



Compact binaries and gravitational-wave astronomy

Irina Dvorkin

Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris

Sorbonne Université

Institut Universitaire de France

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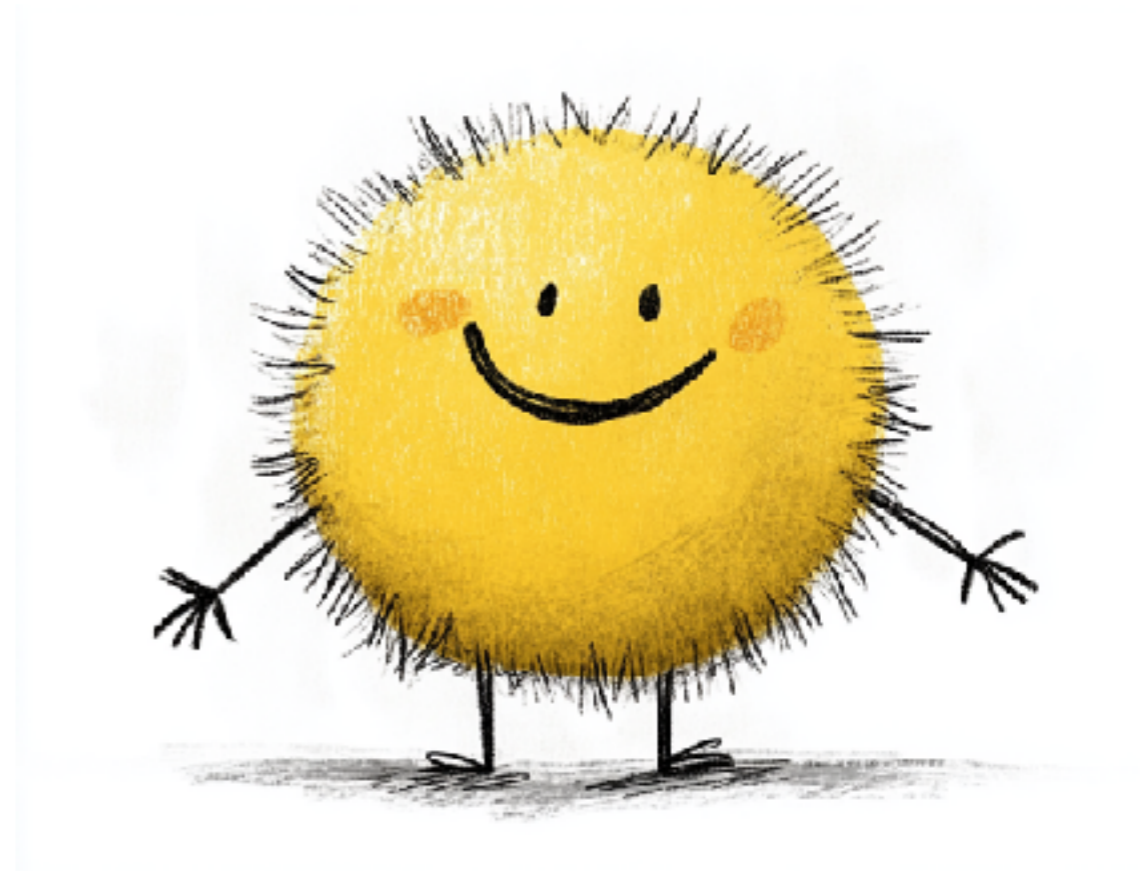


Lecture plan

- **Evolution of massive stars and formation of compact objects**
- **Evolution of binary massive stars and formation of binary compact objects**
- **Gravitational-wave astronomy**
- **Gravitational-wave observations of binary compact objects**

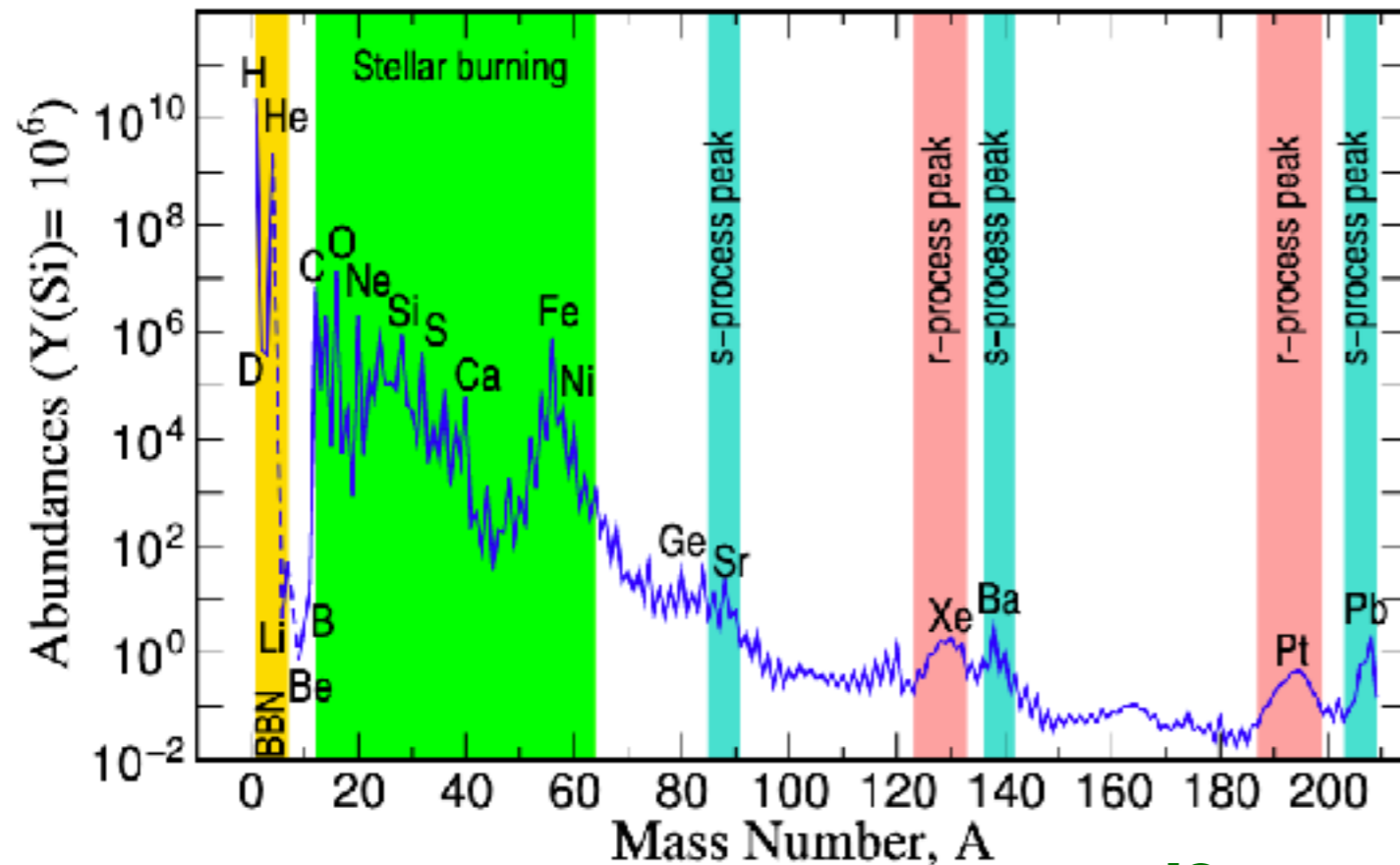
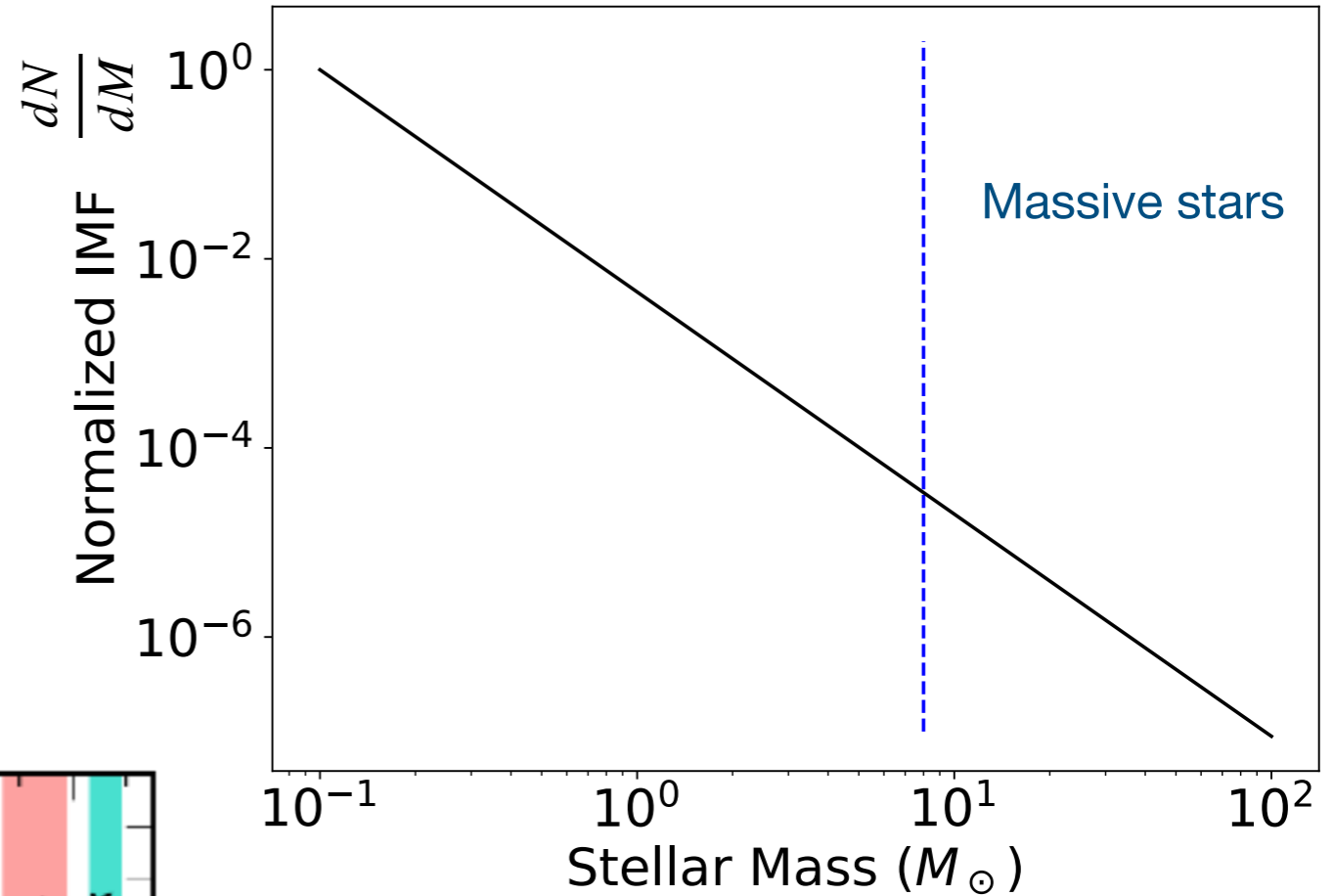
Lecture plan

- **Evolution of massive stars and formation of compact objects**
 - **Evolution up to core collapse**
 - **Core collapse**
 - **Remnant - neutron star or black hole?**



Massive stars

- Masses: $M \gtrsim 8 M_{\odot}$
- Radii: up to $\sim 100 R_{\odot}$
- Luminosities: up to $\sim 10^6 L_{\odot}$
- Fraction by number: $\lesssim 0.3\%$

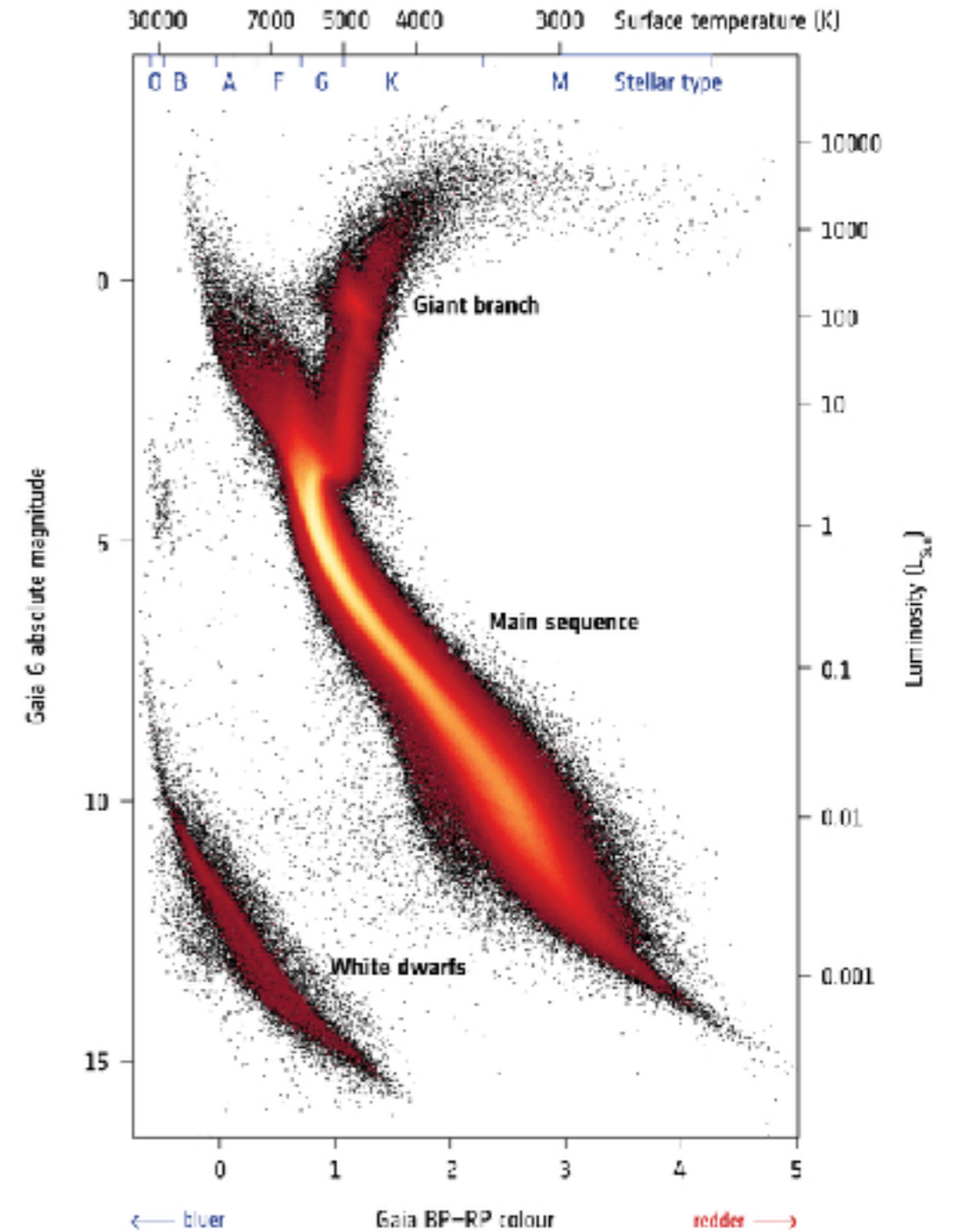
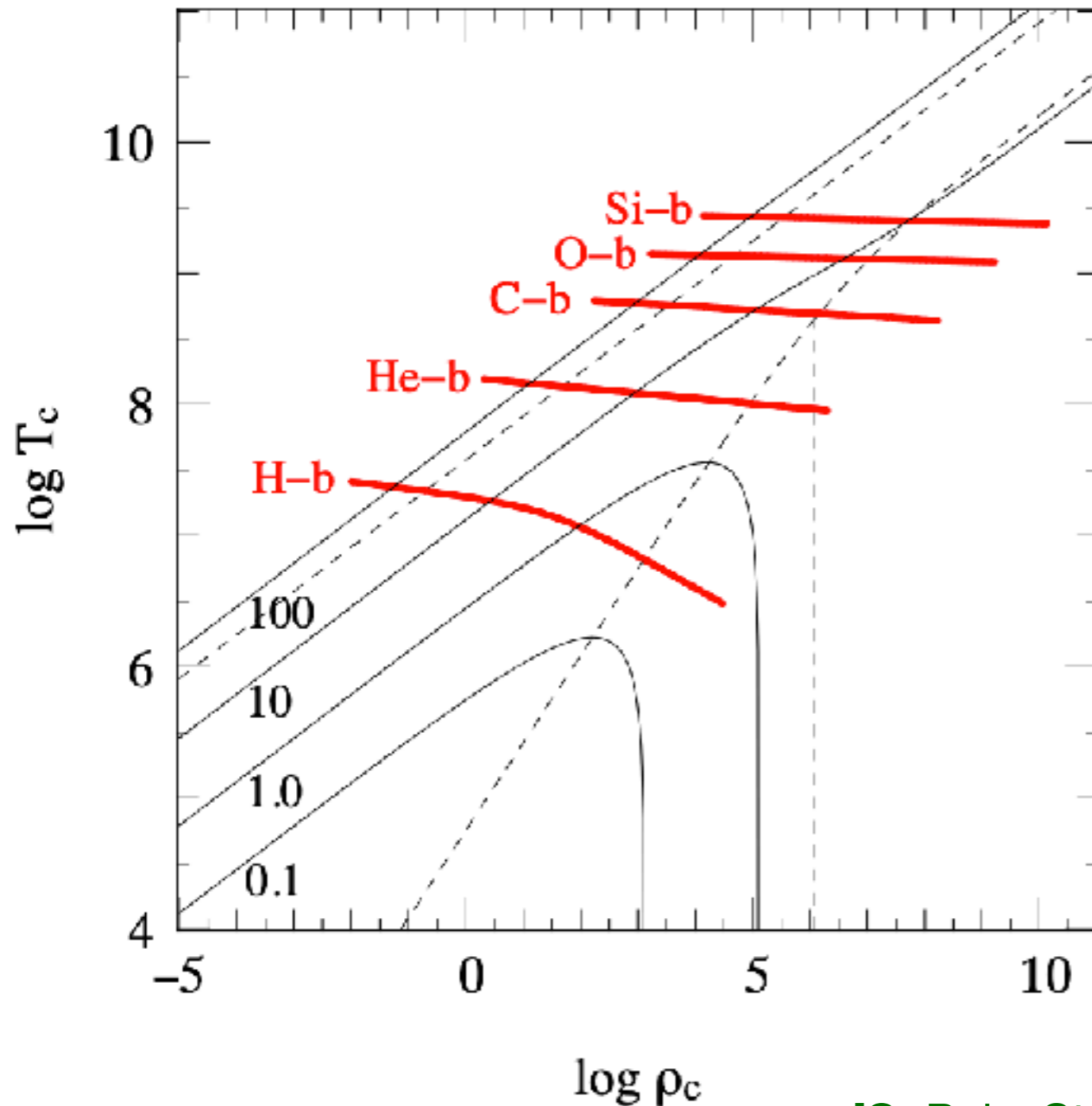
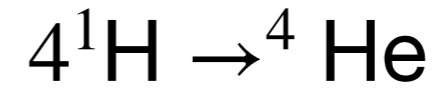


Chemical elements up to the iron group are synthesised in the cores of massive stars

[Cowan et al., arXiv:1901.01410]

Nuclear burning cycles

- Main sequence: hydrogen fusion into helium



[O. Pols: Stellar structure and evolution]

Nuclear burning cycles

- Main sequence: hydrogen fusion into helium $4\ ^1\text{H} \rightarrow\ ^4\text{He}$
- Triple alpha: helium fusion into carbon $3\ ^4\text{He} \rightarrow\ ^{12}\text{C}^* \rightarrow\ ^{12}\text{C}$
- Carbon and oxygen fusion $^{12}\text{C} +\ ^4\text{He} \rightarrow\ ^{16}\text{O}$
 $^{16}\text{O} +\ ^4\text{He} \rightarrow\ ^{20}\text{Ne}$
 $^{16}\text{O} +\ ^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow\ ^{28}\text{Si} +\ ^4\text{He}$
- Neon fusion $^{20}\text{Ne} +\ ^4\text{He} \rightarrow\ ^{24}\text{Mg}$
- Silicon fusion $^{28}\text{Si} +\ ^4\text{He} \rightarrow\ ^{32}\text{S}$
- ... and so on up to iron $^{36}\text{Ar},\ ^{40}\text{Ca},\ ^{44}\text{Ti},\ ^{48}\text{Cr},\ ^{52}\text{Fe},\ ^{56}\text{Ni},\ ^{56}\text{Co}$

Nuclear burning cycles

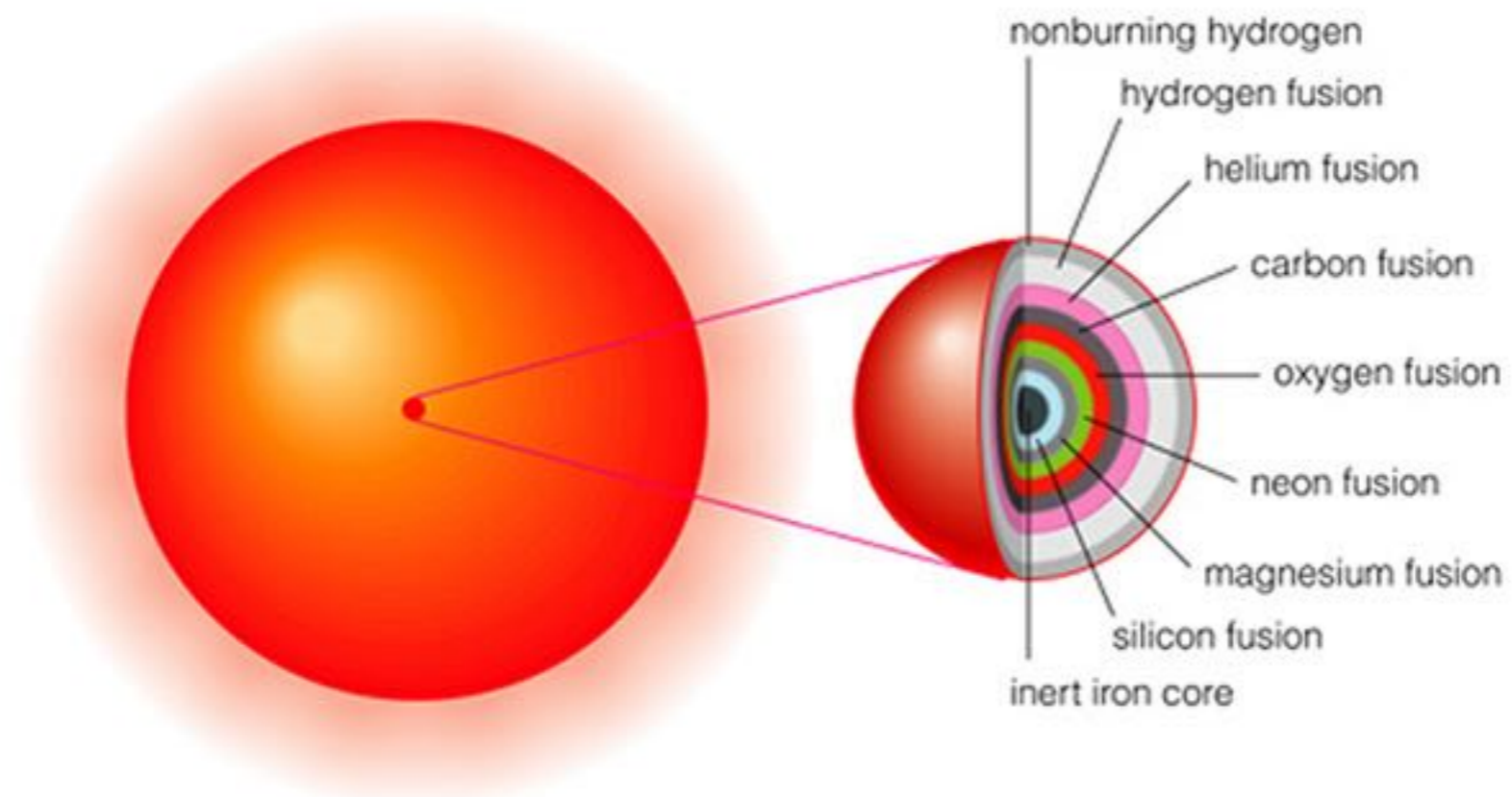
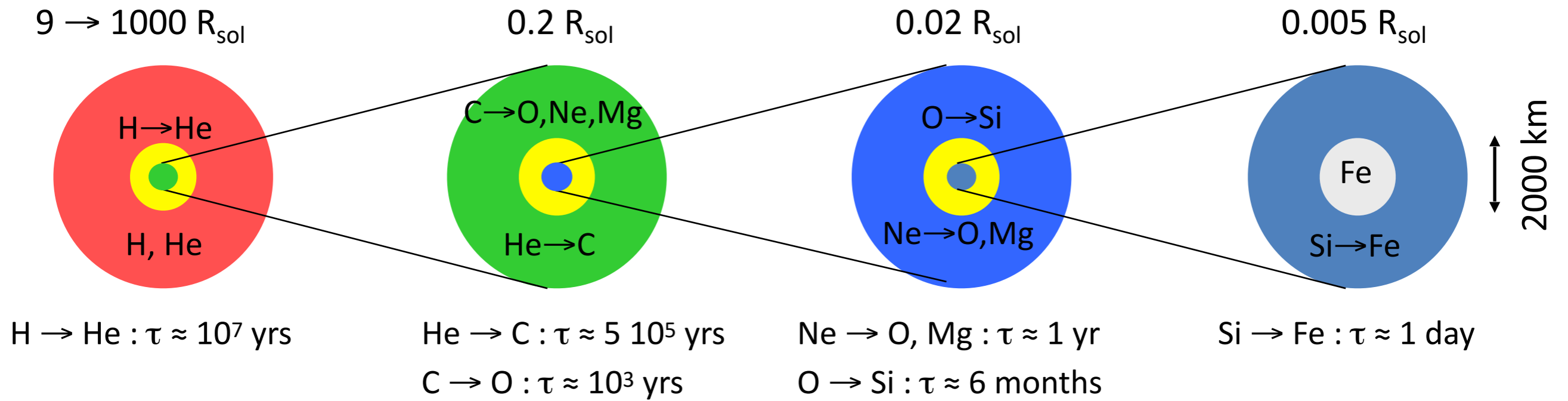
- Nuclear fuel in the current cycle is exhausted.
- Nuclear reaction rate decreases.
- Stellar core contracts.
- Central temperature and density increase.
- A new fusion cycle starts.

Table 12.1. Properties of nuclear burning stages in a $15 M_{\odot}$ star (from Woosley et al. 2002).

burning stage	T (10^9 K)	ρ (g/cm ³)	fuel	main products	timescale
hydrogen	0.035	5.8	H	He	1.1×10^7 yr
helium	0.18	1.4×10^3	He	C, O	2.0×10^6 yr
carbon	0.83	2.4×10^5	C	O, Ne	2.0×10^3 yr
neon	1.6	7.2×10^6	Ne	O, Mg	0.7 yr
oxygen	1.9	6.7×10^6	O, Mg	Si, S	2.6 yr
silicon	3.3	4.3×10^7	Si, S	Fe, Ni	18 d

[O. Pols: Stellar structure and evolution]

Onion shell structure



Credit: <http://astronomy.nmsu.edu/tharriso/ast110/class19.html>

Stellar winds

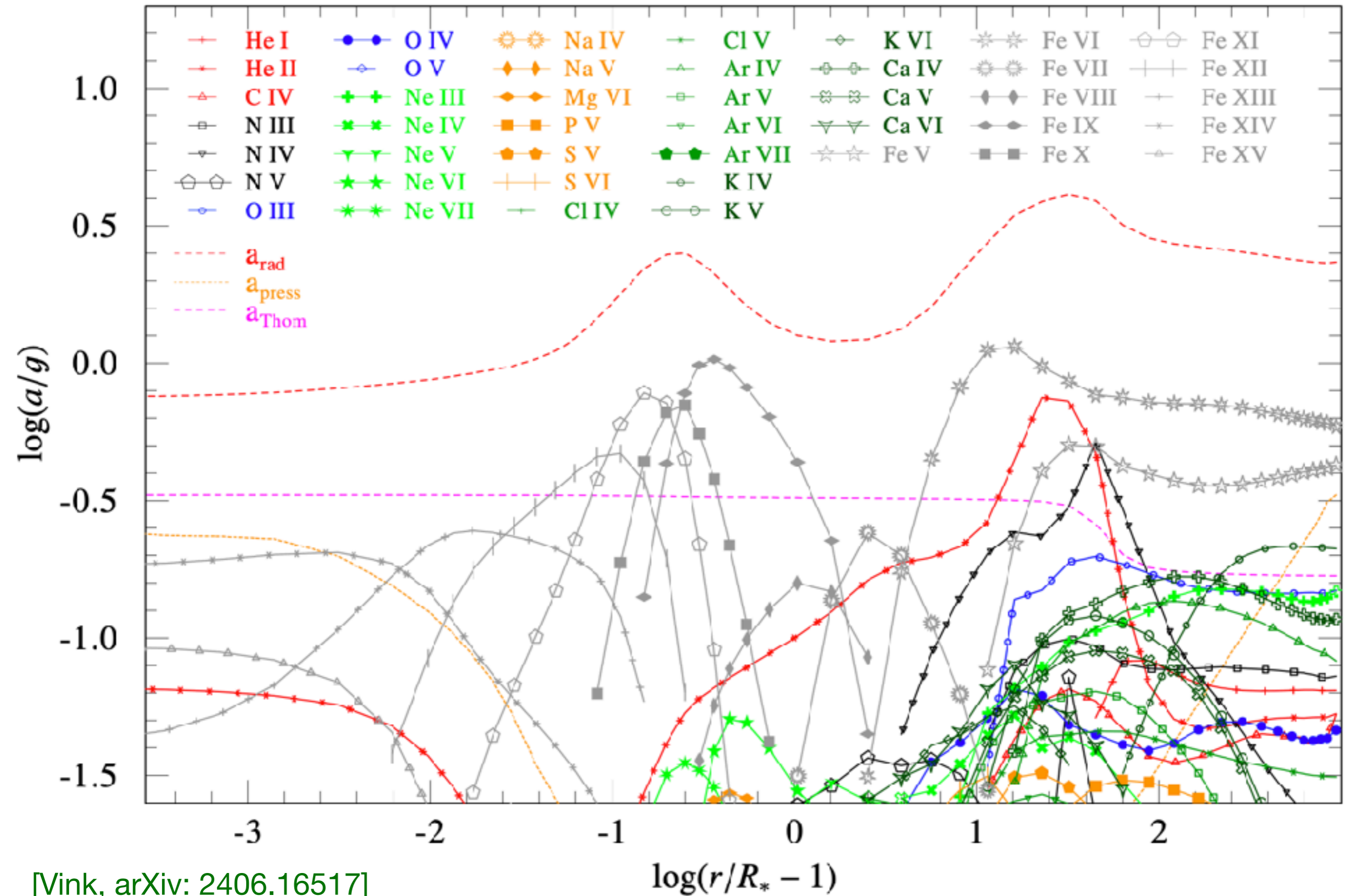
- Massive stars ($> 15M_{\odot}$) experience rapid mass outflows

Type	T_{eff} (kK)	M (M_{\odot})	v_{∞} (km/s)	\dot{M} ($M_{\odot}\text{yr}^{-1}$)
Sun	6	1	~ 500	10^{-14}
O	30-45	20-60	2000-3500	$10^{-7} - 10^{-5}$

- Modelled as stationary outflow $\dot{M} = 4\pi r^2 \rho(r) v(r)$
- Wind acceleration, with $a(r)$ from radiation (or other sources):

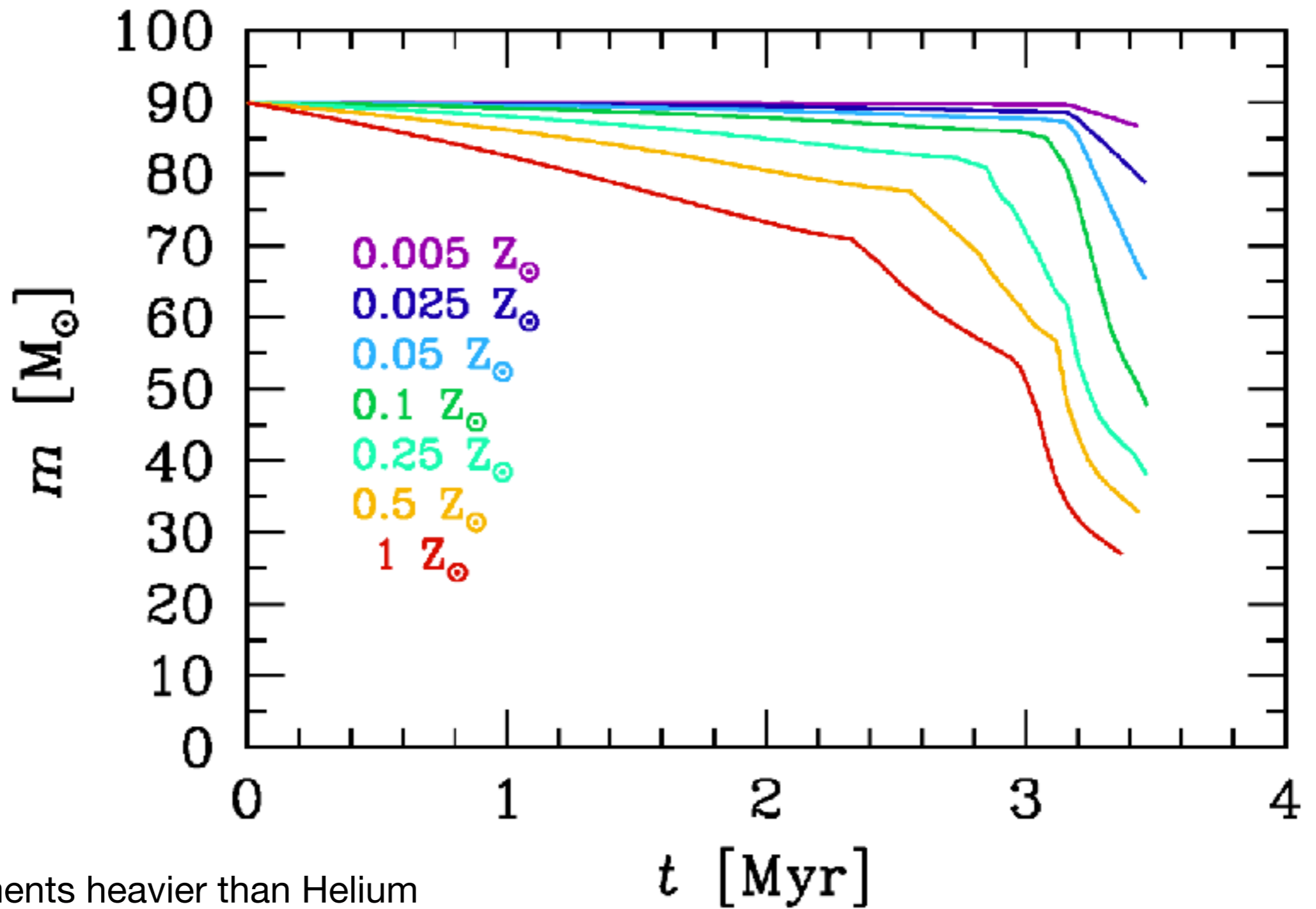
$$v \left(\frac{dv}{dr} \right) = - \frac{GM}{r^2} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp}{dr} + a(r)$$

Wind acceleration due to radiation pressure



[Vink, arXiv: 2406.16517]

Stellar winds



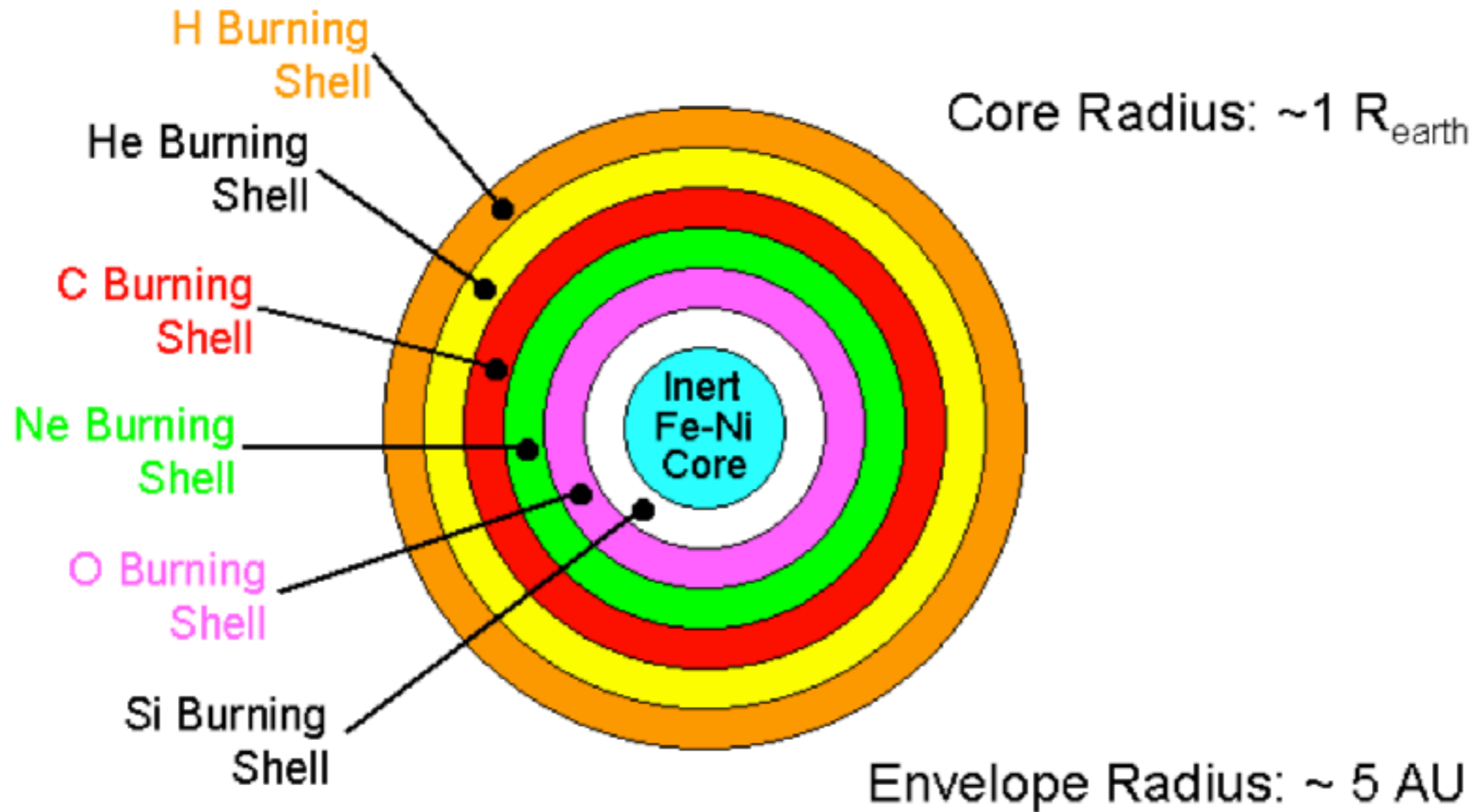
● ‘Metals’: all elements heavier than Helium

● Metallicity: $Z = \frac{M_{*,\text{metals}}}{M_{*,\text{tot}}}$

[Mapelli, arXiv:2106.00699]

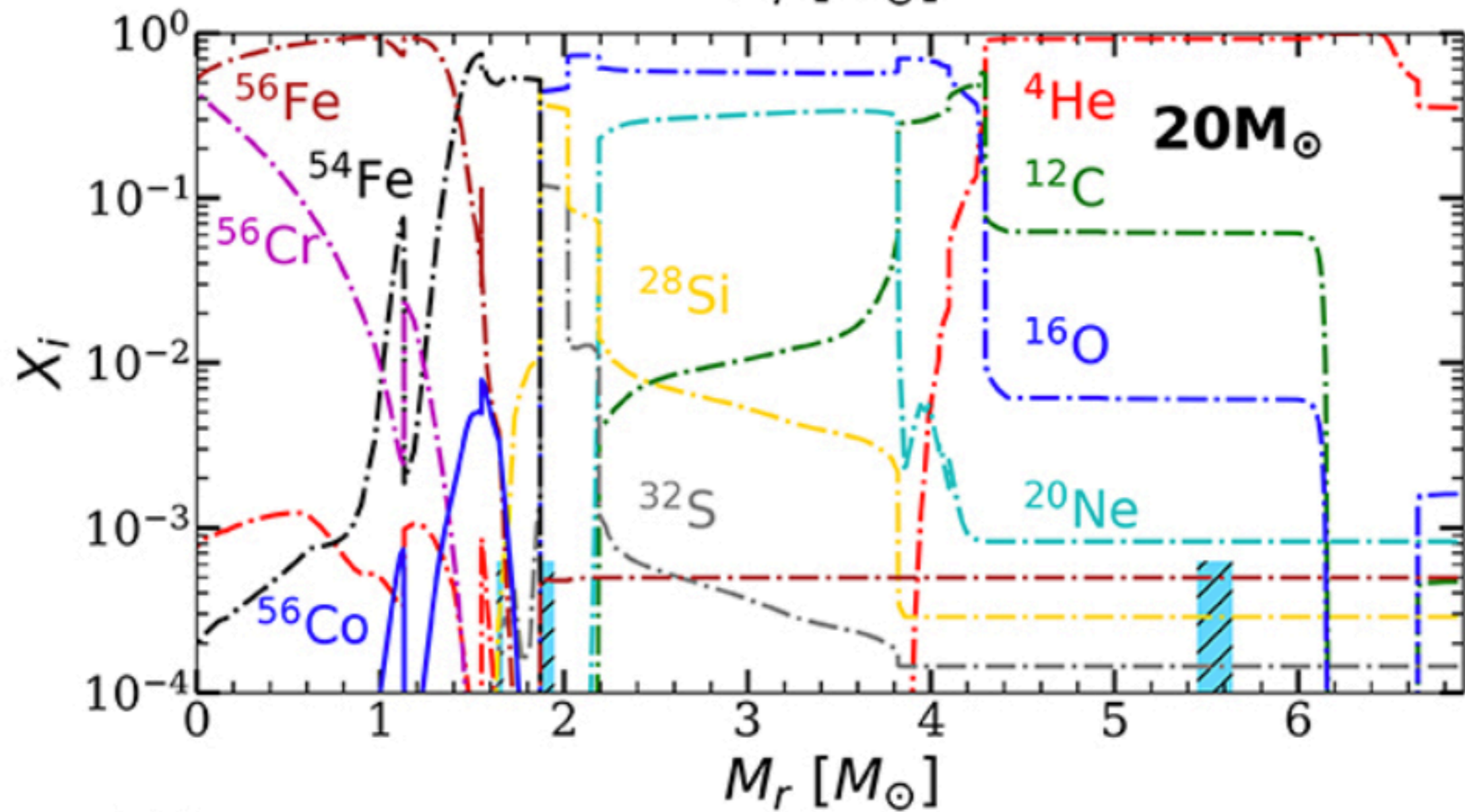
● Solar metallicity: $Z_{\odot} = 0.014$

Massive star right before core collapse



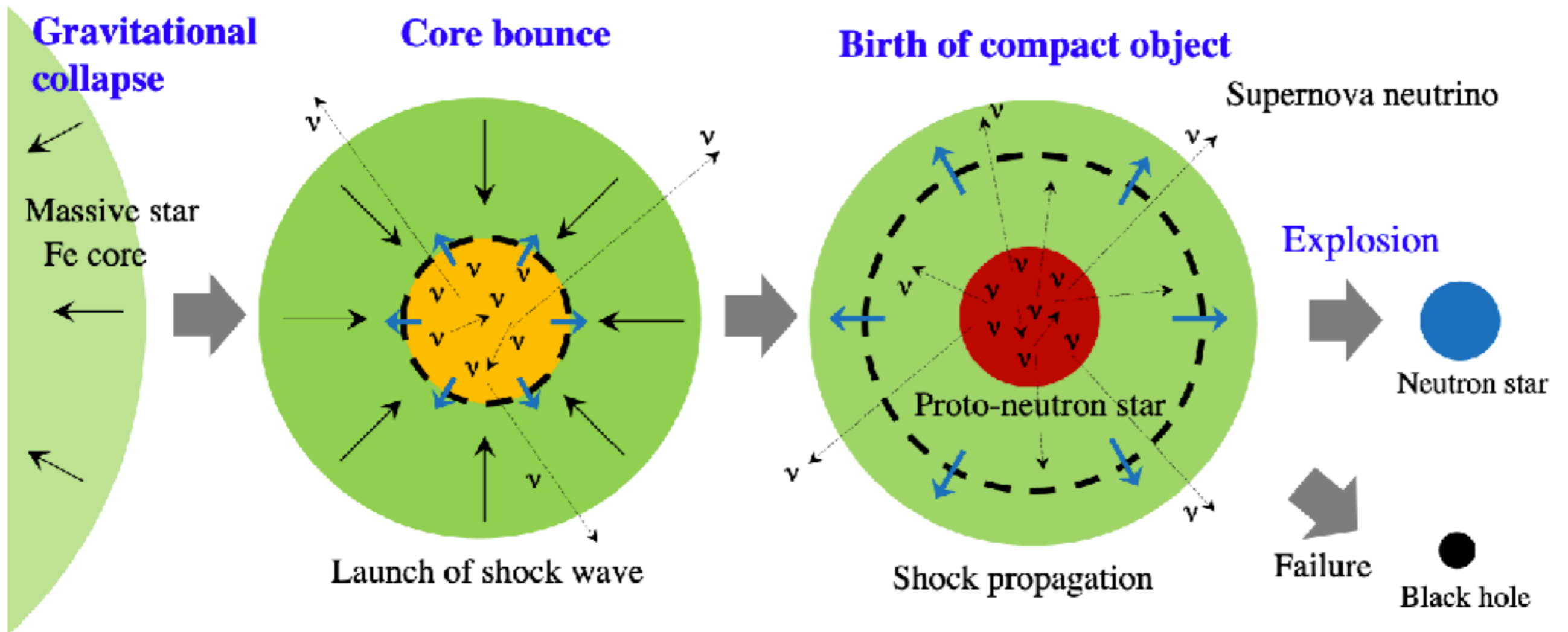
Credit: Richard Pogge

Massive star right before core collapse



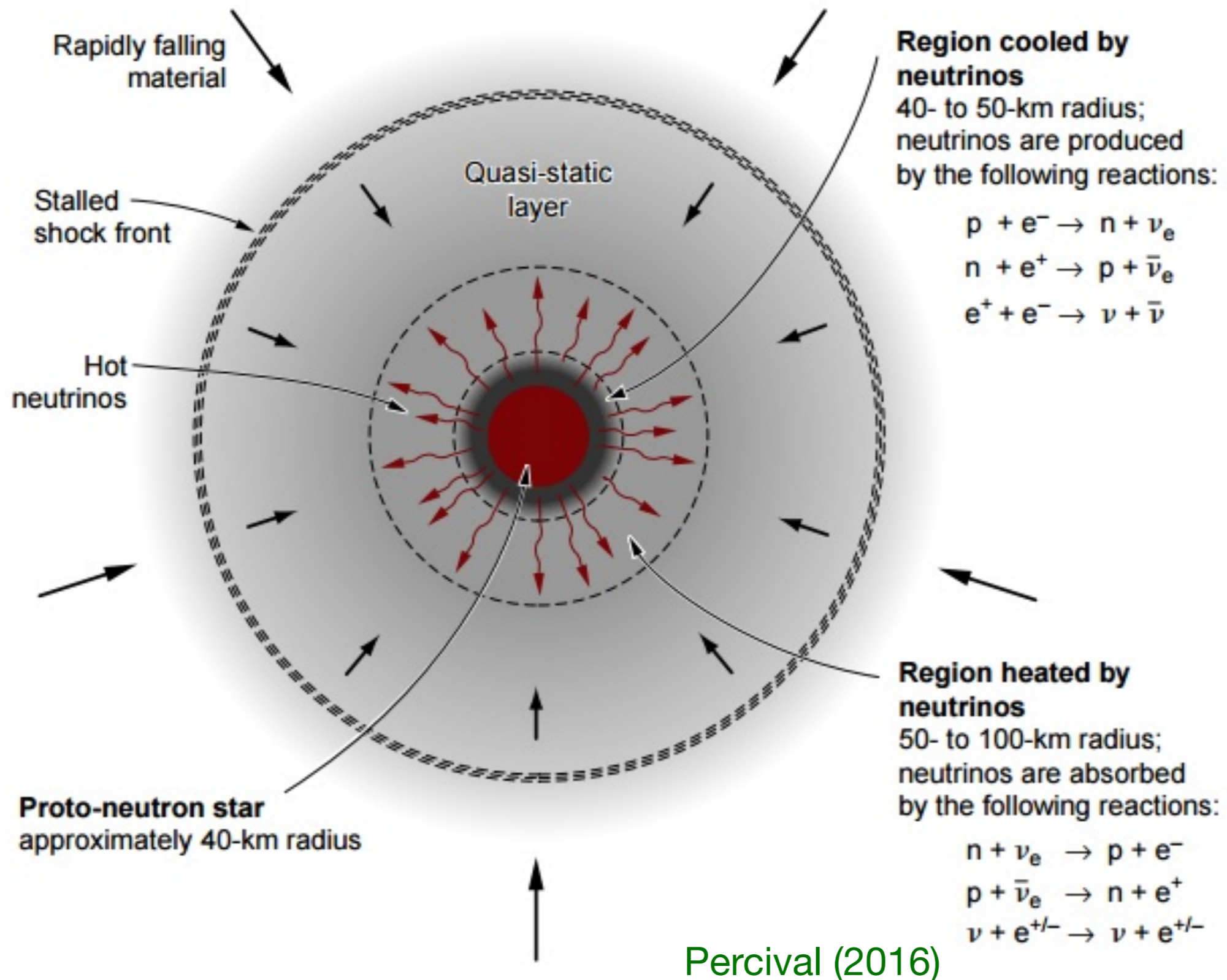
[Griffiths et al., arXiv:2408.03368]

Core collapse

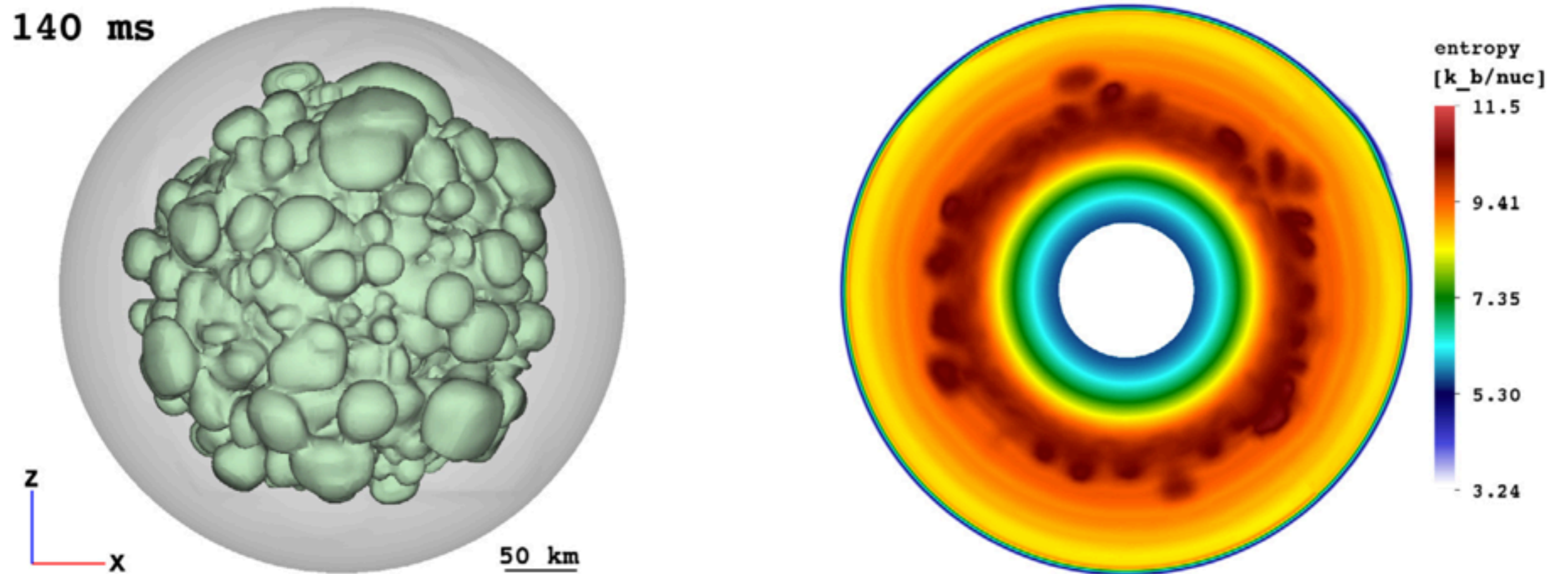


[Sumiyoshi et al., arXiv:2207.00033]

Core collapse



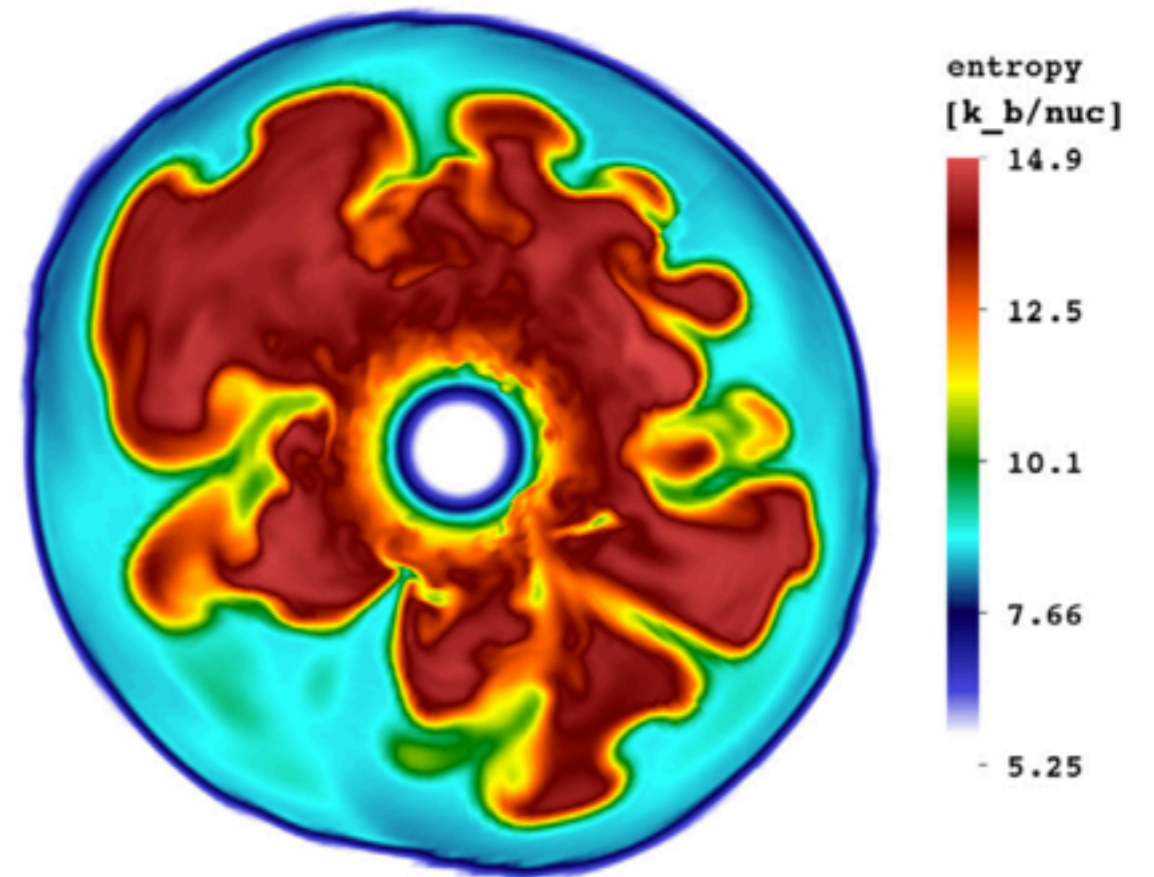
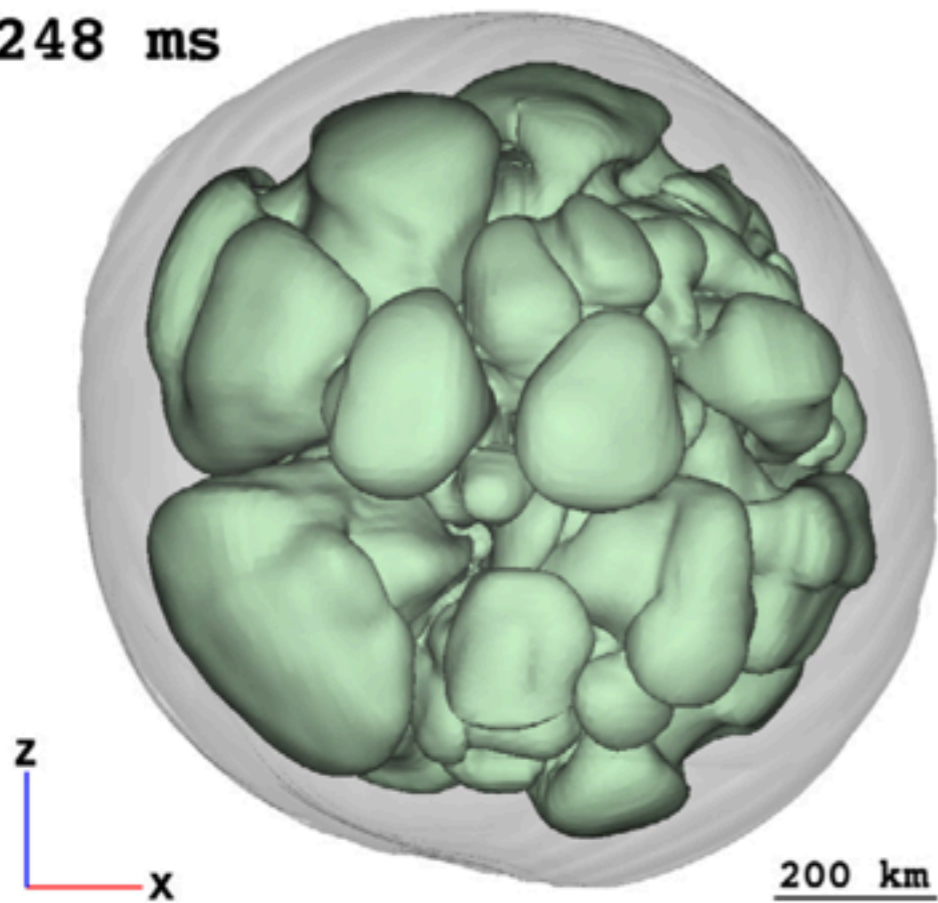
Core collapse: example



[Wongwathanarat et al., (2013)]

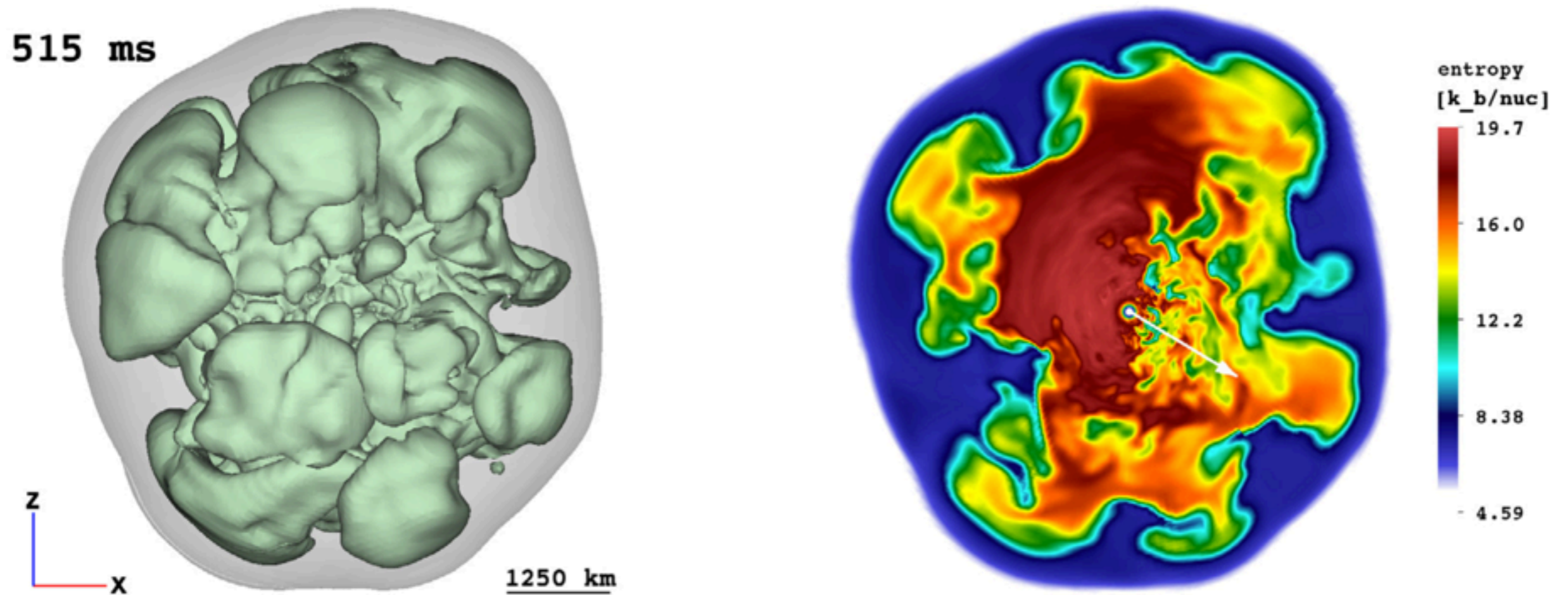
Core collapse: example

248 ms



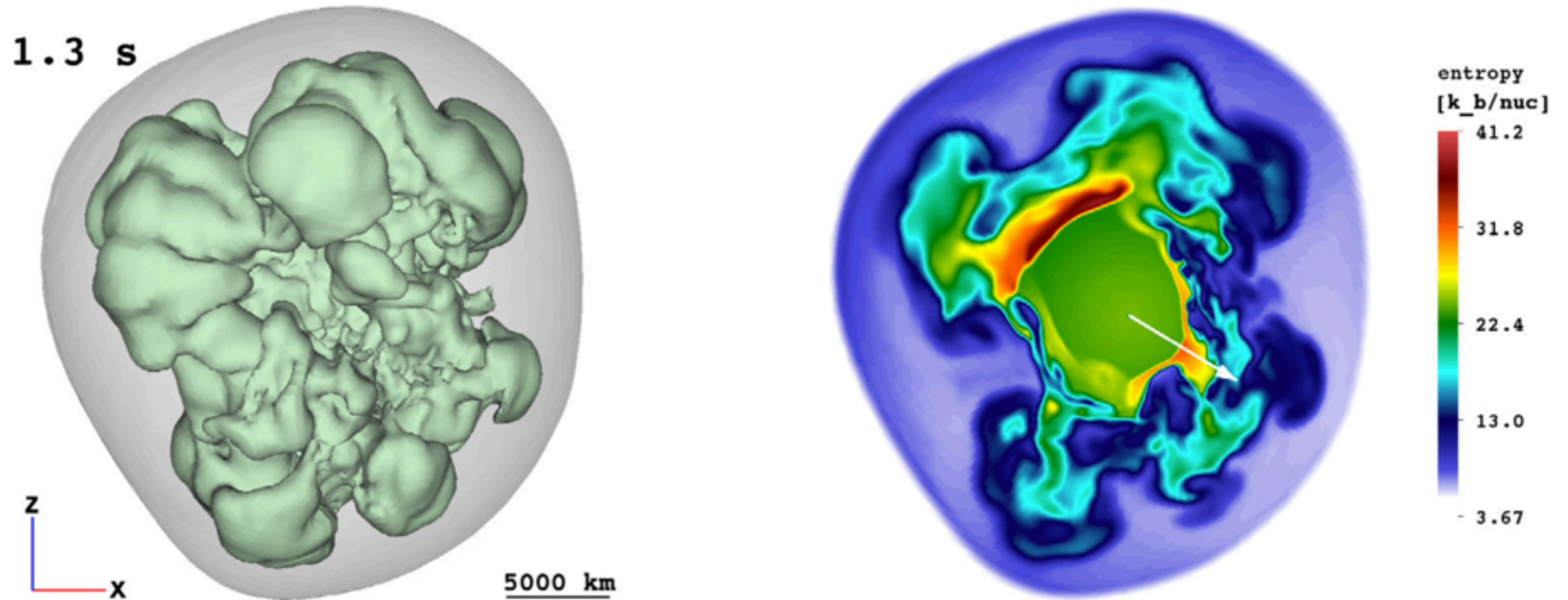
[Wongwathanarat et al., (2013)]

