

ASBE part II: binary evolution



- how does the evolution of stars in binary systems differ from that of single stars?
- which kind of interaction processes play a role in binary stars, and how do they affect their evolution?
- how do observed types of binary systems fit into this evolution picture?

lecture 8:
**binary star statistics,
orbits and structure**

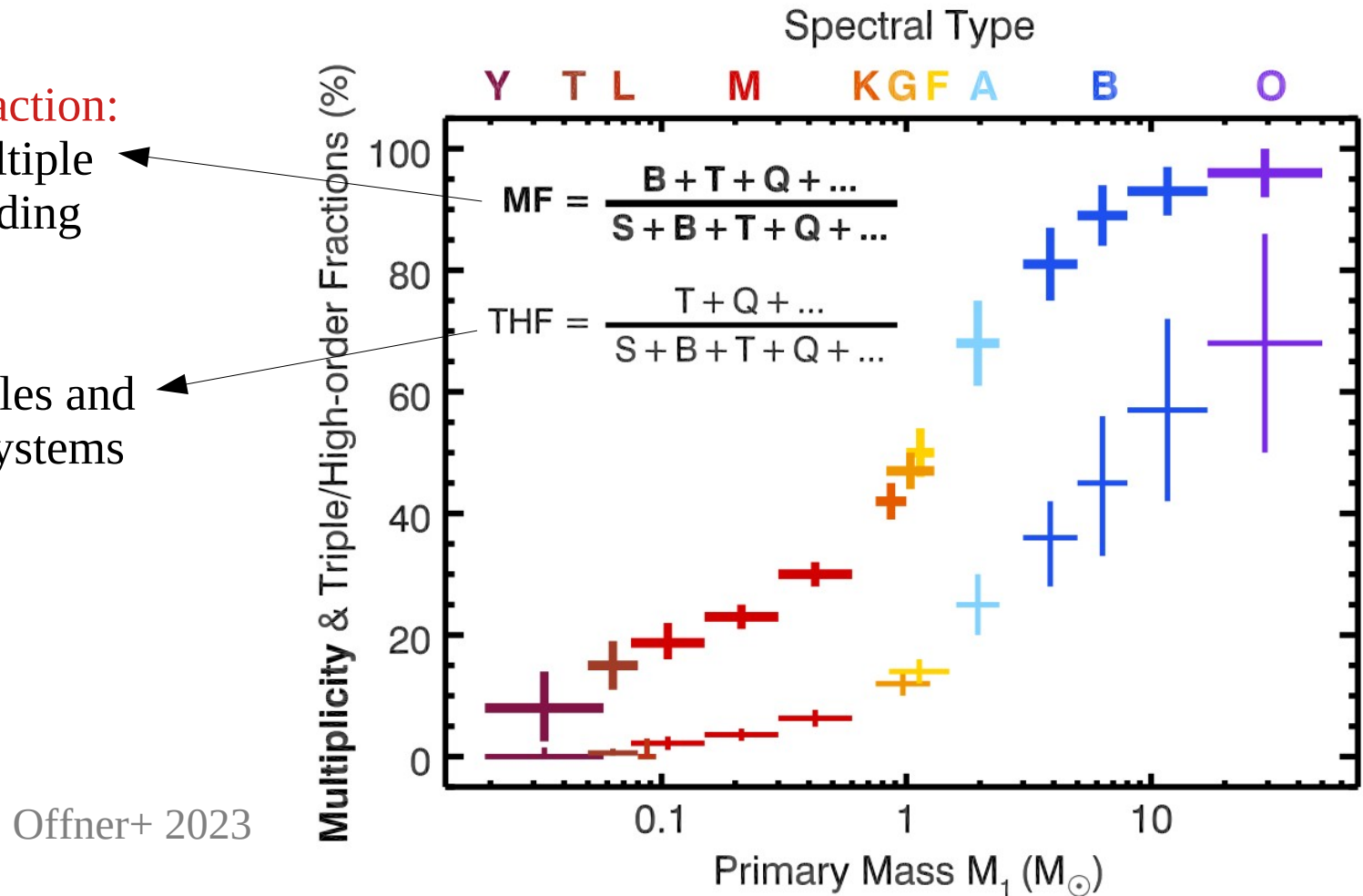
binary and multiple systems

- incidence of binaries and multiples in stellar populations increases with stellar mass

multiplicity fraction:

fraction of multiple systems (including binaries)

fraction of triples and higher-order systems



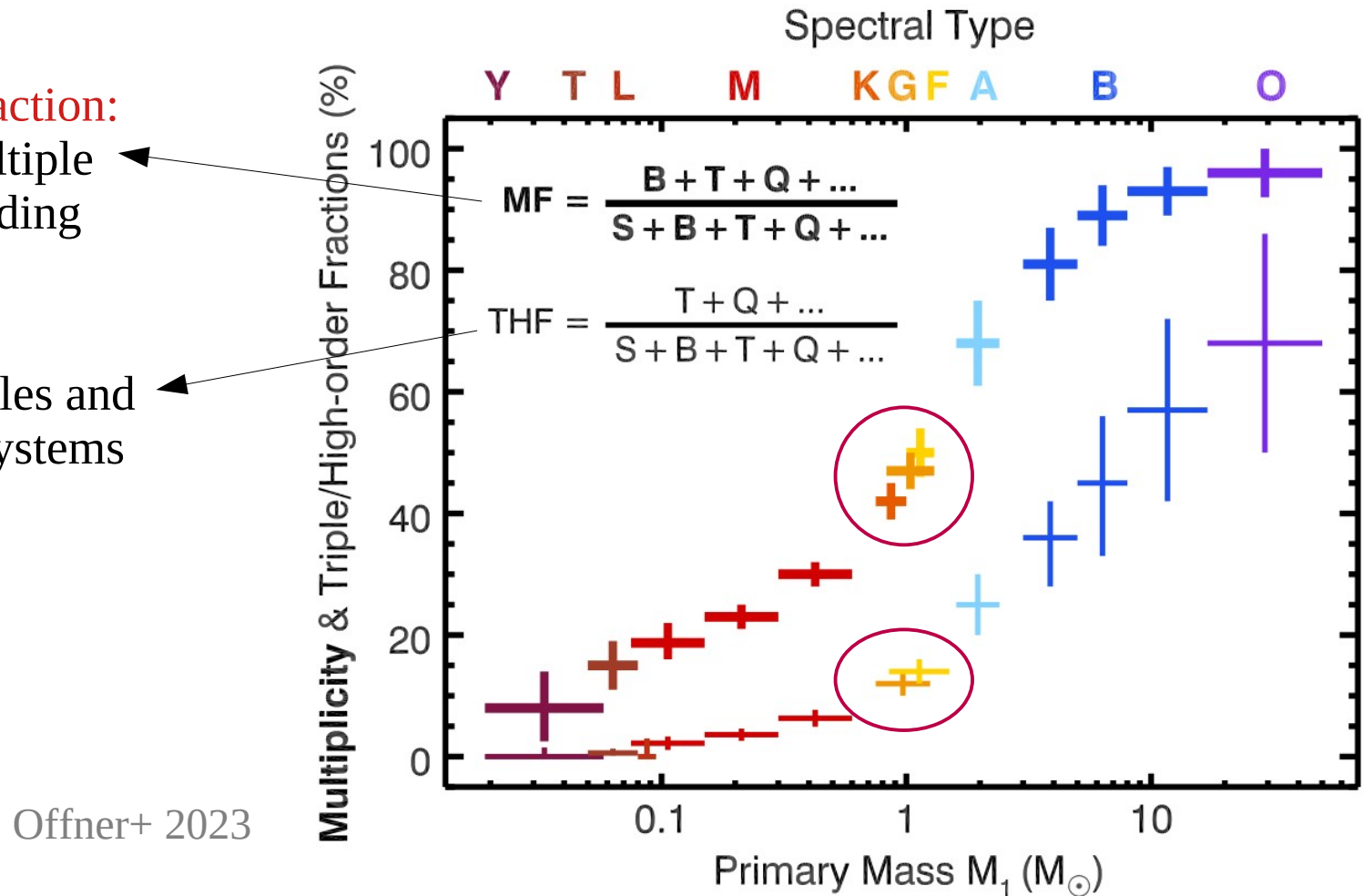
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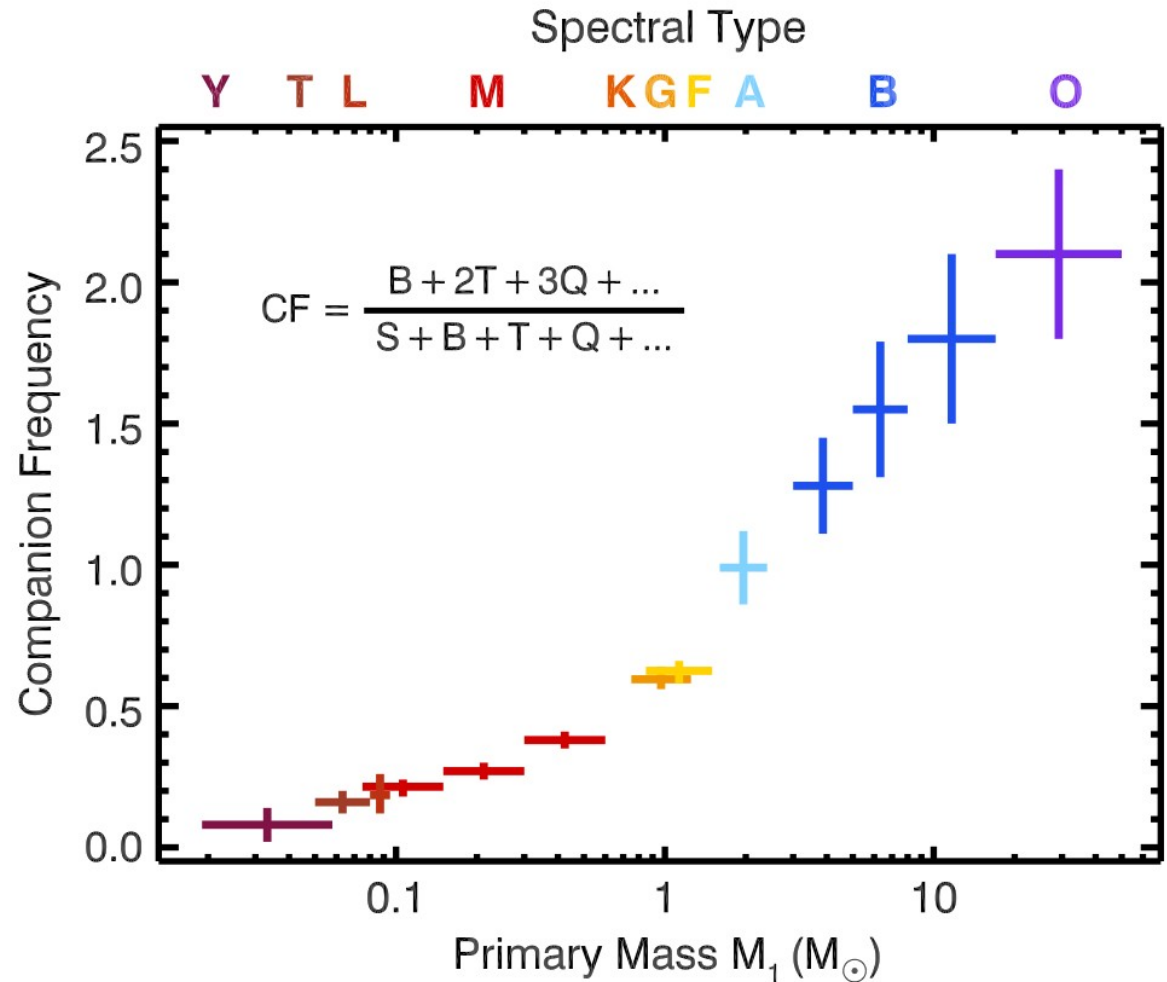


- solar-type stars: $\approx 55\%$ single, $\approx 34\%$ binaries, $\approx 8\%$ triples, $\approx 3\%$ higher-order

binary and multiple systems

- incidence of binaries and multiples in stellar populations increases with stellar mass

companion frequency:
average number of
companions per star



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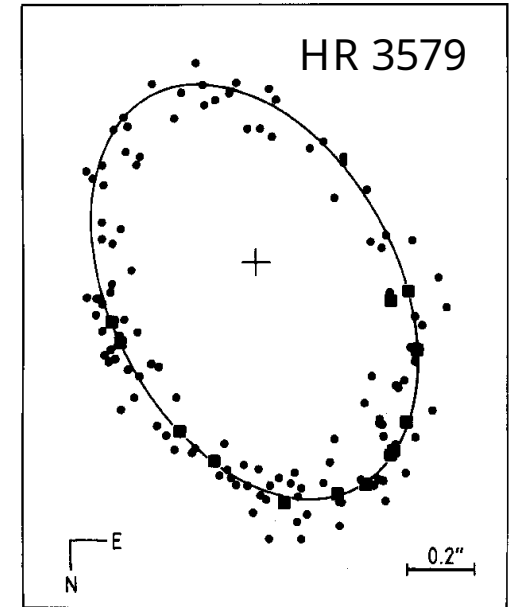
binary orbital dynamics

- *see lecture notes, sec. 15.1*

measuring binary stars

- visual binaries (VB):

projected relative orbit of 2 stars on sky \Rightarrow
measure $P, e, i, \alpha = a/d$



measuring binary stars

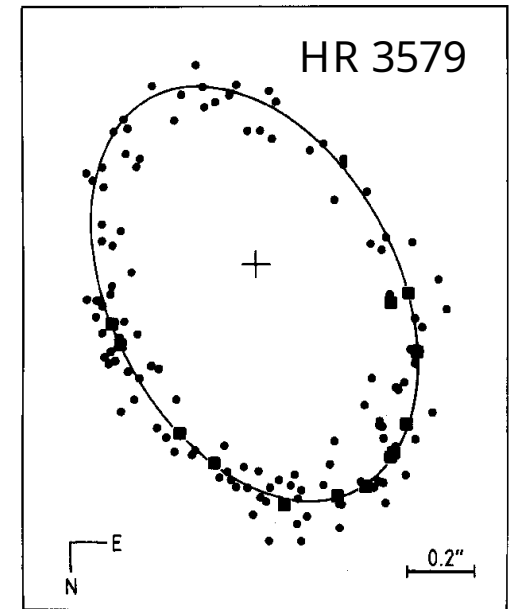
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- using Kepler: $\frac{GM}{d^3} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{P}\right)^2 \alpha^3$

if distance d is known \Rightarrow total mass M

- if both stellar orbits known, relative to centre of mass: $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \Rightarrow$ mass ratio $q = M_1/M_2$



measuring binary stars

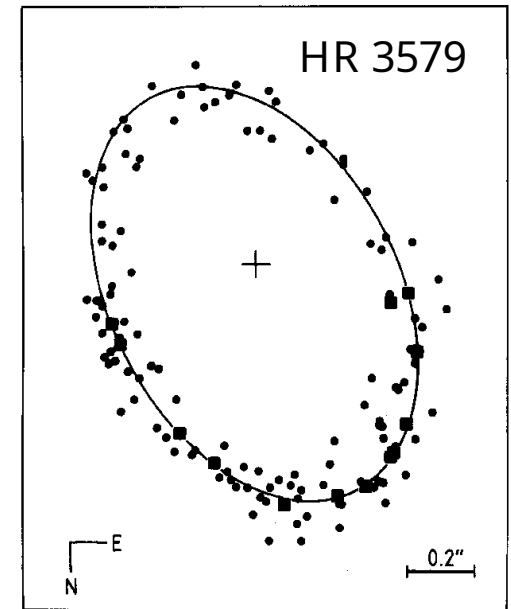
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- **astrometric binaries:**

orbit of the binary *photocentre* relative to fixed point on sky \Rightarrow
measure P, e, i , and $\alpha_{\text{photocentre}} = f(a/d, q, L_1/L_2)$

- *Gaia* is able to do this for millions of binaries...

