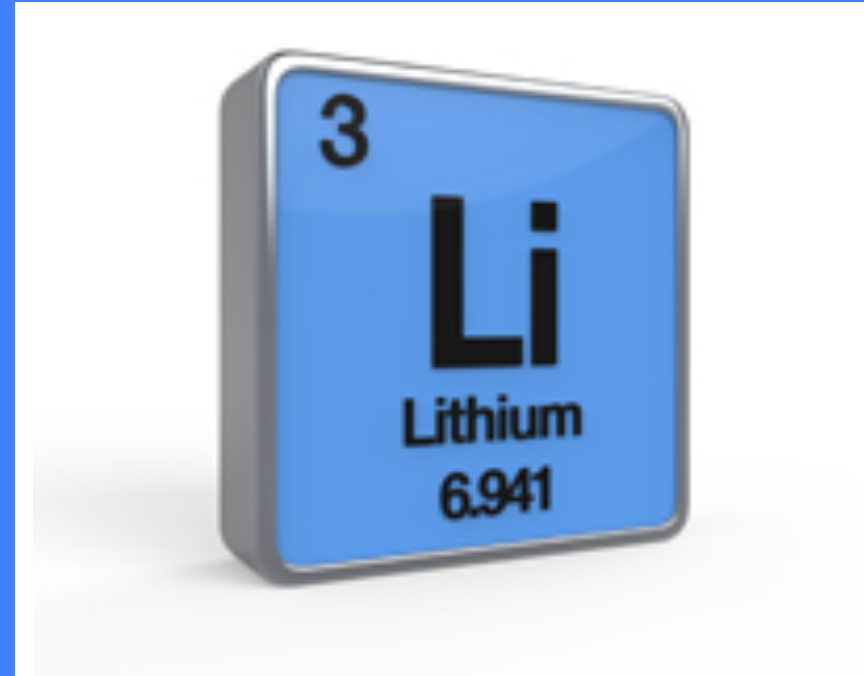


# Cosmological Solutions to the Lithium Problem?

Prof. Grant J. Mathews

*Center for Astrophysics*

*University of Notre Dame*



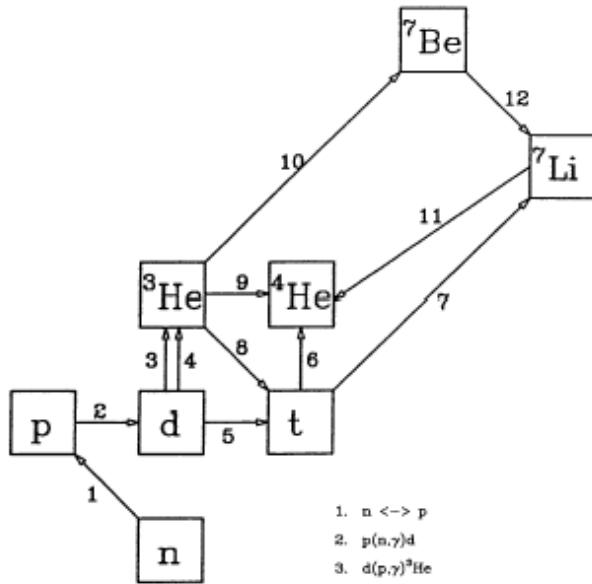
*The 15th International Symposium on  
Origin of Matter and Evolution of  
Galaxies (OMEG15)*

July 5, 2019

Panasonic Hall, Yukawa Institute for  
Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University

# What is the Lithium Problem?

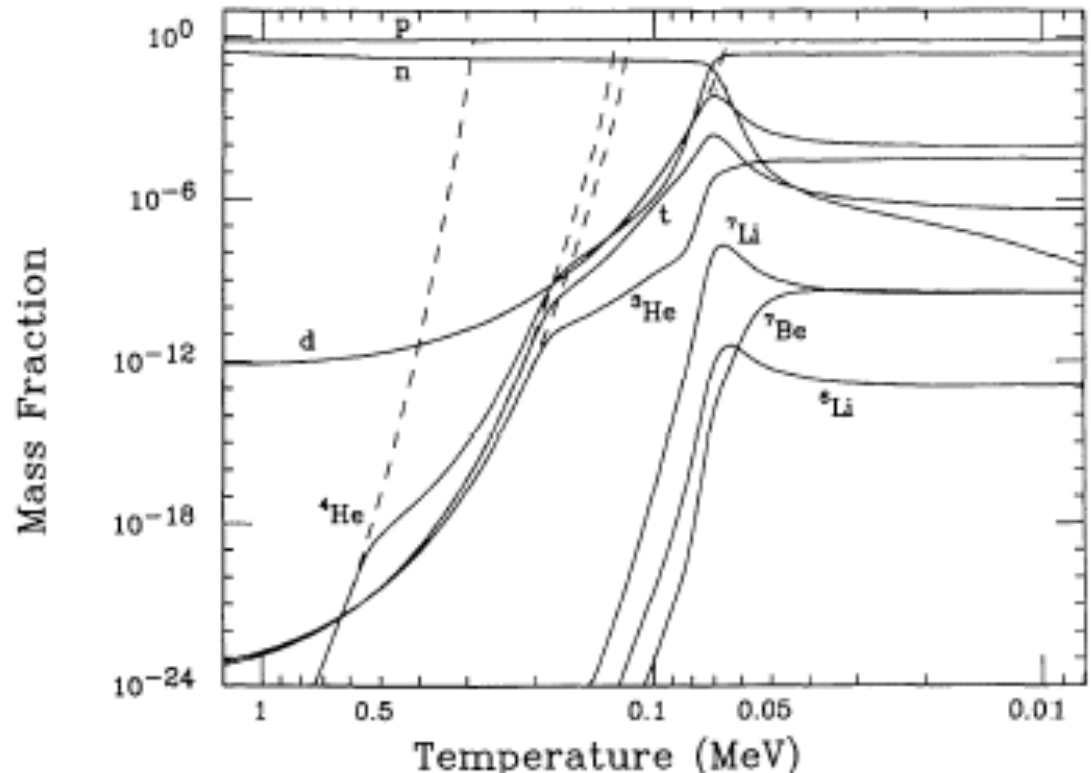
# Predictions of BBN are robust



1.  $n \leftrightarrow p$
2.  $p(n,\gamma)d$
3.  $d(p,\gamma)^3\text{He}$
4.  $d(d,n)^3\text{He}$
5.  $d(d,p)t$
6.  $t(d,n)^4\text{He}$

Thermodynamic and cosmological conditions seem well posed

In Big Bang Nucleosynthesis most reaction rates are well known



# Reaction Rate Sensetivities

$$X_i = X_{i,0} \prod_n \left( \frac{p_n}{p_{n,0}} \right)^{\alpha_n}$$

Cyburt et al. RMP (2016)

TABLE III. The sensitivities  $\alpha_n$ 's defined in Eq. (12) for each of the light-element abundance predictions, varied with respect to key parameters and reaction rates.

Variant	$Y_p$	D/H	${}^3\text{He}/\text{H}$	${}^7\text{Li}/\text{H}$	${}^6\text{Li}/\text{H}$
$\eta$ ( $6.1 \times 10^{-10}$ )	0.039	-1.598	-0.585	2.113	-1.512
$N_\nu$ (3.0)	0.163	0.395	0.140	-0.284	0.603
$G_N$	0.354	0.948	0.335	-0.727	1.400
$n$ decay	0.729	0.409	0.145	0.429	1.372
$p(n, \gamma)d$	0.005	-0.194	0.088	1.339	-0.189
${}^3\text{He}(n, p)t$	0.000	0.023	-0.170	-0.267	0.023
${}^7\text{Be}(n, p){}^7\text{Li}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.705	0.000
$d(p, \gamma){}^3\text{He}$	0.000	-0.312	0.375	0.589	-0.311
$d(d, \gamma){}^4\text{He}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
${}^7\text{Li}(p, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.056	0.000
$d(\alpha, \gamma){}^6\text{Li}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
$t(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Li}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.000
${}^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.963	0.000
$d(d, n){}^3\text{He}$	0.006	-0.529	0.213	0.698	-0.522
$d(d, p)t$	0.005	-0.470	-0.265	0.065	-0.462
$t(d, n){}^4\text{He}$	0.000	0.000	-0.009	-0.023	0.000
${}^3\text{He}(d, p){}^4\text{He}$	0.000	-0.012	-0.762	-0.752	-0.012

