

# Searching for the origin of black hole mergers in the Universe with gravitational waves

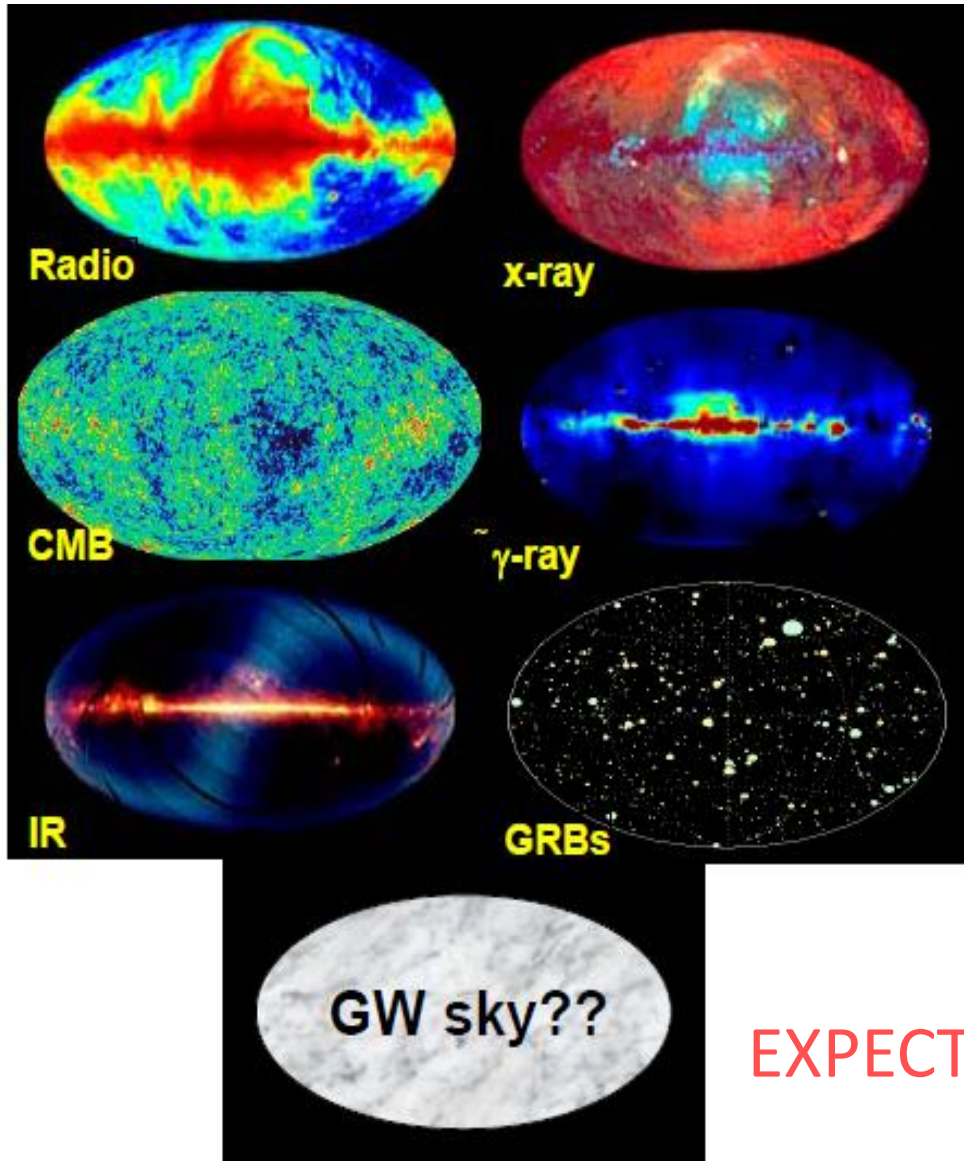


credit: ESA/Hubble/N. Bartmann

**Bence Kocsis** (University of Oxford)

*Morning of Theoretical Physics, Oxford, 28 October 2023*

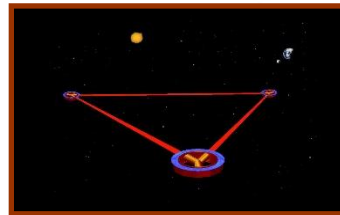
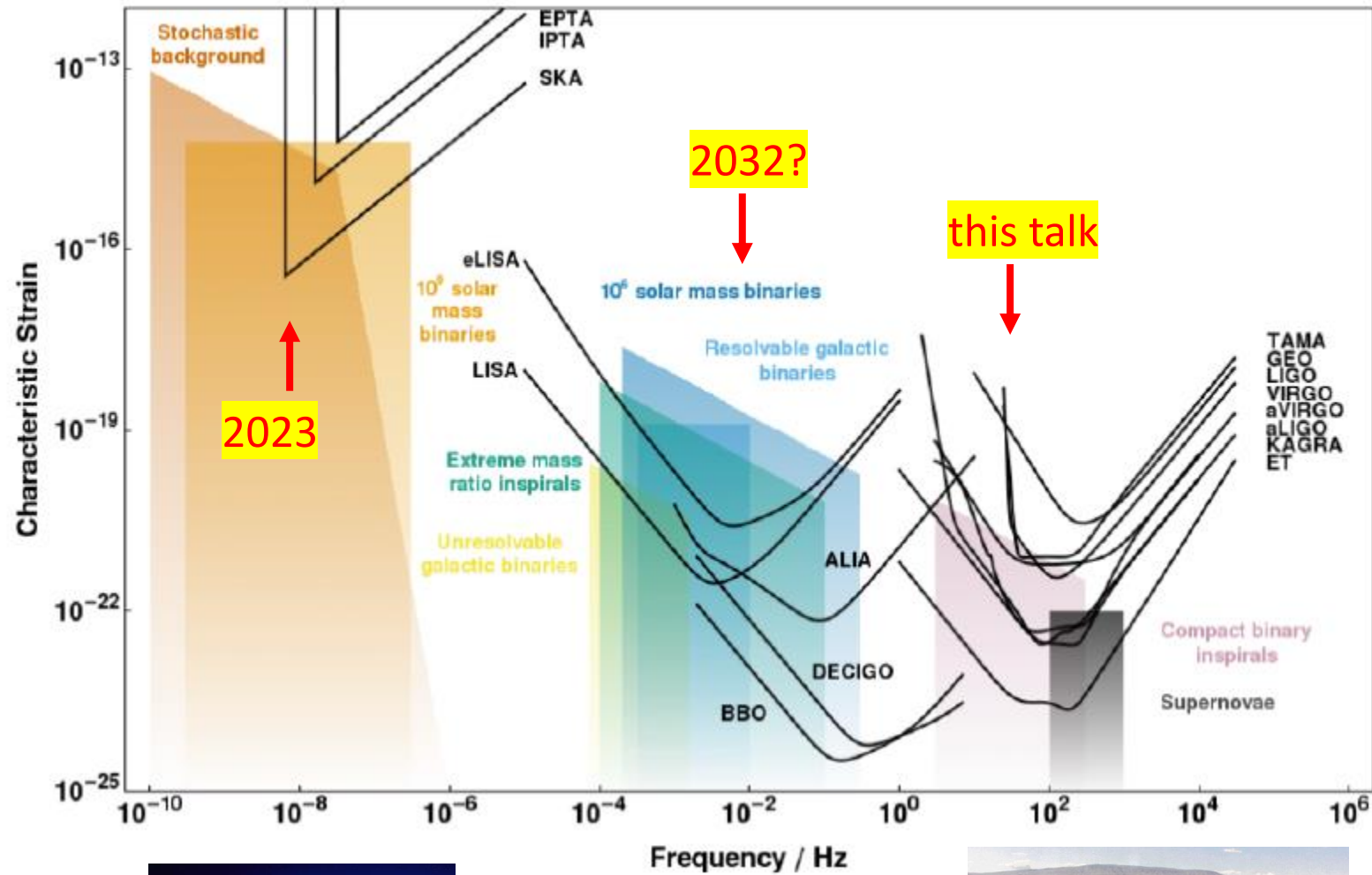
# The Dawn of GW astronomy



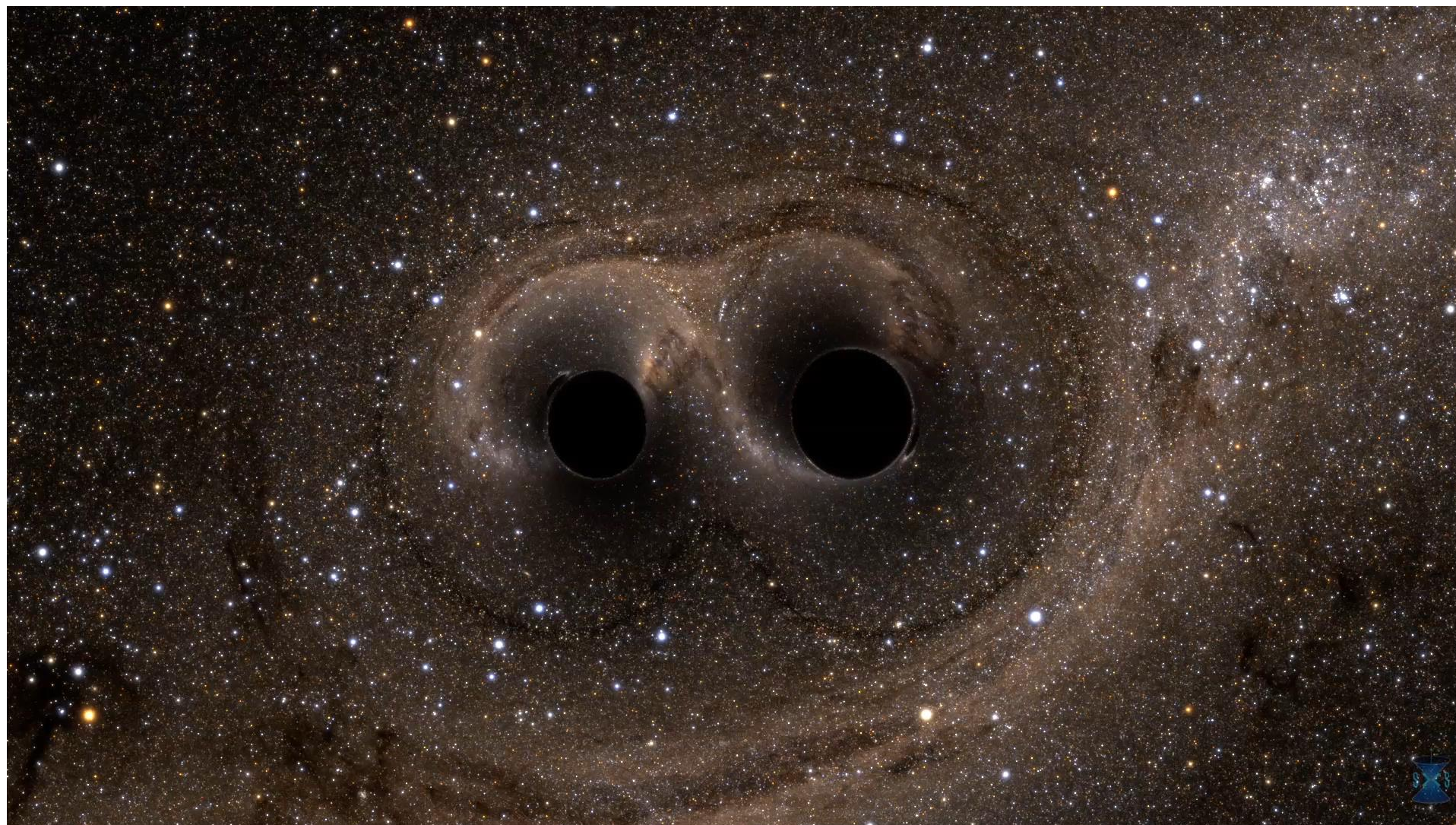
1. Status of discoveries
2. Astrophysical models for sources
  - with problems
3. New ideas to explain sources

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

# Gravitational wave detectors



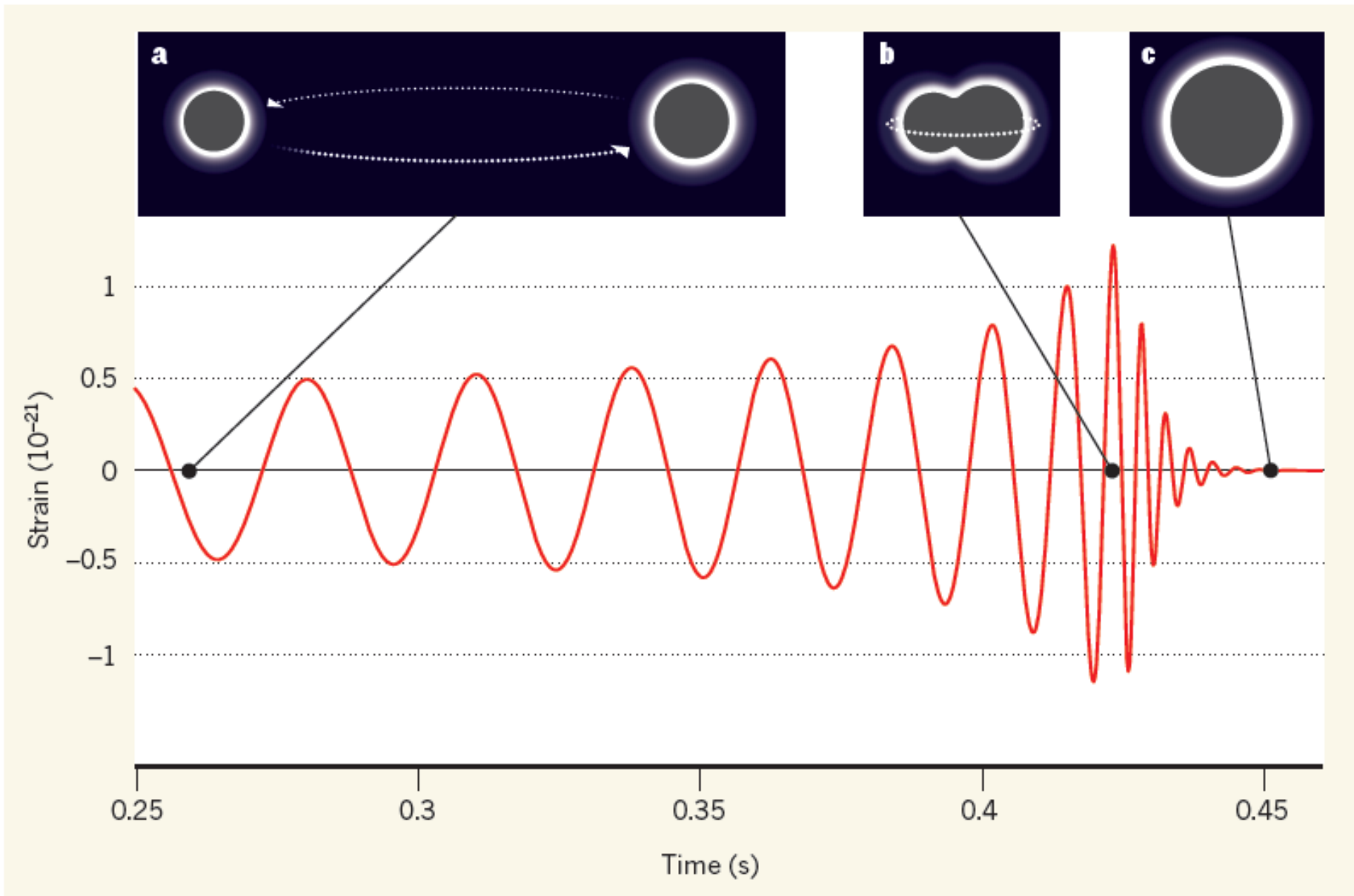




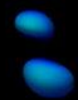
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_88S8DWbcU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_88S8DWbcU)

Credit: LIGO, Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes





Miller, Nature, 531, 40 (2016)



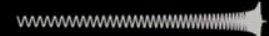
GW150914



GW151012



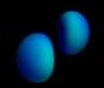
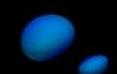
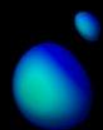
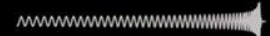
GW151226



GW170104



GW170608



GW170729



GW170809



GW170814



GW170818



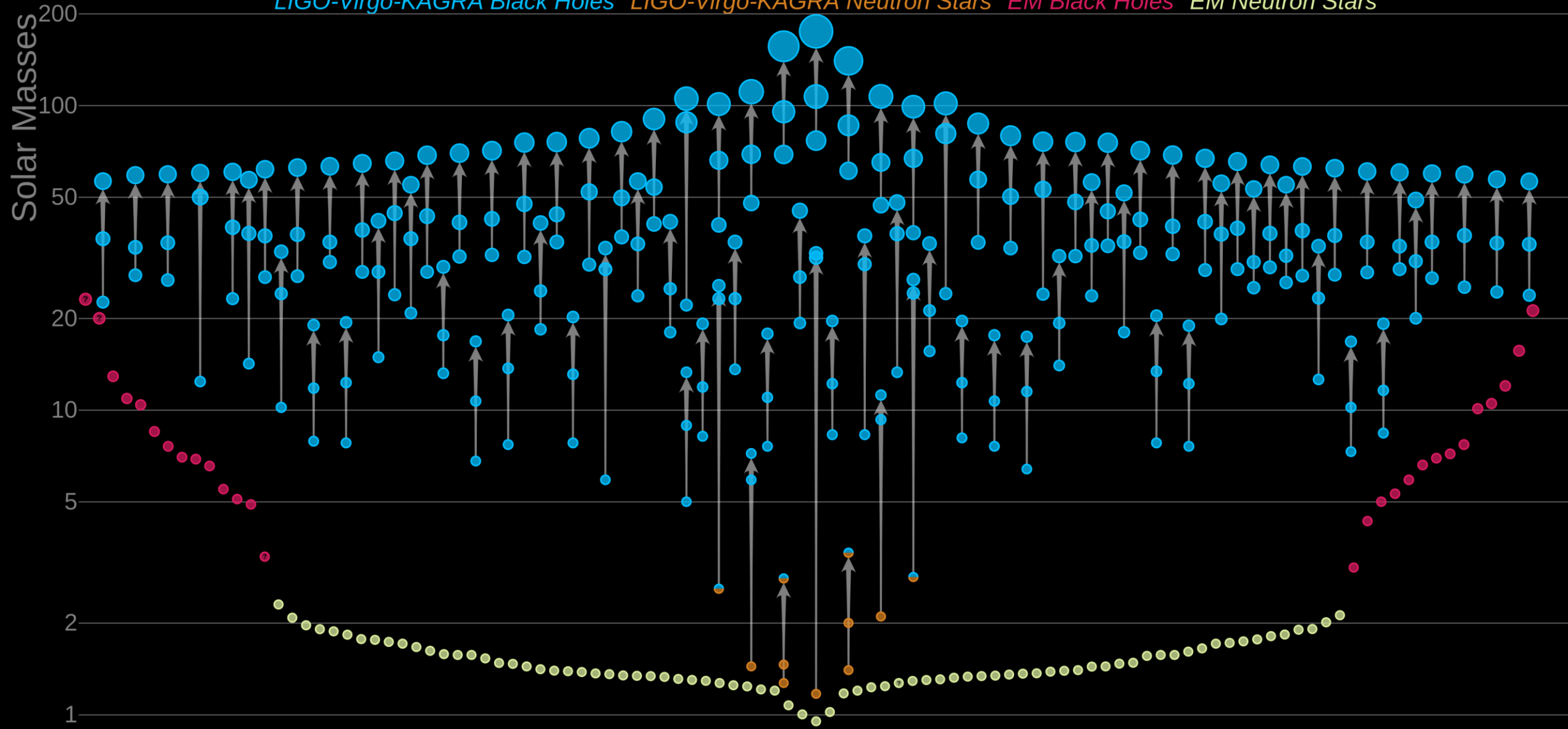
GW170823

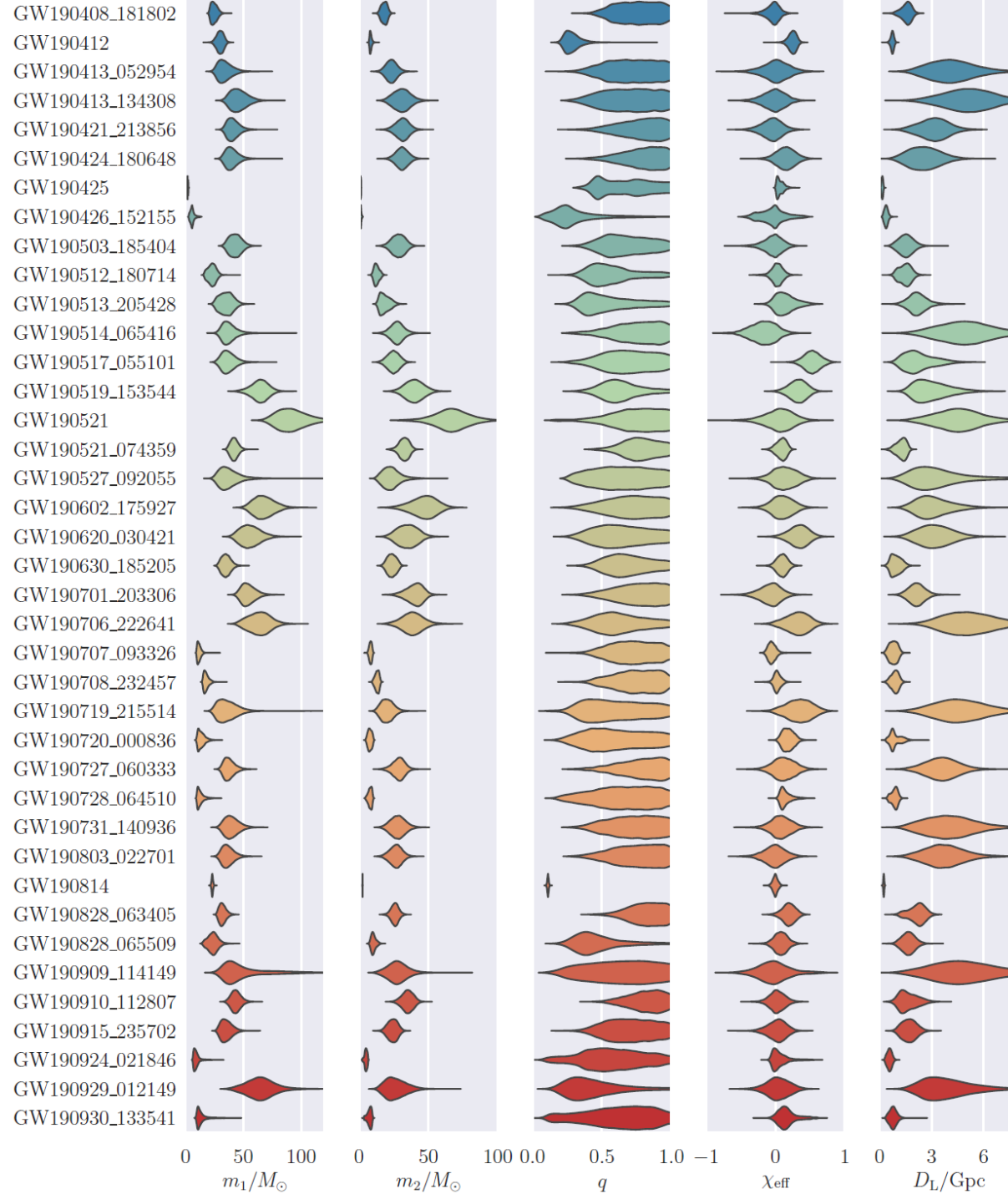




# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

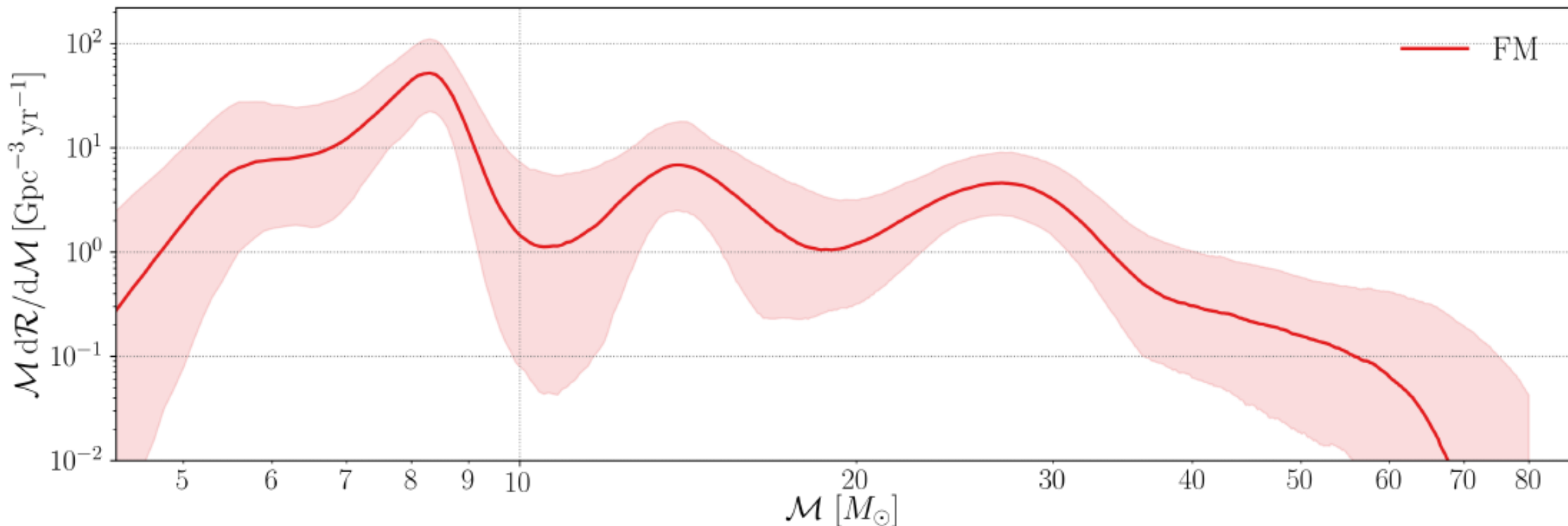
*LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes*   *LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars*   *EM Black Holes*   *EM Neutron Stars*





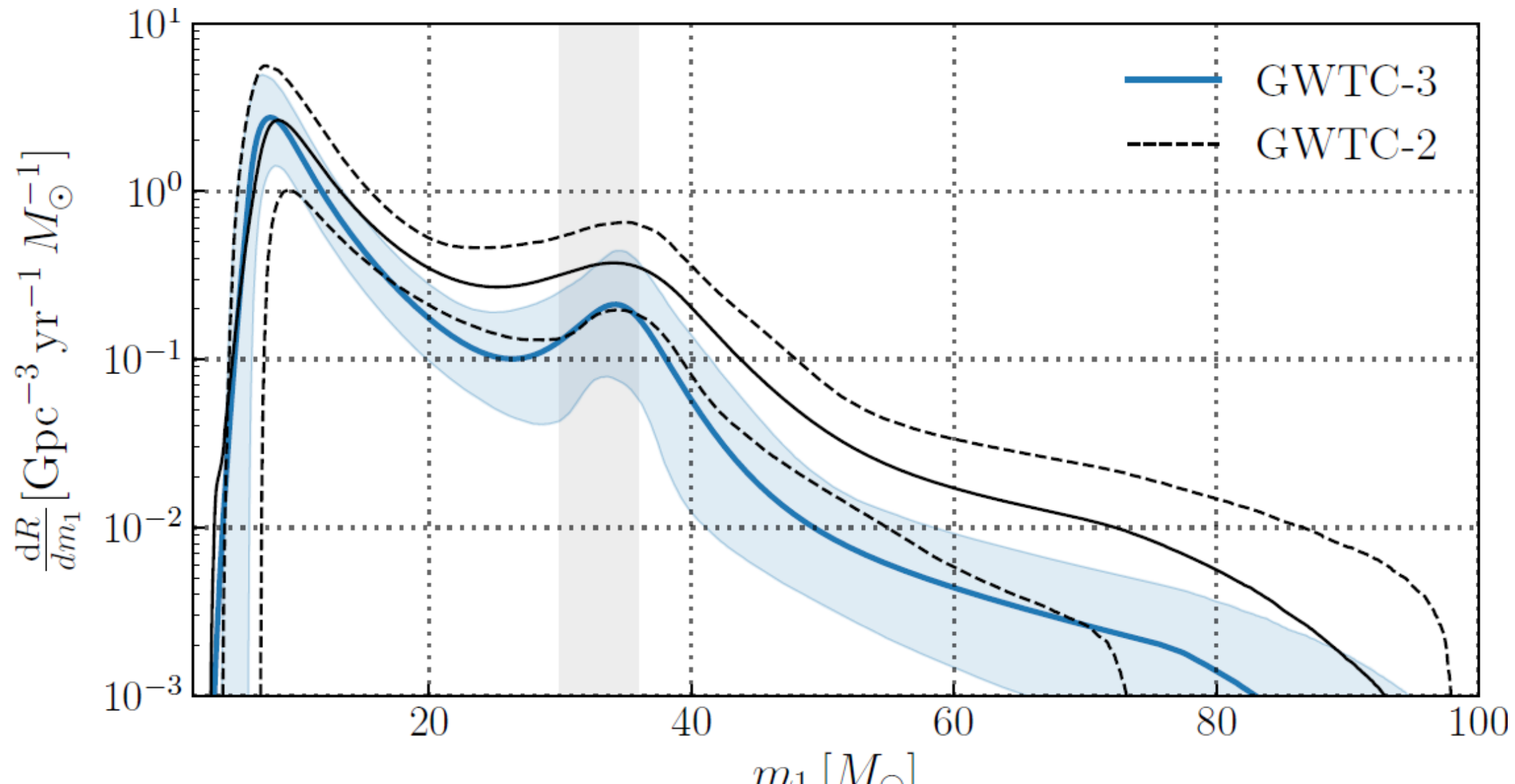


# Black hole mass distribution



Very top heavy!

