



The Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Stars

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Collaborator: Ang Li and Rodrigo Negreiros



IHEP, Beijing, China; Sept 26, 2024

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- Background
- Thermal relaxation of neutron star
- Peculiar thermal relaxation from superfluidity
- Peculiar thermal relaxation of hyperon star
- Summary and Perspective

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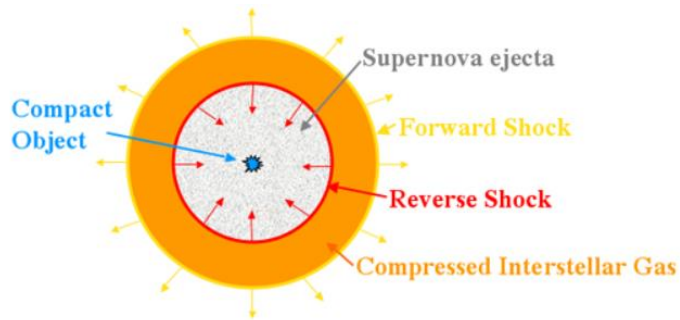
Neutron Stars



Walter Baade



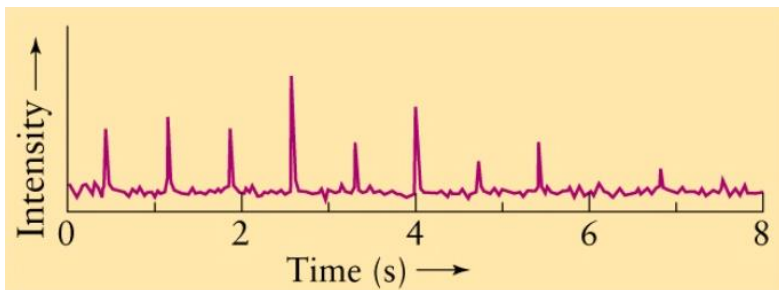
Fritz Zwicky



1930's, the possible existence of neutron stars

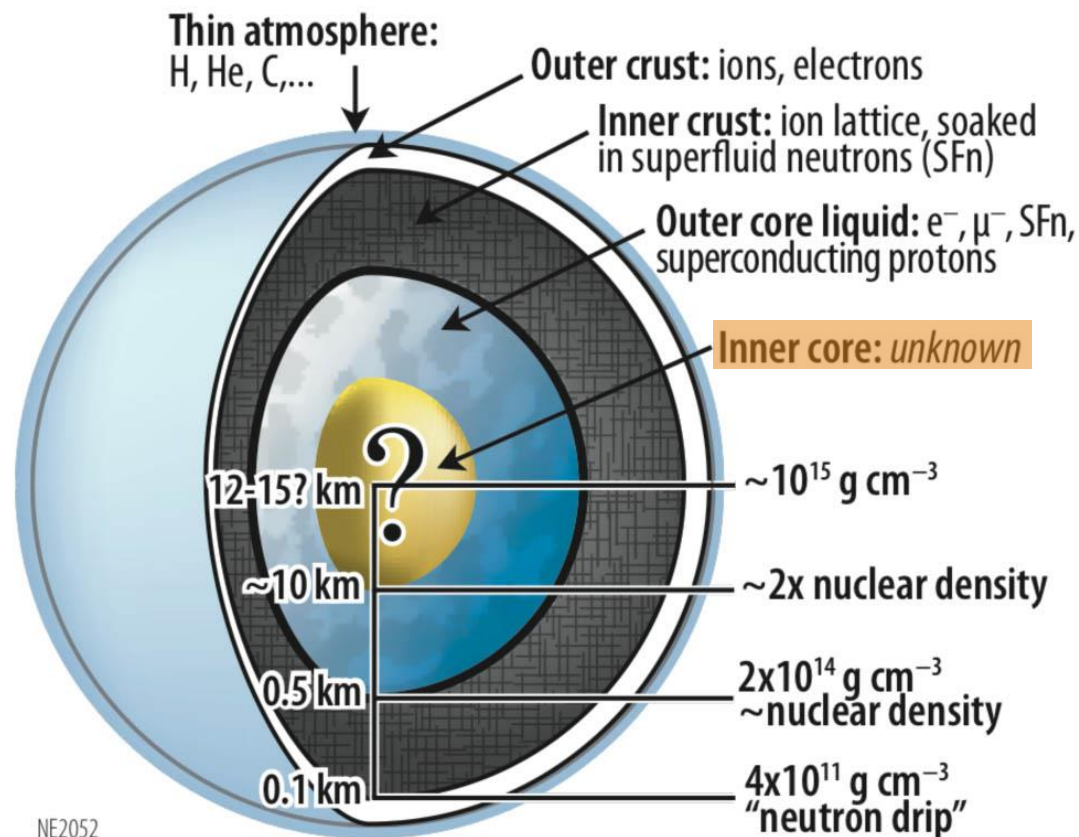


Jocelyn Bell



[Lecture 19: Neutron Stars \(ualberta.ca\)](http://ualberta.ca)

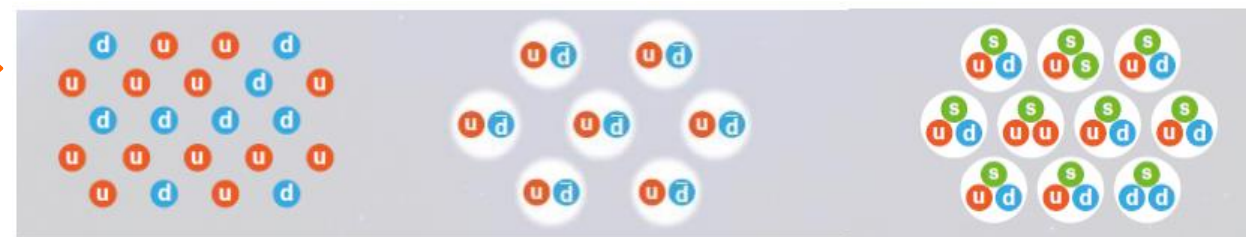
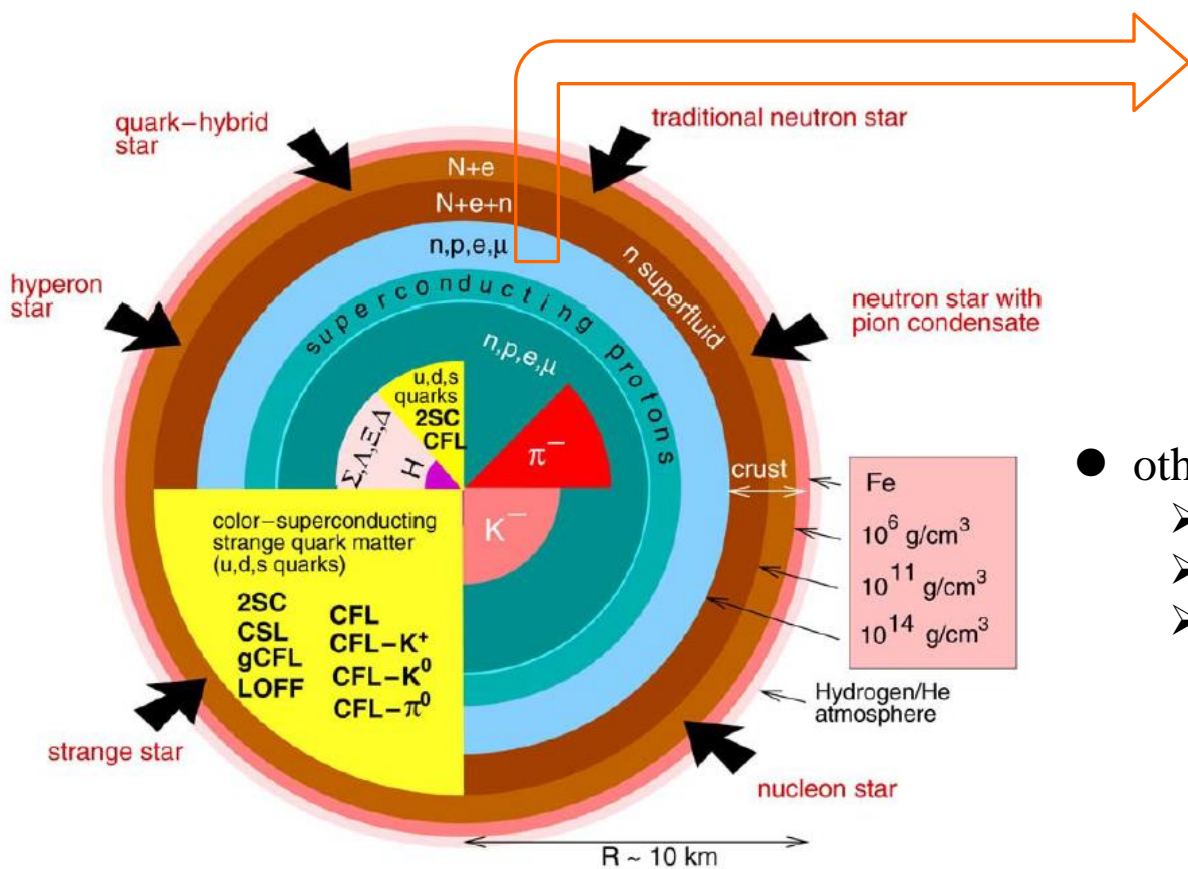
1967, the first observation of pulsar



NE2052

[Index of /Images/nicer \(nasa.gov\)](http://Index of /Images/nicer (nasa.gov))

Neutron Star Inner Core



Quarks

Bose-Einstein condensate

Hyperons

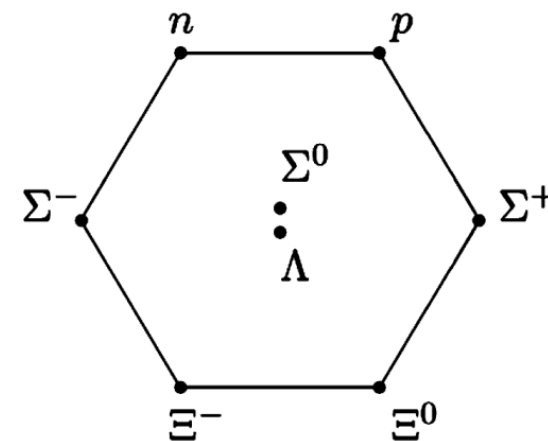
● other possible compositions:

- excited nucleon Δ
- dark matter
-

$s = 0$

$s = -1$

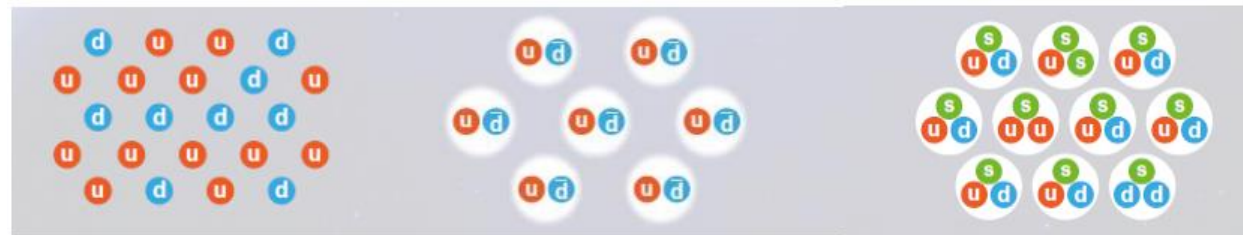
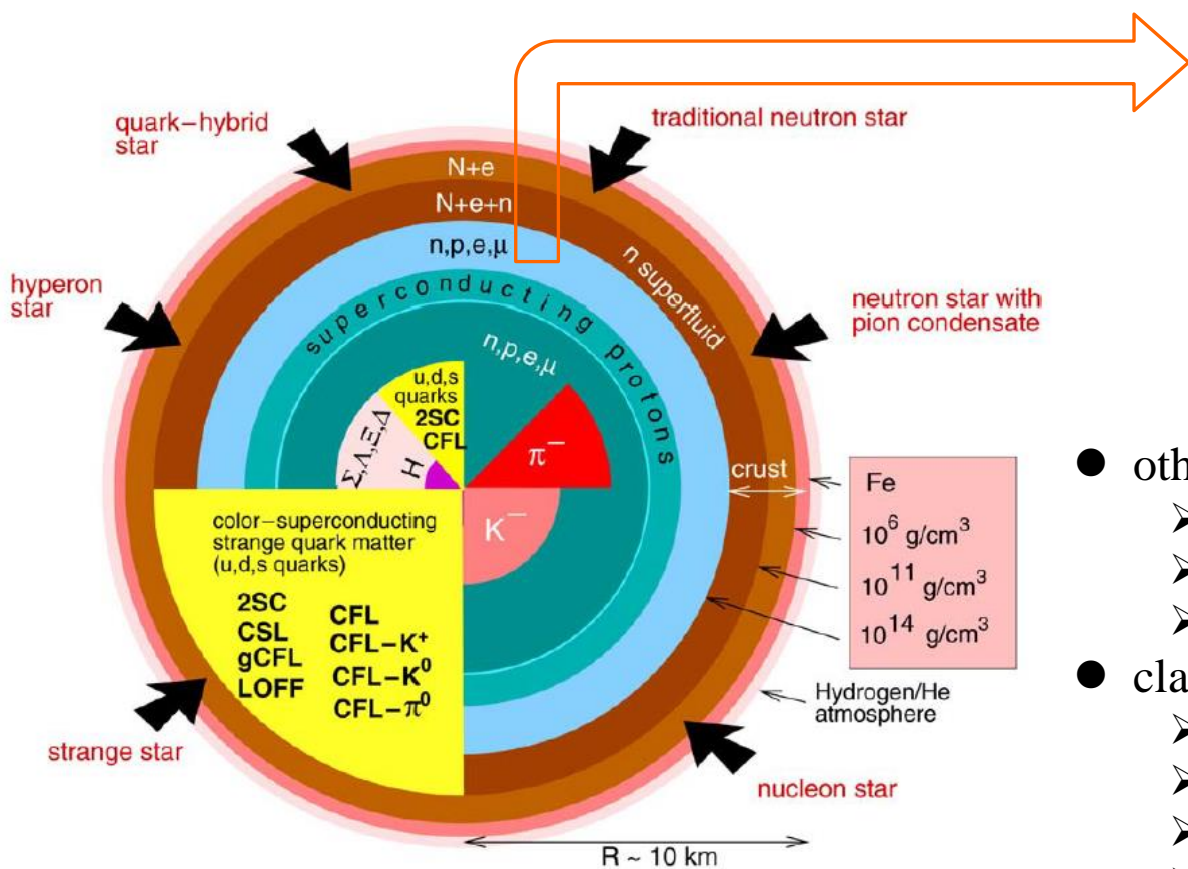
$s = -2$



Weber2005_PPNP54-193

Alexandrou2009_PRD80-114503

Neutron Star Inner Core



Quarks

Bose-Einstein condensate

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- other possible compositions:

- excited nucleon Δ
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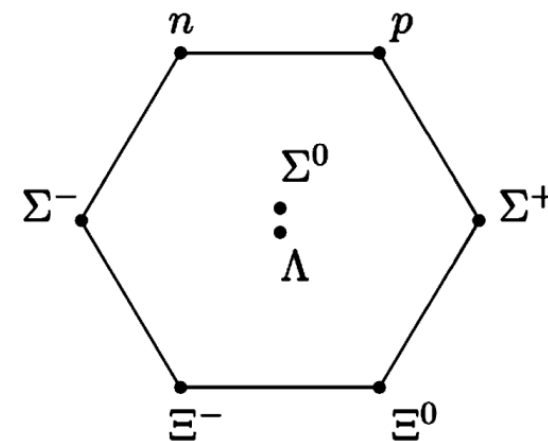
- classification of neutron stars:

- nucleon star
- hyperon star
- quark star
- hybrid star
- dark matter mixed star
-

