Nuclear Astrophysics

IV. Core-collapse supernovae

Karlheinz Langanke

GSI & TU Darmstadt

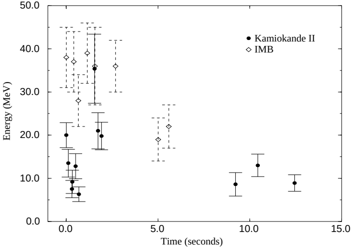
Capetown, January 27, 2009

A few facts: SN1987A

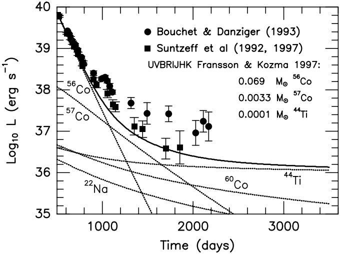
Type II supernova in LMC ($\sim$ 55 kpc)

- $E_{\mathrm{grav}} \approx 10^{53}$ erg
- $E_{\mathrm{rad}} \approx 8 \times 10^{49}$ erg
- $E_{\mathrm{kin}} \approx 10^{51}$ erg $= 1$ foe

neutrinos $E_\nu \approx 2.7 \times 10^{53}$ erg



light curve

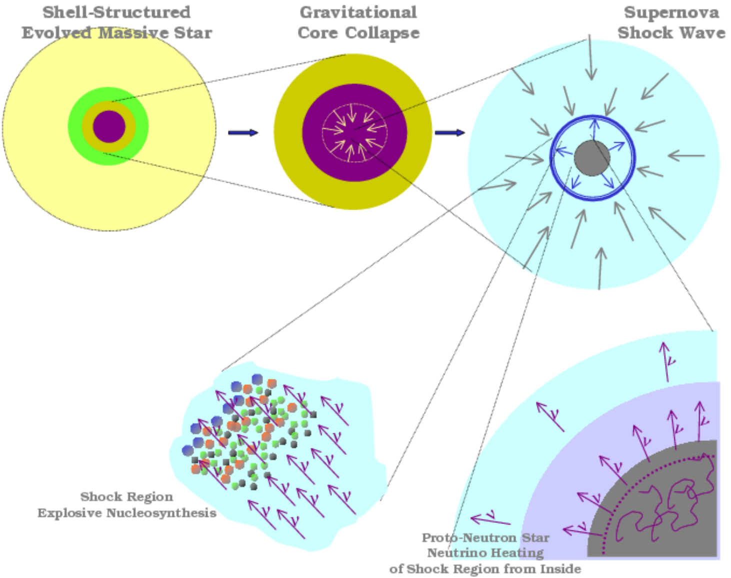


Presupernova and collapse models

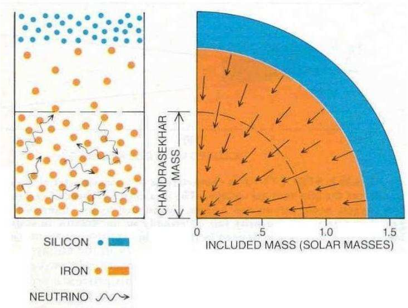
Core-collapse supernova simulations are separated into:

1. **presupernova models**:
    - describes the stellar evolution through the various hydrostatic burning stages (H, He,...,Si) and follows the collapse of the central core until densities of order $\rho_9 = 10$ are reached
    - large nuclear networks are used to include the nuclear energy generation and the changes in composition
    - neutrinos, produced in weak-interaction reactions, can leave the star unhindered and are treated as energy loss
2. **collapse models**
    - describes the final collapse and the explosion phase
    - the temperature during these phases is high enough that all reactions mediated by the strong and electromagnetic interaction are in equilibrium; thus the matter composition is given by Nuclear Statistical Equilibrium (NSE)
    - reactions mediated by the weak interaction are not in equilibrium
    - neutrino interactions with matter have to be considered in details (Boltzmann transport)

Core-collapse supernova.



