

# Gravitational-wave progenitors

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Lecture #12

**NCU, Summer Semester 2022**

*Previously  
on GW-progenitors...*

# Let's play!

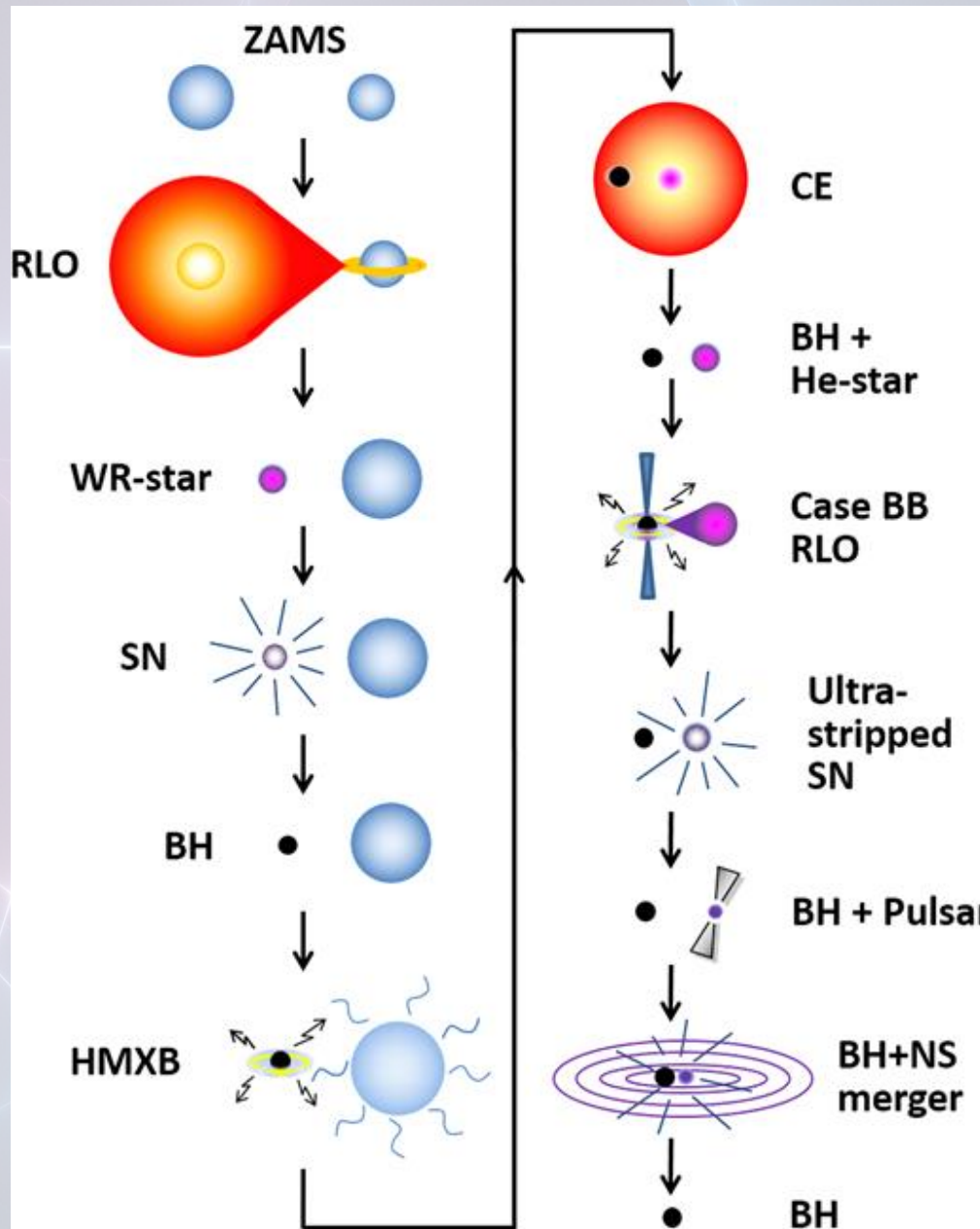
Zero-age Main Seq.

Roche-lobe overflow:  
stable mass transfer

Wolf-Rayet star  
(naked He-star with  
strong emission lines)

Supernova may kick out  
the companion! Survival  
rate?

Accreting black hole:  
High-Mass X-ray Binary  
(observed: periodic  
pulsations in X-rays)



Common Envelope!



Probably a HMXB?

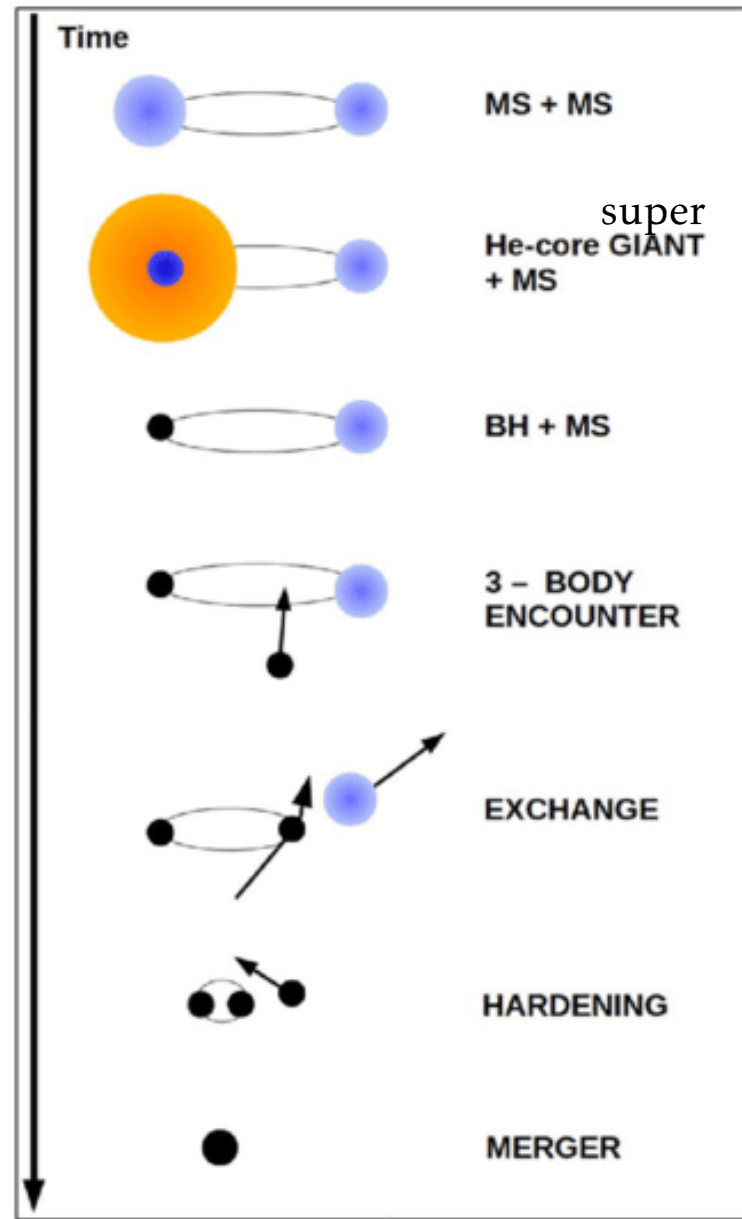
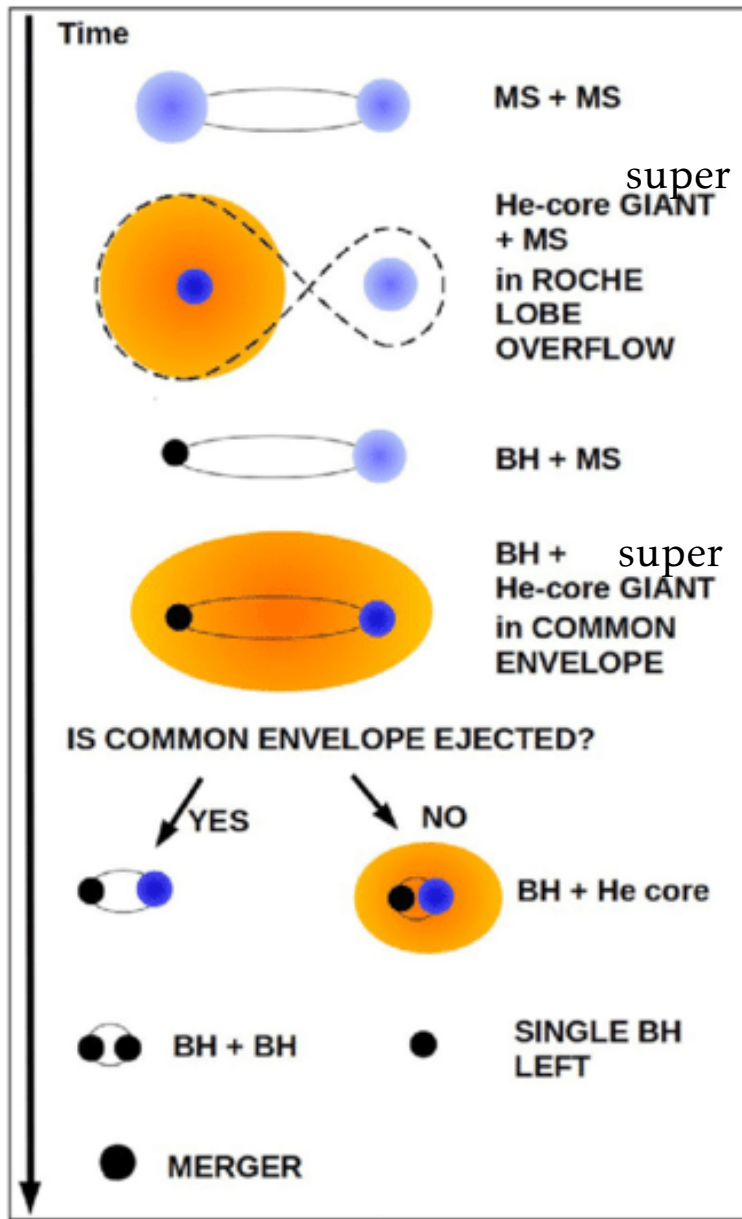
Stripped = type Ib  
Ultra-stripped = type Ic

(Pulsar: a rotating,  
magnetized neutron star)

**GRAV. WAVES!!!**

*Credit: Kruckow+18*

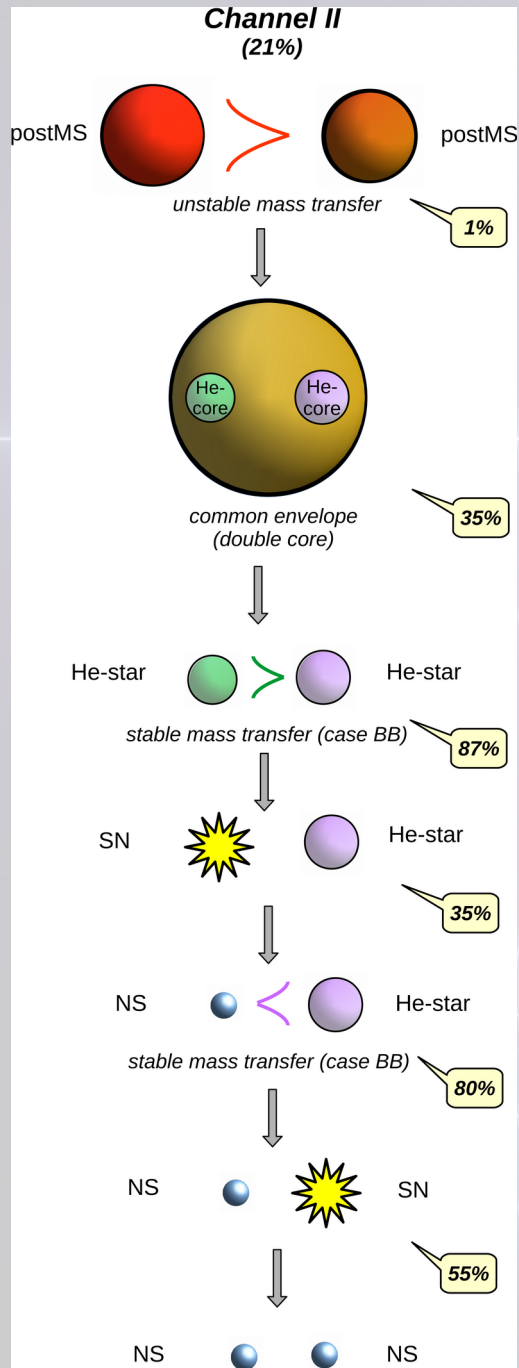
# Some other scenarios...



