

ASTROPHYSICS WITH GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

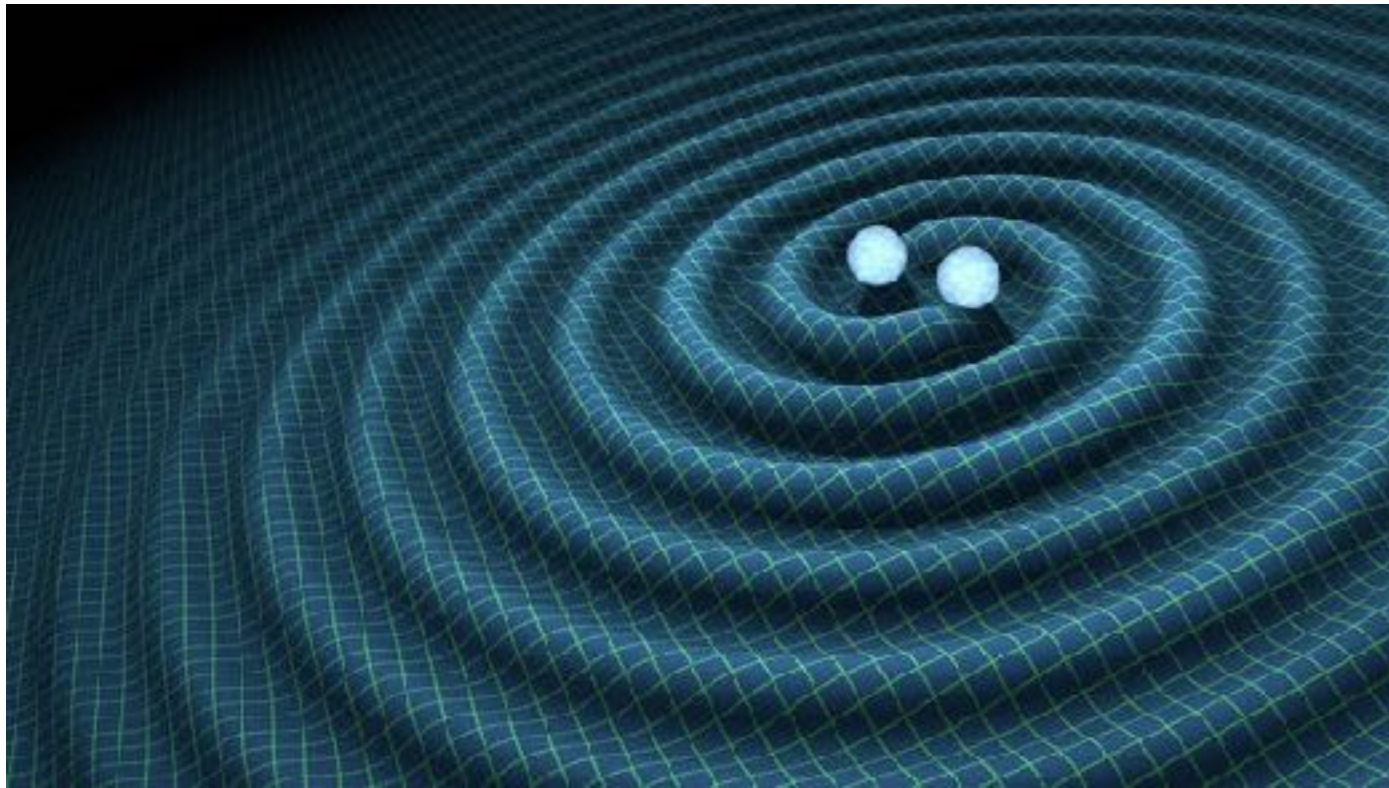
Astrid Lamberts

Astrid.lamberts@oca.eu



MaNiTou 2023

HOW TO CREATE GRAVITATIONAL WAVES?



Propagation of disturbance
of spacetime

Needs: very massive objects

Speeds \sim speed of light

-> Extreme objects/phenomena: compact objects, explosions

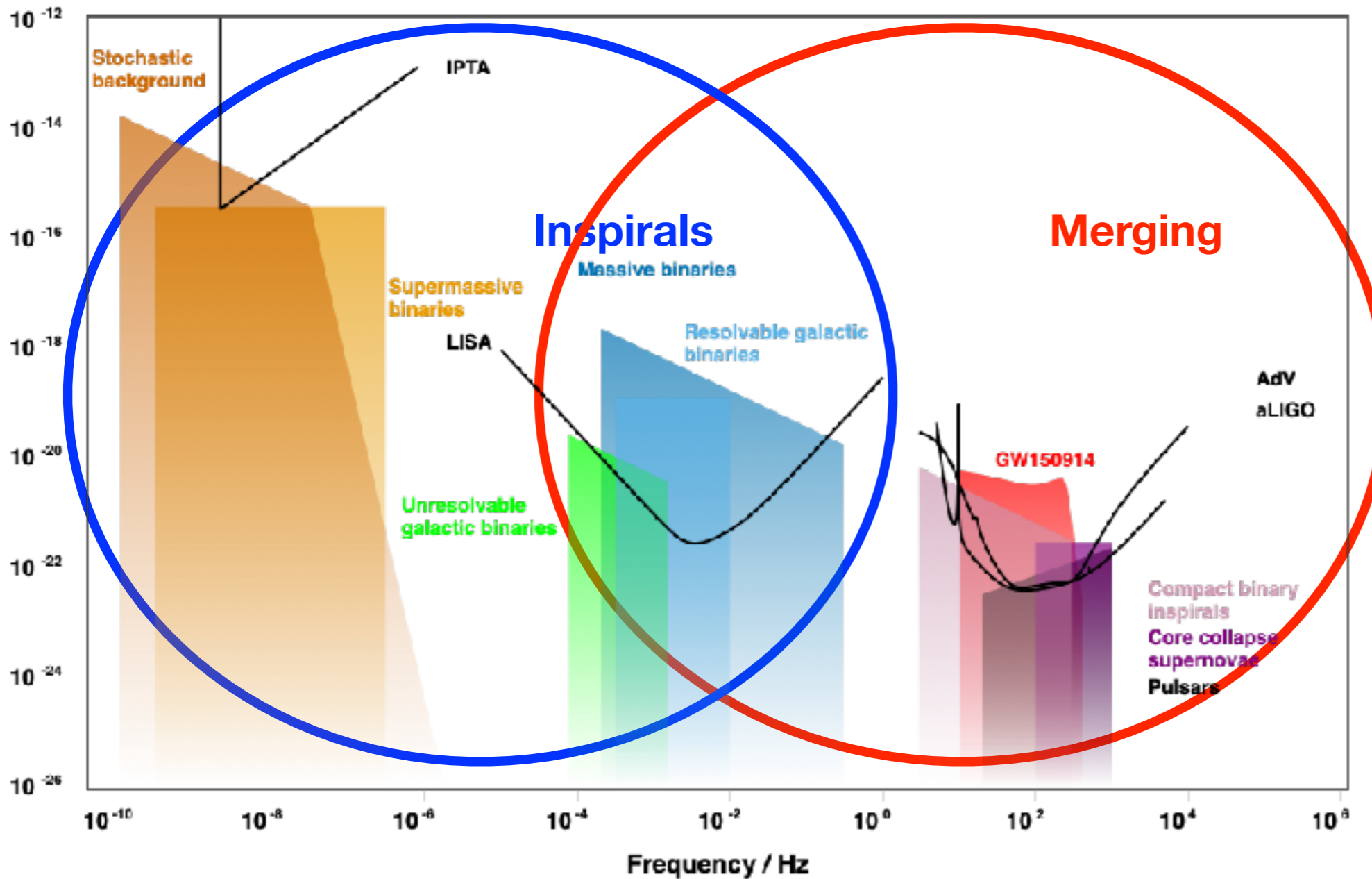
Anything with a quadrupole moment (not spherically symmetric):
binaries...

Compact binaries: black holes, neutron stars, white dwarfs and others

DIFFERENT SOURCES OF GW

Stellar objects with LVK detectors

GWs at lower frequencies: white dwarfs and supermassive black holes



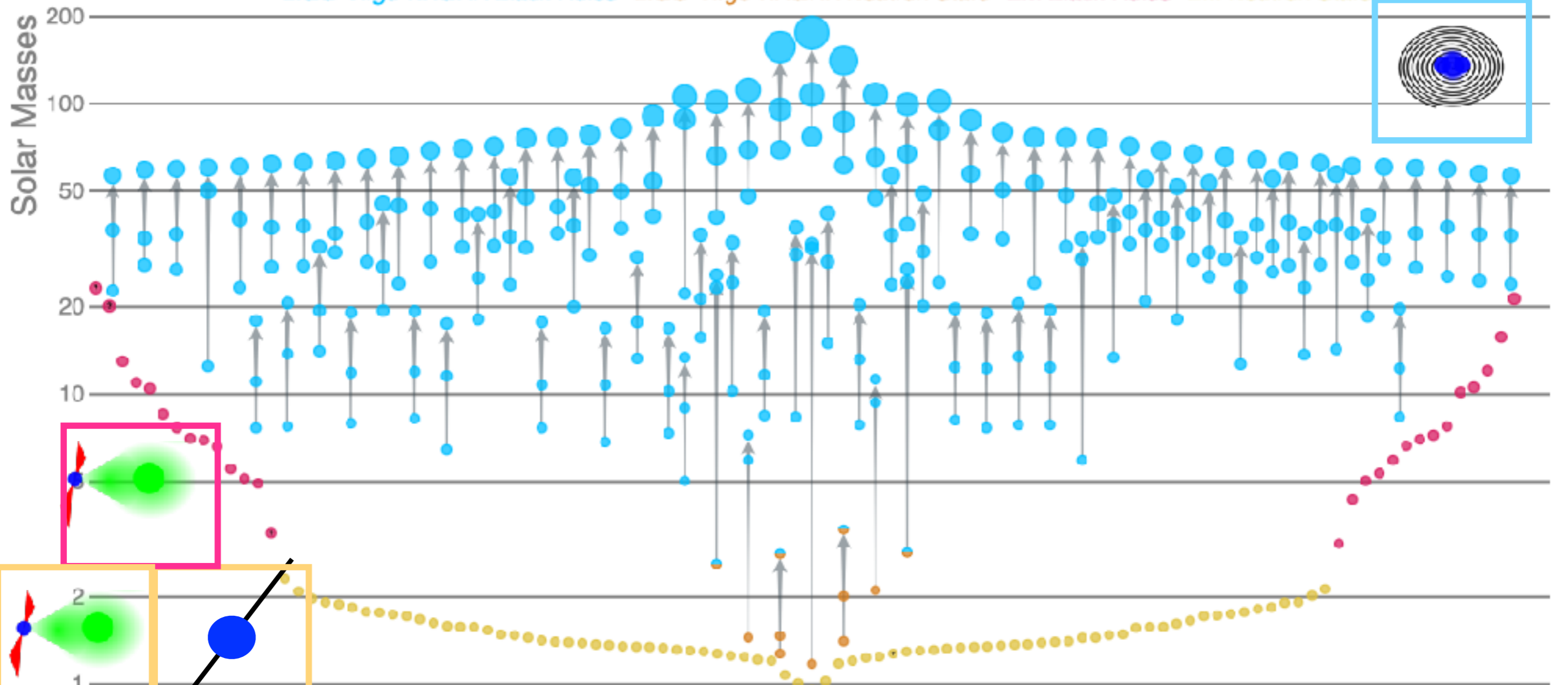
$$h \propto \frac{M^{2/3} \mu f^{2/3}}{d}$$

GW frequency ~ 2 orbital frequency

GWplotter.com

Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

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



LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA | Aaron Geller | Northwestern

White dwarfs (EM only, until LISA)

Where do these distributions come from?

FROM STARS TO COMPACT OBJECTS

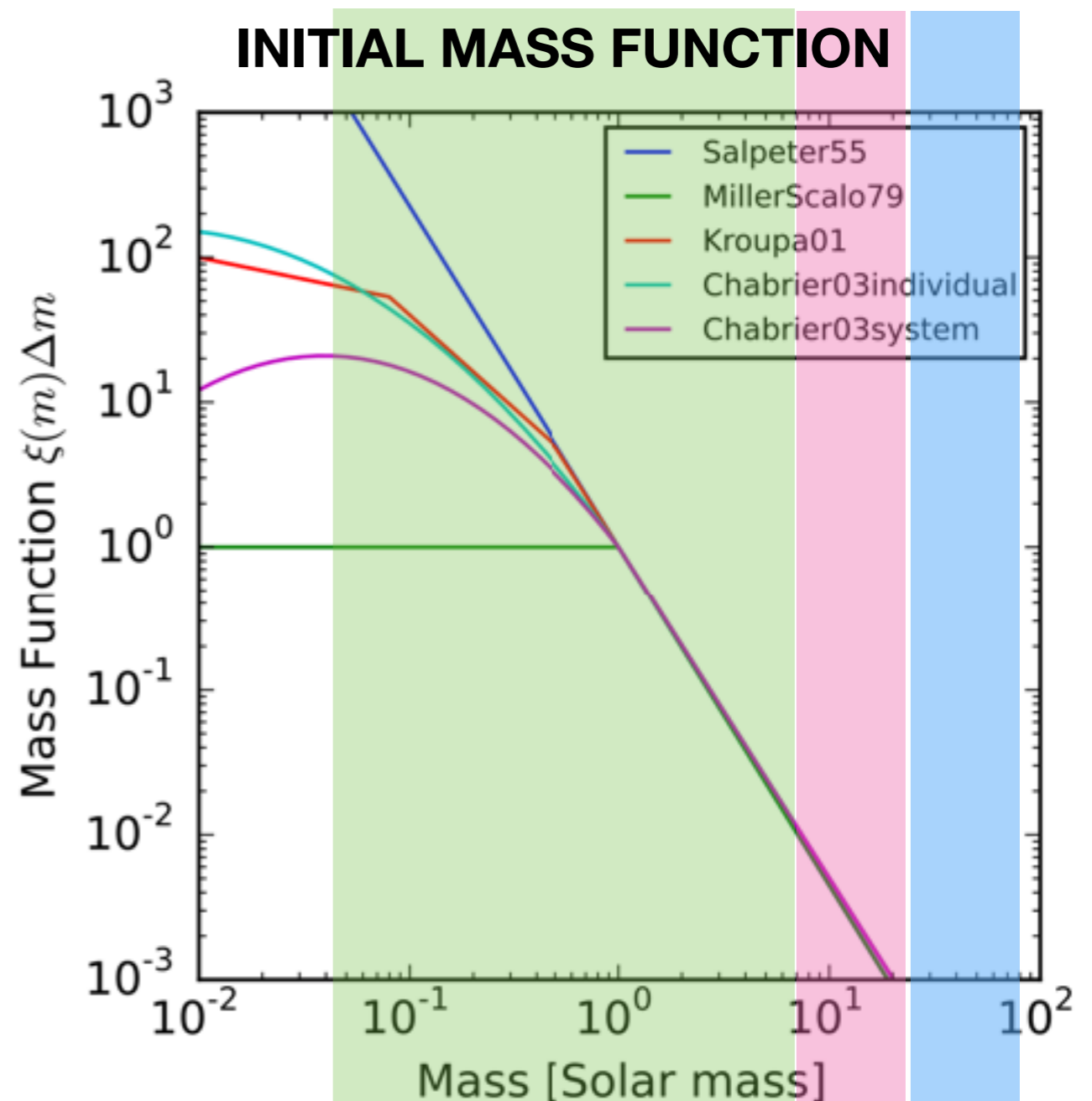
Single stars :

$M < 8-10 M_{\text{sun}}$: White dwarf

$8-10 < M < \sim 20 M_{\text{sun}}$: Neutron Star

$M > \sim 20 M_{\text{sun}}$: Black holes

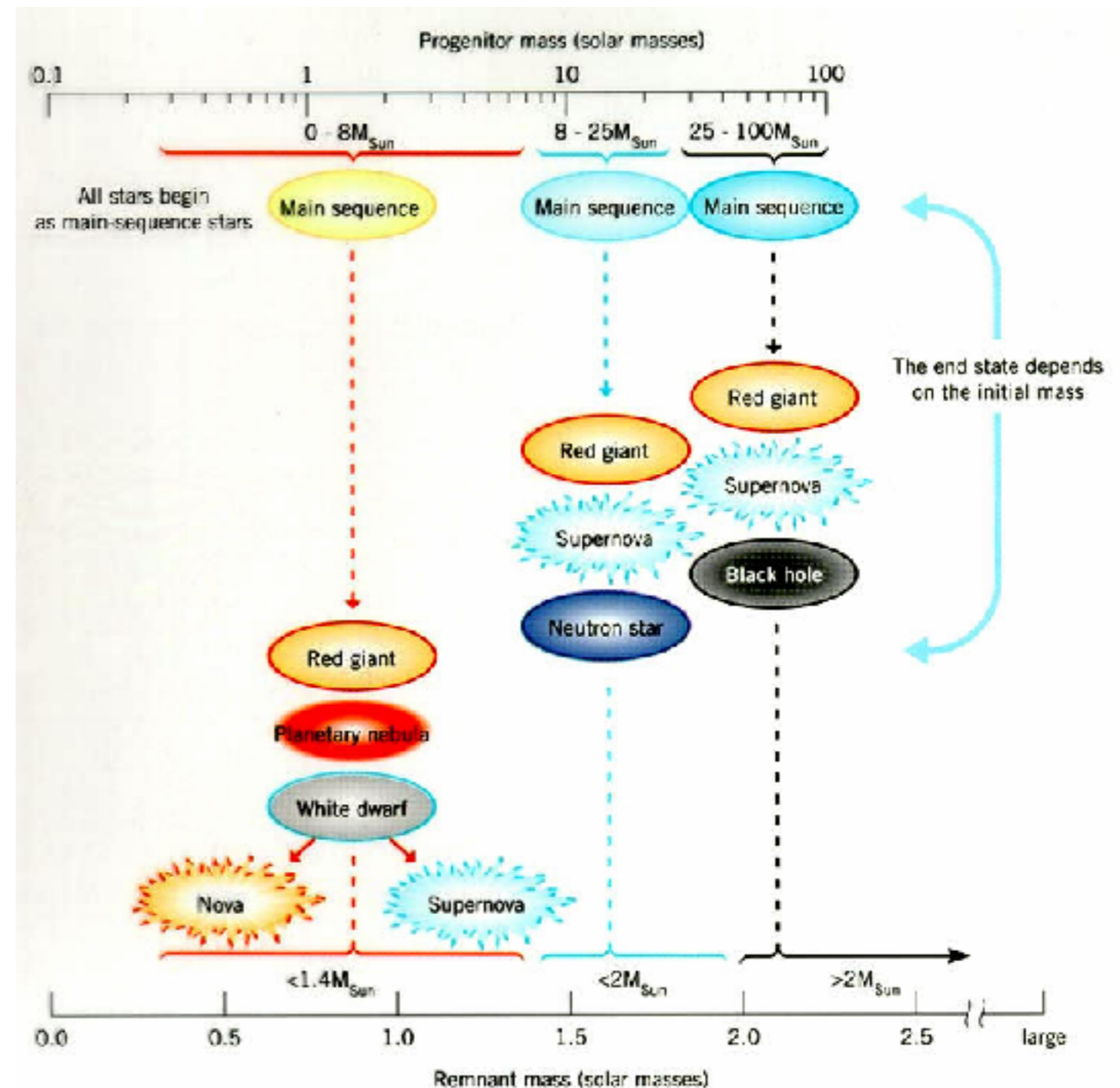
Many more white dwarfs
than NS and BH



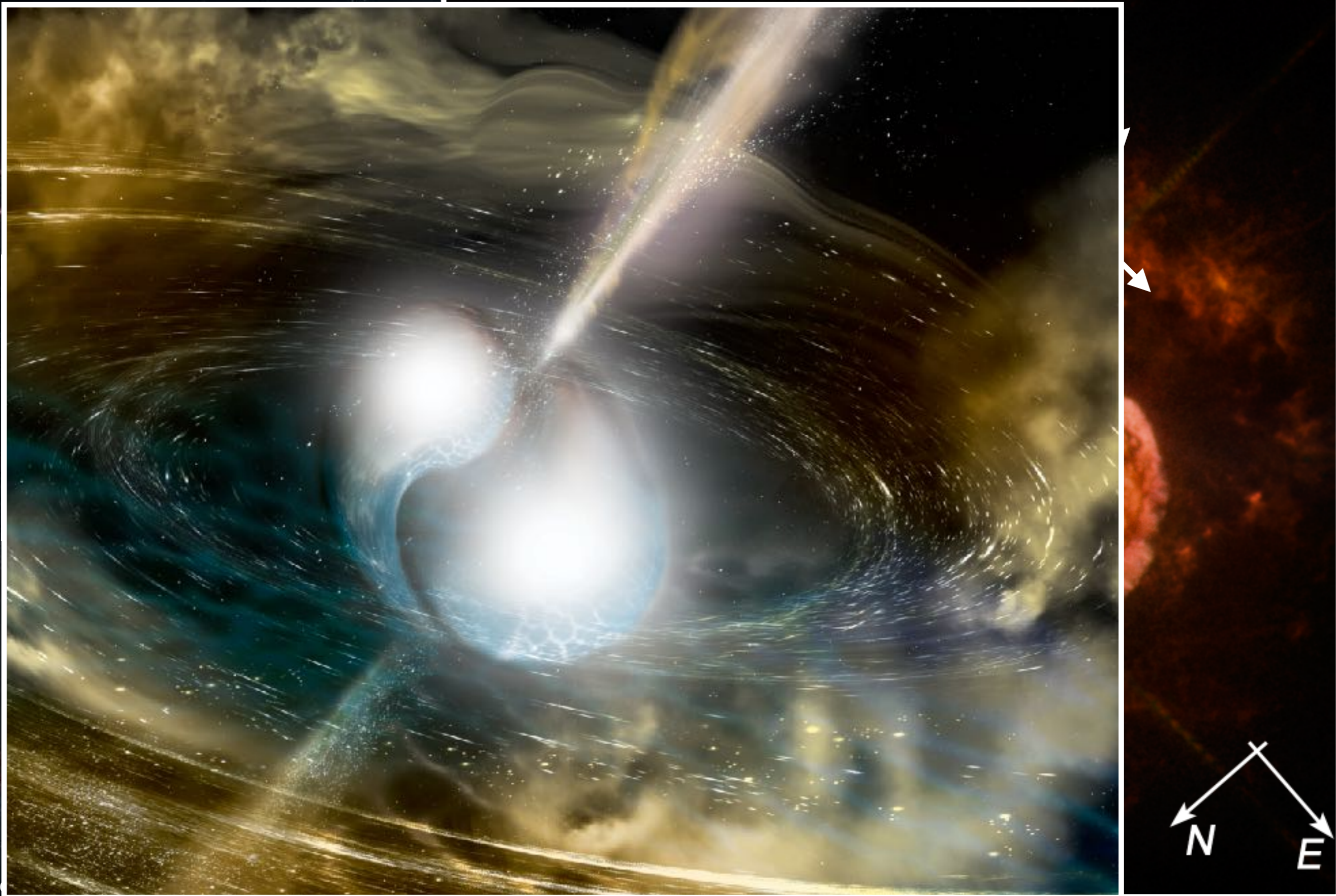
SINGLE STELLAR EVOLUTION

Mass: most important factor

Chemical composition
(metallicity) important for BH



MASSIVE STARS : COSMIC ENGINES AND FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS

