

Fast and Differentiable Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

Hongwan Liu

with Cara Giovanetti, Mariangela Lisanti,
Siddharth Mishra-Sharma and Joshua Ruderman
240X.XXXXX, 240X.XXXXX

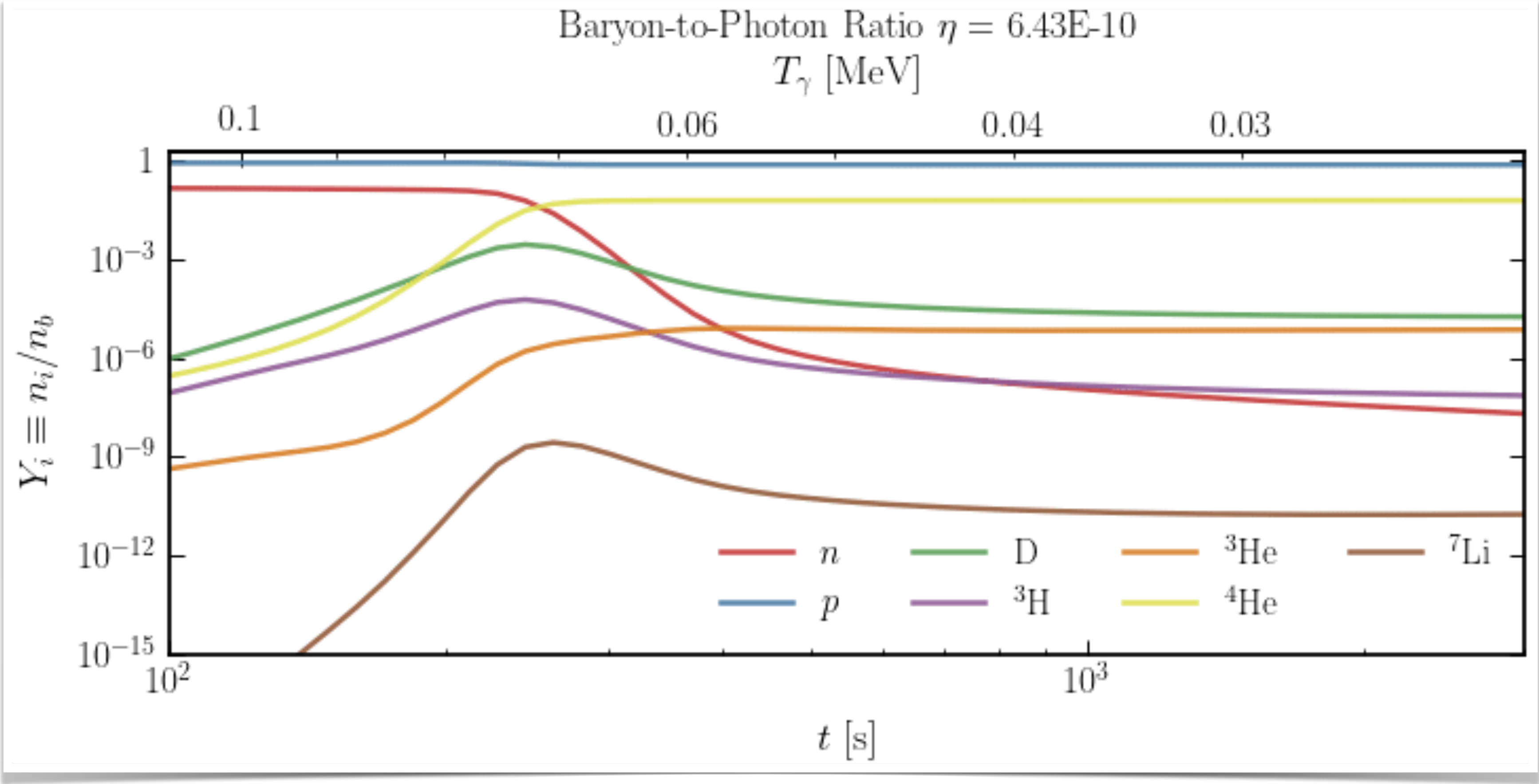
BBN: You're Doing It Wrong!

credit: Yoni Kahn, Risa Wechsler

Hongwan Liu

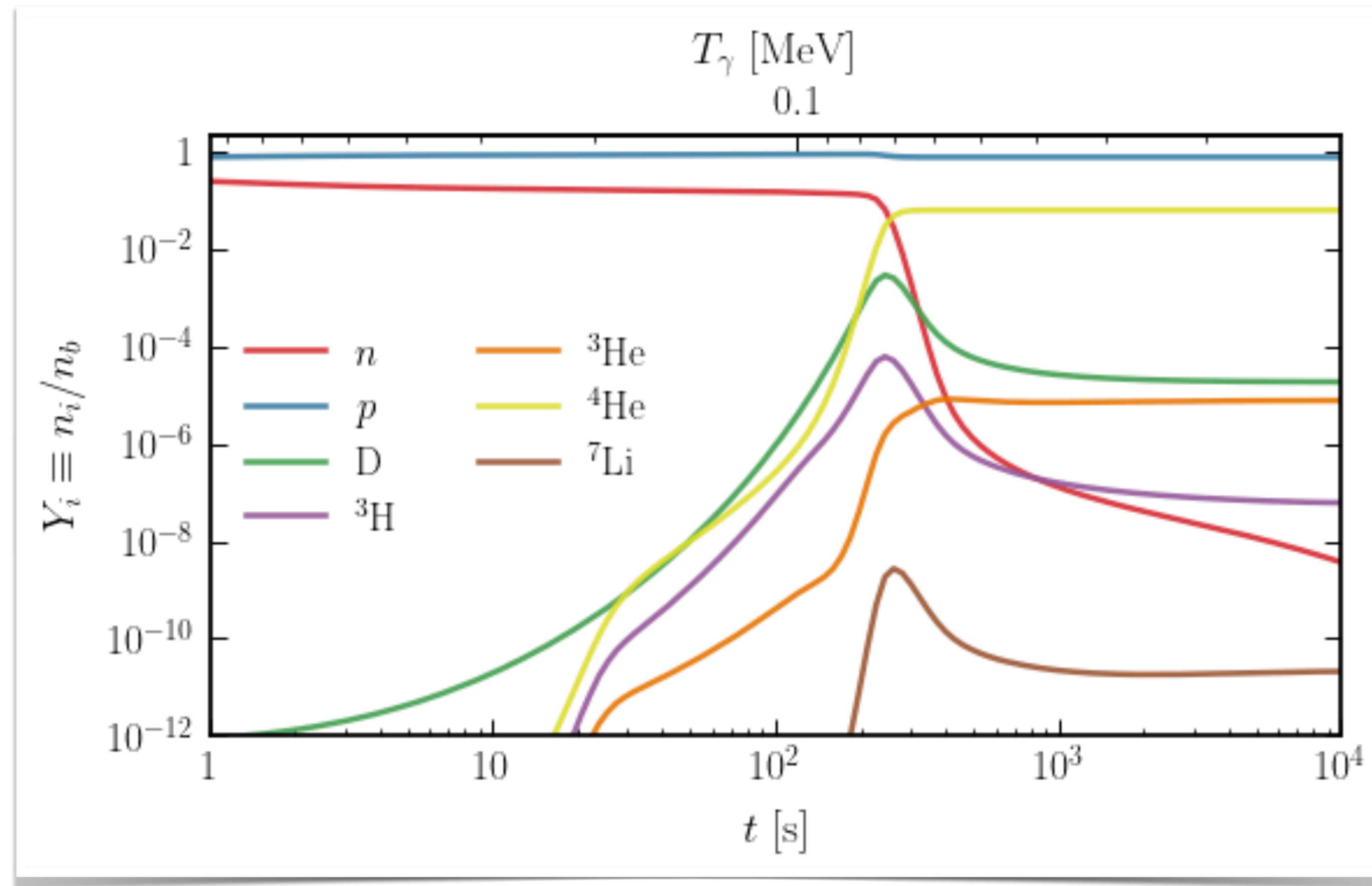
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Punchline



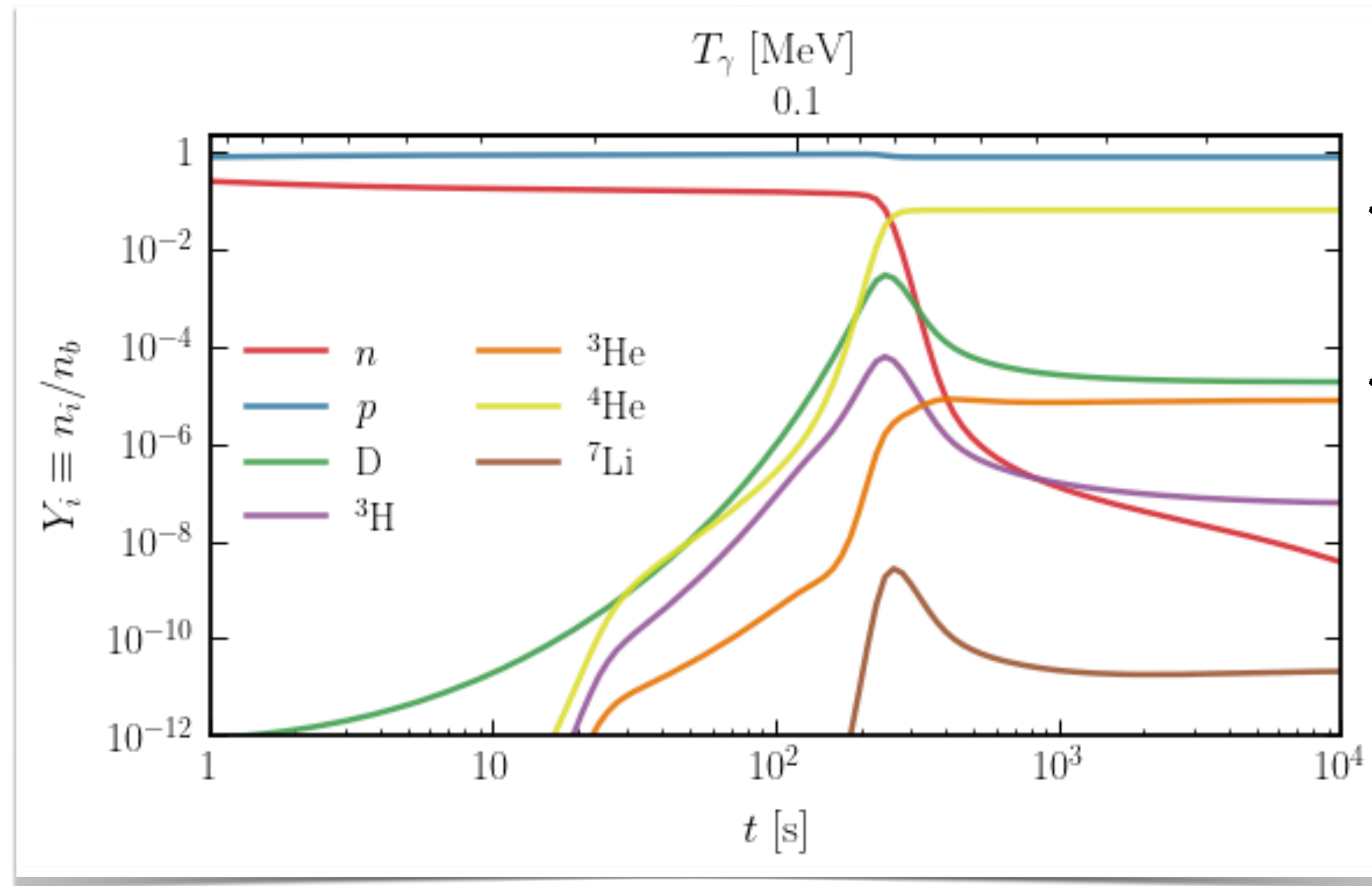
Fast, accurate BBN calculation that can elevate BBN analyses to the same level as CMB analyses, where it should be!

BBN: Formation of Light Elements



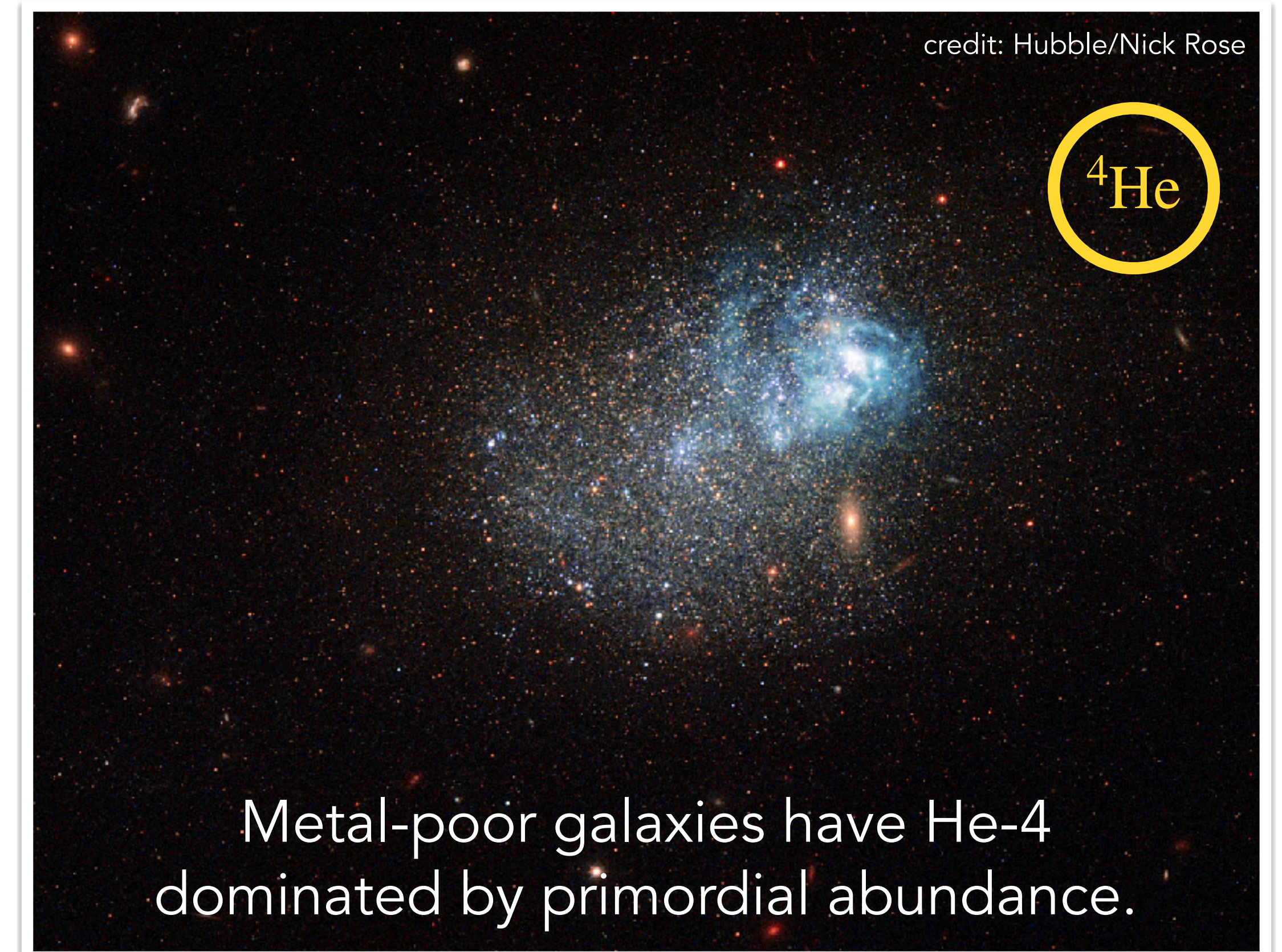
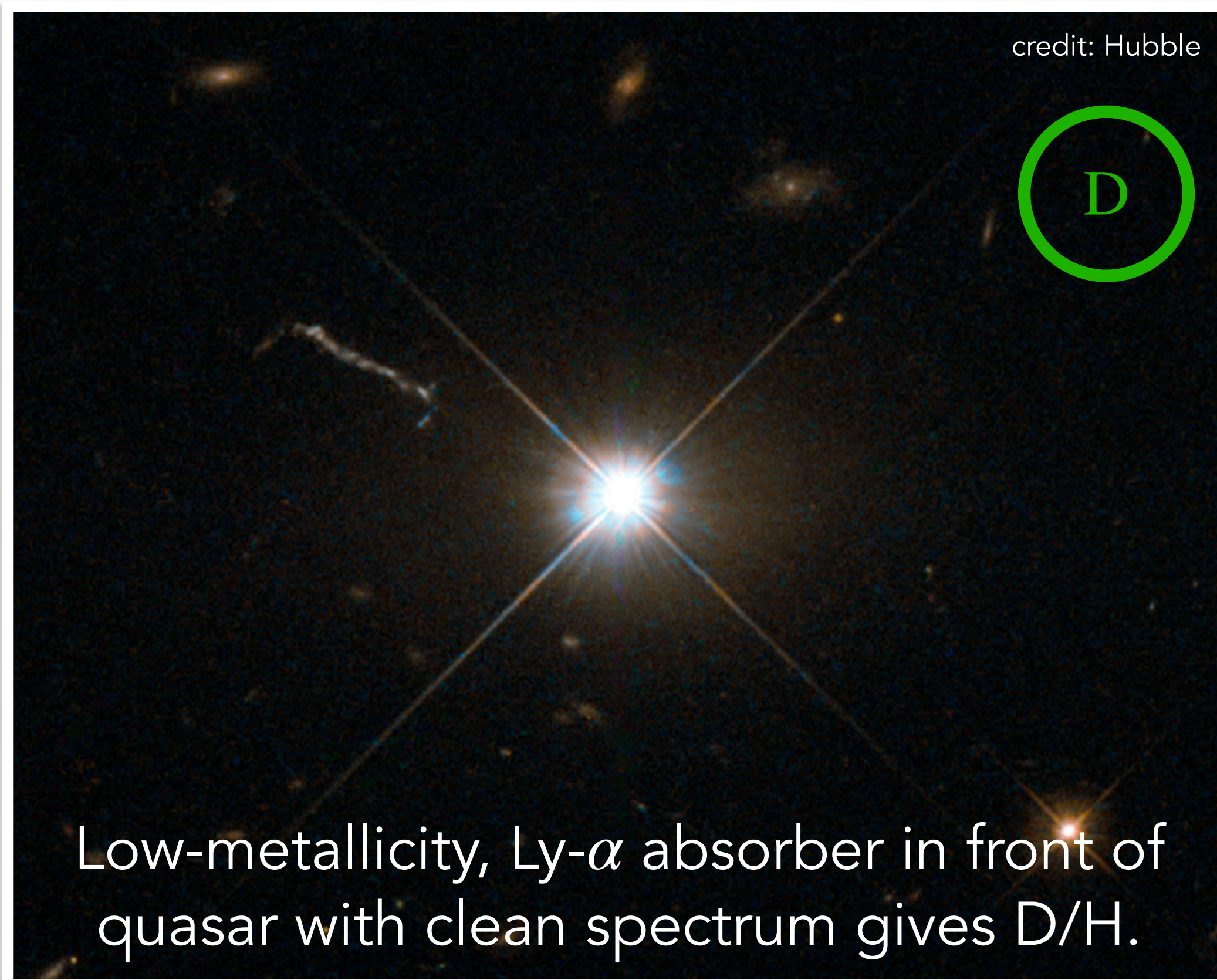
Nuclear reactions active in the hot, early Universe.
Gradually shut off as the Universe cools, freezes out to **primordial abundance**.

Abundance Sensitive to MeV Scale Physics



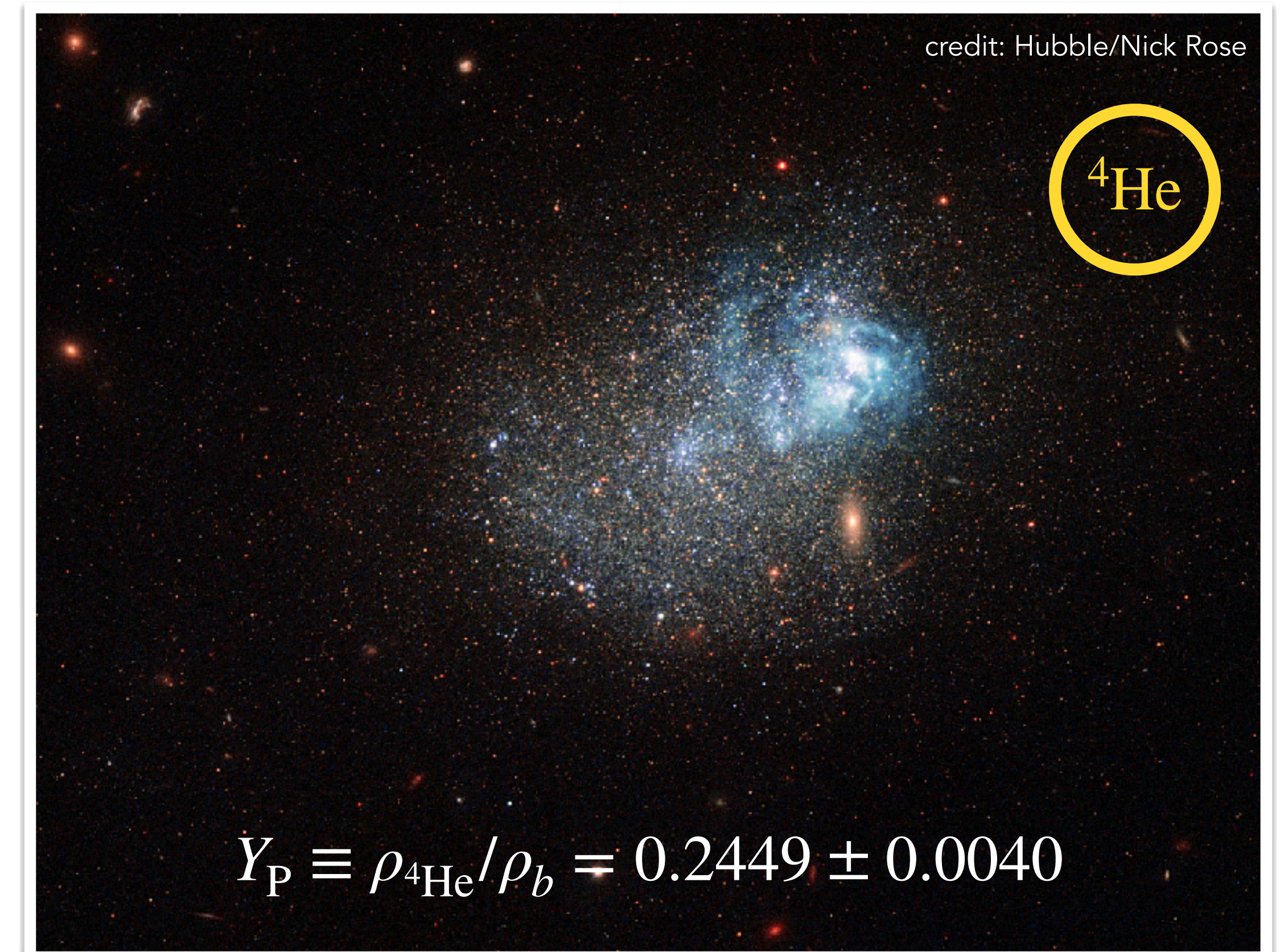
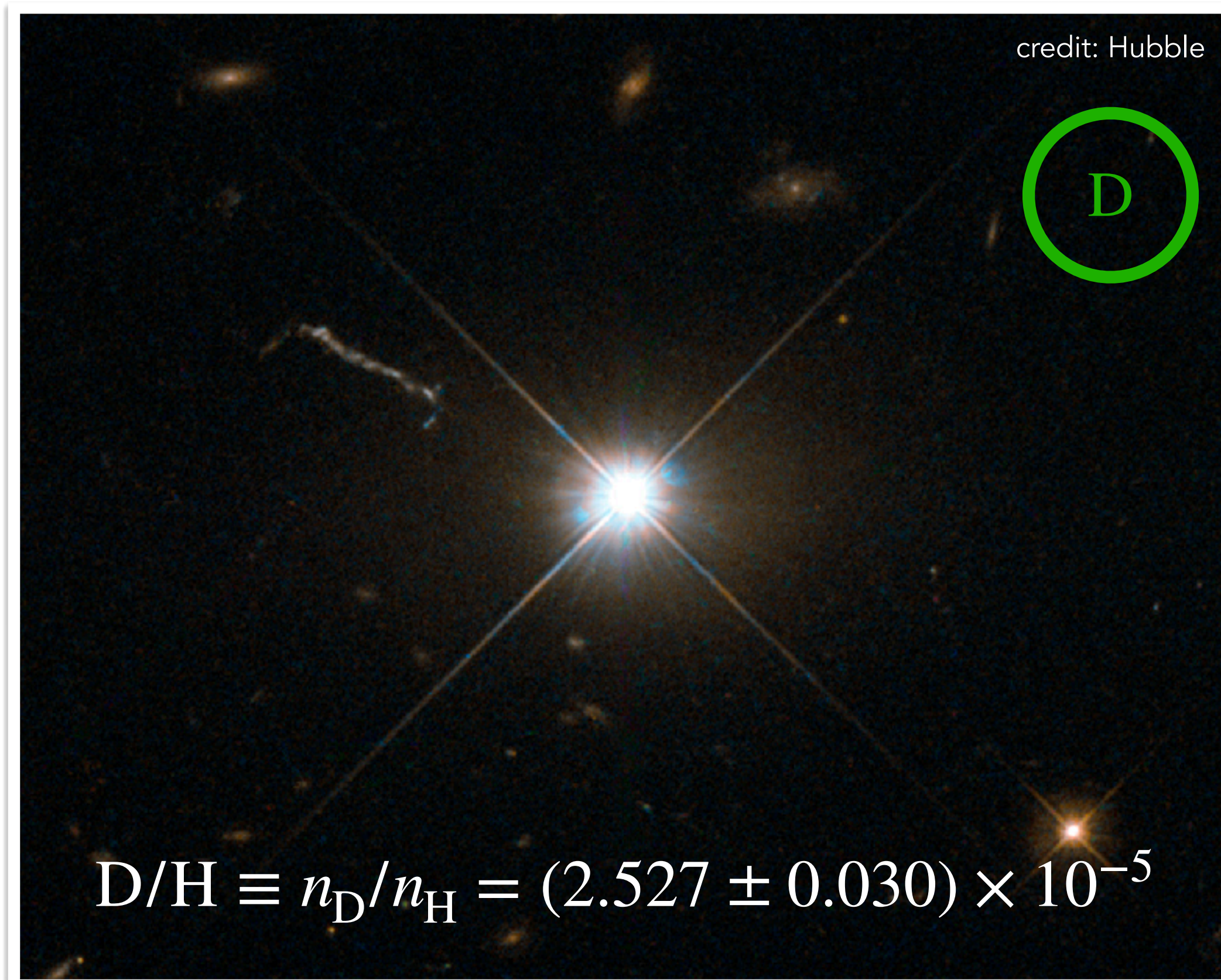
Focus on **deuterium** ($D/H \equiv n_D/n_p$) and **helium-4** ($Y_p \equiv \rho_{{}^4\text{He}}/\rho_b$).

Observed Primordial Abundance



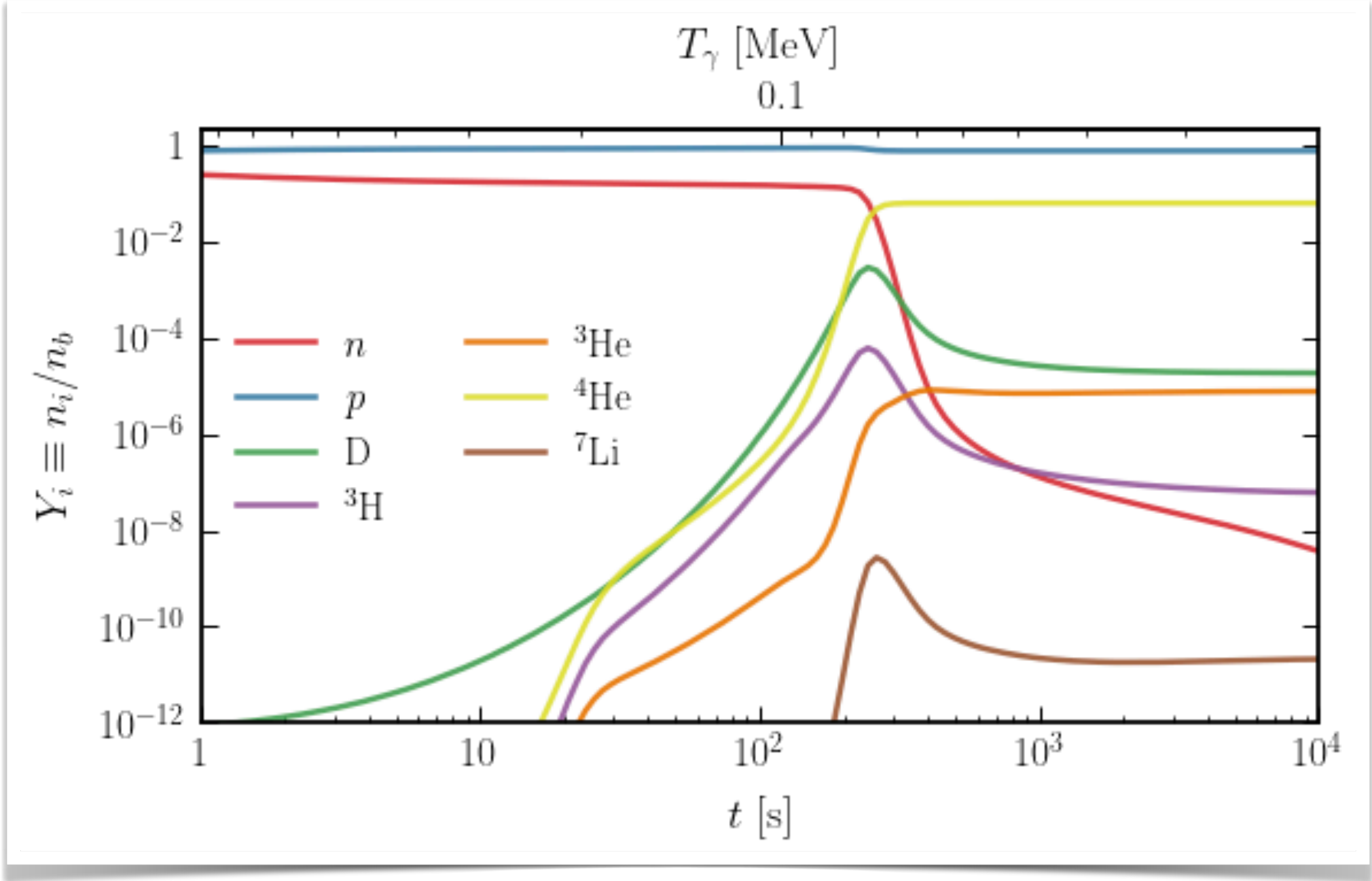
To test cosmology with BBN, we need to measure **primordial abundance**.
Achieved for **deuterium** and **helium-4** (lithium-7 is murky).