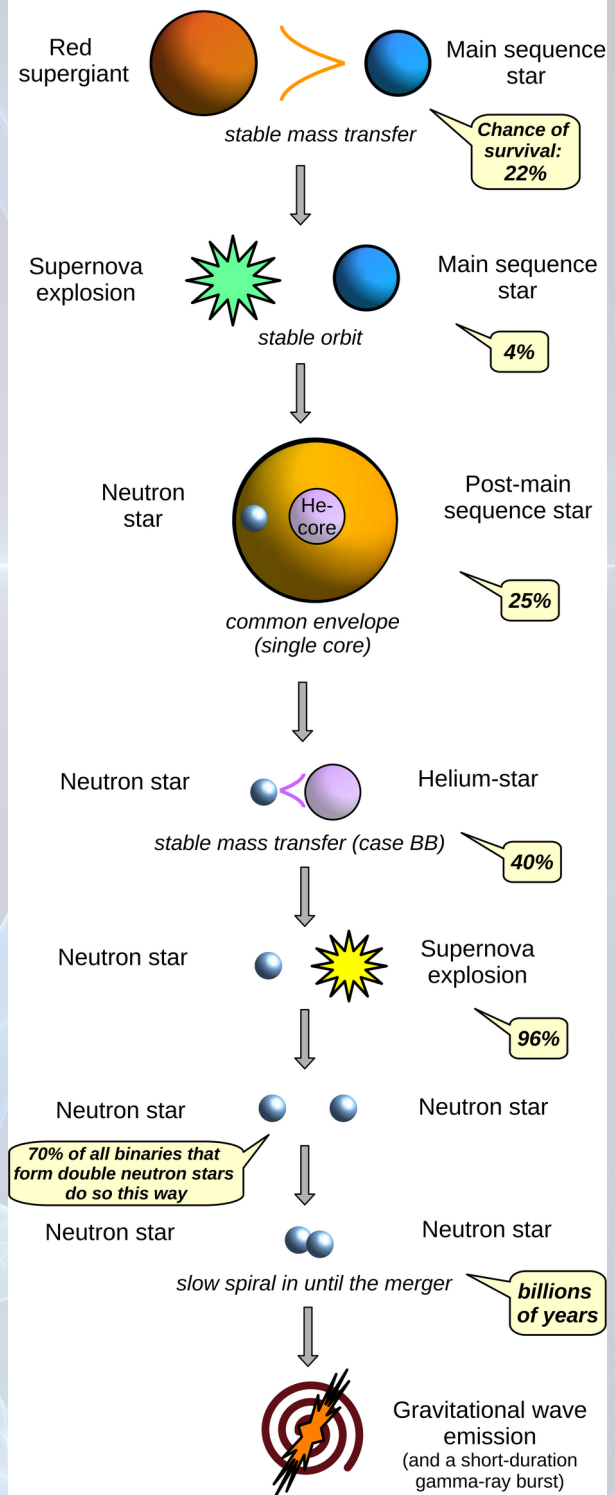
a triple!

= orbit shrinks

# There are more... :D



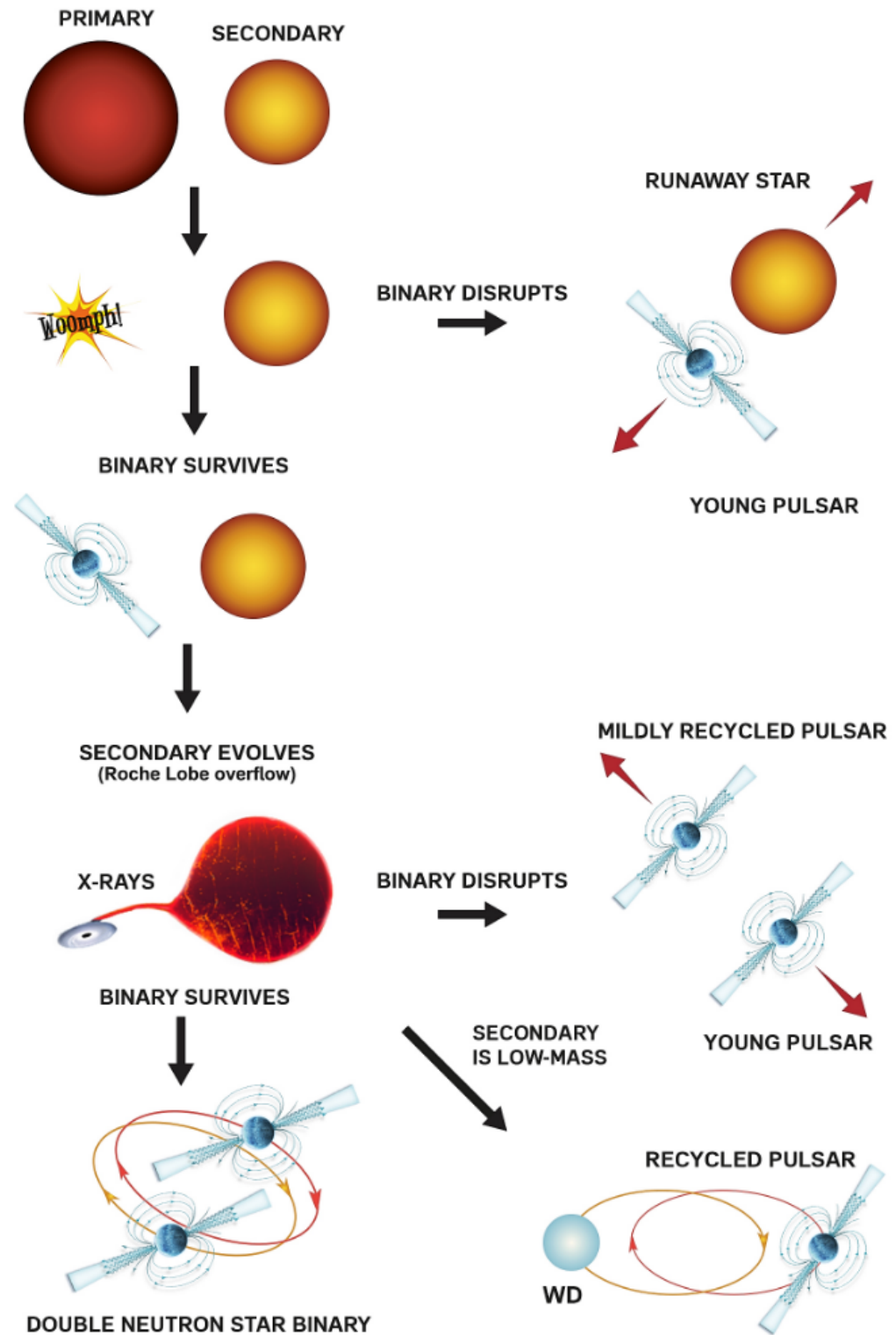
## How a binary star system can lead to a gravitational wave event



Credit: Vigna-Gomez+18

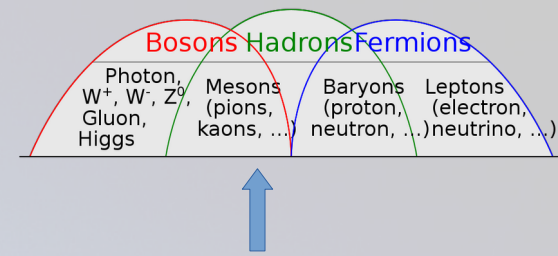
# And even more...

This one makes it clear that there are various outcomes based on the SN kick.



*Credit: Alice Froll*

# Degeneracy

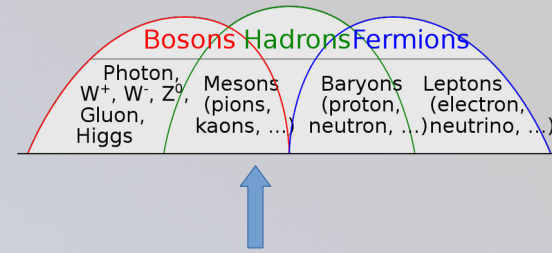


remember:  $\gamma$  is a boson

- Imagine: plasma (of fermions, i.e.:  $e^-$ ,  $p^+$ ,  $n^0$  ...)
  - at normal densities: thermal pressure (ideal gas)
  - let's cool it and compress it repeatedly!
  - at some point, *Pauli exclusion principle* turns on
    - forbids the fermions to occupy identical quantum states
    - thus, if they are forced closer, they must be placed at different energy levels  $\rightarrow$  extra pressure (a *very* strong one)
- can happen to: only  $e^-$  (=WD) **or**  $p^+$  &  $n^0$  &  $e^-$  (=NS)

Funfact: degeneracy pressure depends only weakly on the temperature.  
Increasing the temperature of degenerate stars has a minor effect on the structure.

# Degeneracy



remember:  $\gamma$  is a boson

- Imagine: pl... ( $e^-, n^+, n^0 \dots$ )
  - at normal
  - let's cool
  - at some
  - forbid
  - thus, diffe
- can hap

**Reminder:** What are compact objects? stellar 'corpses' = remnants

- three main types:
  - white dwarf
  - neutron star
  - black hole
- other (speculative) degenerate stars:
  - quark star
  - preon star
  - boson star
  - ... (see e.g. Wikipedia)

**degenerate stars**

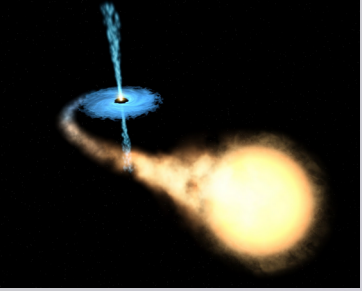
- WDs: electron degeneracy
  - nuclei (He/O/C/Ne/Mg) are *not* in degenerate state
- NSs: neutron degeneracy too

composition depends on mass (i.e. stellar evolution of the low-mass star in question)

degeneracy pressure  $\rightarrow$  **stability** against (self-)gravity

Funfact: degeneracy pressure depends only weakly on the temperature. Increasing the temperature of degenerate stars has a minor effect on the structure.





**HMXB** = High-mass X-ray binary

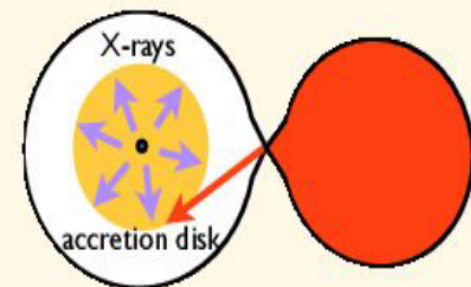
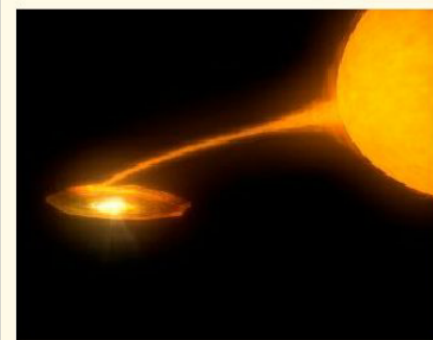
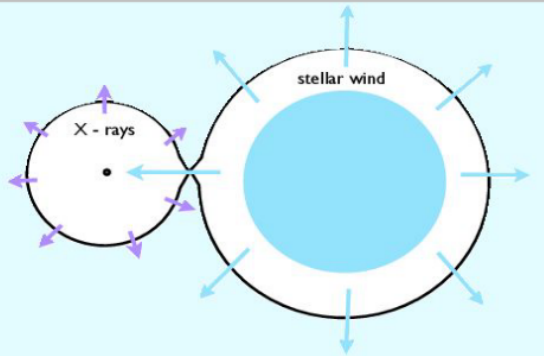
Observed:  
~ 200 LMXB in the MW  
some more in other gals.  
> 100 HMXB in MW  
e.g. *Cygnus X-1*

- sister object: LMXB = Low-mass X-ray binary
- X-rays are produced by the matter falling from the (stellar) companion to the NS or BH
  - if the companion is a low-mass star (or a WD): LMXB
  - if it's a massive star: HMXB
- Massive stars have strong winds! It contributes.

*periodic  
X-ray pulses*

**HMXB's**

**LMXB's**

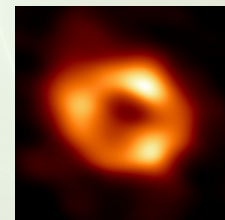


Credit: Palit 2020

# Microquasars

- basically HMXBs which also emit in radio
  - the source of the radio emission is two jets\* (\*see next slide)
  - Cygnus-X1 is also a microquasar

- name comes from ‘quasars’ also known as ‘quasi-stellar object’ (QSO)
  - discovered in the 50s as radio sources of unknown origin
  - *galaxies where the central BH eats up the stars...*
  - → active galactic nucleus (AGN)
  - powered by a *supermassive* BH ( $\geq 10^6 - 10^9 M_{\odot}$ )  
(as opposed to a *stellar mass* BH as in a HMXB/microquasar)
  - **THIS WEEK’S MOST EXCITING NEWS!!**  
Capturing our MW’s central BH by the  
”Event Horizon Telescope” (not a real telescope;  
but a collaboration of radio observatories & clever data reduction techniques :D )



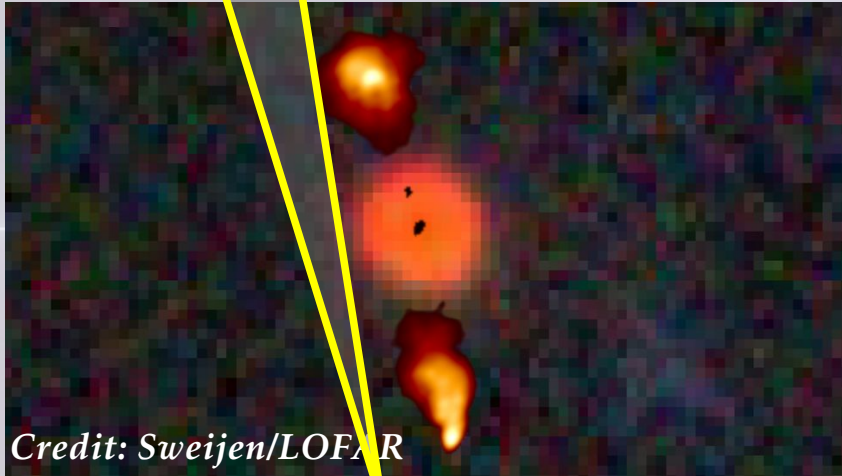
**Sgr A\***  
 $4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$

not a very  
active  
nucleus  
(fortunately)

# Jets (in astronomy)

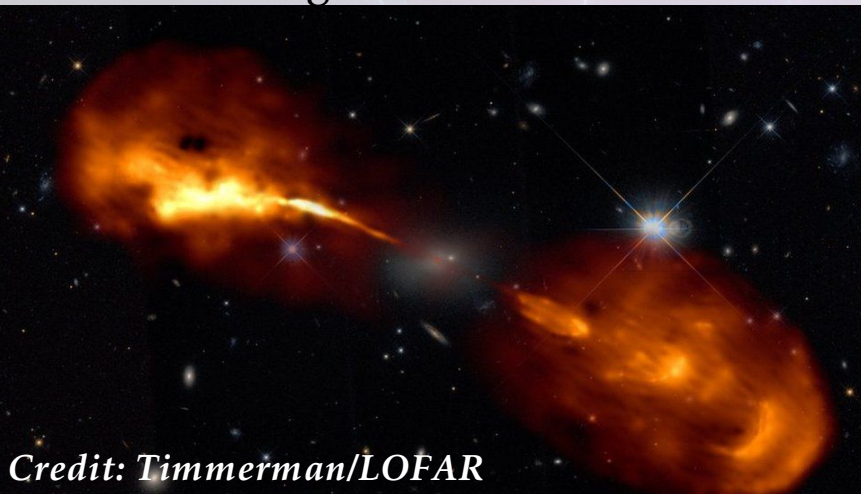
And also  
microquasars,  
of course.