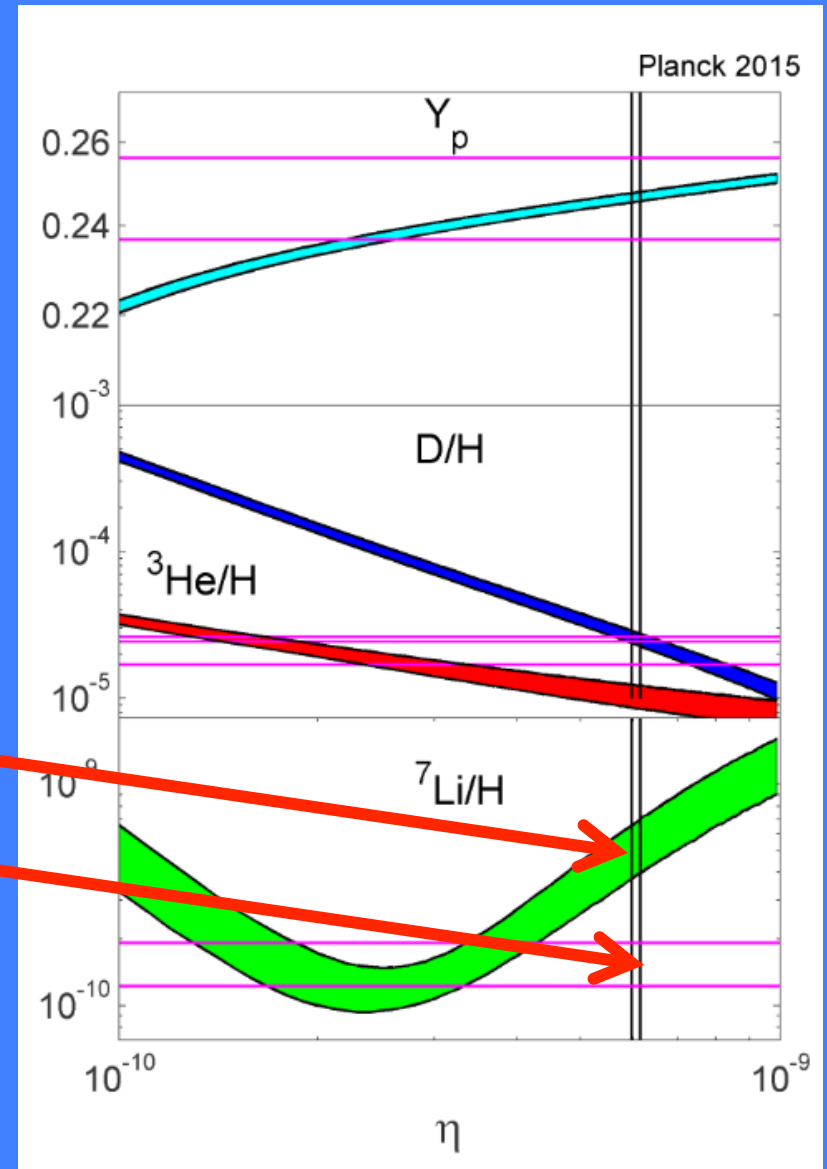
Abundance

Parameters

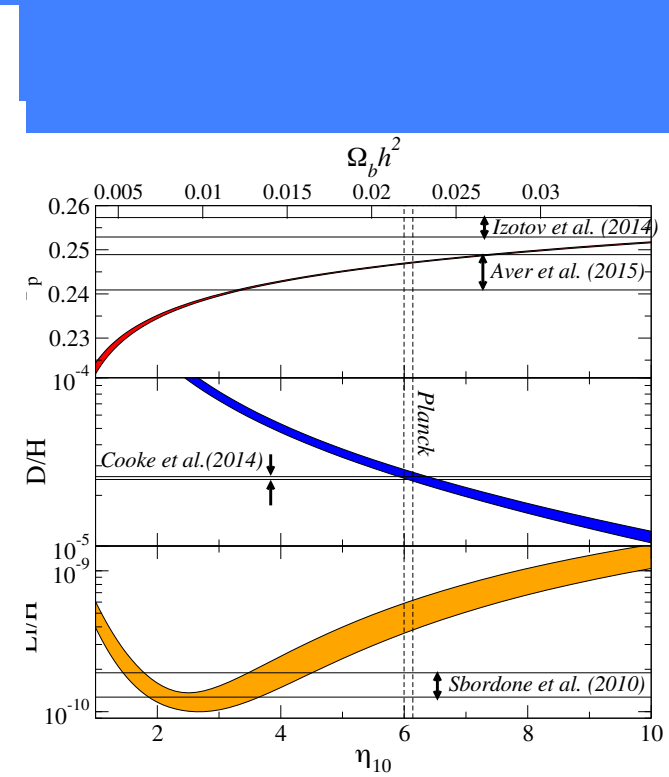
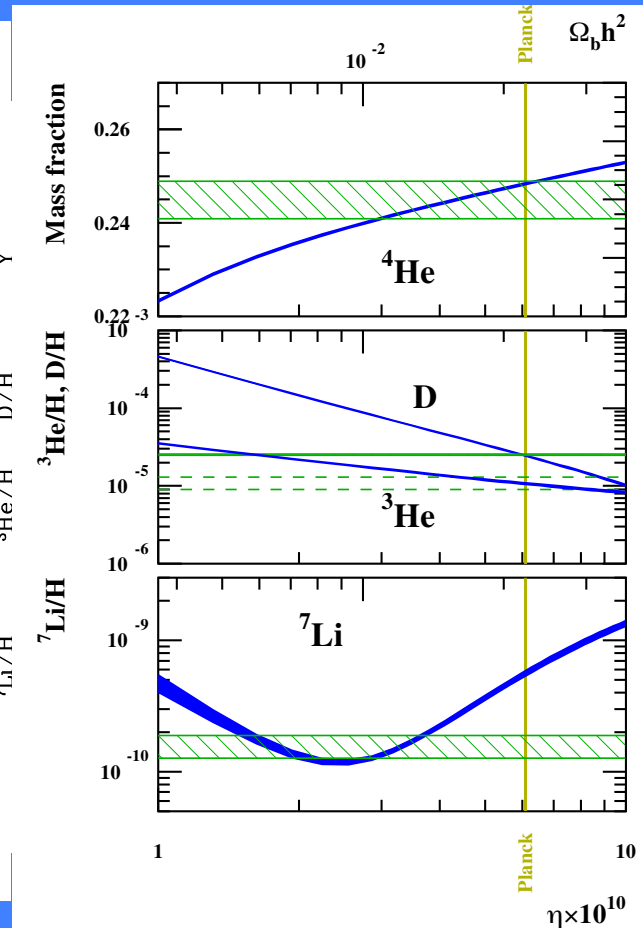
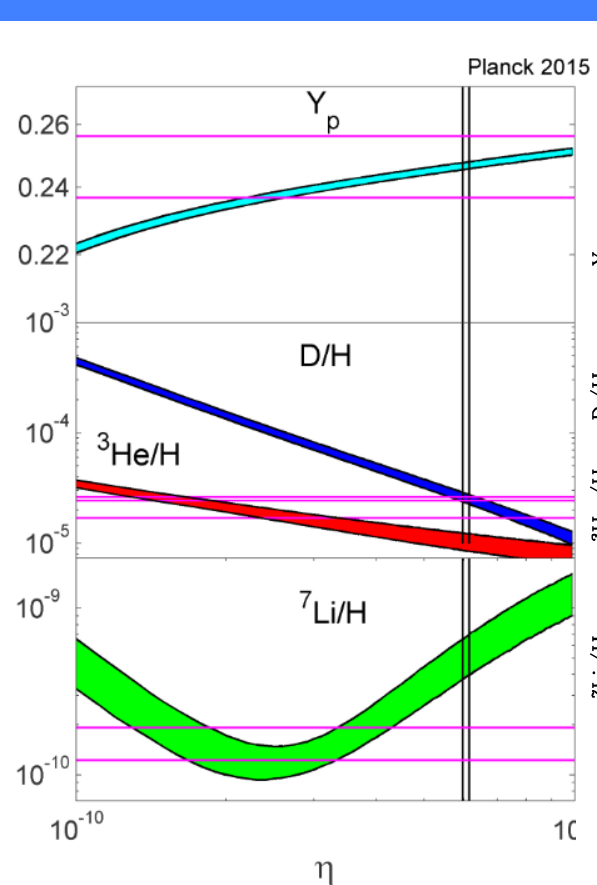
# Comparison with Observations