1% Experimental Precision

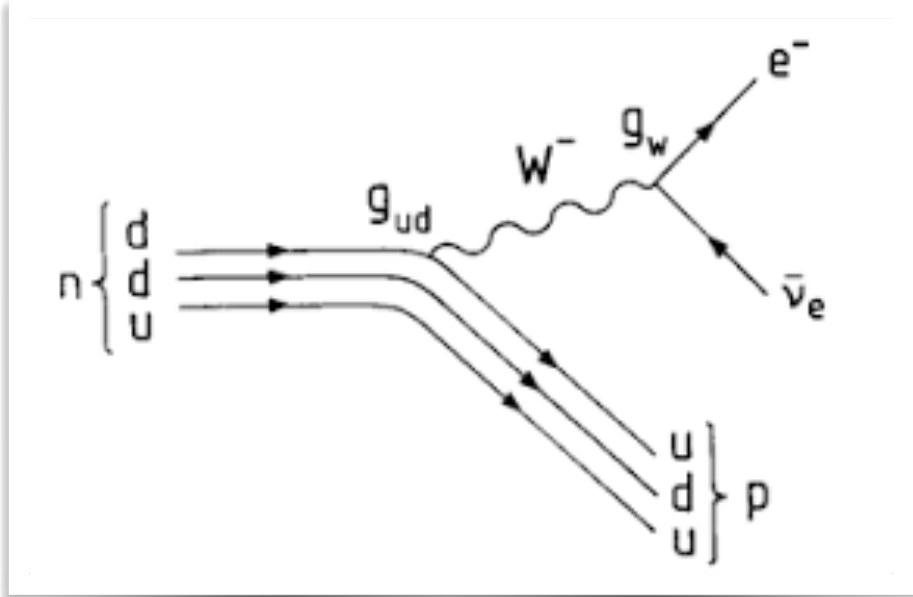


Can be a powerful test of cosmology, if theory uncertainties are under control!

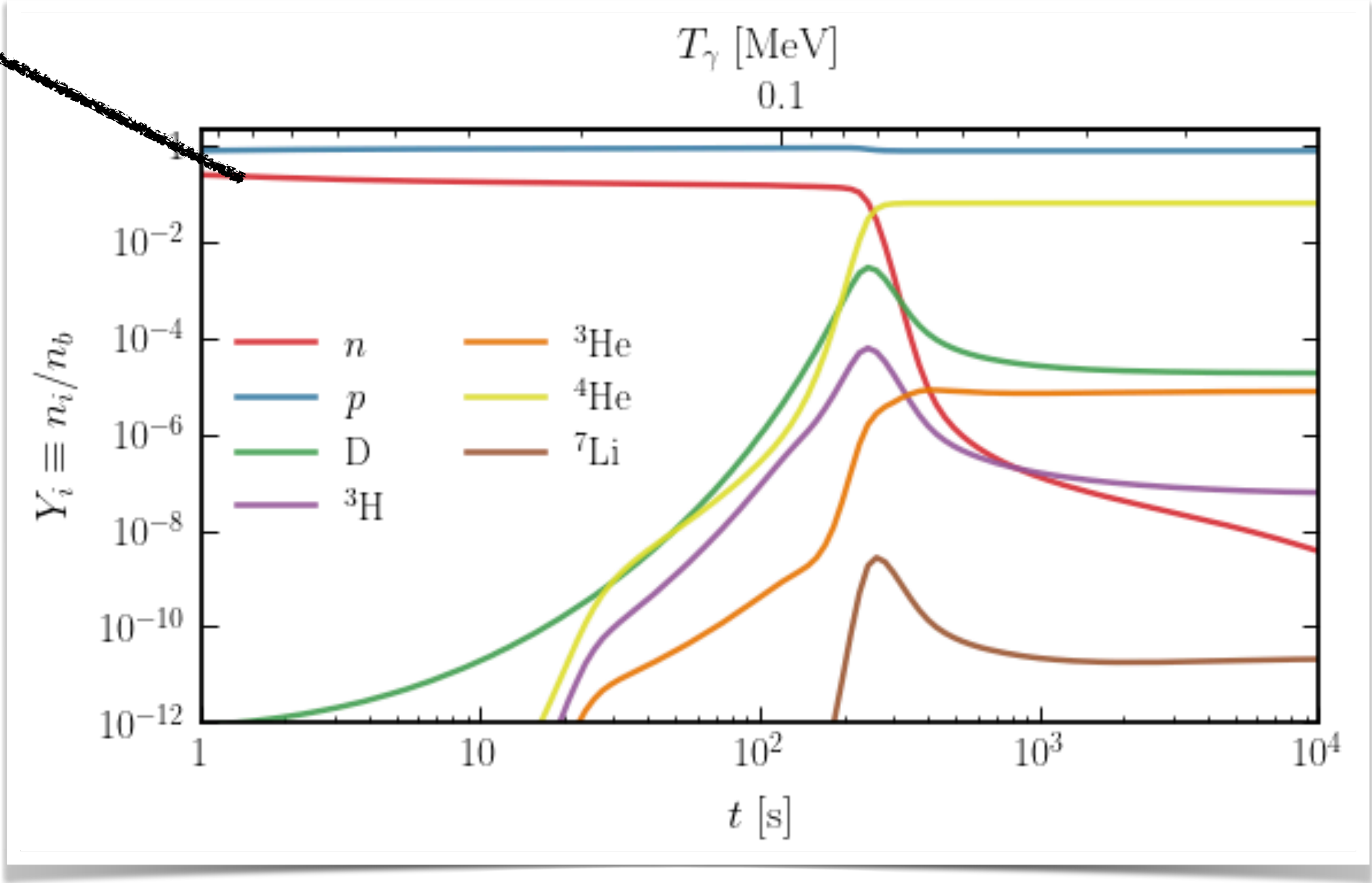
How do we predict elemental abundances?



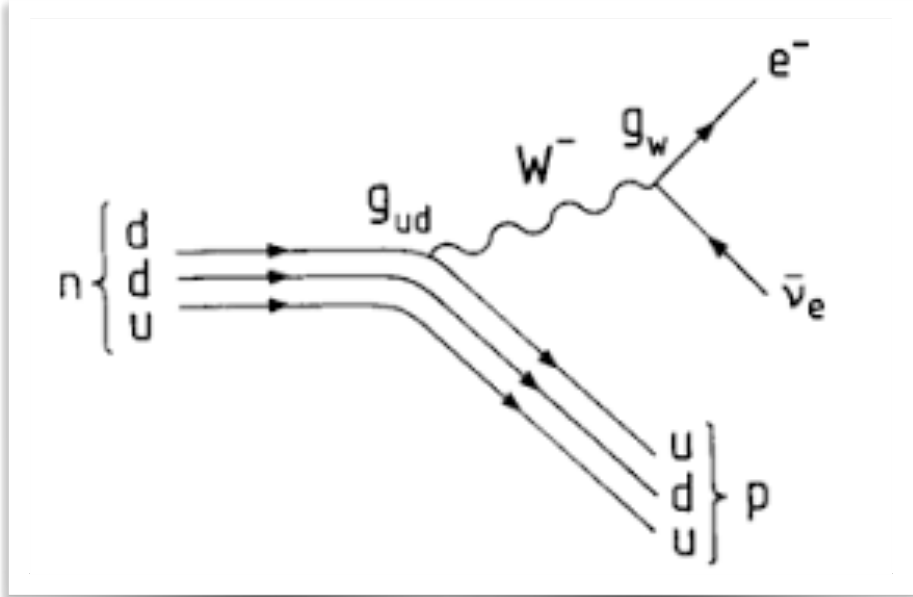
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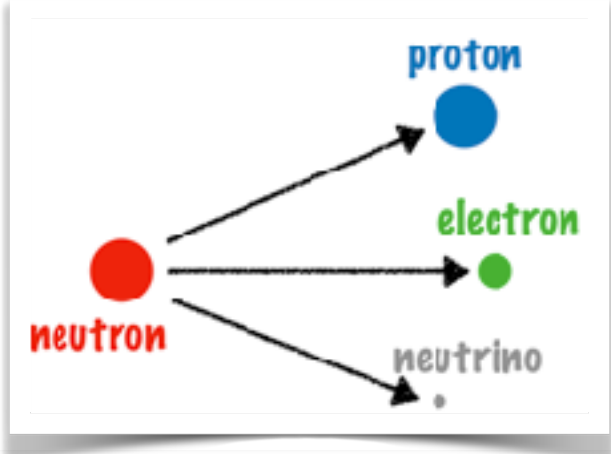
Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$



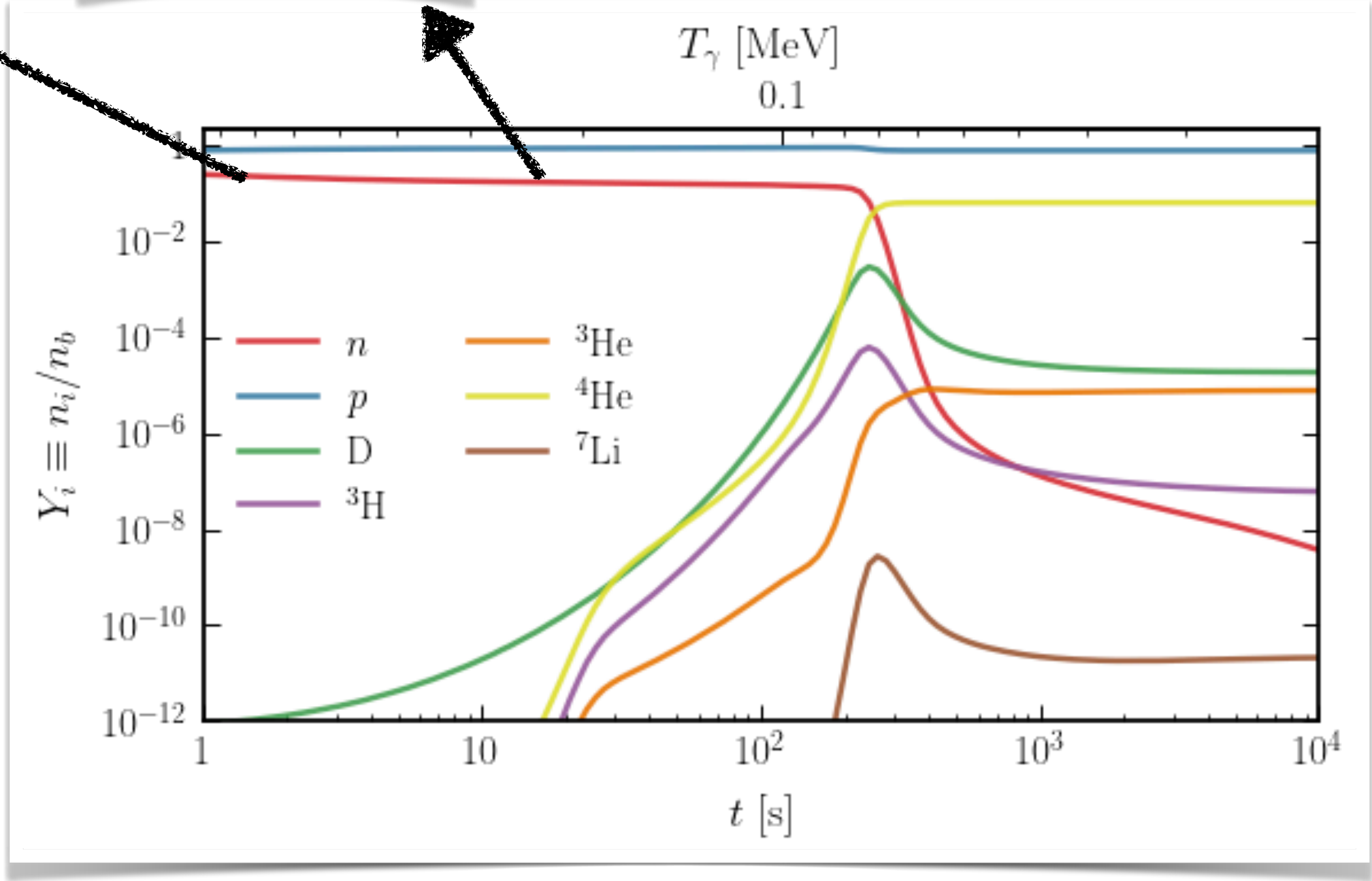
How do we predict elemental abundances?



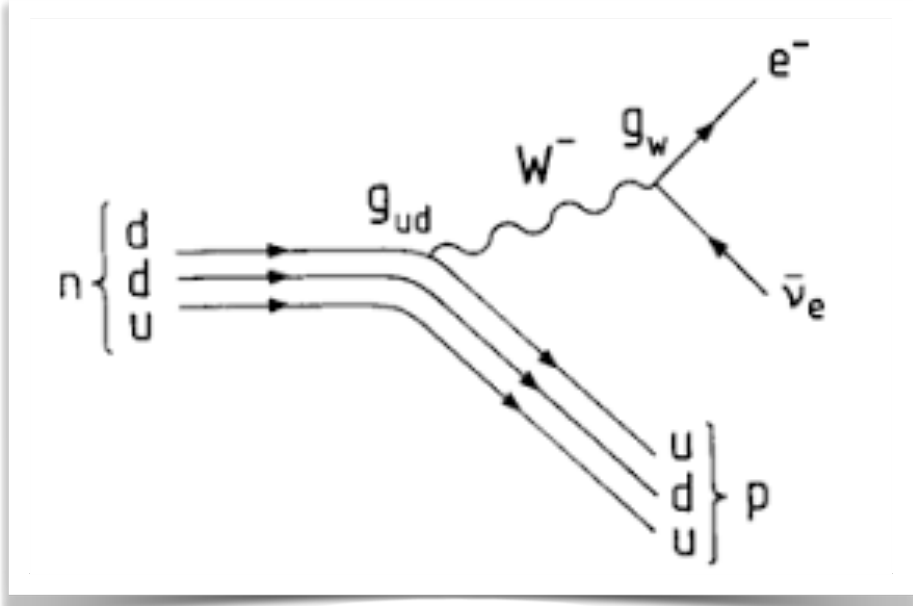
Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$



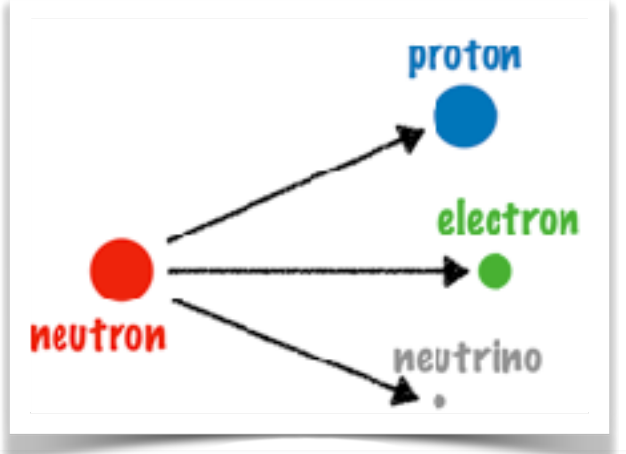
Neutron decay lifetime τ_n



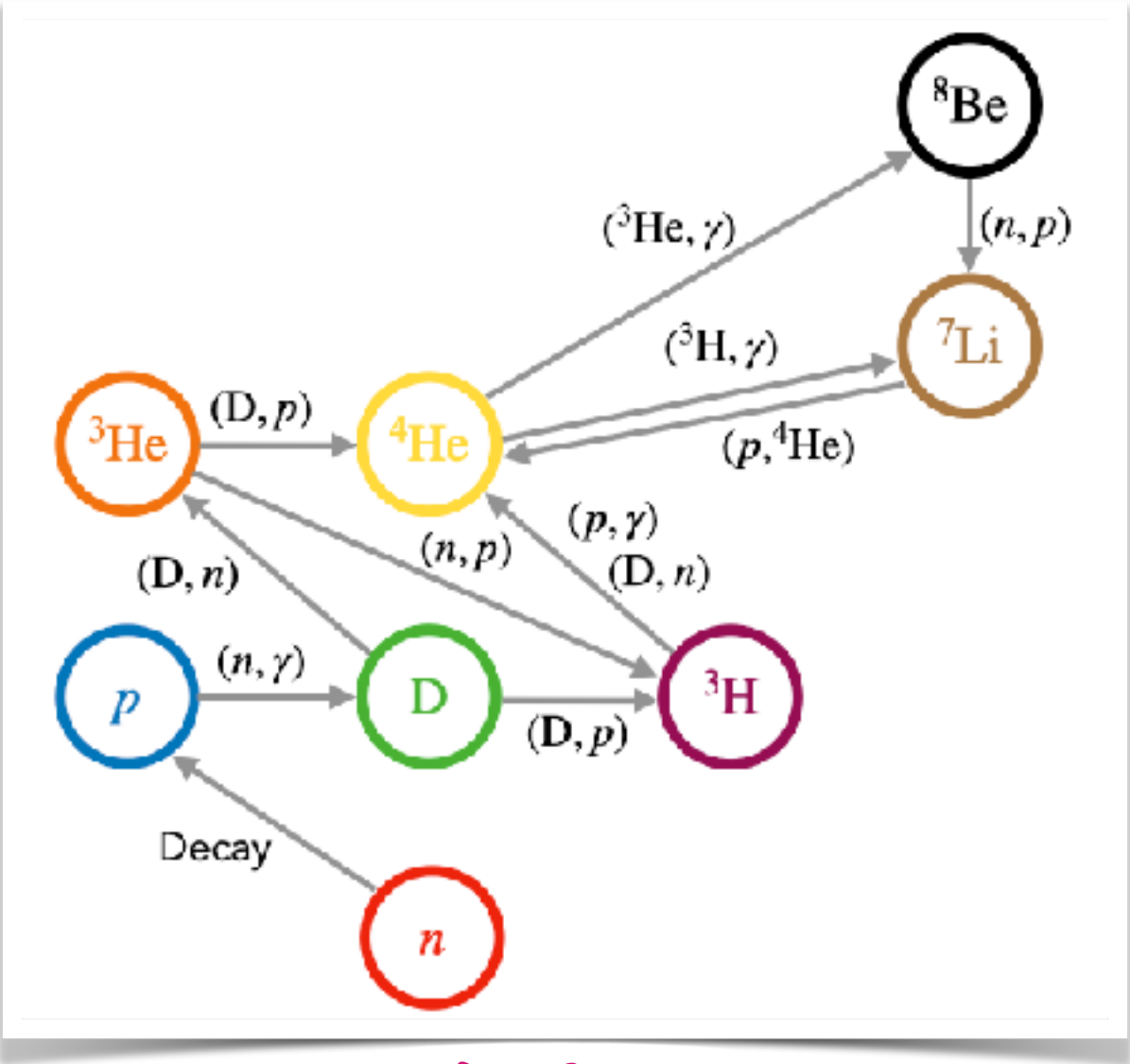
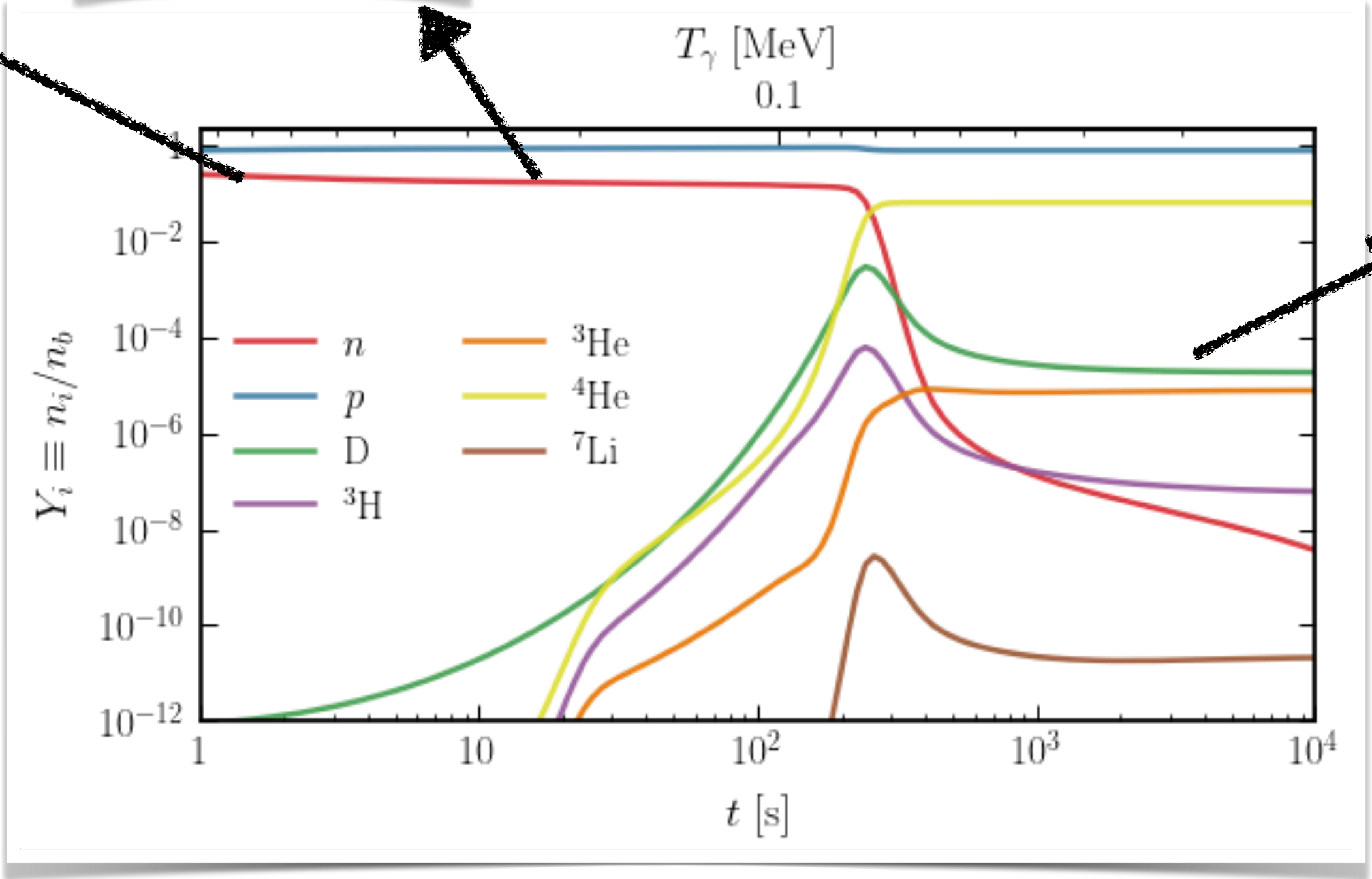
How do we predict elemental abundances?



Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$

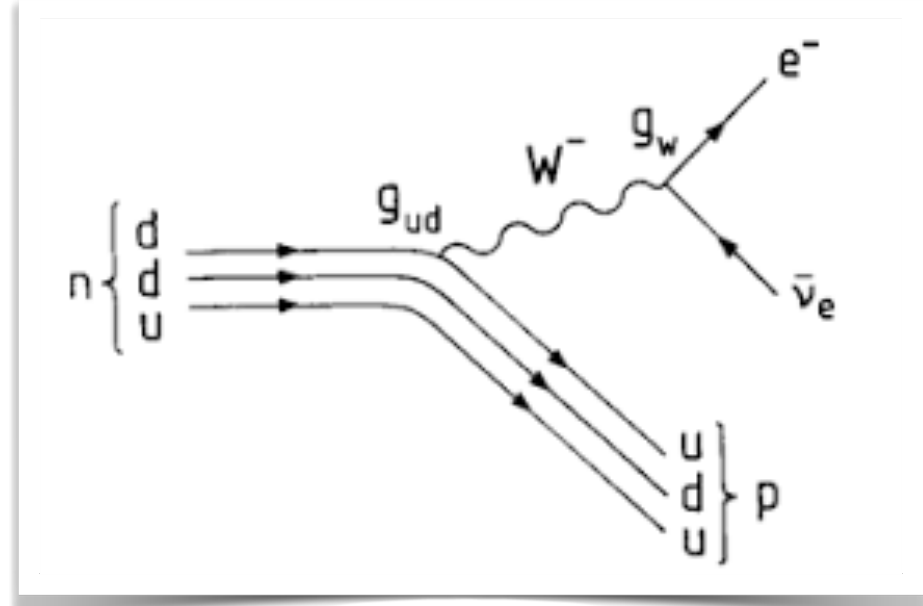


Neutron decay lifetime τ_n

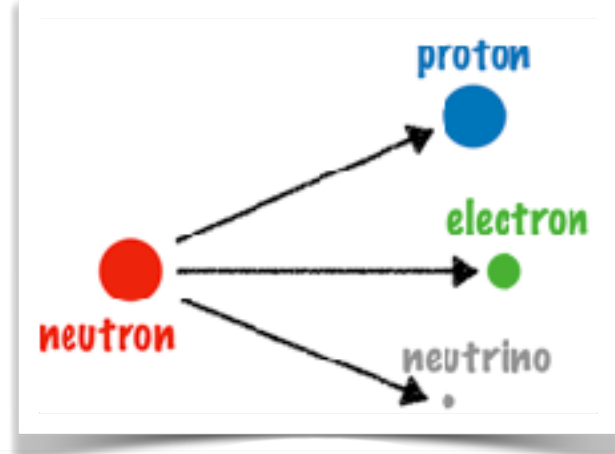


Nuclear reaction rates

How do we predict elemental abundances?

