

# Tidal disruption events of white dwarfs: a clue to search for intermediate mass black holes

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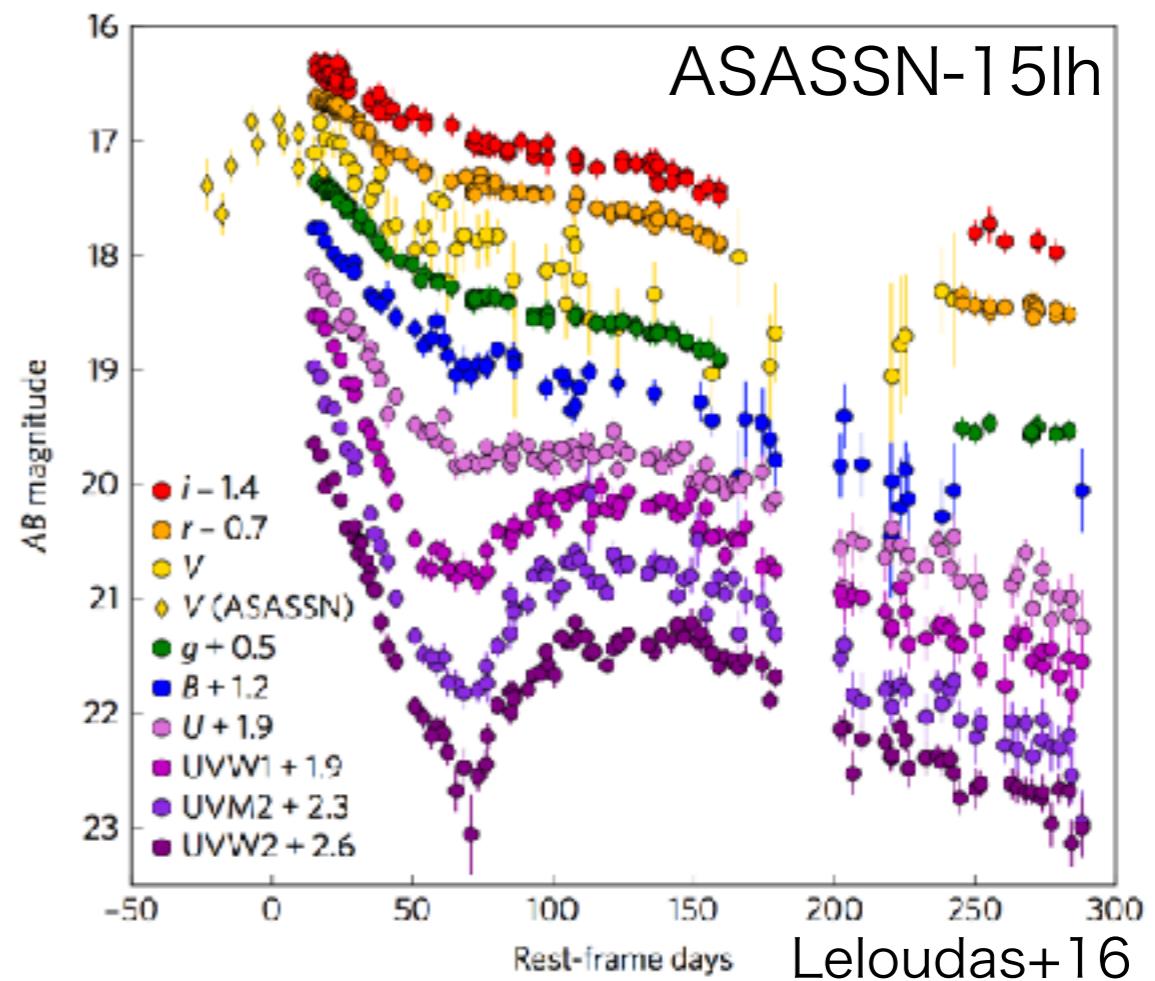
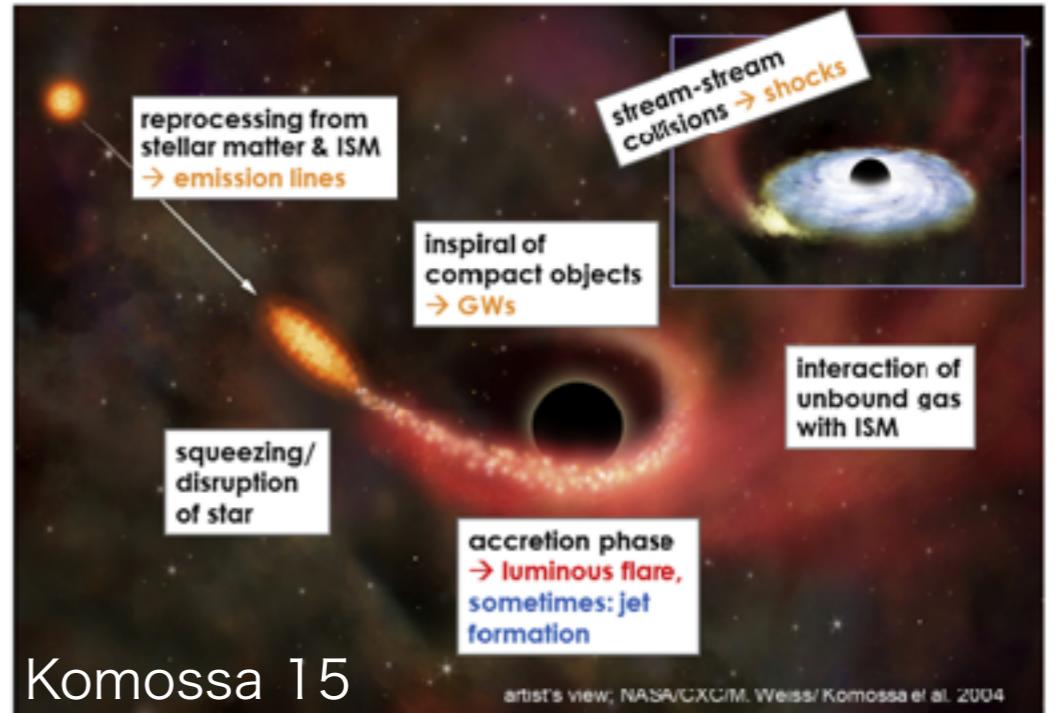
21st European White Dwarf Workshop

