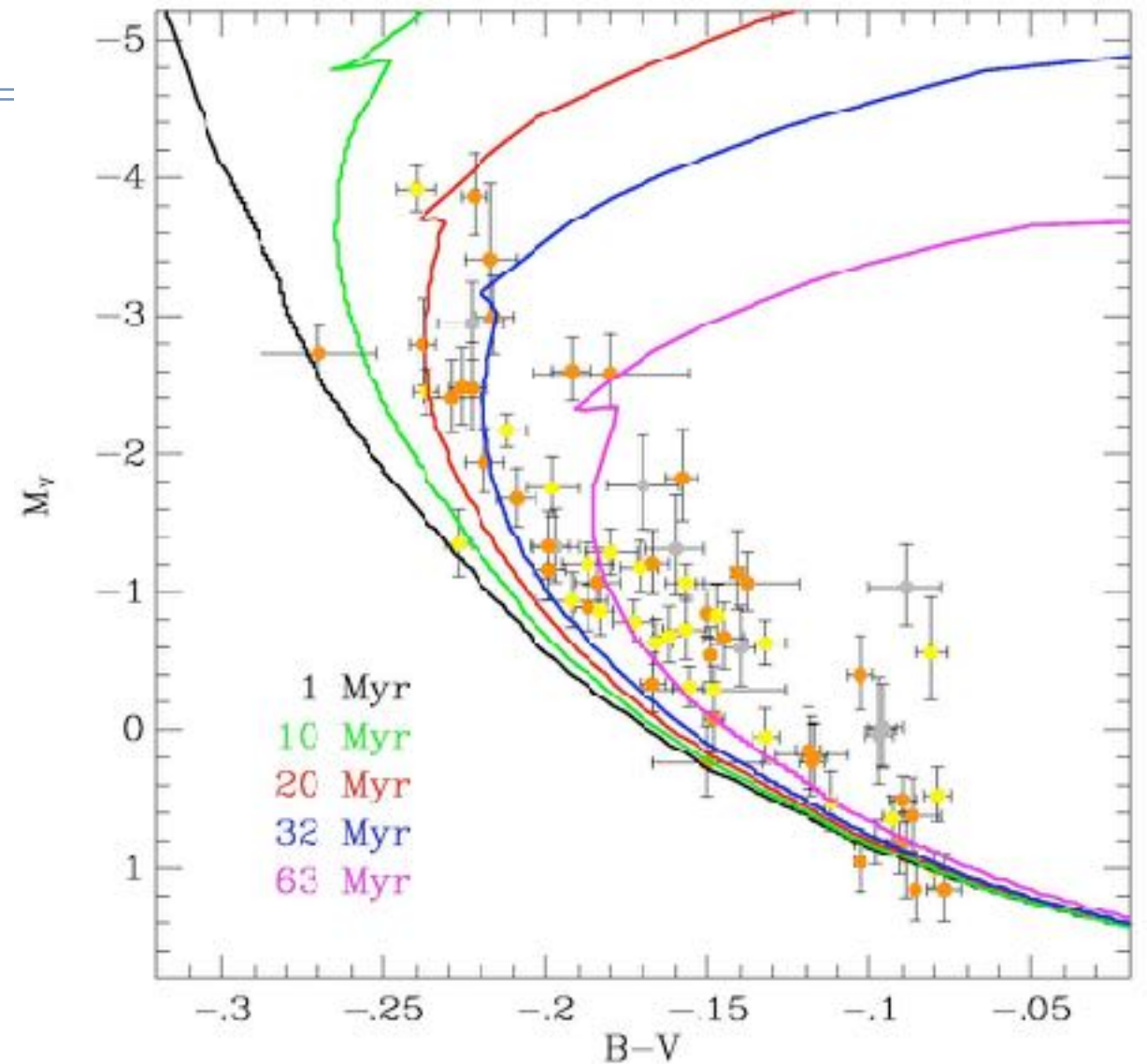
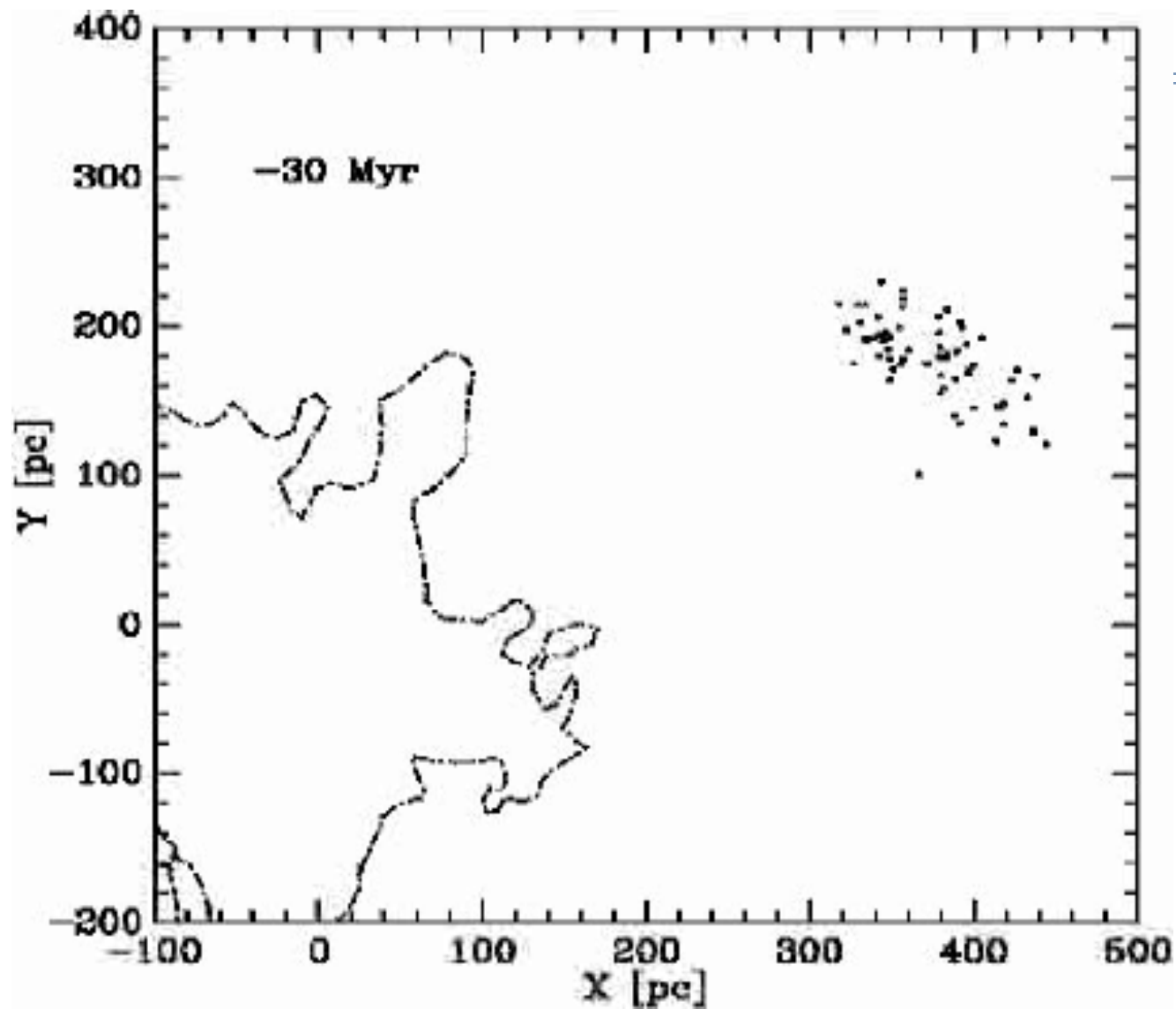
# LISM II



- ❖ Clustering of stars → stellar moving group
- ❖ complete phase space information  $\{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}\}$ , i.e. all stellar **positions** and **velocities** are known
- ❖ surviving members belong to Sco-Cen association (UCL, LCC) → calculate trajectories back in time (epicyclic eqs.)

Hipparcos Astrometry Satellite, Credit: ESA

# LISM III



- ❖ Cluster age determined by comparison with stellar **isochrones** in HRD
- ❖ subsample of 79 de-reddened B-stars
- ➔ turn-off point from mains sequence gives age: 20 - 30 Myr



# Initial Mass Function (IMF)

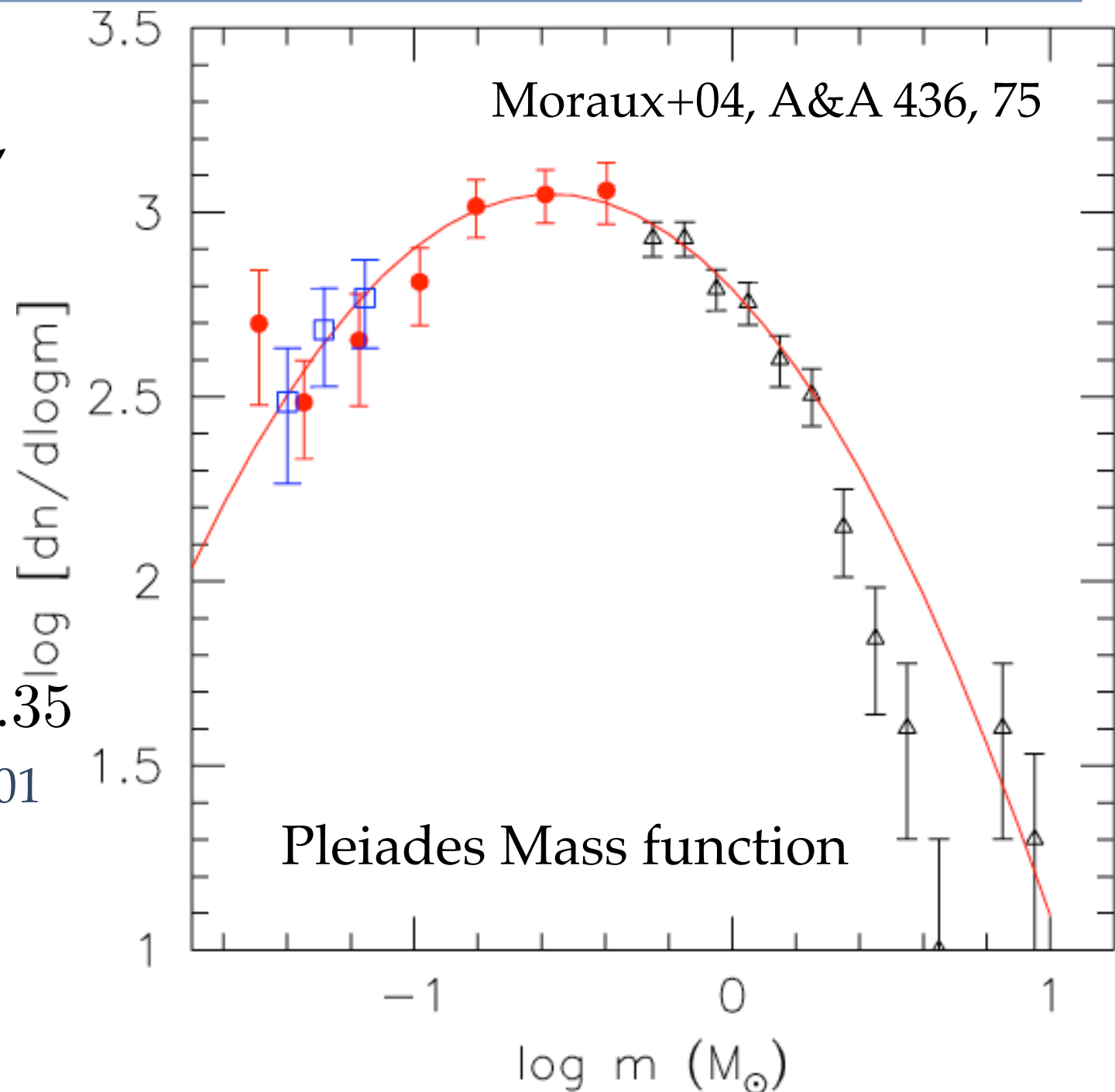
- ❖ Stars form in dense **molecular clouds**,  $M \sim 10^4 - 10^6 M_\odot$ ,  $T \sim 10$  K,  $R \sim 10 - 100$  pc,  $\Sigma_g \sim 100 M_\odot \text{pc}^{-2}$  (Krumholz+14)
- ❖ **Initial Mass Function (IMF)** is empirical relation for mass distribution in clusters, approximated by a broken power law

