

Title: The parents of LIGO black holes and their hometown

Speakers: Vishal Baibhav

Series: Strong Gravity

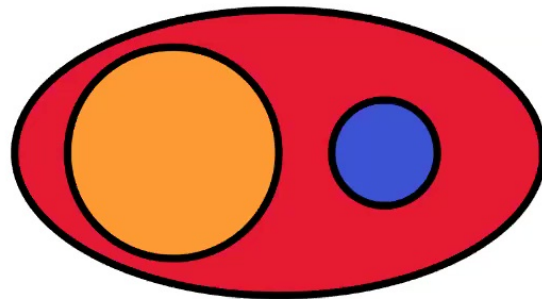
Date: January 14, 2021 - 1:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/21010009>

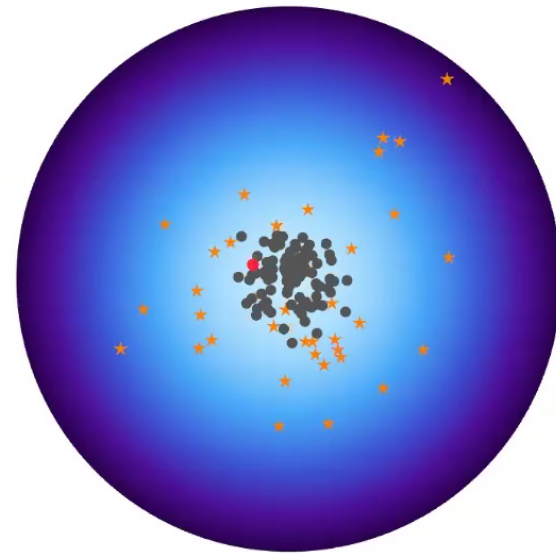
Abstract: Two of the dominant channels to produce black-hole binary mergers are believed to be the isolated evolution of stellar binaries in the field and dynamical formation in star clusters. Pair instabilities prevent stellar collapse from generating black holes more massive than about 45-60 solar mass. This "mass gap" only applies to the field formation scenario: repeated mergers in clusters can fill the gap. A similar reasoning applies to the binary's spin parameters. If black holes are born slowly rotating, the high-spin portion of the parameter space (the "spin gap") can only be filled by black-hole binaries that are assembled dynamically. I will discuss how such signatures are a smoking gun for the hierarchical origin, and how recent detections (GW190521 and GW190412) fit in this context. I will also talk about how we may be able to reconstruct the properties of progenitors of second-generation black holes.



# The **parents** of LIGO black holes and their **hometown**



VS



Vishal Baibhav  
Johns Hopkins University  
with Davide Gerosa, Emanuele Berti, Kaze Wong, Thomas Helfer, Matthew Mould

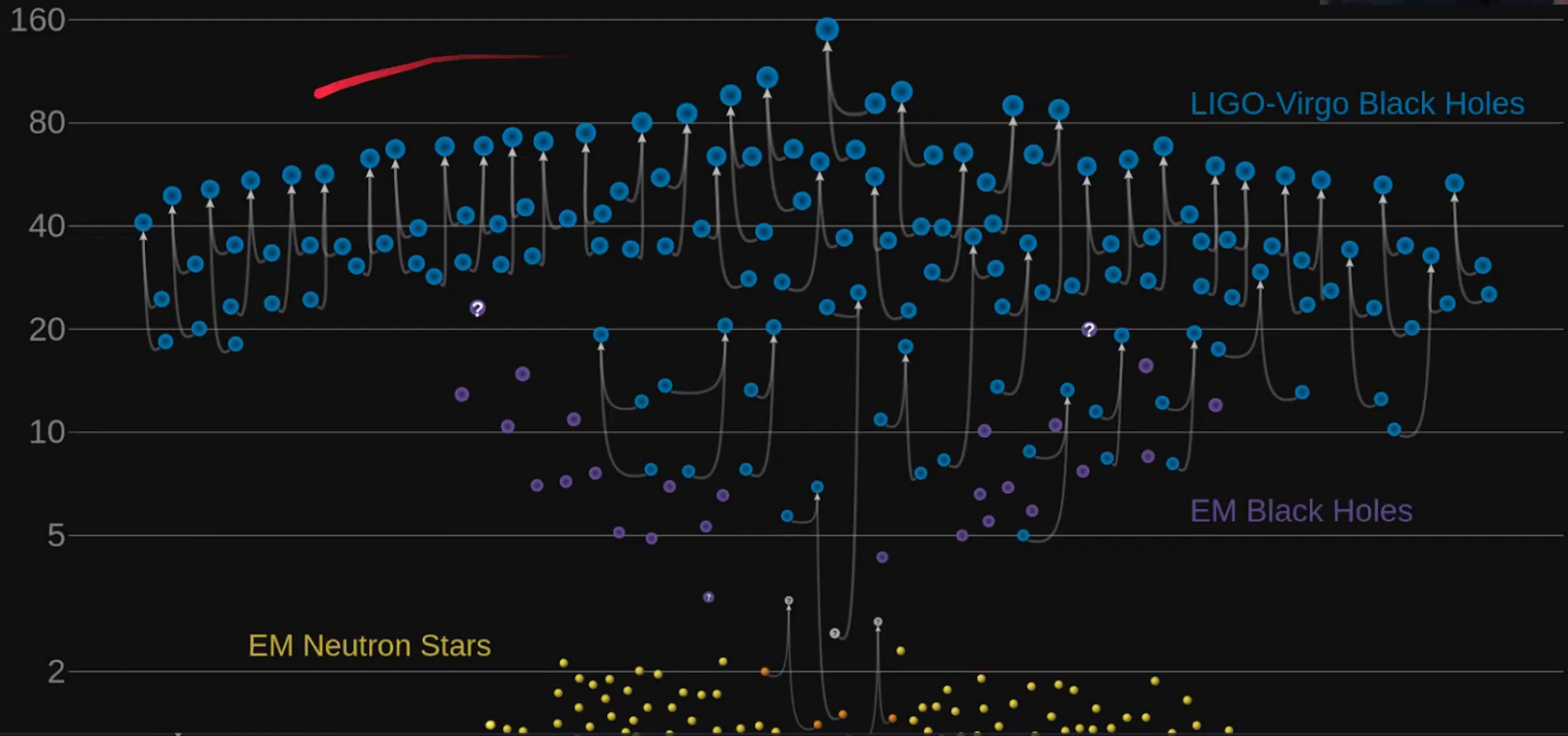
arXiv: 2004.00650  
+ongoing work





# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

*in Solar Masses*

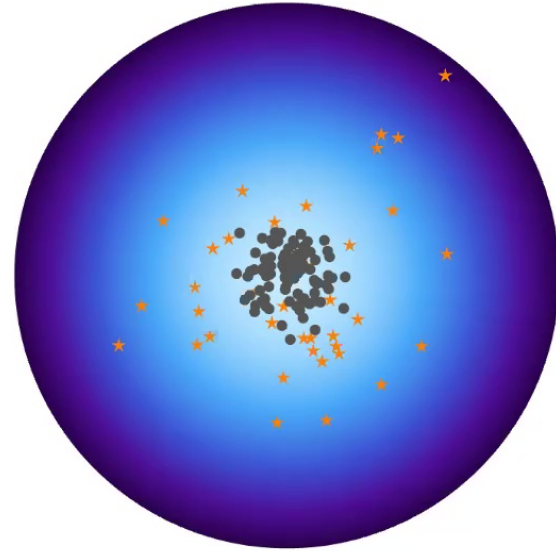
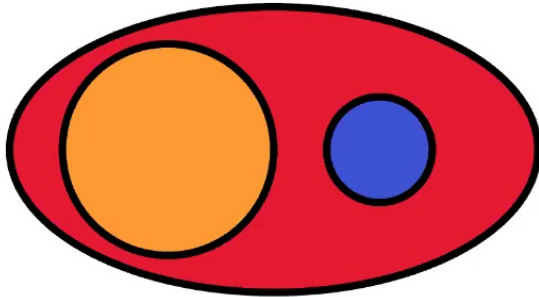




# Field

vs

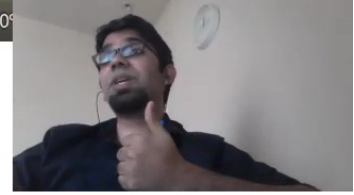
# Cluster



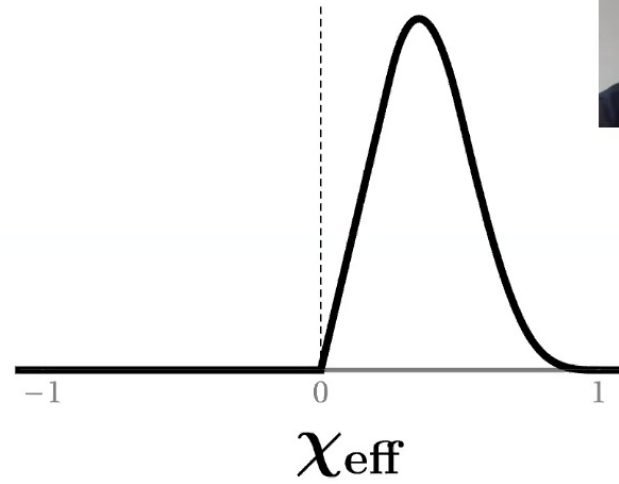
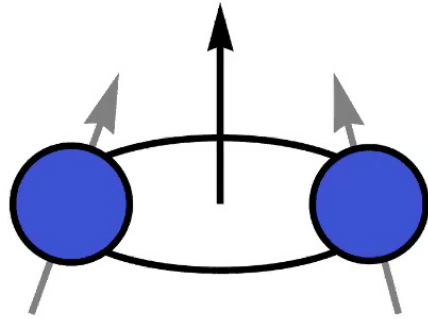
GW Observables  $m_1$   $m_2$   $z$   $\chi_{\text{eff}}$   $\chi_p$



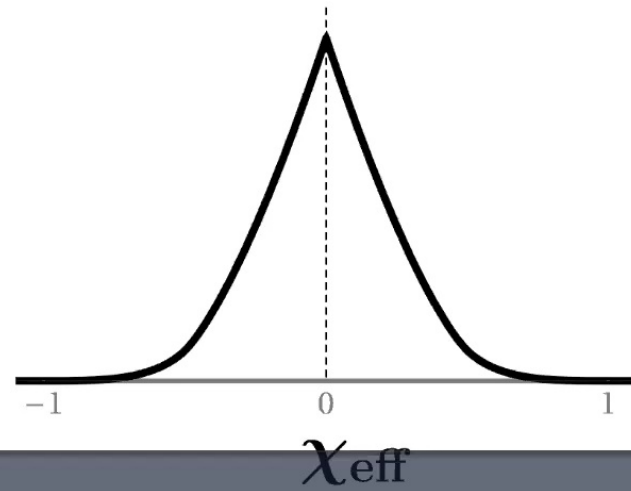
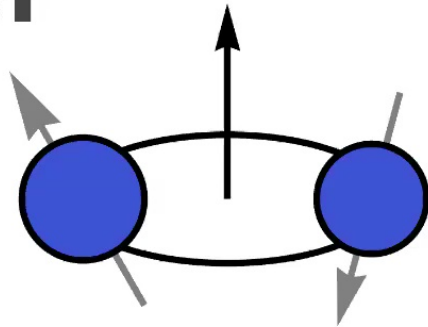




# Field



# Cluster






GW community

# What if black holes have **no spins**?



**Most Black Holes Are Born Very Slowly Rotating**

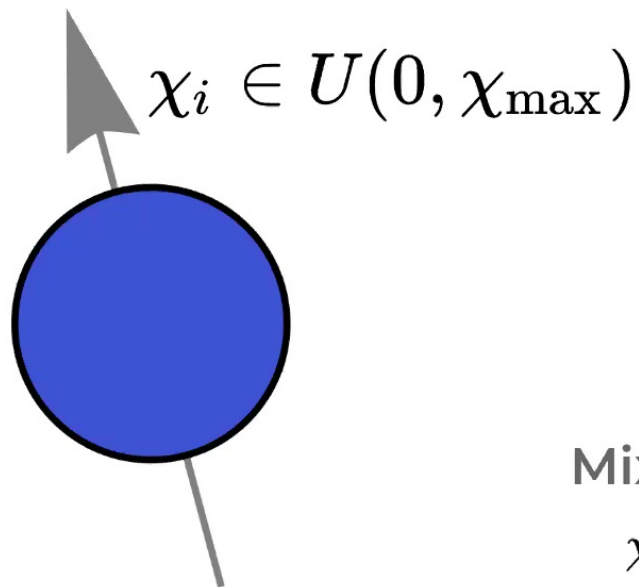
Jim Fuller<sup>1</sup>  and Linhao Ma<sup>1,2</sup>

