

# **RESEARCH OVERVIEW -- BLACK HOLES**

Mini-workshop of NCTS-TCA SSP 2021

Hsiang-Yi Karen Yang, NTHU, 7/5/2021



Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed

## THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2020



Roger Penrose

"for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity"

Reinhard  
Genzel

"for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy"

Andrea  
Ghez

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES





# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, some sunshine giving way  
to times of clouds, cold, high 28. To  
night, a flurry or heavier snowfall  
late, low 15. Tomorrow, windy, frig-  
id, high 21. Weather map, Page A18.

\$2.50

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016



WITH FAINT CHIRP.  
SCIENTISTS PR.  
EINSTEIN COR.  
A RIPPLE IN SPACE

An Echo of Black Holes  
Colliding a Billion  
Light-Years Away

By DENNIS OVERBECK

A team of scientists announced  
on Thursday that they had heard  
and recorded the sound of two  
black holes colliding. ■

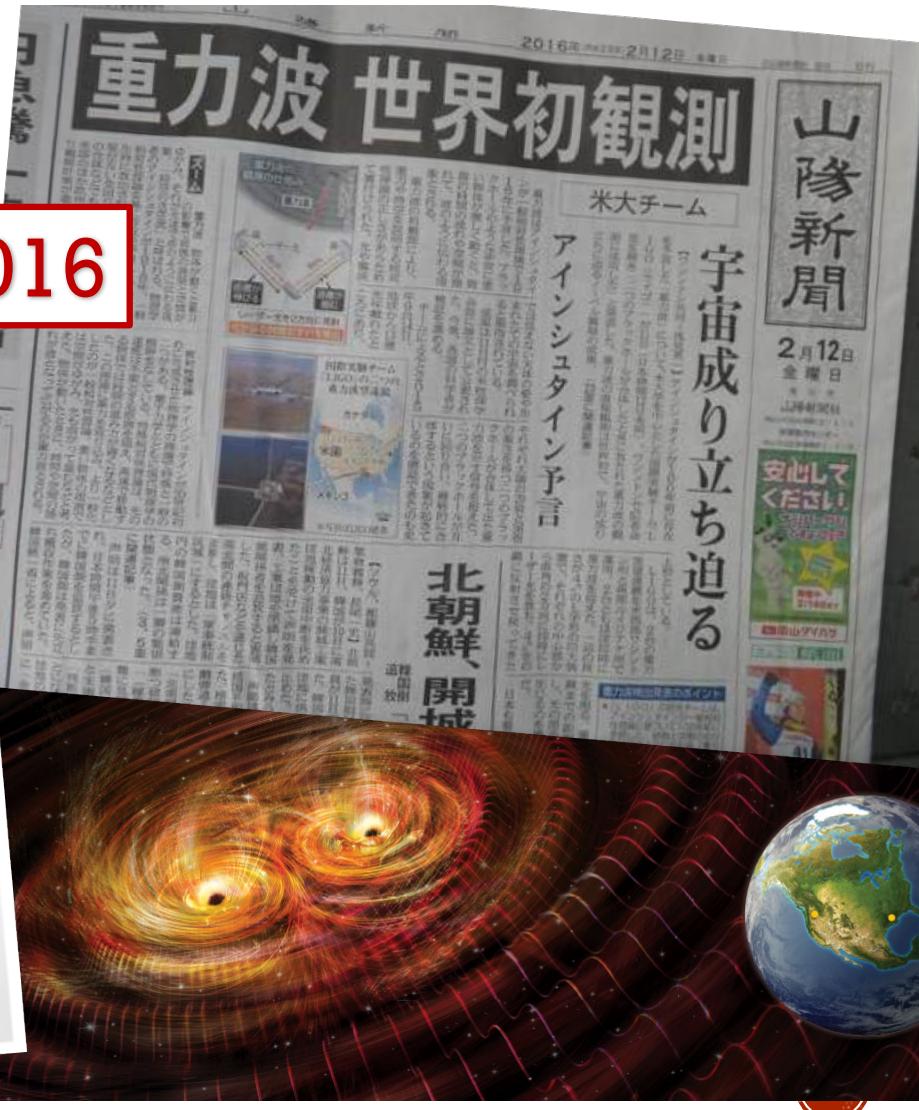
Feb 11, 2016



## Gravitational waves are real

Astounding discovery was predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity

Einstein's theory: It's relative to YOU | His dark mistake foretells the end of the universe



# 2017 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Illustration: Niklas Elmehed; Nobel Prize Medal: © The Nobel Foundation; Photo: Lennart Nilsson.

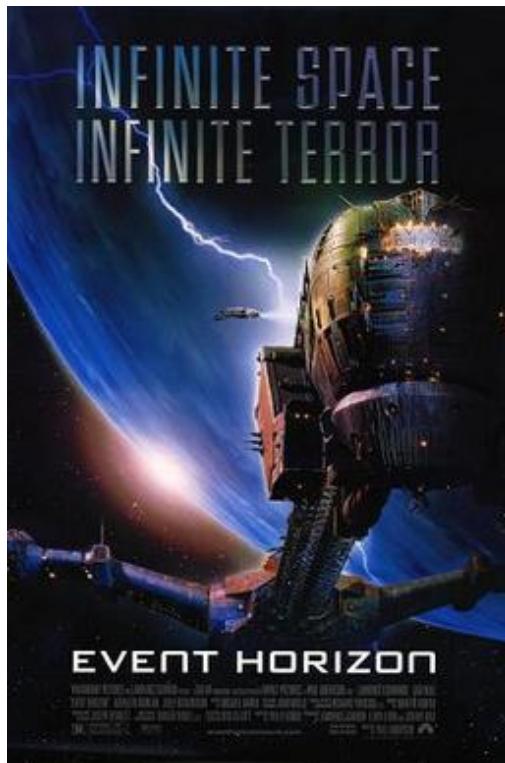
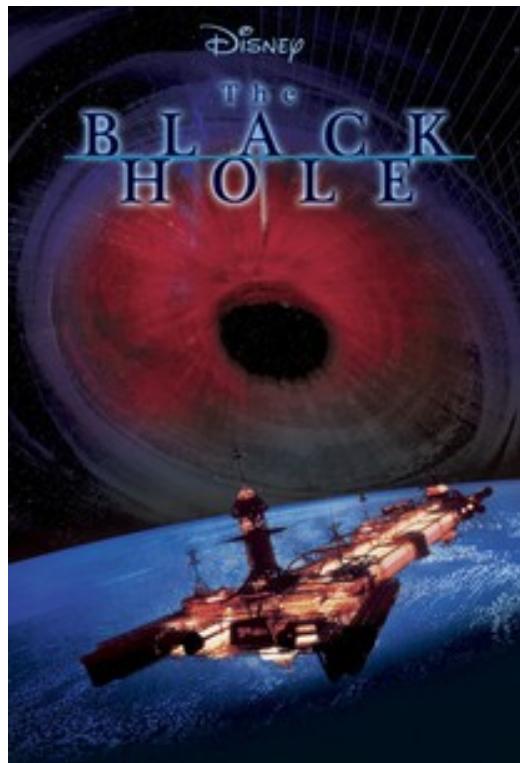


Rainer Weiss  
Barry C. Barish  
Kip S. Thorne

*"for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves"*



The Black Hole (1979) Event Horizon (1997) Interstellar (2014)



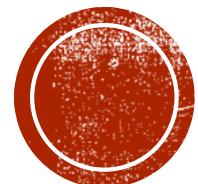
# EVERYBODY LOVES BLACK HOLES!!!



# OUTLINE

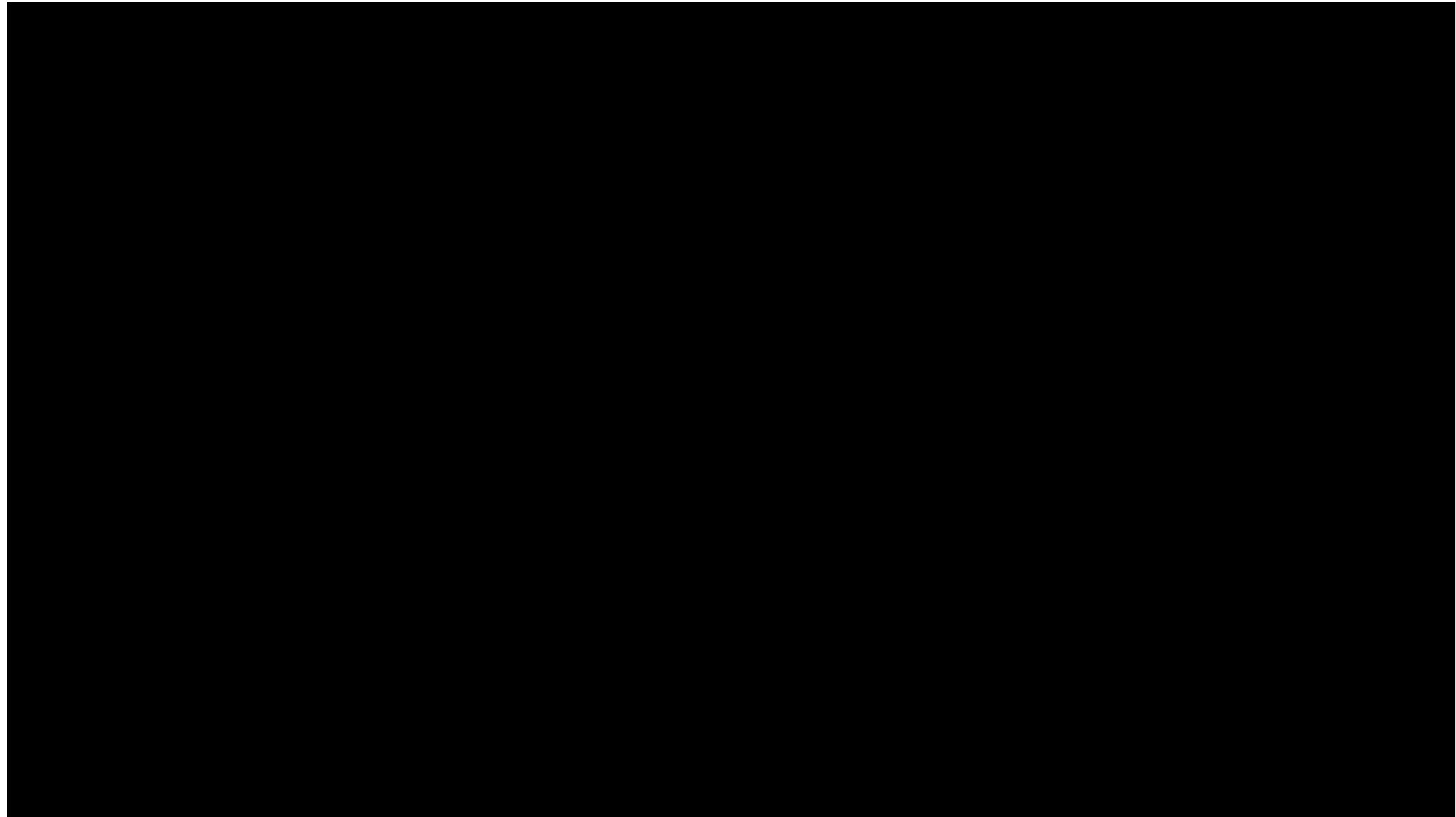
- Black hole 101
  - What is a black hole?
  - Do black holes exist?
  - What are active galactic nuclei (AGN)?
- Big questions in black hole astrophysics
  - How do supermassive black holes form?
  - How do AGNs affect the formation and evolution of galaxies?
  - What can we learn from gravitational waves (GWs) and the first black hole image?





# WHAT IS A BLACK HOLE?





# Dictionary

Search for a word



## black hole

*noun*

ASTRONOMY

a region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape.





Light :  $m = 0$

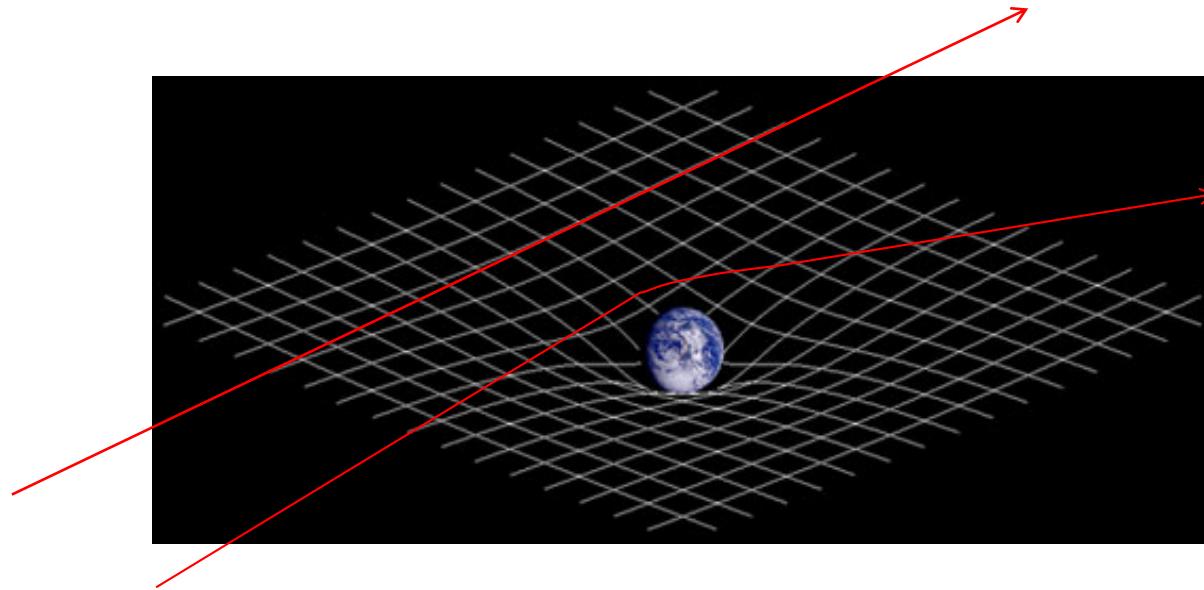
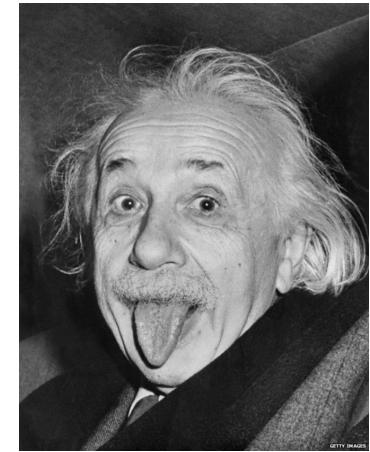
??

Newton's law of gravitation:

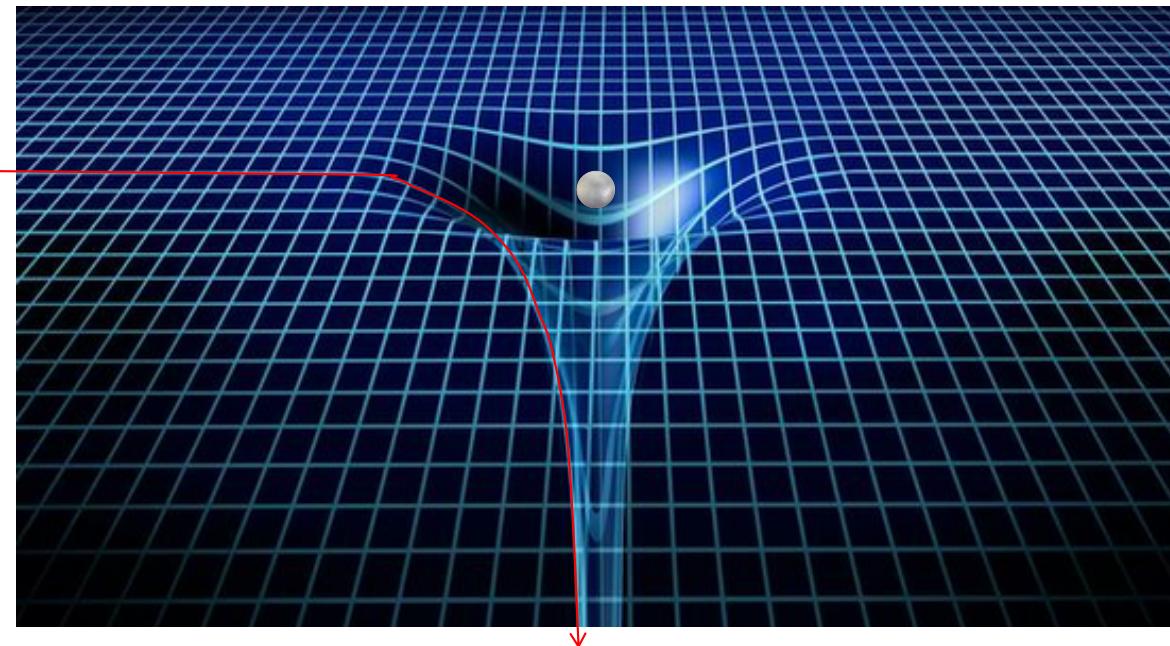
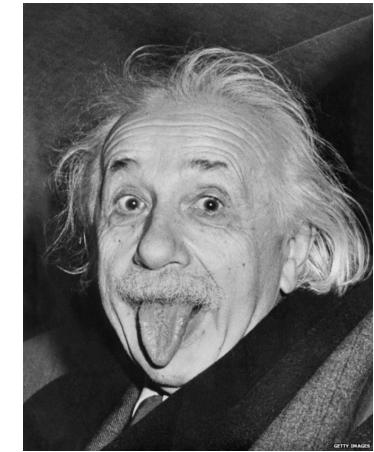
$$F = \frac{GMm}{r^2}$$



EINSTEIN'S GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY(1915) :  
***"MATTER TELLS SPACETIME HOW TO CURVE;  
SPACETIME TELLS MATTER HOW TO MOVE"***



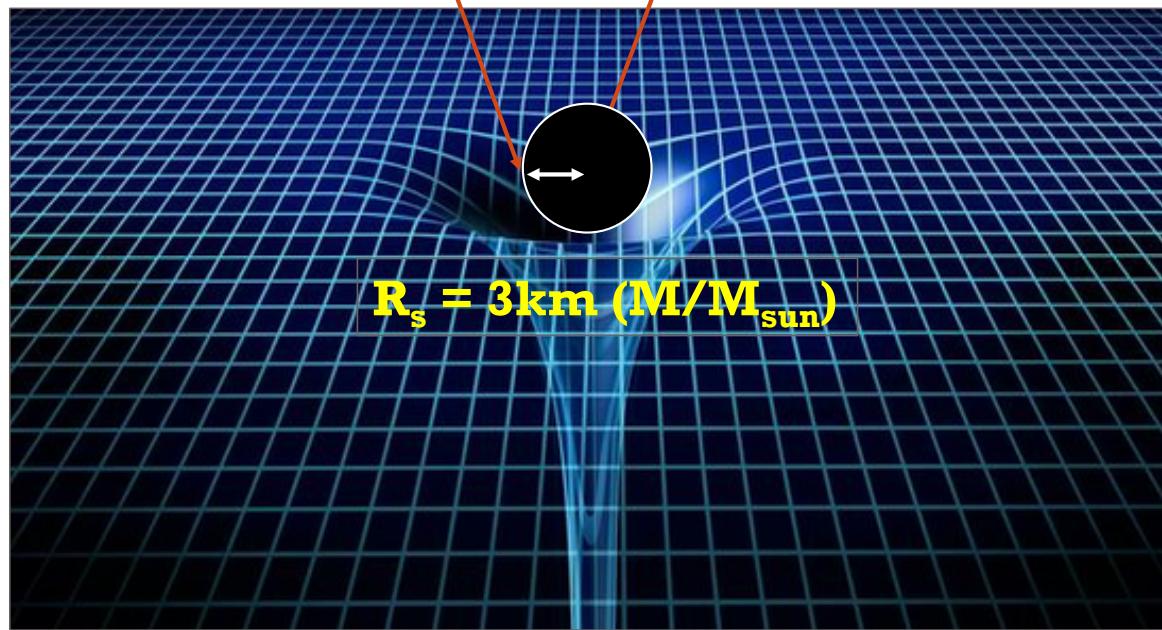
EINSTEIN'S GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY(1915) :  
***"MATTER TELLS SPACETIME HOW TO CURVE;  
SPACETIME TELLS MATTER HOW TO MOVE"***



