



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRIESTE**



Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste  
Astronomical Observatory of Trieste



# Galactic Archaeology with neutron capture elements

**Gabriele Cescutti**  
in collaboration with  
**Federico Rizzuti & Lorenzo Cavallo**

**PRIN Cosmic pot**



Ministero  
dell'Università  
e della Ricerca

Hirschegg, 20 January 2025

**EMMI Workshop and International Workshop LI on  
Nucleosynthesis of Heavy Elements: r-process**



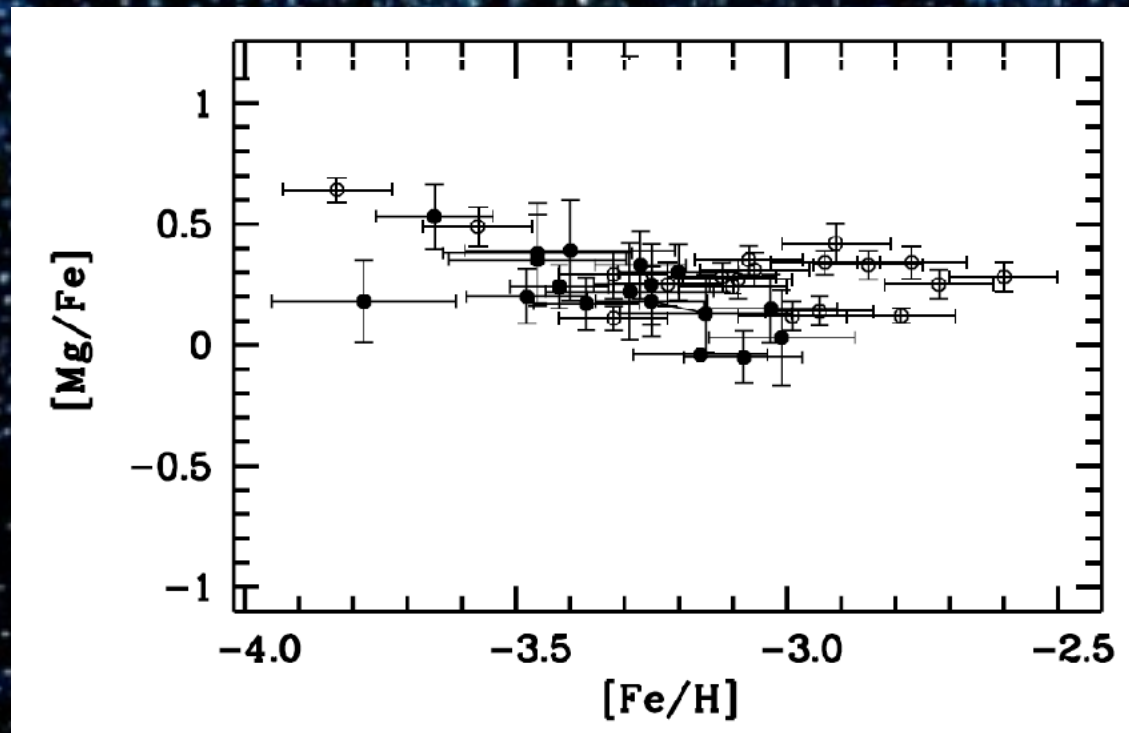


# Why neutron capture elements?

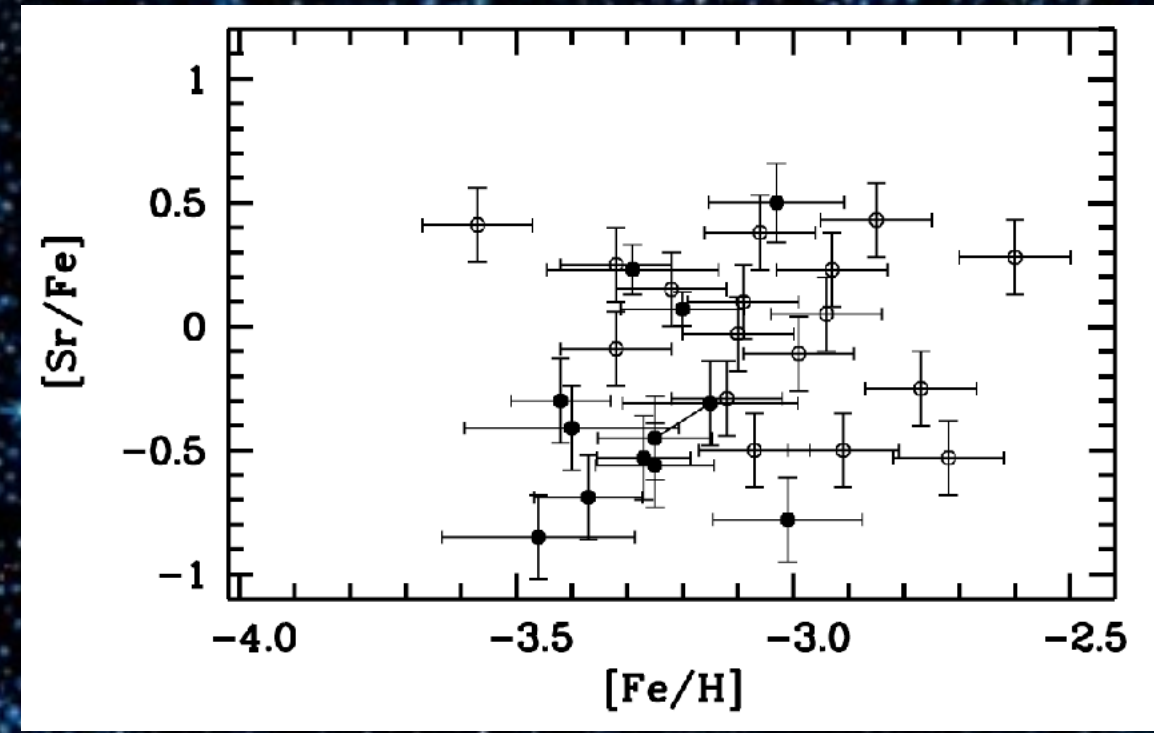


# Why neutron capture elements?

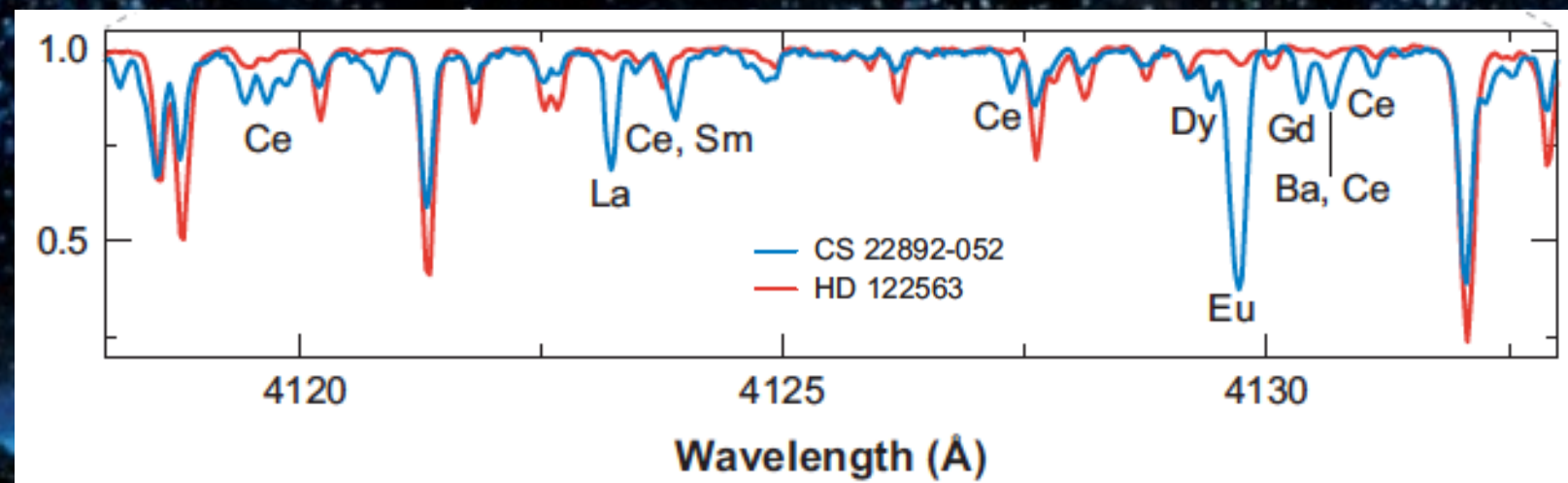
Mg: alpha-element



Sr: neutron capture element

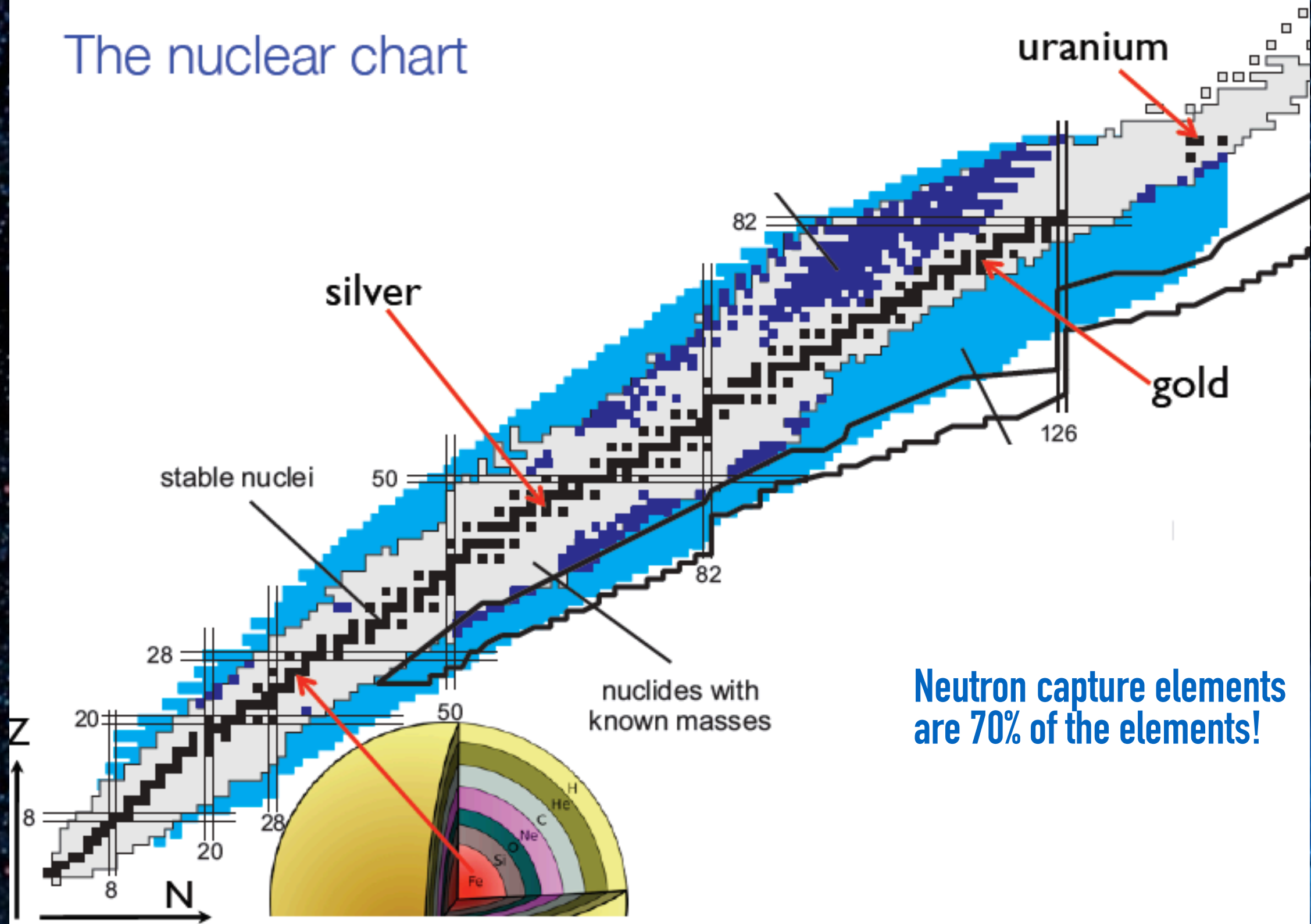


Bonifacio+12





# The nuclear chart



Neutron capture elements are 70% of the elements!

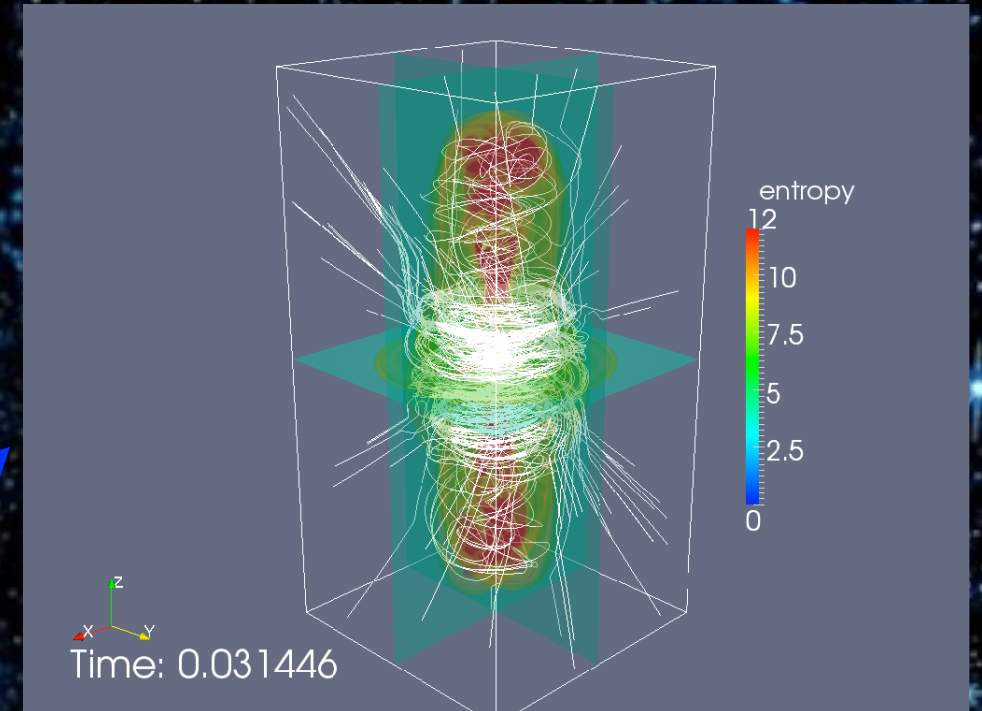


Electron Capture SNe (Wanajo+11)



Cescutti+13

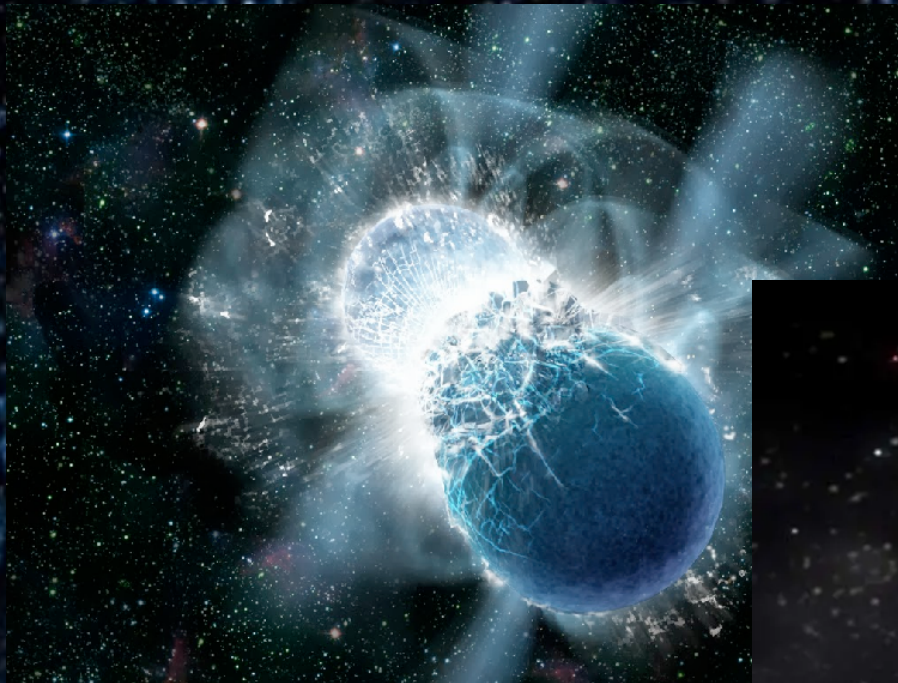
Magnetorotat. driven SNe (Winteler+12)



Cescutti+14

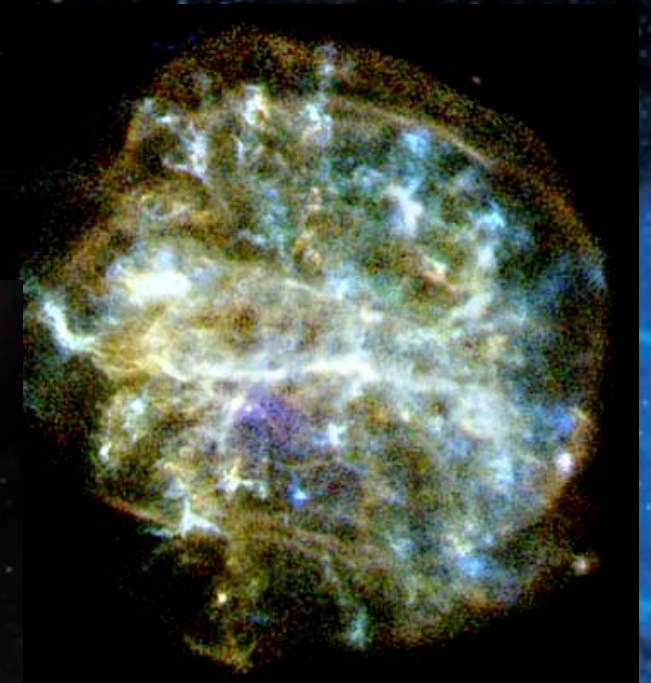
## Site(s) of the r-process?

Neutron star mergers (Rosswog+13)



(Cescutti+15, Matteucci+14,...)

