

# Discussion on nucleosynthesis and kilonovae

Shinya Wanajo (YITP, Kyoto University)

Multi-Messenger Astrophysics in the Dynamic Universe  
YITP, Kyoto, January 26 - February 27, 2026

question 1: does GW170817 a typical neutron star merger?

question 2: does the universe need r-process sites other than mergers?

... others to be discussed

question 1: does GW170817 a typical neutron star merger?

question 2: does the universe need r-process sites other than mergers?

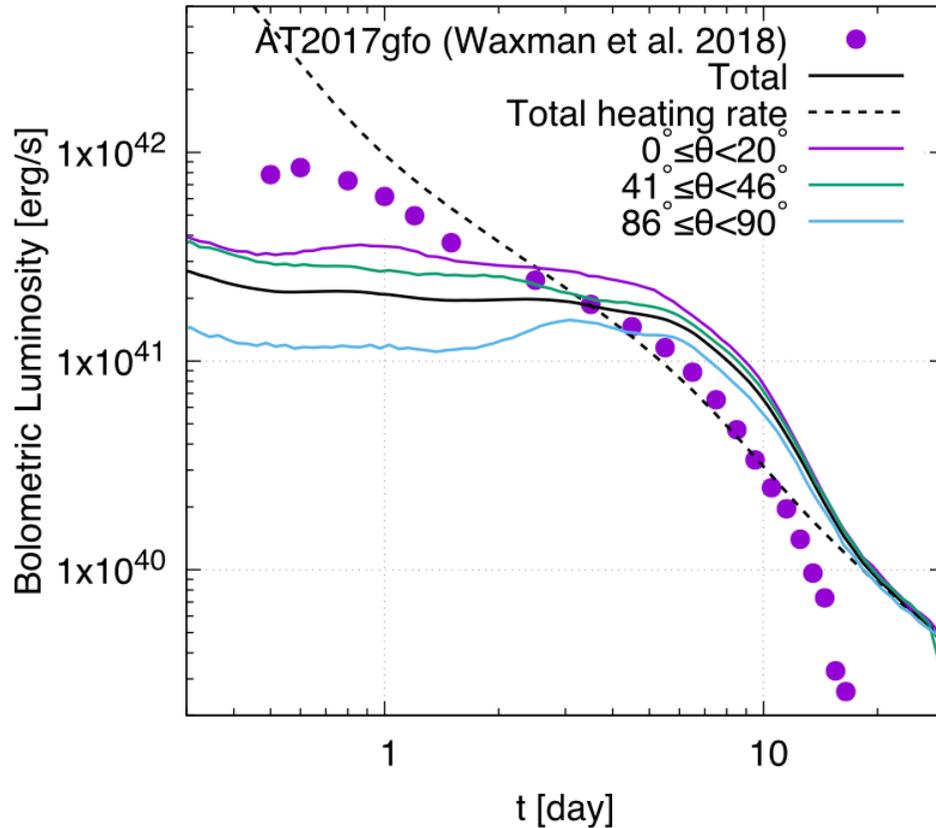
... others to be discussed

# kilonova light curves

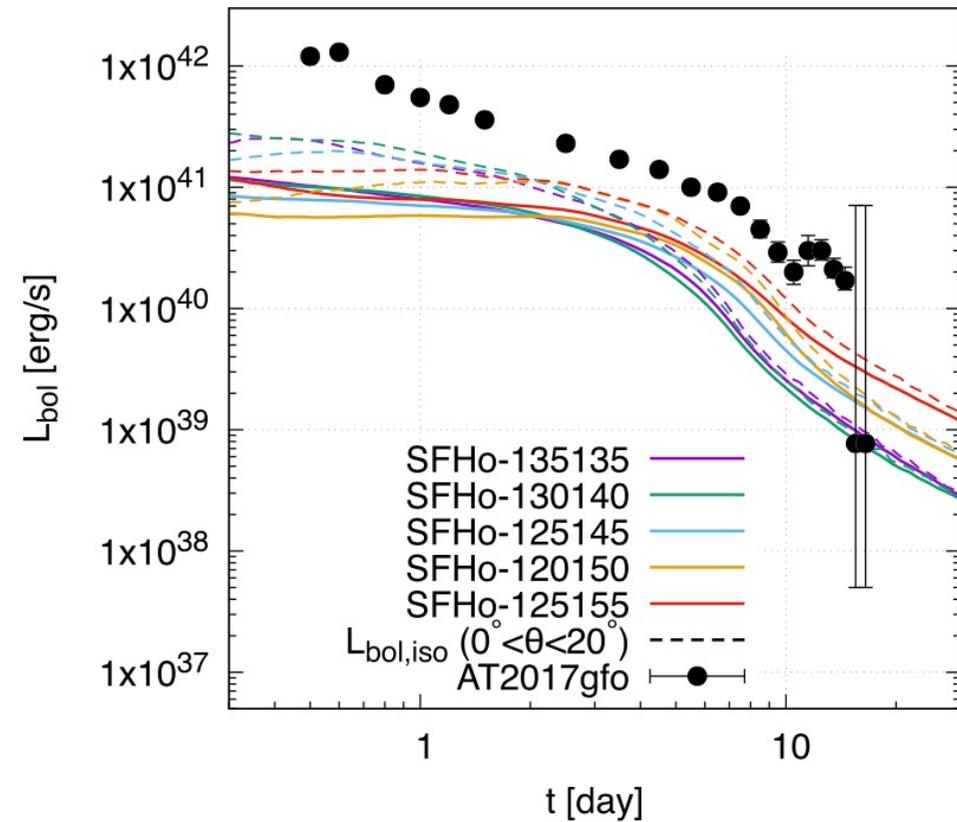
Banes, Just, Kawaguchi, Kasen, Tanaka, and many others...

