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The parameter space of binary neutron stars populations

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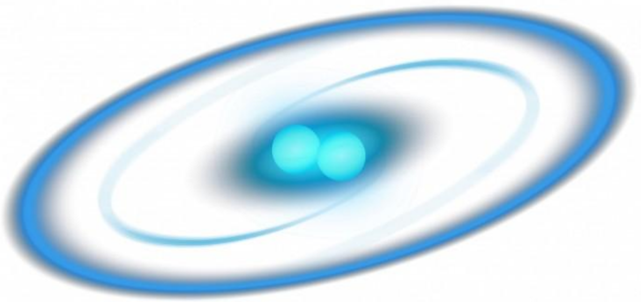

École Doctorale d'Astronomie & Astrophysique d'île-de-France

GWsNS 2026 School

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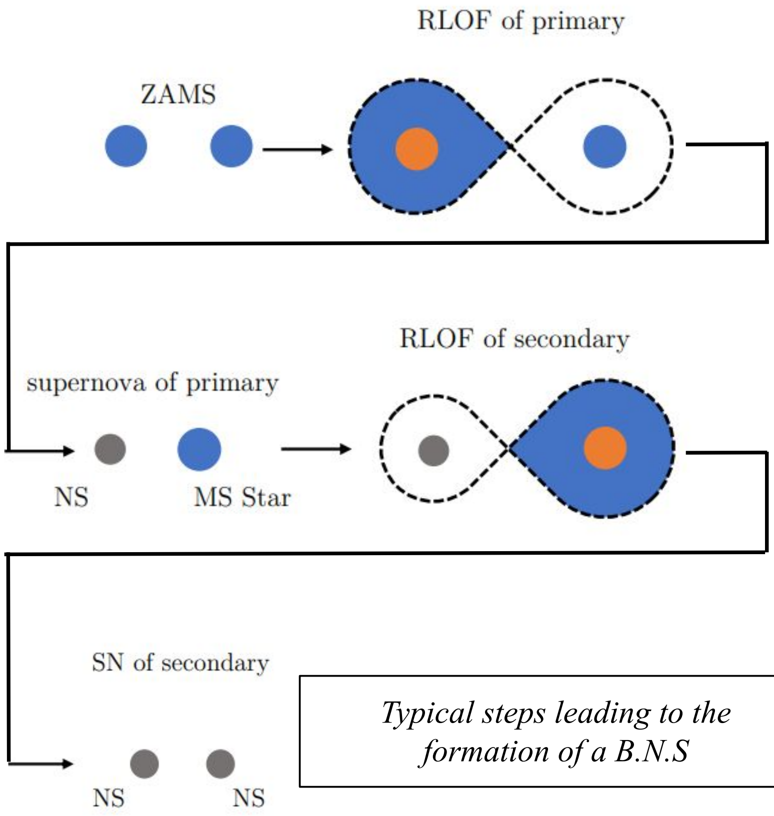
An evolution governed by complex physics

- **A complex evolution**
  - Stellar phases
  - Supernovae
  - Binary interactions
- **Modeled by a high number of parameters**
  - Single Star Evolution (metallicity, winds…)
  - Binary Star Evolution (mass transfers, common enveloppe)
- **With only a few direct observations**
  - Binary pulsars ~20 systems
  - BNS mergers ~2 confirmed systems



Typical steps leading to the formation of a B.N.S

Pellouin (2023)