Actual observation (2021, LOFAR):



**AGNs**

Artistic image of the same stuff:



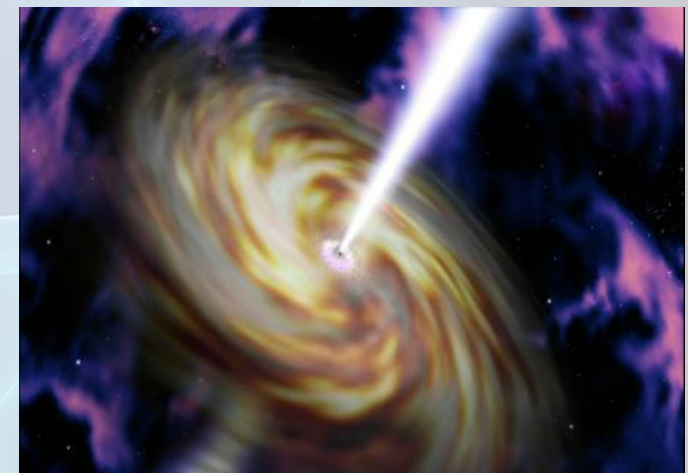
??

spectral features (breaking)  
high energies cannot be explained otherwise

short-living

**GRBs**

Artistic image:



long-living

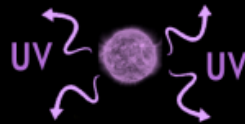
(timescales  
are proportional  
to the mass  
of the central BH)

- sub-Solar metallicities? ✓
- fast-rotating stars? ✓
- stars in a binary system? ✓

*What about a metal-poor,  
fast rotating binary system?*

*Chemically-homoge-  
neously evolving star:*

single

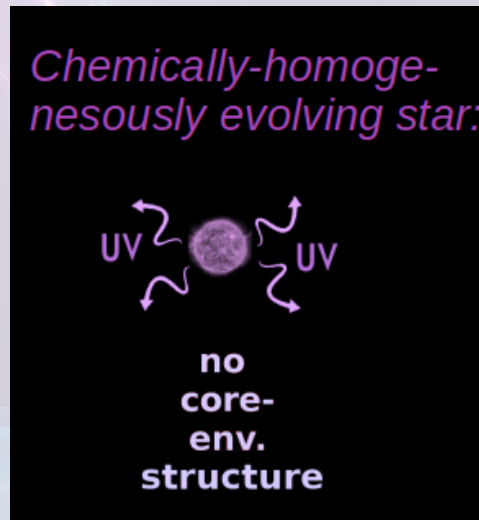


no  
core-  
env.  
structure

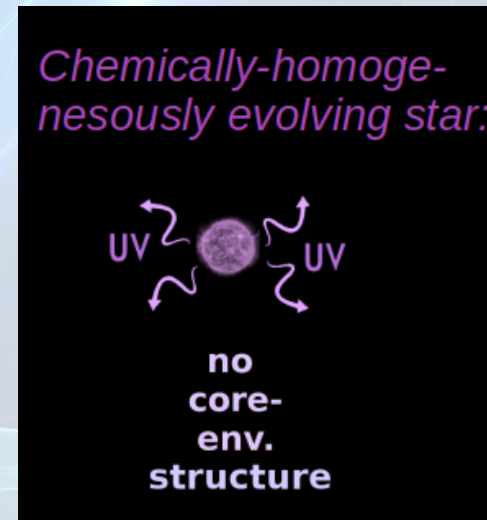
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*What about a metal-poor,  
fast rotating binary system?*

Let's put two  
of them next  
to each other  
on a (very) close  
orbit!

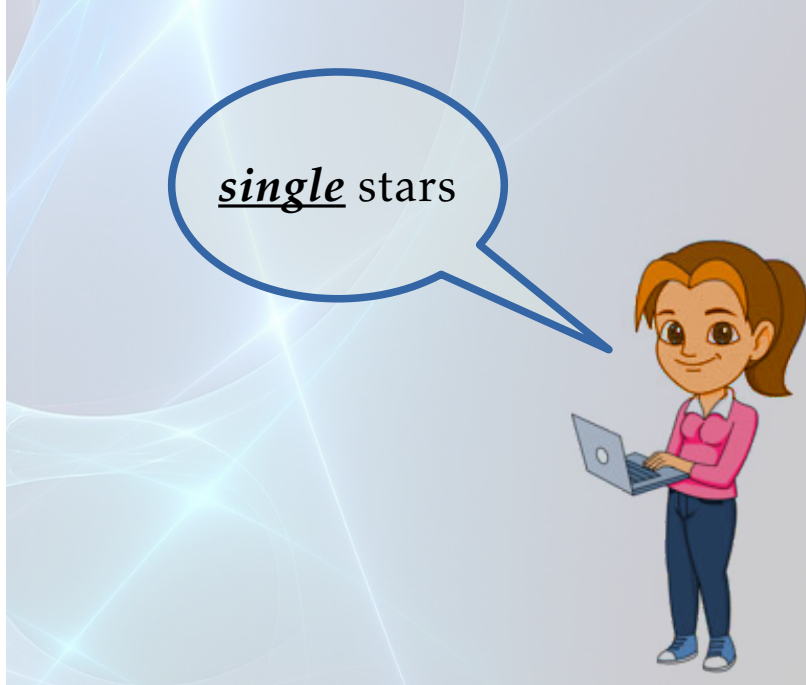
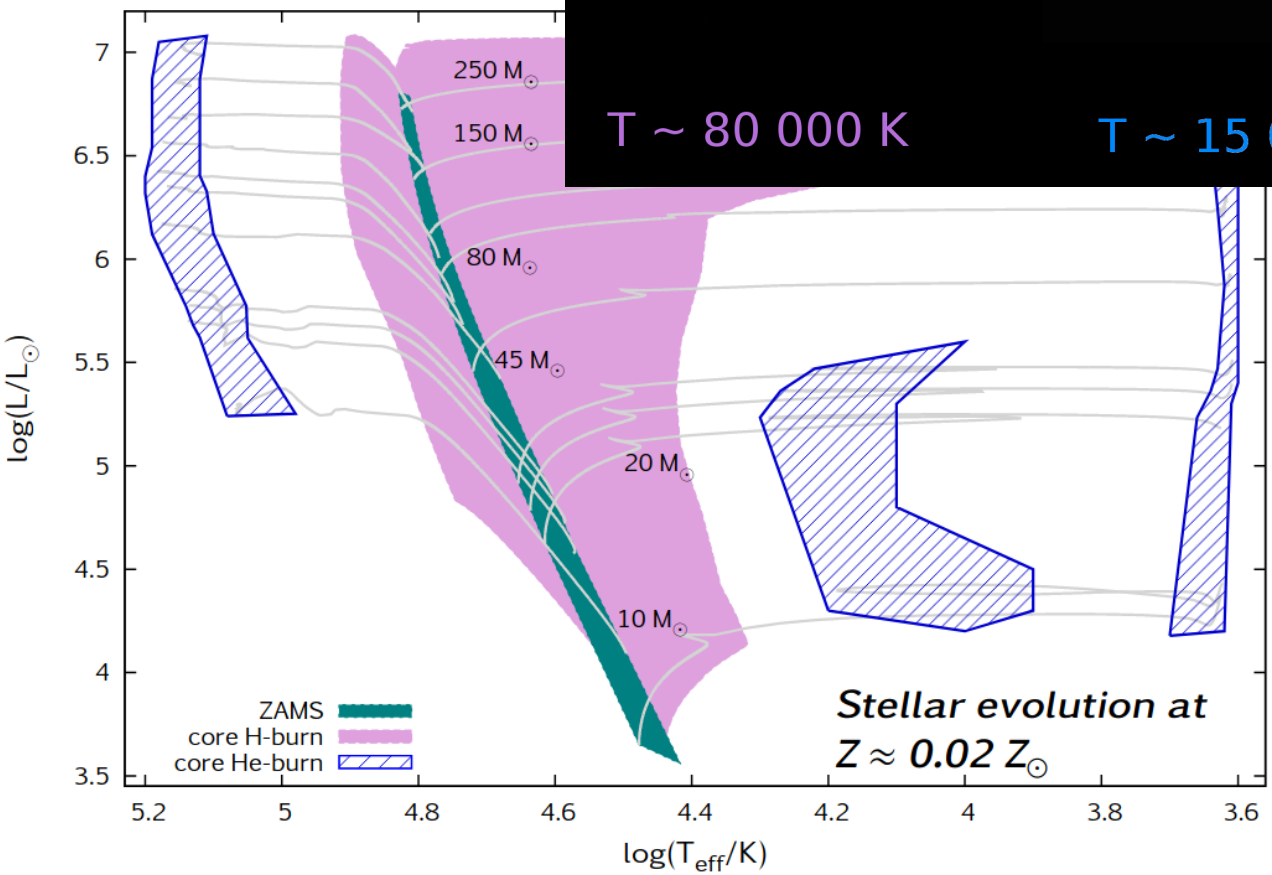
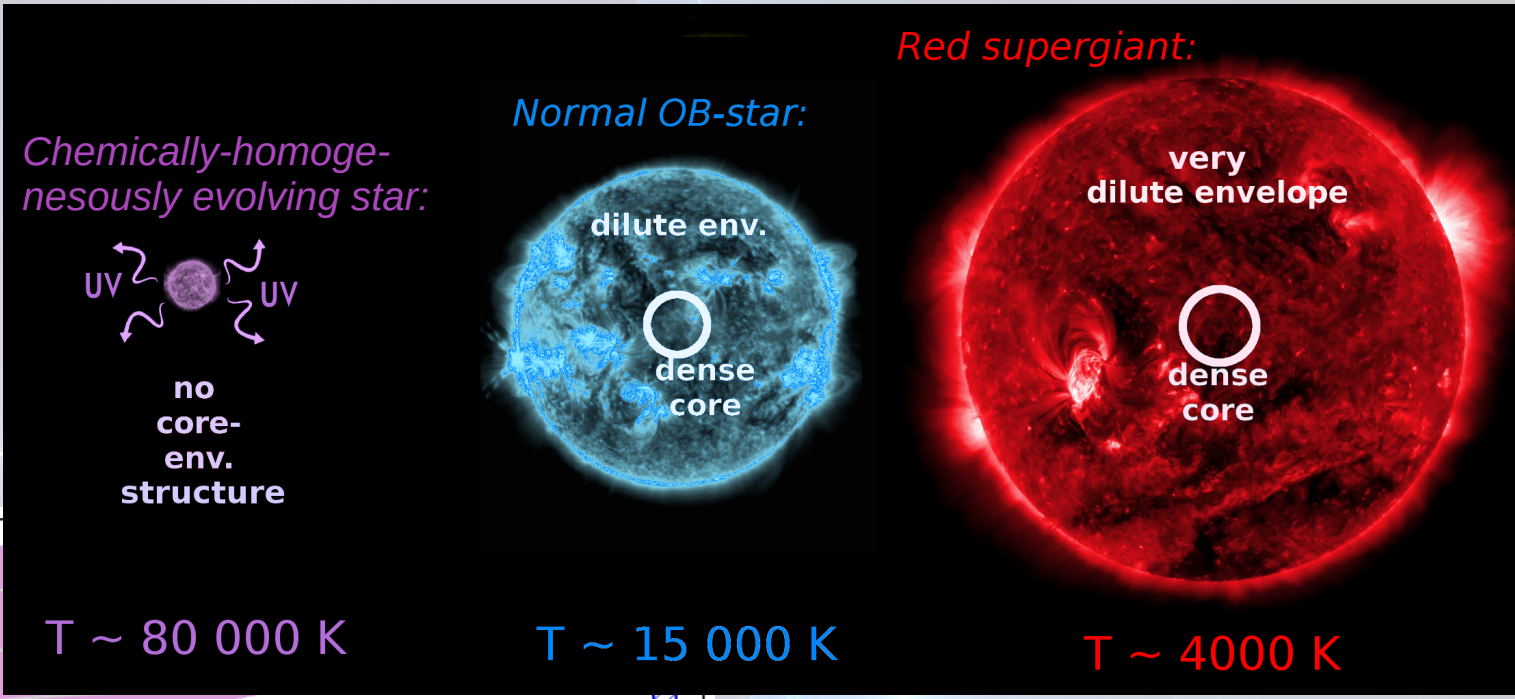


+



= ?

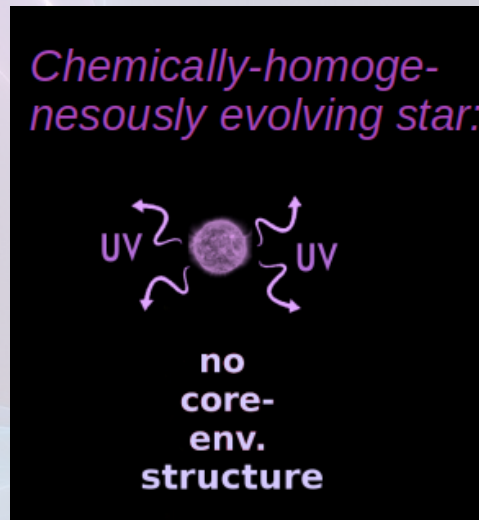
# What do chem.hom. evolving stars look like?