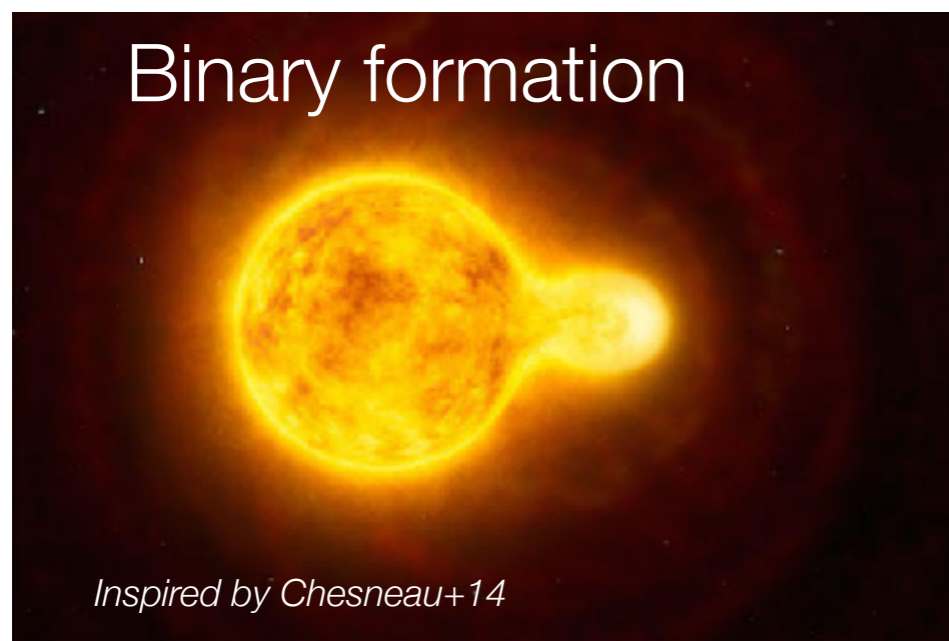


HOW TO GET COMPACT OBJECTS TO MERGE?

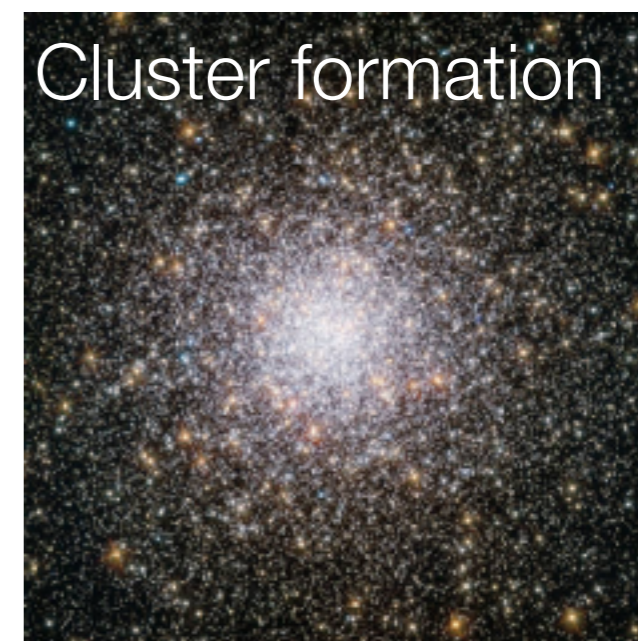
Problem: $t_{merger} \propto a^4$

Initial stellar radii: already too far apart to ever merge

Most massive stars form in pairs, triples or dense groups => many interactions



Mapelli, 22 for a review



Formation channel?

GW



Stellar physics

HOW TO MAKE BLACK HOLE BINARIES?

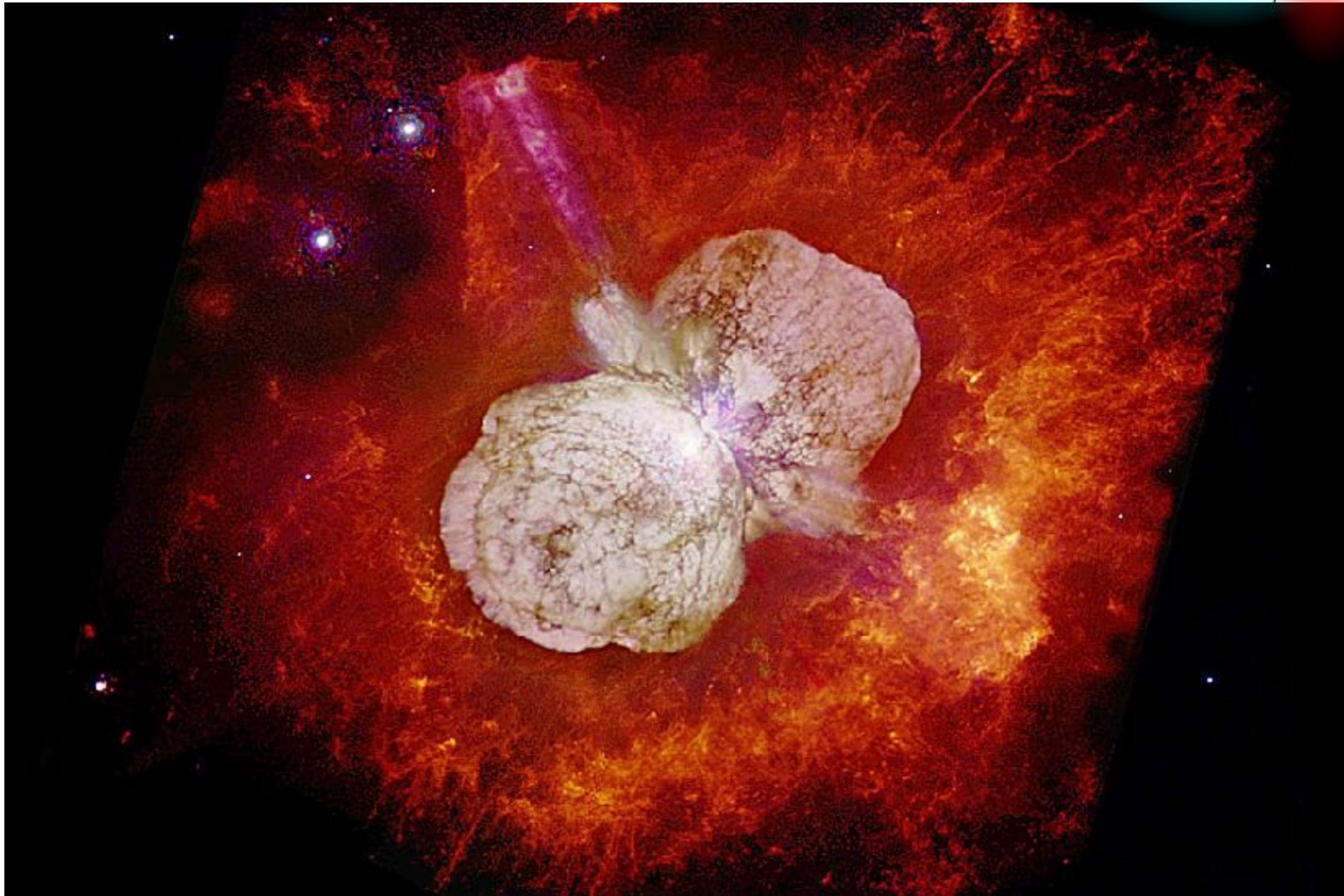
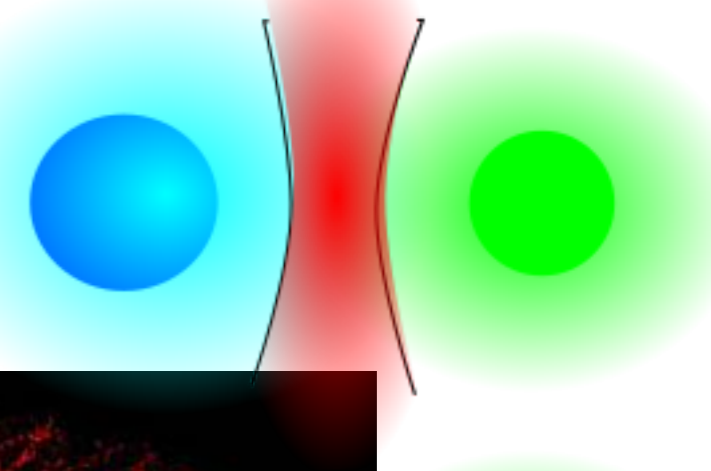


Step 1 :
Create 2 massive stars
At least 20 x Sun

Disadvantage : Massive stars are rare

Advantage : Most massive stars form in close binaries

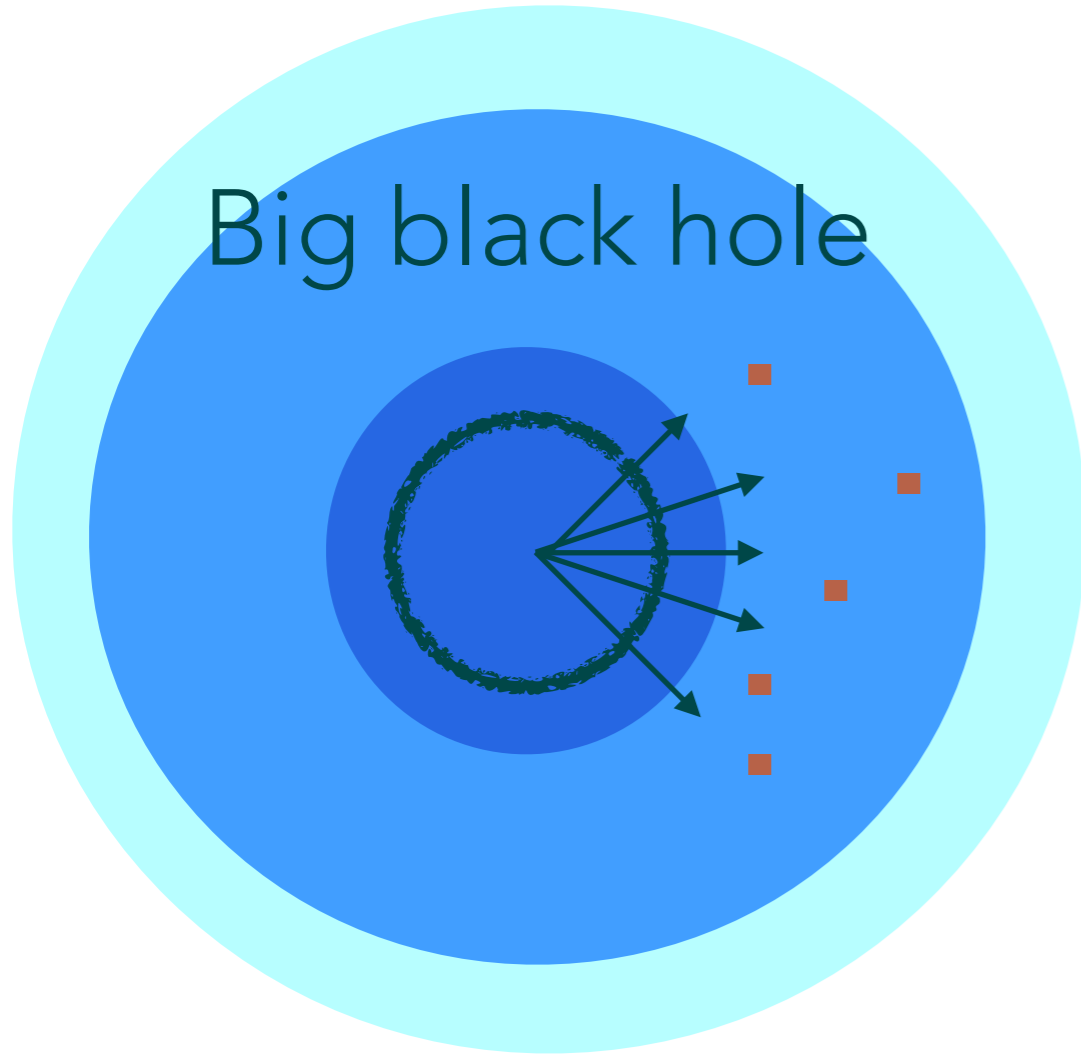
PROBLEM 1 : WINDS



IMPORTANCE OF METALS (C, O, Ne, Fe...)