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, July 24th, 2018

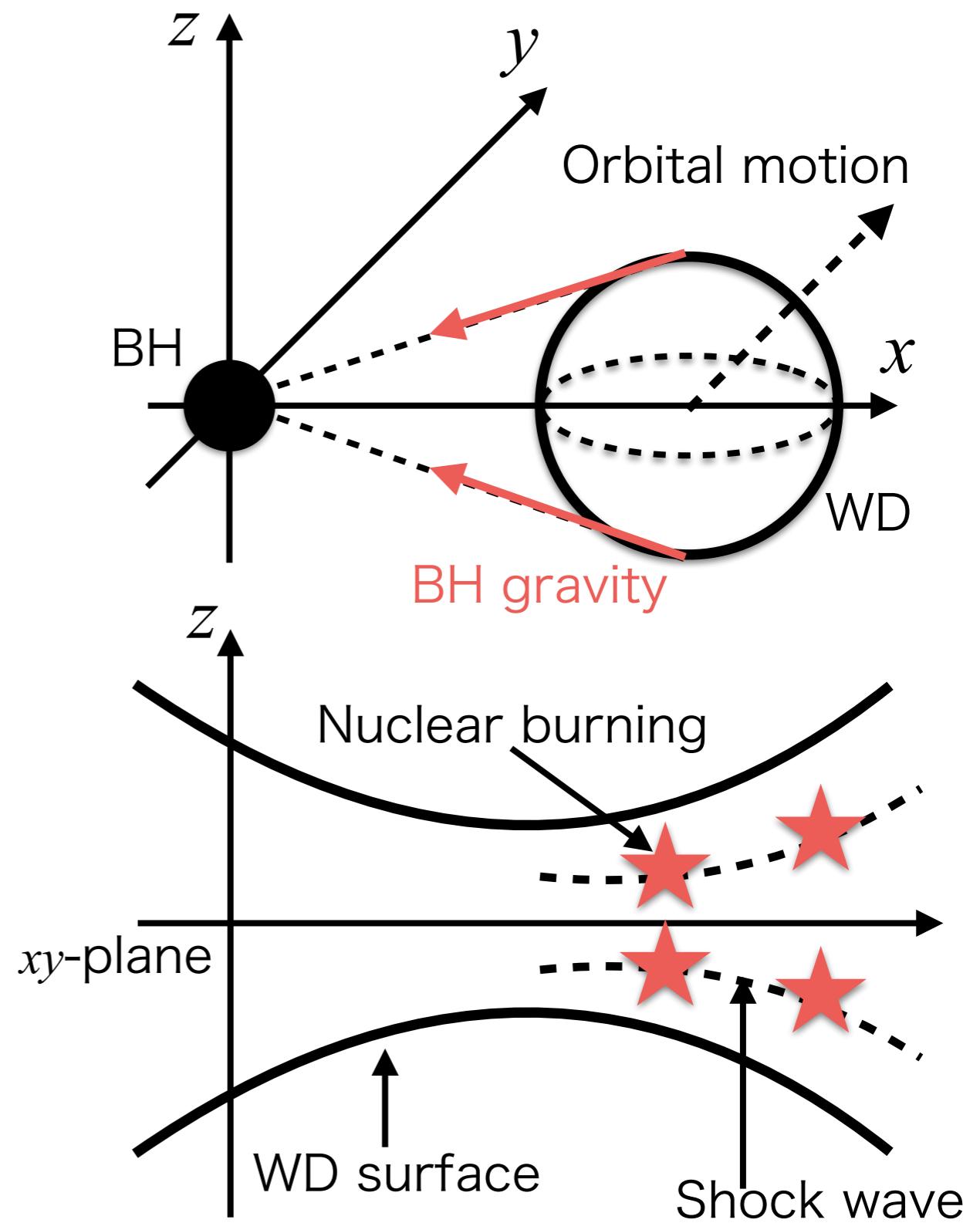
# Tidal Disruption Event

- Tidal disruption of a star (e.g. main sequence stars) by a BH
- Bright flare powered by accretion of the stellar debris
- Several ten candidates (Komossa 2015)
  - TDEs of main sequence stars
  - No confirmed WD TDEs



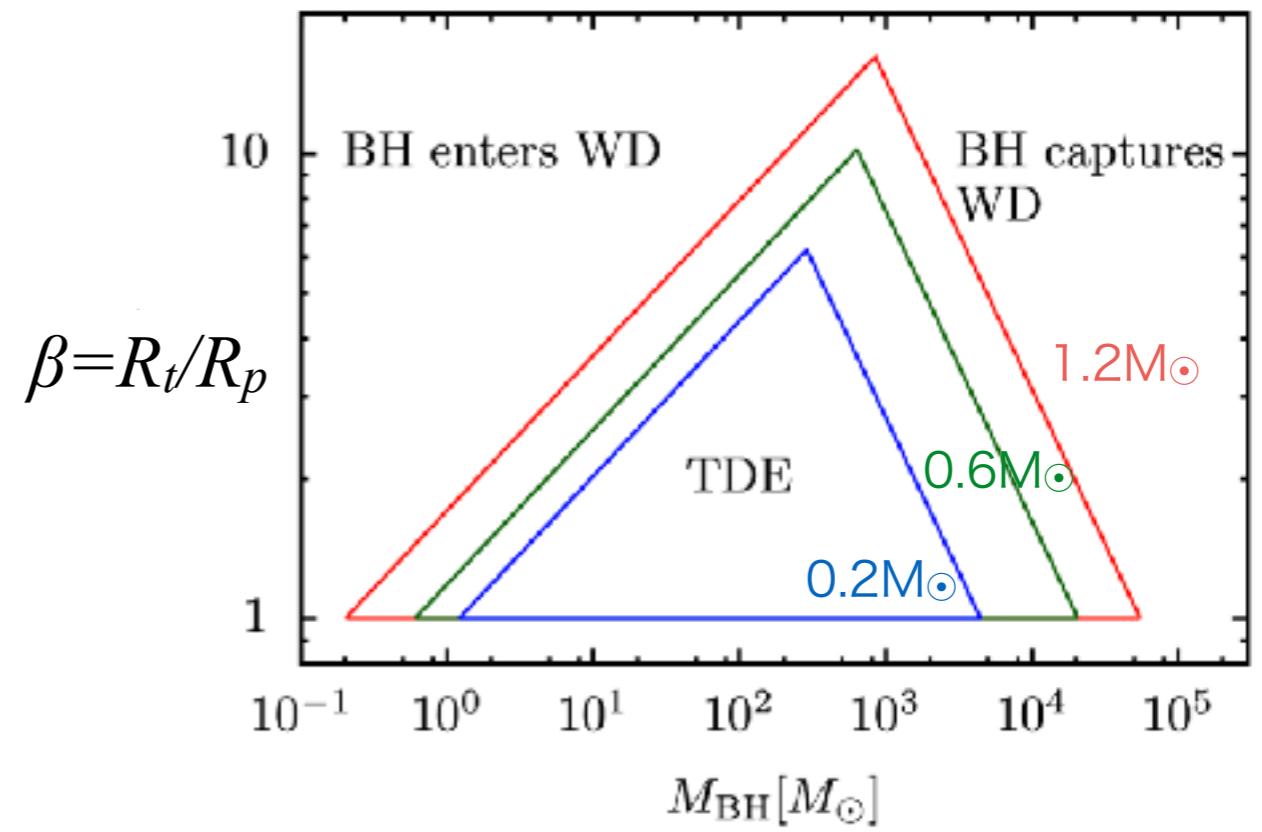
# Tidal detonation

- Supersonic combustion induced by a tidal field of a BH
  - The WD is compressed in z-direction.
  - The compression induces a shock wave.
  - The shock wave triggers a detonation wave.
  - The detonation wave synthesizes large amounts of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ .
  - The WD TDE can be powered by  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ , similarly to SNe Ia.