## The Lithium Problem

Predicted  
Lithium  
3x Observed



# Consistent Discrepancy between Observed and Predicted Primordial

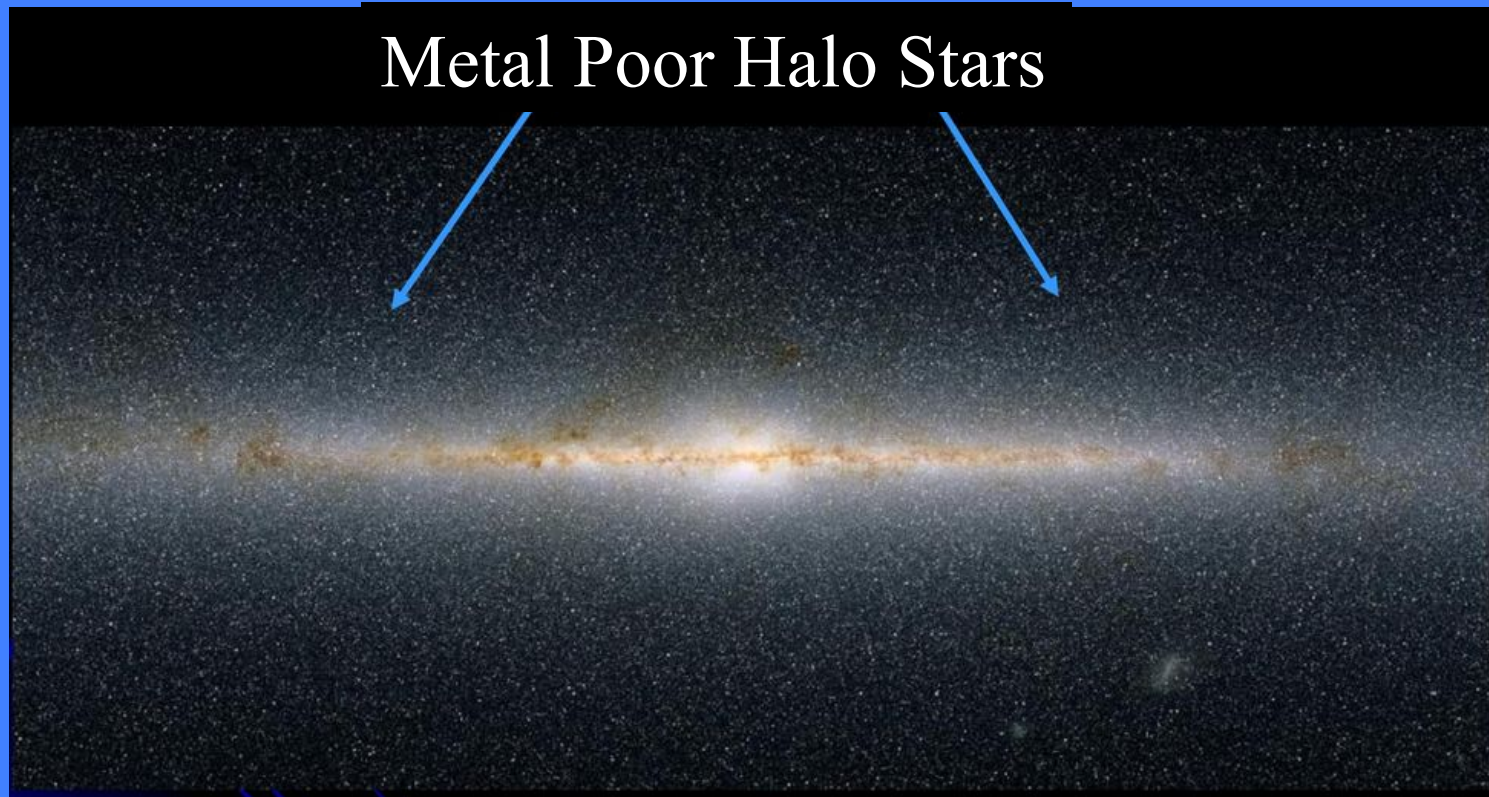


Nakamura et al. 2017  
NACRE II+Descouvemont 04

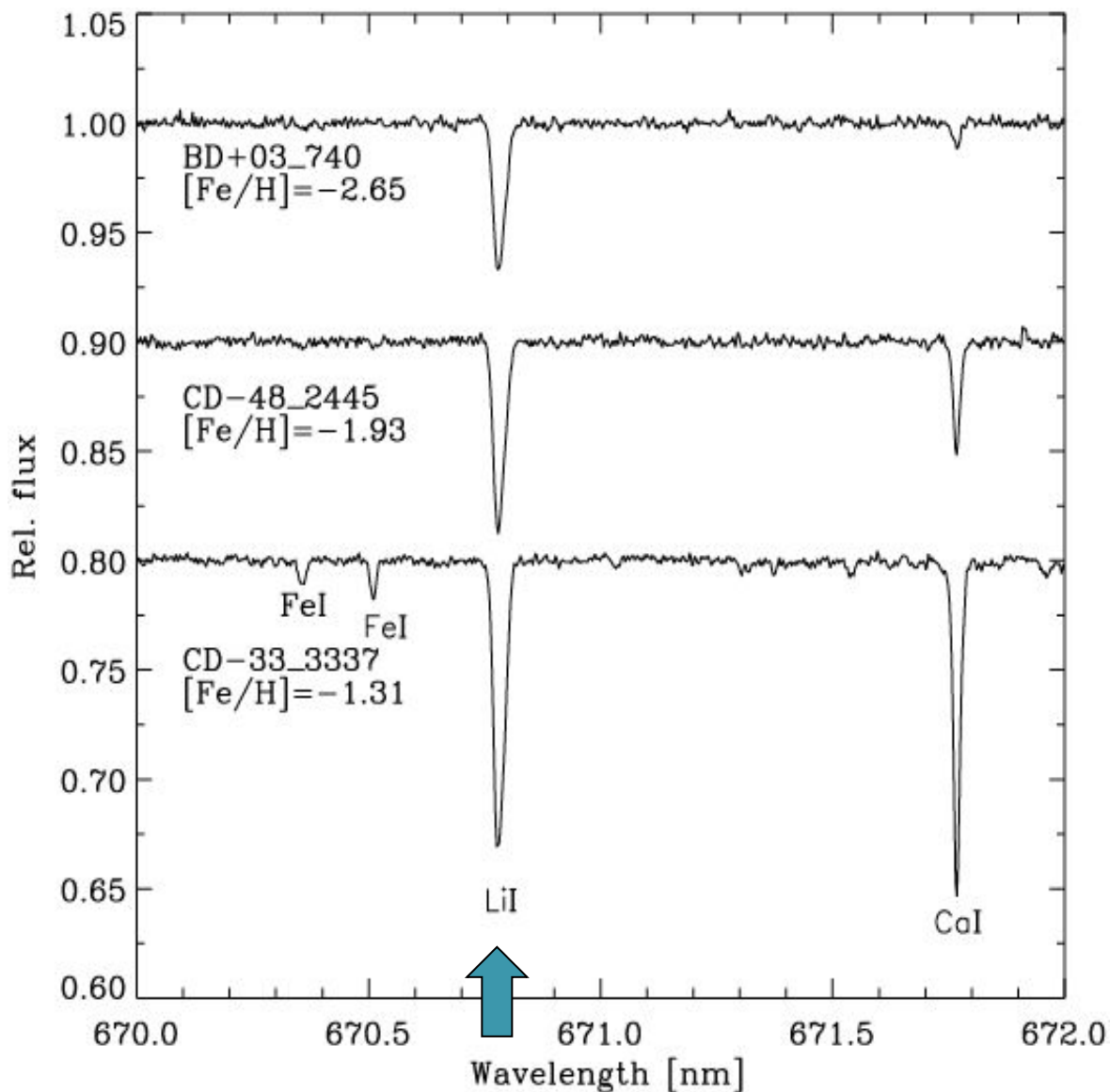
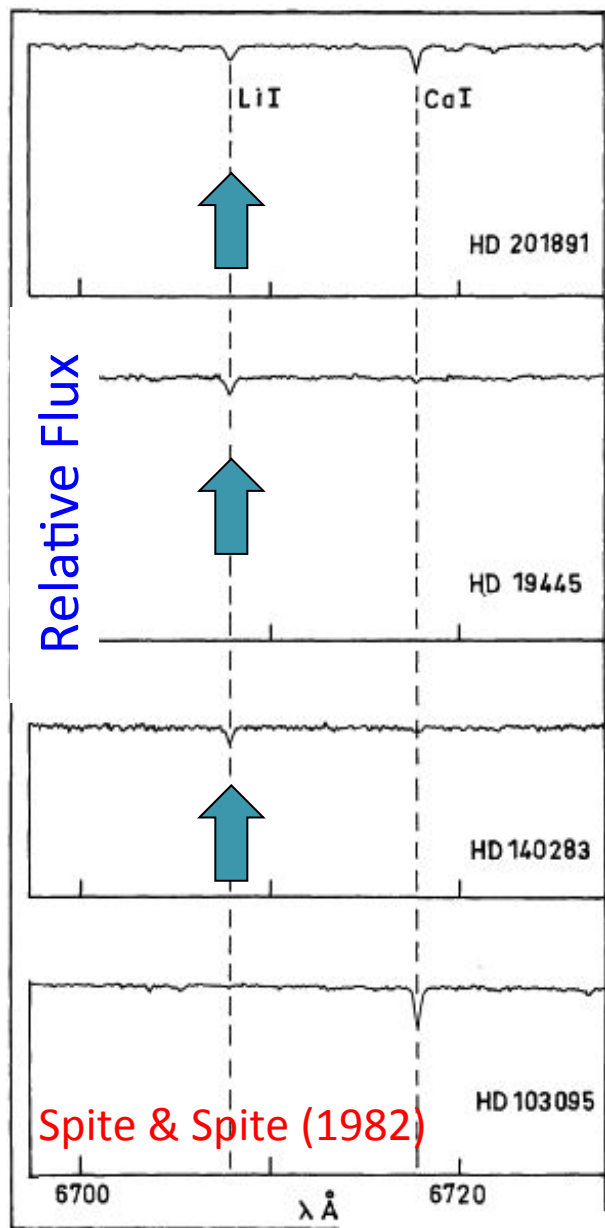
Foley, GJM et al. 2017  
NACRE II

Coc & Vangioni 2017  
Monte-Carlo  
NACRE II + Statistical Theory

# How is the Cosmic Abundance of Lithium Determined?



# Relic Li observed in metal-poor stars ( $[Fe/H] < -1$ )

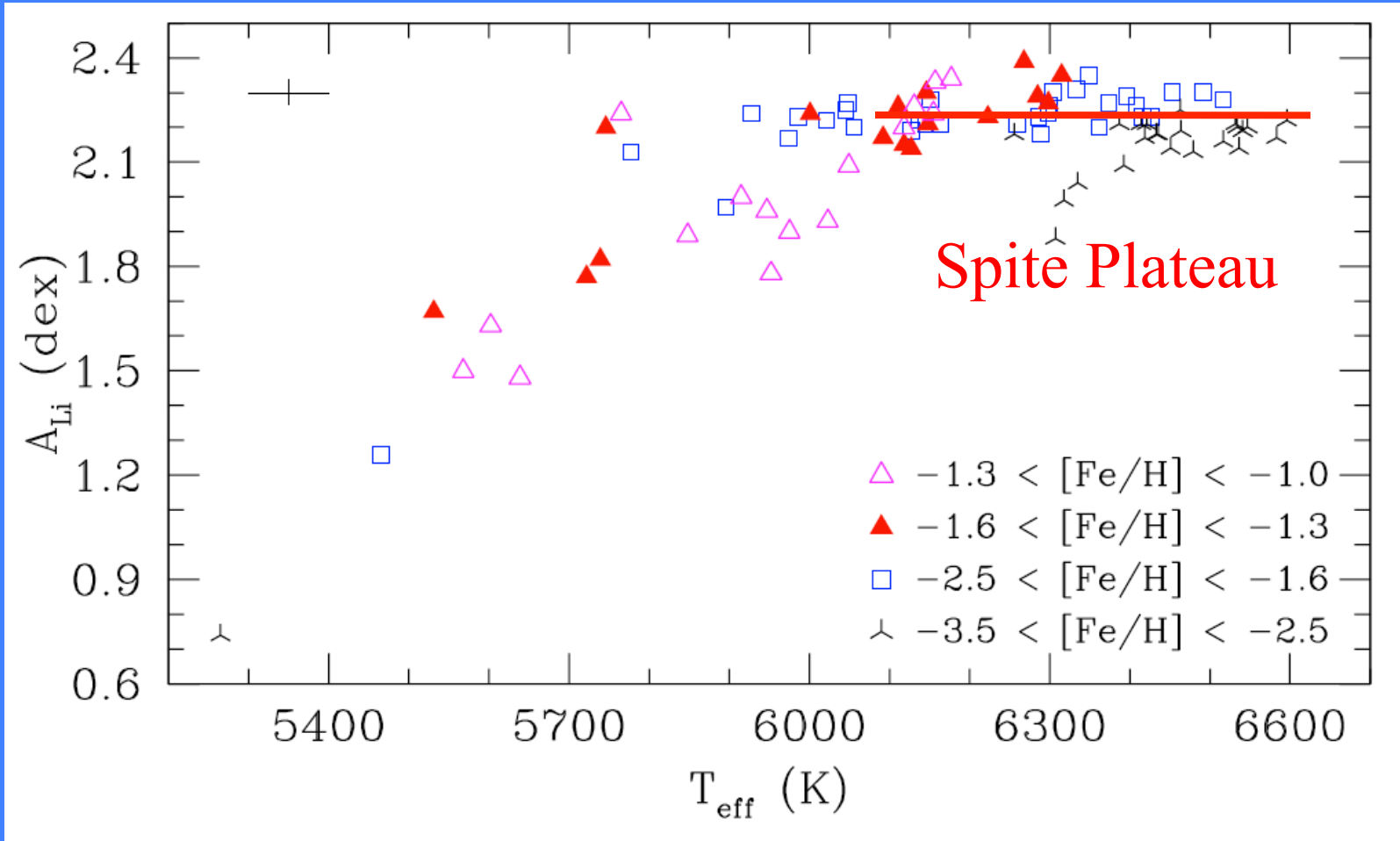


Asplund et al. (2006)



# Primordial Lithium Abundance

Determined from the Spite plateau



$$7\text{Li}/\text{H} = 1.58 \pm 0.35 \times 10^{-10}$$

# Solutions to the Lithium Problem?

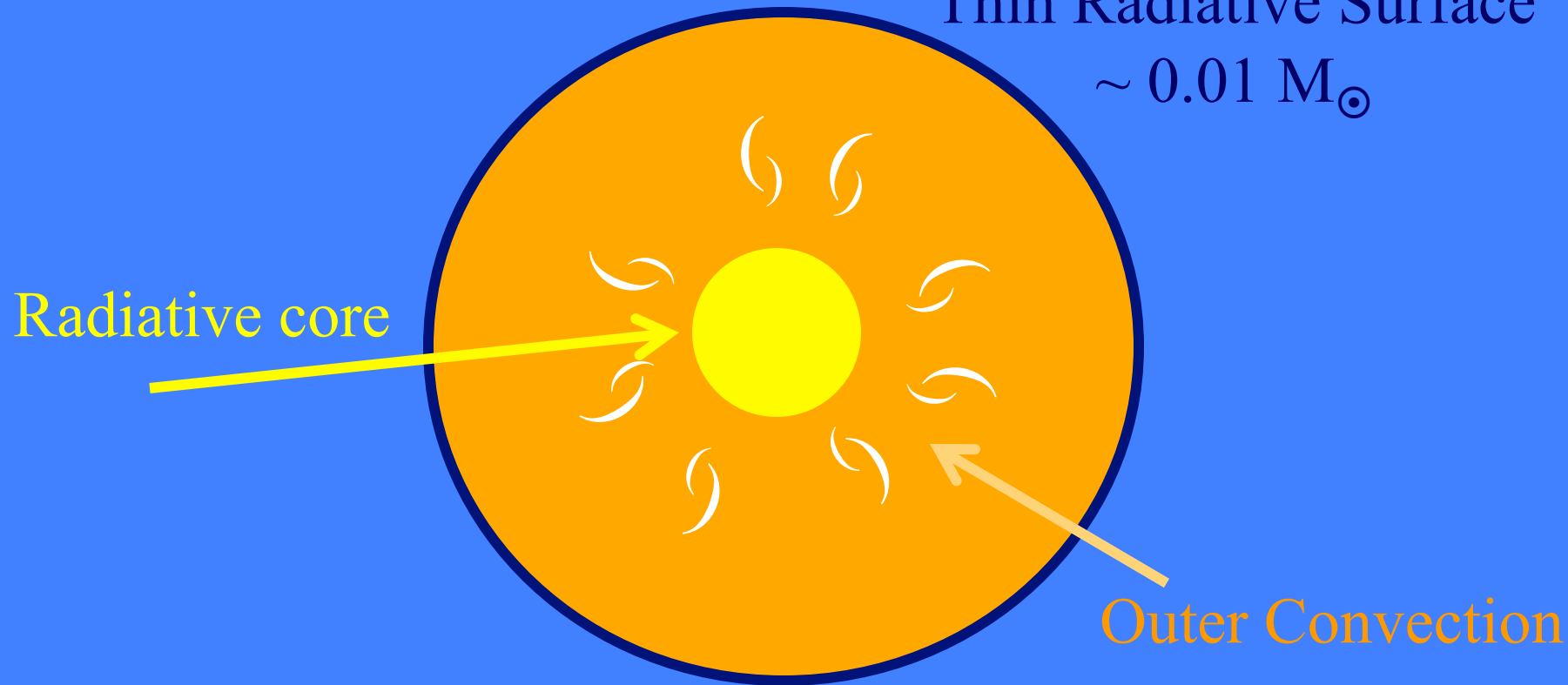
- New Nuclear Physics?
- New Astrophysics?
  - Stellar destruction?
  - Galactic Chemical Evolution?
- **Cosmological Solutions?**
  - **New Statistical Physics?**
  - **Primordial Magnetic Field?**
  - Neutrino degeneracy?
  - Non-standard model Physics?
    - Supersymmetric Particles
    - Axion Condensates
    - Dark Matter
    - Mirror Matter
    - Time varying constants