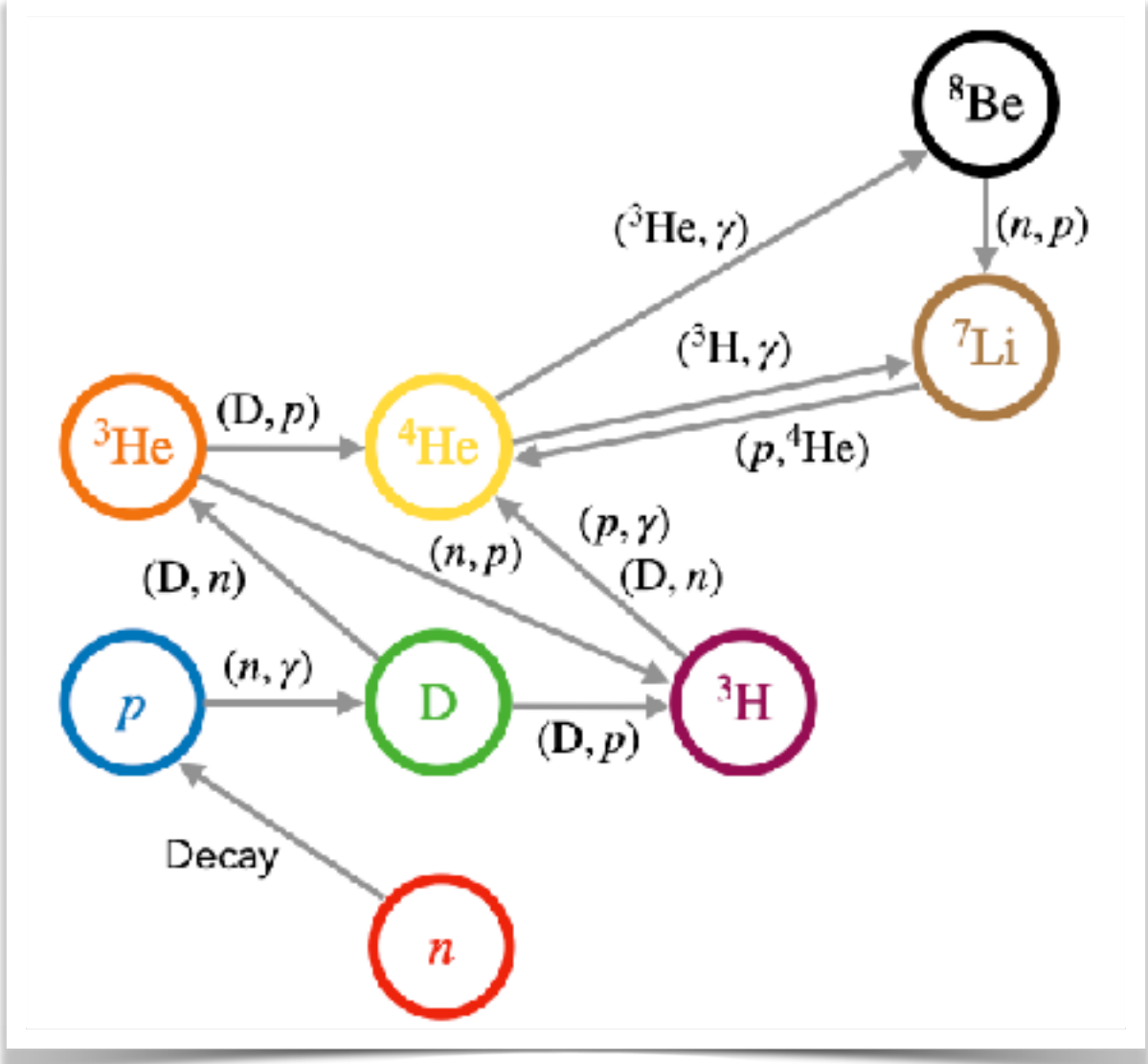
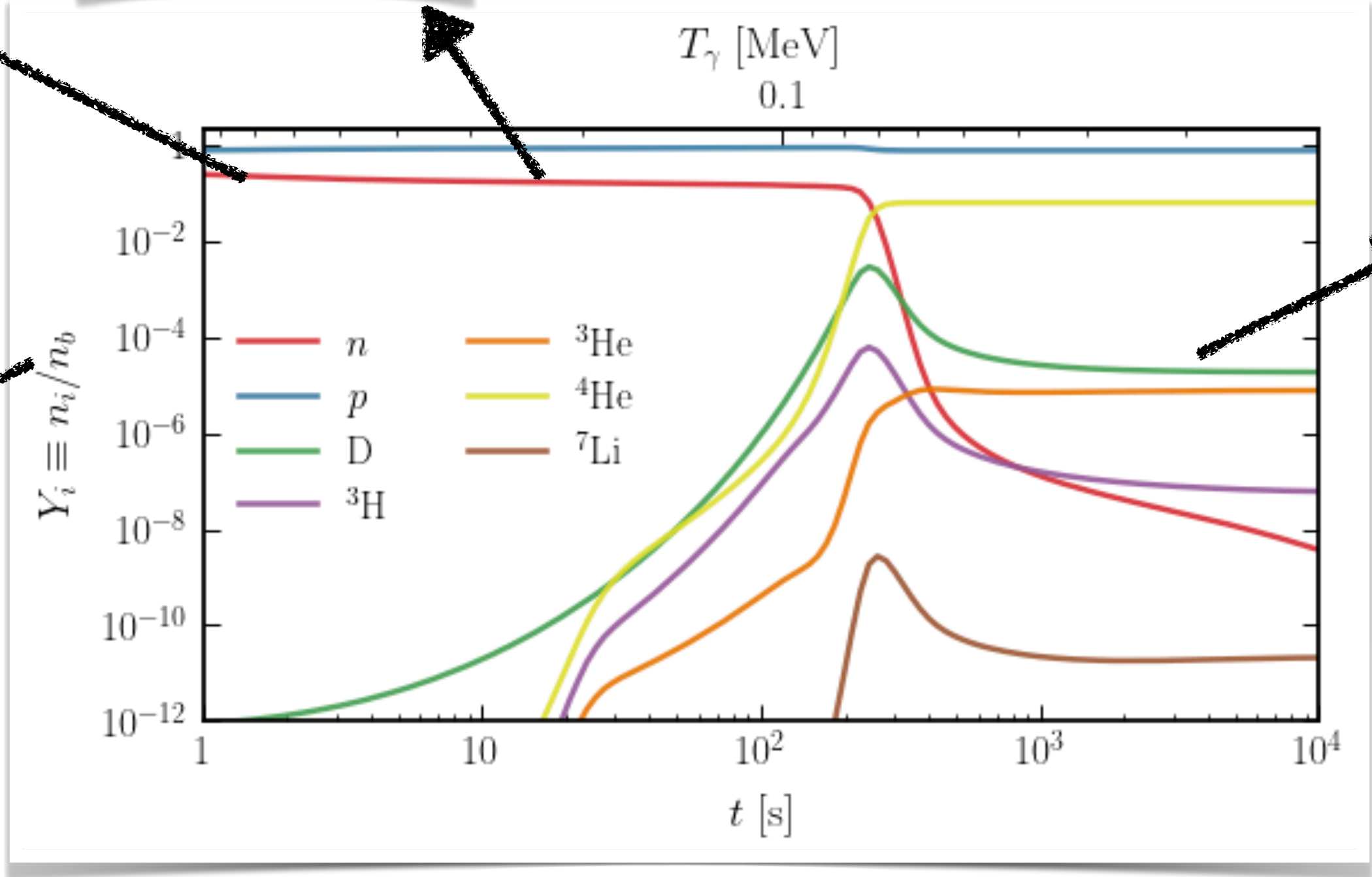


Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$



Neutron decay lifetime τ_n

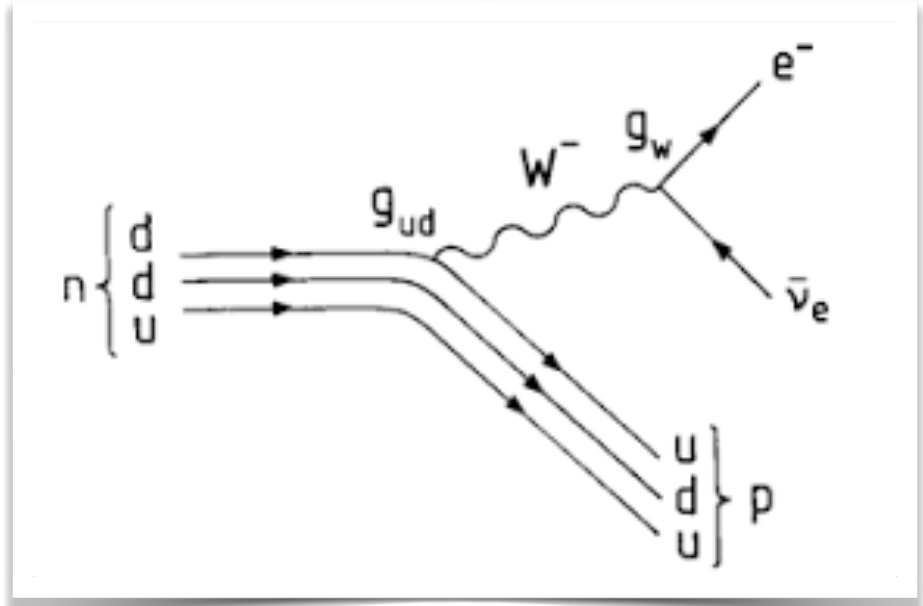
Baryon abundance ω_b / photon-to-baryon ratio η



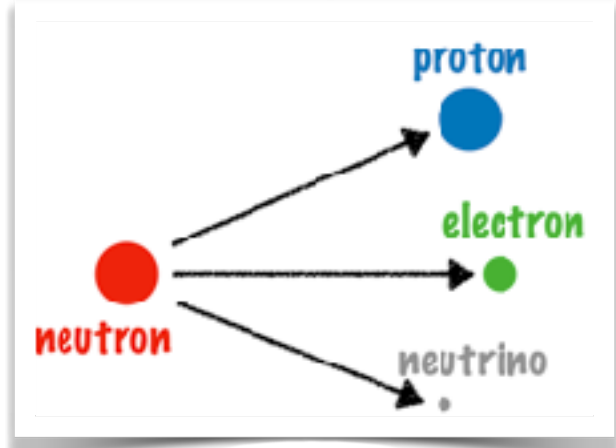
Nuclear reaction rates

Solve differential equations of the form: $\dot{Y}_D = Y_p Y_n \Gamma_{np \rightarrow D\gamma}(T_\gamma, \eta) - Y_D \Gamma_{D\gamma \rightarrow np}(T_\gamma, \eta) + \dots$

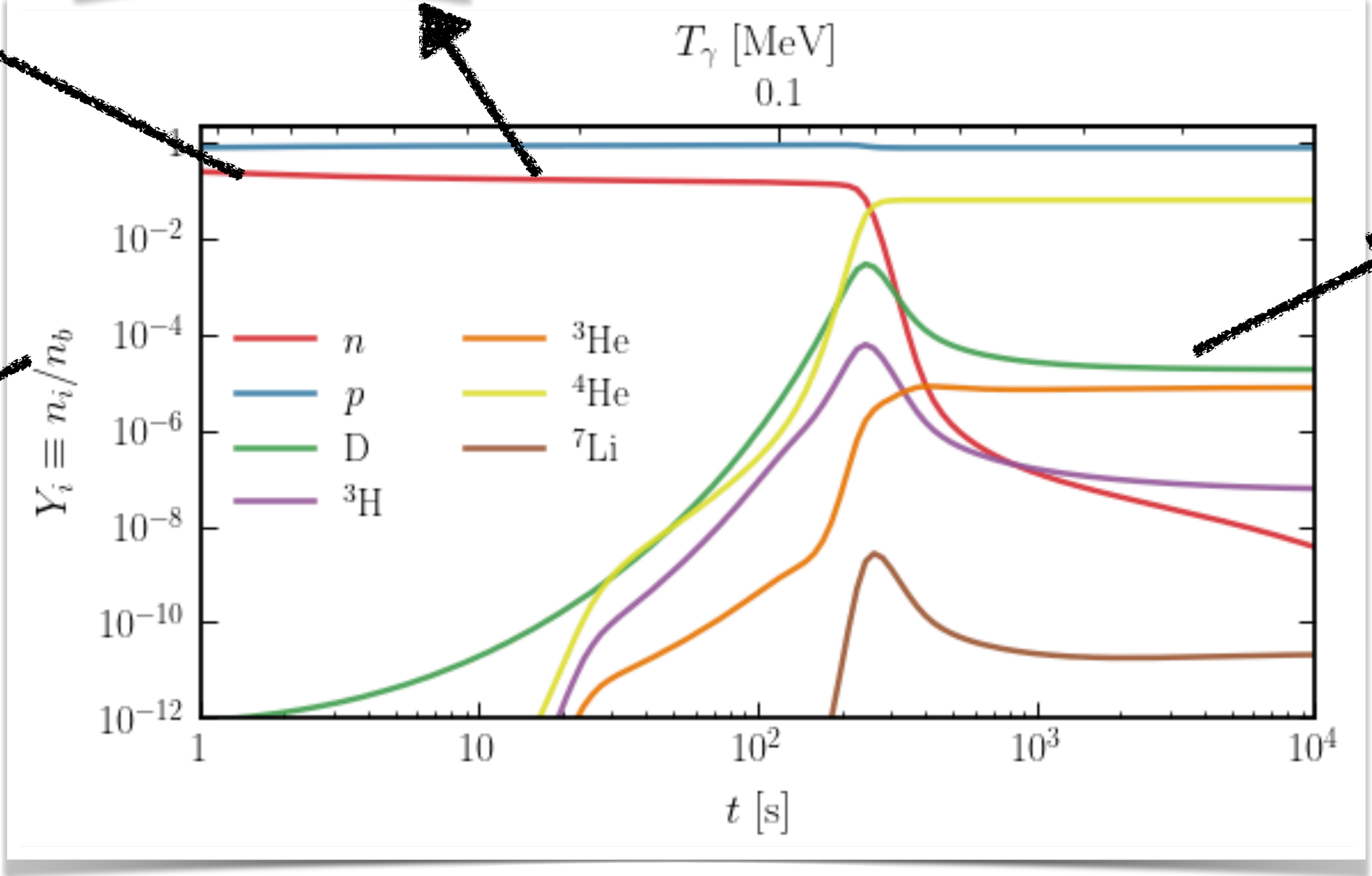
Test of Cosmology: Baryon-to-Photon Ratio



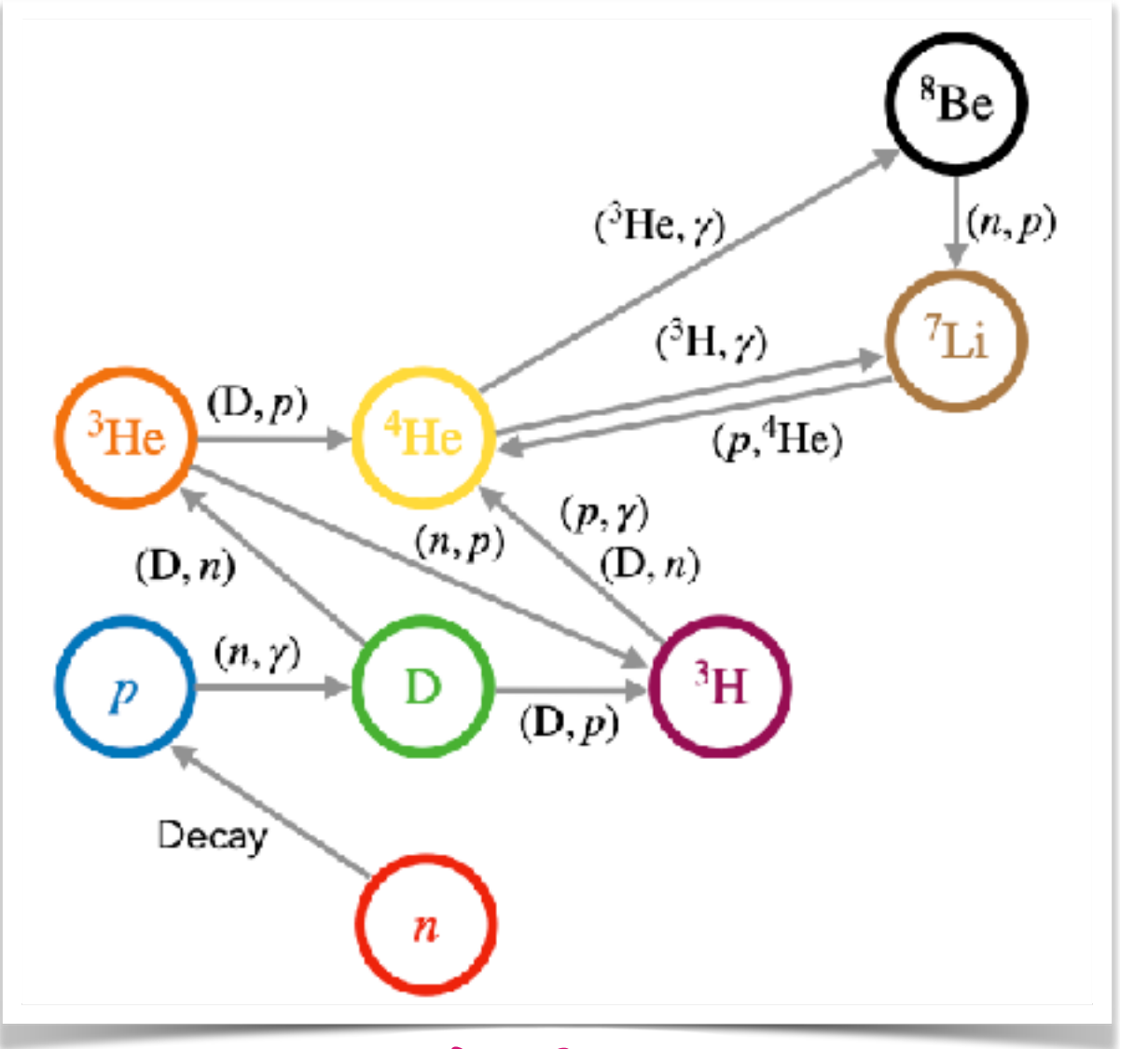
Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$



Neutron decay lifetime τ_n



Baryon abundance ω_b / photon-to-baryon ratio η

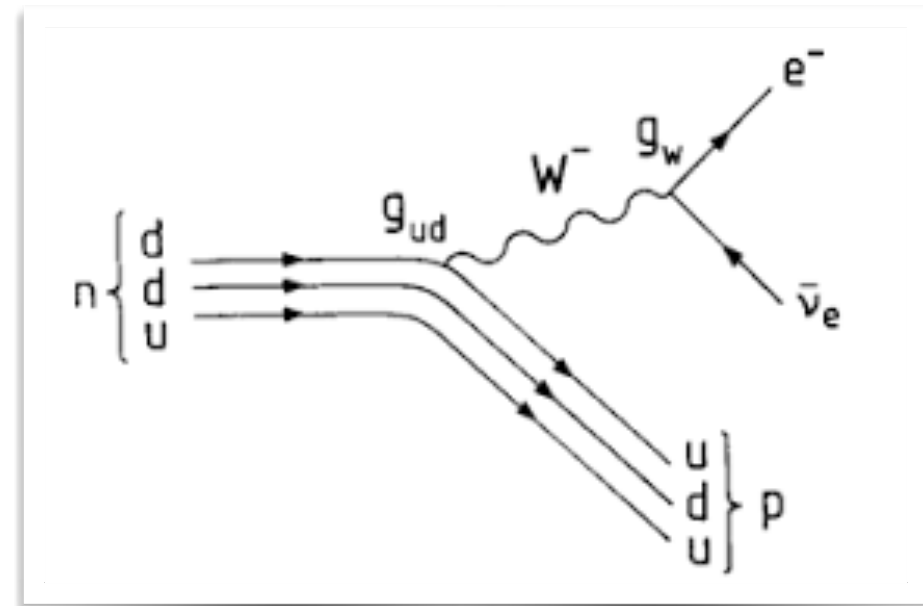


Nuclear reaction rates

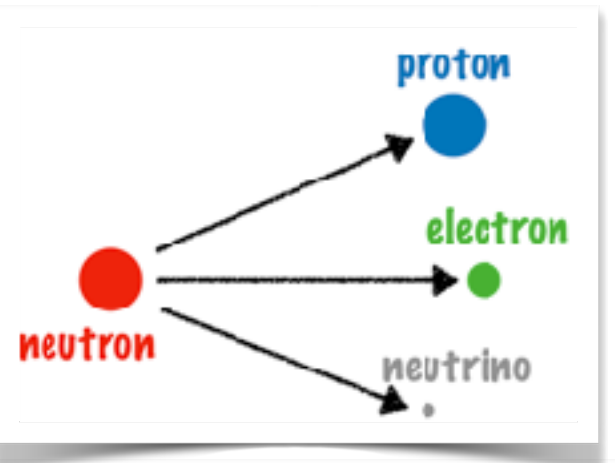
BBN is capable of determining η or ω_b at **very early times**.

Comparable uncertainty to Planck CMB if we assume Λ CDM cosmology.

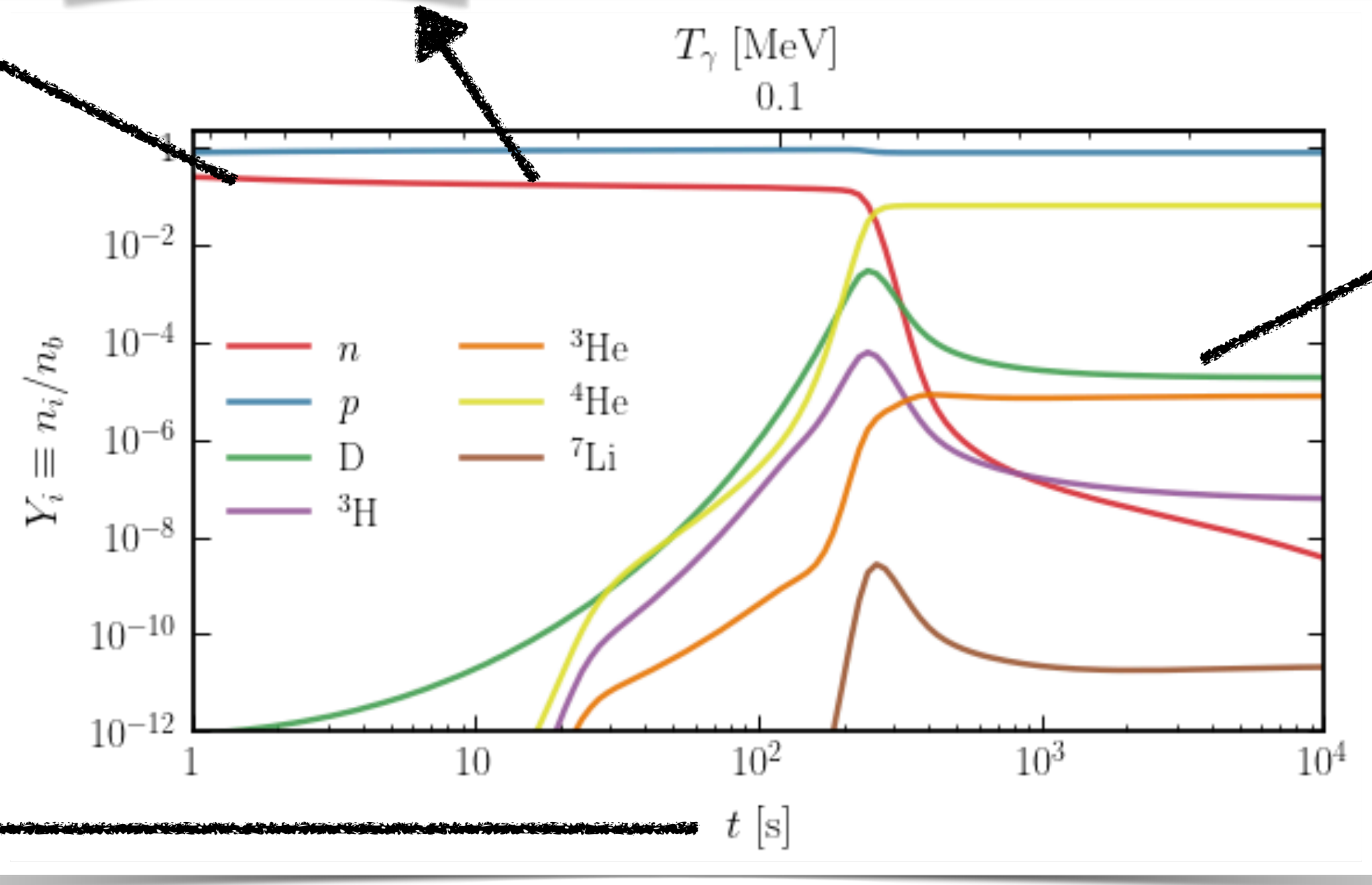
Test of Beyond- Λ CDM Cosmology: ΔN_{eff}



Electroweak physics governing $n \leftrightarrow p$

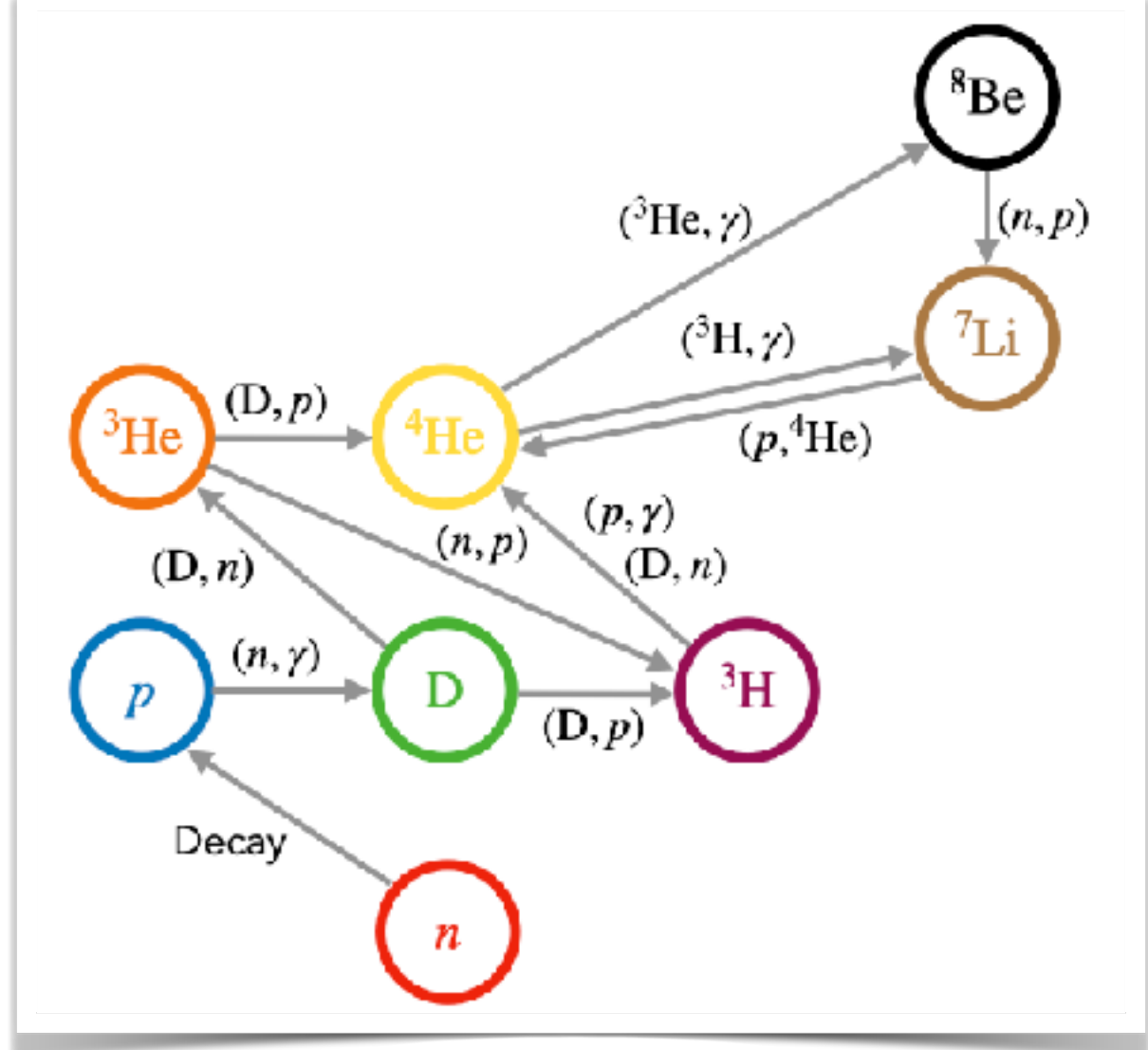


Neutron decay lifetime τ_n



Baryon abundance ω_b / photon-to-baryon ratio η

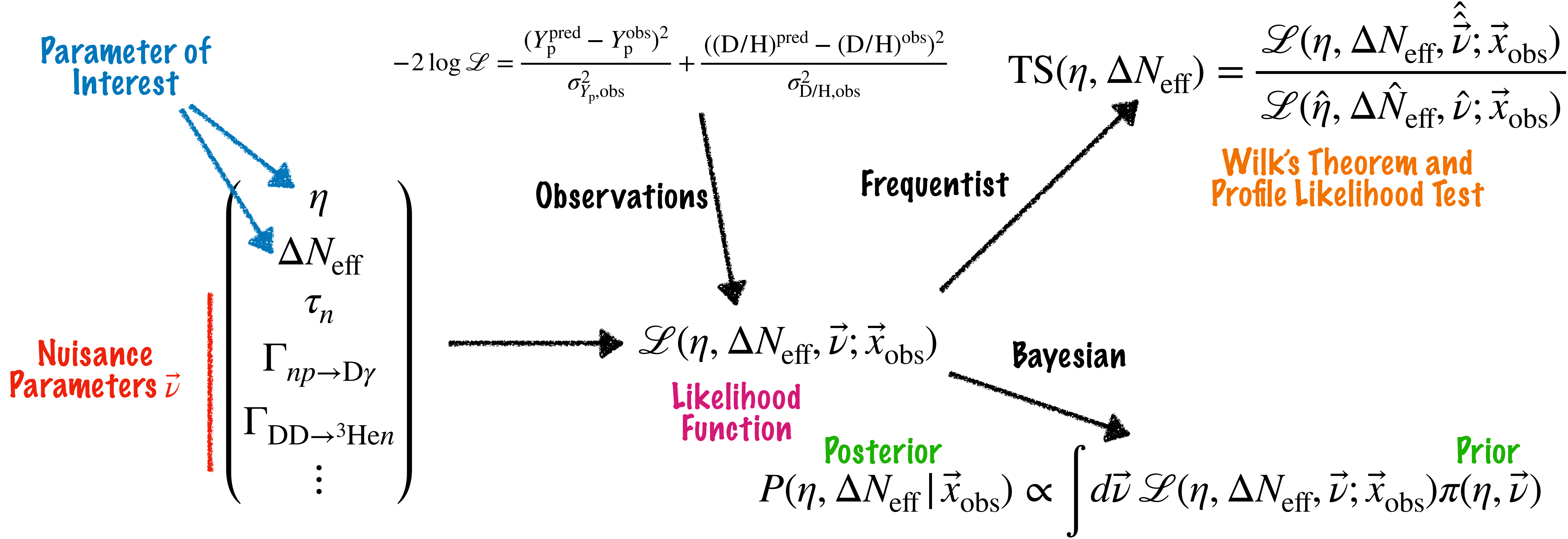
Relativistic Degrees of Freedom ΔN_{eff}



Nuclear reaction rates

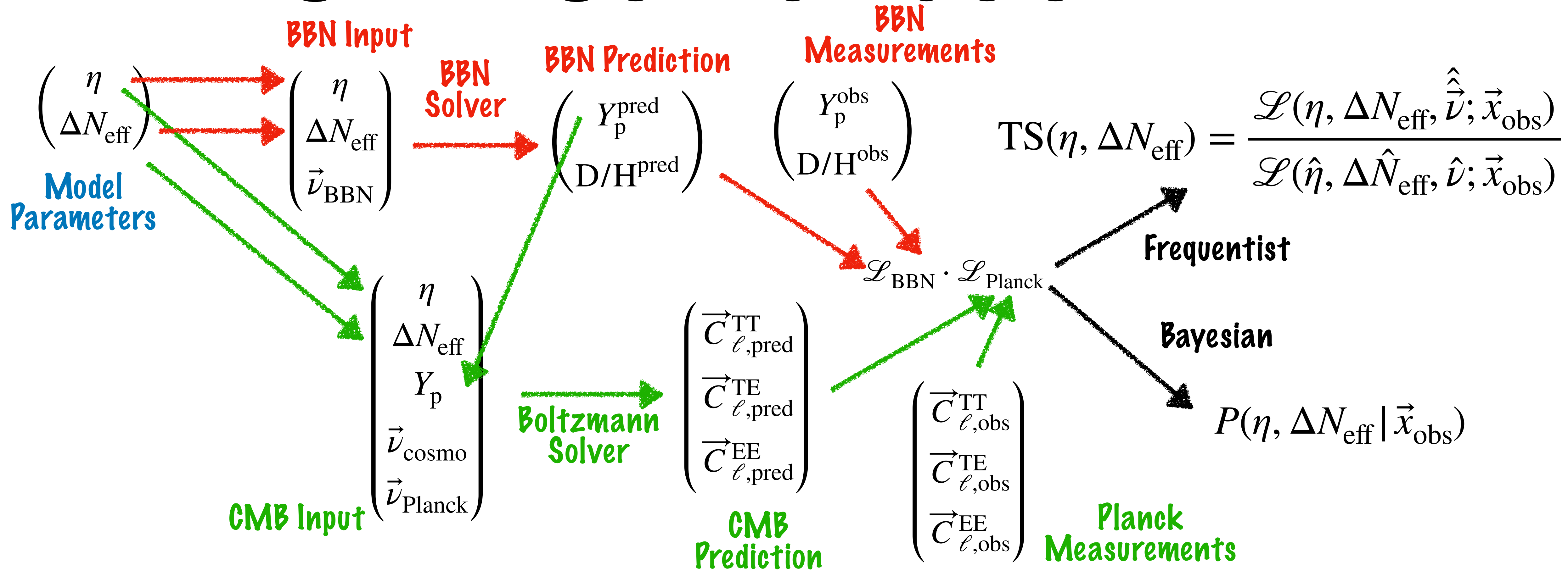
Extra energy density alters the **relation between T_γ and t** .
 BBN can test important scenarios in ways that CMB ΔN_{eff} cannot.