Core collapse: example



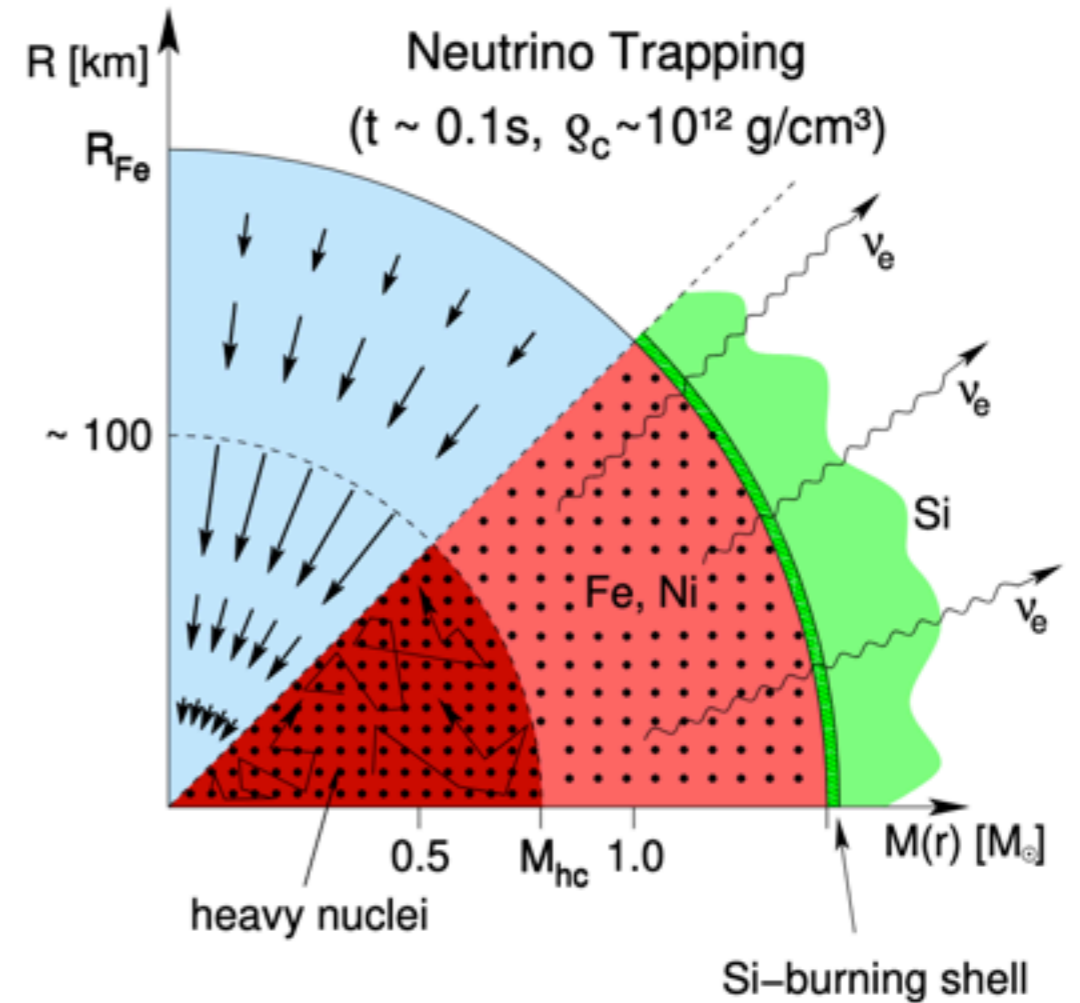
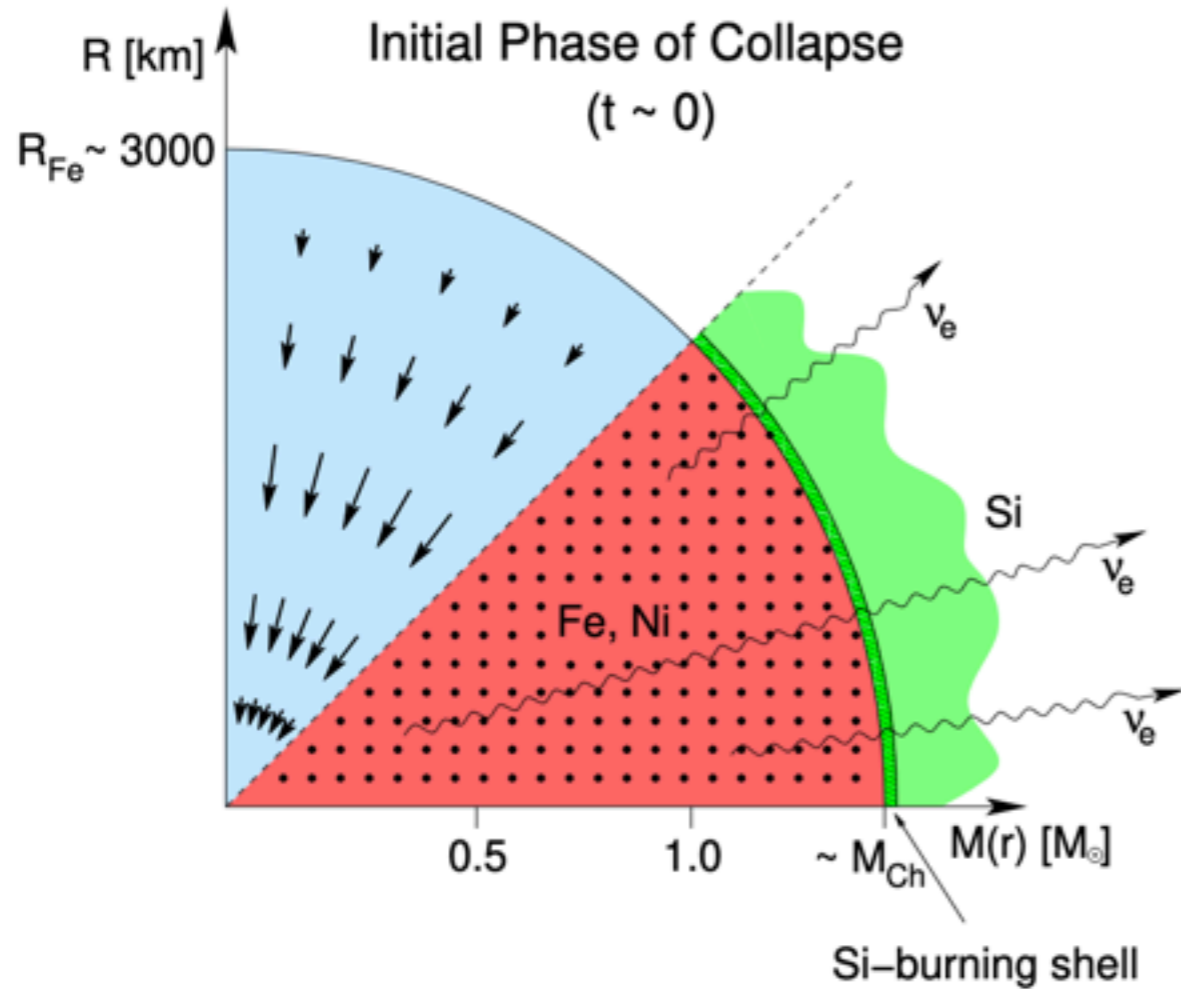
[Wongwathanarat et al., (2013)]

Core collapse: example



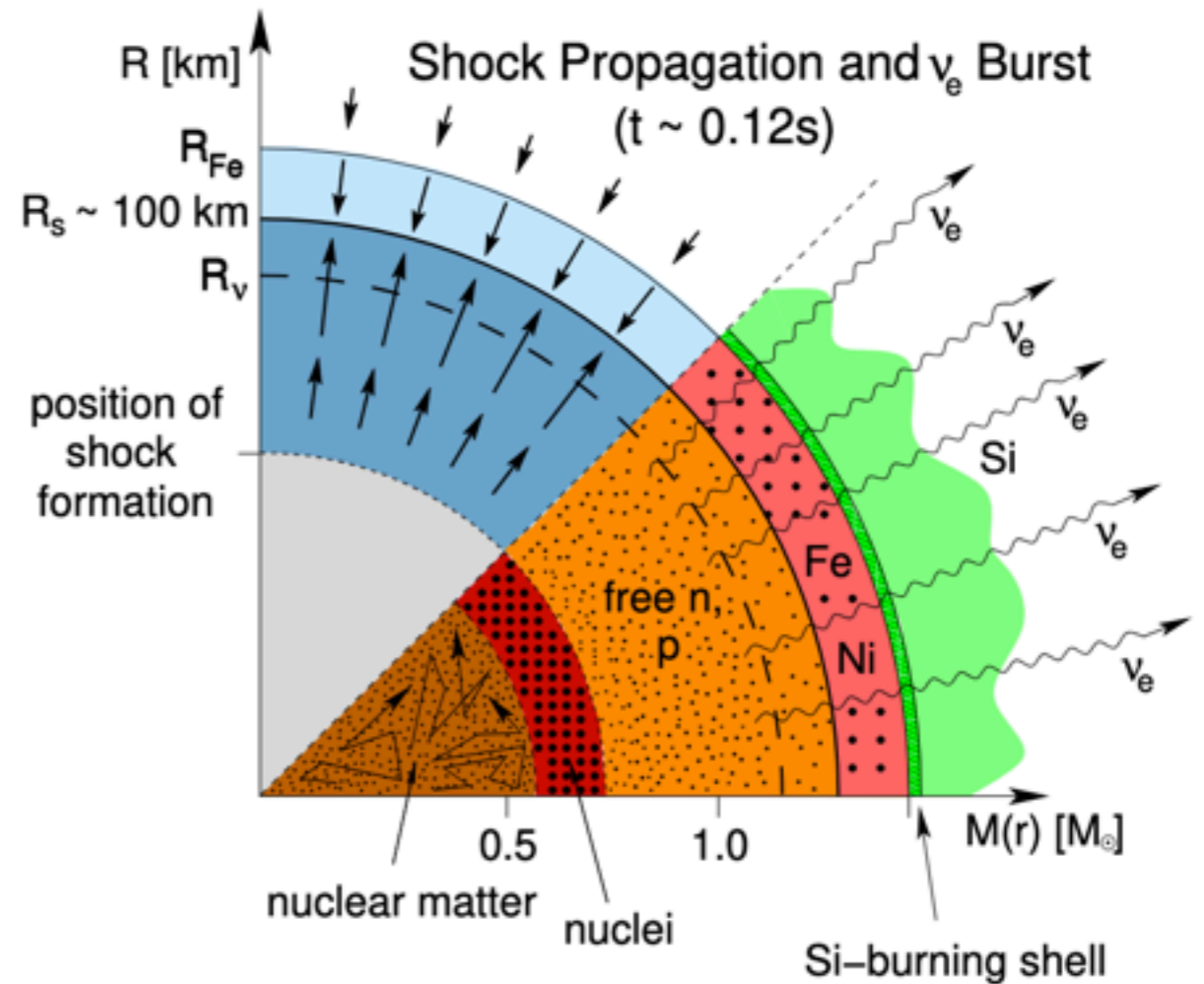
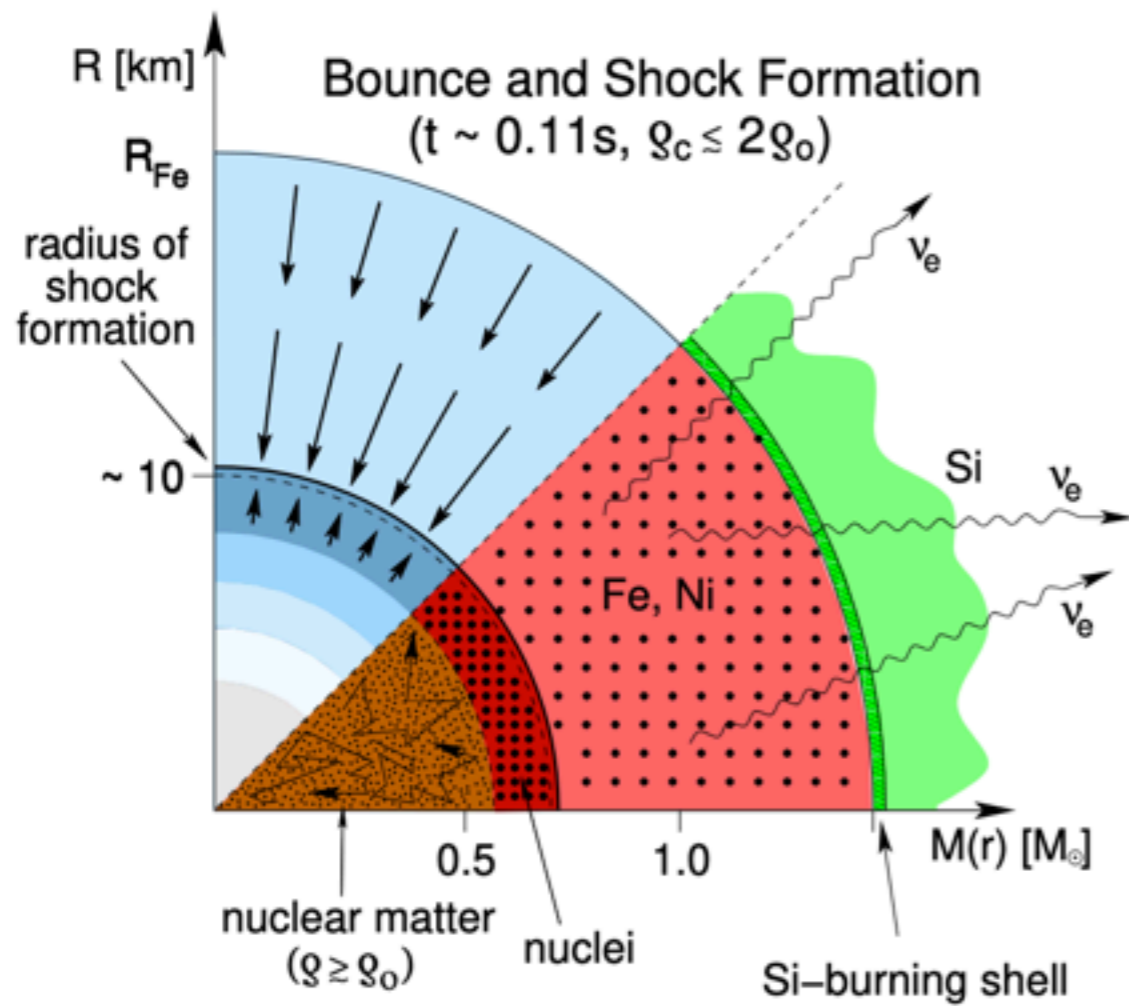
[Wongwathanarat et al., (2013)]

Core collapse and formation of a neutron star



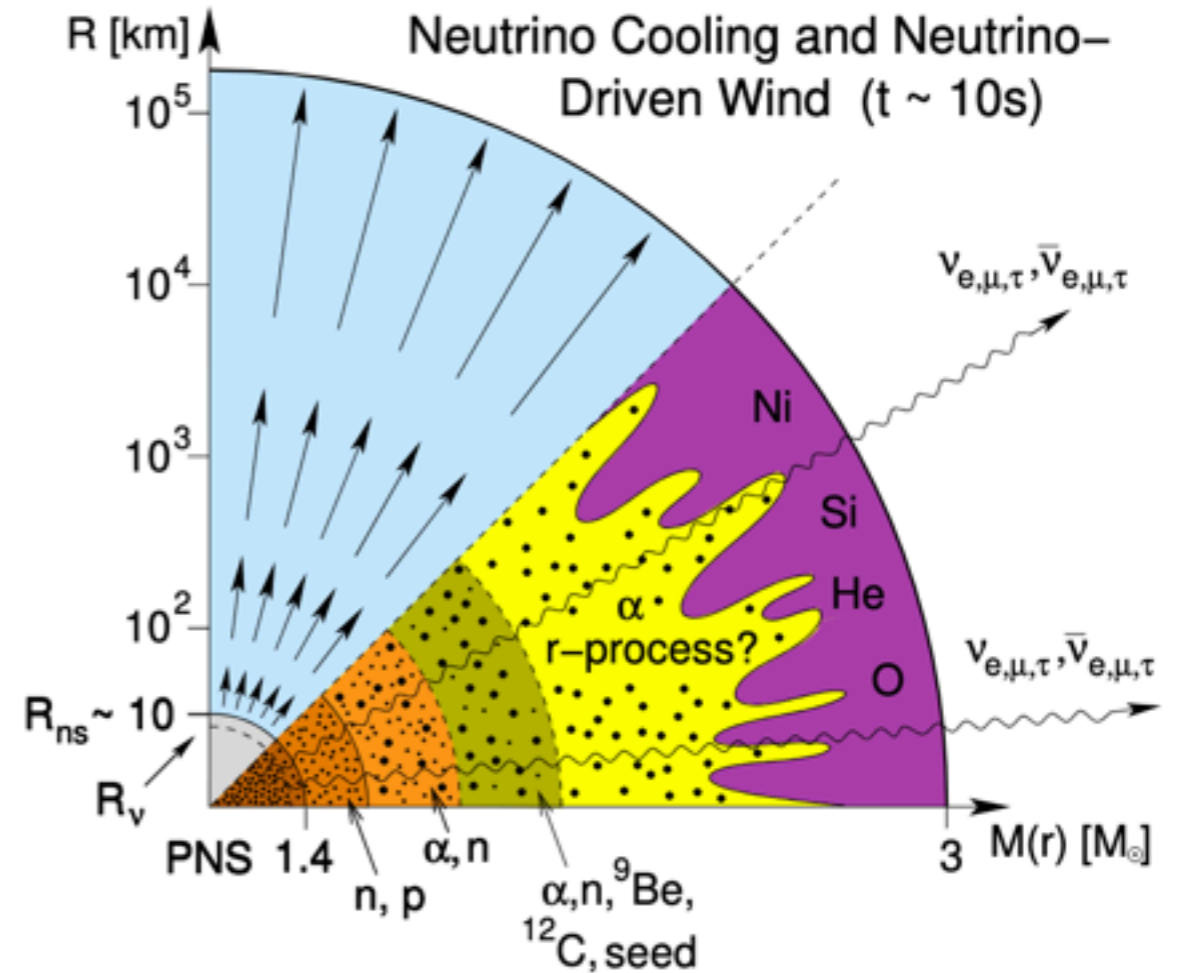
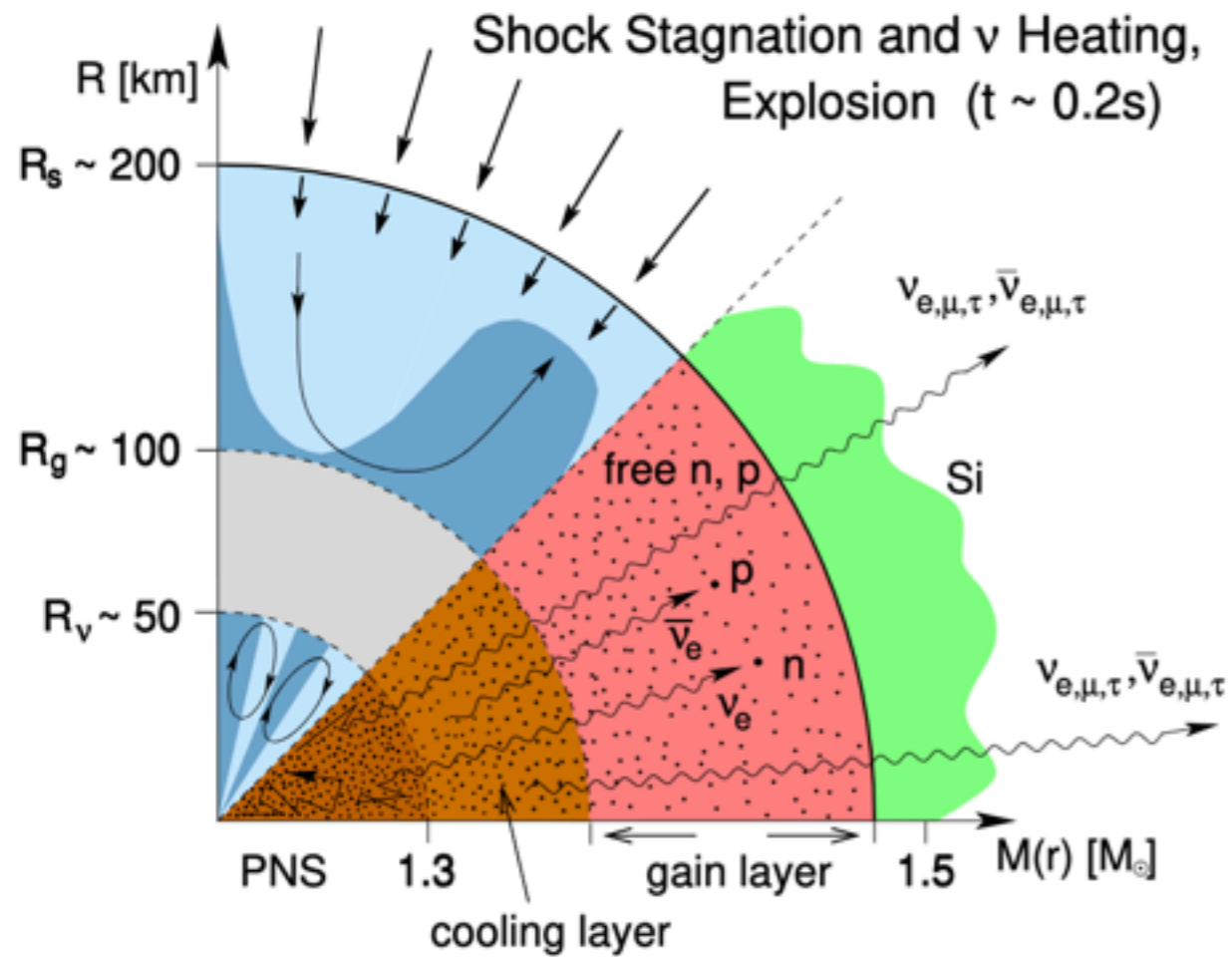
[Janka et al., arXiv:0612072]

Core collapse and formation of a neutron star



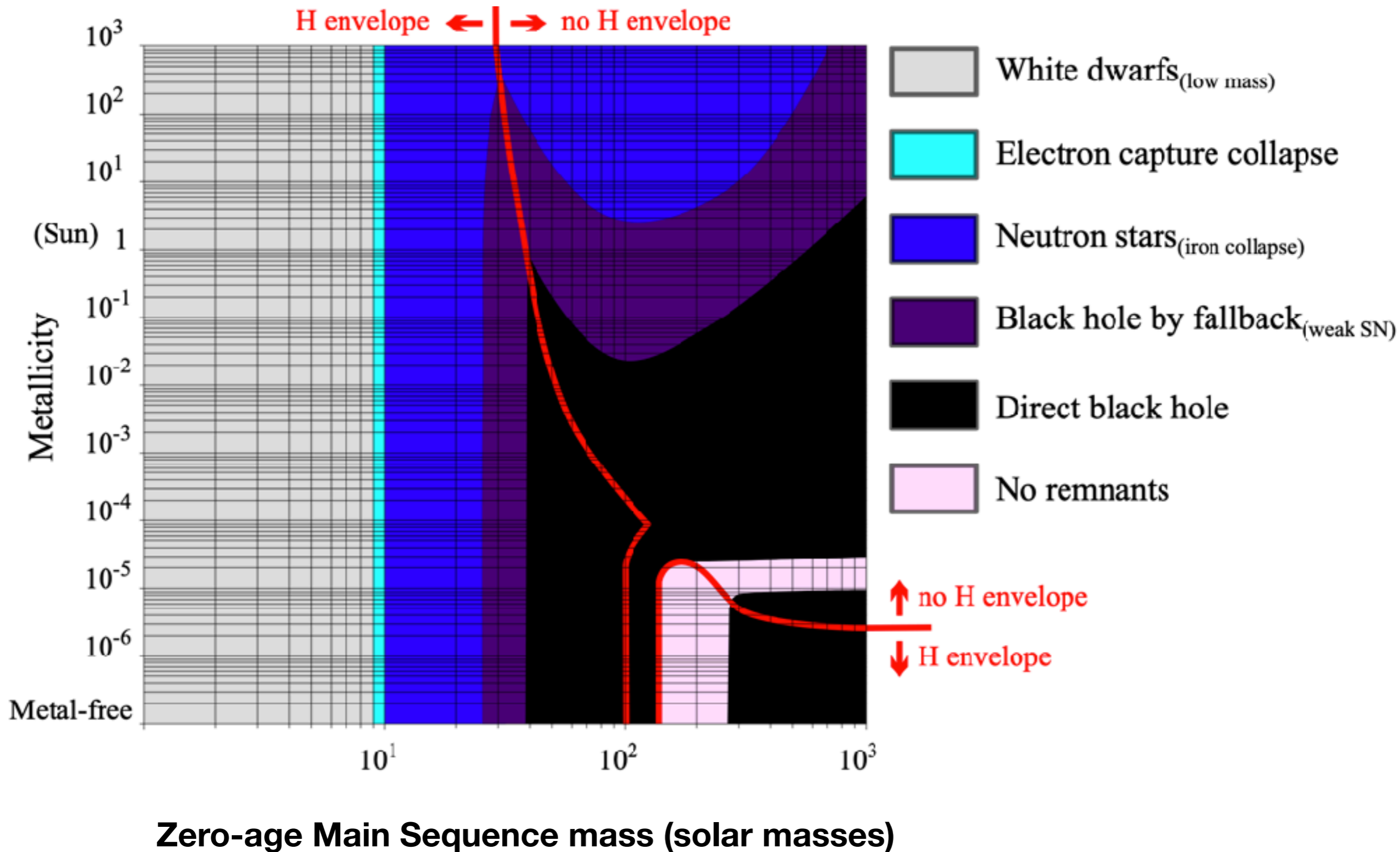
[Janka et al., arXiv:0612072]

Core collapse and formation of a neutron star

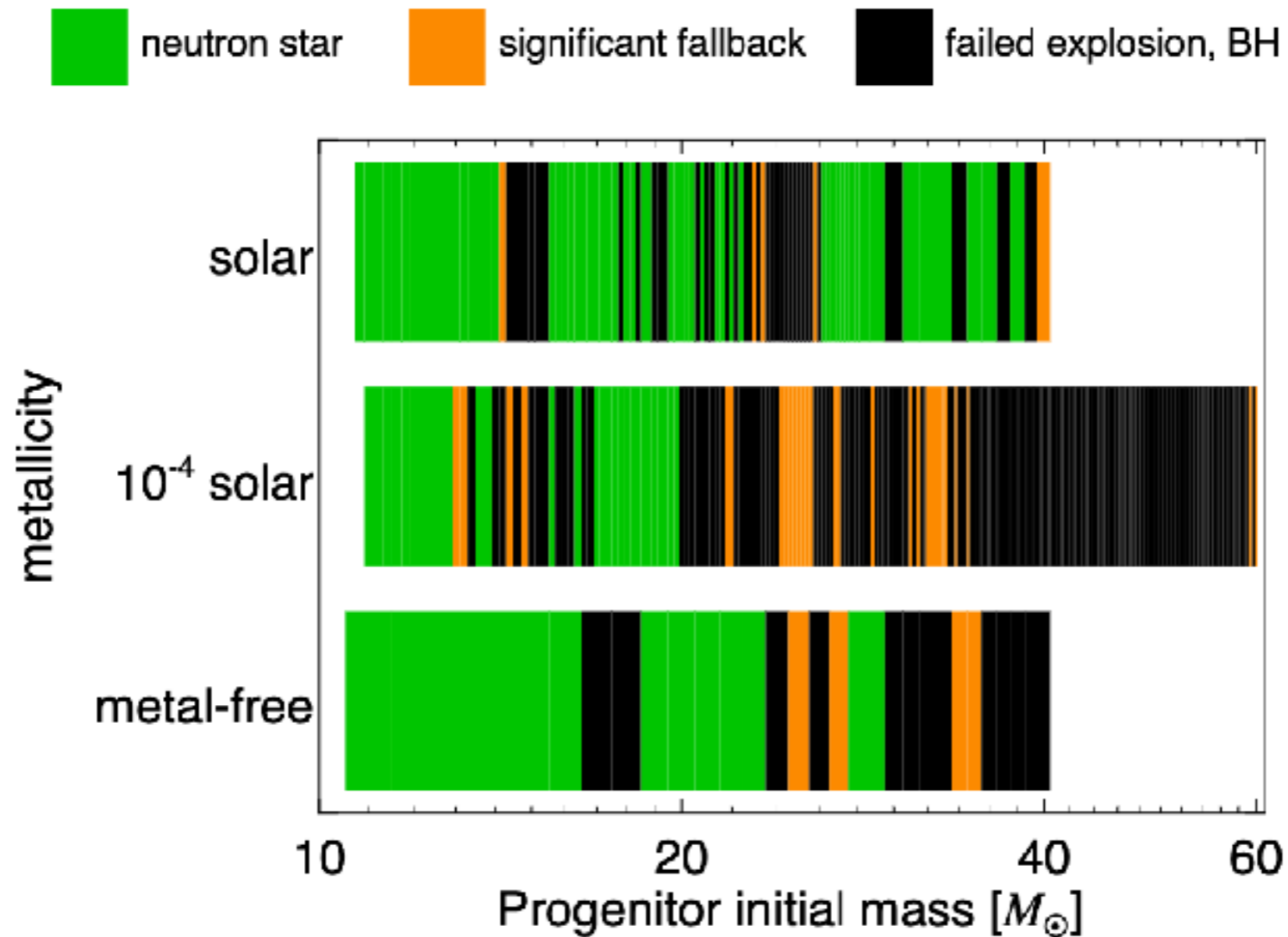


[Janka et al., arXiv:0612072]

The fate of massive stars



The fate of massive stars: islands of explodability



[Pejcha & Thompson, arXiv:1409.0540]

Explosability criteria

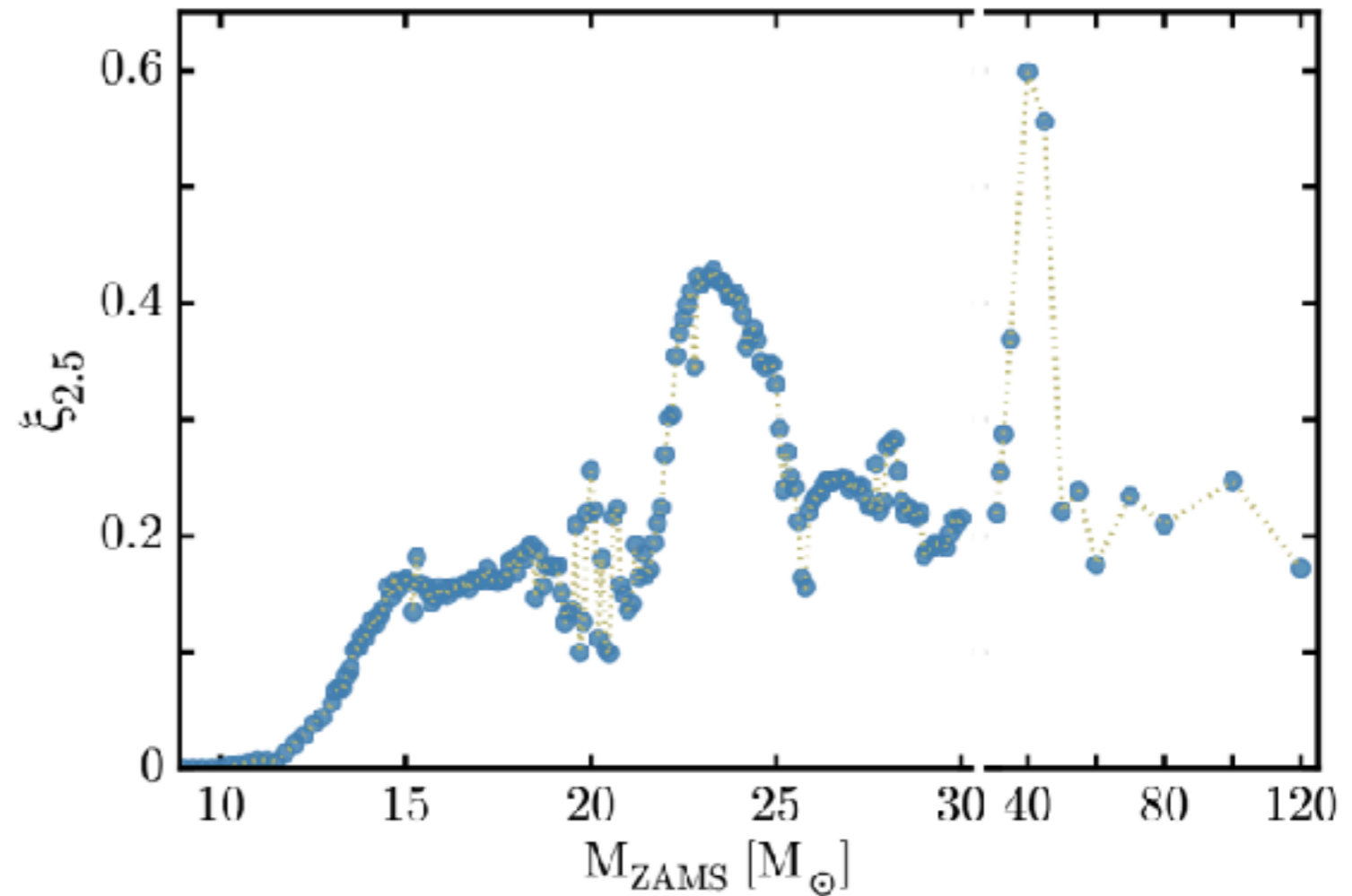
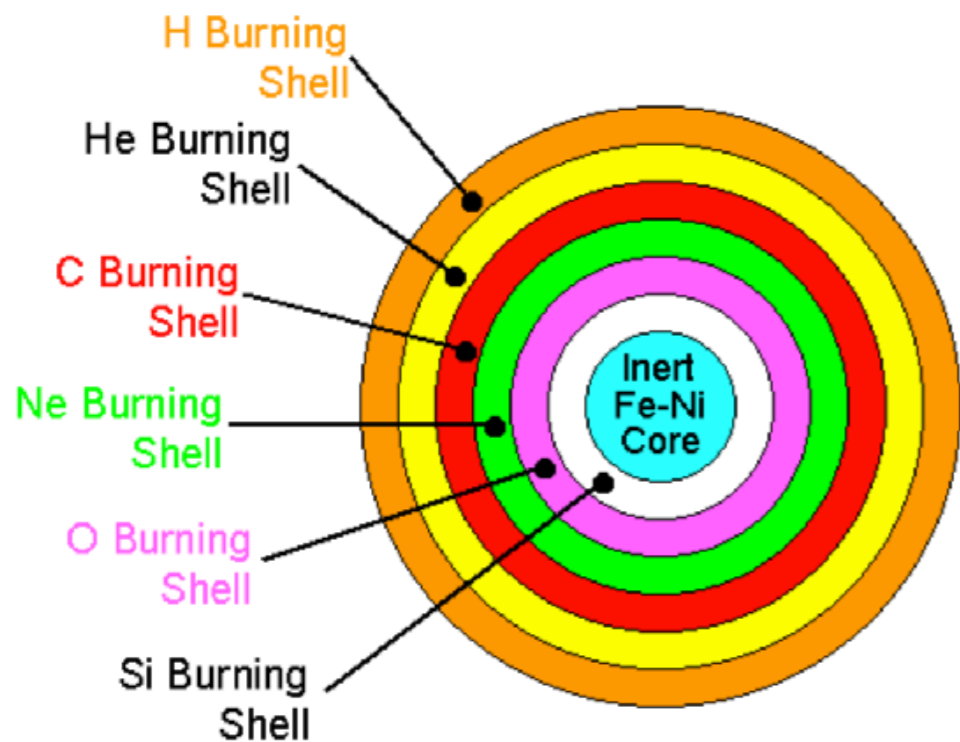
- Criteria based on pre-supernova structure
 - Criteria for zero-age main sequence stars depend also on stellar evolution

- Compactness
$$\xi_M = \frac{M/M_\odot}{R(M_{\text{bary}} = M)/1000 \text{ km}}$$

- For example: if $\xi_2 < 0.5$ star explodes

Explodability of various stellar models

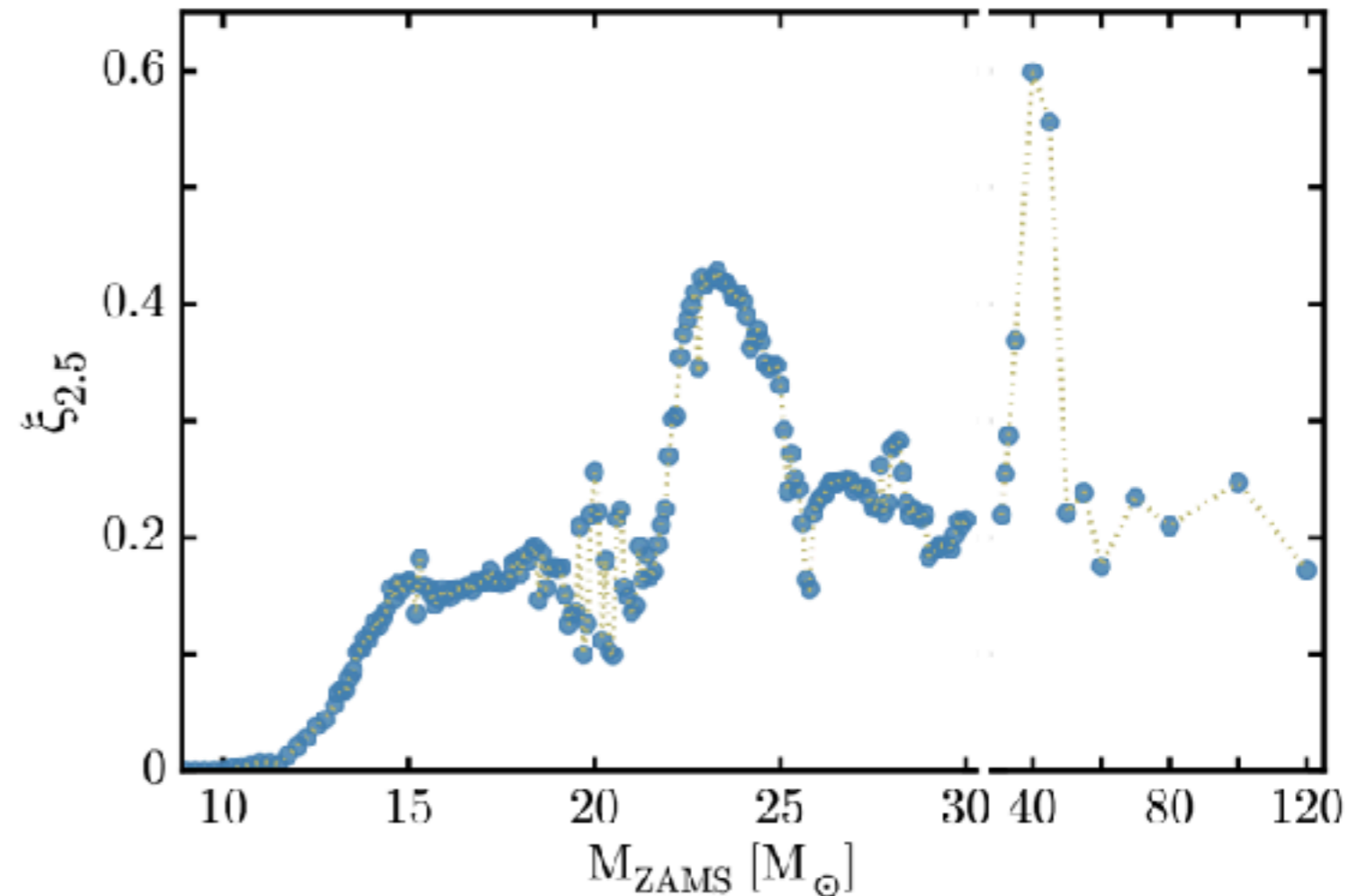
- Compactness seems to be non-monotonic with (initial) stellar mass!
- Episodes of convective burning in shells surrounding the core (carbon, oxygen, silicon) have a large effect on compactness



Credit: T. Sukhbold (PhD thesis)

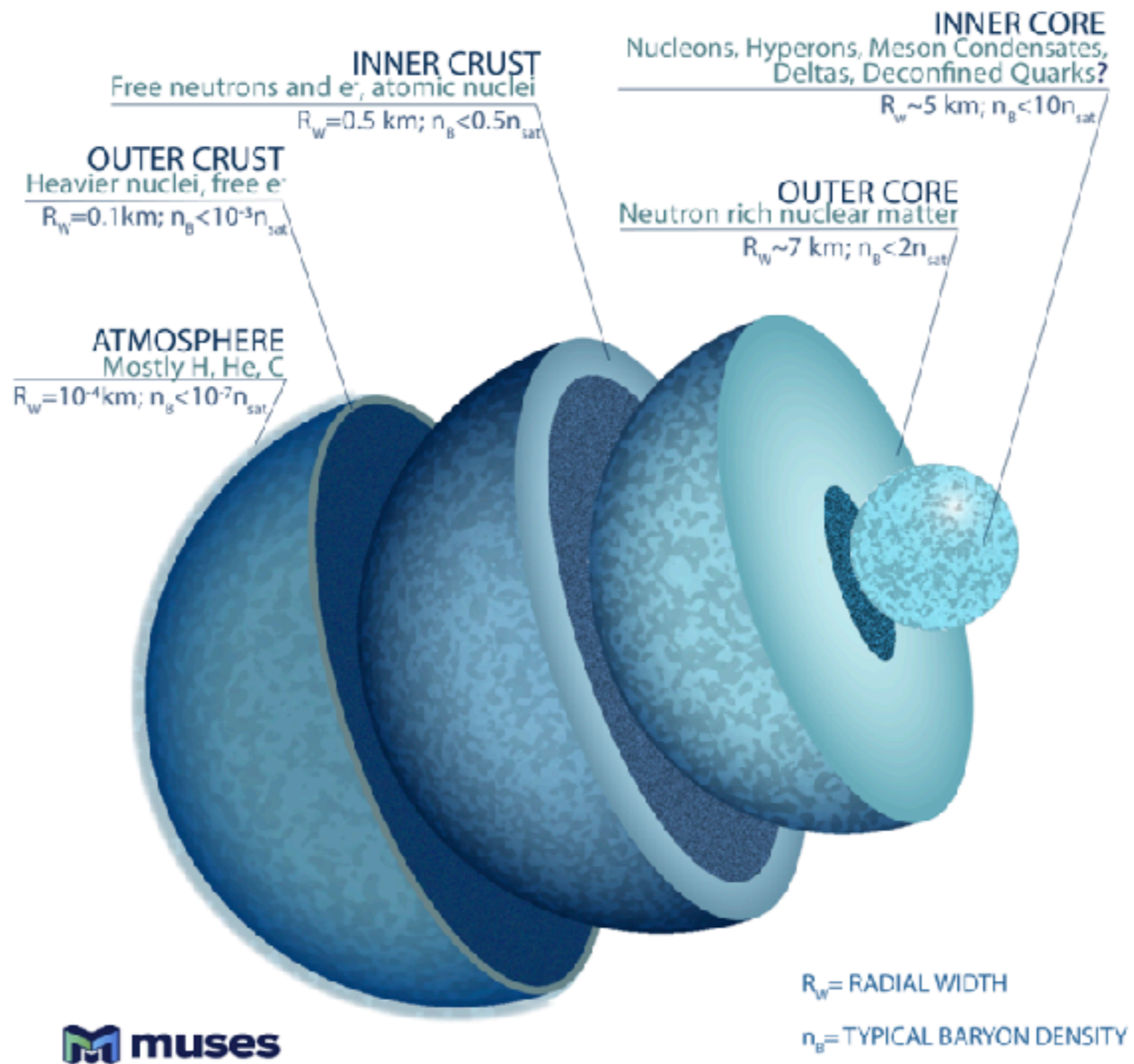
Explodability of various stellar models

- Compactness seems to be non-monotonic with (initial) stellar mass!
- Episodes of convective burning in shells surrounding the core (carbon, oxygen, silicon) have a large effect on compactness
- Modelling uncertainties: convection regions; rates of some nuclear reactions



Credit: T. Sukhbold (PhD thesis)

Neutron star structure

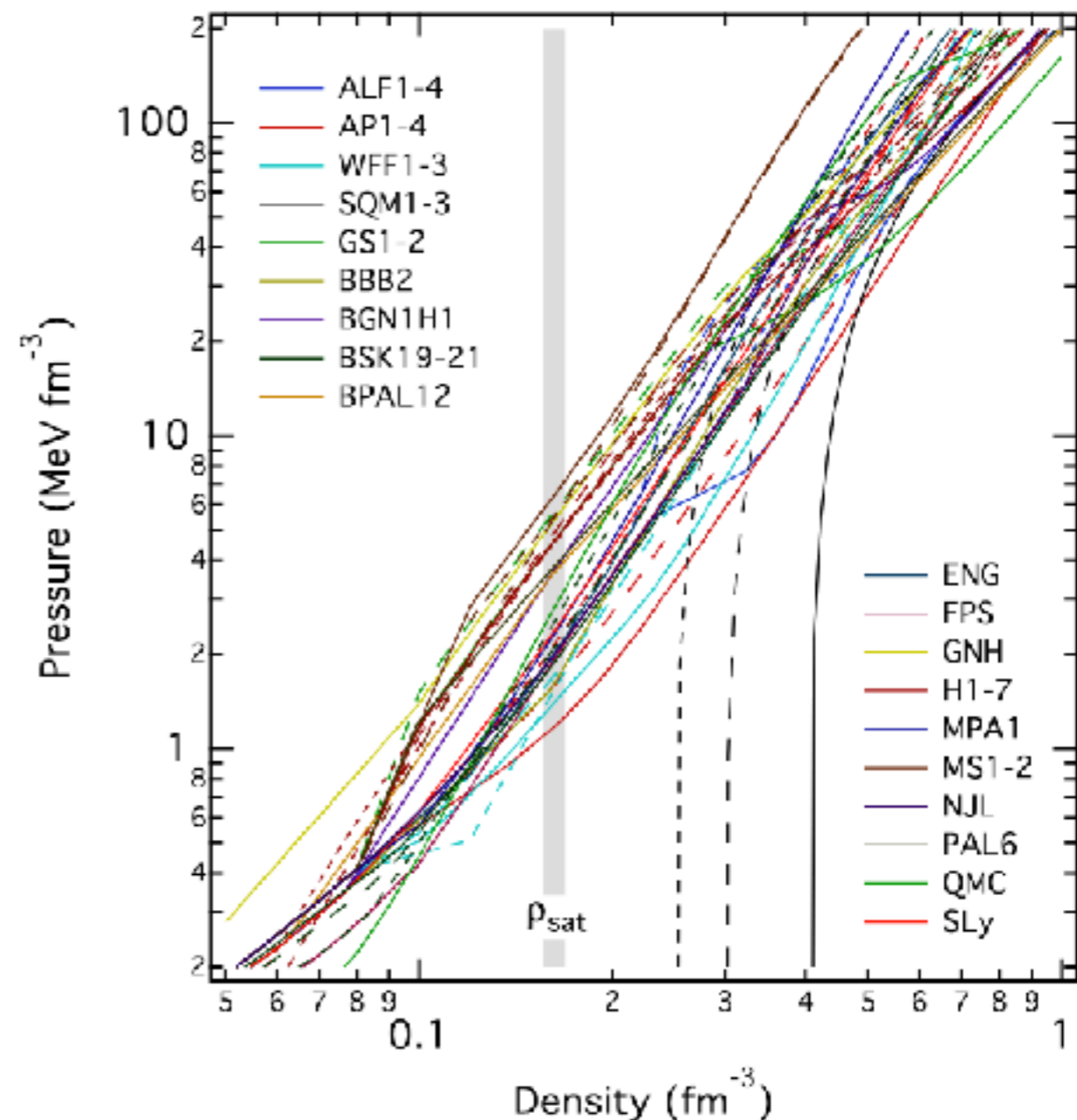


Neutron star equation of state

- Pressure vs. density $P(\rho)$ at and above the nuclear saturation density
- Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkov (TOV) equations

$$\frac{dM(r)}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho(r)$$

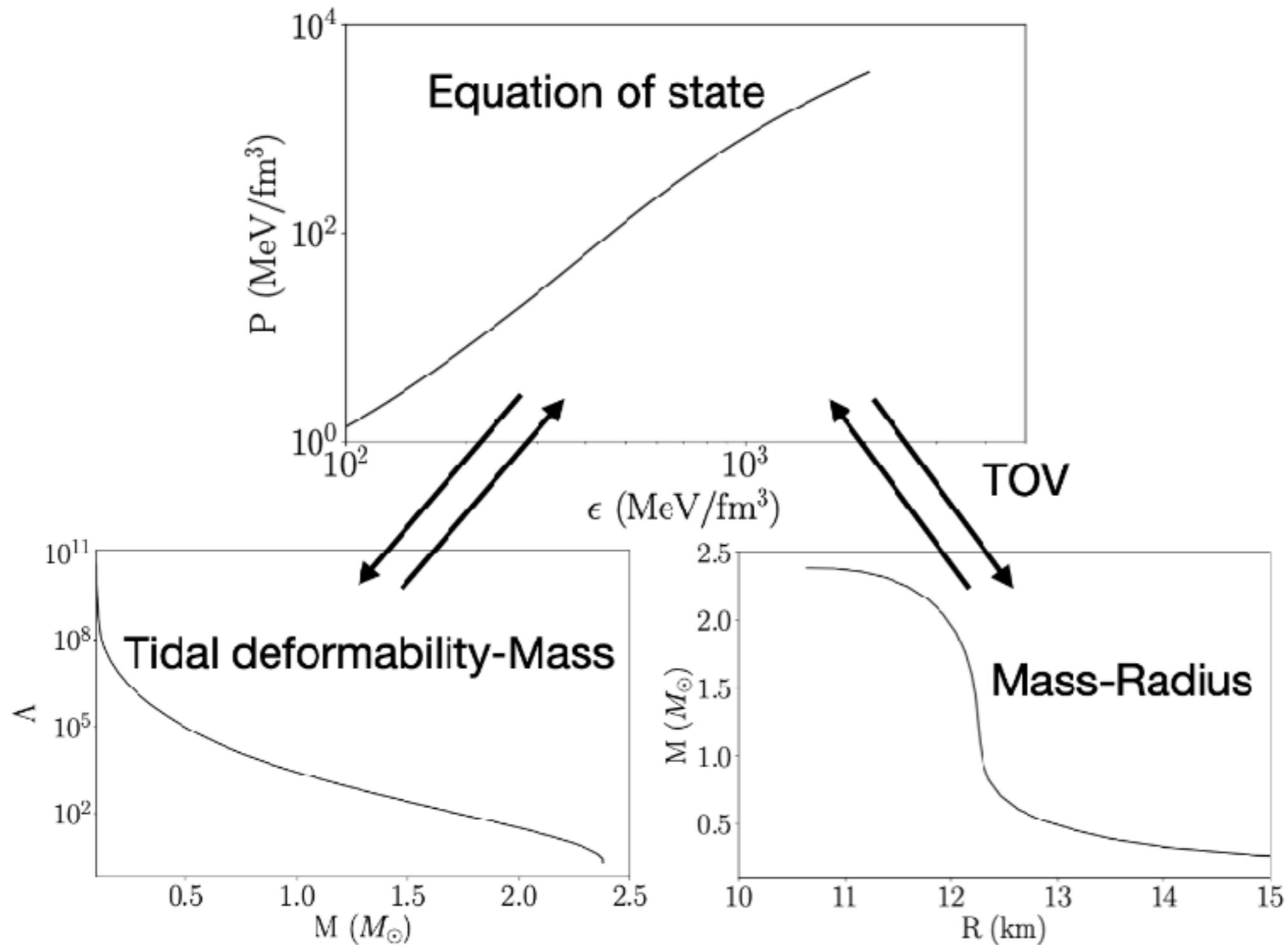
$$\frac{dP(r)}{dr} = -\frac{GM(r)\rho(r)}{r^2} \left(1 + \frac{P}{\rho}\right) \left(1 + \frac{4\pi r^3 P}{M(r)}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{r}\right)^{-1}$$



Tidal deformability

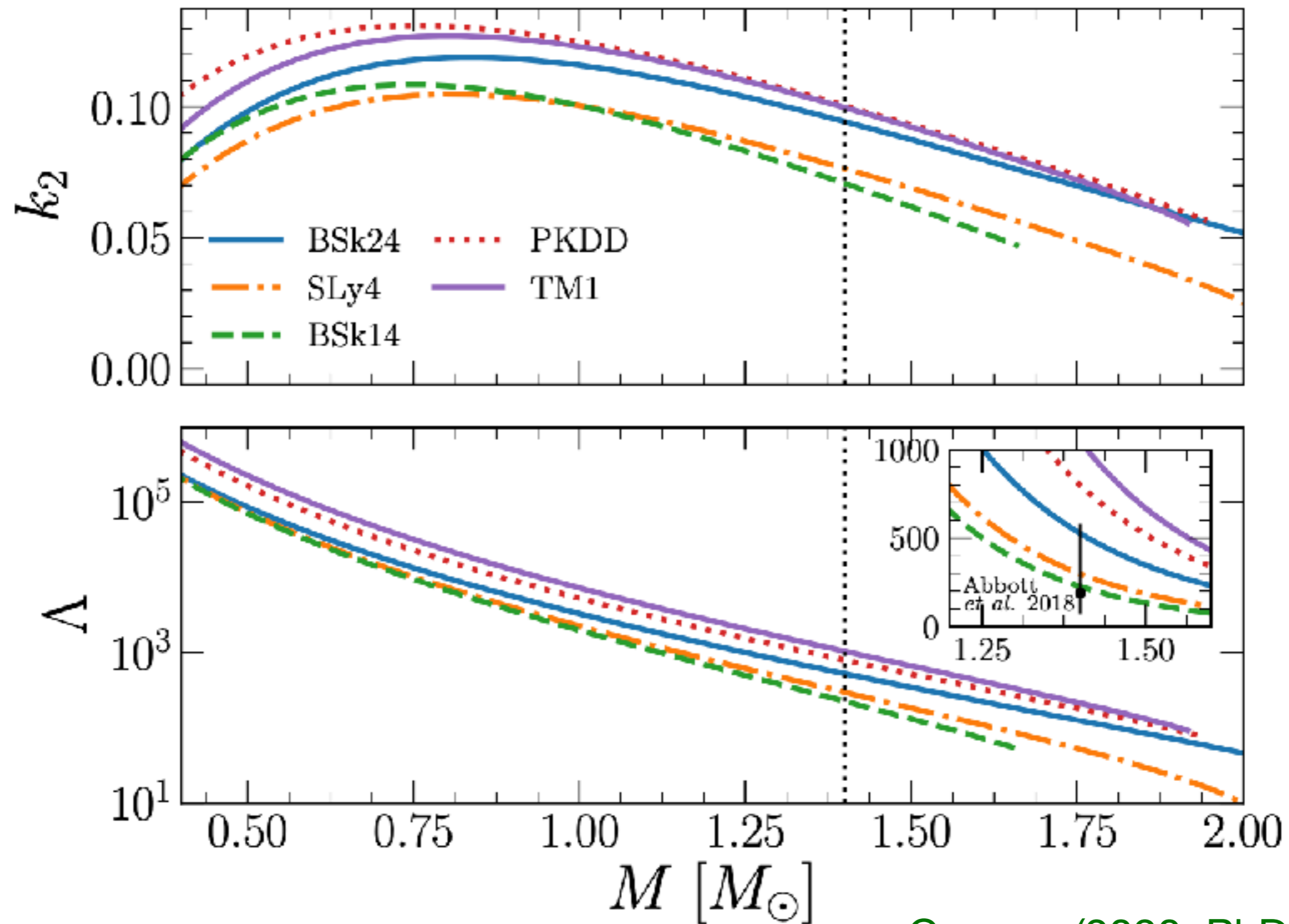
- A spherically symmetric neutron star is placed in a static external quadrupolar **tidal field** ε
- The induced quadrupolar moment is: $Q = -\lambda\varepsilon$
- **Tidal deformability** λ
- Tidal Love number k_2 (obtained by solving the TOV eqs): $\lambda = \frac{2}{3}k_2 \left(\frac{Rc^2}{G} \right)^5$
- **Dimensionless tidal deformability:** $\Lambda = \frac{\lambda}{M^5}$

Neutron stars: from theory to observed quantities



See [Chatziioannou et al., arXiv:2407.11153]

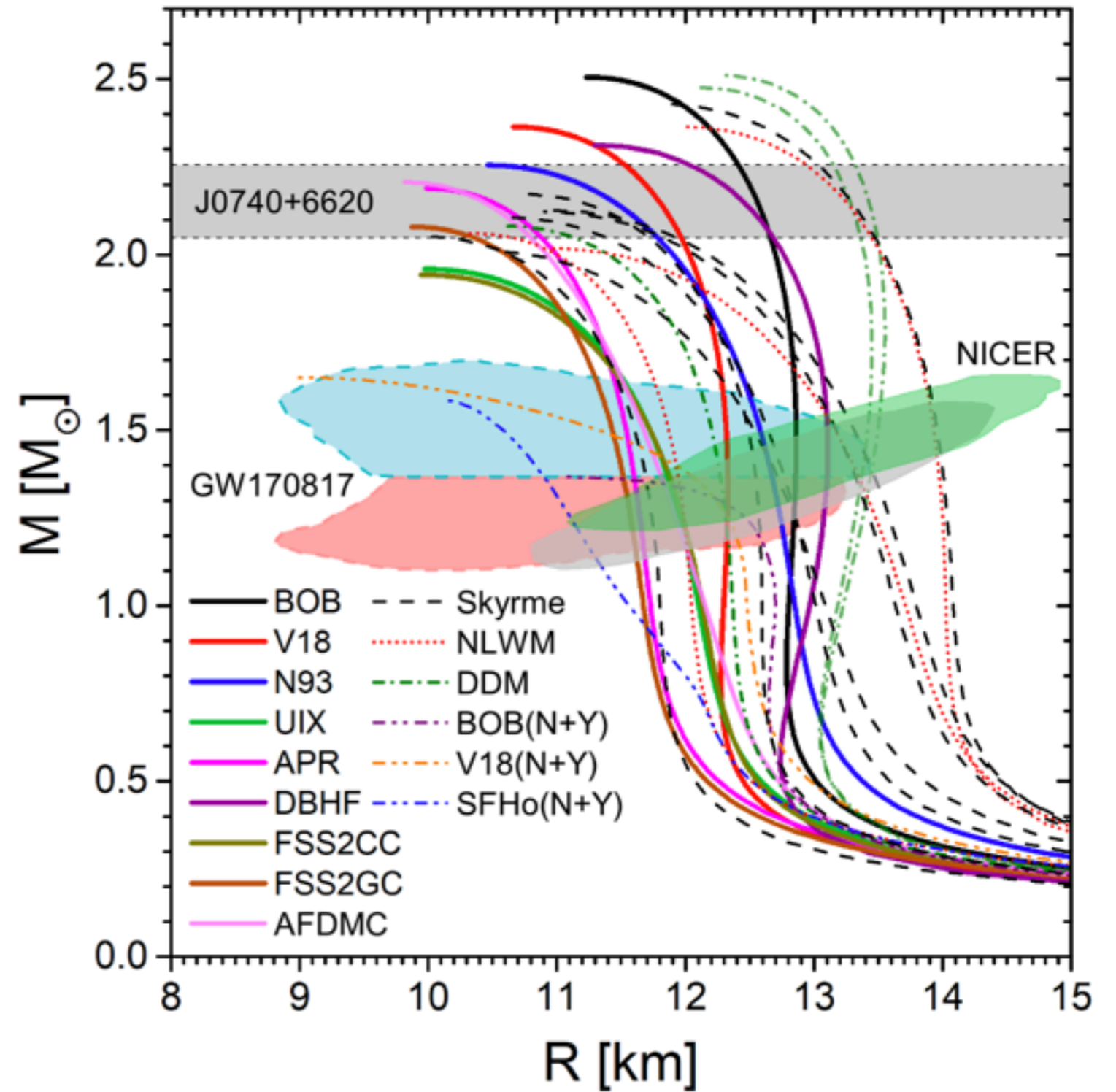
Tidal deformability



Carreau (2020, PhD thesis)