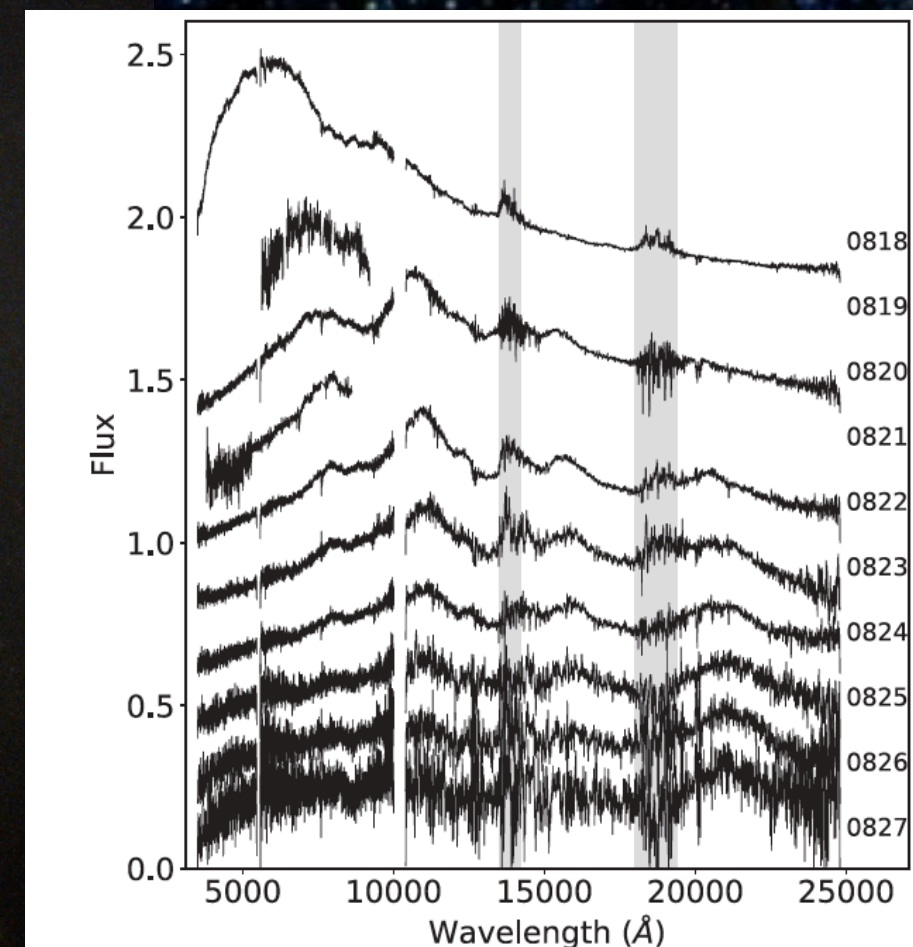
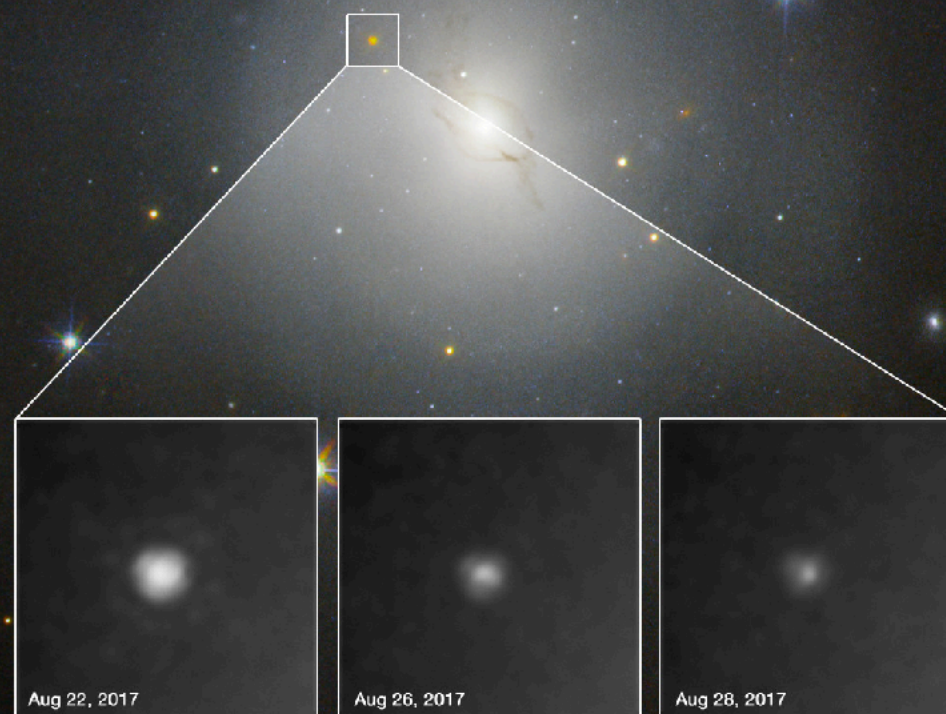
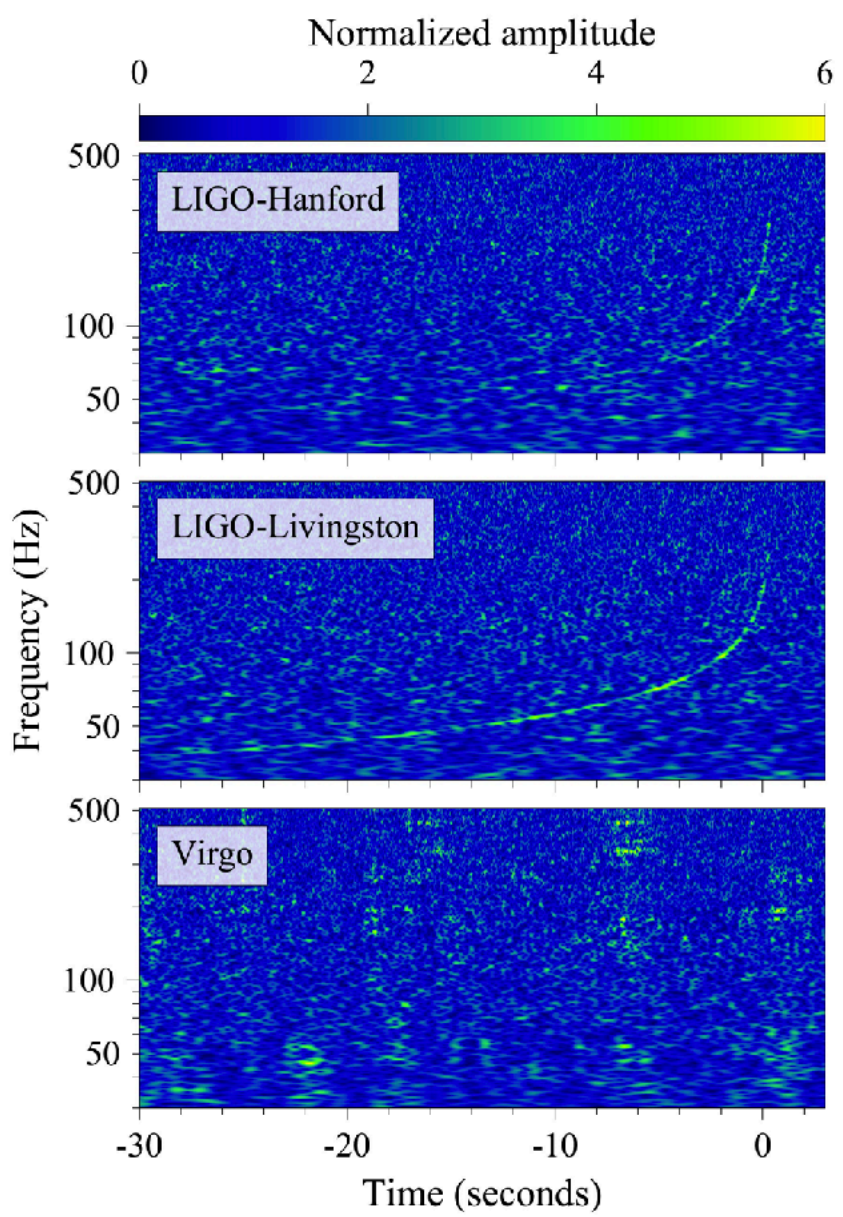
Neutrino winds SNe (Arcones+07, Wanajo 13)



Collapsar (Siegel+2019)

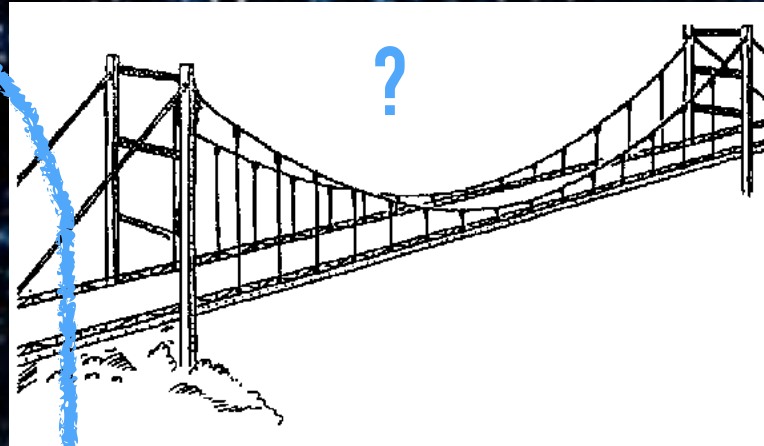
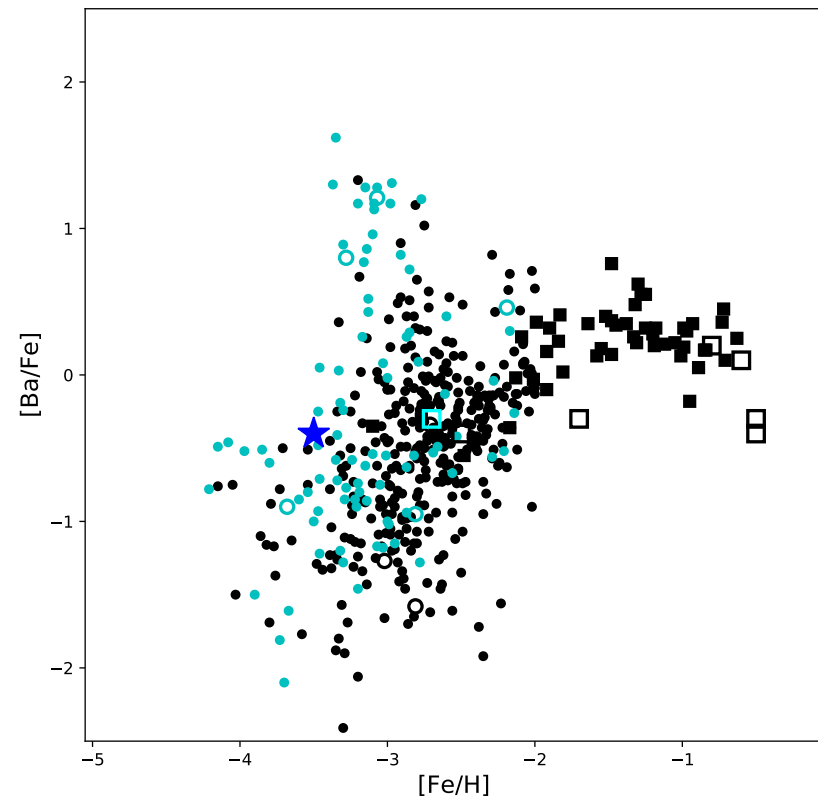


# After GW170817...

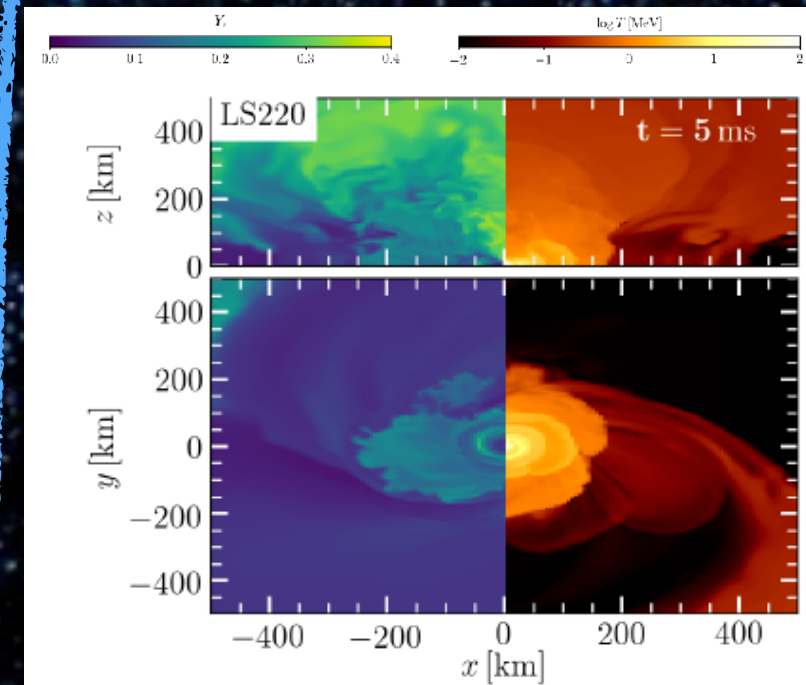




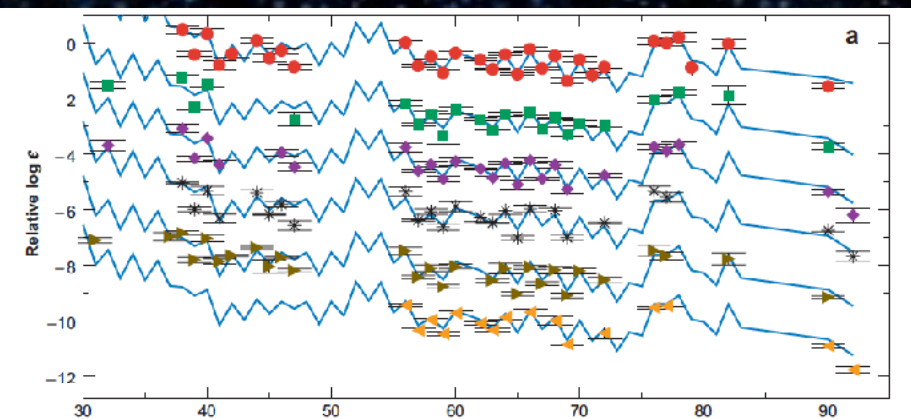
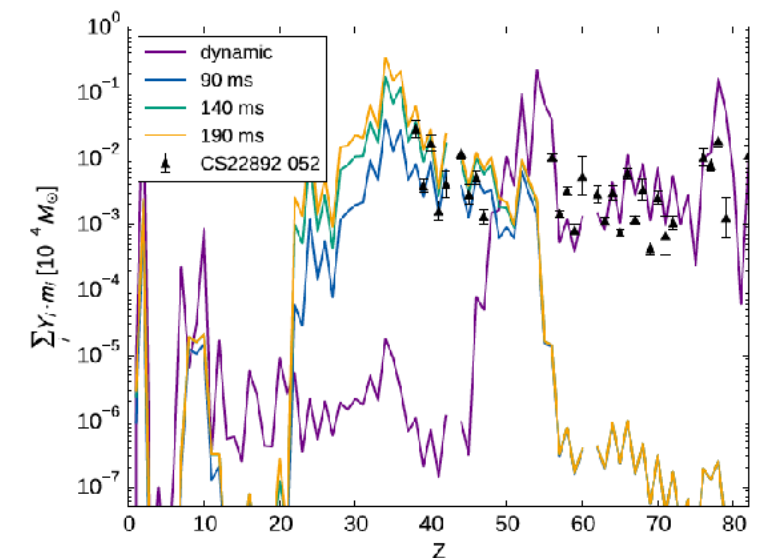
# How to?



## Neutron star mergers



## r-process



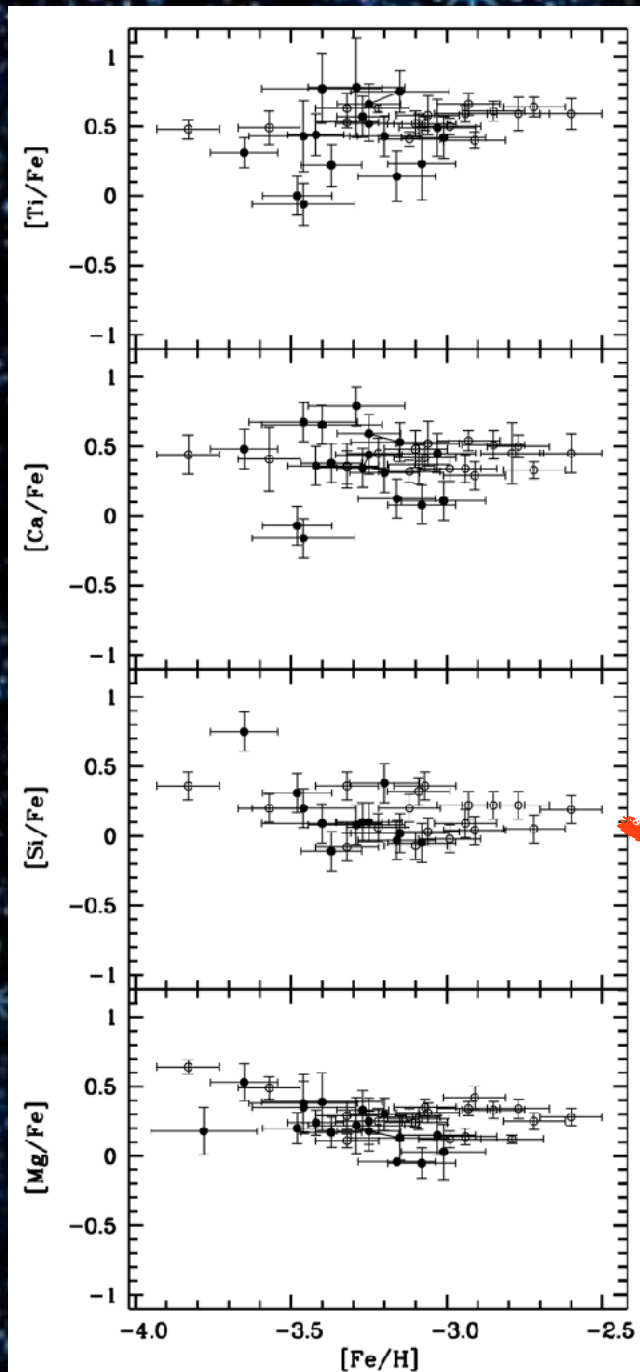


# Stochastic chemical evolution models

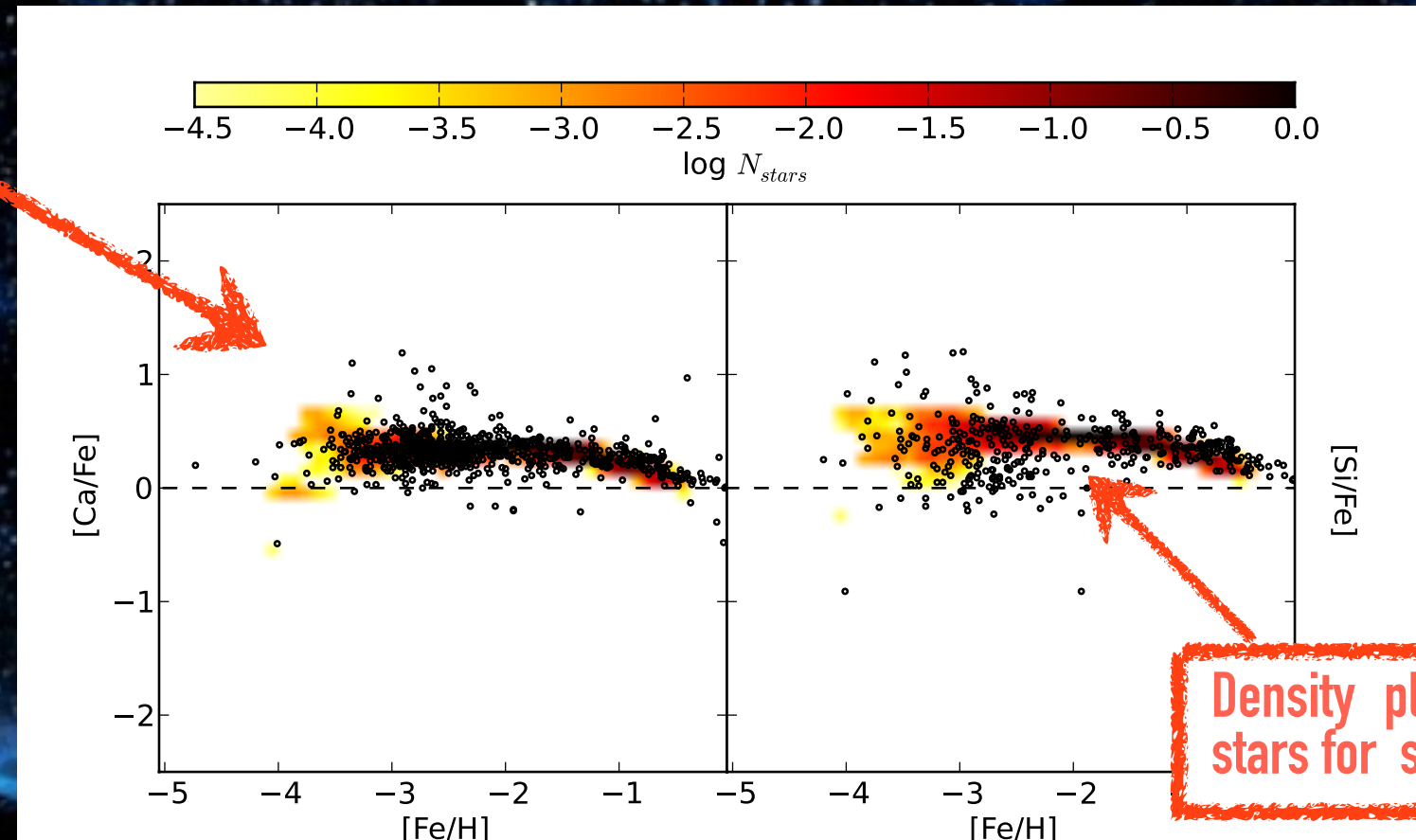
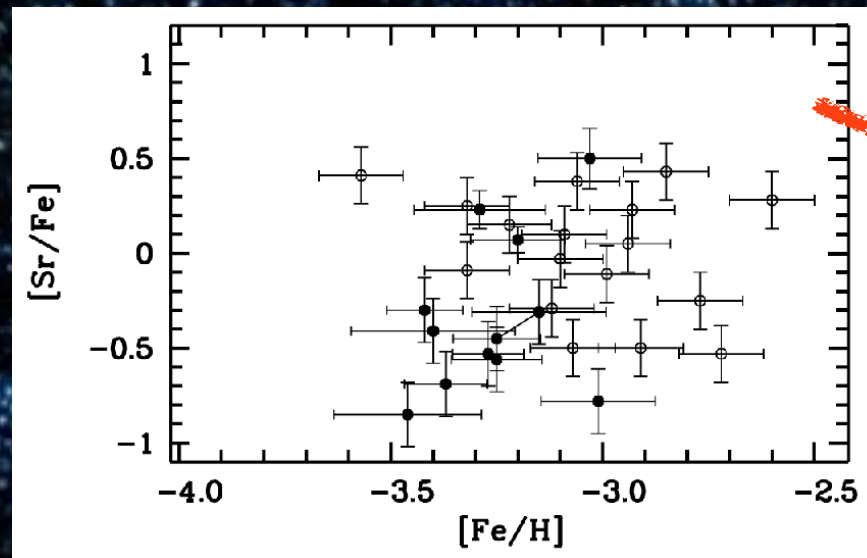
**Problem:**  
Neutron capture elements present  
a spread alpha elements do not

**Solution:**

The volumes in which the ISM is well mixed are discrete. Assuming a SNe bubble as typical volume with a low regime of star formation the IMF is not fully sampled. This promotes spread among different volumes if nucleosynthesis of the element is different among different SNe,



