

# Where do binary black holes come from? How do we find out?

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Roma

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# Outline

**1.** A new astronomy

Intro

**5.** But careful  
with the prior!

Vitale, **DG+** arxiv:1707.04637 (PRL)



**5.** ... and multiple  
merger generations!

**DG**, Berti arXiv:1703.06223 (PRD)

**2.** Where do BHs come from?

Review

**3.** Spins remember  
formation channels...

**DG+** arXiv:1302.4442 (PRD)

**4.** ... and Supernova kicks!

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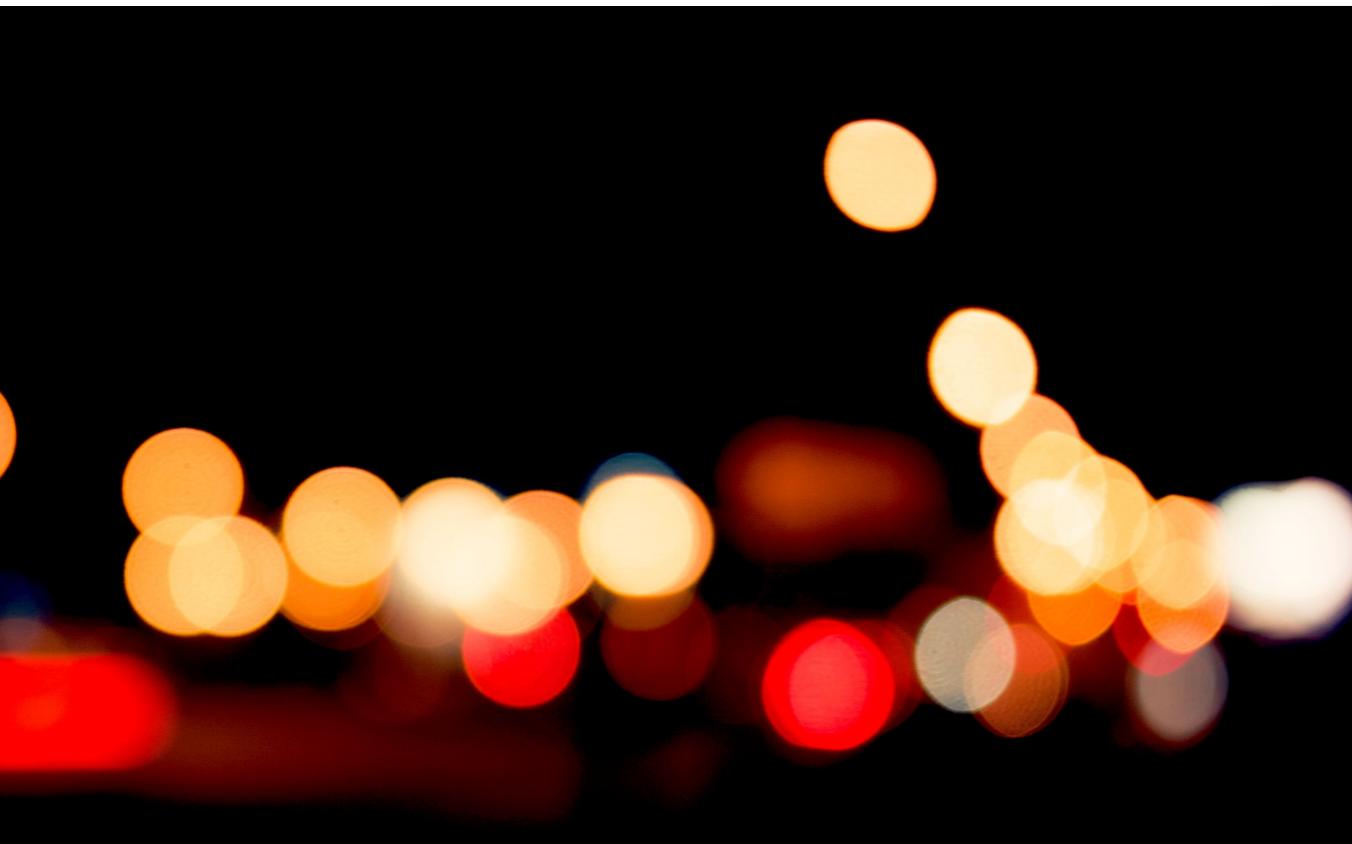


# A new window on the Universe

- Almost everything we know about the Universe comes through photons.
- **Gravitational-waves are a fundamentally new way!**
- Serendipitous discoveries came with new electromagnetic bands (X-ray binaries, gamma-ray bursts, pulsars, CMB...)

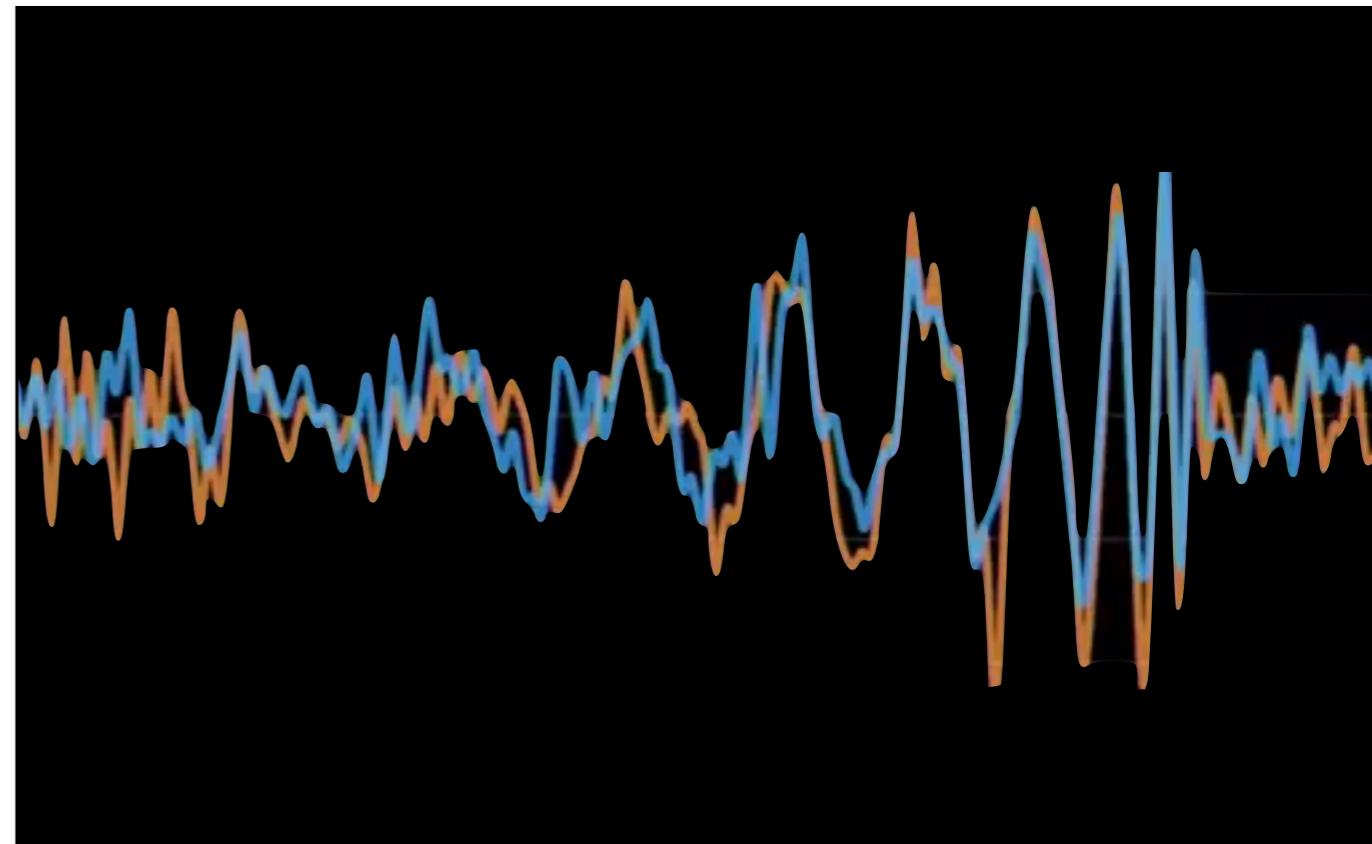
## Electromagnetic radiation

- **Charges**
- **Strongly coupled:** easy to detect, but also easily scattered



## Gravitational radiation

- Cumulative **mass** and momentum distribution
- **Very weakly coupled:** hard to detect, but travel unaffected!



# Ripples in the fabric of spacetime

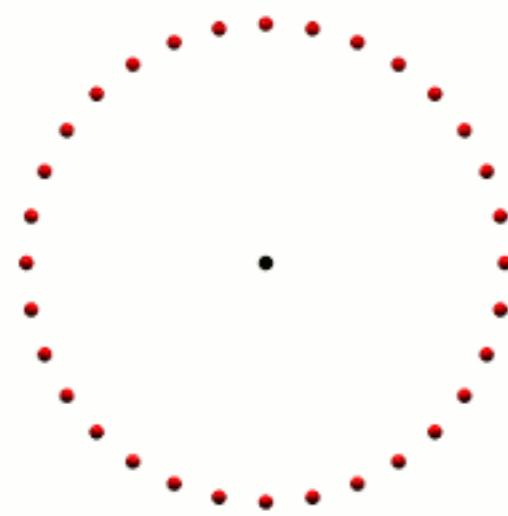
$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{Einstein equations}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad \dots \text{linearized}$$

Mass quadrupole  $Q_{jk} = \int \rho x_j x_k d^3x$

## GW propagation $\square \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$h_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t, z) = \begin{pmatrix} h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cos \left[ \omega \left( t - \frac{z}{c} \right) \right]$$



Equivalence principle: measure tidal forces

## GW emission

$$h_{jk} = \frac{2}{r} \frac{d^2 Q_{jk}}{dt^2}$$

strain  $h \sim \frac{M v^2}{r} \sim \frac{\Delta L}{L}$

mass  $M$  velocity  $v$  measurement  
distance  $L$  detector

## Binaries are natural emitters

Binary cars?

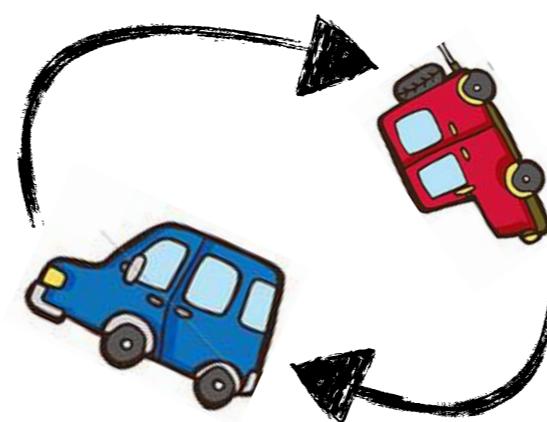
$$M \sim 10^3 \text{ Kg}$$

$$v \sim 1000 \text{ Km/h}$$

on a 1 km track

$$r \sim \lambda \sim R_{\text{Earth}}$$

$$h \sim 10^{-42}$$



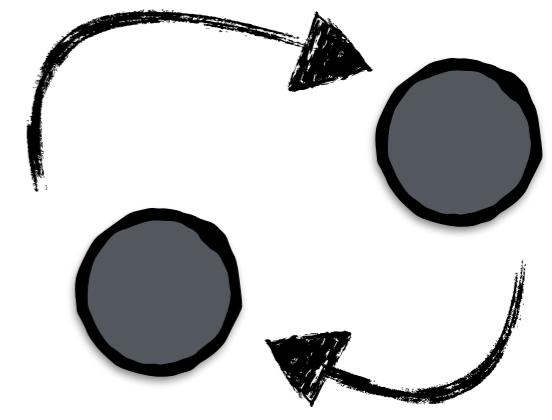
Binary black holes!

$$M \sim 10 M_\odot \sim 10^{31} \text{ Kg}$$

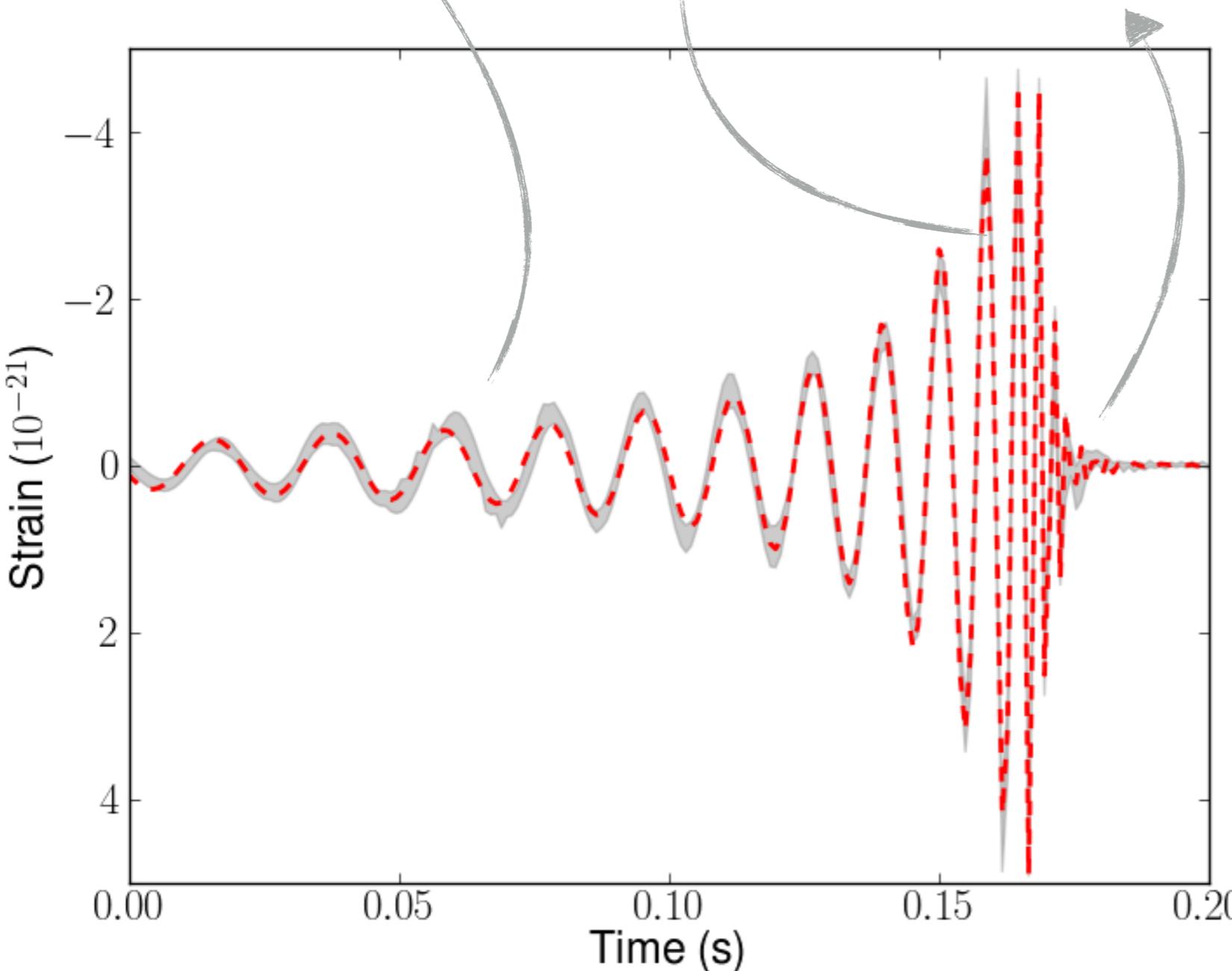
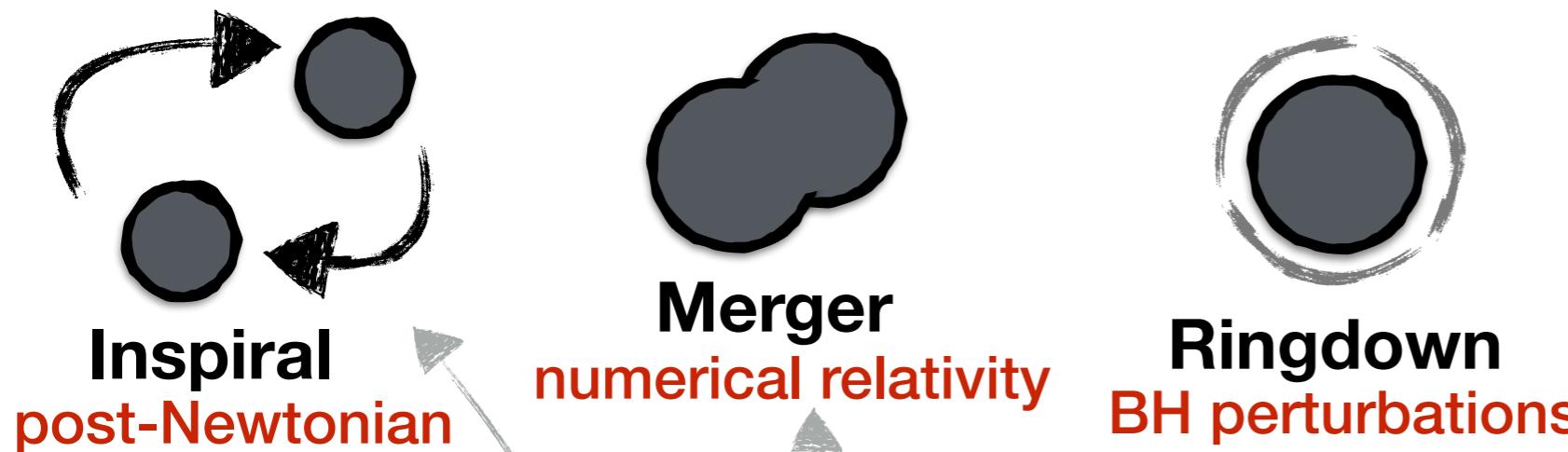
$$v \sim 0.1c$$

$$r \sim 100 \text{ Mpc}$$

$$h \sim 10^{-21}$$

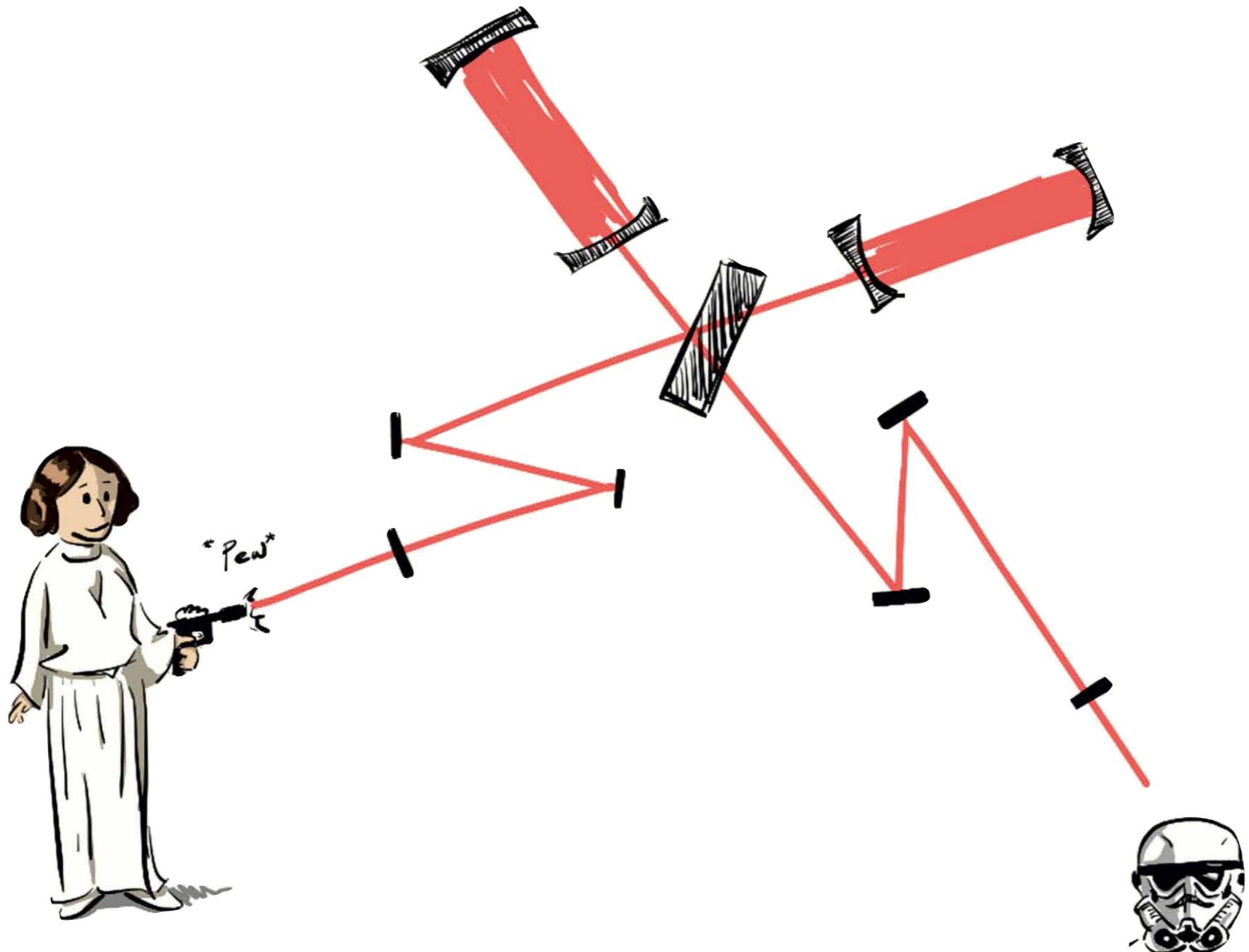


# GW signals from BH mergers

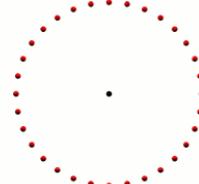


- Frequency gradually increases during the **inspiral**
- **Merger** of two BHs is one of the most energetic events in the Universe
- Direct signal from highly-dynamic strong-field gravity
- *BHs have no hair:* final remnant has to dissipate all properties but mass and spin (**ringdown**)

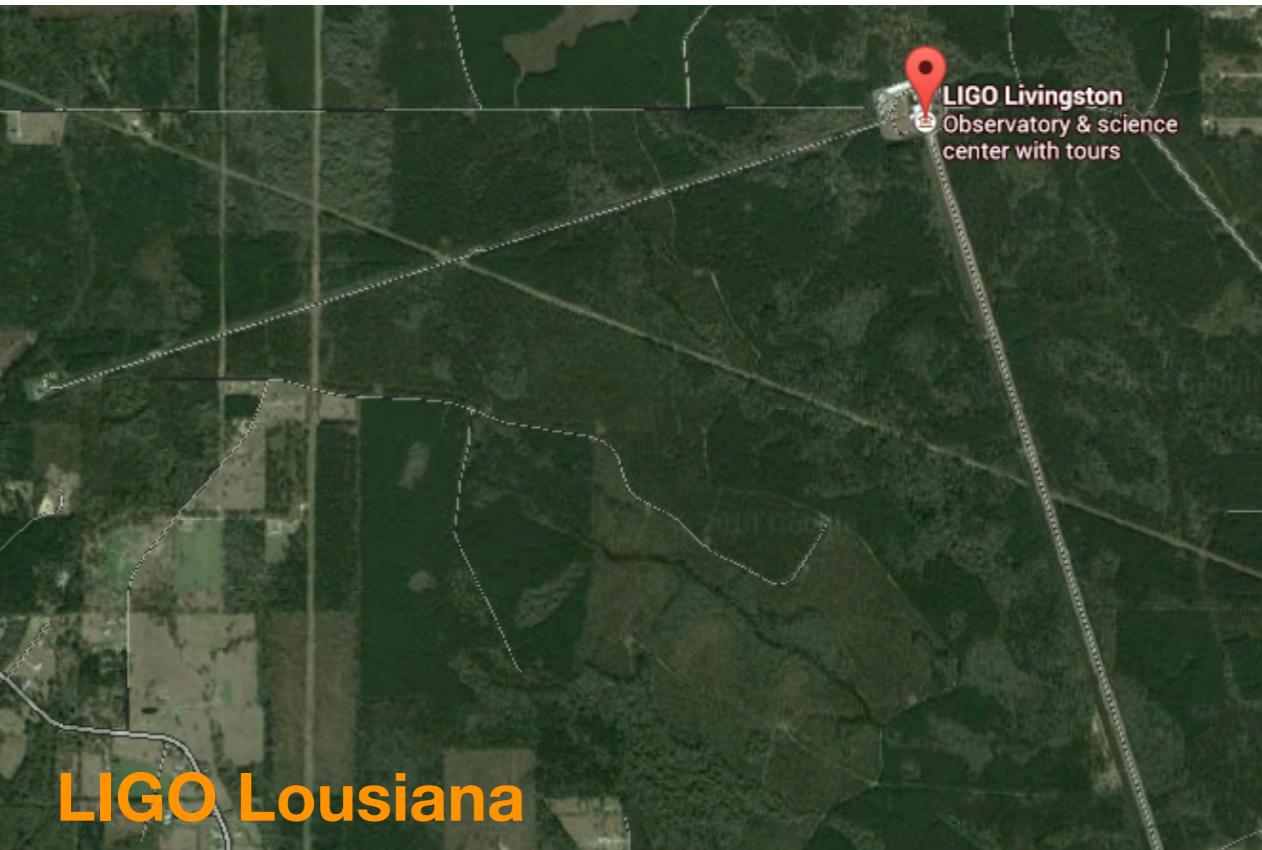
# LIGO/Virgo (for a theorist)



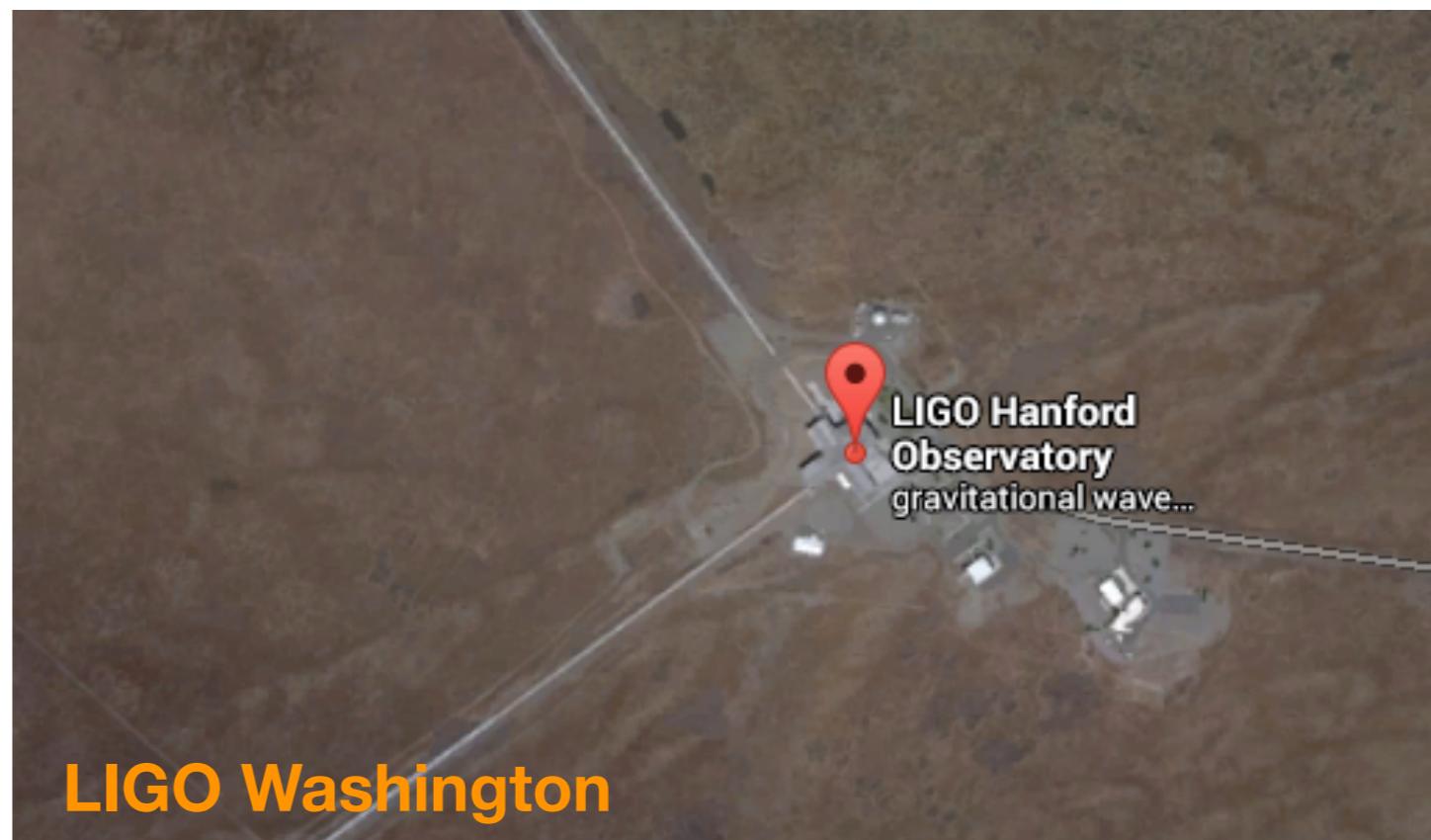
...4 km arms measured with the precision  
of about 1/1000 the diameter of a proton!