$$a \approx 10^{-2}$$





# Can't measure spin directions if there **no spins?**



$$\delta f \sim \frac{\mathcal{O}(0.1)}{\chi_{\max} \sqrt{N}}$$

Mixing fraction

$$\chi_{\max} = 0.01 \quad \delta f = 0.1 \quad N > 10^5$$

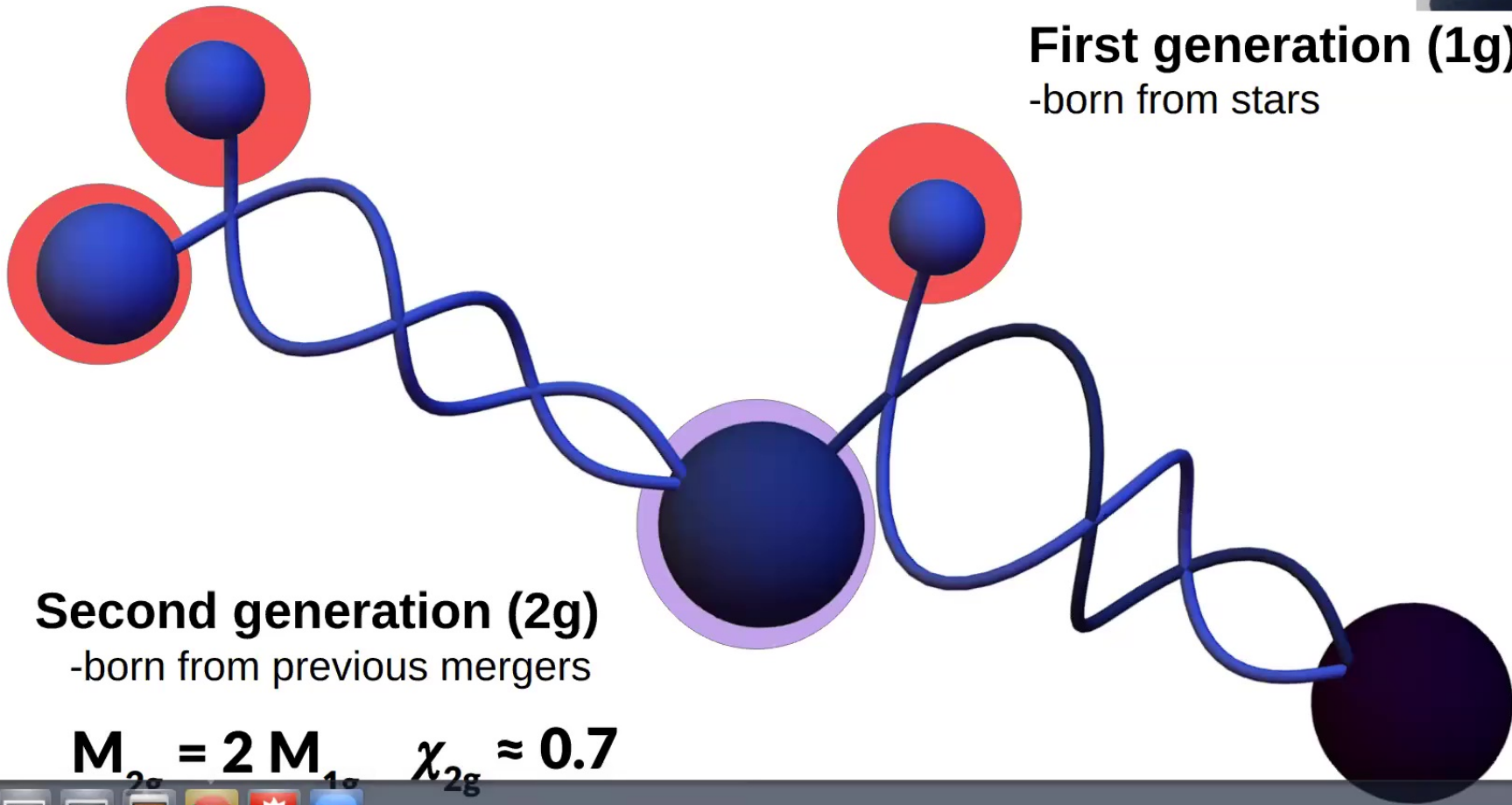






# Next generation of mergers

**First generation (1g)**  
-born from stars



**Second generation (2g)**  
-born from previous mergers

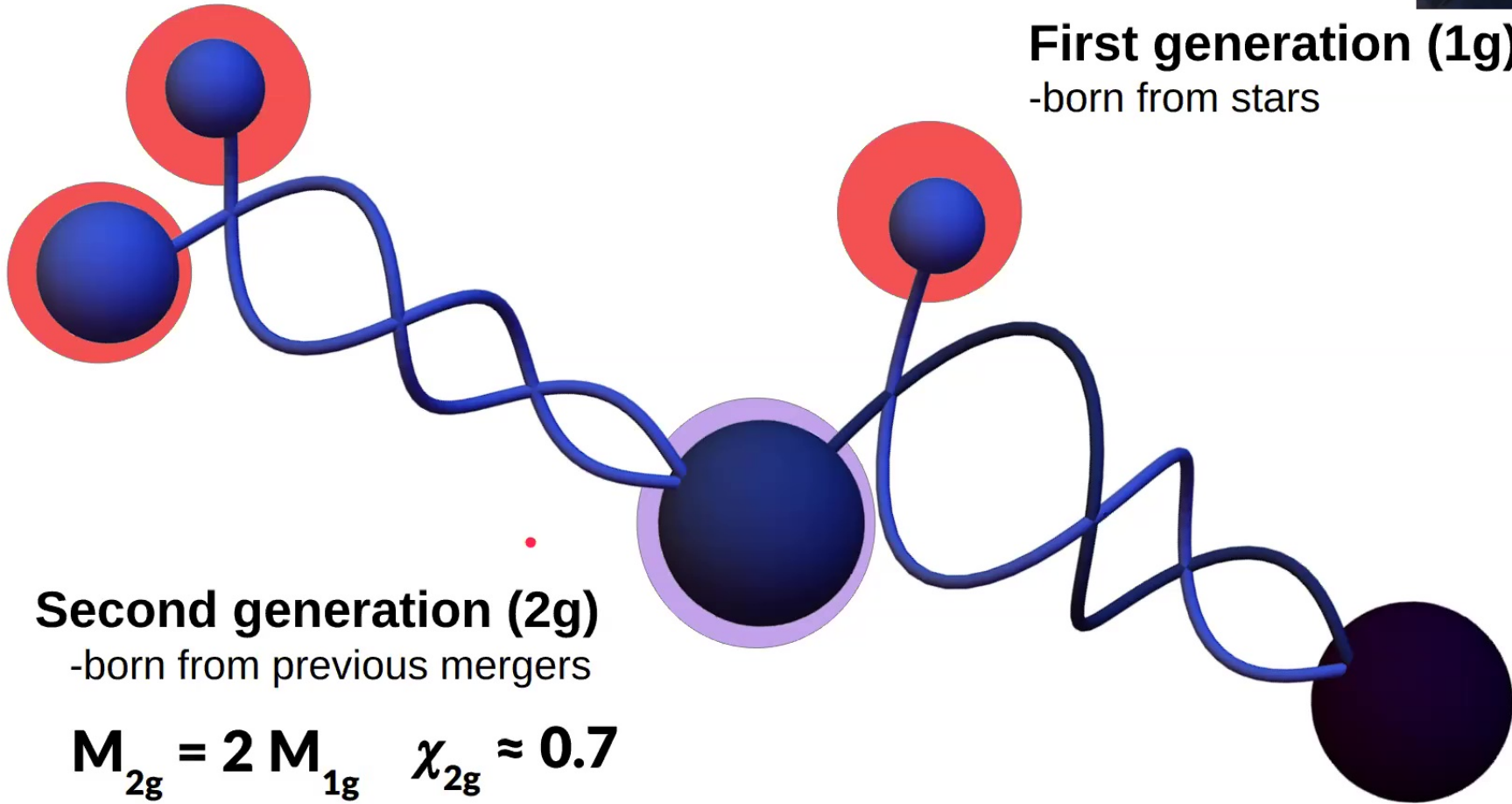
$$M_{2g} = 2 M_{1g} \quad \chi_{2g} \approx 0.7$$



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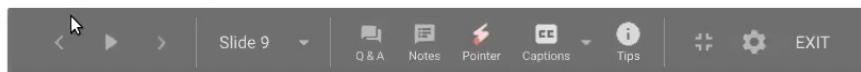
## OUTLINE

### How clusters form binary black holes?

- > Forming a binary in a cluster
- > Keeping a binary in the cluster

### How events in the “gap” determine the mixing fraction?

- > Mass gap and Spin gap
- > Finding the mixing fraction



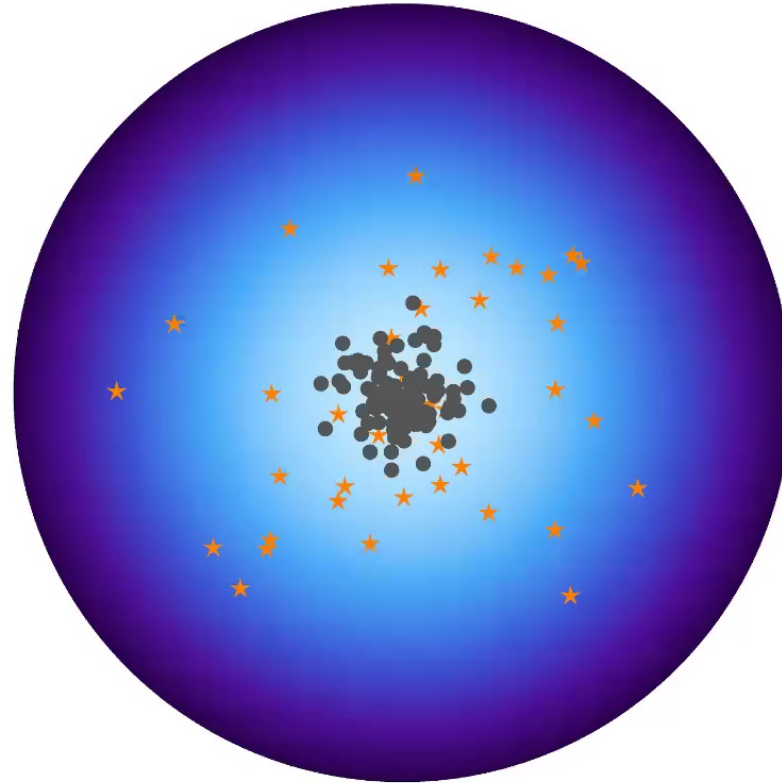
# How clusters form binary black holes?

Forming a binary in a cluster



## Mass segregation

$$t_{\text{MS}} \sim 100 \text{ Myr} \left( \frac{M_{\text{cl}}}{10^7 M_{\odot}} \right)^{1/2}$$



# How clusters form binary black holes?

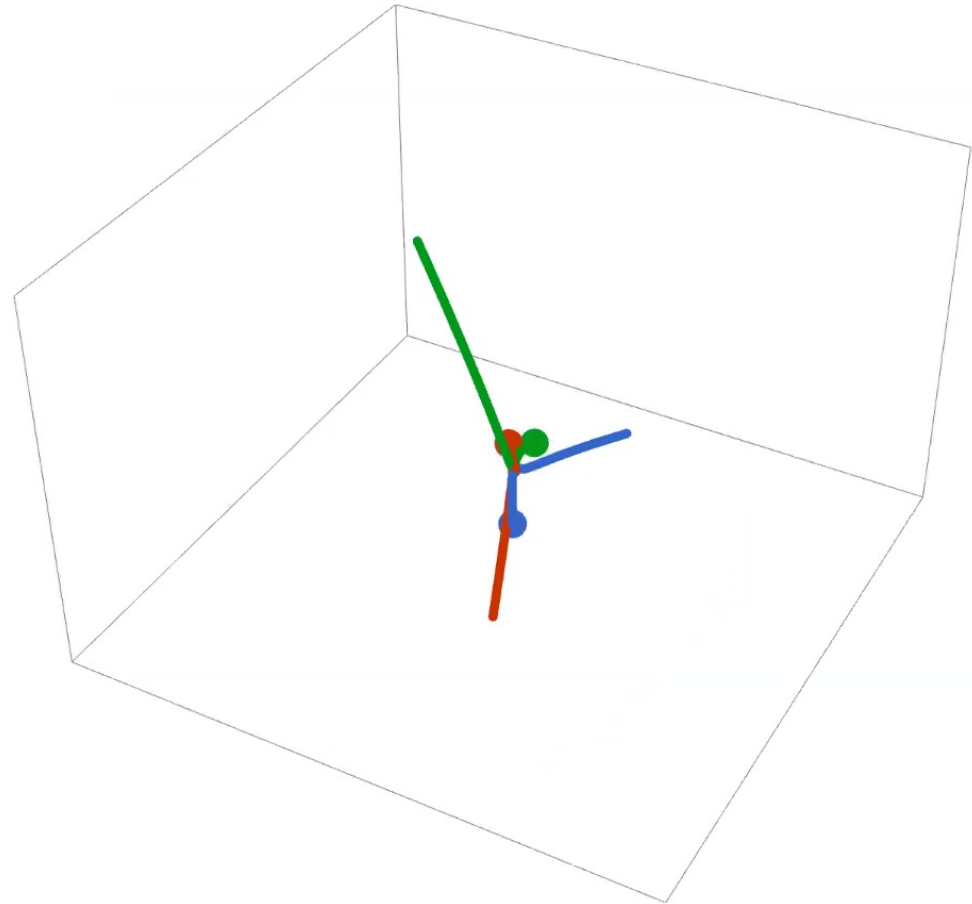
Forming a binary in a cluster



## three body binary formation

$BH + BH + BH \rightarrow (BH-BH) + BH$

$$t_{3bb} \propto n^{-2} v^9$$



# How clusters form binary black holes?

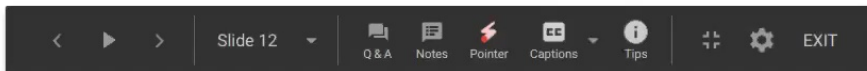
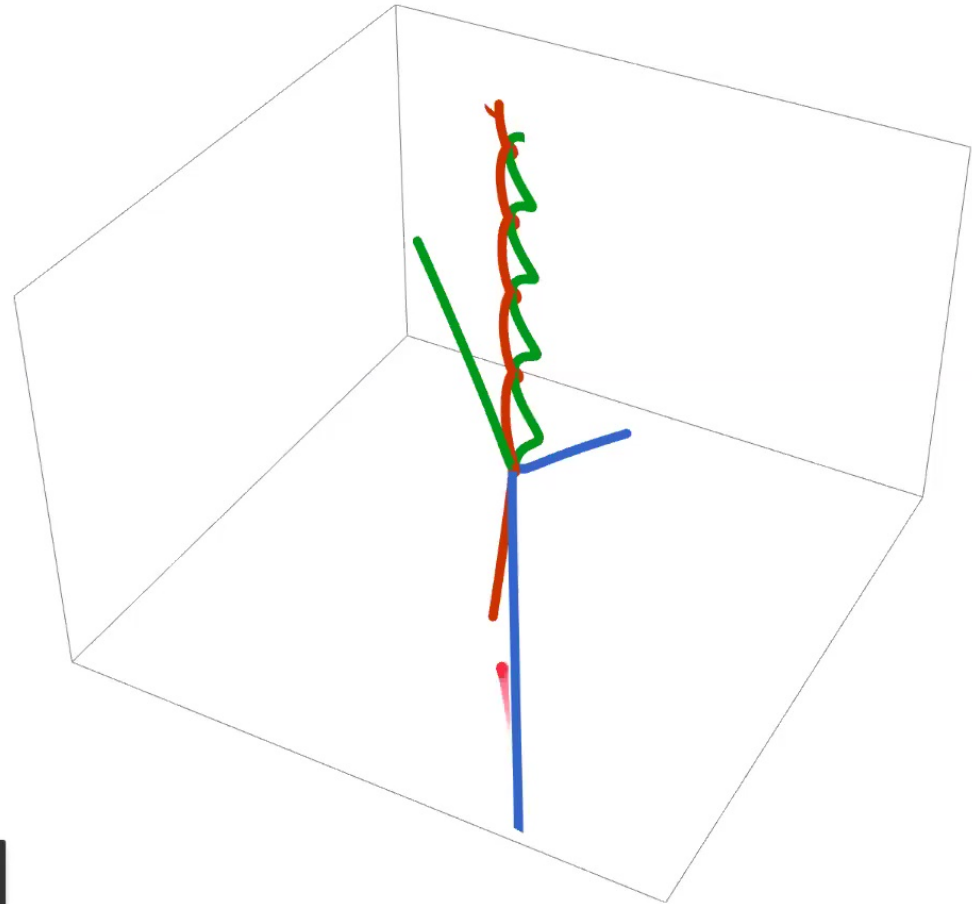
Forming a binary in a cluster



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# How clusters form binary black holes?

Forming a binary in a cluster

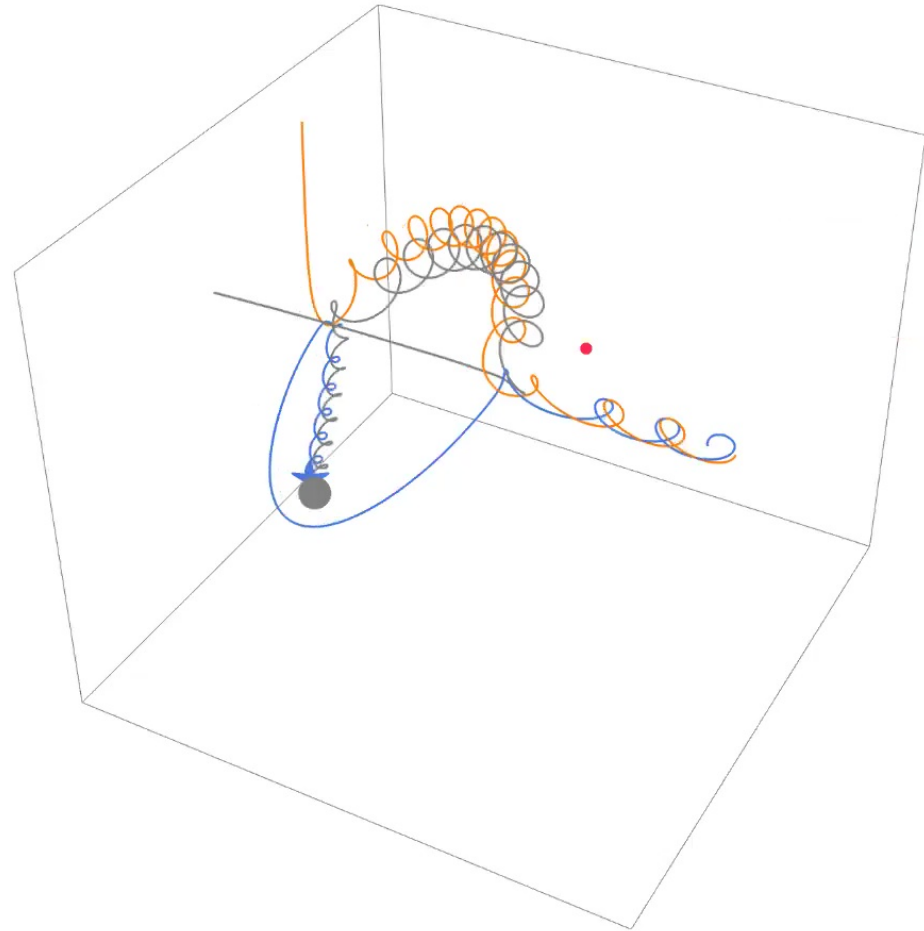


## binary-single exchanges

BH + (Star-Star)  $\rightarrow$  (BH-Star) + Star

BH + (BH - Star)  $\rightarrow$  (BH-BH) + Star

$$t_{1-2} \propto n^{-1} f^{-1} v$$

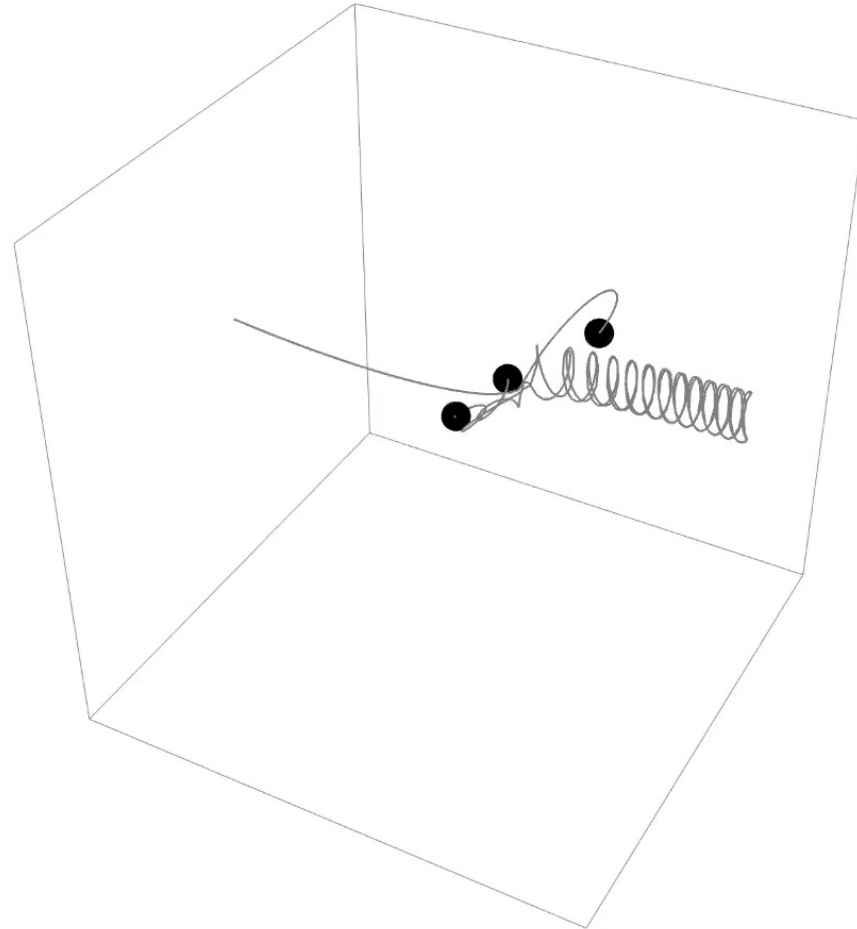


# How clusters form binary black holes?

Hardening a binary

BH + (BH---BH) = BH + (BH-BH)

$$t_{\text{GW}} \sim 10^{12} \text{ yr} \left( \frac{a}{1 \text{ AU}} \right)^4$$