$$\frac{dN(m)}{d \log m} = C m^{-\alpha}, \quad \alpha = 1.1 - 1.35$$

$M > 0.5 M_\odot$ , Kroupa+01

$N(m)$  ... number of stars per logarithmic mass bin

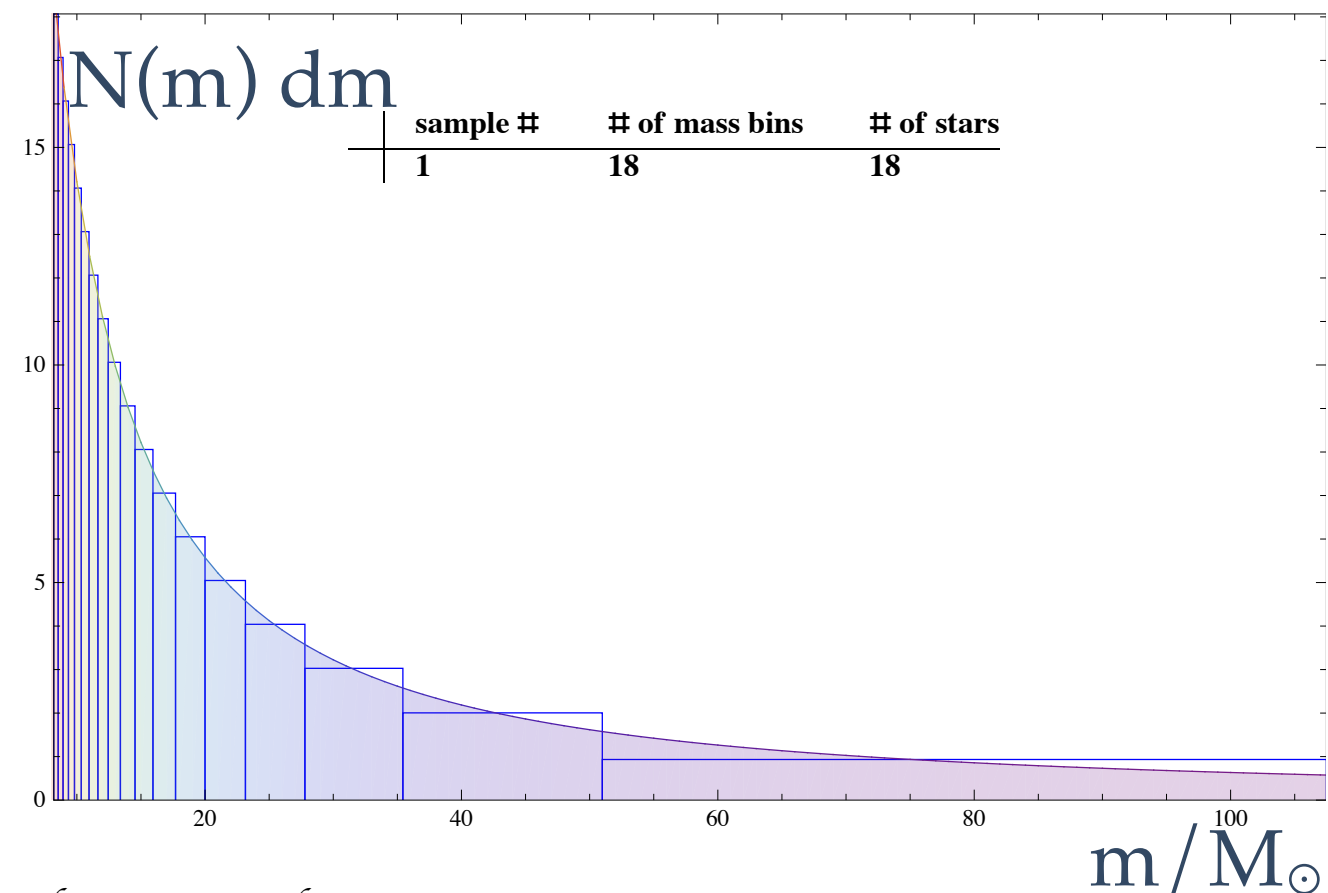
$m = M/M_\odot$  ... stellar mass normalised on solar mass



# Number & Masses of deceased stars

IMF of moving group  
Breitschwerdt+18

- \* Main-sequence lifetime  $\tau_{\text{ms}}$  of stars depends only on mass (metallicity  $Z$ )  
 $\tau_{\text{ms}} = 1.8 \times 10^8 m^{-\beta} \text{ yr}, \quad \beta = 0.932$
- \* SN explosion time  $\tau_{\text{ex}} = \tau_{\text{ms}} - \tau_{\text{cl}}$
- \*  $Z$  is the same for all cluster members
- \* **Method to calculate number of SNe:**
  1. calculate constant  $C$  of IMF (calibration) by matching it to number of surviving stars
  2. variable mass binning  $\rightarrow$  choose bin size such that there is exactly one star per bin (Maiz-Appelanz & Ubeda (2007))
  3. highest mass SN progenitor has  $N(m) \leq 1$
  4. data: 69 stars with  $2.6 \leq m \leq 8.2$
  5.  $\alpha = 1.1$  (Massey+95), 1.35 (Salpeter)
  6. Result: 16 stars exploded, 2 not yet
  7. we adopt  $\tau_{\text{cl}} = 20 \text{ Myr}$  (HRD)
  8. apply same procedure to Loop I





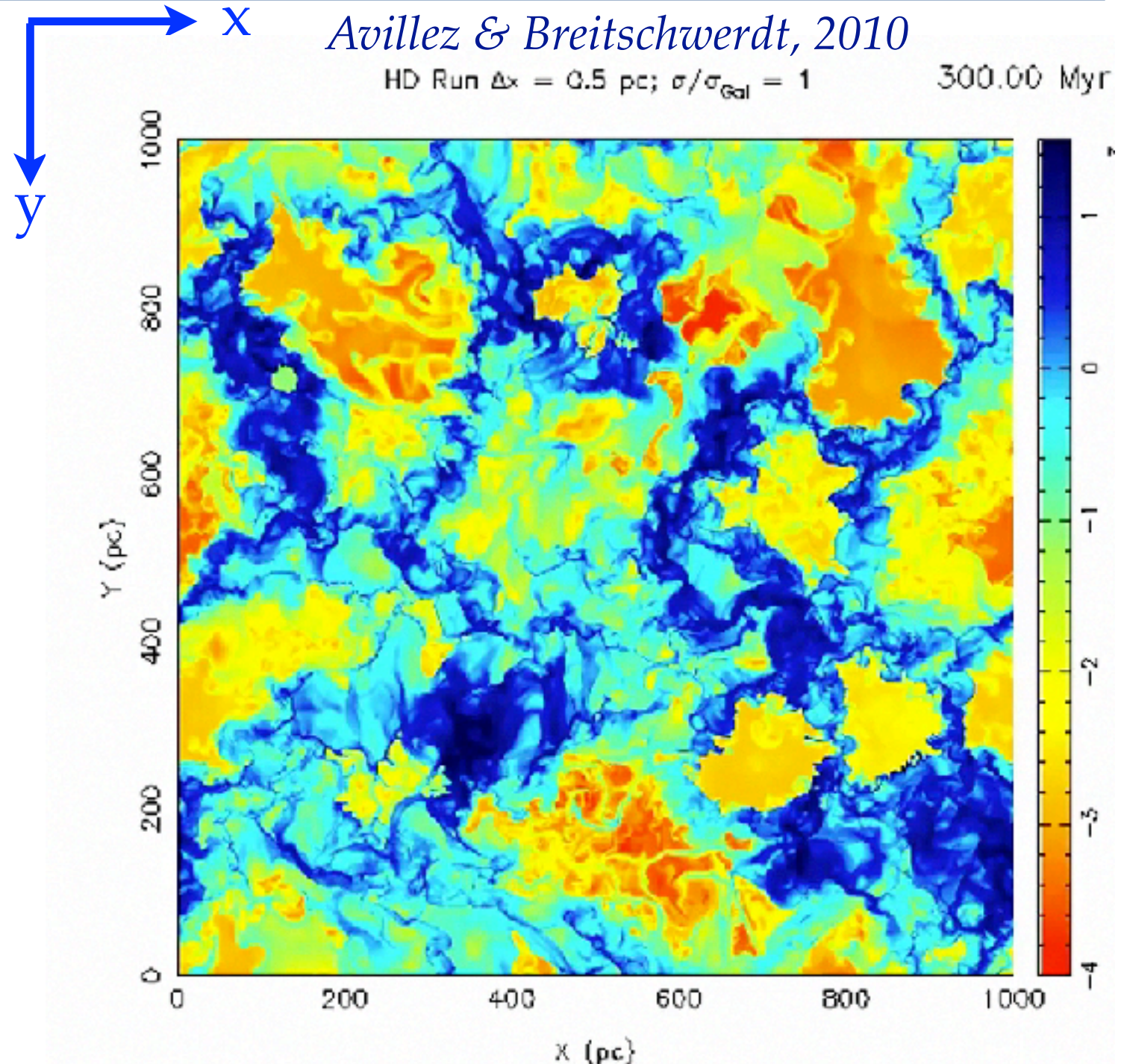
# ISM and LB simulations III

## Gas Density Distribution Cut through Galactic Midplane

*Avillez & Breitschwerdt, 2010*

HD Run  $\Delta x = 0.5$  pc;  $\sigma/\sigma_{\text{gal}} = 1$

300.00 Myr

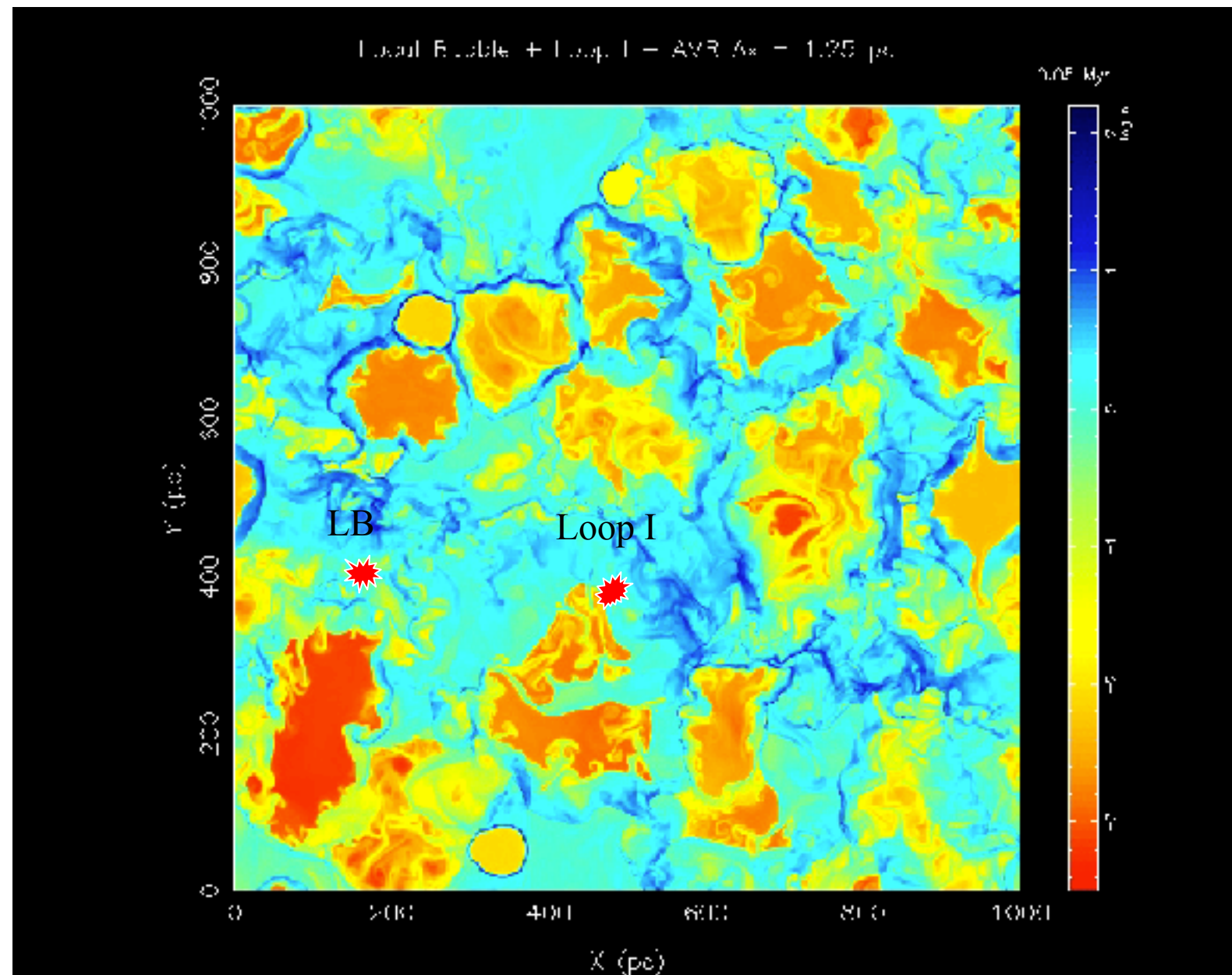


- ❖ Density and temperature distribution shows **structures on all scales** (cf. observation of filaments)
- ❖ **Shear flow** due to expanding SNRs generates high level of **turbulence** → **coupling of scales**
- ❖ Cloud formation by **shock compressed layers** → clouds are **transient** features → generation of new stars
- ❖ **Collective** effect of SNe induces **break-out** of ISM disk gas → “**galactic fountain**” (cf. intermediate velocity clouds) → reduce disk pressure
- ❖ large amount of gas in **thermally unstable** phases
- ❖ **volume filling factor** of HIM  $\sim 20\%$
- ❖ **no (spatial) pressure equilibrium!**



# ISM and LB simulations IV

- ❖ All information for simulations are now available
  1. number of SN progenitors
  2. explosion times
  3. explosion sites
- ❖ but we do not know the **ISM environment**
- ❖ Test different scenarios:
  - (i) **homogeneous** background with constant densities:  
 $n = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (model A),  
 $n = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (model B)
  - (ii) **inhomogeneous** realistic medium shaped by previous generations of stars (model C)



*Simulations by Avillez & Breitschwerdt*

# ISM and LB simulations IV

PhD Thesis: M. Schulreich, 2015

- ❖ Use RAMSES Code: HD / MHD + N-body, Teyssier+02
- ❖ Include **self-gravitation** of gas, treated stars as particles, **feedback** from stellar winds and SNe, heliosphere
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  is marked by “ink” (**passive scalar** field)
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  incorporated in dust  $\rightarrow$  survival factor  $f \sim 0.01$  (Fry+15), uptake factor:  $U \sim 0.5 - 1 \rightarrow fU = 0.006$  (Feige+12)



	Homogeneous background models	Inhomogeneous background model
Box size	$3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ kpc}^3$	$3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ kpc}^3$
Highest grid resolution	0.7 pc ( $\ell_{\text{max}} = 12$ )	2.9 pc ( $\ell_{\text{max}} = 10$ )
Boundary conditions (vertical faces / top and bottom)	periodic / periodic	periodic / outflow
Total evolution time	12.6 Myr	192.6 Myr (180 + 12.6 Myr)
Initial gas distribution	homogeneous	analytical fit to observational data of the Galaxy (Ferrière 1998)
External gravitational field	no	yes
Self-gravity	yes	no

# ISM and LB simulations V

PhD Thesis: M. Schulreich, 2015

- ❖ Gas column density  $\Sigma_g$  (integrated over 3rd coordinate);  $t_{\text{ev}} = 12.6$  Myr

- ❖ **Model A** ( $\sim$  WIM)