# LIGO/Virgo (for real)

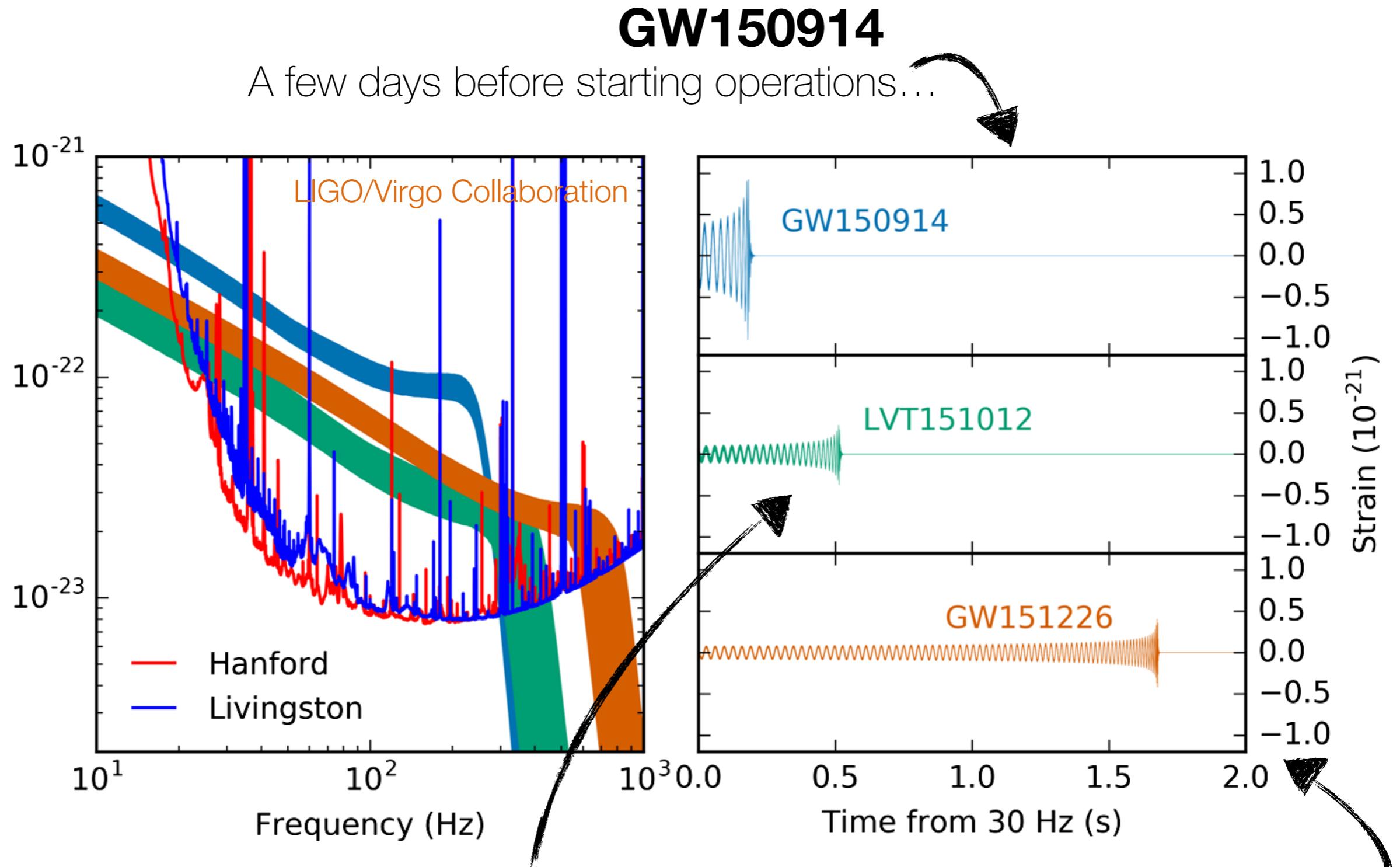


LIGO Louisiana



LIGO Washington

# LIGO's O1: an incredible story...



**LVT151012**

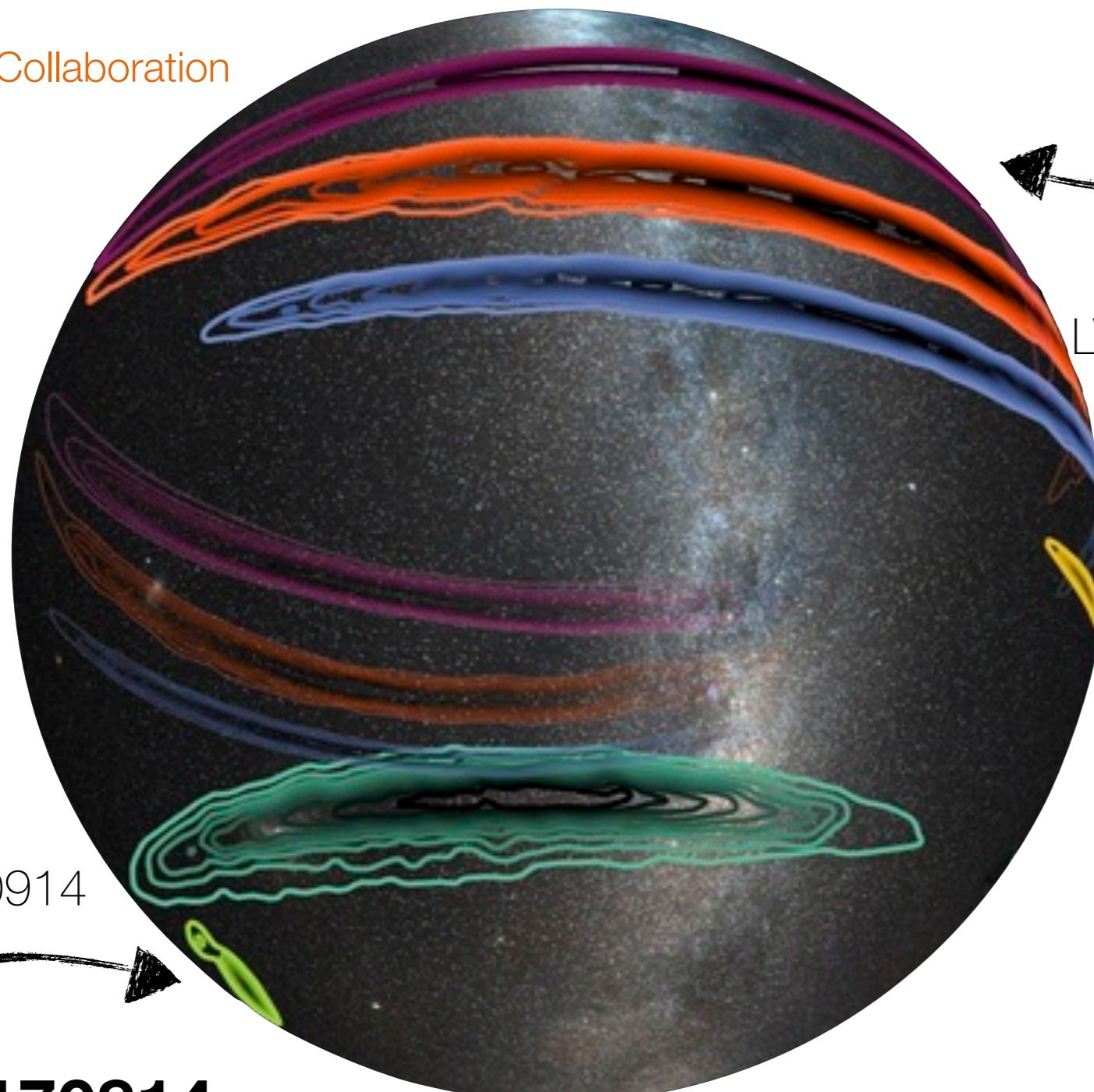
That's 87% of a BH binary...

**GW151226**

Lower mass, many more cycle and spins!

# LIGO/Virgo's O2: a more incredible story...

LIGO/Virgo Collaboration



GW150914

**GW170814**

Neutron stars! Gamma rays, and optical counterpart, and X ray later, radio still on...

**GW170104**

Another big one...

LVT151012

GW151226

**GW170817**

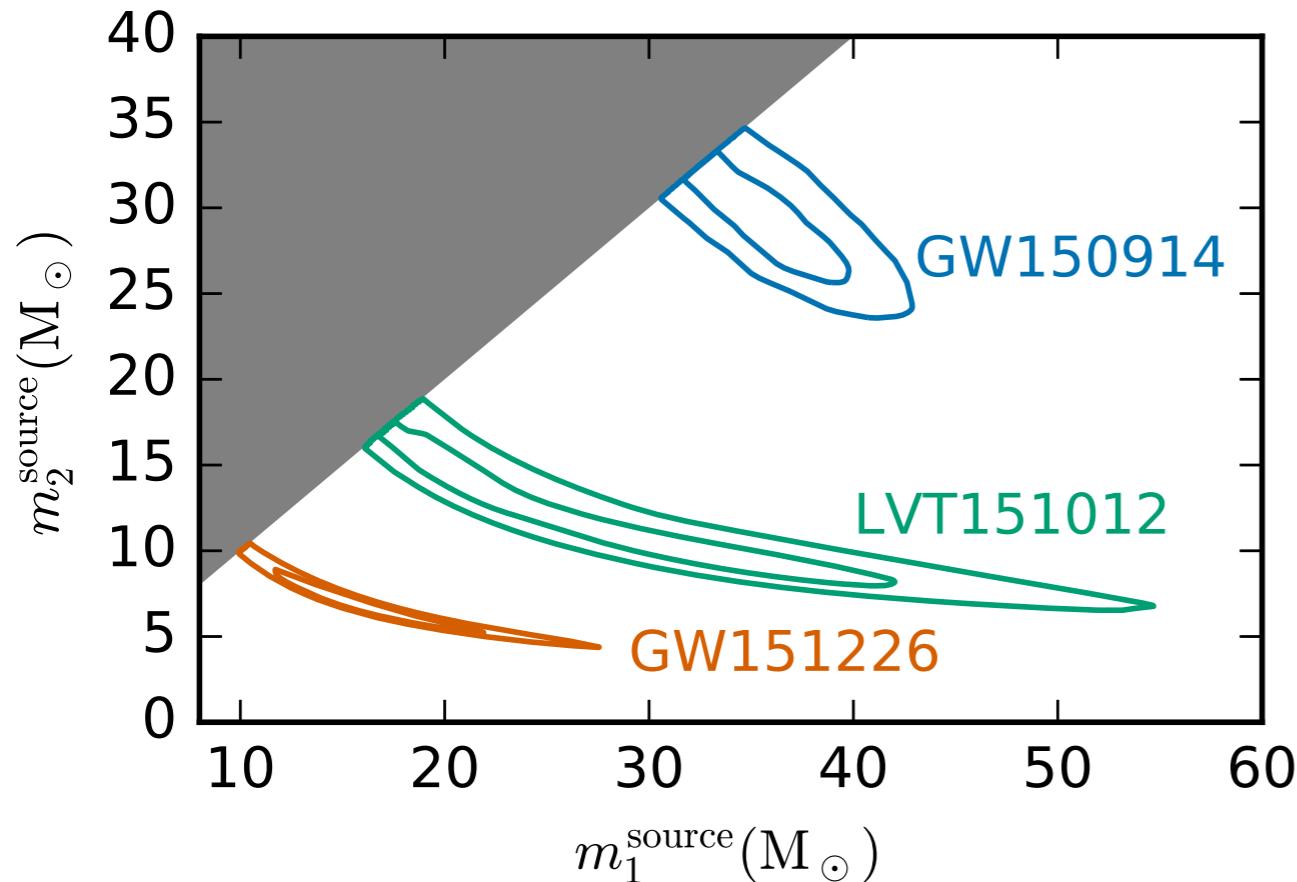
There's a new kid in town

**GW170608**

That was too much for a single figure...

*...and not all the O2 results are announced!*

# BH mass measurements



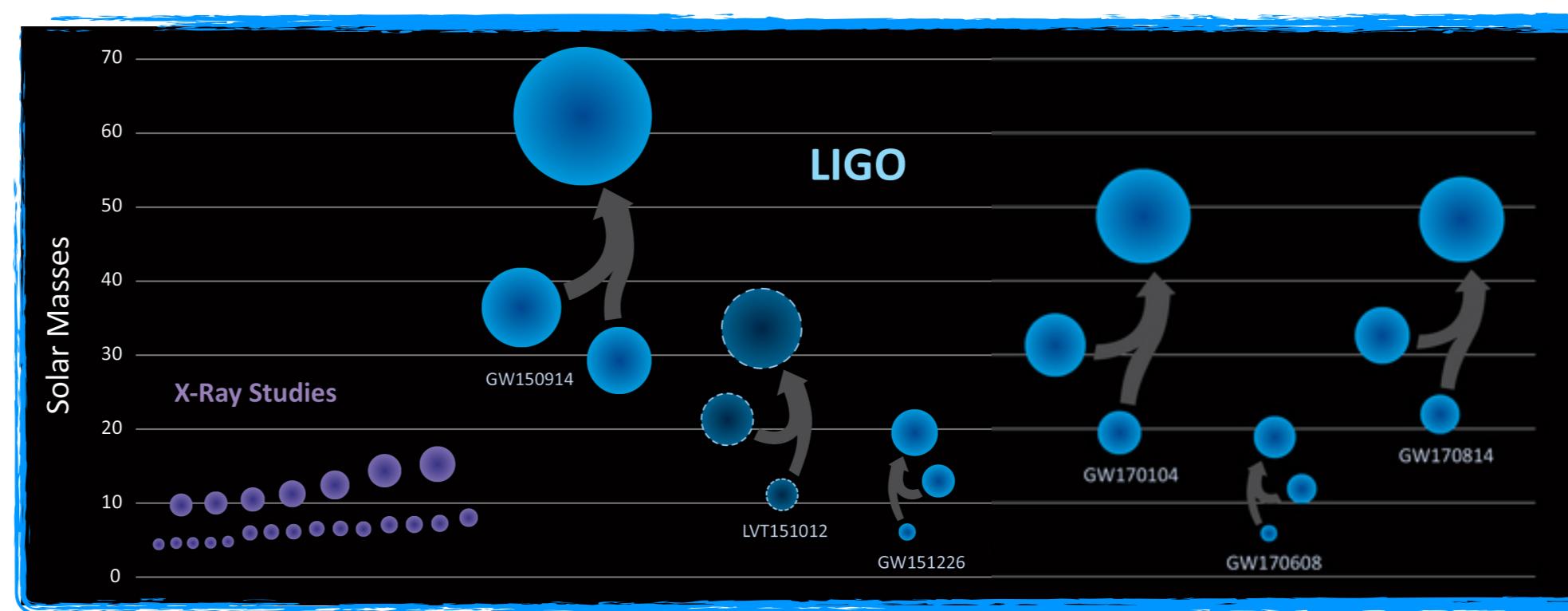
- Low mass: many orbits; chirp mass:

$$M_c = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}}$$

- High mass: mainly merger; total mass:

$$M_{\text{tot}} = m_1 + m_2$$

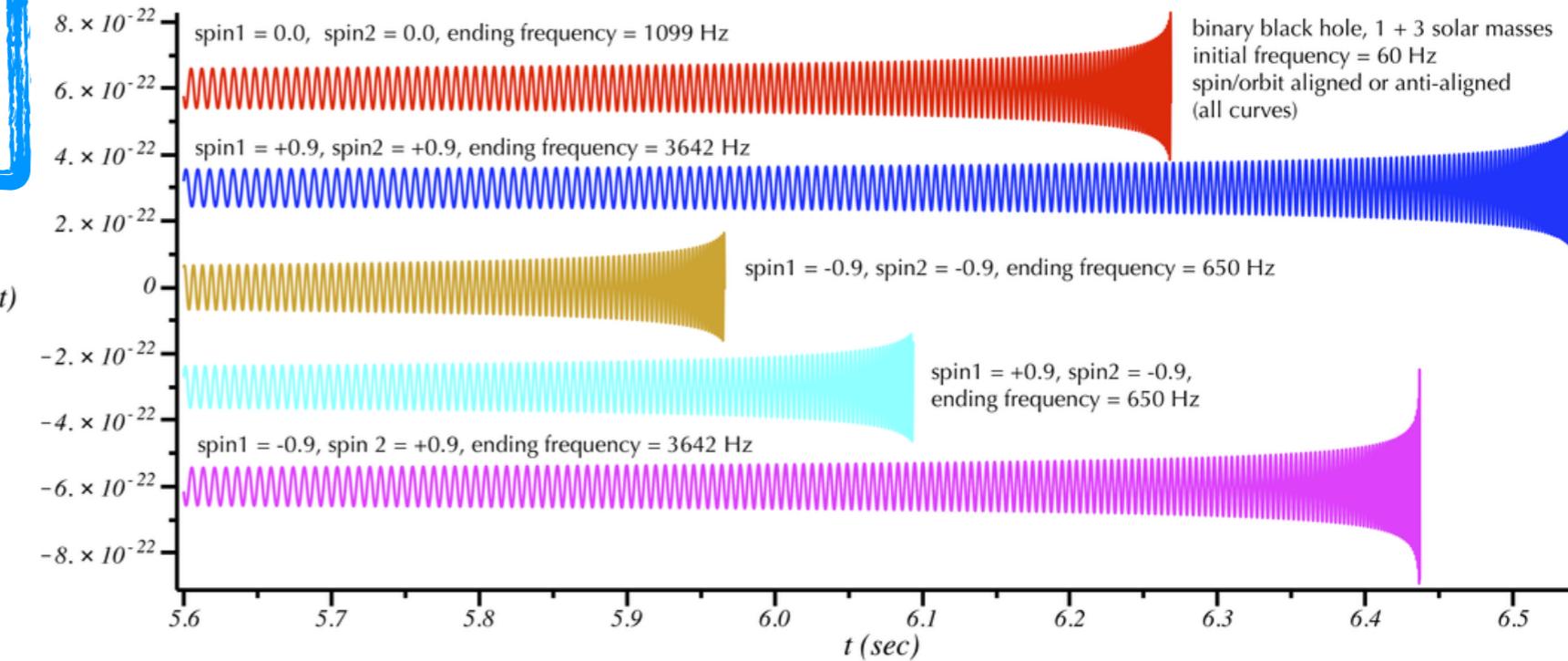
Another population?  
Just the tip of  
the iceberg!



# Spin in the waveform

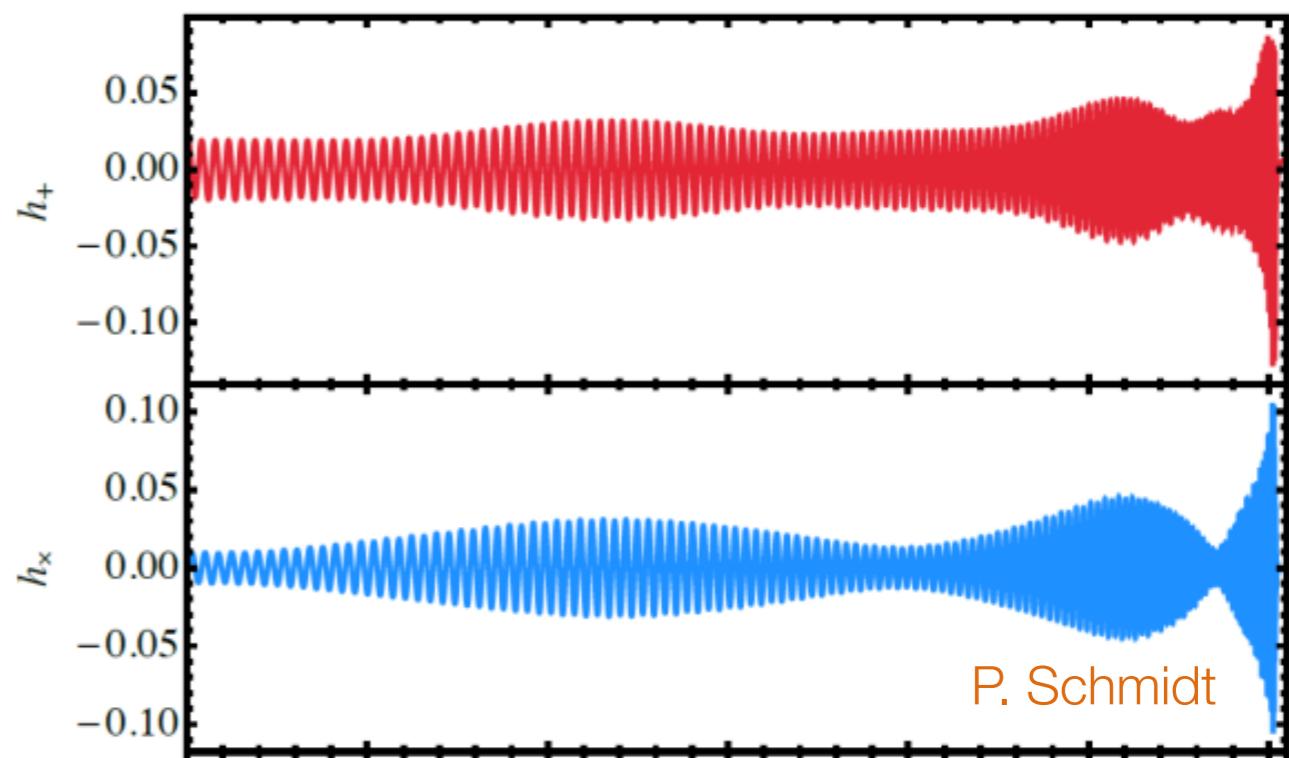
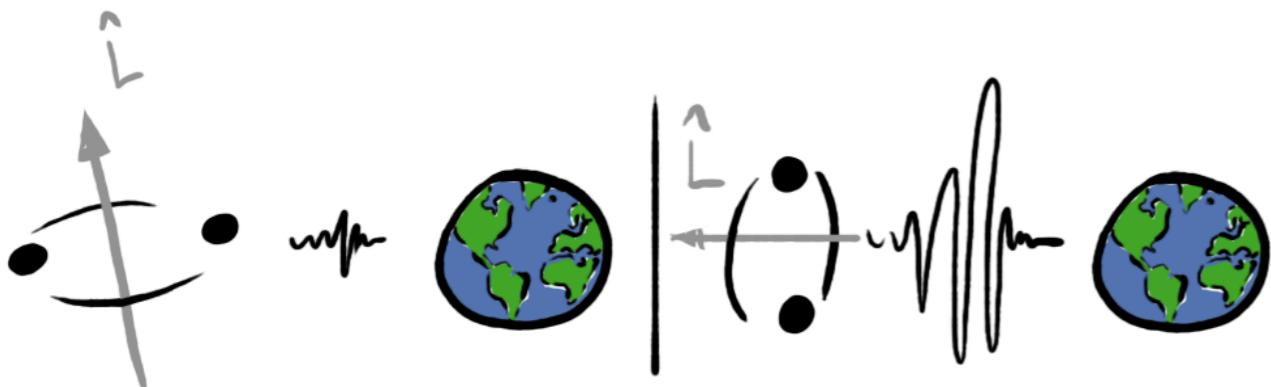
## Aligned components of the spins