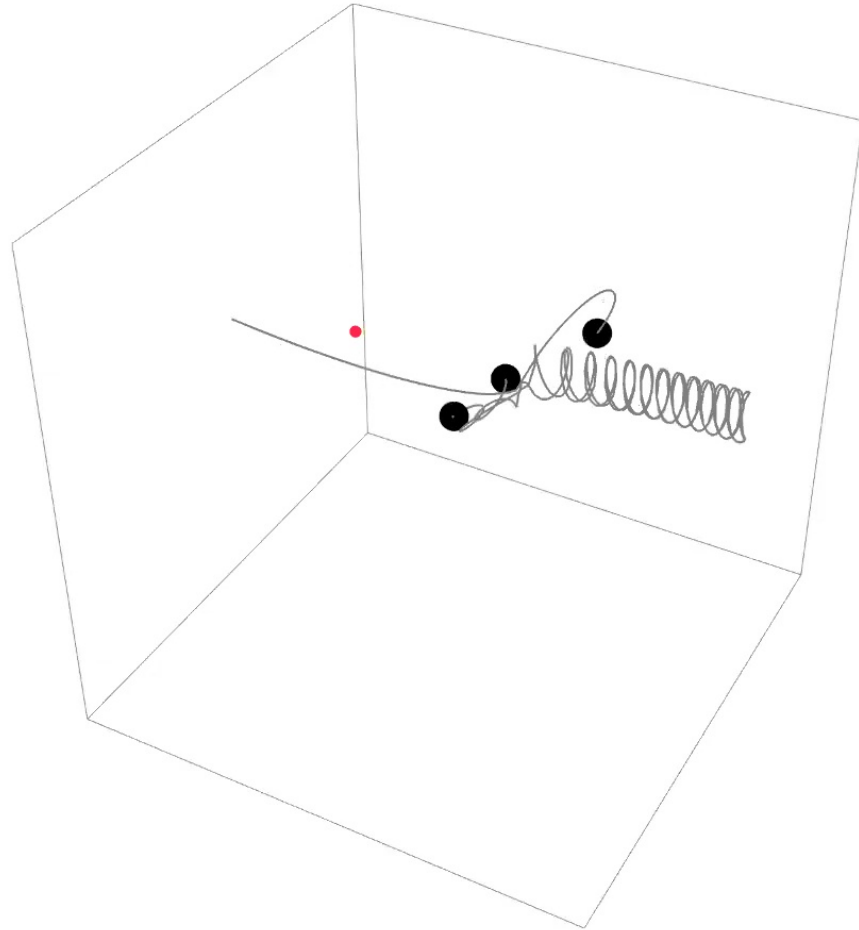


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# How clusters form binary black holes?

Keeping a binary in the cluster

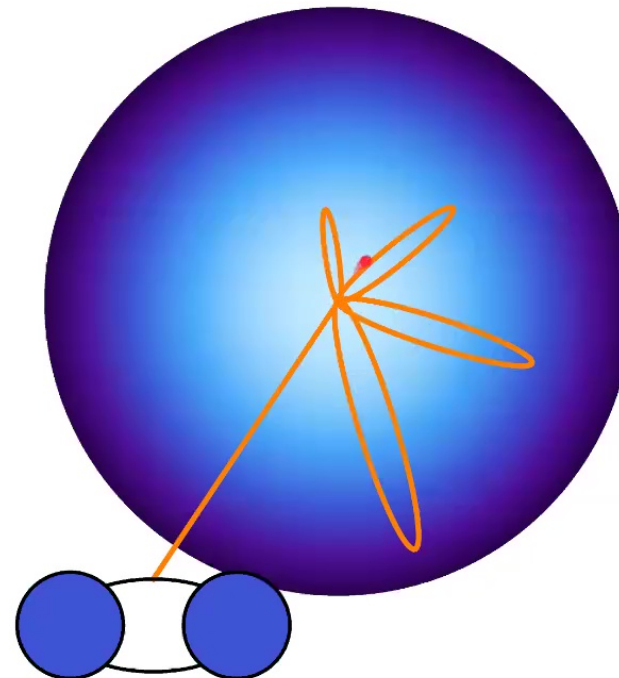


If binary hardens to semimajor axis:  $a$

$$v_{\text{kick}} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}$$

Ejected if

$$v_{\text{kick}} > v_{\text{esc}}$$



# Clusters that form and merge BHs

Mass segregation

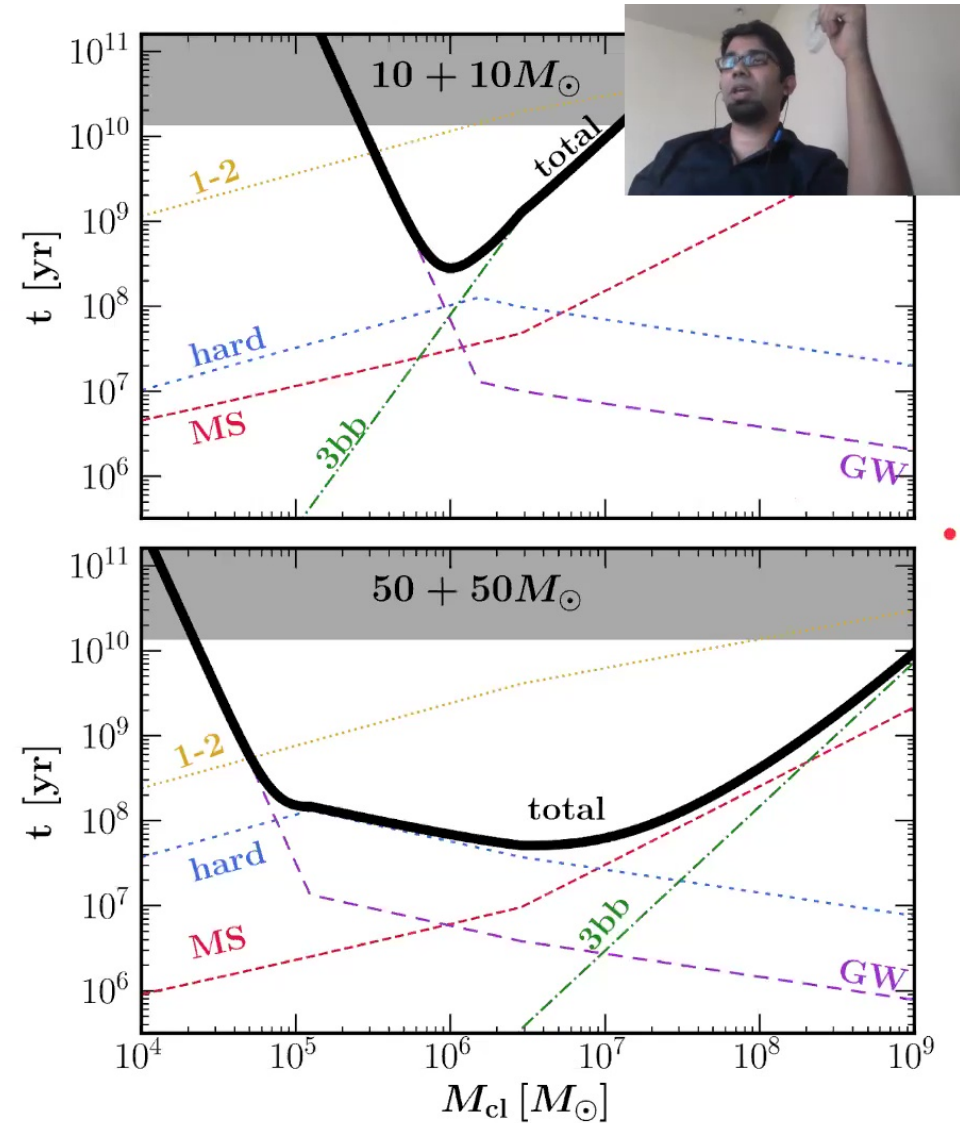
Binary formation: slow in large clusters

Three body (Dominant)

Binary single

Hardening

Gravitational Waves: slow in small clusters

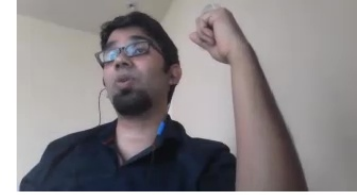
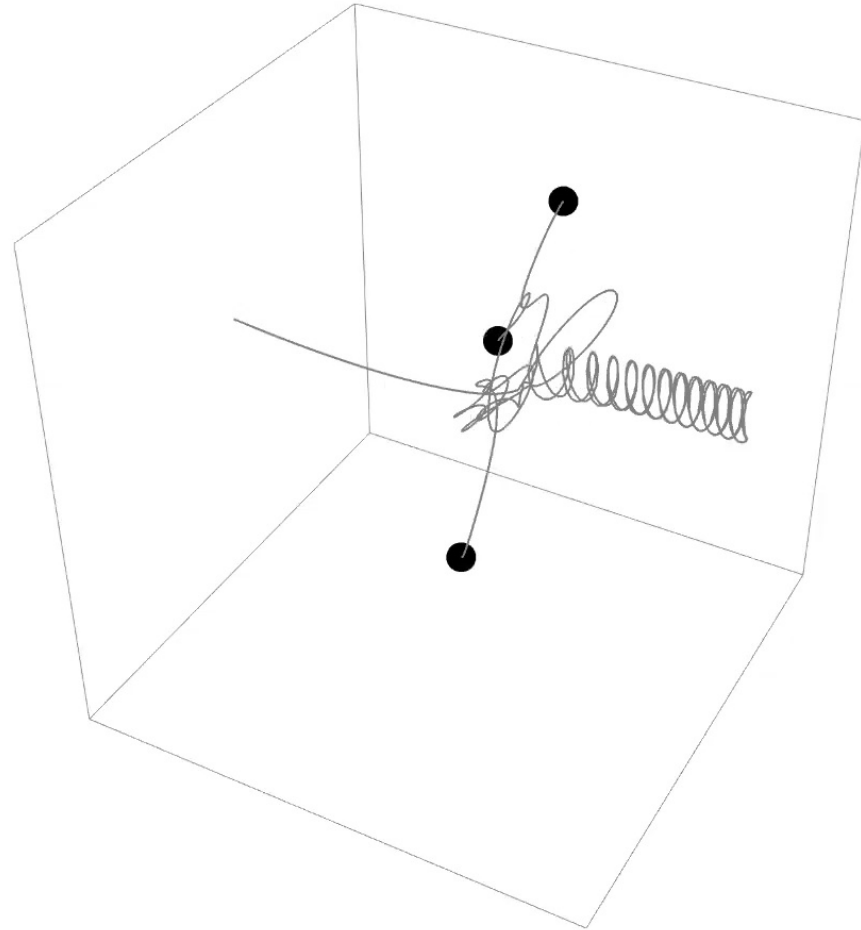


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# Clusters that form and merge BHs

Mass segregation

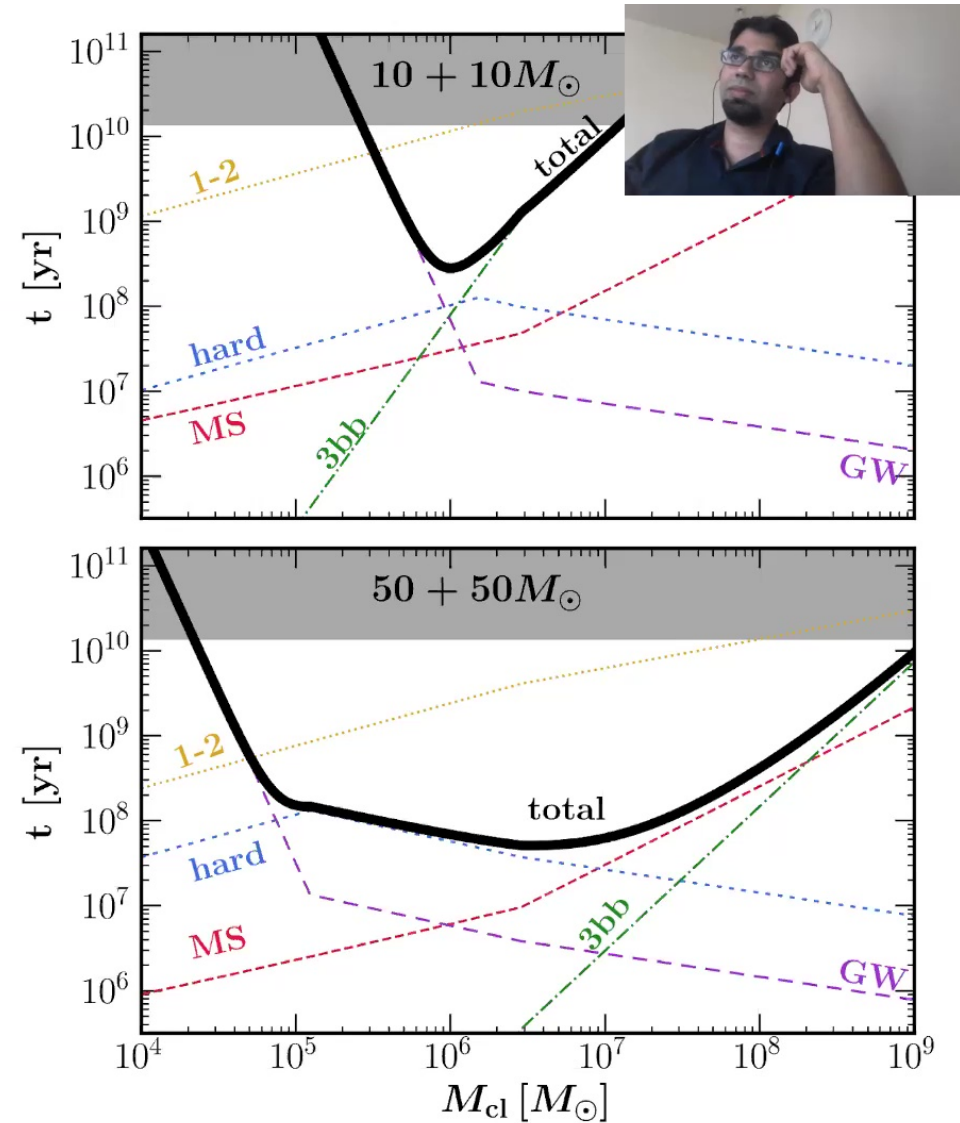
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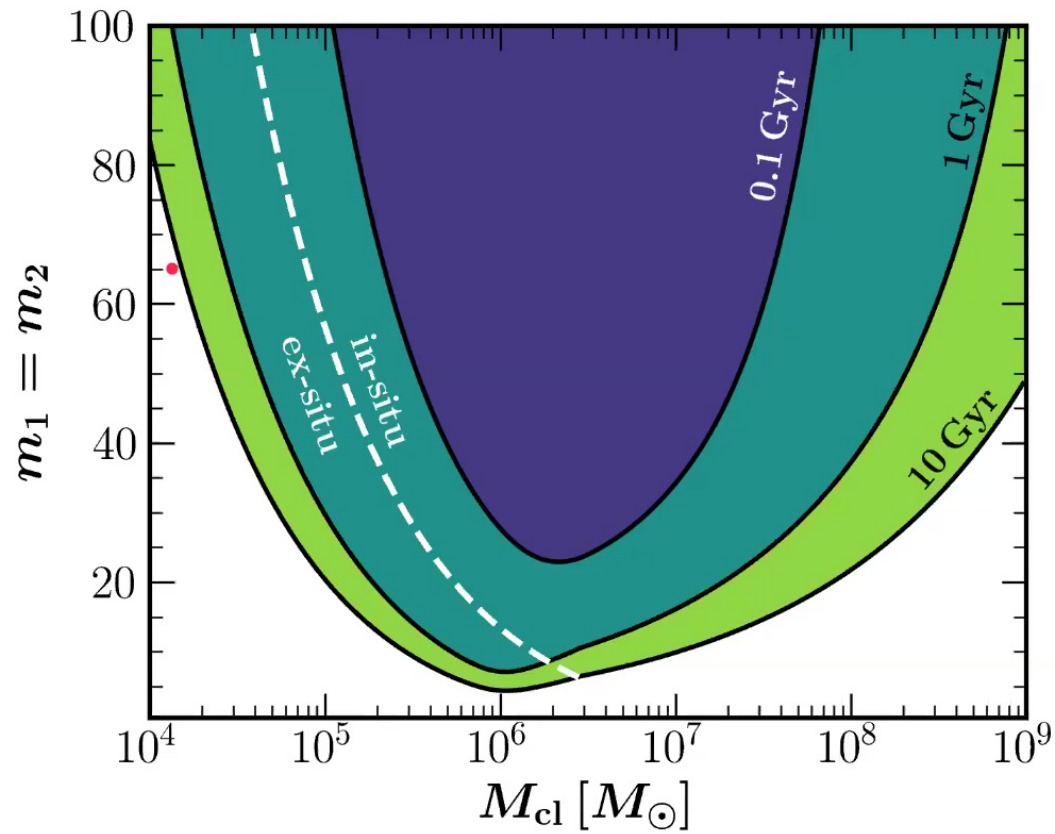
Binary single