*Talks by Hayakawa and Ishikawa*

# Stellar Solutions?

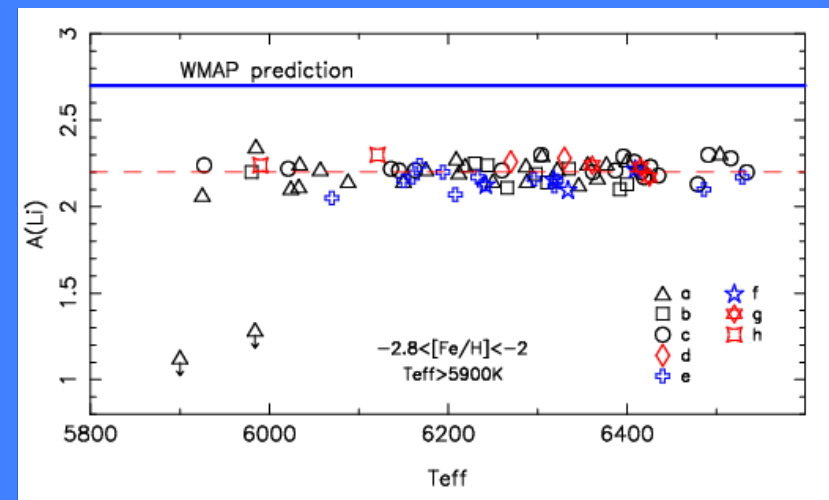
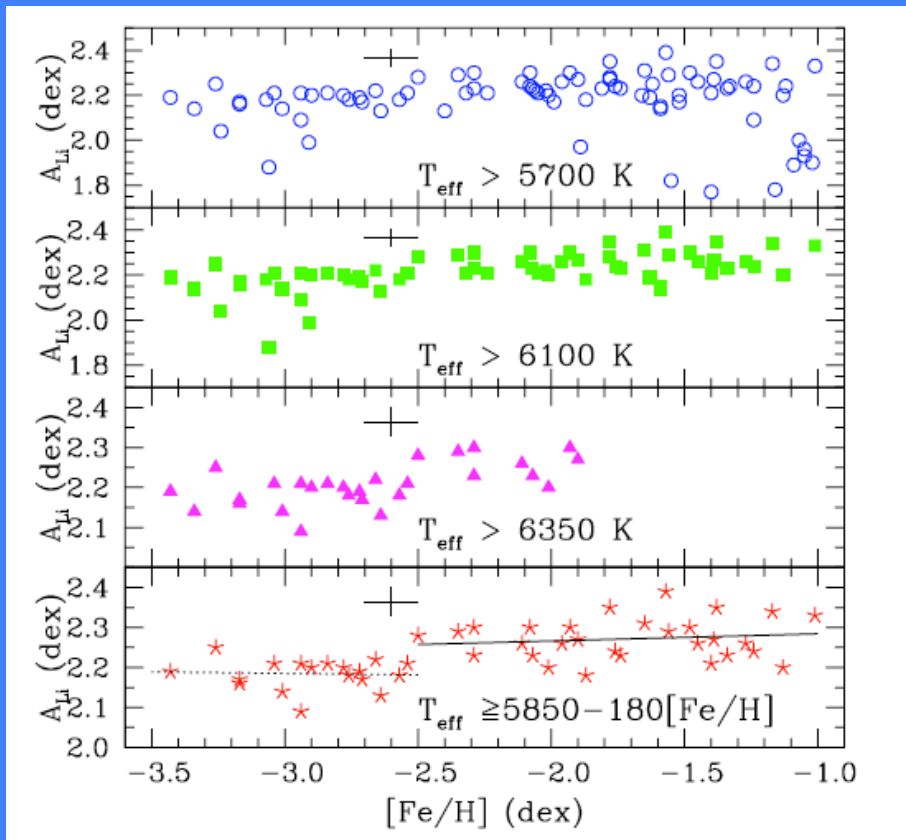
Structure of a MPH star

Lithium Resides in  
Thin Radiative Surface  
 $\sim 0.01 M_{\odot}$



# Can MPH Stars Gradually Deplete Lithium?

Plateau changes with Metallicity suggests stellar processing



Narrow dispersion in Spite plateau suggest lack of stellar processing

Melendez et al. 2010 ApJ

# Models can achieve uniform depletion

Fu, X. arXiv:1702.02932

Convective overshoot  
plus accretion

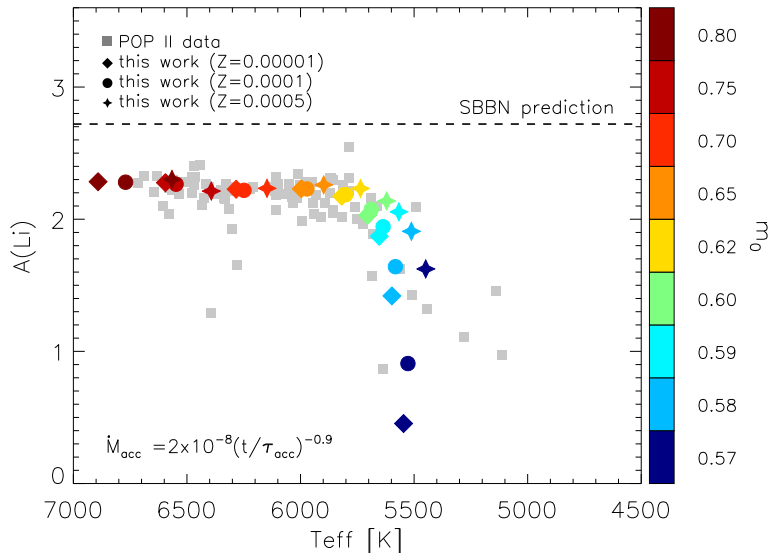
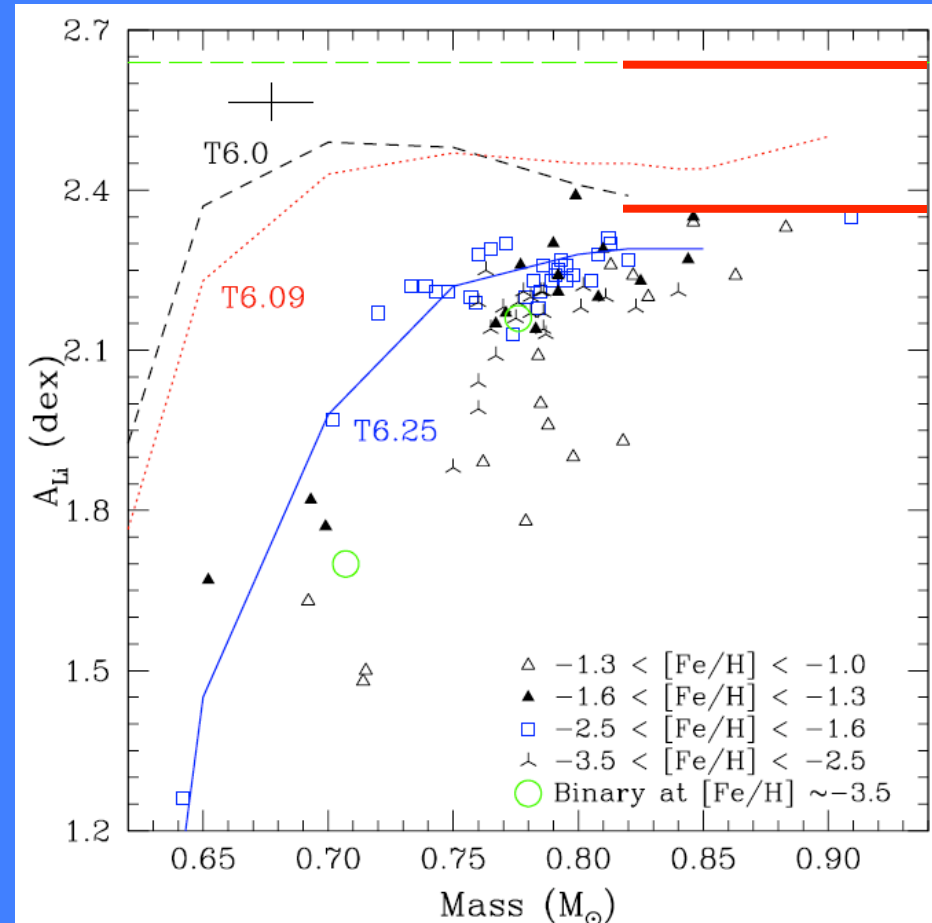


Figure 7.9: By applying the same parameter of envelope overshooting and accretion, we could reproduce the Spite plateau and the first Li decline branch for a wide range of metallicities (from  $Z=0.00001$  to  $Z=0.0005$ ). The compared POP II data are the same as in figure 7.8. The model results are all main sequence stars at age 10 Gyr, with initial mass  $0.80 M_{\odot}$  to  $0.57 M_{\odot}$  from the left to the right for each metallicity as shown in the color-bar label.

Turbulent Diffusion Models  
(Richard, et al. 2005)



# New Statistics?

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 834:165 (5pp), 2017 January 10

doi:10.3847/1538-4357/834/2/165

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## NON-EXTENSIVE STATISTICS TO THE COSMOLOGICAL LITHIUM PROBLEM

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*Received 2016 October 24; accepted 2016 November 25; published 2017 January 11*

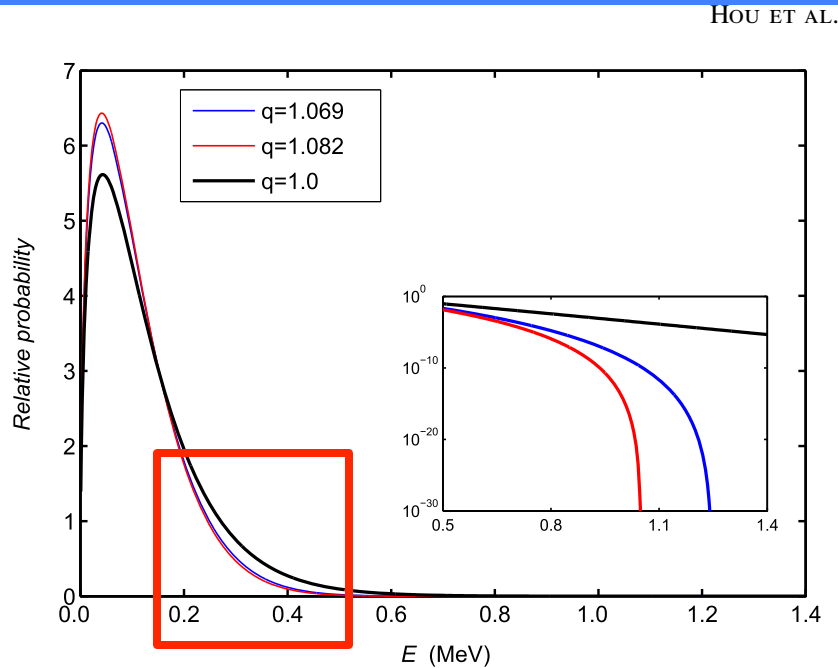
$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{12} = \sqrt{\frac{8}{\pi \mu_{12} (kT)^3}} \int_0^{\infty} \sigma(E)_{12} E \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT}\right) dE,$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{12} = B_q \sqrt{\frac{8}{\pi \mu_{12}}} \times \frac{1}{(kT)^{3/2}} \times \int_0^{E_{\max}} \sigma_{12}(E) E \left[1 - (q-1) \frac{E}{kT}\right]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} dE,$$