# SCHWARZSCHILD BLACK HOLE



Karl Schwarzschild  
(1873-1916)

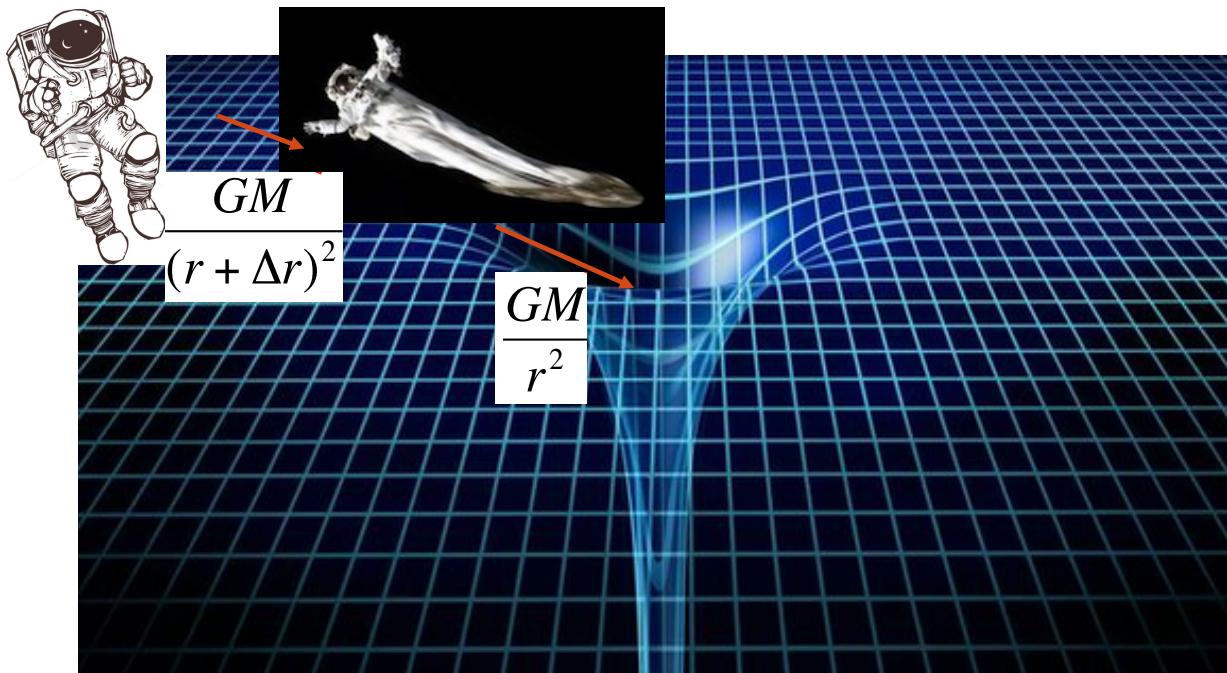


**Singularity (奇異點)**

**Event horizon (事件視界)**



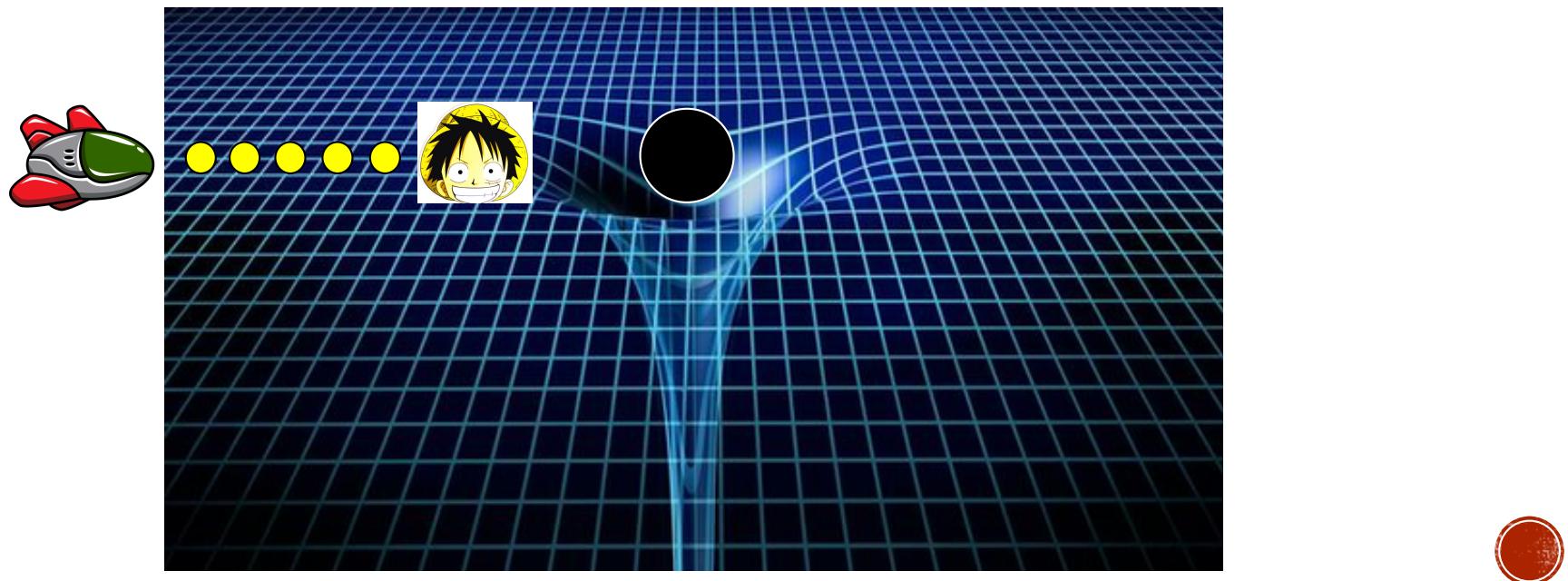
# SPAGHETTIFICATION



- We would never make it to the center intact because the tidal force ( $F_{\text{tidal}} \sim M/r^3$ ) would tear us apart

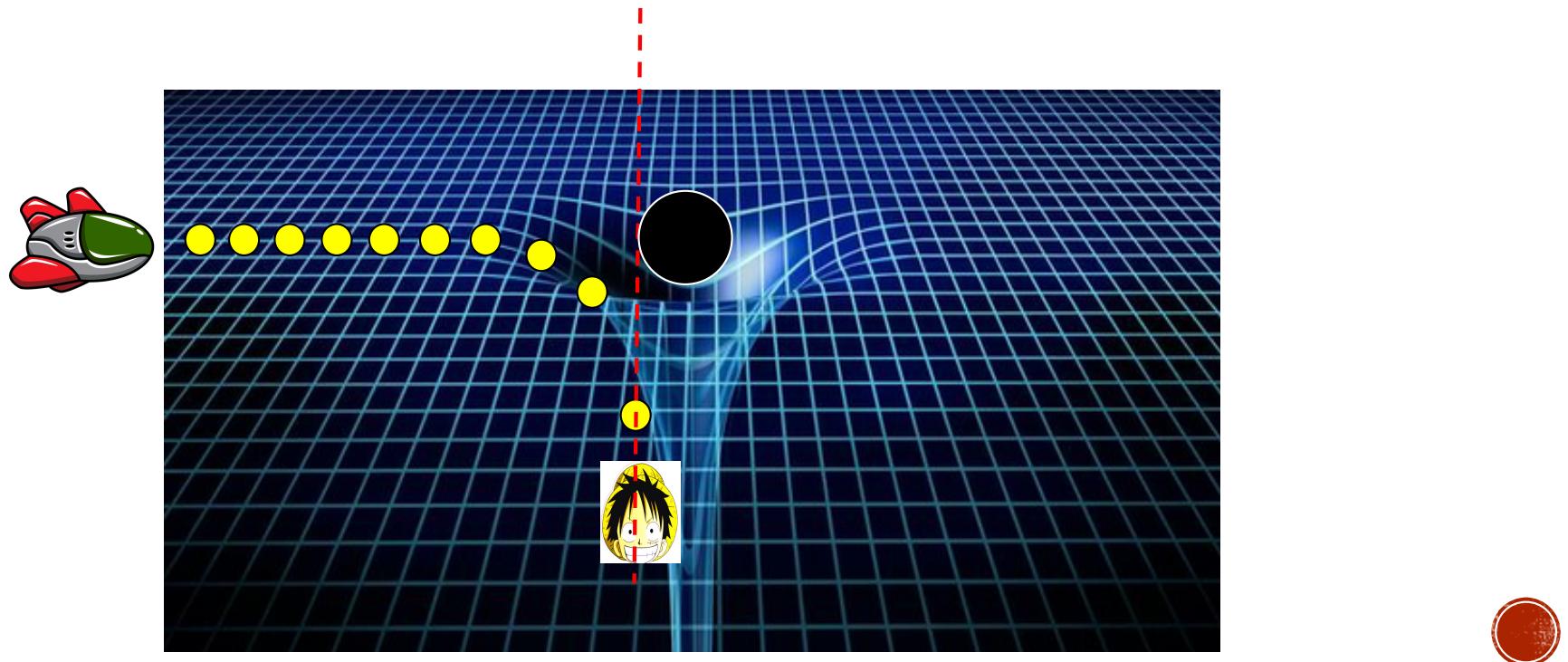


**WHAT WOULD WE SEE IF LUFFY FALLS INTO THE  
BLACK HOLE.....?**



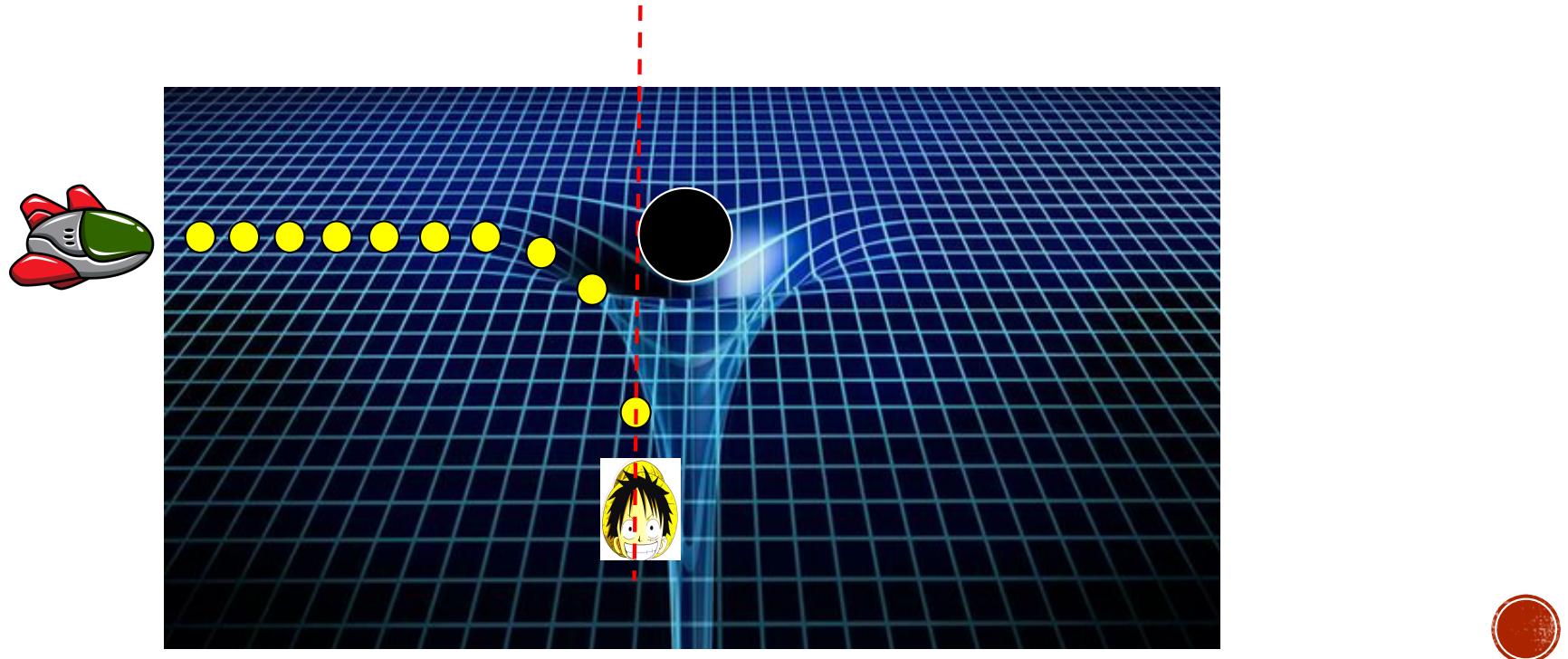
**WHAT WOULD WE SEE IF LUFFY FALLS INTO THE  
BLACK HOLE.....?**

**Event horizon**



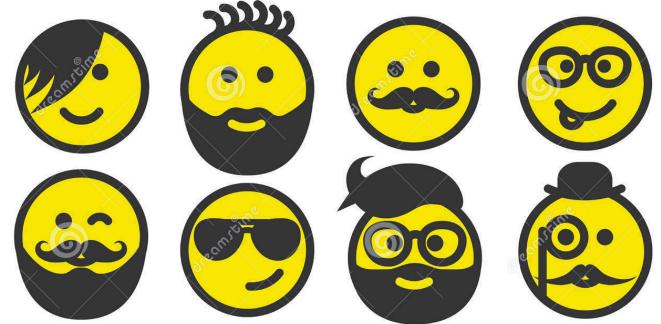
- **Gravitational time dilation** – time measured by a distant observer would increase as the emitting object moves closer to the event horizon
- **Gravitational redshift** – light emitted near the event horizon would appear redder and dimmer as viewed by a distant observer

## Event horizon



# NO HAIR THEOREM

- It says that “**Stationary BHs after formation can be uniquely described given mass ( $M$ ), angular momentum ( $J$ ), and charge ( $Q$ ).**”
- Once  $(M, J, Q)$  are given, the spacetime is determined
- It means that BHs are in fact very simple objects!
- In the universe, EM force  $\gg$  gravity, so it is easy for the black hole to attract an opposite charge  $\rightarrow Q = 0$
- Important properties of a black hole:  $M$  and  $J$



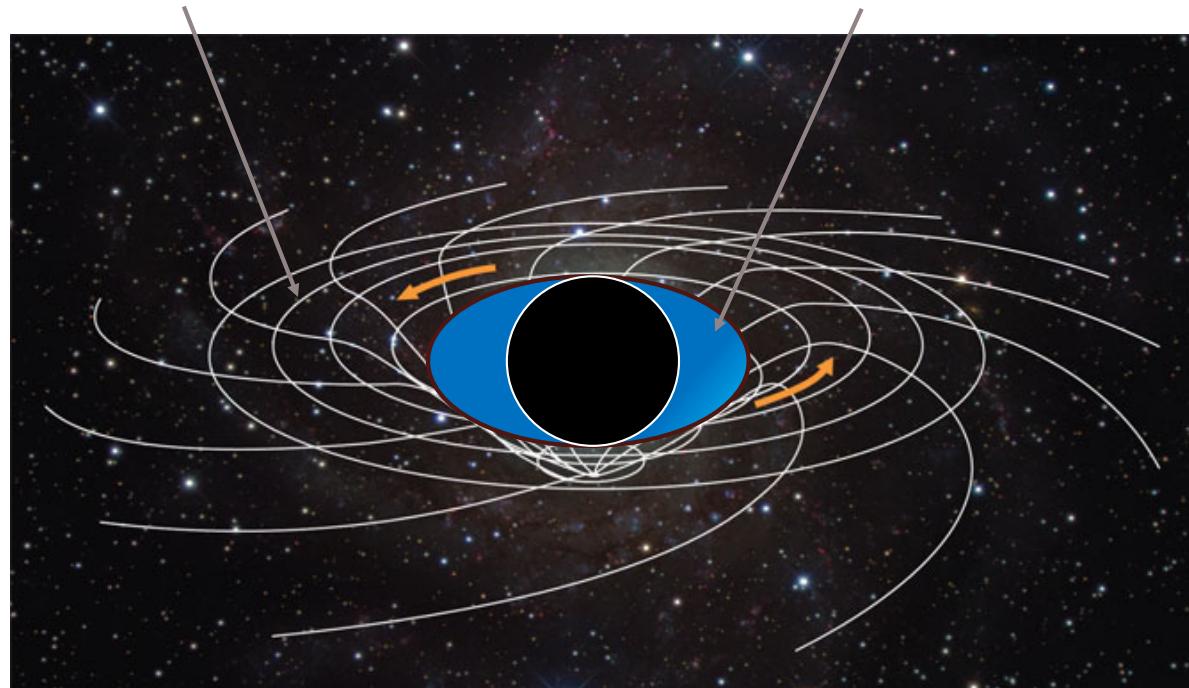
*Maximum set of parameters:*

$$\{M, J, Q\}$$

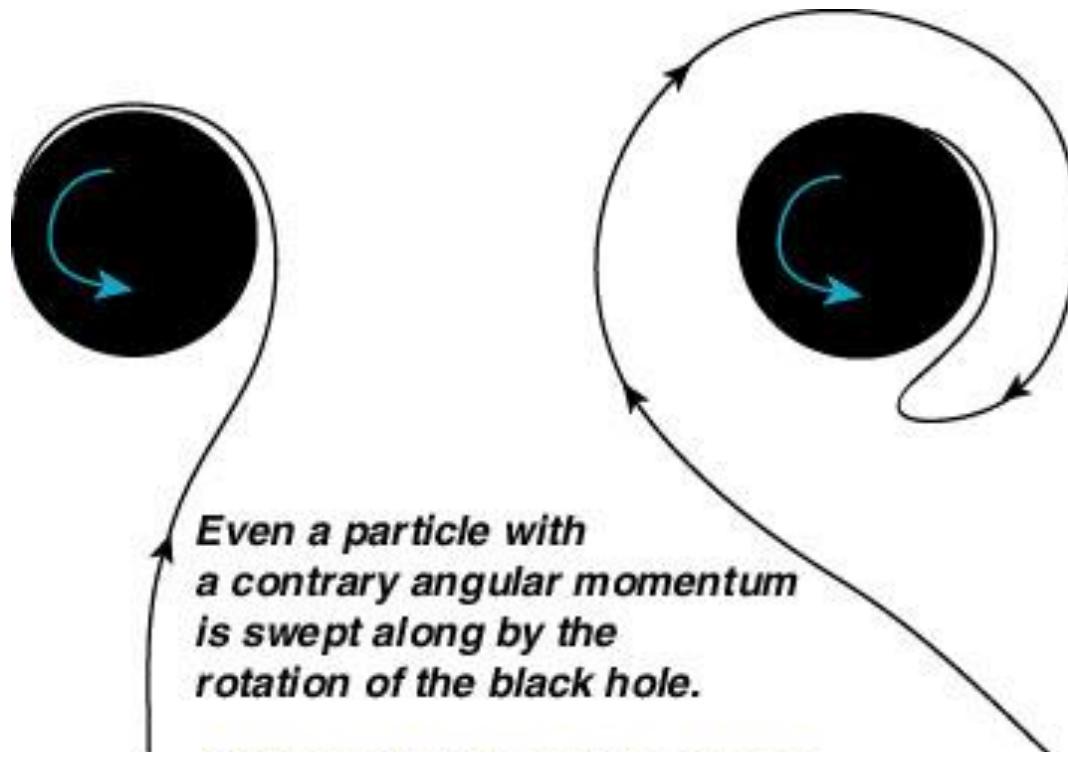
# SPINNING BLACK HOLES

參考系拖曳  
(Frame dragging)

動圈  
(ergosphere)

