

Gravitational wave and EM signatures of binary BHs with circumbinary gas

Zoltán Haiman
Columbia University

Copenhagen and me

NORDITA NEWS 1997 / 5

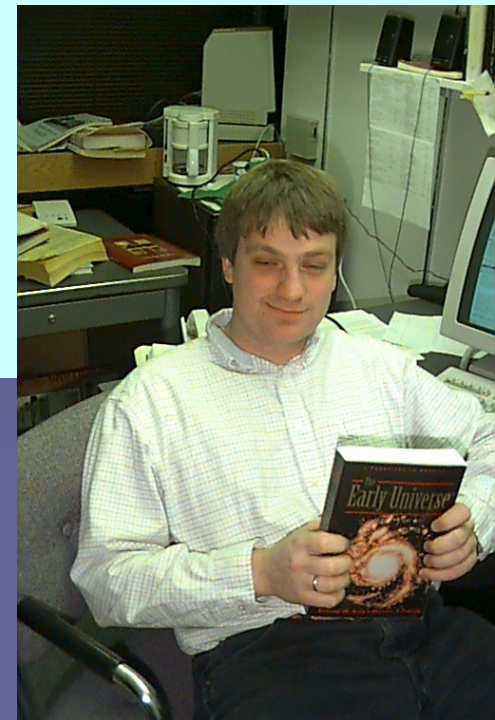
October 1, 1997

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OVERVIEW OF FUTURE NORDITA AND OTHER CONFERENCES

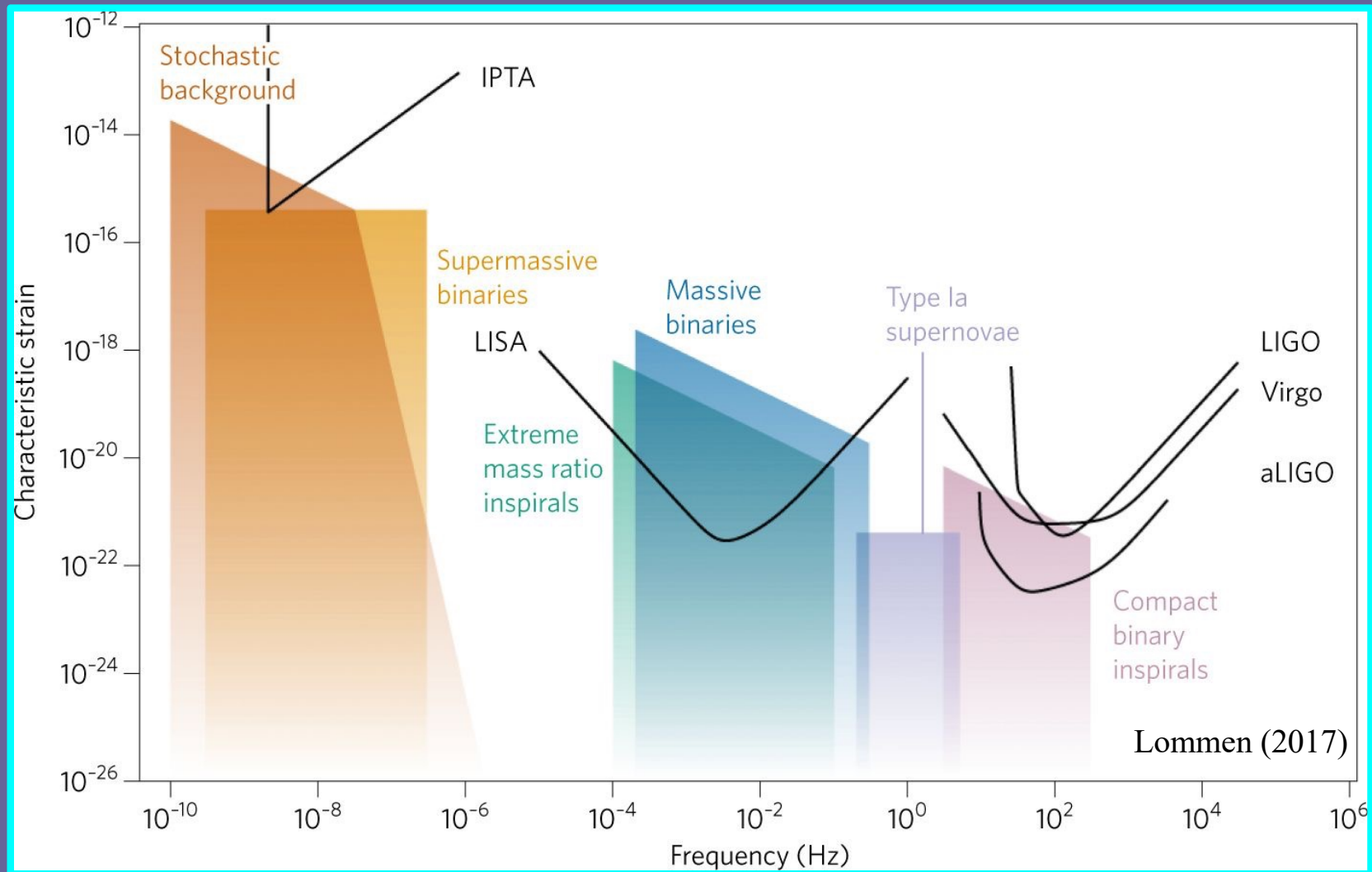
Title / Date / Place	Contact Person	Fax / Email / www
Nordita's 40th Anniversary Nordita, Copenhagen. 3-4 November 1997.		+45 - 353 89157 (fax) nordita@nordita.dk
Cosmology: from COBE to Galaxy Formation. Nordita, Copenhagen. 2 - 5 December 1997.	A. Kashlinsky Nordita and Goddard Space Flight Center	+45 - 353 89157 (fax) cosmology@nordita.dk http://www.nordita.dk/Conf/cosmology/



Outline

- 1. Introduction: mergers of SMBHs in galactic nuclei**
 - observational background, motivation
- 2. Theory: binary accretion**
 - bright variable emission from binary
- 3. Observations: do we have to wait for GW detections?**
 - SMBH binary candidates in quasar surveys
 - forecasts for LSST & LISA era
- 4. Stellar-mass BH binaries: mergers in AGN disks?**
 - BH binaries form in or captured by nuclear gas disks
 - Bright EM emission outshining AGN

Multi-band Gravitational Waves

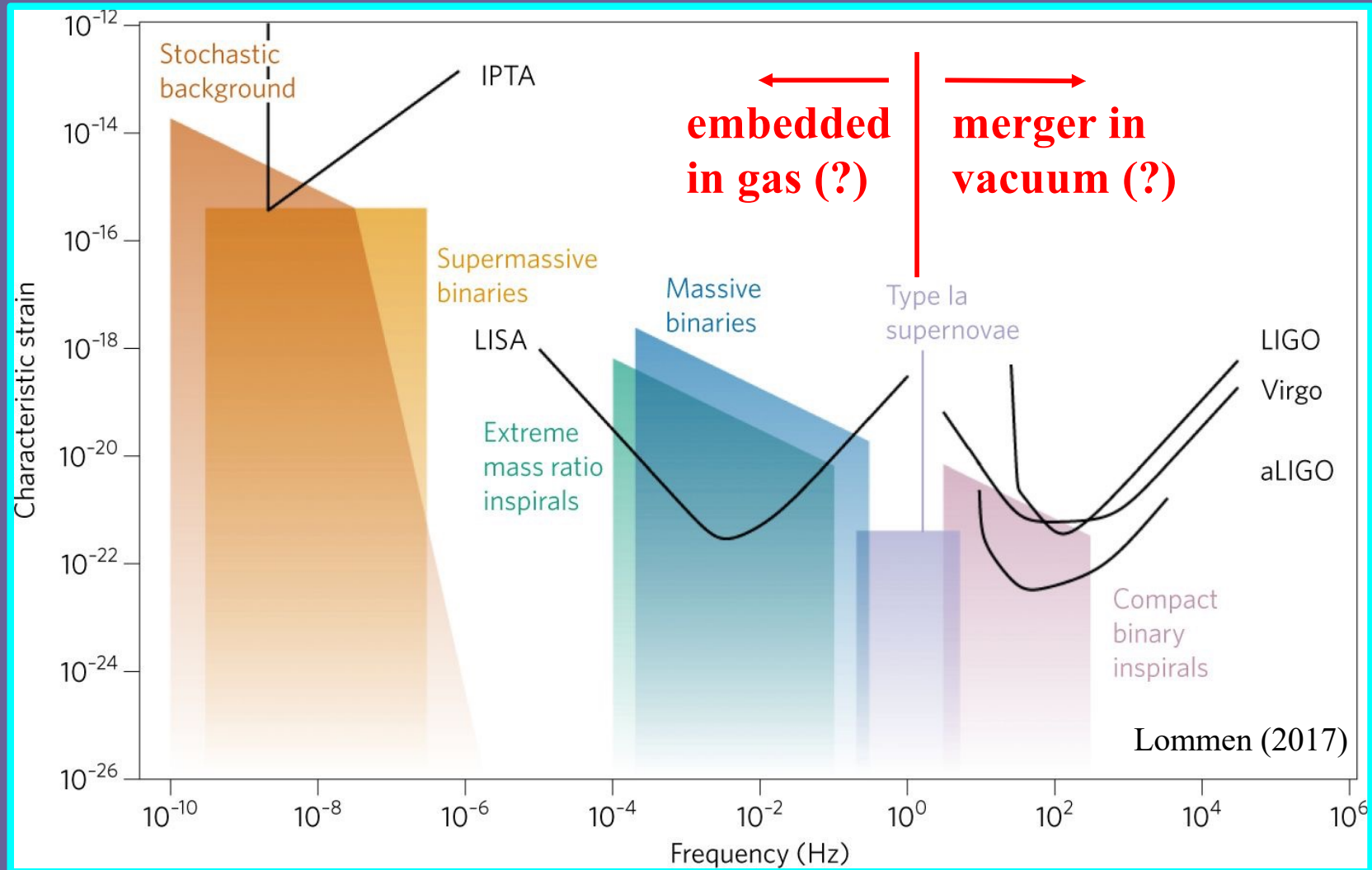


$(10^8-10^{10})M_{\odot}$
pulsar timing

$(10^4-10^7)M_{\odot}$
LISA

$(10-10^2)M_{\odot}$
LIGO

Multi-band Gravitational Waves



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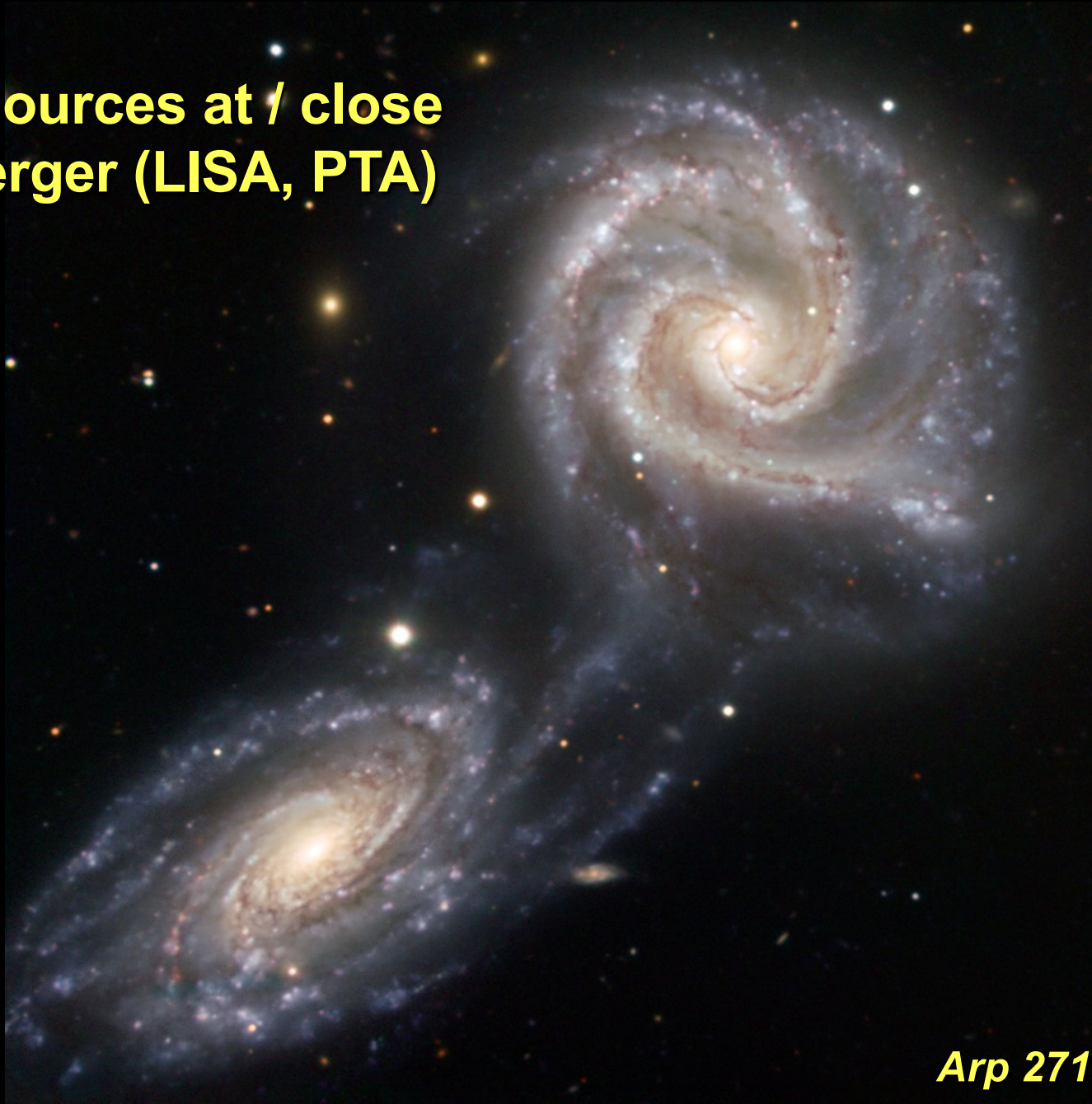
Massive BH binaries in galactic nuclei



Arp 271 (credit: ESO)

Massive BH binaries in galactic nuclei

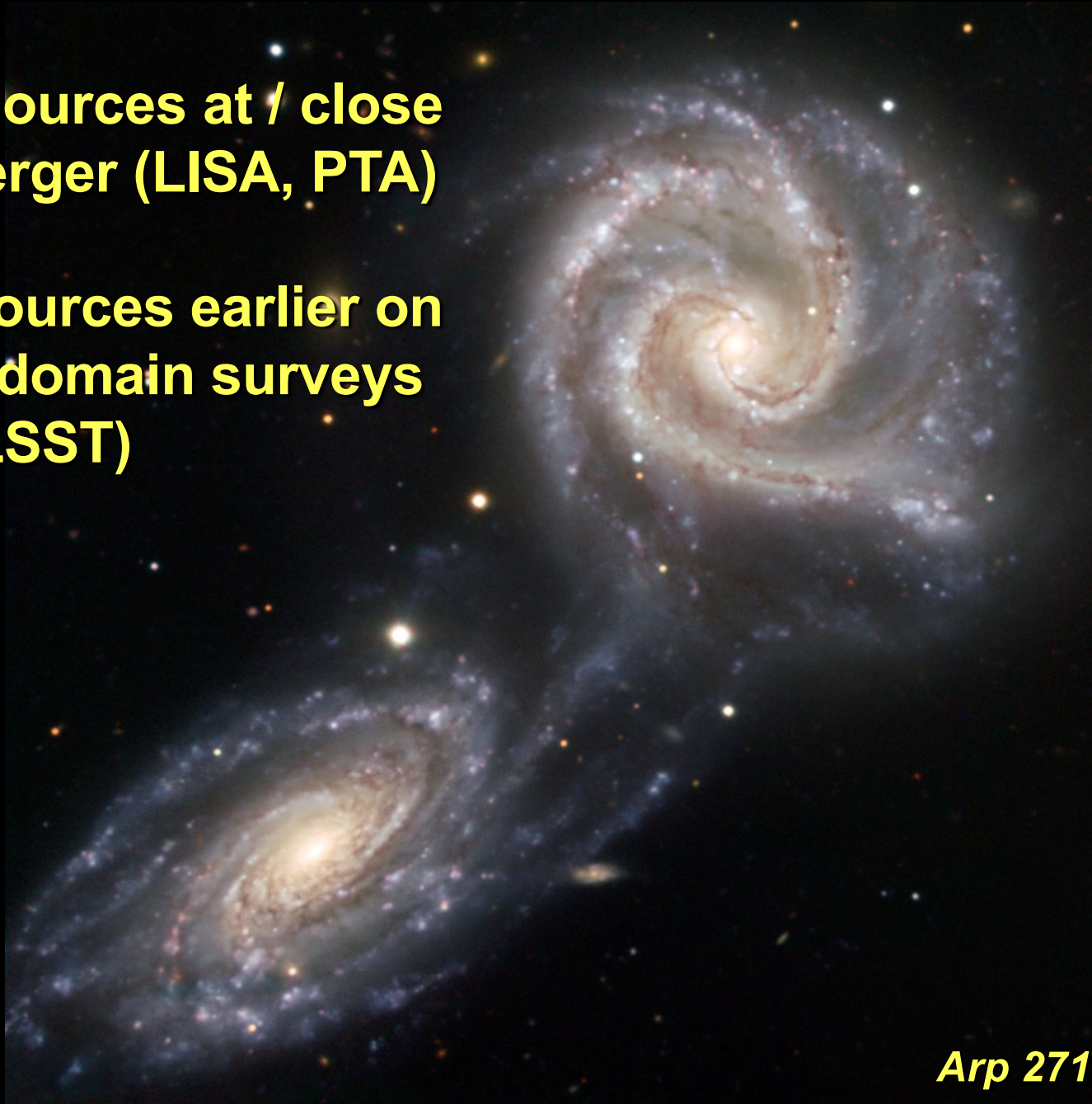
→ GW sources at / close to merger (LISA, PTA)



Arp 271 (credit: ESO)

Massive BH binaries in galactic nuclei

- GW sources at / close to merger (LISA, PTA)
- EM sources earlier on (time-domain surveys e.g. LSST)



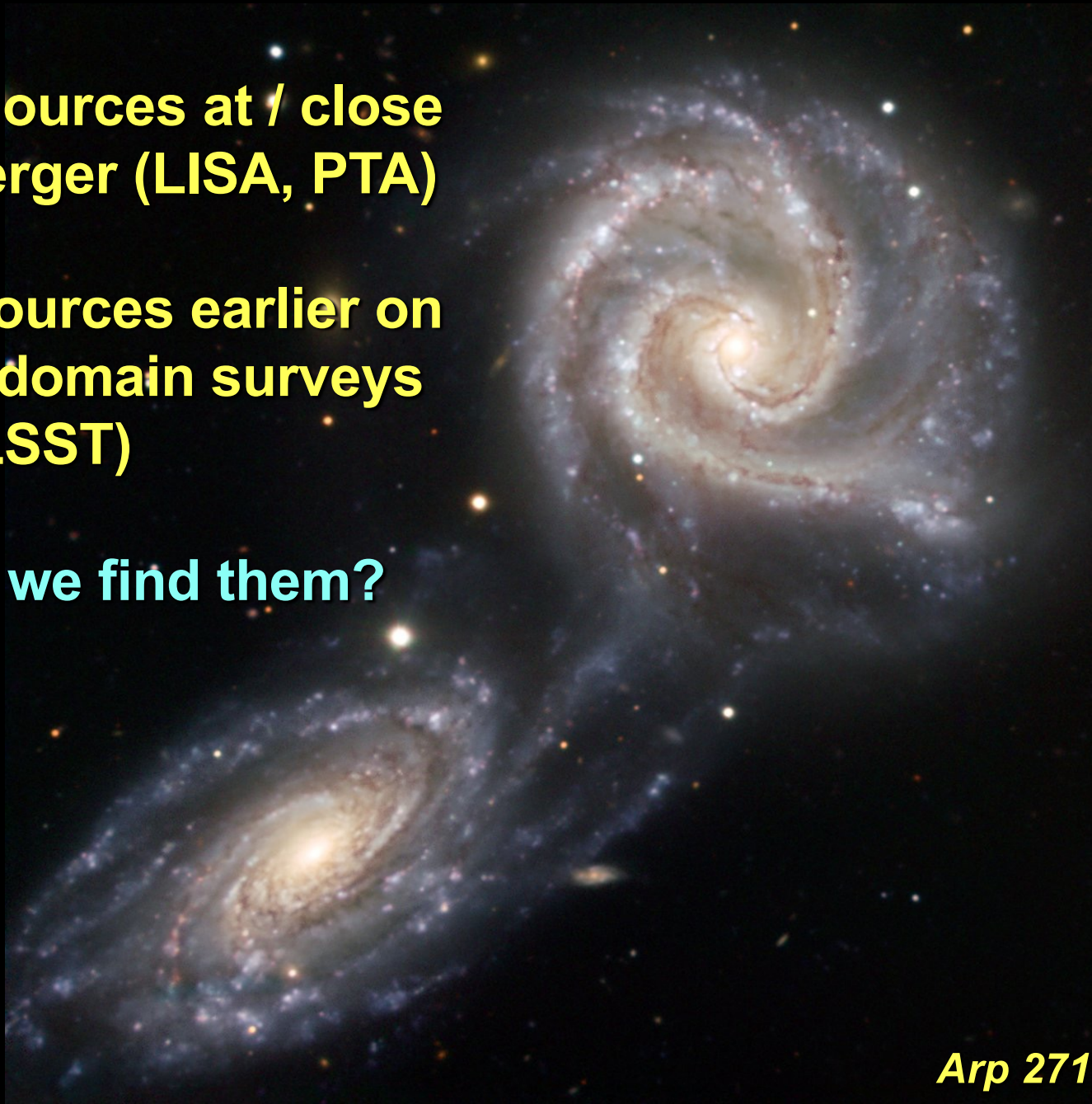
Arp 271 (credit: ESO)

Massive BH binaries in galactic nuclei

→ GW sources at / close to merger (LISA, PTA)

→ EM sources earlier on (time-domain surveys e.g. LSST)

how do we find them?



