

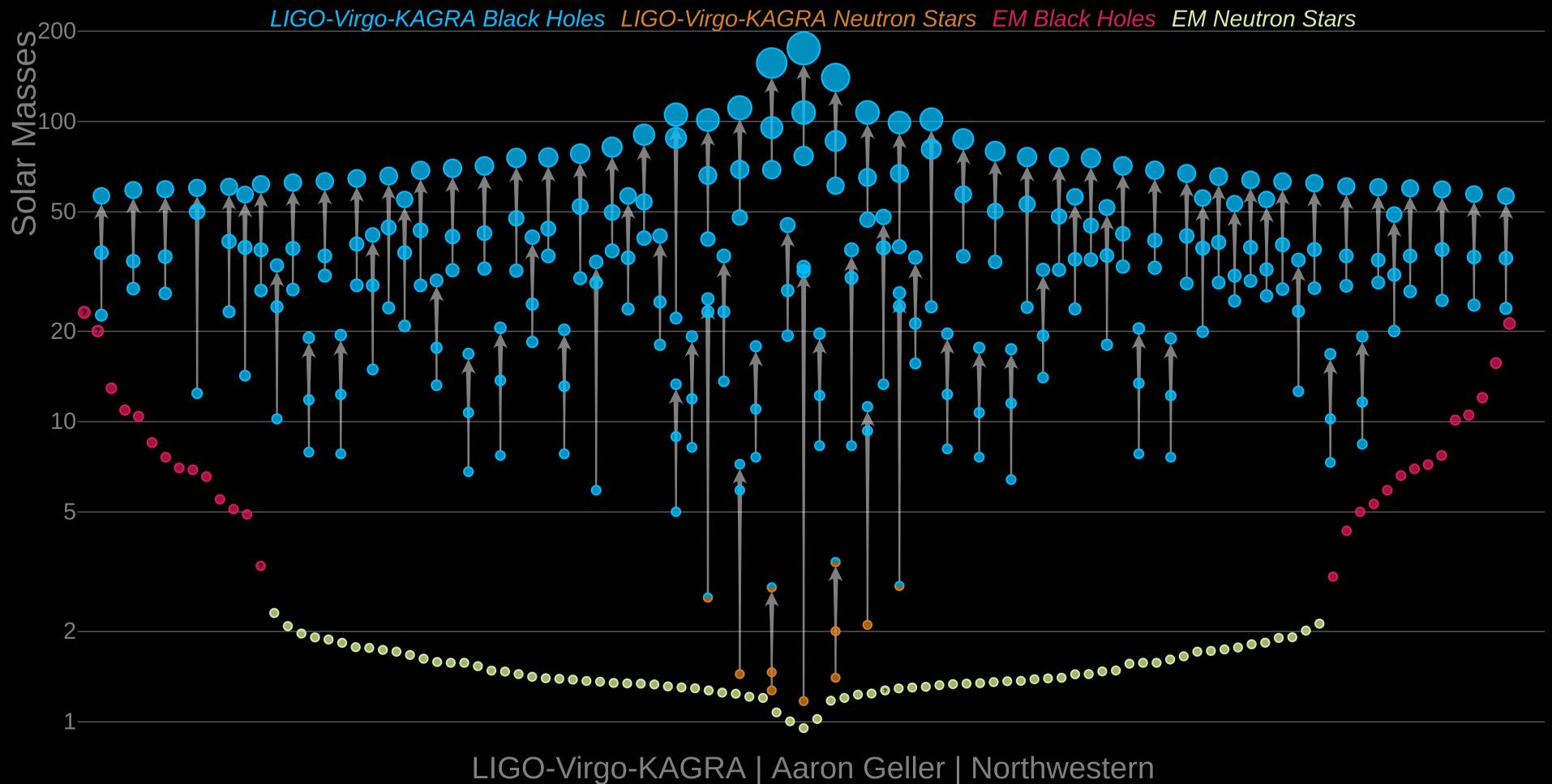
# **Dynamical Formation of Merging Compact Binaries**

**合并黑洞双星的动力学形成**

Dong Lai (赖东)

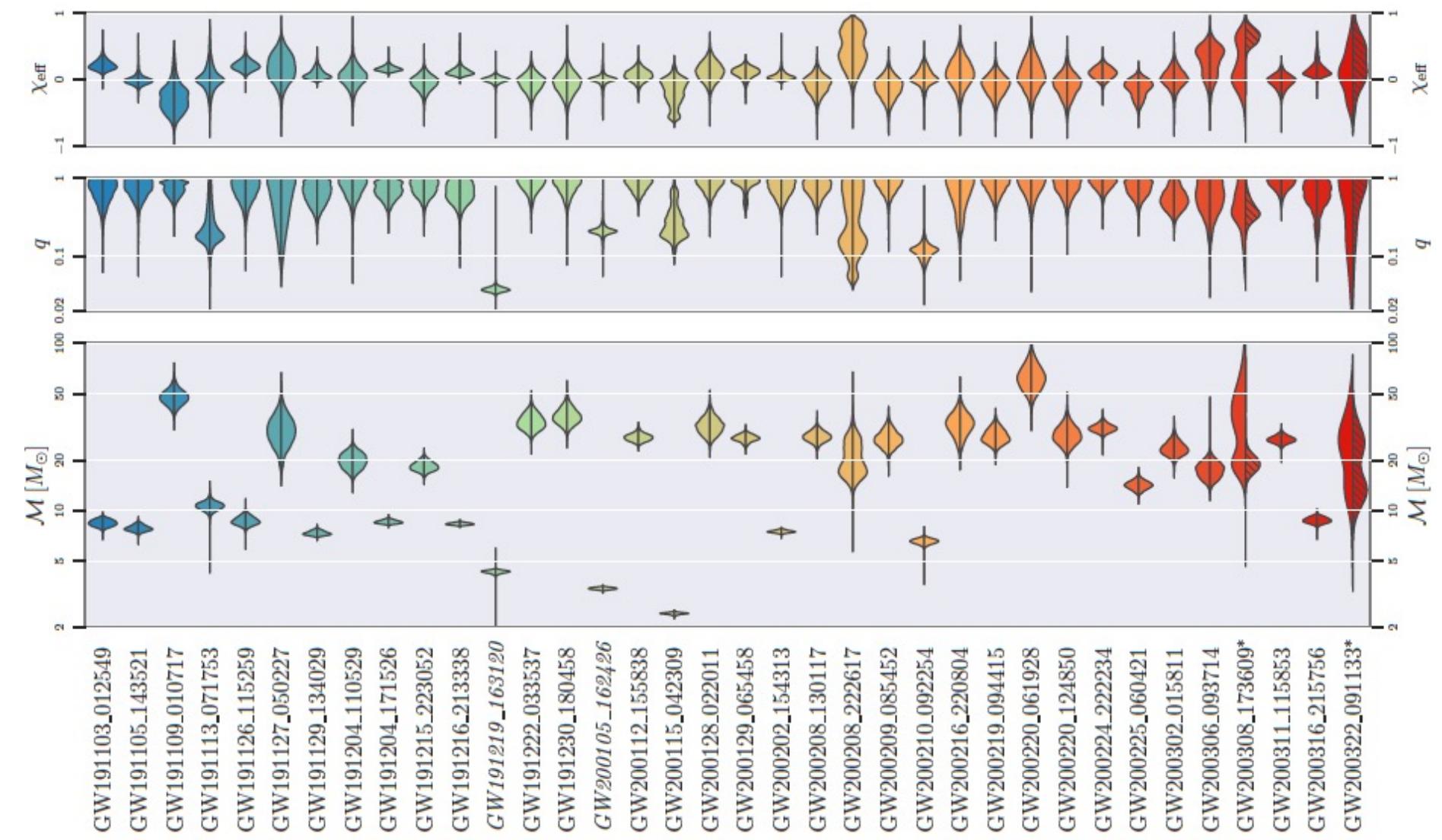
Cornell University

# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard



LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA | Aaron Geller | Northwestern

GWTC-3 (11/2021): 90 merger events, with 2 NS/NS mergers, 3 NS/BH mergers



Gravitational waveform gives  $M_1, M_2, \chi_{\text{eff}}$

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} \equiv \frac{m_1 \chi_1 + m_2 \chi_2}{m_1 + m_2} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}}$$

# Formation of Merging BH Binaries

$$T_m \approx 10^{10} \text{ yrs} \left( \frac{60M_\odot}{m_1 + m_2} \right)^2 \left( \frac{15M_\odot}{\mu} \right) \left( \frac{a_0}{0.2 \text{ AU}} \right)^2 (1 - e_0^2)^{7/2}$$

# Formation Channels of Merging BH Binaries

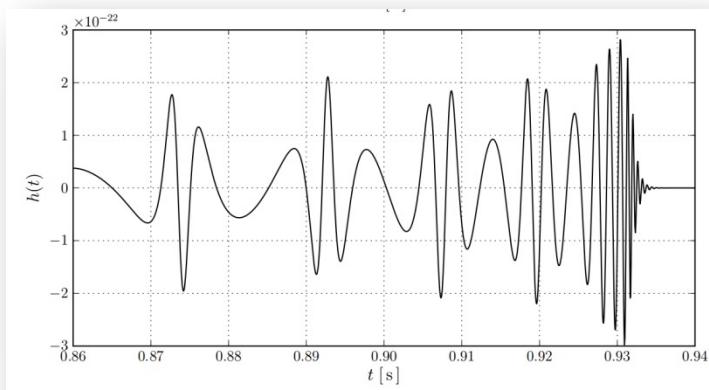
- Isolated Binary Evolution
- Dynamical Formation:  
several flavors: star clusters, triples (multiples), AGN disks

## How to distinguish different channels?

Rates (uncertain)?

Masses and mass ratio

Residual eccentricity when enter LIGO band (10Hz) or lower-f band



# Formation Channels of Merging BH Binaries

- Isolated Binary Evolution
- Dynamical Formation:  
several flavors: star clusters, triples, AGN disks

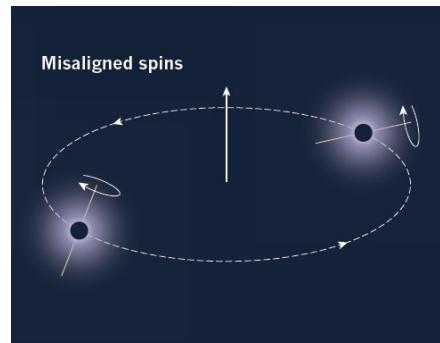
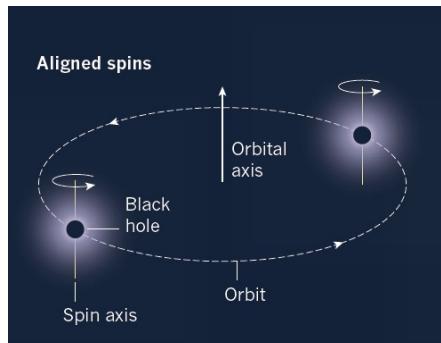
## How to distinguish different channels?

Rates (uncertain)?

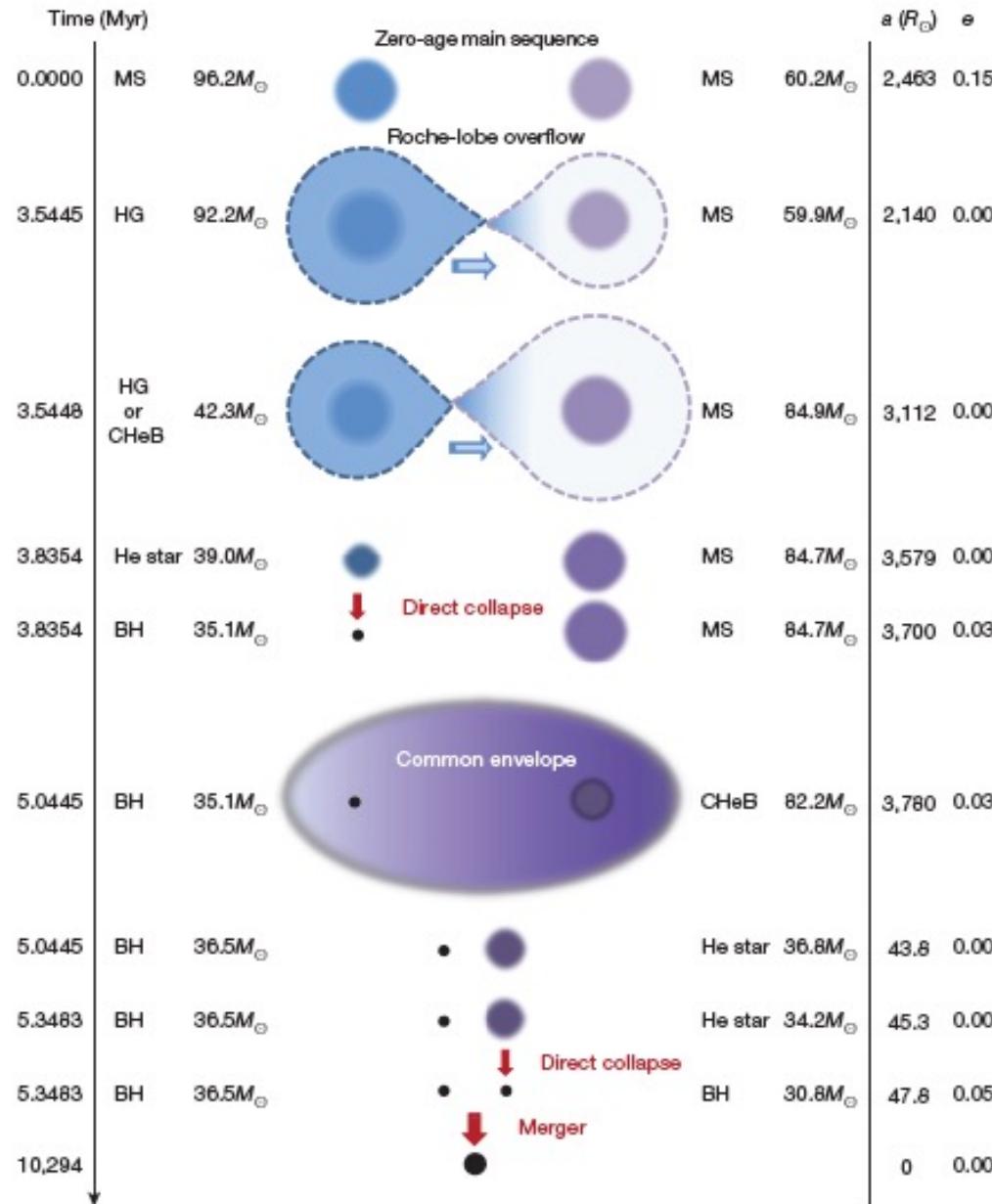
Masses and mass ratio

Residual eccentricity when enter LIGO band (10Hz) or lower-f band

Spin-orbit misalignment



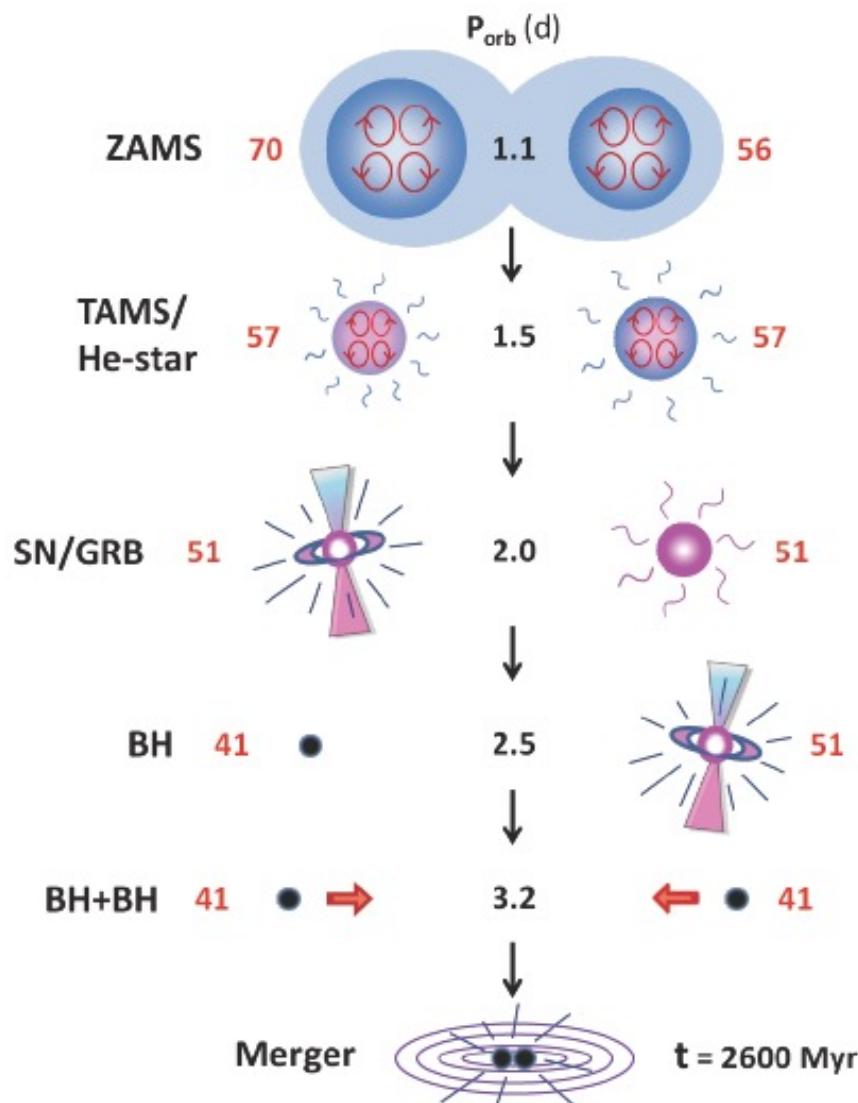
# Isolated Binary Evolution Channel: Standard



many papers, uncertain physical ingredients (e.g. common envelope)

Produce  
circular orbit at 10 Hz  
mostly aligned spin-orbit

# Isolated Binary Evolution Channel: Chemically homogeneous evolution

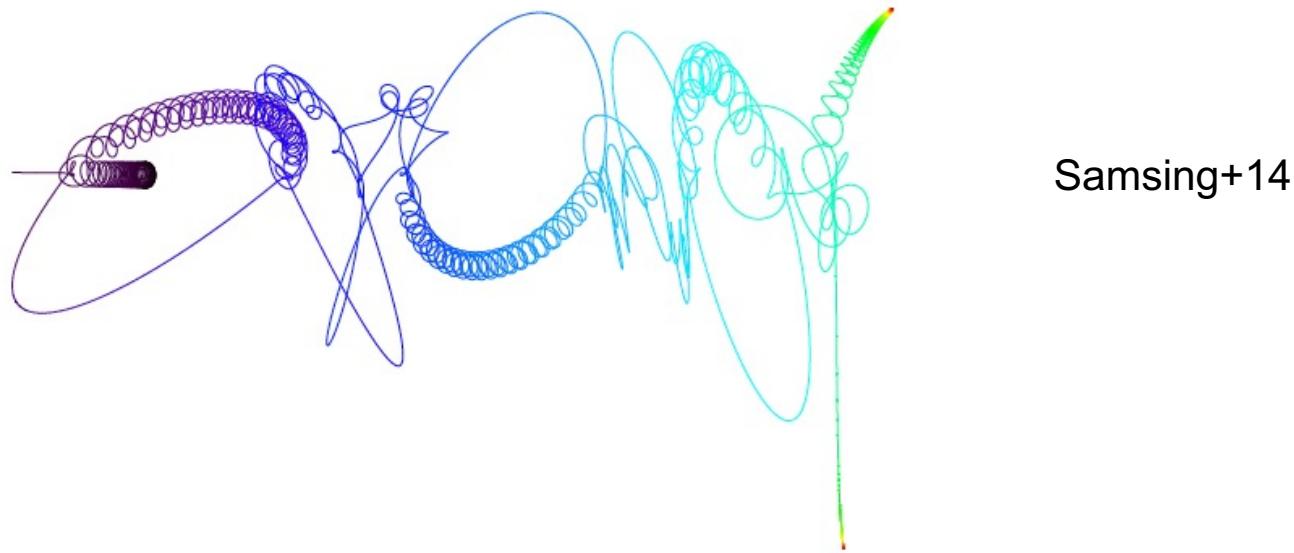


Produce  
circular orbit at 10 Hz  
mostly aligned spin-orbit

# Dynamical Formation Channels

several flavors...