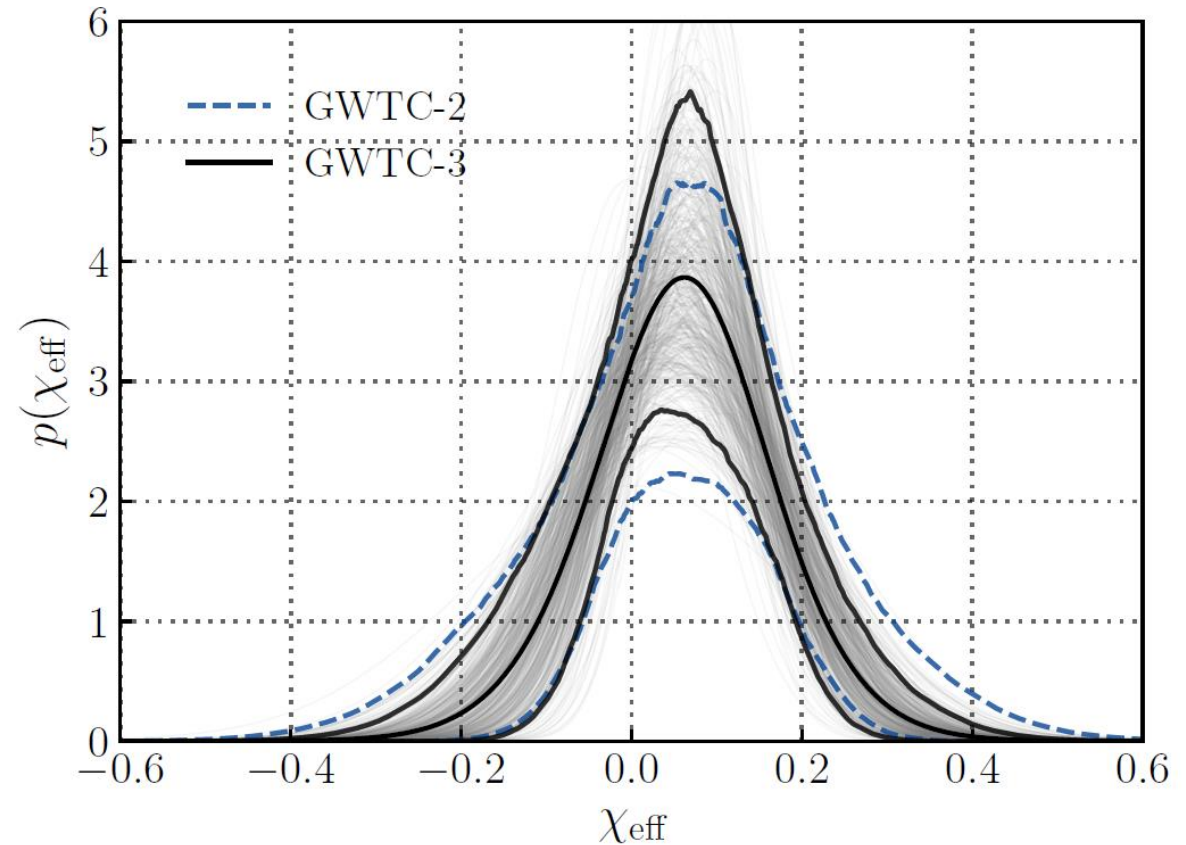
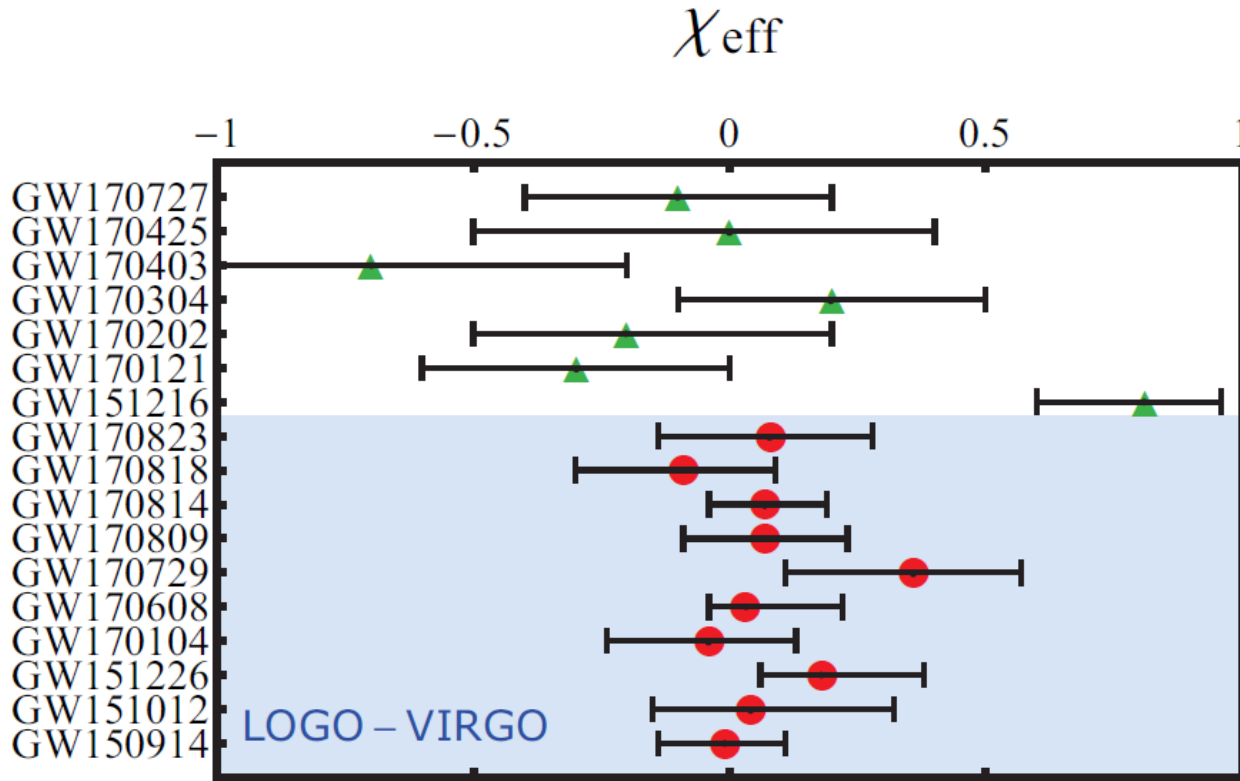
# Primary black hole mass





# Spins

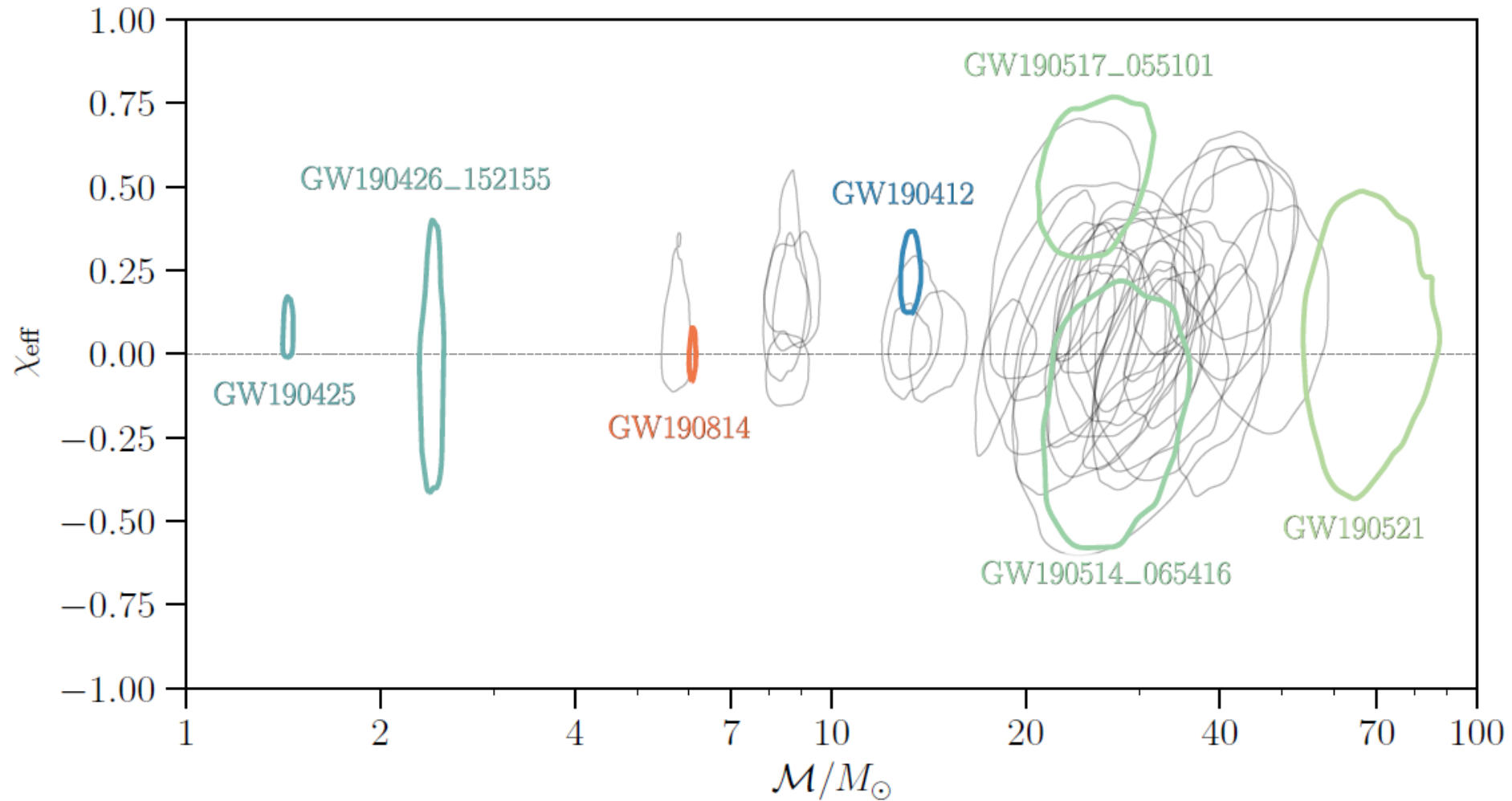
$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2)}{M}$$



clustered around zero!

# Mass vs. spins

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2)}{M}$$



# Rate of BH-BH coalescence

GW150914+LVT151012:

2 – 600  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

+2 new BH/BH detections (O1)

12 – 213  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

+7 new BH/BH detections (O2) :

29 – 100  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

+37 new BH/BH detections (O3a) :

15 – 39  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

+38 new BH/BH detections (O3b) :

17 – 45  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

# Rate of NS-NS coalescence

GW170608 (O2):

300 – 4700  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

+GW190425 (O3a)

80 – 810  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

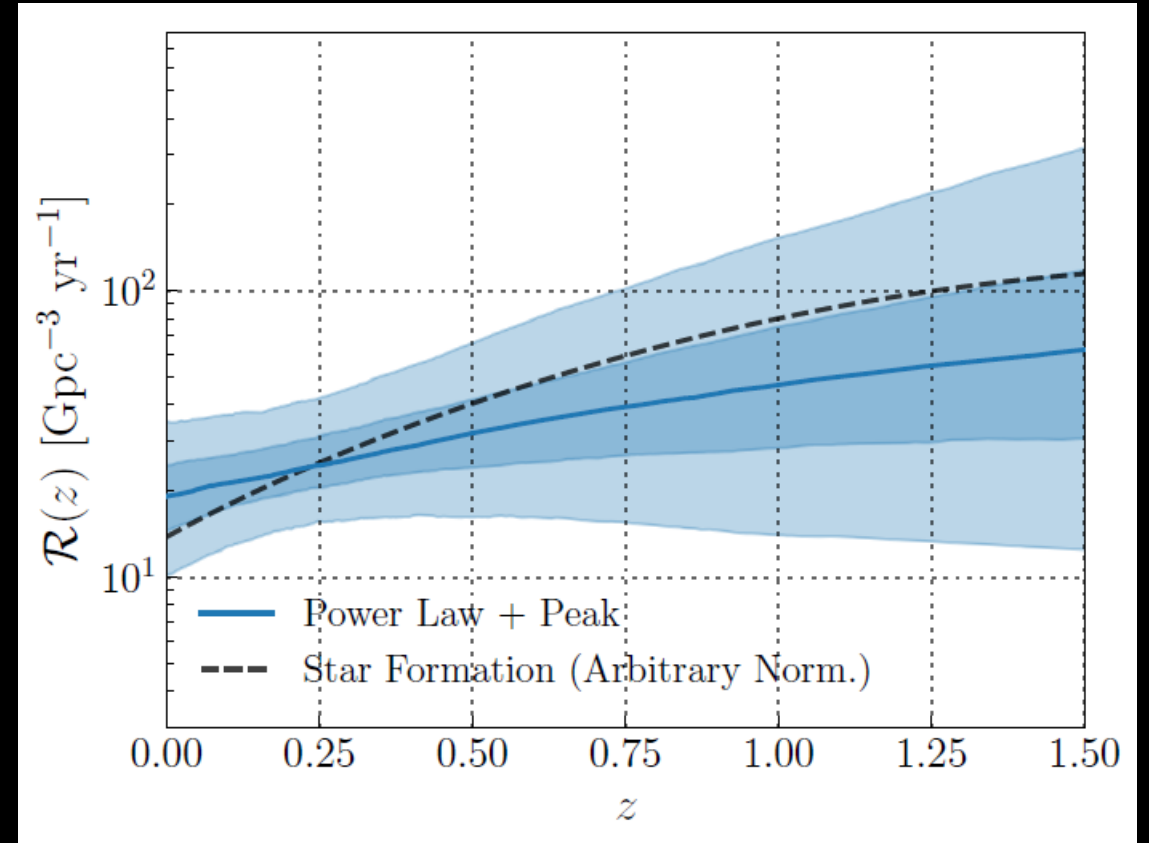
(O3b):

13 – 1900  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

# Rate of BH-NS coalescence

5 events (O3)

7 – 320  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$

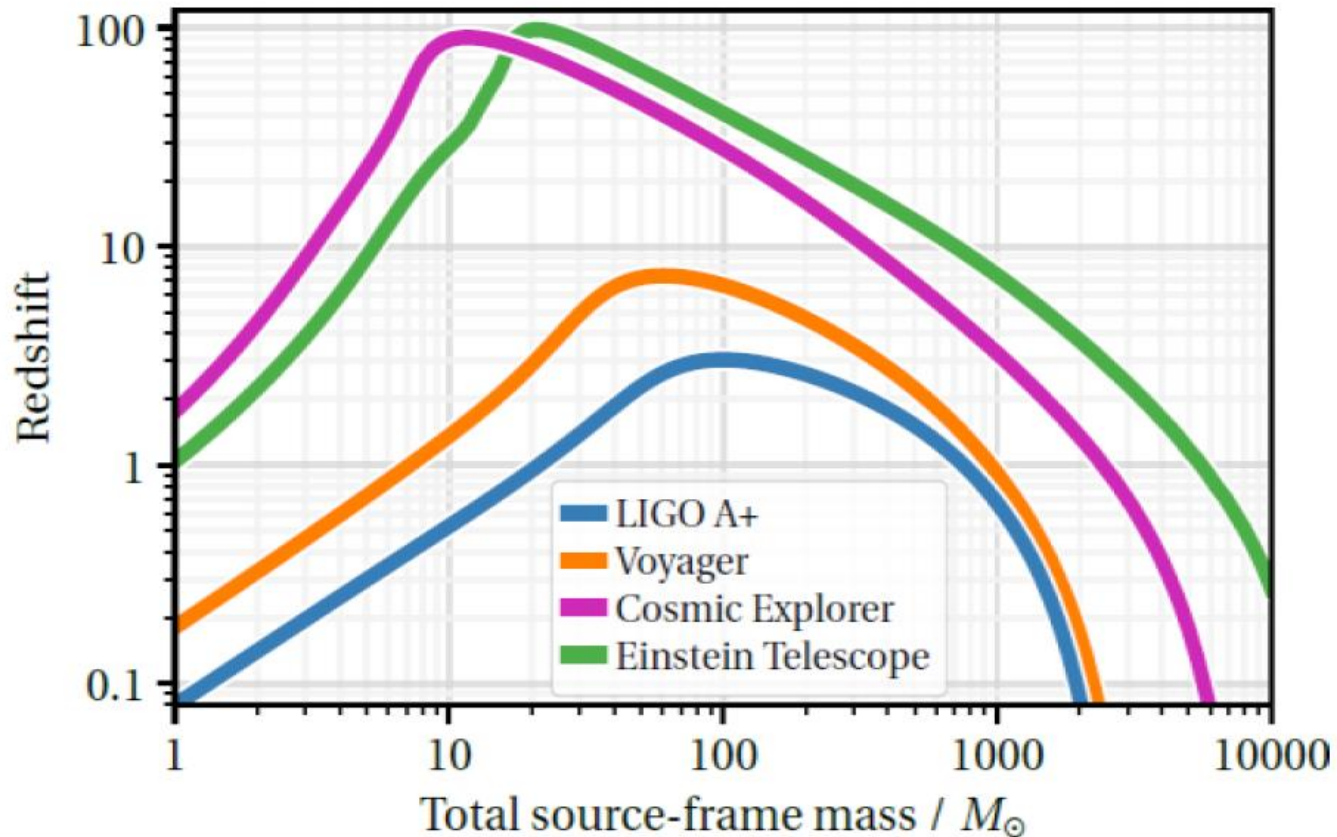


LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration arXiv:2010.14533

# Future prospects

**17 – 45 Gpc<sup>-3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>** implies

- **1-3 mergers/day** within **z=0.5**
- **1-3 mergers/hour** within **z=2**

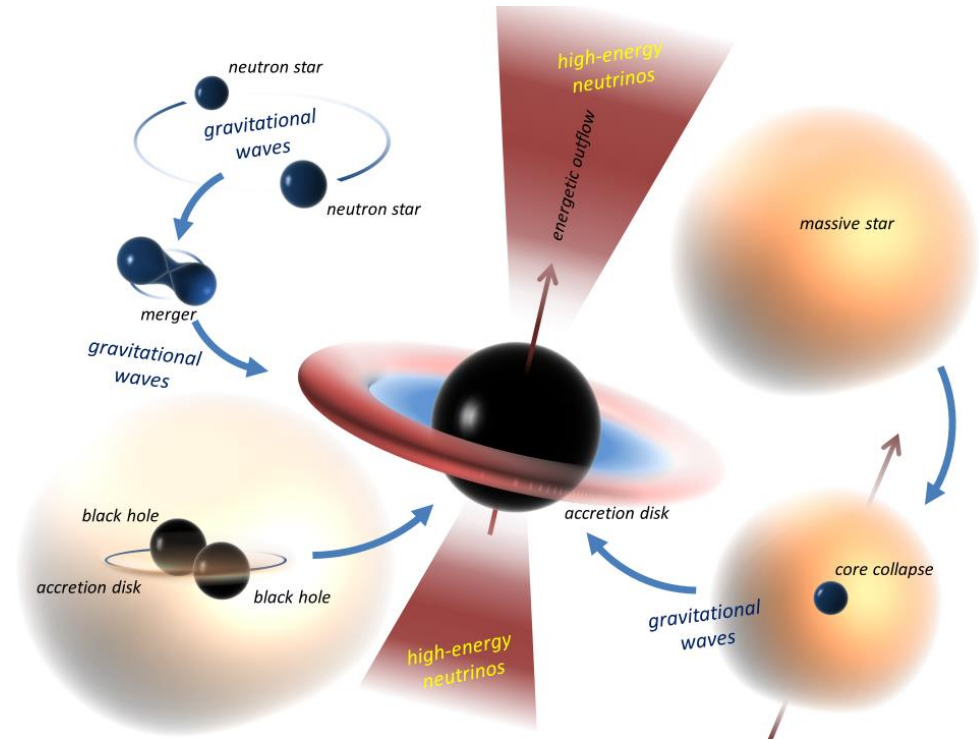


**Figure 1:** Redshift range of upcoming GW instruments (adapted from Ref. [3]).



# Zeroth order questions

- What astrophysical process is responsible for the observed mergers?
  - How did the black holes form?
  - How did the binary form?
  - How did it reach merger?
  - What are the most likely environments for mergers?
    - Galactic disk, galactic bulge, star clusters (e.g. globular cluster), halo?

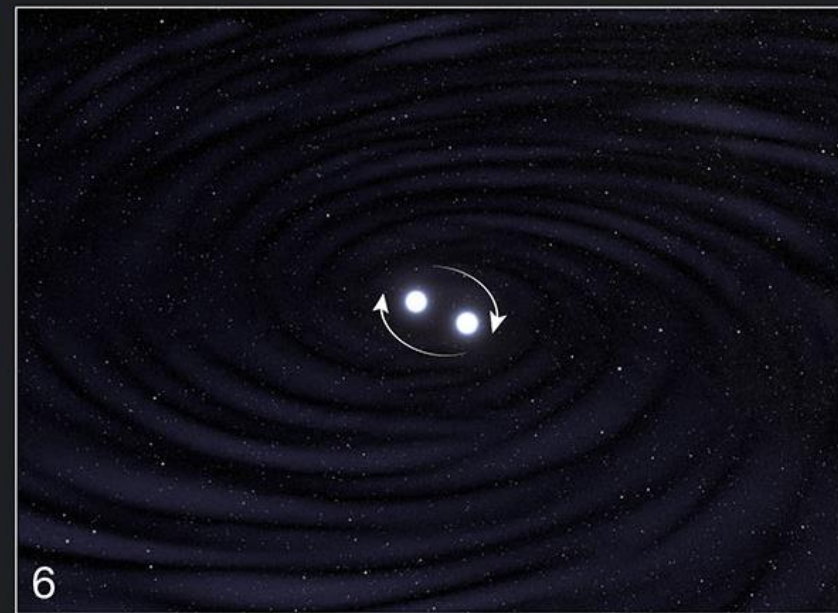
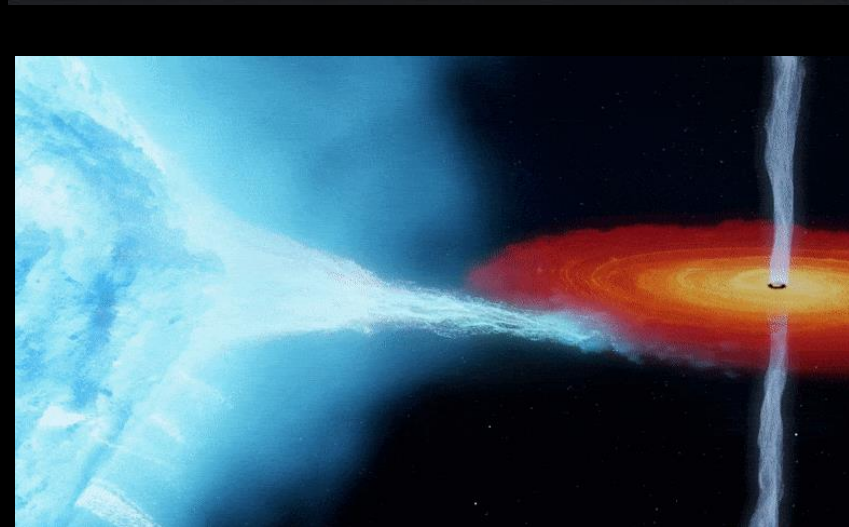
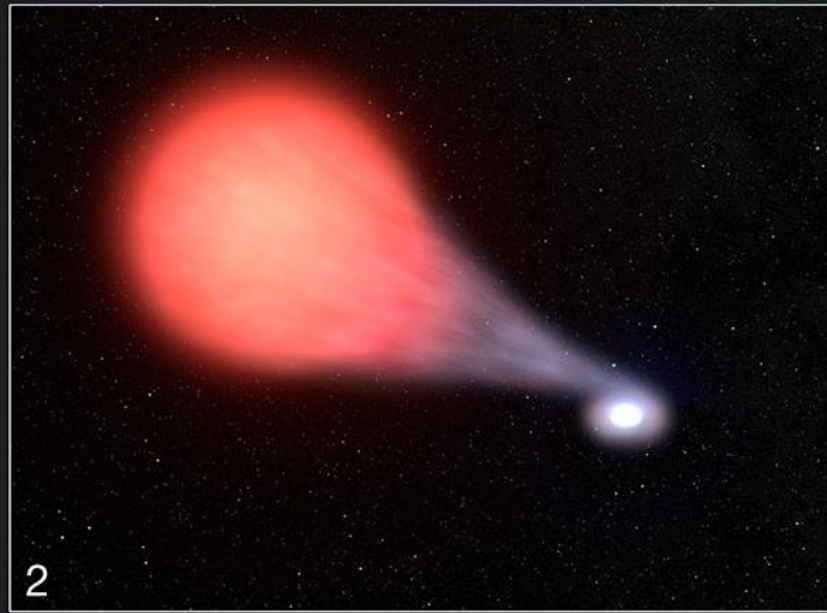
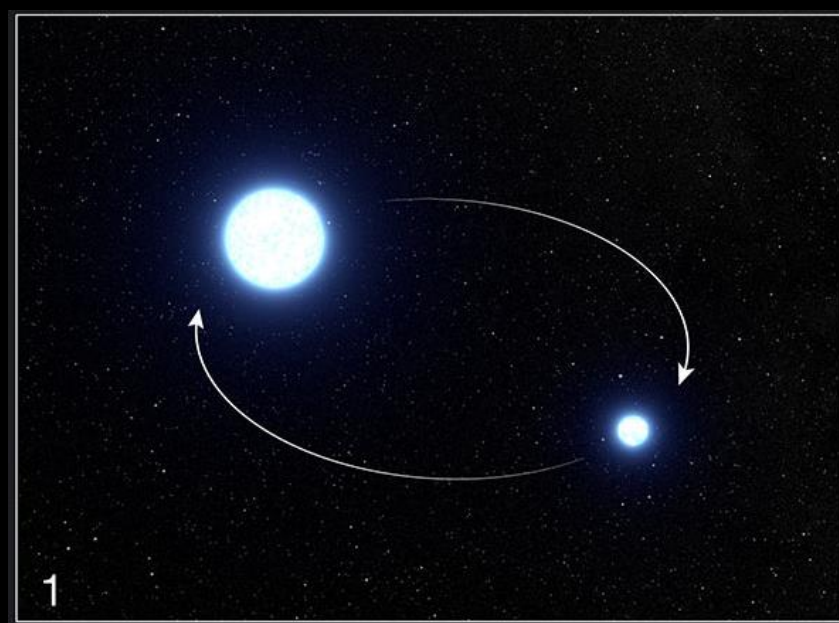




**Astrophysical origin of mergers**



# How do black holes form a binary?

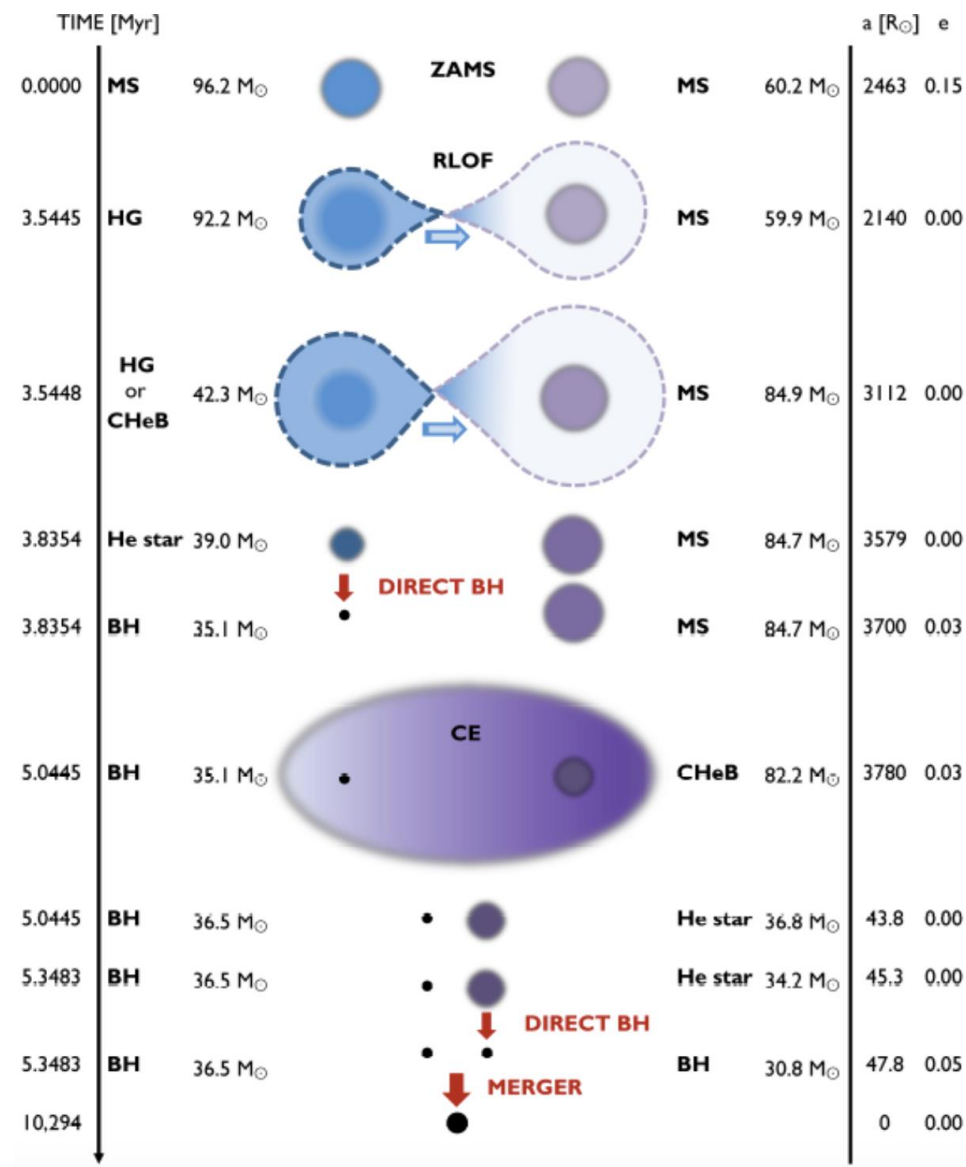


# How do black holes form a binary and merge

## Option 1: stellar binary evolution

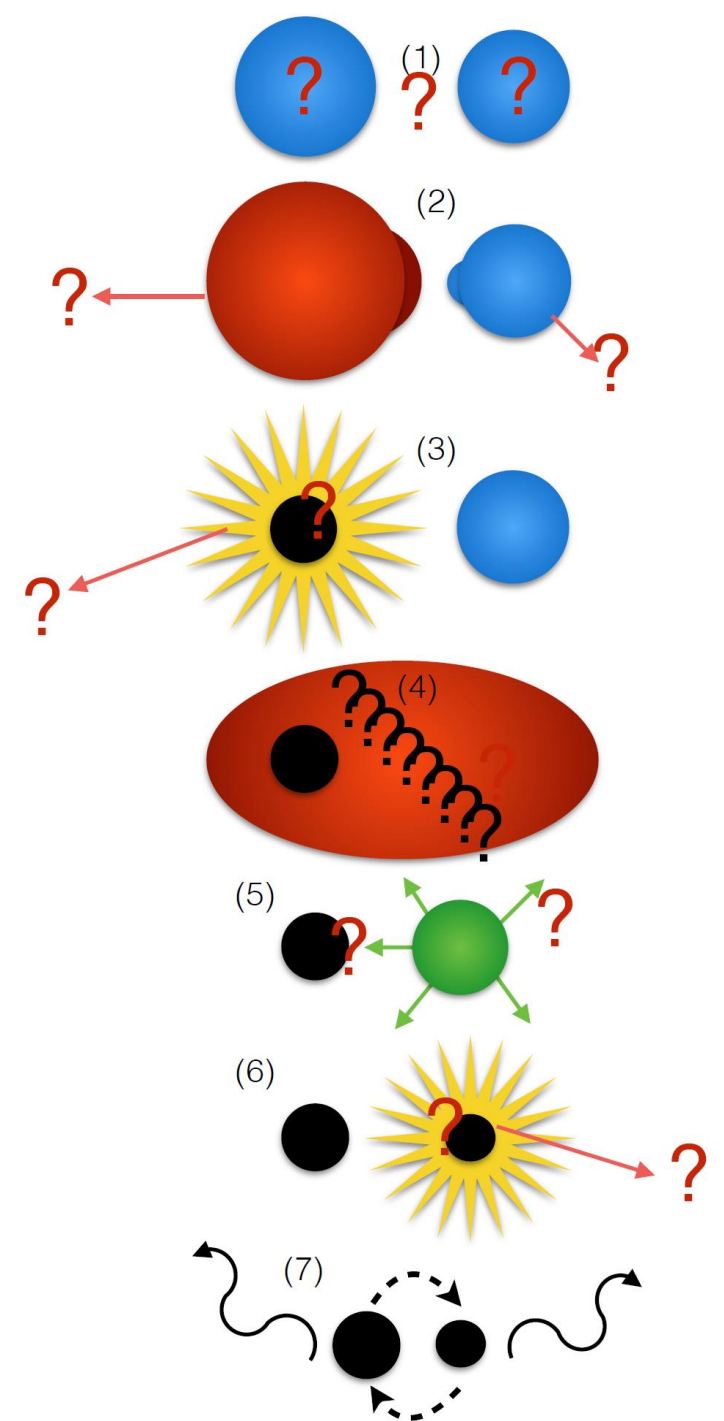
### Galactic binaries

- $10^{11}$  stars in a Milky Way type galaxy
- $10^7 - 8$  stellar mass black holes
- Most massive stars are in (wide) binaries
  - 25% in triples



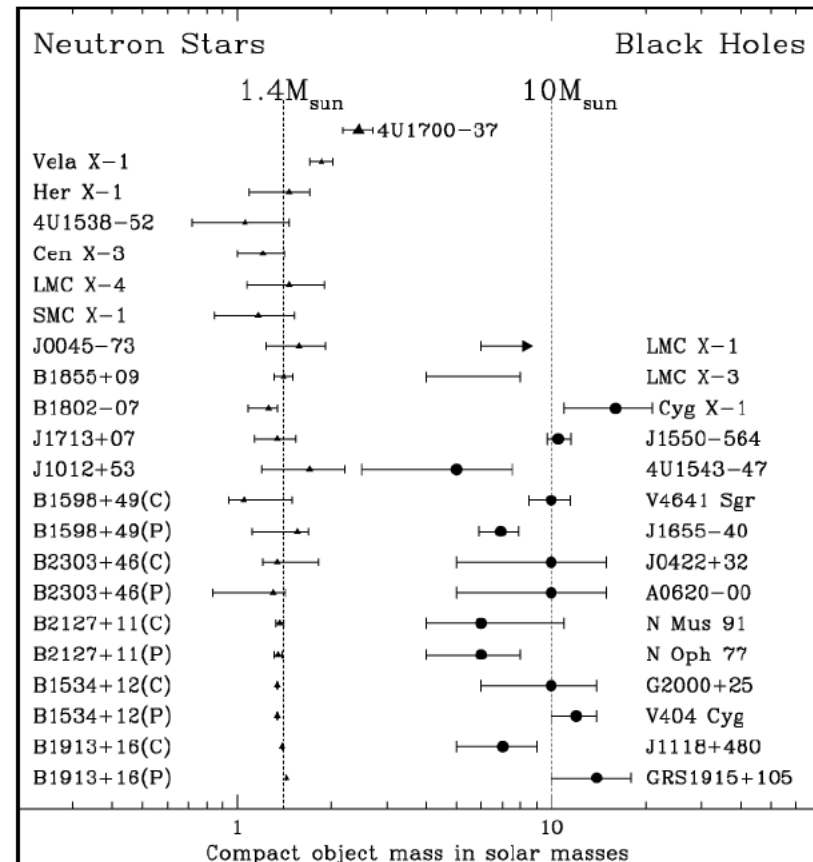


# Open questions



# Problem 1a: Why are the merging black holes so massive?

## Observed masses in X-ray binaries



About 20 binaries in our galaxy where the compact object seems to be too massive to be a neutron star

# Problem 1b: Why are the merging black holes not spinning?

## Observed spins in X-ray binaries

System	$a_*$	$M/M_\odot$
Persistent		
Cyg X-1	$>0.95$	$14.8 \pm 1.0$
LMC X-1	$0.92^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$	$10.9 \pm 1.4$
M33 X-7	$0.84 \pm 0.05$	$15.65 \pm 1.45$
Transient		
GRS 1915+105	$>0.95^b$	$10.1 \pm 0.6$
4U 1543-47	$0.80 \pm 0.10^b$	$9.4 \pm 1.0$
GRO J1655-40	$0.70 \pm 0.10^b$	$6.3 \pm 0.5$
XTE J1550-564	$0.34^{+0.20}_{-0.28}$	$9.1 \pm 0.6$
H1743-322	$0.2 \pm 0.3$	$\sim 8^c$
LMC X-3	$<0.3^d$	$7.6 \pm 1.6$
A0620-00	$0.12 \pm 0.19$	$6.6 \pm 0.25$