Principled Parameter Estimation



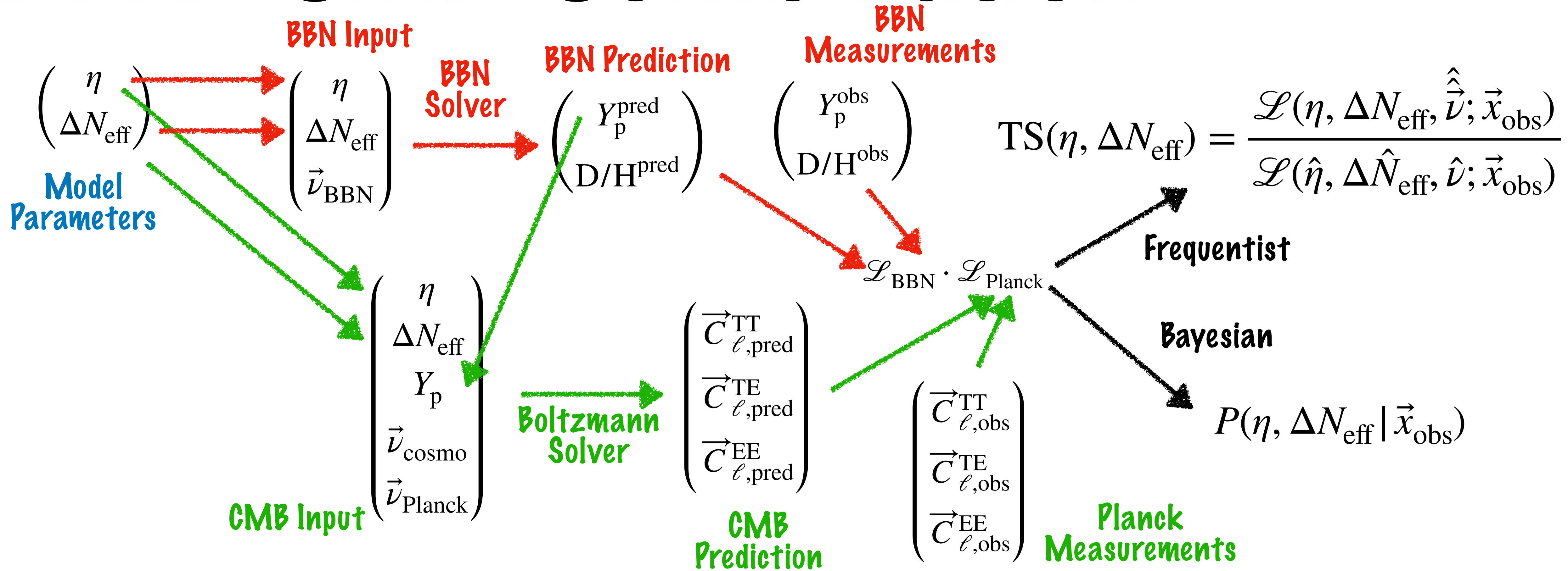
At least **14** parameters. Requires fast evaluation to explore 14-D space: **~1 second per run.**

BBN+CMB Combination



Comparable power for η and ΔN_{eff} (for inert, relativistic species).
Combination is important!

BBN+CMB Combination



BBN code should ideally be **much faster than CLASS/CAMB+Planck Likelihood.**

Existing Codes Can't Do This

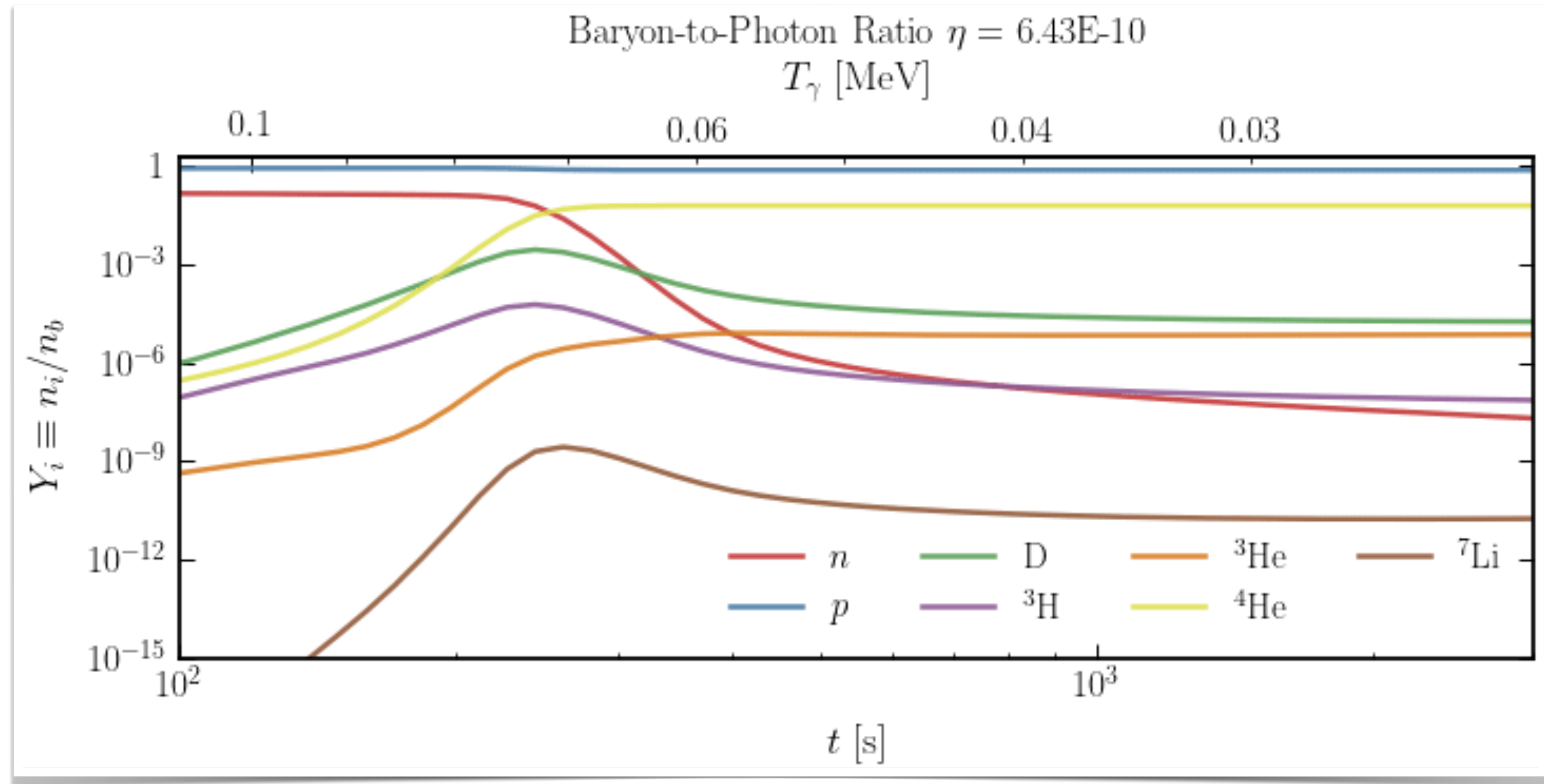
Name	Language	Time Per Solve	Comments
AlterBBN	C	< 1s	Incomplete implementation of weak rates, old nuclear rates. No BSM neutrino decoupling.
PRIMAT	Mathematica	O(10 min)	Extremely accurate, but very slow. No BSM neutrino decoupling.
PArthENoPE	Fortran	< 1s	Fast, but requires significant modification for parameter estimation. No BSM neutrino decoupling.
PRyMordial	Python	O(10 s)	Accurate. Full parameter estimation possible, but slow. Written with new physics in mind.

All current BBN codes have to **make compromises** when it comes to parameter estimation, **very significant ones** in combination with CMB.

LINX: Light Isotope Nucleosynthesis with JAX



50 evaluations:
12 seconds
after compilation
(about 50 seconds)

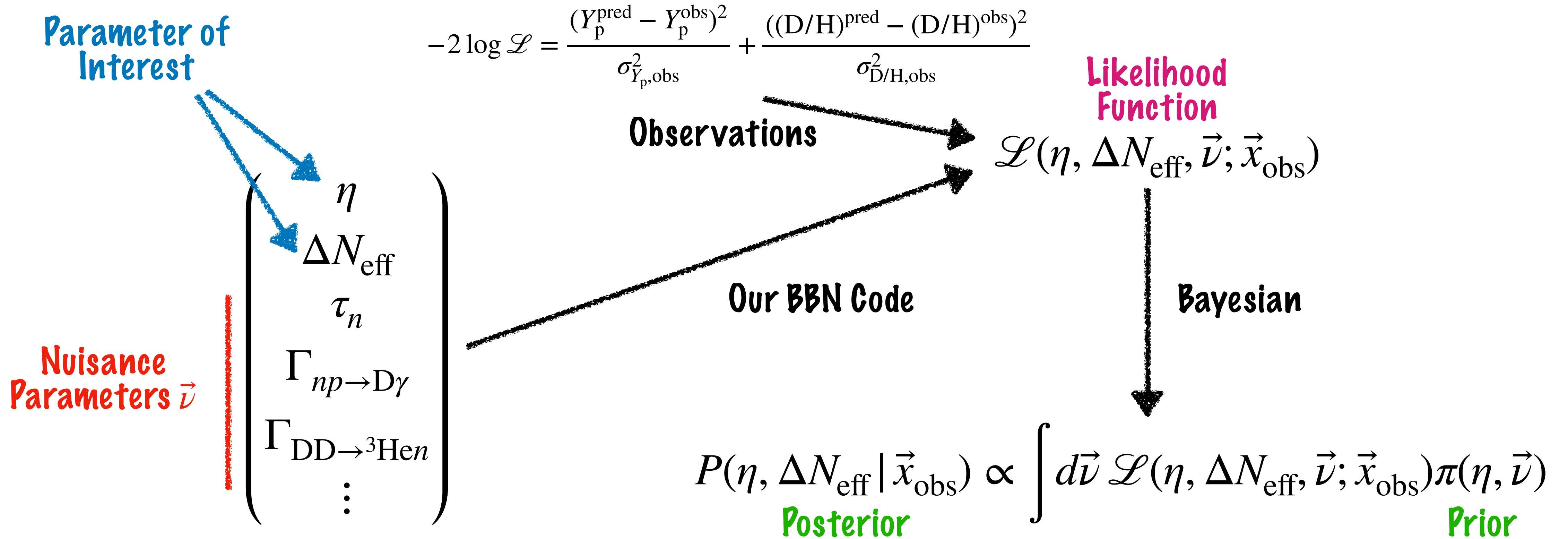


Python-based code that is **compiled**, **easily vectorized** and **differentiable**.
Makes for very fast code, but lots of “sharp bits” to avoid.

Existing, Open Source Codes

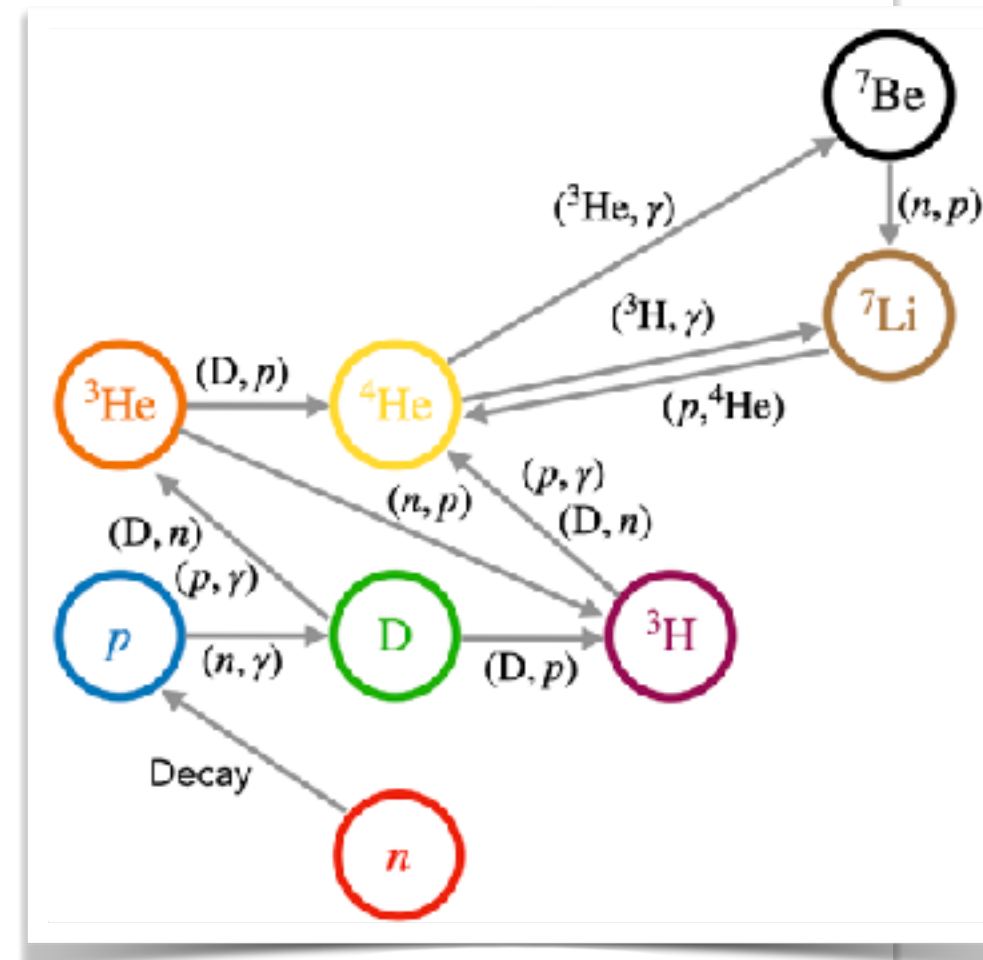
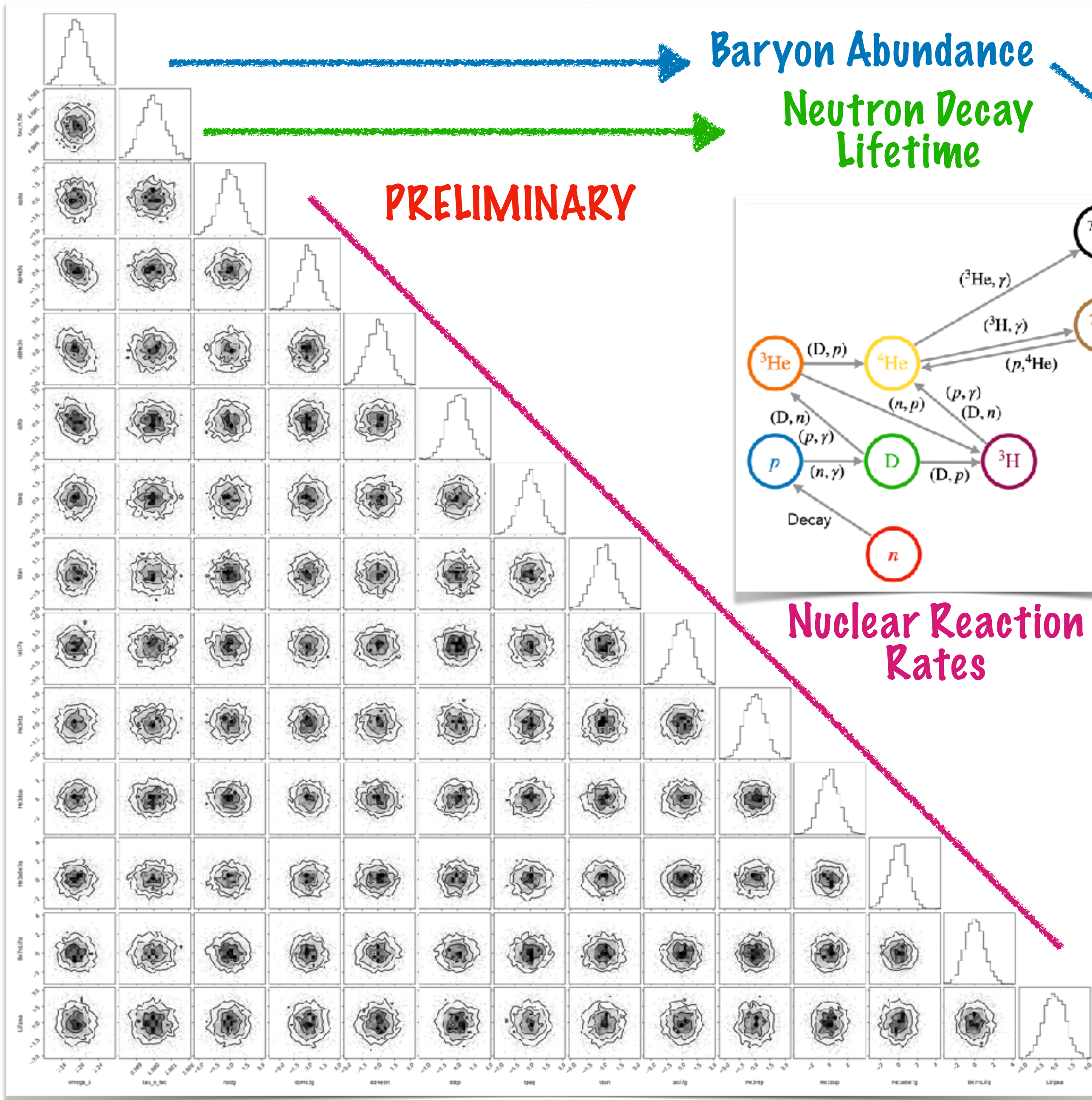
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PRyMordial	Python	O(10 s)	Accurate. Full parameter estimation possible, but slow. Written with new physics in mind.
LINX	Python+JAX	O(0.1s)	Inspired by PRyMordial: equally accurate. Fast enough for MCMC methods.

BBN-Only Procedure

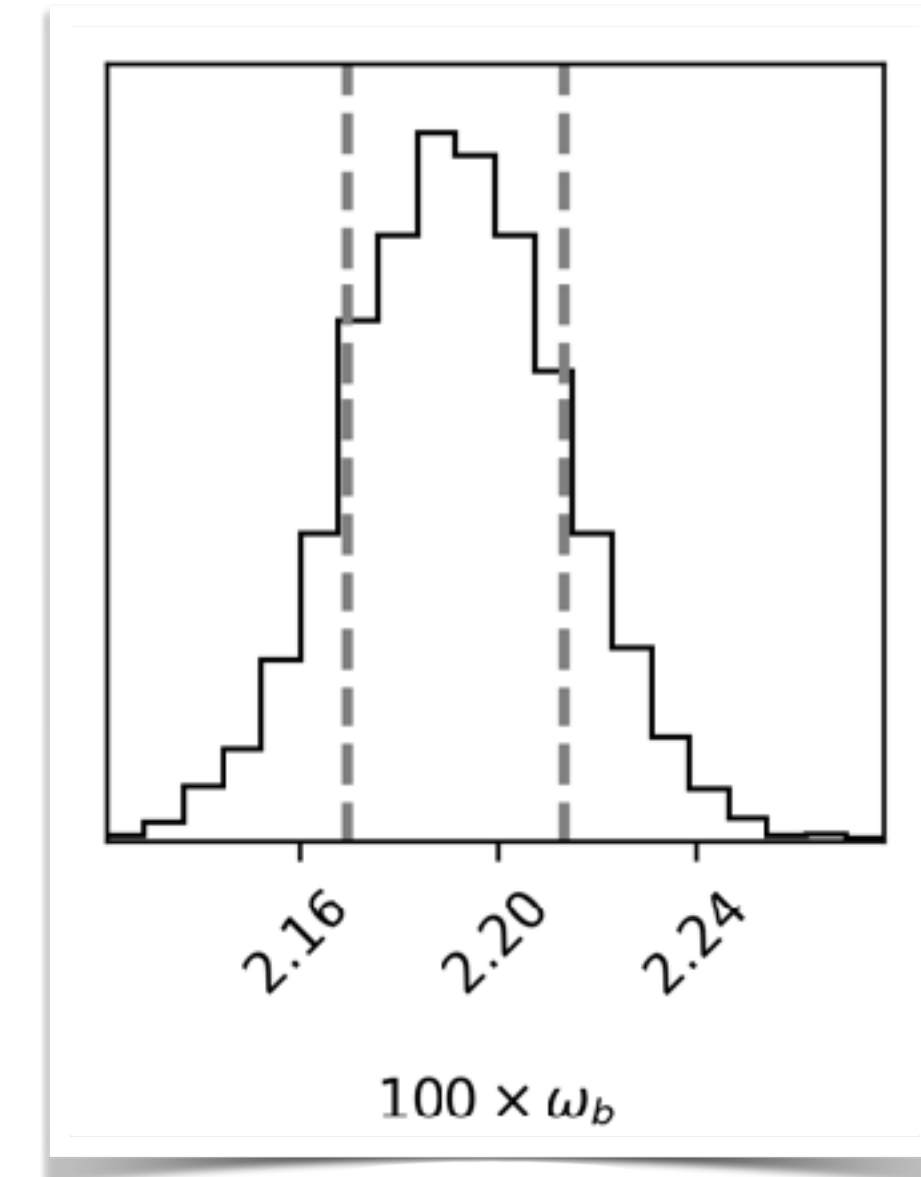


Posterior estimation using **nested sampling**. Rapid evaluation using our code.

BBN-Only, Baryon Abundance



Nuclear Reaction Rates



$$100\Omega_b h^2 = 2.192 \pm 0.022$$

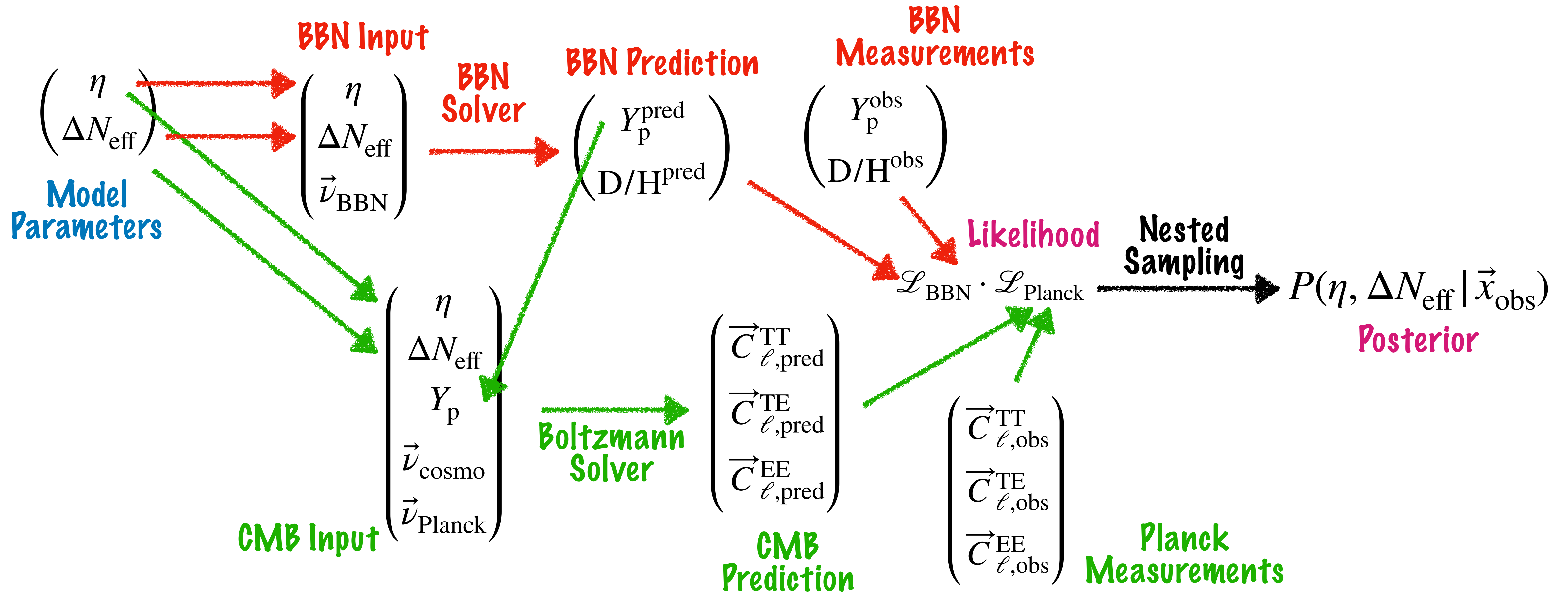
Takes **3 CPU-hours**. Estimated to be **100x faster** than P_RY_Mordial (**10⁴x** faster than PRIMAT).

BBN Only, Baryon Abundance

Analysis	$100\Omega_b h^2$
LINX , PRIMAT Rates	2.192 ± 0.022 (Preliminary)
PRyMordial, PRIMAT Rates (Schöneberg)	2.195 ± 0.021
LINX , NACREII Rates	2.234 ± 0.058 (Preliminary)
PRyMordial, NACREII Rates (Schöneberg)	2.231 ± 0.055
Yeh+	2.209 ± 0.043
CMB, LCDM + Y_p	2.236 ± 0.020

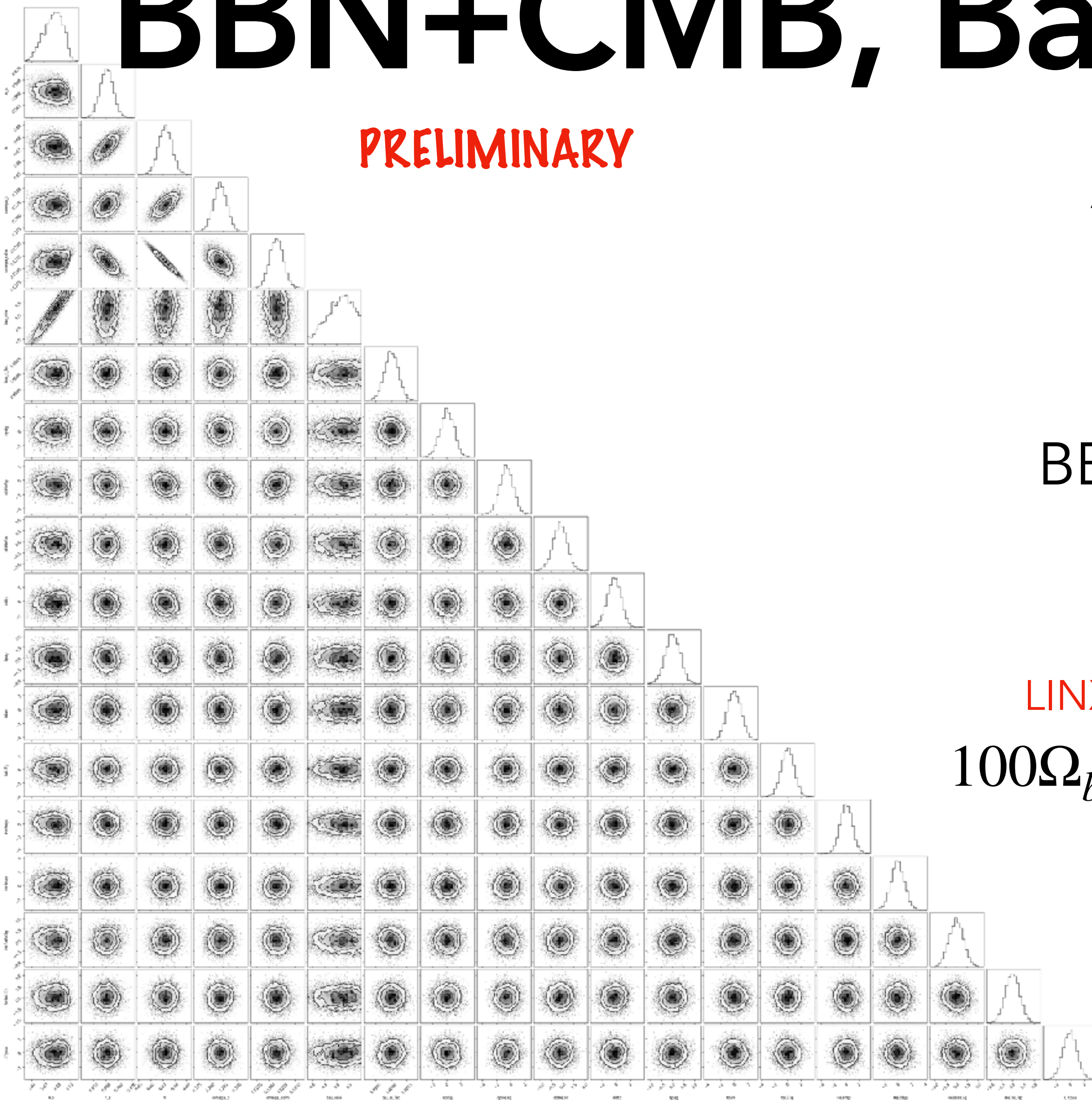
Good agreement with previous analyses with full marginalization over rates.
Some scatter depending on choice of rates/codes/observations.

