

# A FIRST TASTE OF MESA

★ Created by: Lieke van Son, Aleksandra Olejak, and Shelley Cheng ★

# Meet the MESA-hack Organizers



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**(massive) stars  
are awesome**

## Massive (Binary) Stars

TRANSIENT  
FORMATION

gravitational  
waves

supernovae

Luminous  
red Novae

CHEMICAL  
ENRICHMENT

complex  
molecules

metallicity

reionization

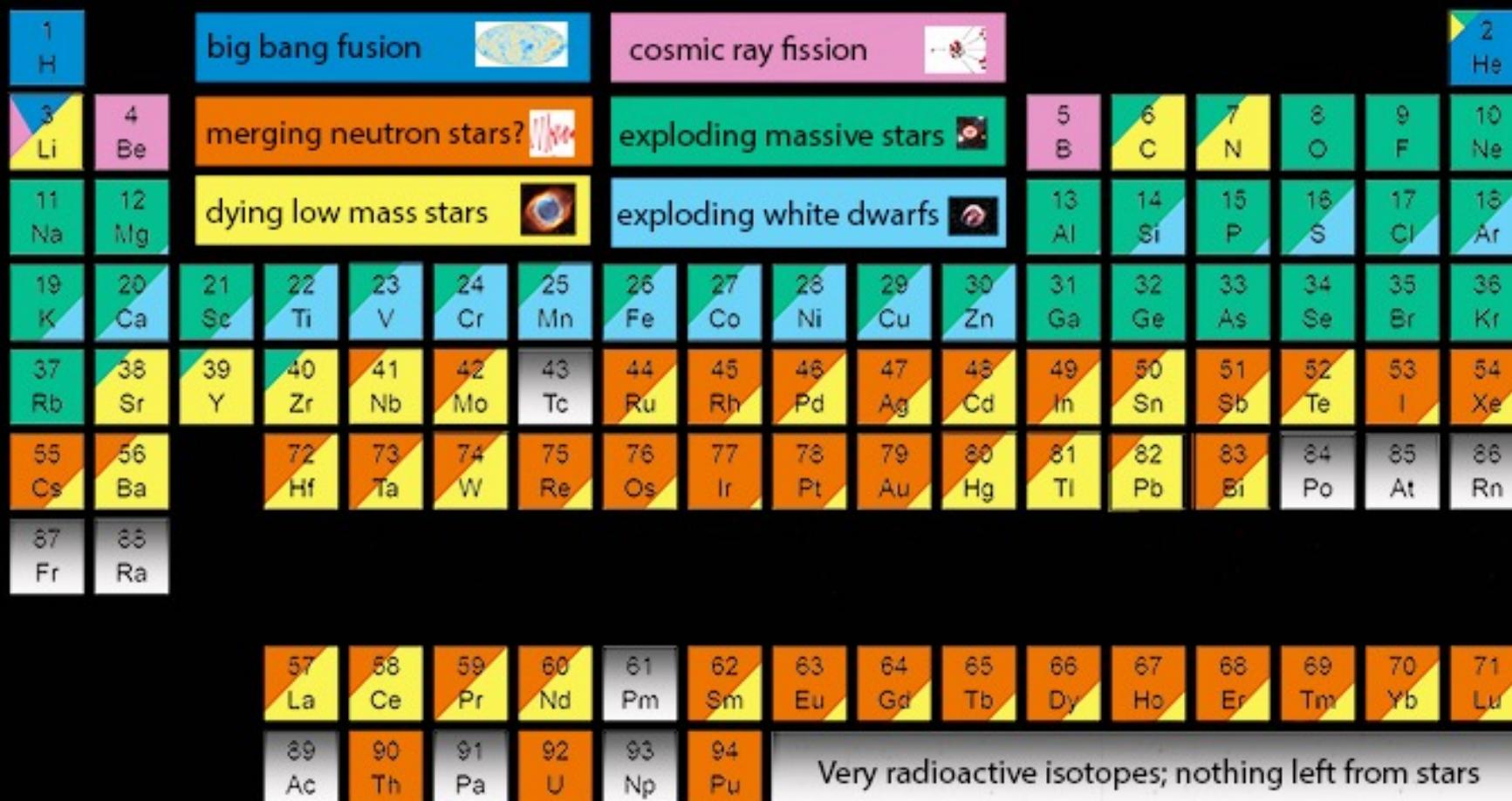
IONIZING  
RADIATION

COMPACT  
OBJECTS

NS & condensed  
matter

black  
holes

# The Origin of the Solar System Elements



Graphic created by Jennifer Johnson  
<http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~jaj/nucleo/>