Arp 271 (credit: ESO)

Science from Multi-Messenger Astrophysics

Benefits of combining GWs and EM detections

(1) Astronomy and astrophysics

- *accretion physics*: EM emission with known BH parameters
- *accretion physics*: distortions to waveforms (Derdzinski + 2020, 2021)
- *quasar/galaxy (co)evolution*: BH vs host galaxy relations

(2) Fundamental physics & cosmology

- Hubble diagrams from standard sirens (Schutz 1986 + ...)
- $d_L(z)$ from GWs + photons: test of non-GR gravity (Deffayet & Menou 2007)
- delay between arrival time of photons and gravitons:
extra dimensions, graviton mass ($\gamma_{m_0}c^2=hf$; Kocsis et al. 2008)

(3) EM counterparts can also help with GW detection

- known EM source position helps break GW parameter degeneracies
- EM counterpart can increase confidence of marginal GW detections

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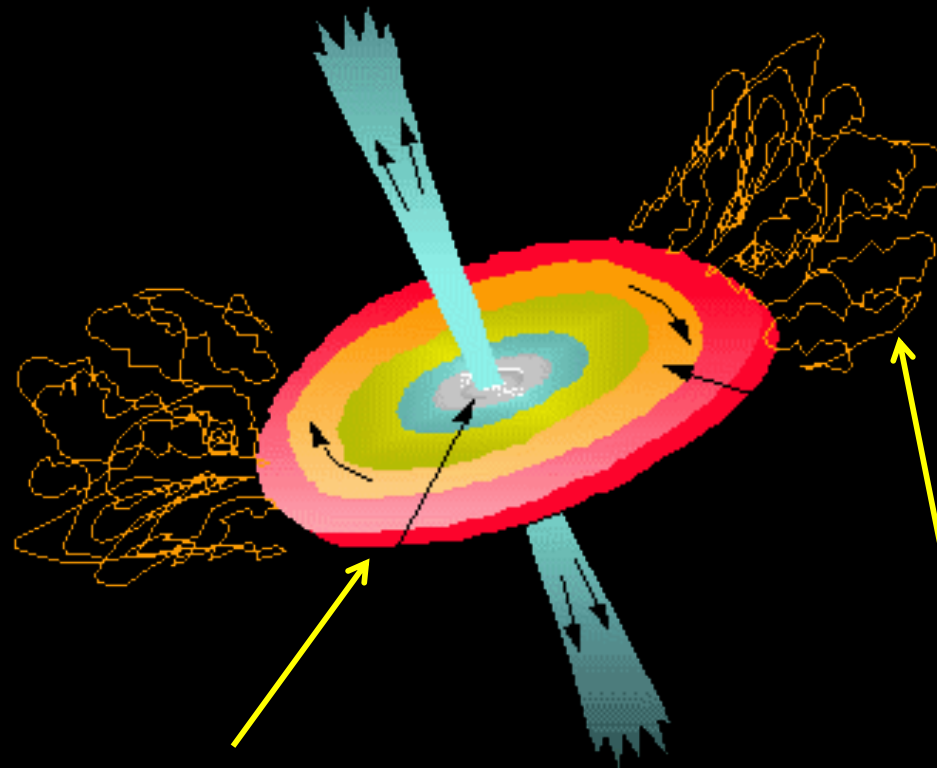
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- BH binaries form in or captured by nuclear gas disks
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Binary quasars

Gas cools and forms a compact (\sim sub-pc) nuclear accretion disk

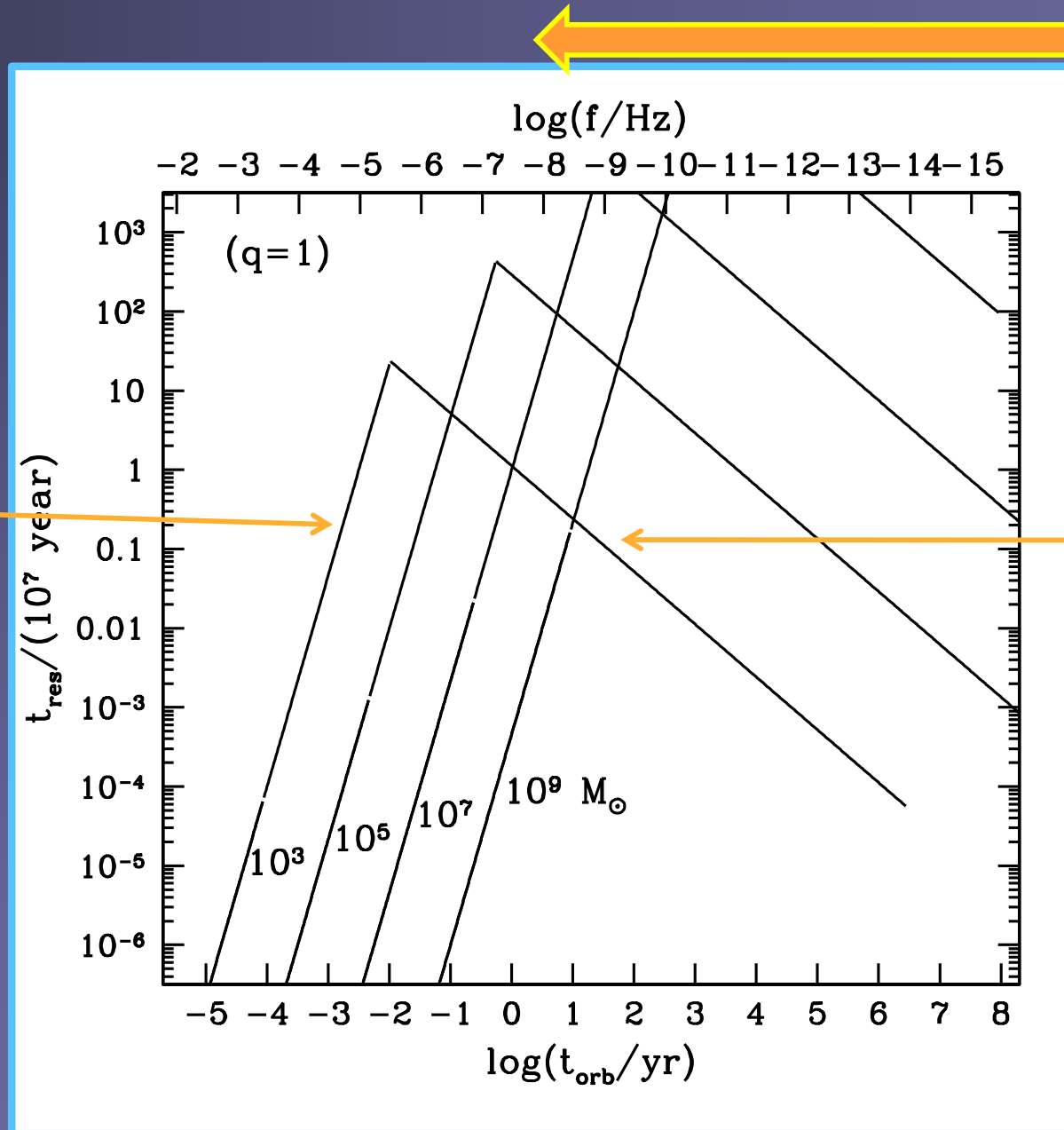


inner disk: stable,
geometrically thin,
optically thick,
 $M_{\text{disk}} \ll M_{\text{bh}}$

Gravitationally
unstable region
 $Q(\text{Toomre}) < 1$

→ What if second black hole is present ? ←

Residence time

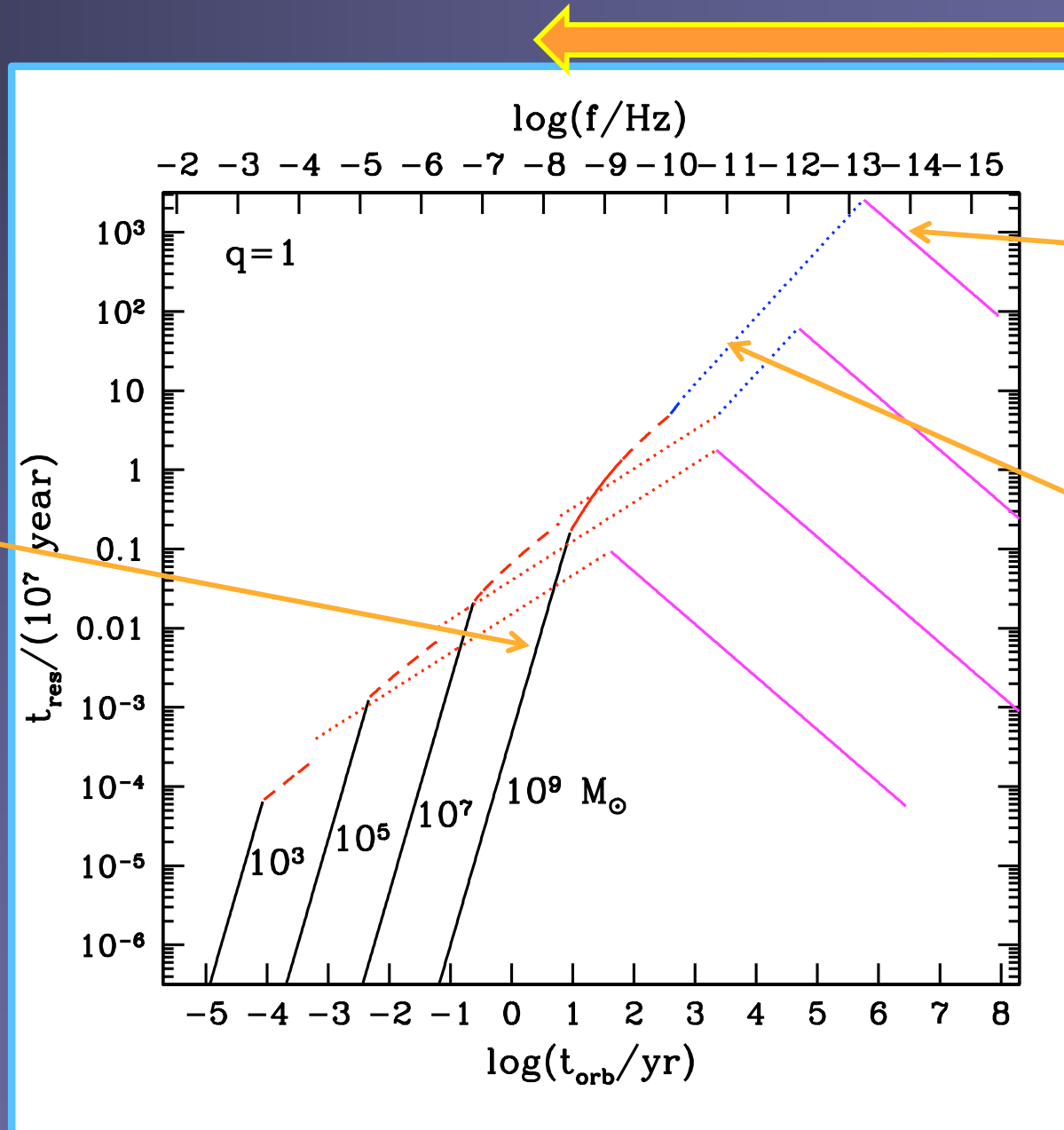


GW-driven
decay

Stellar
Scattering
driven
decay

ZH, Kocsis,
Menou (2009)

Residence time



GW-driven decay

Stellar Scattering driven decay

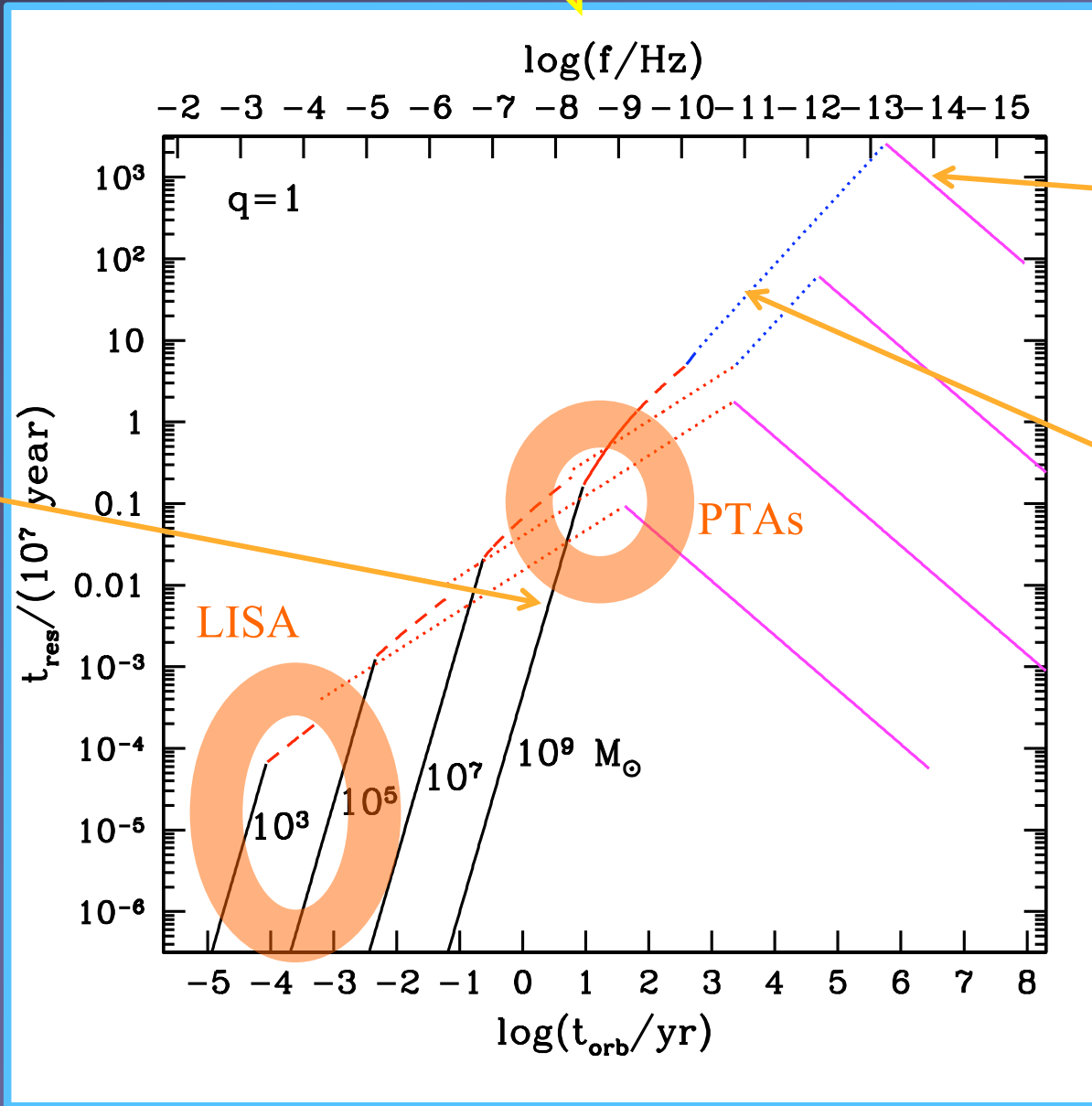
Gas disk Driven decay

[sensitive to accretion disk model]

ZH, Kocsis, Menou (2009)

Residence time

GW-driven decay



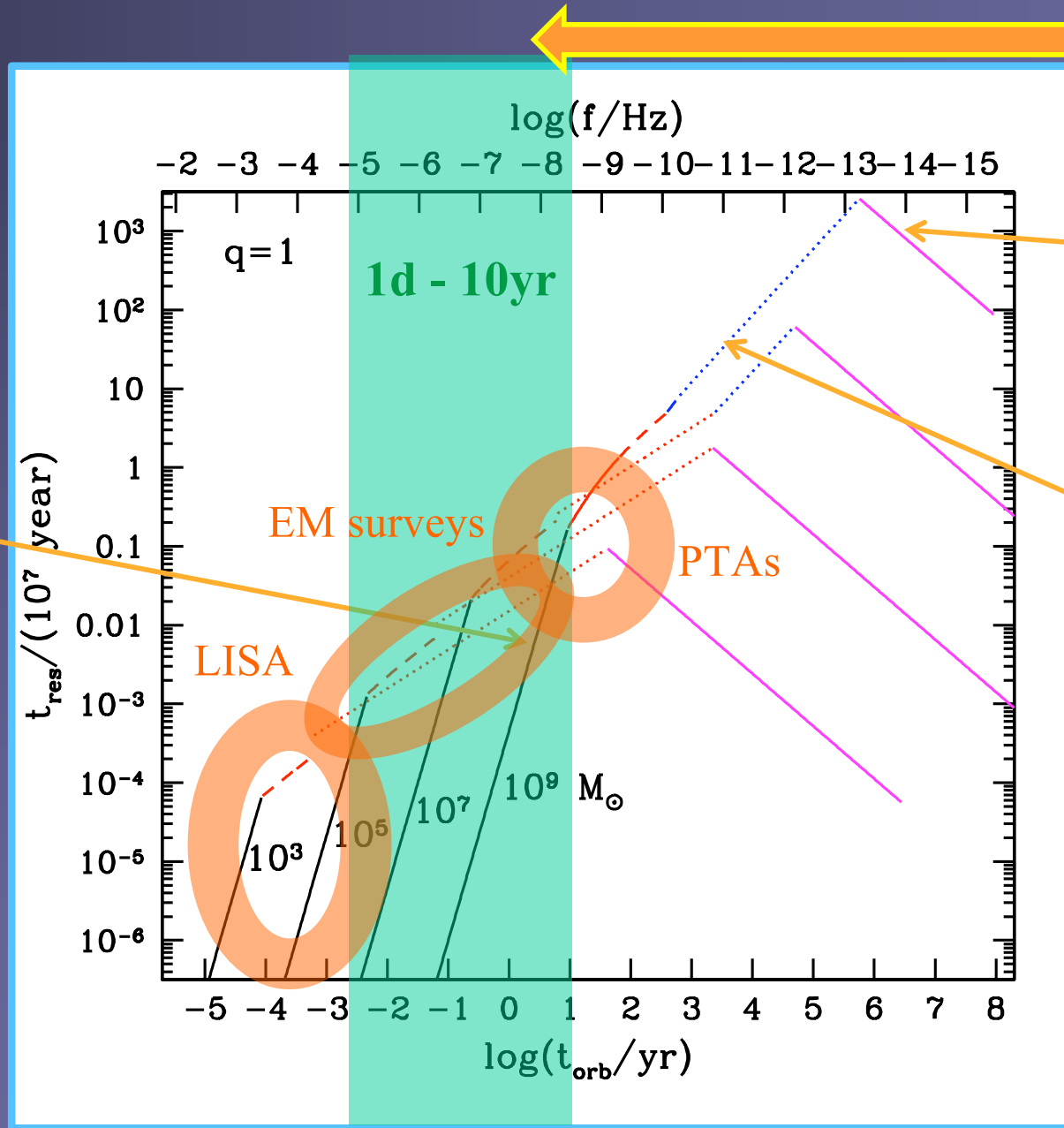
Stellar Scattering driven decay

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[sensitive to accretion disk model]

ZH, Kocsis, Menou (2009)

Residence time



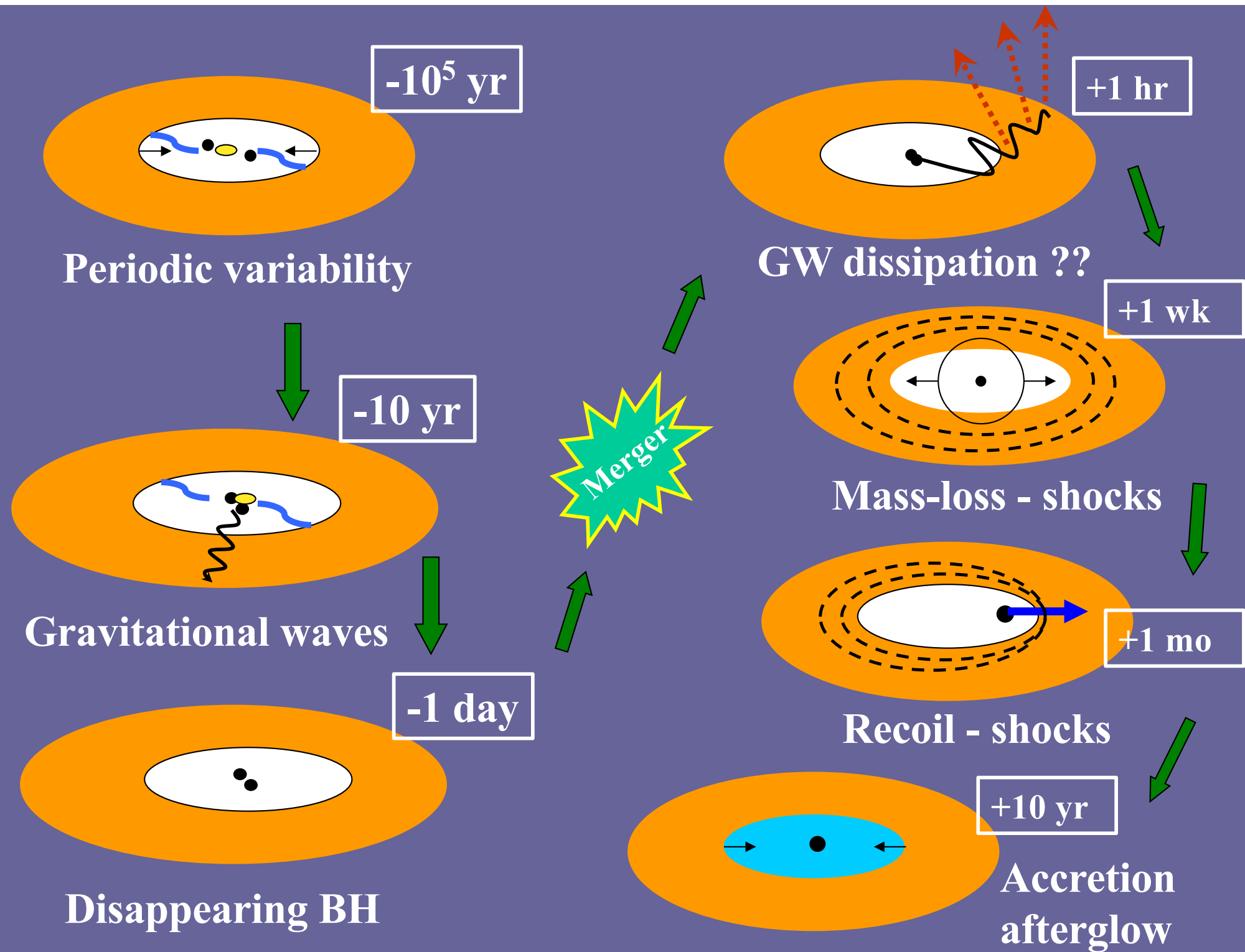
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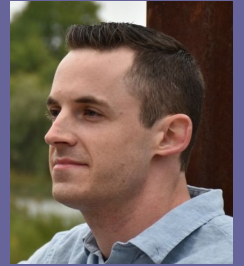
[sensitive to accretion disk model]

ZH, Kocsis, Menou (2009)



Equal-mass, circular binary

Westernacher-Schneider et al. (2022)



Ryan Westernacher-Schneider

Sailfish; GPU-enabled 2D hydro code, Cartesian coö's
mass ratio (q), eccentricity (e), temperature (\mathcal{M})



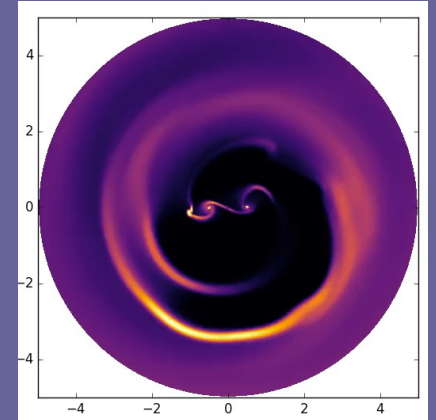
Key Features of Binary Accretion

Central cavity:

- Lack of stable orbits within \sim twice the binary separation
- Density suppressed by factor of \sim 100

Lopsided cavity wall with lump:

- circumbinary disk strongly lopsided (nonlinear instability)
- dense lump appears at cavity wall, modulating accretion



Streamers:

- enter cavity wall via strong shocks, extend into tidal region of BHs
- fuel accretion is via gravity and shocks --- not viscosity/MRI !

Minidisks:

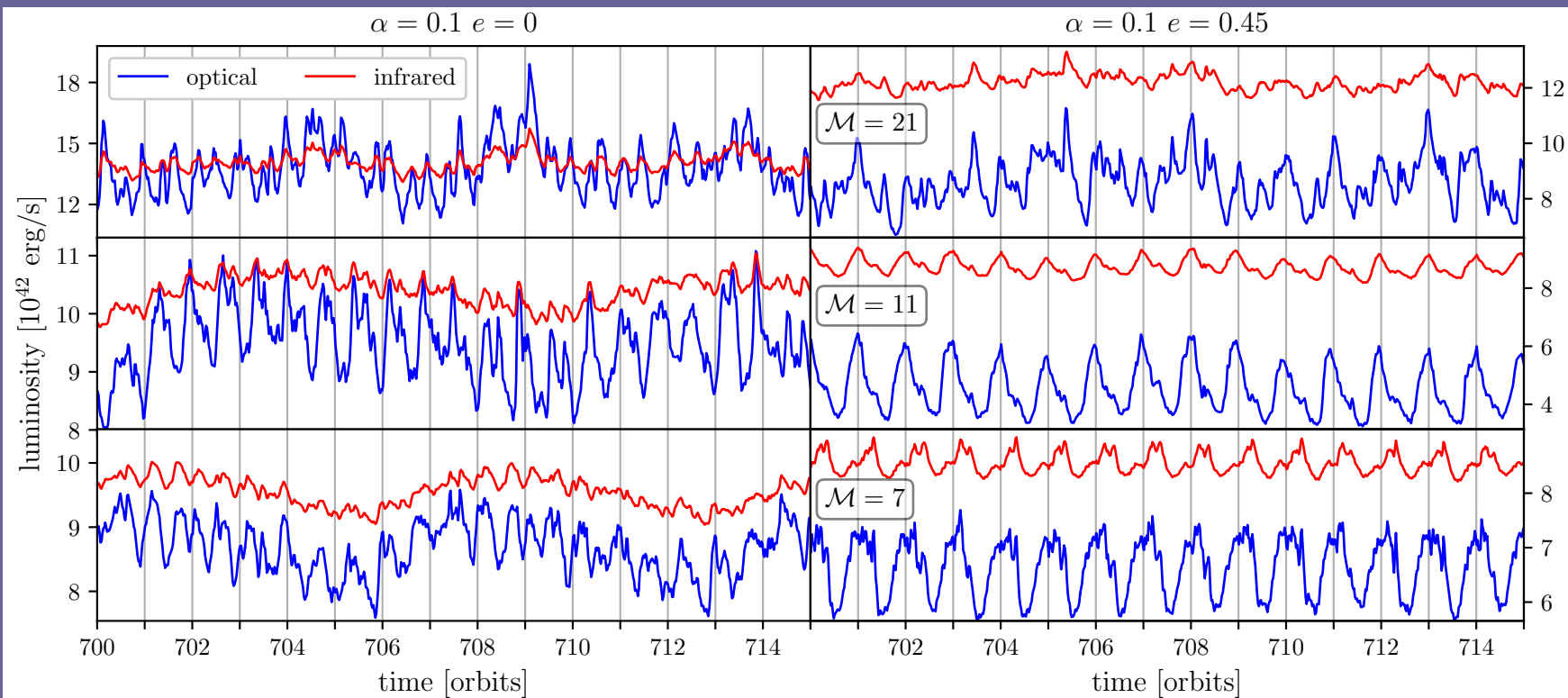
- fueled by streamers -- net accretion rate matches that of single BH
- strong shocks periodically appear and disappear

