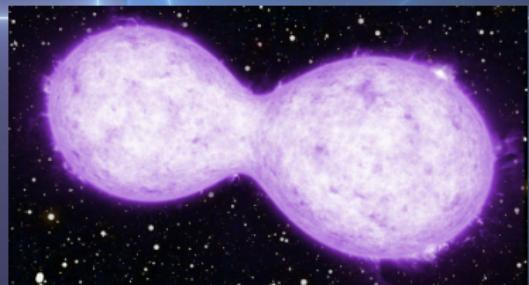


# Metal-poor massive stars

## The progenitors of gravitational waves

*Dorottya Szécsi*

Humboldt Fellow  
*University of Cologne*



Hamburger Sternwarte  
8th January 2020



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*

Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*



Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*



Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*

Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*

Undergrad research:  
GRBs  
*Masters in Physics.*  
(2012)

Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

# Who am I?

*Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi*

Undergrad research:  
GRBs

*Masters in Physics.*  
(2012)



Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**  
*PhD in Astrophysics.*  
(2016)  
Norbert Langer, Uni Bonn.

# Who am I?

## Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi

Undergrad research:  
GRBs

*Masters in Physics.*  
(2012)



Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**  
*PhD in Astrophysics.*  
(2016)  
Norbert Langer, Uni Bonn.

Humboldt Research Fellow  
(2019)  
Steffi Walch, SILCC group, Köln.  
(before: postdoc in Czech Republic  
& in the UK)



# Who am I?

## Dorottya (Dory) Szécsi

Undergrad research:  
GRBs

Masters in Physics.  
(2012)



Expert in  
**Metal-poor massive stars**

PhD in Astrophysics  
(2016)

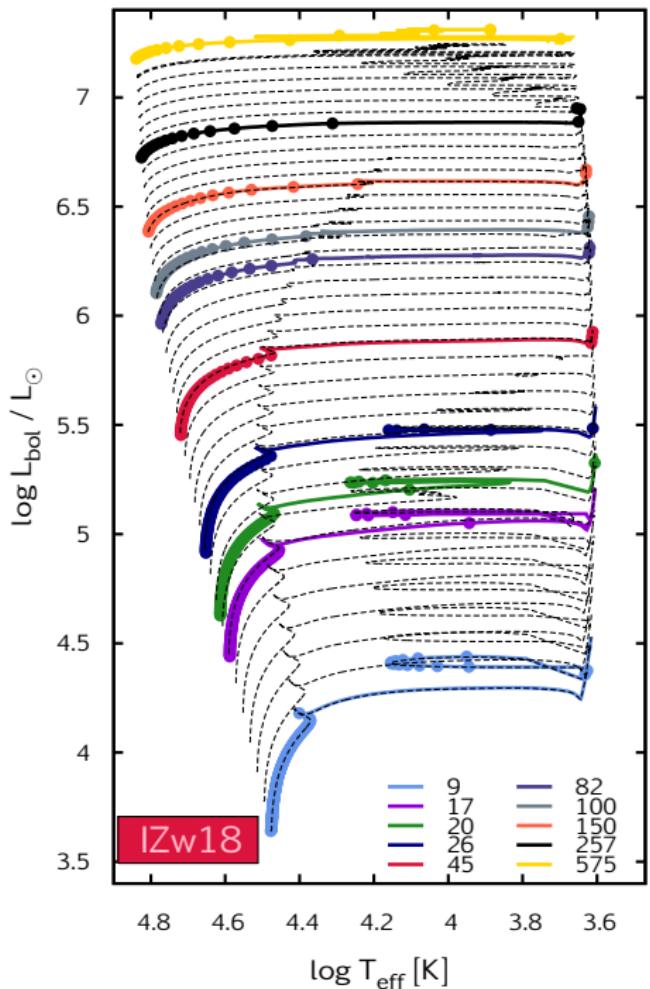
Norbert Langer, Uni Bonn.

Humboldt Research Fellow  
(2019)

Steffi Walch, SILCC group, Köln.  
(before: postdoc in Czech Republic  
& in the UK)



*Stellar evolution!*



Humboldt Research Fellow  
(2019)  
Steffi Walch, SILCC group, Köln.  
(before: postdoc in Czech Republic  
& in the UK)

Expert in  
Metal-poor massive stars  
D in Astrophysics  
(2016)  
Robert Langer, Uni Bonn.