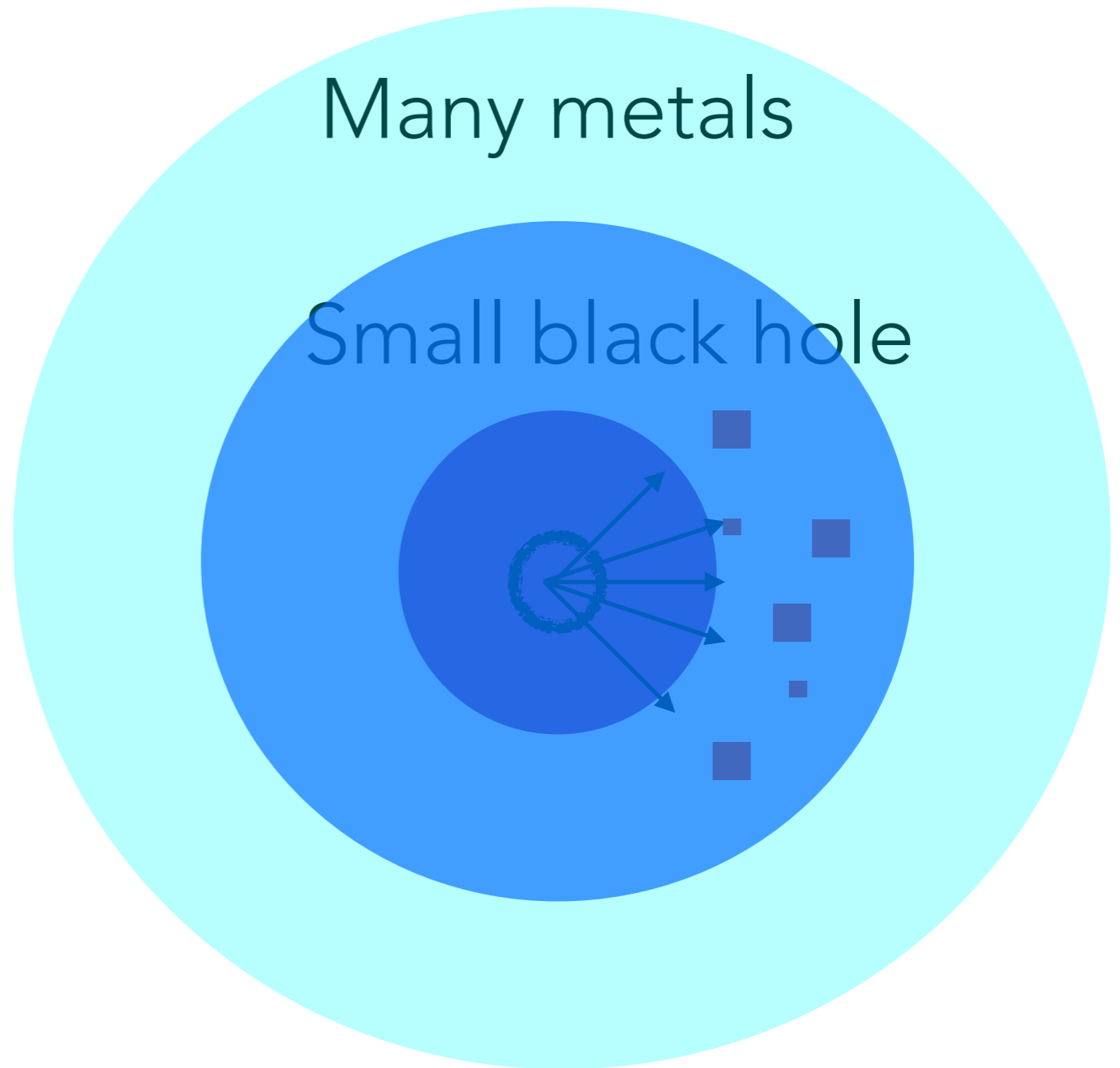
Few metals

Big black hole

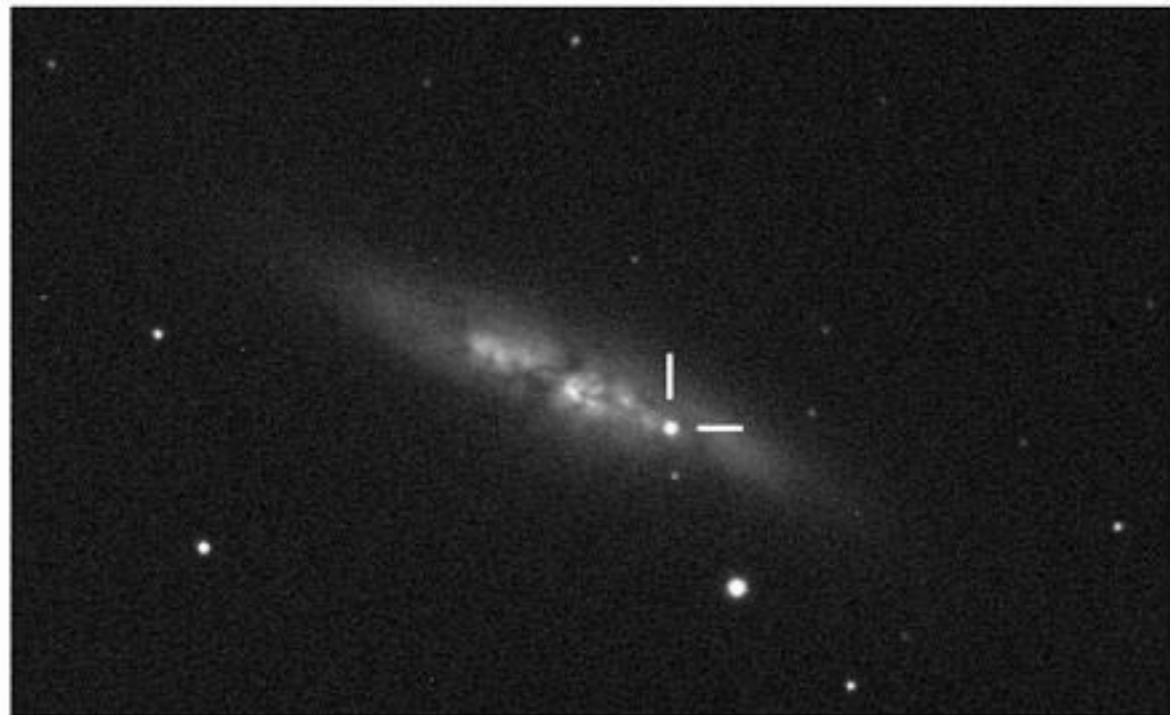
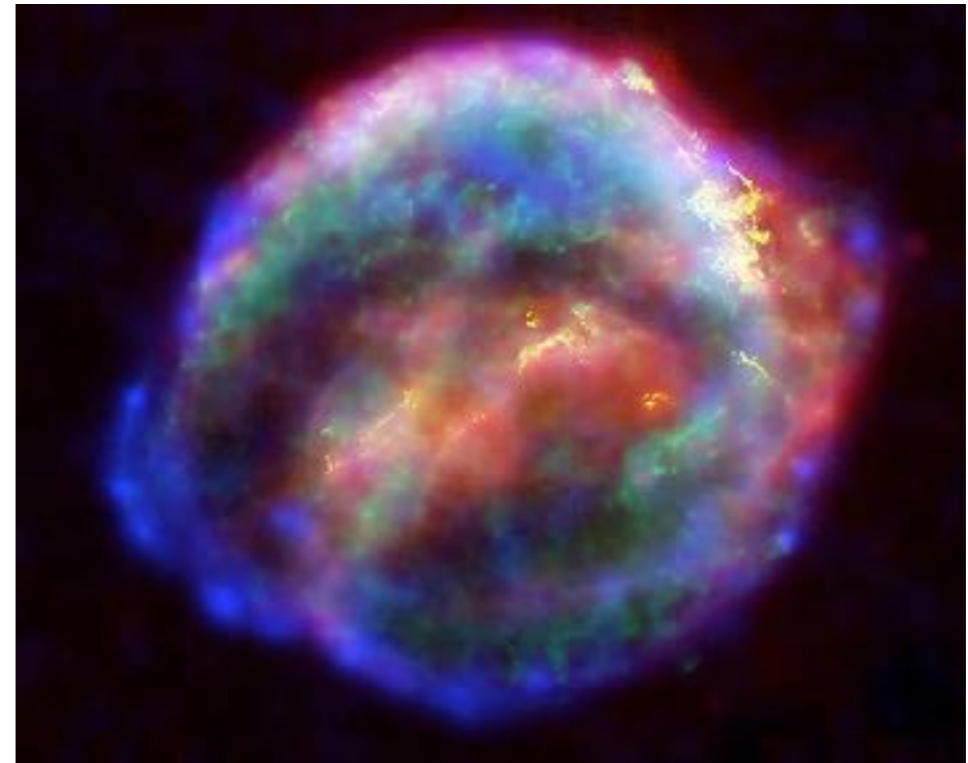
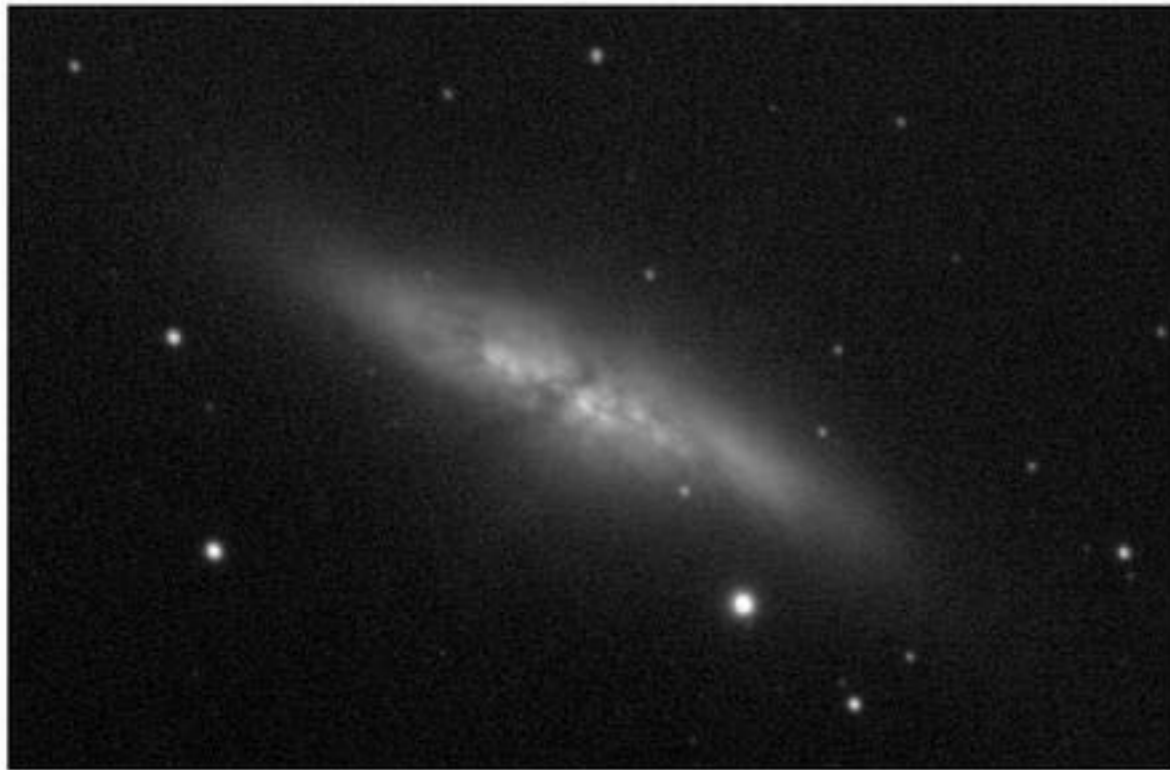


Many metals

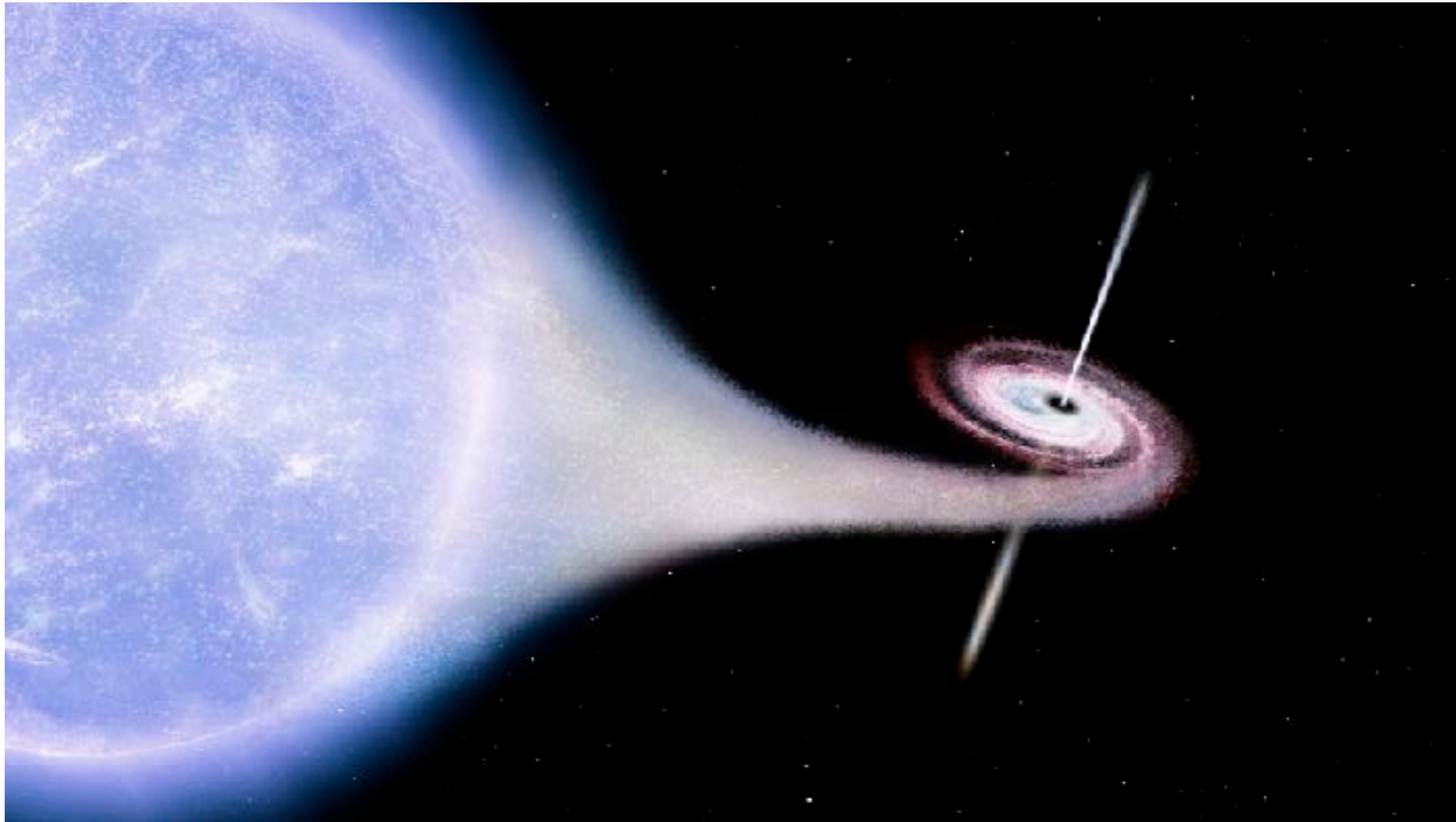
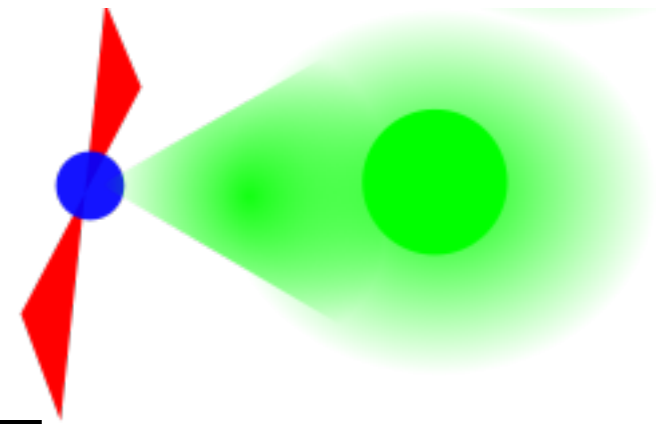
Small black hole



PROBLEM 2 : SUPERNOVA



X-RAY BINARIES



Mass transfer through winds (or Roche Lobe overflow)

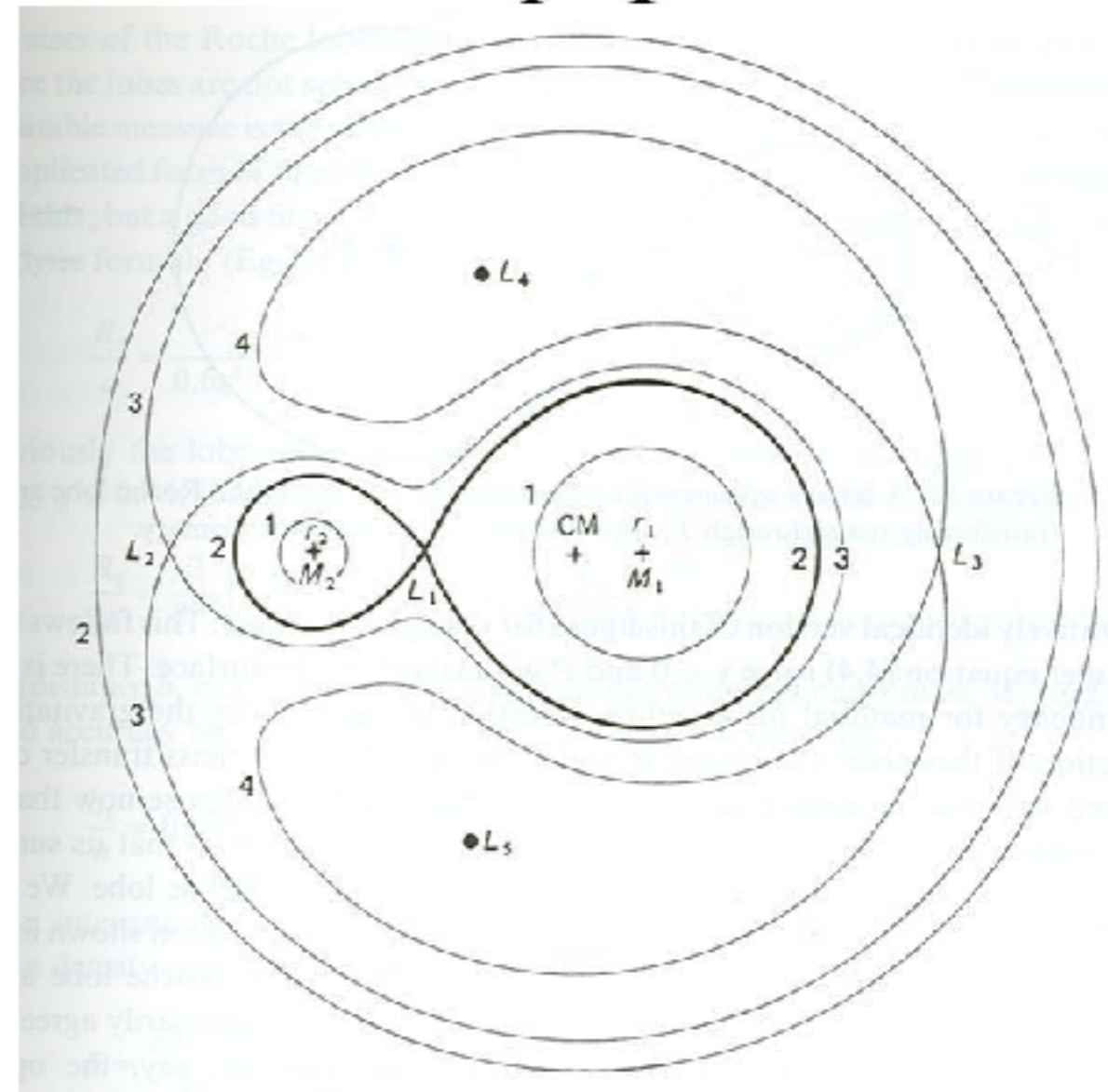
ROCHE LOBE OVERFLOW

Roche Lobe: boundary between gravitational influence of both stars

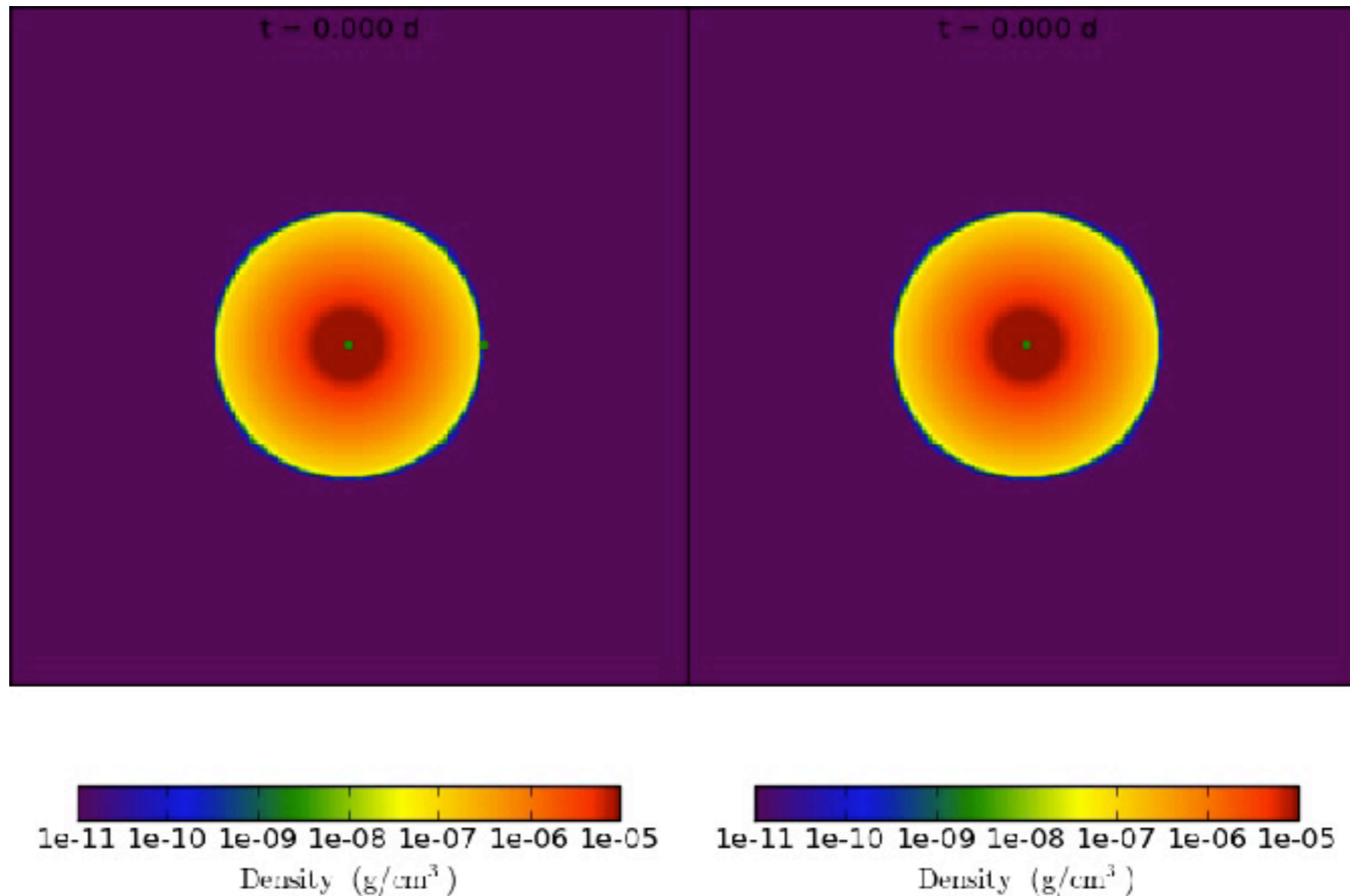
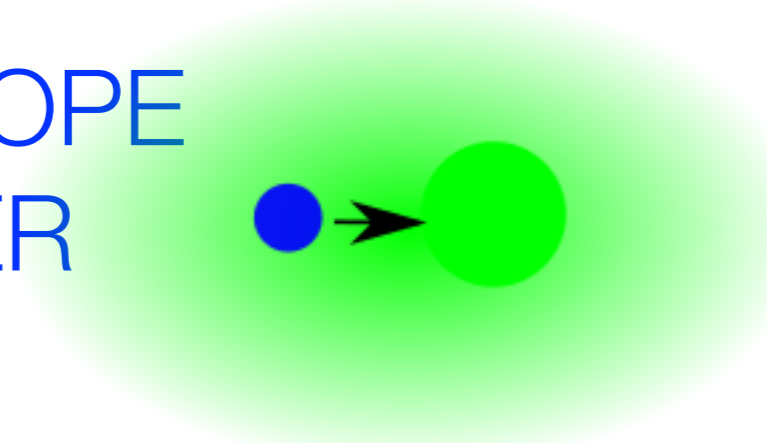
Matter beyond RL goes to other star

Stops when stars are contained in their RL,
or unstable transfer starts

Roche equipotentials



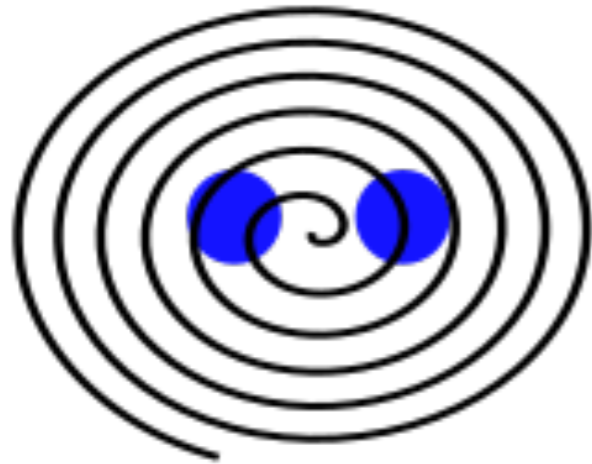
CRUCIAL: COMMON ENVELOPE BRINGS BINARIES CLOSER



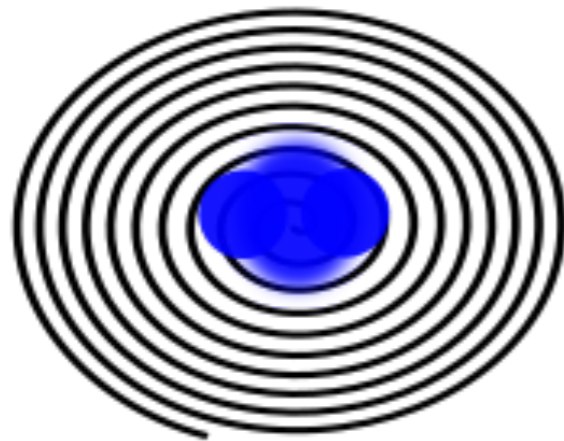
PROBLEM 3 : 2ND SUPERNOVA



IF BLACK HOLES: ONLY GWS



Billion years of inspiral



Merger (few seconds)

Tidal effects for BNS



Final remnant

HOW DID THE BINARY SHRINK?