Hardening

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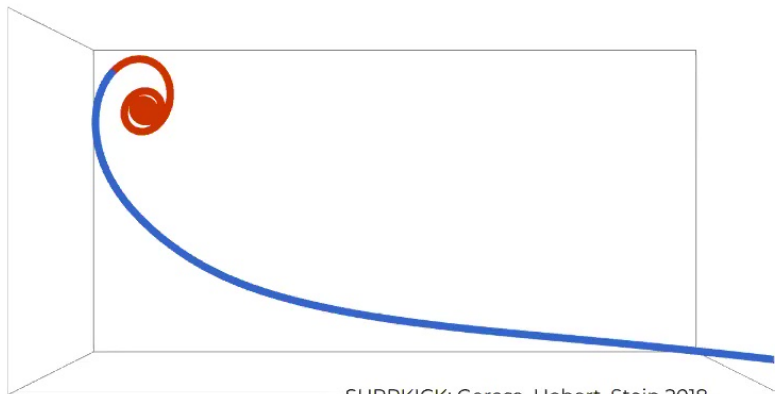
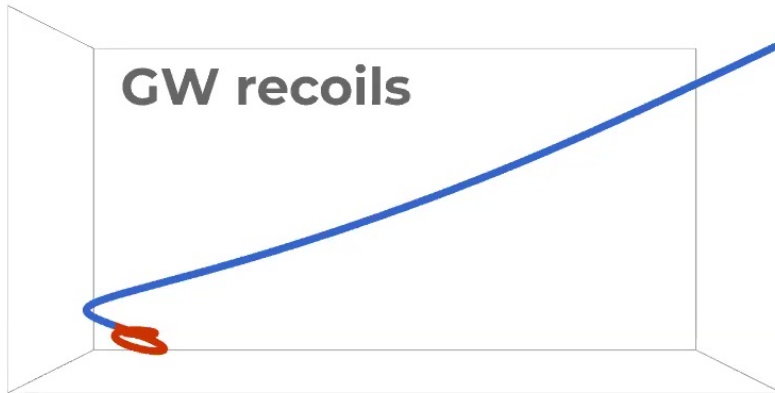


# Clusters that form and merge BHs

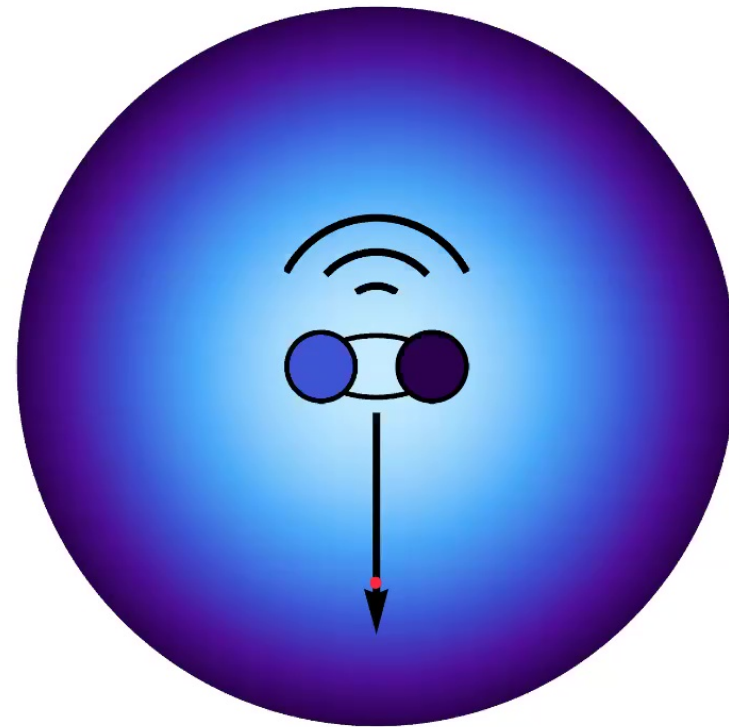


# How clusters form binary black holes?

Keeping a binary in the cluster

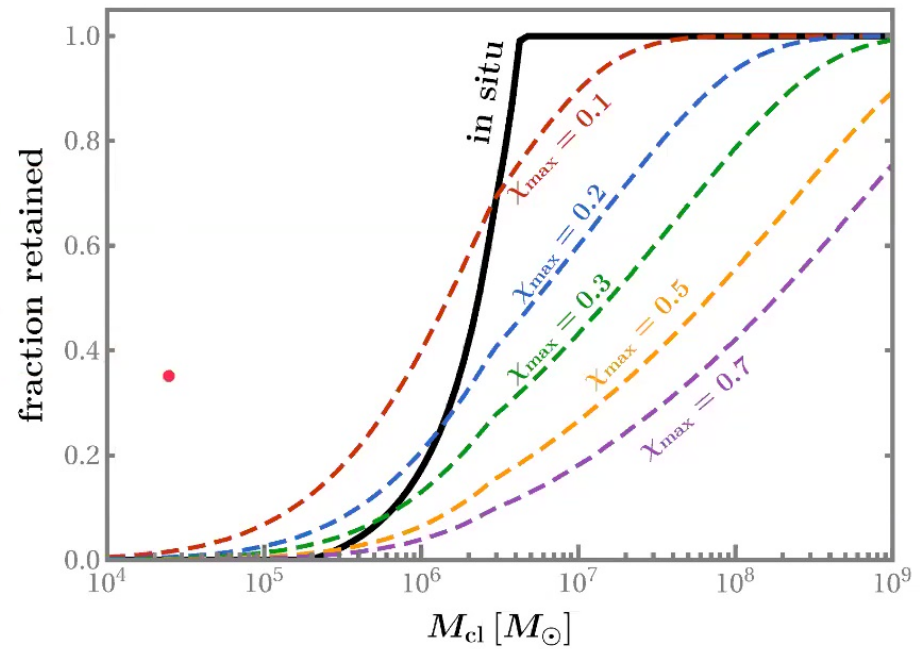
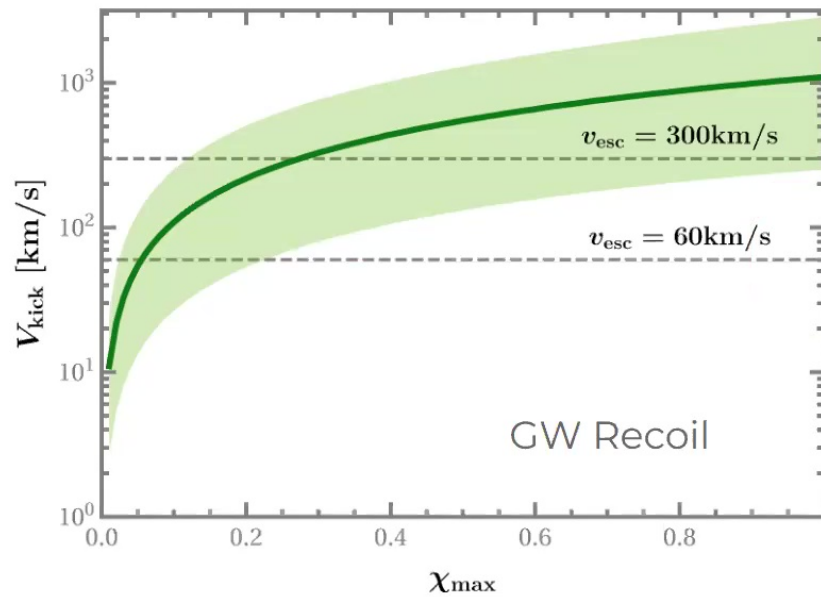
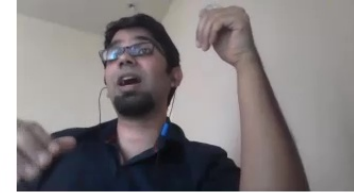


SURRKICK: Gerosa, Hebert, Stein 2018



# How clusters form binary black holes?

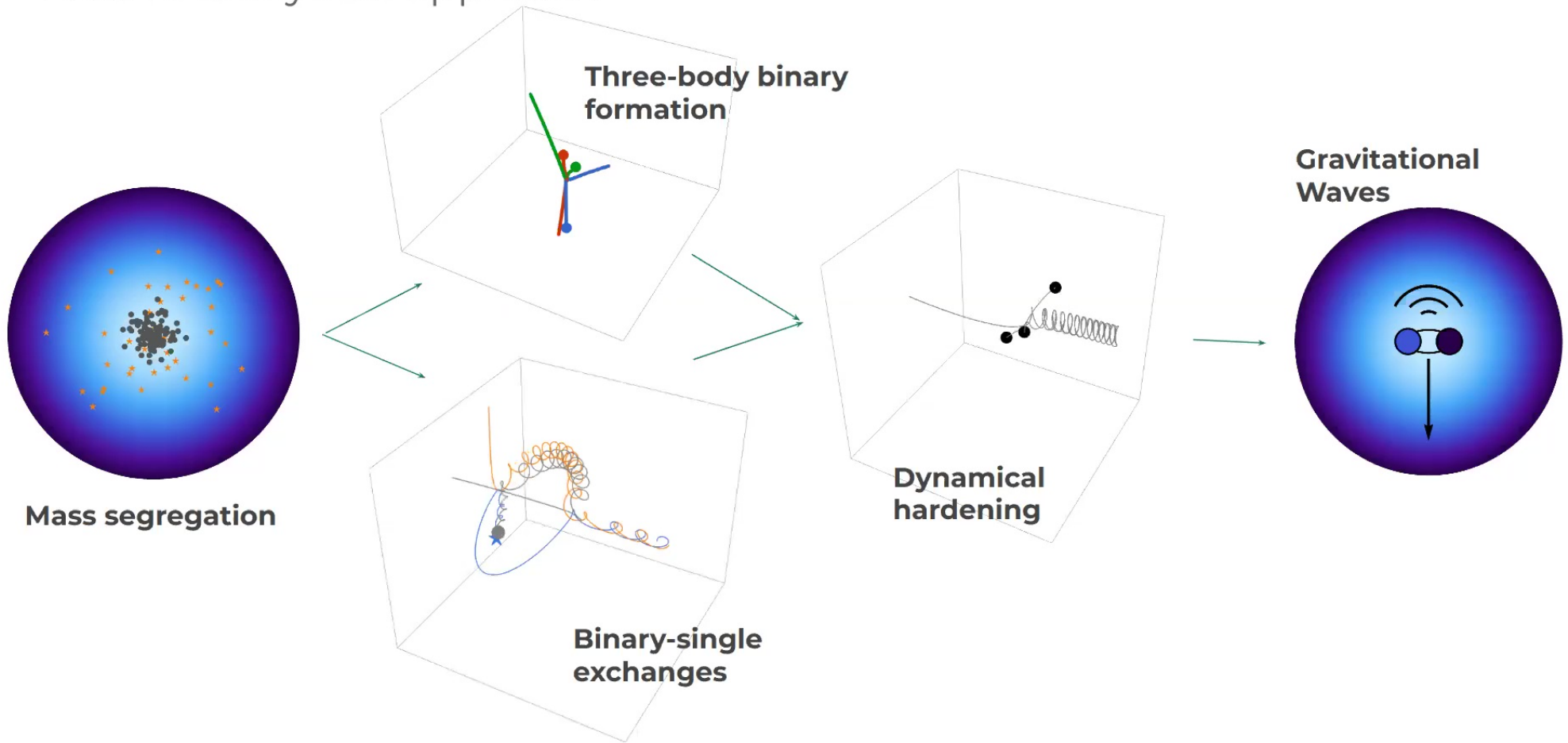
Keeping a binary in the cluster





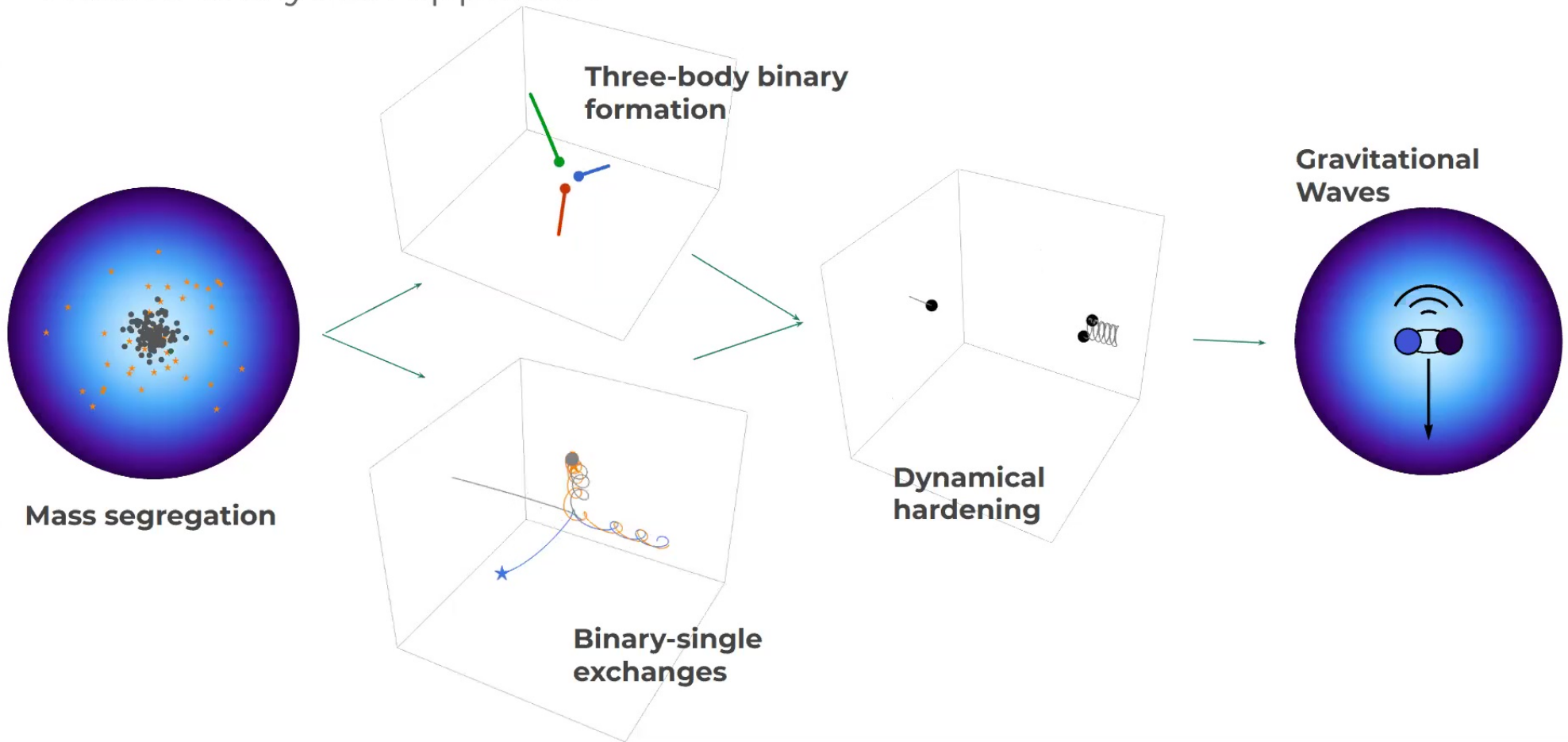
# How clusters form and merge binary black holes

A semi-analytical approach



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# Clusters that form and merge BHs