Collapse phase

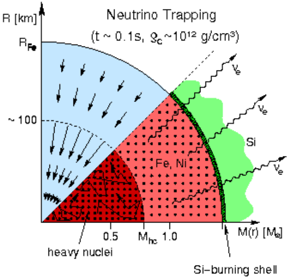


Important processes:

- $T > 10^{10}$ K, $\rho > 10^{10}$ g/cm^3
- Neutrino transport (Boltzmann equation):
  $\nu + A \rightleftarrows \nu + A$ (trapping)
  $\nu + e^- \rightleftarrows \nu + e^-$ (thermalization)

  cross sections $\sim E_\nu^2$
- electron capture on nuclei and protons:
  $e^- + (N, Z) \rightleftarrows (N + 1, Z - 1) + \nu_e$
  $e^- + p \rightleftarrows n + \nu_e$
- capture on nuclei dominates

Neutrino trapping

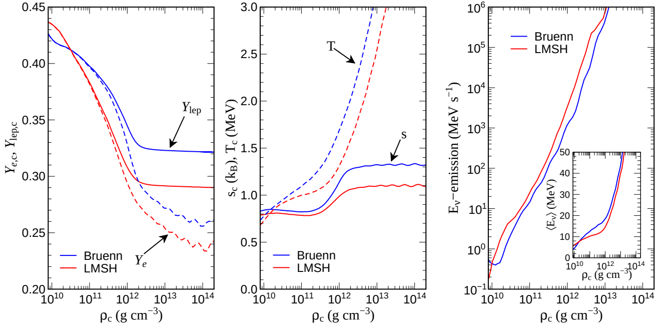


- $\nu + A \rightleftarrows \nu + A$ (trapping)
  elastic process, no energy, but momentum transfer
- $\nu + e^- \rightleftarrows \nu' + e^-$ (thermalization)
  inelastic scattering, energy transfer
- $\nu + (Z, A) \rightarrow \nu' + (Z, A)^*$
  (thermalization)
  inelastic scattering, energy transfer
- cross sections $\sim E_\nu^2$

treatment by neutrino transport (Boltzmann equations) which consider all neutrino types and keep track of neutrino fluxes, energies at all space-time points

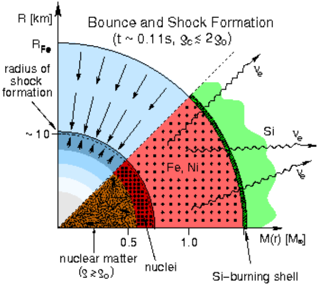
Effect on improved capture rates on collapse

With Rampp & Janka (General Relativistic model)
15 $M_\odot$ presupernova model from A. Heger & S. Woosley



For $\rho > 10^{12}$ g/cm^3 fermi sea of neutrinos forms as neutrinos get trapped. Weak interaction is then basically in equilibrium!

Core bounce

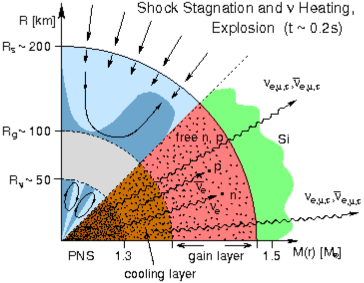


The collapse continues until the central density becomes substantially (by about a factor 2-4) larger than nuclear density ($\rho_{nm} \approx 2 \times 10^{14}$ g/cm^3). Then nuclear pressure slows down the infall and finally stops it. When the inner core has reached its maximum density (*maximum scrunch*), it rebounds and a shock starts.

A decisive quantity for this stage of the collapse is the *Equation of State*. It is assumed that matter consists of nuclear and electron components, while neutrinos have negligible interactions, but are important for the determination of quantities like Y_e or temperature.

In the shock the temperature increases. So the passage of the shock dissociates the nuclei into free nucleons which costs the shock energy (about 8-9 MeV/nucleon). The shock has not enough energy to traverse the iron core. It stalls. No prompt explosion.

