

32nd Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics
Dec 11–15, 2023

Distortion of GW signals by astrophysical environments

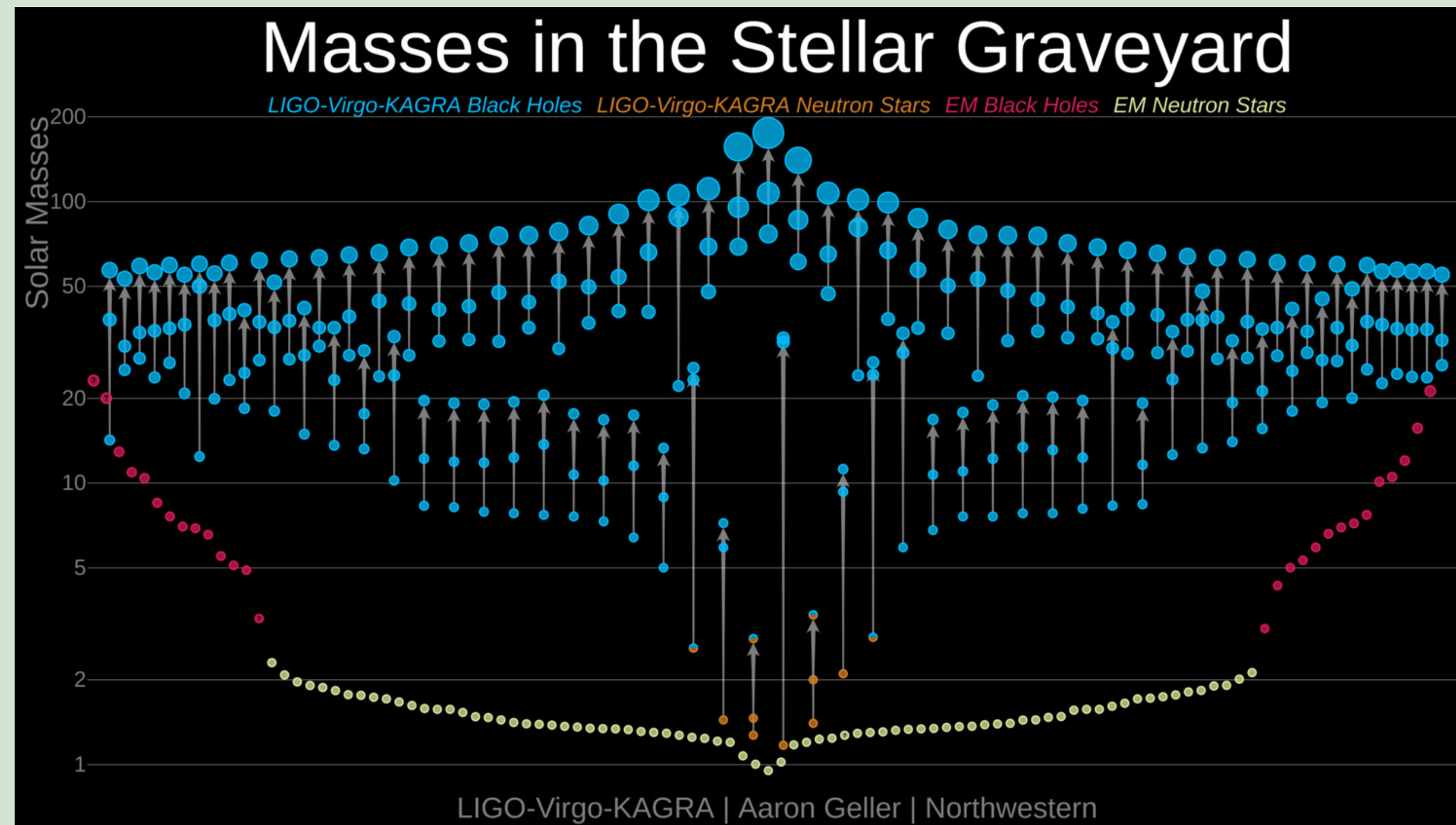
Xian Chen (陈弦)

Astronomy Department, School of Physics, Peking University
Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Peking University

Email: xian.chen@pku.edu.cn

Massive black holes detected by LIGO/Virgo

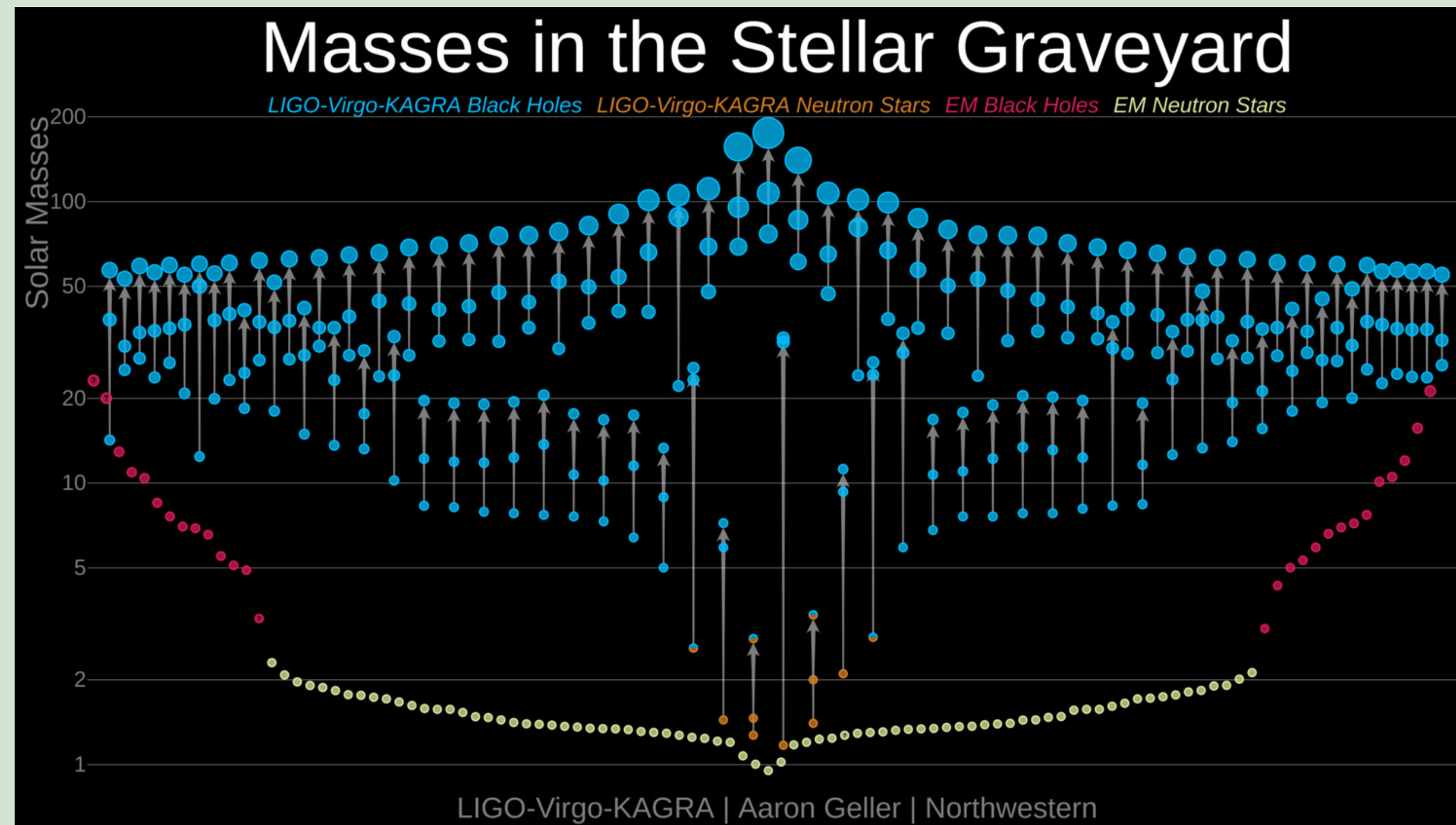
~90 GW BBHs 3-10 times more massive than X-ray BHs



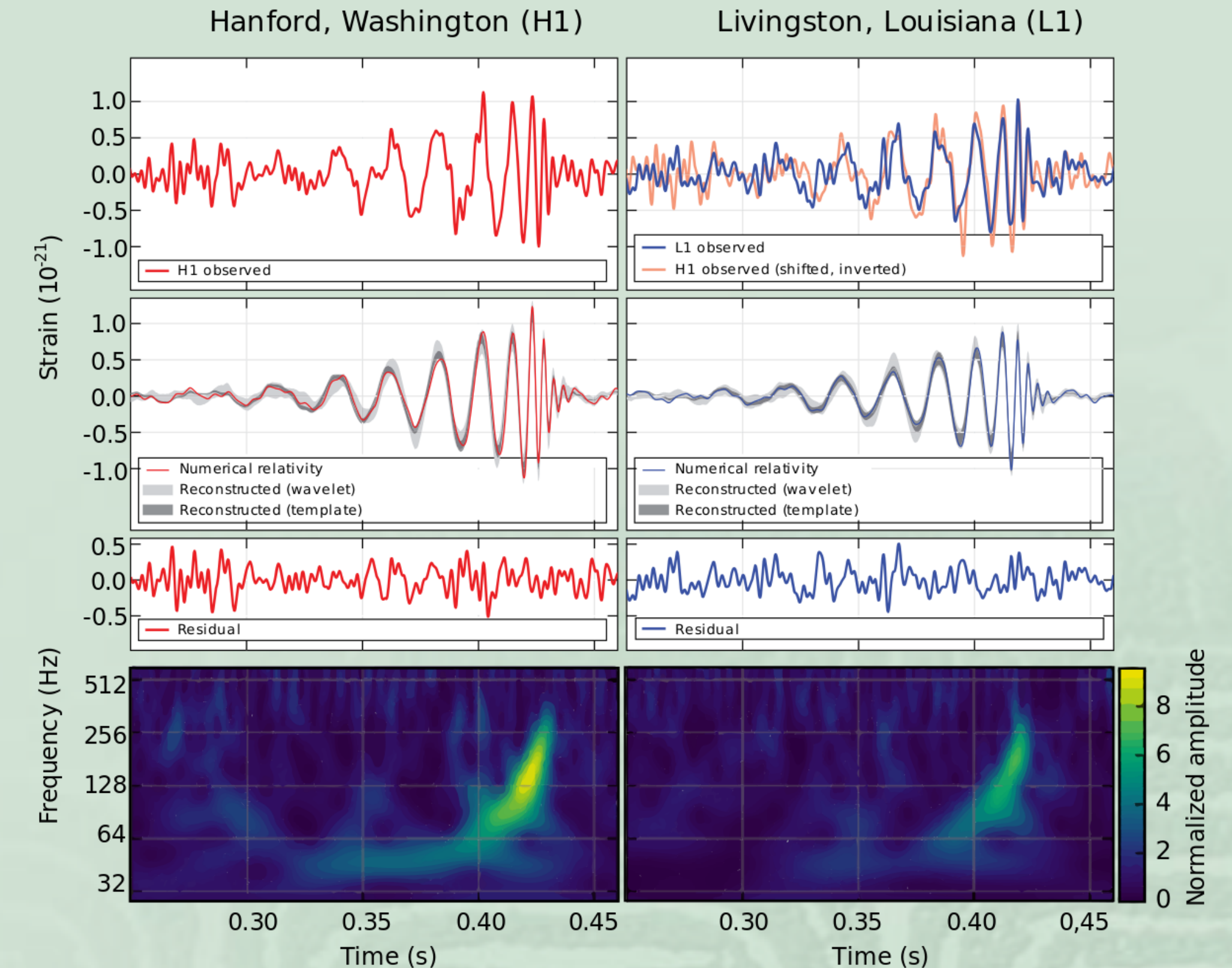
(See arXiv:1602.03846; 1811.12940; 2009.01190 from LIGO/Virgo collaboration for reviews of formation channels)

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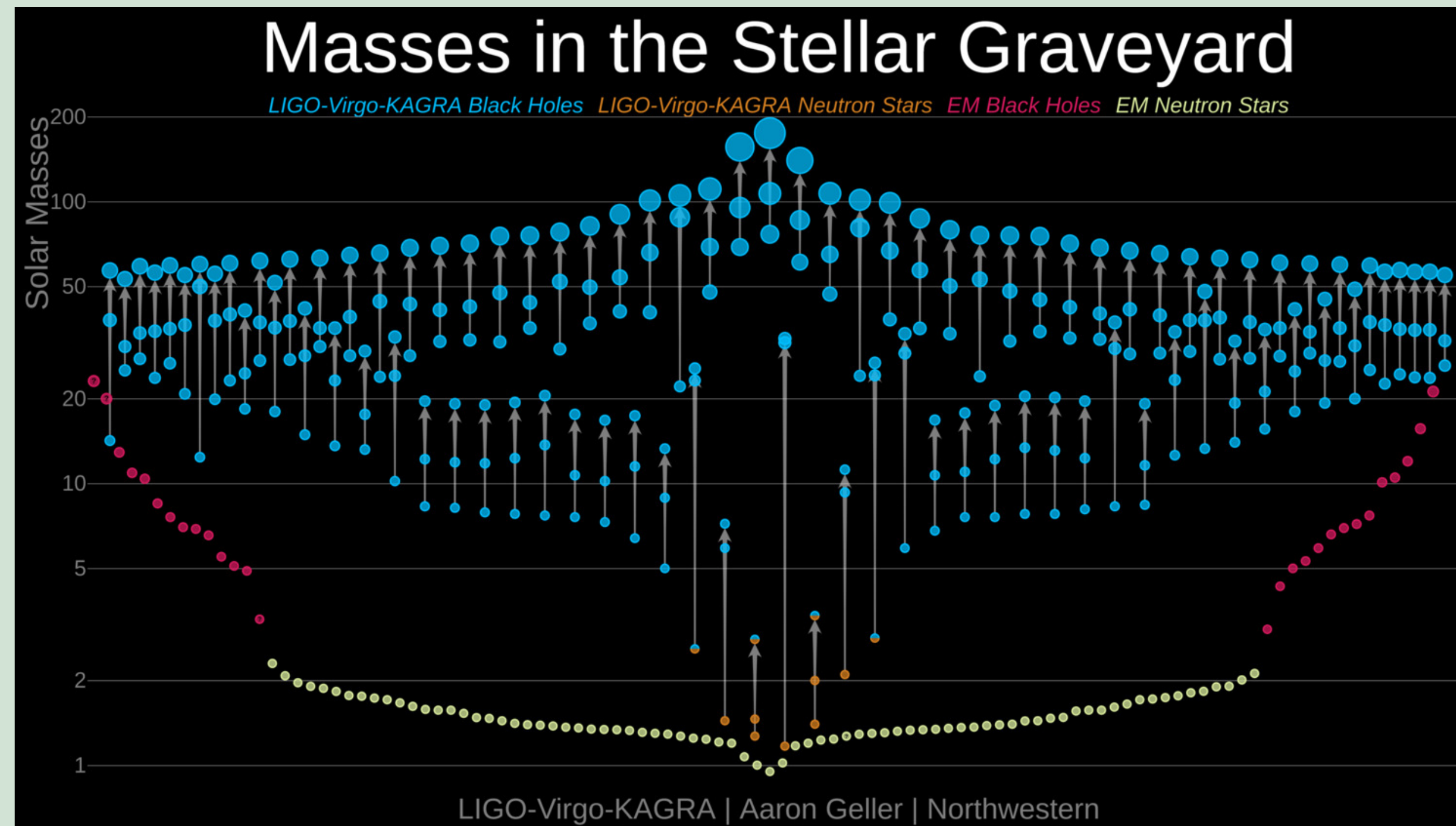
How is mass measured: Observe the chirp

(Abbott et al. 2016 PRL)

- $h(m_1, m_2, a)$
- $f(m_1, m_2, a)$
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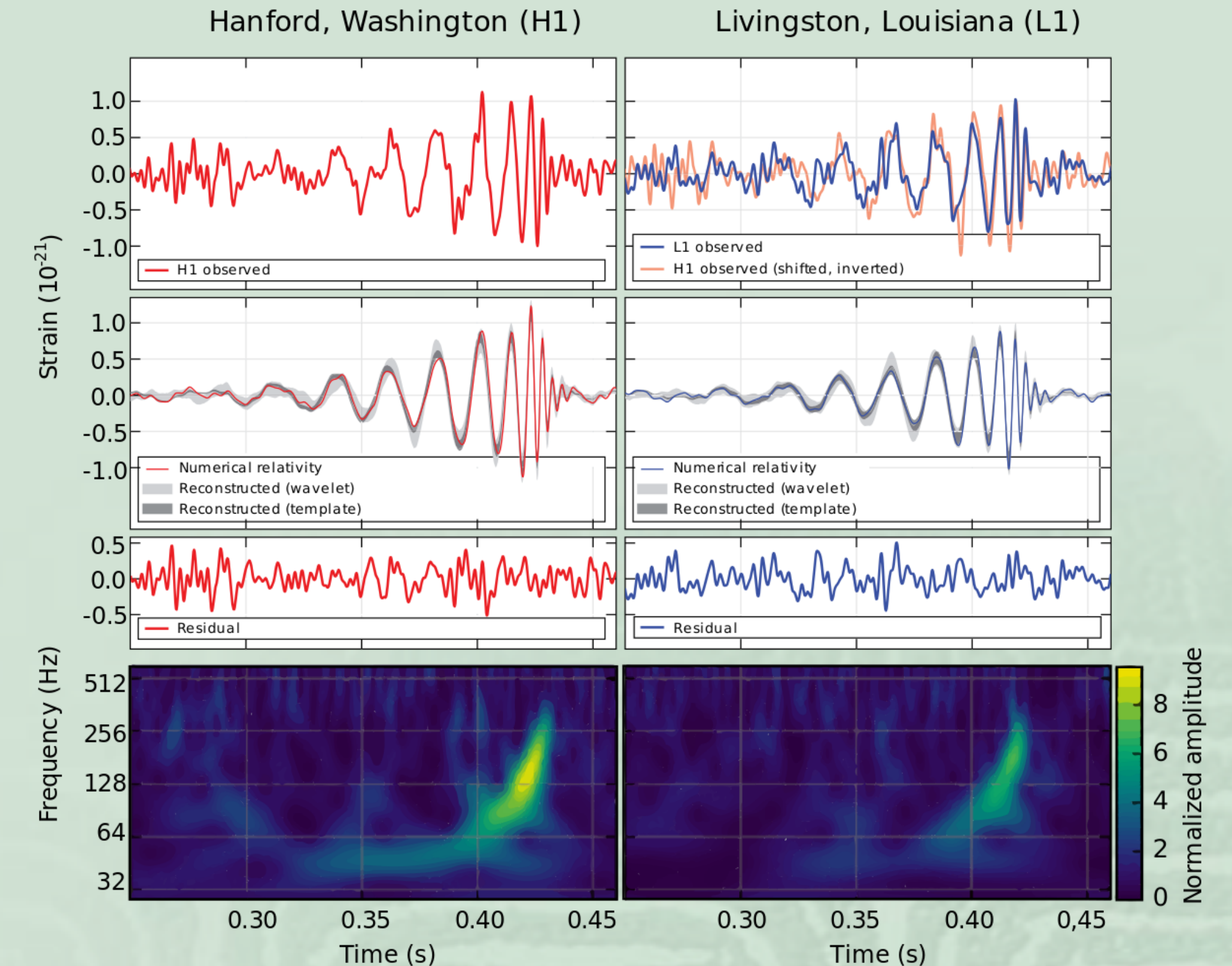