Angular (AM) momentum needs to be lost

$$J_{orb} = \Omega_{orb}(M_1 a_1 + M_2 a_2) \quad \Omega_{orb} = \left(\frac{G(M_1 + M_2)}{a^3} \right)^{1/2}$$

Options: mass loss through winds

Conservative mass transfer ($M_{tot} = \text{constant}$)

Binary shrinks if mass transfer from primary to secondary

Binary expands if mass transfer from secondary to primary

Non-conservative mass transfer: common envelope leads to very important shrinking

DIFFERENT TIMESCALES

Billions of years

Universe is ~14 billion years old

Tracer of past massive star formation < 5 million years

Properties set by binary evolution

FORMATION CHANNEL: CLUSTER EVOLUTION

Star clusters : 10^3 - 10^7 stars radius < 100 pc

Evolution dominated by N-body interactions



Globular clusters: old stars, very dense and massive

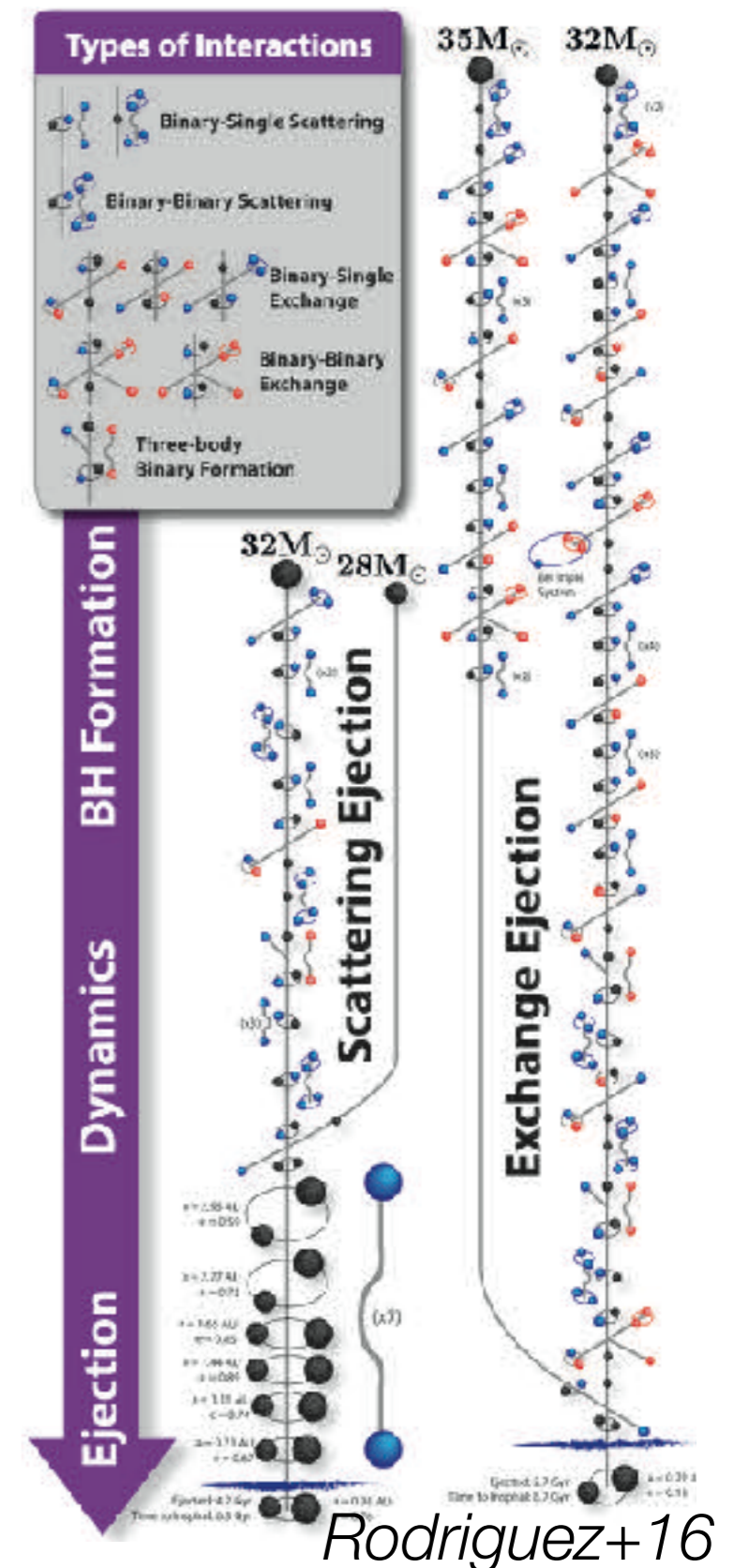
Young star clusters: less dense and less massive -> will dissolve quickly

Nuclear star clusters: Very dense, at center of galaxies

FORMATION CHANNEL: CLUSTER EVOLUTION

N-body interactions:

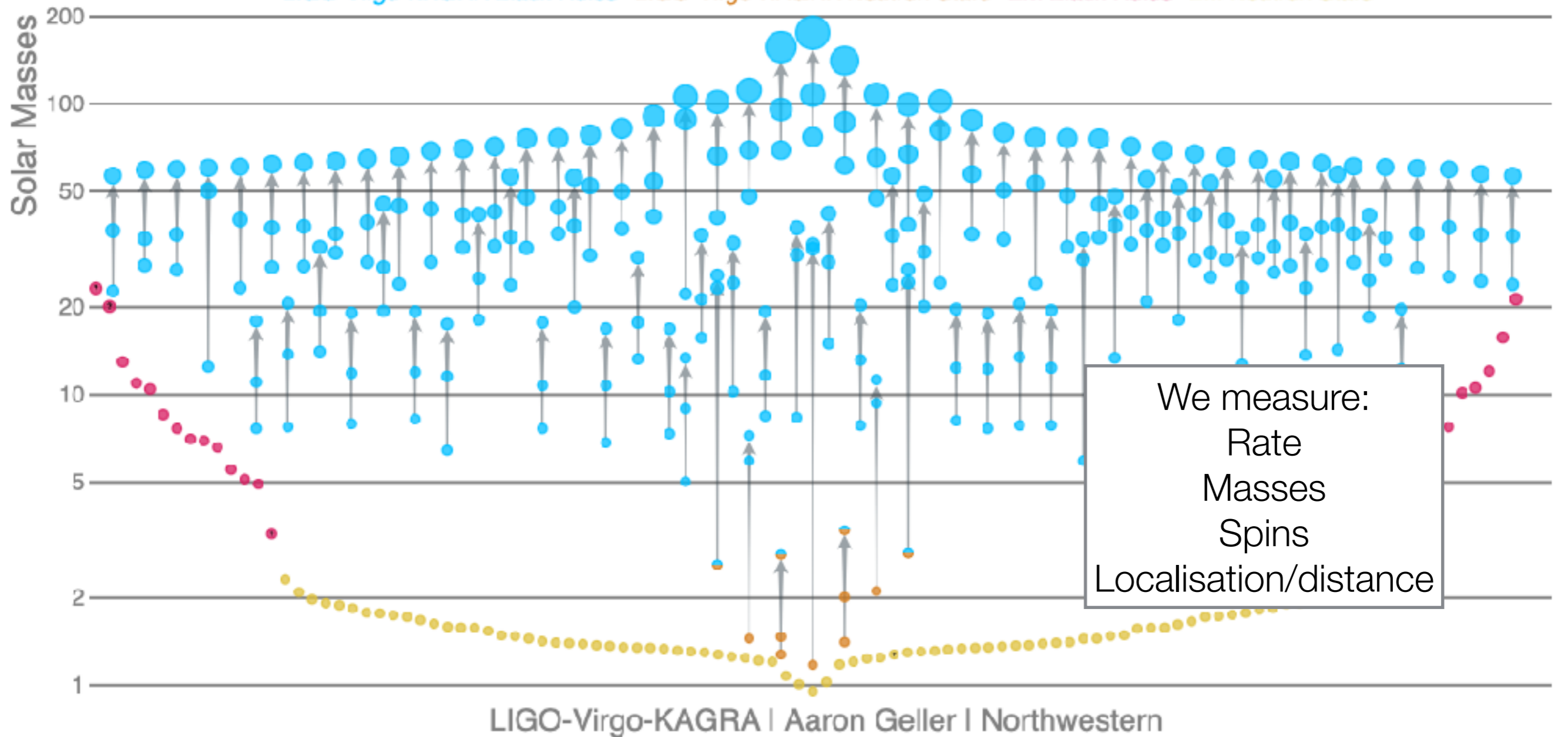
- BHs sink to center
- Mass exchanges make BH binaries
- 2nd generation mergers -> massive BHs
- Binaries can be kicked and merge outside



SO WHAT DO WE LEARN HERE?

Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

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



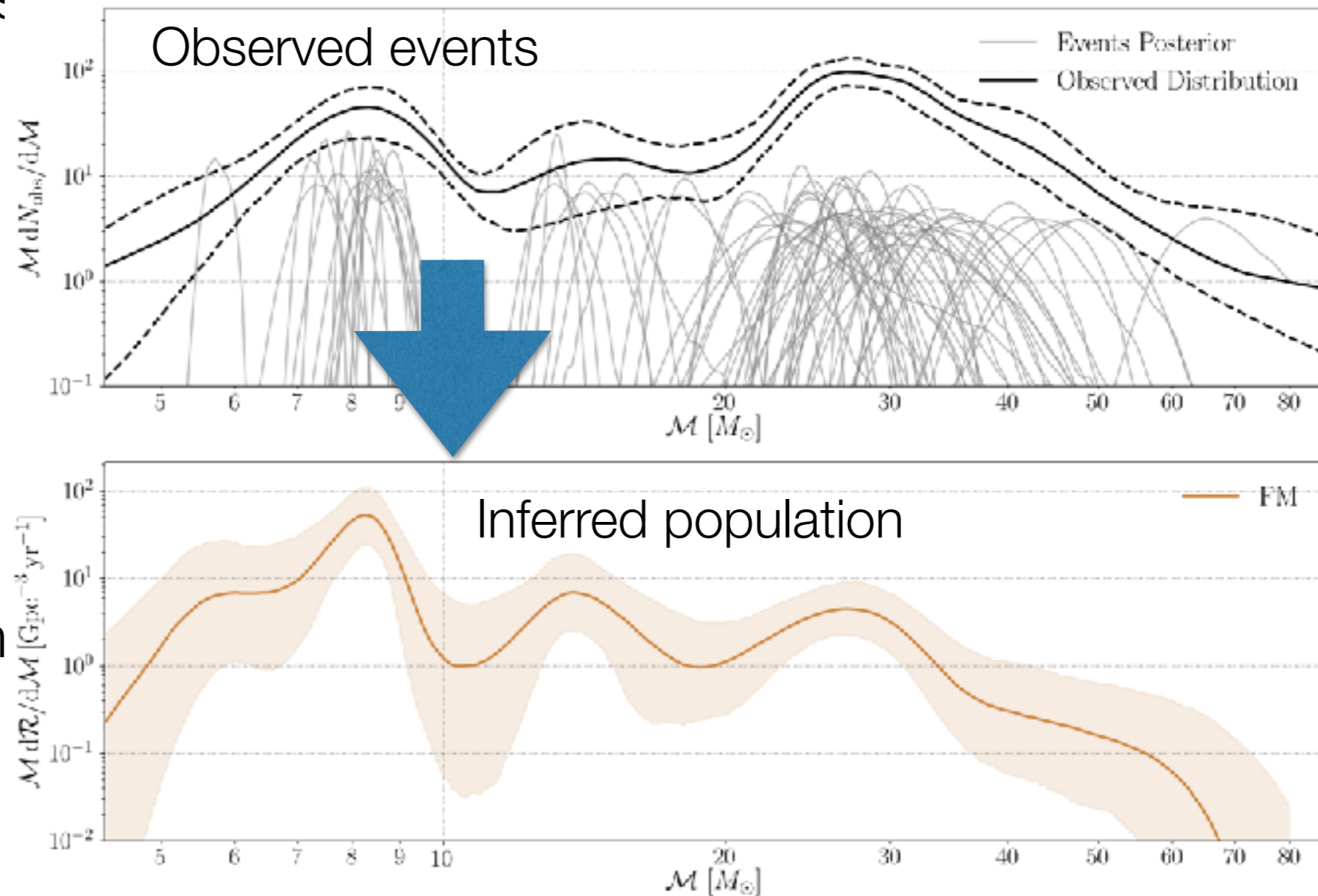
~80 BINARY BLACK HOLES: A POPULATION

Phenomenological models for population

-> Rate: 17-45 Gpc⁻³ yr⁻¹

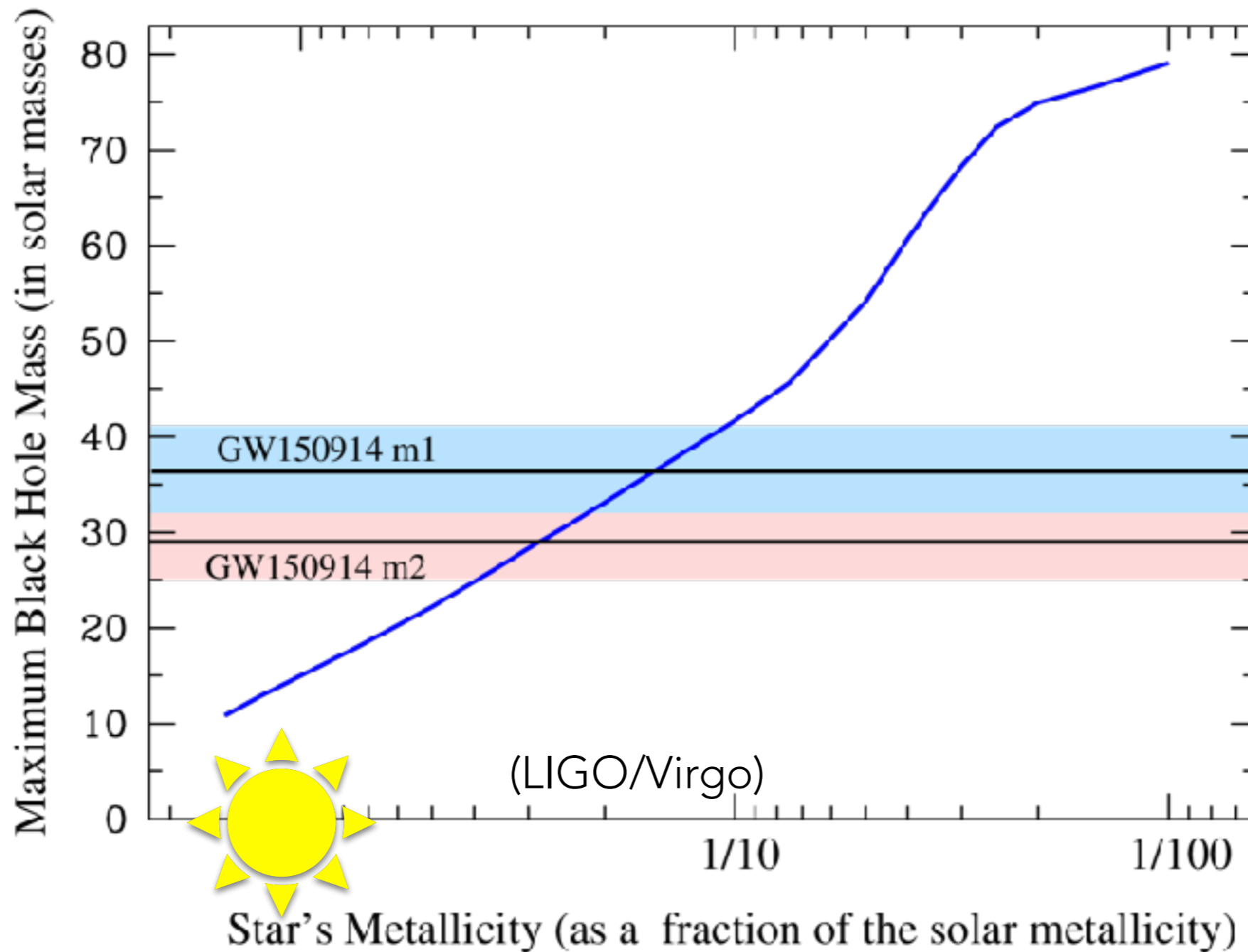
Mass spectrum

- Lots of « massive » black holes
- Uncertain gap between NS and BHs
- Features in spectrum



LVC: GWTC-3 populations paper based on O3a

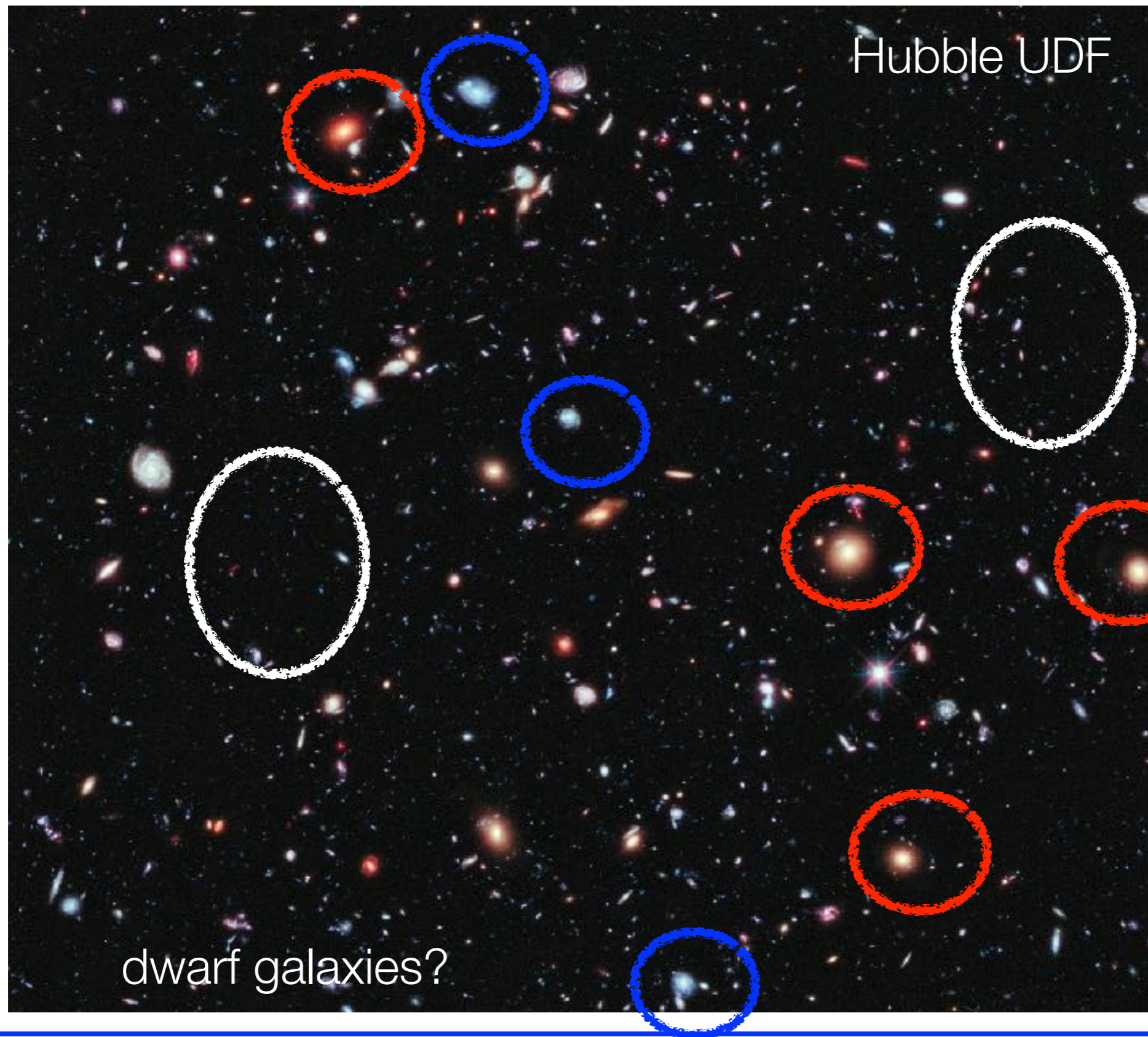
MAKING MASSIVE BHS IS HARD



Binary evolution -> low metallicity progenitor stars

Not well-known stellar population

WHERE ARE THE LOW-METALLICITY STARS?



Hubble UDF

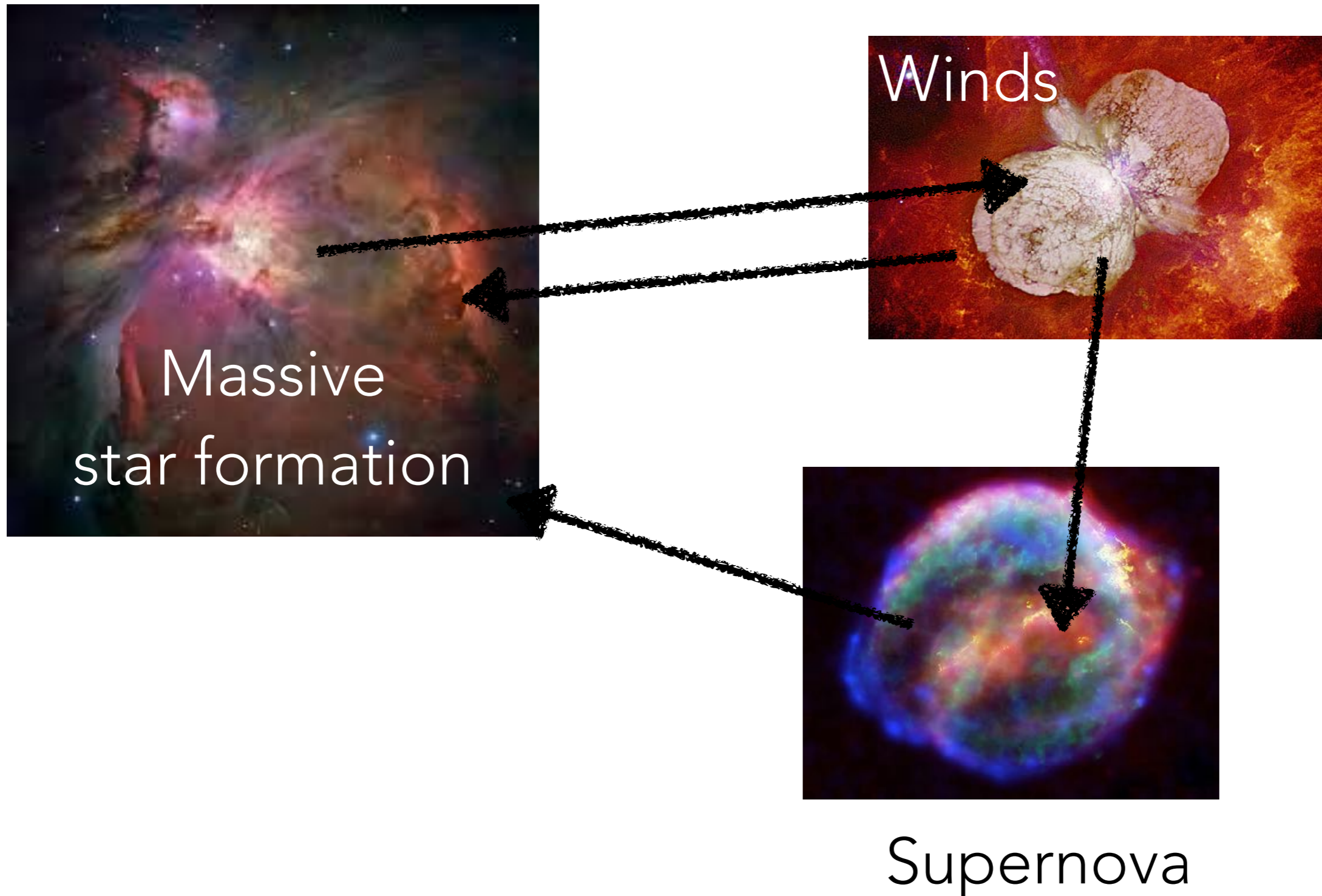
Less explored
star formation

recent star
formation?

older star
formation?