Astronomical Image Credits:  
ESA/NASA/AASNova

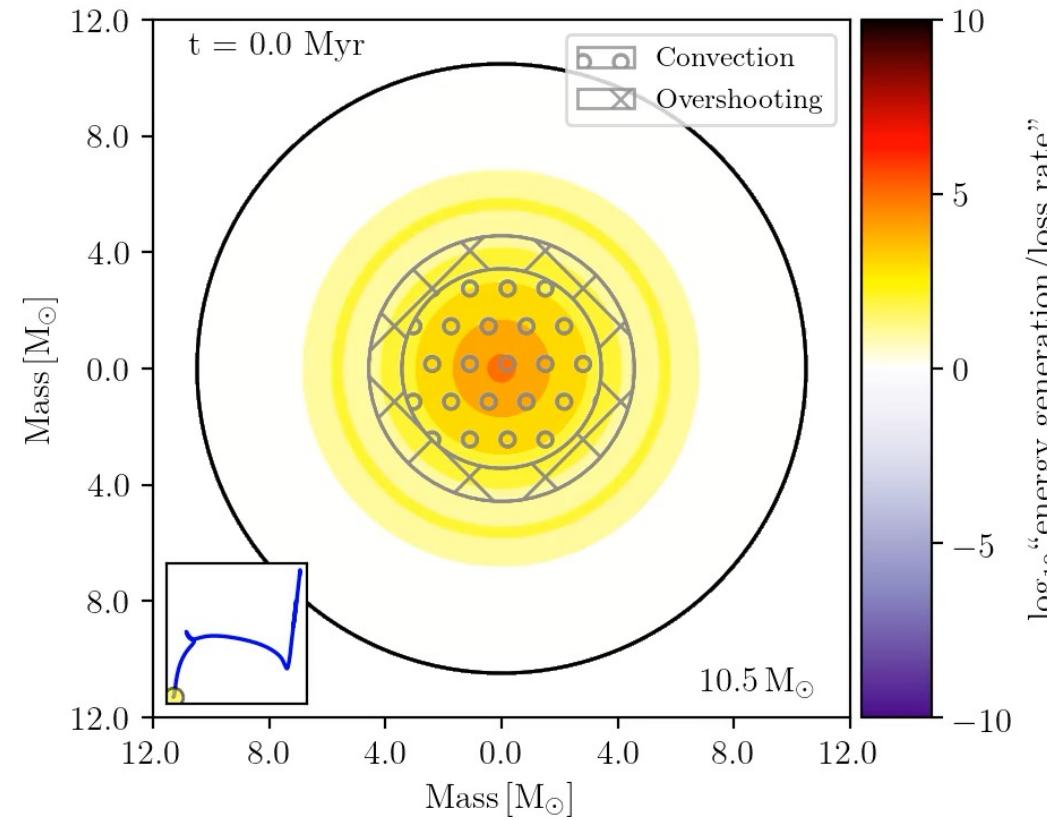
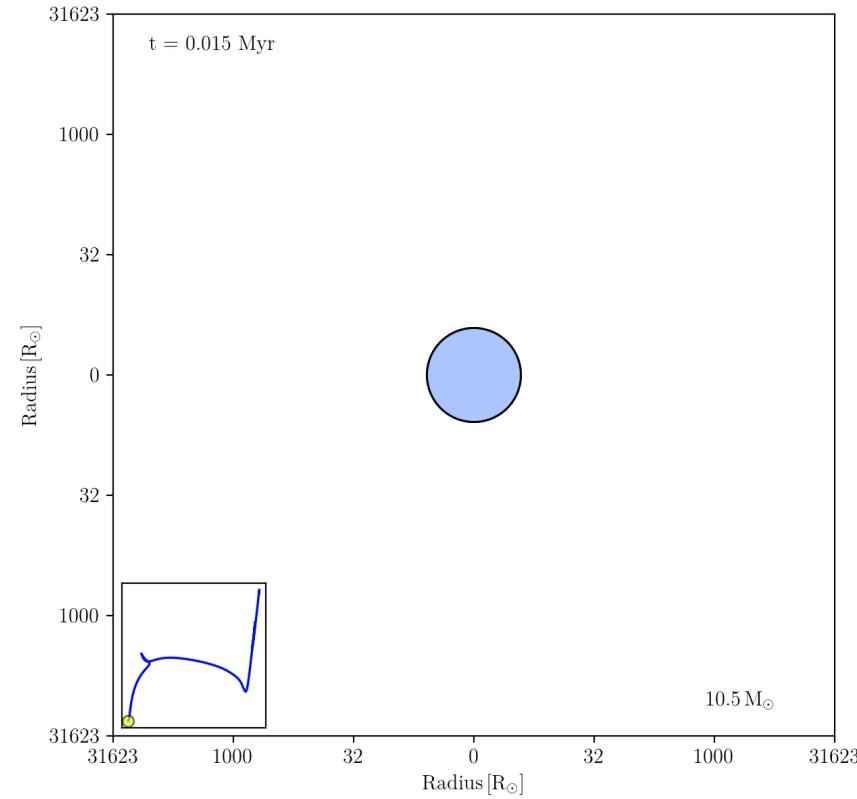
# The challenge: Massive binary stars are complicated

**Uncertain:** wind mass loss, size of the core, nuclear reaction rates, formation of convective regions, mass transfer stability, mass transfer efficiency, common envelopes, birth metallicity, angular momentum transport within the star, birth spin, remnant-mass function, supernova birth kick, tidal interactions, luminous blue variable mass loss, etc..