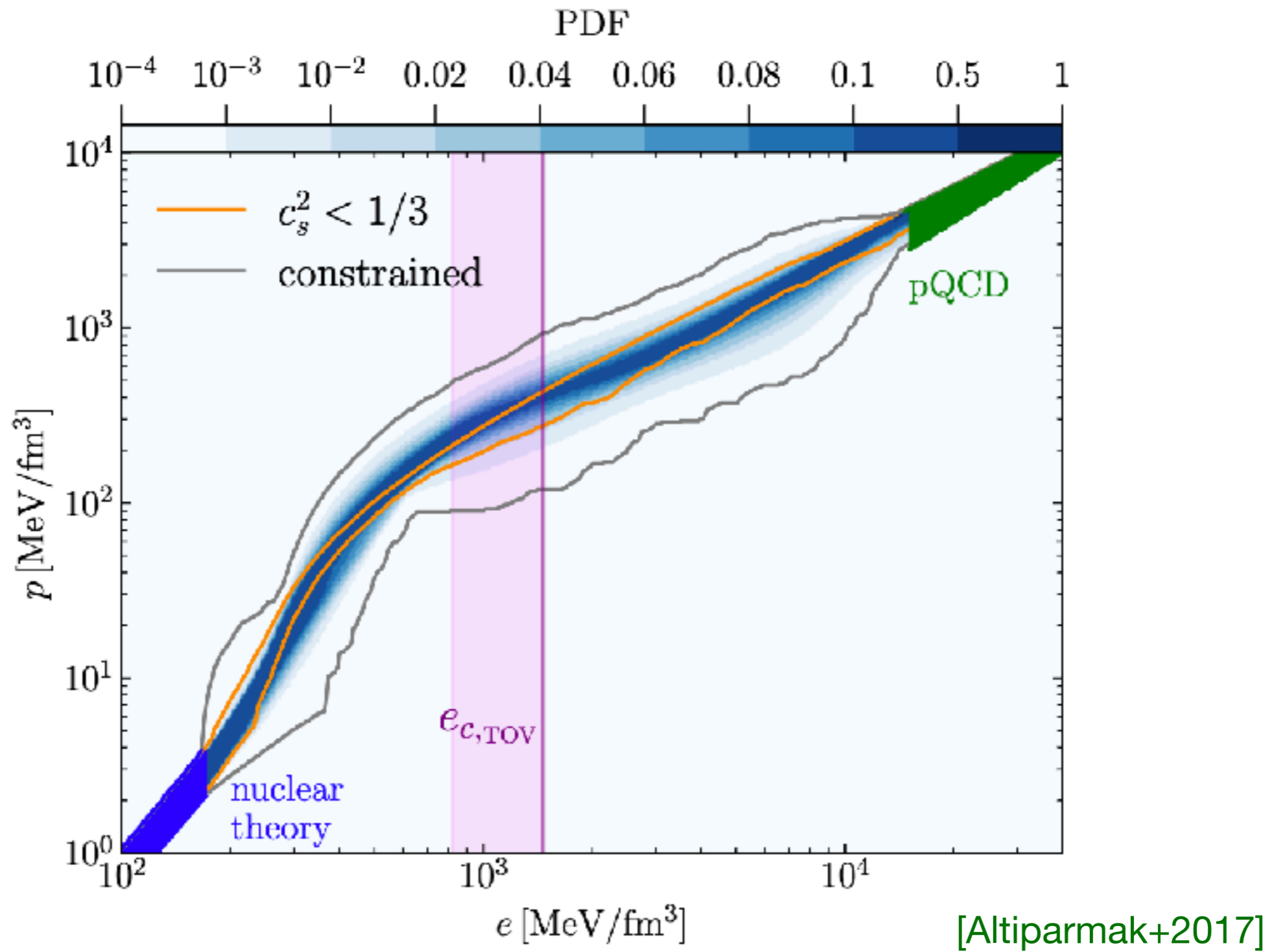
Neutron star mass-radius relation

- Stiff EOS: high maximum mass, large radii
- Soft EOS: low maximum mass, small radii



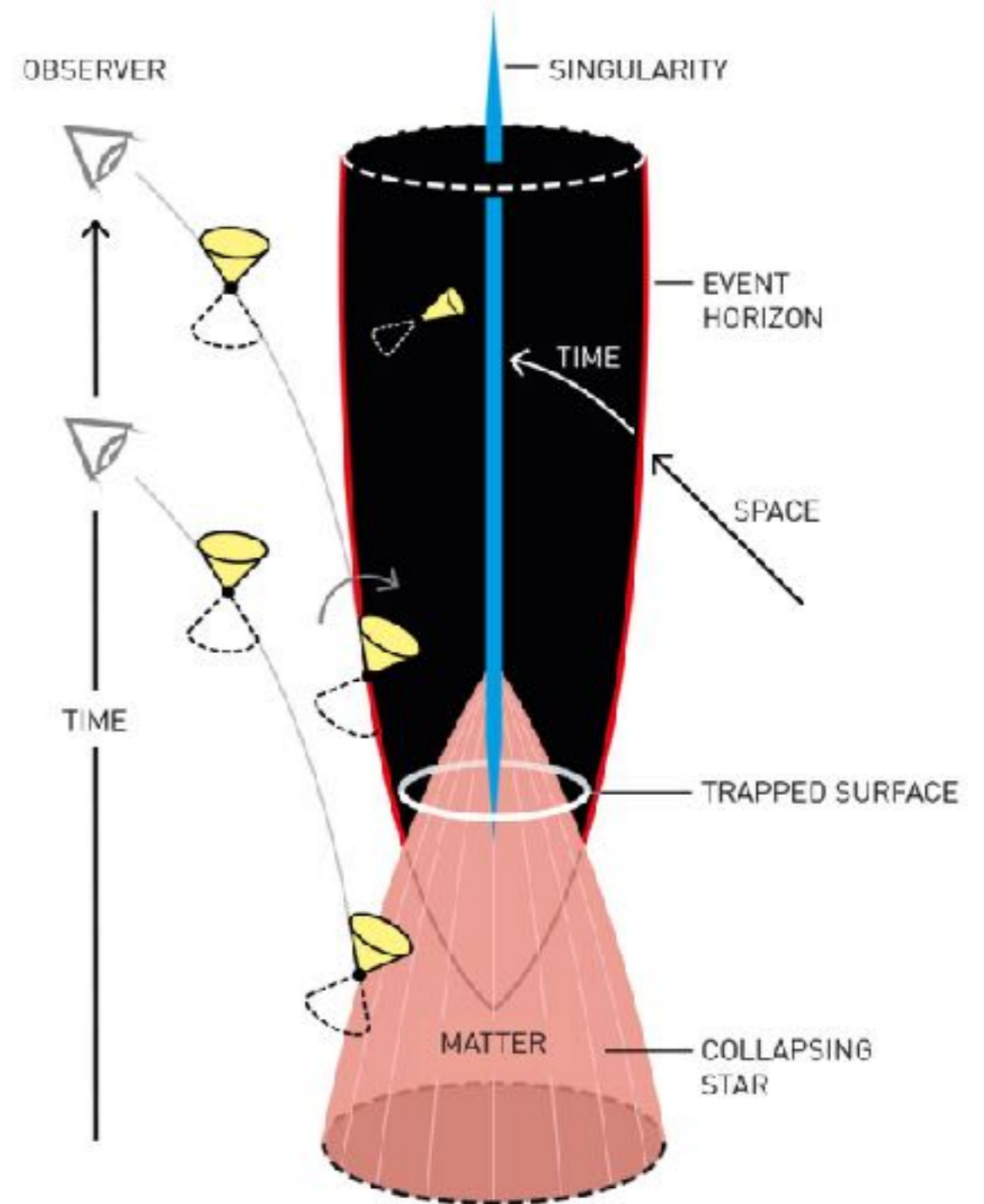
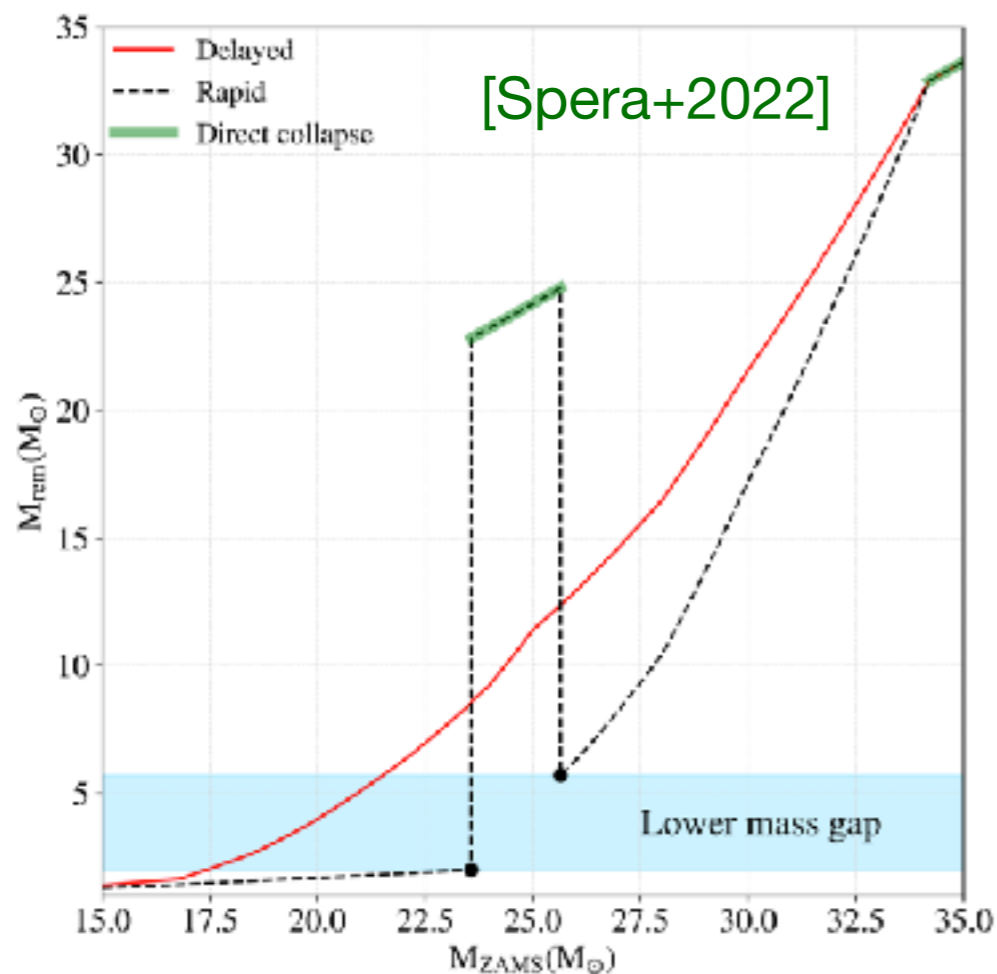
Burgio et al., arXiv:2105.03747

Neutron star equation of state: observational constraints



Black hole formation

- If the mass of the proto-neutron star is above the maximally allowed limit: further collapse to a black hole
- Until recent years: no black holes heavier than $\sim 5M_{\odot}$. Is there a mass gap between neutron stars and black holes?

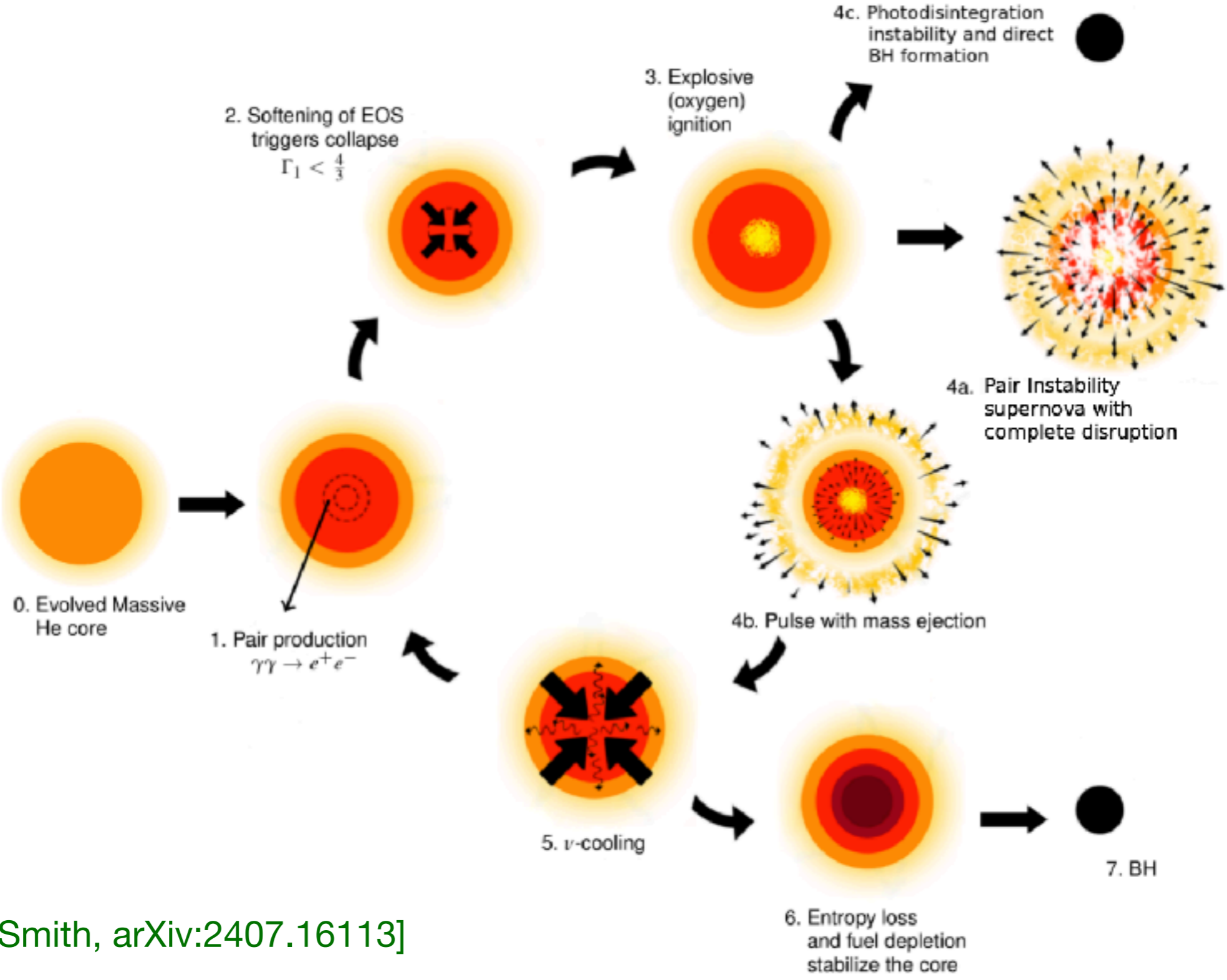


Credit: Johan Jarnestad

Pair instability in massive stars

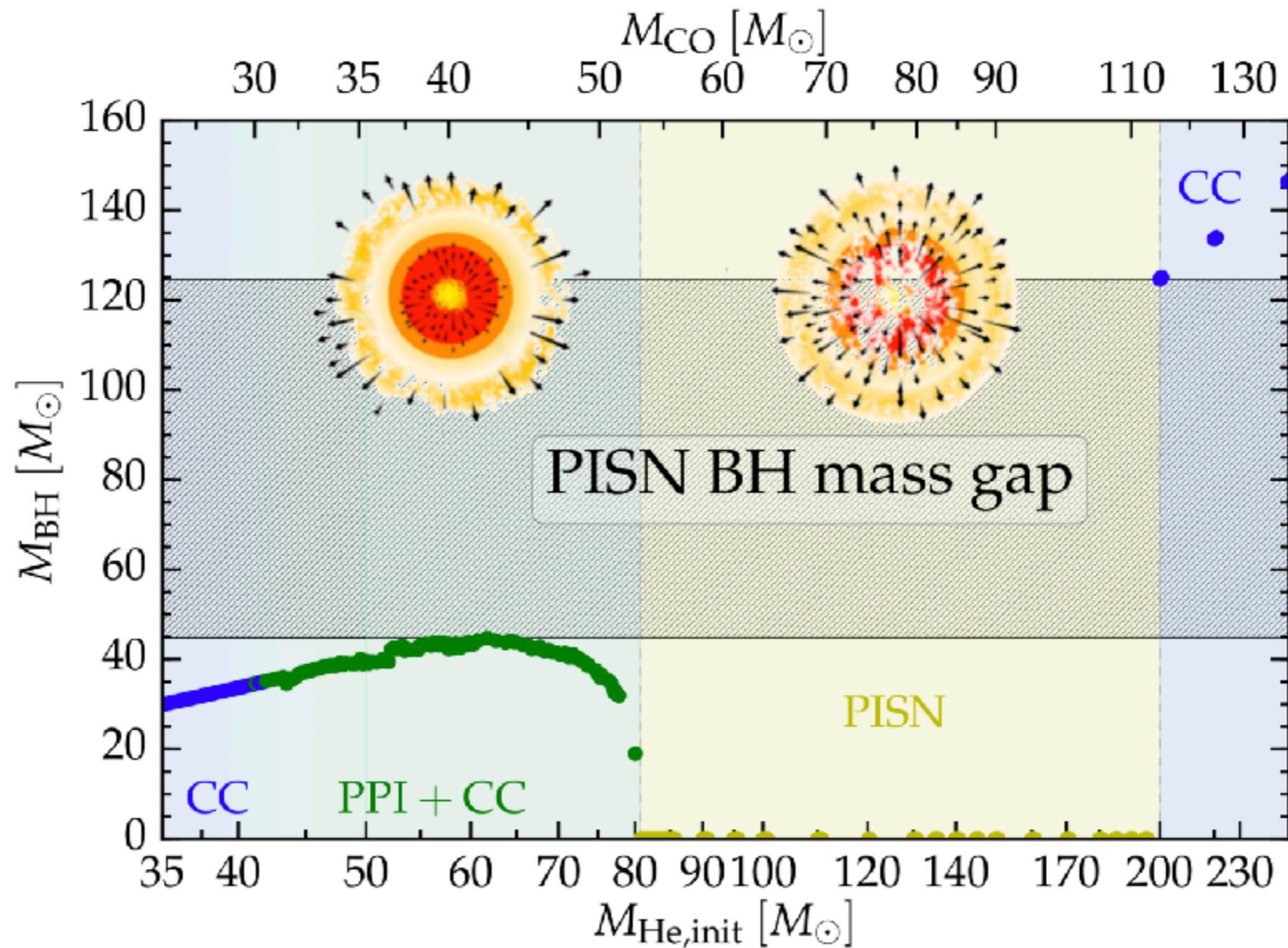
- Electron-positron pairs remove pressure from the star $\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$
- If pressure is radiation-dominated, this leads to local thermal instability
- Contraction, increase in temperature, increase in pair production rate
- Runaway oxygen/silicon burning
- Disruption of the star

Pair instability (PI) and pulsational pair instability (PPI)



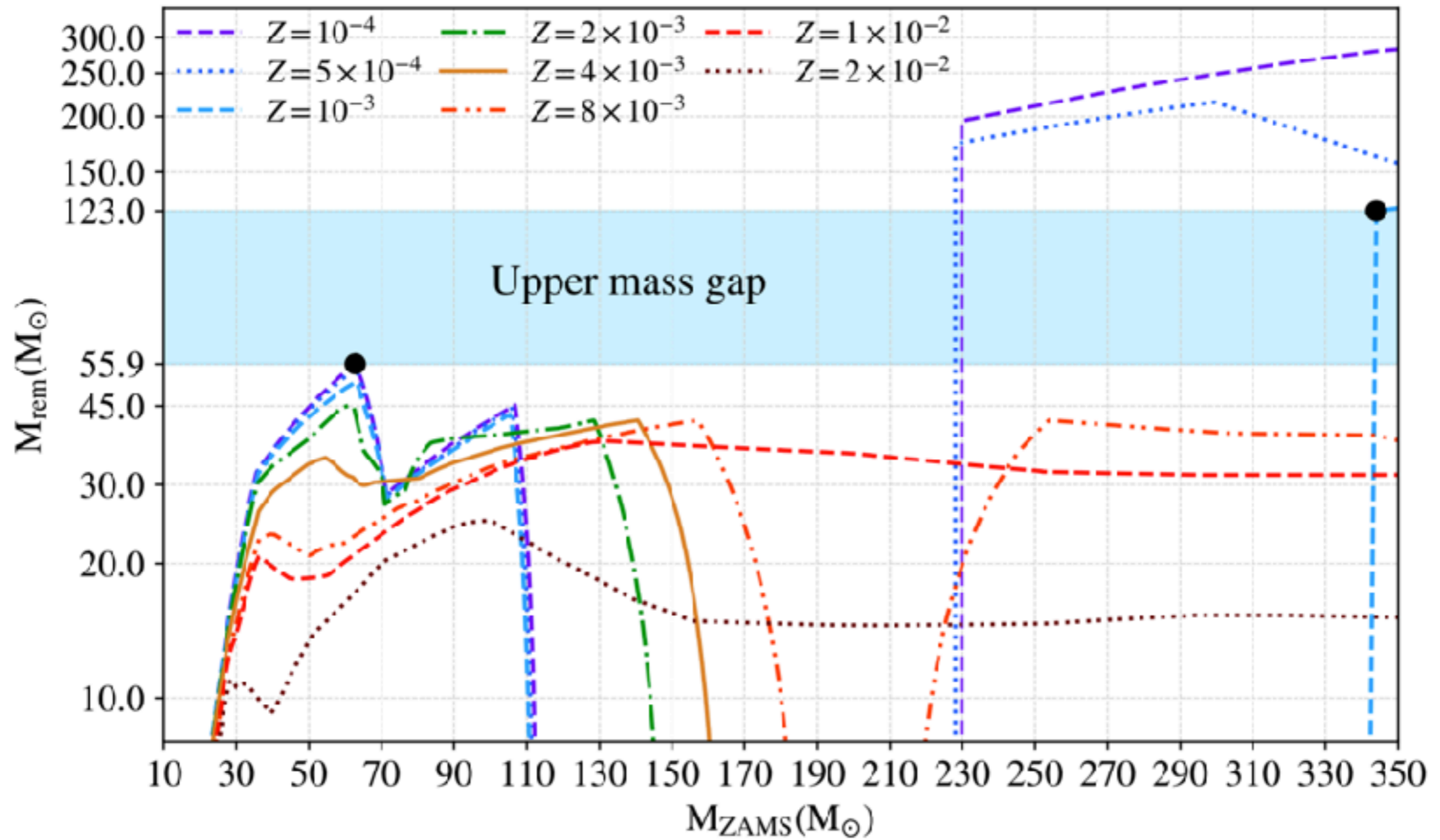
[Renzo and Smith, arXiv:2407.16113]

Pair instability and the upper mass gap



[Renzo and Smith, arXiv:2407.16113]

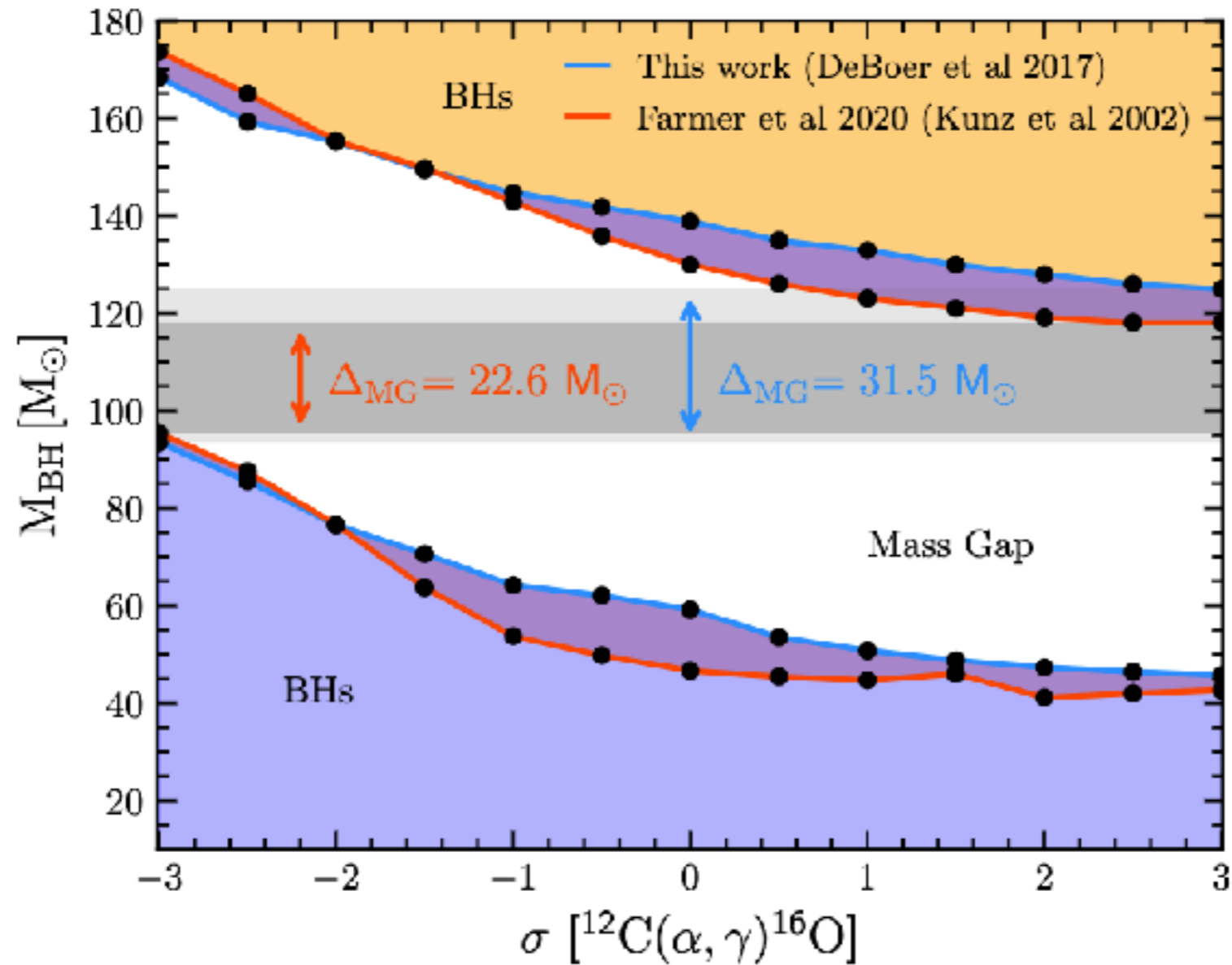
Pair instability: dependence on metallicity



[Spera et al., arXiv:2206.15392]

Uncertainty in nuclear reaction rates

$^{12}\text{C} + ^4\text{He} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ determines the amount of oxygen available for explosive burning



[Renzo & Smith, arXiv:2407.16113]

Neutron star and (stellar) black hole masses

- Lower limit on **NS**: Chandrasekhar mass
- Upper limit on **NS**/lower limit on **BH**: equation of state
- Mass gap between **NS** and **BH** ???
- Upper limit on **BH**: pair-instability (initial stellar mass?)

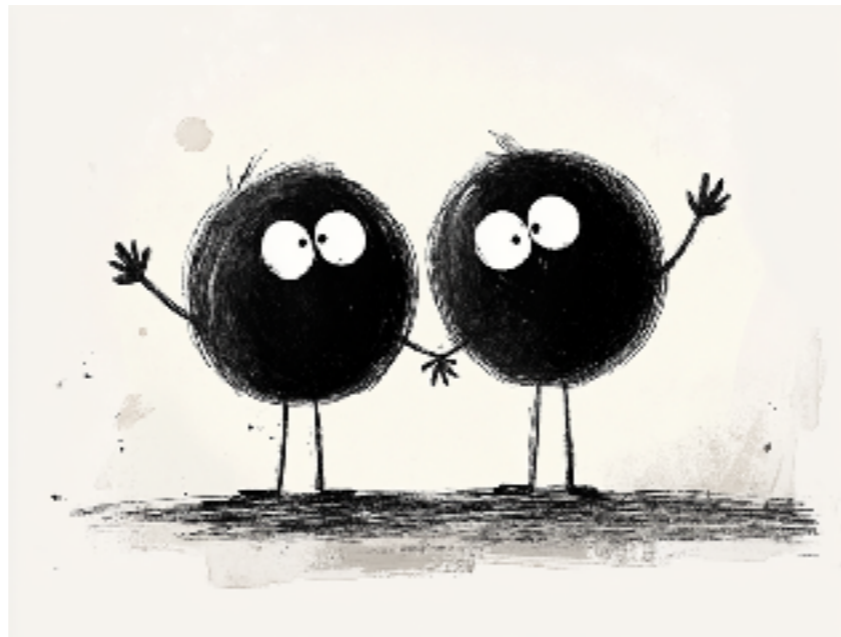


Lecture plan

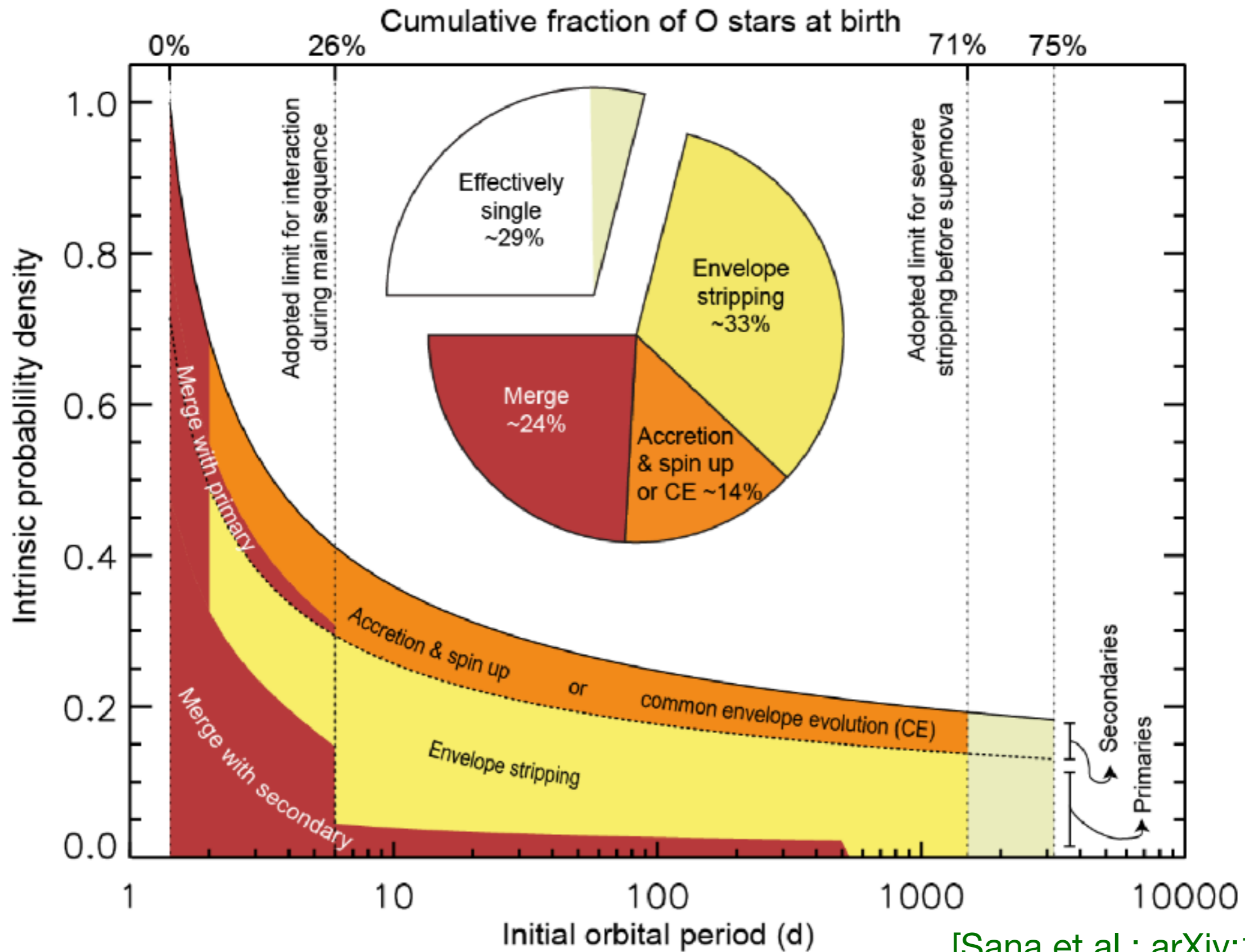
- **Evolution of massive stars and formation of compact objects**
- **Evolution of binary massive stars and formation of binary compact objects**
- **Gravitational-wave astronomy**
- **Gravitational-wave observations of binary compact objects**

Lecture plan

- Evolution of binary massive stars and formation of binary compact objects
 - Physical processes in binary stars
 - Modelling methods and challenges
 - Observables



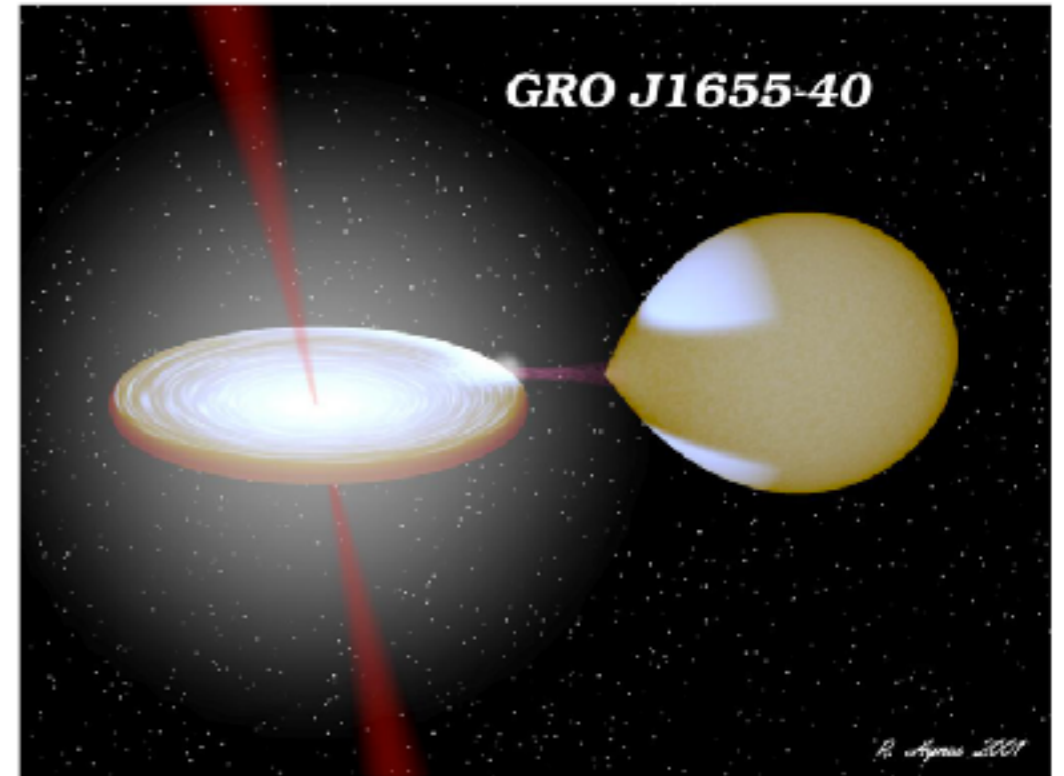
Most stars live in binaries



[Sana et al.: arXiv:1207.6397]

Key processes in binary stars

- Stable mass transfer
- Unstable mass transfer
- Supernova kicks and binary disruption



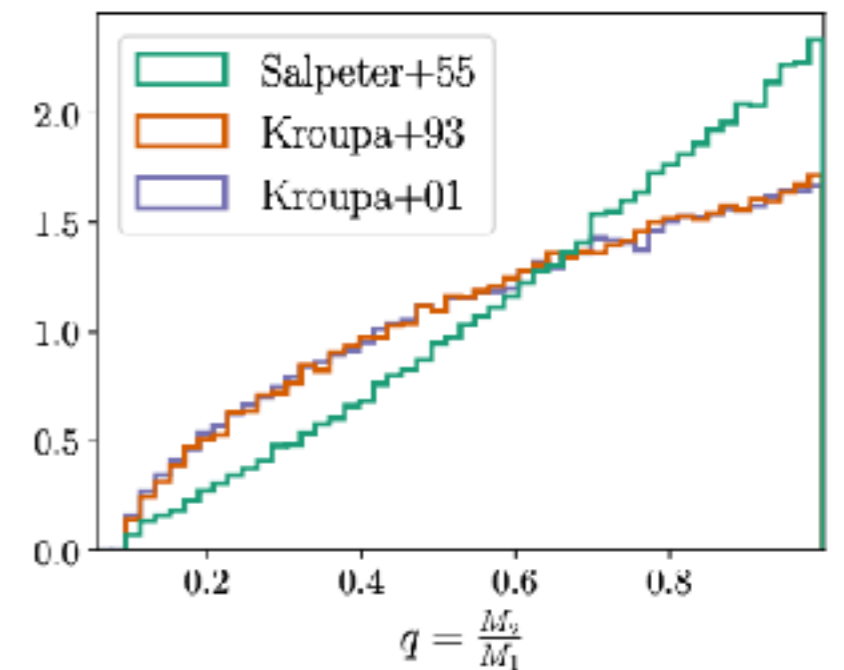
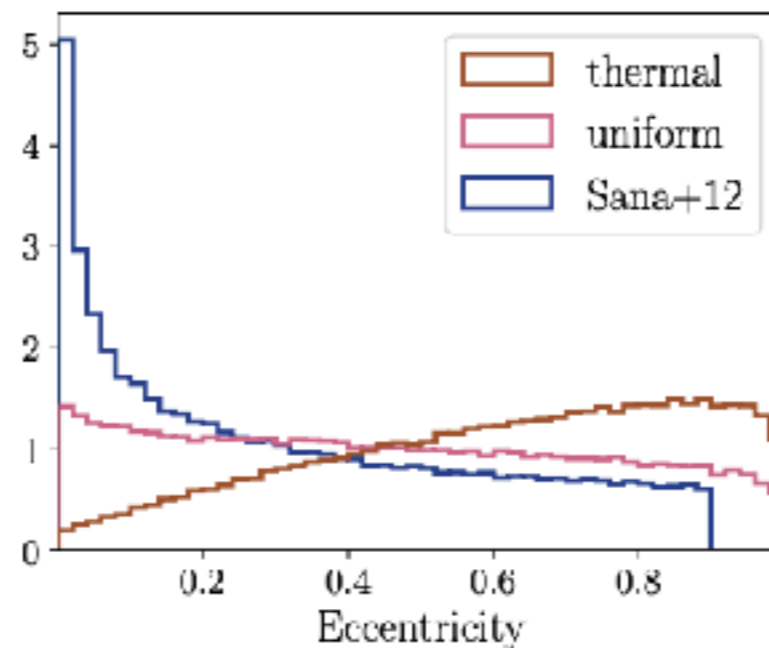
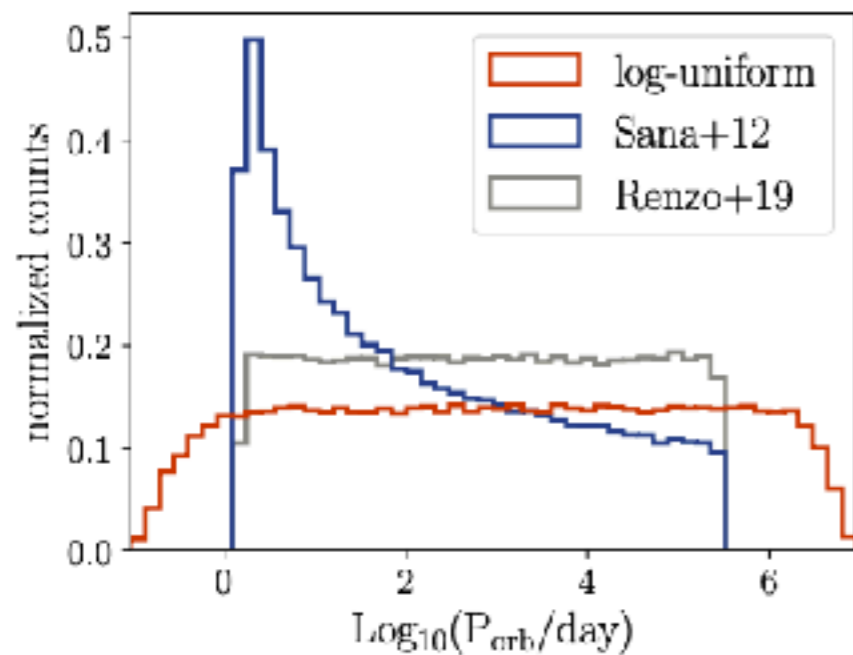
[Credit: Robert Hynes]

initial mass	single star		close binary star	
	He-core mass	final remnant	He-core mass	final remnant
$\lesssim 2.0 M_{\odot}$	$\approx 0.6 M_{\odot}$	CO white dwarf	$< 0.47 M_{\odot}$	He white dwarf
$2.0 - 6 M_{\odot}$	$0.6 - 1.7 M_{\odot}$	CO white dwarf	$0.4 - 1.3 M_{\odot}$	CO white dwarf
$6 - 8 M_{\odot}$	$1.7 - 2.2 M_{\odot}$	ONe white dwarf	$1.3 - 1.7 M_{\odot}$	CO white dwarf
$8 - 10 M_{\odot}$	$2.2 - 3.0 M_{\odot}$	neutron star	$1.7 - 2.2 M_{\odot}$	ONe white dwarf
$10 - 25 M_{\odot}$	$3.0 - 10 M_{\odot}$	neutron star	$2.2 - 8 M_{\odot}$	neutron star
$\gtrsim 25 M_{\odot}$	$> 10 M_{\odot}$	black hole	$> 8 M_{\odot}$	neutron star/black hole

[O. Pols: Stellar structure and evolution]

Initial distribution of binary parameters

- Orbital period
- Eccentricity
- Mass ratio

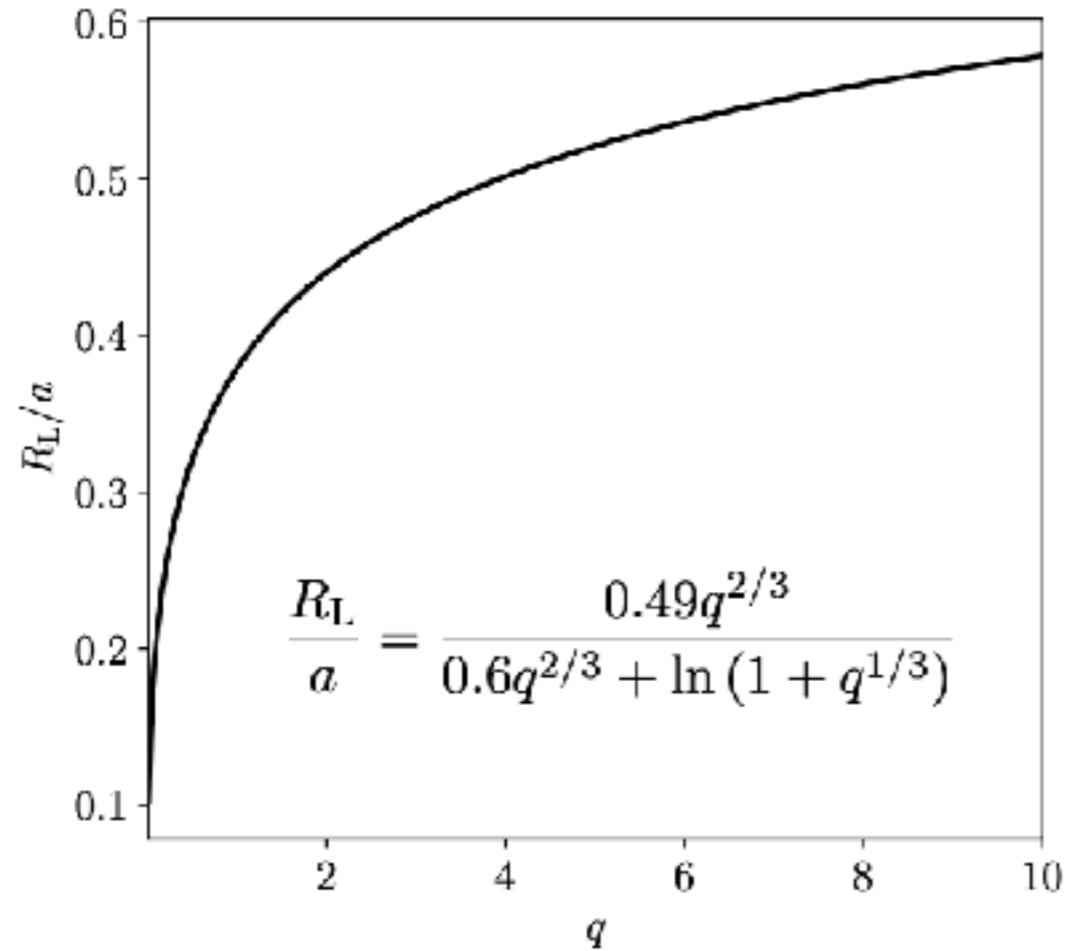


[Credit: Clément Pellouin]

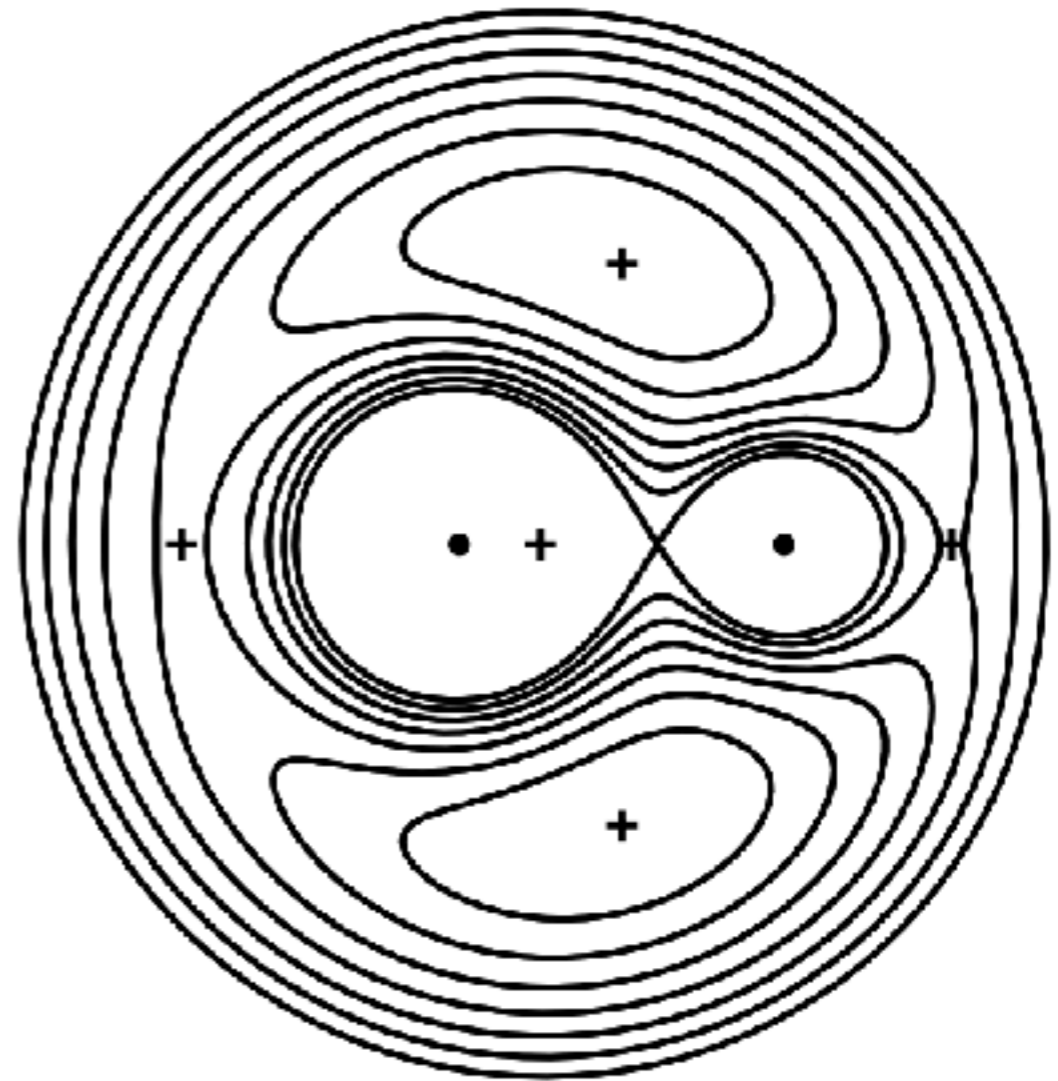
Roche lobe

Effective Roche lobe radius

$R_{L,1}/a$



Equipotential surfaces

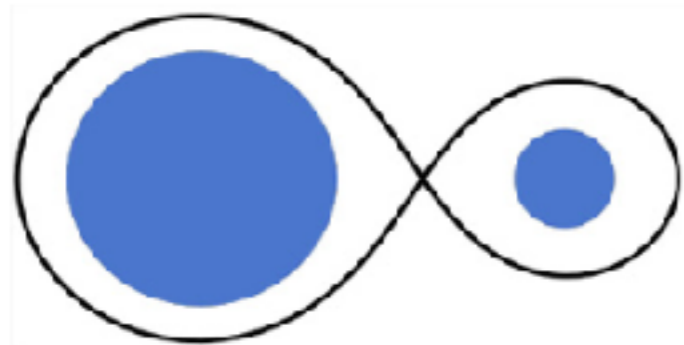


a : separation between the stars

$q = M_1/M_2$: mass ratio

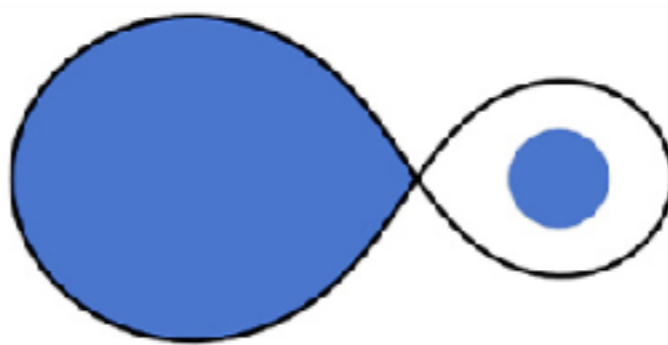
Binary stars and their Roche lobes

Detached



Stars may be deformed but no mass exchange

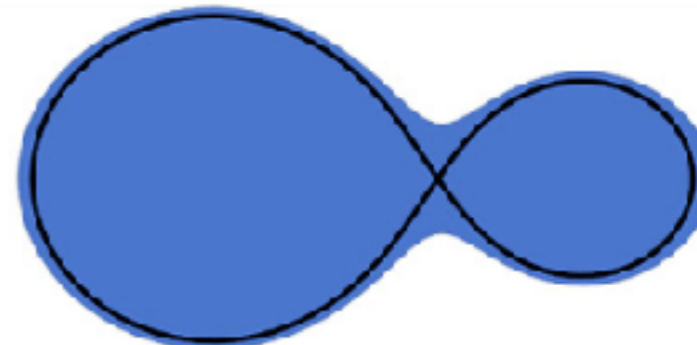
Semi-detached



Stable mass transfer: Roche lobe overflow (RLO)

Possible formation of an accretion disk

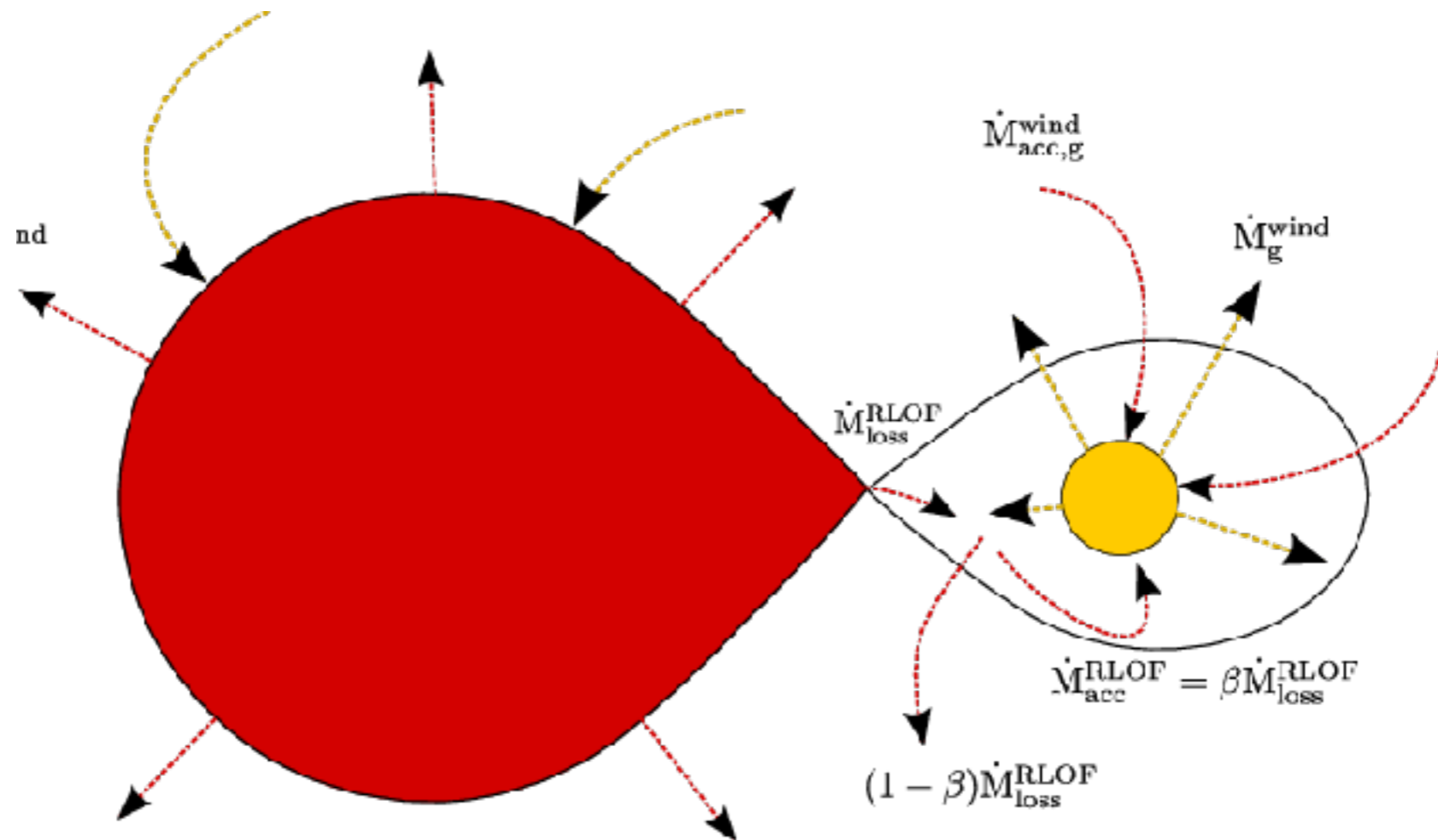
Contact binary



Unstable mass transfer?
Merger?

Stable mass transfer

- Accretion of (some fraction) of wind from the companion
- Roche Lobe Overflow:
 - Binary orbit shrinks
 - Radius of one of the star increases



Siess et al. (2013)

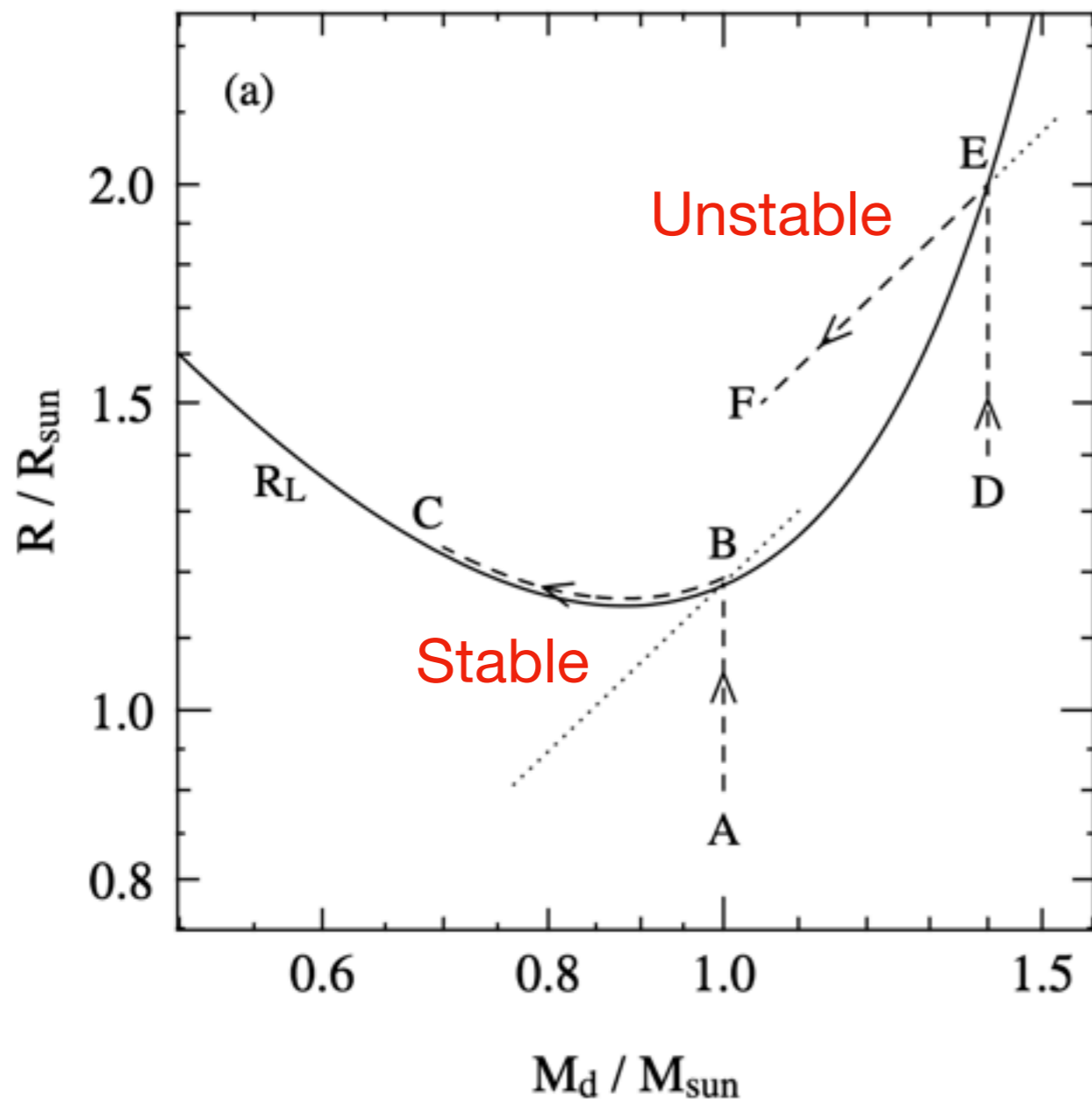
Stability of mass transfer

- Derivative of donor radius to its mass: $\zeta_* = \frac{dR}{dM}$
- Derivative of donor Roche Lobe radius to its mass: $\zeta_L = \frac{dR_L}{dM}$
- If $\zeta_* > \zeta_L$: mass transfer is stable (Roche Lobe radius increases faster than stellar radius)

Stability of mass transfer

$$M_{\text{tot}} = 2 M_{\odot}$$

Total mass and angular momentum are conserved



Donor star fills its Roche lobe:

Example 1: $A \rightarrow B$

Example 2: $D \rightarrow E$

Stellar radius reacts to mass loss

Example 1: $R < R_L$

Example 2: $R > R_L$

Common envelope

- Necessary to explain the existence of compact binaries!

