

January 15, 2010  
Subaru Users Meeting

# Chemical Abundance Study for the First Generations of Stars from SDSS/SEGUE

(SDSS/SEGUEサンプルにもとづく  
初期世代星の化学組成の研究)

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# Chemical Abundance Study for the First Generations of Stars from SDSS/SEGUE

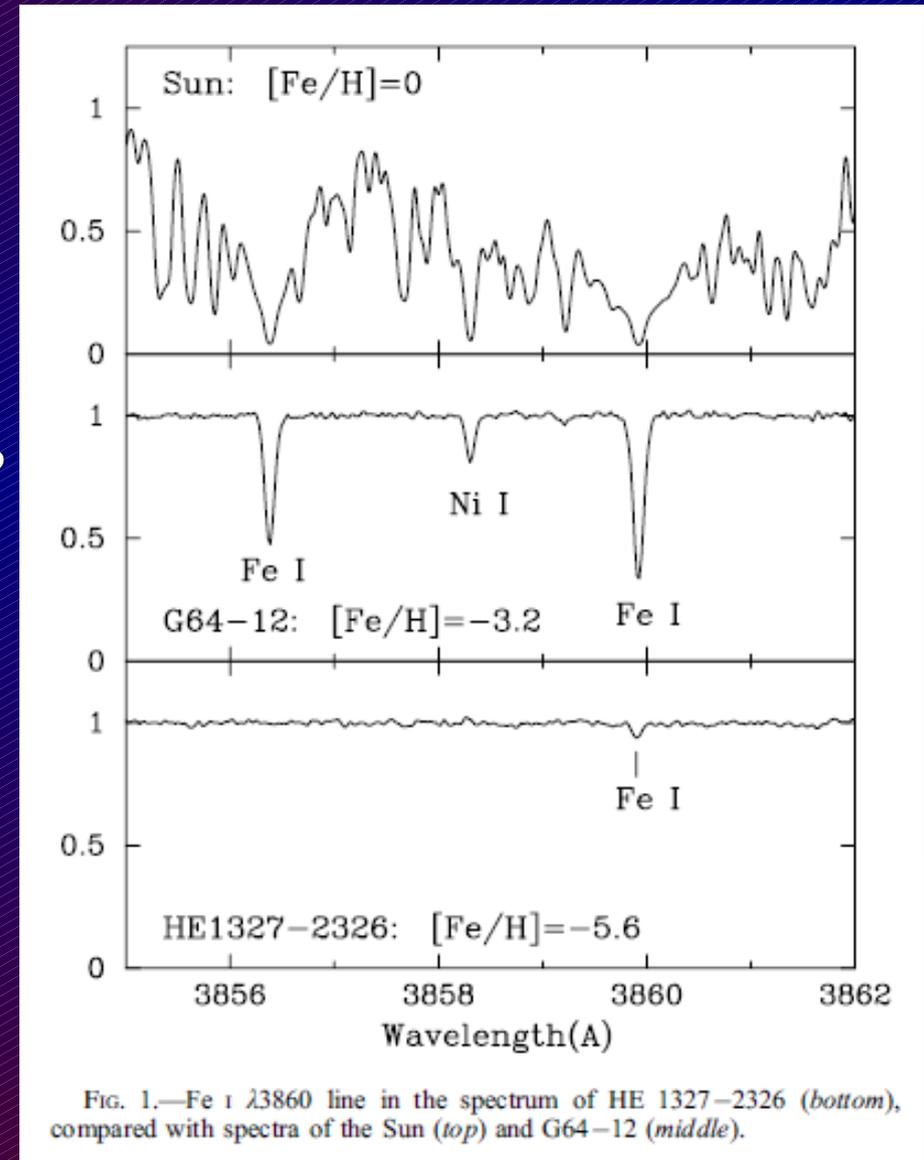
Chemically ancient (=extremely metal-poor) stars in the Galaxy provide

- Signature of first generations of stars
  - Mass function of first stars
  - Metal enrichment that affects following star/galaxy formation
- Record of early stages of Galaxy formation

# Achievement in the past decade

Discoveries of the two “Hyper Metal-Poor” stars  
( $[Fe/H] < -5$ )

- How did such low metallicity (iron abundance) objects form?
- Both objects are “carbon-rich” ( $[C/Fe] > 4$ )



(Aoki et al. 2006)

# Aims of the intensive program

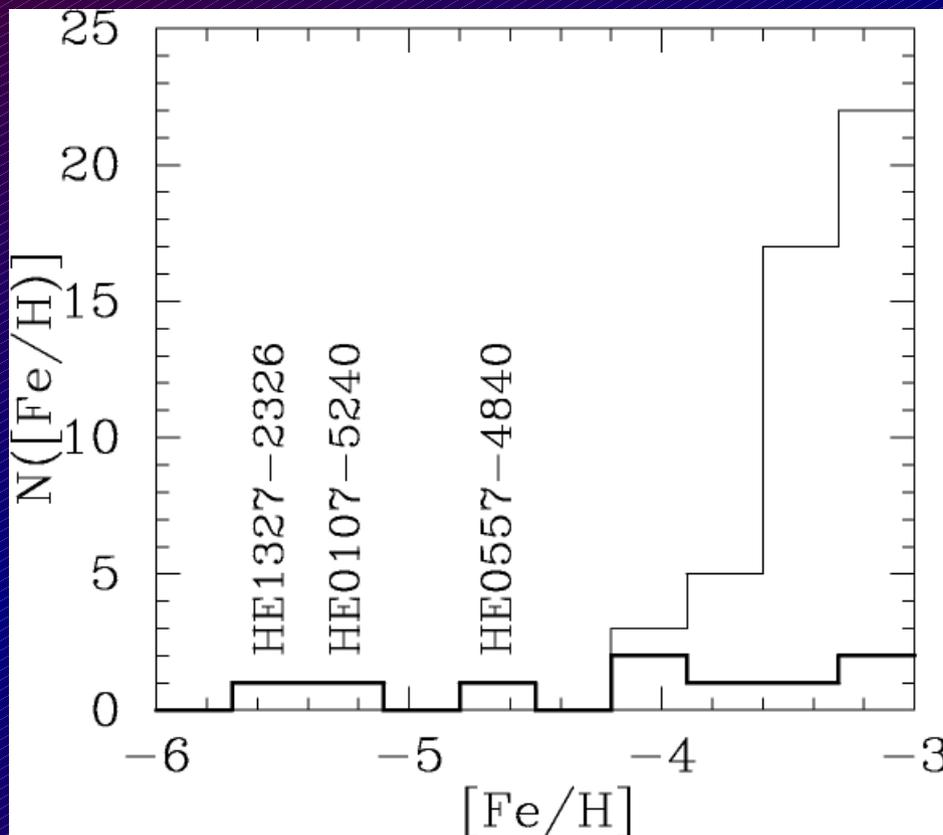
Understanding of the Hyper Metal-Poor stars and other extremely metal-poor stars *by increasing statistics*

topics:

- (1) metallicity distribution in  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.5$
- (2) fraction of carbon-enhanced stars
- (3) Li abundance trend  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.5$
- (4) neutron-capture processes at lowest metallicity
- (5) alpha and Fe-peak elements produced by first generations of stars