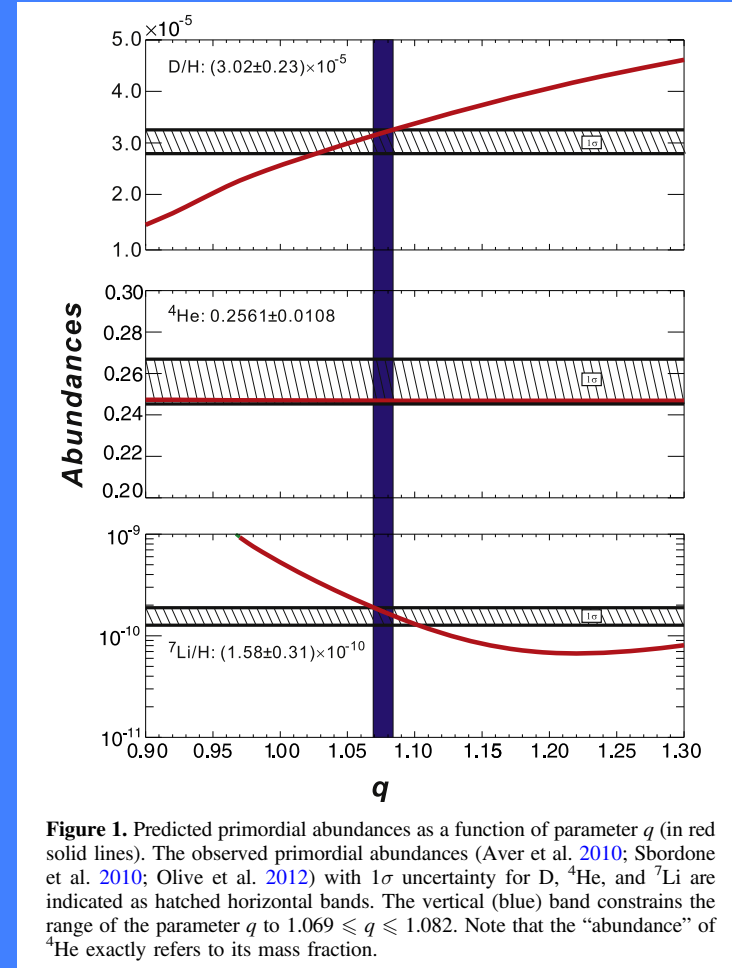
Tsallis Statistics

# Modified Distribution suppresses high energy tail in MB distribution



**Figure 2.** Normalized relative probabilities for non-extensive energy distributions and for the standard MB distribution ( $q = 1$ ) at a temperature of 1 GK. The enlarged insert plot shows the tails, which are cut off at  $E_{\max} = kT/(q - 1)$  for the non-extensive distributions.

Reduces Li production  
by  ${}^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$

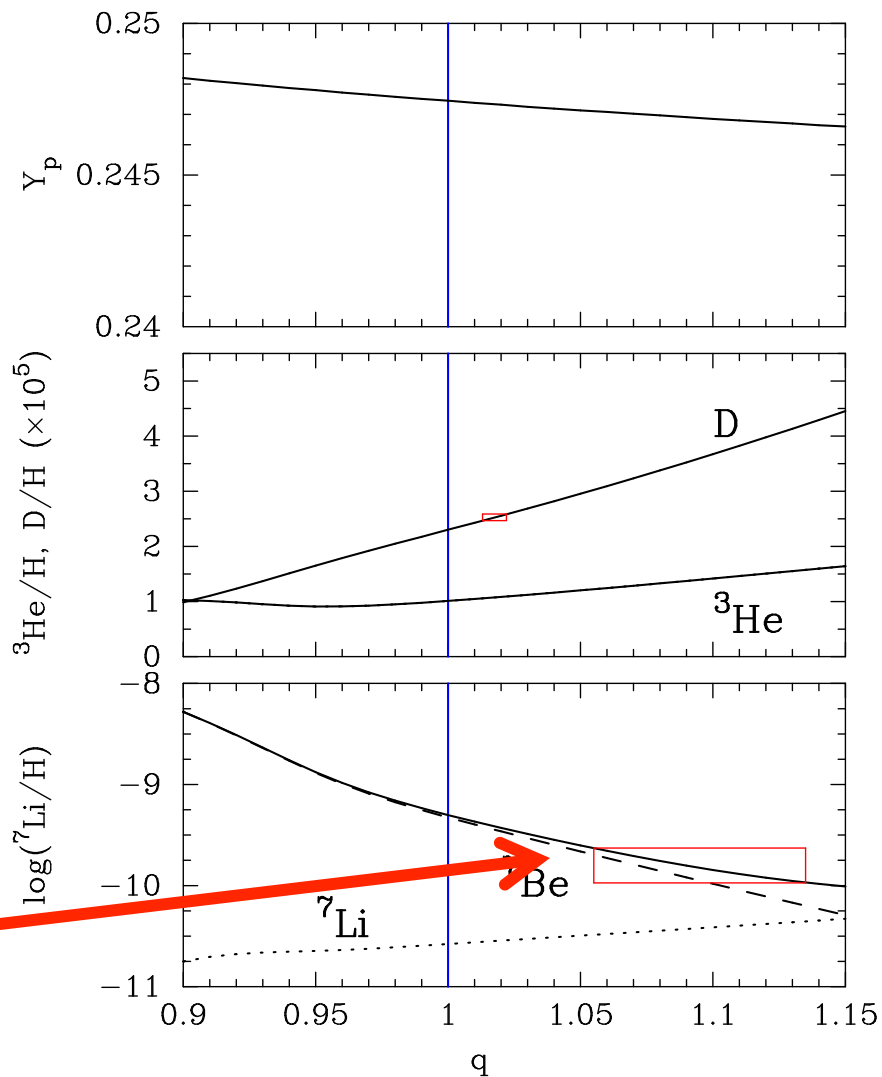


**Figure 1.** Predicted primordial abundances as a function of parameter  $q$  (in red solid lines). The observed primordial abundances (Aver et al. 2010; Sbordone et al. 2010; Olive et al. 2012) with  $1\sigma$  uncertainty for  $\text{D}$ ,  ${}^4\text{He}$ , and  ${}^7\text{Li}$  are indicated as hatched horizontal bands. The vertical (blue) band constrains the range of the parameter  $q$  to  $1.069 \leq q \leq 1.082$ . Note that the “abundance” of  ${}^4\text{He}$  exactly refers to its mass fraction.

# But a pure Tsallis velocity distribution must conserve momentum

Kusakabe,  
Kajino, GJM,  
Lou, PRD, 99,  
043505 (2019)

Li problem  
not resolved





# Need Physical Model for Modified Statistics

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 872:172 (9pp), 2019 February 20



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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab0088>



CrossMark

## Big Bang Nucleosynthesis with an Inhomogeneous Primordial Magnetic Field Strength

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<sup>1</sup>National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan

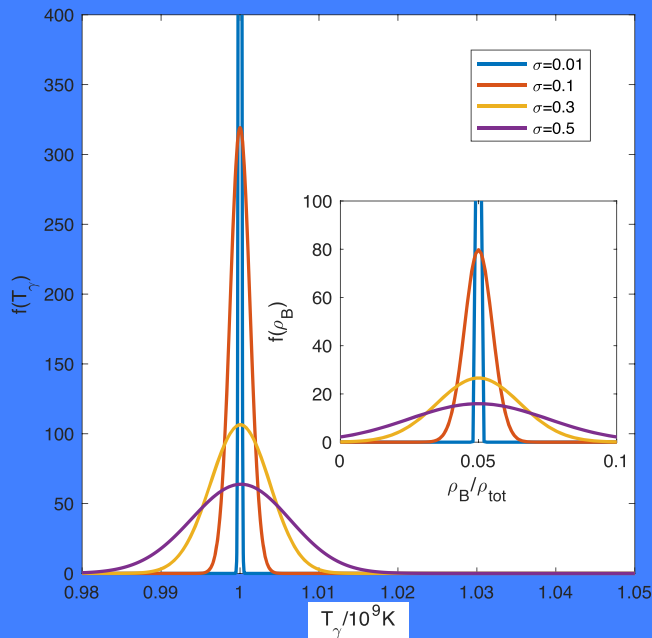
<sup>2</sup>Department of Astronomy, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

<sup>3</sup>School of Physics and Nuclear Energy Engineering, and International Research Center for Big-Bang Cosmology and Element Genesis, Beihang University 37, Xueyuan Road, Haidian-qu, Beijing 100083, People's Republic of China; [ydong.luo@nao.ac.jp](mailto:ydong.luo@nao.ac.jp)

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Received 2018 June 26; revised 2018 December 24; accepted 2019 January 16; published 2019 February 20

See Poster no. 7, Youdong Luo



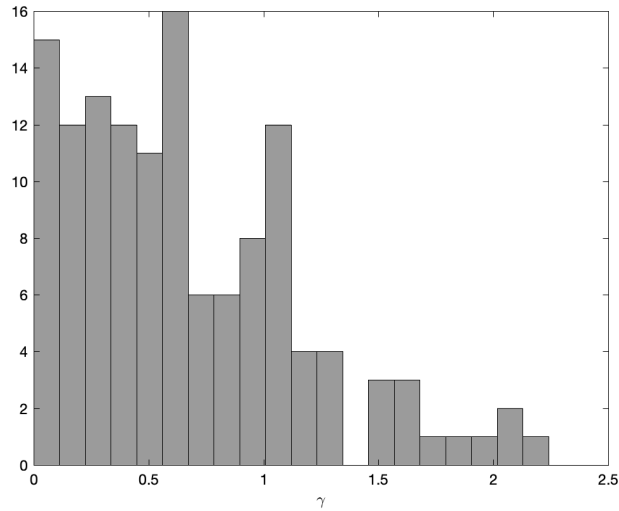
$$\rho_{\text{tot}} = \rho_B + \rho_{\text{rad}} = \text{const.}$$

# Multi-Zone BBN (non-dynamical)

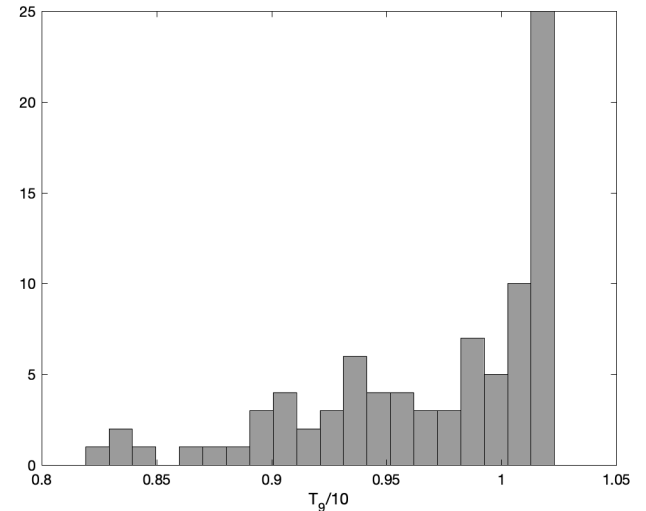
Initial distribution function set-up

@  $T_9=10$

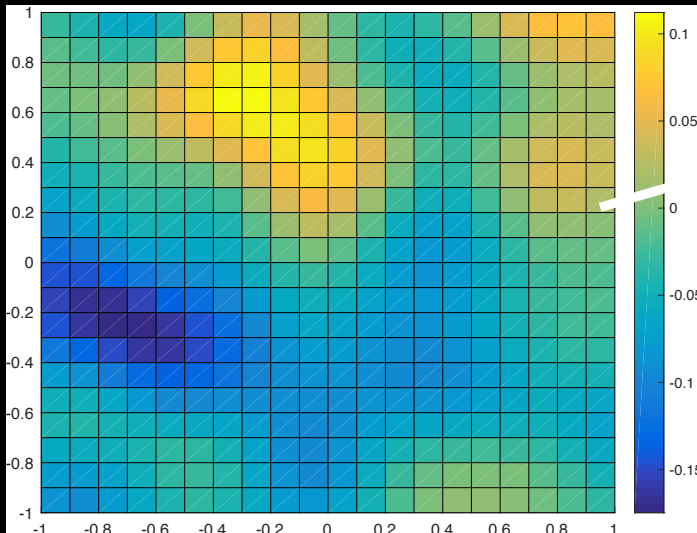
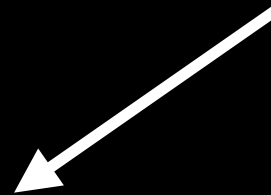
Histogram of  $\gamma$



