

Probabilistic Numerics in Astronomy & Astrophysics

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(Research Scientist, Gravity Institute, KU Leuven)

in collaboration with

Thomas Ceulemans, Silke Maes, Marie Van de Sande, [Jon Cockayne](#), Leen Decin, Jeremy Yates,
Taïssa Danilovich, Mats Esseldeurs, Jolien Malfait, Shiqi Su, Mark Wilkinson, Tjonnje G.F. Li, ...

Context

Context — A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

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Stellar evolution: **what?** why? how?

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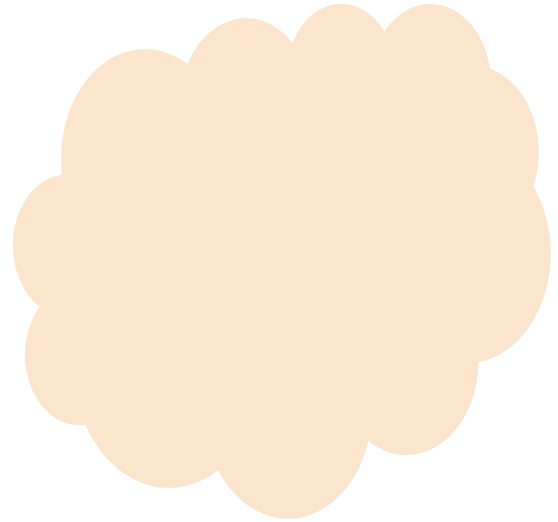
Stellar evolution: **what?** why? how?

- Stars evolve!
They are born and die

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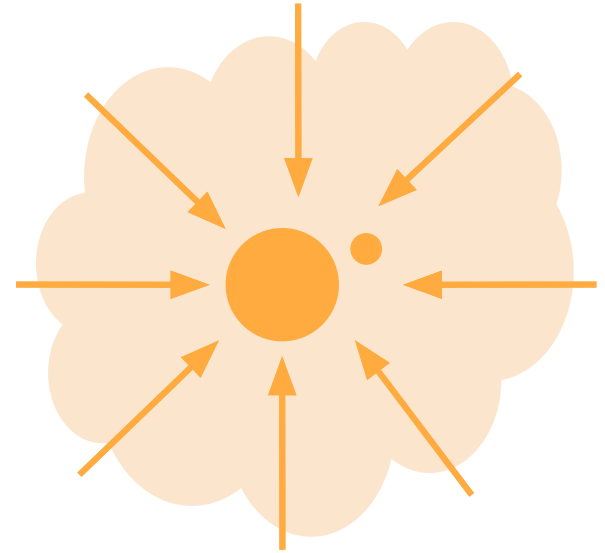
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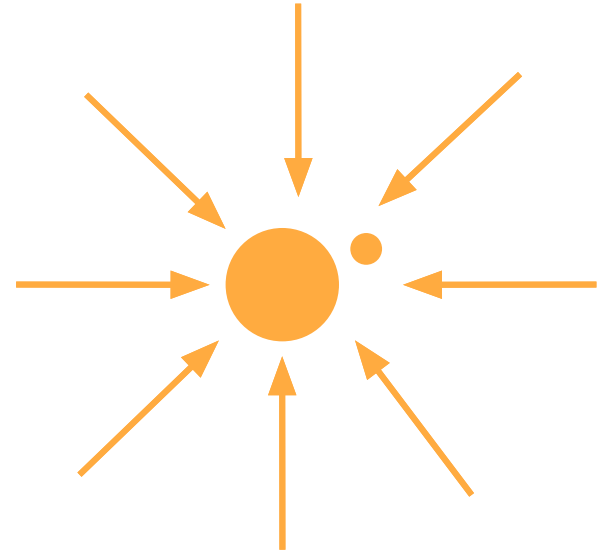
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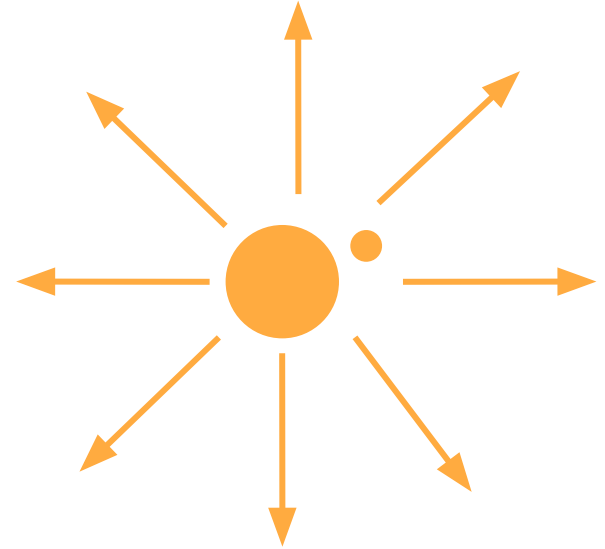
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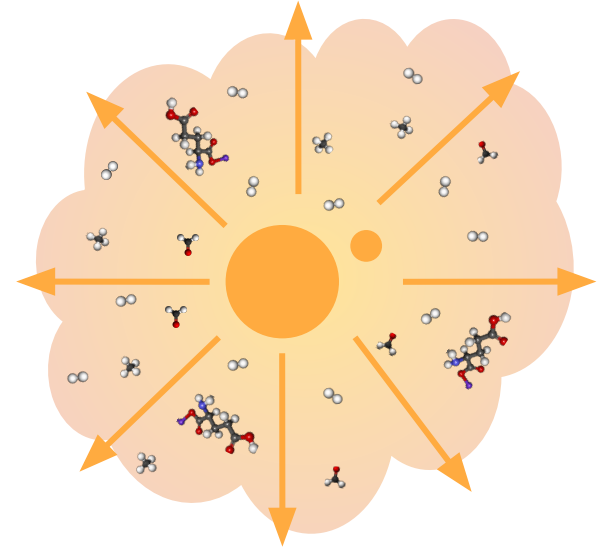
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- Dying stars lose mass
in outwards-directed **stellar winds**