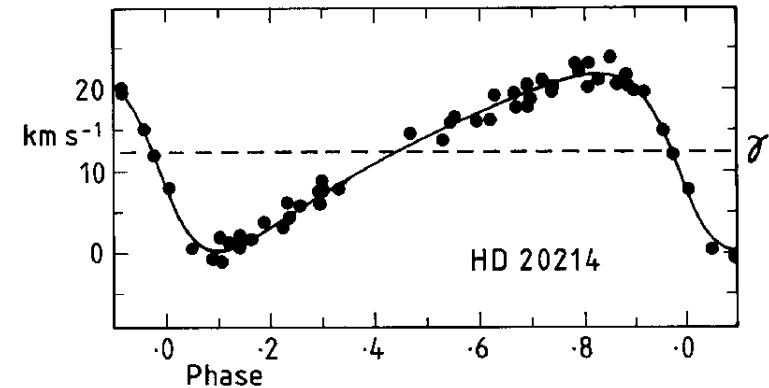
measuring binary stars

- spectroscopic binaries (SB):
radial velocity curve of brightest star (SB1)
⇒ measure P , e , and RV amplitude K_1 :

$$K_1 = 2\pi a_1 \sin i (1-e^2)^{-1/2} / P$$

⇒ mass function:

$$f(M_2) = \frac{M_2^3 \sin^3 i}{(M_1 + M_2)^2} = K_1^3 \frac{P}{2\pi G} (1 - e^2)^{3/2}$$



measuring binary stars

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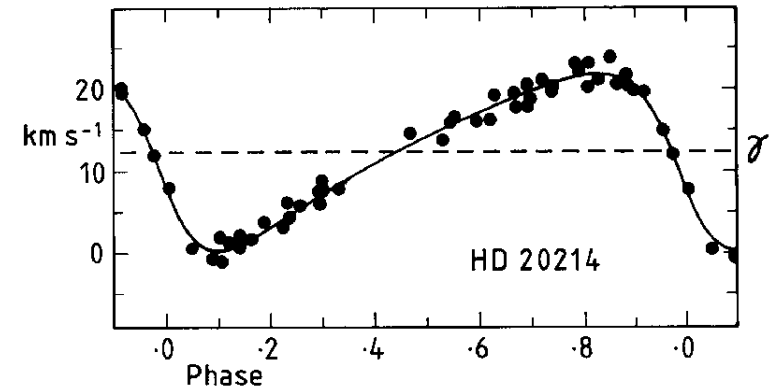
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- double-lined spectroscopic binaries (SB2):

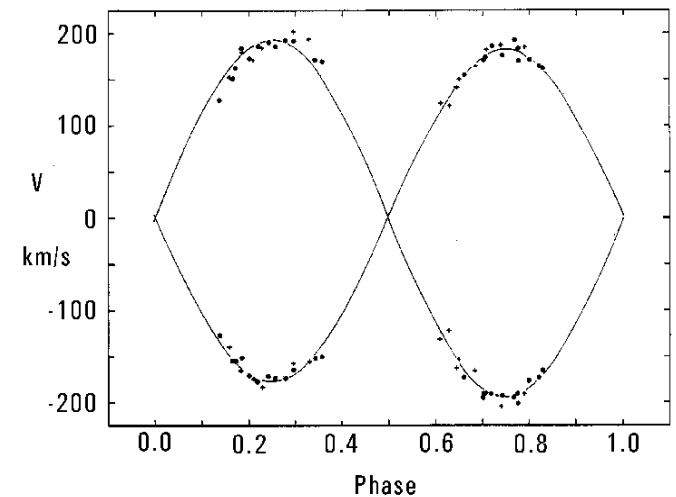
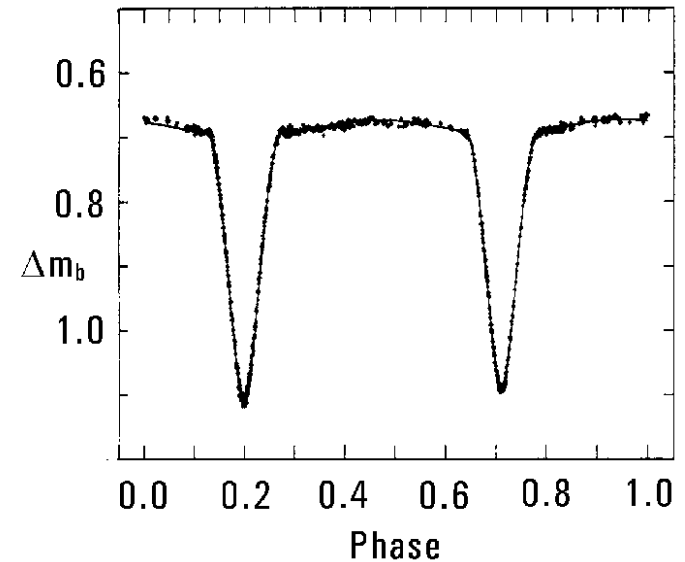
$f(M_1)$ and $f(M_2) \Rightarrow q = M_1/M_2$ (but not individual masses, only $M_i \sin i$)

- if visual/astrometric and spectroscopic orbit known \Rightarrow inclination i
 $\Rightarrow M_1$ and M_2 , independent of distance



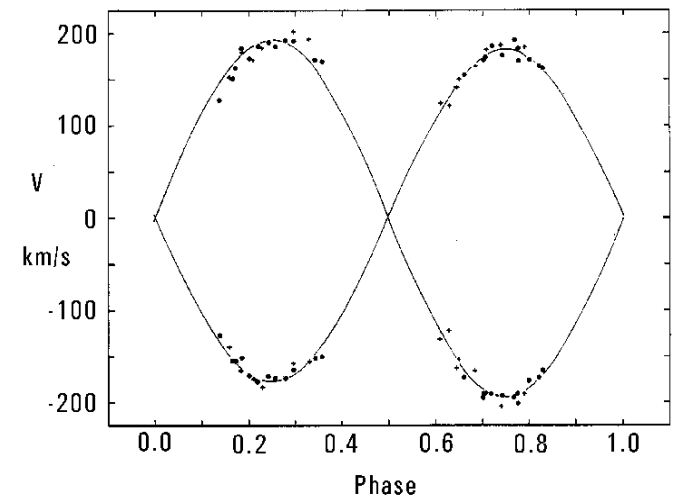
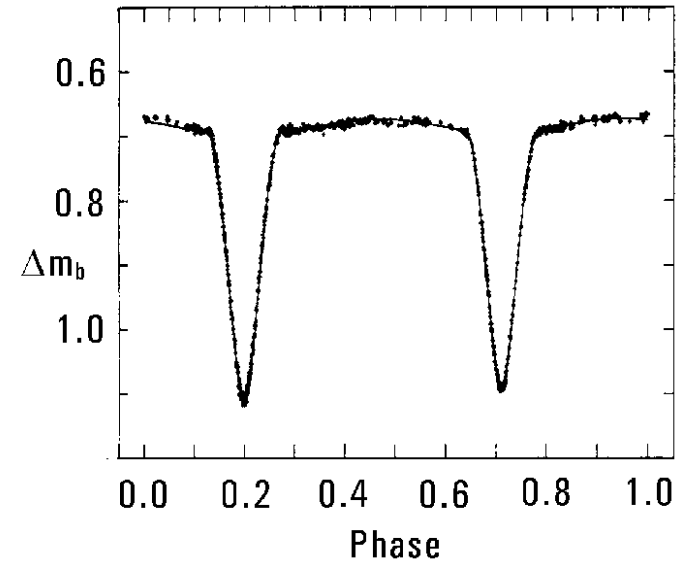
measuring binary stars

- **eclipsing binaries (EB):**
observed lightcurve + accurate modelling of
stellar atmospheres and distortions \Rightarrow
measure P , e , i , R_1/a , R_2/a and $T_{\text{eff},1}$, $T_{\text{eff},2}$
- **double-lined spectroscopic eclipsing binaries (ESB2):**
 P , e , i , a , M_1 , M_2 , R_1 , R_2 , $T_{\text{eff},1}$, $T_{\text{eff},2}$ and d (!)



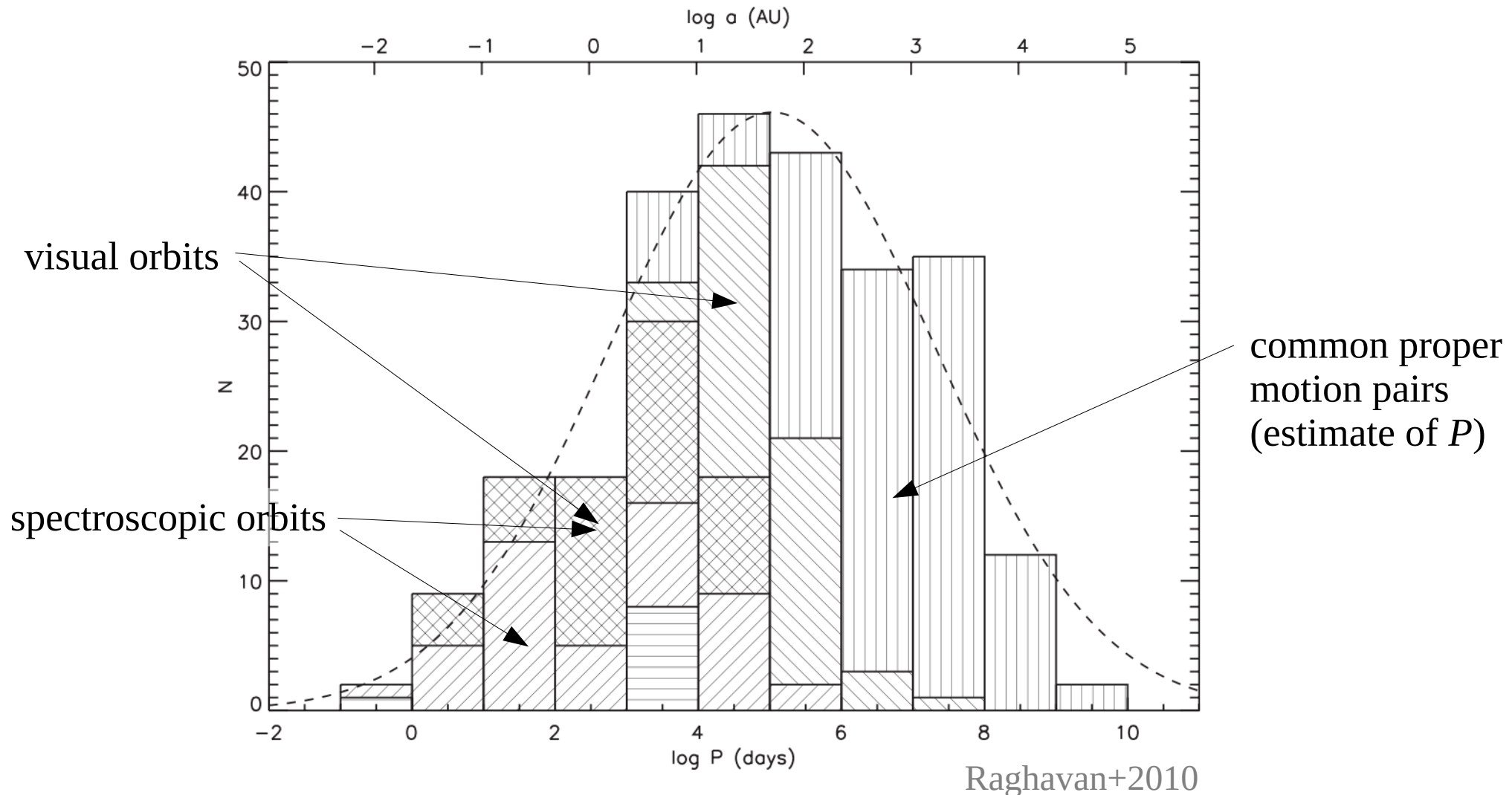
measuring binary stars

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- **double-lined spectroscopic eclipsing binaries (ESB2):**
 $P, e, i, a, M_1, M_2, R_1, R_2, T_{\text{eff},1}, T_{\text{eff},2}$ and d (!)
- binary systems are the only *direct* source of information on **stellar masses** and (in some cases) provide independent **distance** measurements



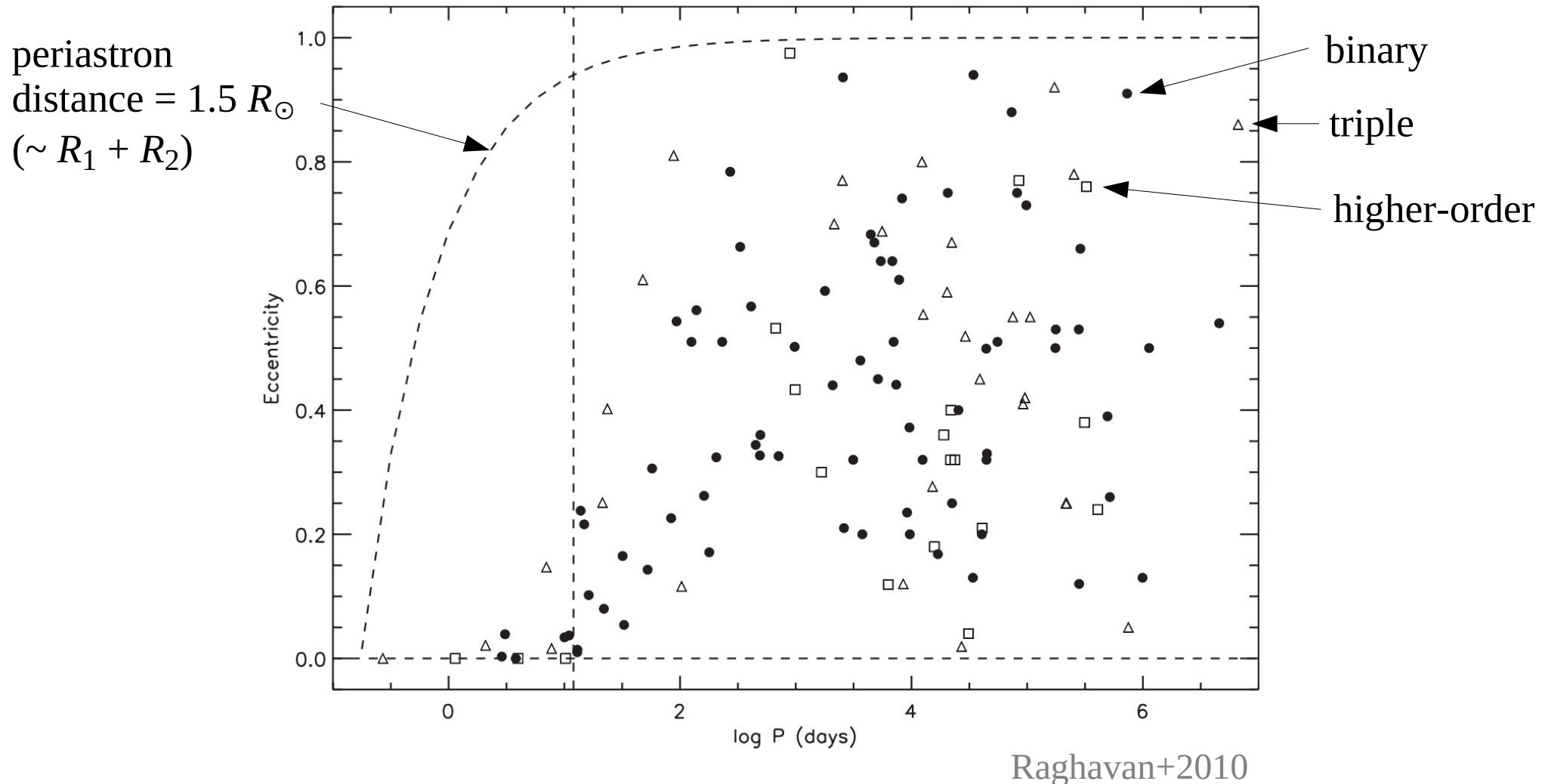
binary statistics

- complete sample of solar-type stars within ~ 25 pc:
distribution of orbital periods