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$$d = (4\mathcal{M}/h) (\pi f \mathcal{M})^{2/3}$$

Isolated in vacuum

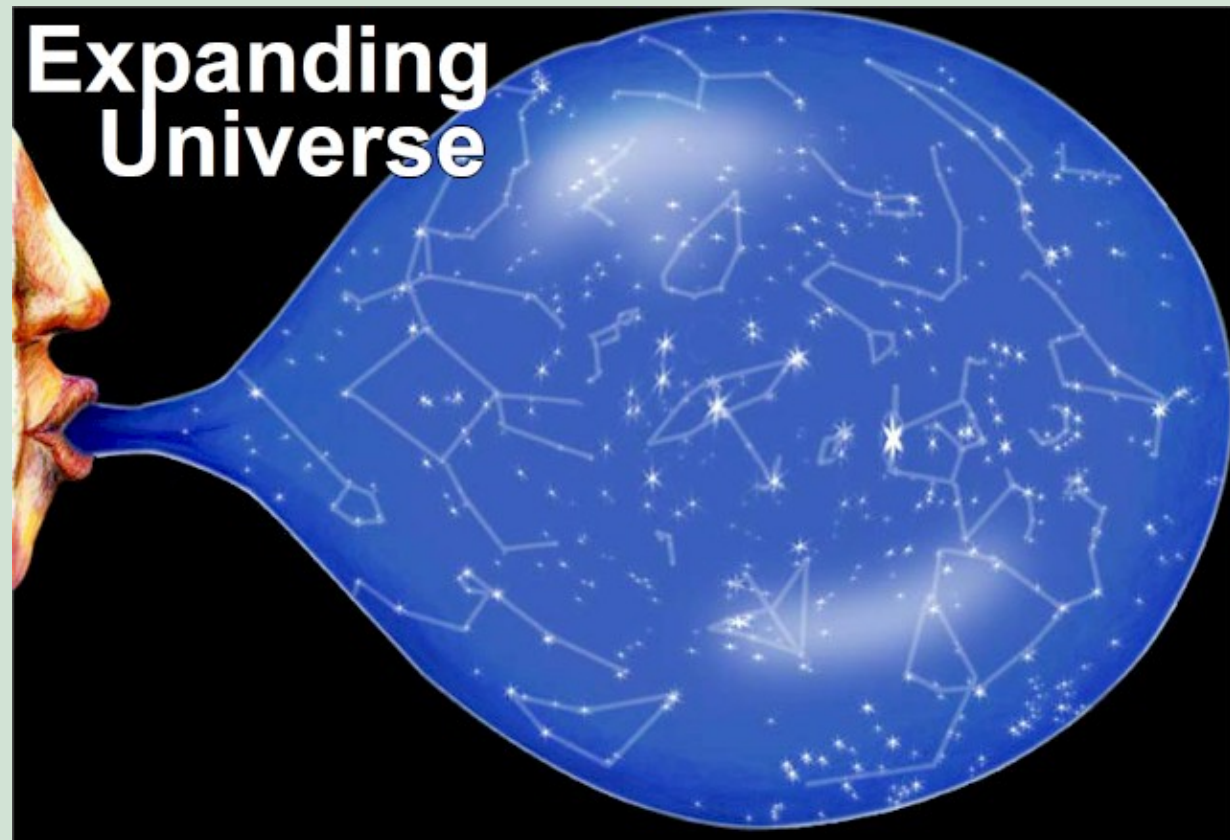


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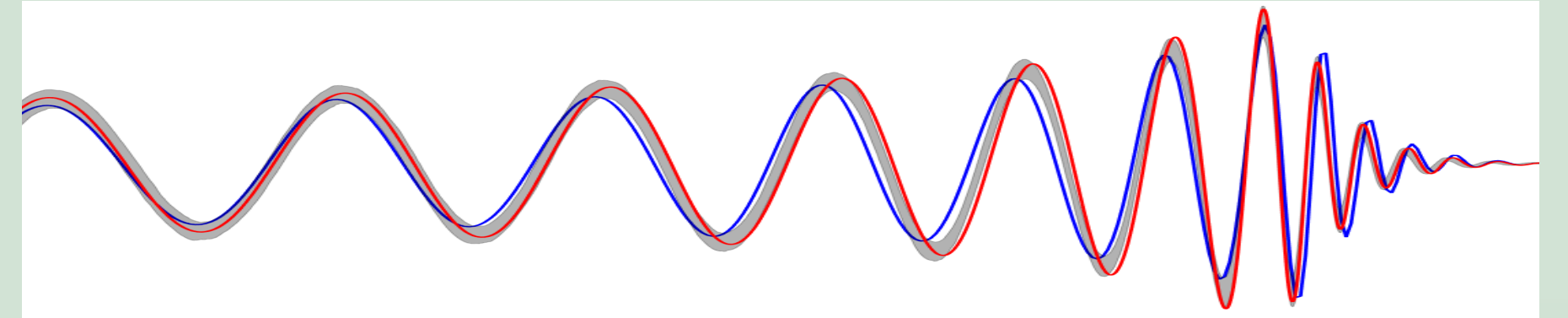
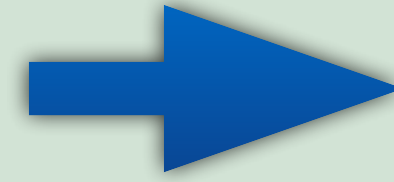
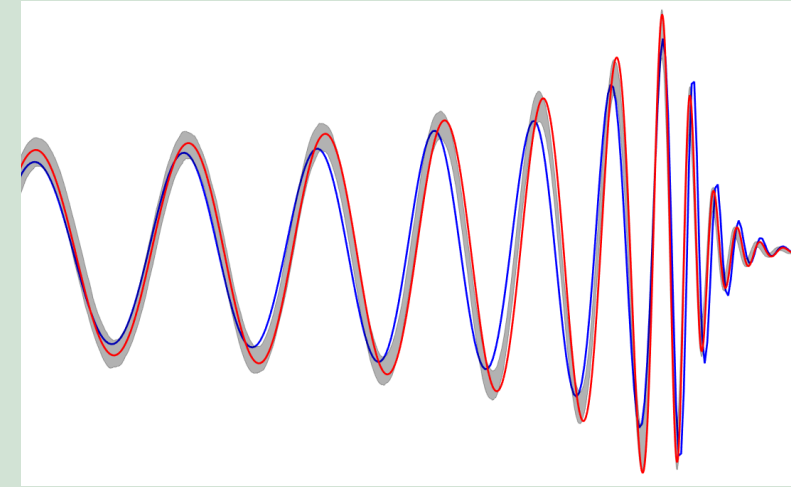
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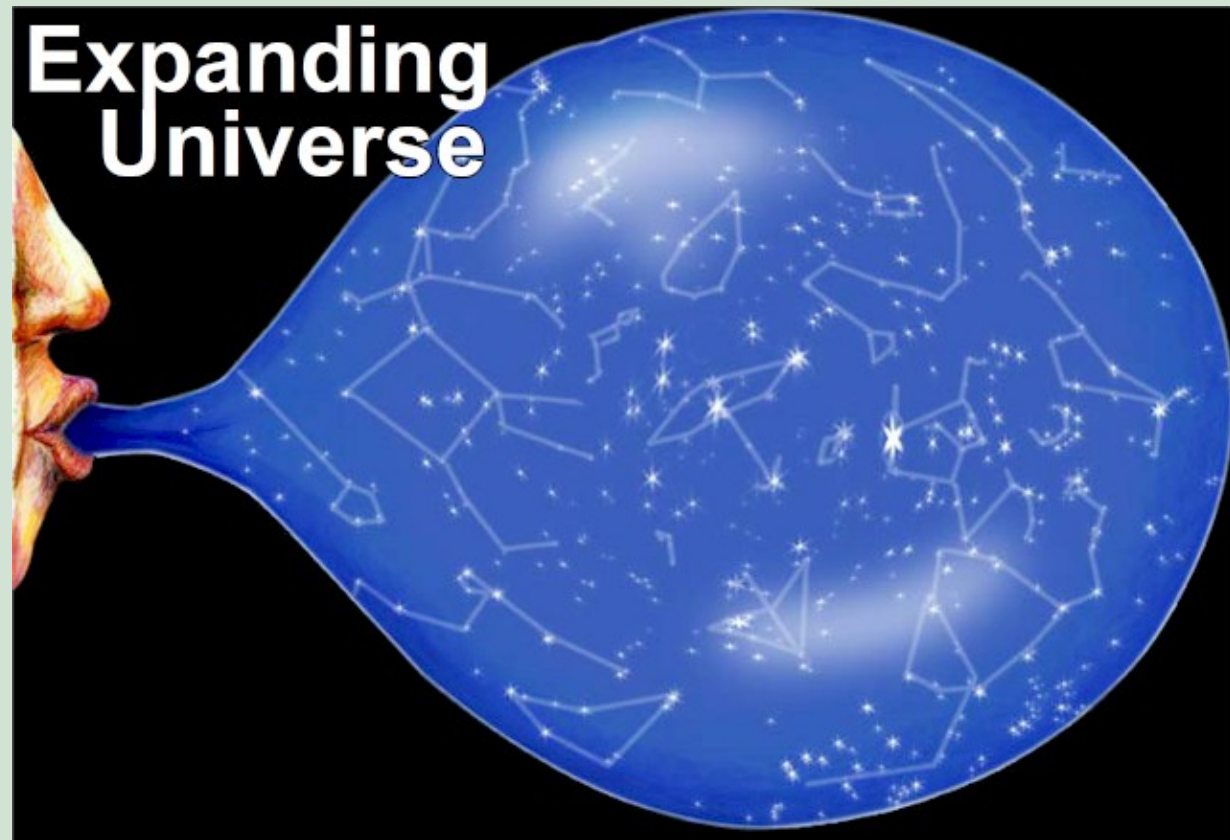
Mass-redshift degeneracy



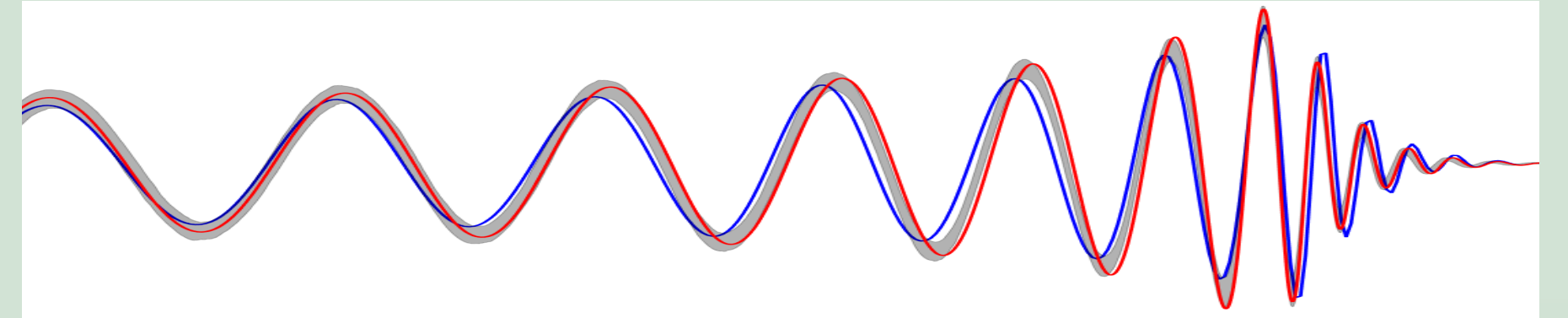
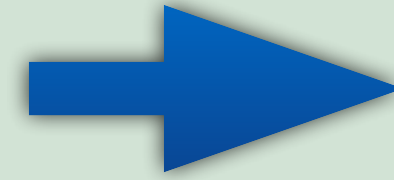
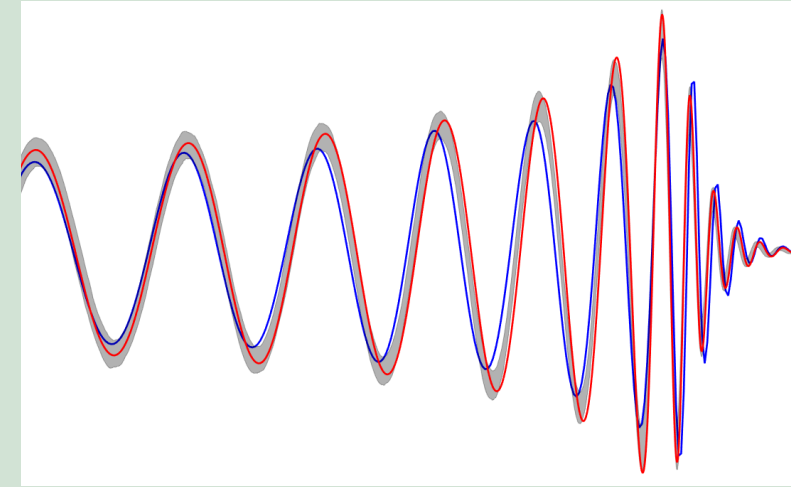
Cosmological redshift