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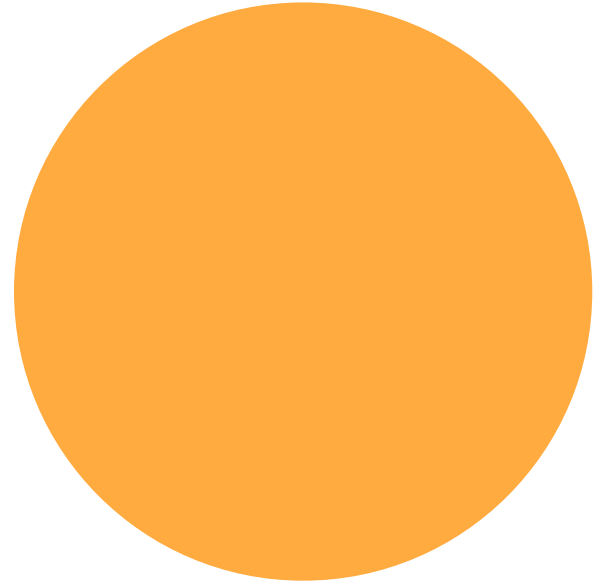
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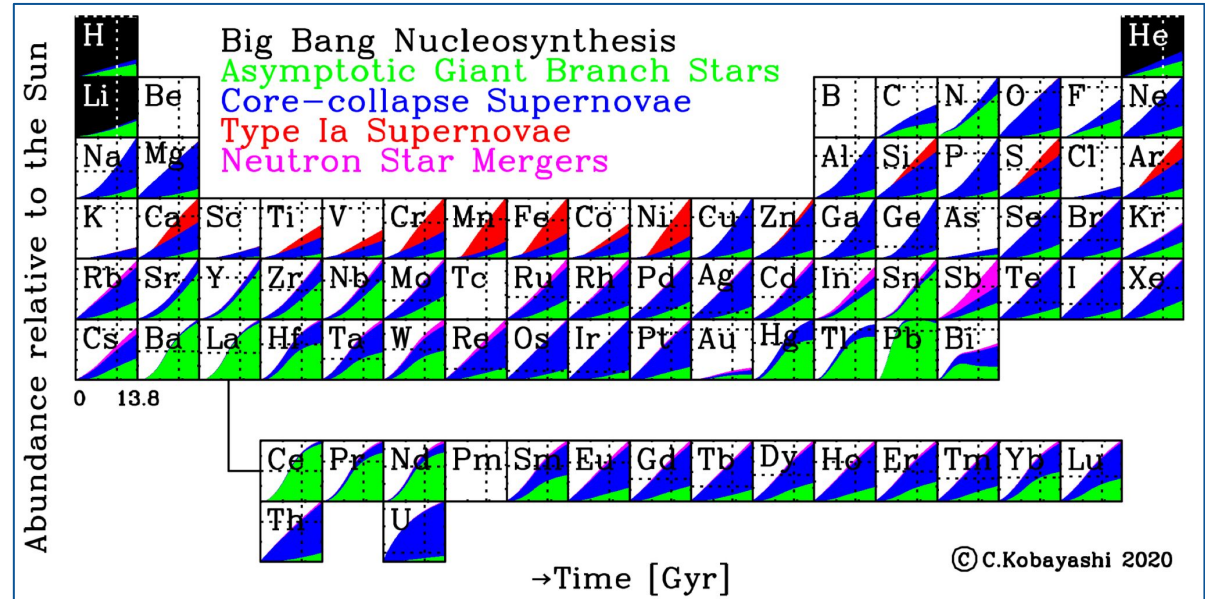
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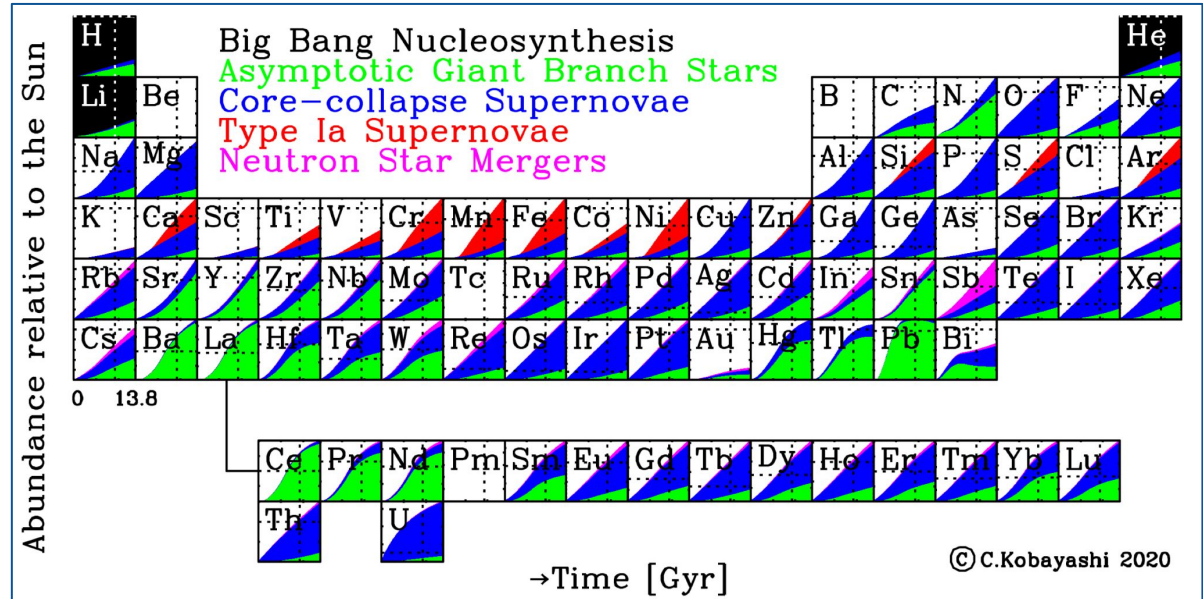
- Chemical history



Context – A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

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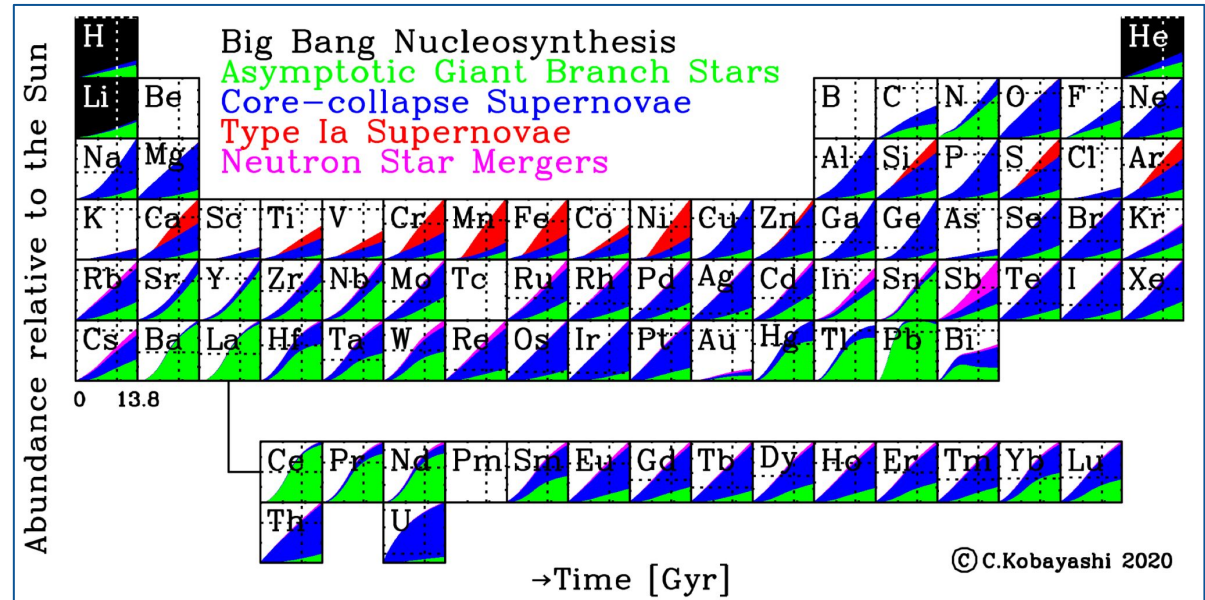
- Chemical history
- Chemical future
building blocks for
next-gen stars,
planets, ..., life?



Context – A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

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- Chemical history
- Chemical future:
building blocks for
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- (Playground of problems for beautiful math, data science, and engineering!)