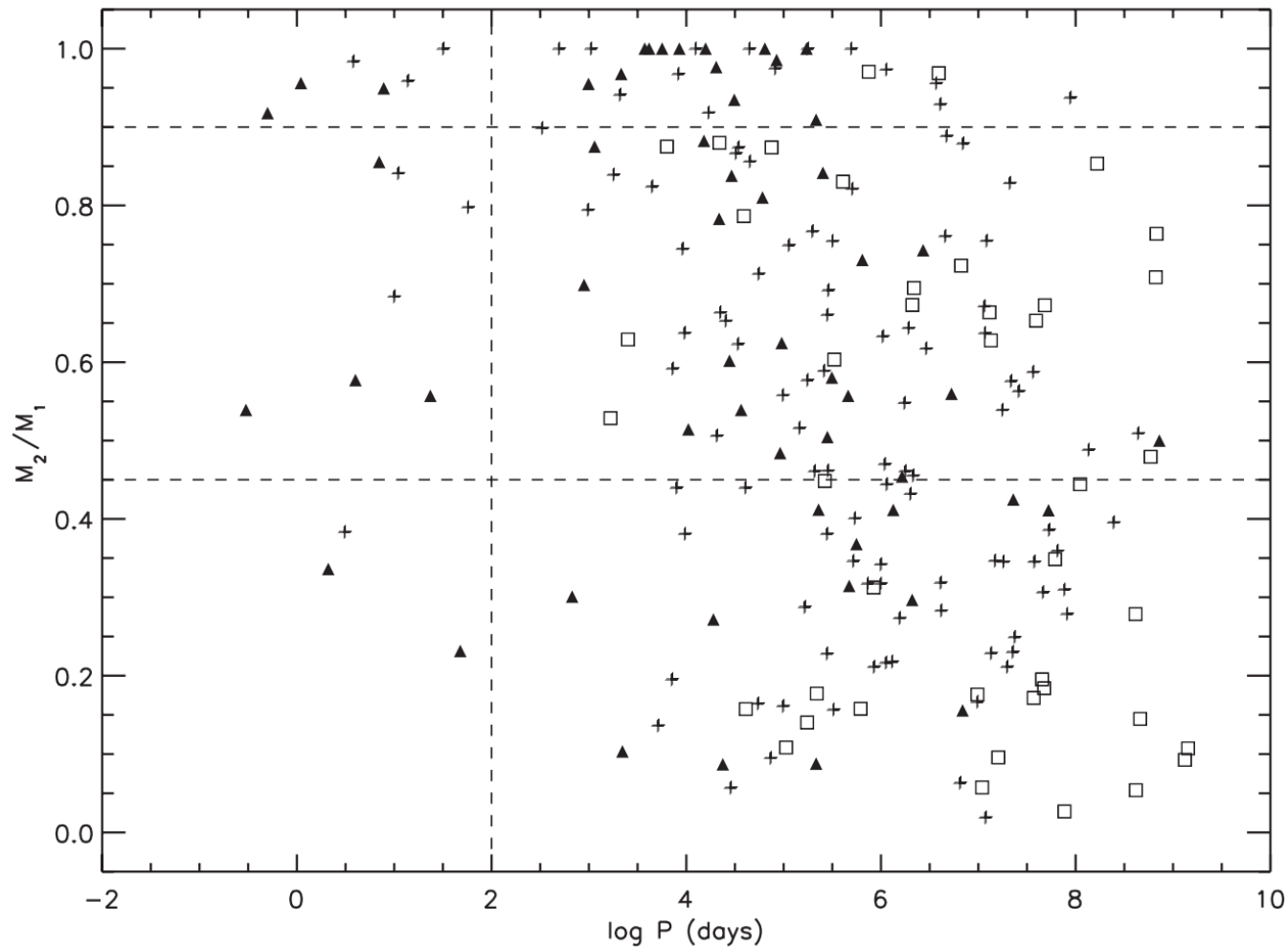
binary statistics

- complete sample of solar-type stars within ~ 25 pc:
orbital periods and eccentricities



binary statistics

- complete sample of solar-type stars within ~ 25 pc:
period versus mass ratio

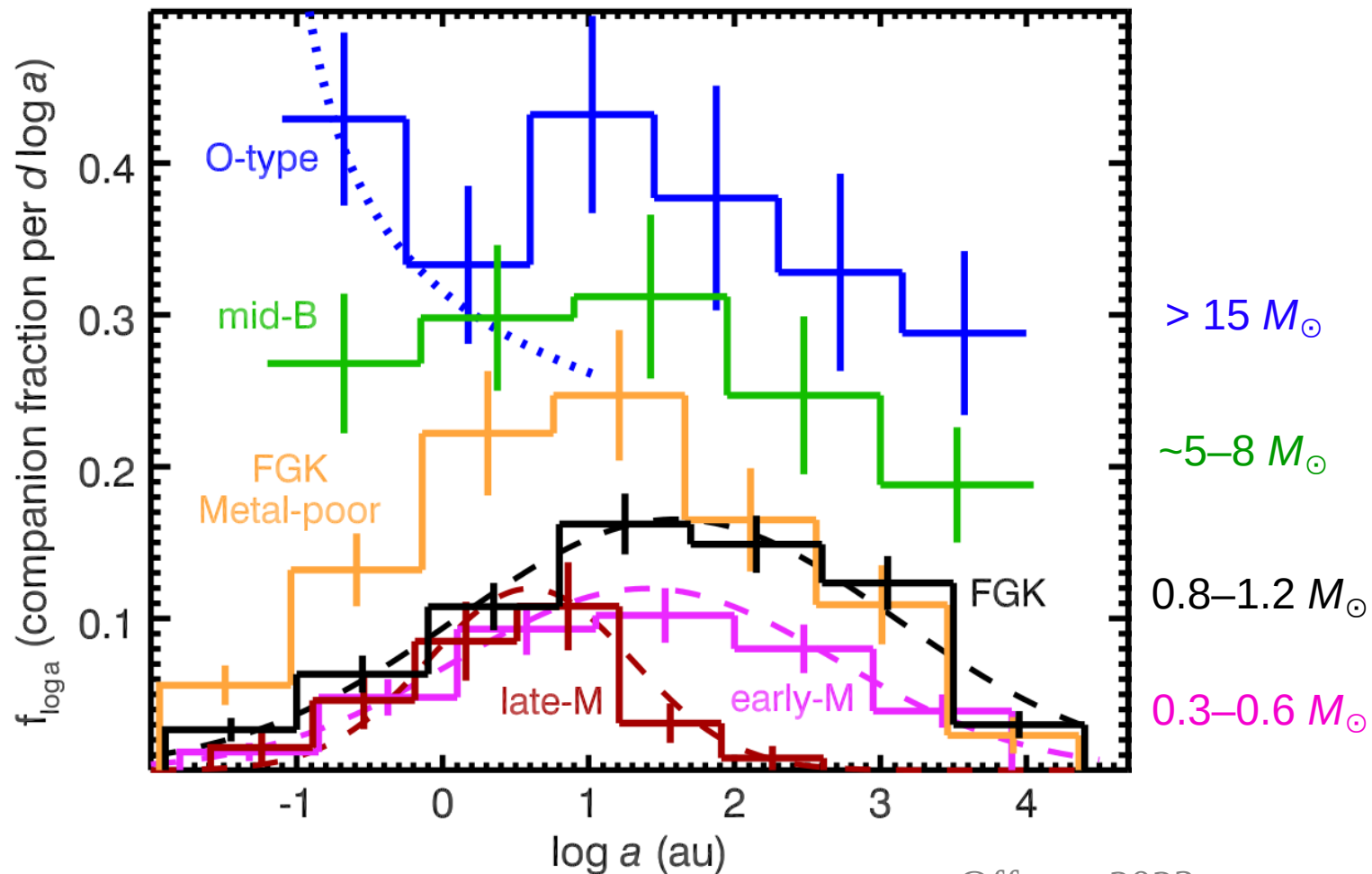


Raghavan+2010

binary statistics

- orbital period distributions for different populations: strongly dependent on mass (and metallicity)

companion fraction
per log a interval



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the Roche geometry

- **structure of a binary system** is usually described in the *Roche geometry*:
combined effect of **gravity** of the two stars and their **orbital motion**,
in the co-rotating frame of the binary
- assumptions:
 - gravity of both stars is the same as for **point masses**
 - the orbit is **circular** ($e = 0$)
 - all matter **co-rotates with the orbit**, with angular frequency $\omega = 2\pi/P$
(\Rightarrow stellar rotation is synchronized with orbit)

the Roche geometry

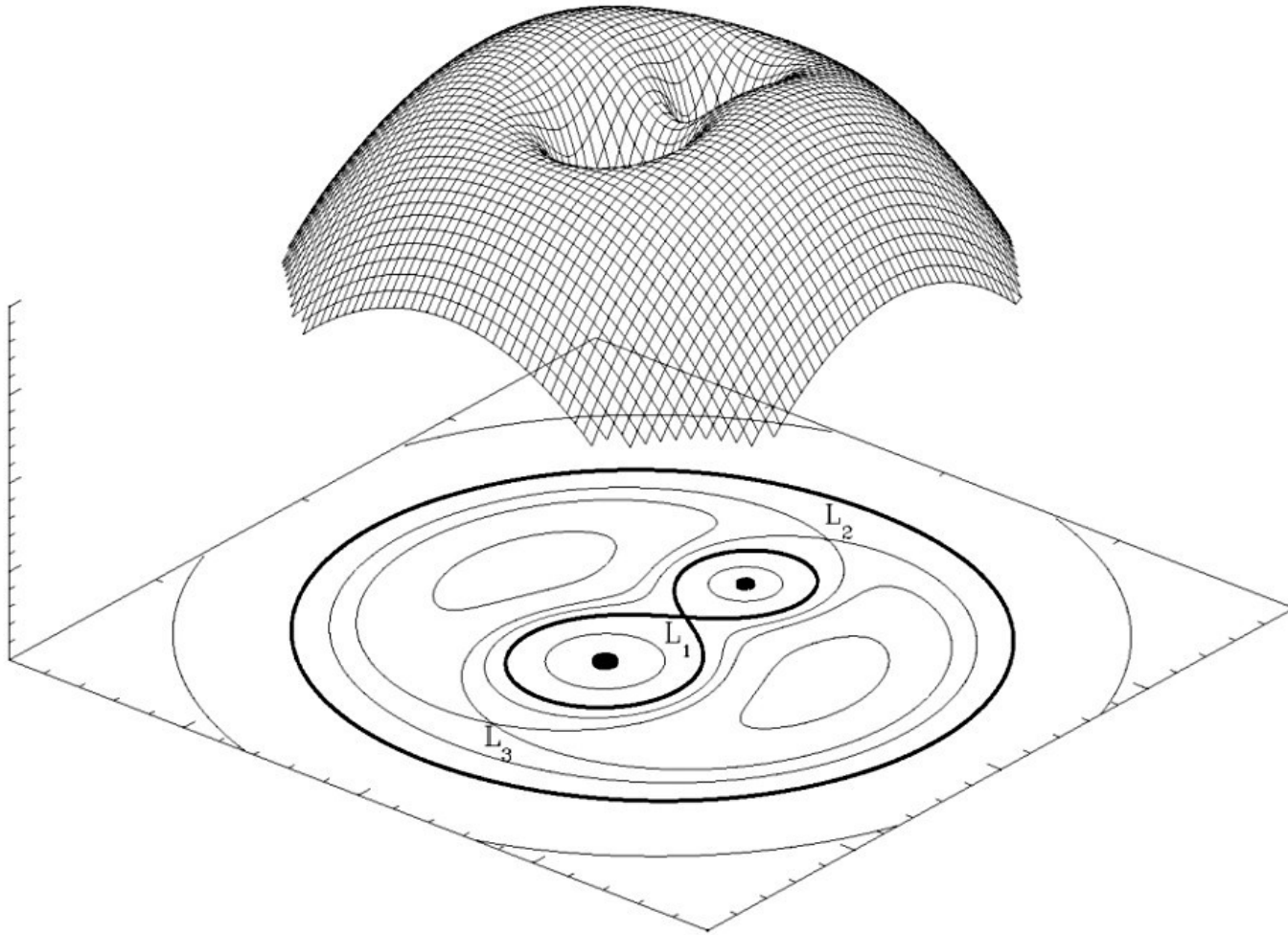
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- stellar structure determined by the **Roche potential**:

$$\Phi = -\frac{GM_1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}_1|} - \frac{GM_2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}_2|} - \frac{1}{2}\omega^2 r_{\perp}^2$$