Bonifacio+12



Cescutti 2008  
Cescutti et al. 2013

data collected in  
Frebel 2010

Density plot of long living  
stars for stochastic model



# Neutron stars mergers

delay for the merging 1 Myr

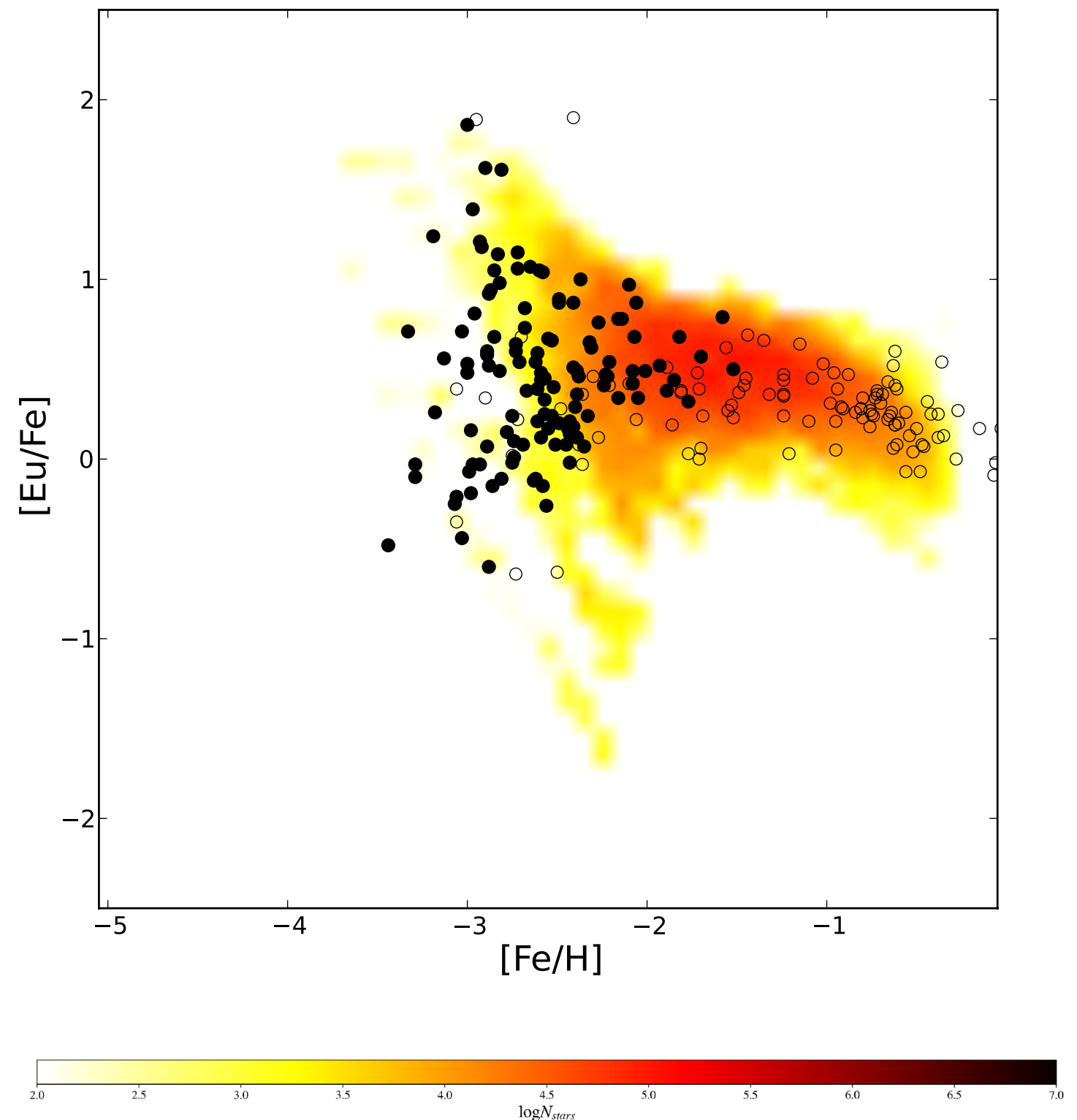
Cescutti, Romano, Matteucci,  
Chiappini and Hirschi 2015

Progenitors are rare:  
only few percent of the massive  
stars are formed in binary system  
which can produce a NS merger.

Results with  $\alpha=0.04$   
(NSM/SNe)

A key feature of NS merger is the  
delay between the formation of the  
binary system of neutron stars and  
the merging event.

What about the impact of  
increasing the delay for the  
merging?





# Neutron star mergers

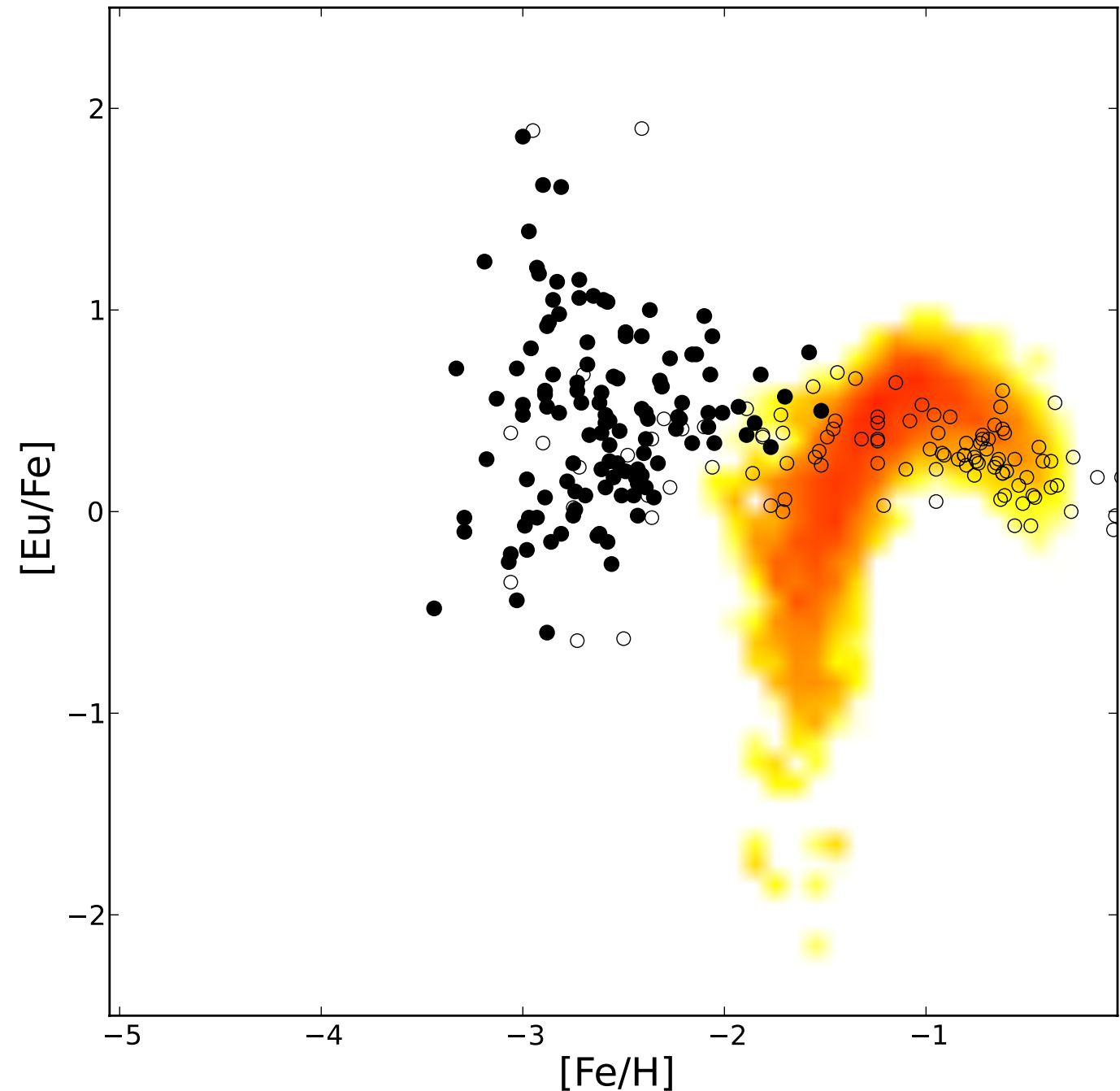
Cescutti+15

delay for the merging 100 Myr

For a delay of 100 Myr the model results are not compatible to the observational data.

Therefore, only if most of the NS mergers enriches in timescale  $< 10$  Myr, the scenario can be supported.

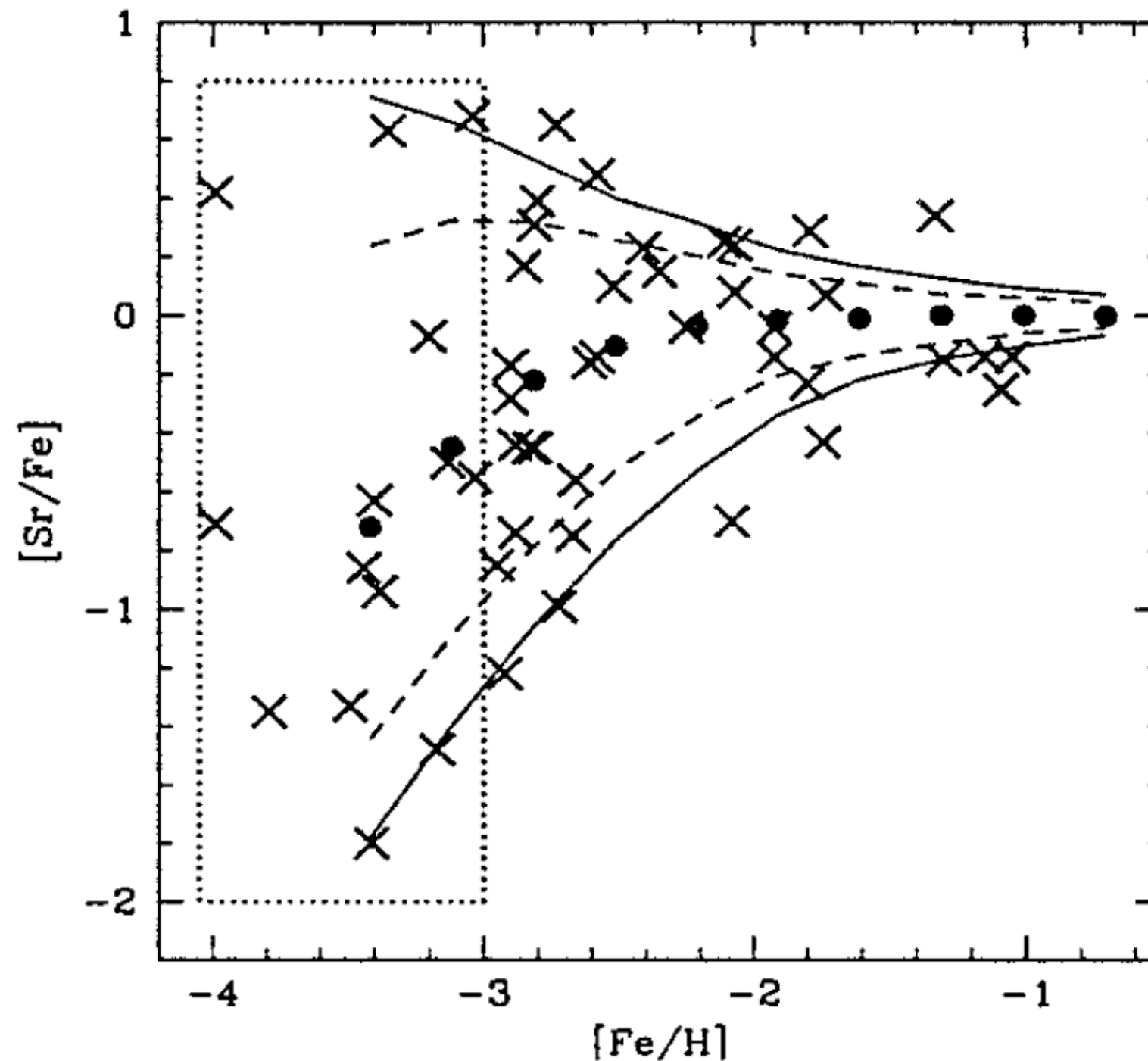
What about a distribution of delays?





not a novelty ...

McWilliam&Searle1999

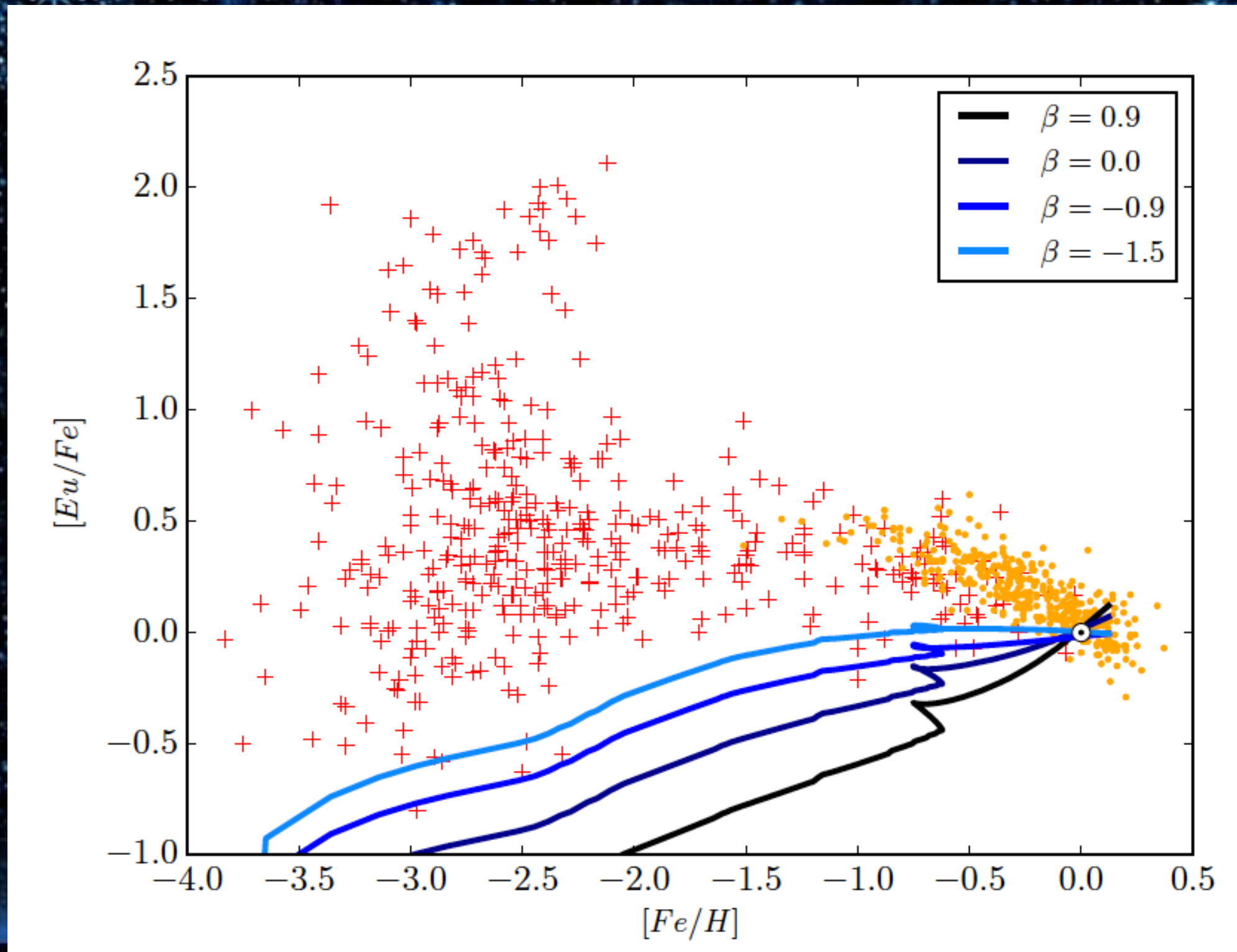


See also Tsujimoto+99, Ishimaru&Wanajo 99, Argast+01,  
(see Benjamin results!), Matteucci+2014, Komiya+2014... few exceptions



# Detailed DTD for NSM

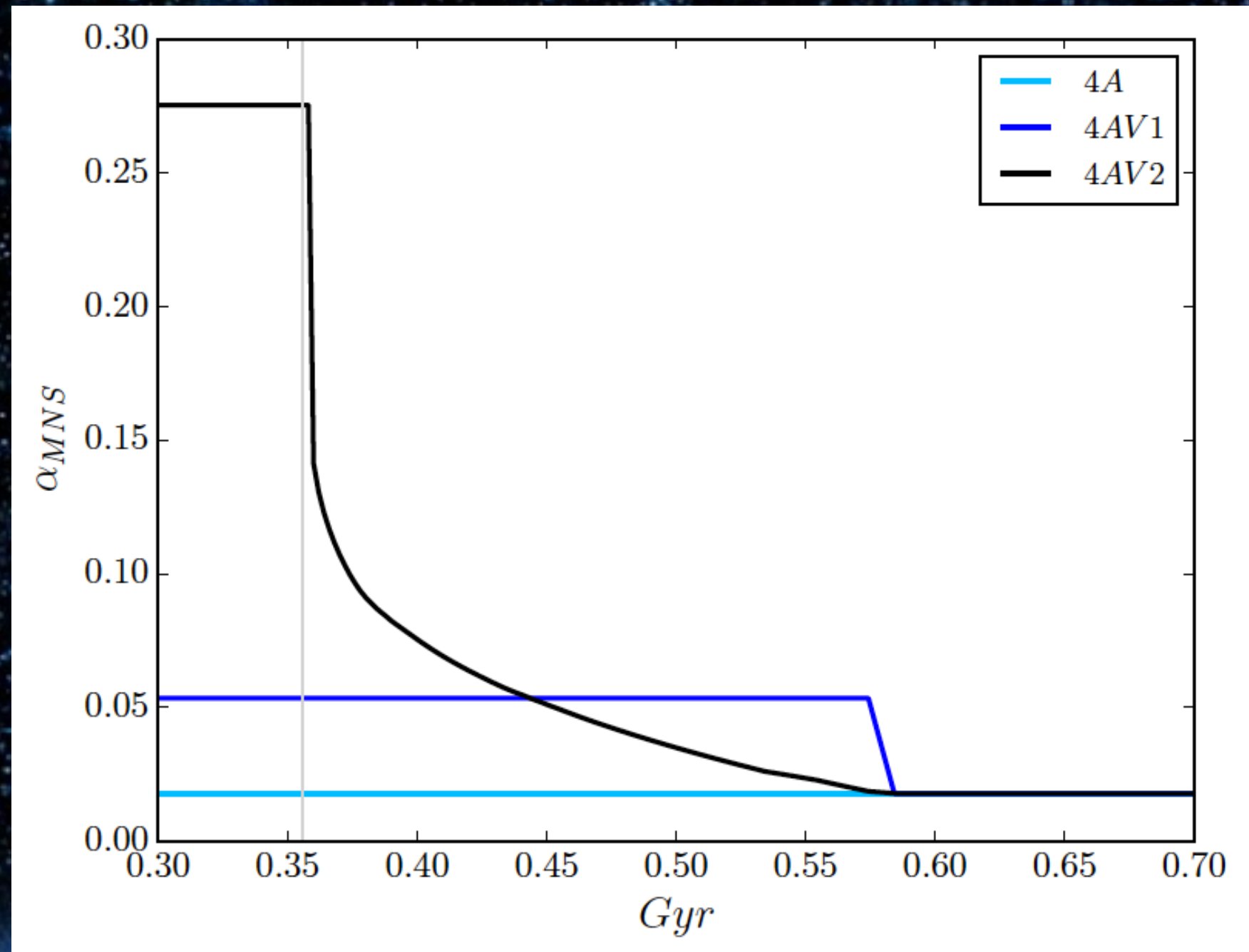
Simonetti+19





# Models with detailed DTD for NSM

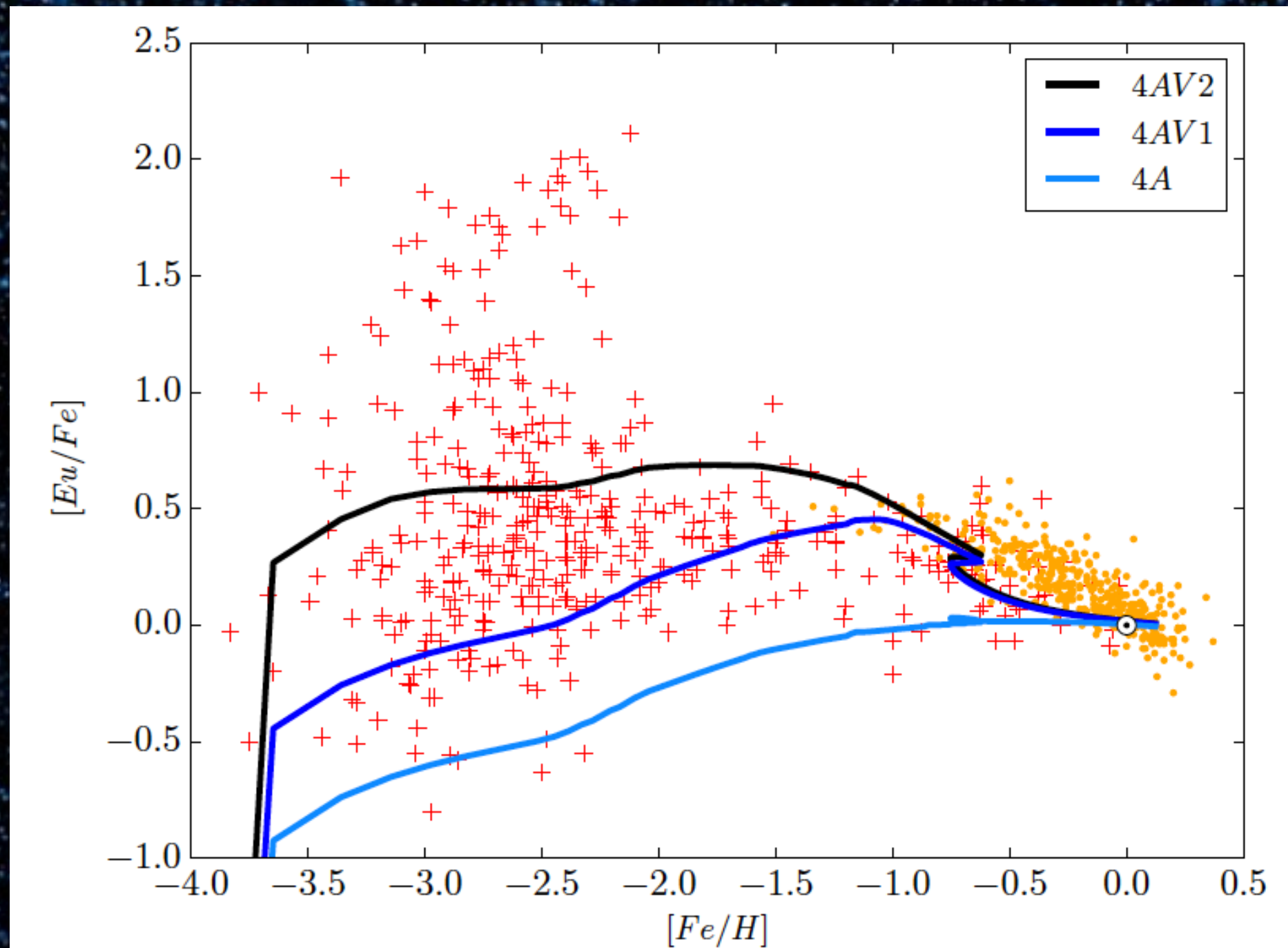
## variation of the alpha (fraction NSM/SNe)