# Metallicity distribution and fraction of carbon-enhanced objects

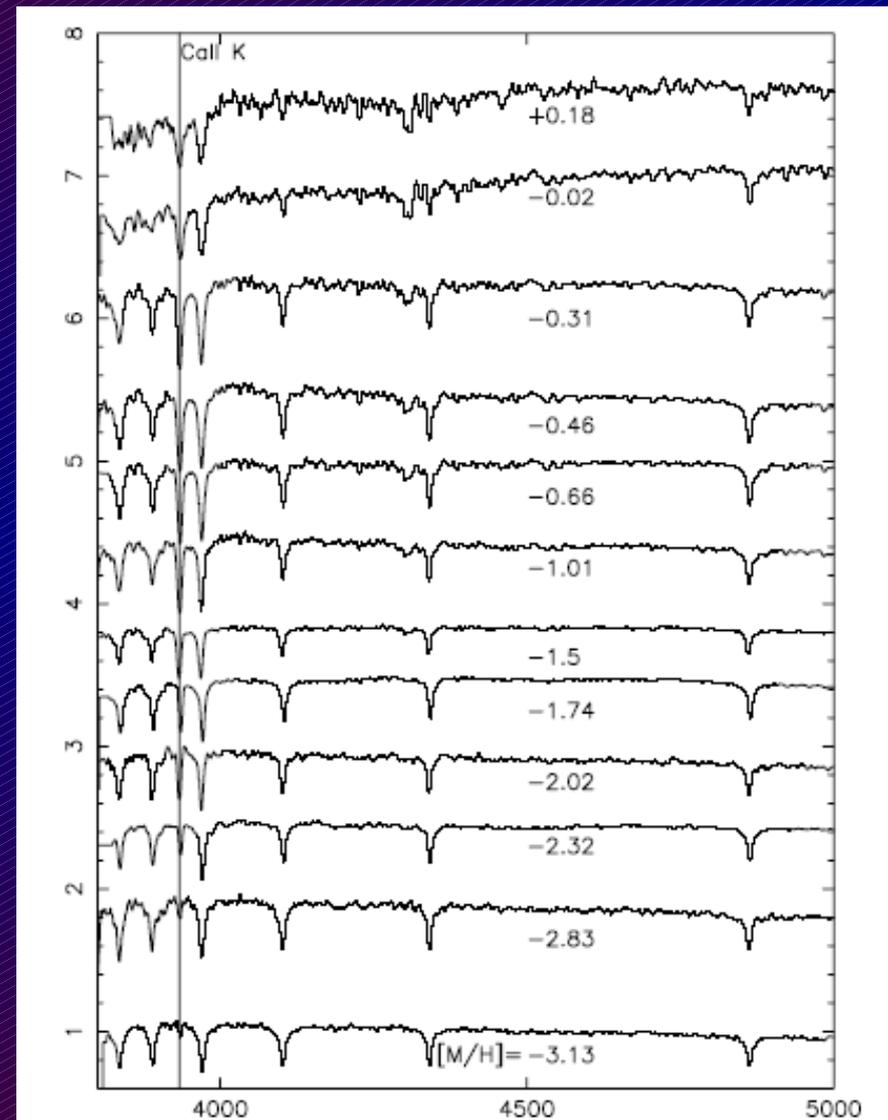
- How quickly decrease the metallicity distribution in  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.0$  (and  $-3.5$ )?
- How high the fraction of carbon-enhanced objects in  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.0$  (and  $-3.5$ )?



Discovery of new objects with  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -4$ ?

# Sample selection from the SDSS spectra

- SDSS spectroscopy:  
R~1800  
Covering 3900-9000Å  
14<V<20
- Metallicity estimate from  
Ca II HK lines
- Standard stars in SDSS-I
- New surveys in SDSS-II  
(SEGUE)→240,000 stars



**Figure 7.** F star metal sequence—a set of SEGUE F stars, selected to show the range of metallicities sampled by the F subdwarf, F/G, spectrophotometric standard and reddening standard categories. All 13 stars have similar effective temperatures, near 6500 K, but the strength of the Ca K line at  $\lambda 3933$  indicates metallicities ranging from less than 0.001–1.5 times Solar.