Mass-redshift degeneracy



Cosmological redshift

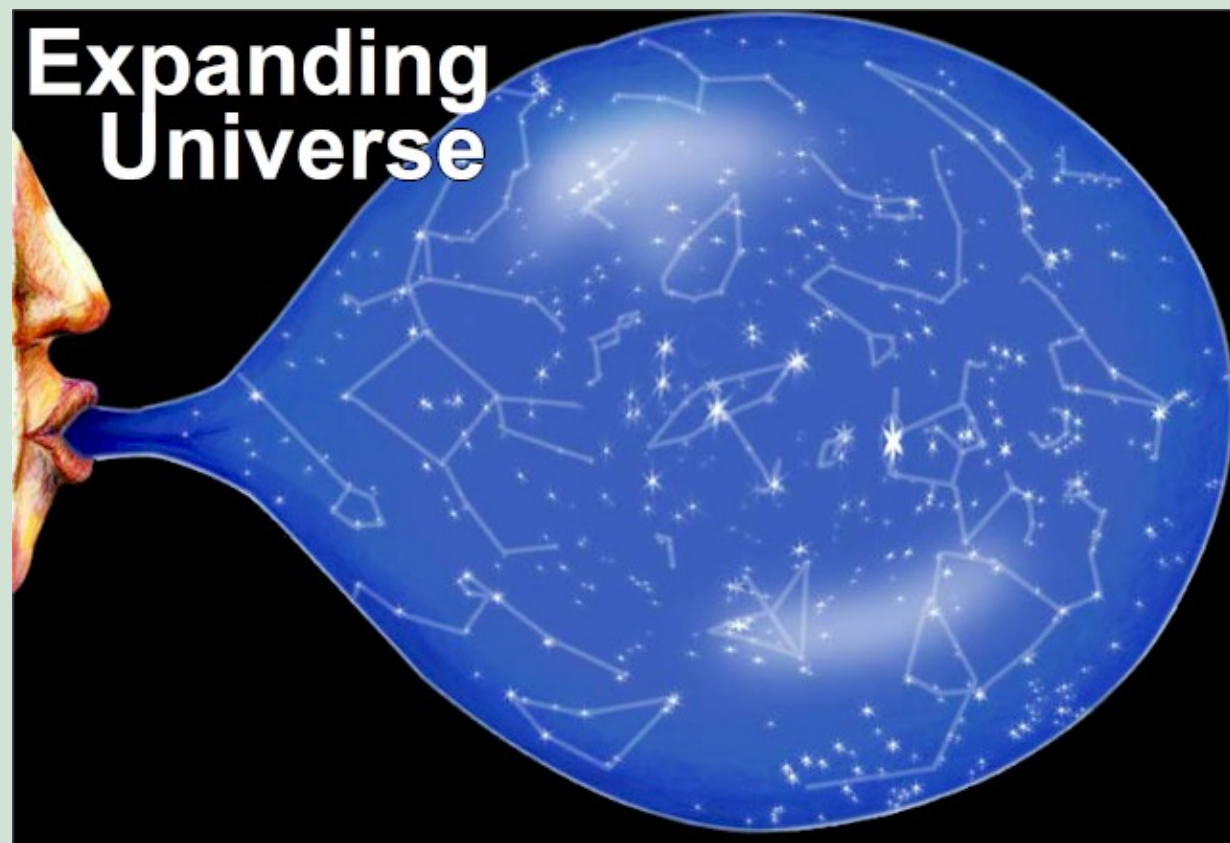


$$f_o = f(1 + z)^{-1}$$

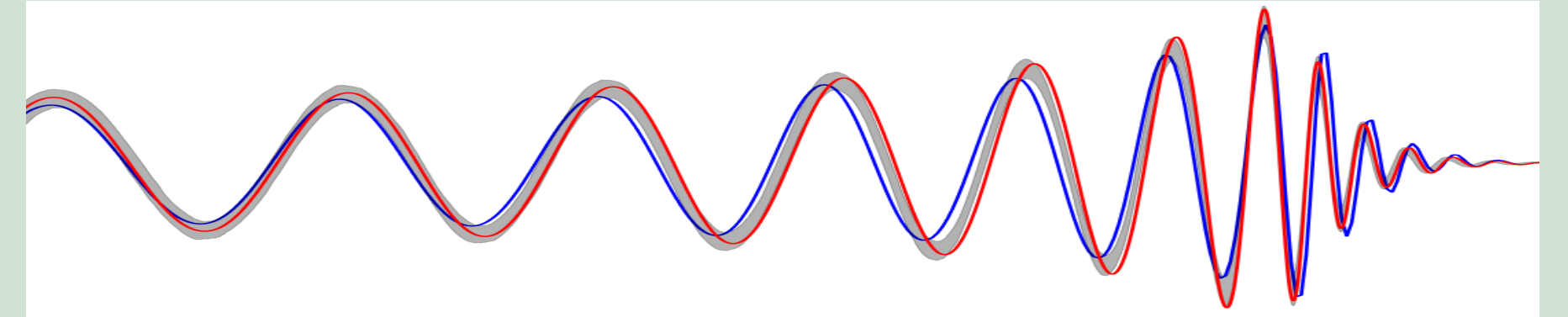
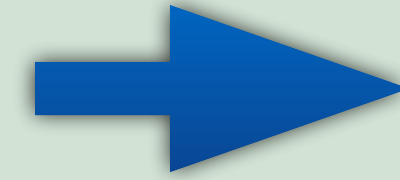
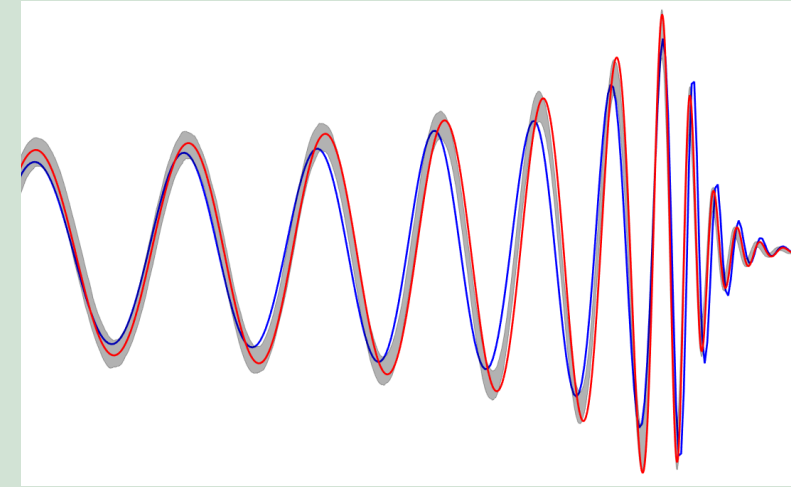
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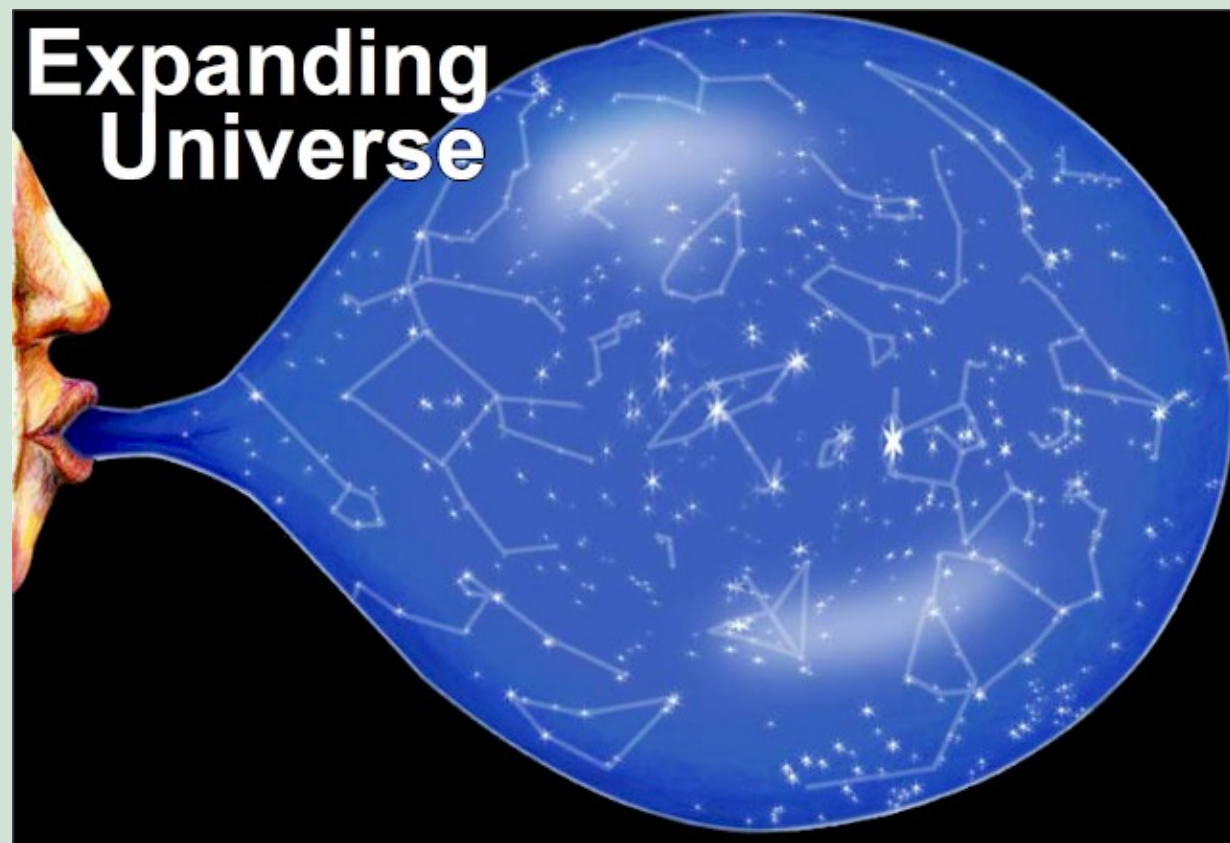
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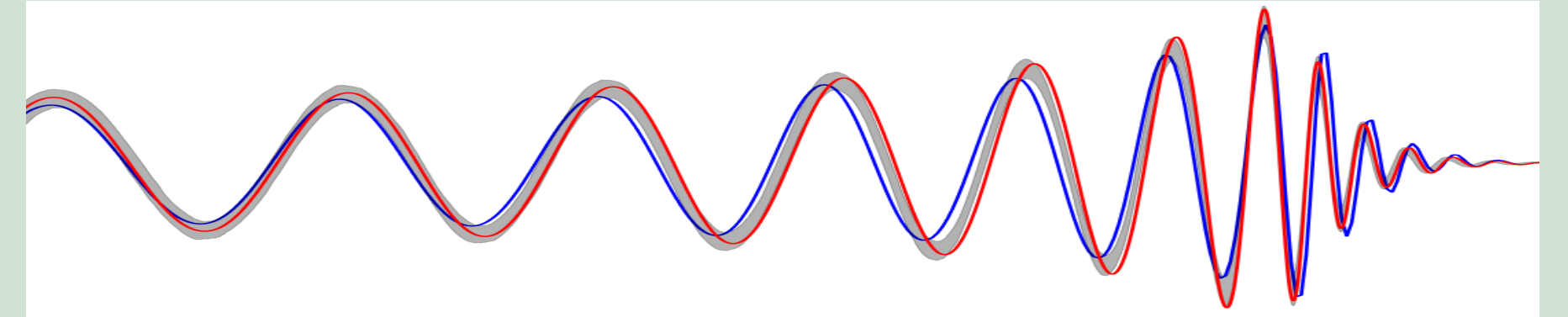
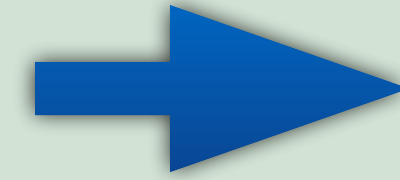
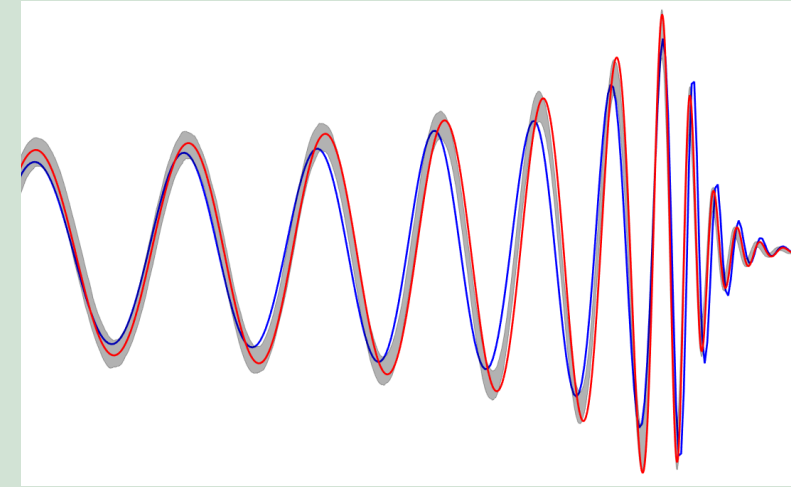
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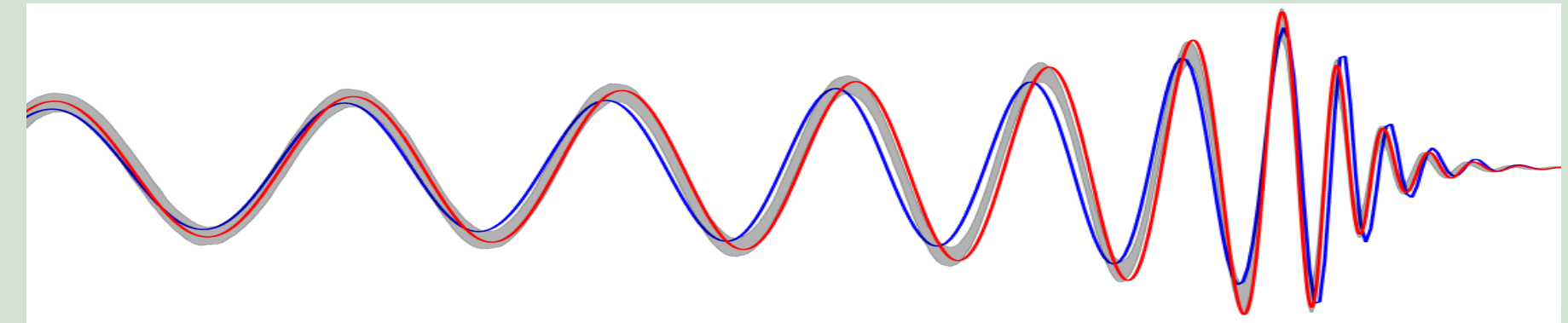
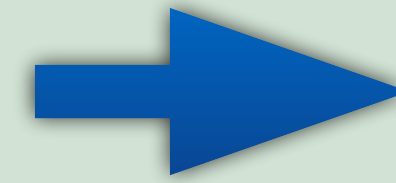
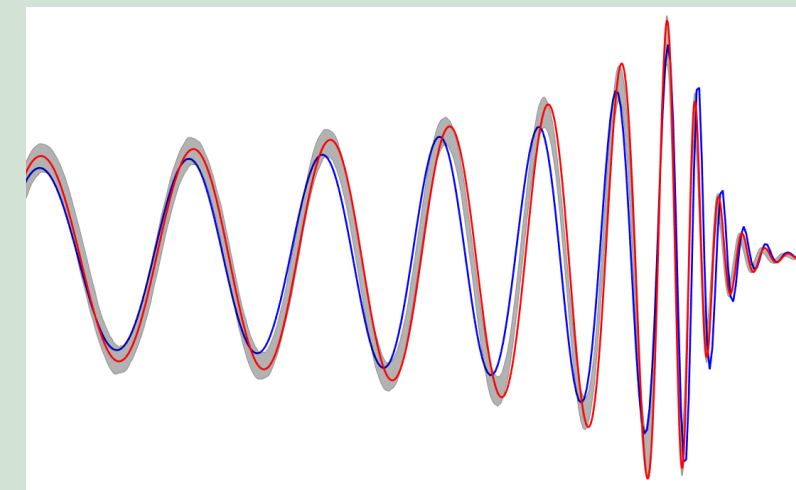
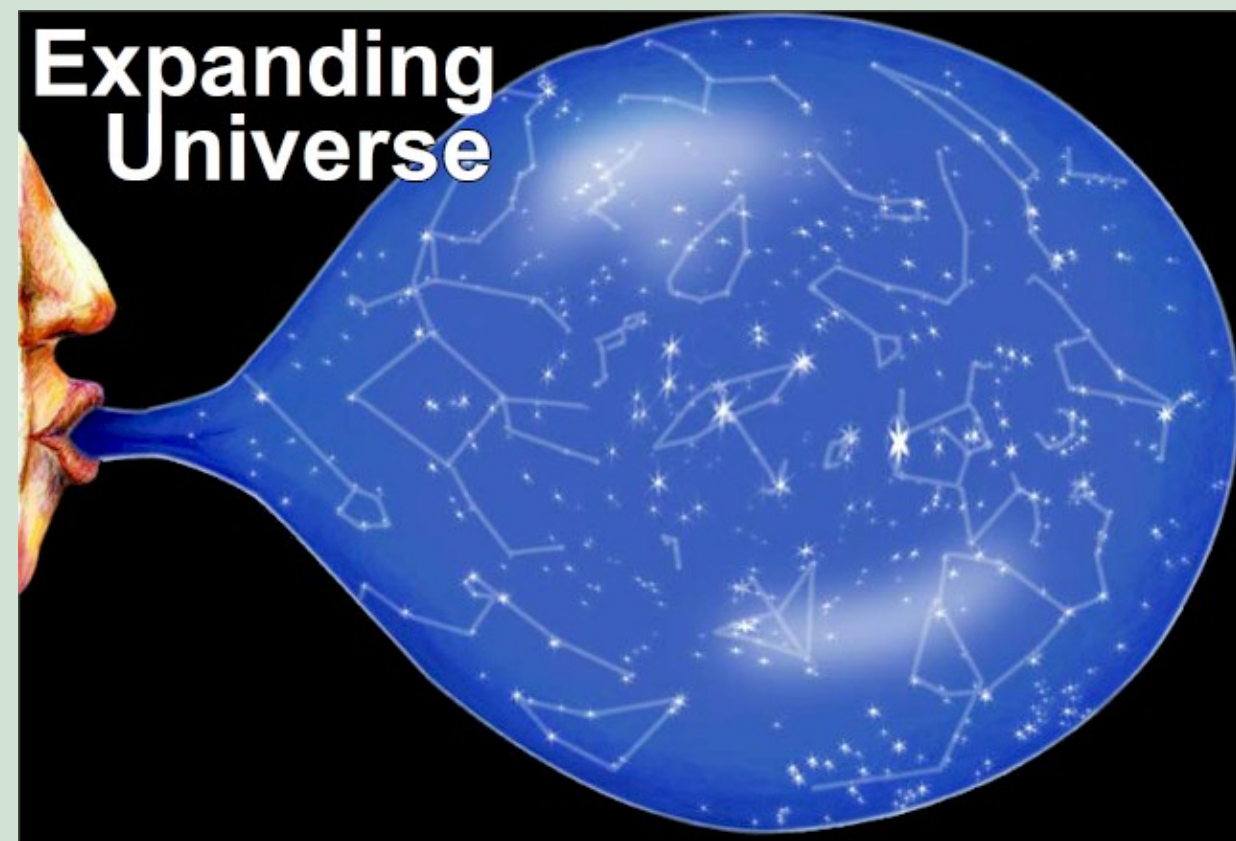
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Mass-redshift degeneracy



