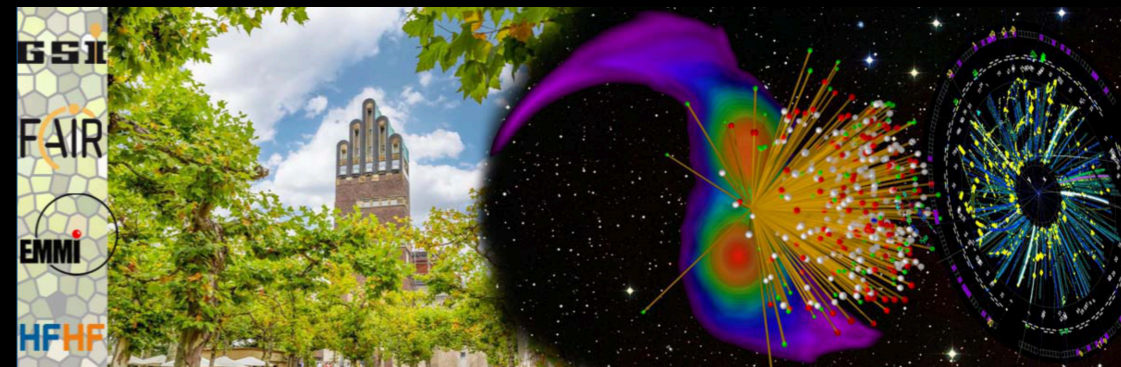
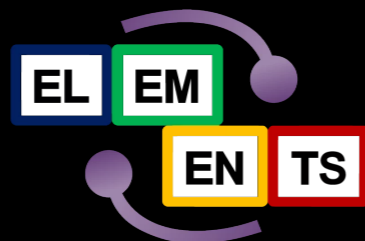


Binary Neutron Stars: from macroscopic collisions to microphysics

Luciano Rezzolla

Institute for Theoretical Physics, Frankfurt

NuSym23, GSI
September, 18-22 2023



Plan of the talk

- The richness of merging binary neutron stars
- GW spectroscopy: EOS from frequencies
- GW170817, GW190814 and maximum mass
- Signatures of quark-hadron phase transitions
- On the sound speed in neutron stars

The two-body problem in GR

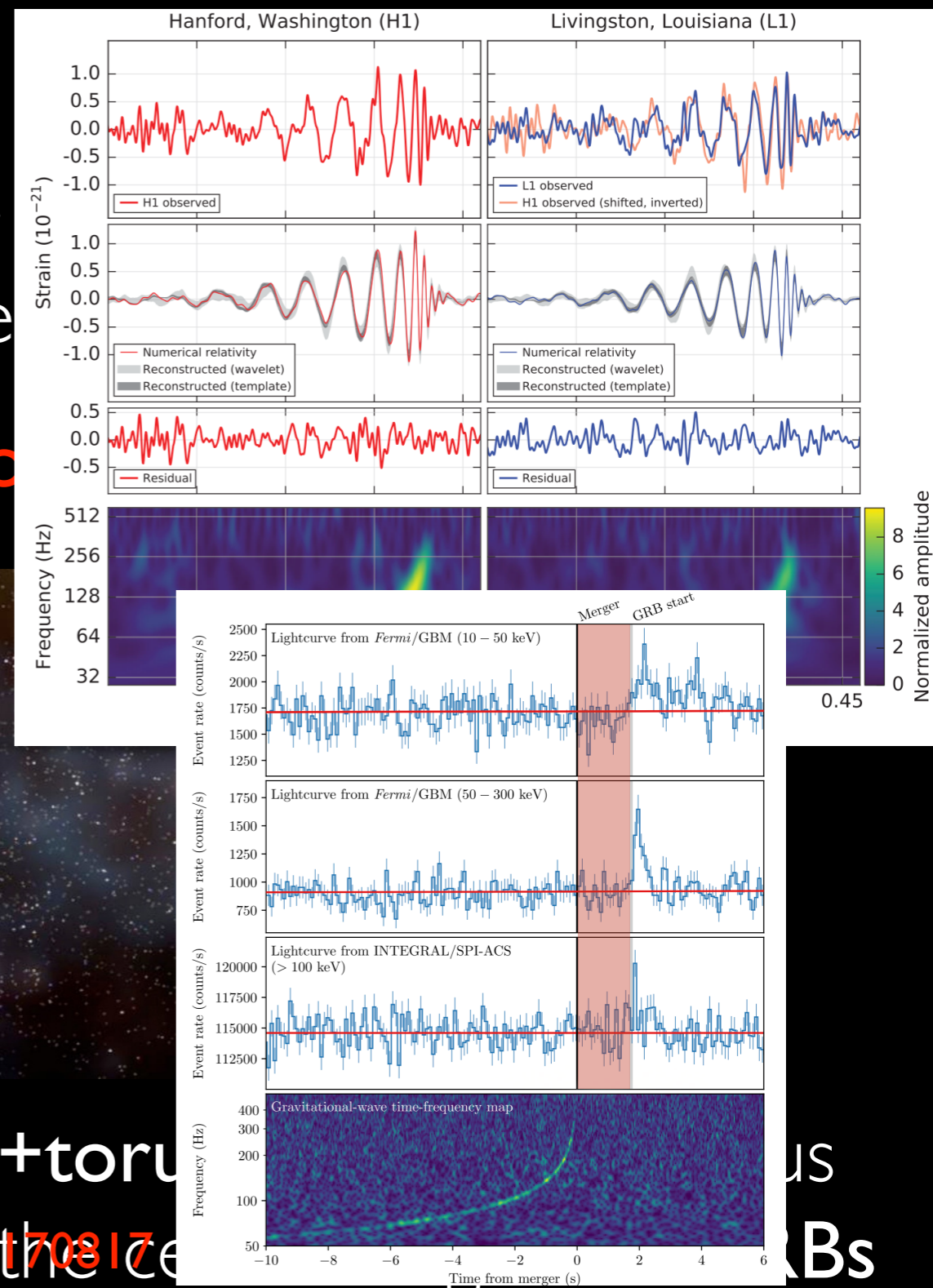
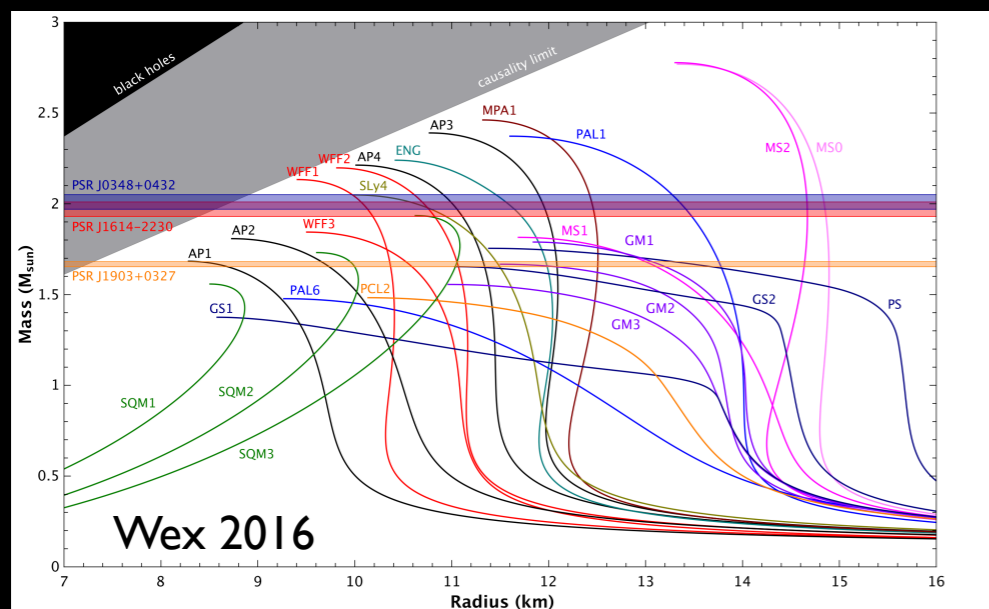
- For black holes the process is very **simple**:

$$\text{BH} + \text{BH} \longrightarrow \text{BH} + \text{GWs}$$

- For NSs the question is more **subtle**: hyper-massive neutron star (HMNS), ie

$$\text{NS} + \text{NS} \longrightarrow \text{HMNS} + \dots ? \longrightarrow \text{BH} + \text{torus}$$

- **HMNS** phase can provide clear information on **EOS**



GW150914

- **BH+torus**
on the ceiling

GW170817

NS
Bs

The two-body problem in GR

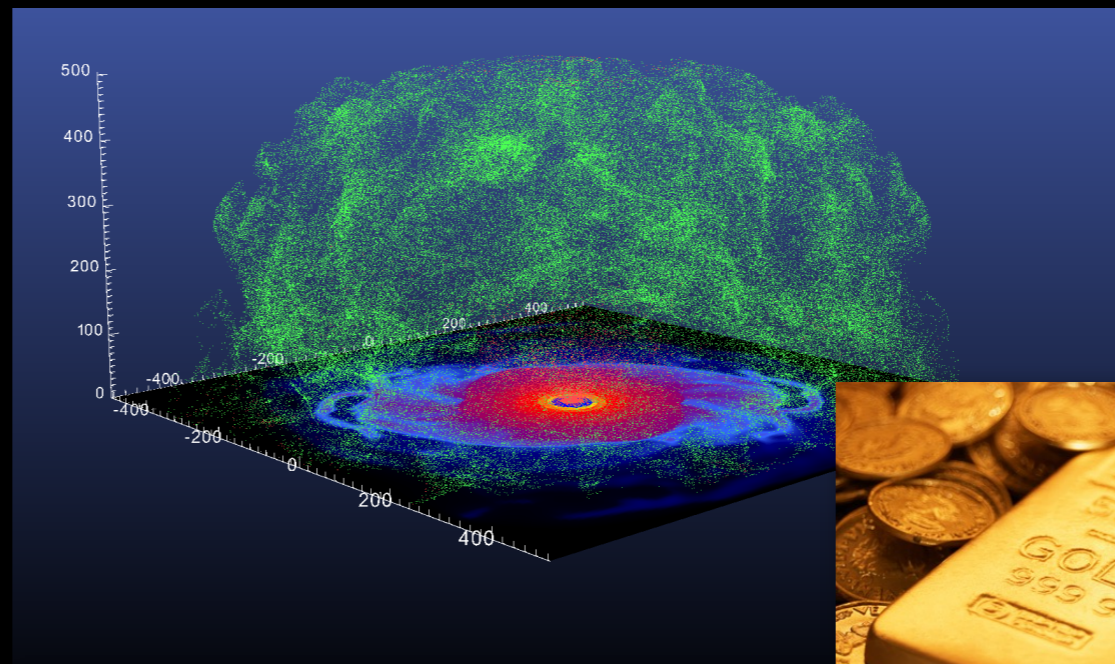
- For black holes the process is very **simple**:



- For NSs the question is more **subtle**: the merger leads to an hyper-massive neutron star (HMNS), ie a metastable equilibrium:



- **ejected matter** undergoes nucleosynthesis of heavy elements



The equations of numerical relativity

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu} R = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}, \text{ (Einstein equations)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0, \text{ (cons. energy/momentum)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mu}(\rho u^{\mu}) = 0, \text{ (cons. rest mass)}$$

$$p = p(\rho, \epsilon, Y_e, \dots), \text{ (equation of state)}$$

$$\nabla_{\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = I^{\mu}, \quad \nabla_{\nu}^* F^{\mu\nu} = 0, \text{ (Maxwell equations)}$$

$$\nabla_{\mu} T_{\text{rad}}^{\mu\nu} = S^{\nu}, \text{ (radiative losses)}$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{fluid}} + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{EM}} + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{rad}} + \dots \text{ (energy - momentum tensor)}$$

A prototypical simulation with possibly the best code looks like this...



merger \longrightarrow HMNS \longrightarrow BH + torus
 $M \approx 2 \times 1.35 M_{\odot}$

timescale for all this is 0.01-1 sec EOS

Qualitatively, this is what normally happens:

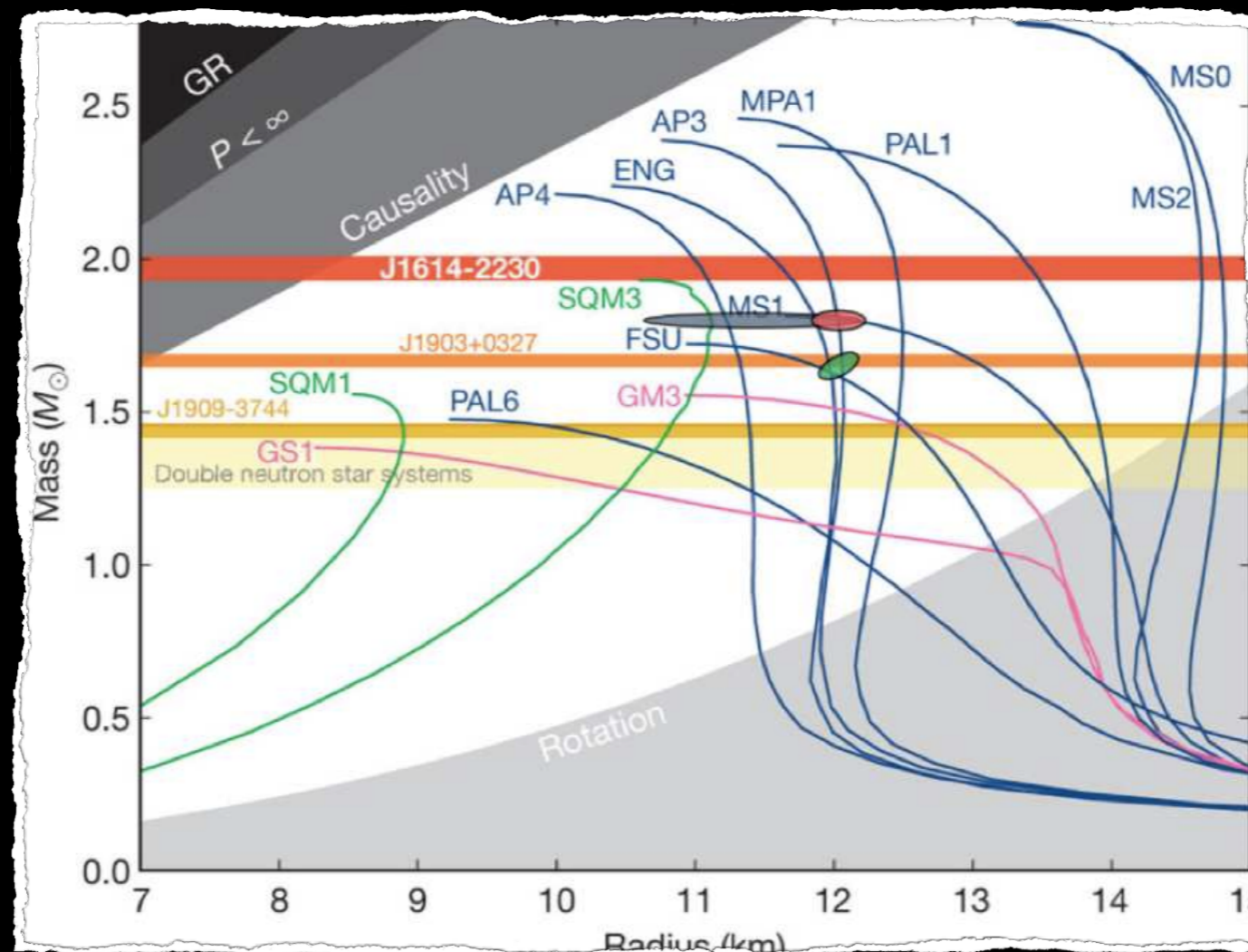
merger \longrightarrow HMNS \longrightarrow BH + torus

Quantitatively, differences are produced by:

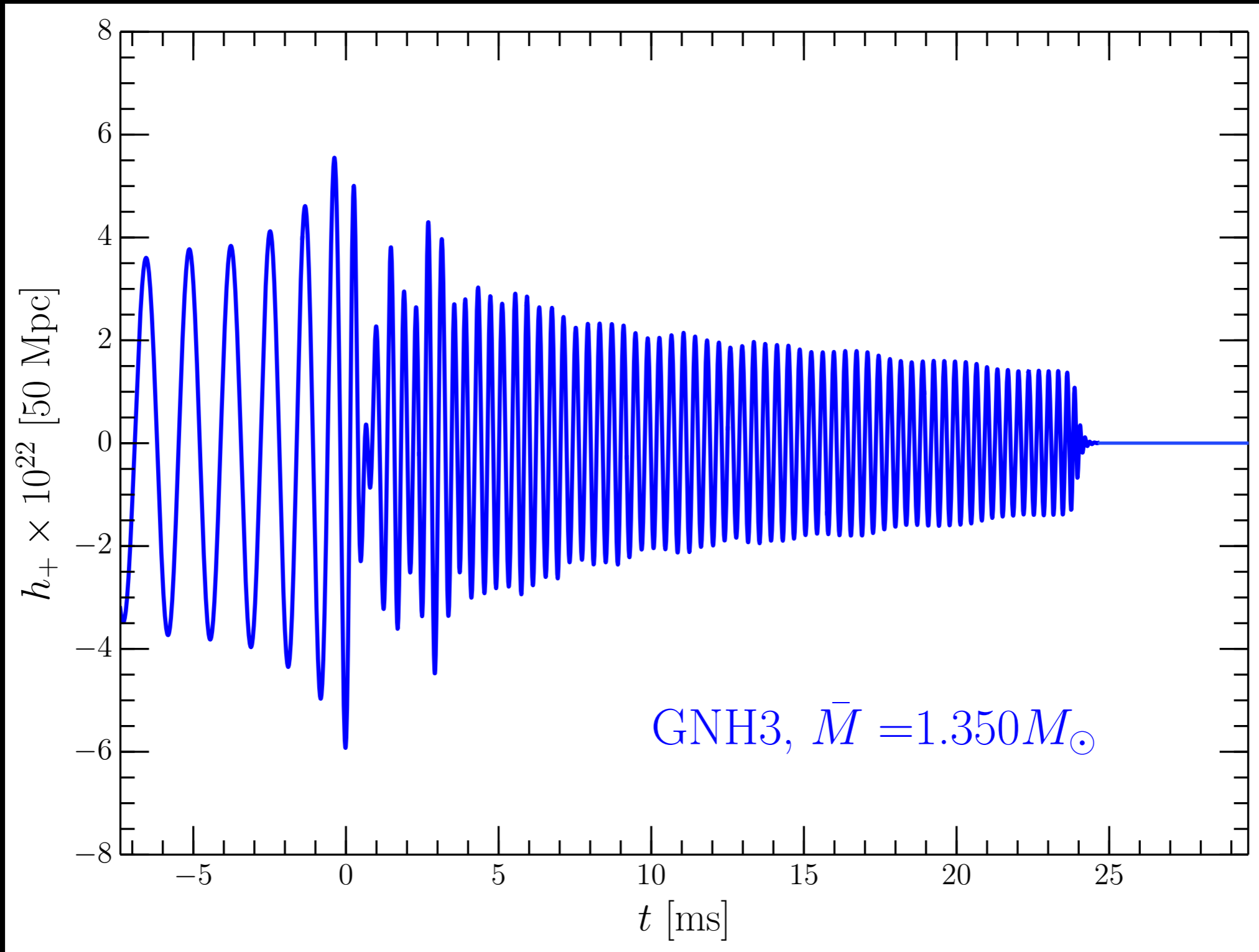
- total **mass** (prompt vs delayed collapse)
- mass **asymmetries** (HMNS and torus)
- soft/stiff **EOS** (inspiral and post-merger, PT)
- **magnetic fields** (equil. and EM emission)
- **radiative** losses (equil. and nucleosynthesis)

GW spectroscopy: EOS from frequencies

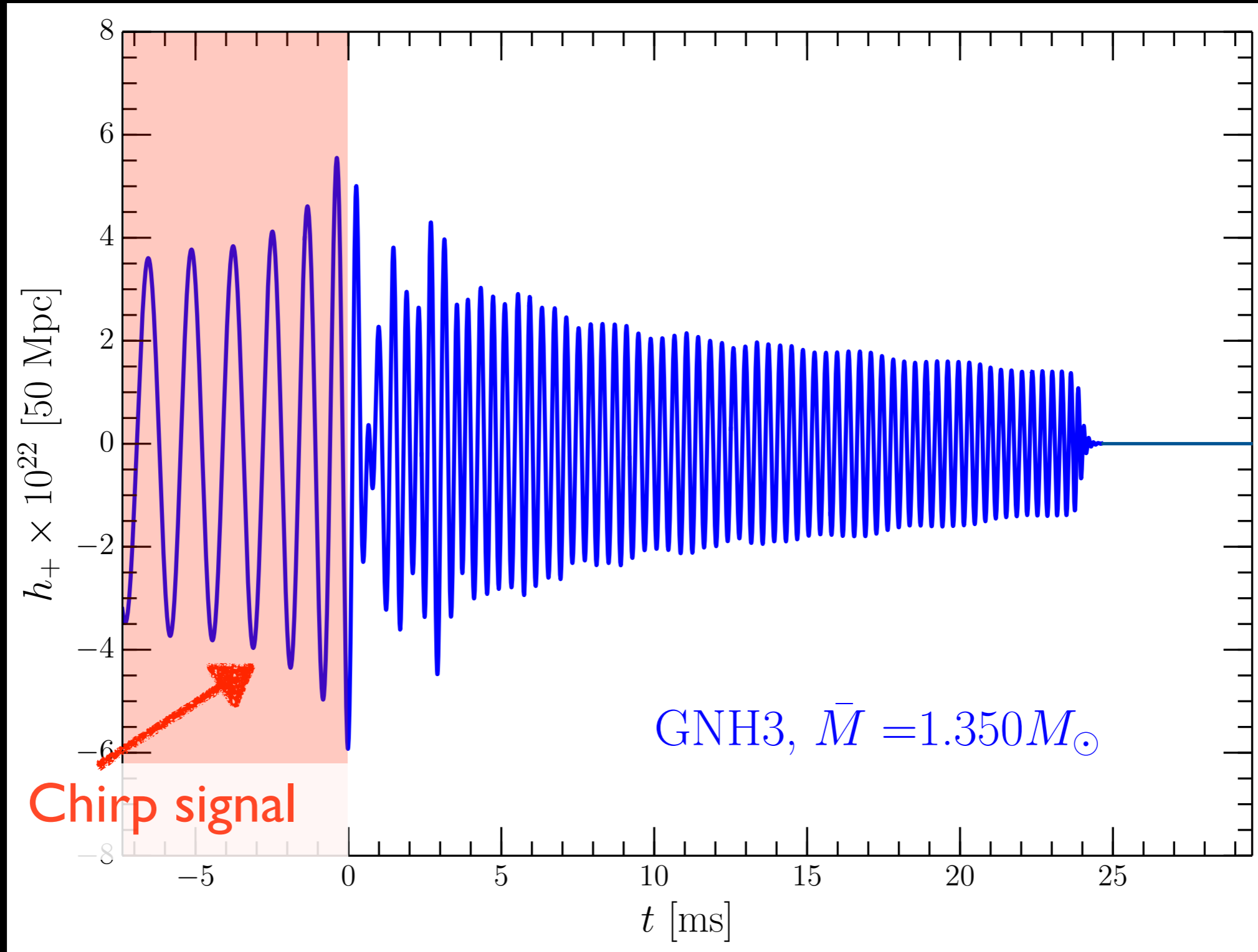
Takami, LR, Baiotti 2014; Takami, LR, Baiotti 2015; LR, Takami 2016;
Bose, LR, + 2017; Zhu, LR 2020, + ...



Anatomy of the GW signal

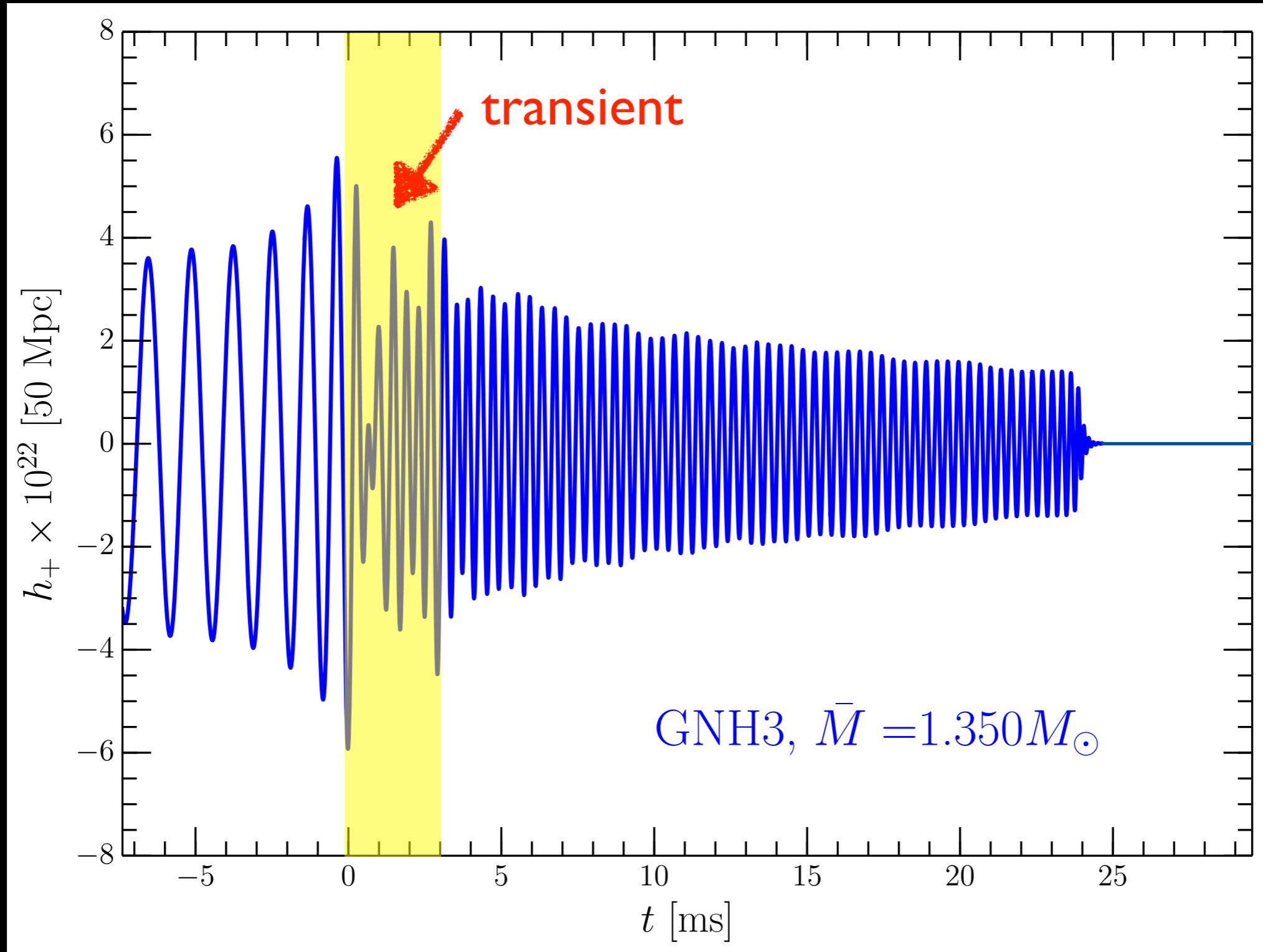


Anatomy of the GW signal



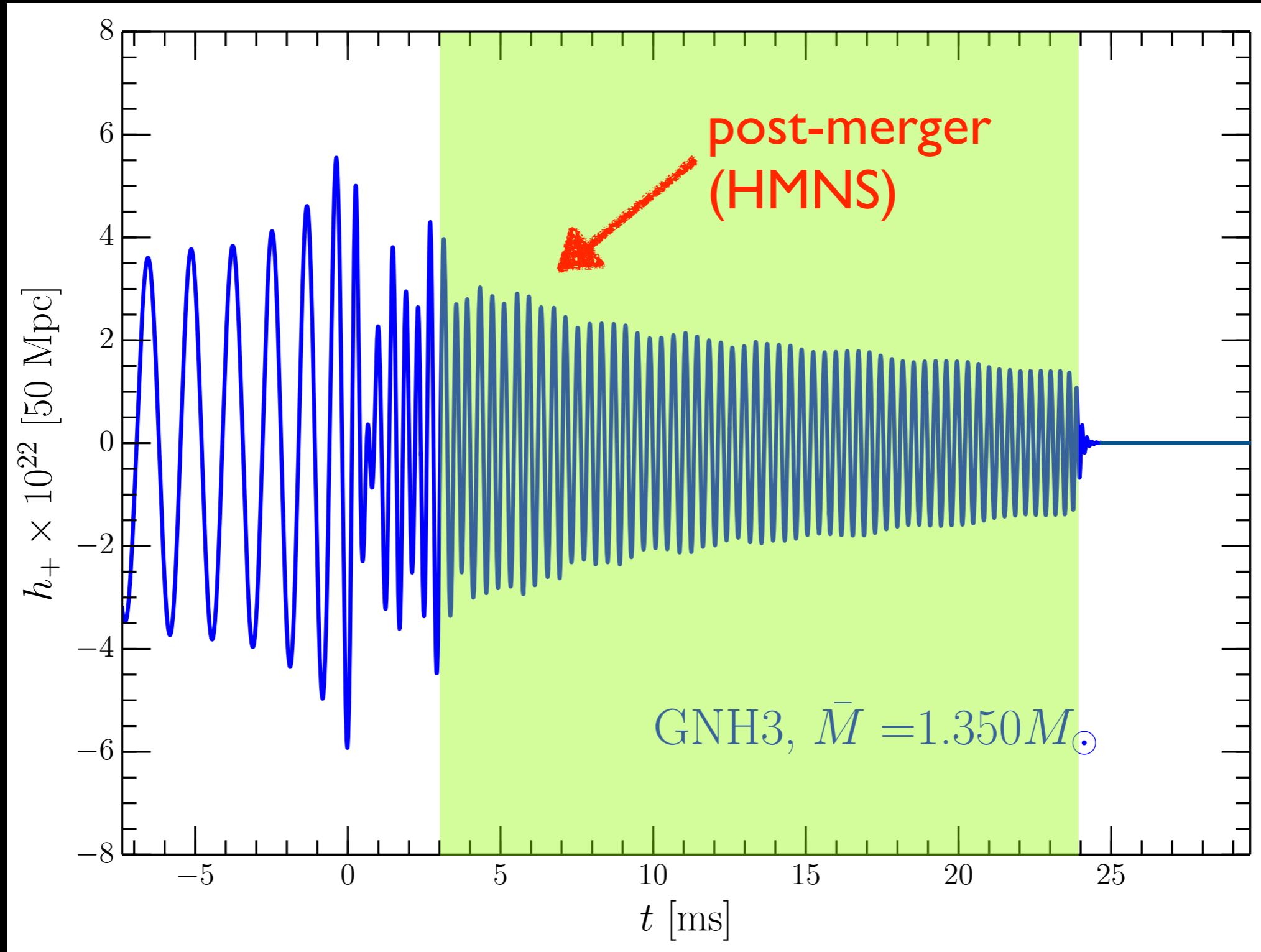
Inspiral: well approximated by PN/EOB; tidal effects important

Anatomy of the GW signal



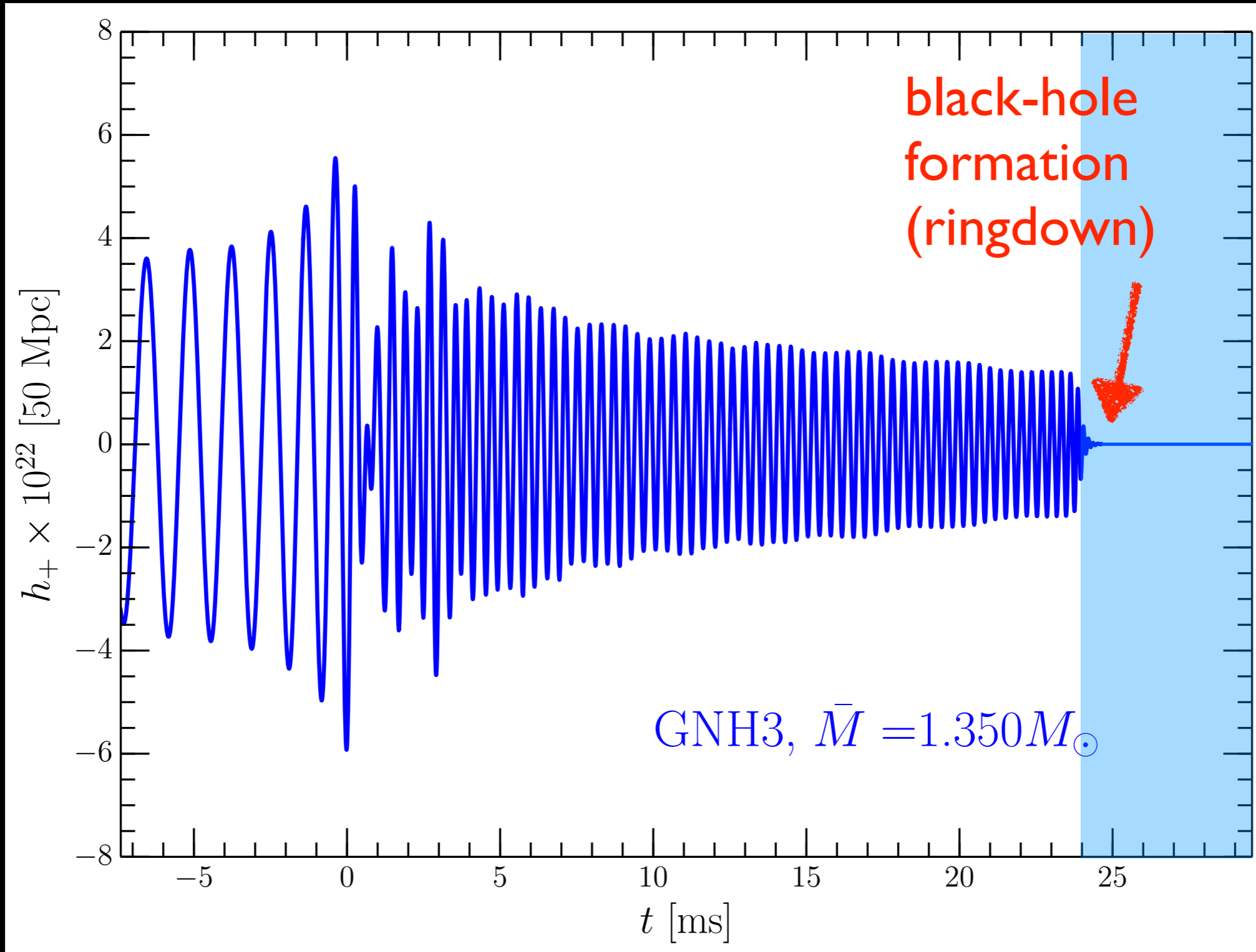
Merger: highly nonlinear but analytic description possible

Anatomy of the GW signal



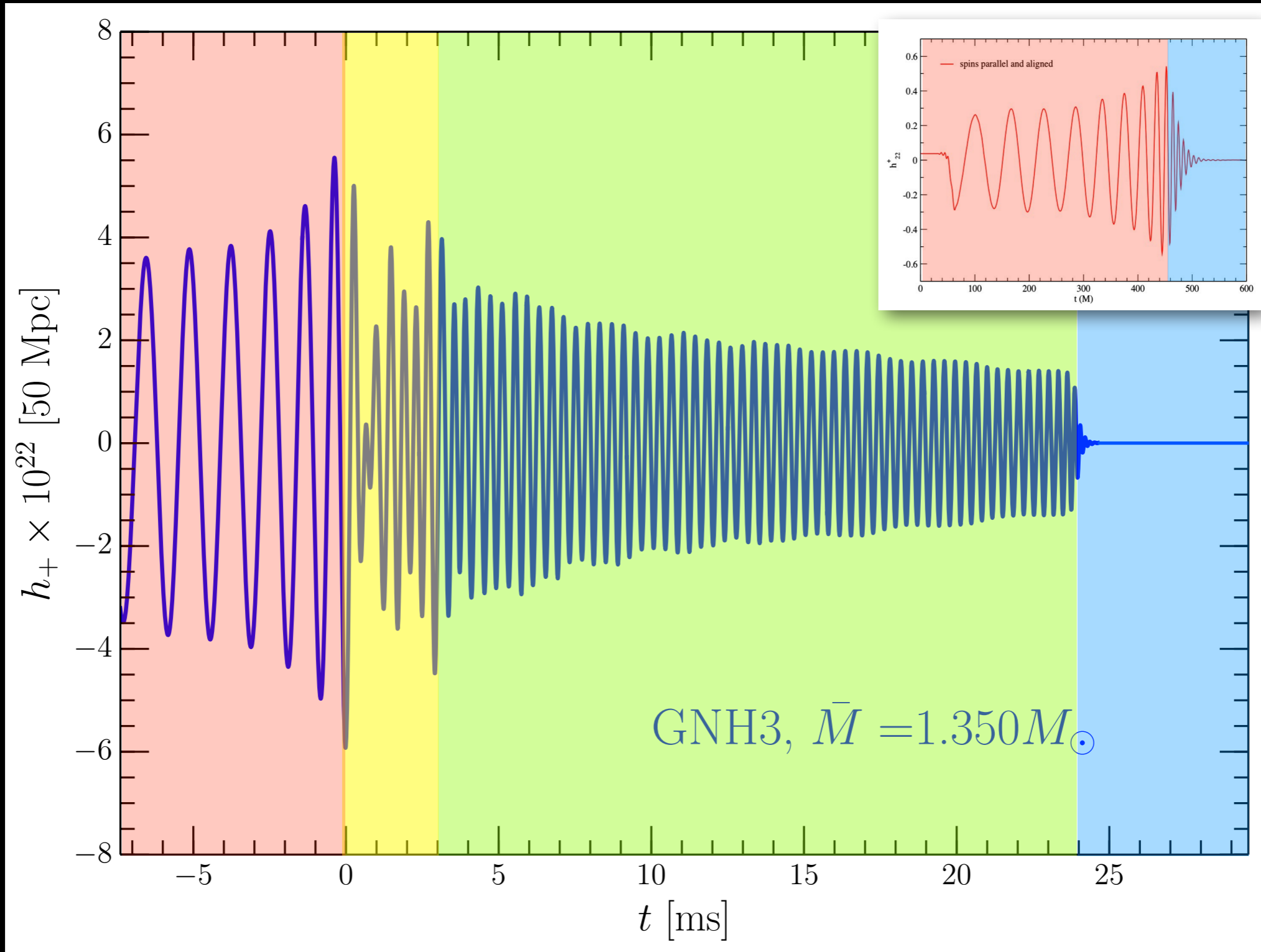
post-merger: quasi-periodic emission of bar-deformed HMNS