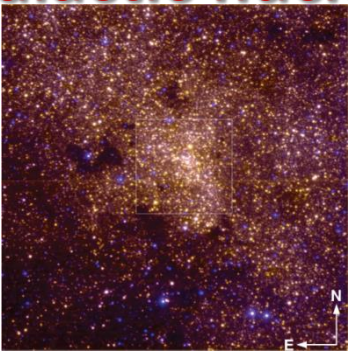
# Option 2: Dynamical environments

## Globular clusters

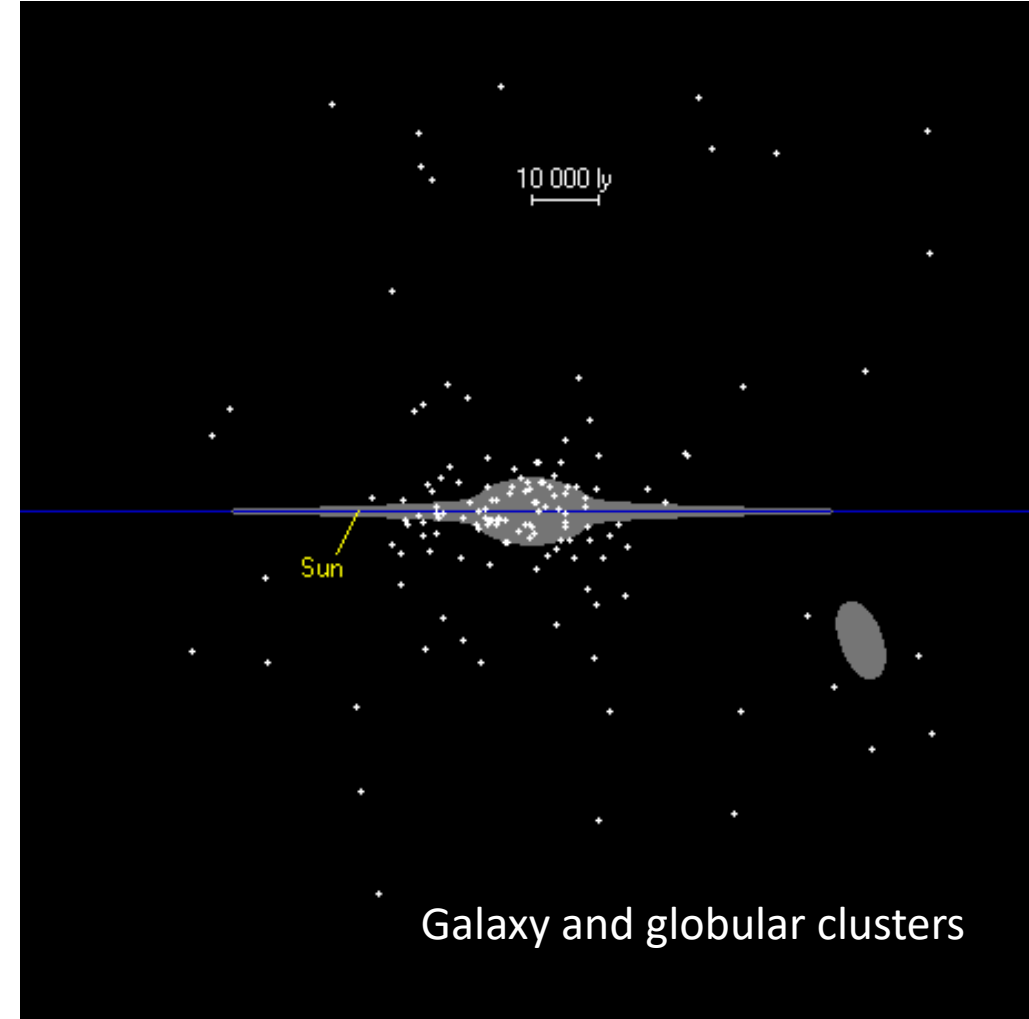


- 0.5% of stellar mass of the Universe
- 100 per galaxy
- Size: 1 pc – 10 pc
- Density  $10^3$ – $10^5$  x higher

## Galactic nuclei



- 0.5% of stellar mass of the Universe
- $10^6$ – $10^7 M_{\text{sun}}$  **supermassive** black hole
- $10^4$ – $10^5$  stellar mass black holes
- Size: 1 pc – 10pc
- Density  $10^6$  –  $10^{10}$  x higher





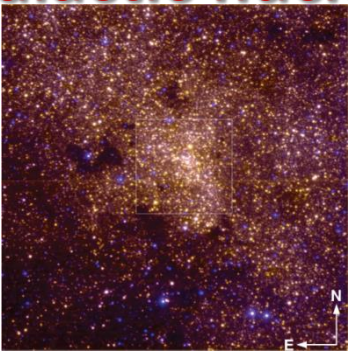
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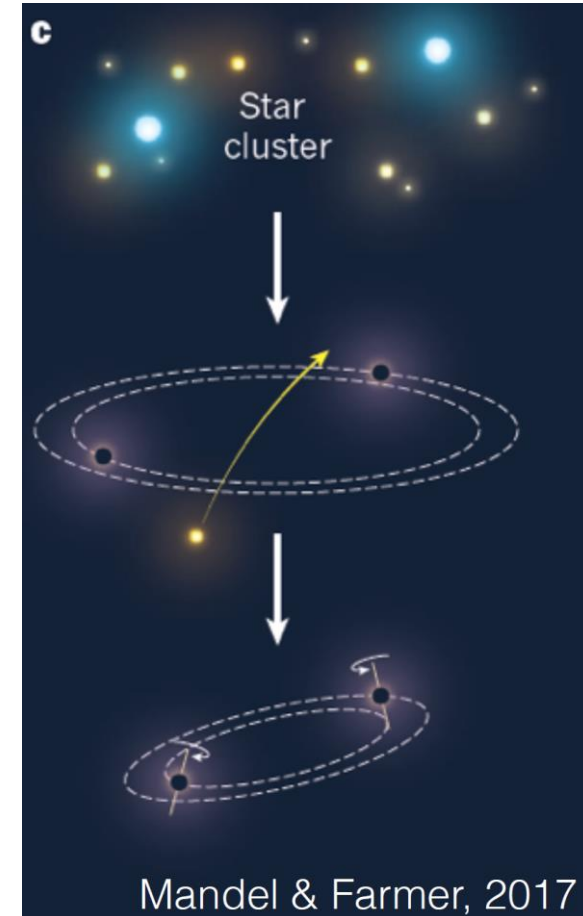


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encounter rate  $\sim$  density<sup>2</sup>

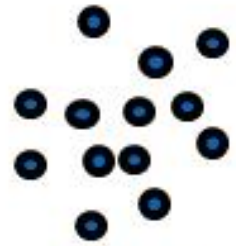
# Option 2: dynamical environments

- A theoretically clean problem for N-body simulations





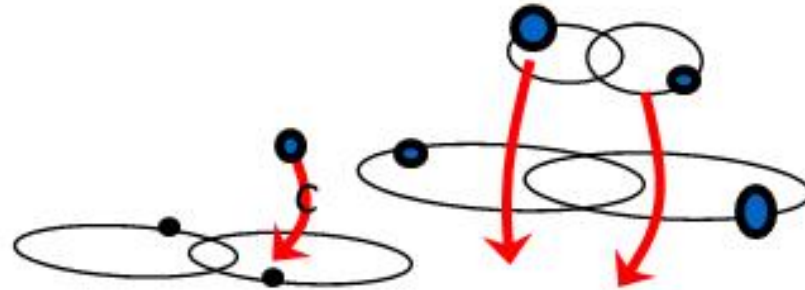
# Option 2: dynamical environments



Dense population



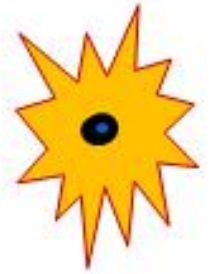
Triple scattering



Binary interactions



Dynamical friction



merger

- **binary formation from singles**
- **exchange interactions**
- **mass segregation**

**Expectation:**

**Mergers more likely  
for heavier objects**



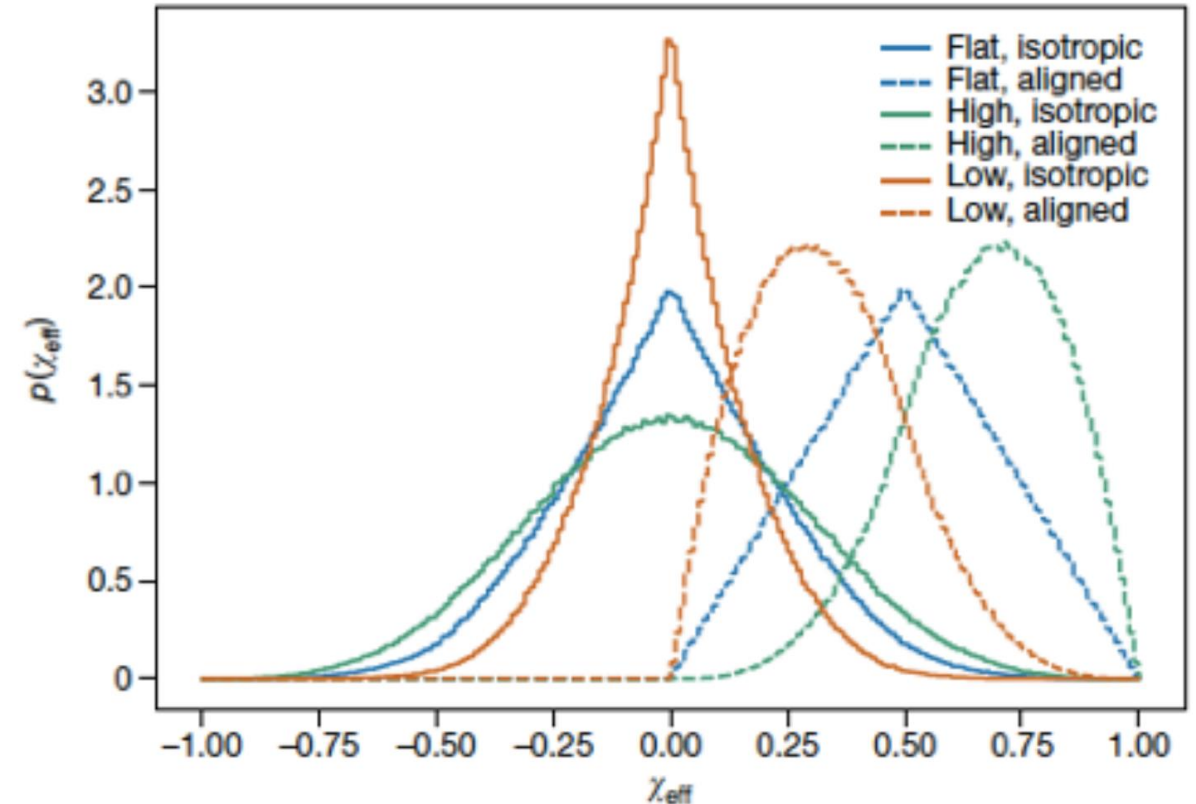
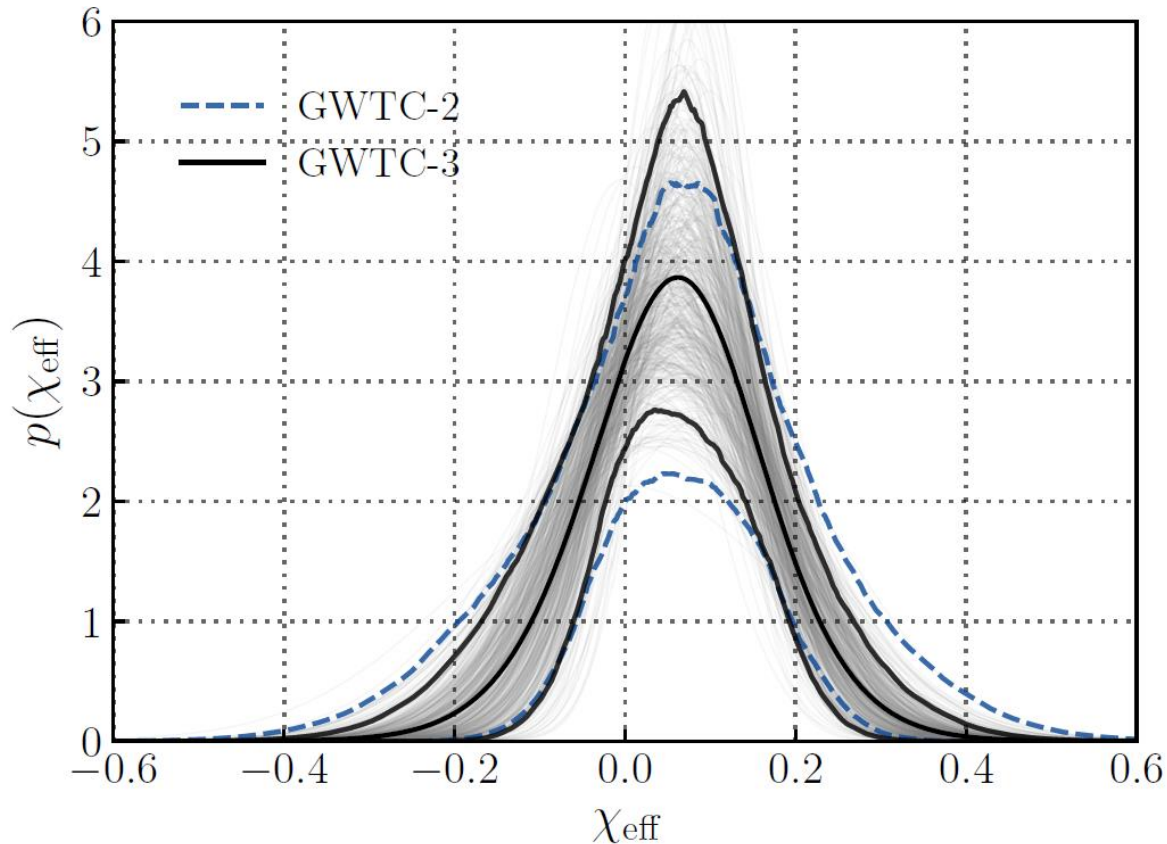
<https://youtu.be/ppEviUxRWj8>

# Option 2: dynamical environments

What about spins?

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2)}{M}$$

- LIGO distribution **consistent** with isotropically distributed **spins**



# Problem 2a: Why is the black hole merger rate so high?

**Expected rates in MCMC and Nbody simulations of isolated globular clusters:  $\sim 6 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$**

Where does this come from?

- assume **each** BH merges **at most once**\* in a Hubble time
- BHs form from stars with  $m > 20M_{\text{Sun}}$ ,  $\rightarrow$  0.3% of stars turns into BHs
  - **globular clusters:  $R < 40 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$** 
    - 0.5% of stellar mass,  $10^{5.5}$  stars with  $n \sim 0.8 \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$
  - **galactic nuclei:  $R < 35 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$** 
    - 0.5% of stellar mass,  $10^7$  stars with  $n \sim 0.02 \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$

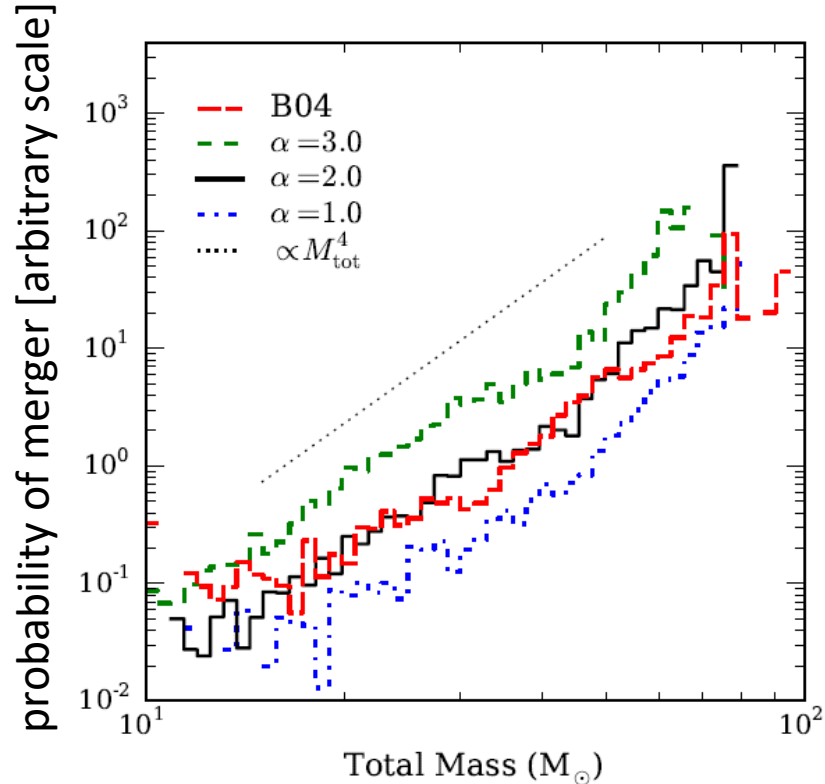
\* note: in simulations **20%** of BHs **form binaries** and only **50%** of binaries merge

**Observed rate:  $15 - 39 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$**

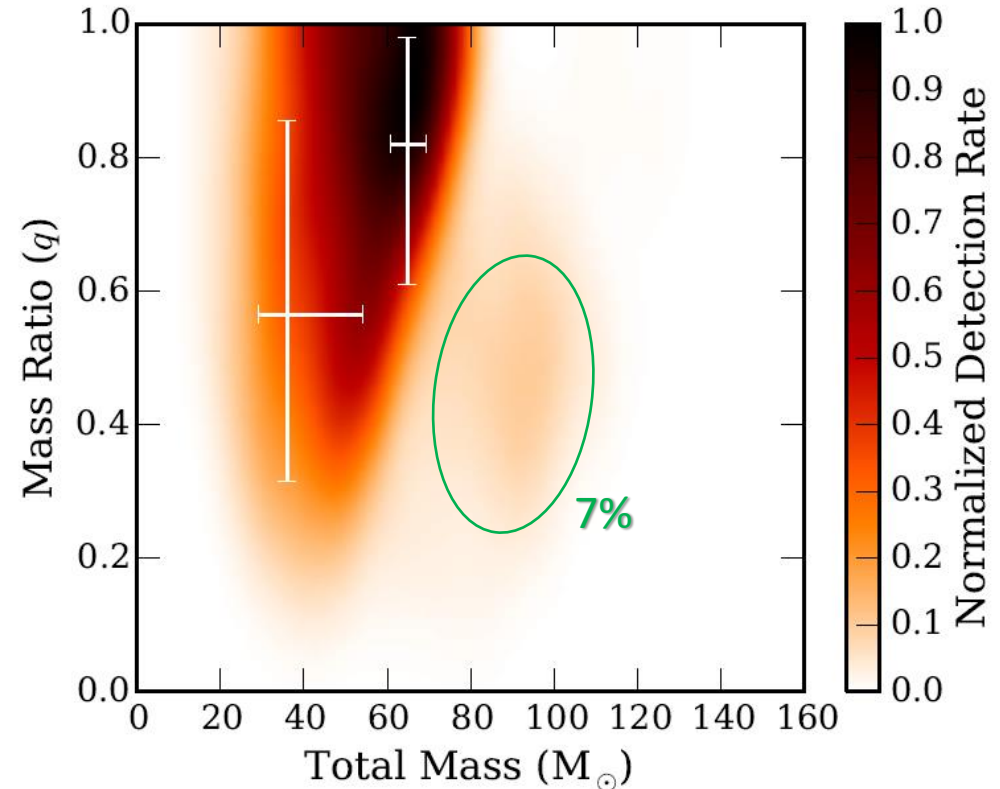
# Mass distribution for globular clusters

## Monte Carlo and Nbody simulations

O'Leary, Meiron, Kocsis (2016), Rodriguez+ '19, Askar+ '18



merger probability scales with  $M^4$



2<sup>nd</sup> generation mergers are possible: 5%-10%  
3<sup>rd</sup> generation mergers are difficult to produce



# Problem 2b: How can the BHs merge multiple times and not get ejected?

Typical escape speed: 30-60km/s

Gravitational wave kick: 50-5000 km/s

Merger remnants are spinning

→ Kick velocity high for spinning BHs

Merger hierarchy in LIGO/VIRGO observations:

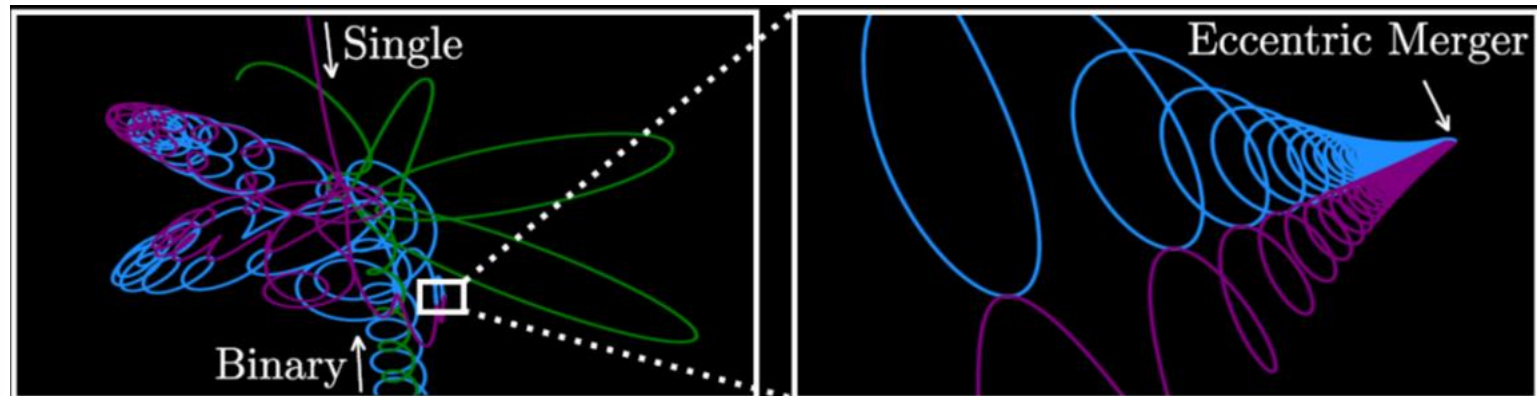
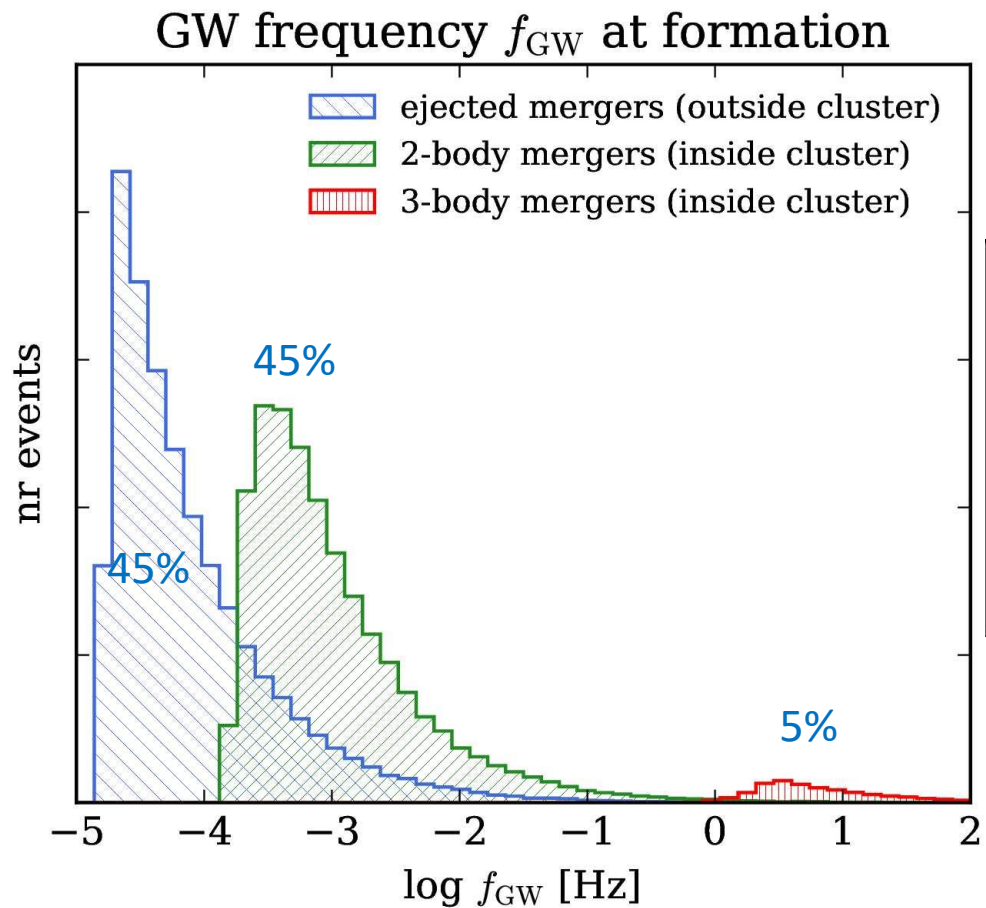
1G+1G: (83 events) 95%

1G+2G: (5 events) 5% -- 0.05%

2G+2G: (2 events) 0.1% --  $10^{-5}$  %



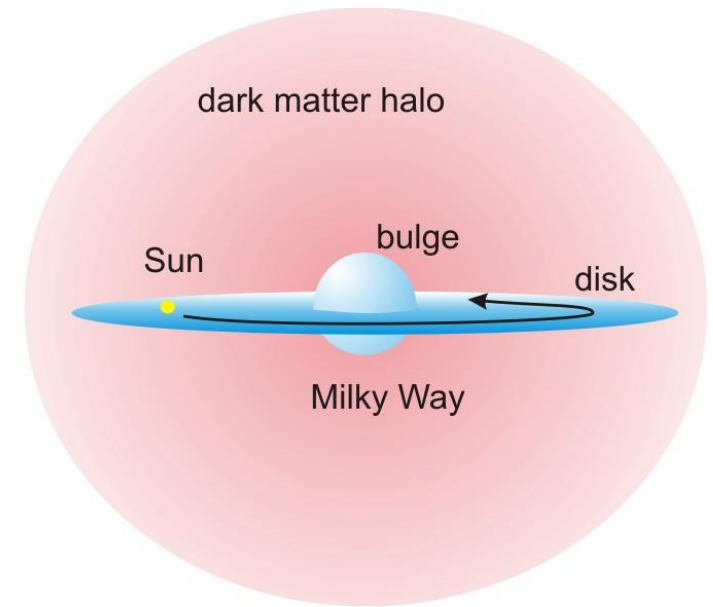
# Problem 2c: Why don't some of the mergers have eccentricity?



# Option 3: Dark matter halo

## Dark matter halo

- 10x more mass than in stars
- $10^{10}$  primordial mass black holes / galaxy?



- Rates match if
  - 100% of dark matter is in 30 Msun **single BHs** (Bird et al 2016)
    - RULED OUT BY OBSERVATION OF a GLOBULAR CLUSTER IN A DWARF GALAXY (Brandt et al. 2017)
    - Newer studies: 1% of dark matter in BHs is sufficient (Ali-Haimud et al 2017)
  - 0.1% of dark matter is in primordial **binary BHs** after inflation (Sasaki et al 2016)

- **Observational probes:**

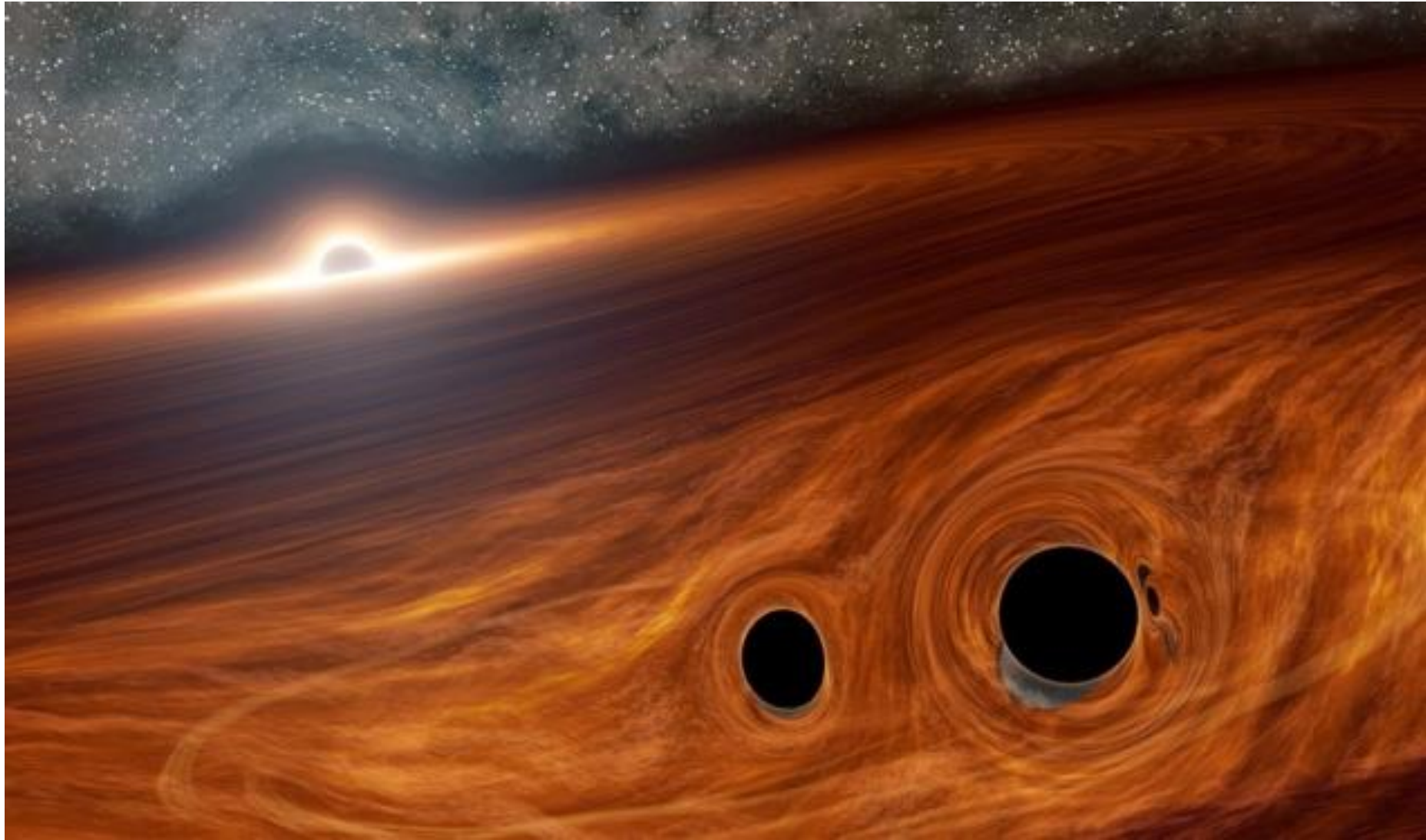
- lack of microlensing events:  $m > 20 M_{\text{Sun}}$ ,
- survival of stellar binaries  $m < 100 M_{\text{Sun}}$
- CMB excludes the rest (with assumptions)
- **GW detections!**

# Summary of populations and rates

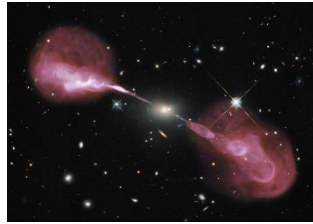
- galactic field binaries: spins, masses, final au problem, common envelope
- galactic field triples: not enough in the right configuration
- globular clusters: not enough black holes? why are they not ejected? not enough eccentric?
- galactic nuclei: requires multiple mergers/BH
- dark matter halos: requires primordial black holes (exotic)

No convincing single theory to explain all observations!