## 1. Dense clusters: binary-single scatterings → tight binary



Enough BHs in clusters? Kicks? GCs or Nuclear Star Clusters?

**Produce mostly circular orbit when enter LIGO band (10 Hz) ??  
Expect random spin-orbit orientations**

# Dynamical Formation Channels

several flavors...

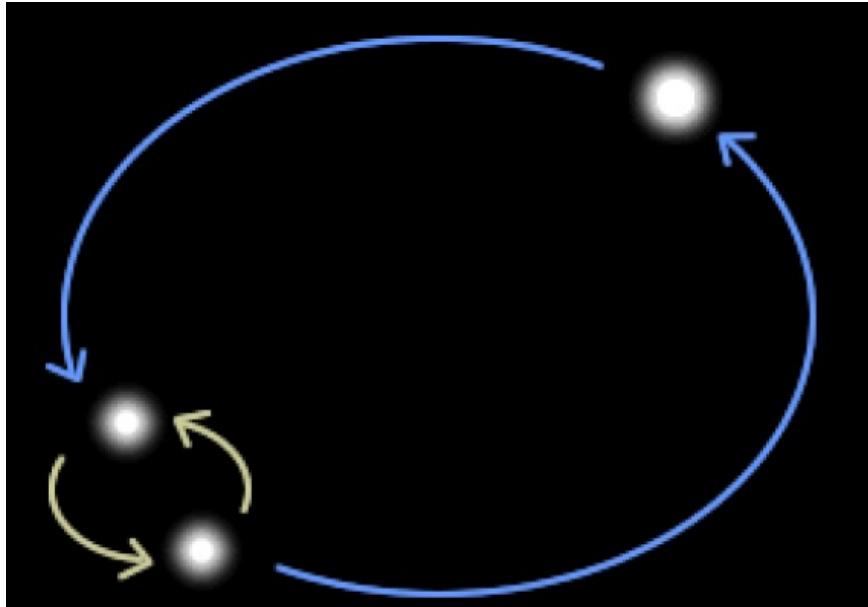
**1. Dense clusters: binary-single scatterings → tight binary**

**2. Tertiary-Induced Mergers:**

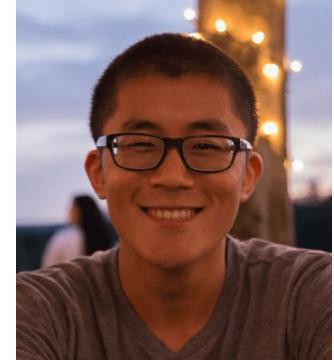
Mergers induced by (gentle) perturbations from tertiary companion  
stellar triples in galactic field, binary around SMBH

# Tertiary-Induced Binary Mergers

merger window, mass ratio, GR effects, spin-orbit misalignments



Bin Liu  
(Cornell→Niels Bohr Inst)



Yubo Su  
(Cornell, Ph.D.22)

Liu & DL 2017,2018,2019,2020,2021  
Liu, DL & Wang 2019a,b  
Su et al.2021a,b

Previous/related works (in various contexts):

e.g. Blaes et al. 2002; Miller & Hamilton 2002; Wen 2003;  
Thompson 2011; Antonini et al. 2012,2014,2017,  
Silsbee & Tremaine 2017; Petrovich & Antonini 2017...

# Lidov-Kozai Effect

Can perturbation from the Moon make Earth's satellites fall?



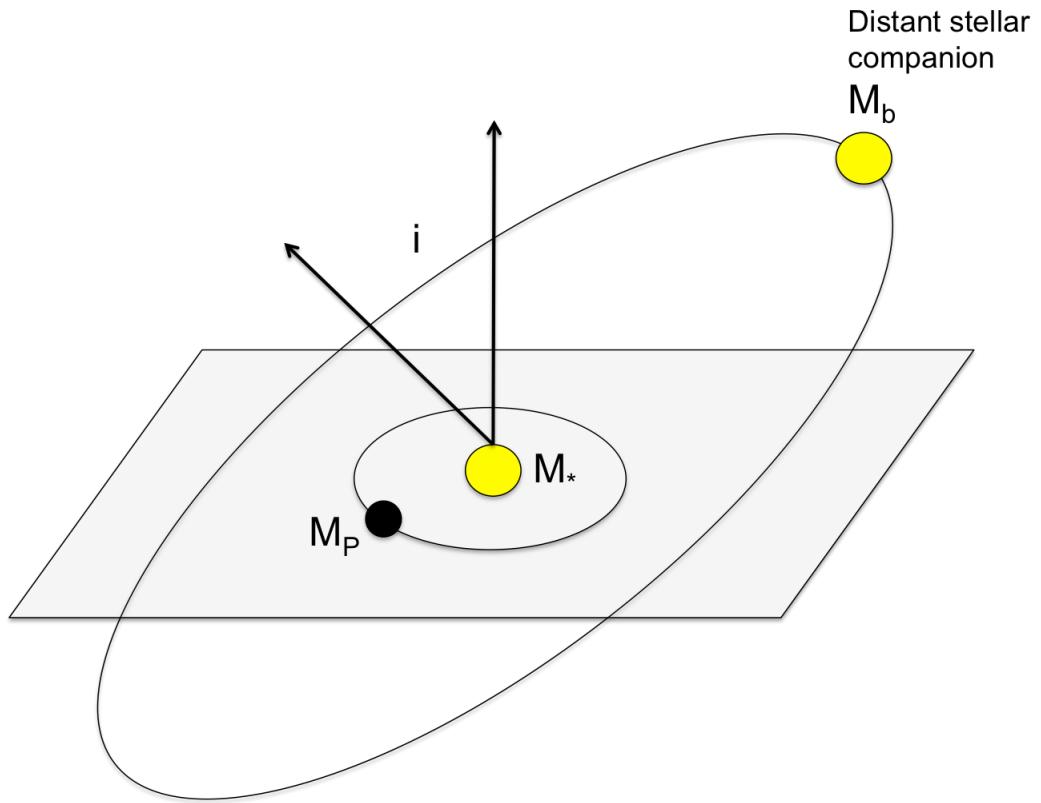
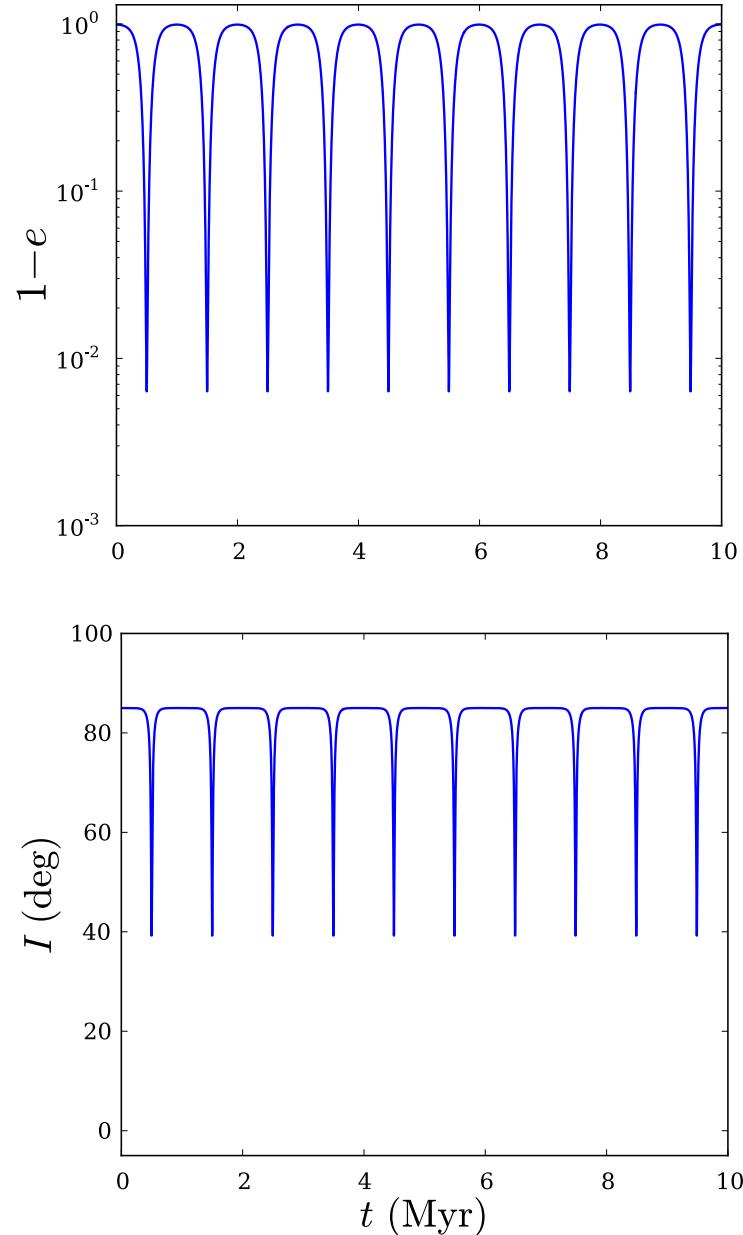
Planet. Space Sci., 1962, Vol. 9, pp. 719 to 759. Pergamon Press Ltd. Printed in Northern Ireland

## THE EVOLUTION OF ORBITS OF ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES OF PLANETS UNDER THE ACTION OF GRAVITATIONAL PERTURBATIONS OF EXTERNAL BODIES

M. L. LIDOV

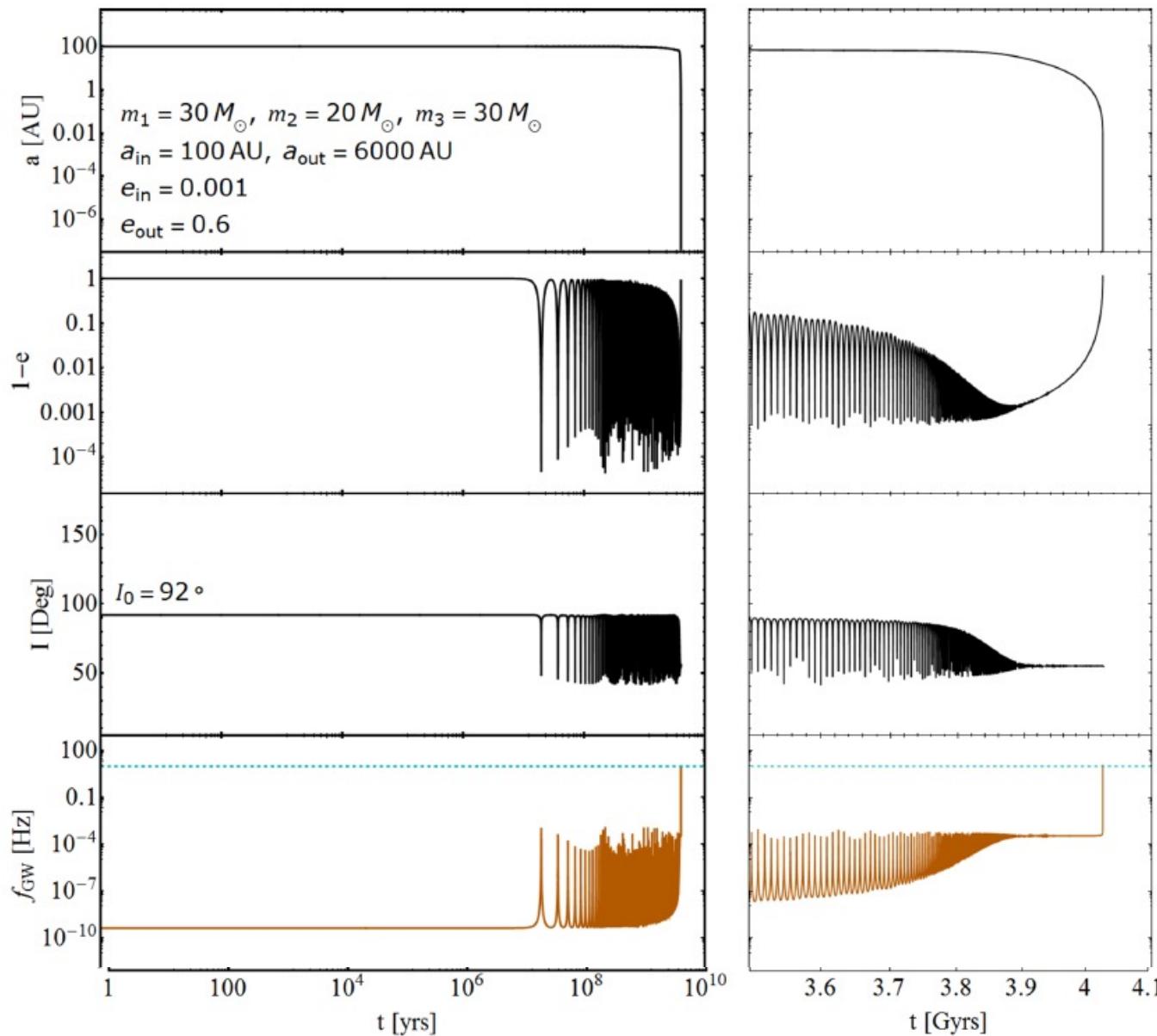
Translated by H. F. Cleaves from *Iskusstvennye Sputniki Zemli*, No. 8, p. 5, 1961.

# Lidov-Kozai Effect



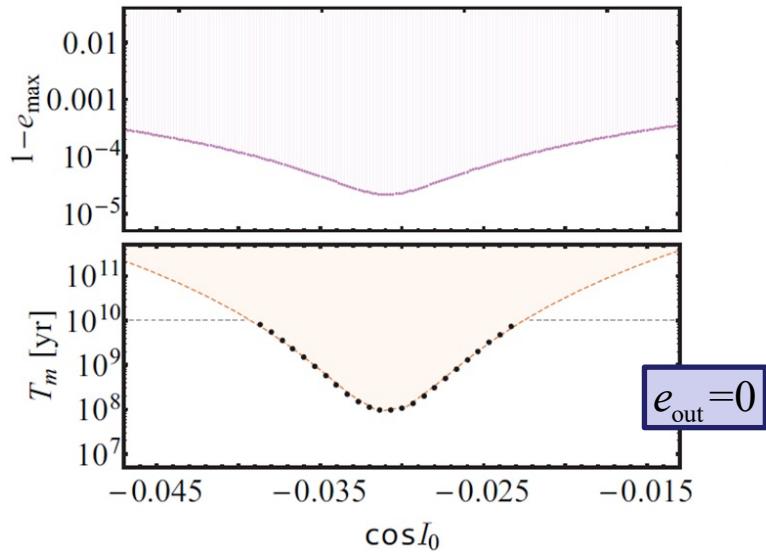
- Eccentricity and inclination oscillations induced if  $i > 40$  degrees.
- If  $i$  large (85-90 degrees), get extremely large eccentricities ( $e > 0.99$ )

# LK oscillation + Gravitation Radiation



# Inclination window for merger

Fixed inner binary:  $m_1=30M_{\odot}$ ,  $m_2=20M_{\odot}$ ,  $a_{\text{in},0}=100\text{AU}$



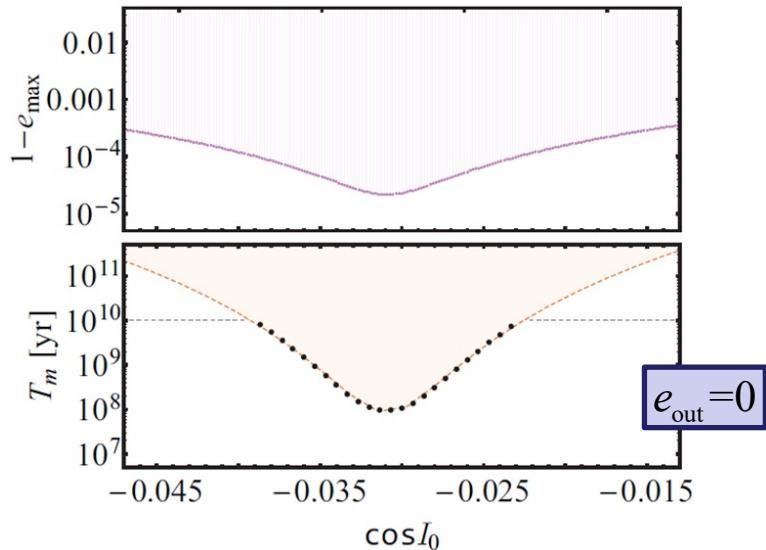
Fixed quadrupole strength  $\frac{m_3}{a_{\text{out,eff}}^3}$

Quadrupole LK:  
 $e_{\text{max}}$  vs  $I_0$  analytic:  
LK driving compete with  
GR apsidal precession

Merger window (almost)  
analytic

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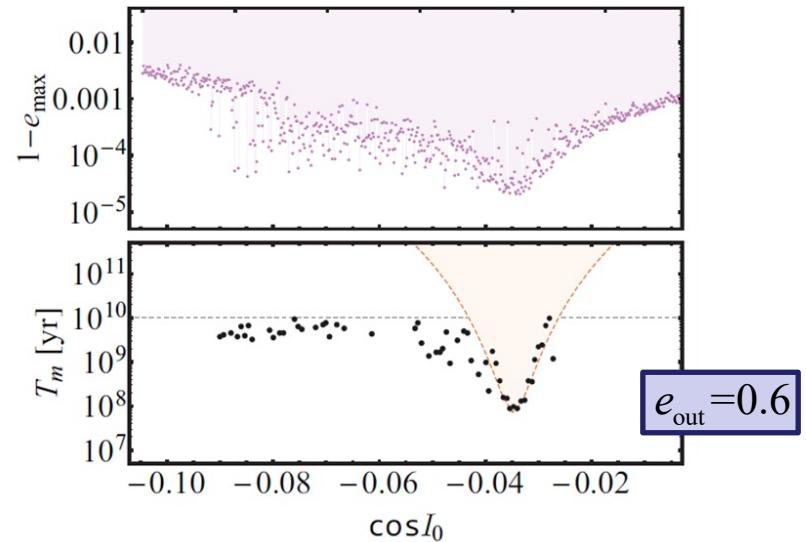
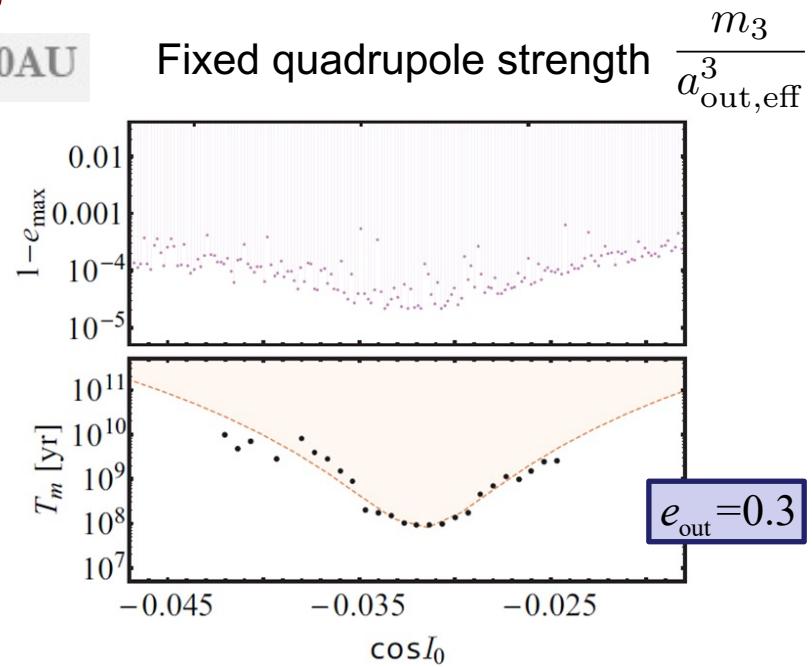
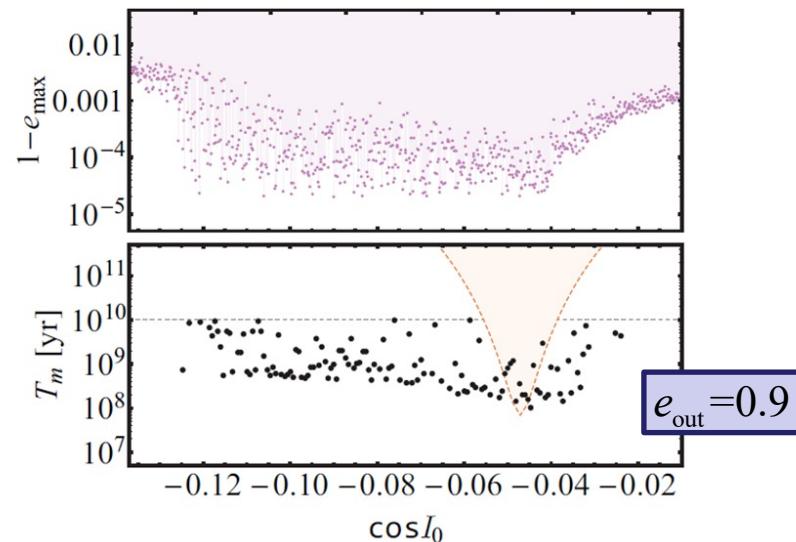
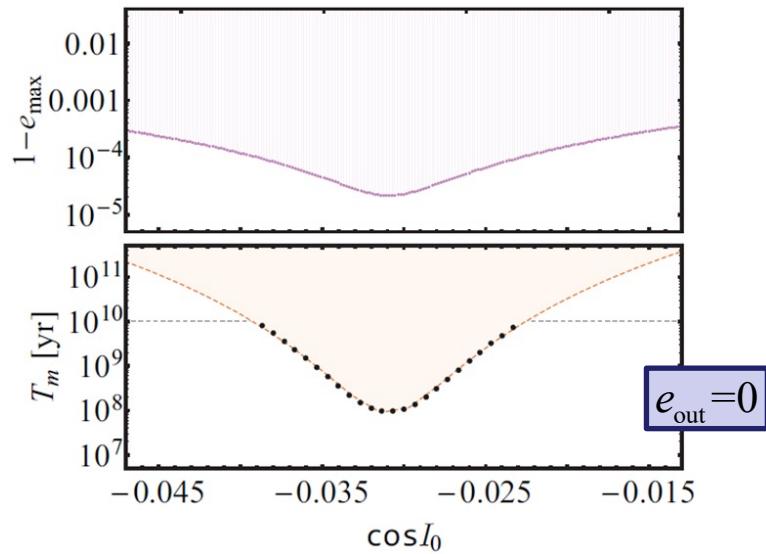
Merger window (almost)  
 analytic