# What is MESA?

## Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics



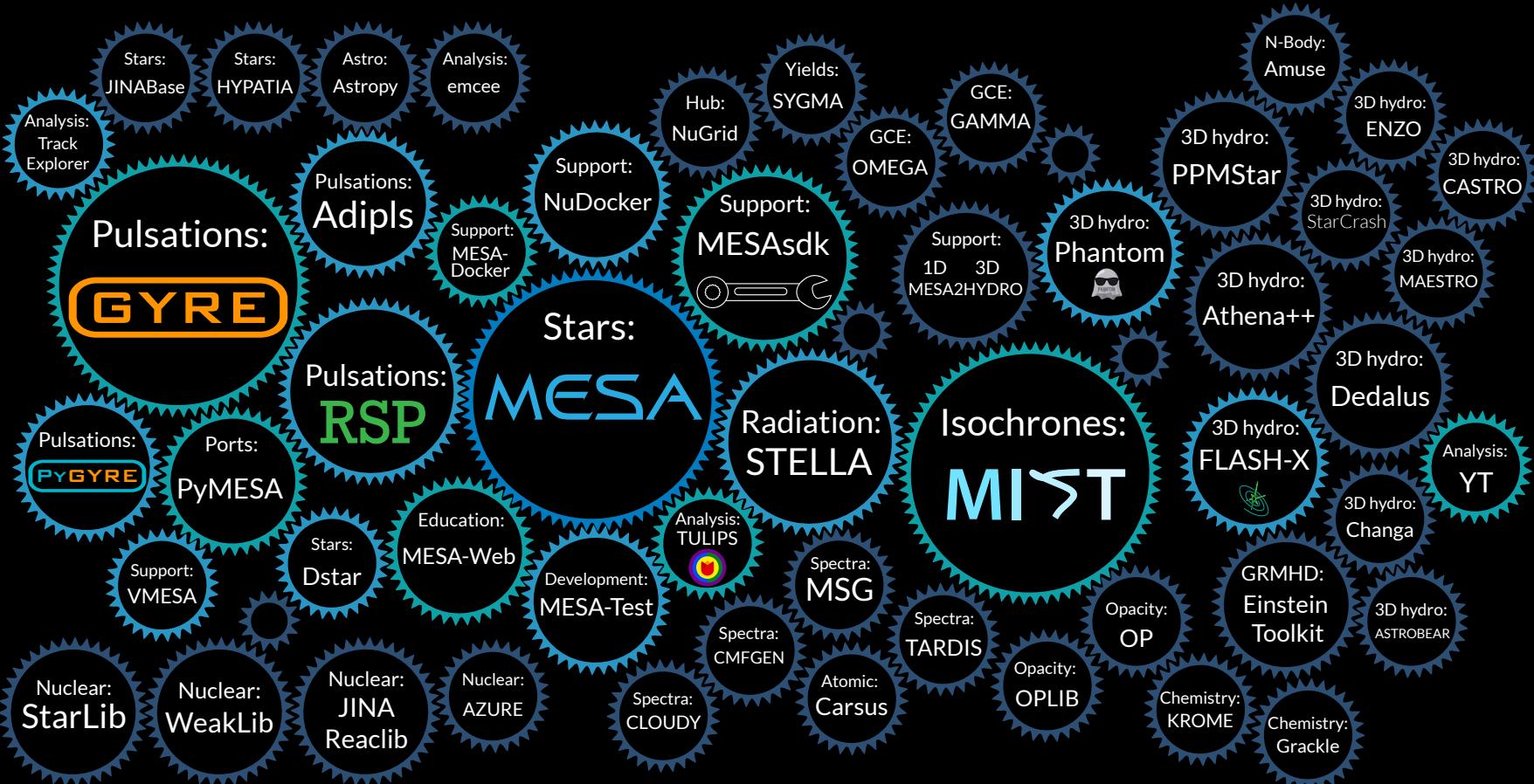
Made using TULIPS Laplace et al. (2021)

# MESA == Table mountain



# Telescopes

Gaia LVK SDSS HST JWST VRO ASAS-SN TESS ZTF LCO COSI NuSTAR SK-Gd



NSCL

FRI<sup>B</sup>

CASP<sup>A</sup>R

SECAR

St. George

NIF

Z-Pinch

Diamond Anvil

Laboratory Astrophysics

Slide by Frank Timmes

# Solving the stellar structure equations

## 1) Hydrostatic equilibrium

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial M_r} = -\frac{GM_r}{4\pi r^4} - \frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial t^2},$$

## 3) Radiative transport

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial M_r} = -\frac{3\kappa L_r}{64\pi^2 acT^3 r^4},$$

## 2) Mass conservation

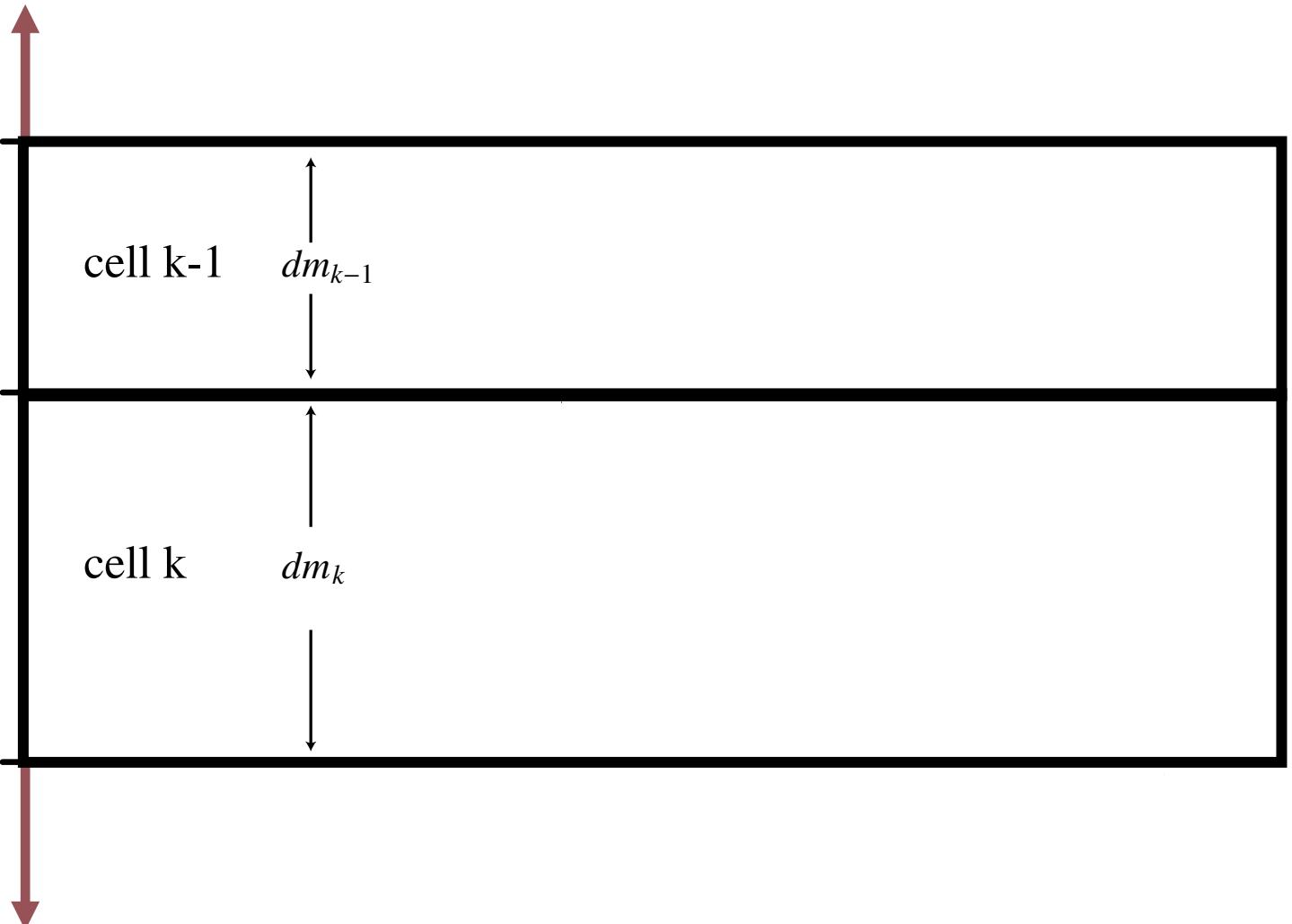
$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial M_r} = \frac{1}{4\pi r^2 \rho},$$