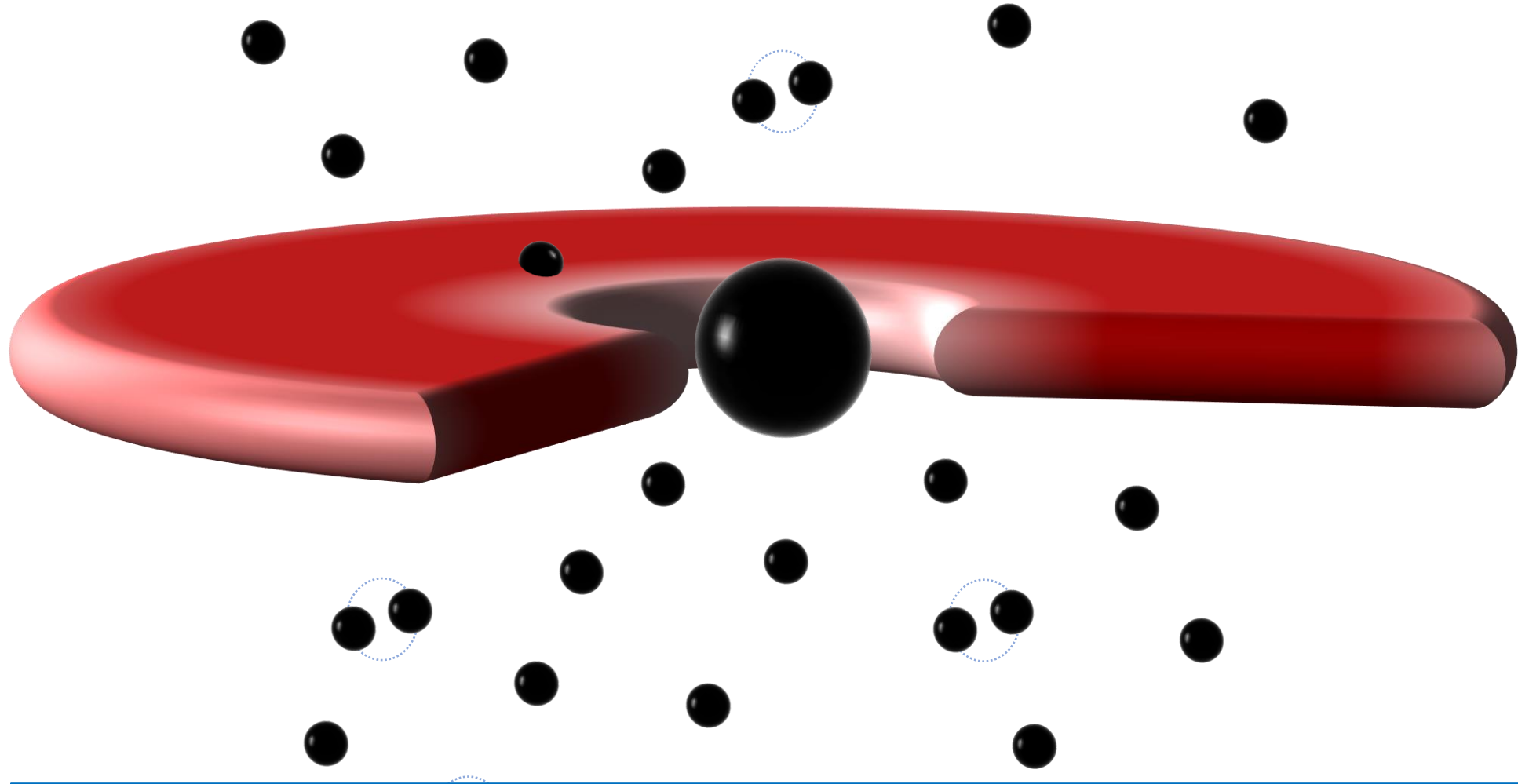




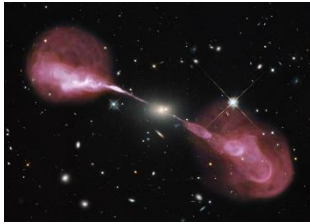
**Black hole mergers in active galactic nuclei**



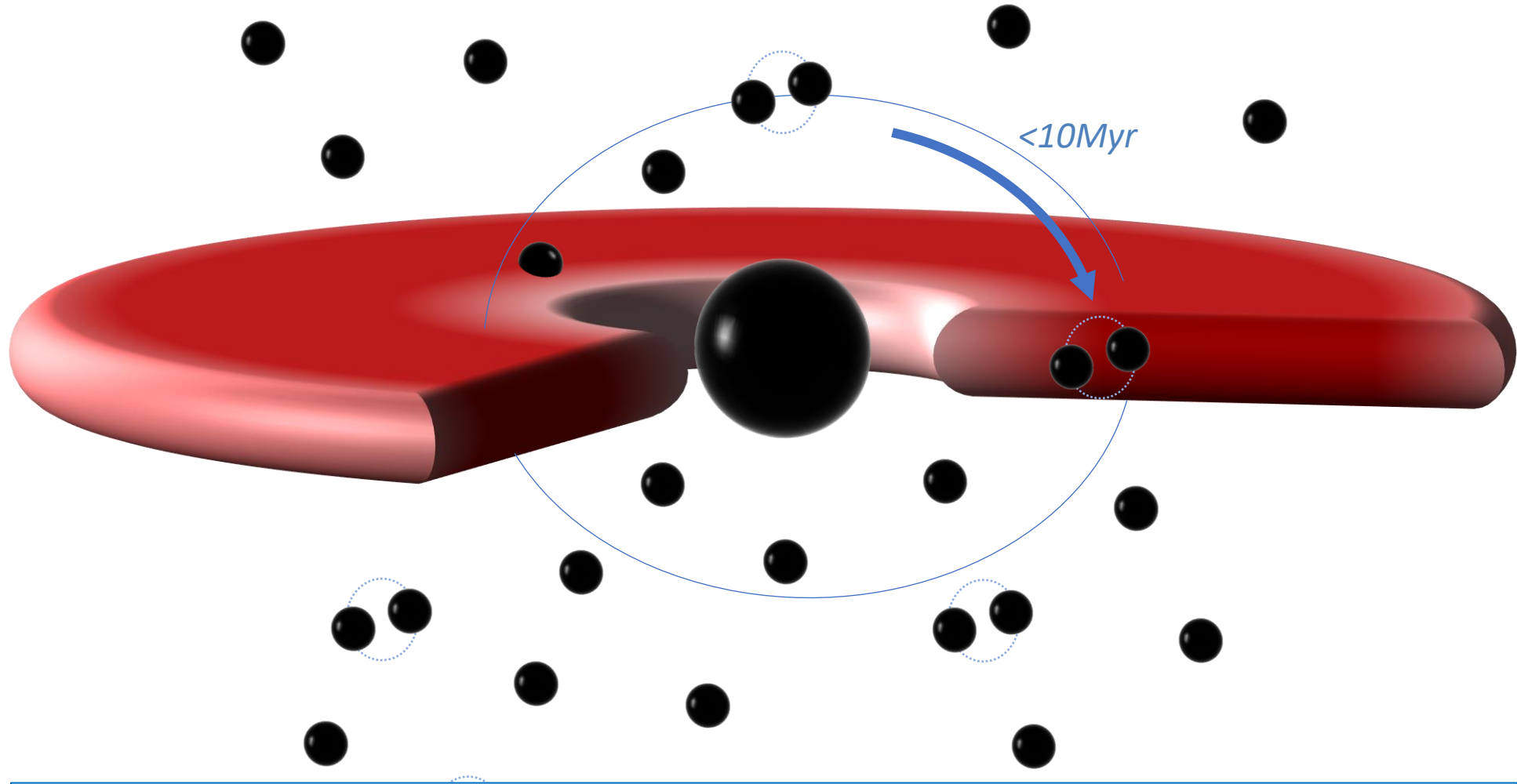
## GW sources in active galactic nuclei



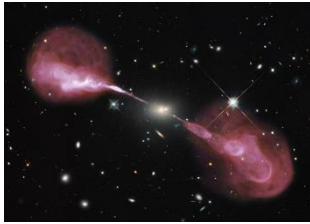
There are large amounts of gas at the centers of 1% of galaxies (AGN).



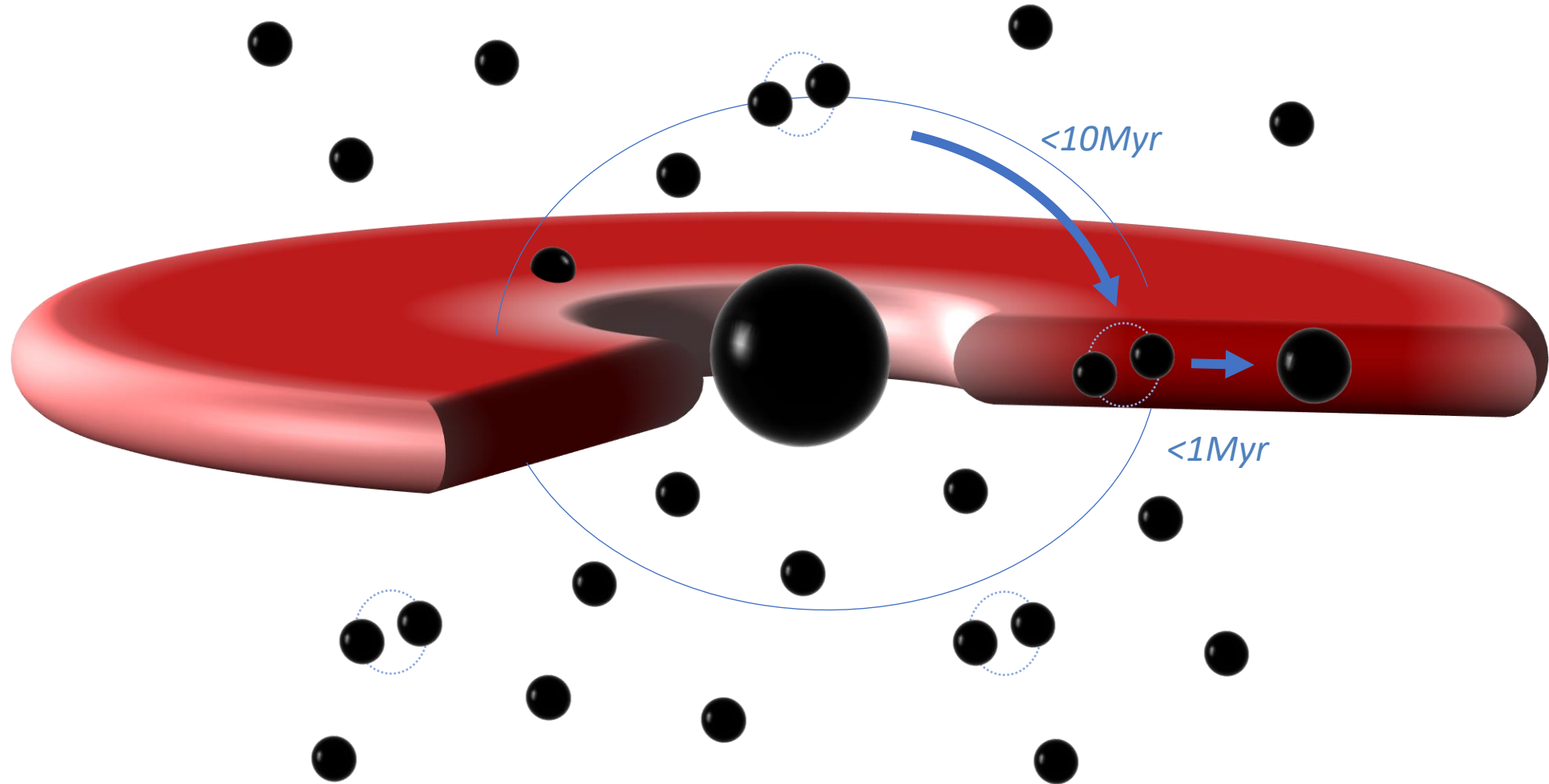
## GW sources in active galactic nuclei



Get captured by the disk...

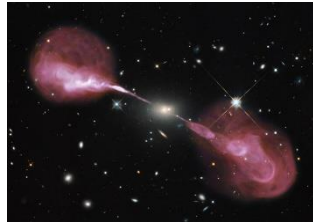


## GW sources in active galactic nuclei

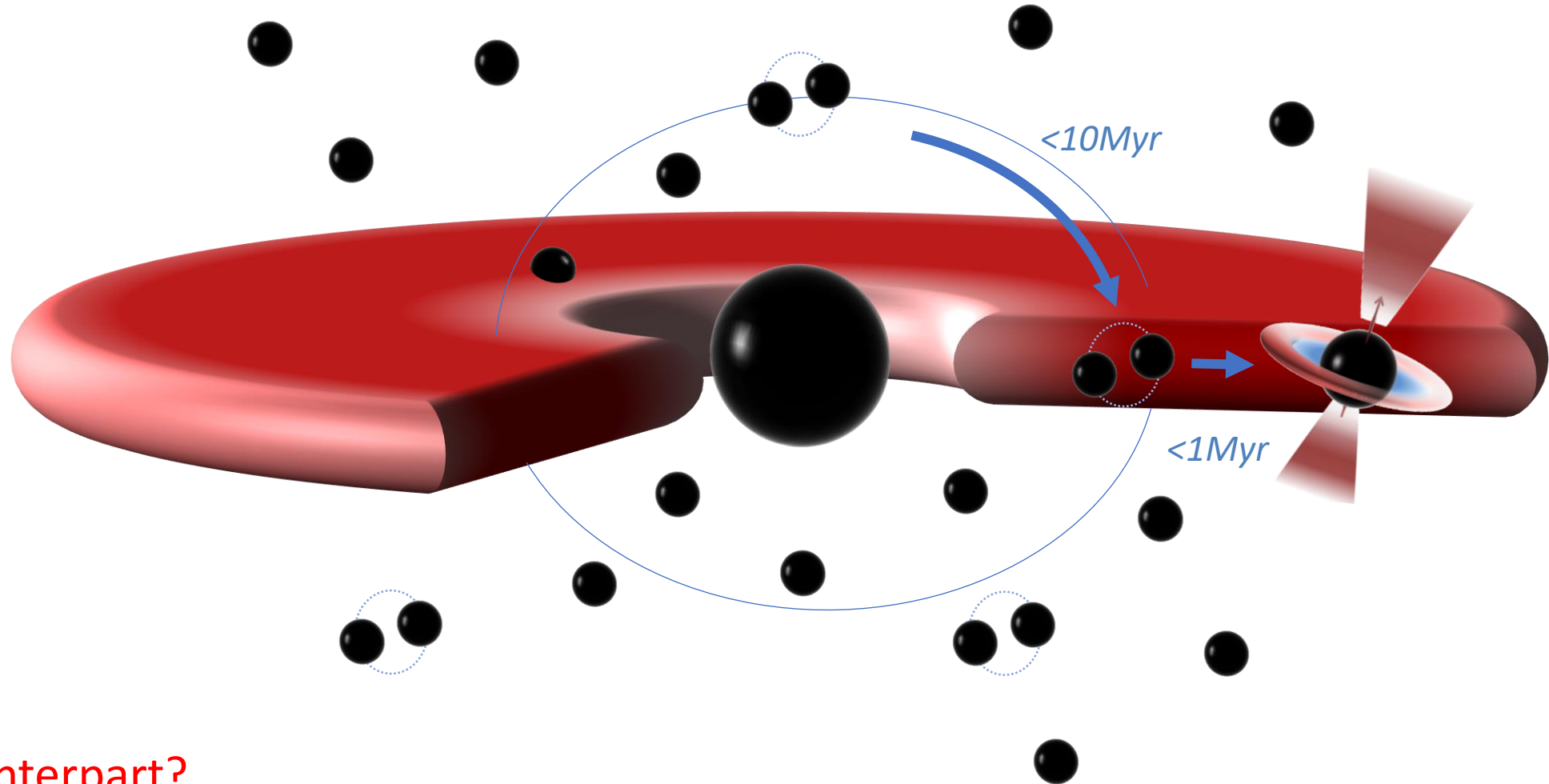


...and then quickly merge due to dynamical friction on the gas





# GW sources in active galactic nuclei



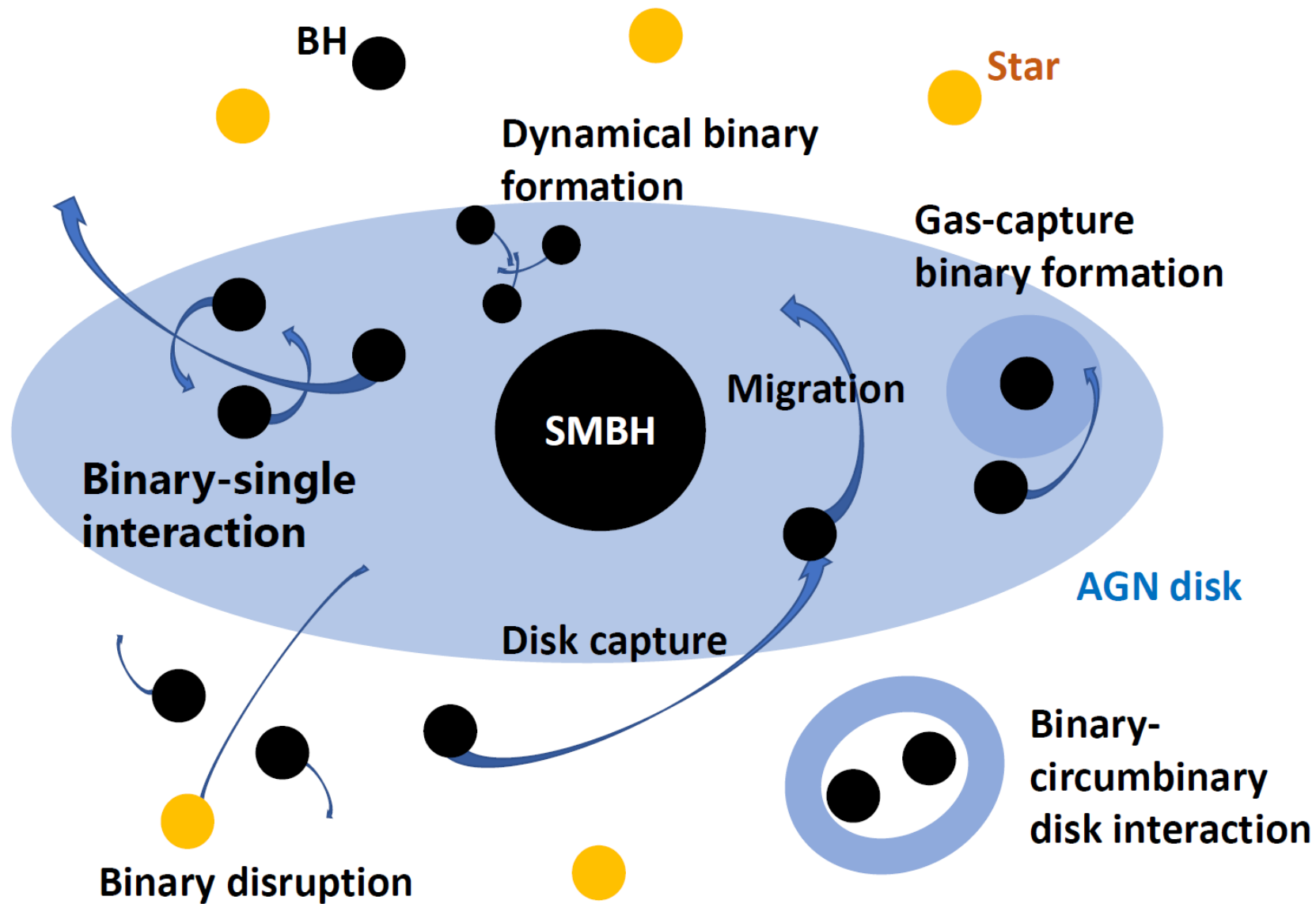
EM counterpart?

Graham+ arXiv:2006.14122

AGN flare 34 days after LIGO event S190521g

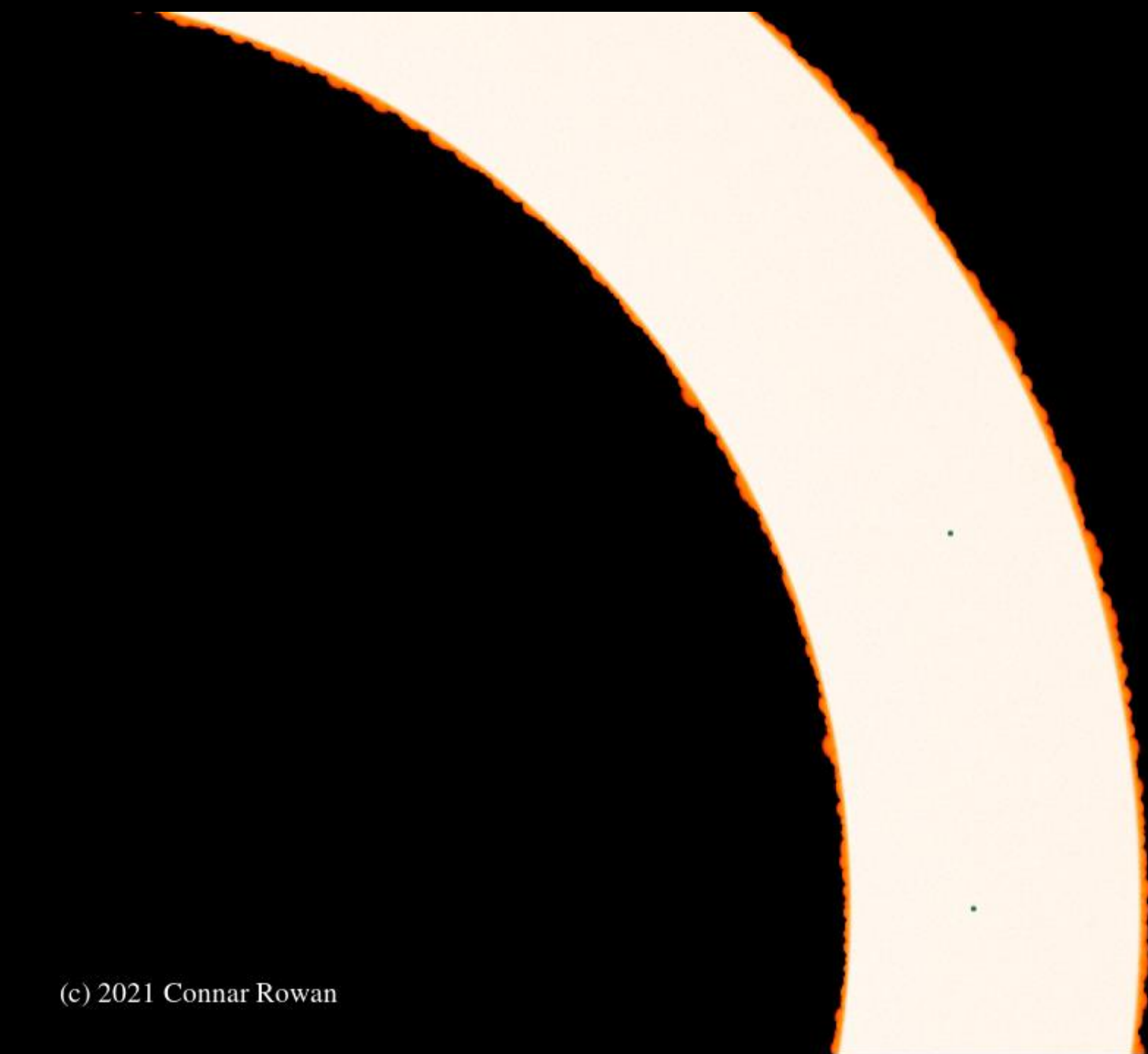
Bartos, Kocsis, Haiman, Marka 2017

Stone, Metzger, Haiman 2017



Semi-analytical N-body simulation

Tagawa, Haiman, Kocsis 2020; Tagawa, Haiman, Bartos, Kocsis 2020; Tagawa, Kocsis, et al. (2021a, 2021b), Rowan+ (2022,2023), Whitehead, Rowan, Boekholt, Kocsis (2023)



t=0 yrs

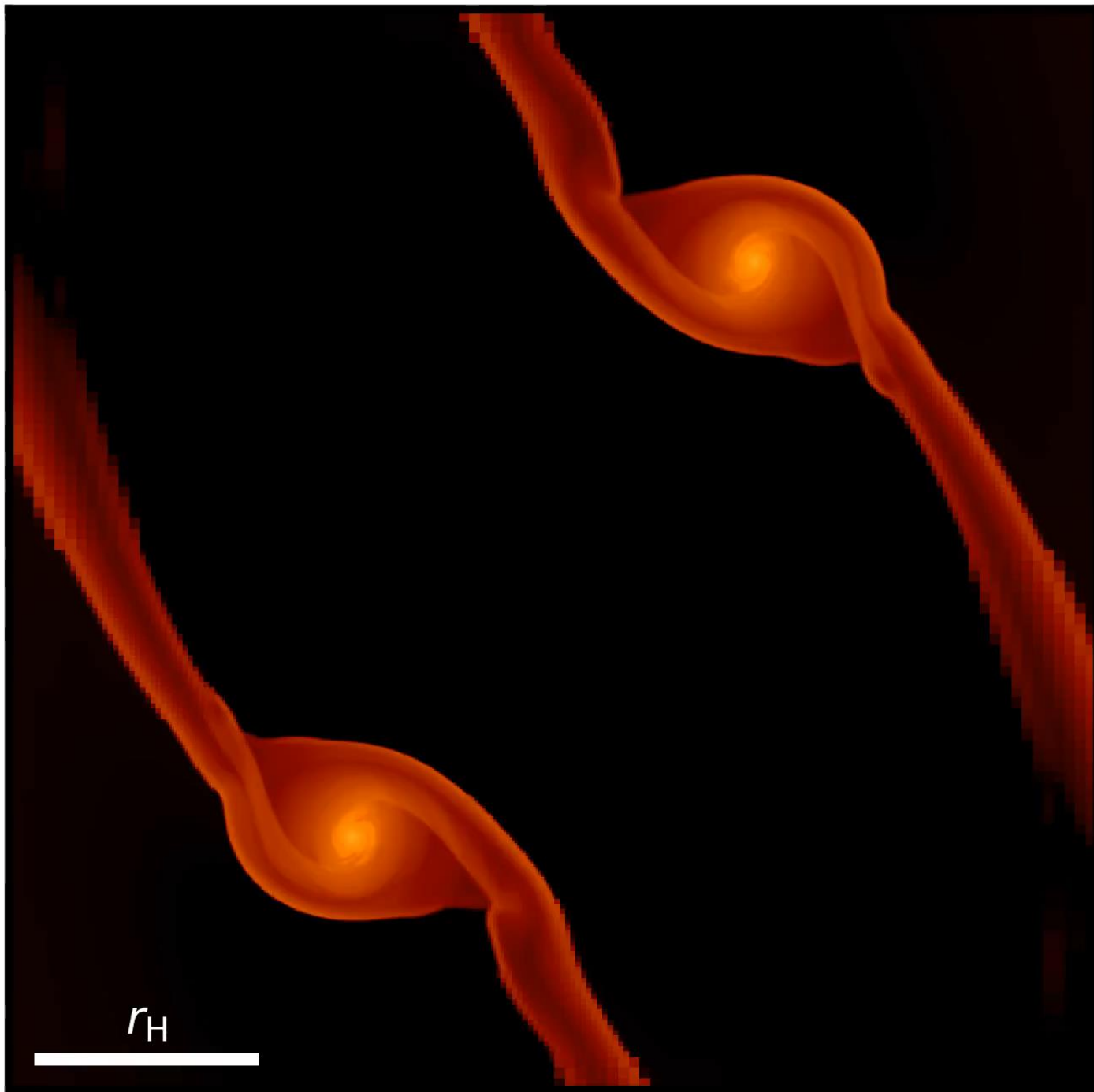


Connar Rowan

(c) 2021 Connar Rowan



-5                      0  
log column density [g/cm<sup>2</sup>]



Henry Whitehead



# Summary

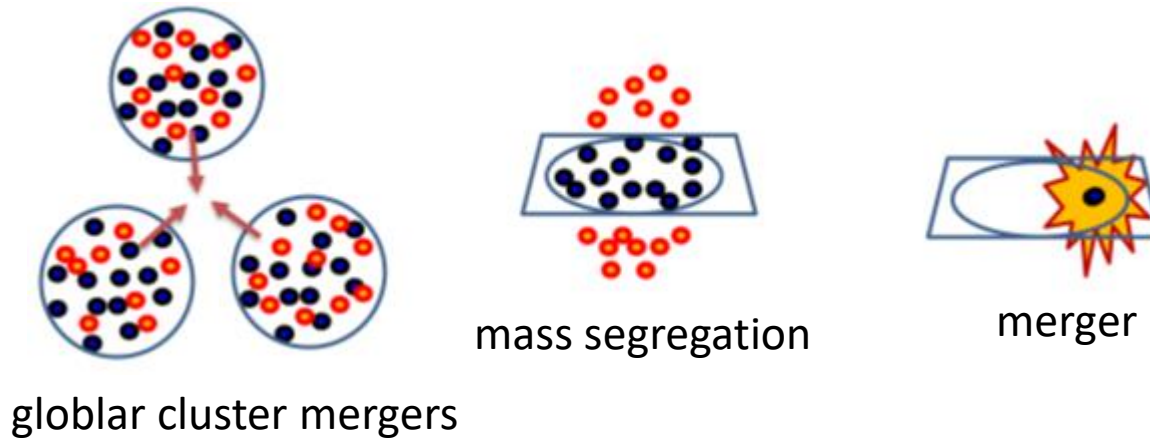
- 90 BH/BH mergers detected by LIGO and VIRGO
- many astrophysical merger pathways
- distributions of source parameters useful to test theory
  - Mass, mass ratio, spins, eccentricity
- GWs probe astrophysical systems in new ways
  - globular cluster evolution over cosmic time
  - active galactic nuclei
- Bright future for GW astronomy
  - New instruments: KAGRA, LIGO India
  - Plans for further upgrades: LIGO+, Cosmic Explorer, Einstein Telescope
  - LISA 2034



**Extra slides**

# New ideas

1. Disrupted globular clusters (Fragione & Kocsis, PRL 2018)
2. Black hole disks (Szolgyen & Kocsis PRL 2018)

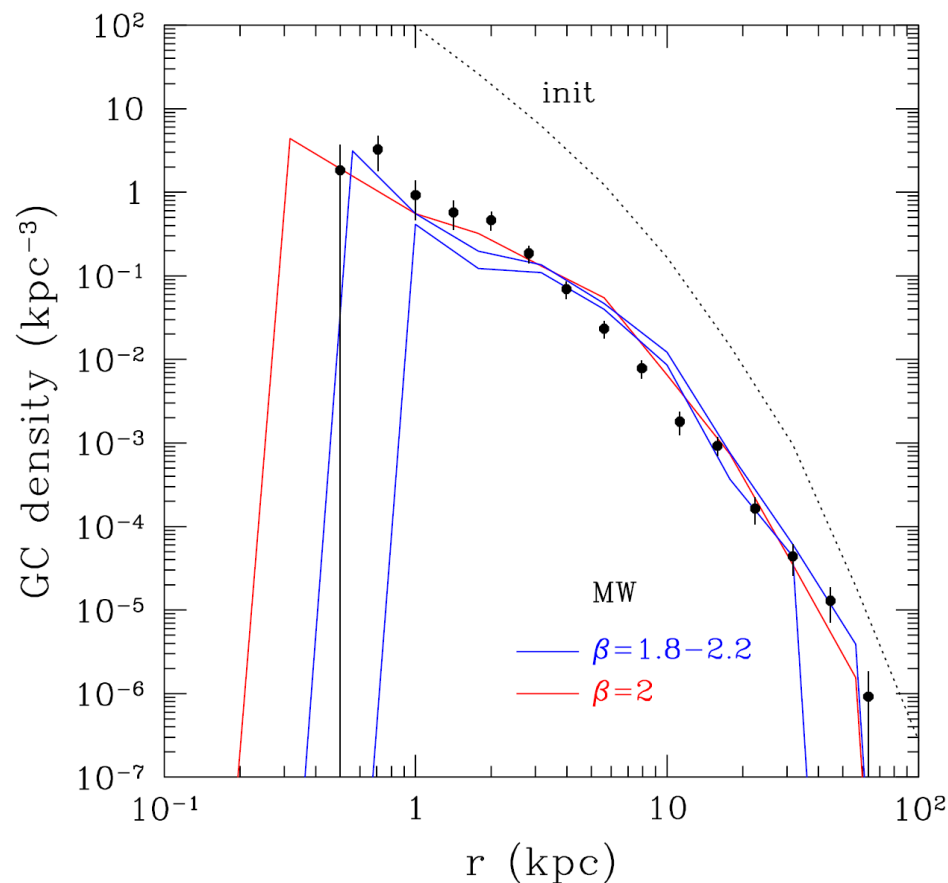


3. Mergers in AGN (Bartos, Kocsis, Haiman 2017; Tagawa, Haiman, Kocsis, 2020,...)

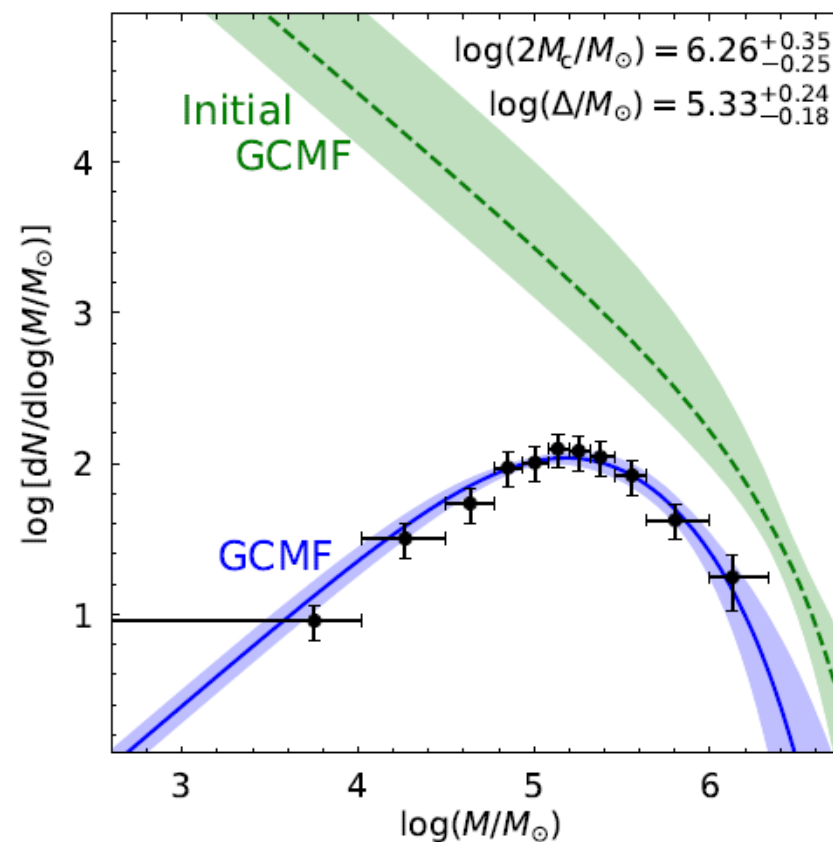


# Disrupted globular clusters

- Globular clusters were much more numerous in the past



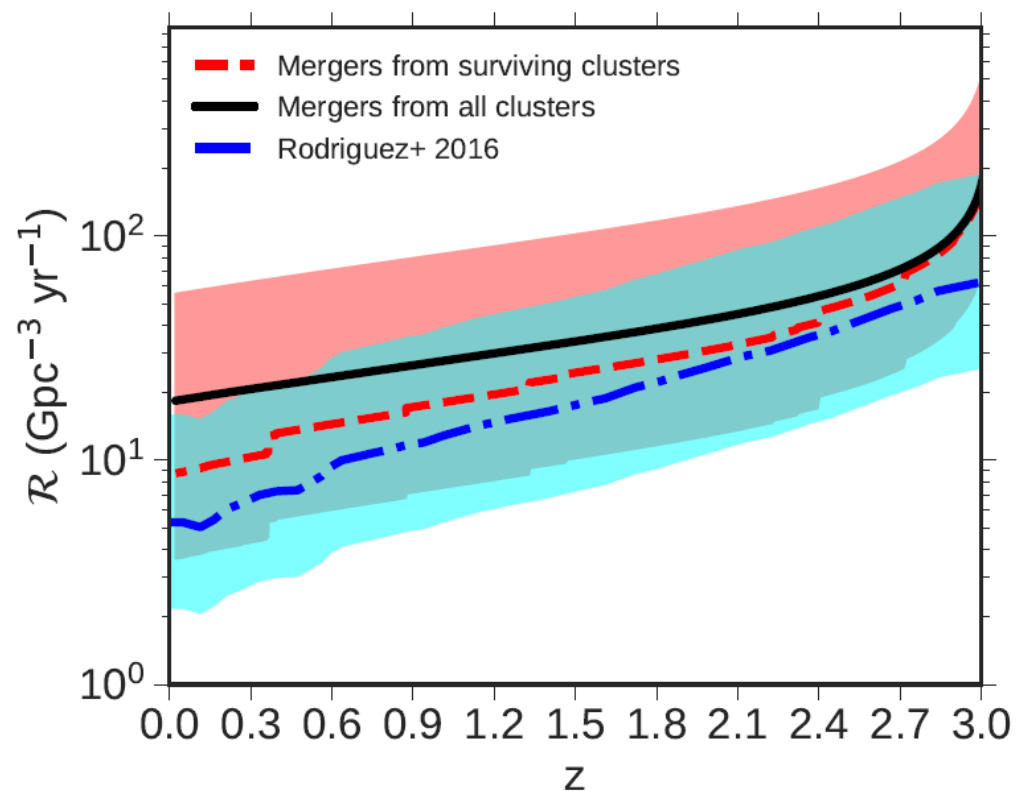
Gnedin, Ostriker, Tremaine (2014)