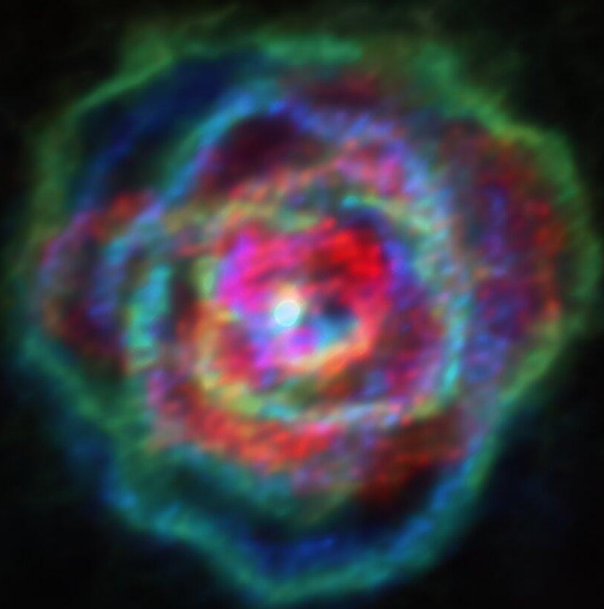
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Stellar evolution: *what?* *why?* **how?**

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Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Observations

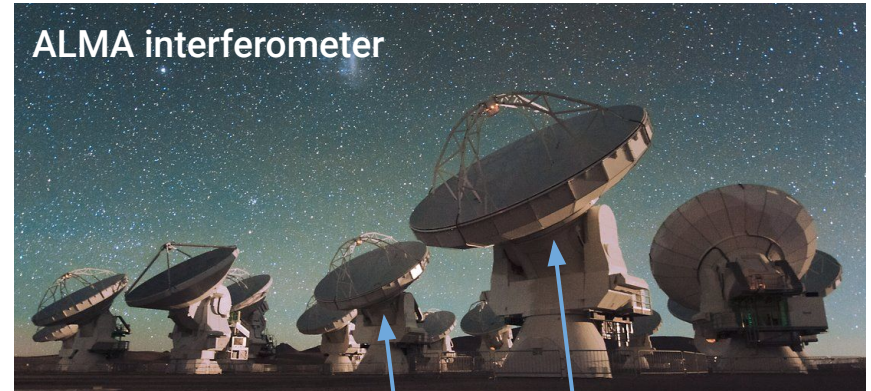
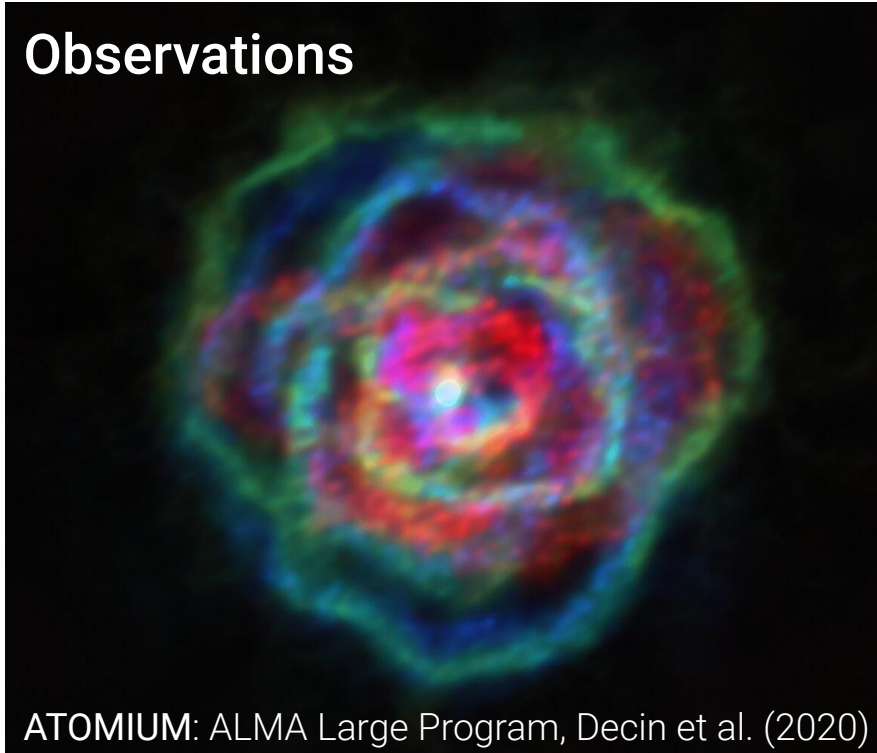


ATOMIUM: ALMA Large Program, Decin et al. (2020)

Context — A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae


Stellar evolution: what? why? how?

Observations



$$V(\nu, \mathbf{b}) = \langle E(\nu, \mathbf{x}_1) E(\nu, \mathbf{x}_2) \rangle$$

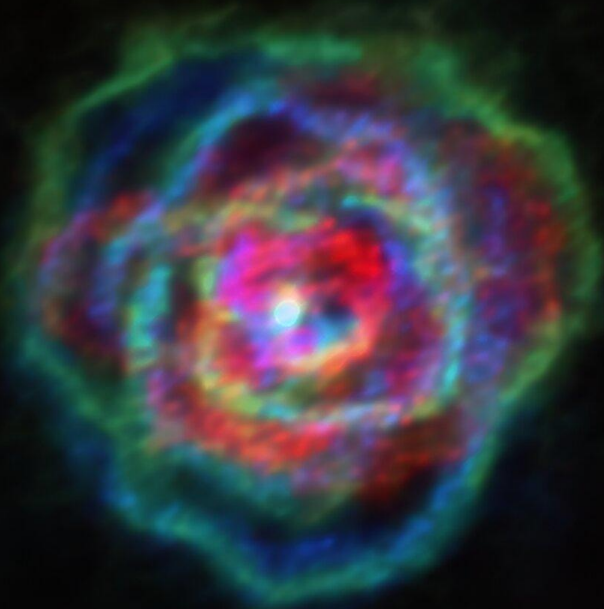
$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1$$


$$I(\nu, \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{F}\{V(\nu, \mathbf{b})\}$$

Context — A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Observations



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Context — A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Simulations



Malfait et al. (2021), Maes et al. (2021),
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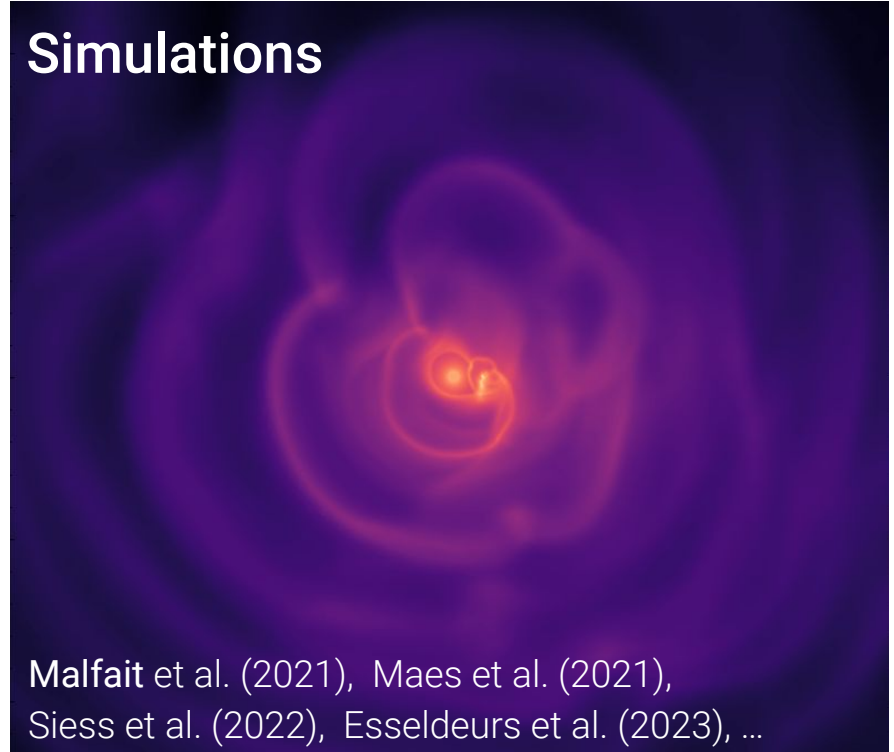
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Stellar wind model