# Probe to search for Intermediate mass black hole

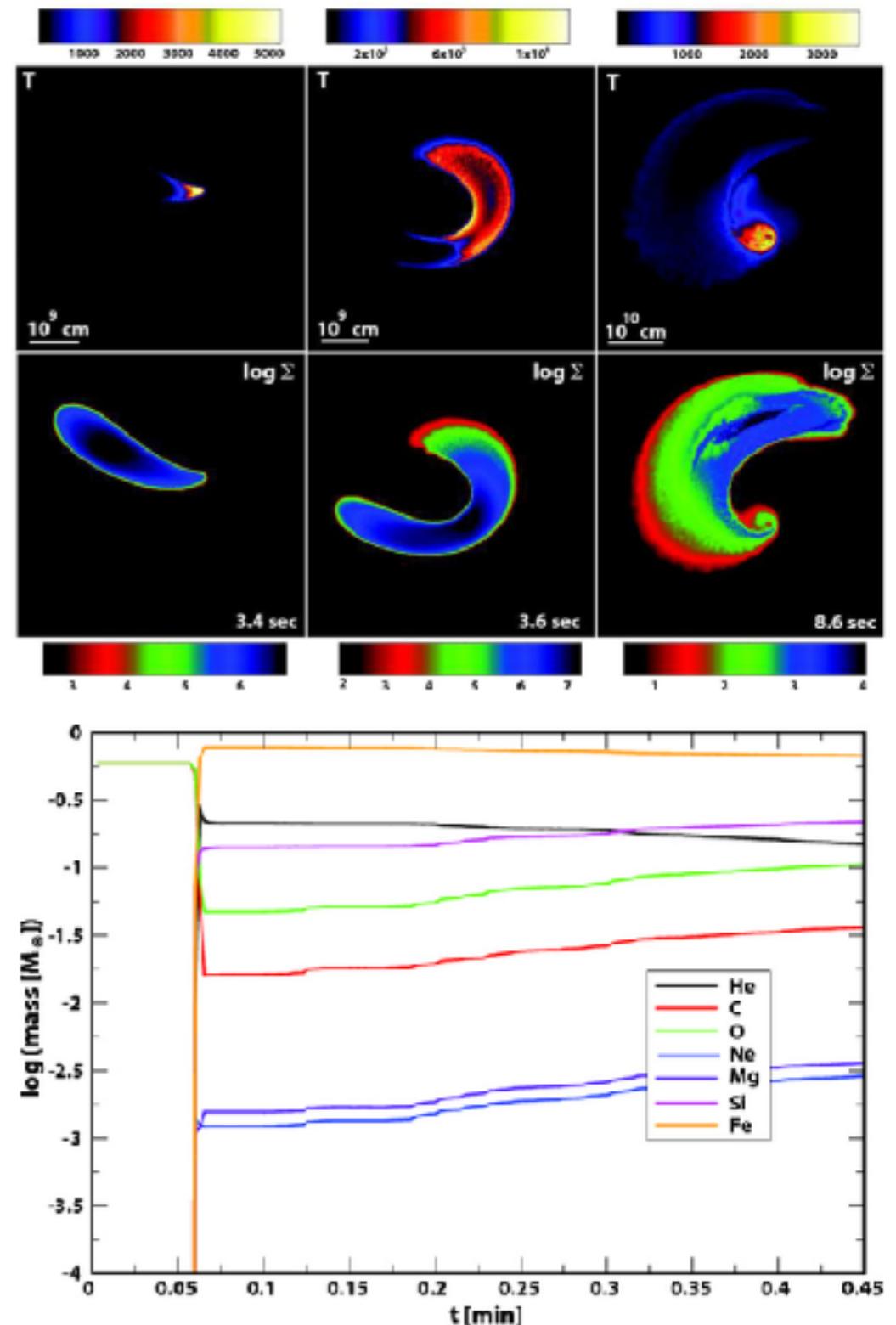
- Tidal detonation requires a WD TDE.
- A WD can be tidally disrupted only by an IMBH.
  - swallowing a stellar-mass BH.
  - swallowed by a massive BH.
- WD TDEs can illuminate only IMBHs.
- WD TDEs can be probes to search for IMBHs.



Kawana, AT+ 17 (see also  
Luminet, Pichon 1989  
Rosswog et al. 2009;  
MacLeod et al. 2016)