Shock revival

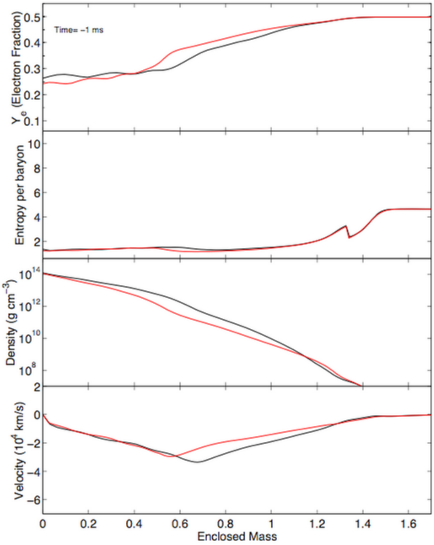


- The important reactions directly behind the shock are:

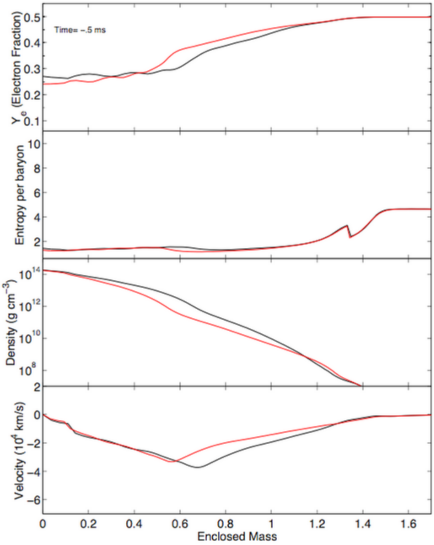
$$\nu_e + n \leftrightarrow p + e^-; \quad \bar{\nu}_e + p \leftrightarrow n + e^+$$

- Competition between emission (cooling) and absorption (heating) by neutrinos.
- Thus the material directly behind the shock gets heated.
- This increases the kinetic energy of matter and revives the shock (delayed supernova mechanism).
- However, spherical simulations fail and show no successful explosions.

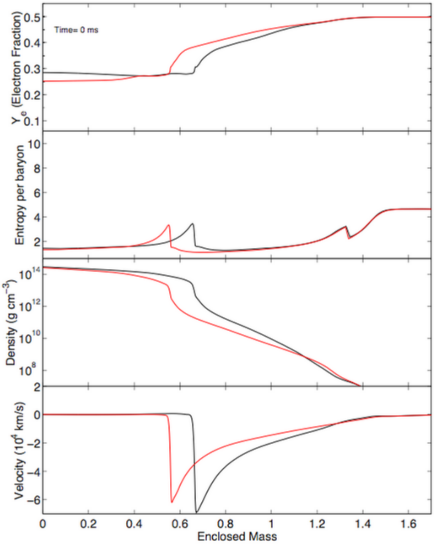
Bounce and shock wave evolution



Bounce and shock wave evolution



Bounce and shock wave evolution



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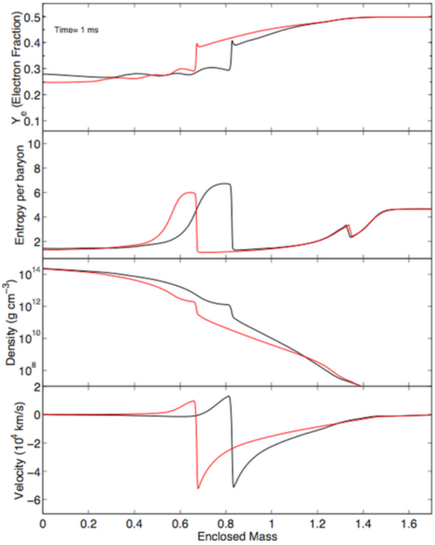

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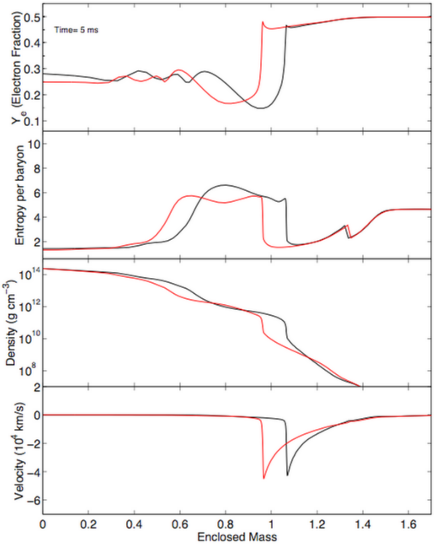