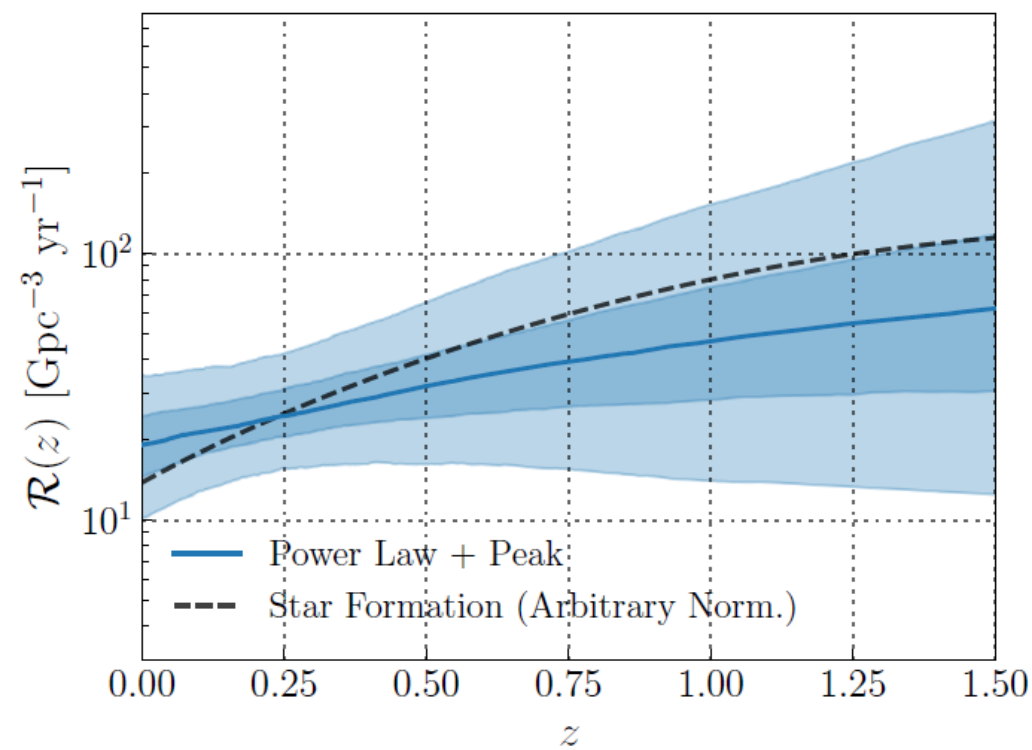
Antonini, Gieles (2020)

# Disrupted globular clusters

- Implication: increased merger rate



Fragione & Kocsis (2018) PRL

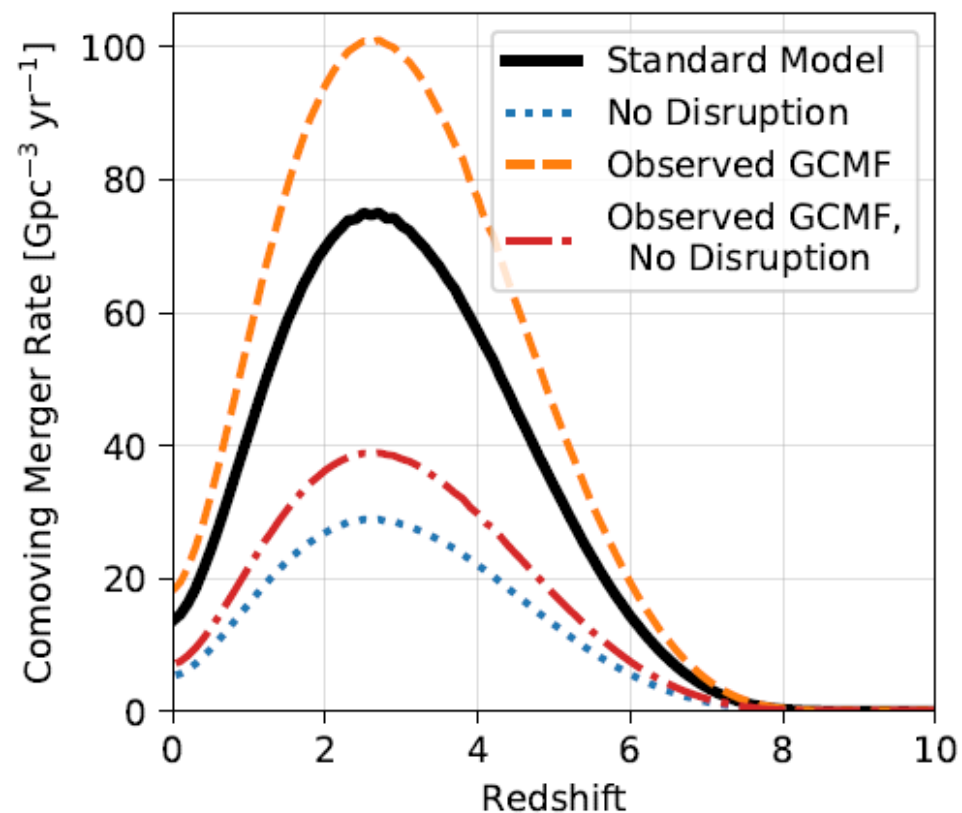


**Observed rate**

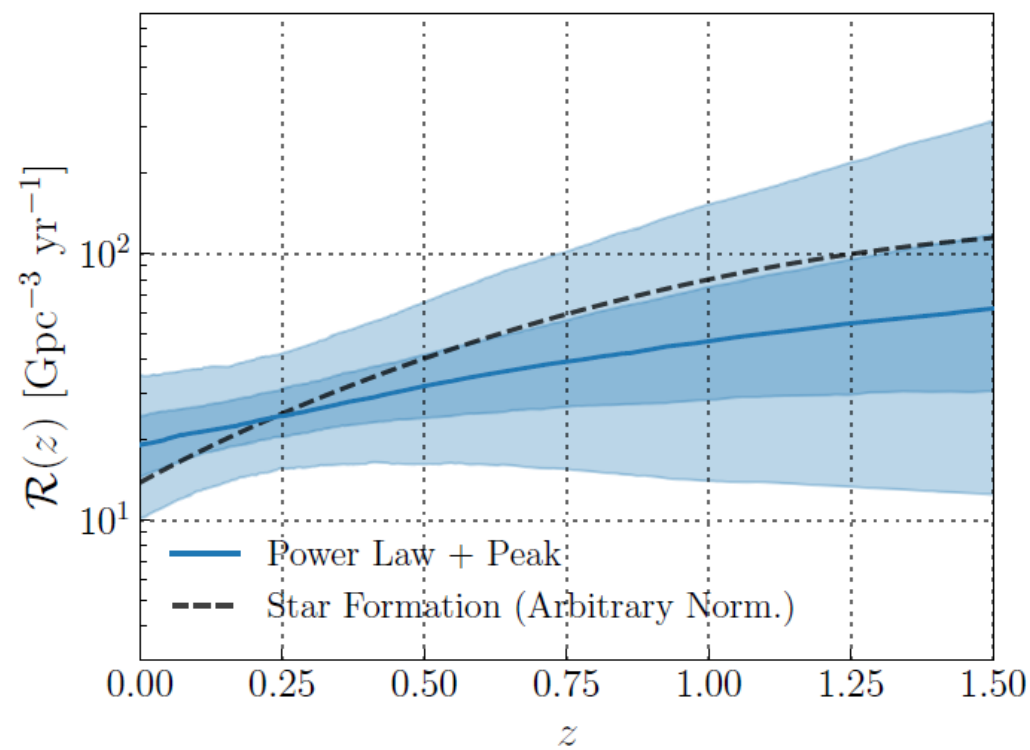
LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration arxiv:2010.14533

# Disrupted globular clusters

- Implication: increased merger rate



Rodriguez & Loeb (2018)



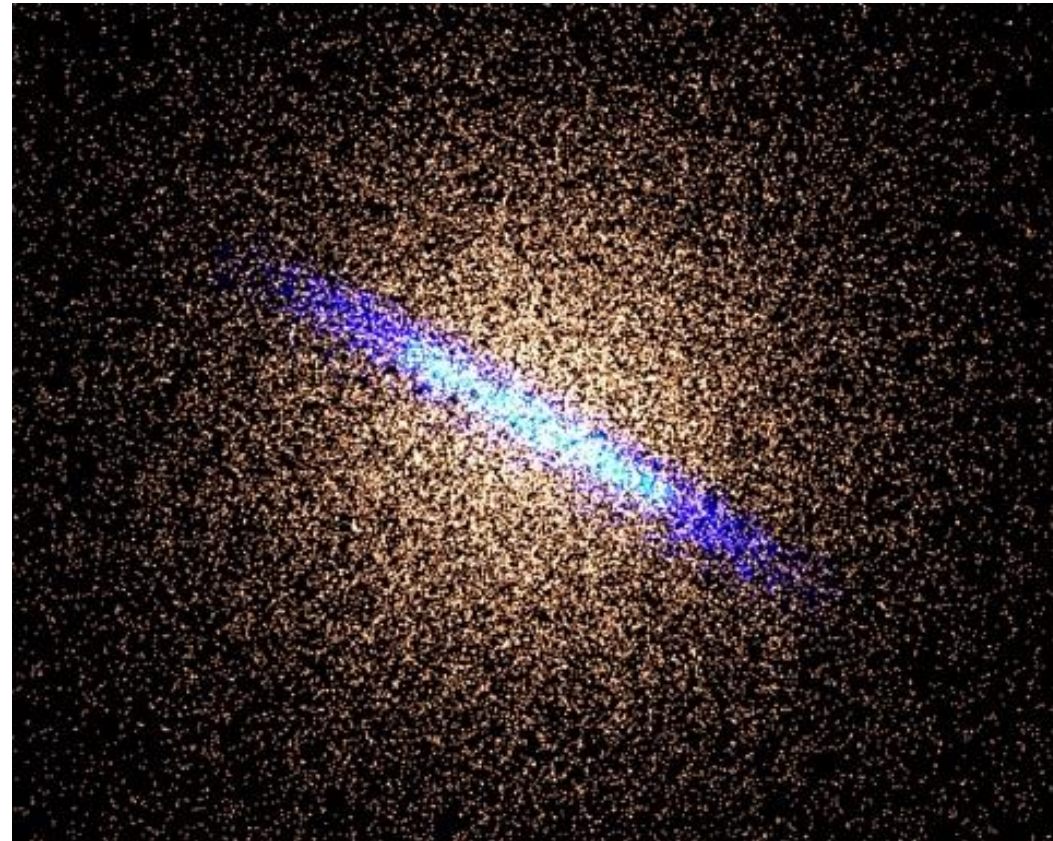
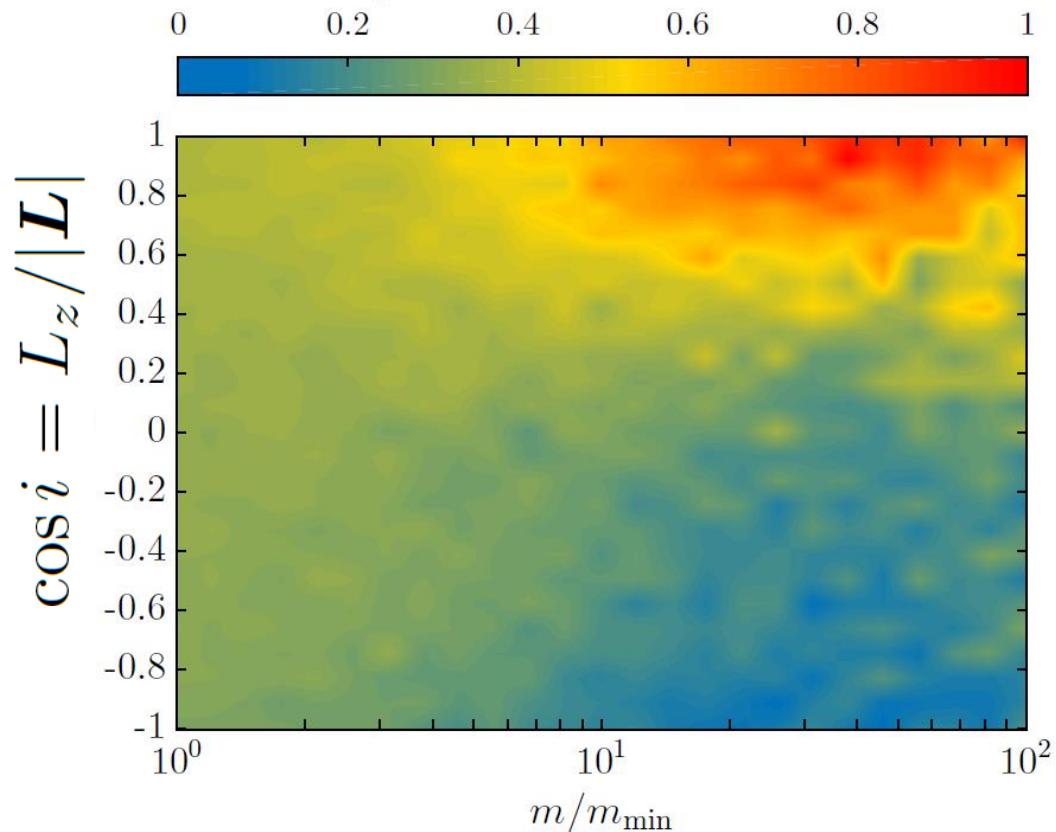
**Observed rate**

LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration arxiv:2010.14533

# Black hole disks in galactic nuclei and globular clusters

Black holes reorient their orbits to form a disk due to resonant relaxation

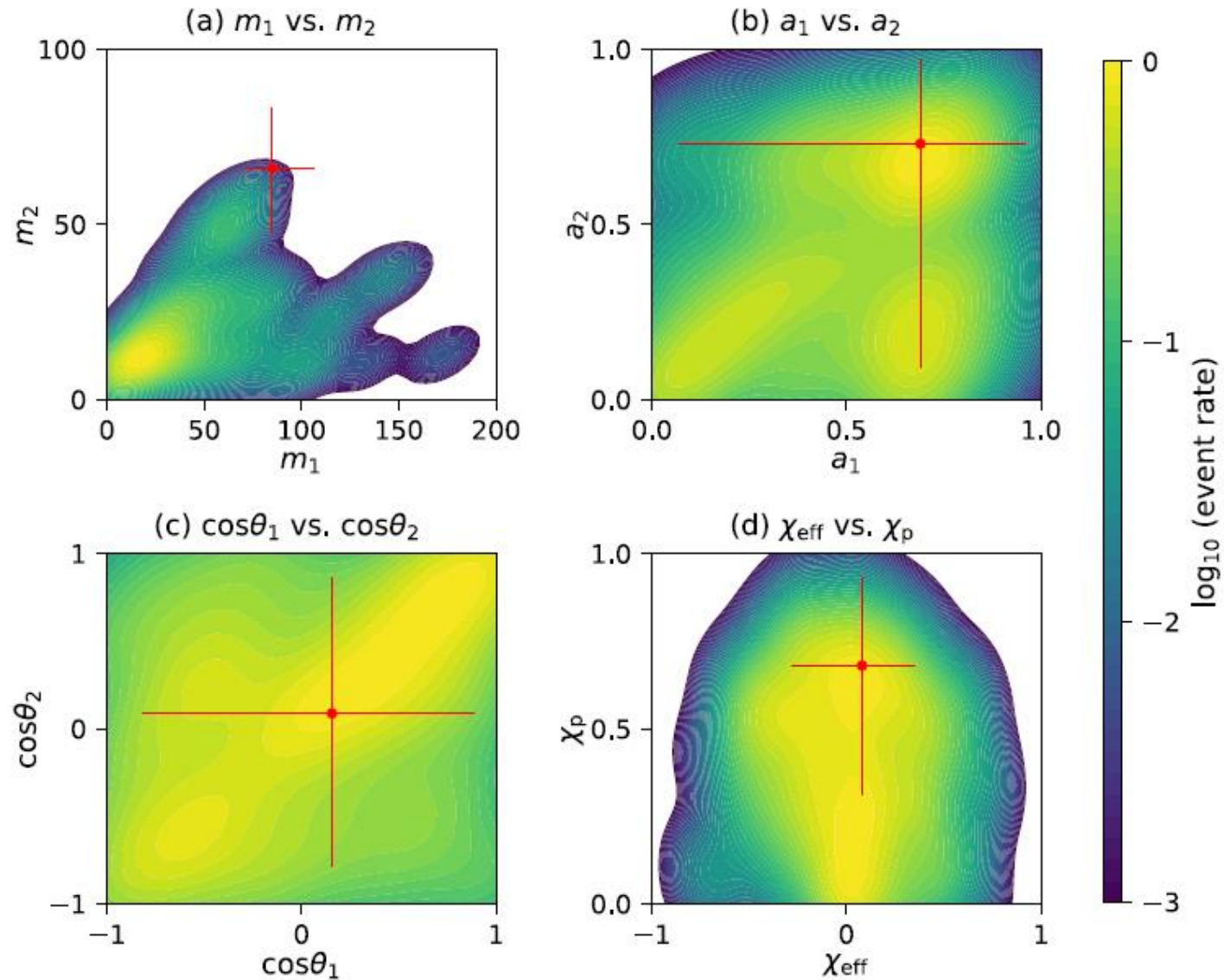
- mergers more likely



Szolgyen & Kocsis PRL 2018  
Szolgyen, Meiron, Kocsis 2019

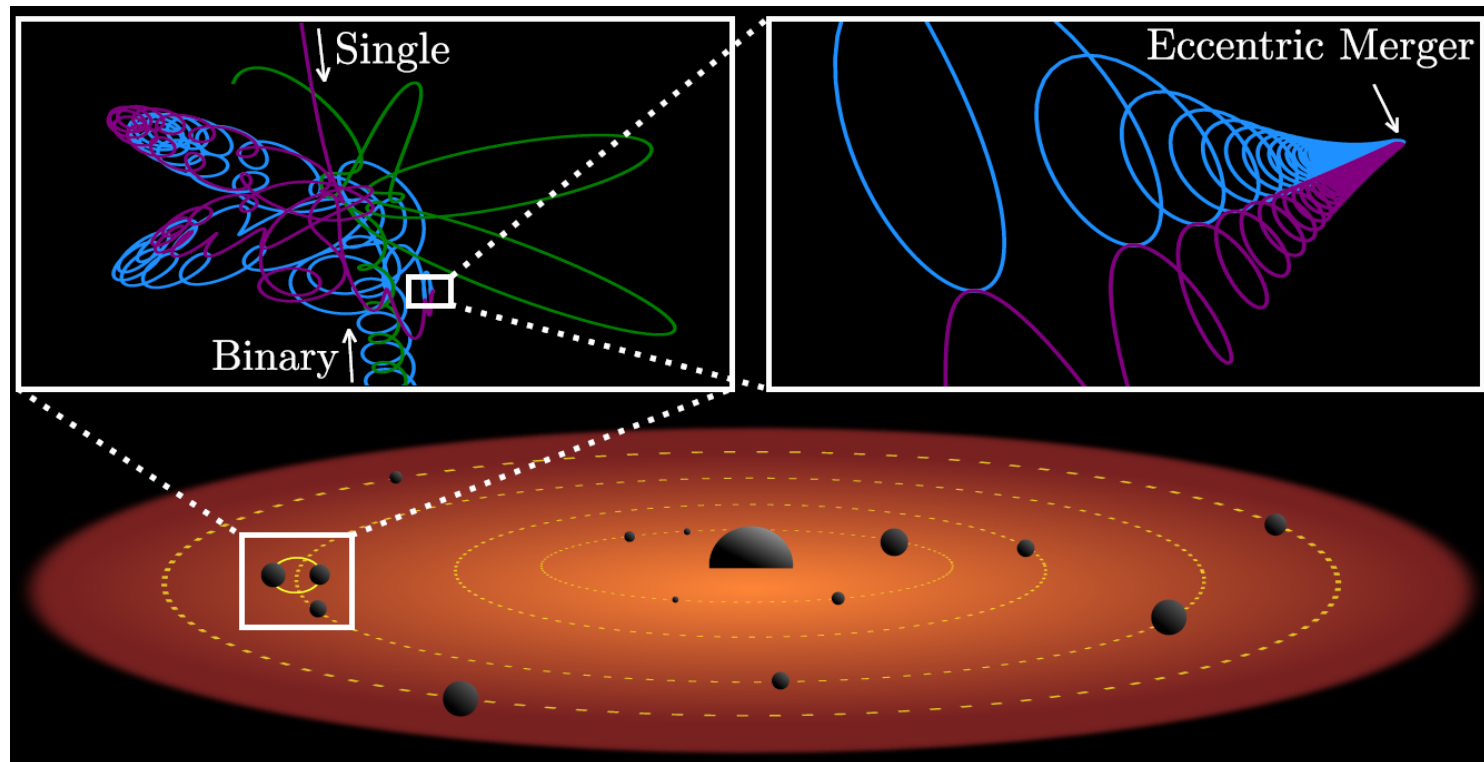


# Hierarchical mergers with large spin misalignment

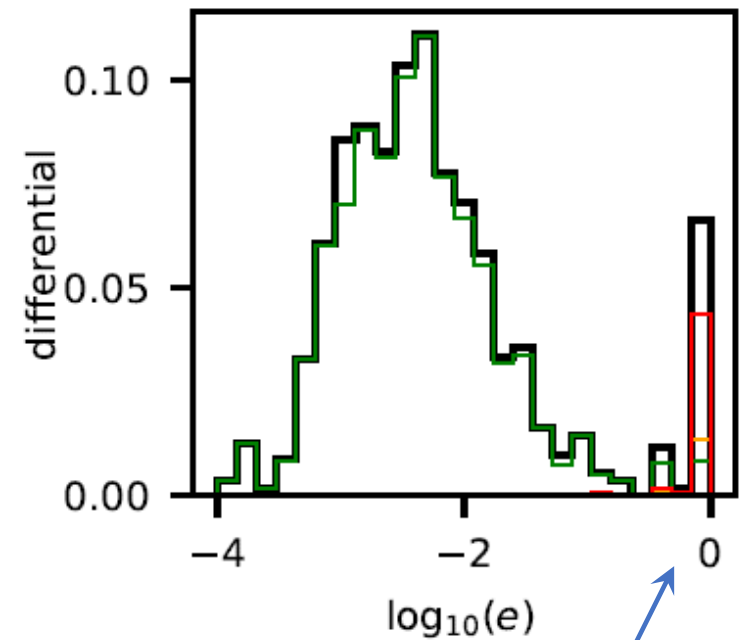




# Some of these sources are eccentric



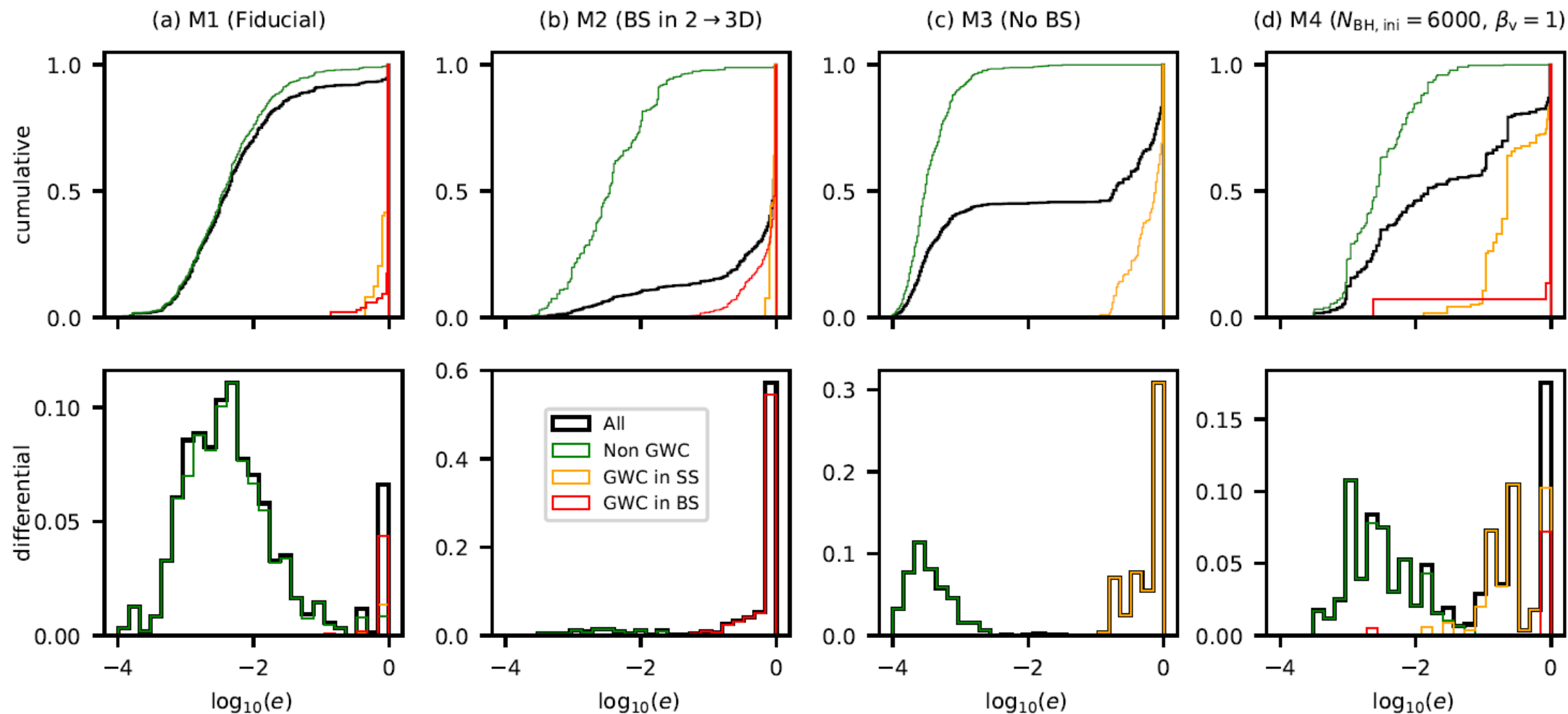
Predicted eccentricity distribution



Samsing, Bartos, D’Orazio, Haiman, Kocsis, et al. (2020)  
Tagawa, Kocsis, Bartos, Haiman, Omukai, Samsing (2020)

cf.: GW190521 also has  $e=0.7$  (possibly)  
Gayathri+ (2020), Romero-Shaw+ (2020)

# Eccentricity distribution in different models



# Conclusions/implications for AGN

- Black holes merge frequently in AGN

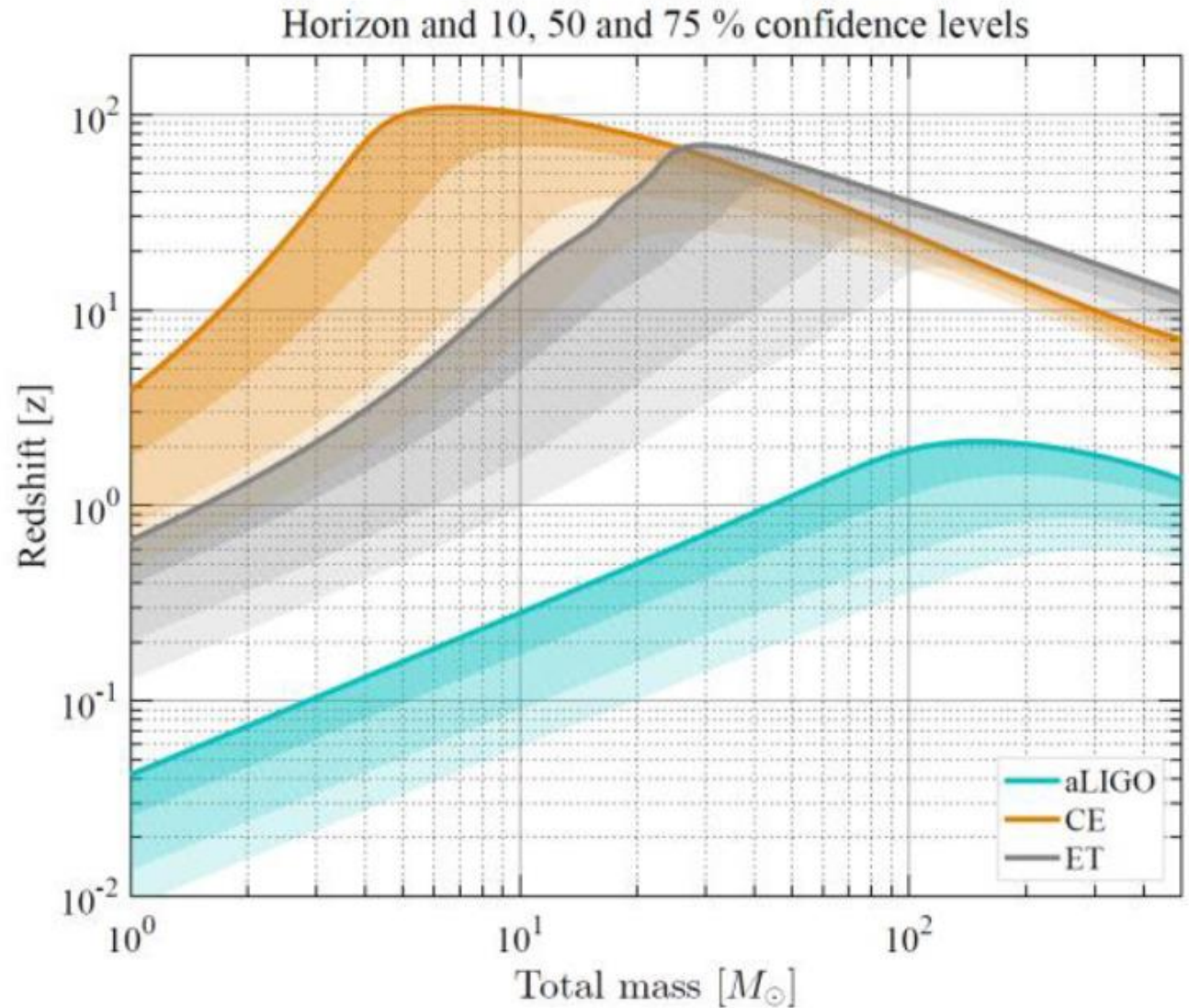
$$0.02 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1} \lesssim \mathcal{R}_{\text{sBH}} \lesssim 60 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

- Distinguishing features:
  - repeated mergers are common
  - mass increases due to mergers
  - since BH spins increase to 0.7 after mergers,
    - statistical correlation between spins and mass
  - BH spins are aligned with each other, but misaligned with orbit