# Previous and our studies

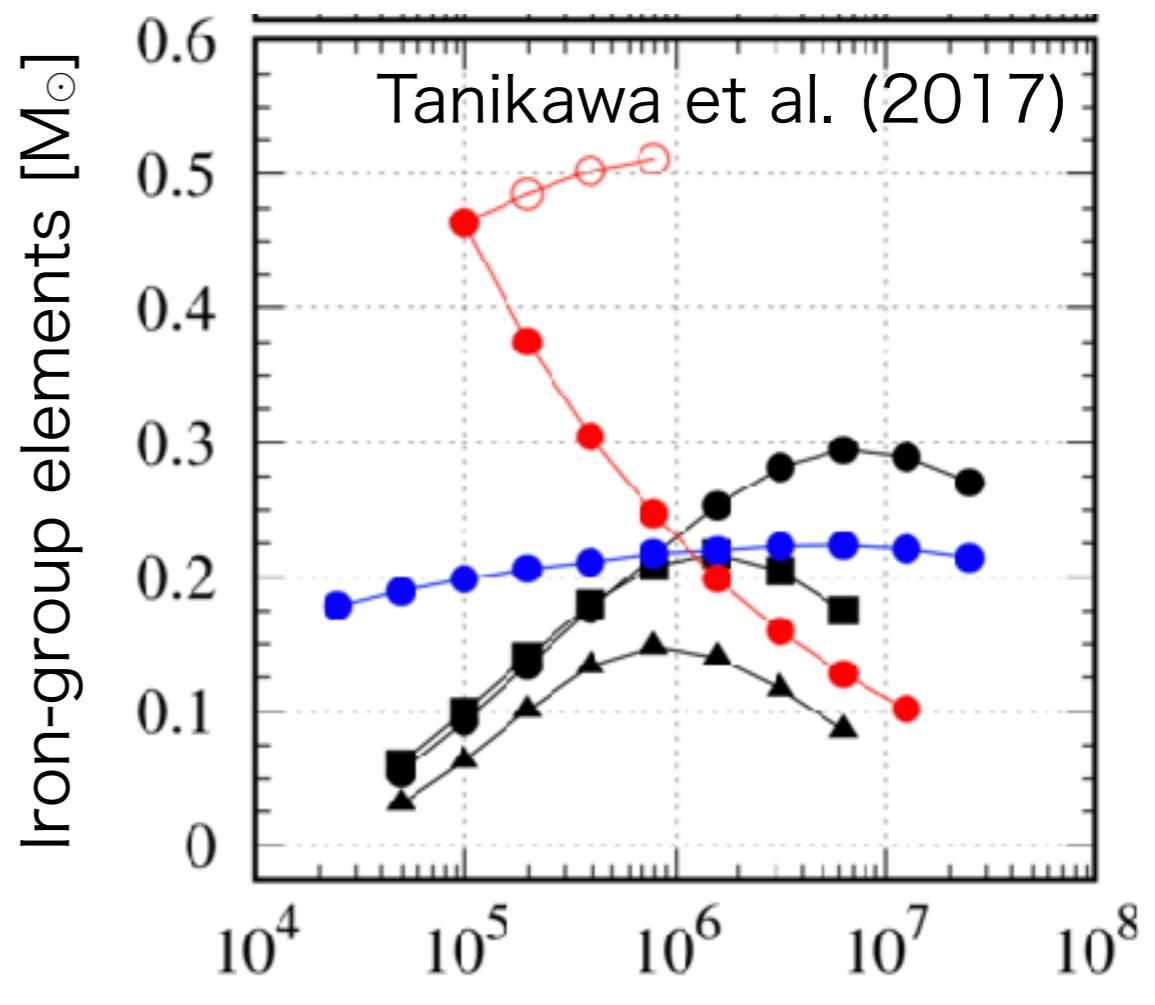
- Previous studies
  - Demonstration of large amounts of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  yielded
  - No convergence check about mass resolution
  - No demonstration of shock generation
- Our studies
  - Convergence check
  - Demonstration of shock generation



Rosswog et al. (2008; 2009)

# SPH simulation

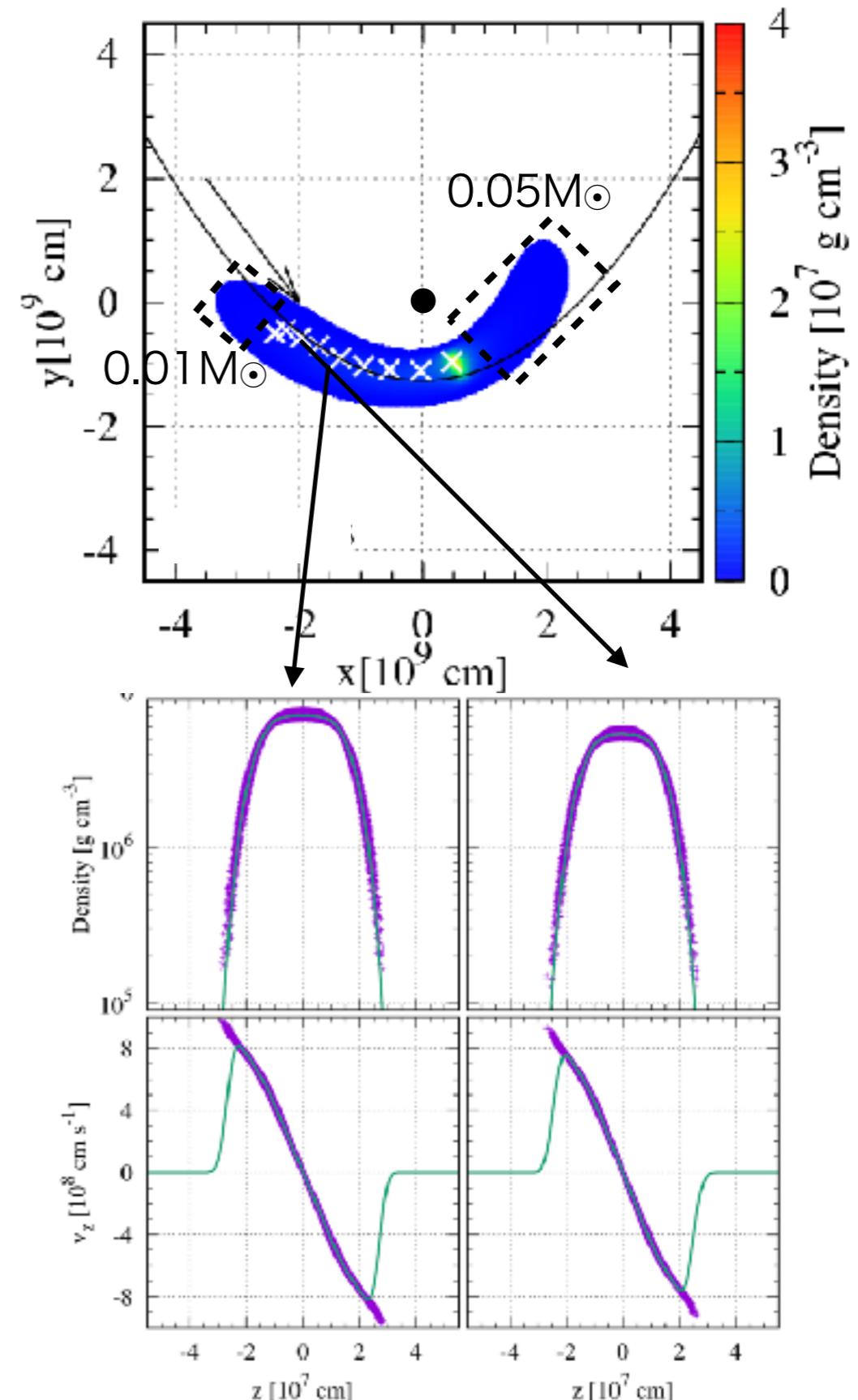
- SPH simulation in the same way as in previous studies, but with higher-mass resolution
  - Massively-parallel 3D SPH simulation code
  - Helmholtz EoS
  - Aprox13 nuclear reaction networks
  - $N > \sim 10^7$
- Ni yielded by spurious heating due to low resolution, not by a shock wave