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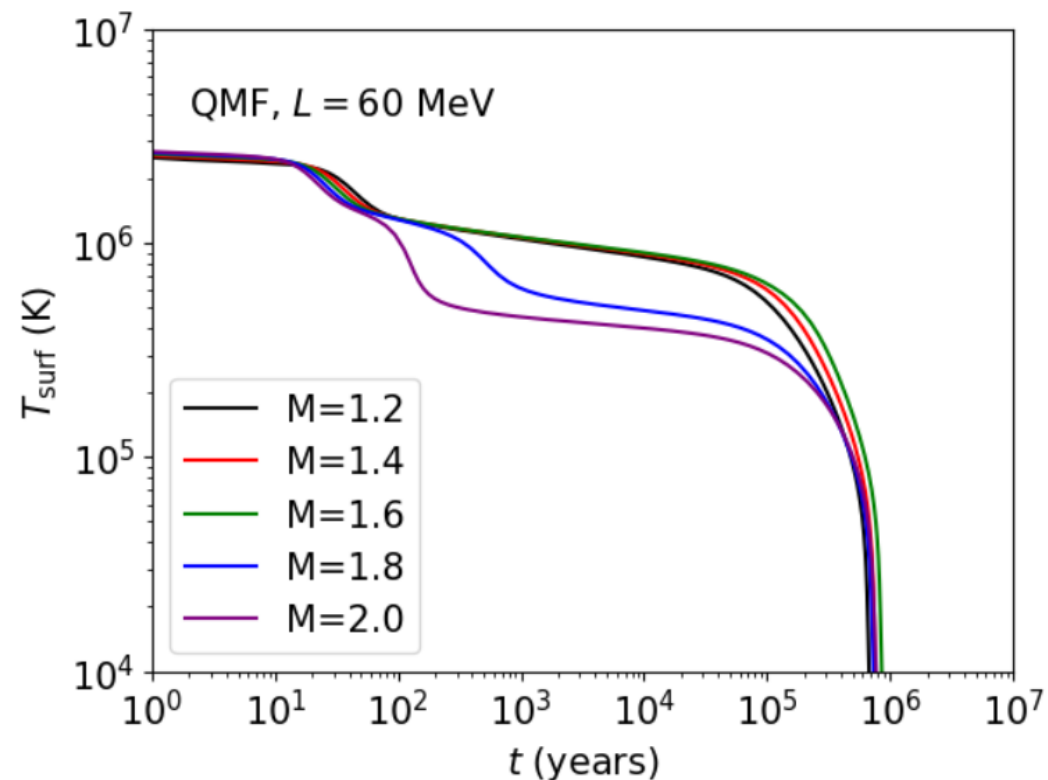


Weber2005_PPNP54-193

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Neutron Star Long-term Cooling

$$\frac{\partial(l e^{2\Phi})}{\partial m} = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon \sqrt{1 - 2m/r}} \left(\epsilon_\nu e^{2\Phi} + c_\nu \frac{\partial(T e^\Phi)}{\partial t} \right),$$
$$\frac{\partial(T e^\Phi)}{\partial m} = -\frac{(l e^\Phi)}{16\pi^2 r^4 \kappa \varepsilon \sqrt{1 - 2m/r}}.$$

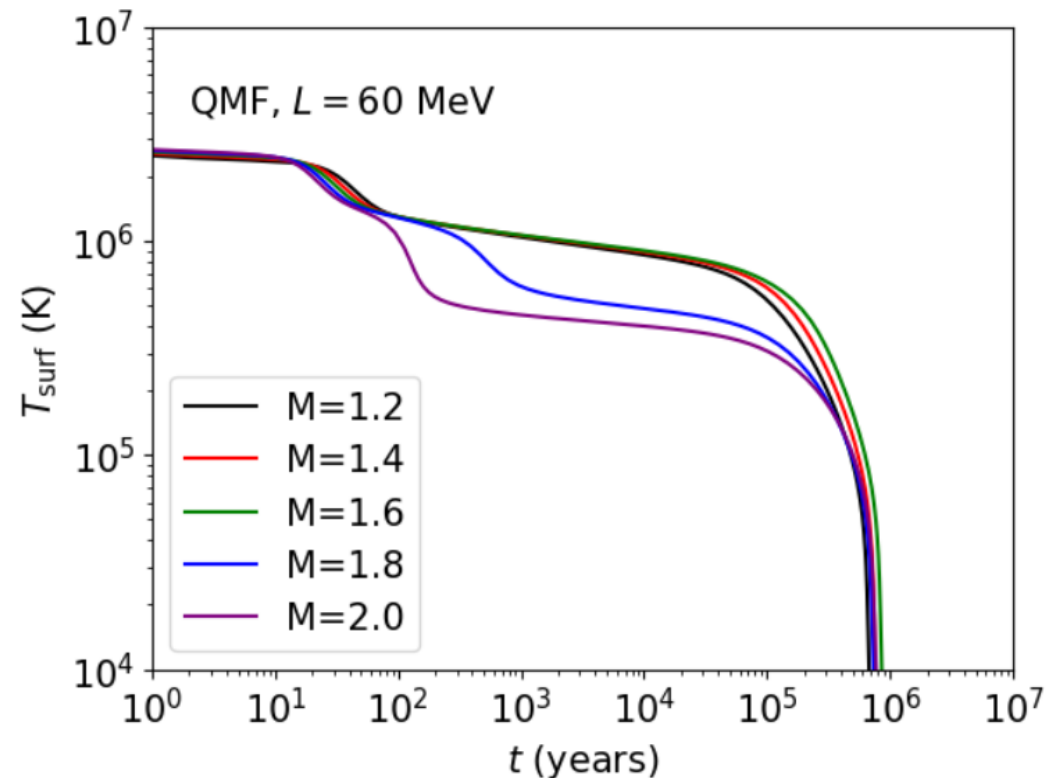


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MICRO

- neutrino emissivity ϵ
- specific heat c_ν
- thermal conductivity κ



Neutron Star Long-term Cooling

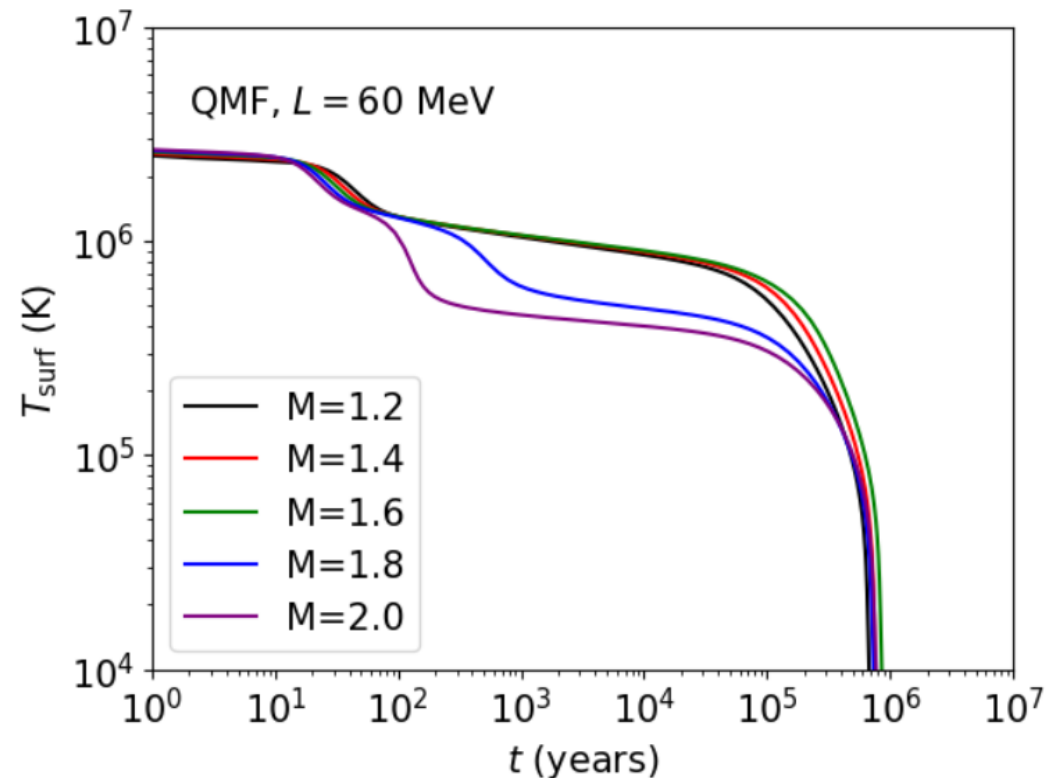
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- specific heat c_ν
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- mass and radius profile $m(r)$
- curvature profile $\phi(r)$



Neutron Star Long-term Cooling

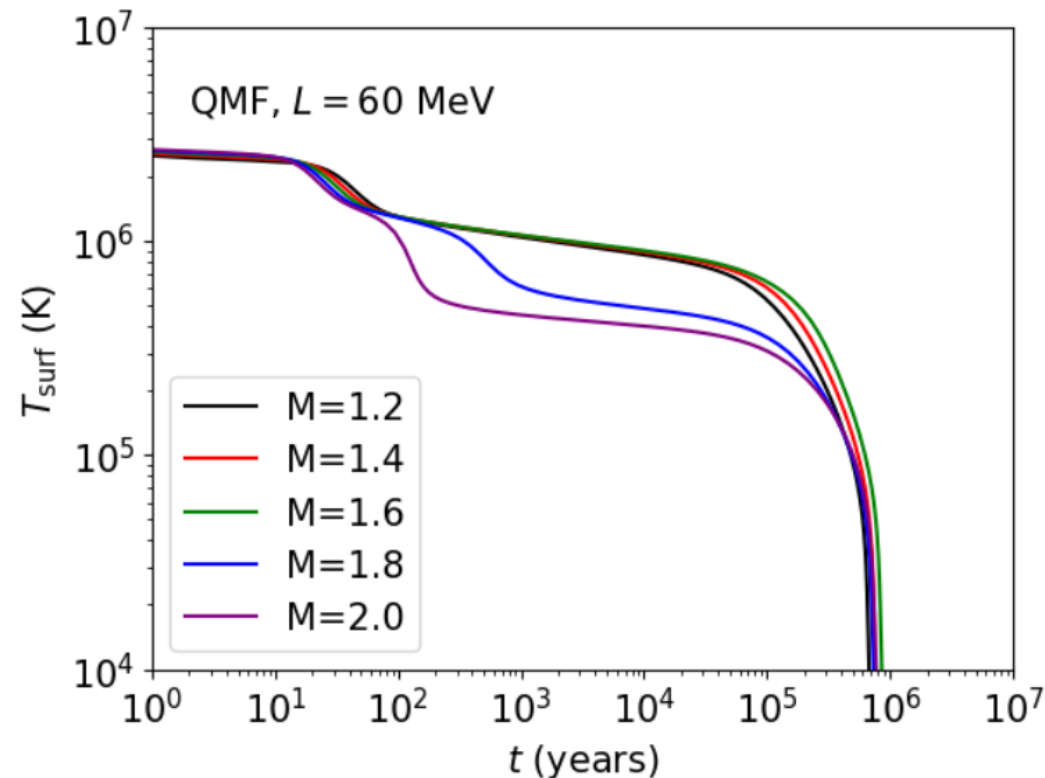
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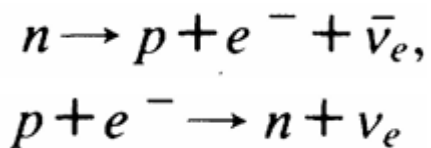
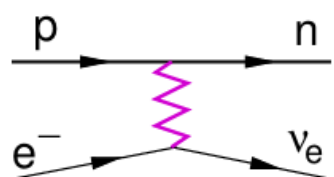


- ✓ Equation of State (EoS)
- ✓ Superfluidity (SF)
- ✓ Composition: hyperon? quark? Δ ? ...
- ✓ Mass
- ✓ Magnetic field, envelopes ...

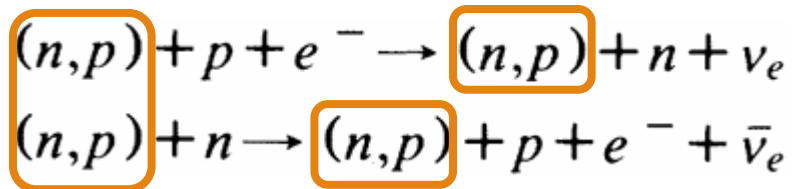
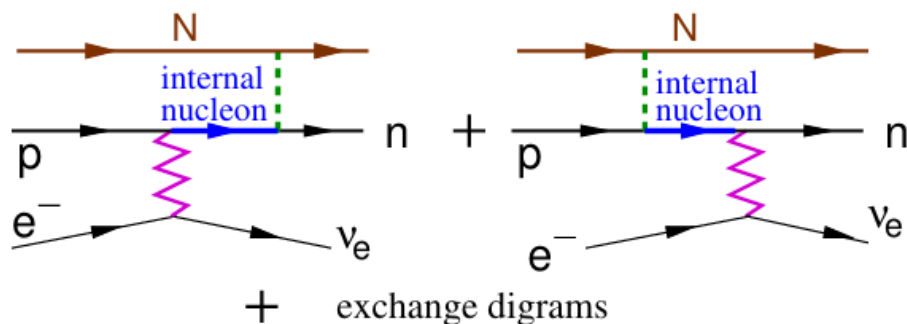
Neutrino Emissivity

● dUrca vs. mUrca [Alford2024_arXiv2406.13717](#)

(a) Direct Urca



(b) Modified Urca



spectator nucleon

$$\epsilon_{\text{dUrca}} / \epsilon_{\text{mUrca}} = 5 \times 10^5 T_9^{-2}$$

	threshold
np dUrca	$Y_p > 1/9$
mUrca	×
hyperon dUrca	nearly the onset density of hyperon

● Cooper pair breaking and formation (PBF)

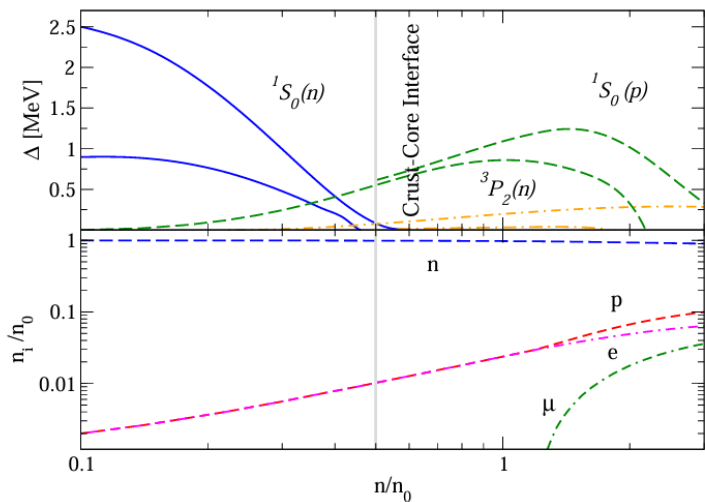
[Raduta2017_MNRAS475-4347](#)



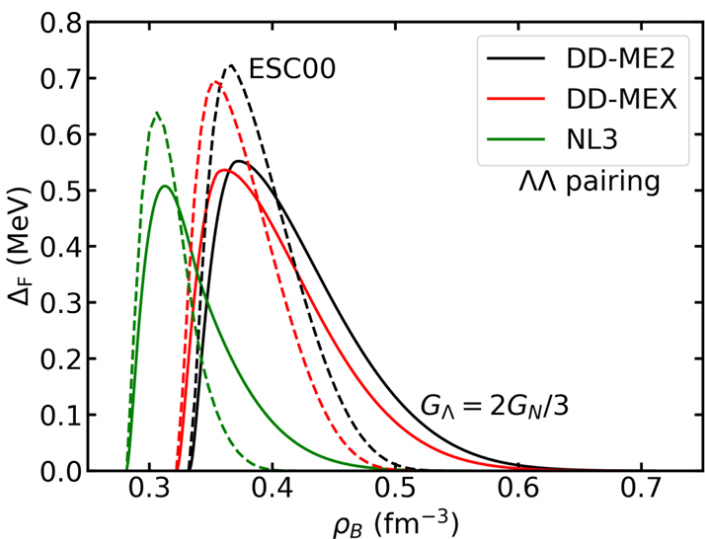
$$\epsilon_{\text{PBF}} / \epsilon_{\text{mUrca}} \sim 10$$

PBF process is triggered when internal temperature decreases to the critical temperature

Superfluidity and Neutron Star Cooling



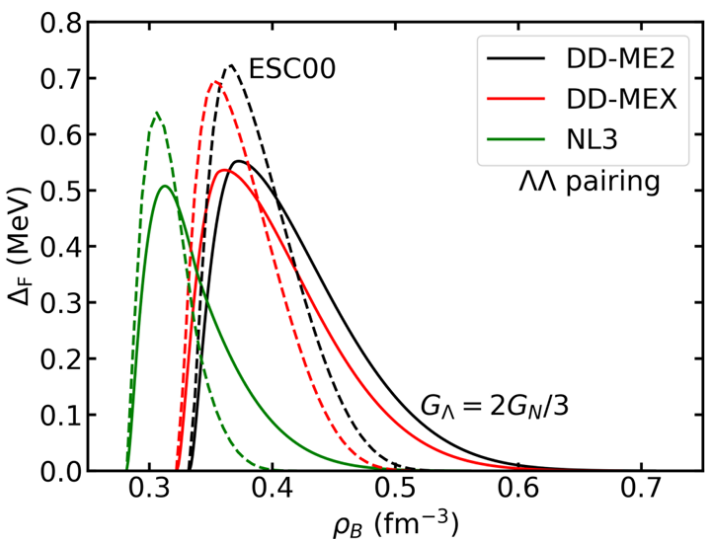
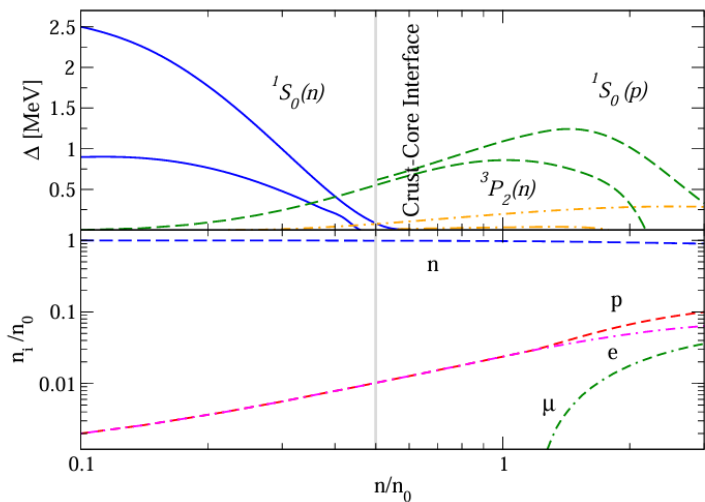
Baryon superfluidity is widely present within neutron stars.