Population synthesis codes and parameters exploration

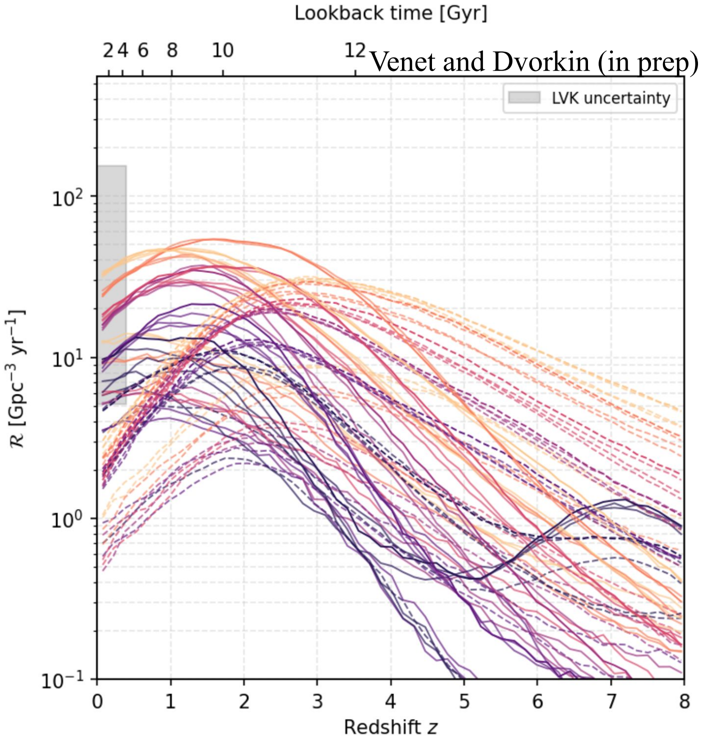
- **What is a population synthesis code?**
  - Simulates the evolution of binary star populations
  - Description of key physical processes
  - Enables comparison with limited observational data
  - A high number of parameters and models in these codes
- **Some key parameters need to be explored for B.N.S formation**
  - Metallicity bins to describe different stellar formation epochs/environnements
  - 4 parameters that affect greatly B.N.S populations

Parameter	Physical impact	Number of values
Metallicity	Single star evolution	20
Alpha	Efficiency of C.E	6
Qcflag	Conditions of C.E	3
Kickflag	Types of kick distribution	2
CE_kickflag	Kick prescription during C.E	2

Merger rates

- **Cosmological merger rates**
  - **COSMIC** gives us a BNS population for a metallicity bin with its merger time delay
  - We combine this with the cosmological *Madau & Fragos (2017)* **SFR model** and a **metallicity-redshift relation**
- **An example : the supernovae kicks prescriptions**
  - Two different models of kicks : kickflag 2 gives stronger kicks
  - **That gives us different merger rates peaks and shapes**
  - **That we can compare to the LVK** *GWTC-5.0* BNS **merger rate**

Venet and Dvorkin (in prep)



Merger rate as a function of redshift for all models. Different colors linestyles and opacities corresponds to variations in the ALPHA values, KICKLFAG, QCFLAG and CE_KICKFLAG prescriptions

Merger rates

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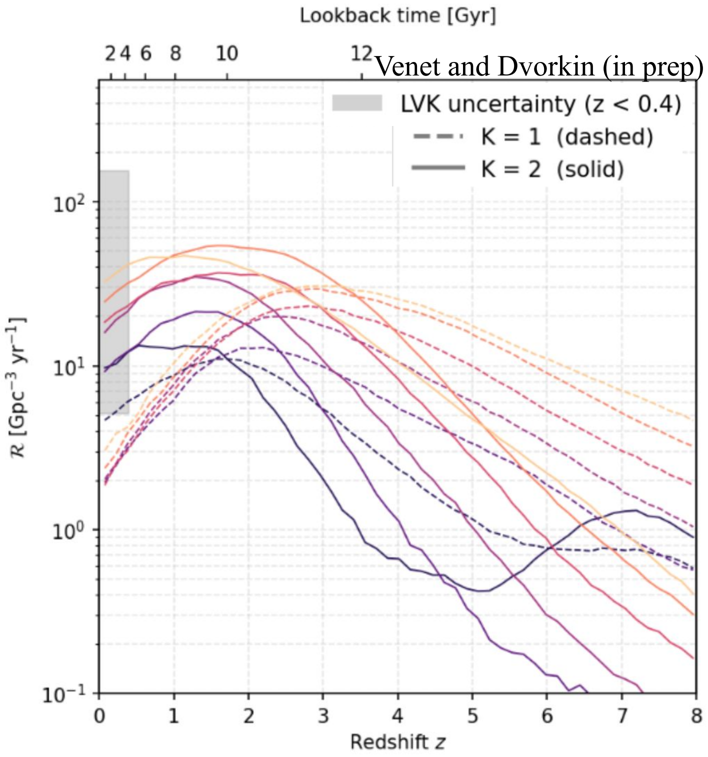