Standard siren



Cosmological redshift

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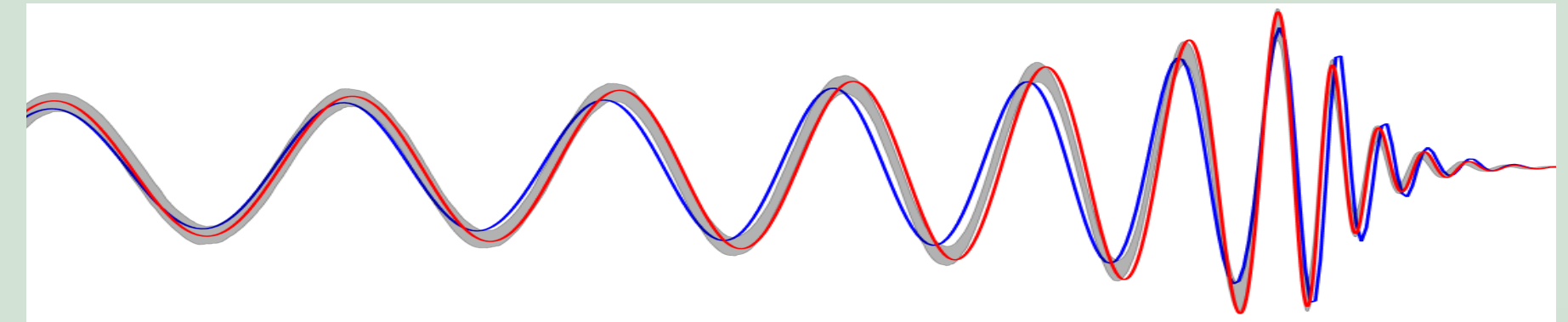
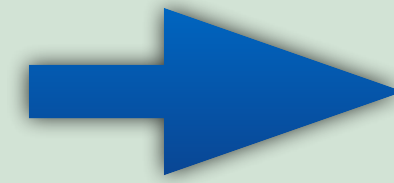
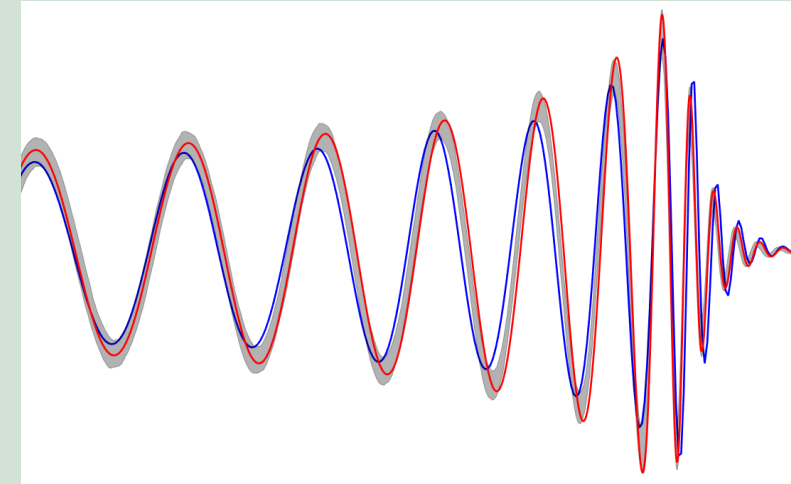
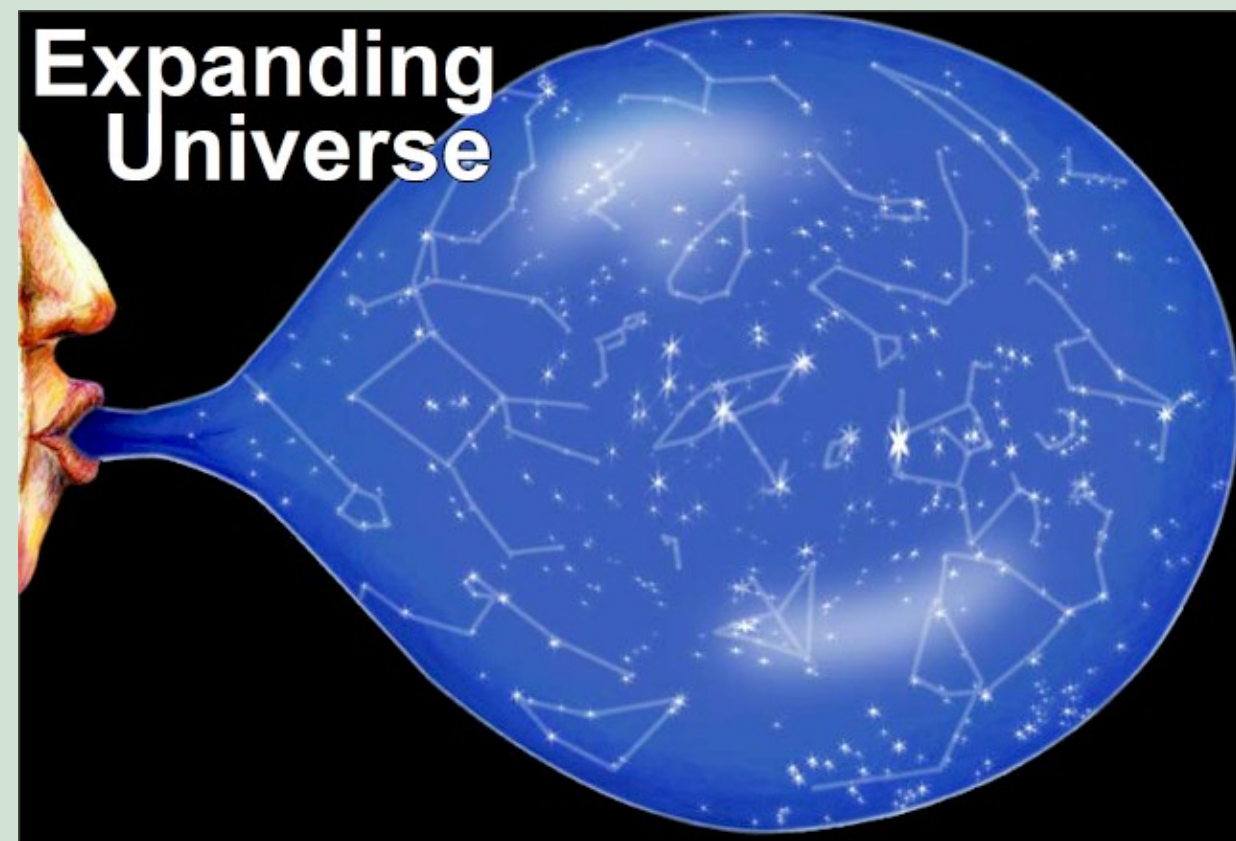
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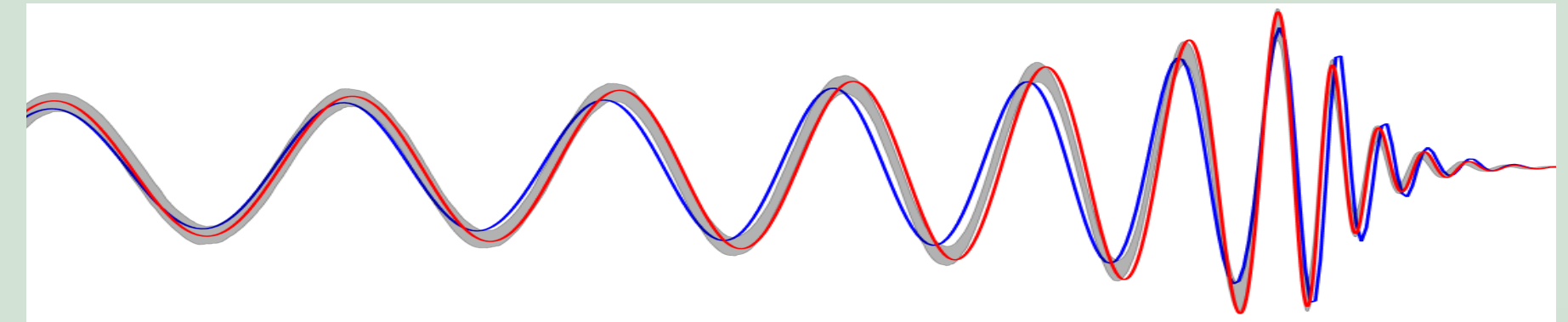
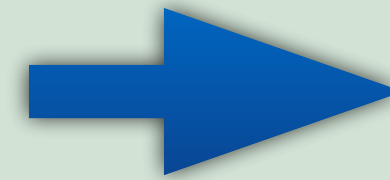
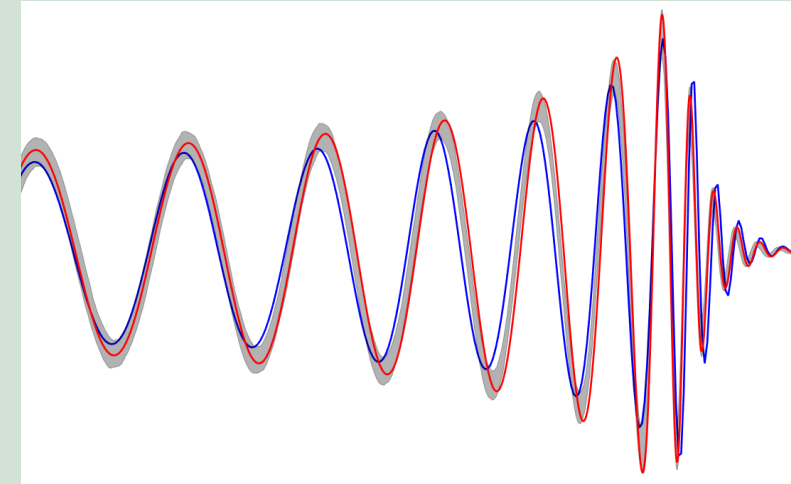
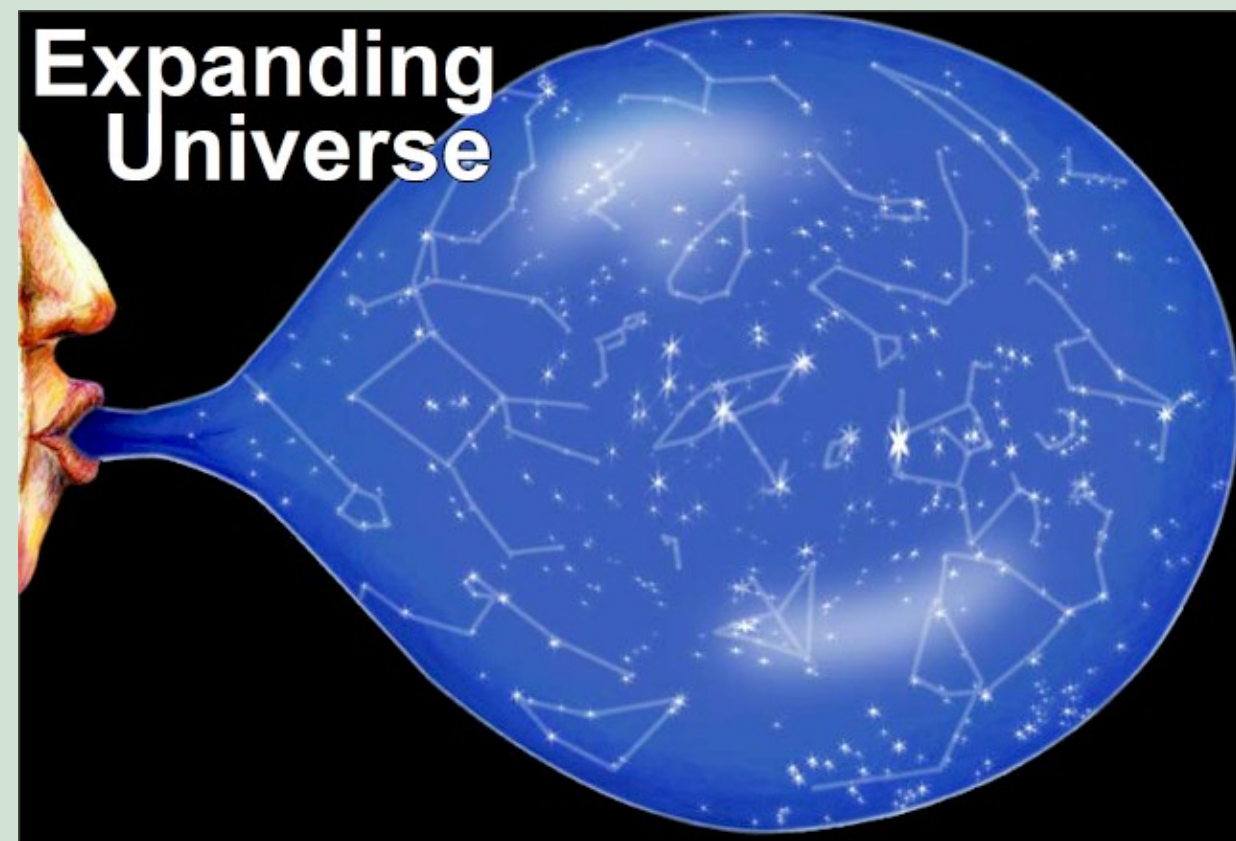
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Doppler redshift?
Gravitational redshift?

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■ Conventional formation channels:

- ∞ Conventional: Galaxy disk/bulge or globular clusters → Low velocity and shallow potential (e.g. LVC 2016 ApJL)

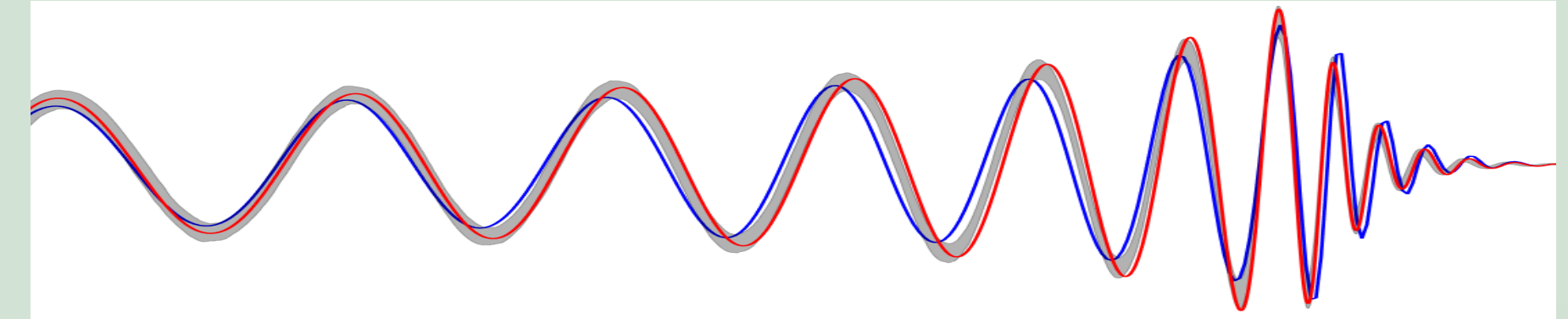
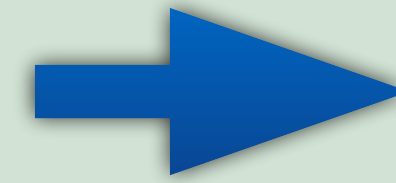
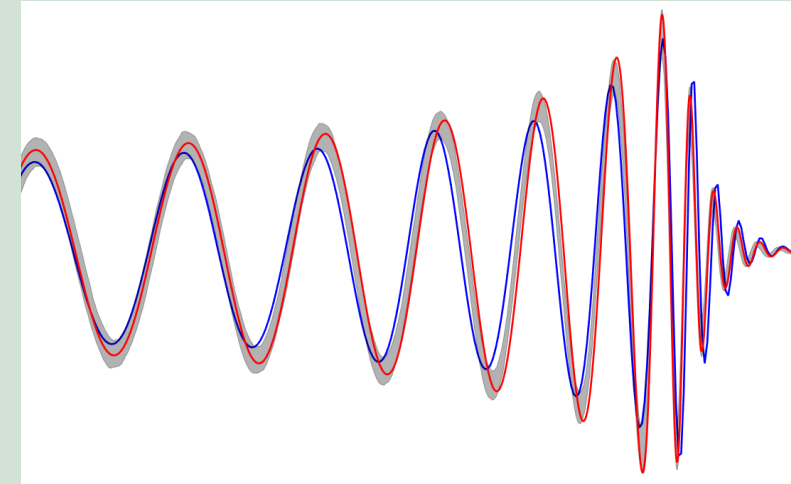
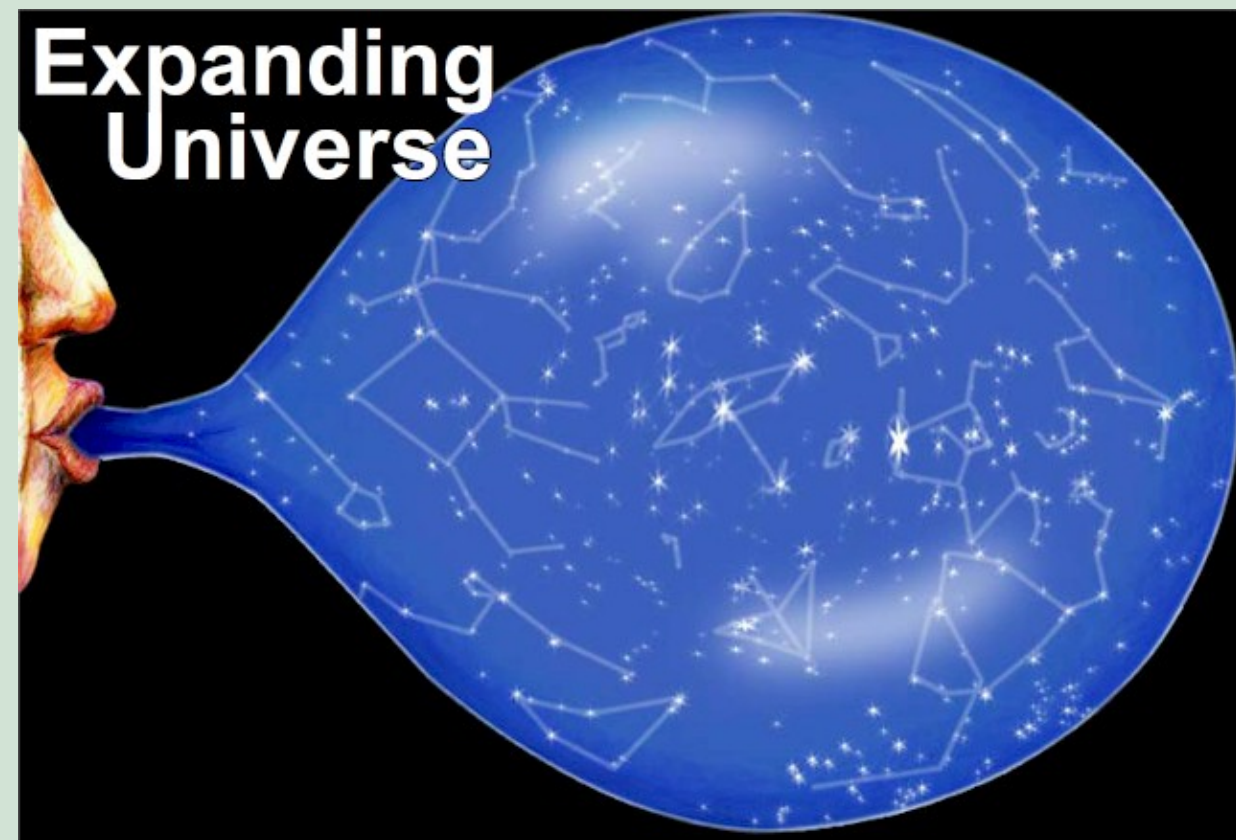
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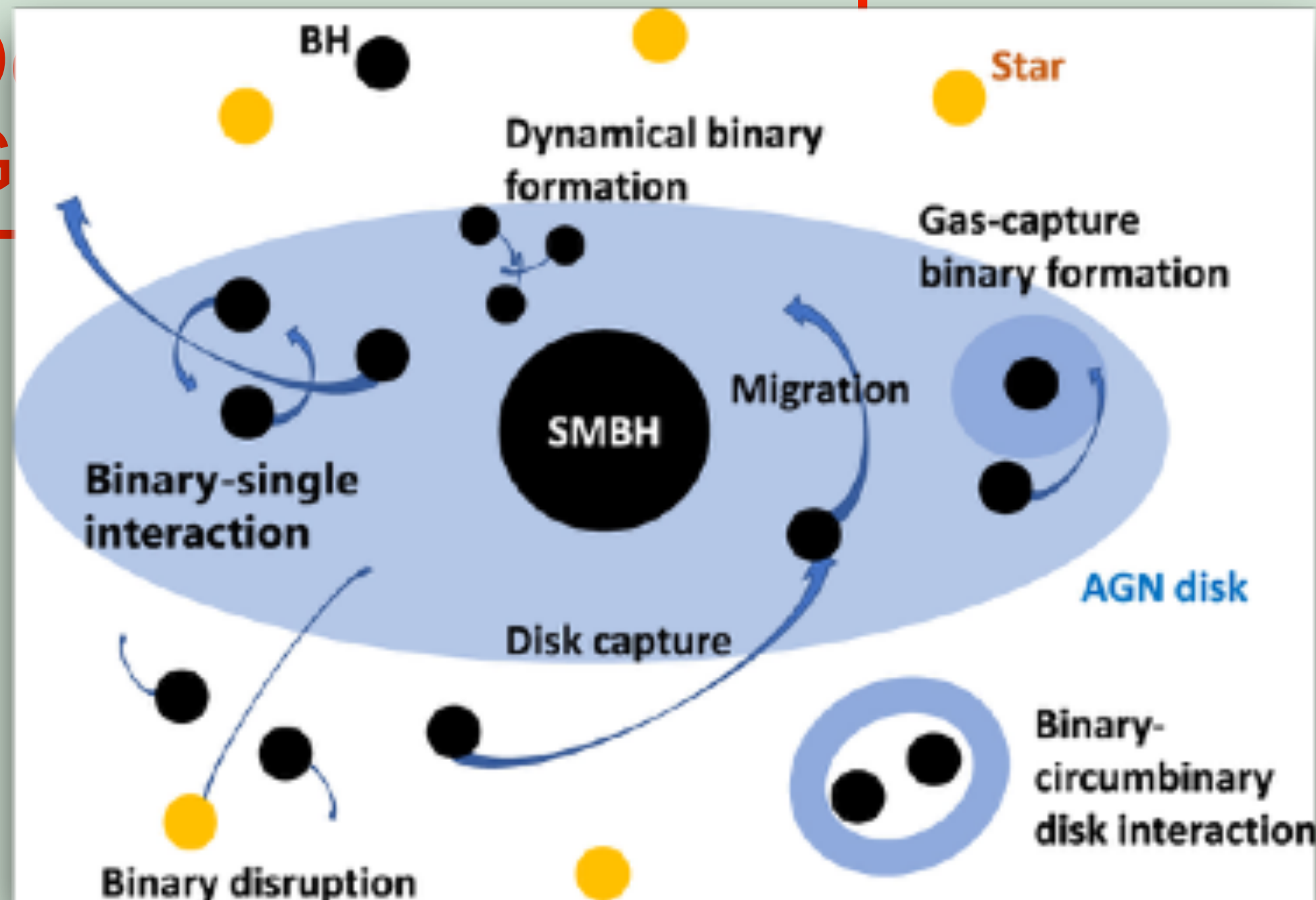
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D
G



Sketch from Tagawa et al. 2020

Conventional formation channels:

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Recent view: Enhancement of mergers close to a supermassive black hole ($>10^6$ Msun) because

- Large escape velocity for compact objects
- Mass segregation effect
- Tidal perturbation of binaries by surrounding objects
- Hydrodynamical drag if inside an **active galactic nucleus (AGN)**
- (See Arca-Sedda, Naoz, Kocsis 2023 for a recent review)