Signature I: binary quasars are periodic

Thermal emission; optical and IR

Circular

Eccentric



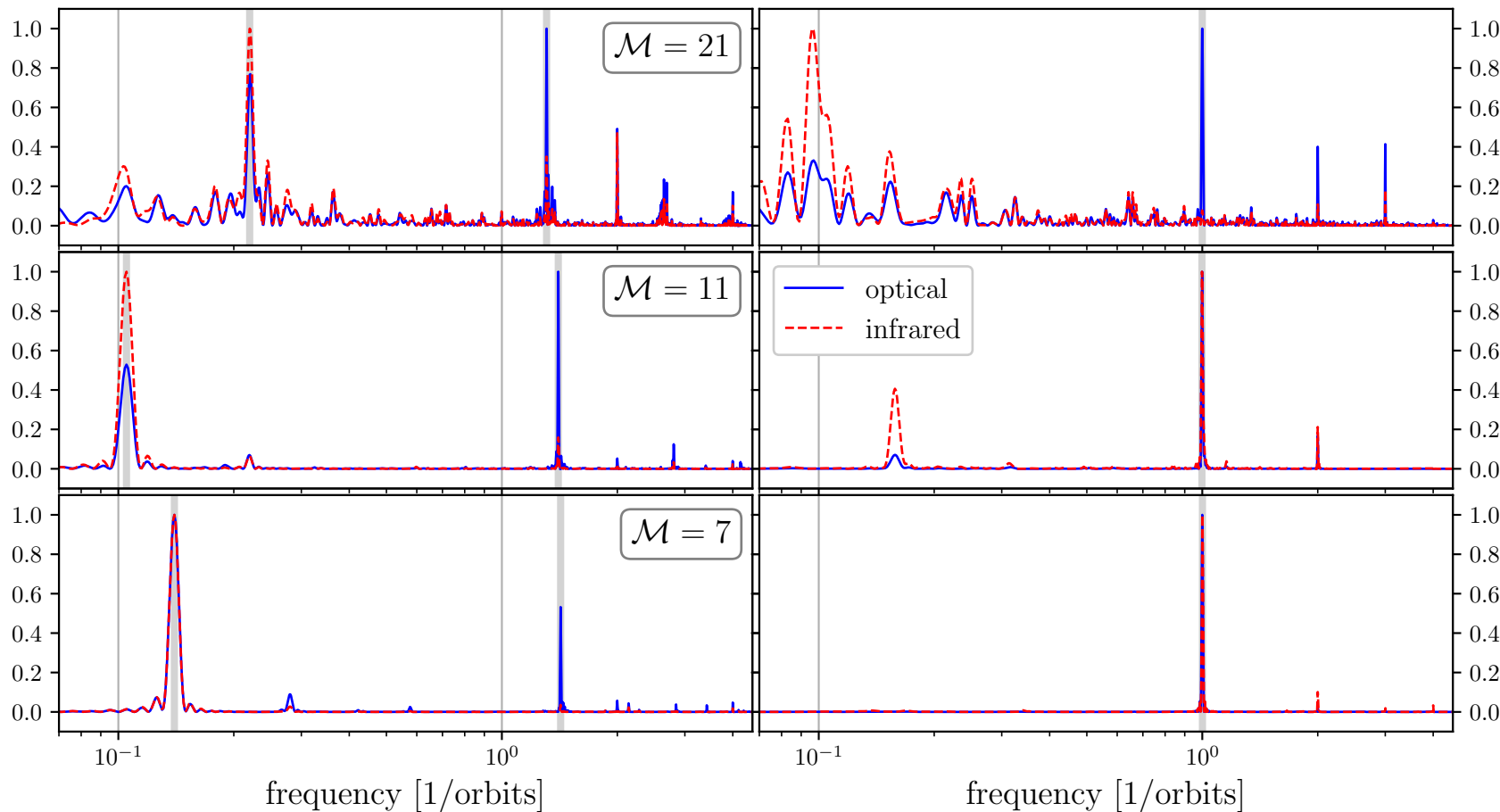
Binary quasars are periodic

Circular

Eccentric

$\alpha = 0.1 \ e = 0$

$\alpha = 0.1 \ e = 0.45$



colder



warmer

↑
lump

↑
beat between orbit &
minidisk precession

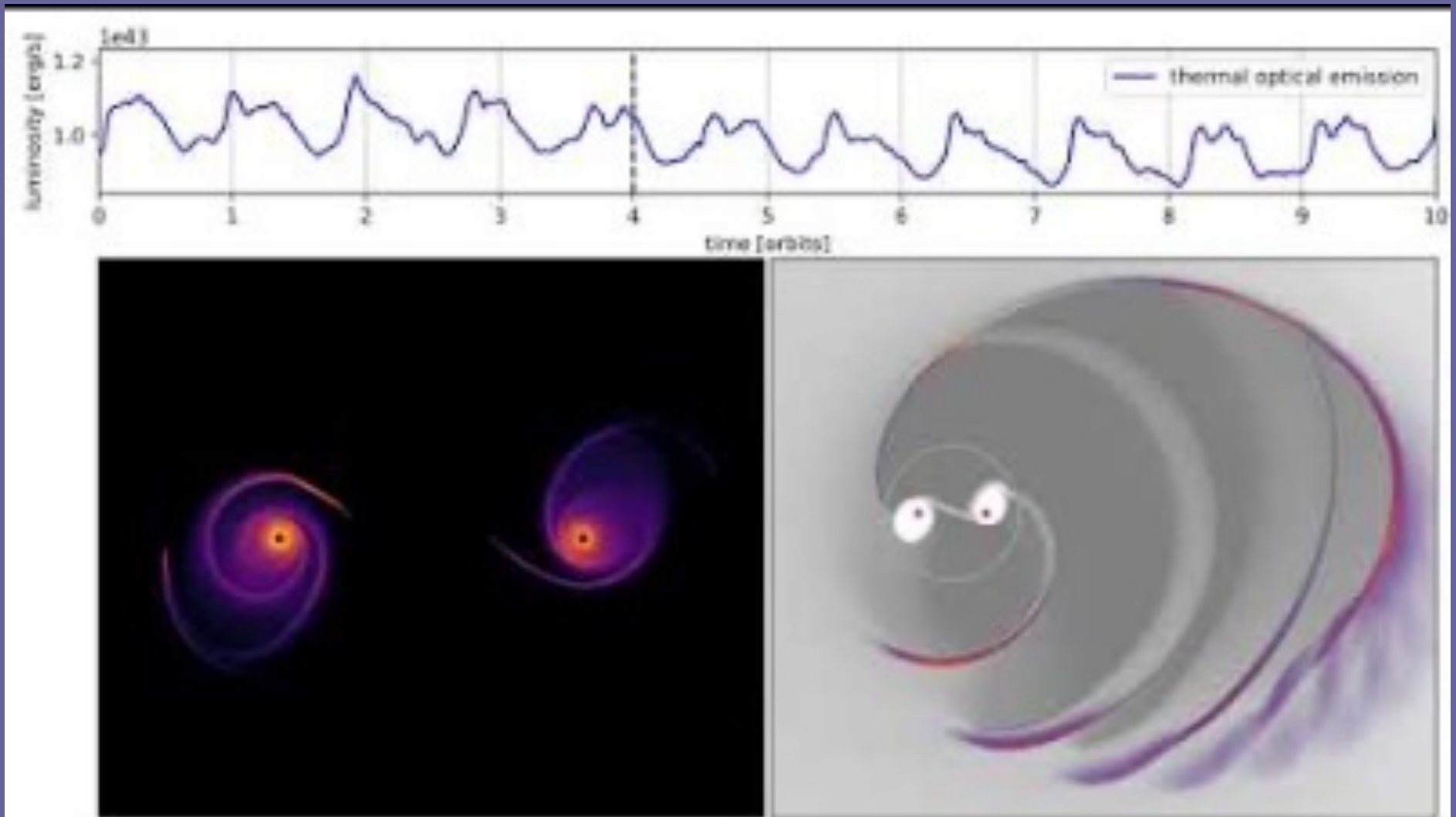
↑
no lump

↑
orbit

Periodicity from Minidisks

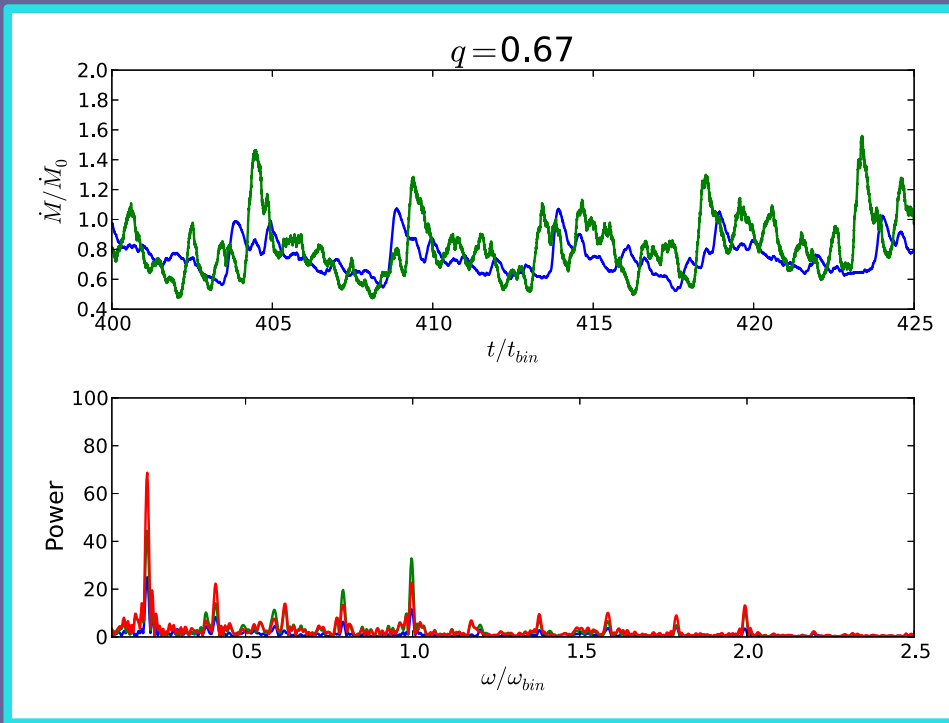
Westernacher-Schneider et al. (2023, in prep)

With **Sailfish**; resolved lopsided minidisks with retrograde precession



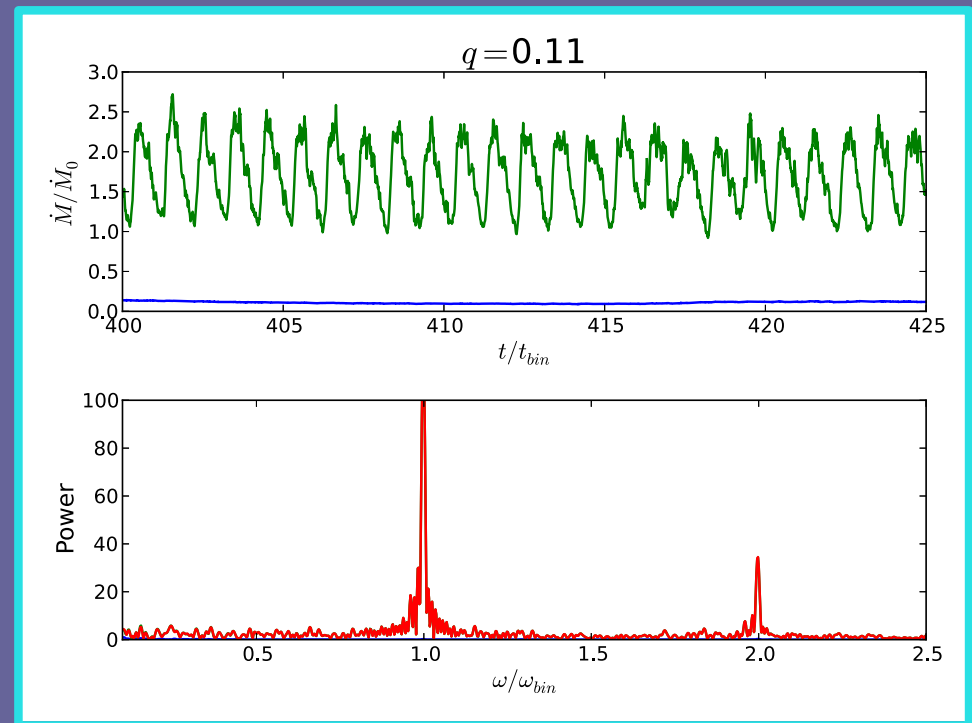
Impact of mass ratio

$$0.3 < q < 1$$



Sawtooth/bursty variability,
on **orbital time at cavity wall**

$$0.05 < q < 0.3$$



more sinusoidal variability,
on **orbital timescale**

Accretion rate not suppressed – similar to bright quasar
→ periodic variability down to mass ratio of ~ 0.05

Periodicity from Doppler boost (EM “chirp”)

LISA binary

ZH (2017)

Wide (P ~ yr) binary

X-ray emission from quasars from few R_g

Minidisk → X-ray corona bound to single BH

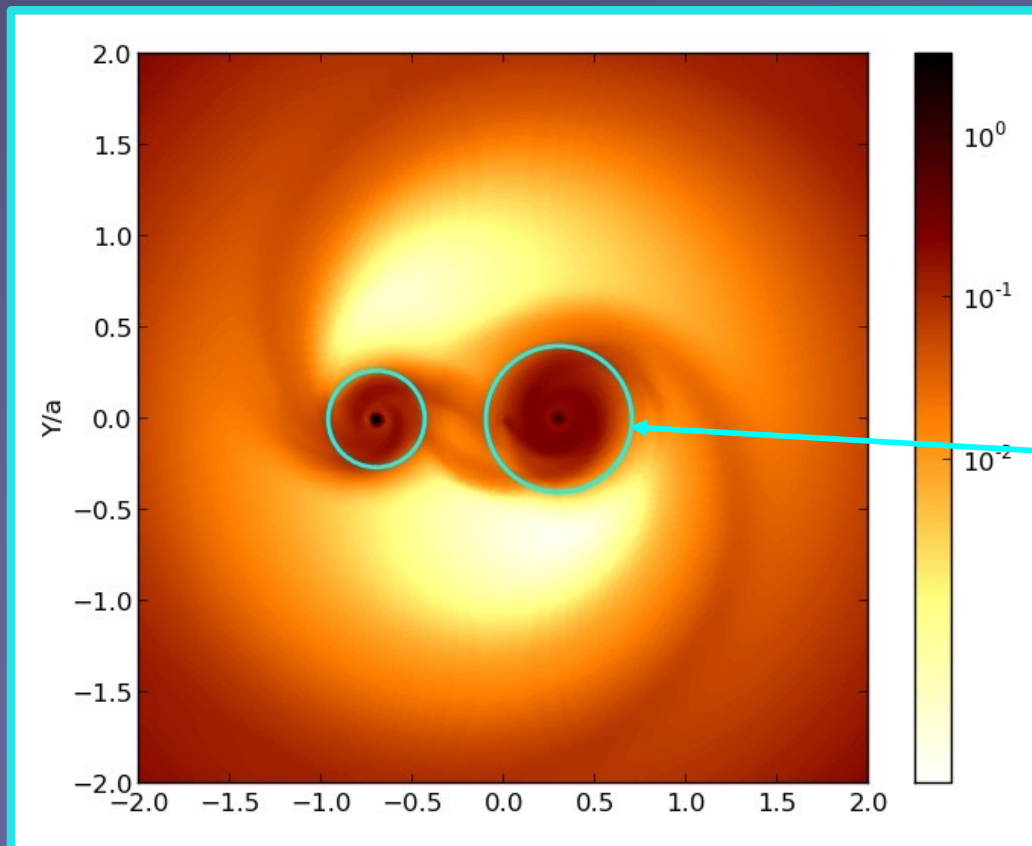
Doppler effect modulates brightness at $O(v/c) \sim 0.1$

optical: ~ few 100 R_g

minidisk=quasar disk

$v/c \sim 0.01$

→ dominates over hydro-variability for $q \lesssim 0.05$ ←

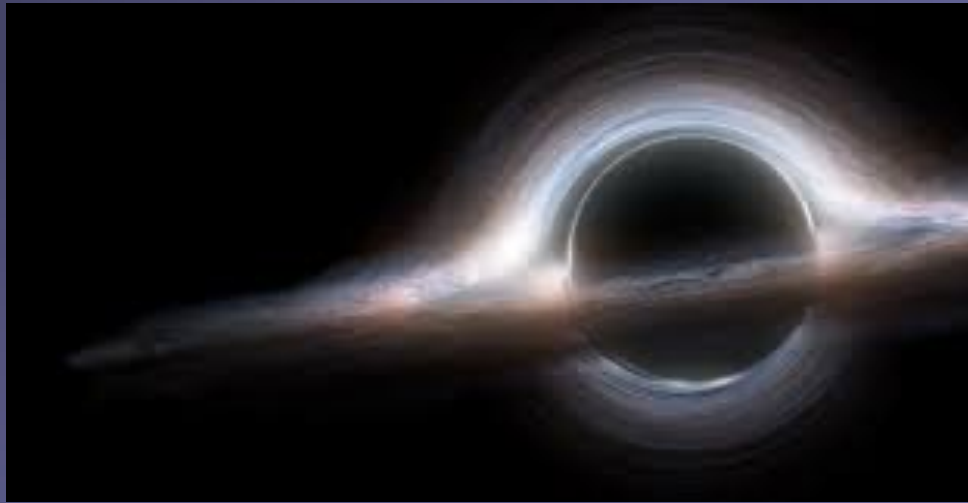


Tidal force
from companion
truncates minidisk

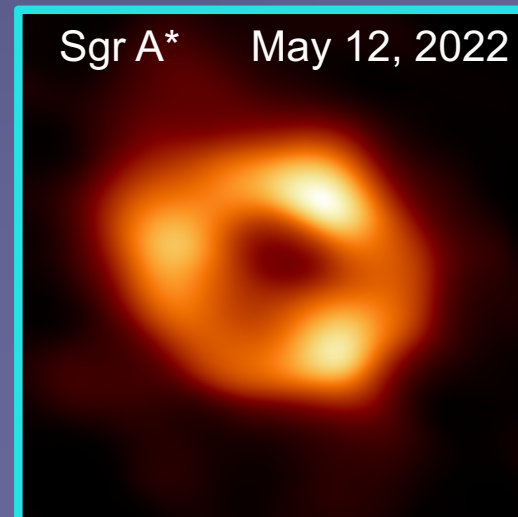
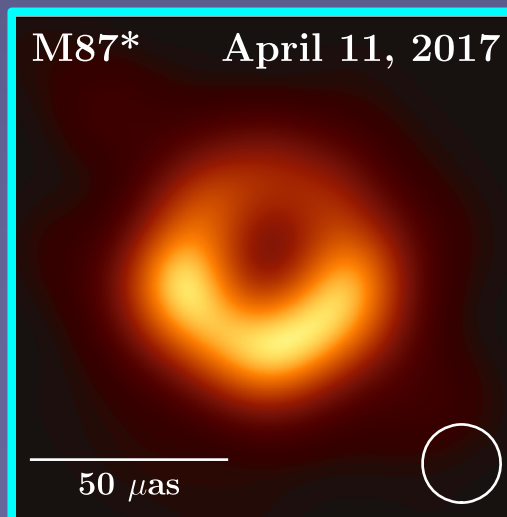
D’Orazio et al. (2016)
Duffell et al. (2020)

Periodic binary self-lensing

Interstellar (2014)



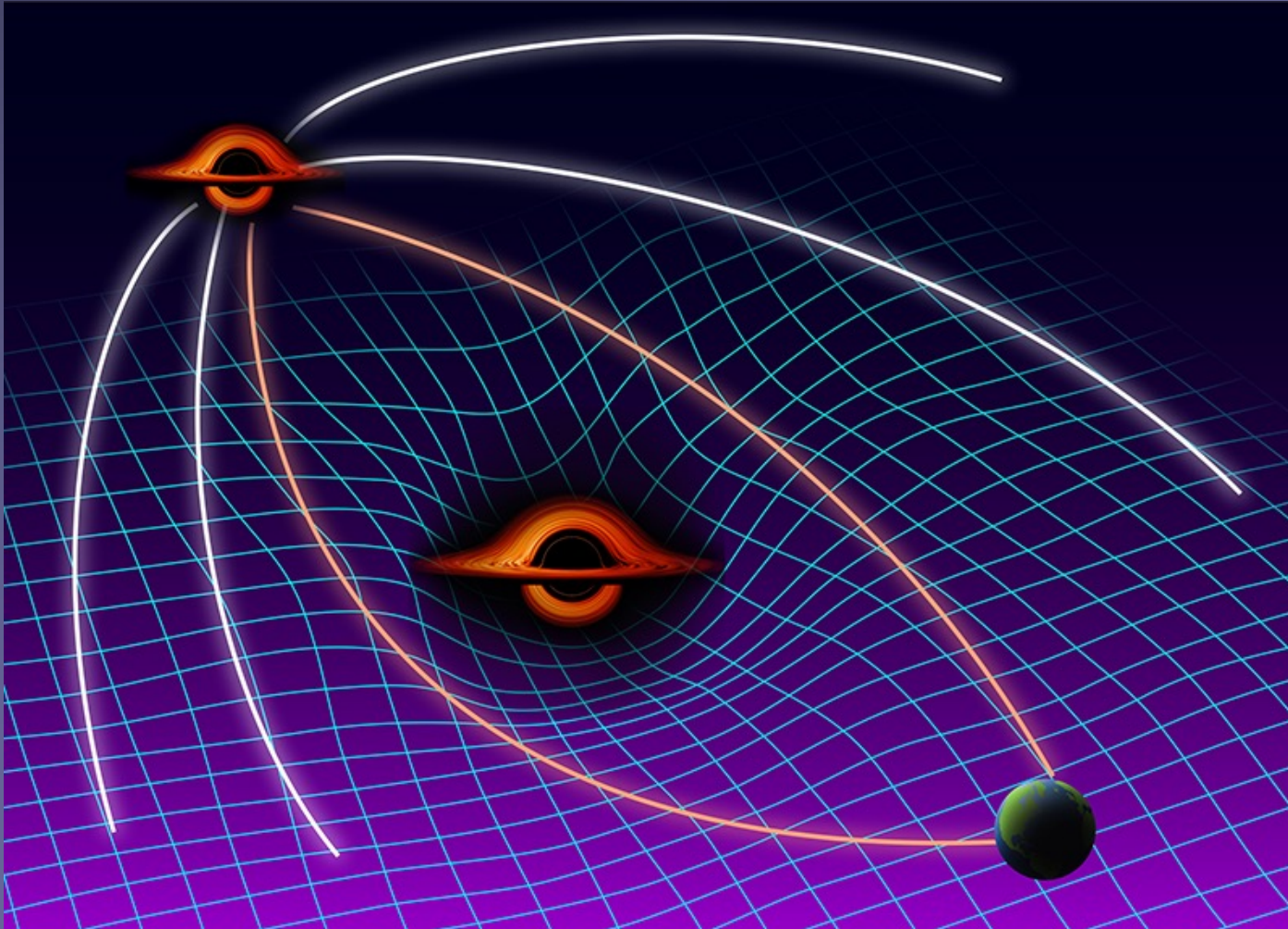
Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) 2017, 2022



Binary self-lensing

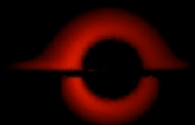
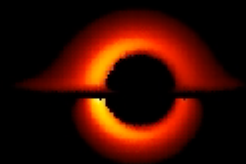
D'Orazio & Di Stefano (2016)

Jordy Davelaar & ZH (2022a,b – PRL, PRD)