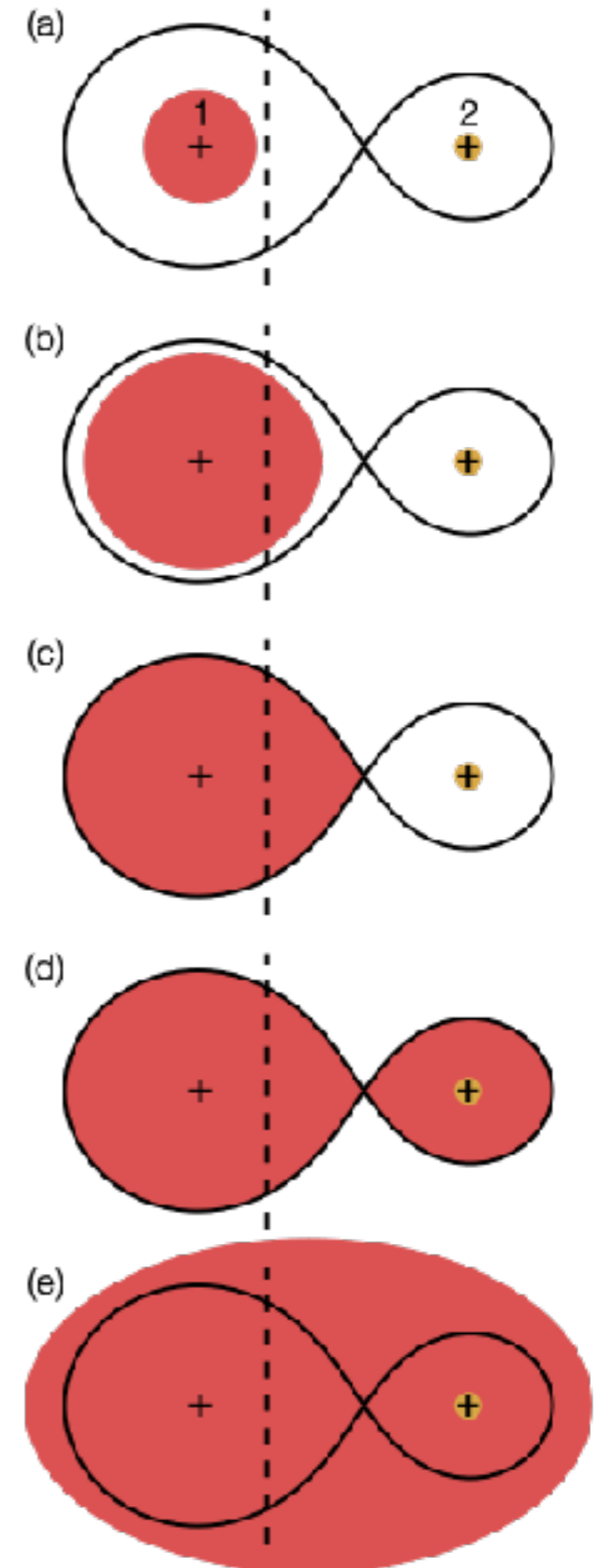
- Merger time due to emission of gravitational waves:

$$t_{\text{merg}} = \frac{5}{256} \frac{c^5}{G^3} \frac{a_i^4}{M_1 M_2 (M_1 + M_2)}$$

- Initial separation needed to merge within a Hubble time:

$$a_i \simeq 4.8 R_{\odot} \left(\frac{M}{1.4 M_{\odot}} \right)^{3/4} \left(\frac{t_{\text{merg}}}{13.8 \text{ Gyr}} \right)^{1/4}$$

- But radius of a red supergiant: $10^2 R_{\odot} - 10^3 R_{\odot}$



Simple common envelope model

- Envelope binding energy

$$E_{\text{bind}} = - \int_{M_c}^M \frac{Gm}{R(m)} dm = - \frac{GM_{\text{don}} M_{\text{env}}}{\lambda R_{\text{don}}}$$

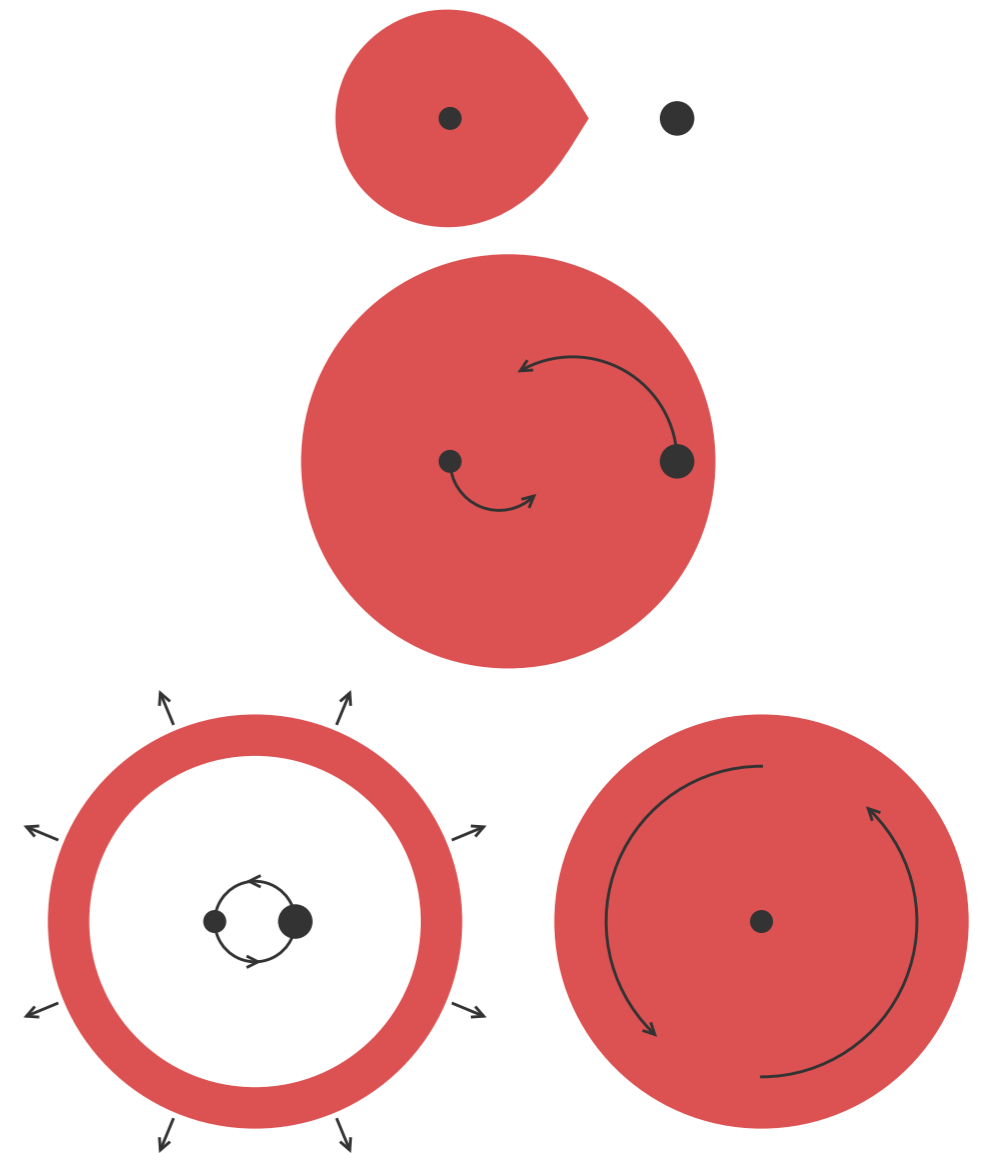
- Orbital energy: $E_{\text{orb}} = - \frac{1}{2} \frac{GM_{\text{don}} M_{\text{comp}}}{a}$

- Some fraction is used to unbind the envelope

$$\Delta E_{\text{bind}} = \alpha_{\text{CE}} \Delta E_{\text{orb}}$$

- Assuming envelope is ejected:

$$E_{\text{orb,f}} = E_{\text{orb,i}} + \frac{E_{\text{bind,i}}}{\alpha_{\text{CE}}}$$

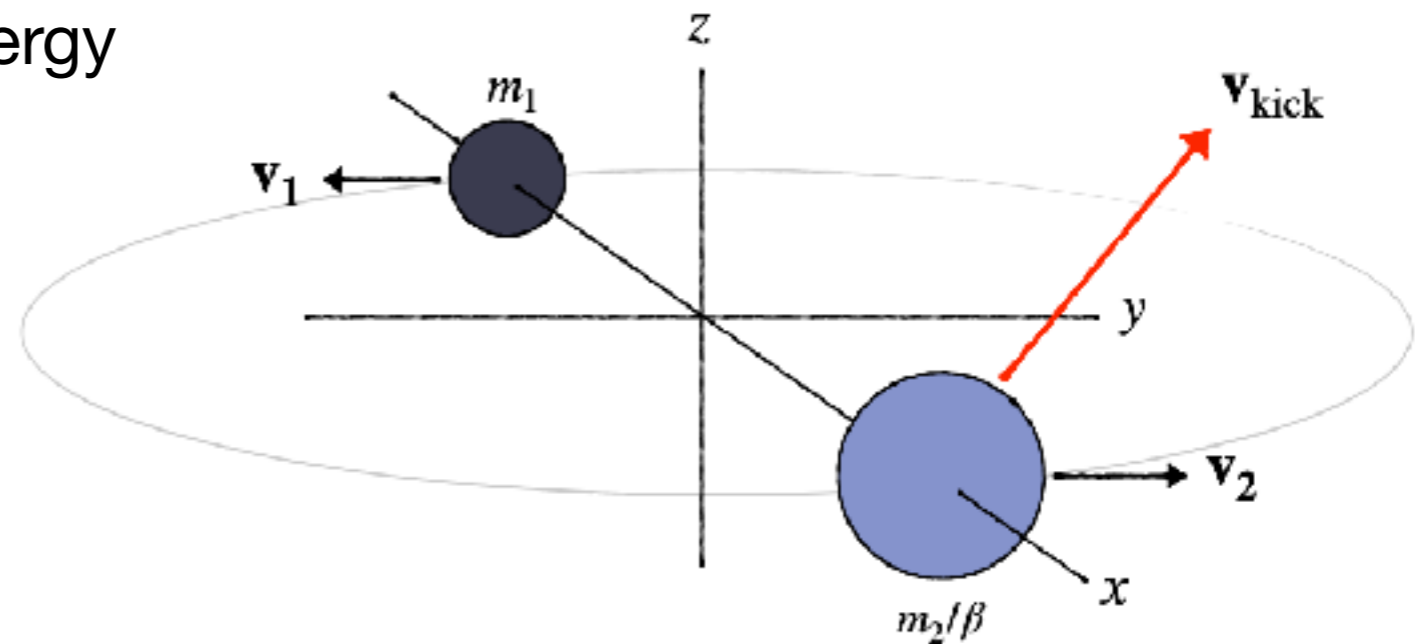


Supernova natal kicks

- Assume Maxwellian distribution of kick velocity after each supernova

$$P(v_k) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{v_k^2}{\sigma_k^3} \exp\left(-\frac{v_k^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right)$$

- Velocity dispersion: $\sigma_k \sim \mathcal{O}(100)$
- Reduced kicks due to fallback
- Reduced kicks if low explosion energy
- Random kick direction

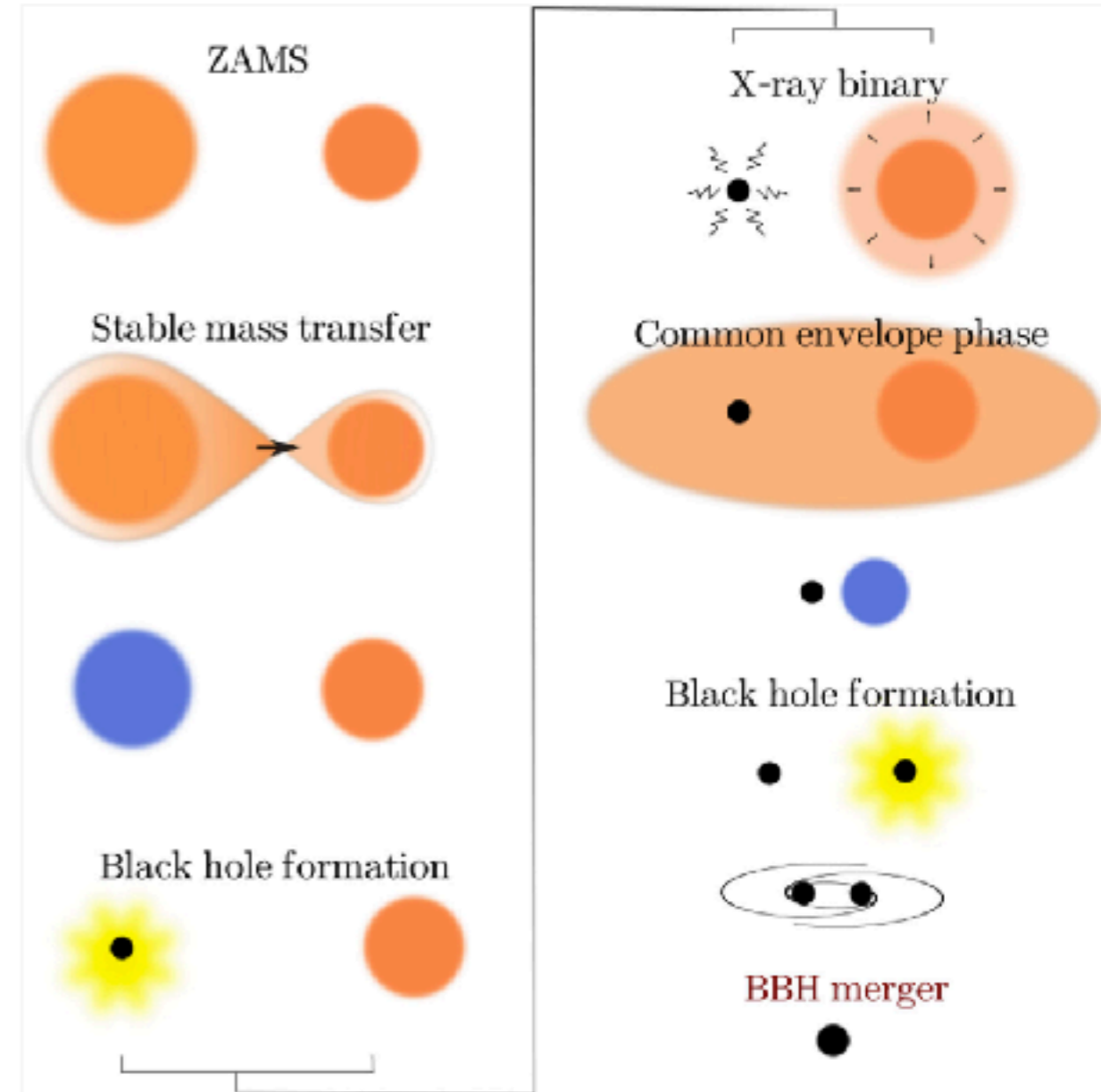


[Callister et al., arXiv:2011.09570]

Formation of compact binaries

'Standard' scenario:

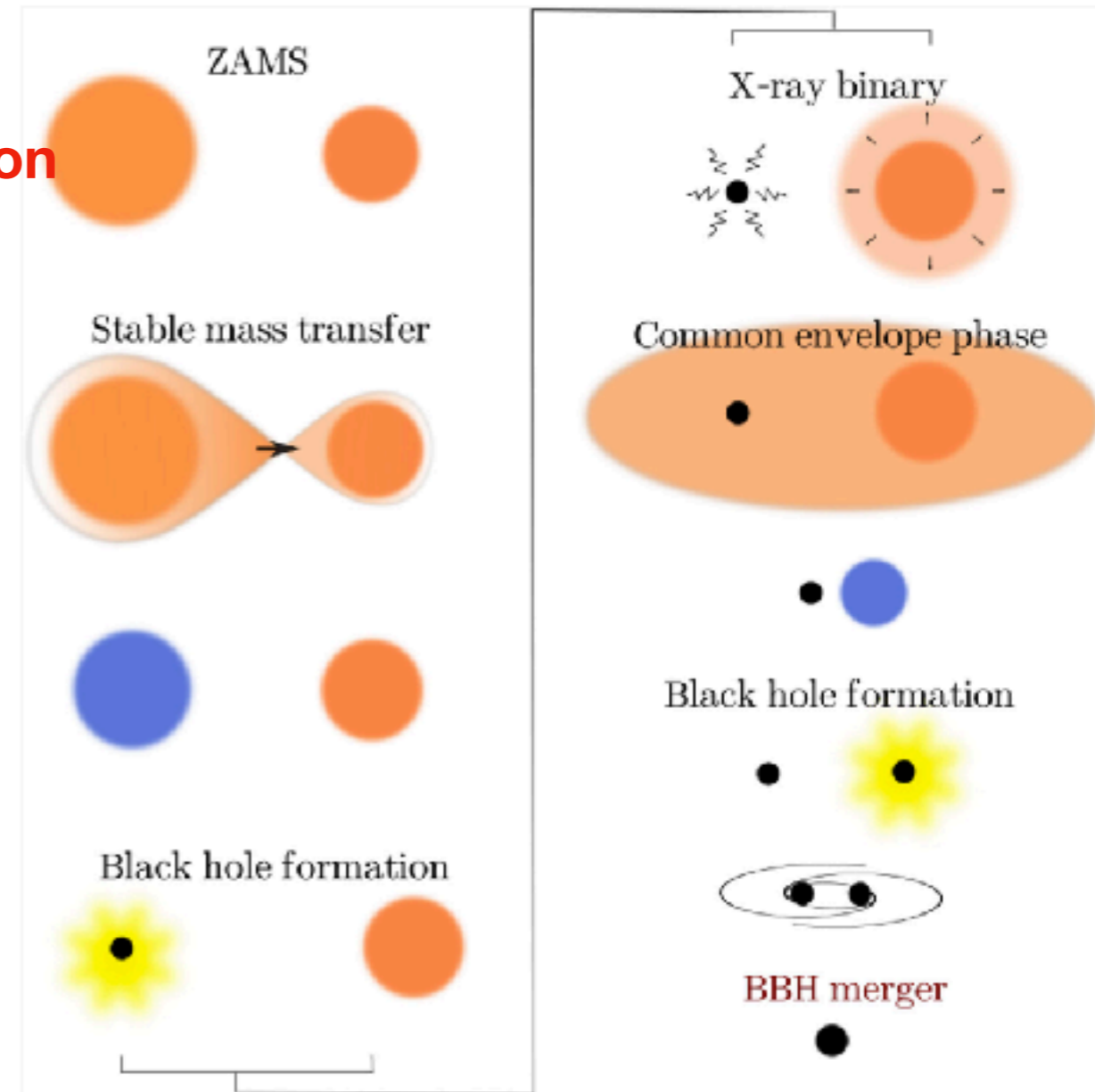
- ▶ Massive stellar binary
- ▶ First supernova (possible birth kick)
- ▶ NS/BH + massive star
- ▶ Massive star expands, Roche lobe overflow
- ▶ Common envelope
- ▶ NS/BH + He star
 - ▶ Possible: second Roche lobe overflow
- ▶ Second supernova (possible birth kick)
- ▶ NS/BH + NS/BH
- ▶ Merger



Binary neutron stars: formation

'Standard' scenario:

- ▶ Massive stellar binary **+single stellar evolution**
- ▶ First supernova (possible birth **kick**)
- ▶ NS/BH + massive star
- ▶ Massive star expands, **Roche lobe overflow**
- ▶ **Common envelope**
- ▶ NS/BH + He star
 - ▶ Possible: second Roche lobe overflow
- ▶ Second supernova (possible birth **kick**)
- ▶ NS/BH + NS/BH
- ▶ Merger



Modelling binary stars

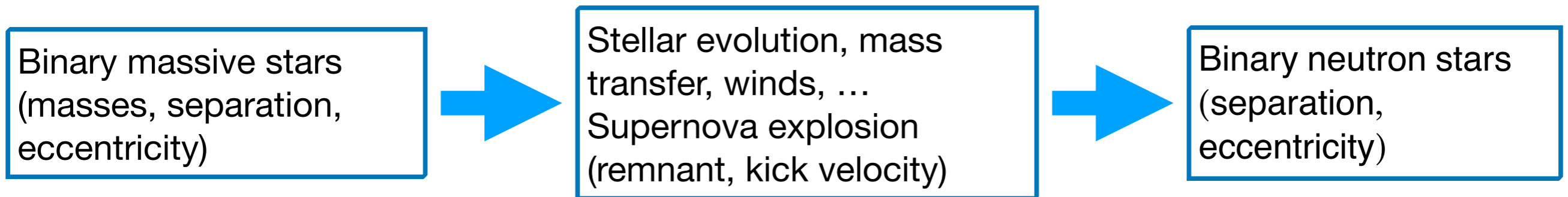
- Full hydrodynamical simulations (1D/2D/3D)

Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics



mesastar.org

- Semi-analytic population synthesis codes:



Stellar population synthesis codes

Code Name	Reference
SeBa	Toonen et al. (2012), based on Portegies Zwart & Verbunt (1996) with ingredients from Hurley et al. (2002)
BSE	Hurley et al. (2002), using single-star evolution from Hurley et al. (2000)
–	Podsiadlowski et al. (2003)
StarTrack	Belczynski et al. (2002, 2008, 2020)
–	Mapelli et al. (2013), a modified version of SeBa
The Brussels code	Vanbeveren et al. (1998); De Donder & Vanbeveren (2004) Mennekens & Vanbeveren (2014)
BPASS	Eldridge et al. (2008); Eldridge & Stanway (2016); Eldridge et al. (2017) Stanway & Eldridge (2018)
MOBSE	Mapelli et al. (2017); Giacobbo et al. (2018) Giacobbo & Mapelli (2018, 2019, 2020)
COMPAS	Stevenson et al. (2017); Riley et al. (2022)
ComBinE	Kruckow et al. (2018)
SEVN	Spera et al. (2015); Spera & Mapelli (2017); Spera et al. (2019)
–	Tanikawa et al. (2021), extending BSE to high-mass and metal-poor stars
COSMIC	Breivik et al. (2020)
binary_c	Izzard et al. (2004, 2006, 2009)
The Scenario Machine	Lipunov et al. (1996, 2009)
POSYDON	Fragos et al. (2023)
TRES	Toonen et al. (2016)

[Credit for compilation: Clément Pellouin]

Stellar population synthesis codes

Challenges:

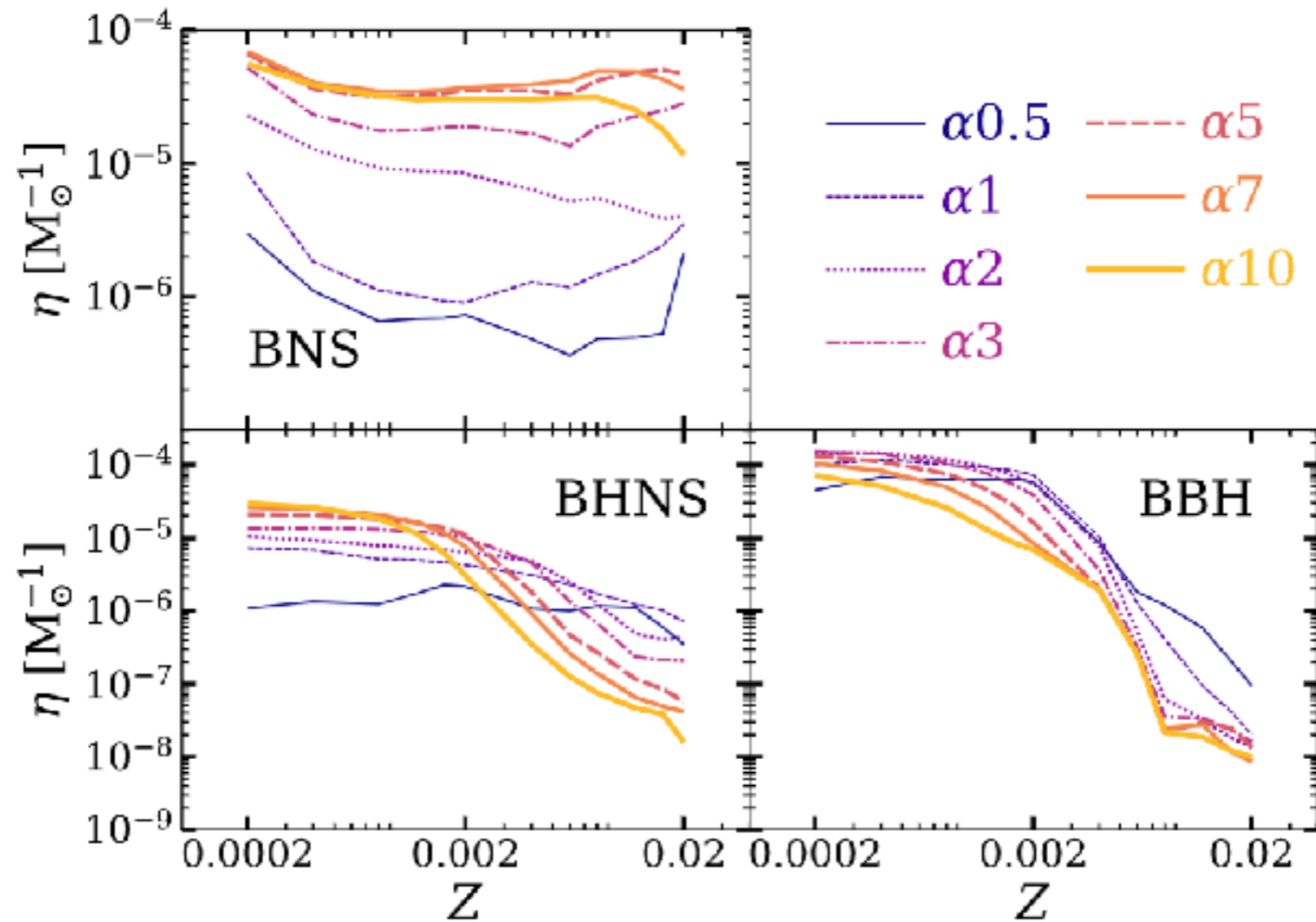
- Uncertainties in single stellar evolution (ex: evolution of stellar radius)
- Large uncertainties in some key processes (ex: supernova explosion)
- Over-simplification of some complex processes (ex: common envelope)
- Very large number of parameters

Advantages:

- Large populations
- Observables: masses, redshifts, merger rates, ...
- Can combine with galaxy models

Stellar population synthesis codes: some results

- Efficiency of compact binary formation is very small
- Difficult to form black hole binaries at high metallicity

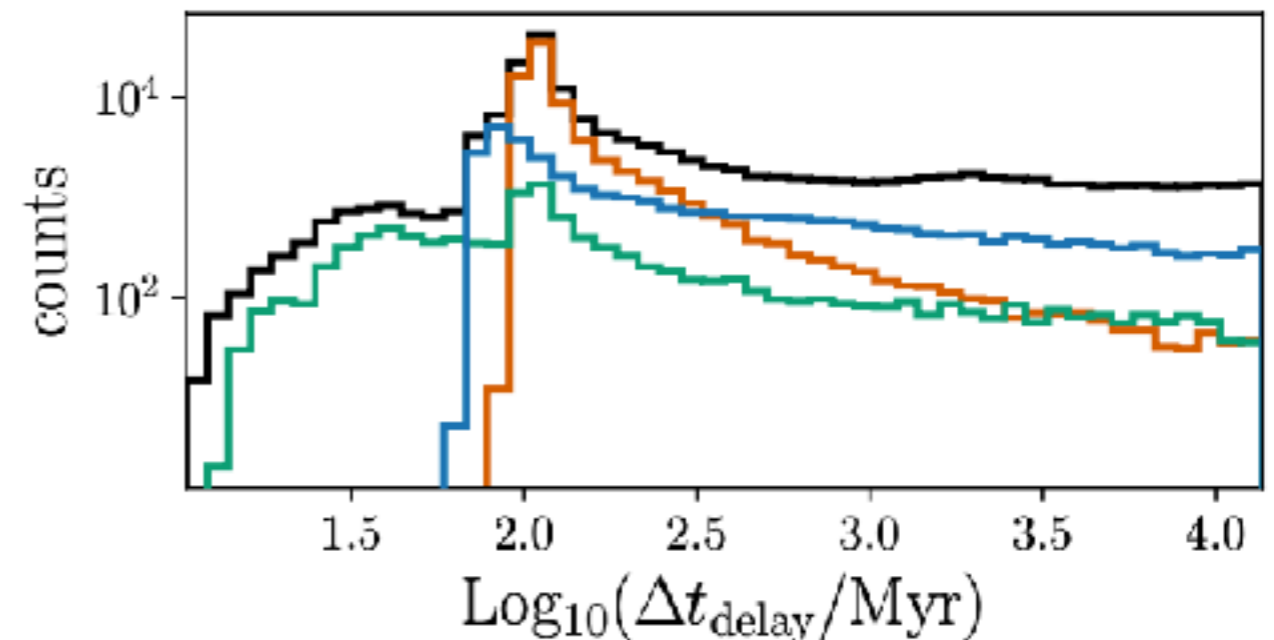


[Santoliquido et al., arXiv:2009.03911]

Stellar population synthesis codes: some results

- Long time delays between the birth of the binary star and the merger of the compact binary
- These time delays depend on the details of the formation channel

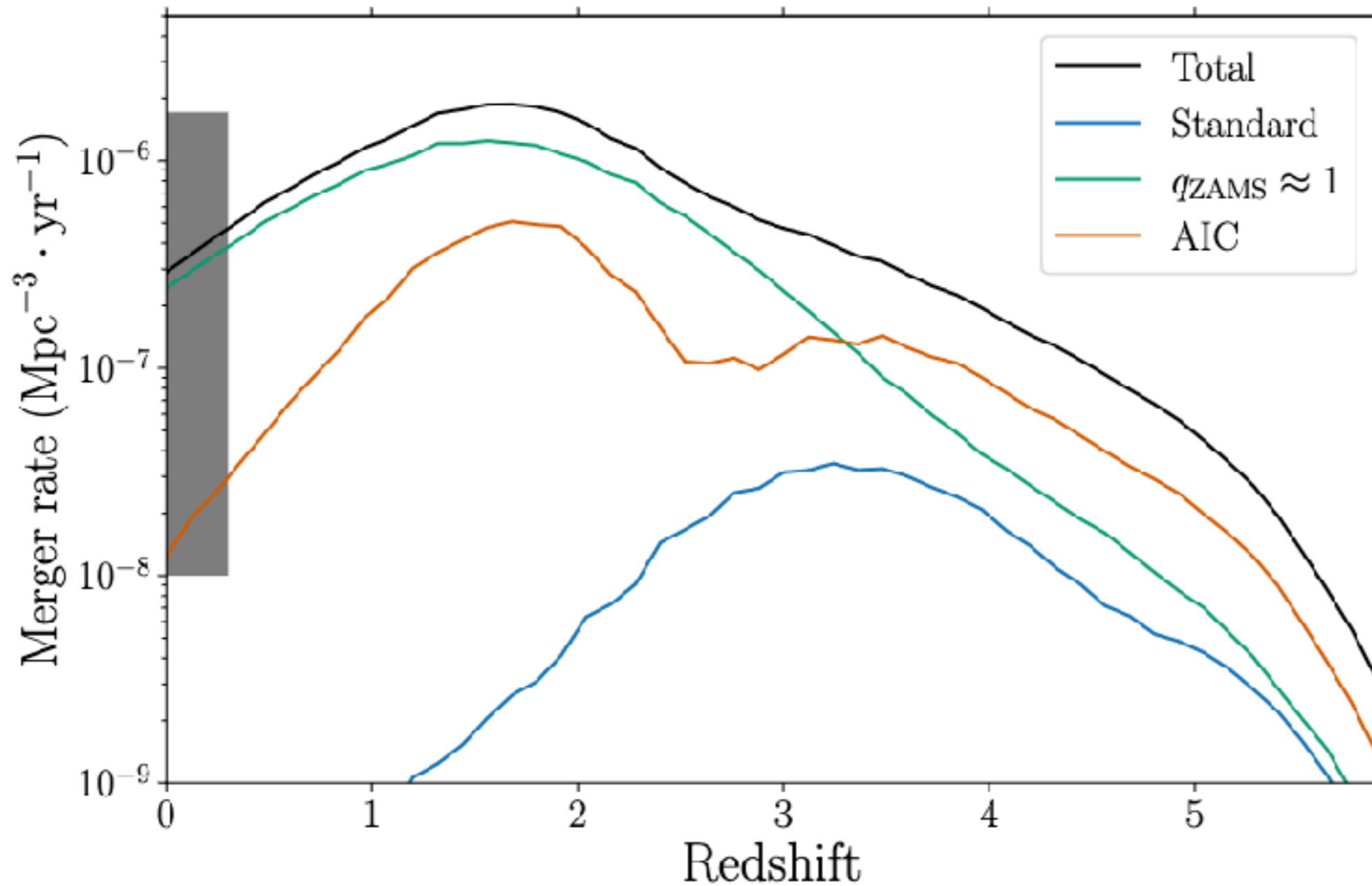
BNS, low-metallicity progenitors



[Pellouin et al., arXiv:2411.04563]

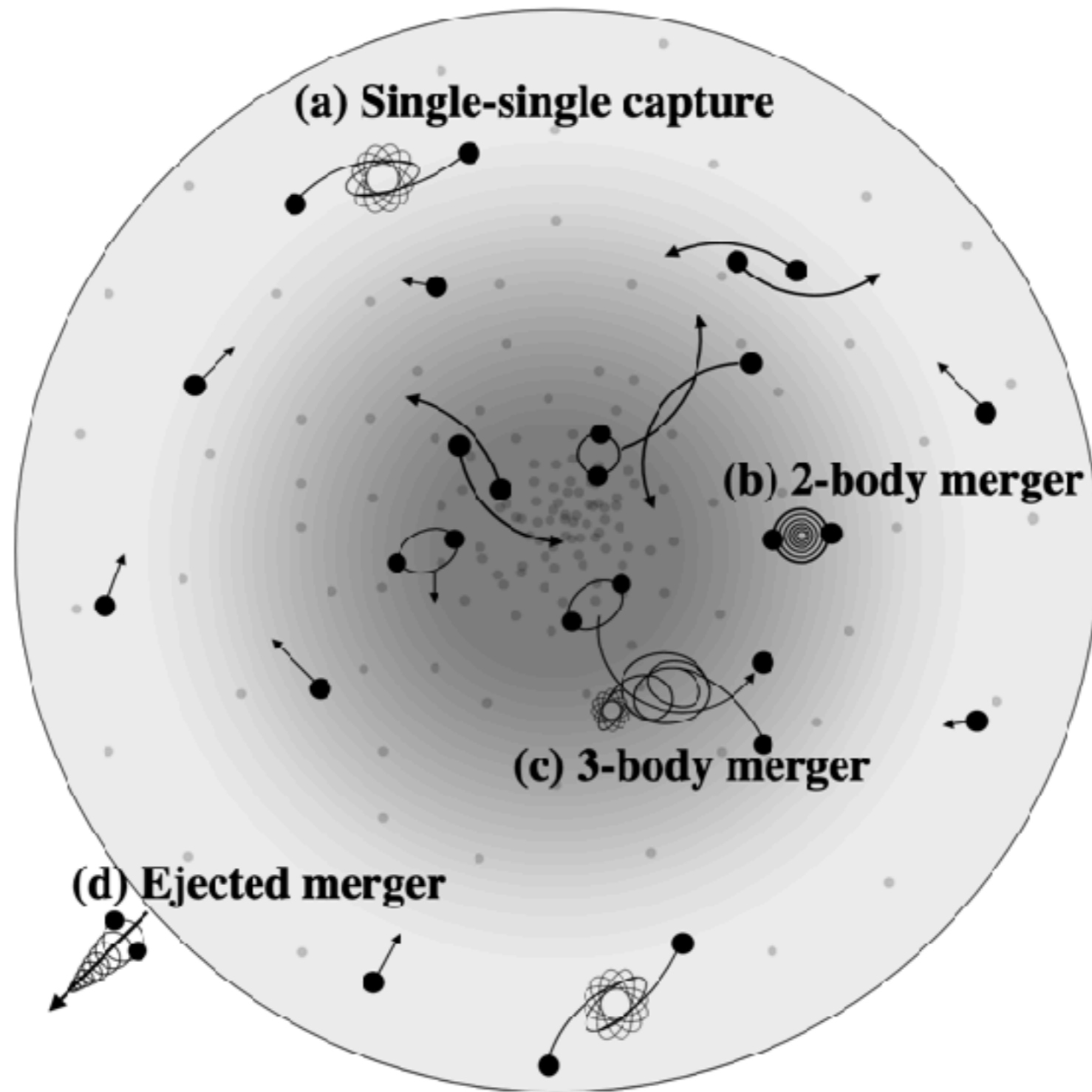
Stellar population synthesis codes: some results

- Models fit the observed merger rate... but there are a lot of parameters!



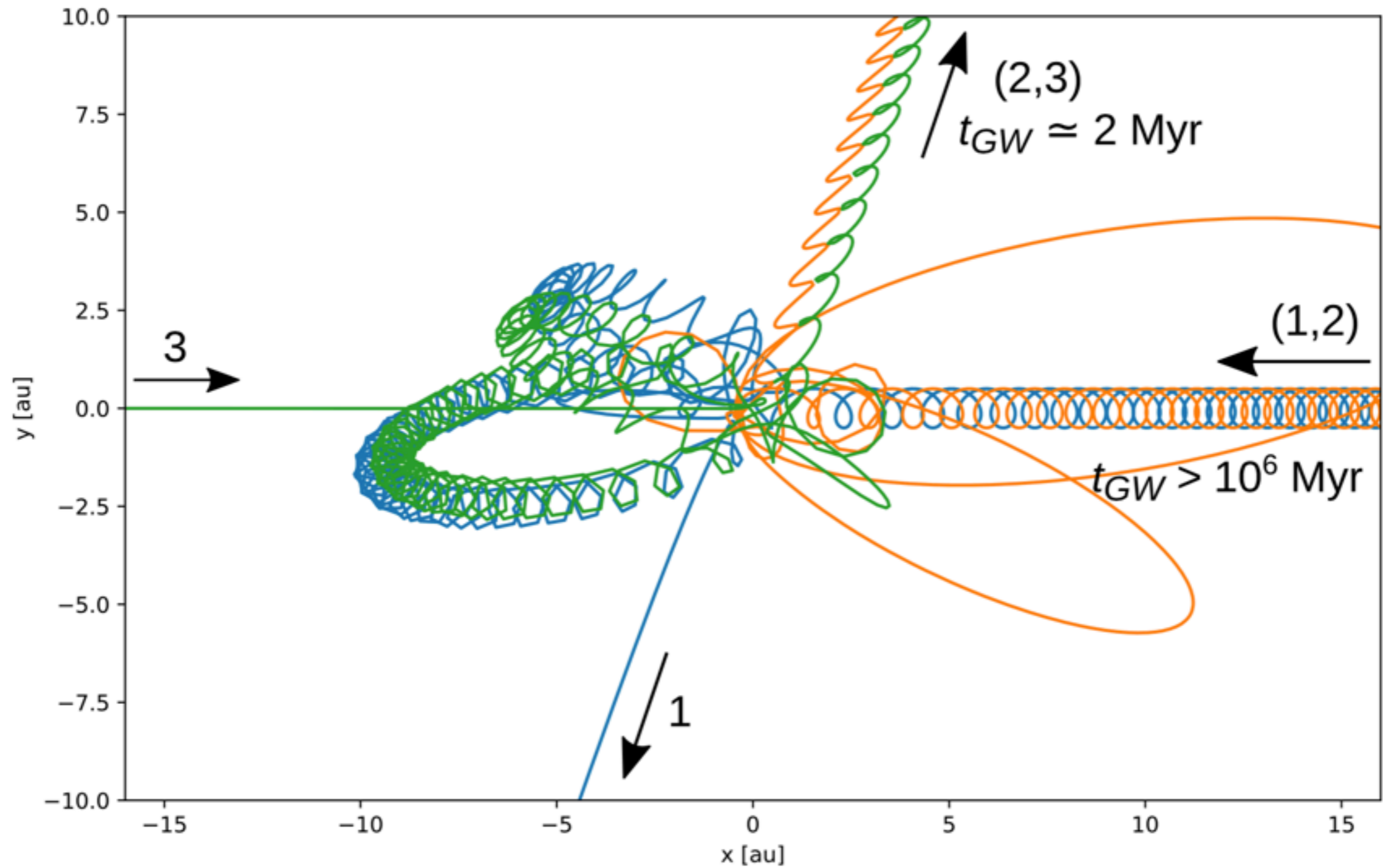
[Pellouin et al., arXiv:2411.04563]

Dynamical formation channel



[Samsing+2020]

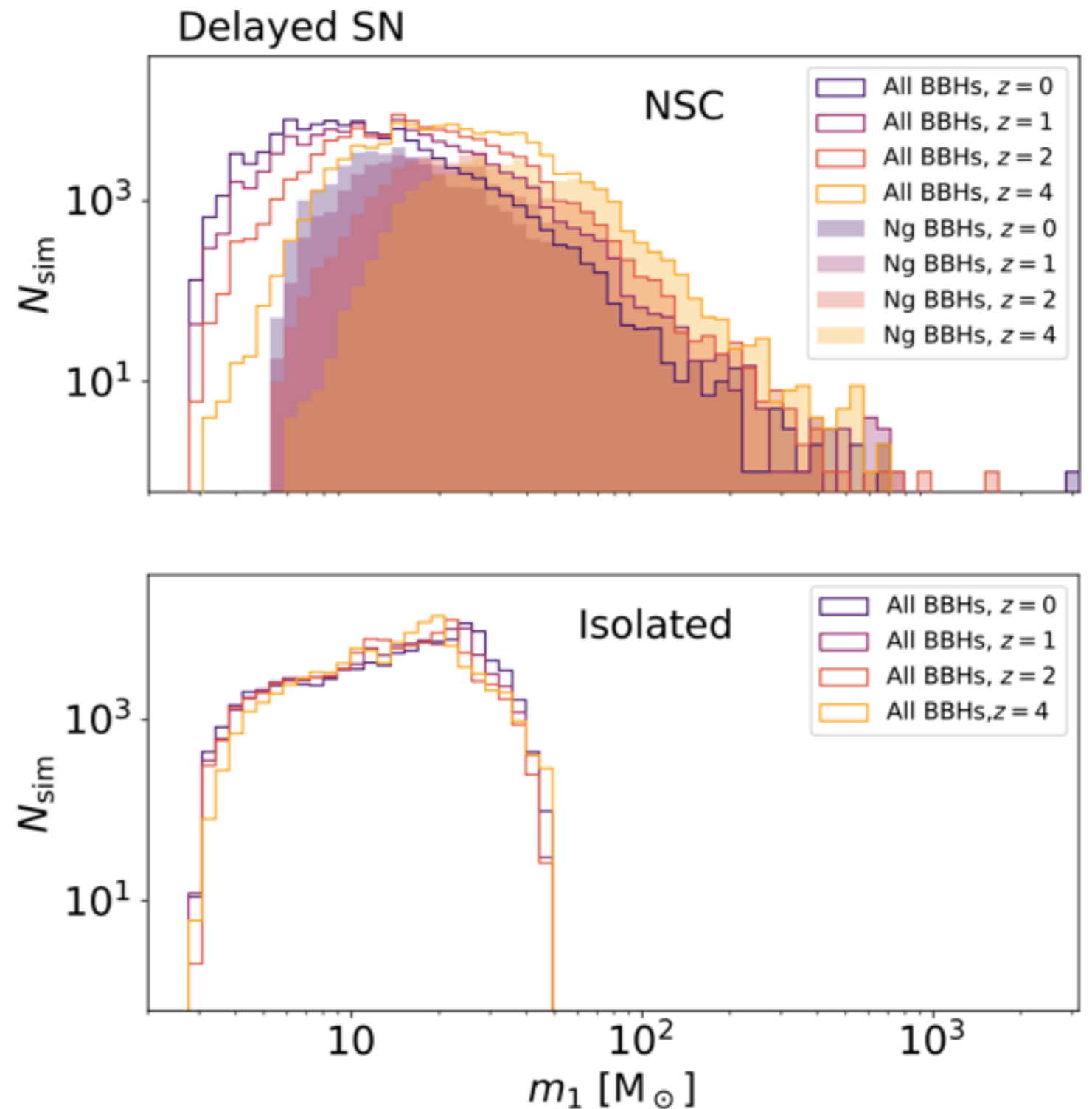
Dynamical formation channel



[Spera et al., arXiv:2206.15392]

Dynamical formation channel

- Allows to obtain black holes in the upper mass gap



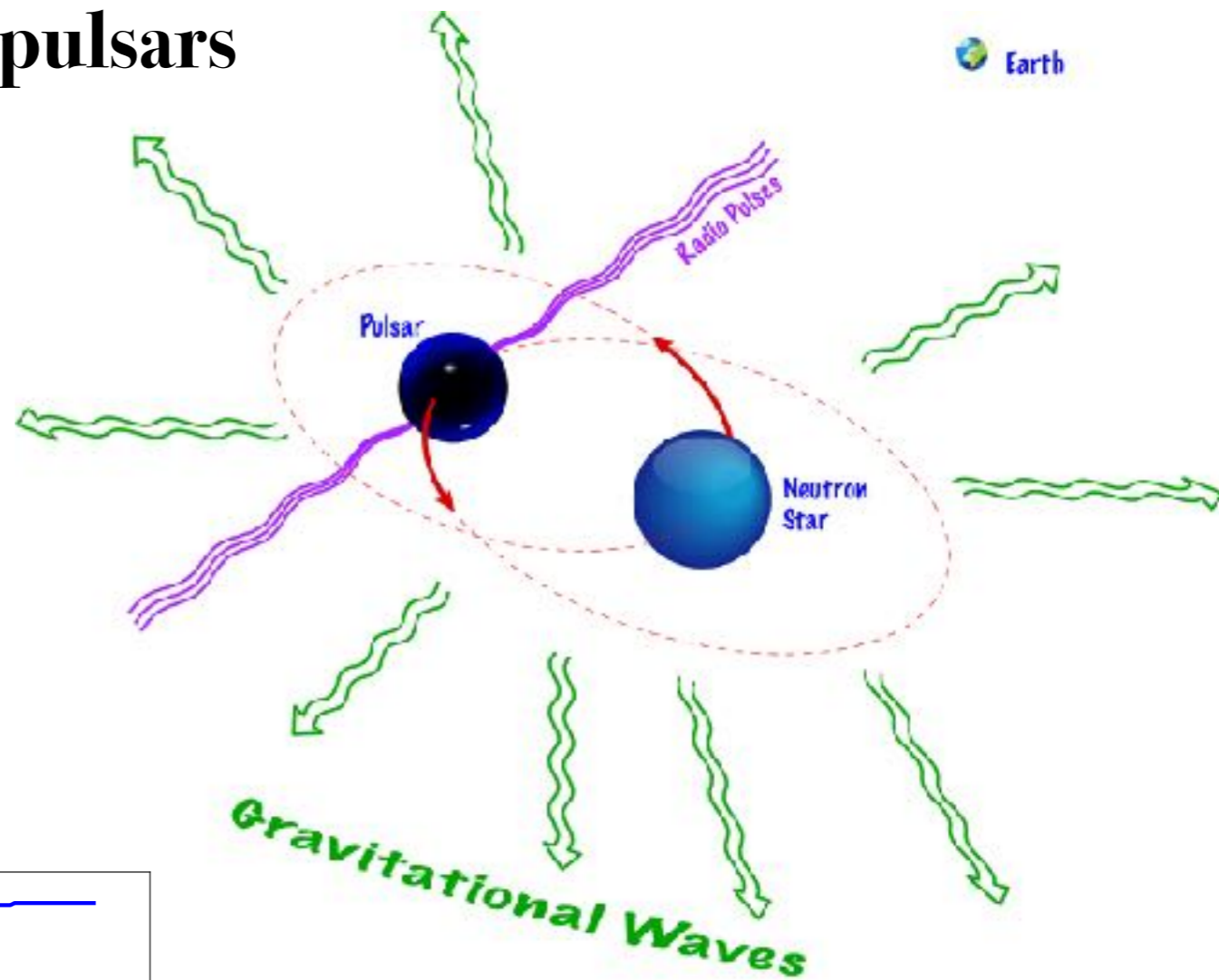
[Mapelli et al., arXiv:2109.06222]

Binary massive stars and binary compact objects: observables

- Binary pulsars in the Galaxy (masses, orbital parameters)
- X-ray binaries (masses, orbital parameters)
- Gamma-ray bursts (rates, redshifts, location in host galaxies)
- Compact binary mergers: gravitational waves (masses, redshifts, merger rates...)

Binary pulsars

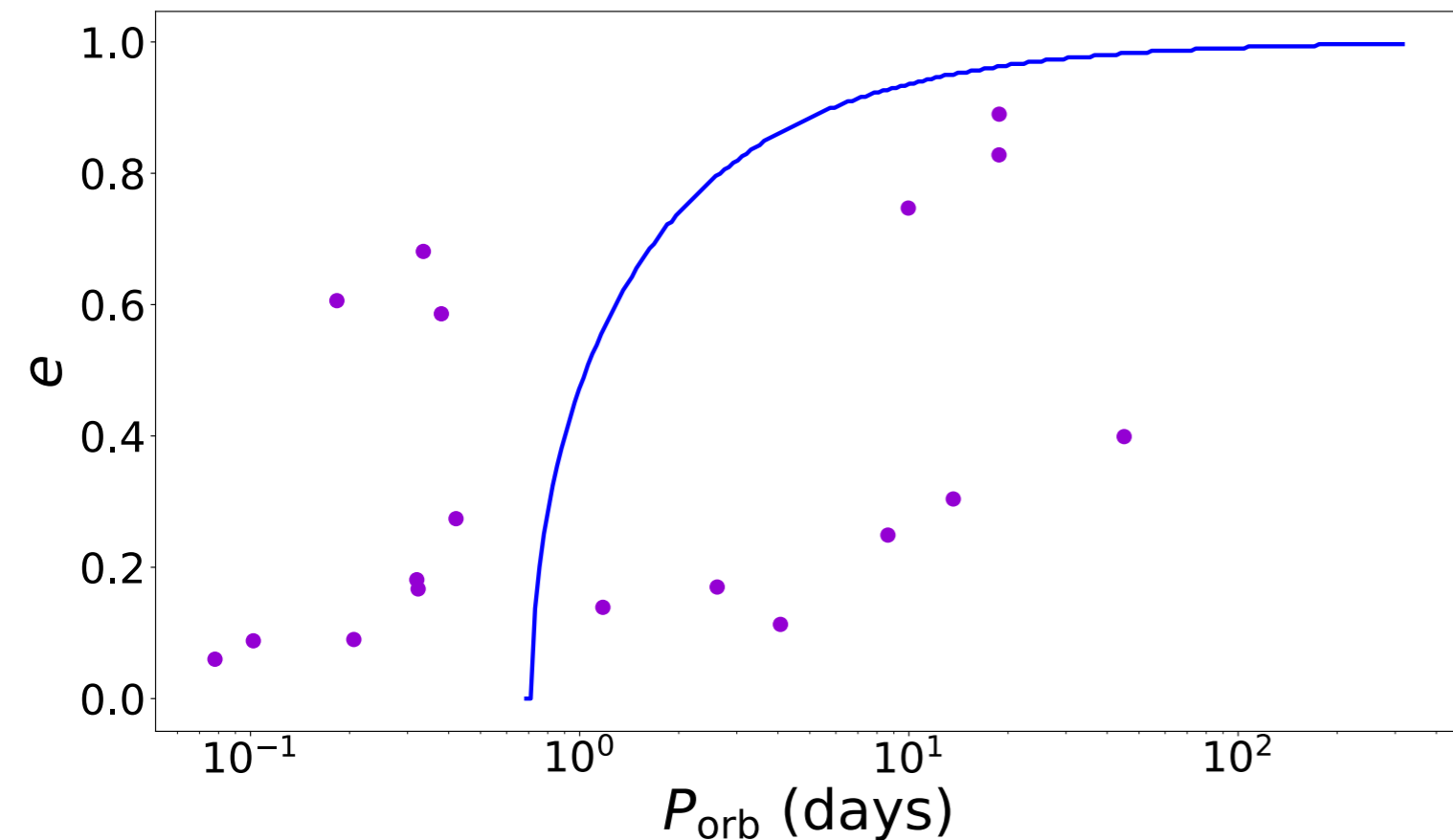
- About 3000 pulsars known in the Galaxy
- About 300 are in binary systems
- 18 confirmed binary neutron stars (BNS)



Time to coalescence due to emission of gravitational waves:

$$t_{GW} \propto a^4$$

Merger times: 10 Myr to 10^5 Gyr



Lecture plan

- **Evolution of massive stars and formation of compact objects**
- **Evolution of binary massive stars and formation of binary compact objects**
- **Gravitational-wave astronomy**
- **Gravitational-wave observations of binary compact objects**

Lecture plan

- **Gravitational-wave astronomy**
 - **Gravitational waves: theory**
 - **Binary compact object mergers**
 - **Observing gravitational waves**



Linearized theory

Solve Einstein's equations assuming a small perturbation of the flat spacetime

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad |h_{\mu\nu}| \ll 1$$

Linearized theory

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$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad |h_{\mu\nu}| \ll 1$$

Linearized equation in Lorenz gauge $\partial^\nu \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = 0$. with $\bar{h}_{\mu\nu} \equiv h_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\eta_{\mu\nu}h$

$$\left(-\frac{\partial^2}{c^2 \partial t^2} + \nabla^2 \right) \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{16\pi G}{c^4} T_{\alpha\beta}$$

Wave equation

Outside the source

$$\left(-\frac{\partial^2}{c^2 \partial t^2} + \nabla^2 \right) \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = 0$$

The perturbation travels with the speed of light

Plane wave solution

$$\bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = A_{\alpha\beta} \exp(ik_\gamma x^\gamma)$$

Lorenz gauge

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}{}^{,\nu} = 0 \rightarrow A_{\mu\nu} k^\nu = 0$$

orthogonal to
propagation vector

Any solution is a superposition of plane waves

How many degrees of freedom?

The metric perturbation can be decomposed into 4 scalars, 2 transverse vectors, and a transverse trace-free tensor

Take wavevector in the z direction

h_{00} is a scalar under spatial rotations

1 d.o.f = scalar

h_{0i} is a 3-vector

$$\vec{h}_{0i} = \vec{\nabla} \Phi + \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V}$$

3 d.o.f = divergence + transverse vector

h_{ij} contains trace + scalar $\partial^i \partial^j h_{ij}$ + transverse vector + traceless transverse tensor

6 d.o.f = divergence + trace + transverse vector + TT tensor

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} h_{00} & h_{01} & h_{02} & h_{03} \\ h_{10} & h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} \\ h_{20} & h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} \\ h_{30} & h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

Polarizations (most general case!)

The metric perturbation can be decomposed into 4 scalars, 2 transverse vectors, and a transverse trace-free tensor

But only 2 scalar, 1 transverse vector and the TT tensor are invariant to coordinate transformations -> **6 d.o.f.**

$$h_+, h_\times, h_b, h_l, h_x, h_y$$

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_b + h_+ & h_\times & h_x \\ 0 & h_\times & h_b - h_+ & h_y \\ 0 & h_x & h_y & h_l \end{pmatrix}$$

Polarizations (most general case!)

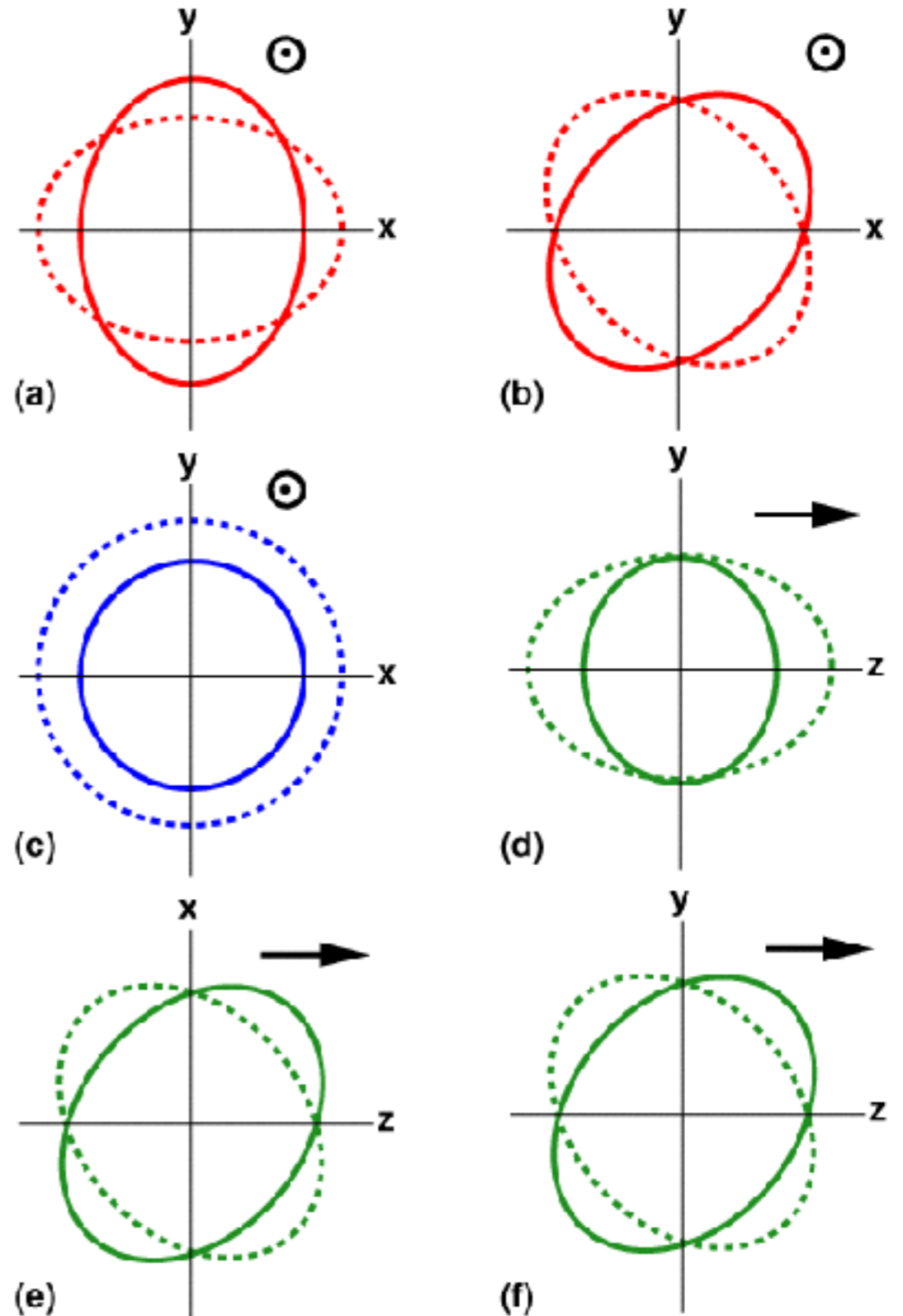
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Gravitational-Wave Polarization



[C. Will, in Living Reviews in Relativity]

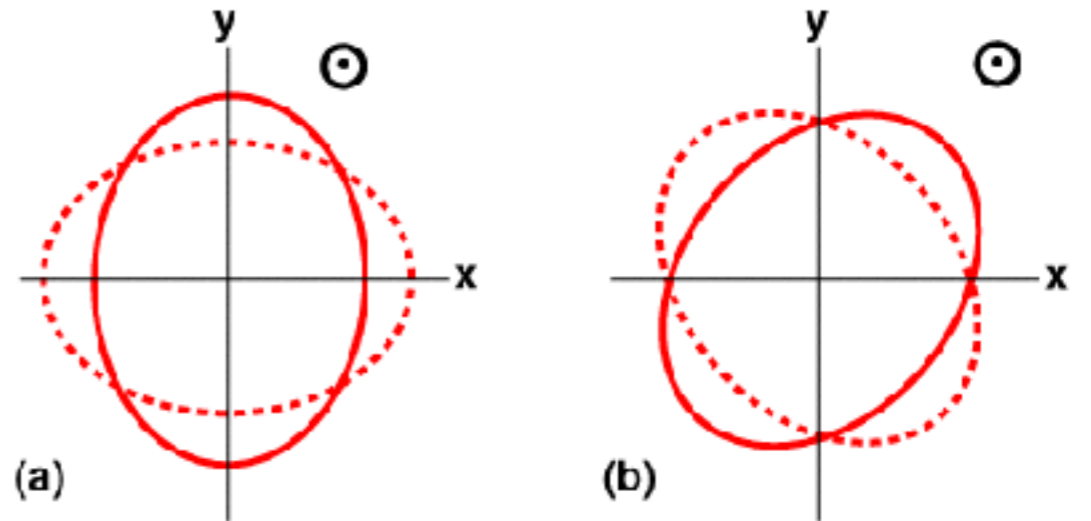
Polarizations in GR

In GR, out of the 6 remaining Einstein equations, 4 are constraint equations (no second-order time derivatives)

Only 2 equations are evolution equations \rightarrow 2 d.o.f. h_+, h_\times

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ 0 & h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

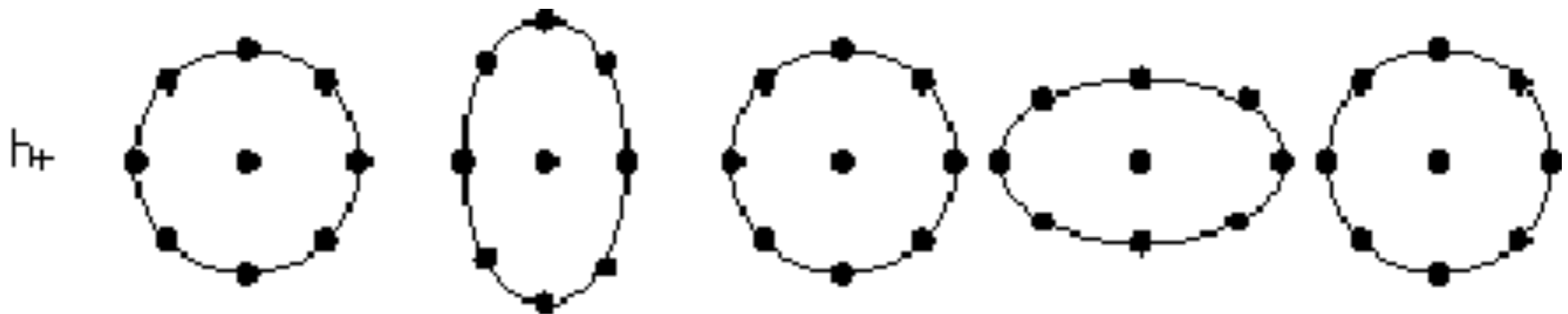
Gravitational-Wave Polarization



Plus polarization

$$h_{\mu\nu}(t - z/c) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \cos(\omega(t - z/c))$$

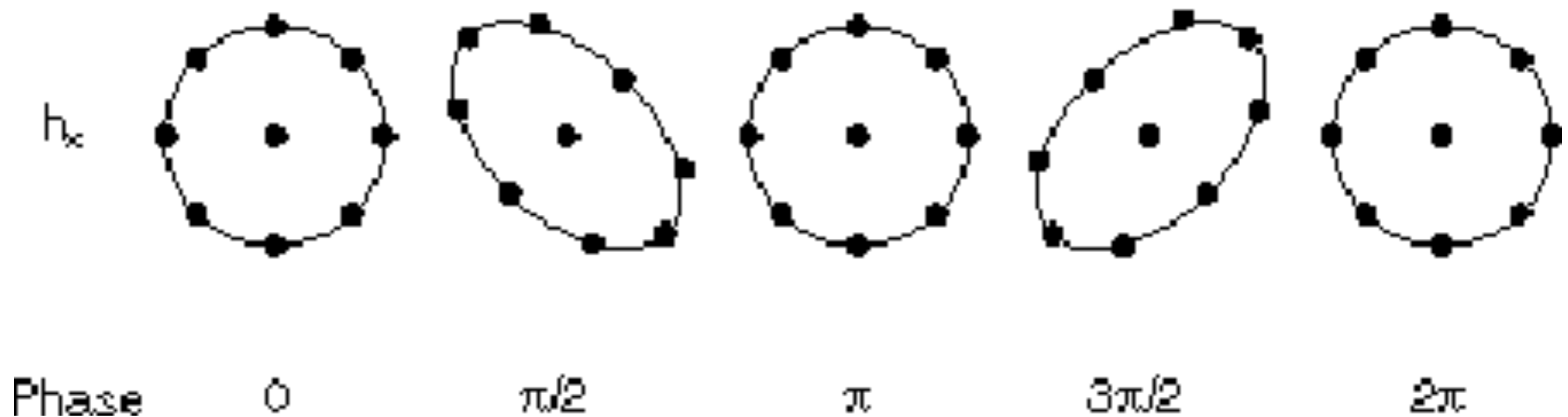
$$ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dz^2 + (1 + h_+ \cos[\omega(t - z/c)]) dx^2 + (1 - h_+ \cos[\omega(t - z/c)]) dy^2$$

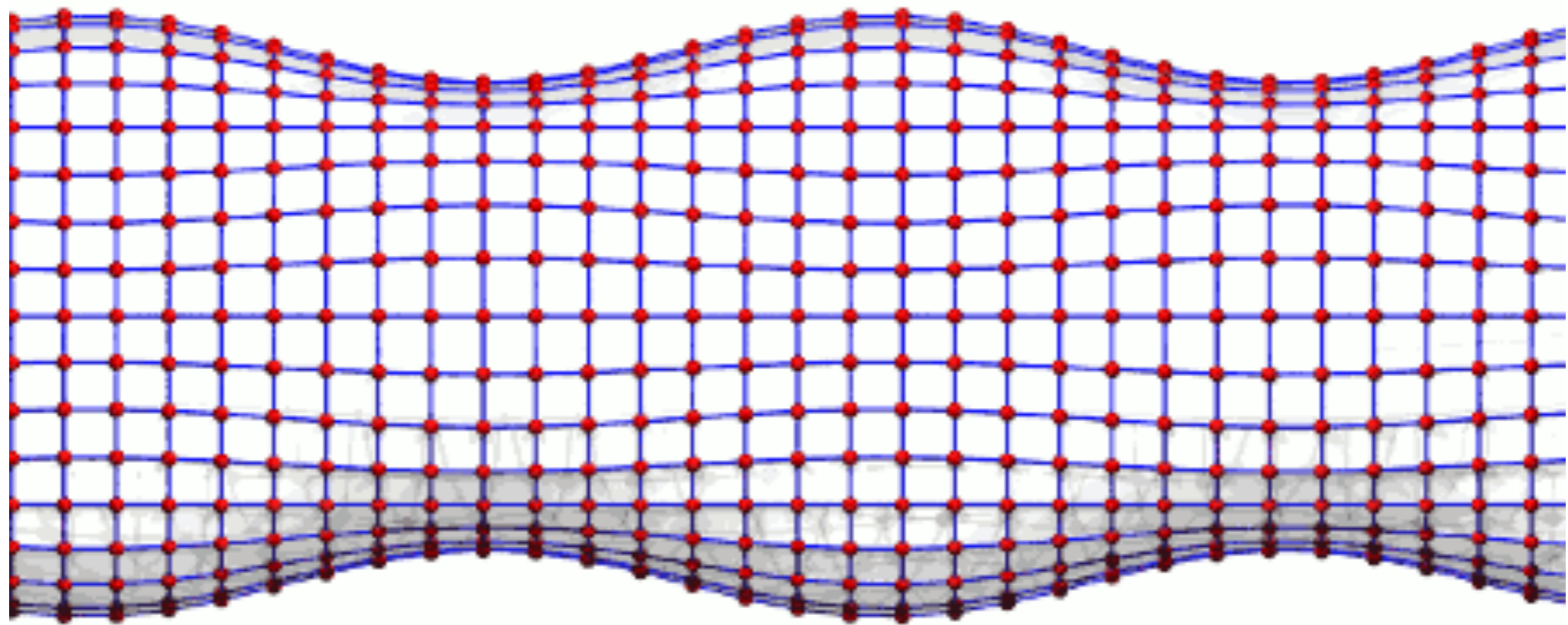


Cross polarization

$$h_{\mu\nu}(t - z/c) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_{\times} & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \cos(\omega(t - z/c))$$