Octupole effect makes orbital evolution “chaotic”:

$$\epsilon_{\text{oct}} = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \frac{a}{a_{\text{out}}} \frac{e_{\text{out}}}{1 - e_{\text{out}}^2}$$

# Inclination window for merger

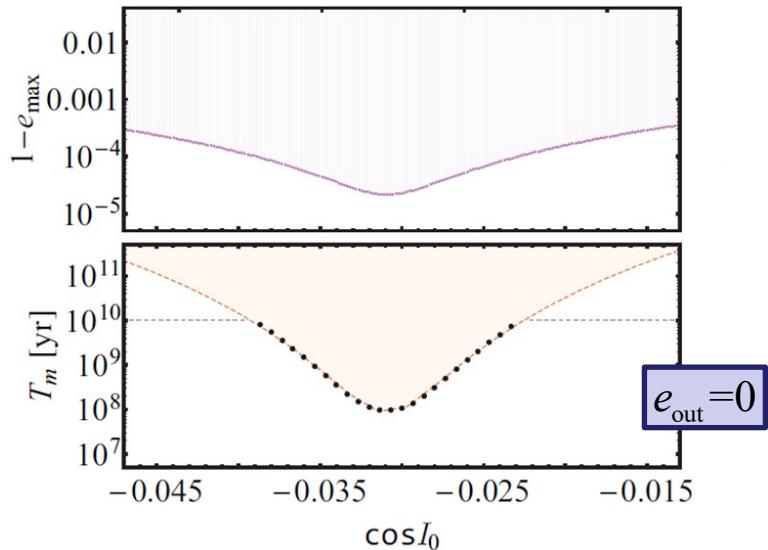
Fixed inner binary:  $m_1=30M_{\odot}$ ,  $m_2=20M_{\odot}$ ,  $a_{\text{in},0}=100\text{AU}$



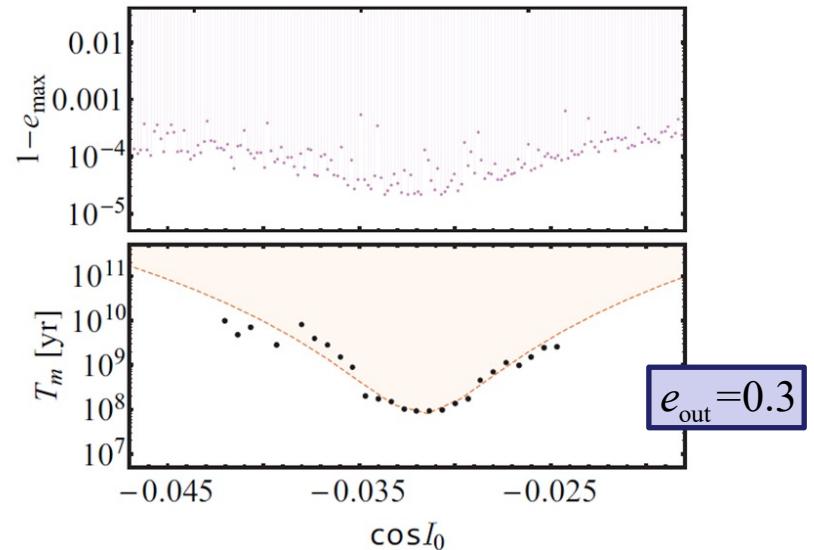
Fixed quadrupole strength  $\frac{m_3}{a_{\text{out,eff}}^3}$

# Inclination window for merger

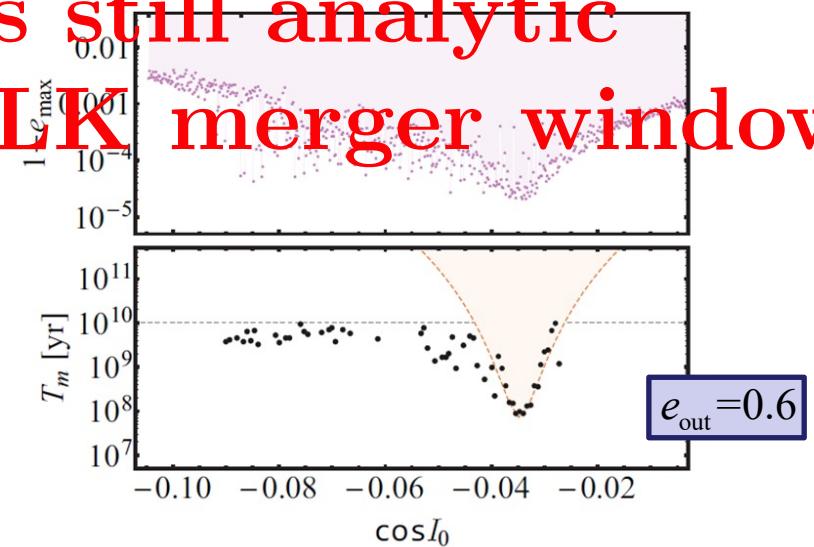
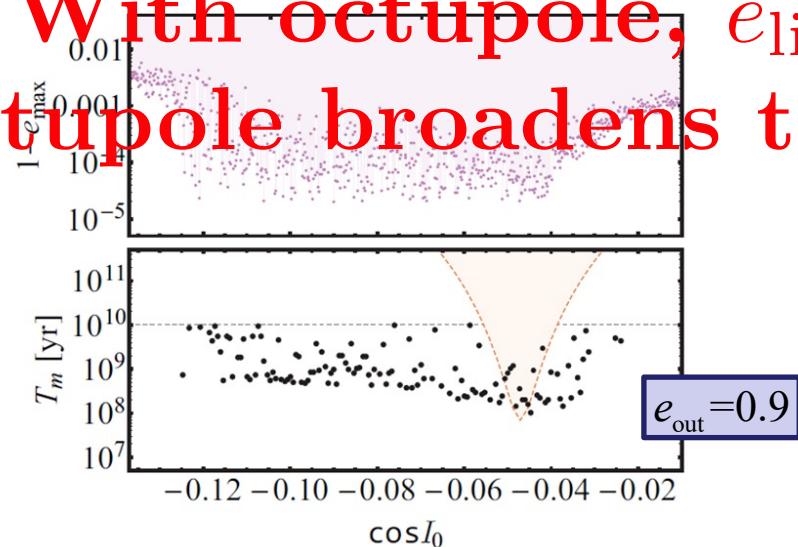
Fixed inner binary:  $m_1=30M_{\odot}$ ,  $m_2=20M_{\odot}$ ,  $a_{\text{in},0}=100\text{AU}$



Fixed  $m_3/a_{\text{out}}^3$  value



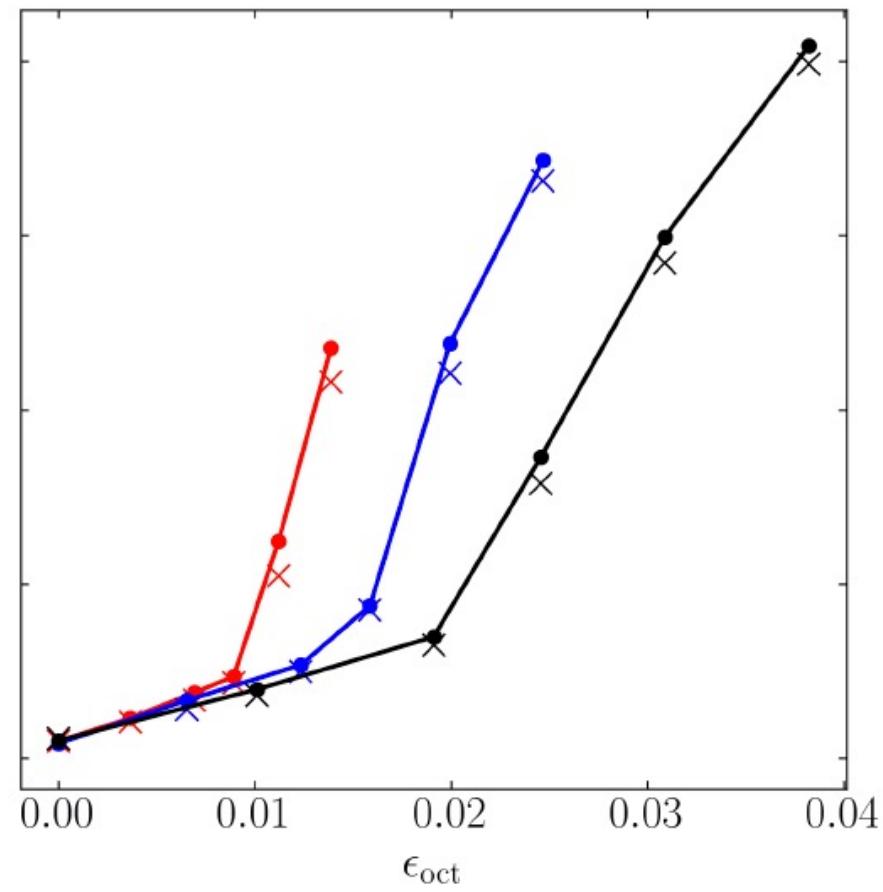
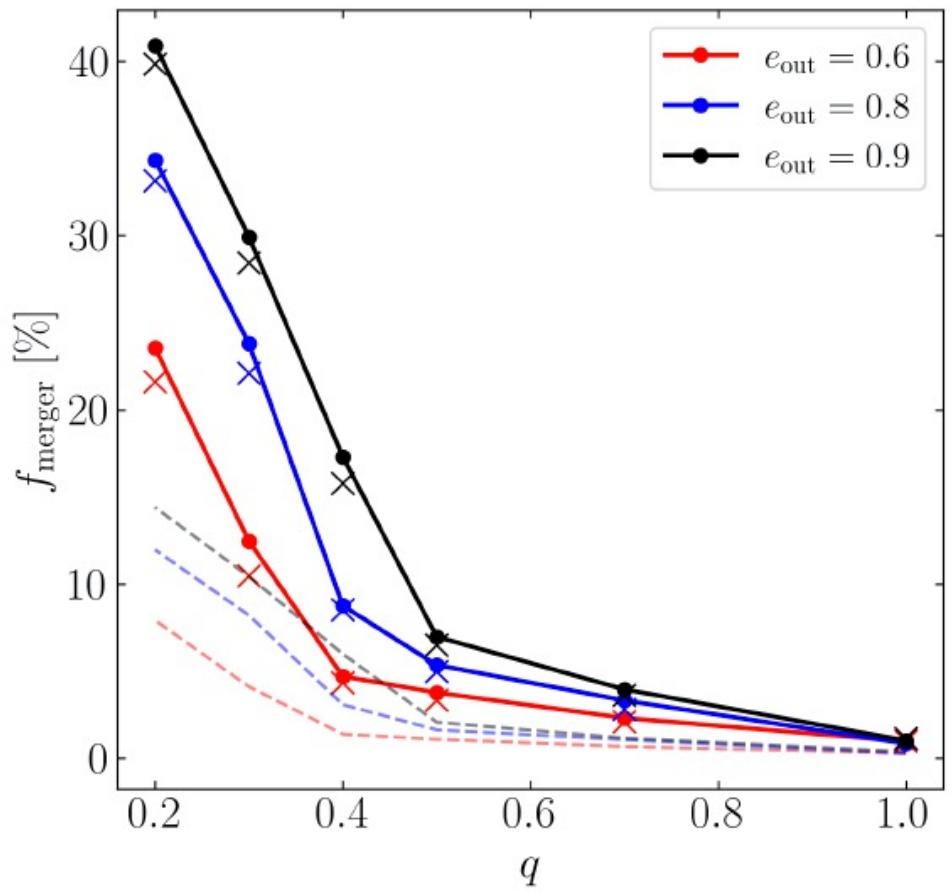
**With octupole,  $e_{\lim}$  is still analytic  
Octupole broadens the LK merger window**



## Octupole effect depends on

$$\epsilon_{\text{oct}} = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \frac{a}{a_{\text{out}}} \frac{e_{\text{out}}}{1 - e_{\text{out}}^2}$$

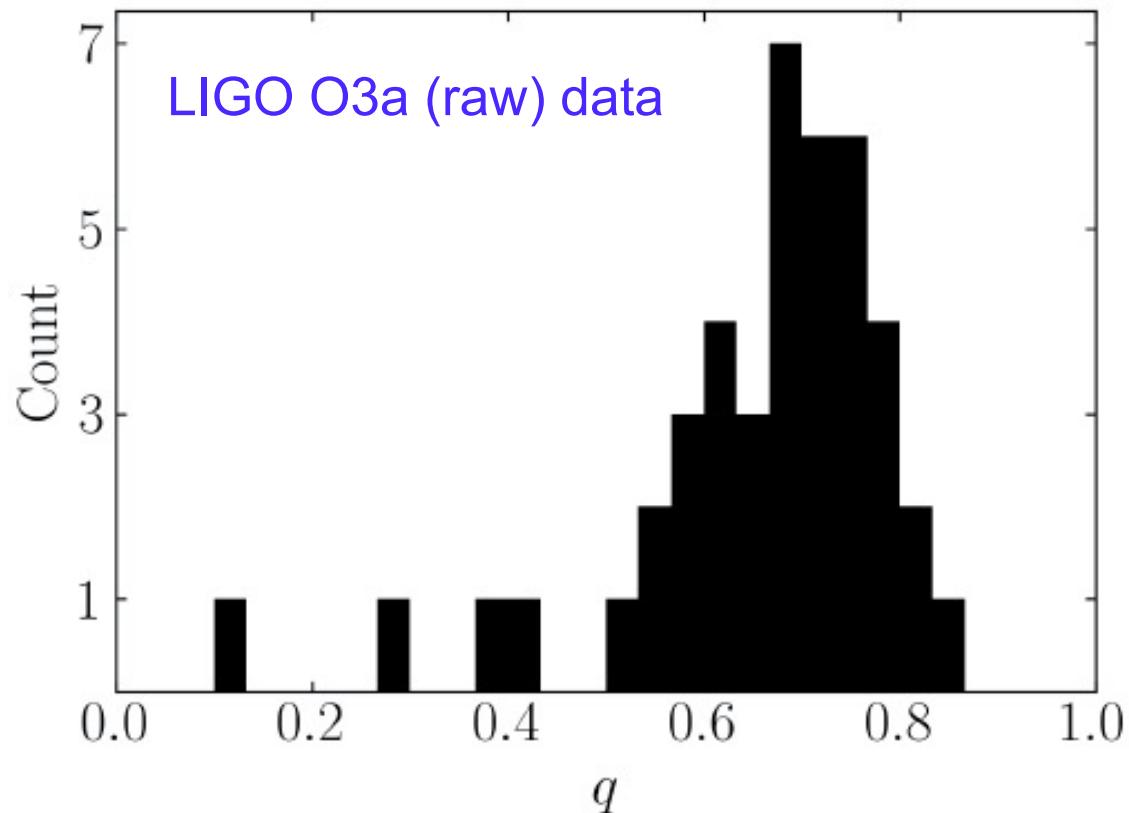
- Large  $e_{\text{out}}$  and/or small  $q = m_2/m_1$  increases merger window



$a = 100 \text{ AU}$ ,  $a_{\text{out,eff}} = 3600 \text{ AU}$ ,  $m_{12} = 50M_{\odot}$ ,  $m_3 = 30M_{\odot}$

Su et al. 2021

Is this compatible with the observed q-distribution  
of merging BH binaries?



- Depends on the initial  $q$ -distribution of BH binaries.
- Maybe incompatible with data if octupole effect is strong...