Jordy Davelaar

Illustration: APS, Carin Cain

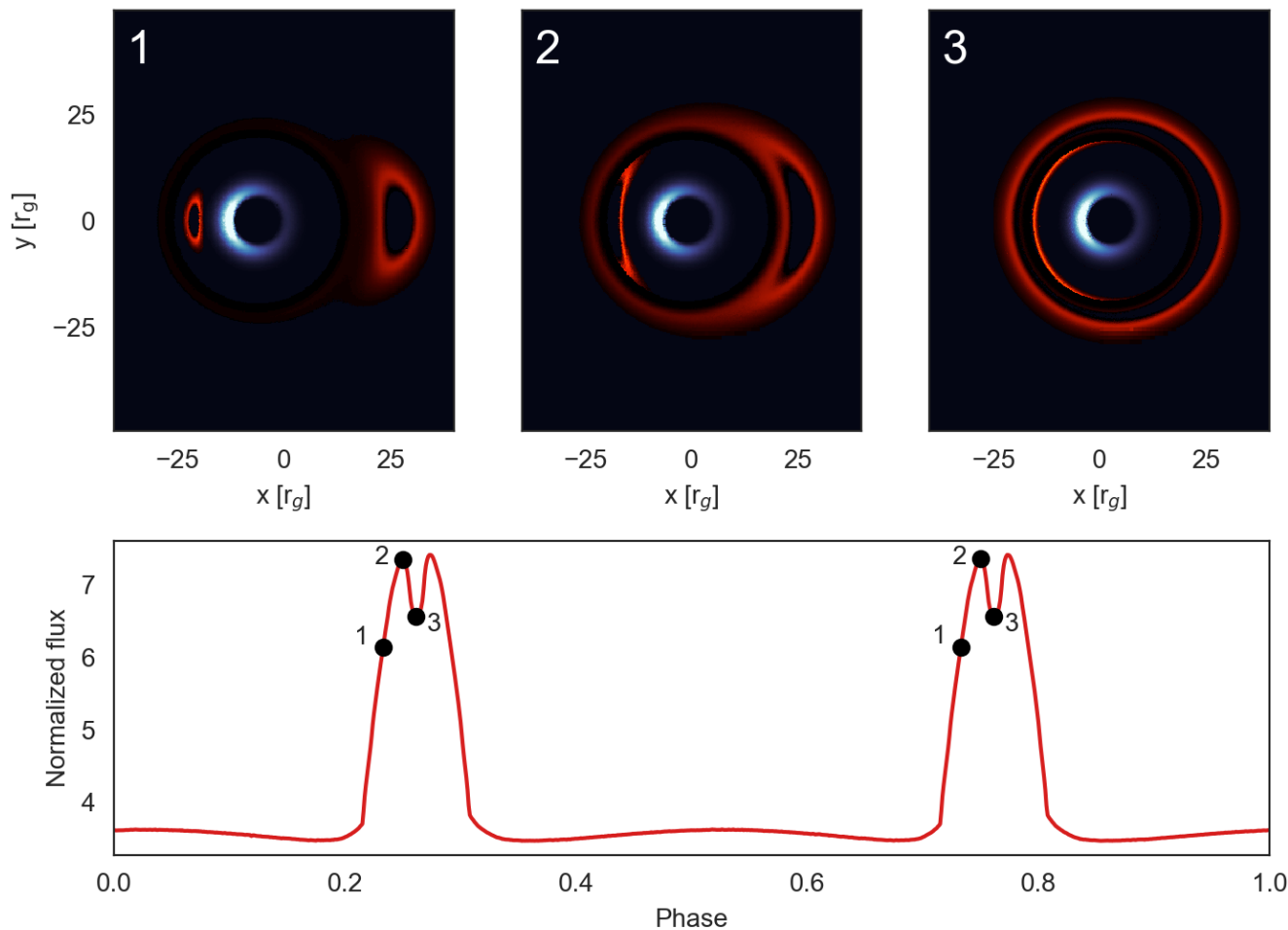


Recurring Self-Lensing Spikes

Davelaar & ZH (2022a,b)

$$\text{note: } \theta_e/\theta_{\text{bin}} = (2a_{\text{bin}}/R_s)^{-1/2}$$

compact ($d=100 R_g$) edge-on binary $i=90^\circ$



- flares visible within $\pm 3-30^\circ$ of edge-on

- shadow visible if $\pm 1-10^\circ$ of edge-on

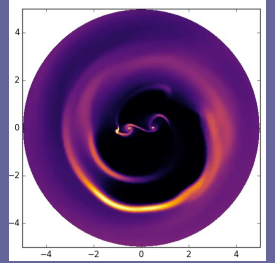
- week-long flares in periodic quasars

- 10x higher chance for LISA binaries (already compact)

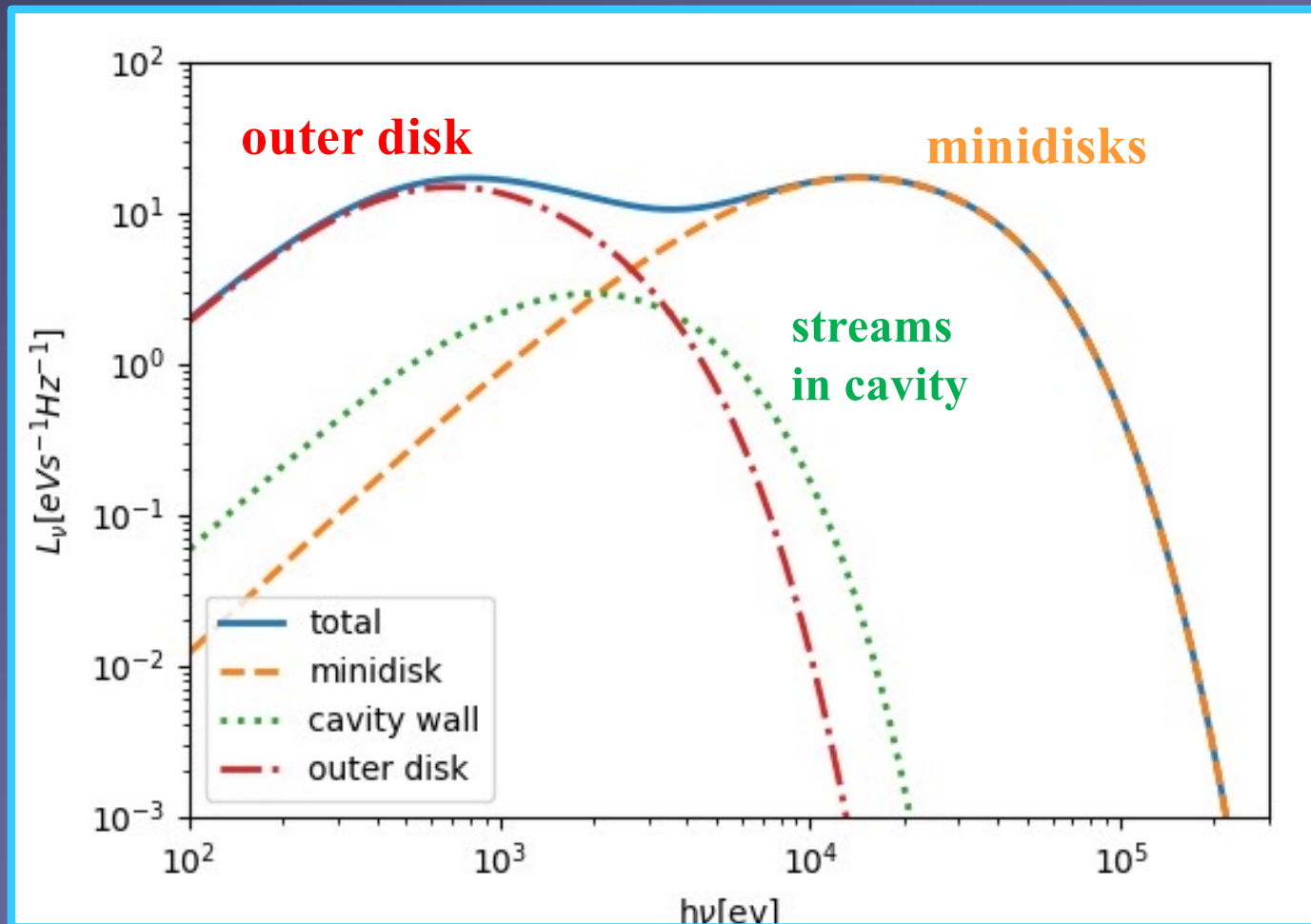
→ 100s detectable by Vera Rubin Observatory (LSST, 2024+)

Signature II: Hard spectrum

Tang et al. (2017)

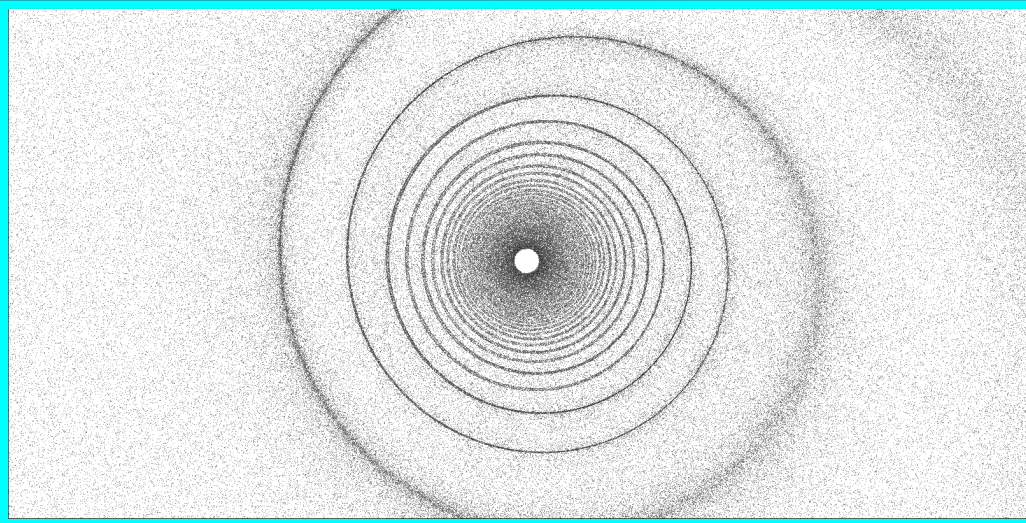


Thermal emission extends to hard X-rays from inner regions around each BH



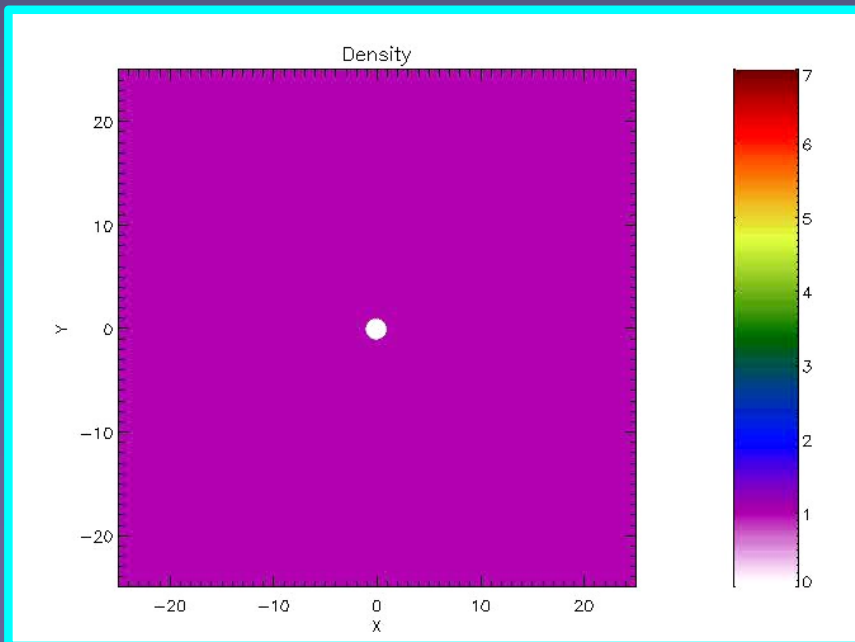
$$q = M_2/M_1 = 1$$

Signature III: Post-merger afterglow



Anisotropic GW emission causes BH to recoil and lose few % of its mass

Orbit crossings– spiral caustics
Lippai, Frei, ZH (2008)
Penoyre & ZH (2018)



Outward-propagating shocks

Corrales, ZH & MacFadyen (2010)
Rossi et al. (2009, 2010)
Megevand et al. (2010)
O'Neill et al. (2009)

→ afterglow on weeks/months timescale, unique evolution

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Searching for Periodic Quasars

inspiral time: $t_{\text{GW}}(P \sim \text{yr}) \sim t_{\text{visc}} \sim 10^5 \text{ yr}$

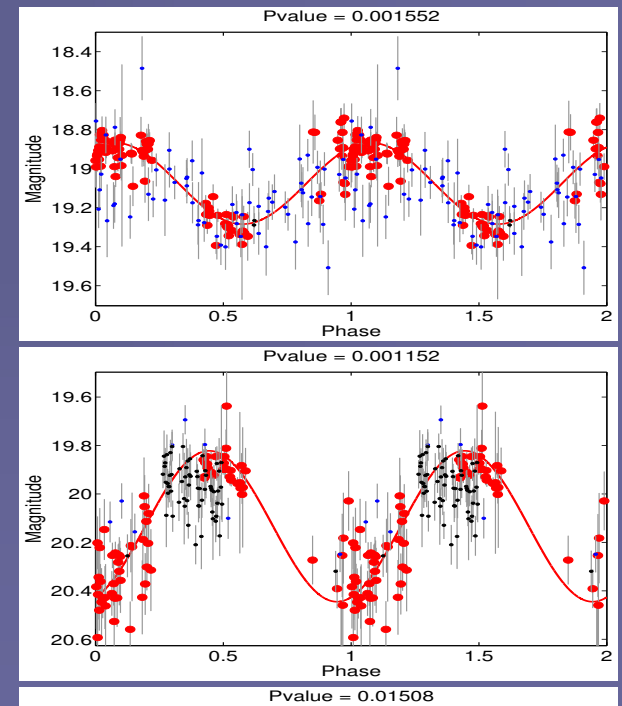
quasar lifetime: $t_{\text{QSO}} \sim 10^8 \text{ yr}$

expected periodic fraction: $f_{\text{bin}} \sim t_{\text{GW}}/t_{\text{QSO}} \sim 10^{-3}$



Maria Charisi

- Catalina Real-Time Transient Survey (CRTS)
Graham et al. (2015)
111 candidates with periods 1-5 years
250,000 quasars to $V \sim 20$, 9-year uniform baseline
- Palomar Transient Factory (PTF)
Charisi et al. (2016)
33 candidates with periods 60-400 days
36,000 quasars $R \sim 22$, 5 years non-uniform sampling
- Zwicky Transient Factory (PTF)
Chen et al. (2022)
127 candidates with periods 500-950 days
143,000 quasars $r \sim 20$, 5 years non-uniform sampling



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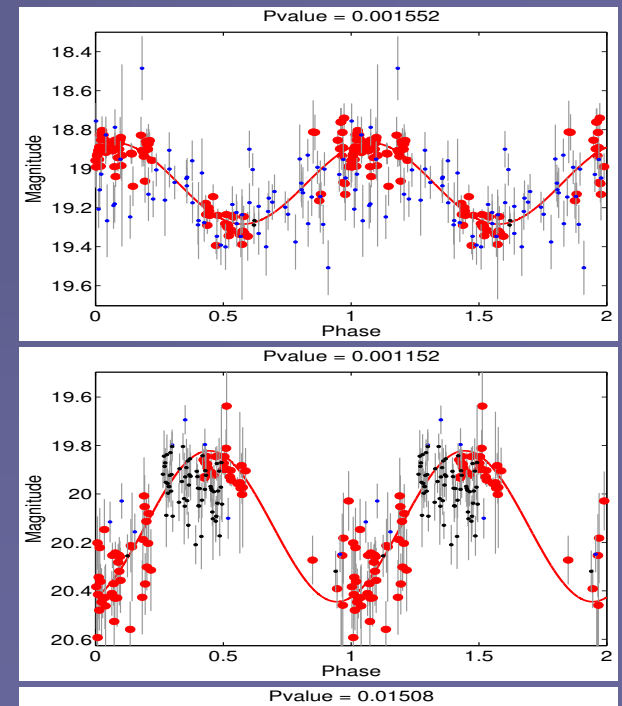
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how do we know they're binaries?



Doppler-modulation is chromatic

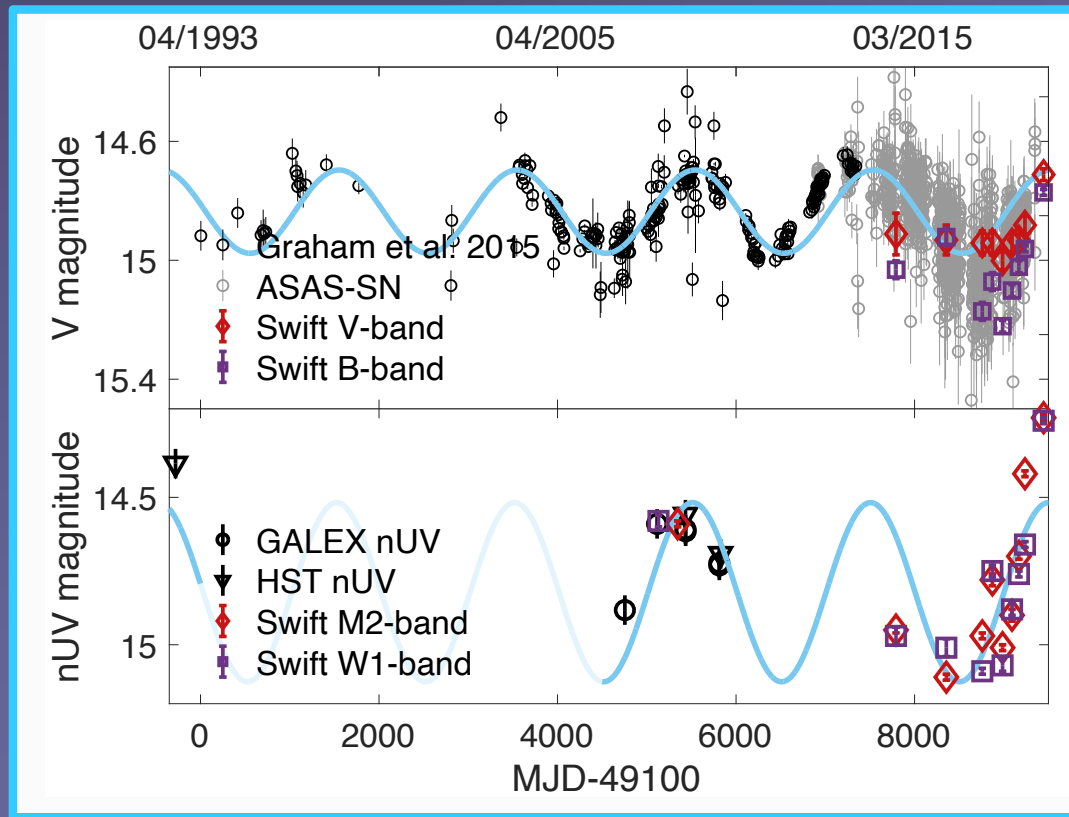
PG1302-102 D'Orazio, ZH, Schiminovich (2015)

Bright $z=0.3$ quasar $M_{\text{bh}}=10^{8.3}-10^{9.4} M_{\odot}$ $a=0.01$ pc ($280 R_S$)
 $\pm 14\%$ variability with 5.16 ± 0.2 yr period (in 250,000 quasars)

Incl. follow-up Swift data (Xin, Charisi, ZH et al. 2020)

Optical

nUV



Chromaticity:

$$\Delta F_{\nu}/F_{\nu} = (3-\alpha) (v_{\parallel}/c)$$

$$\alpha = d \ln F_{\nu} / d \ln \nu$$

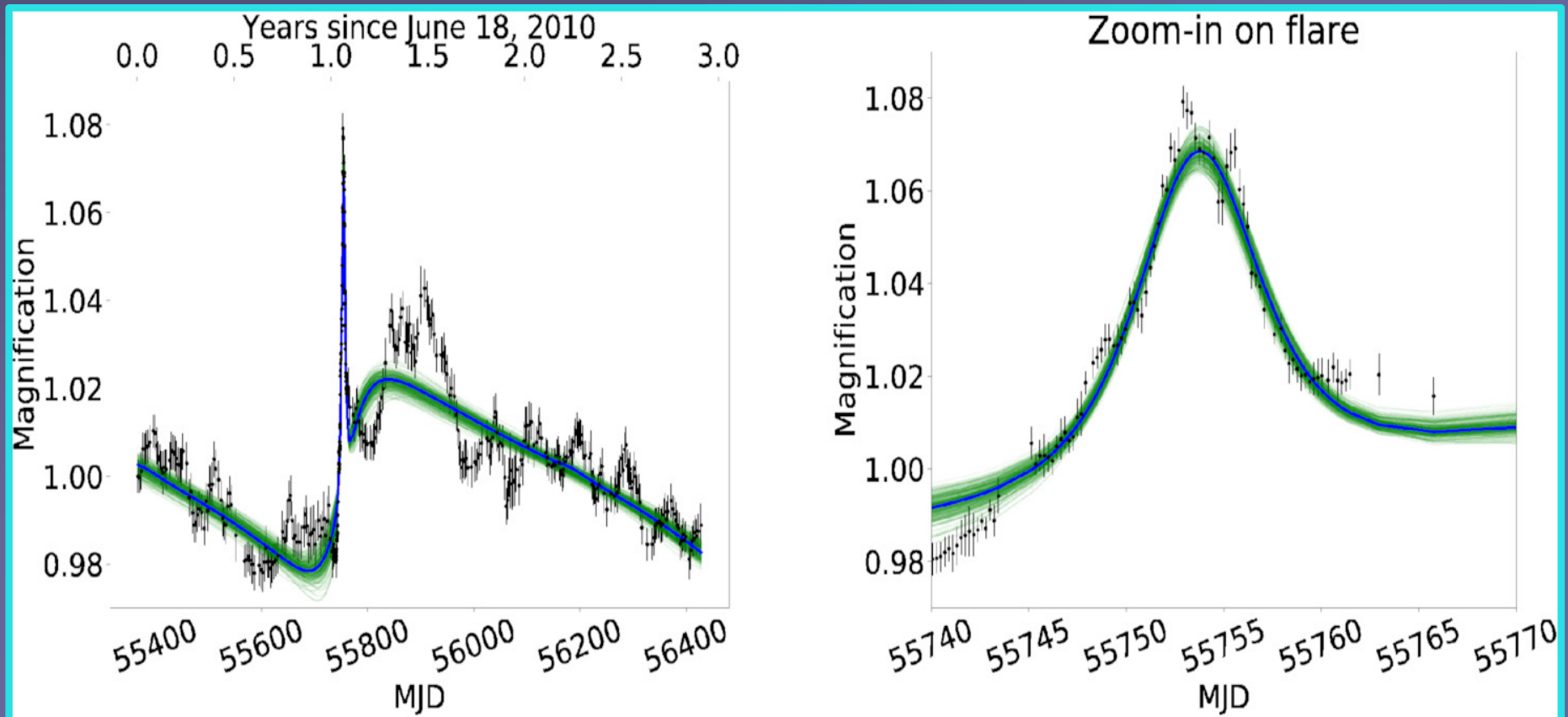
Optical variability vs. UV variability consistent with Doppler boost

Search for Recurring Self-Lensing Spikes

KIC 11606854, a.k.a. “Spikey” Betty Hu, Dan D’Orazio, ZH et al. (2020)
Rare case of a quasar in the Kepler field ($z=0.92$), with symmetric spike

Well fit by eccentric SMBH binary:

$$M_{\text{tot}} = 3 \times 10^7 M_{\odot}, \quad q = 0.2, \quad T = 418 \text{ d}, \quad e = 0.5, \quad \text{inclination} = 8^{\circ}$$



Binaries in LSST



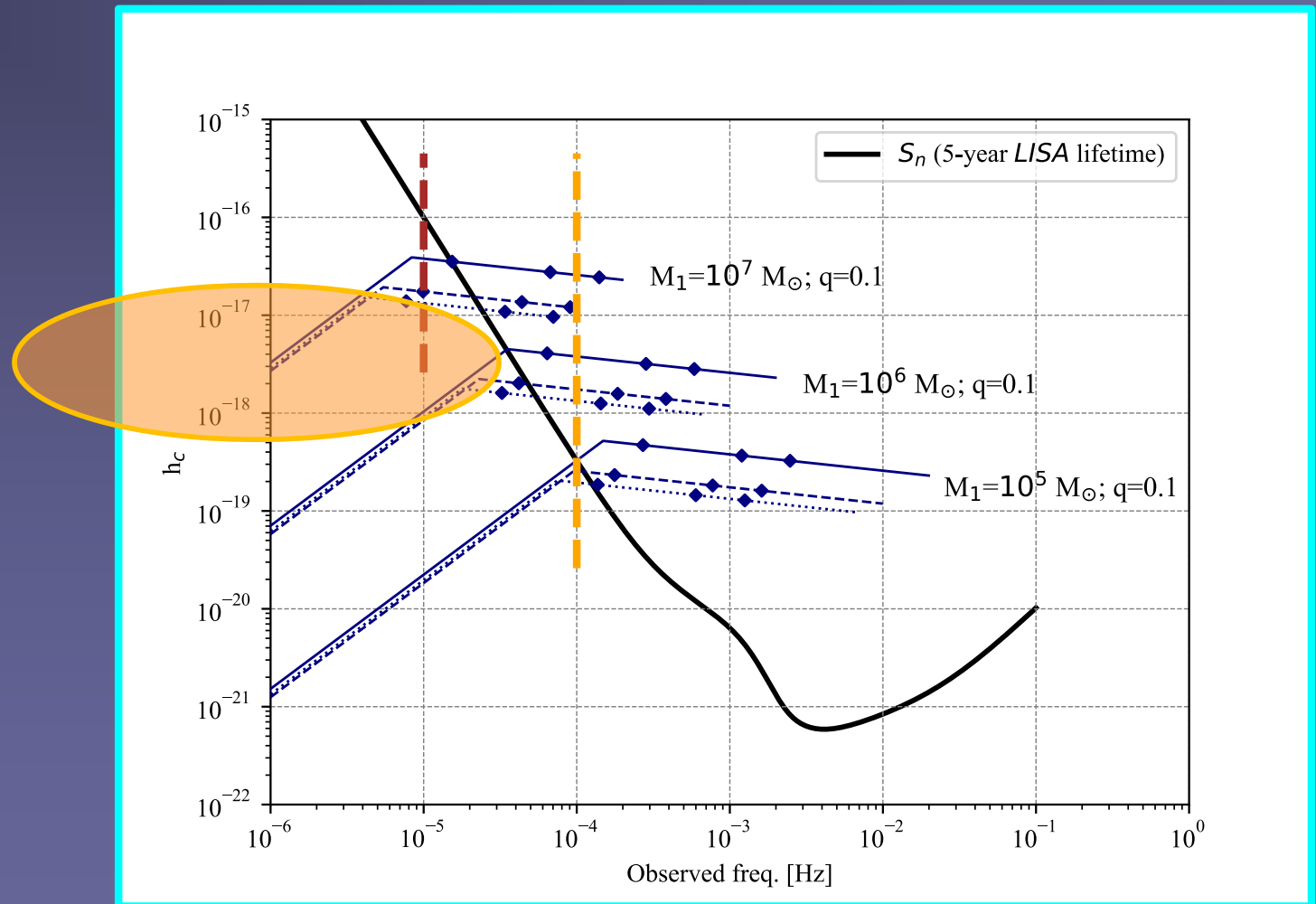
Chengcheng Xin

Xin & ZH (2021)