Simonetti+19



# Models with detailed DTD for NSM



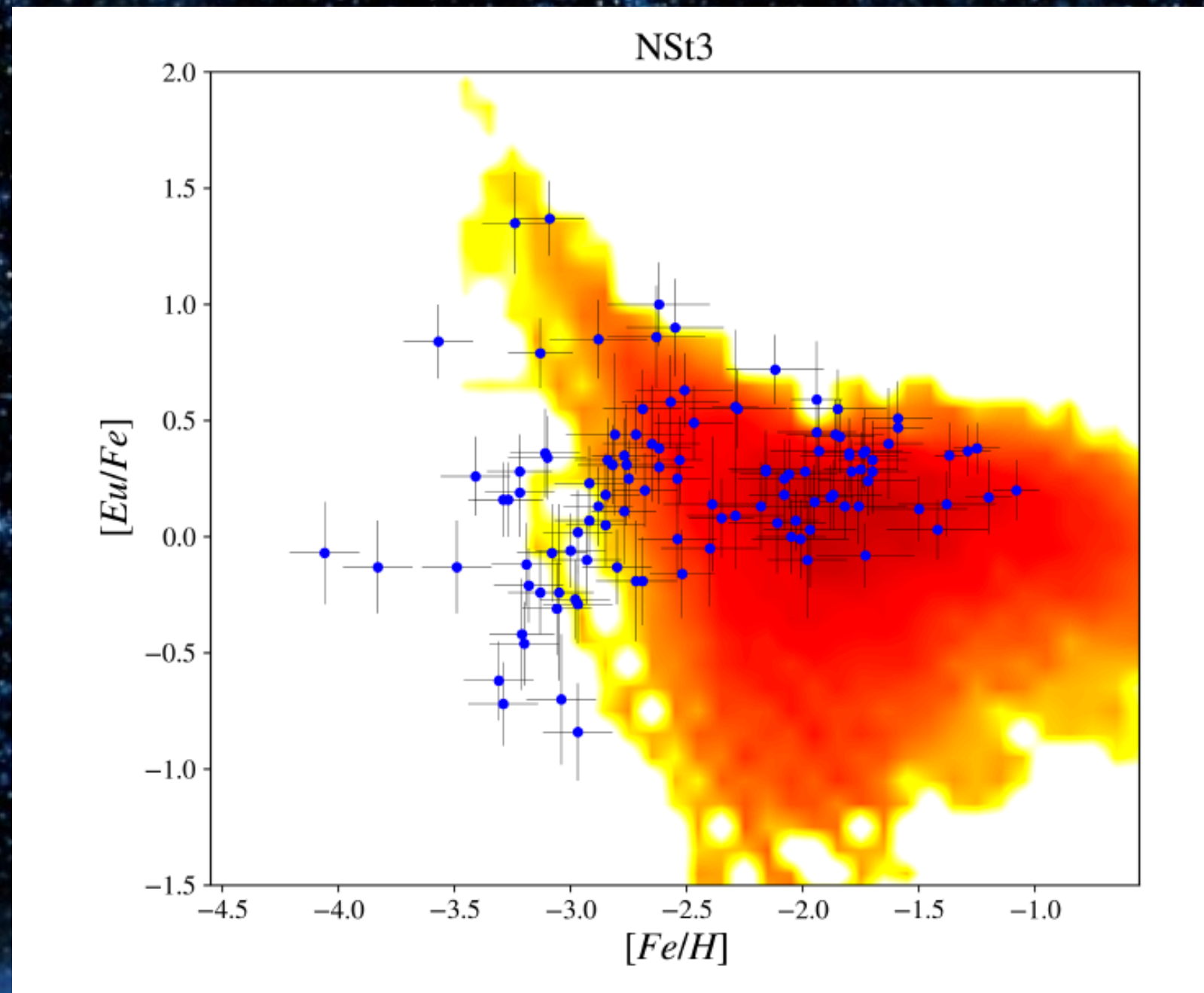
Simonetti+19

**variation of alpha, possible solution!**  
see other solution in Schoenrich&Weinberg19



# Stochastic model

with a delay time distribution:  $t^{-1.5}$

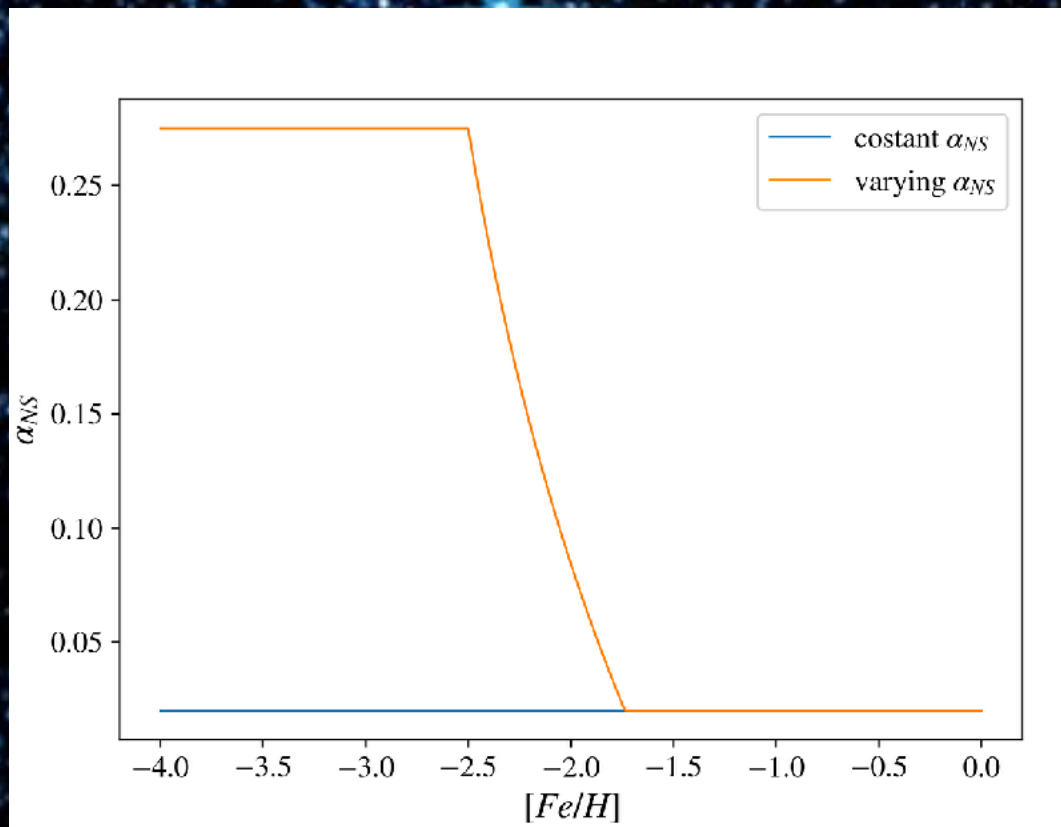


Cavallo+22

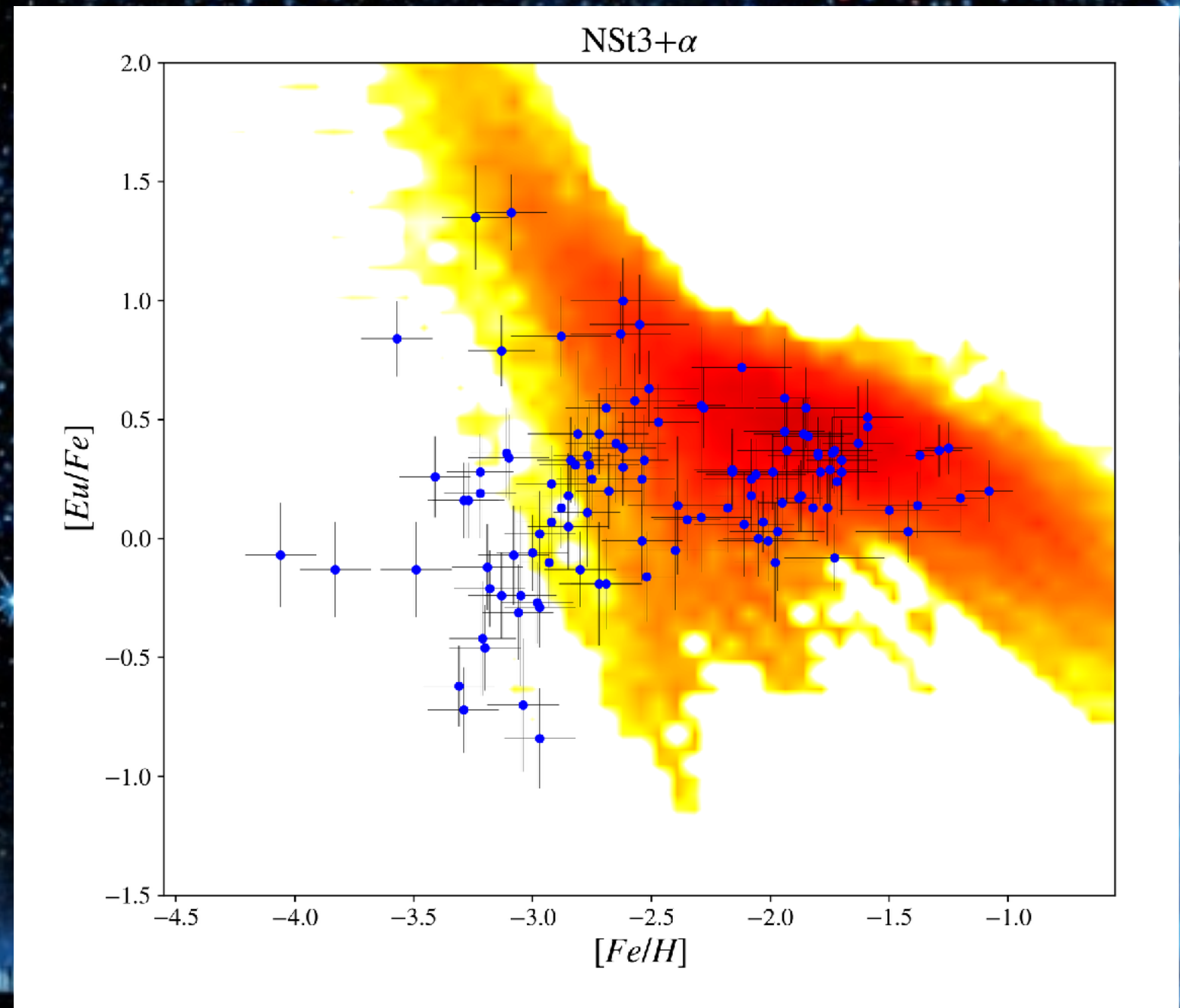


# NSM with alpha variations

a delay time distribution:  $t^{-1.5}$



similar to Simonetti+19



Cavallo+21



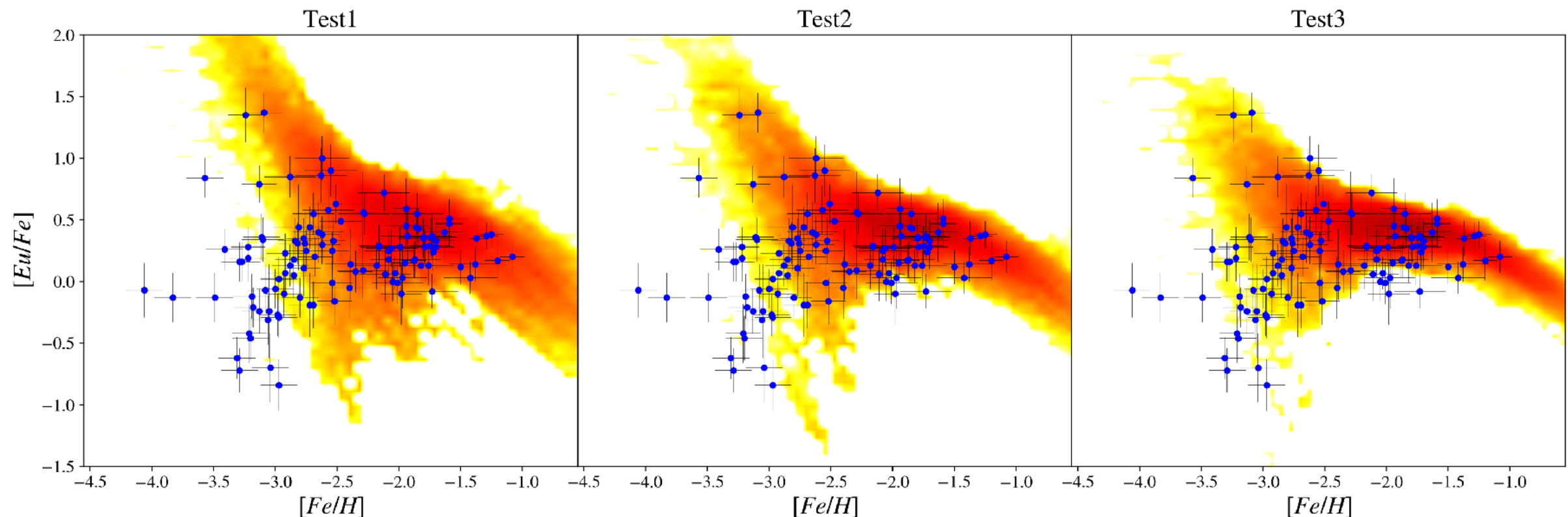
# How to constrain the fraction of NSM?

$\alpha=0.02$

$\alpha=0.06$

$\alpha=0.1$

Cavallo+21

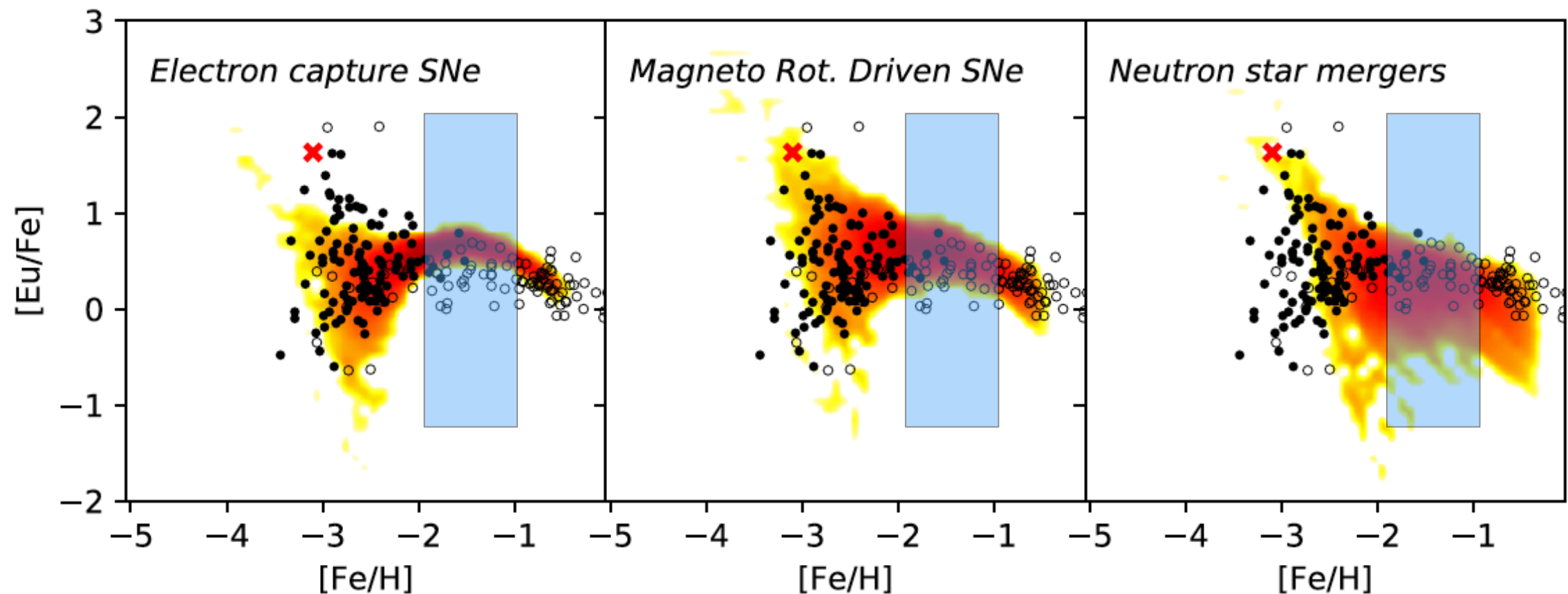


$[Fe/H]$ (dex)	Test1		Test2		Test3	
	mean $[Eu/Fe]$ (dex)	sigma(dex)	mean $[Eu/Fe]$ (dex)	sigma(dex)	mean $[Eu/Fe]$ (dex)	sigma(dex)
-3.00	1.42	0.22	1.05	0.23	0.84	0.22
-1.00	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.10	0.17	0.08



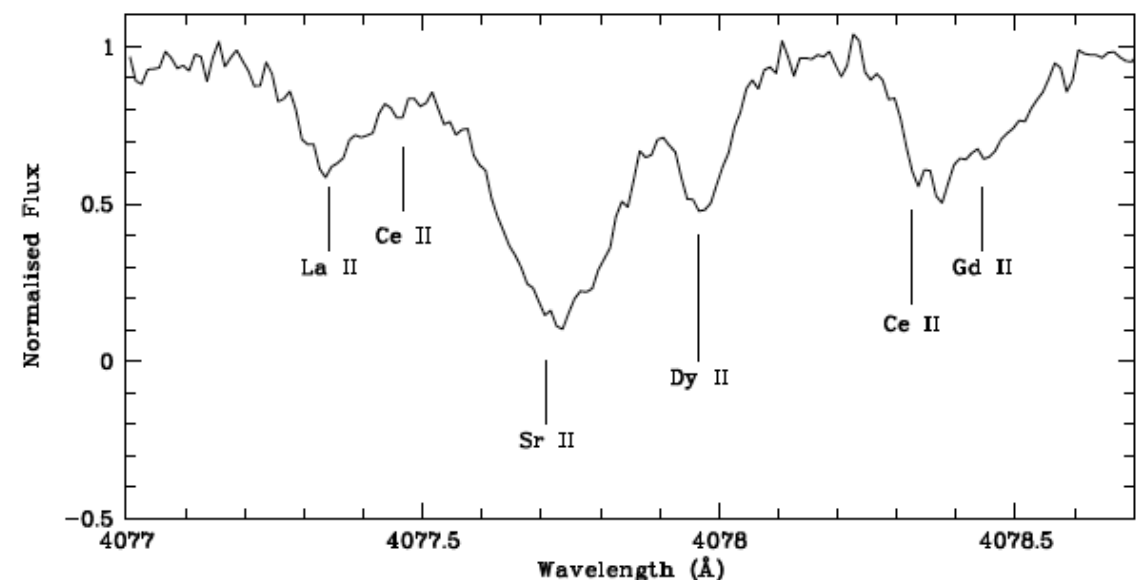
# PI of MINCE

Measuring at Intermediate Metallicity Neutron Capture Elements  
Main investigators Bonifacio & Cescutti



Observational proposals at  
TNG, CFHT, 3.6m, Magellan, UVES...  
Goal is 1000 stars in 5y at high quality:  
100S/N at 400nm and  $R > 50'000$ .