Mass segregation

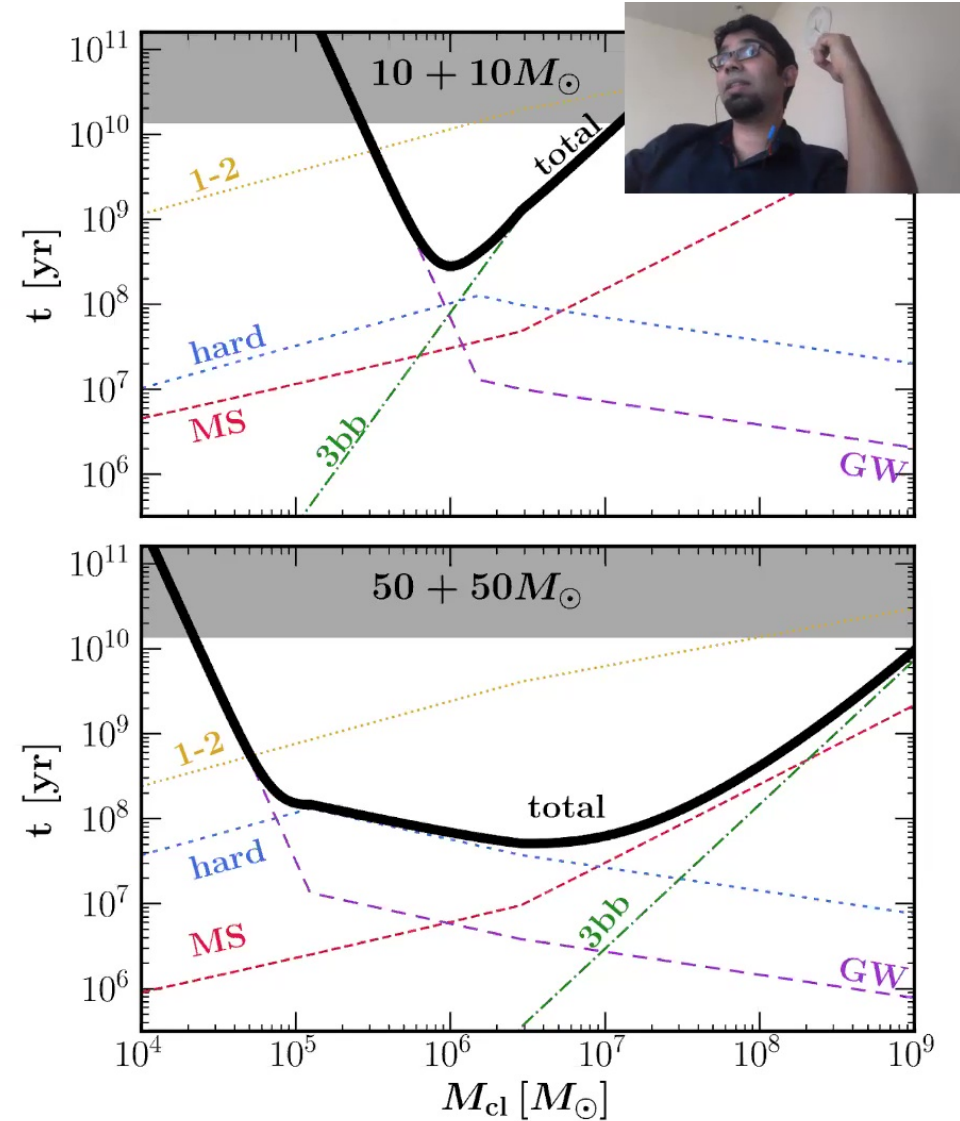
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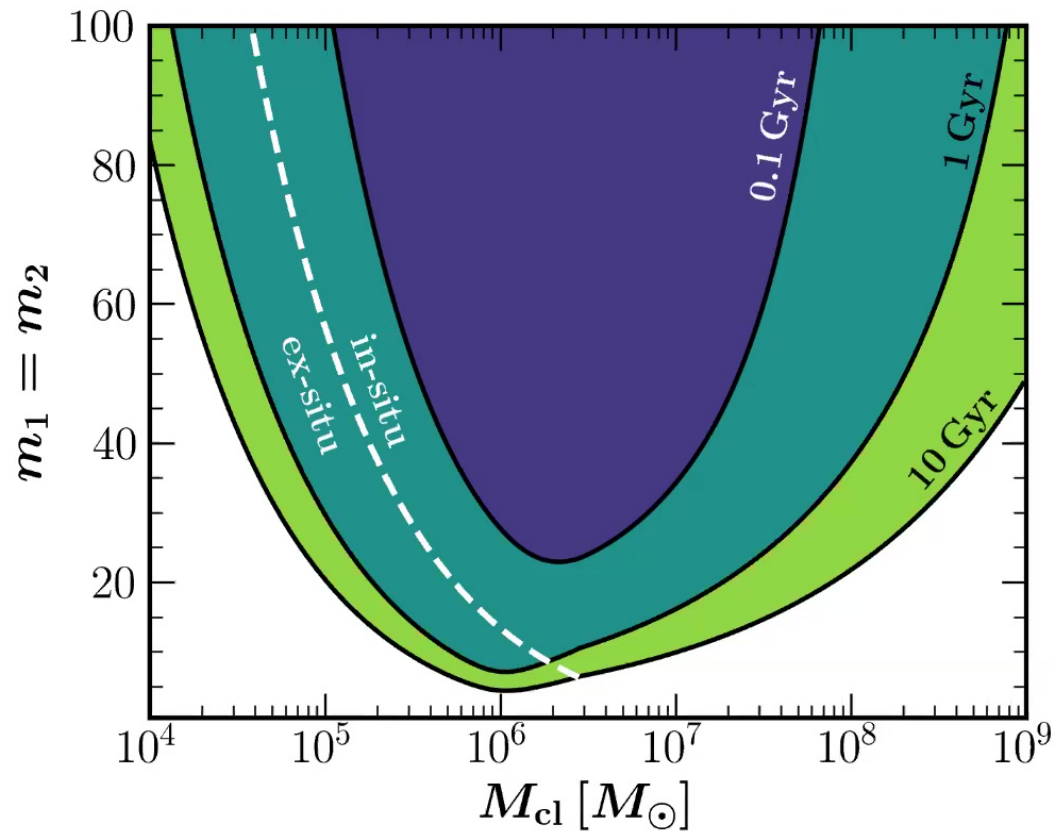
Binary single

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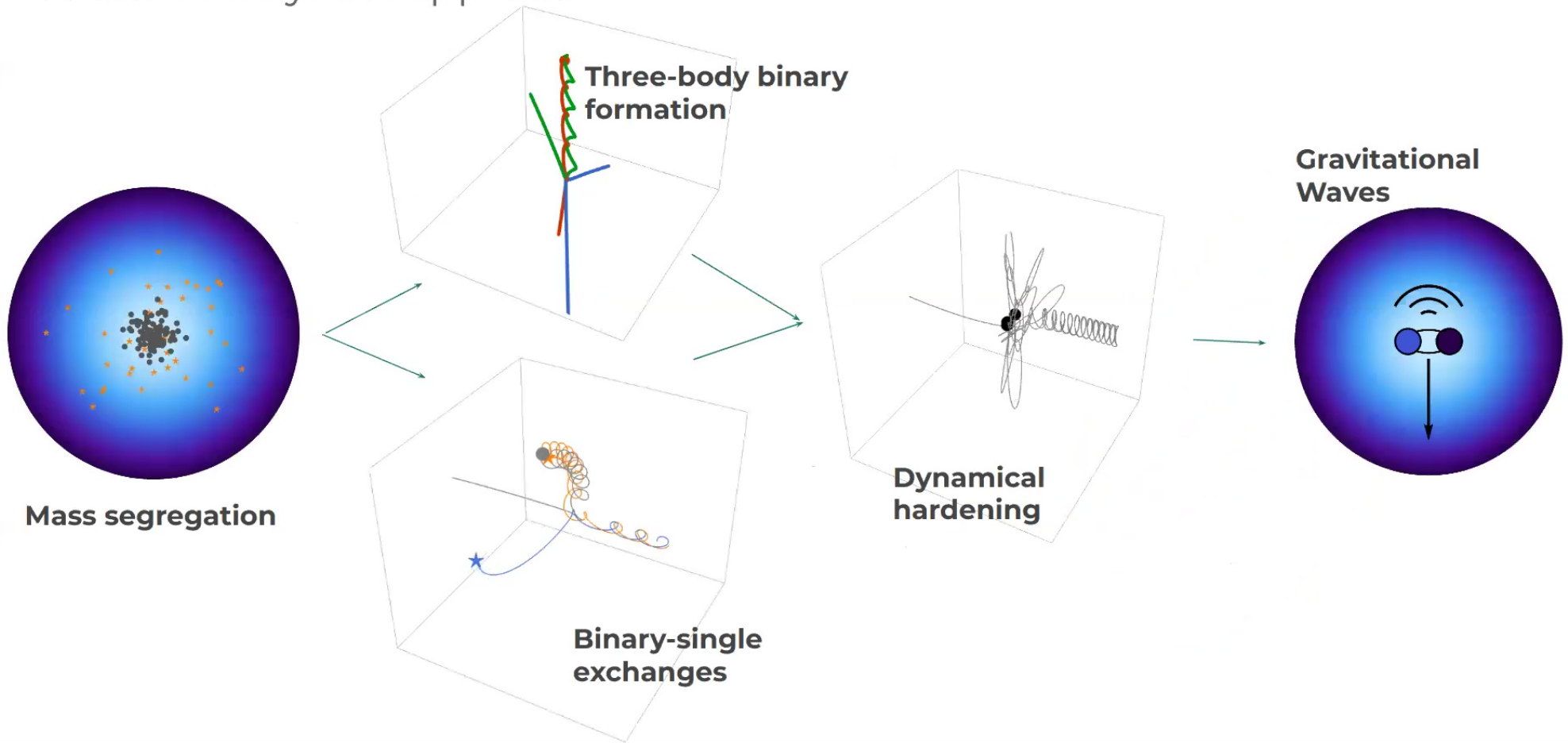
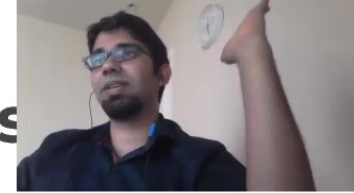


# Clusters that form and merge BHs



# How clusters form and merge binary black holes

A semi-analytical approach

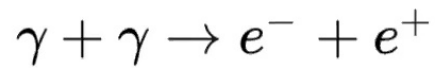


# Finding 2g black holes in our midst

Day 27: Natives have  
accepted me as one  
of their own



# The Mass Gap



**Pulsational pair-instability supernovae**  
100-130  $M_{\odot}$

**Pair-instability supernovae**  
130-250  $M_{\odot}$

**Upper limits on BH masses: 45-65+  $M_{\odot}$**

## How Pair-Instability Supernovas Work

The bigger the star, the harder it blows.

- 1 In extremely large stars, gravity's squeeze is balanced in part with the pressure from photons in the core.
- 2 With enough energy, photons spontaneously convert to electron-positron pairs, reducing the pressure. The core shrinks.
- 3 A smaller, denser core exerts a greater gravitational pull. This added force squeezes the core ever tighter. More photons convert to electron-positron pairs, the core continues to shrink, and a runaway effect ensues.
- 4 The core grows so hot and dense that oxygen ions in the core suddenly fuse together, releasing tremendous amounts of energy.
- 5 The star gets blown apart so completely that nothing remains, not even a black hole.