LSST →

perfect for
this search:

1. wide
2. deep
3. high cadence

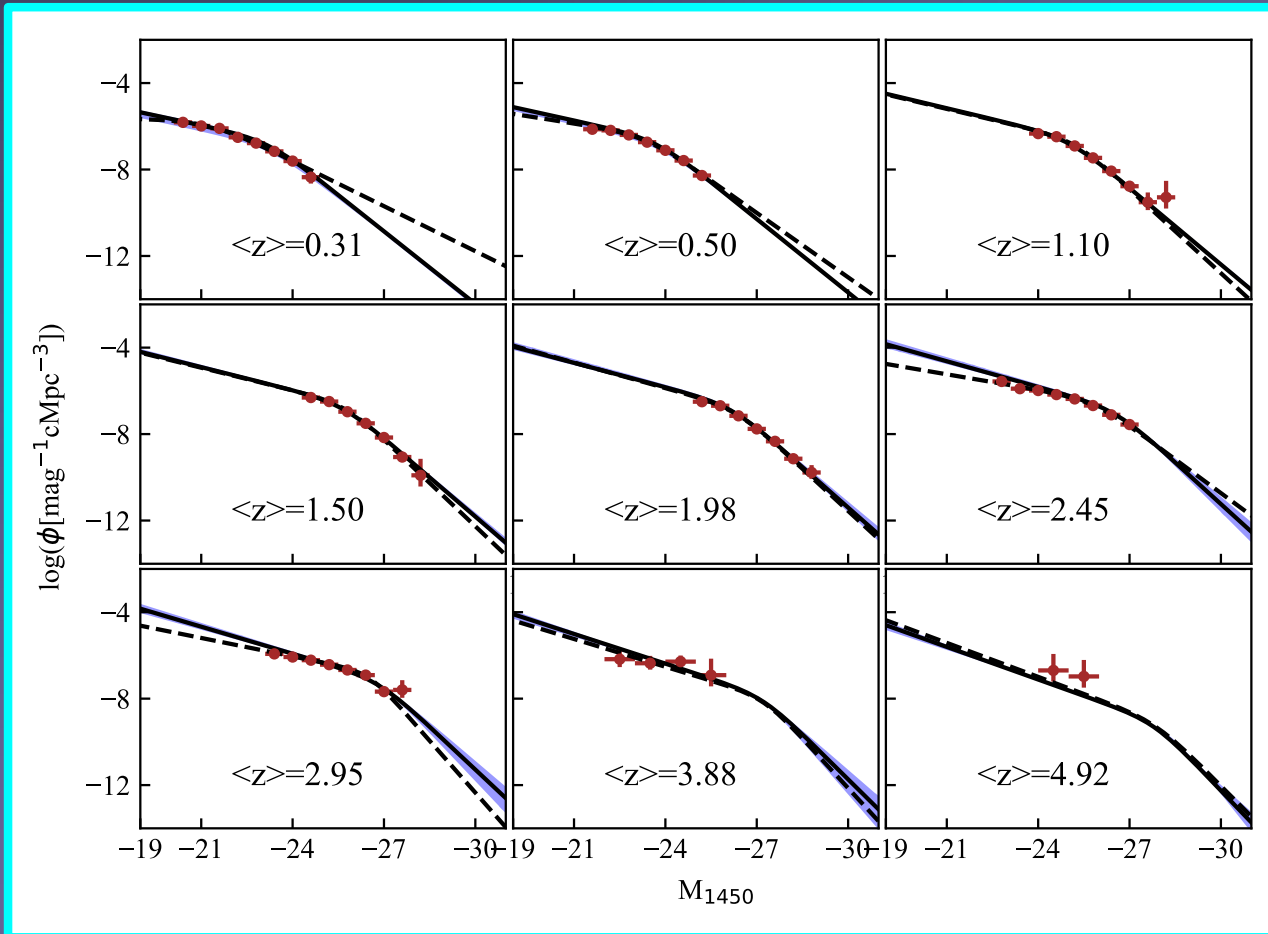


↑
1 year

↑
1 day

How many do we expect in LSST?

Xin & ZH (2021)



Extrapolate quasar LF

Assume fraction f_{bin} of quasars are binaries:

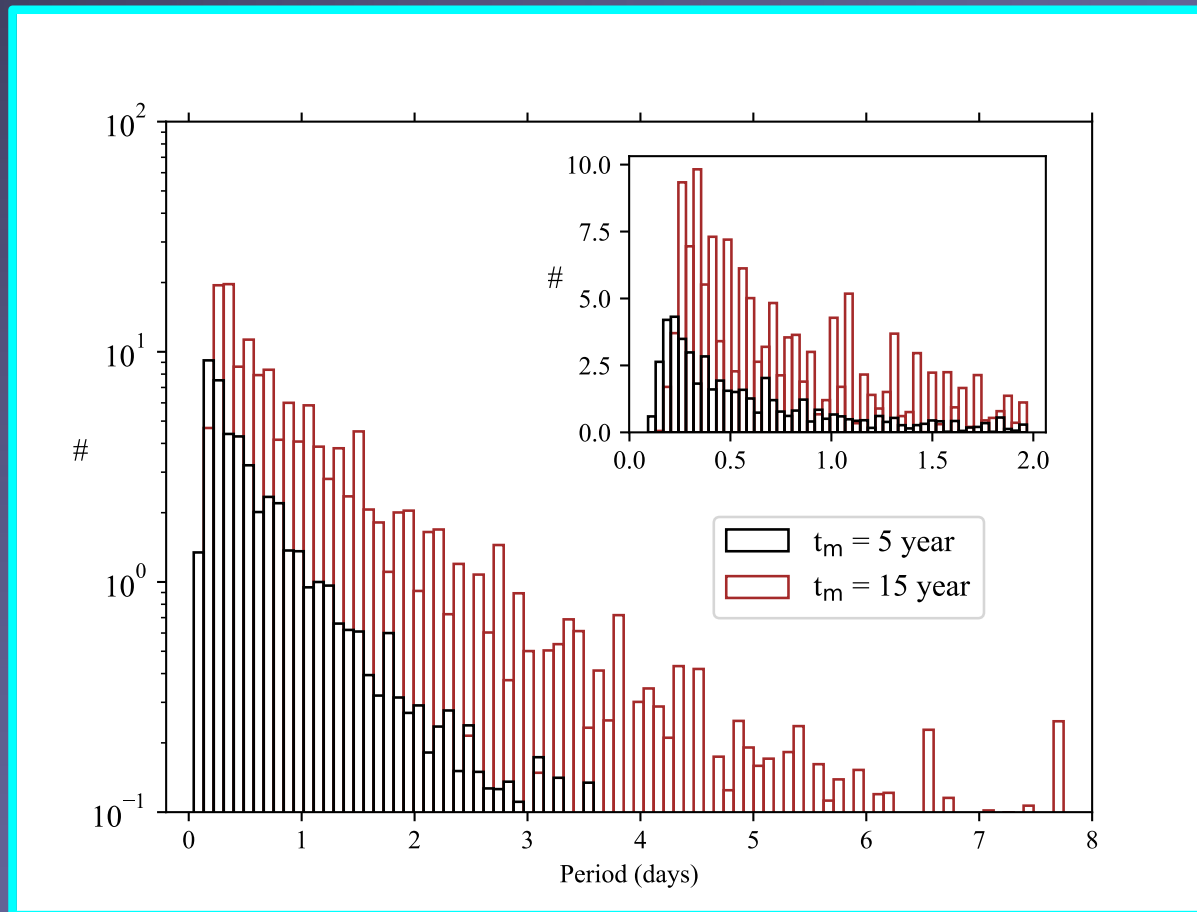
$$N_{\text{bin}}(P_{\text{orb}}) =$$

$$[t_{\text{res}}(P_{\text{orb}}) / t_{\text{Q}}] f_{\text{bin}} N_{\text{Q}}$$

Side-steps modeling of cosmology/mergers

LISA “verification” binaries in LSST

Xin & Haiman (2021)



- * O(100) binaries with $P \lesssim 1$ day: Redshift $z \sim 1-2$ Mass $\sim 10^5 - 10^6 M_{\odot}$
- * Many more at longer periods but still well in GW inspiral regime
- * Can identify them in archival data after LISA detection

EM signatures near merger

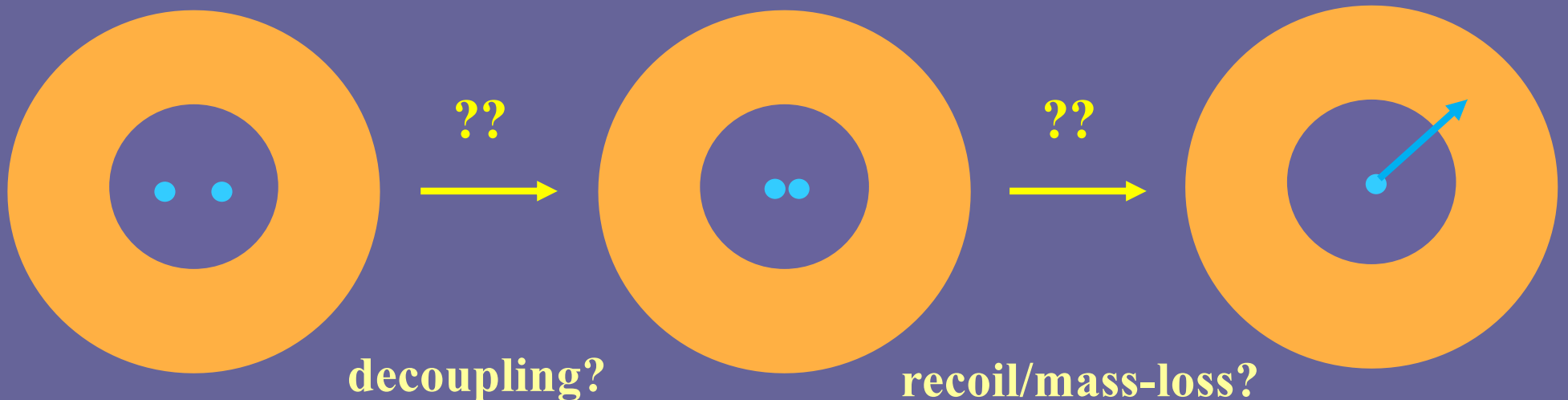
Luke Krauth et al. (2023)



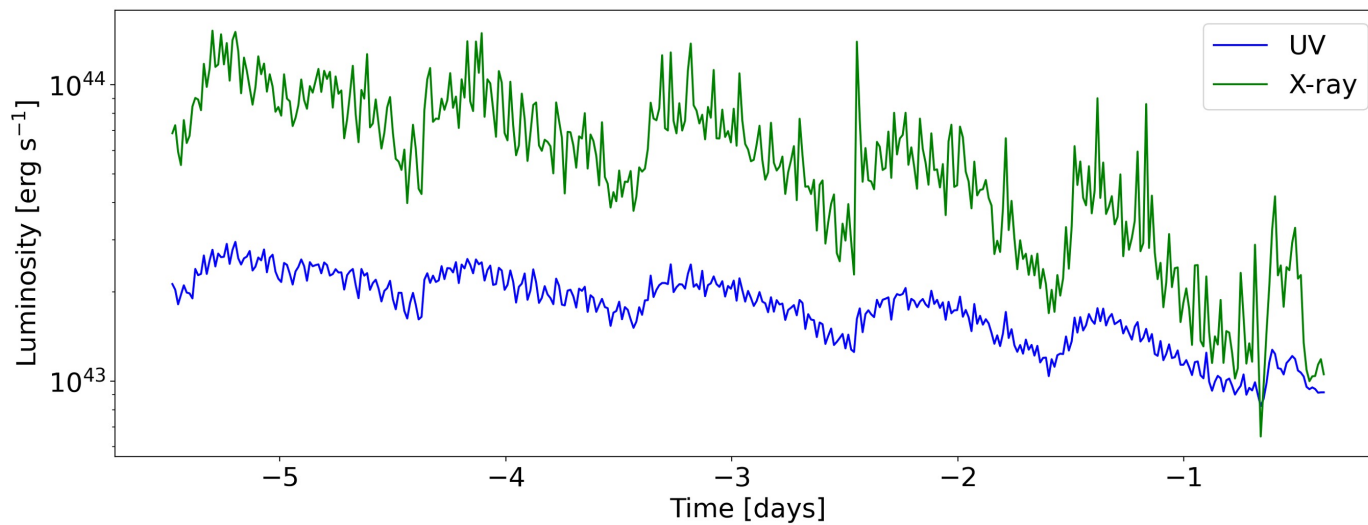
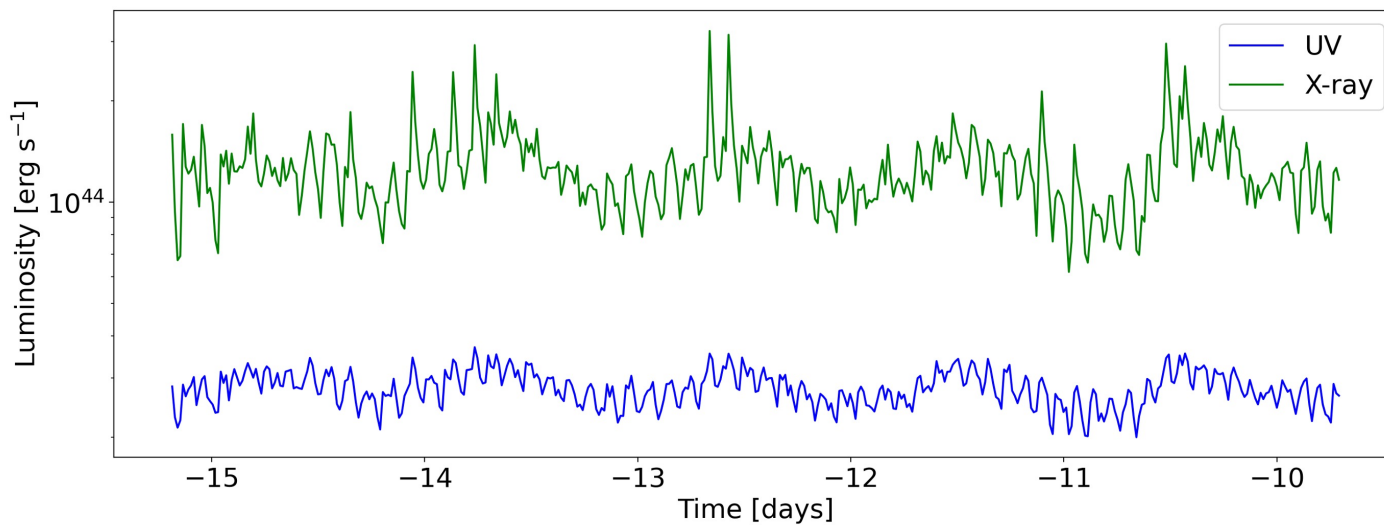
Luke Krauth

Follow GW inspiral ($10^6 M_{\odot}$) for **last ~month** before merger (~ 400 orbits)

Follow post-merger disk including recoil and mass-loss of remnant



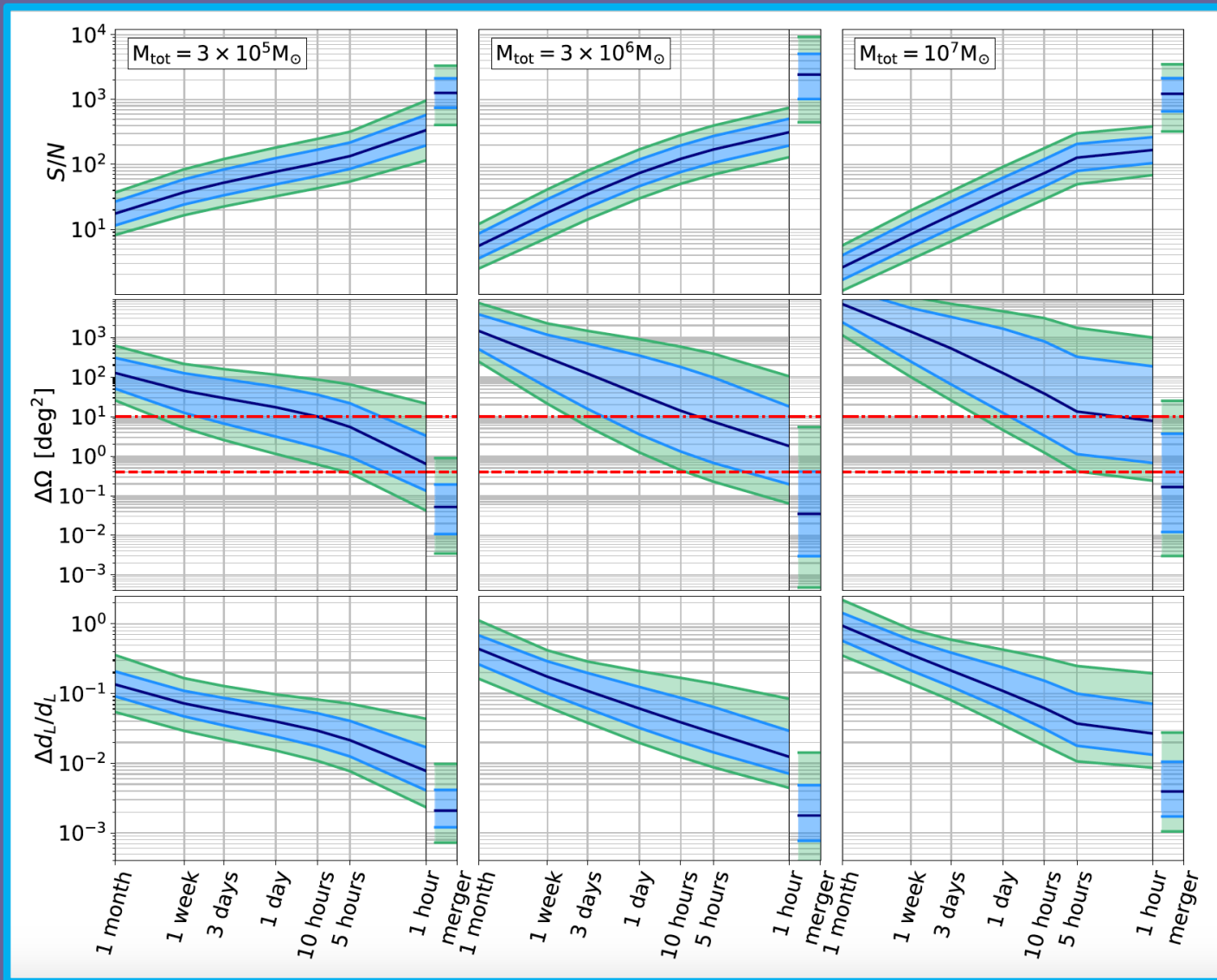
EM chirp follows GW chirp



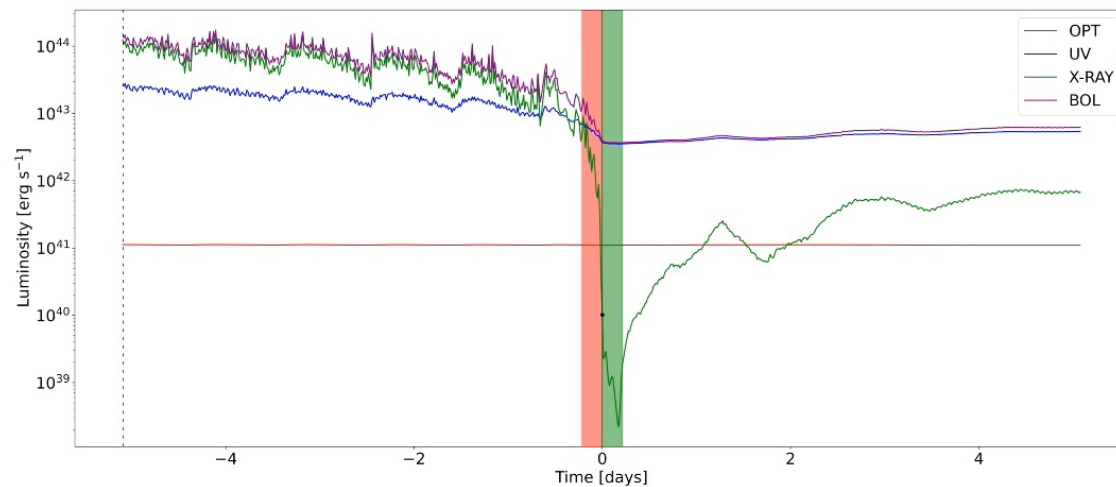
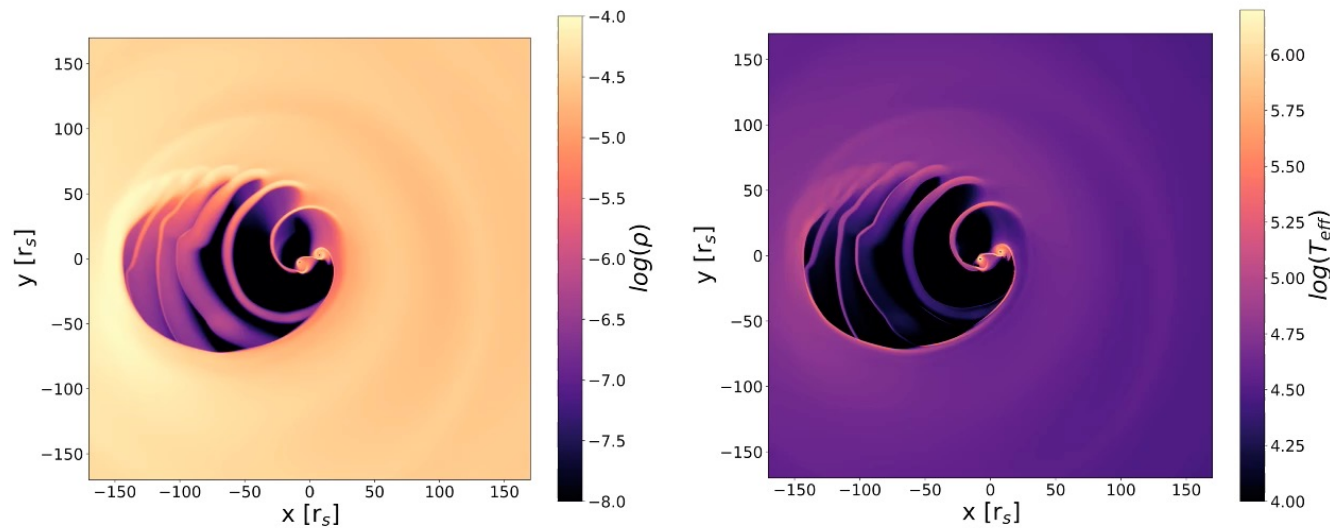
cf. earlier work by [Tang et al. 2018](#)

Pre-merger localization - ouch

Mangiagli et al. 2020



Disappearing black holes!