# Strategy of the program

Two steps of high-resolution spectroscopy with Subaru for SDSS/SEGUE objects

(1) Moderate R & S/N

R=30,000

S/N~30

~150 objects

→metallicity

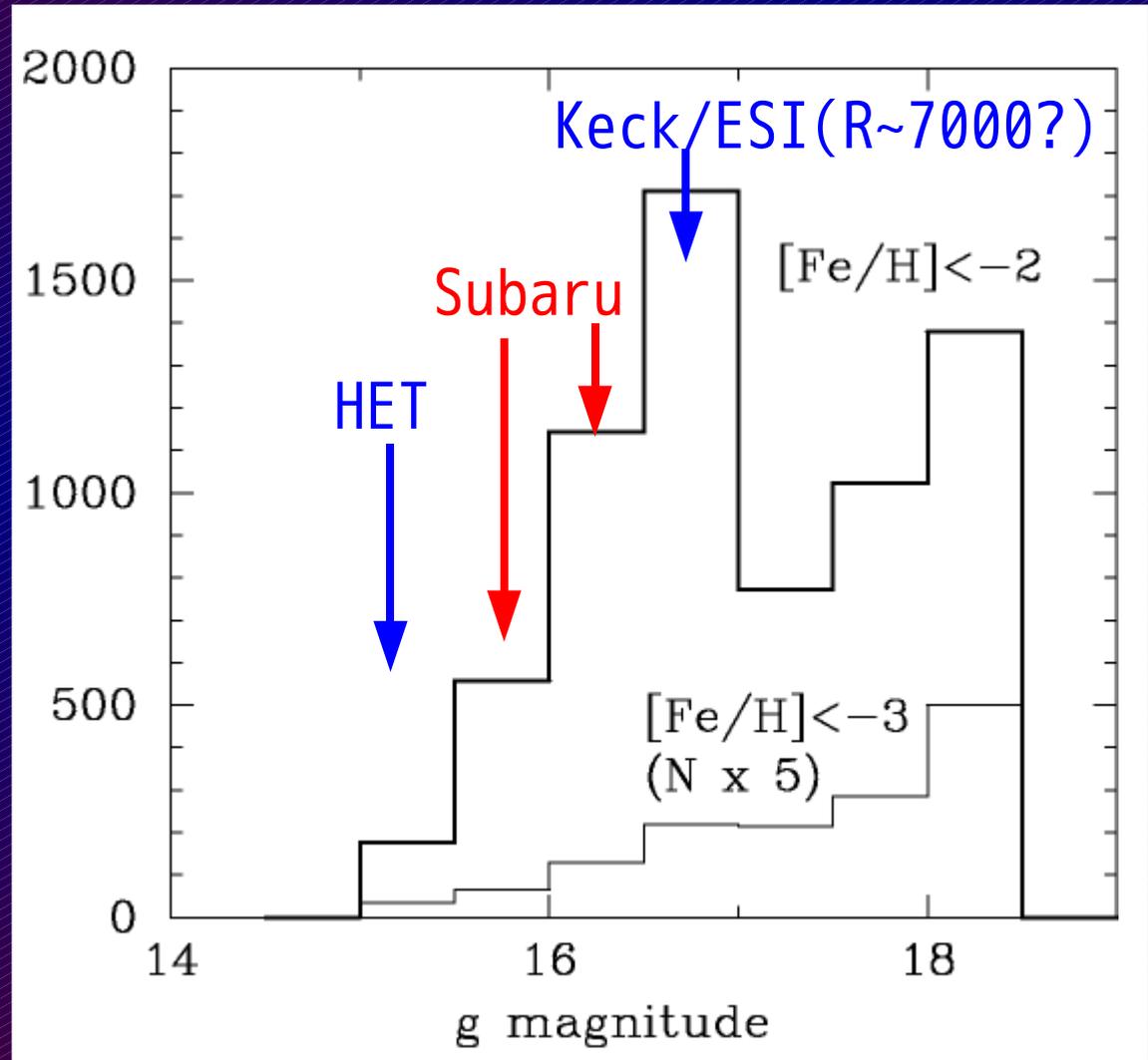
C/Fe

$\alpha$ /Fe

(2) High R & S/N

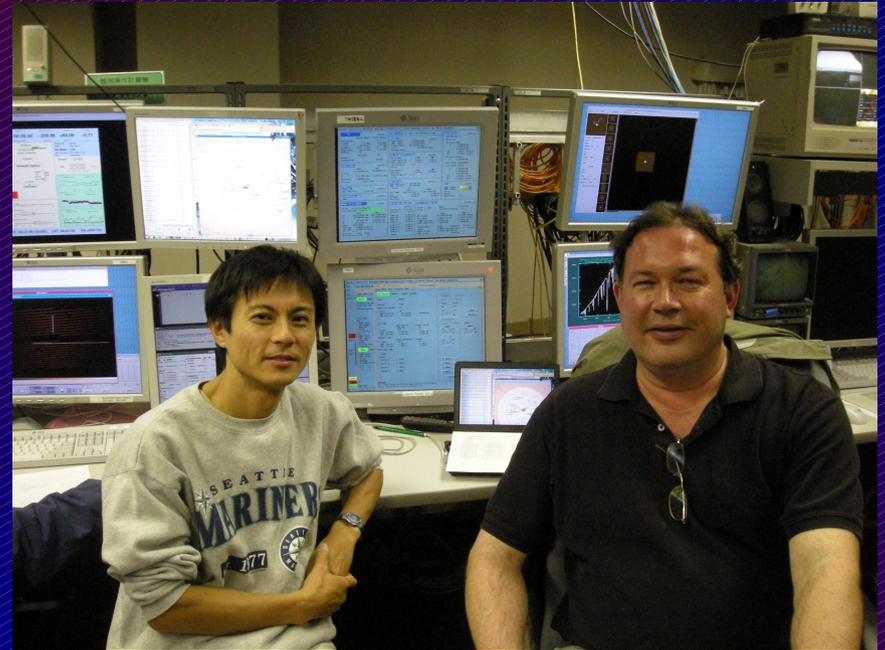
→detailed abundance pattern

Li (turn-off stars)



# Project team

- SDSS/SEGUE sample selection  
Calibration of SDSS analysis  
Beers, Sivarani, Carollo
- Moderate S/N survey:  
Aoki, Honda, Hidai
- High S/N study: Li abundances, neutron-capture elements,  
etc.: Honda, Ito, Aoki, others
- Collaborations with programs with other telescopes  
Frebel, Norris
- Interpretation : Fujimoto, Suda



## Results of observing runs in 2008 For moderate S/N spectroscopy

- March 7, 9: **clear** (half night was used for T00)
- April 30 (half)=T00 compensation: **cloudy**
- May 1: **clear**
- July 3, 4, 5: **clear**
- August 20, 21(halfx2): **clear**
- October 3(half), 4, 5: **clear**
- November 15 (half): **clear** (1 hour lost)