- ❖  $n = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

- ❖  $T = 10^4 \text{ K}$

- ❖  $Z/Z_{\odot} = 1$

- ❖  $\Delta x = 0.7 \text{ pc}$

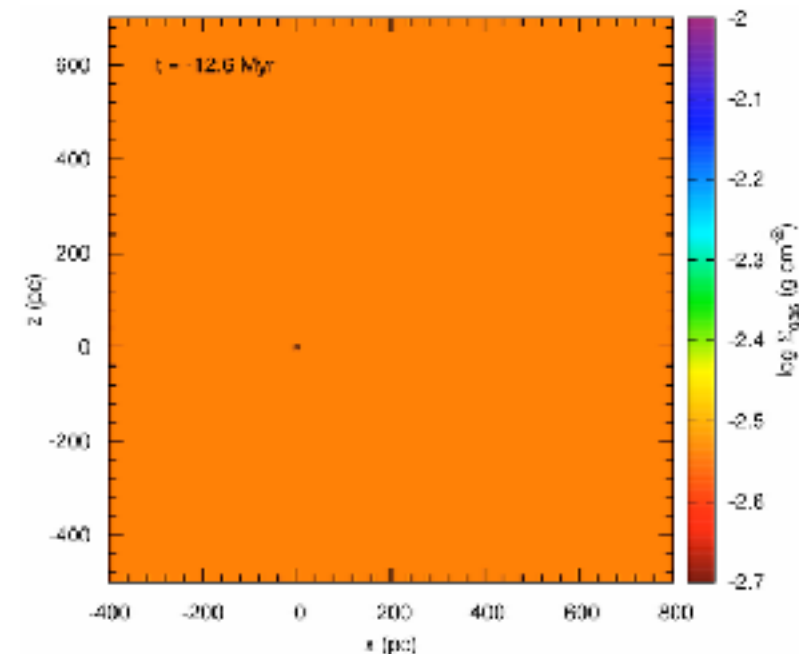
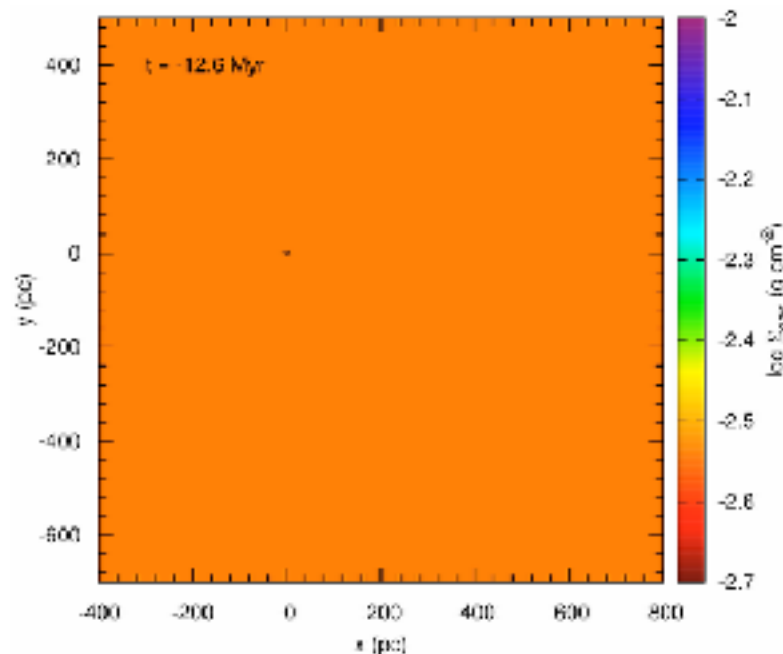
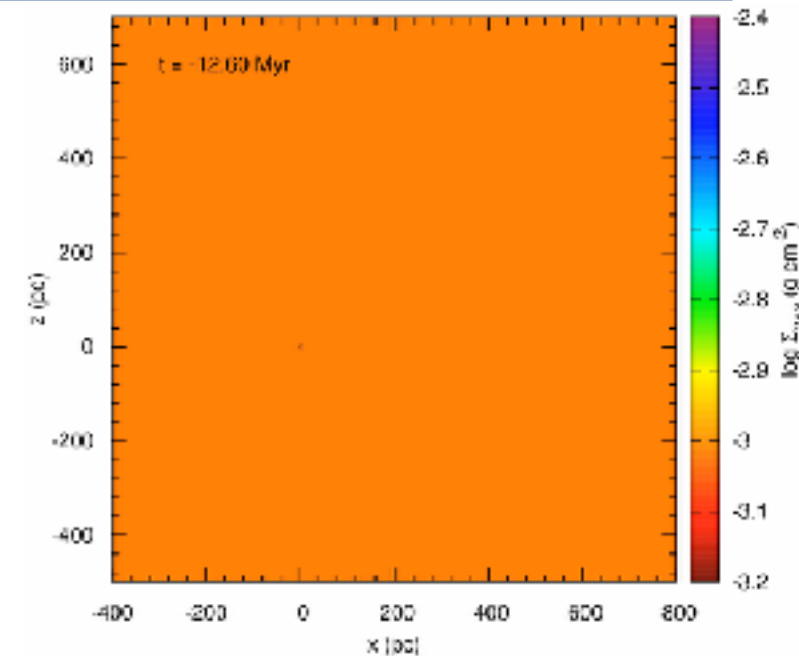
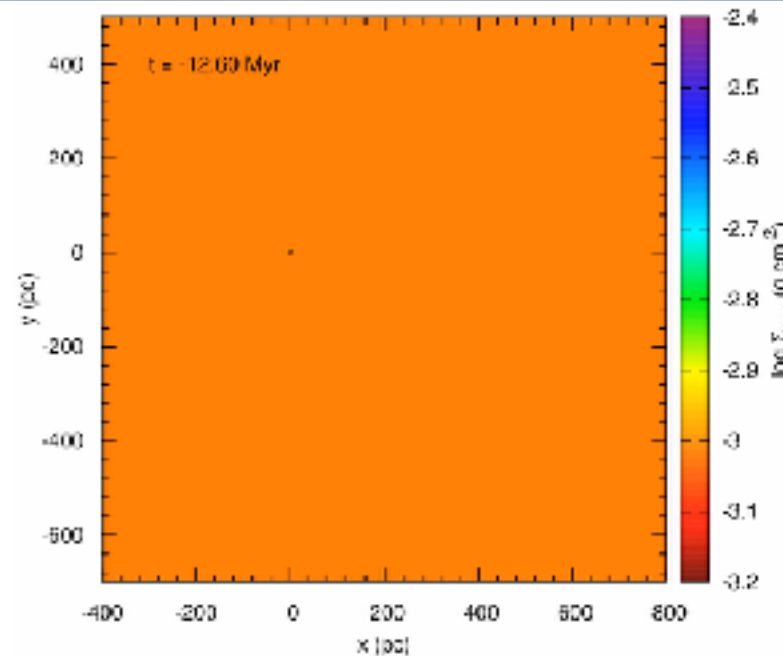
- ❖ **Model B** ( $\sim$  WNM)

- ❖  $n = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

- ❖  $T = 6800 \text{ K}$

- ❖  $Z/Z_{\odot} = 1$

- ❖  $\Delta x = 0.7 \text{ pc}$



# ISM and LB simulations VI

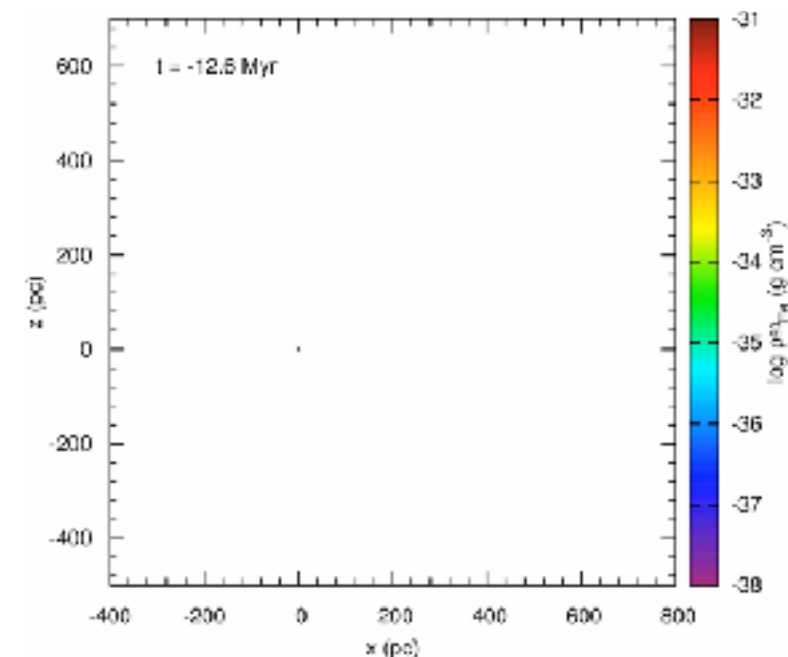
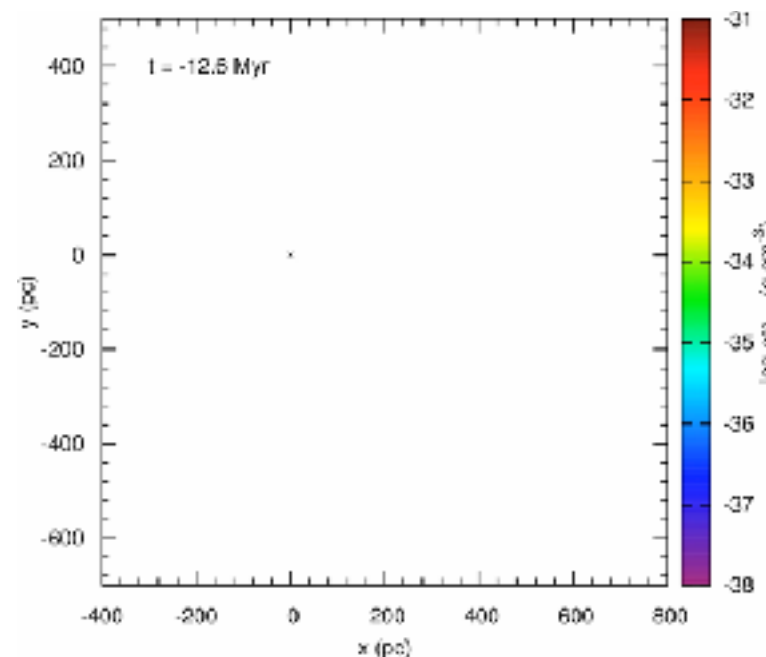
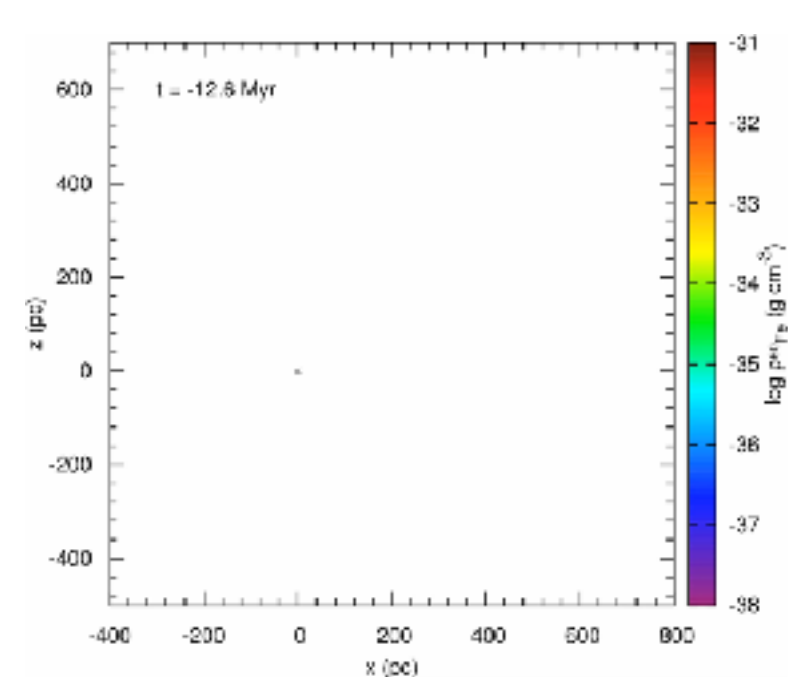
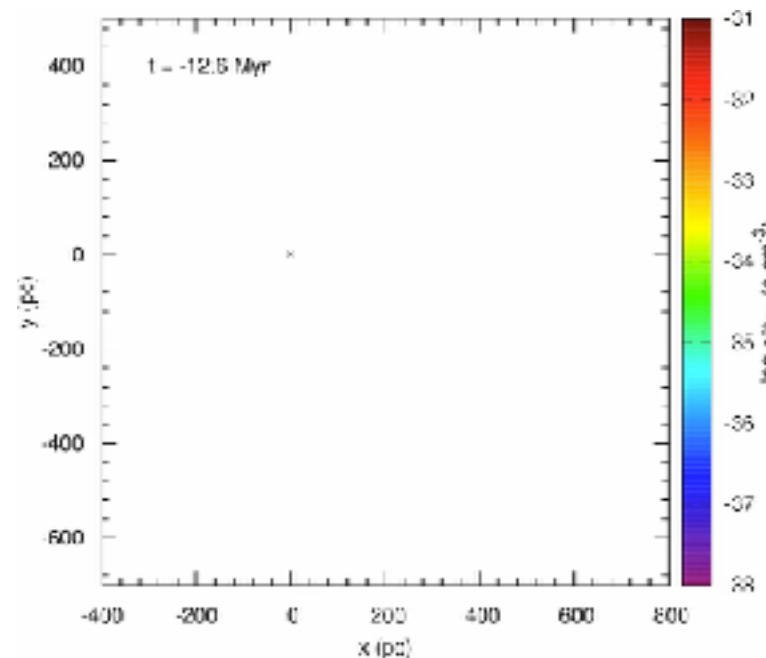
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  density  $\rho_{\text{Fe}}$
- ❖ horizontal cuts at  $z=0$  and  $y=0$ , respectively;  $t_{\text{ev}} = 12.6 \text{ Myr}$

- ❖ **Model A** ( $\sim \text{WIM}$ )

- ❖  $n = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- ❖  $T = 10^4 \text{ K}$
- ❖  $Z/Z_{\odot} = 1$
- ❖  $\Delta x = 0.7 \text{ pc}$

- ❖ **Model B** ( $\sim \text{WNM}$ )