Anatomy of the GW signal



Collapse-ringdown: signal essentially shuts off

Anatomy of the GW signal

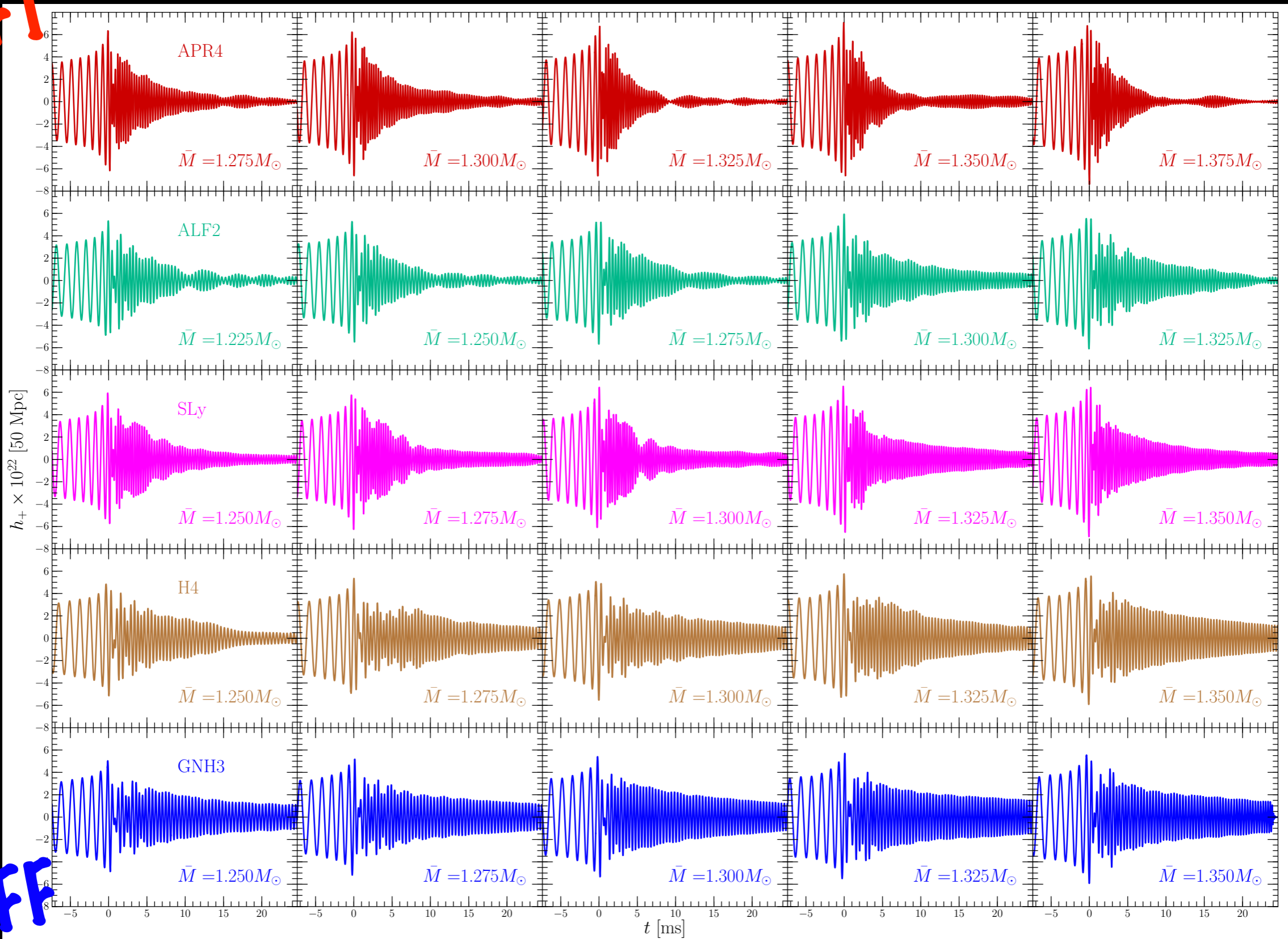


Postmerger signal: peculiar of binary NSs

What we can do nowadays

Takami, LR, Baiotti (2014, 2015), LR+ (2016)

SOFT

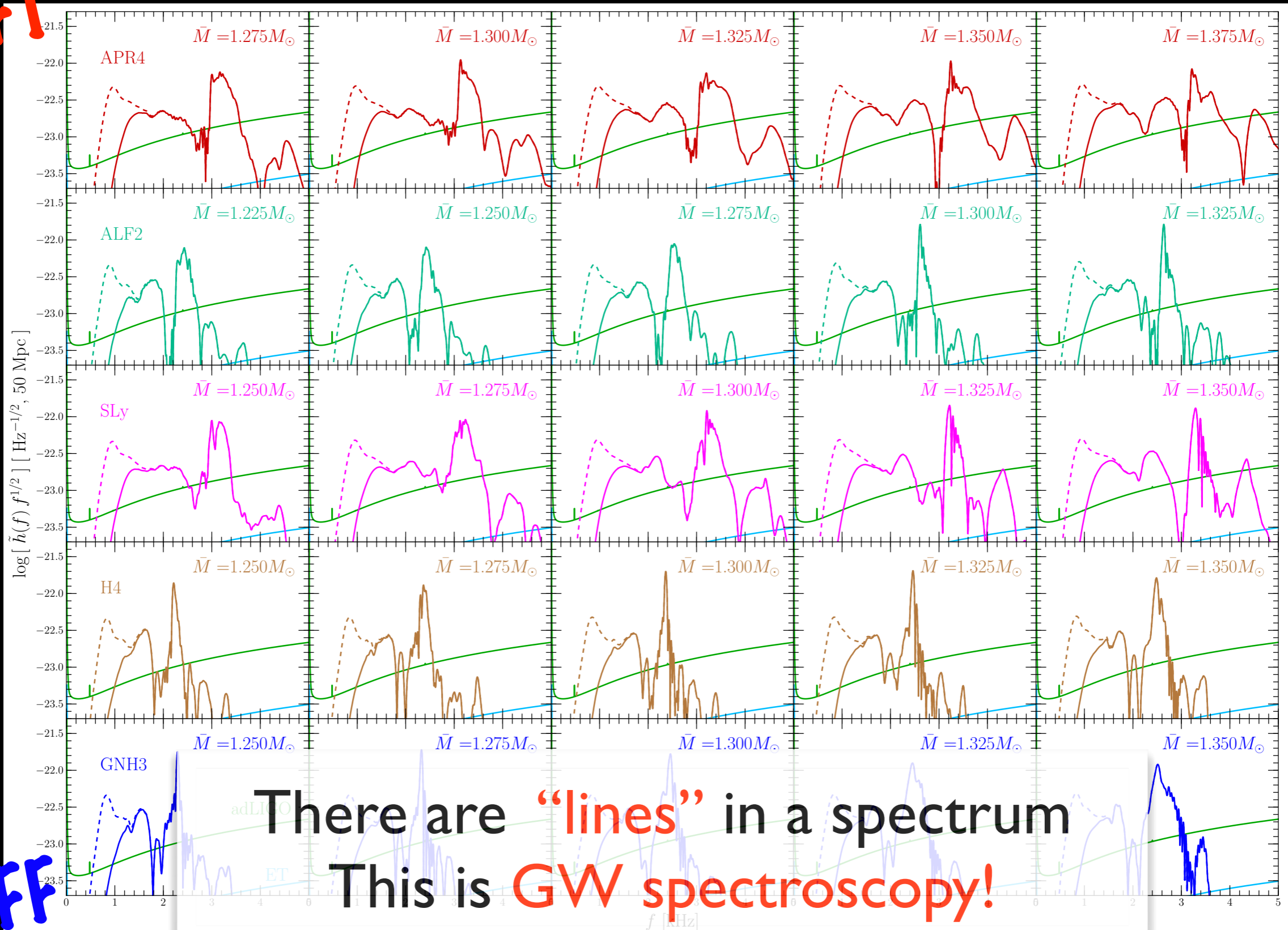


STIFF

Extracting information from the EOS

Takami, LR, Baiotti (2014, 2015), LR+ (2016)

SOFT

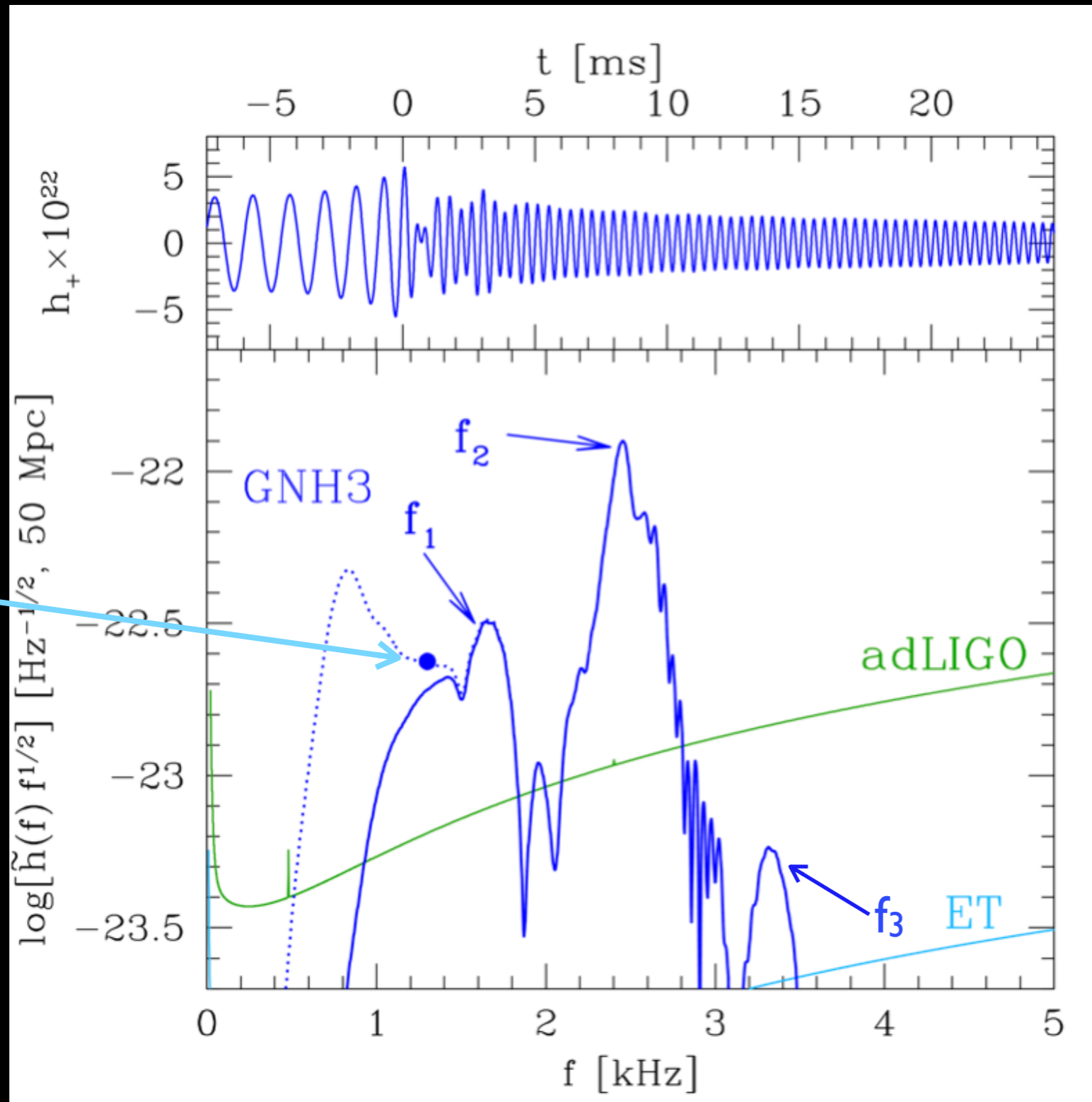


STIFF

A spectroscopic approach to the EOS

Oechslin+2007, Baiotti+2008, Bauswein+ 2011, 2012, Stergioulas+ 2011, Hotokezaka+ 2013, Takami 2014, 2015, Bernuzzi 2014, 2015, Bauswein+ 2015, Clark+ 2016, LR+2016, de Pietri+ 2016, Feo+ 2017, Bose+ 2017 .

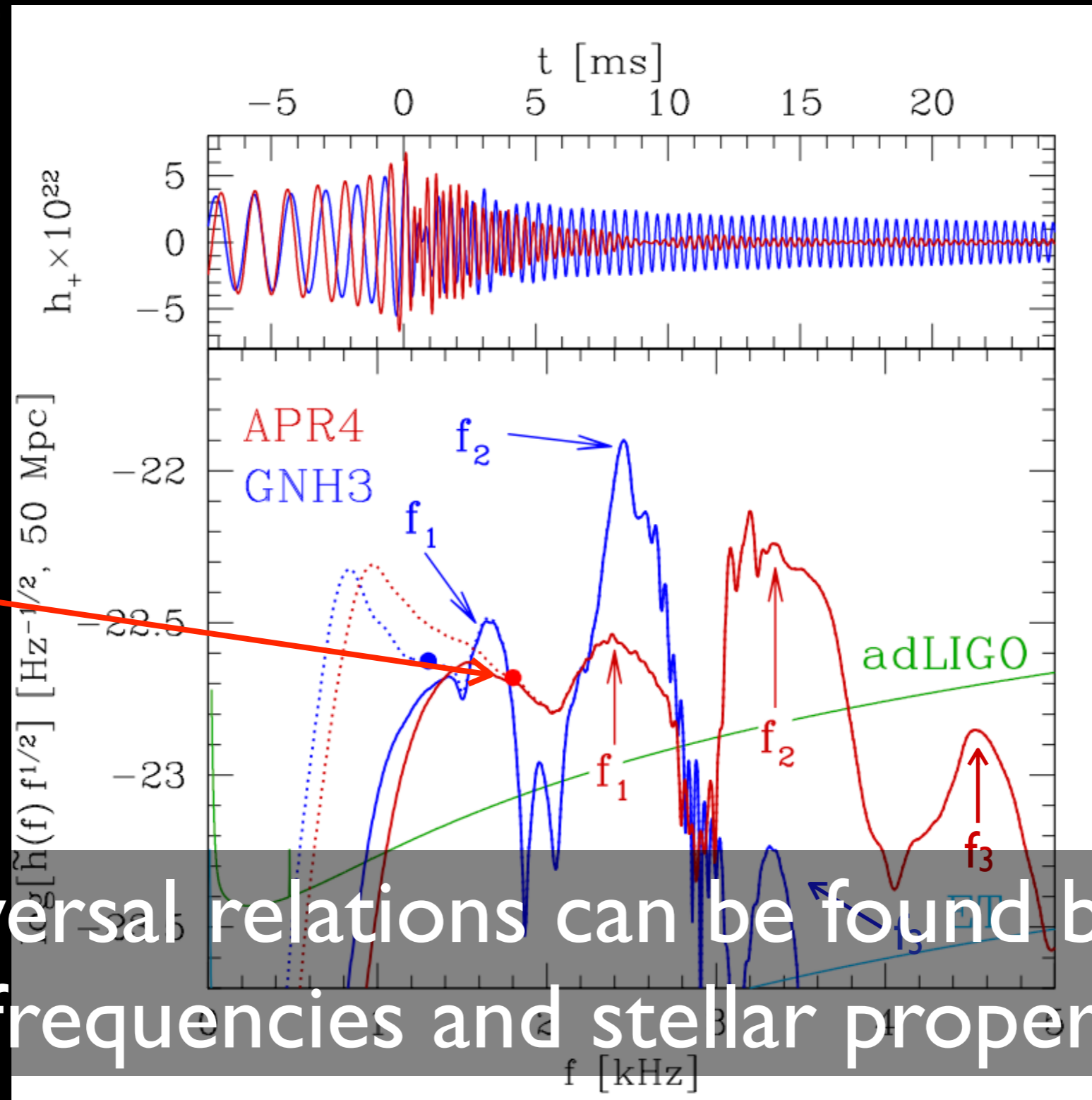
merger
frequency



A spectroscopic approach to the EOS

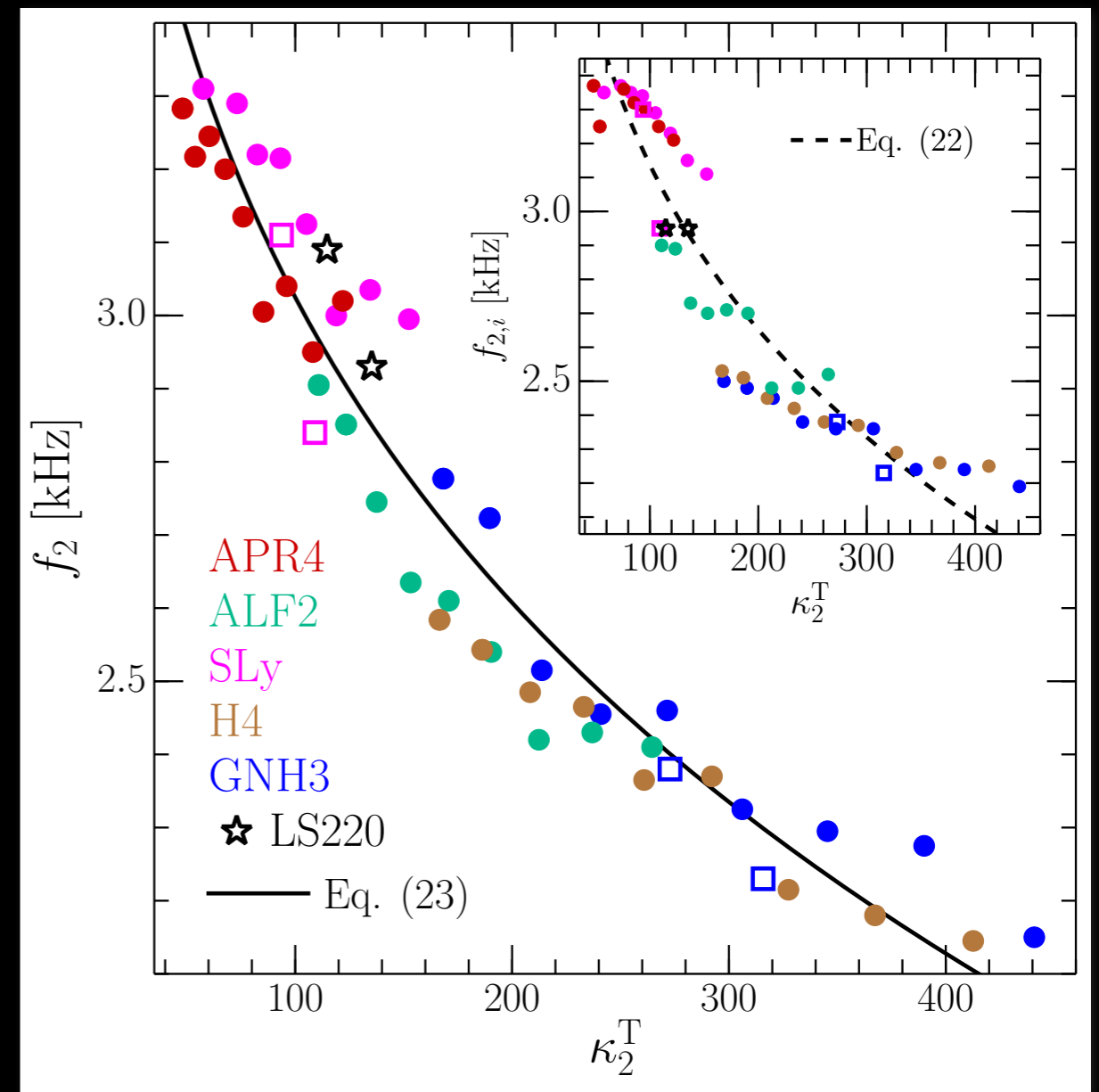
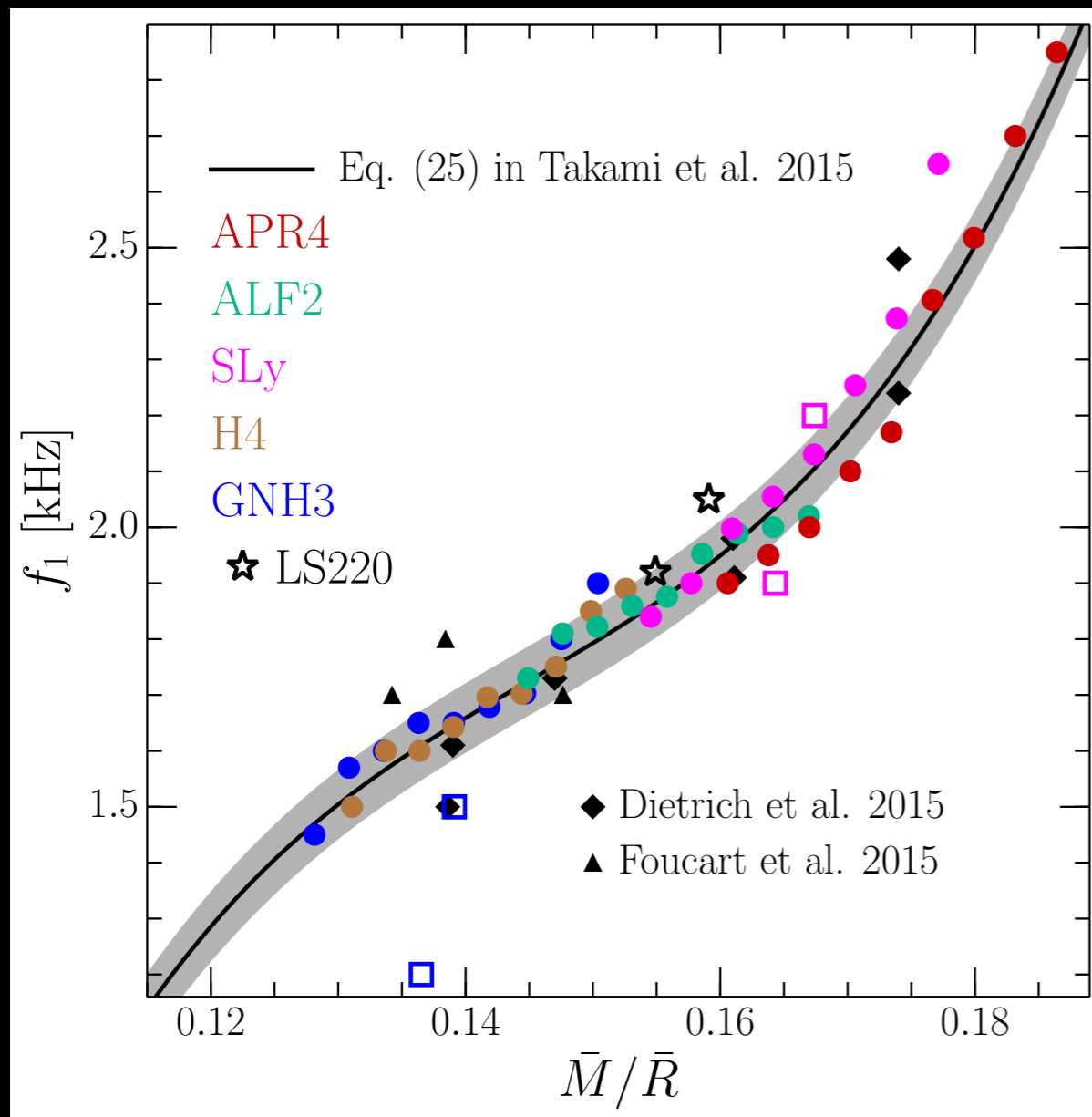
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merger
frequency



Universal relations can be found between frequencies and stellar properties

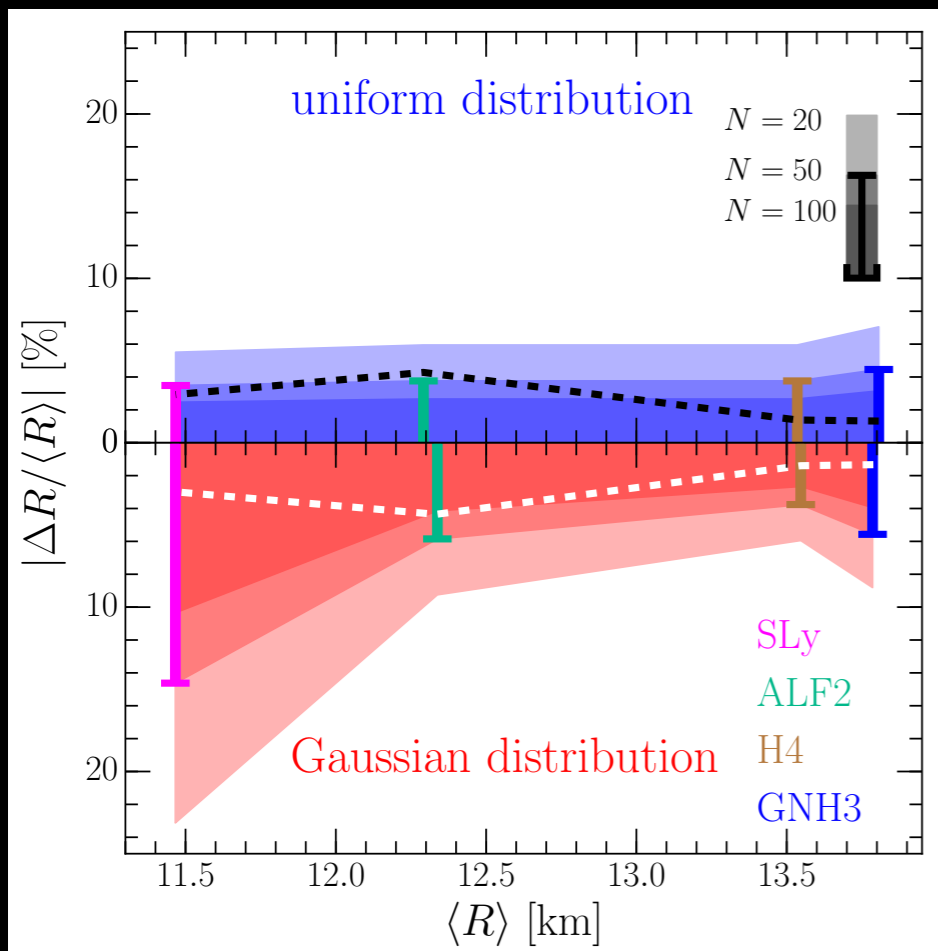
Quasi-universal behaviour: post-merger



quasi-universal behaviour has profound implications for the analytical modelling of the GW emission: “what we do for one EOS can be extended to all EOSs.”

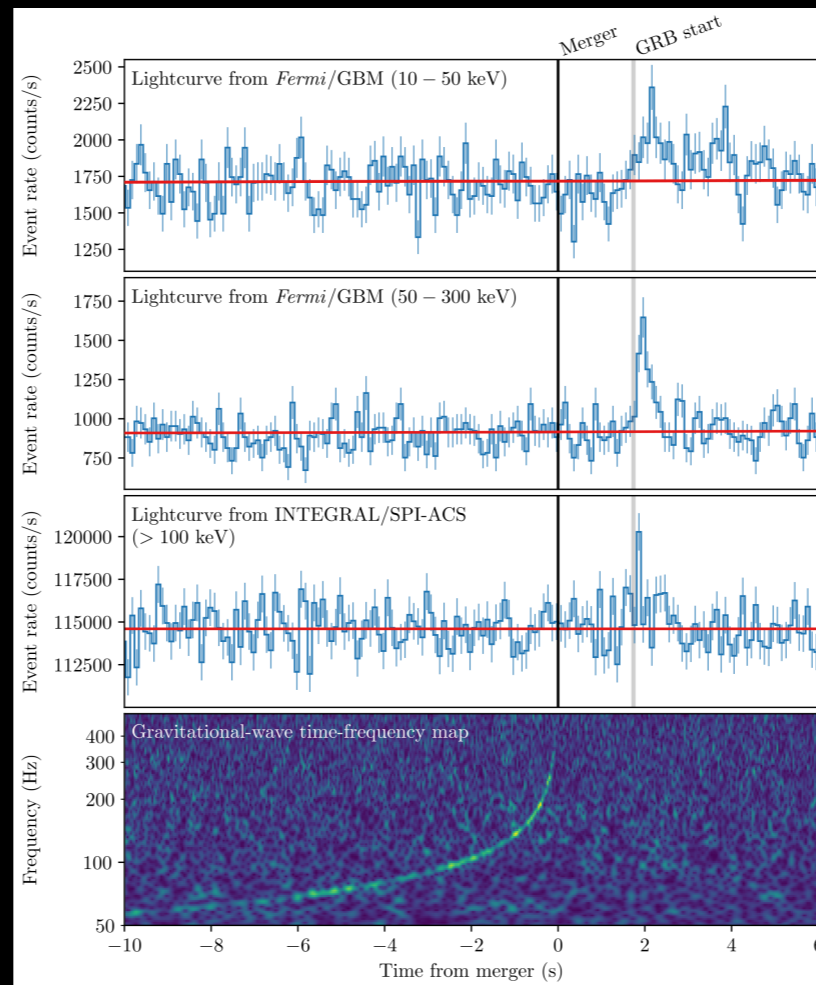
A spectroscopic approach to the EOS

- **Universal behaviour** and **analytic modelling** of post-merger relates position of these peaks with the EOS.
- Question: how well can we constrain the EOS (radius) given **N detections?**



- discriminating stiff/soft EOSs possible even with moderate **$N \sim 10$**
- stiff EOSs: $|\Delta R / \langle R \rangle| < 10\%$ for **$N \sim 20$**
- soft EOSs: $|\Delta R / \langle R \rangle| \sim 10\%$ for **$N \sim 50$**
- golden binary: **$\text{SNR} \sim 6$** at **30 Mpc**
 $|\Delta R / \langle R \rangle| \simeq 2\%$ at 90% confidence

GW170817, GW190814 and maximum mass



LR, Most, Weih, ApJL (2018)

Most, Weih, LR, Schaffner-Bielich, PRL (2018)

Nathanail, Most, LR, ApJL (2021)

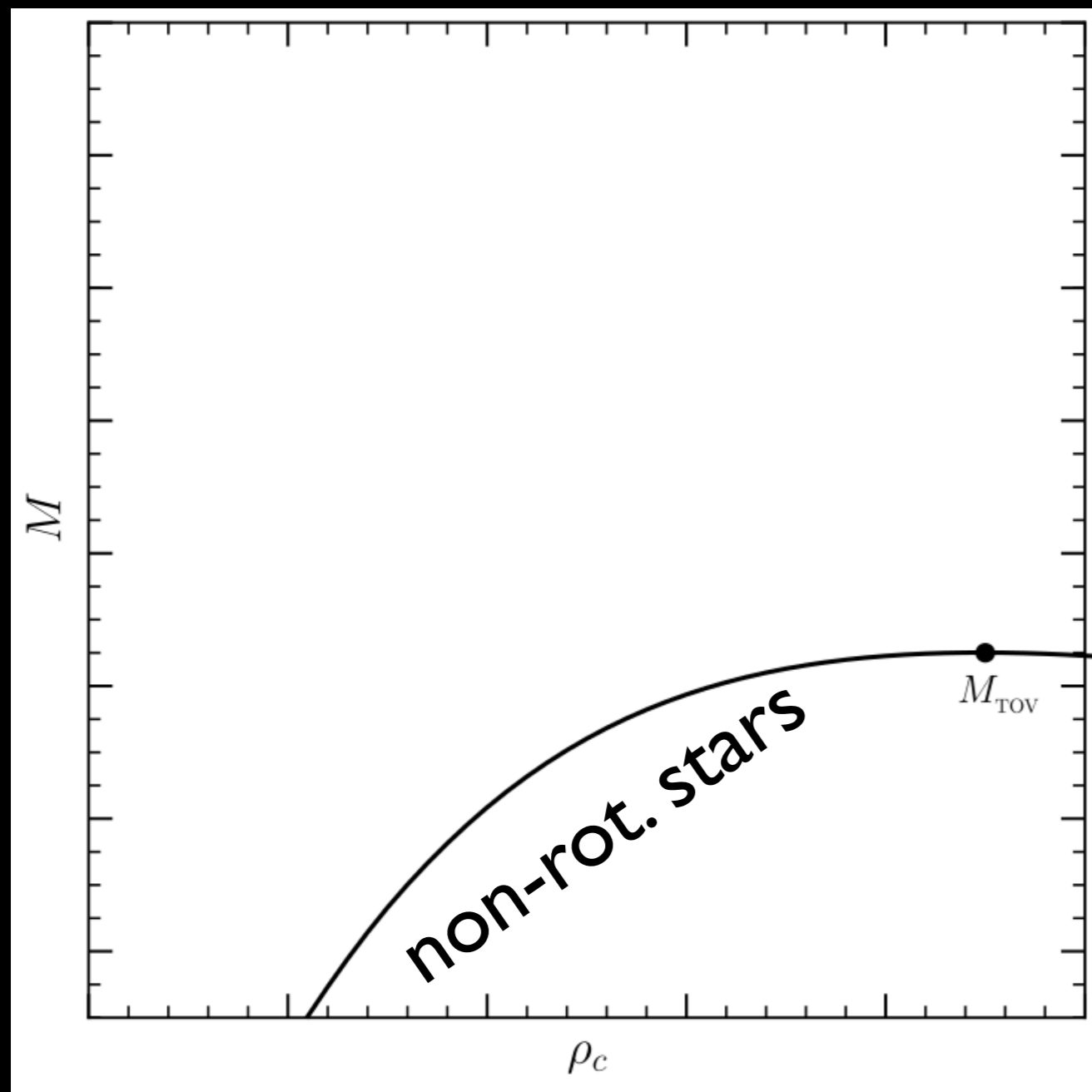
Musolino, Ecker, LR, arXiv (2023)

Limits on the maximum mass

- The remnant of GW170817 was a hypermassive star, i.e. a differentially rotating object with initial **gravitational** mass:

$$M_1 + M_2 = 2.74_{-0.01}^{+0.04} M_{\odot}$$

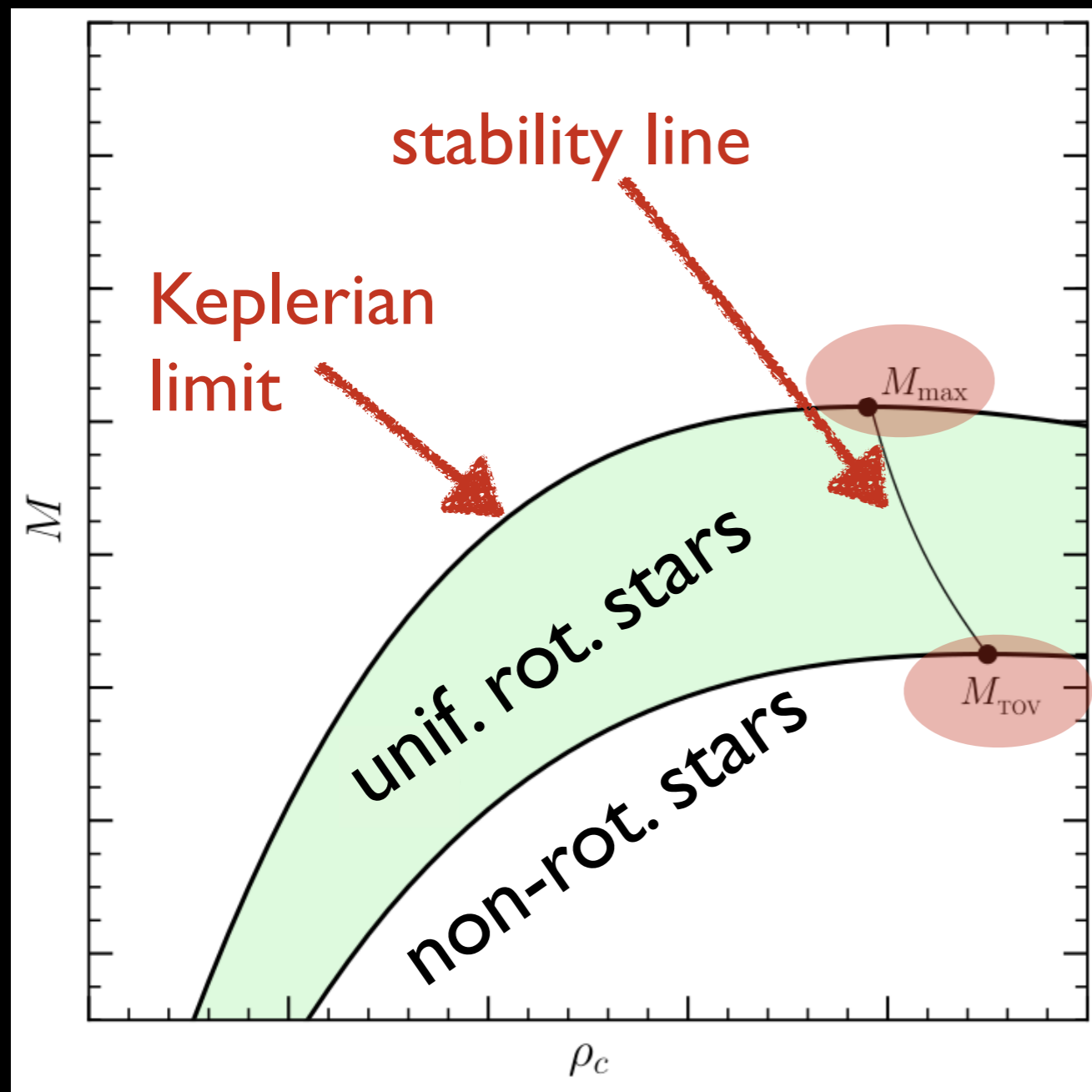
- Sequences of equilibrium models of **nonrotating** stars will have a maximum mass: M_{TOV}