Merger rate as a function of redshift for a selection of models. Different colors corresponds to variations in the ALPHA values ***and*** *KICKFLAG values.*

Conclusion

BNS systems formation and observables

- **Rare compact objects** systems that rely on intricate physical processes
- **Limited** observational data

COSMIC and the parameter space exploration

- **Population synthesis codes** provide a means to **explore key physical parameters** and help understand limited **observational data**
- **COSMIC parameter space exploration** of around ~**1600** B.N.S populations
- Centered around **4 key physical parameters** for BNS populations explored throughout **20 metallicity bins**

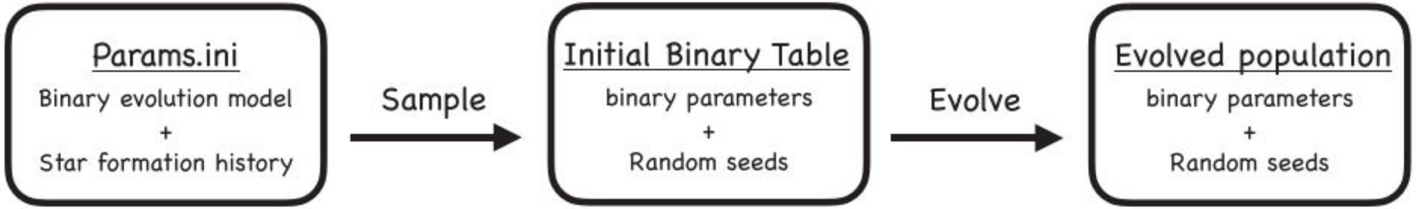
Cosmological merger rates

- Impact of **parameters** such as **KICKFLAG** on the **normalization and shape** of the merger-rate evolution **R(z)**
- A way to **compare** the different **models to a limited observational data set**

Annexe

Advantages and principle of COSMIC

- **The principle of COSMIC**
  - Initializes Zero-Age Main Sequence (ZAMS) stars based on distributions from scientific literature
  - Simulates system evolution
    - Single-star evolution using a one-zone model.
    - Binary system evolution using analytical models (GW, RLOF, CE…)
- **Why COSMIC ?**
  - Optimized for simulating the evolution of a very large number of systems (typically over 1 billion).
  - Incorporates the latest astrophysical models
  - Supports accretion-induced collapse.