**Clear nights : 95%**

# Obtained spectra and abundance analyses

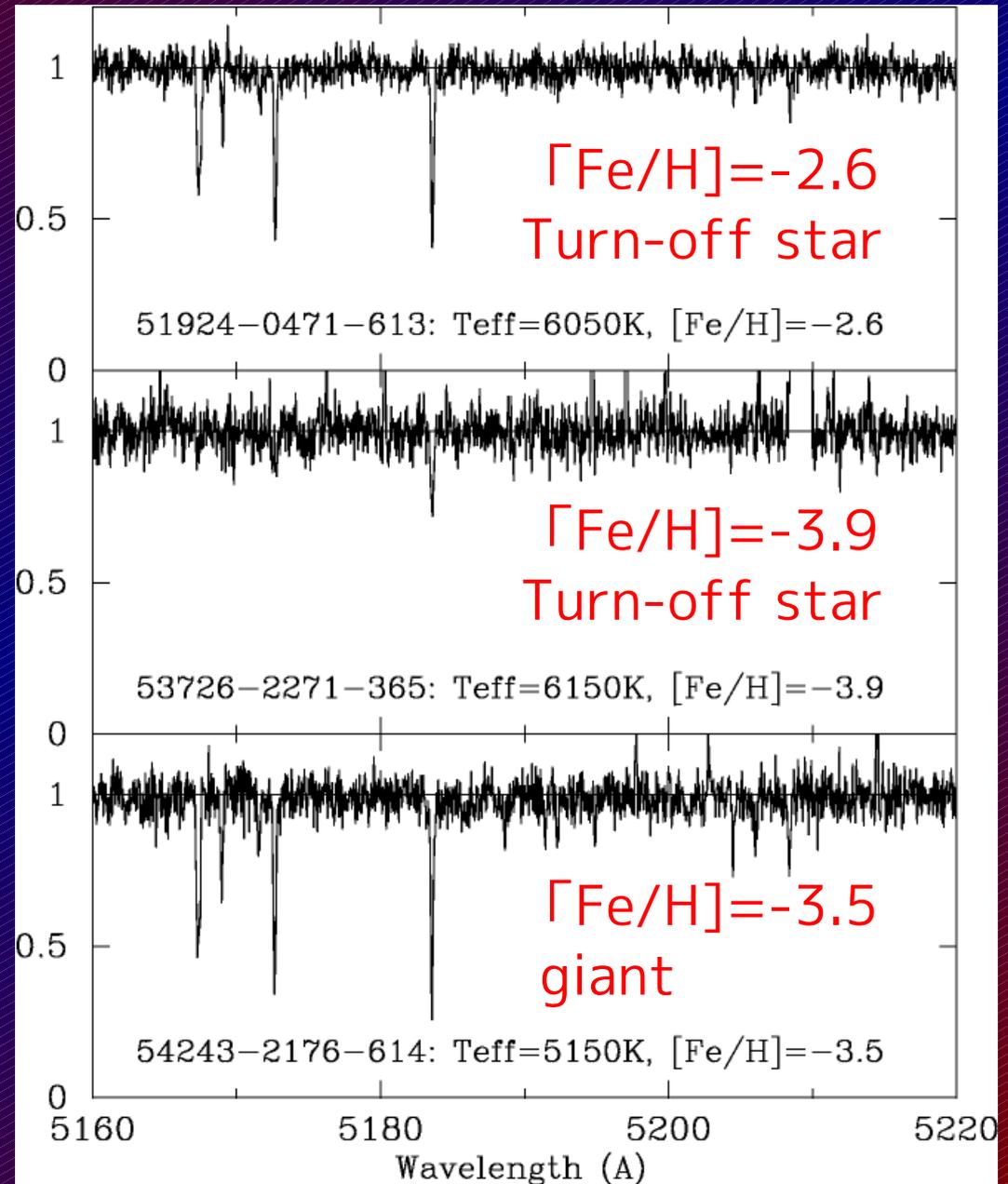
R=30,000

4030-6800Å

S/N~25-30

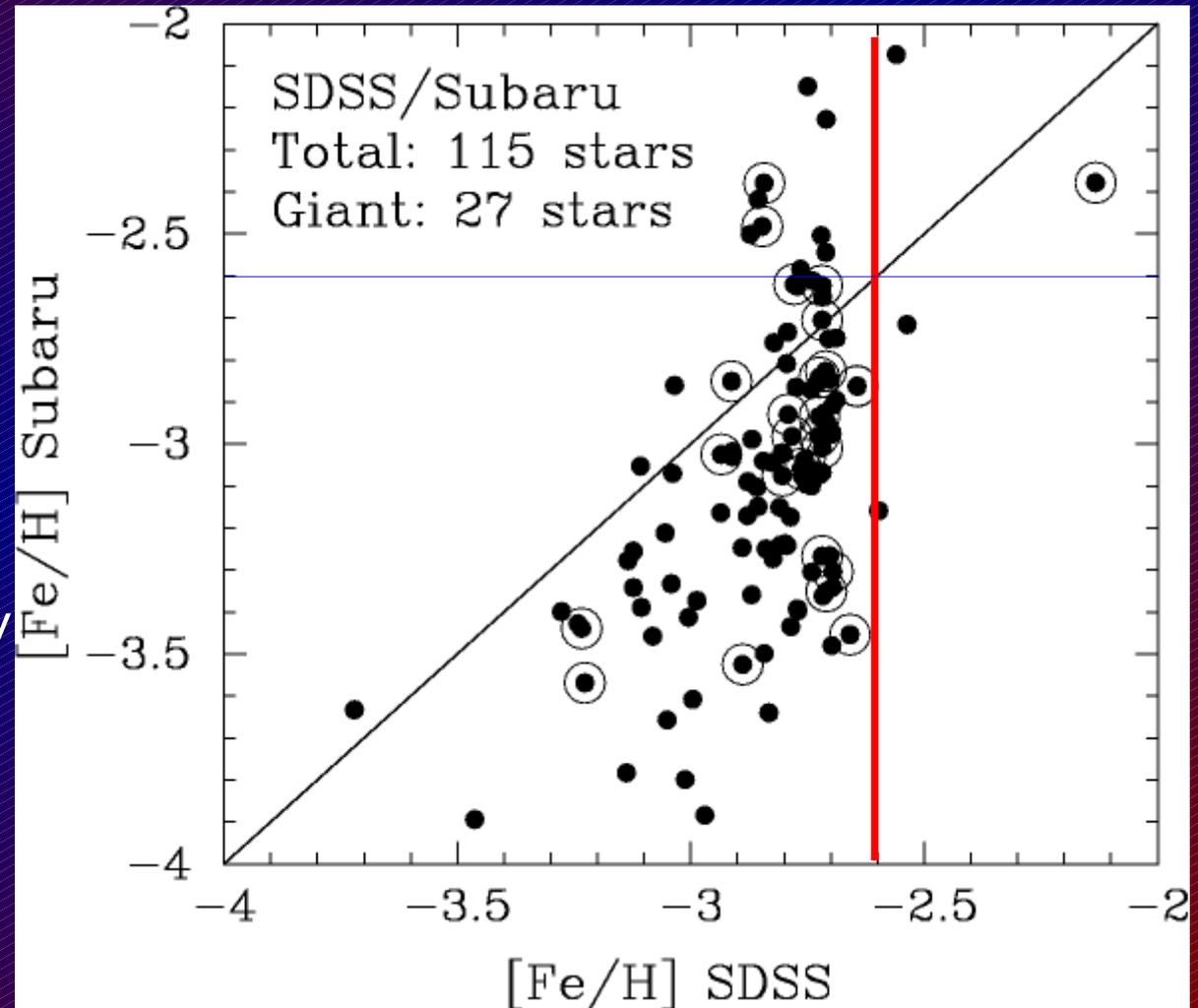
~150 objects

Example: Mg triplet  
around 5170Å →



# Metallicity from Subaru spectra and comparison with SDSS estimates

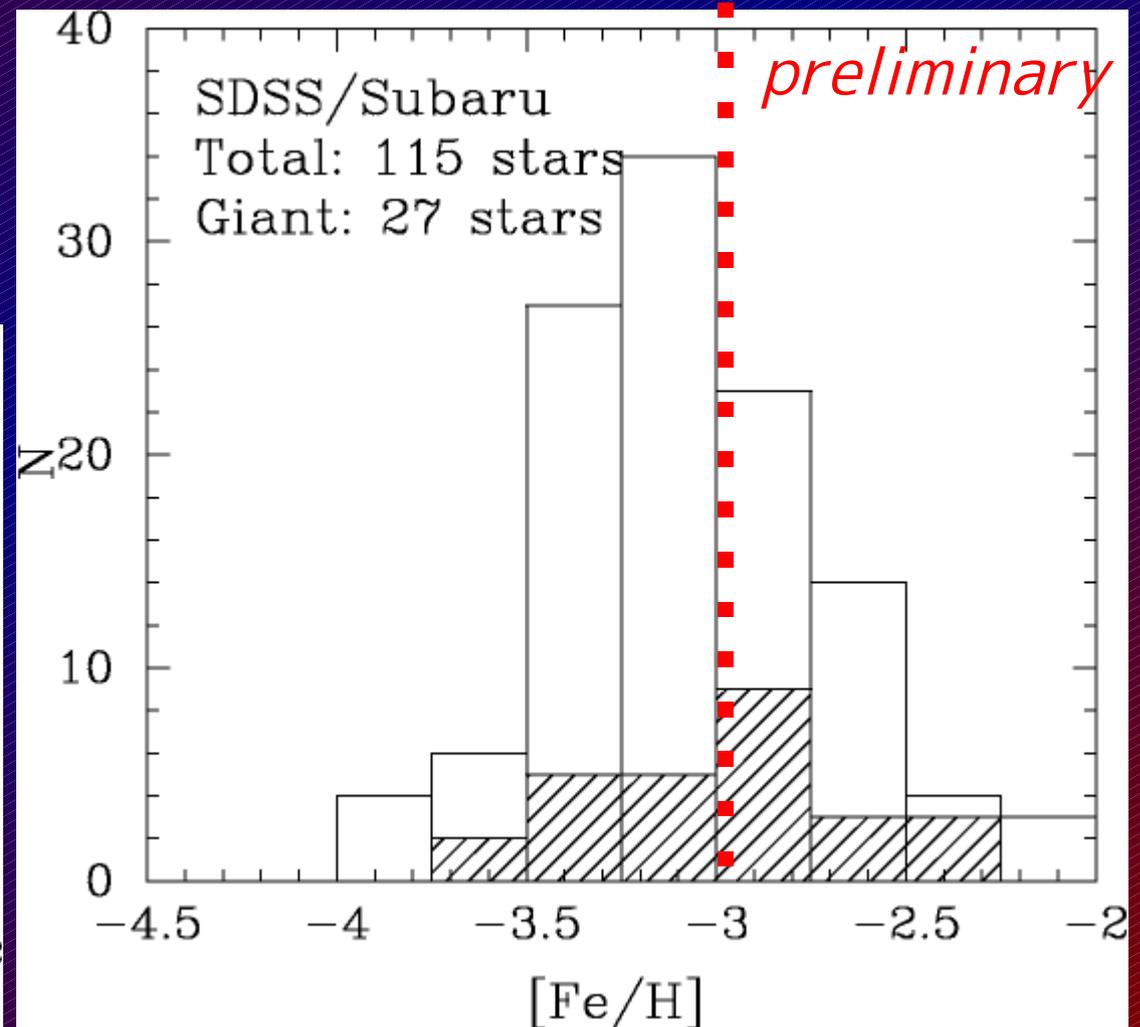