see talk by Kawaguchi, Perego

Kawaguchi+2021; long-lived



Kawaguchi+2023; short-lived



❖ long-lived models (r-process mass  $\sim 0.05 M_{\odot}$ ) match LC

❖ short-lived models (r-process mass  $\sim 0.01 M_{\odot}$ ) under-estimate LC

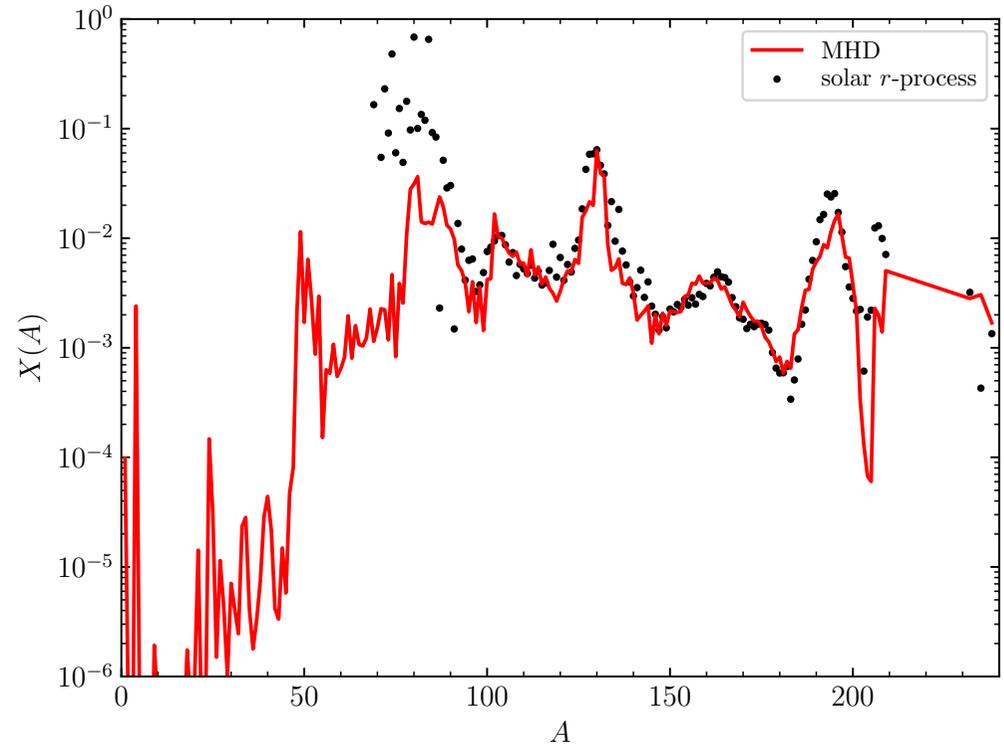
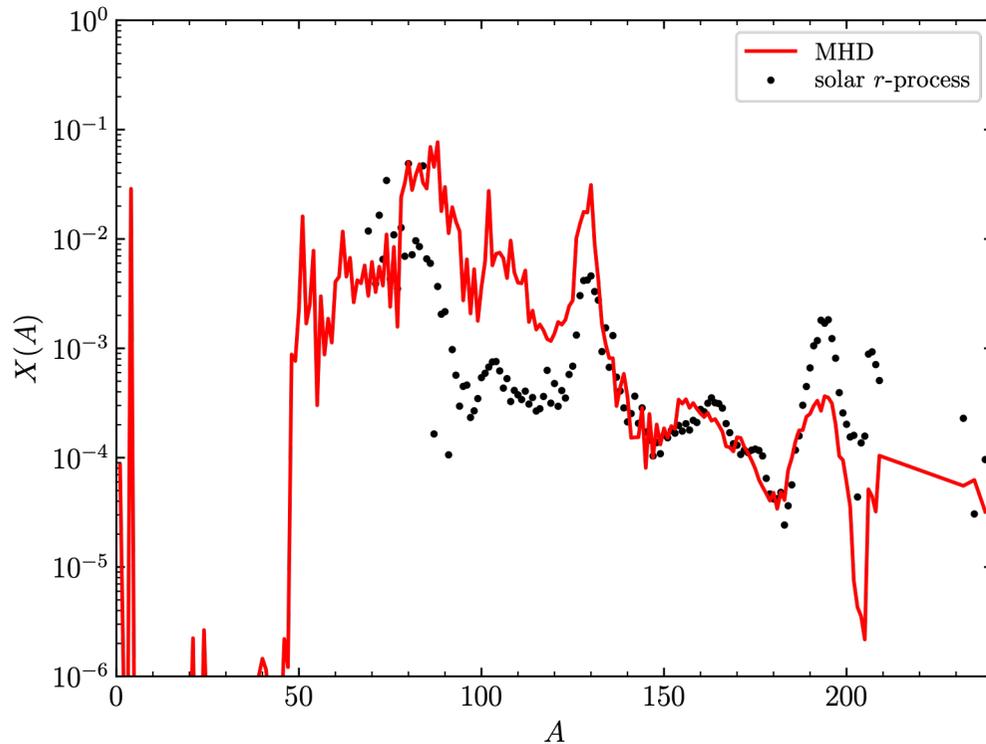
# r-process patterns

Arcones, Fujibayashi, Goriely, Just, Korobkin, Perego, Radice, Wanajo, and many others...

see talk by Arcones, Kiuchi

Wanajo+2026, in prep.; long-lived

Wanajo+2026, in prep.; short-lived



- ❖ long-lived models over-produce light  $r$ -nuclei with respect to solar
- ❖ short-lived models match solar  $r$ -process pattern

question 1: does GW170817 a typical neutron star merger?

universality of r-patterns  $\rightarrow$  GW170817 was a rare event?

use of r-mass  $\sim 0.05 M_{\odot}$   $\rightarrow$  over estimate heavy r-element?

future direction should be  $\rightarrow$  non-GW170817 type mergers?

# note

- ❖ poll for the question: yes ~60%, no ~40%
- ❖ (yes) all other (non-GW) GRB-kilonovae show similar properties
- ❖ (yes) LC highly dependent on NLTE that is important for > a few days
- ❖ (yes) disk ejecta amounts still highly uncertain
- ❖ (yes) uncertainties in neutrino oscillation

question 1: does GW170817 a typical neutron star merger?

question 2: does the universe need r-process sites other than mergers?