- Different merger frequency (analog of the ISCO)
- Aligned spins take longer to merge



## Orbital-plane components of the spins

- spin precession; orbital plane precession
- Peculiar waveform modulations

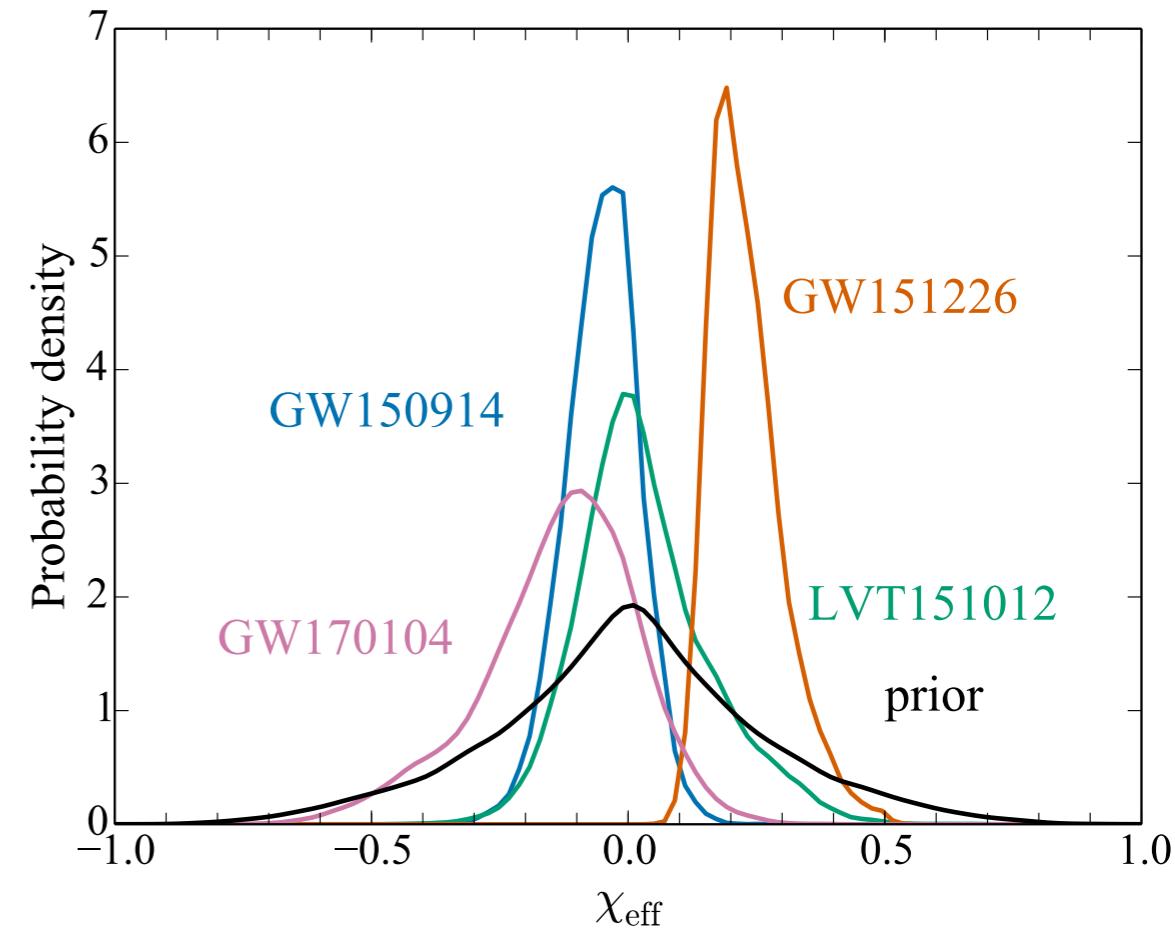
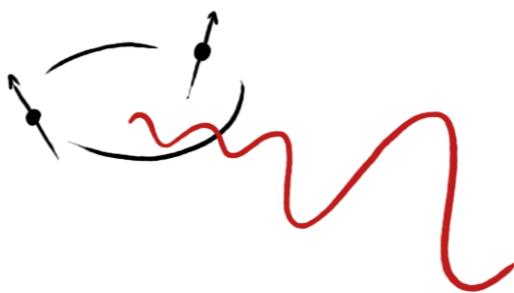


# Spin measurements

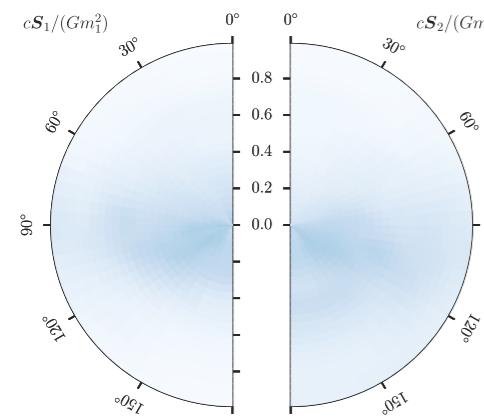
- Best measured quantity: effective spin

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \left( \frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{m_1} + \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{m_2} \right) \frac{\hat{\mathbf{L}}}{M}$$

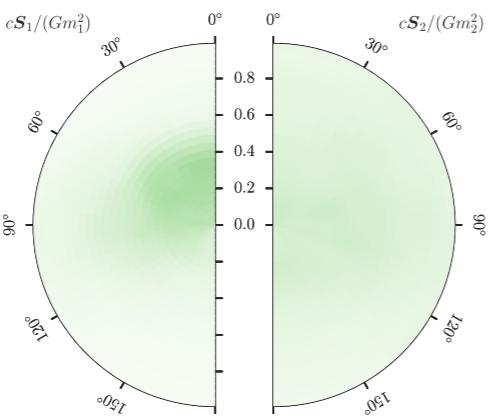
- Constant of motion at 2PN Racine 2008; DG+ 2015
- Careful with that prior... Vitale, DG+ 2017



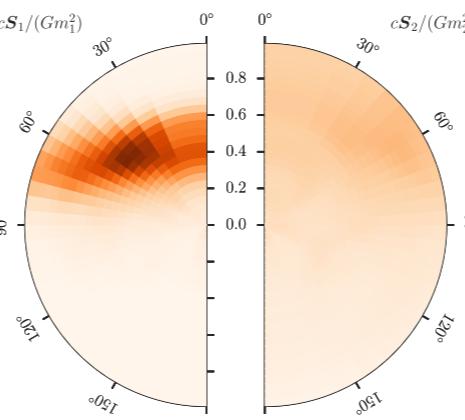
GW150914



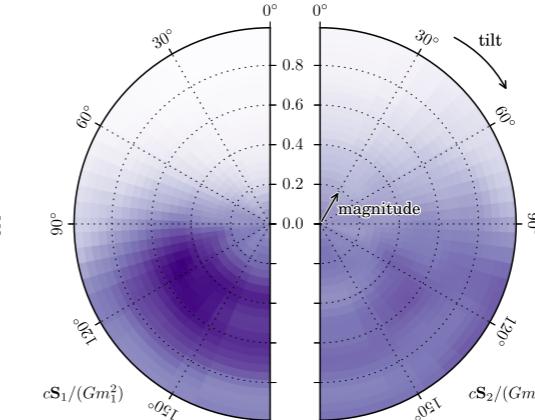
LVT151012



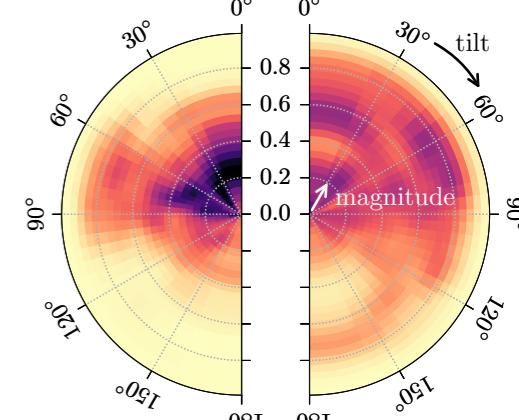
GW151226



GW170104



GW170608



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# Can BHs really make it?

At lowest order, **GW emission** causes the orbit to shrink:

**separation**  $\frac{da}{dt} = -\frac{64}{5} \frac{G^3 M^3}{c^5 a^3} \frac{q}{(1+q)^2} (1-e^2)^{-7/2} \left(1 + \frac{73}{24} e^2 + \frac{37}{96} e^4\right)$

**eccentricity**  $\frac{de}{dt} = -\frac{304}{15} e \frac{G^3 M^3}{c^5 a^4} \frac{q}{(1+q)^2} (1-e^2)^{-5/2} \left(1 + \frac{121}{304} e^2\right)$

## Circularization

$$\frac{da}{de} \sim \frac{12}{19} \frac{a}{e} \longrightarrow a \sim e^{12/19}$$

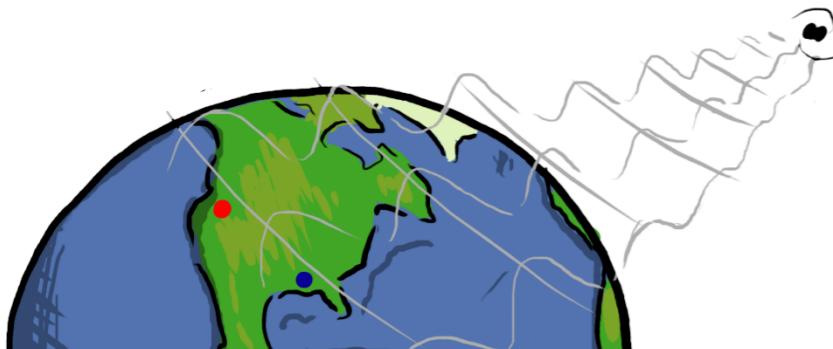
## GW-driven inspiral timescale

$$t_{\text{GW}} \sim a \frac{dt}{da} \sim a^4$$

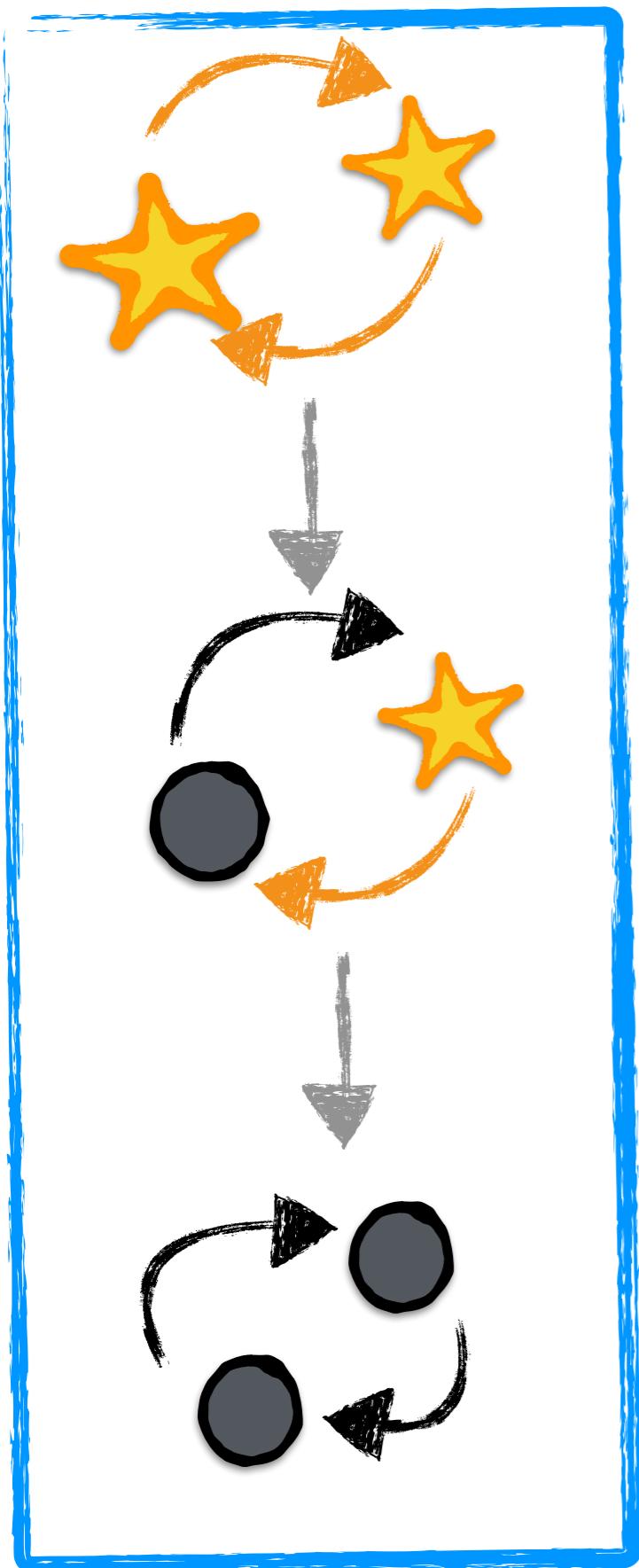
**Gravitational waves** are efficient below

$$a_{\text{GW}} = 1.2 \times 10^{11} \left( \frac{t_{\text{GW}}}{1.4 \times 10^{10} \text{yr}} \right)^{1/4} \left( \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{3/4} \text{cm} \sim 10 R_{\odot} \quad \text{stellar-mass BHs}$$

$$\sim 0.01 \text{ pc} \quad \text{supermassive BHs}$$



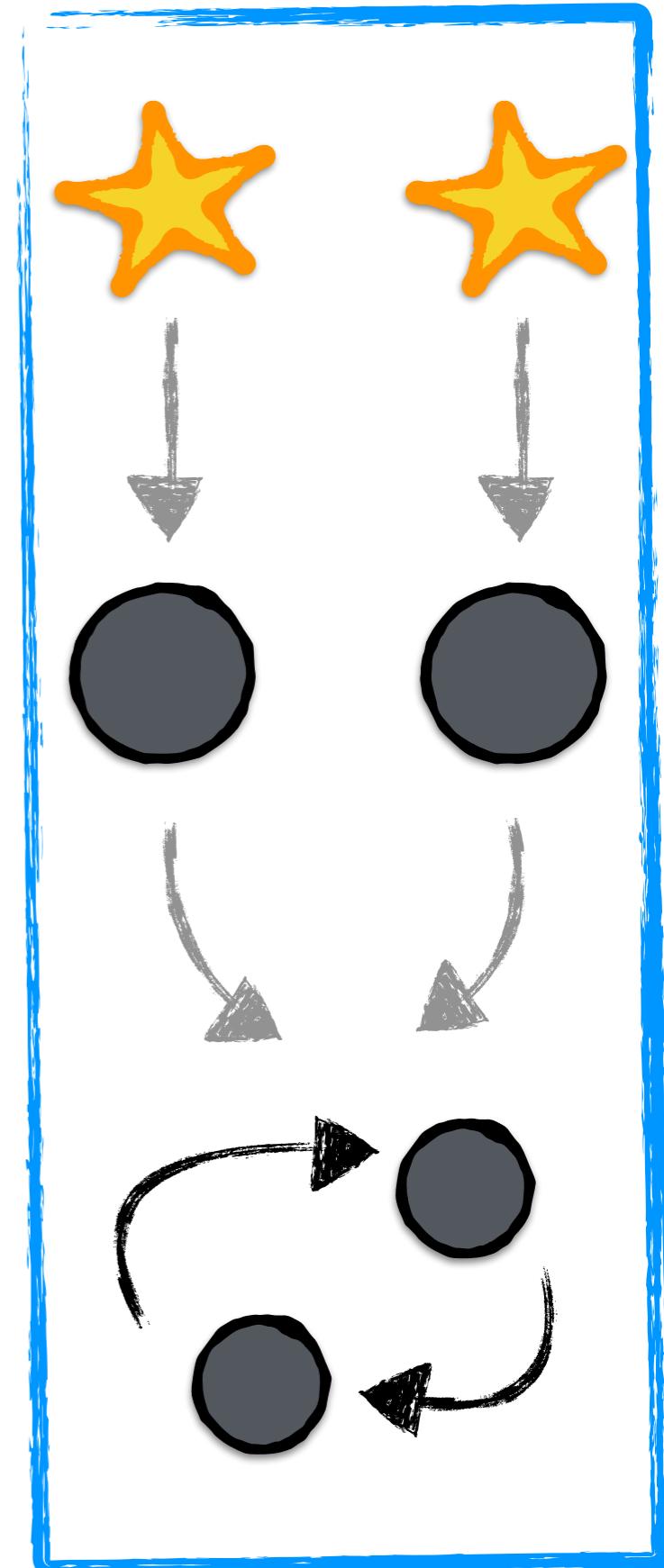
# Have we been together for so long?



Yes! I've known you  
since you were a star



Don't you remember?  
We just met in cluster



# Massive stars to BHs: *field* evolution

**1.** Main-sequence binary star

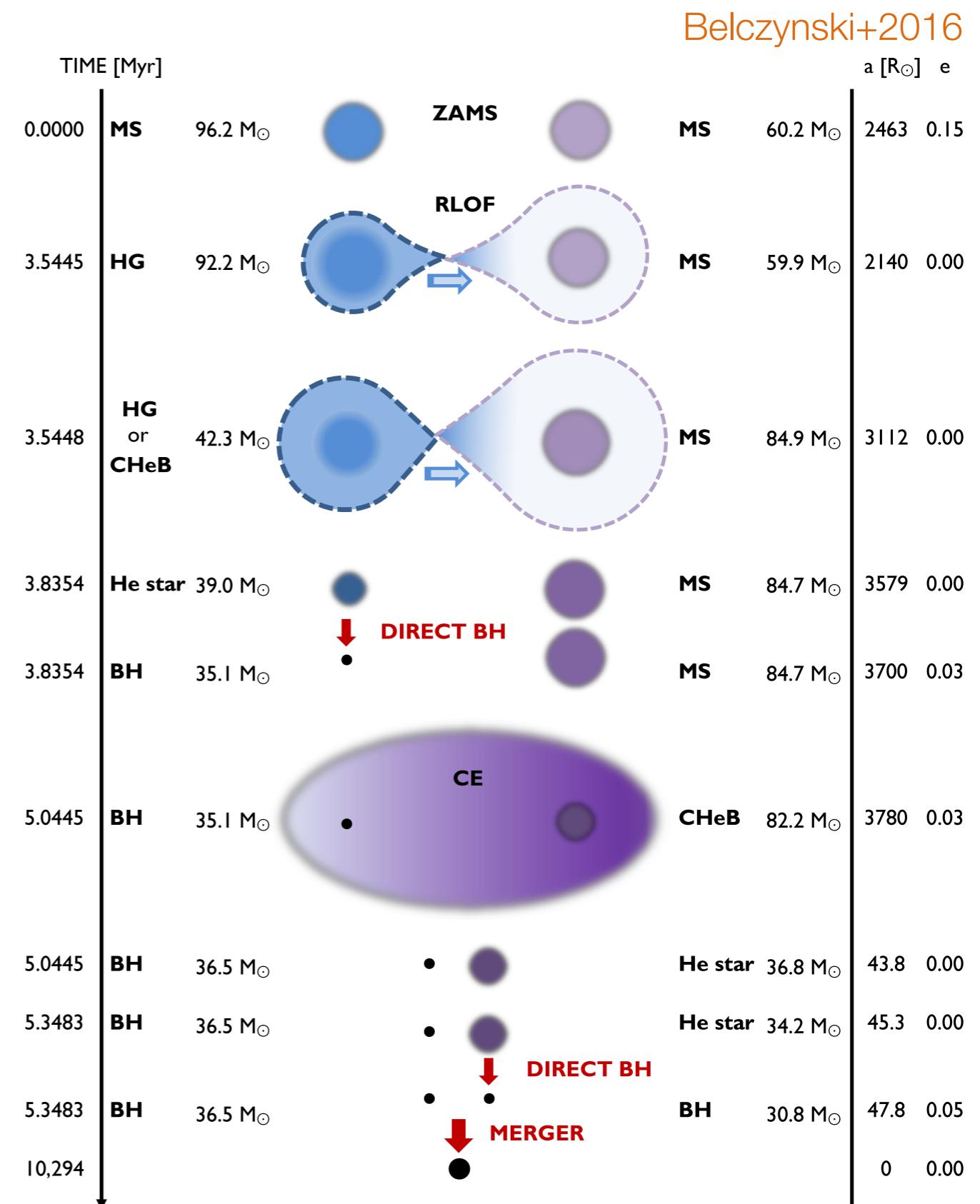
**2.** First evolves to supergiant:  
Roche-lobe overflow, **mass transfer**

**3.** First goes **supernova** and forms a BH  
*Is it still a binary?*

**4.** Second evolves to supergiant:  
**common envelope**  
Must be efficient... Critical stage to bring the  
separation down!  
... but not too much: *is it still a binary?*

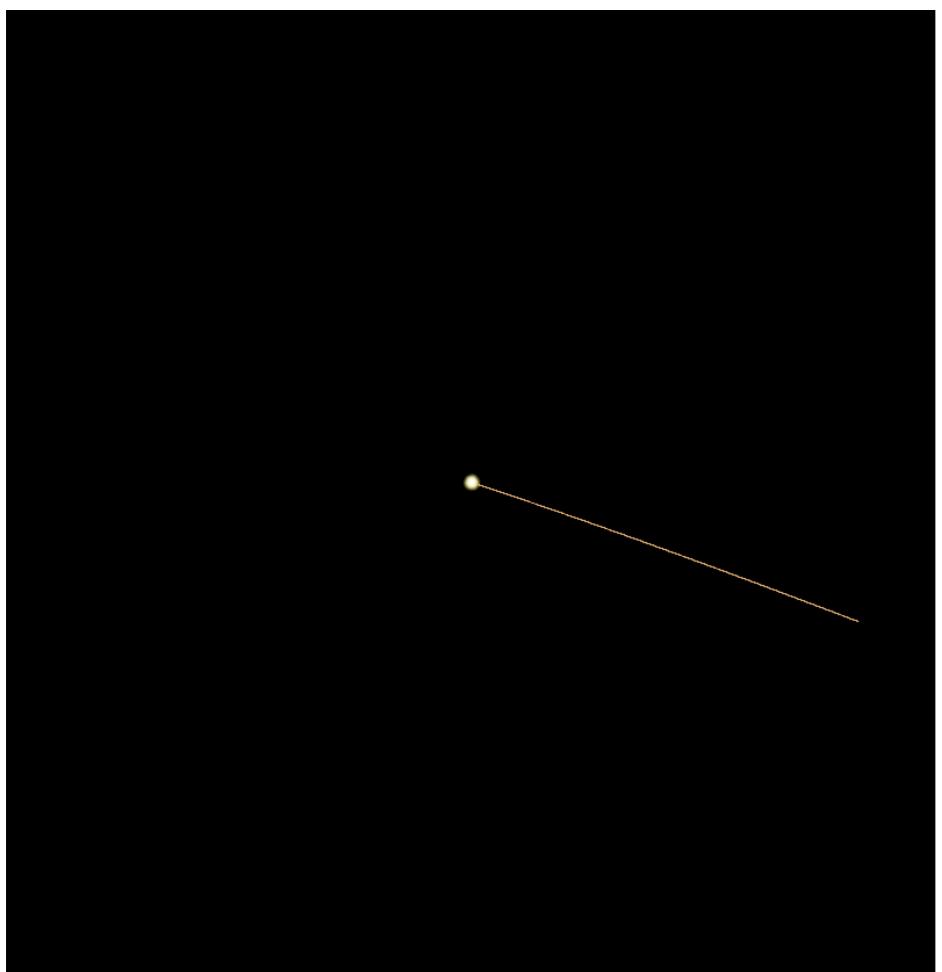
**5.** Second goes **supernova** and forms a BH  
*Is it still a binary?*

**6.** Inspiral, merger, ringdown and LIGO



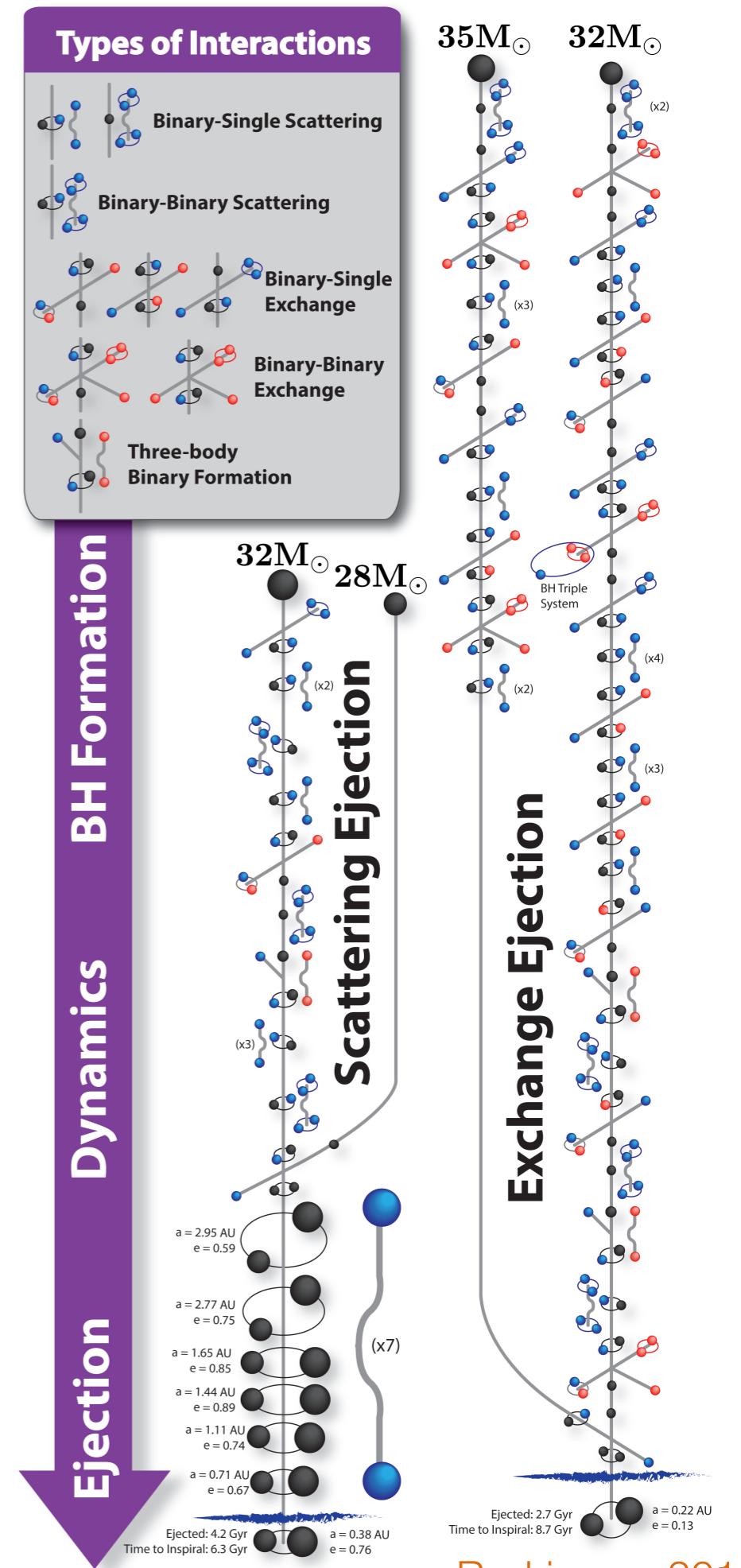
# Dynamical assembling: cluster evolution

1. Dense stellar clusters, many three body interactions
2. Dynamical friction: heavy objects sink towards the center
3. Soft binaries become softer, hard binaries become harder



**Key point:** stellar evolution is separate! They meet, swap, meet again, etc...

A. Geller



# Can we tell them apart?

## Masses and rates

>100 events needed to distinguish these populations with masses and rates...