positions of star 1 and 2 distance from orbital axis

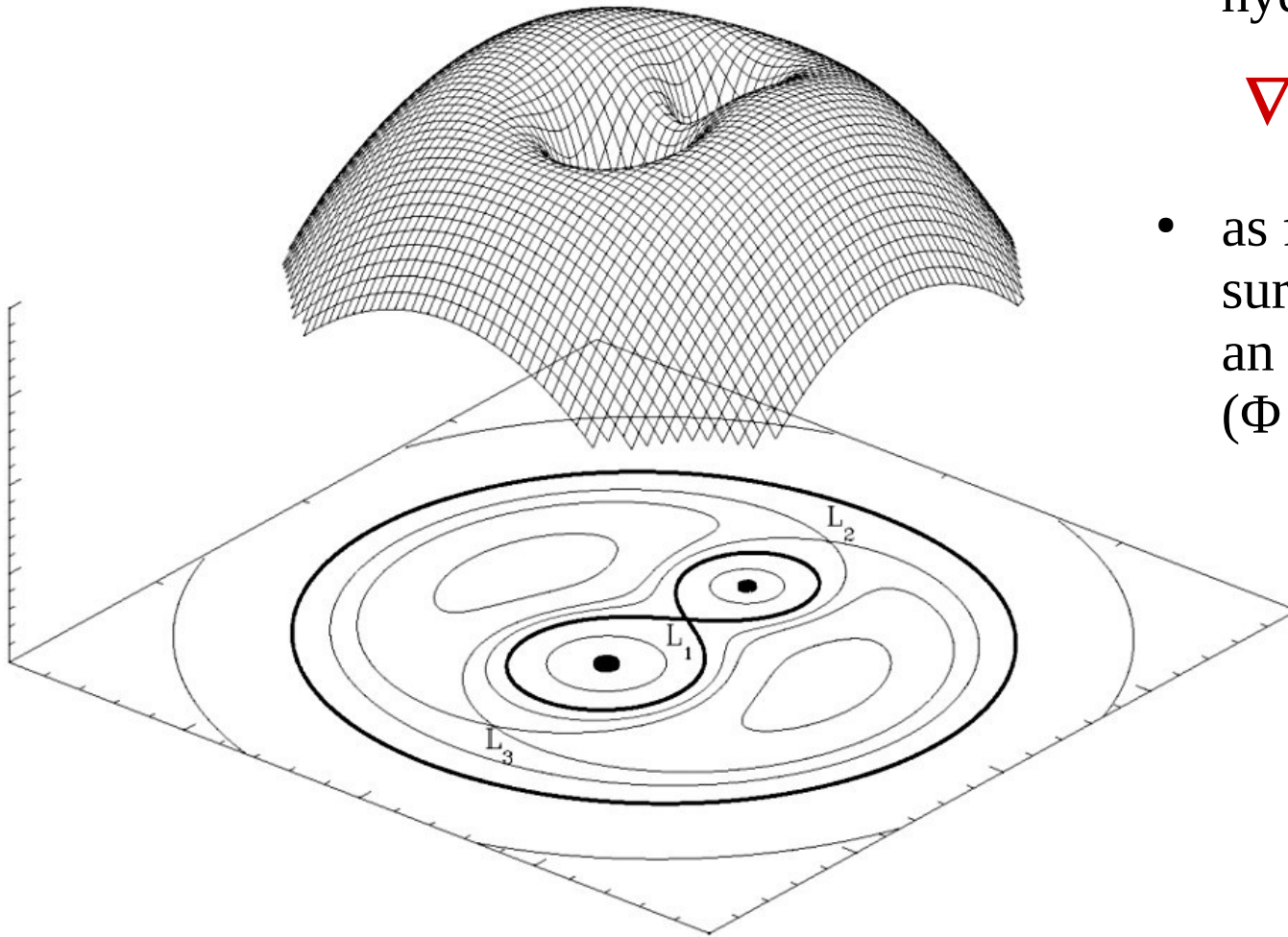
the Roche potential

- the Roche potential in the plane of the orbit, for $q = M_2/M_1 = 0.5$



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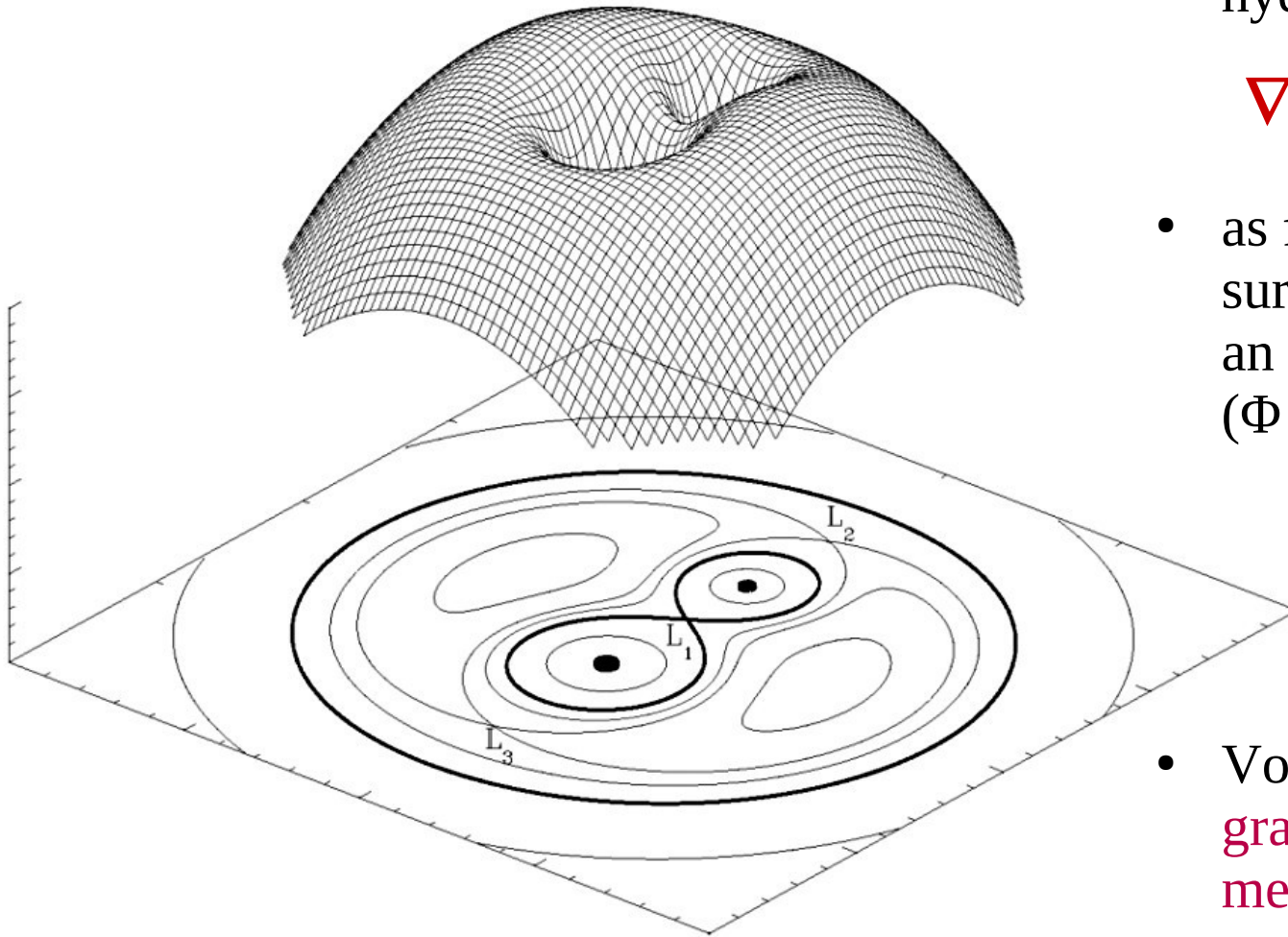
- hydrostatic equilibrium:

$$\nabla P = -\rho \nabla \Phi$$

- as for rotating stars, stellar surface should coincide with an **equipotential surface** ($\Phi = \text{constant}$)

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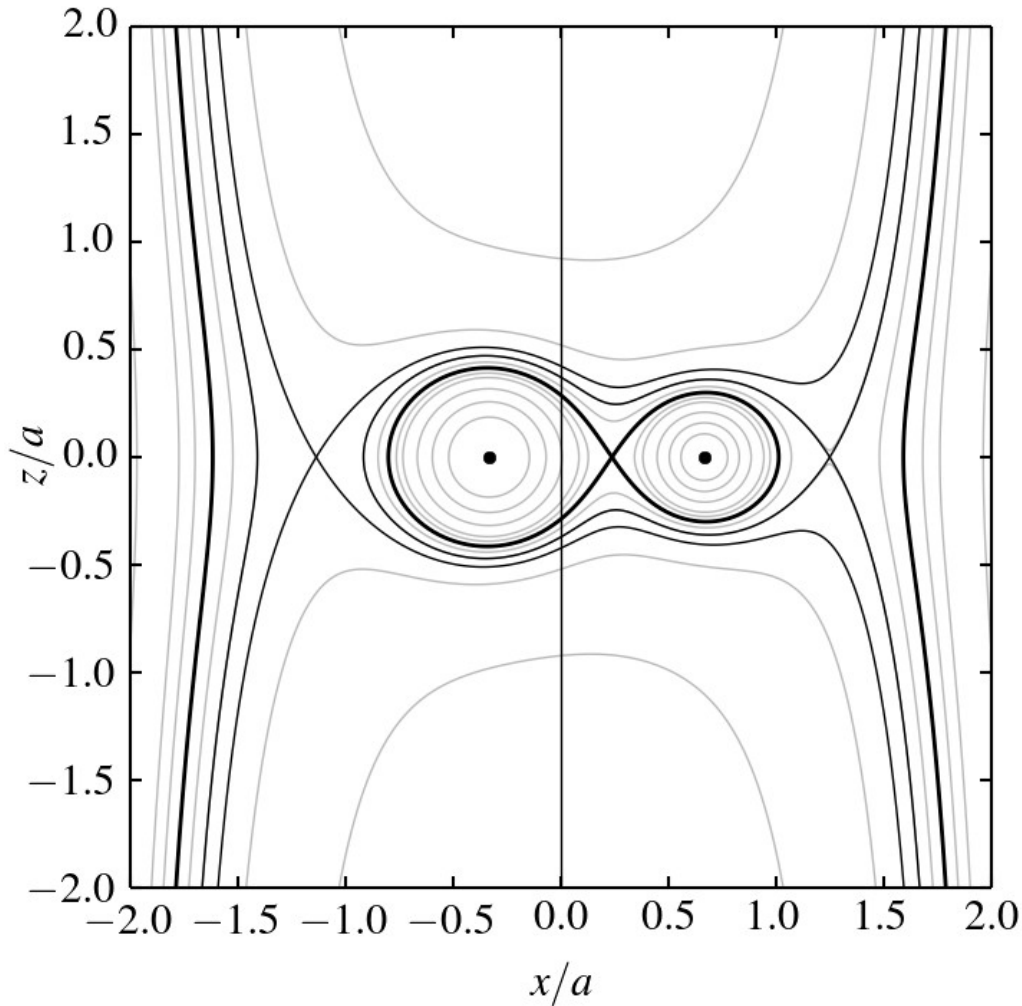
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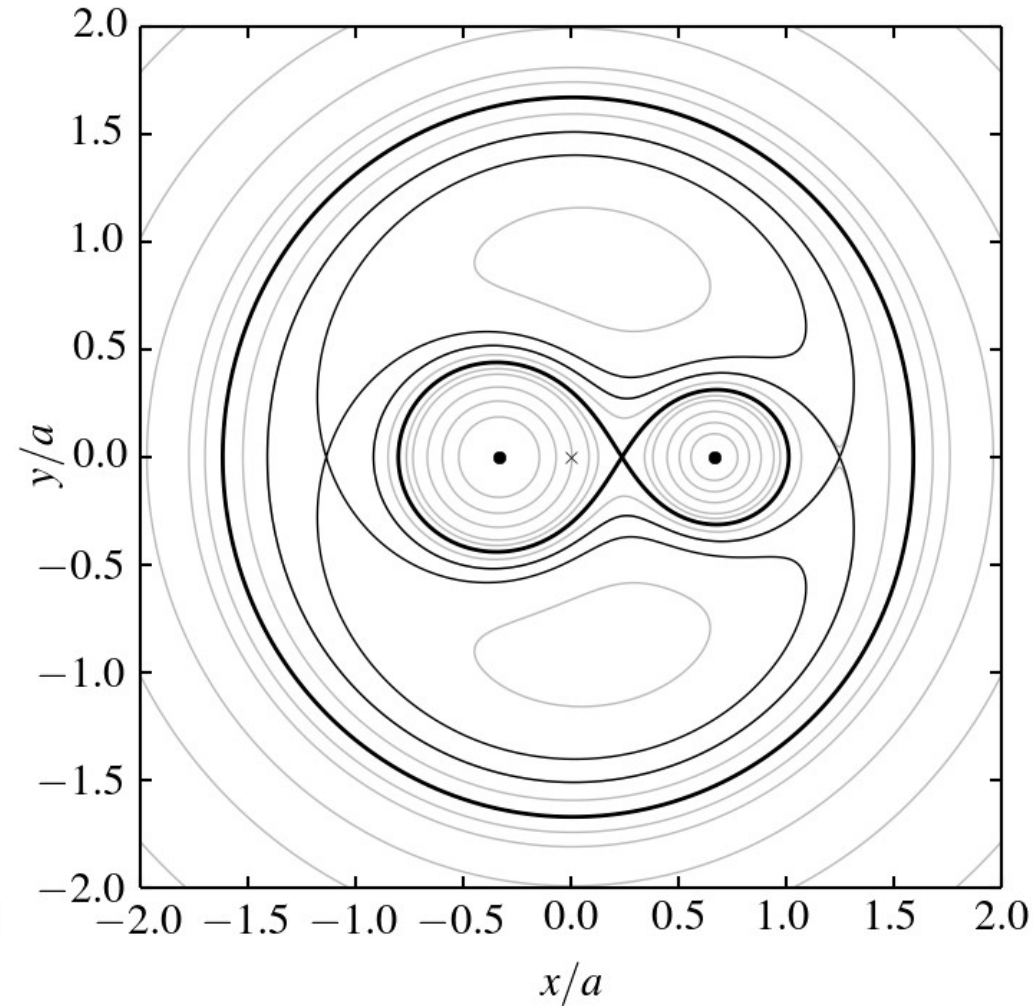
- Von Zeipel's theorem \Rightarrow **gravity darkening** and **meridional currents** (but in non-axisymmetric way...)