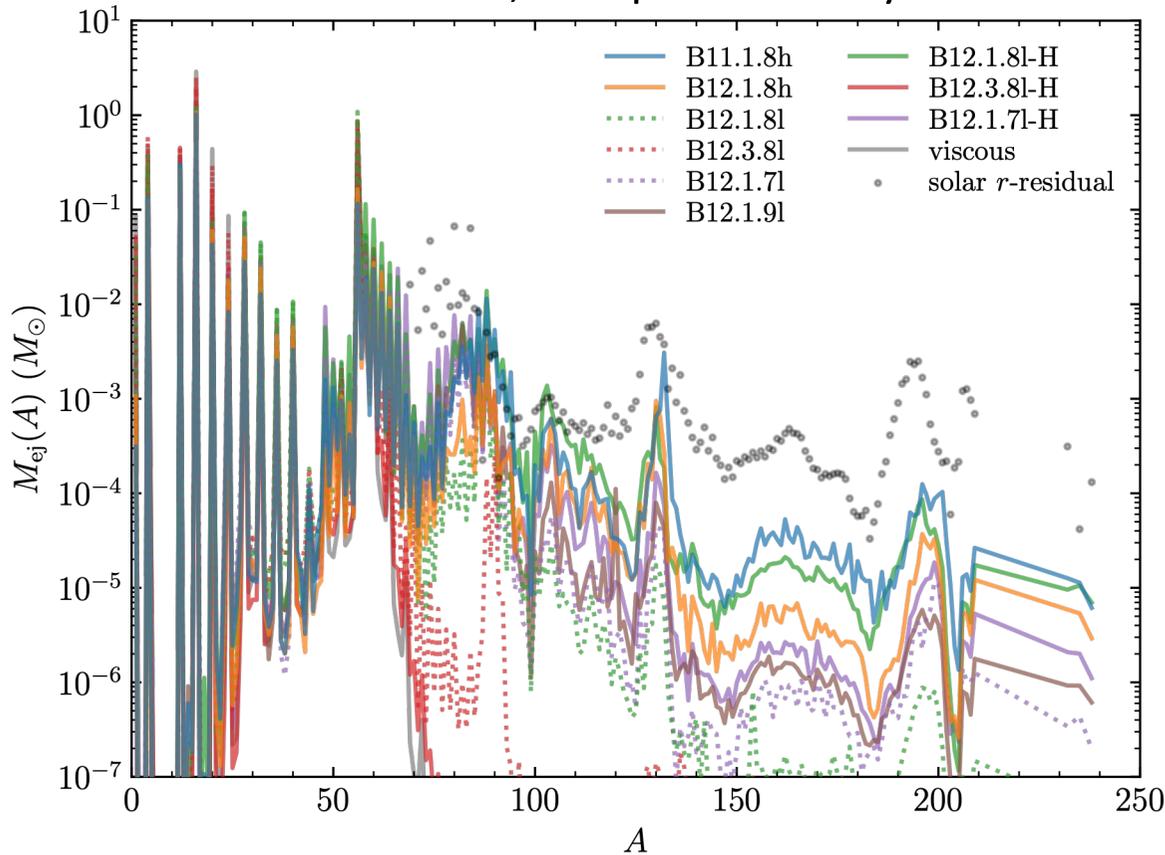
... others to be discussed

# r-process sites other than mergers

Arcones, Nishimura, Metzger, Shibata, Siegel, Thompson, and many others...

see talk by [Fijibayashi, Shibata](#)