# Horizon distance for future Earth-based instruments

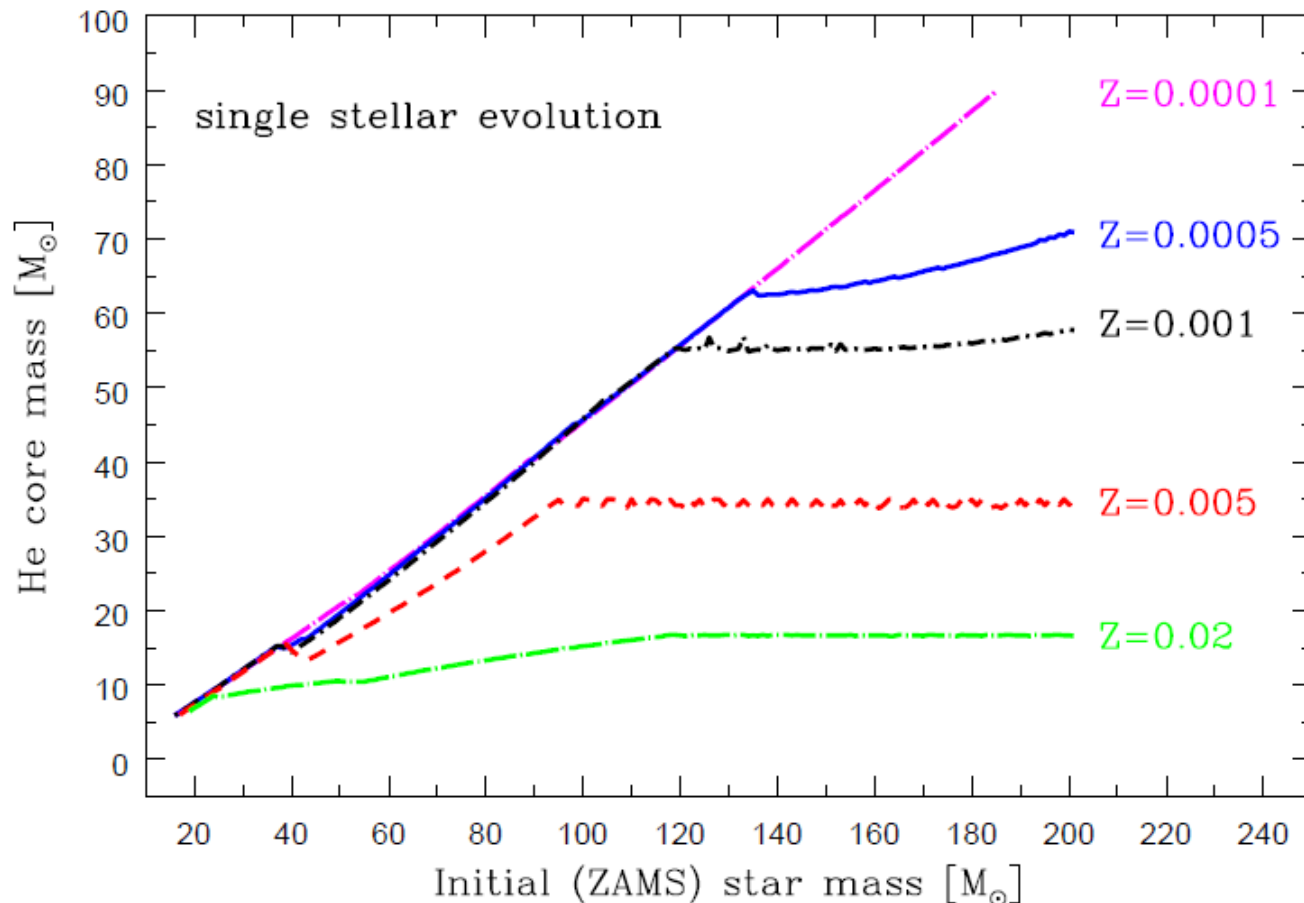
**17 – 45 Gpc<sup>-3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>** implies

- **1-3 mergers/day** within **z=0.5**
- **1-3 mergers/hour** within **z=2**



# Does the mass distribution make sense?

## Theoretical expectations



stellar origin BH can reach:  $\sim 100 M_{\odot}$   
(Zamperi & Roberts 2009; Mapelli et al. 2009)

– updates:

stellar models:  $\sim 130 M_{\odot}$   
(Spera et al. 2015)

IMF extension:  $\sim 300 M_{\odot}$   
(Belczynski et al. 2014)

-(Belczynski et al. 2016):

BH mass down:  $\lesssim 50 M_{\odot}$   
(pair-instability pulsations)

Belczynski et al. 2020 arxiv:2009.13526  
BH mass back up:  $100 M_{\text{Sun}}$



# 3<sup>rd</sup> observing run (O3) highlights

- [GW190412](#): the first BBH with definitively asymmetric component masses, which also shows evidence for [higher harmonics](#)
- [GW190425](#): the second gravitational-wave event consistent with a BNS, following [GW170817](#)
- GW190426\_152155: a low-mass event consistent with either an NSBH or BBH
- GW190514\_065416: a BBH with the smallest effective aligned spin of all O3a events
- GW190517\_055101: a BBH with the largest effective aligned spin of all O3a events
- [GW190521](#): a BBH with total mass over 150 times the mass of the Sun, eccentricity favored  $e = 0.7$
- [GW190814](#): a highly asymmetric system of ambiguous nature, corresponding to the merger of a 23 solar mass black hole with a 2.6 solar mass compact object, making the latter either the lightest black hole or heaviest neutron star observed in a compact binary
- GW190924\_021846: likely the lowest-mass BBH, with both black holes exceeding 3 solar masses

# Rate estimate

- Use the number of black holes from stellar evolution models
- Merger fraction from simulations
- system parameters from observations

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{sBH}} \sim 3 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1} \left( \frac{f_{\text{BH,mer}}}{0.5} \right) \left( \frac{t_{\text{AGN}}}{30 \text{ Myr}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{r_{\text{AGN,MW}}}{0.1 \text{ pc}} \right) \left( \frac{\eta_{\text{n,BH}}}{0.005 M_{\odot}^{-1}} \right).$$

$$0.02 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1} \lesssim \mathcal{R}_{\text{sBH}} \lesssim 60 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}.$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{sBH}} = \int_{M_{\text{SMBH,min}}}^{M_{\text{SMBH,max}}} \frac{dn_{\text{AGN}}}{dM_{\text{SMBH}}} \frac{f_{\text{BH,mer}} N_{\text{BH,cross}}}{t_{\text{AGN}}} dM_{\text{SMBH}},$$

$$N_{\text{BH,cross}} = N_{\text{BH,NSC}} \frac{r_{\text{AGN}}}{r_{\text{eff,NSC}}},$$

$$N_{\text{BH,NSC}} = \eta_{\text{n,BH}} M_{\text{NSC}},$$

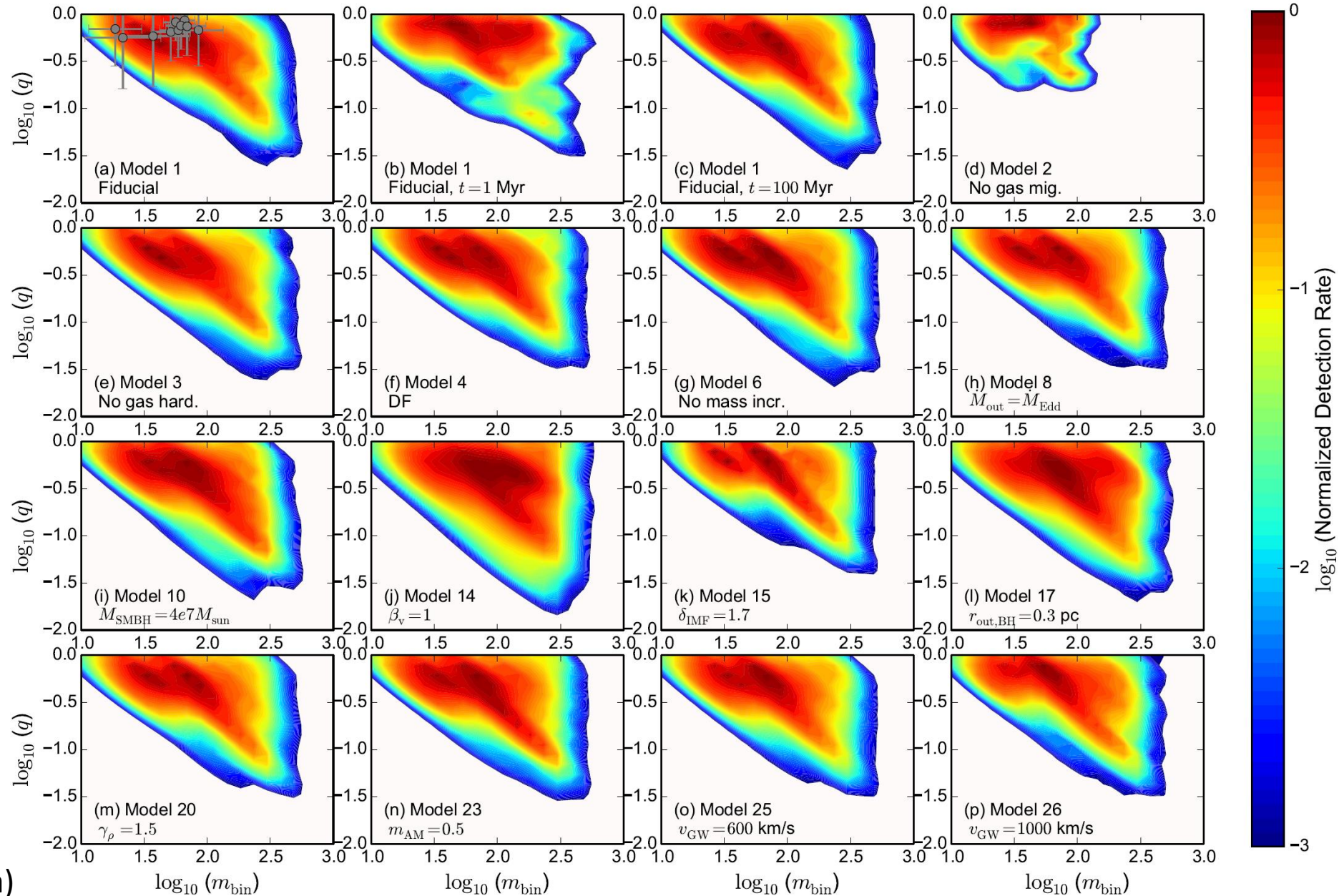
$$M_{\text{NSC}} = 4.3 \times 10^6 M_{\odot} \left( \frac{\sigma_{\text{Bulge}}}{54 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{2.11}$$

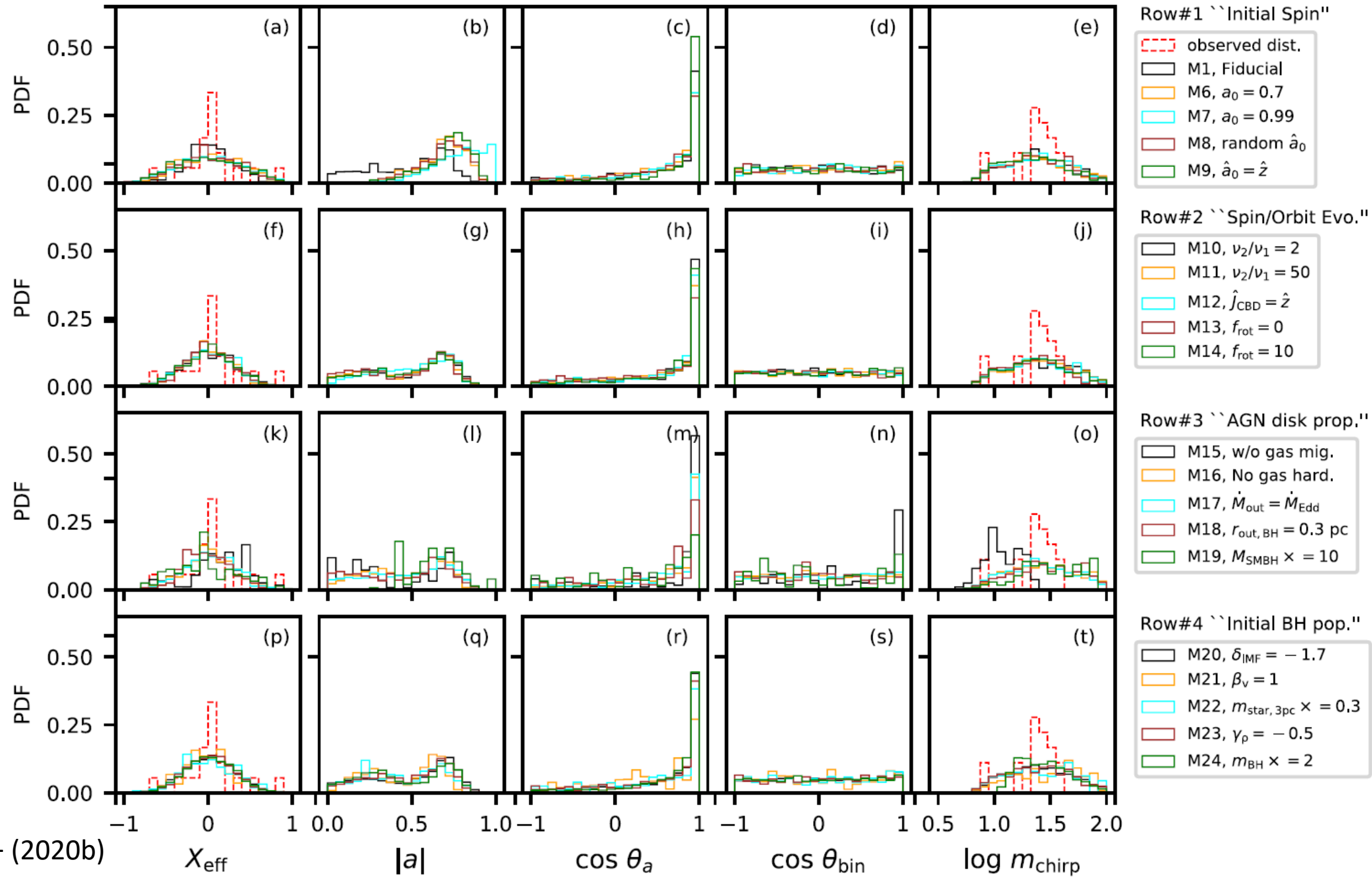
$$\sigma_{\text{Bulge}} = 200 \text{ km s}^{-1} \left( \frac{M_{\text{SMBH}}}{3.1 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.228}$$

$$r_{\text{AGN}} \sim \text{pc} \left( \frac{L_{\text{bol}}}{10^{45} \text{ erg}} \right)^{1/2} \sim 0.1 \text{ pc} M_{\text{SgrA}}^{1/2} \left( \frac{f_{\text{Edd}}}{0.03} \right)^{1/2}$$

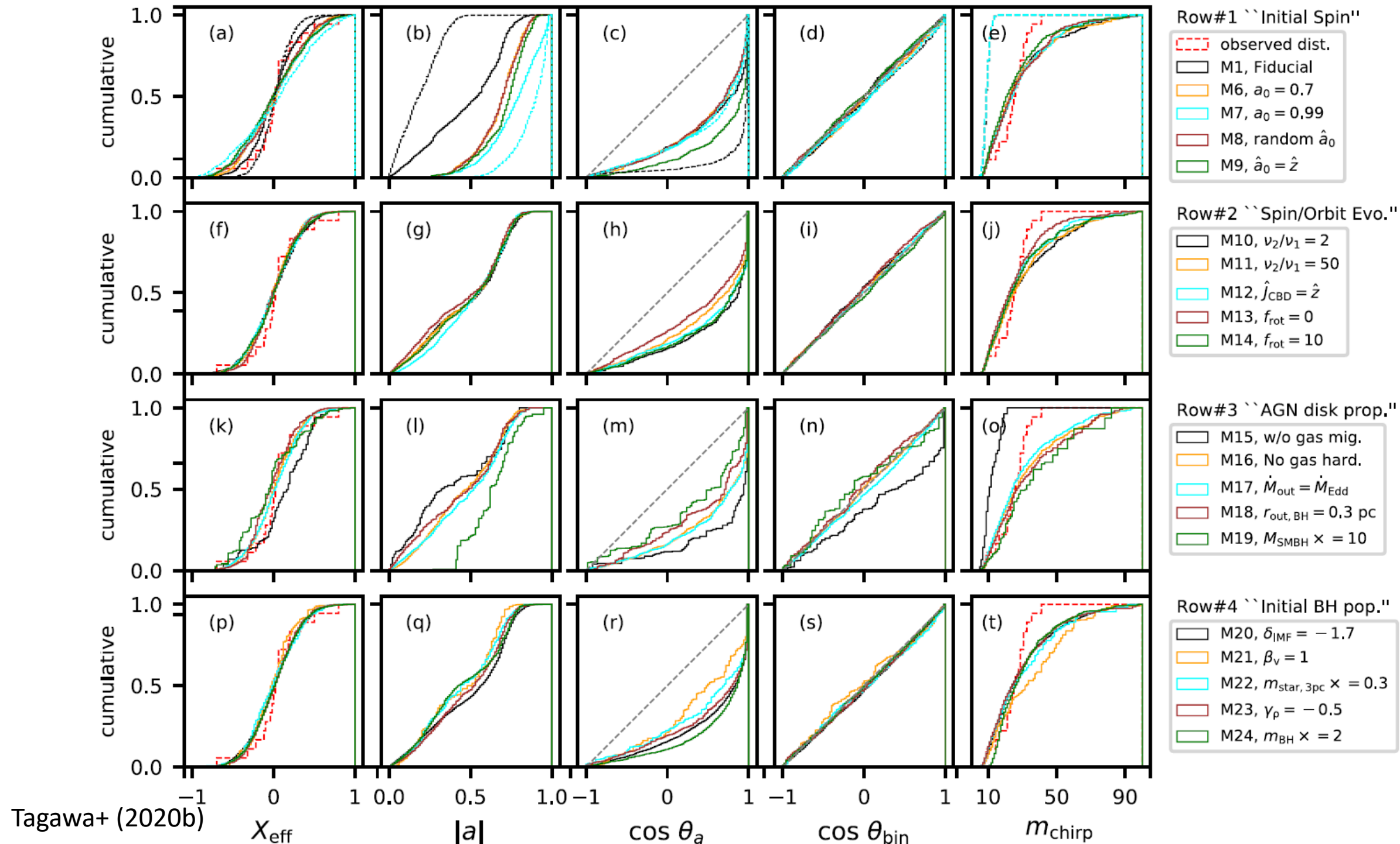
$$r_{\text{eff,NSC}} = 3.23 \text{ pc} \left( \frac{M_{\text{NSC}}}{3.6 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.321}$$

# Binary total mass vs. mass ratio distribution

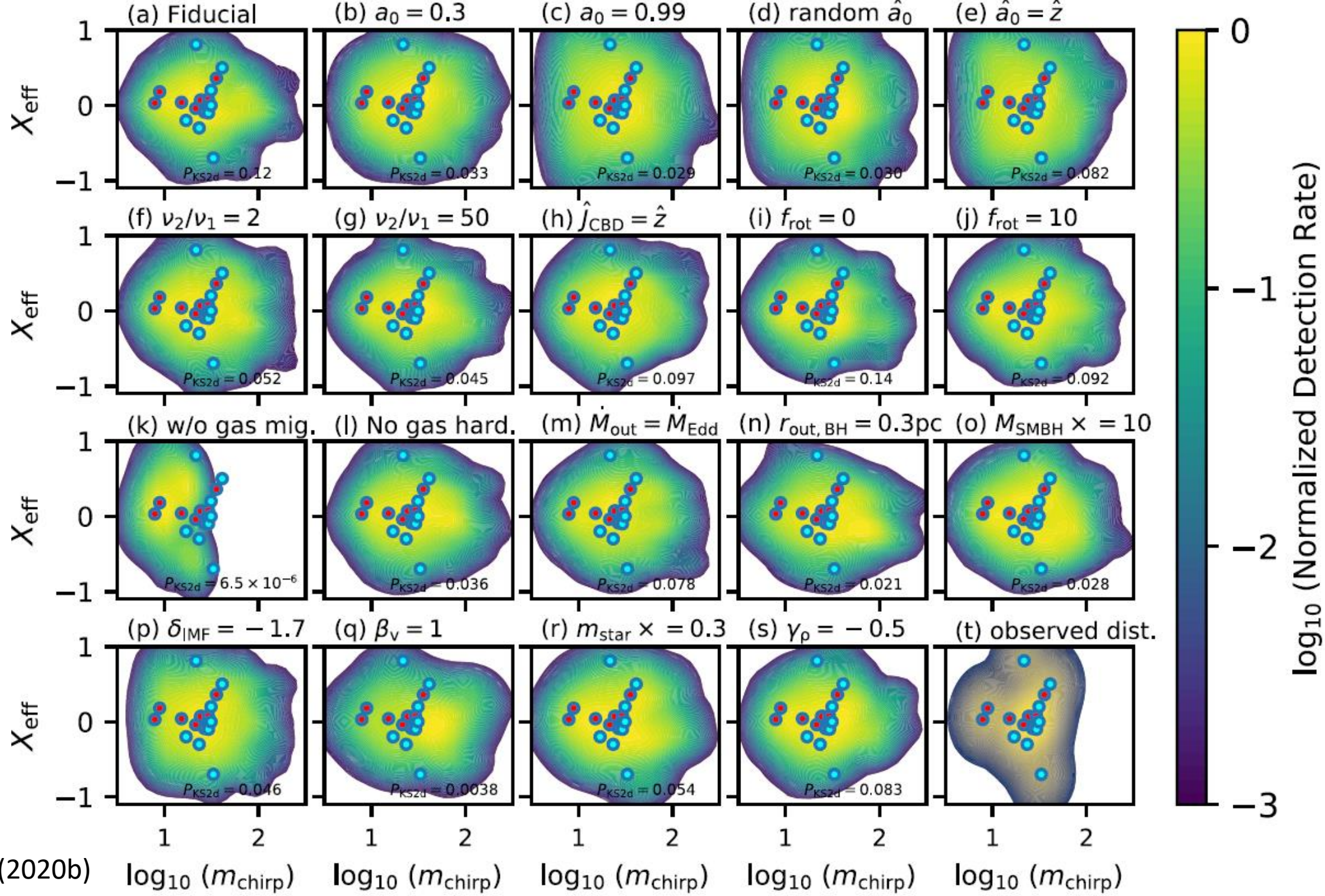






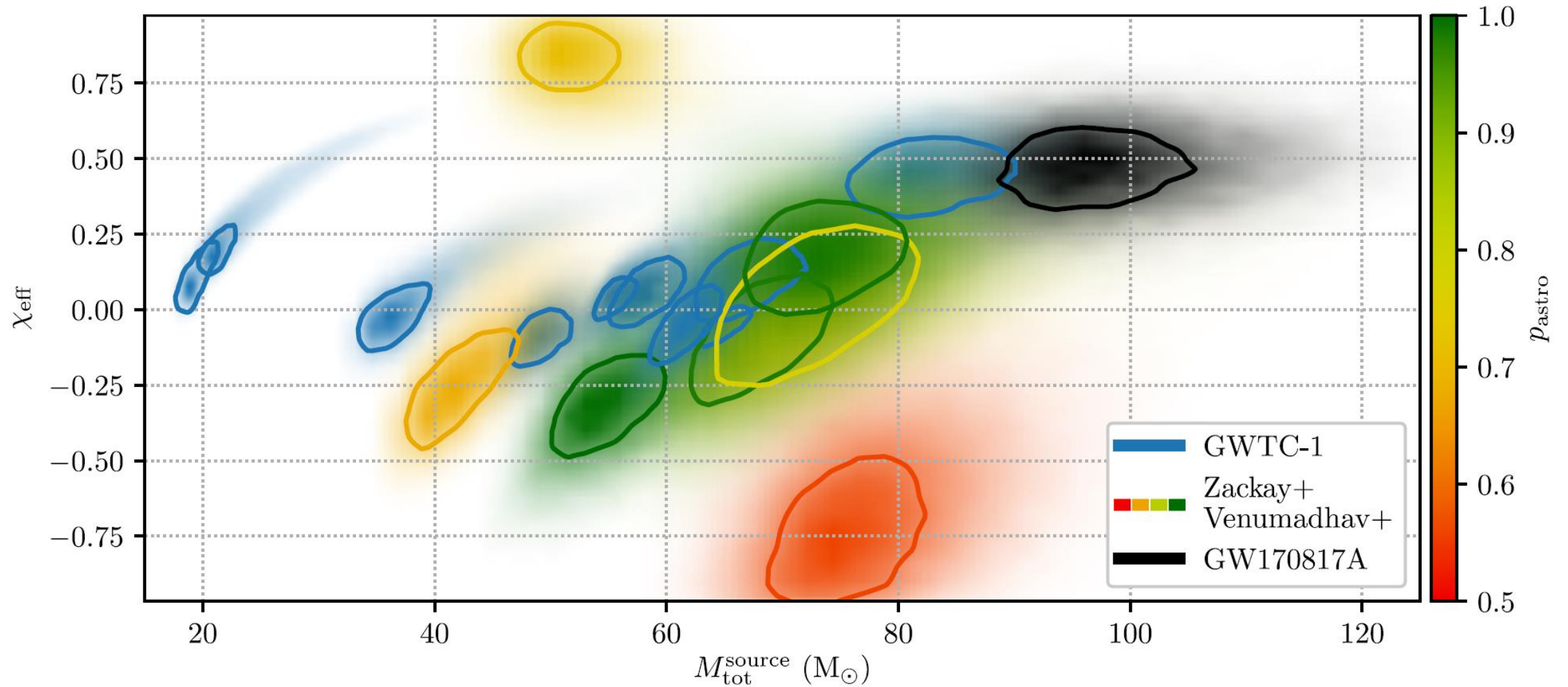






# Mass vs. spins

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2)}{M}$$



What about mergers with intermediate mass black holes?

$100 M_{\text{Sun}} - 10^5 M_{\text{Sun}}$



# intermediate mass black holes

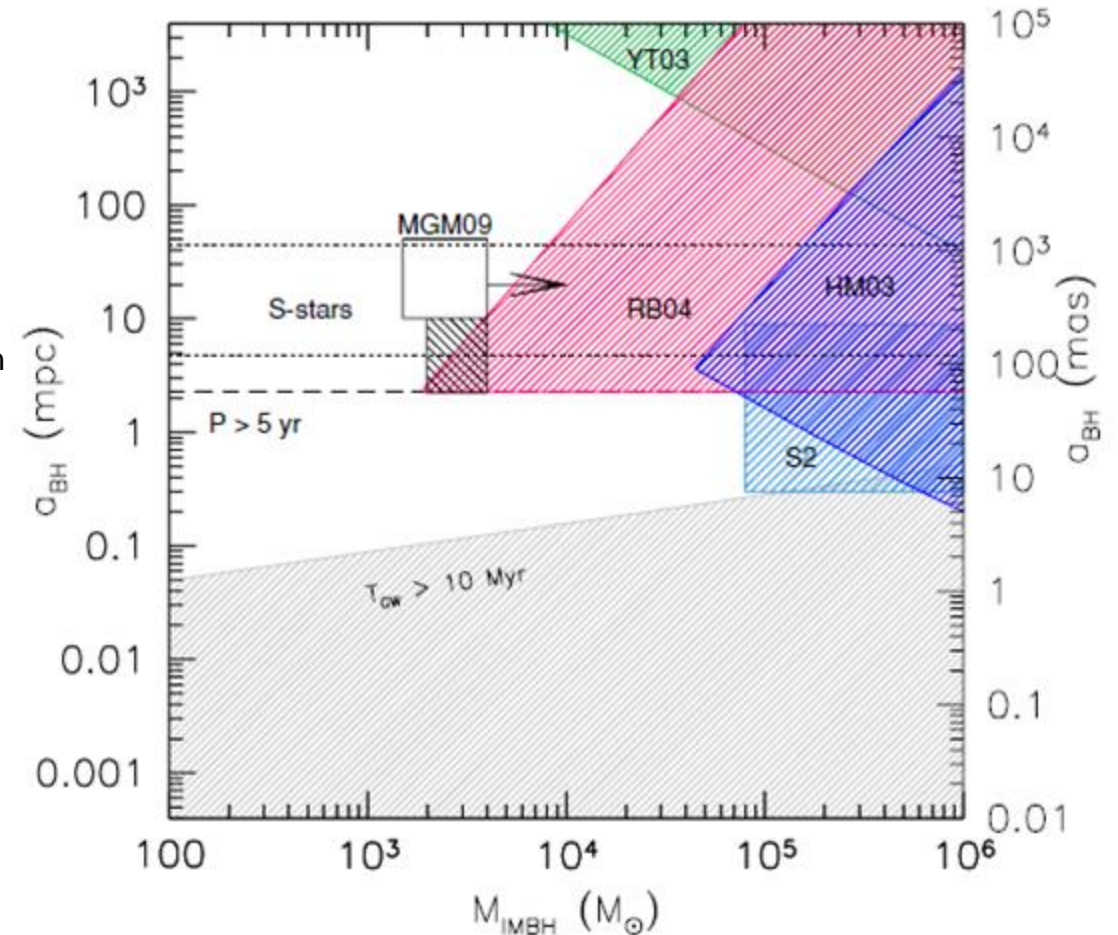
## Theory

### Formation

- Early universe:
  - collapse of the first stars (Madau & Reese '01)
- Globular clusters
  - runaway collisions (Portegies Zwart & McMillan '02)
  - mergers of stellar mass black holes (Miller & Hamilton '02)
  - dynamical friction
    - IMBH deposited in the galactic center
- In accretion disks (Goodman & Tan 04', McKernan+ '12, '14; Leigh+)

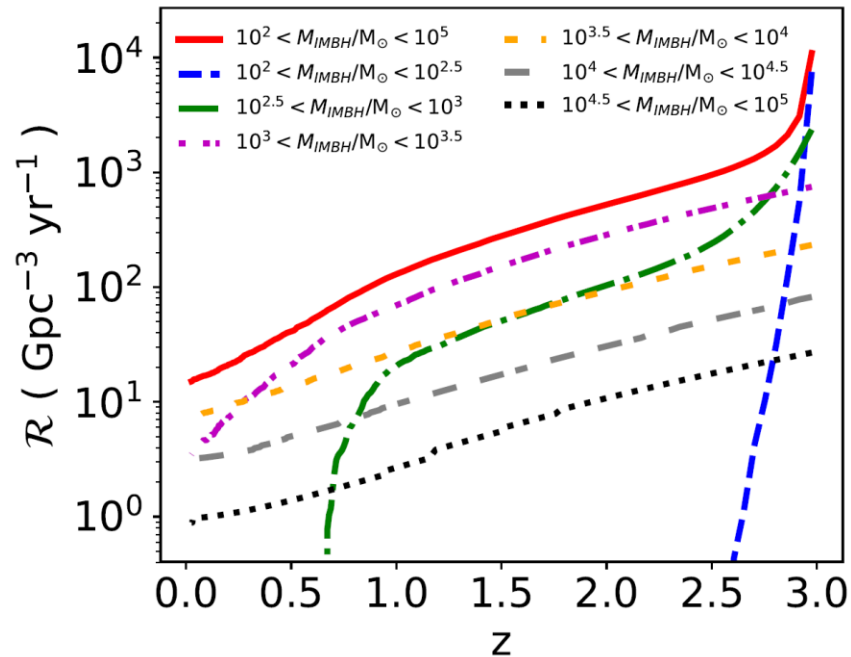
~ 50 IMBHs within 10 pc  
~ 8,000 IMBHs within 1kpc

## Observational constraints



Yu & Tremaine (2003)  
Gualandris & Merritt (2009)

# IMBH + BH mergers in globular clusters



current detectors limited to  
 $M < 300 M_{\text{sun}}$  and  $z < 1$ .

Such low mass IMBHs form in low mass globular clusters and get ejected from host cluster at  $z > 2.6$  ☹

Advanced LIGO @ design sensitivity  
and LISA should see  
 $M > 300 M_{\text{sun}}$  mergers at  $z > 0.6$



# BH mergers in AGN

## (most detailed models at present)

### Tagawa, Haiman, Kocsis (2020)

- 1D semianalytical simulation of the evolution of BHs in AGN
  - BHs are followed in radius, inclination, without assumptions on migration traps
- Powerlaw nuclear star cluster with stellar disk and stellar BH components
  - Initial BH masses are limited to  $<15 M_{\text{sun}}$  if the metallicity is solar
- Thompson+ (2005) thin alpha disk model
  - includes star formation → BH formation
- Gas interactions:
  - dynamical friction,
  - accretion,
  - type I/II migration (both from large scale disk and the minidisk),
  - gas capture binary formation
- Dynamical interactions
  - Binary single interactions -- note: GW captures, eccentricity effects, exchange interactions are neglected
- GW emission

### Tagawa, Haiman, Kocsis (2020b)

- Follow-up paper includes BH spins
- Spins change due to BH mergers and accretion
- Orbital ang. mom. changes due to binary-single interactions

# Simple models assuming “migration traps”

- AGN disk captures BHs from the nuclear star cluster one-by-one
- transported to migration traps immediately
- merge immediately with the stellar-mass BH already there → hierarchical mergers 1g-1g, 1g-2g, 1g-3g, ...