## Octupole effect depends on

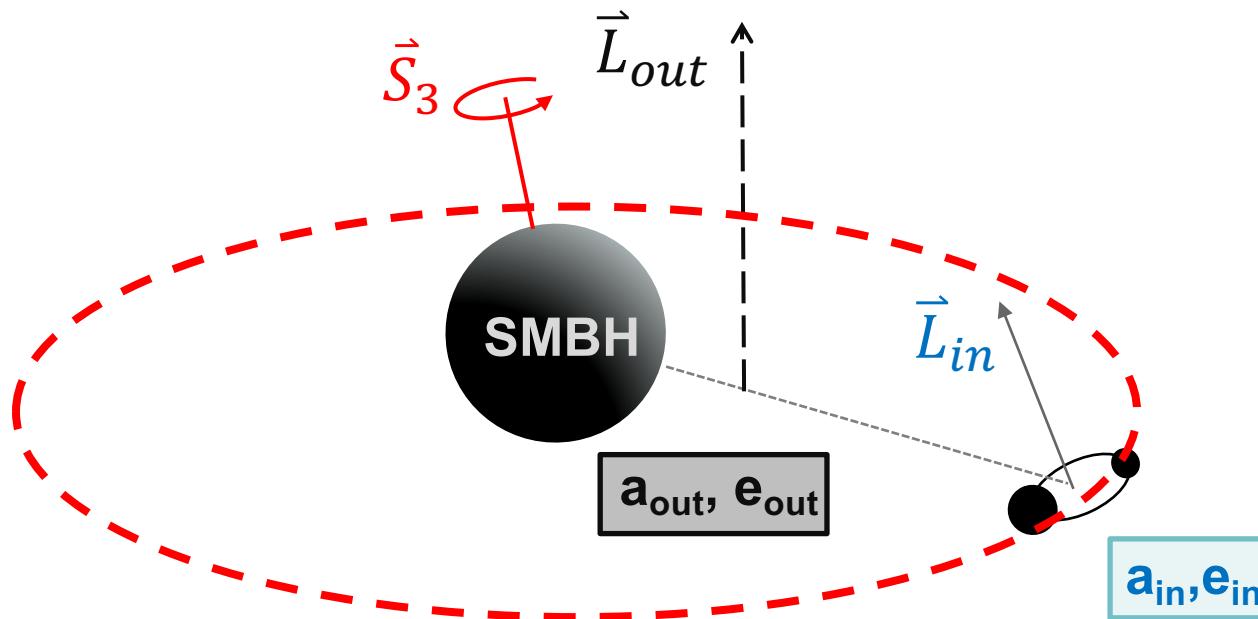
$$\epsilon_{\text{oct}} = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \frac{a}{a_{\text{out}}} \frac{e_{\text{out}}}{1 - e_{\text{out}}^2}$$

If the tertiary is a (super)massive BH, then  $a_{\text{out}} \gg a$

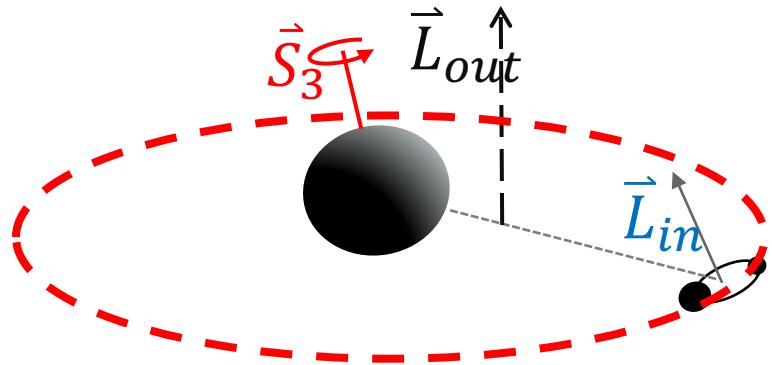
- Small octupole effect
- Weak dependence of merger fraction on mass ratio

# What happens if the tertiary is a Supermassive BH ?

Relativistic Effects induced by the SMBH



# Three leading-order GR effects (recognizing $L_{in}$ behaves like a “spin”)



**Effect I: de-Sitter-like Precession of  $L_{in}$  around  $L_{out}$**

--- 1.5 PN

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{in}L_{out}} = \Omega_{L_{in}L_{out}}^{(GR)} \hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \times \mathbf{L}, \\ \frac{d\mathbf{e}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{in}L_{out}} = \Omega_{L_{in}L_{out}}^{(GR)} \hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \times \mathbf{e}, \end{array} \right.$$

**Effect II: Precession of  $L_{out}$  around  $S_3$**

--- 1.5 PN

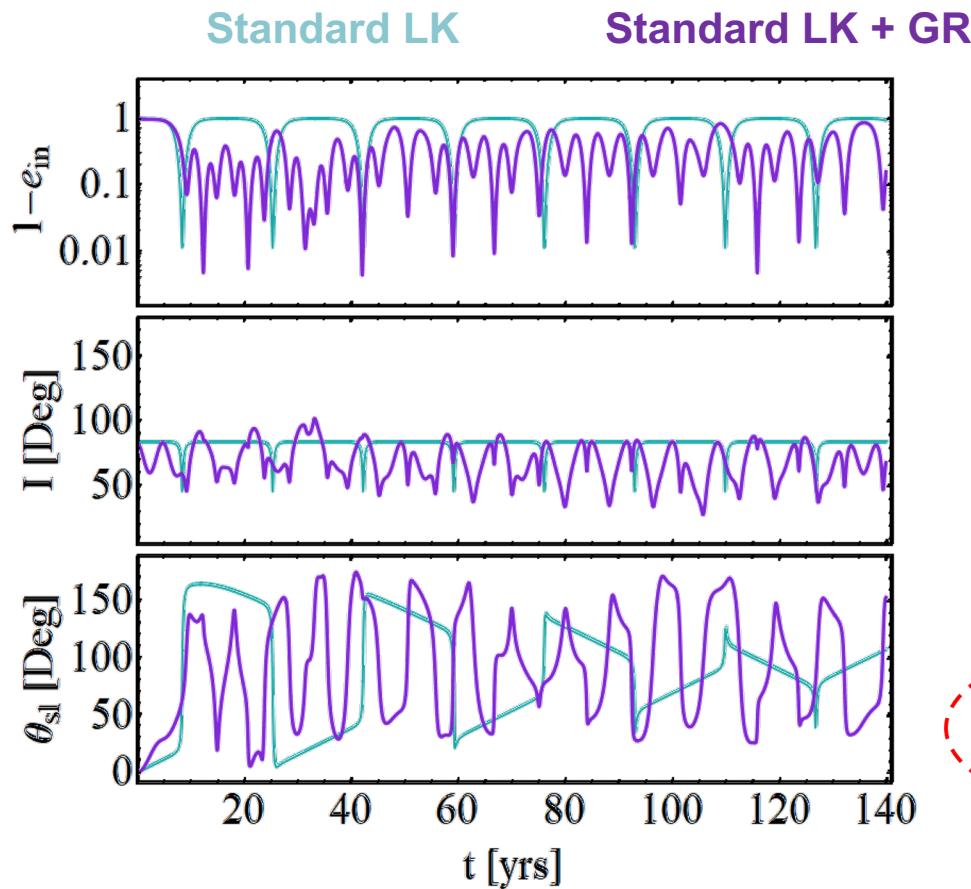
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\mathbf{L}_{out}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{out}S_3} = \Omega_{L_{out}S_3} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3 \times \mathbf{L}_{out}, \\ \frac{d\mathbf{e}_{out}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{out}S_3} = \Omega_{L_{out}S_3} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3 \times \mathbf{e}_{out} \\ \quad - 3\Omega_{L_{out}S_3} (\hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3) \hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \times \mathbf{e}_{out} \end{array} \right.$$

**Effect III: Lense-Thirring Precession of  $L_{in}$  around  $S_3$**

--- 2 PN

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{in}S_3} = \Omega_{L_{in}S_3} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3 \times \mathbf{L} \\ \quad - 3\Omega_{L_{in}S_3} (\hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3) \hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \times \mathbf{L}, \\ \frac{d\mathbf{e}}{dt} \Big|_{L_{in}S_3} = \Omega_{L_{in}S_3} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3 \times \mathbf{e} \\ \quad - 3\Omega_{L_{in}S_3} (\hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_3) \hat{\mathbf{L}}_{out} \times \mathbf{e}. \end{array} \right.$$

# Evolution Example



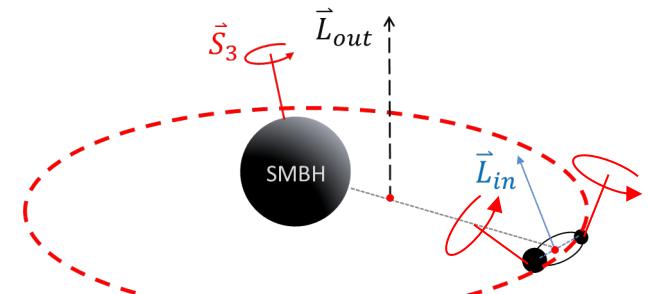
System Parameters:

$$(m_1, m_2, m_3) = (30, 20, 2.3 \times 10^9) M_\odot$$

$$(a_{\text{in},0}, a_{\text{out}}) = (0.1, 500) \text{ AU}$$

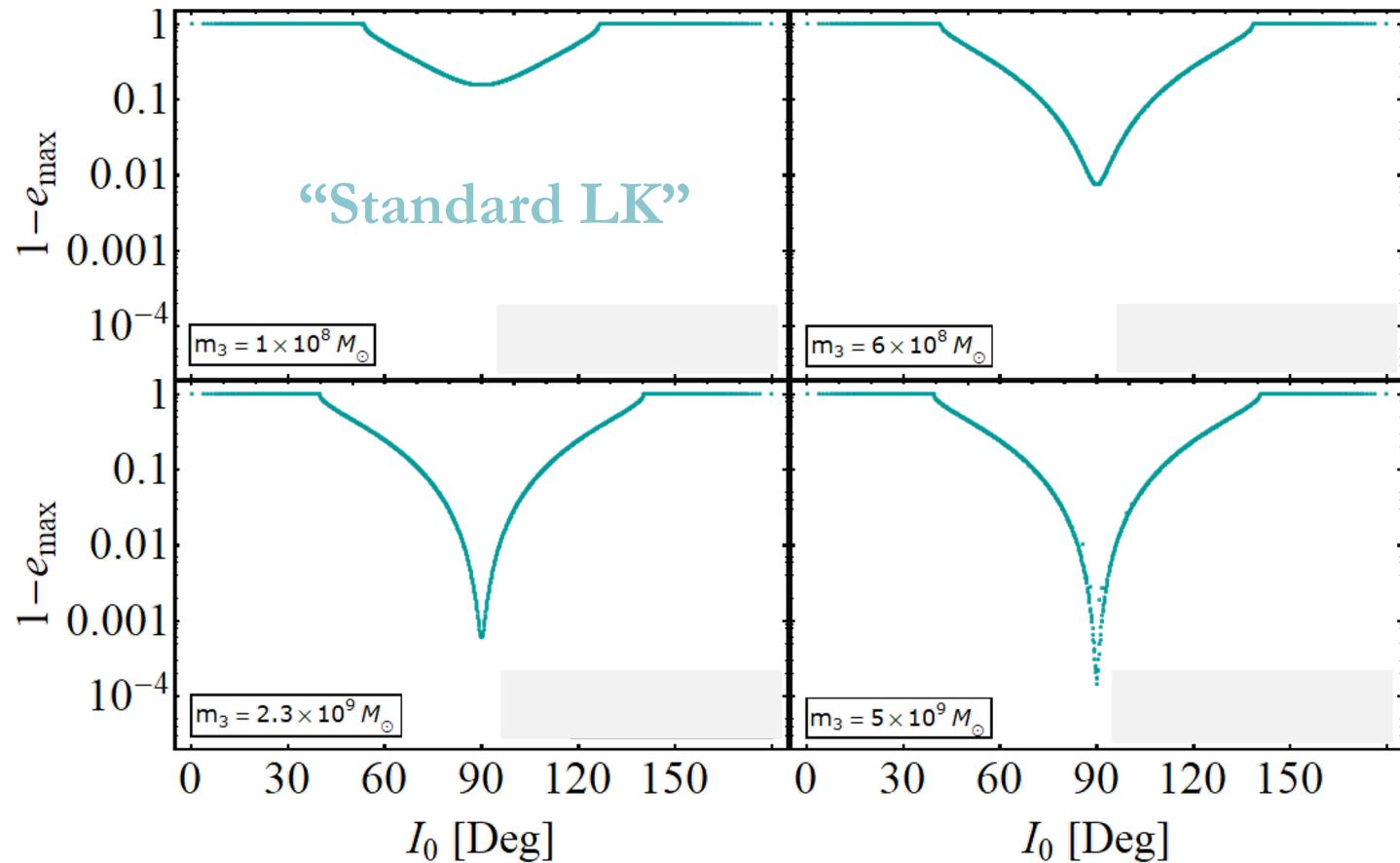
$$(e_{\text{in},0}, e_{\text{out},0}) = 0.001$$

$$I_0 = 84^\circ$$



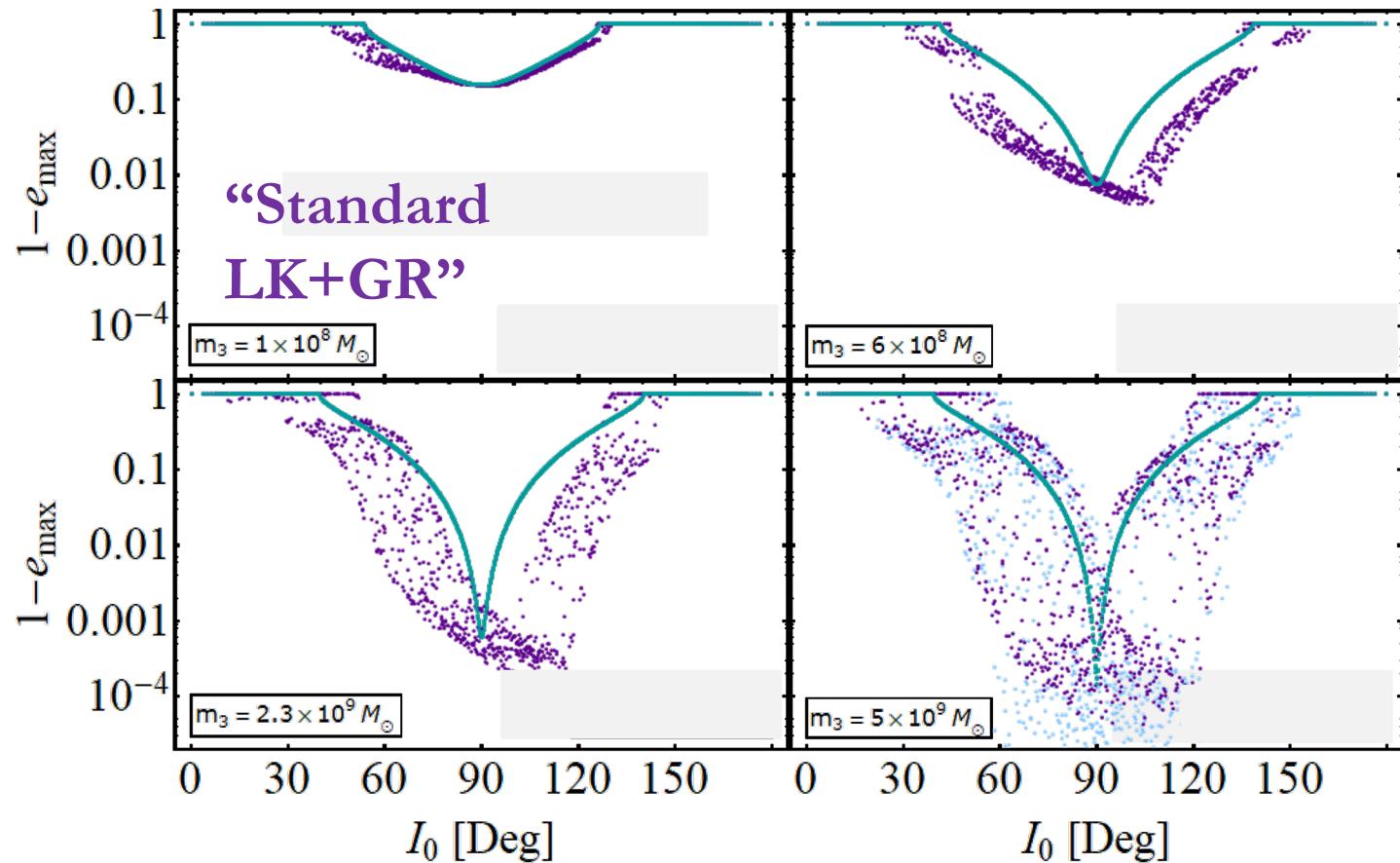
# Eccentricity Excitation

$(m_1, m_2) = (30, 20) M_\odot$ ;  $(a_{\text{in},0}, a_{\text{out}}) = (0.1, 500)$  AU; Circular Orbits

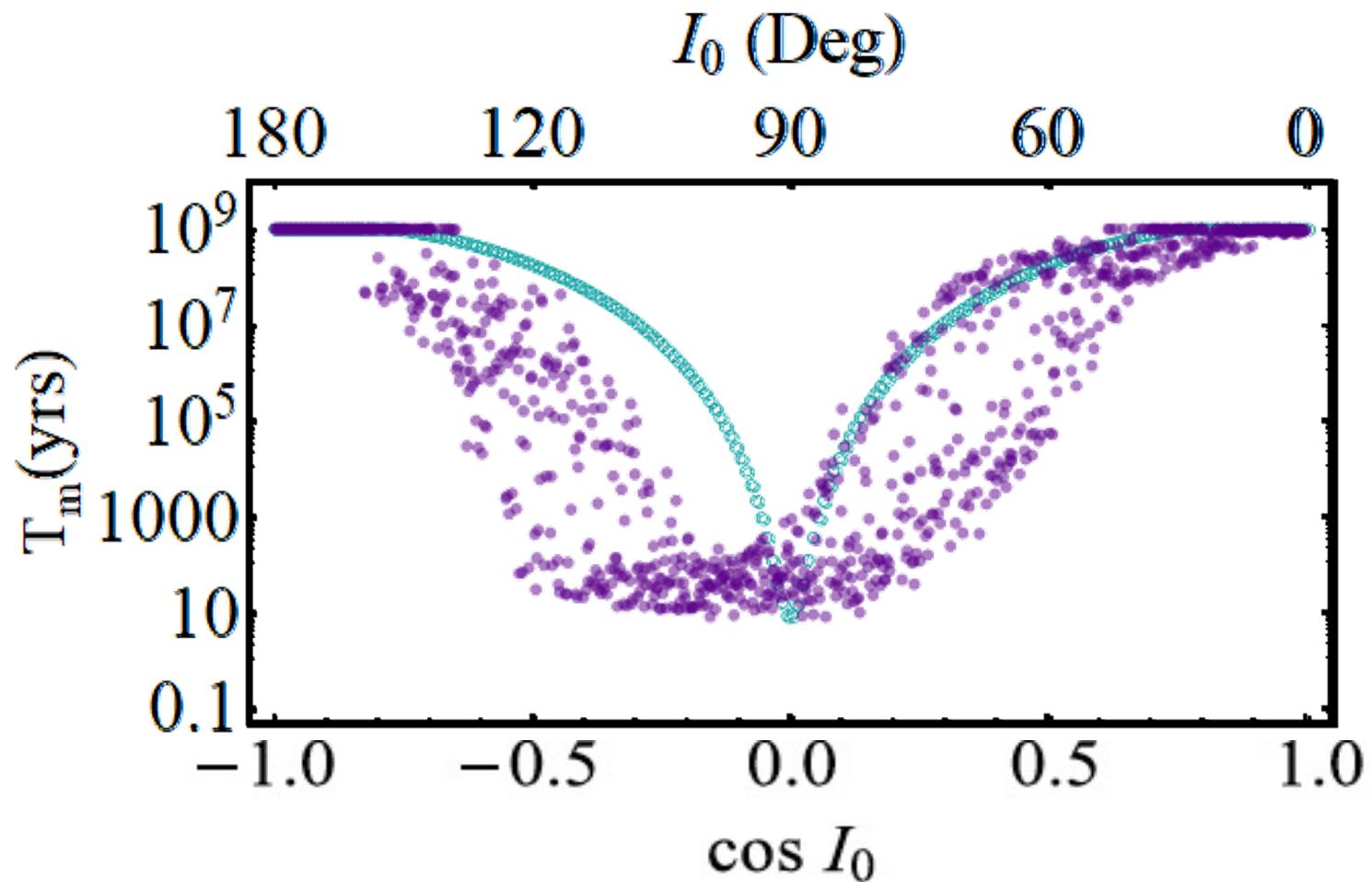


# Eccentricity Excitation

$(m_1, m_2) = (30, 20) M_\odot$ ;  $(a_{\text{in},0}, a_{\text{out}}) = (0.1, 500)$  AU; Circular Orbits



# GR effects broaden merger window



“Standard LK+GW”

$(m_1, m_2, m_3) = (30, 20, 2.3 \times 10^9) M_\odot$

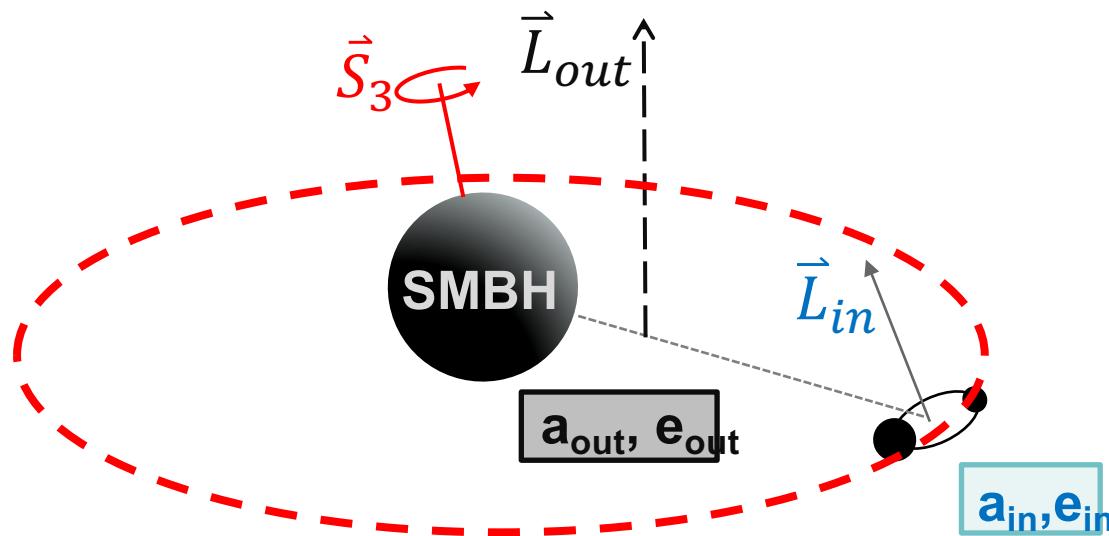
“Standard LK+GR+GW”