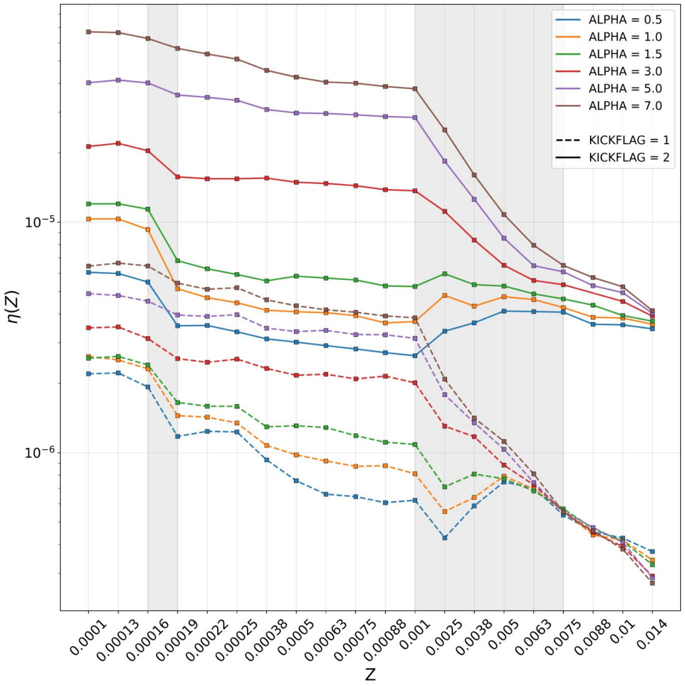


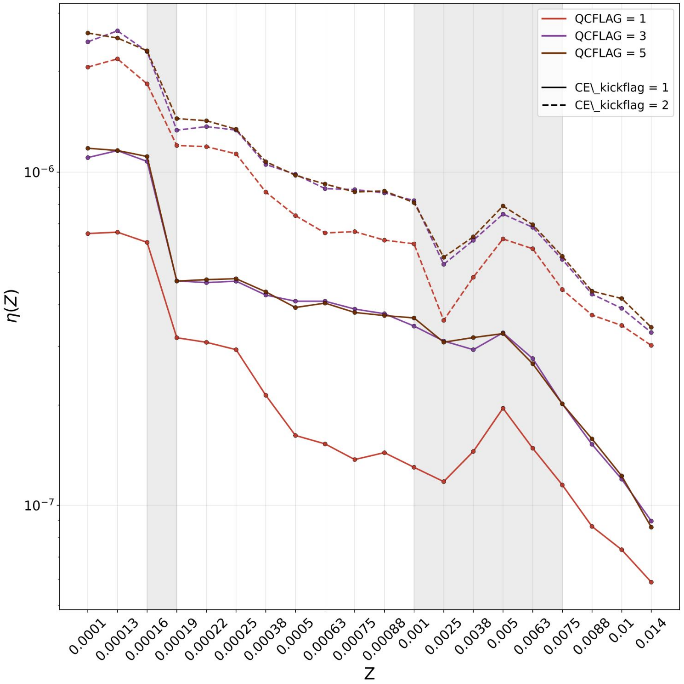
Breivik et al. (2020)

Annexe

Formation efficiency

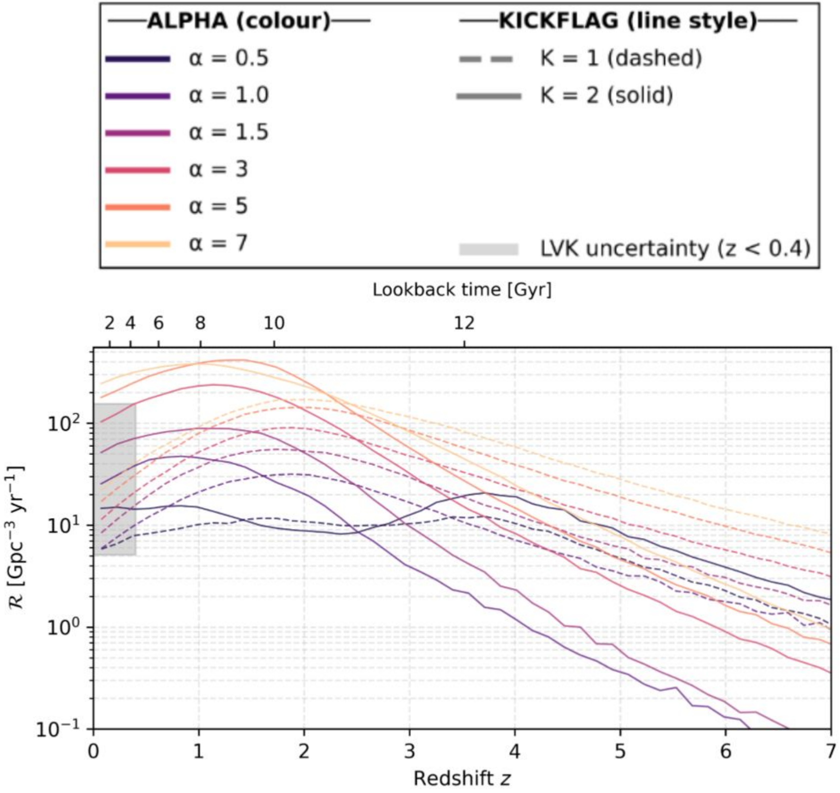
$$\eta(Z) = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{\mathrm{TOT}}(Z)}{M\star(Z)}$$