~500 stars at present





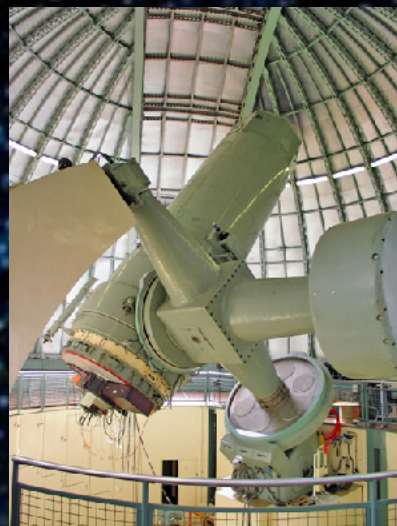
**9 Facilities used**  
**2 from ChETEC-INFRA**  
**MINCE I (2022) & MINCE II (2024)**  
**MINCE III submitted**



**TNG 3.58m**  
**Spectrograph HARPS-N**



**VLT 8.2m**  
**Spectrograph: UVES**



**OHP 1.93m**  
**Spectrograph SOPHIE**



**CFHT: 3.58m**  
**Spectrograph ESPaDOnS**

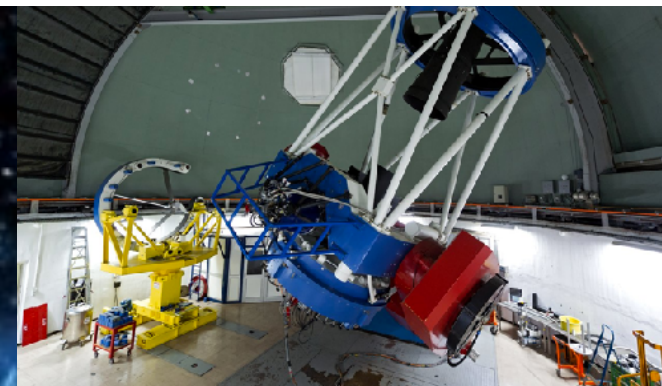


**NOT 2.2m**  
**Spectrograph: FIES**



**Moletai 1.65m**  
**Spectrograph: VUES**

**~450 stellar spectra with high S/N and Resolution**  
**20% from ChETEC-INFRA**



**MPG/ESO 2.2-metre**  
**FEROS**



**Magellan 6.5m**  
**Spectrograph: MIKE**



A detailed illustration of a night sky filled with numerous stars of varying sizes and colors, including blue, white, and red. Several constellations are visible, with some stars connected by thin lines. The sky is a deep blue, and the stars have a soft glow. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted mountain range is visible against the horizon. The overall scene is a serene and expansive view of the cosmos.

**Other solutions?**



# Magneto Rotationally Driven SN scenario (MRD)

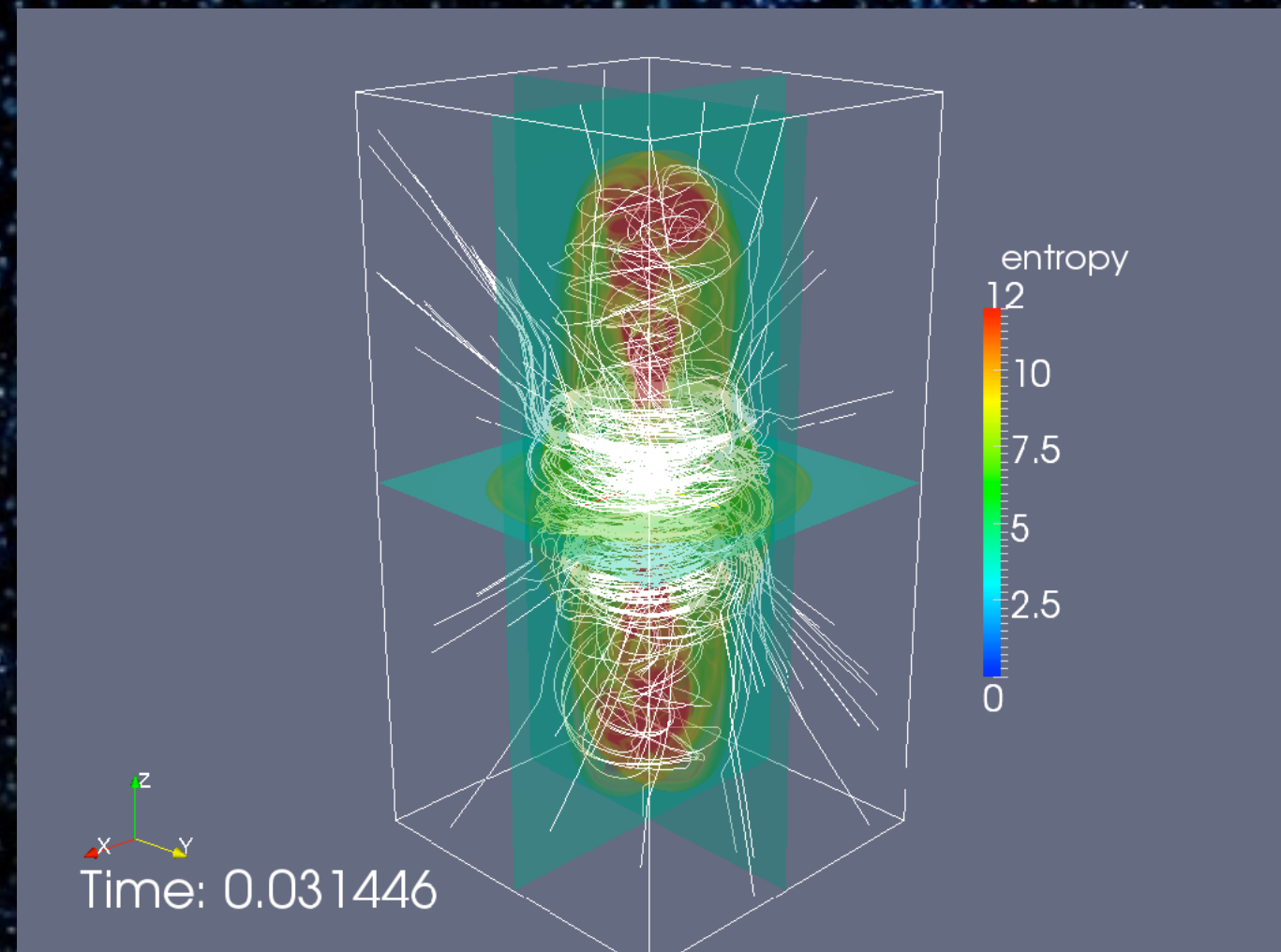
(Winteler+12, Nishimura+15)

The progenitors of MRD SNe are believed to be rare and possibly connected to long GRBs.

Only a small percentage of the massive stars ( $\sim 1-5\%$ )

Our results use an higher value (10%), but this percentage is not well constrained, in particular for the early Universe.

Therefore in the stochastic model not all the massive stars produce neutron capture elements.



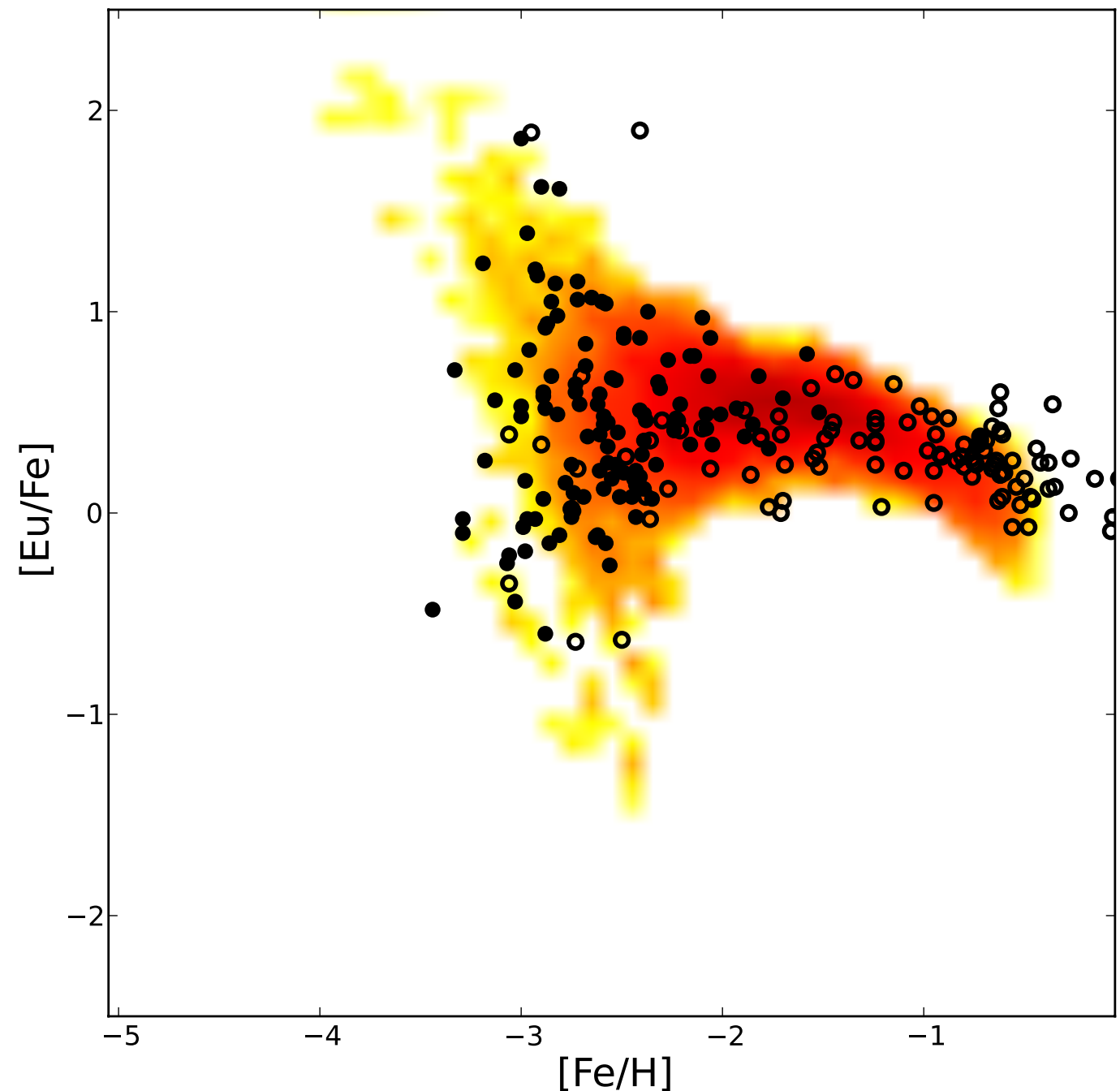


# Magneto Rotationally Driven SN scenario (MRD) 10%

Cescutti+14

In the best model shown here the amount of r-process in each event is about 2 times the one assumed in NSM scenario

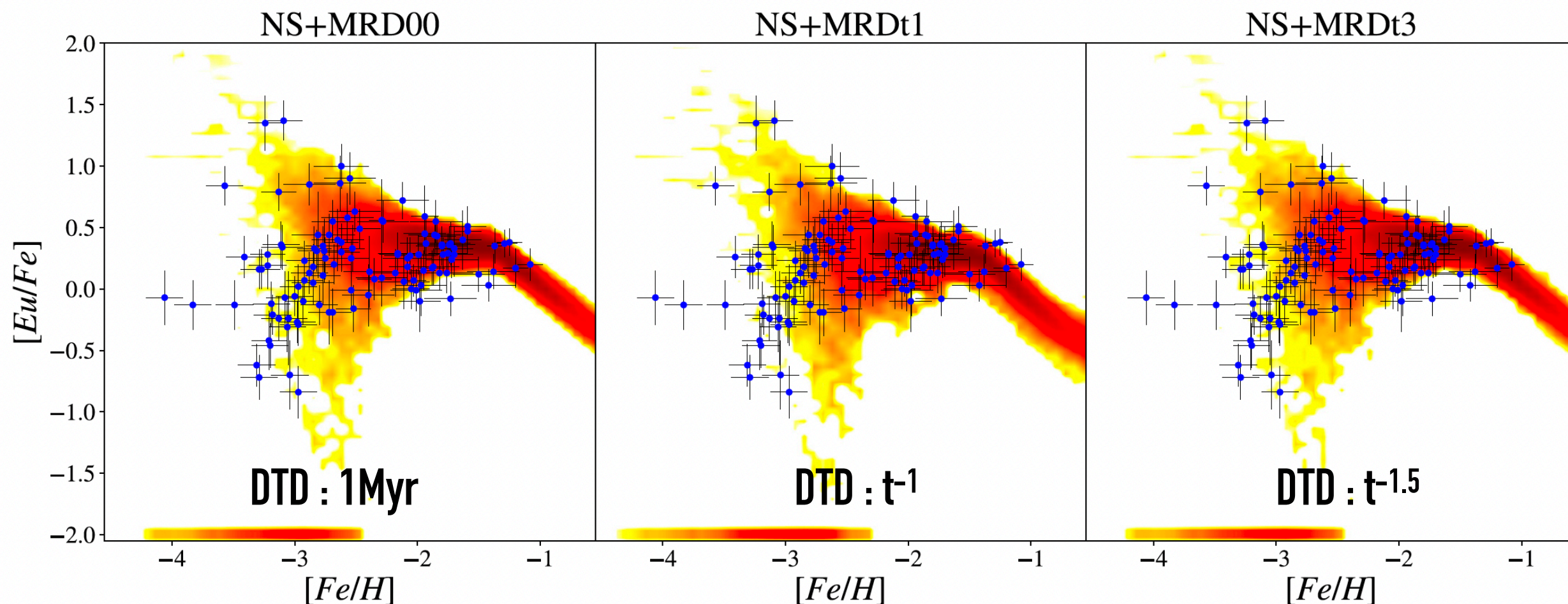
The assumed percentage of events in massive stars is higher than expected (at least at the solar metallicity), but it is reasonable to increase toward the metal poor regime  
(Woosley and Heger 2006)





# Mixed scenario with both Magneto Rotationally Driven SN and NSM

Cavallo+21

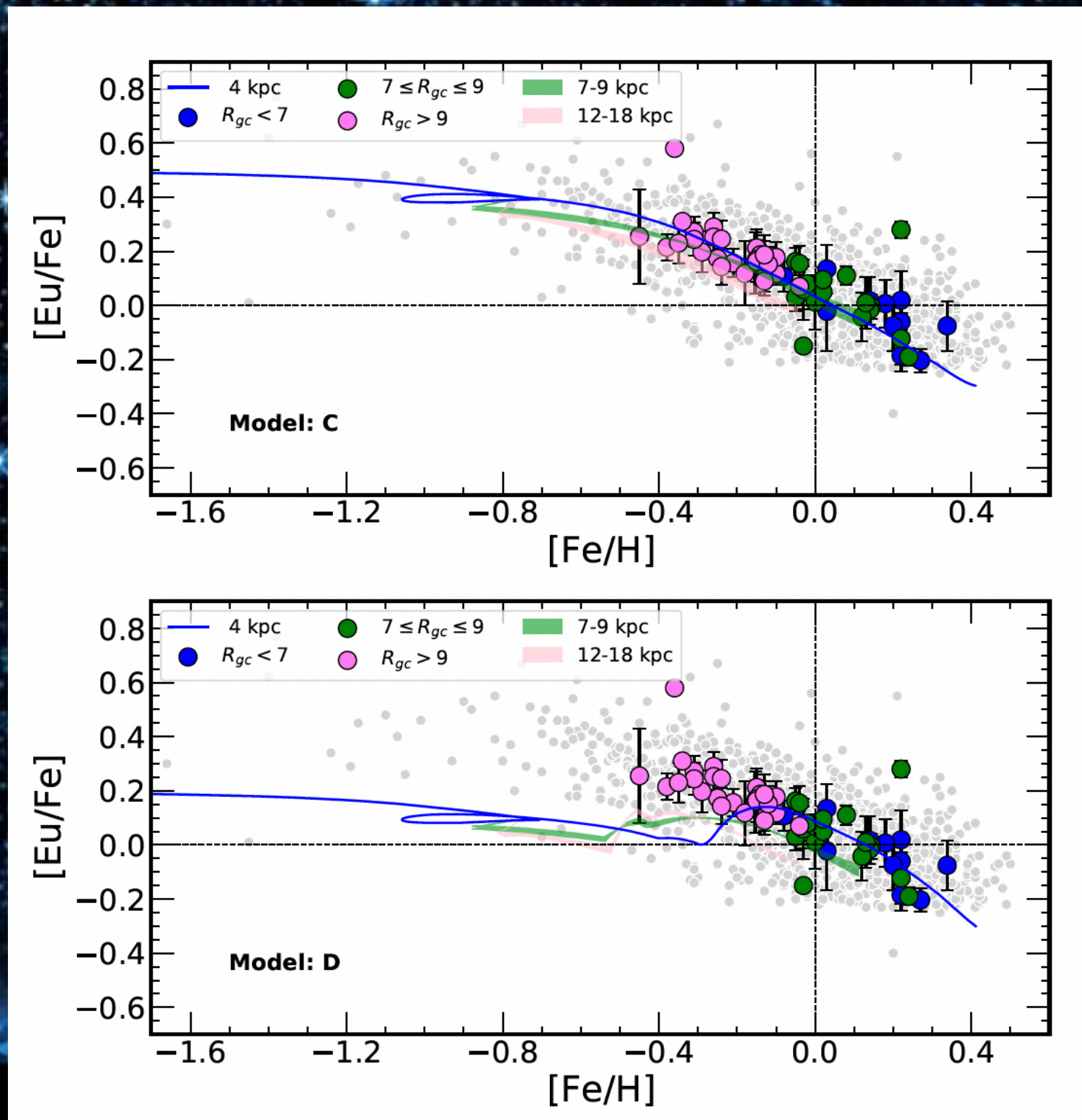


See also Cescutti+15 with both processes included  
(first with NSM and MRD SNe)

**It works, but it is fine tuned...**



**BUT a mixed scenario (50%–50%) with a longer time scale  
FAILS to reproduce the MW disc (our best constrain!)**







**What about  
other neutron capture elements?**



# Neutron capture elements

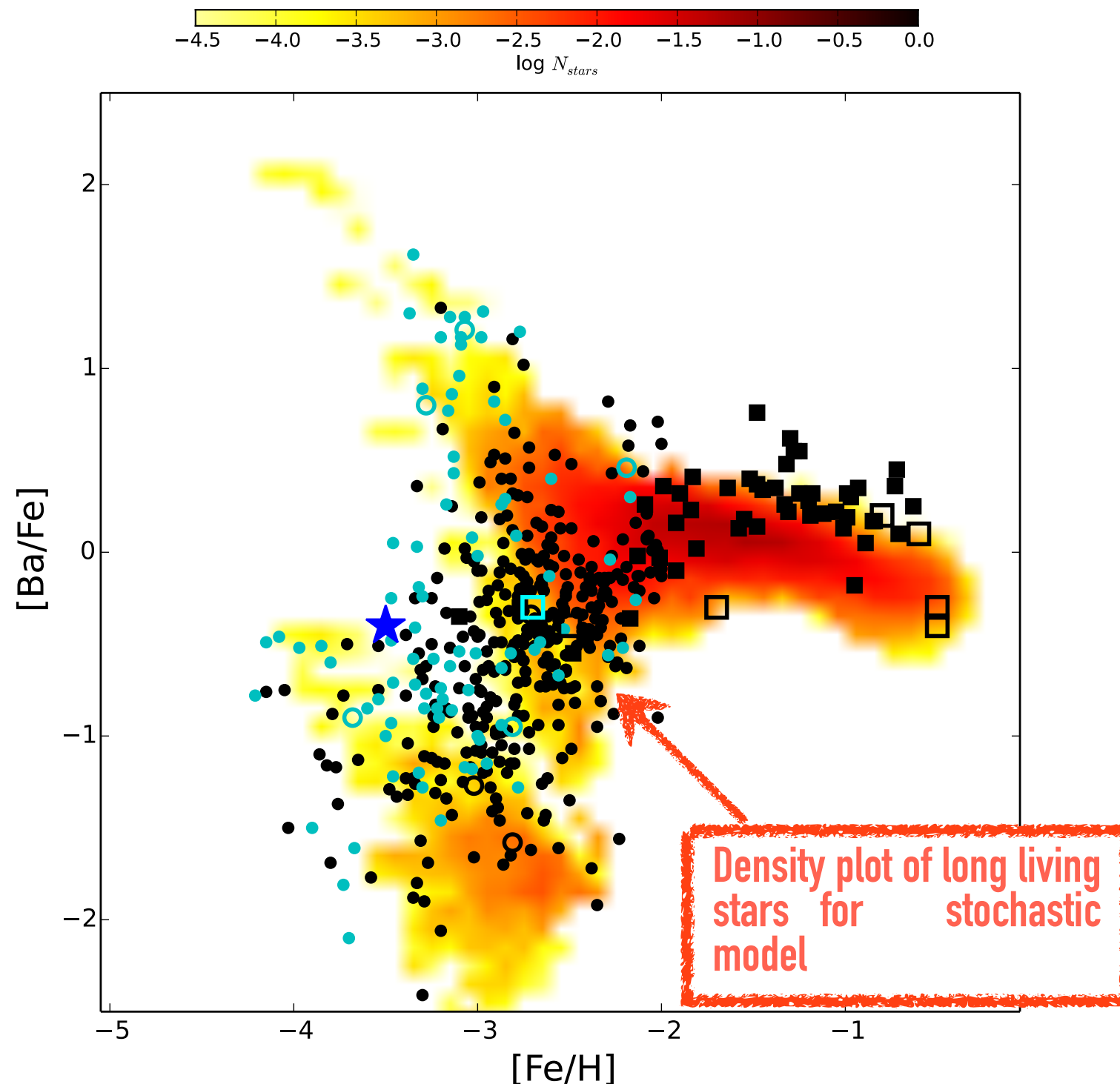




# Stochastic model for Ba in the Galactic halo

We run the stochastic  
model (based on  
Cescutti '08)  
with these yields  
for the Ba production:

10% of all the  
massive stars produce  
 $8 \cdot 10^{-6} M_{\text{sun}}$  of Ba

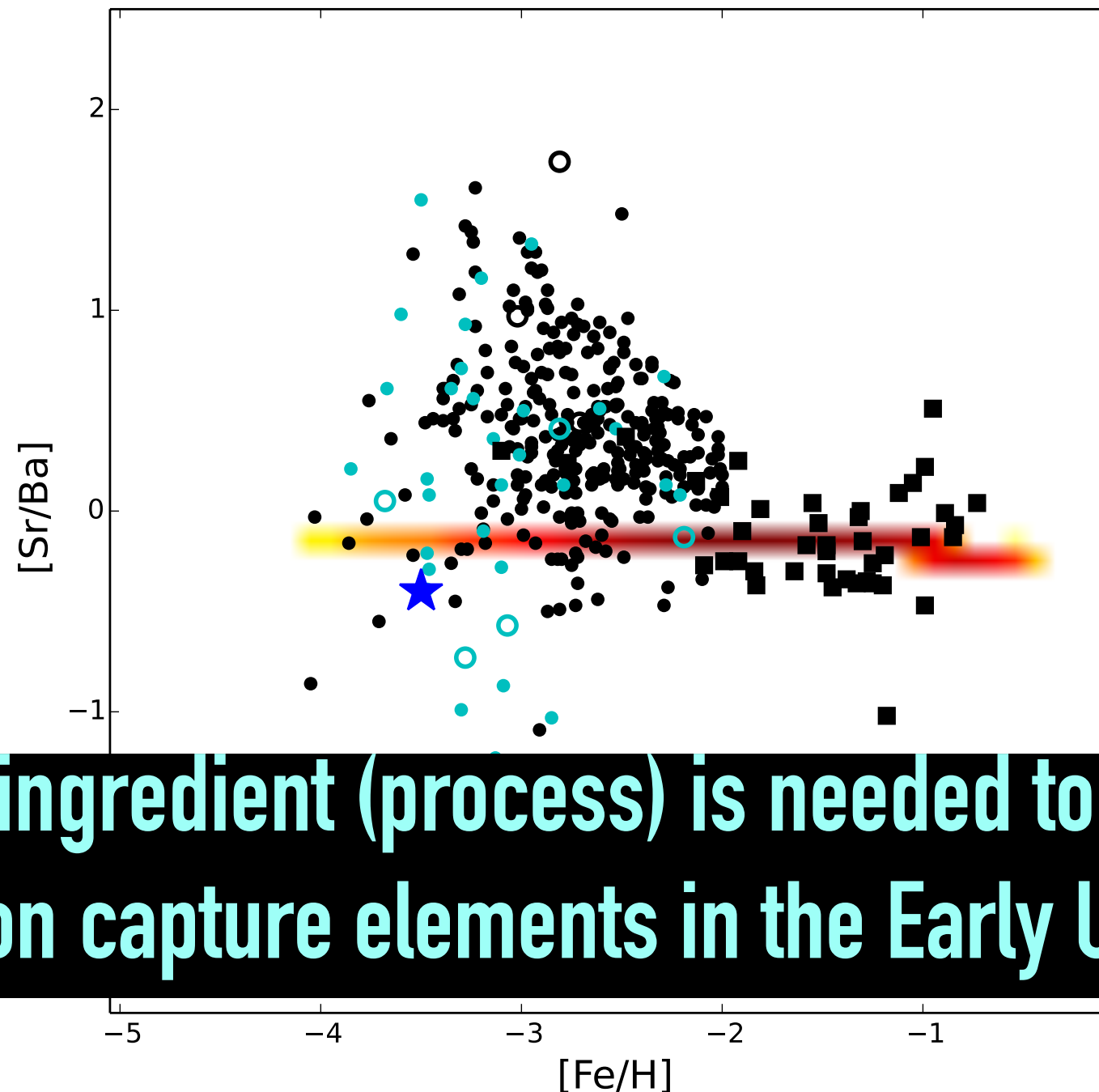


We can  
reproduce the  
[Ba/Fe] spread...