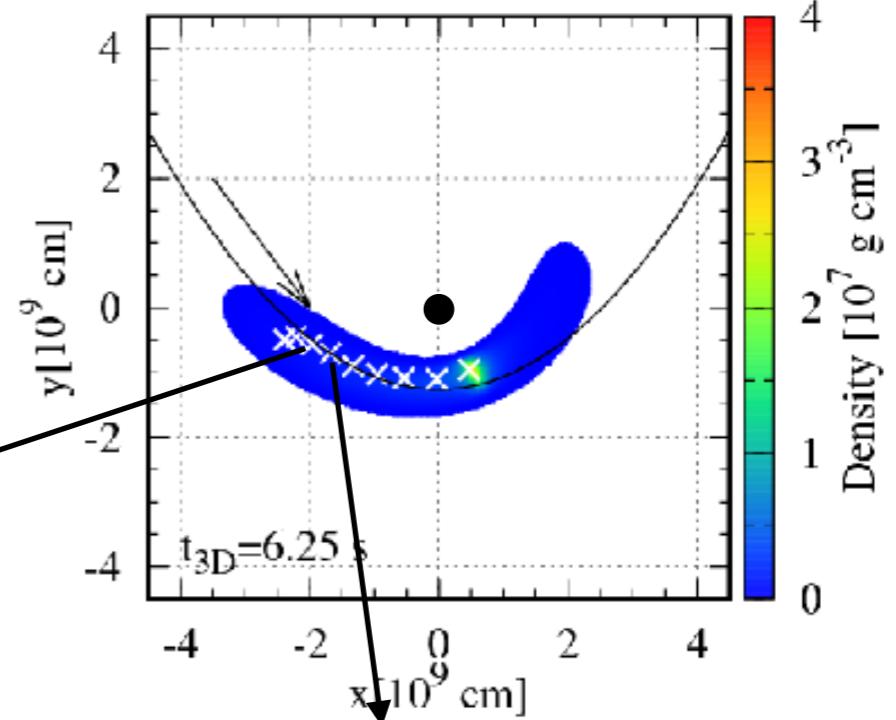
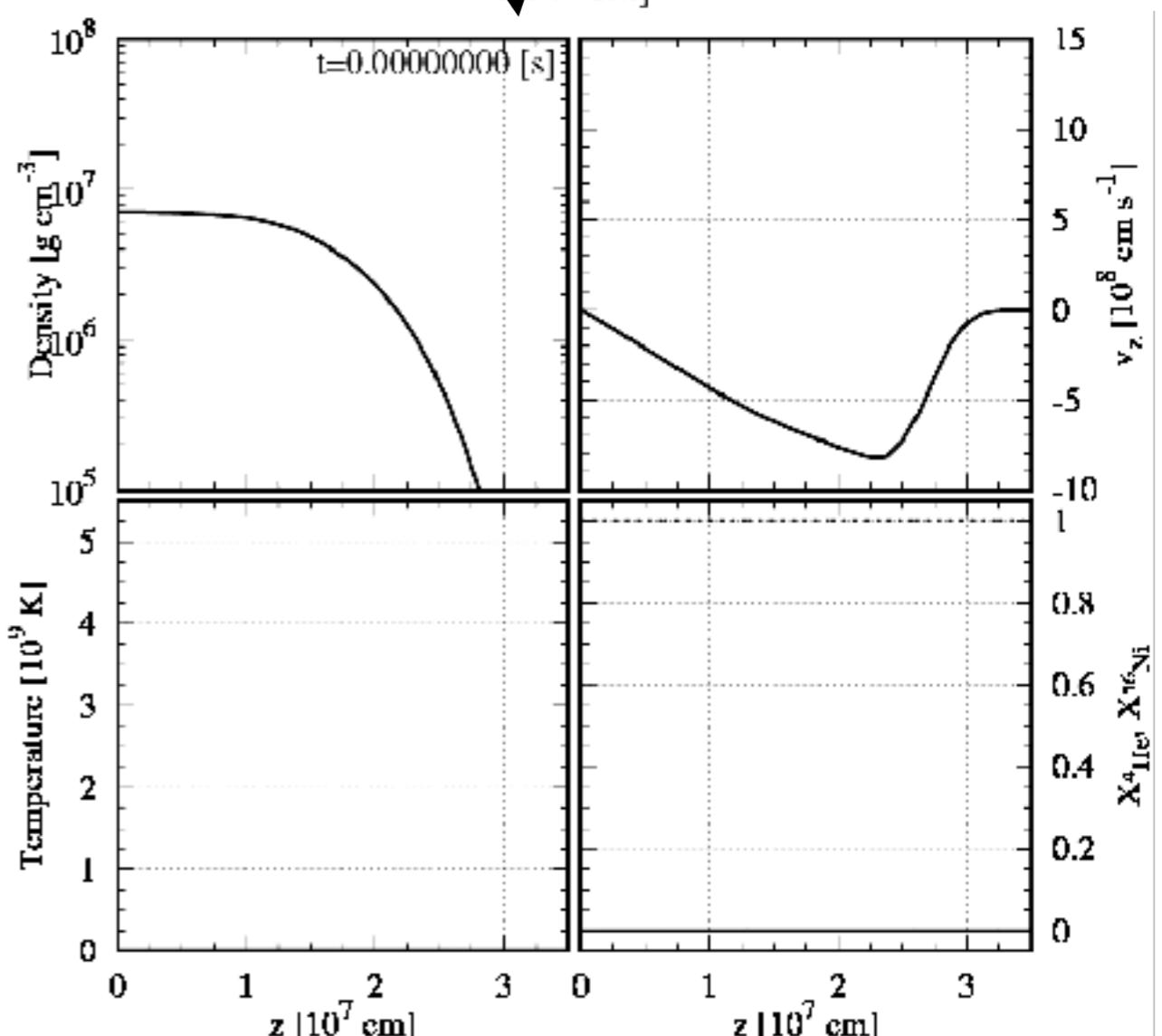