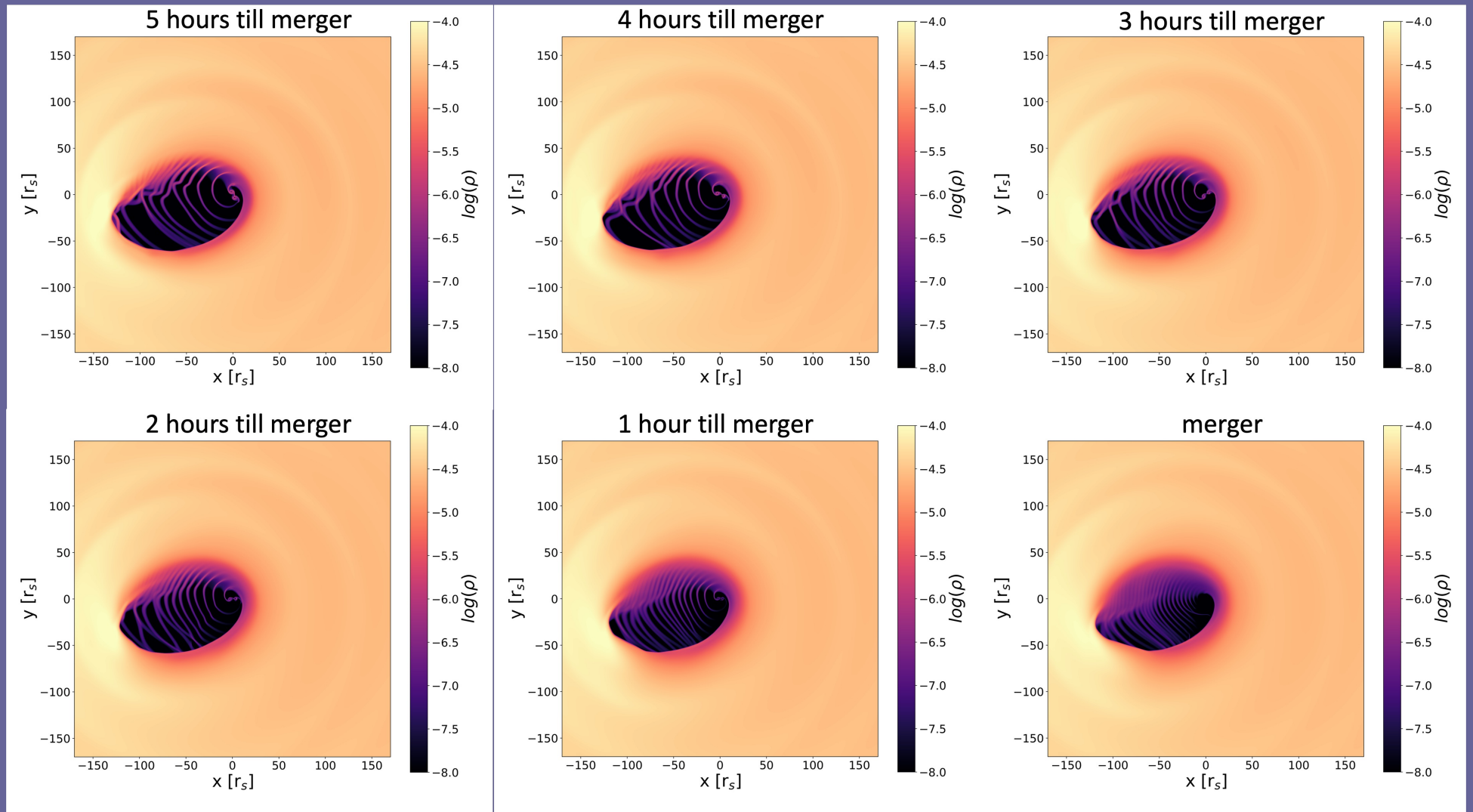
Binary suddenly vanishes in X-rays

But stays in optical UV and infrared

Can catch this with Athena (use LSST or its archival data)

No immediate effect of mass-loss or recoil

Disappearing minidisks and streams



Summary

1. **Binaries quasars are periodic:** hydro ($q \sim 1$) and Doppler ($q \lesssim 0.05$)
 2. Some may have been **already detected:** chromatic periodicity
 3. Additional recurring **self-lensing flares** present (esp. if Doppler)
BH shadows detectable as further “dips” on top of lensing flares
 4. $O(100)$ rare **ultra-compact binaries** in **LSST** \rightarrow LISA sources
 5. **Binary disappears in X-ray** but not opt/IR in last ~ 20 orbits (\sim day)
-

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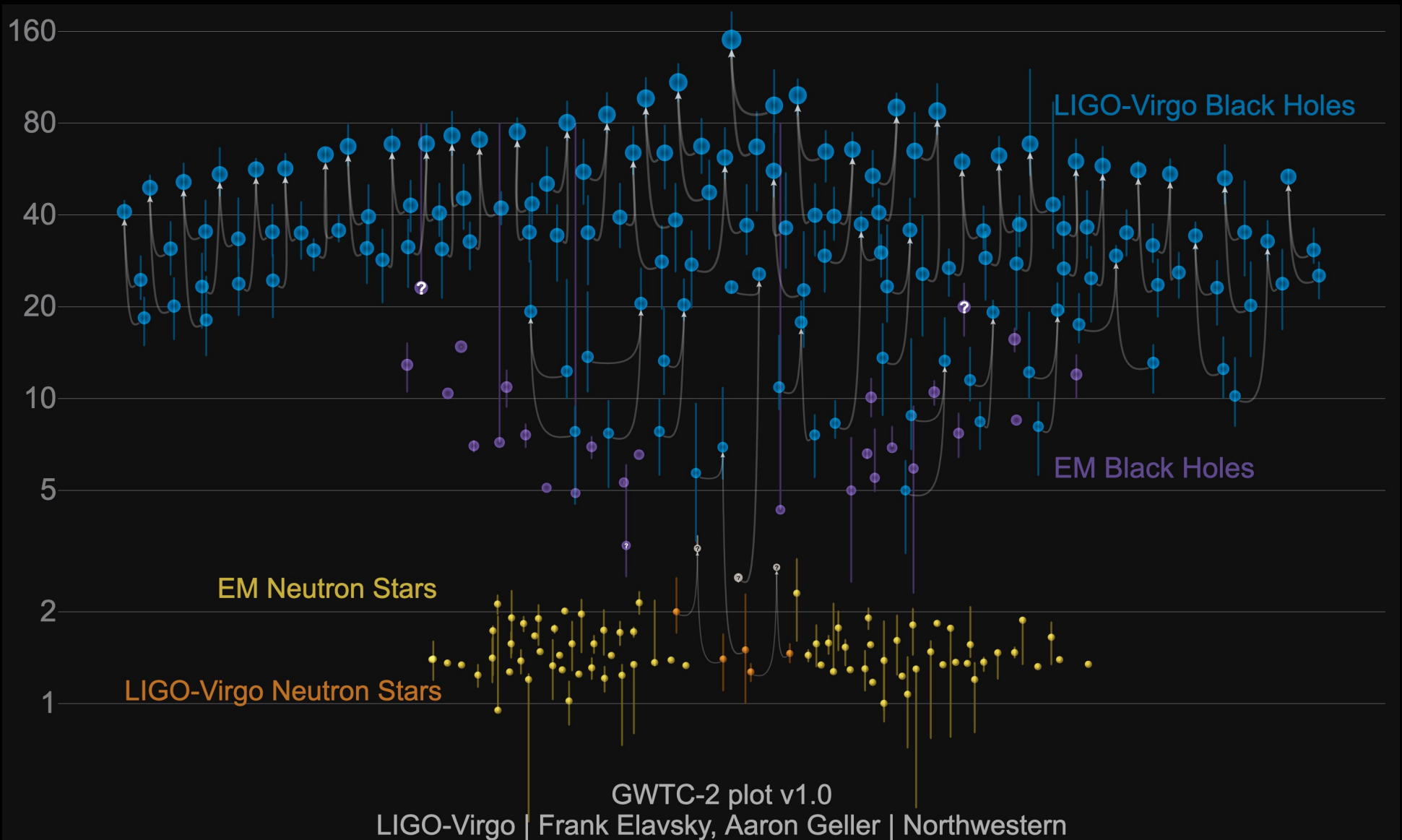
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- forecasts for LSST & LISA era

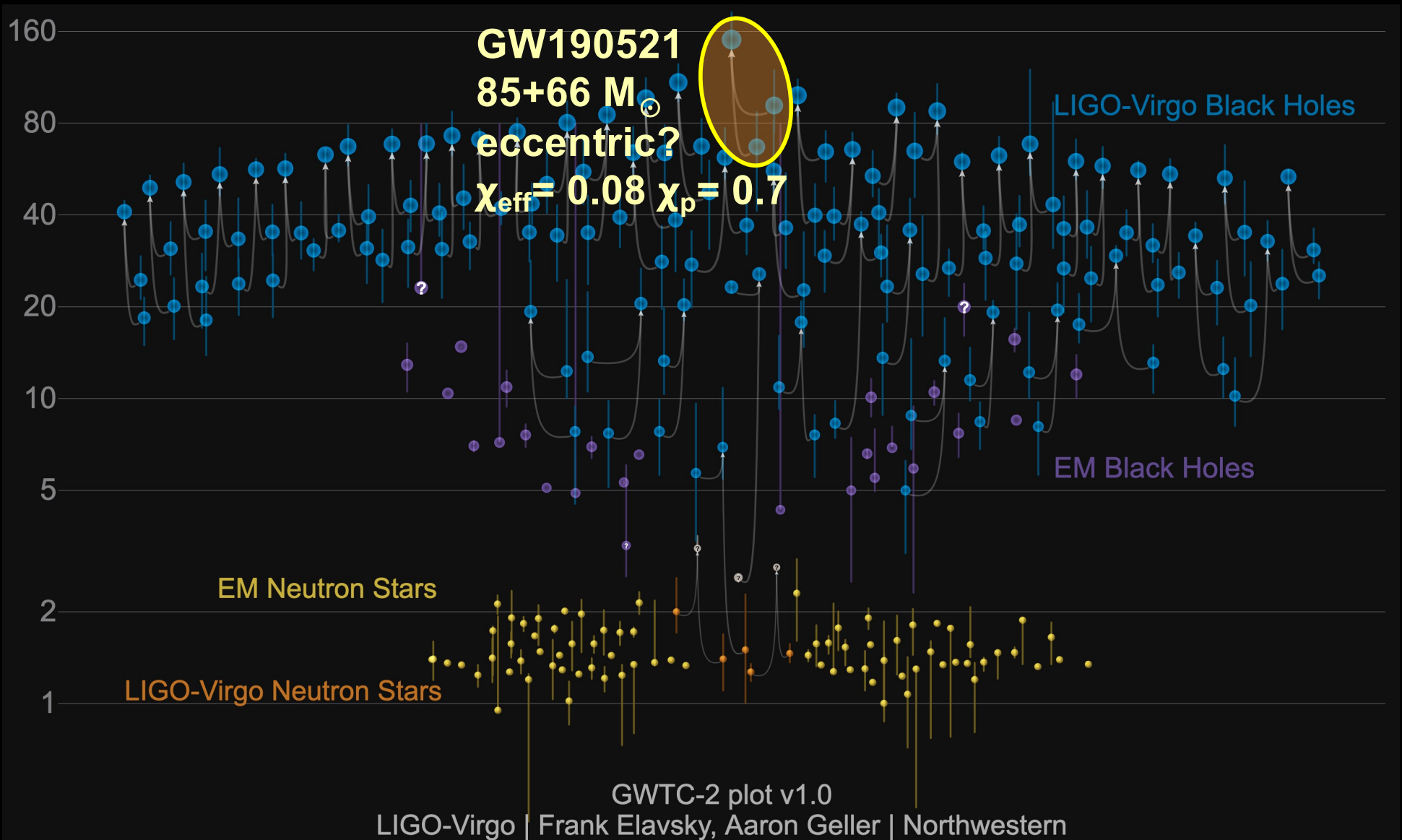
4. Stellar-mass BH binaries: mergers in AGN disks?

- BH binaries form in or captured by nuclear gas disks
- Bright EM emission outshining AGN

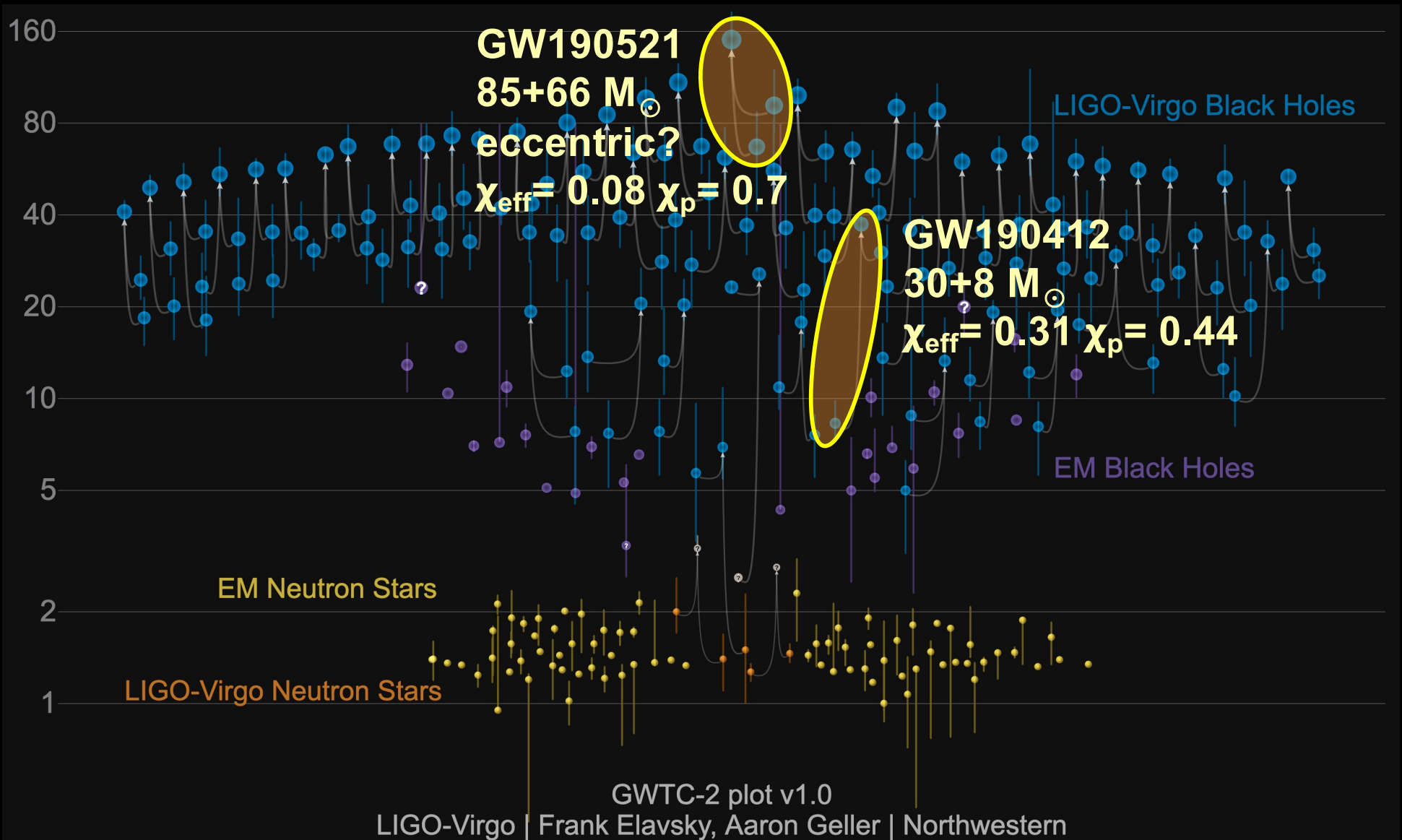
Stellar remnant black hole mergers



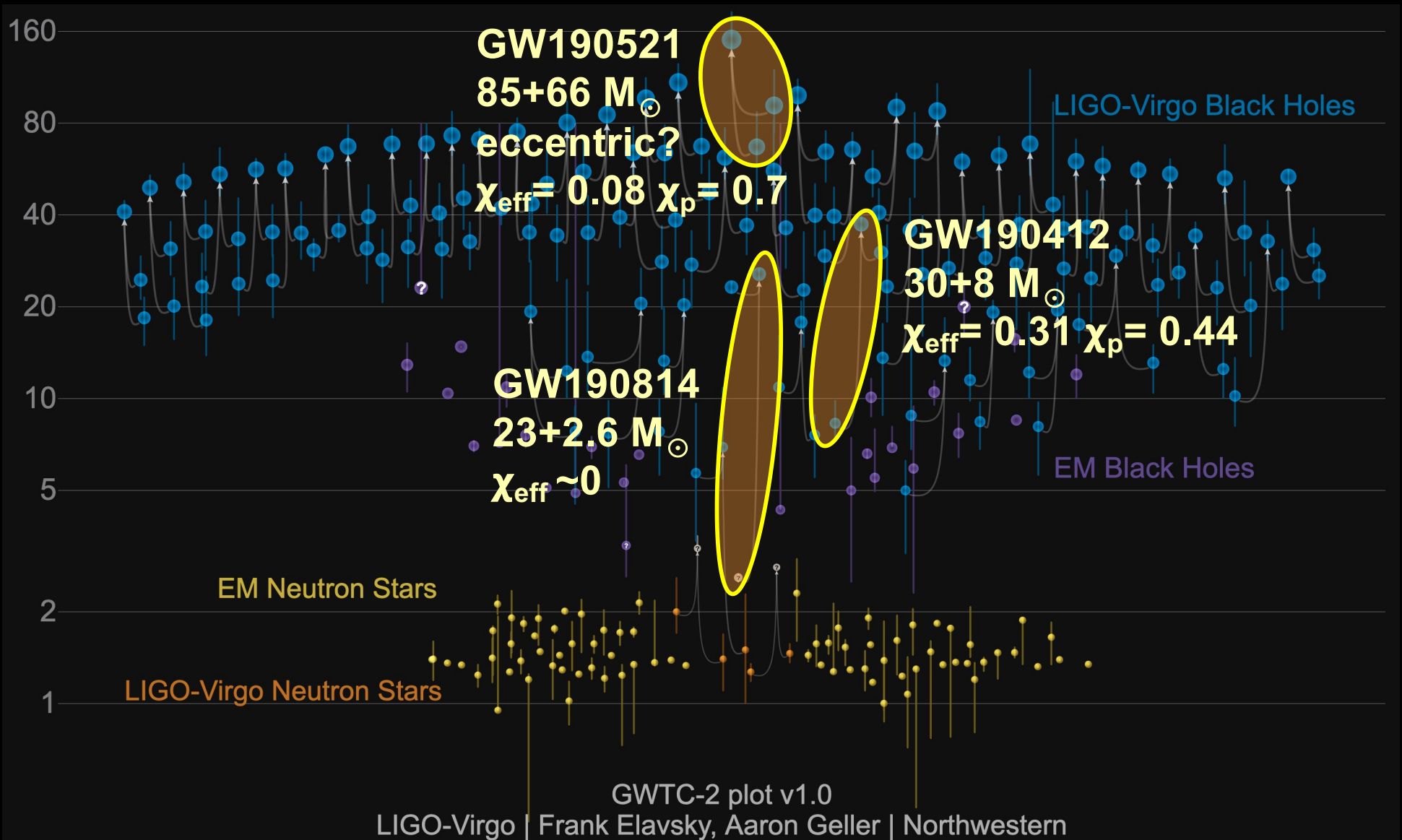
Stellar remnant black hole mergers



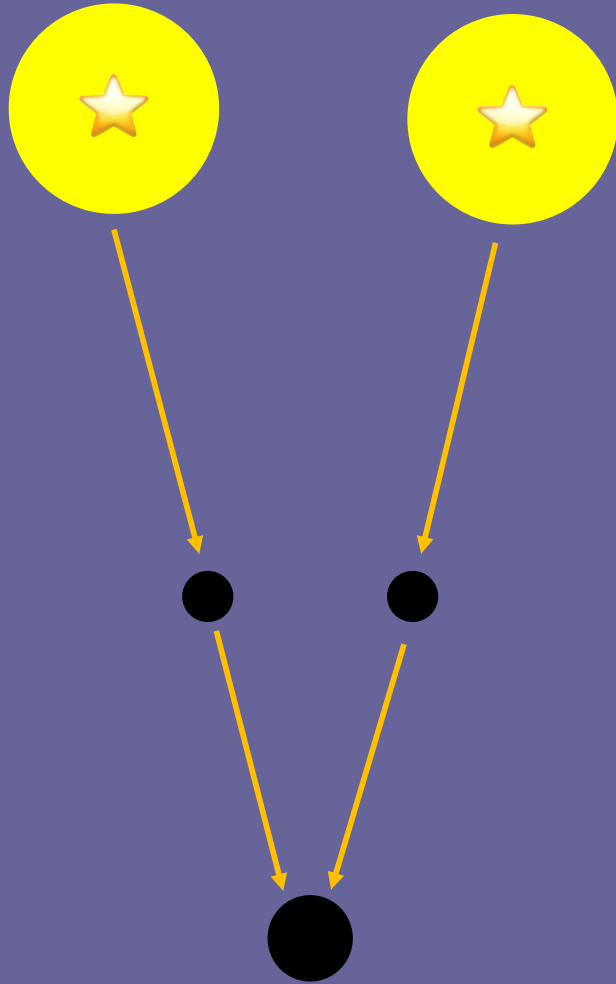
Stellar remnant black hole mergers



Stellar remnant black hole mergers

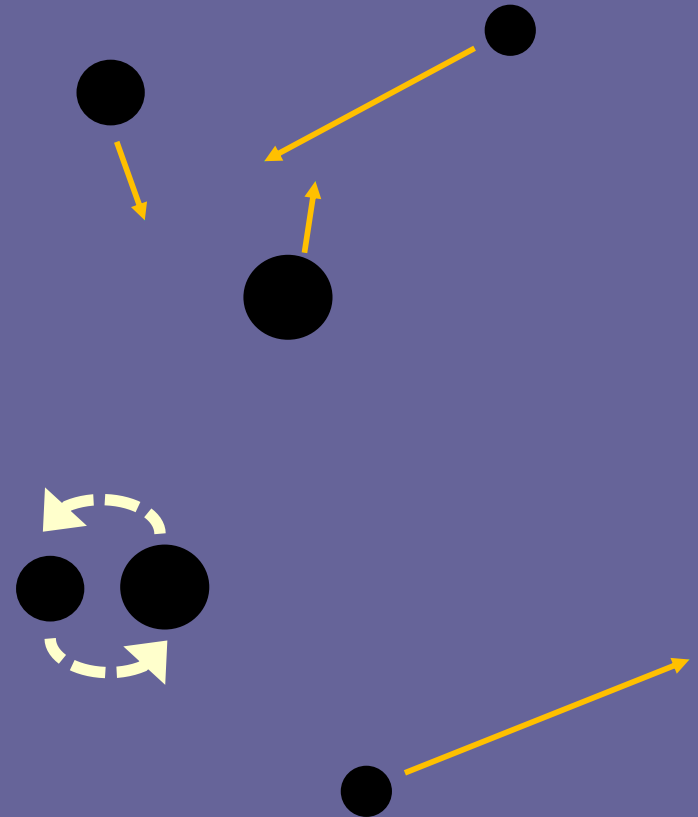


isolated binary evolution



~ equal mass
~ aligned spin

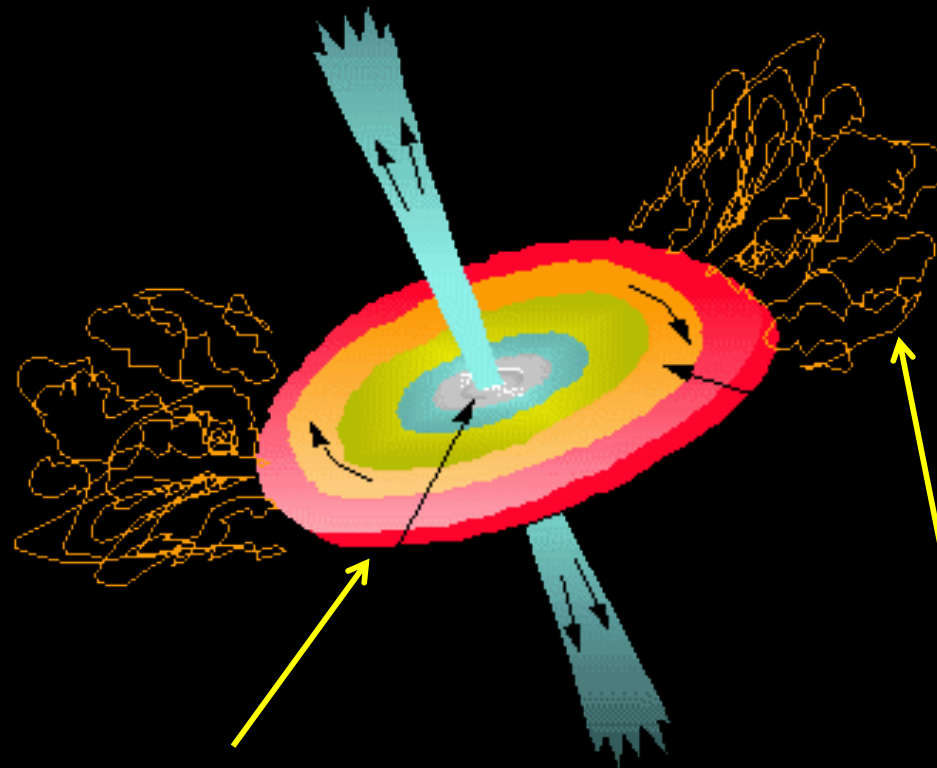
N-body dynamics in dense clusters



~ equal mass
~ random birth spins

Stellar-mass BHs in quasar disks

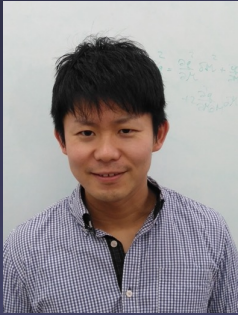
Gas cools and forms a compact (\sim sub-pc) nuclear accretion disk



inner disk: stable,
geometrically thin,
optically thick,
 $M_{\text{disk}} \ll M_{\text{bh}}$