- Hydrodynamics

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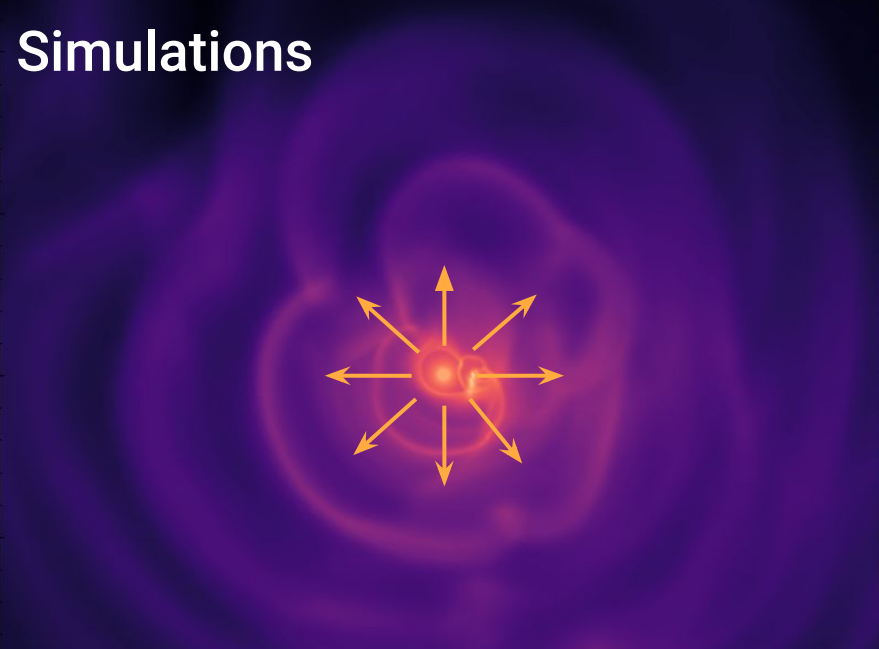
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Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Stellar wind model

- Hydrodynamics
- Radiation Transport

Simulations



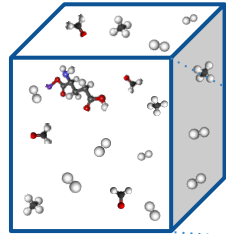
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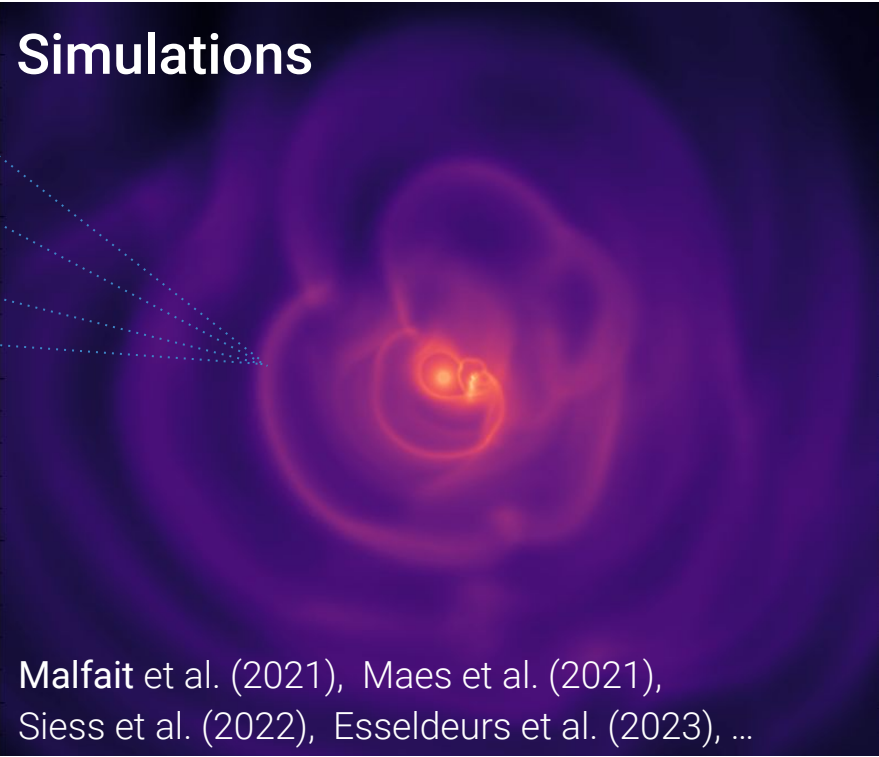
Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Stellar wind model

- Hydrodynamics
- Radiation Transport
- Micro-physics / chemistry
 - Quantum statistical state
 - Chemical kinetics



Simulations



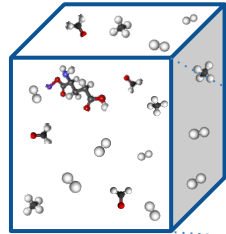
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Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Stellar wind model

- Hydrodynamics
- Radiation Transport (!)
- Micro-physics / chemistry
 - Quantum statistical state
 - Chemical kinetics (!)



Simulations

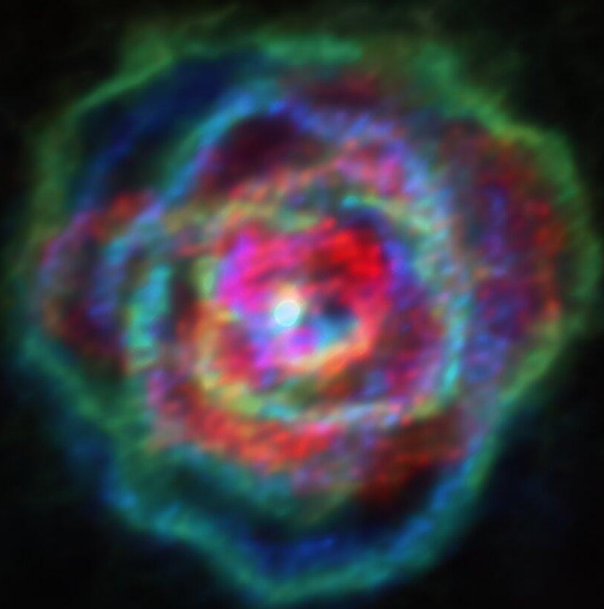


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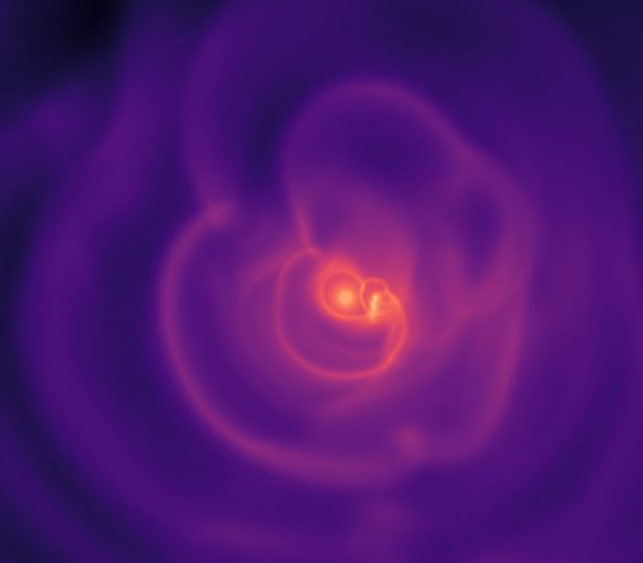
Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Observations



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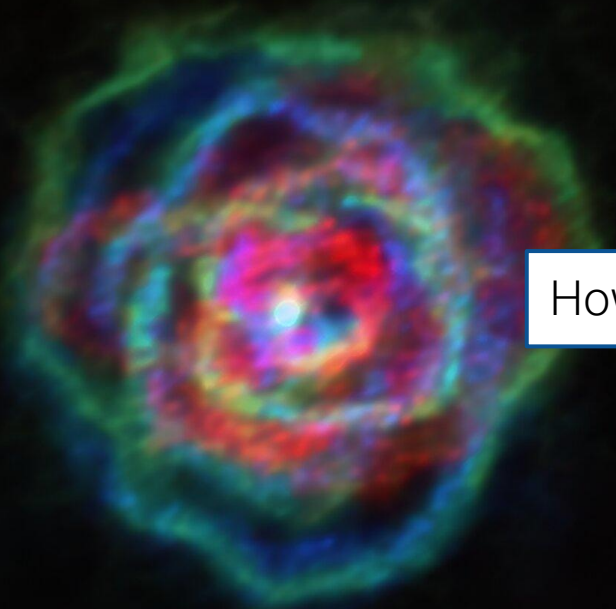