$(a_{in,0}, a_{out}) = (0.1, 500) AU$

# GR effects broaden Merger window: Why?

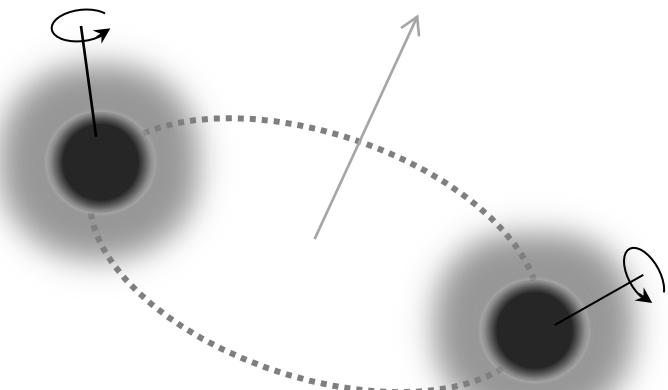
## Inclination Resonance

$$\gamma \equiv \frac{\Omega_{L_{\text{in}} L_{\text{out}}}}{\Omega_{L_{\text{out}} S_3}} = \frac{\Omega_{L_{\text{in}} L_{\text{out}}}^{(\text{N})} + \Omega_{L_{\text{in}} L_{\text{out}}}^{(\text{GR})}}{\Omega_{L_{\text{out}} S_3}}$$

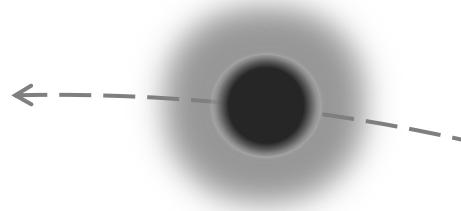


Mutual inclination is excited when the two precession rates are equal

# What about the BH Spin?



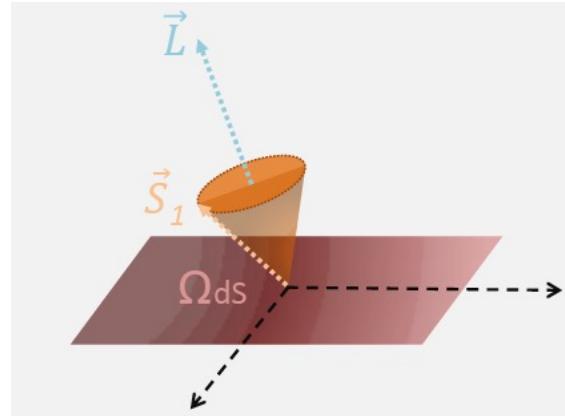
?



# Spin-Orbit Coupling

The de Sitter precession of spin around the angular momentum axis of the binary

$$\frac{d\hat{S}_1}{dt} = \Omega_{ds} \hat{L} \times \hat{S}_1 \quad \Omega_{ds} = \frac{3Gn(m_2 + \mu/3)}{2c^2 a(1-e^2)}$$

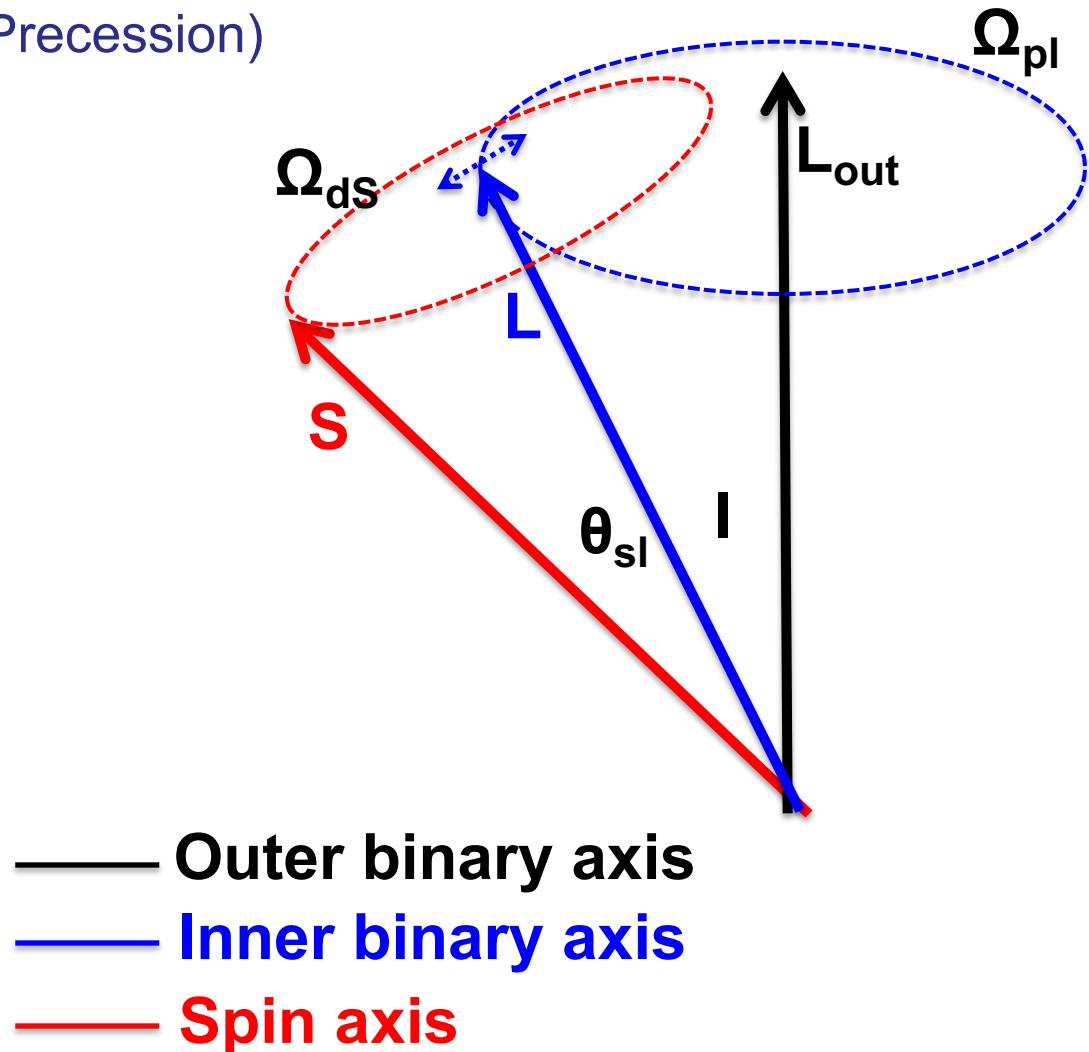


# BH spin dynamics during LK oscillations

$$\frac{d\hat{\mathbf{S}}_1}{dt} = \Omega_{\text{dS}} \hat{\mathbf{L}} \times \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \quad (\text{de Sitter Precession})$$

But  $\mathbf{L}$  precesses and nutates during LK oscillations

$$\Omega_{\text{pl}} \simeq \frac{3(1+e^2)}{t_{\text{LK}} \sqrt{1-e^2}} |\sin 2I|$$



# BH spin dynamics during LK oscillations

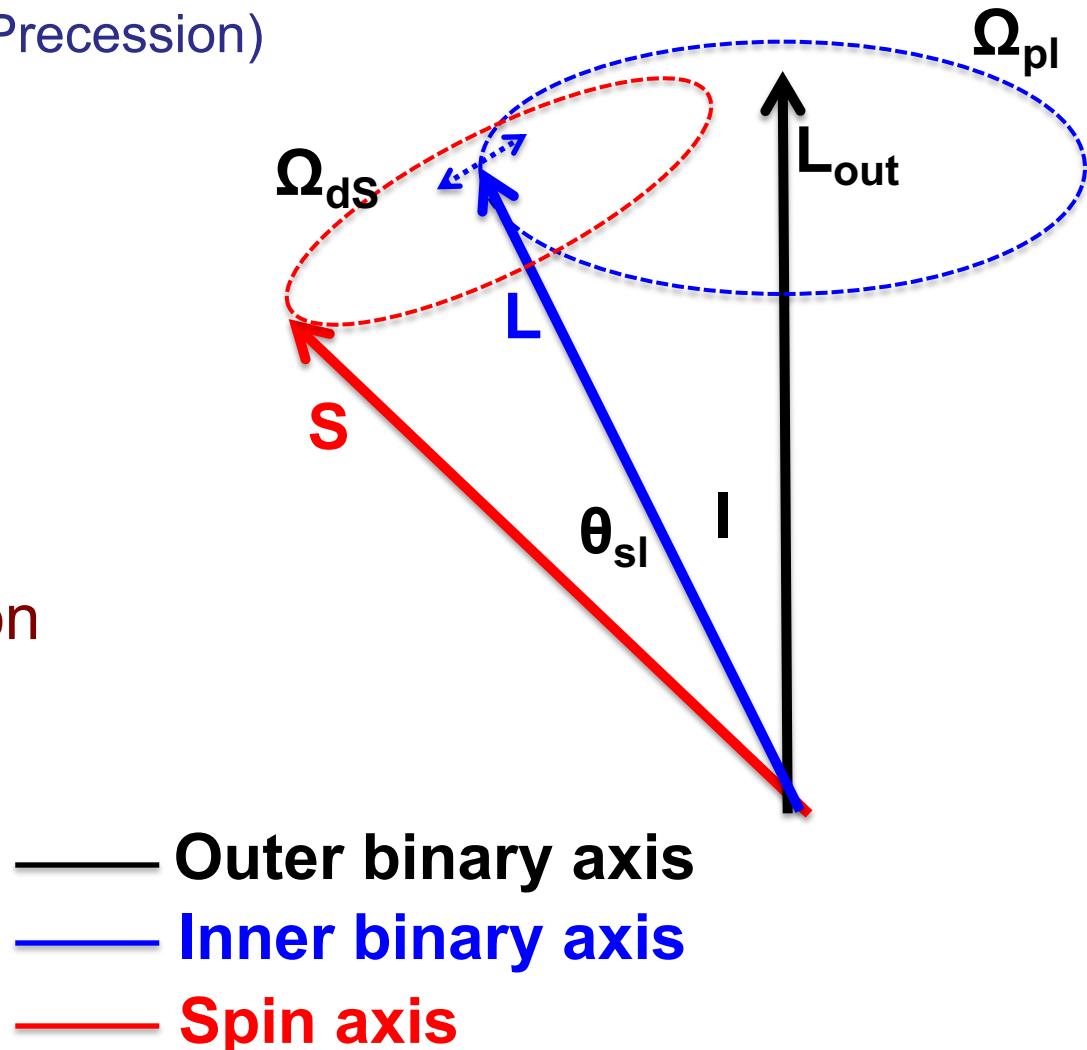
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Spin dynamics depends on

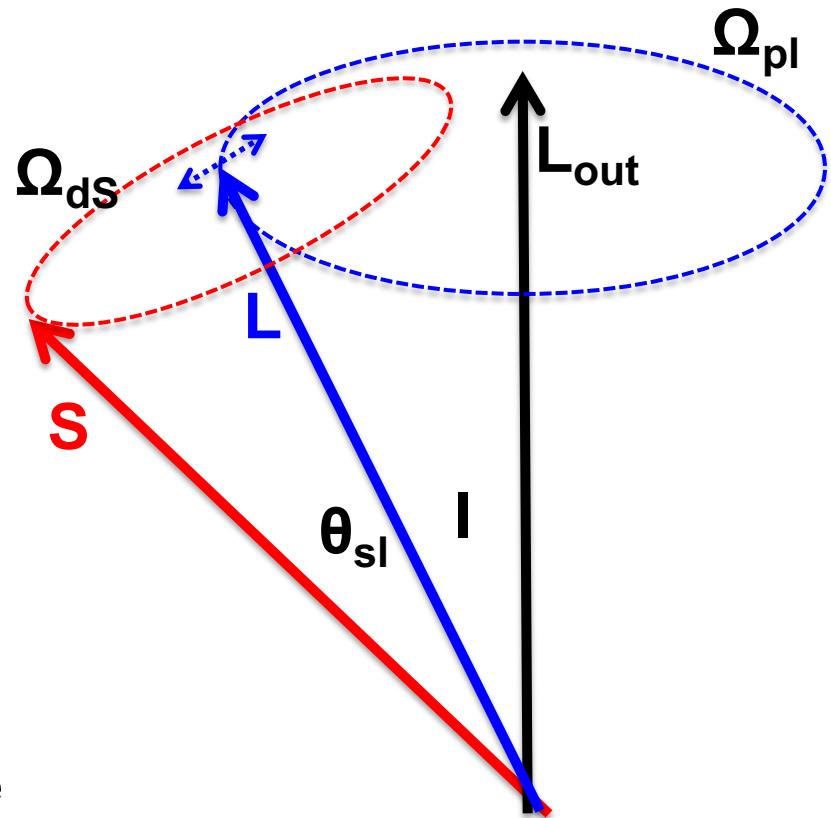
$\Omega_{\text{dS}}$  vs  $\Omega_{\text{pl}}$

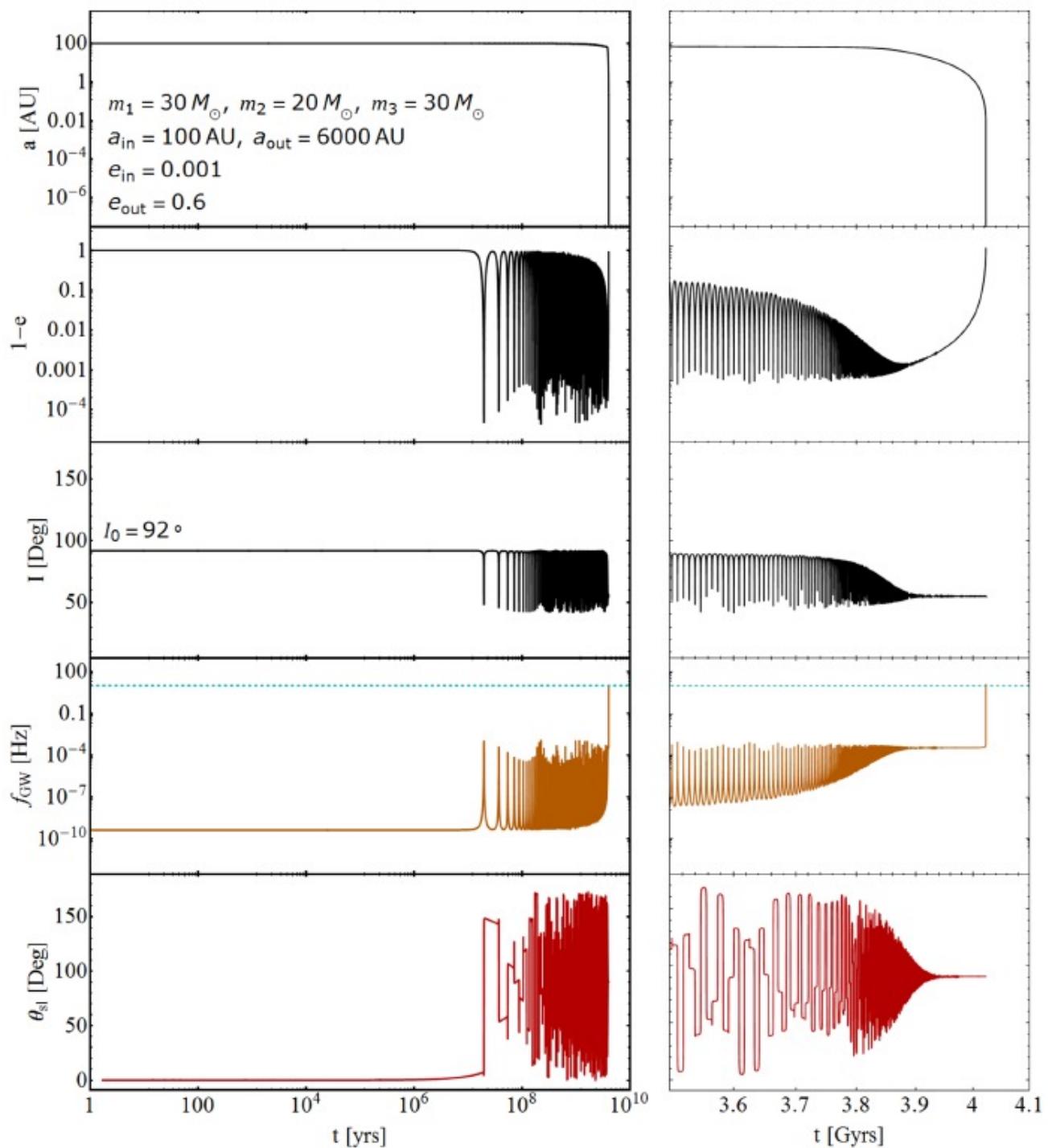


# BH spin evolution in LK-induced orbital decay

$$\Omega_{dS}/\Omega_{pl}$$

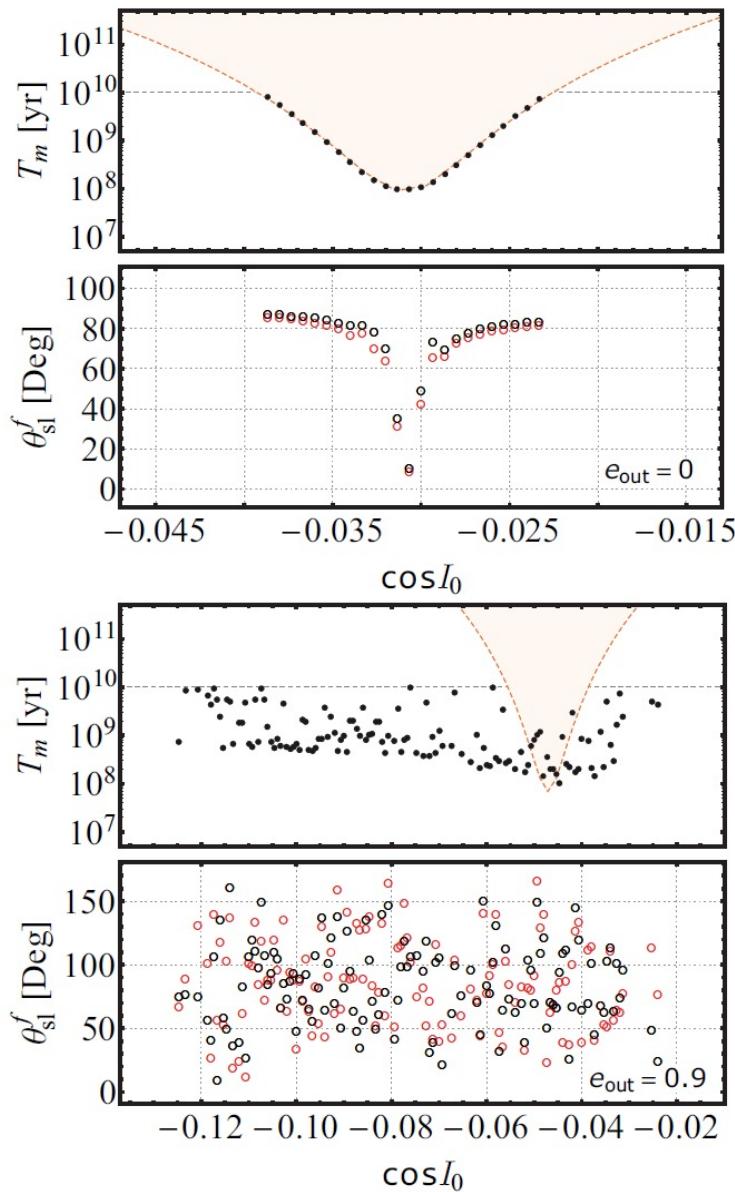
changes from  $\ll 1$  (non-adiabatic)  
to  $\gg 1$  (adiabatic) as the orbit decays  
→ Final spin-orbit misalignment angle