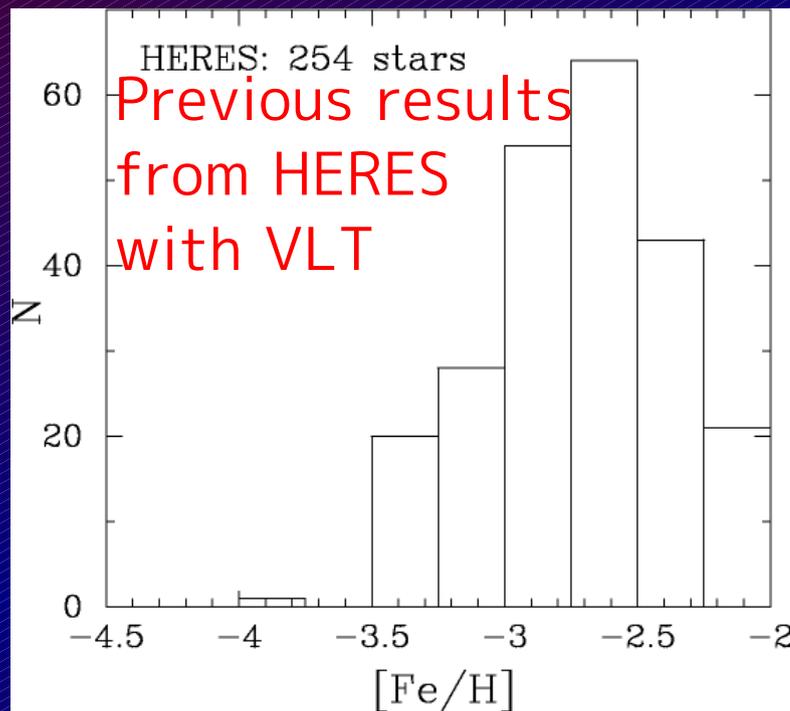
- Extremely metal-poor stars are *very efficiently* selected from SDSS spectra
- High-res spectroscopy is required to accurately determine the metallicity for  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3$