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- This is true also for **uniformly** rotating stars at mass shedding limit: M_{max}
- M_{max} simple and **quasi-universal** function of M_{TOV} (Breu & LR 2016)

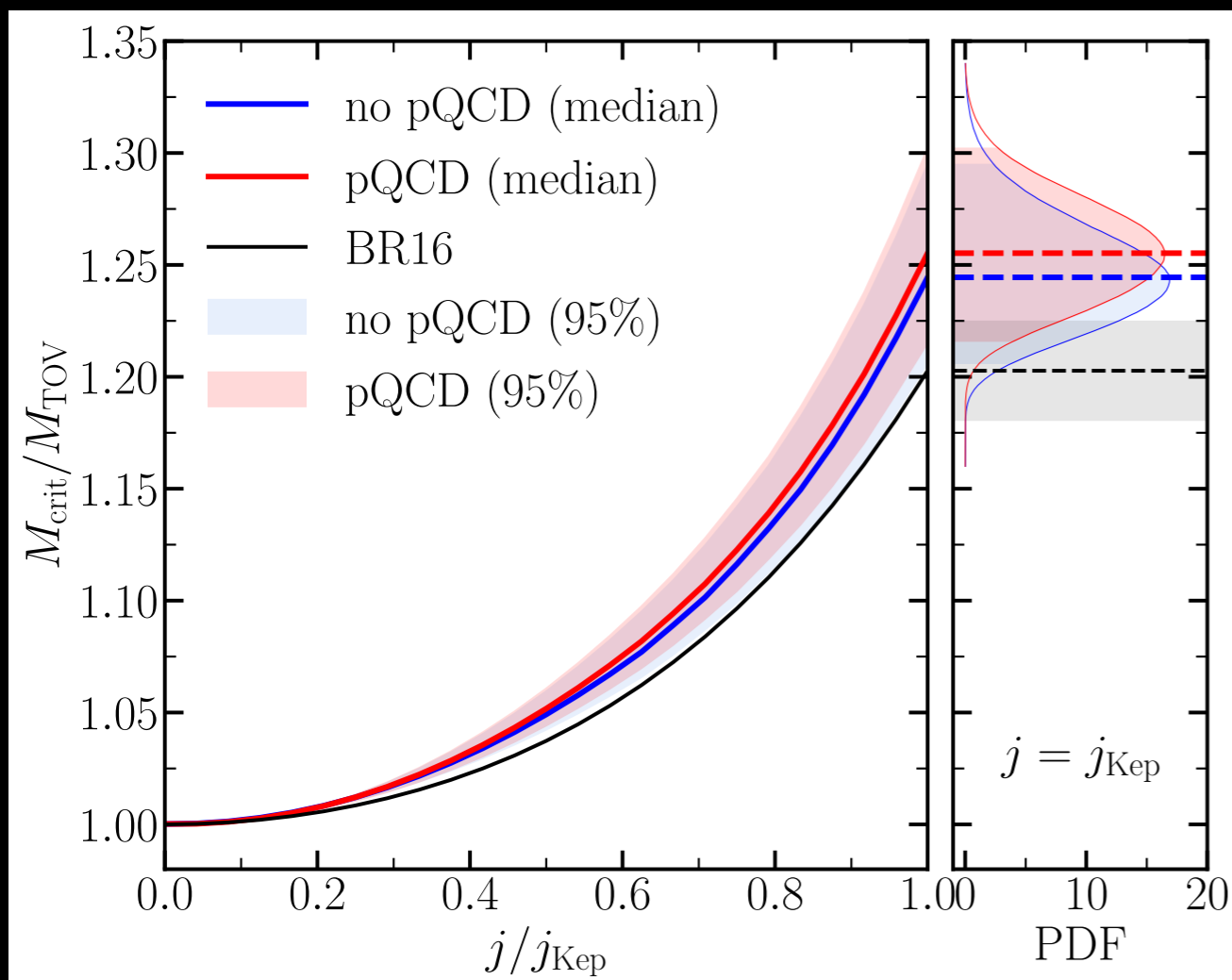
$$M_{\text{max}} = 1.20_{-0.05}^{+0.02} M_{\text{TOV}}$$

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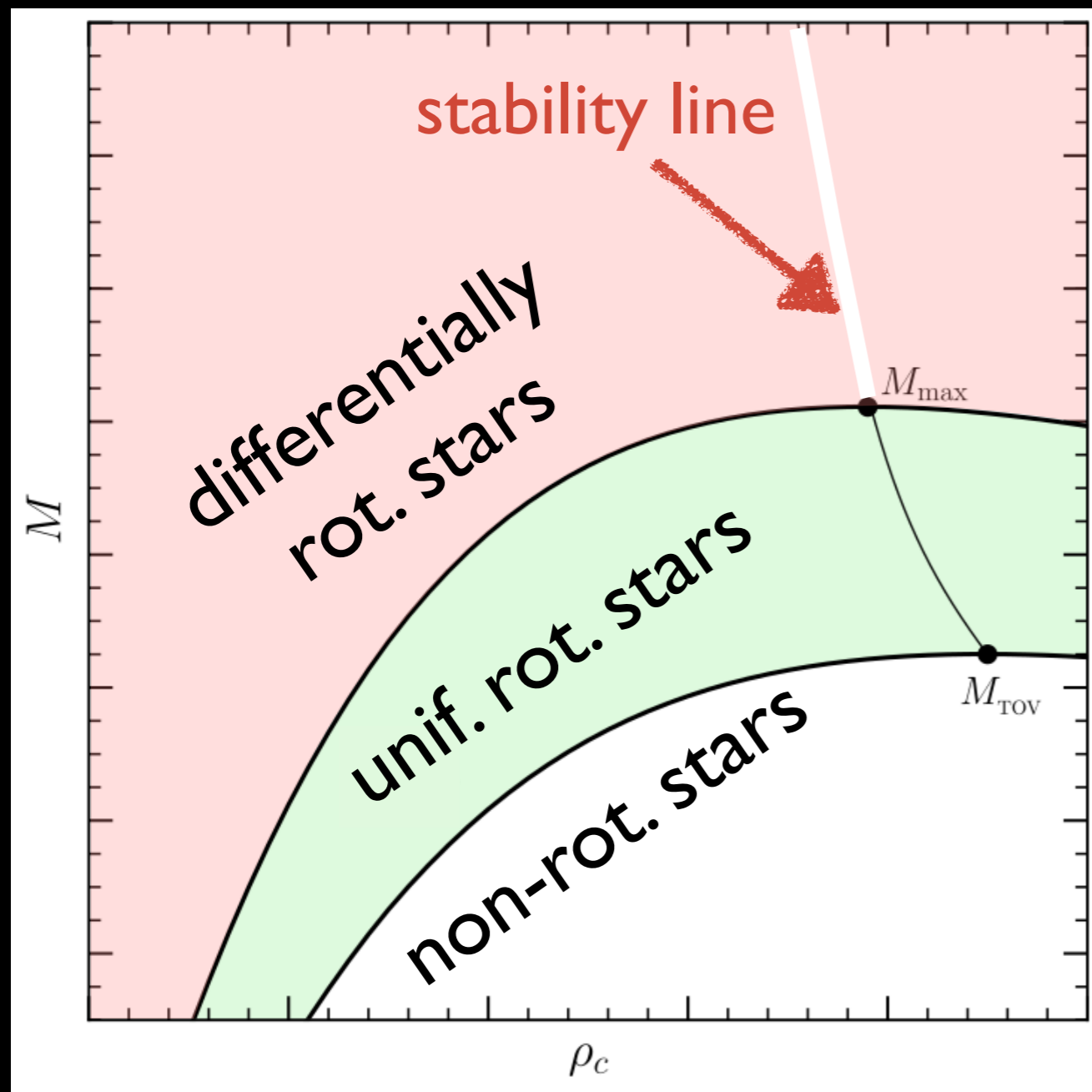


$$M_{\text{max}} = 1.25_{-0.04}^{+0.05} M_{\text{TOV}}$$

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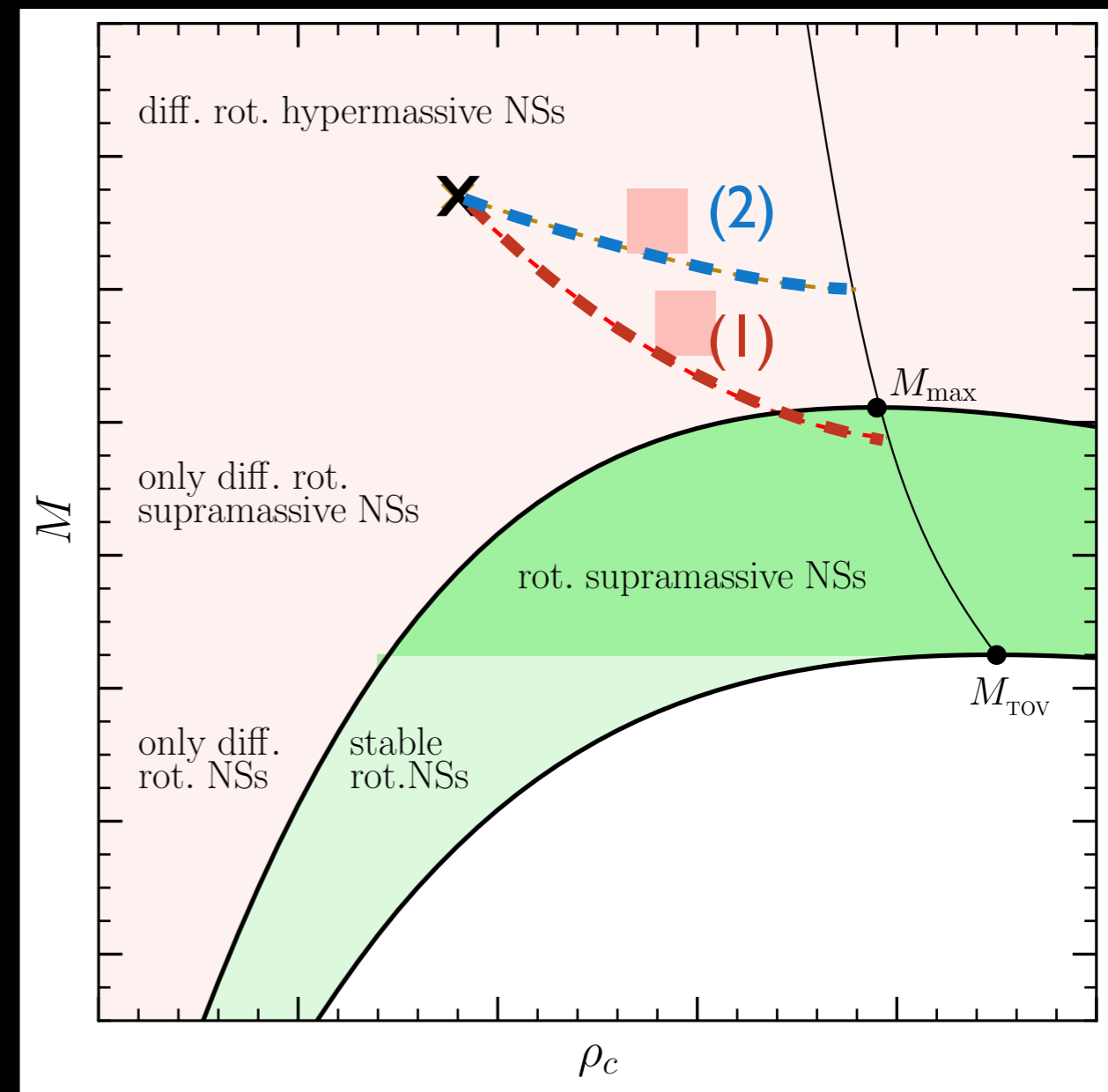
$$M_1 + M_2 = 2.74_{-0.01}^{+0.04} M_{\odot}$$



- Green** region is for **uniformly** rotating equilibrium models.
- Salmon** region is for **differentially** rotating equilibrium models.
- Stability line** is simply extended in larger space (Weih+18)

Limits on the maximum mass

- GW170817 produced object "X"; GRB implies a BH has been formed: "X" followed two possible tracks: **fast (2)** and **slow (1)**
- It rapidly produced a BH when still **differentially** rotating **(2)**
- It lost differential rotation leading to a **uniformly** rotating core **(1)**.
- **(1)** is much more likely because of large ejected mass (long lived).
- Final mass is near M_{\max} and we know this is universal!



let's recap...

- Consider **evolution track (I)**
- Use measured **gravitational mass** of GW170817
- Remove **rest-mass** deduced from kilonova emission (need conversion baryon/gravitational)
- Use **universal relations**, to obtain

pulsar
timing

$$2.01^{+0.04}_{-0.04} \leq M_{\text{TOV}} / M_{\odot} \leq 2.16^{+0.17}_{-0.15}$$

GW170817;
similar estimates
by other groups
(Margalit+ 2018, Shibata+
2018, Ruiz+ 2018)

Tension on the maximum mass

Nathanail, Most, LR (2021)

- The detection of GW190814 has created a significant tension on the maximum mass

$$M_1 = 22.2 - 24.3 M_{\odot}$$

$$M_2 = 2.50 - 2.67 M_{\odot} \quad \text{smallest BH or heaviest NS!}$$

- If secondary in GW190814 was a NS, all previous results on the maximum mass are incorrect.
- No EM counterpart was observed with GW190814 and no estimates possible for ejected matter or timescale for survival.
- **How do we solve this tension?**

Tension on the maximum mass

- We can nevertheless explore impact of larger maximum mass, i.e., what changes in the previous picture if

$$M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \gtrsim 2.5 ?$$

- In essence, this is a multi-dimensional parametric problem satisfying **conservation** of **rest-mass** and **gravitational mass**.
- Observations provide limits on **gravitational** and **ejected mass**.
- Numerical relativity simulations provide limits on **emitted GWs**
- All the rest is contained in **10 parameters** that need to be varied within suitable ranges.

Genetic algorithm

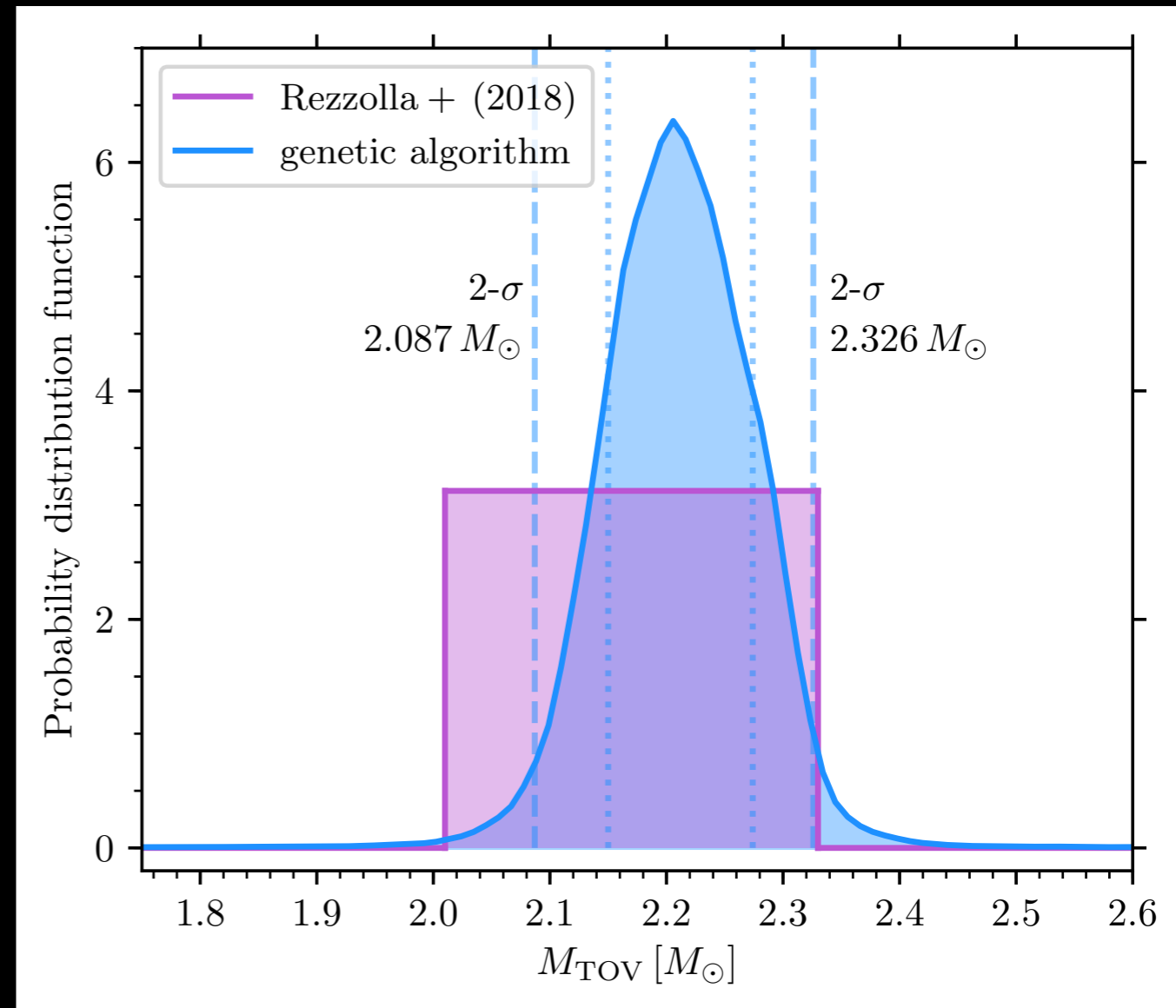
- A **genetic algorithm** is used to sample through the parameter space of the 10 free parameters.

- The algorithm reflects genetic adaptation: given a mutation (i.e., change of parameters) it will be adopted if it provides a better fit to data.

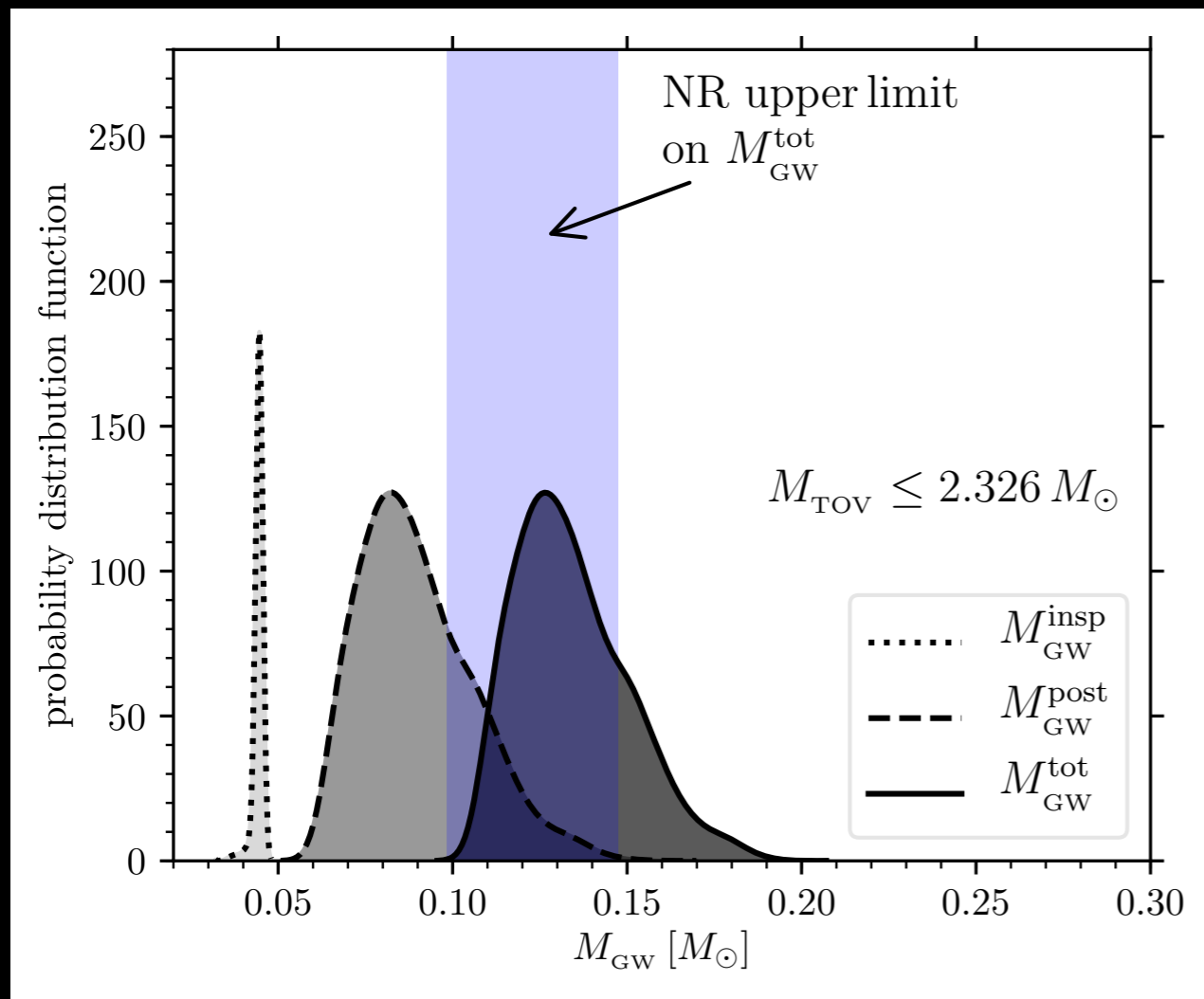
- Consider first previous estimate:

$$M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \lesssim 2.3$$

$$M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \leq 2.16^{+0.17}_{-0.15}$$

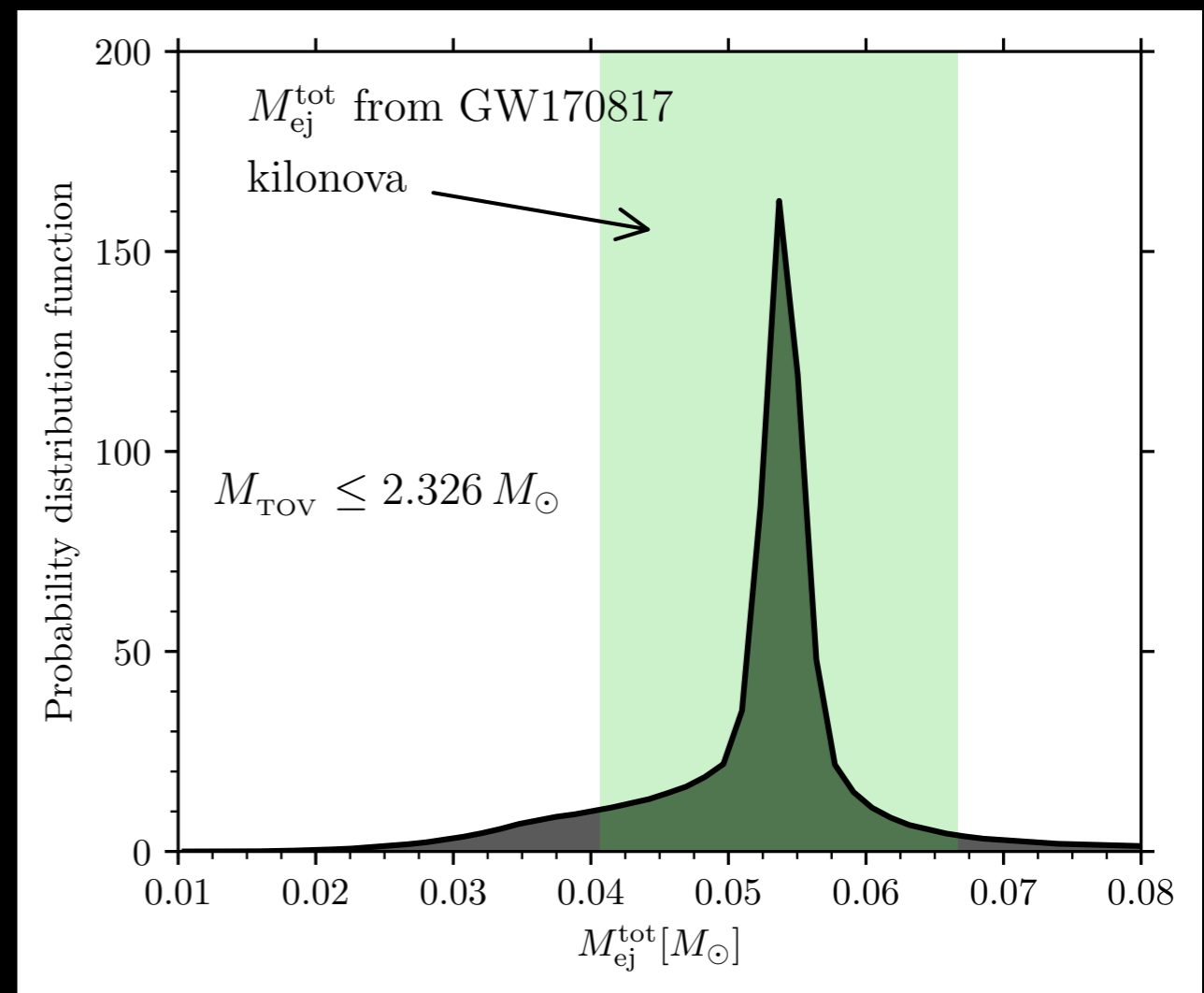


First hypothesis: $M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \lesssim 2.3$

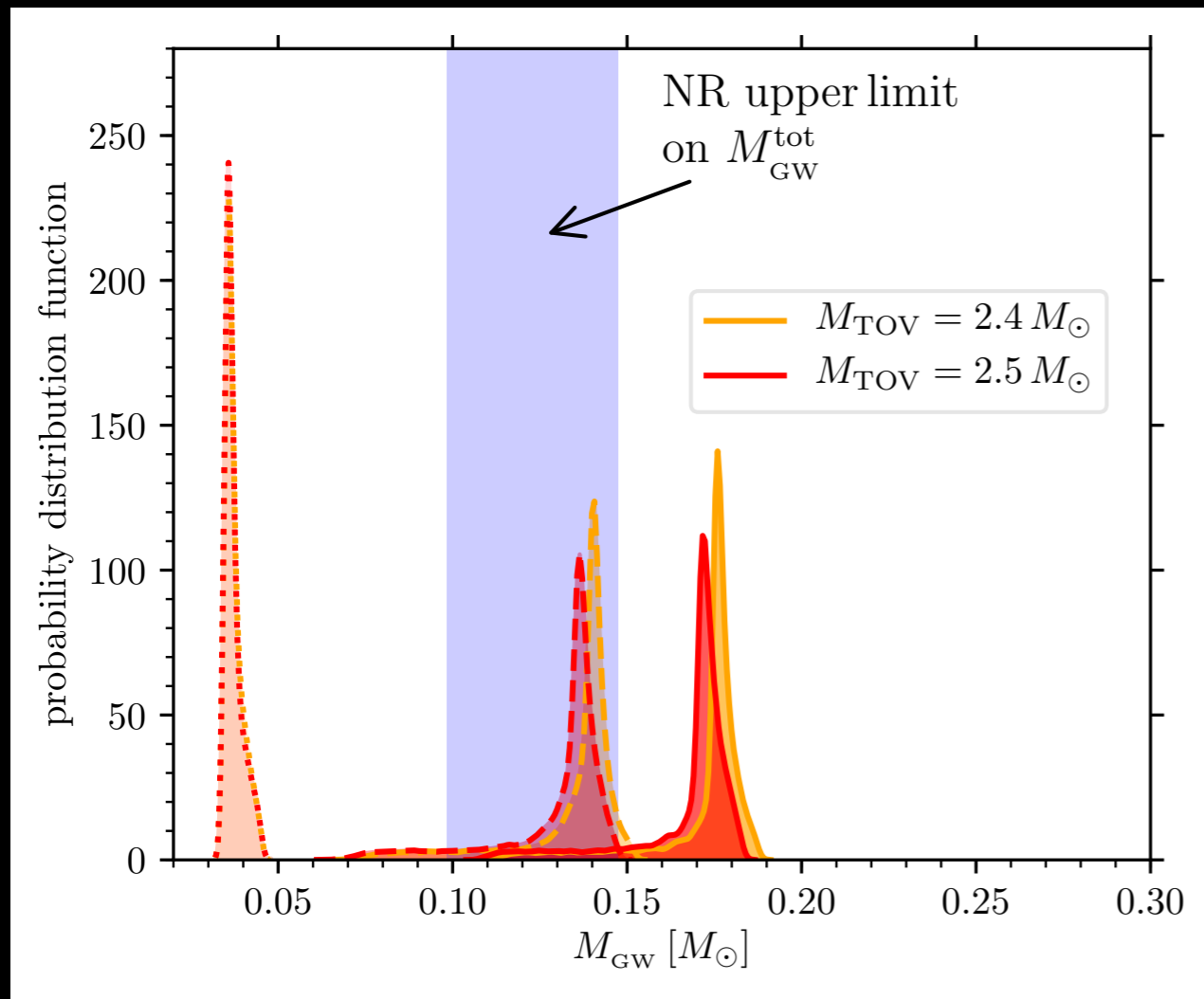


- Total mass ejected is in perfect **agreement** with predictions from kilonova signal

- Total mass emitted in GWs is in perfect **agreement** with predictions from numerical relativity

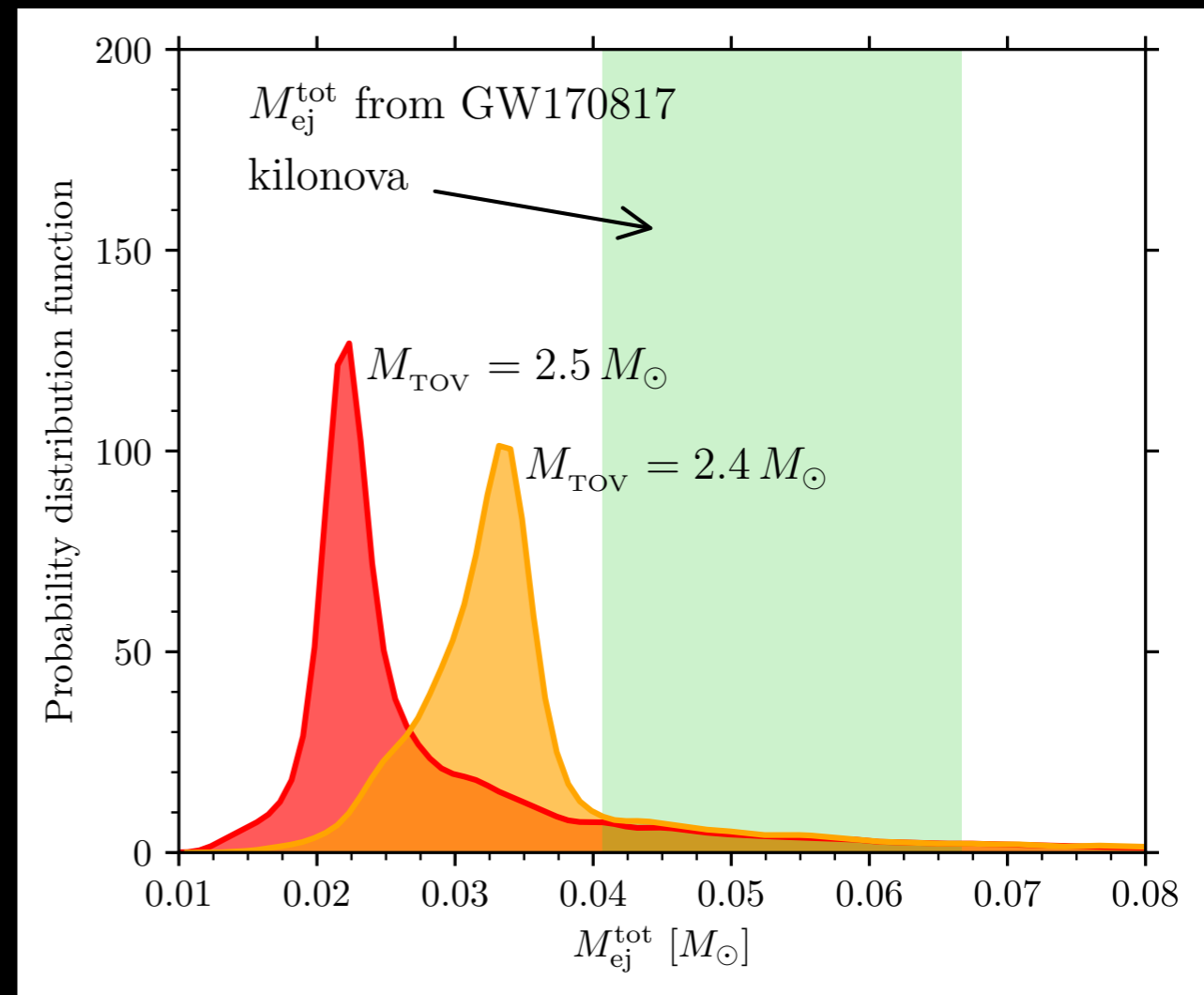


Second hypothesis: $M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \gtrsim 2.5$



- Total mass ejected is in perfect **much smaller** than observed from kilonova signal.