Stellar evolution!

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



e.g. Vigna-Gómez..Szécsi+18; Szécsi'17a,b; Szécsi&Wünsch'19

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors

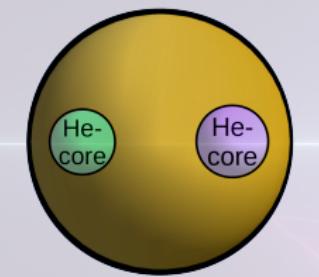
Common envelope  
in a binary

Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

Dynamics in  
dense clusters

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



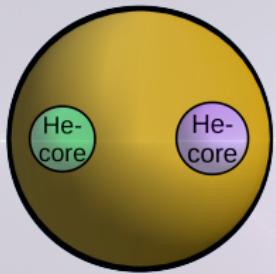
Common envelope  
in a binary

Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

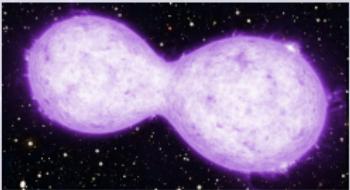
Dynamics in  
dense clusters

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary

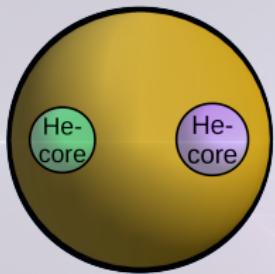


Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

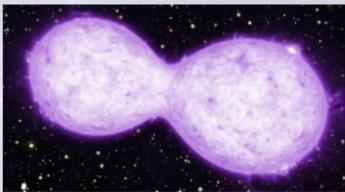
Dynamics in  
dense clusters

# 3 GW progenitor theories

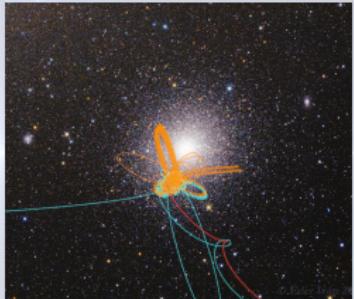
Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary

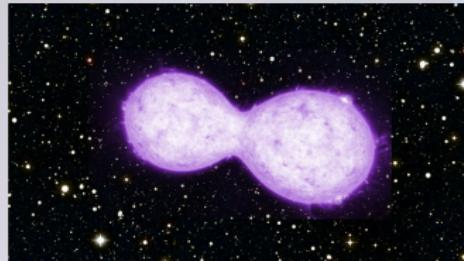


Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary



Dynamics in  
dense clusters

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW



e.g. Szécsi'17a

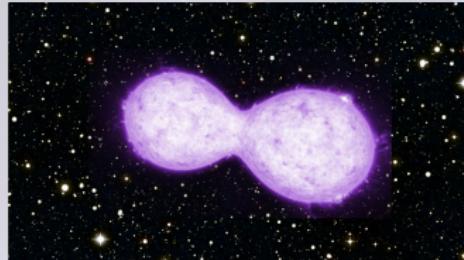
Szécsi'17b

Bagoly,Szécsi+16

Marchant+16,17

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life



Massive binaries

e.g. Szécsi'17a

Szécsi'17b

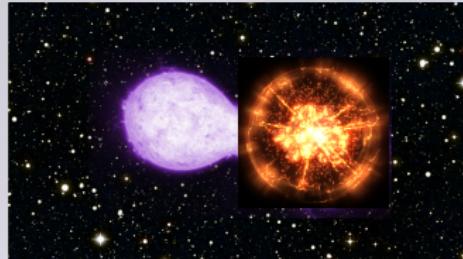
Bagoly,Szécsi+16

Marchant+16,17

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life

Death



Massive binaries

Explosions

e.g. [Szécsi'17a](#)

[Szécsi'17b](#)

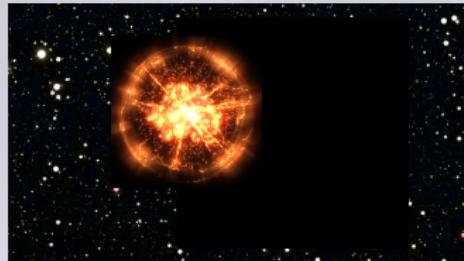
Bagoly, [Szécsi+16](#)