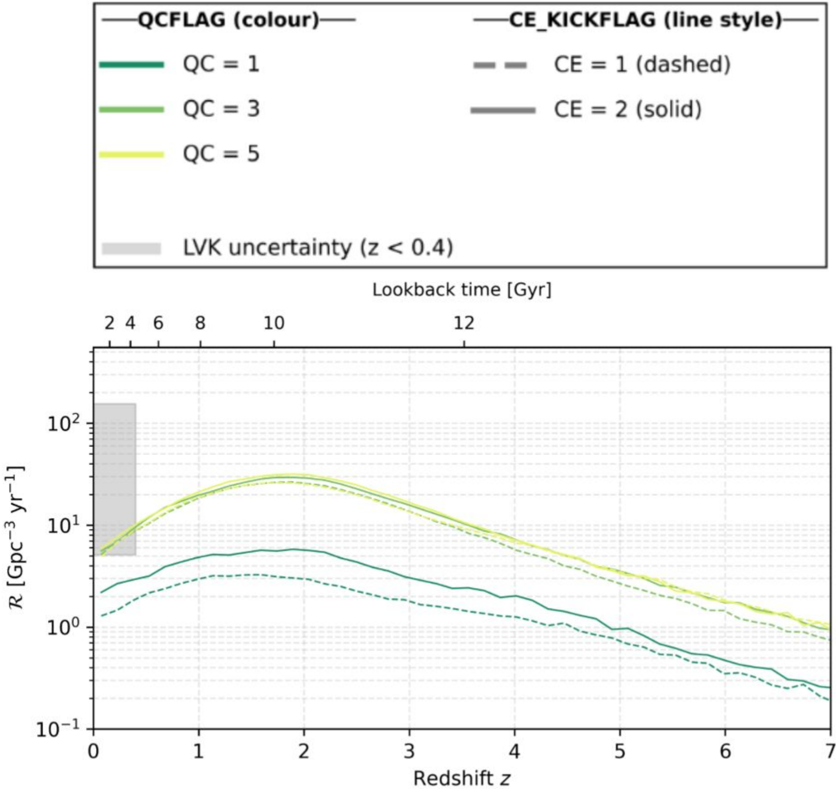




Annexe

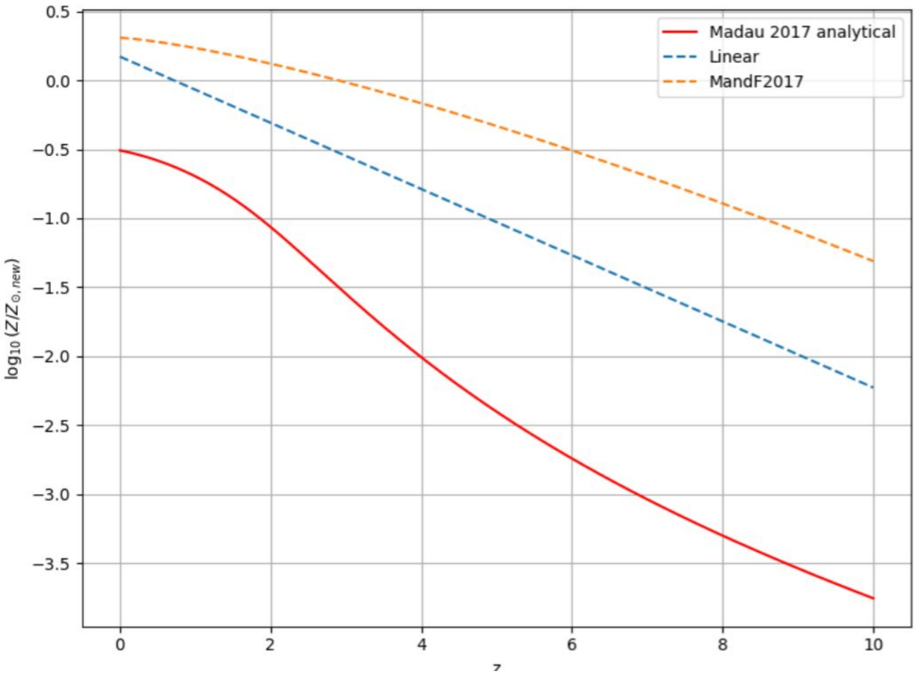
Other merger rates parameters





Annexe

Metallicity-redshift relation



Mean metallicity as a function of redshift for our three models.The red curve represents our integration method using the SFR from Madau & Fragos (2017). The blue and yellow dashed curves represent observational fits from Gallazzi et al. (2008), De Cia et al. (2018), and Madau & Fragos (2017), respectively.

Annexe

Cosmological merger rate

$$\mathcal{R}(z) = \frac{d}{dt_{\rm lb}(z)} \int_{z_{\max}}^{z} \psi(z') \frac{dt_{\rm lb}(z')}{dz'} \times \int_{Z_{\min}(z')}^{Z_{\max}(z')} \eta_{merge}(Z)\, \mathcal{F}(z', z, Z)\, dZ\, dz'$$

Here, $t_{lb}(z)$ is the look-back time at redshift z, $\psi(z')$ is the cosmic star formation rate density, and $Z_{min}(z')$ and $Z_{max}(z')$ define the metallicity range of stars formed at redshift z'. The term $\eta(Z)$ is the merger efficiency at metallicity Z, while $F(z', z, Z)$ describes the fraction of compact binaries formed at redshift z' and metallicity Z that merge at redshift z, normalized over all systems formed at that metallicity.

$$\bar{Z}(z) = \frac{y(1-R)}{\rho_b} \int_{z}^{z_{\max}} \frac{10^{0.5}\, \psi(z')}{H_0(1+z')\sqrt{\Omega_m(1+z')^3 + \Omega_\Lambda}}\, dz'$$