the Roche potential

- equipotential surfaces of the Roche potential, for $q = M_2/M_1 = 0.5$



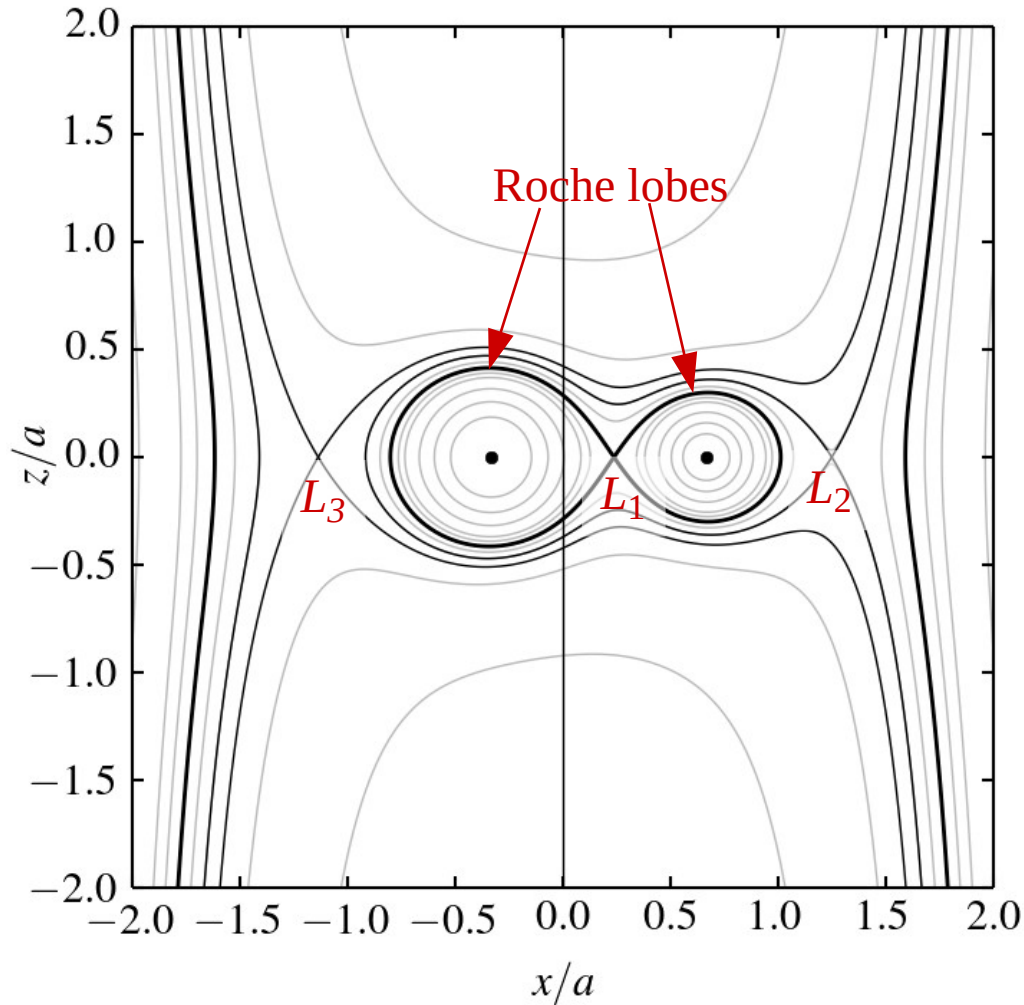
along the orbital axis



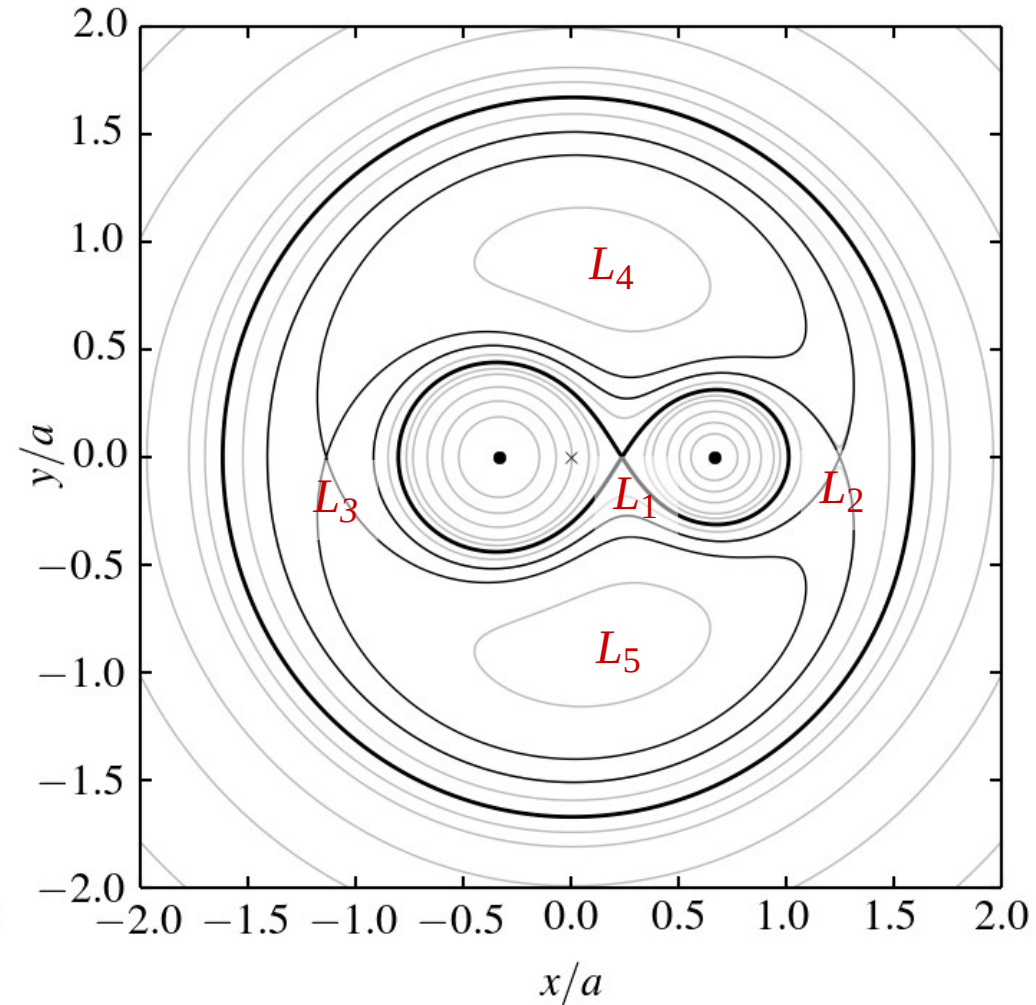
in the orbital plane

the Roche potential

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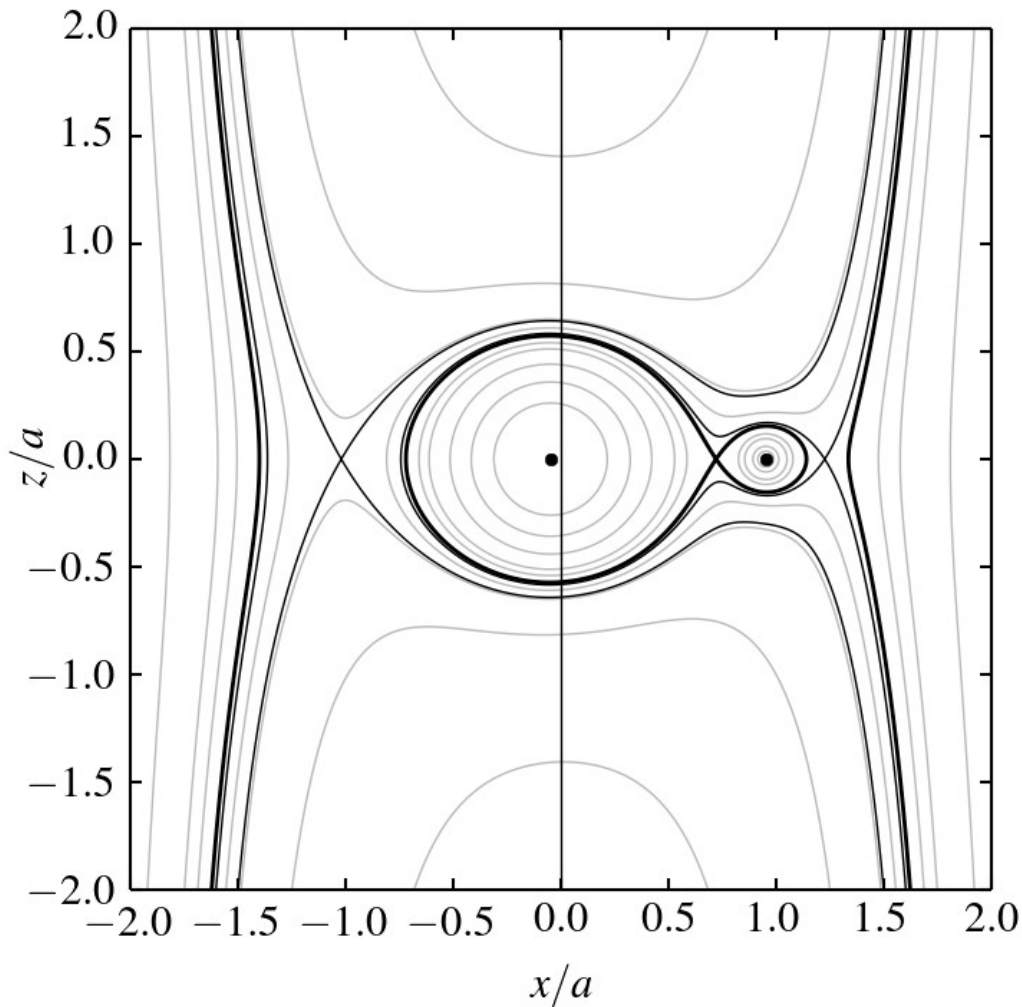
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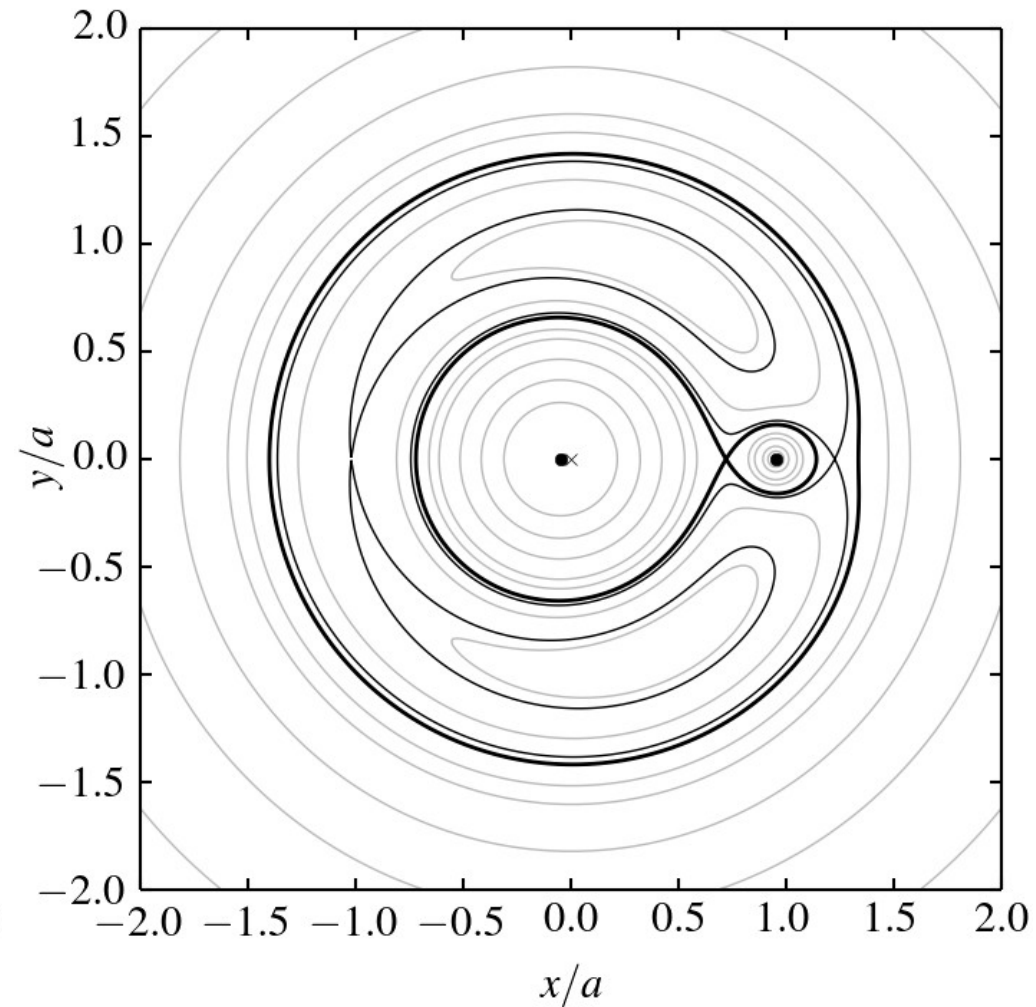
in the orbital plane

the Roche potential

- the **shape** of equipotential surfaces depends *only* on the **mass ratio**
e.g. for $q = M_2/M_1 = 0.05$:

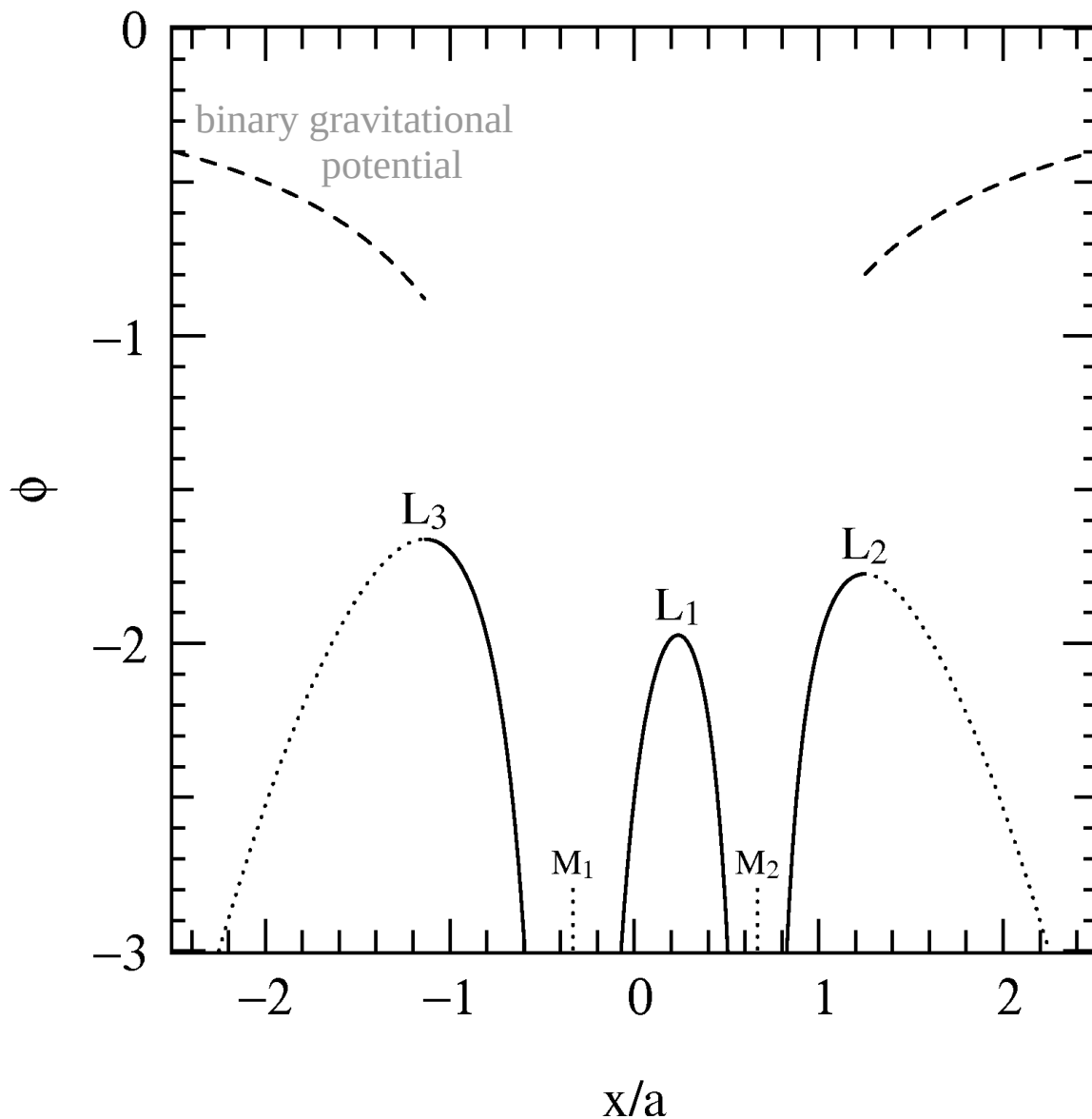


along the orbital axis



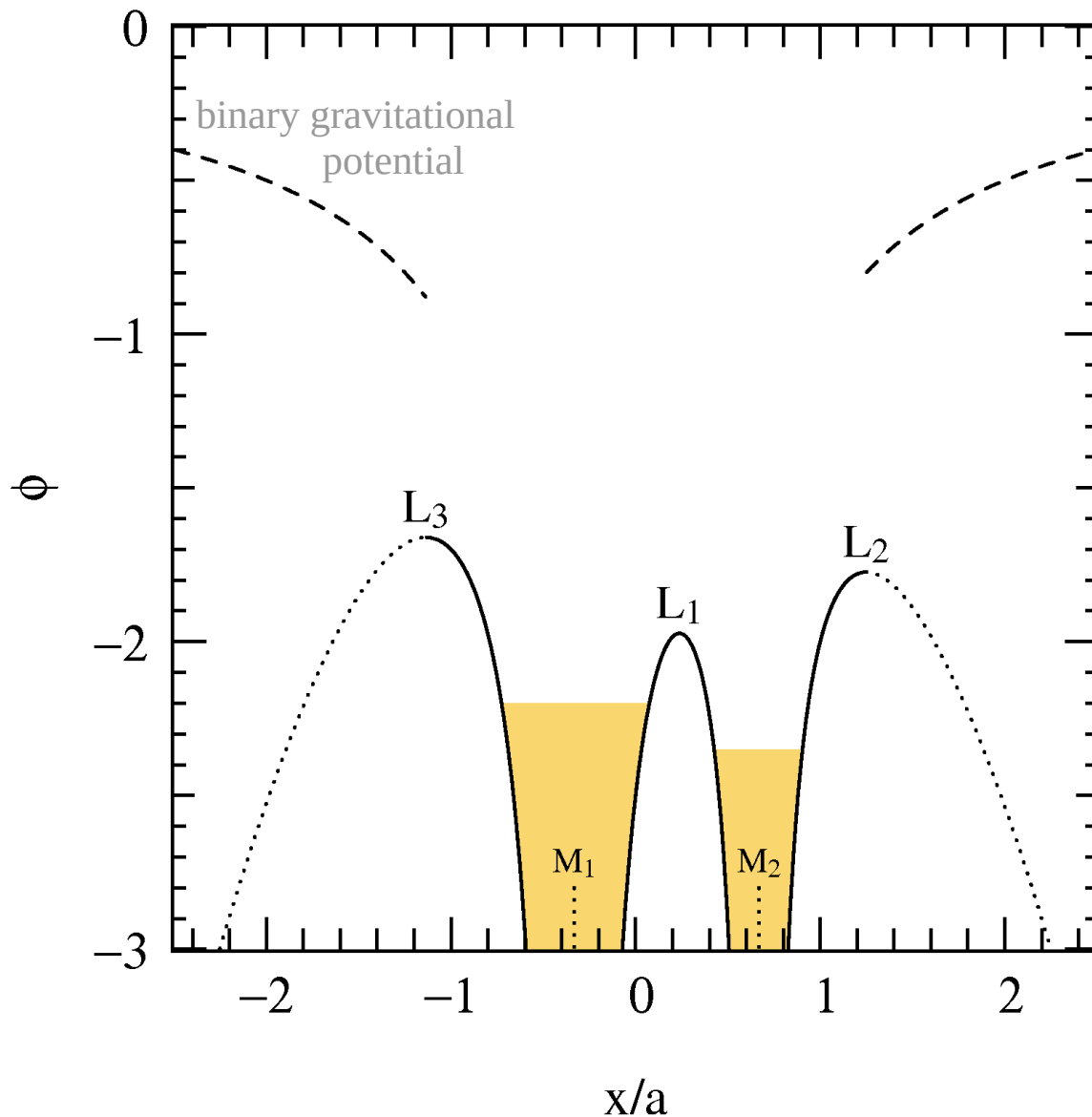
in the orbital plane

the Roche geometry



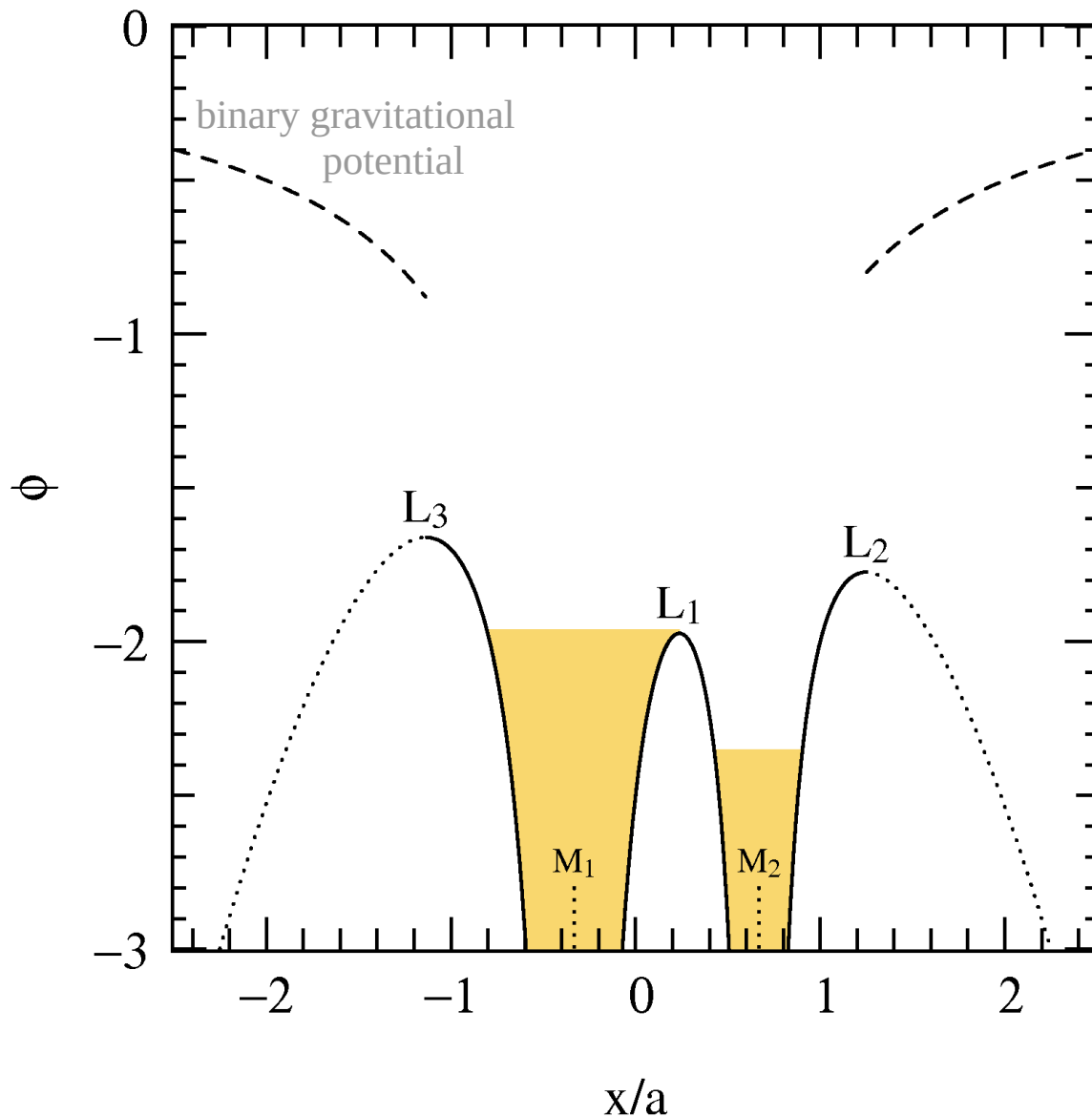
- shape of Roche potential along x -axis (connecting the stars) for $q = 0.5$

the Roche geometry



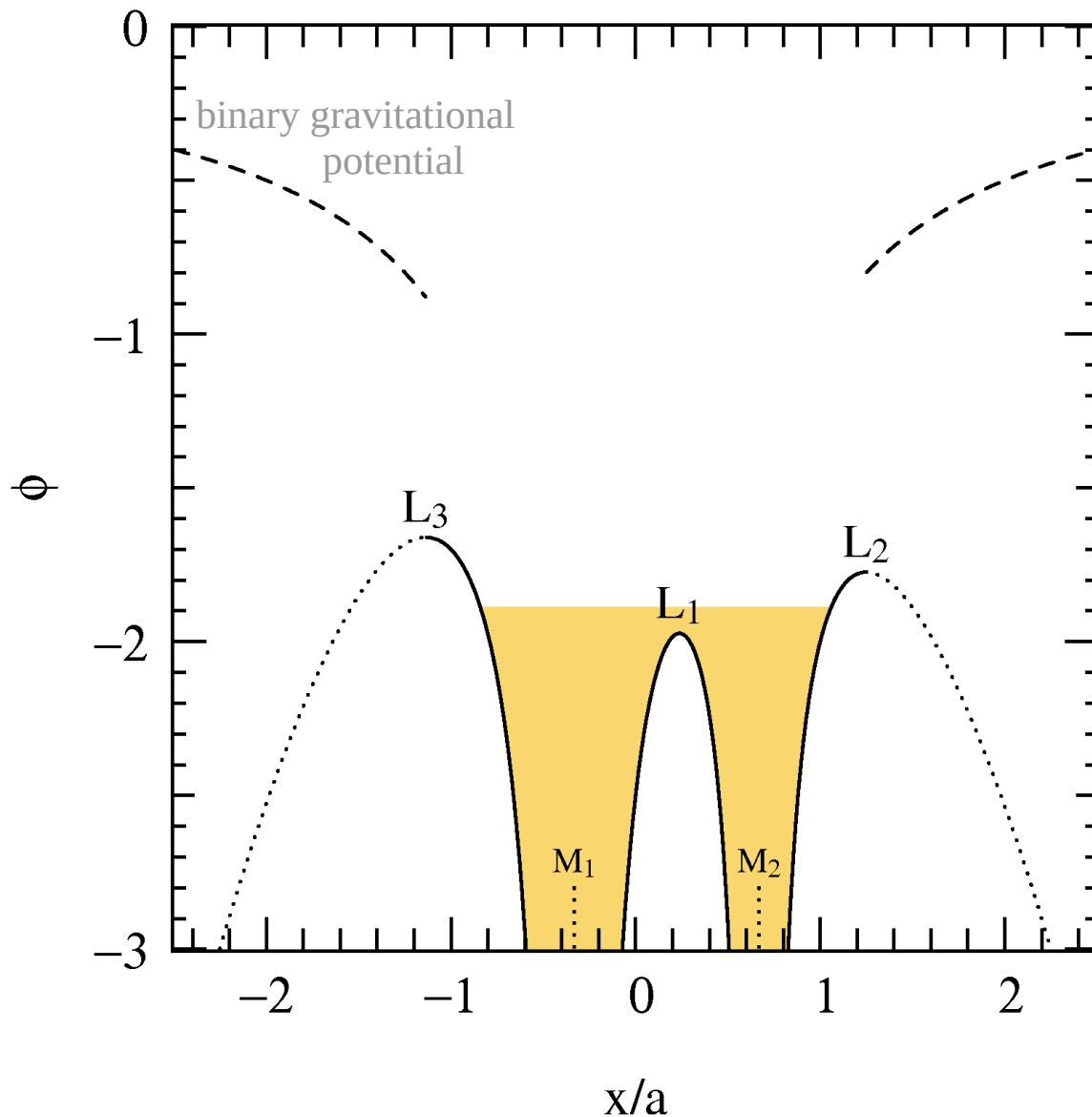
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- hydrostatic equilibrium allows three possible configurations:
 - a **detached binary**

the Roche geometry



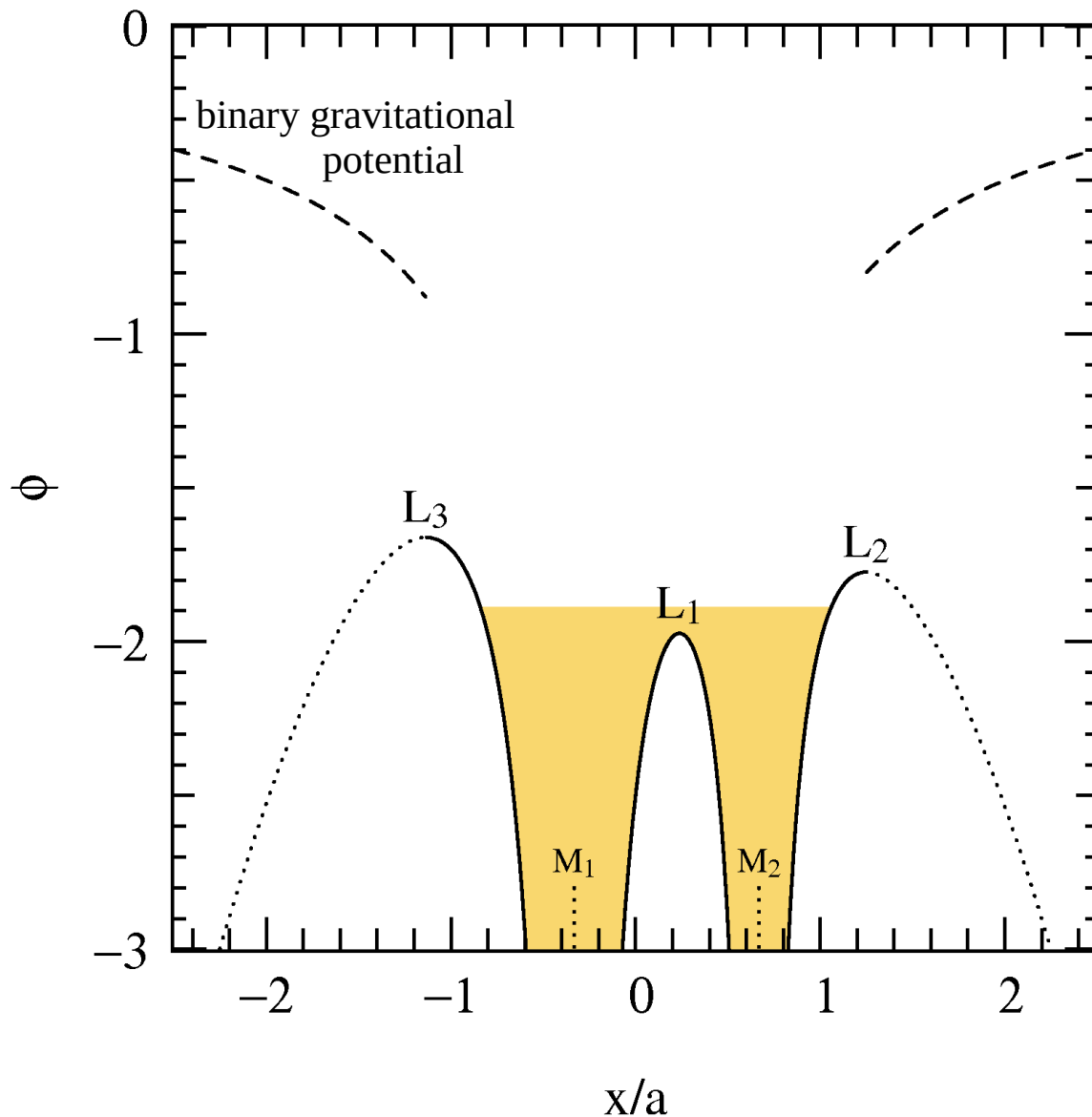
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 - a **semi-detached binary**

the Roche geometry



- shape of Roche potential along x -axis (connecting the stars) for $q = 0.5$
- hydrostatic equilibrium allows three possible configurations:
 - a detached binary
 - a semi-detached binary
 - a **contact binary**

the Roche geometry

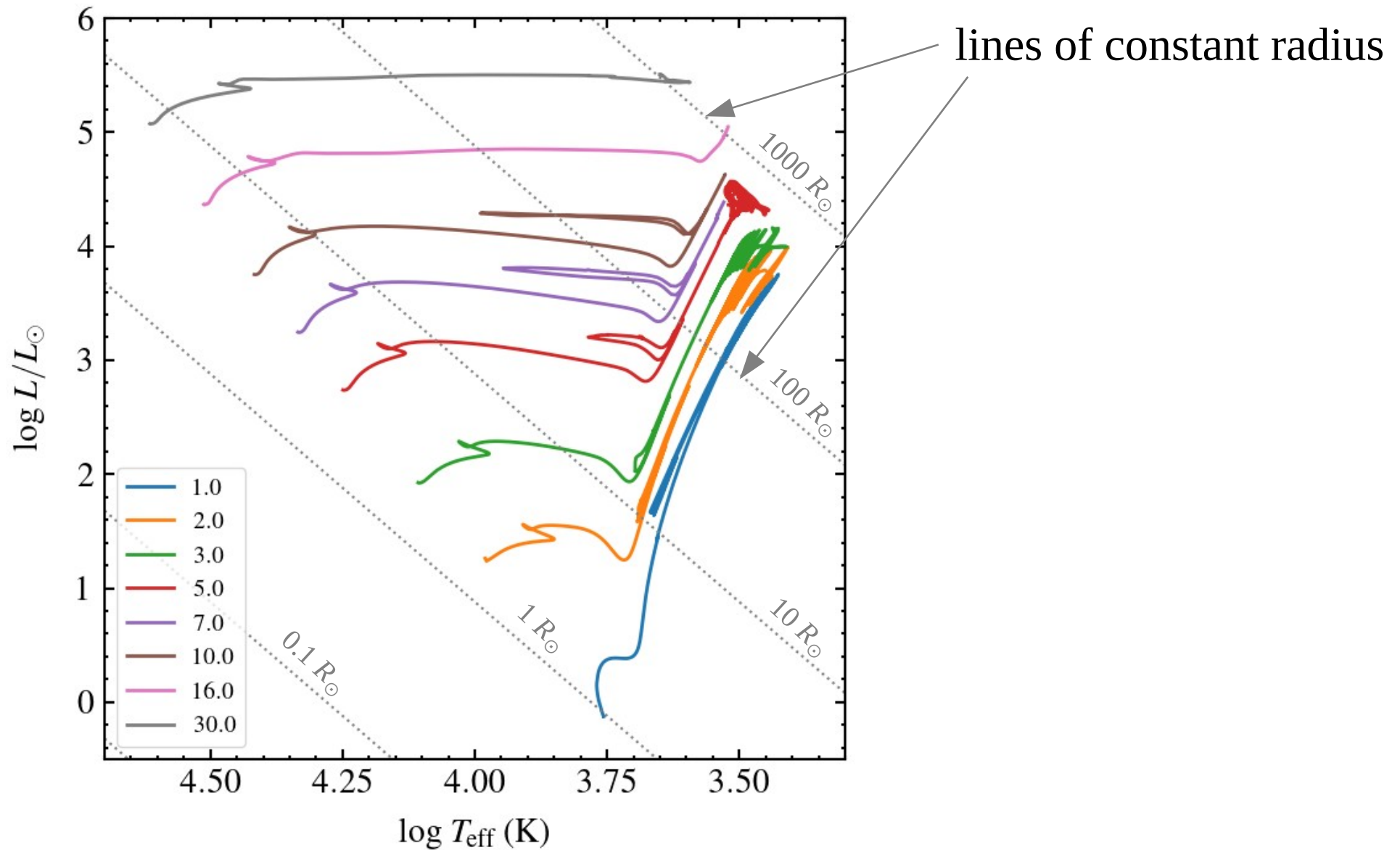


- shape of Roche potential along x -axis (connecting the stars) for $q = 0.5$
- hydrostatic equilibrium allows three possible configurations:
 - a detached binary
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 - a **contact binary**
- outside L_2/L_3 , corotation cannot be maintained \Rightarrow Roche geometry no longer applies, escaping gas is still bound...