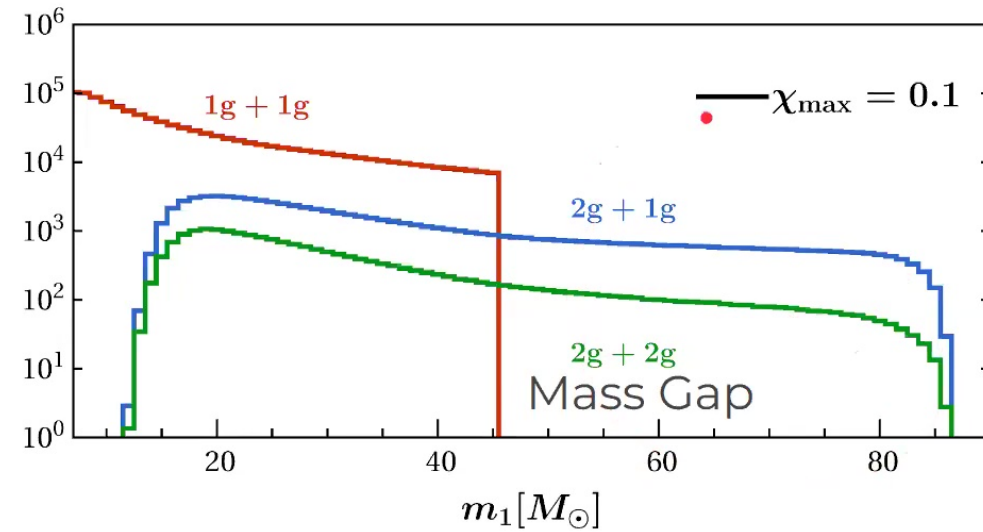
Quanta Magazine

# Repeated Mergers **fill the Gaps**



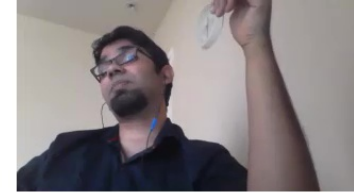
Mass gap exists due to  
PISN and PPISN

2g mergers fill the gap





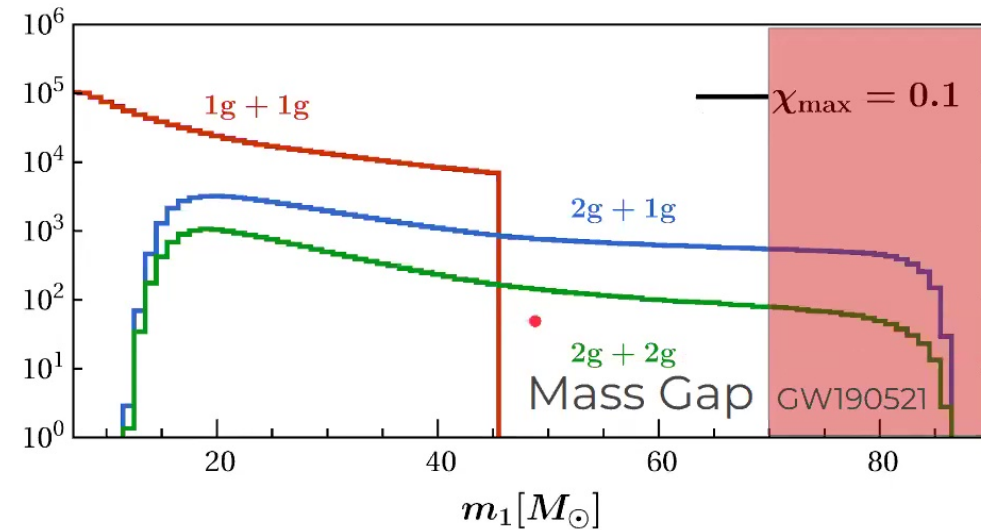
# Repeated Mergers **fill the Gaps**



Mass gap exists due to PISN and PPISN

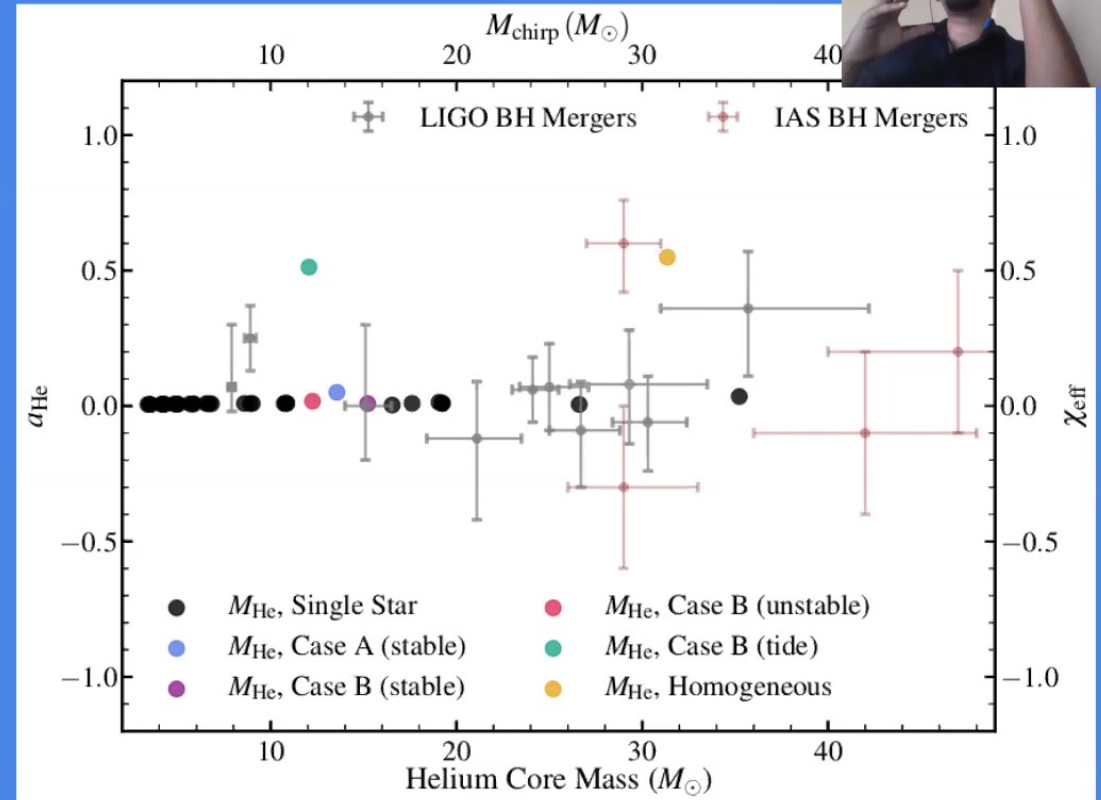
2g mergers fill the gap

GW190521 is in the gap, and hence a 2g merger



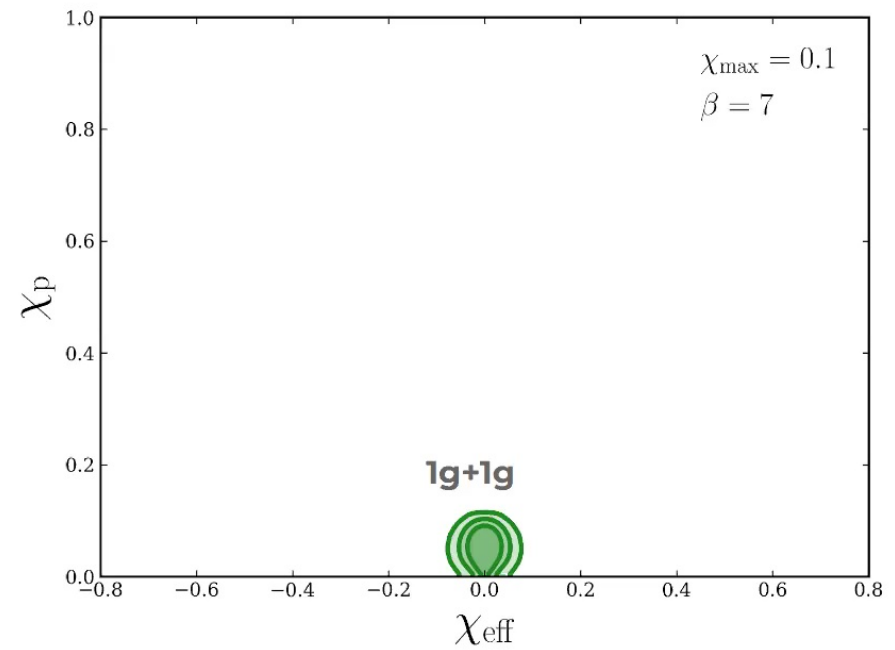
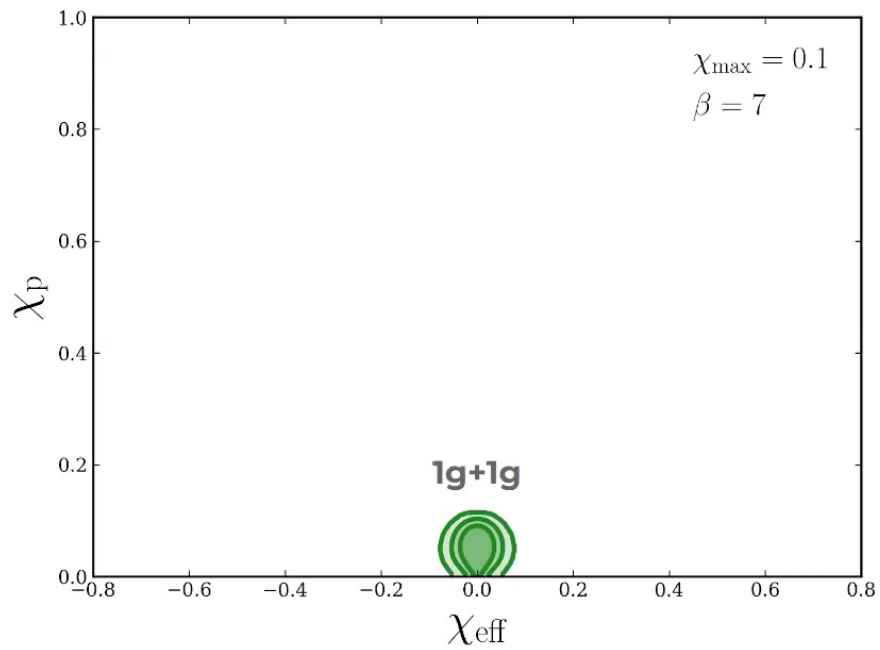
# The Spin Gap

$$a \sim 10^{-2}$$



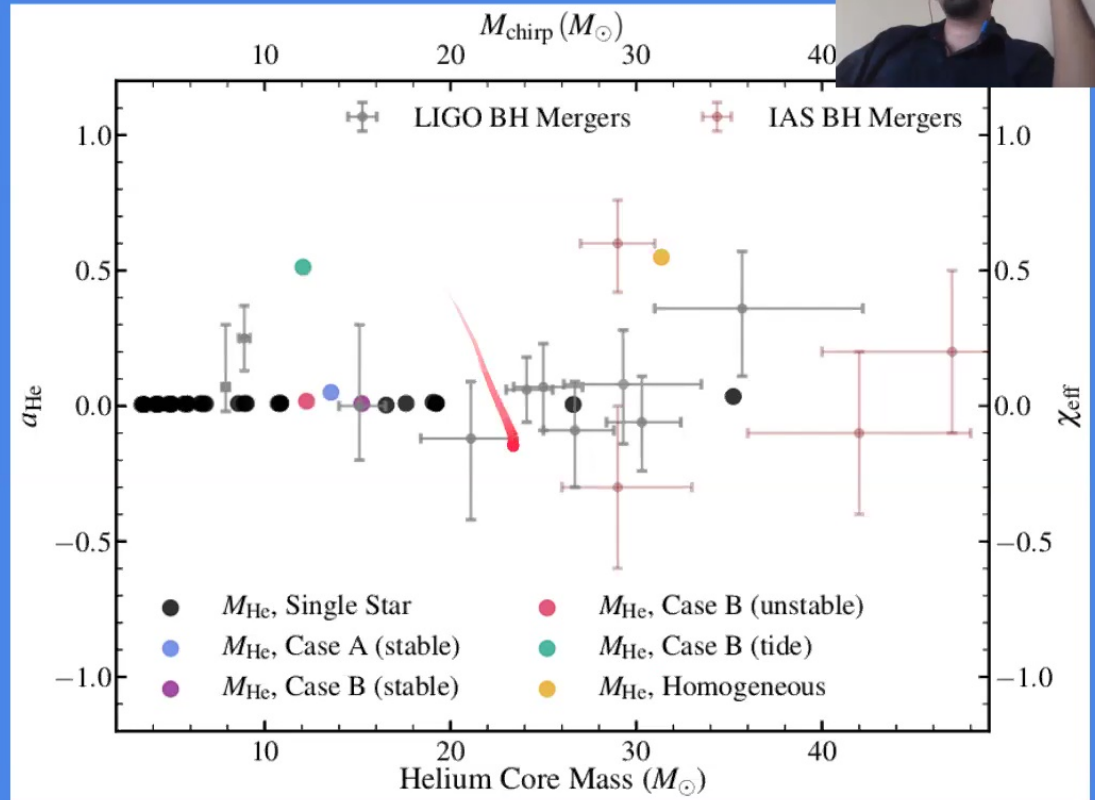
Fuller, Ma 2019

# Repeated Mergers can **fill the SPIN GAP**



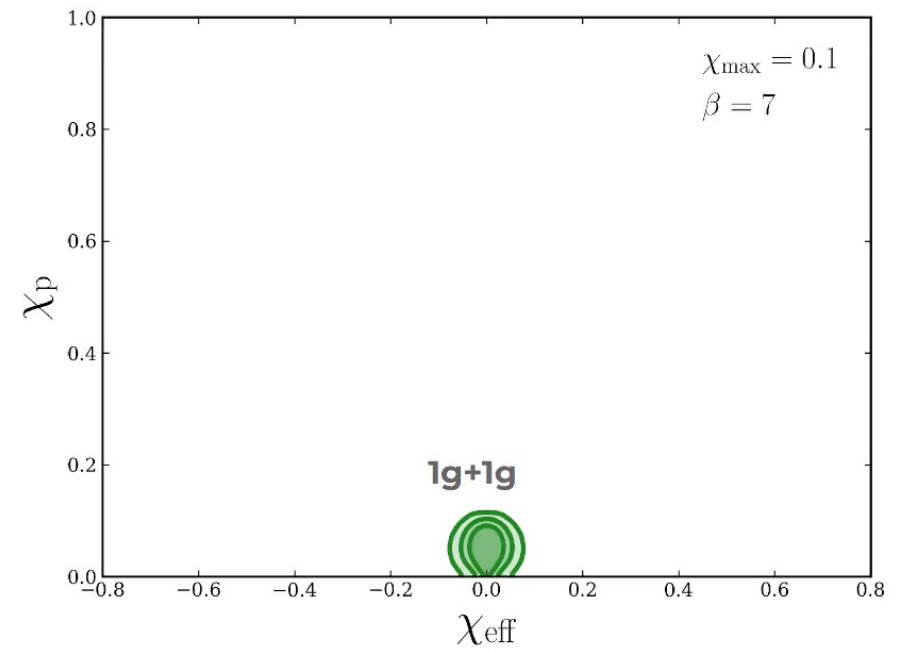
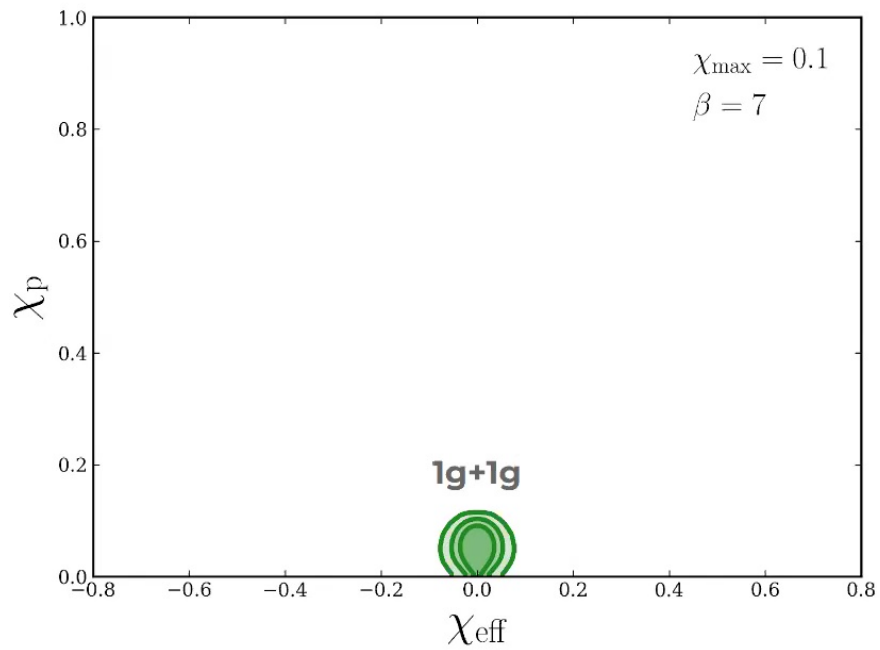
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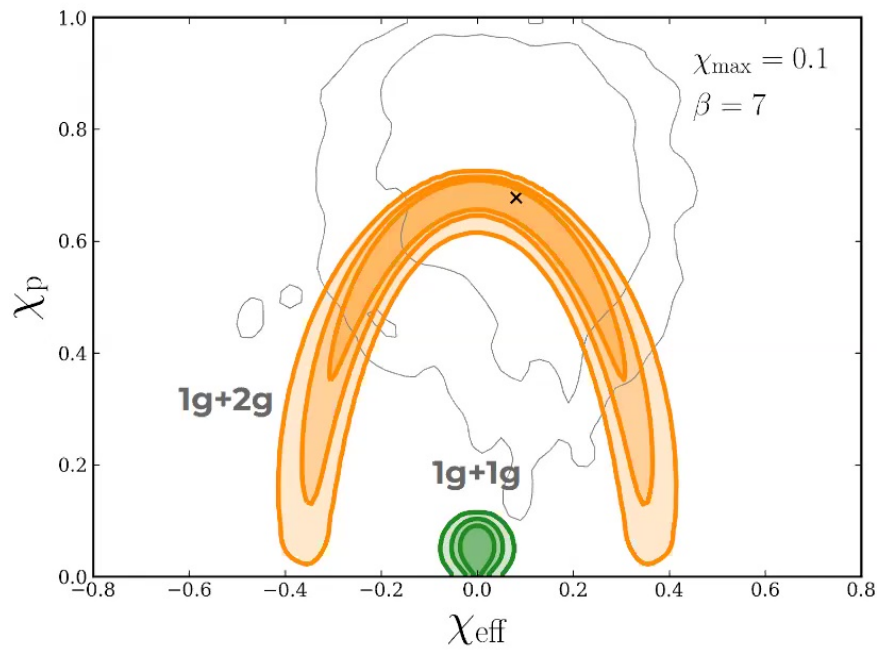
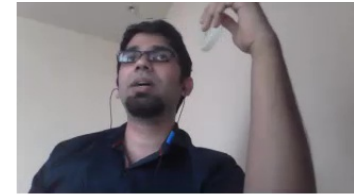


Fuller, Ma 2019

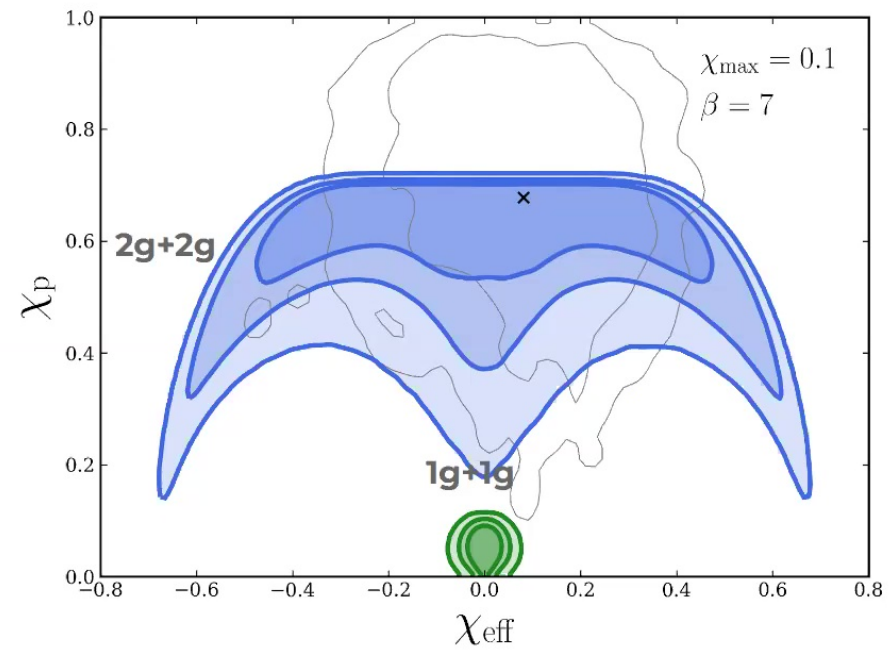
# Repeated Mergers can **fill the SPIN GAP**



# Repeated Mergers can **fill the SPIN GAP**



**1g+2g**



**2g+2g**

# Filling the Gaps

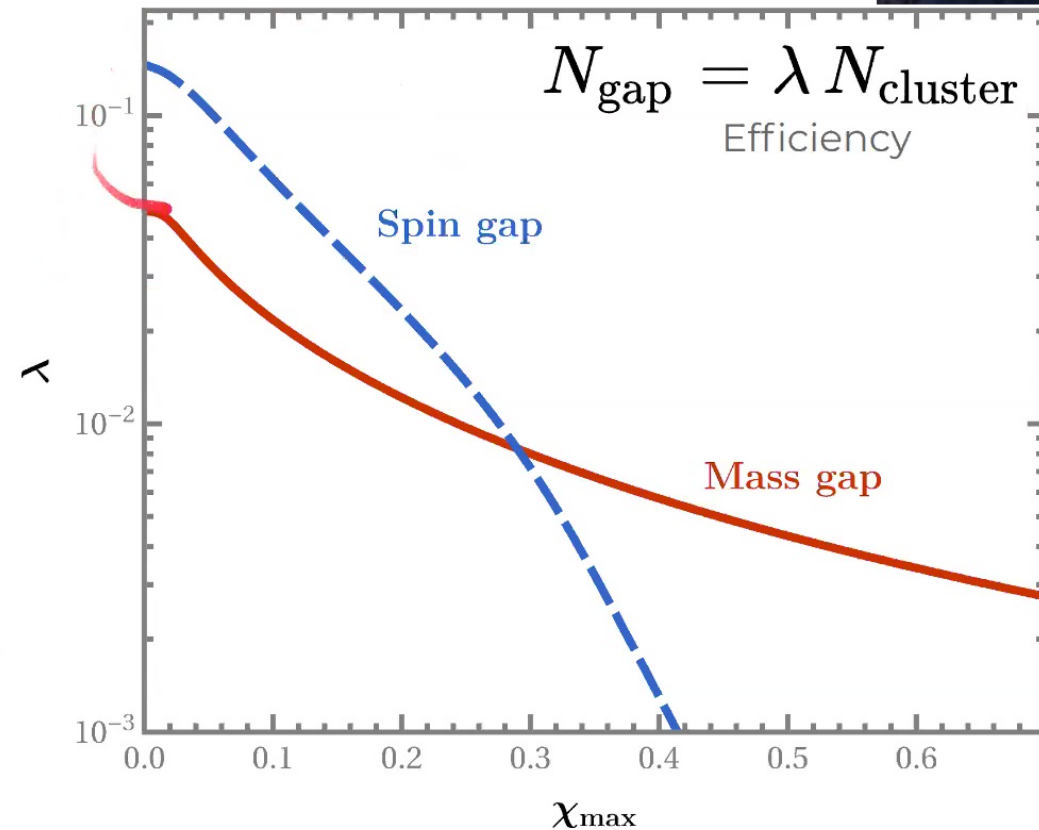


## Mass Gap

Pair-instability supernova  
Pulsational pair-instability supernova  
40-55+  $M_{\odot}$