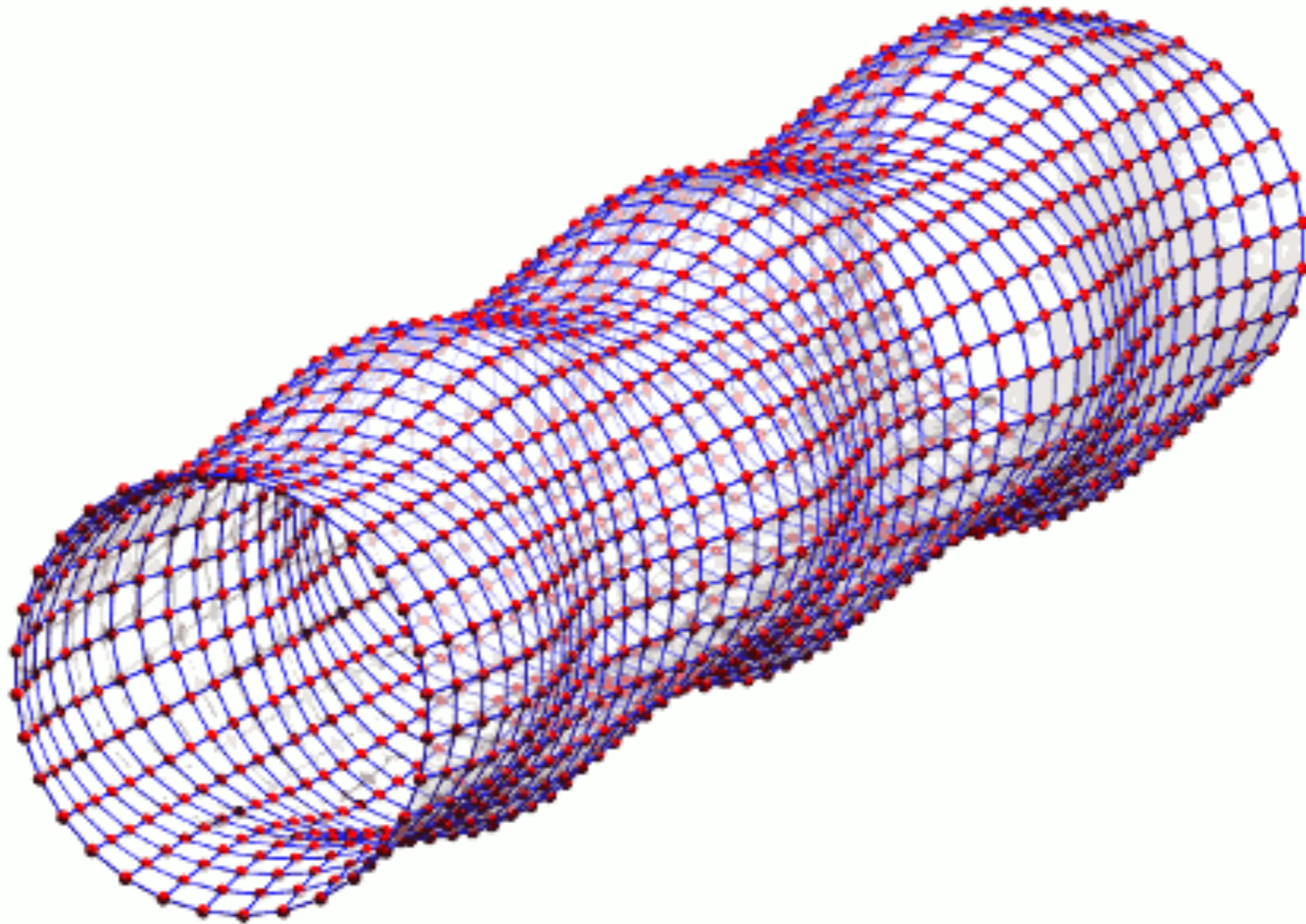
$$ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dz^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + 2(1 + h_{\times} \cos[\omega(t - z/c)]) dx dy$$





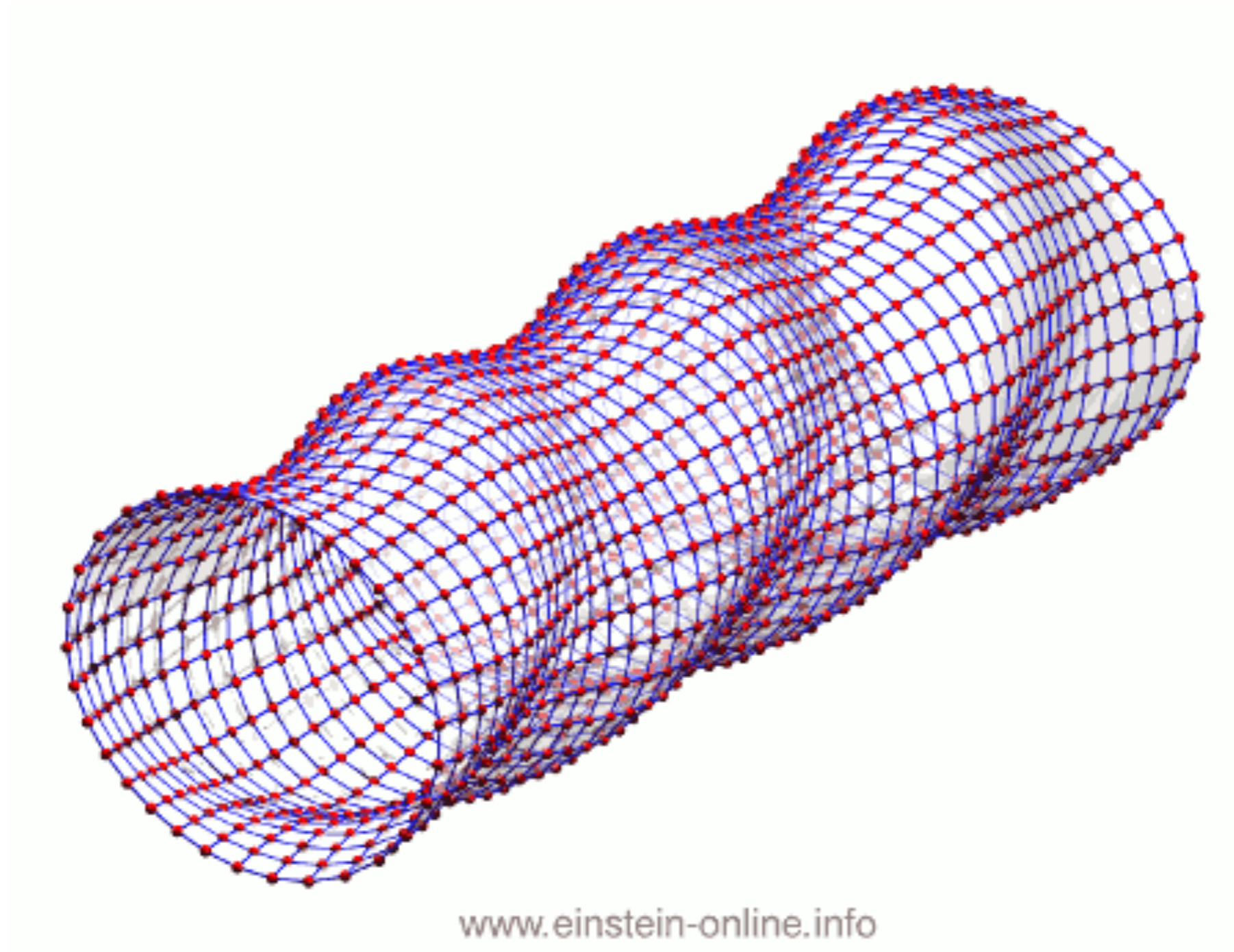
www.einstein-online.info

Linear polarization



www.einstein-online.info

Circular polarization



GW effect on test masses

Geodesic deviation:

$$\frac{D^2 \delta x^\alpha}{D\tau^2} = R^\alpha{}_{\mu\nu\gamma} \dot{x}^\mu \dot{x}^\nu \delta x^\gamma$$

$x^\alpha(\tau)$

A



$x^\alpha(\tau) + \delta x^\alpha(\tau)$



B



Take the curve parameters as the time coordinate:

$$\frac{D^2 \delta x^i}{Dt^2} = R^i{}_{00\gamma} \delta x^\gamma \quad \text{with} \quad R^i{}_{00\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 h_{ij}^{TT}}{\partial t^2}$$

To linear order:

$$\delta x^i(t) = \delta x^i(0) + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{ij}^{TT}(t) - h_{ij}^{TT}(0) \right) \delta x^j(0)$$

Strain h :

$$\frac{\Delta x}{x} = \frac{1}{2} h$$

Sources of GW: dimensional analysis

$$\left(-\frac{\partial^2}{c^2 \partial t^2} + \nabla^2 \right) \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{16\pi G}{c^4} T_{\alpha\beta}$$

Matter field is characterized by its multipole moments:

$$M = \int \rho d^3x$$

Mass monopole

$$h \propto \frac{GM}{rc^2}$$

Mass conservation -
cannot vary dynamically

$$D^i = \int \rho x^i d^3x$$

Mass dipole

$$h \propto \frac{GD\dot{}}{rc^3}$$

Linear momentum
conservation

$$Q^{ij} = \int \rho x^i x^j d^3x$$

Mass quadrupole

$$h \propto \frac{G\ddot{Q}}{rc^4}$$

Angular momentum
conservation

$$L^i = \int \rho e_{jk}^i x^j v^k d^3x$$

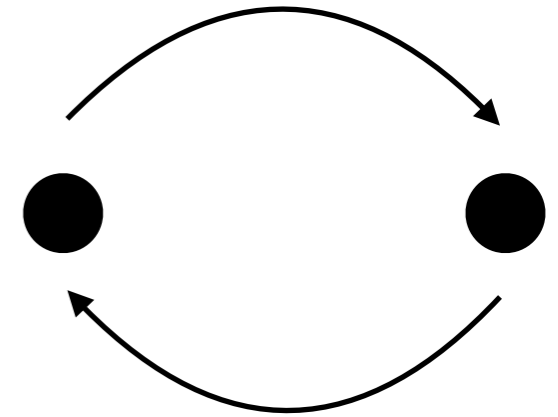
Angular momentum (first moment of mass current)

$$h \propto \frac{GL\dot{}}{rc^4}$$

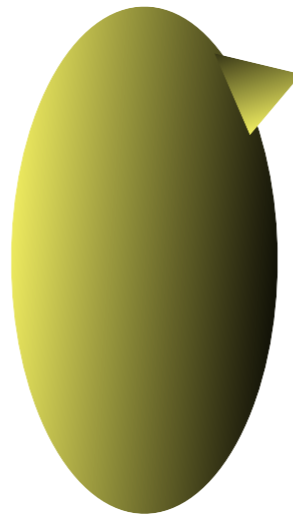
The quadrupole formula (TT gauge)

$$\bar{h}_{ij}^{TT}(t, \vec{x}) \simeq \frac{2G}{c^4 r} \ddot{Q}^{TT}(t - r/c)$$

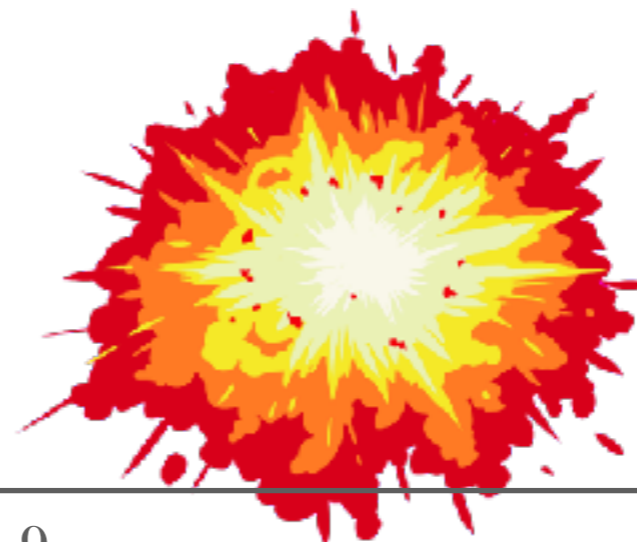
Compact binaries (binary black holes, neutron stars...)



Non-spherical rotating stars

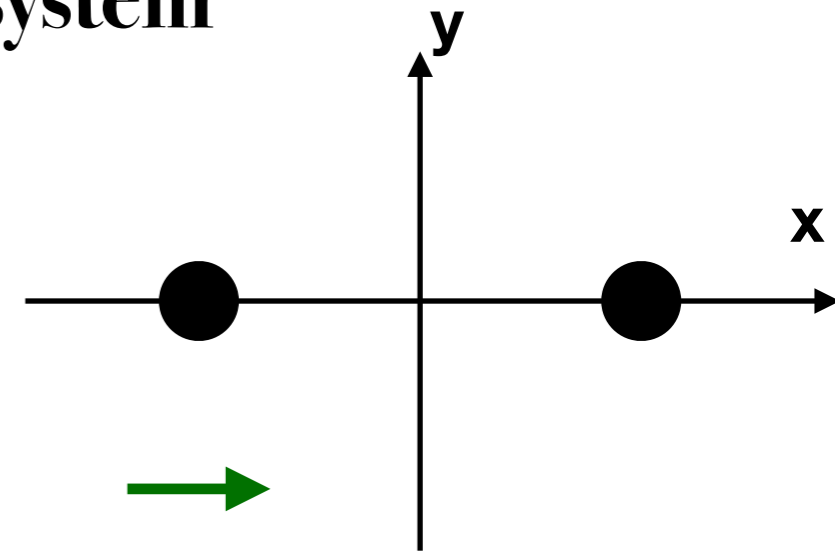


Stellar explosions



The quadrupole formula: binary system

Equal-mass circular binary in the x-y plane,
orbital frequency ω and initial separation a_0



$$Q_{xx} = \frac{1}{4} M a_0^2 \cos(2\omega t)$$

$$Q_{yy} = -\frac{1}{4} M a_0^2 \cos(2\omega t)$$

$$Q_{xy} = \frac{1}{4} M a_0^2 \sin(2\omega t)$$

$$x_1 = \frac{a_0}{2} \cos(\omega t)$$

$$y_1 = \frac{a_0}{2} \sin(\omega t)$$

Radiation in the **x** direction

$$\bar{h}_{yy}^{TT} = -\bar{h}_{zz}^{TT} = \frac{G M a_0^2 \omega^2}{2c^2 r} \cos(2\omega(t - r/c))$$

Linear polarization aligned with the orbital plane

Binary system: unequal masses

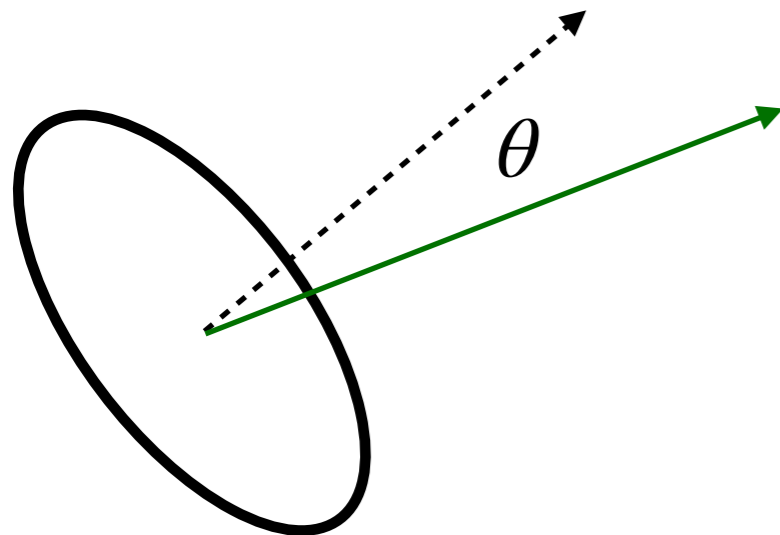
Kepler law:

$$\omega^2 = \frac{G(M_1 + M_2)}{a_0^3}$$

GW frequency:

$$f_{GW} = \frac{\omega}{\pi}$$

Orbital inclination: θ



$$h_+ = \frac{4}{r} \left(\frac{GM_c}{c^2} \right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{GW}}{c} \right)^{2/3} \frac{1 + \cos^2 \theta}{2}$$

$$h_\times = \frac{4}{r} \left(\frac{GM_c}{c^2} \right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{GW}}{c} \right)^{2/3} \cos \theta$$

Chirp mass:
$$M_c = \frac{(M_1 M_2)^{3/5}}{(M_1 + M_2)^{1/5}}$$

GW energy flux and luminosity

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

Far from the source: the energy is due to GW

Weak field, developing to lowest order

$$t_{\mu\nu}^{TT} = \frac{c^2}{8\pi G} \left(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\eta_{\mu\nu}\eta^{\delta\rho}R_{\lambda\rho} \right)$$

second order in h

GW energy flux and luminosity

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

Far from the source: the energy is due to GW

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Flux:

$$\frac{dE}{dt dA} = t_{03}^{TT} = -\frac{c^3}{16\pi G} \left\langle \dot{h}_+^2 + \dot{h}_\times^2 \right\rangle$$

second order in h

$$\frac{dE}{dt dA} = -\frac{G}{8\pi c^5 r^2} \left\langle \ddot{Q}_{ij}\ddot{Q}^{ij} \right\rangle$$

GW energy flux and luminosity

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

Far from the source: the energy is due to GW

Weak field, developing to lowest order

Flux:

$$t_{\mu\nu}^{TT} = \frac{c^2}{8\pi G} \left(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\eta_{\mu\nu}\eta^{\delta\rho}R_{\lambda\rho} \right)$$

second order in h

$$\frac{dE}{dtdA} = t_{03}^{TT} = -\frac{c^3}{16\pi G} \left\langle \dot{h}_+^2 + \dot{h}_\times^2 \right\rangle$$

Luminosity:

$$\frac{dE}{dtdA} = -\frac{G}{8\pi c^5 r^2} \left\langle \ddot{Q}_{ij}\ddot{Q}^{ij} \right\rangle$$

$$L_{GW} = -\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{G}{5c^5} \left\langle \ddot{Q}_{ij}\ddot{Q}^{ij} \right\rangle$$

Luminosity of GW (quadrupole approximation)

$$L_{GW} = -\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{G}{5c^5} \left\langle \ddot{Q}_{ij} \ddot{Q}^{ij} \right\rangle$$

But $\frac{G}{c^5}$ is extremely small...

Assume a compact object $\frac{GM}{Rc^2} \sim 1$

Mass quadrupoles and its derivatives:

$$Q \sim MR^2$$

$$\ddot{Q} \sim Mv^2 \sim E_{kin}$$

$$\ddot{Q} \sim \frac{E_{kin}}{\tau} \sim \frac{E_{kin}}{R/v} \sim \frac{Mv^2}{R/v}$$

$$L_{GW} \sim \frac{G}{c^5} \ddot{Q}^2 \sim \frac{c^5}{G} \left(\frac{GM}{Rc^2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{v}{c} \right)^6$$

Thankfully $\frac{c^5}{G}$ is extremely large!

Orbital evolution of a compact binary system

Energy is lost to GW, the orbit shrinks:

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -\frac{64}{5} \frac{G^3 \mu m^2}{c^5 a^3}$$

Coalescence time for a circular binary

$$t_{coal} = a_0^4 \cdot \frac{5}{256} \frac{c^5}{G^3} \frac{1}{\mu m^2}$$

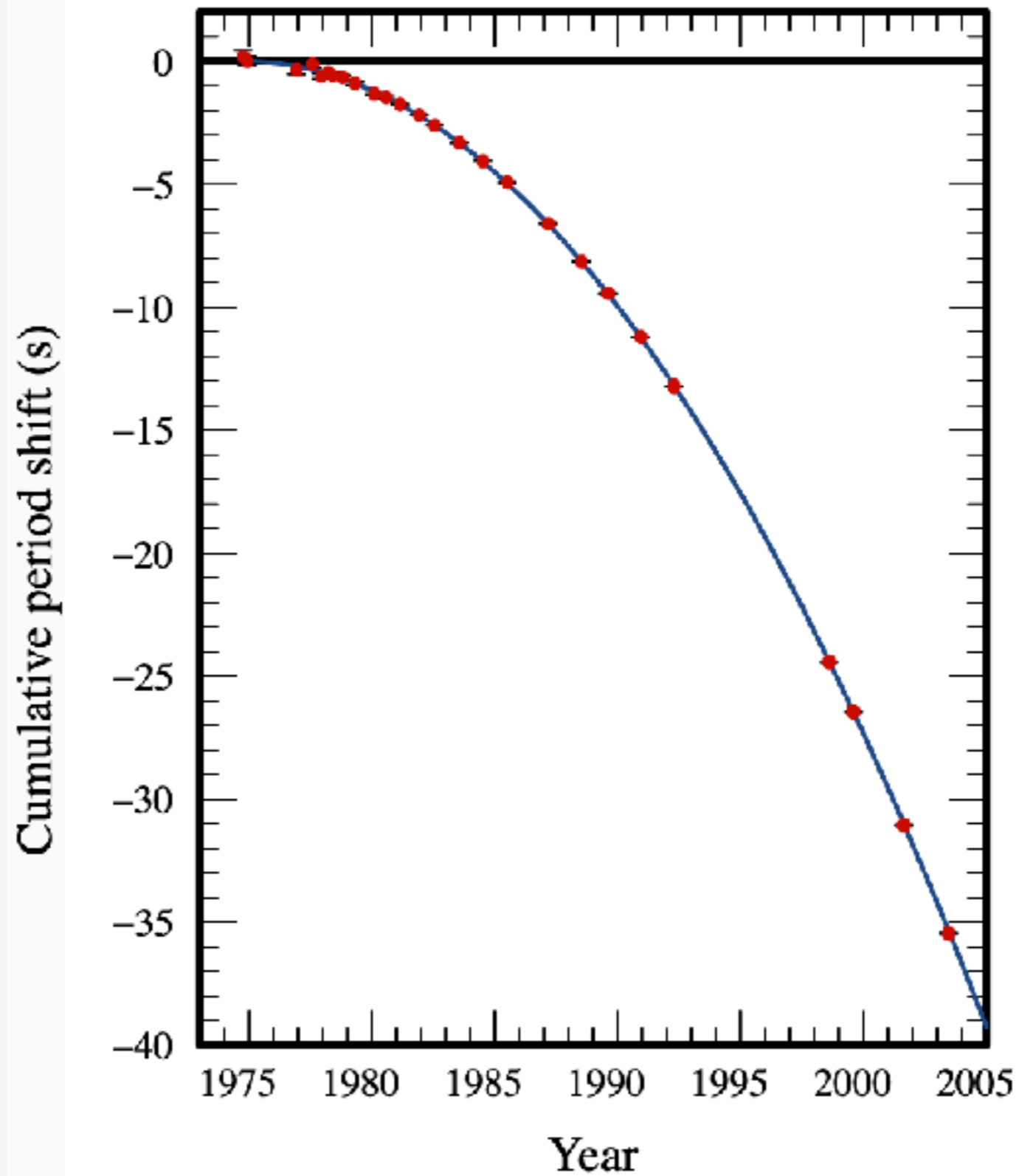
Reduced mass

$$\mu = \frac{M_1 M_2}{M_1 + M_2}$$

Total mass

$$m = M_1 + M_2$$

Hulse-Taylor pulsar



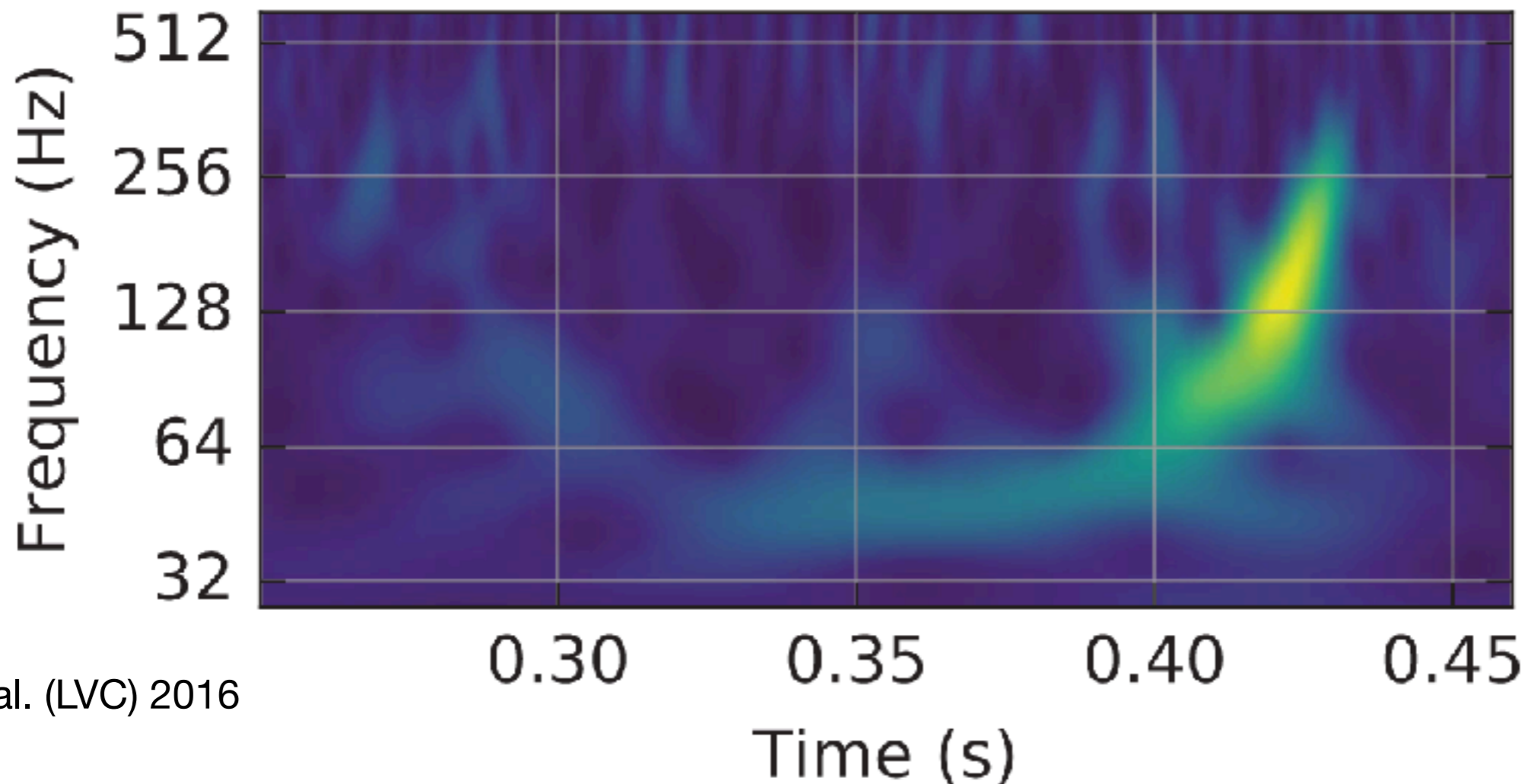
GW150914: frequency chirp

From orbital evolution:

$$f_{GW}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{GM_c}{c^3} \right)^{-5/8} \left(\frac{5}{256} \frac{1}{(\tau_{coal} - t)} \right)$$

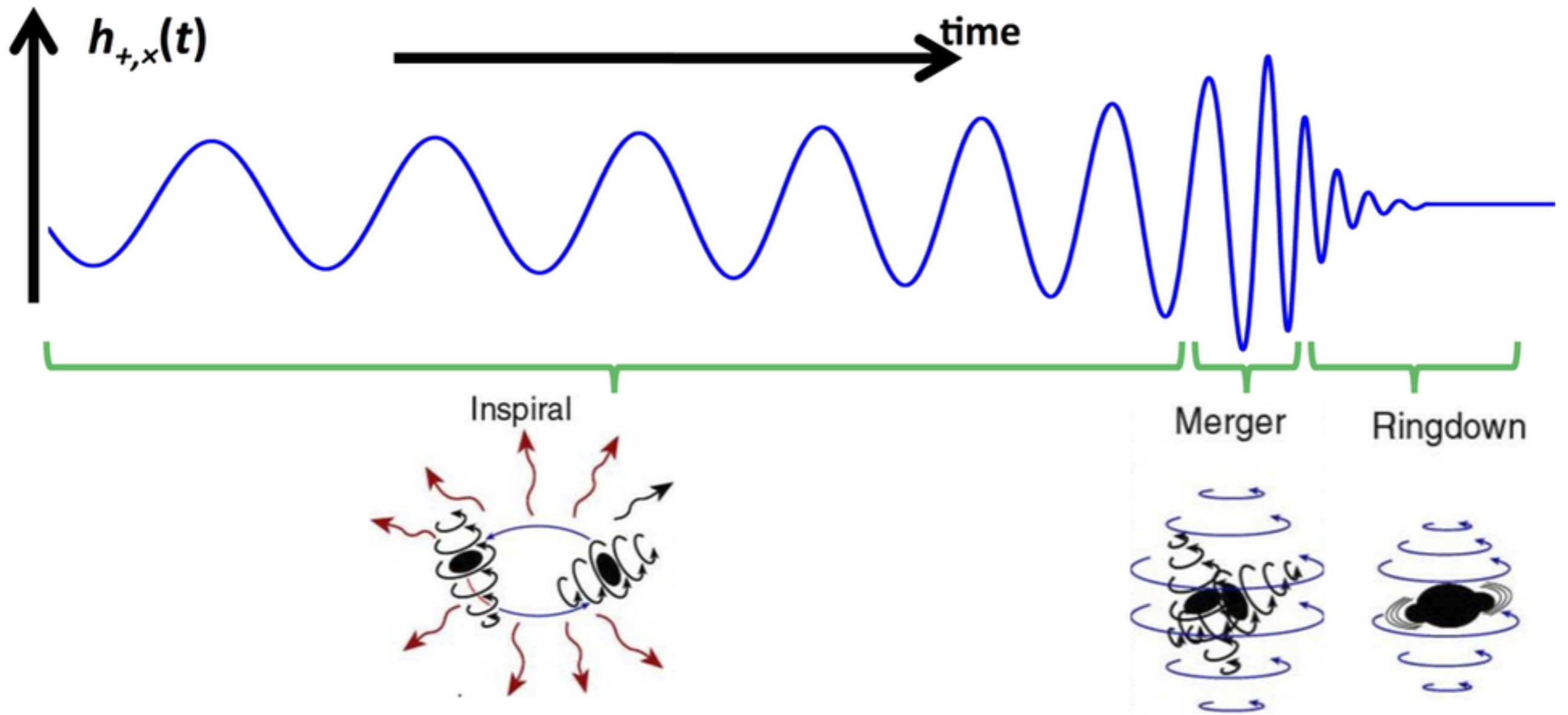
Frequency chirp:

$$\dot{f}_{GW}(t) = \frac{96}{5} \pi^{8/3} \left(\frac{GM_c}{c^3} \right)^{5/3} f_{GW}^{11/3}$$



Abbott et al. (LVC) 2016

Compact binary merger



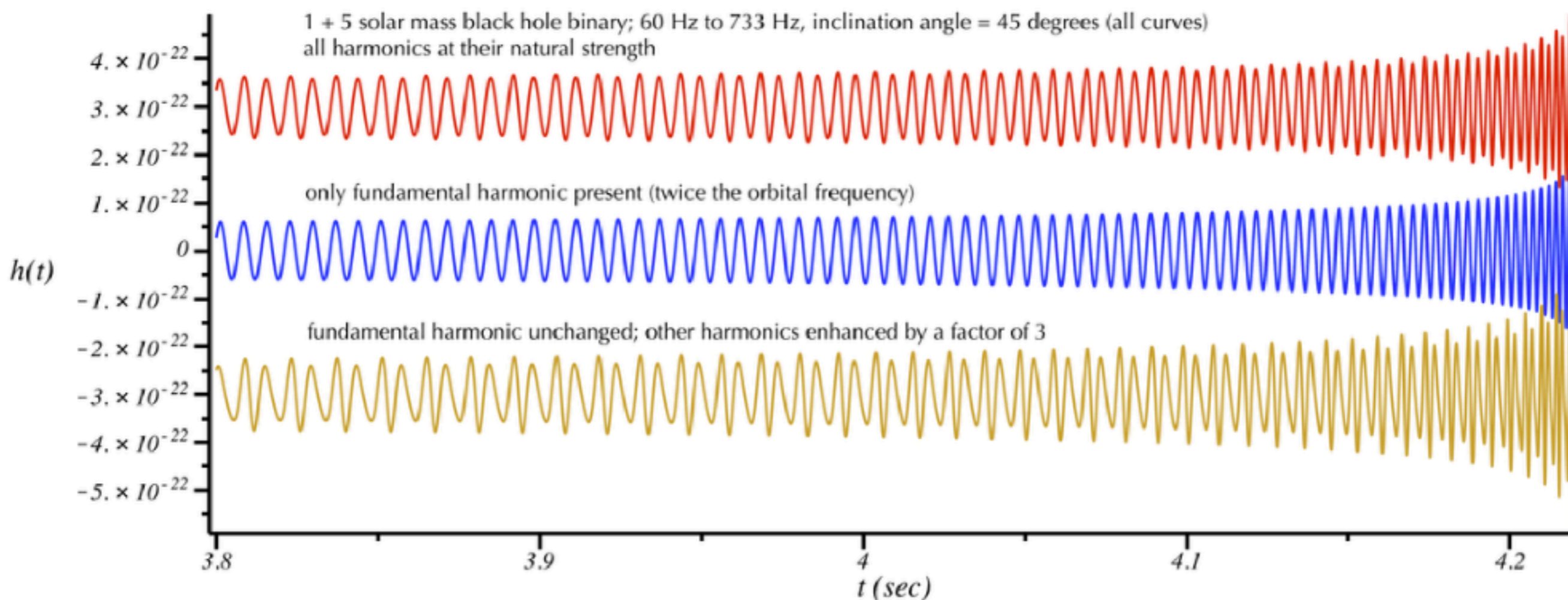
Beyond the quadrupole

- Quadrupole
- Octupole
- ...

$$f_{GW} = 2 \cdot f_{orbit}$$

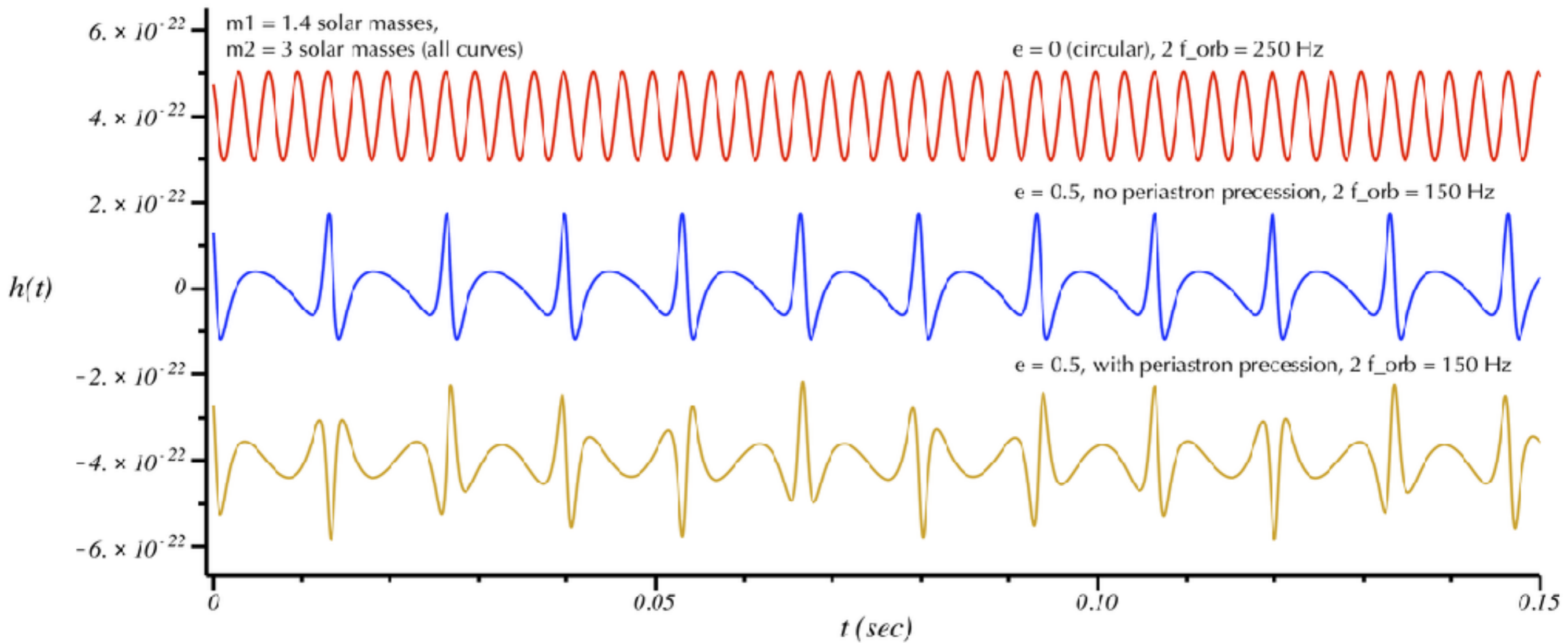
$$3 \cdot f_{orbit}$$

$$n \cdot f_{orbit}$$



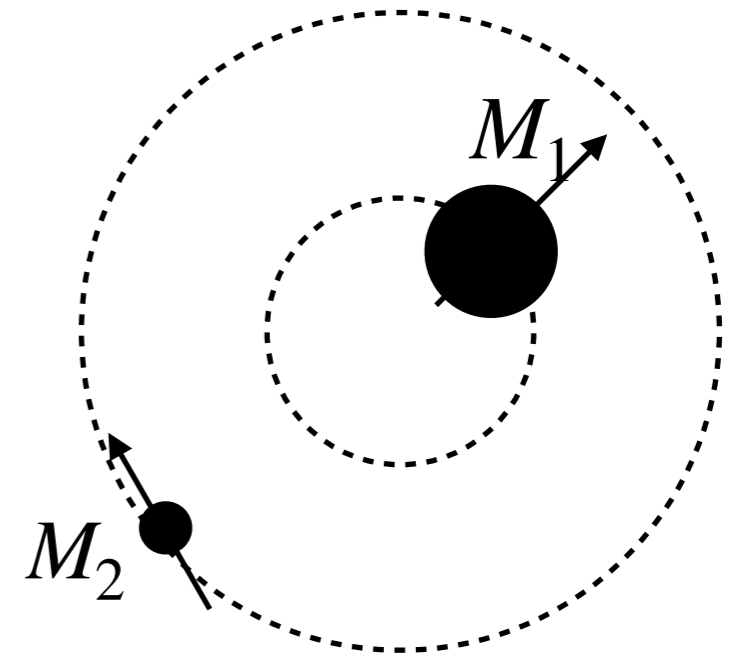
www.soundsofspacetime.org

Eccentric orbits

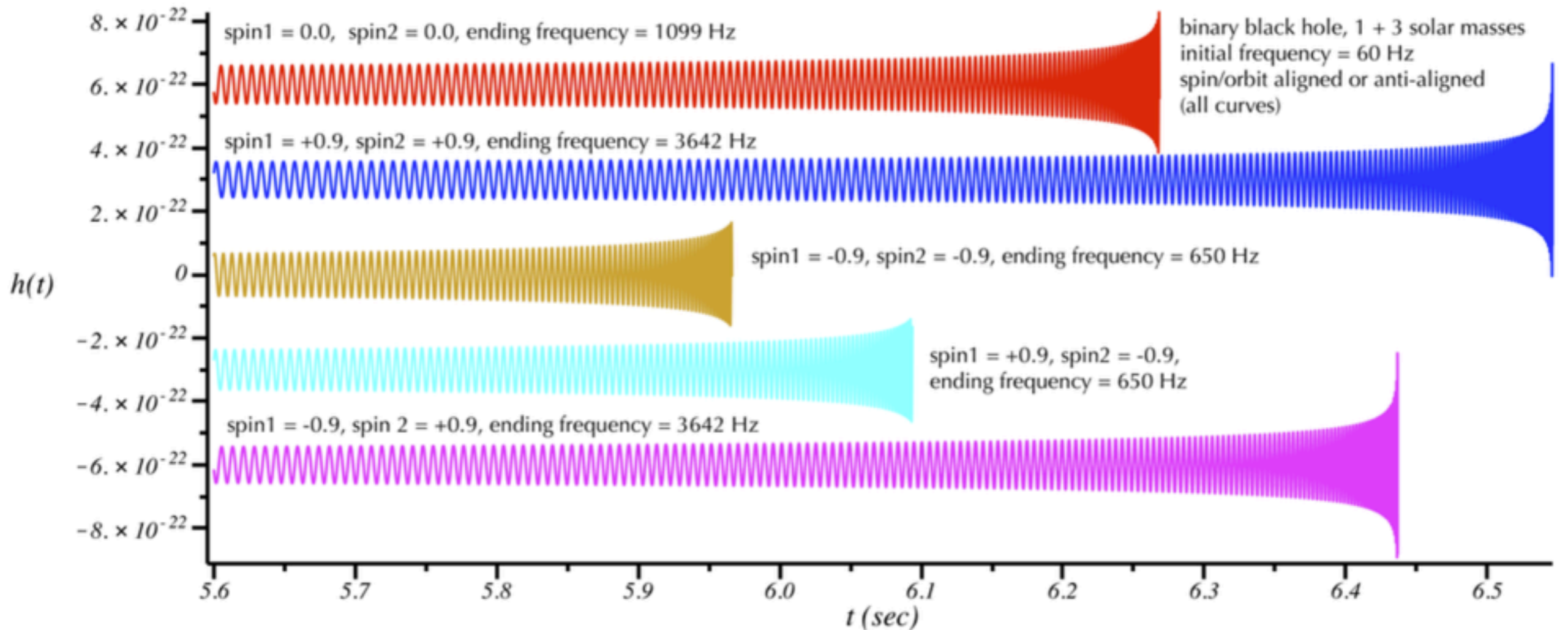


www.soundsofspacetime.org

Spinning black holes

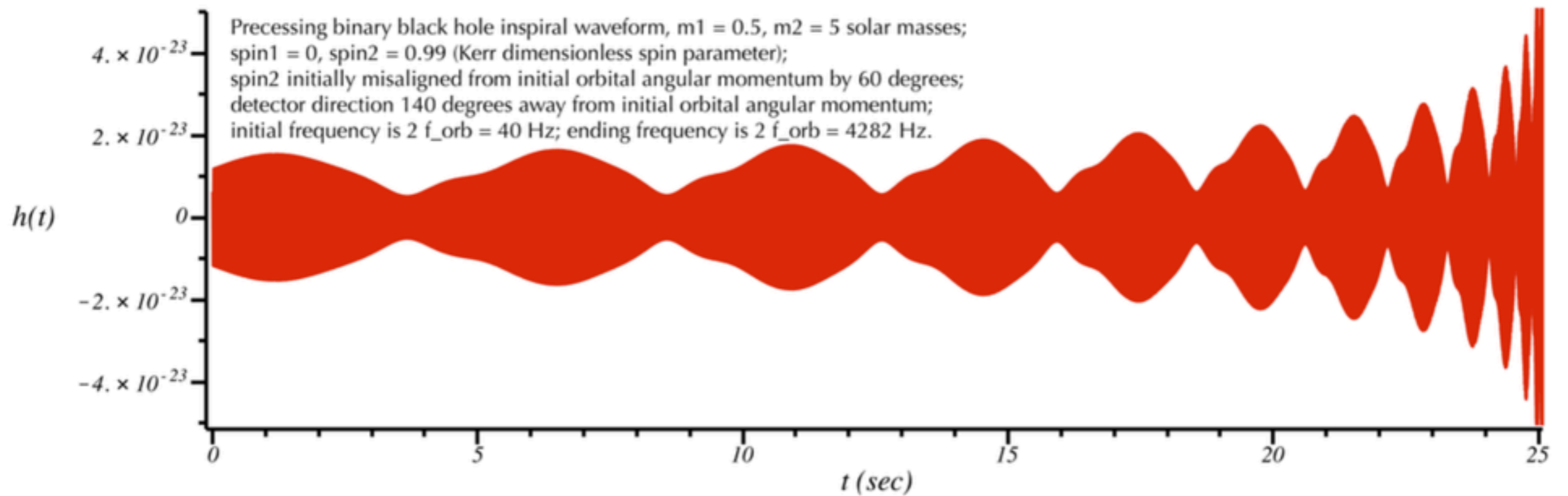


$1M_{\odot} + 3M_{\odot}$



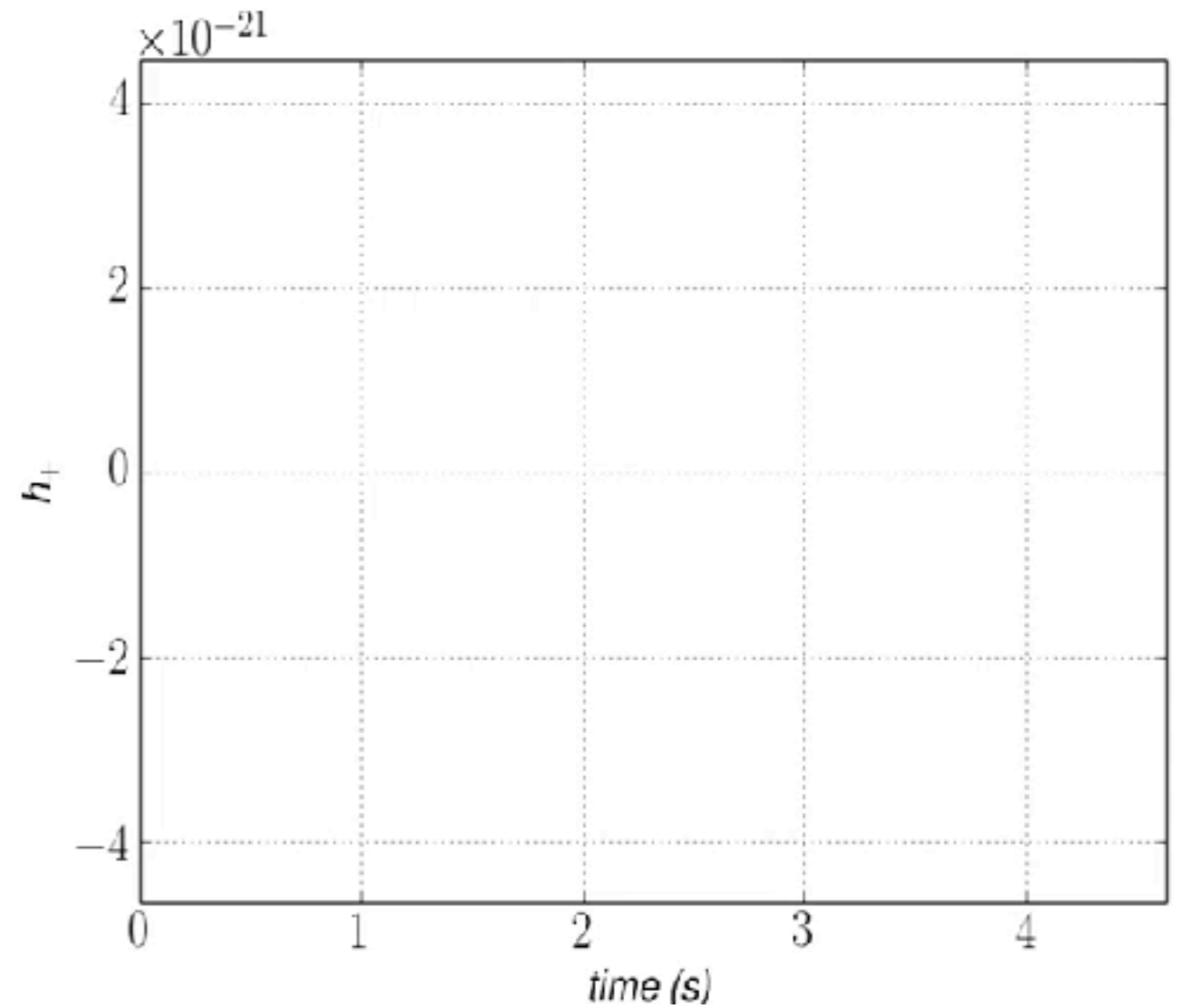
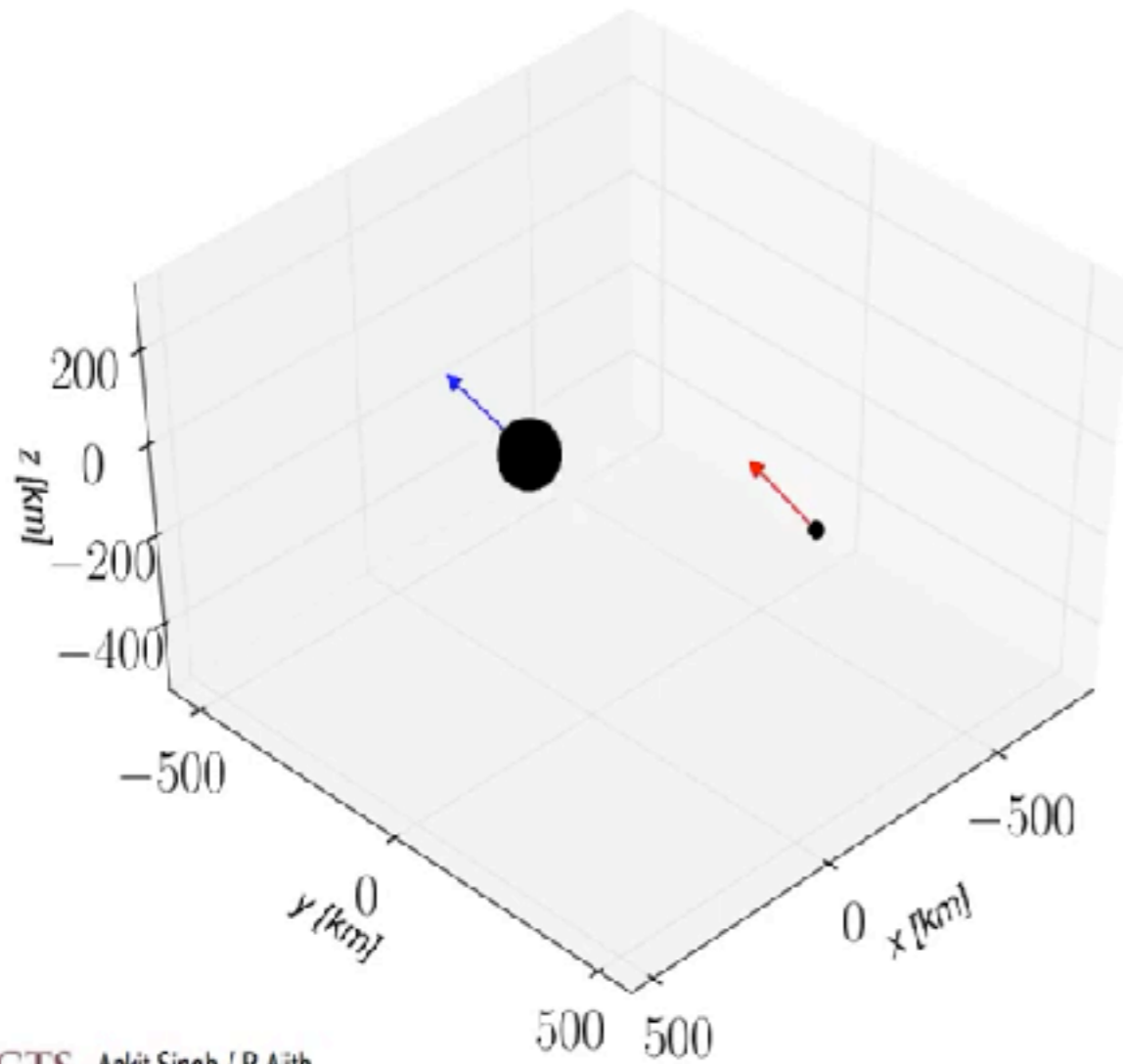
Precessing black holes

$0.5M_{\odot} + 5M_{\odot}$



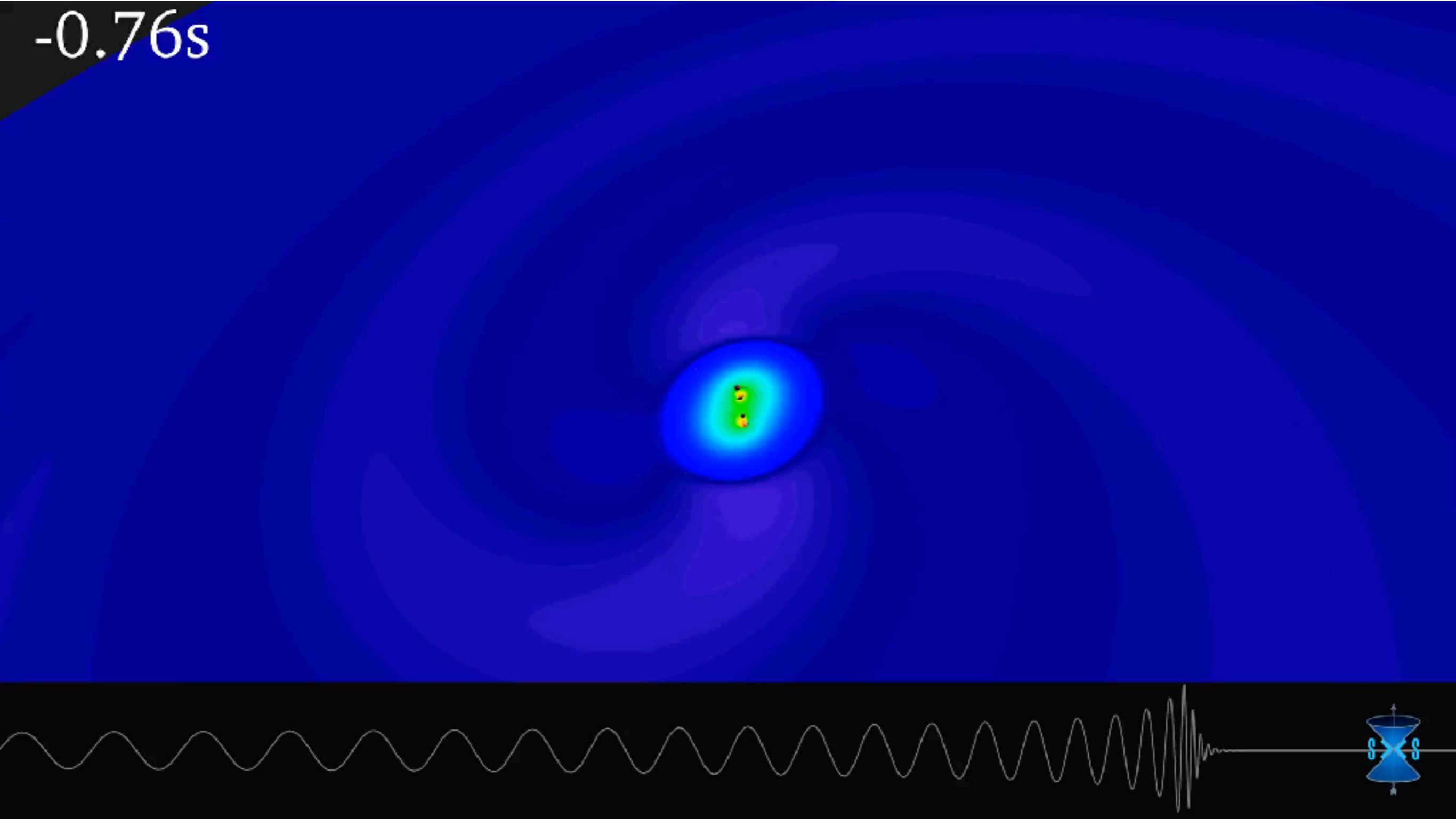
www.soundsofspacetime.org

Precessing black holes



GW150914 : simulation of the signal

-0.76s



Gravitational-wave observatories

- LIGO (Hanford+Livingston, USA)
- Virgo (Italy)
- Kagra (Japan)

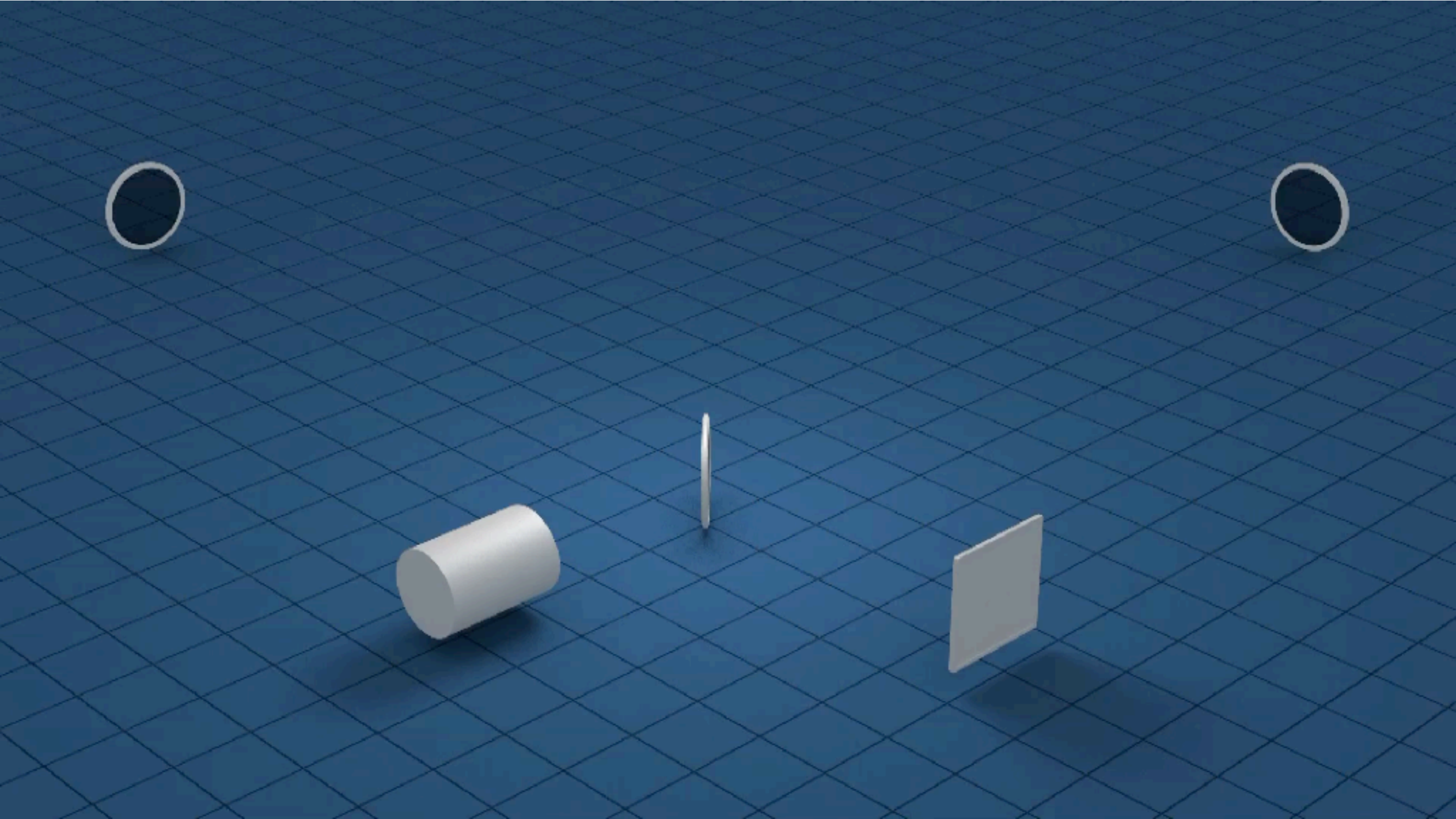
Virgo (Pisa, Italy)



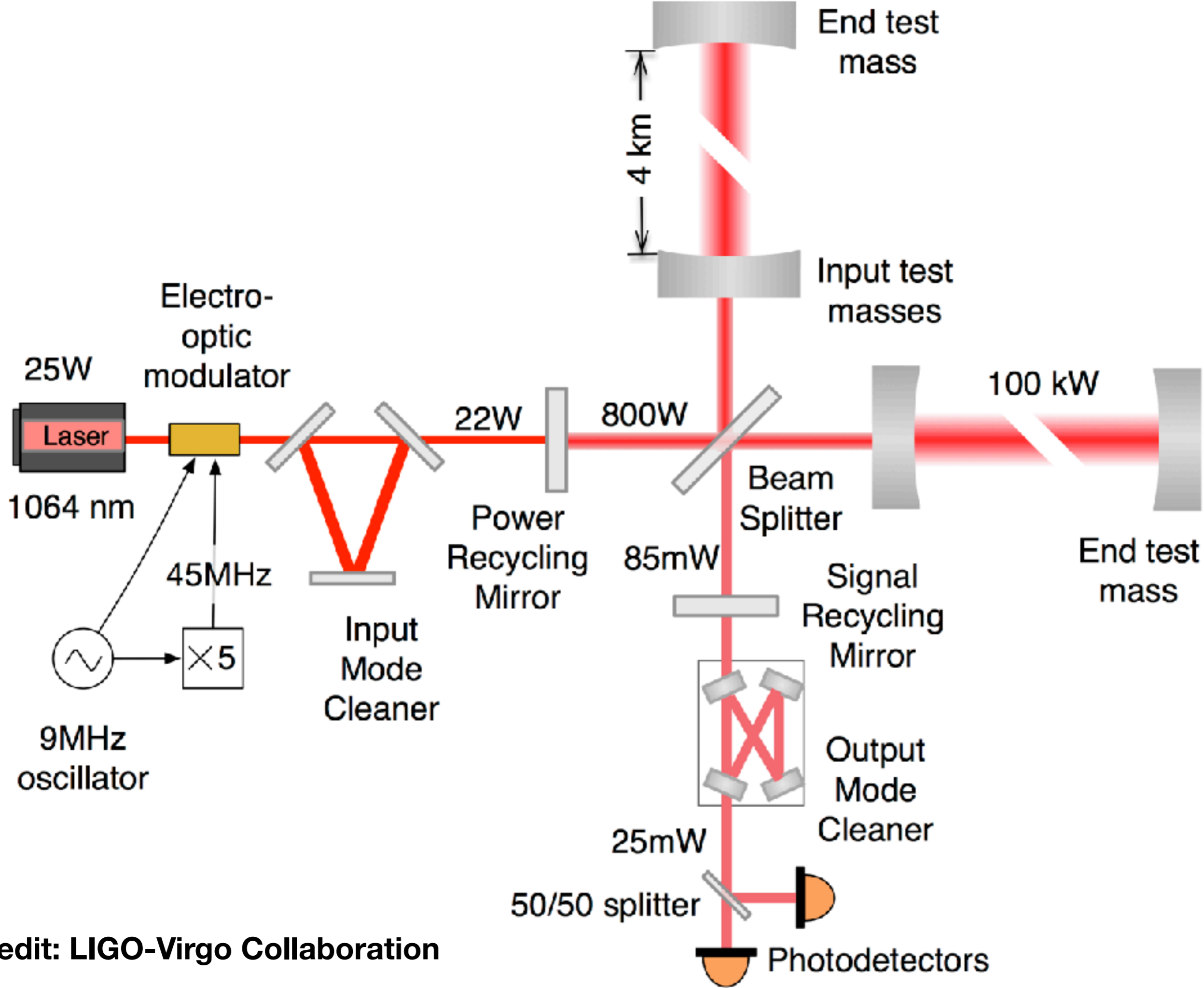
LIGO (Livingston, USA)



Gravitational-wave observatories: interferometry

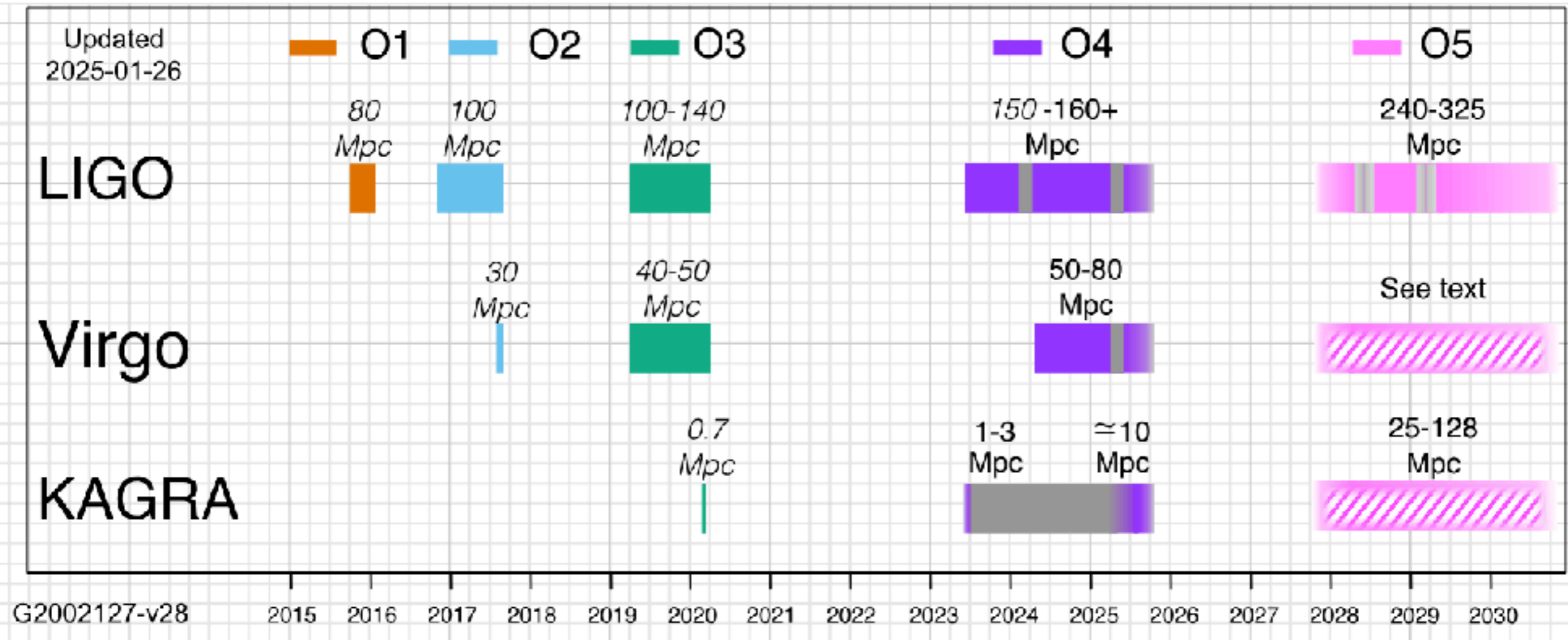


Animation created by T. Pyle, Caltech/MIT/LIGO Lab



Credit: LIGO-Virgo Collaboration

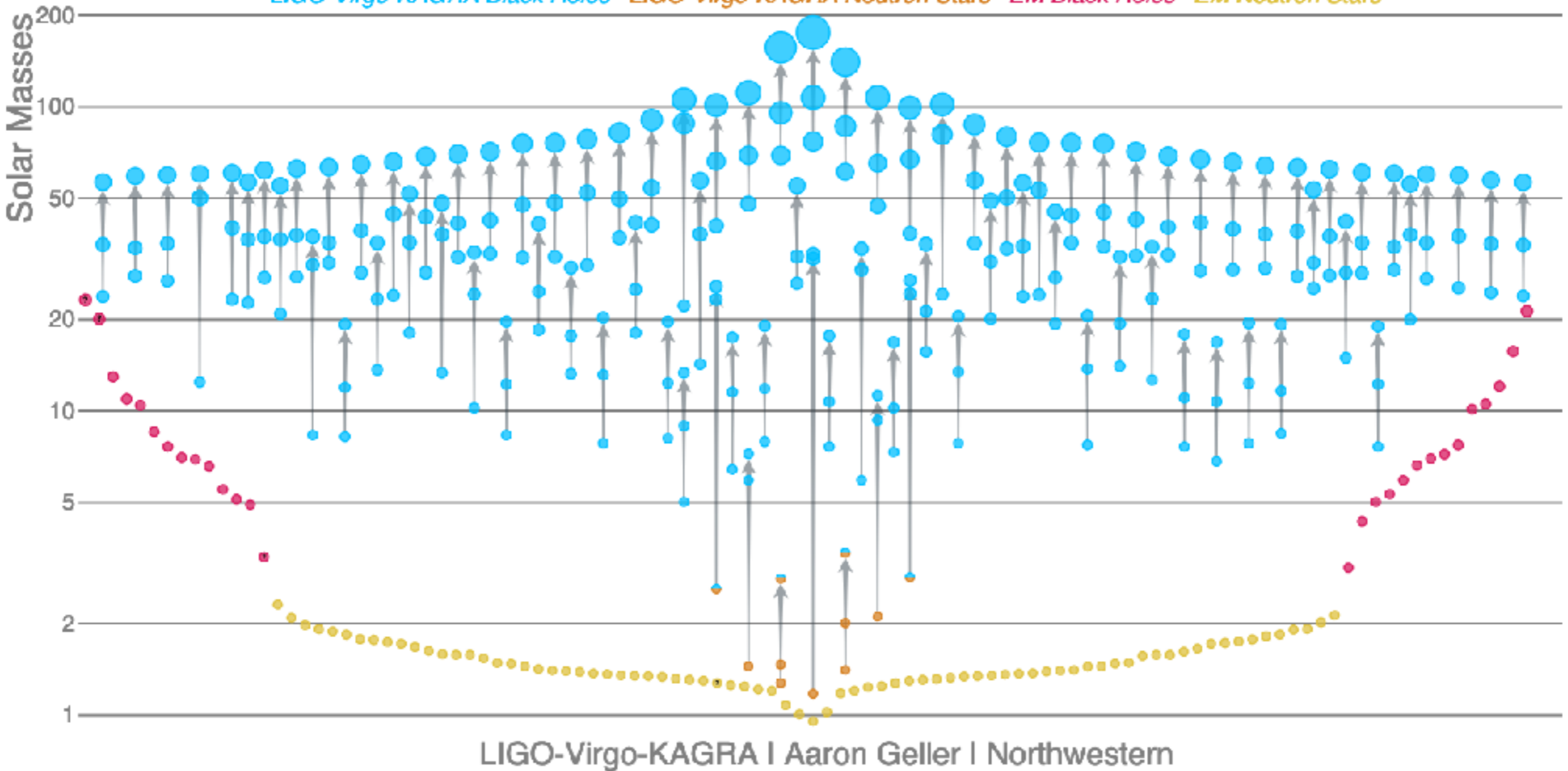
Prospects for O4/O5 runs



[LIGO Public User Guide: <https://emfollow.docs.ligo.org/userguide/capabilities.html>]

Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars EM Black Holes EM Neutron Stars



Abbott et al. 2019, PRX, 9, 031040; Abbott et al. 2021, PRX, 11, 021053;
Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2111.03606; Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2108.01045

LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA Public Alerts

- More details about public alerts are provided in the [LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA Alerts User Guide](#).
- Retractions are marked in **red**. Retraction means that the candidate was manually vetted and is no longer considered a candidate of interest.
- Less-significant events are marked in **grey**, and are not manually vetted. Consult the [LVK Alerts User Guide](#) for more information on significance in O4.
- Less-significant events are not shown by default. Press "**Show All Public Events**" to show significant and less-significant events.