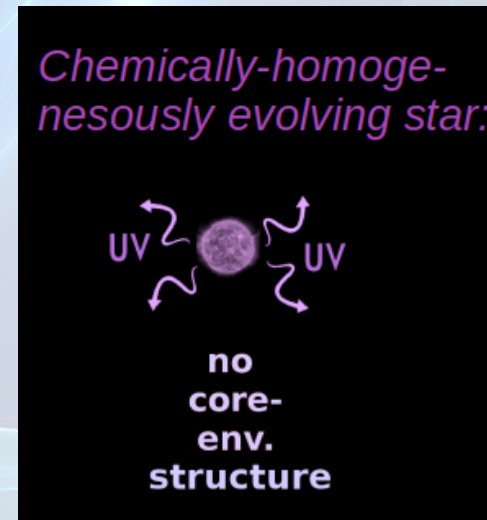
- sub-Solar metallicities? ✓
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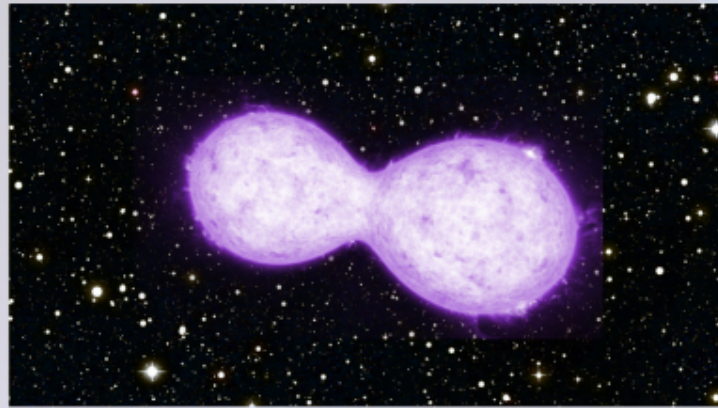


+



= ?

# Gravitational waves... theoretical origin!



e.g. [Szécsi'17a](#)

[Szécsi'17b](#)

Bagoly,[Szécsi+16](#)

Marchant+16,17

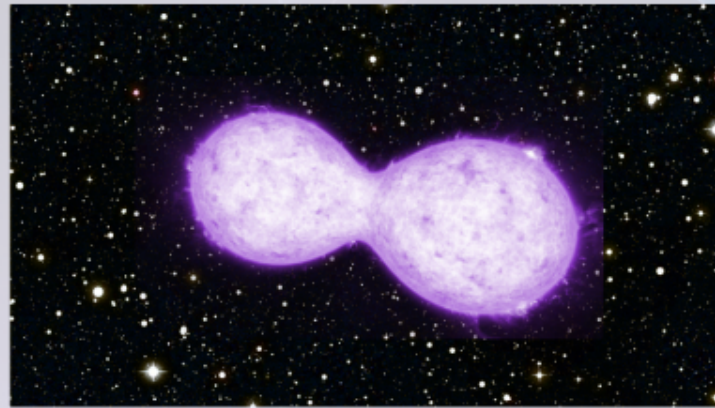


# Gravitational waves... theoretical origin!

Life

Death

Afterlife



Massive binaries

Explosions

2 Black Holes  
(or Neutron Stars)



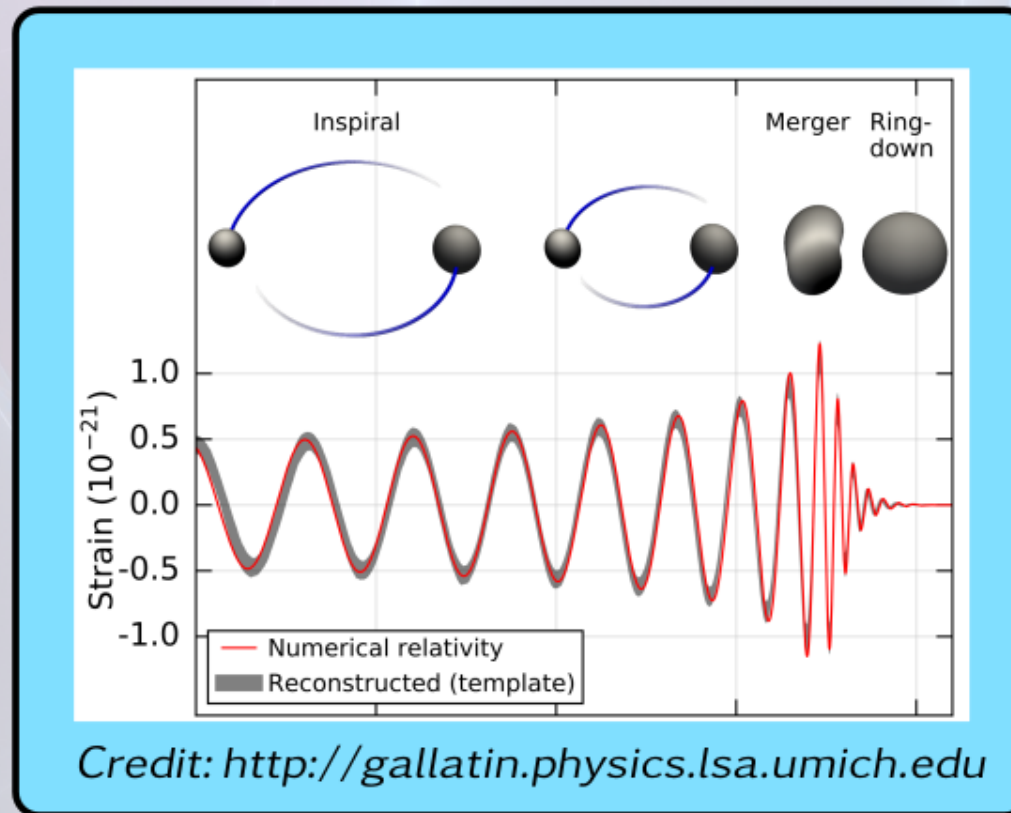
'Second  
death'

e.g. [Szécsi'17a](#)

[Szécsi'17b](#)

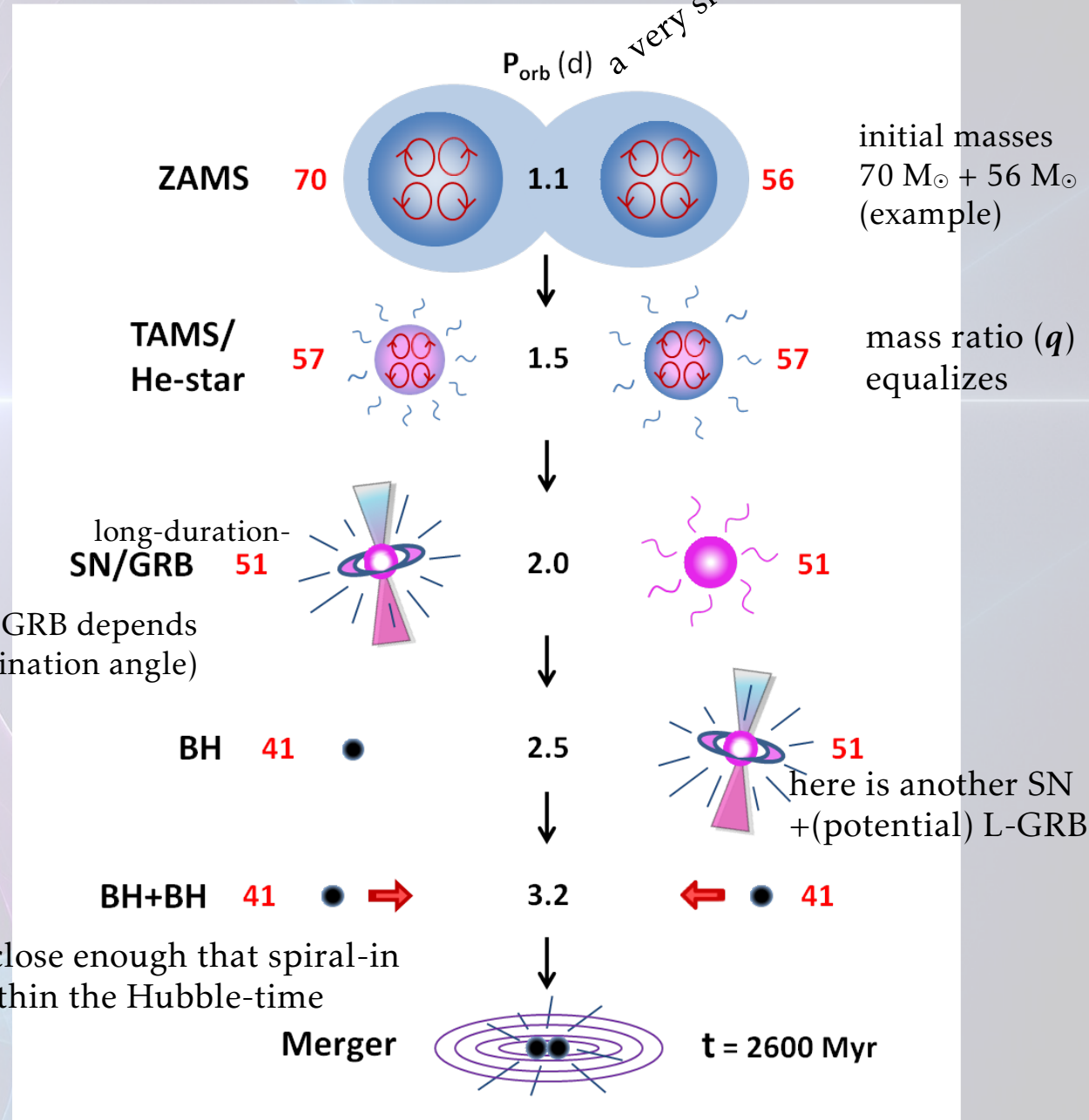
[Bagoly,Szécsi+16](#)

[Marchant+16,17](#)



Merger

# To "cartoonize" the scenario:



(seeing the L-GRB depends on the inclination angle)

*Remember: to see a GRB, we need to look right into the jet!*

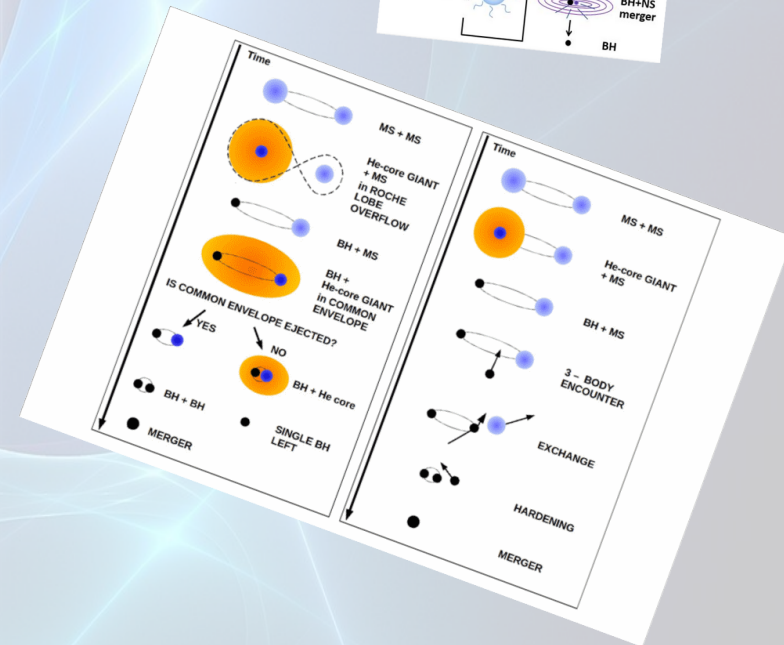
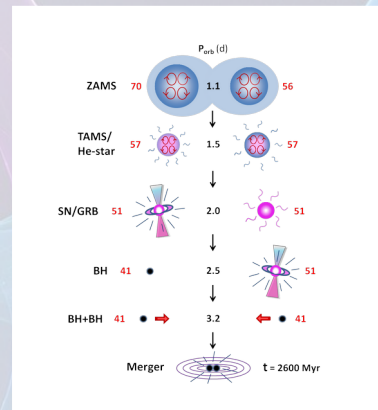
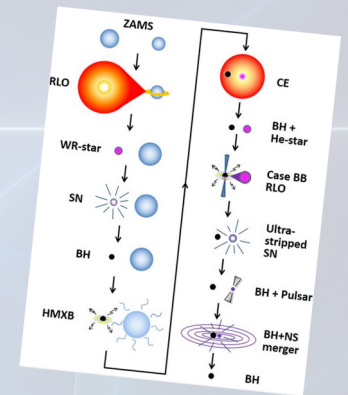
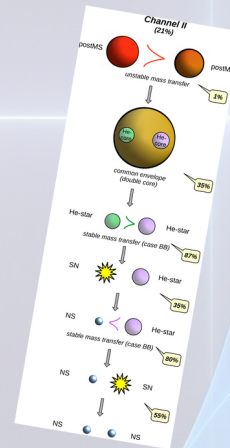
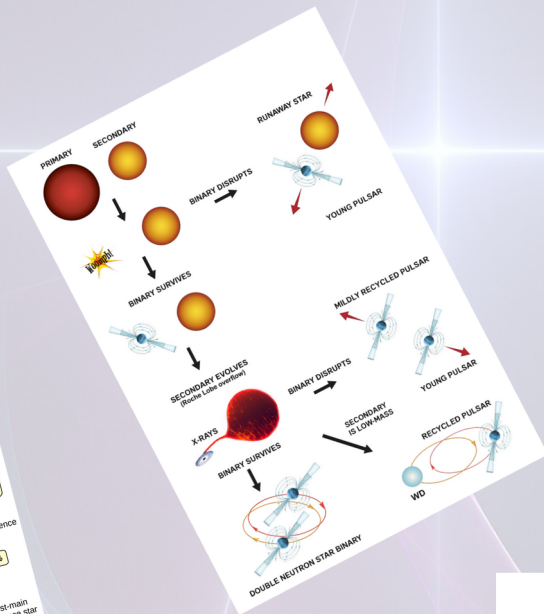
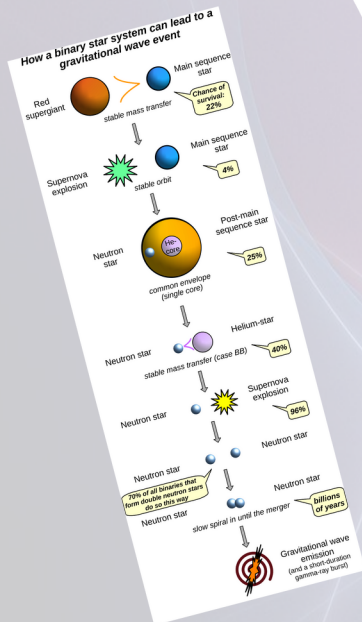
system is still close enough that spiral-in can happen within the Hubble-time

*Credit: Marchant+16*

Possible exam question ;)

# Possible exam question ;)

- explain a binary evolution cartoon scientifically!