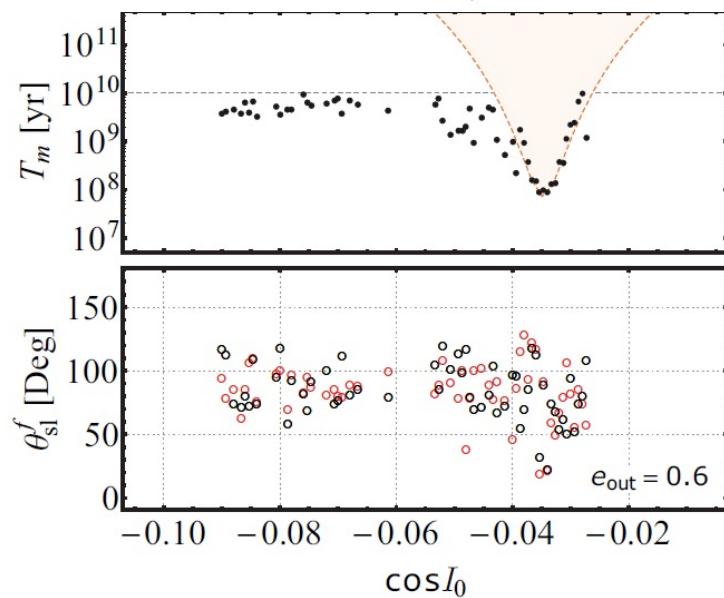
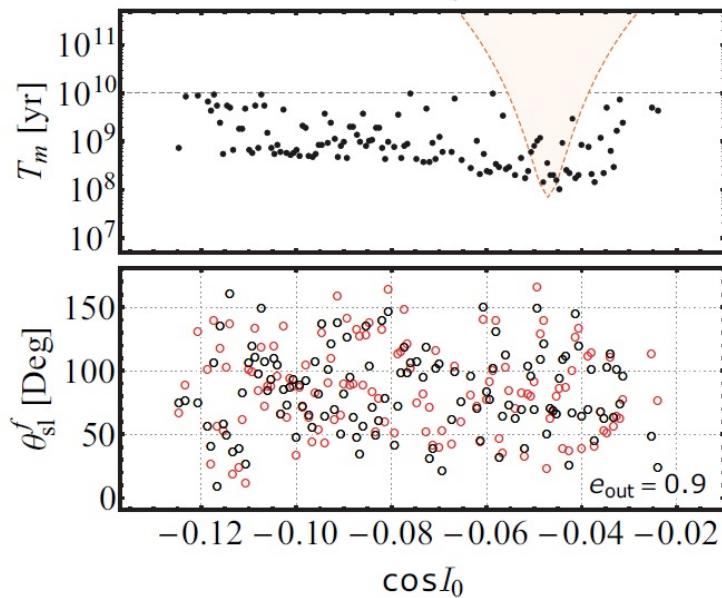
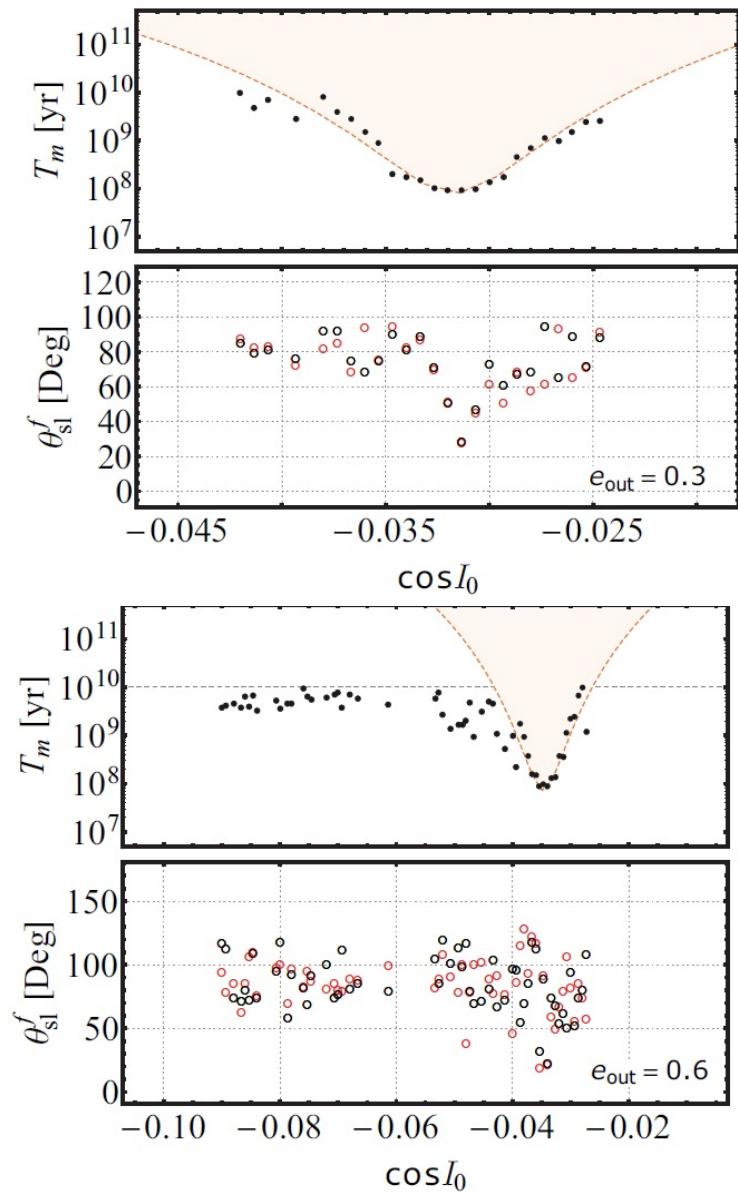


# Merger Window and Final Spin-Orbit Misalignments

Fixed inner binary:  $m_1=30M_{\odot}$ ,  $m_2=20M_{\odot}$ ,  $a_{\text{in},0}=100\text{AU}$

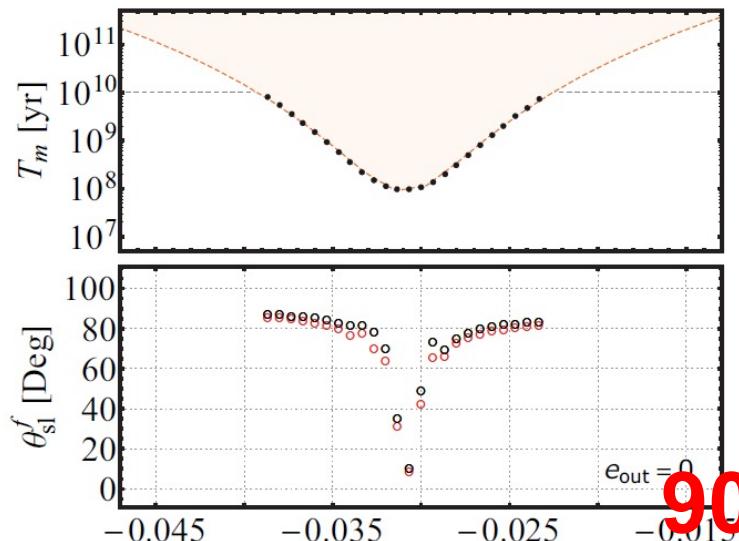


Fixed  $m_3/a_{\text{out}}^3$  value

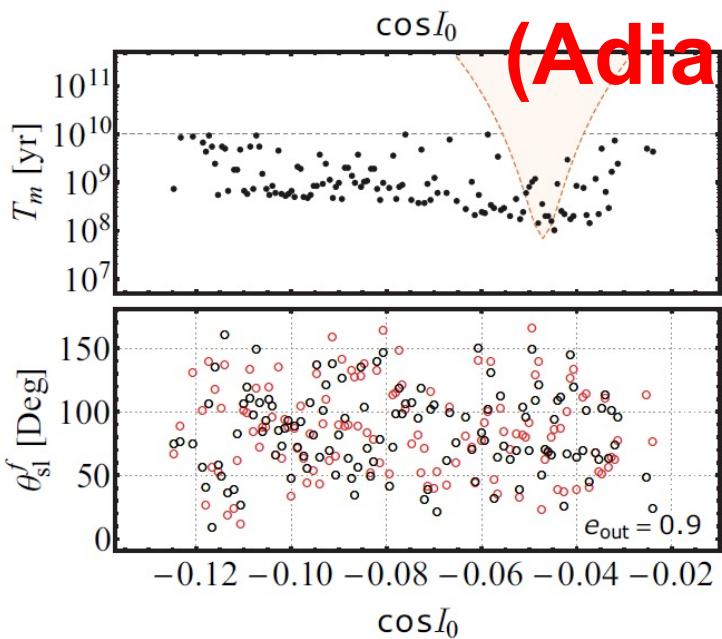
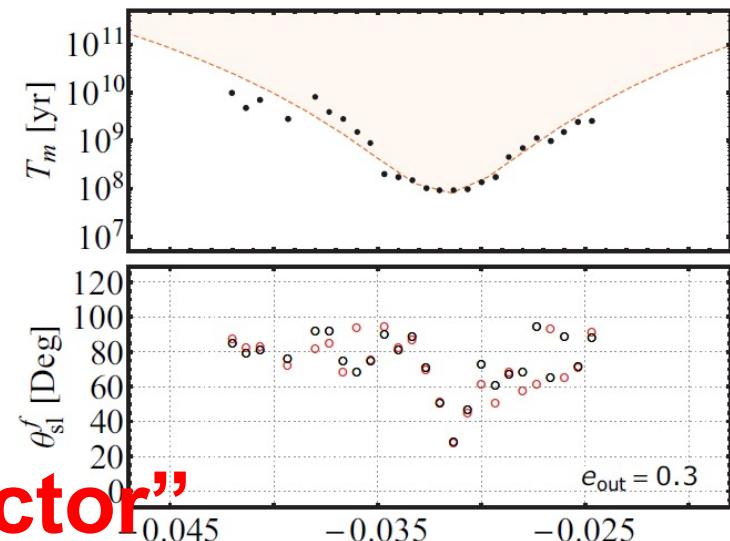


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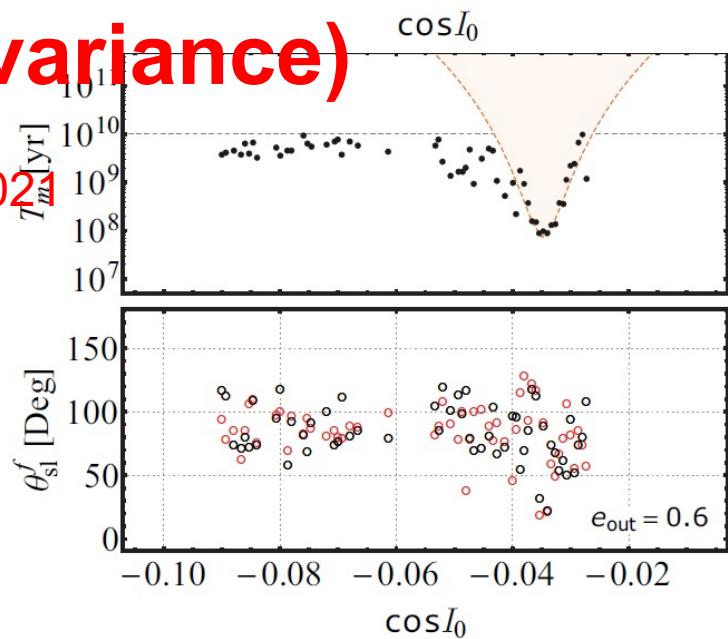


Fixed  $m_3/a_{\text{out}}^3$  value



**(Adiabatic Invariance)**

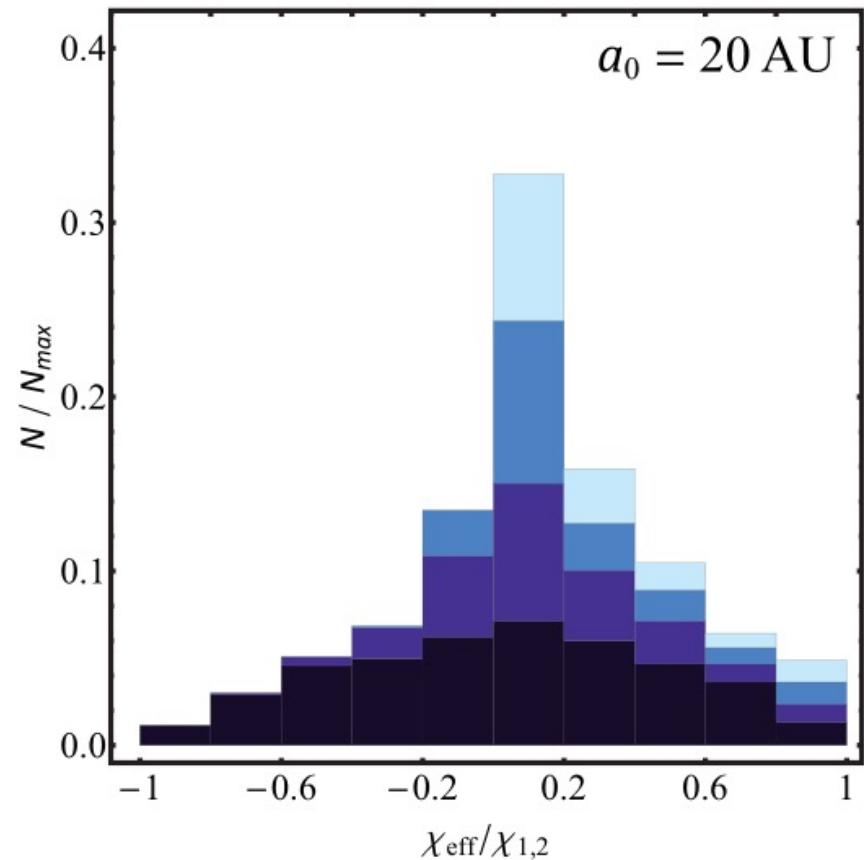
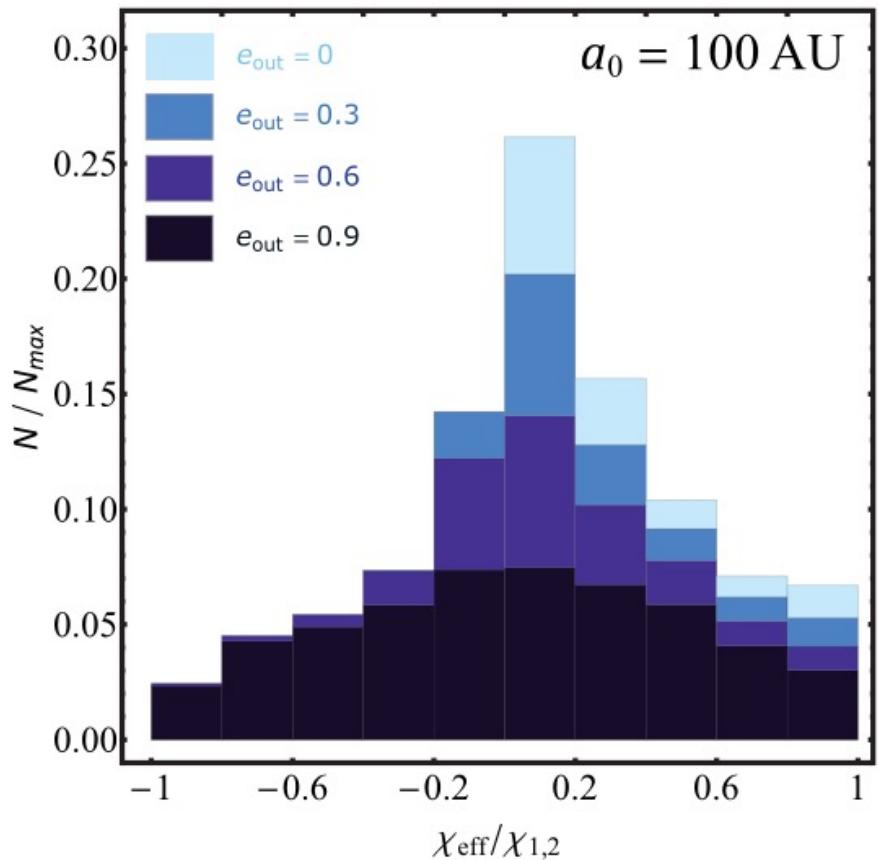
Su,Lai,Liu 2021



# Effective Spin Distribution

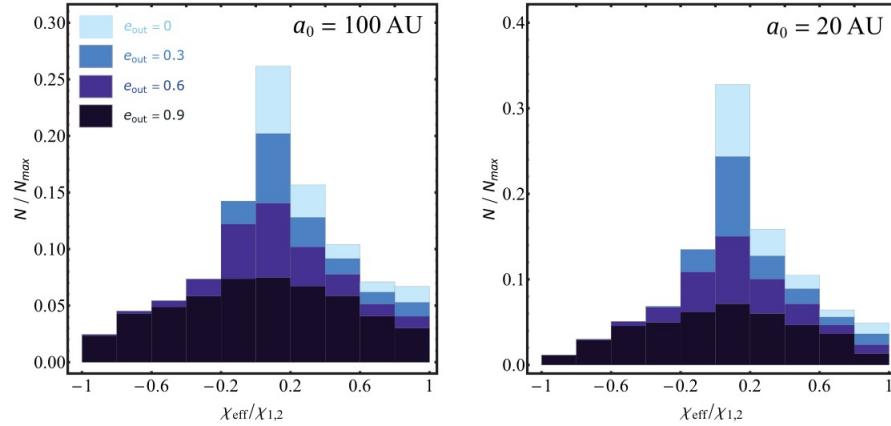
Effective  
parameter

$$\text{spin } \chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{m_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_{s1} + m_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_{s2}}{m_{12}}$$



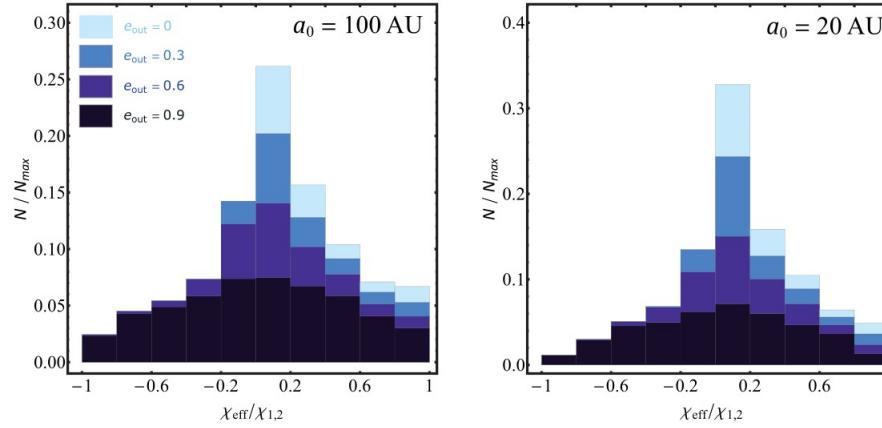
# Effective Spin Distribution

For “reasonable” initial binary/triple parameters ( $e_0=0$ , distant companions)