## 4) Thermal equilibrium

$$\frac{\partial L_r}{\partial M_r} = \epsilon - T \frac{\partial S}{\partial t}.$$

**Structure  
divided into  
cells  
(spherically  
symmetric)**

Surface of the star



Center of the star

# **Six instrument papers to date**

## **1. Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics (MESA)**

Paxton, Bill; Bildsten, Lars; Dotter, Aaron et al. (2011) ApJS..192....3P

## **2. ~ (MESA) Planets, Oscillations, Rotation, and Massive Stars**

Paxton, Bill; Cantiello, Matteo; Arras, Phil et al. (2013) ApJS..208....4P

## **3. ~ (MESA): Binaries, Pulsations, and Explosions**

Paxton, Bill; Marchant, Pablo; Schwab, Josiah et al. (2015) ApJS..220...15P

## **4. ~ (MESA): Convective Boundaries, Element Diffusion, and Massive Star Explosions**

Paxton, Bill; Schwab, Josiah; Bauer, Evan B. (2018) ApJS..234...34P

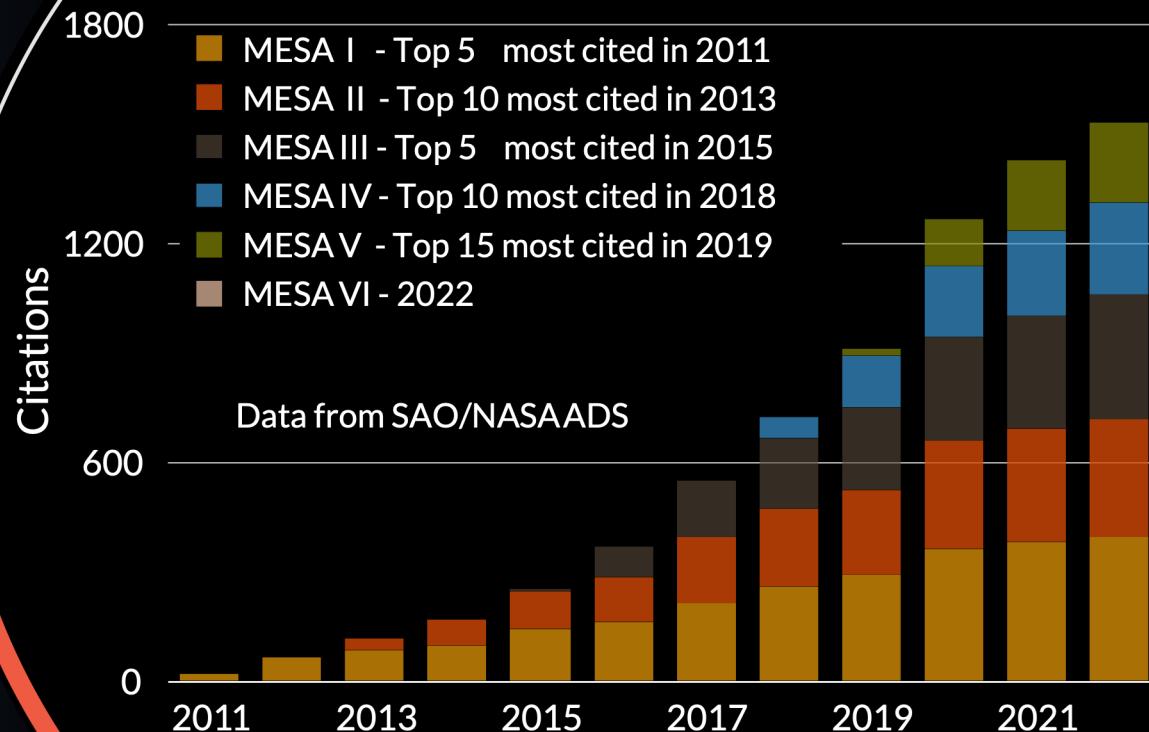
## **5. ~ (MESA): Pulsating Variable Stars, Rotation, Convective Boundaries, and Energy Conservation**