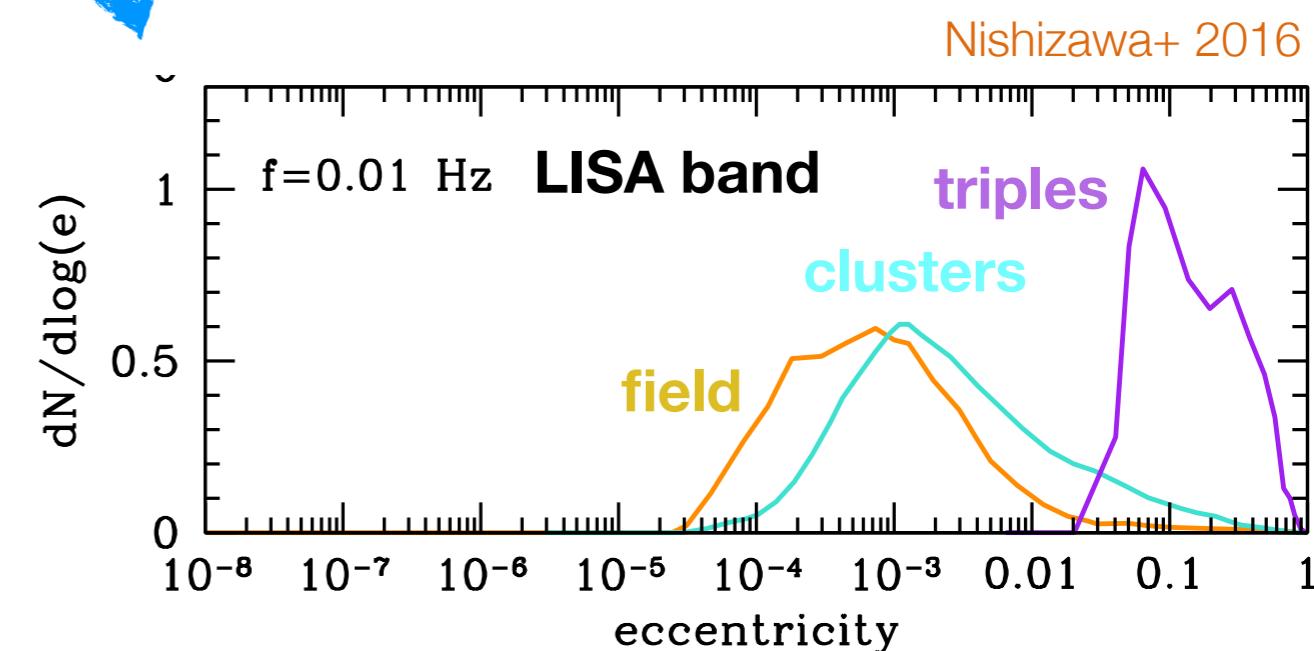
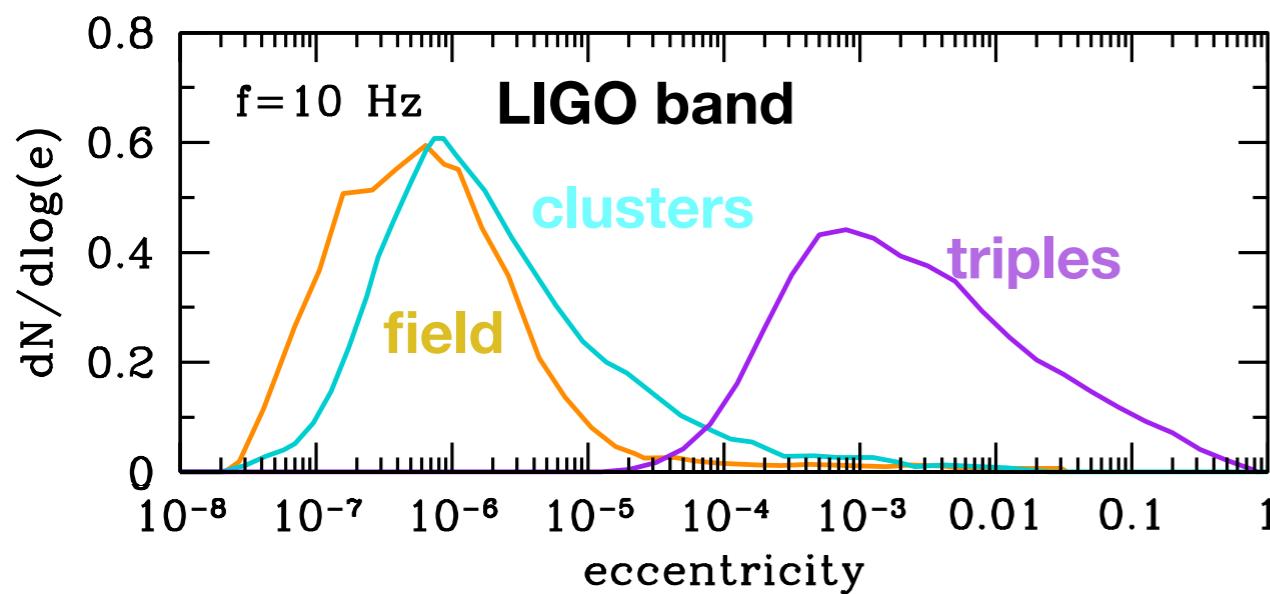
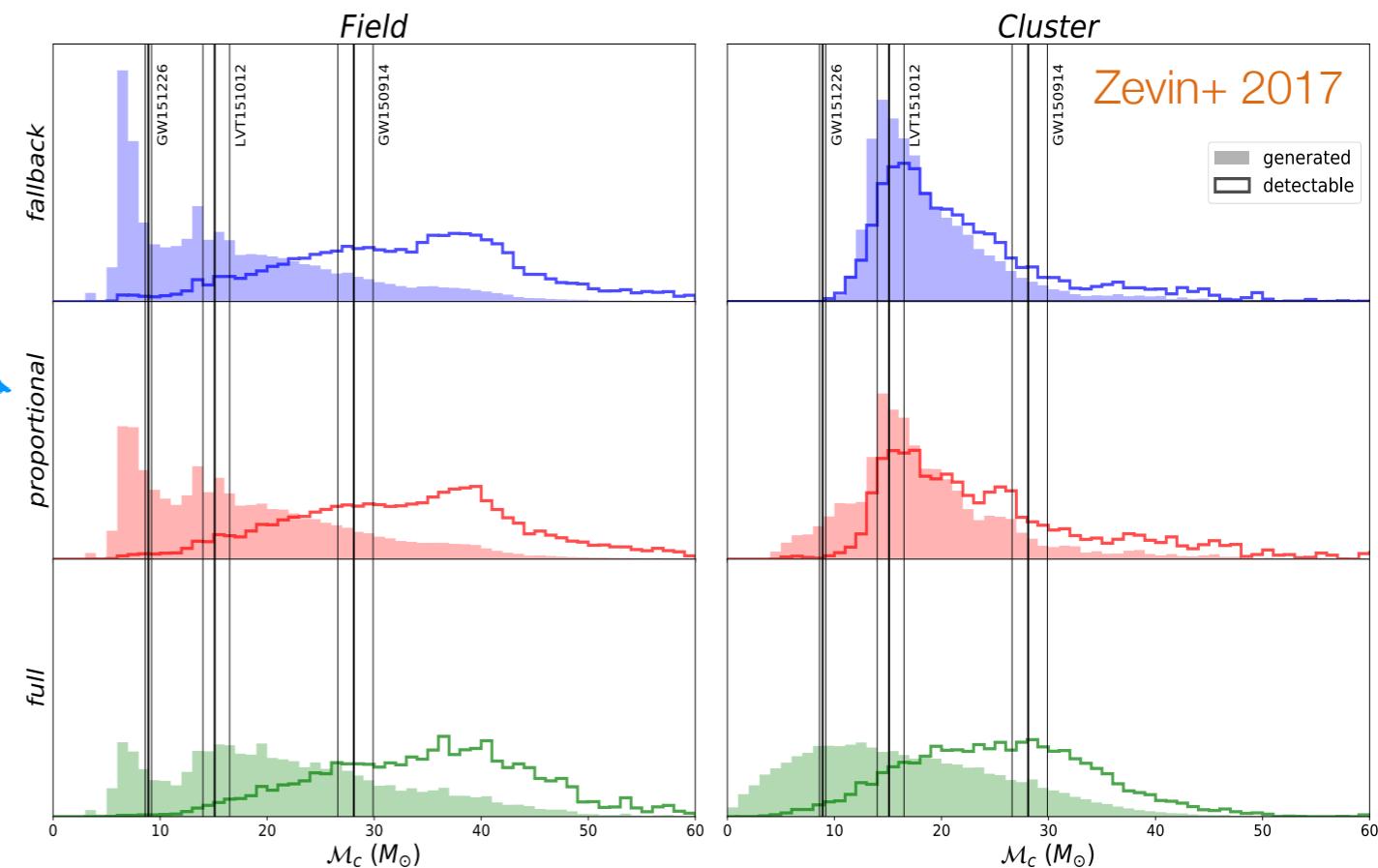
Stevenson+ 2015, Zevin+ 2017

## Eccentricities

Promising! Especially for specific scenarios, e.g. Antonini Perets 2012

## Multiband GW astronomy:

O(10) LISA observations Nishizawa+ 2016



# Spins have secrets!

**Field binaries:** evolve together.  
Tidal interactions and accretion  
tend to align the spins?



**Cluster binaries:** evolve separately  
and then meet. Isotropic spin  
distribution, more precession?



**What information is encoded in the  
spins for the events we have?  
And from many more detections?**

My two cents. The good news first...

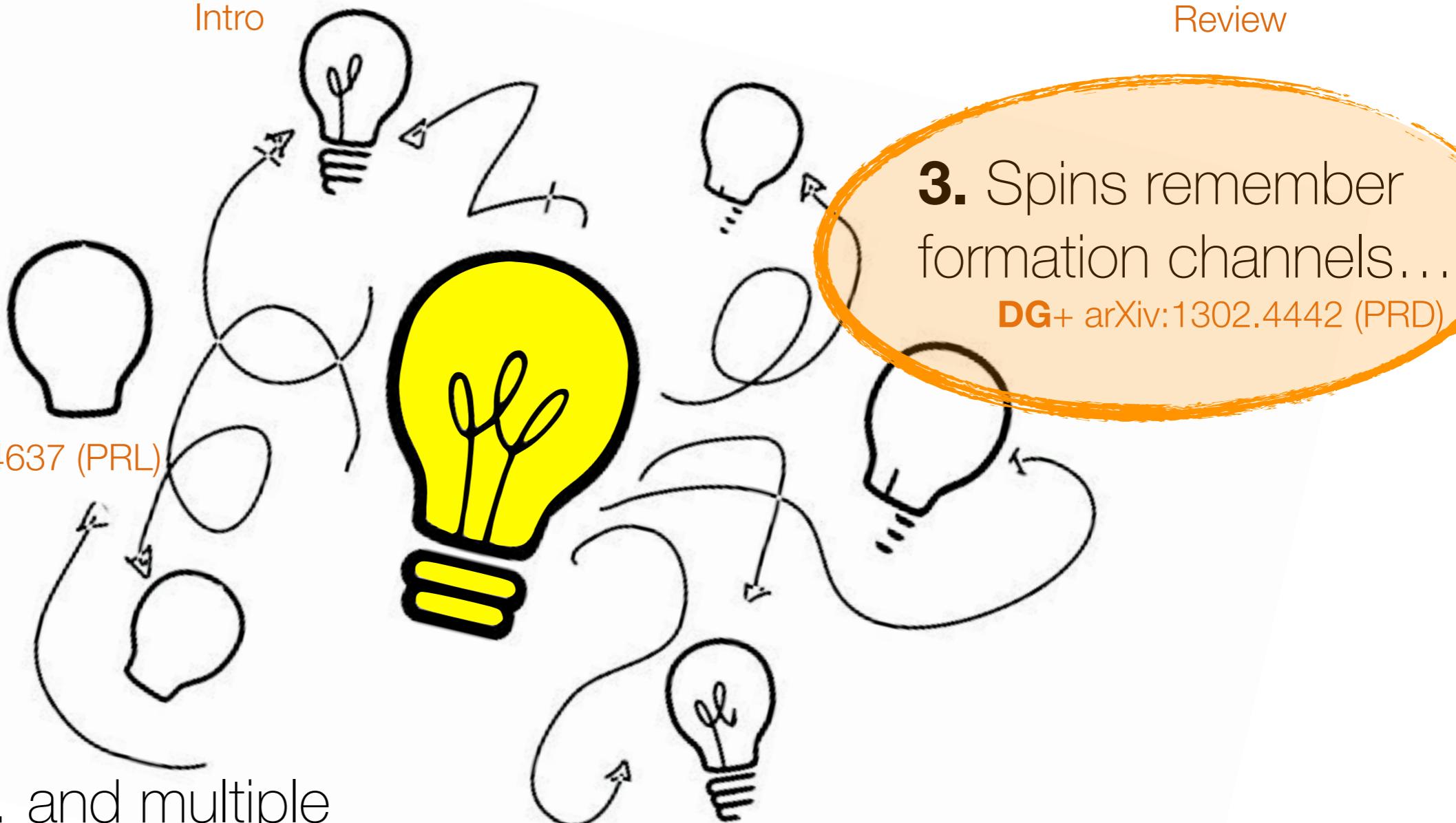
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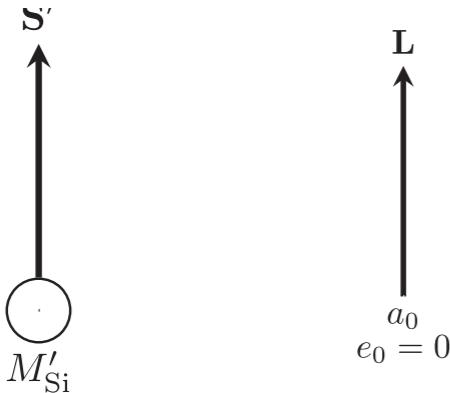
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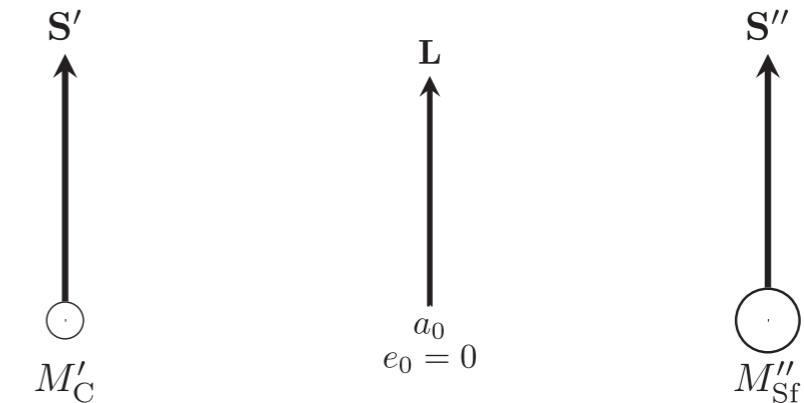
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# Field binaries, spin tracking

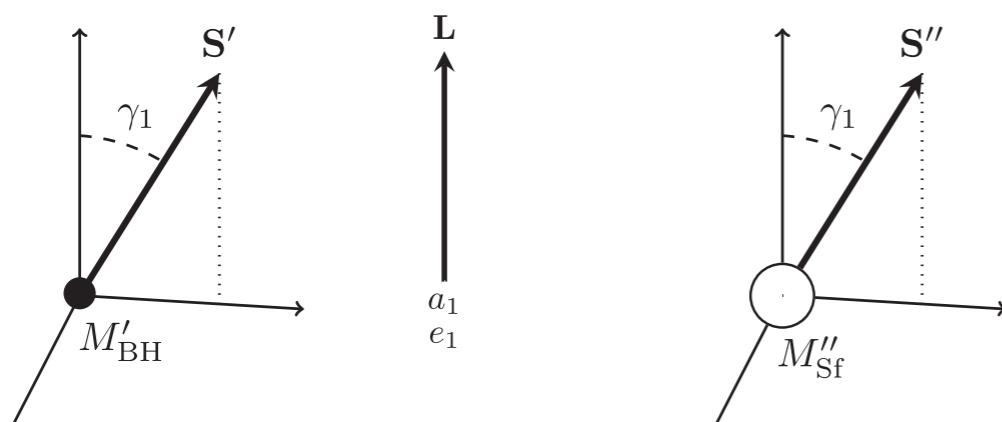
## 1. Massive binary stars



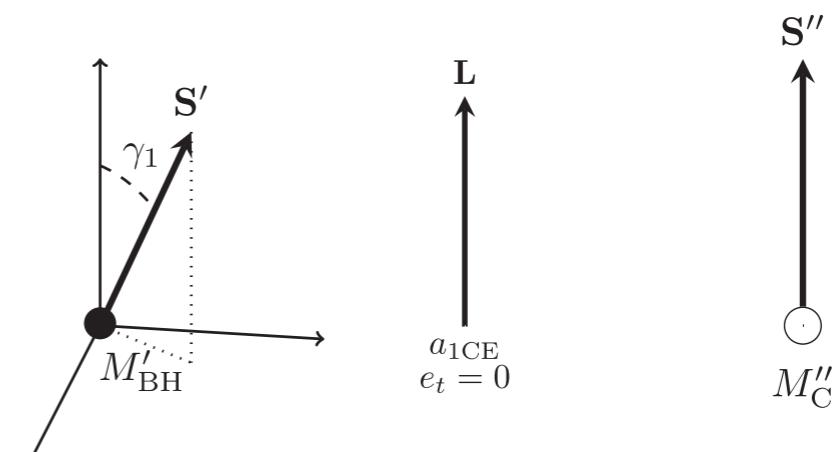
## 2. Mass transfer



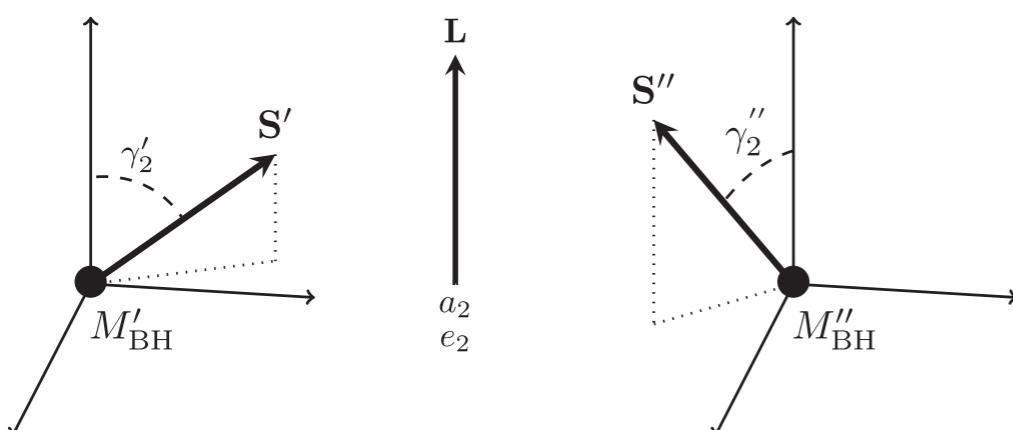
## 3. 1st Supernova explosion



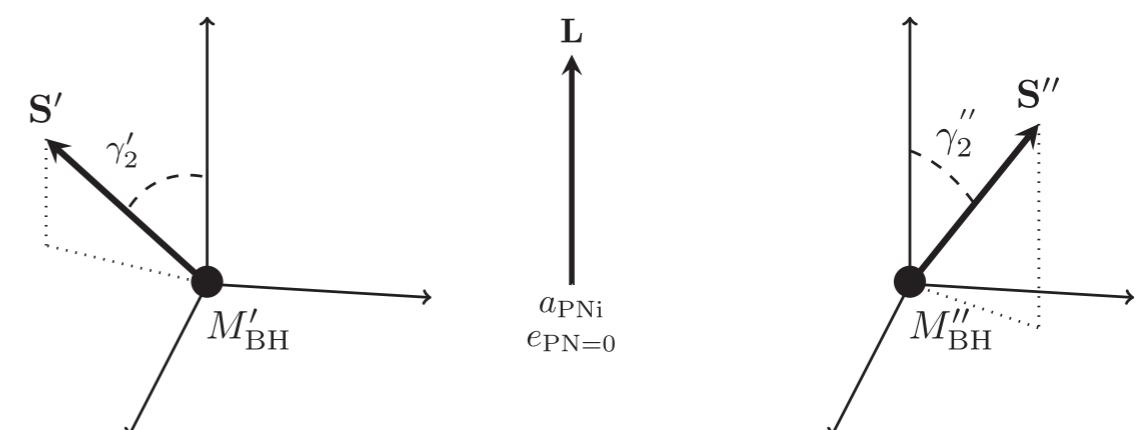
## 4. Tides, common envelope



## 5. 2nd Supernova explosion



## 5. Inspiral, merger, LIGO



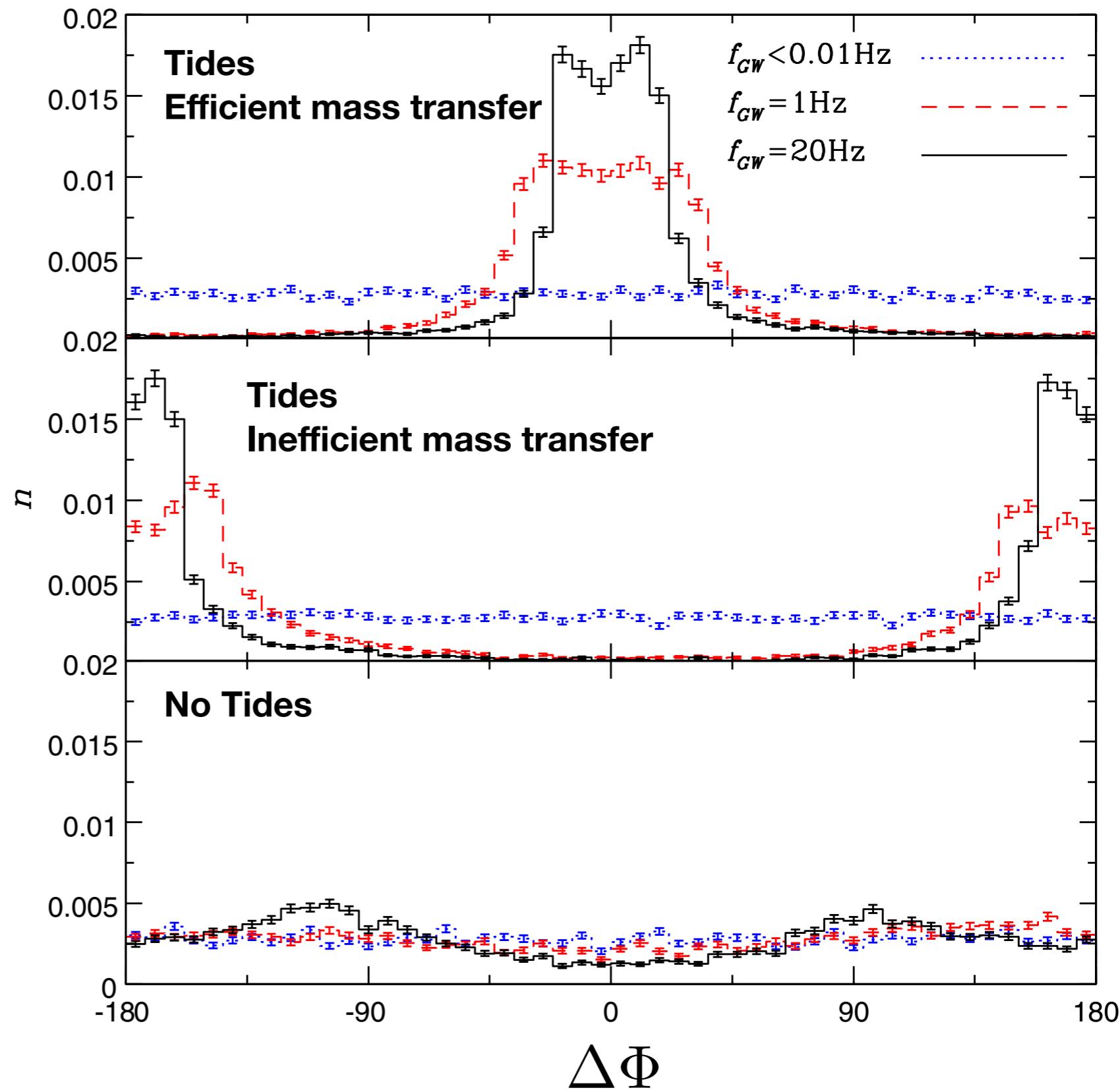
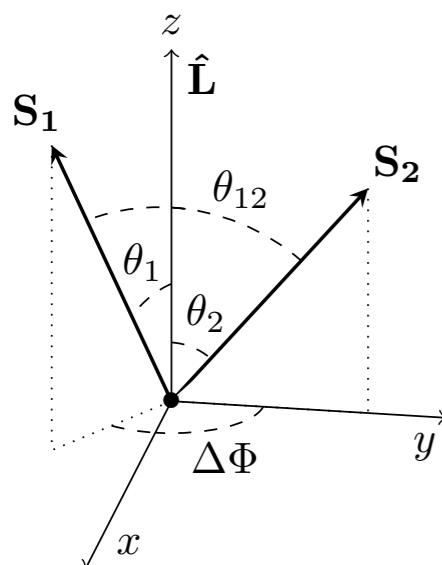
# A diagnostic of BH binary formation

DG+2013

## Two main knobs:

- **Tides**: when the system is formed of a BH and a star, can tidal interactions align the star's spin?
- **Mass transfer**: is mass transfer efficient enough to reverse the mass ratio?