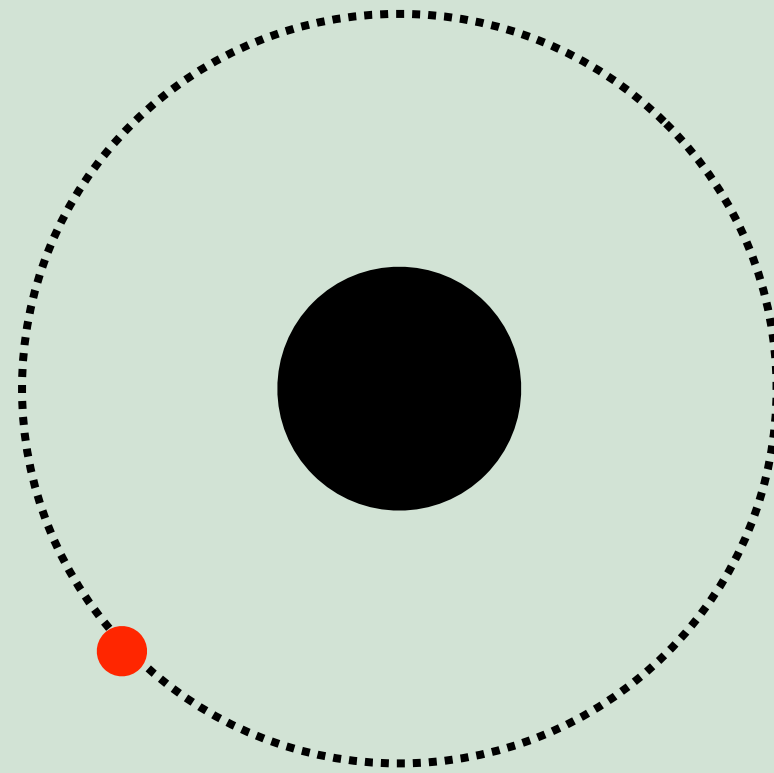
Fake massive black holes around a SMBH

- $M_o = M(1+z_{\text{cos}})(1+z_{\text{dop}})(1+z_{\text{gra}})$
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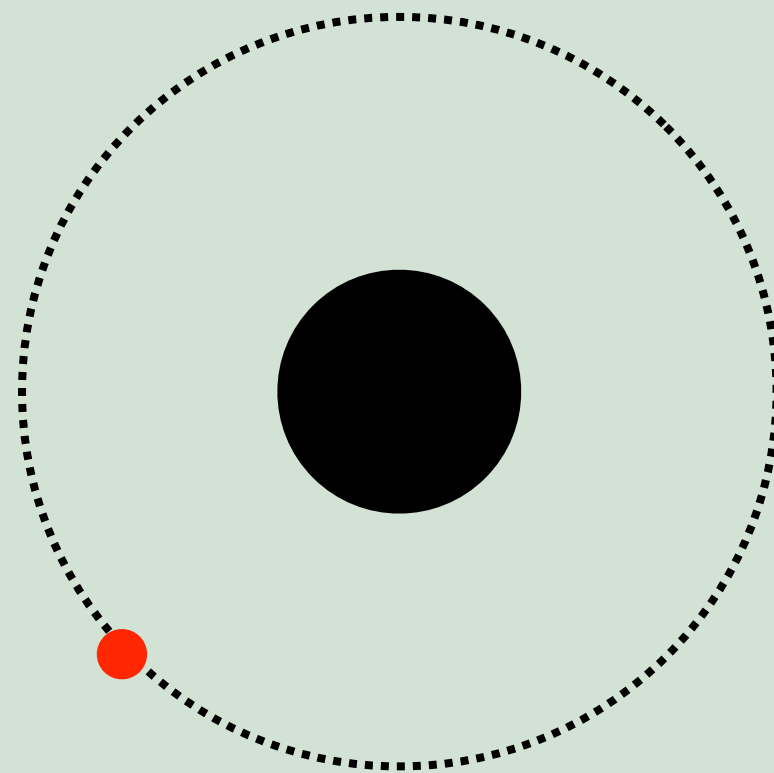


- Innermost stable circular orbit:
 - ∞ 3 Schwarzschild radii
 - ∞ $v \sim 0.408c$
 - ∞ $1+z$ in total: 1.89
 - ∞ (Chen, Li, Cao 2019 MNRAS)



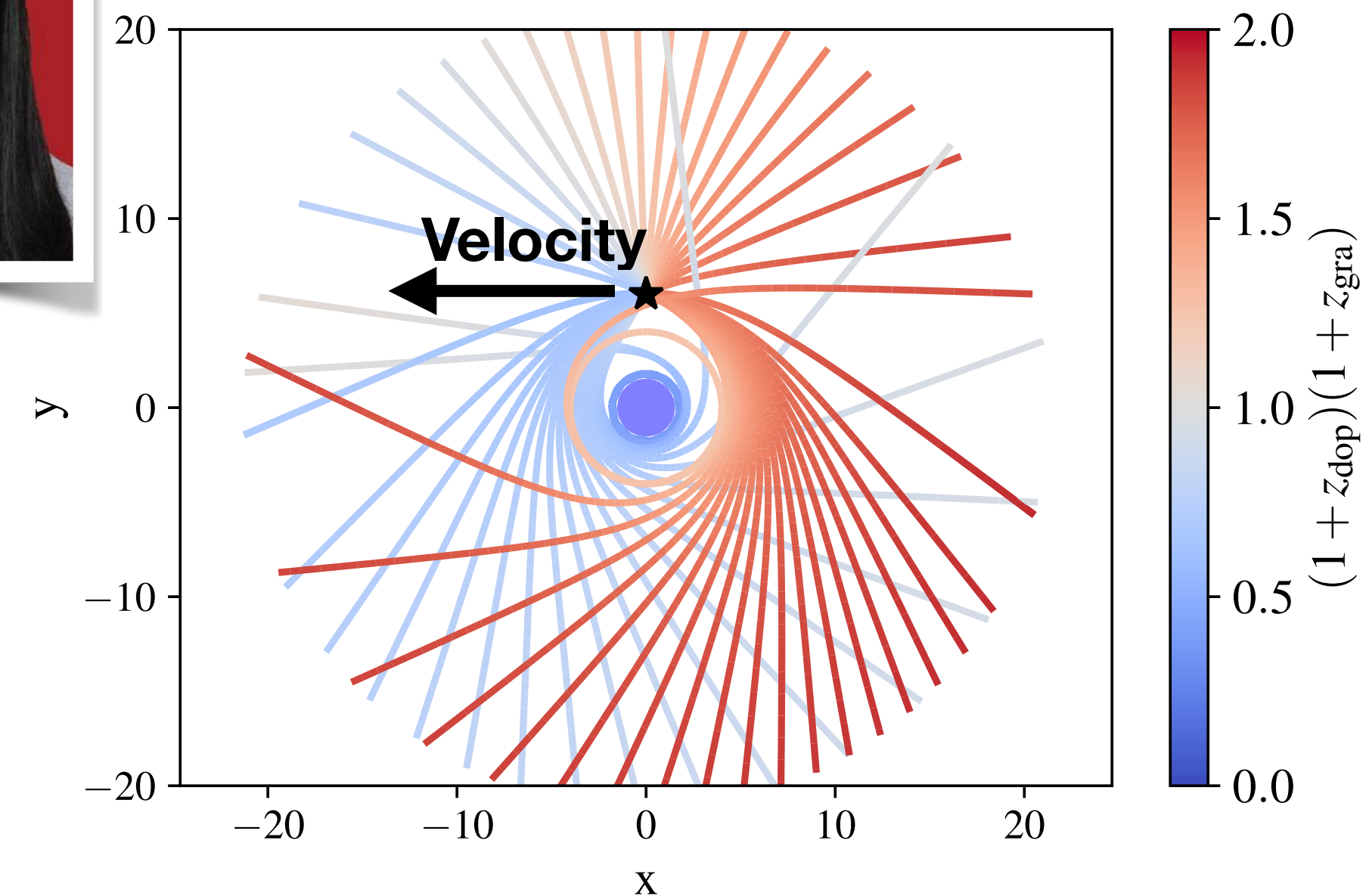
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Kerr SMBH $a=0.9$

(Zhang & Chen 2023 MNRAS)



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∞ At 6 gravitational radii ($6M$)

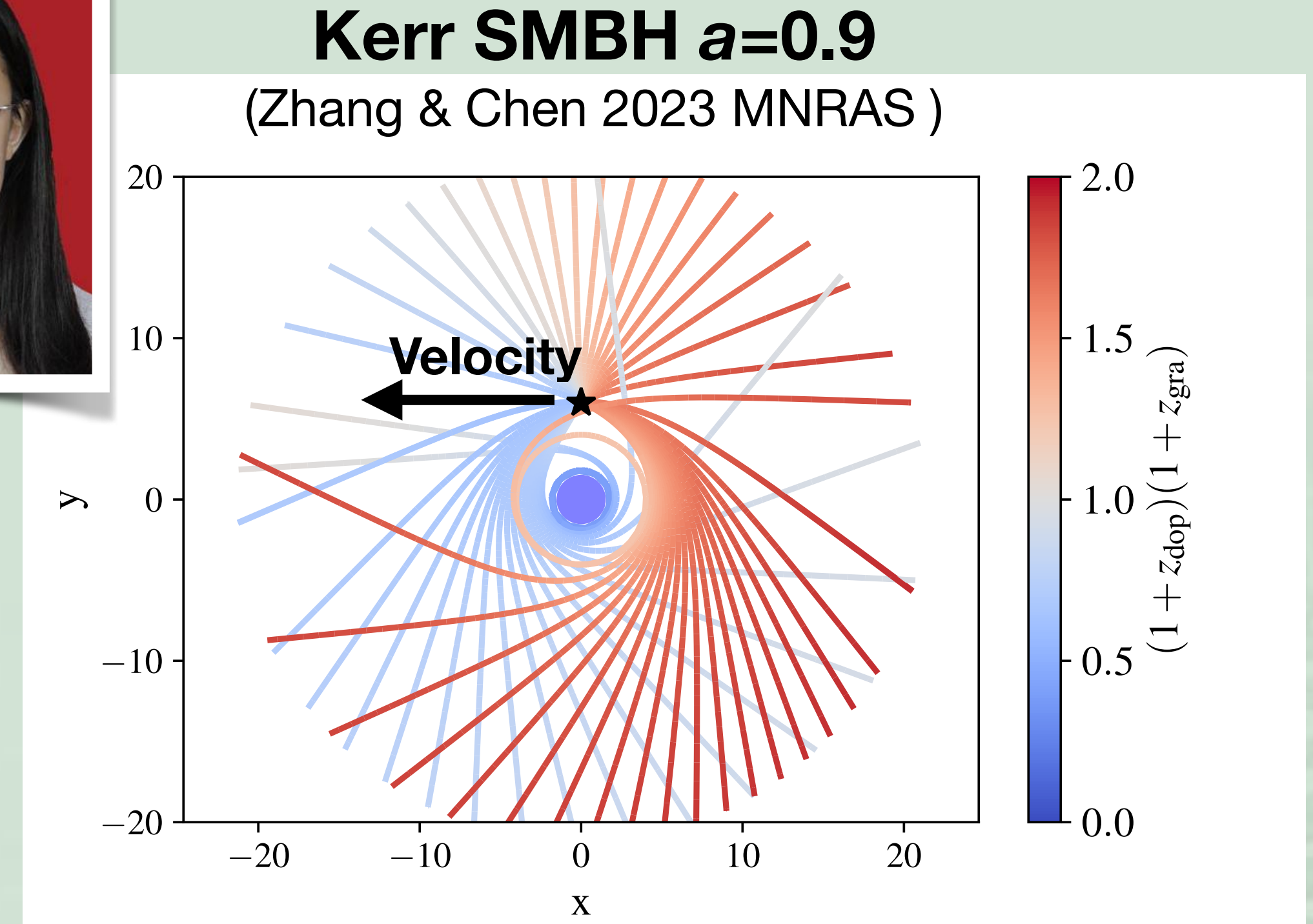
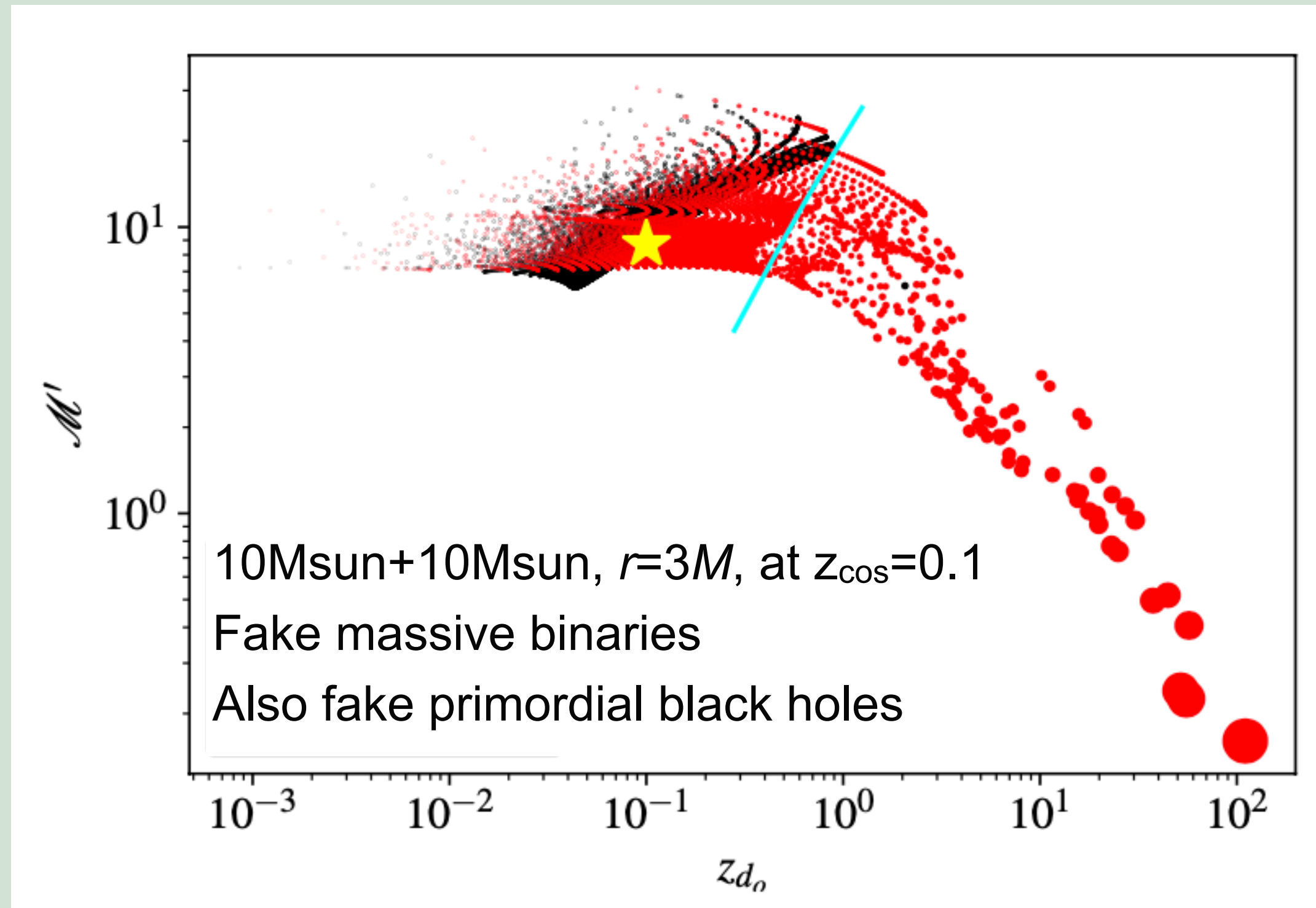
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∞ Light bending: focused and de-focused rays