Paxton, Bill; Smolec, R.; Schwab, Josiah (2019) ApJS..243...10P

## **6. ~ (MESA): Time-dependent Convection, Energy Conservation, Automatic Differentiation, and Infrastructure**

Jermyn, Adam S. ; Bauer, Evan B. ; Schwab, Josiah (2023) ApJS..265...15J

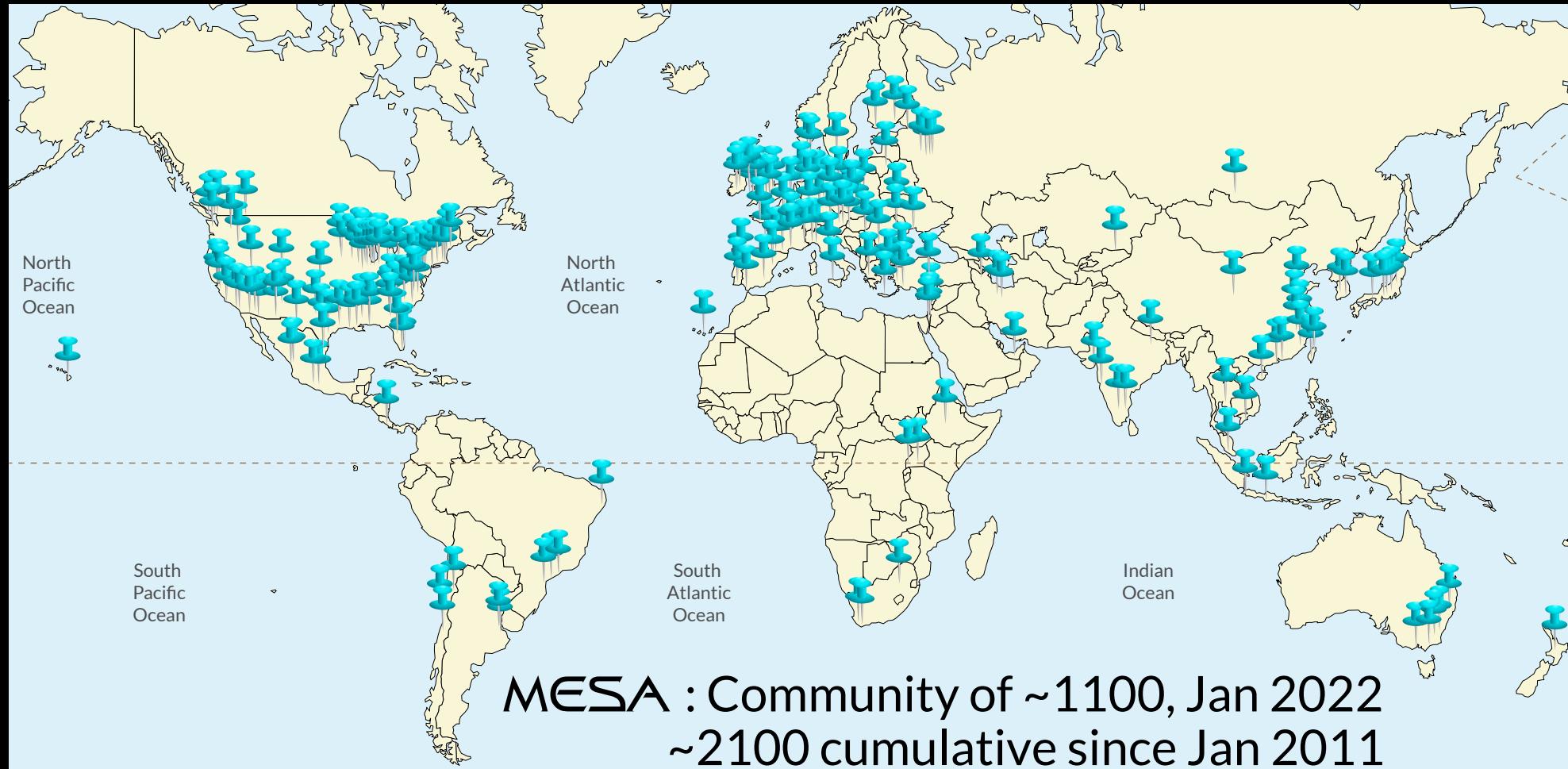
# MESA



Citations: 11019

Slide by Frank Timmes  
VAST 18 Jan 2022

# The MESA community



# MESA = open source

## Useful links

### Documentation:

<https://docs.mesastar.org>

### MESA market (tools & inlists):

[https://cococubed.com/mesa\\_market/](https://cococubed.com/mesa_market/)

### py\_mesa\_reader by Bill Wolf:

[https://github.com/wmwolf/py\\_mesa\\_reader](https://github.com/wmwolf/py_mesa_reader)

## APPENDIX A MANIFESTO

MESA was developed through the concerted efforts of the lead author over a six year period with the engagement and deep involvement of many theoretical and computational astrophysicists. The public availability of MESA will serve education, scientific research, and outreach. This appendix describes the scientific motivation for MESA, the philosophy and rules of use for MESA, and the path forward on stewardship of MESA, and advanced development of future research and education tools.

We make MESA openly available with the hope that it will grow into a community resource. We therefore consider it important to explain the guiding principles for using and contributing to MESA. Our goal is to assure the greatest usefulness for the largest number of research and educational projects.

Paxton et al, ApJS, 193, 3, 2011

### Github repository:

<https://github.com/MESAHub>

### Zenodo repository:

<https://zenodo.org/record/7983526>

# Annual MESA summer school!

To dive deeper into the subject!