BBN+CMB Procedure



BBN+CMB, Baryon Abundance

PRELIMINARY



At least **19 parameters** to vary. Many more if we include Planck nuisance parameters.

BBN analysis approaching **the same rigor as CMB analyses**: important for 1% precision that we already have.

LINX BBN Only (PRIMAT)

$$100\Omega_b h^2 = 2.192 \pm 0.022$$

Planck CMB Only

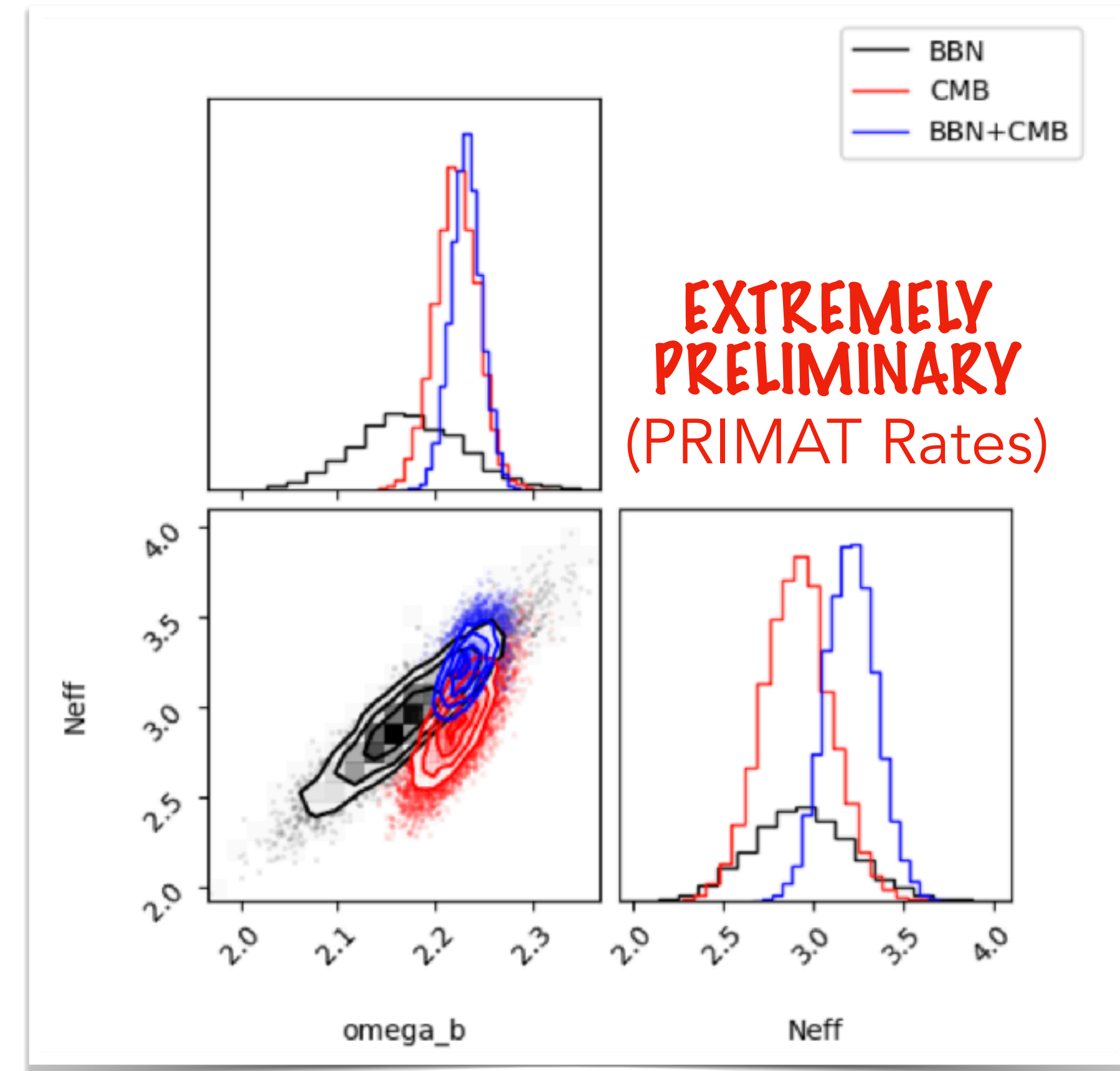
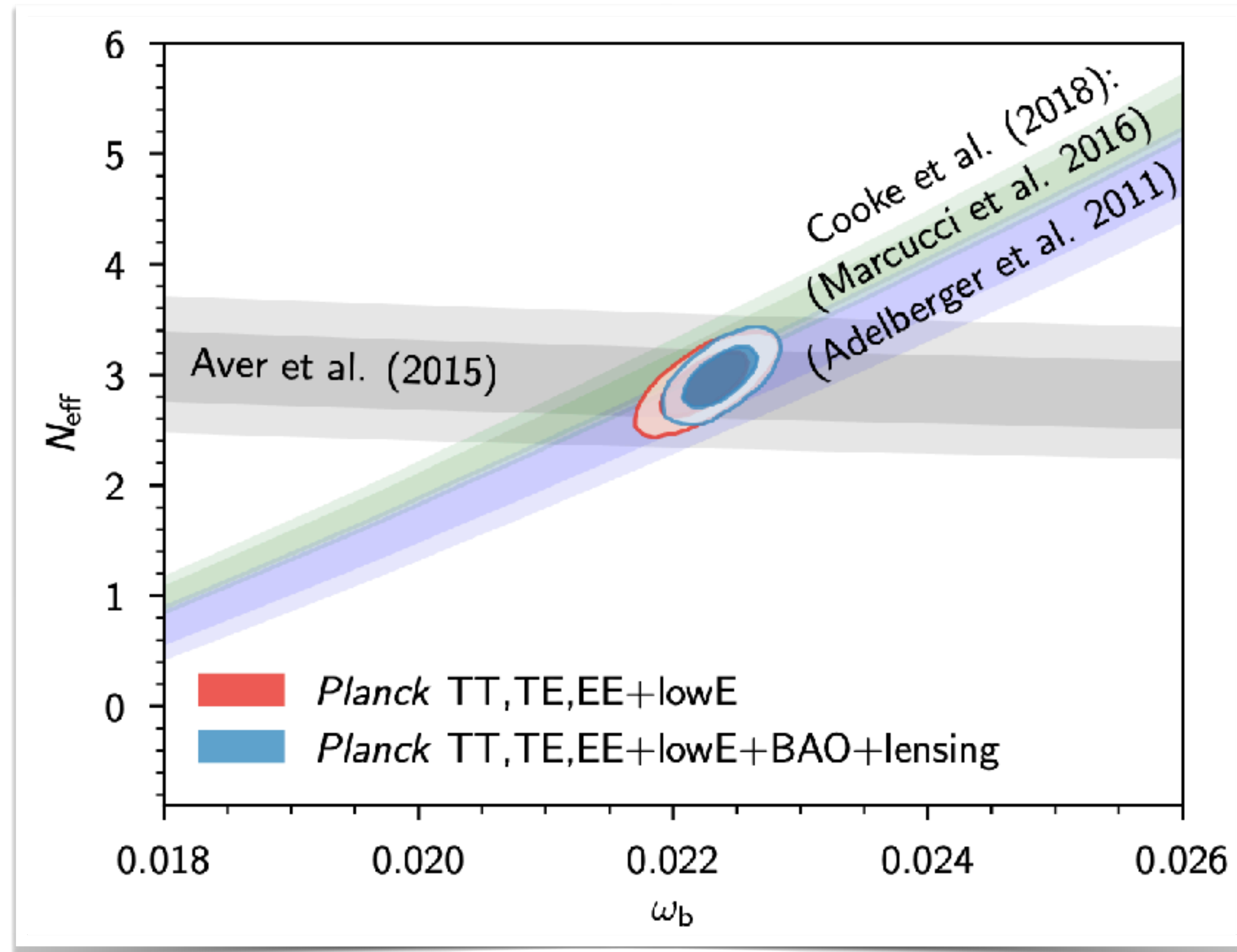
$$100\Omega_b h^2 = 2.236 \pm 0.015$$

LINX BBN (PRIMAT)+Planck CMB

$$100\Omega_b h^2 = 2.219 \pm 0.012$$

Note that using PRIMAT rates, there is a tension between CMB and BBN.

BBN+CMB, η and ΔN_{eff}

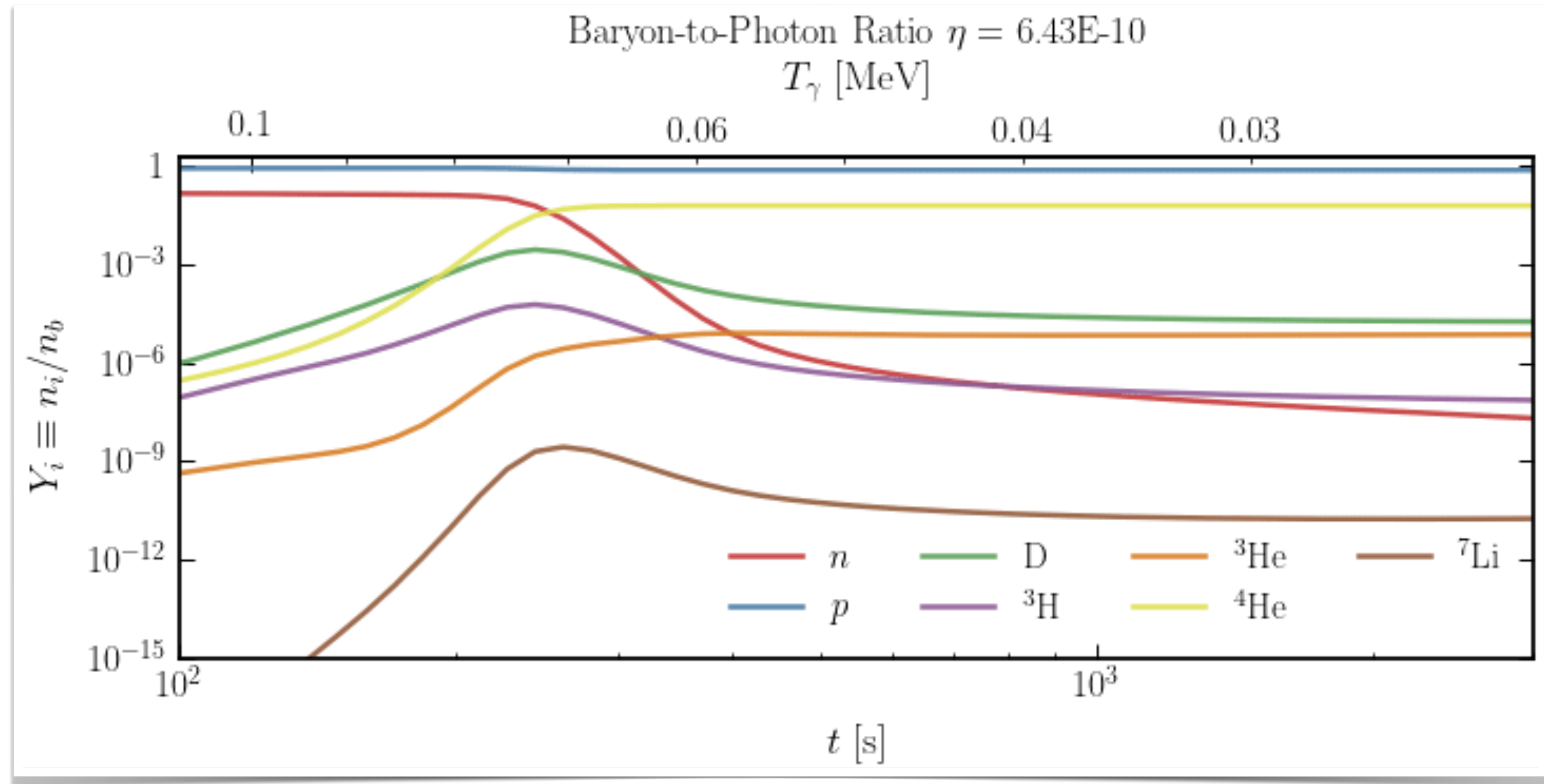


Constraining power about equal currently: important to combine properly!
 We can do so, **including over all Planck nuisance parameters.**

JAX: High-Performance Array Computing



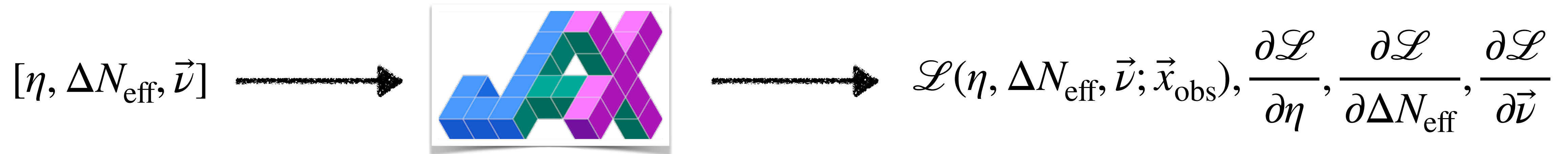
50 evaluations:
12 seconds
after compilation
(about 50 seconds)



Python-based code that is **compiled, easily vectorized** and **differentiable**.

Makes for very fast code, but lots of "sharp bits" to avoid.

Differentiable Code



JAX can automatically compute the derivative of any function, enabling the use of **significantly faster MCMC techniques**. This is the future of parameter estimation!

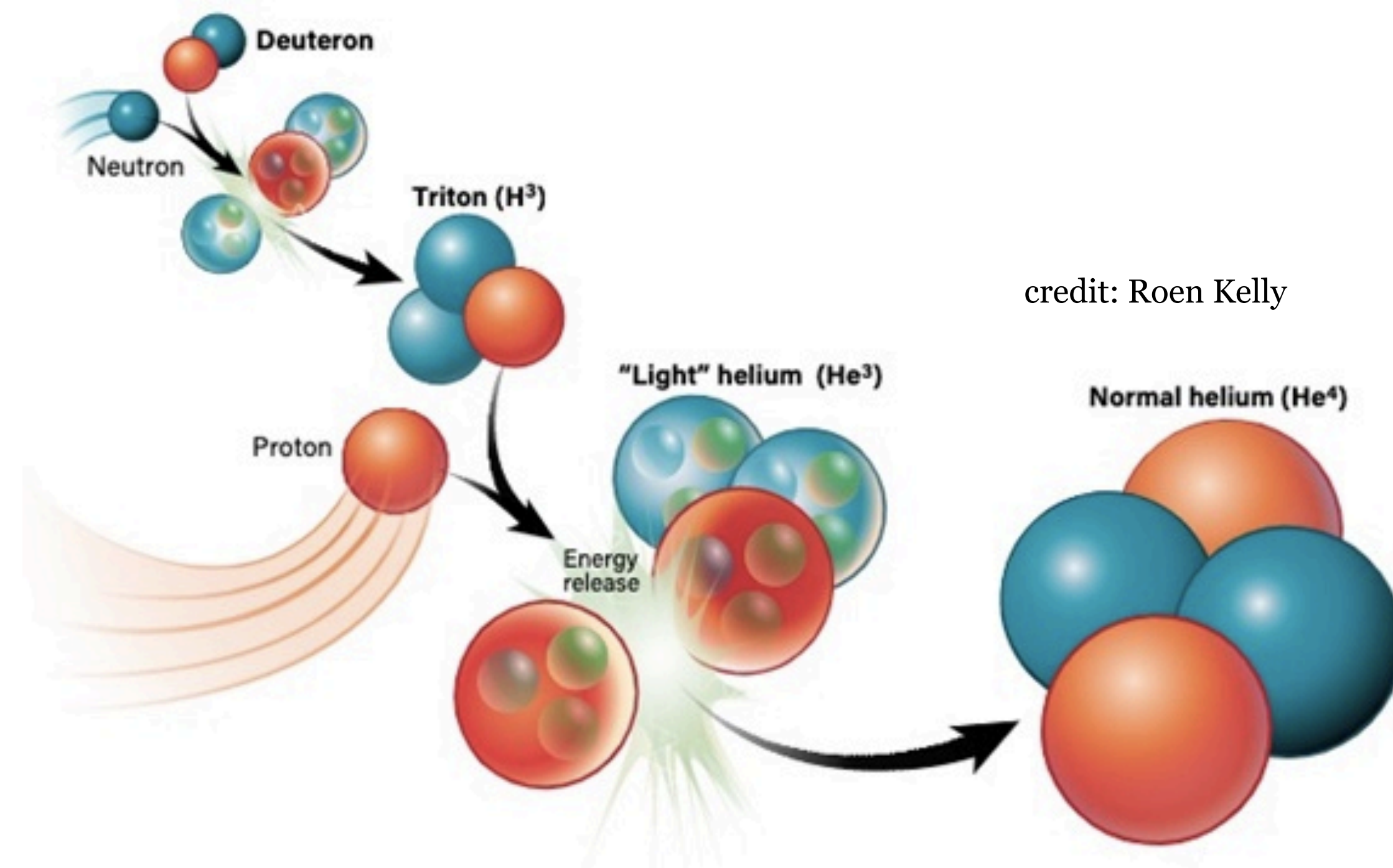


LINUX enables fast parameter estimation for BBN, at the same level of rigor as CMB.

Looking forward: new physics,
model-independent constraints.



Backup Slides



credit: Roen Kelly


$T \gg Q$: Free Protons and Neutrons

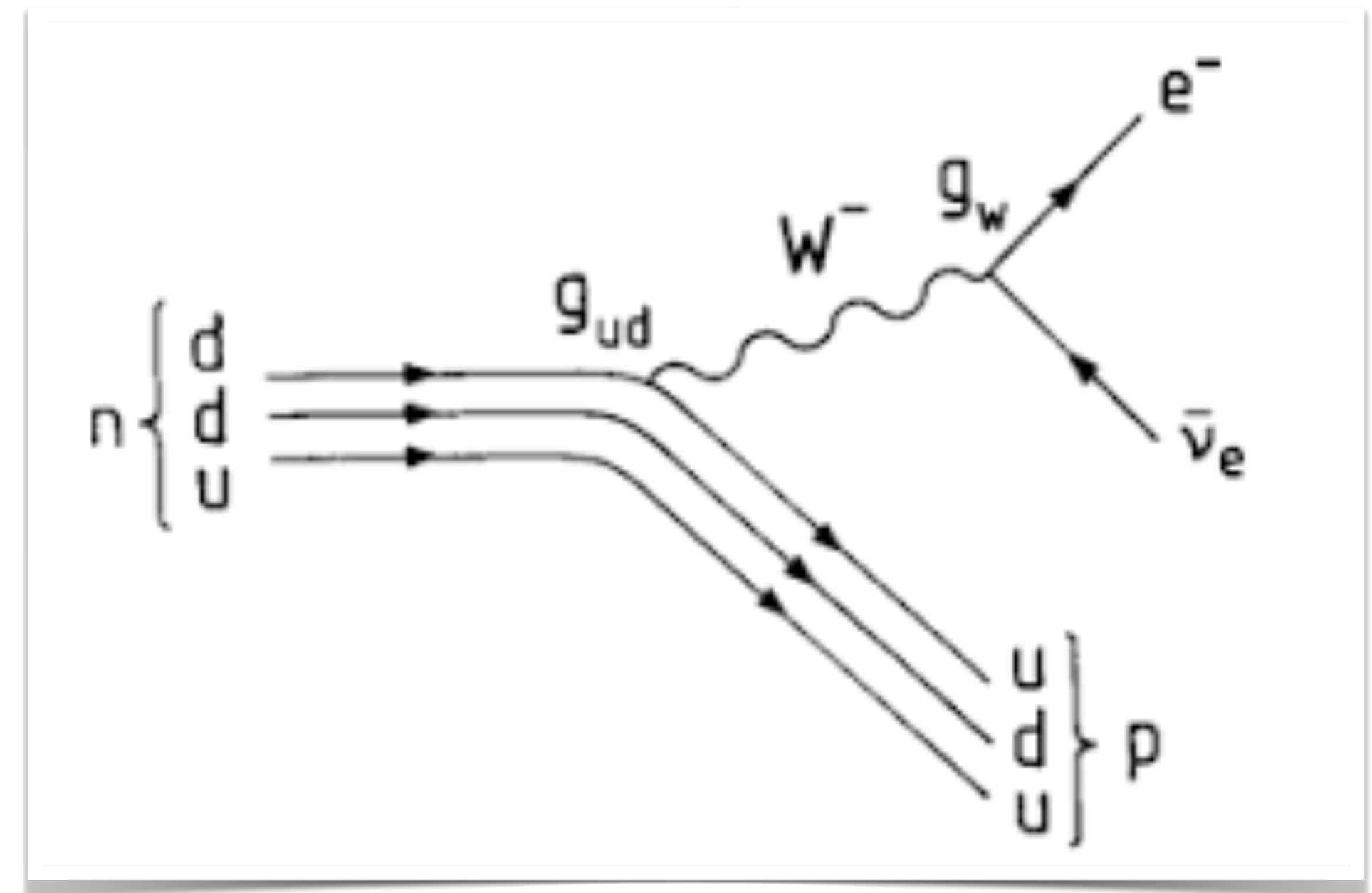
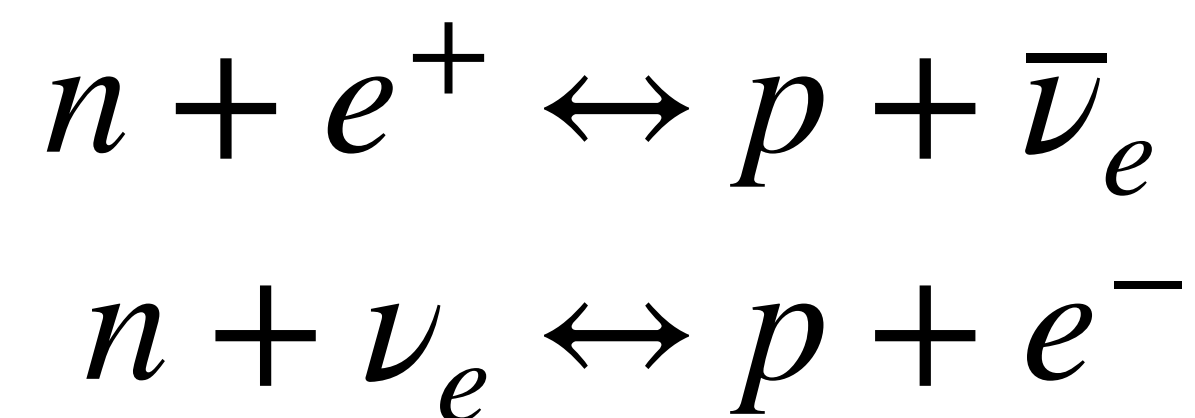
neutron

$$Q \equiv m_n - m_p$$

1.293 MeV

proton

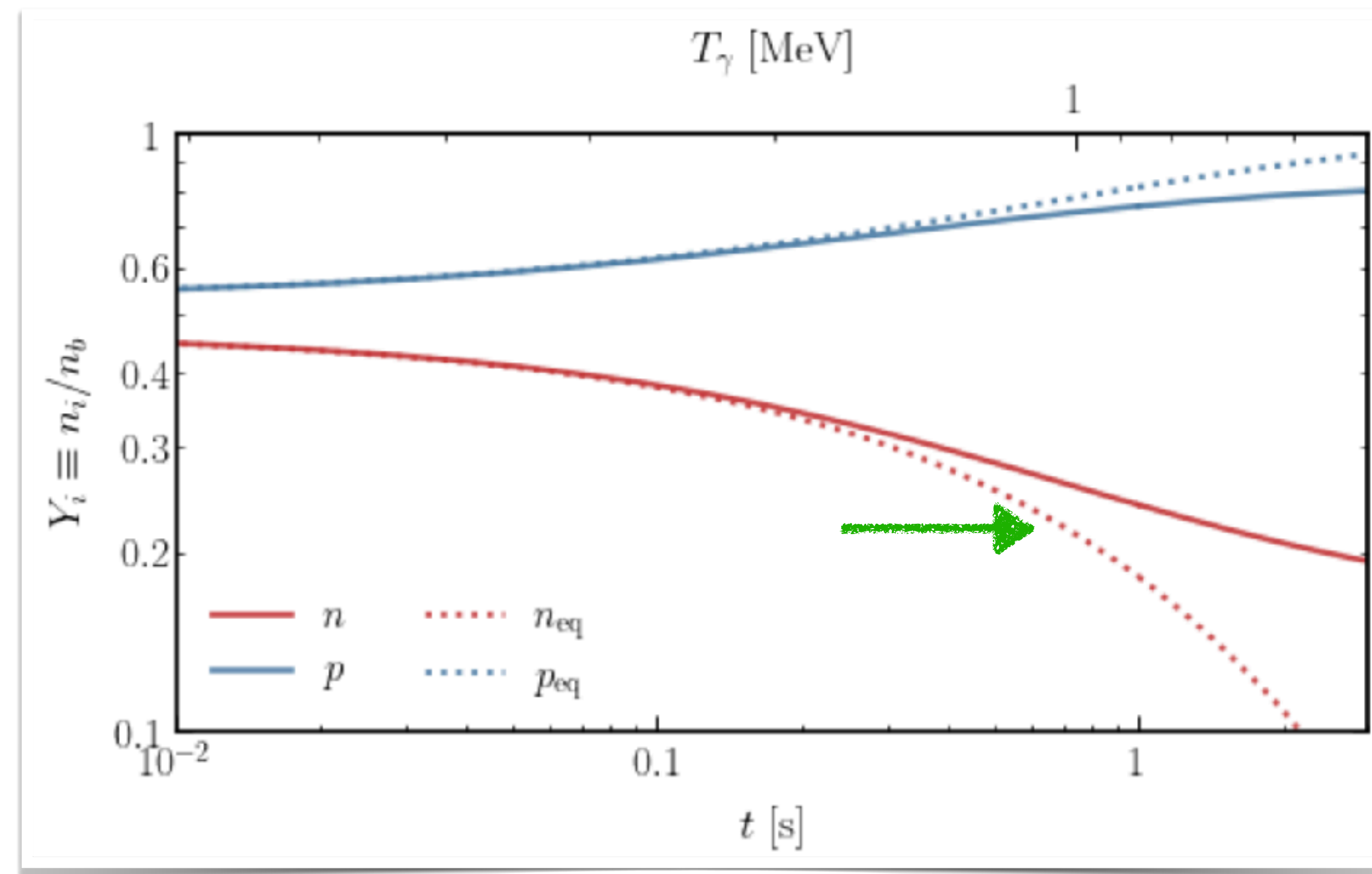
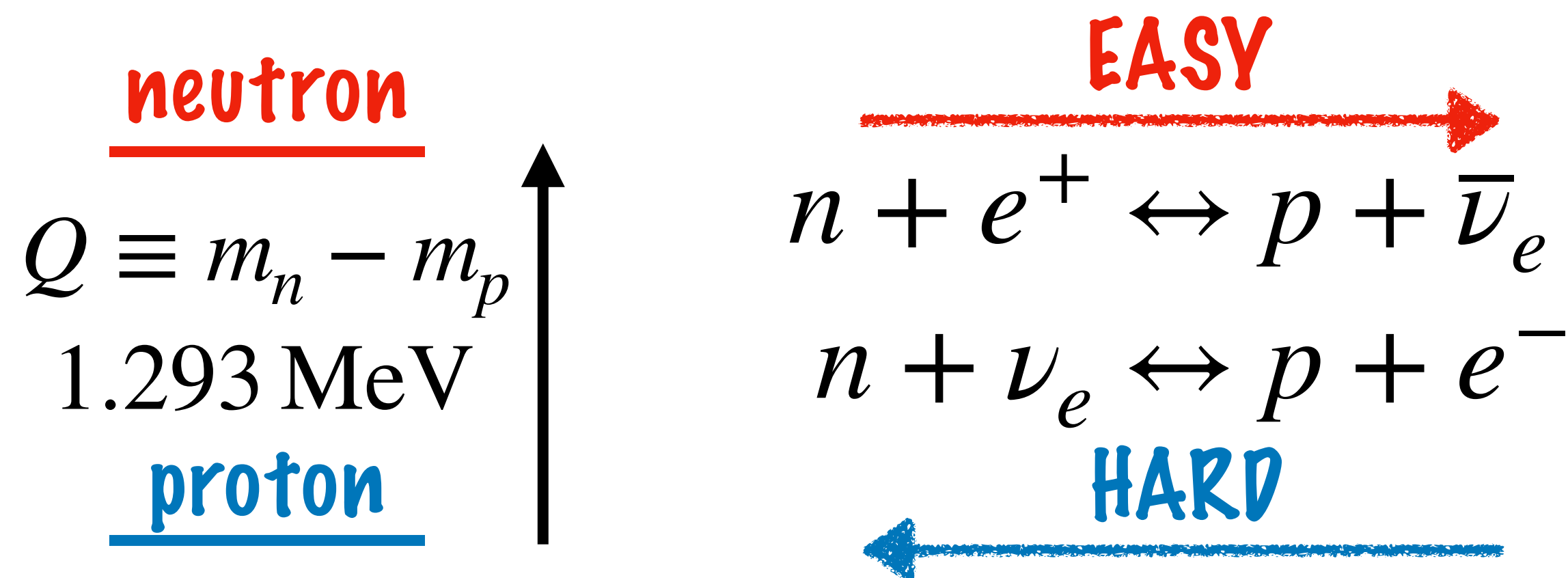




Interconversions of n and p rapid through **weak interactions**.

n and p in **chemical equilibrium**, $n_n \approx n_p$.