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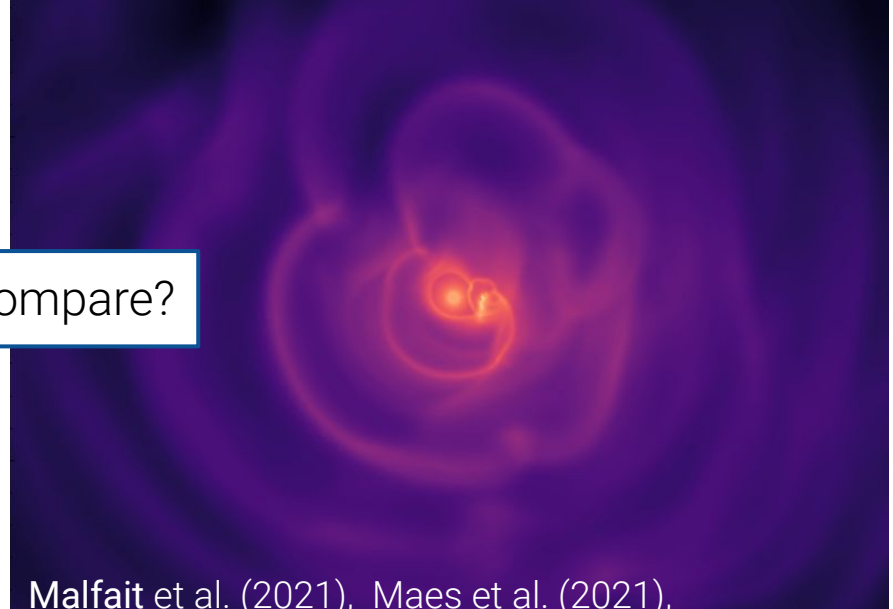
Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

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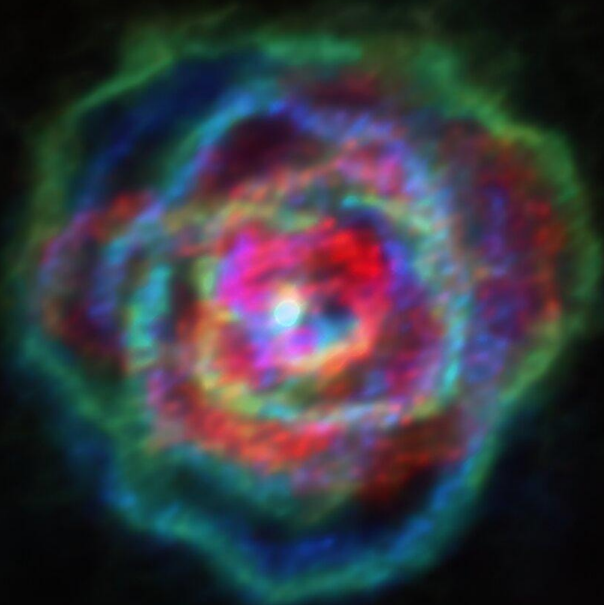
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How to compare?

Context — A&A: from stellar winds to supernovae

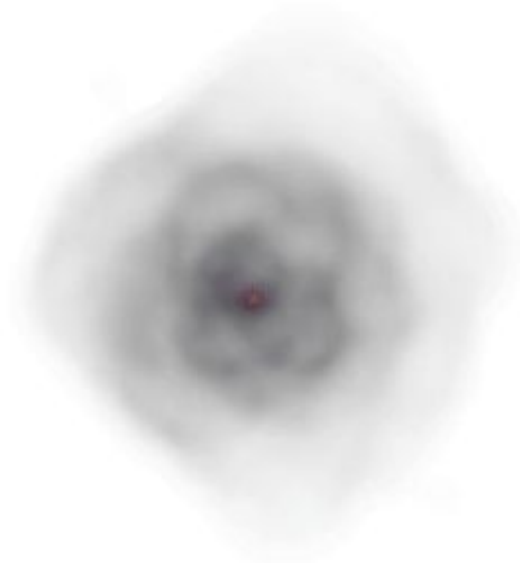
Stellar evolution: **what?** **why?** **how?**

Observations



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Reconstructions

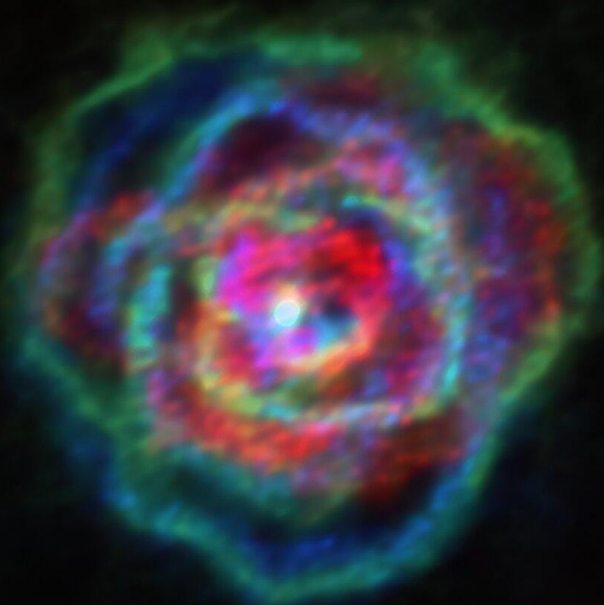


FDC, Ceulemans, Decin, Danilovich, & Yates (2024)

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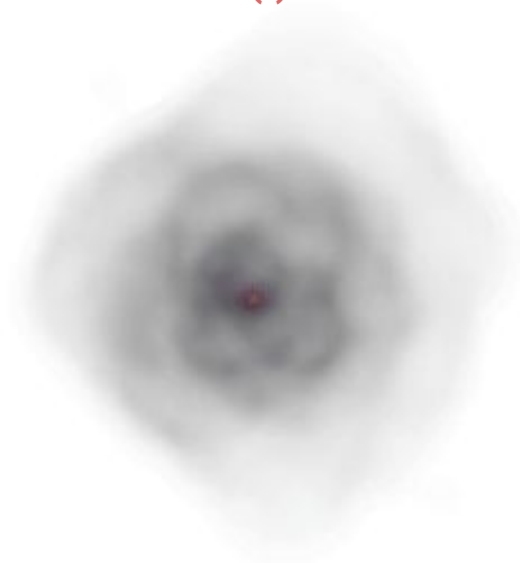
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Reconstructions (!)



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Goals — Need for Probabilistic Numerics in A&A

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(!) **Fast / approximate, but quantifiably / tunably accurate models**

e.g. Radiation Transport, Chemical Kinetics

(!) **Large uncertainties on various input parameters**

e.g. spectroscopic data, chemical reaction rates

(!) **Highly degenerate inverse problems**

e.g. model reconstructions

Goals — Need for Probabilistic Numerics in A&A

Note

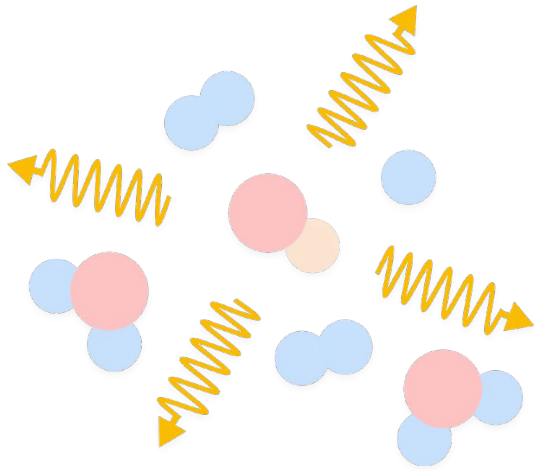
- **Typical problem scale** ($\sim 10^6 - 10^9$ particles, elements, ...)
- **Many, very different components all working together**
⇒ uncertainties have to be propagated
- **Non-linear components**

Application 1 — Radiation Transport

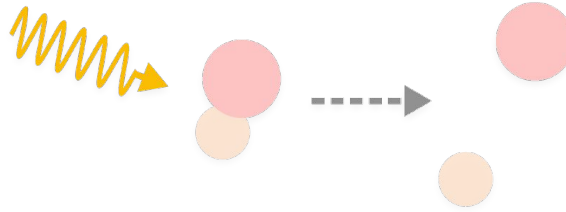
Application 1 — Radiation Transport

How would our models appear in observations?