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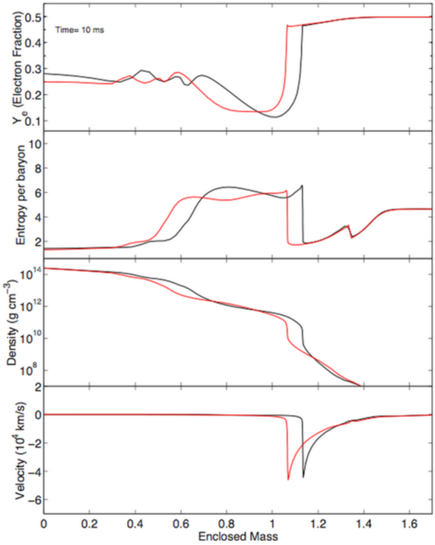

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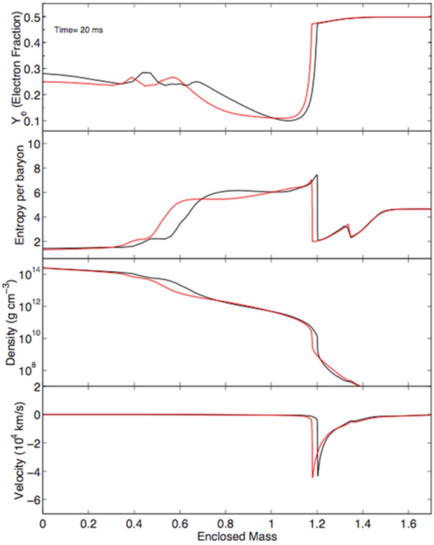
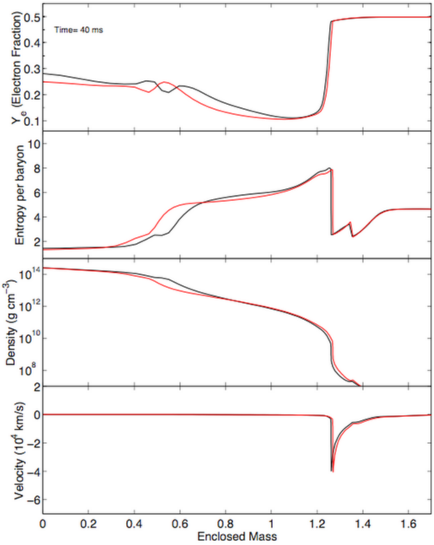
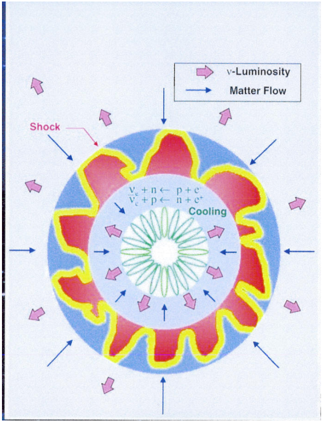


Bounce and shock wave evolution



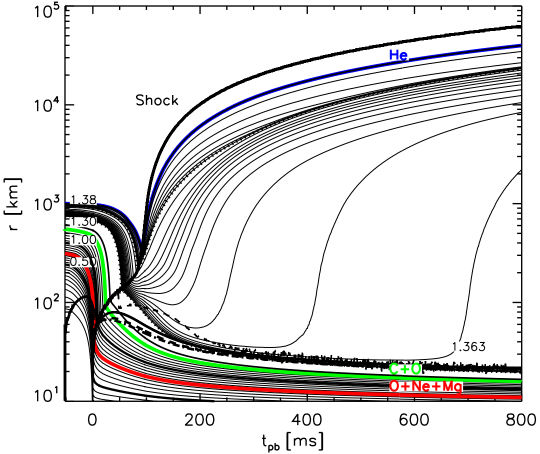
Convection



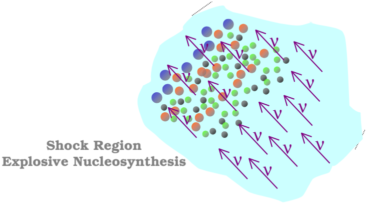
There exist now two-dimensional simulations (with neutrino transport and modern microphysics) which yield successful explosions.
Convection brings neutrinos from deeper (hotter) layers to the shock and increase the effectiveness of energy transfer.