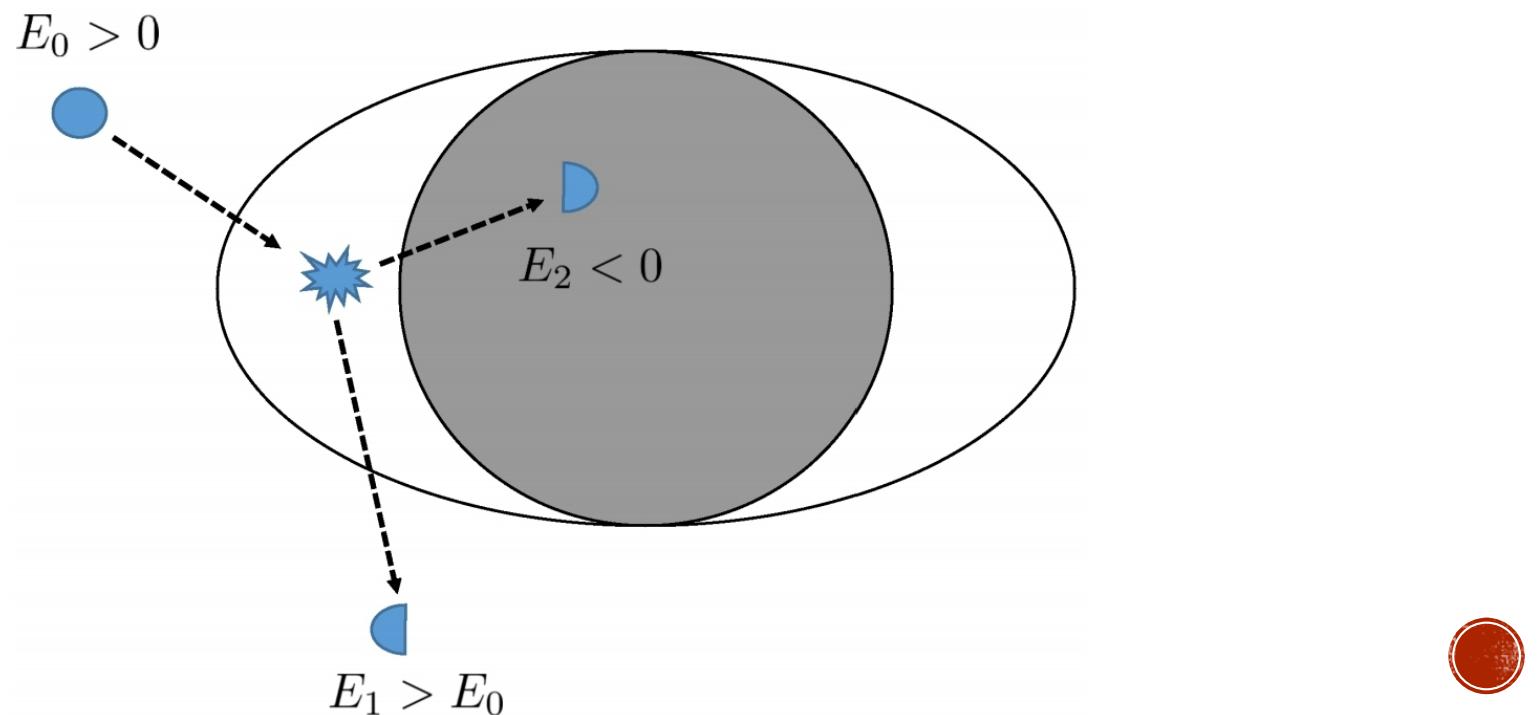


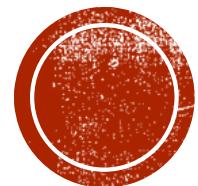
# SPINNING BLACK HOLES



# PENROSE PROCESS (1971)

**It's possible to extract the rotational energy of a black hole this way!!**

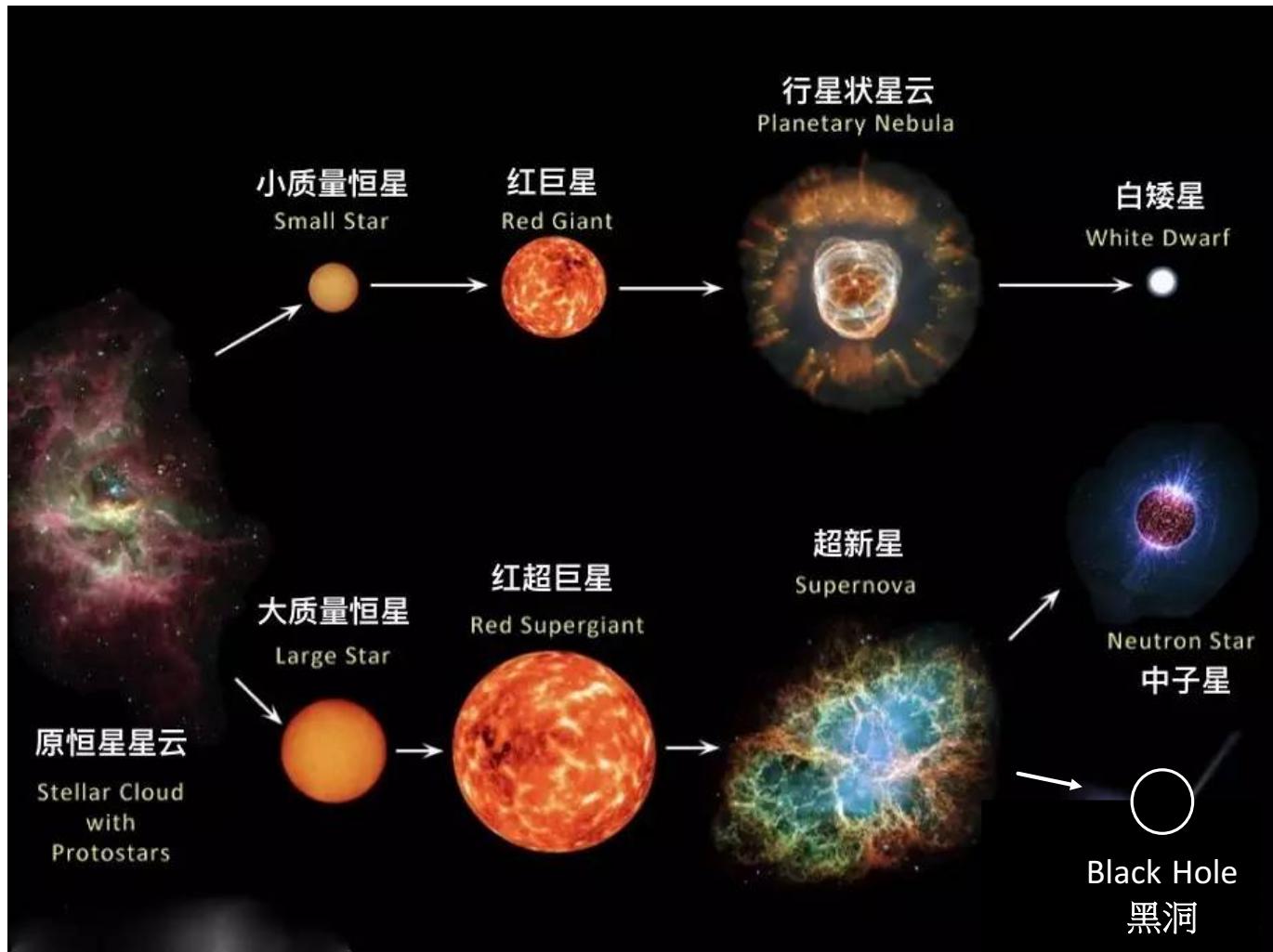




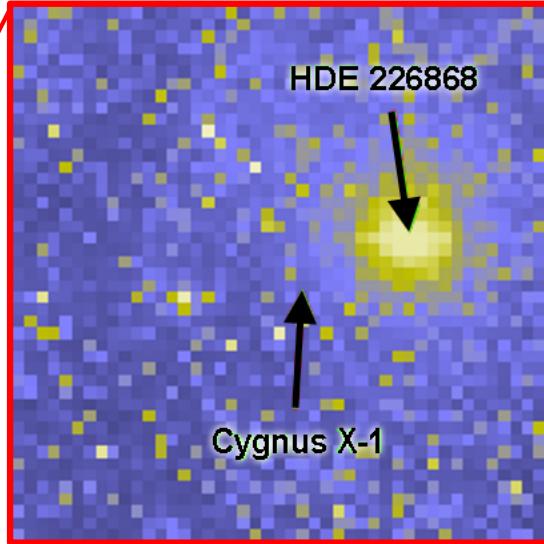
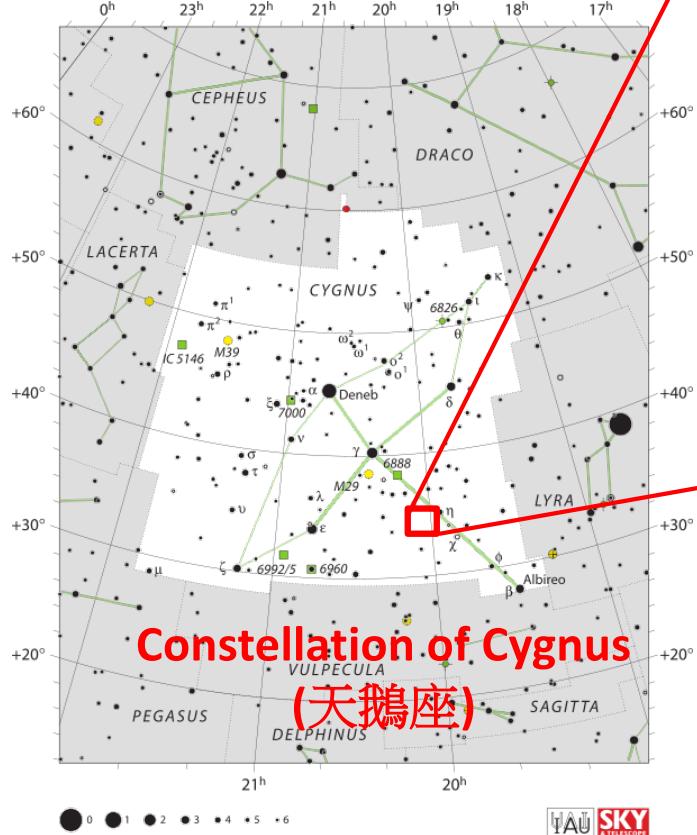
# DO BLACK HOLES EXIST?



# EVOLUTION OF STARS

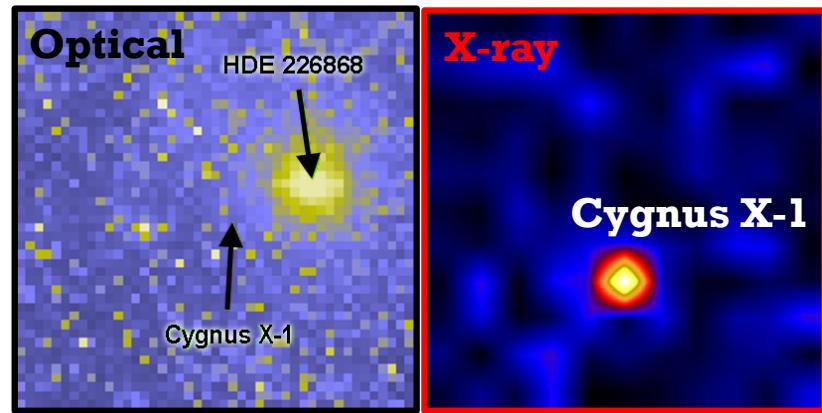


# AN INVISIBLE STAR??

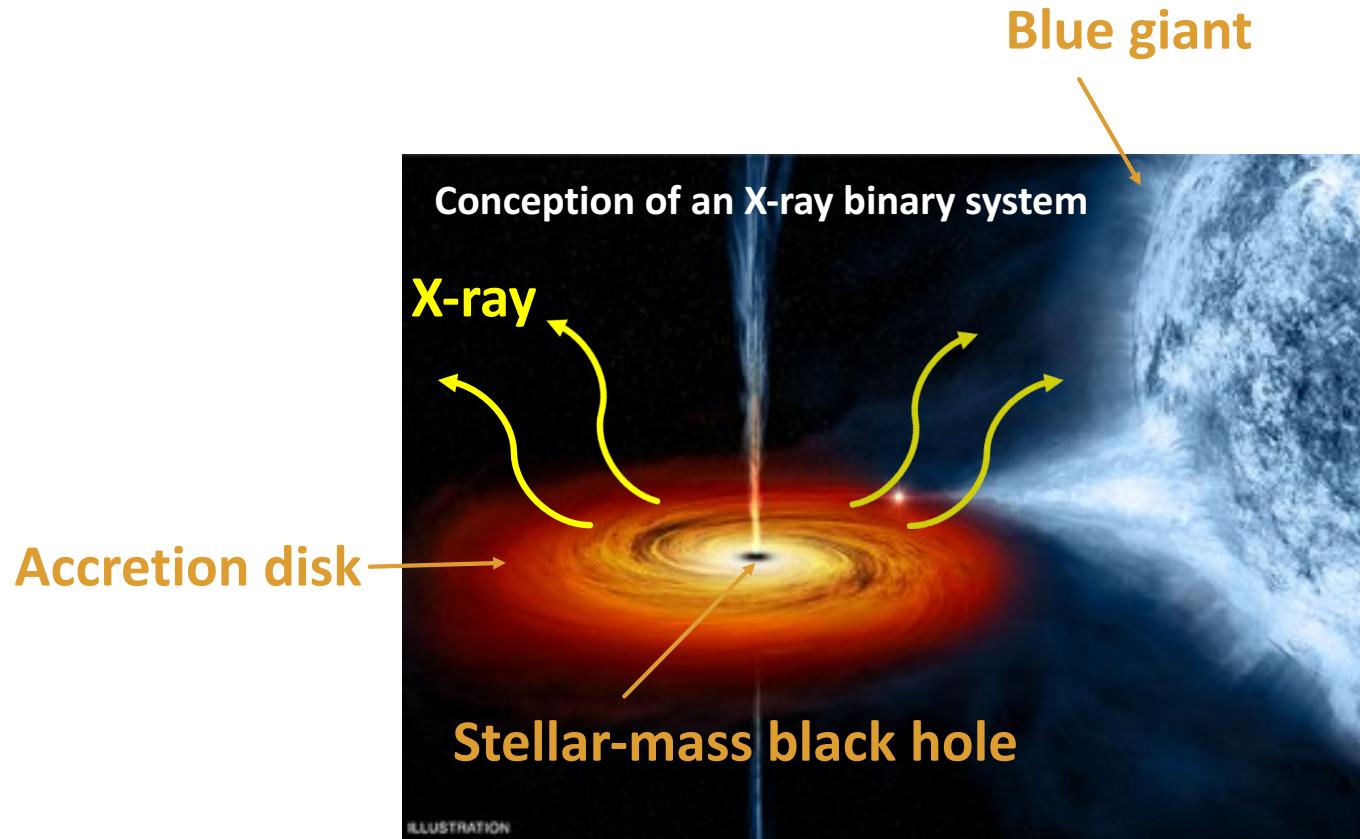


Period : 5.6 days  
Radius :  $\sim 1/5$  AU  
Inferred mass :  $14.8 M_{\text{sun}}$  !!

# WAIT...DO BLACK HOLES SHINE??

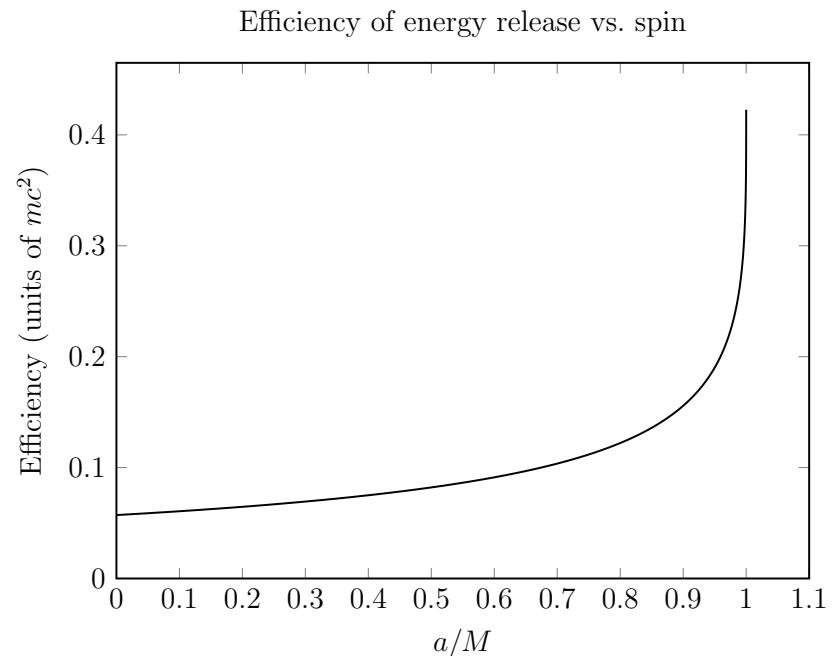


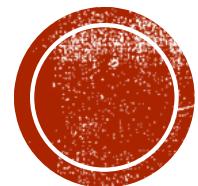
# BLACK HOLES SHINE BY ACCRETING MATTER



# ACCRETING BLACK HOLES ARE THE MOST EFFICIENT POWER FACTORIES!

- BH accretion disks can efficiently convert gravitational energy into radiation
- Radiative efficiency depends on BH spin parameter “a”
  - $a = 0$ : Schwarzschild BHs
  - $a \neq 0$ : spinning BHs
- **Radiative efficiency  $\varepsilon \sim 10\%$  for most BHs**
- This is much greater than  $\varepsilon \sim 0.7\%$  for nuclear fusion!