*Today...*

# Population synthesis on *binaries*

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- **NOT** the same thing as binary evolutionary simulations

meaning: 'detailed' evolutionary computations e.g. with MESA

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# Population synthesis on *binaries*

- **NOT** the same thing as binary evolutionary simulations

*meaning: 'detailed' evolutionary computations e.g. with MESA  
(yes, MESA can run binaries too)*

Remember the Initial Mass Function (IMF)?

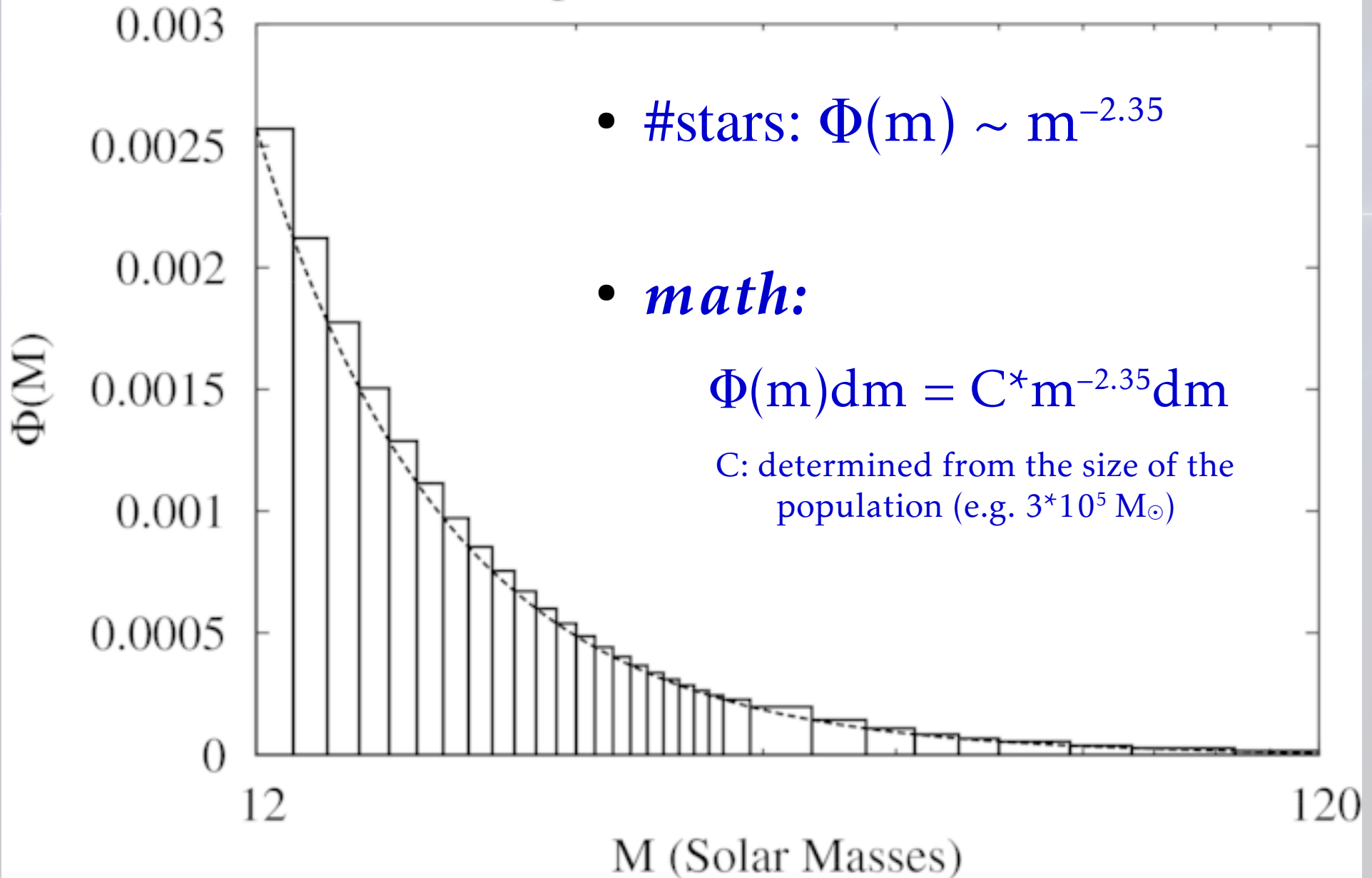
Pop.synth. starts with that.

**But binaries make life complicated.**

# REMINDER:

# The Initial Mass Function (IMF)

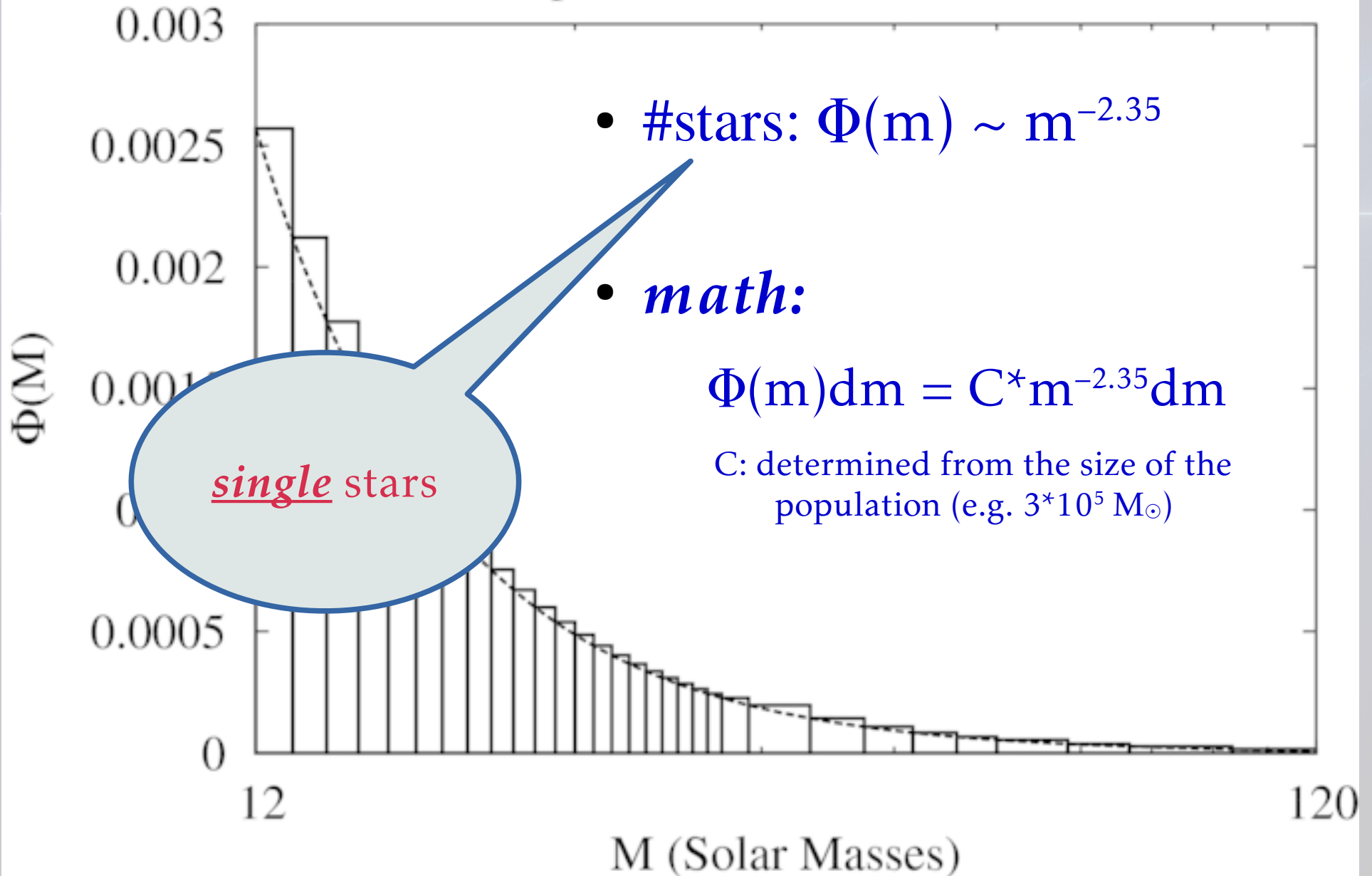
Salpeter Initial Mass Function



# REMINDER:

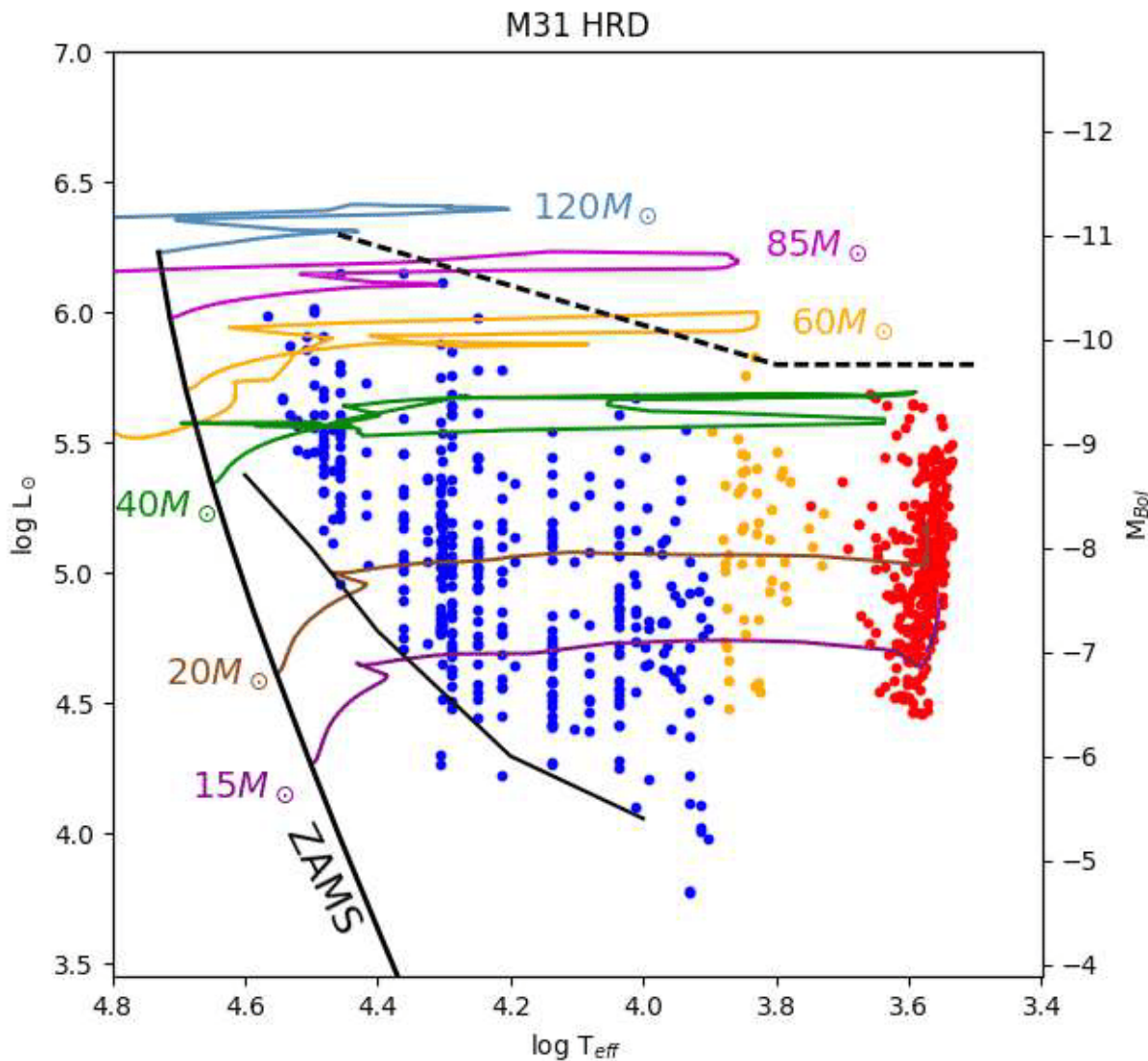
## The Initial Mass Function (IMF)

Salpeter Initial Mass Function



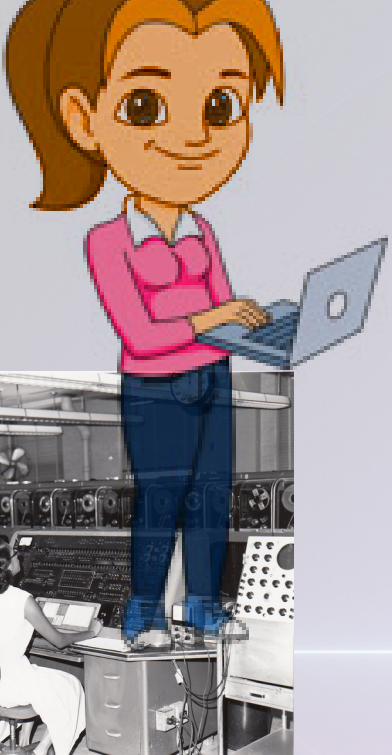
(*single* stars)

# Let's think!



- How would you “convert” between the lines and the dots?
- *Meaning:*
  - how would you compare theoretical predictions with observations?