Successful two-dimensional supernova

Successful 2-dimensional explosion of $11 M_\odot$ star with ONeMg core (H.-Th. Janka)



Explosive nucleosynthesis in supernova



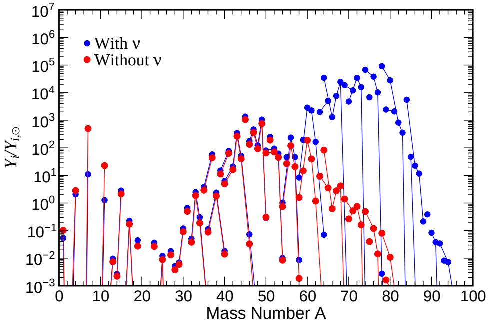
- Consistent treatment of supernova dynamics coupled with a nuclear network.
- Essential neutrino reactions in the shock heated region

$$\nu_e + n \rightleftarrows p + e^-$$
$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightleftarrows n + e^+$$

- early ($\sim$ 1 s): matter protonrich $\rightarrow$ νp-process
- later: matter neutronrich $\rightarrow$ r-process

The νp-process: basic idea

- Protonrich matter is ejected under the influence of neutrino reactions
- Nuclei form at distance where a substantial antineutrino flux is present



Antineutrinos help to bridge long waiting points via (n,p) reactions

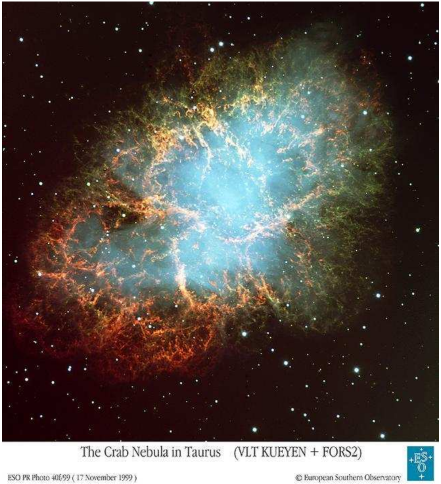
$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n; \quad n + {}^{64}\mathrm{Ge} \rightarrow {}^{64}\mathrm{Ga} + p; \quad {}^{64}\mathrm{Ga} + p \rightarrow {}^{65}\mathrm{Ge}; \ldots$$

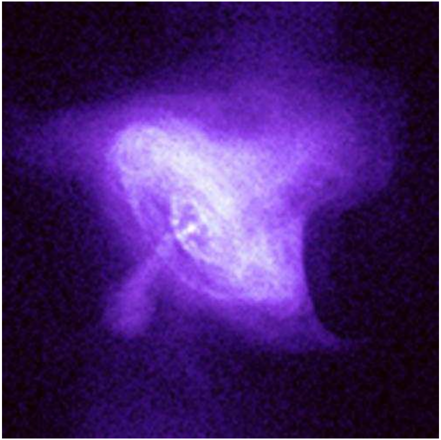
C. Fröhlich, G. Martinez-Pinedo, et al., PRL 96 (2006) 142502