## Yang, Bartos, Haiman, Kocsis+ (2019)

- mass powerlaw exponent of mergers is harder by 1.3 than BH IMF
- mass ratio distribution is broad between 0.2 and 1,  $q=0.2$  more likely by a factor 1.4

## Yang, Bartos, Haiman, Kocsis+ (2020)

- redshift distribution decreases with  $z$  less rapidly until  $z=1$  than for other merger channels

## Gayathri, Bartos, Haiman+ (2020) (PRL)

- GW170817A and GW170729–  $M_{\text{chirp}}=40$ ,  $X_{\text{eff}}=0.5$  is explained by a 2g merger, expected for the AGN channel

## Yang, Gayathri, Bartos, Haiman+ (2020)

- NS mergers + accretion may populate lower mass gap
- 0.5%-4% in lower mass gap for Eddington-limited to super-Eddington cases (Jiang, Stone, Davis19)

# Other recent papers

- **McKernan, Ford, Shaughnessy, Wysocki 2020a**
  - semi-analytical model in which BHs migrate toward the migration trap on characteristic migration timescale
  - Spins are followed due to accretion (assumed to always be aligned or antialigned with disk)
  - Binaries form if another BHs enters within the Hill's sphere of a BH
  - Binaries are hardened on the migration timescale
  - Dynamical three-body interactions are neglected
  - Conclude that mergers are hierarchical mostly 1g+1g type in the bulk, with 10x less 1g-2g, and 100x less 1g-3g
  - mergers in migration traps are 1g-Ng type and  $X_{\text{eff}}$  peaked around 0.4, and -0.4
- **McKernan, Ford, Shaughnessy 2020b**
  - Same model as previous paper focusing on BH/NS, NS/NS mergers
  - BH/NS rate = 0.1—3 BH/BH rate;
  - NS/NS rate = 0.001—4 BH/BH rate
- **Fabj, et al. (McKernan group) arXiv:2006.11229**
  - settling of objects into the AGN disk using simple analytical models (same as Bartos+ 2017)
  - Critical density for capture is  $10^{-11} \text{ g/cm}^3$
- **Gröbner, Ishibash, Tiwari, Haney, Jetzer arXiv:2005.03571**
  - disk-binary interaction including eccentricity evolution (toy model)
  - rate increases due to eccentricity
- **Ishibash, Gröbner arXiv:2006.07407**
  - Same model as in the previous paper, focusing on eccentricity evolution
  - Eccentricity significant for LISA but negligible for LIGO

# Possible AGN counterpart – (controversial)

- **Graham+ arXiv:2006.14122**

- AGN flare 34 days after LIGO candidate S190521g
- they speculate that it could be a counterpart after a merger and GW kick

..but:

- $\frac{1}{2} m v_{\text{kick}}^2 = 4e49 \text{ erg}$ , while flare has 100 times more energy ( $4e51 \text{ erg}$ ,  $1e45 \text{ erg/s}$  for 50 days)
- false alarm calculation for coincidence with a flare uses a naïve Gaussian model
- not explained what is special about the merger
  - if BHL accretion plays a role as claimed, then the flare should be larger well before the merger
  - disk crossing by BHs should be very common in all AGN which do not show flares

- **McKernan, Ford, Bartos+ (2019)**

- order of magnitude of estimate for EM energy (ram-pressure stripping)
- $E = \frac{1}{2} m_{\text{Hill}} v_{\text{kick}}^2 = 10^{47} \text{ erg}$ ,  $t = r_{\text{Hill}} / v_{\text{kick}}$
- $L = 10^{41} \text{ erg/sec}$ ;  $t = 6 \text{ mo}$  for  $M_{\text{SMBH}} = 10^9 \text{ Msun}$ ,  $v_{\text{kick}} = 100 \text{ km/s}$ ,  $T = (m_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{B}}) v_{\text{kick}}^2 = 10^5 \text{ K}$  (UV)
- diffusion time may be longer, decreasing the flare luminosity

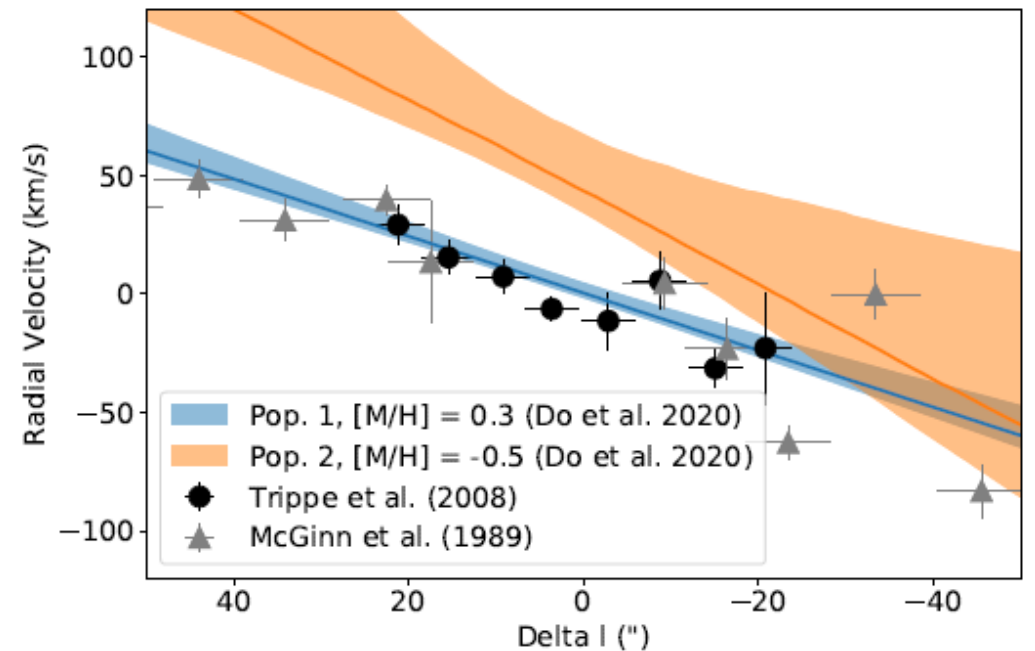
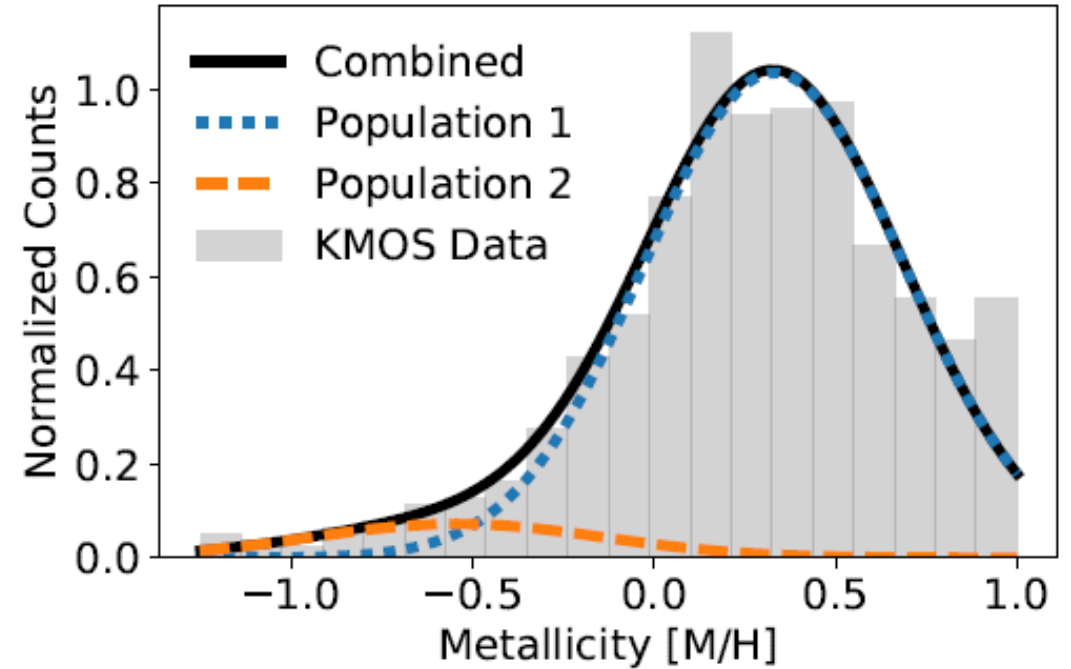
# in nuclear star clusters

## Metallicity is high in the Galactic center

(Do et al. 2015; Feldmeier-Krause et al. 2017a; Rich et al. 2017; Nandakumar et al. 2018; Schultheis et al. 2019)

Most recently

- **Schödel+** [arXiv:2007.15950](#)
  - >90% of stars are super-solar
  - 7% of stellar mass have low-metallicity
- **Do+** [arXiv:2009.02335](#)
  - 7% low-metallicity has a stronger rotation, it may be offset
- **Arca-Sedda+** [arXiv:2009.02328](#)
  - 7% low-metallicity population is a remnant of an infalling globular cluster or a dwarf galaxy
  - >90% is star clusters (globular, young massive, open) that formed within 500 pc or stars that formed in situ

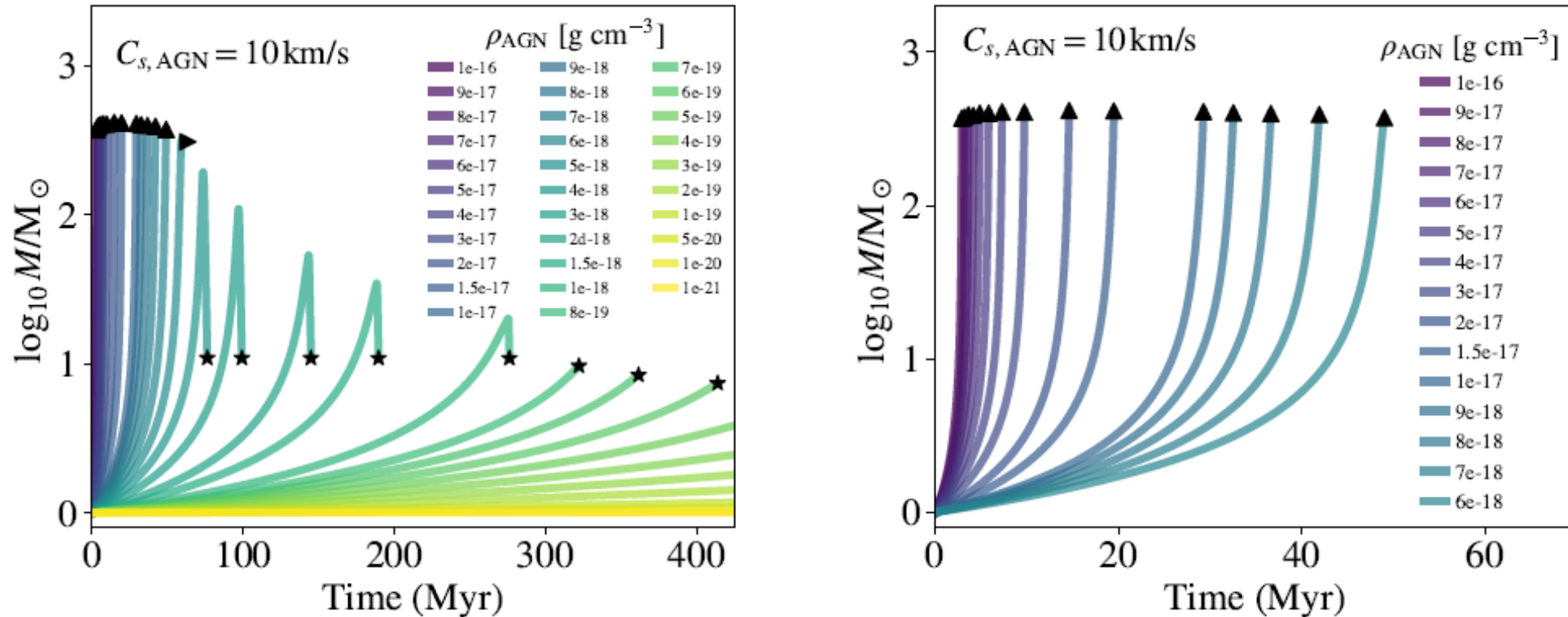




Stars in AGN  
may be different

Cantiello, Jermyn, Lin arXiv:2009.03936

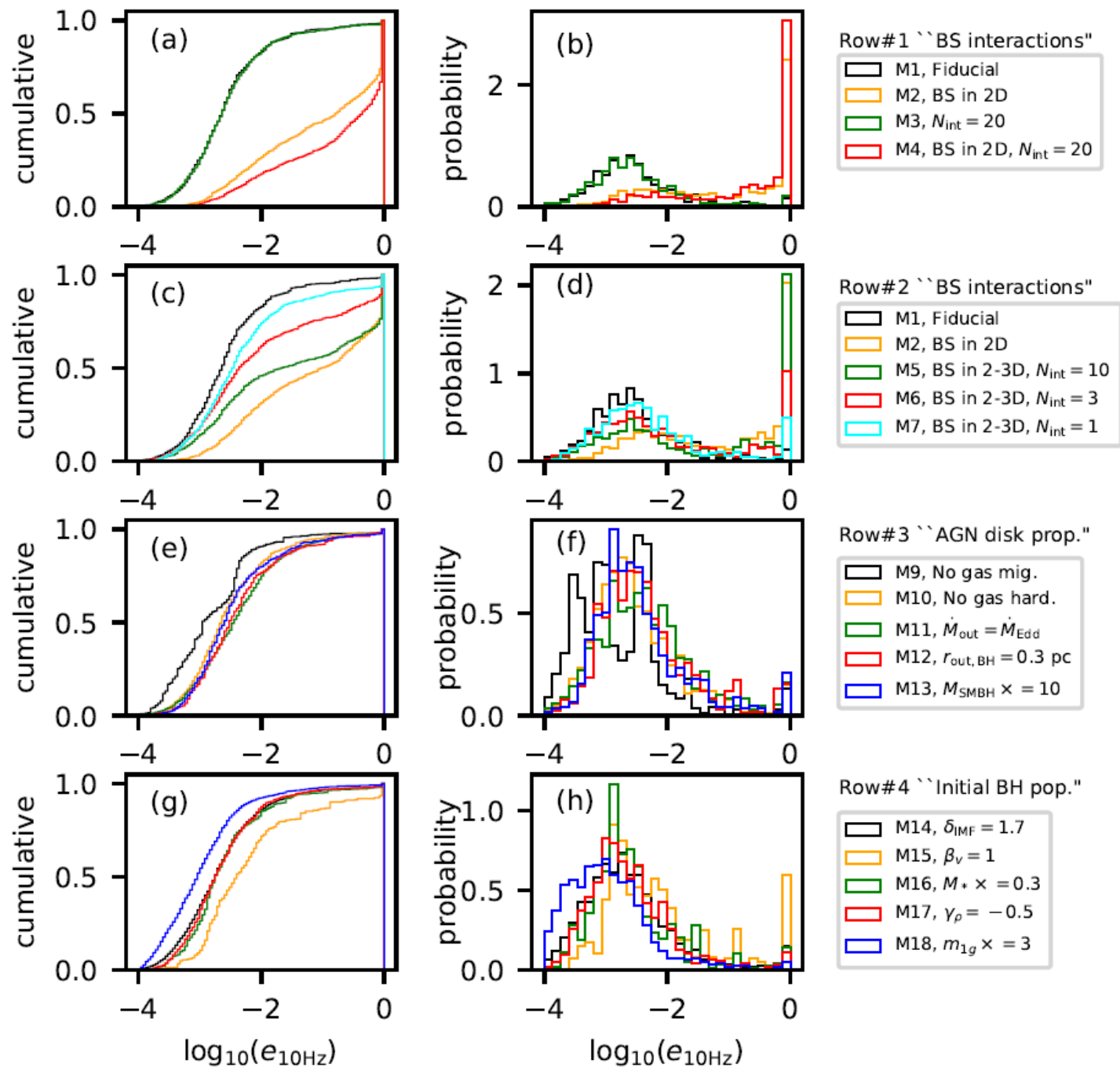
- solar-type stars become massive by accretion from the AGN
- pollute AGN with metals



**Figure 6.** A grid of stellar models is shown after evolving with a fixed AGN sound speed of  $10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and AGN densities ranging from  $10^{-16}$  to  $10^{-21} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . The panels show the evolution of stellar mass as function of time for models starting with  $M = 1 M_{\odot}$ .

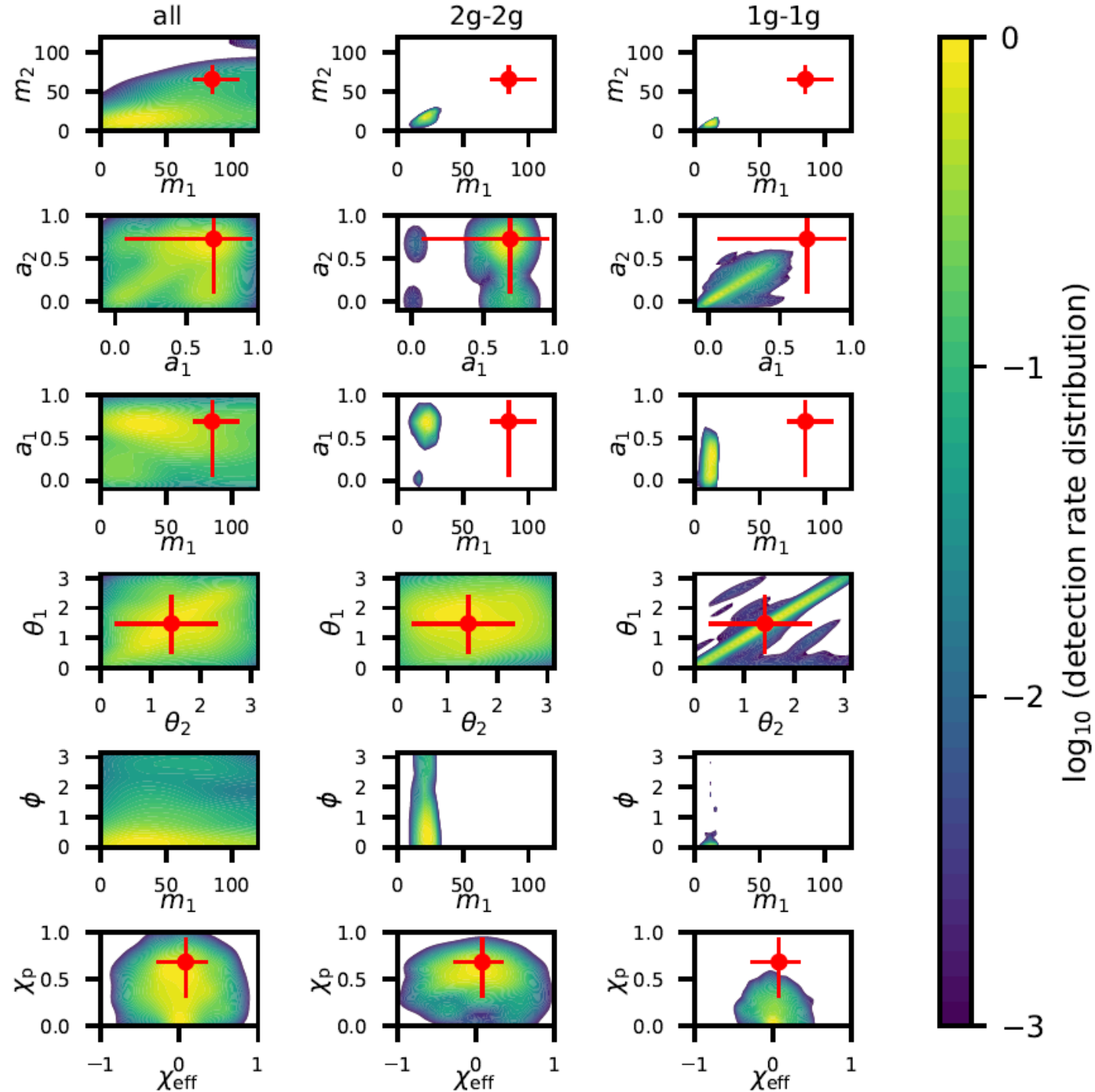
# eccentricity dist.

- peaked at  $e = 10^{-3}$  at 10 Hz in the fiducial model with isotropic binary-single scattering interactions
- but peaked at high  $e$  if the binary-single interactions are in 2D



# Comparison with GW190521

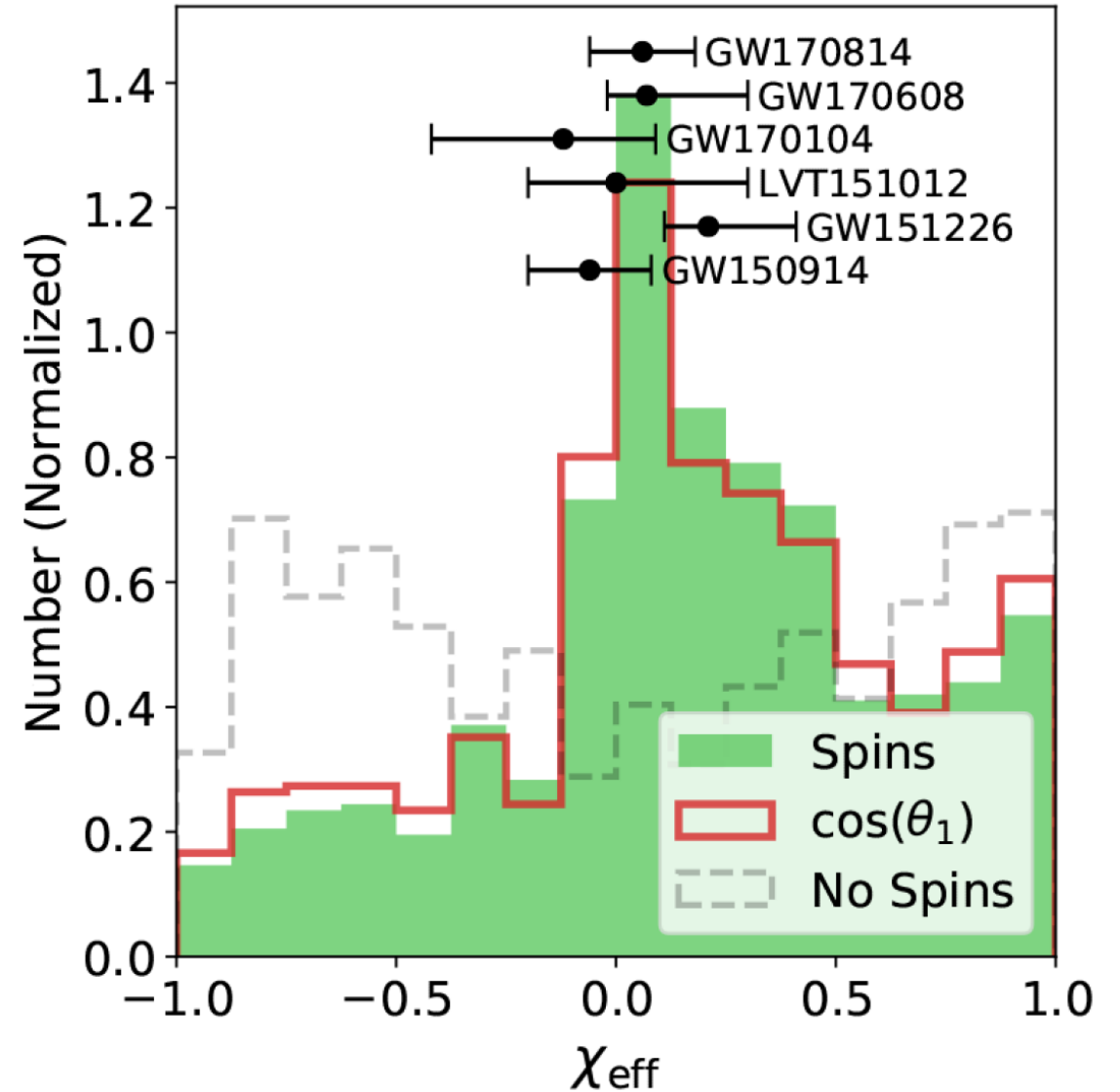
- High BH masses in GW190521 can be explained by mergers in AGN either by
  1. High generation mergers
  2. 2g-2g mergers if the 1g BH masses are high
  3. Super-Eddington accretion



# Option 3: triples

Tertiary perturber:

- Kozai-Lidov effect increases eccentricity  
→ merger
  - spins **align in the perpendicular** direction at quadrupole order  
**but generally do not align**
- expected **rates are**  
**2 – 25 Gpc<sup>-3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>**

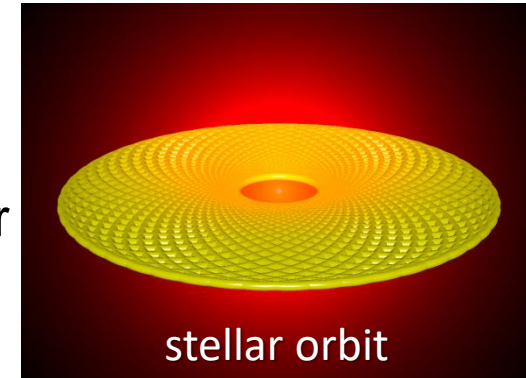


$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2)}{M}$$

# Black hole disks

## Motion of stars in the galactic disk:

- Elliptic orbit around supermassive black hole
- Precession due to spherical component of star cluster



Orbital planes reorient and relax very quickly

Long term gravitational interaction  
of stellar orbits

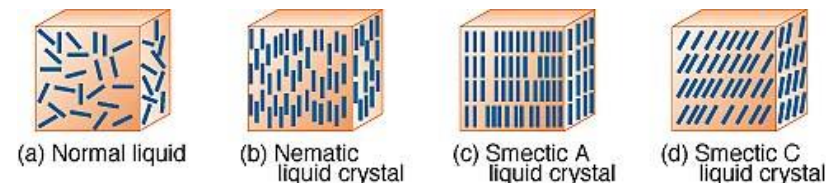
=

Interaction among liquid crystal  
molecules

(Kocsis+Tremaine 2015, Kocsis+Tremaine in prep., Roupas+Kocsis+Tremaine in prep)

## Maximum entropy:

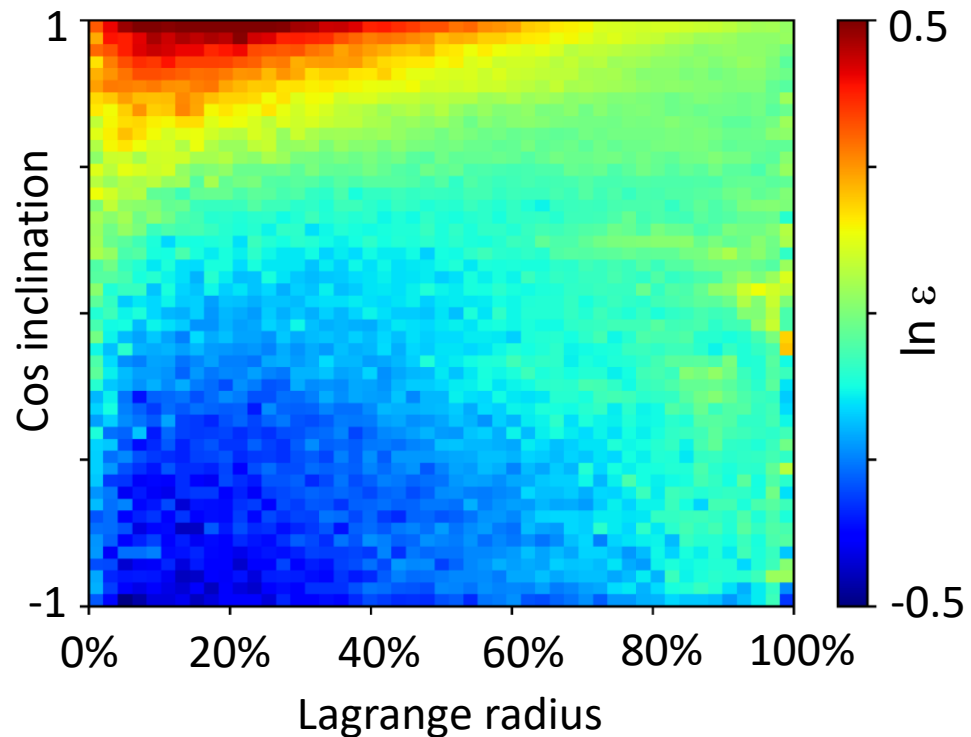
- massive objects: ordered phase
- light objects: spherical phase
- Implication: Black hole disks !





# Black hole disks in globular clusters

- Does this happen in globular clusters? – yes!
- Average mass at a given inclination and radius relative to average mass at a given radius

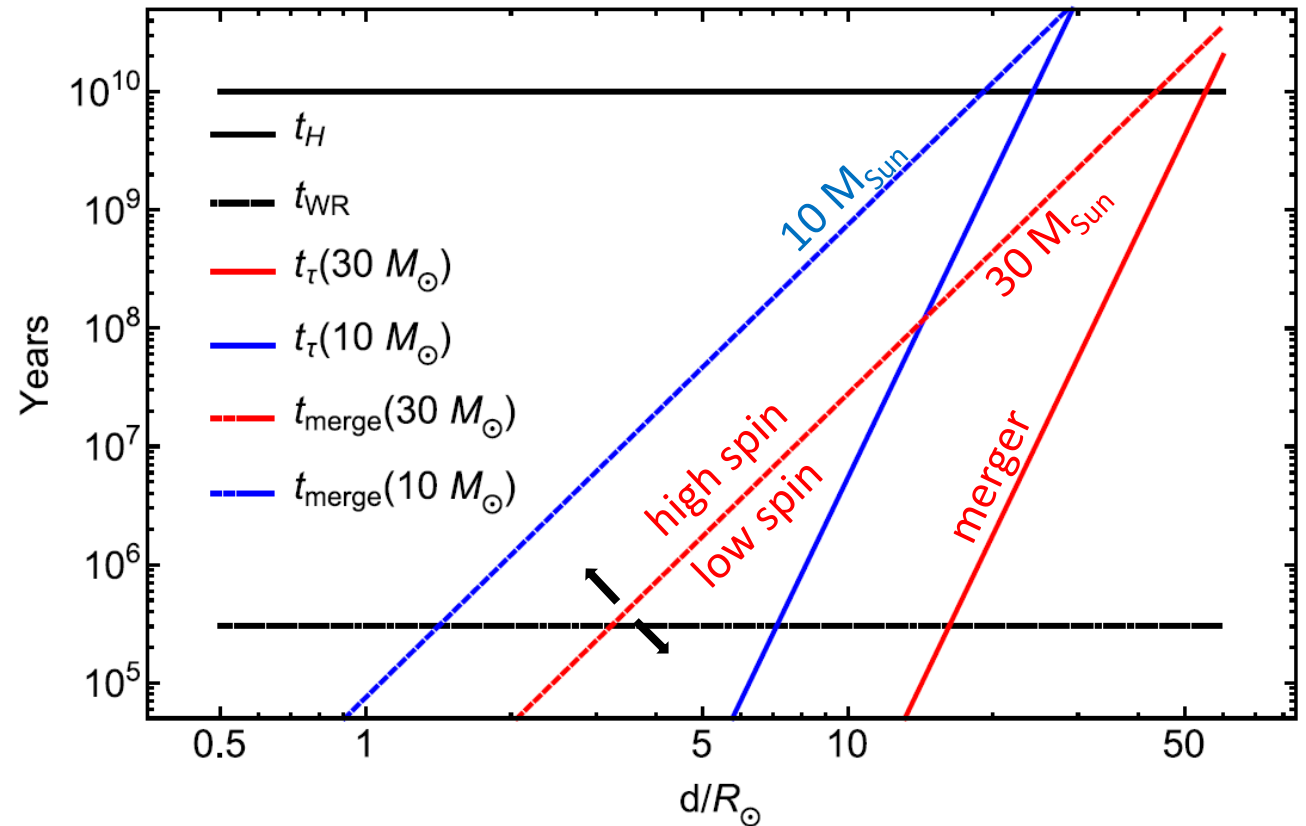


Average mass at a given inclination and radius relative to average mass at given radius

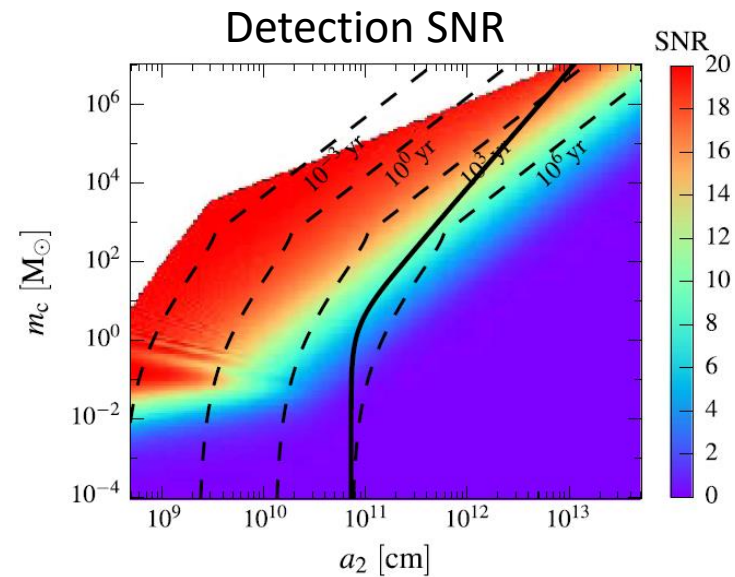
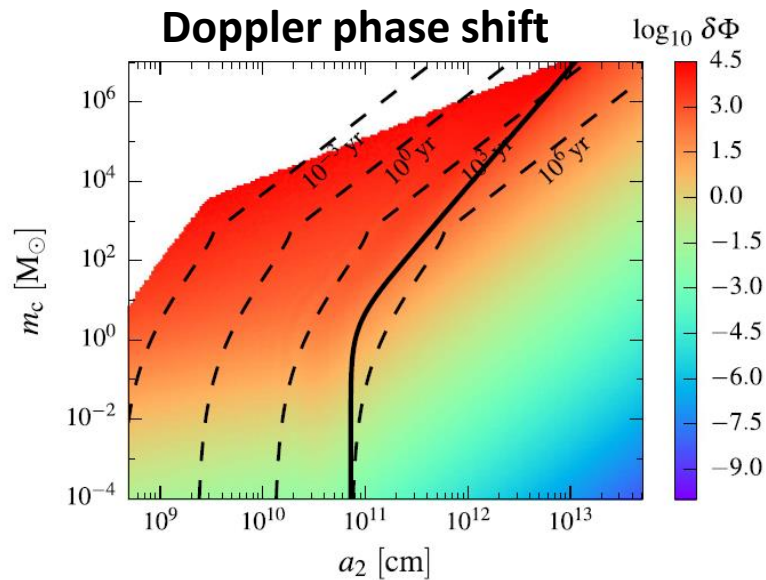
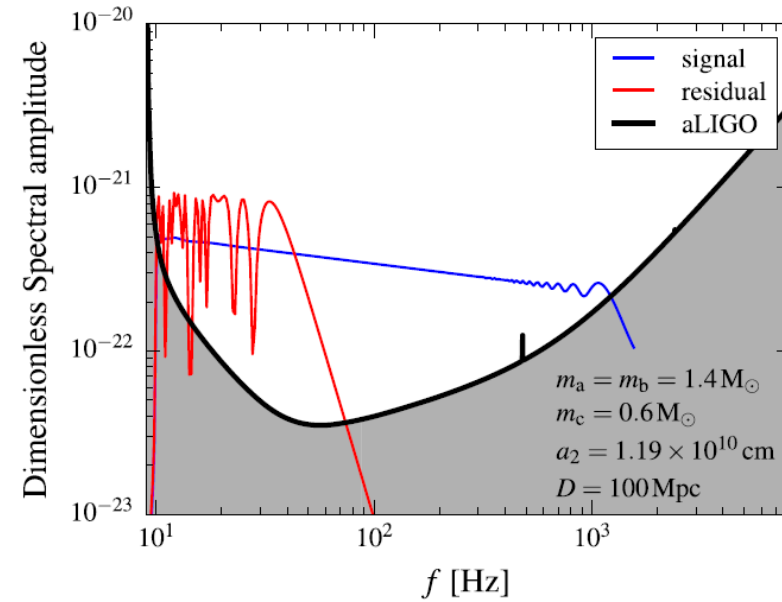
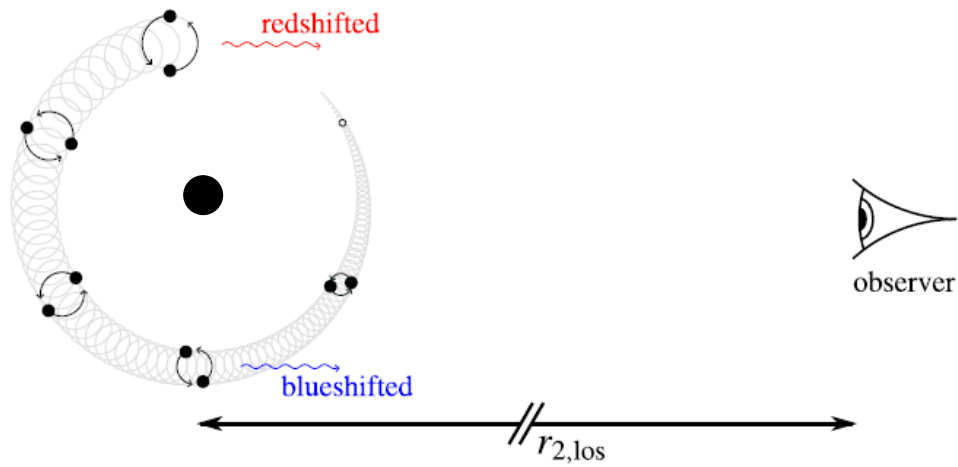
$$\varepsilon(r, \cos i) \equiv \frac{\bar{m}(r, \cos i)}{\bar{m}(r)}$$

# Option 1: stellar binary evolution

- Progenitor WR star is spun up to high spins?
- What is black hole spin after formation?
- Spin up from accretion?