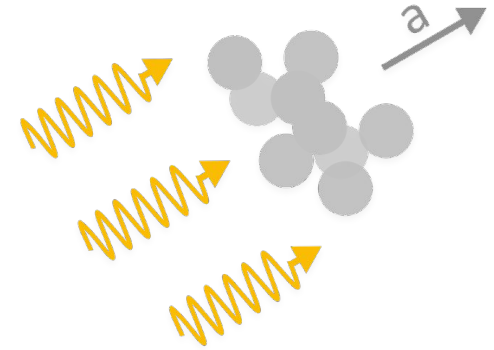
How much:



Radiative cooling?



Photochemistry?



Radiative pressure on dust?

Application 1 – Radiation Transport

Radiative Transfer equation

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla I(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{n}}) = \underbrace{\eta(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{n}})}_{\text{emission}} - \underbrace{\chi(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{n}})}_{\text{absorption}} I(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{n}}) + \underbrace{\oint d\hat{\mathbf{n}}' \Phi(\hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}}')}_{\text{scattering}} I(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{n}}')$$

Application 1 – Radiation Transport

Radiative Transfer equation

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optical depth

$$\tau(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx' \chi(x')$$

formal solution

$$I(x_2) = \int_0^{x_2} dx' \eta(x') e^{-\tau(x', x_2)} + \text{BC}$$

Application 1 – Radiation Transport as Regression

Radiative Transfer as a Bayesian Linear Regression problem

FDC, Ceulemans, Cockayne, Decin, & Yates (*MNRAS*, 2023)

“A&A intro to Probabilistic Numerics applied to Radiative Transfer”

(Actually 2 consecutive Bayesian Linear Regression problems, given χ and η)

optical depth $\tau(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx' \chi(x')$

formal solution $I(x_2) = \int_0^{x_2} dx' \eta(x') e^{-\tau(x', x_2)} + \text{BC}$

Application 1 — Radiation Transport as Regression

GP interpolate absorption χ and emissivity η with the same kernel κ

$$p(\chi) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_\chi, \Sigma_\chi)$$

$$p(\eta) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_\eta, \Sigma_\eta)$$

with **mean** functions

$$\mu_\chi(x) = \chi^\top \mathbf{K}_\chi^{-1} \kappa(\mathbf{x}, x); \quad \mathbf{K}_\chi = \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) + \Sigma_\chi$$

$$\mu_\eta(x) = \eta^\top \mathbf{K}_\eta^{-1} \kappa(\mathbf{x}, x); \quad \mathbf{K}_\eta = \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) + \Sigma_\eta$$

and **covariance** kernels

$$\Sigma_\chi(x_1, x_2) = \kappa(x_1, x_2) - \kappa(x_1, \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{K}_\chi^{-1} \kappa(\mathbf{x}, x_2)$$

$$\Sigma_\eta(x_1, x_2) = \kappa(x_1, x_2) - \kappa(x_1, \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{K}_\eta^{-1} \kappa(\mathbf{x}, x_2)$$

Application 1 — Radiation Transport as Regression

As a result, the intensity I and optical depth τ follow distributions

$$p(\tau) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_\tau, \Sigma_\tau)$$

$$p(I | \tau) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_{I|\tau}, \Sigma_{I|\tau}) \quad (\text{given optical depth})$$

with **mean** functions

$$\mu_\tau(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx' \mu_\chi(x') \quad (\text{optical depth})$$

$$\mu_{I|\tau}(x_2) = \int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx' \mu_\eta(x') e^{-\tau(x', x_2)} \quad (\text{formal solution})$$

and **covariance** kernels

$$\Sigma_\tau(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_1 \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_2 \Sigma_\chi(x'_1, x'_2)$$

$$\Sigma_{I|\tau}(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_1 \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_2 \Sigma_\eta(x'_1, x'_2) e^{-\tau(x'_1, x_1)} e^{-\tau(x'_2, x_2)}$$

Application 1 — Radiation Transport as Regression

Using the results, given the optical depth τ

$$\mu_{I|\tau}(x_2) = \int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx' \mu_\eta(x') e^{-\tau(x', x_2)}$$

$$\Sigma_{I|\tau}(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_1 \int_{x_1}^{x_2} dx'_2 \Sigma_\eta(x'_1, x'_2) e^{-\tau(x'_1, x_1)} e^{-\tau(x'_2, x_2)}$$

From the law of **total expectation**

$$\mathbb{E}[I] = \mathbb{E}_\tau [\mu_{I|\tau}]$$

$$= \mu_{I|\hat{\tau}}$$

and the law of **total variance**

$$\mathbb{V}[I] = \mathbb{E}_\tau [\Sigma_{I|\tau}] + \mathbb{V}_\tau [\mu_{I|\tau}]$$

$$\leq \Sigma_{I|\bar{\tau}} + \mu_{I|\bar{\tau}}^2 - \mu_{I|\hat{\tau}}^2$$

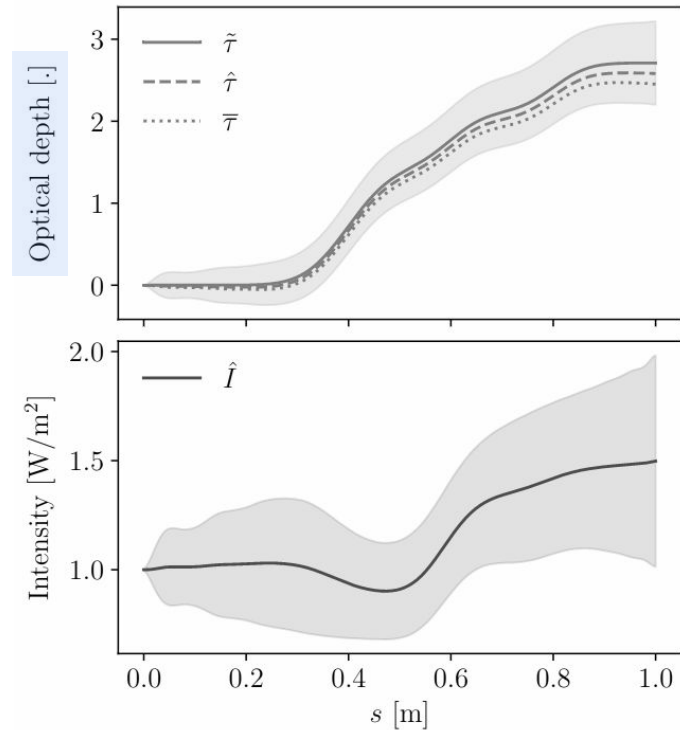
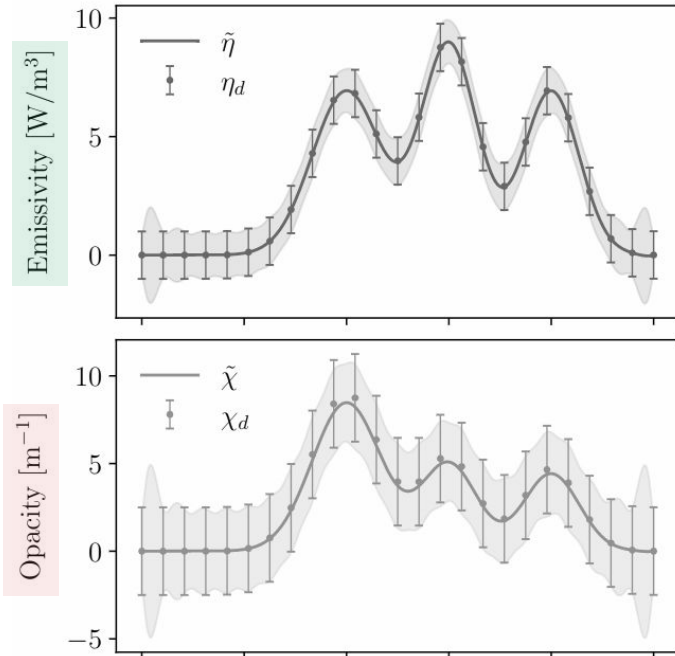
Effective optical depths