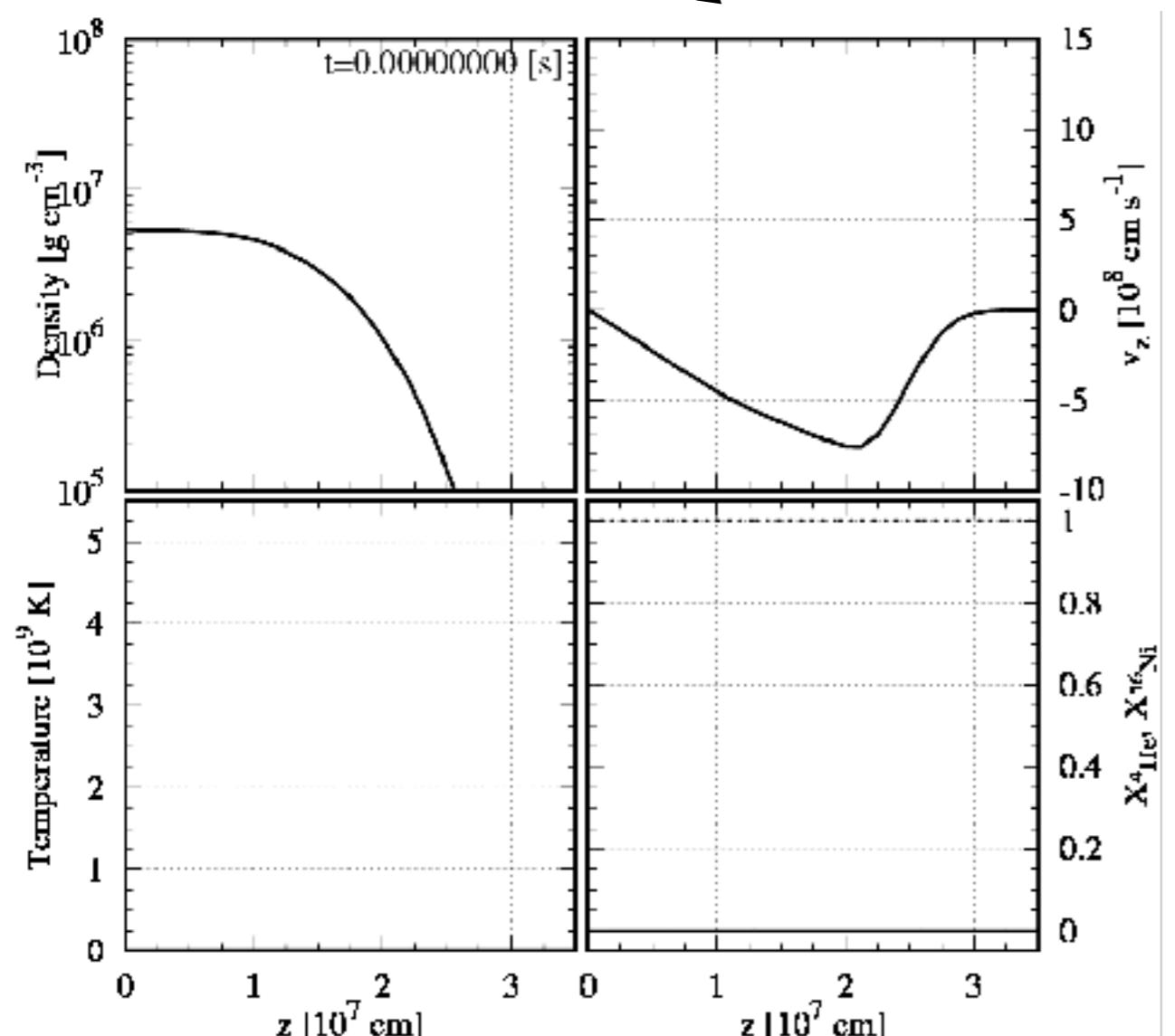
The number of SPH particles