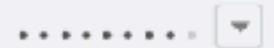
O4 Significant Detection Candidates: **199** (224 Total - 25 Retracted)

O4 Low Significance Detection Candidates: **3646** (Total)

Show All Public Events

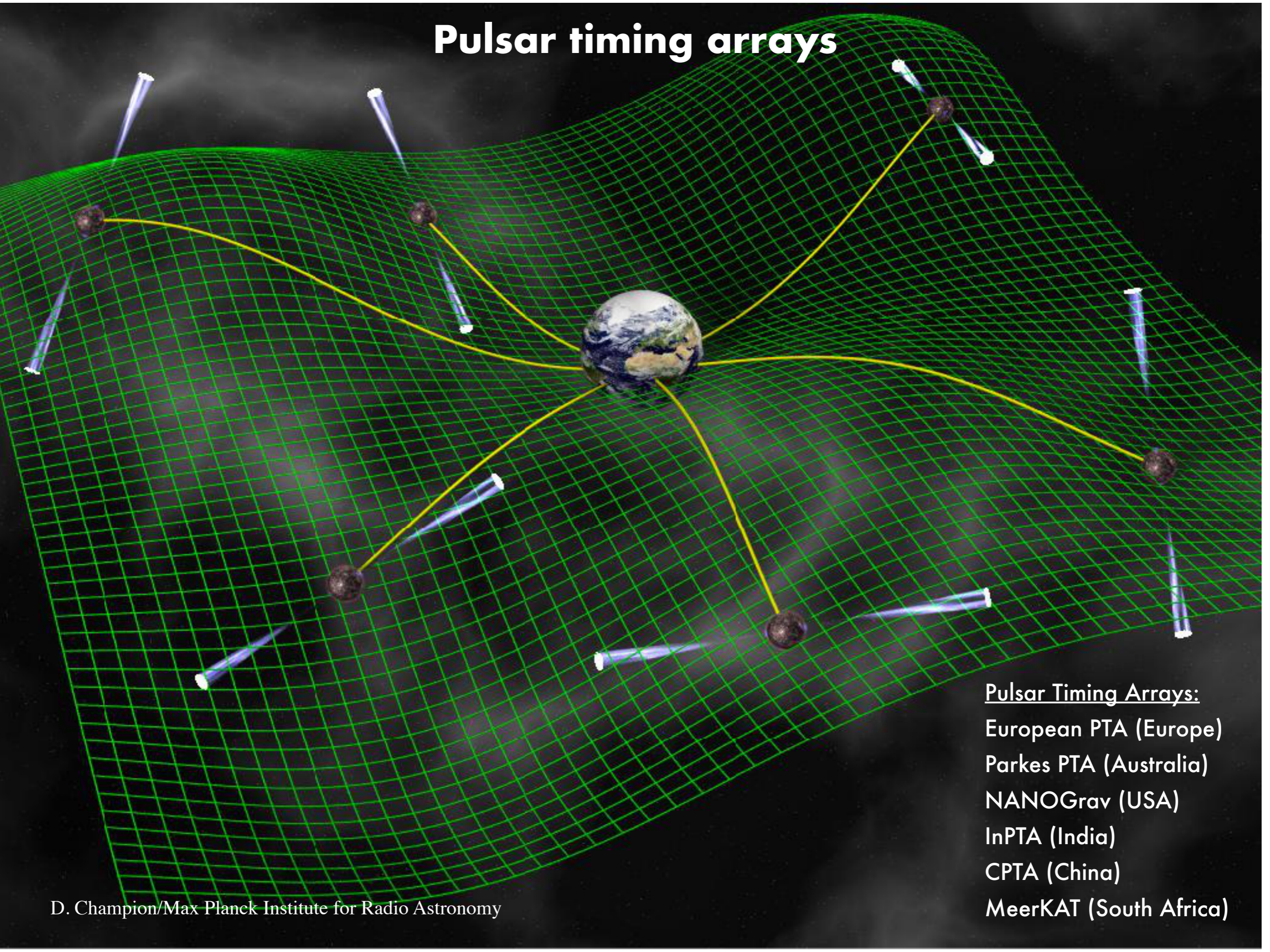
Page 1 of 15. [next](#) [last](#) »

SORT: EVENT ID (A-Z) ▾



Event ID	Possible Source (Probability)	Significant	UTC	GCN	Location	FAR	Comments
S250306ej	Terrestrial (>99%)	Yes	March 6, 2025 15:00:44 UTC	GCN Circular Query Notices VOE		2.9257 per year	RETRACTED
S250304cb	BBH (96%), Terrestrial (4%)	Yes	March 4, 2025 06:22:45 UTC	GCN Circular Query Notices VOE		1.7738 per year	

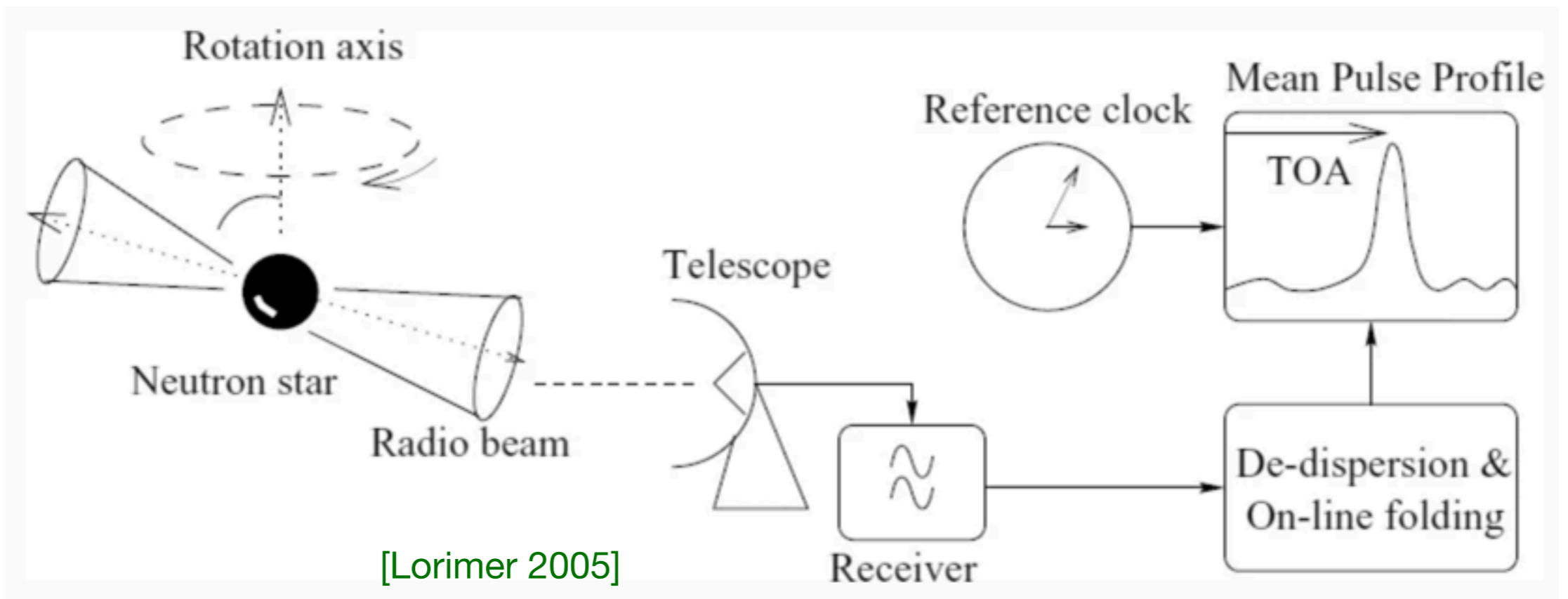
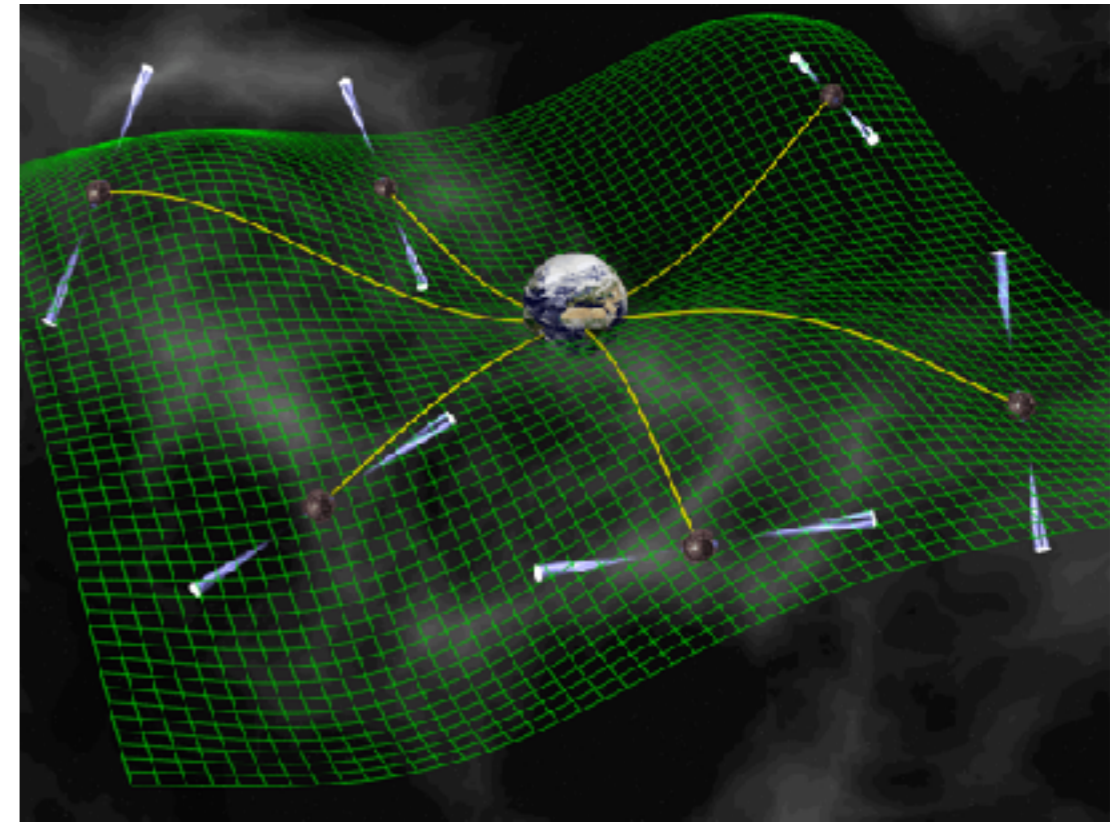
Pulsar timing arrays



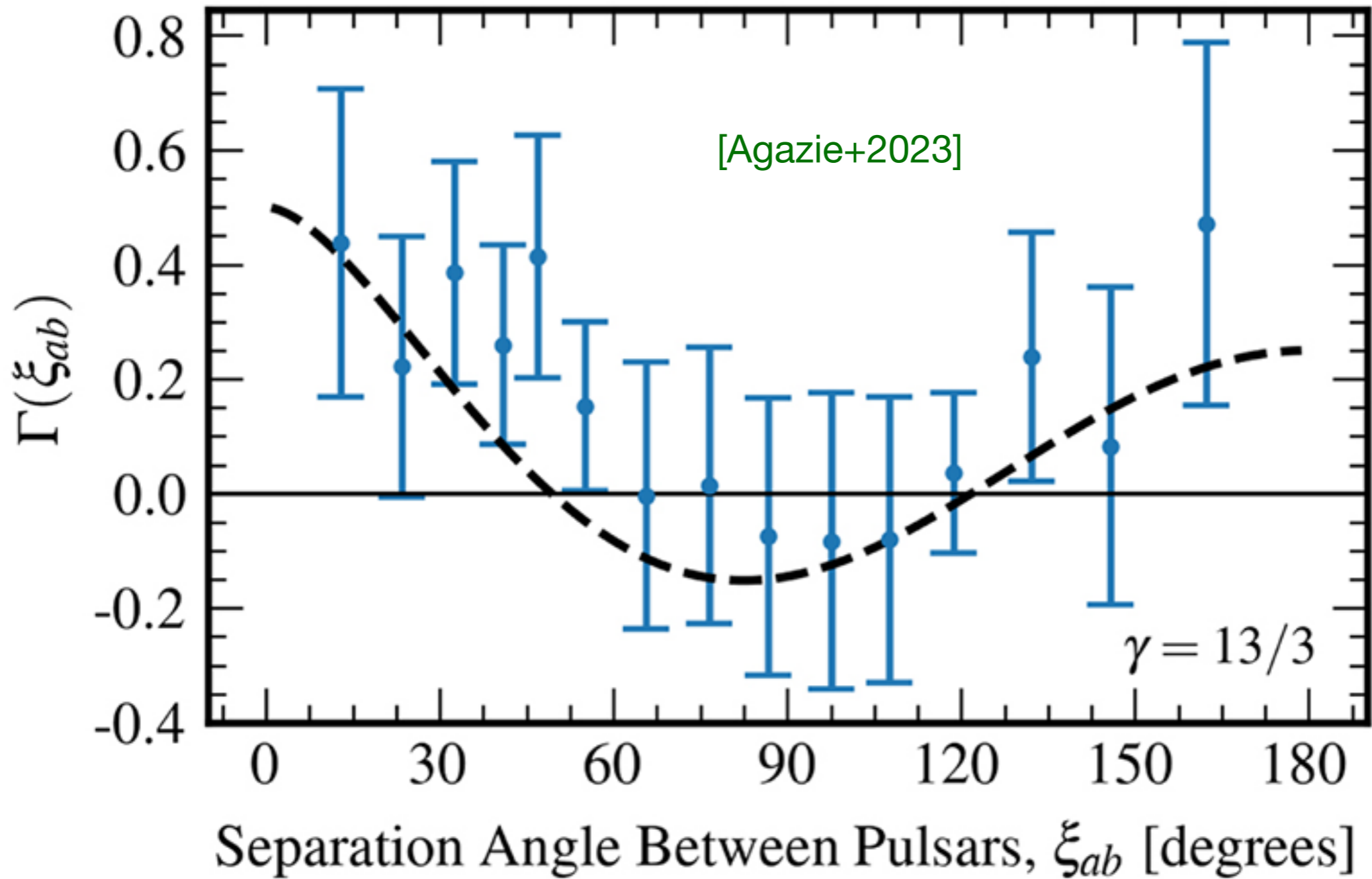
Pulsar Timing Arrays:
European PTA (Europe)
Parkes PTA (Australia)
NANOGrav (USA)
InPTA (India)
CPTA (China)
MeerKAT (South Africa)

Pulsar Timing Arrays

- Compare times of arrival of pulses from a network of pulsars



Pulsar Timing Arrays: was the background detected?



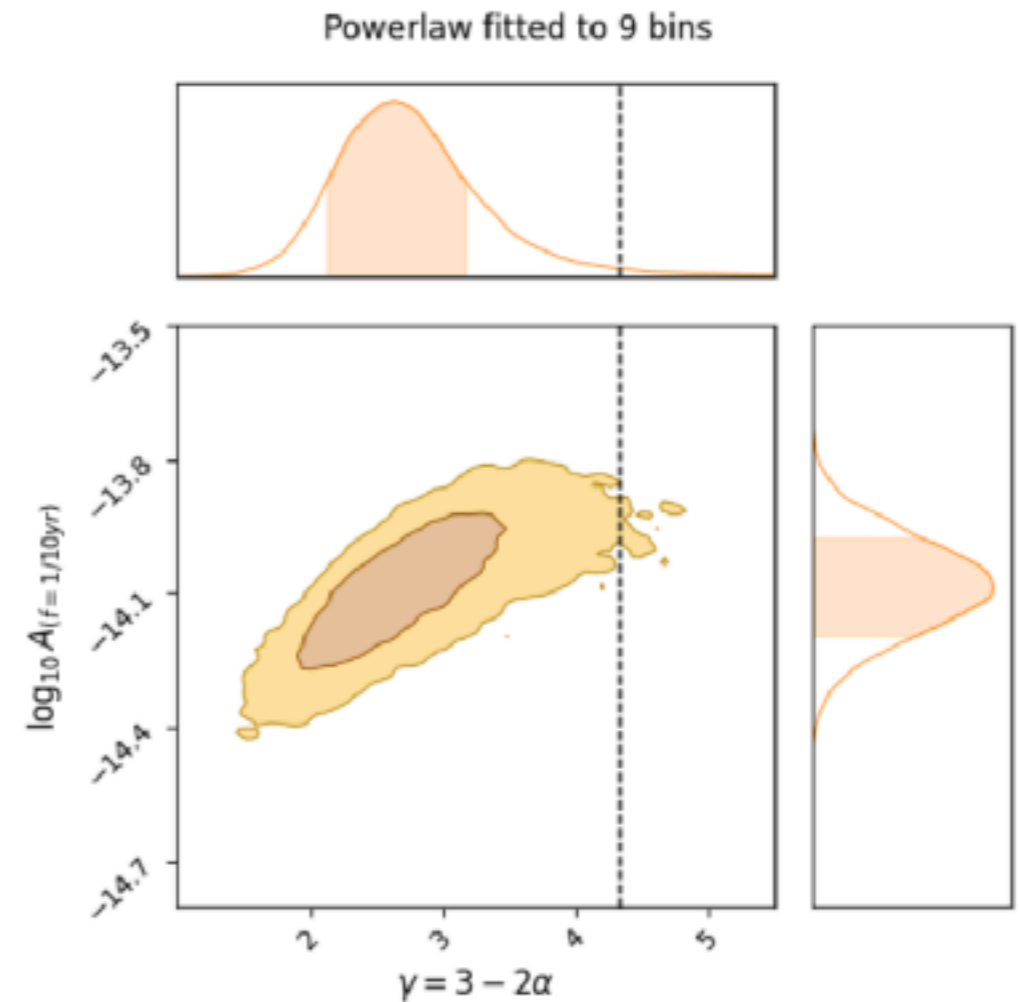
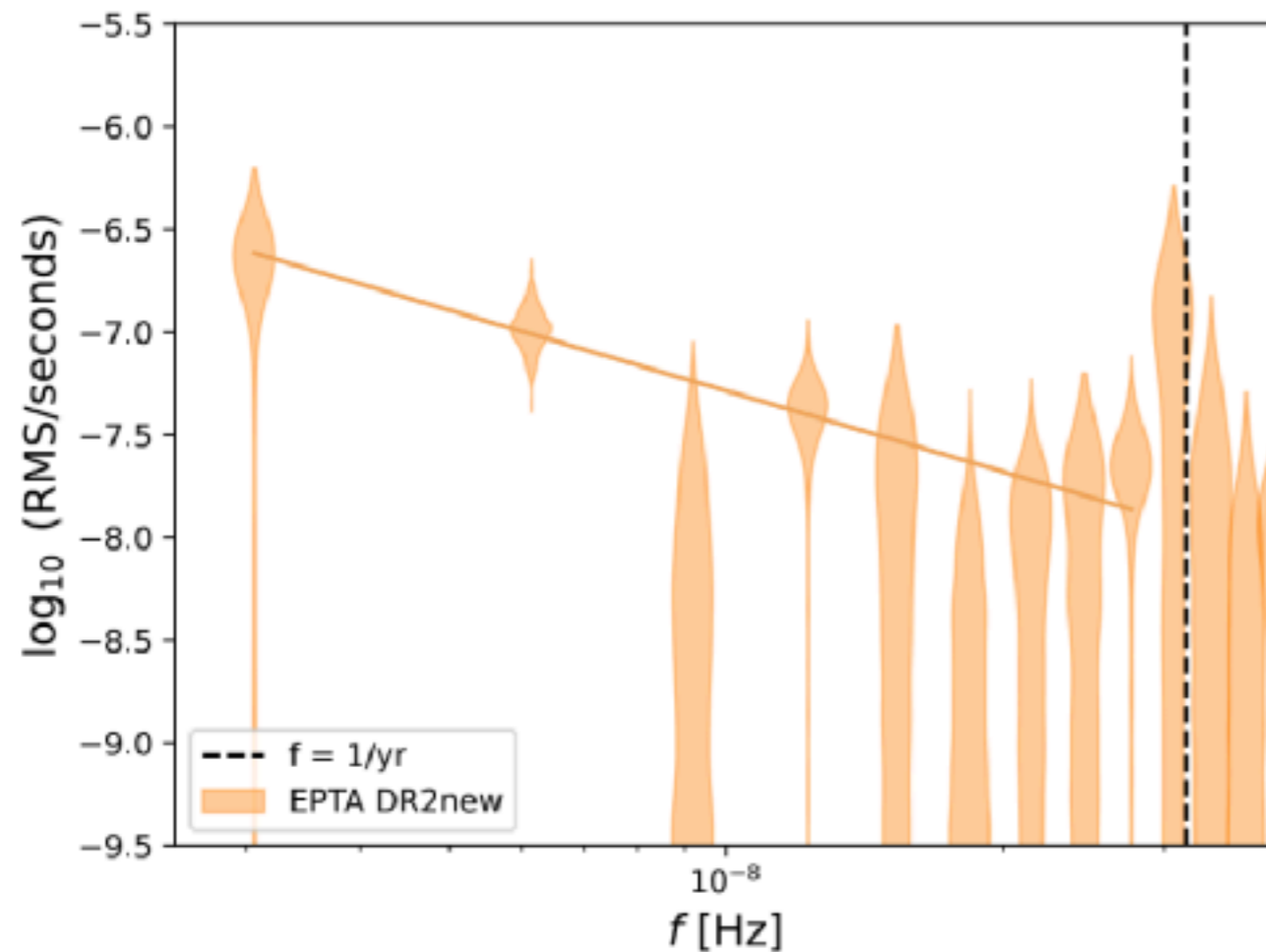
NANOGrav: Agazie+2023

EPTA: Antoniadis+2023

PPTA: Reardon+2023

Pulsar Timing Arrays: was the background detected?

[Antoniadis+2023]



NANOGrav: Agazie+2023

EPTA: Antoniadis+2023

PPTA: Reardon+2023

Massive black hole binaries

Evolution of massive BH binaries:

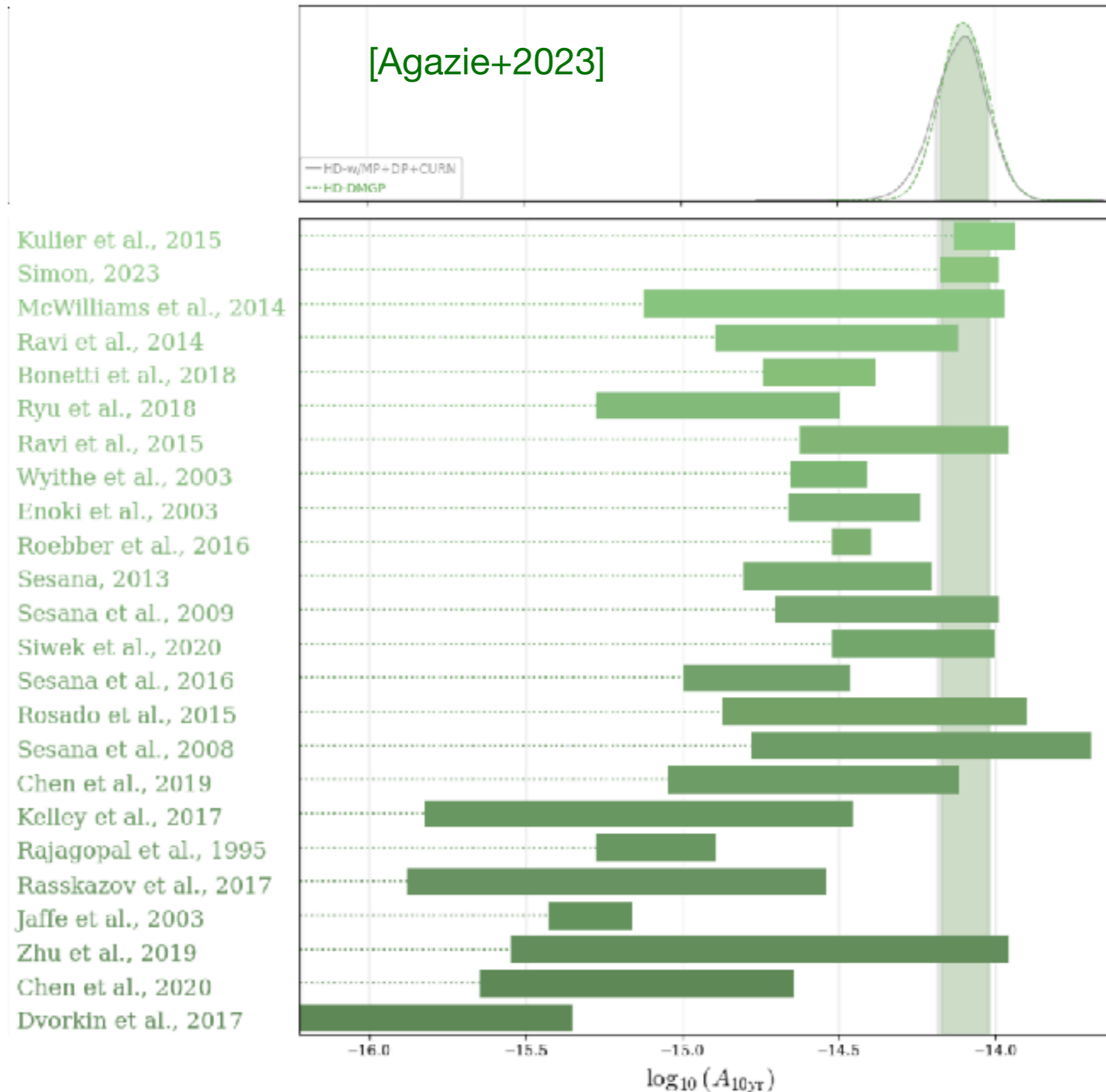
$$M_{BH} \sim 10^5 - 10^9 M_{\odot}$$

- Seed BHs grow through accretion in galactic centers
- Two galaxies that host BHs merge (**10-100 kpc**)
- Dynamical friction of BHs with surrounding gas \rightarrow bound BH binary (**kpc**)
- Orbit decay through interactions with surrounding gas and stars (**pc**)
- Emission of GW \rightarrow merger (**milli-pc**)

* Key unknown ingredients:

- * Seeds of massive black holes
- * Co-evolution with host galaxies
- * Interactions with surrounding gas and stars

Pulsar Timing Arrays: was the background detected?



LISA: Laser Interferometry Space Antenna



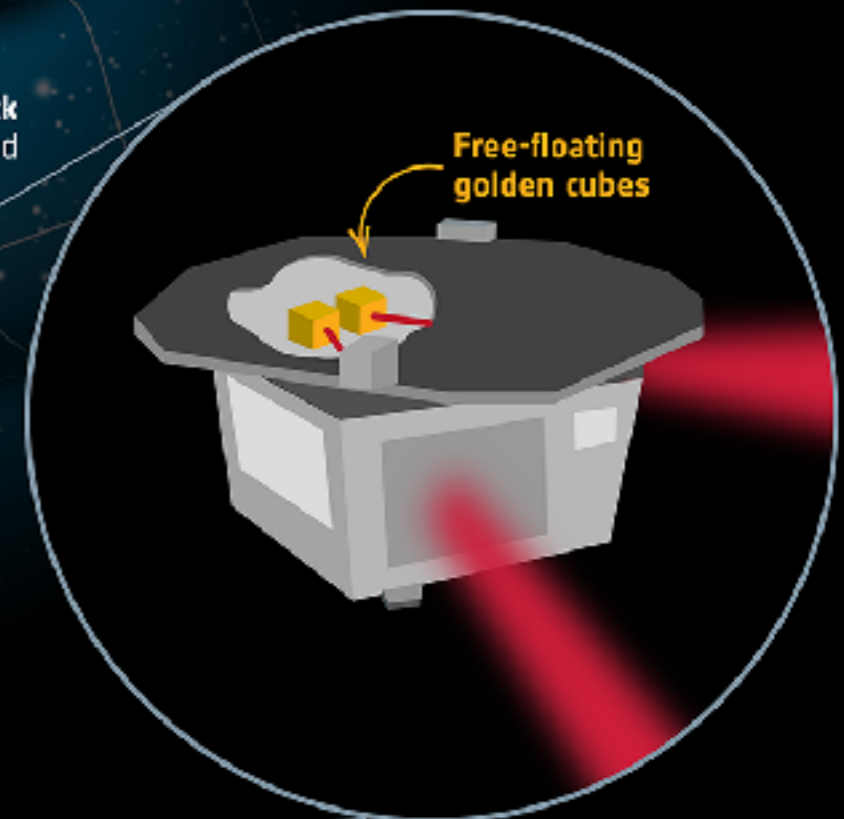
LISA - LASER INTERFEROMETER SPACE ANTENNA

Gravitational waves are ripples in spacetime that alter the distances between objects. LISA will detect them by measuring subtle changes in the distances between **free-floating cubes** nestled within its three spacecraft.

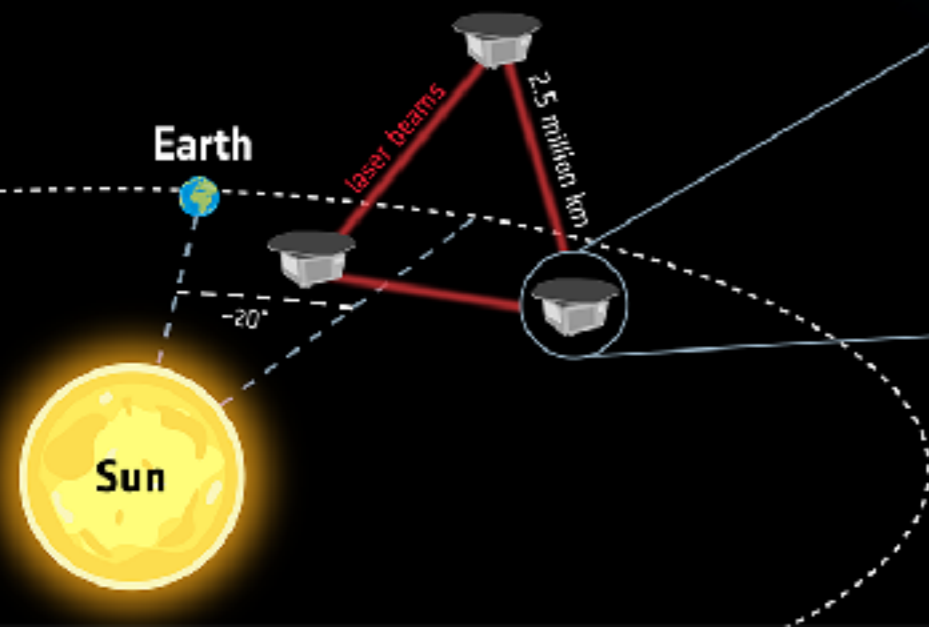
3 **identical spacecraft** exchange **laser beams**. Gravitational waves change the distance between the **free-floating cubes** in the different spacecraft. This tiny change will be measured by the laser beams.



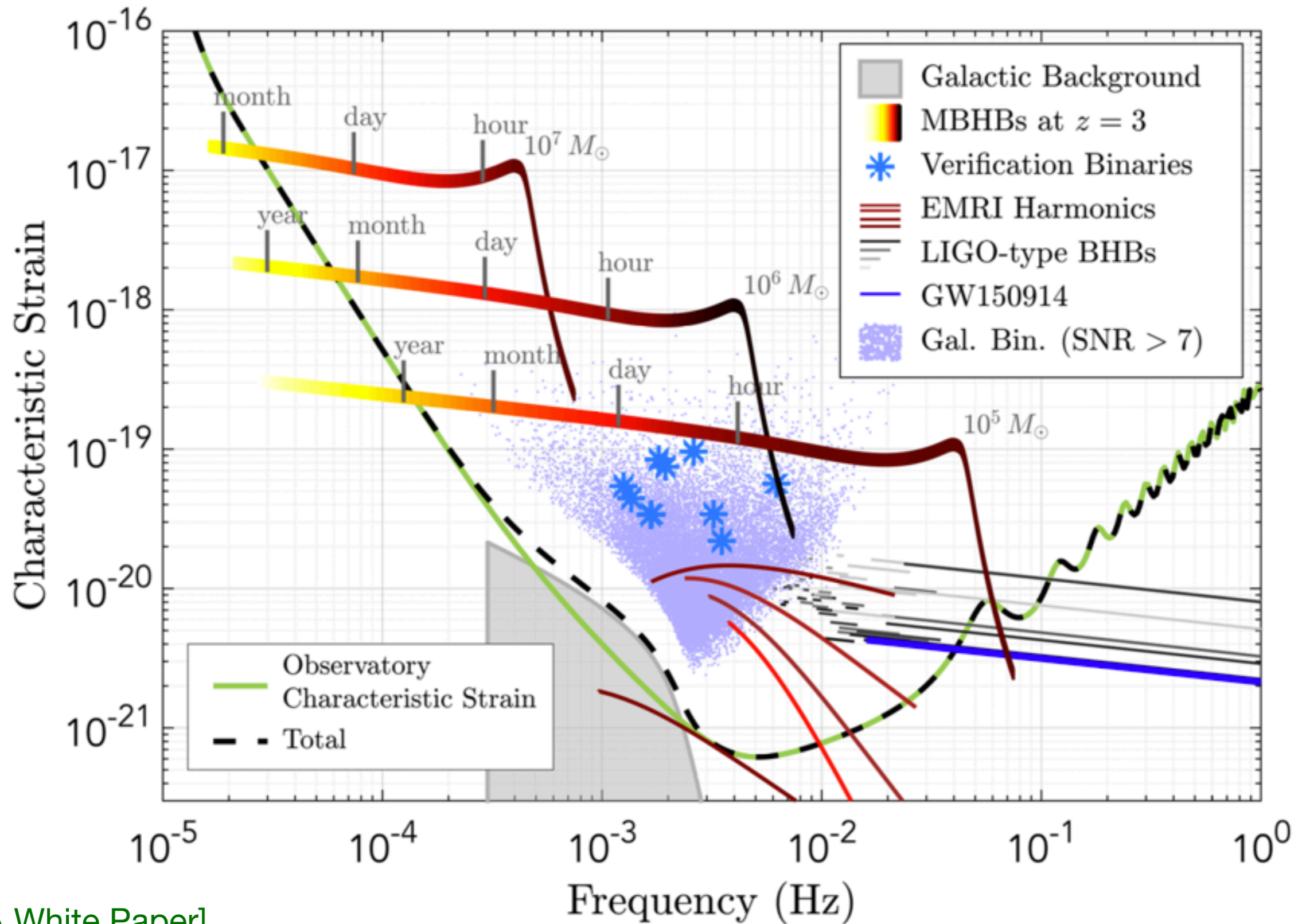
Powerful events such as **colliding black holes** shake the fabric of spacetime and cause gravitational waves



* Changes in distances travelled by the laser beams are not to scale and extremely exaggerated

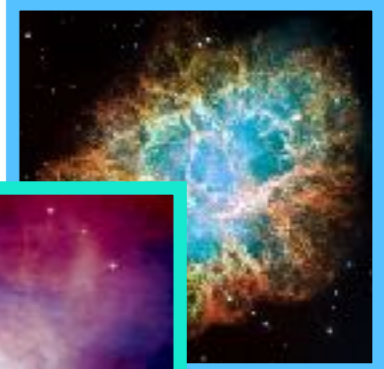
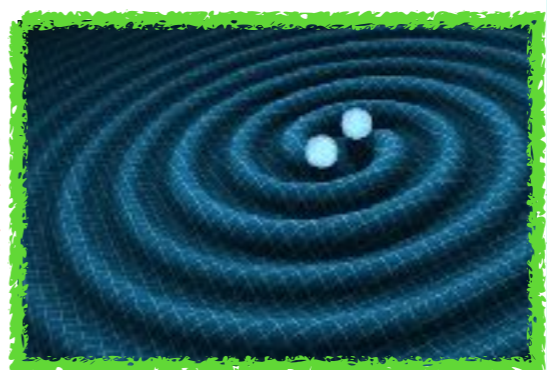
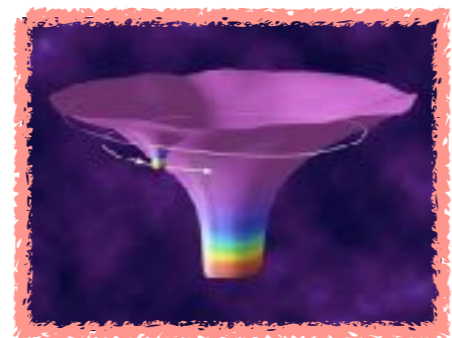


LISA: Laser Interferometry Space Antenna



[LISA White Paper]

Astrophysical sources of gravitational waves



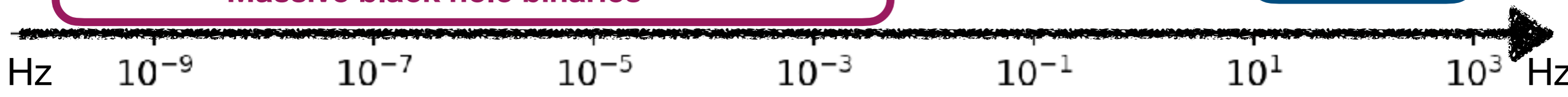
Stellar-mass compact binaries

Extreme mass ratio inspirals

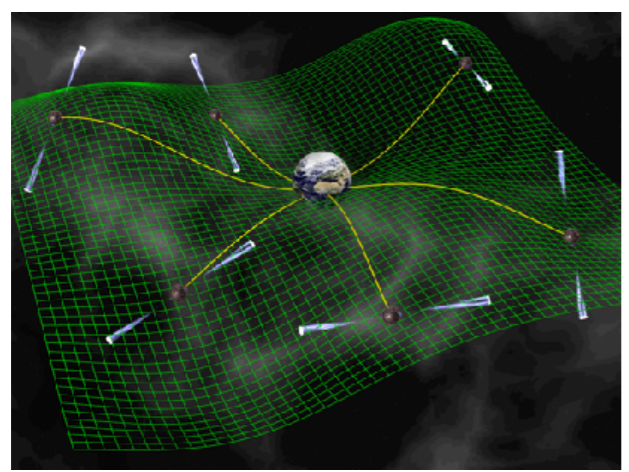
Pulsars

Supernovae

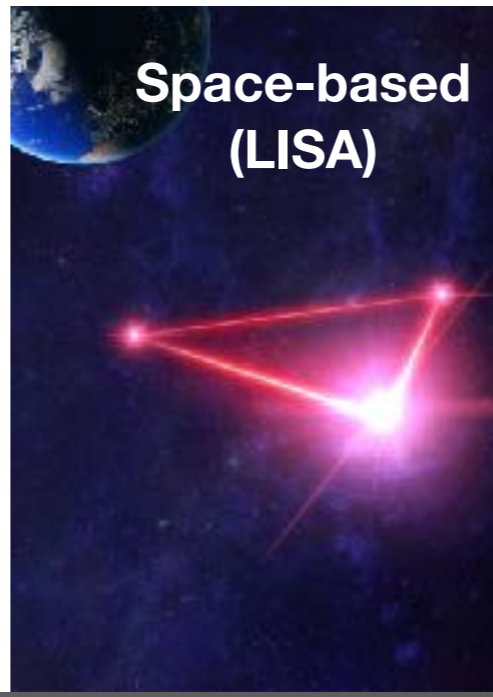
Massive black hole binaries



Pulsar Timing Arrays



Space-based (LISA)



Ground-based (LIGO/Virgo/Kagra)

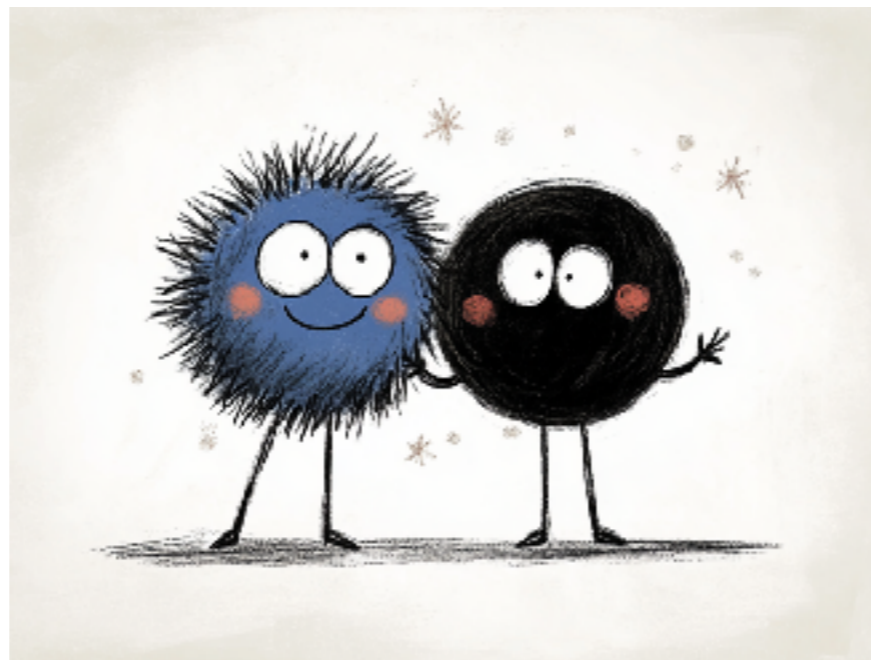


Lecture plan

- **Evolution of massive stars and formation of compact objects**
- **Evolution of binary massive stars and formation of binary compact objects**
- **Gravitational-wave astronomy**
- **Gravitational-wave observations of binary compact objects**

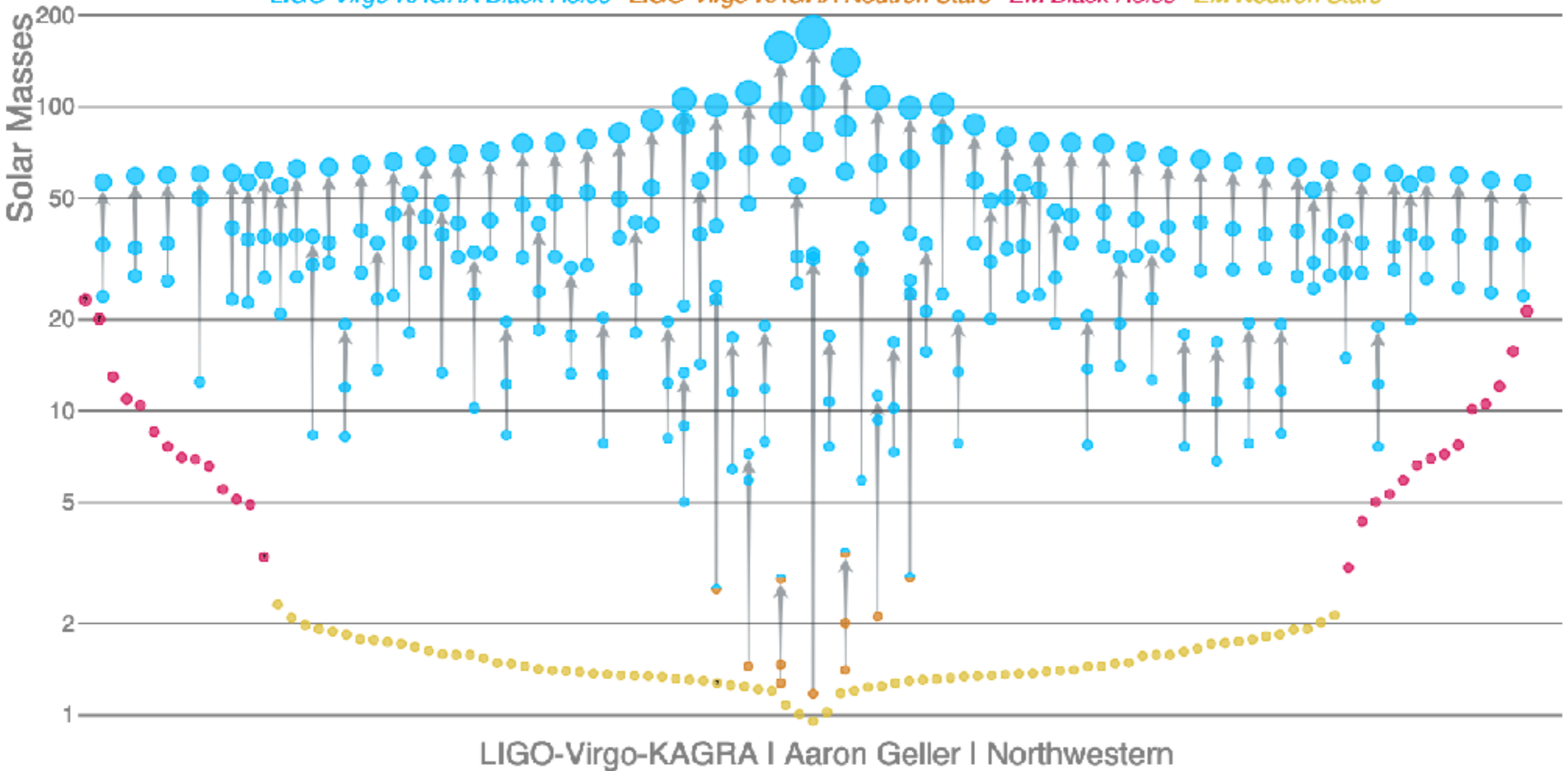
Lecture plan

- **Gravitational-wave observations of binary compact objects**
 - **Binary black hole mergers**
 - **Binary neutron star mergers: GW and EM observations**
 - **Stochastic GW backgrounds**



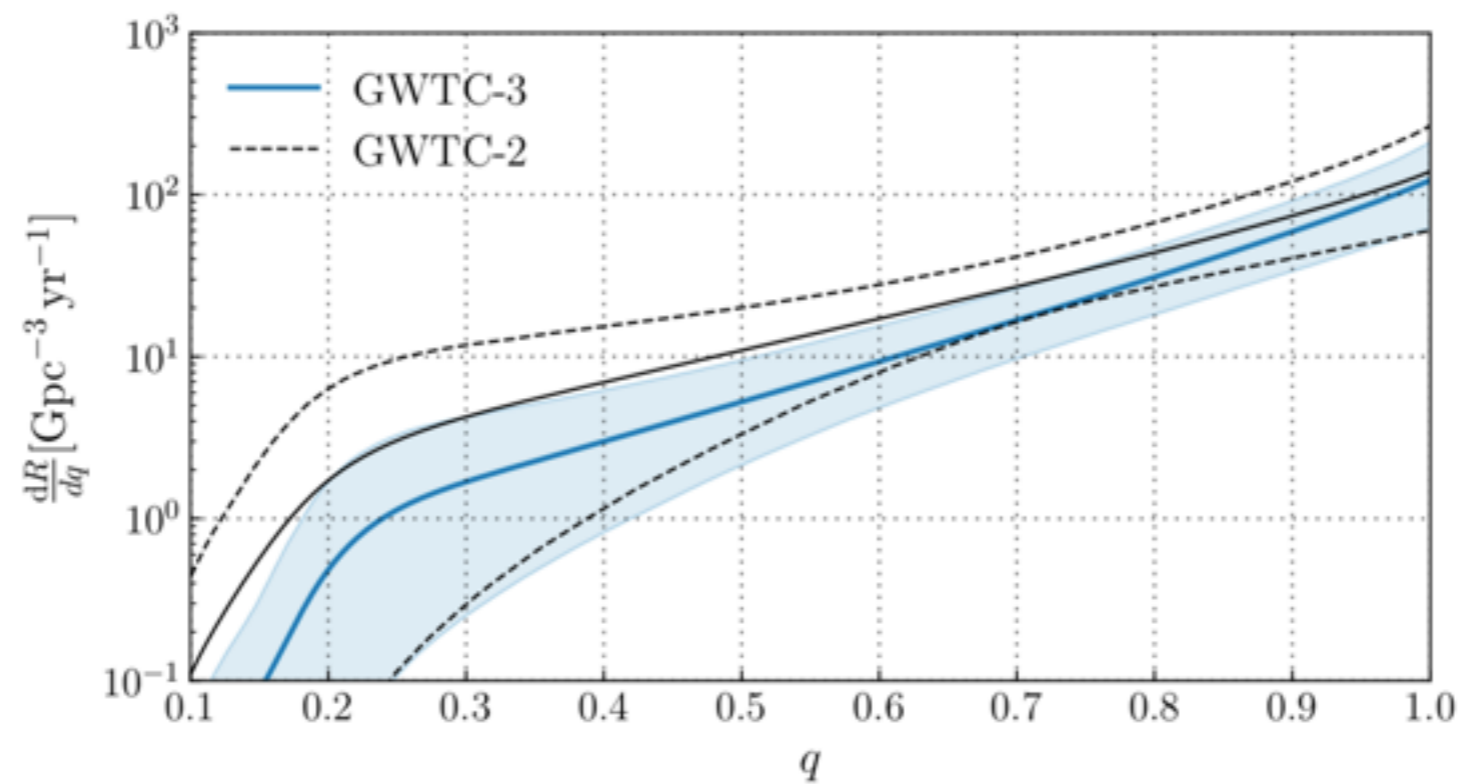
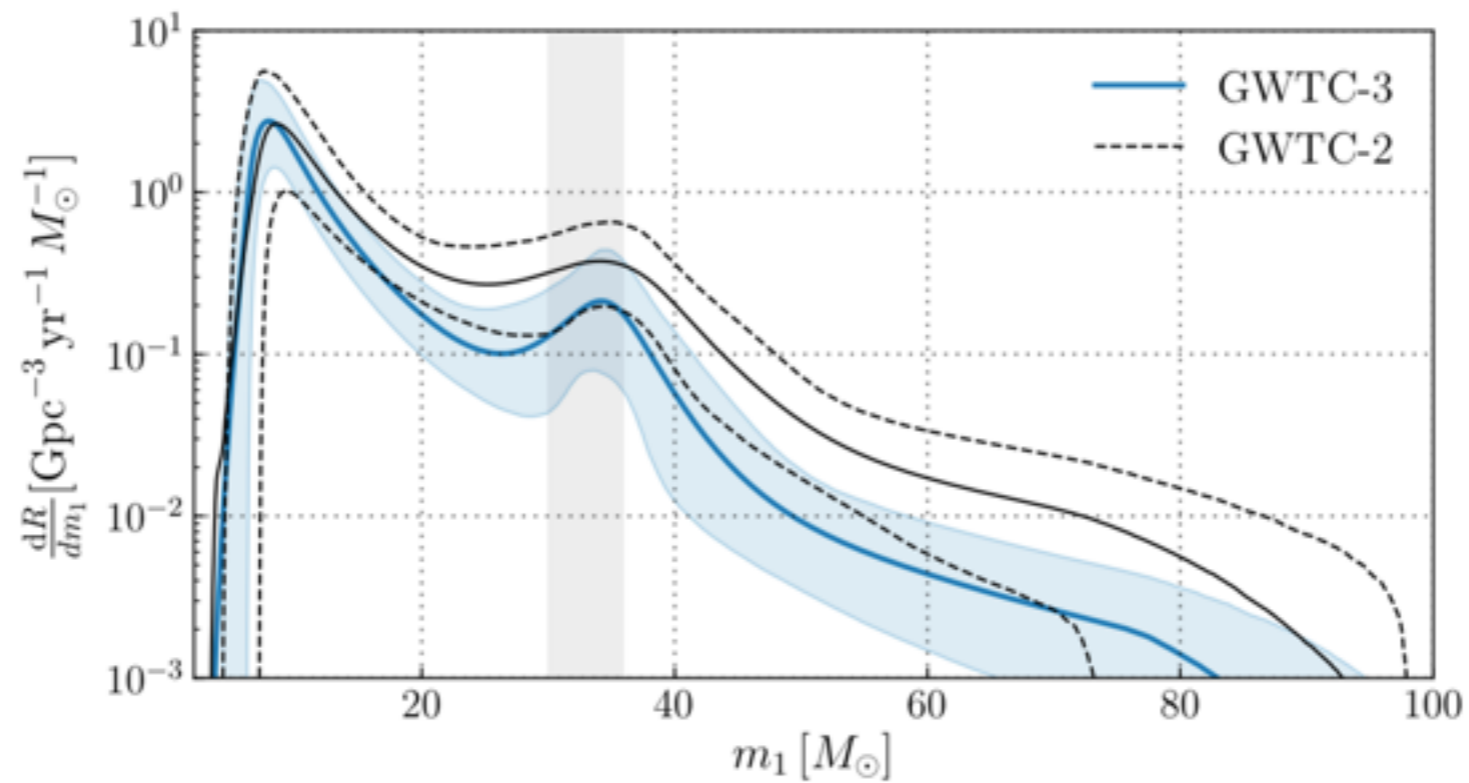
Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes *LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars* *EM Black Holes* *EM Neutron Stars*



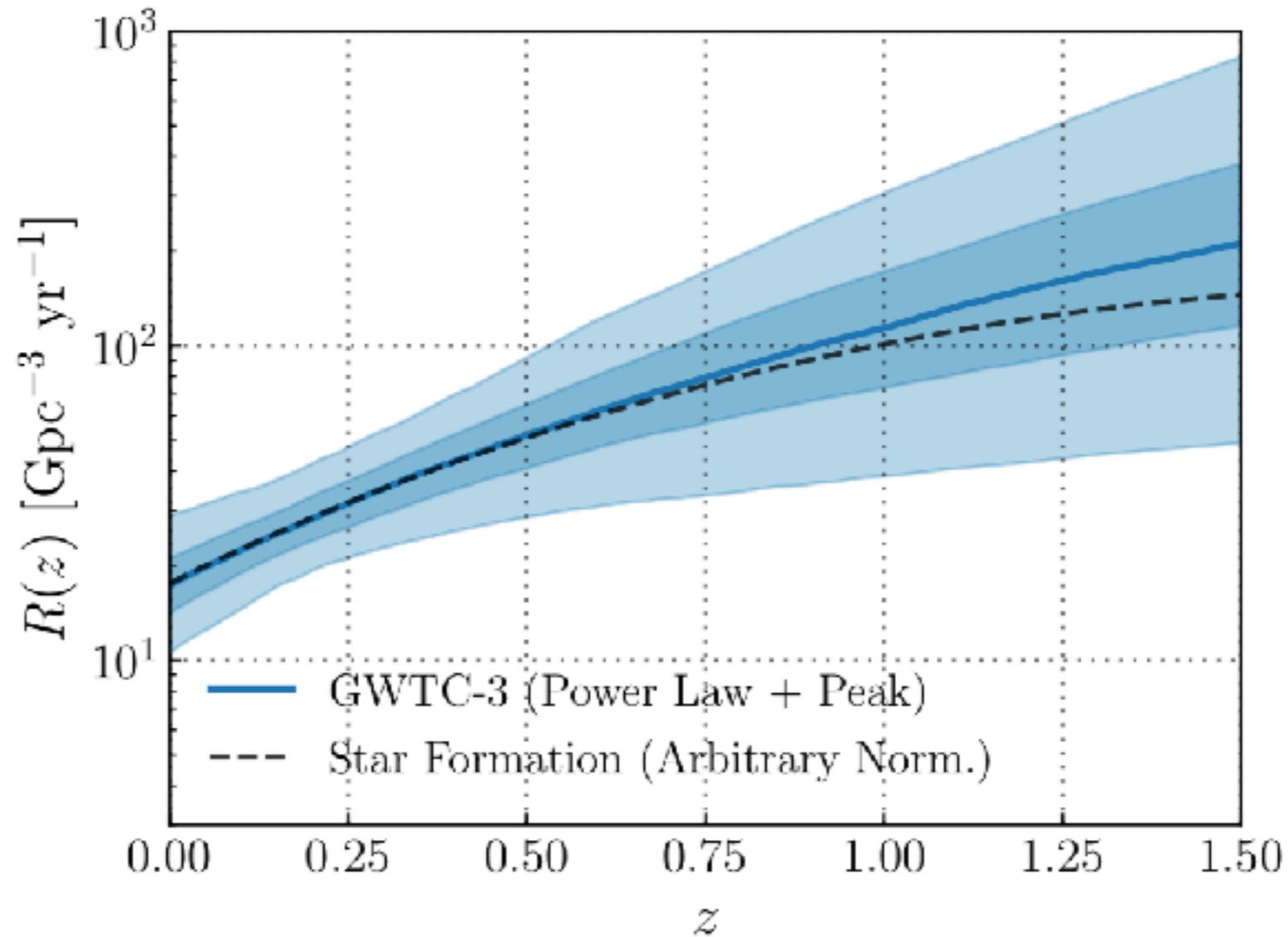
Abbott et al. 2019, PRX, 9, 031040; Abbott et al. 2021, PRX, 11, 021053;
Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2111.03606; Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2108.01045