Histogram of  $T_9$



$$1/T \propto \rho_{rad}^{-1/4}$$



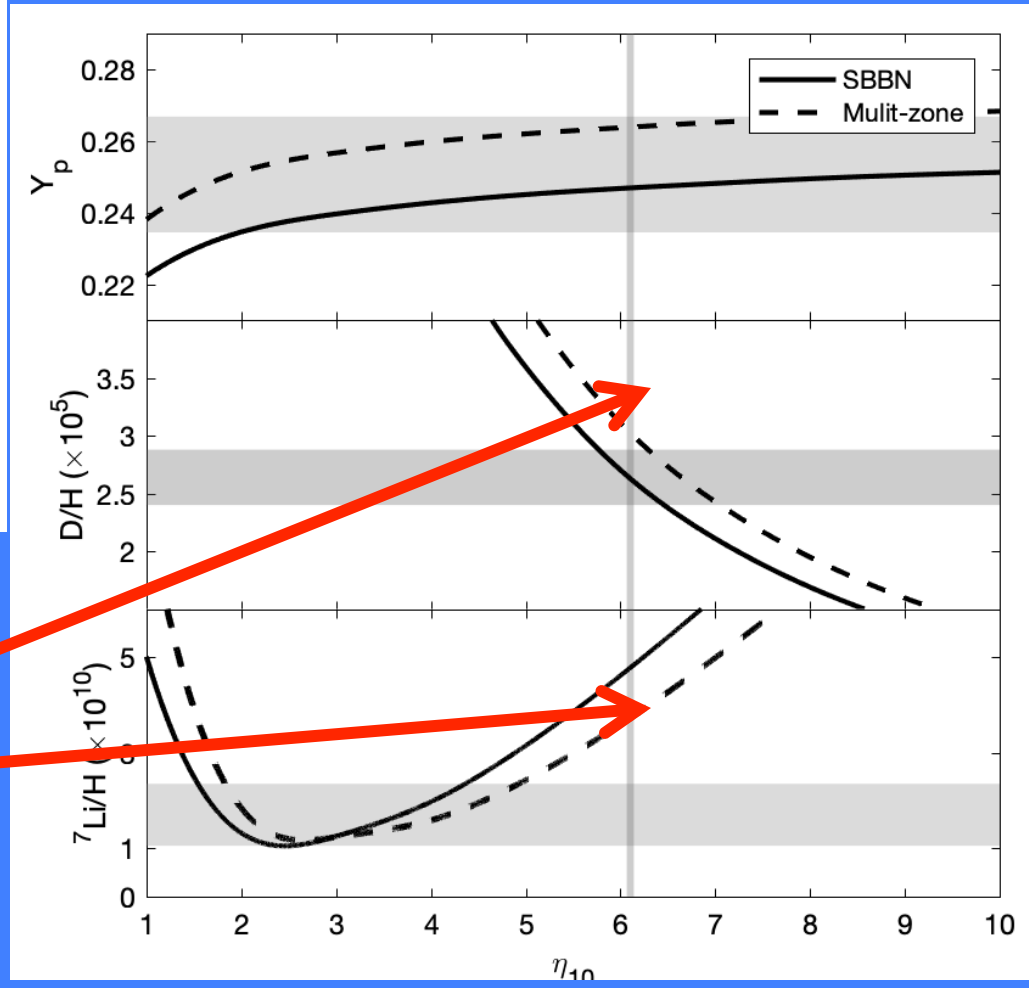
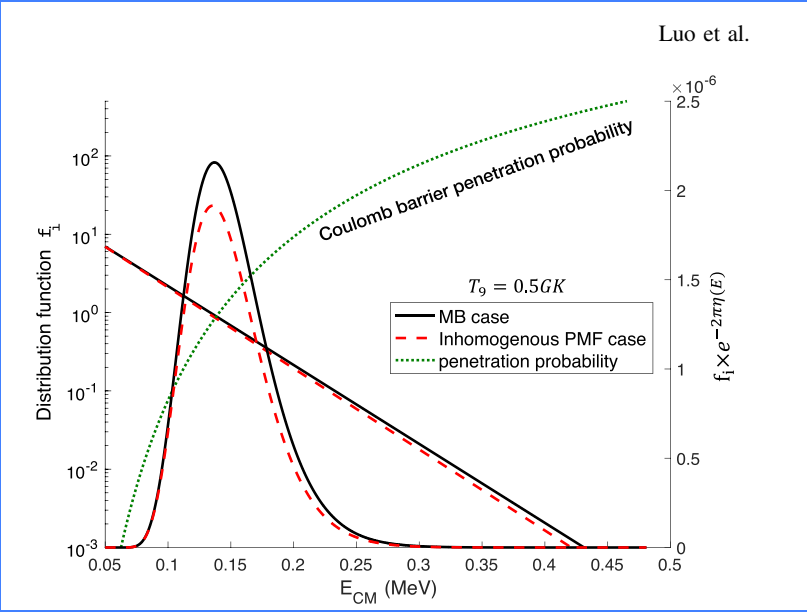
Evolve BBN code with

Approximation formula  
 $n_e(B); \rho_e(B); P_e(B)$

+ Time-temperature  
relation w/B-filed

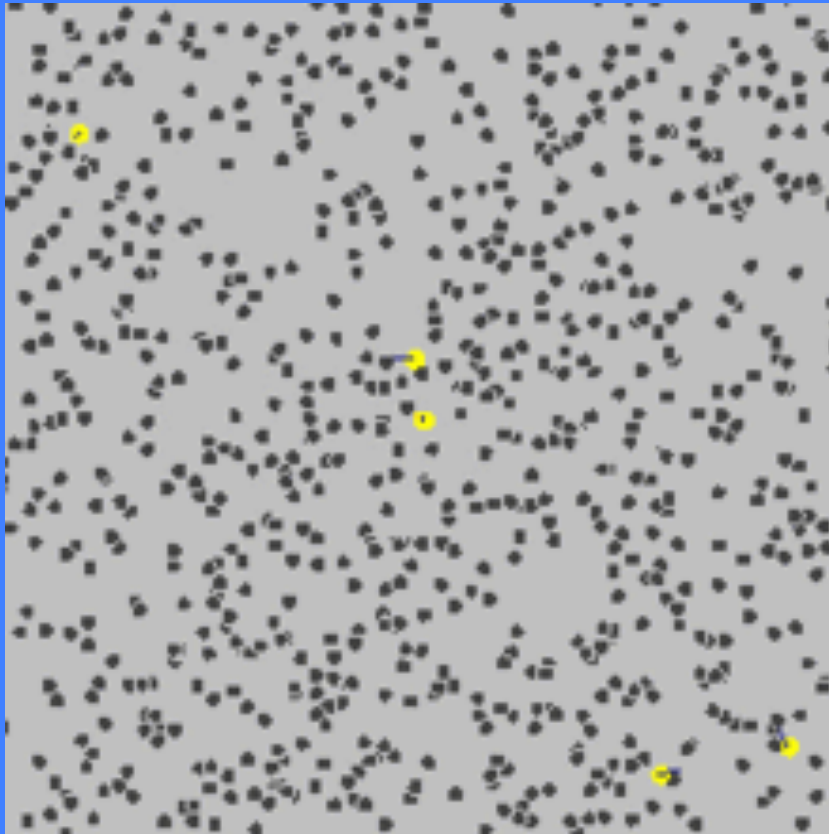
+ Weak Interaction  
w/B-field

# Modified average distribution function



Decreases Li

# What is the Thermal Environment during BBN?

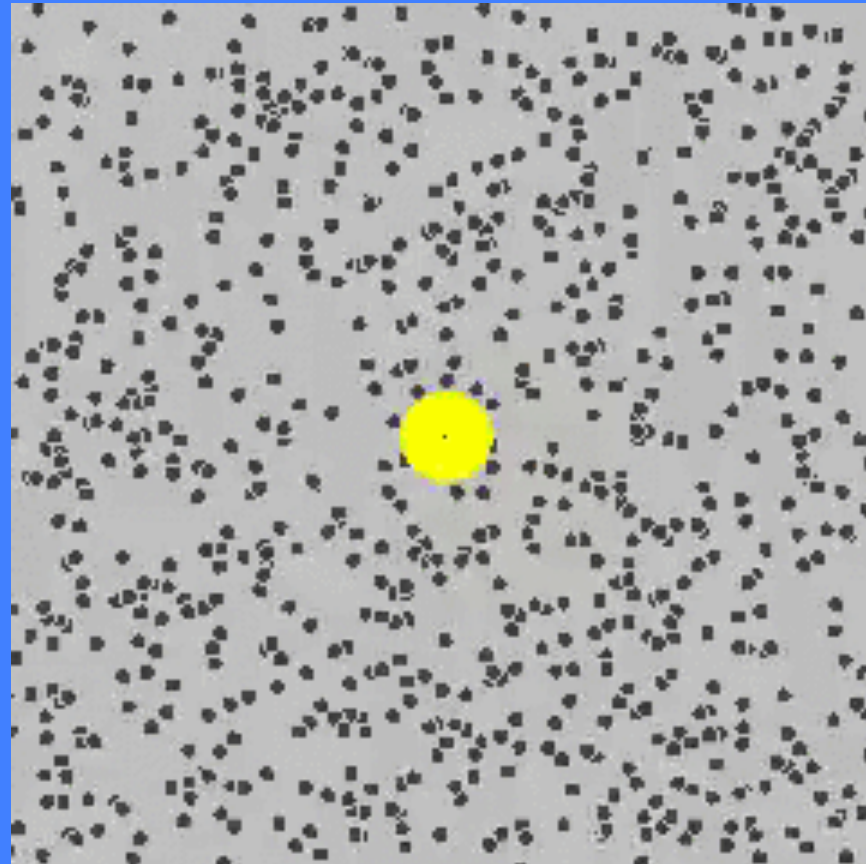


In stars scattering  
among  
Nonrelativistic particles  
 $\Rightarrow$  Maxwell-Boltzmann  
distribution

# What is the Thermal Environment during BBN?

BBN is dominated by elastic scattering with mildly **relativistic electrons**

=> **Fermi-Dirac Distribution?**



# Relativistic Electron Scattering and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

Nishanth Sasankan,<sup>\*</sup> Atul Kedia,<sup>†</sup> and Grant J Mathews<sup>‡</sup>  
*Department of Physics, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556*

Motohiko Kusakabe<sup>§</sup>  
*IRCBB, School of Physics and Nuclear Energy Engineering, Beihang University, Beijing 100083 China*  
 (Dated: October 26, 2018)

TABLE I: Calculated ratios of reaction rates for  $e^- - e^+$  pair plasma relative to photons. We use the minimum among the two cross section ratios (4th and 5th columns) to get the reaction rate ratio (last column).