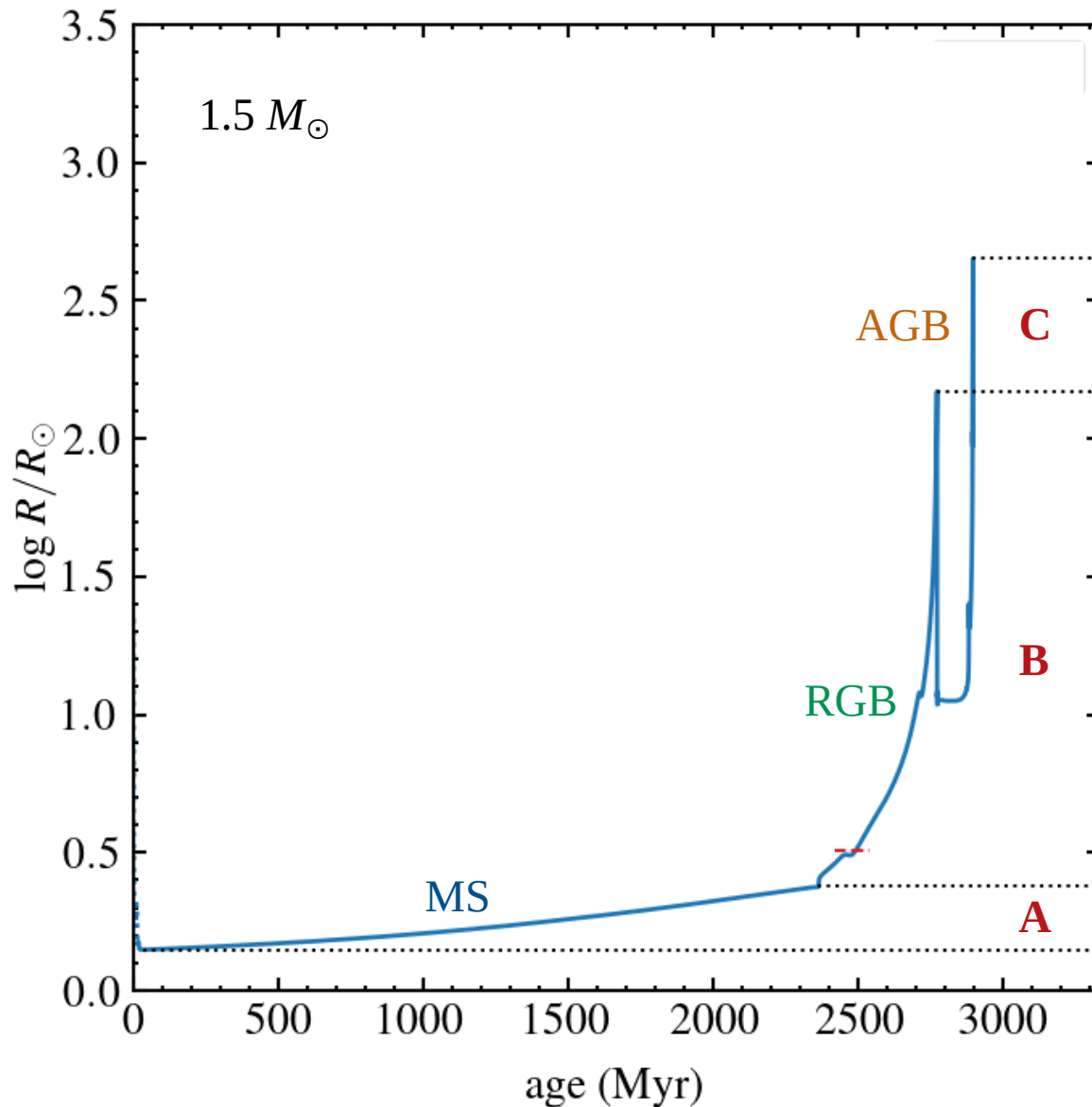
the Roche geometry

- assumptions:
 - gravity of both stars is the same as for **point masses** OK
 - the orbit is **circular** ($e = 0$) ??
 - all matter **co-rotates with the orbit** (stellar rotation is synchronized with orbit) ??
- last two assumptions may not generally hold, but are satisfied in case of strong **tidal interaction** (next lecture)

evolution of stellar radius

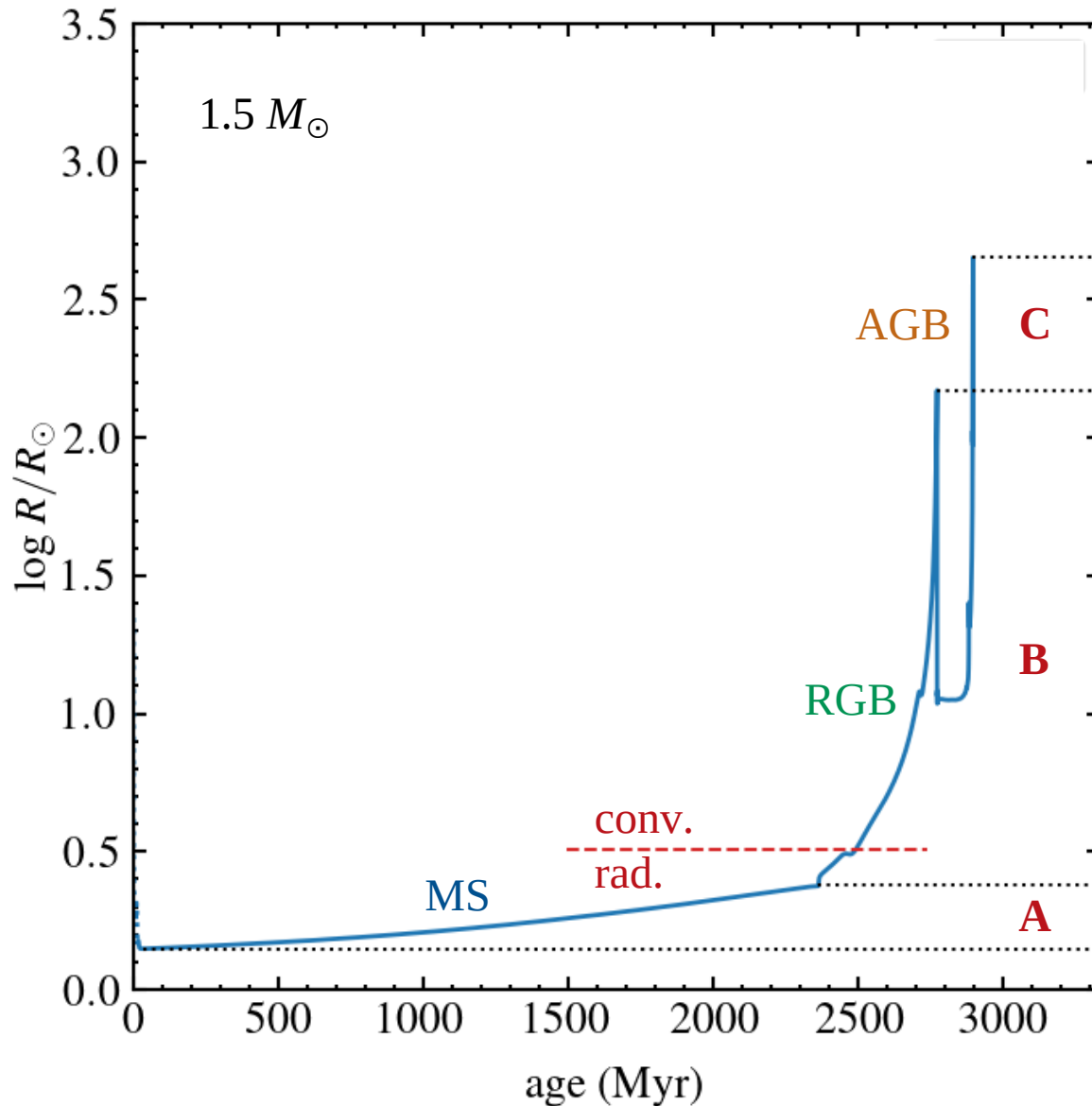


cases of binary evolution



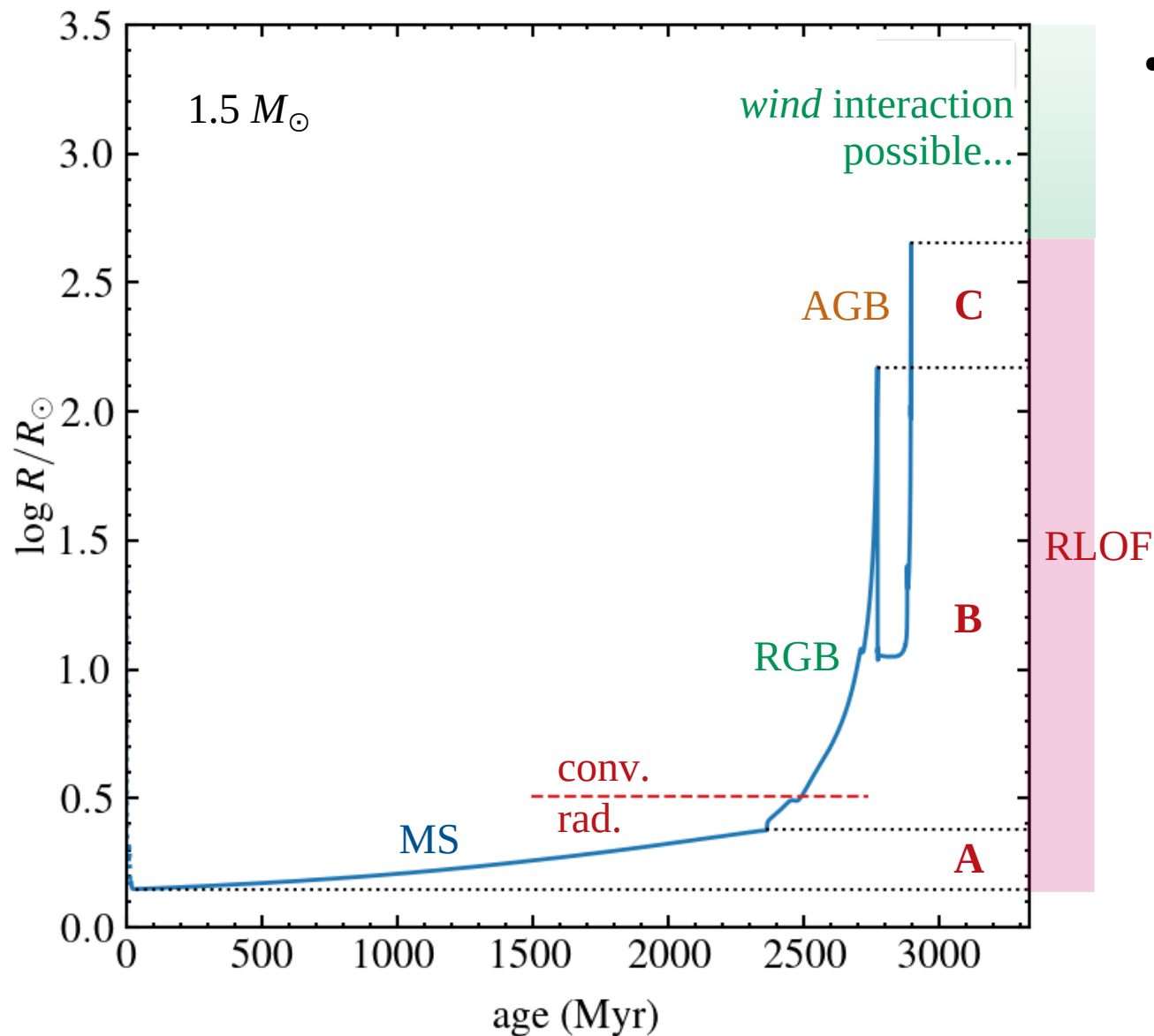
- distinguish **three cases of binary evolution**, depending on when a star first fills its Roche lobe
 - **case A**: during the main sequence
 - **case B**: during H-shell burning, but before He-ignition
 - **case C**: after He exhaustion

cases of binary evolution



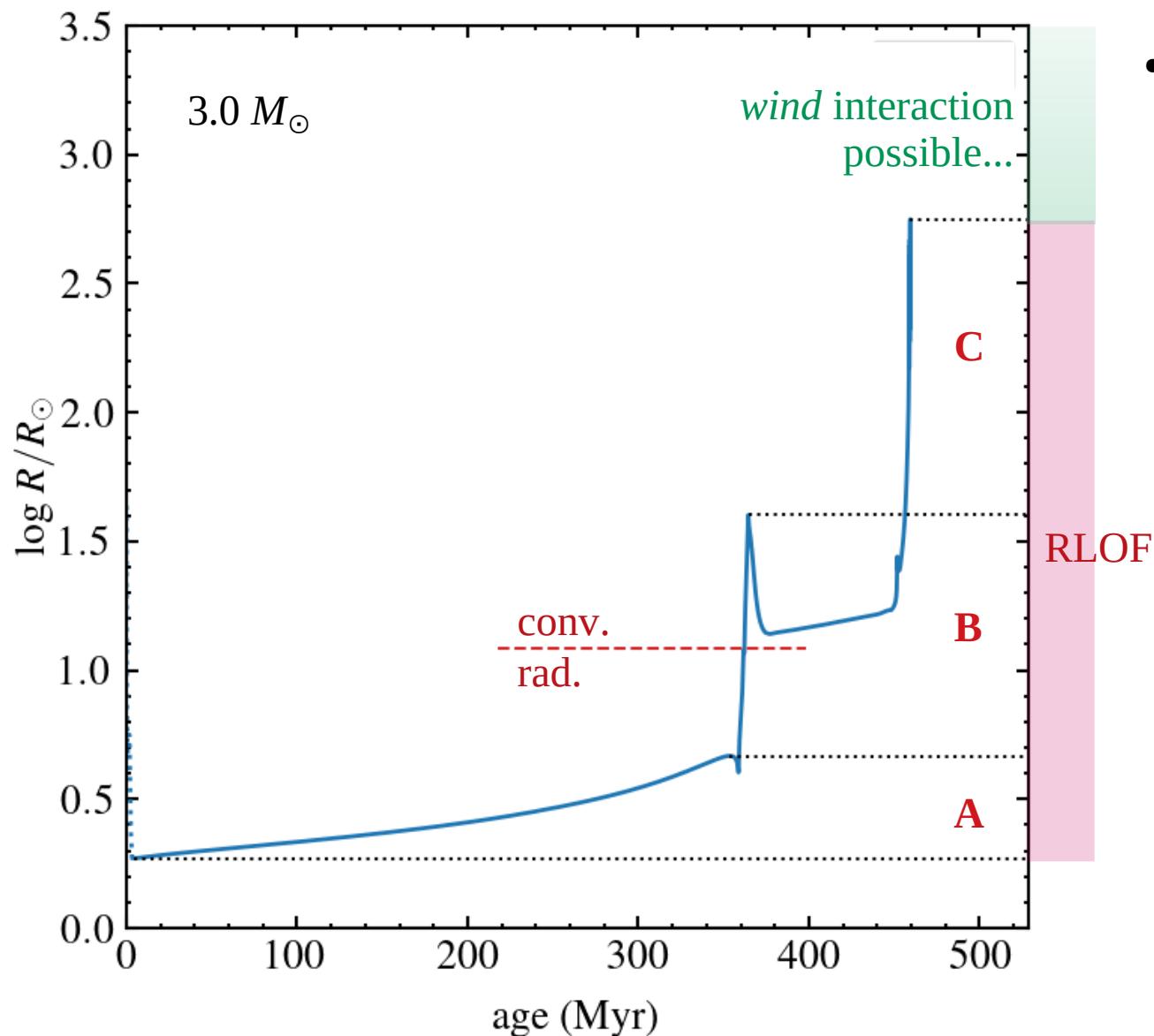
- an equally important distinction that affects how mass transfer proceeds:
 - **radiative outer envelope** (main sequence, Hertzsprung gap)
 - **convective outer envelope** (red giant, or very low-mass MS star)