Black hole populations: mass distribution



[Abbott et al. 2023, PRX, 13, 011048]

Black hole populations: merger rate evolution

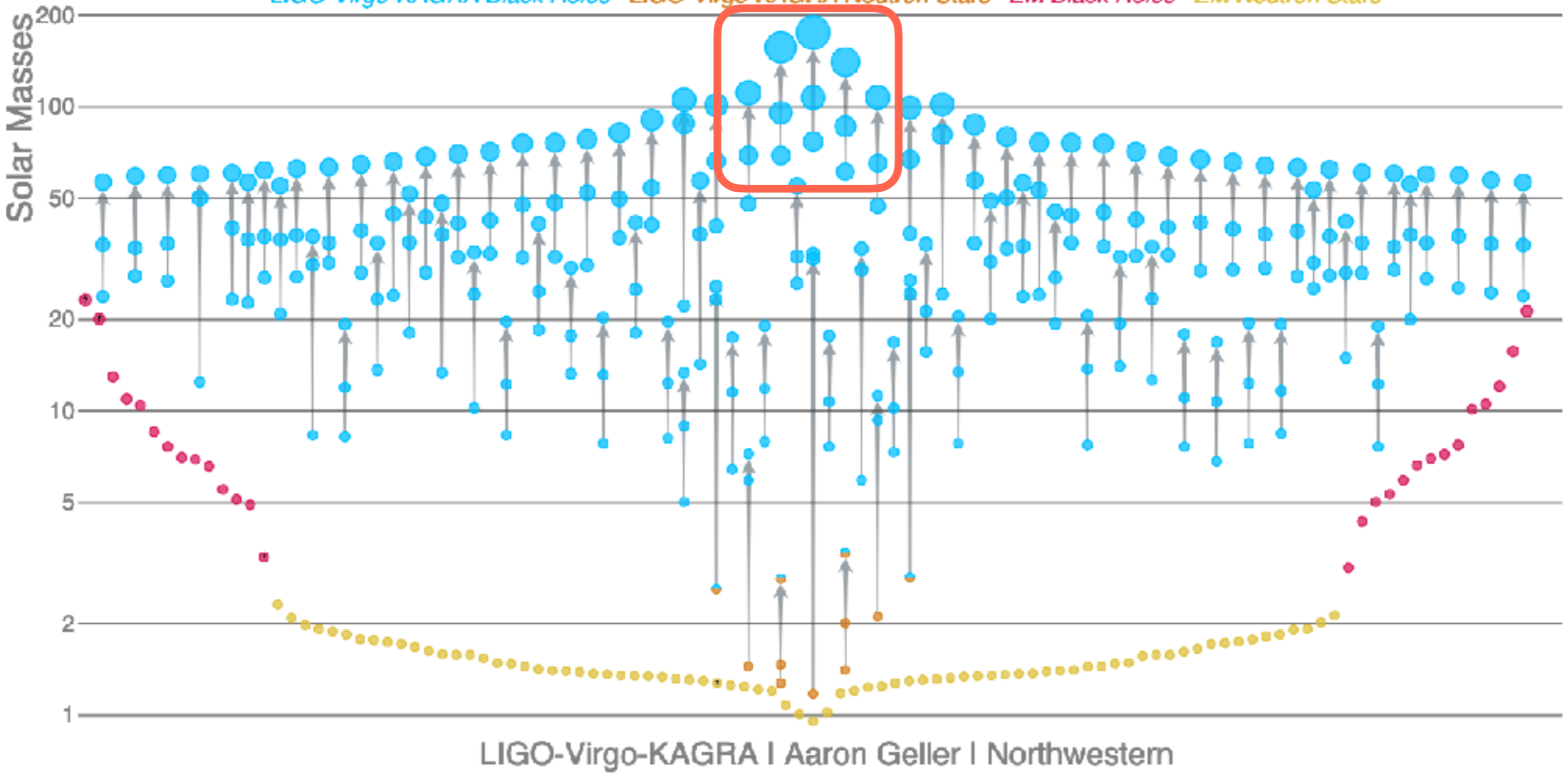


$$R_{BBH}(z = 0.2) = 17.3 - 45 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$$

[Abbott et al. 2023, PRX, 13, 011048]

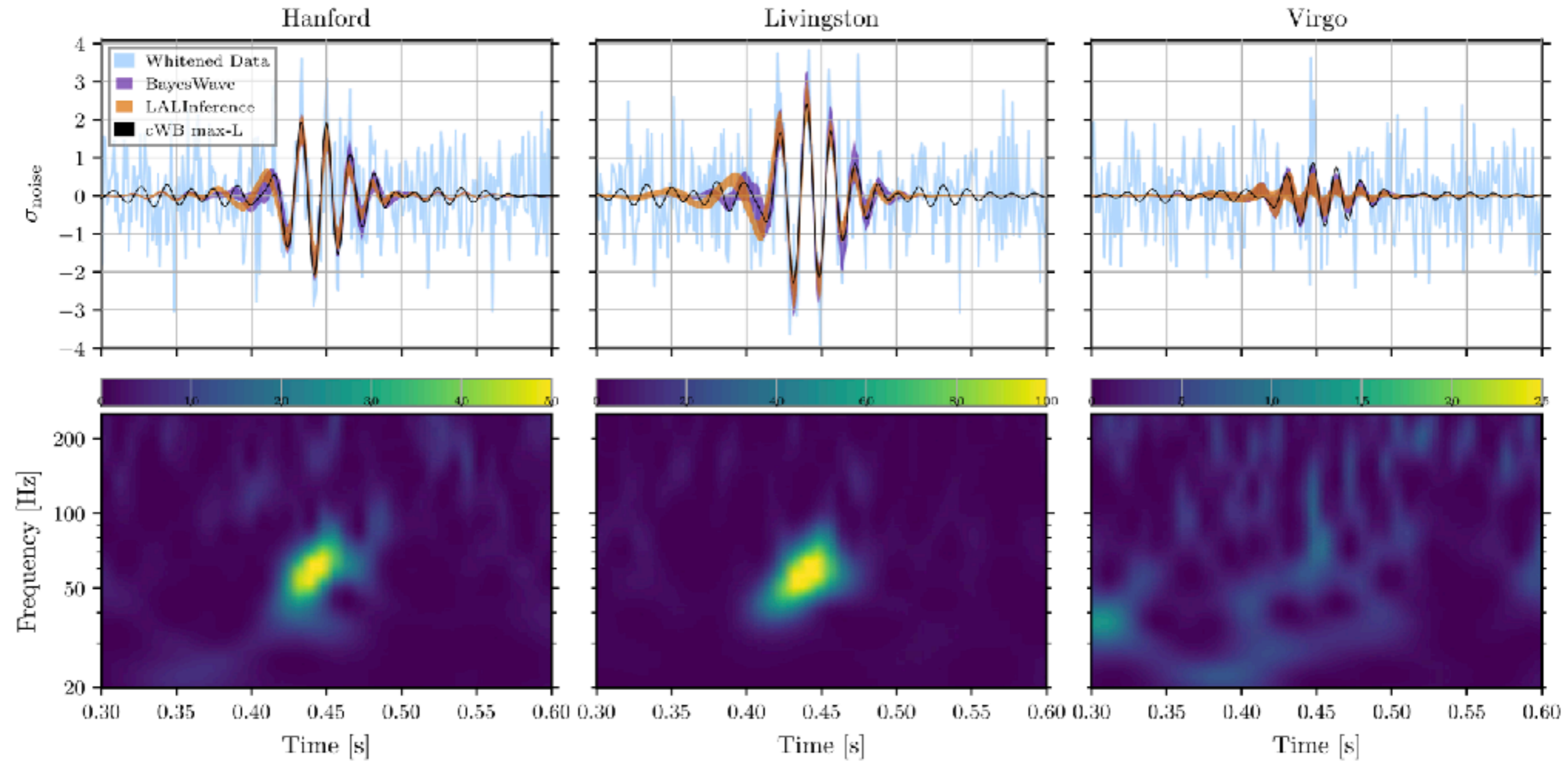
Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars EM Black Holes EM Neutron Stars



Abbott et al. 2019, PRX, 9, 031040; Abbott et al. 2021, PRX, 11, 021053;
Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2111.03606; Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2108.01045

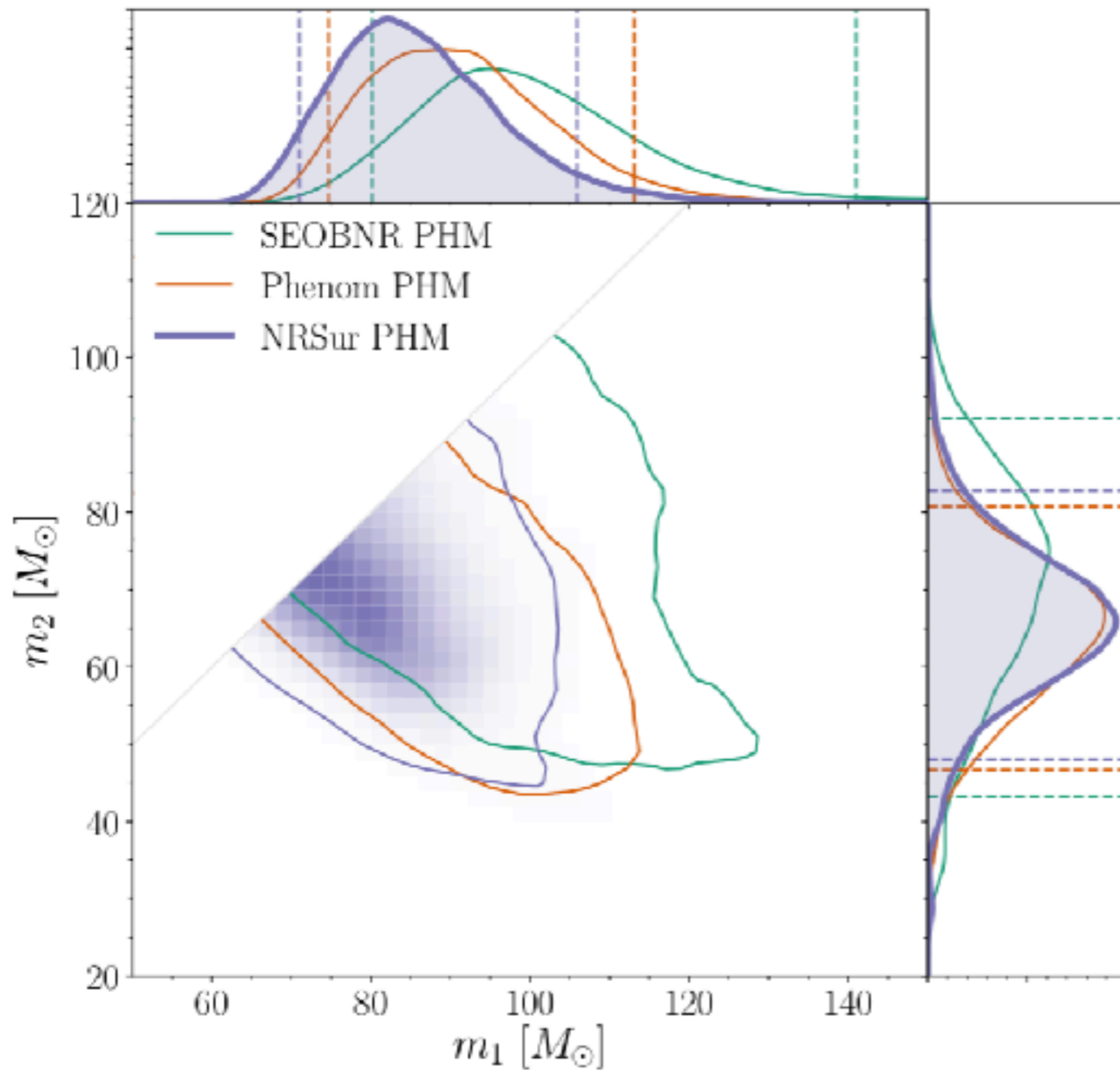
GW190521



[Abbott et al. 2020, PRL **125**, 101102]

[Abbott et al. 2020, ApJL, 900, 13]

Black holes in the upper mass gap



GW190521

$$m_1 = 85^{+21}_{-14} M_{\odot}$$

$$m_2 = 66^{+17}_{-18} M_{\odot}$$

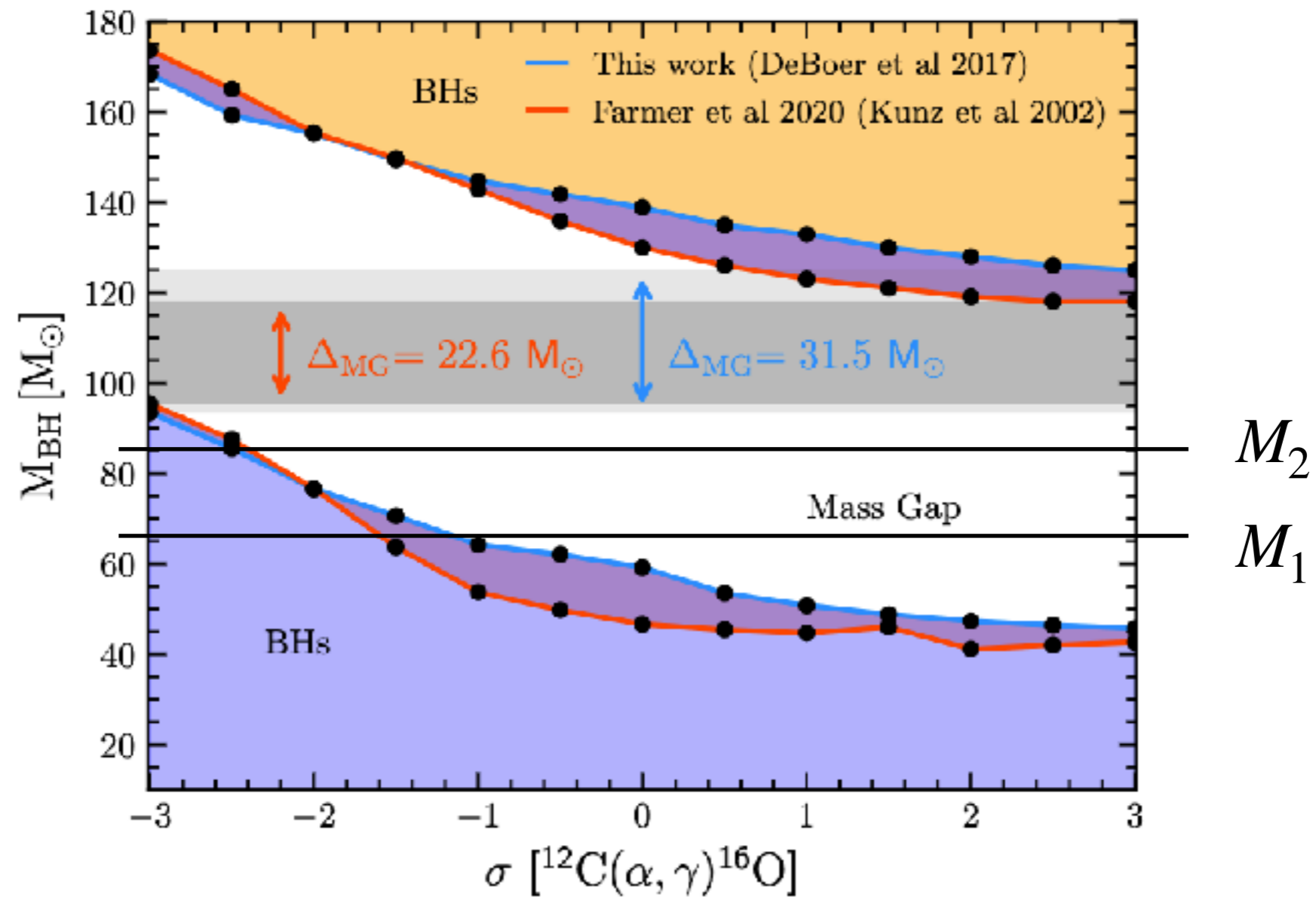
Hierarchical merger?

Black hole formed in the mass gap?

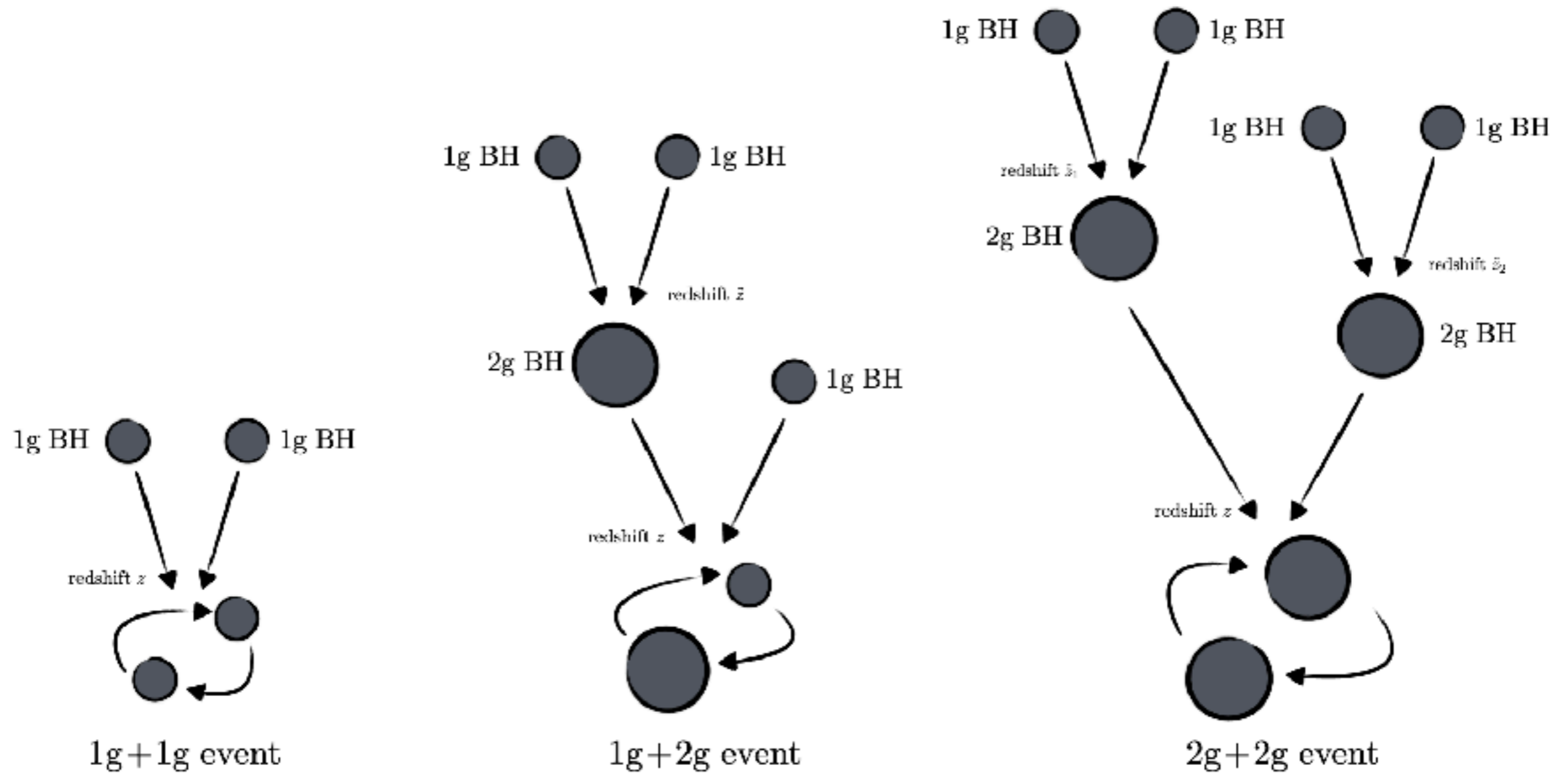
[Abbott et al. 2020, PRL **125**, 101102]

[Abbott et al. 2020, ApJL, 900, 13]

PISN: Uncertainty in nuclear reaction rates



Dynamical formation

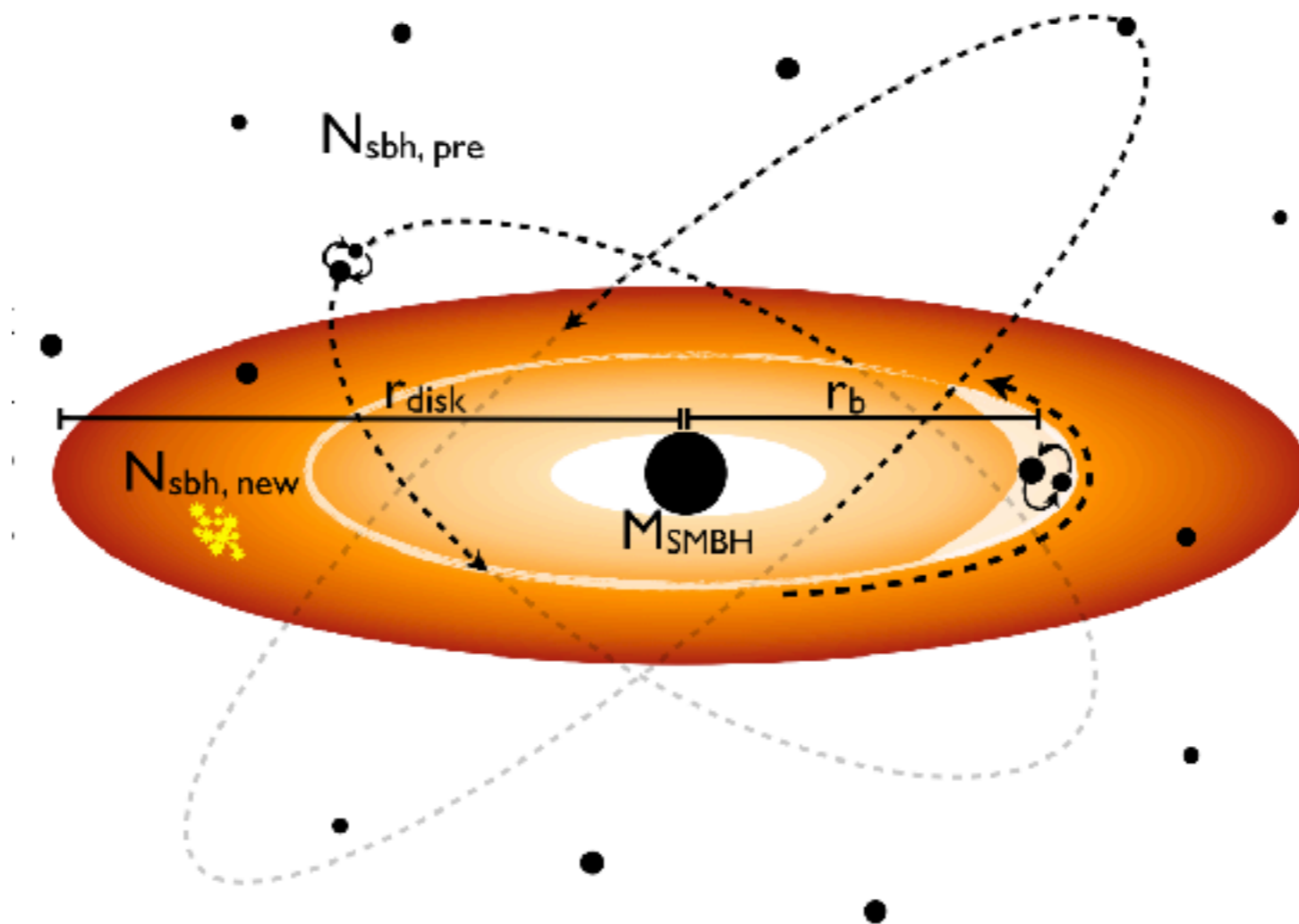


[figure: Gerosa&Berti 2017]

BBH mergers in AGN disks?

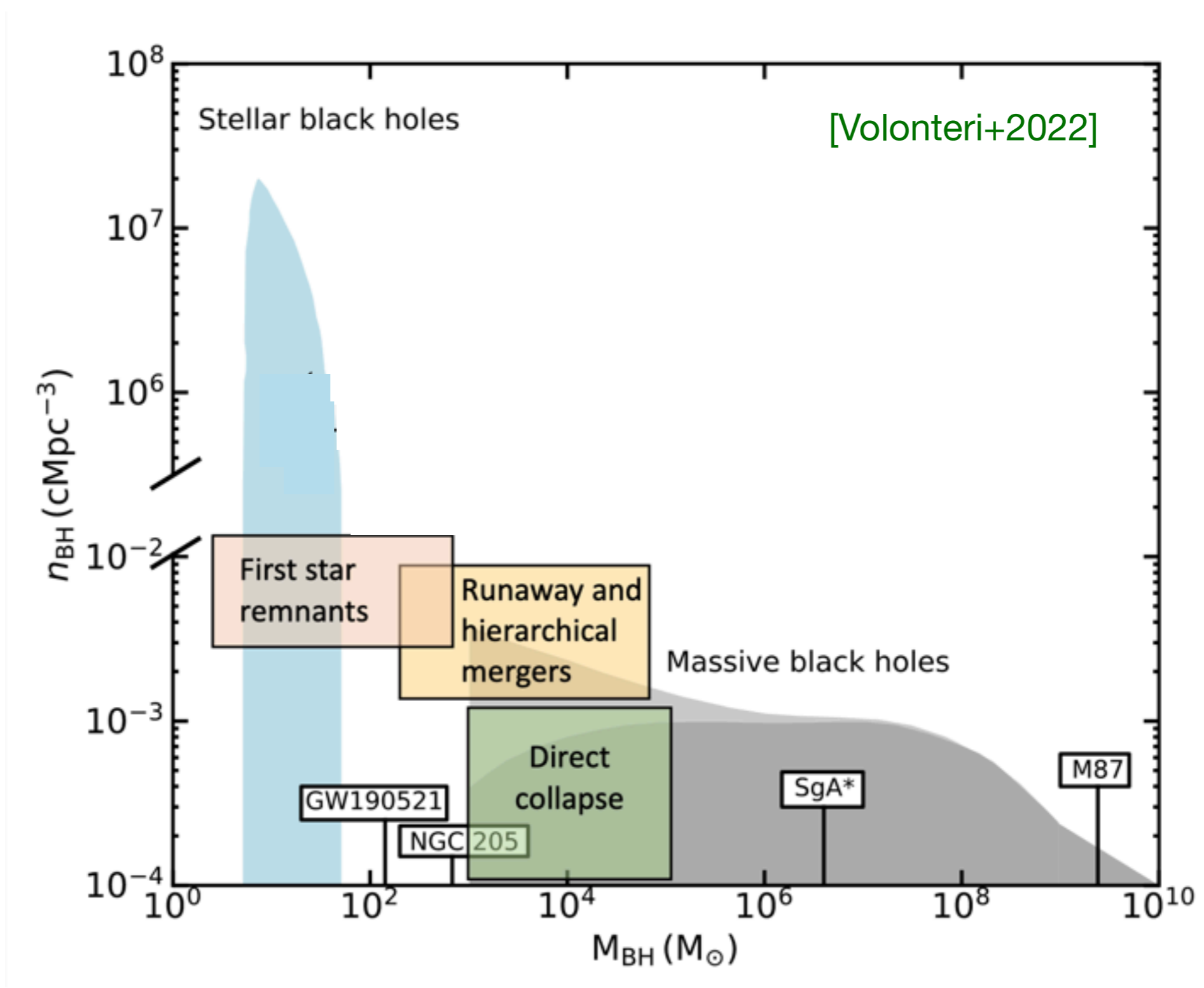
- AGN + gaseous disk + distribution of BHs
- Some BHs get trapped in the disk
- Torques from gas: BHs migrate within the disk and merge
- BH can grow by gas accretion \rightarrow IMBH

**Optical counterpart to
GW190521:
J124942.3+344929 ?
[Graham+2020]**

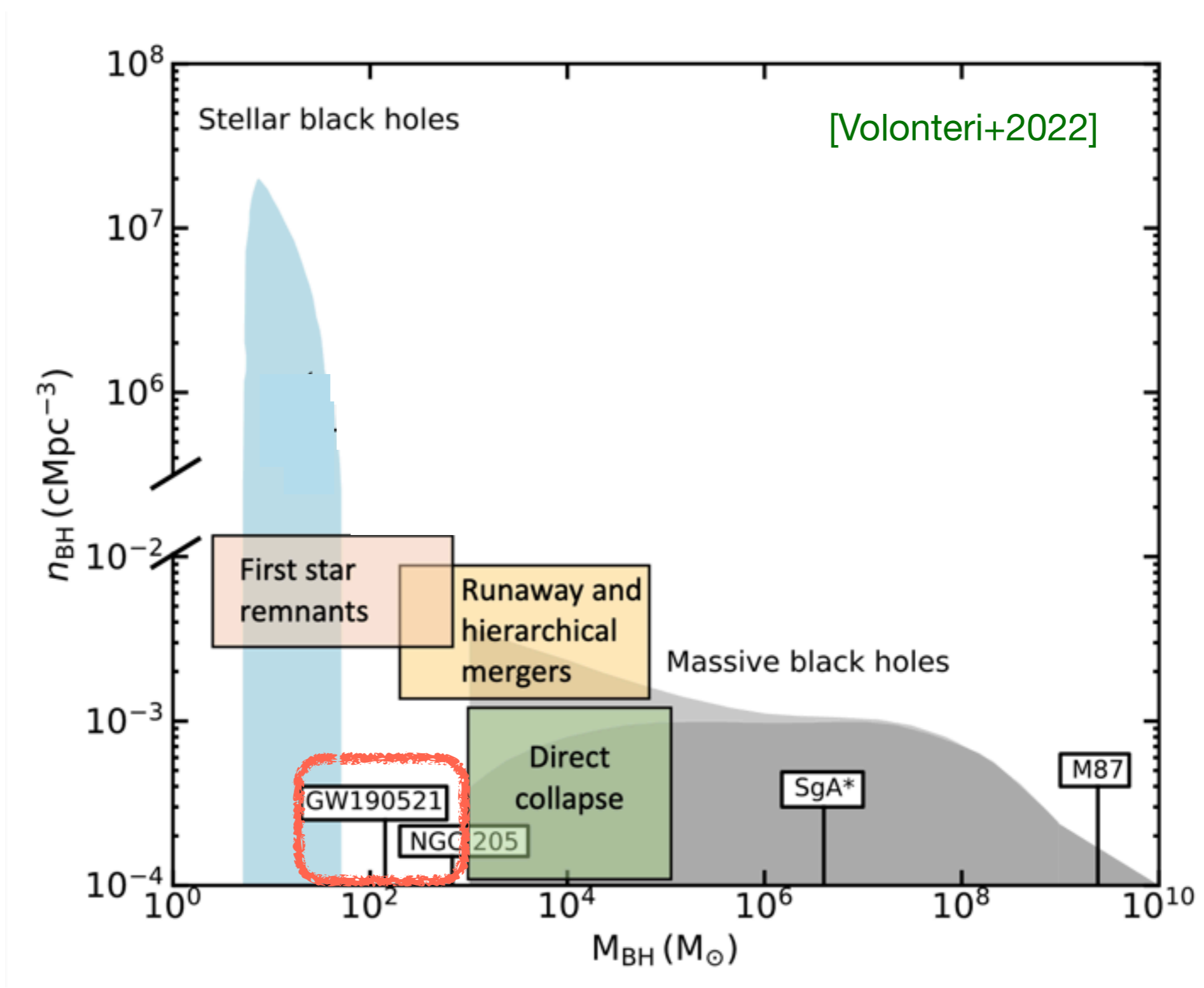


[Saavik Ford+2019: Astro2020 White Paper]

The link between stellar-mass and massive black holes?

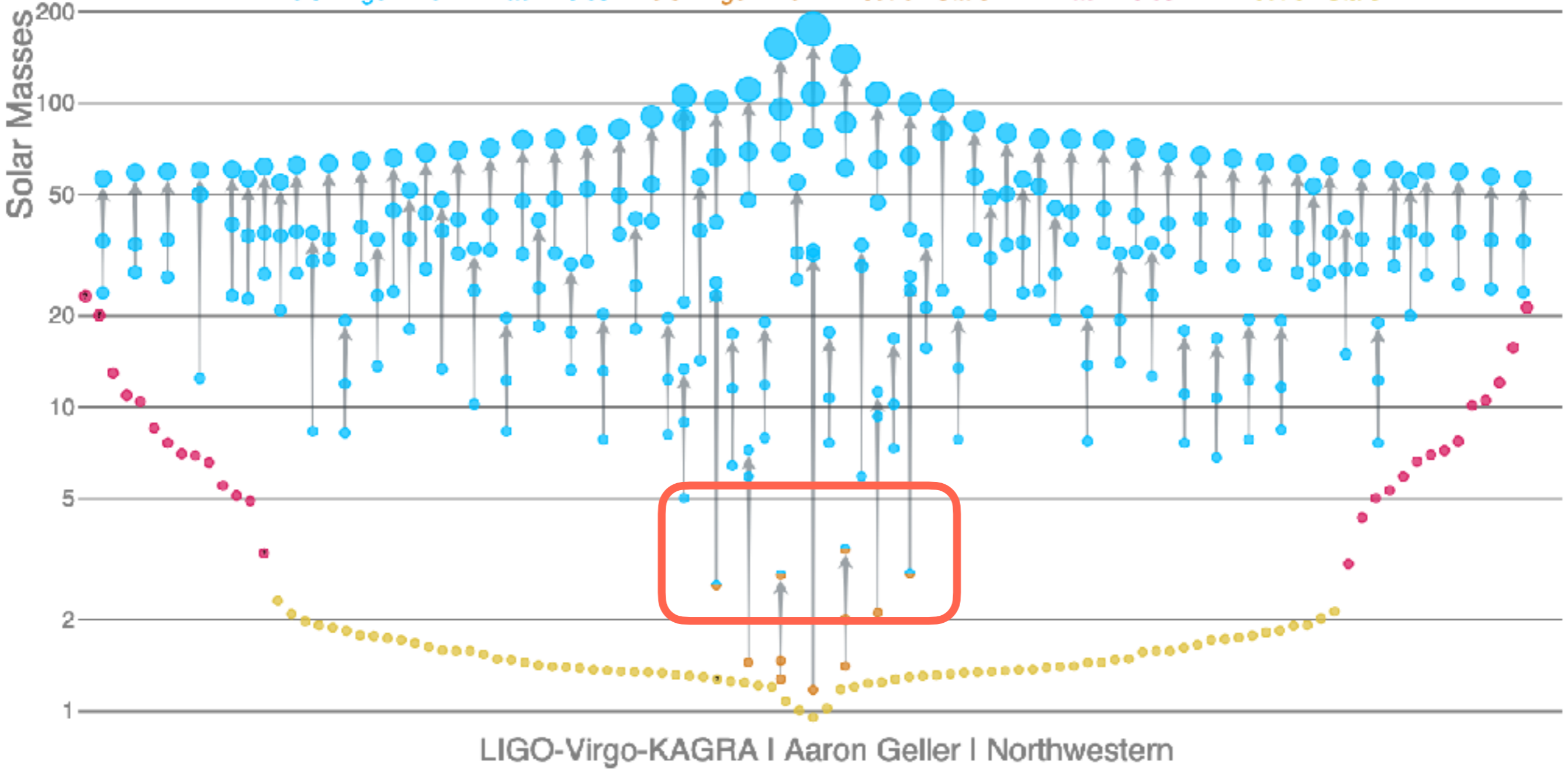


The link between stellar-mass and massive black holes?



Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars EM Black Holes EM Neutron Stars



Abbott et al. 2019, PRX, 9, 031040; Abbott et al. 2021, PRX, 11, 021053;
Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2111.03606; Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2108.01045

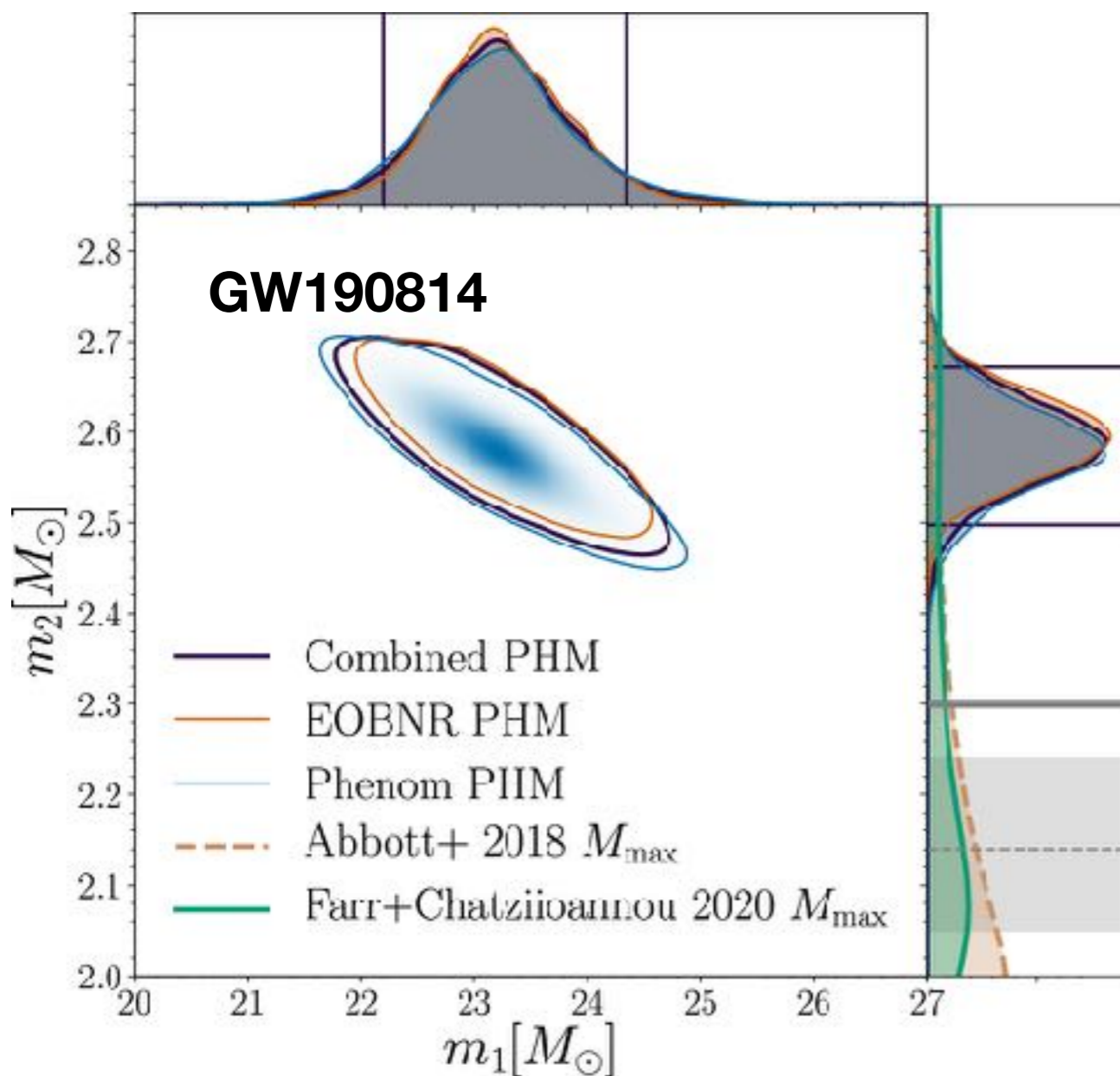
Black holes in the lower mass gap

$$m_1 = 23.3^{+1.1}_{-1.0} M_\odot$$

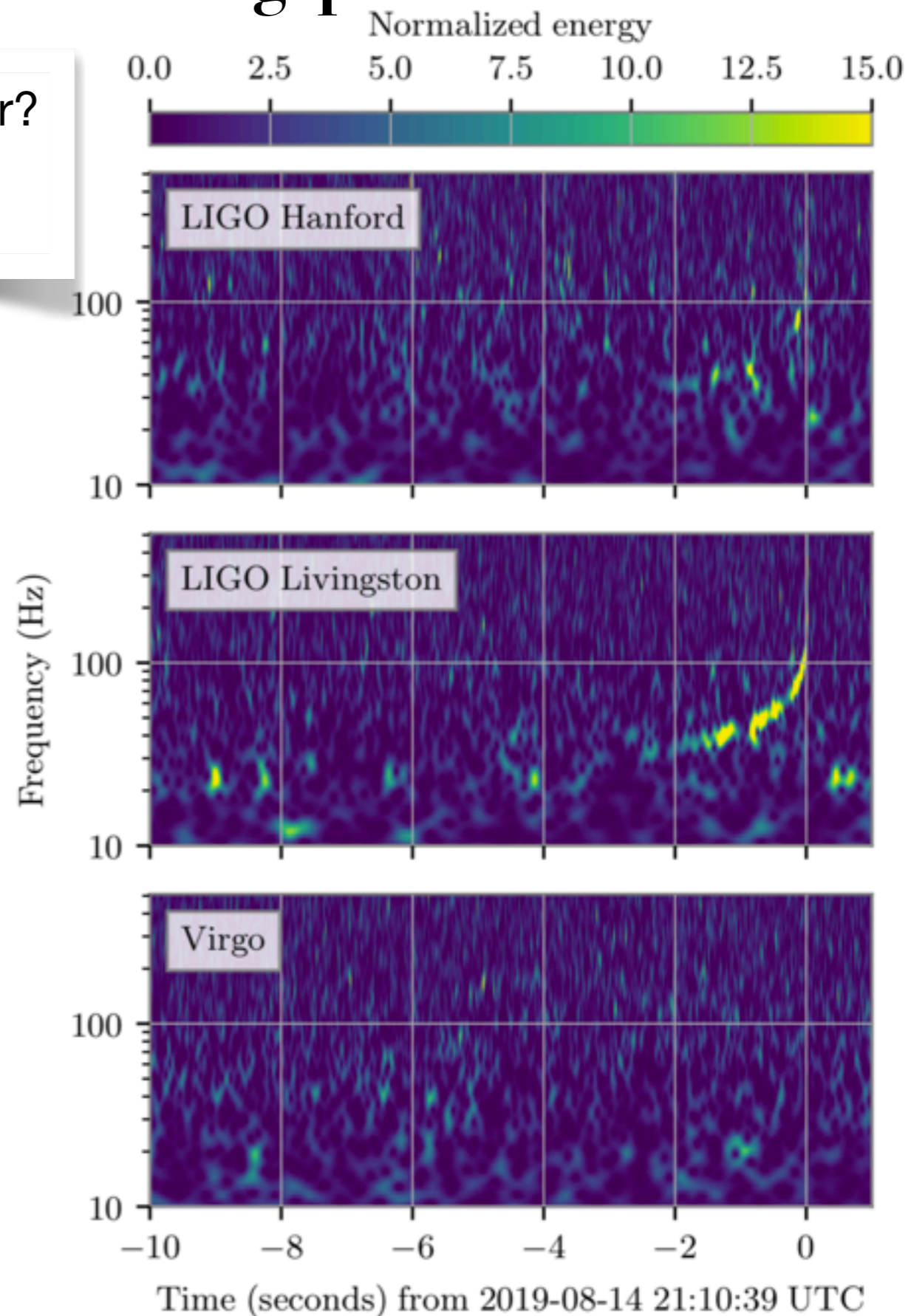
$$m_2 = 2.59^{+0.08}_{-0.09} M_\odot$$

Heaviest neutron star?

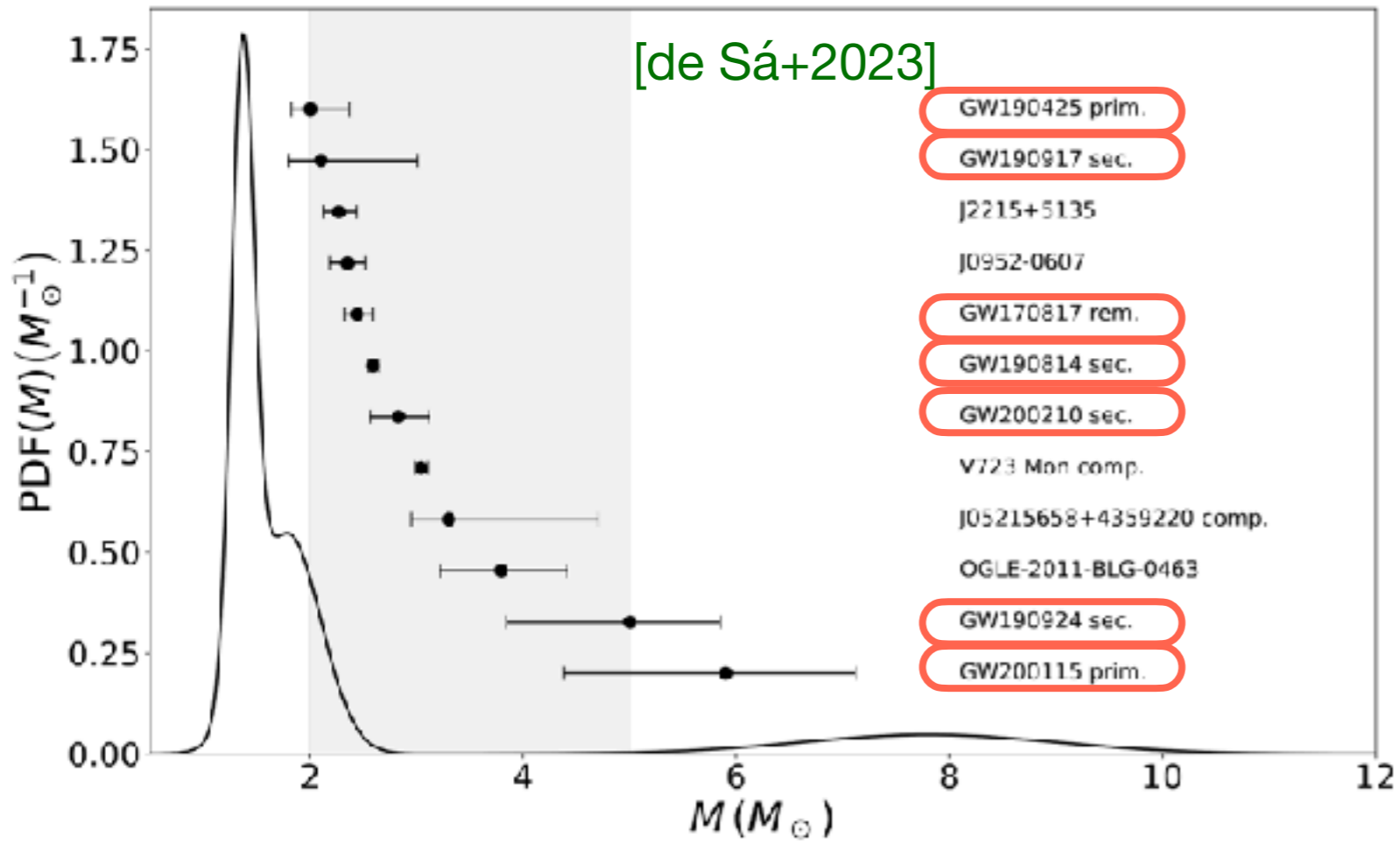
Lightest black hole?



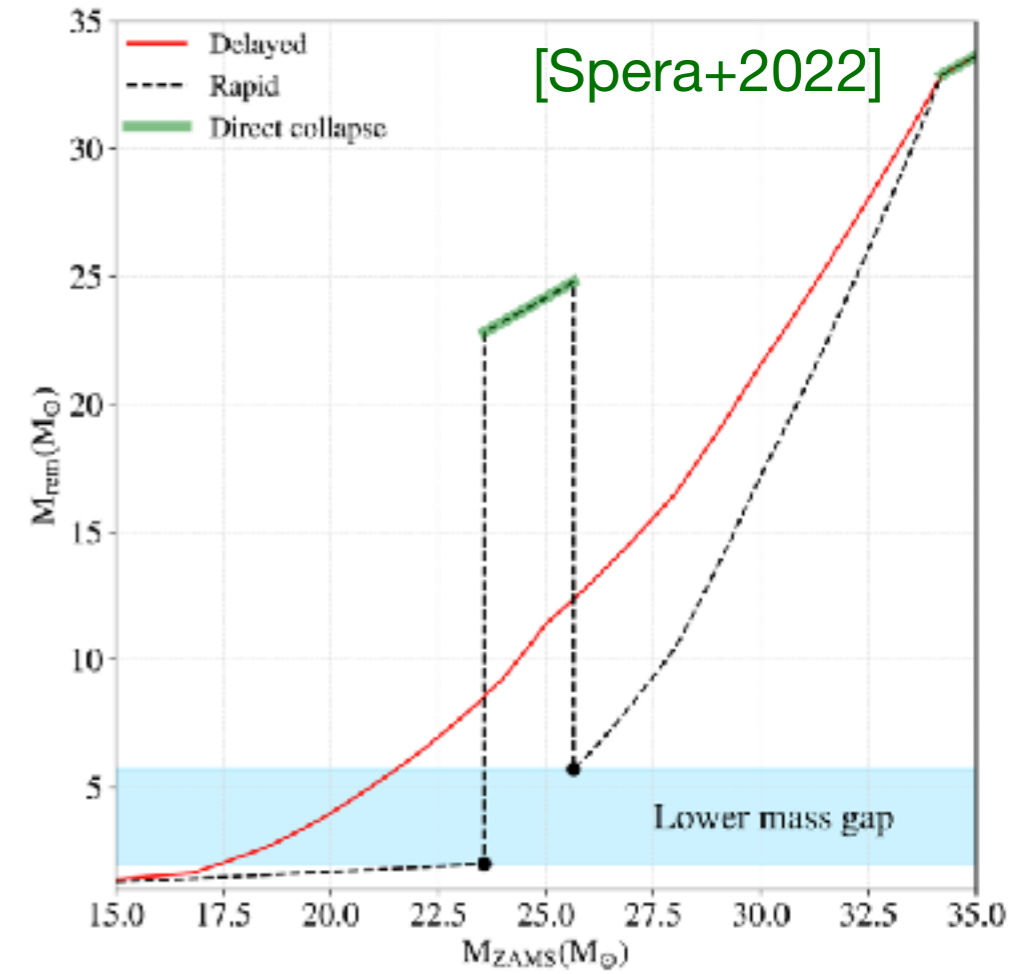
[Abbott et al. 2020, ApJL, 896, 44]



Black holes in the lower mass gap



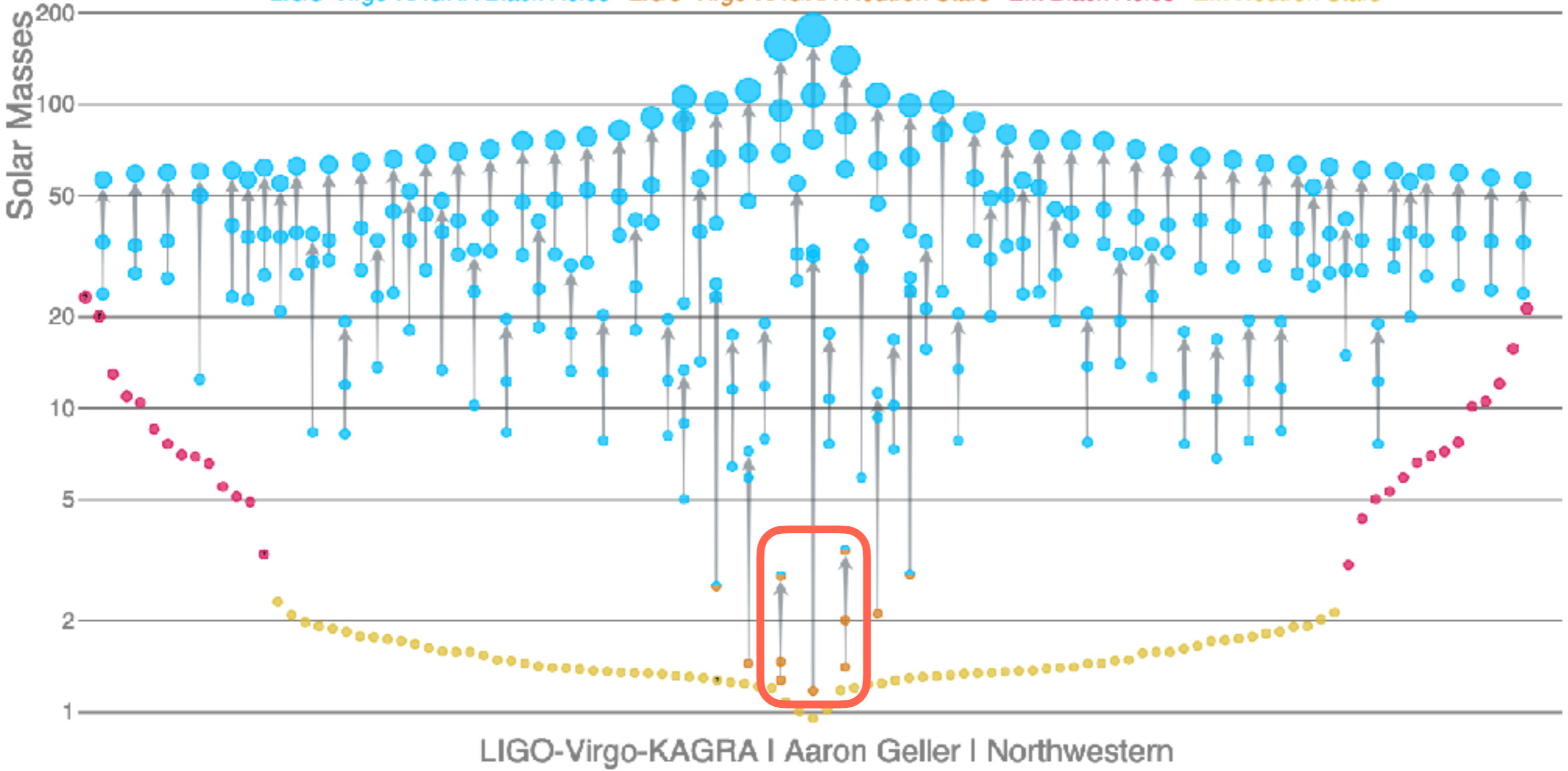
Is the mass gap real?
Is it an observational effect?



Implications for supernova explosion mechanism?

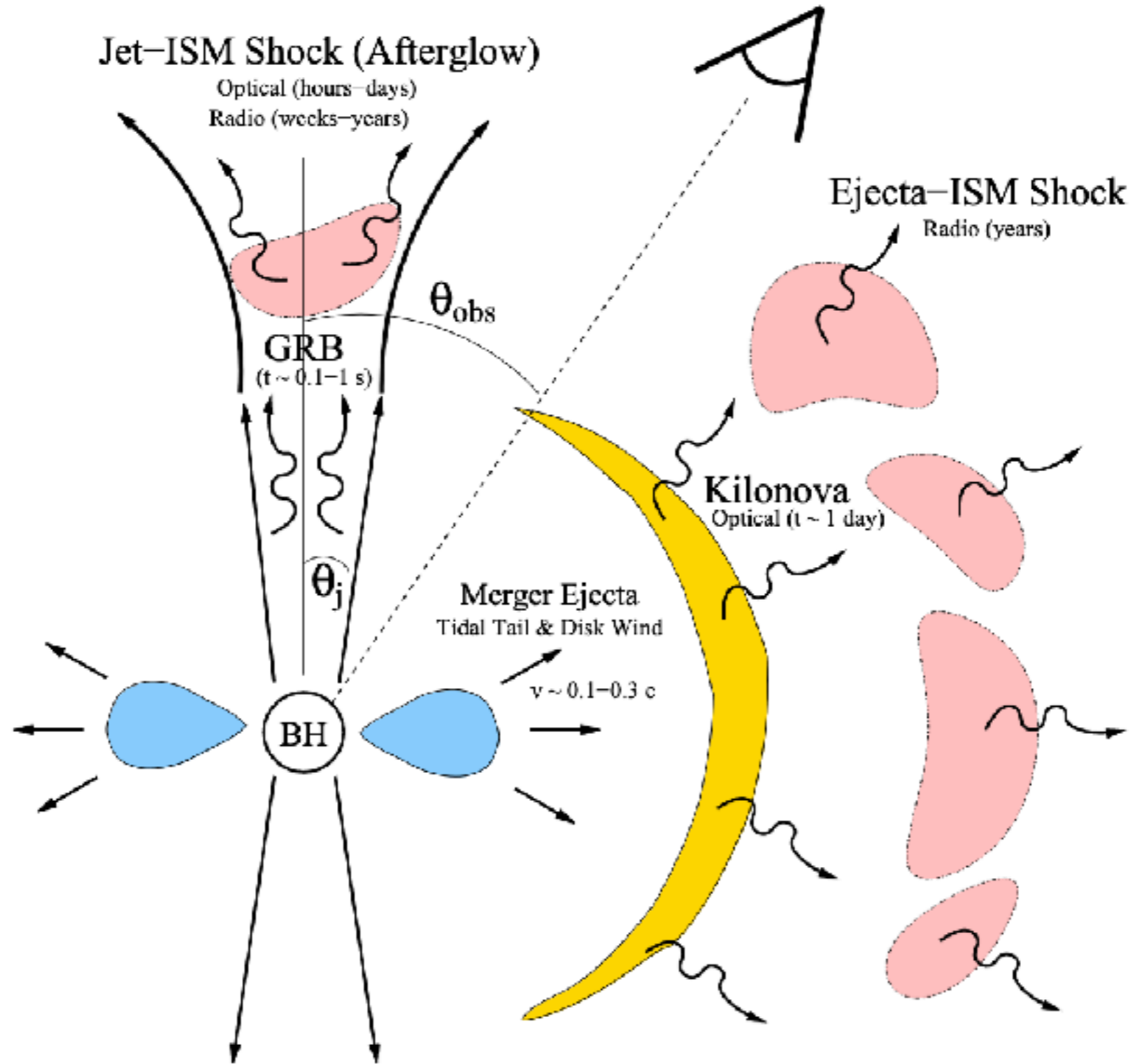
Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars EM Black Holes EM Neutron Stars



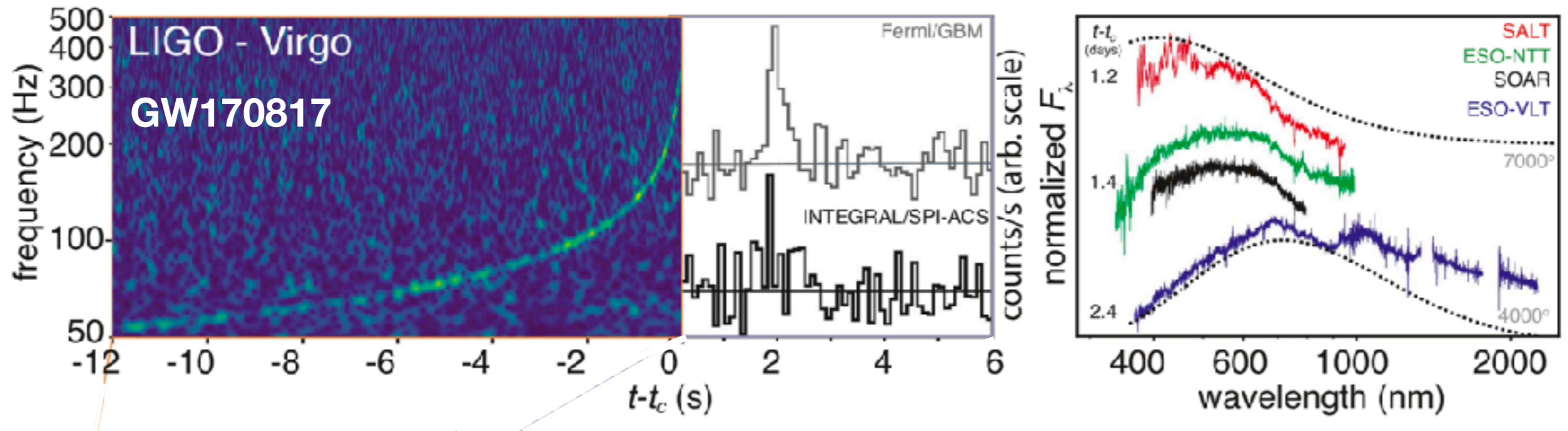
Abbott et al. 2019, PRX, 9, 031040; Abbott et al. 2021, PRX, 11, 021053;
Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2111.03606; Abbott et al. 2021, arXiv:2108.01045

Merger of binary neutron stars

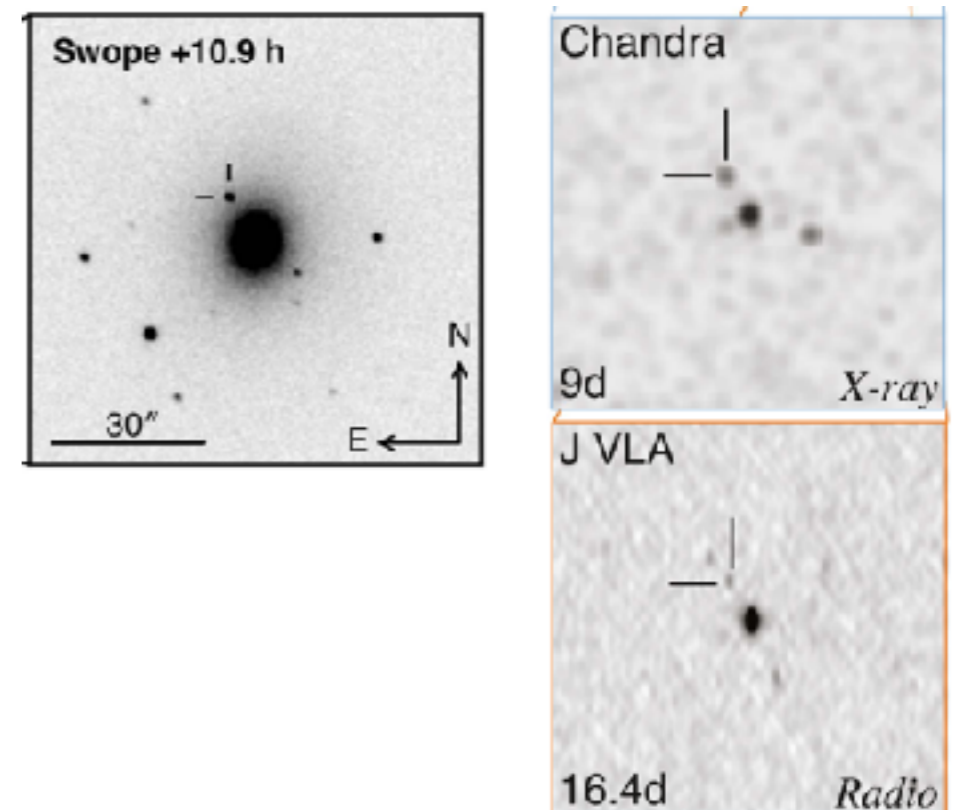


[Metzger & Berger. 2012, ApJ, 746, 48]

Binary neutron stars: multi-messenger observations!