Gravitationally
unstable region
 $Q(\text{Toomre}) < 1$

→ What if second black hole is present ? ←



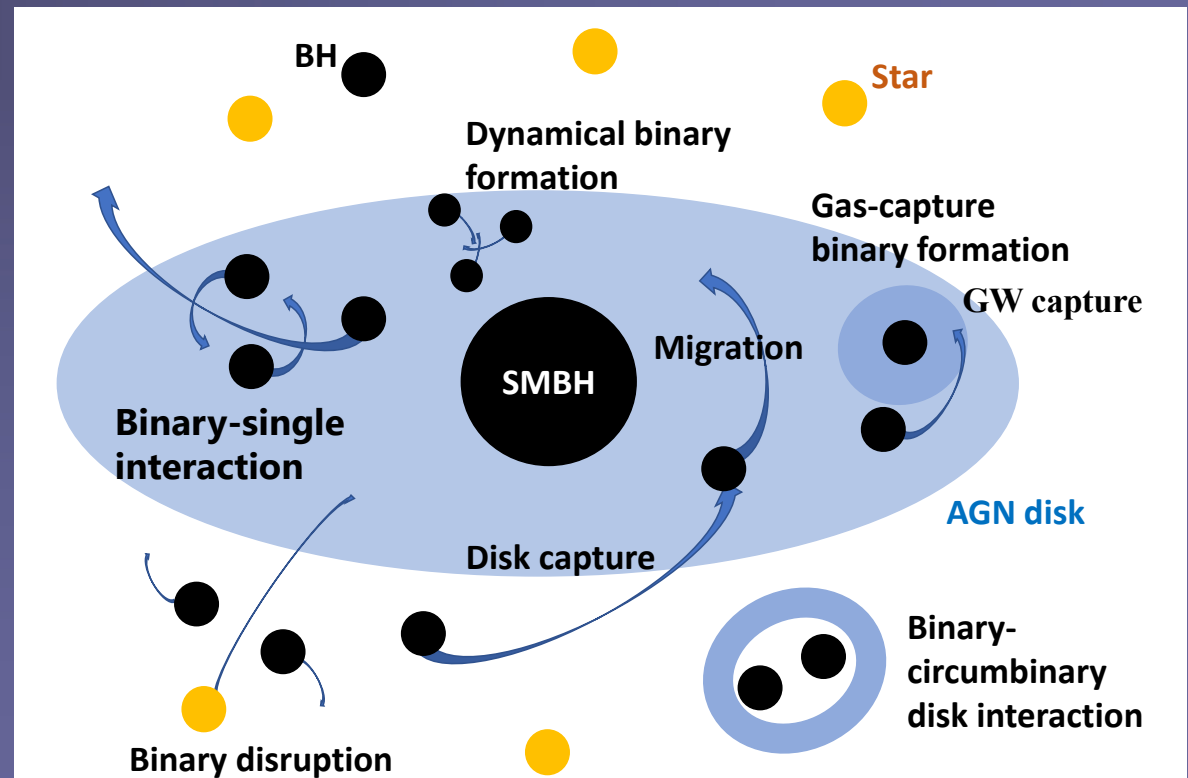
Hiromichi Tagawa

“1D” N-body simulation

SMBH, gas disk, stars+BHs in 3D cluster, in 2D disk

Tagawa, ZH, Kocsis (2020a)

- I. **Binary formation**
(2-body, 3-body)
- II. **Binary disruption**
(binary-single scattering)
- III. **Binary evolution**
(circumbinary gas, GWs, binary-single scattering)
- IV. **Radial migration**
(Type I/II torque)



Merger characteristics

* Most binaries in AGN form via dissipative **gas capture**

* Most LIGO events probably not from AGN disks, but **properties of some recent events** naturally expected:

1. **Unequal mass** ✓
→ *different generations*
2. **High mass** ✓
→ *2g+ (and some accretion)*
3. **High spin** ✓
→ *due to prior merger, correlates with mass*
4. **Misaligned spin** ($\chi_{\text{eff}} \sim 0$ but $\chi_p > 0$) ✓
→ *scattering with 3rd body*
5. **Eccentricity** ✓
→ *scattering with 3rd body
with GWs (if coplanar)
→ GW capture in inner region
(if rapid migration to $<10^{-3}$ pc)*



Stan de Laurentiis

Gas Capture Model

De Laurentiis, Epstein-Martin & ZH 2023

3-body problem with gas dynamical friction, REBOUND

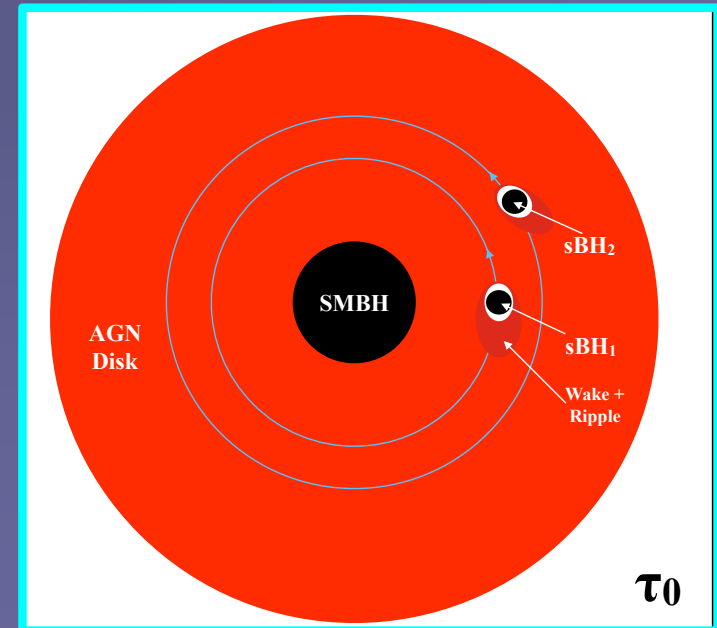
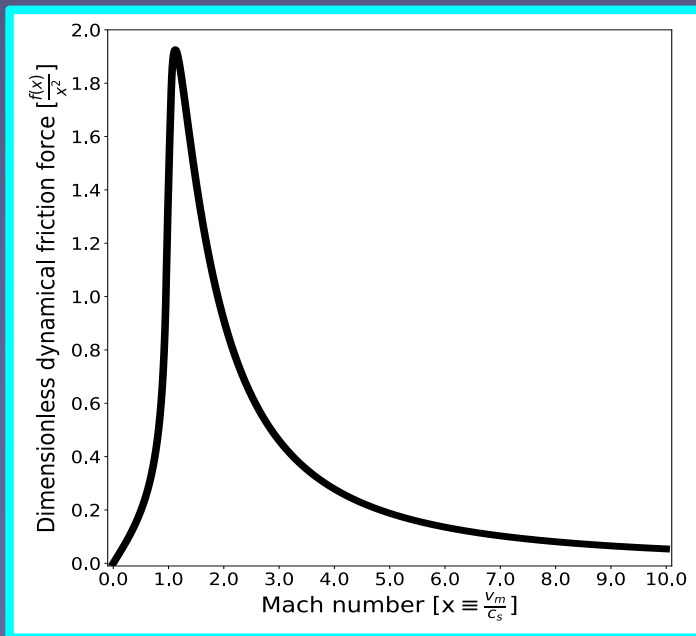


Marguerite E.-M.

$$F_{DF} = \frac{-4\pi G^2 M^2 \rho}{v_M^3} f\left(\frac{v_M}{c_s}\right) \mathbf{v}_M$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0.5 \ln\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right) - x & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0.5 \ln(x^2 - 1) + \ln(\lambda_C) & x > 1. \end{cases}$$

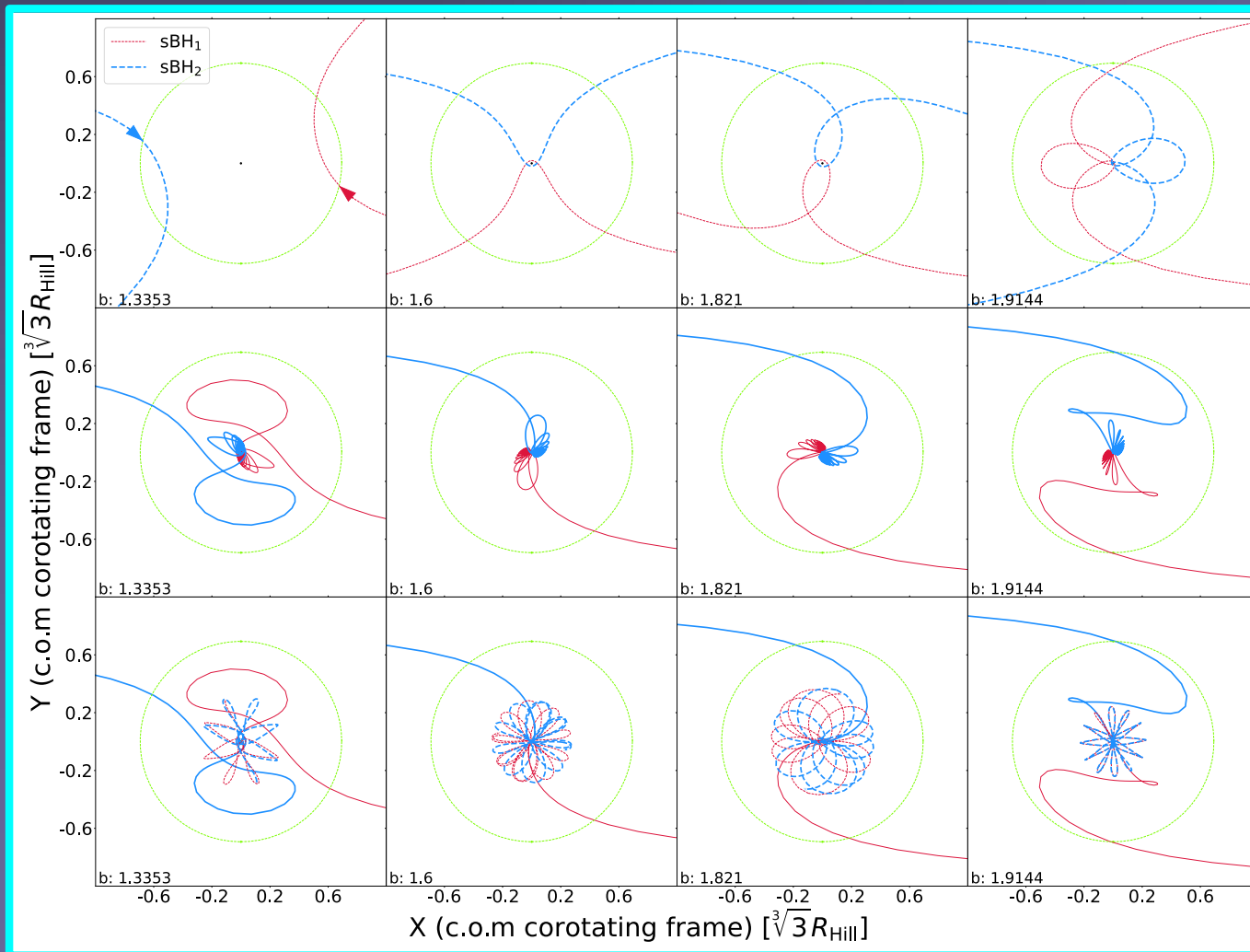
(Ostriker 1999)



Selected Examples of Encounters

De Laurentiis, Epstein-Martin & ZH 2023

→ impact parameter →



dynamical friction:
OFF

dynamical friction:
ON

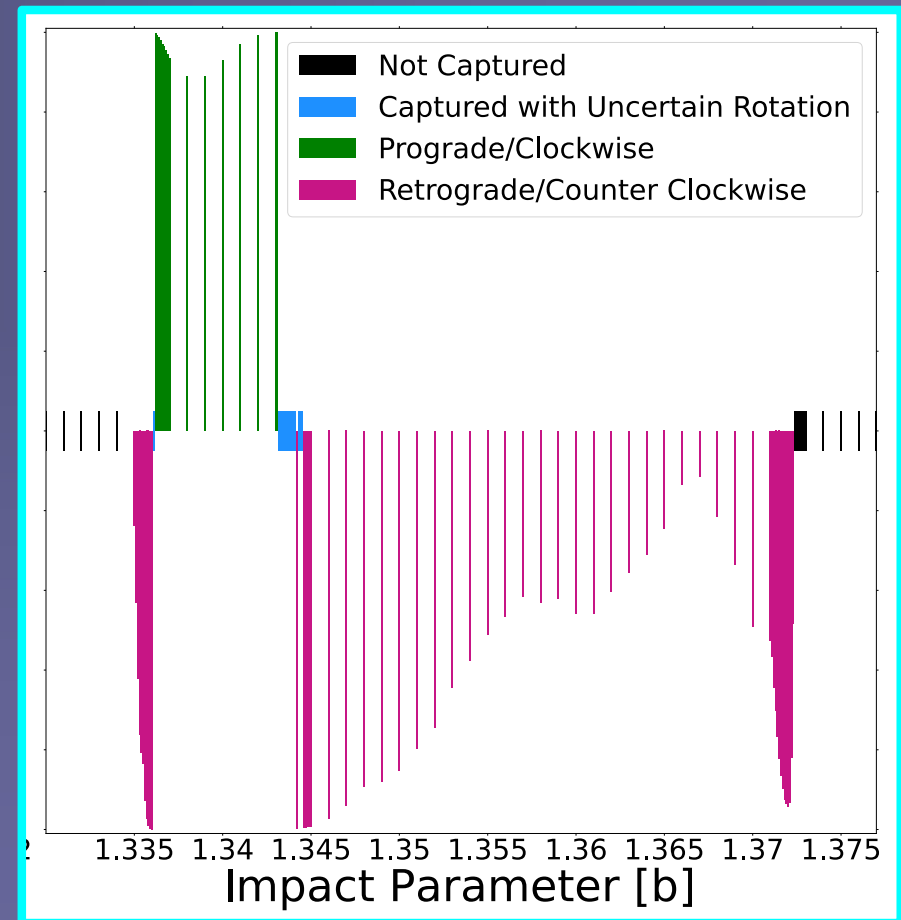
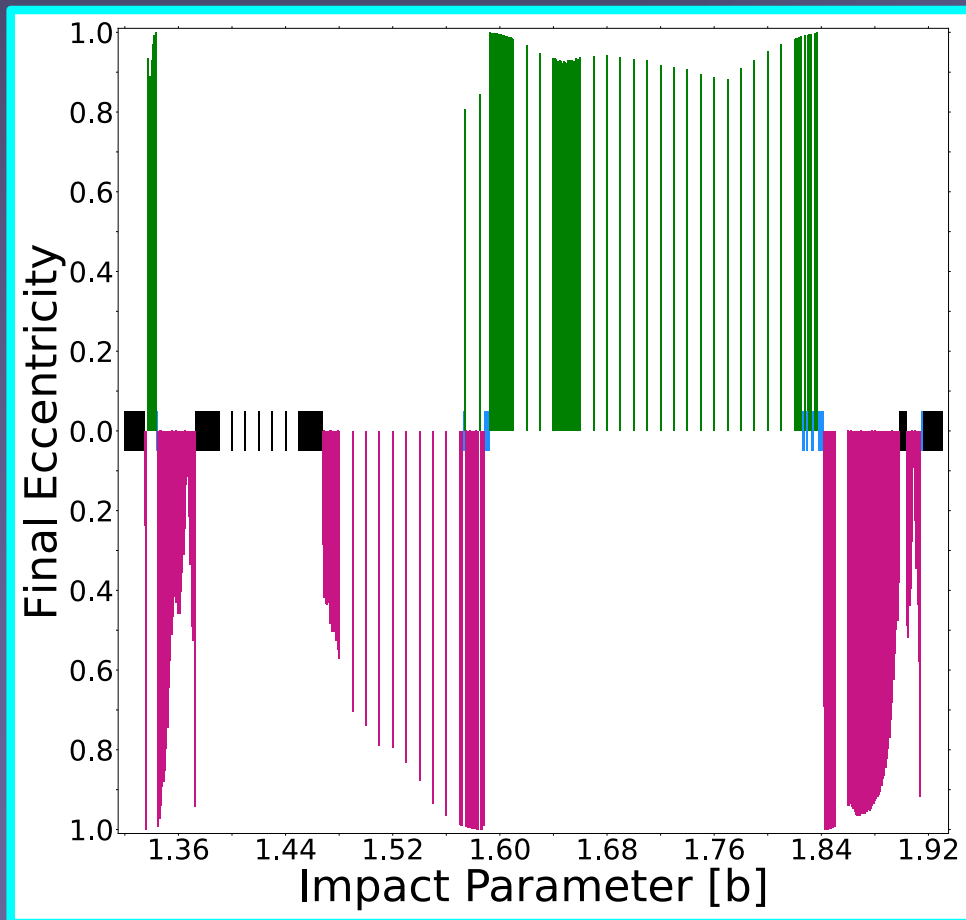
dynamical friction:
ON → OFF

**binary bound between
Hill radius & pericenter**

Fate vs Impact parameter

wide and smooth bands of capture with effective cross section $b \sim O(R_{\text{Hill}})$

cf. fractal structure of frictionless “Jacobi capture”; Boekholt+2022





Connar Rowan

Gas Capture – 3d simulations

Rowan, Boekholt, Kocsis & ZH (2023)

SPH (Phantom), 3D, global disk annulus

Parameters:

$$M_{\text{SMBH}} = 4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$$

$$\dot{M}_{\text{inflow}} = 0.1 \dot{M}_{\text{edd}}$$

$$H/R = 0.005 \quad (\alpha = 0.1)$$

$$m_1 = m_2 = 25 M_{\odot}$$

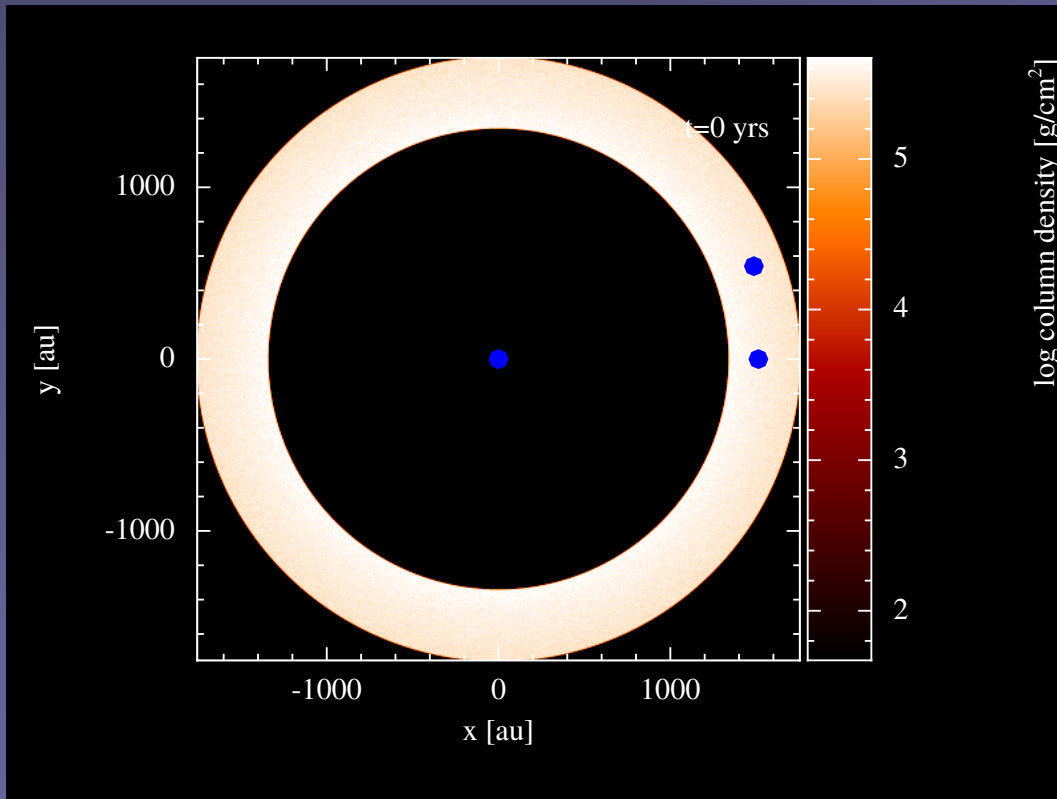
$$R_{1,2} \sim 0.01 \text{ pc} \quad (P_{\text{orb}} \sim 30 \text{ yr})$$

$$\Delta R_{\text{sim}} = 20 r_{\text{Hill}} \quad \Delta \theta = 20^\circ$$

$$N = 2.5 \times 10^7 \text{ particles}$$

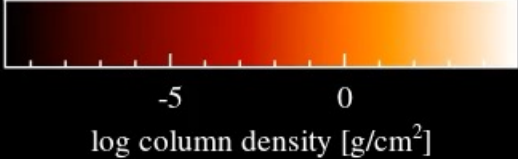
$$r_{\text{sink}} = 0.01 r_{\text{Hill}}$$

$$r_{\text{soft}} = 0.01 r_{\text{sink}}$$



3 disk mass (23, 110, 570 M_{\odot}) \times 5 impact para (2.5-3.5 r_{Hill}) = 15 sims

t=0 yrs

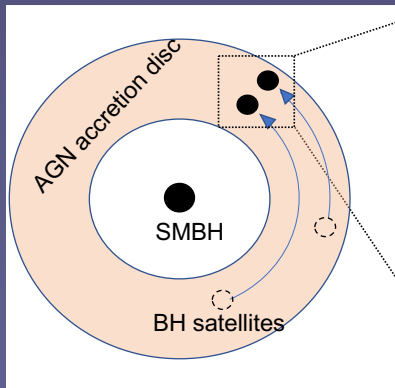


(c) 2021 Connar Rowan

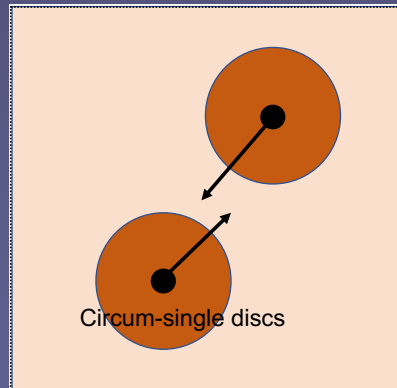
Gas Capture – Summary of Fiducial Sims

Rowan, Boekholt, Kocsis & ZH (2023)

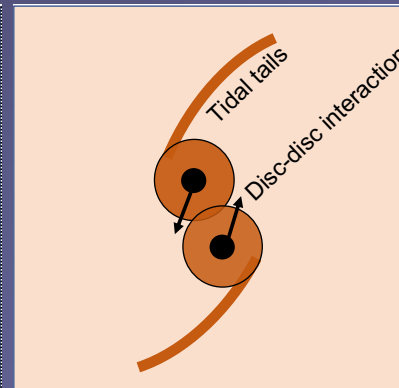
initial
condition



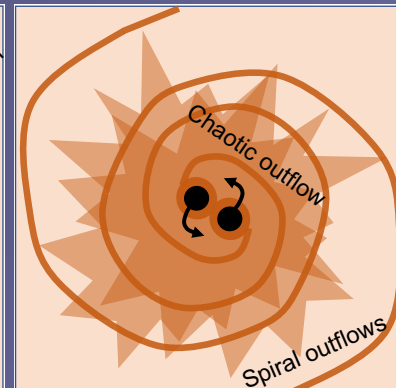
minidisk
formation



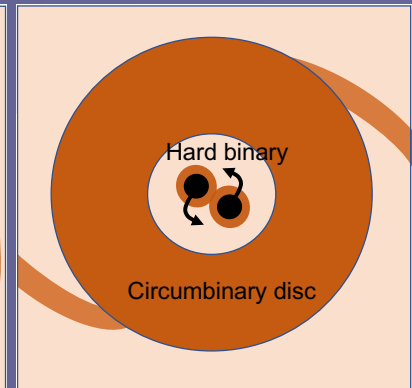
minidisk
collision



accretion
+ outflow



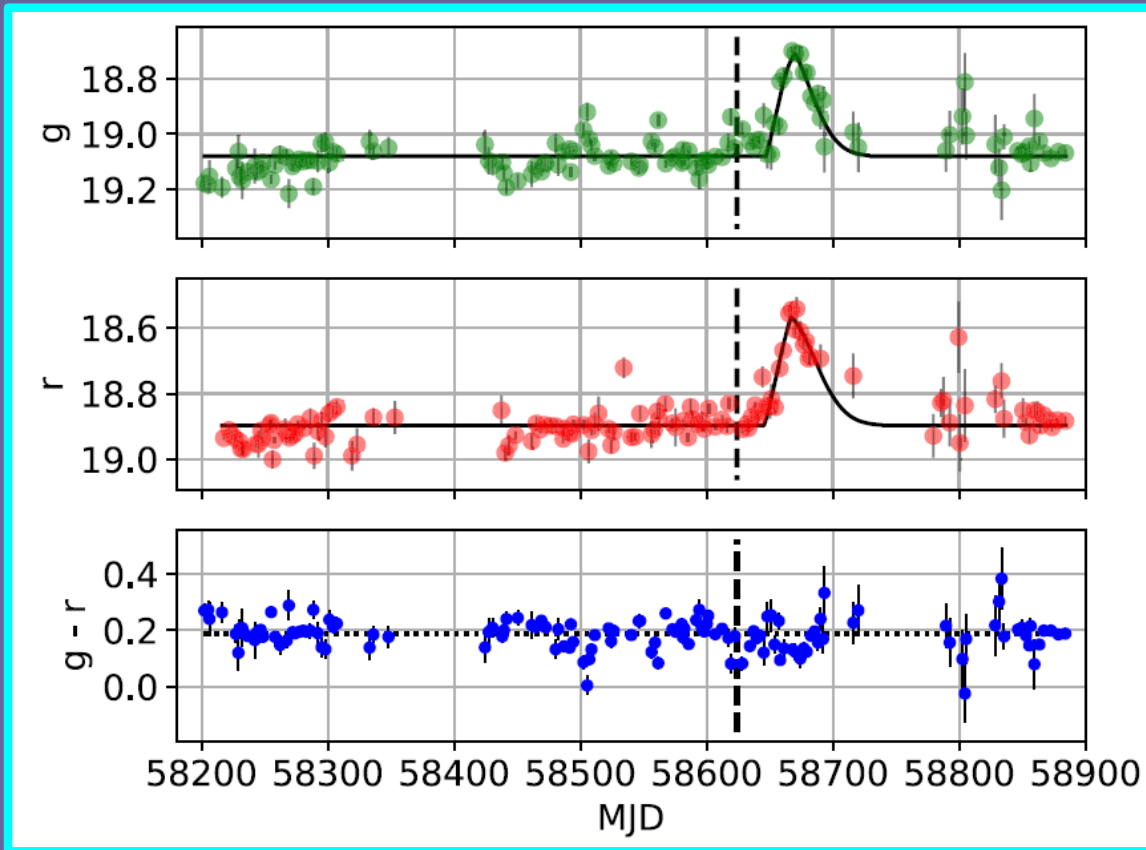
captured
binary w/CBD



Optical counterpart to GW190521 (?)