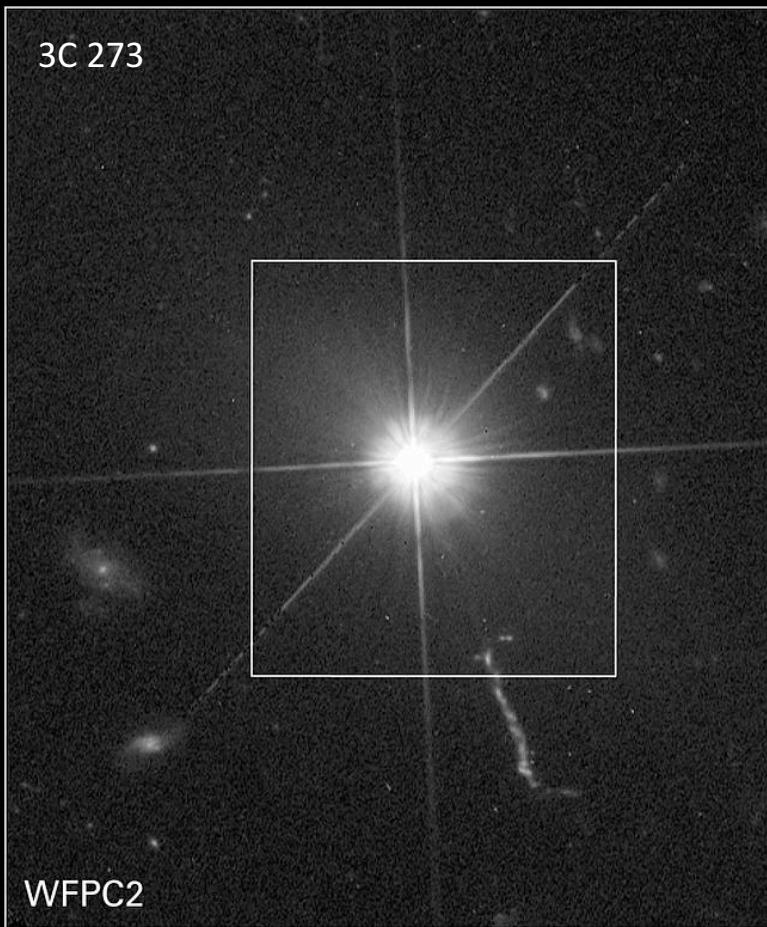


# ALL MYSTERIES SOLVED?



# 類星體 (QSO/QUASAR)

3C 273



WFPC2

ACS • HRC

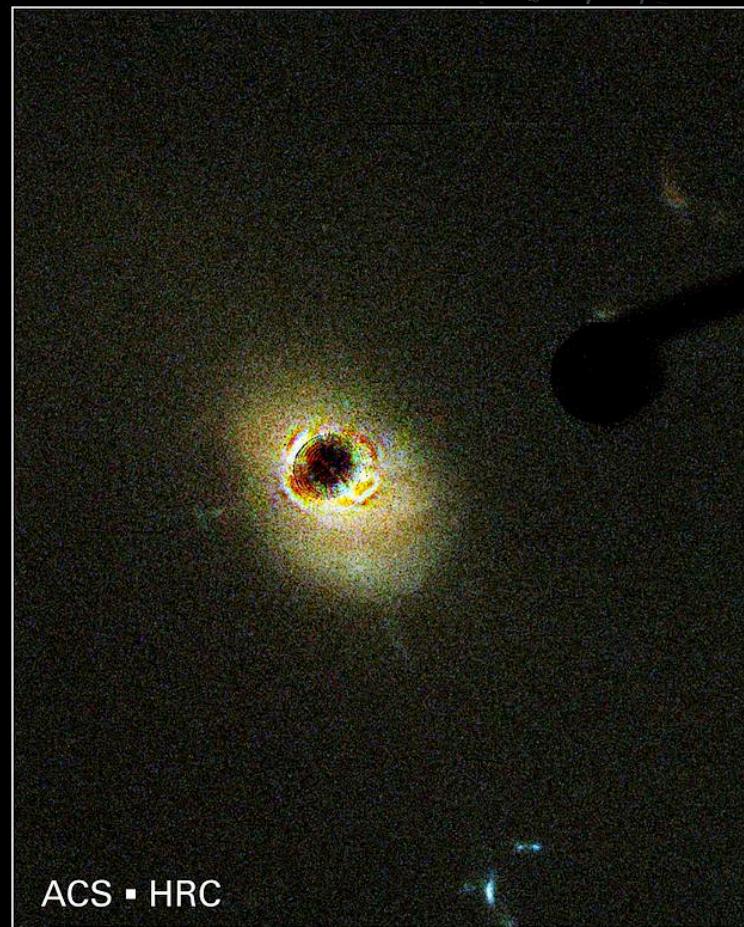
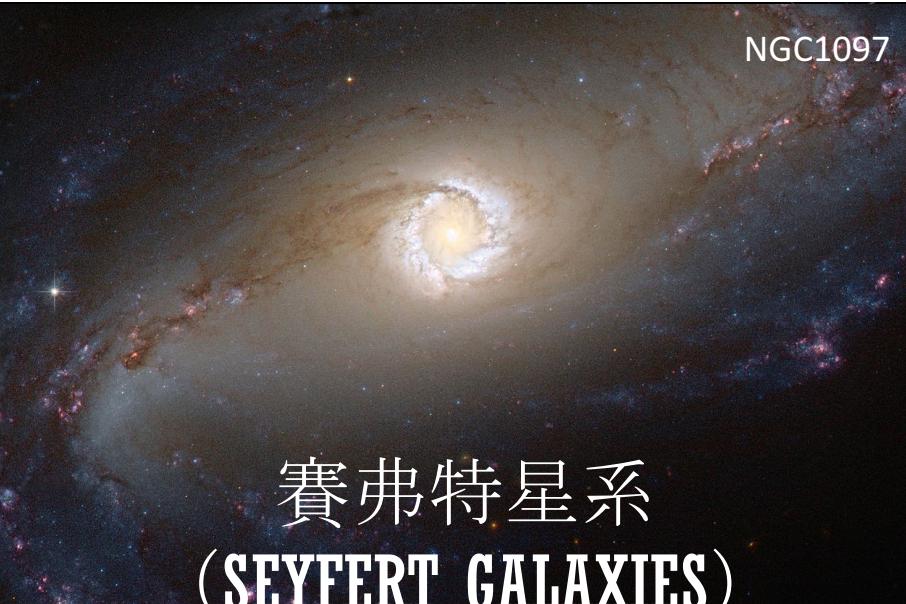


Image credit: NASA, J. Bahcall, A. Martel, H. Ford, M. Clampin, G. Hartig, G. Illingworth, the ACS Science Team and ESA

NGC6814



NGC1097

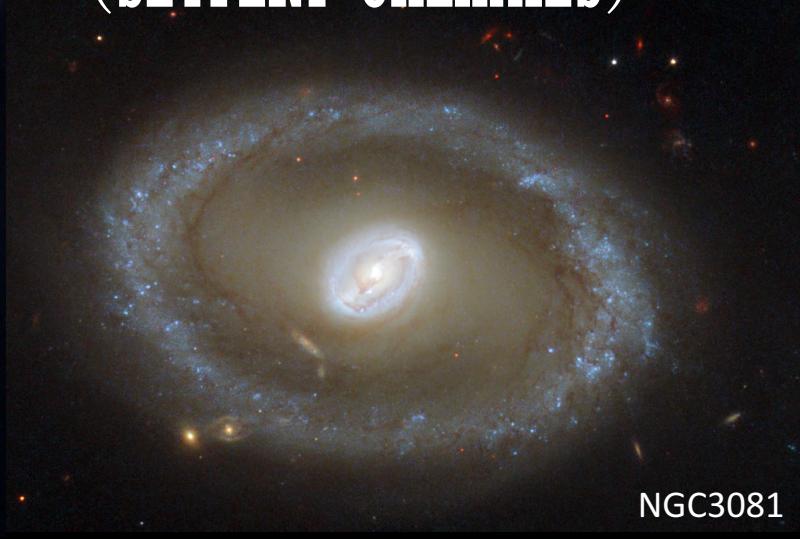


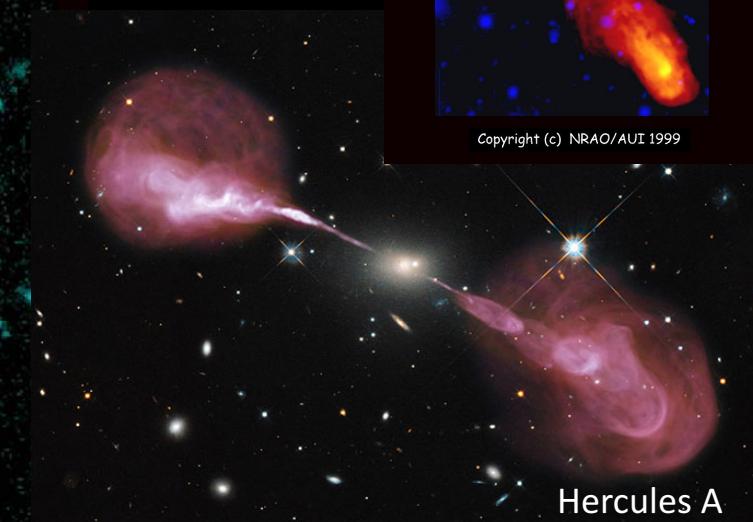
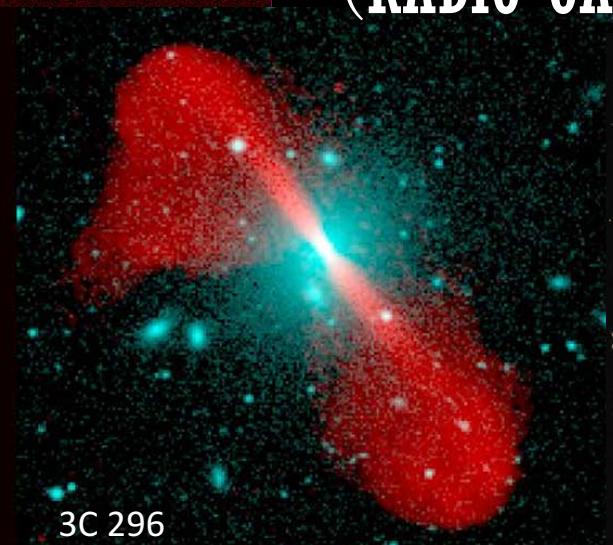
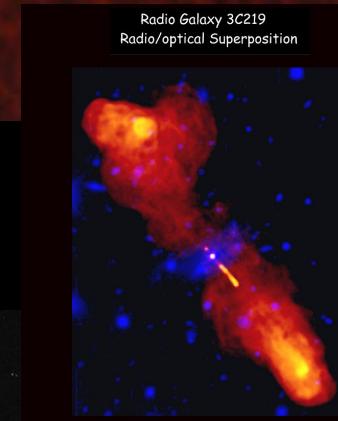
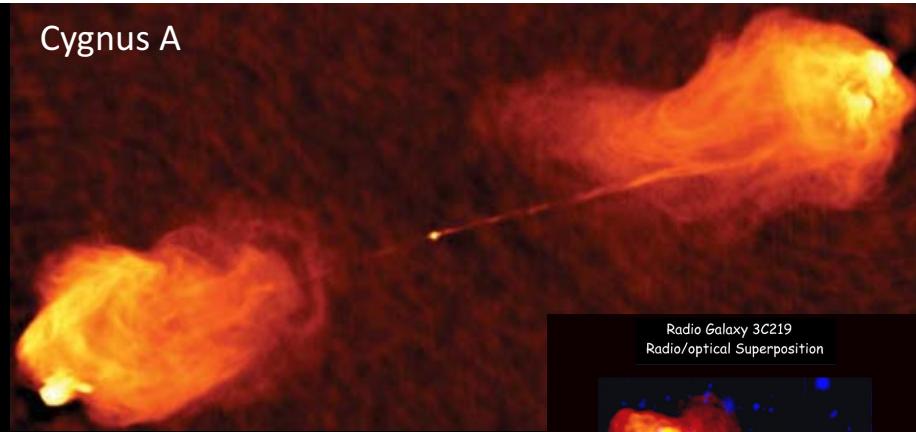
賽弗特星系  
(SEYFERT GALAXIES)

M88



NGC3081





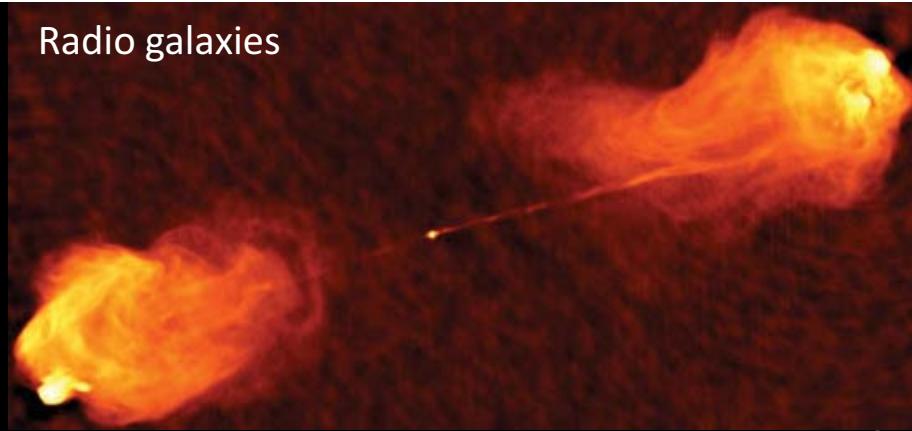
## 無線電星系 (RADIO GALAXIES)

QSO/Quasar



WFPC2

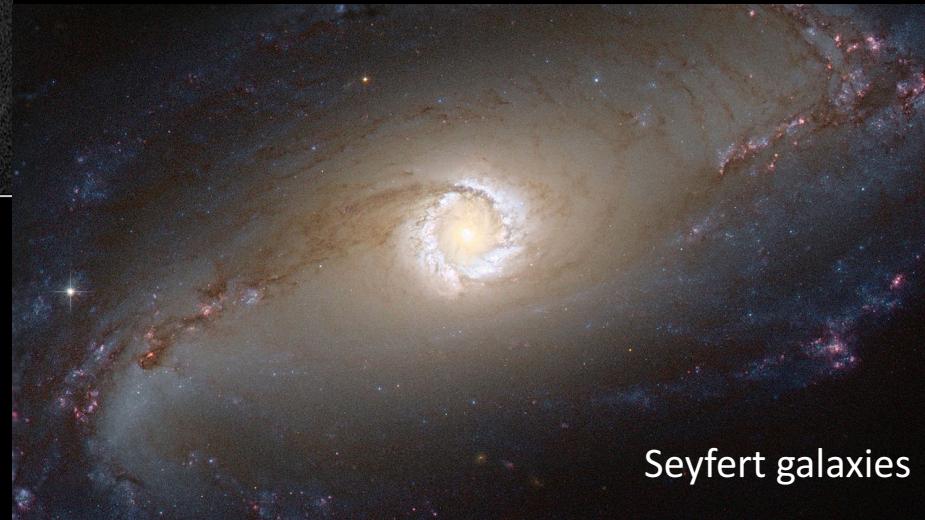
Radio galaxies

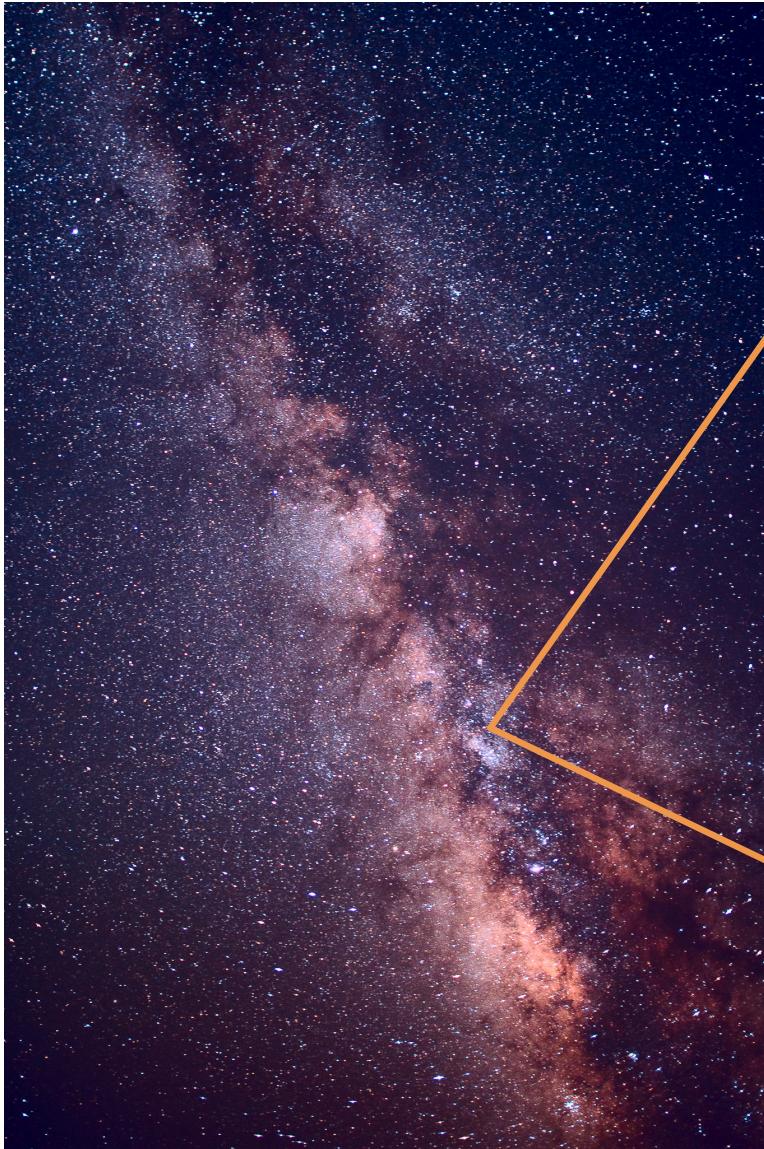


活躍星系核

(ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI)