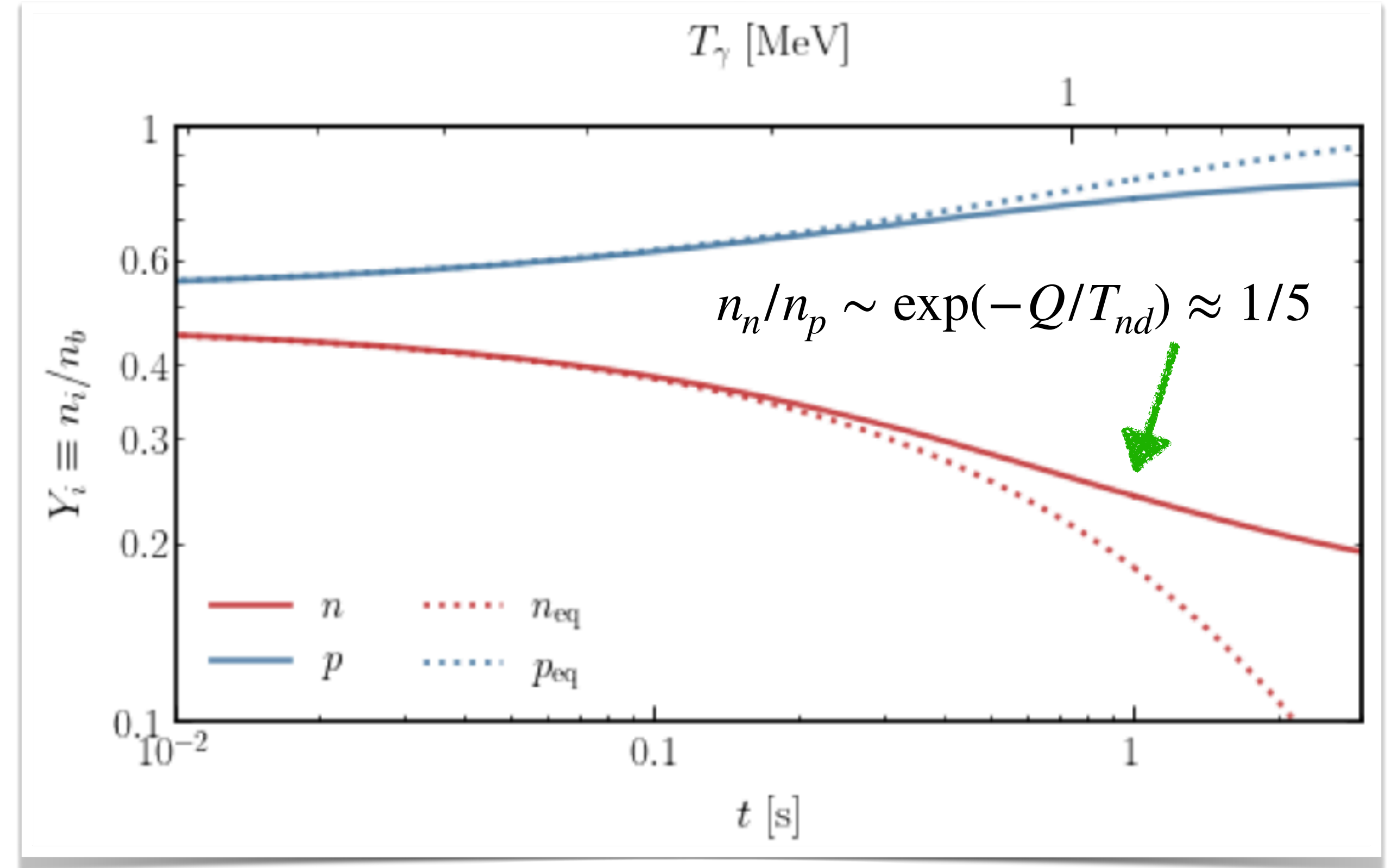
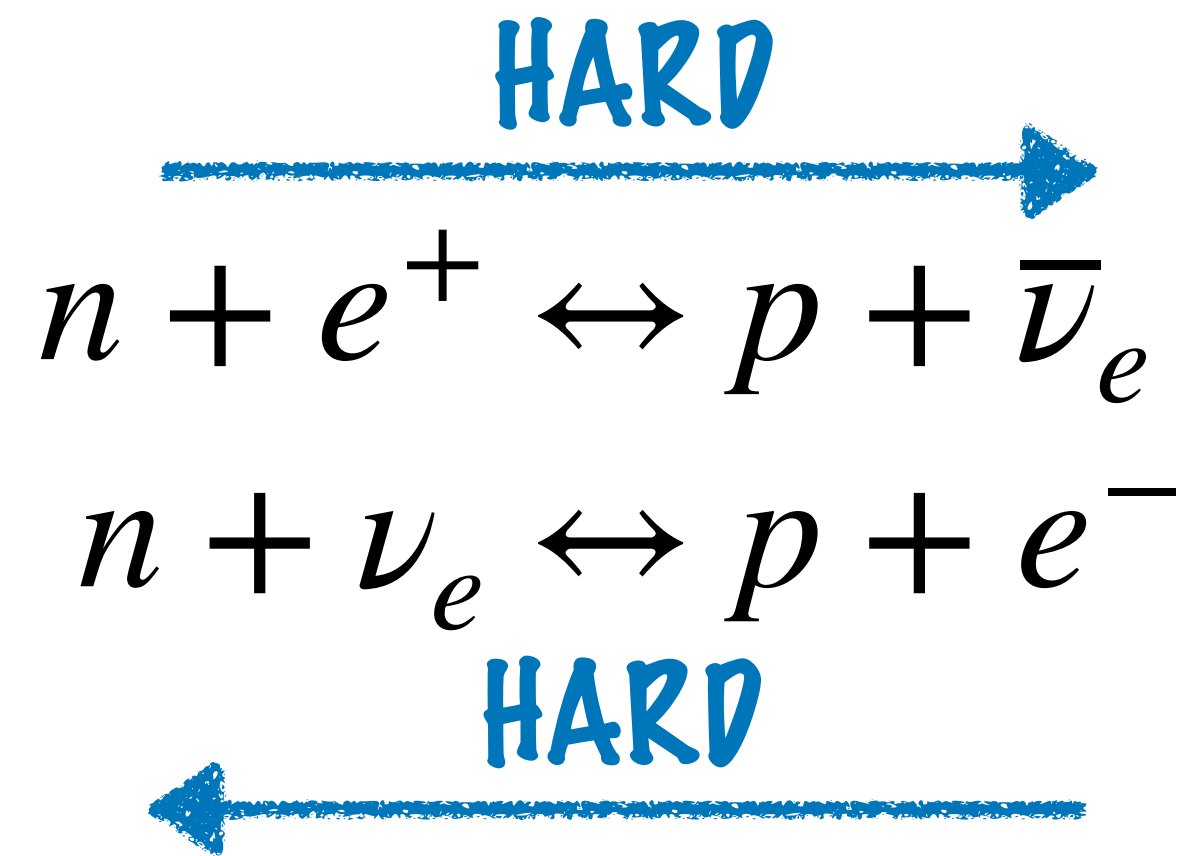
$T \sim Q: n \rightarrow p$ **Easy**, $p \rightarrow n$ **Hard**



Hard to find p with enough energy to go back to n .
 As expected from equilibrium, $n_n/n_p \sim \exp(-Q/T)$.

n Freezeout

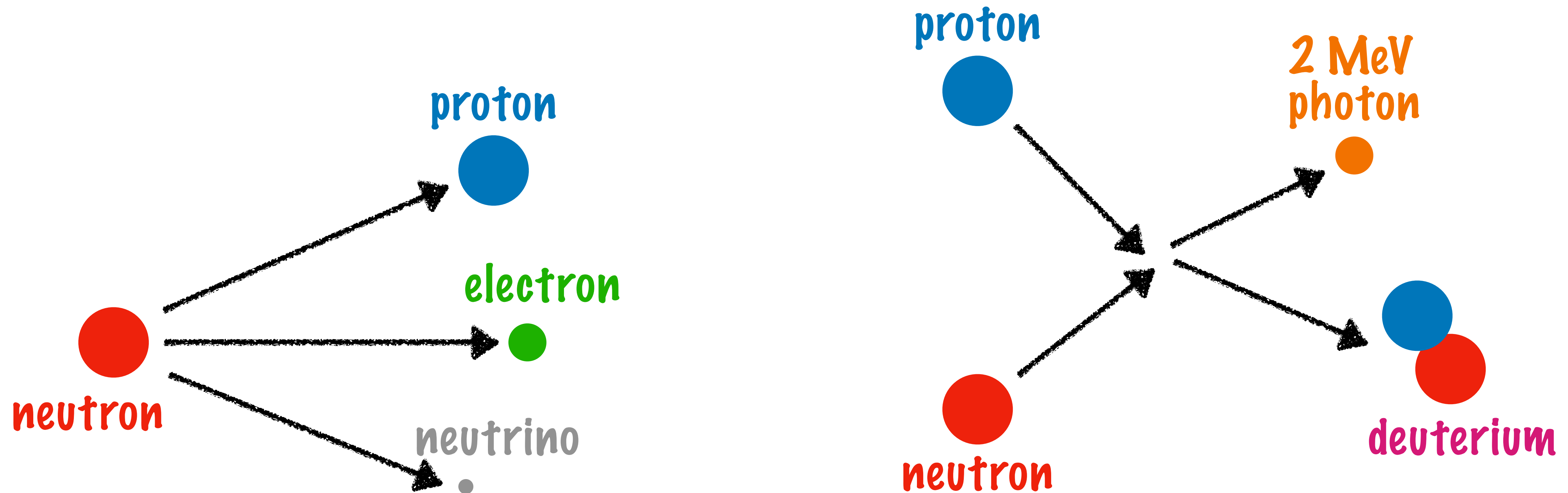
neutron
 $Q \equiv m_n - m_p$
 1.293 MeV
proton



Universe cools to $T \equiv T_{nd} \approx 0.84 \text{ MeV}$.

Interconversion now **too slow** to change n abundance over cosmic time.

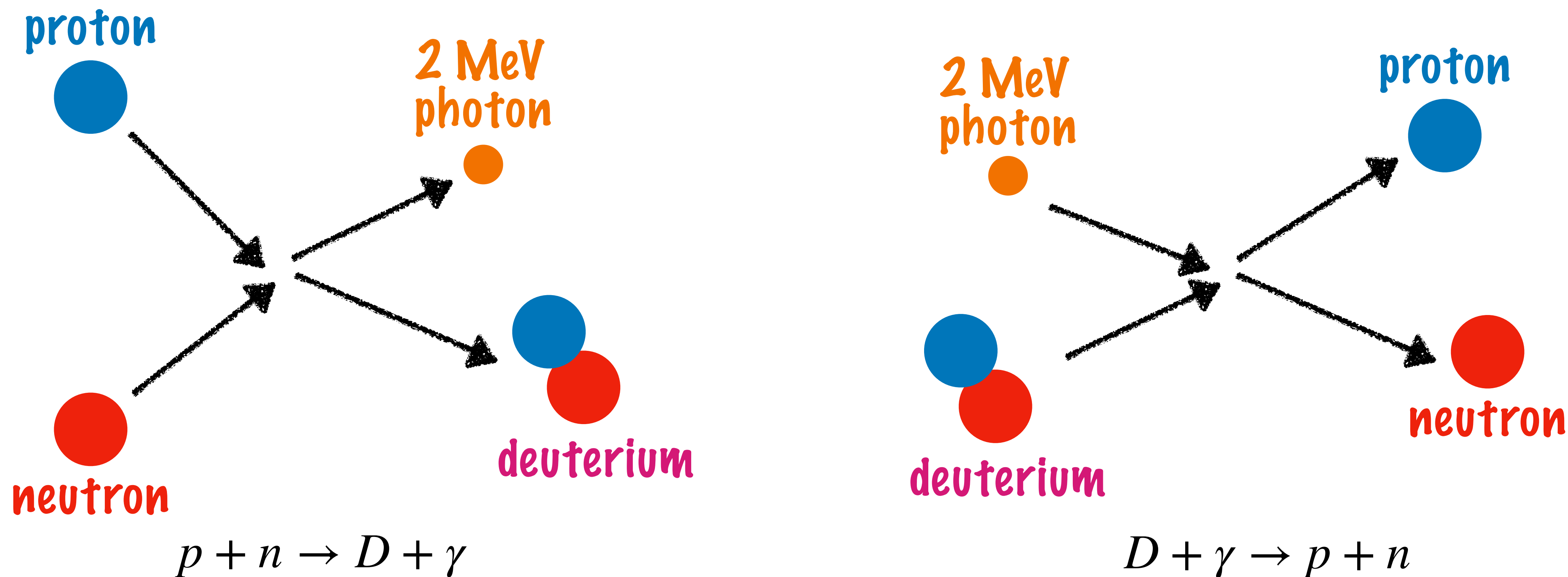
Decay or Form a Bound State



Free neutrons are **unstable**, $\tau_n = 879.4 \pm 0.6$ seconds*, but many **stable bound states**, starting with **deuterium**.

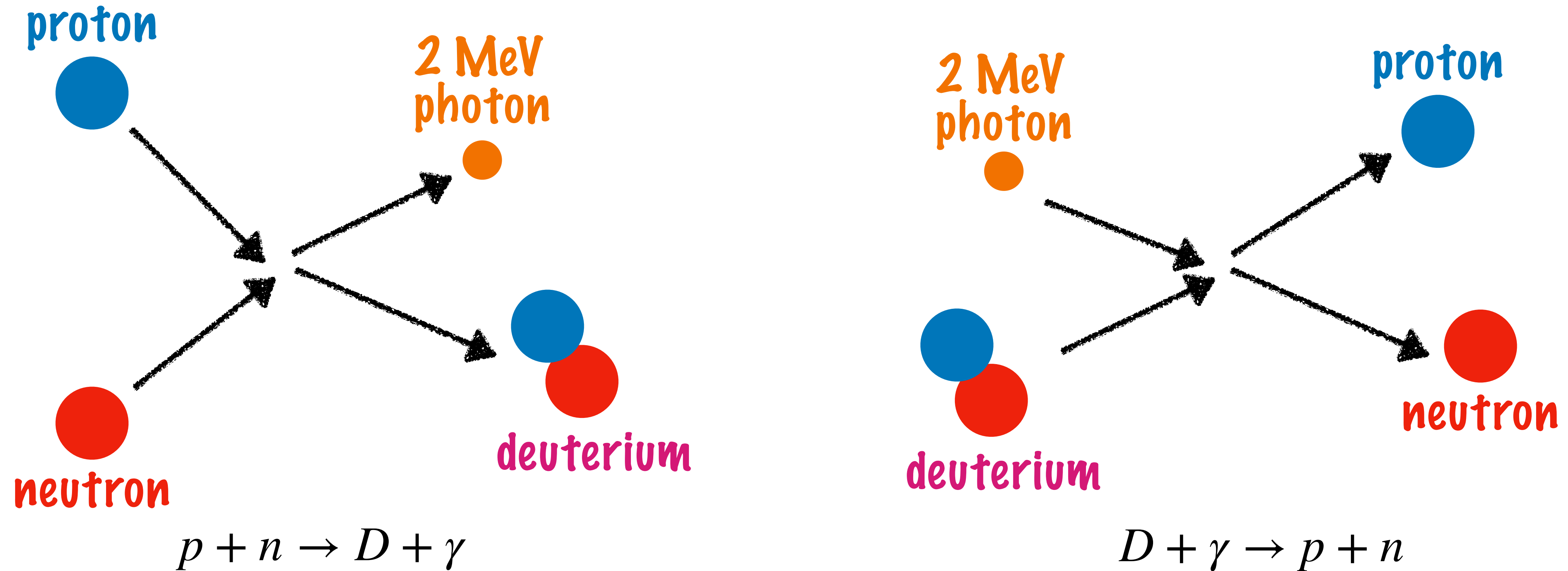
**with interesting discrepancies between inclusive/non-inclusive measurements.*

Lots of 2 MeV Photons



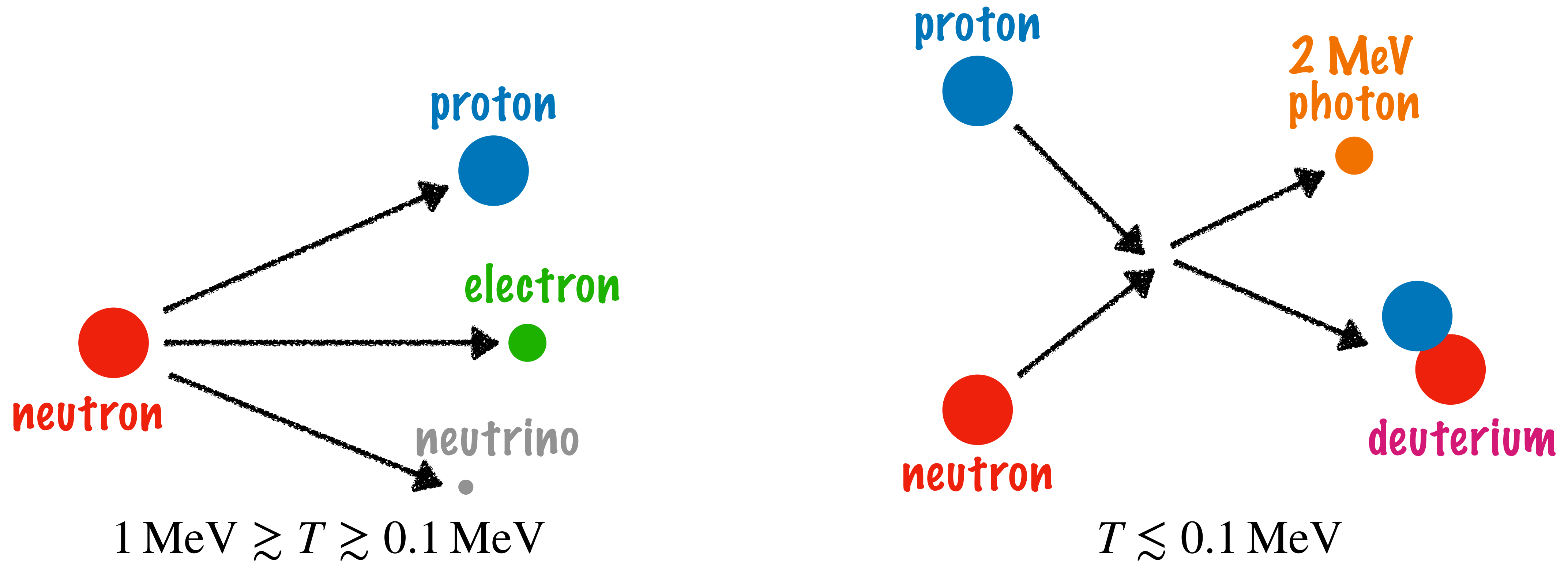
Even when $T < B_D \approx 2 \text{ MeV}$ the binding energy of D , there are still 10^{10} photons for every baryon.

n Freezeout at 1 MeV, D Forms at 0.1 MeV



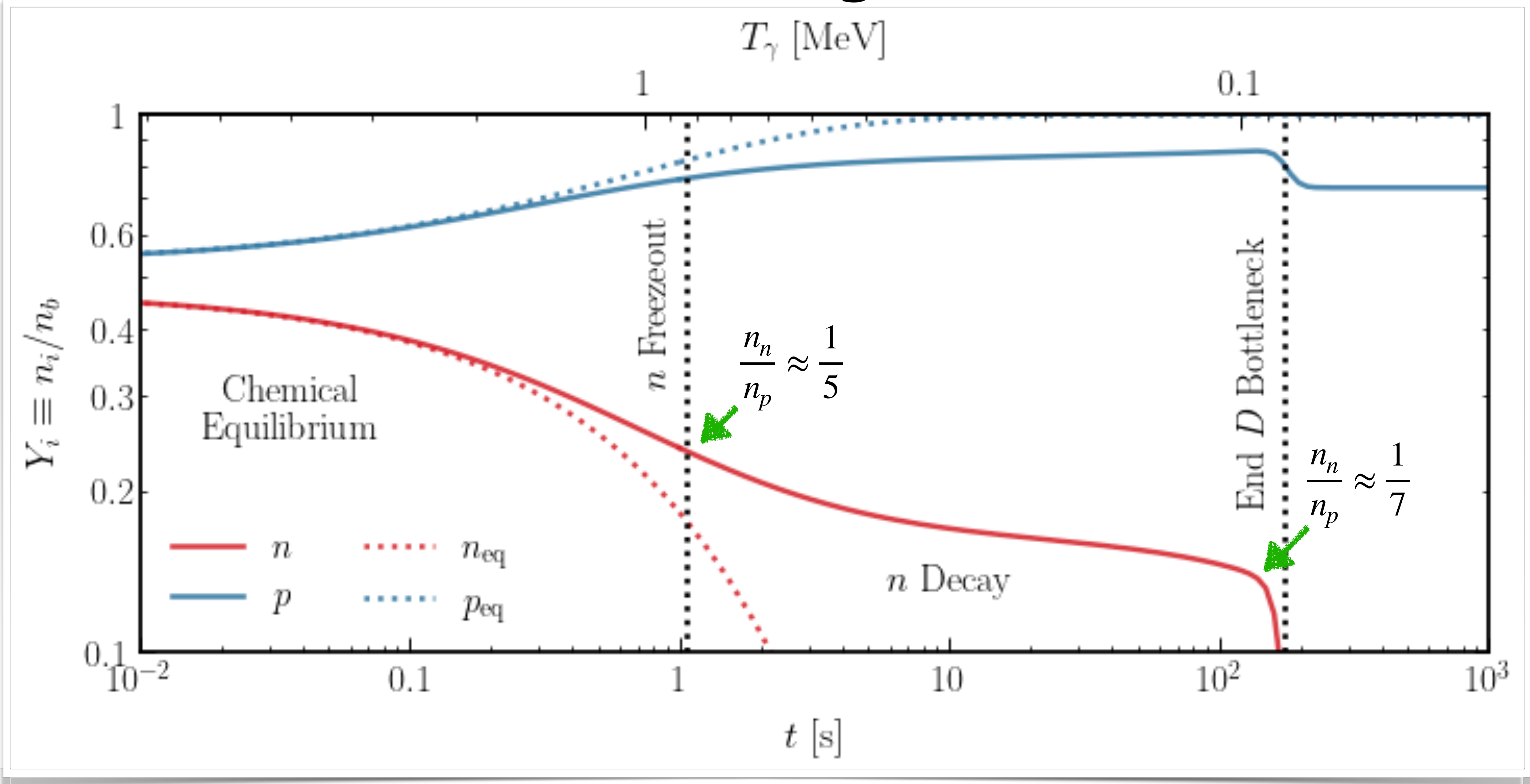
D can only form efficiently once $10^{10} e^{-B_D/T} \sim 1$, or $T \sim 0.1 \text{ MeV}$.
 This is known as the **deuterium bottleneck**.

n Decays Between 1 MeV and 0.1 MeV

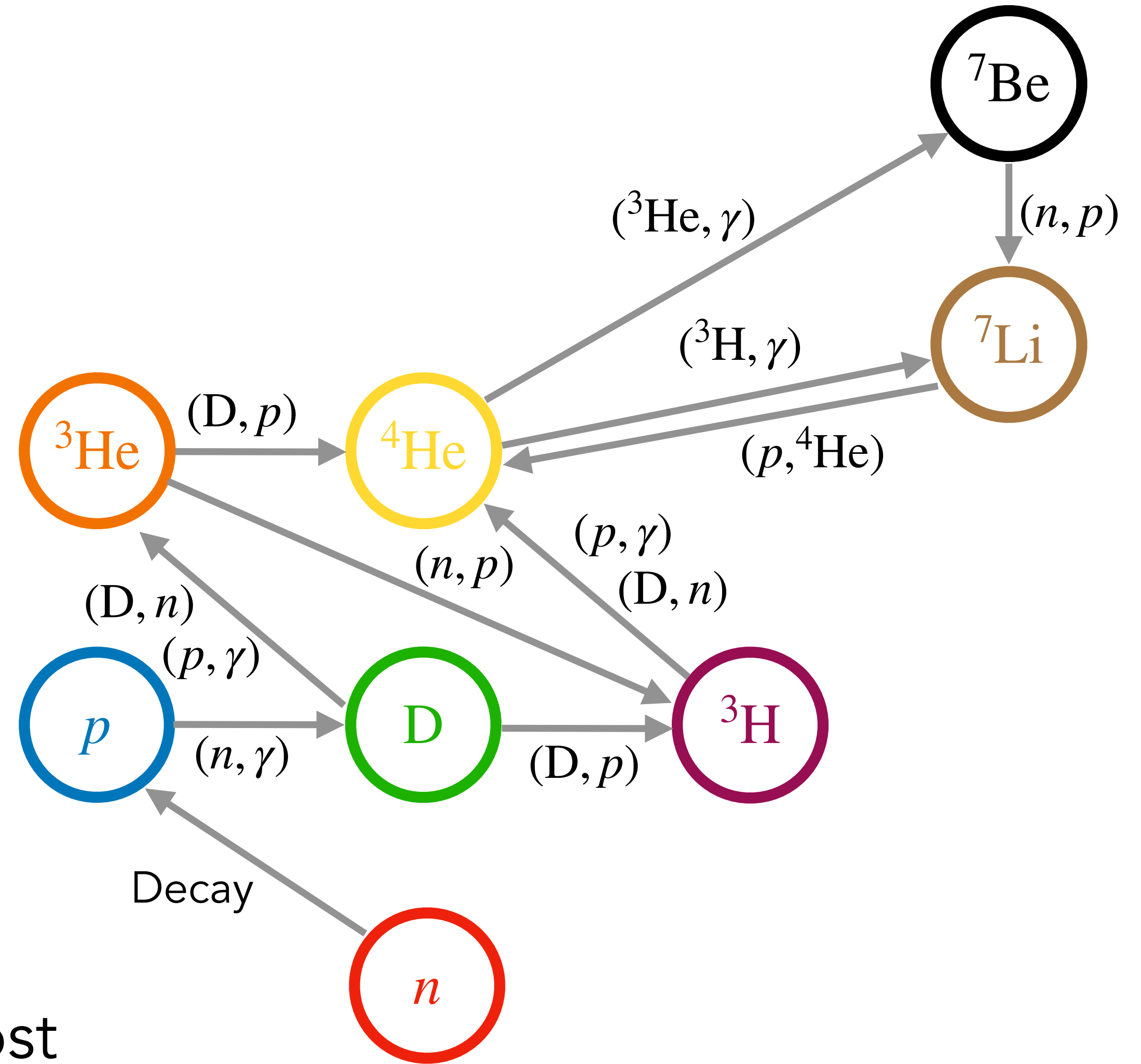
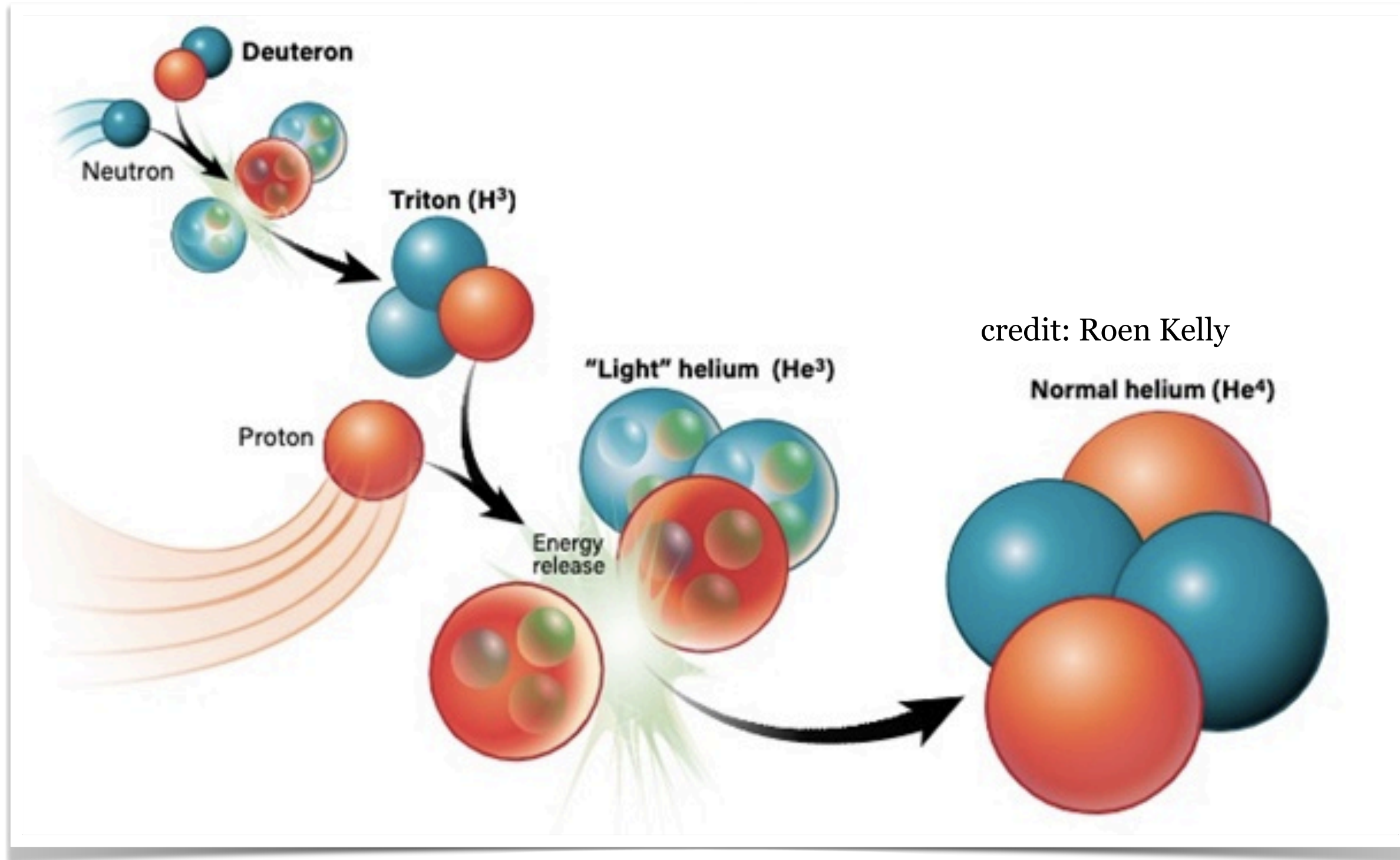


Neutrons primarily are free, and decay for $\sim 100 \text{ s}$ after freezeout, before finally getting locked away in stable nuclei.