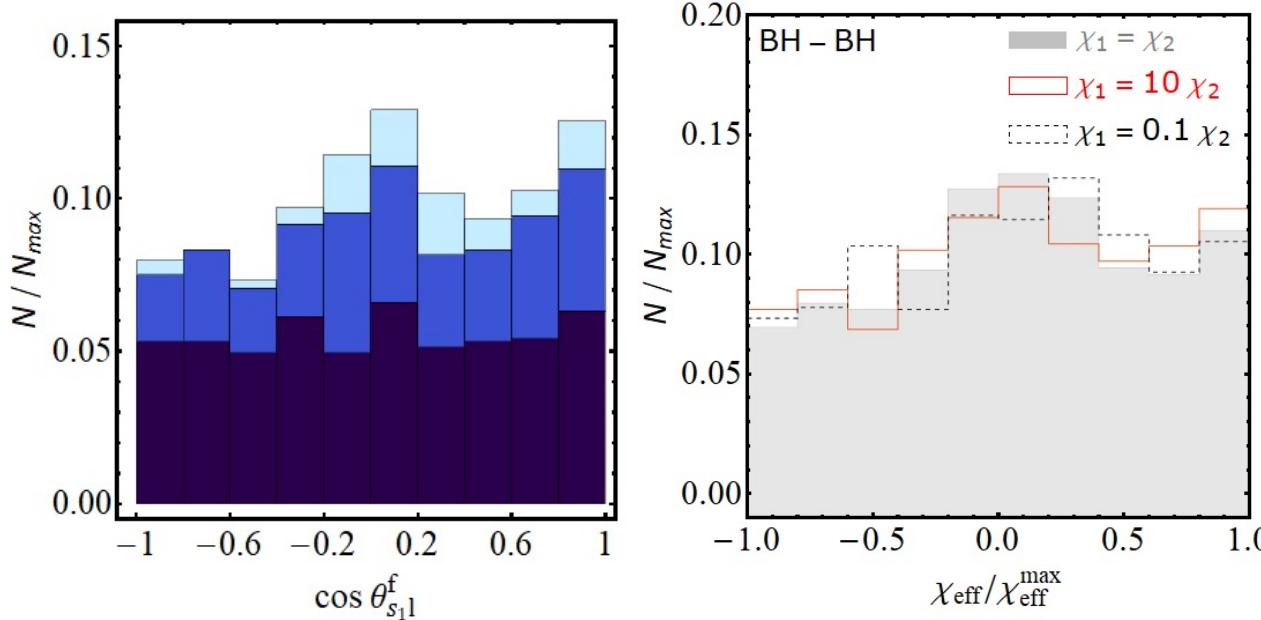


# Effective Spin Distribution

For “reasonable” initial binary/triple parameters ( $e_0=0$ , distant companions)

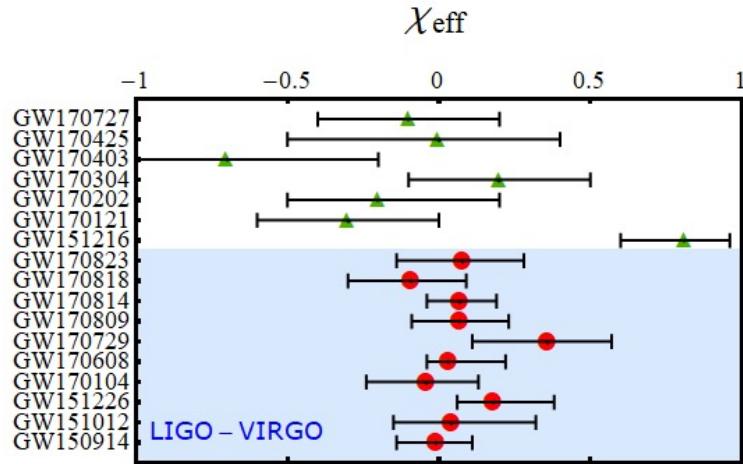
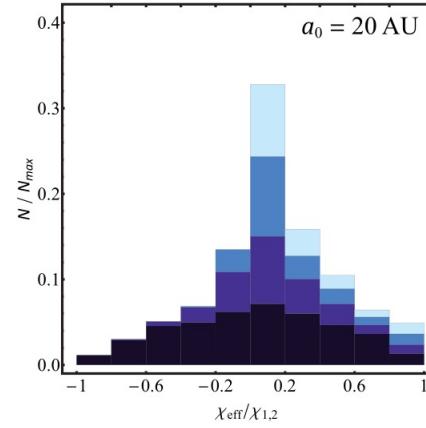
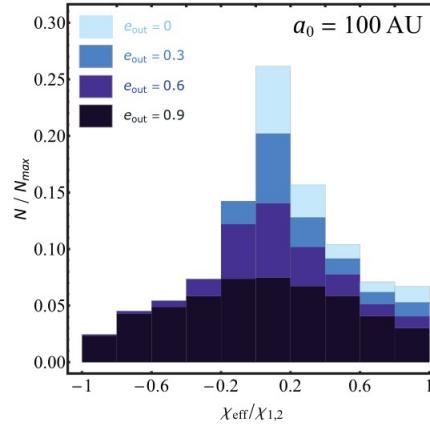


Consider ALL possible parameters

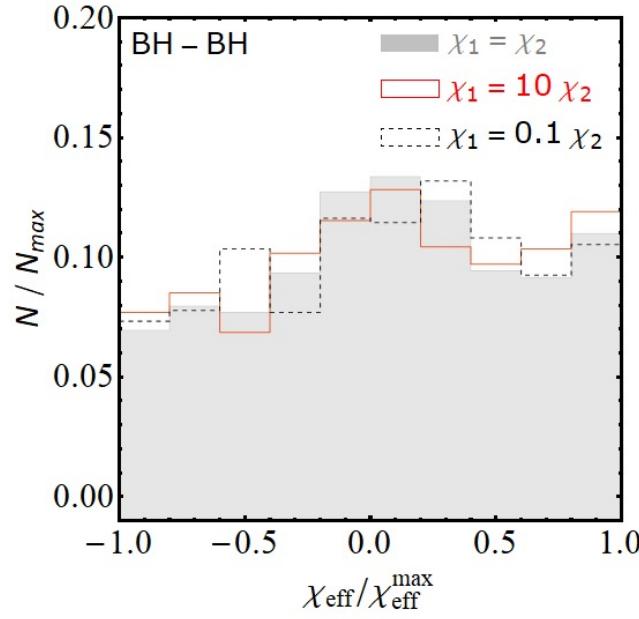
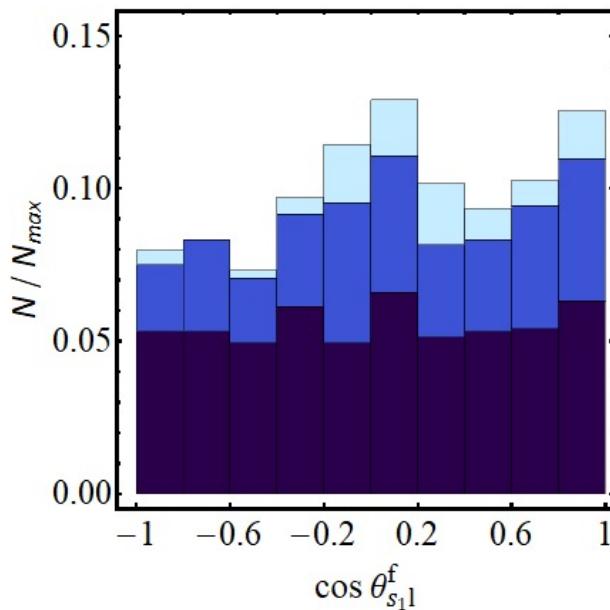


# Effective Spin Distribution

For “reasonable” initial binary/triple parameters ( $e_0=0$ , distant companions)



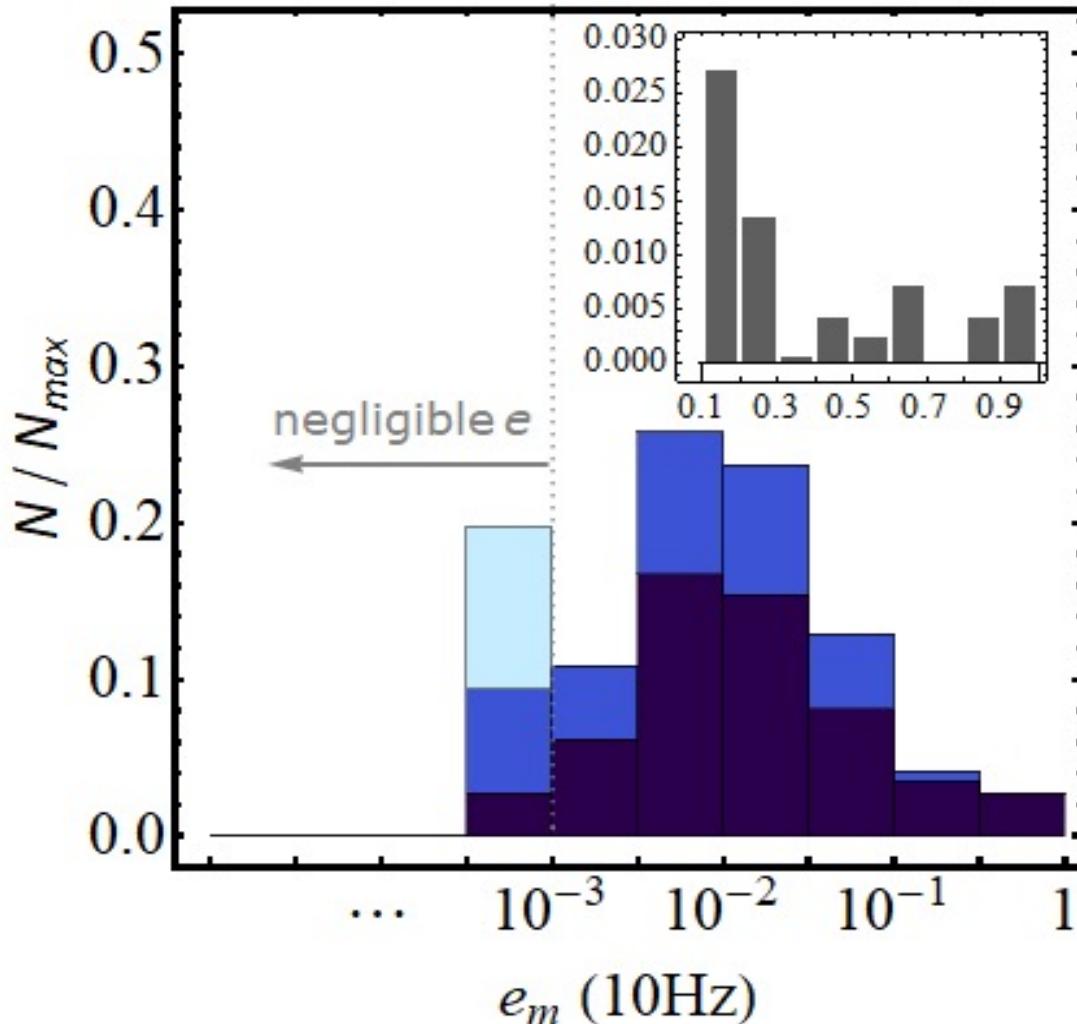
Consider ALL possible parameters



Observed

# Residual Eccentricity (at 10 Hz)

BH-BH mergers



10% have  $e_m > 0.1$

1% have  $e_m > 0.9$

LISA/Taiji/Tianqin  
would be very useful

# Hierarchical Black-Hole Mergers in Multiple Systems

LIGO/VIRGO O3 Events

Parameters	$m_1 (M_\odot)$	$m_2 (M_\odot)$	$\chi_1$	$\chi_2$
GW190412	30	8	0.43	
GW190814	23.2	2.6	0.07	
GW190521	85	66	0.69	0.73

- Exceptional Features

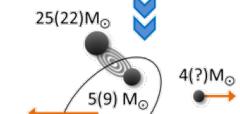
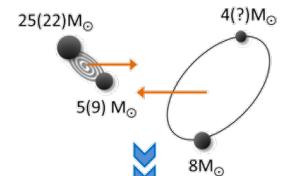
can be naturally explained if one or both components are the **remnants of the previous mergers!**

## Formation of GW190412-like binaries

Binary-Binary Interaction

Binary-Single Interaction

Primordial Triple



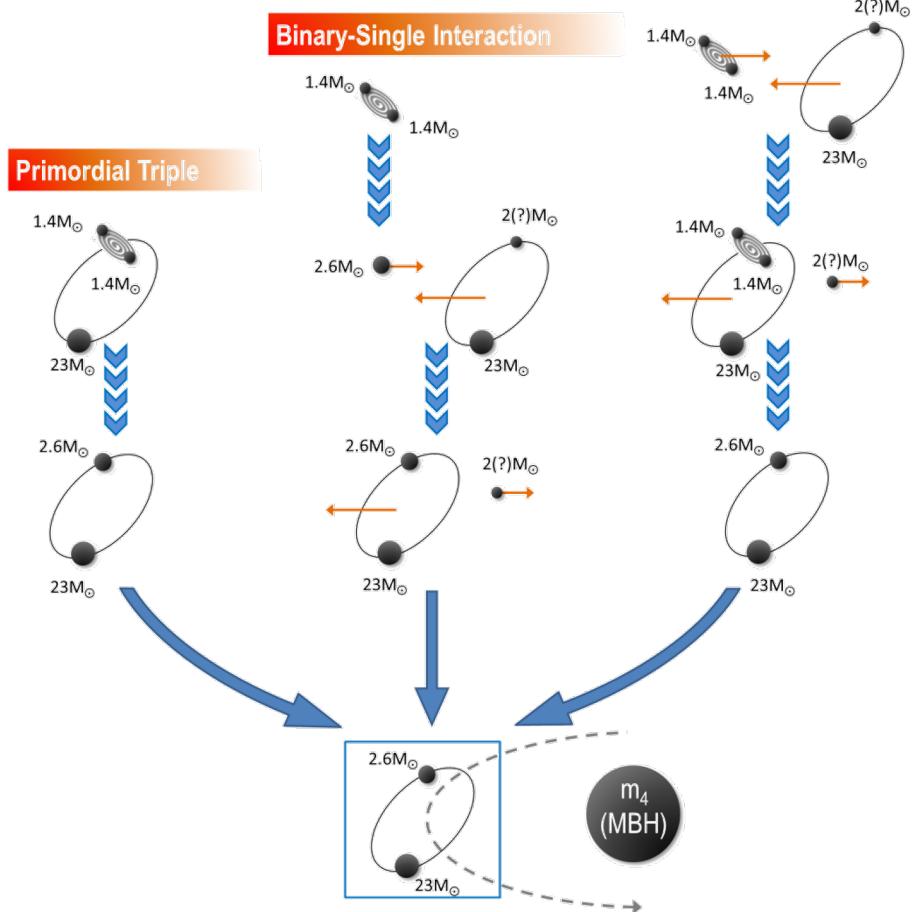
BH BH

Event

Parameters	$m_1(M_{\odot})$	$m_2(M_{\odot})$	$\chi_1$	$\chi_2$
GW190412	30	8	0.43	

## Formation of GW190814-like binaries

Binary-Binary Interaction



## Event

Parameters	$m_1(M_{\odot})$	$m_2(M_{\odot})$	$\chi_1$	$\chi_2$
GW190814	23.2	2.6	0.07	

NS      NS

BH

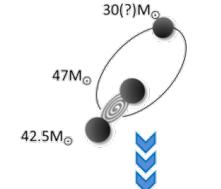
Event

Parameters	$m_1(M_\odot)$	$m_2(M_\odot)$	$\chi_1$	$\chi_2$
GW190521	85	66	0.69	0.73

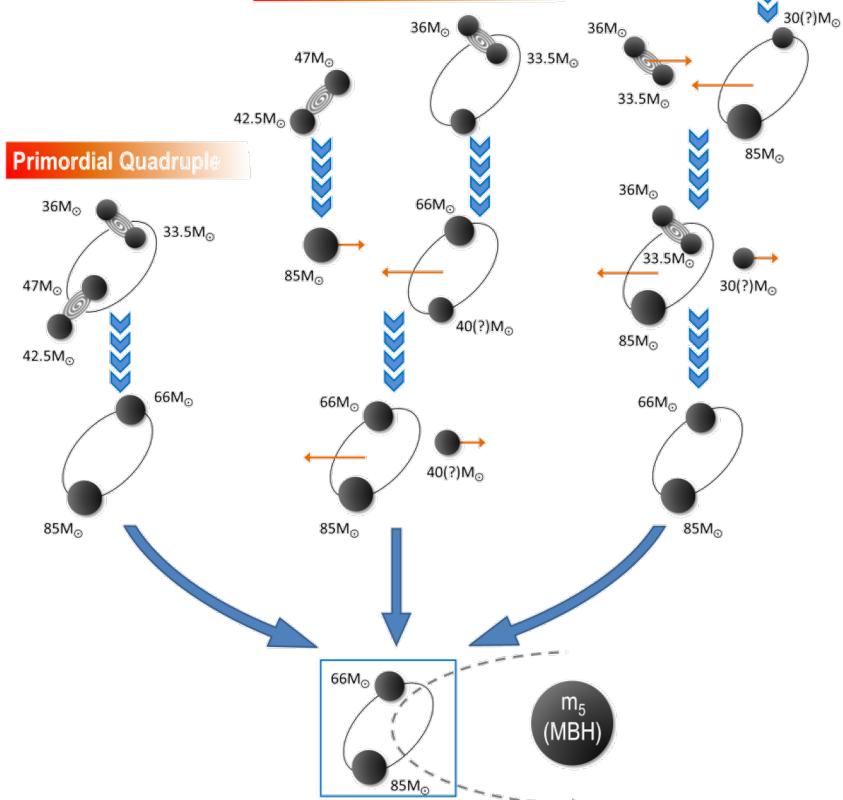
BH

## Formation of GW190521-like binaries

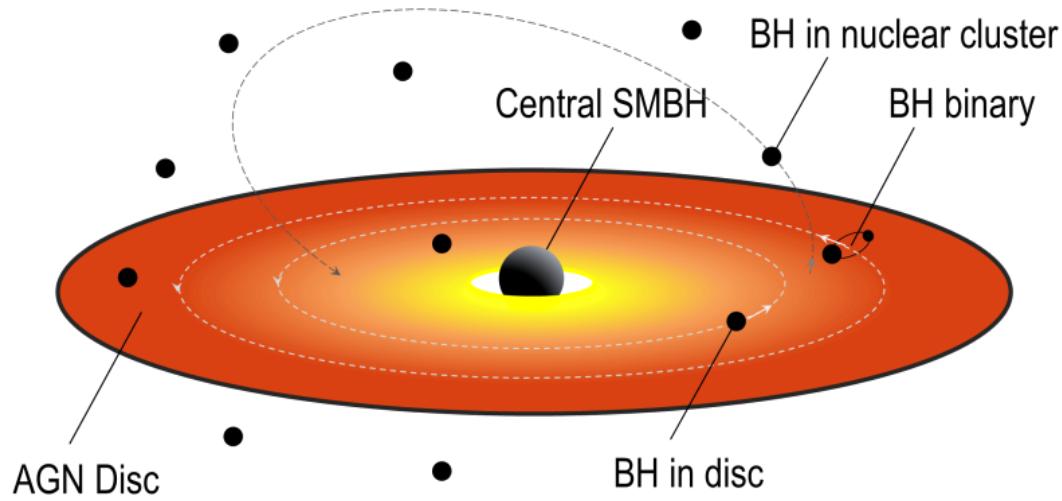
### Binary-Binary Interaction



### Binary-Single Interaction



# Binary BH Mergers in AGN disks



Bellovary+16, Bartos+16, Stone+17, McKernan+18, Secunda+18, Yang+19, Tagawa+20, etc

# Simulations of binary in AGN disks

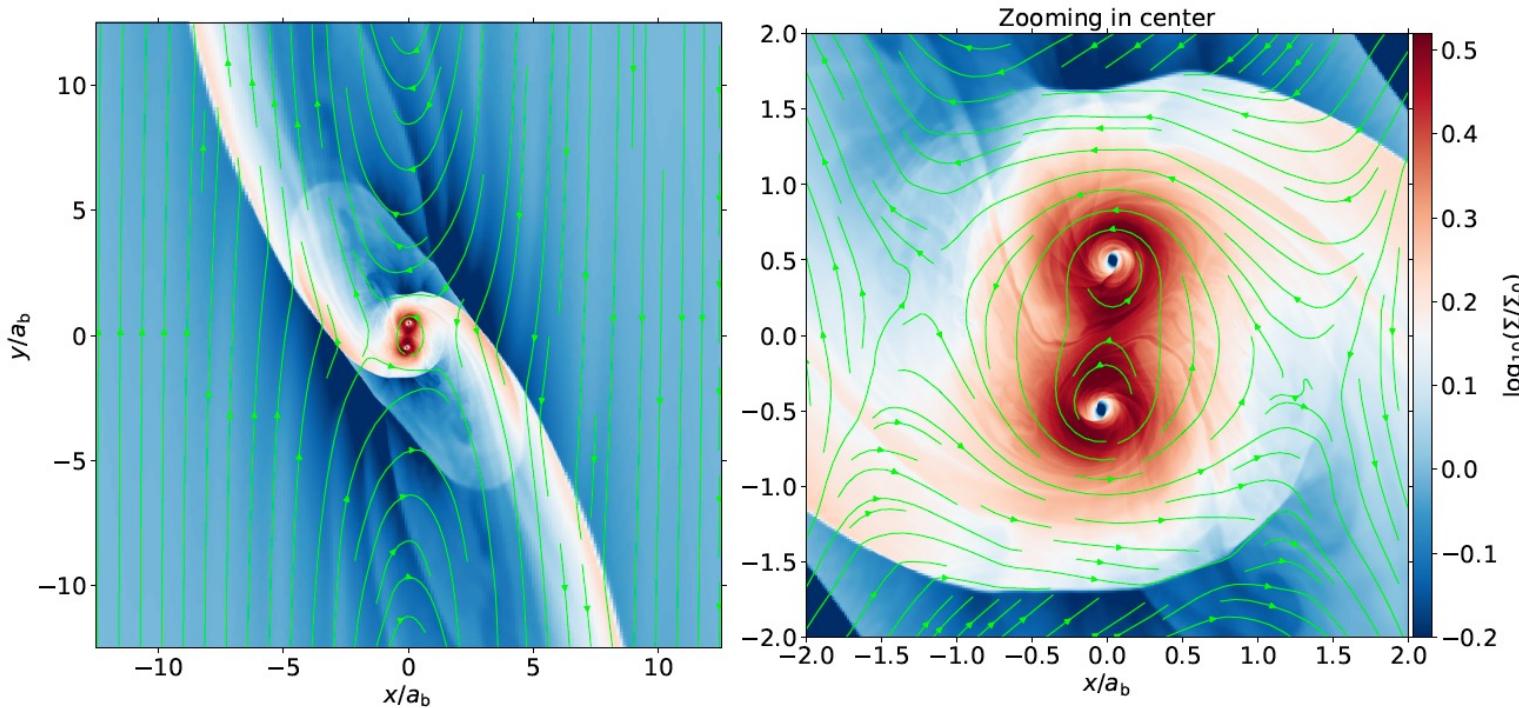
Baruteau, Cuadra & Lin 2011: Orbit decays.