Supernova remnants

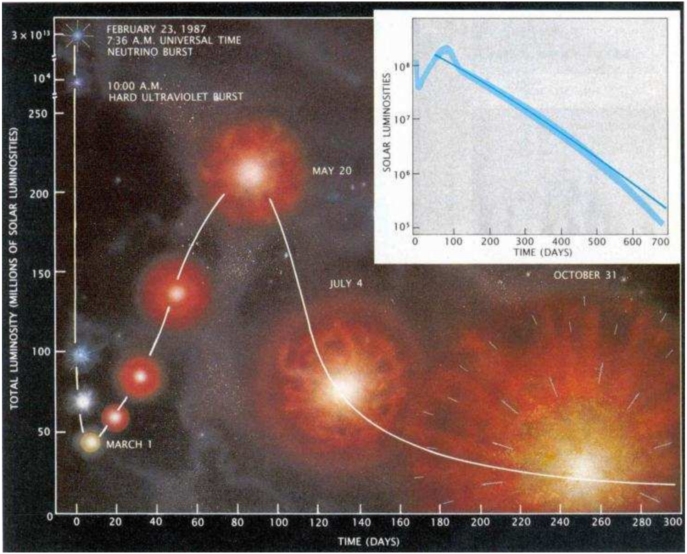
The remnant left over in the explosion depends on the main-sequence mass M_{ms} and on the maximum mass for neutron stars. The later is not quite well known. Most neutron stars, whose masses are well determined (they are in binaries), have masses around 1.4 $M_\odot$, however, recent observations might imply masses up to 2.1 $M_\odot$.
It is generally assumed that the collapse of stars with $M_{ms} > 20 - 25 M_\odot$ leads to a black hole in the center, while stars with $8 M_\odot < M_{ms} < 20 - 25 M_\odot$ yield a supernova with a neutron star remnant.
It is also possible that accretion during the explosion might put the remnant over the neutron star mass limit. It is speculated that this happened in the case of the SN87A.

Supernova remnants





Light curve



FEBRUARY 23, 1987
7:36 A.M. UNIVERSAL TIME
NEUTRINO BURST
10:00 A.M.
HARD ULTRAVIOLET BURST
MAY 20
JULY 4
OCTOBER 31
MARCH 1
TOTAL LUMINOSITY (MILLIONS OF SOLAR LUMINOSITIES)
TIME (DAYS)
SOLAR LUMINOSITIES
TIME (DAYS)

Energy from radioactive decays

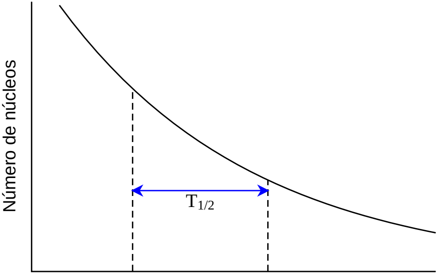
A core-collapse supernova produces about $0.15 - 0.2\ M_\odot$ ^{56}Ni. This is made in the outer layers of the star ($Y_e = 0.5$, mainly ^{16}O) when the shock wave passes through and brings this matter into NSE by fast reactions. Supernova also produce other radioactive nuclides (for example ^{57}Ni and ^{44}Ti). ^{44}Ti is only barely made (about $10^{-4}\ M_\odot$), but has a lifetime of about 60 years. It dominates the lightcurve of SN87A today.

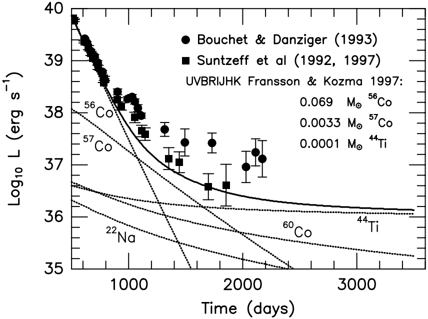
These radiactive nuclides decay, producing γ radiation in the MeV range. By scattering with electrons, these photons are thermalized and then radiated away as infrared, visible, and ultraviolet light.

Radioactive decay

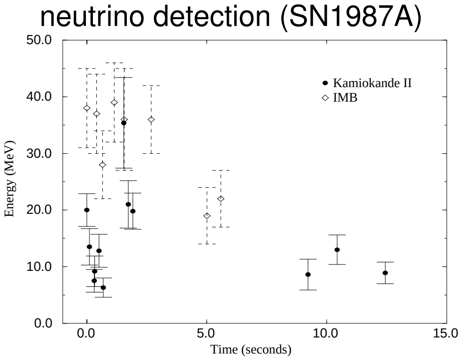
Light curve follows the decay of Nickel.

$$^{56}\text{Ni} \xrightarrow{\text{6 days}} {}^{56}\text{Co} \xrightarrow{\text{77 days}} {}^{56}\text{Fe}$$





Supernova neutrino detection



The Kamioka and IMB detectors are water Cerenkov detectors. Observed have been $\bar{\nu}_e$ neutrinos via there interaction on protons (in the water molecule). The detection of the other neutrino types is the main goal for the next nearby supernova to test the predicted neutrino hierarchy.