Age, Mass, Radius,  $T_{\text{eff}}$  [K],  $\log(L/L_{\odot})$ , Mass loss rate...



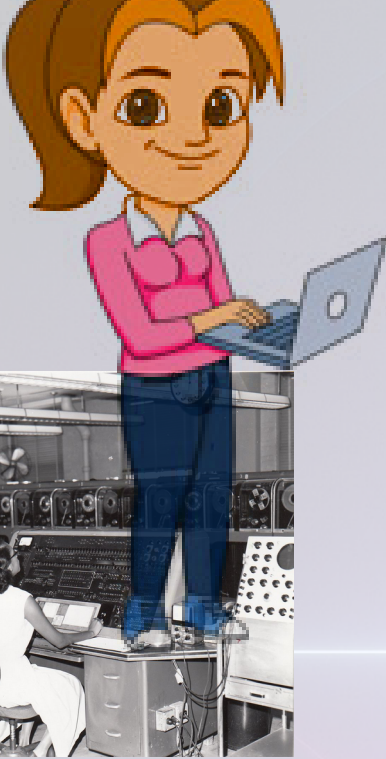
```

1# MIST version number = 10.1
2# MESA revision number = 11701
3# -----
4# Yinit      Zinit  [Fe/H]  [a/Fe]  v/vcrit
5# 0.2511    1.42857E-03  -1.00   0.00    0.00
6# -----
7#      initial mass  N_pts  N_EEP  N_col  phase  type
8# 1.9999727046E+01  808    8      73    YES   high-mass
9# EEPs:      1      202    353    454    605    631    707    808
10# -----
11#
12#          star_age          star mass          star mdot          log dt          he_core mass
13# 2.7320575584293762E+005    1.9999727045763130E+001    -6.6667141481350412E-009    4.6121780058570057E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
14# 2.7345019073205121E+005    1.9999725407394834E+001    -6.6668930715861210E-009    4.6125719424045064E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
15# 2.7369462562116480E+005    1.9999723769026541E+001    -6.6670719950372001E-009    4.6129658789520063E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
16# 2.7393906051027833E+005    1.9999722130658245E+001    -6.6672509184882791E-009    4.6133598154995070E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
17# 2.7418349539939192E+005    1.9999720492289949E+001    -6.6674298419393581E-009    4.6137537520470087E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
18# 2.7442793028850551E+005    1.9999718853921653E+001    -6.6676087653904380E-009    4.6141476885945094E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
19# 2.7467236517761904E+005    1.9999717215553360E+001    -6.6677876888415162E-009    4.6145416251420093E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
20# 2.7491680006673269E+005    1.9999715577185061E+001    -6.6679666122925961E-009    4.6149355616895100E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
21# 2.7516123495584622E+005    1.9999713938816765E+001    -6.6681455357436759E-009    4.6153294982370108E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
22# 2.7540566984495980E+005    1.9999712300448472E+001    -6.6683244591947550E-009    4.6157234347845106E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
23# 2.7565010473407339E+005    1.9999710662080176E+001    -6.6685033826458340E-009    4.6161173713320123E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
24# 2.7589453962318692E+005    1.9999709023711880E+001    -6.6686823060969130E-009    4.6165113078795130E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
25# 2.7613897451230051E+005    1.9999707385343584E+001    -6.6688612295479929E-009    4.6169052444270129E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
26# 2.7638340940141404E+005    1.9999705746975291E+001    -6.6690401529990719E-009    4.6172991809745136E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
27# 2.7662784429052763E+005    1.9999704108606995E+001    -6.6692190764501510E-009    4.6176931175220144E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
28# 2.7687227917964122E+005    1.9999702470238695E+001    -6.6693979999012308E-009    4.6180870540695151E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
29# 2.7711671406875481E+005    1.9999700831870403E+001    -6.6695769233523099E-009    4.6184809906170159E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
30# 2.7736114895786840E+005    1.9999699193502106E+001    -6.6697558468033889E-009    4.6188749271645166E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
31# 2.7760558384698193E+005    1.9999697555133814E+001    -6.6699347702544679E-009    4.6192688637120174E+000    0.000000000000000E+000
32# 2.7785001873609552E+005    1.9999695916765514E+001    -6.6701136937055478E-009    4.6196628002595173E+000    0.000000000000000E+000

```

# HR-diagram

Age, Mass, Radius,  $T_{\text{eff}}$  [K],  $\log(L/L_{\odot})$ , Massloss rate...



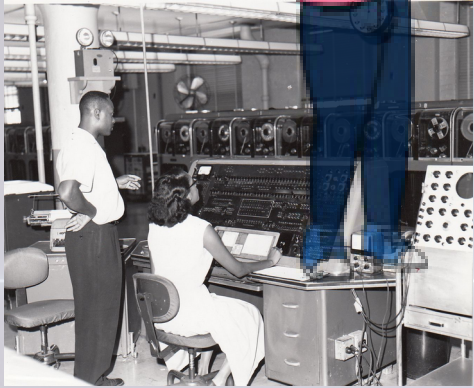
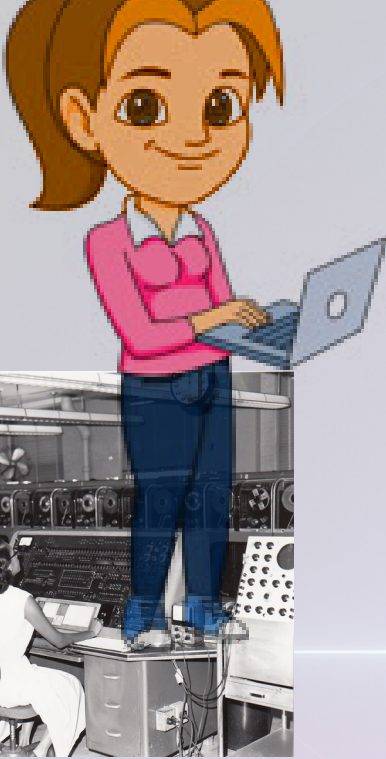
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18# 2.7418349539939192E+005  1.9999720492289949E+001  -6.6674298419393581E-009  4.6137537520470087E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
19# 2.7442793028850551E+005  1.9999718853921653E+001  -6.6676087653904380E-009  4.6141476885945094E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
20# 2.7467236517761904E+005  1.9999717215553360E+001  -6.6677876888415162E-009  4.6145416251420093E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
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22# 2.7516123495584622E+005  1.9999713938816765E+001  -6.6681455357436759E-009  4.6153294982370108E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
23# 2.7540566984495980E+005  1.9999712300448472E+001  -6.6683244591947550E-009  4.6157234347845106E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
24# 2.7565010473407339E+005  1.9999710662080176E+001  -6.6685033826458340E-009  4.6161173713320123E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
25# 2.7589453962318692E+005  1.9999709023711880E+001  -6.6686823060969130E-009  4.6165113078795130E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
26# 2.7613897451230051E+005  1.9999707385343584E+001  -6.6688612295479929E-009  4.6169052444270129E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
27# 2.7638340940141404E+005  1.9999705746975291E+001  -6.6690401529990719E-009  4.6172991809745136E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
28# 2.7662784429052763E+005  1.9999704108606995E+001  -6.6692190764501510E-009  4.6176931175220144E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
29# 2.7687227917964122E+005  1.9999702470238695E+001  -6.6693979999012308E-009  4.6180870540695151E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
30# 2.7711671406875481E+005  1.9999700831870403E+001  -6.6695769233523099E-009  4.6184809906170159E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
31# 2.7736114895786840E+005  1.9999699193502106E+001  -6.6697558468033889E-009  4.6188749271645166E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
32# 2.7760558384698193E+005  1.9999697555133814E+001  -6.6699347702544679E-009  4.6192688637120174E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
33# 2.7785001873609552E+005  1.9999695916765514E+001  -6.6701136937055478E-009  4.6196628002595173E+000  0.000000000000000E+000

```

# HR-diagram

Age, Mass, Radius,  $T_{\text{eff}}$  [K],  $\log(L/L_{\odot})$ , Massloss rate...