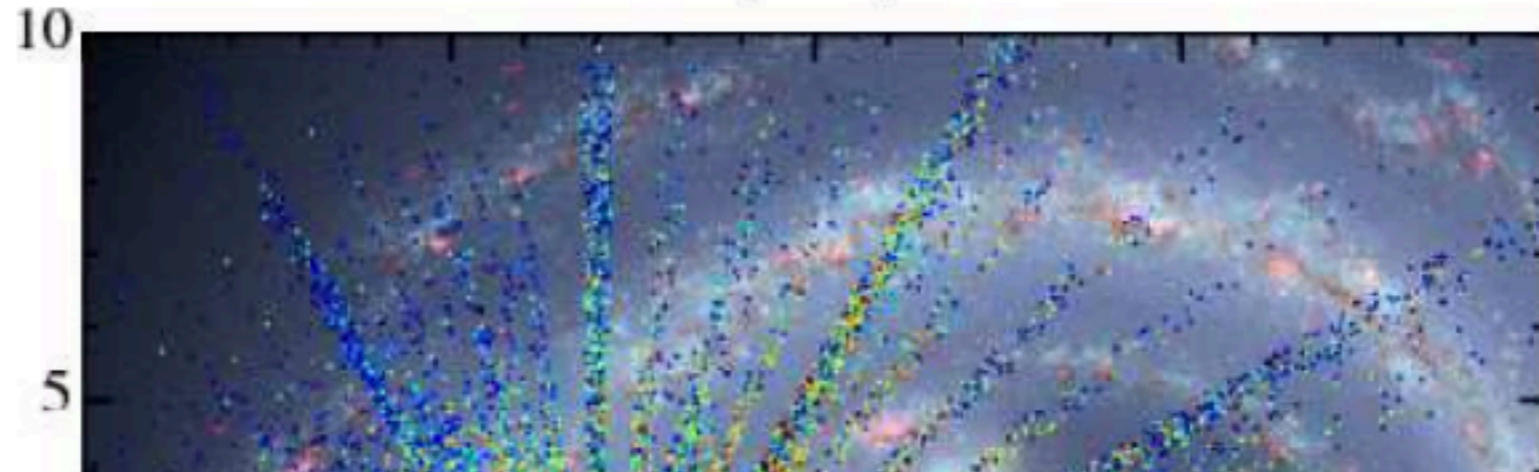
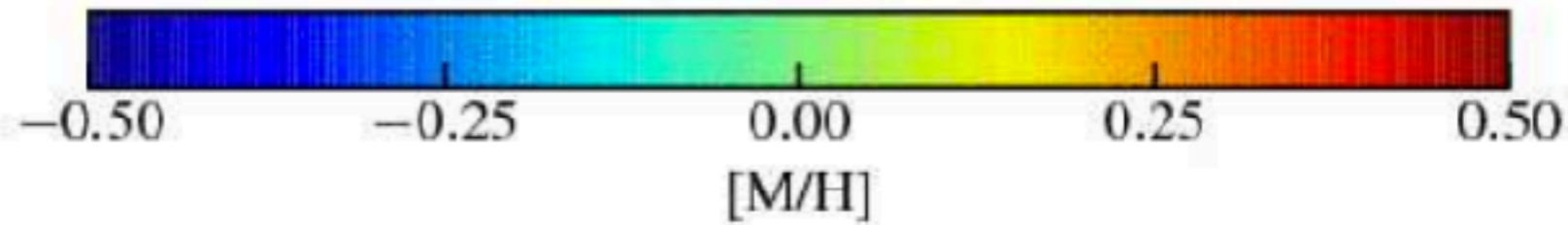
dwarf galaxies?

THE CYCLE OF GAS AND METALS

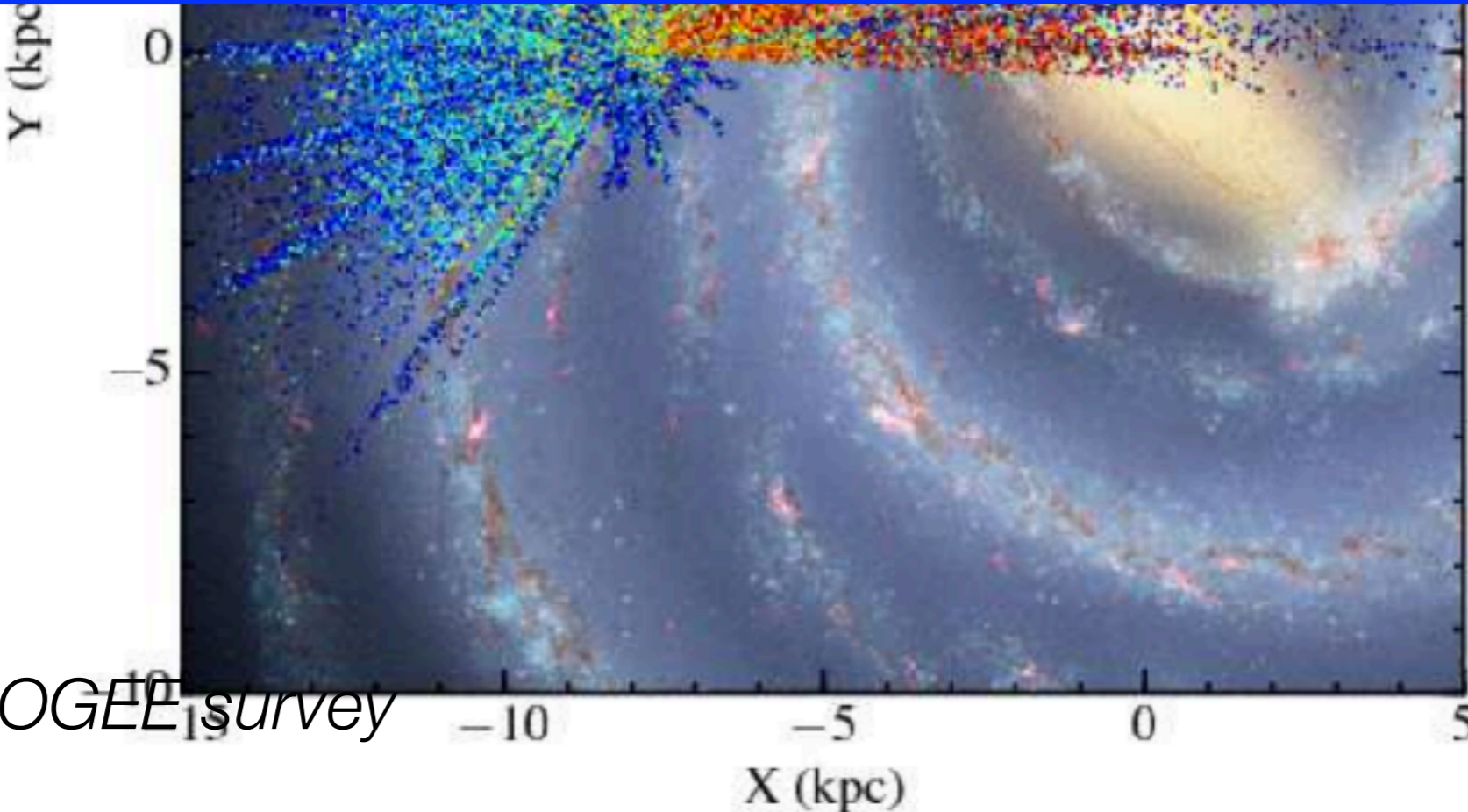


WH

RS?



MASSIVE BLACK HOLES COME FROM GALAXIES LIKE THE MW AND FROM DWARF GALAXIES



$\mu m II$:
stars

1 Z_{sun}

APOGEE survey

IMPORTANCE OF BH SPINS

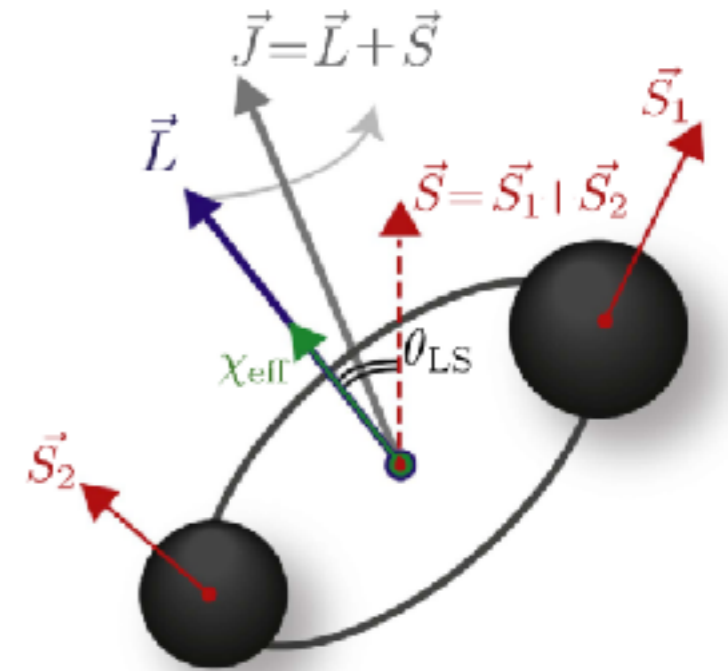
GWs carry information on (global) spin

Hard to measure

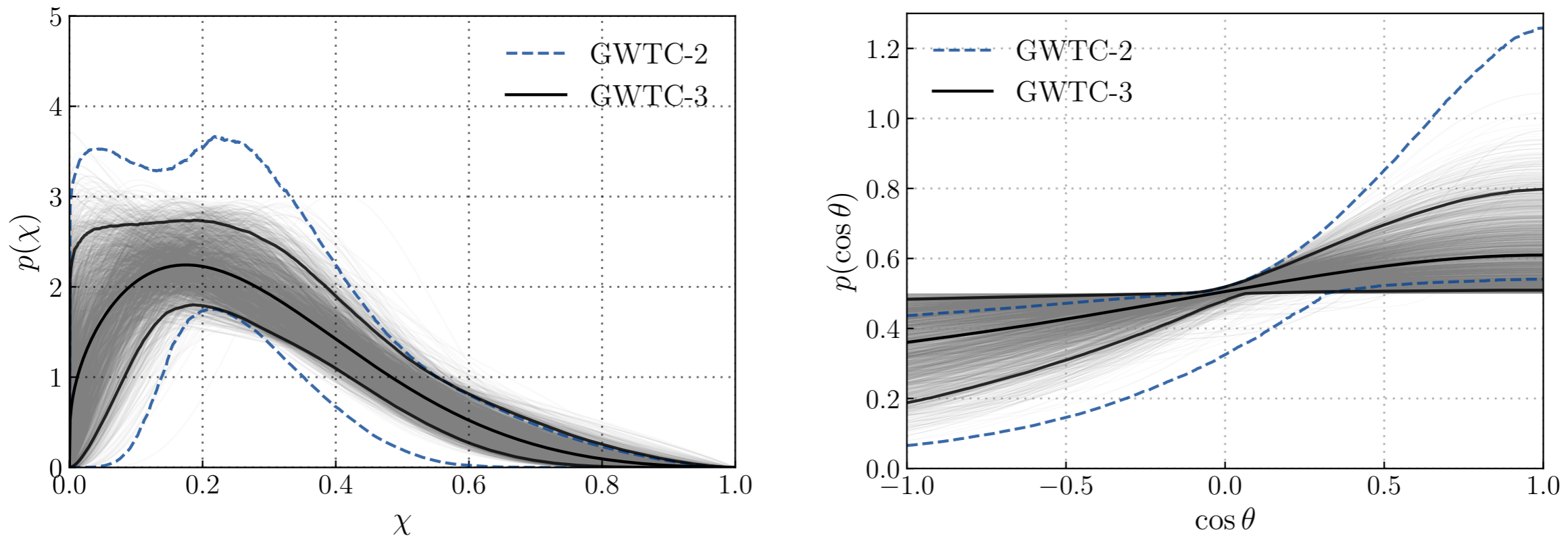
Binary evolution: spins align (tides, accretion, common envelope...), SN can disturb

Cluster dynamics : random motions

Amplitude is hard to predict from stellar evolution



SPINS TO DISCRIMINATE FORMATION?



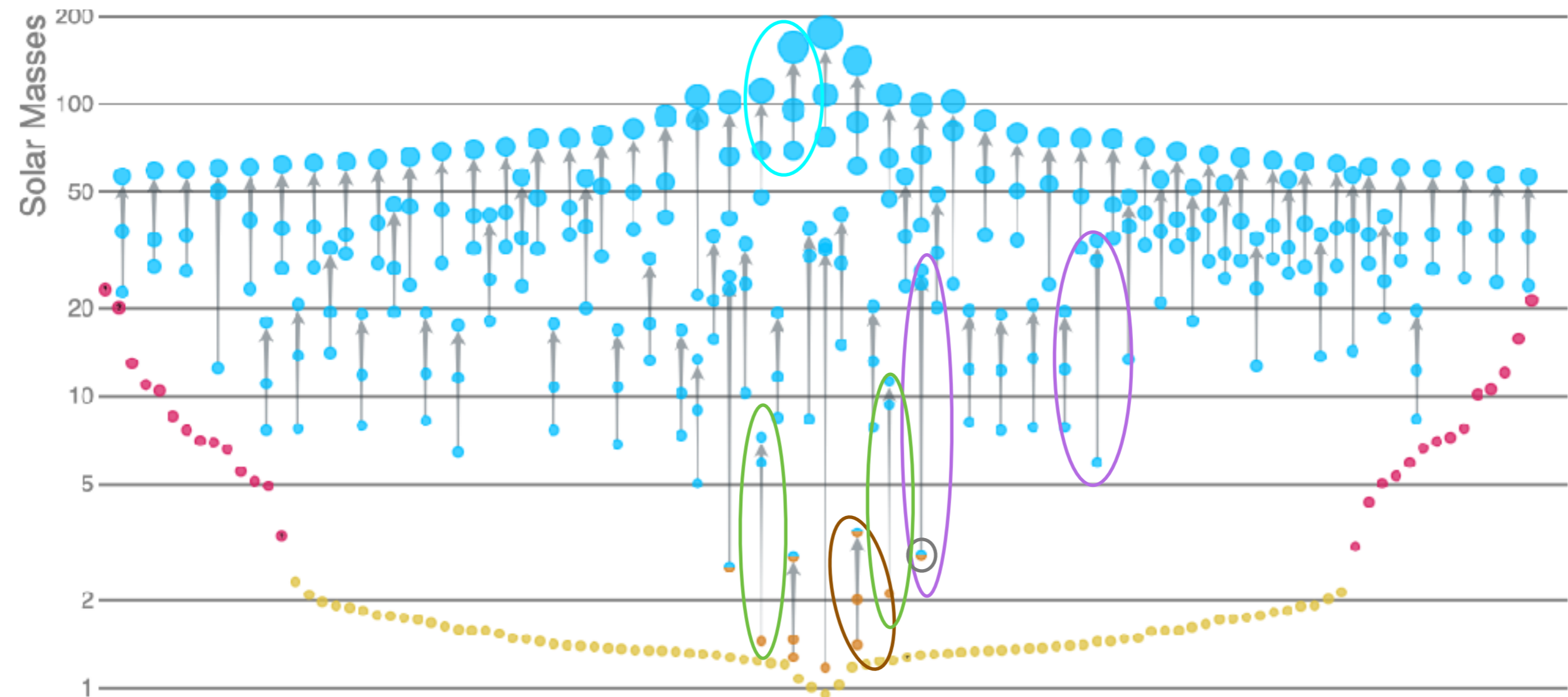
Spin magnitude and spin-orbit misalignment in GWTC-3

- Small but non-zero spins, long tail
- Isotropic spin distribution preferred -> cluster formation?
- overdensity for aligned spins -> binary formation?
- broader spin distribution above 30 Msun, correlated with unequal masses

=> (at least) two formation channels?

Confirmed in more detailed studies

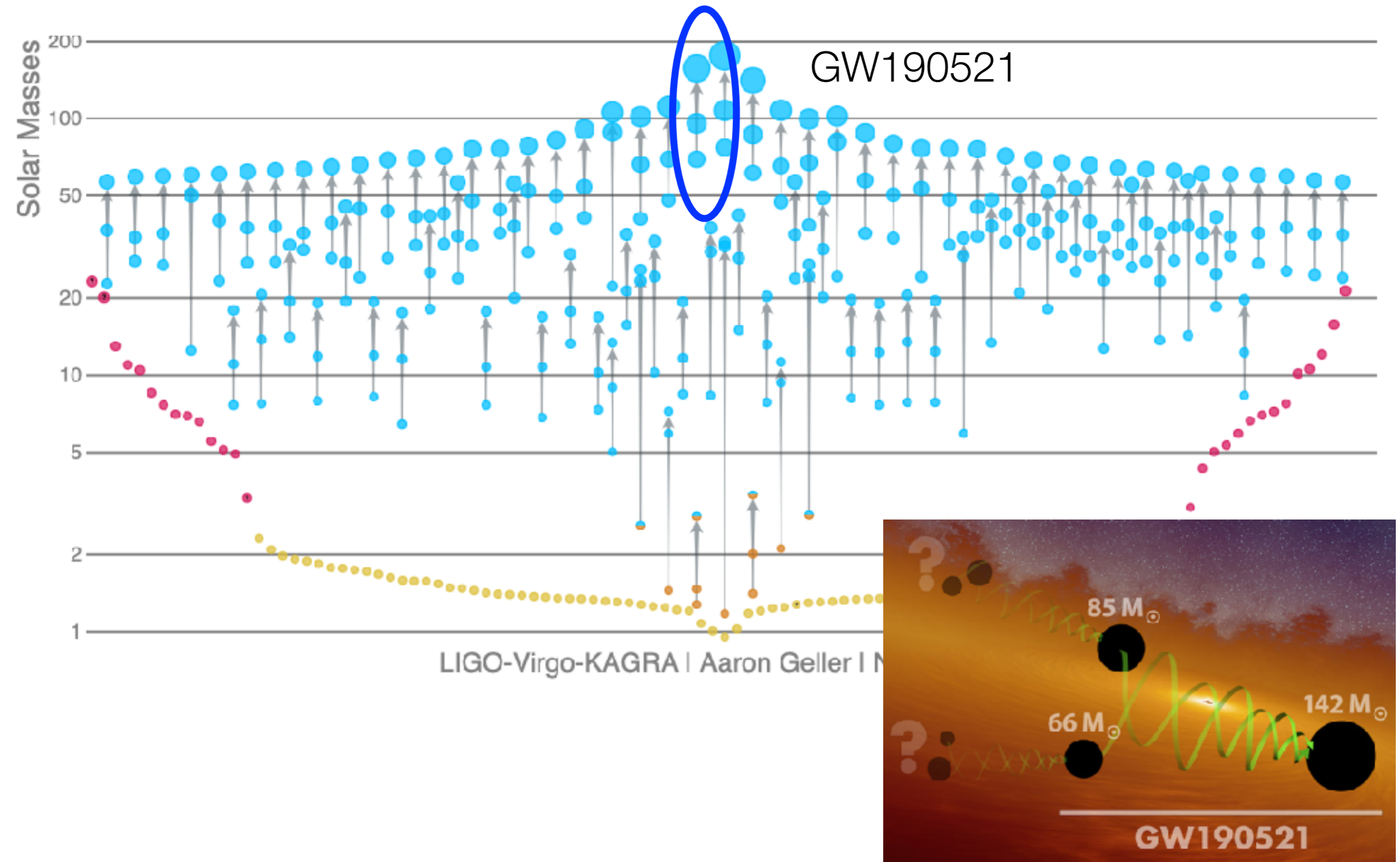
EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS (AFTER O3)