- Total mass emitted in GWs is **much larger** than predicted from simulations;
- Mismatch becomes worse with larger masses



Tension on the maximum mass

Nathanail, Most, LR (2020)

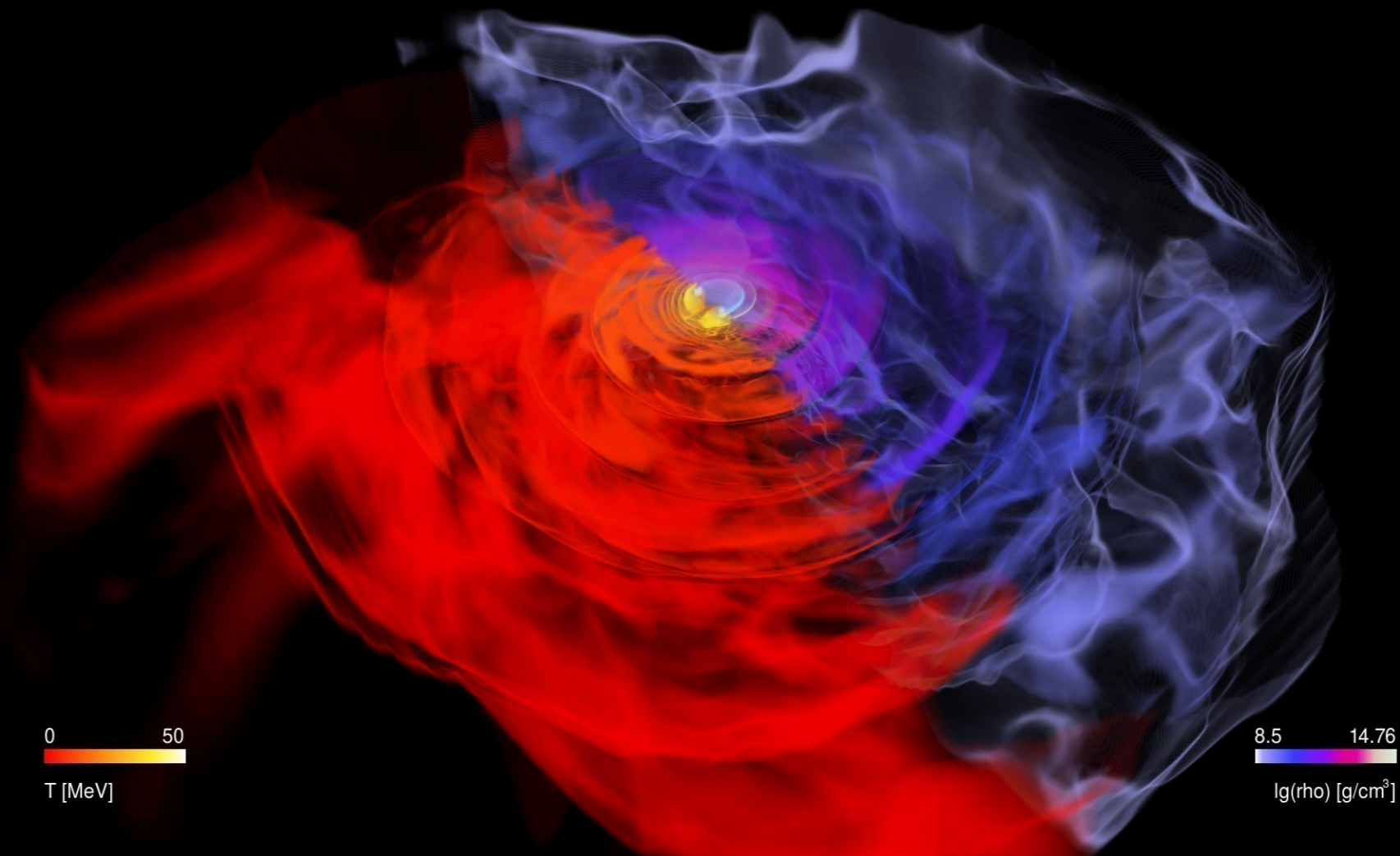
- The recent detection of GW190814 has created a significant tension on the maximum mass

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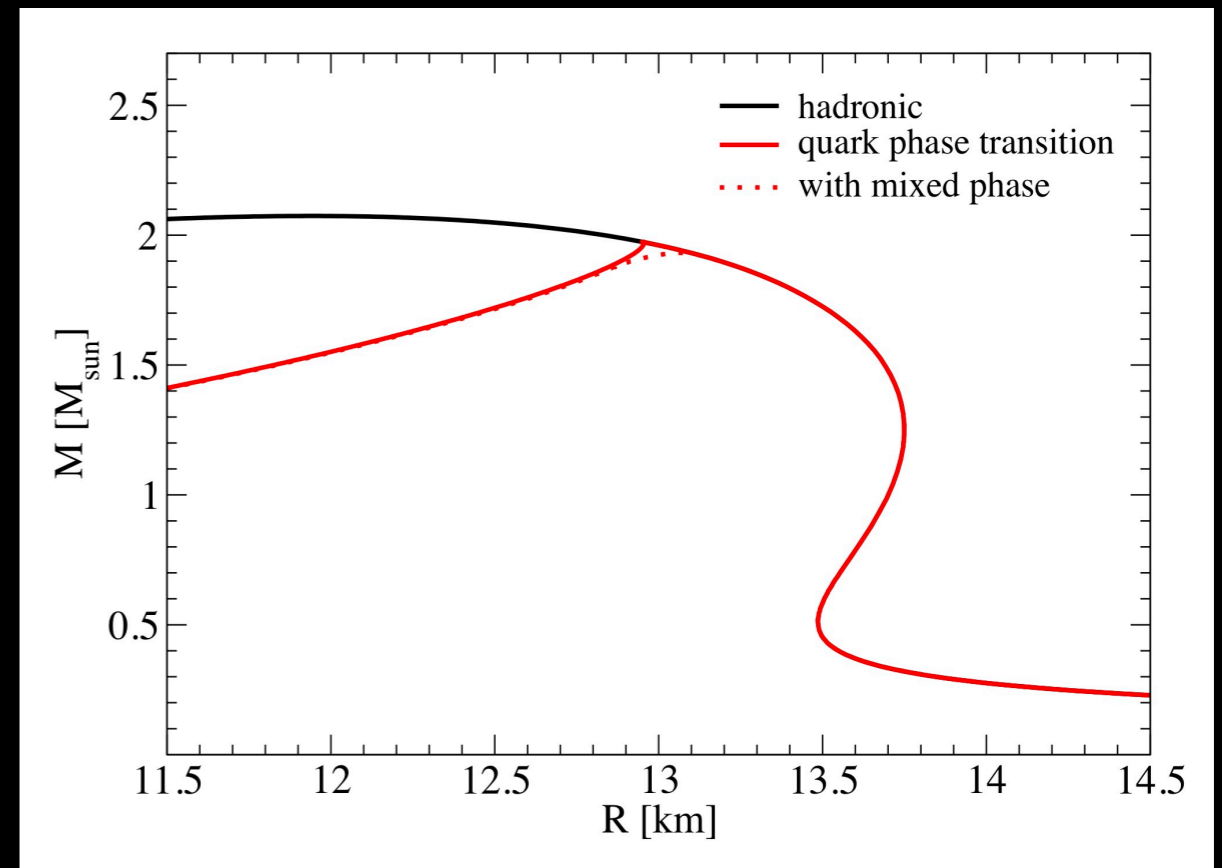
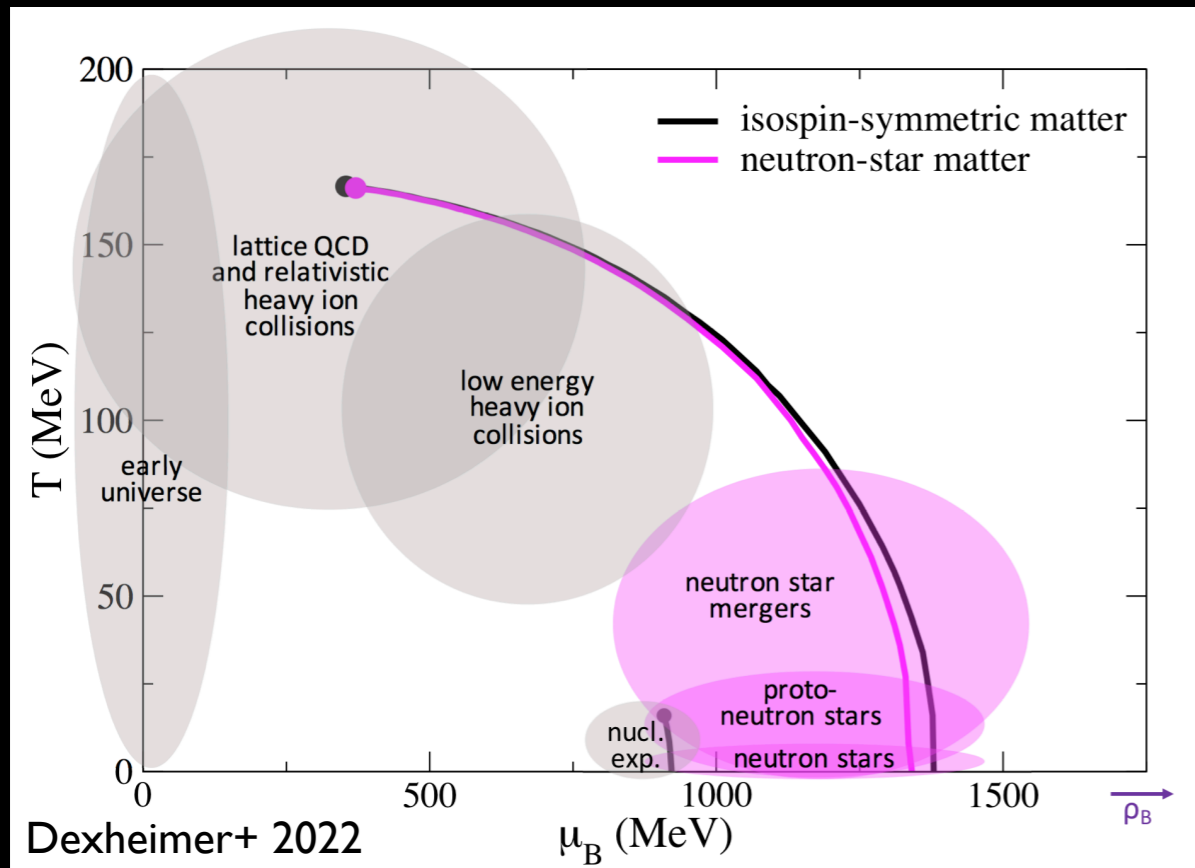
- If secondary in GW190814 was a NS, all previous considerations are incorrect.
- No EM counterpart was observed with GW190814 and no estimates possible on ejected matter or timescale for survival.
- **How do we solve this tension?**
- Solution: secondary in GW190814 was a **BH at merger** but could have been a NS before

Phase transitions and their signatures



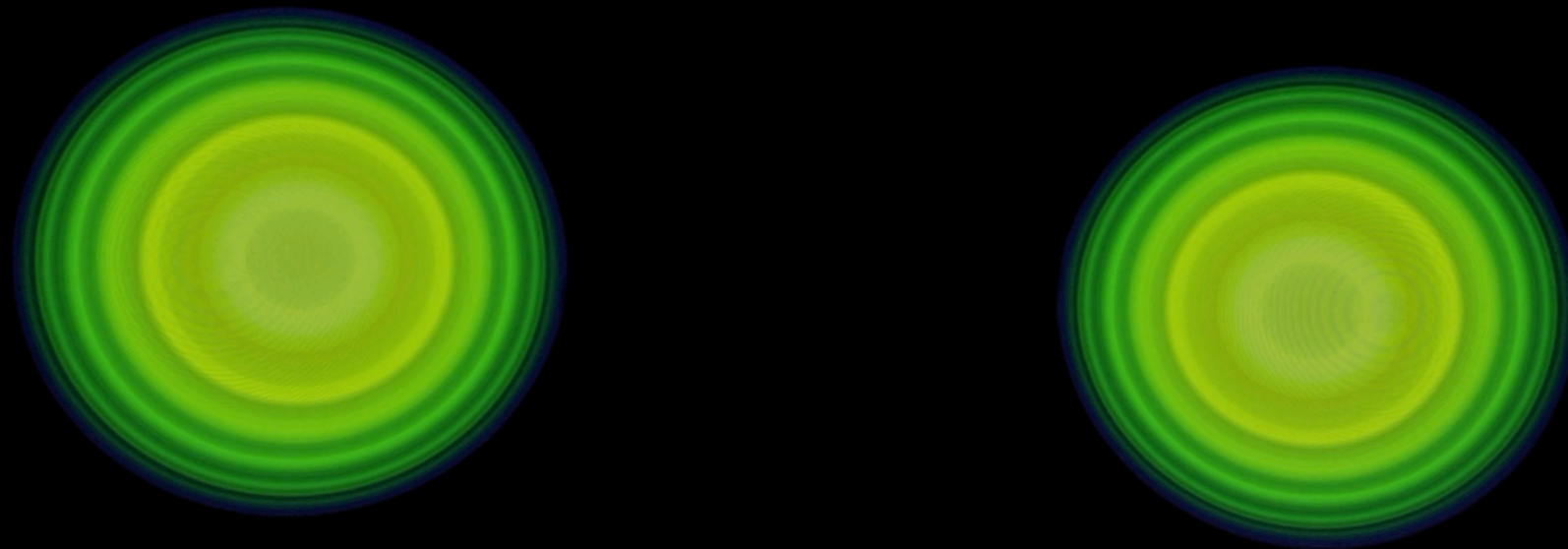
Most, Papenfort, Dexheimer, Hanauske, Schramm, Stoecker, LR (2019)
Weih, Hanauske, LR (2020)
Tootle, Ecker, Topolski, Demircik, Järvinen, LR (2022)

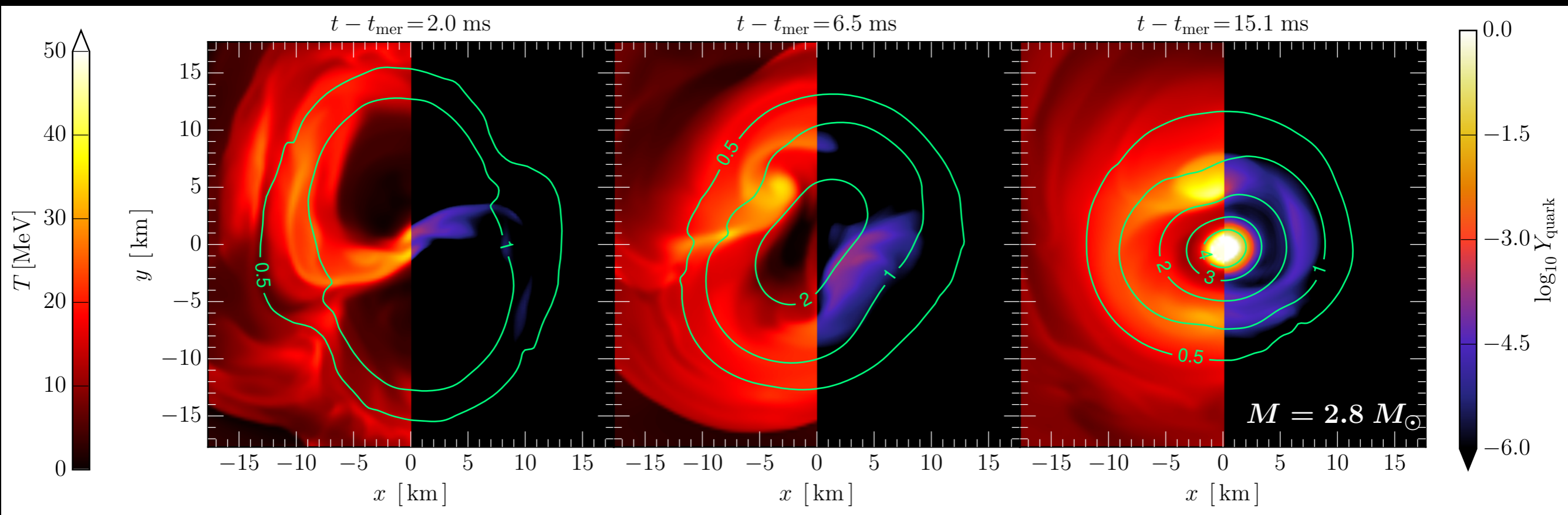
- **Isolated** neutron stars probe a small fraction of phase diagram.
- Neutron-star **binary** mergers reach temperatures up to **80 MeV** and probe regions complementary to experiments.



- Considered EOS based on Chiral Mean Field (CMF) model, based on a nonlinear $SU(3)$ sigma model.
- Appearance of quarks can be introduced naturally.

Simulation of a phase-transition triggered collapse (PTTC)

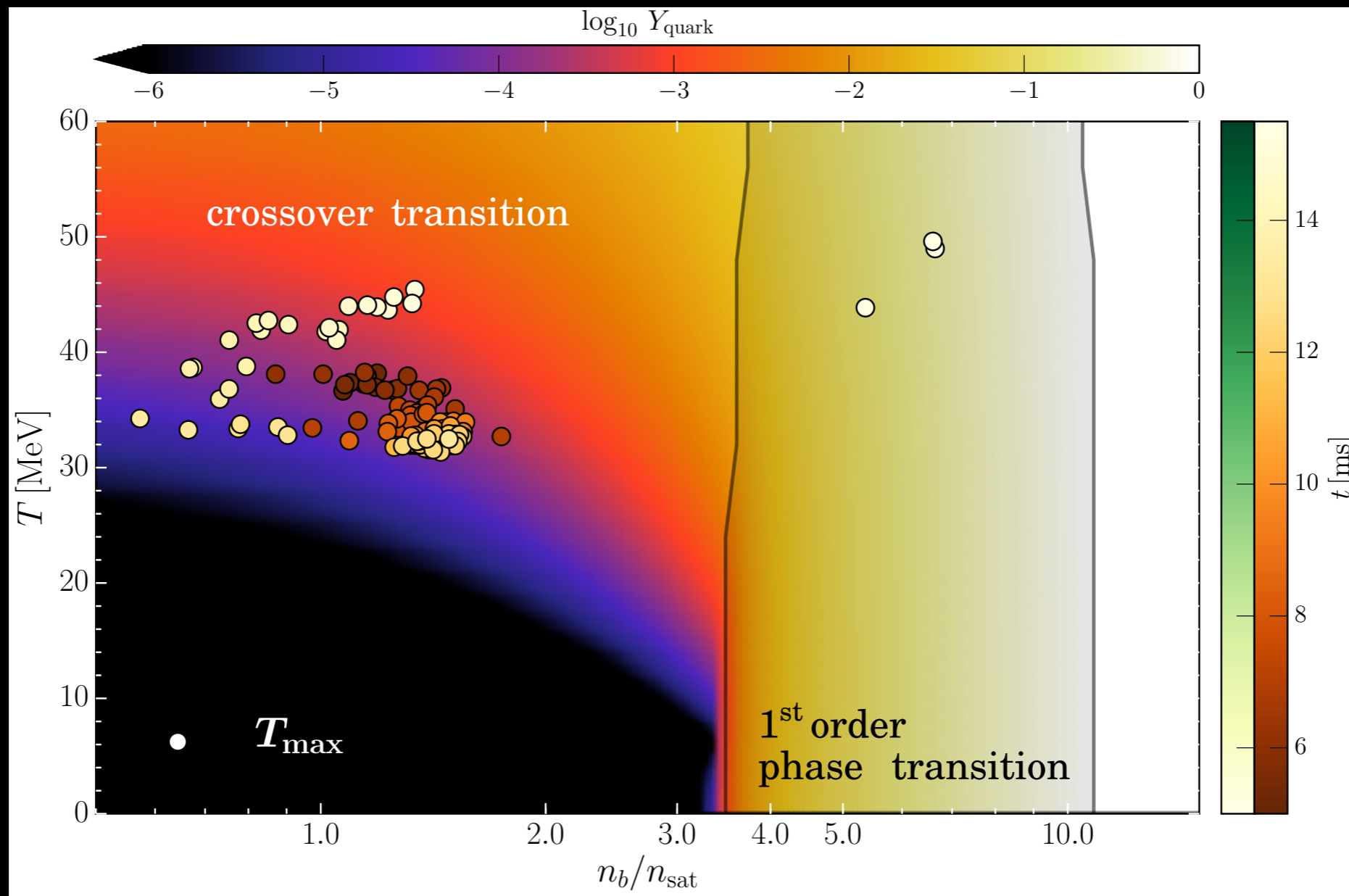




Quarks appear at sufficiently large
temperatures and **densities**.

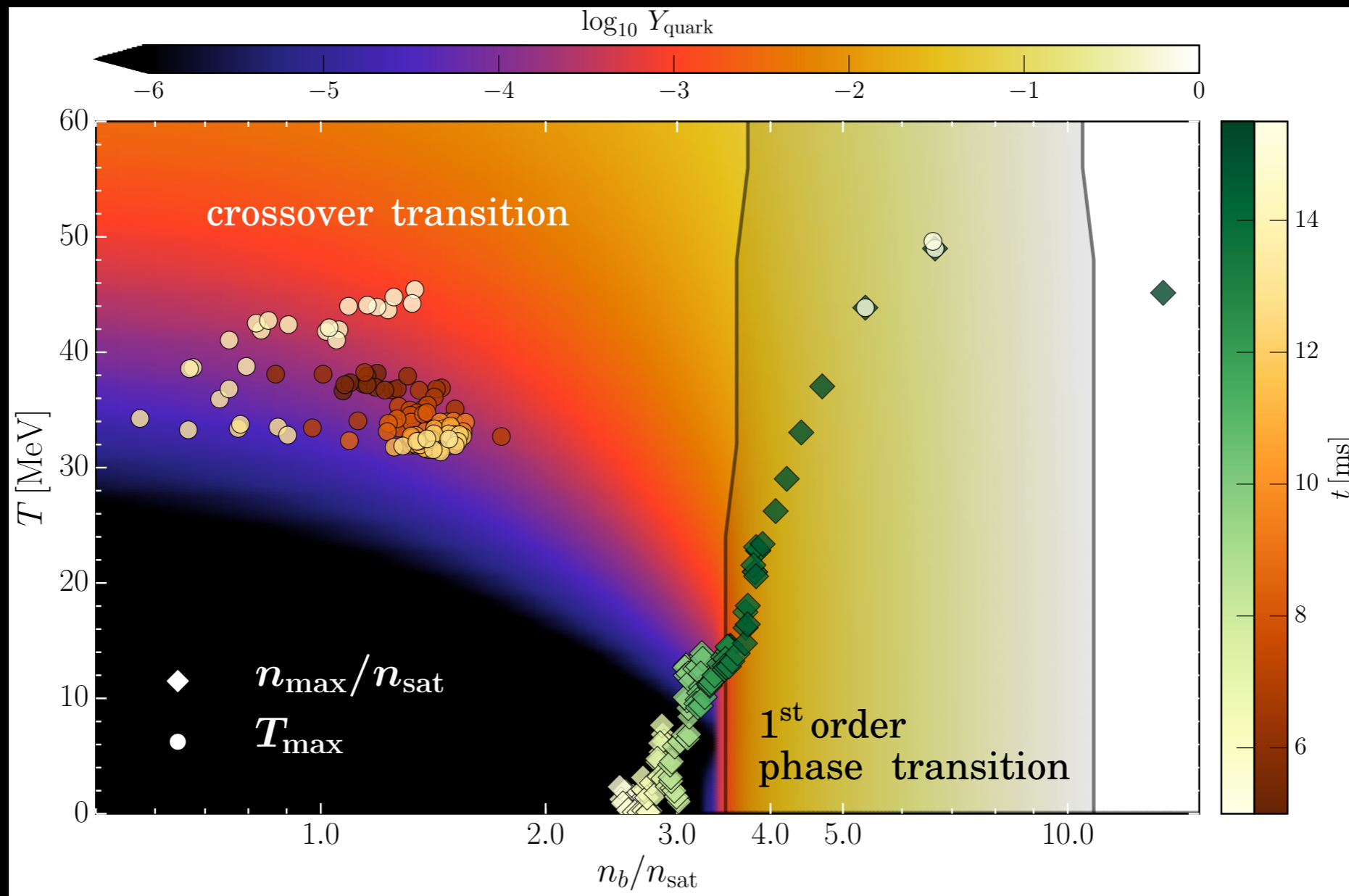
When this happens the **EOS** is
 considerably **softened** and a BH produced.

Comparing with the phase diagram



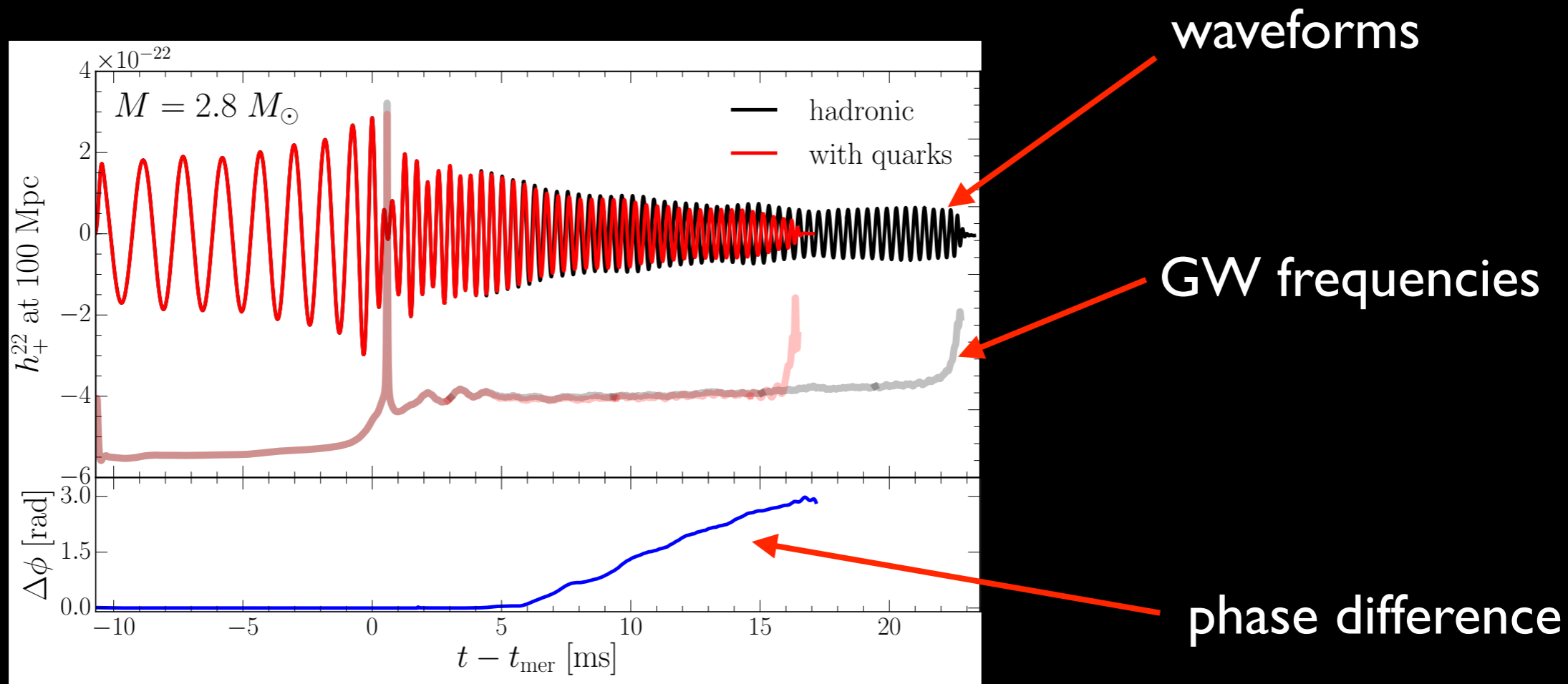
- Phase diagram with quark fraction
- Circles show the position in the diagram of the maximum temperature as a function of time

Comparing with the phase diagram



- Reported are the evolution of the max. temperature and density.
- Quarks appear already early on, but only in small fractions.
- Once sufficient density is reached, a full phase transition takes place.

Gravitational-wave emission

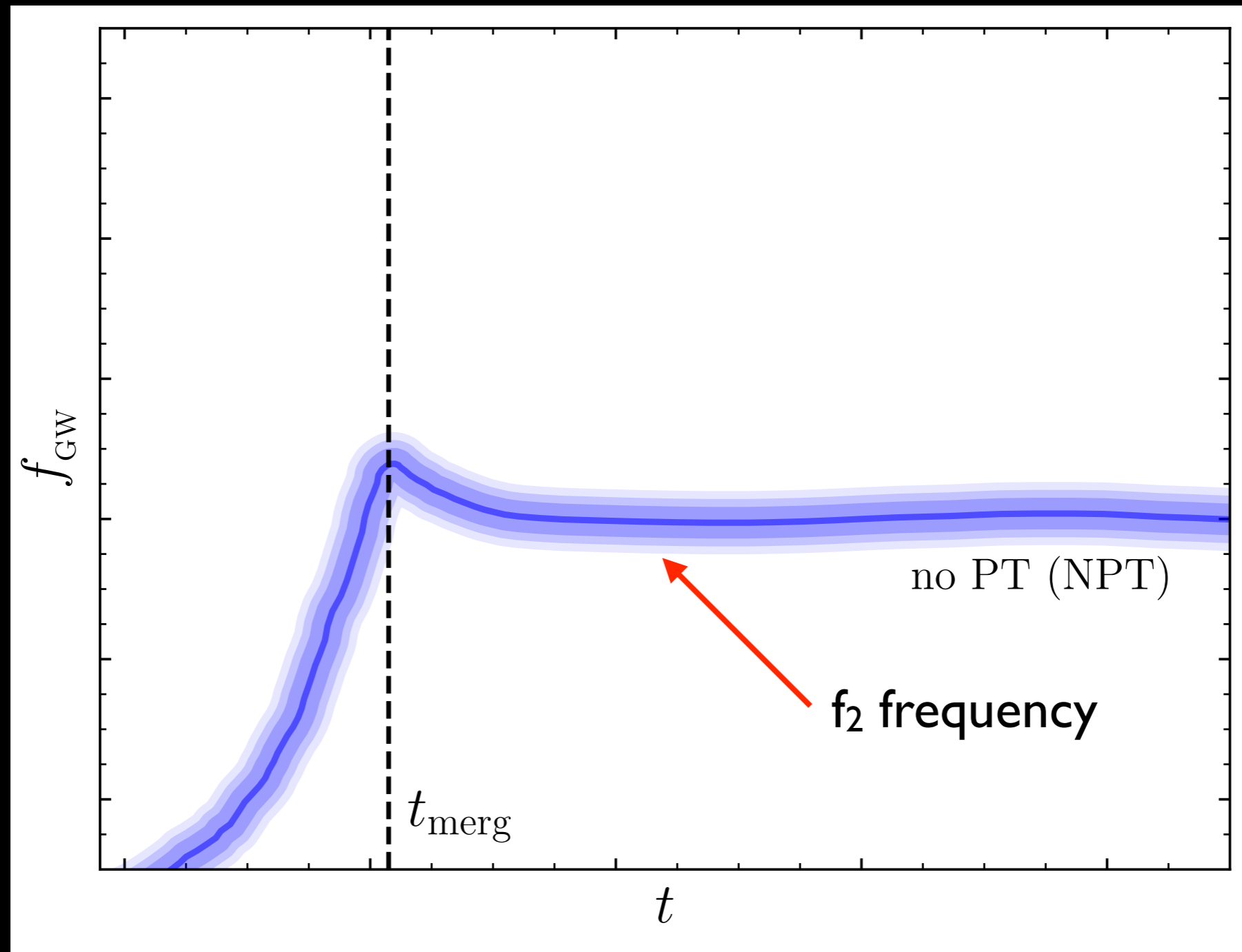


- After ~ 5 ms, quark fraction large enough to yield differences in GWs
- Sudden softening of the phase transition leads to collapse and **large difference** in phase evolution.

Observing mismatch between **inspiral** (fully hadronic) and **post-merger** (phase transition): clear **signature** of a **PT**

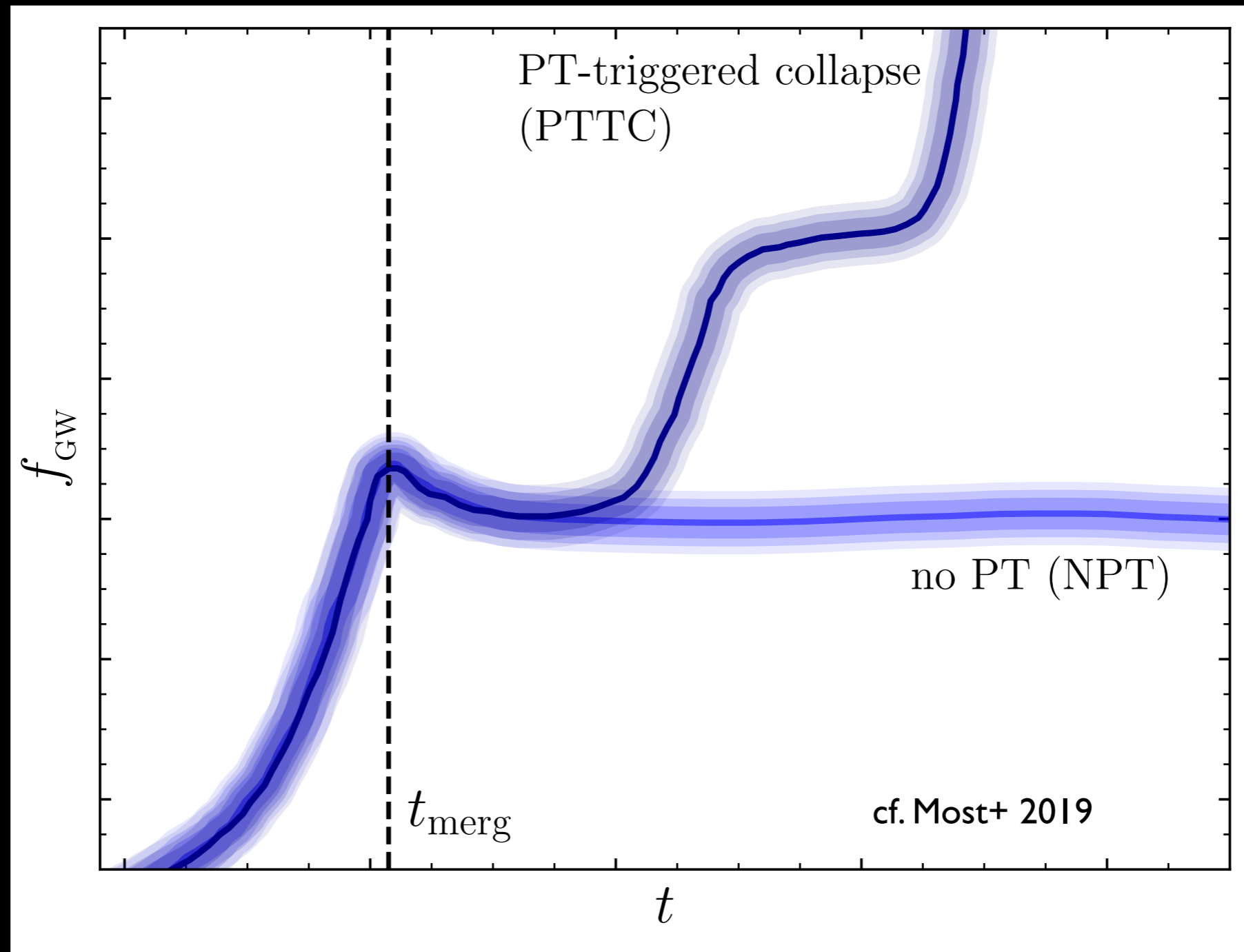
A zoology of behaviours

The occurrence of a PT considerably enriches the range of possible scenarios in the GW emission