**More than 10 year of MESA Summer School lectures & labs  
(including solutions):**

[https://cococubed.com/mesa\\_market/education.html](https://cococubed.com/mesa_market/education.html)



MESA Summer School at Konkoly  
2023



2024

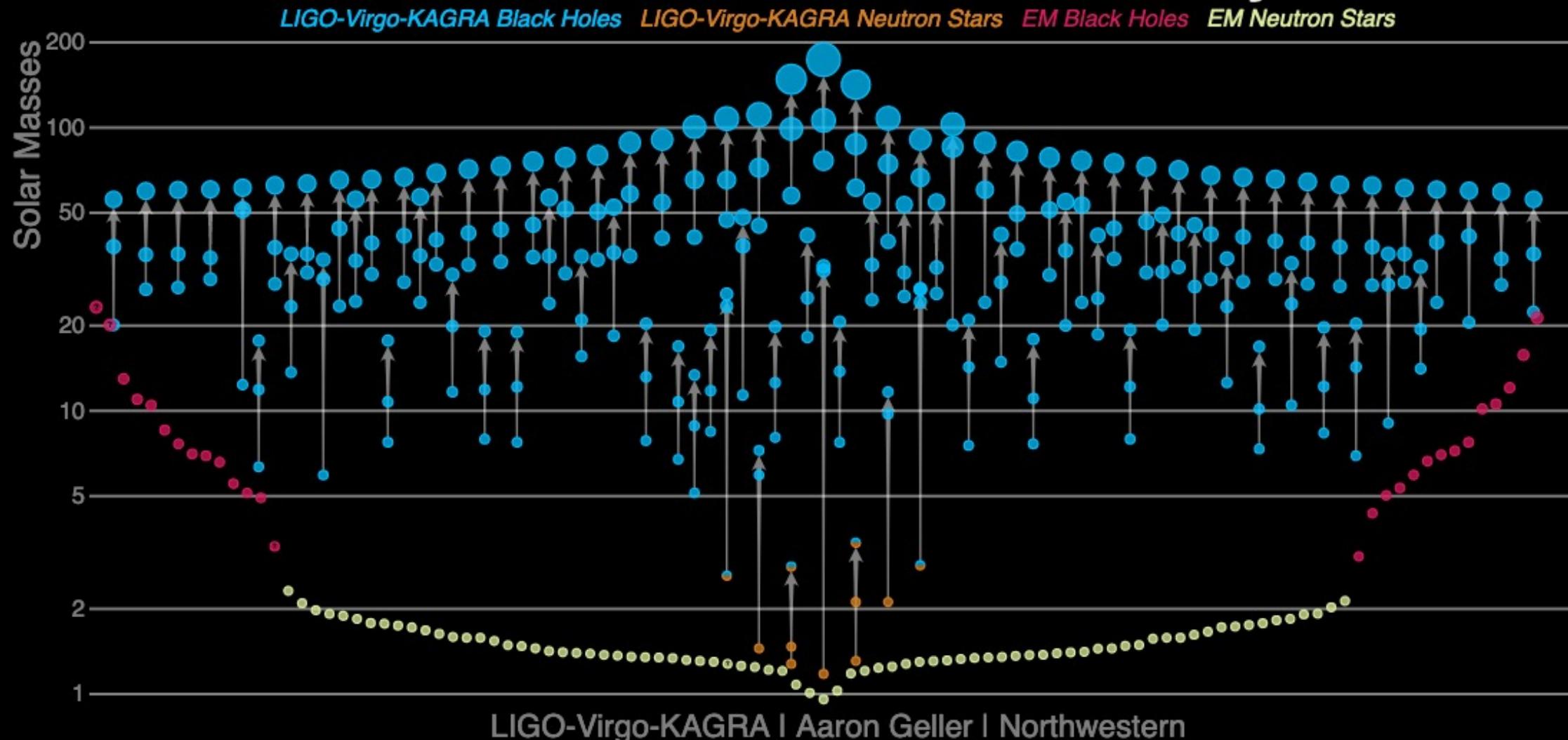
MESA Down Under School

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of June 2024 at University of Sydney