# Metallicity distribution

Metallicity estimate from Subaru spectra:  
The sample is roughly complete for  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3$

Rapid decrease in  
 $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.5$  is  
confirmed



# Ongoing work from the moderate S/N spectroscopy

- Calibration for the analyses of SDSS spectra
- Fraction of carbon-enhanced stars
- Correlation between chemical abundance and kinematics
- Fraction of double-lined spectroscopic binary

# Results of observing runs in 2009 for high S/N spectroscopy

March 4,5: **cloudy**

June 28,29, July 1: **mostly clear**

September 10-12: **clear**

November 24,25: **50% clear**

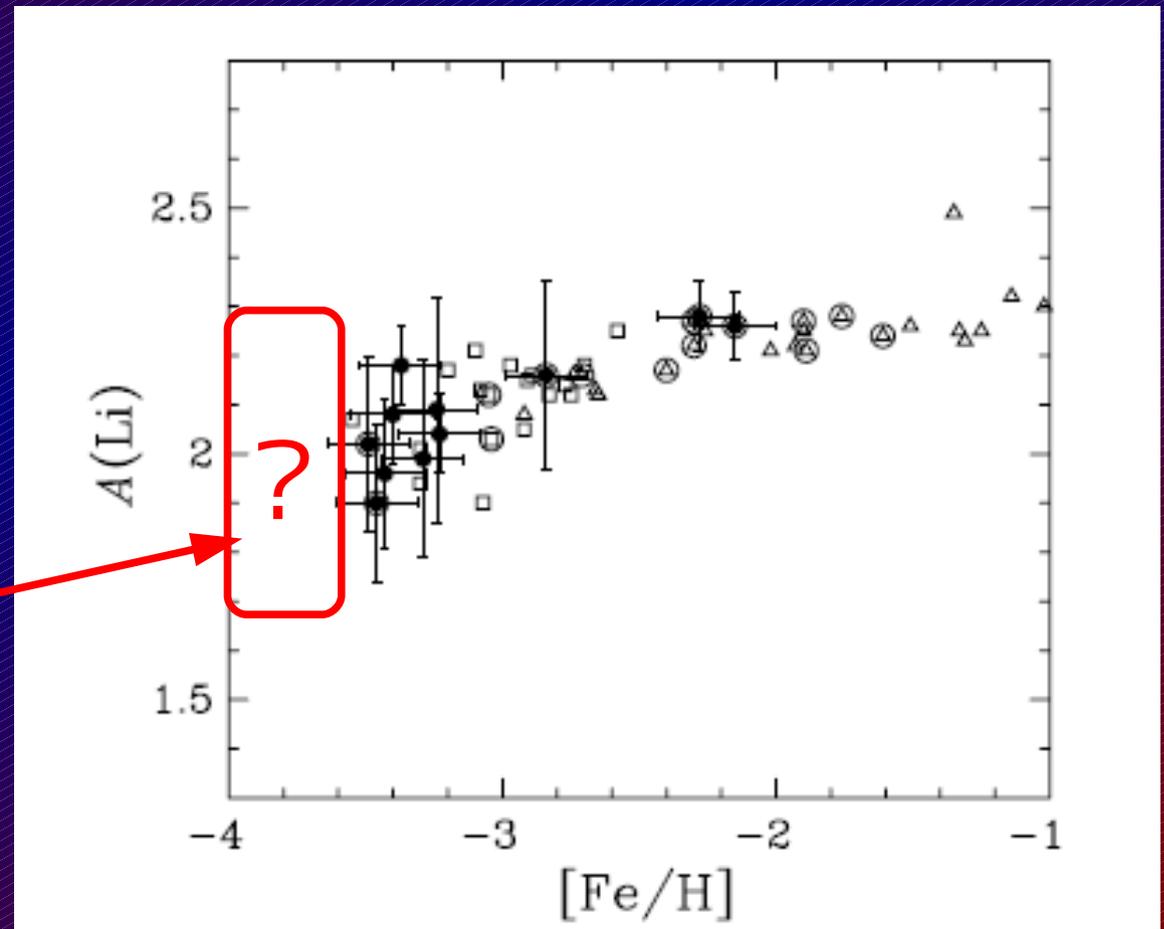
Clear nights: 65%

# Results *expected* from high S/N spectroscopy

## 1. Li abundance trend at the lowest metallicity

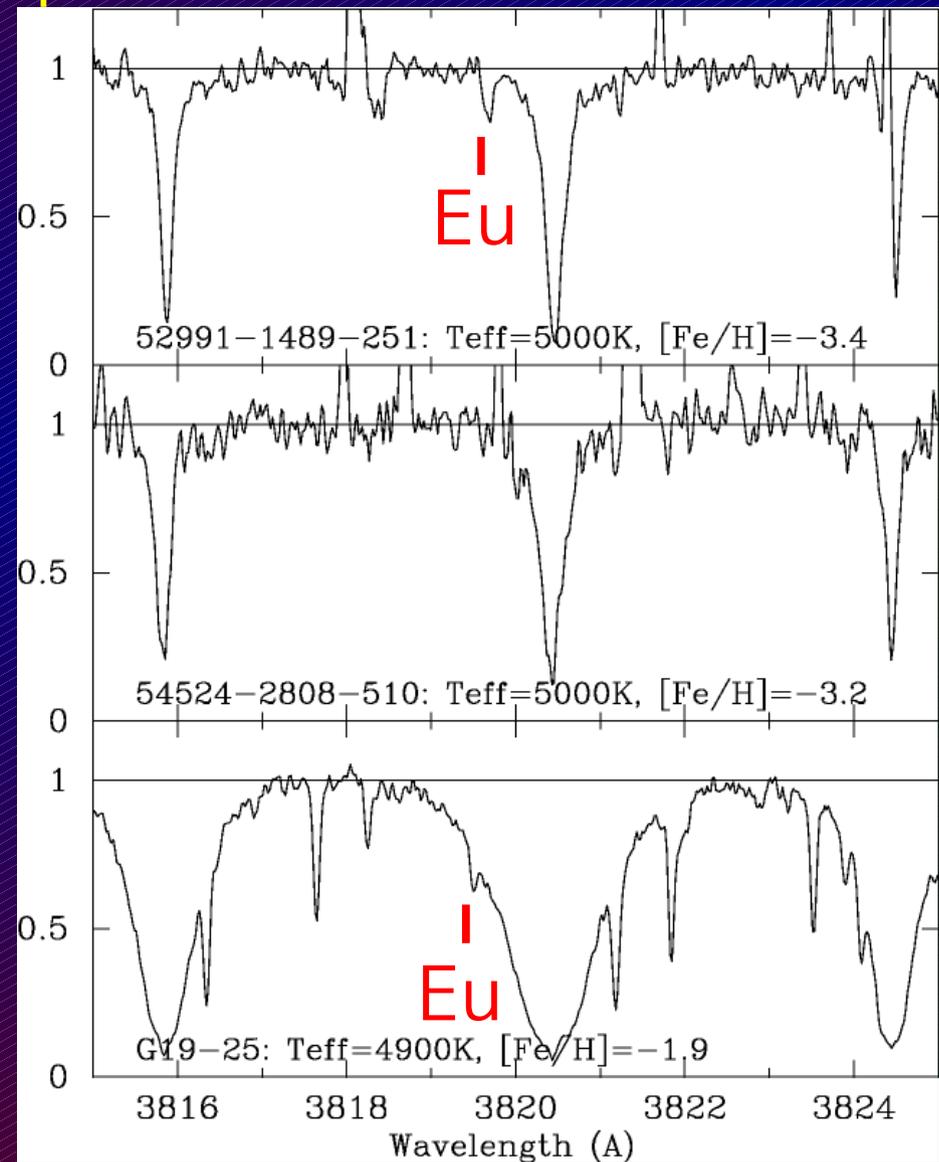
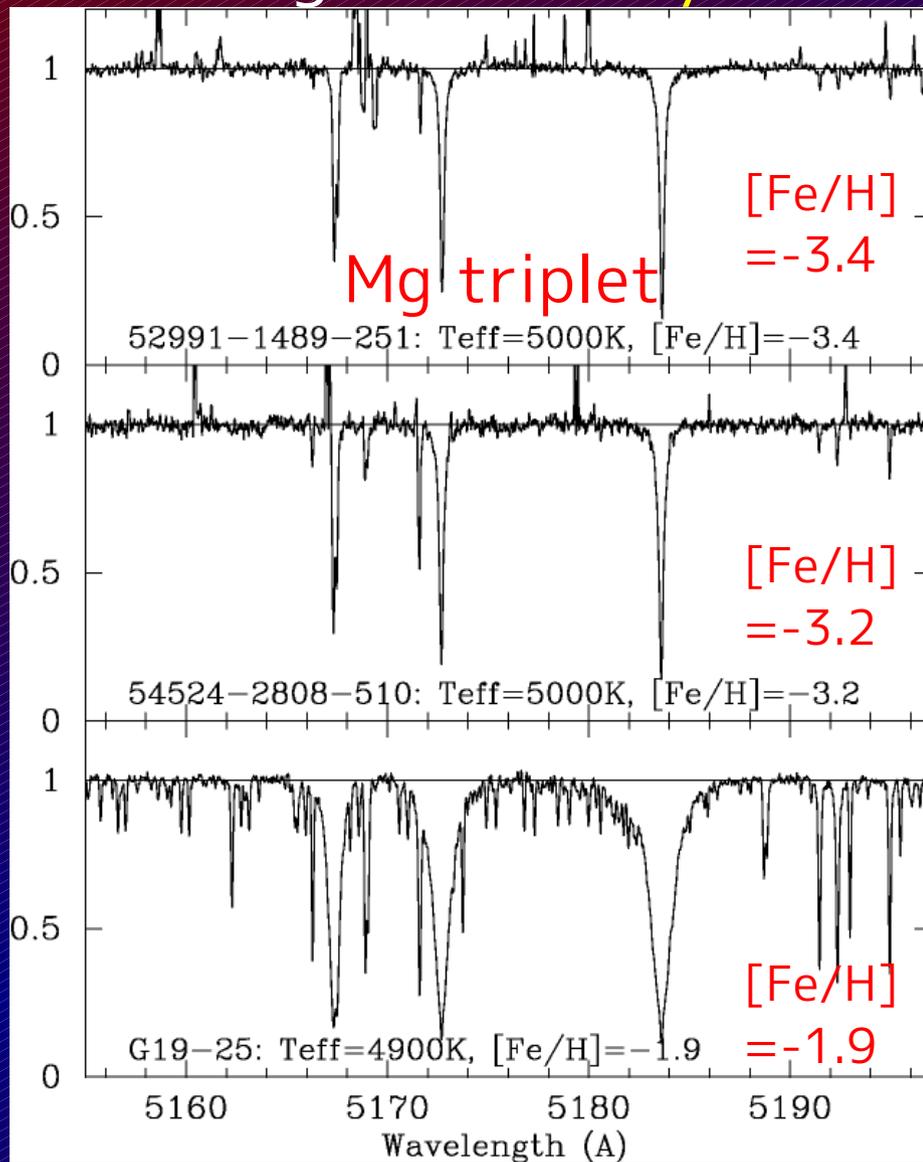
Scatter or trend of Li abundance at the lowest metallicity ( $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3$ )

How is the trend in  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.5$ ?