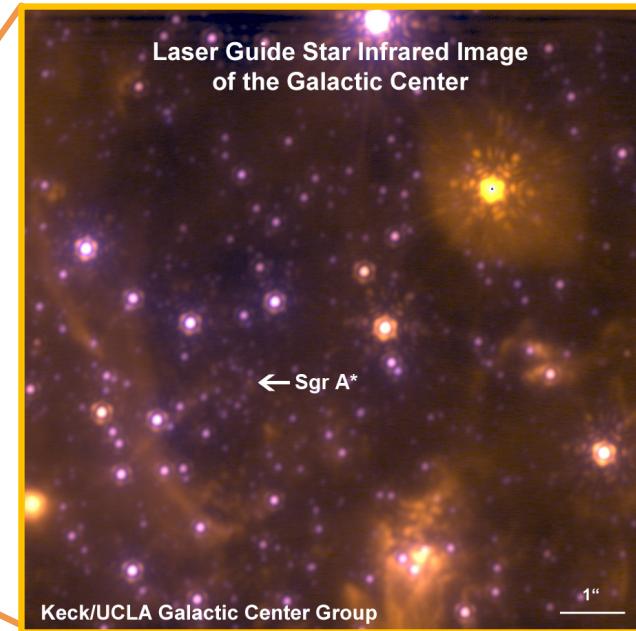
Seyfert galaxies





# MILKY WAY GALAXY

Infrared image of the Galactic center

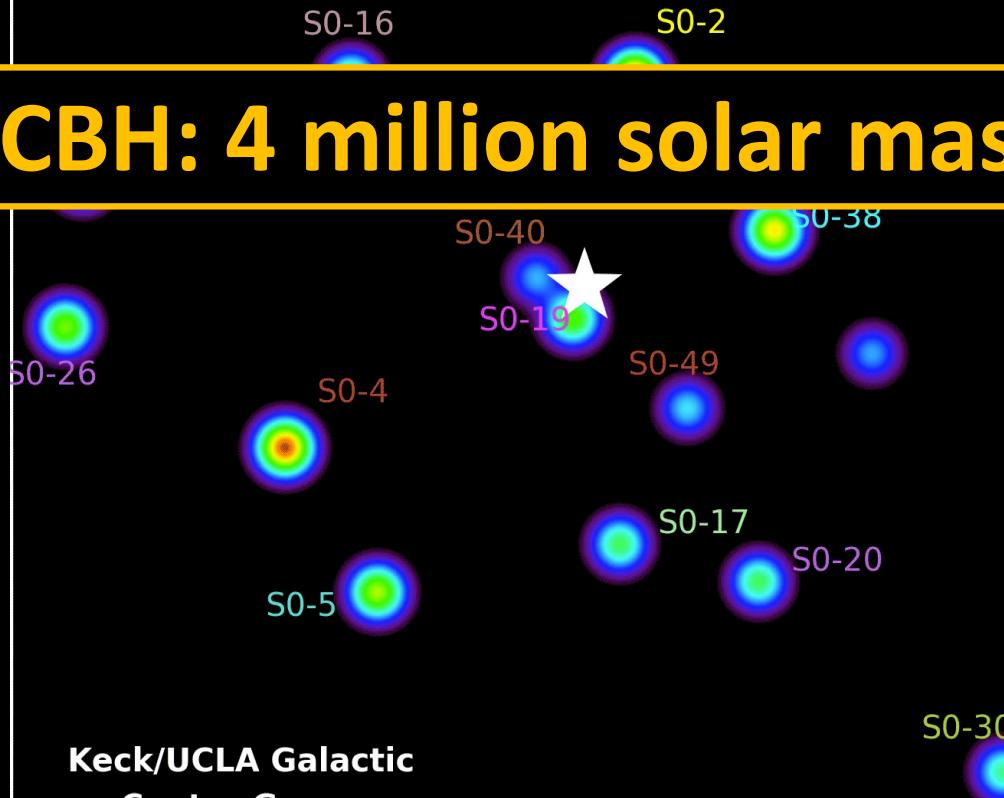


**1995.5**

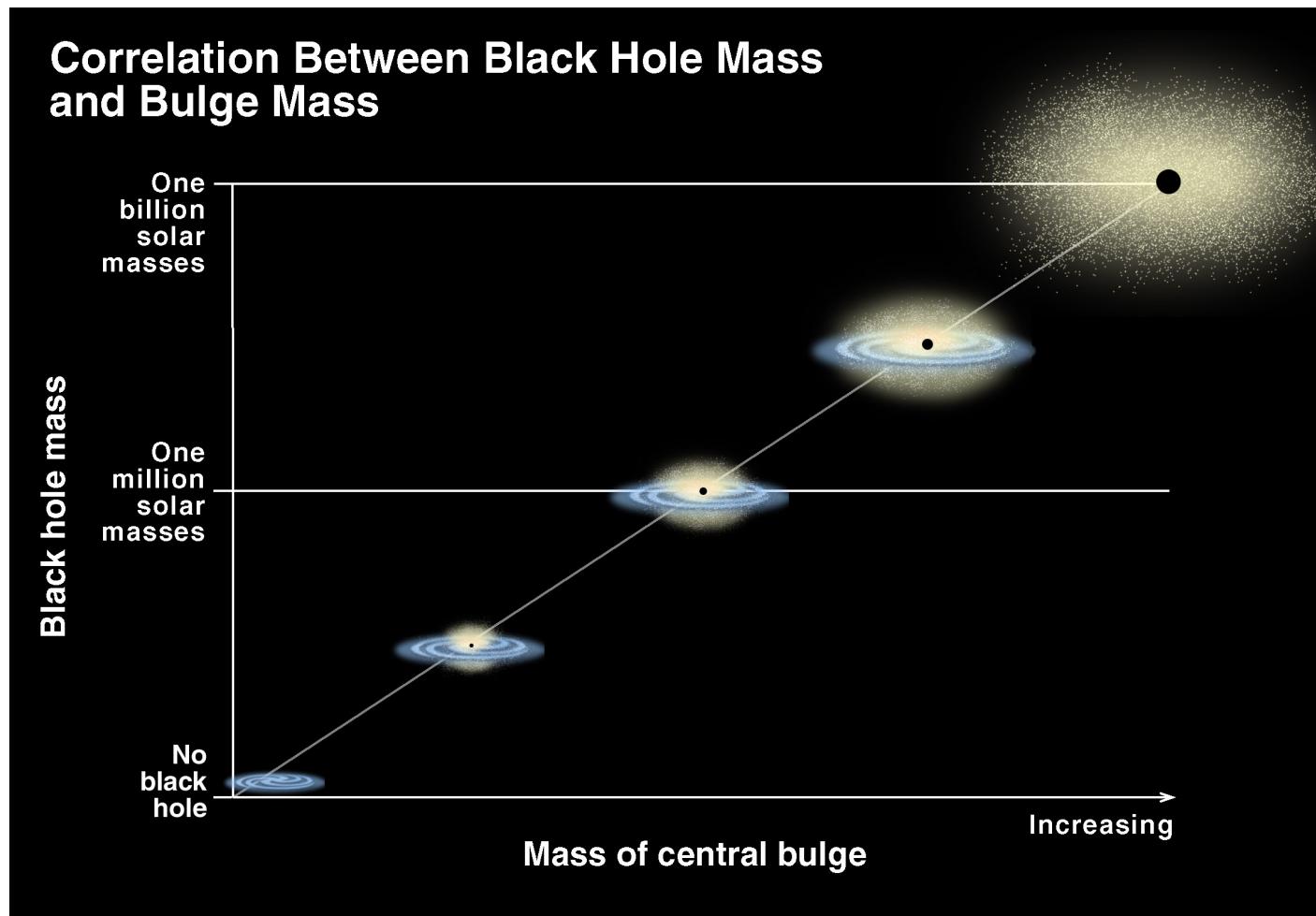


**GCBH: 4 million solar masses!!!**

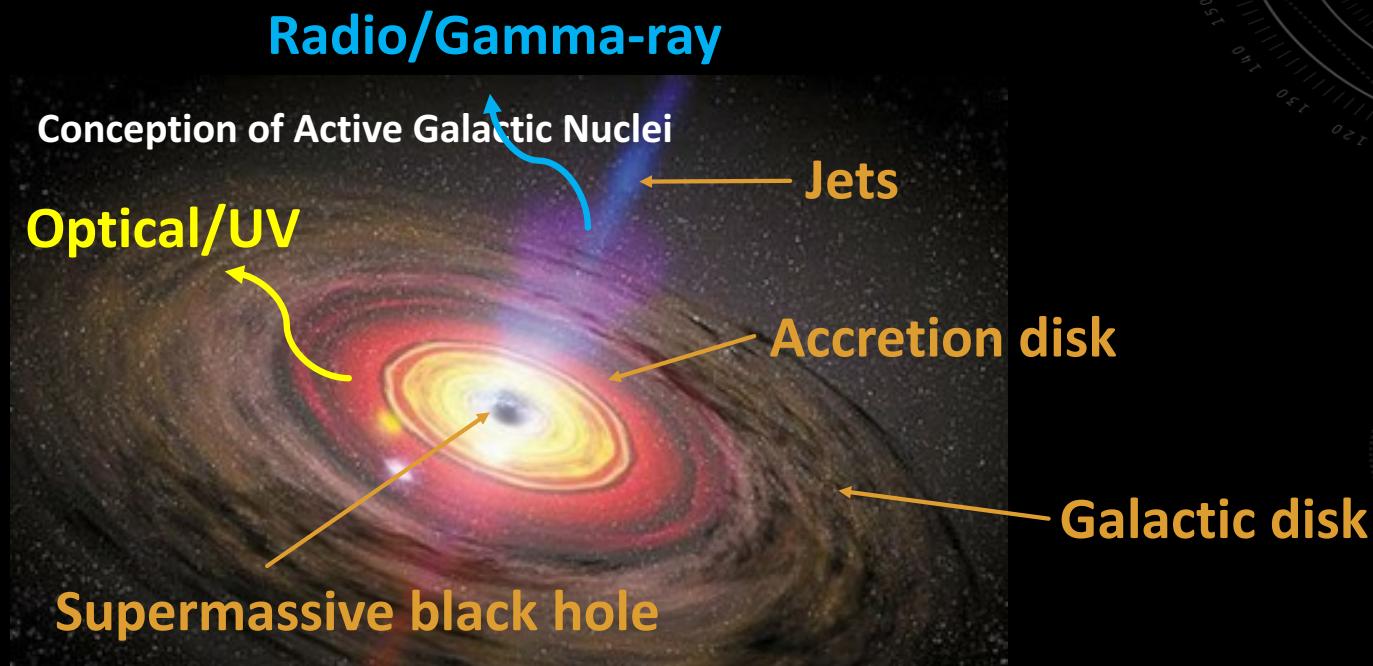
**Keck/UCLA Galactic  
Center Group**



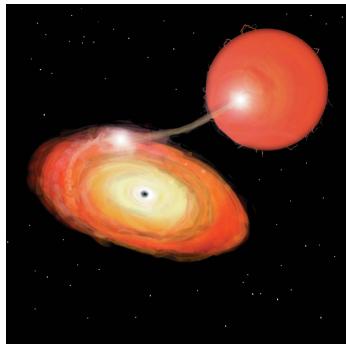
# EVERY GALAXY HOSTS A SMBH AT THE CENTER!!



# ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI (AGN) = ACTIVELY ACCRETING SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES

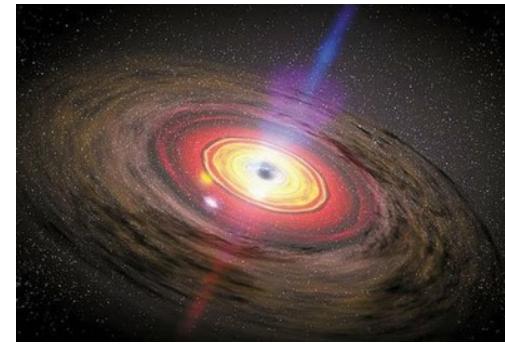


# BLACK HOLES COME IN TWO FLAVORS



## Stellar-mass BHs

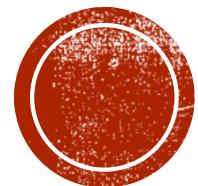
- Masses:  $\sim 3\text{-}100 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Originated from collapses of massive stars
- Distributed within galaxies
- Shine in X-ray when accreting from a companion star – X-ray binary



## SMBHs

- Masses:  $\sim 10^6\text{-}10^{10} M_{\text{sun}}$
- Origin???
- Located at the center of galaxies
- Shine in optical/UV when accreting materials near the galactic centers -- AGN





# HOW DO SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES FORM?



# SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES GROW BY MERGERS AND ACCRETION

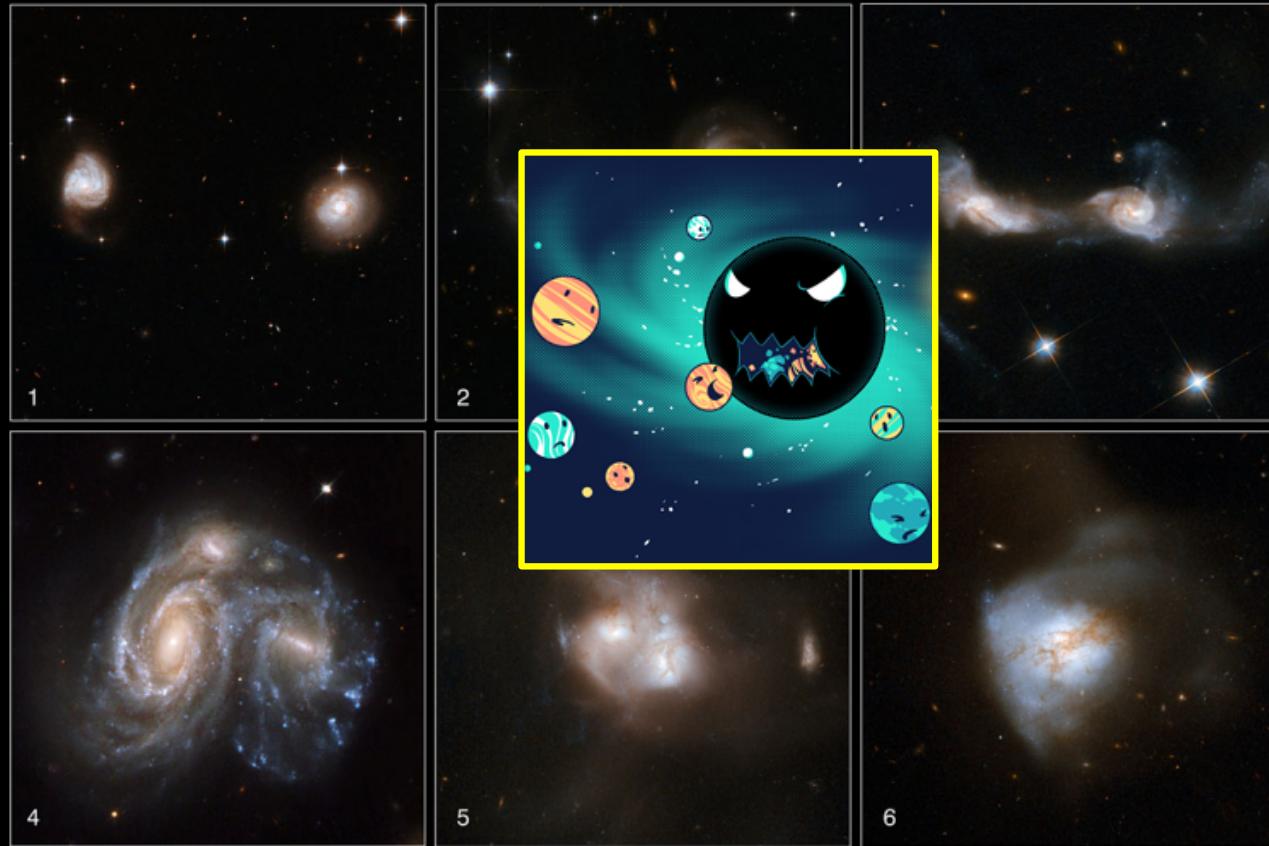
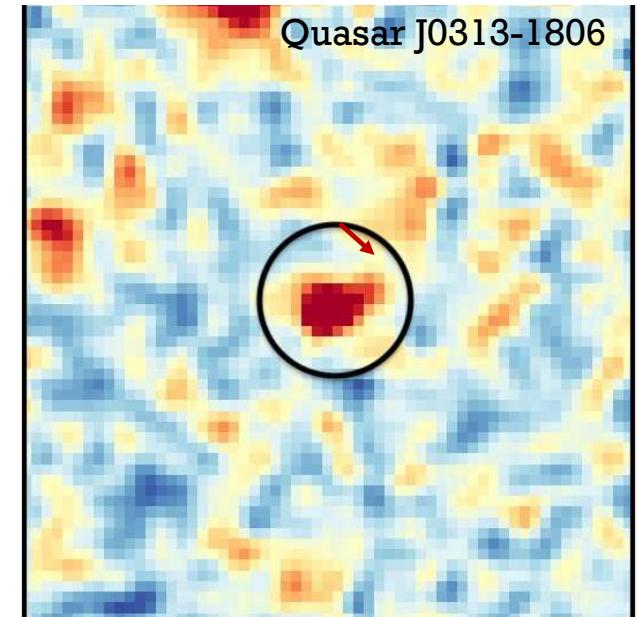


Image credit: NASA, ESA, the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration

# THE POWERFUL QUASARS IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE

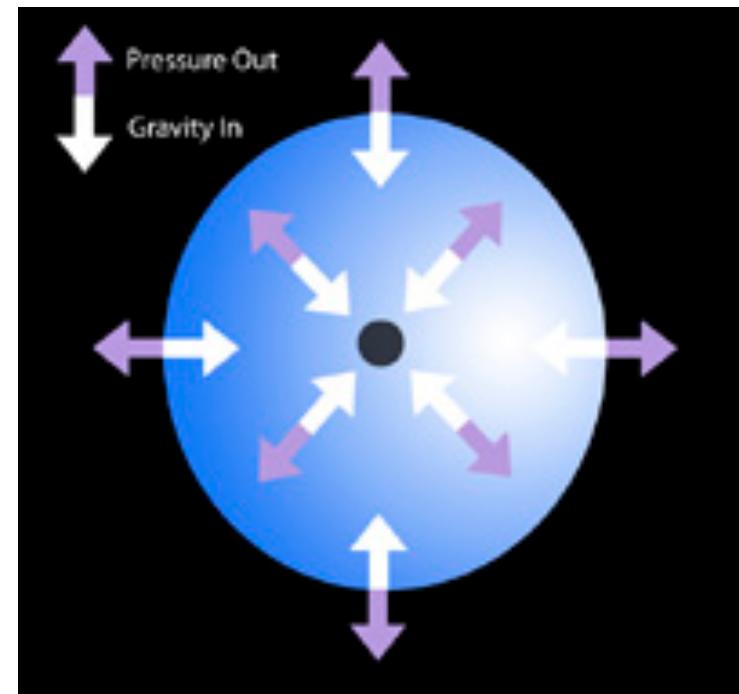
- Quasars with billions of  $M_{\text{sun}}$  at  $z > 7$  were discovered
- Current record holder: J0313-1806 found in 2021
  - Redshift  $z = 7.642$  (**690 Myr** after Big Bang)
  - $M \sim 1.6 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$
- These objects are relatively rare; most quasars are found at  $z \sim 2-3$
- But their existence is surprising!!



# THE GROWTH OF SMBHS

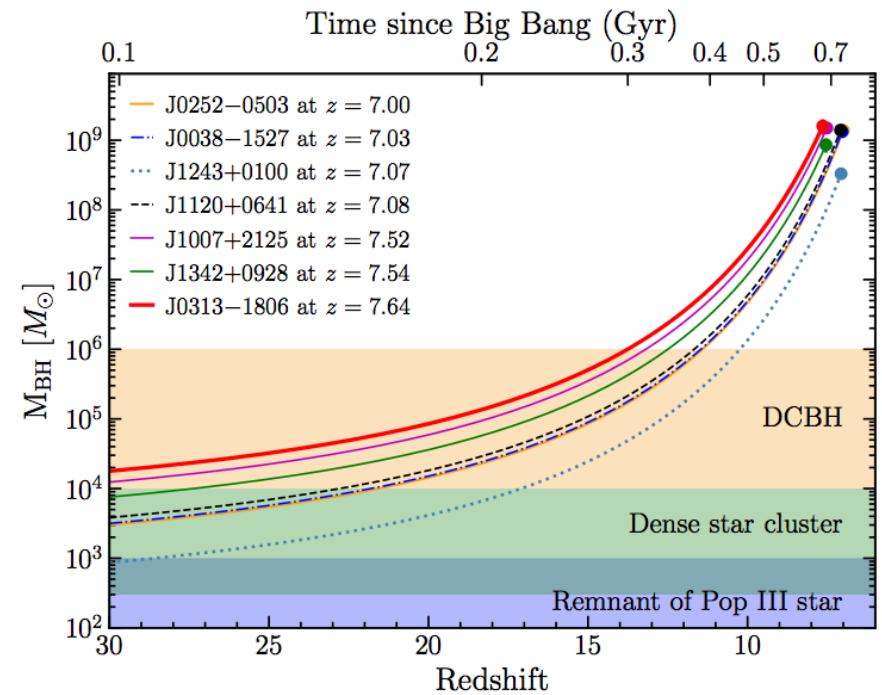
- Accretion of black holes are limited by the Eddington accretion rate
  - The **Eddington limit** refers to the balance between **gravity** and **radiation pressure force**
  - This is the maximum rate black holes can accrete
- The Eddington accretion rate is proportional to black hole mass, i.e.,

$$\dot{M}_{BH} = \frac{dM_{BH}}{dt} = AM_{BH}$$
- Therefore, for BHs accreting at the Eddington rate, their masses grow **exponentially**



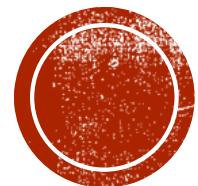
# CAN EARLY QUASARS GROW FROM STELLAR-MASS BLACK HOLES?