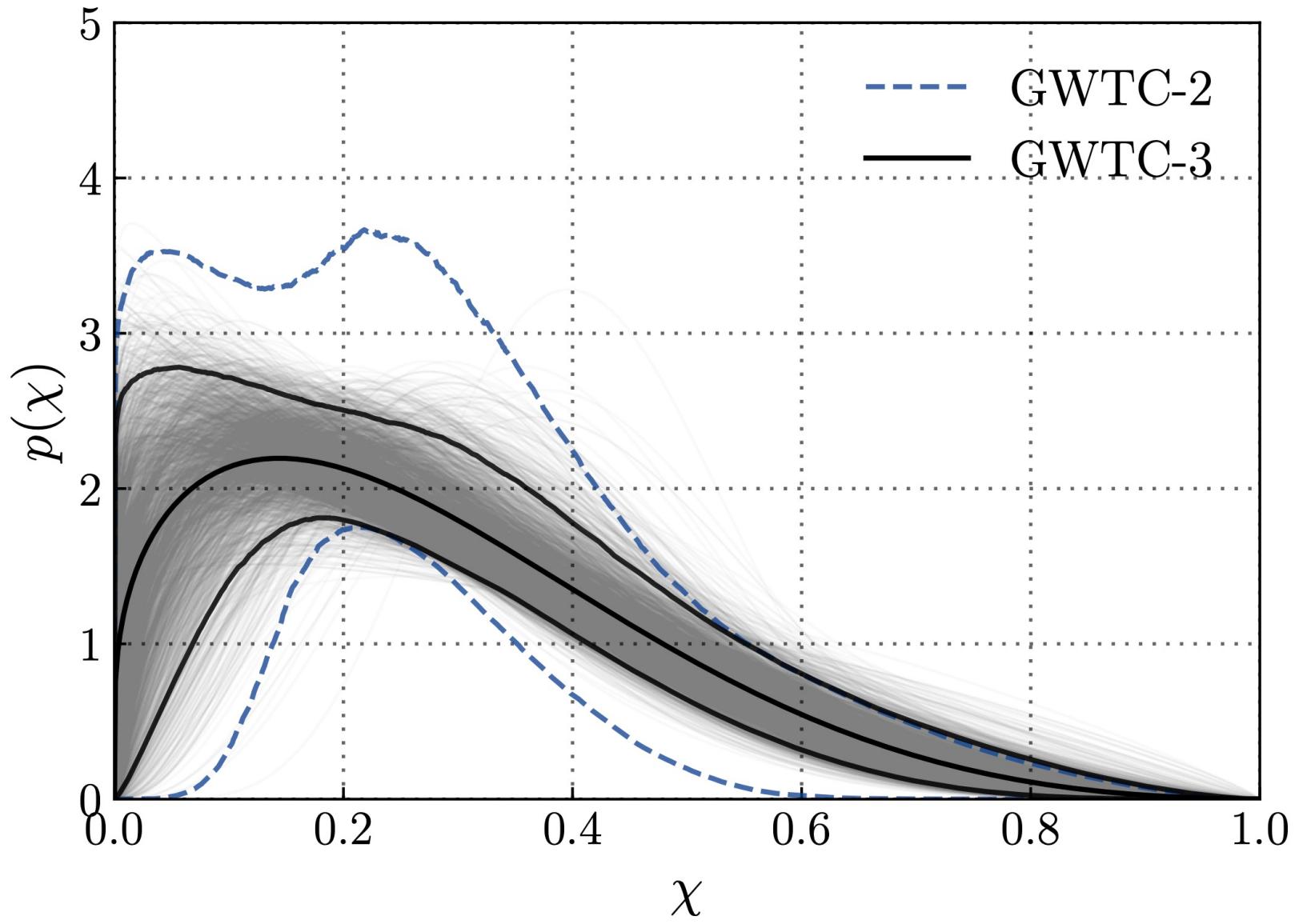
# A first taste of MESA

Rotating stars and black holes

# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

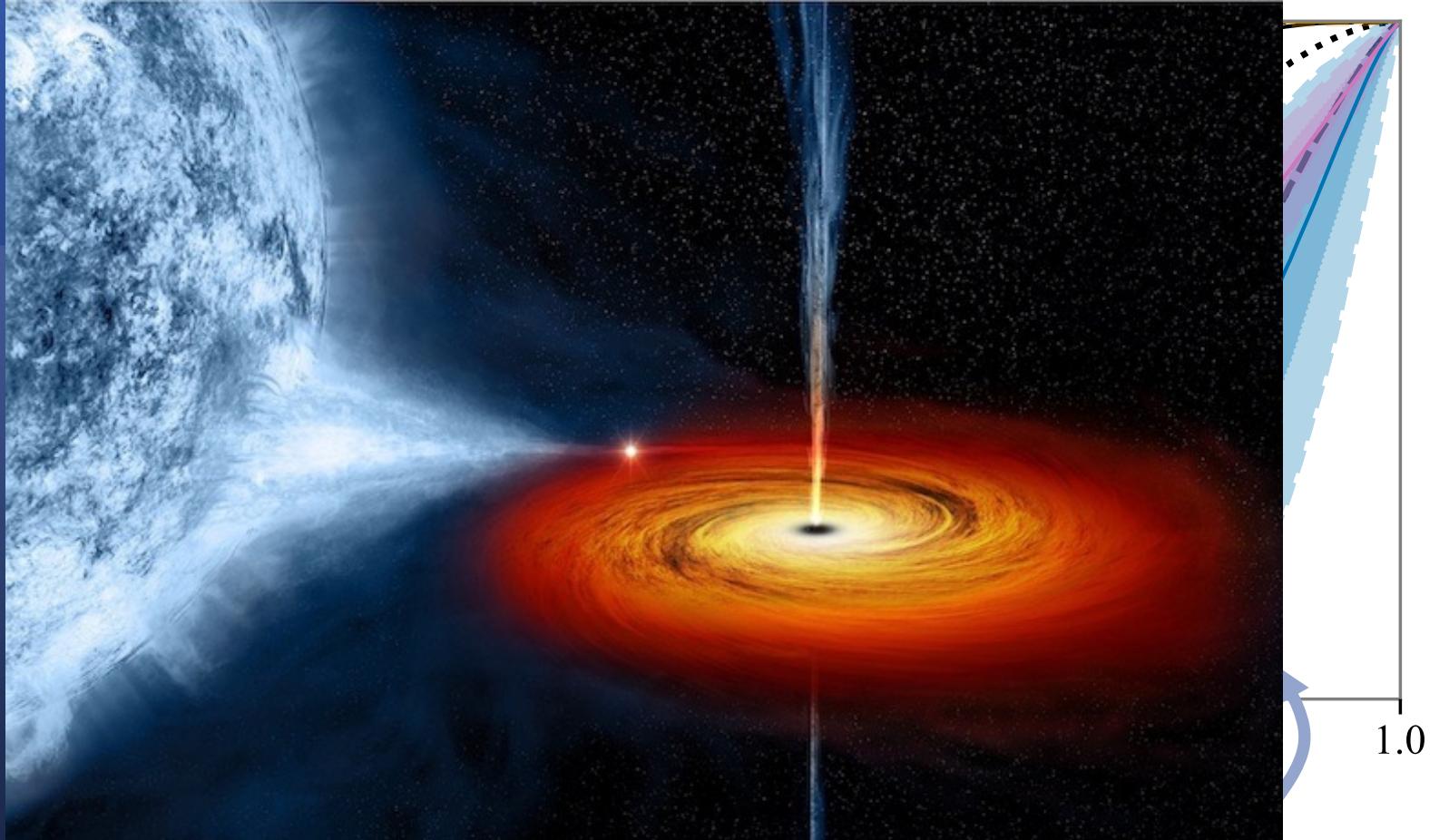


These BHs  
spin slowly



X-ray  
binaries  
spin fast?