$$\hat{\tau} = \tau - 1/2 \Sigma_\tau$$

$$\bar{\tau} = \hat{\tau} - 1/2 \Sigma_\tau$$

Application 1 — Radiation Transport as Regression

Example



Application 1 — Radiation Transport as Regression

Added value of probabilistic numerics

- (!) **Fast / approximate, but quantifiably / tunably accurate models**
e.g. creating reduced-order models by mapping GP to feature space
- (!) **Modelling the impact of uncertainties on the input and discretisation**

Issue with current implementation

- (!) **Large computational cost** → replace with iterative GP (cfr. Monday)

Application 2 – Chemical Kinetics

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How much of a particular atom or molecule is present at each point?

Application 2 – Chemical Kinetics

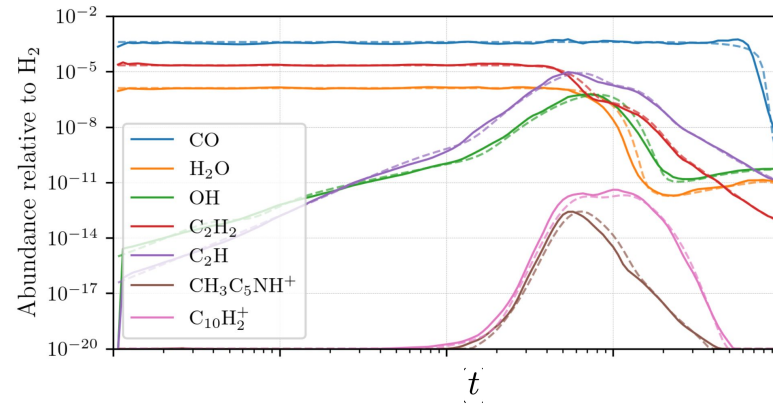
How much of a particular atom or molecule is present at each point?

Described by a set of coupled non-linear ODEs,

$$\frac{dn_i}{dt} = \underbrace{\sum_{j \in F_i} \left(k_j \prod_{r \in R_j} n_r \right)}_{\text{production reactions}} - \underbrace{\sum_{j \in D_i} \left(k_j \prod_{r \in R_j} n_r \right)}_{\text{destruction reactions}}$$

~500 species

~5000 reactions



Application 2 – Chemical Kinetics

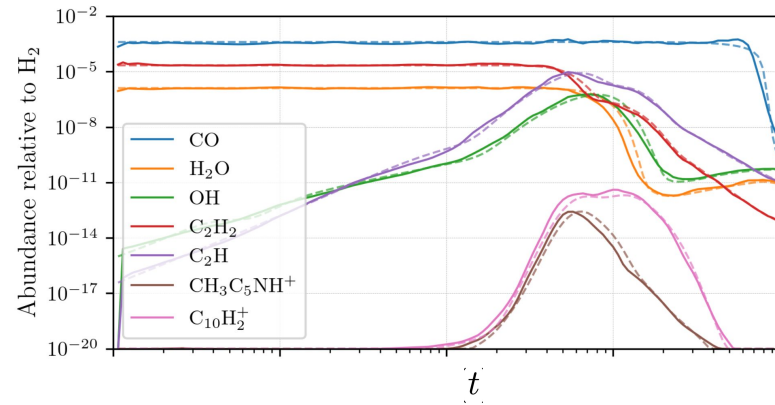
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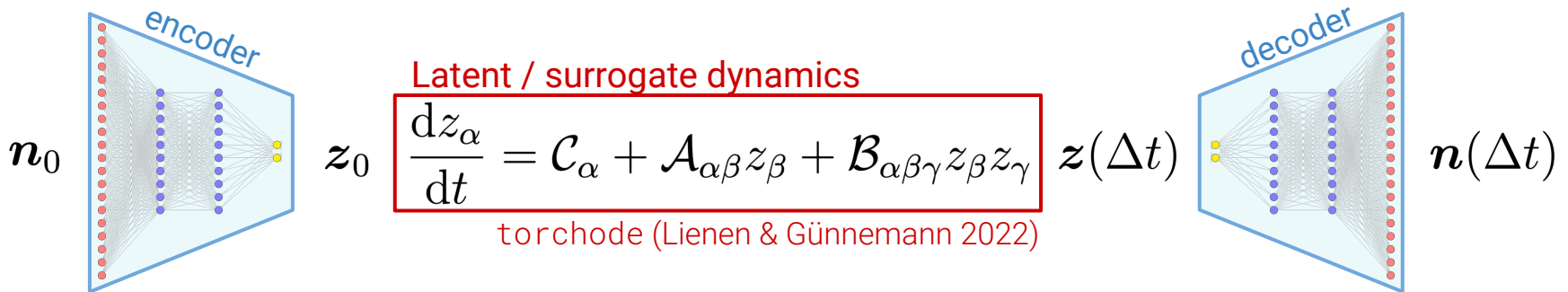
... and this for every point in the simulation!

Application 2 – Chemical Kinetics Surrogate Model

In \longrightarrow out

Classical dynamics

$$\mathbf{n}_0 \quad \frac{dn_i}{dt} = A_{ij}n_j + B_{ijk}n_jn_k \quad \mathbf{n}(\Delta t)$$



Application 2 — Chemical Kinetics



Potential **added value** of probabilistic numerics

- (!) **Modelling the impact of large uncertainties on reaction rates**
- (!) **Modelling the impact of the dimensional reduction**
- (!) **Inform dimensional reduction process**

Application 3 — Bayesian model reconstruction

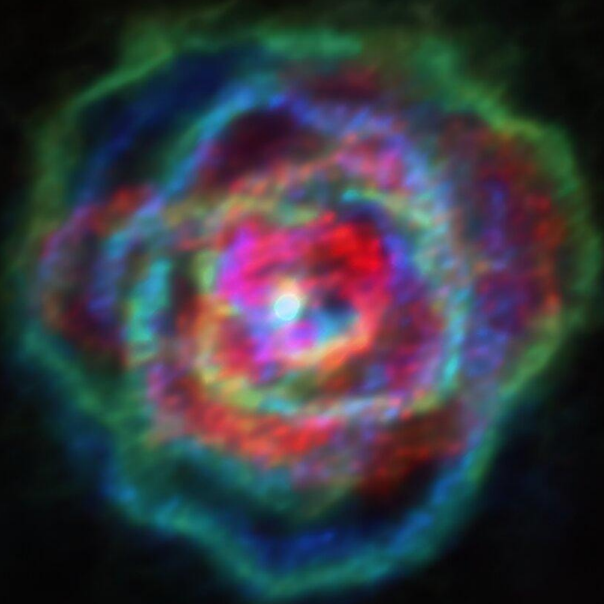
Application 3 — Bayesian model reconstruction

How to create realistic 3D models based on (spectral line) observations?