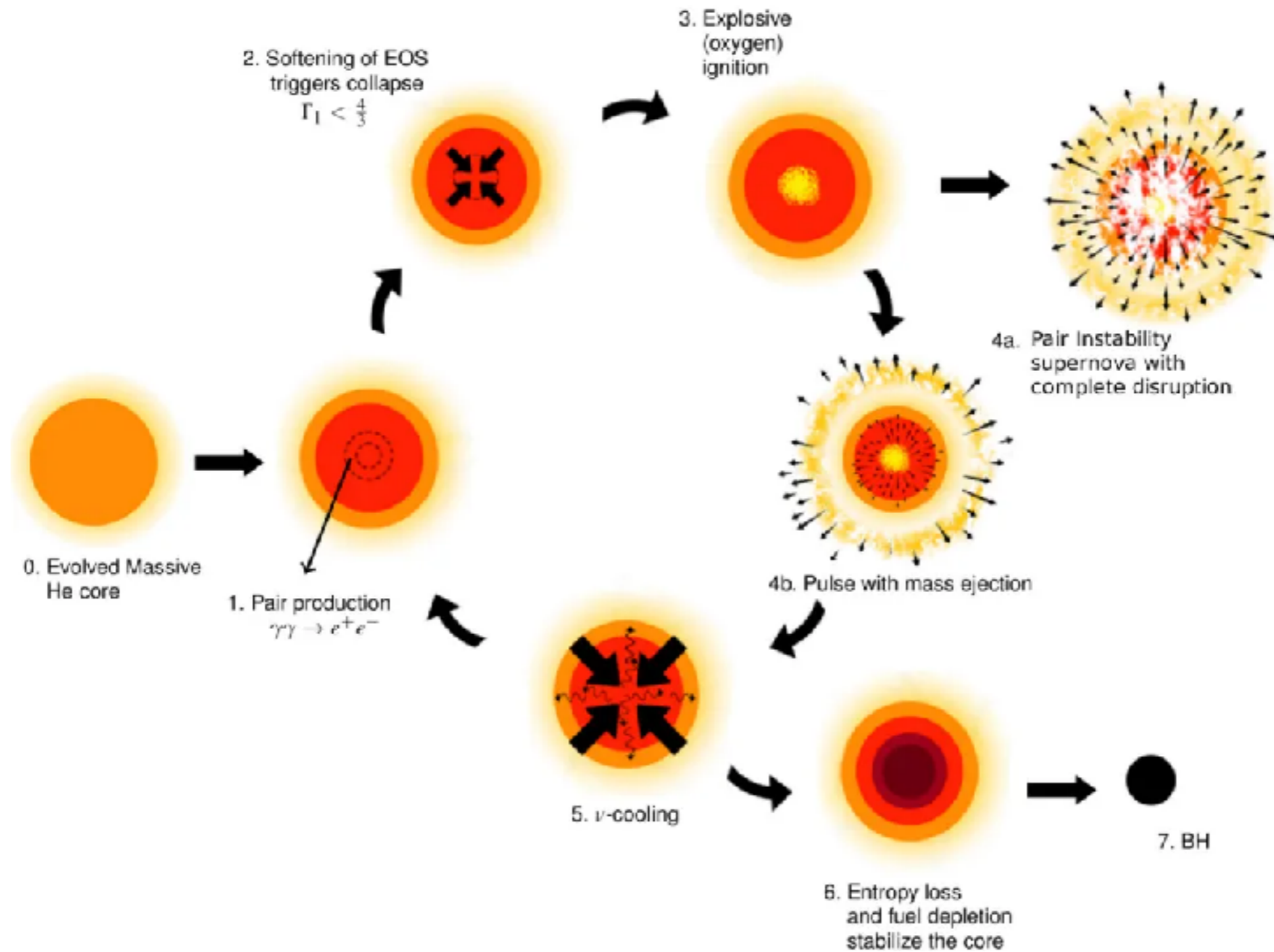
LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA | Aaron Geller | Northwestern

- First unequal masses (GW190412, GW190814)
- Massive BHs (GW190521)
- Lower mass gap object (GW190814)
- BNS masses differ from MW (GW190425)
- NSBH (GW200105-GW200115)

VERY MASSIVE BLACK HOLES



BHS OF 85 MSUN SHOULD NOT EXIST

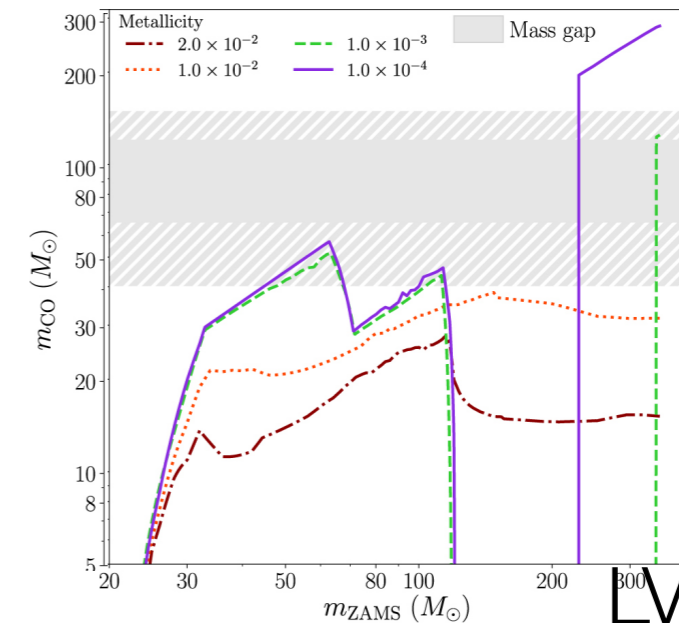


Pair instability supernova completely destroys star

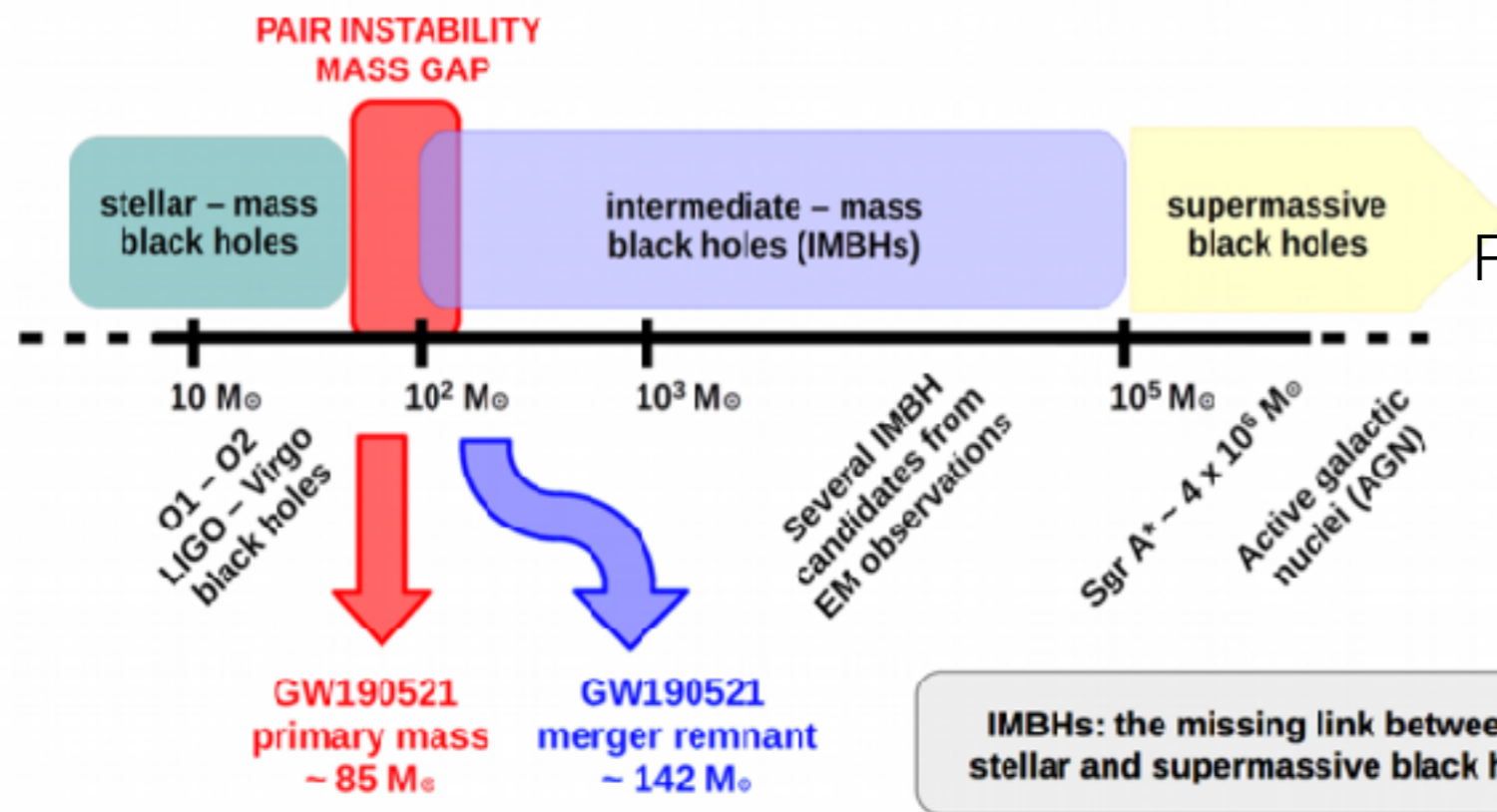
HIGH MASS STELLAR BLACK HOLES

BHs in pair instability supernova gap: challenge

- 2nd gen? But Expected high kick velocity
- Stellar merger?
- AGN disk



LVC+2020



Remnant mass: 142 Msun: IMBH
A pathway to intermediate mass black holes?

SUPERNOVAE AS GW SOURCES

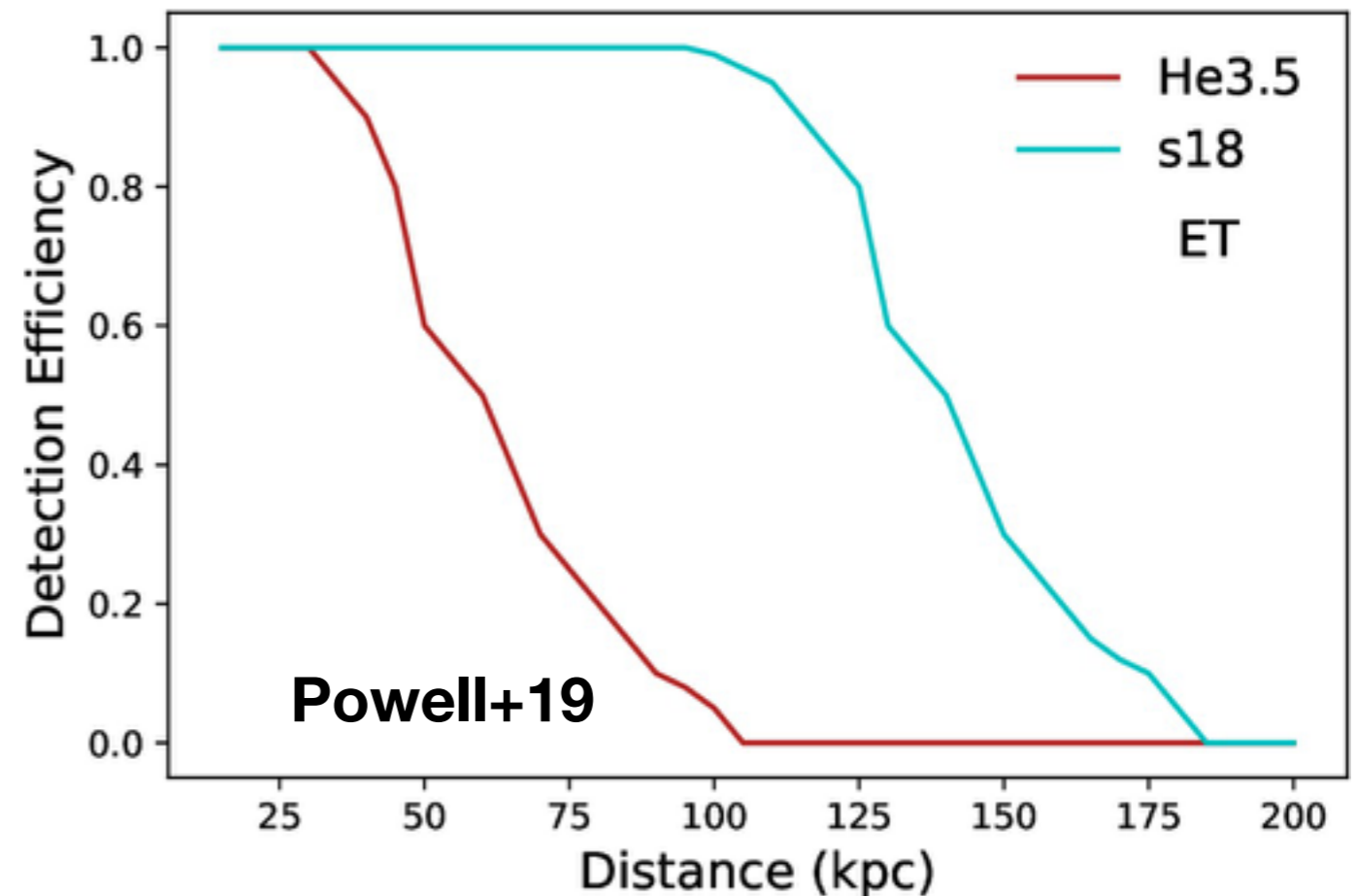
New class of sources

Major uncertainties on the GW emission

Lots of information on central engine, geometry of the explosion

Multimessenger: Neutrino, GWs, EM

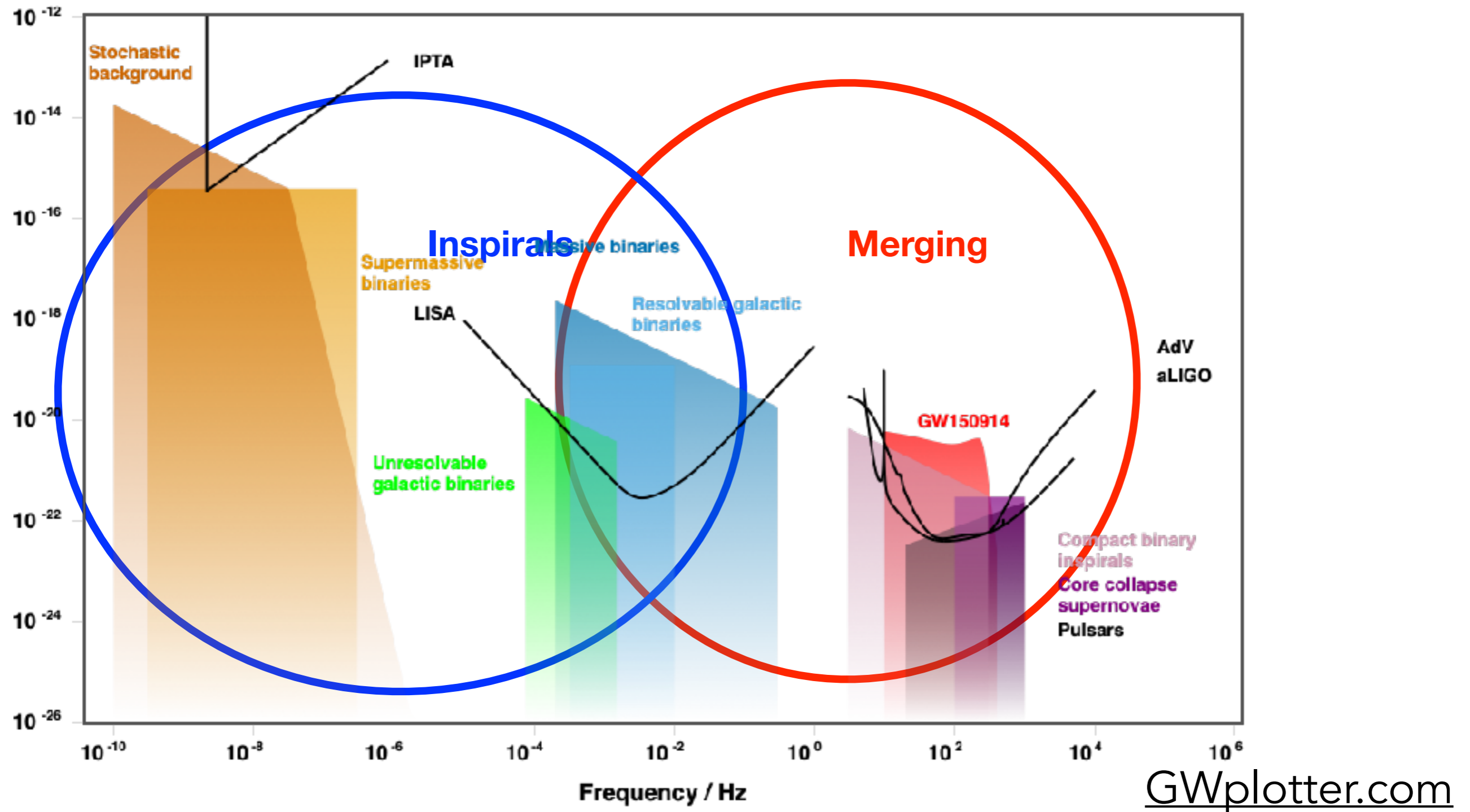
Most energetic model: <20 kpc by 2G, 200 kpc by Einstein Telescope



LOW FREQUENCY SOURCES

Supermassive black holes

Compact binaries in the Milky Way



GWplotter.com

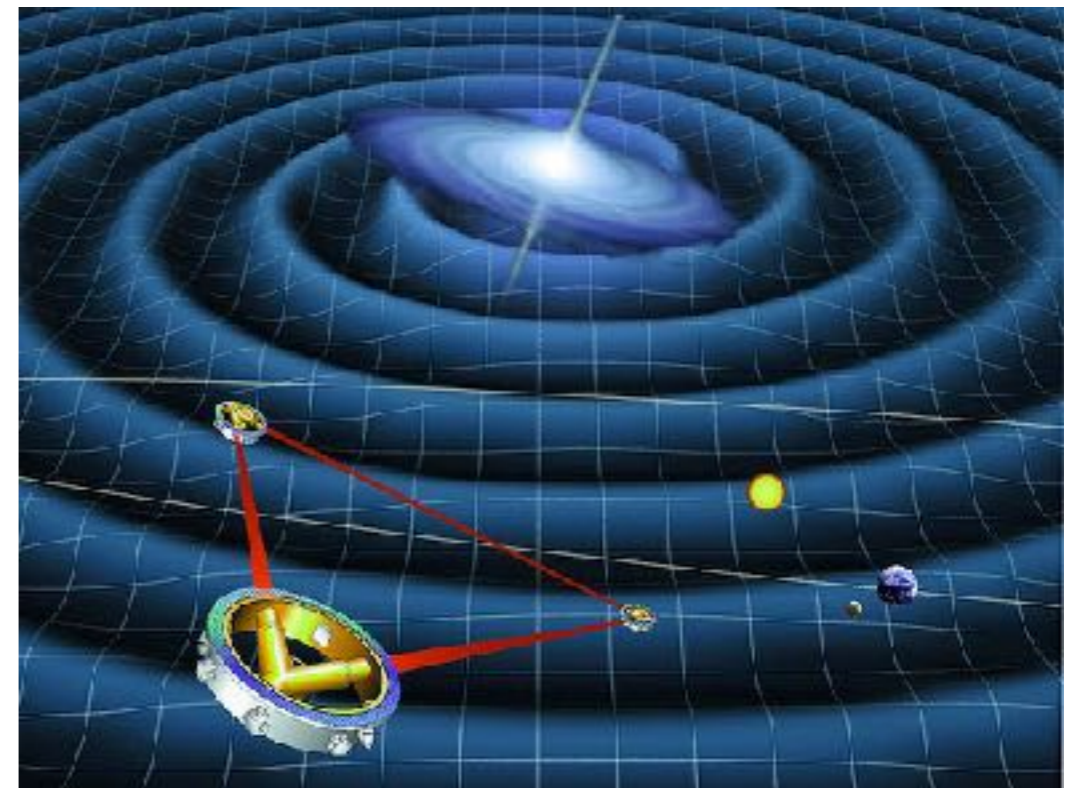
BLACK HOLE MERGERS IN THE MILKY WAY

Virgo/LIGO merger rate : $18-44 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$

Up to 4-50 mergers per million year in MW

No expected BBH merger
Detections in MW

How many are “close” to merger?



DETECTING COMPACT BINARIES IN THE MILKY WAY

Black Holes: highest mass evolution
Very sensitive to metallicity

<10 systems
For LISA

Neutron Stars: High mass evolution
Somewhat sensitive to metallicity

~5-30 systems
(Belczynski+10)
~300 (Andrews+19)

White dwarfs: 95% of stars!