$\psi(z')$ is the SFR model, here taken from Madau & Fragos (2017), $H_0 = 68$ km s−1 Mpc−1 is the Hubble constant, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.69$ is the dark energy density parameter, $\Omega_m = 0.31$, $R = 0.27$ is the fraction of stellar mass returned to the interstellar medium, $y = 0.019$ is the net metal yield, and $\varrho_b = 2.77 \times 1011\ \Omega_b\, h^2\, M_\odot$ Mpc−3 is the present-day baryon density

Annexe

Linear metallicity-redshift relation

$$\log\left(\frac{\bar{Z}(z)}{Z_\odot}\right) = a + bz$$

***a* = log(1.04) as from Gallazzi et al. (2008)**

"stellar metallicity and stellar mass estimates for a large sample of galaxies drawn from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey Data Release

$\langle Z* \rangle = 1.04 \pm 0.14\ Z_\odot$"

***b* = −0.25 as from De Cia et al. (2018)**

"Interpreting abundances of damped Ly-α absorbers (DLAs) from absorption-line spectroscopy has typically been a challenge because of the presence of dust. Nevertheless, because DLAs trace distant gas-rich galaxies regardless of their luminosity, they provide an attractive way of measuring the evolution of the metallicity of the neutral gas with cosmic time.