# Switch 3D to 1D

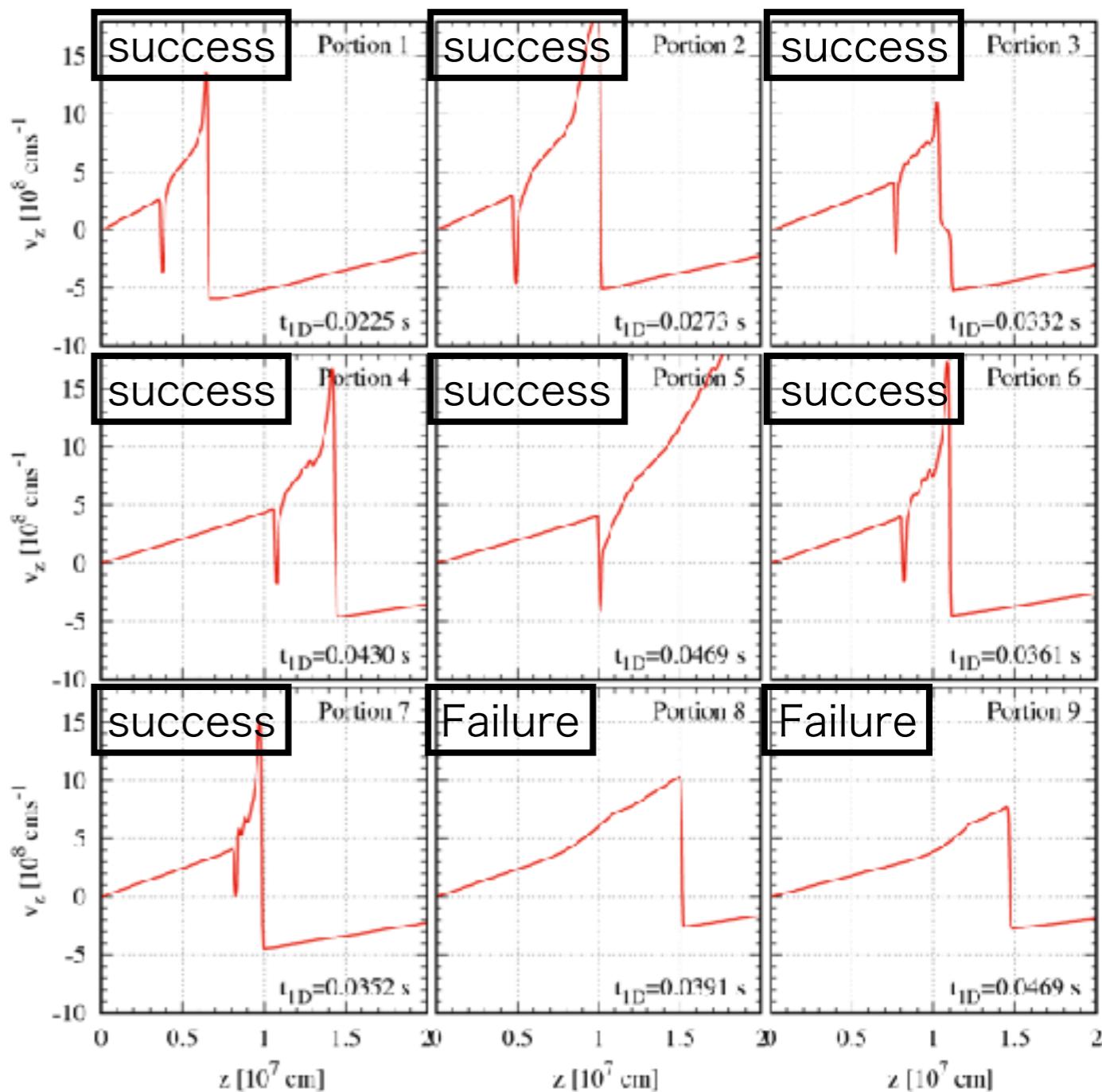
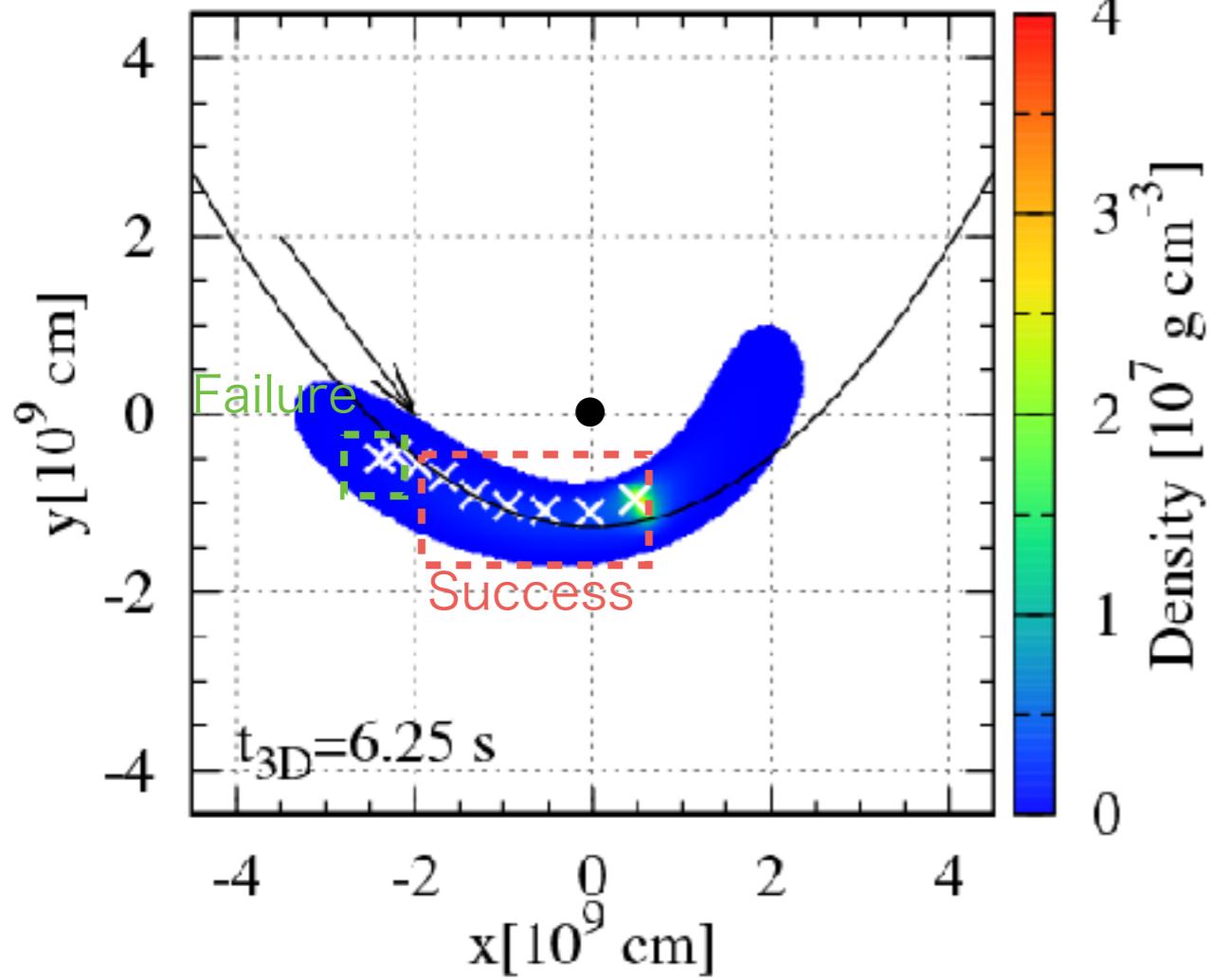
- 3D SPH simulation
  - $0.45M_{\odot}$  HeWD disrupted by  $300M_{\odot}$  IMBH
    - $N \sim 3 \times 10^8$  for the He WD
    - without nuclear reactions
  - Extracting z-columns indicated by white crosses
  - 1D mesh simulation
    - z-columns
    - with nuclear reactions