Shibata+2025; collapsars with dynamo

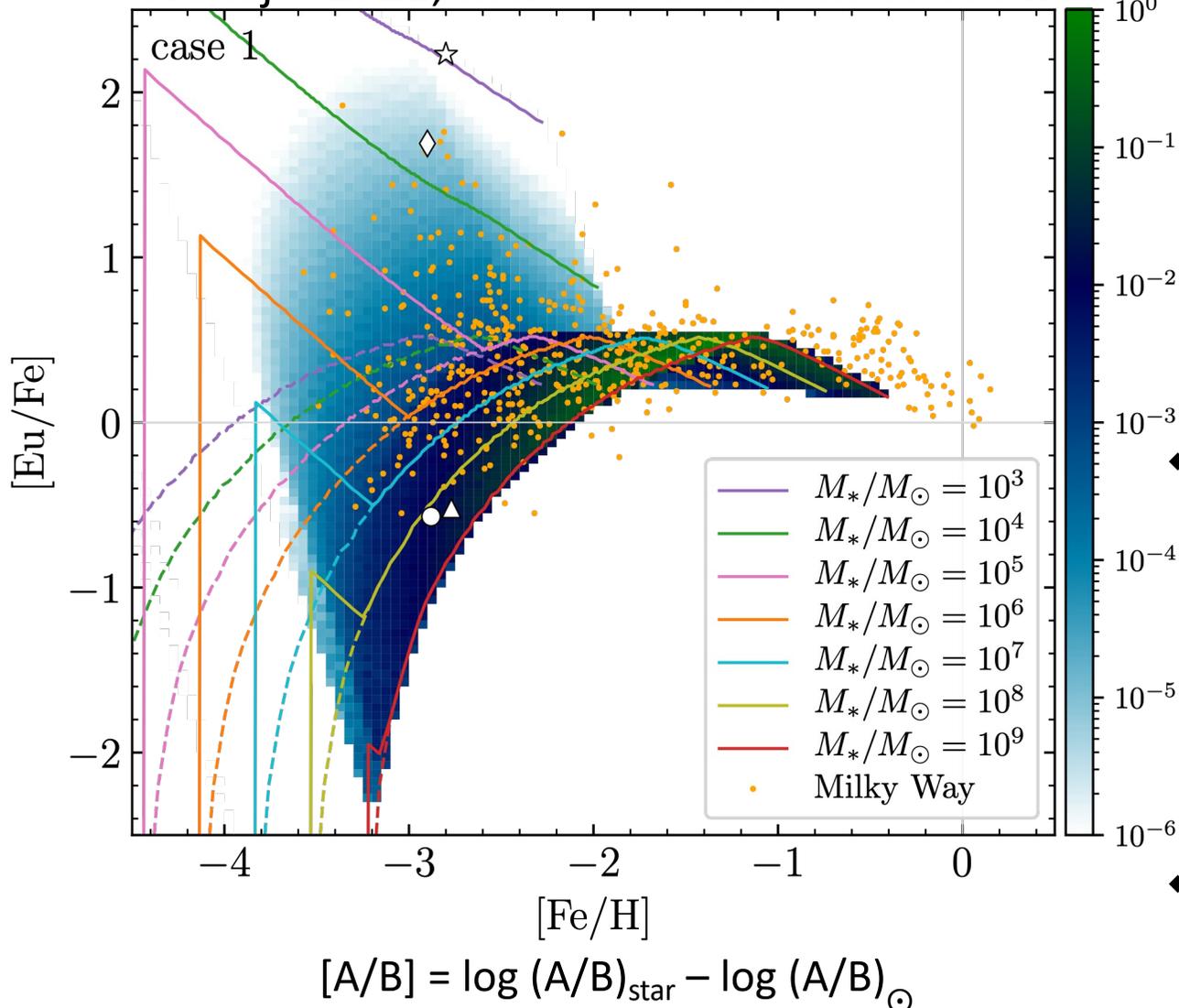


- ❖ popular suggested sites include MHD supernovae and collapsars
- ❖ generally heavy r-nuclei are under-produced when including neutrinos
- ❖ these can be sources of only light r-nuclei?

# r-process in MW galaxy

Cescutti, Coté, Hirai, Ishimaru, Kobayashi, Matteucci, Tsujimoto, and many others...

Wanajo+2021; MW halo as ensemble of dwarfs



❖  $t^{-1}$  type delay-time distribution cannot explain early r-enrichment and a knee of [r/Fe]?

❖ early component may solve this problems (Beniamini&Piran 2019; Maoz&Nakar 2025; Pracchia&Sharan Salafia 2026)

❖ a few 10 / Myr events are needed

question 2: does the universe need r-process sites other than mergers?

MHD supernovae or collapsars → only sites of light r-nuclei?

problems for MW r-process → early component solve these?

future GW observation → how can the event rate be small?

# note

- ❖ poll: yes ~90%, no~10%
- ❖ poll for important sites: NS mergers (38), BH-NS mergers (1), collapsars (4), MHD supernovae (2), giant flare (1), other (2)
- ❖ (yes) Sr and Ba in low-metallicity ( $[Fe/H] < -3$ ) halo stars needs origin with no delay