In this case, we find a slope of the metallicity vs redshift relation of -0.24 ± 0.14 dex"

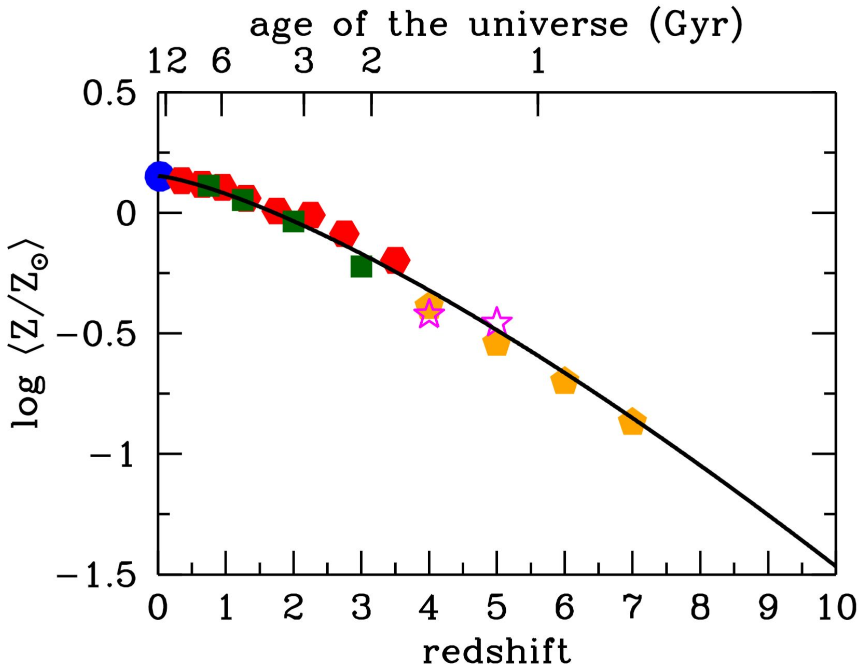
Annexe

MandF2017 metallicity-redshift relation

$$\log\left(\frac{\bar{Z}(z)}{Z_\odot}\right) = a - b\ z^c$$

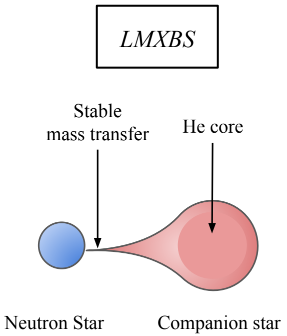
with *a* = 0.153, *b* = −0.074, and *c* = 1.34 as from Madau & Fragos (2017).

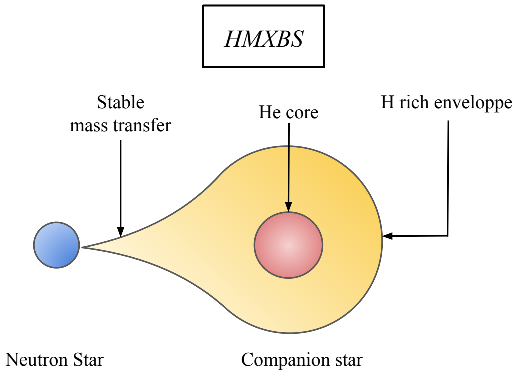
“Figure : Gas-phase metallicity history of the galaxy population as a whole. [...] The data points are from Baldry et al. (2012; blue dot), Ilbert et al. (2013; red hexagons), Kajisawa et al. (2009; green squares), Lee et al. (2012; magenta stars), and Grazian et al. (2015; orange pentagons). Oxygen metallicities are expressed in units of solar (Anders & Grevesse 1989). All estimates of stellar mass have been adjusted to the same IMF. The dashed line shows the best-fitting function á ñ = –Z Z zlog 0.153 0.074 1.34.”