# Puzzling result for the “heavy to light” n.c. element ratio

For Sr yields:  
scaled Ba yields  
according to the  
r-process signature of the  
solar system  
(Sneden et al '08)



It is impossible to  
reproduce the data,  
assuming only the  
r-process component,  
enriching at low  
metallicity.  
(see Sneden+ 03,  
François+07,  
Montes+07)

Another ingredient (process) is needed to explain the  
neutron capture elements in the Early Universe!

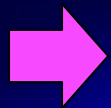


# Rotating massive stars in the early Universe

## In the Early Universe

Low metals: stars rotate faster (more compact)

Rotation

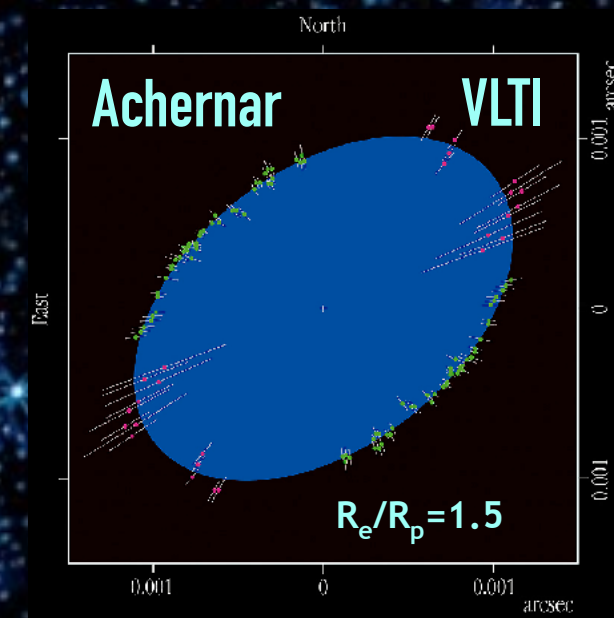


Mixing inside star



Ejected matter will be rich in  $^{14}\text{N}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ , & s-process

Massive stars rotate in the Local Universe



Signatures:

- (1) Large amounts of N in the early Universe (Chiappini et al. 2006 A&A Letters)
- (2) Increase in the C/O ratio in the early Universe
- (3) Large amounts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  in the early Universe (Chiappini et al. 2008 A&A Letters)
- (4) Early production of Be and B by cosmic ray spallation (Prantzos 2012)

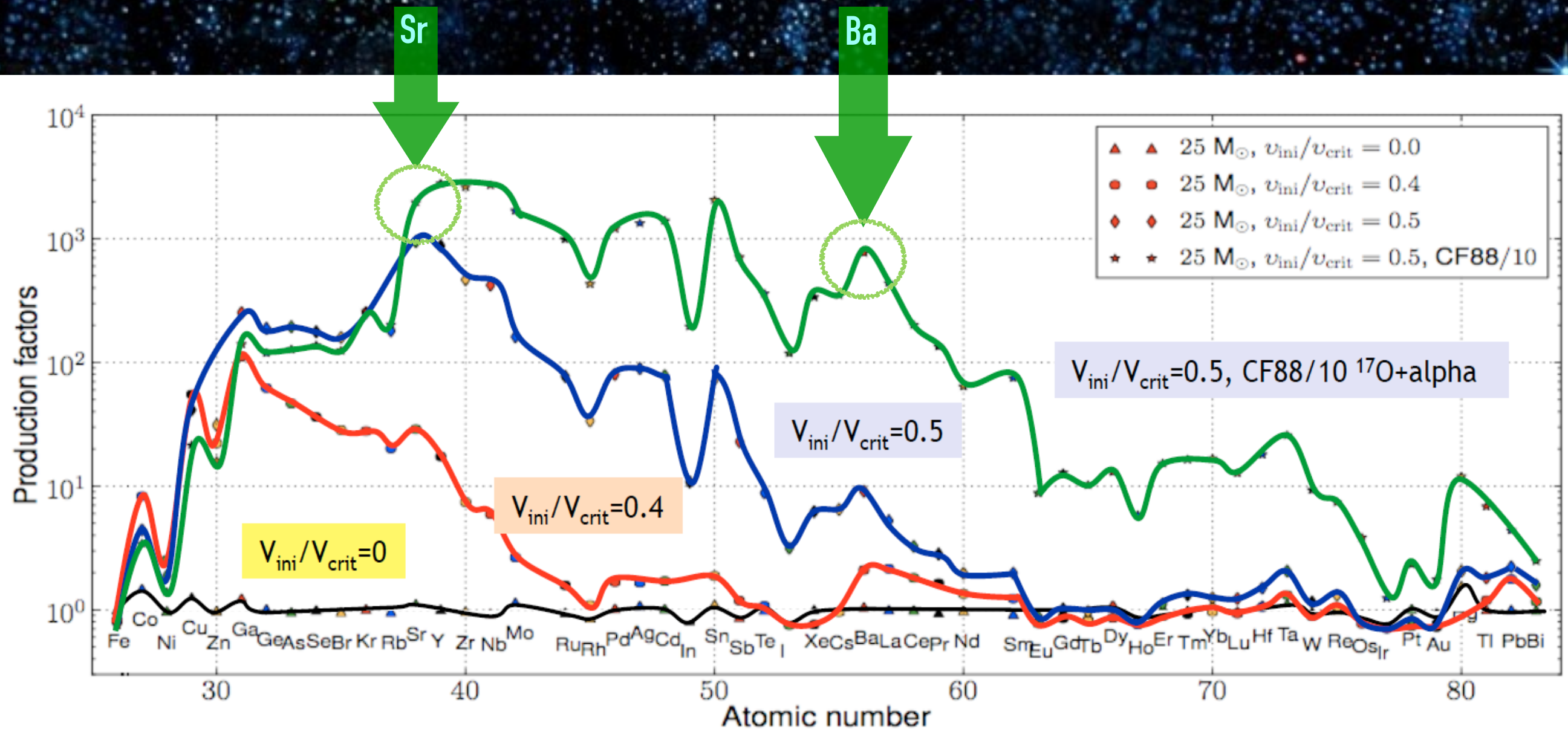
Test the production of neutron capture elements from this s-process (Sr, Ba, ...)!



# Low metallicity and rotating massive stars

Frischknecht et al. 2012, 2016 (self-consistent models with reaction network including 613 isotopes up to Bi)

Rotating massive stars can contribute to s-process elements!

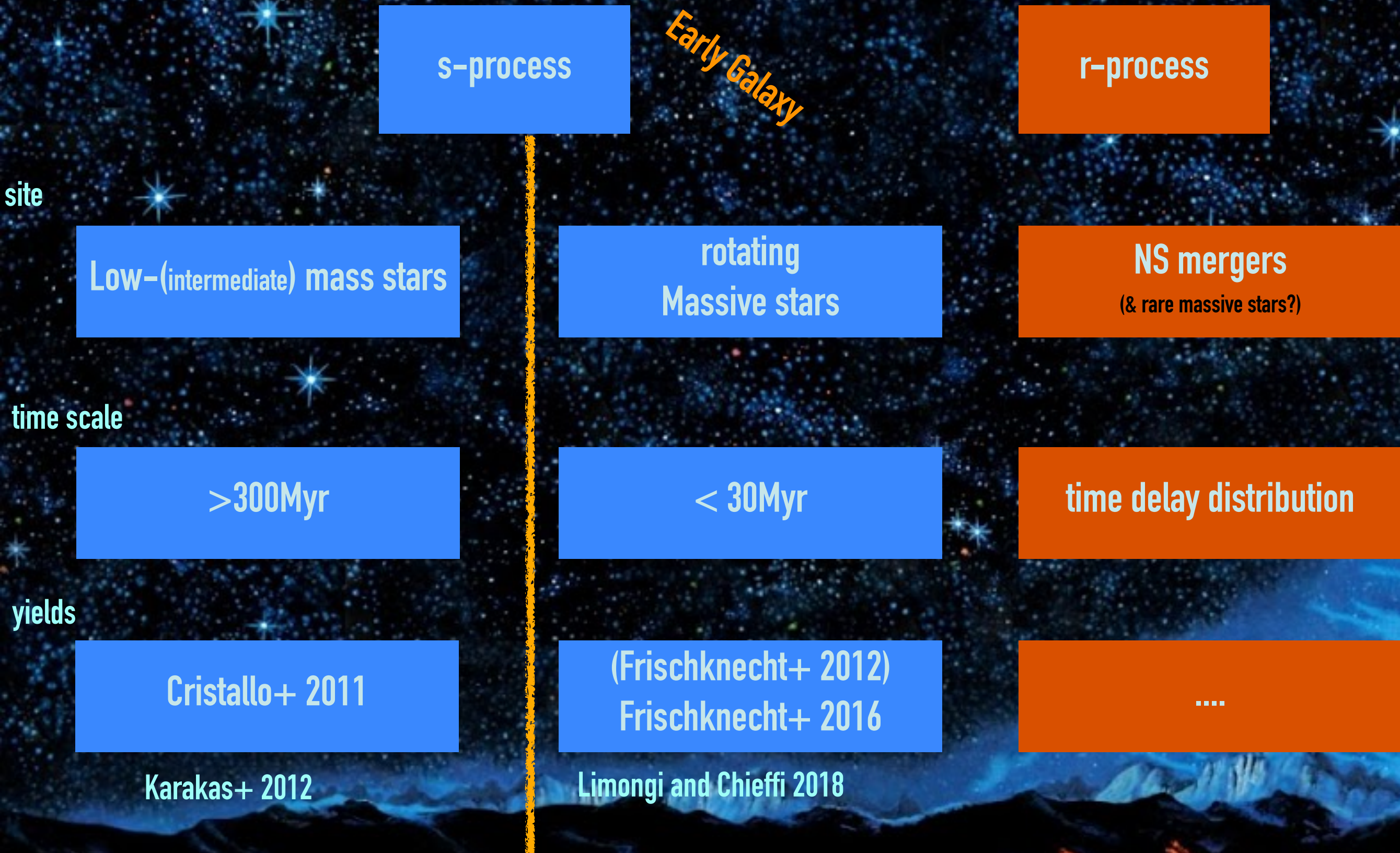


Can they explain the puzzles for Sr and Ba in halo?



# Neutron capture elements

from Cescutti+13

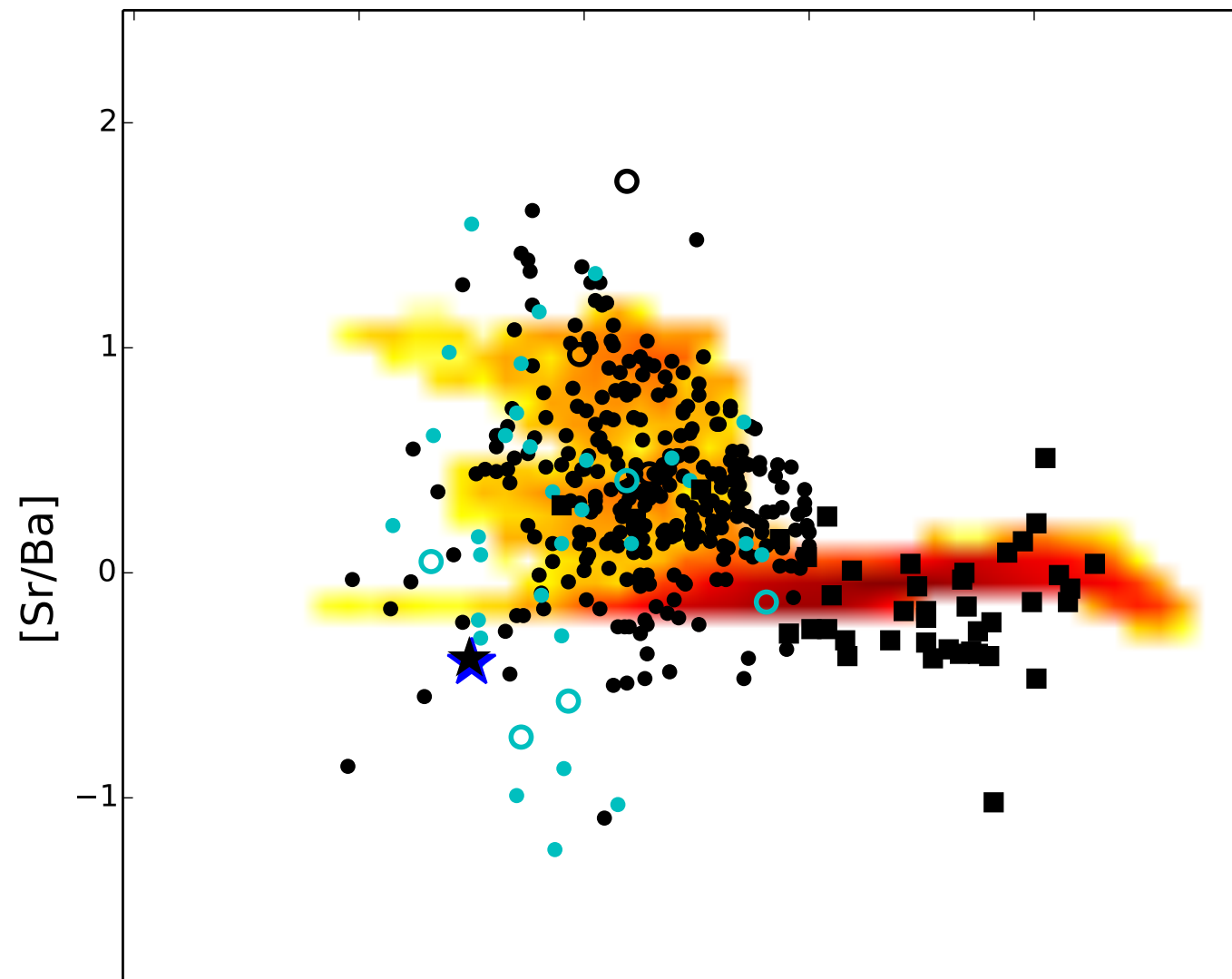




# s-process from rotating massive stars

+ an r-process site (the 2 productions are not coupled!)

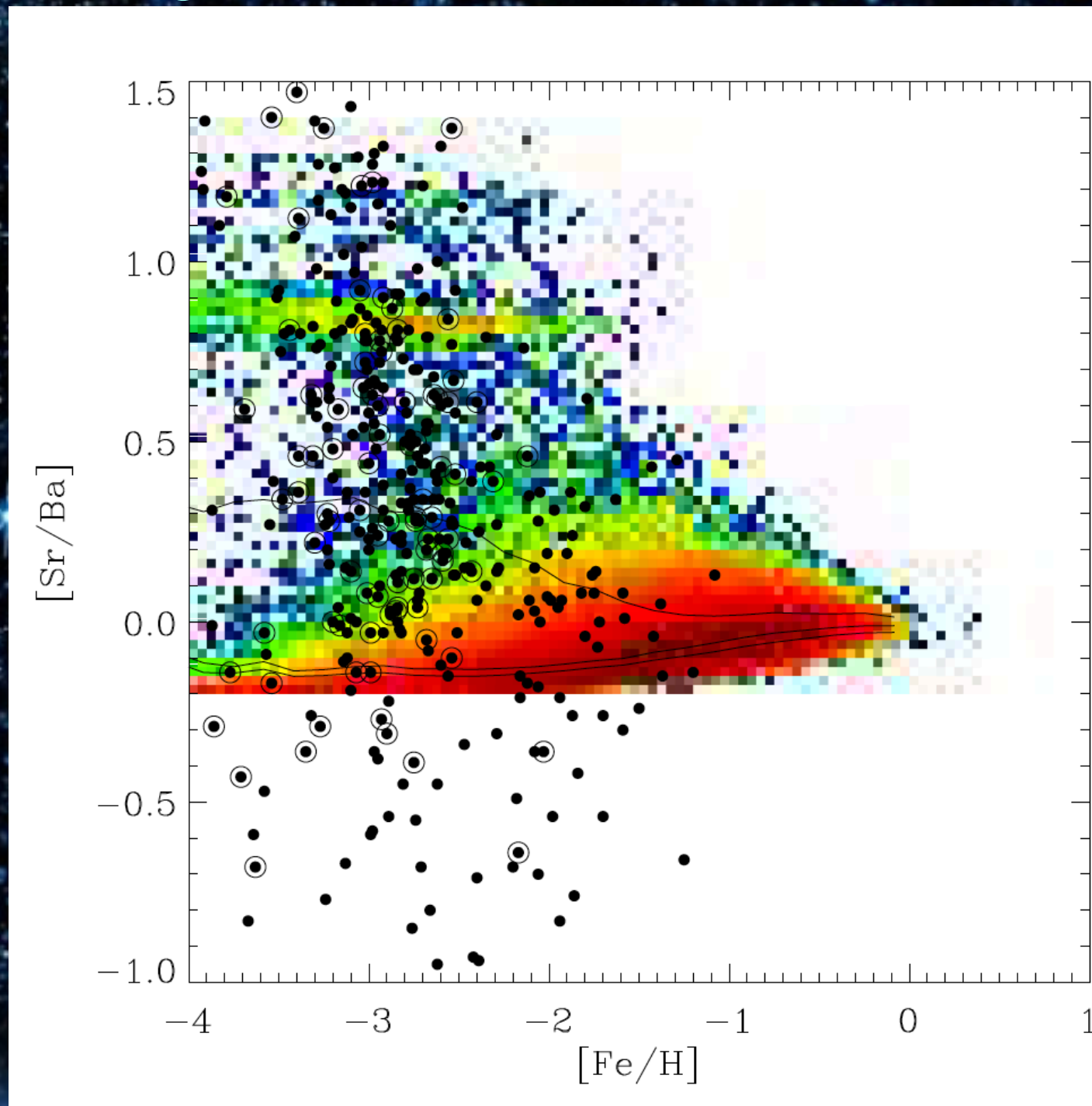
Cescutti et al. (2013)  
Cescutti & Chiappini (2014)



A s-process (from rotating massive stars)  
and an r-process (from rare events)  
can reproduce the neutron capture elements in the Early Universe