[Sedrakian2024_arXiv2407.13686](#)

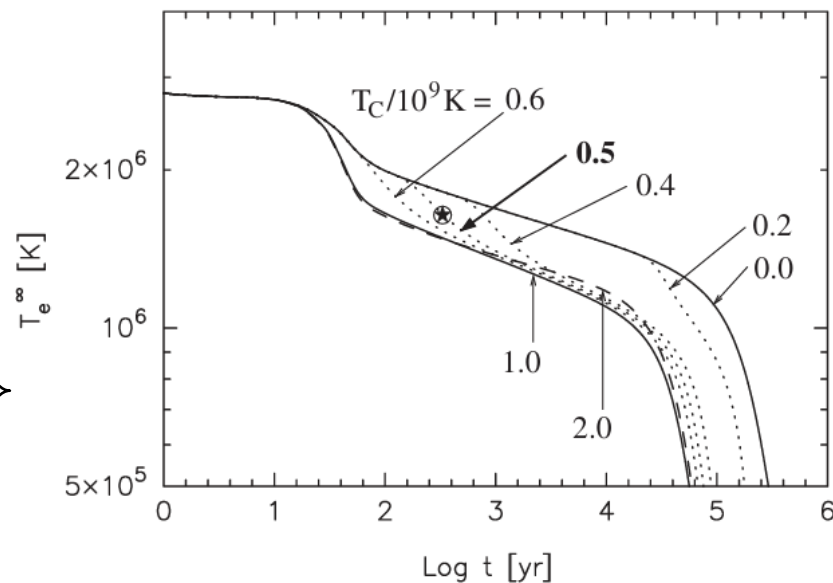
[Tu2022_PRC106-025806](#)

Superfluidity and Neutron Star Cooling



Baryon superfluidity is widely present within neutron stars.

PBF, accelerate cooling

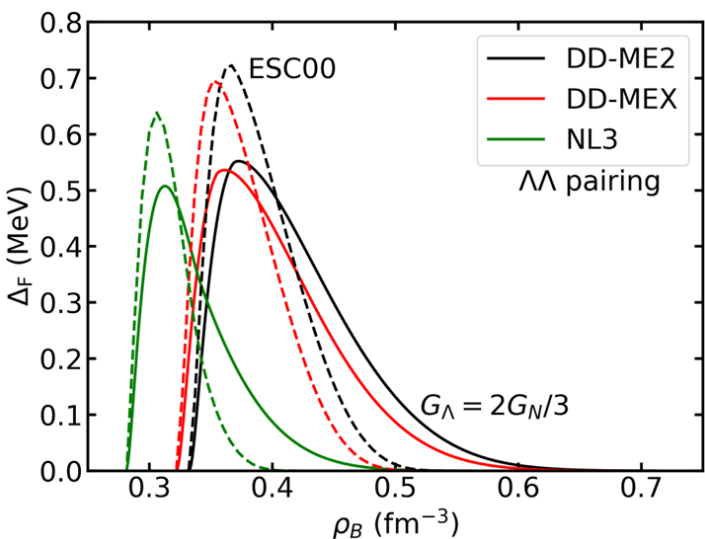
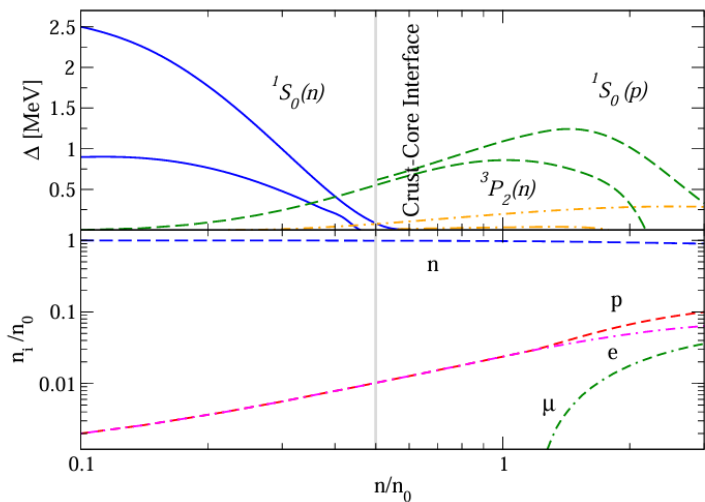


[Sedrakian2024_arXiv2407.13686](#)

[Tu2022_PRC106-025806](#)

[Page2011_PRL106-081101](#)

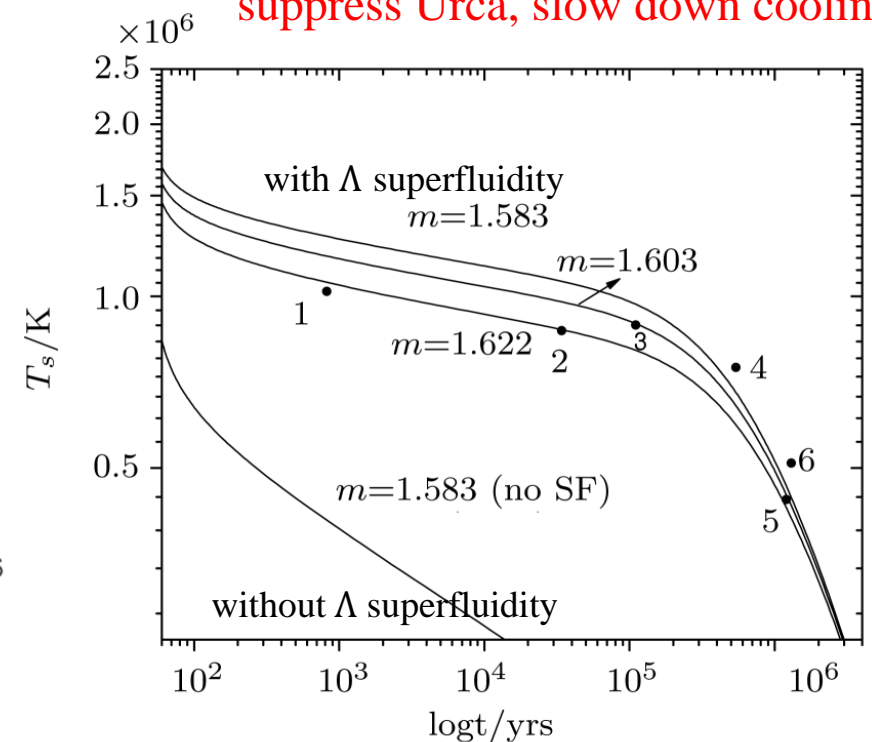
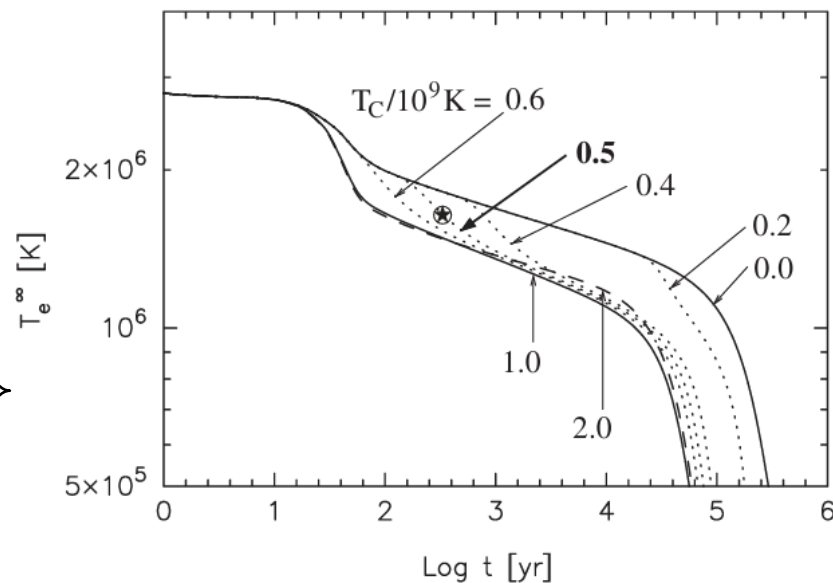
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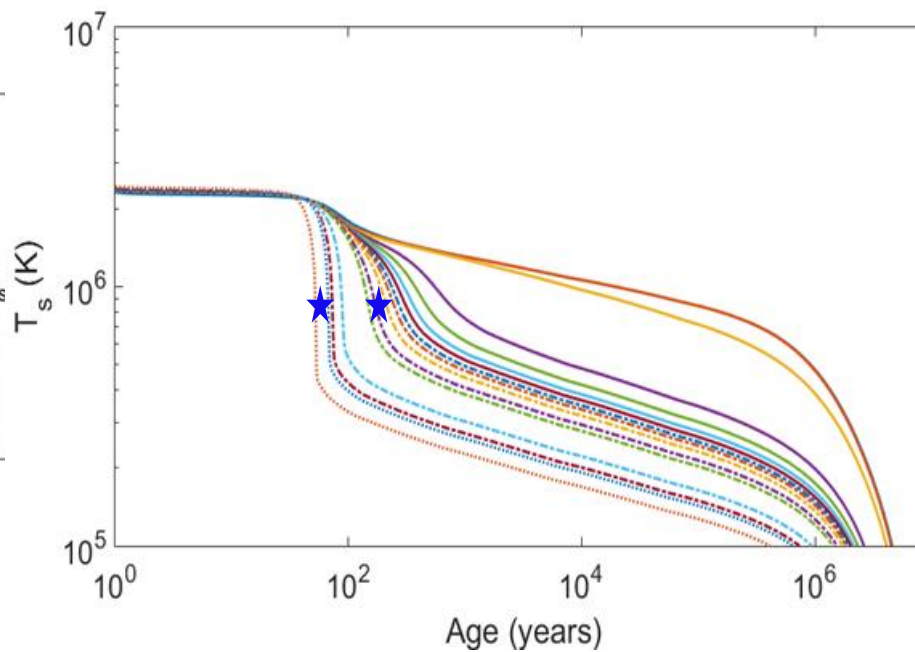
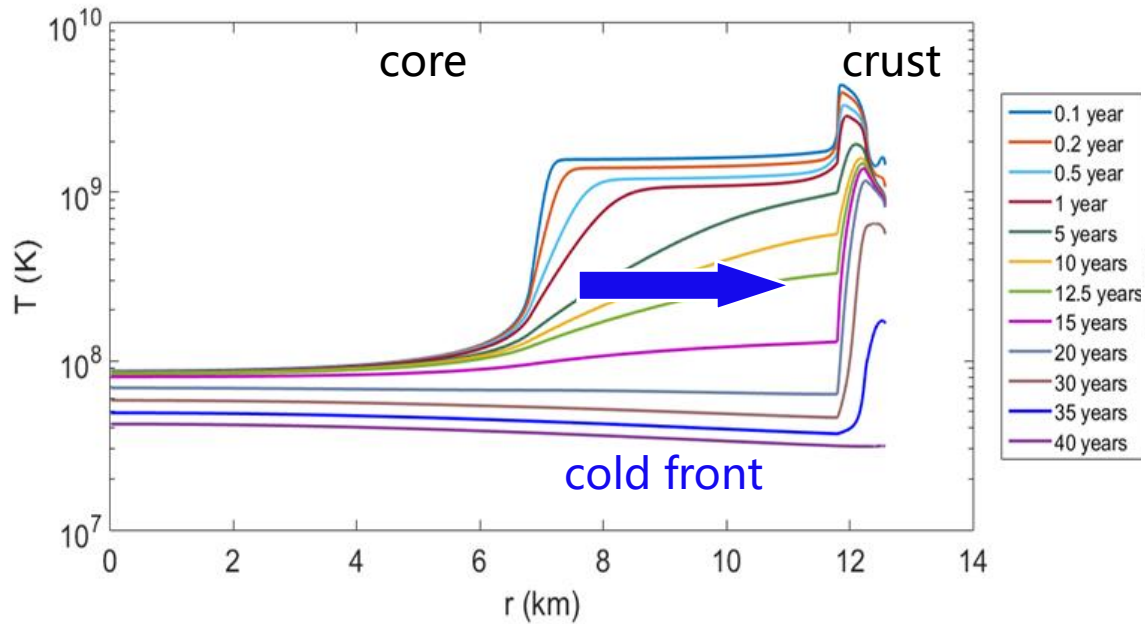
suppress Urca, slow down cooling



Sedrakian2024_arXiv2407.13686
 Tu2022_PRC106-025806
 Page2011_PRL106-081101
 Xu2011_CTP56-521

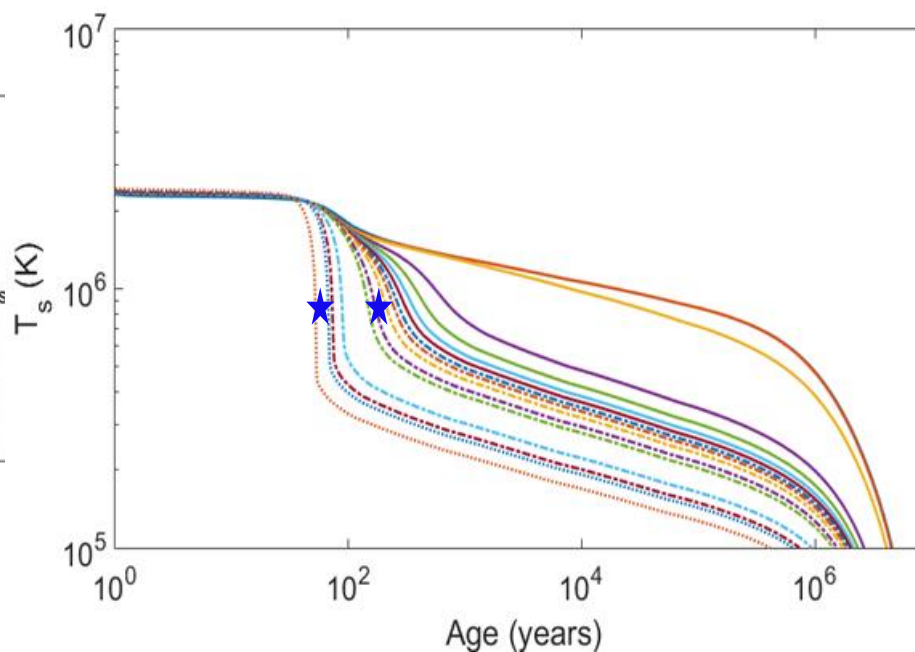
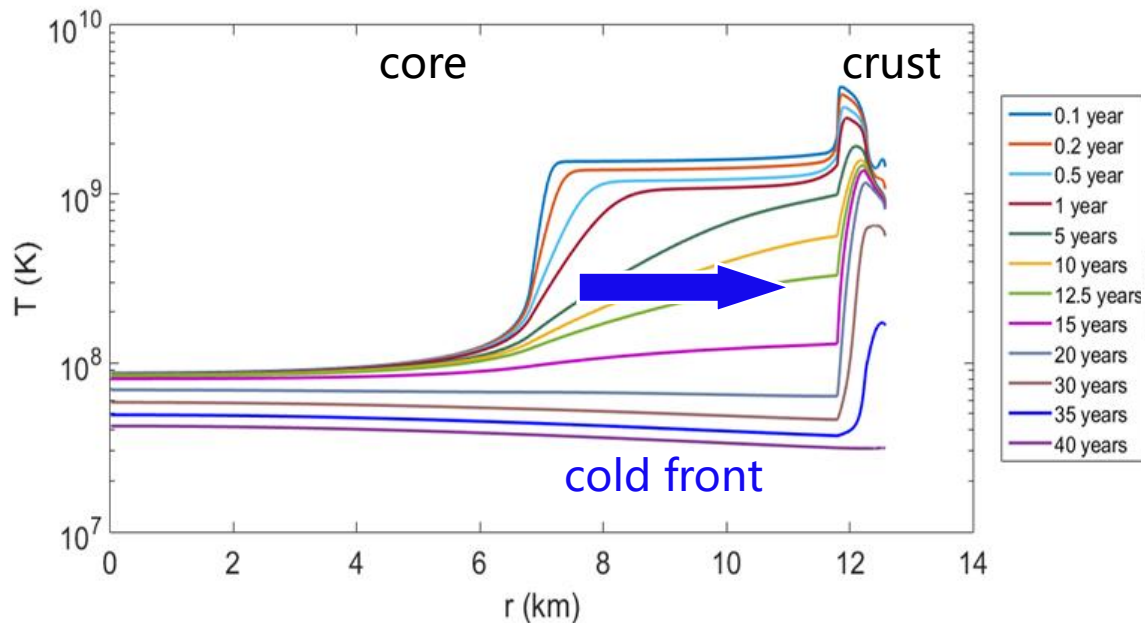
Superfluidity is essential to the neutron star cooling