Spin dynamics  
remembers *precise*  
formation steps!



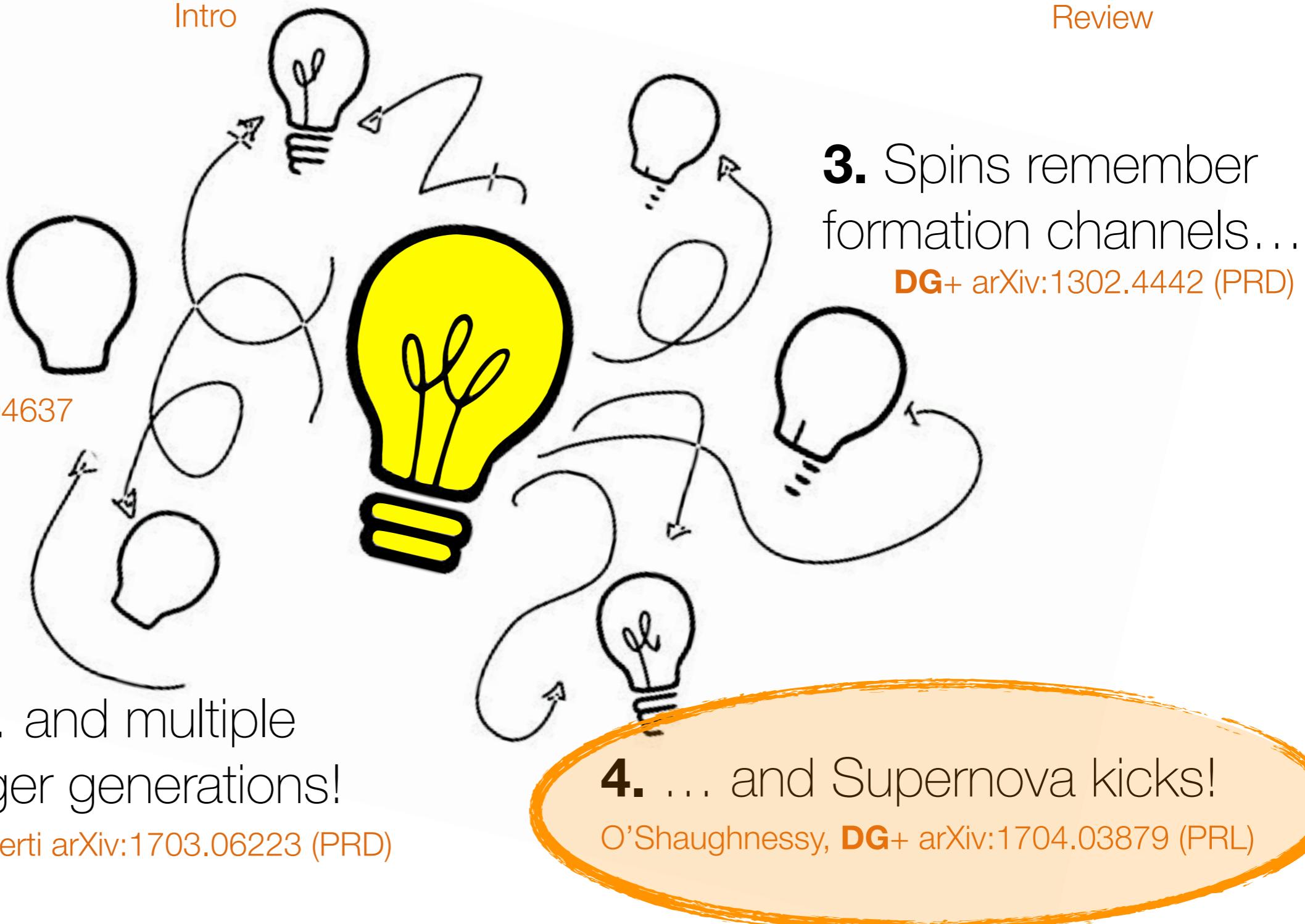
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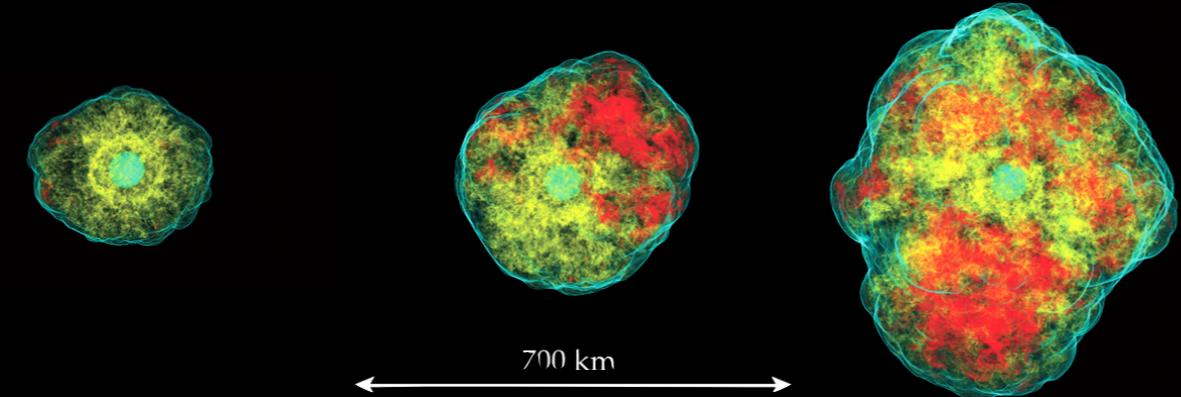
Vitale, **DG+** arxiv:1707.04637



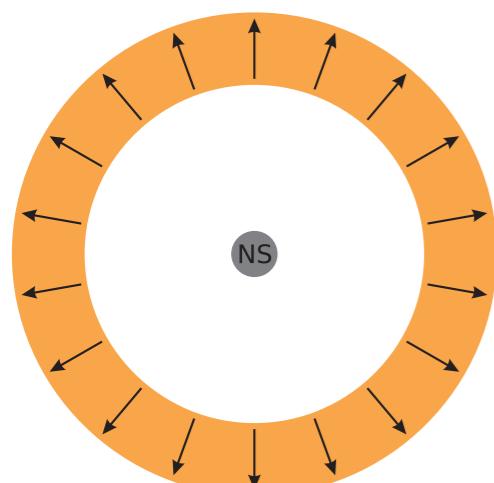
# Supernova asymmetries and kicks

Scheck+2006; Repetto+2013,2015; Janka 2013

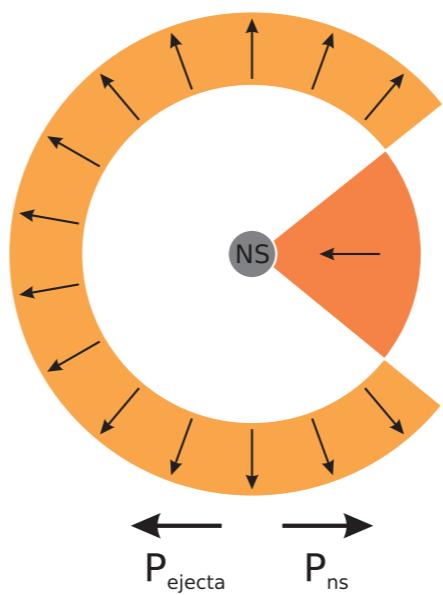
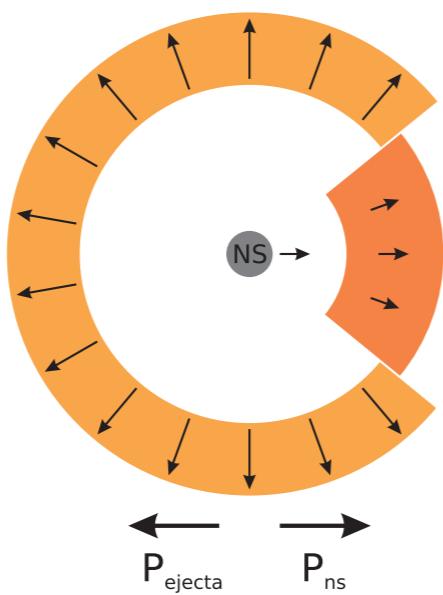
Ott+2013



**Asymmetric Supernova:**  
multiD simulations shows  
strong mass/neutrino  
asymmetric emission



Scheck+2006



**Gravitational tugboat  
mechanism**

- Emission concentrated close to the shock
- Remnant starts recoiling towards the slow ejecta
- Gravitational attraction and fallback material



# How big is the kick?

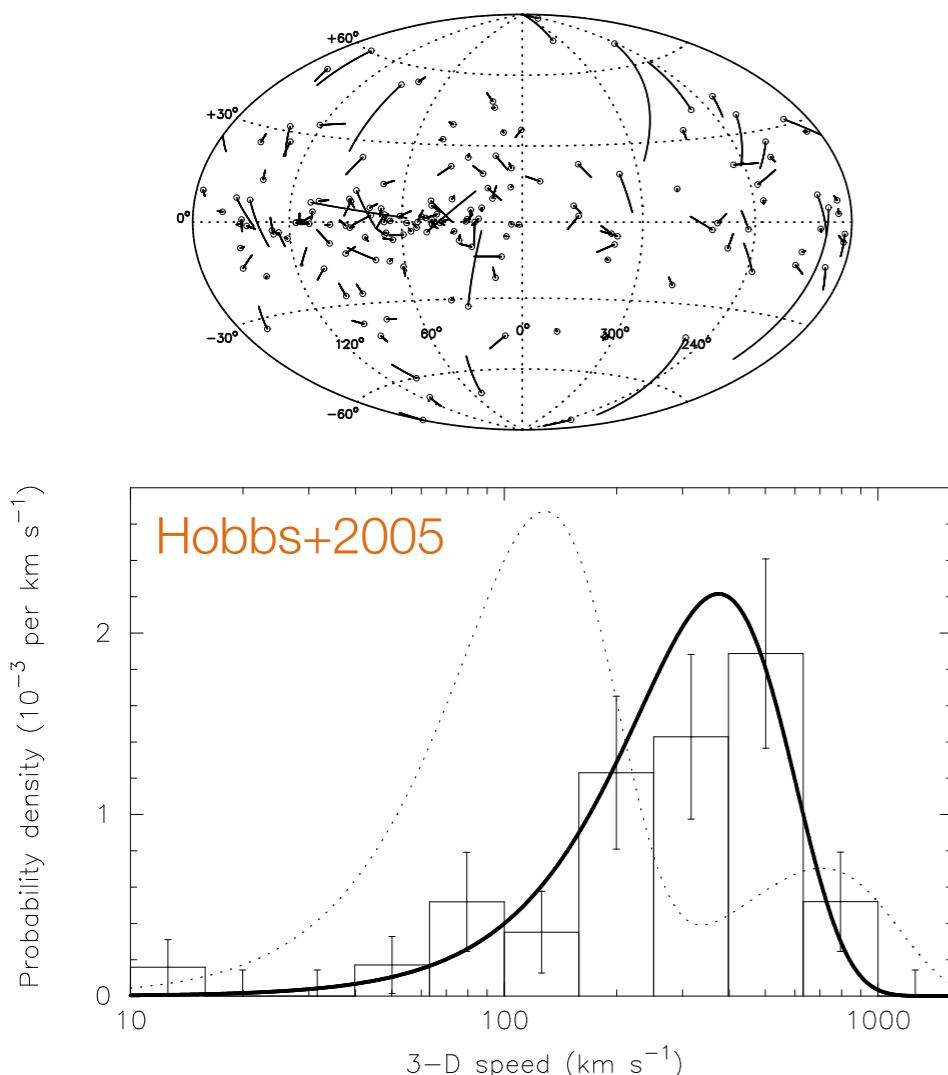


One of the main uncertainties in all population synthesis models

## Neutron stars:

solid measurement from pulsar  
proper motion distribution

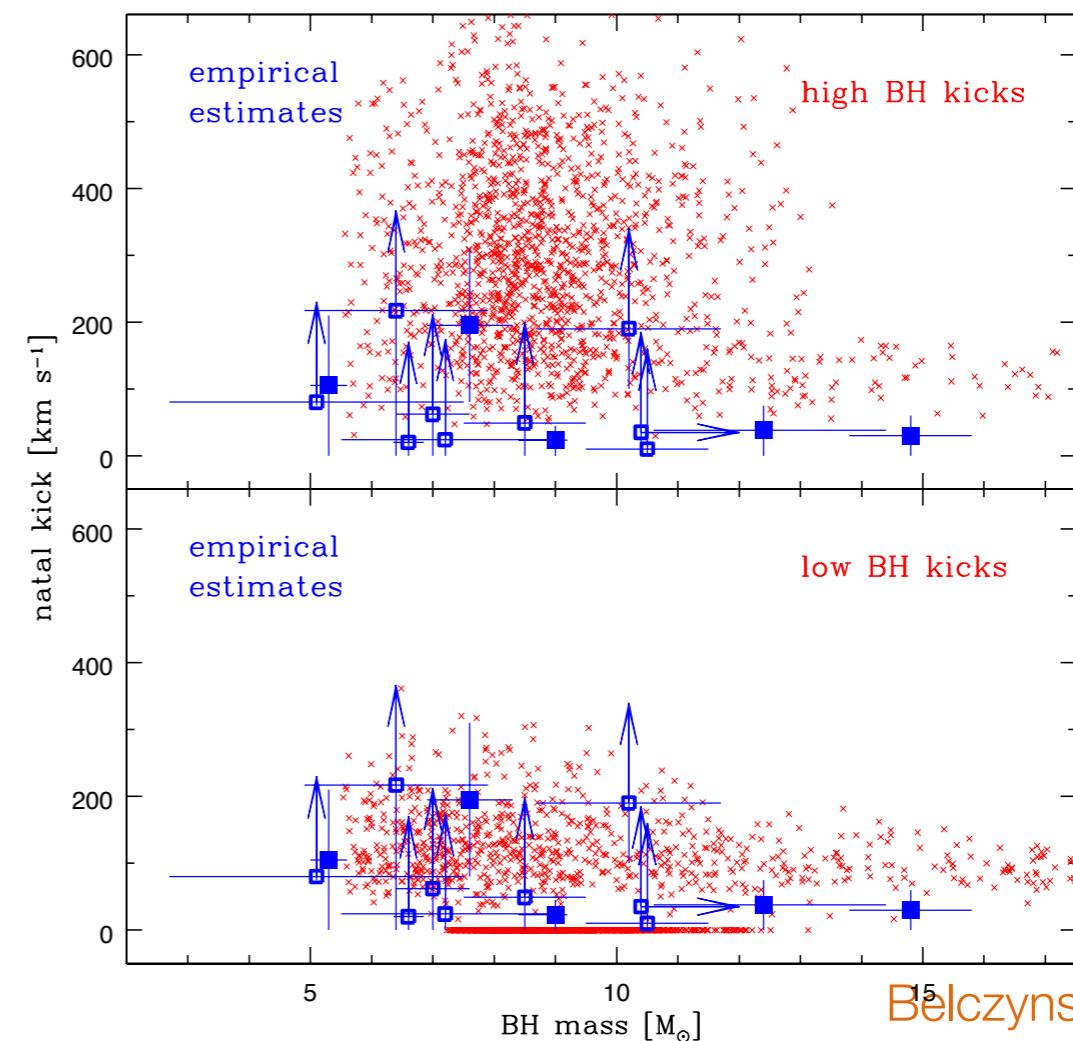
$$v_k \sim 450 \text{ km/s}$$



## Black holes?

- Fallback prevents kicks entirely, especially for high masses? Fryer+2001,2012; Janka 2013
- Kicks as large as those imparted to NS?

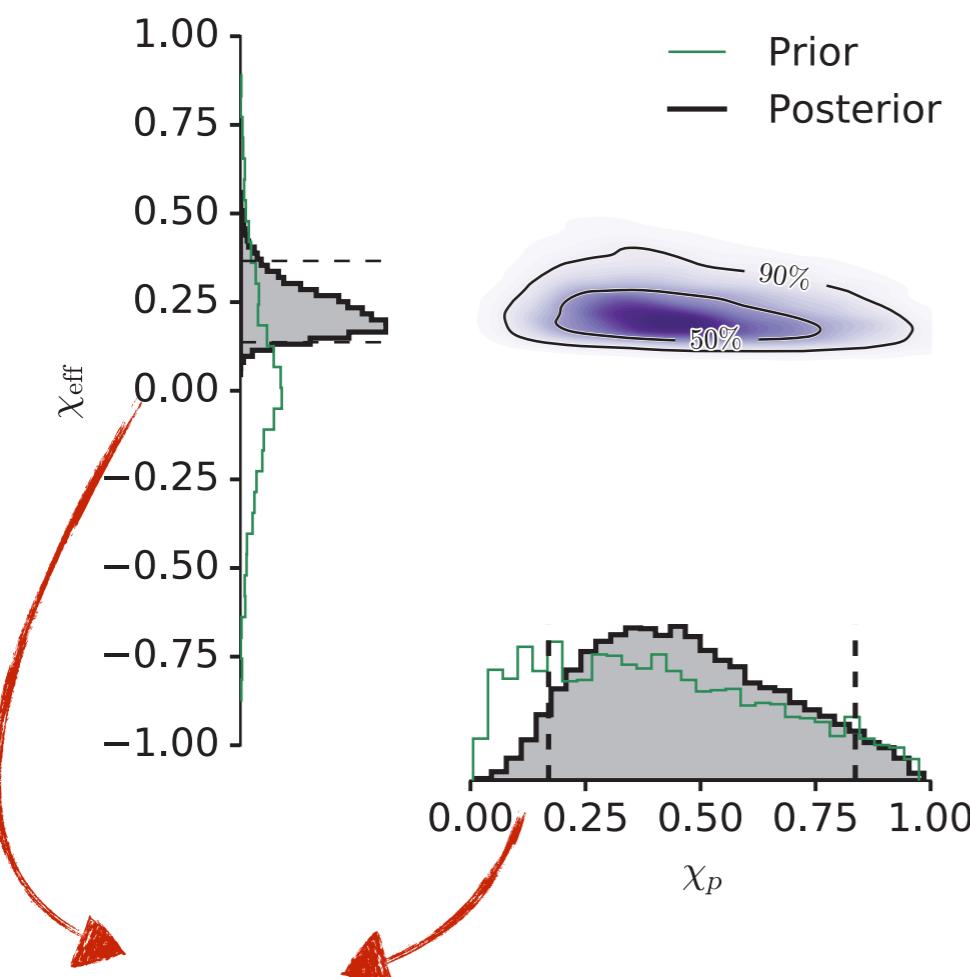
Repetto+2013,2015



# Boxing day event (GW151226)

A light event...

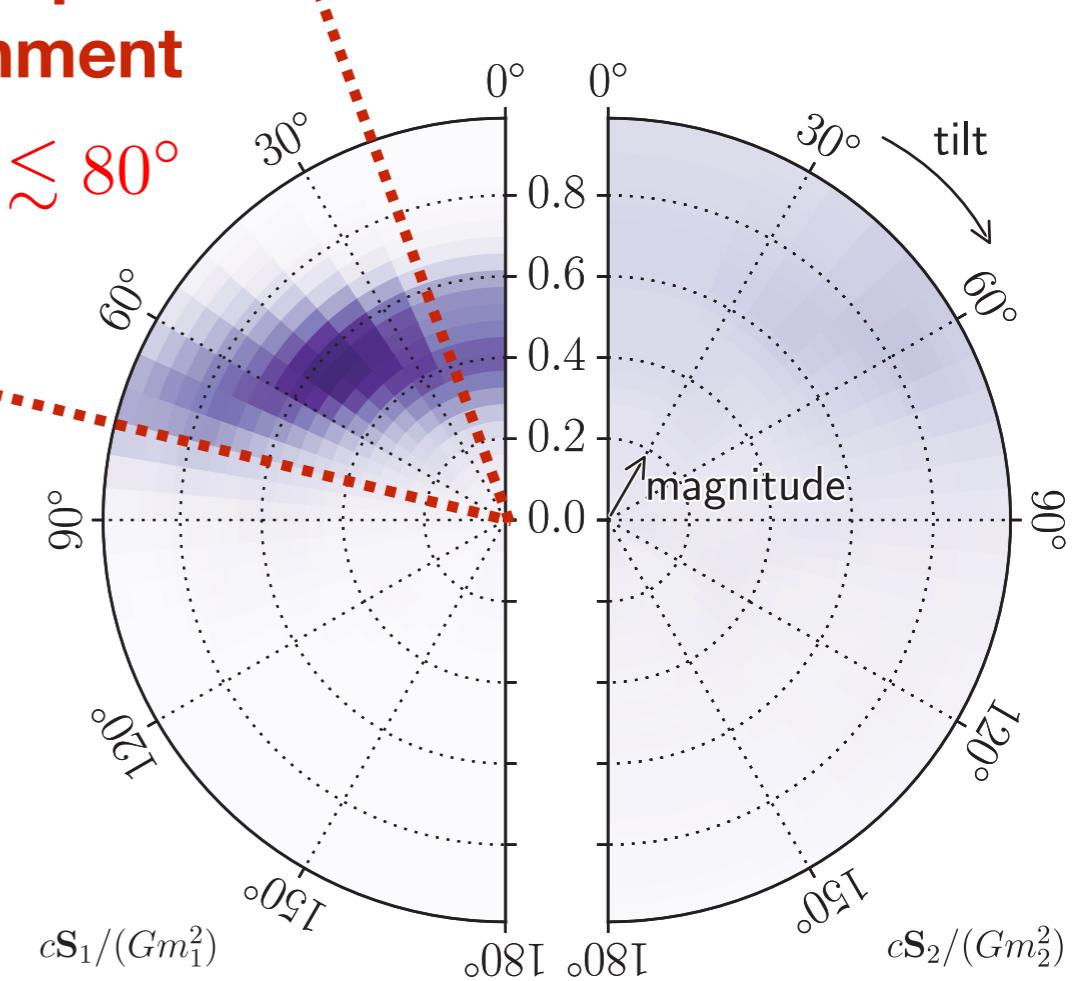
Primary black hole mass	$14.2^{+8.3}_{-3.7} M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass	$7.5^{+2.3}_{-2.3} M_{\odot}$
Chirp mass	$8.9^{+0.3}_{-0.3} M_{\odot}$
Total black hole mass	$21.8^{+5.9}_{-1.7} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole mass	$20.8^{+6.1}_{-1.7} M_{\odot}$



Spins not consistent with zero

## Primary spin misalignment

$$25^\circ \lesssim \gamma \lesssim 80^\circ$$

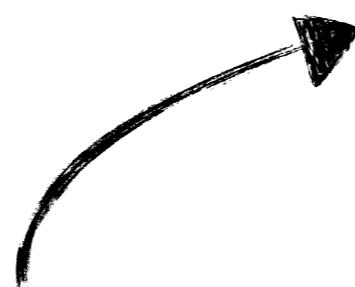


# First GW kick measurement!

O'Shaugnessy, DG+2017

Newtonian kinematics:

- kick:  $\mathbf{v} \rightarrow \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v}_k$
- mass loss:  $M \rightarrow M_f = \beta M$
- Orbital plane tilt  $\cos \gamma = \hat{\mathbf{L}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}}_f$
- Kick distribution 1d RMS  $\sigma$