∞ Affect amplitude and distance measurement

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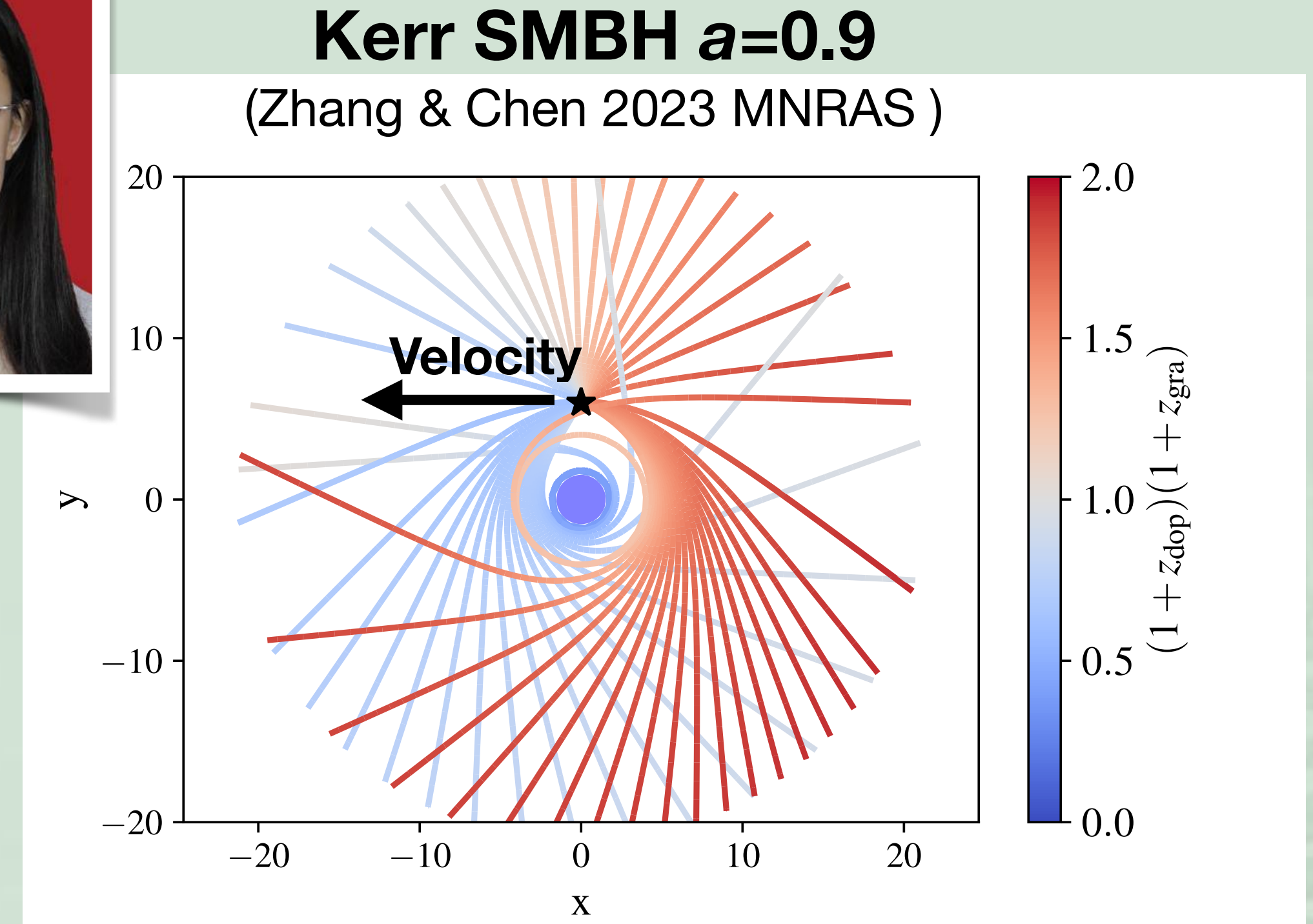
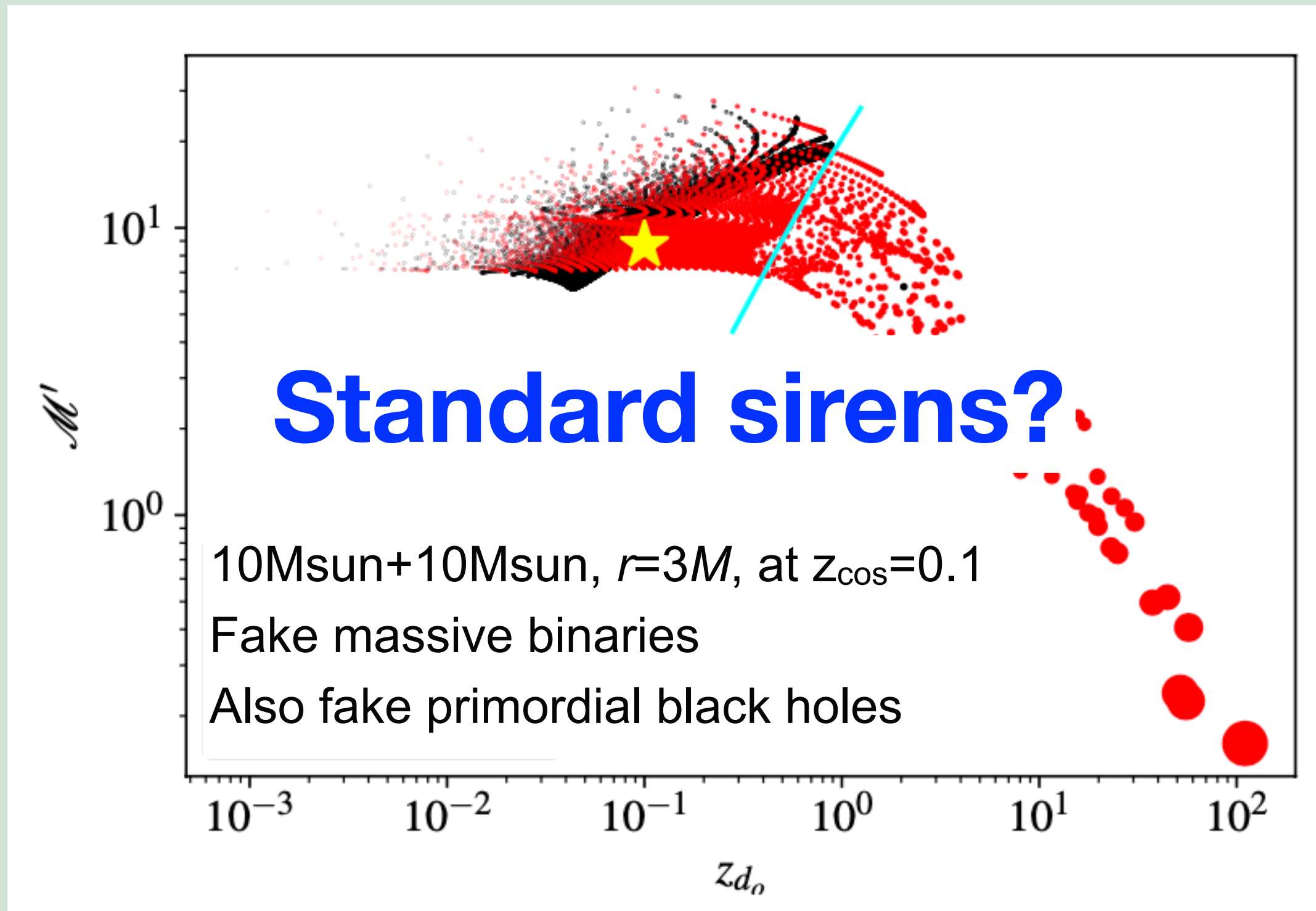
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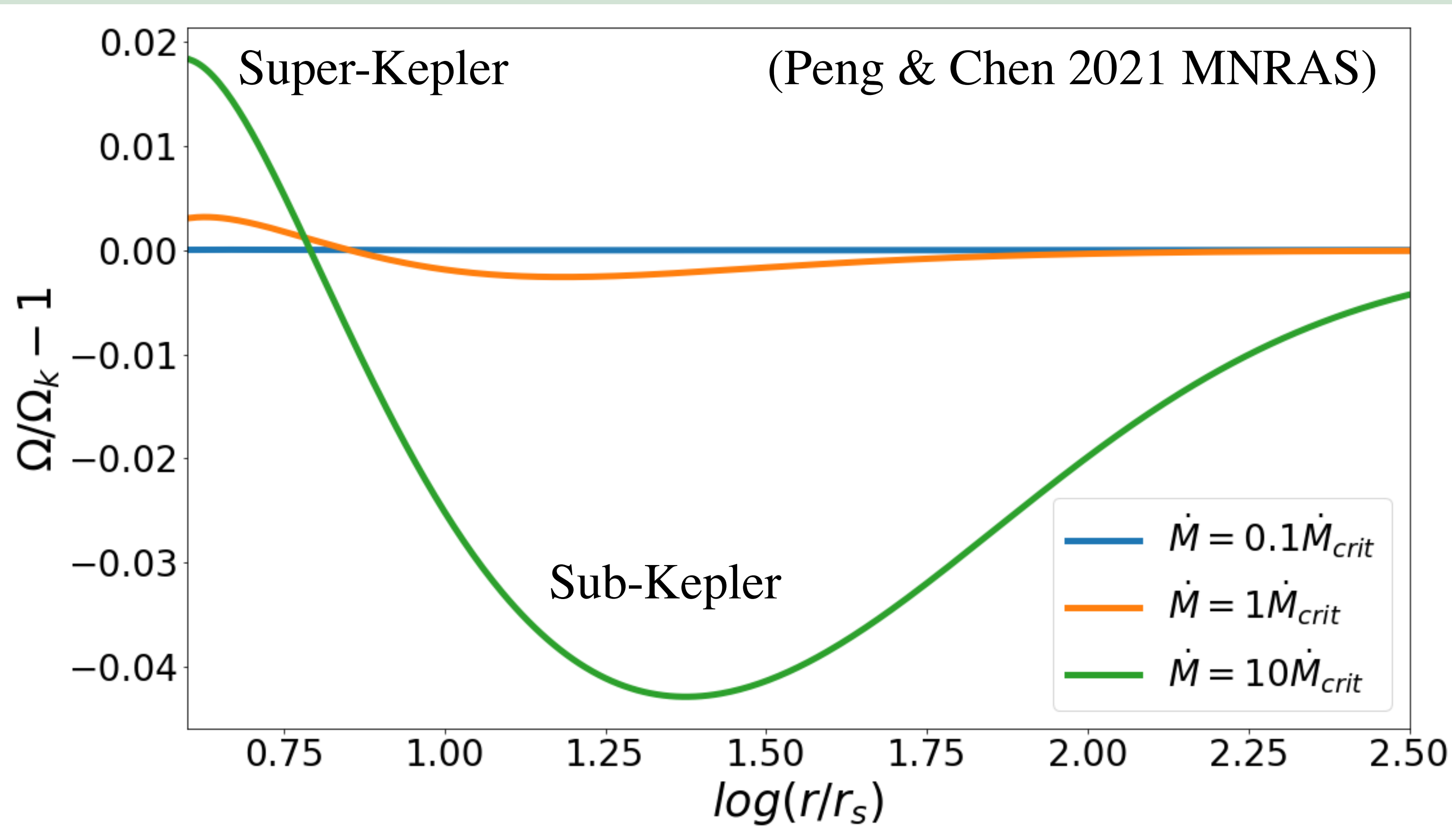
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Migration trap close to SMBH

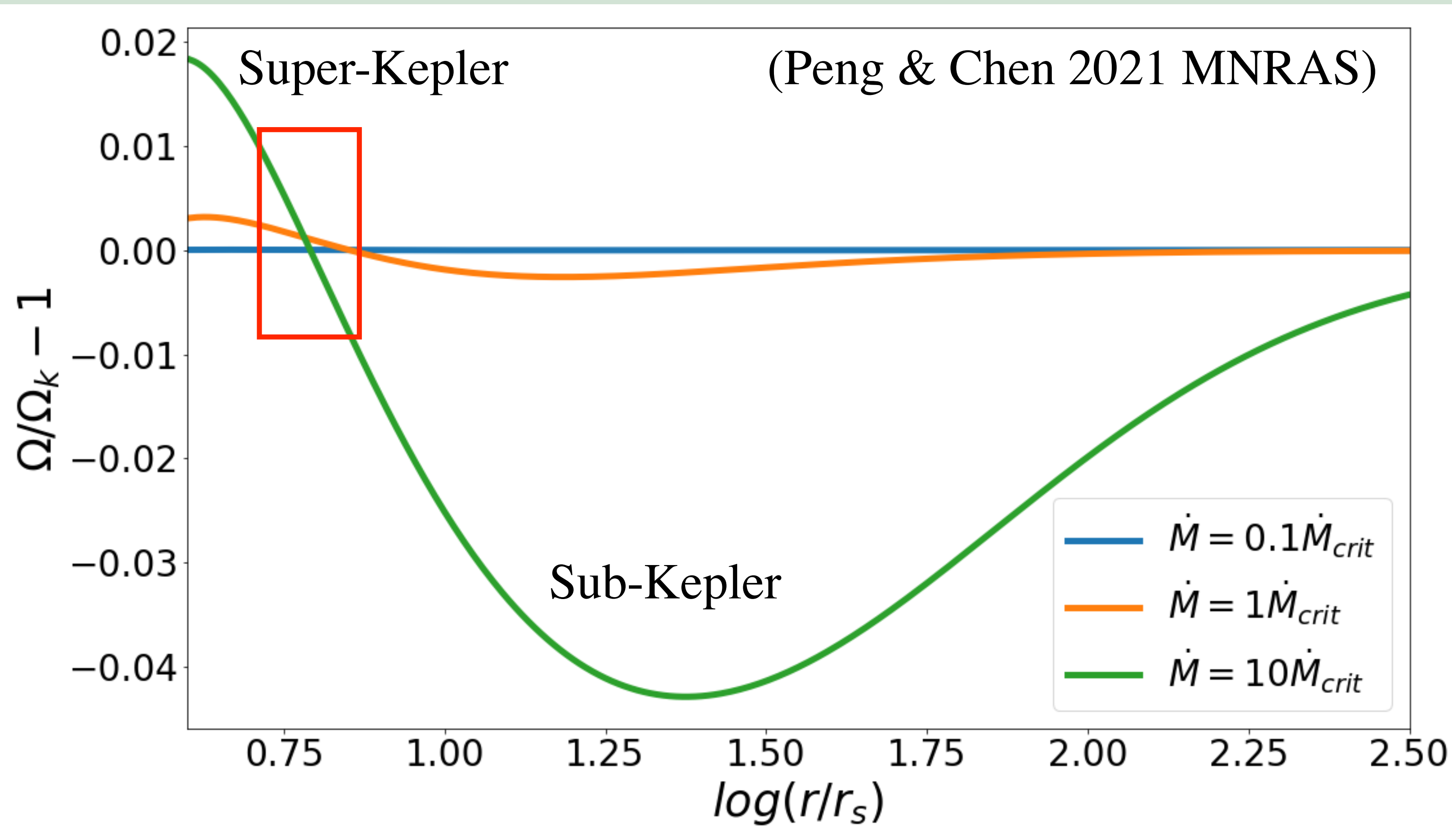


QSO disk has a super- to sub-Keplerian transition region

(Early works by Abramowicz et al. 1978;
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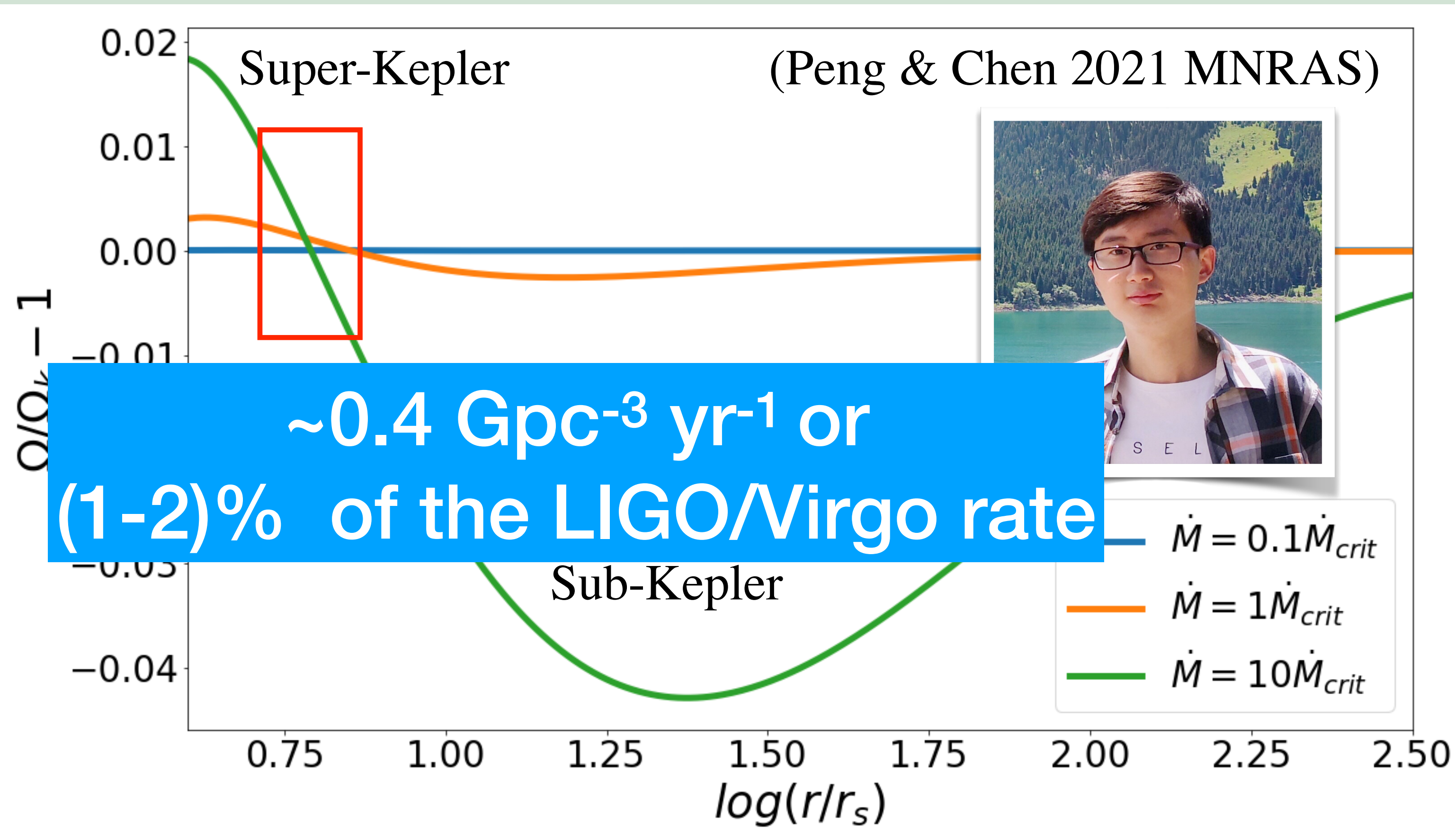


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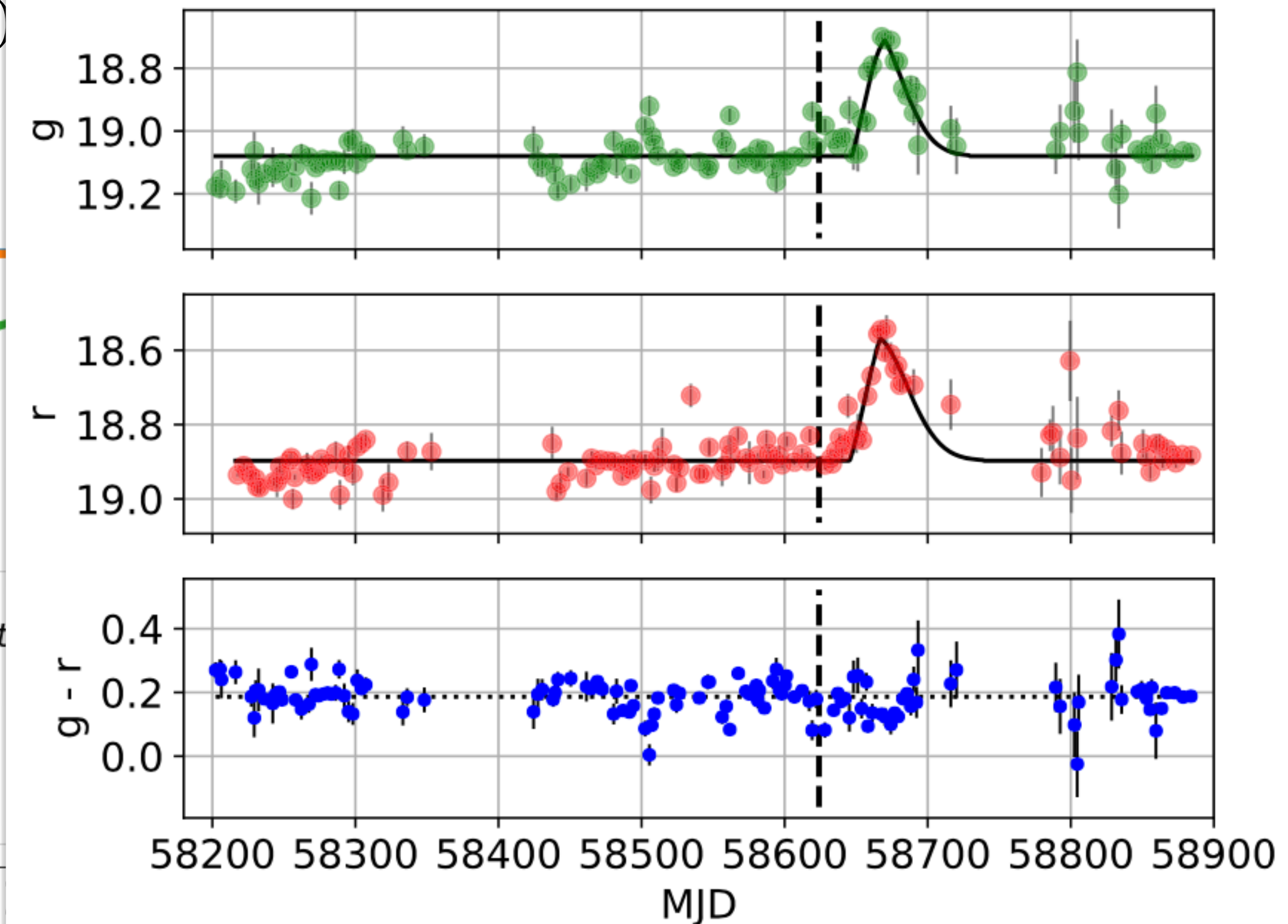
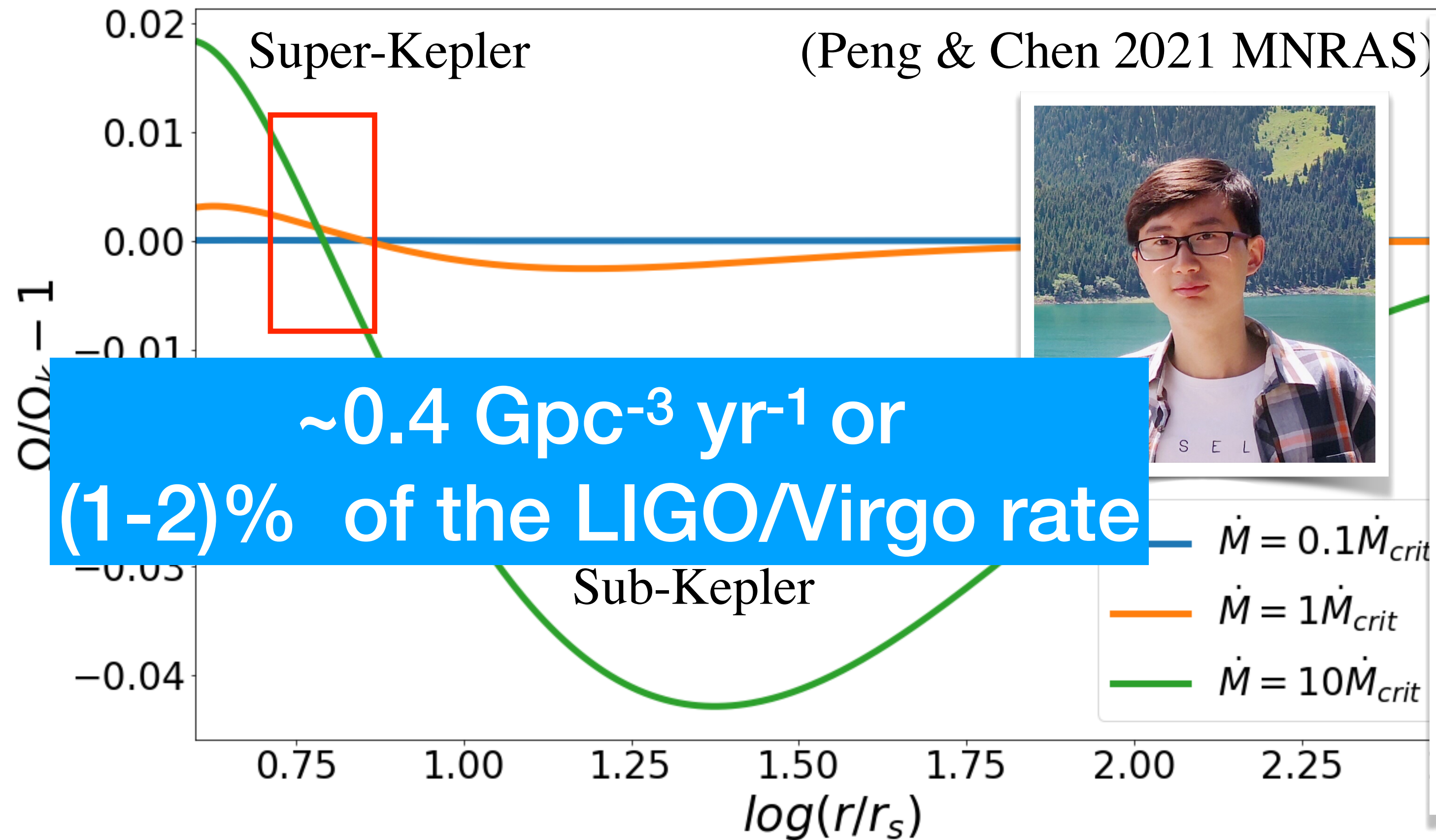