- No – there is not enough time!
- To explain the existence of massive SMBHs in the early universe, they must form from black hole “**seeds**” of  $\sim 10^2 - 10^5 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Three proposed BH seed formation mechanisms:
  - **Pop III stars:**  $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^2 \sim 10^3 M_{\text{sun}}$  (light seeds)
  - **Collapse of star clusters:**  $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^2 \sim 10^4 M_{\text{sun}}$  (intermediate seeds)
  - **Direct collapse of gas clouds:**  $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^4 \sim 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$  (heavy seeds)



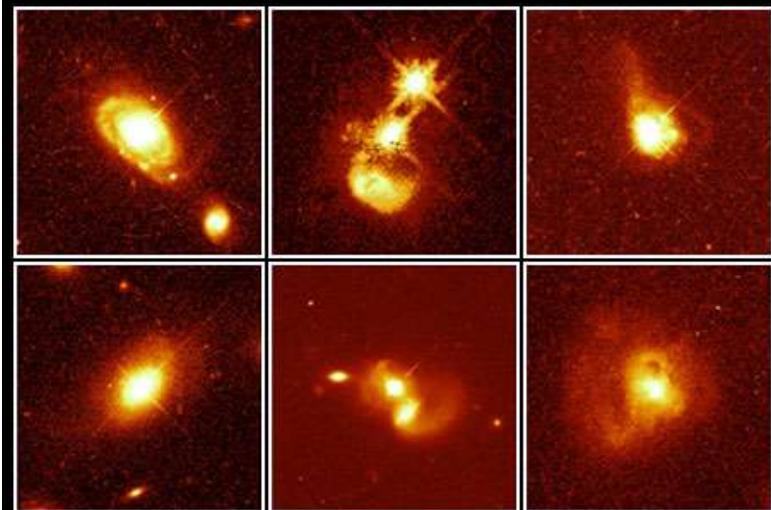
Wang et al. (2021)



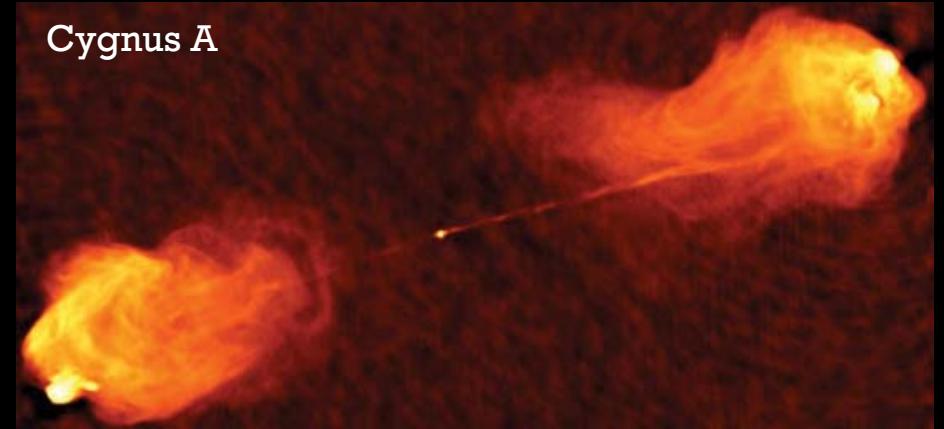


# HOW DO AGNS AFFECT GALAXY EVOLUTION?



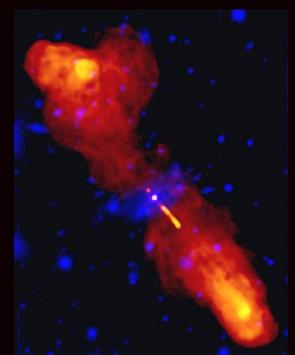
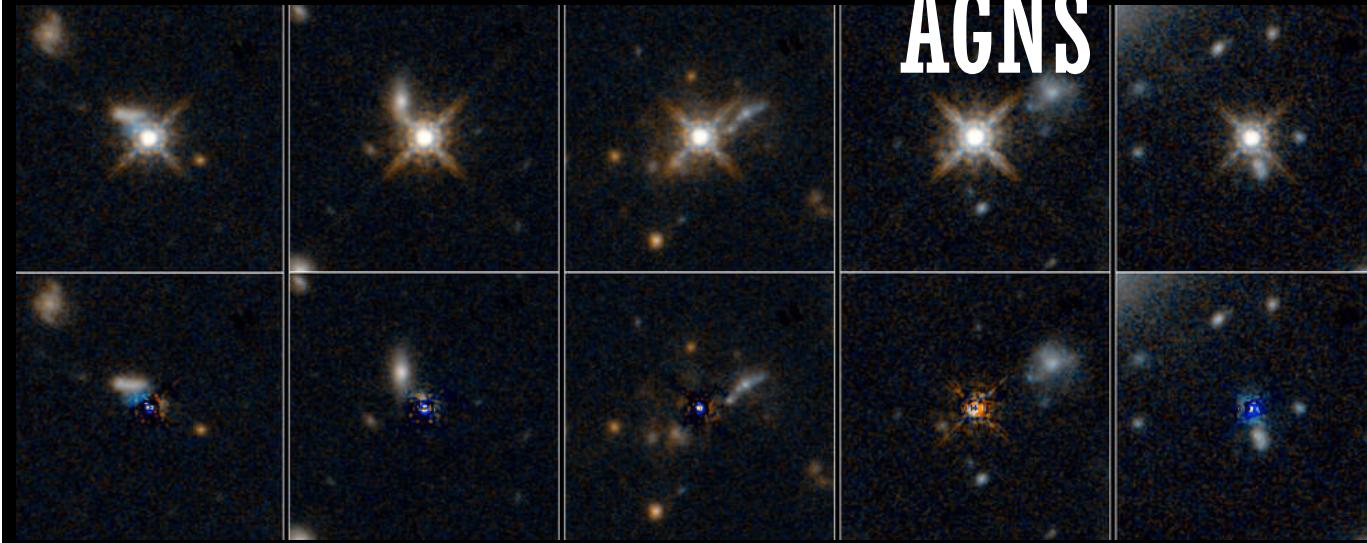


Cygnus A



Radio Galaxy 3C219  
Radio/optical Superposition

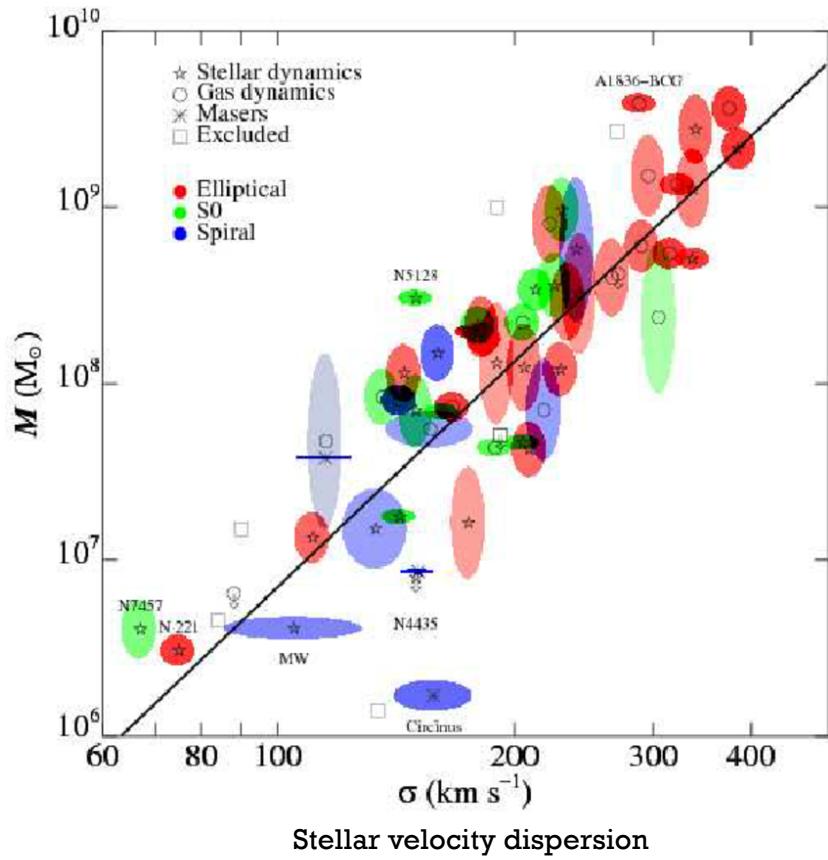
# POWERFUL AGNS



Copyright (c) NRAO/AUI 1999



# ORIGIN OF THE M-SIGMA RELATION?

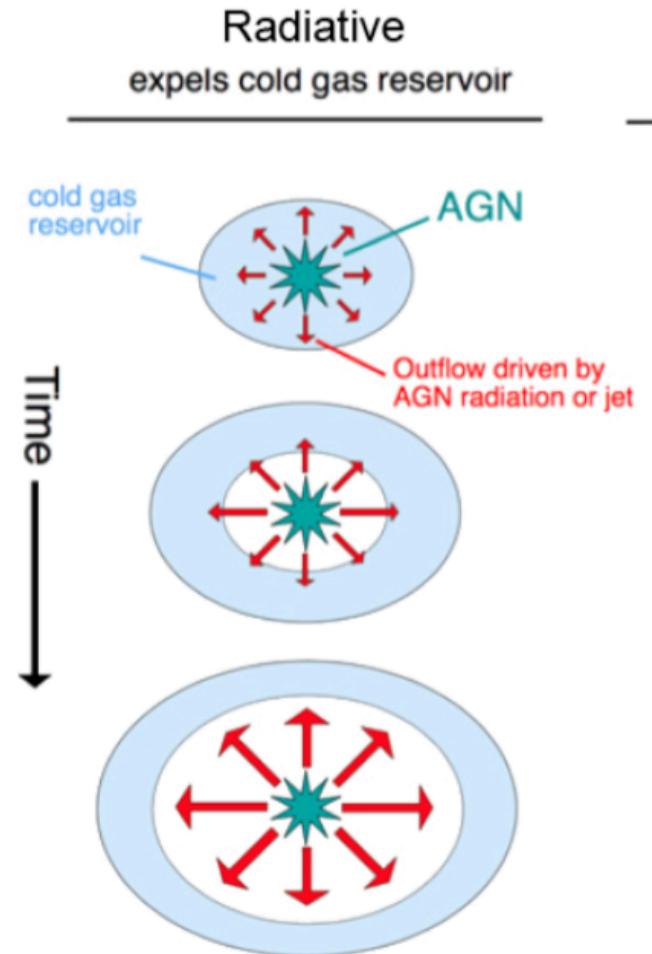


- Most discussed hypothesis: **AGN feedback**
- BHs and galaxies **co-evolve**: both grow from accretion of gas
- Eventually the BH is so big and powerful that it blasts the gas from the galaxy and stops them from growing



# THE “QUASAR-MODE” FEEDBACK

- **Quasar/radiative mode feedback**
- More important at **higher redshifts**
- Operates mainly by **expelling gas**
- A plausible mechanism for the M-sigma relation
- Could quench star formation and regulate SMBH growth



# THE “JET-MODE” FEEDBACK

**Blue: X-ray gas**  
**Red: radio jets**

MS0735, McNamara et al. 2005

200 kpc

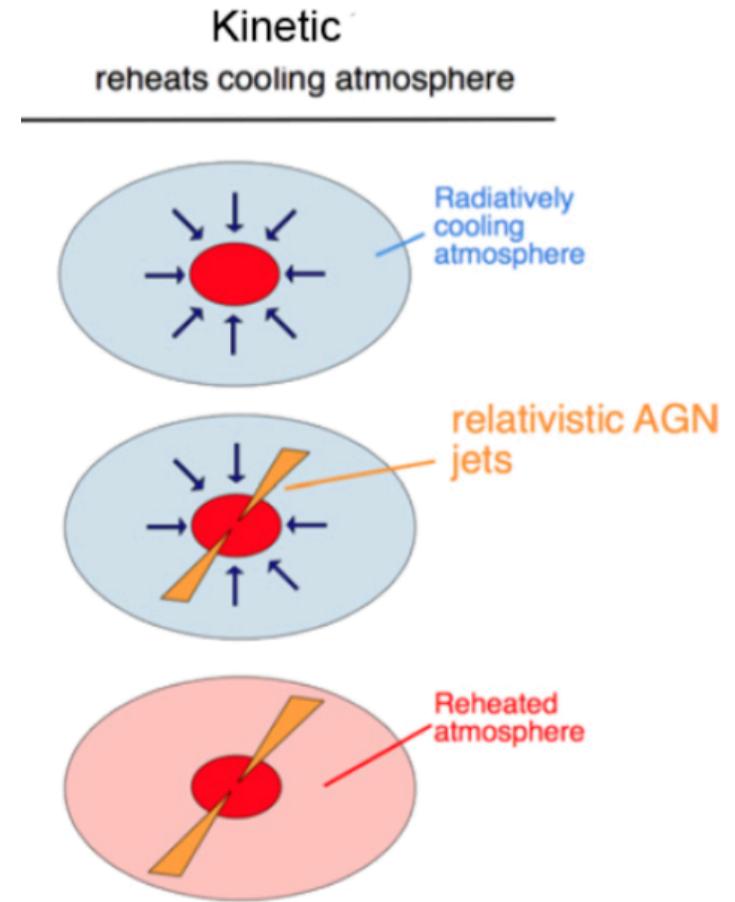
- In massive **galaxy clusters**, the cluster gas is hot ( $T \sim 10^7 K$ ) and emits in X-ray
  - This allows us to clearly see interactions between the jets and the gas
  - The jets can provide lots of energy to heat the gas, otherwise the galaxy at cluster centers would produce too many stars and be too massive

20 kpc

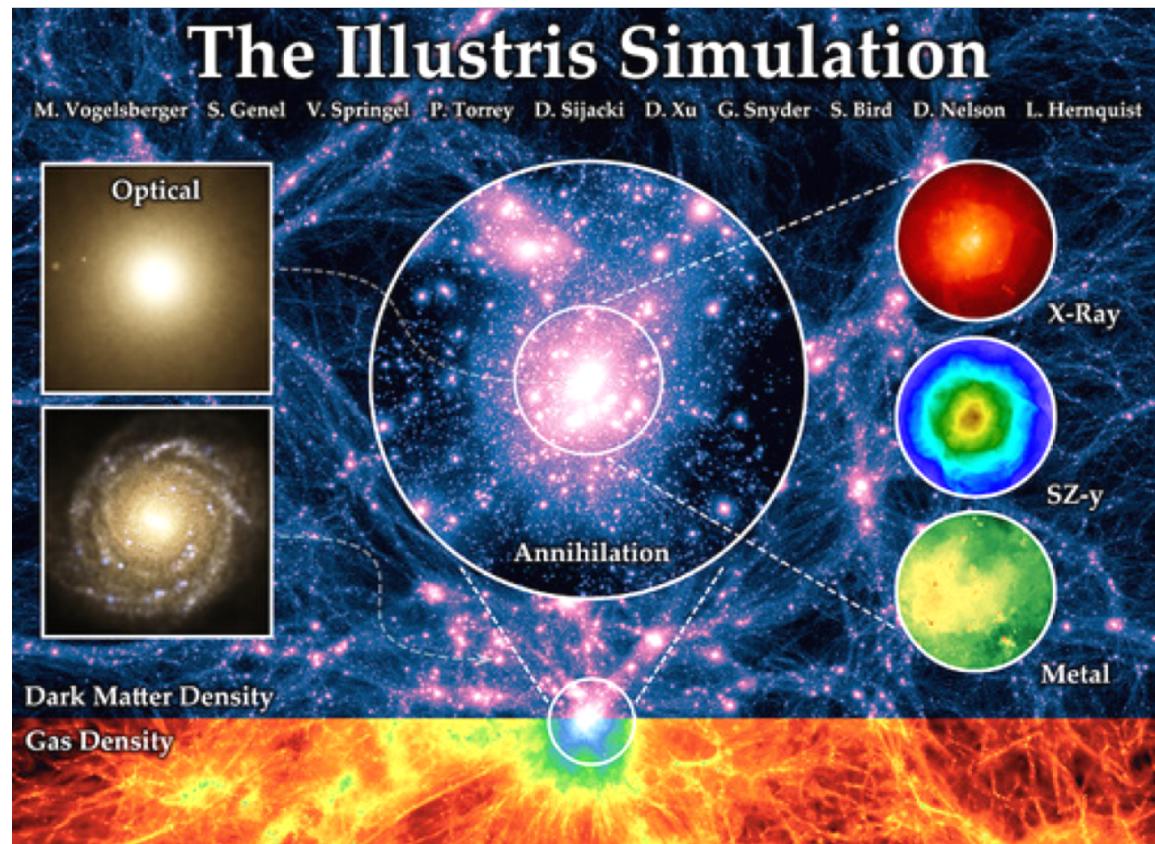
Perseus, Fabian et al. 2006

# THE JET-MODE FEEDBACK

- **Jet/kinetic mode feedback**
- More important at **lower redshifts**
- Operates mainly by **heating gas** via jets
- Can reduce star formation at cluster centers and limit the growth of massive galaxies

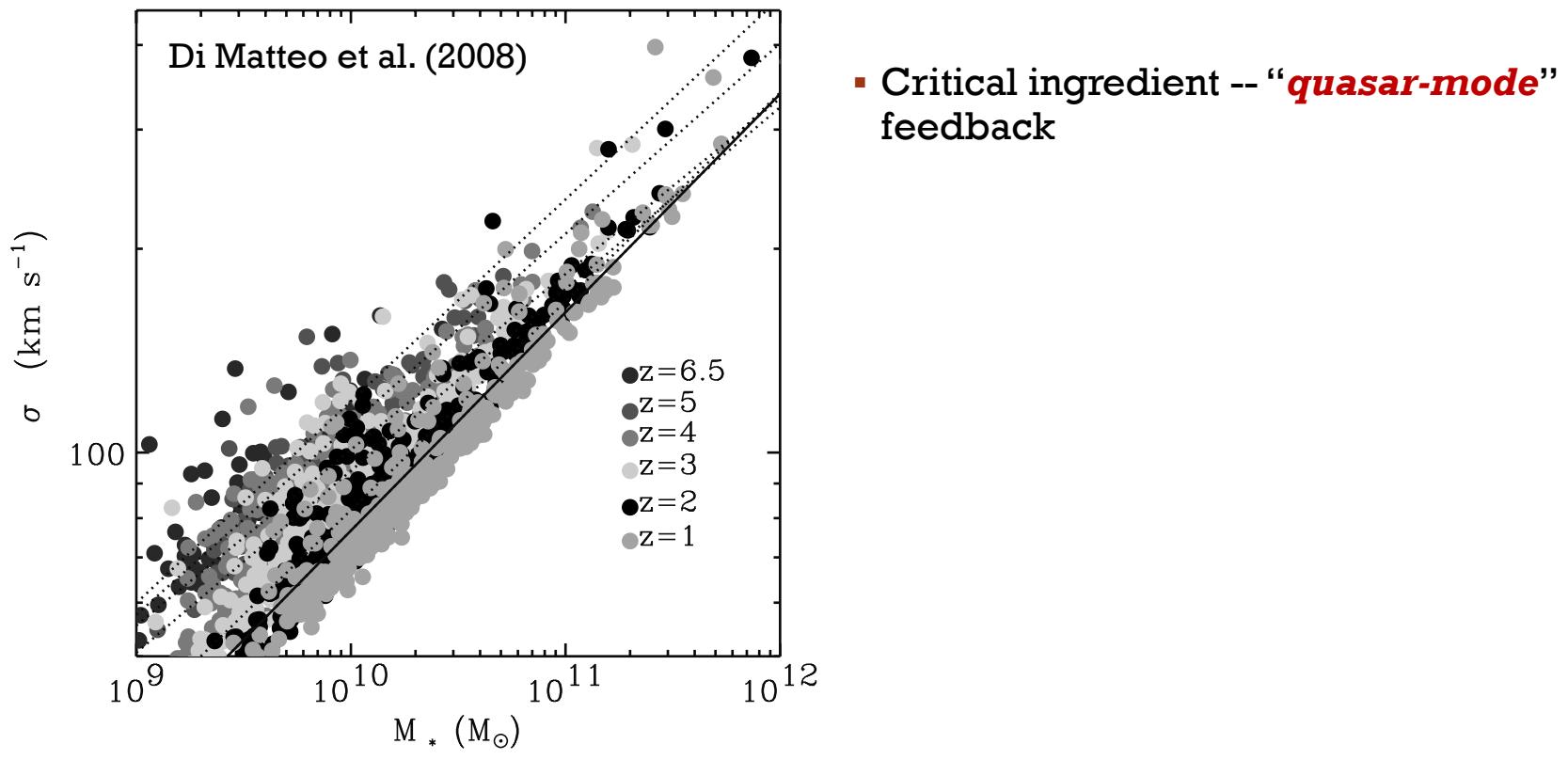


# SUCCESSES OF COSMOLOGICAL SIMULATIONS

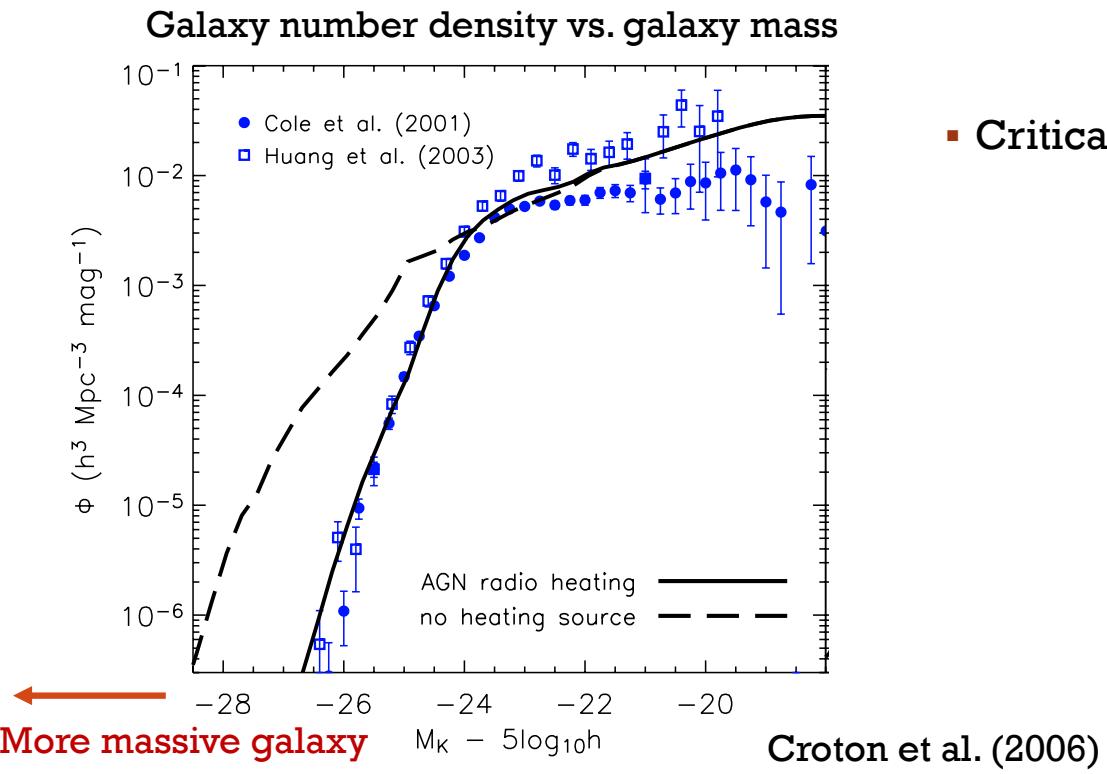


- **Cosmological simulations** of galaxy formation
- Ingredients:
  - Baryons, dark matter, dark energy
  - Gravity
  - Gas dynamics
  - Star formation and supernova feedback
  - SMBH seeds and growth
  - Quasar- and jet-mode AGN feedback