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star



Sales2020_A&A642-A42
Gnedin2001_MNRAS324-725
Lattimer1994_ApJ425-802

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star

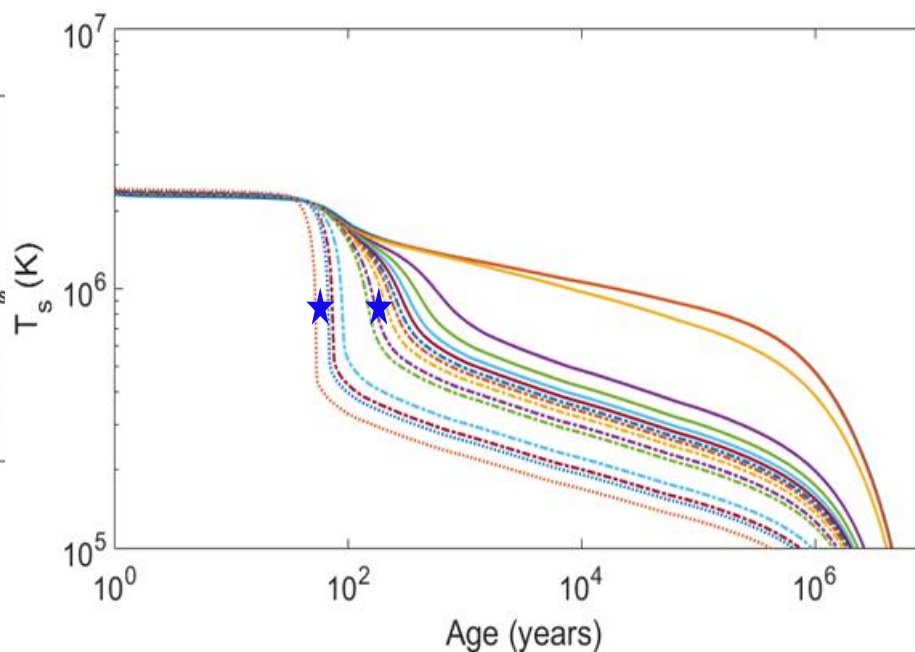
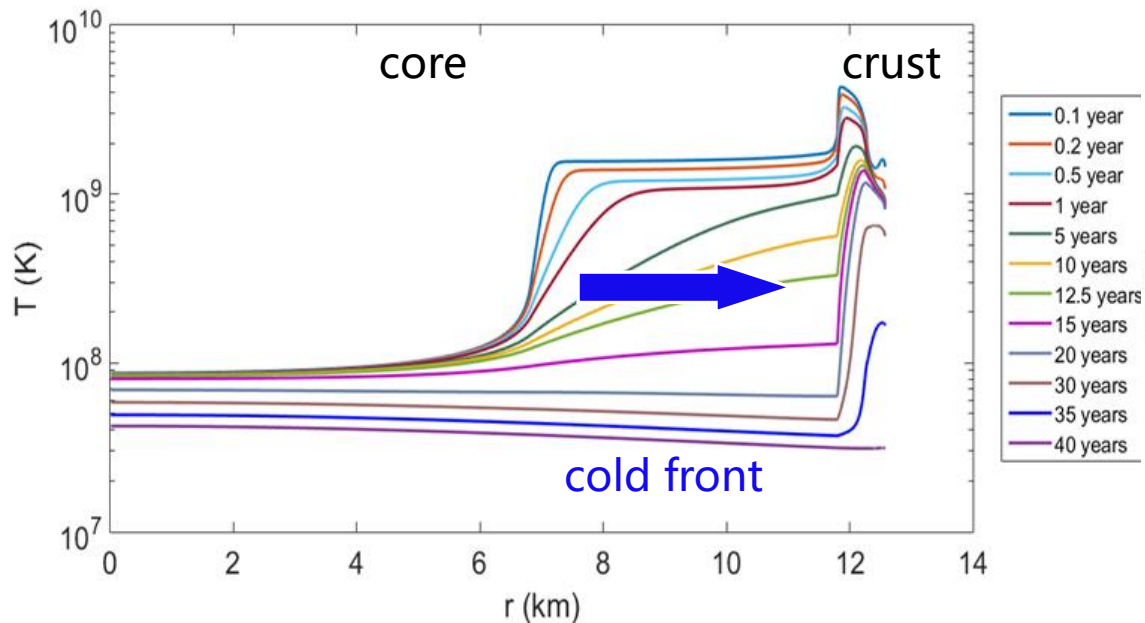


[Sales2020_A&A642-A42](#)
[Gnedin2001_MNRAS324-725](#)
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Thermal relaxation: the **thermal coupling** between the core and crust

$$t_w = t \text{ for } \max \left| \frac{d \ln(T_s)}{d(\ln(t))} \right| \quad t_w \sim 10\text{--}100 \text{ years}$$

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star



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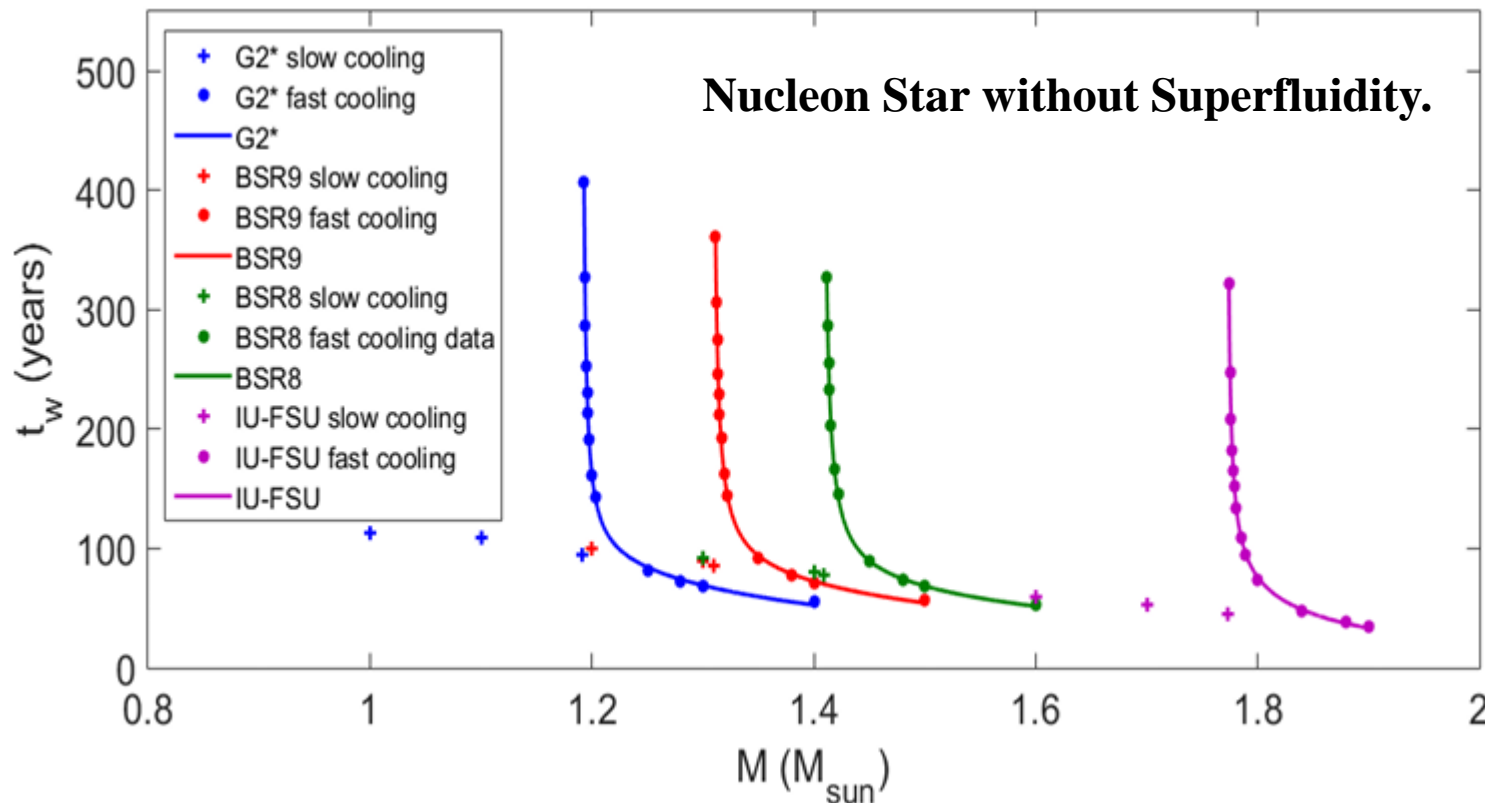
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Fitting: $t_w \approx \alpha t_1$

$$\alpha = \left(\frac{\Delta R_{\text{crust}}}{1 \text{ km}} \right)^2 (1 - 2M/R)^{-3/2} \quad \text{Linear!}$$

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star



Sales2020_A&A642-A42

Abnormally long relaxation time above the dUrca allowed mass!



1. How does the *superfluidity* affect the thermal relaxation?
2. Can we observe the peculiar thermal relaxation in other type neutron star, e.g., *hyperon star*?

Contents

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- EoS: $n + p + \Lambda + (\sigma \omega \rho \sigma^* \phi)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \sum_B \bar{\psi}_B \left[\gamma^\mu (i\partial_\mu - g_{\omega B} \omega_\mu - g_{\rho B} \rho_\mu \tau_B - g_{\phi B} \phi_\mu) \right. \\ & \left. - (M_B - g_{\sigma B} \sigma - g_{\delta B} \delta - g_{\sigma^* B} \sigma^*) \right] \psi_B \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \sigma \partial_\mu \sigma - m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \sigma^* \partial_\mu \sigma^* - m_{\sigma^*}^2 \sigma^{*2}) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \delta \partial_\mu \delta - m_\delta^2 \delta^2) \\ & - \frac{1}{4} W^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\omega^2 \omega^\mu \omega_\mu - \frac{1}{4} R^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\rho^2 \rho^\mu \rho_\mu - \frac{1}{4} \Phi^{\mu\nu} \Phi_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^\mu \phi_\mu \\ & + \sum_l \bar{\psi}_l (i\gamma_\mu \partial^\mu - m_l) \psi_l, \quad \text{RMF model} \end{aligned}$$

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NN interaction

DD-ME2

ρ_{sat} (fm ⁻³)	0.152
E/A (MeV)	-16.14
K_0 (MeV)	250.89
m^*	0.572
a_4 (MeV)	32.3

- EoS: $n + p + \Lambda + (\sigma \omega \rho \sigma^* \phi)$

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NY and YY interactions

$$U_\Lambda^{(N)} \simeq -30 \text{ MeV}$$

$$2U_\Lambda^{(\Lambda)} \simeq -10 \text{ MeV}$$

No np dUrca, Λp dUrca

$$M_c^{\text{DU}} = 1.3184 M_\odot$$

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star

- EoS: $n + p + \Lambda + (\sigma\omega\rho\sigma^*\phi)$

- Superfluidity:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \sum_B \bar{\psi}_B \left[\gamma^\mu (i\partial_\mu - g_{\omega B}\omega_\mu - g_{\rho B}\rho_\mu\boldsymbol{\tau}_B - g_{\phi B}\phi_\mu) \right. \\ & \left. - (M_B - g_{\sigma B}\sigma - g_{\delta B}\boldsymbol{\delta} - g_{\sigma^* B}\boldsymbol{\sigma}^*) \right] \psi_B \\ & + \frac{1}{2}(\partial^\mu\sigma\partial_\mu\sigma - m_\sigma^2\sigma^2) + \frac{1}{2}(\partial^\mu\boldsymbol{\sigma}^*\partial_\mu\boldsymbol{\sigma}^* - m_{\sigma^*}^2\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{*2}) + \frac{1}{2}(\partial^\mu\boldsymbol{\delta}\partial_\mu\boldsymbol{\delta} - m_\delta^2\boldsymbol{\delta}^2) \\ & - \frac{1}{4}W^{\mu\nu}W_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_\omega^2\omega^\mu\omega_\mu - \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{R}^{\mu\nu}\mathbf{R}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_\rho^2\rho^\mu\rho_\mu - \frac{1}{4}\Phi^{\mu\nu}\Phi_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2\phi^\mu\phi_\mu \\ & + \sum_l \bar{\psi}_l(i\gamma_\mu\partial^\mu - m_l)\psi_l, \quad \text{RMF model} \end{aligned}$$

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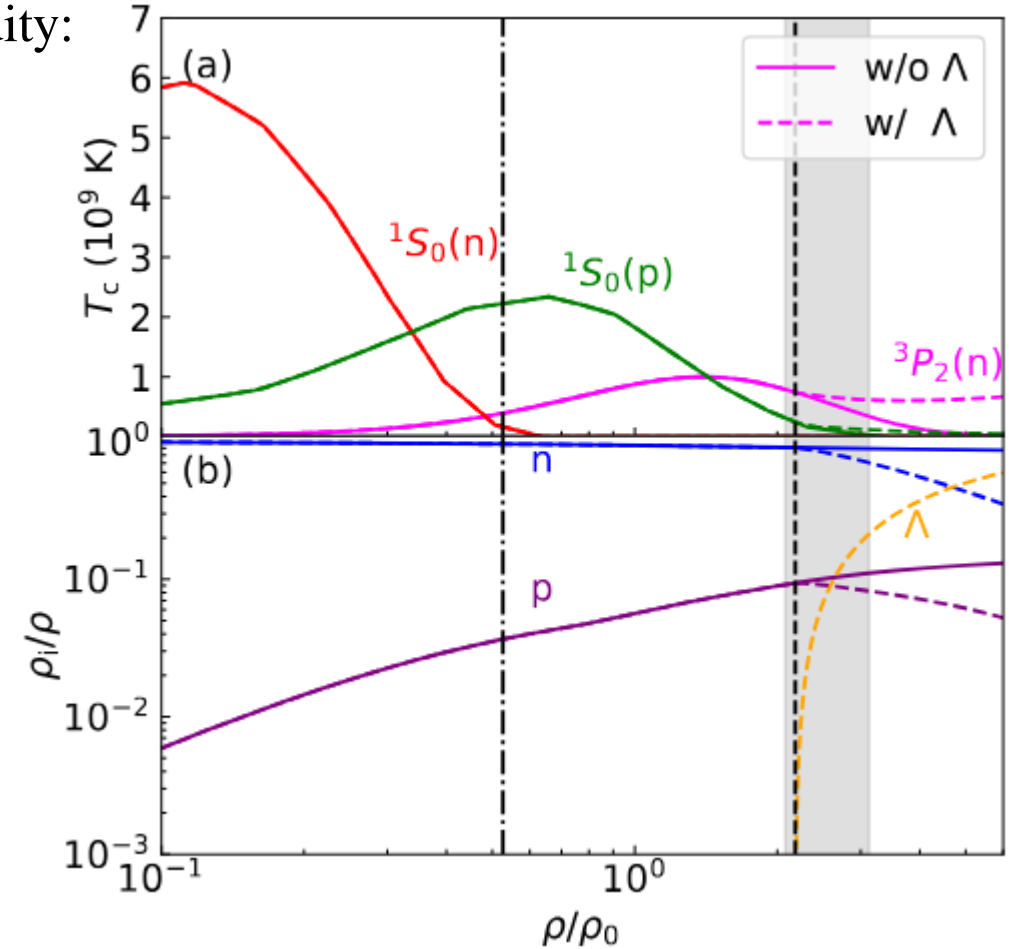
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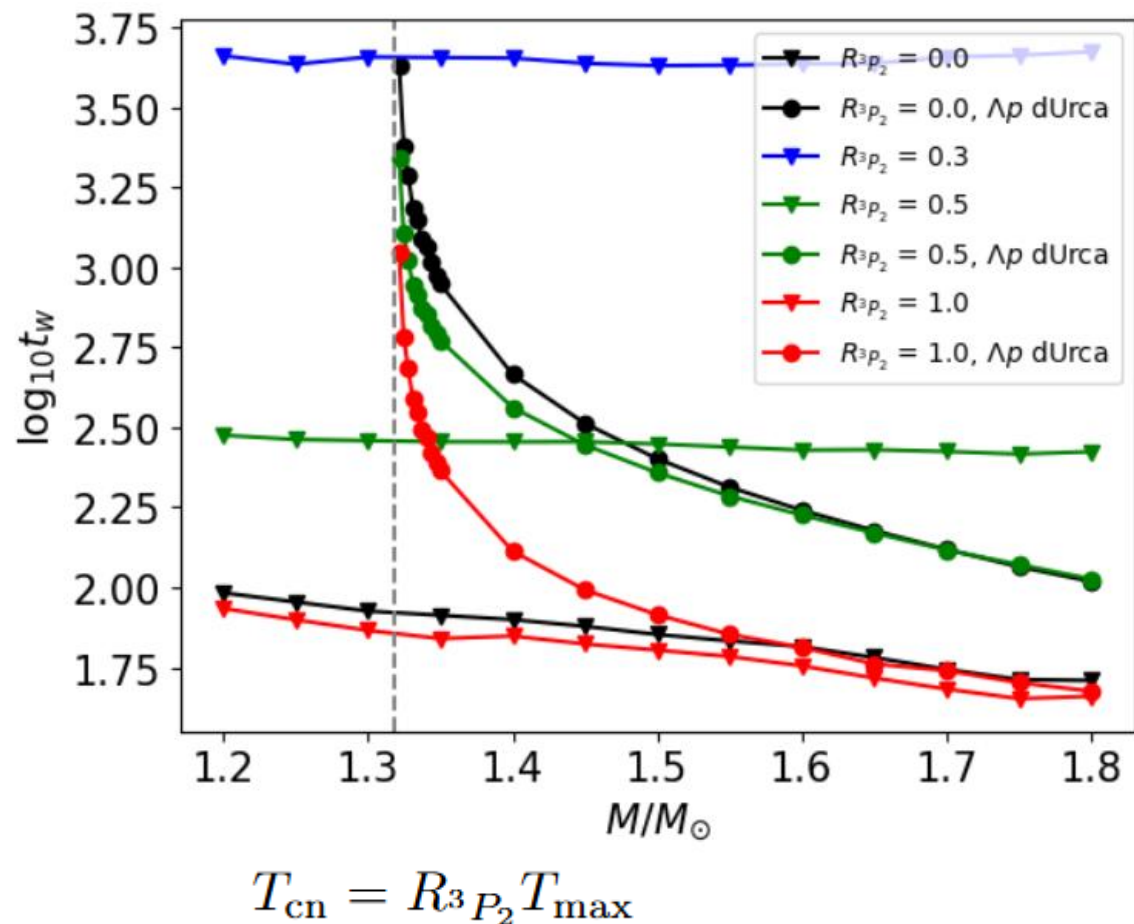
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$$T_{\text{cn}} = R^3 P_2 T_{\text{max}}$$