$T$		$\frac{n_{\pm}}{n_{\gamma}}$	$\frac{\sigma_{\pm}}{\sigma_{\gamma}}$		$\sim \frac{\Gamma_{\pm}}{\Gamma_{\gamma}} \frac{n_{\pm} \sigma_{\pm}}{n_{\gamma} \sigma_{\gamma}}$
$T_9$	MeV		$\sigma_{\pm} = \pi r_D^2$	$\sigma_{\pm} = \text{Mott X-sec.}$	
11.6	1	1.43	$5 \times 10^4$	$10^5$	$10^5$
1.16	0.1	0.102	$10^7$	$10^5$	$10^4$
0.116	0.01	$10^{-13}$	$2 \times 10^{28}$	$10^{29}$	$10^{15}$

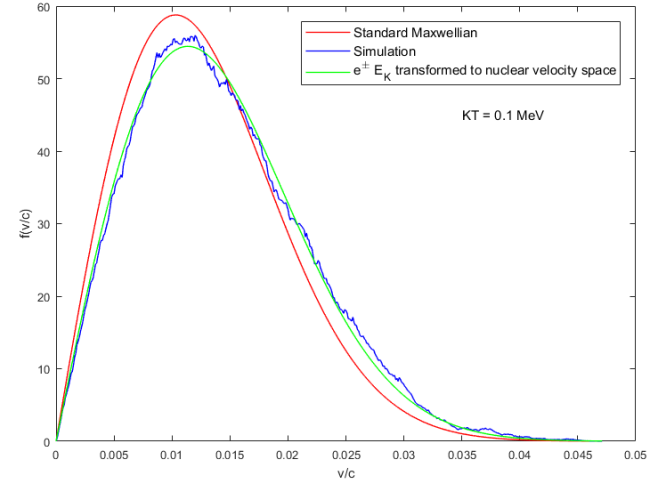


FIG. 3: Simulated proton velocity ( $v/c$ ) distribution (blue curve) after  $10^7$  scattering events at  $kT = 0.1$  MeV near the onset of BBN. These are compared with the mildly relativistic electron plasma distribution, and the usual MB distribution. Clearly, the nuclear velocity distribution more closely resembles the MJ distribution of the electrons than the usually assumed MB distribution.

# Multi-Component Relativistic Boltzmann Eq.

$$p_a^\alpha \partial_\alpha f_a = \sum_{a=1}^r \int (f'_a f'_b - f_a f_b) F_{ba} \sigma_{ab} d\Omega \frac{d^3 p_b}{p_{b0}}$$

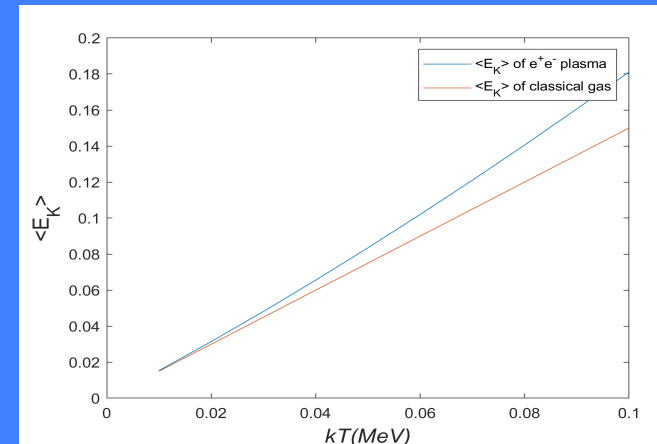
$$f_{\text{eq}}(p) = \exp [A - \zeta(U^\alpha p_\alpha)] \quad S_E^\alpha = \int p^\alpha f \left[ -k \ln \left( \frac{f h^3}{g_s} \right) + k \left( 1 + \frac{g_s}{\epsilon f h^3} \right) \ln \left( 1 + \frac{\epsilon f h^3}{g_s} \right) \right] \frac{d^3 p}{p_0}$$

$$s_E = \frac{k\zeta}{m} \left( e - \frac{P}{n} \right) \quad \Rightarrow \quad s_E = \frac{1}{T} \left( e - \frac{P}{n} \right)$$

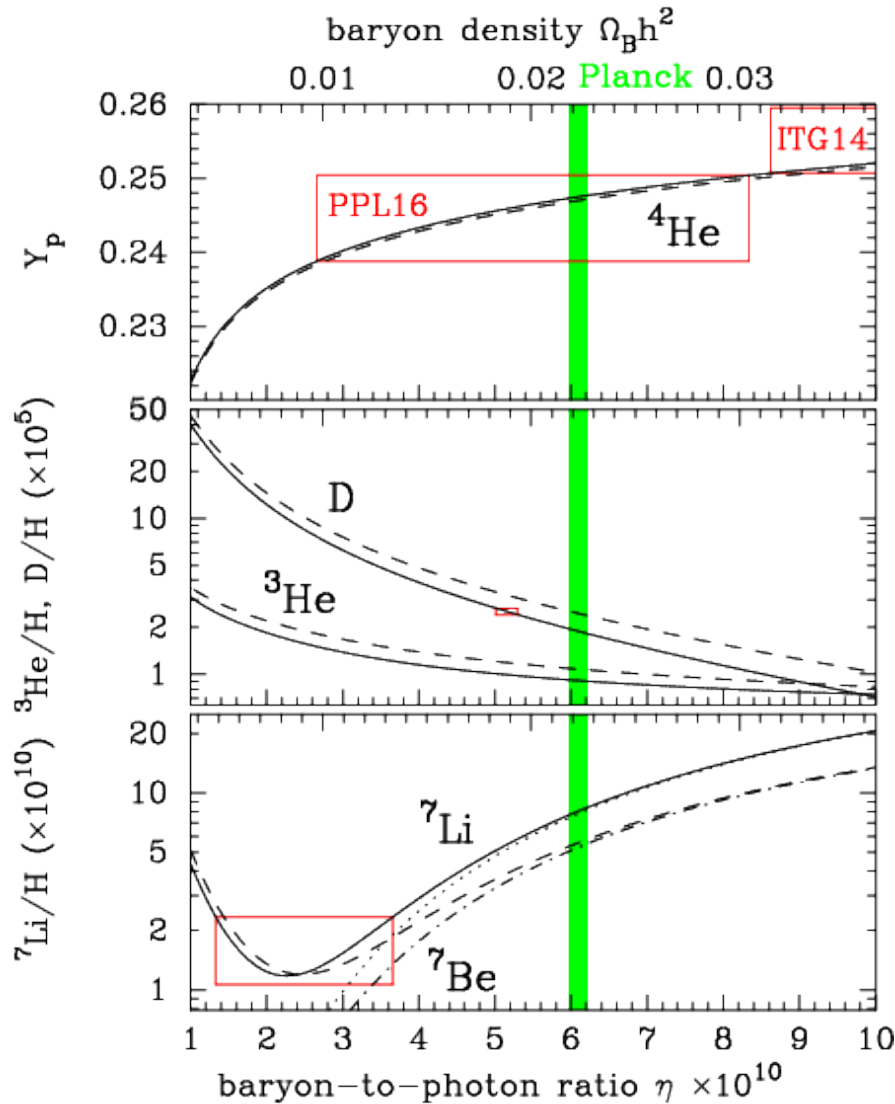
Pressure and energy from recoils

$$P = T^{ii} = \sum_a \frac{p^i(a) p^i(a)}{p^0(a)} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{x}(a)) = \sum_a \frac{\langle p^i(a)^2 \rangle}{\gamma m(a)}$$

$$f_B = \exp \left[ \frac{-(1/2)m_B v^2}{kT} - \frac{2}{5}(\mathcal{L} + 1) \right]$$