# Results from high S/N spectroscopy

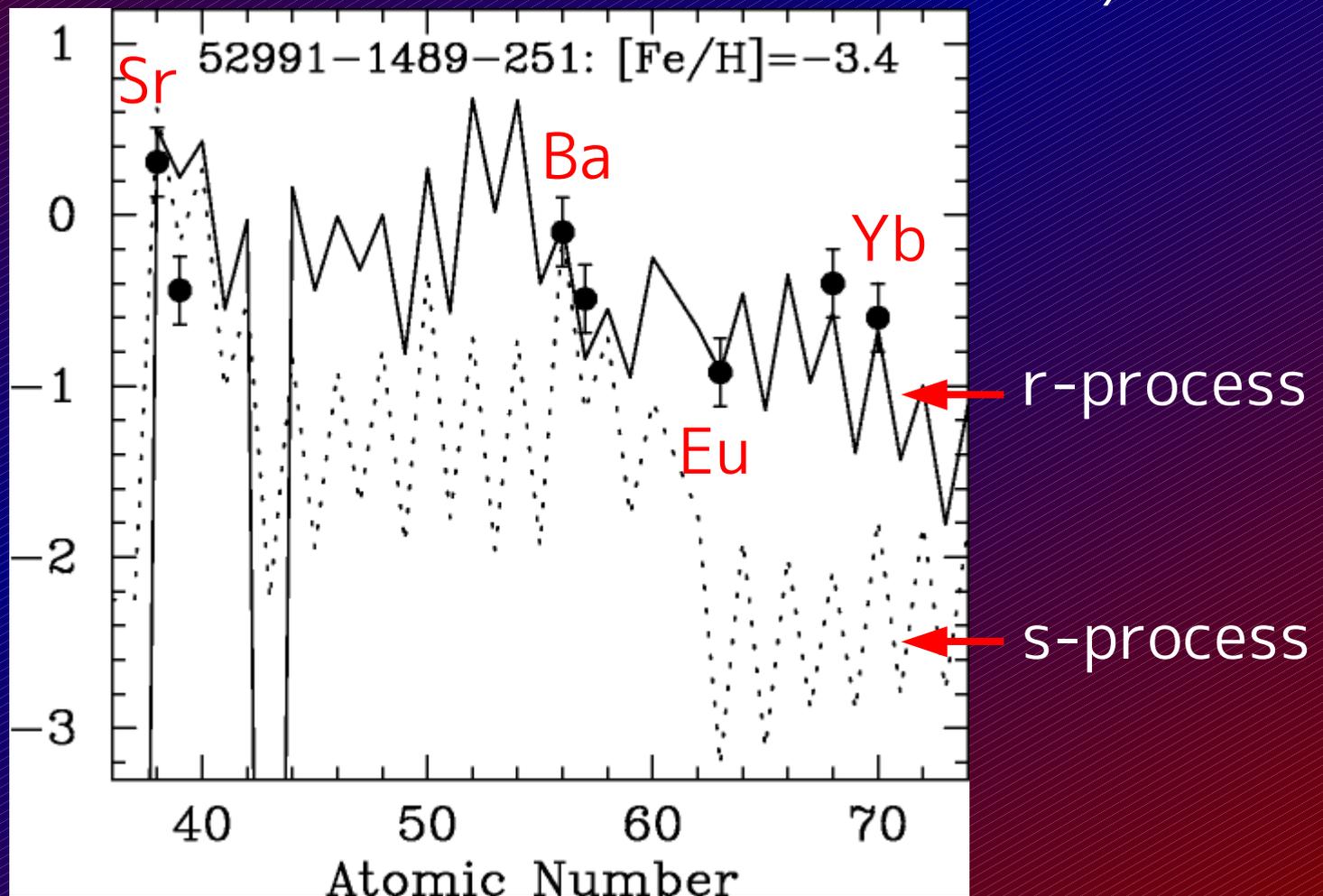
## 2. Discovery of an r-process enhanced object among extremely metal-poor cool dwarfs



# Results from high S/N spectroscopy

Heavy elements in 52991-1489-251 clearly show the r-process abundance pattern

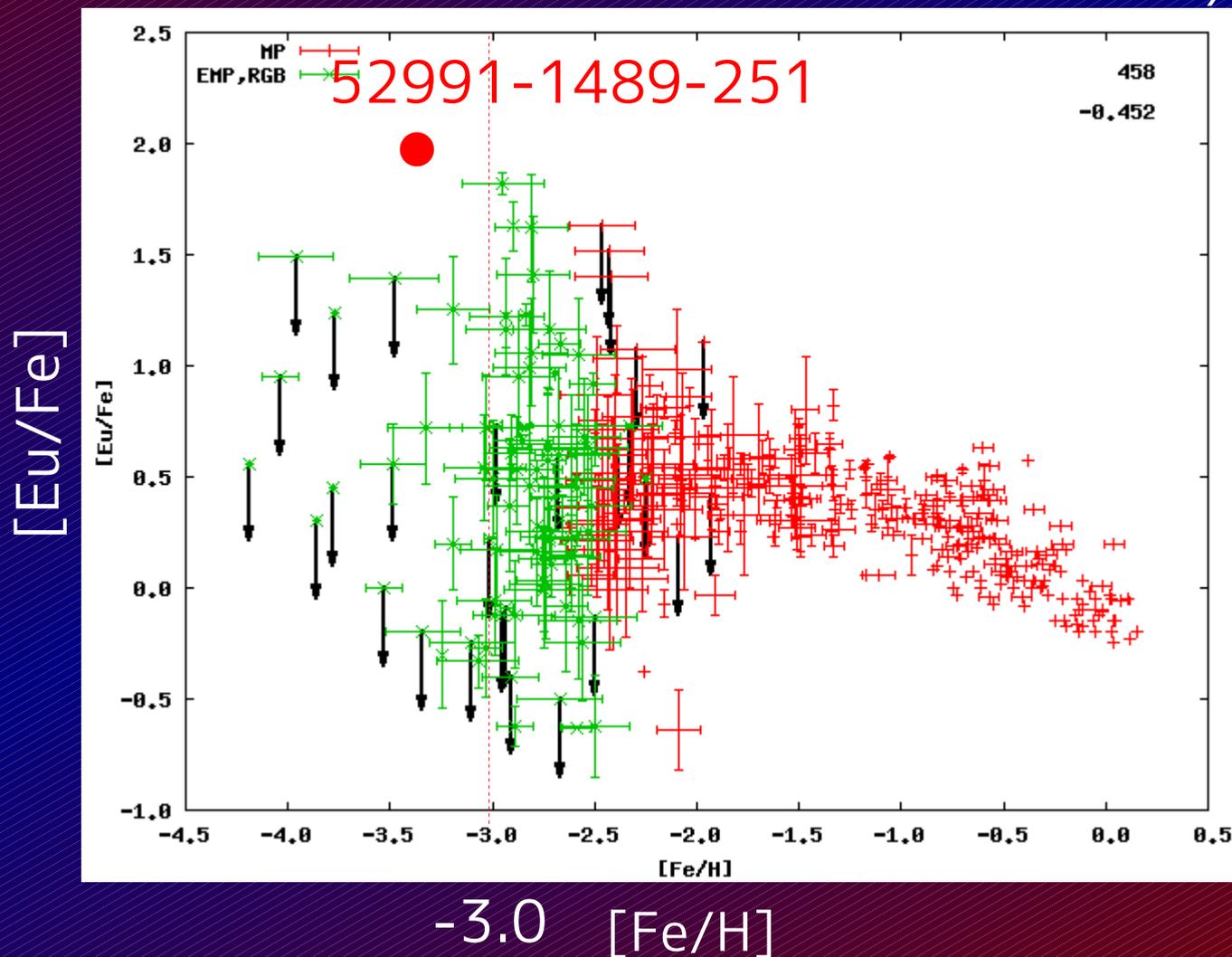
*Preliminary results*



# Results from high S/N spectroscopy

52991-1489-251 shows the largest excess of r-process elements at lowest metallicity

*Preliminary results*



*from SAGA database*

# Results from back-up observations

Spectroscopic survey of bright ( $V < 12$ ) metal-poor stars during twilight and cloudy nights:

- Bright candidates of very metal-poor stars
- Cool red giants with low metallicity  
=> measurements of heavy elements like Th & Pb
- Cool subdwarfs as reference stars

# An extremely metal-poor star found among backup targets

BD+44 493:  $[Fe/H] = -3.7$ , subgiant,  $V = 9.1$ !