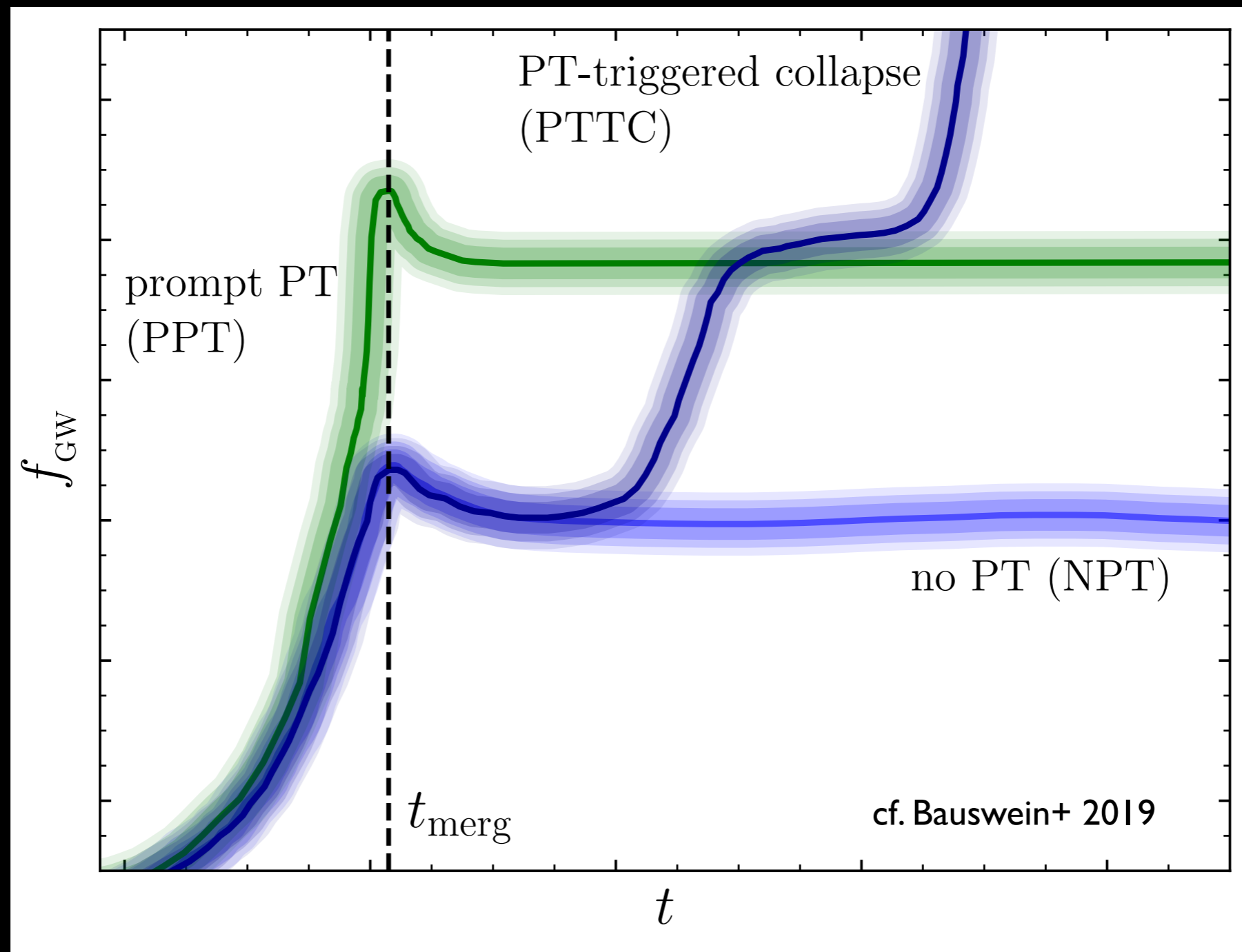
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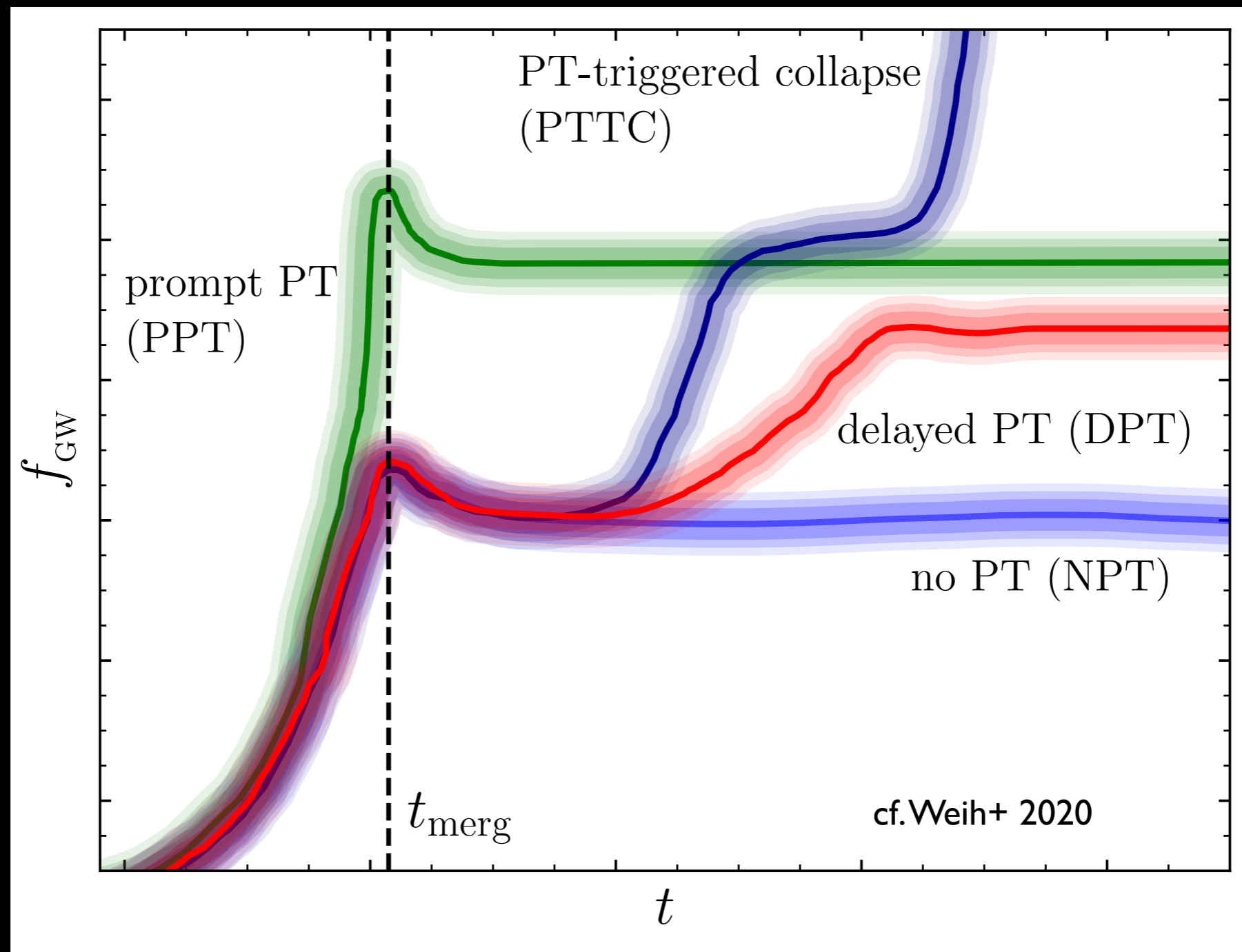
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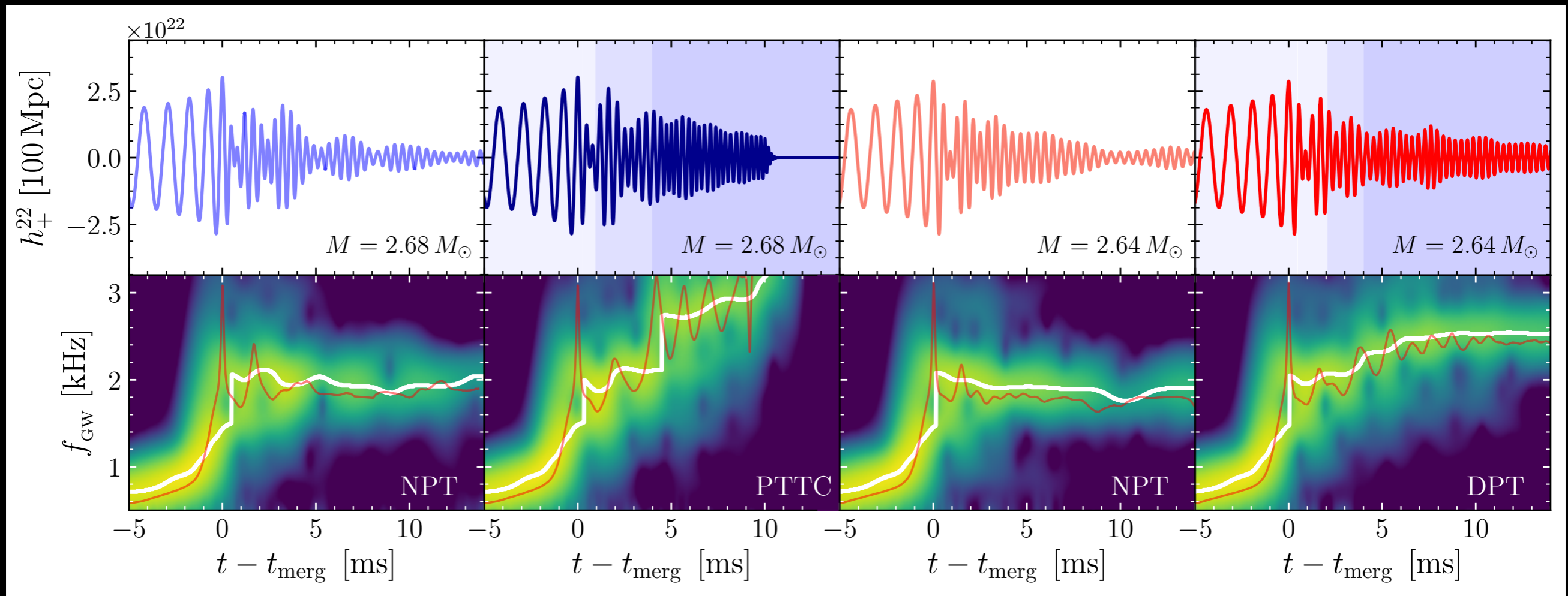
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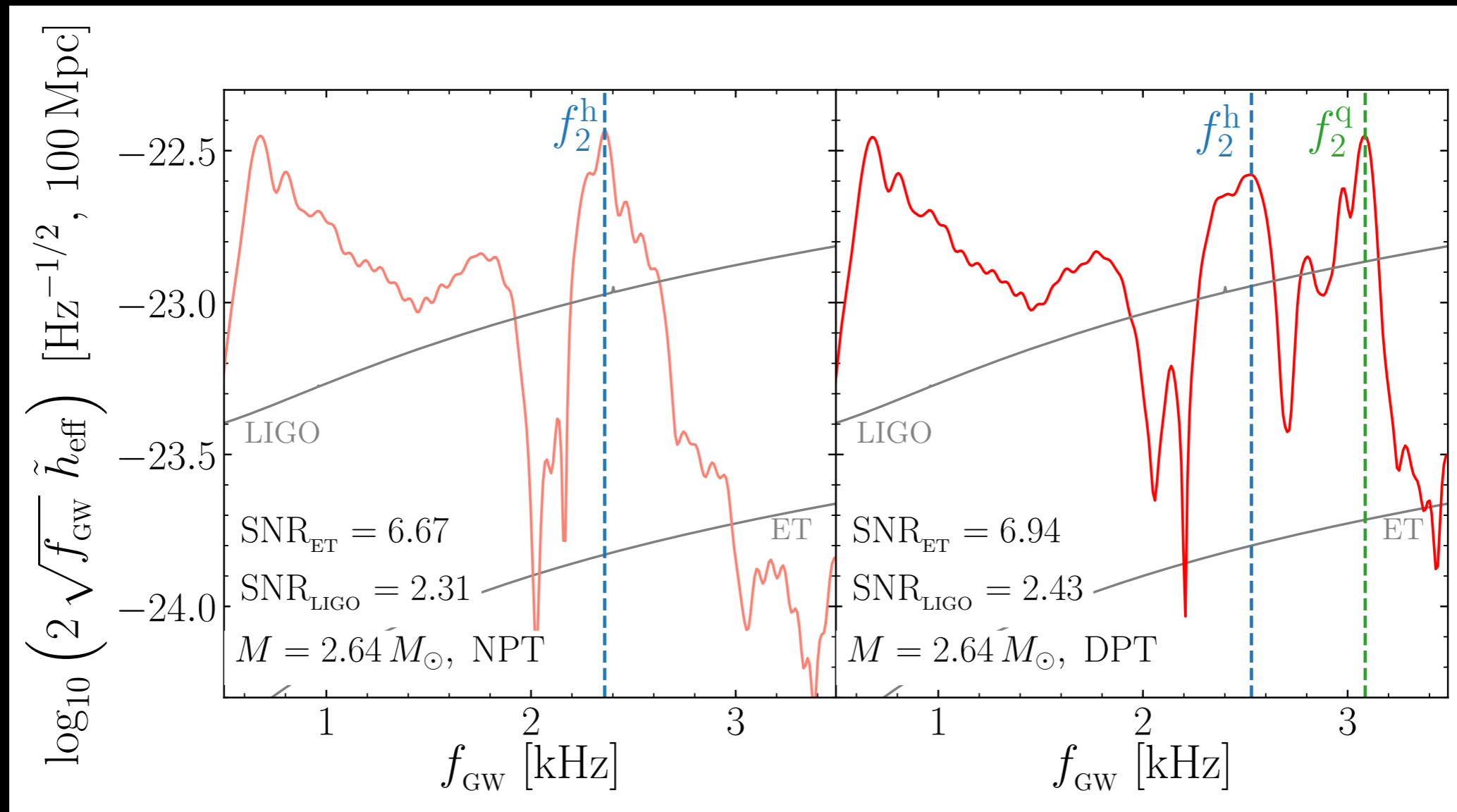
A more comprehensive picture

Zoology discussed above can be recognised when shown in terms of the gravitational waves and their spectrograms.



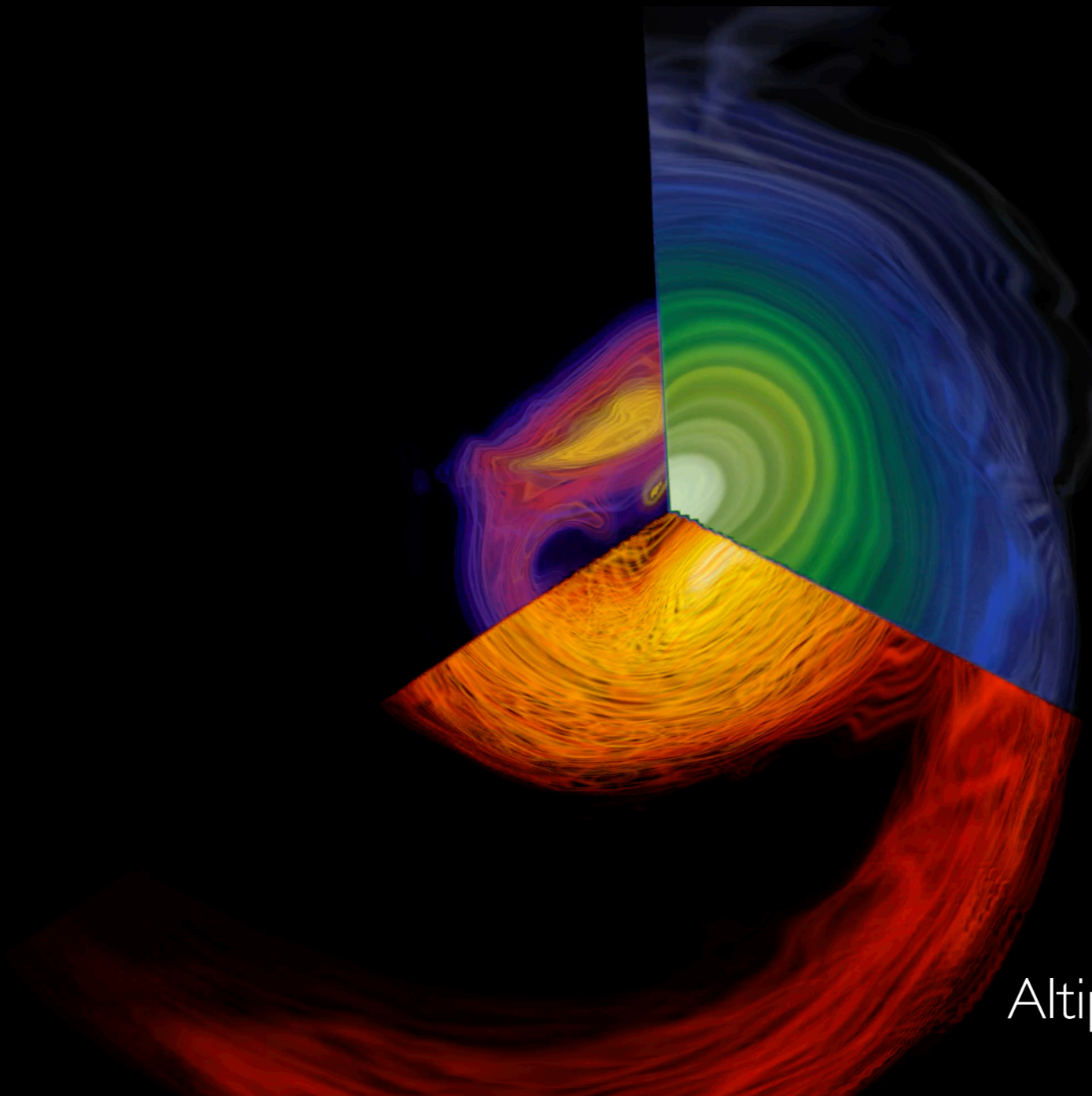
Importance of **DPT** is that it leads to **two** different “stable” f_2 **frequencies** that are easily distinguishable in the PSD

Why DPT is the most interesting case



Importance of **DPT** is that it leads to **two** different “stable” f_2 **frequencies** that are easily distinguishable in the PSD

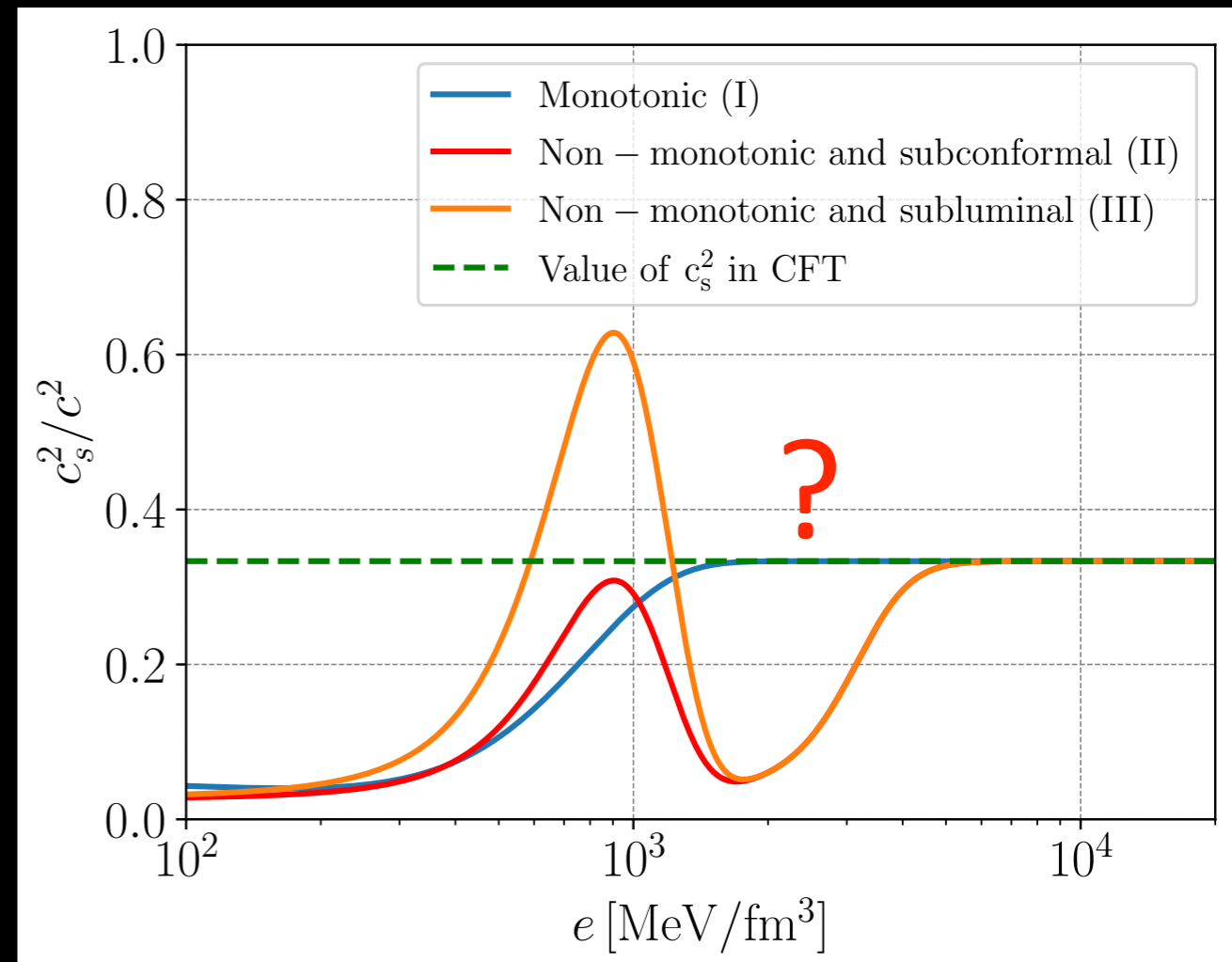
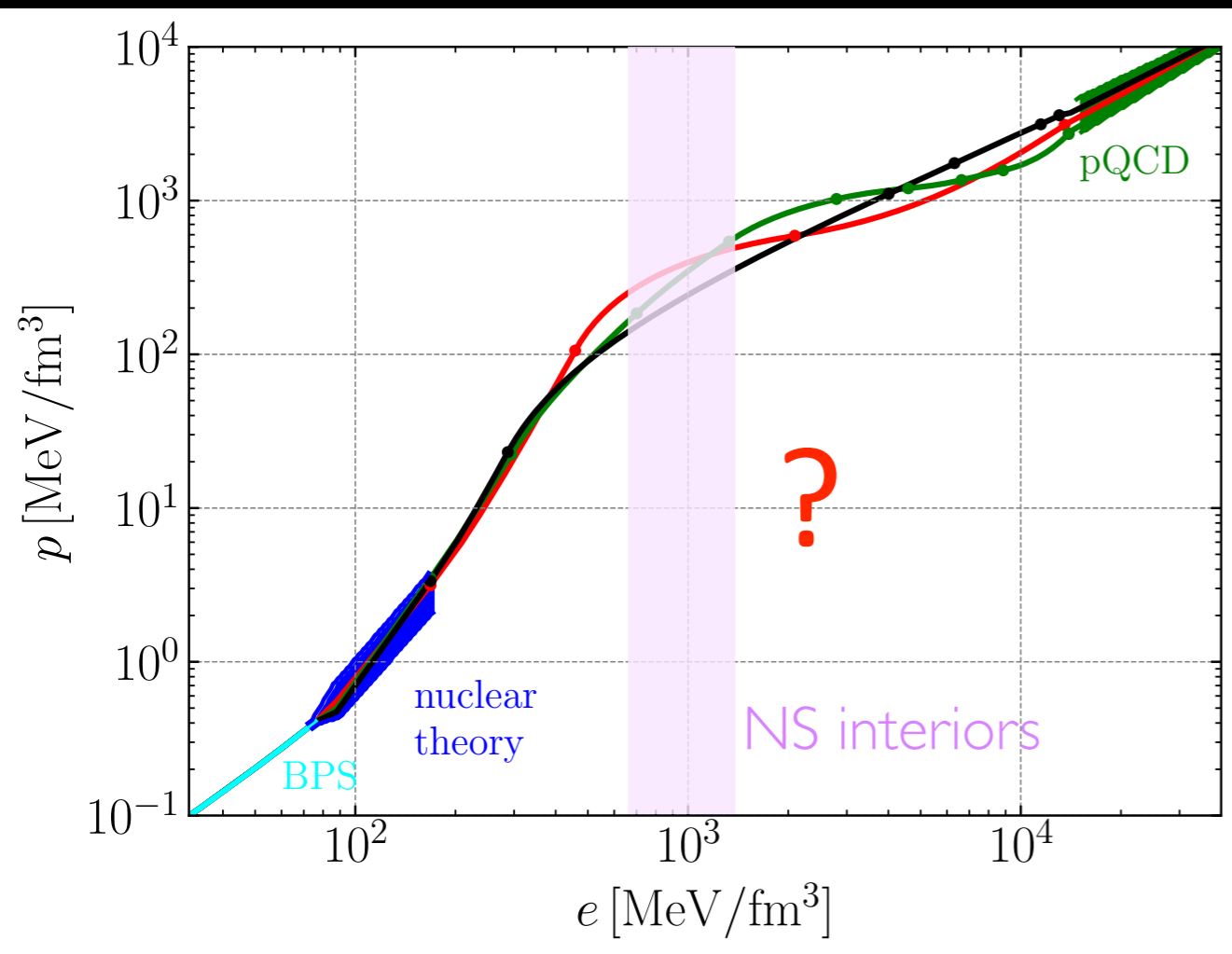
On the sound speed in neutron stars



Altiparmak, Ecker, LR (2022a)
Ecker, LR (2022b)
Ecker, LR (2022c)

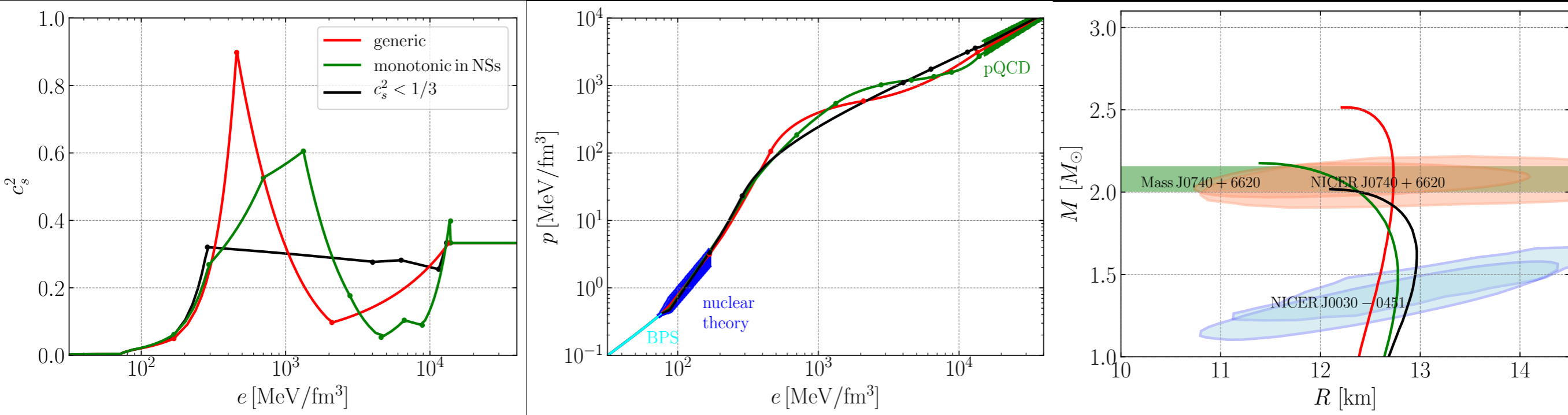
A very basic question

The EOS of nuclear matter still remains an open question. Some information is available but freedom is still large



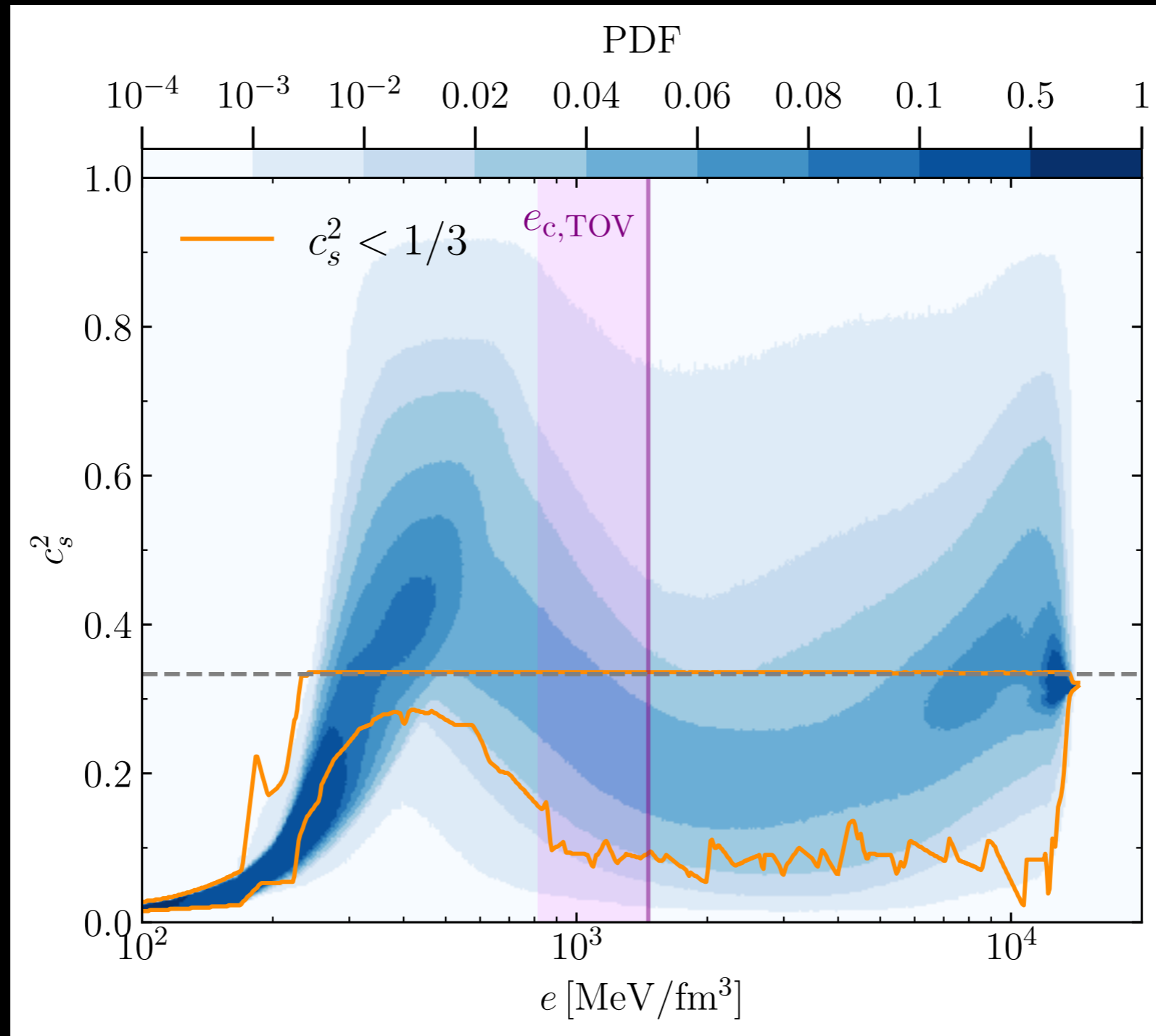
- i) monotonic and sub-conformal: $c_s^2 < 1/3$ (blue)
- ii) non-monotonic and sub-conformal: $c_s^2 < 1/3$ (orange)
- iii) non-monotonic and sub-luminal: $c_s^2 < 1$ (red)

- Lacking stronger constraints, an **agnostic approach** is viable and followed by many (eg piecewise polytropes, Most+ 2018)
- Alternative, we can build an EOS starting from a piecewise prescription of the sound speed (7 segments are sufficient)



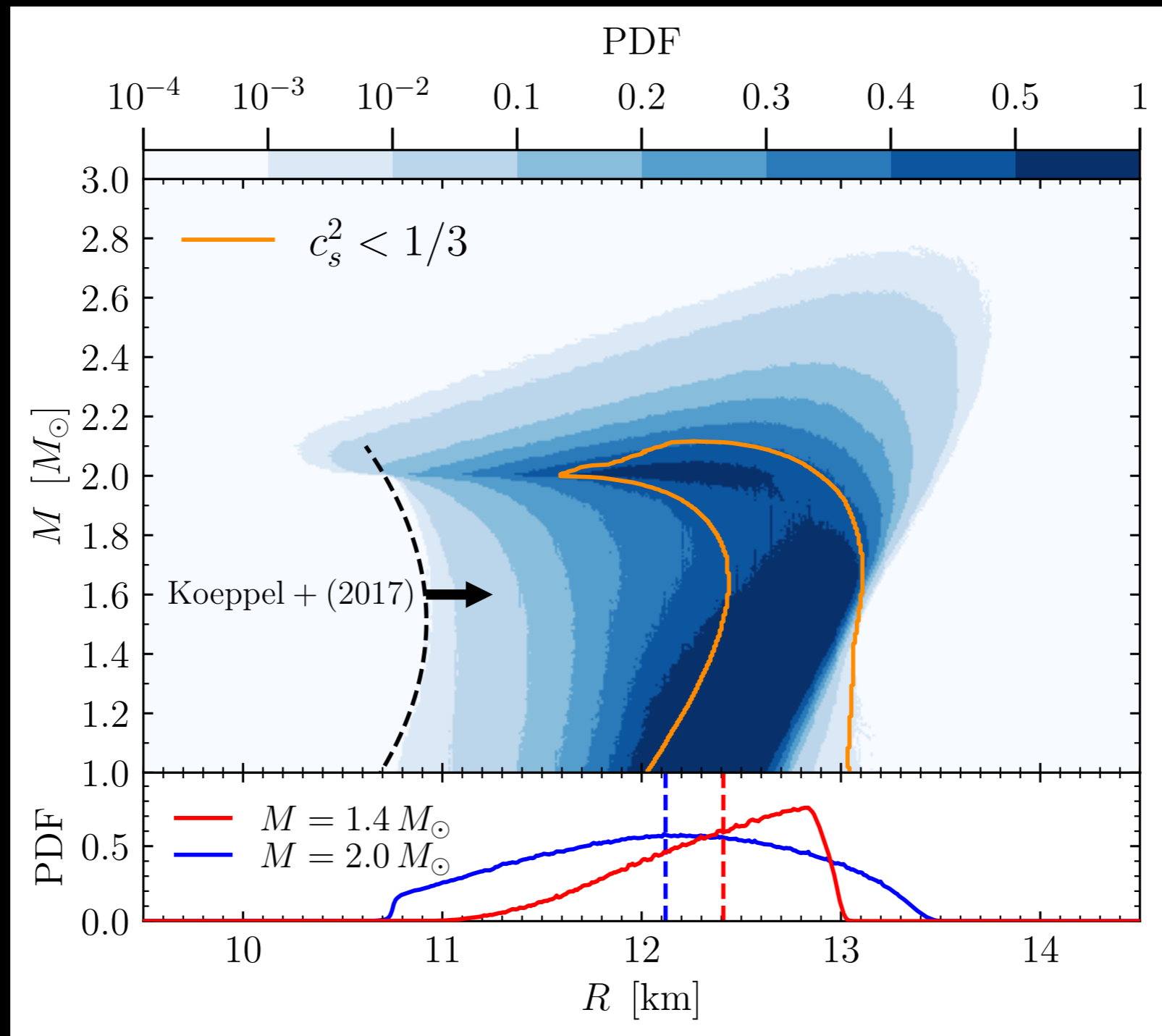
- Once an EOS is produced, we check it satisfies astrophysical constraints (max. mass, NICER limits). We repeat 1.5×10^7 times...
- In this way, $\sim 10\%$ of our EOSs survives and provides robust statistics from which we compute PDFs.

Sound speed PDF



Orange line marks region of sub-conformal EOSs (0.03%).
No monotonic sub-conformal EOS found.

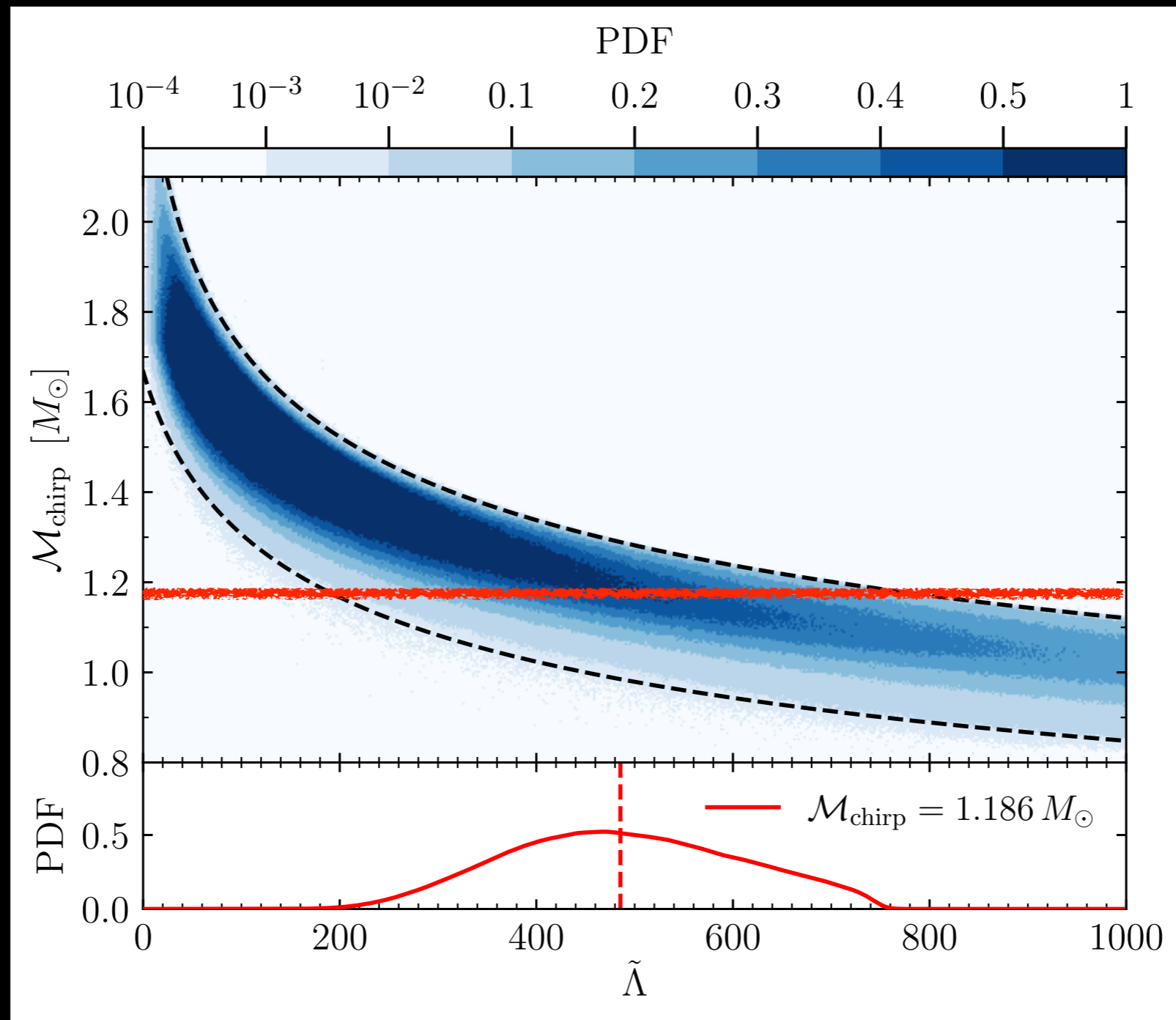
A more comprehensive picture



M -const. sections: $R_{1.4} = 12.42^{+0.52}_{-0.99}$ km; $R_{2.0} = 12.12^{+1.11}_{-1.23}$ km

Lower bound on radii matches Köppel+ prediction from threshold mass.

A more comprehensive picture



Simple behaviour of binary tidal deformability: $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{min (max)}} = a + b \mathcal{M}_{\text{chirp}}^c$
Straightforward bounds once a detection is made.

A scale-independent representation

With this large sample one may ask simple but basic questions:

- How does the sound speed vary in a star?
- Is the maximum sound speed at the center of the star?
- Does the maximum value attain a constant value?