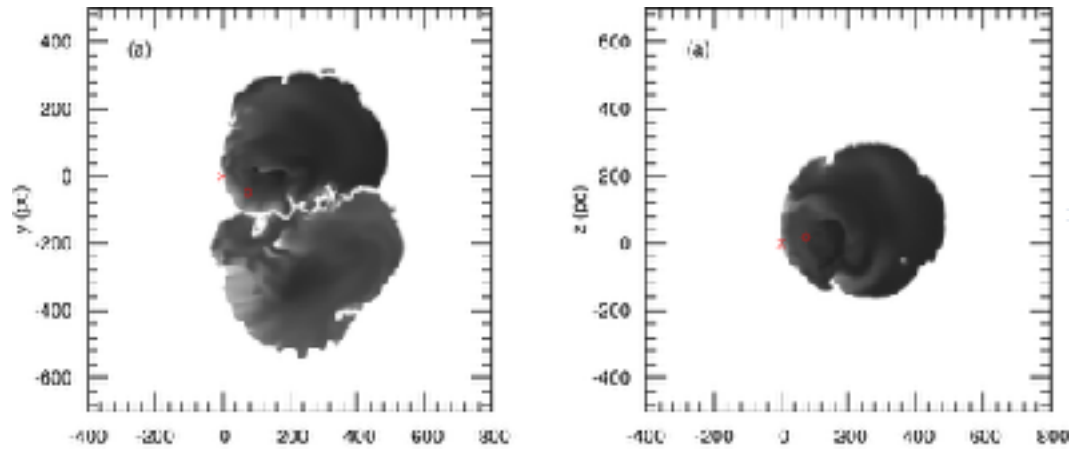
- ❖  $n = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- ❖  $T = 6800 \text{ K}$
- ❖  $Z/Z_{\odot} = 1$



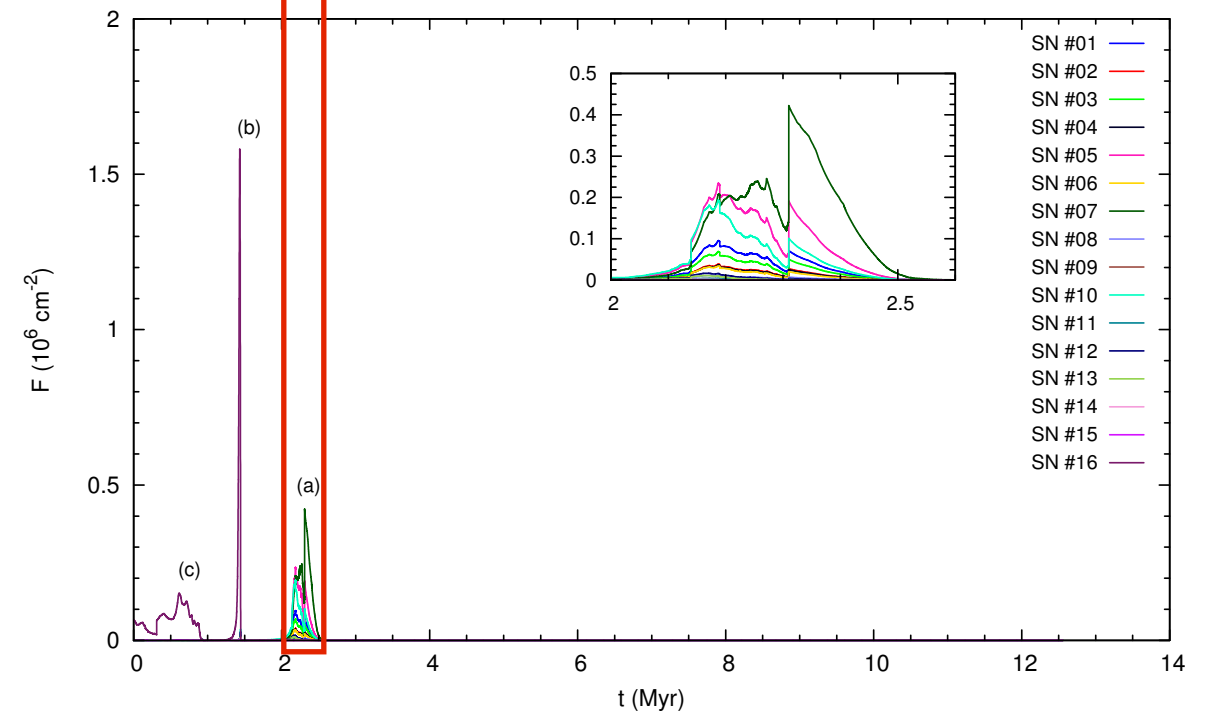
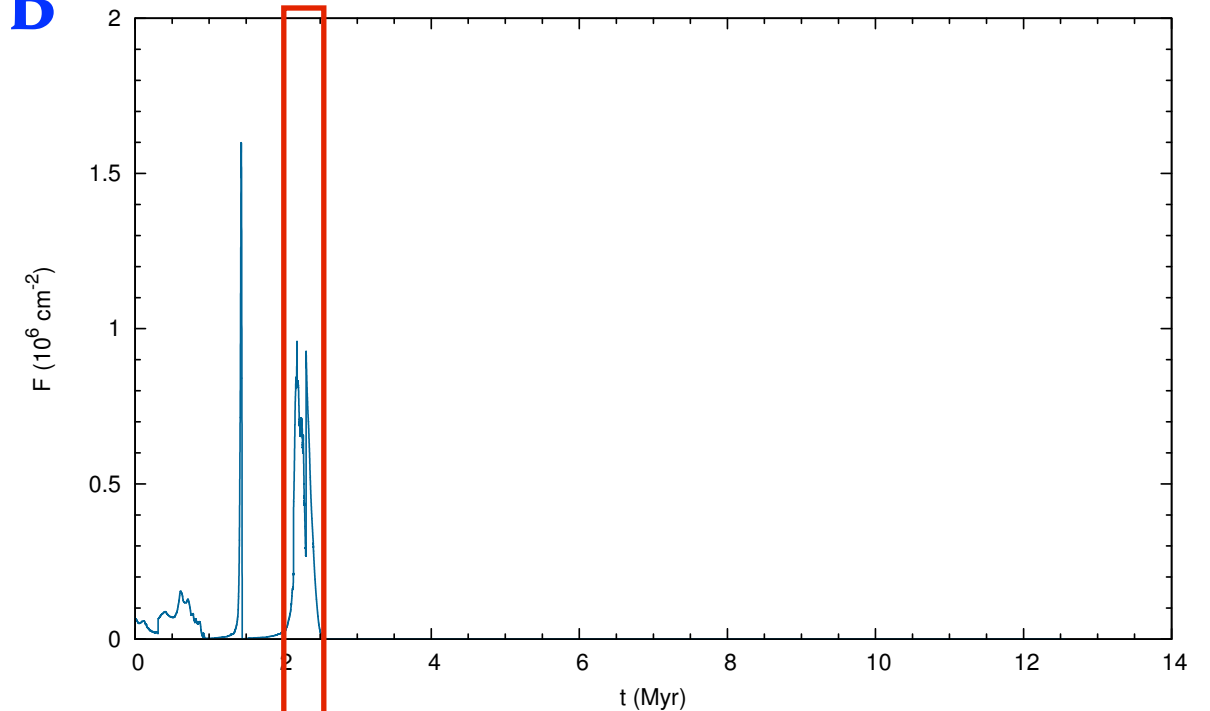


# ISM and LB simulations VII

## Model B

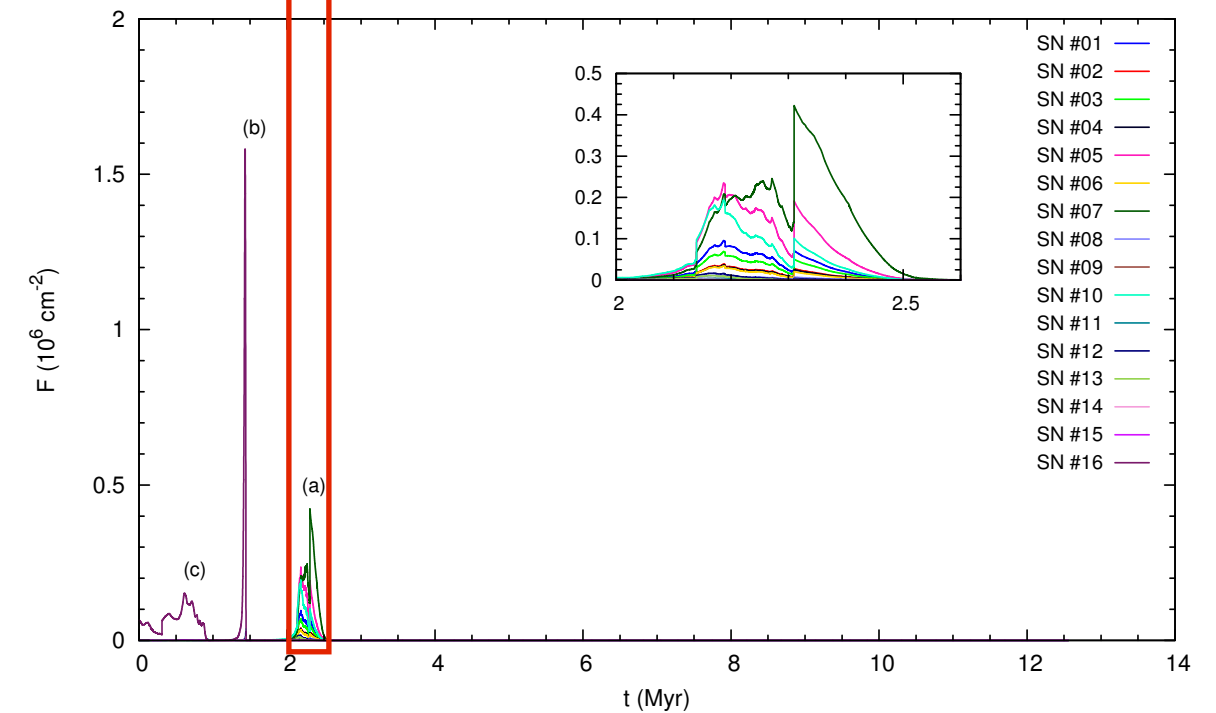
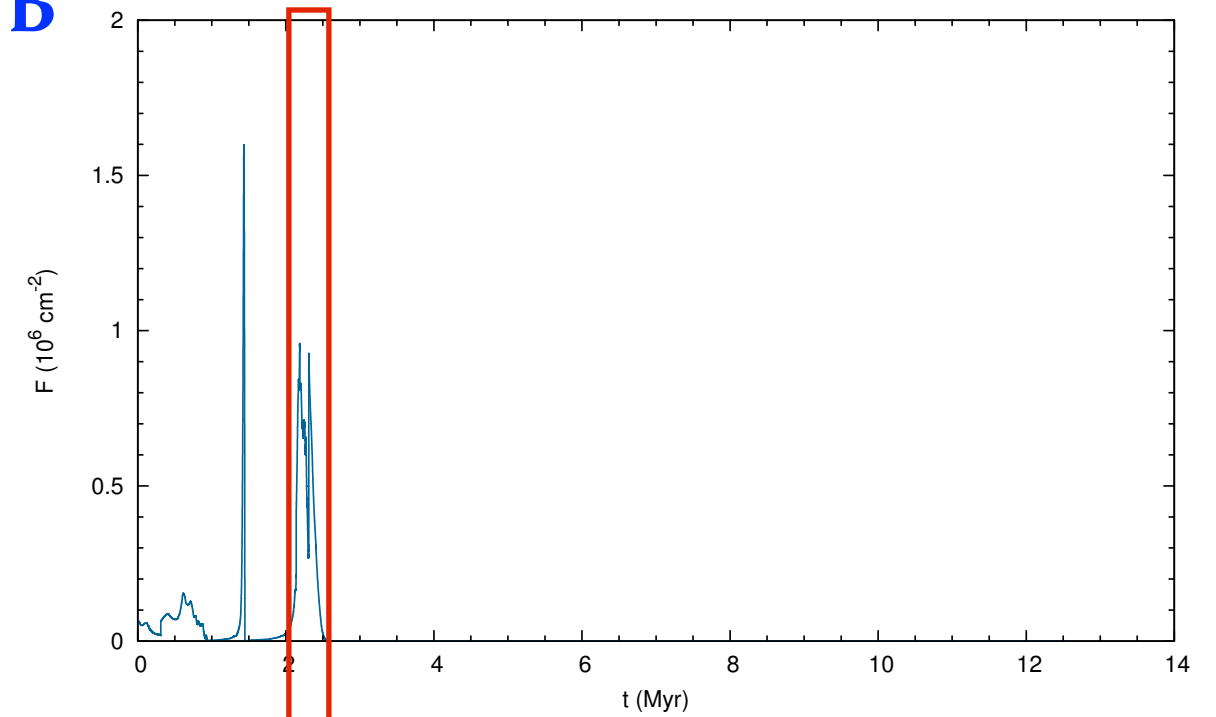
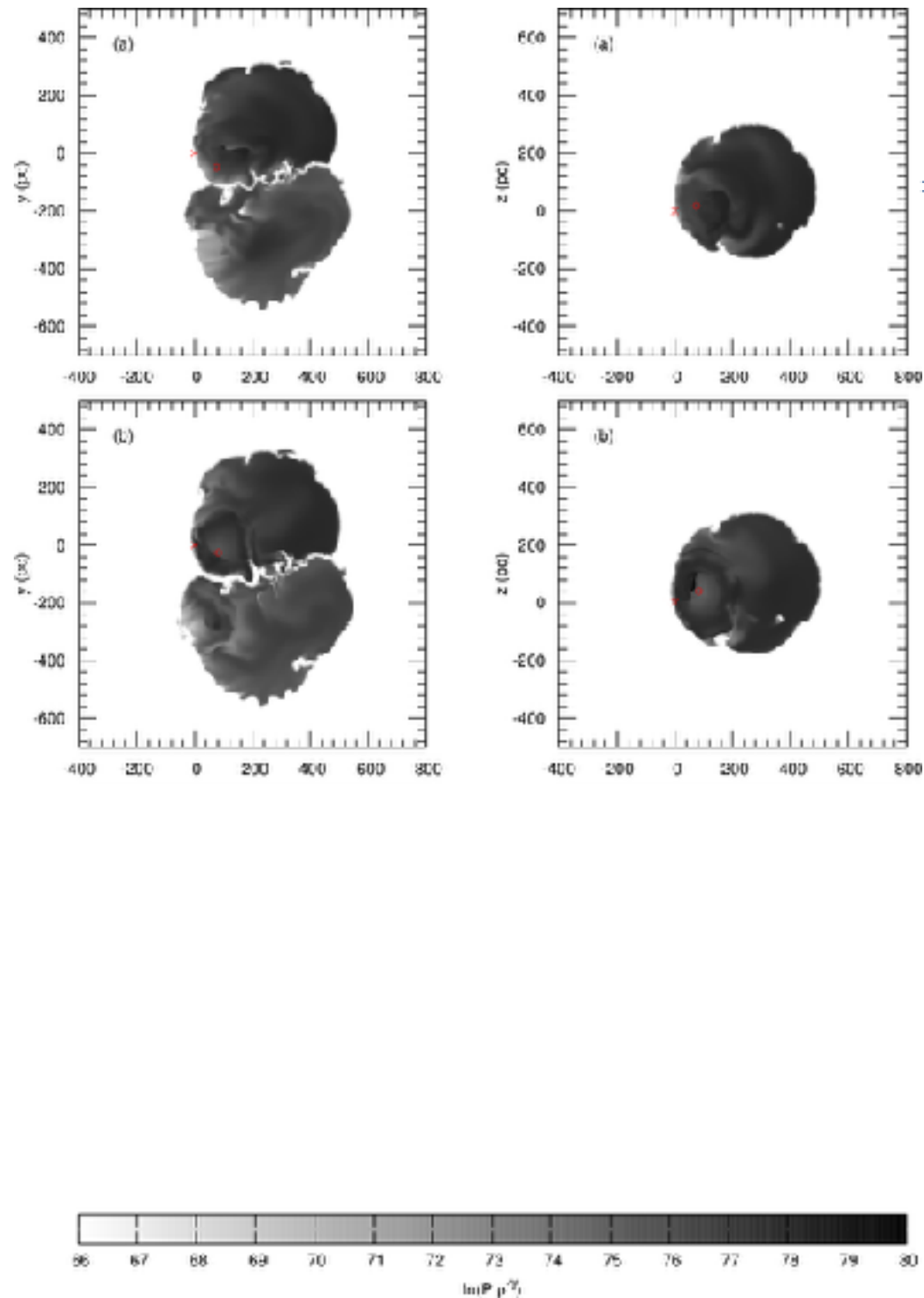