## Spin Gap

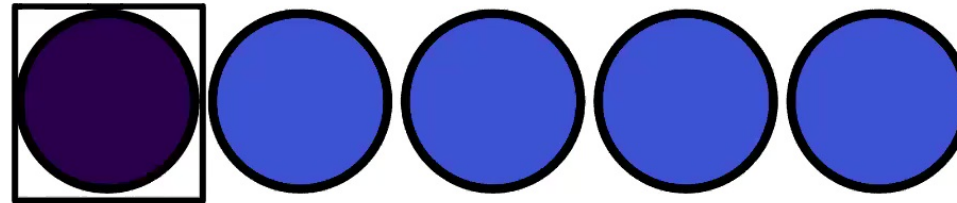
Efficient angular-momentum transport



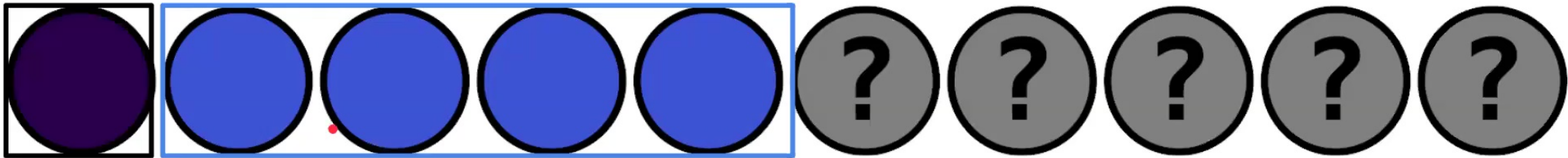
# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



Gap Efficiency,  $\lambda = 20\%$



Gap events = 1



Cluster binaries = 5

Navigation bar with icons for back, forward, search, and other controls. The word "ations" is partially visible to the right.

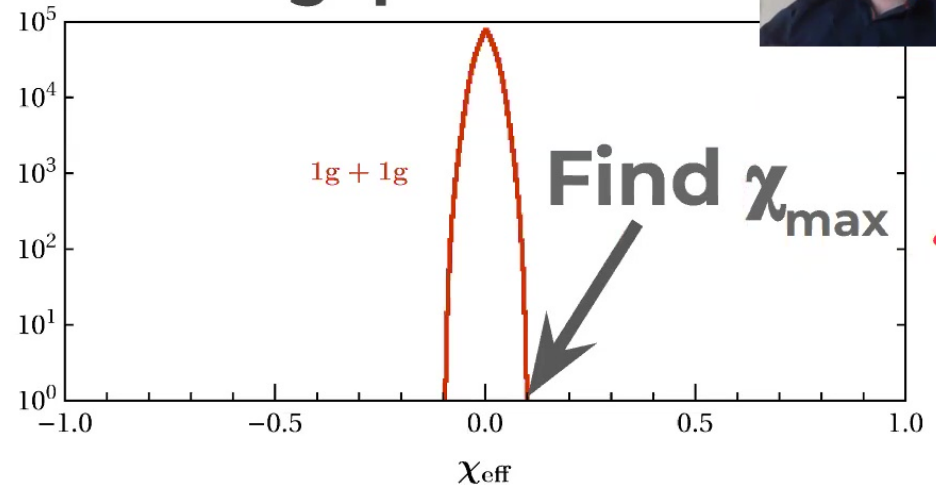


# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



## Step 1

Find parameters of 1g population:  $\chi_{\max}$



# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events

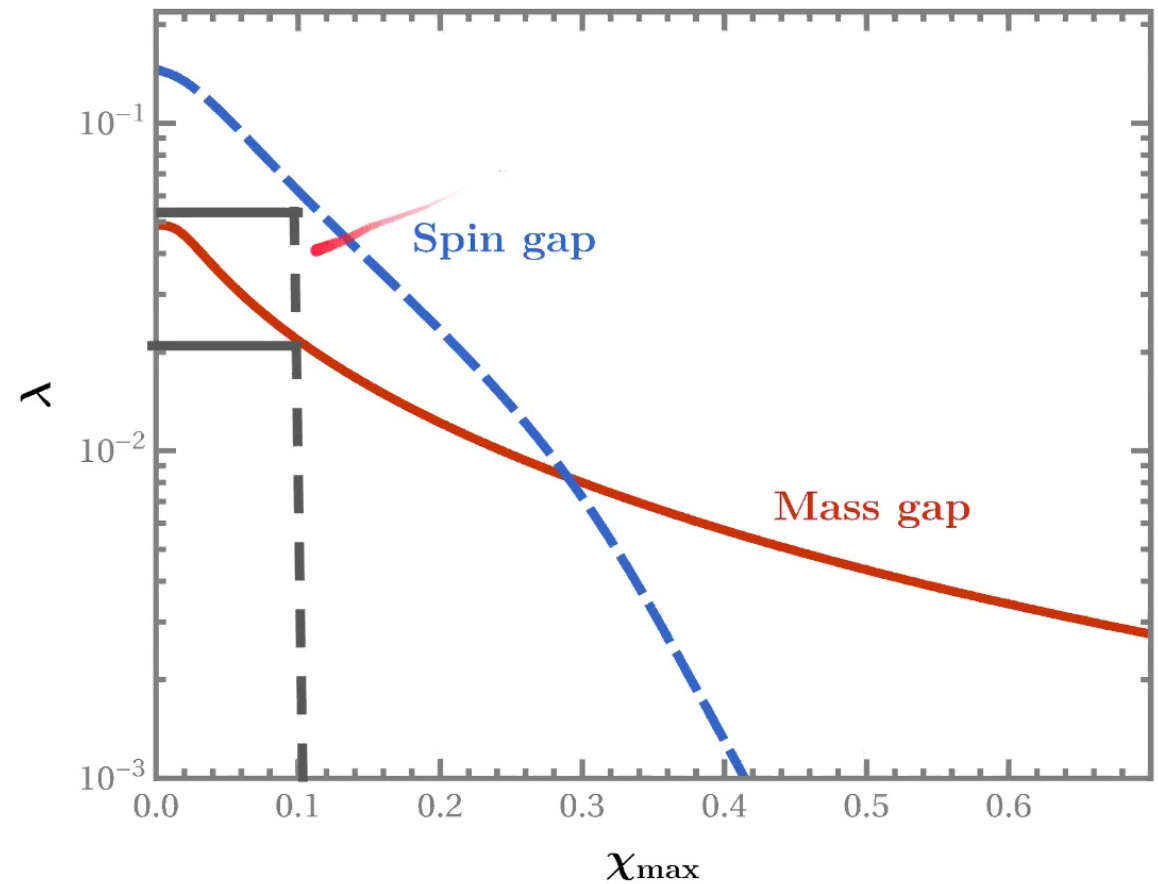


## Step 1

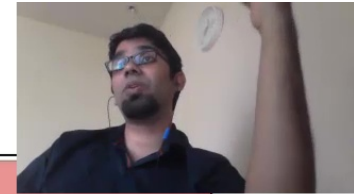
Find parameters of 1g population:  $\chi_{\max}$

## Step 2

Find efficiency:  $\lambda$



# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



## Step 1

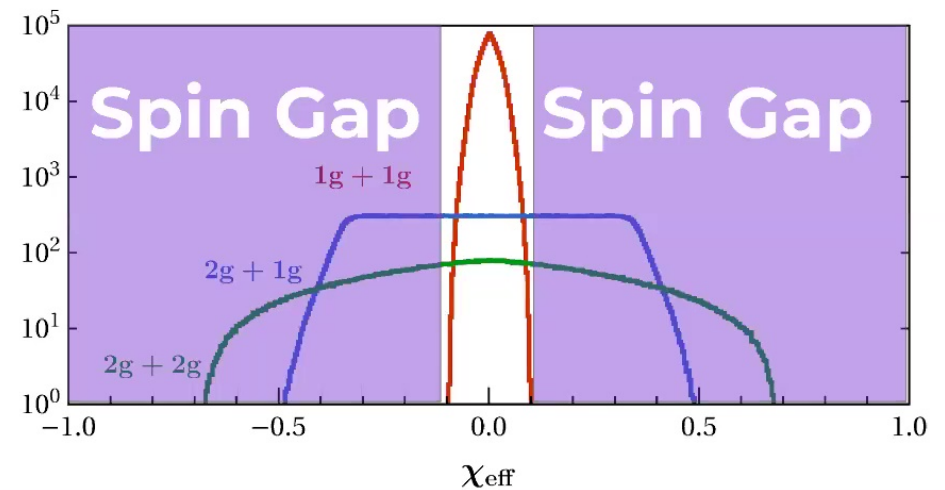
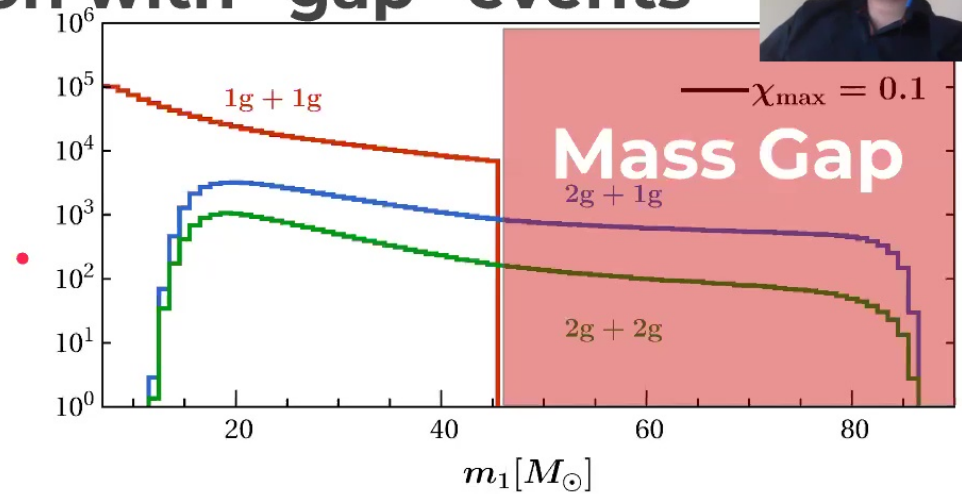
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## Step 2

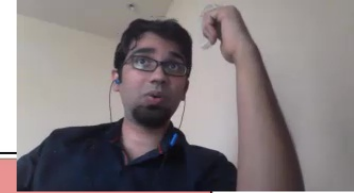
Find efficiency:  $\lambda$

## Step 3

Find  $N_{\text{Gap}}$



# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



## Step 1

Find parameters of 1g population:  $\chi_{\max}$

## Step 2

Find efficiency:  $\lambda$

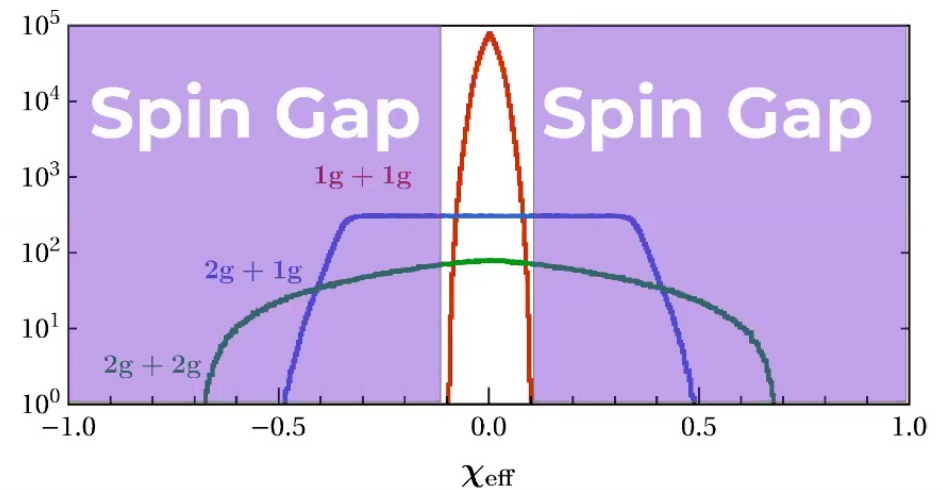
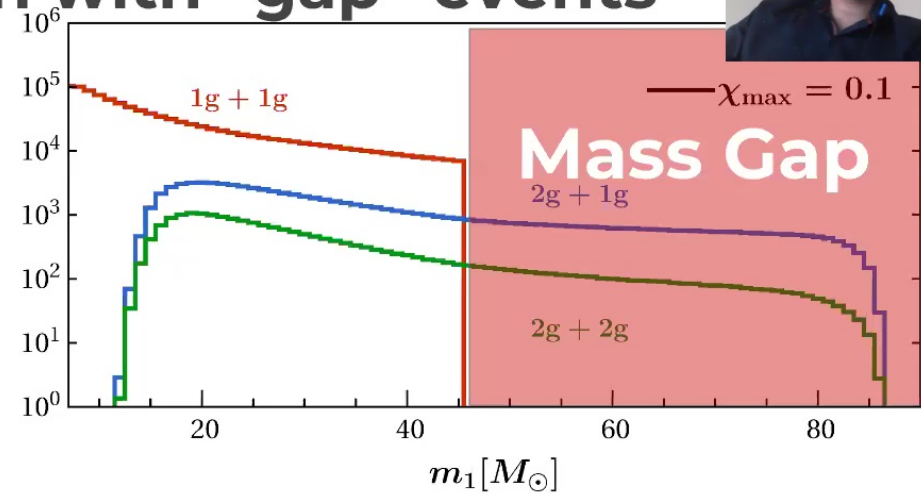
## Step 3

Find  $N_{\text{Gap}}$

## Step 4

$$N_{\text{cluster}} = N_{\text{gap}} / \lambda$$

$$f = N_{\text{cluster}} / N = N_{\text{gap}} / (\lambda N)$$



Navigation controls: < > Slide 36 Q & A Notes Pointer Captions Tips + - EXIT

# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



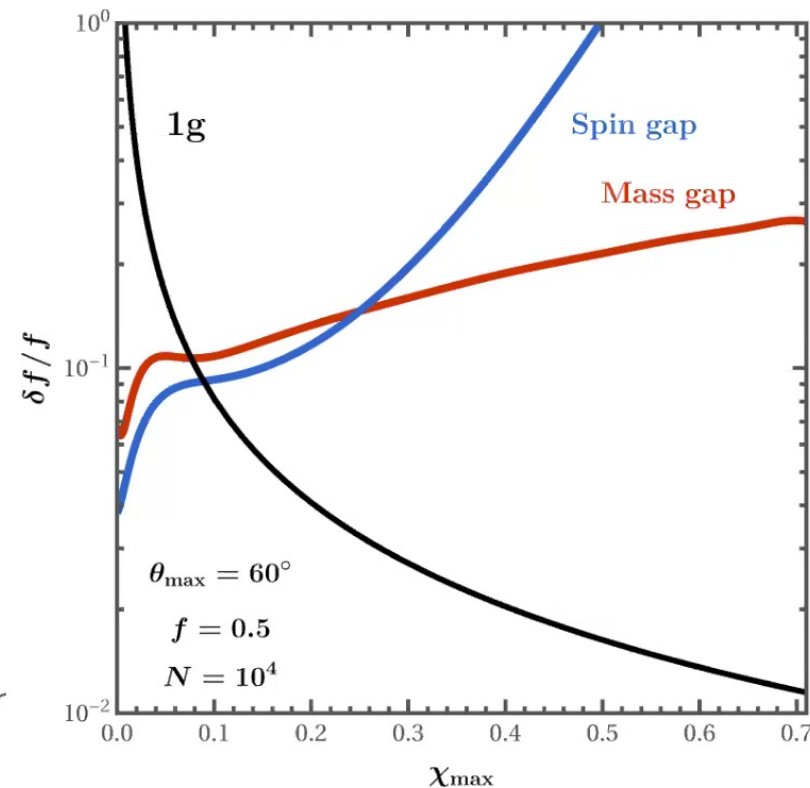
$$f = \frac{N_{\text{cluster}}}{N} = \frac{N_{\text{gap}}}{\lambda N}$$

Mixing fraction

Mixing-fraction error

$$\left(\frac{\delta f}{f}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{\lambda'}{\lambda} \delta \chi_{\text{max}}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda f N}$$