Type Ia supernovae

Low mass evolution, common envelope, tides

EM counterparts

Map the Milky Way and its environment

Understand/quantify past star formation

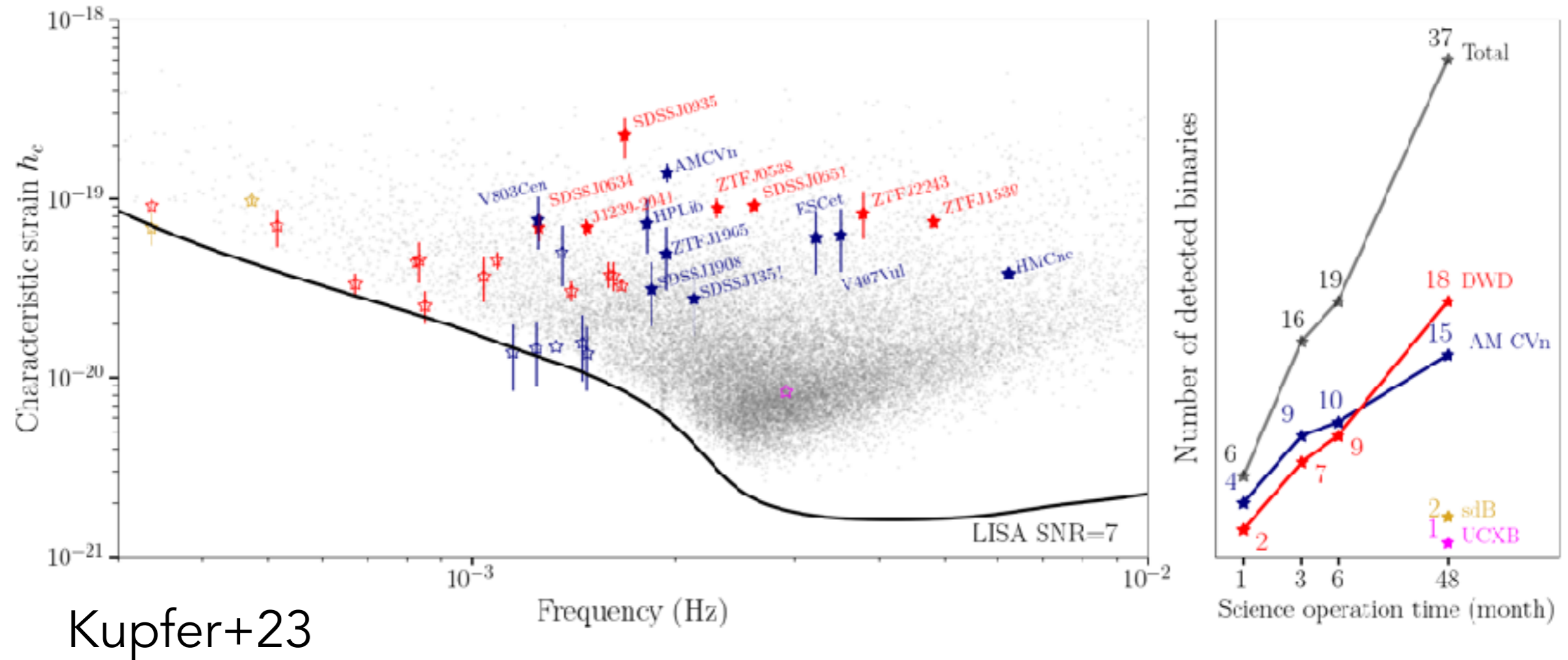
~6000 systems
(Nelemans+01)

Lamberts+19

And even stellar binaries and planets

THE PROMISE OF DETECTING COMPACT BINARIES IN THE MILKY WAY

Verification binaries: known LISA sources: great for calibration



Kupfer+23

Much more information: sky localisation, distance, mass measurements, radii....

Understand binary evolution: common envelope, mass transfer, tides, supernovae (*Nelemans+01*, *Ruiter+10*, *Nissanke+12*)

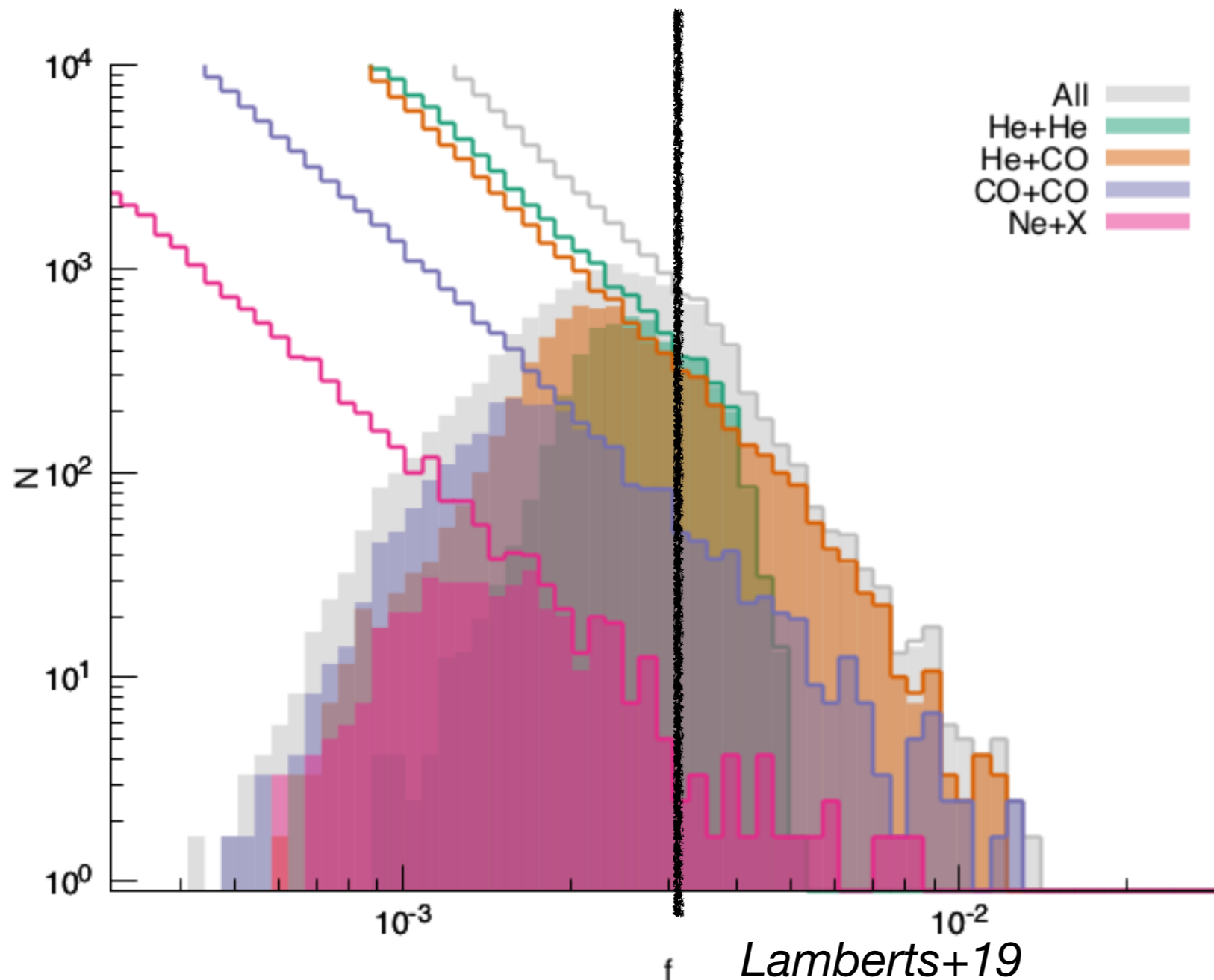
Major effort: finding more EM binaries (ZTF, BlackGem, VRO/LSST)

LISA DETECTIONS: A COMPLETE CATALOG OF WHITE DWARF BINARIES

~12 000 systems: measurement of period and GW strain

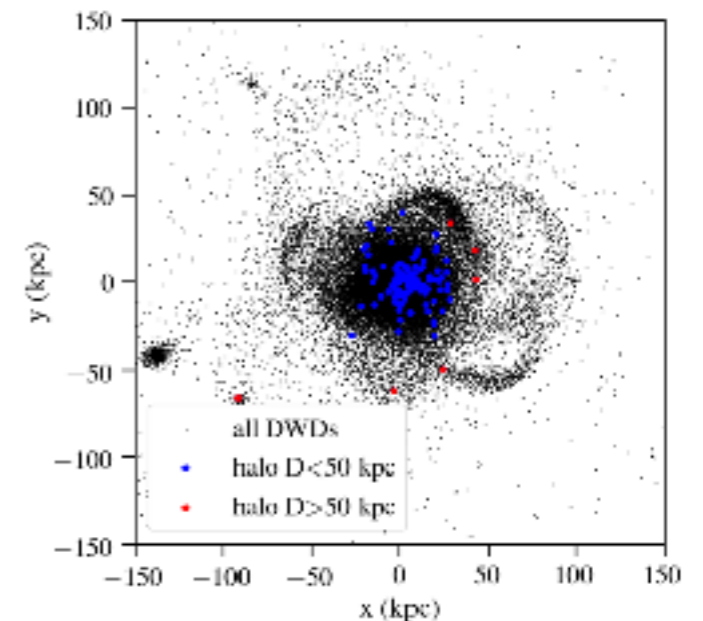
☹️ No masses, no sky localisation unless high signal/noise

😊 GW amplitude(r) $\sim 1/r$, no extinction, no spatial crowding

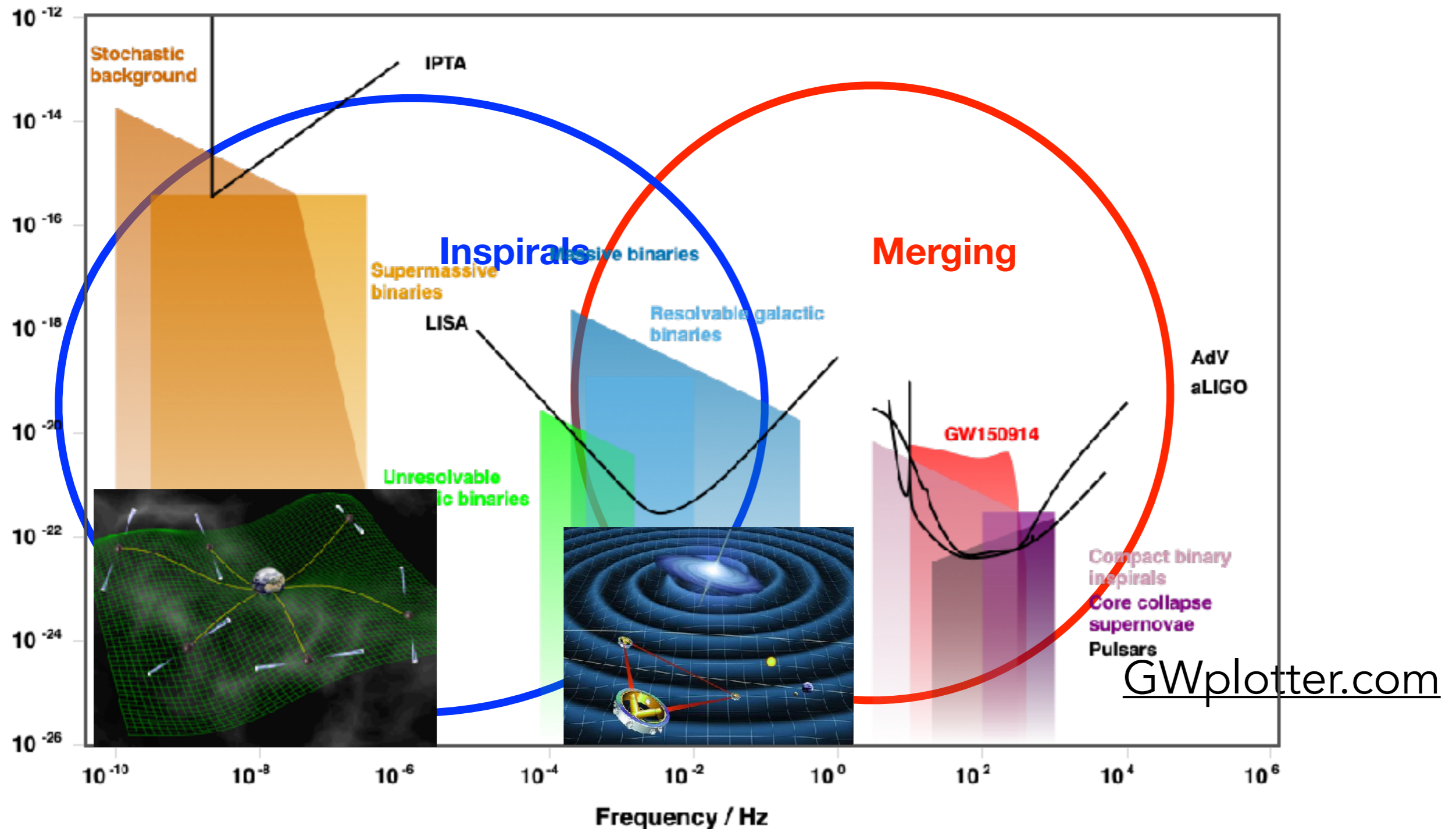


All Complete down to $f \sim 3$ mHz:
He+He all binaries below 11 minutes
He+CO
CO+CO
Ne+X

Even in satellites!



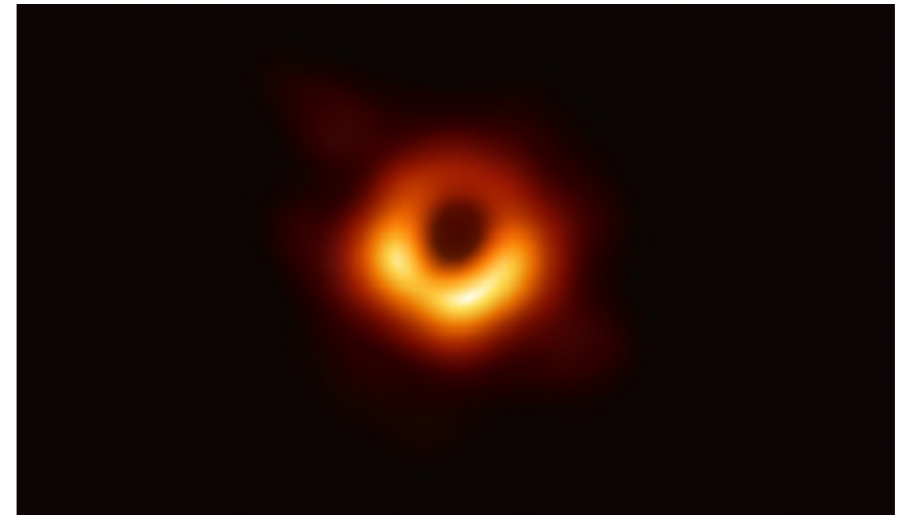
SUPERMASSIVE BHS: PULSAR TIMING & LISA



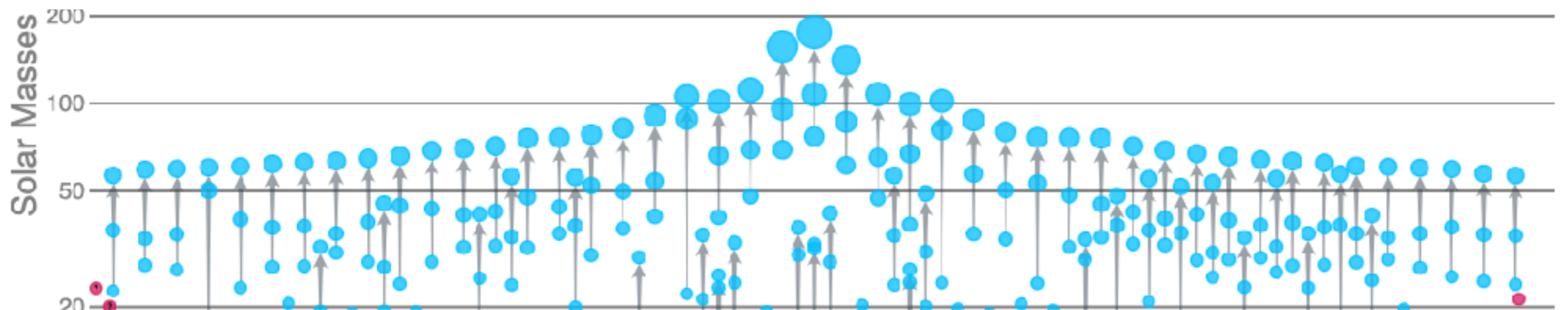
(PTA: Gilles' talk, and recent newspapers!)

MORE MASSIVE COMPACT OBJECTS

Supermassive black holes: millions- billions of Msun



Intermediate mass black holes?



SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES

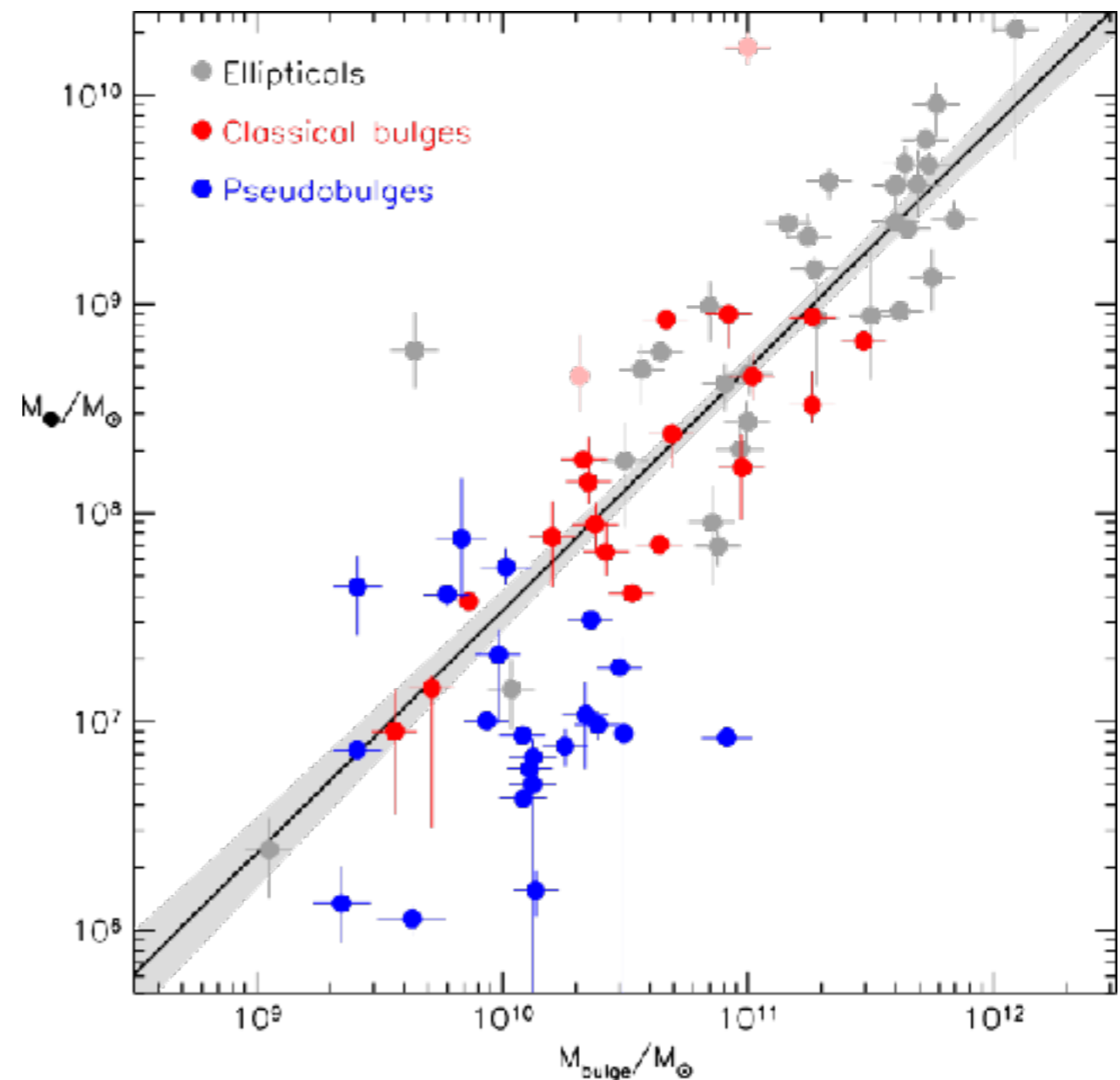
Found at the center of all (massive galaxies)

Kormendy, Ho 2013

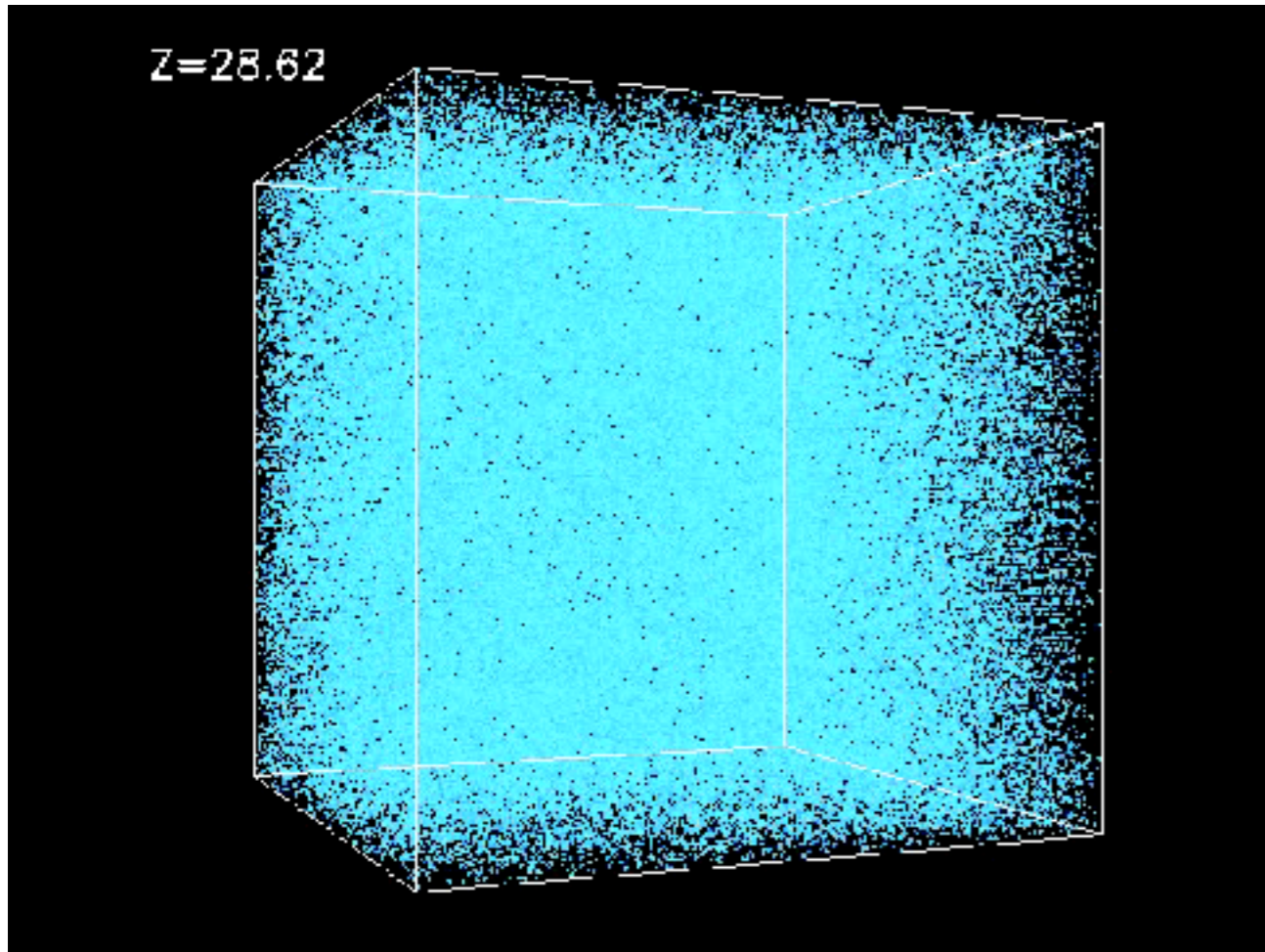
Masses correlate with
Galactic properties
-> joint evolution -> how?