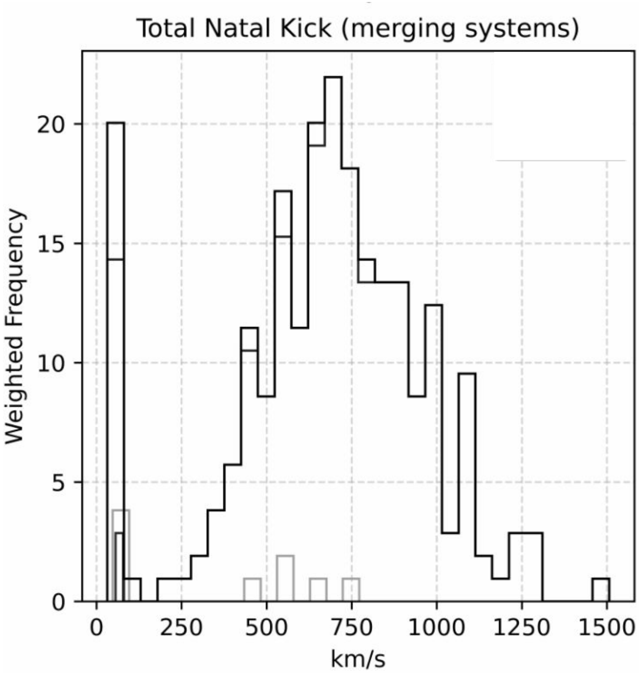


Indirect observations

- **X-ray binaries** are **transient sources** emitting primarily in X-rays
  - They are thought to host an accreting neutron star in a binary system
  - Companion stars can be massive (HMXBs) or stripped/low-mass (LMXBs)
  - New formation channels trace their frequency and key properties as a function of binary evolution parameters (ex : metallicity)
- **B.N.S merger offset** from the star formation site depends on the **supernovae types** and their **respective kicks**



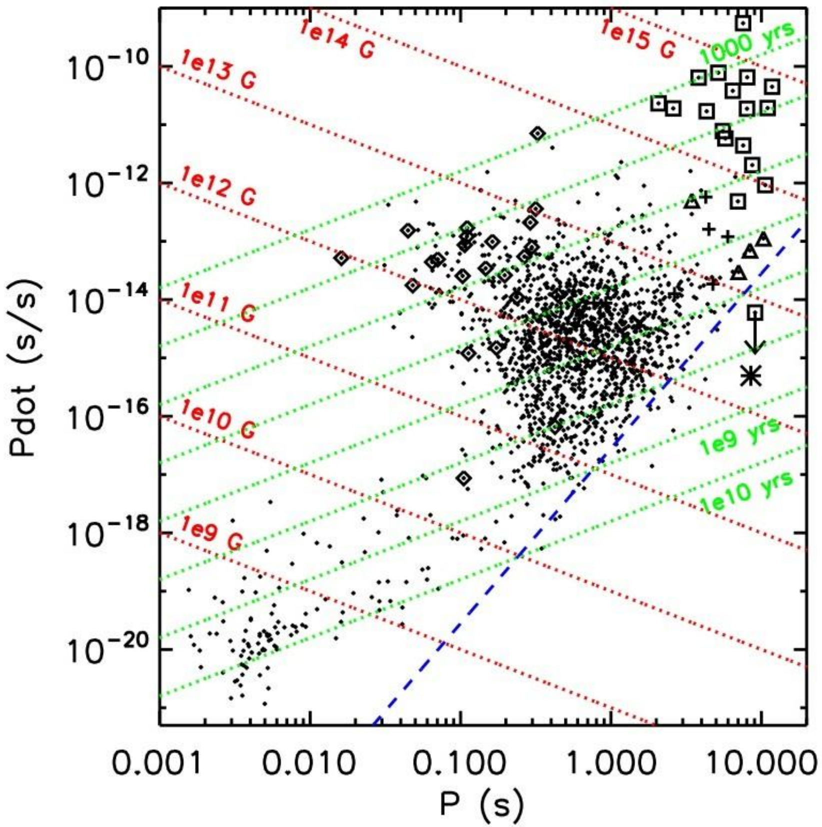




Top histogram: Total natal kick distribution ($km\ s^{-1}$) for the merging population.
The low-velocity and high-velocity components of the bimodal distribution correspond to ECSN and CCSN supernovae, respectively.

Annexe : Modélisation du signal radio des pulsars binaires

Gotthelf et al. (2013)



- Pulsars observables :
  - La death line comme limite de détection
  - La prise en compte d'arguments géométriques
- La modélisation du signal :
  - Modèles analytique (P, dP et B)
  - Utilisation des valeurs de P et dP de COSMIC