Marchant+16,17

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life

Death



Massive binaries

Explosions

e.g. Szécsi'17a

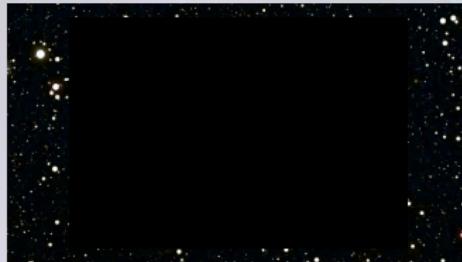
Szécsi'17b

Bagoly,Szécsi+16

Marchant+16,17

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life



Massive binaries

Death

Explosions

Afterlife

2 Black Holes  
(or Neutron Stars)

e.g. Szécsi'17a

Szécsi'17b

Bagoly,Szécsi+16

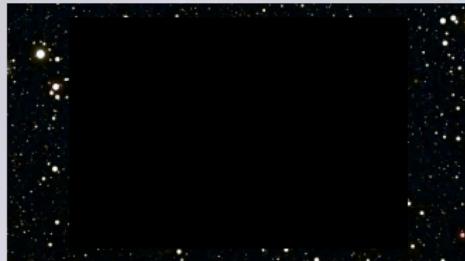
Marchant+16,17

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life

Death

Afterlife



Massive binaries

Explosions

2 Black Holes  
(or Neutron Stars)

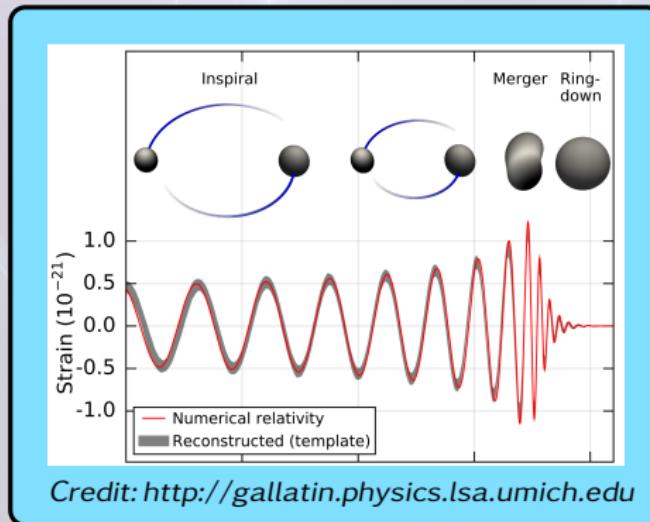
'Second  
death'

e.g. Szécsi'17a

Szécsi'17b

Bagoly, Szécsi+16

Marchant+16,17



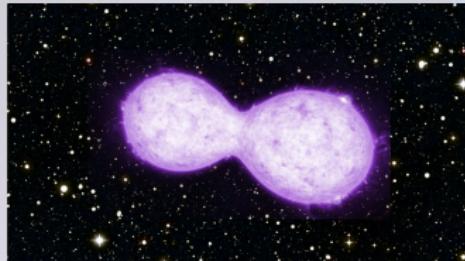
Merger

# Chemically homogeneous evolution → GW

Life

Death

Afterlife



Massive binaries

Explosions

2 Black Holes  
(or Neutron Stars)

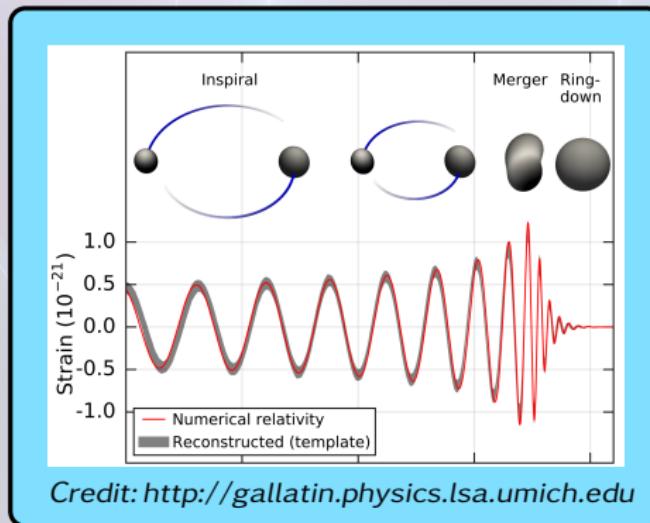
'Second  
death'