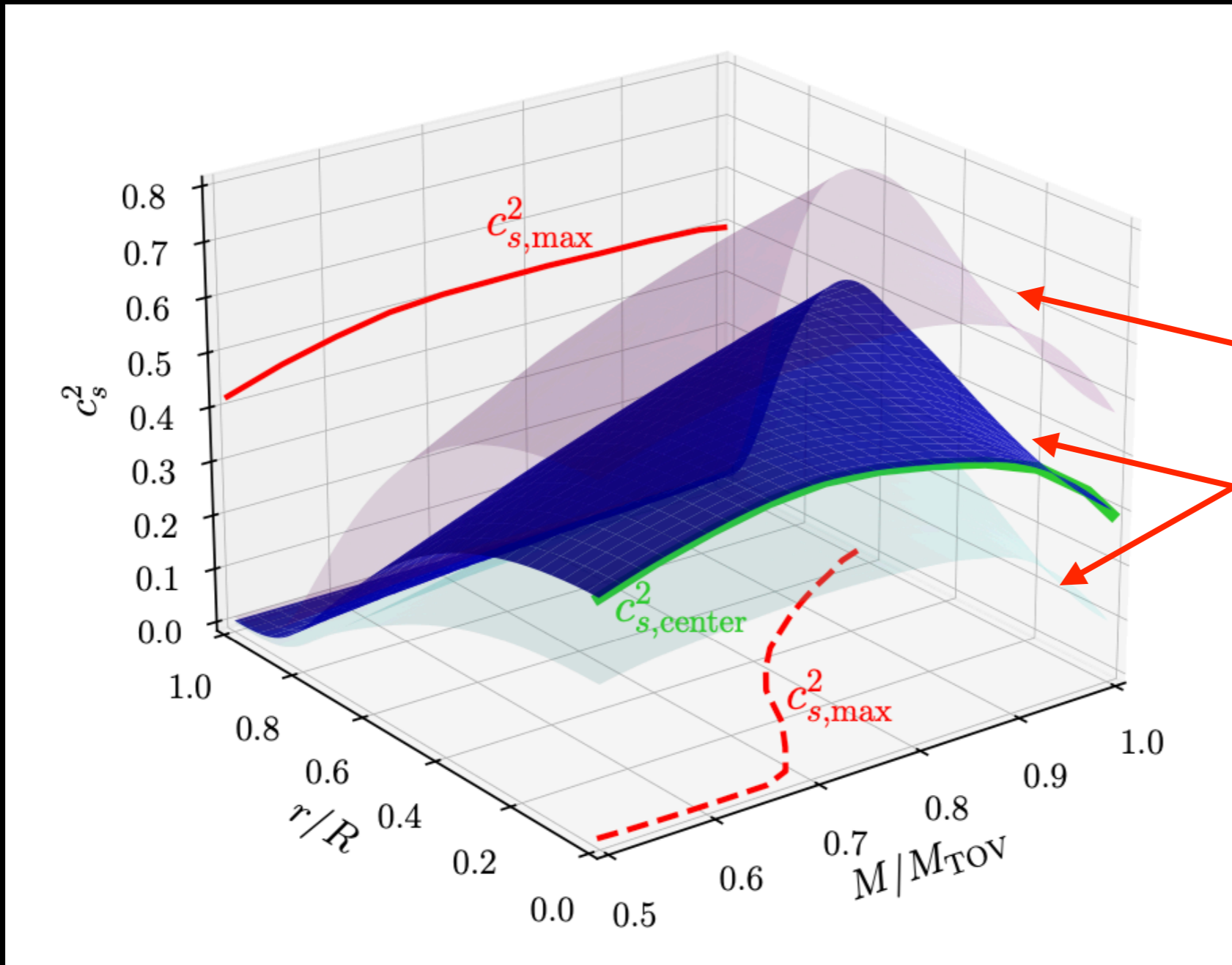
Hard to answer: every EOS will have its own (M, R) relation

$$c_s \in [0, c], \quad r \in [0, R], \quad M \in [0, M_{\text{TOV}}] : \text{EOS dependent}$$

$$c_s/c \in [0, 1], \quad r/R \in [0, 1], \quad M/M_{\text{TOV}} \in [0, 1] : \text{EOS independent}$$

A scale-independent representation

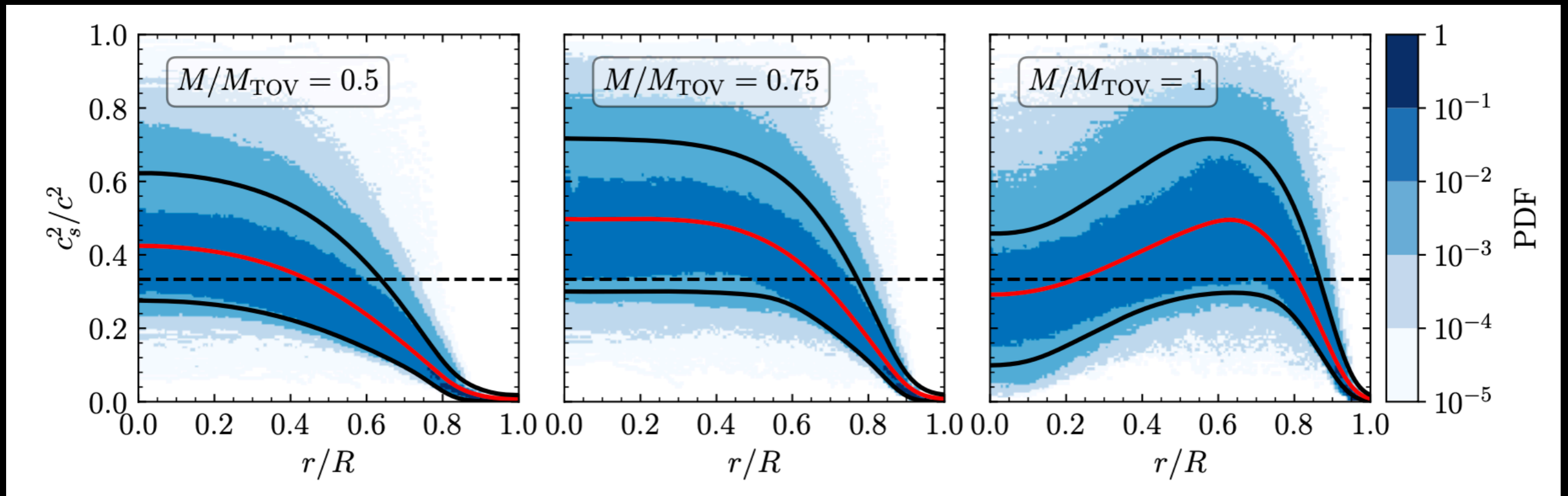
All information contained in a unit cube: $(c_s/c, r/R, M/M_{\text{TOV}})$



95% confidence

median

A scale-independent representation



“Light” stars: sound speed monotonic with maximum at stellar center

“Heavy” stars: sound speed non-monotonic with maximum far from stellar center ($r/R \sim 0.7$)

“Light” stars: stiff core, soft mantle

In other words:

“Heavy” stars: soft core, stiff mantle

Press release: “...neutron stars behave like *chocolate pralines*. Light stars have stiff core and soft exterior; heavy stars have soft core and hard exterior...”



The “*sweetest*” discovery of the year

Conclusions

*Spectra of post-merger shows peaks, some "quasi-universal".

***GW170817, GW190814** has already provided new limits on

$$2.01_{-0.04}^{+0.04} \leq M_{\text{TOV}}/M_{\odot} \leq 2.16_{-0.15}^{+0.17} \quad \text{maximum mass}$$

$$12.00 < R_{1.4}/\text{km} < 13.45 \quad \tilde{\Lambda}_{1.4} > 375 \quad \text{radius, tidal deformability}$$

*A **phase transition** after a BNS merger leaves GW **signatures** and opens a gate to access quark matter beyond accelerators.

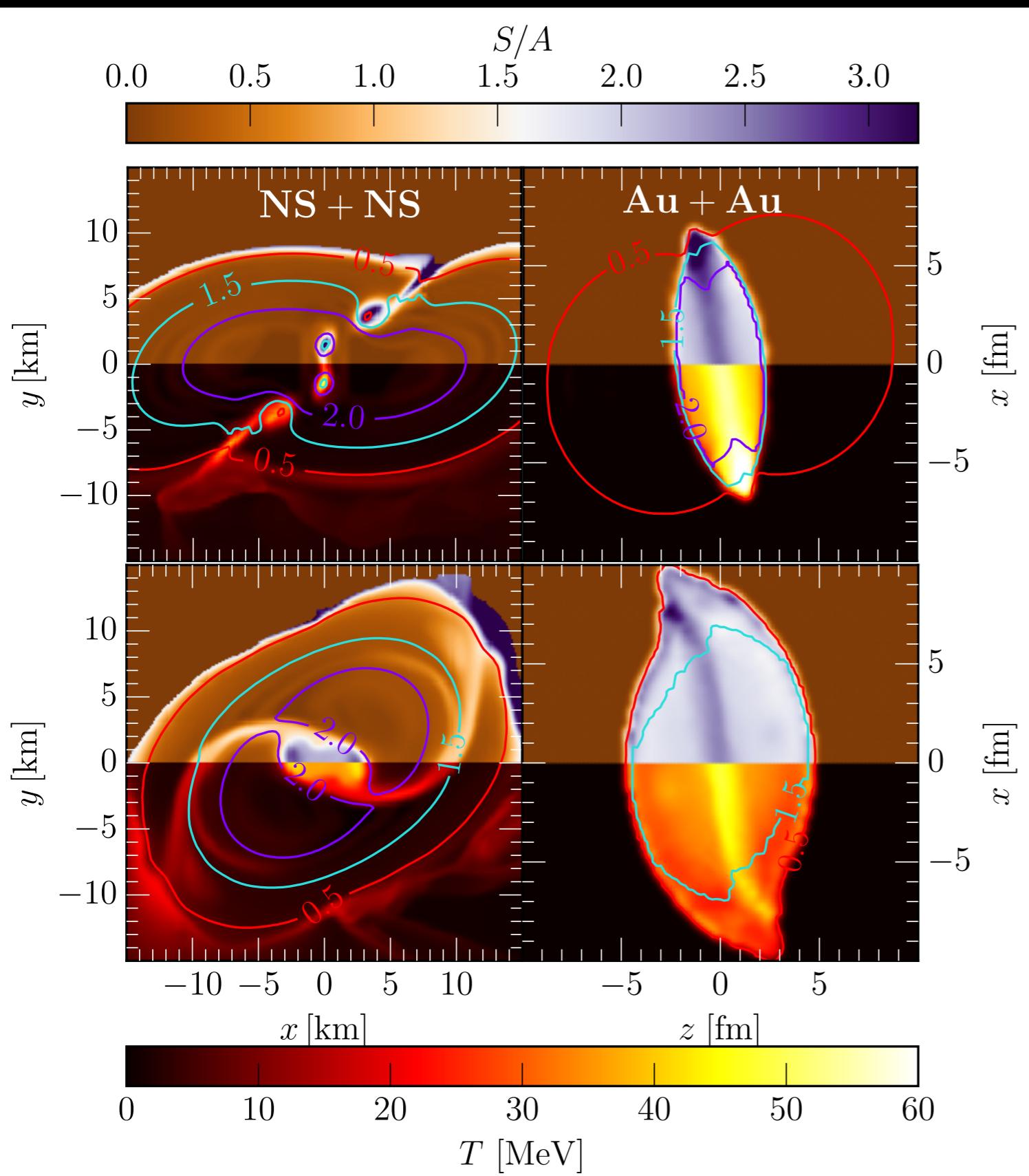
***Sound speed** in neutron stars cannot be sub-conformal and monotonic; likely to be super-conformal somewhere in the interior.

***Sound speed** monotonic in light stars (max at centre), non-monotonic in heavy stars (max in mantle)

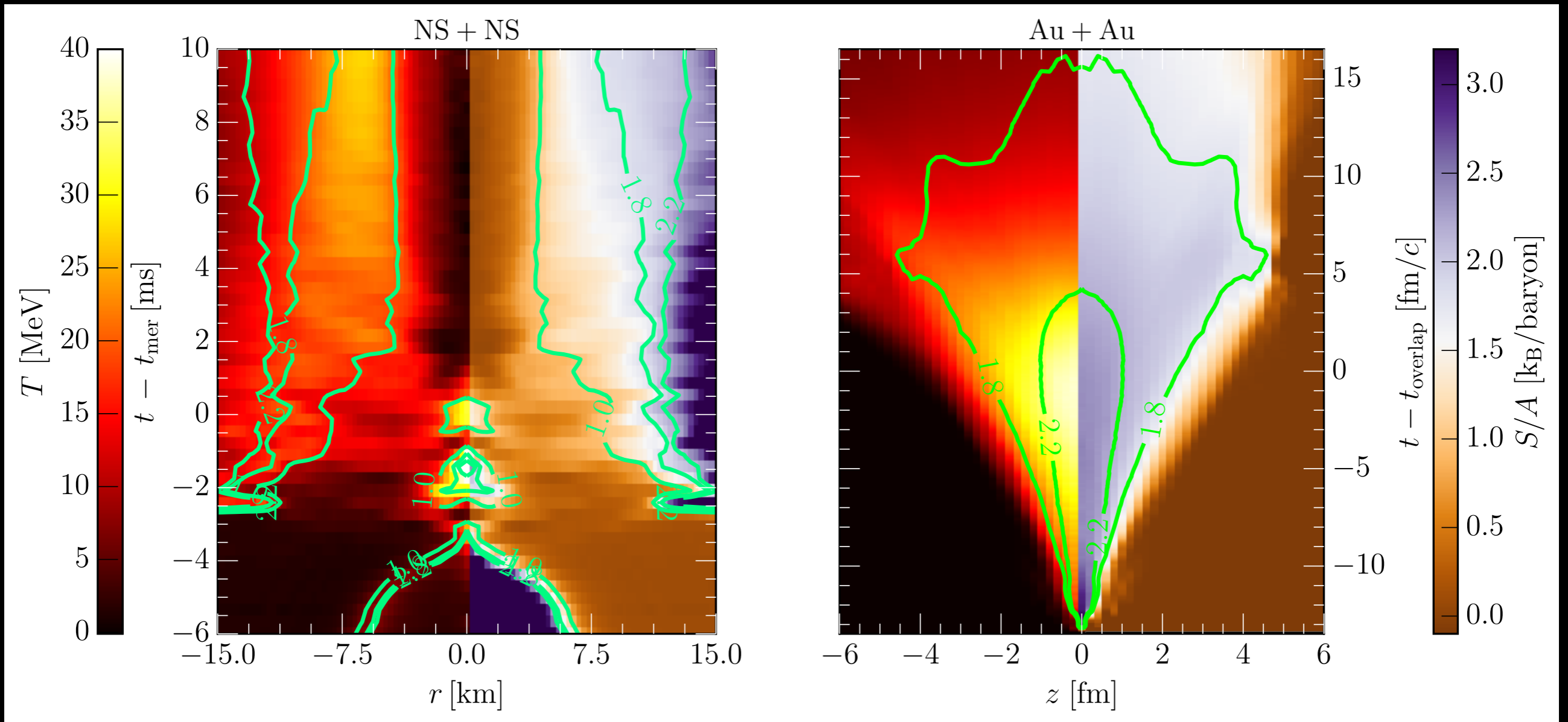
EXTRAS

Probing neutron-star matter in the lab

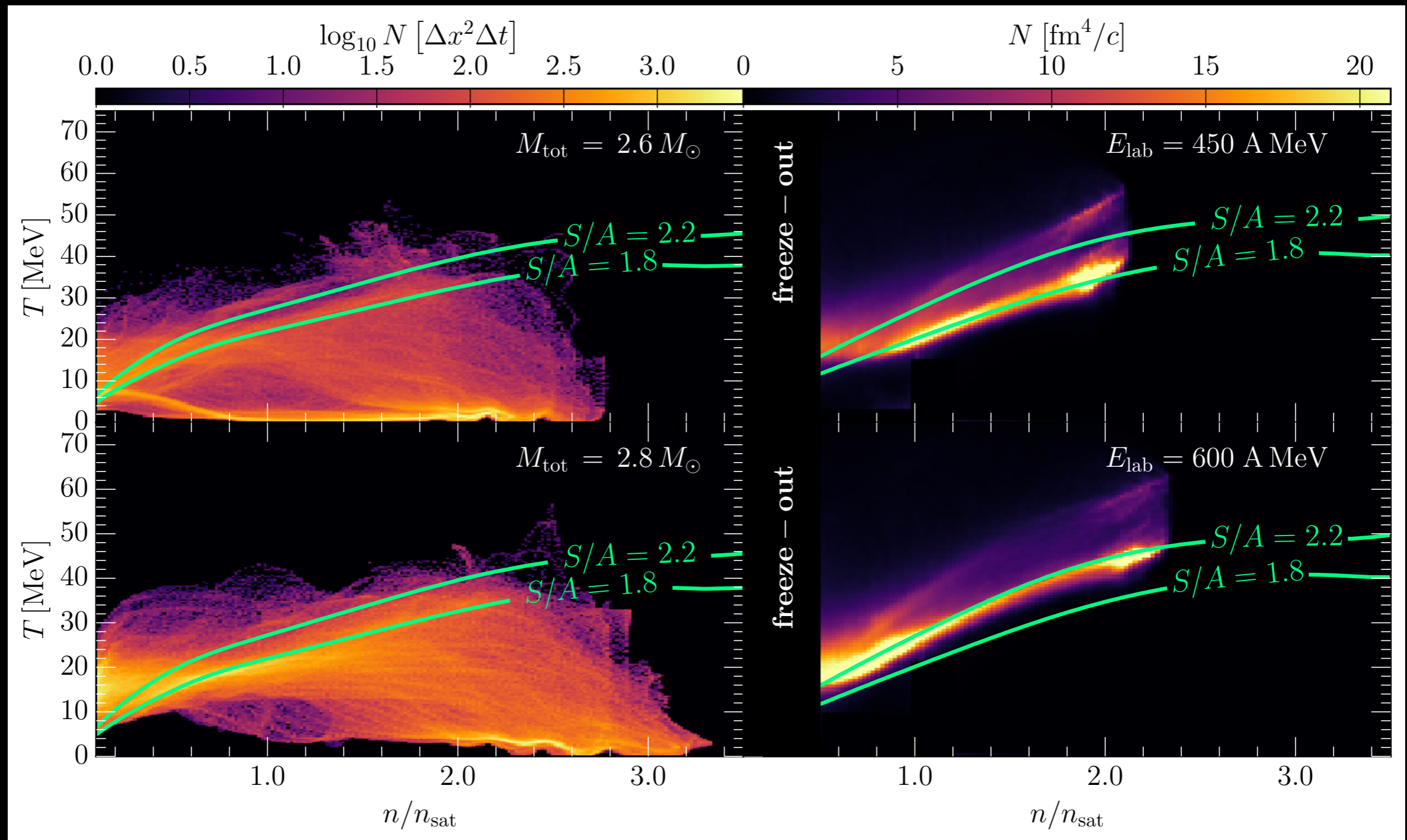
BNS mergers vs HICs



- We have explored the dynamics of BNS mergers and HIC using the same EOS.
- Chiral Mean Field model, based on the three-flavor chiral Lagrangian for hadronic matter.
- Crossover transition for deconfinement occurs at both, finite and zero temperature



- **BNSs**: core is hot and with high entropy; hot and high entropy ring is formed. Remnant is gravitationally bound.
- **HICs**: collision product is hot and with high entropy but expands rapidly cooling isentropically.

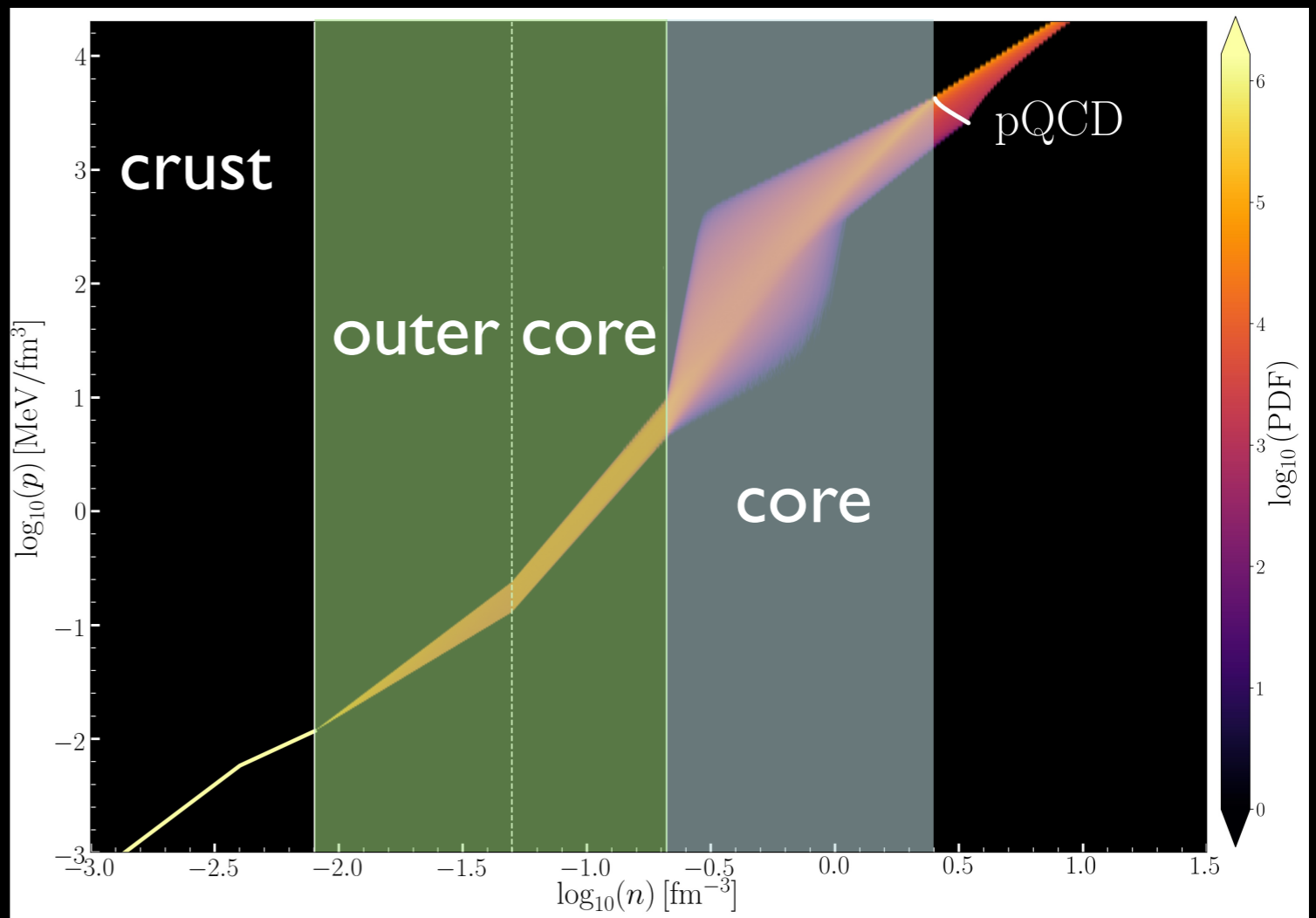


- **BNSs**: core is hot and with high entropy; hot and high entropy ring is formed. Remnant is gravitationally bound.
- **HICs**: collision product is hot and with high entropy but expands rapidly cooling isentropically.

Limits on radii and deformabilities

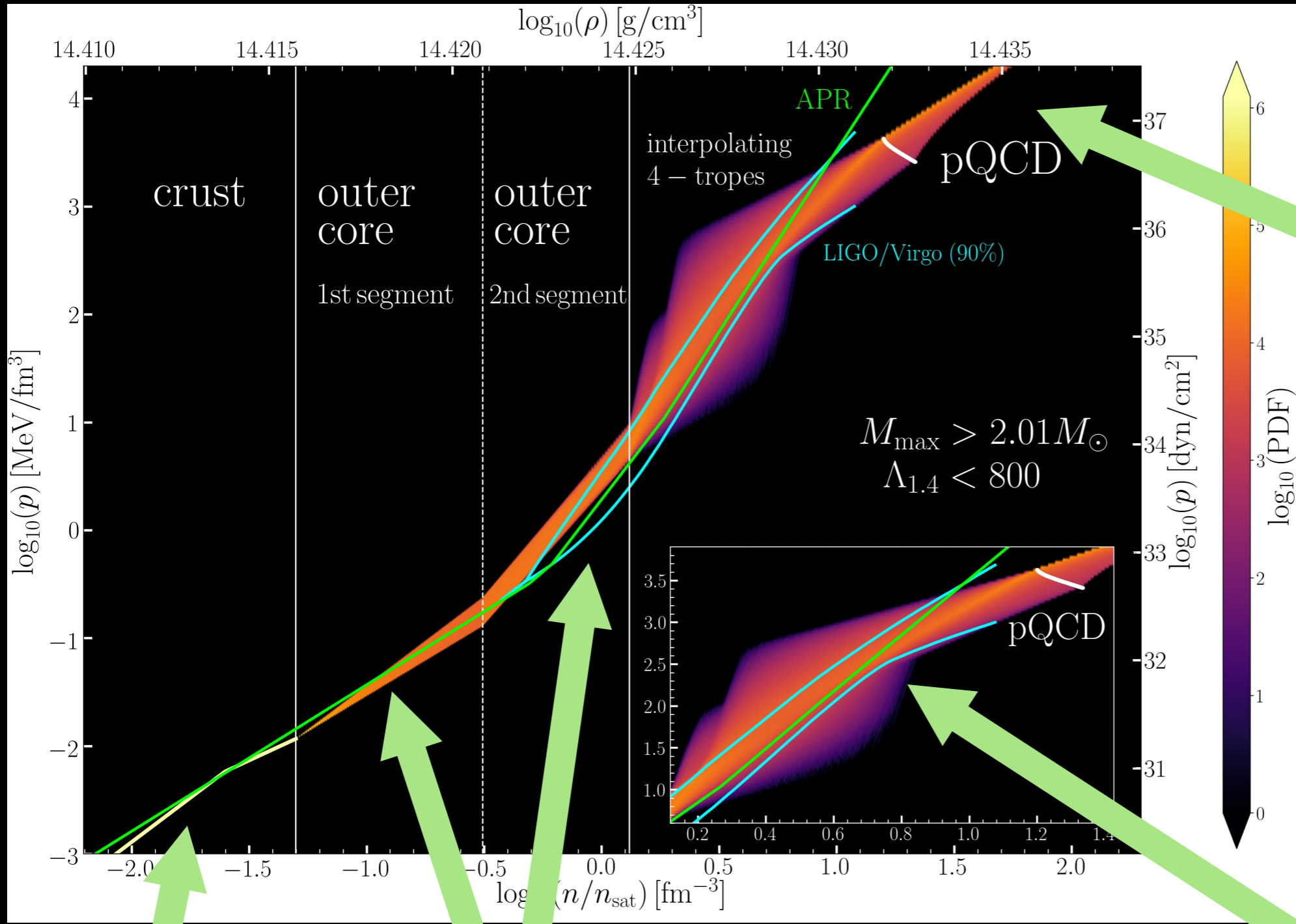
- Can new constraints be set on typical radius and tidal deformability by using GW170817?

- **Ignorance** can be parameterised and EOSs can be built arbitrarily as long as they satisfy specific **constraints** on **low** and **high** densities.



parametrising our ignorance

- Construct most generic family of NS-matter EOs



from $\mu_b = 2.6 \text{ GeV}$
NNLO pQCD
Kurkela+ (2014)
Fraga+ (2014)

BPS

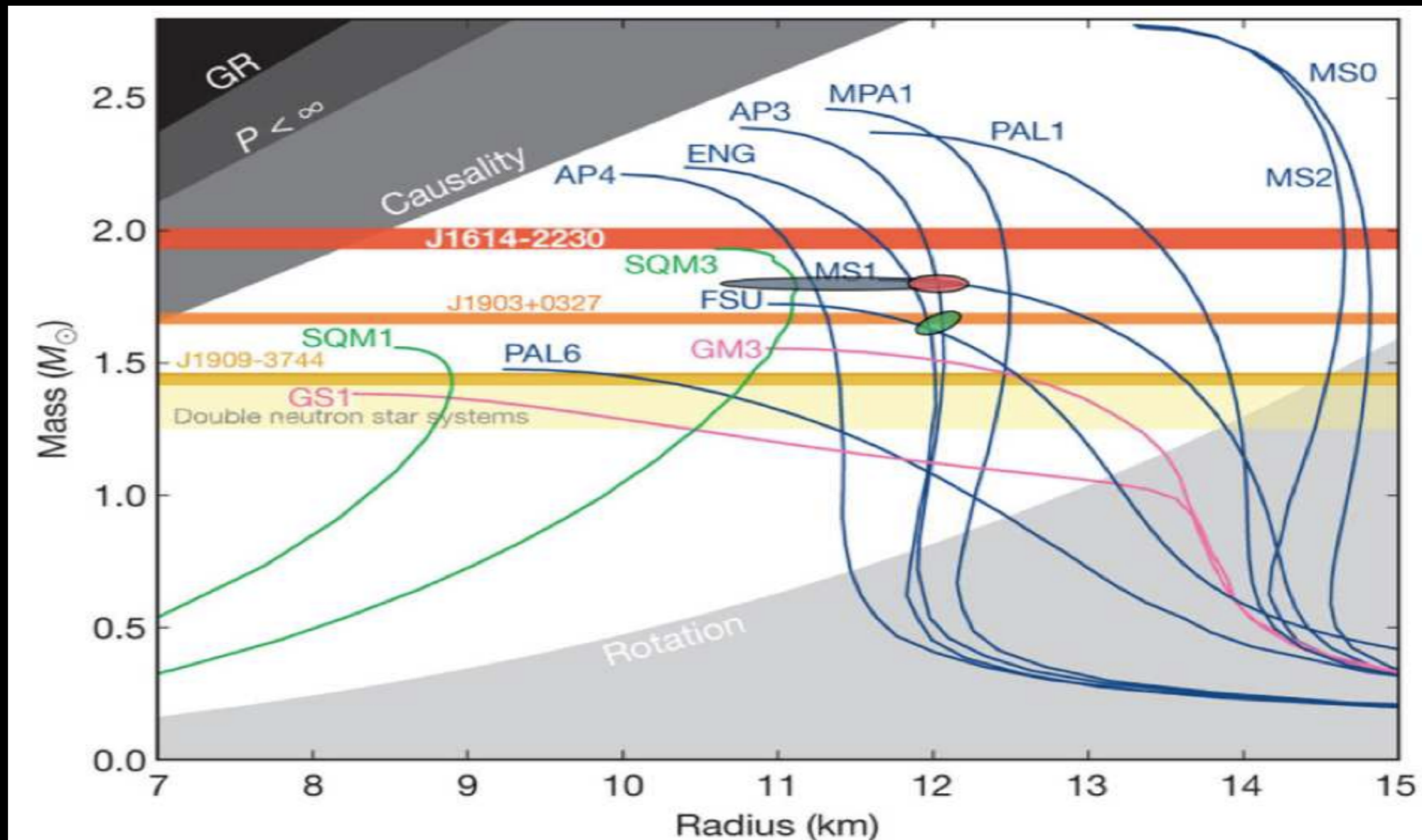
polytropic fit of Drischler+ (2016)
(large impact on results)

interpolation
by matching 4
polytropes

Mass-radius relations

- We have produced 10^6 EOSs with about 10^9 stellar models.

- Can impose differential constraints from the **maximum mass** and from the **tidal deformability** from **GW170817**

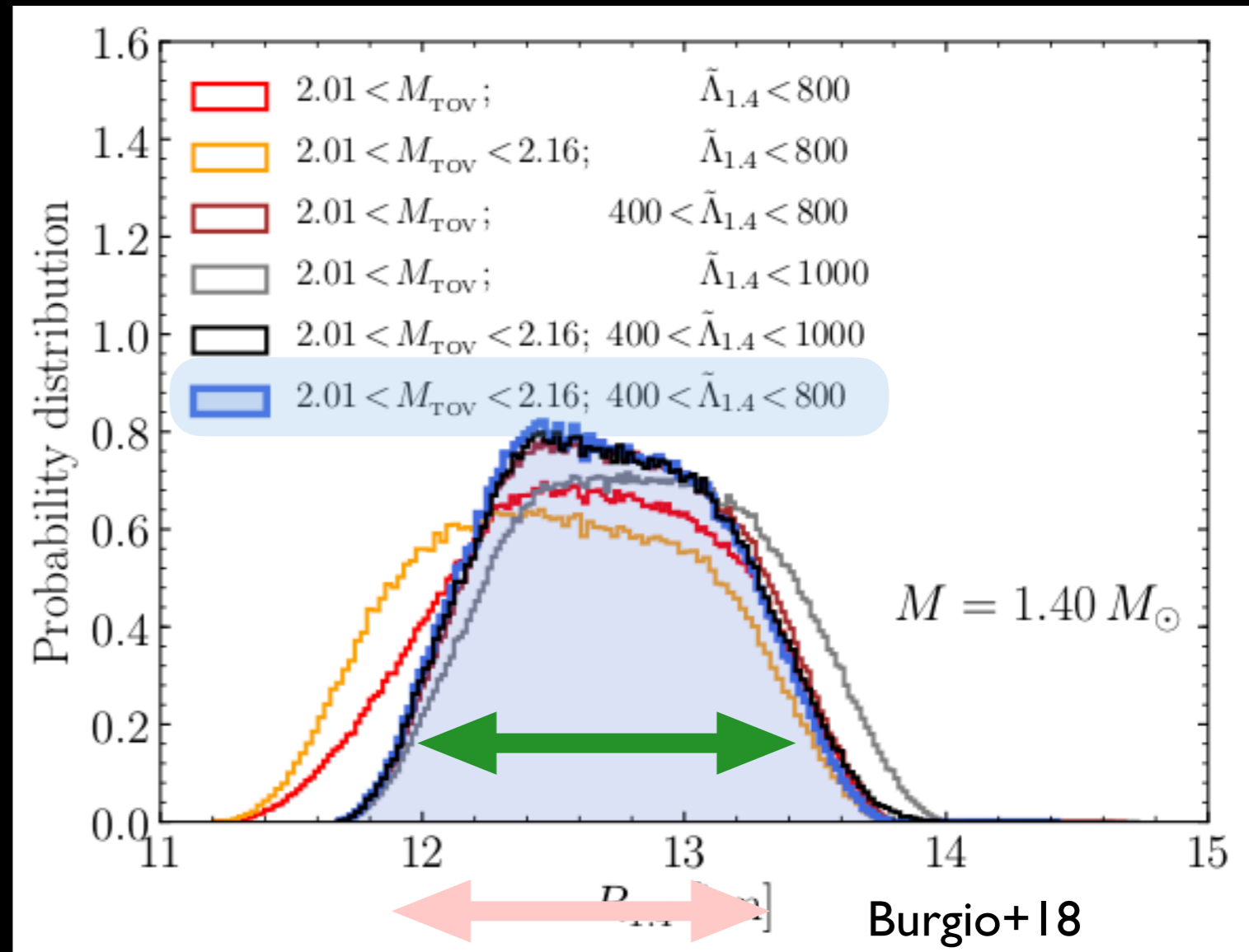


one-dimensional cuts

- Closer look at a mass of $M = 1.40 M_{\odot}$
- Can play with different constraints on maximum mass and tidal deformability.
- Overall distribution is very robust

$$12.00 < R_{1.4}/\text{km} < 13.45$$

$$\langle R_{1.4} \rangle = 12.45 \text{ km}$$



Tews+18

De+18

LVC+18

Constraining tidal deformability

- Can explore statistics of all properties of our 10^9 models.
- In particular can study PDF of tidal deformability:

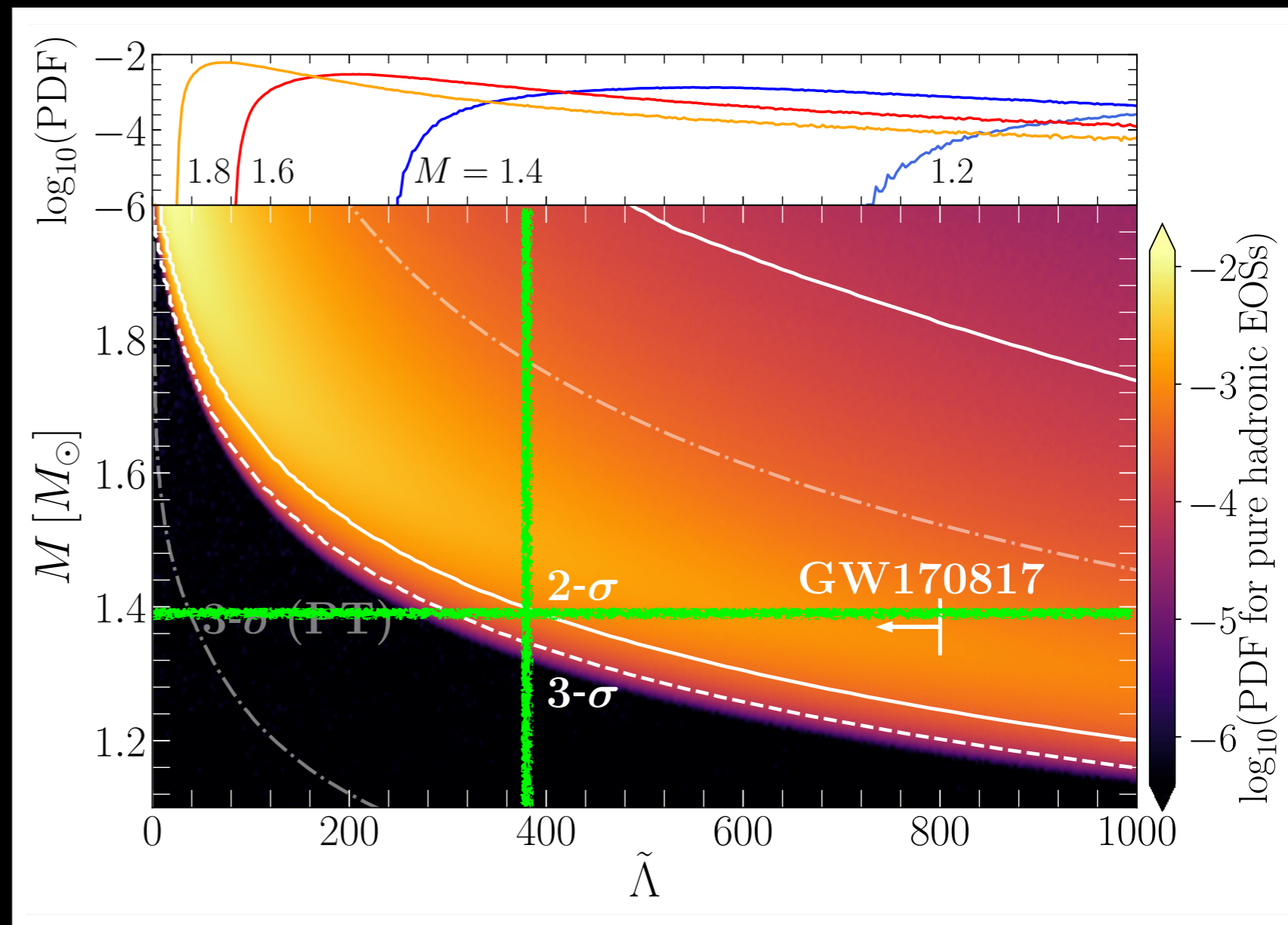
- LIGO has already set upper limit:

$$70 < \tilde{\Lambda}_{1.4} < 720$$

- Our sample sets a lower limit:

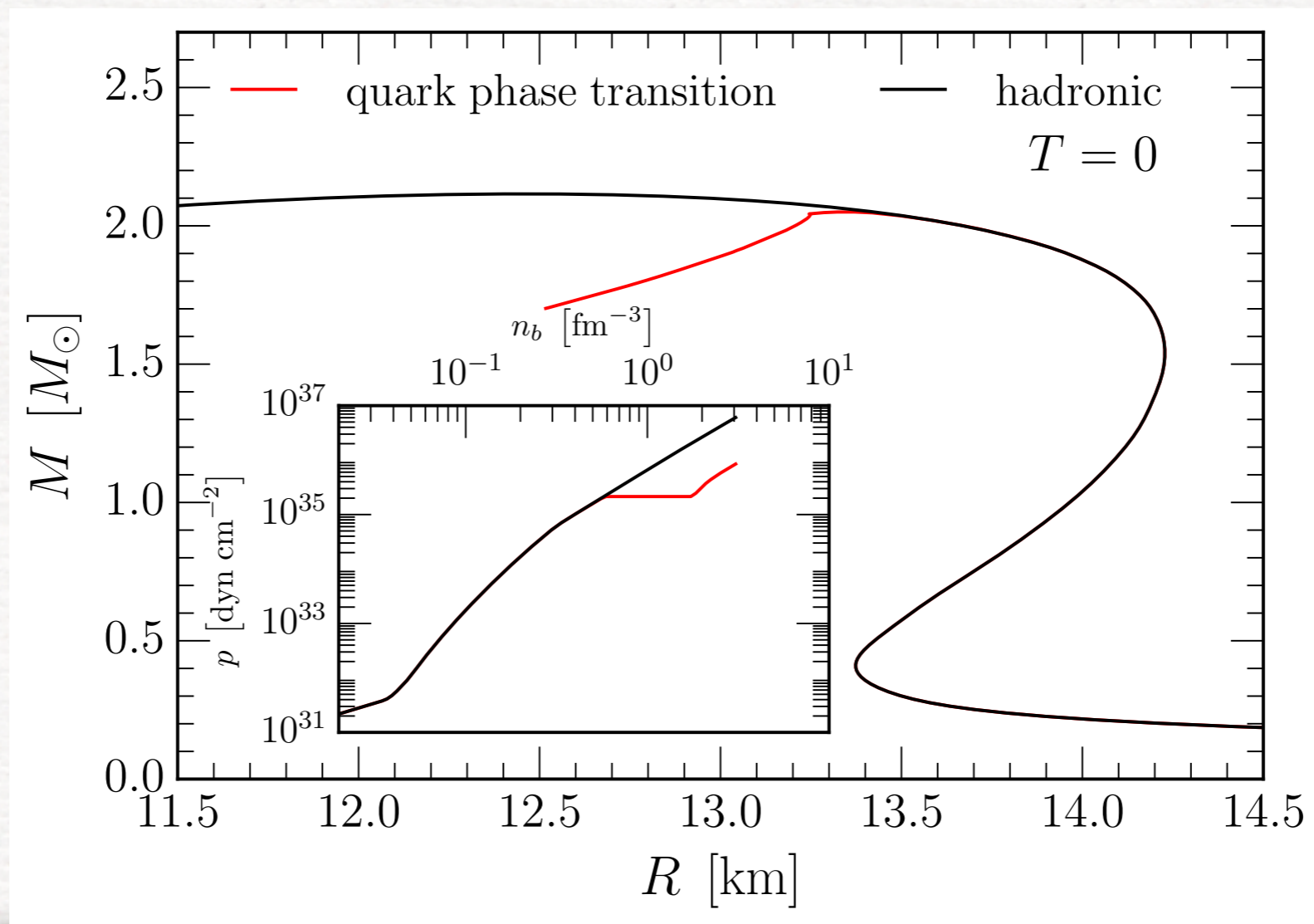
$$\tilde{\Lambda}_{1.4} > 375$$

the largest so far.