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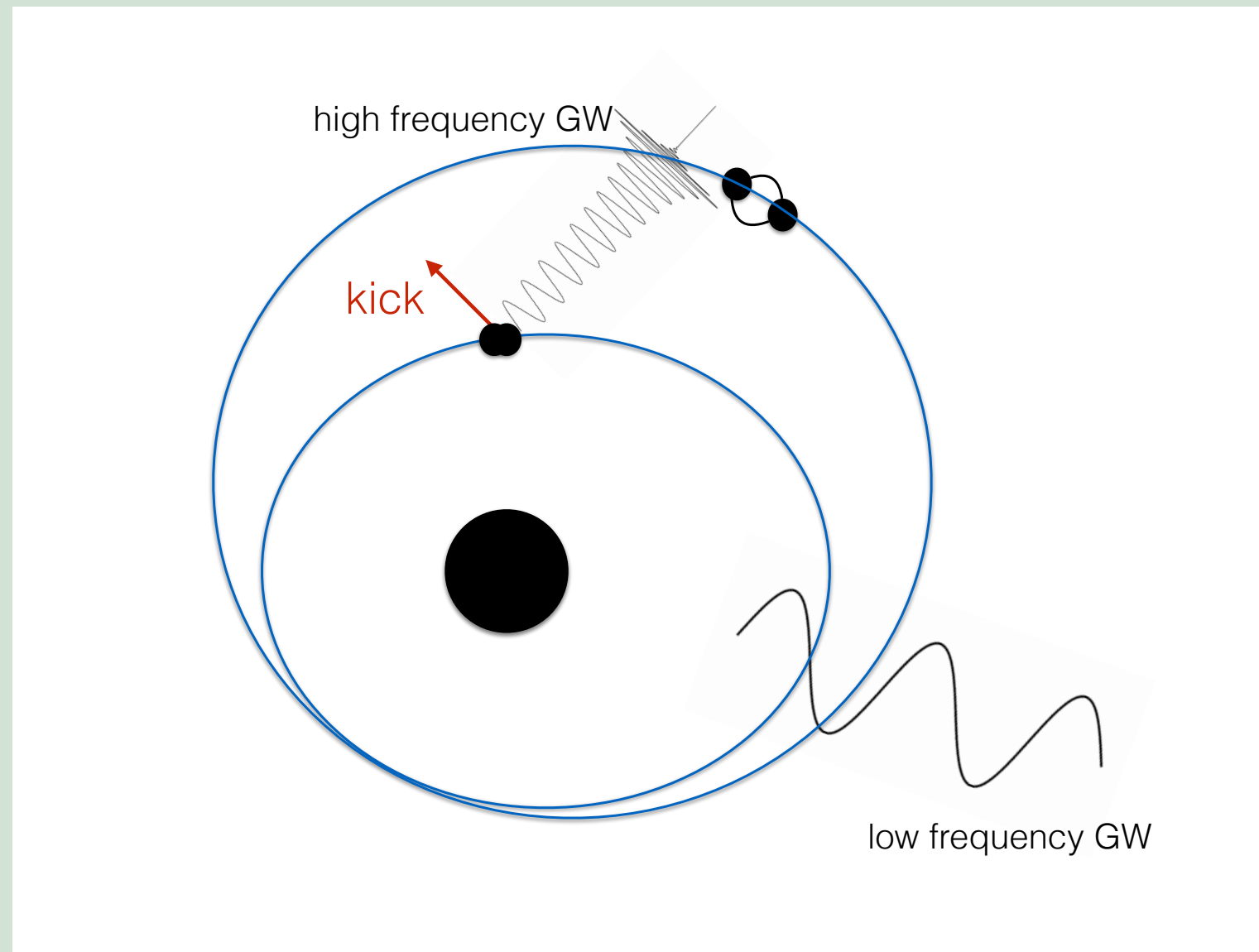
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GW190521: 91+67 Msun

- $d_{GW}=4.5 \text{ Gpc}$ (Abbott+20)
- $d_{EM}=2.2 \text{ Gpc}$ (S190521g, Graham+20)
- $(1+z_{dop})(1+z_{gra})=2$
- See Graham+22 for more candidates₅

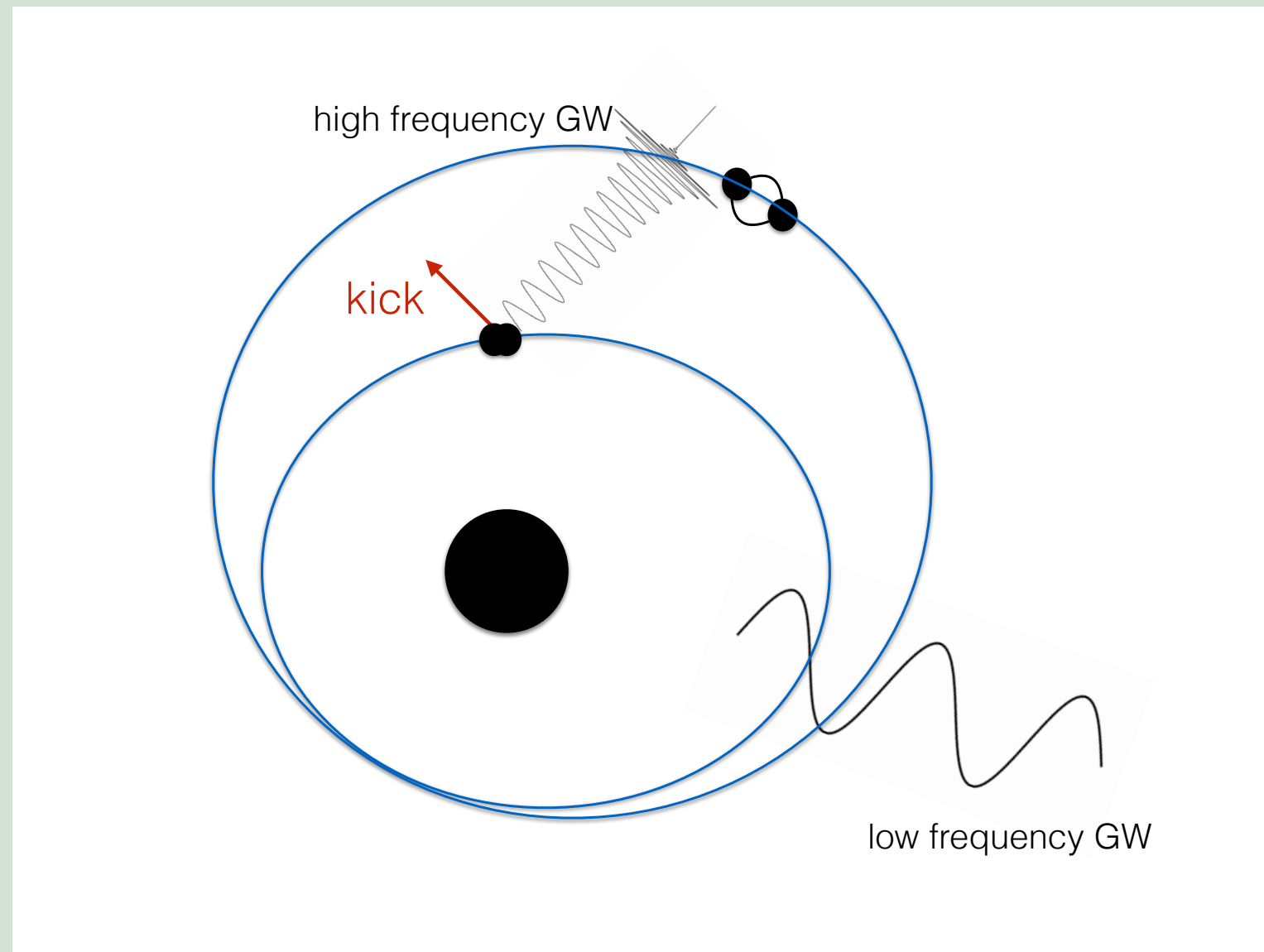
Signatures from relativistic three-body dynamics

- ~~Post-Newtonian formalism~~ (high velocities)
- ~~Full numerical relativity~~ (dynamical range: $M/m \sim 10^{6-7}$)



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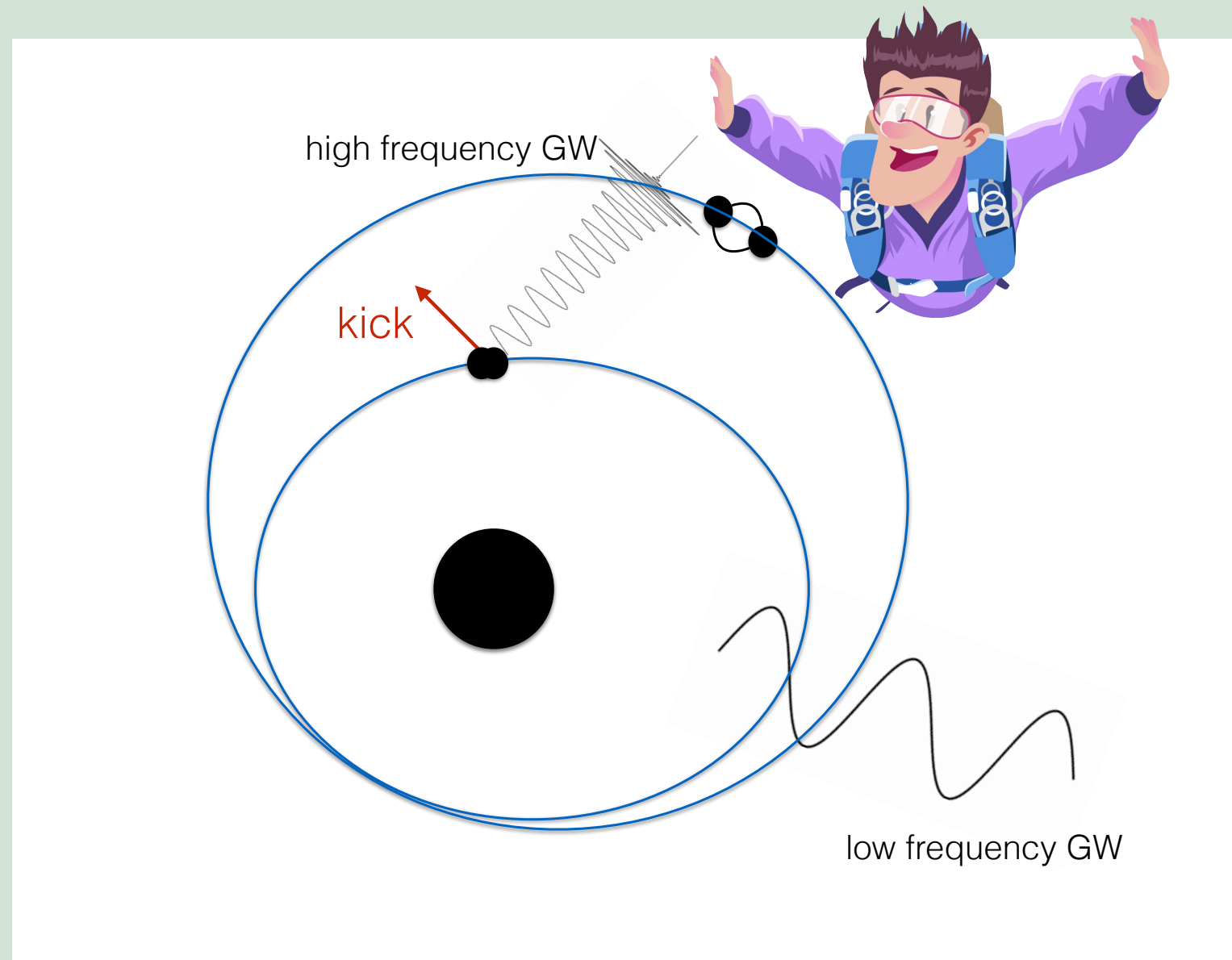


- Simple dynamics in the free-fall frame:
 - Gravity of the SMBH almost “disappears”
 - Binary (10^4 - 10^5 km) feels small curvature (**gravity-electromagnetic forces**)
 - Chen & Zhang 2022 PRD, also see Camilloni+2023; Maeda+23