# M-SIGMA RELATION REPRODUCED



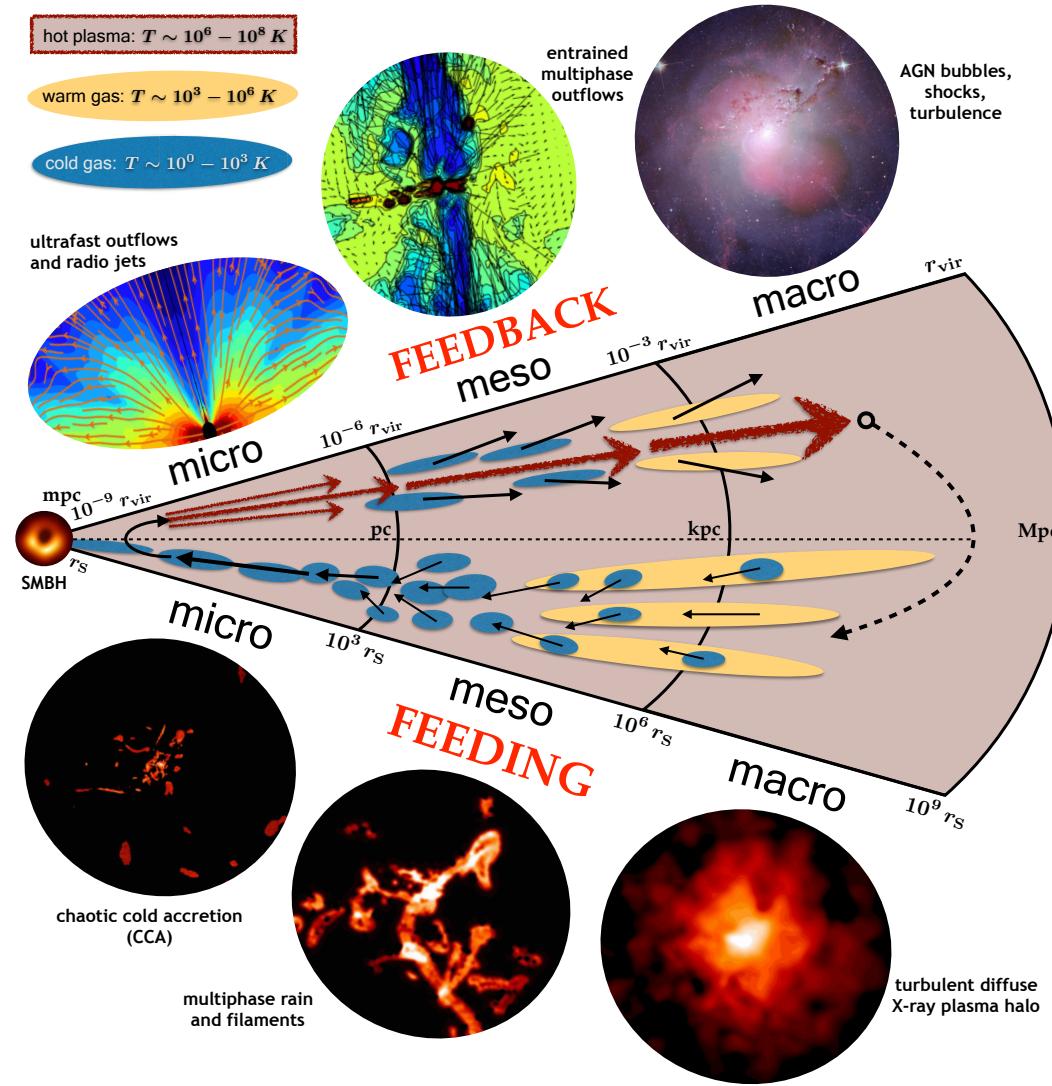
# DISTRIBUTION OF GALAXIES REPRODUCED



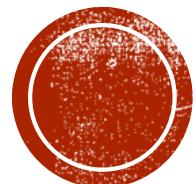
- Critical ingredient: “*jet-mode*” feedback



# Devils lie in the details!



Gaspari (2020)



# WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM GRAVITATIONAL WAVES?



# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, some sunshine giving way  
to times of clouds, cold, high 28. To  
night, a flurry or heavier snowfall  
late, low 15. Tomorrow, windy, frig-  
id, high 21. Weather map, Page A18.

\$2.50

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016



WITH FAINT CHIRP.  
SCIENTISTS PR.  
EINSTEIN COR.  
A RIPPLE IN SPACE

An Echo of Black Holes  
Colliding a Billion  
Light-Years Away

By DENNIS OVERBECK

A team of scientists announced  
on Thursday that they had heard  
and recorded the sound of two  
black holes colliding. ■

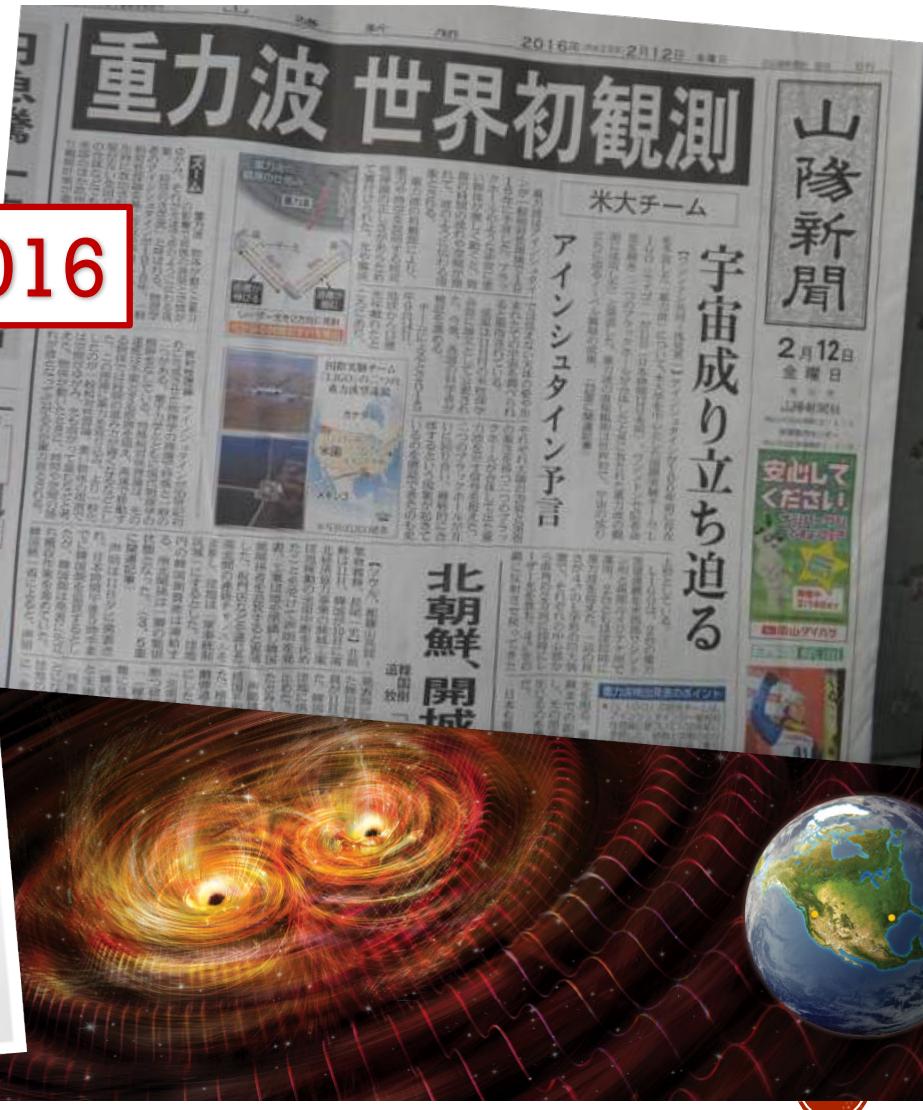
Feb 11, 2016



## Gravitational waves are real

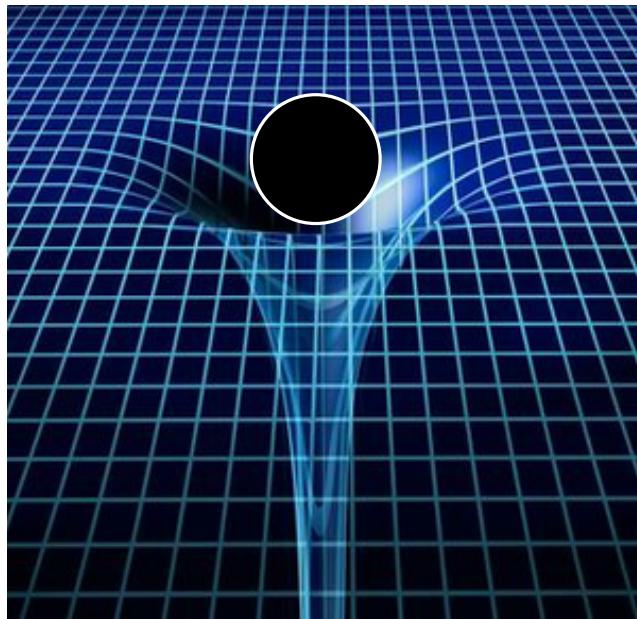
Astounding discovery was predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity

Einstein's theory: It's relative to YOU | His dark mistake foretells the end of the universe

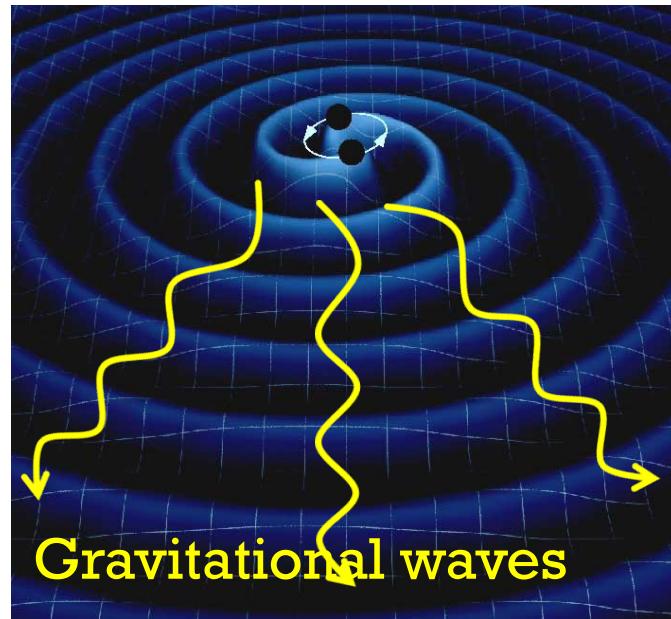


# GENERAL RELATIVITY PREDICTS CURVED SPACETIME AROUND MASSES

A static black hole

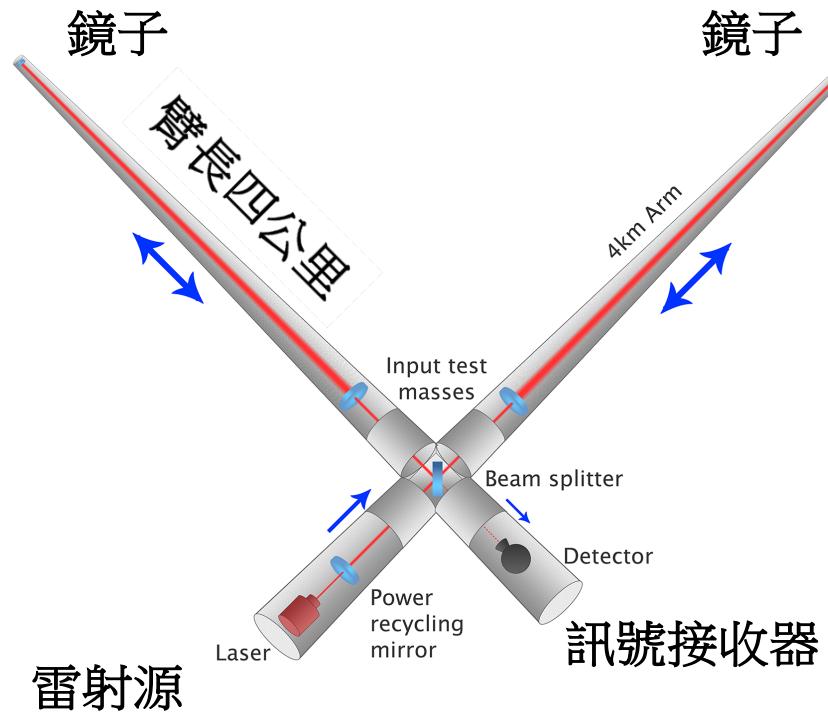


Two orbiting black holes



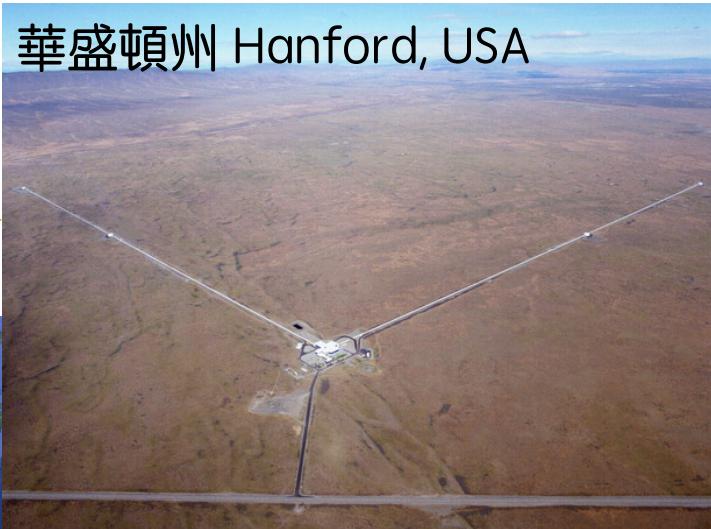
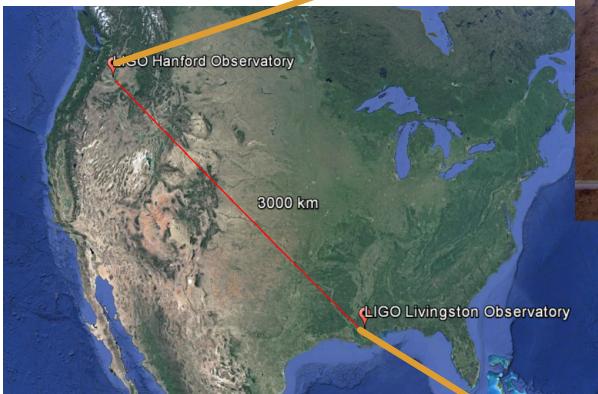
Gravitational waves

# LIGO (雷射干涉重力波天文台)

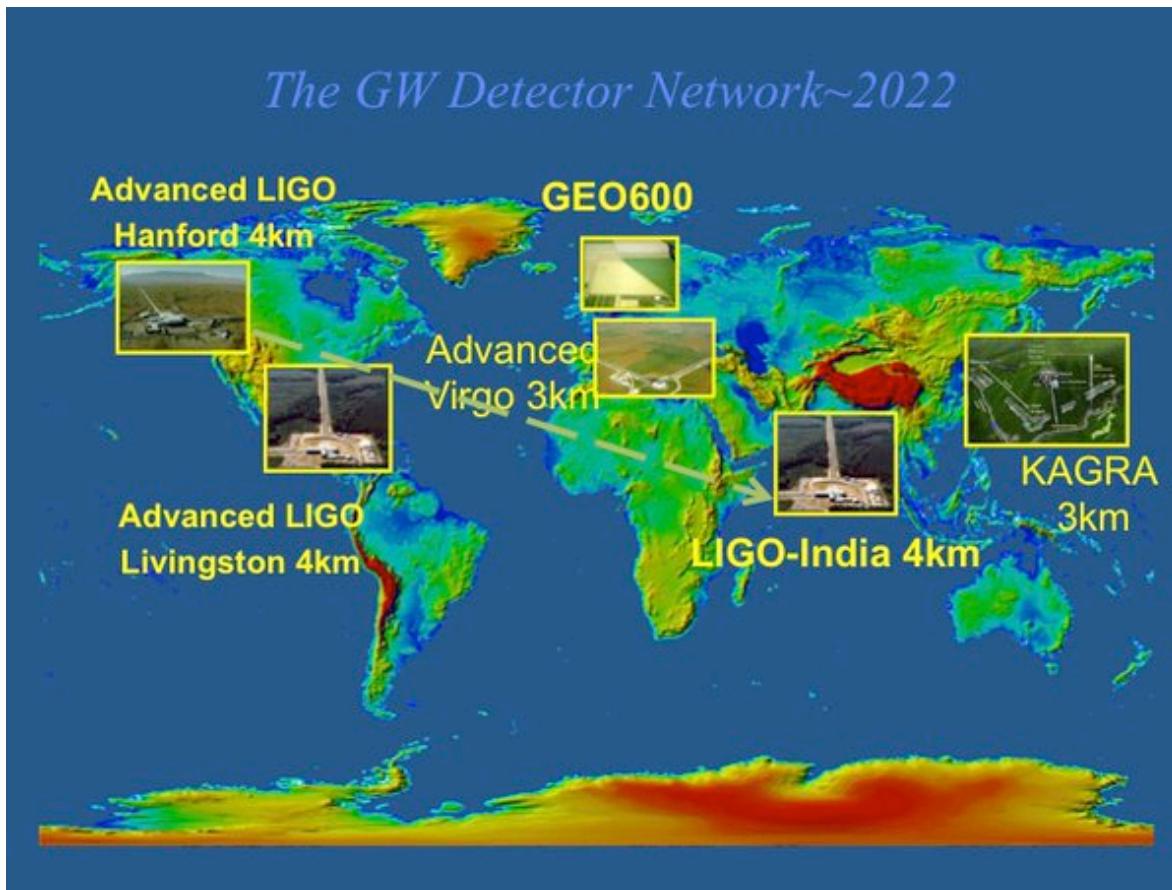


***Changes of the arm length are  $\sim 1/10$  of the atomic nuclei!!!***

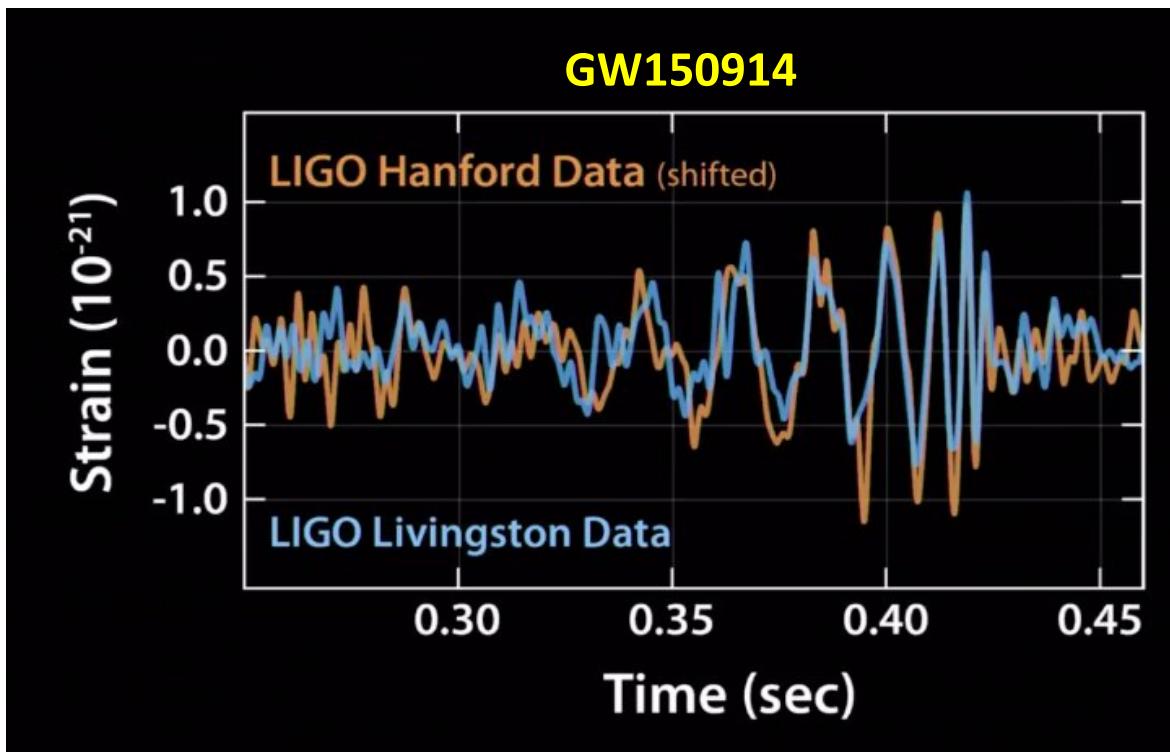
**LIGO**



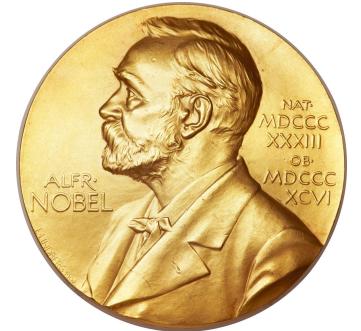
# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE NETWORK