Y.Li et al (LANL) 2021: Orbit expands (if gravitational softening is small enough...)

# Simulations of binary in AGN disks



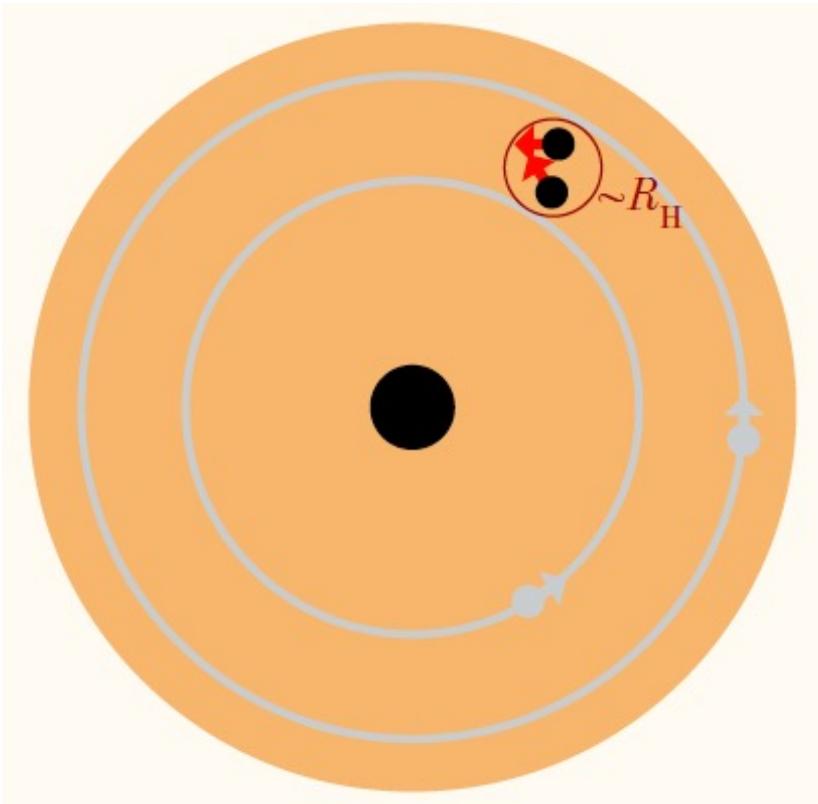
Dr. Rixin Li  
(Cornell)



$$\frac{\dot{a}_b}{a_b} \sim -\frac{\dot{M}_b}{M_b}, \quad \dot{M}_b \sim \text{Bondi rate}$$

Coefficients depend on various dimensionless parameters (e.g.,  $a_b/R_H$ , Mach number, etc)

# Can/How two BHs in “migration trap” merge?



Two BHs in unstable orbits around SMBH

→ “Chaoic” orbits

BHs can merge due to  
“gravitational bremsstrahlung”

2D “loss cone” for relative orbit



Jiaru Li, Lai, Rodet 2021 in prep

# Summary

## Formation Channels of Merging BH Binaries

### Standard isolated binary evolution channel:

uncertain physics (common envelope...)

→ circular mergers ( $e_m=0$ ), mostly aligned spin-orbit angle

### Dynamical formation channels:

“clean” physics, but “environmental” uncertainties

#### 1. Dense star clusters

→ mostly circular mergers ? expect random spin-orbit misalignments ?

#### 2. Tertiary-induced mergers

Perturbations from outer companion → Lidov-Kozai

Octupole effect → mass ratio dependence

Binary mergers around SMBH: GR effects important

Spin-orbit misalignment

→ ~10% mergers have residual  $e>0.1$  when entering LIGO band

Preference of 90° spin-orbit misalignment, especially for circular mergers

#### 3. BH Mergers in AGN disks

gas assisted mergers?

Rates? All potentially can play a role

LISA/Taiji/Tianqin useful for probing dynamical formation



# Binary Dynamics Near a Supermassive BH

Nuclear Star Cluster

## 'Environmental' effects

- **Binary Evaporation**

e.g., Binney & Tremaine 2008; Perets 2009

- **Resonant Relaxation**

e.g., Rauch & Tremaine 1996; Perets et al. 2009; Kocsis & Tremaine 2011; Hamers et al. 2018;

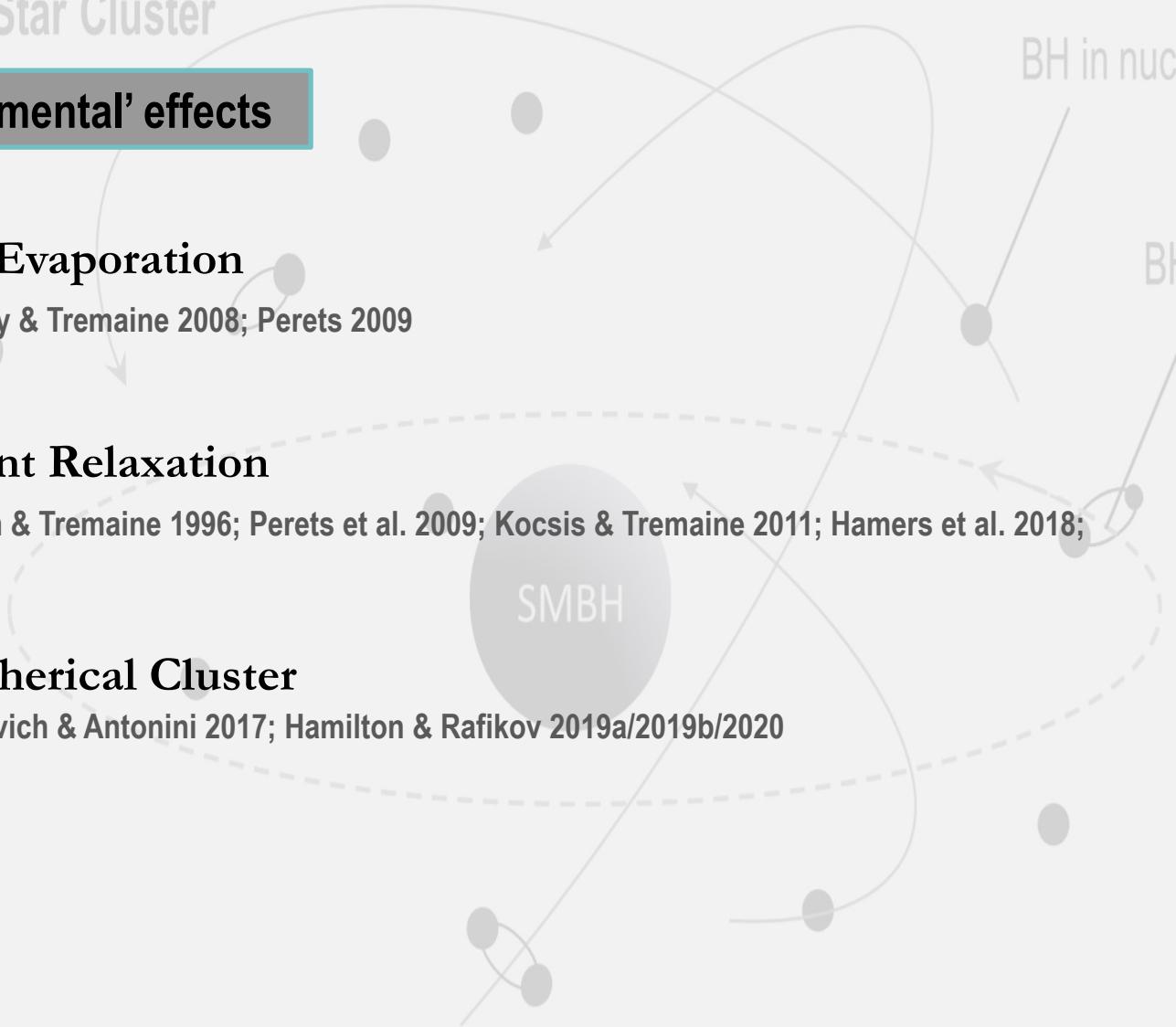
- **Non-spherical Cluster**

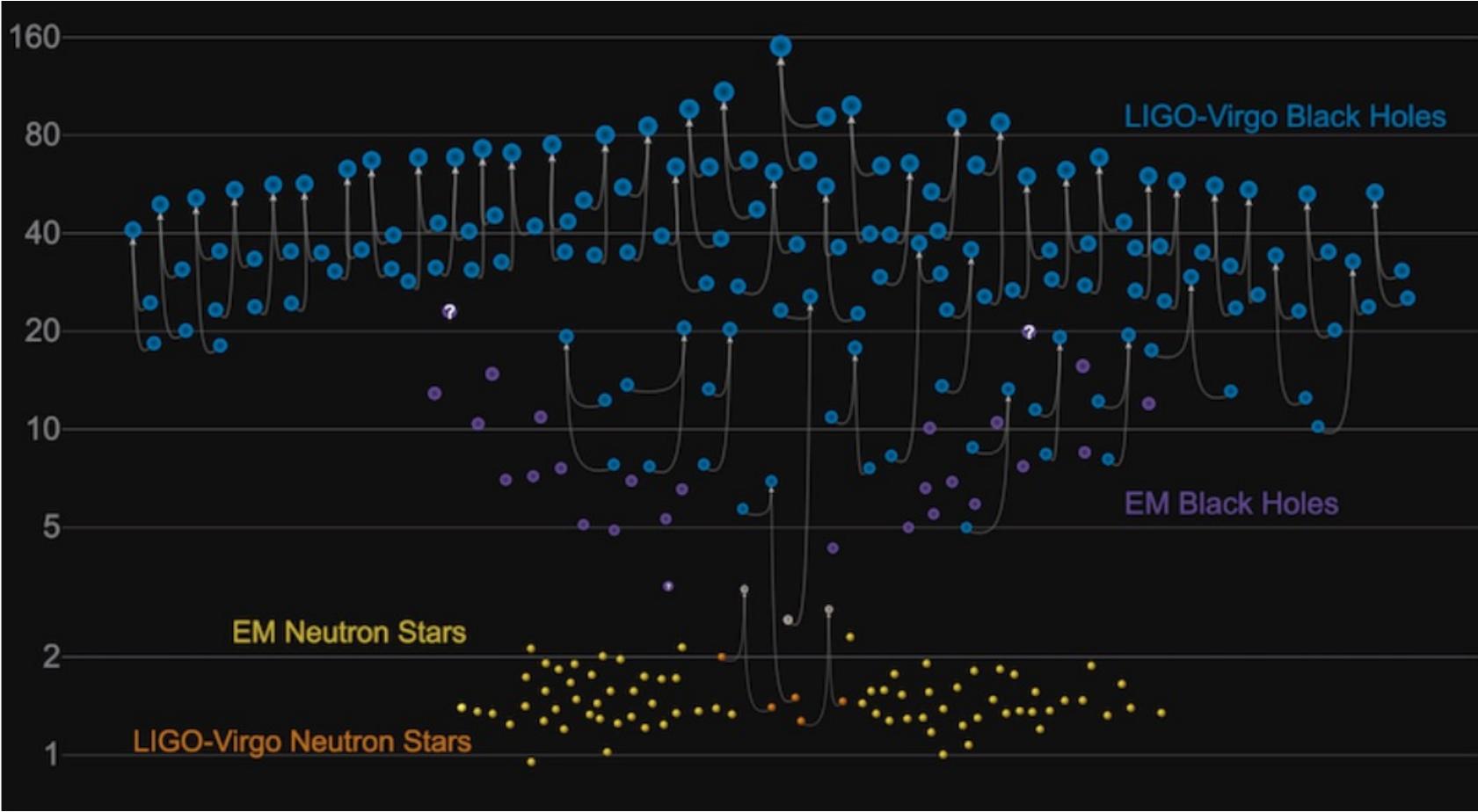
e.g., Petrovich & Antonini 2017; Hamilton & Rafikov 2019a/2019b/2020

BH in nuclear cluster

BH Binary

SMBH

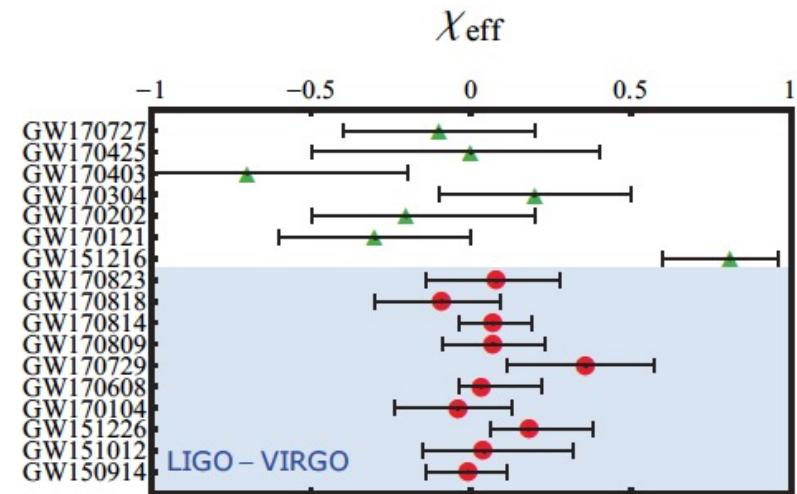




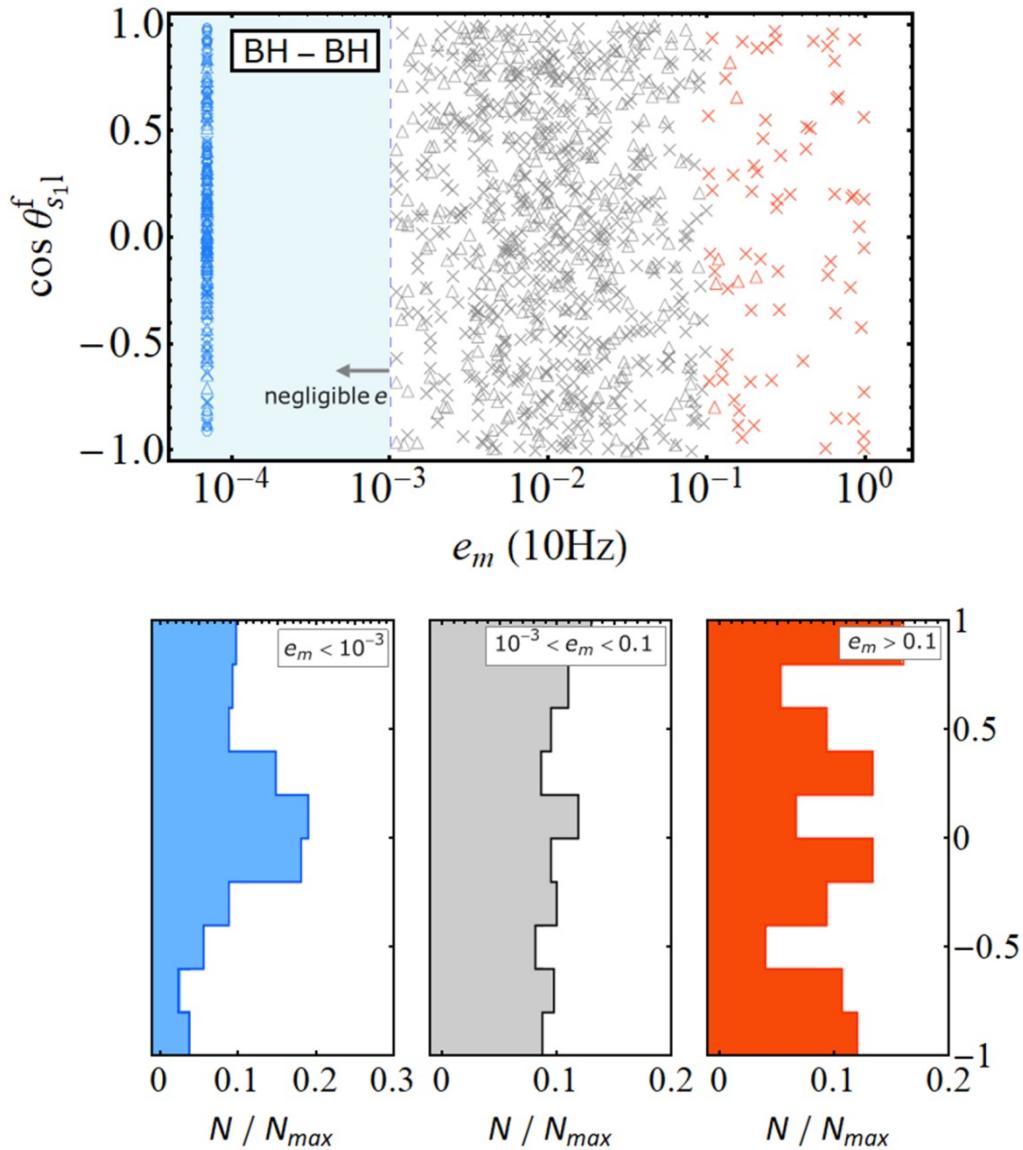
Gravitational waveform gives

$M_1, M_2, \chi_{\text{eff}}$

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} \equiv \frac{m_1 \chi_1 + m_2 \chi_2}{m_1 + m_2} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}}$$



# Residual eccentricity vs Spin-orbit Misalignment



Circular Mergers ( $e_m < 10^{-3}$ ) prefer  $\theta_{sl}^f \sim 90^\circ$

More eccentric Mergers has random  $\theta_{sl}^f$