Claim of coincident flare in ZTF

Graham et al. 2020



AGN:

- $z = 0.438$ ($\sim 2-3$ Gpc)
- $M_{\text{SMBH}} = (1-10) \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$
- $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}} = 0.02 - 0.23$

Flare:

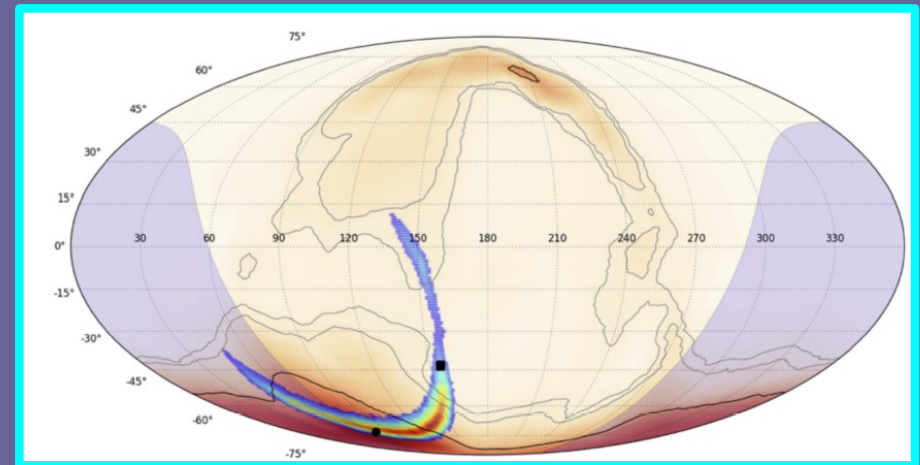
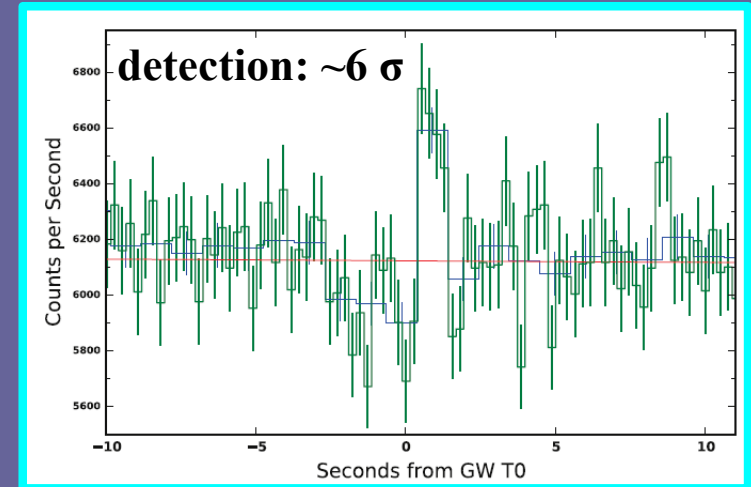
- $t_{\text{duration}} \sim 28$ days
- $t_{\text{delay}} \sim 18$ days
- $L_{\text{opt}} \sim 10^{45}$ erg/s
- g, r band : $\sim 480, 650$ nm

$\sim 10^5 L_{\text{Edd}}$ for $\sim 100 M_{\odot}$ BH

Gamma-ray counterpart to GW150914 (??)

Claim of coincident flare in Fermi GBM:

- GW150914 (1st event, $M_{\text{rem}} \sim 62 M_{\odot}$)
- $L_{\text{max}} \sim 2 \times 10^{49}$ erg/s (10 keV-10 MeV)
- $t_{\text{duration}} \sim 1$ s
- $t_{\text{delay}} \sim 0.4$ s from GW150914
- $E \sim 2 \times 10^{49}$ erg
- $d_L \sim 410$ Mpc
- association significance: 2.9σ
(prob. of high S/N event within 30 s)



Connaughton+18

Controversy:

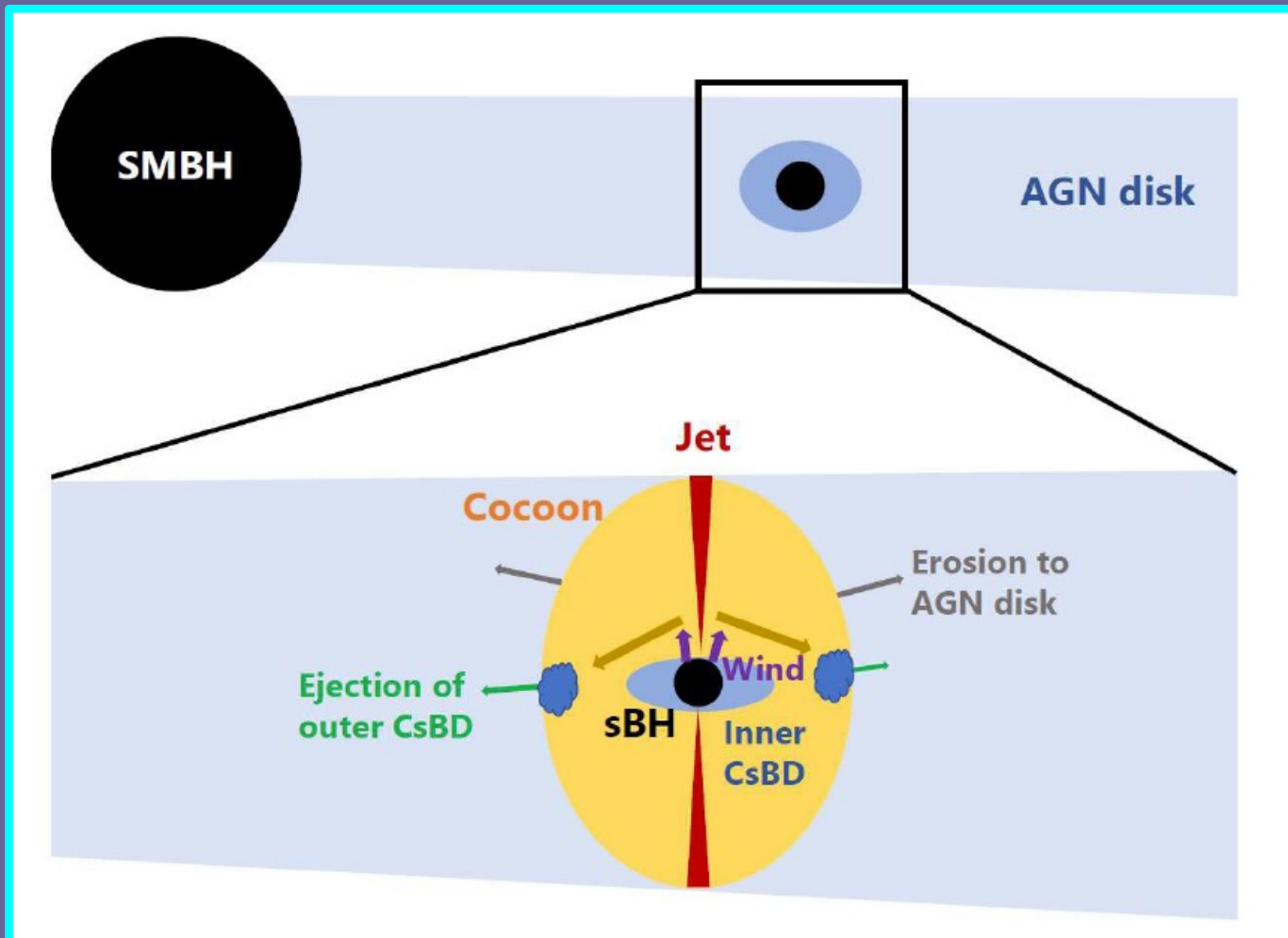
Criticism: background value, detectors (Greiner+16)

Rebuttal: binning, sky location, complex geometry, used detectors (Connaughton+18)

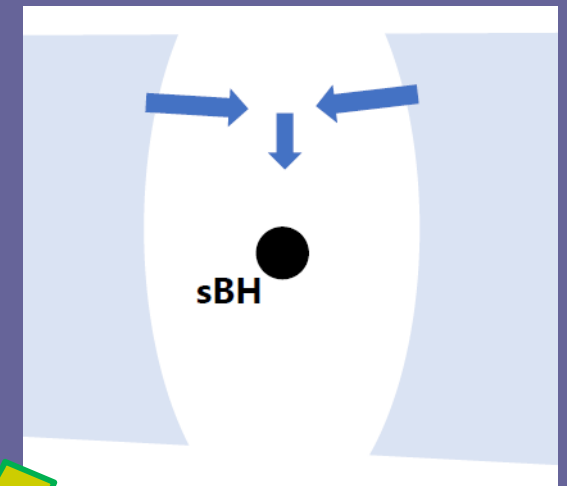
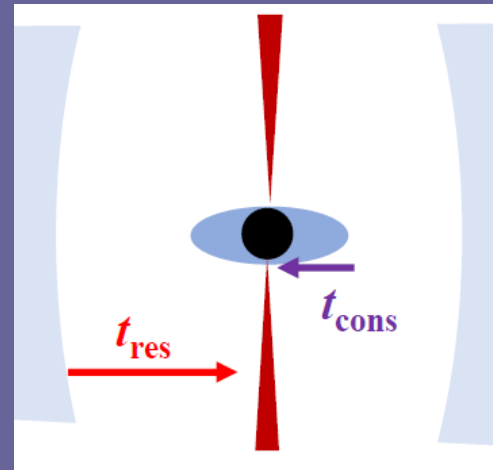
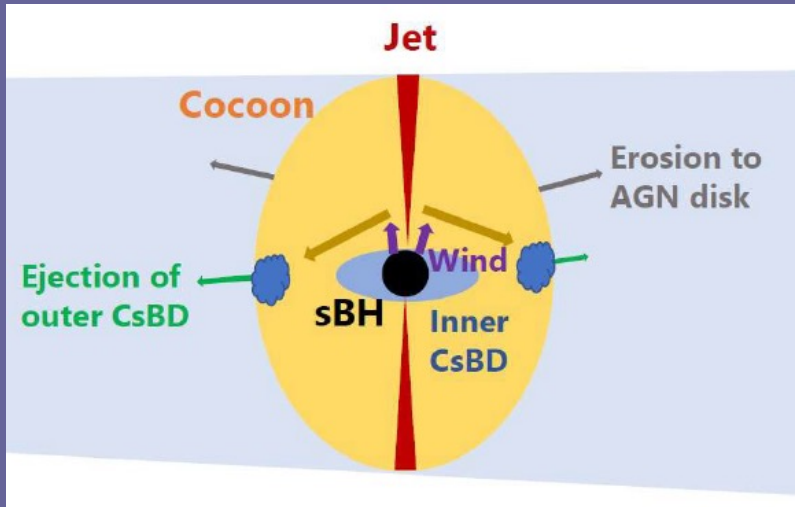
Jets and cocoons from BHs in AGN disks

$\dot{M}_{\text{BHL}} \gg \dot{M}_{\text{edd}} \rightarrow$ spinning BH \rightarrow jet (cf. GRB) $\rightarrow L \gg L_{\text{edd}}$

Tagawa, Kimura, ZH, Perna Tanaka, Bartos (2022)



Episodic accretion / jet activity



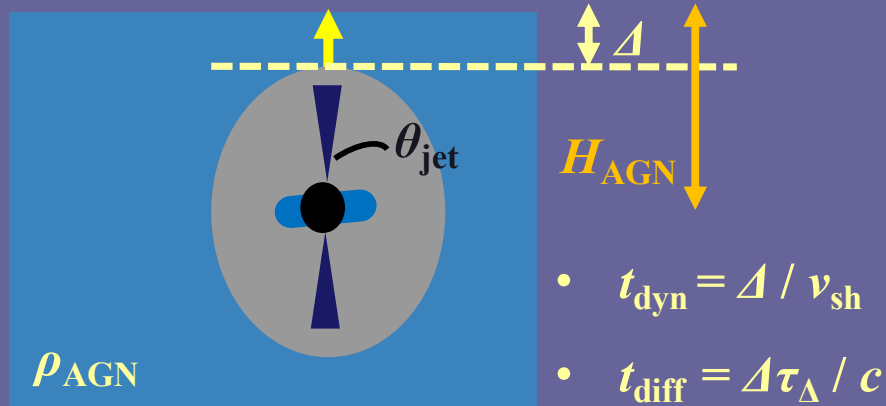
Time-averaged accretion rate
is reduced by a factor $\gtrsim 10$

EM emission

Disk parameters ($H_{\text{AGN}}, \rho_{\text{AGN}}$) as a function of distance from SMBH follow from $M_{\text{SMBH}}, \dot{M}_{\text{SMBH}}, \alpha_{\text{eff}}$ (Thompson+05)

BH accretion: $\dot{m}_{\text{BHL}} \rightarrow$ jet power: $L_{\text{jet}} \sim a_{\text{BH}}^2 \dot{m}_{\text{BHL}} c^2$

v_{sh} assuming θ_{jet} (Bromberg+11)



$$t_{\text{delay}} \sim H_{\text{AGN}} / v_{\text{sh}}$$

$$\Delta t_{\text{BO}} = t_{\text{diff}} \quad @ \quad t_{\text{diff}} = t_{\text{dyn}}$$

$$= c / (\rho_{\text{AGN}} v_{\text{sh}}^2 \kappa)$$

$$T_{\text{BO}} \sim (18 \rho_{\text{AGN}} v_{\text{sh}}^2 / 7a)^{1/4}$$

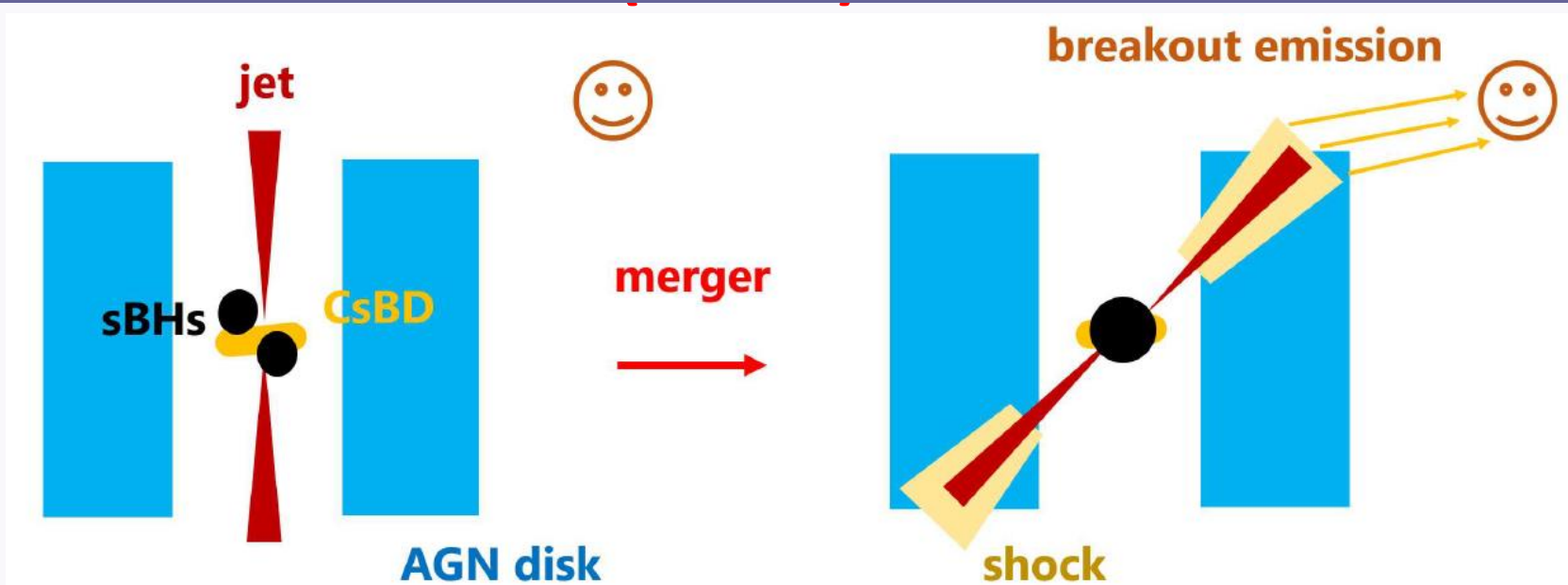
$$L_{\text{BO}} \sim L_{\text{jet}}$$

$$L_{\text{NT}} \sim \varepsilon_e L_{\text{BO}} \quad (N_{e\gamma} \sim \gamma^{-p})$$

1. thermal shock-breakout emission
2. non-thermal emission from shocks: synchrotron, inverse Compton
3. high-energy emission from internal shocks

Post-merger EM emission from binary BHs

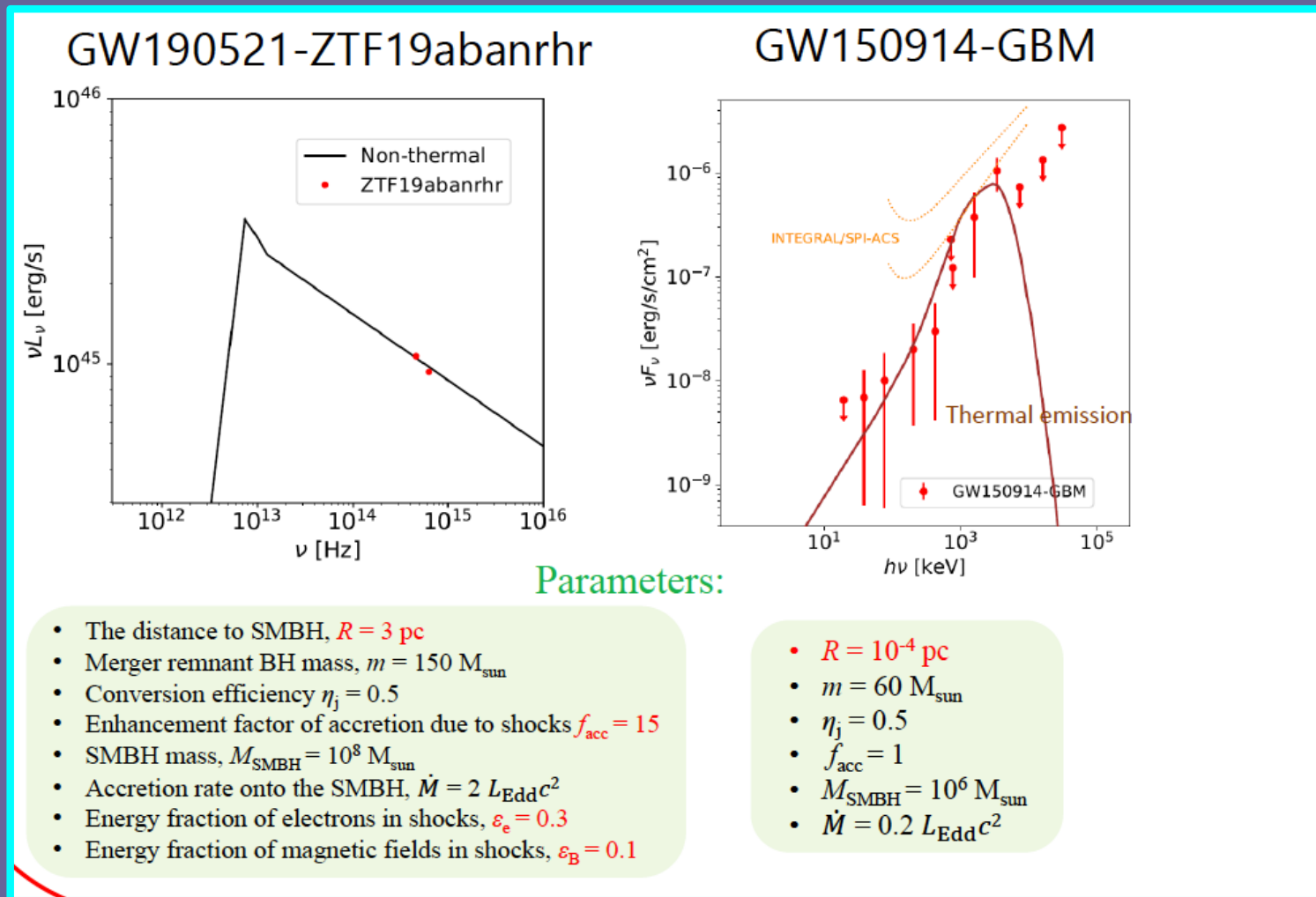
Tagawa, Kimura, ZH, Perna Bartos (2023)



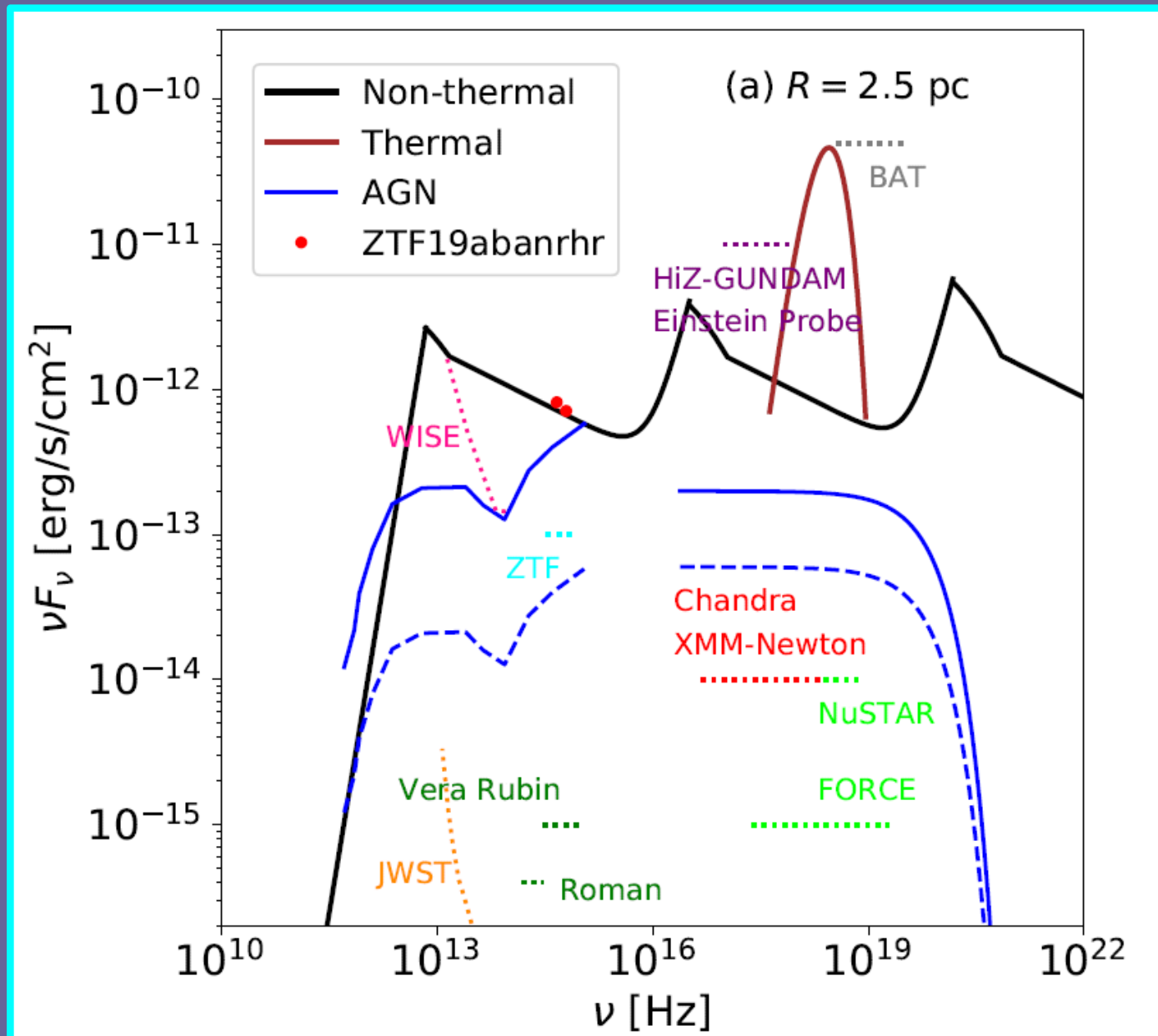
Examples: LIGO EM counterpart claims

Tagawa et al. 2023

Match luminosity, color, delay time, and duration



EM emission – full spectrum



Summary

1. **Some LIGO events'** properties naturally produced in AGN disks:
→ *large mass & mass ratio, nonzero eccentricity, unusual spins*
 2. Also natural environment for **EM emission related to jets**
→ *hot shocked cocoon: thermal + non-thermal emission*
 3. **Optical/IR** and **gamma-ray** flares like those claimed for LIGO
 4. **Internal shocks** → high-energy ν 's, cosmic rays, MeV γ -rays
-

The End