Thermal Relaxation of Neutron Star

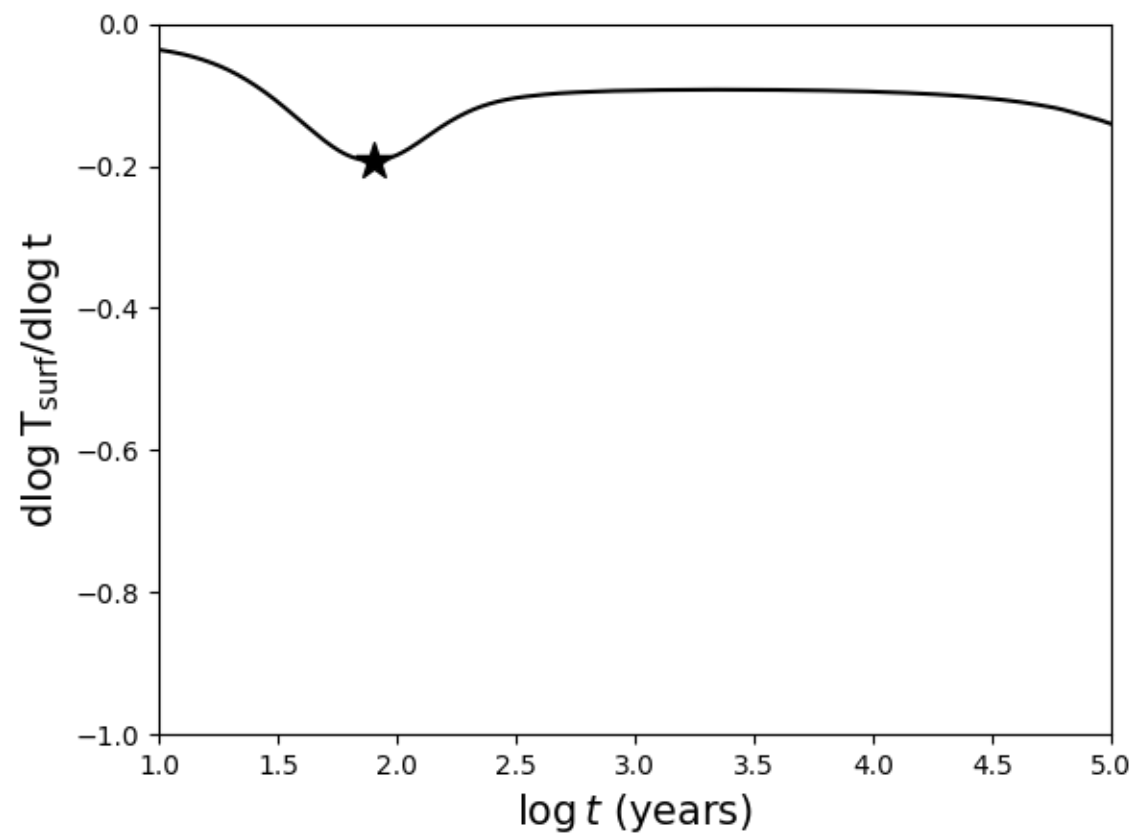
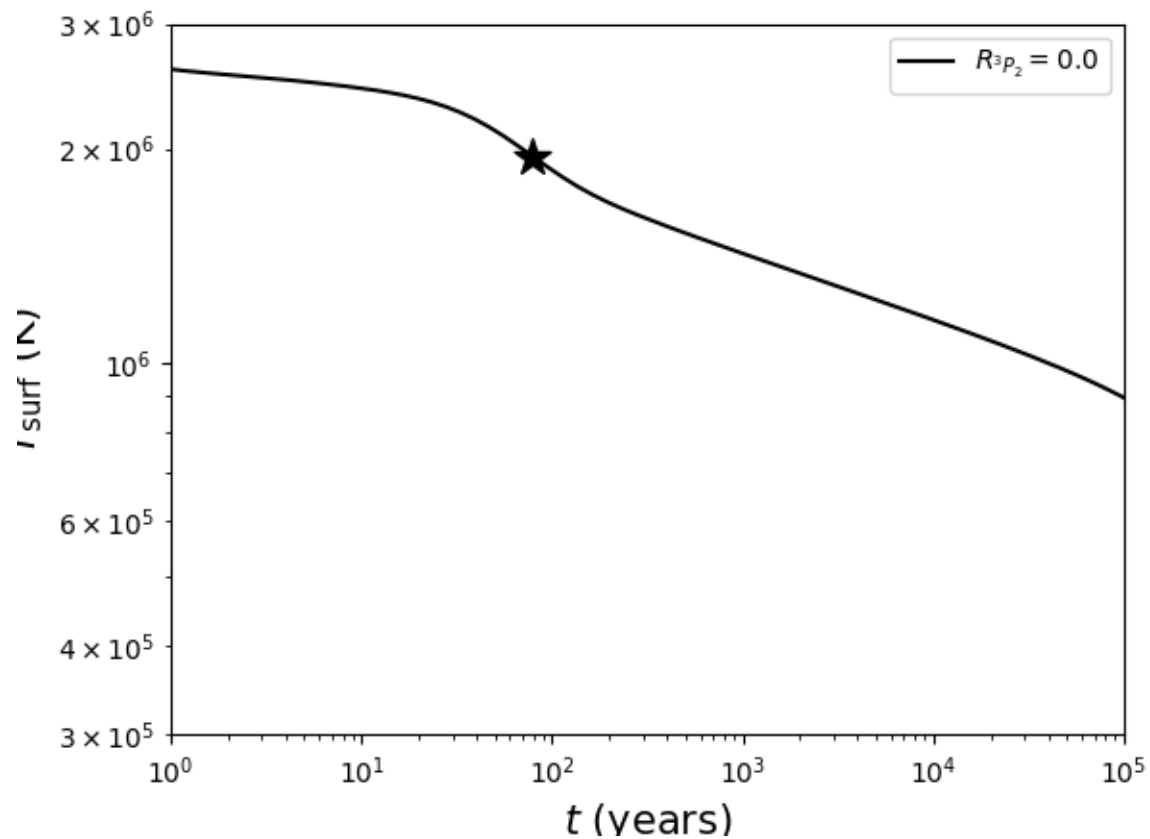


- Closing the dUrca, the dependence of t_w on mass is linear, while its dependence on the critical temperature is nonlinear;
- Above the mass that dUrca sets in, the dependences of t_w on both mass and critical temperature are nonlinear.

Contents

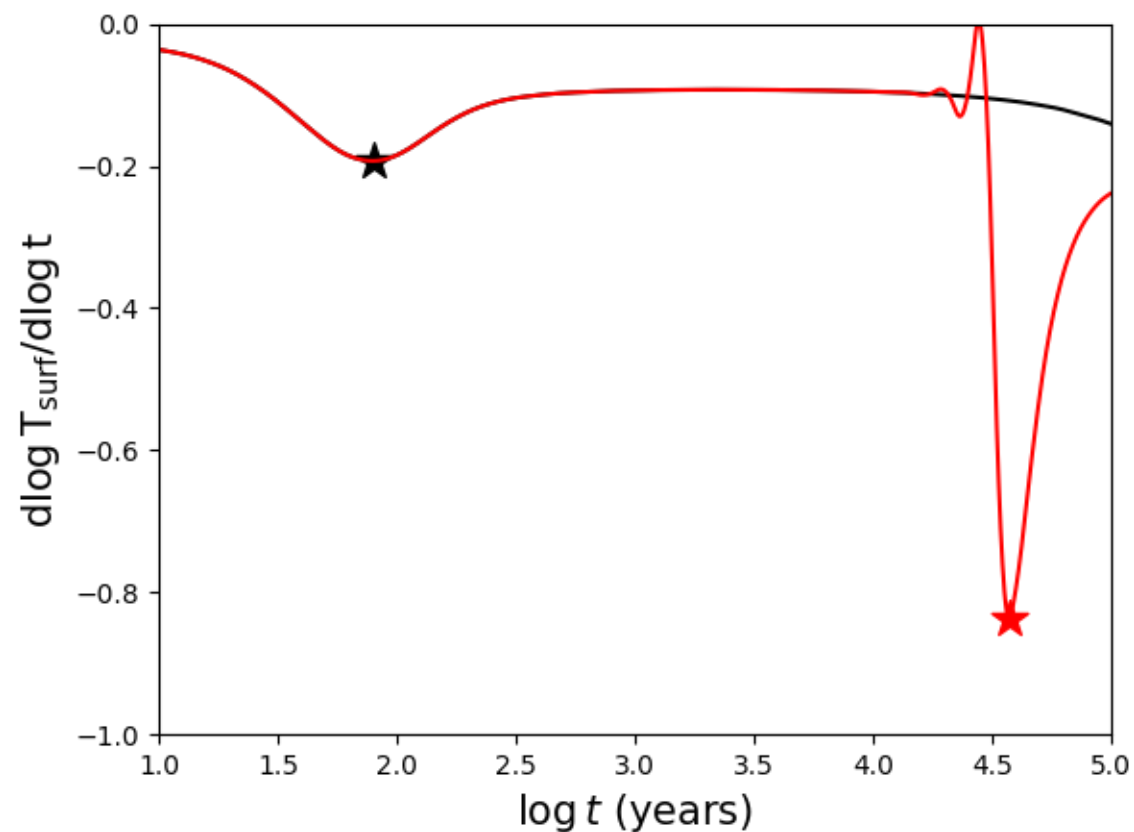
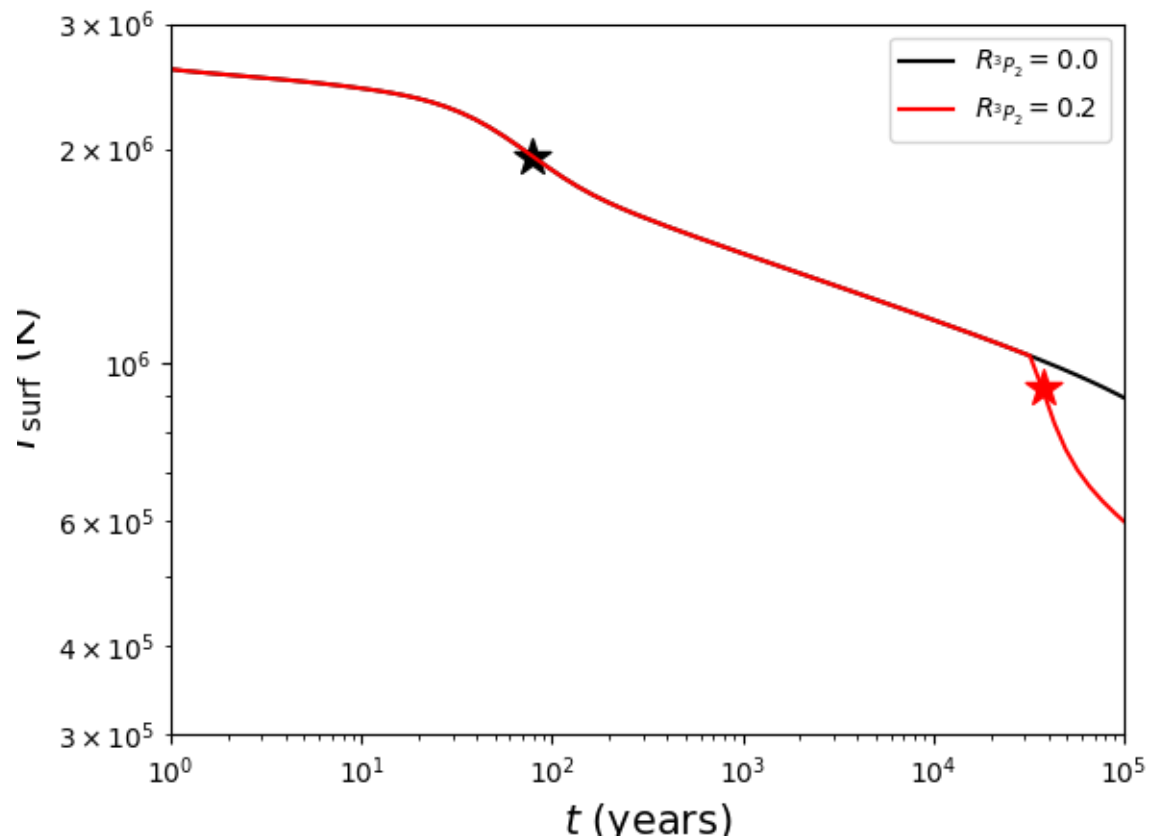
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Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