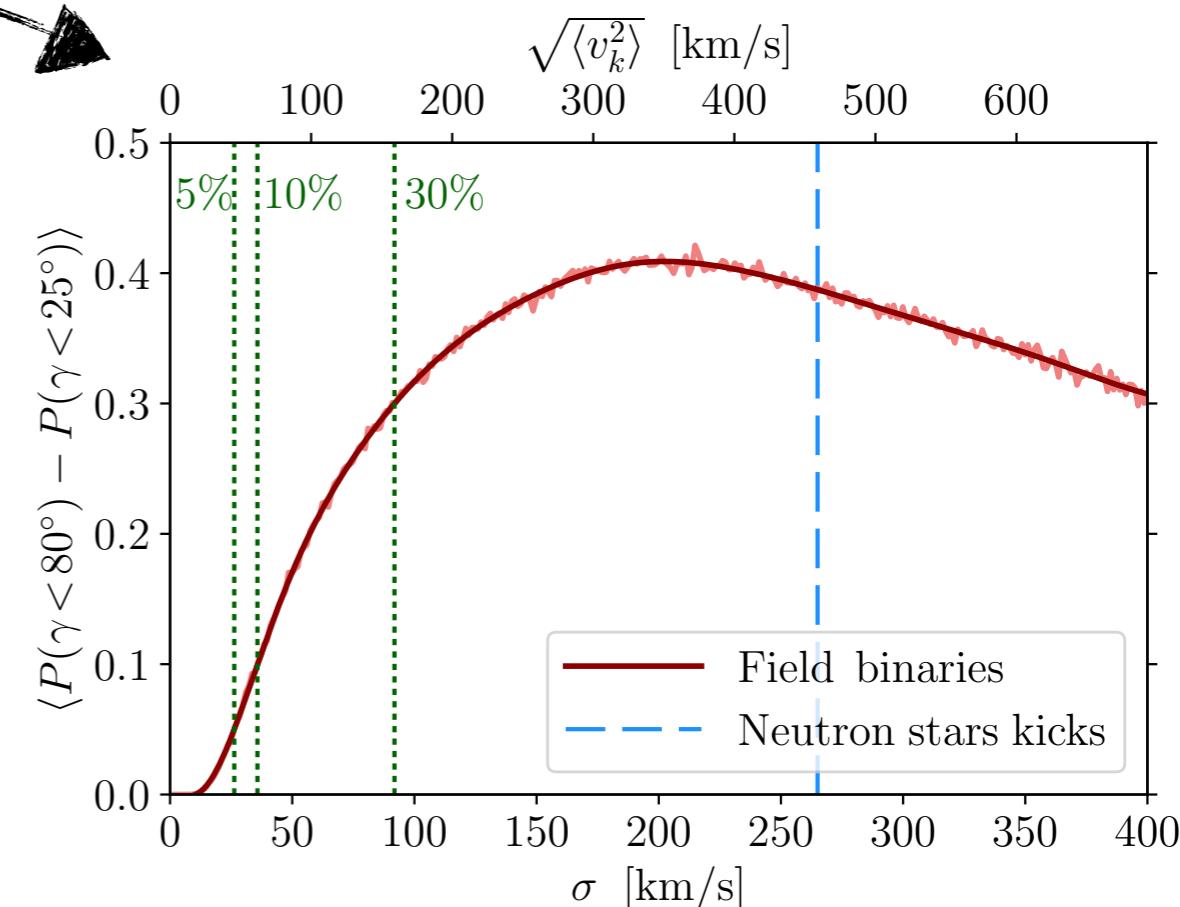
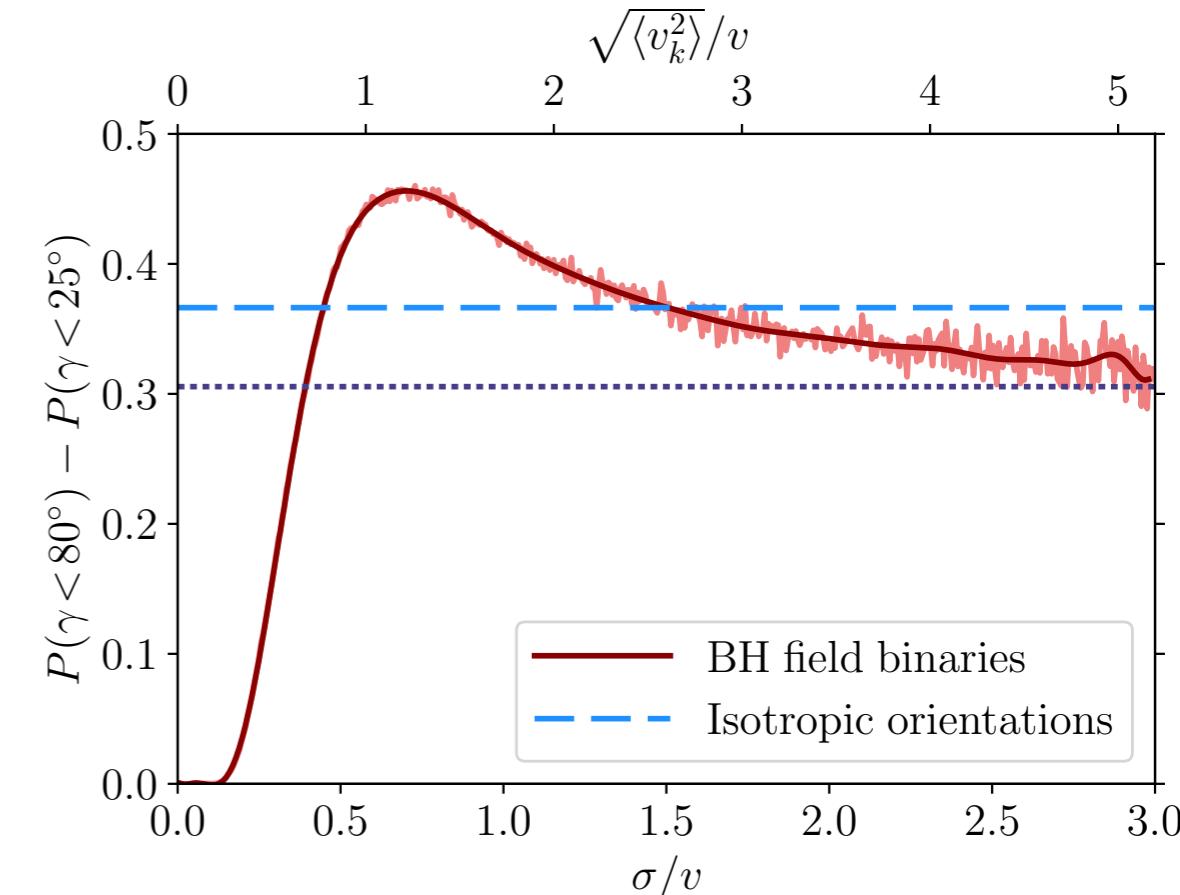
**Probability of obtaining boxing day  
as a function of BH natal kick**

Average over stellar population

Belczynski+2016

**GW151226 consistent only  
with a natal kick of at least**

$$v_k \sim 50 \text{ km/s}$$



- Towards those X-ray measurements?
- Such high kicks are challenging for SN theorists!

# Outline

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**5.** But careful  
with the prior!

Vitale, **DG+** arxiv:1707.04637 (PRL)

**5.** ... and multiple  
merger generations!

**DG**, Berti arXiv:1703.06223 (PRD)

**2.** Where do BHs come from?

Review

**3.** Spins remember  
formation channels...

**DG+** arXiv:1302.4442 (PRD)

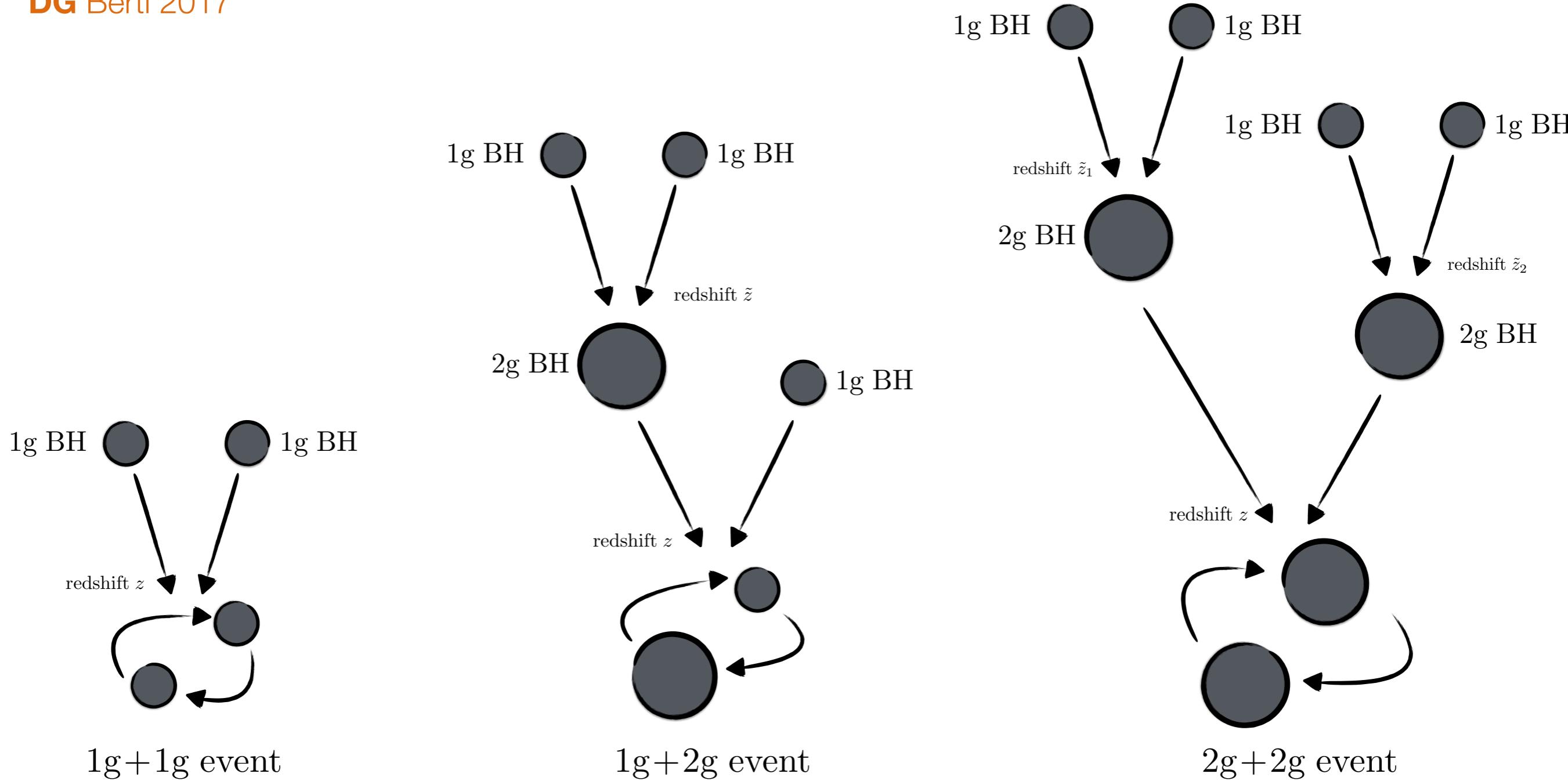
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O'Shaughnessy, **DG+** arXiv:1704.03879 (PRL)



# Black hole generations

DG Berti 2017

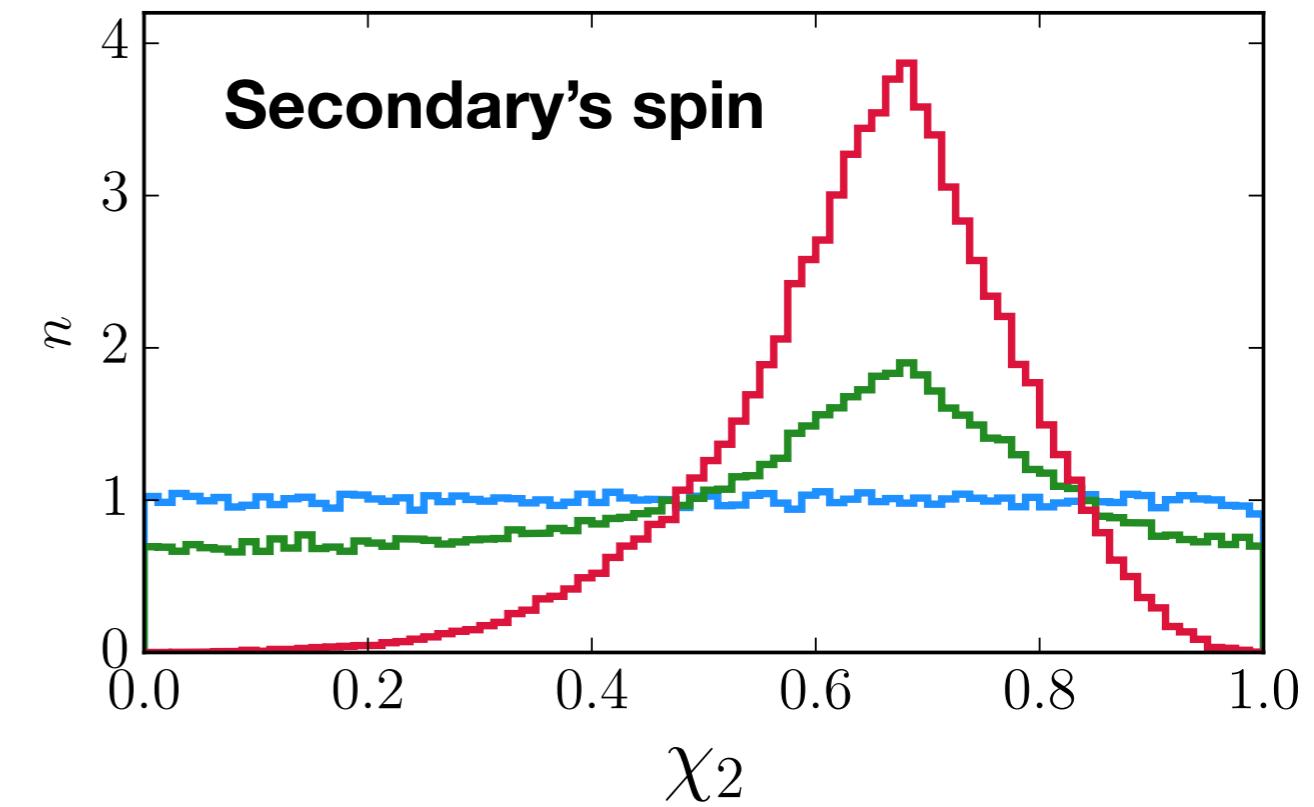
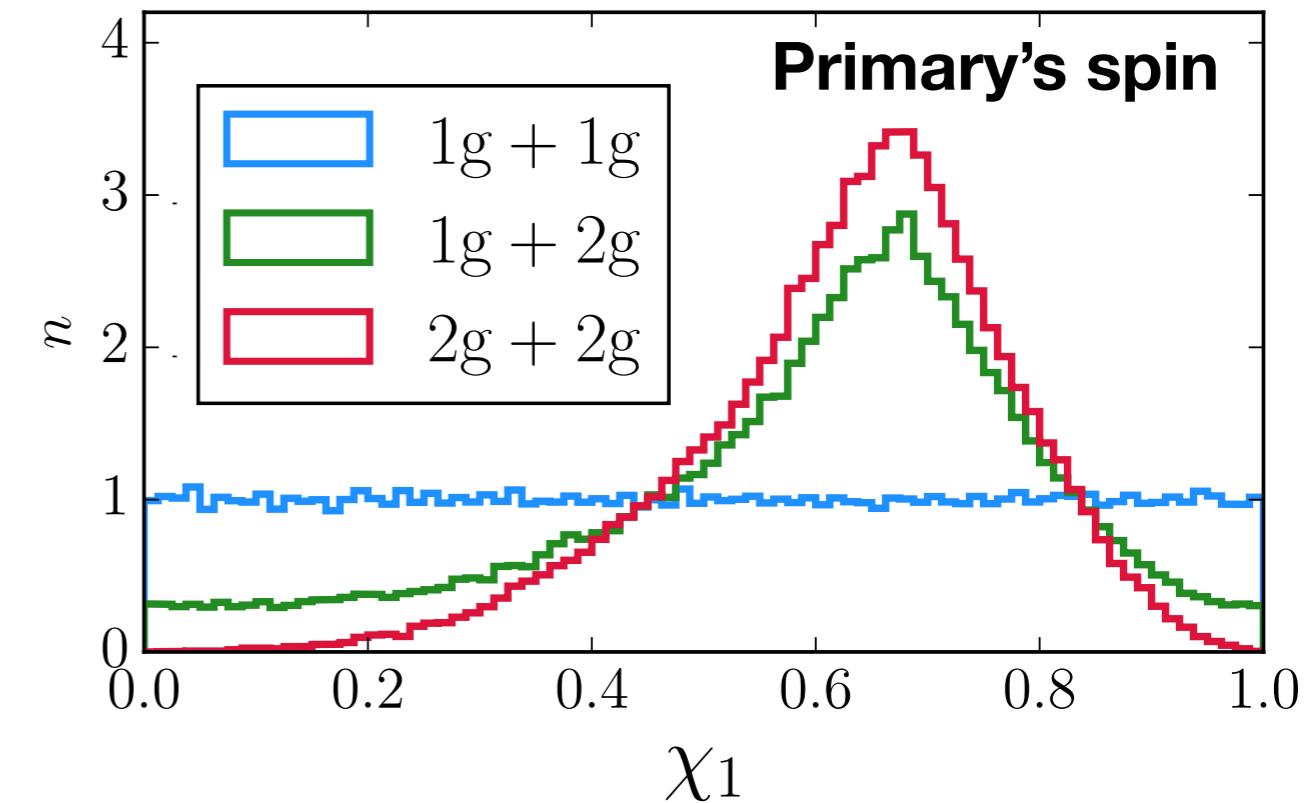


**Orthogonal**, but complementary, direction  
to the usual field vs. cluster debate

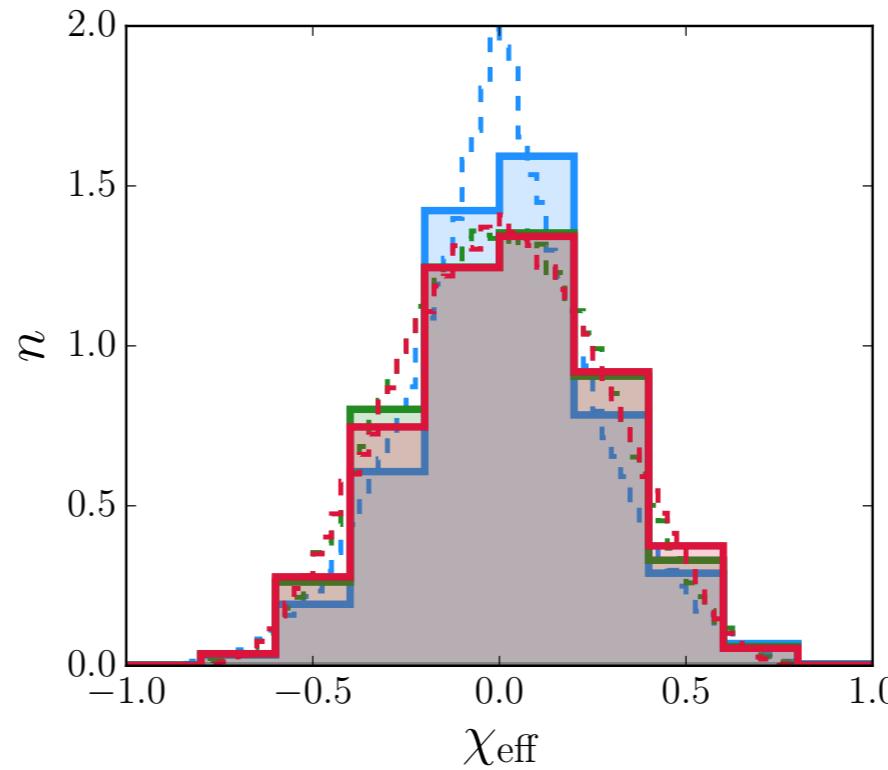
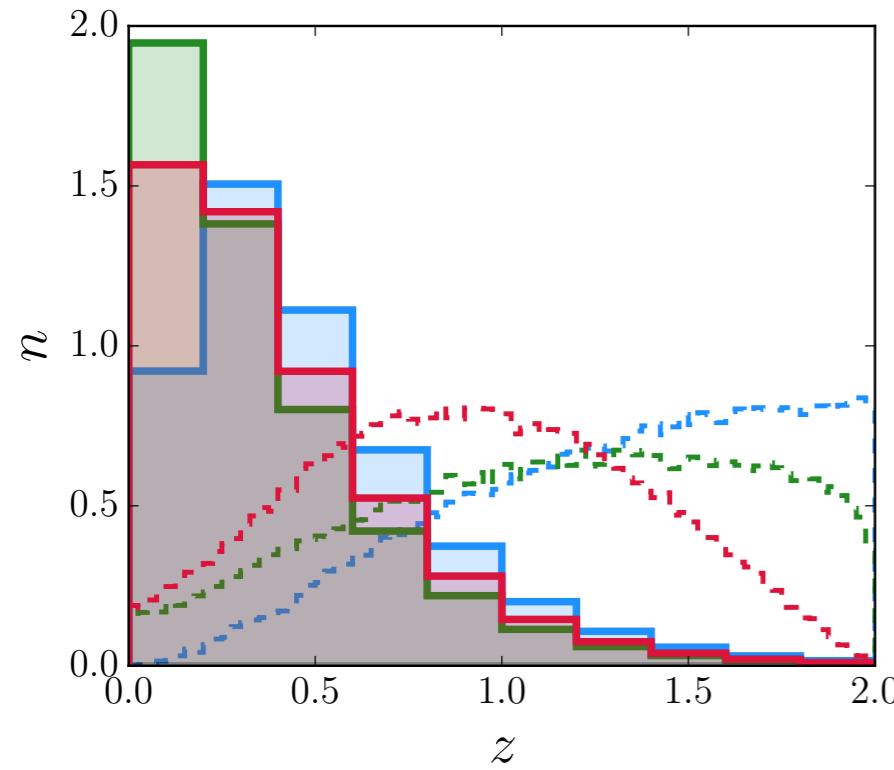
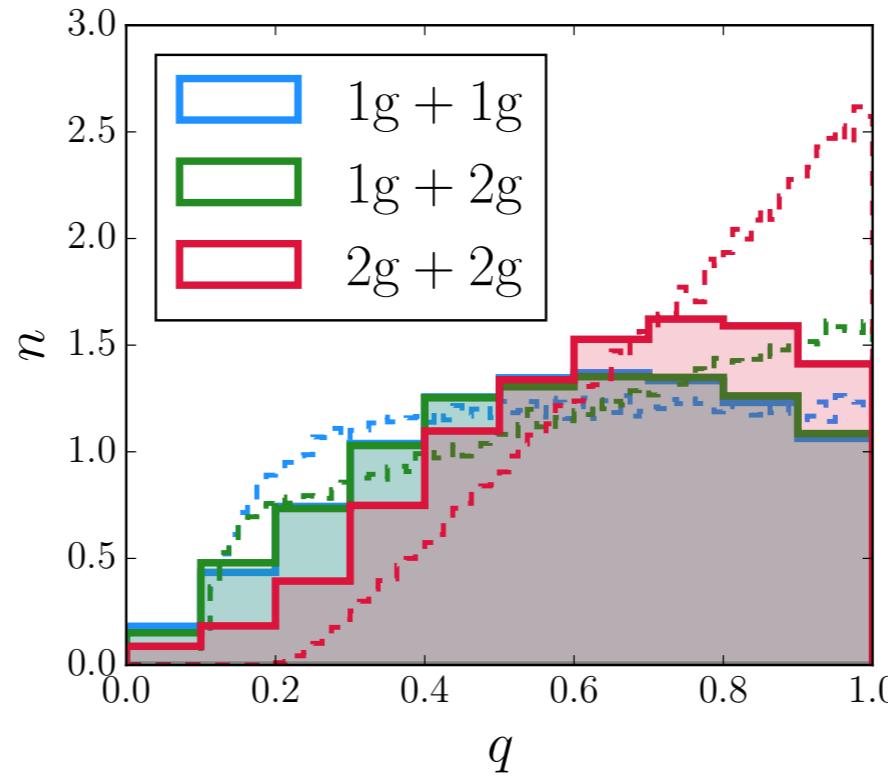
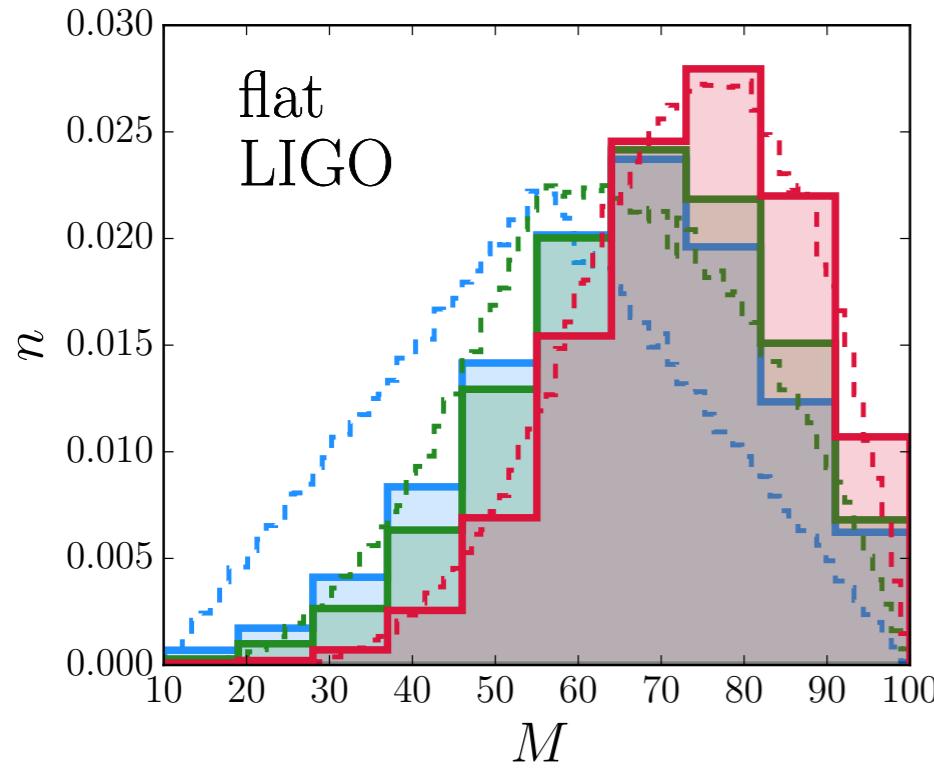
# Spins, 1st and 2nd generations

- At merger, the binary's orbital angular momentum has to be converted into spin
- More or less whatever you do when you merge two BHs, you get  $\sim 0.7$ !