- ❖ **Entropy** is measure for temperature and **tracer** for **shocks** to trap shells
- ❖ **Entropy** maps and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  **fluence** variations (radioactive decay incl.)
- ❖ Local interstellar fluence given by
 
$$F = \frac{(\rho |\mathbf{u}| Z)_{\text{VA}}}{A m_{\text{u}}} \Delta t$$
- ❖  $(\rho |\mathbf{u}| Z)_{\text{VA}}$  ... volume-averaged  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  mass flux,  $A$  ...  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  mass number,  $m_{\text{u}}$  ... atomic mass unit,  $\Delta t$  ... last simulation time step



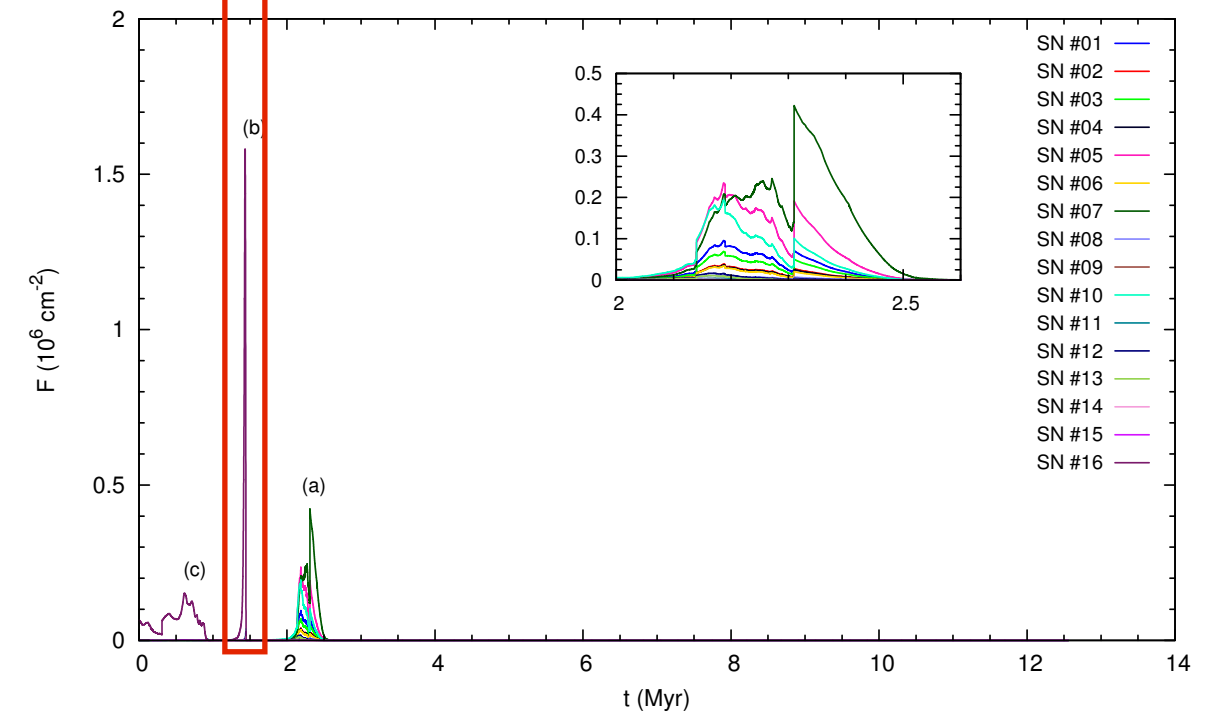
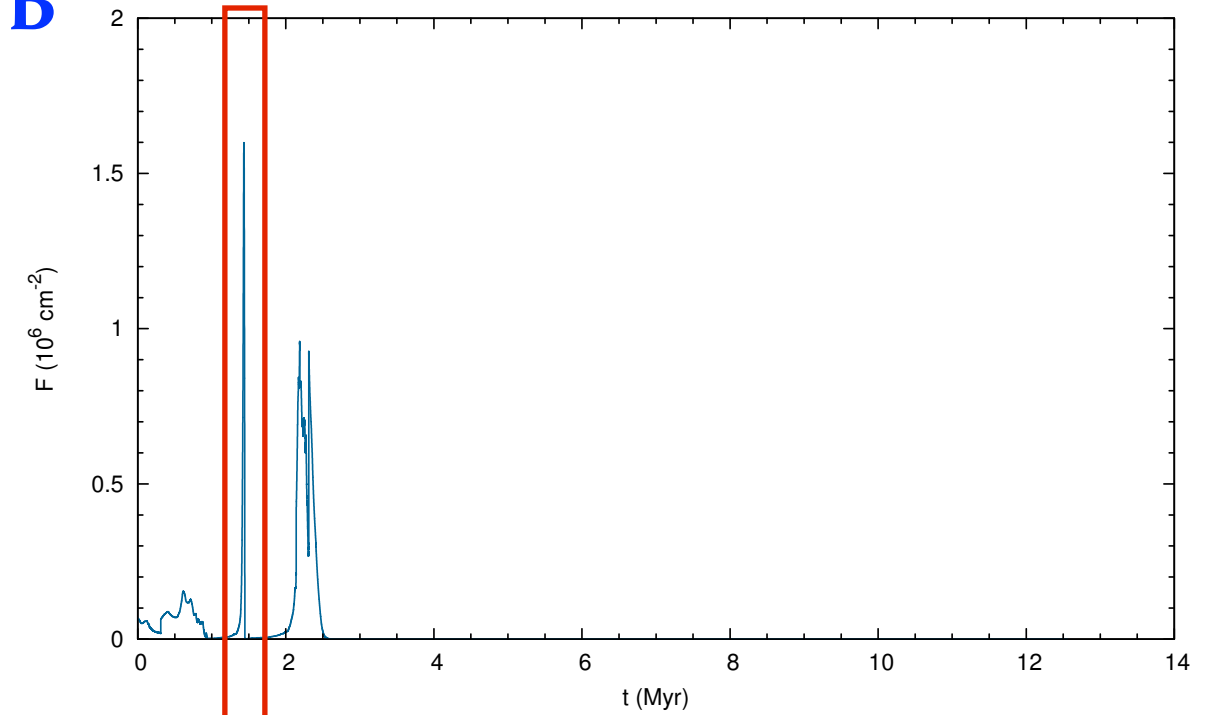
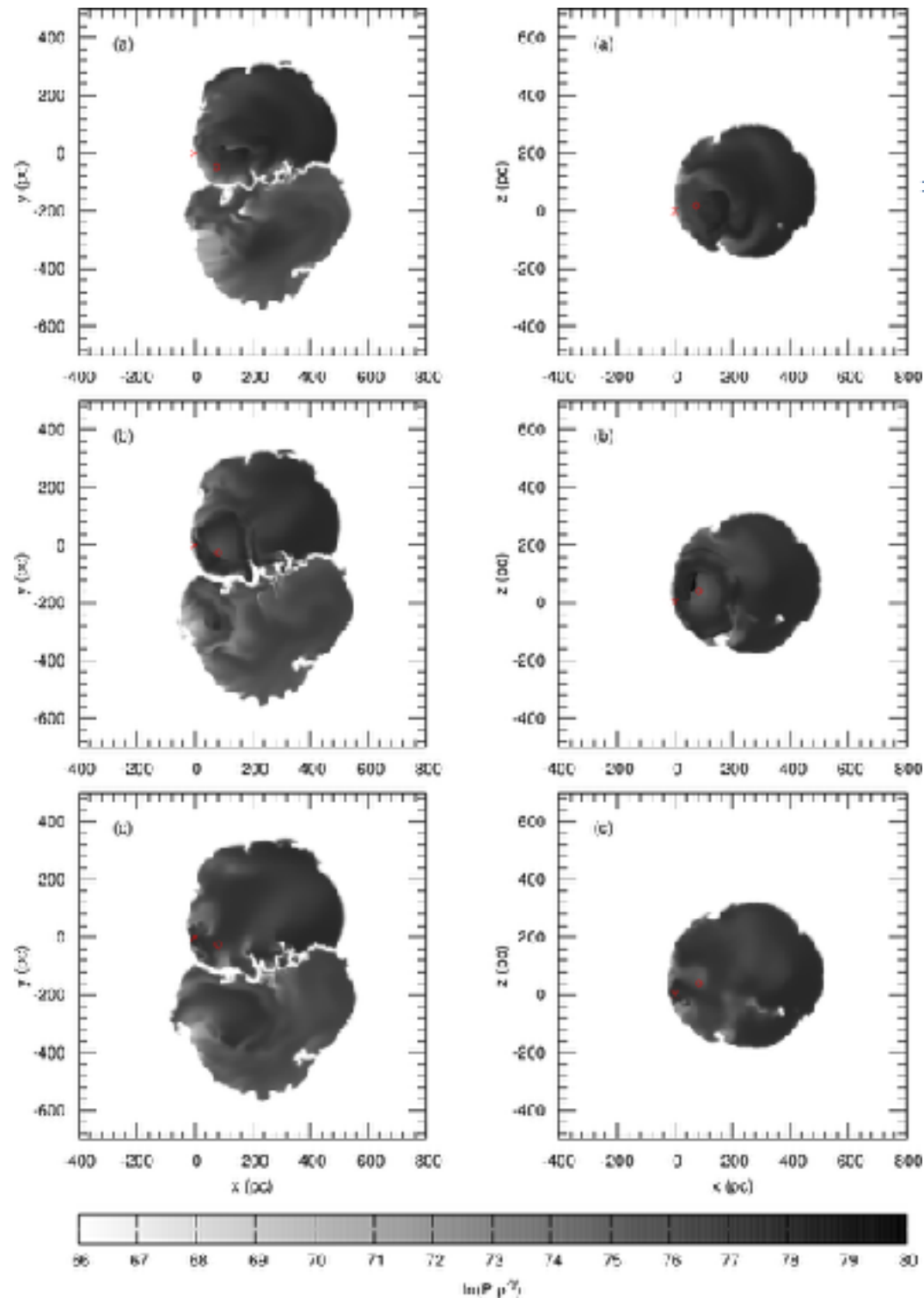
# ISM and LB simulations VIII