e.g. Szécsi'17a

Szécsi'17b

Bagoly, Szécsi+16

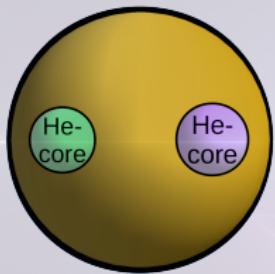
Marchant+16,17



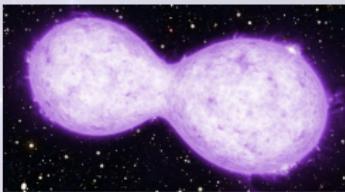
Merger

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary



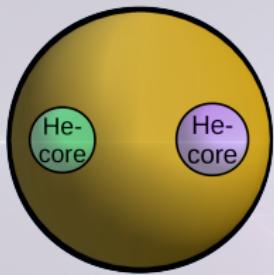
Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary



Dynamics in  
dense clusters

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary



Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

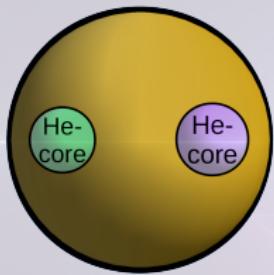
**low Z massive stars**



Dynamics in  
dense clusters

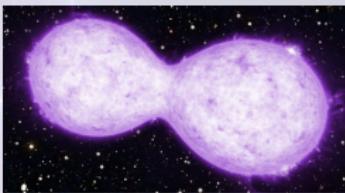
# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary

**low Z massive stars**



Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

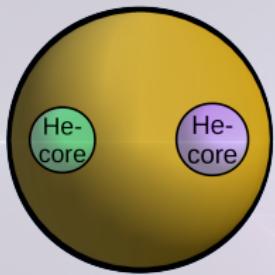


Dynamics in  
dense clusters

**low Z...**

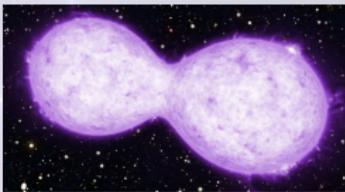
# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors

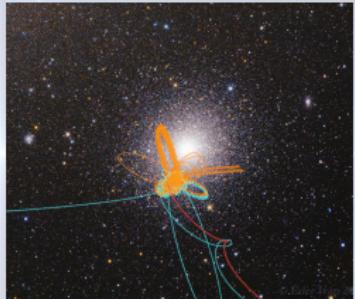


Common envelope  
in a binary

**low Z massive stars**



Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

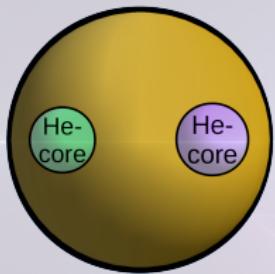


Dynamics in  
dense clusters

**low Z...  
massive?? stars**

# 3 GW progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common envelope  
in a binary

**low Z massive stars**



Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary

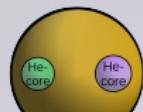


Dynamics in  
dense clusters

**low Z...  
massive?? stars**

# Progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Common  
envelope  
in a binary



Chemically-  
homogeneous  
evolution  
in a binary



Dynamics in  
dense  
clusters

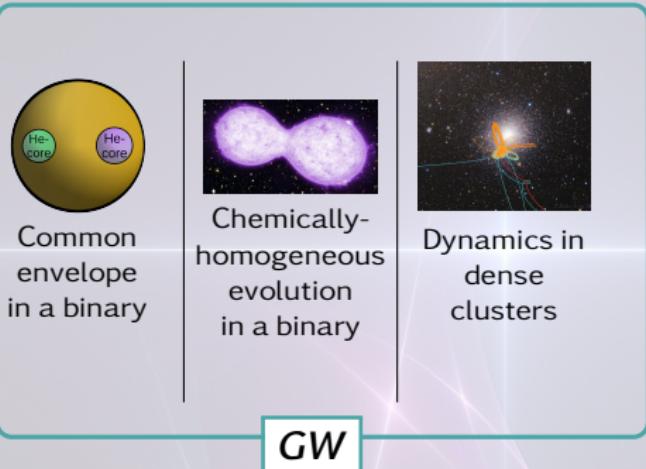
Metal-poor massive stars

GW

e.g. Vigna-Gómez..Szécsi+18; Szécsi'17a,b; Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi'16;  
Neijssel..Szécsi+19; Stevenson..Szécsi+19;

# Progenitor theories

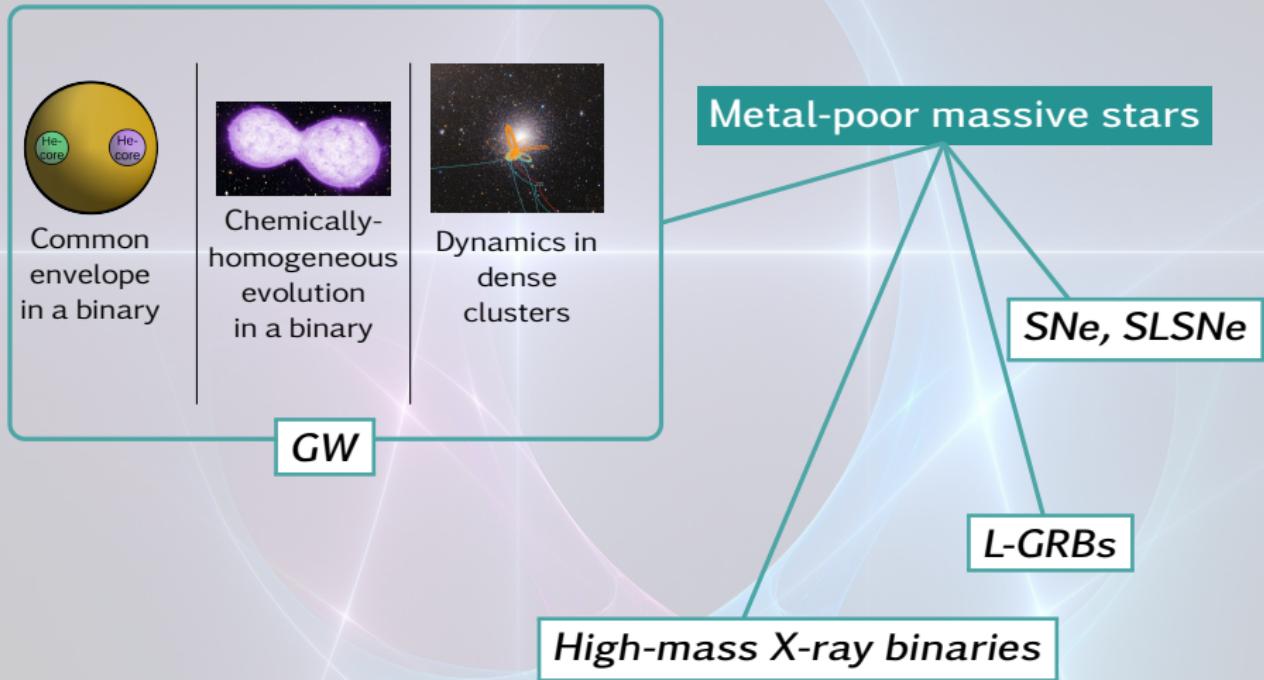
Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



e.g. Vigna-Gómez..Szécsi+18; Szécsi'17a,b; Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi'16;  
Neijssel..Szécsi+19; Stevenson..Szécsi+19;

# Progenitor theories

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



e.g. Vigna-Gómez..Szécsi+18; Szécsi'17a,b; Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi'16;  
Neijssel..Szécsi+19; Stevenson..Szécsi+19;