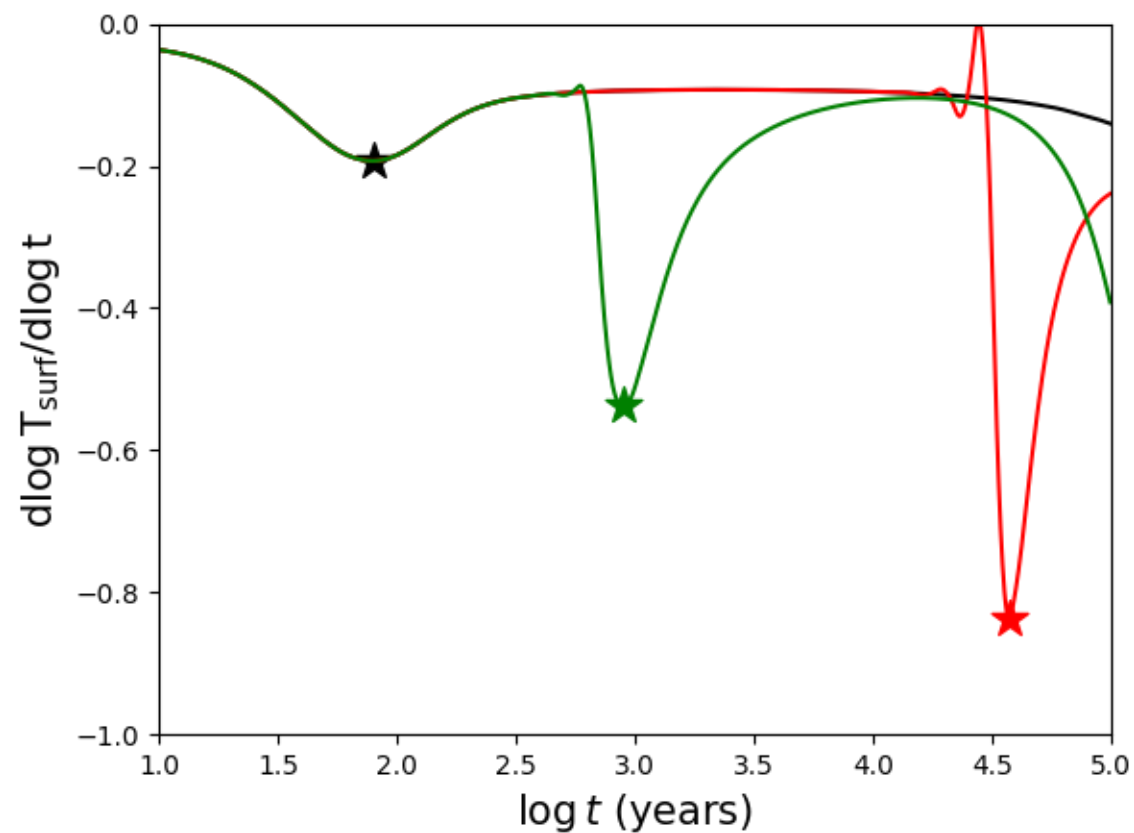
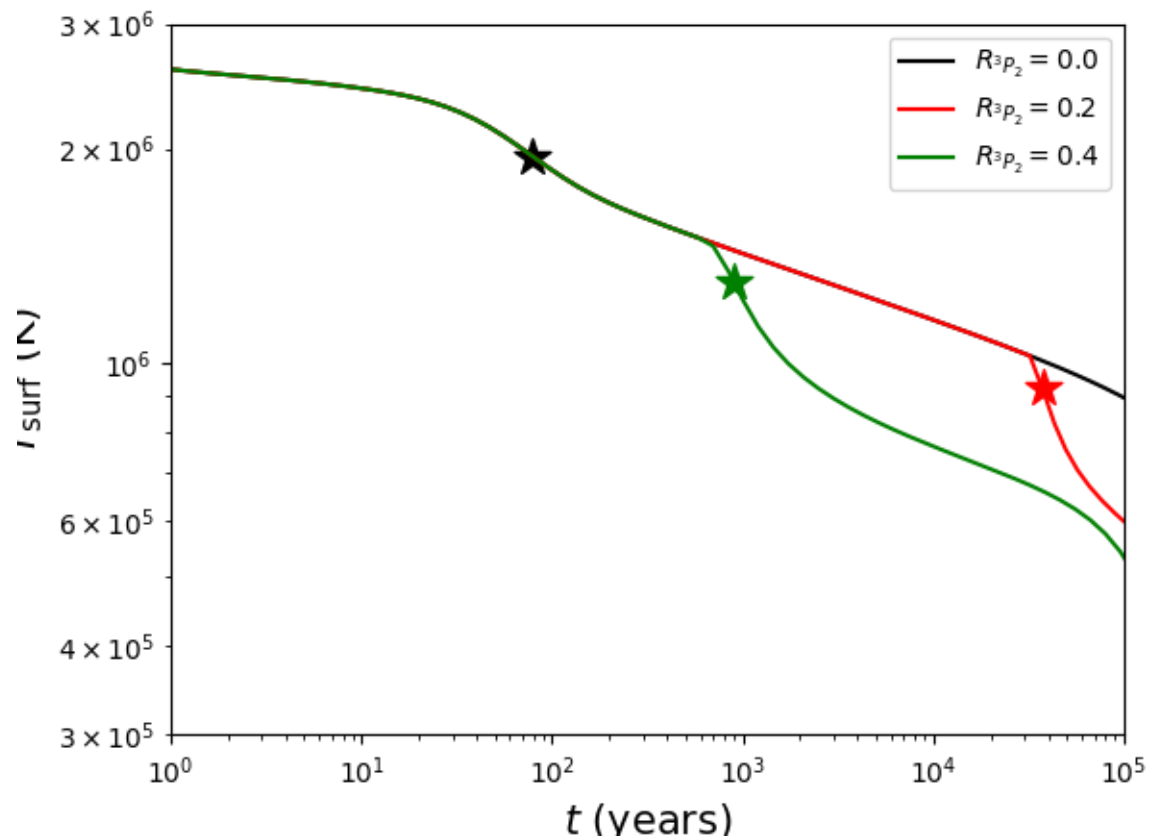
$$M = 1.4 M_{\odot}$$

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



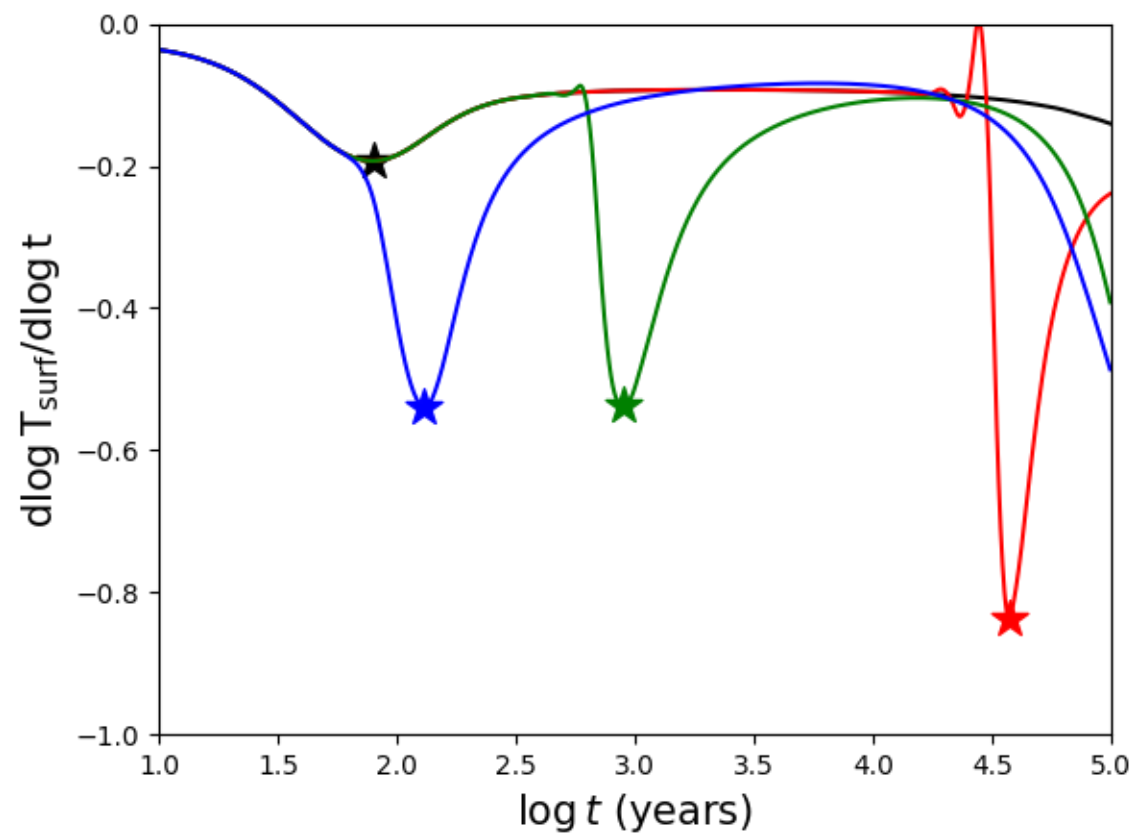
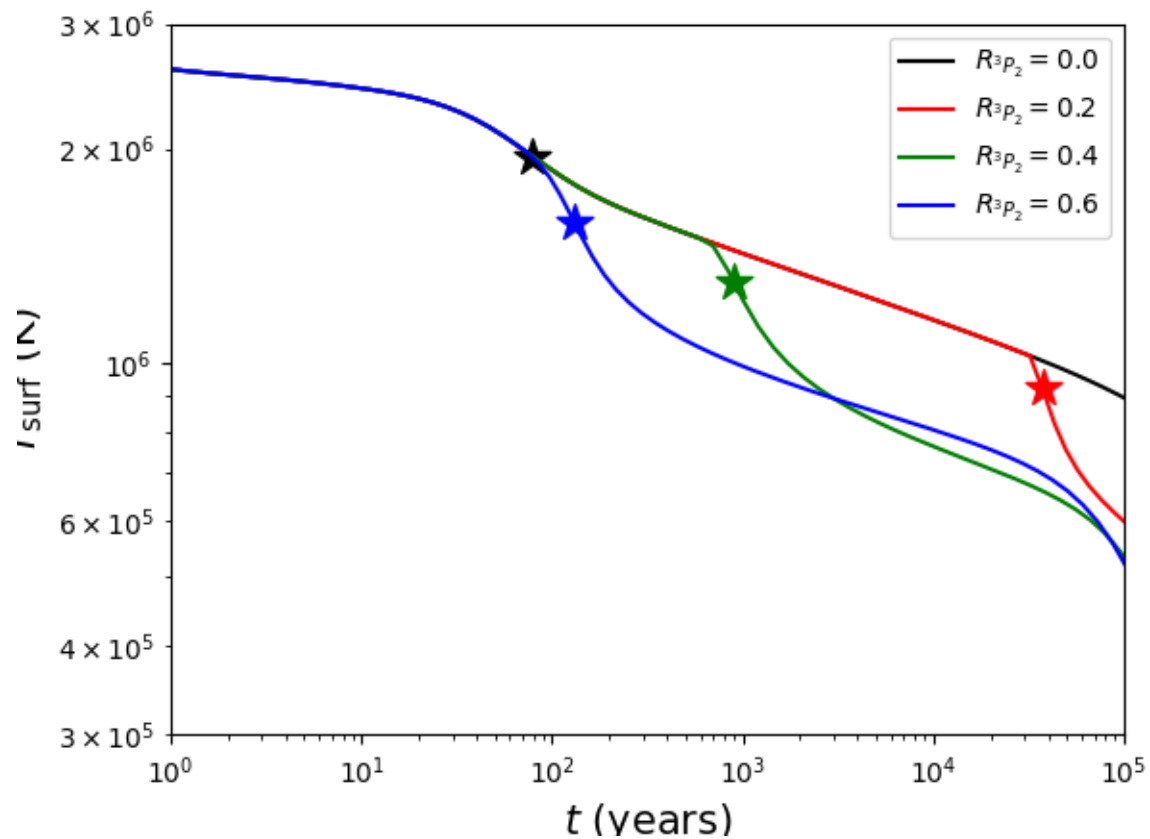
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Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



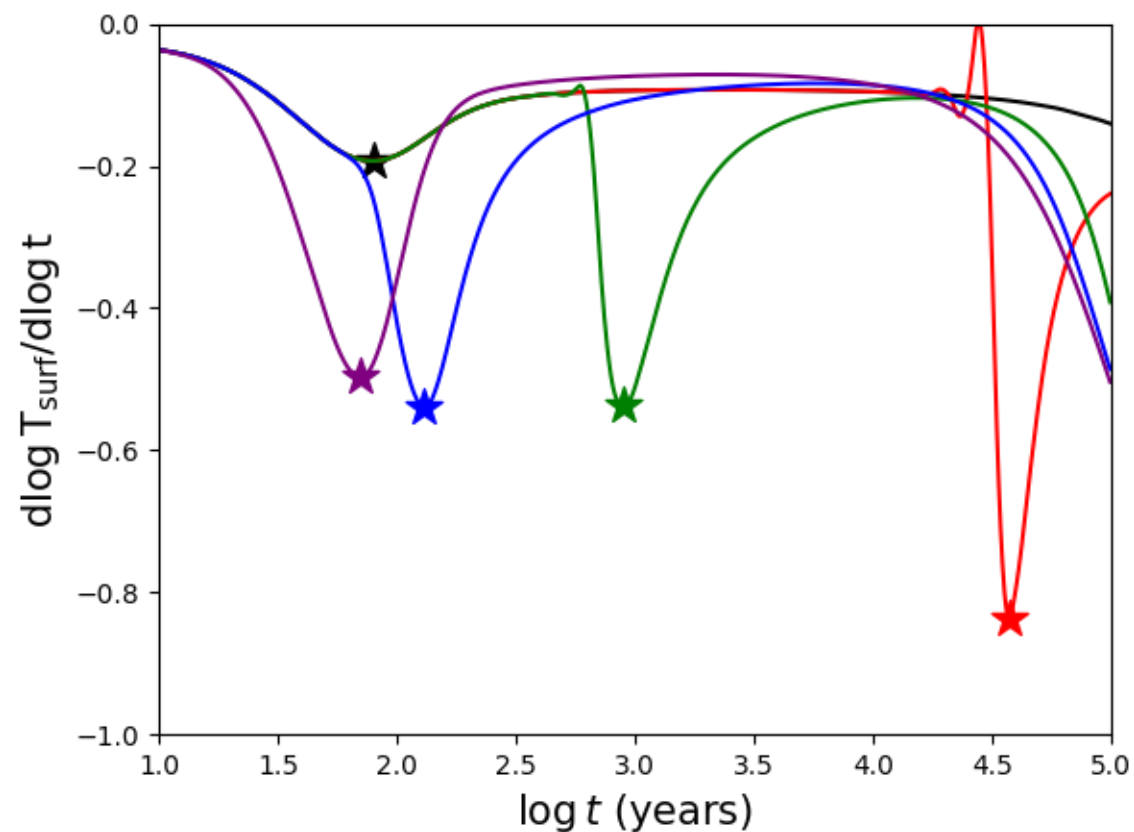
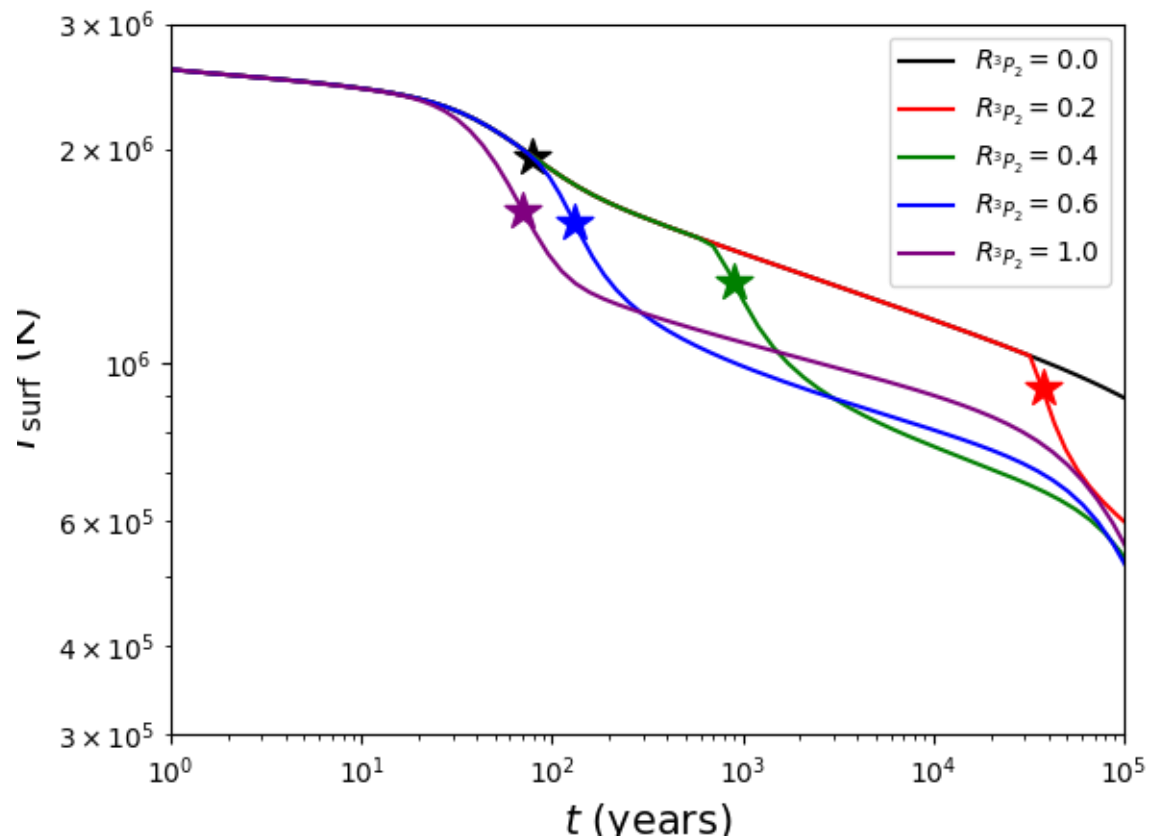
$$M = 1.4 M_{\odot}$$

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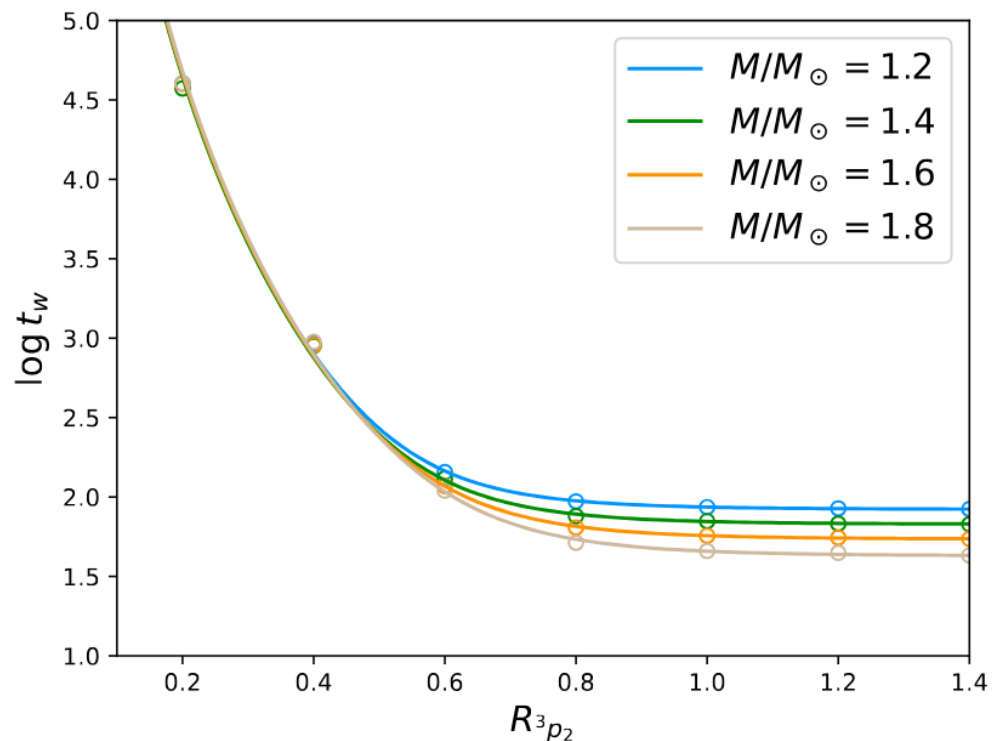
$$M = 1.4 M_{\odot}$$