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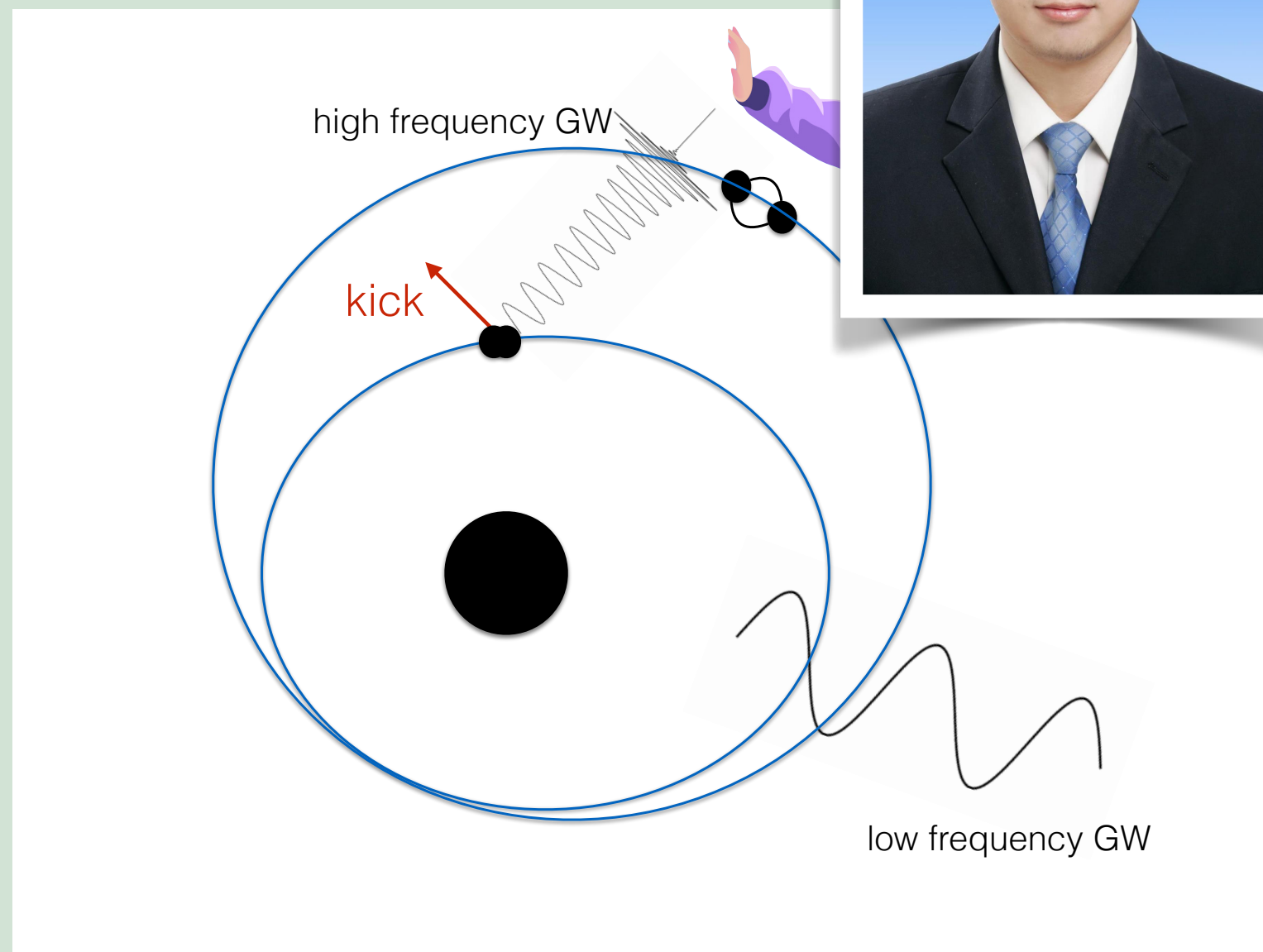
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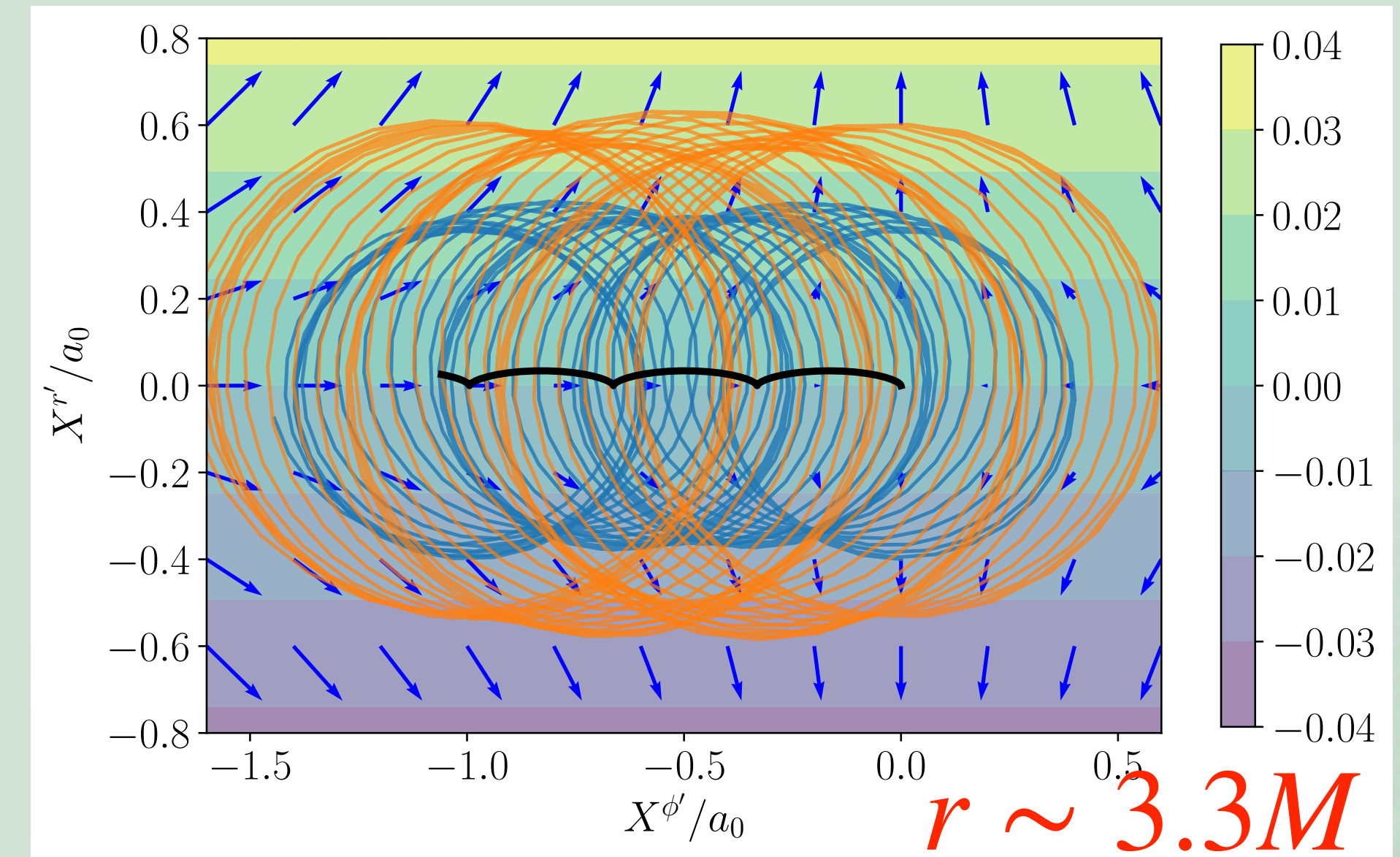
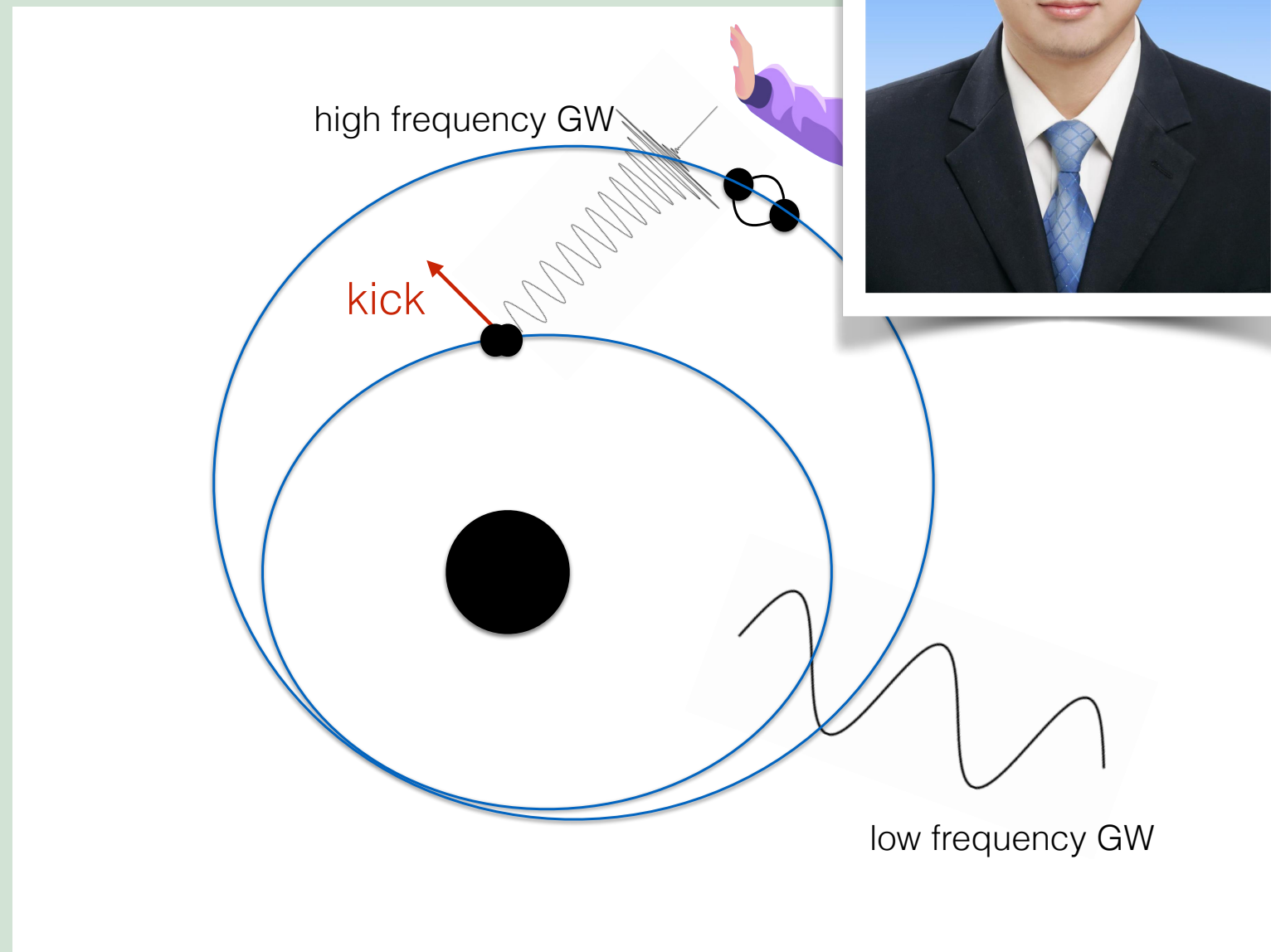


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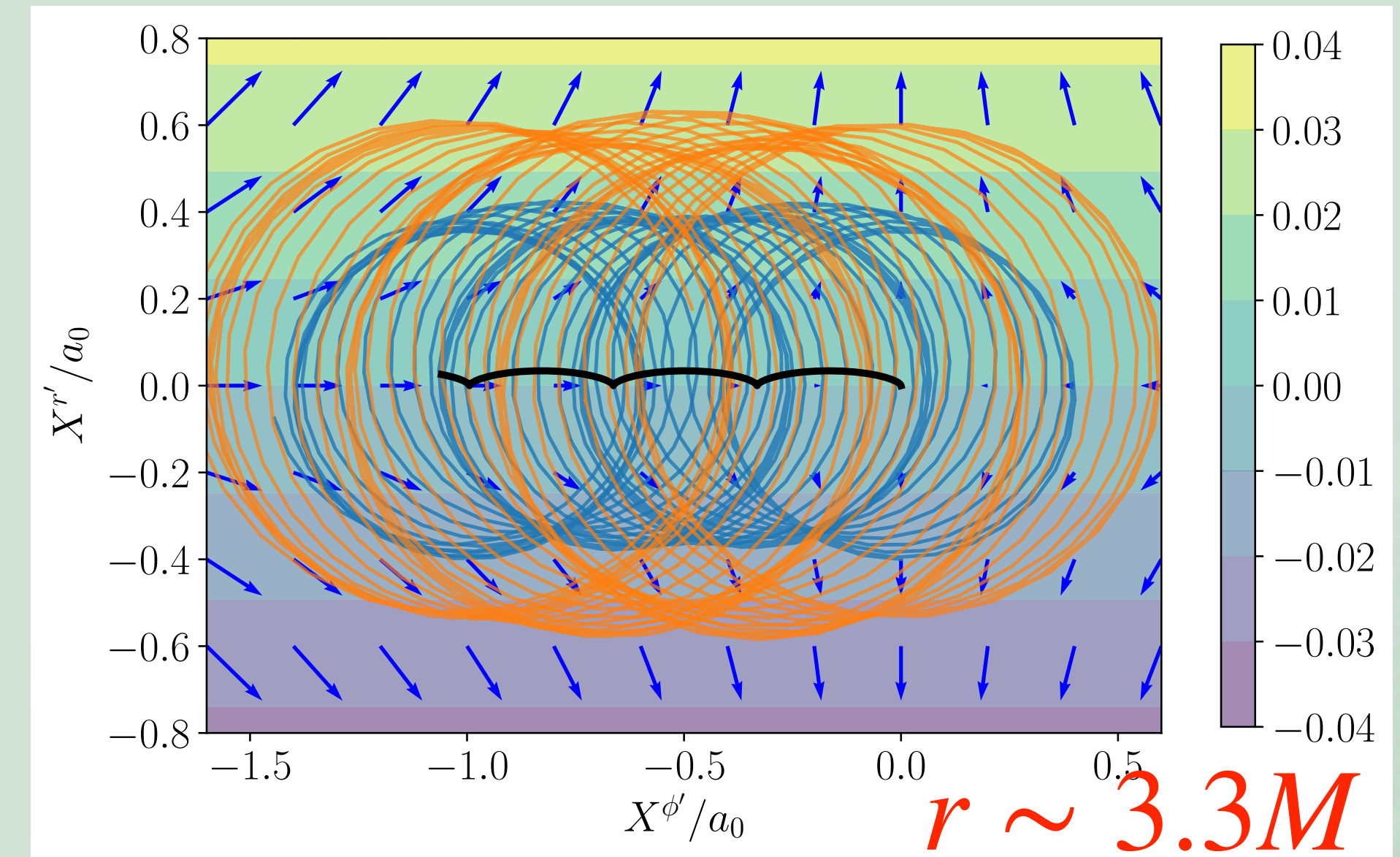
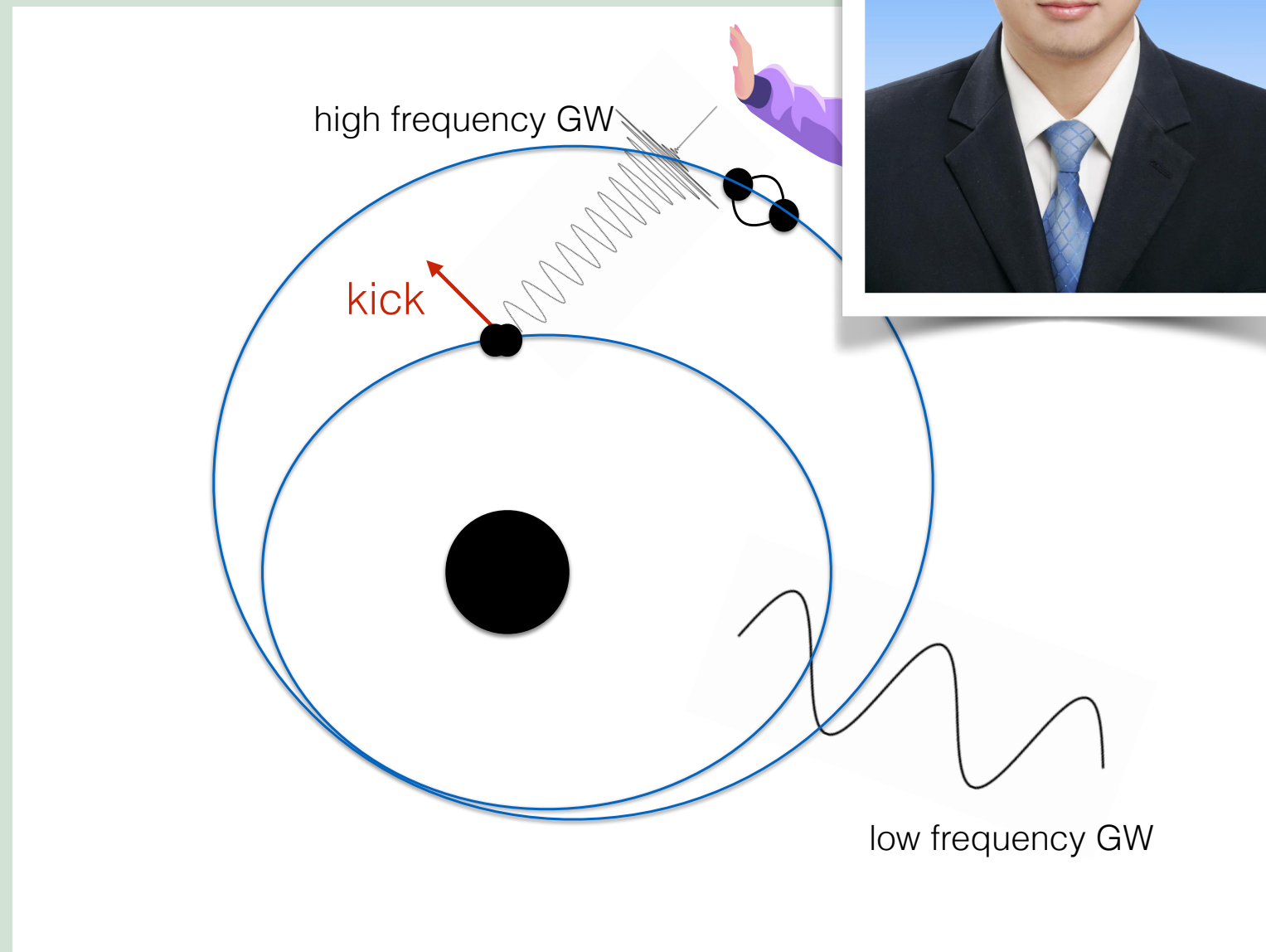
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- Simple dynamics in the free-fall frame:
 - Gravity of the SMBH almost “disappears”
 - Binary (10^{4-5} km) feels small curvature (**gravity-electromagnetic forces**)
 - Chen & Zhang 2022 PRD, also see Camilloni+2023; Maeda+23

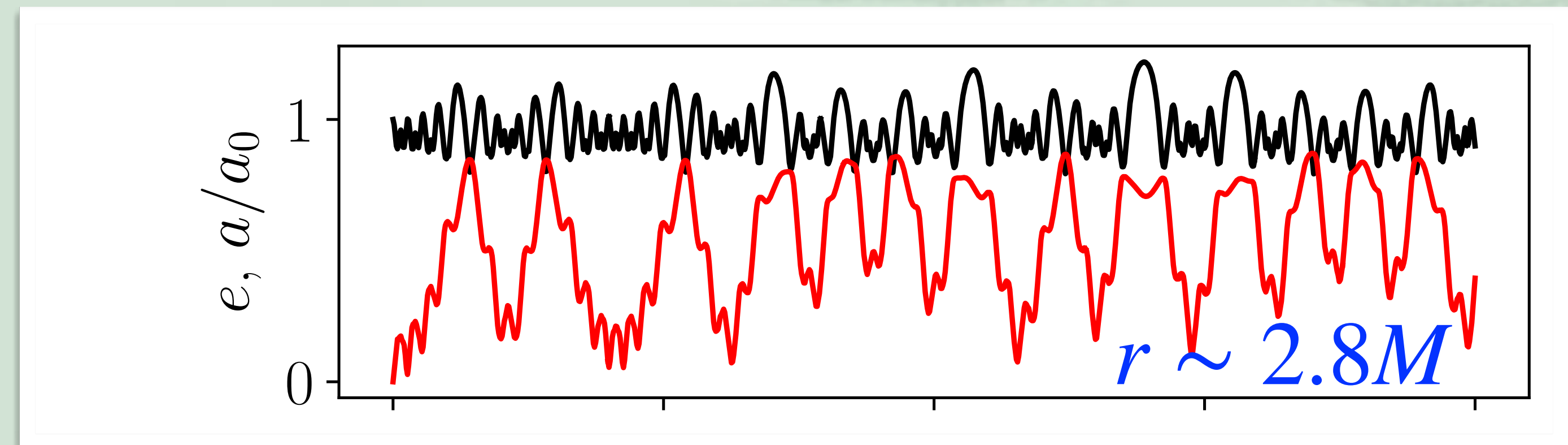
Signatures from relativistic three-body dynamics

- ~~Post-Newtonian form~~ (velocities)
- ~~Full numerical relativistic~~ (typical range: $M/m \sim 10^6-7$)



- Concentric circles in previous works

- Simple dynamics in the free-fall frame:
 - Gravity of the SMBH almost “disappears”
 - Binary (10^4-5 km) feels small curvature (**gravity-electromagnetic forces**)
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- Significant eccentricity evolution
- **Why BBHs merge only at small distances.**

Summary



Summary

- Astrophysical environments (like a nearby SMBH) affect GW signals



Summary

- Astrophysical environments (like a nearby SMBH) affect GW signals
- Change apparent mass and distance
 - ∞ Mislead our understanding of the origin of BHs
 - ∞ Wrong cosmology
 - ∞ **Distinguish environmental effects using GWs?** (e.g. Kocsis 2013; Barausse+2014; Bonvin+2017; Inayoshi+2017; Meiron+2017; Fedrow+2017; Derdzinski+2019; Liu+2019; Fang, XC, Huang 2019; Torres-Orjuela, XC, et al. 2019, 2020; D'Orazio & Loeb 2020; Yu & Chen 2021; Gondán & Kocsis 2022; Oancea+2022; Zwick+2023...)