GW-detected black holes



XRB detected black holes

# How do black holes get their spin?



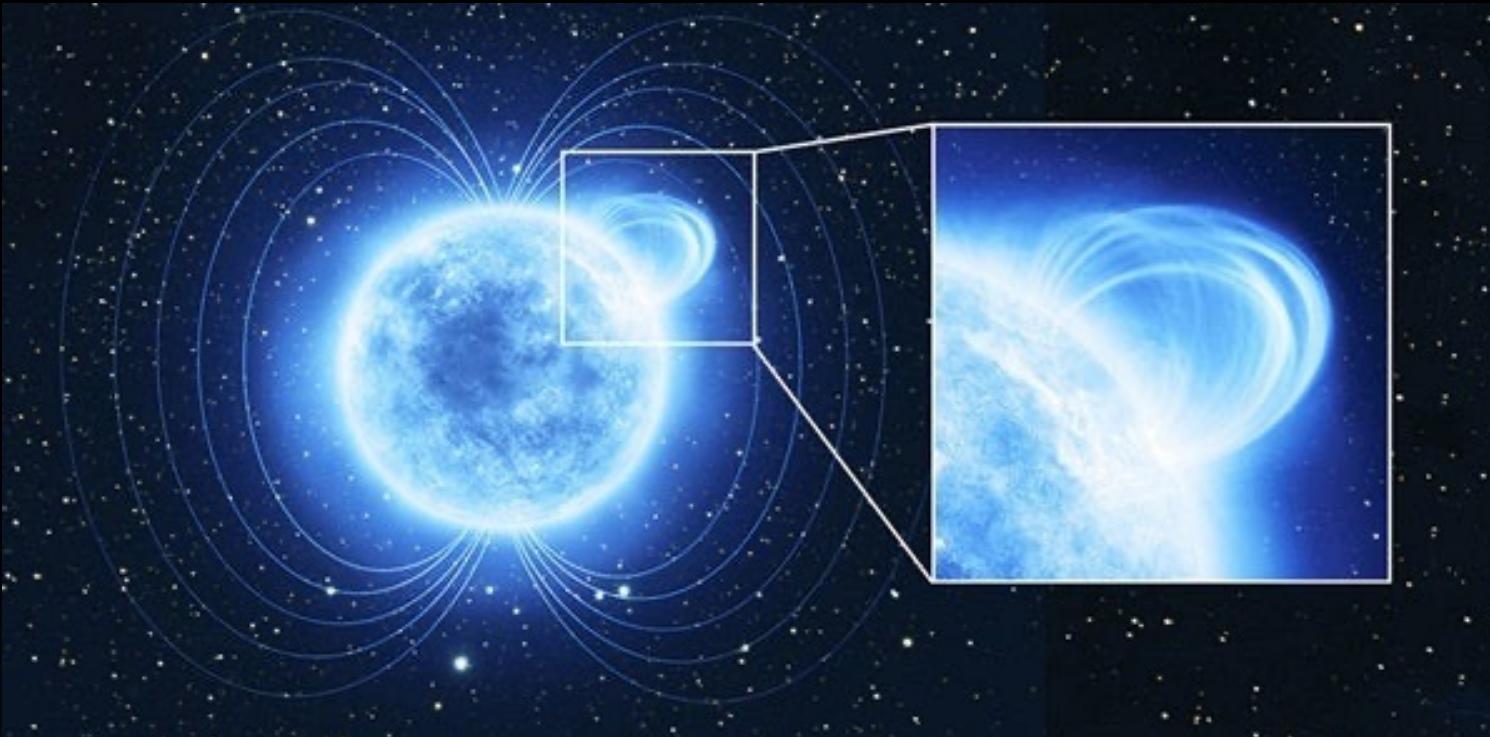
*What affects the rotation of a star and its core?*

# Birth rotation



Protostar forming in L1527  
JWST NIR Cam

# Magnetic fields (Angular momentum transport)



Magnetic loop on magnetar SGR 0418. // ESA

# Stellar Winds

The 'bubble nebula'  
Credit: NASA, Hubble Space Telescope



# Logistics

Hackathon: “A first taste of MESA”

# This MESA hackathon

MESA hack	Sunday 4th August	Monday 5th August
9:00-10:00		Part 2.0 continued
10:00-10:30	Welcome & Introductions	Birth rotation
10:30-11:00	Icebreaker	Birth rotation
11:00-11:30	Tea Break	Tea Break
11:30-12:00	Lecture: Introduction to MESA	AM transport
12:00-13:00	Getting started / Running MESA	AM transport
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Running MESA /MESA output	Winds
15:00-15:30	MESA output	Winds
15:30-16:00	Tea Break	Tea Break
16:00-17:00	Start on part 2.0	Final proj. / begin preparing presentations
17:00-18:00	Team updates and questions	Final Presentations

# Hack Teams

3 people per team

Sharing one Virtual Machine (VM)

Produce a joint final presentation

# Spin it as you like!

*What affects the rotation of a star and its core?*

With your group, calculate the final **dimensionless spin** of a compact object for different initial conditions

→ can you get it to spin like the GW-observed black holes?



Image credit: Science Asylum





Questions?

# Getting started

go to:

<https://liekevanson.github.io/IAUhackathon/home.html>

Please download and install the  
Slido app on all computers you use



How comfortable do you feel with  
**python?**

- ① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Please download and install the  
Slido app on all computers you use



**How comfortable do you feel with  
working through the terminal?**

- ① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Please download and install the  
Slido app on all computers you use



## How comfortable do you feel with running MESA?

- ① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.