Evidence of very massive
BHs very early ($10^8 M_{\text{sun}}$ in
less than a Gyr)
-> how?

Hard to observe with EM

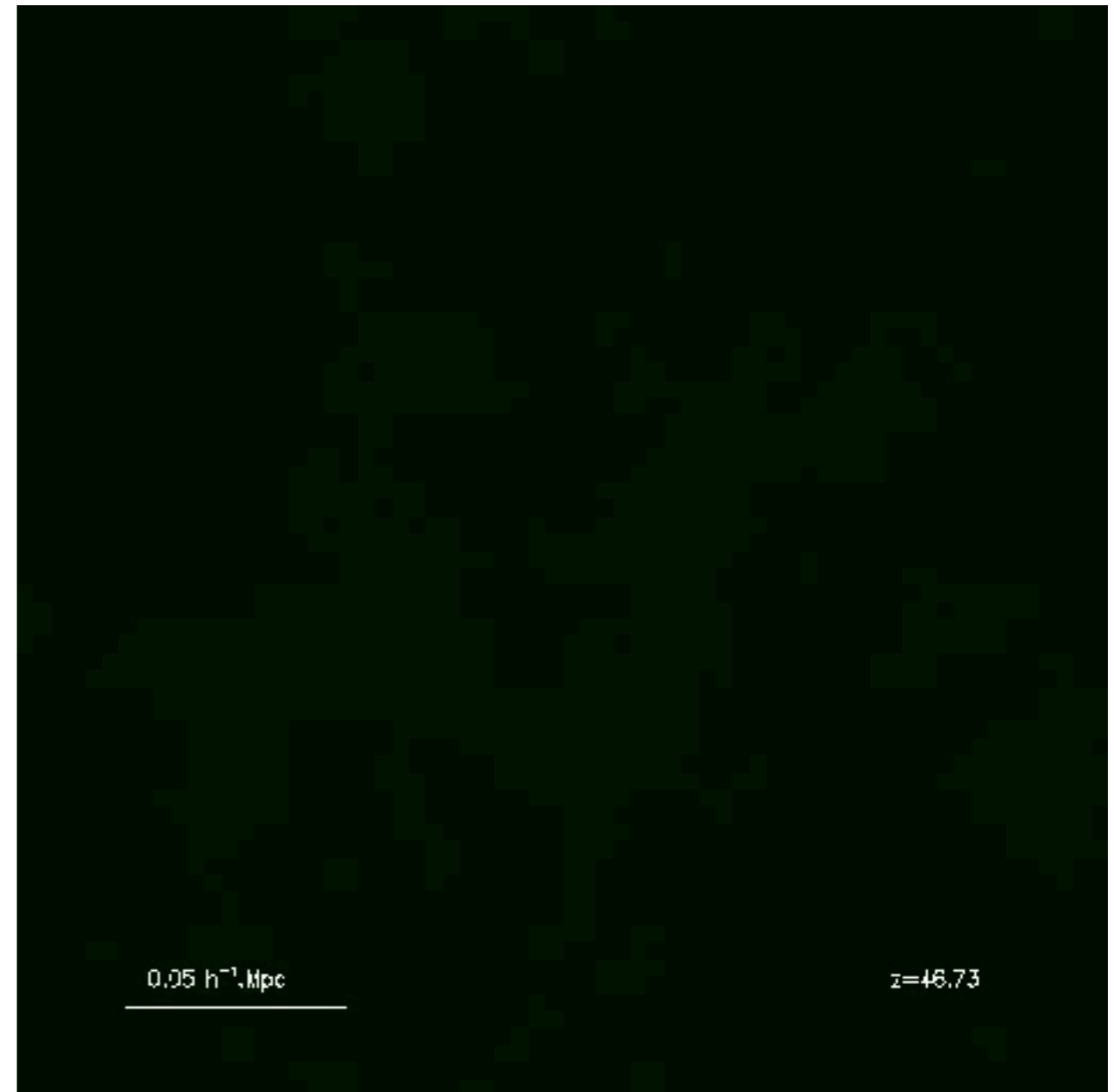


HOW DO GALAXIES GROW?

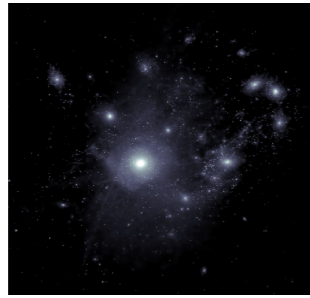


Cosmic web -> structure increases over time with accretion and mergers

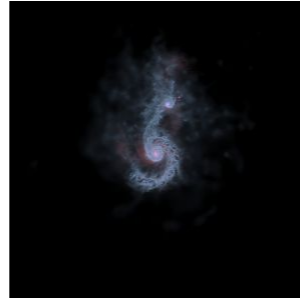
Active Galactic Nuclei strongly affect galaxies



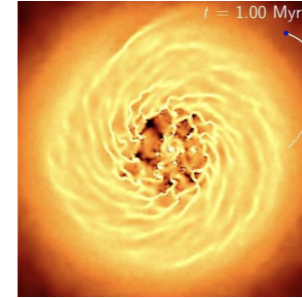
HOW DO SUPERMASSIVE BH MERGE? HOW DOES THE BINARY SHRINK?



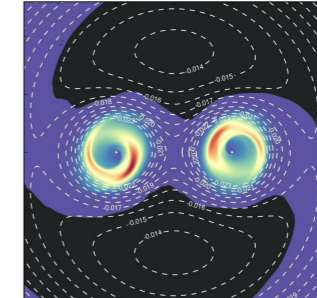
Credit: Lupi et al. (2019)



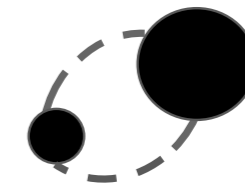
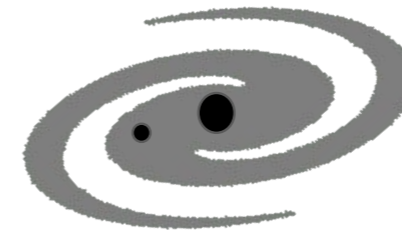
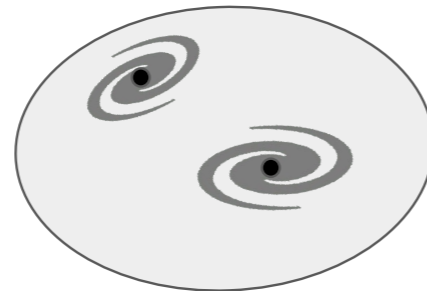
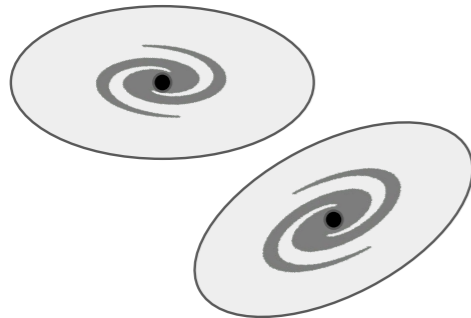
Credit: Capelo et al. (2015)



Credit: Souza Lima et al. (2017)



Credit: Bowen et al. 2017



Mpcs:
The large scale structure

Influence of the large scale environment on: black hole seeding, frequency of mergers, galaxy transformation

1-100s kpcs:
Galaxy interactions/merger

Details of the merger have influence on: black hole growth via gas accretion, formation of a black hole binary, galaxy transformation

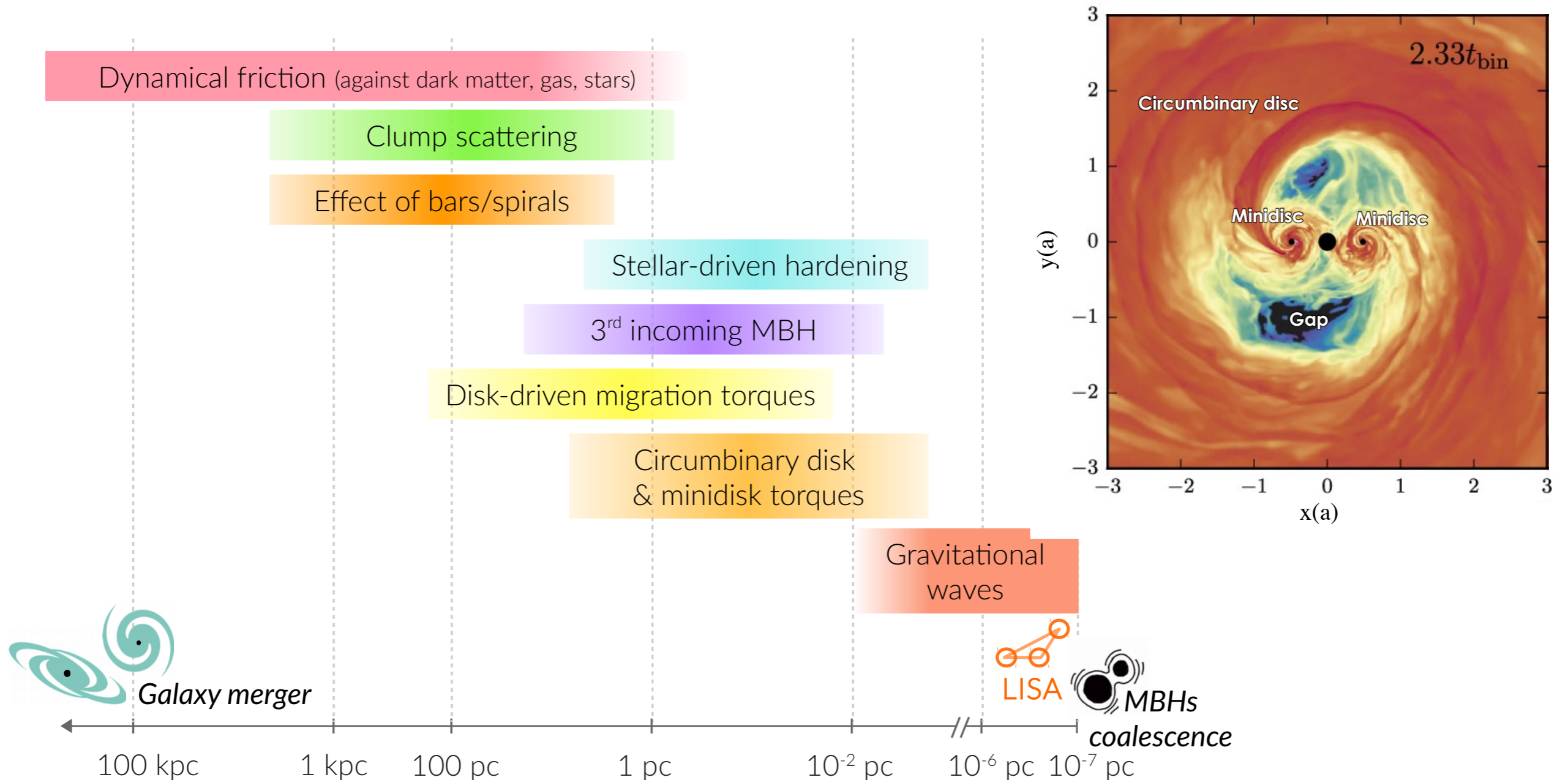
1-10s pc:
Formation of a bound binary

The host properties have influence on: hardening of the binary, accretion episodes

<1 pc:
Hardening of the binary

The host properties have influence on: timescale of hardening
Effect of circumbinary disc
Three-body interactions (hyper-velocity stars)

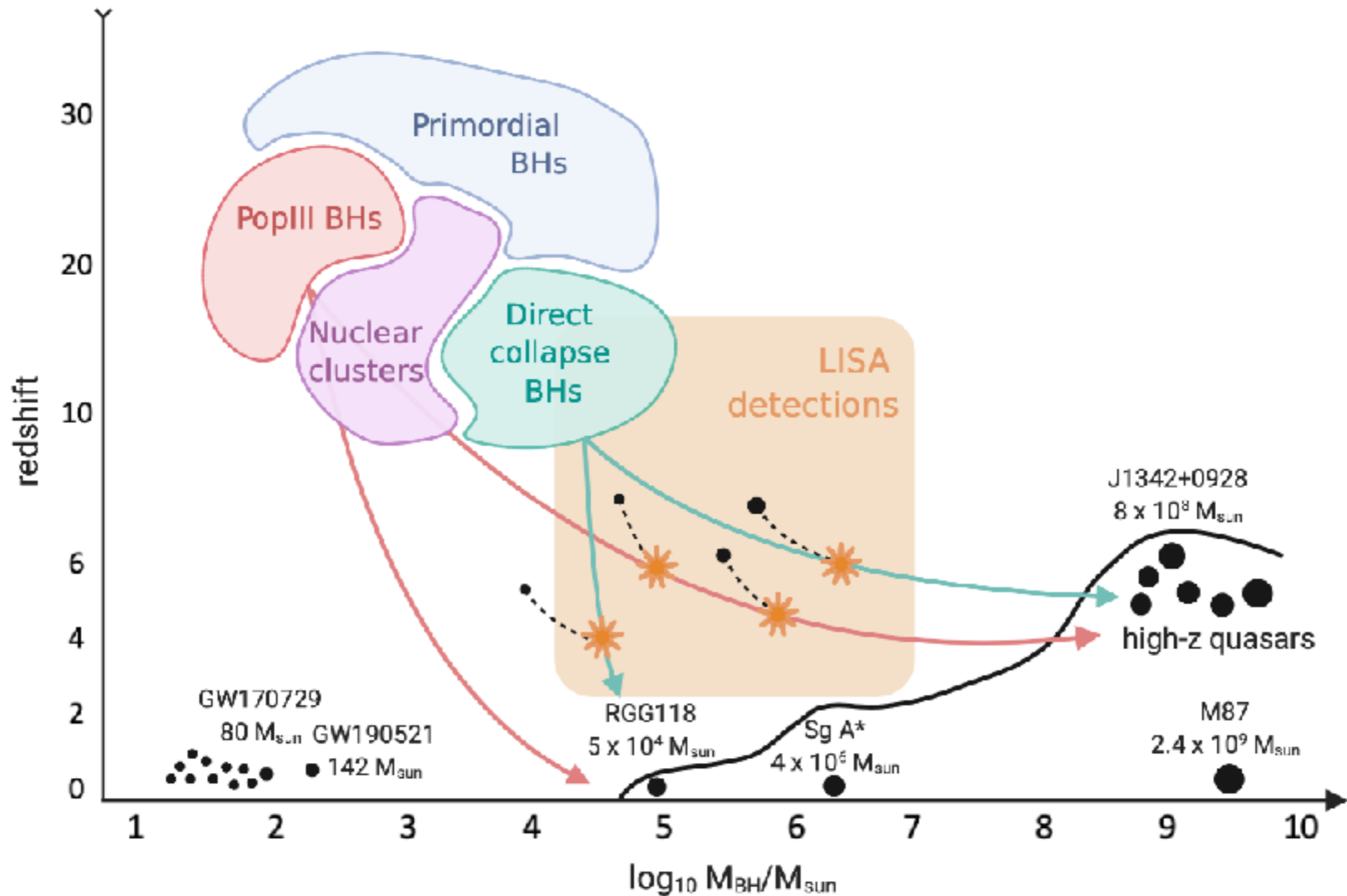
MULTISCALE-MULTIPHYSICS PROBLEM



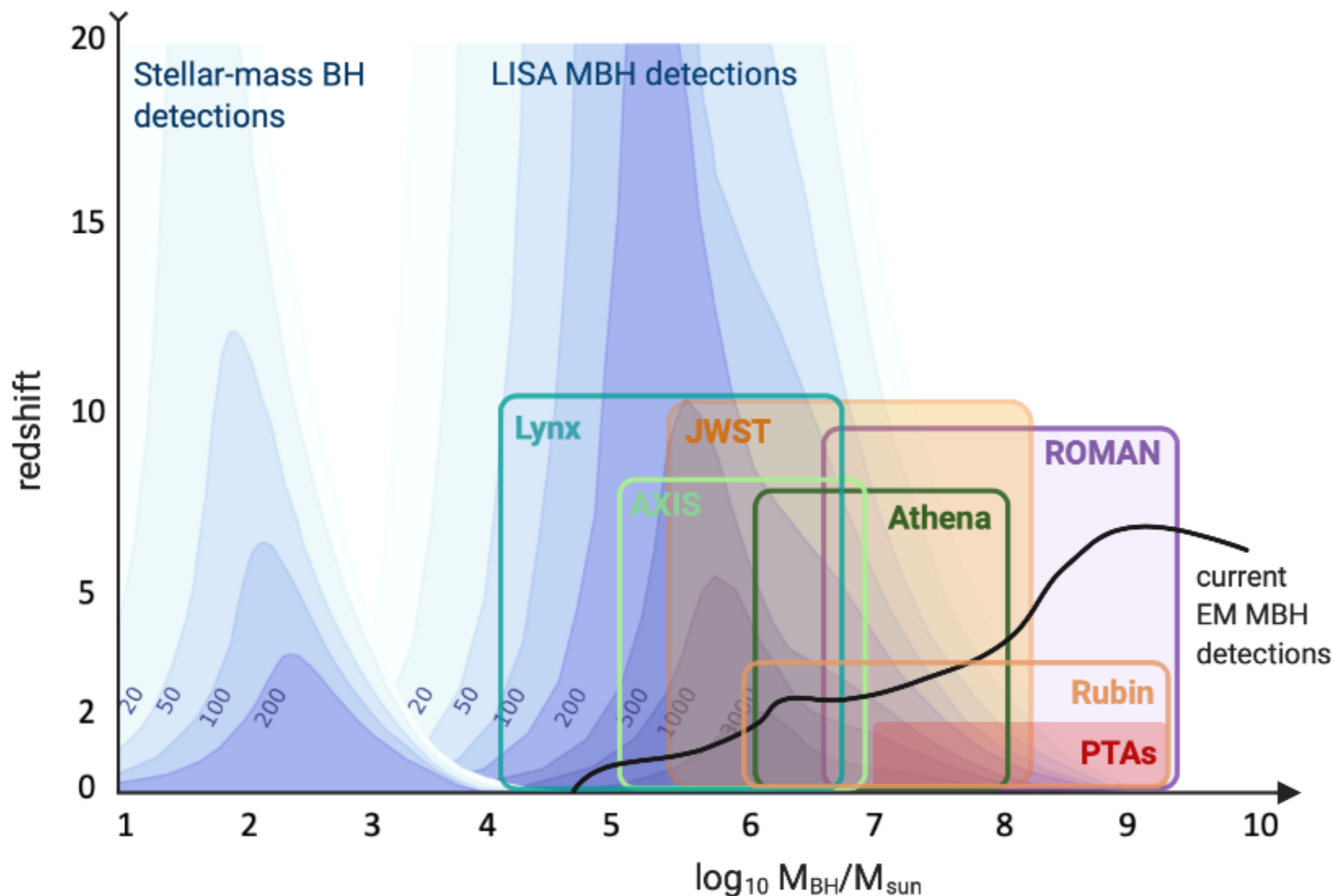
Observations, models, simulations are hard: rates uncertain
 -> observations will have strong astrophysical implications

ORIGIN OF SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES?

Very massive BHs are found in early Universe -> major challenge



OBSERVING BLACK HOLES OVER A WIDE MASS RANGE



GWs observe much further, with different biases

ASTROPHYSICS WITH GW

GW are a new way to understand fundamental components of the Universe:
compact objects, stars, galaxies

Different frequencies \leftrightarrow different objects, different timescales, different
distances

Crucial information: merger rate, masses, spins

Core question: bringing the binaries to merger \rightarrow hard problem