## Model B



# ISM and LB simulations IX

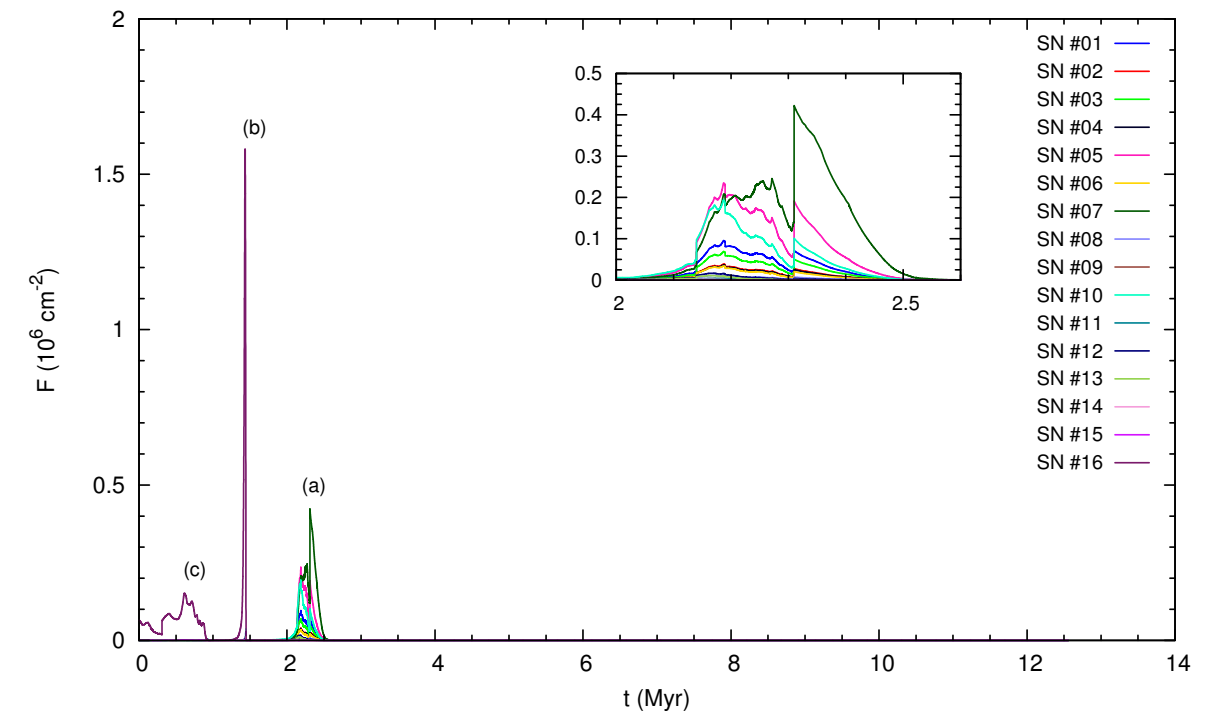
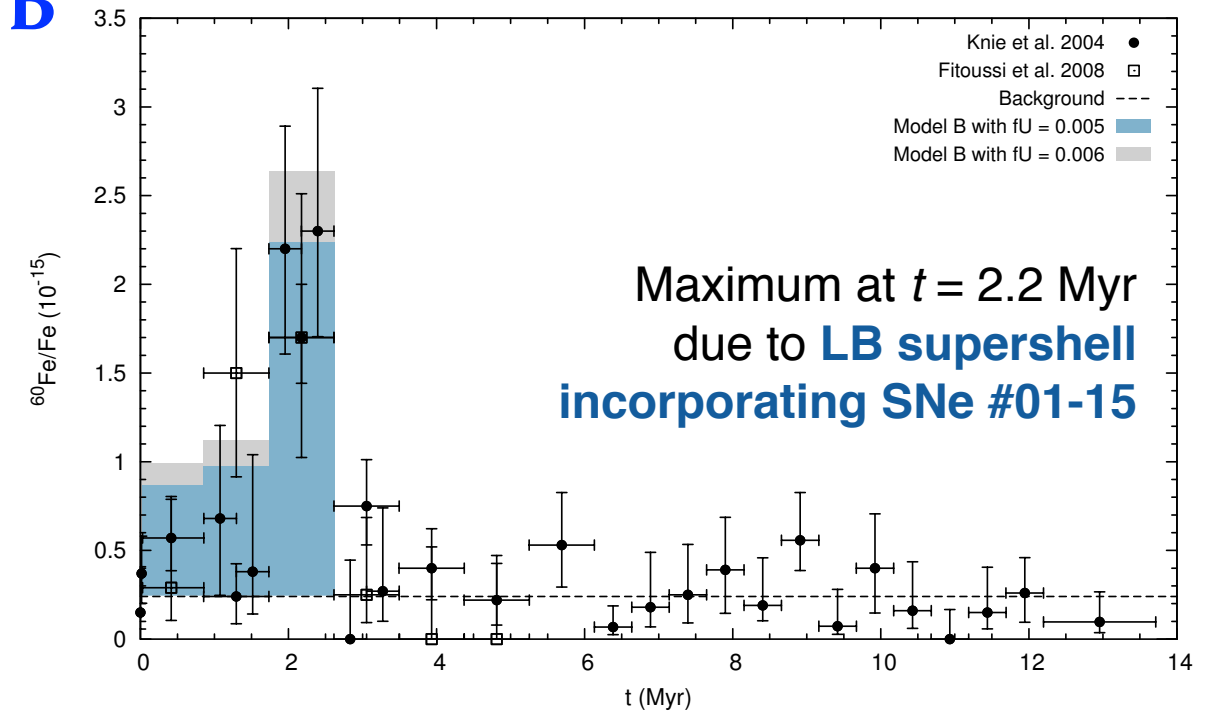
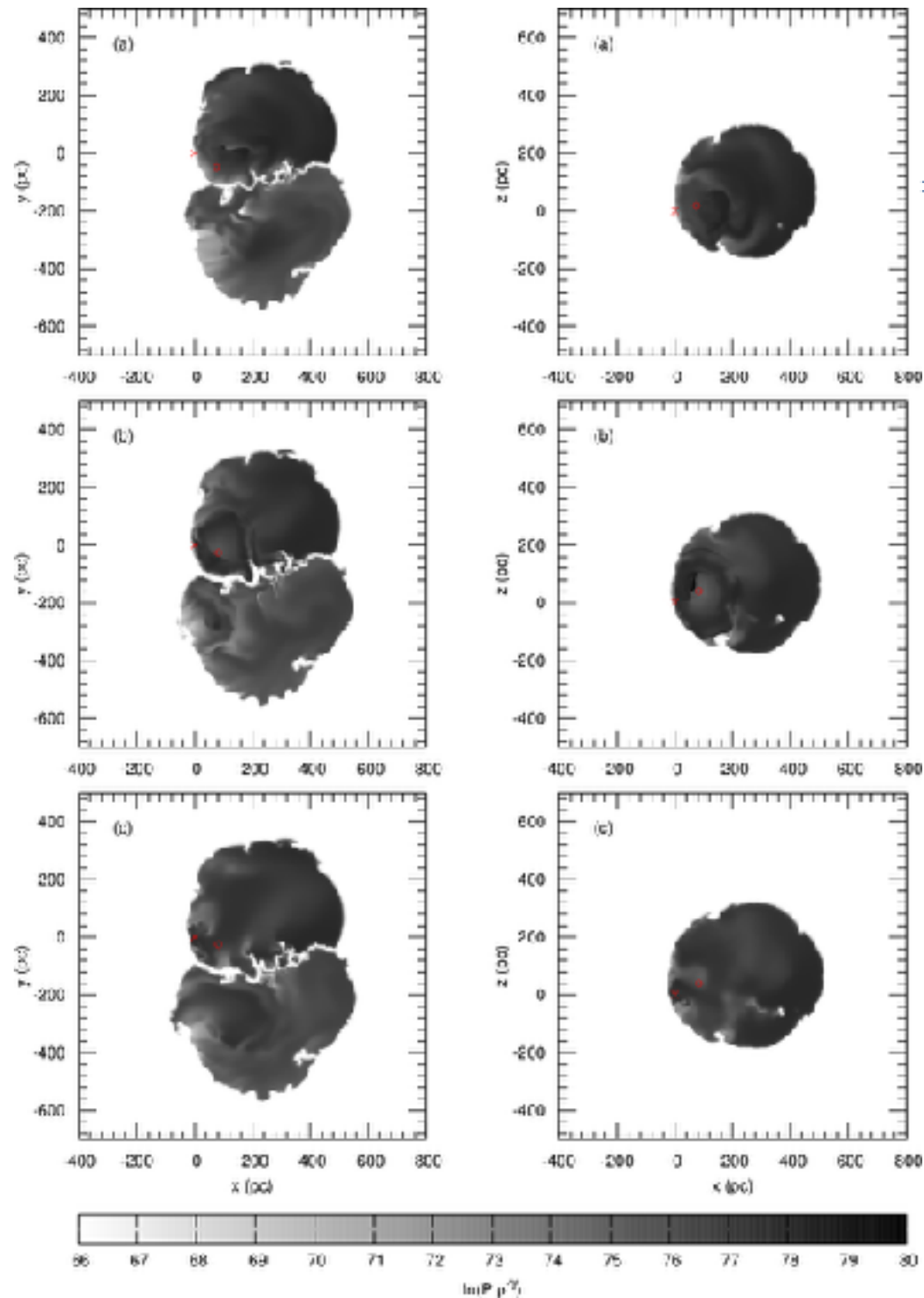
## Model B





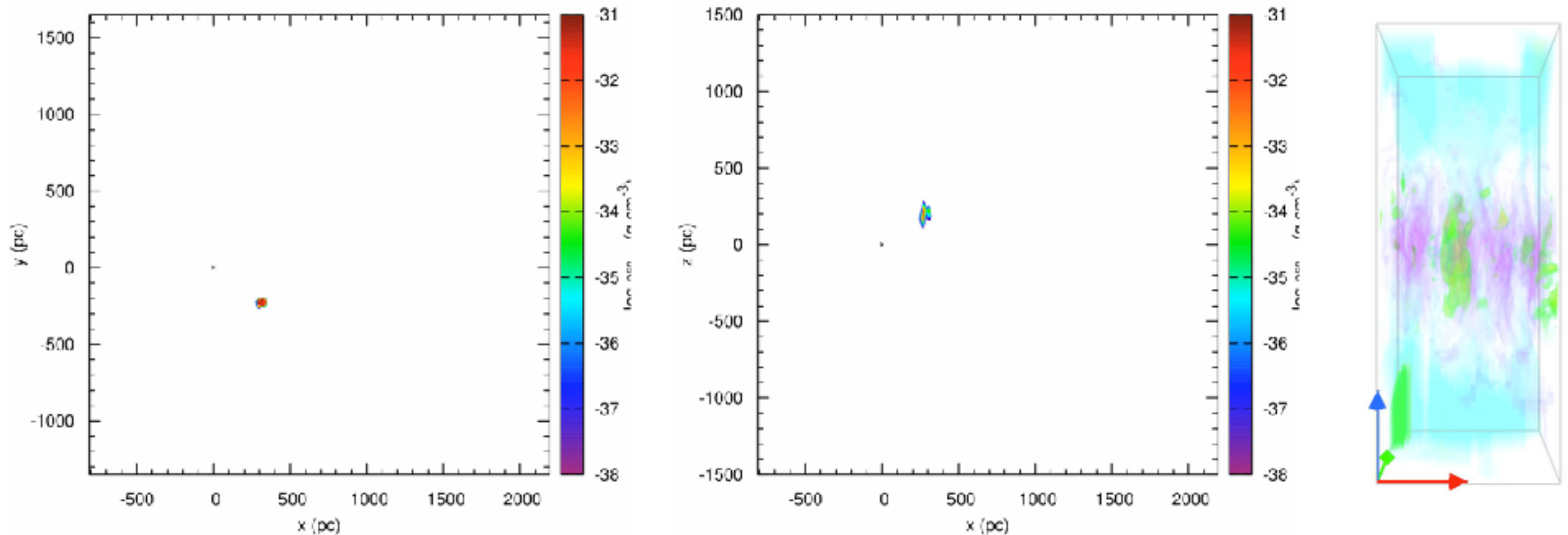
# ISM and LB simulations X

## Model B



# ISM and LB simulations XI

$^{60}\text{Fe}$  (horizontal cuts in  $z=0$  and  $y=0$  planes)



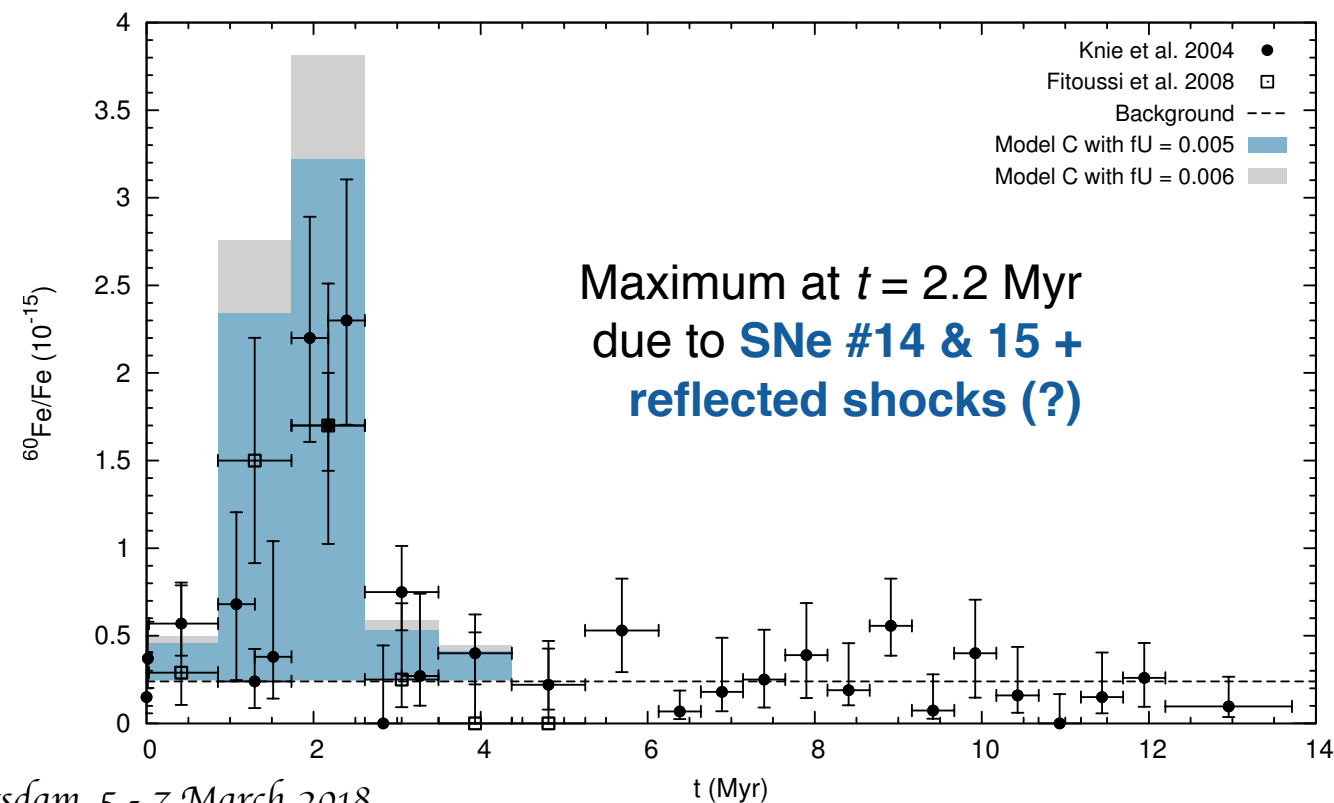
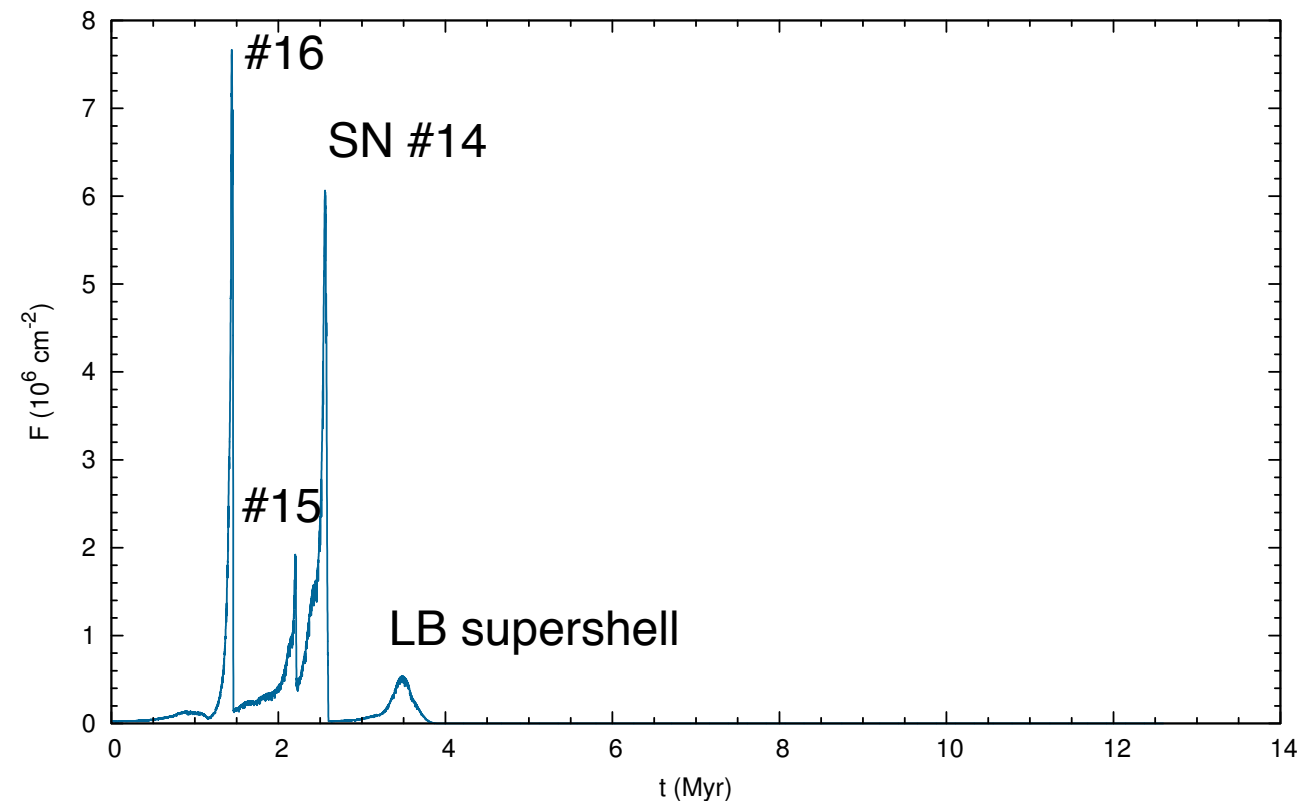
- ❖ Model C with **inhomogeneous** background evolved for 150 Myr with SN explosions at Galactic rate
- ❖  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  density  $\rho_{\text{Fe}}$  ; horizontal cuts at  $z=0$  and  $y=0$ , respectively;  $t_{\text{ev}} = 12.6$  Myr