```

1# MIST version number = 10.1
2# MESA revision number = 11701
3# -----
4# Yinit      Zinit  [Fe/H]  [a/Fe]  v/vcrit
5# 0.2511    1.42857E-03  -1.00   0.00    0.00
6# -----
7#      initial mass  N_pts  N_EEP  N_col  phase  type
8# 1.9999727046E+01  808    8      73    YES   high-mass
9# EEPs:      1      202    353    454    605    631    707    808
10# -----
11#
12#          1          2          3          4          5
13#          star_age  star mass  star mdot  log dt      he_core mass
14# 2.7320575584293762E+005  1.9999727045763130E+001  -6.6667141481350412E-009  4.6121780058570057E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
15# 2.7345019073205121E+005  1.9999725407394834E+001  -6.6668930715861210E-009  4.6125719424045064E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
16# 2.7369462562116480E+005  1.9999723769026541E+001  -6.6670719950372001E-009  4.6129658789520063E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
17# 2.7393906051027833E+005  1.9999722130658245E+001  -6.6672509184882791E-009  4.6133598154995070E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
18# 2.7418349539939192E+005  1.9999720492289949E+001  -6.6674298419393581E-009  4.6137537520470087E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
19# 2.7442793028850551E+005  1.9999718853921653E+001  -6.6676087653904380E-009  4.6141476885945094E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
20# 2.7467236517761904E+005  1.9999717215553360E+001  -6.6677876888415162E-009  4.6145416251420093E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
21# 2.7491680006673269E+005  1.9999715577185061E+001  -6.6679666122925961E-009  4.6149355616895100E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
22# 2.7516123495584622E+005  1.9999713938816765E+001  -6.6681455357436759E-009  4.6153294982370108E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
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24# 2.7565010473407339E+005  1.9999710662080176E+001  -6.6685033826458340E-009  4.6161173713320123E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
25# 2.7589453962318692E+005  1.9999709023711880E+001  -6.6686823060969130E-009  4.6165113078795130E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
26# 2.7613897451230051E+005  1.9999707385343584E+001  -6.6688612295479929E-009  4.6169052444270129E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
27# 2.7638340940141404E+005  1.9999705746975291E+001  -6.6690401529990719E-009  4.6172991809745136E+000  0.000000000000000E+000
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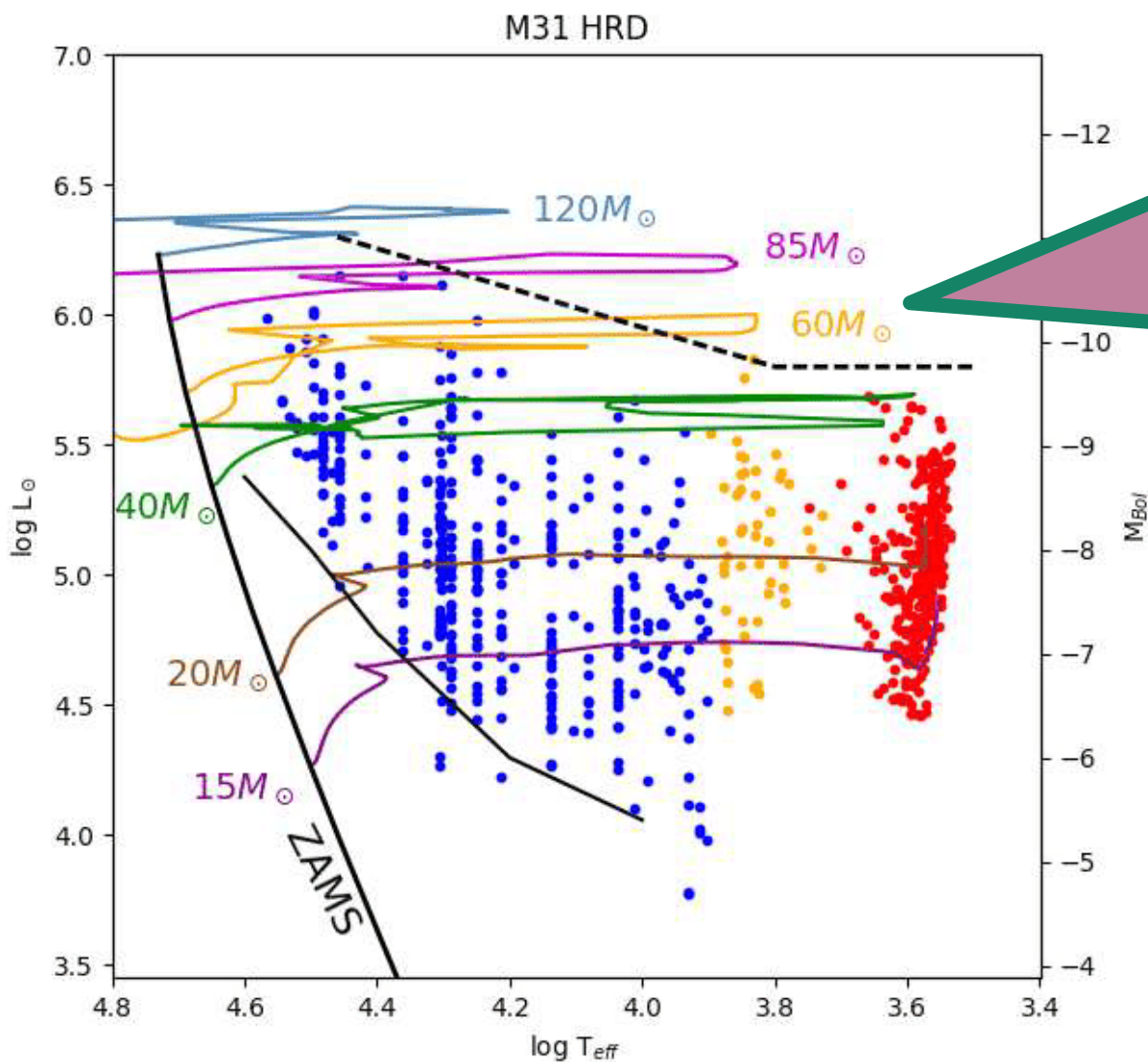
```



(*single* stars)

# Let's think!

number ratio of  
MS vs. RSG stars



- pick lines according to IMF  
*(cf. initial mass column)*
- compute how much time they all spend as blue stars
- and how much as red stars

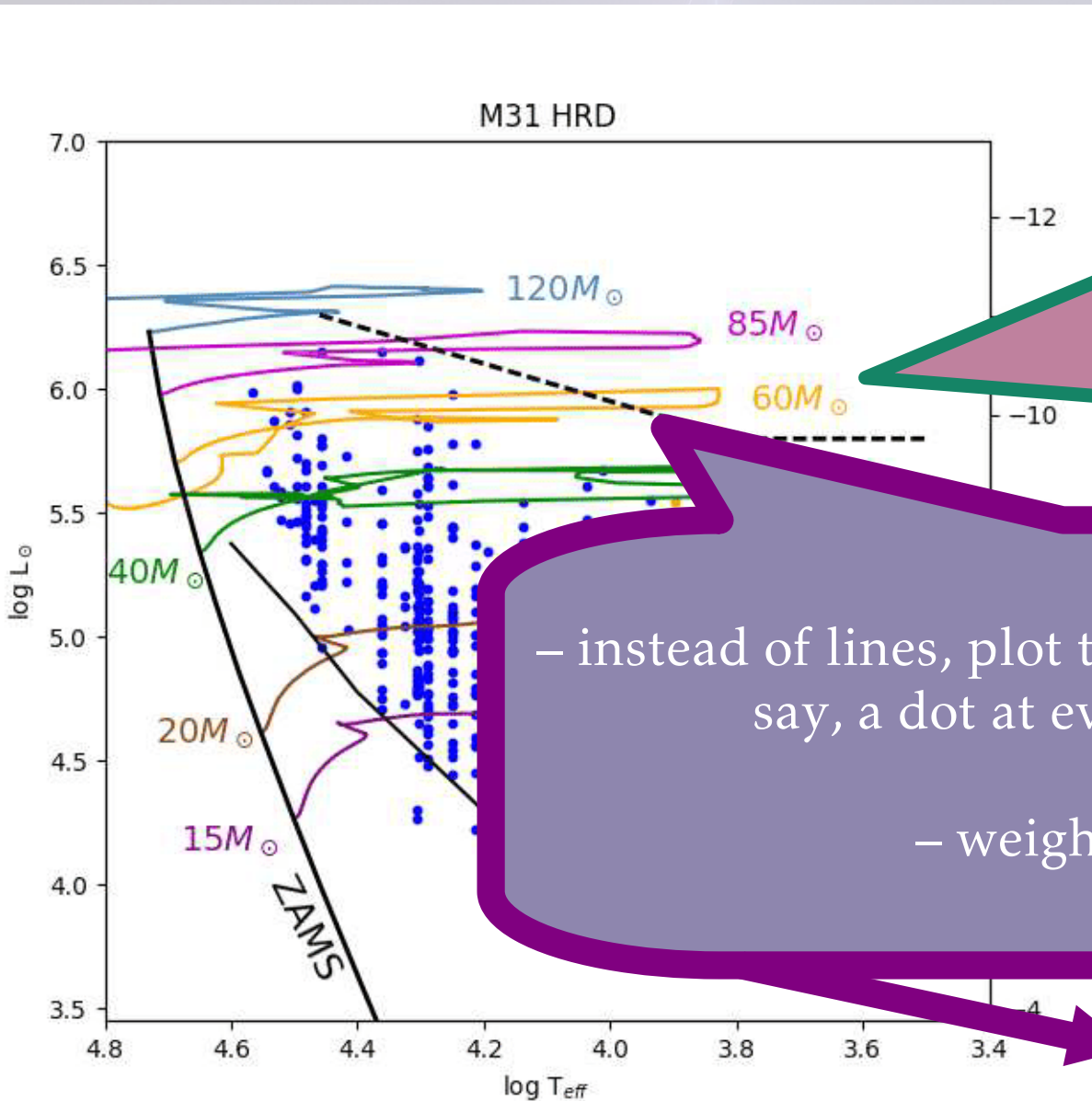
## • *Meaning:*

- how would you compare theoretical predictions with observations?

(*single* stars)

# Let's think!

number ratio of  
MS vs. RSG stars



- pick lines according to IMF  
*(cf. initial mass column)*
- compute how much time they all spend as blue stars
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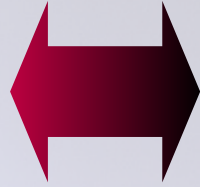
- instead of lines, plot the evolutionary tracks as dots!  
say, a dot at every 10 thousand year
- weight with the IMF

an actual (simulated)  
stellar population!

*simulated =  
“synthetic”*

# IMPORTANT

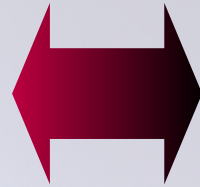
- Stellar evolution modelling



- Synthetic population modelling

# IMPORTANT

- Stellar evolution modelling



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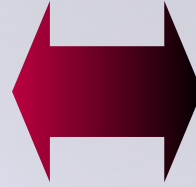
- based on first principles  
*(5 stellar equations)*
- follows one star's life at the time
- IMF is not yet considered
- result is *a line* ('track') in the HR-diagram

- relies on stellar evolution modelling
- does not simulate the individual star's life (typically)
- IMF is taken into account
- result is a *statistically meaningful* prediction about a *population*

# IMPORTANT . . .

Exam  
warning!  
:P

## • Stellar evolution modelling



## • Synthetic population modelling

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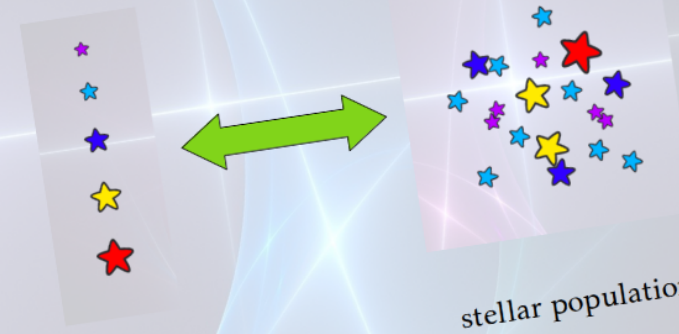
# IMPORTANT . . .

Exam warning!  
:P

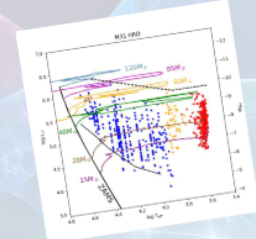
## • Stellar evolution

Population synthesis


- Synthetic population:
  - time-dependence
  - IMF