*However...*

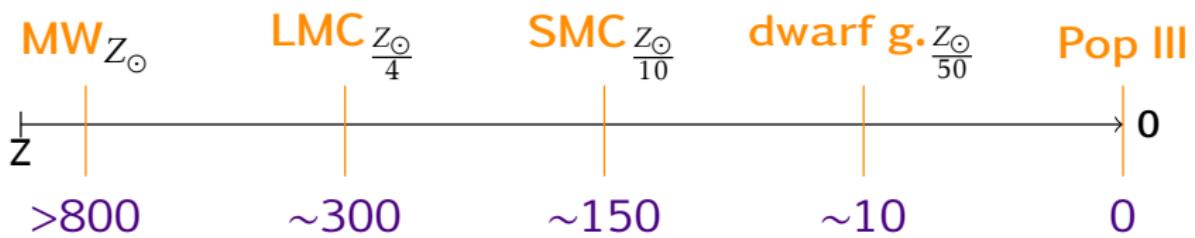
# Are these stars observed?

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



# Are these stars observed?

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors

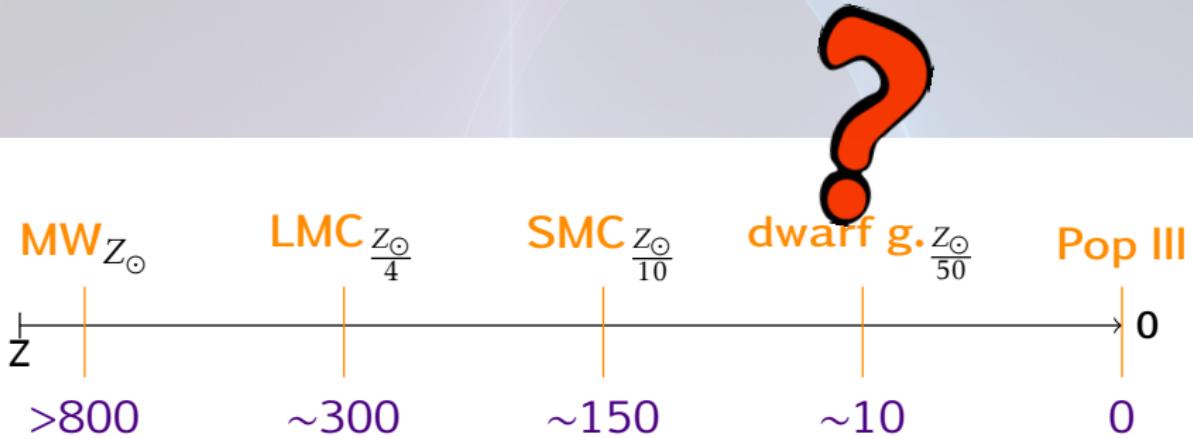


spectroscopy  
(i.e. direct evidence)

e.g. Castro+14,+18, Ramírez-Agudelo+17, Kubátová&Szécsi+18

# Are these stars observed?

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



spectroscopy  
(i.e. direct evidence)

GW progenitor theories...

e.g. Castro+14,+18, Ramírez-Agudelo+17, Kubátová&Szécsi+18

Indirect evidence!

# My current research

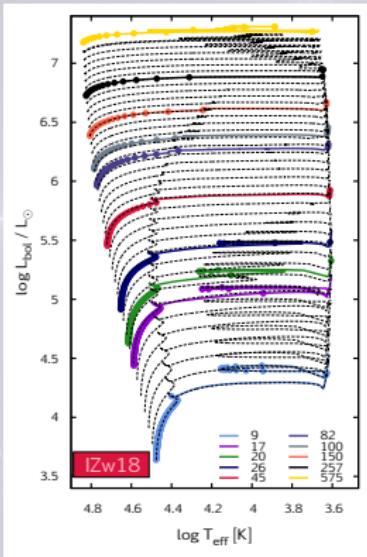
Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Kubátová&Szécsi+18 Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi+20 (in prep.);

# My current research

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



# My current research

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Kubátová&Szécsi+18 Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi+20 (in prep.);

# My current research

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Kubátová & Szécsi+18 Szécsi & Wünsch'19; Szécsi+20 (in prep.);

# My current research

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Kubátová&Szécsi+18 Szécsi&Wünsch'19; Szécsi+20 (in prep.);

# My current research

Dorottya Szécsi:  
Metal-poor massive stars  
– GW progenitors



Indirect evidence  
= a *population* of  
stars