Neutrons Summary

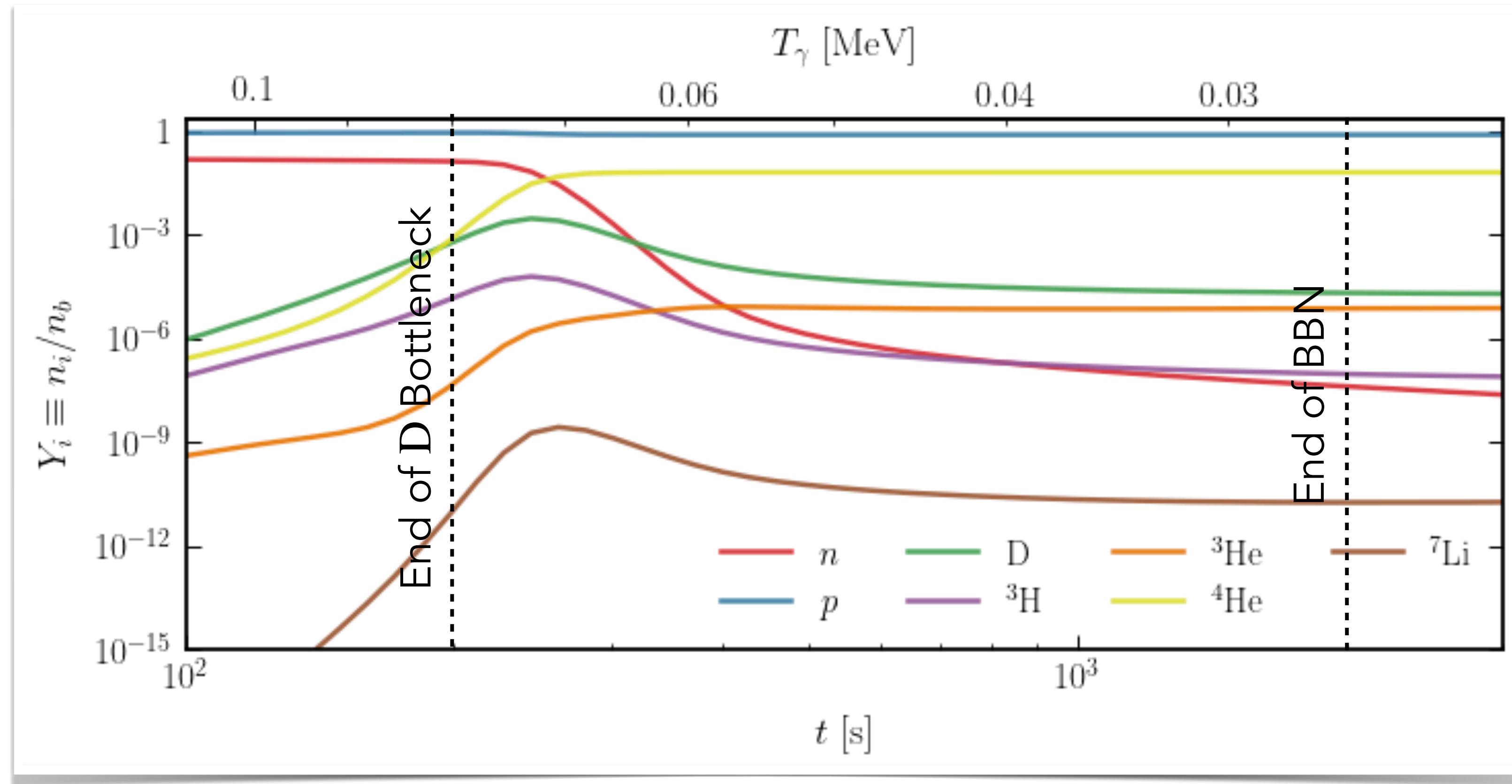


Nucleosynthesis



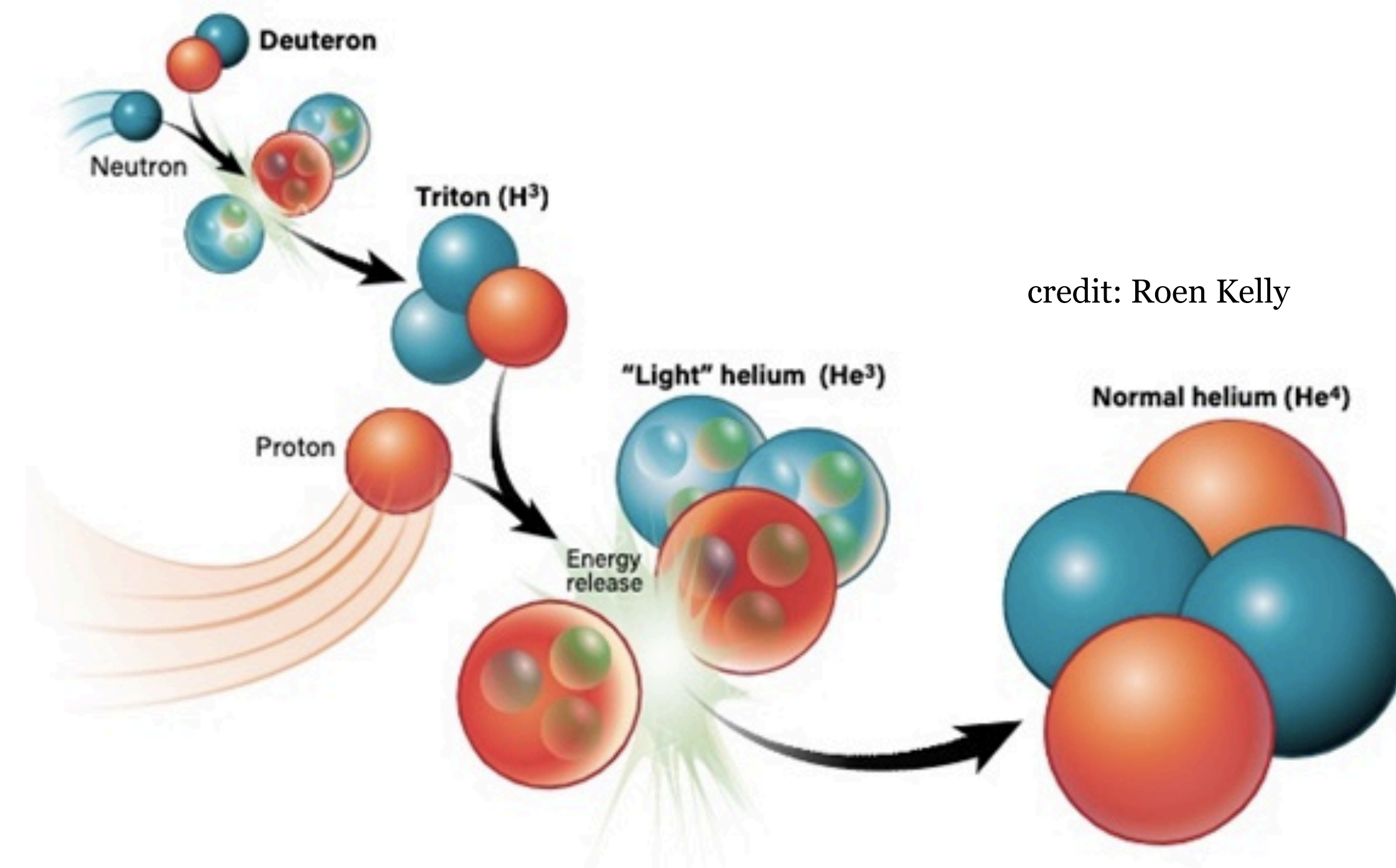
Reaction network converts neutrons into almost all **Helium-4**, the most stable light nucleus.

Nucleosynthesis

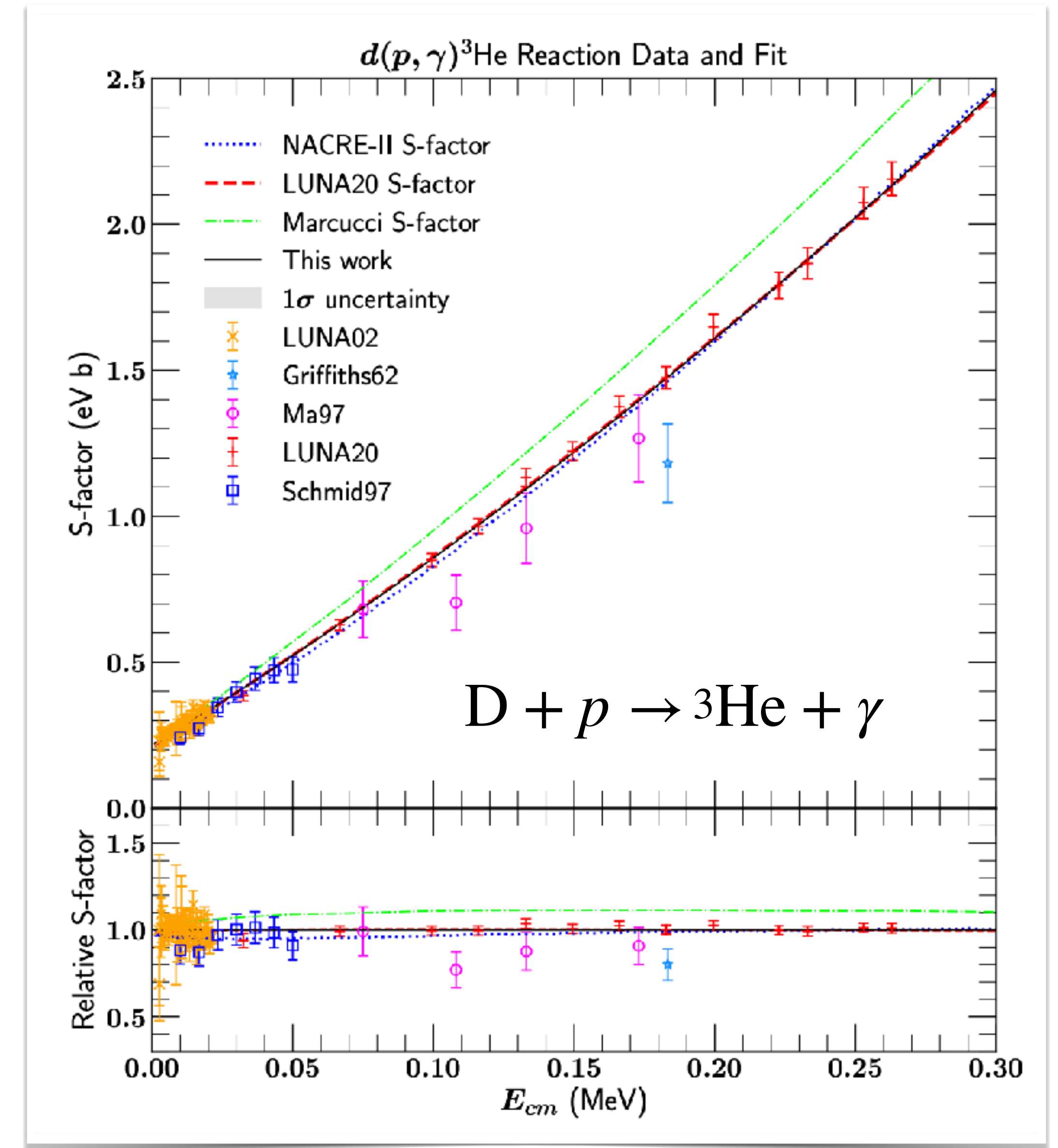
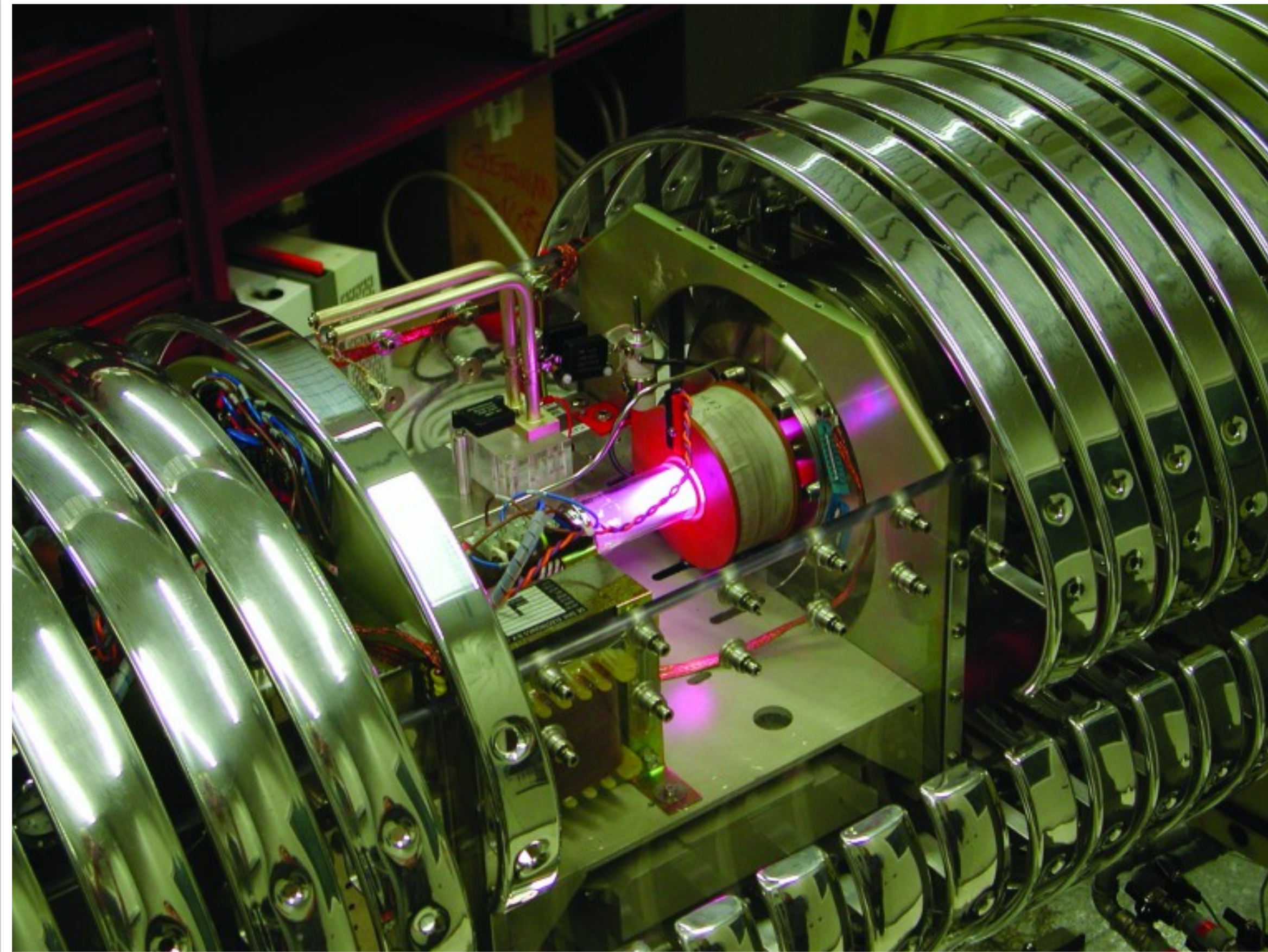


Efficient conversion from n to mostly ${}^4\text{He}$, with $n_{{}^4\text{He}}/n_b \approx (n_n/2)/n_b \approx 1/16$.
 Nuclear reactions freeze out and **primordial abundance** is reached.

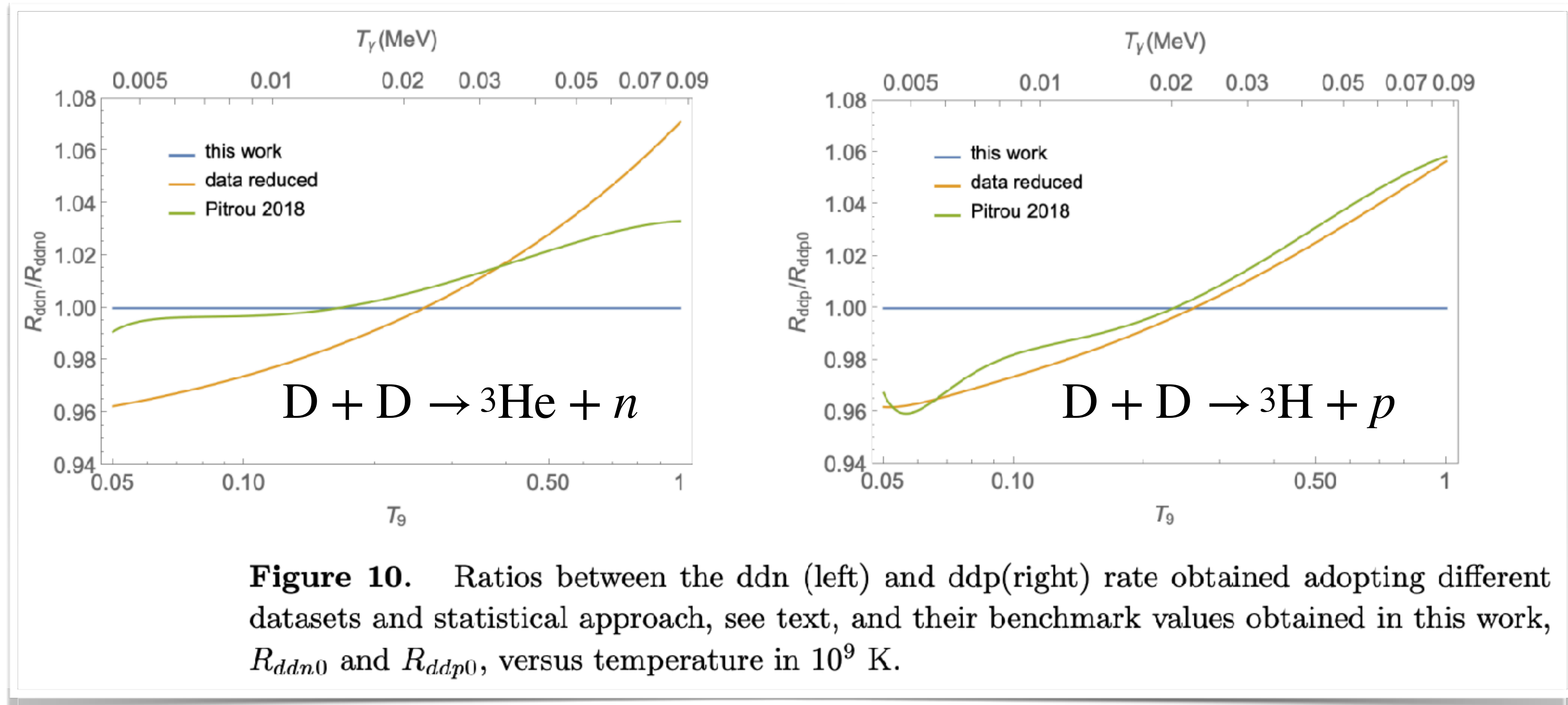
BBN Measurements and Theory Prediction



LUNA

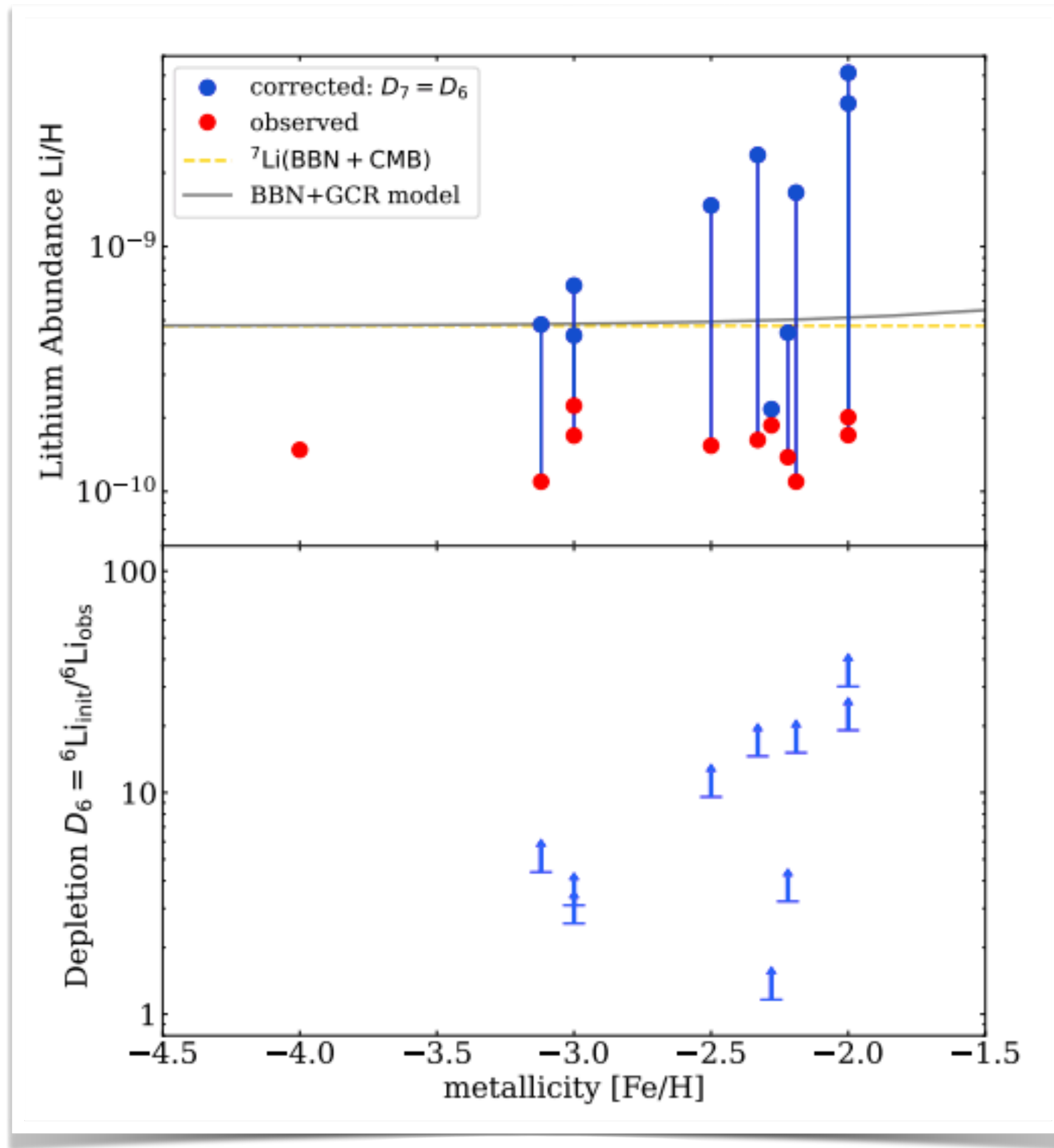


Difference in Rates



PRIMAT vs. other rates affected by dataset choice, fitting for overall normalization of experimental data.

The Lithium Problem?



The hope is to measure Li-7 primordial abundance in **low metallicity stars**, and that **no destruction of Li-7 takes place**.

Measurements consistently **lower** than BBN prediction.

But what if they are destroyed in the star? Can check with **Li-6**.

Li-6 produced via **cosmic rays**: can predict abundance, check with measurements. If no significant destruction, then we would similarly expect no destruction for Li-7 (more stable).

*We find Li-6 abundance **much lower** than expected from cosmic ray production, indicating **significant destruction** of Li-6 in these systems.*

We therefore can't be sure that Li-7 abundance has not been reduced from its primordial value in these systems.

“Theory Uncertainty”

$$-2 \log \mathcal{L} = \frac{(Y_p^{\text{pred}} - Y_p^{\text{obs}})^2}{\sigma_{Y_p, \text{obs}}^2 + \sigma_{Y_p, \text{th}}^2} + \frac{((D/H)^{\text{pred}} - (D/H)^{\text{obs}})^2}{\sigma_{D/H, \text{obs}}^2 + \sigma_{Y_{D/H, \text{th}}}^2}$$

Parameter of Interest

Nuisance Parameters $\vec{\nu}$

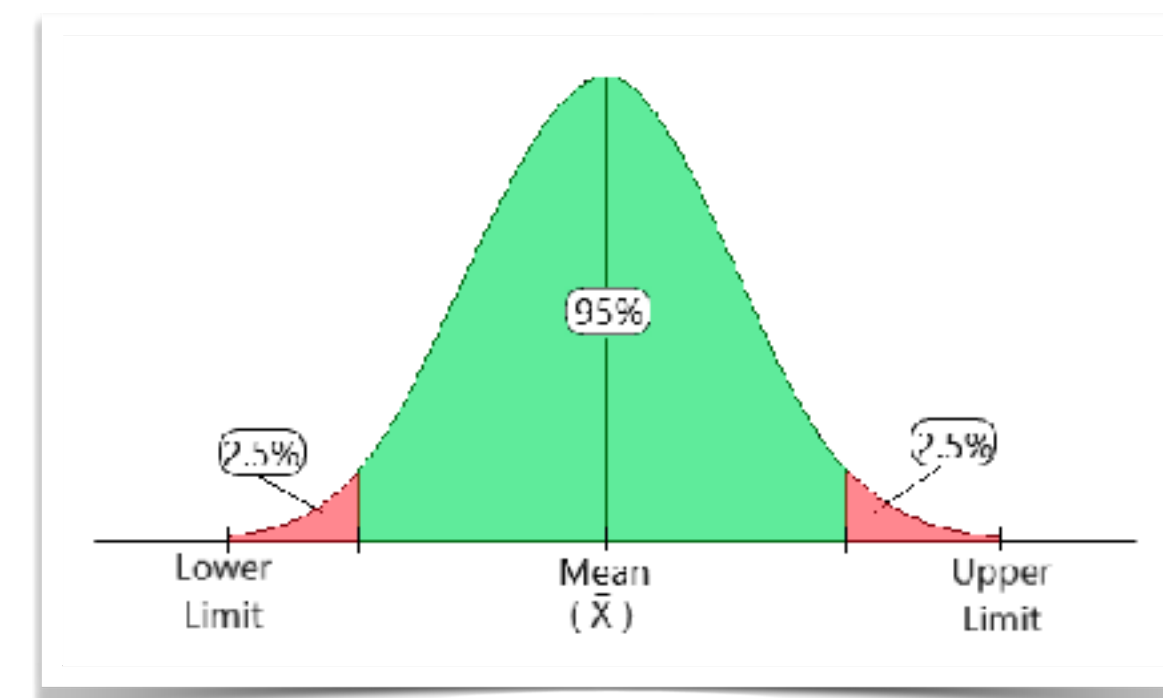
$$\begin{pmatrix} \eta \\ \tau_n \\ \Gamma_{np \rightarrow D\gamma} \\ \Gamma_{DD \rightarrow {}^3\text{He}n} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\eta, \vec{\nu}, \vec{x}_{\text{obs}})$$

Likelihood Function

Method (1): uncertainty in predicted abundances estimated by **varying over** $\vec{\nu}$.

Added in quadrature into \mathcal{L} .



Max. Likelihood Confidence Interval

“...the total error on Deuterium prediction is obtained by randomly varying all rates [possibly ‘all’ here only refers to three of the nuclear rates] *simultaneously* in their $1\text{-}\sigma$ range...”

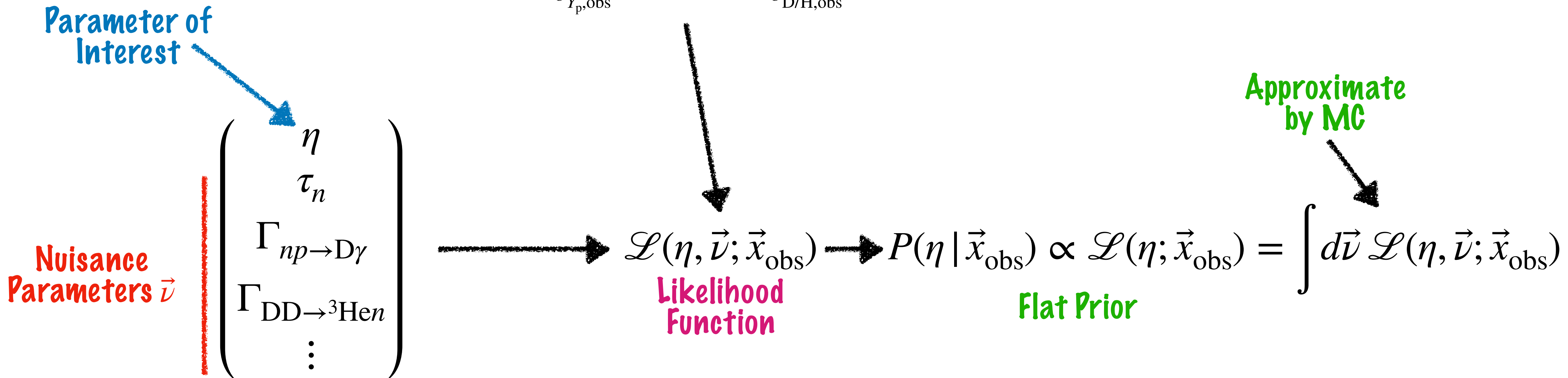
—Pisanti+ (PARthENoPE) 2011.11537

“For each grid point, i.e., each value of η ..., we run the BBN code 10000 times allowing the key nuclear rates to vary... From these we infer BBN likelihood functions for the entire grid.”