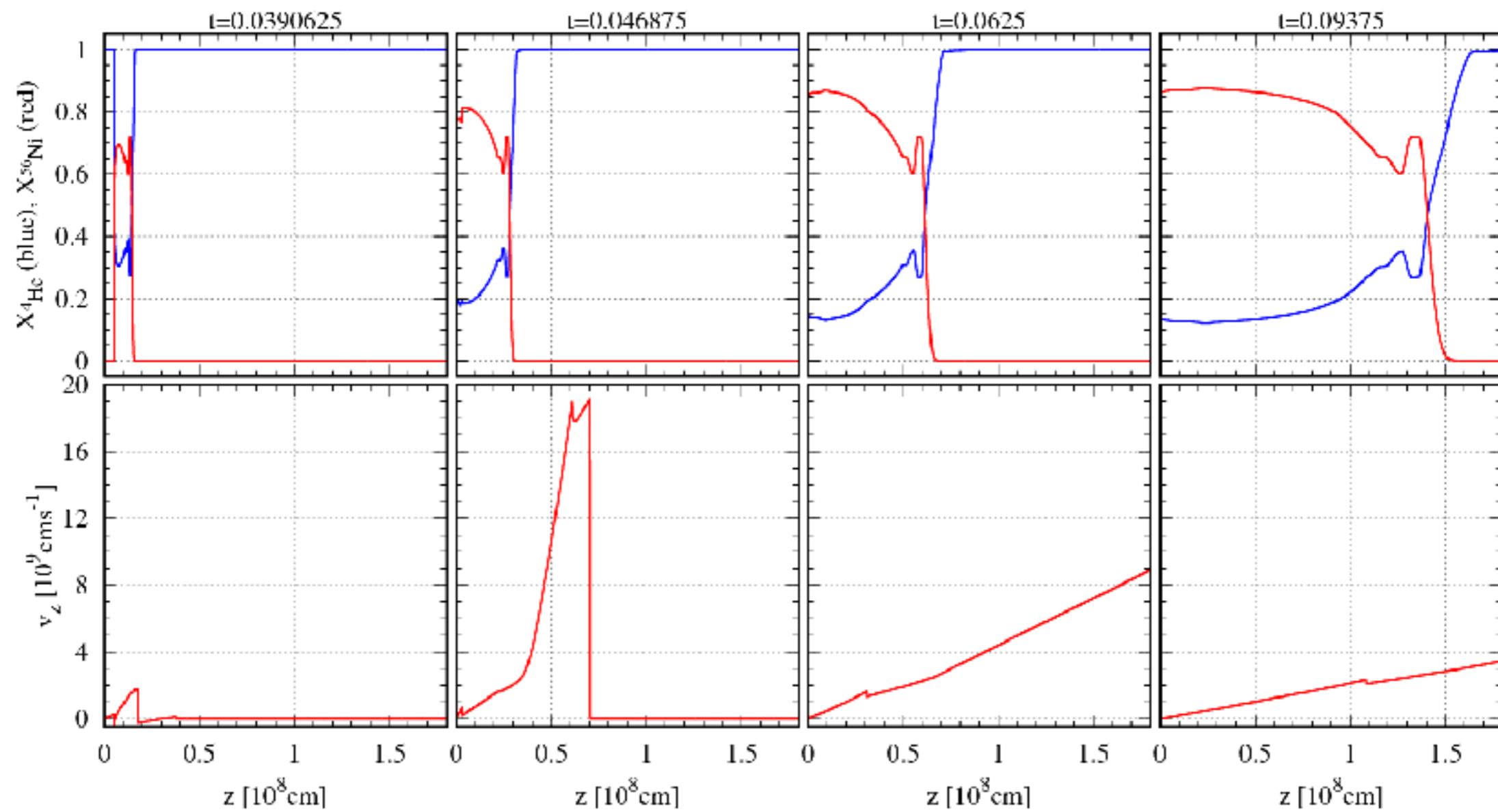
# Movies



# Results



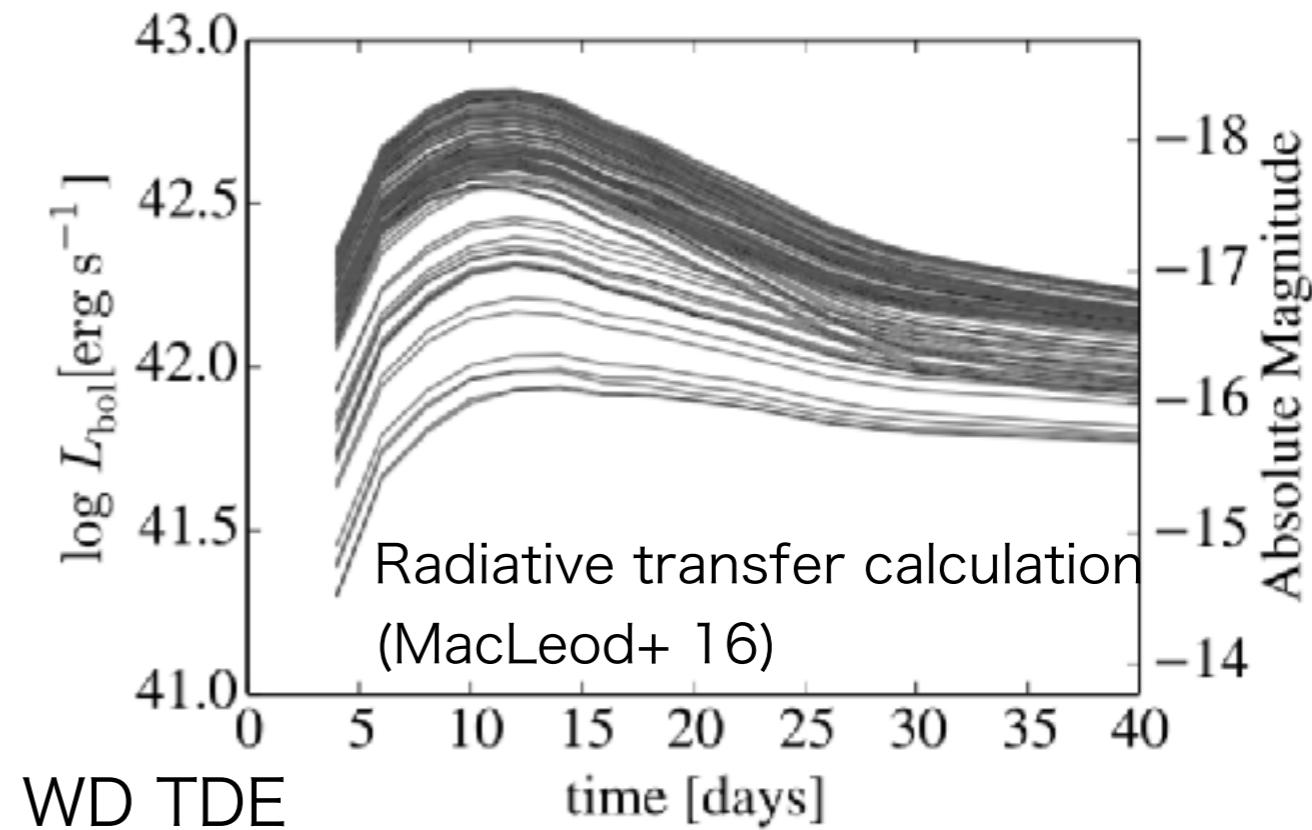
# Nucleosynthesis



- The detonation wave leaves 20%  ${}^4\text{He}$  and 80%  ${}^{56}\text{Ni}$ .
  - The detonated region has high density ( $>10^6 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ).
- The total  ${}^{56}\text{Ni}$  mass is about  $0.3M_\odot$ , comparable to SNe Ia.

# Difference from SNe Ia

- Rapid light-curve evolution (~10 days) due to small ejecta mass ( $\sim 0.6M_{\odot}$ )
- Large velocity shift due to orbital motion around IMBHs ( $\sim 10^4$  km/s)



# Summary

- We have studied tidal detonation of WDs.
- We should be careful of **spurious heating** in low-resolution SPH simulation (Tanikawa et al. 2017, ApJ, 839, 81).
- We have **verified tidal detonation of WDs** in the case of He WD with  $0.45M_{\odot}$  in which large amount of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  ( $\sim 0.3M_{\odot}$ ) is synthesized (Tanikawa 2018, ApJ, 858, 26).
- WD TDEs can be a clue to search for IMBHs.