# How to test if sources are in AGN?



# Distinguishing sources

from different channels

- eccentricity, mass, spin distribution
- electromagnetic counterparts
- intermediate mass black holes

# Mass distribution for different processes

universal diagnostic: independent of the mass function

Given:  $\mathcal{R}(m_1, m_2) \propto \mathcal{L}(m_1, m_2) f(m_1) f(m_2)$

How can we eliminate the unknown  $f(m)$ ?

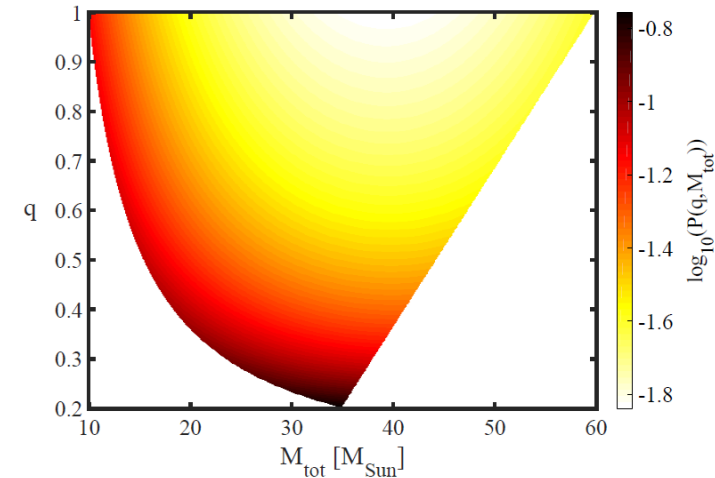
$$-(m_1 + m_2)^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial m_1 \partial m_2} \ln \mathcal{R}(m_1, m_2, t)$$

= **4** in globular clusters (\*needs revision)

= **1.4 ... -5** for GW capture binaries in galactic nuclei

= **1.4** for GW capture binaries in collisionless systems

= **1** for PBH binaries formed in early universe

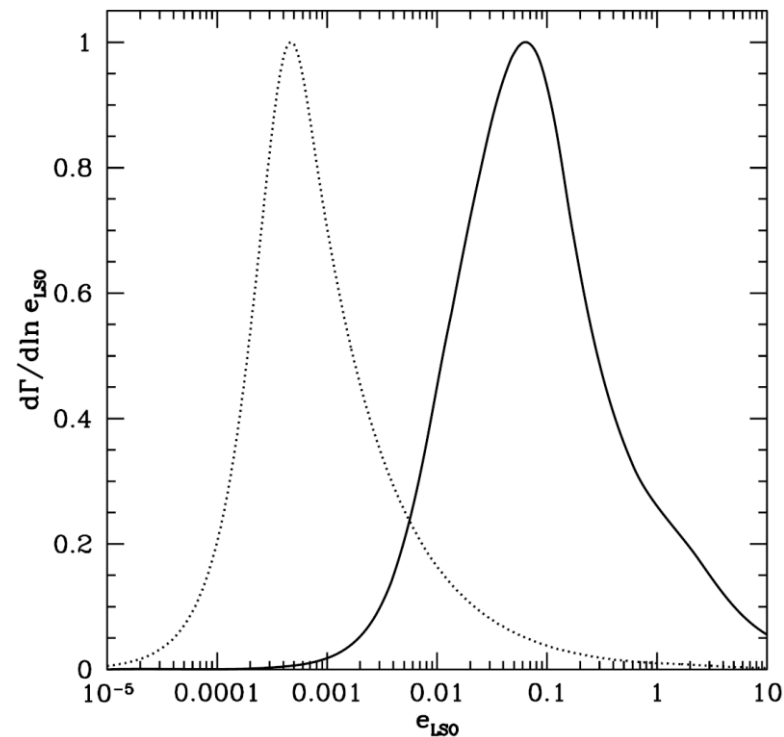




# Eccentricity distribution for GW capture binaries

Velocity dispersion  $\rightarrow$  maximum initial pericenter distance  $r_p/M \rightarrow$  eccentricity at merger

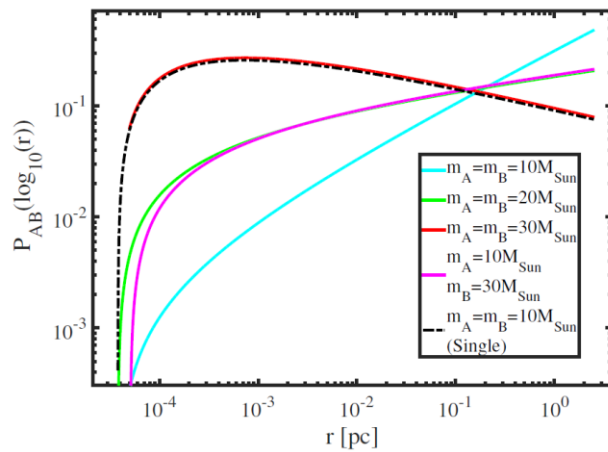
$$\sigma \sim 258 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}} (4\eta)^{1/2} \left( \frac{e_{\text{LSO,peak}}}{0.01} \right)^{35/32}$$



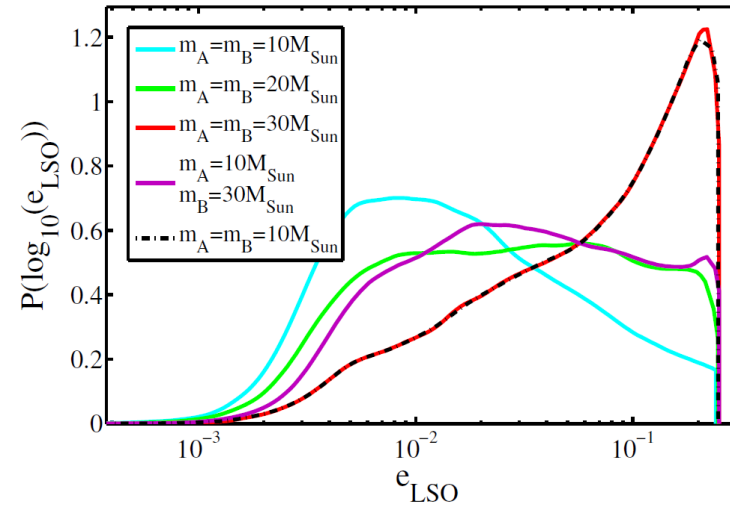
# Eccentricity distribution for GW capture binaries

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$$\sigma \sim 258 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}} (4\eta)^{1/2} \left( \frac{e_{\text{LSO,peak}}}{0.01} \right)^{35/32}$$



radial distribution of mergers  
shows mass segregation

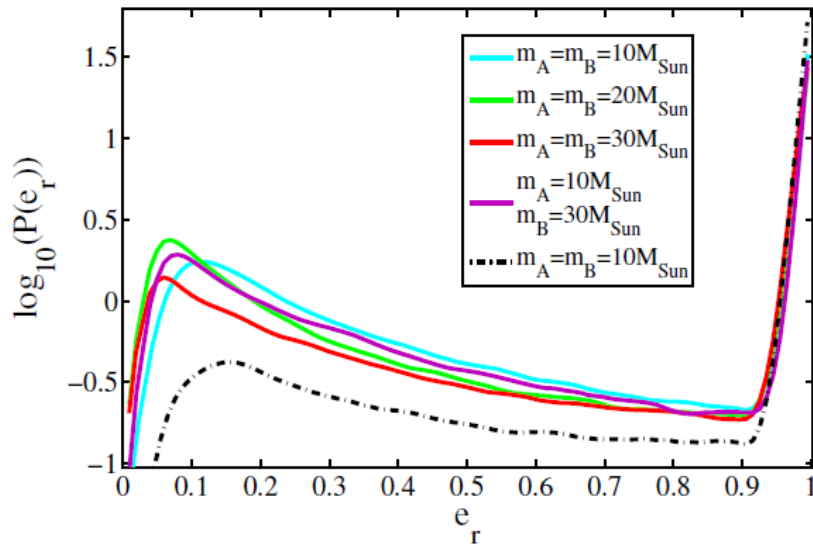


$\rightarrow$  Eccentricity distribution  
reveals mass segregation

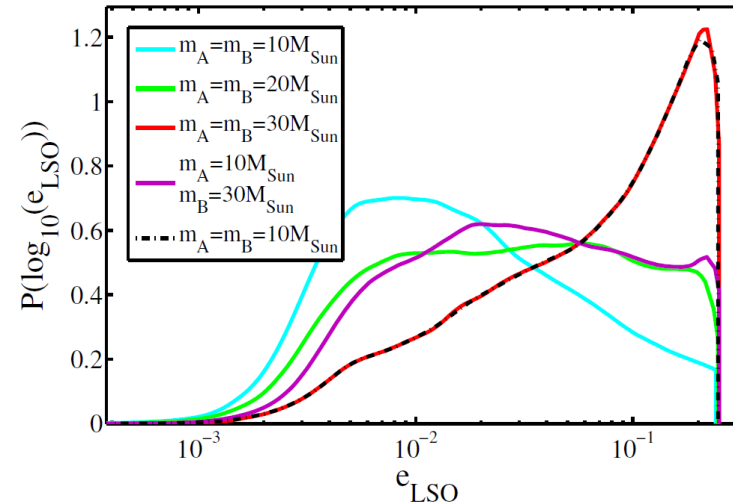
# Eccentricity distribution for GW capture binaries

Velocity dispersion  $\rightarrow$  maximum initial pericenter distance  $r_p/M \rightarrow$  eccentricity at merger

$$\sigma \sim 258 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}} (4\eta)^{1/2} \left( \frac{e_{\text{LSO,peak}}}{0.01} \right)^{35/32}$$



Eccentricity distribution when ALIGO first sees it (design sensitivity)

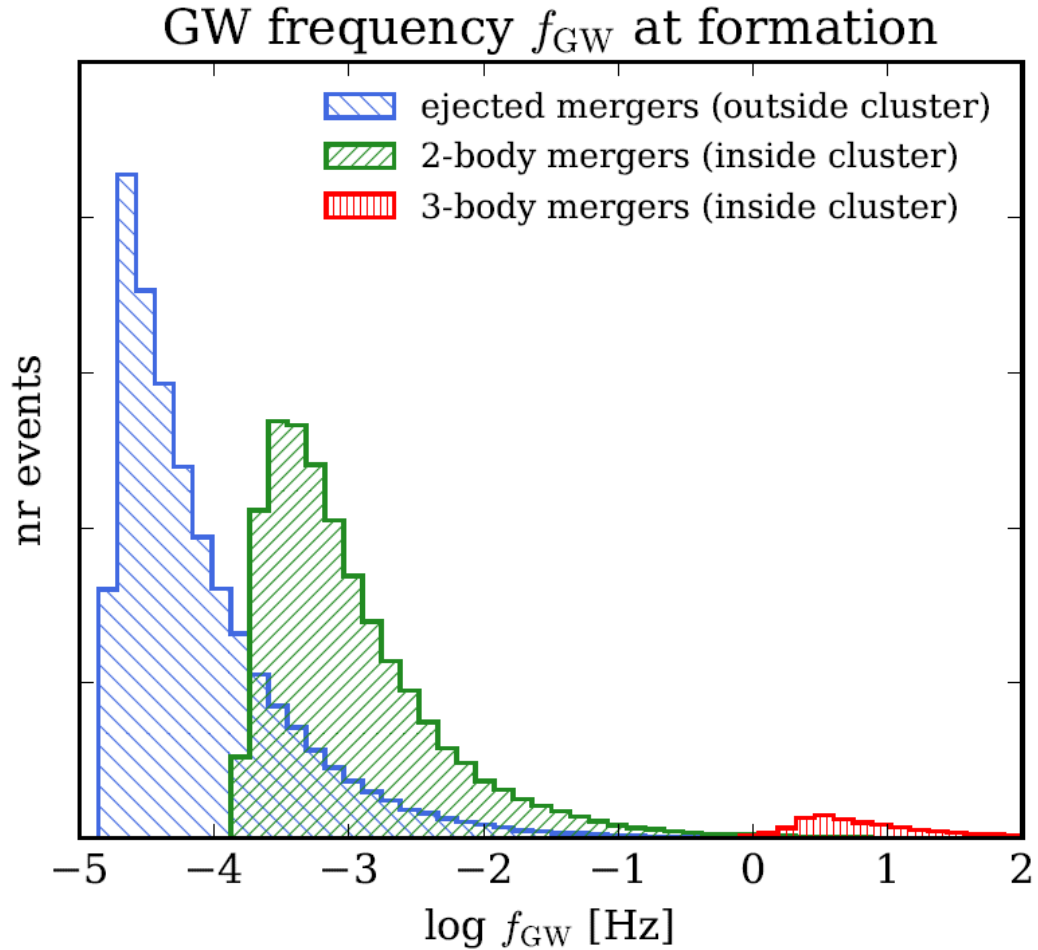


$\rightarrow$  Eccentricity distribution reveals mass segregation

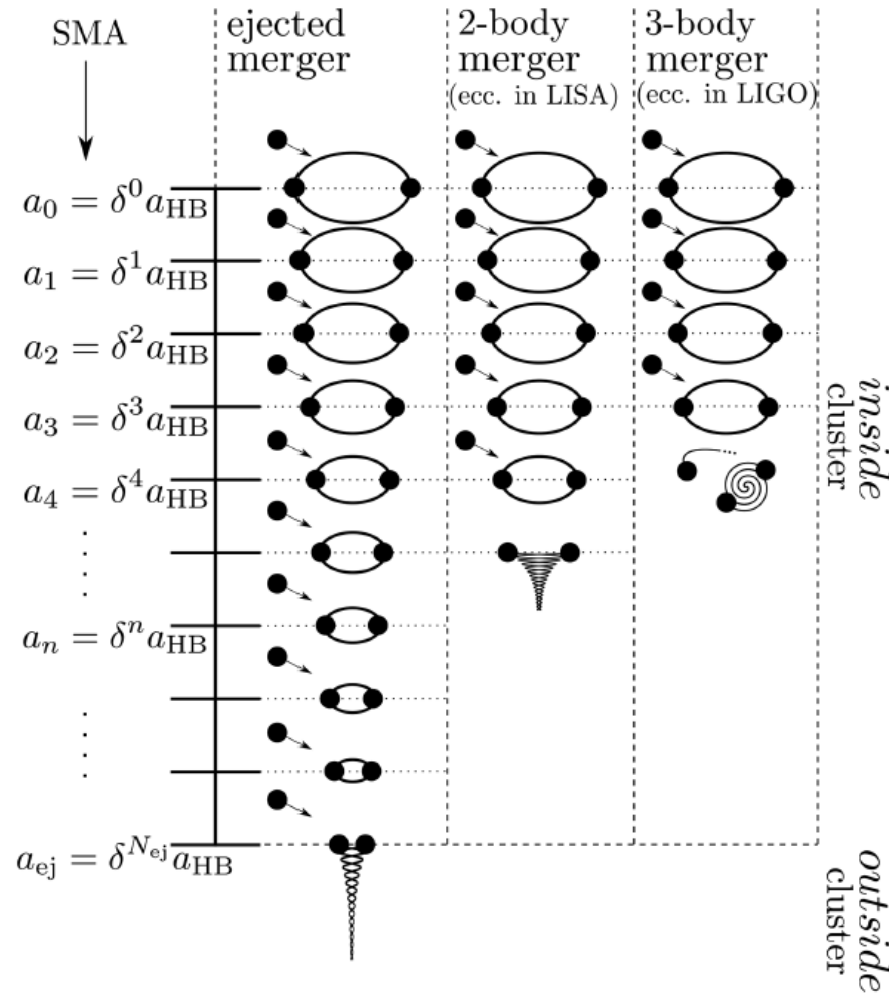
cf. measurement accuracy  $\Delta e_{\text{LSO}} \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$

$30M_{\text{Sun}} + 30M_{\text{Sun}}$  @ 1Gpc

# Eccentricity distribution for merging globular cluster binaries



Samsing+ (2018a, 2018b)



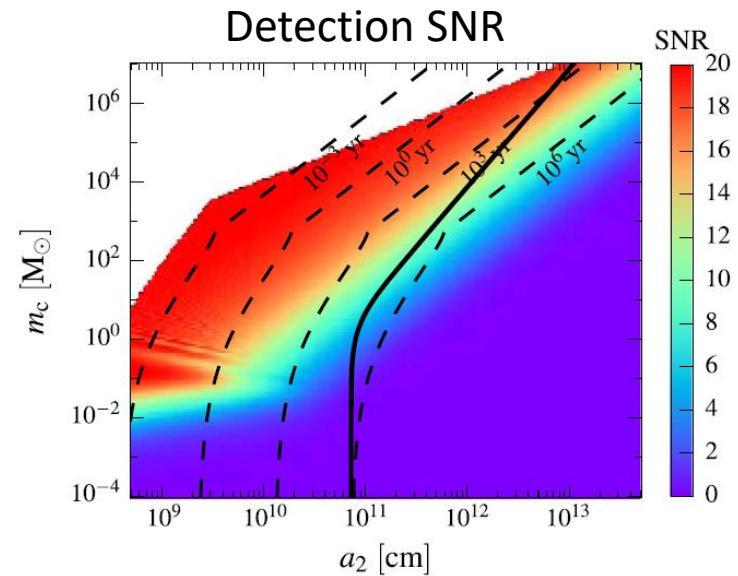
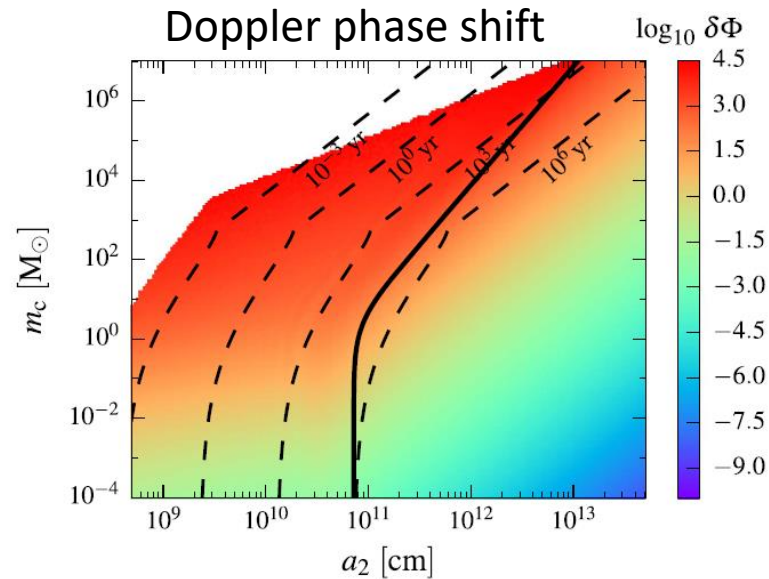
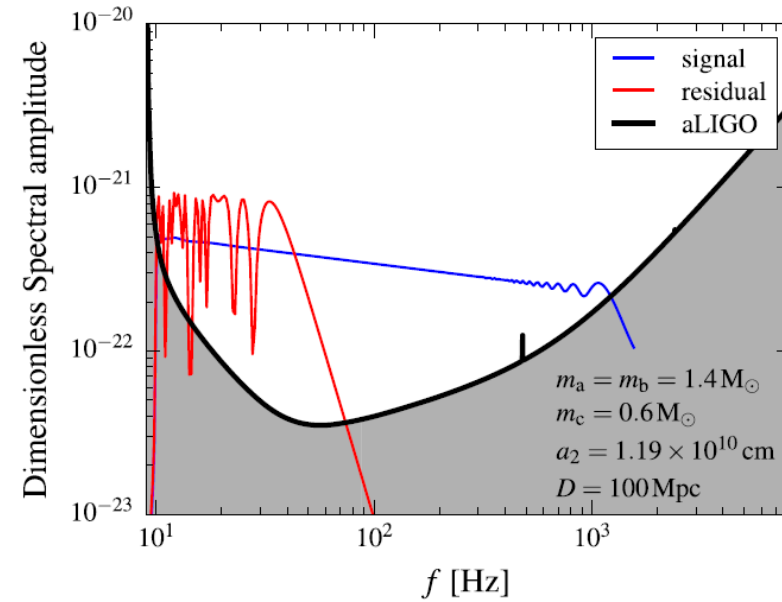
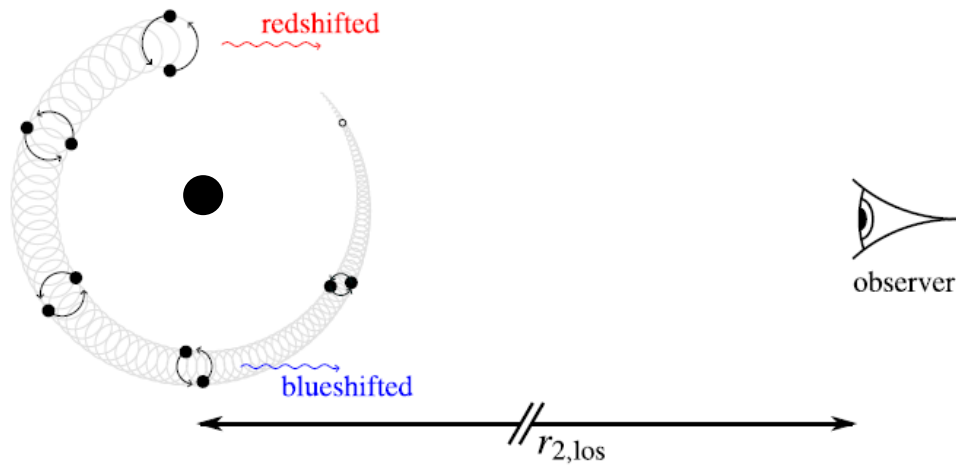
# Eccentric sources: rates from different channels

	GW capture (single-single interactions)	Hierarchical triples (Kozai-Lidov effect)	Binary-single interactions
Nuclear star clusters	0.01-0.1 (this work) 0.8 (O'Leary+09) 0.02 (Tsang 2013)	? (Hoang+2018)	0? (Antonini & Rasio 2016)
Globular clusters	?	0.04 (Antonini+2016)	0.05 - 0.5 (Samsing+2018, Rodriguez+2018)
Galactic field	0?	0.002 - 0.1 ? (Silsbee&Tremaine 2017) 0.01 - 0.04 (Antonini+2017)	?

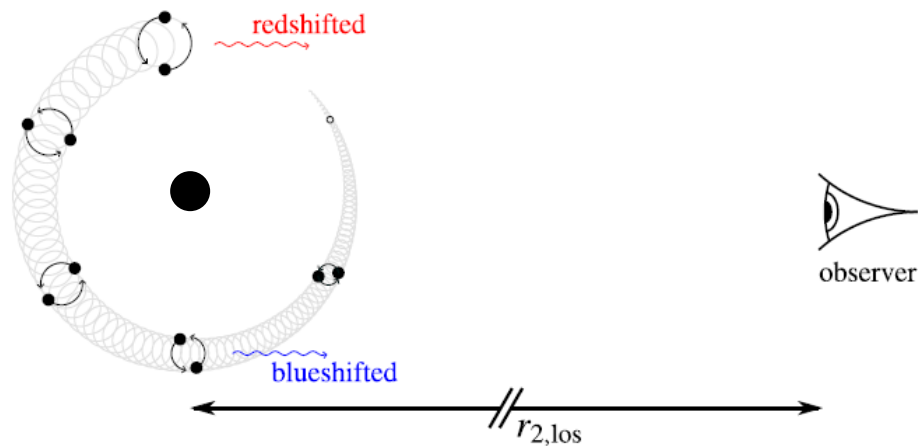


Smoking gun signatures  
to identify origin of source

# SMBH/AGN source with LIGO



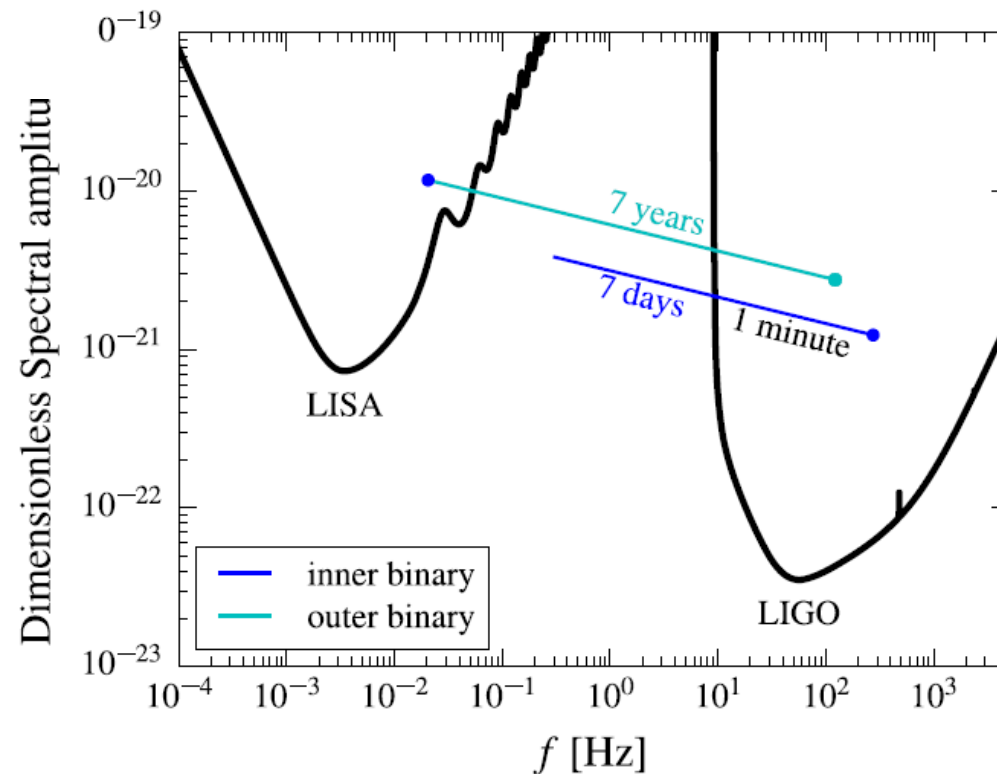
# SMBH/AGN source with LIGO+LISA



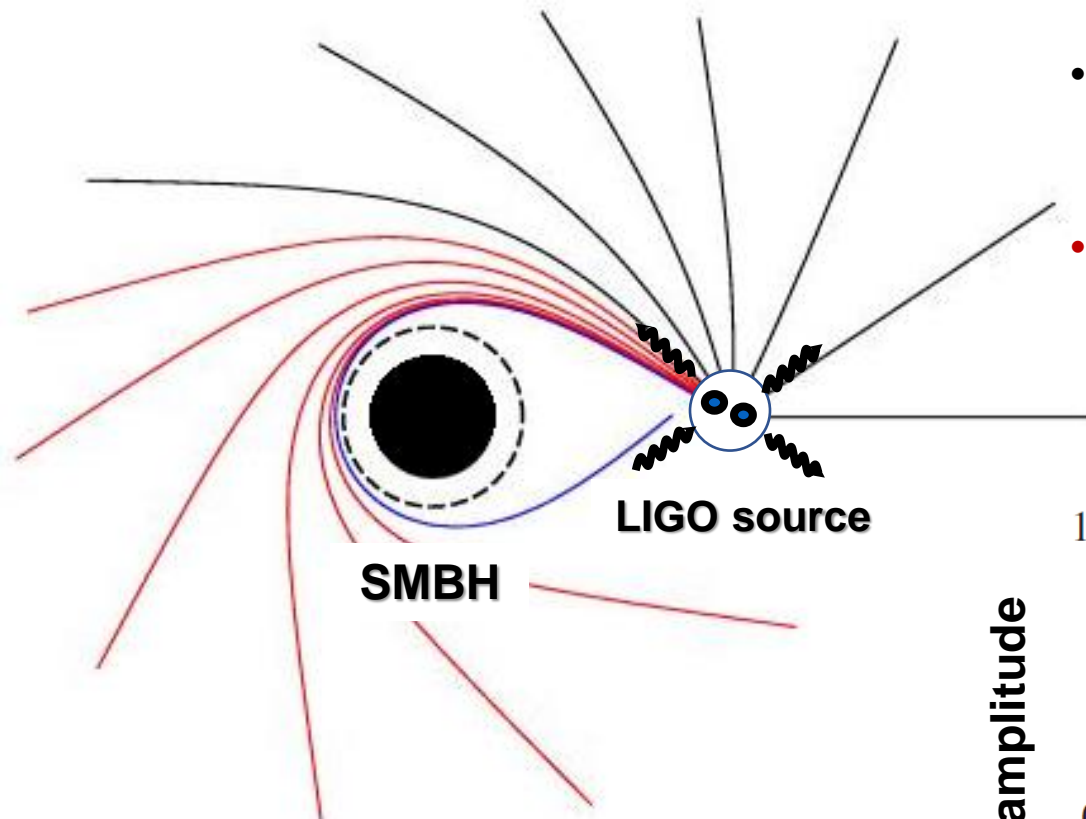
- LISA+LIGO coincident detection of triple inspiral
- LIGO detection of GW mass loss
- LISA detection of GW mass loss
- Later: LIGO detection of merger (if stellar-mass triple)

Test of general relativity

see also Sesana (2016), Inayoshi+ (2017)



# GW echos



- GW rays are deflected around supermassive black holes
- Echo amplitude depends on distance to SMBH and deflection angle

GW echo arrives in

$$14\text{h} \times (1 - \cos \alpha) M_6 (r / 10^4 M)$$