—Yeh+ 2011.13874

Limited Monte Carlo

$$-2 \log \mathcal{L} = \frac{(Y_p^{\text{pred}} - Y_p^{\text{obs}})^2}{\sigma_{Y_p, \text{obs}}^2} + \frac{((D/H)^{\text{pred}} - (D/H)^{\text{obs}})^2}{\sigma_{D/H, \text{obs}}^2}$$



Method (2): limited Monte Carlo with $\sim 20,000$ points, **per value of η** .

This is ~ 2 grid points per side of a 14-D cube.

Simplifications for Joint Analysis

1. Planck 1807.06209

(5/5) Full Planck CMB likelihood. Y_p is fed into CMB prediction.

(1/5) BBN likelihood uses constant theory uncertainty for D/H and Y_p .

2. Pitrou+ (PRIMAT) 2011.11320

(2/5) η from CMB posterior used as prior. Y_p from BBN has no impact on CMB.

(4/5) Full BBN likelihood, estimated with 20,000 MC samples.

3. Pisanti+ (PARthENoPE) 2011.11537

(2/5) η from CMB posterior included as theory uncertainty in CMB likelihood. Y_p from BBN has no impact on CMB.

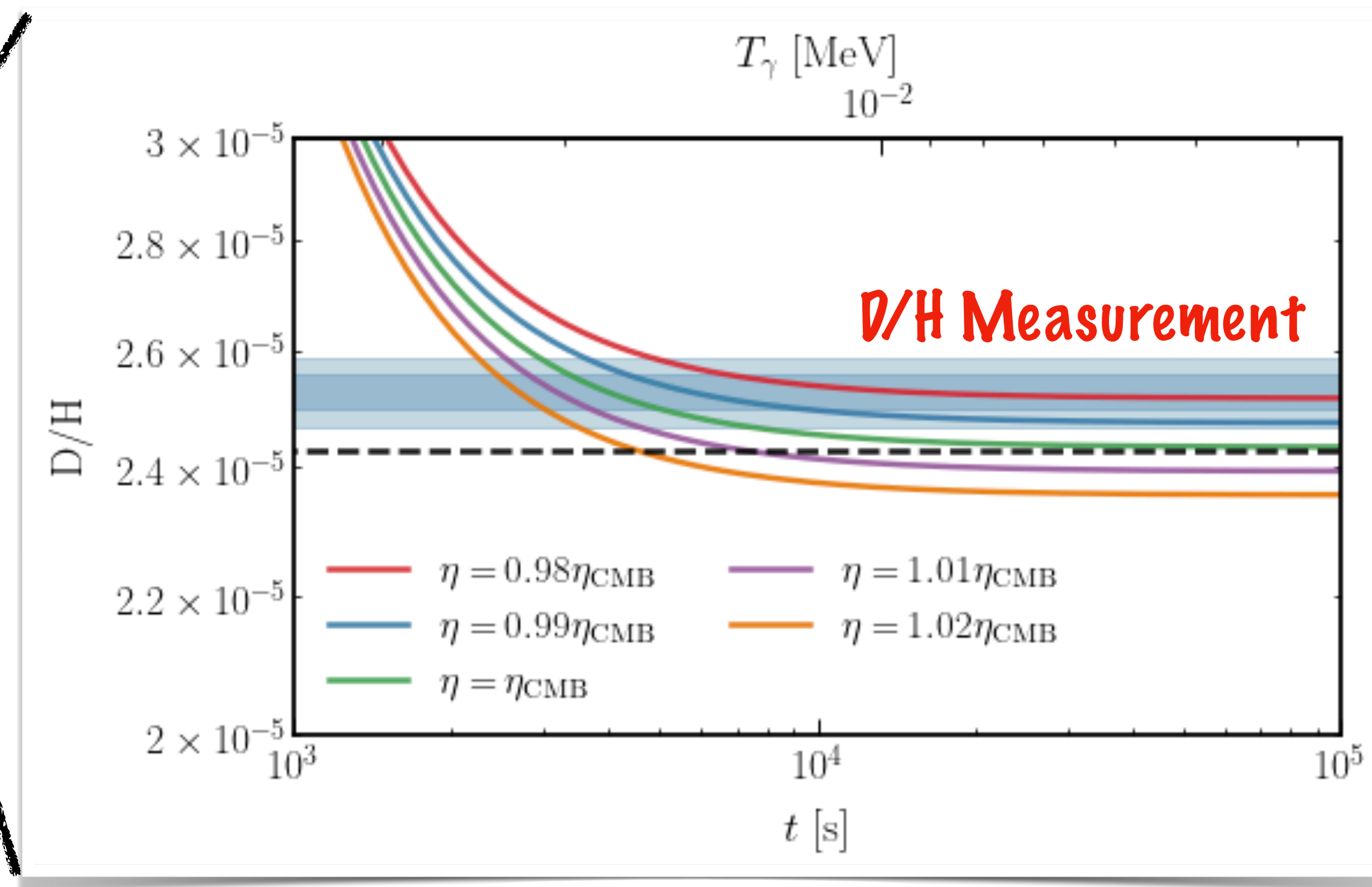
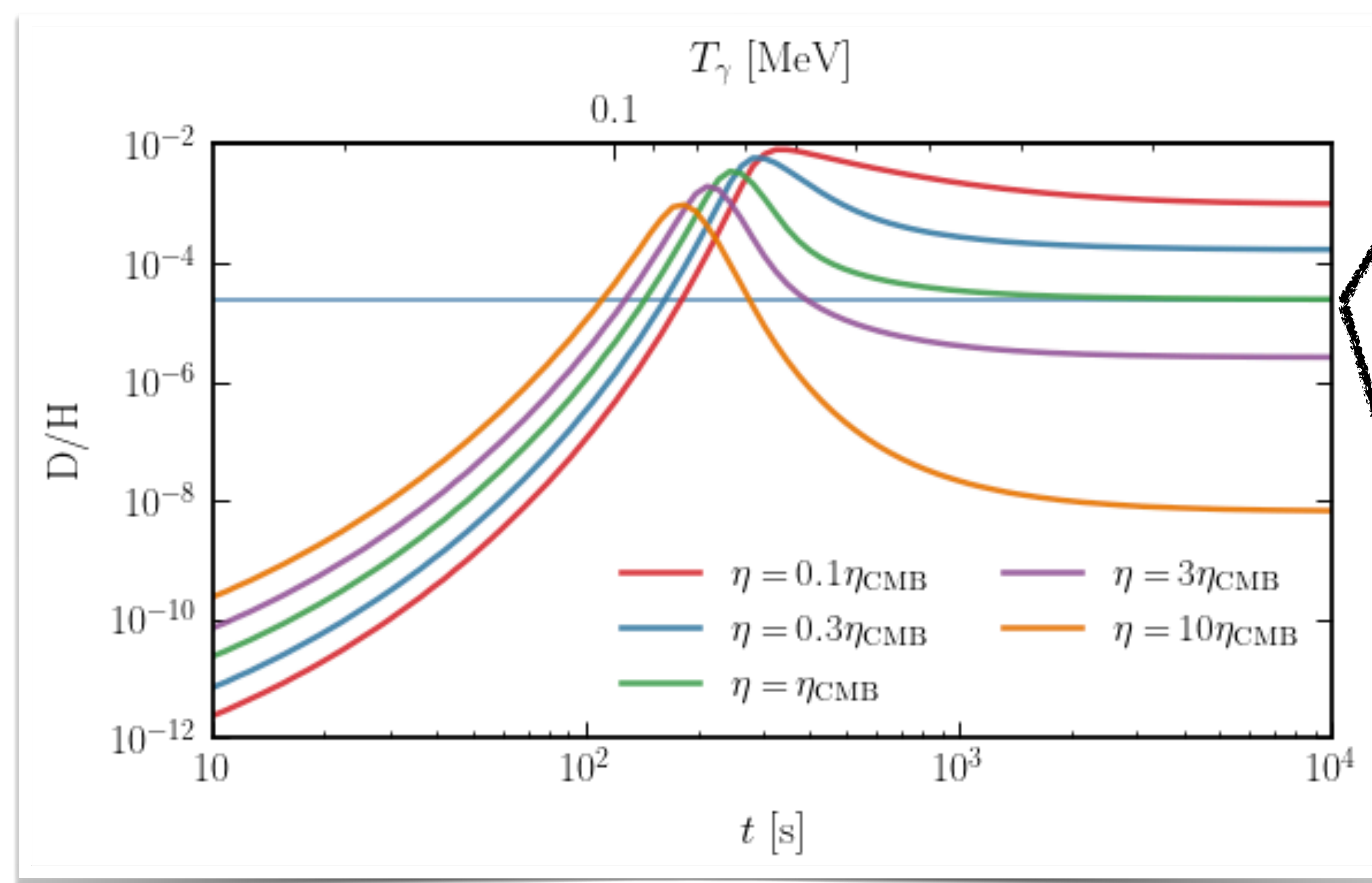
(3/5) BBN likelihood includes theory uncertainty at each parameter point, by scanning 3 rates over 1σ range.

4. Yeh+ 2011.13874, 2207.13133

(3/5) η and Y_p from CMB posterior included as theory uncertainty in CMB likelihood. But Y_p and η should not be treated independently!

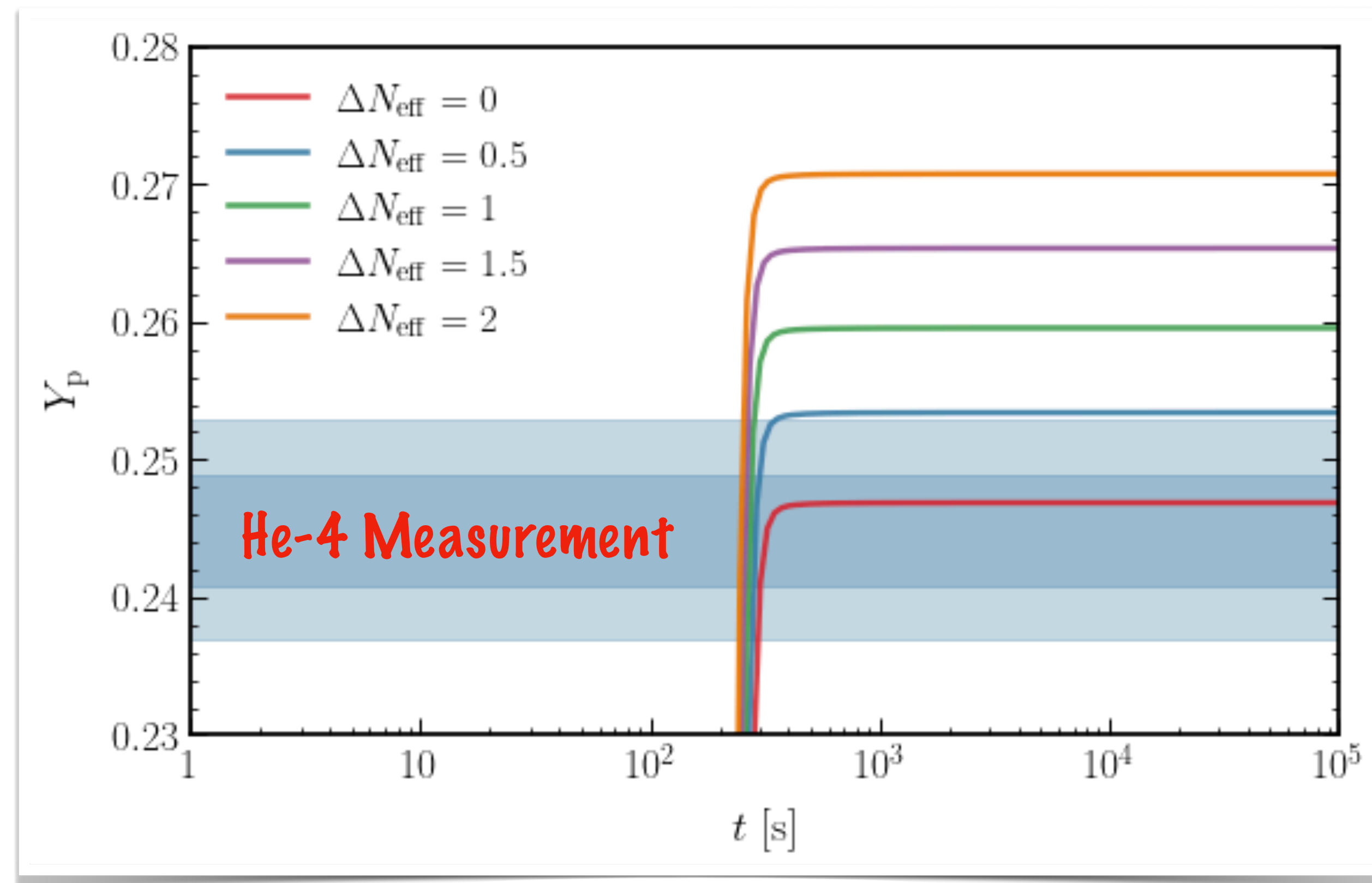
(4/5) BBN likelihood includes theory uncertainty at each parameter point, by drawing 10,000 MC samples.

D/H Sensitivity to $\eta / \Omega_b h^2$



Deuterium abundance set by **freezeout** of deuterium-destroying processes, with rates that depend sensitively on η .

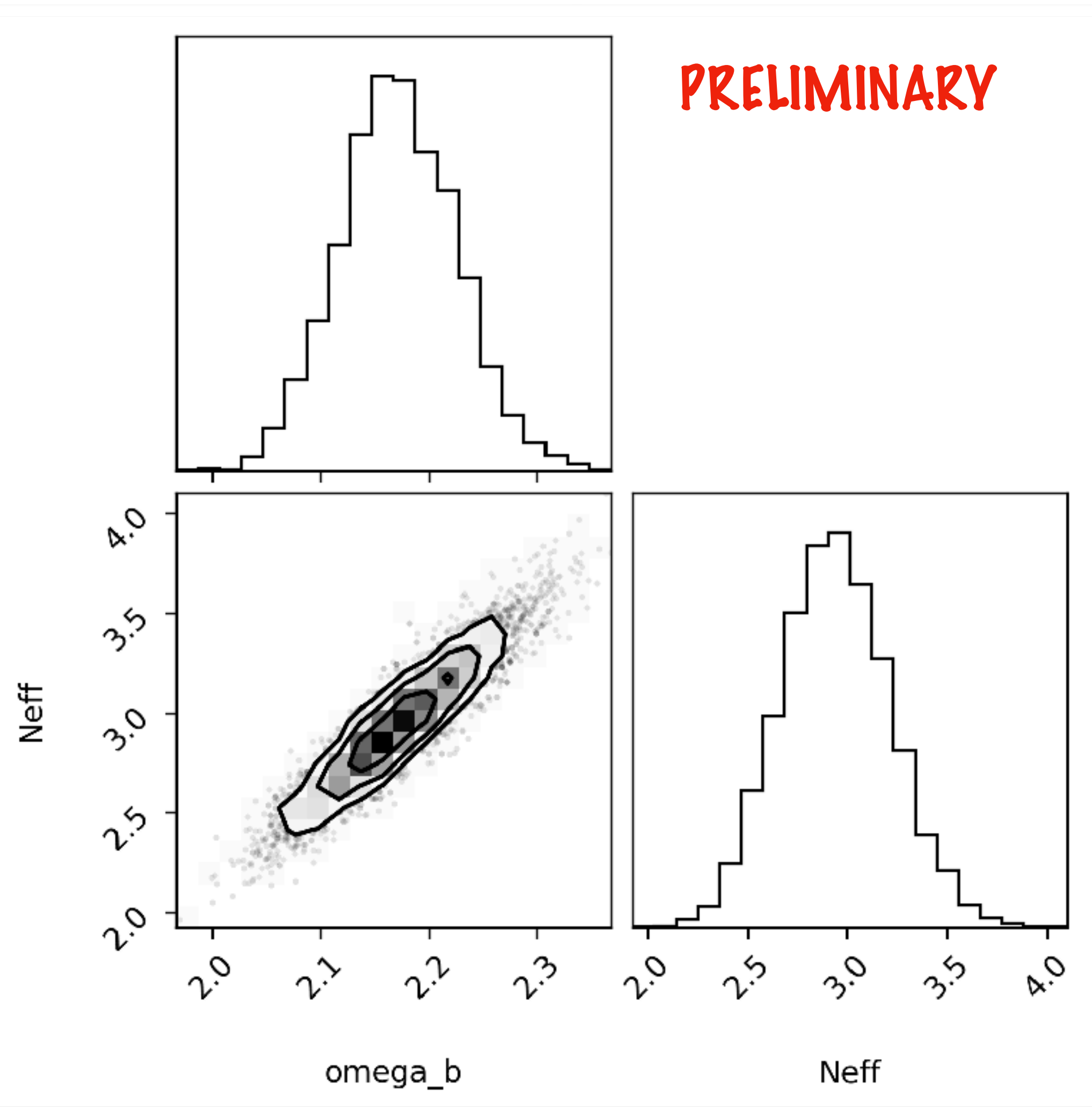
Y_p Sensitivity to ΔN_{eff}



Helium abundance set by **neutron abundance before deuterium bottleneck.**

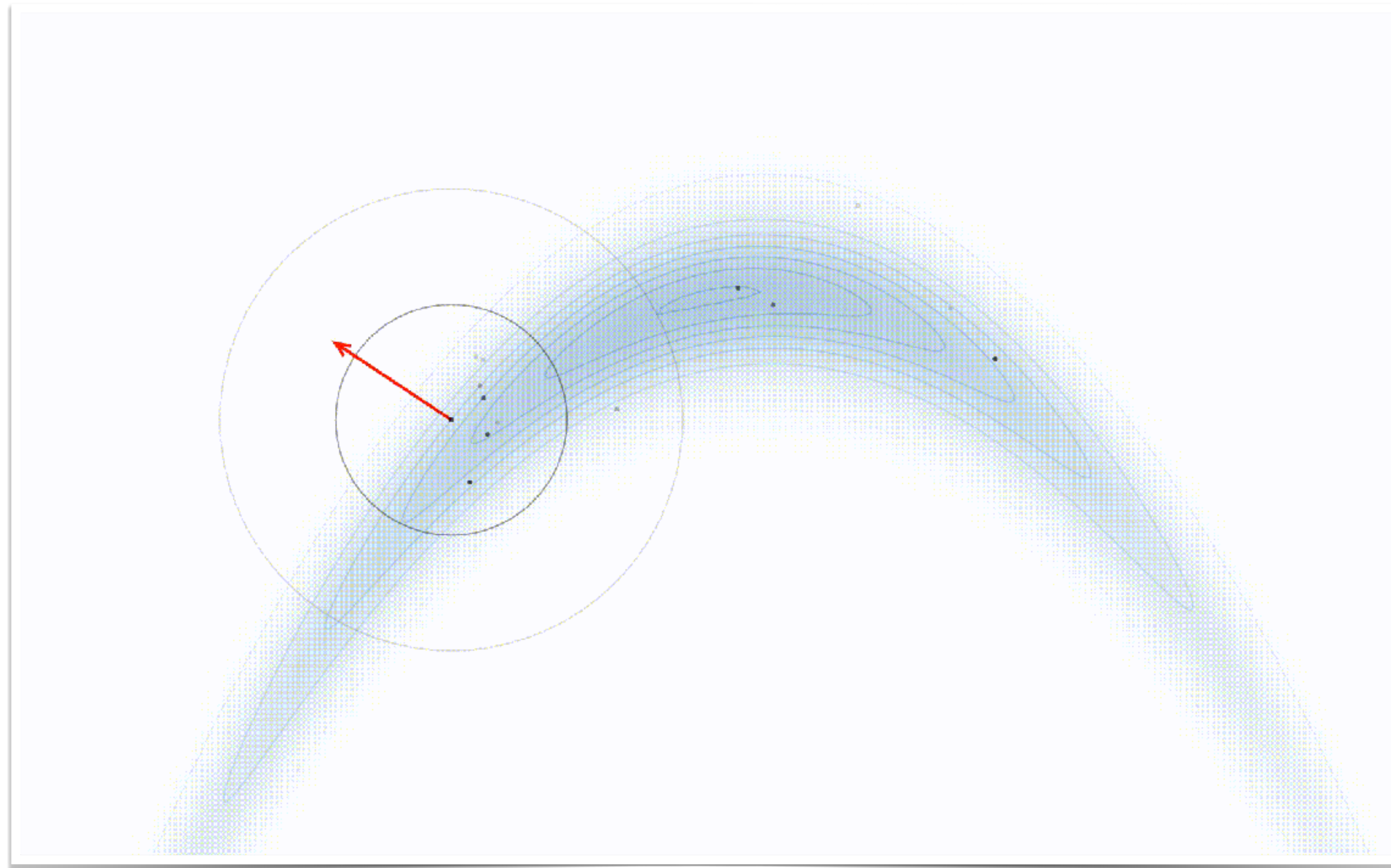
Higher ΔN_{eff} means faster expansion, **earlier neutron freezeout.**

BBN Only, η and ΔN_{eff}



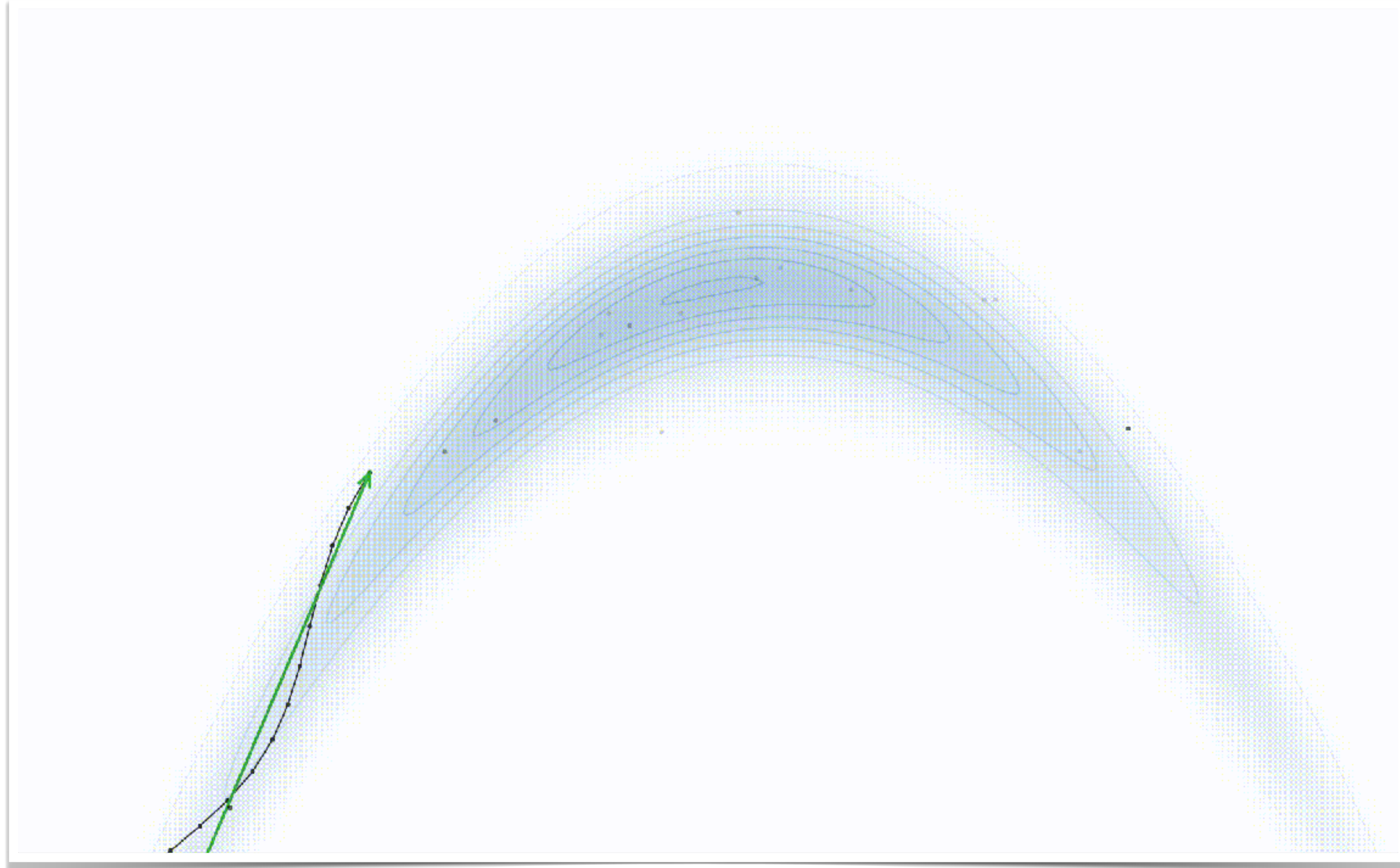
Analysis	$100\Omega_b h^2$	N_{eff}
LINX , PRIMAT Rates	2.172 ± 0.054 (Preliminary)	2.94 ± 0.28 (Preliminary)
PRyMordial, PRIMAT Rates (Schöneberg)	2.172 ± 0.055	2.92 ± 0.28
LINX , NACREII Rates	2.217 ± 0.076 (Preliminary)	2.96 ± 0.28 (Preliminary)
PRyMordial, NACREII Rates (Schöneberg)	2.212 ± 0.072	2.93 ± 0.27
Yeh+	2.189 ± 0.059	2.89 ± 0.23
CMB, LCDM + N_{eff} + Y_p	2.227 ± 0.022	2.80 ± 0.29

Markov-Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)



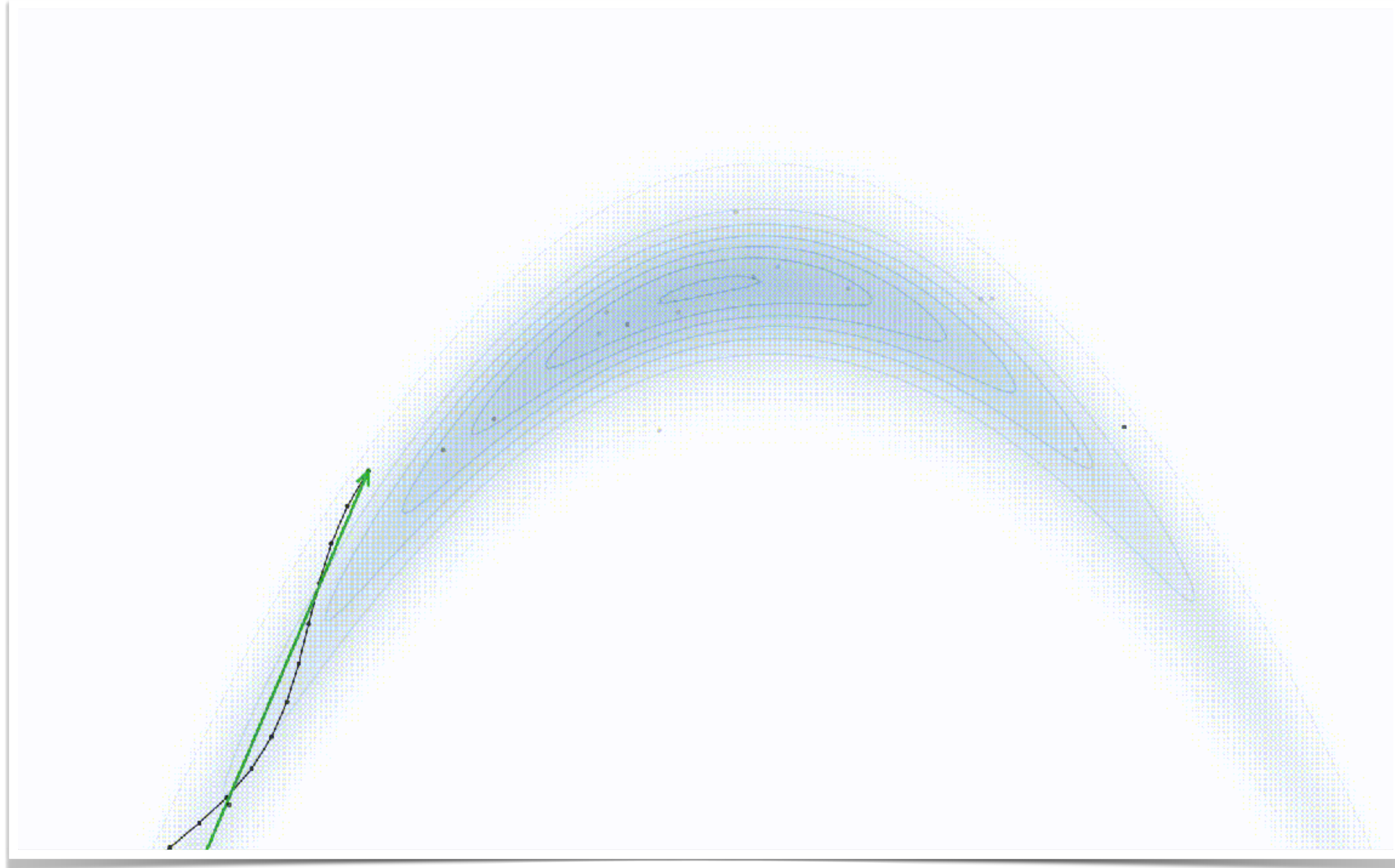
Explore posterior by **random walk**, with acceptance probability of each step being equal to the **ratio of the posteriors** of before and after. **Converges to the posterior.**

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC)



We can do better than random walk. Points should stay **near the typical set**. Treat the posterior as **potential energy** to enable this!

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC)



To realize this: we need **derivatives of the likelihood** at every point.