Application 3 — Bayesian model reconstruction

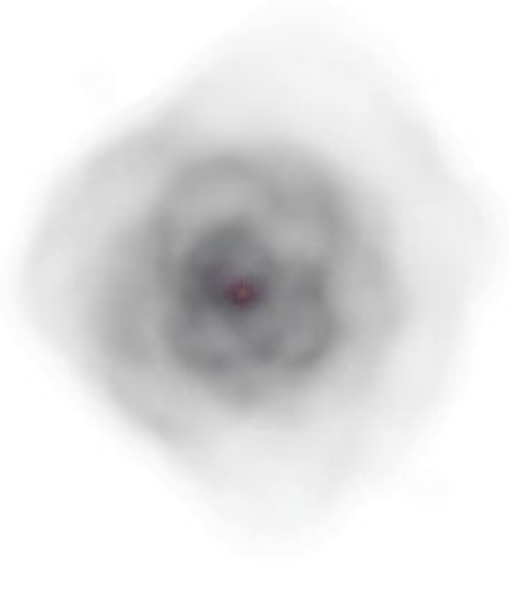
How to create realistic 3D models based on (spectral line) observations?

Observation



ATOMIUM: ALMA Large Program, Decin et al. (2020)

Reconstruction

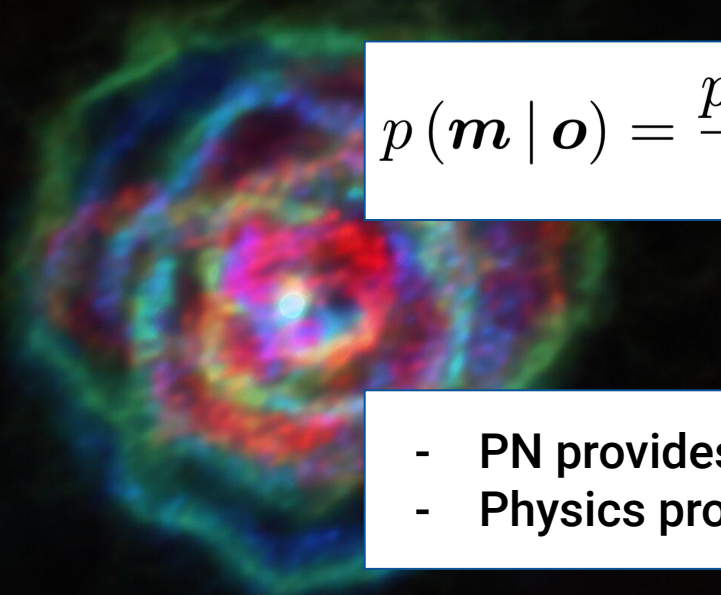


FDC, Ceulemans, Decin, Danilovich, & Yates (2024)

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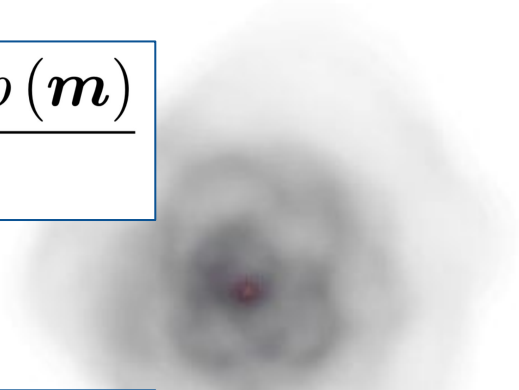
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Reconstruction



$$p(\mathbf{m} | \mathbf{o}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{m}) p(\mathbf{m})}{p(\mathbf{o})}$$

- PN provides likelihood
- Physics provides prior

FDC, Ceulemans, Decin, Danilovich, & Yates (2024)

Application 3 — Bayesian model reconstruction



Potential **added value** of probabilistic numerics

- (!) **Modelling the large degeneracy**
- (!) **Better idea of likelihood including model uncertainties**

Summary — Probabilistic Numerics in A&A

- **Fast / approximate, but quantifiably / tunably accurate models**
e.g. Radiation Transport, Chemical Kinetics
- **Large uncertainties on various input parameters**
e.g. spectroscopic data, chemical reaction rates
- **Highly degenerate inverse problems**
e.g. model reconstructions

Thank you!

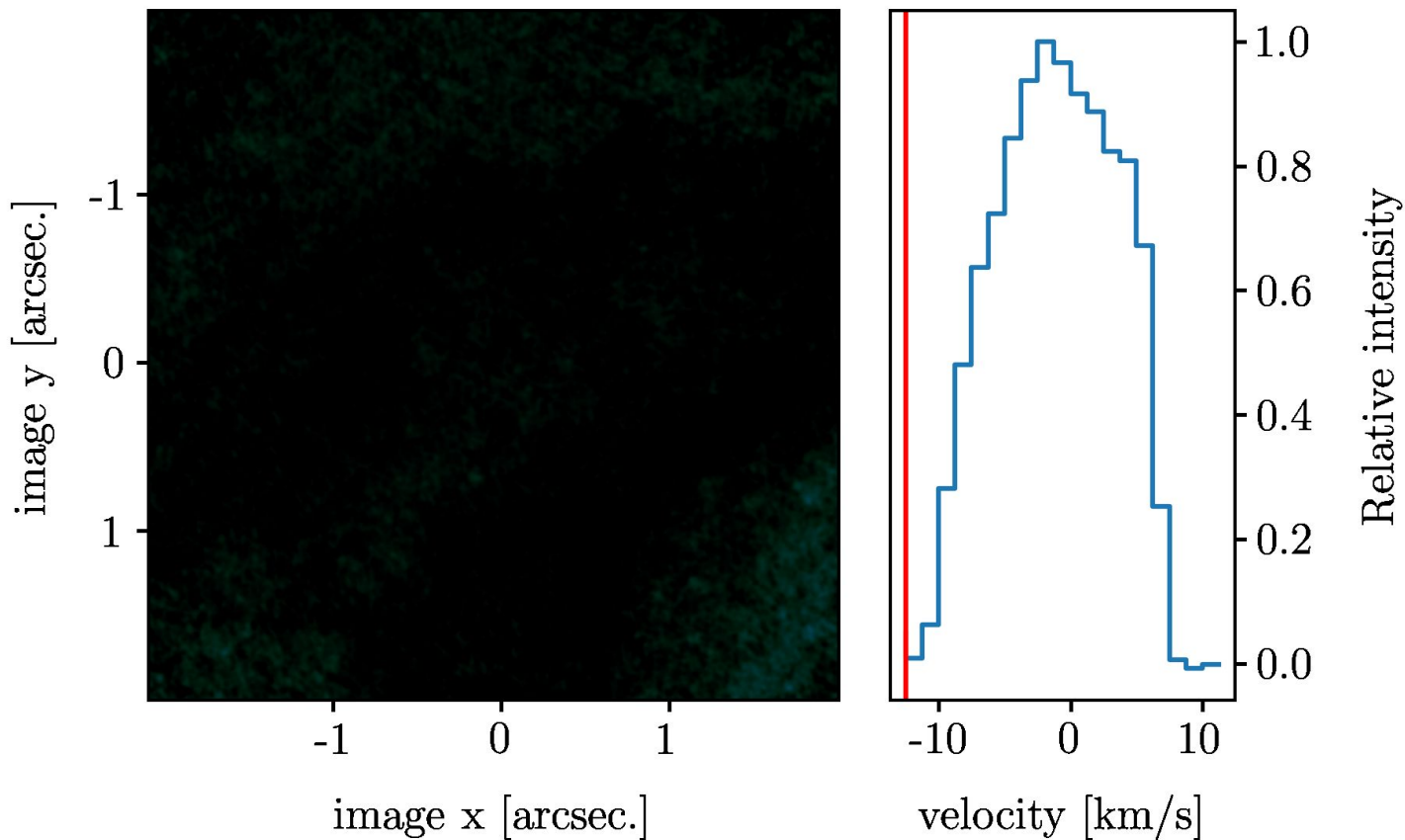
Want to collaborate? Please get in touch!

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in collaboration with

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Backup — Observations



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