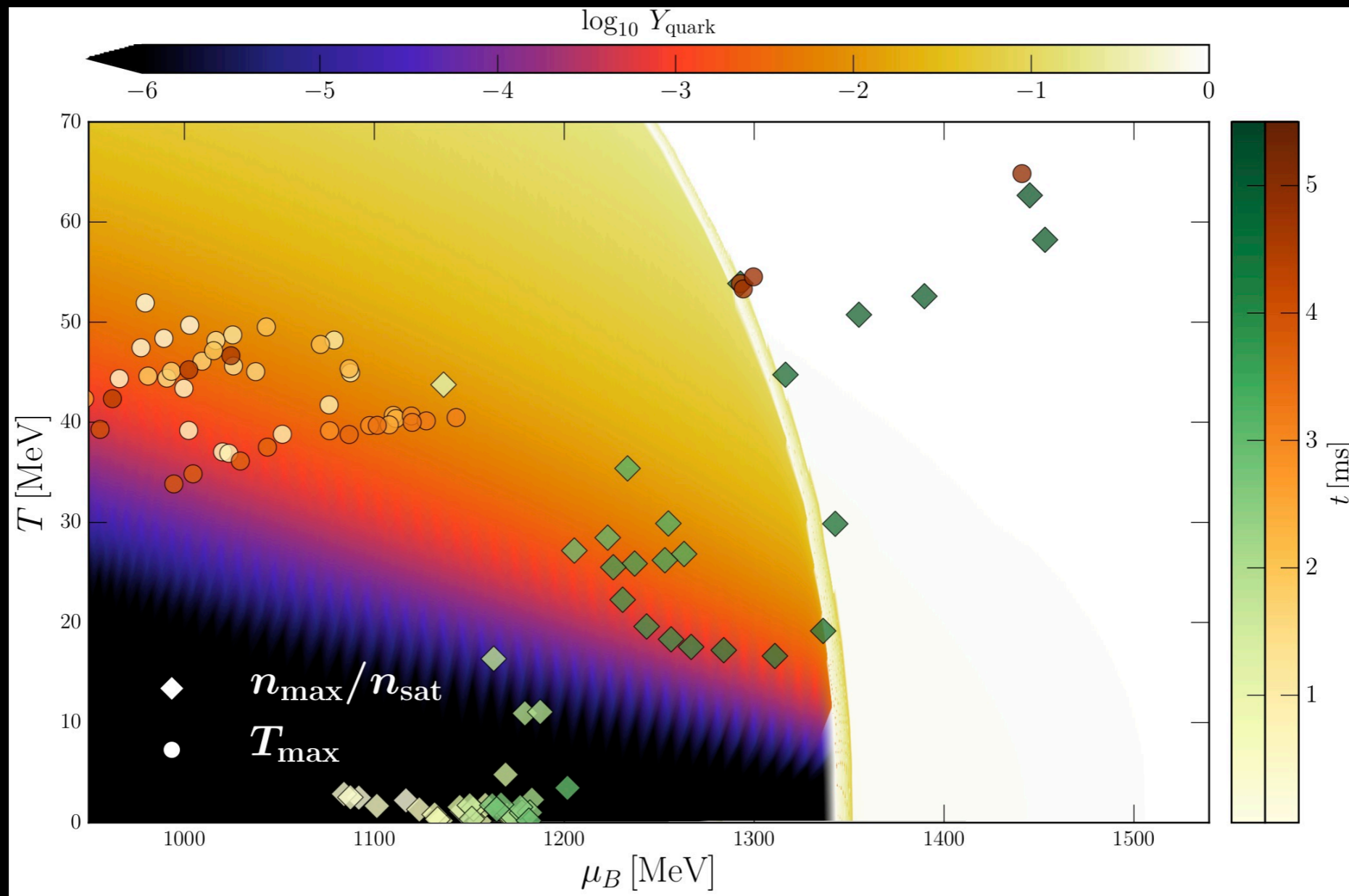


Modelling the EOS

- EOS based on Chiral Mean Field (CMF) and nonlinear SU(3) sigma model
- Includes hyperons and quarks that can be turned on/off
- Uses Polyakov loop to implement a strong first order phase transition
- Includes a cross-over transition at high temperatures

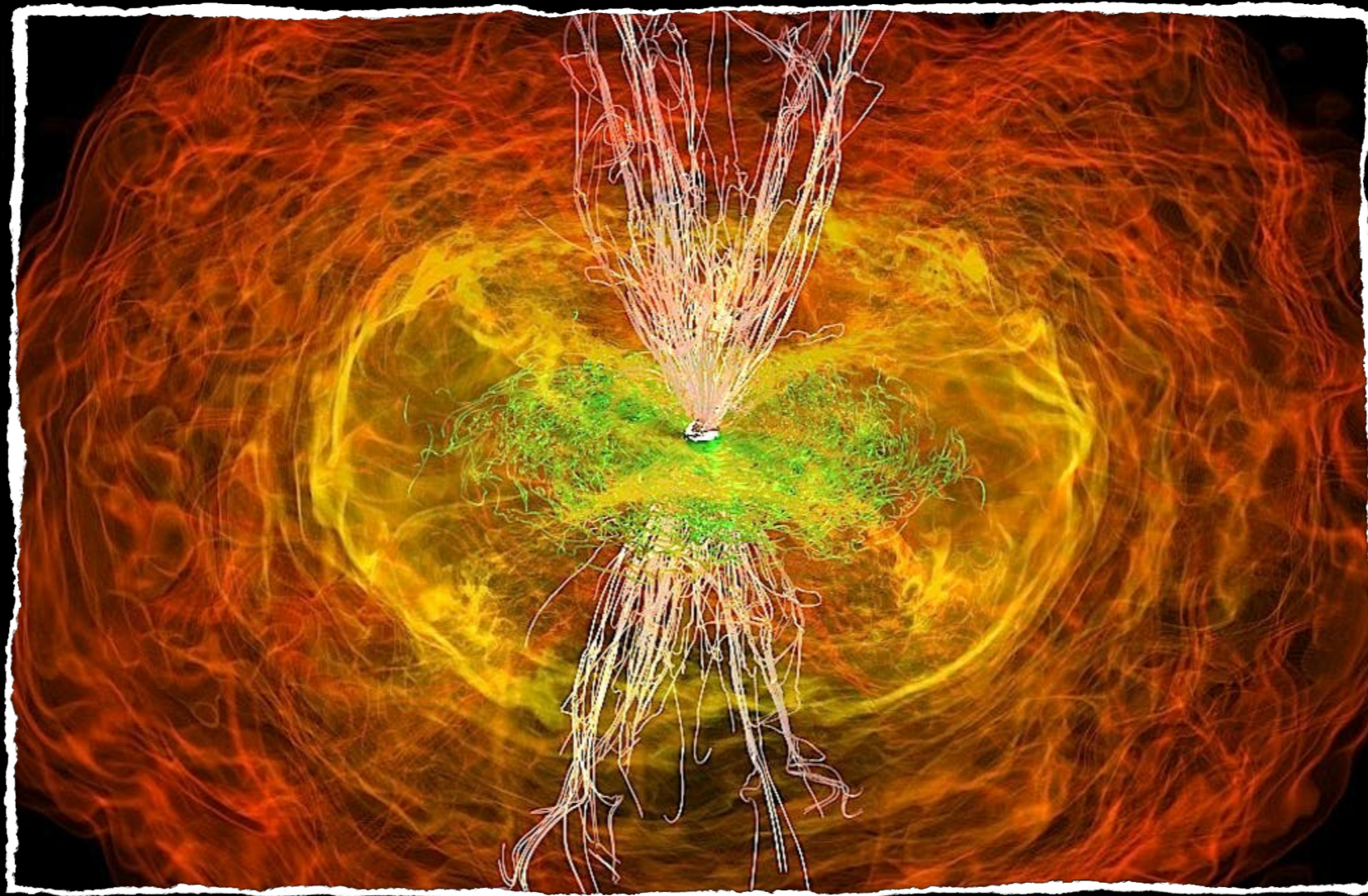


Comparing with the phase diagram



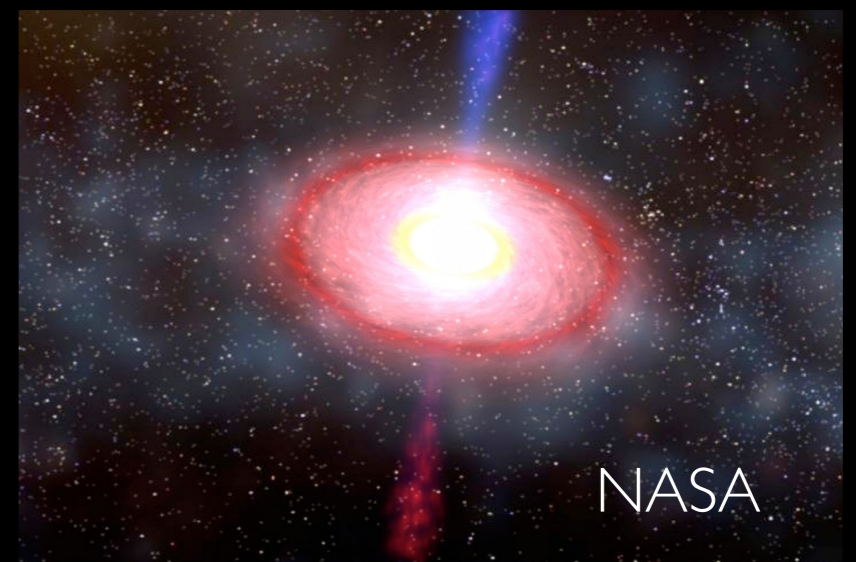
- Reported are the evolution of the max. temperature and density.
- Quarks appear already early on, but only in small fractions.
- Once sufficient density is reached, a full phase transition takes place.

Electromagnetic counterparts



Electromagnetic counterparts

- Since 70's observed flashes of gamma rays observed with energies 10^{50-53} erg: **gamma-ray bursts (GRBs)**
- Two families of GRBs: “**long**” and “**short**”
- **Long**: last **tens-hundreds of seconds**; likely due to the collapse of very massive stars
- **Short**: last less than a second; due to NS mergers
- All GRBs show **jets** but how do you produce a jet from a binary merger?



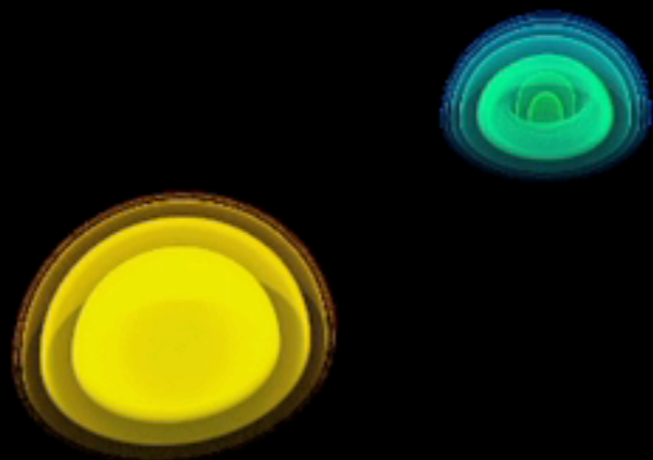
Electromagnetic counterparts

We have now evidence that gamma-ray bursts are associated with neutron star mergers

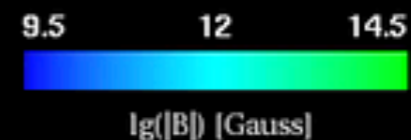
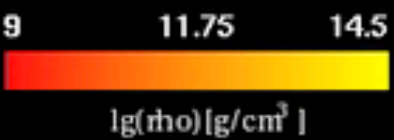
Presence of jets in gamma-ray bursts implies presence of large-scale magnetic fields

What happens when magnetised stars collide?

Need to solve equations of magnetohydrodynamics in addition to the Einstein equations

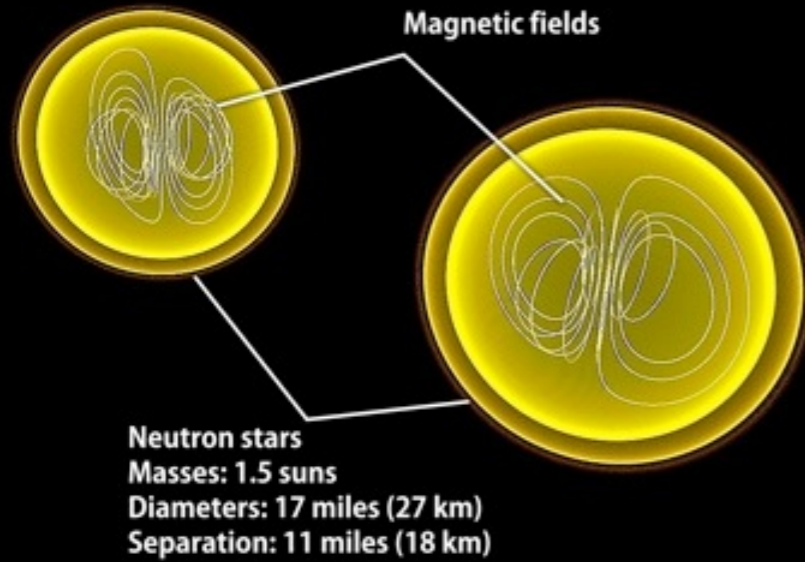


$$M = 1.5 M_{\odot}, B_0 = 10^{12} \text{ G}$$

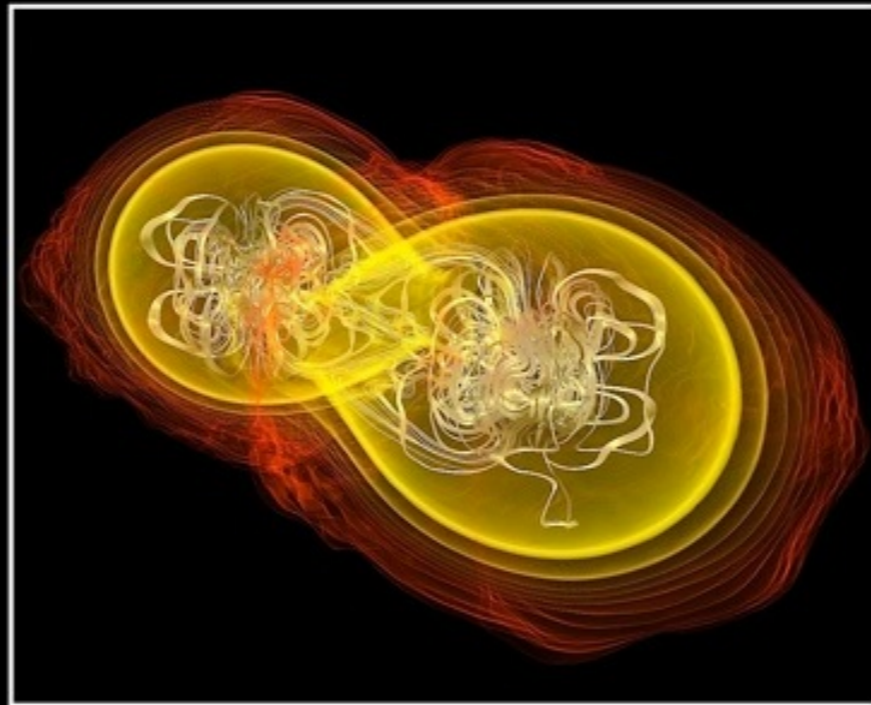


Animations:, LR, Koppitz

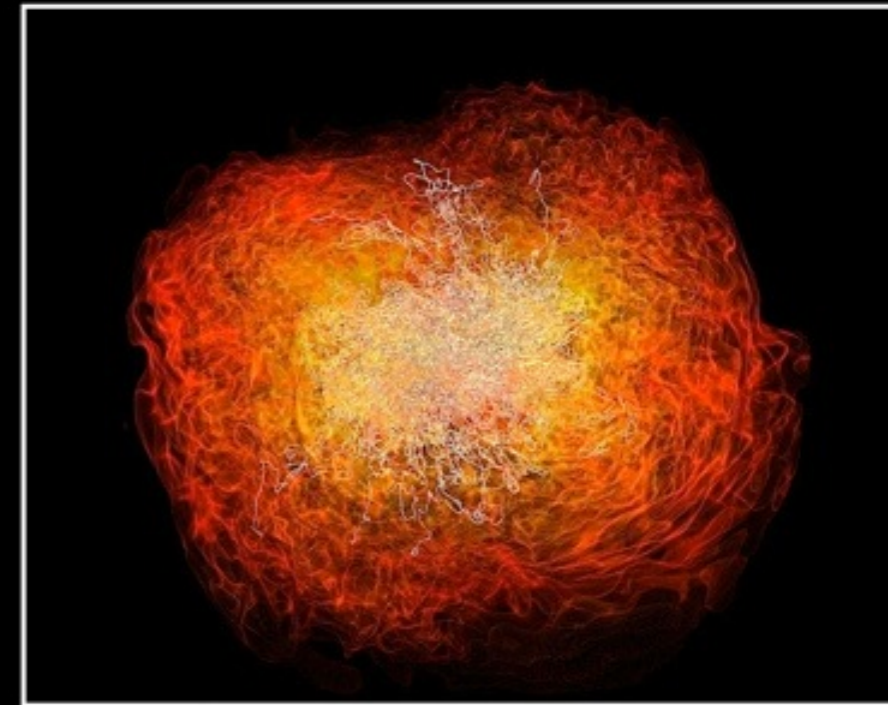
What happens when magnetised stars collide?



Simulation begins

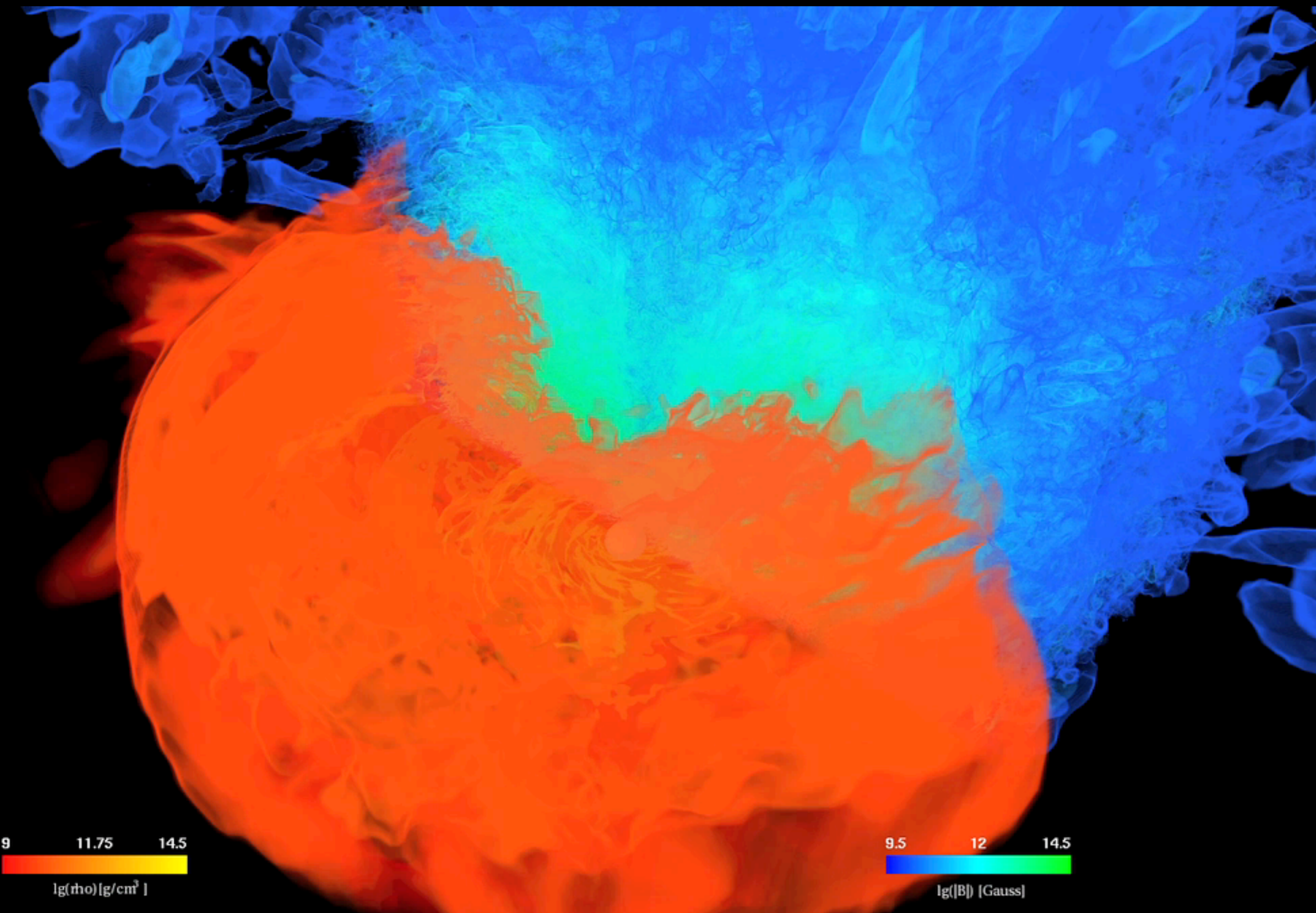


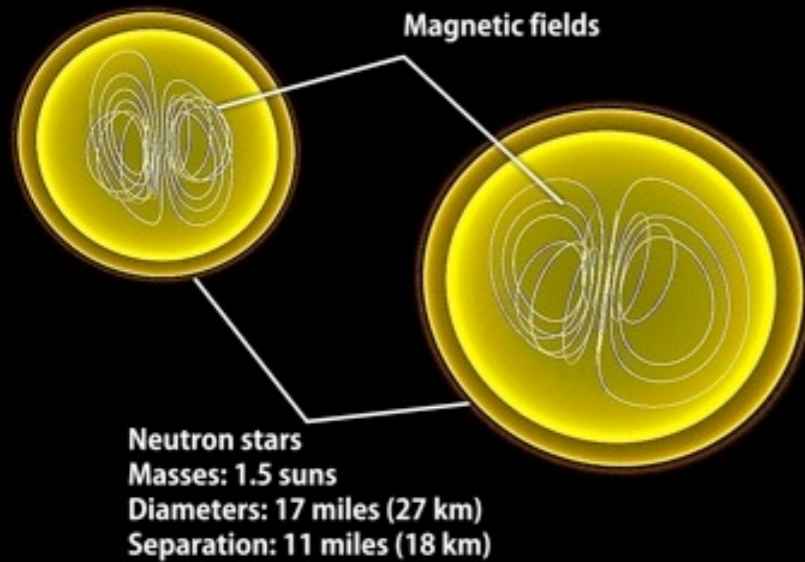
7.4 milliseconds



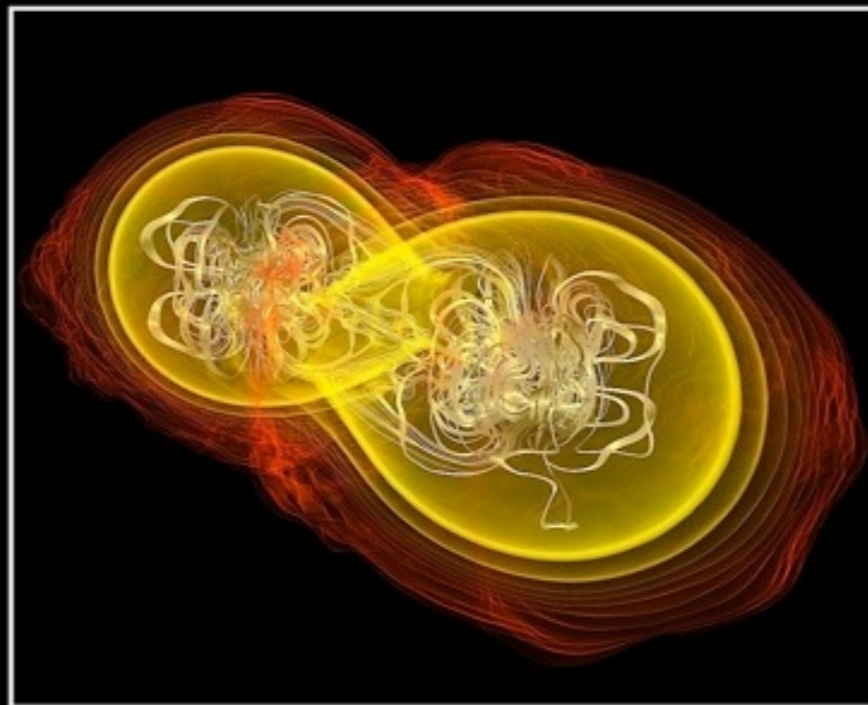
13.8 milliseconds

Magnetic fields in the HMNS have complex topology: dipolar fields are destroyed.

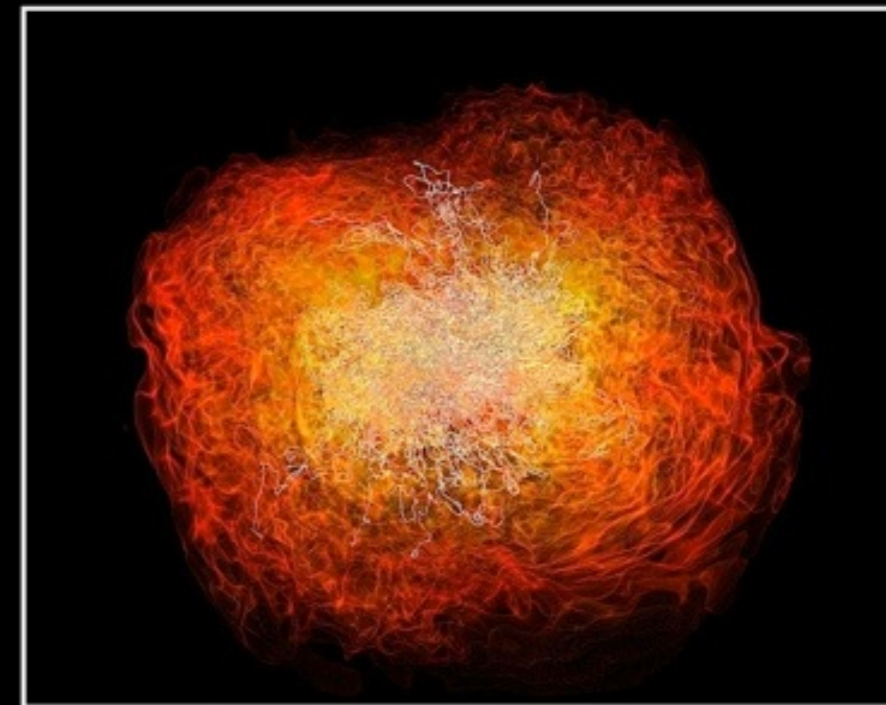




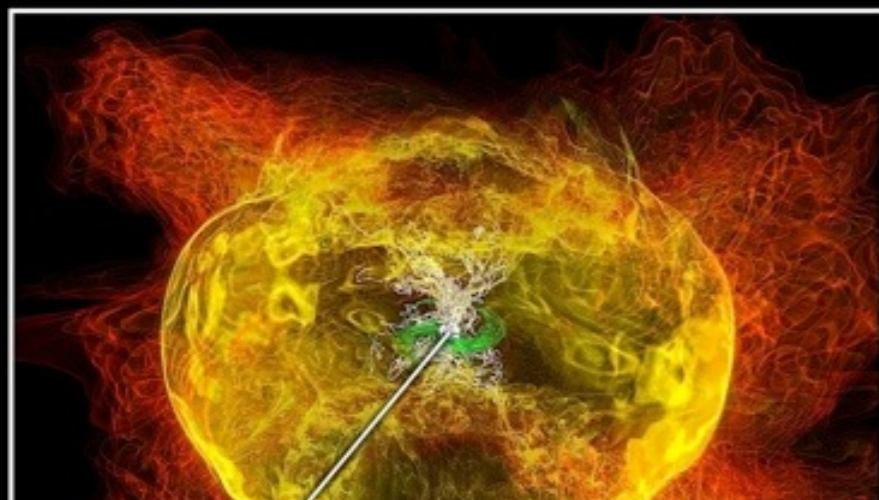
Simulation begins



7.4 milliseconds



13.8 milliseconds



Black hole forms
Mass: 2.9 suns
Horizon diameter: 5.6 miles (9 km)



16.2 milliseconds



16.2 milliseconds

These simulations have shown that the merger of a magnetised binary has all the basic features behind SGRBs

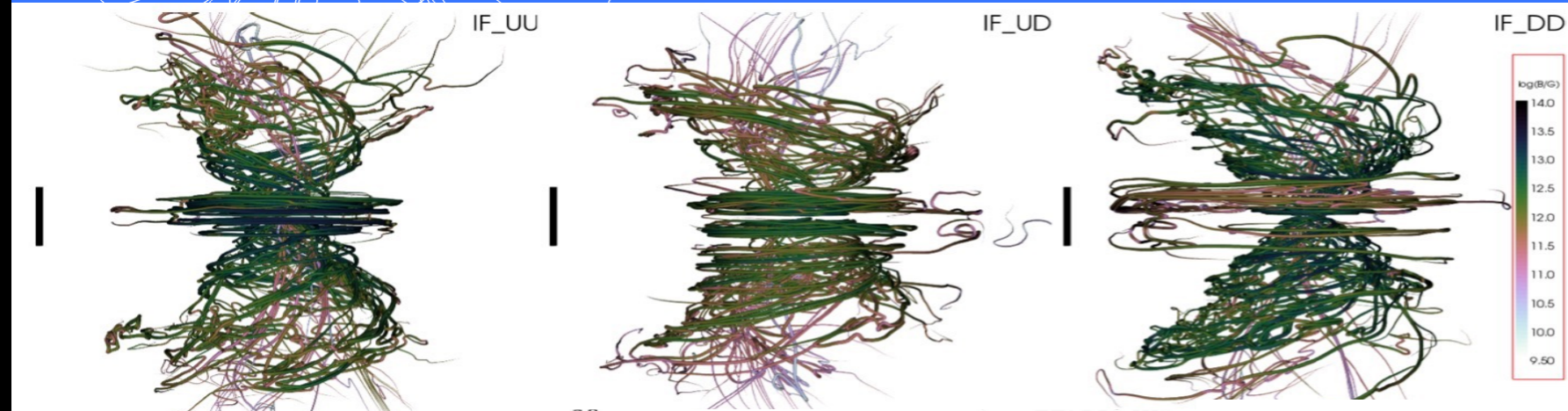
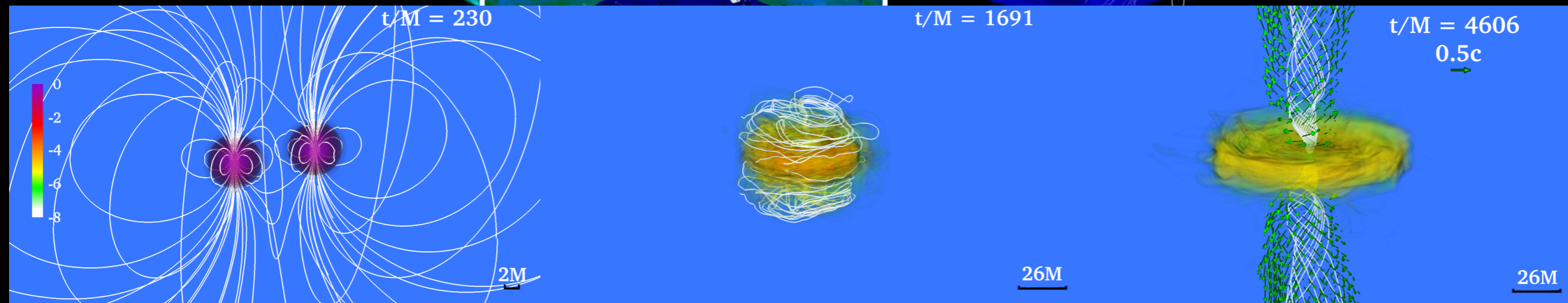
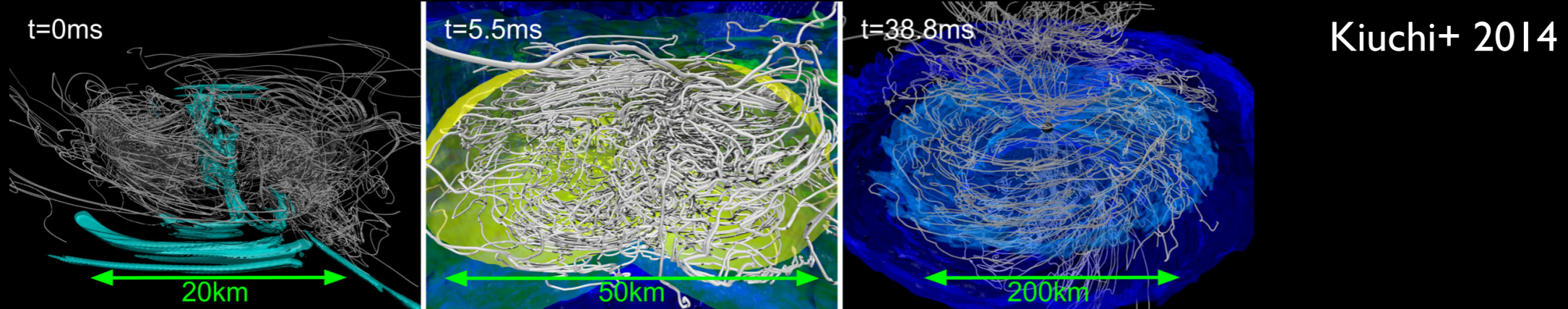
Credit: NASA/AEI/ZIB/M. Köppitz and L. Rezzolla

$$J/M^2 = 0.83$$

$$M_{\text{tor}} = 0.063 M_{\odot}$$

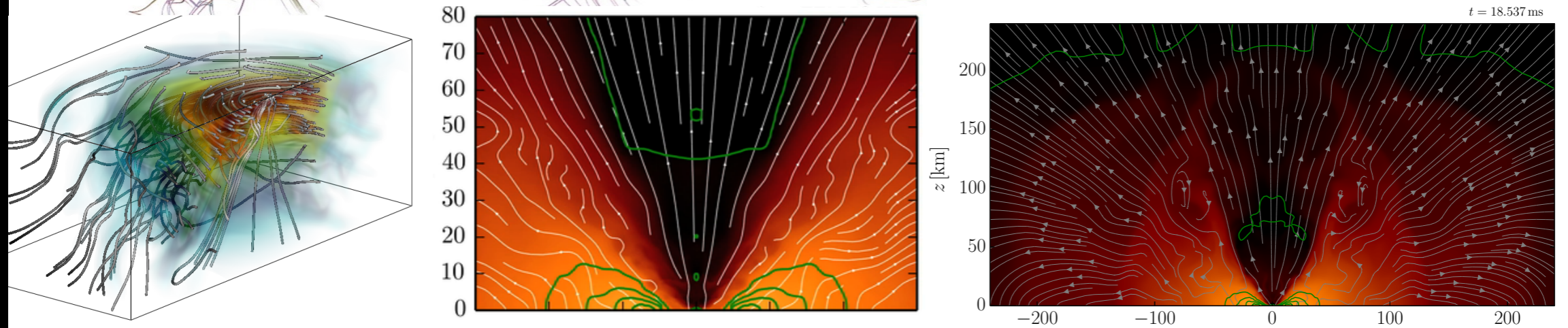
$$t_{\text{accr}} \simeq M_{\text{tor}}/\dot{M} \simeq 0.3 \text{ s}$$