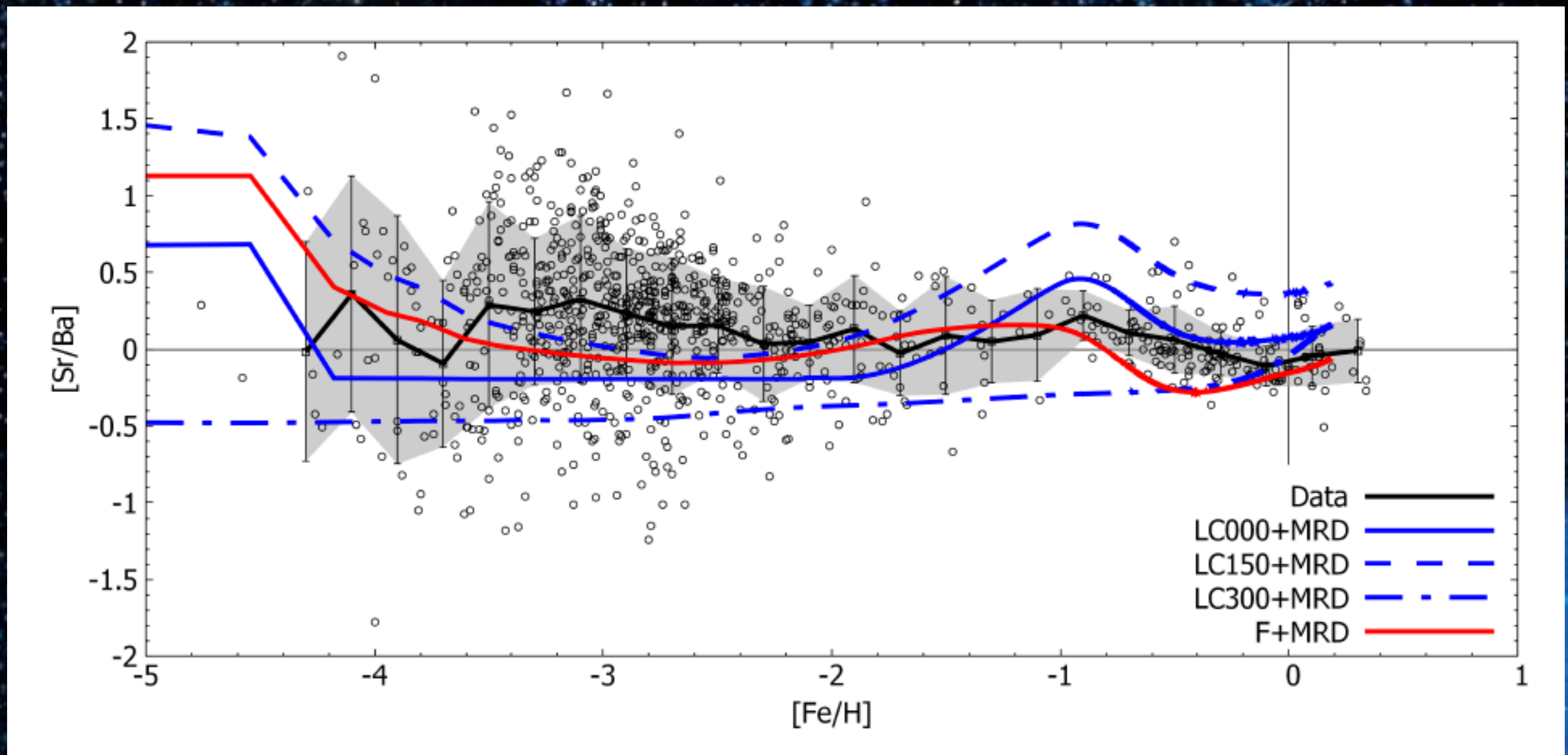
# Different model cosmological simulation of the Galaxy



Scannapieco, Cescutti & Chiappini (2022)



Confirmed in Rizzuti et al. (2019)  
adopting Limongi&Chieffi18

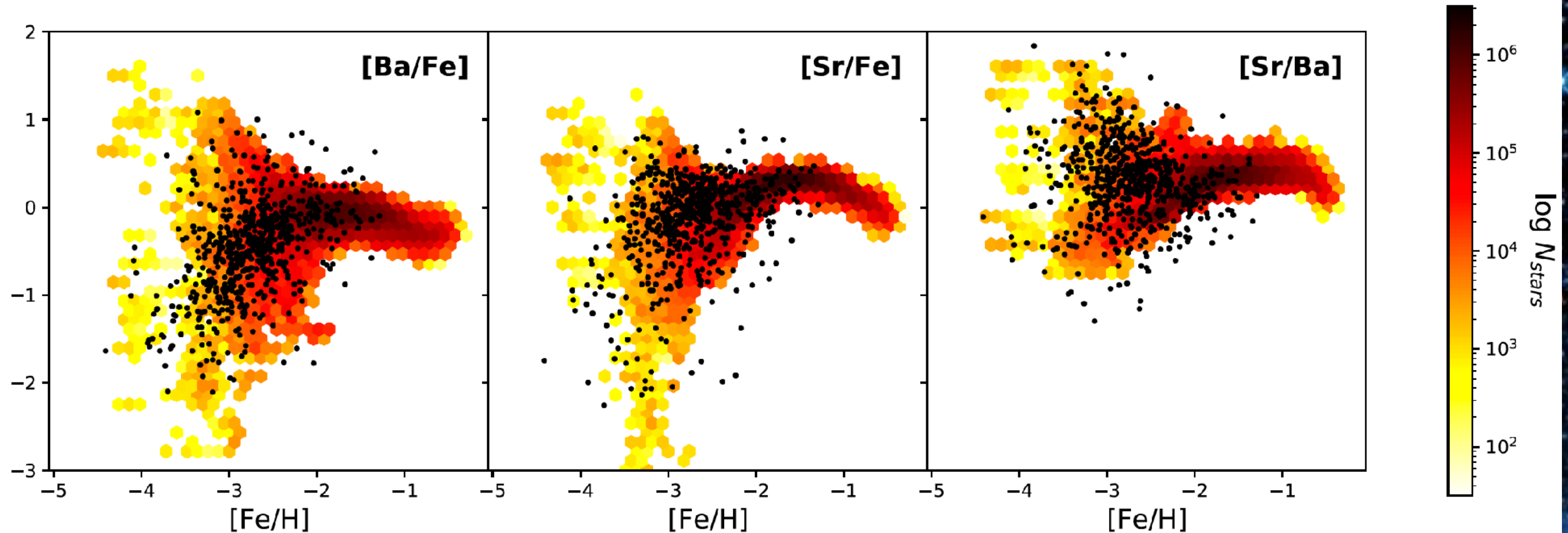


see also Prantzos et al. 2018



# Confirmed by Rizzuti et al. (2021)

adopting Limongi&Chieffi18

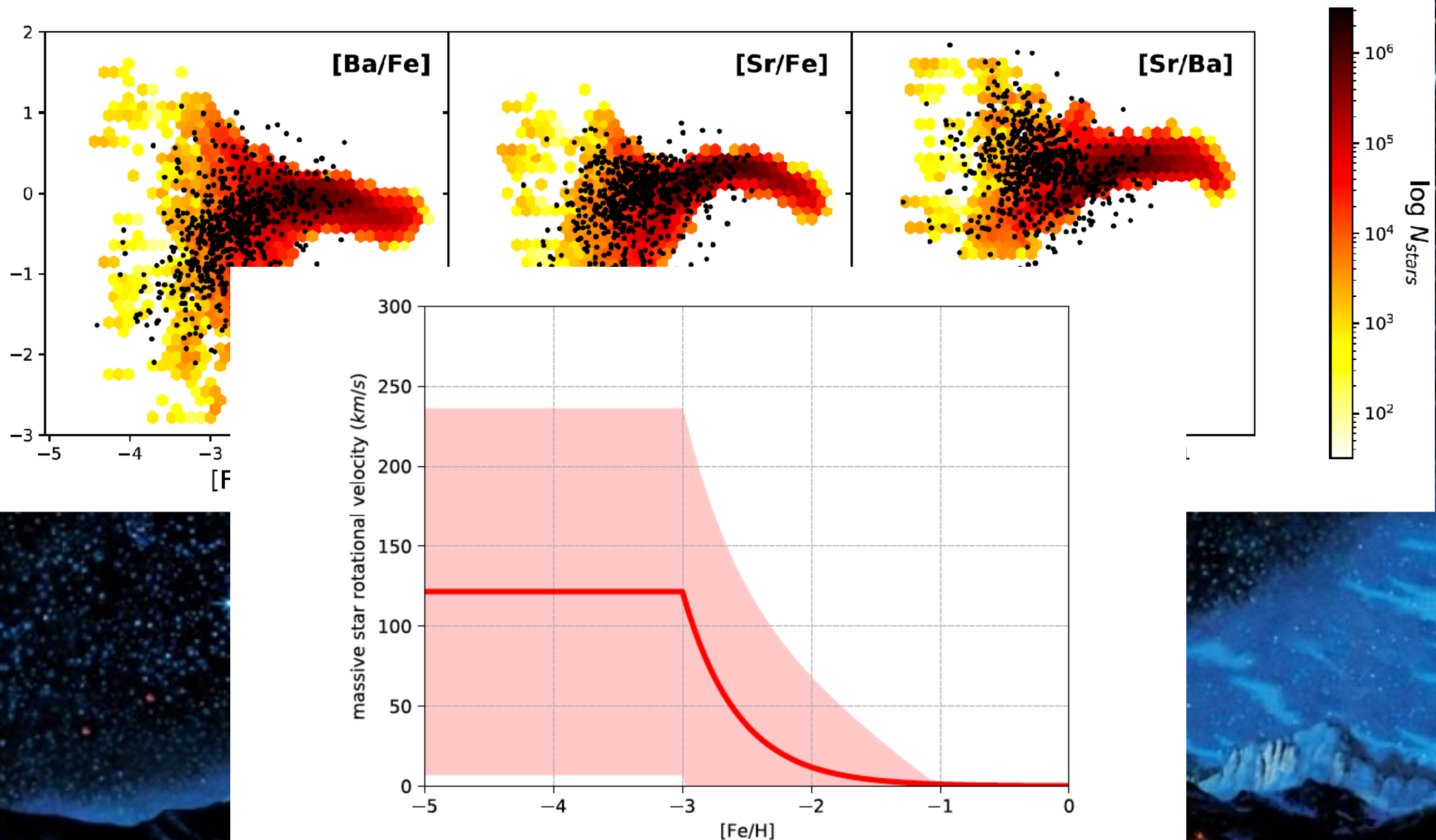


see also Prantzos et al. 2018



# Rizzuti et al. (2021)

adopting Limongi&Chieffi18





# Conclusions

The neutron capture elements in the Galactic halo have been produced by (at least) 2 different processes:

**A (main) r-process**, rare and able to produce all the elements up to Th with a pattern as the one observed in r-process rich stars.

NSM is the only confirmed candidate, and they can play this role if they have very short time scales or if their frequency is higher at extremely low metallicity.

MRD SNe (or collapsar) can also play this role, and they would be the easiest way to explain r-process elements with a GCE model.

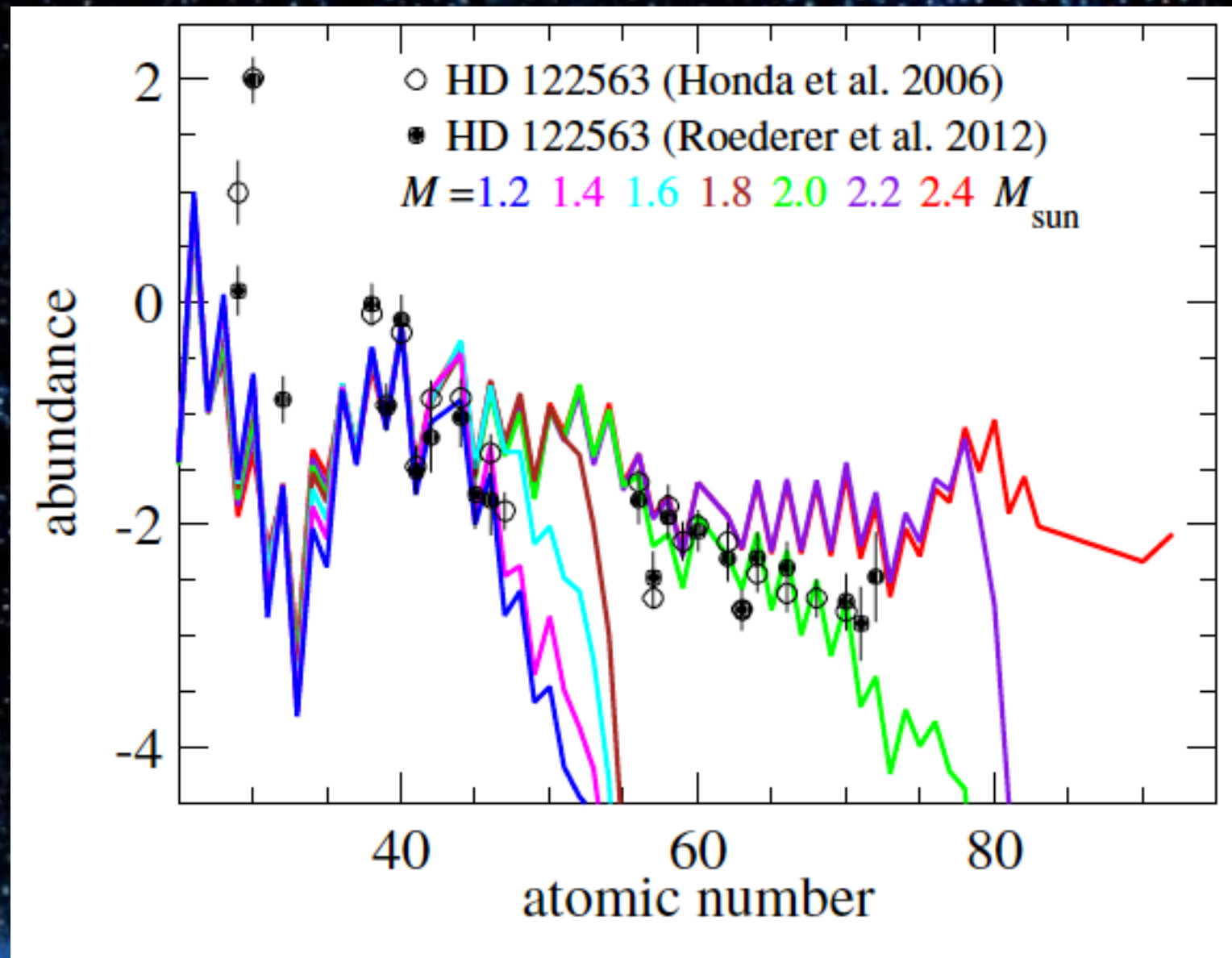
The other process is more frequent and can produce both Sr and Ba (and  $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}] > 0$ ) with a production that is compatible with the **s-process by rotating massive stars**. We can use this to constrain the velocity distribution of the massive stars.



CAVEAT

# The only possible answer?

Another possible  
solution is the  
production of  
+ a weak r-process  
(not able to produce all the  
elements up to thorium)  
+ a main r-process



Wanajo 2013, r-process production in proto neutron star wind



# Isotopic ratio for Ba

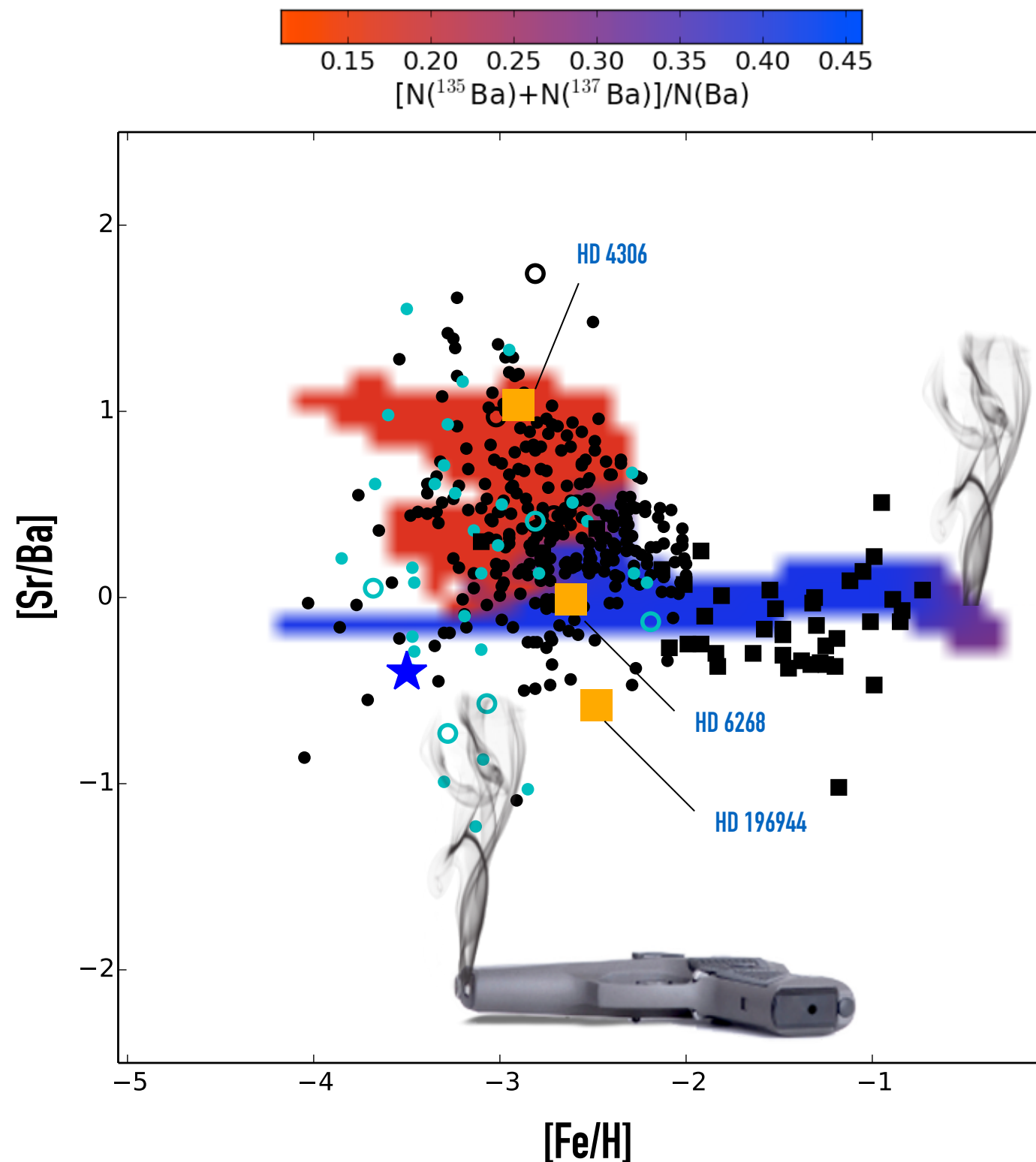


The rotating massive stars scenario naturally predicts different Ba isotopic ratios in halo stars.

This prediction can be used to test our scenario.