**Spins remember  
previous mergers!**



# More mergers means...



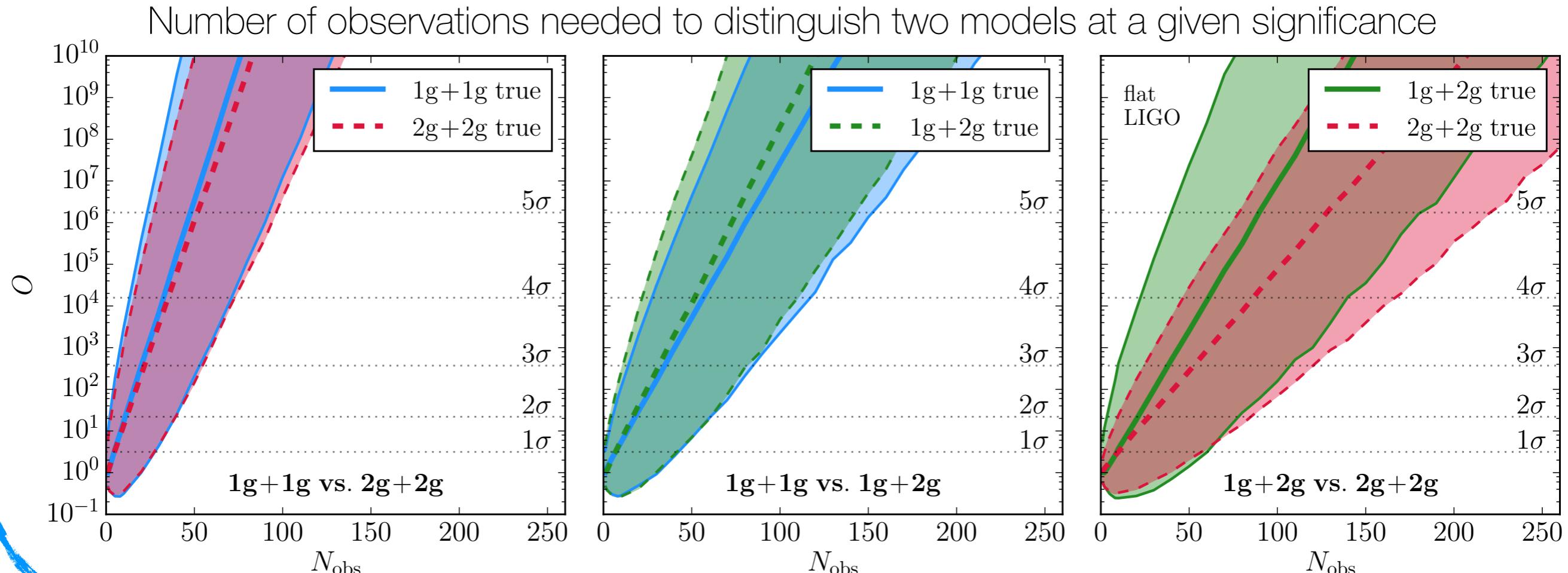
## Mergers means:

- more massive
- equal mass
- closer
- higher spins

## Analysis:

- filter SNR
- measurement errors, spread over multiple bins
- Bayesian model comparison

# Can we infer previous mergers happened?



Need only 10-60 observations to distinguish  $1g+1g$  vs  $2g+2g$  at  $5\sigma$ !

**Already!** Using O1 events only:

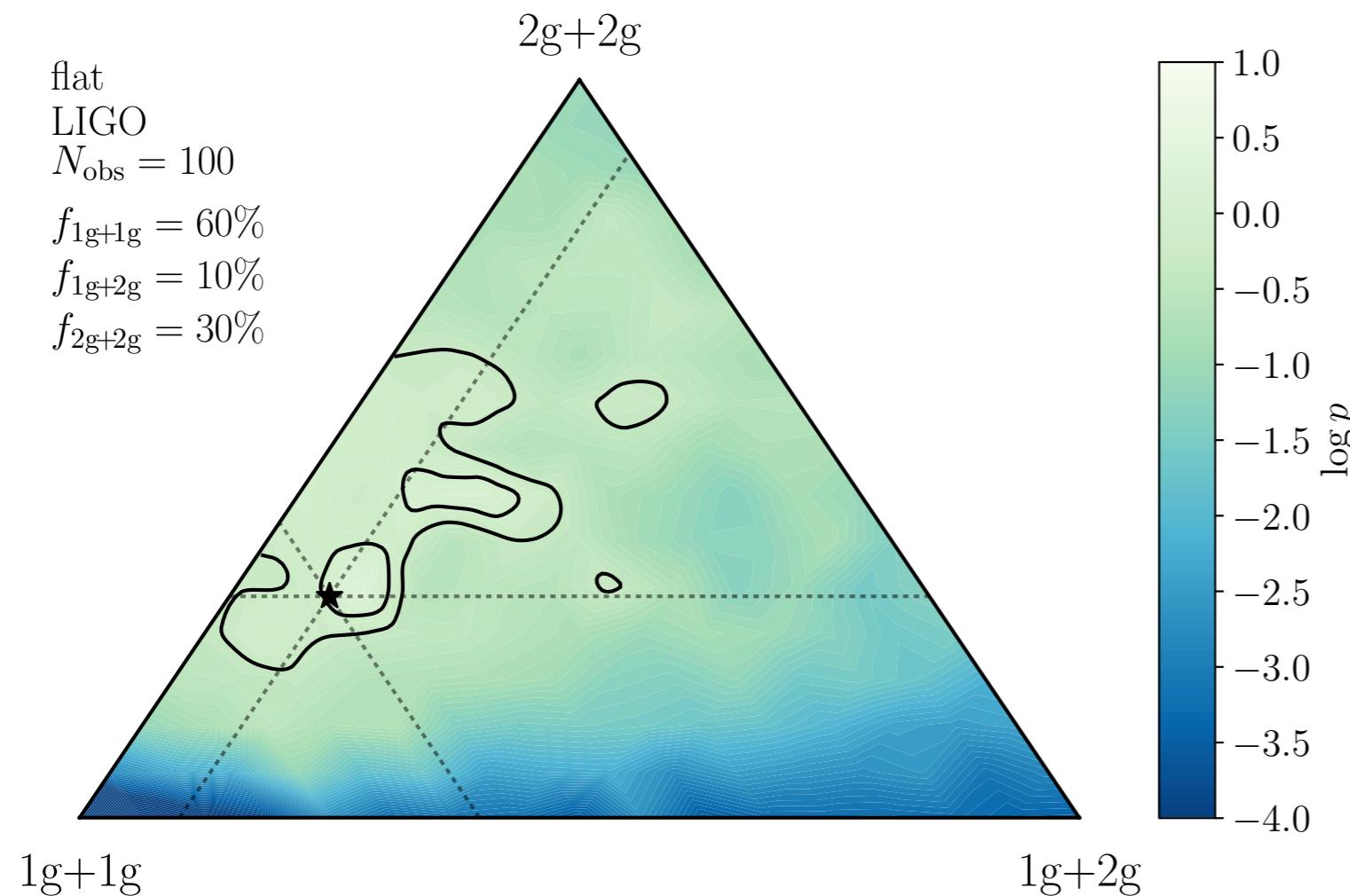
**1g1g vs. 2g2g. Odds: 12**

**1g1g vs. 1g2g. Odds: 2**

**1g2g vs. 2g2g. Odds: 6**

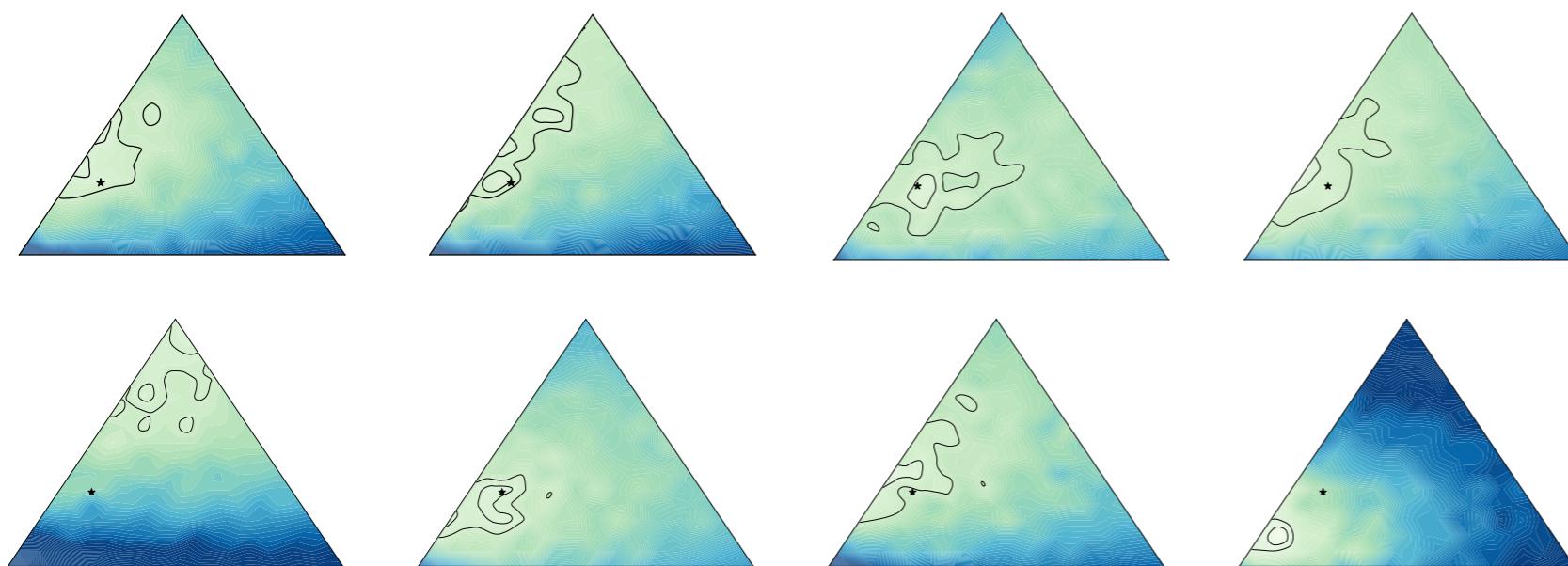
**2 $\sigma$  statement our BHs are not 2g+2g!**

# Can we infer previous mergers happened?



Three models mixed,  
**can we measure their  
mixing fraction?**

- each pure model is on a corner
- assuming 100 BBH
- 90% and 50% confidence intervals



**Yes, but that's harder.**  
Need  $O(100)$   
observations and/or a  
better detector!

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## 2. Where do BHs come from?

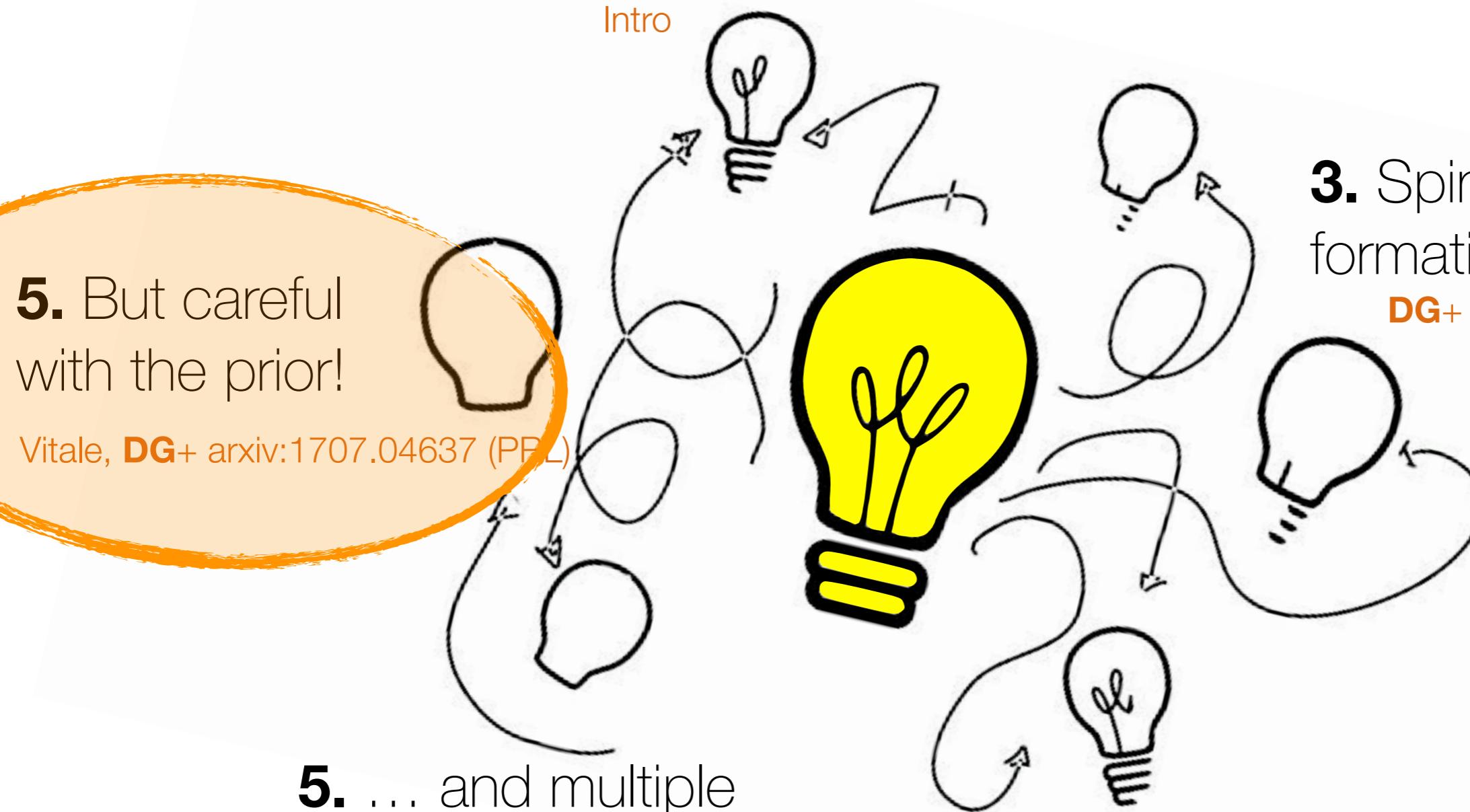
Review

## 3. Spins remember formation channels...

DG+ arXiv:1302.4442 (PRD)

## 4. ... and Supernova kicks!

O'Shaughnessy, DG+ arXiv:1704.03879 (PRL)

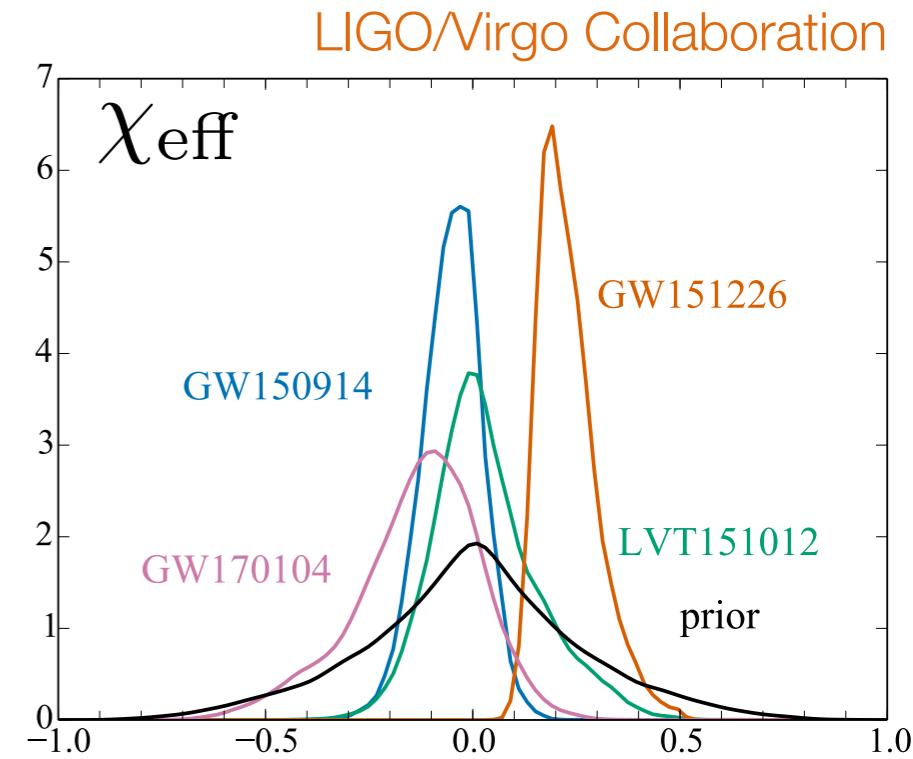


# Hold on... How about the prior?

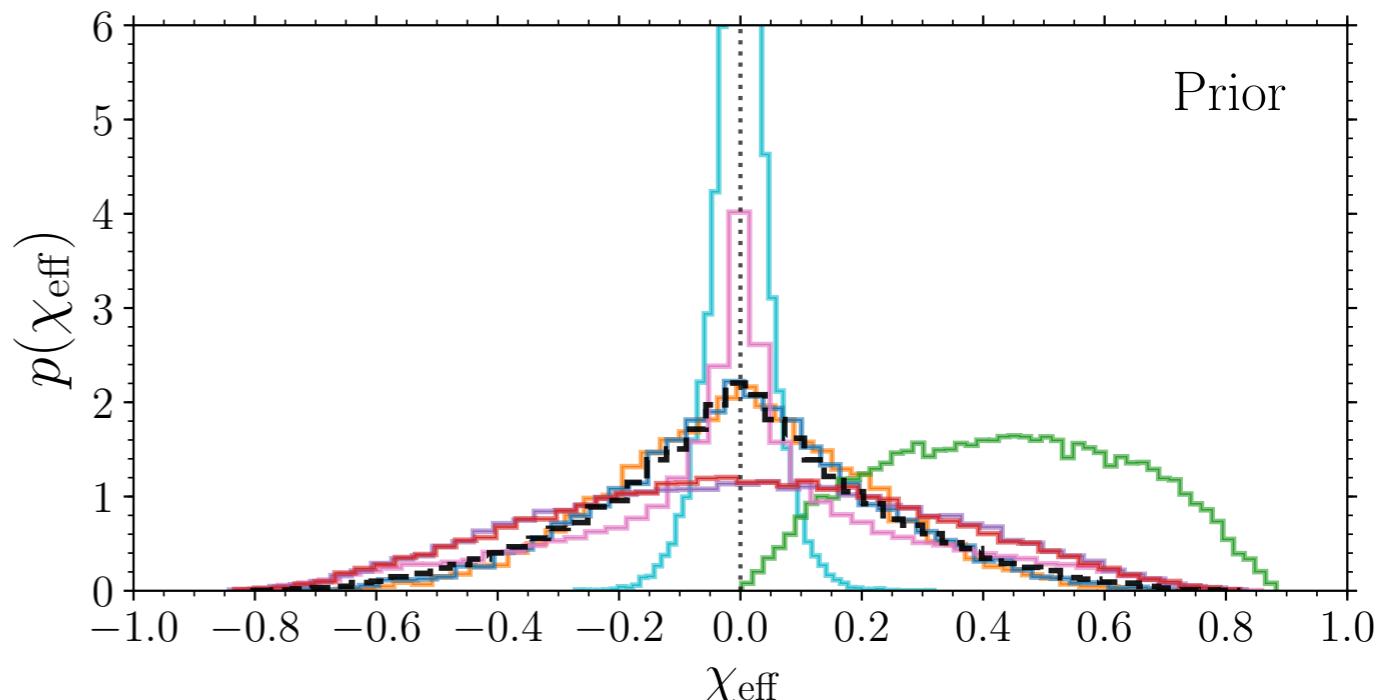
- Everything derived using priors with isotropic spins!
- **Risky situation**: our prior is one of the models we are trying to discriminate!

**First independent reanalysis  
of the LIGO data**

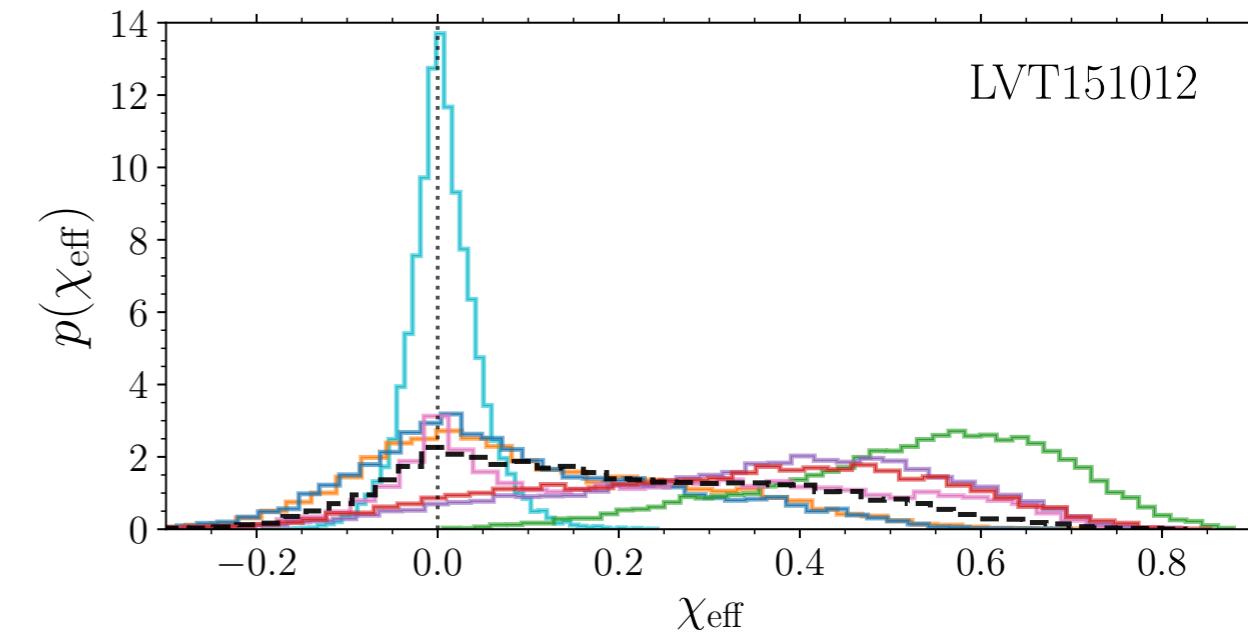
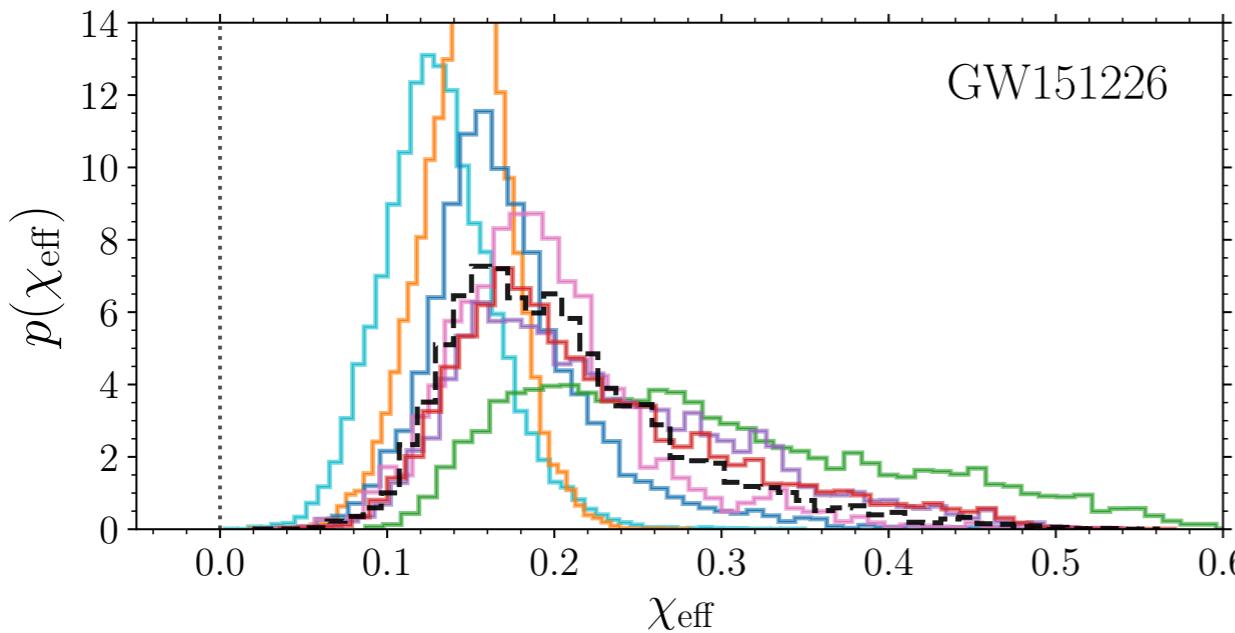
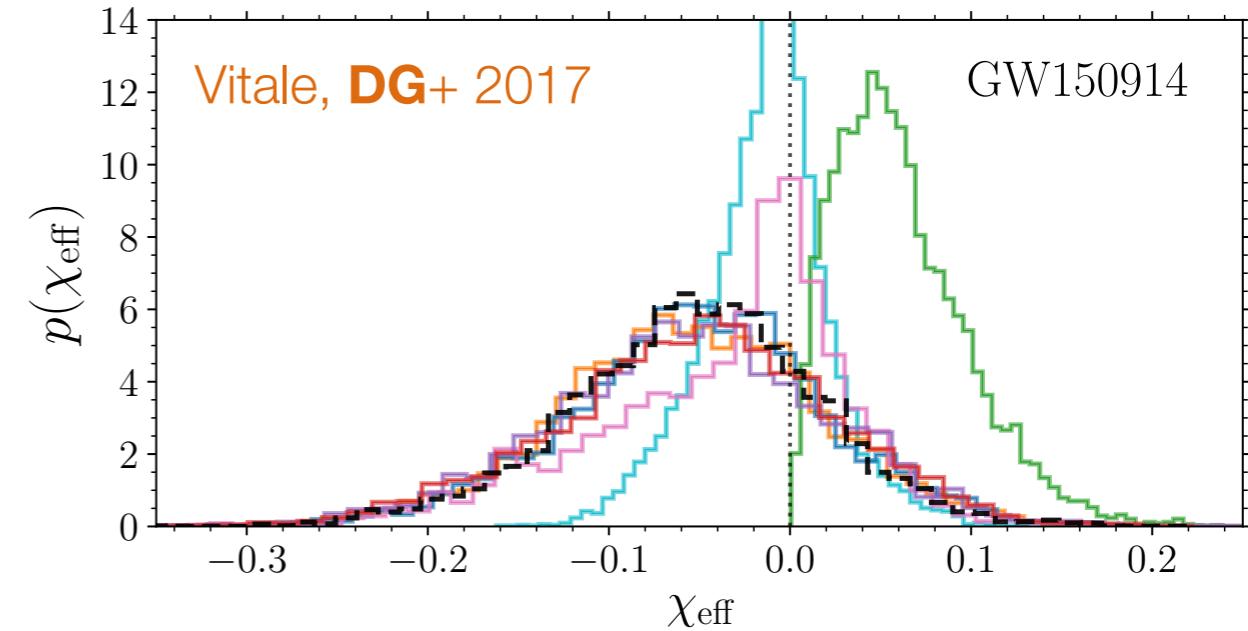
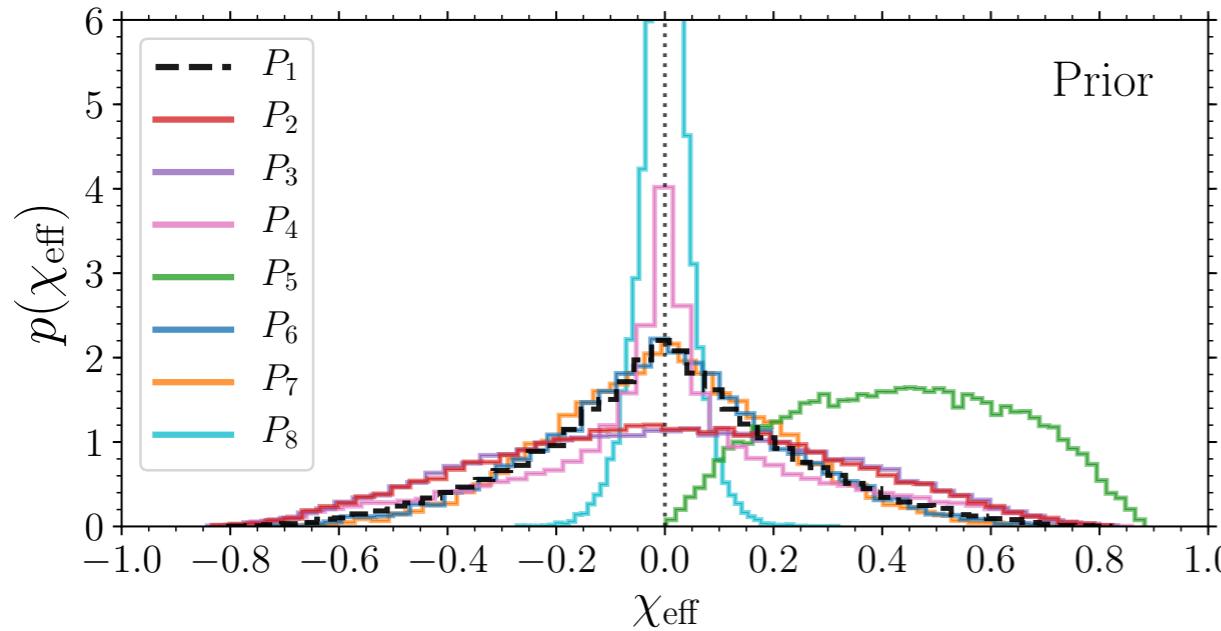
Vitale, DG+ 2017