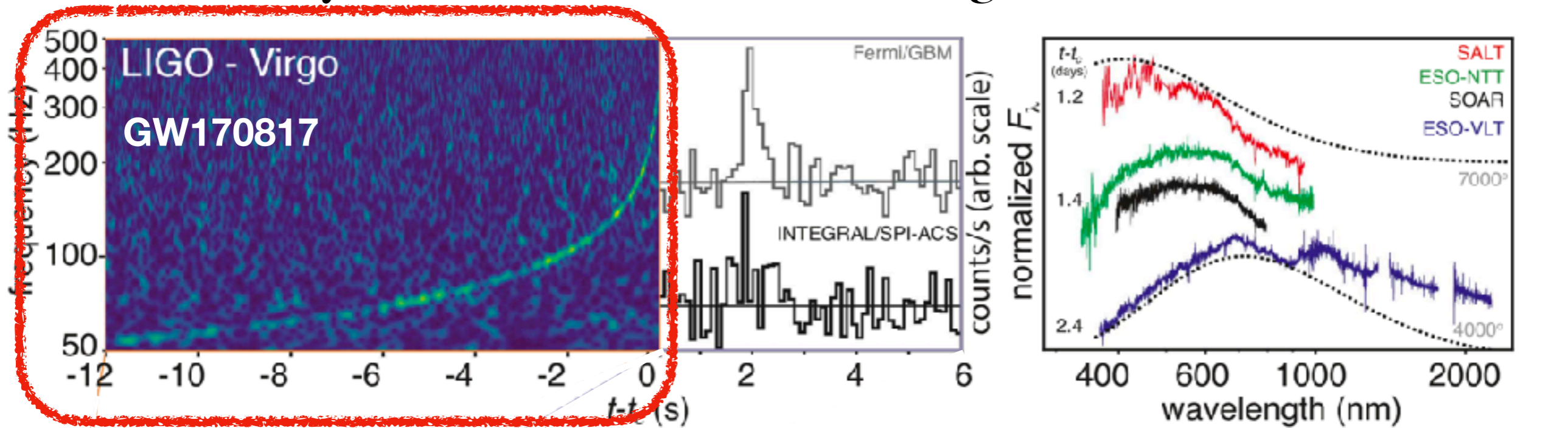


- Gravitational Waves + Electromagnetic
- Connection with short gamma ray bursts (GRB)
- Kilonova: synthesis of heavy elements
- Identification of host galaxy: 40 Mpc away

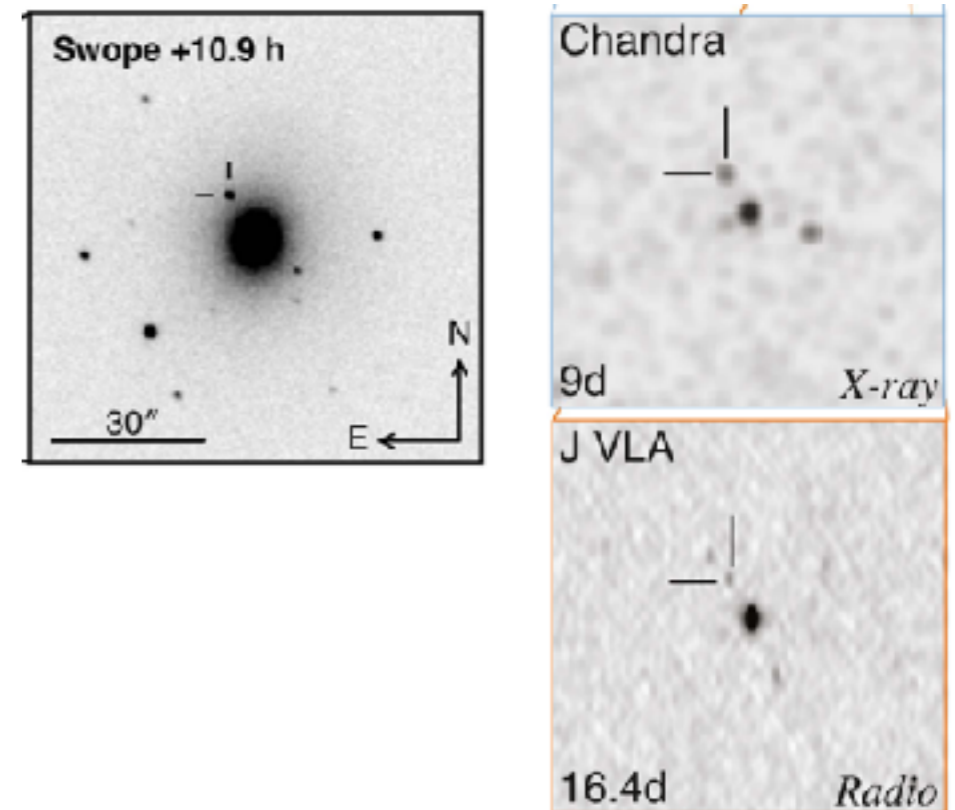


[Abbott et al. 2017, ApJ Letters, 848, 2]

Binary neutron stars: multi-messenger observations!

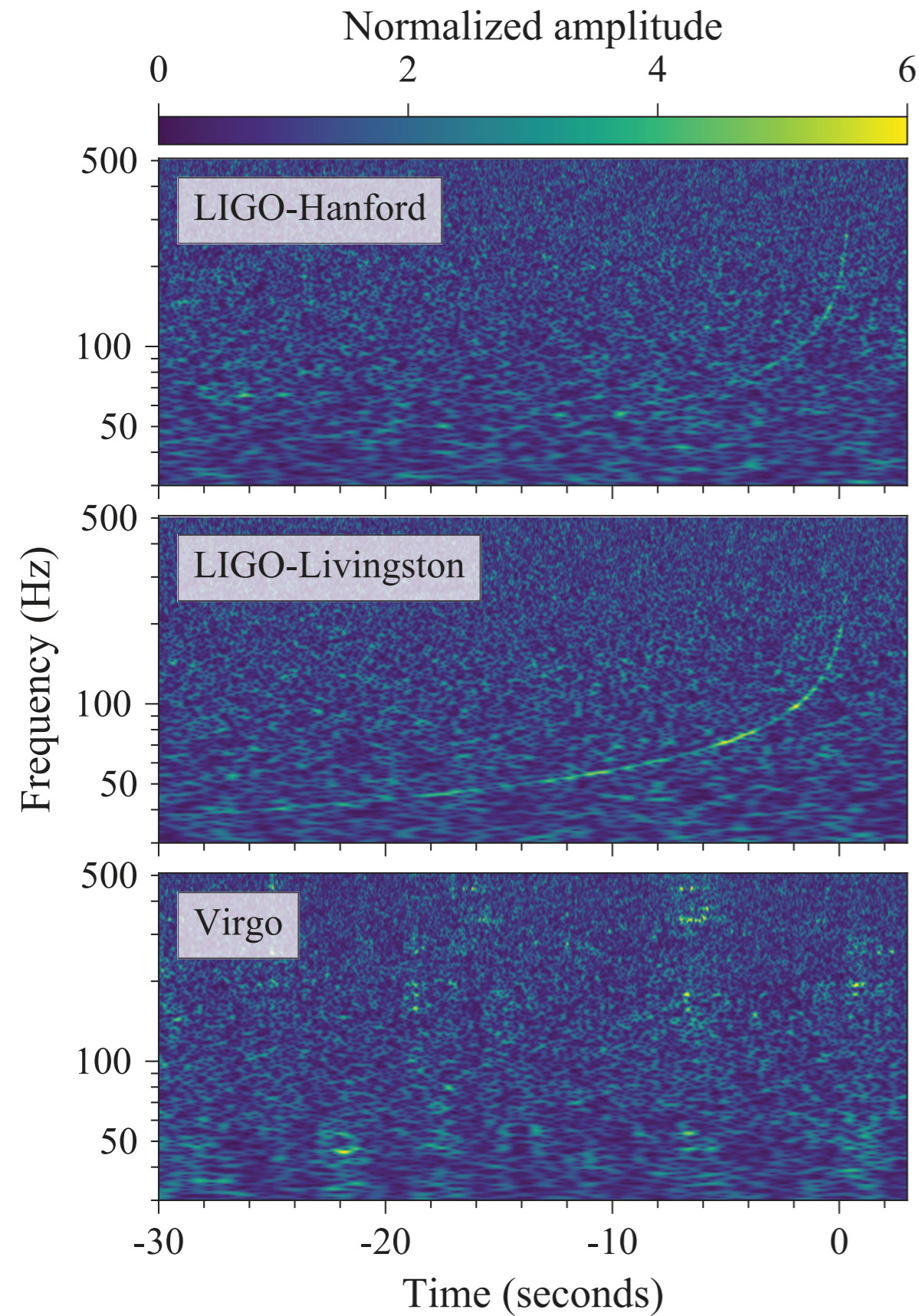


- Gravitational Waves + Electromagnetic
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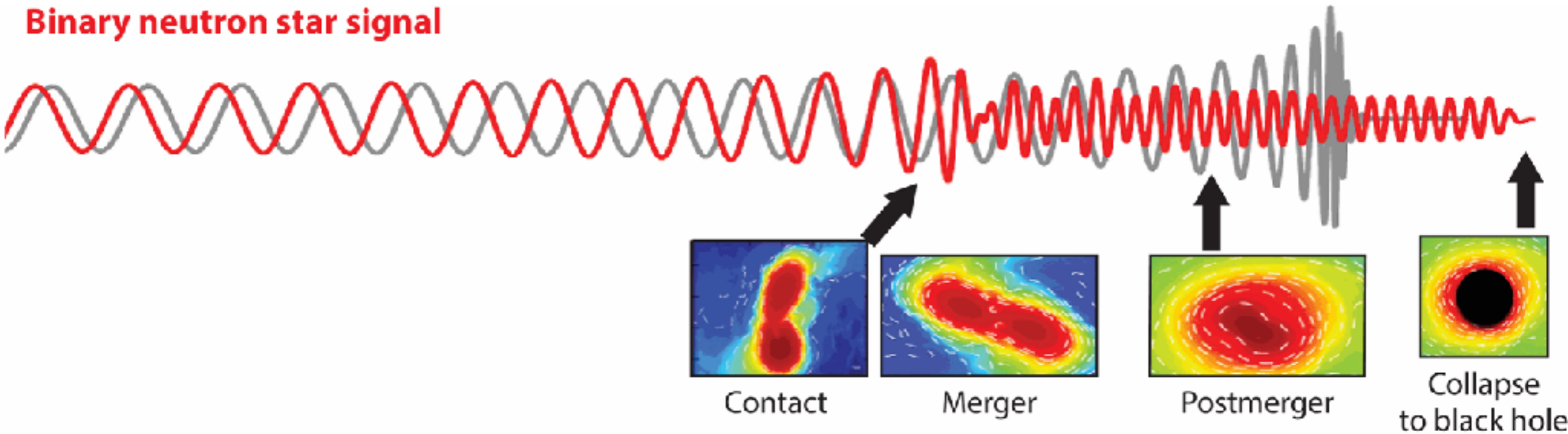


[Abbott et al. 2017, ApJ Letters, 848, 2]

GW170817: gravitational-wave detection



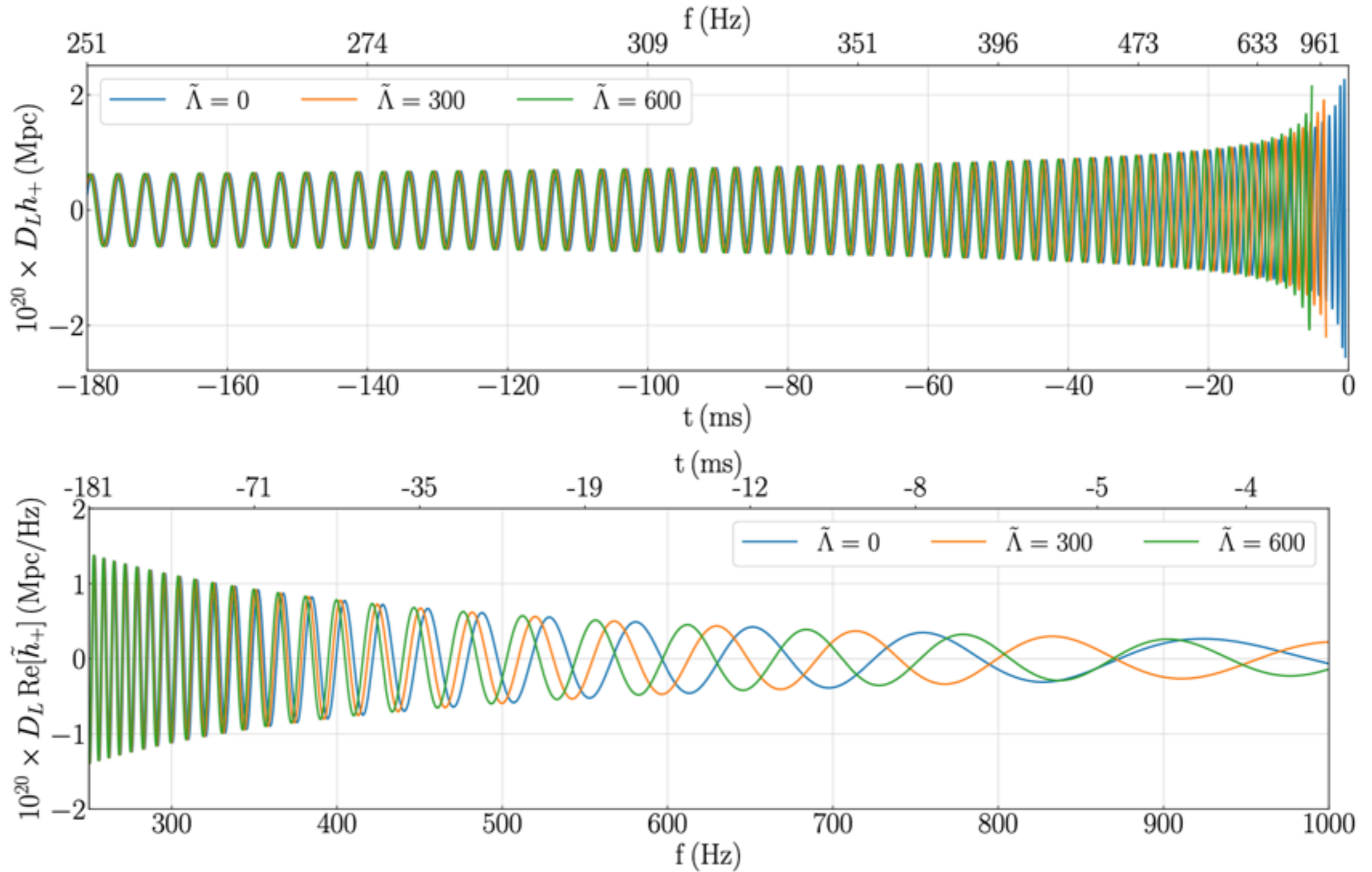
Binary neutron stars: waveform



AR Lattimer JM. 2021
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 71:433–64

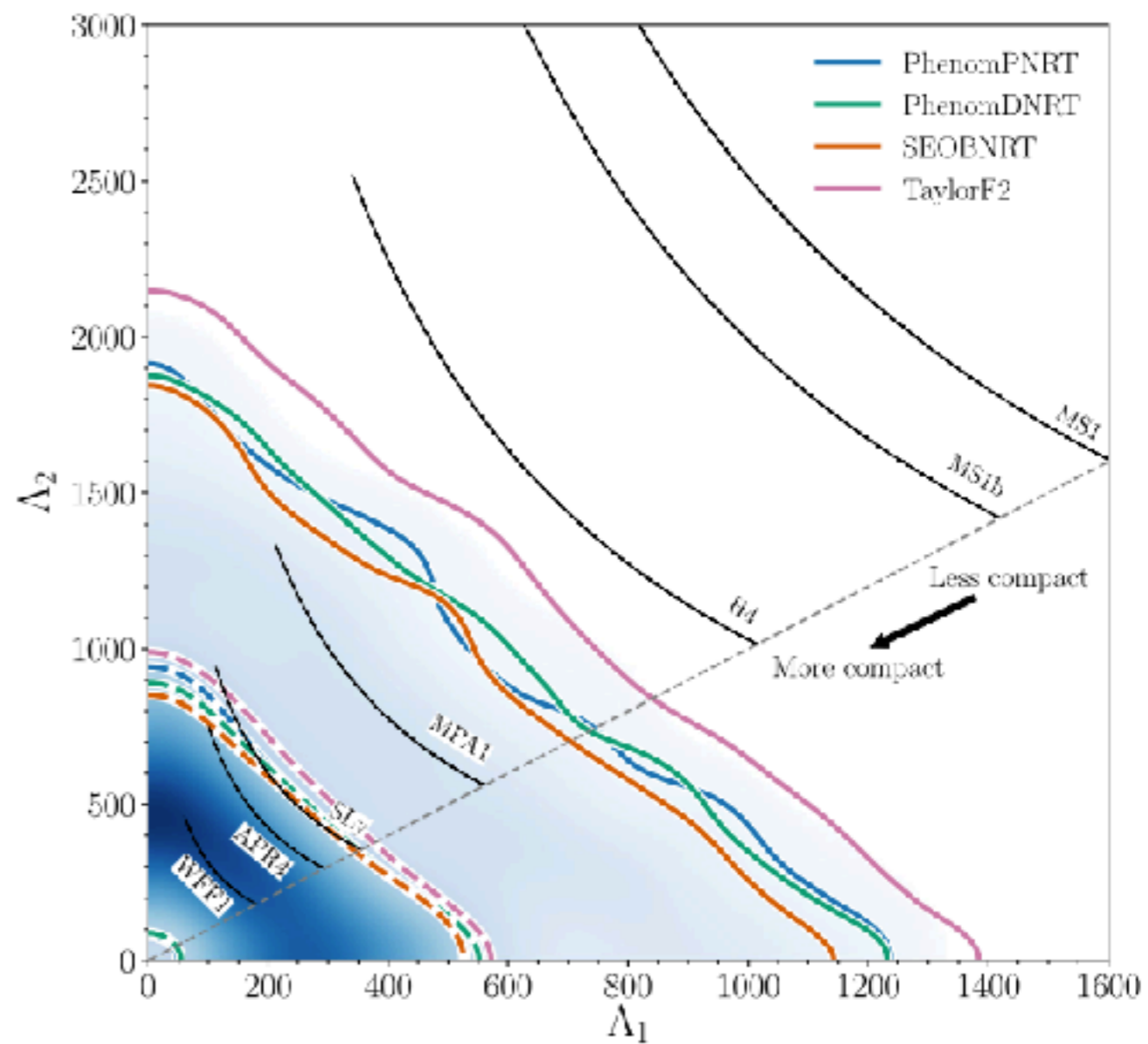
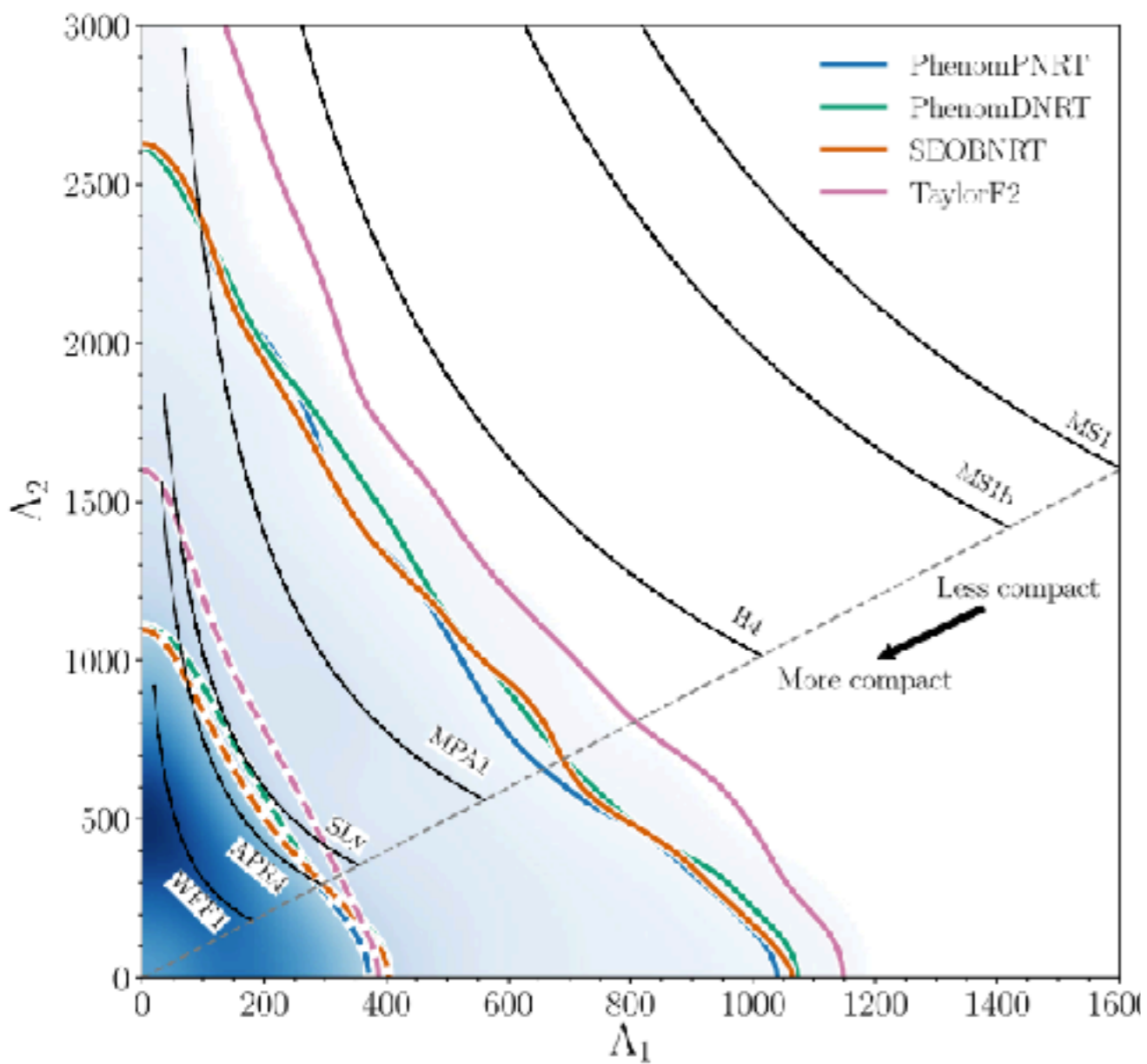
- Some energy goes into deforming the stars
- GW emission from time-varying quadrupole sources

Binary neutron stars: waveform



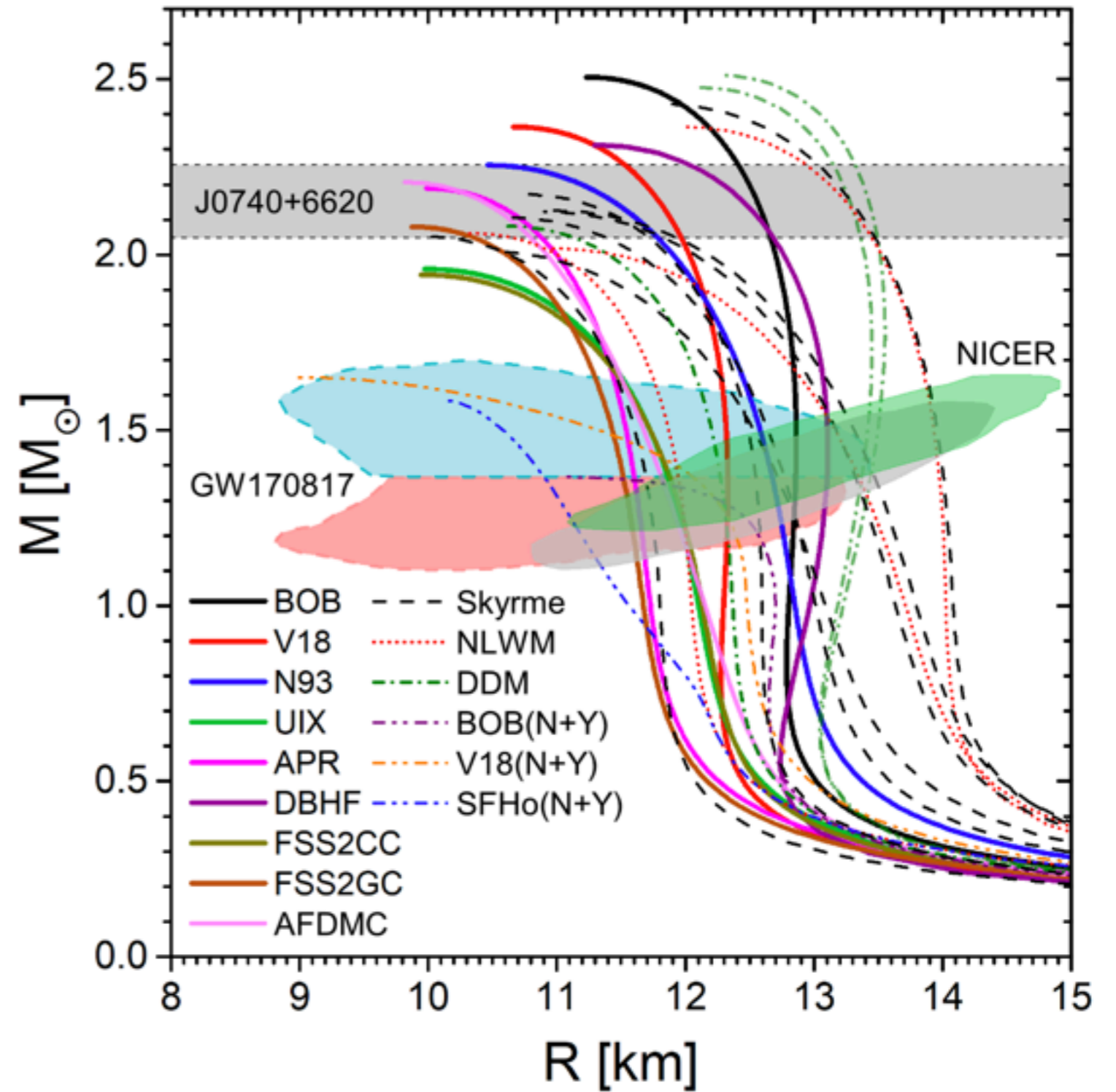
[Chatziioannou et al., arXiv:2407.11153]

Binary neutron stars: constraining the EOS



Neutron star mass-radius relation

- Stiff EOS: high maximum mass, large radii
- Soft EOS: low maximum mass, small radii

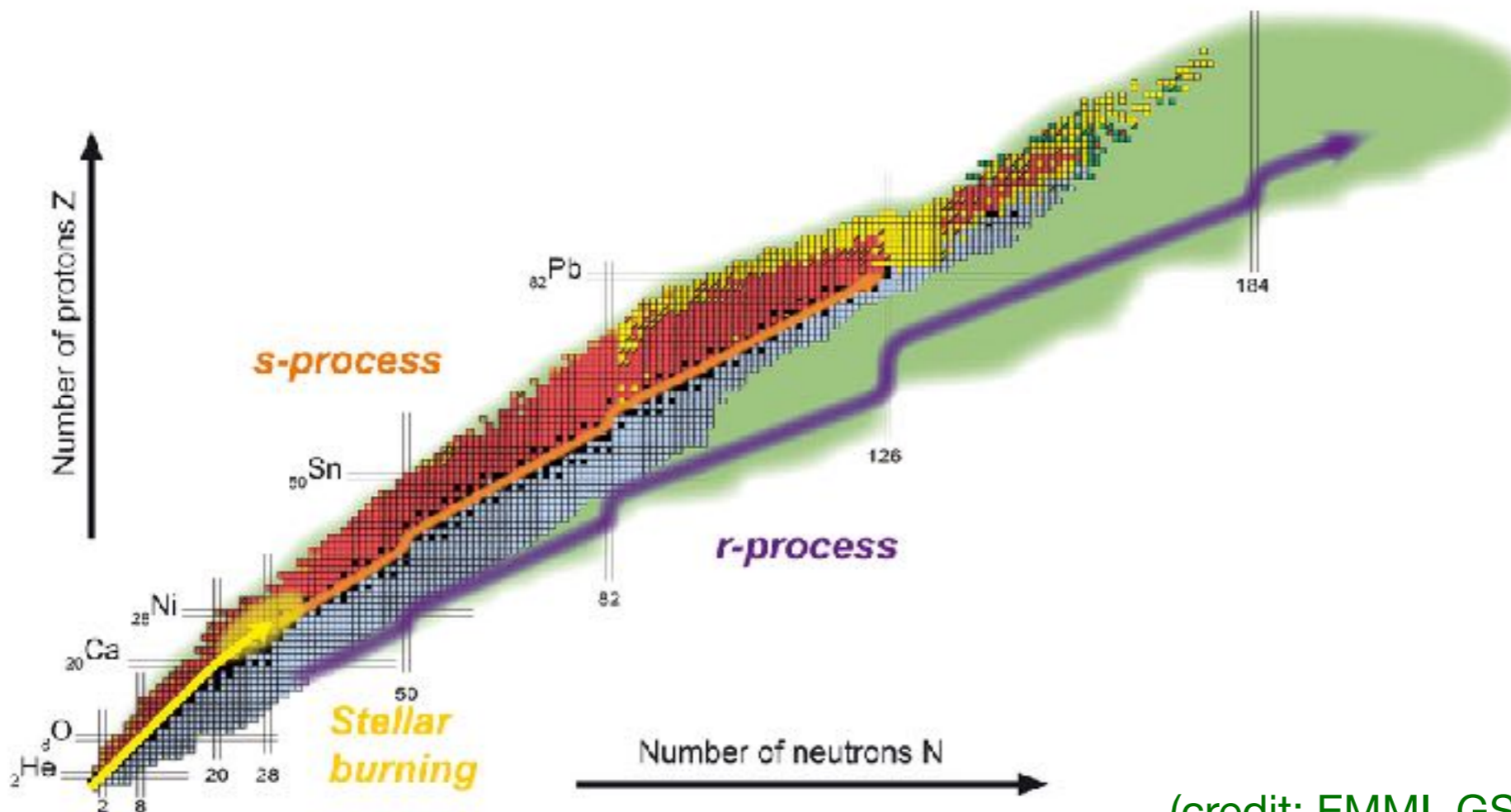
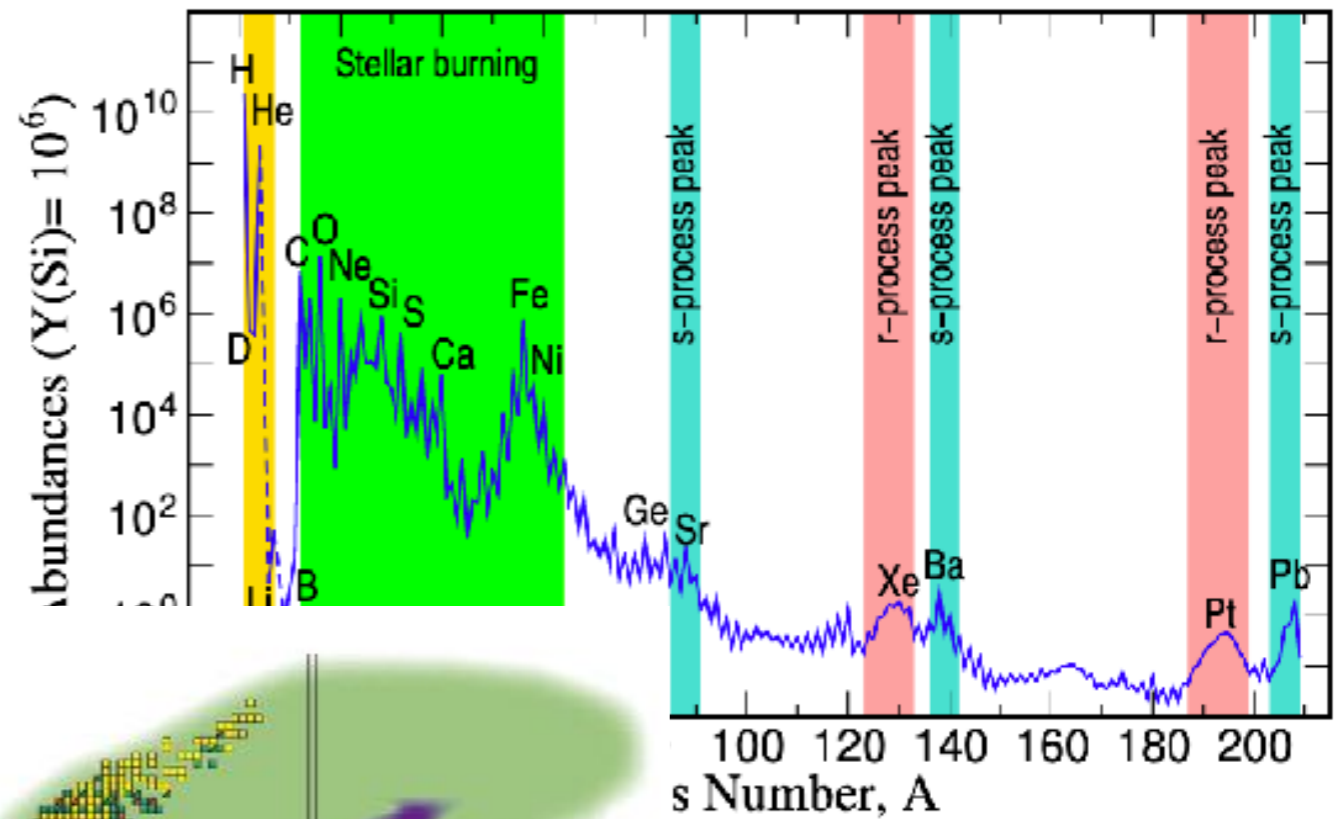


Burgio et al., arXiv:2105.03747

r-process elements

- Rapid process: neutron capture on a timescale of seconds, requires high neutron densities
- Some elements form (almost) exclusively via r-process (Eu, Pt, U, ...)

[Cowan+2020]

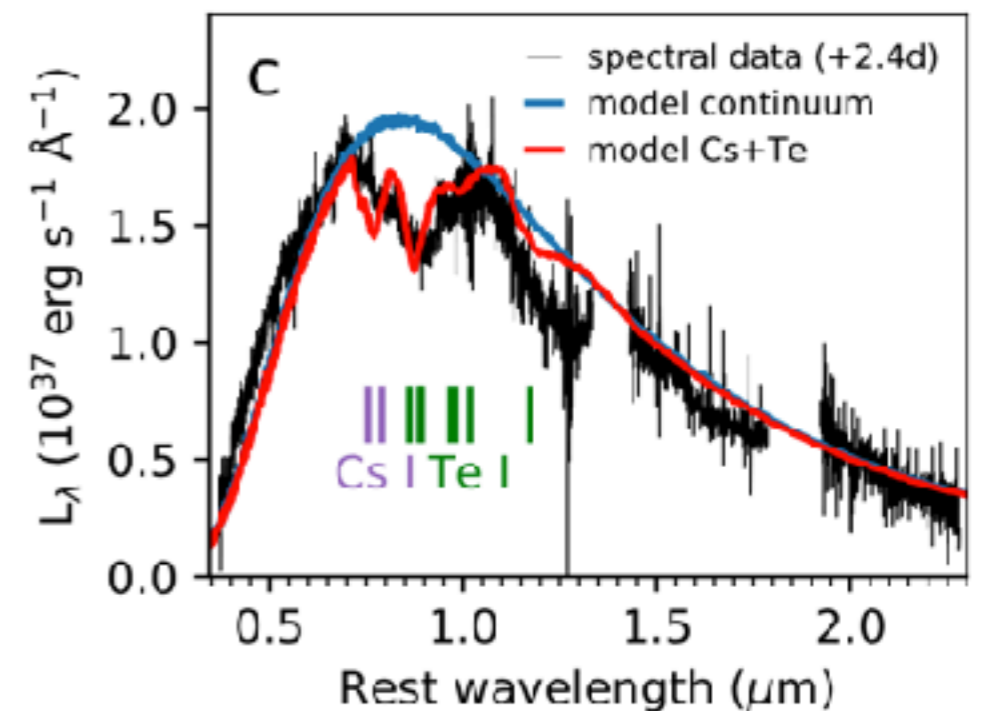
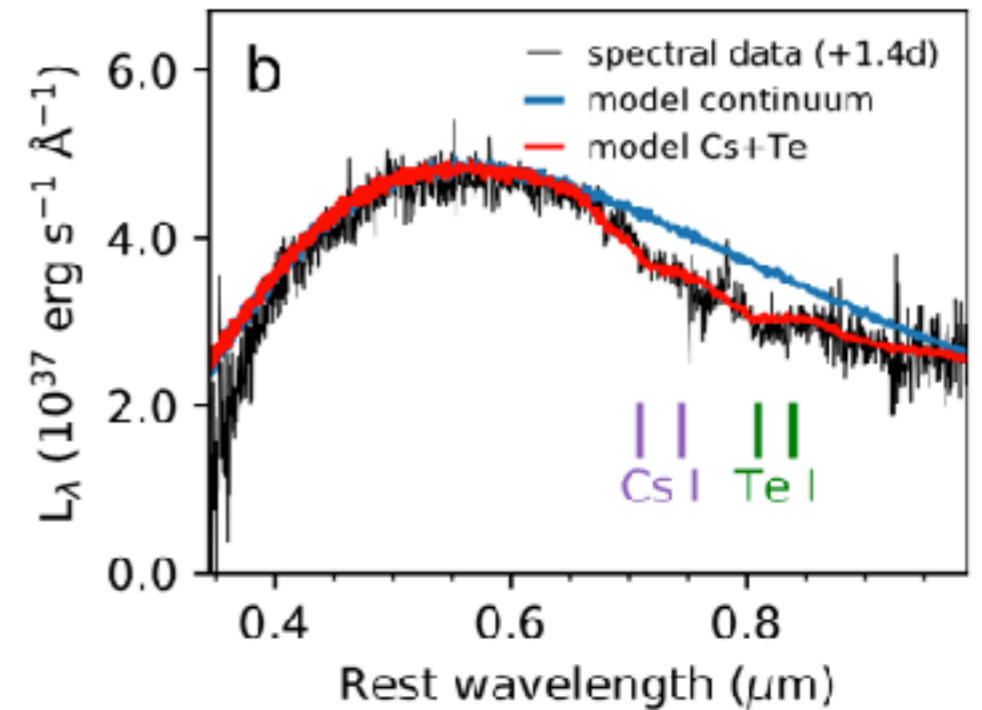
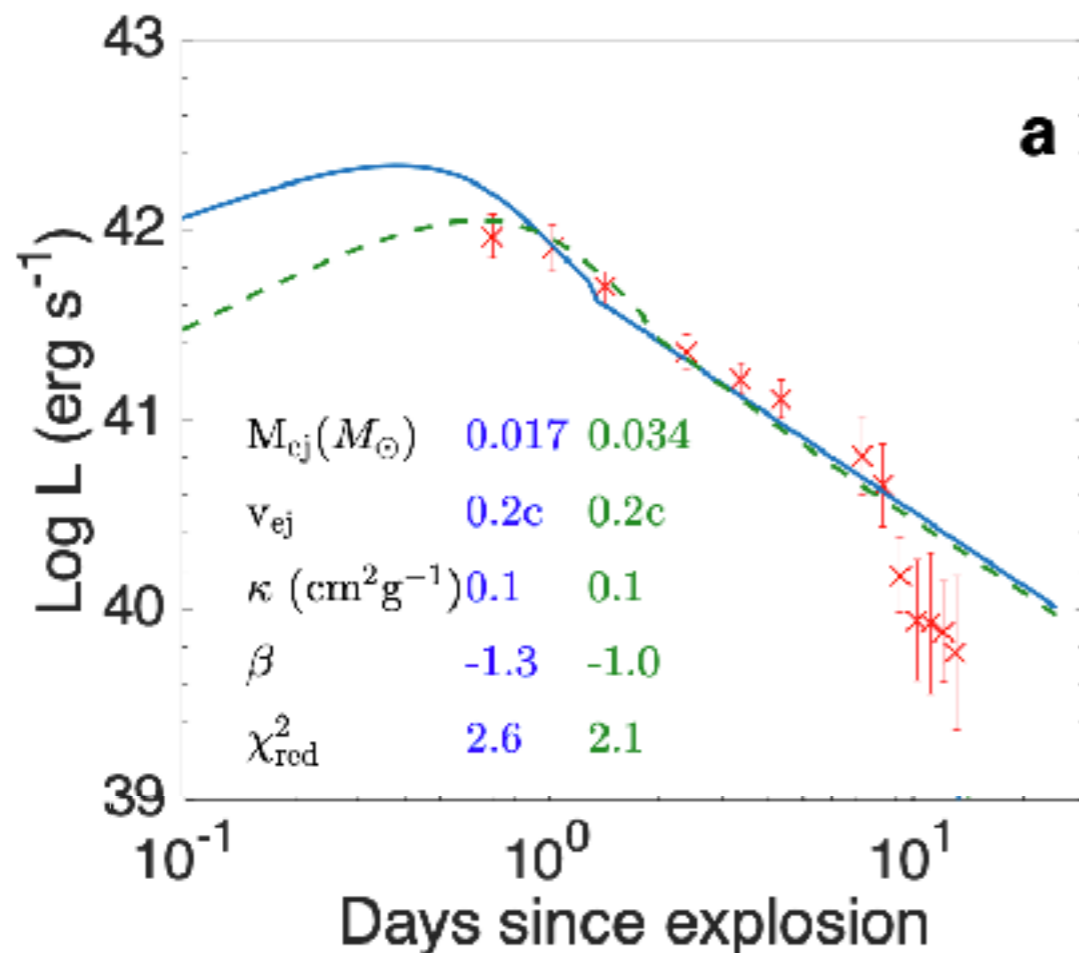


(credit: EMMI, GSI/Different Arts)

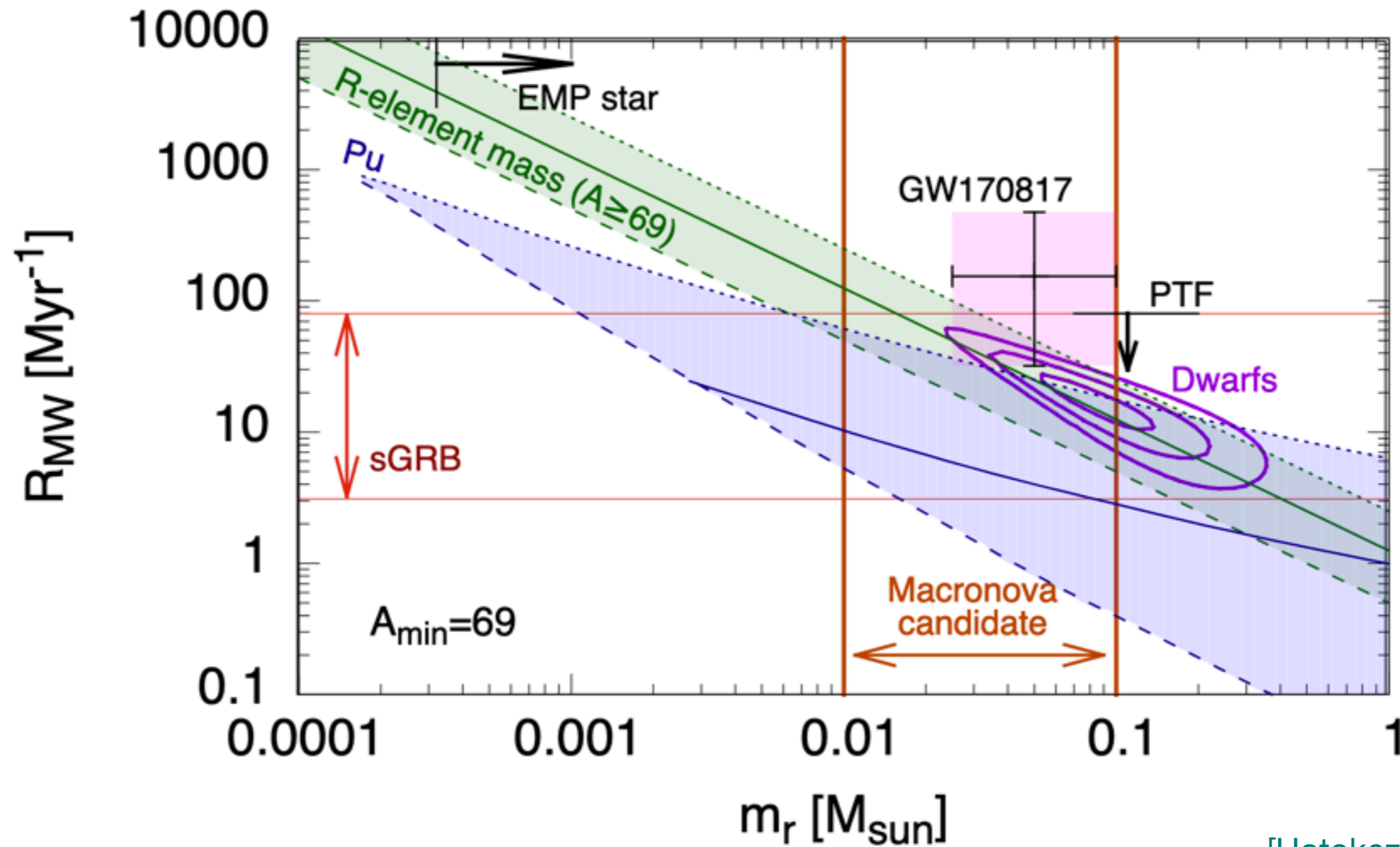
AT 2017gfo kilonova

[Smartt+2017]

- Kilonova: UV-optical-IR transient powered by the radioactive decay of r-process elements synthesized in the merger ejecta
- Opacity depends on the chemical composition of the ejecta
- Ejected mass: $0.04 M_{\odot}$



Did kilonovae produce all the r-process elements?



[Hotokezaka+2018]

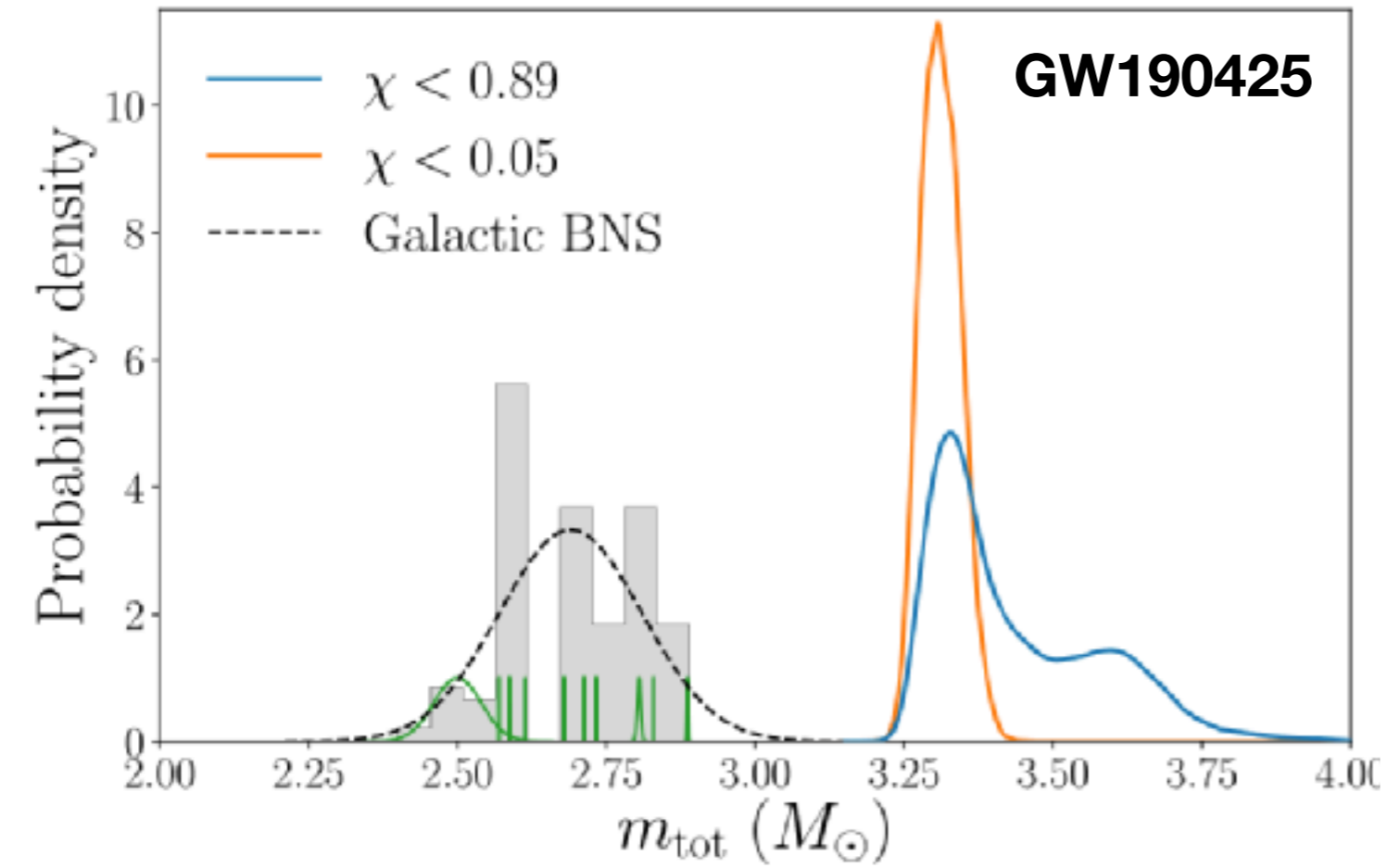
GW190425: BNS without EM counterparts

Table 1
Source Properties for GW190425

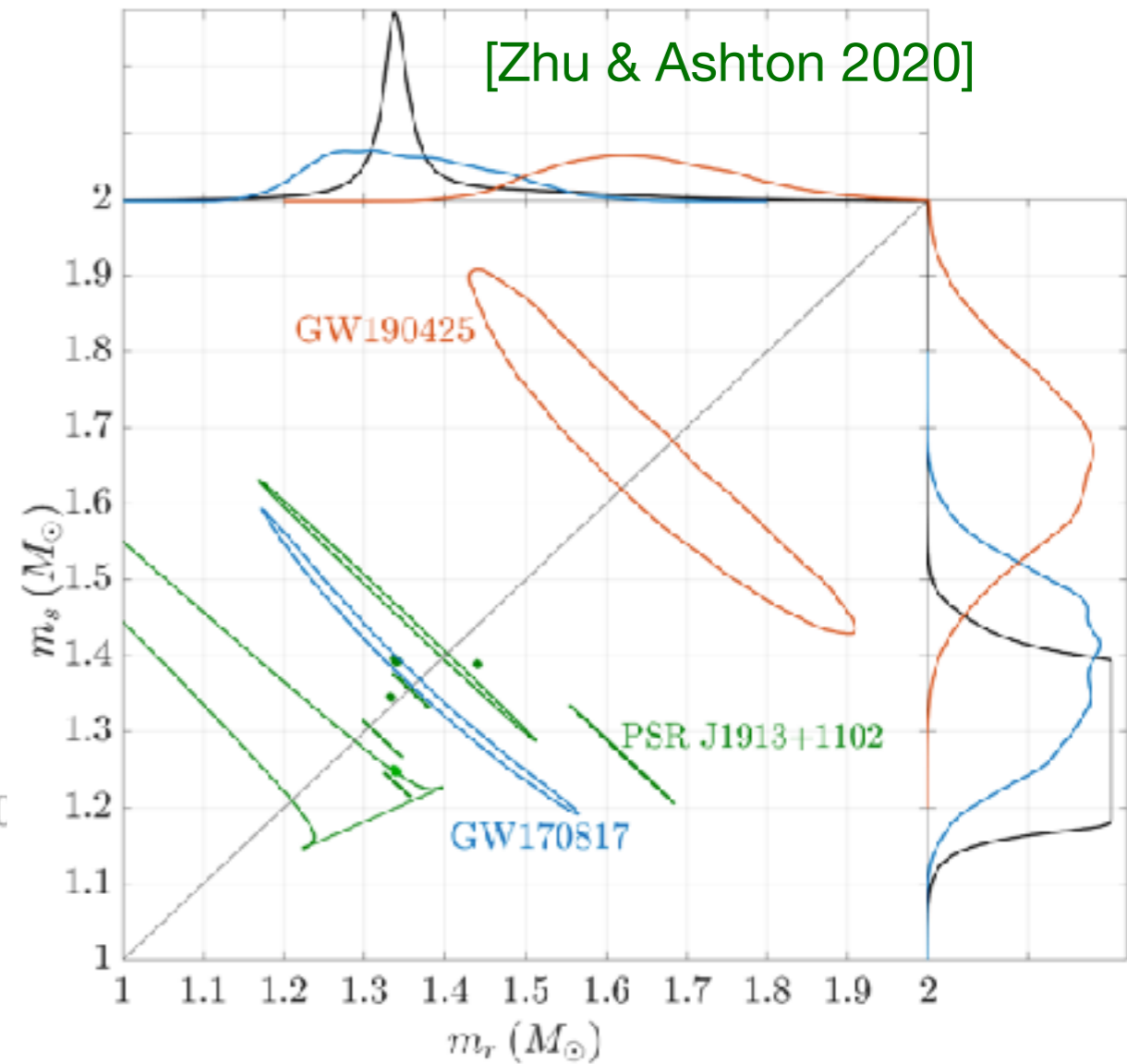
	Low-spin Prior ($\chi < 0.05$)	High-spin Prior ($\chi < 0.89$)
Primary mass m_1	1.60–1.87 M_\odot	1.61–2.52 M_\odot
Secondary mass m_2	1.46–1.69 M_\odot	1.12–1.68 M_\odot
Chirp mass \mathcal{M}	$1.44^{+0.02}_{-0.02} M_\odot$	$1.44^{+0.02}_{-0.02} M_\odot$
Detector-frame chirp mass	$1.4868^{+0.0003}_{-0.0003} M_\odot$	$1.4873^{+0.0008}_{-0.0006} M_\odot$
Mass ratio m_2/m_1	0.8 – 1.0	0.4 – 1.0
Total mass m_{tot}	$3.3^{+0.1}_{-0.1} M_\odot$	$3.4^{+0.3}_{-0.1} M_\odot$
Effective inspiral spin parameter χ_{eff}	$0.012^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$0.058^{+0.11}_{-0.05}$
Luminosity distance D_L	159^{+69}_{-72} Mpc	159^{+69}_{-71} Mpc
Combined dimensionless tidal deformability $\tilde{\Lambda}$	≤ 600	≤ 1100

[Abbott et al. 2020, *Astrophys. J. Lett.* 892, L3]

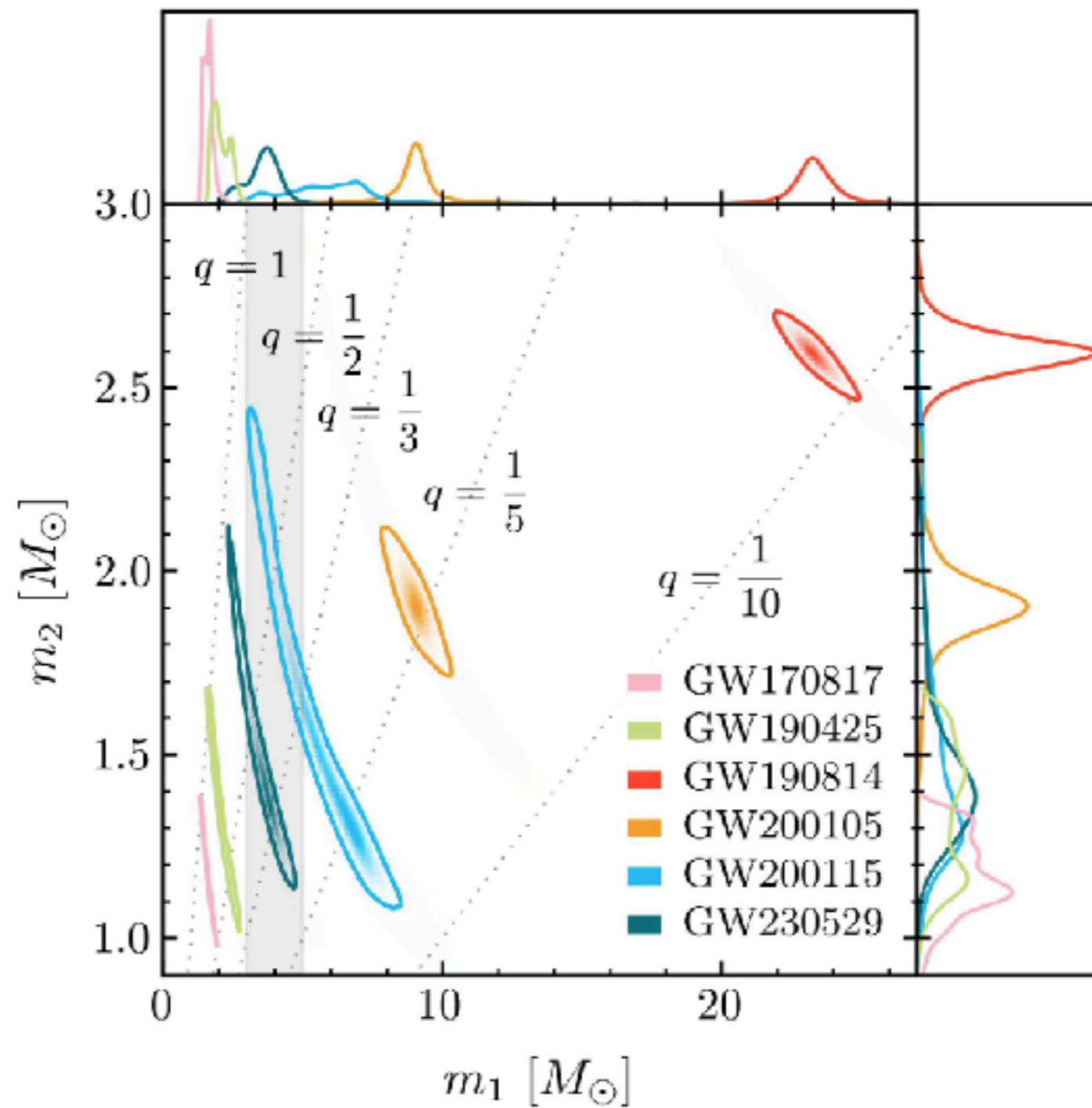
Binary neutron stars: masses



[Abbott et al. 2020, Astrophys. J. Lett. 892, L3]

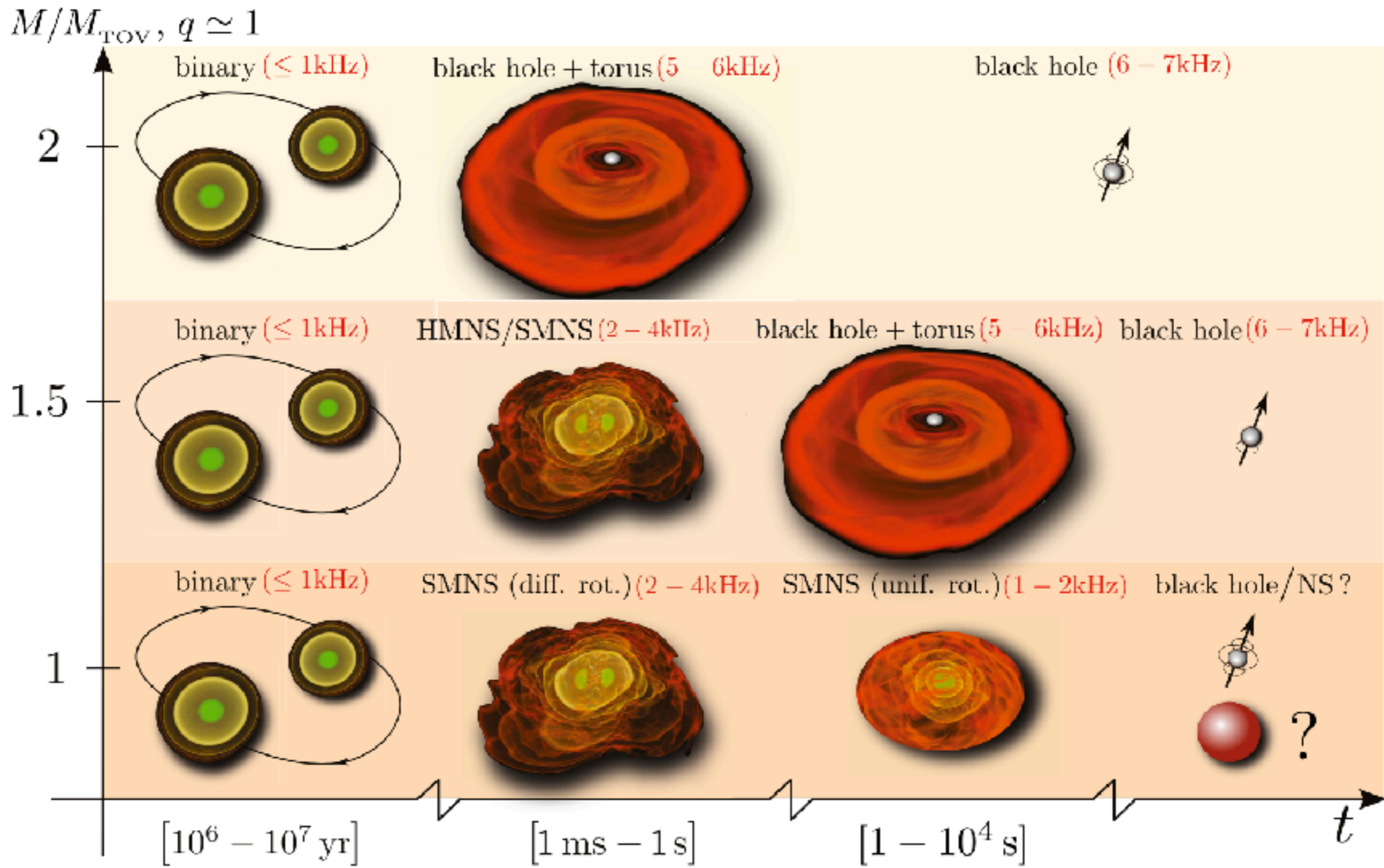


Binaries with neutron stars: masses



[Chatziioannou et al., arXiv:2407.11153]

Binary neutron stars: after the merger



Baiotti and Rezzolla, arXiv:1607.03540

Merci!