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



$$M = 1.4 M_{\odot}$$

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



The smaller critical temperature T_{cn} ,
the longer relaxation time

The late trigger of PBF process: waiting time t_{wait}

$$\text{global energy balance: } C_V \frac{dT}{dt} = -R_{\text{eff}} L_\nu^{\text{mu}}$$

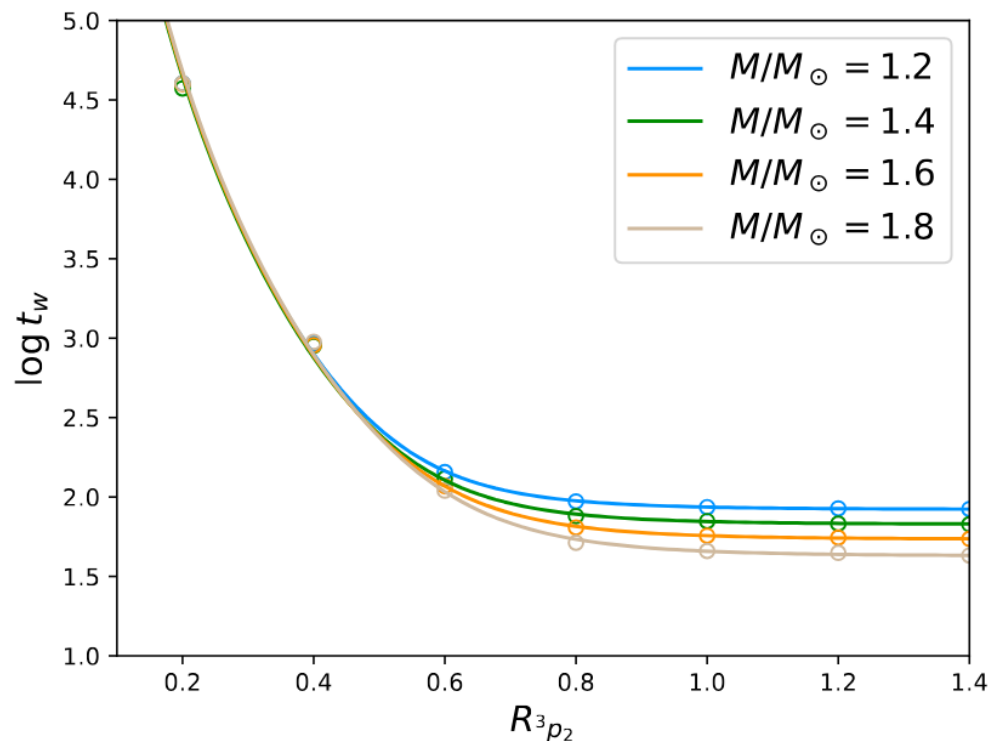
$$C_V = C_9 T_9 \text{ with } C_9 \approx 10^{39} \text{ erg/K} \quad C_V = \int c_v dV$$

$$L_\nu^{\text{mu}} = L_9 T_9^8 \text{ with } L_9 \approx 10^{40} \text{ erg/s} \quad L_\nu = \int \epsilon dV$$

$$T_9 = T/10^9 \text{ K}$$

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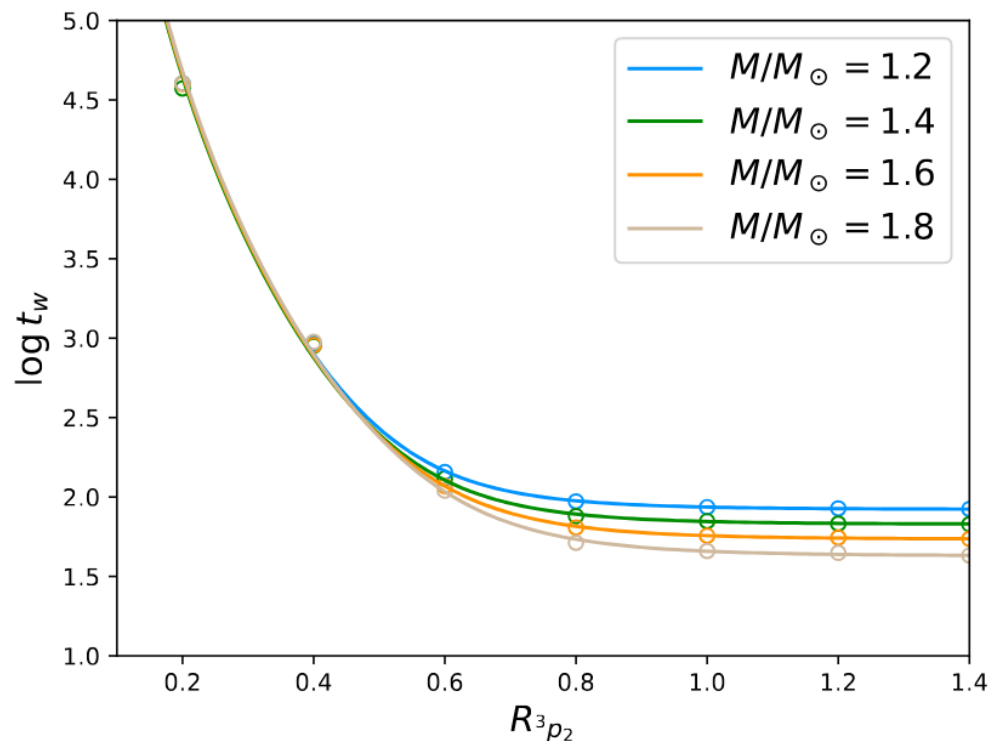
$$t(T) = \tau_{\text{mu}}^{\text{eff}} \left(\frac{1}{T_9^6} - \frac{1}{T_{0,9}^6} \right) \longrightarrow t_{\text{wait}} = t(T_{\text{cn}})$$

$$\tau_{\text{mu}}^{\text{eff}} = \tau_{\text{mu}} / R_{\text{eff}} \quad \tau_{\text{mu}} = 10^9 C_9 / 6 L_9 \approx 1.0 \text{ year}$$

τ_{mu} : time-scale of mUrca dominated cooling

R_{eff} : SF effective suppression factor

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation from Superfluidity



The smaller critical temperature T_{cn} ,
the longer relaxation time

The late trigger of PBF process: waiting time t_{wait}

$$t_w \approx t_{\text{wait}} + t_w^{\text{PBF}}$$

$$t_w \approx \tau_{\text{mu}}^{\text{eff}} \left(\frac{1}{T_{\text{cn},9}^6} - \frac{1}{T_{0,9}^6} \right) + \alpha t_1$$

re-coupling of
core and crust

waiting for the trigger of PBF; nonlinear

Fitting:

$$\tau_{\text{mu}}^{\text{eff}} = 2.8\text{--}3.0 \text{ years}$$

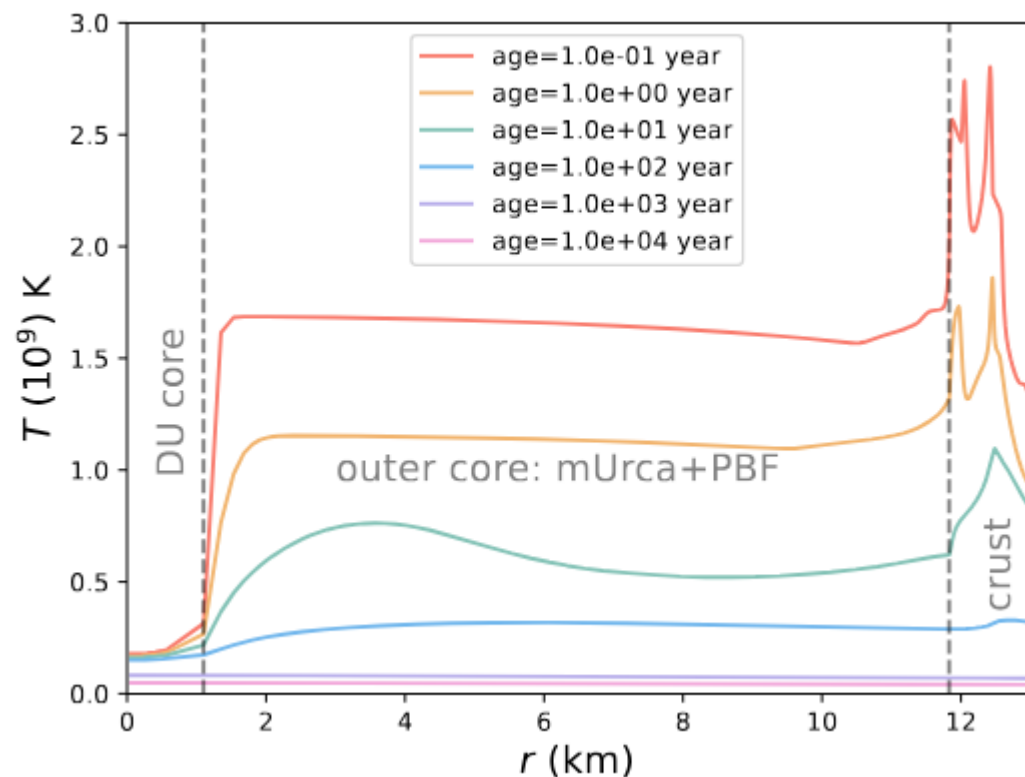
$$t_1 = 30\text{--}37 \text{ years}$$

Other interactions (NL3 and PKDD) give the
similar results: **Model-independent.**

Contents

- Background
- Thermal relaxation of neutron star
- Peculiar thermal relaxation from superfluidity
- Peculiar thermal relaxation of hyperon star
- Summary and Perspective

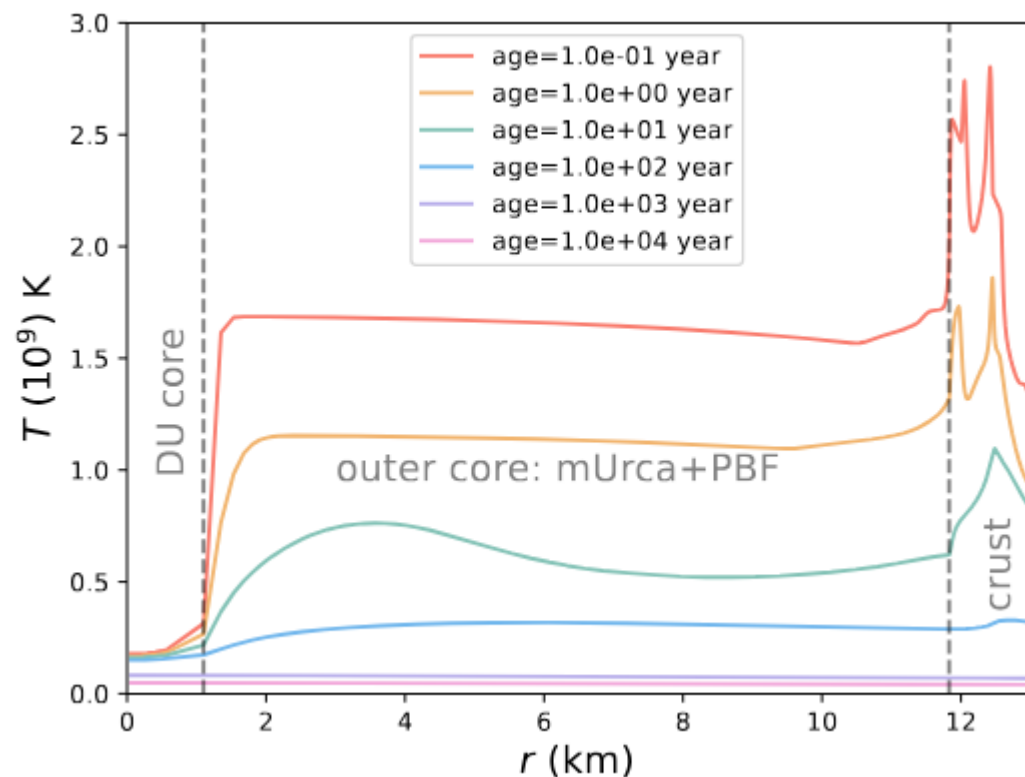
Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star



Neutron star with $M = 1.3310M_{\odot}$ and a *very small* DU core

- DU core:
 - dUrca process, **Low temperature**;
- outer core:
 - mUrca + PBF process;

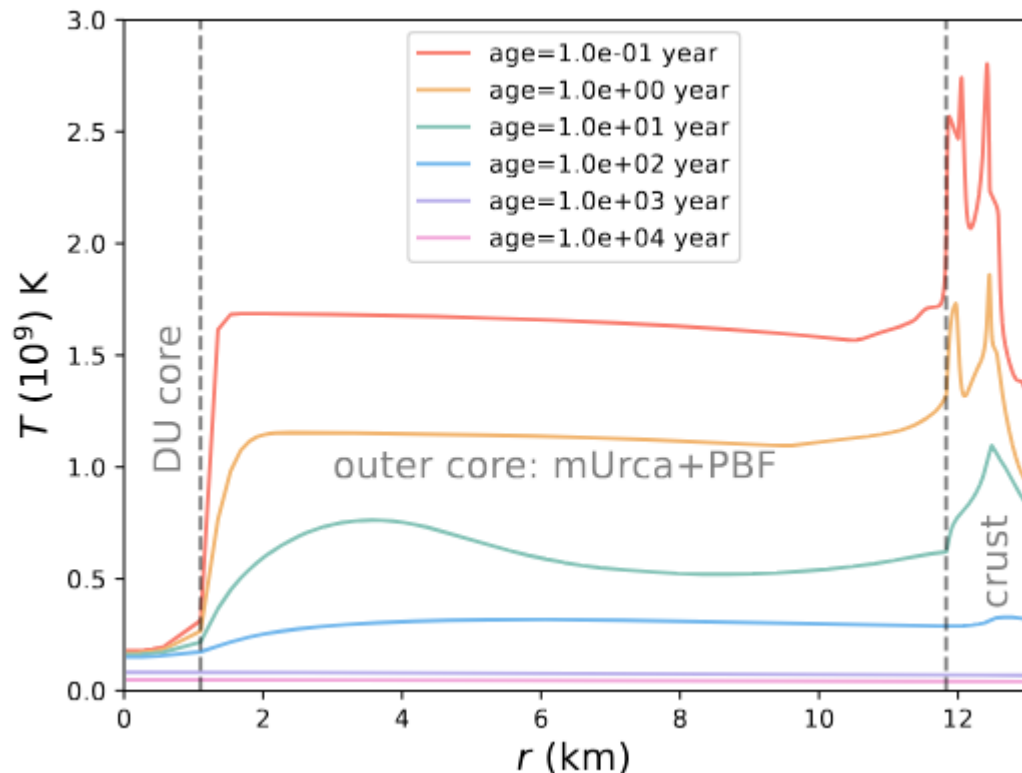
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- outer core:
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 - Thermal compensation to the DU core.