— · —	$P_1$	Default: everything is uniform and isotropic
—	$P_2$	Spins uniform in BH rotational energy
—	$P_3$	Spins uniform in volume
—	$P_4$	Bimodal in the spin magnitudes
—	$P_5$	Spins preferentially aligned
—	$P_6$	Stellar initial mass function
—	$P_7$	Stellar initial mass function v2
—	$P_8$	Small spin magnitudes



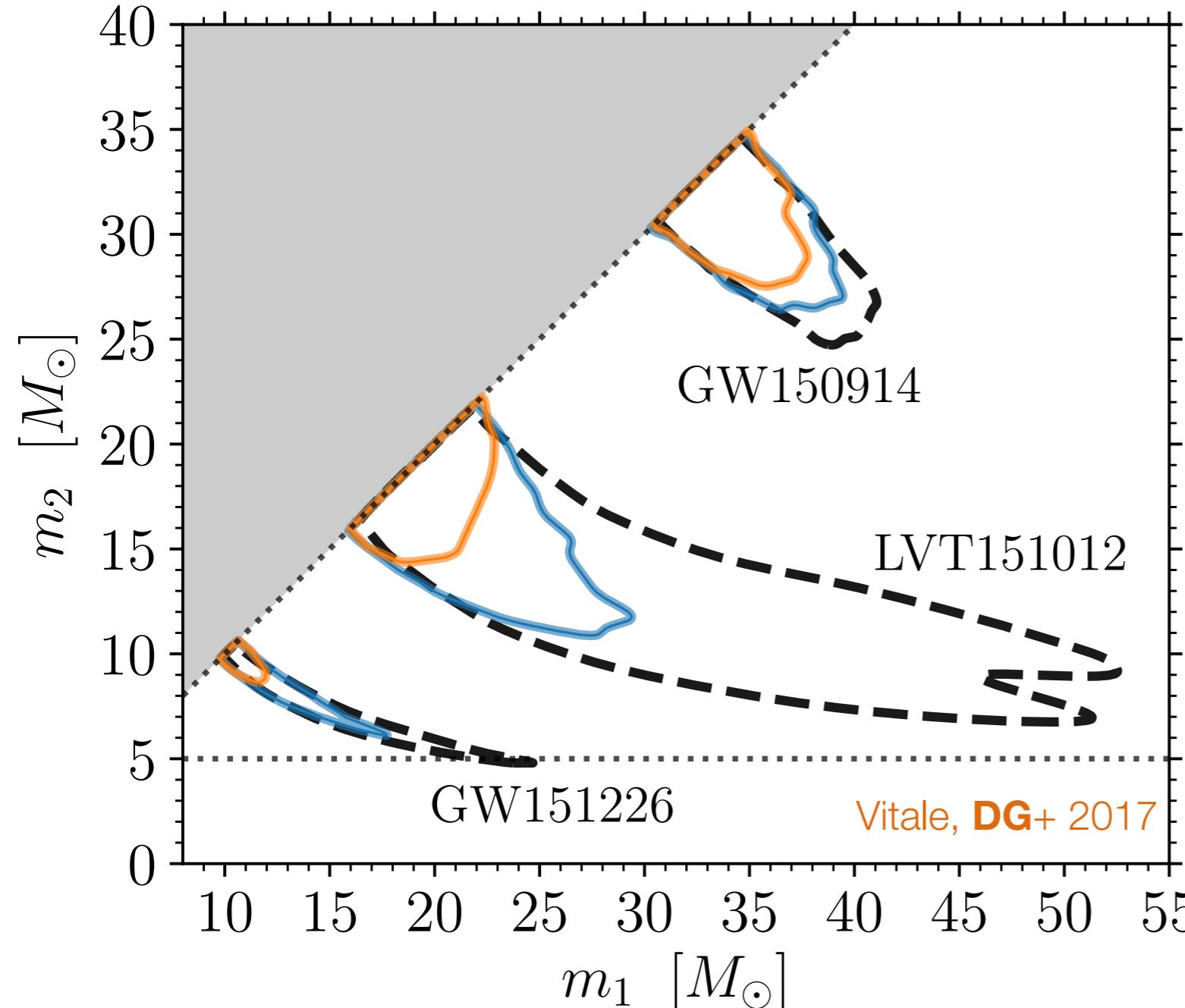
# Impact on inferred BH spins



- GW151226 not consistent with zero spins (robust!)
- The bimodal spin prior chooses the high spin mode. Support misalignment.
- All others fully consistent with zero spins (robust!)
- More severe issues for low SNR like LVT

**Variations in the 90% confidence interval up to ~20%!**

# Impact on inferred BH masses



- $P_1$
- $P_6$
- $P_7$

Default: everything is uniform and isotropic

Stellar IMF, uniform mass ratio Sana+ 2012

Stellar IMF, logistic mass ratio Rodriguez+ 2016

- Chirp mass (GW151226 and LVT151012), total mass (GW150914) are **very solid**.
- Median change of  $\sim 0.1 M_\odot$
- But component masses are not

If you insert the analysis the information that BH should come from stars:...

- **Data tends to favor more equal mass systems**
- ...especially if info from dynamical interactions are in

**Is there a mass gap between BHs and NSs?**

Miller & Miller 2015; Kreidberg 2012

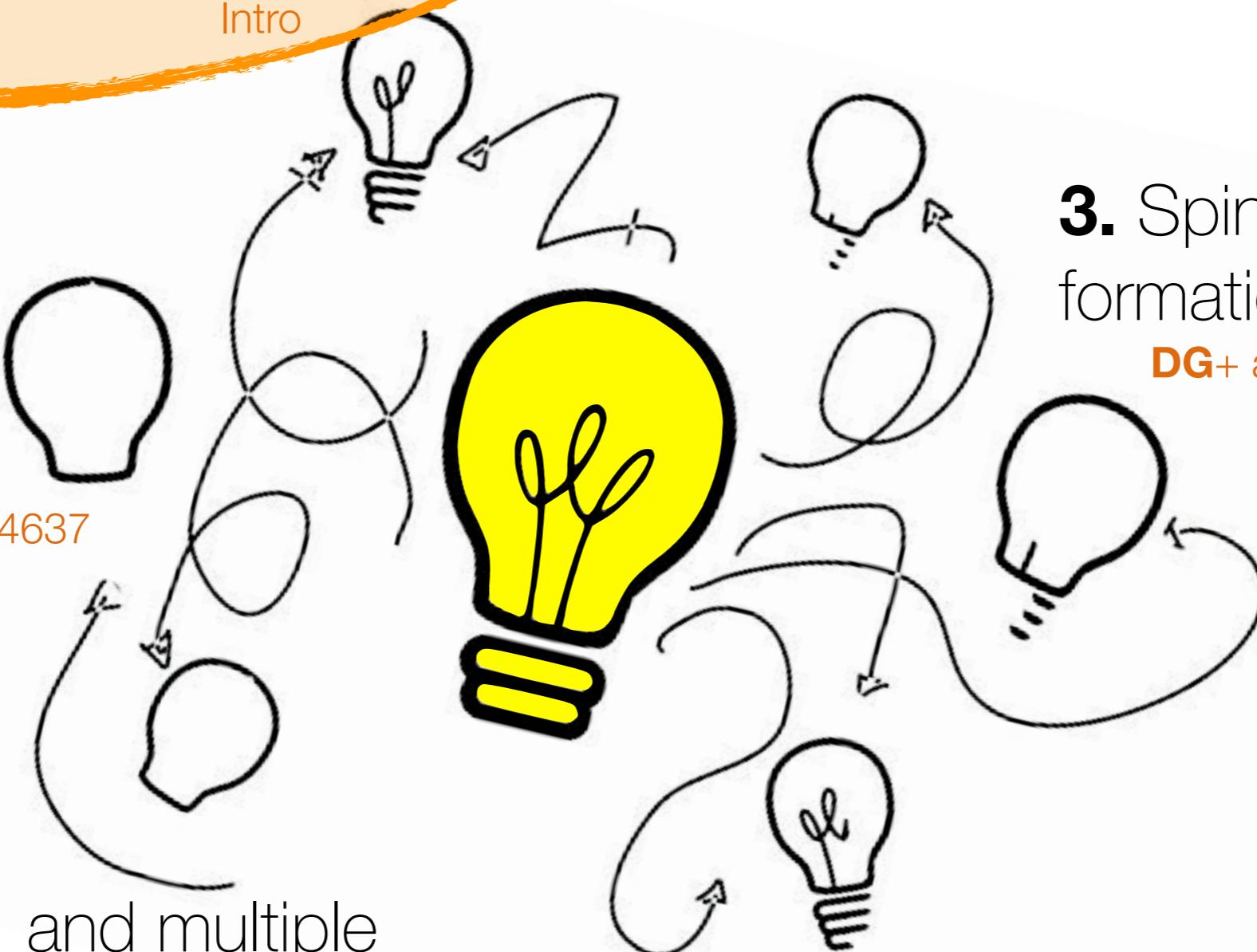
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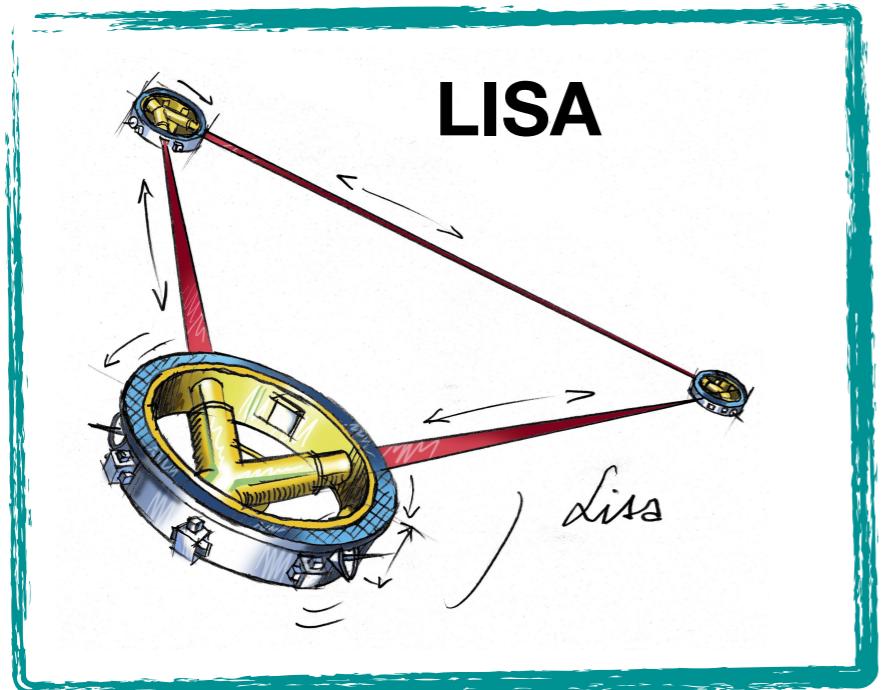
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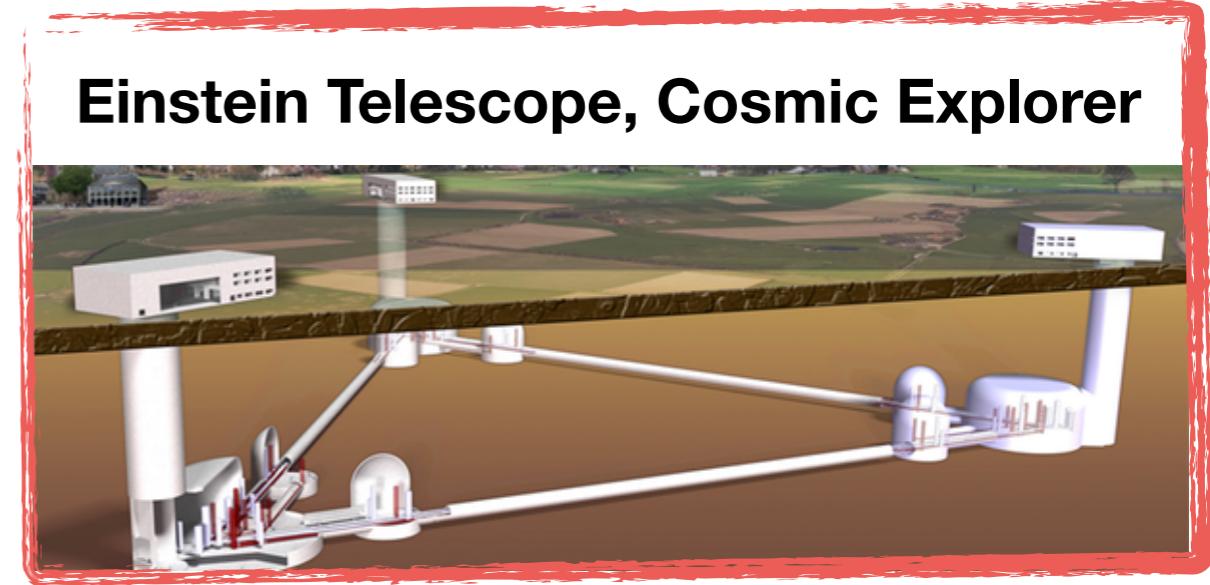
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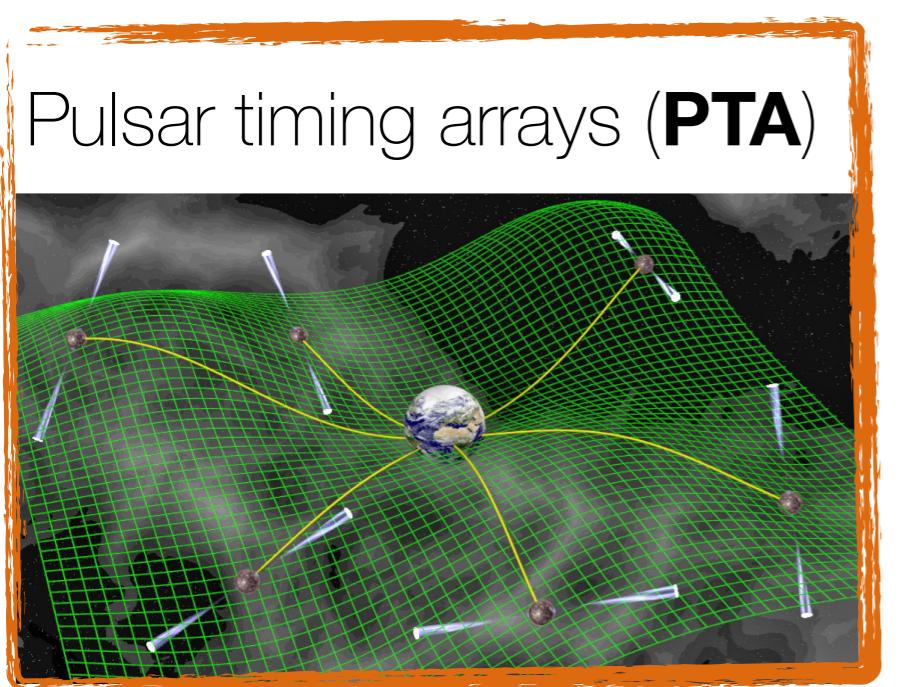
# The future is bright and loud



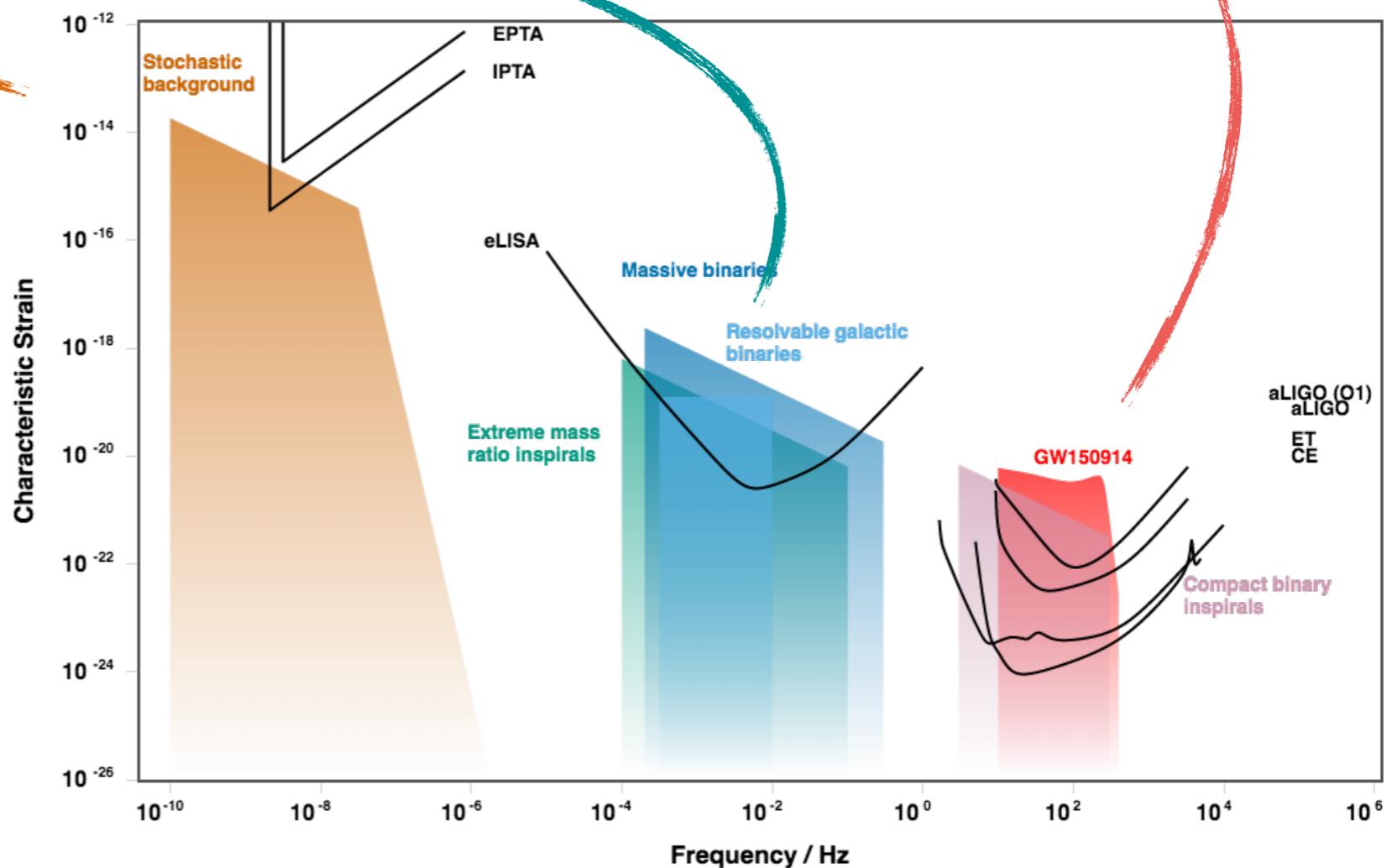
LISA



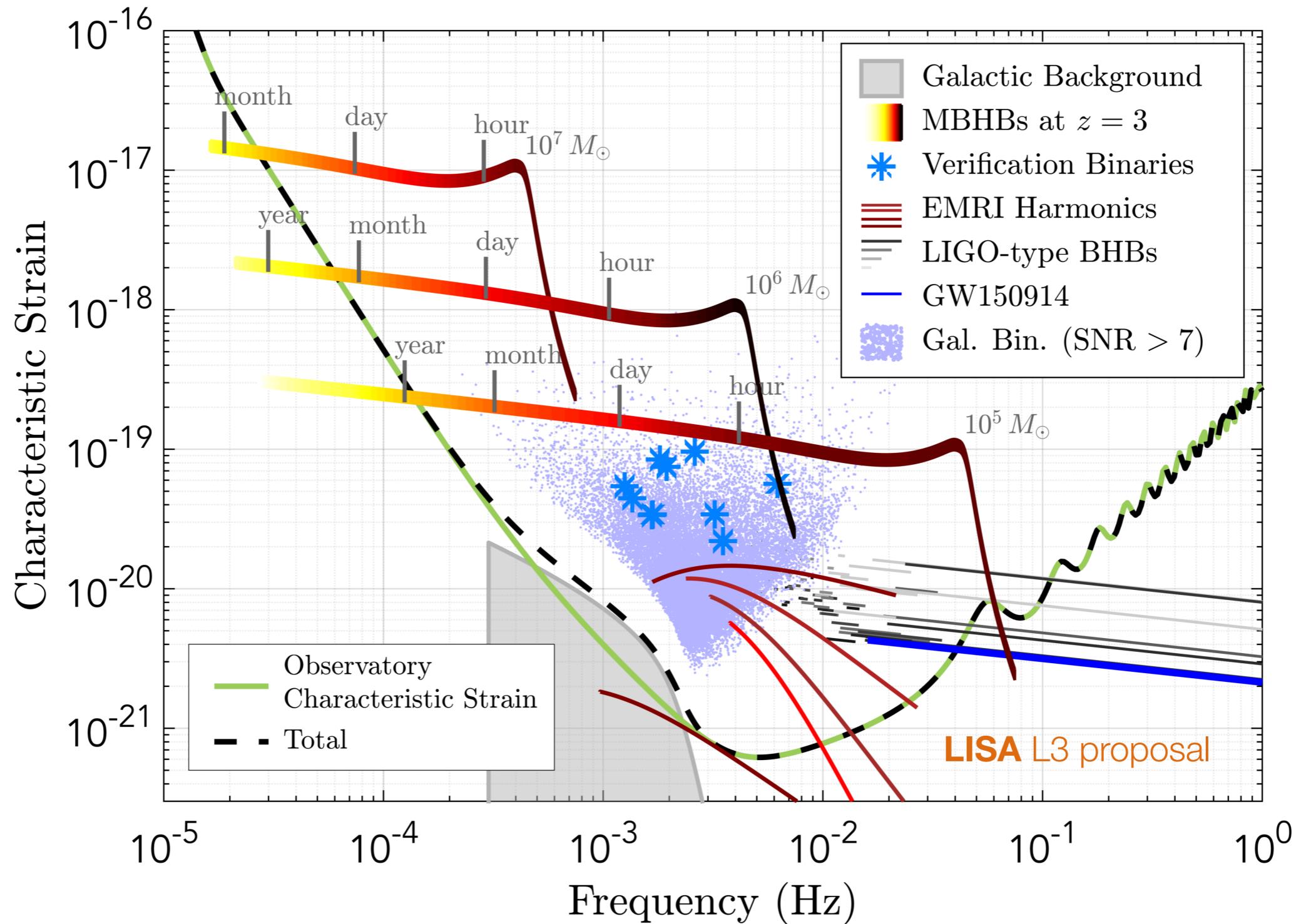
Einstein Telescope, Cosmic Explorer



Pulsar timing arrays (**PTA**)



# LISA: the next revolution



- **Fully approved** by ESA. Now being commissioned. NASA expressed interests
- Amazing LISA pathfinder performance
- **The next big thing** in GW astronomy

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