With due differences, other groups confirm this picture



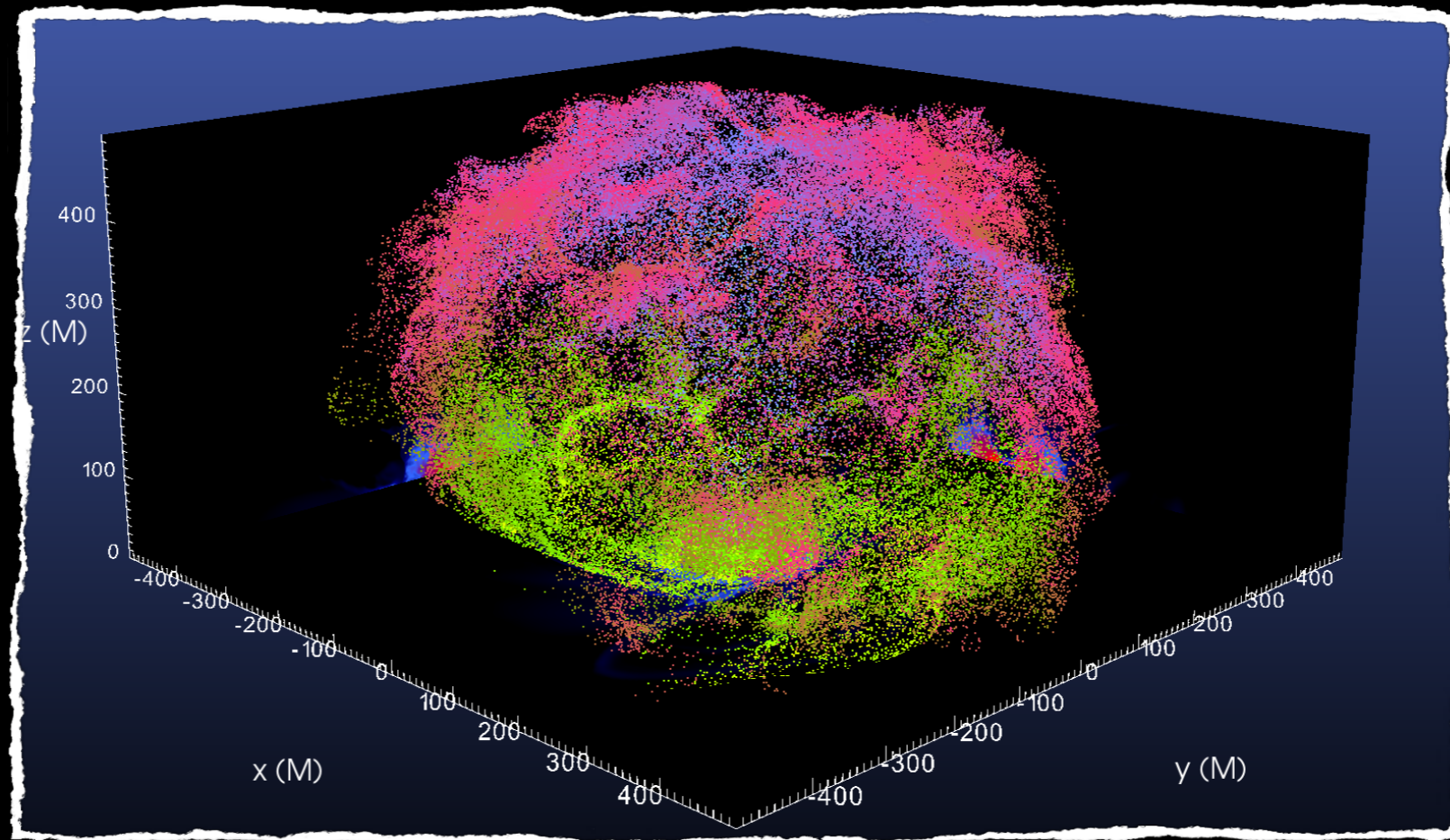
Kawamura+2016

Dionysopoulou+ 2015



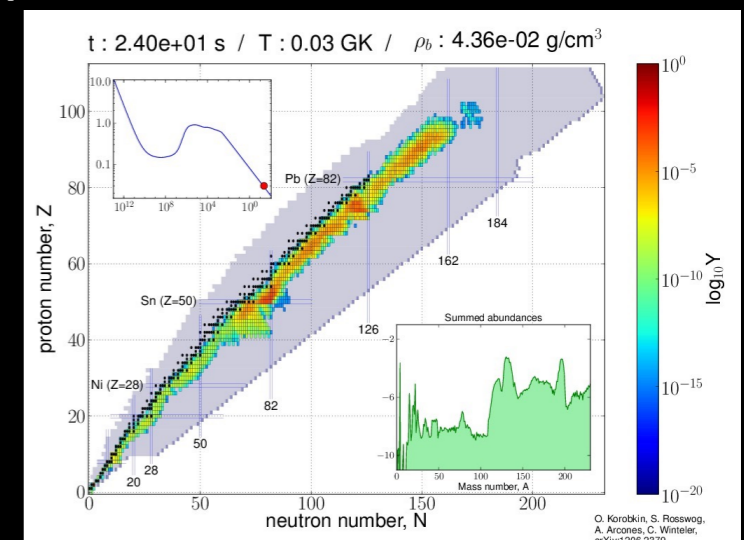
Ejected matter and nucleosynthesis

Bovard+ (2017)

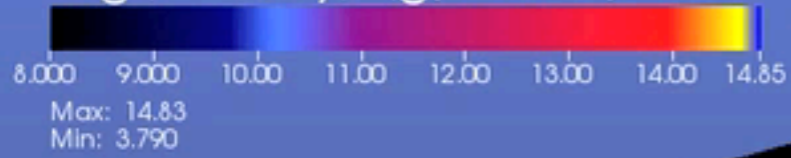


Nucleosynthesis

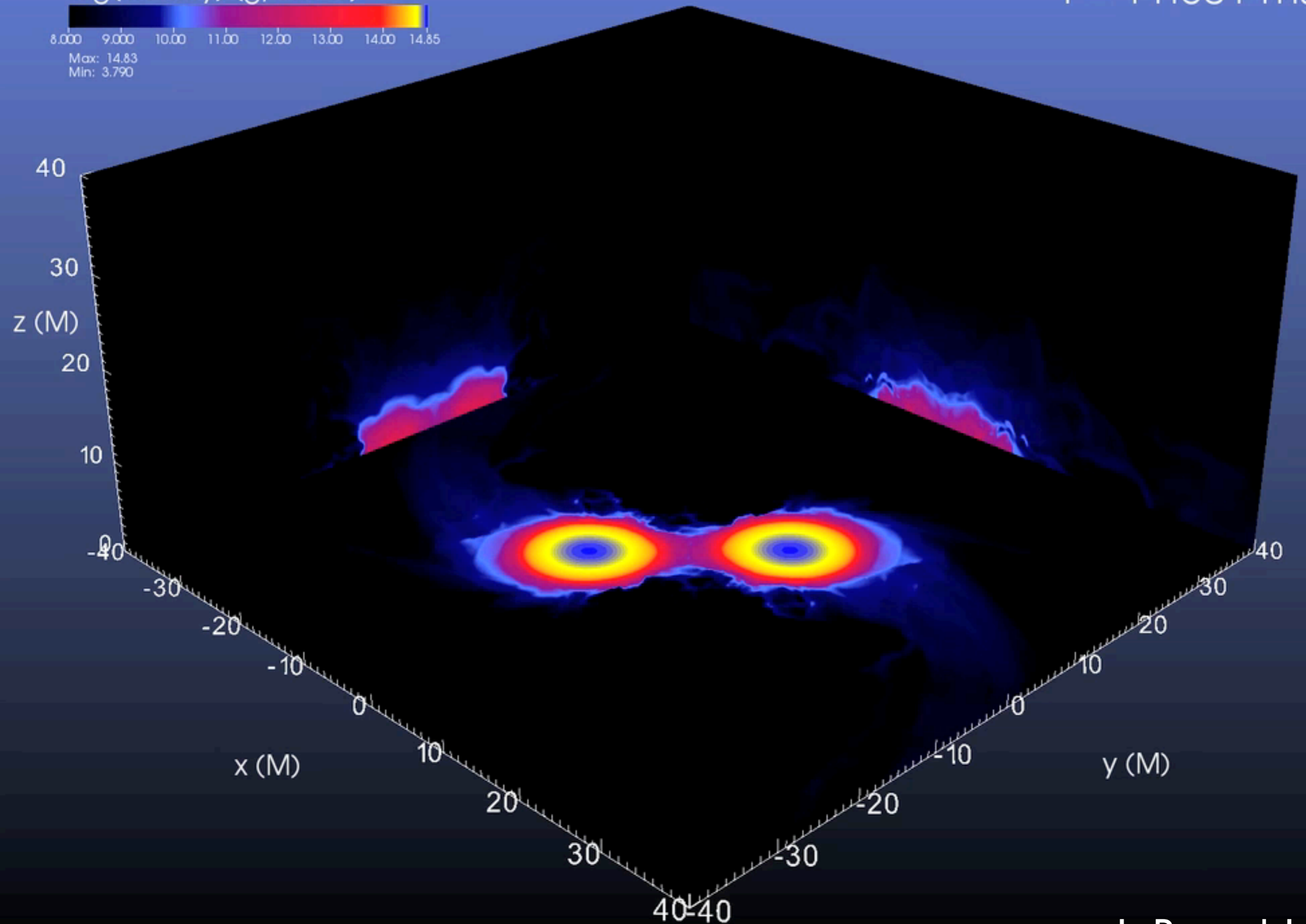
- Already in the 50's, nuclear physicists had tracked the production of elements in stars via nuclear fusion.
- **Heavy elements** ($A > 56$) cannot be produced in stellar interiors but can be synthesised during a **supernova**.
- SN simulations have shown that temperatures/energies not enough to produce “**very heavy**” elements ($A > 120$).
- To produce such elements very high temperatures and “**neutron-rich**” material is needed.
- **Neutron-star mergers** seem perfect candidates for this process!



log(density) (g/cm³)



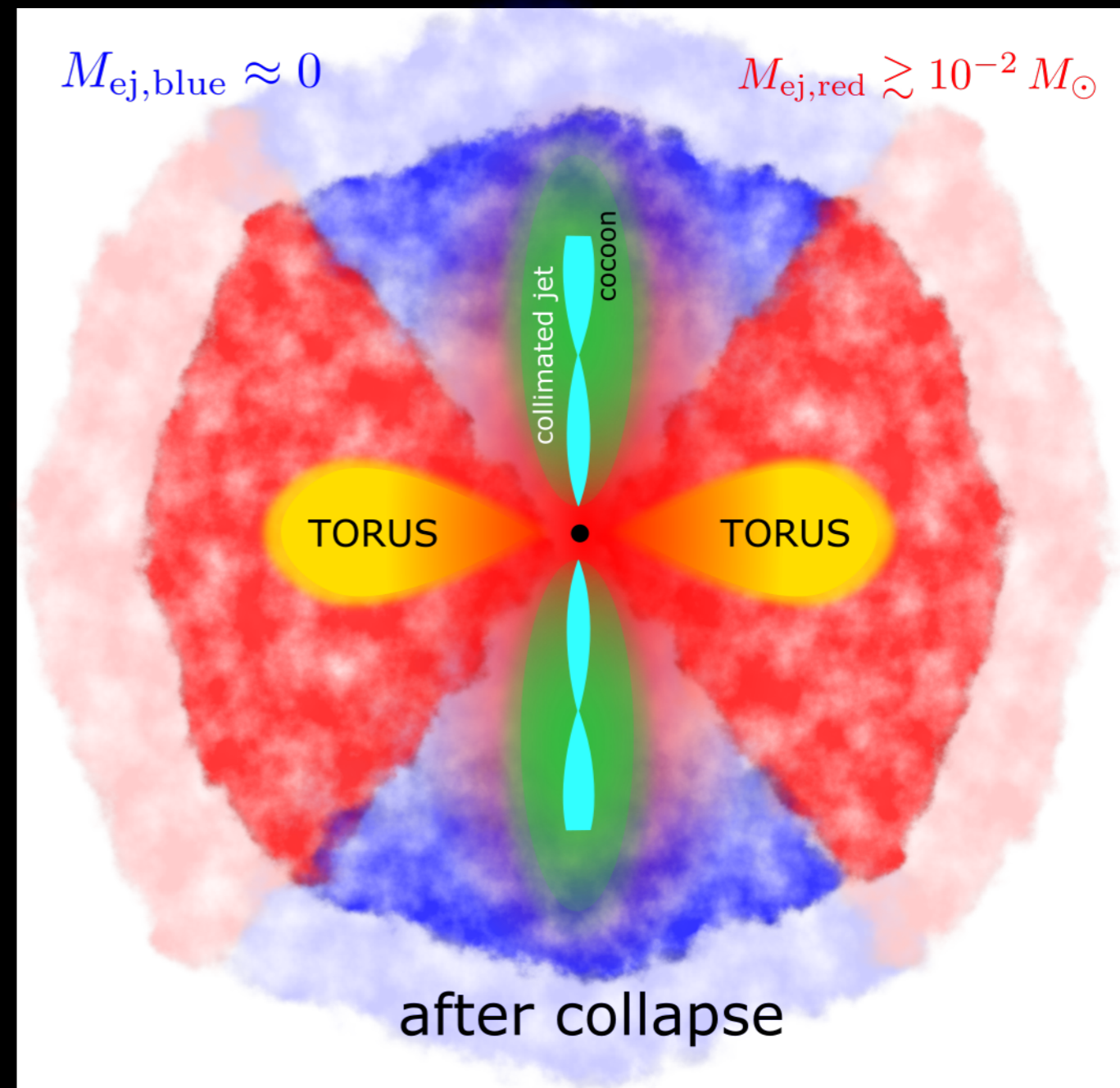
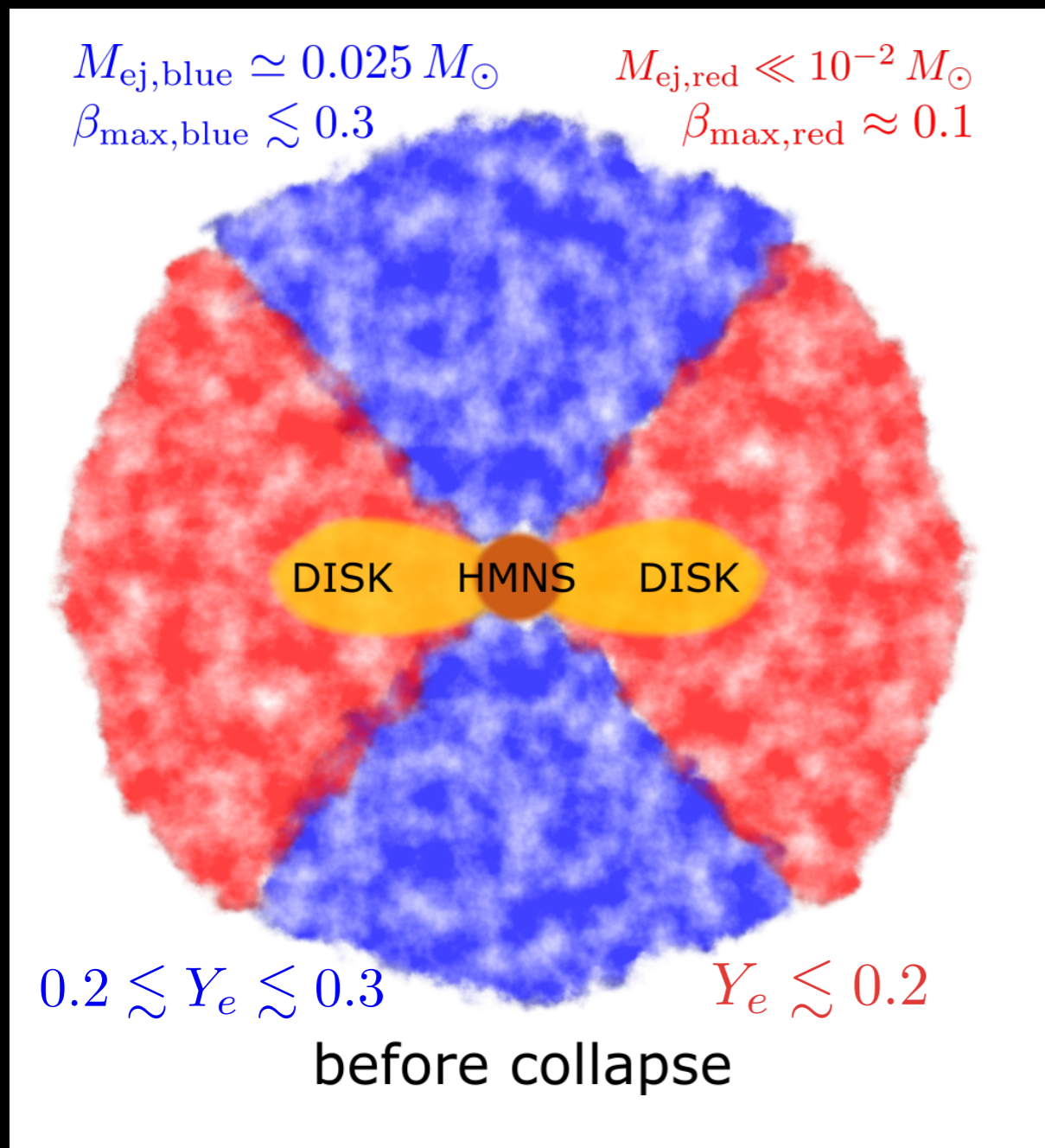
$t = 11.801$ ms



L. Bovard, LR

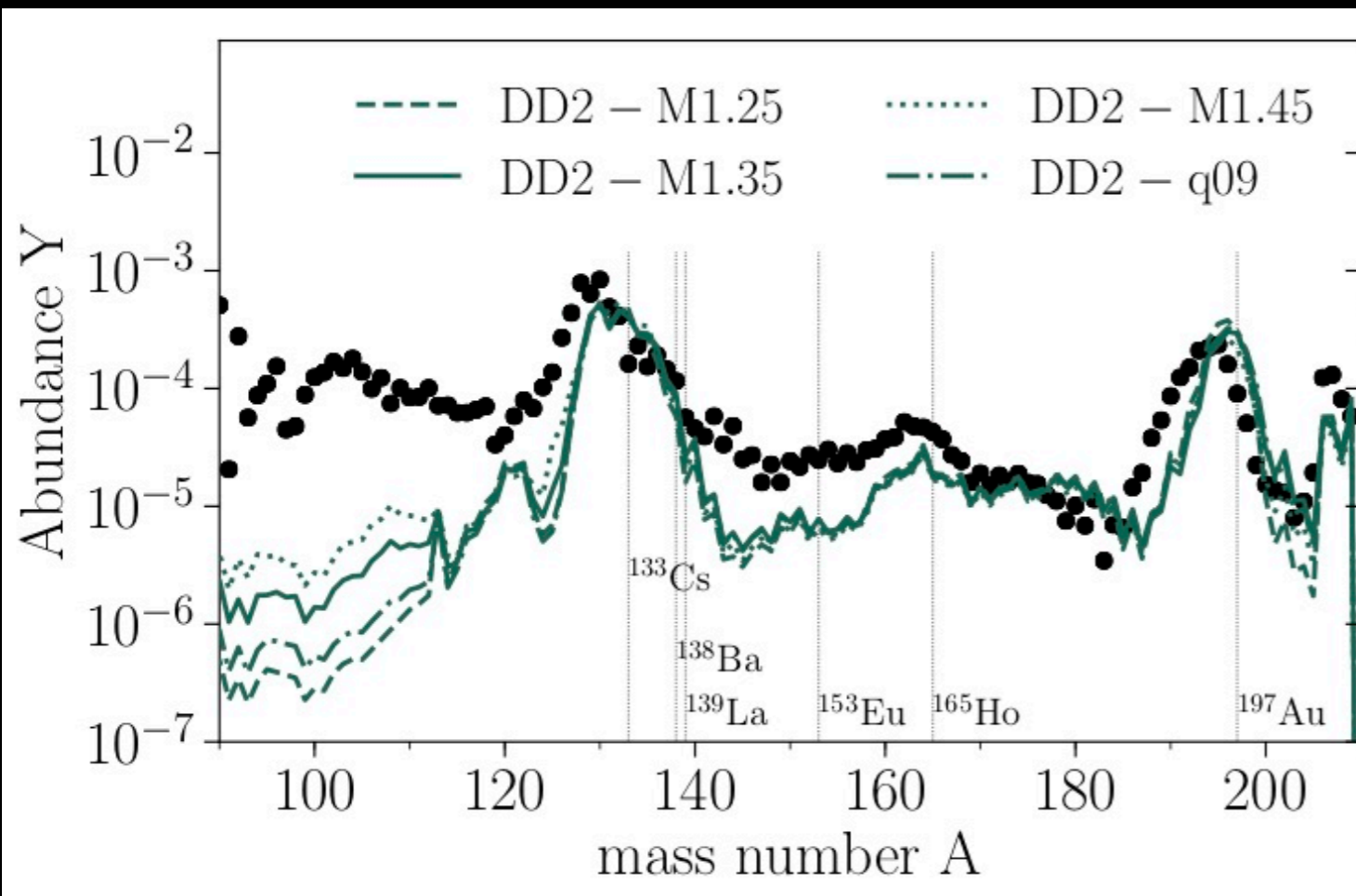
Ejection of mass

- After merger mass is lost in many different **channels** (shock heating, neutrino or magnetic-driven winds) and on very different **timescales** (dynamical and secular).



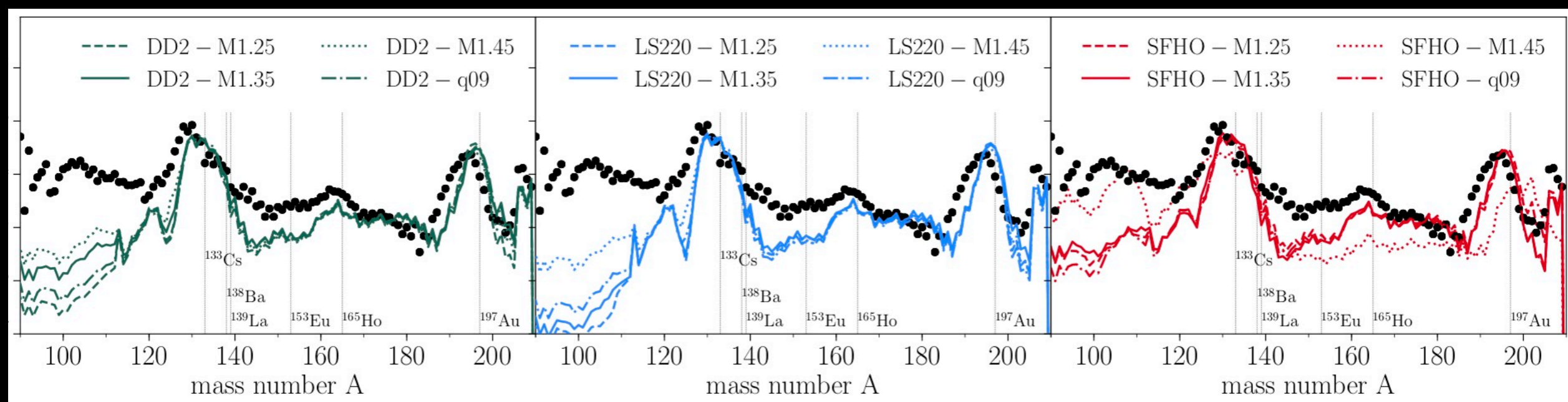
Relative abundances

- Mass ejection can either be **dynamical** (shocks; 100 ms) or **secular** (magnetic or neutrino-driven winds; 1-10 s).
- Even **tiny amounts** of ejected matter ($0.01 M_{\odot}$) sufficient to explain observed abundances.
- Abundances for $A > 120$ good agreement with solar. **robust** for different **EOSs**, masses, nuclear reactions and merger type



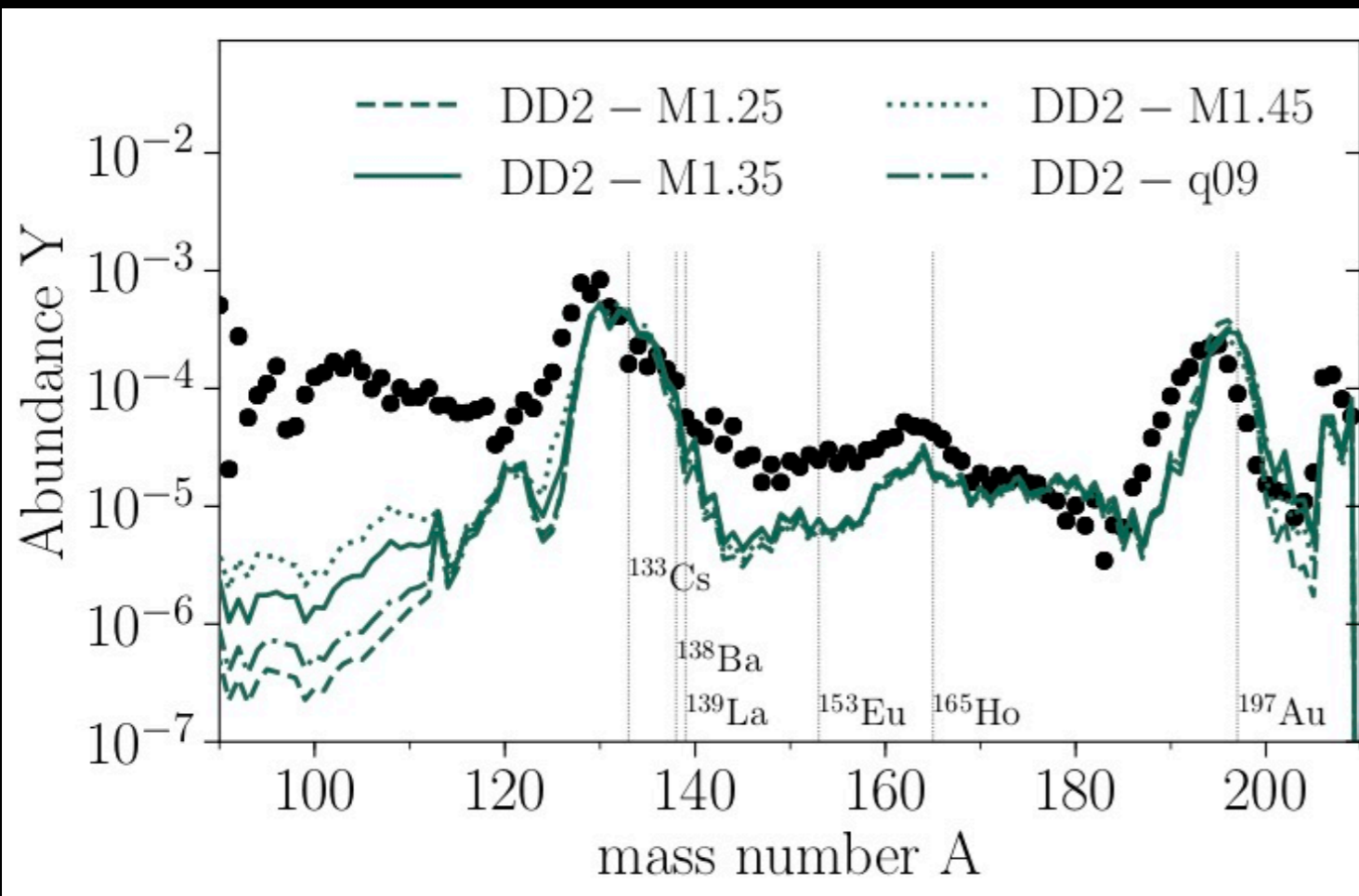
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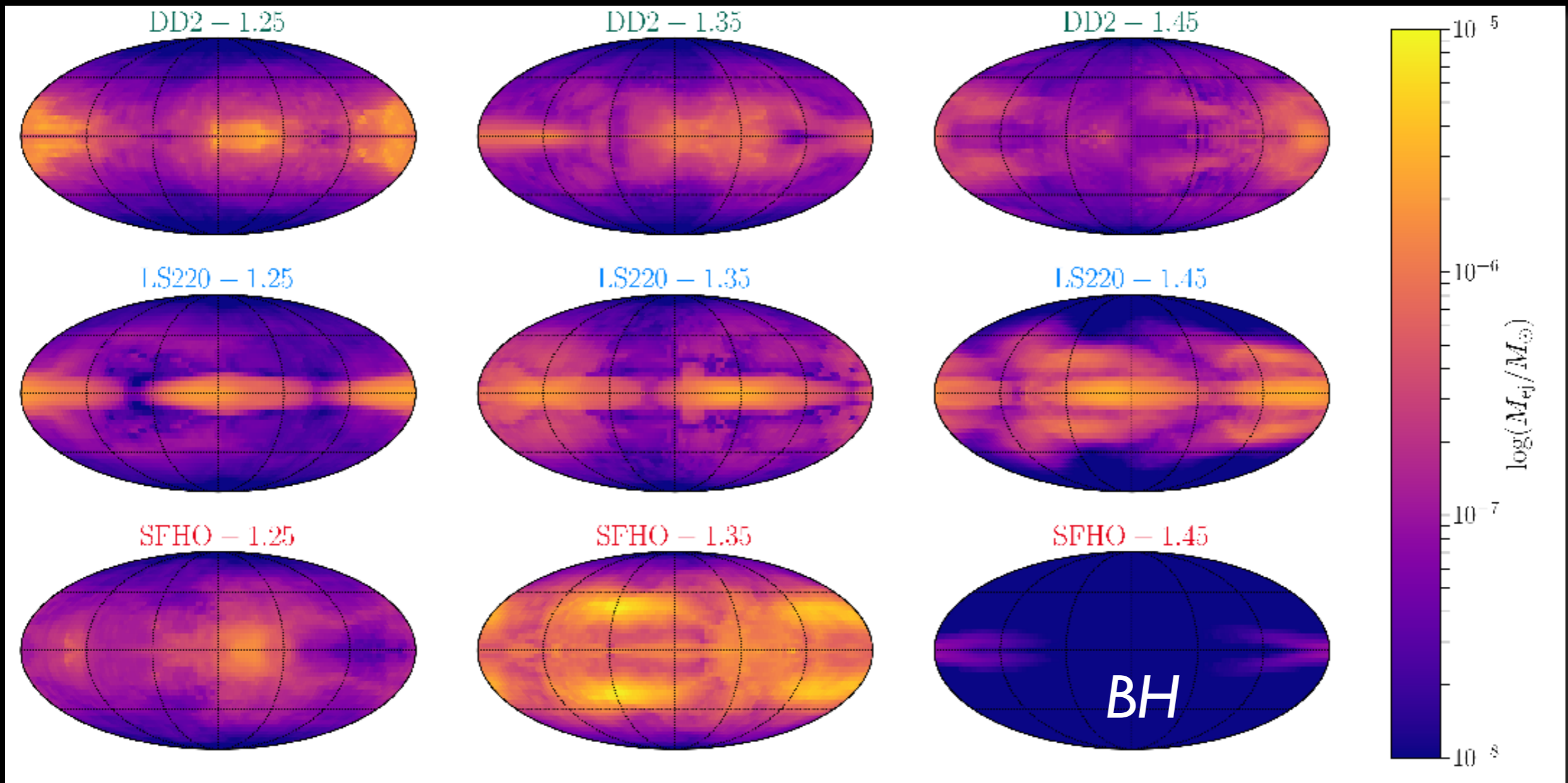
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- Even **tiny amounts** of ejected matter ($0.01 M_{\odot}$) sufficient to explain observed abundances.
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- GW170817 produced total of **16,000** times the mass of the Earth in heavy elements (**10** Earth masses in **gold/platinum**)
- We are not only **stellar dust** but also **neutron-star dust!**

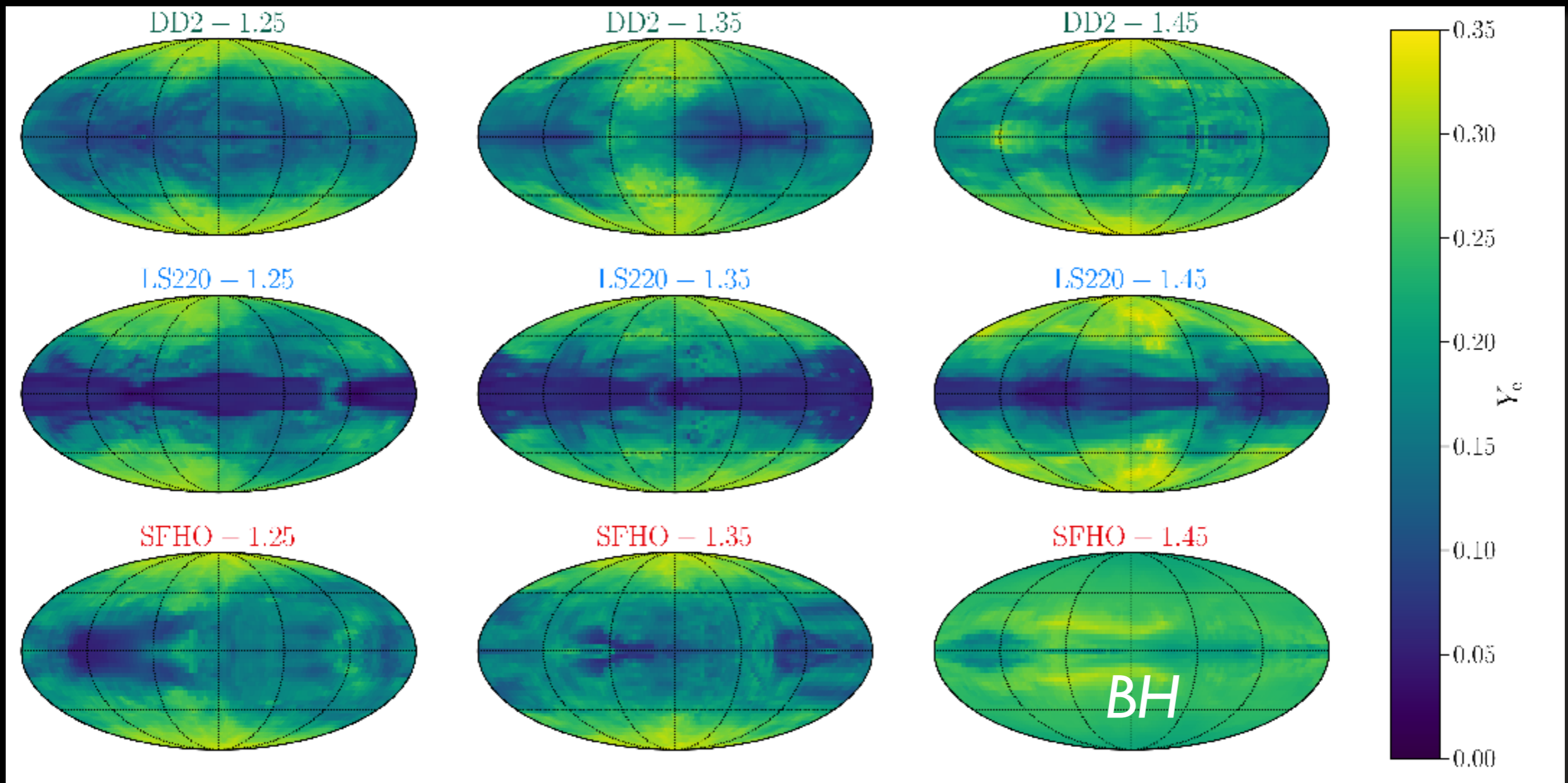
Spatial distributions: M_{ej} Bovard+ 17



Spatial distribution of M_{ej} impacts detectability of EM counterpart:

- ★ most of M_{ej} lost at low latitudes;
- ★ depending on EOS/mass, contamination also in polar regions

Spatial distributions: Y_e



Spatial distribution of Y_e impacts detectability of EM counterpart:

- ★ high Y_e in **polar** regions: **blue** (optical) macronova
- ★ low Y_e in **equatorial** regions: **red** (FIR) macronova