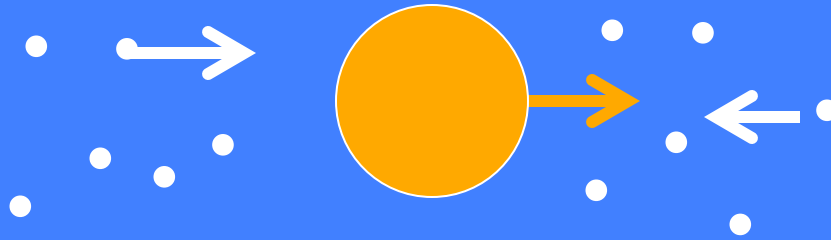


# This makes the Lithium Problem Worse!!





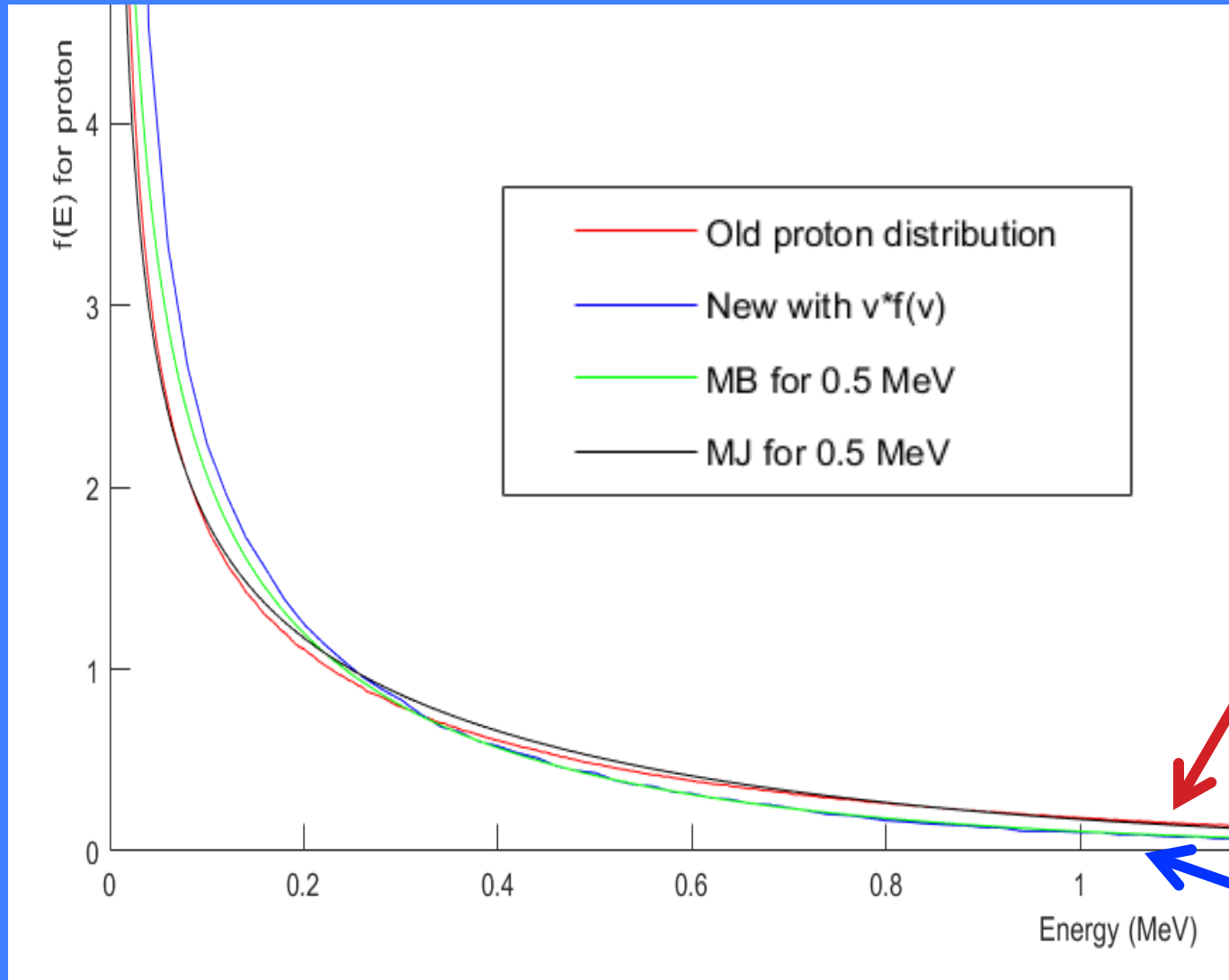
# There is a viscosity correction



More energetic scattering  
along direction of motion of  
the nucleus

This damps high energy tail

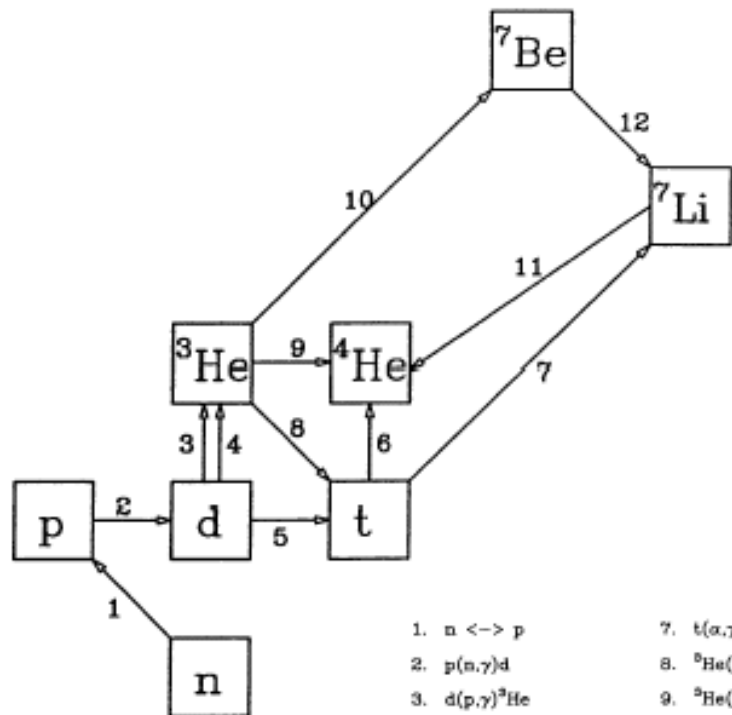
# With viscosity correction



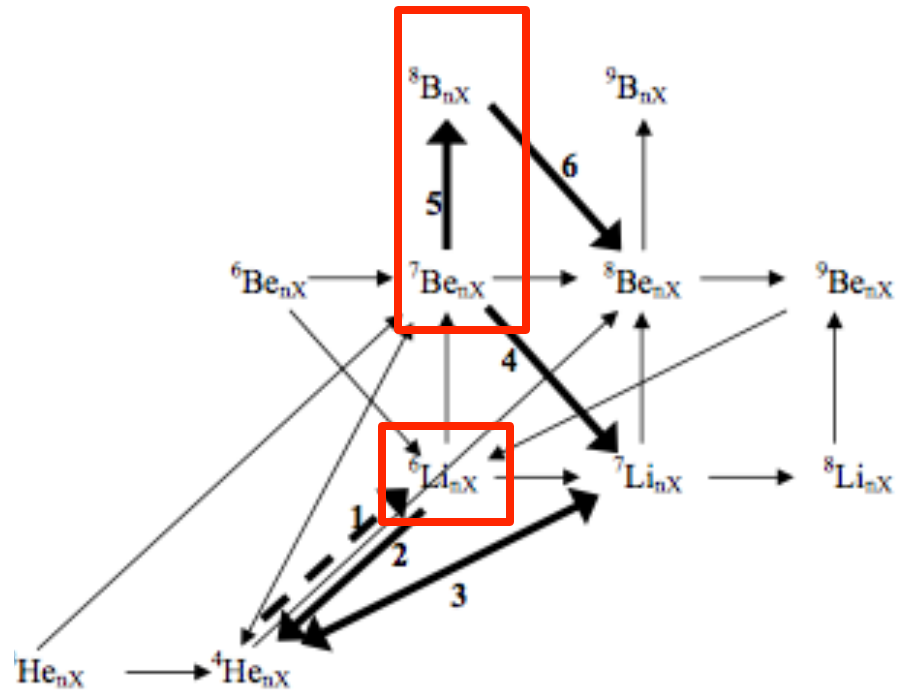
Reduces  
high  
energy tail

# Catalyzed BBN by negatively- CHARGED Massive SUSY Particles “CHAMPS”

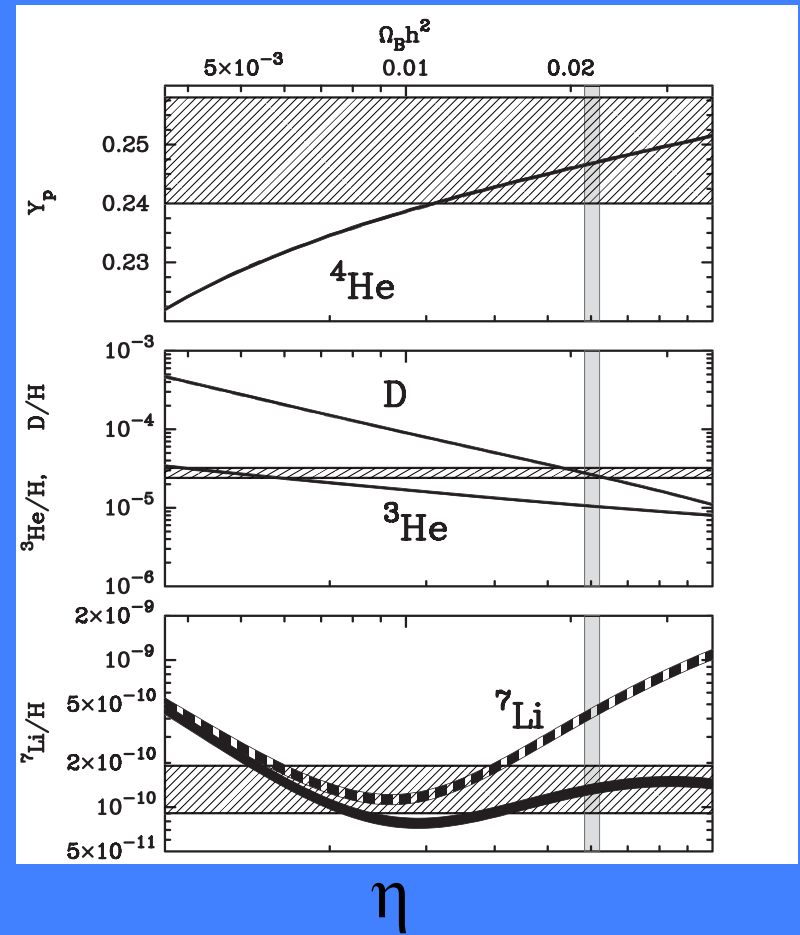
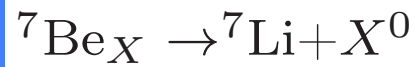
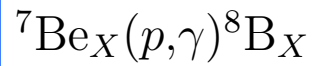
Stau?  
Selectron?



- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. $n \leftrightarrow p$     | 7. $t(\alpha, \gamma)^7\text{Li}$            |
| 2. $p(n, \gamma)d$           | 8. $^3\text{He}(n, p)t$                      |
| 3. $d(p, \gamma)^3\text{He}$ | 9. $^3\text{He}(d, p)^4\text{He}$            |
| 4. $d(d, n)^3\text{He}$      | 10. $^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma)^7\text{Be}$ |
| 5. $d(d, p)t$                | 11. $^7\text{Li}(p, \alpha)^4\text{He}$      |
| 6. $t(d, n)^4\text{He}$      | 12. $^7\text{Be}(n, p)^7\text{Li}$           |

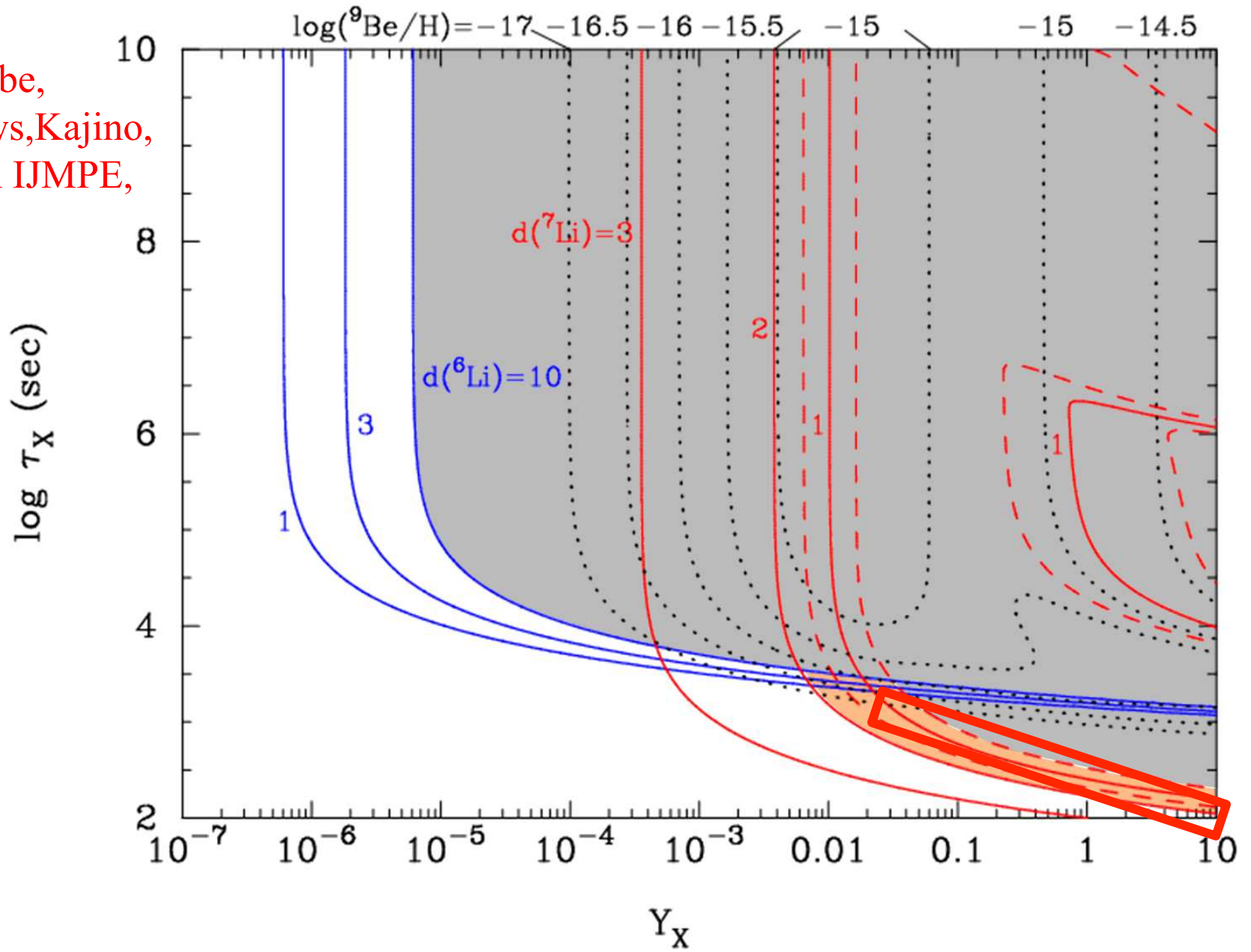


# Effect on BBN



Can reduce Primordial Lithium

Kusakabe,  
Mathews, Kajino,  
Cheoun IJMPE,  
2017



# Conclusions

- There is no obvious cosmological solution to the lithium problem

## Synthesis of the Elements in Stars\*

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Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, Carnegie Institution of Washington,  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*

“It is the stars, The stars above us, govern our conditions”;  
(*King Lear*, Act IV, Scene 3)

but perhaps

“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves,”  
(*Julius Caesar*, Act I, Scene 2)