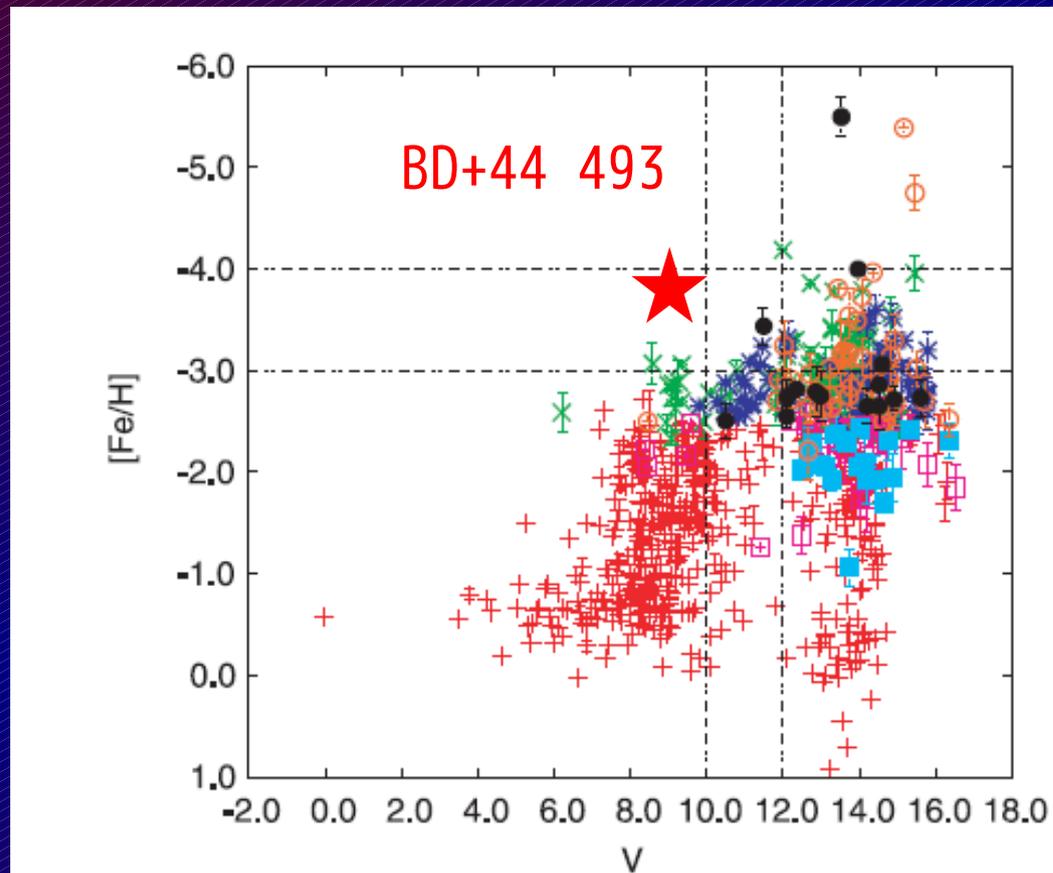
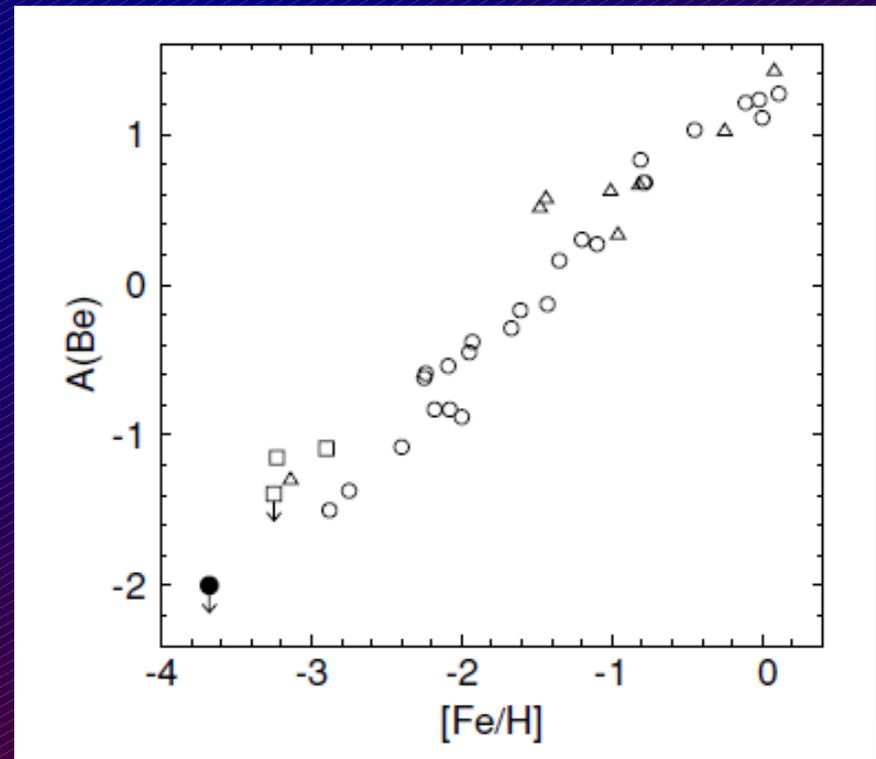
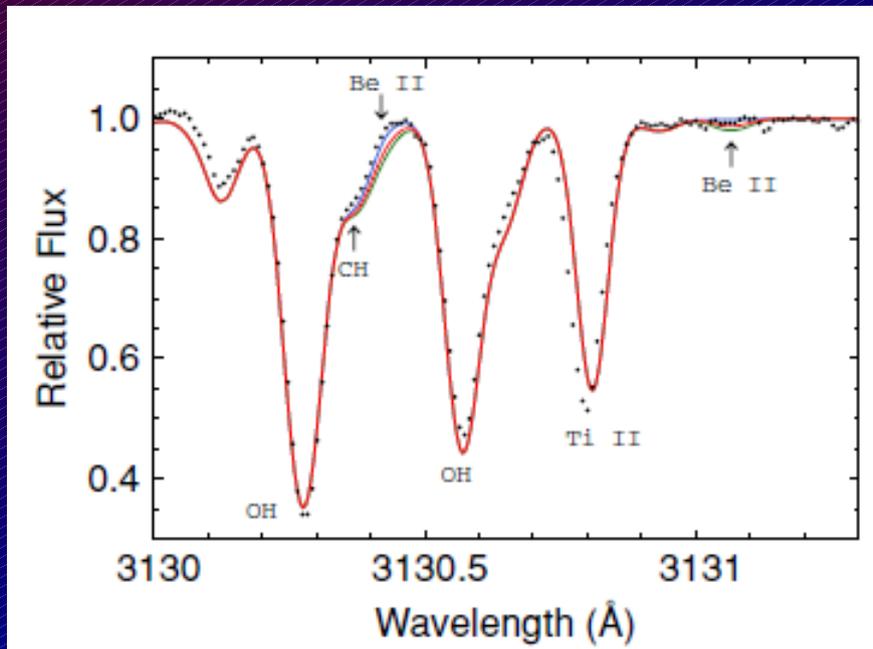


Fig. 7. Relationship between the metallicity and V-magnitude in 767 sample stars. The meanings of the symbols are the same as in figure 4.

*from SAGA  
database*

# Brightness is important: Measurements of Be at 3130Å

The very low upper limit of Be abundance:  
*Ito et al. (2009)*



# Summary

- We have conducted high-resolution, follow-up spectroscopy with Subaru for candidate metal-poor stars found by SDSS/SEGUE.
  - 10 (9.5 clear) nights for the moderate S/N study
  - 10 (6.5 clear) nights for high S/N study
- No object with  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -4$  is discovered in the sample, while  $\sim 10$  objects with  $-4 < [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.5$  are found.
  - new constraints on metallicity distribution
- Calibration for the estimates of metallicity etc. of extremely metal-poor stars from SDSS are provided.
- Measurements of Li abundances, heavy elements etc. are ongoing from the high S/N study