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star

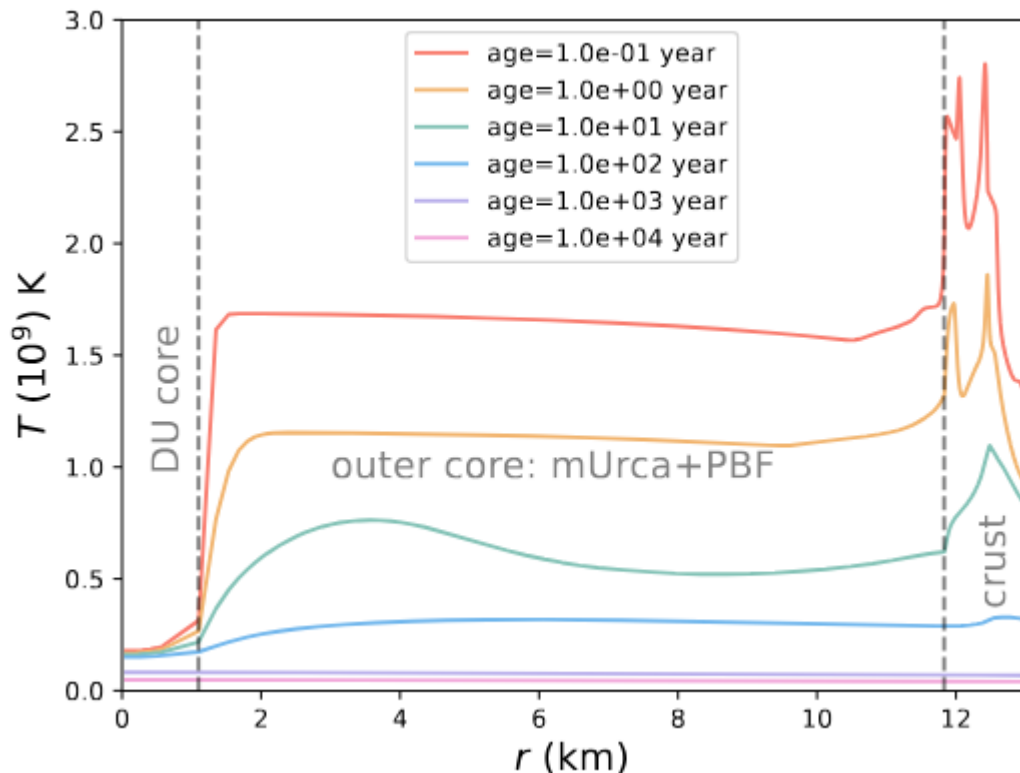


Neutron star with $M = 1.3310M_{\odot}$ and a *very small* DU core

- DU core:
 - dUrca process, **Low temperature**;
 - the temperature is nearly *constant* if the DU core is very small.
- outer core:
 - mUrca + PBF process;
 - Thermal compensation to the DU core.

thermal coupling between
DU core and outer core

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star



Neutron star with $M = 1.3310M_{\odot}$ and a *very small* DU core

The thermal coupling between DU core and outer core:

Outer core energy balance

$$C_V \frac{dT}{dt} = \begin{aligned} & \boxed{-R_{\text{eff}} L_{\nu}^{\text{mu}} \theta(T - T_{\text{cn}})} && \text{mUrca} \\ & \boxed{-f_{\text{PBF}} L_{\nu}^{\text{mu}} \theta(T_{\text{cn}} - T)} && \text{mUrca+PBF} \\ & \boxed{-R f_{\text{DU}} L_{\nu}^{\text{mu}} T_{\text{DU}}^8 / f_V} && \text{DU core} \\ & && \text{energy loss} \end{aligned}$$

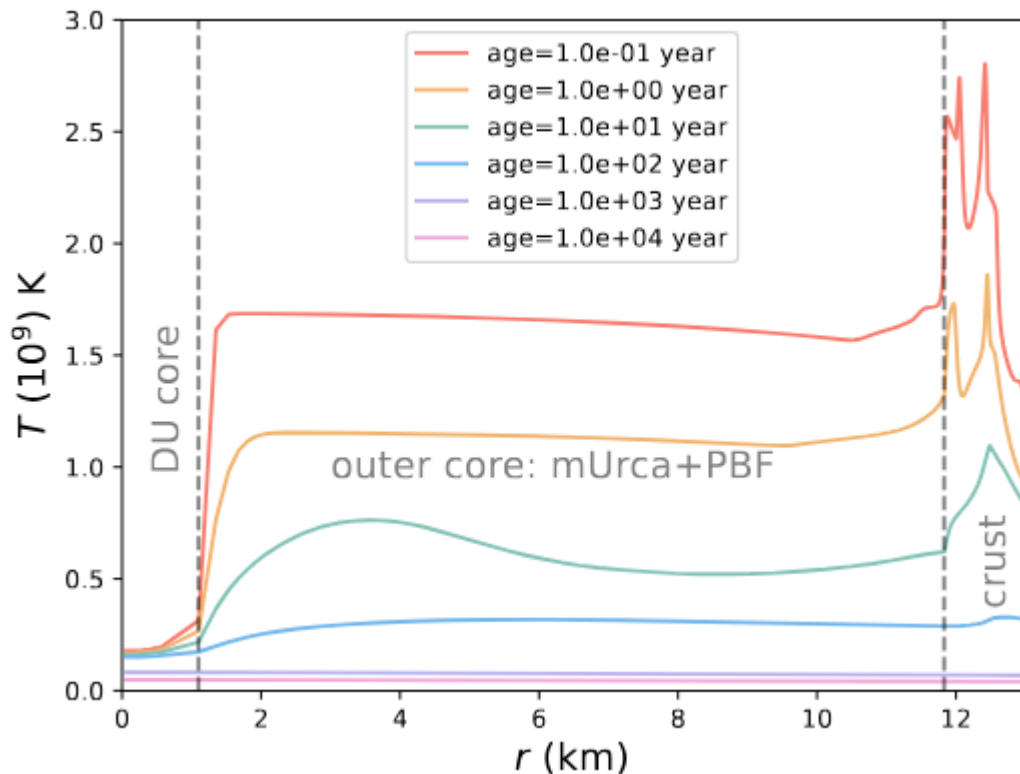
T_{DU} : DU core temperature before reaching relaxation

f_{DU} : ratio of neutrino emissivity of dUrca to mUrca

f_V : ratio of the outer core volume to DU core

R : ratio of neutrino emissivity of Λp to np dUrca, ~ 0.04

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star

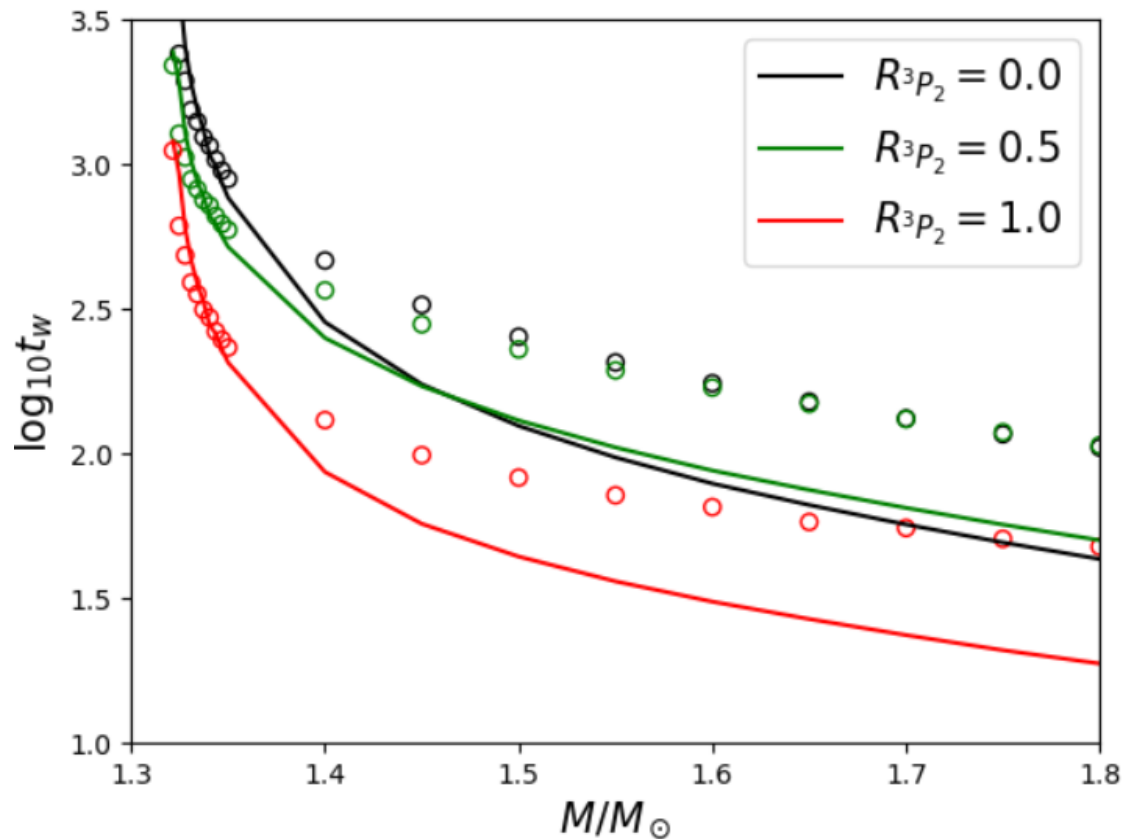


The thermal coupling between DU core and outer core:

DU core energy balance

$$C_V \frac{dT}{dt} = 0$$

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star



The thermal coupling between DU core and outer core:

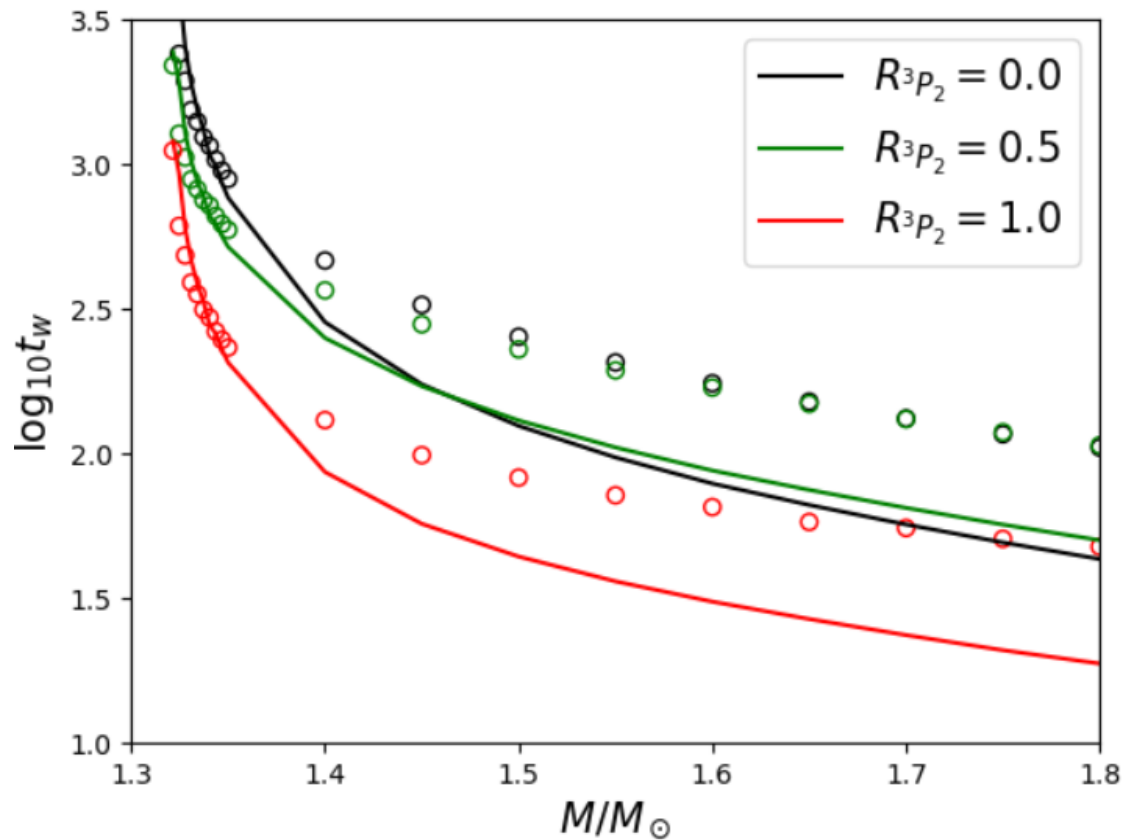
$$t_w \approx \frac{6\tau_{\text{mu}}}{R_{\text{eff}}} \int_{T_0}^{T_{\text{cn}}} \frac{T_9}{T_9^8 + a_1} dT_9 \quad \text{coupling of DU core and outer core}$$

$$- \frac{6\tau_{\text{mu}}}{f_{\text{PBF}}} \int_{T_{\text{cn}}}^{T_t} \frac{T_9}{T_9^8 + a_2} dT_9 \quad \text{coupling of entire core and crust}$$

$$+ \alpha t_2$$

T_t : the outer core temperature that reaching relaxation
 $T_t \approx T_{\text{DU}}$ for a neutron star with a very small DU core

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star



The thermal coupling between DU core and outer core:

$$t_w \approx -\frac{6\tau_{\text{mu}}}{R_{\text{eff}}} \int_{T_0}^{T_{\text{cn}}} \frac{T_9}{T_9^8 + a_1} dT_9$$

coupling of DU core and outer core

$$-\frac{6\tau_{\text{mu}}}{f_{\text{PBF}}} \int_{T_{\text{cn}}}^{T_t} \frac{T_9}{T_9^8 + a_2} dT_9$$

$$+ \alpha t_2$$

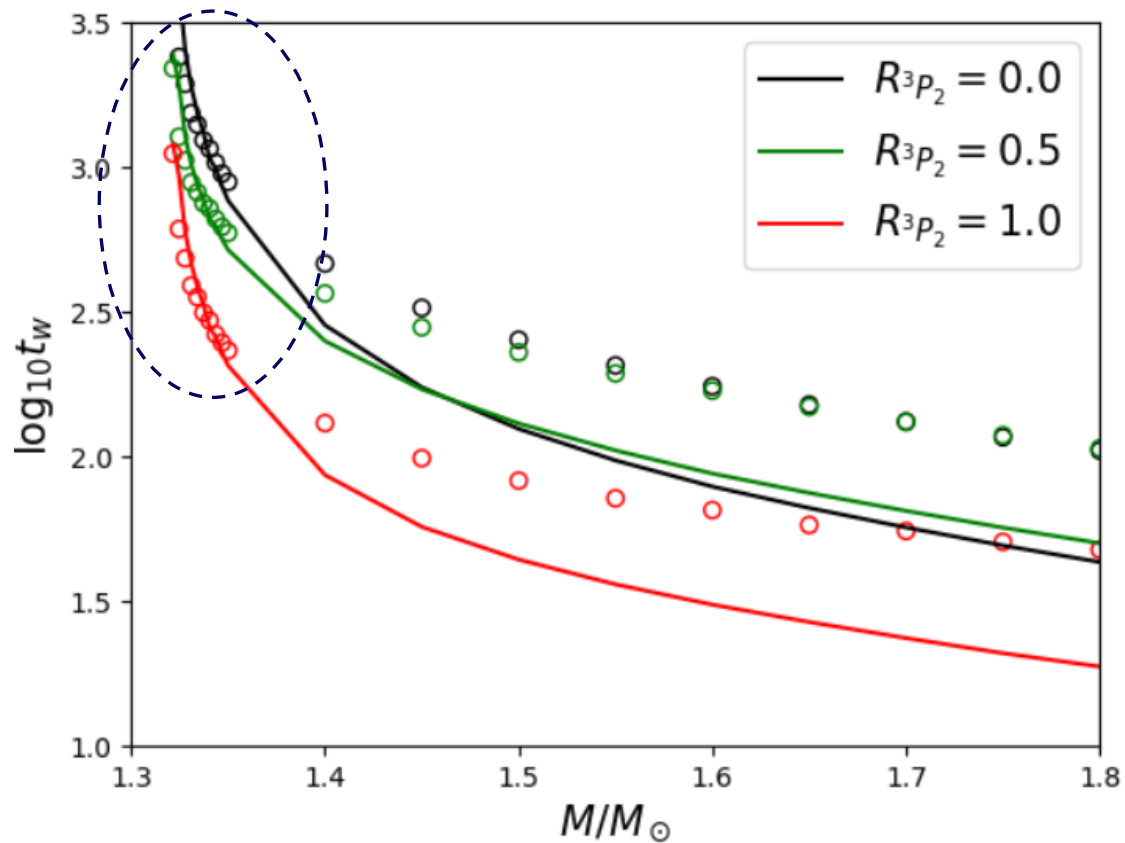
coupling of entire core and crust

$$a_1 = \frac{R f_{\text{DU}} T_{\text{DU},9}^6 / R_{\text{eff}}}{[(R_{\text{core}} / R_{\text{DU}})^3 - 1]}, \quad a_2 = \frac{R f_{\text{DU}} T_{\text{DU},9}^6 / f_{\text{PBF}}}{[(R_{\text{core}} / R_{\text{DU}})^3 - 1]}$$

T_t : the outer core temperature that reaching relaxation

$T_t \approx T_{\text{DU}}$ for a neutron star with a very small DU core

Peculiar Thermal Relaxation of Hyperon Star



➤ Suitable for a neutron star with a small DU core

The thermal coupling between DU core and outer core:

$$t_w \approx \frac{6\tau_{\text{mu}}}{R_{\text{eff}}} \int_{T_0}^{T_{\text{cn}}} \frac{T_9}{T_9^8 + a_1} dT_9$$

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Summary and Perspective

● Summary:

- PBF and dUrca processes change the thermodynamic structure of neutron stars, leading to the re-coupling of the crust and core and peculiar relaxation times.
- A possible way to probe the superfluidity and internal thermal properties of neutron stars.

● Perspective:

- More precise microscopic physical inputs for neutron stars are needed.
- Suitable observation targets are required.

Thanks for your attention!