# ISM and LB simulations XII

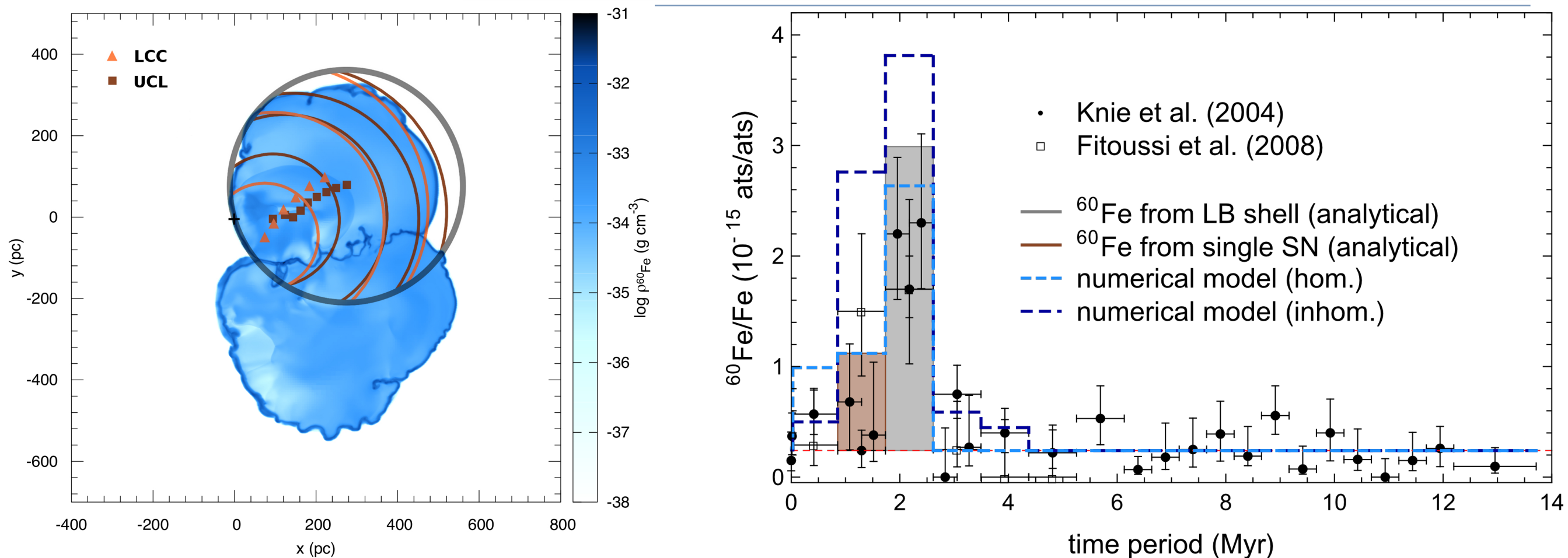
## Model C

- ❖ Model C is a hybrid between A and B
- ❖ average number density  $n = 0.2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- ❖ Fewer pulses (shells) than A but more than in B
- ❖ excellent fit to data ( $f U = 0.005$ )



# Analytical vs. Numerical Model

MSc Thesis: J. Feige, 2010



- \* Analytical Model: SN-Remnant expansion into previous remnant (Kahn 98)

$$R_{sh} = \left[ \frac{(n+5)(2n+7)E_{SN}}{6\pi\Omega} \right]^{1/(n+5)} t^{2/(n+5)}$$

$$\rho = \Omega r^n, \quad n = \frac{9}{2}$$

$$R_{LB} = 132 \left[ \frac{N_* E_{SN}}{n_0} \right]^{1/5} t_7^{3/5}$$

- \* good agreement between analytical and numerical calculations and data!



# SNe generating LB and $^{60}\text{Fe}$

$t_{\text{SN}}$	$m$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$M_{\text{ej}}$ ( $10^{-5} M_{\odot}$ )	$x$ (pc)	$y$ (pc)	$z$ (pc)	$D$ (pc)	$l$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$b$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$\alpha$	$\delta$	sc
-12.6 <sup>2</sup>	19.86	6.3	277	75	89	300	15.15	17.23	17 <sup>h</sup> 17 <sup>m</sup>	-7 <sup>o</sup> 09 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-12.0 <sup>3</sup>	18.61	5.5	223	99	71	254	23.94	16.22	17 <sup>h</sup> 37 <sup>m</sup>	-0 <sup>o</sup> 21 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-11.3 <sup>2</sup>	17.34	5.0	251	67	87	274	14.95	18.52	17 <sup>h</sup> 12 <sup>m</sup>	-6 <sup>o</sup> 39 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-10.0 <sup>2</sup>	15.41	4.2	227	57	83	248	14.10	19.53	17 <sup>h</sup> 07 <sup>m</sup>	-6 <sup>o</sup> 48 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-10.0 <sup>3</sup>	15.36	4.1	185	77	67	211	22.60	18.49	17 <sup>h</sup> 27 <sup>m</sup>	-0 <sup>o</sup> 23 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-8.7 <sup>2</sup>	13.89	3.6	203	45	79	222	12.50	20.80	17 <sup>h</sup> 00 <sup>m</sup>	-7 <sup>o</sup> 23 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-8.0 <sup>3</sup>	13.12	3.4	151	49	57	169	17.98	19.75	17 <sup>h</sup> 14 <sup>m</sup>	-3 <sup>o</sup> 34 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-7.5 <sup>2</sup>	12.65	3.3	181	31	75	198	9.72	22.22	16 <sup>h</sup> 49 <sup>m</sup>	-8 <sup>o</sup> 46 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-6.3 <sup>2</sup>	11.62	3.0	163	11	73	179	3.86	24.10	16 <sup>h</sup> 30 <sup>m</sup>	-12 <sup>o</sup> 03 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-6.1 <sup>3</sup>	11.48	2.9	121	19	47	131	8.92	20.99	16 <sup>h</sup> 52 <sup>m</sup>	-10 <sup>o</sup> 04 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-5.0 <sup>2</sup>	10.76	2.7	145	-5	69	161	-1.97	25.43	16 <sup>h</sup> 12 <sup>m</sup>	-15 <sup>o</sup> 19 <sup>m</sup>	Sco
-4.2 <sup>3</sup>	10.21	2.6	97	-15	33	104	-8.79	18.58	16 <sup>h</sup> 16 <sup>m</sup>	-24 <sup>o</sup> 35 <sup>m</sup>	Sco
-3.8 <sup>2</sup>	10.02	2.6	125	1	51	135	0.46	22.19	16 <sup>h</sup> 28 <sup>m</sup>	-15 <sup>o</sup> 40 <sup>m</sup>	Oph
-2.6 <sup>2</sup>	9.37	2.4	95	-9	47	106	-5.41	26.22	16 <sup>h</sup> 01 <sup>m</sup>	-17 <sup>o</sup> 05 <sup>m</sup>	Lib
-2.3 <sup>3</sup>	9.21	2.4	75	-49	17	91	-33.16	10.74	15 <sup>h</sup> 10 <sup>m</sup>	-45 <sup>o</sup> 35 <sup>m</sup>	Lup
-1.5 <sup>2</sup>	8.81	2.3	83	-25	41	96	-16.76	25.31	15 <sup>h</sup> 32 <sup>m</sup>	-24 <sup>o</sup> 44 <sup>m</sup>	Lib

# Effects of Near-Earth SNe I

## - some speculations -

- ❖ Australopithecus should have seen SN 2.2 Myr ago during daylight
- ❖ SNe beyond “kill radius” ( $\approx 10$  pc)
  - would lead to ionisation of atmosphere
  - $\text{NO}_x$  formation → ozone layer destruction → increased solar UV radiation → damage of DNA / cells
- ❖ X- and  $\gamma$ -ray flux too low for mass extinction, but long-term mutations?
- ❖ Cosmic ray flux significantly higher
  - increased nucleation / cloud coverage → climatic changes → global cooling?



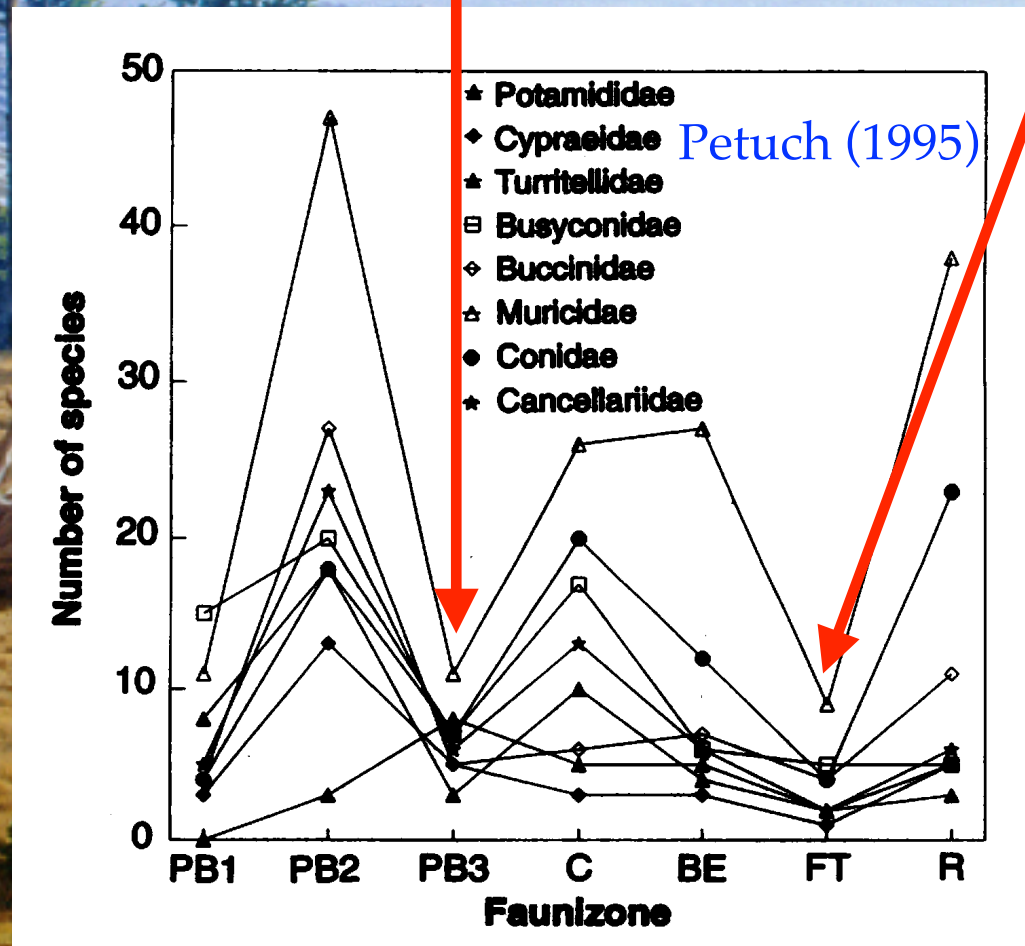
- ❖ mass extinction near pliocene-pleistocene transition 2.5 Myr ago
- ❖ Reason: abrupt cooling → reduction of species, some in warmer regions survived