evolution of stellar radius



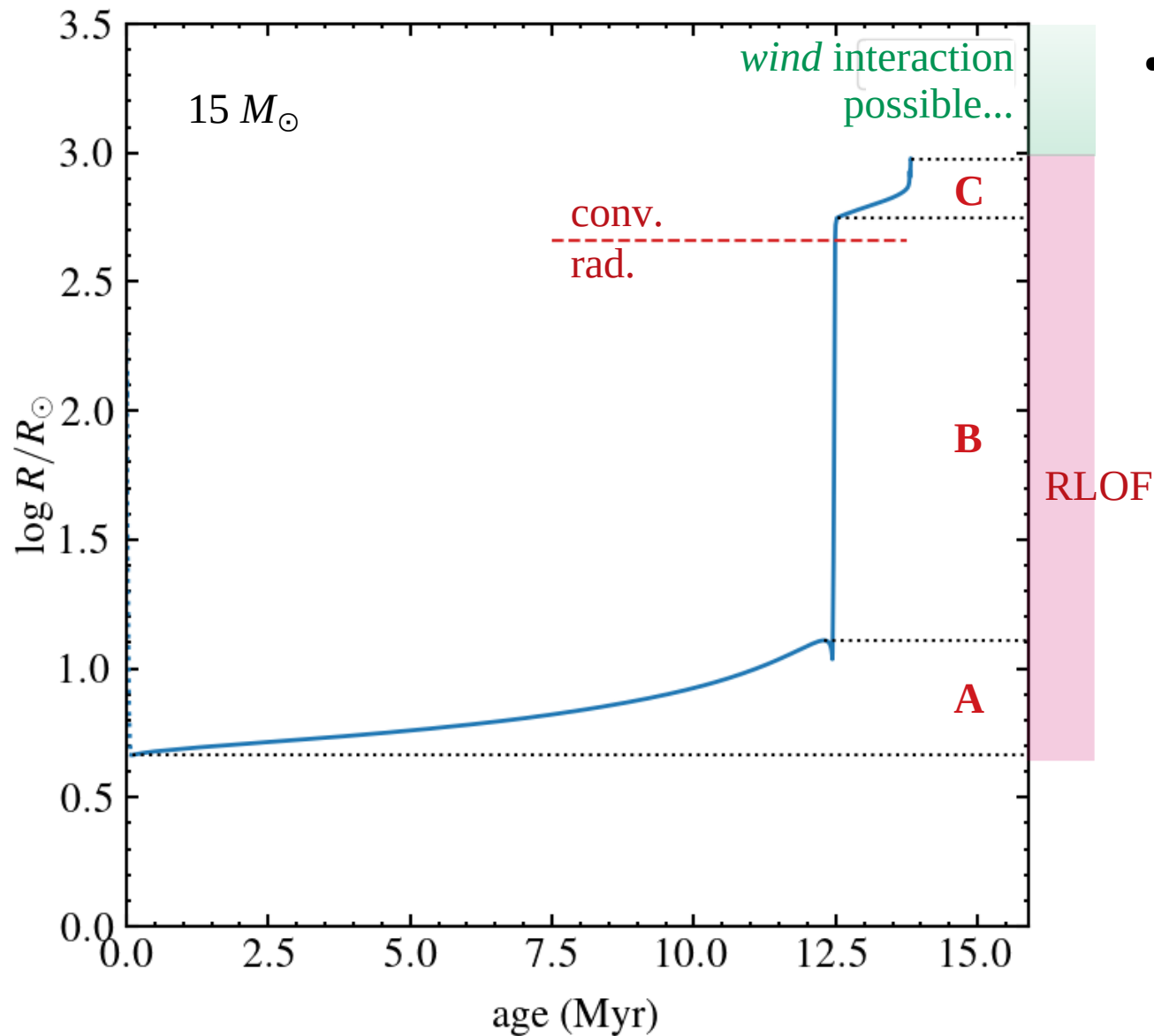
- low-mass stars:
 - most expansion occurs on the RGB
 - large range of orbital periods for case B (as red giant with *convective* envelope)
 - AGB-wind interaction in wider orbits

evolution of stellar radius



- intermediate-mass stars:
 - expansion during all phases (HG, RGB, AGB)
 - large range of orbital periods for case B and case C
 - AGB-wind interaction in wider orbits

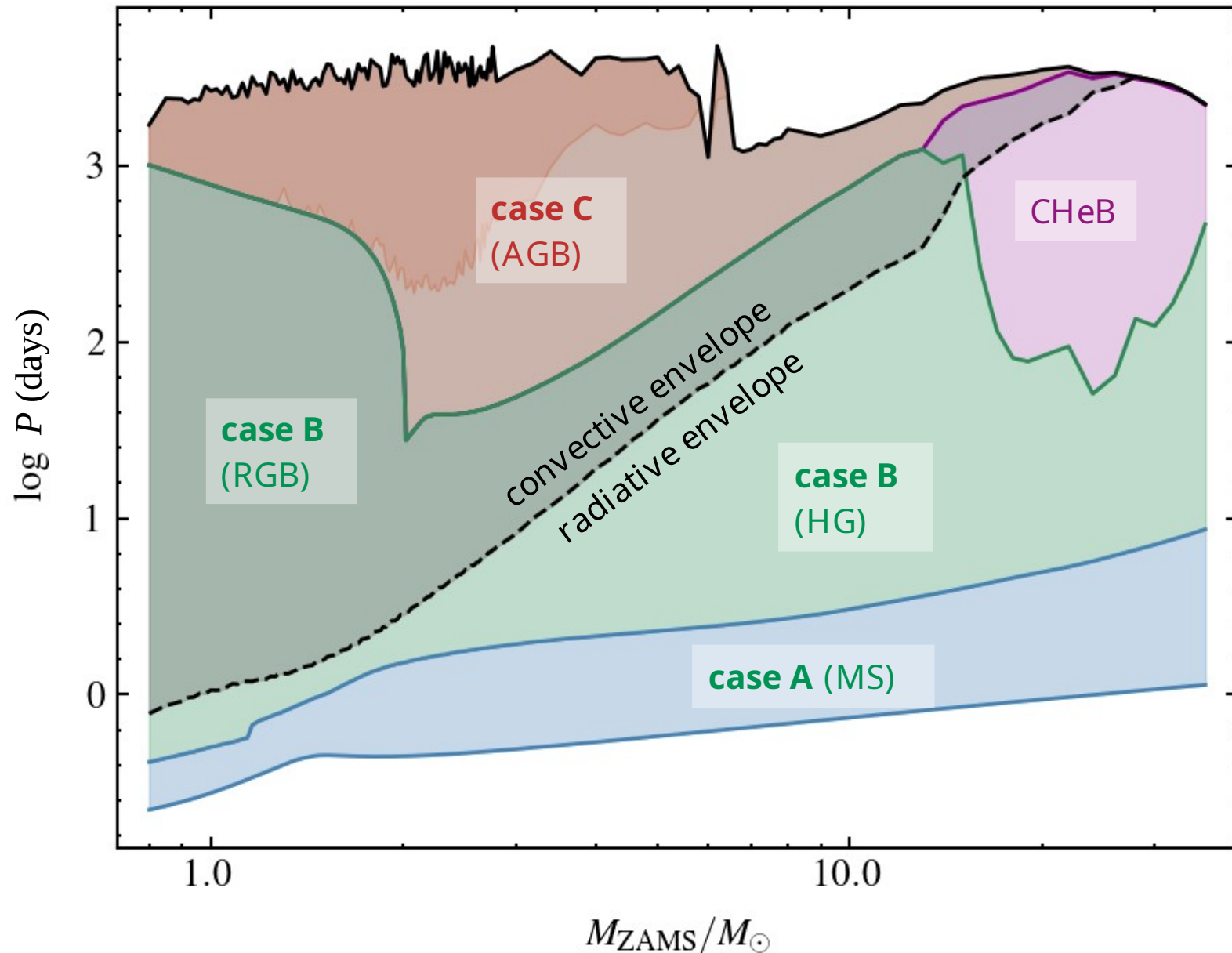
evolution of stellar radius



- high-mass stars:
 - most expansion occurs during HG
 - large range of orbital periods for case B (with *radiative* envelope)

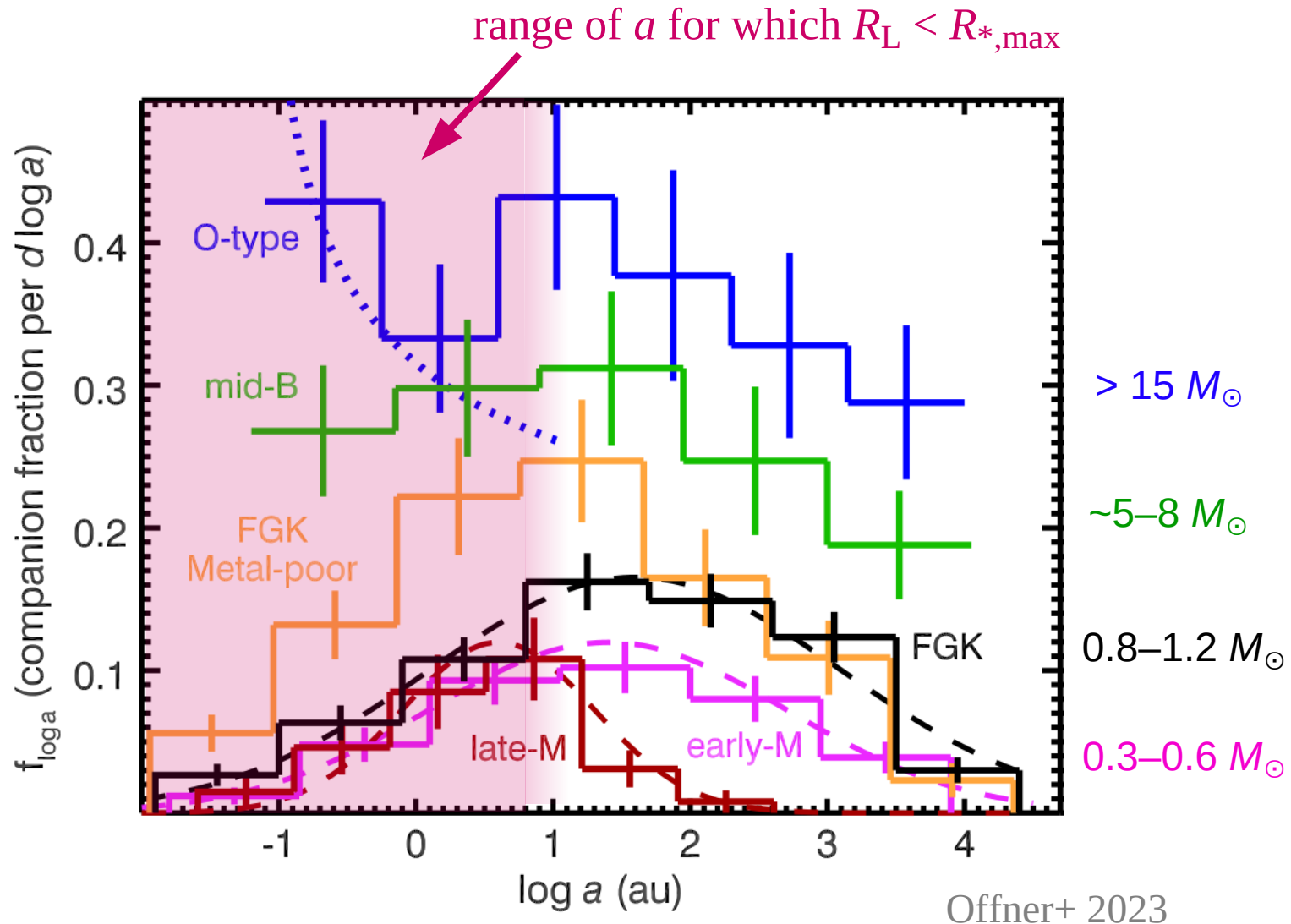
parameter space for RLOF

- dependence on primary mass and orbital period:



binary statistics

- orbital period distributions for different populations:

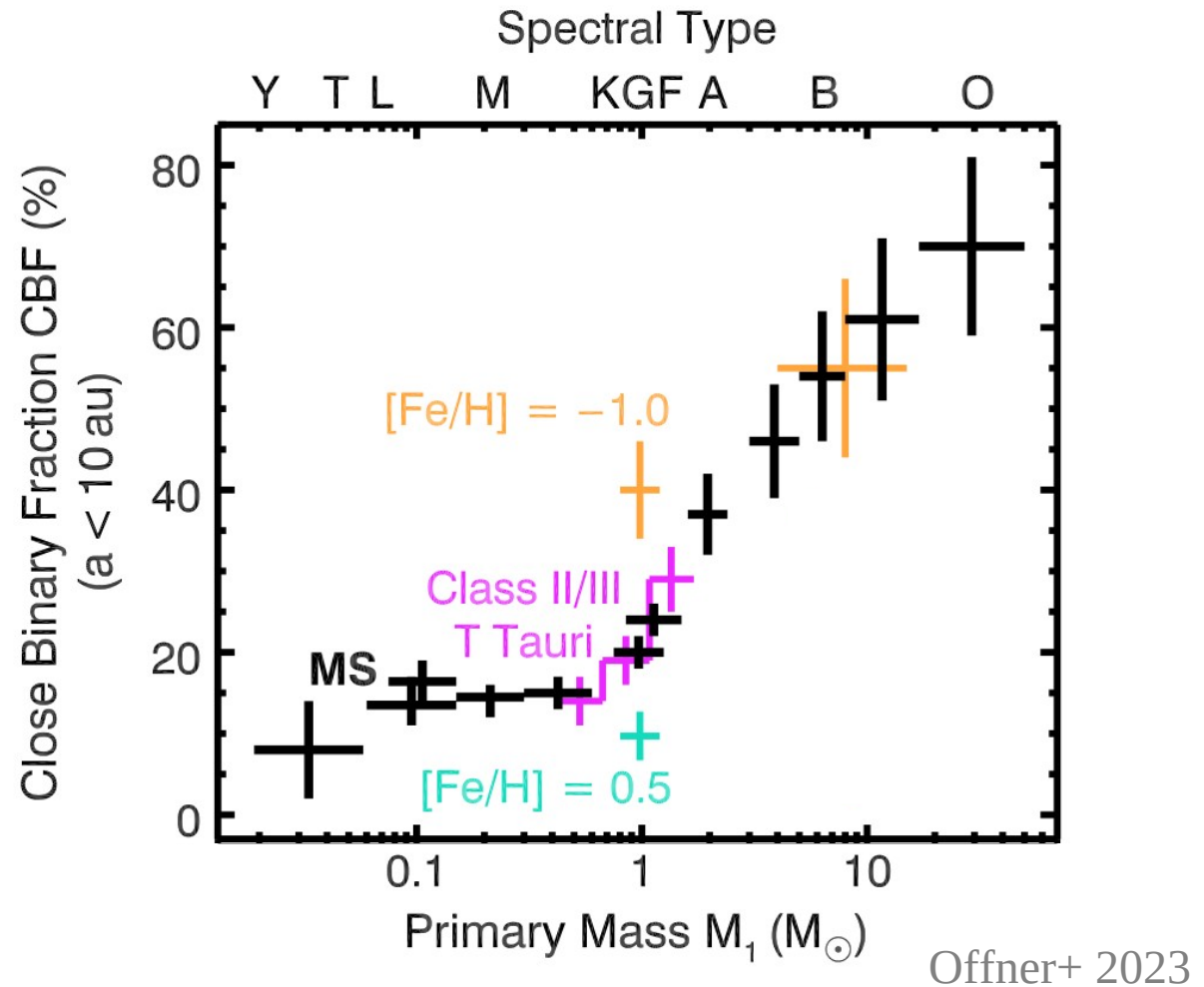


interacting binaries

- fraction of primary stars that will **interact by RLOF** with a companion during evolution:

~20% of solar-type stars

~70% of massive stars



- N.B wider binaries ($a > 10$ AU) can also interact by means of their **stellar winds**