  - star-formation history...



The diagram shows a vertical column of five colored stars (purple, blue, yellow, red) labeled 'stars / stellar models'. A green double-headed arrow points to a cluster of many multi-colored stars labeled 'stellar population'.



A Hertzsprung-Russell (H-R) diagram showing stellar evolution tracks. The x-axis is temperature (log scale) and the y-axis is luminosity (log scale). Various tracks are labeled with ages like 100 Myr, 1 Gyr, 10 Gyr, and 100 Gyr.



A plot of the Initial Mass Function (IMF). The y-axis is labeled  $\phi(M)$  and ranges from 0 to 0.003. The x-axis is labeled 'M (Solar Masses)' and ranges from 0.12 to 120. A red box with 'IMF' is overlaid on the plot.

stic population  
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on stellar  
on modelling

t simulate the  
al star's life

ken into

as a *statistically meaningful* prediction about a *population*

The background features a large, faint, light-colored circle in the center. Overlaid on this are numerous thin, glowing lines in shades of blue, purple, and pink. These lines form a complex, web-like pattern that resembles a fractal or a network diagram. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and digital.

*What about binaries??*

# Population synthesis on *binaries*

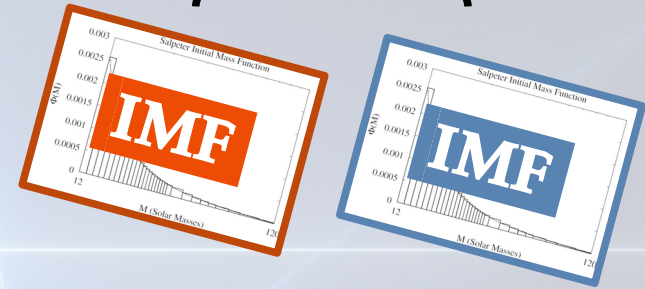
- 2 stars instead of 1



# Population synthesis on *binaries*

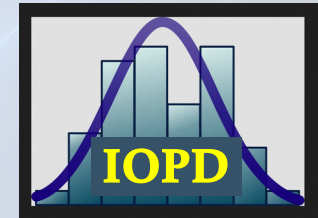
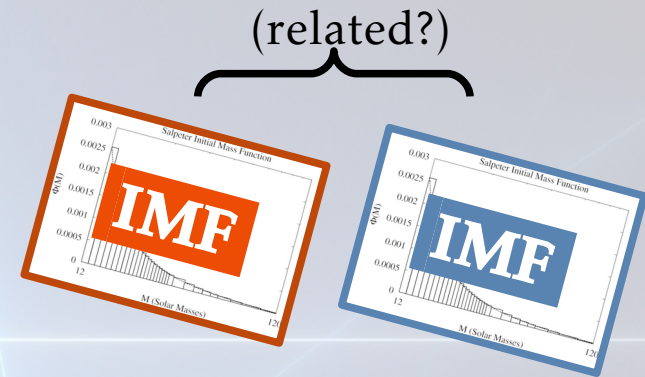
- 2 stars instead of 1
  - both have their individual IMFs

(related?)



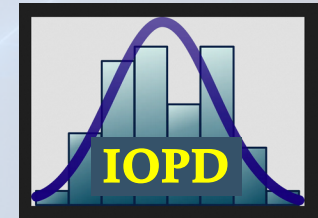
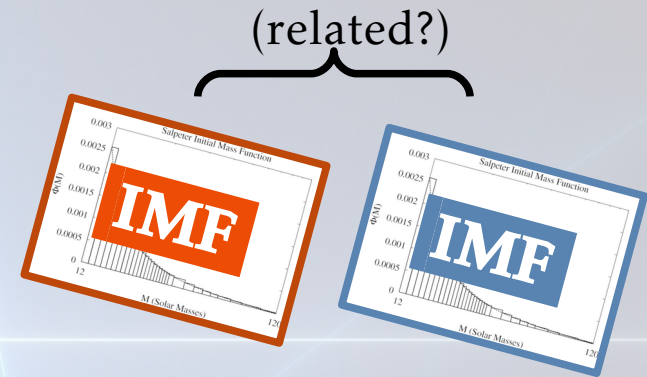
# Population synthesis on *binaries*

- 2 stars instead of 1
  - both have their individual IMFs
- orbital separation!
  - Initial Orbital Period Distribution  
same kind of thing as the IMF but for the period,  
i.e. an observation-based statistical distribution



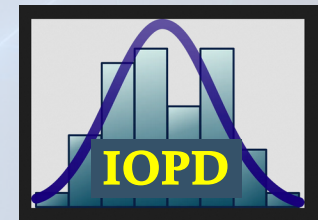
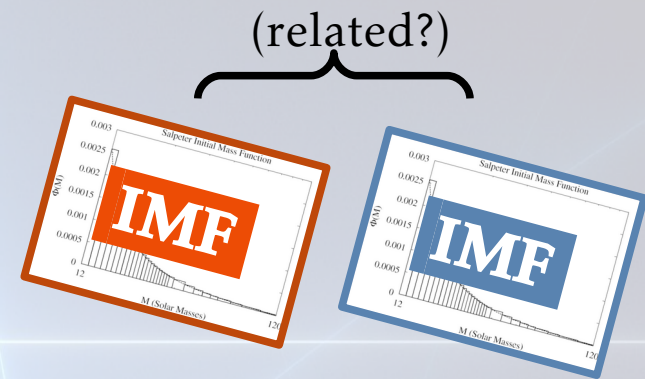
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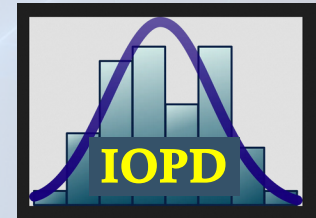
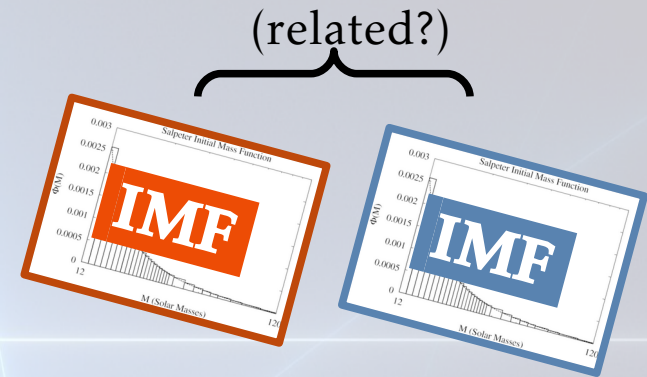
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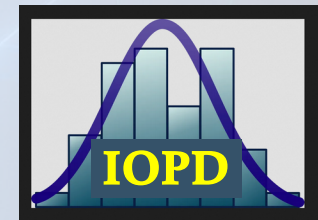
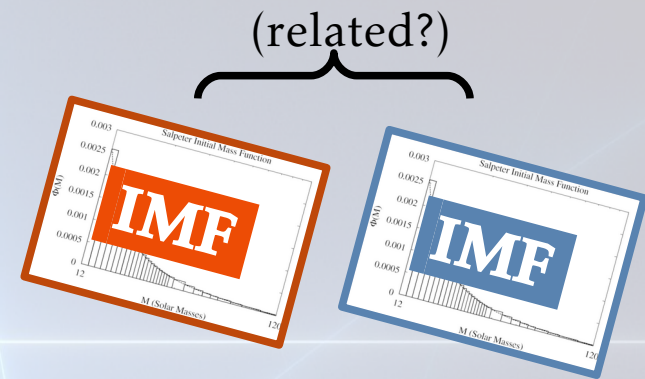
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separation afterwards?)



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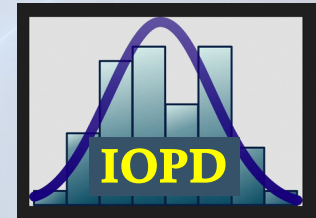
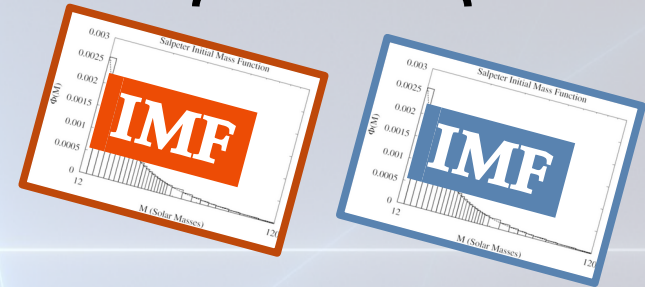
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  - supernova physics... and the kick.



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(related?)

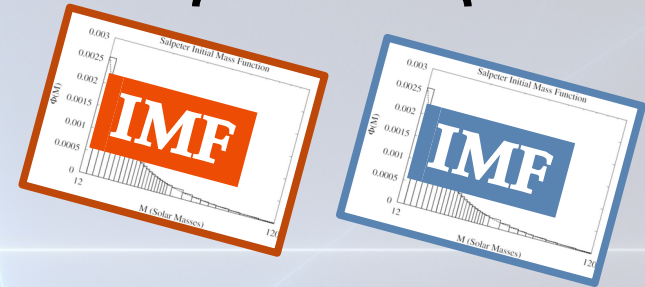


on top of what we  
already don't know  
about *single* stars'  
evolution

# Population synthesis on *binaries*

- 2 stars instead of 1
  - both have their own individual IMFs
- orbital separation
  - Initial Orbital Period (IOPD) is the same kind of thing as the IMF, i.e. an observation-based statistical distribution
- plus a *lot* of assumptions about the evolution
  - mass transfer (stable/unstable? conservative/non-conservative? ...)
  - Common Envelope phase (outcome: merger or separation afterwards?)
  - supernova physics... and the kick.

(related?)



**under active research**

on top of what we already don't know about *single* stars' evolution

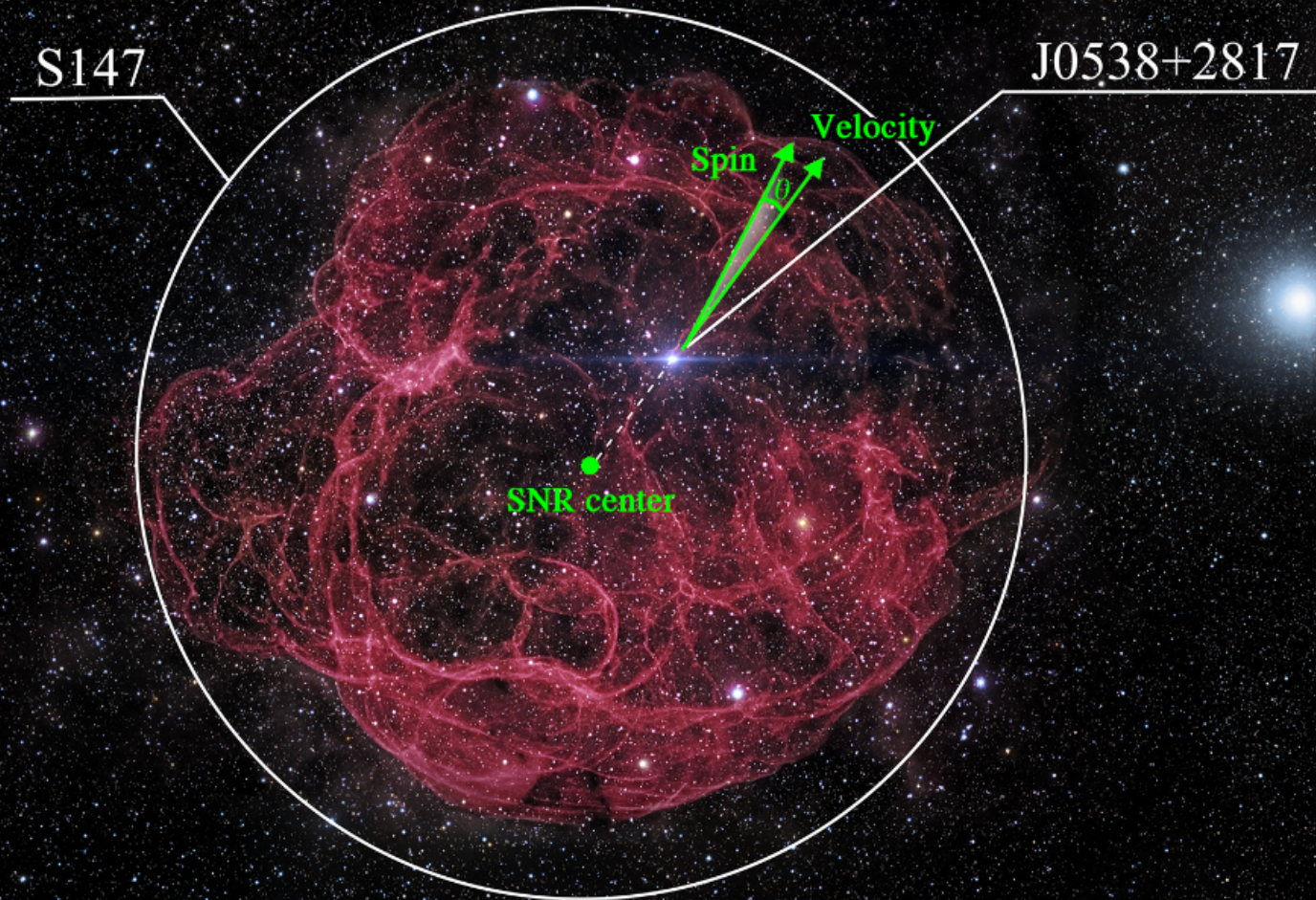


# Kicks

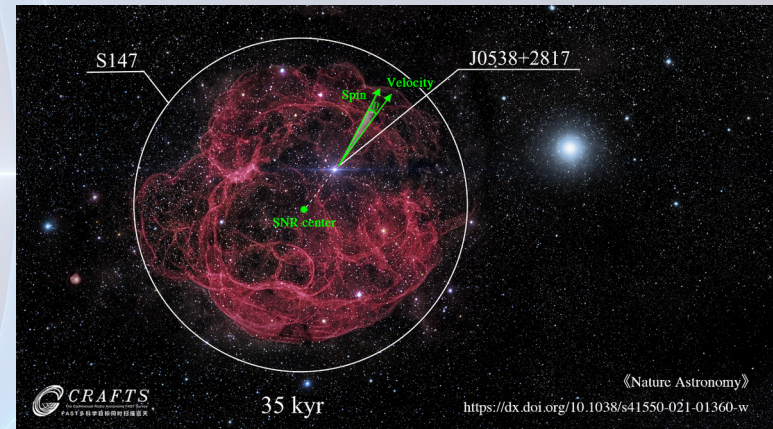


= natal kicks  
which happen when the NS is born  
*also see: pulsar kick, NS kick, SN kick*

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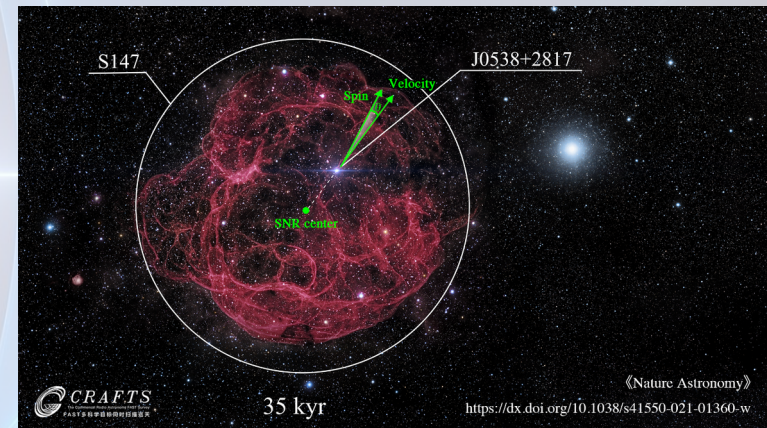


# Kicks



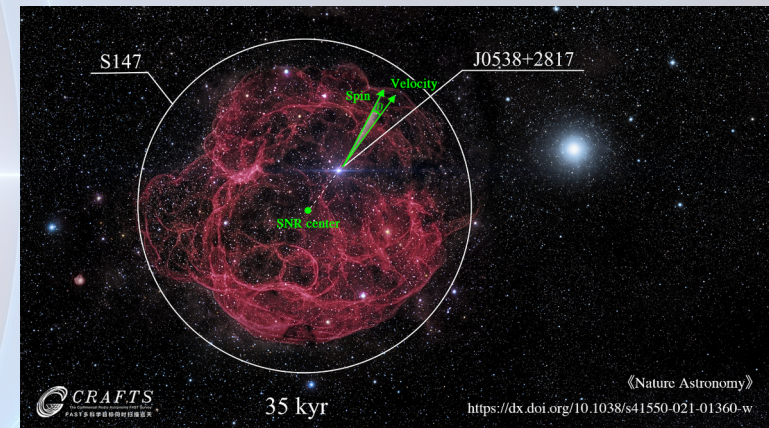
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- happens for single-star supernovae too  
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– needs: asymmetric explosion



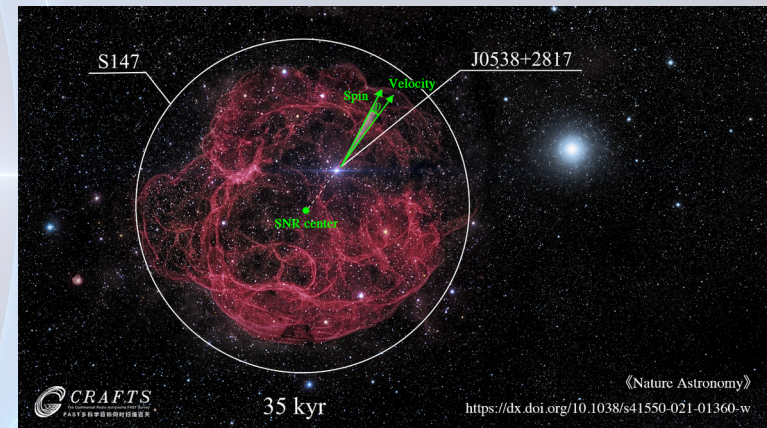
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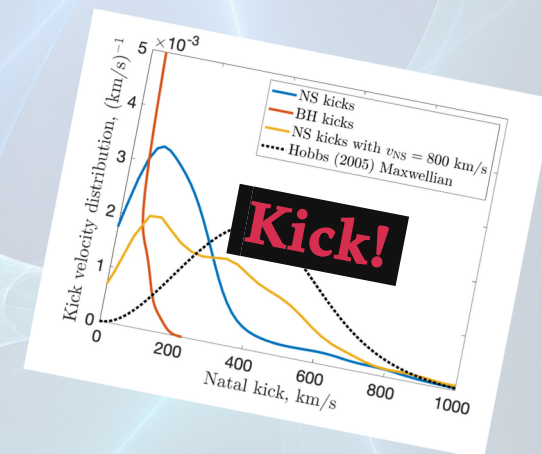
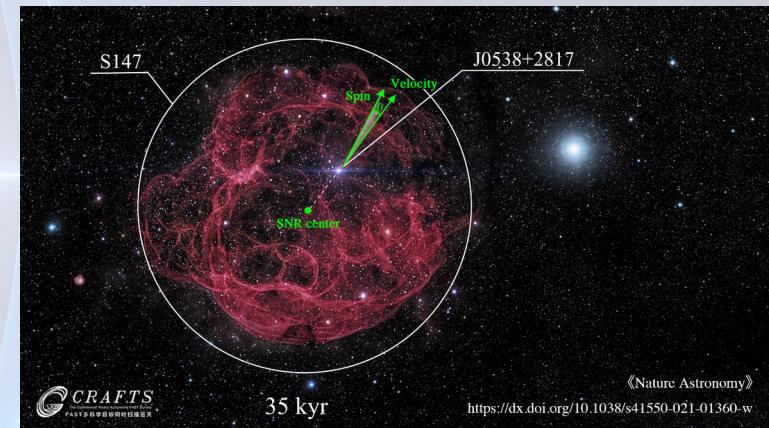
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# Kicks

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= natal kick  
which happen when the NS is born  
*also see: pulsar kick, NS kick, SN kick*
  - needs: asymmetric explosion
- in binaries, one SN may kick out the companion
- survival rate is uncertain
  - but in pop.synth., drawn from a – *you guessed it* – statistical distribution :D



cf. Mandel & Müller (2020)