Challenging to check these predictions

See results on HD 140283 from Magain (1995) to Gallagher+ (2015)



3 stars  
with a  $R \sim 100'000$  &  
 $S/N \sim 900$   
with UVES at VLT



"normal" value  
high  $R \sim 30'000$   
high  $S/N \sim 80-100$



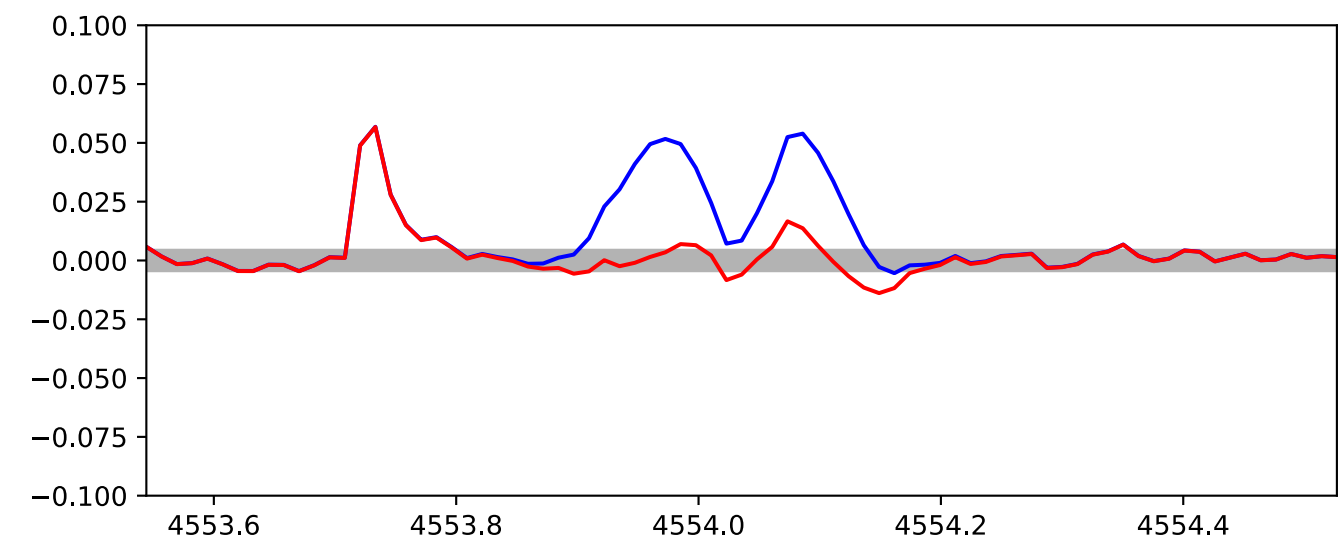
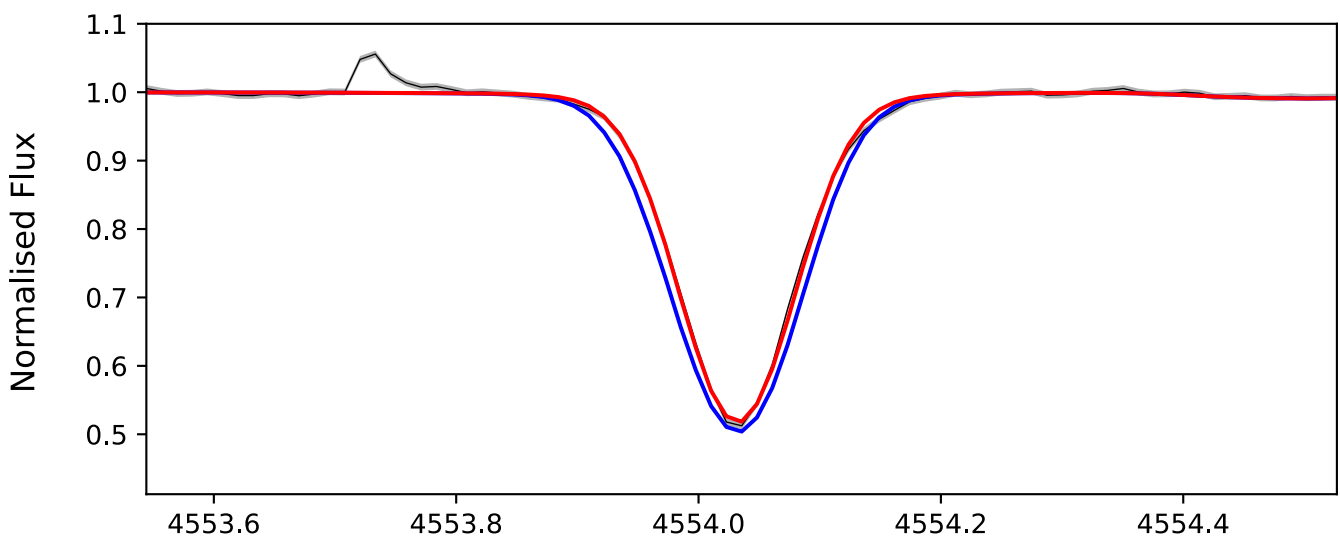
Ba II  $\lambda 4554.00$ :  $\chi = 0.000$  eV,  $\log gf = +0.17$

<sup>134</sup> Ba:		
4554.000	.....	1.0000
<sup>135</sup> Ba:		
4553.969	.....	0.1562
4553.970	.....	0.1562
4553.971	.....	0.0625
4554.017	.....	0.4375
4554.020	.....	0.1562
4554.021	.....	0.0313
<sup>136</sup> Ba:		
4554.000	.....	1.0000
<sup>137</sup> Ba:		
4553.965	.....	0.1562
4553.967	.....	0.1562
4553.968	.....	0.0625
4554.020	.....	0.4375
4554.022	.....	0.1562
4554.023	.....	0.0313
<sup>138</sup> Ba:		
4554.000	.....	1.0000

# Spectral analysis results ratio for Ba (1D and LTE)

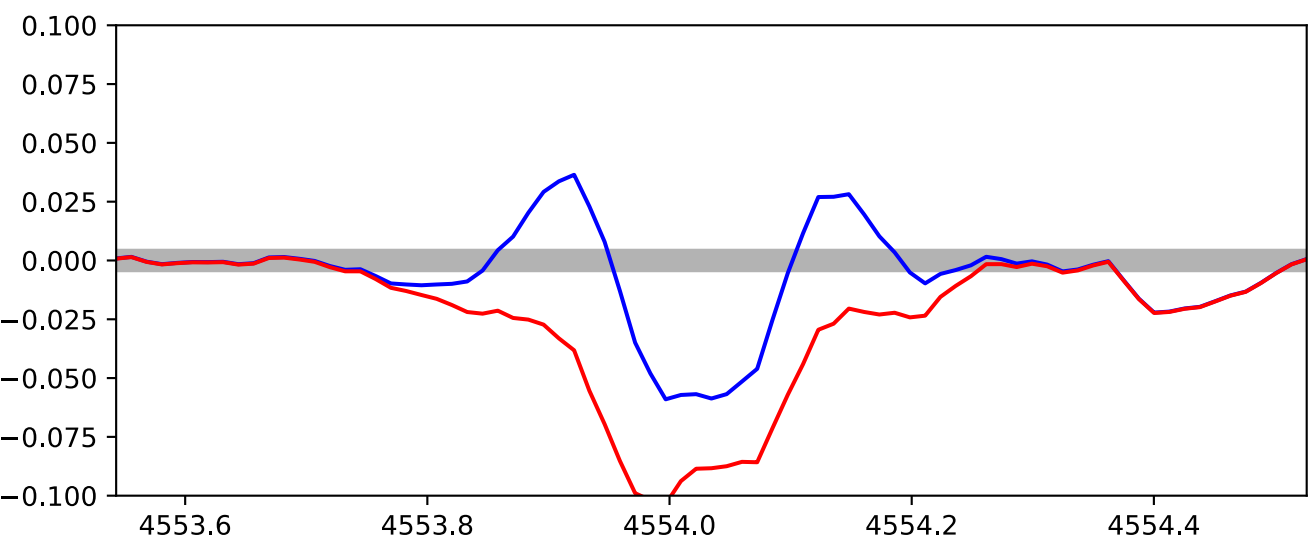
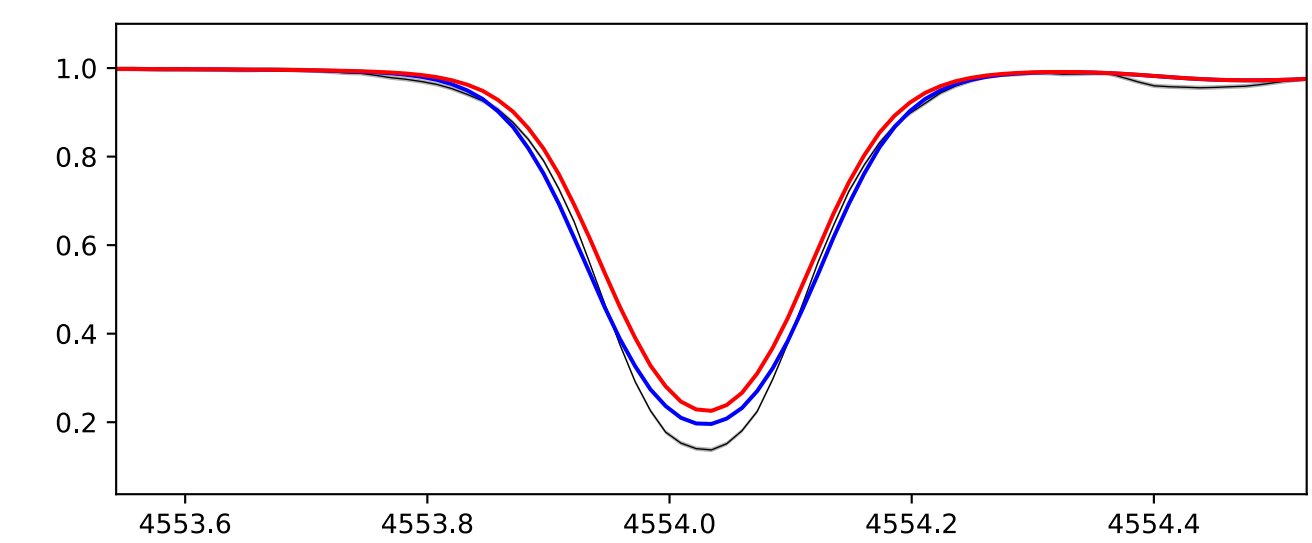
Cescutti+21

HD 4306



$\lambda(\text{\AA})$

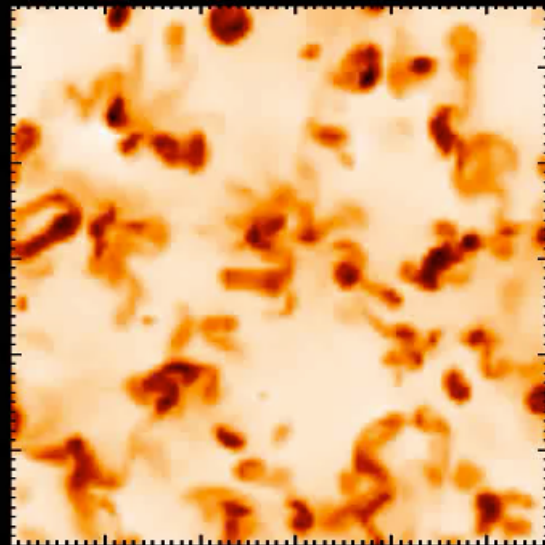
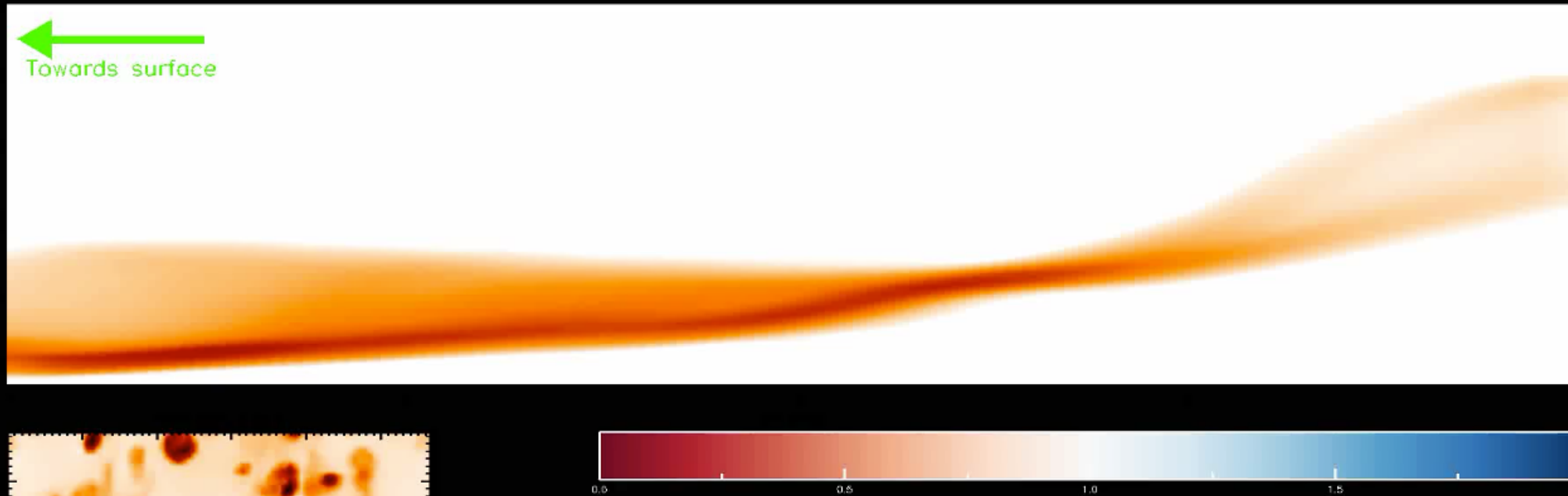
HD 6268



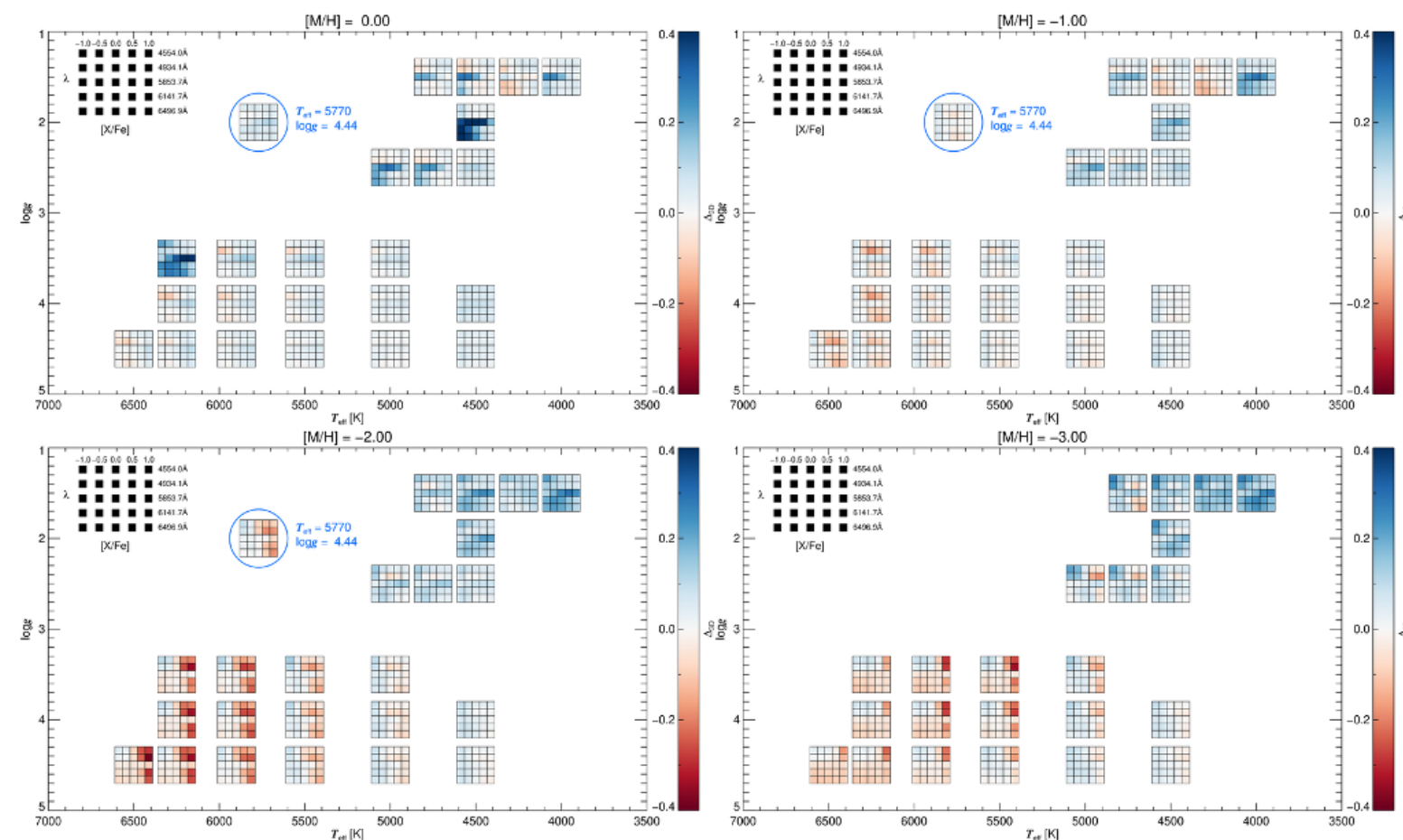
$\lambda(\text{\AA})$



# Ba II 4554.033 Å line formation in the atmosphere of red giant star



3D NLTE abundance corrections for Ba II lines  
© Andrew J. Gallagher, AIP





# Stochastic chemical evolution model

**Stars are discrete entities!**

We simulate the halo as formed by many independent volumes each one of the typical dimension of  $\sim 100$  pc ( $\sim$ radius of SN bubble) and we treat each volume as isolate from the others.



$\sim 100$ pc

Cescutti (2008)

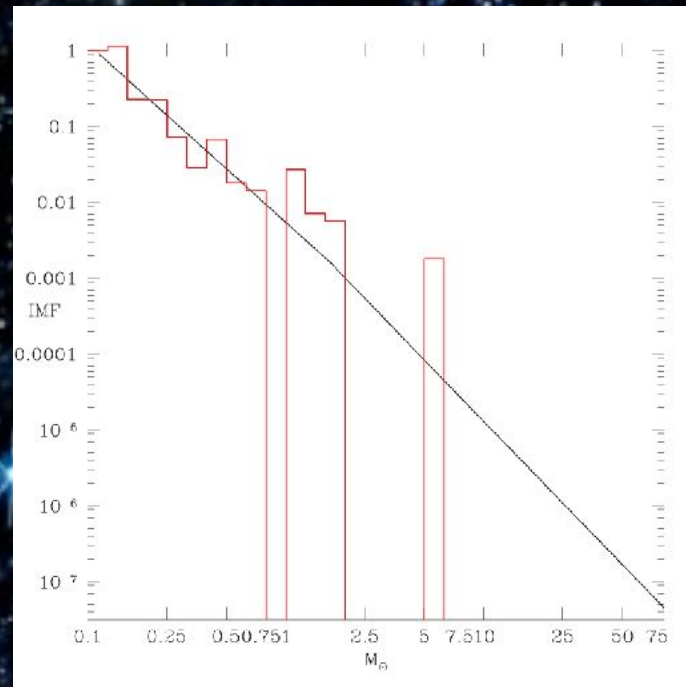
Inside each volume, we simulate the chemical enrichment.  
The main parameters are the same as those of the homogeneous model  
but in each isolated volume



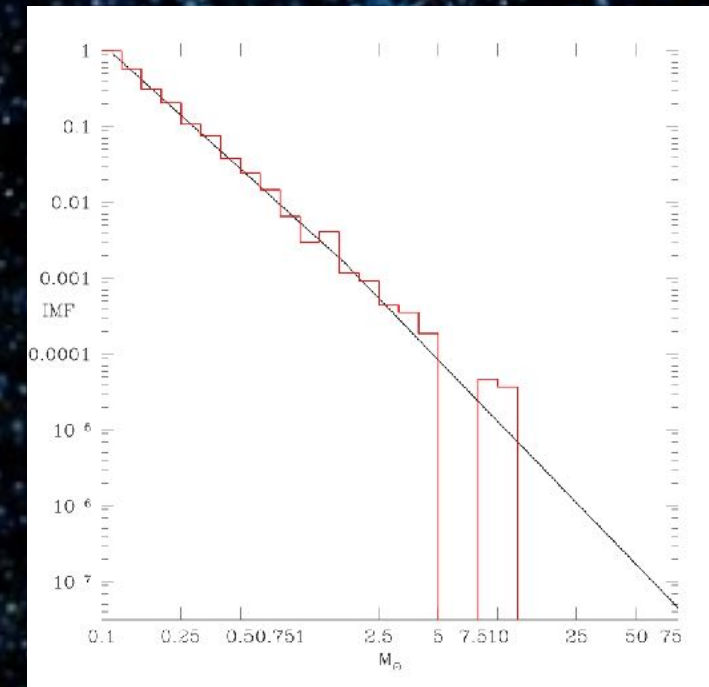
# Stochastic formation of stars

The formation of new stars subjects to the condition that the cumulative mass distribution follows a given initial mass function; this fact produces different enrichments in the different volumes.

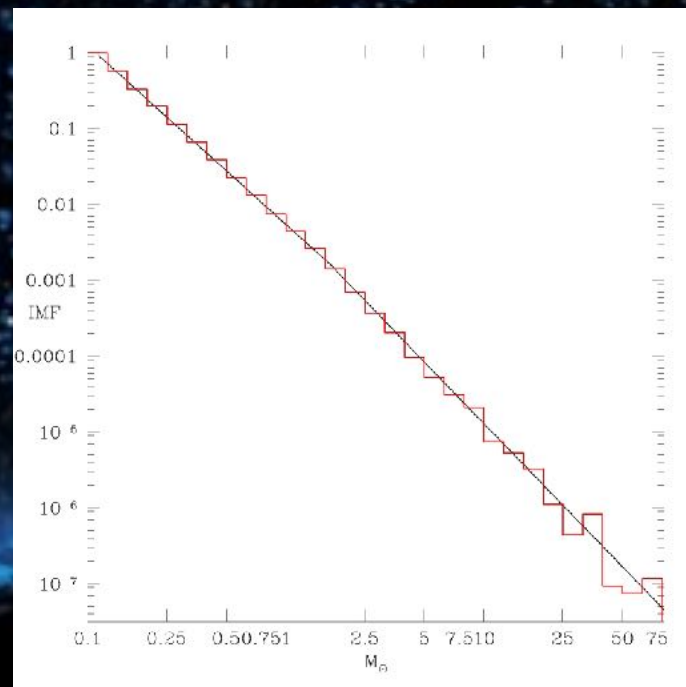
50 stars



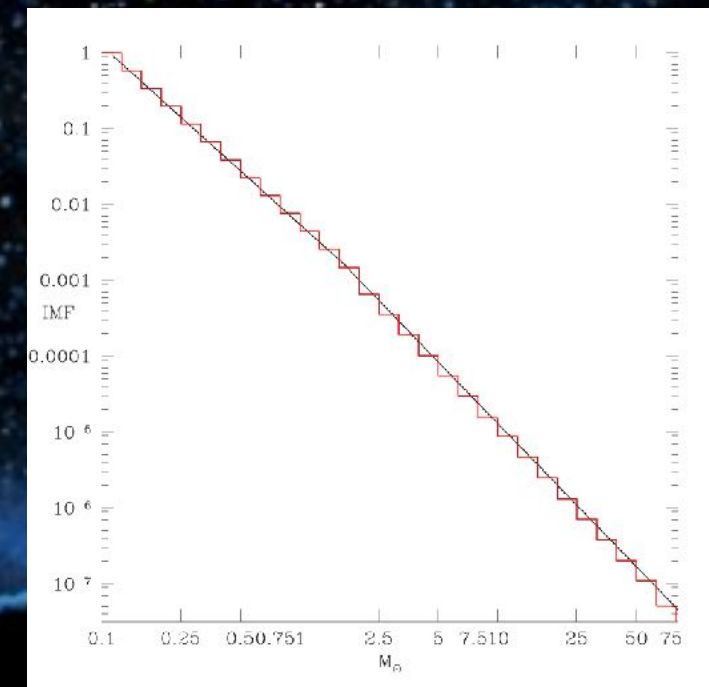
1000 stars



$10^5$  stars



$10^7$  stars





# Stochastic chemical evolution models

minimum of 100 volumes up to 10'000