# FIRST DETECTION OF GW IN HISTORY!!!



- On Sep. 14th, 2015, humans detected GWs for the first time
- GWs resulted from merger of two stellar-mass black holes



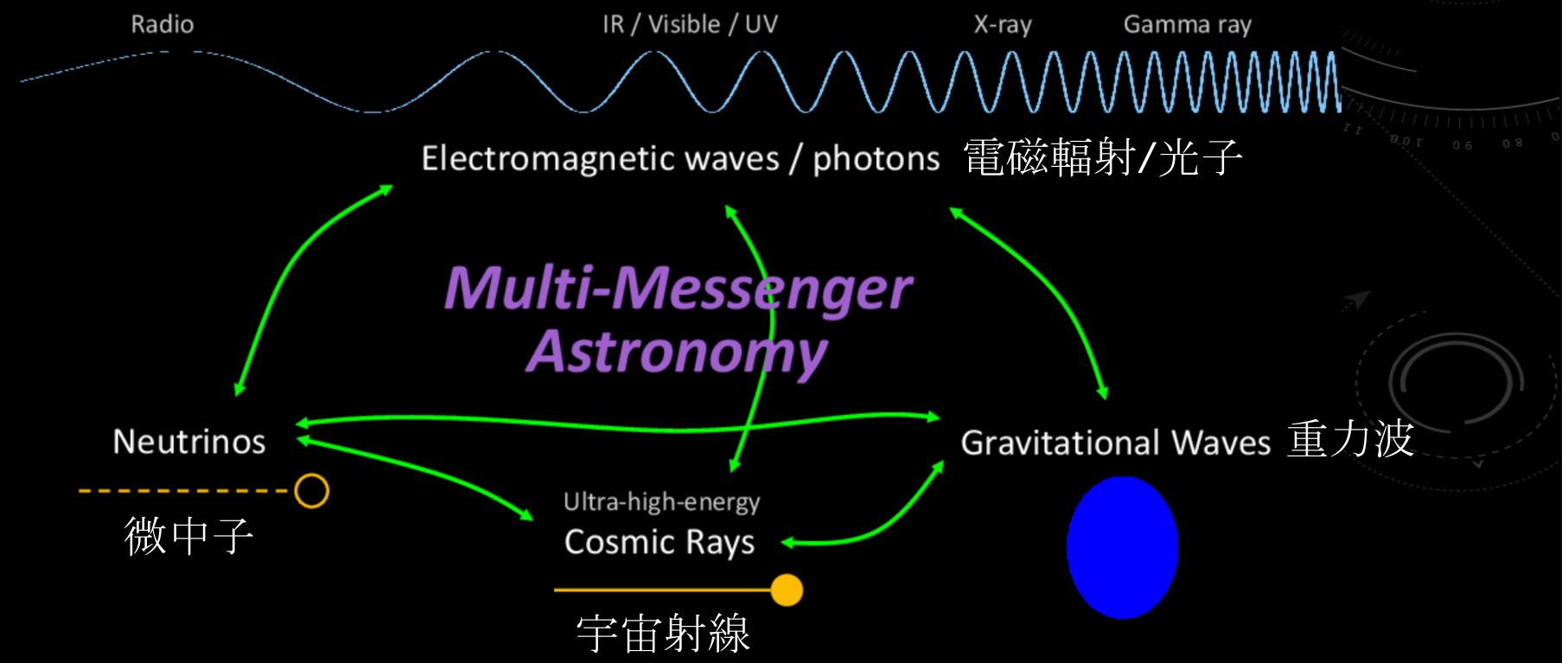
# FIRST DETECTION OF GW FROM A NS-NS MERGER



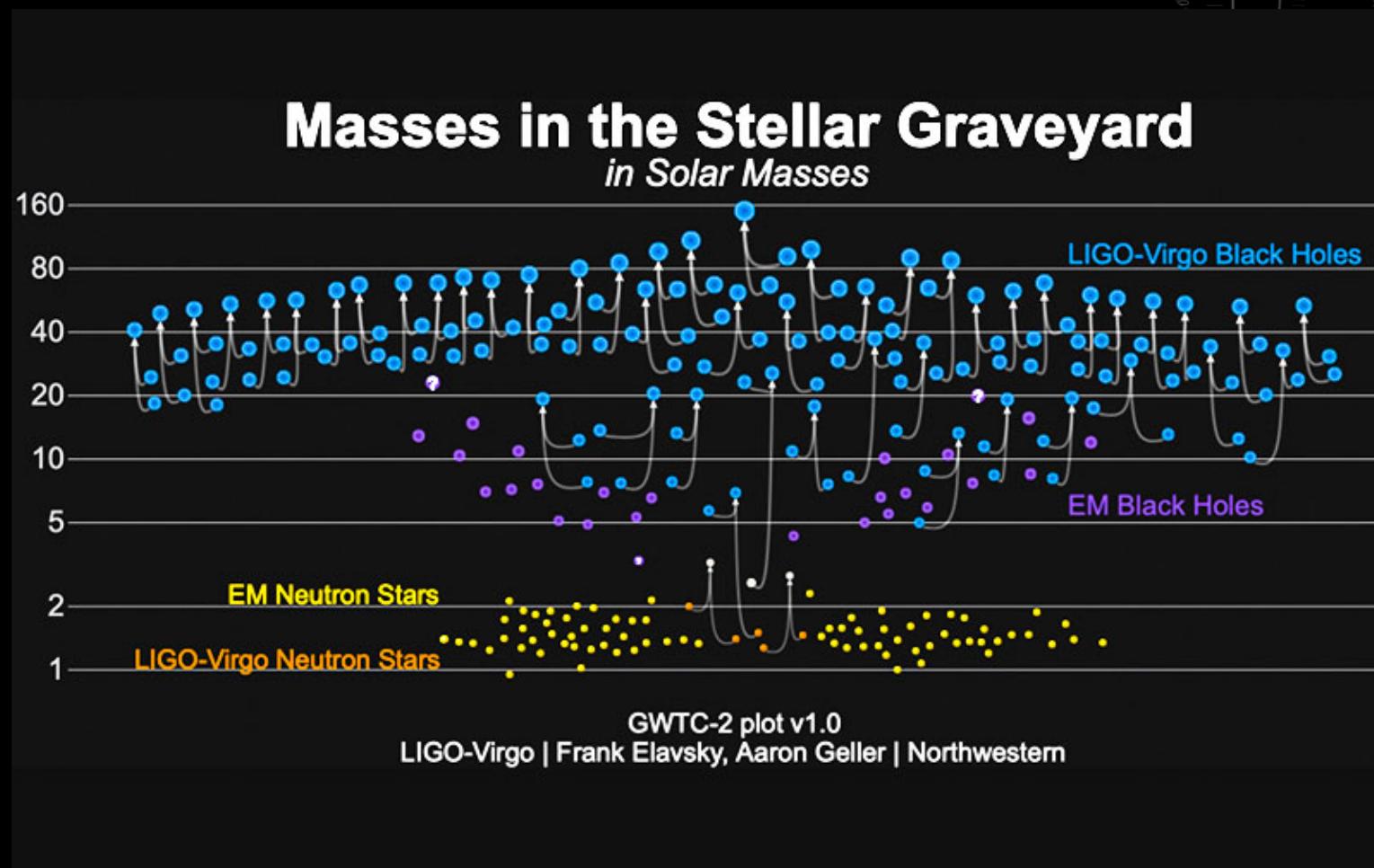
Conception of a NS-NS merger

- On Aug. 17, 2017, LIGO detected the first NS-NS merger event
- 70 observatories around the globe were watching the show
- Also detected in gamma-ray, optical, and infrared wavelengths
- This opened up the brand new field of “***multi-messenger astrophysics***”

# MULTI-MESSENGER ASTRONOMY 多信使天文領域



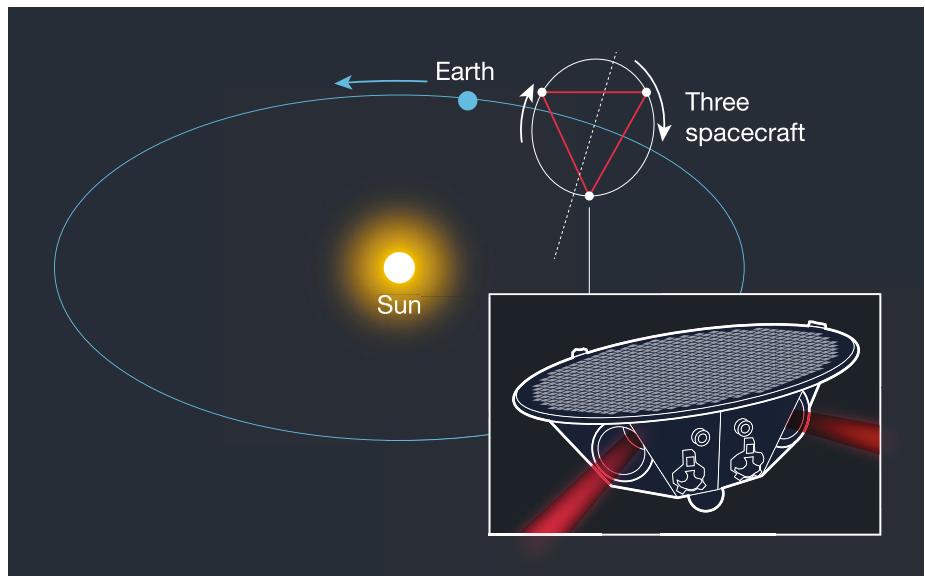
# LIGO DETECTIONS TO DATE: 50 EVENTS

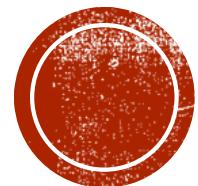


# FUTURE PROSPECTS

- **LISA** (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna)
  - Three test masses forming a triangle with 5 million km arms in space!
  - Frequency range  **$\sim 0.001\text{-}0.1\text{ Hz}$**
  - Can detect mergers of SMBHs with  $10^4 - 10^7 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Will probe the poorly understood distribution of intermediate black holes (IMBHs) with masses of  $10^2 - 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$ !
  - Crucial for understanding SMBH formation

Design of LISA gravitational wave detector

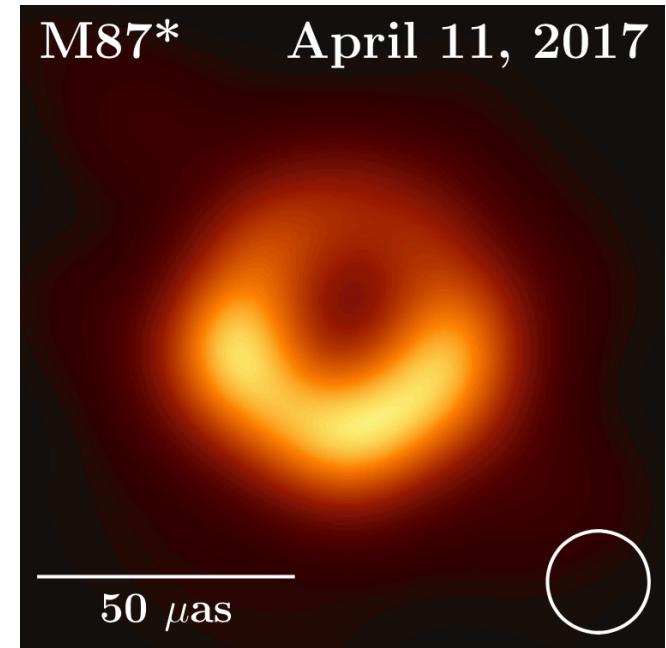
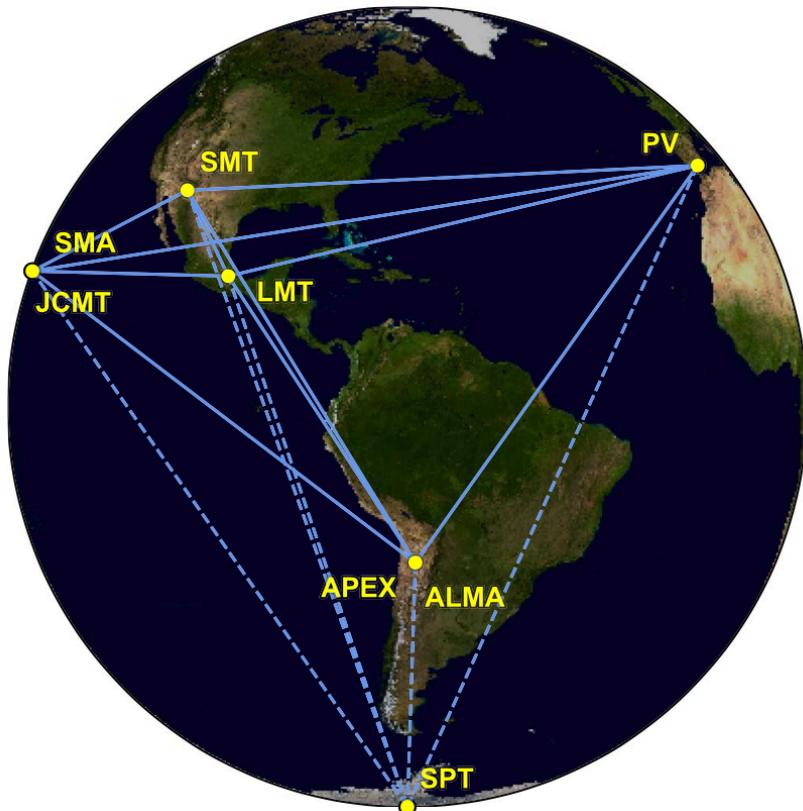




# THE FIRST IMAGE OF BLACK HOLE

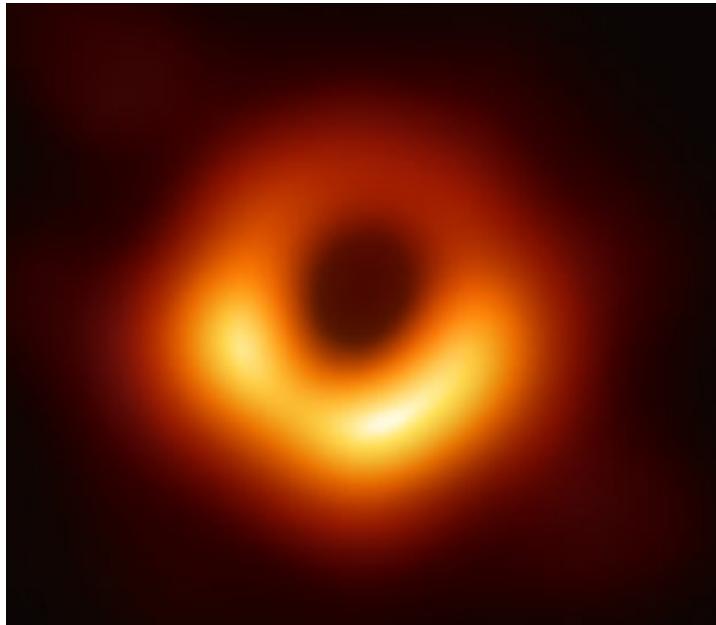


# FIRST IMAGE OF BLACK HOLES – M87



- Taken by the ***Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)***, which is a network of 8 radio telescopes across 4 continents in the world
- Angular resolution:  $\theta \propto \lambda/D$
- Extraordinary resolution  $\sim 25$  microarcsec!

# WHAT ARE WE SEEING IN THIS IMAGE?



- The first **DIRECT** evidence for black holes!!
- Black holes are black, consistent with GR predictions
- Dark region is called “**BH shadow**”
- The bright ring comes from emission of materials near the BH (e.g., accretion flow/jets)

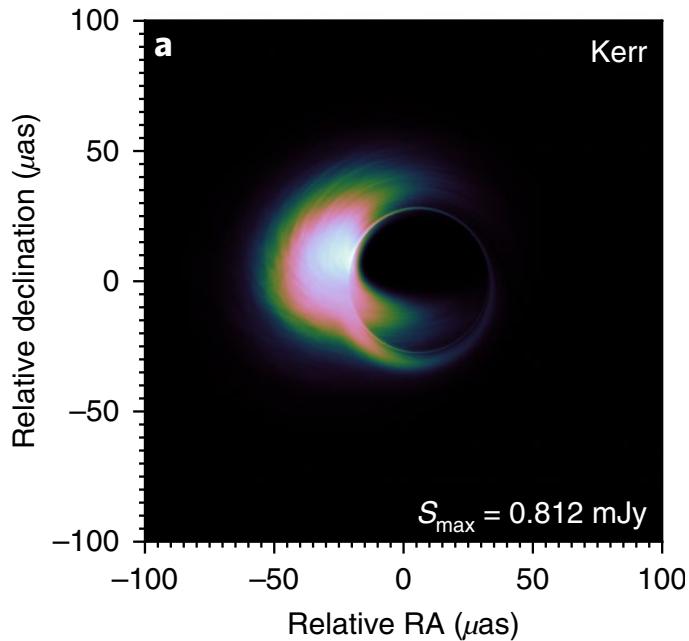
# THE M87 SMBH

- $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 6.5 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$  within M87 galaxy in Virgo cluster
- Relativistic jets and lobes extending to  $10^5$  light years
- Crucial to monitor changes to understand jet formation mechanisms



# COMING SOON – IMAGE OF THE GCBH

Simulated image of Sgr A\*



- The Sgr A\* is  $\sim$ 1500x smaller than M87, but also closer, so shadow sizes are comparable
- Given the current resolution of EHT, these are the **ONLY** two BHs in the universe that we could resolve!!
- Things around Sgr A\* vary on shorter timescales ( $\sim$ hours) so more difficult to analyze



# SUMMARY

- Black holes are predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity, and are confirmed to exist in the real universe
- There are two types of black holes
  - Stellar-mass black holes (smbhs):  $\sim 3\text{-}100 M_{\text{sun}}$
  - Supermassive black holes (SMBHs):  $\sim 10^6 - 10^{10} M_{\text{sun}}$
- Black holes are important in astrophysics because
  - They allow us to probe extreme conditions and fundamental physics
  - Energetic feedback from AGNs are influential for formation and evolution of galaxies
- Now is a golden age for studying black holes
  - First image of black holes is a direct evidence and allows us to probe physics near the event horizon
  - Detection of gravitational waves open up a brand new way for studying the universe – multi-messenger astronomy

