

Uranium Dating

All the very heavy atoms found in the Earth were created long ago by nuclear fusion reactions in a supernova. The debris spewed out by the supernova coalesced into the gases from which the Sun and the planets of our solar system were formed. Nuclear physics suggests that the uranium isotopes ^{235}U and ^{238}U should have been created in roughly equal numbers. Today, 99.28% of uranium is ^{238}U and only 0.72% is ^{235}U . How long ago did the supernova occur?