# Effects of Near-EarthSNe II

2.5 Mio. J.

0.15 Mio. J.

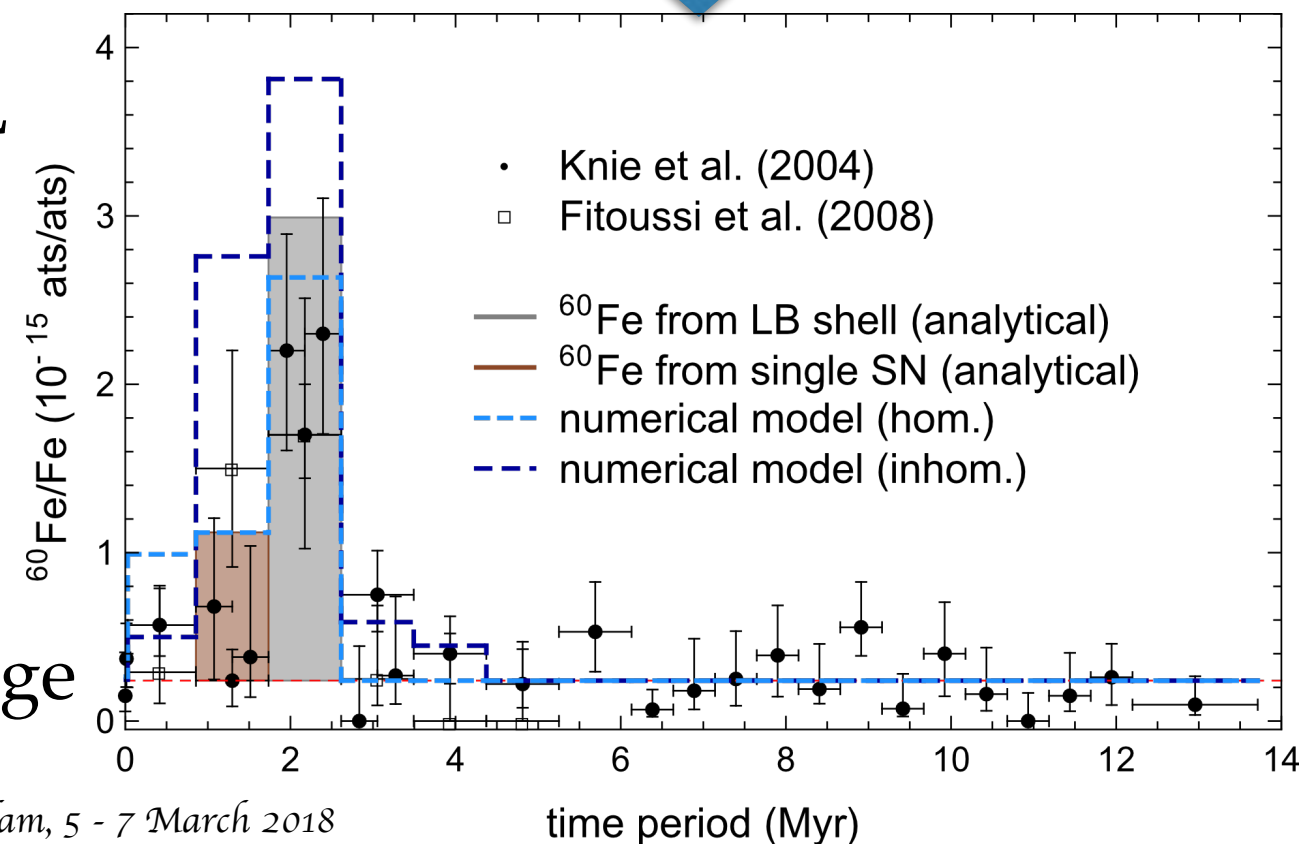
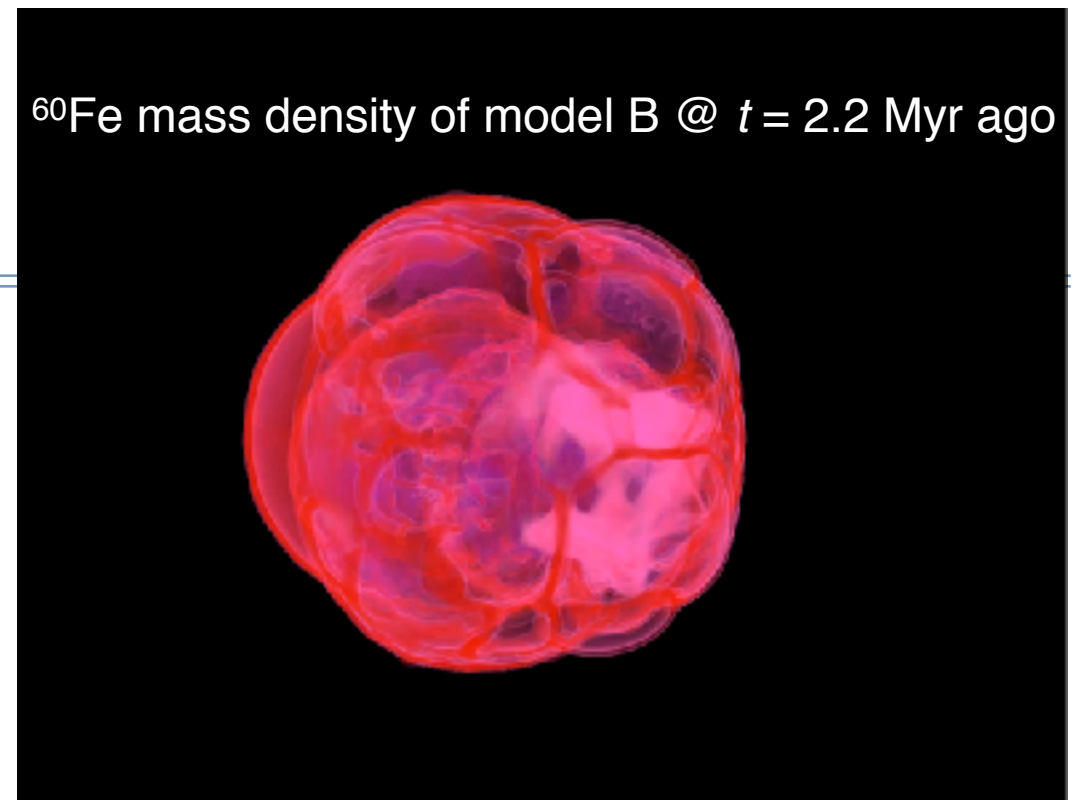


- ❖ increase in glaciation down to mid-latitudes
- ❖ only dominant species survived → among hominini: homo erectus → direct ancestor of homo sapiens (Africa) and Neanderthals (Europe)



# 2nd Summary

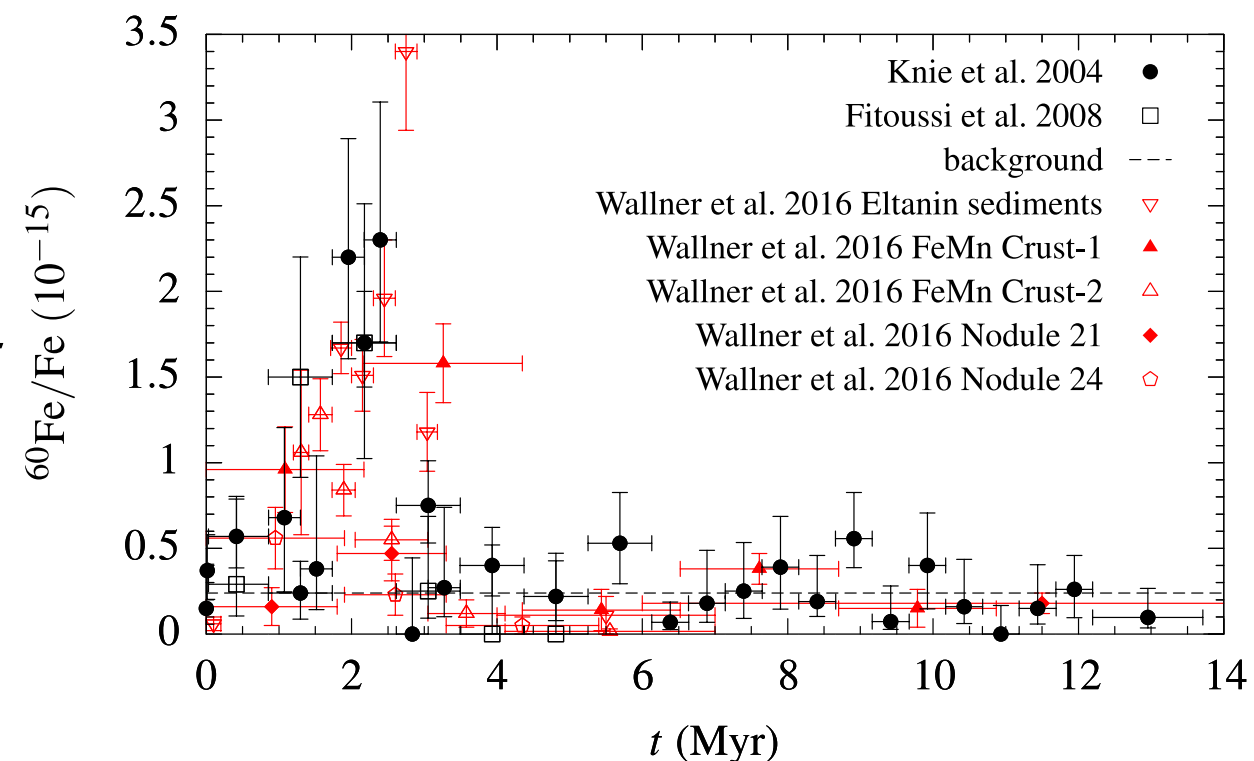
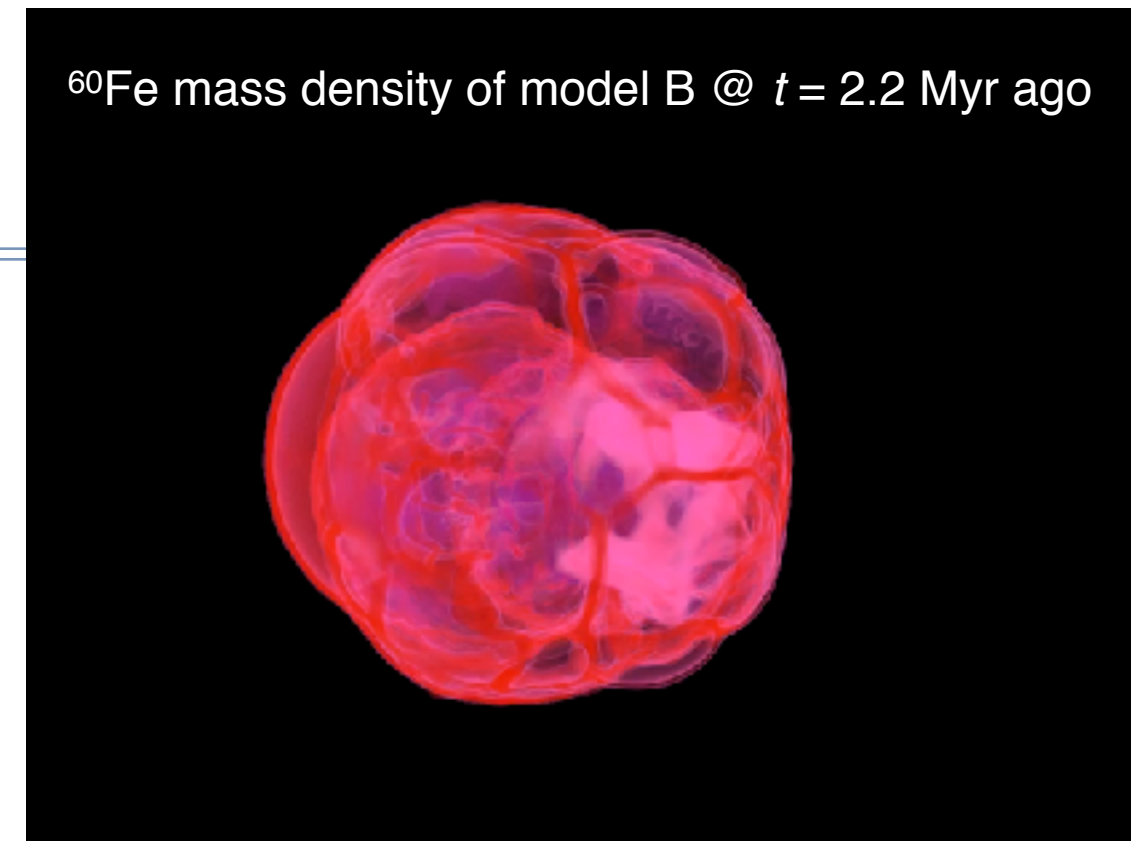
- ❖ We found SNe responsible for **both** the **LB and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  deposition** on Earth
- ❖ SN ejected  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  is mixed and transported to Earth by ISM turbulence and **shocks**
- ❖ Cluster age from **isochrones**
- ❖ SN progenitor mass calculated from IMF  
→ **explosion times!**
- ❖ Stellar trajectories from **HIPP+ARIVEL**  
→ **positions of stars as function of time!**
- ❖ Dust produced in SNe →  $^{60}\text{Fe}$   
incorporated in dust particles → less  
affected by solar wind ram pressure →  
move ballistically
- ❖ Dust sputtered during ISM travel → large  
particles survive





# 2nd Summary cont.

- ❖ Uncertainties in  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  yields from SNe and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  uptake and survival factor change absolute but not relative distribution  
→ peak and slopes remain!
- ❖ Average ambient den.  $\leq 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (mod. B)  
Two **deposition scenarios**:
  - (i) individual SN shells sweep over Earth
  - (ii) LB shell crosses Earth → broad peak
- ❖ higher time resolution measurements (Wallner+16) favour (ii)
- ❖ LB properties best reproduced by inhom. model (AB 2012, Schulreich+17)
- ❖ Use radioactive tracers, deep-sea astronomy and stellar dynamics (new GAIA data) to uncover LISM history
- ❖ → **Local Galactic Archaeology**



# Media Response

- Breitschwerdt, D., Feige, J., Schulreich, M. M., de Aveliz, M. A., Dettbarn, C. 2016, Nature, 532, 73
- Schulreich, M. M., Breitschwerdt, D., Feige, J., Dettbarn, C. 2017, A&A, 604, 81
- Schulreich, M. M., Breitschwerdt, D., Feige, J., Dettbarn, C. 2018, Galaxies, 6, 26

German quiz show “Wer weiß denn sowas?” (July 2016)

Thank you for your patience and attention!

How could scientists prove that our Earth has recently seen several supernovae?

A) by multicoloured meteorite craters

B) by pulverised dinosaur bones

C) by star dust on the ocean floor