Efficiency error
Counting error



Navigation controls: Slide 37, Q & A, Notes, Pointer, Captions, Tips, EXIT

# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



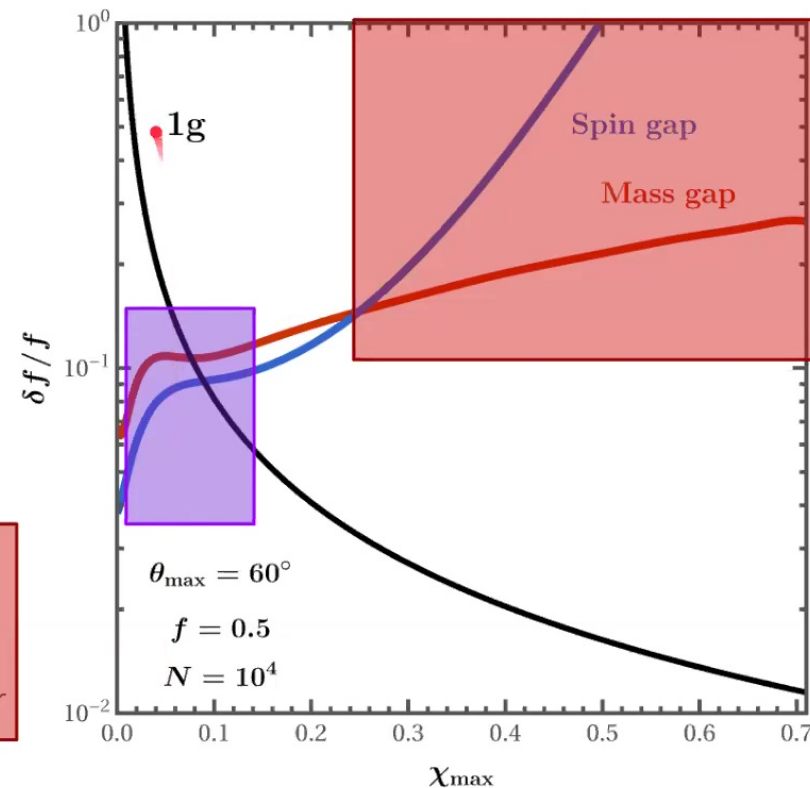
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Mixing fraction

Mixing-fraction error

$$\left(\frac{\delta f}{f}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{\lambda'}{\lambda} \delta \chi_{\text{max}}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda f N}$$

Efficiency error
Counting error

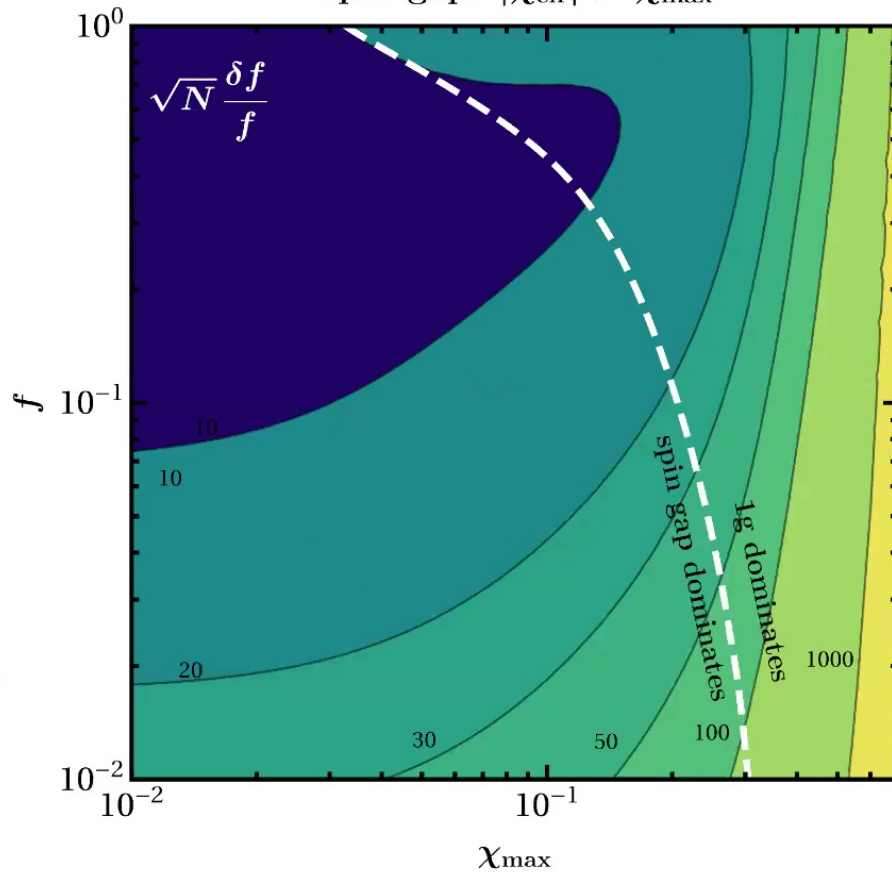


Navigation controls: Slide 37, Q & A, Notes, Pointer, Captions, Tips, EXIT

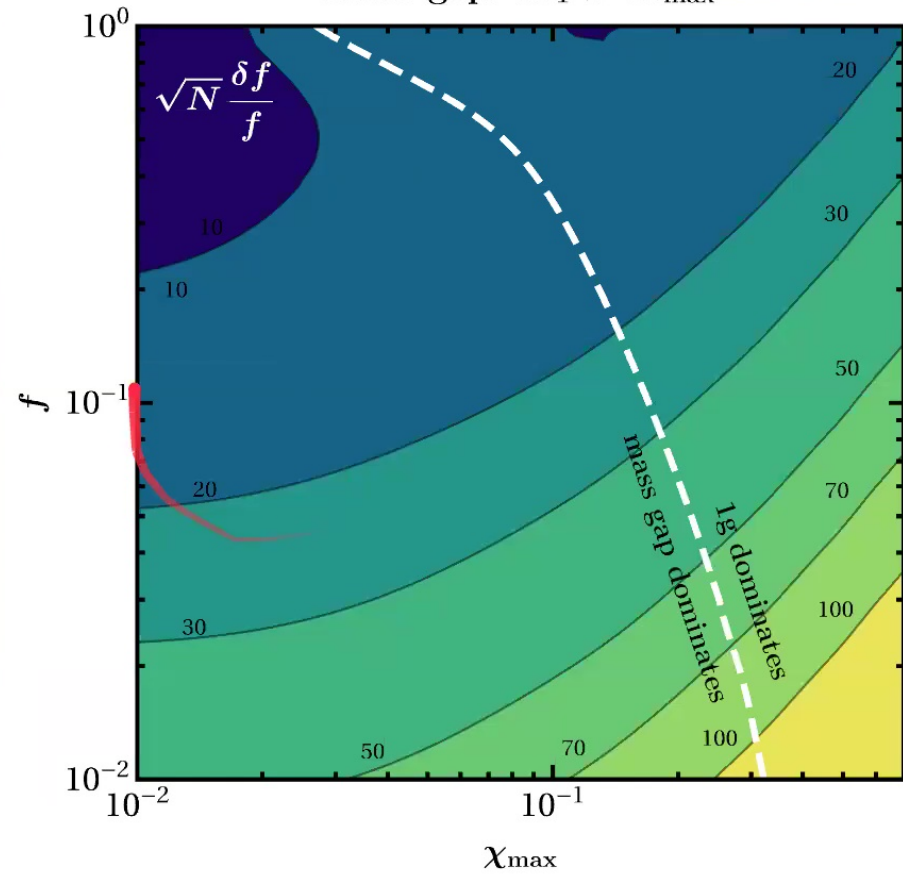
# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



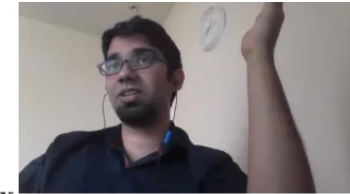
Spin gap:  $|\chi_{\text{eff}}| > \chi_{\text{max}}$



Mass gap:  $m_1 > m_{\text{max}}$

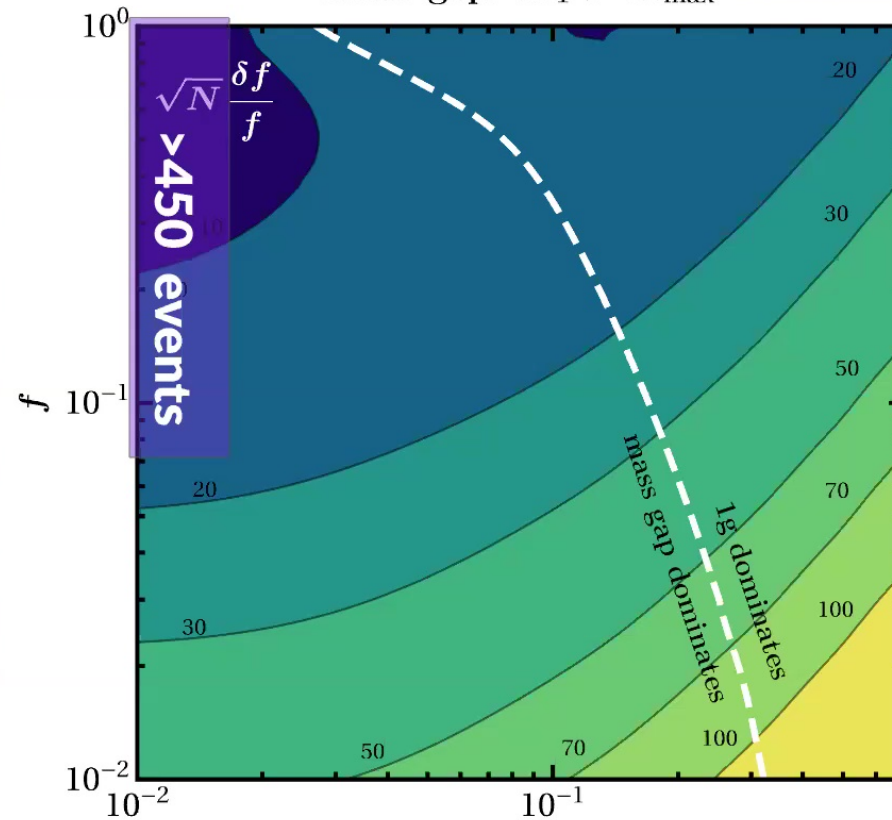
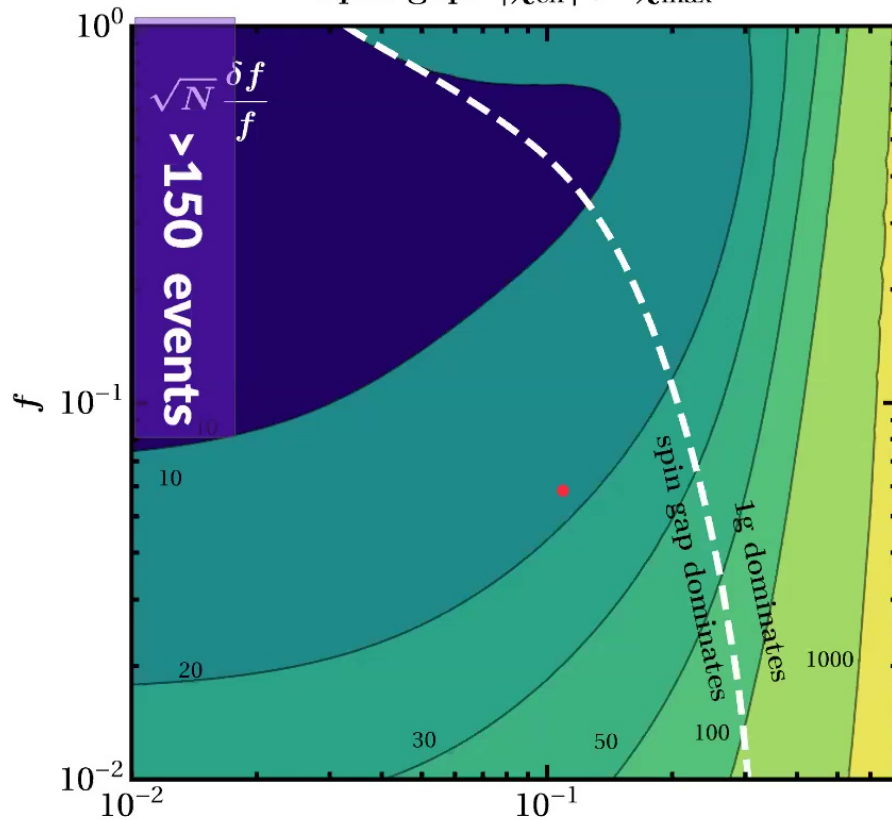


# Finding the mixing fraction with “gap” events



Spin gap:  $|\chi_{\text{eff}}| > \chi_{\text{max}}$

Mass gap:  $m_1 > m_{\text{max}}$



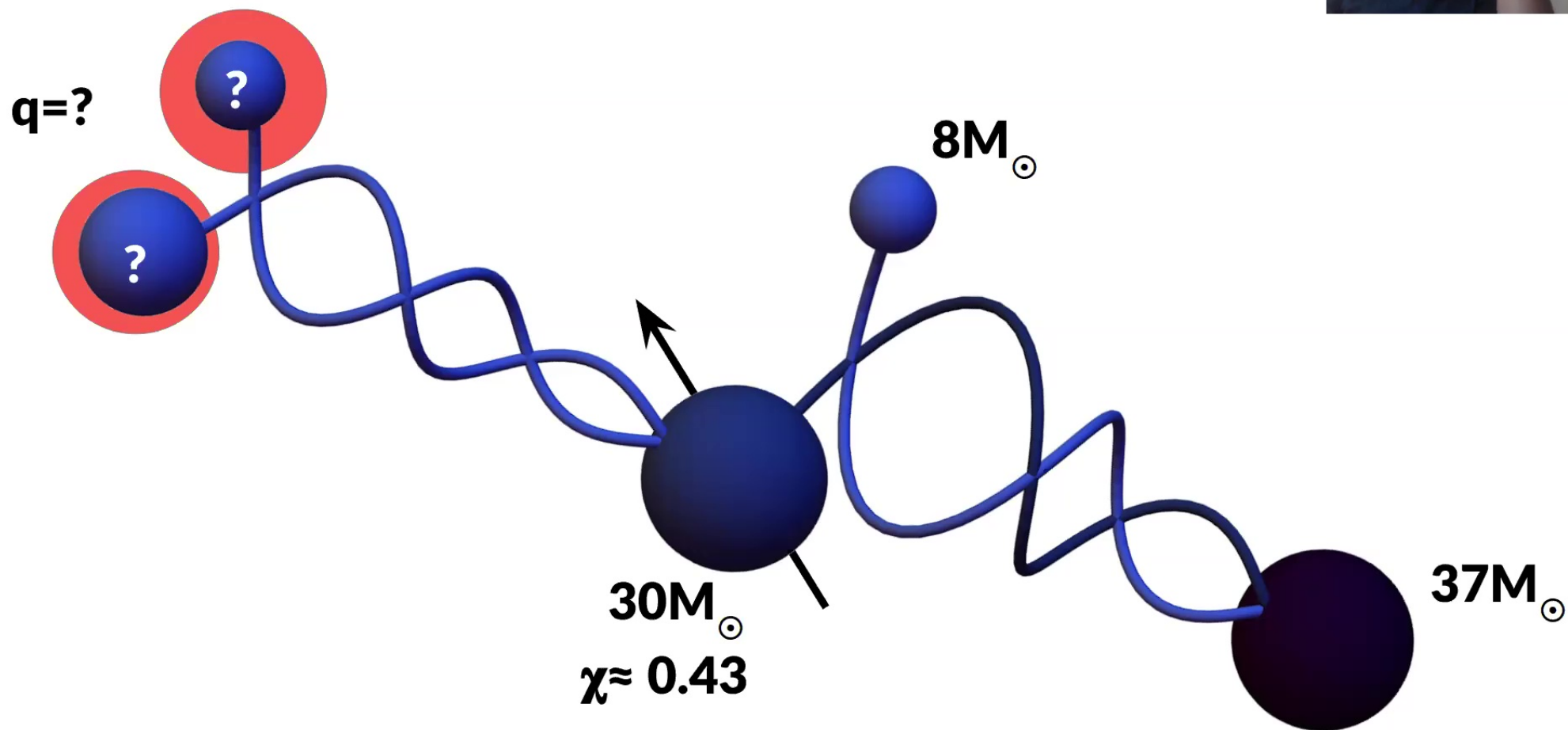
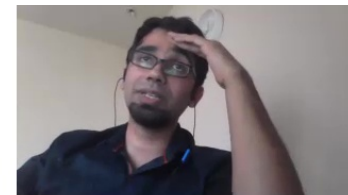
$N_{1g} > 10^5$

$\chi_{\text{max}}$

Slide 38 | Q & A | Notes | Pointer | Captions | Tips | EXIT

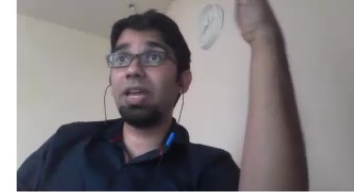


# Parents of GW190412

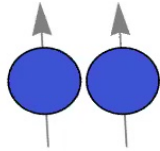


# Parents of GW190412

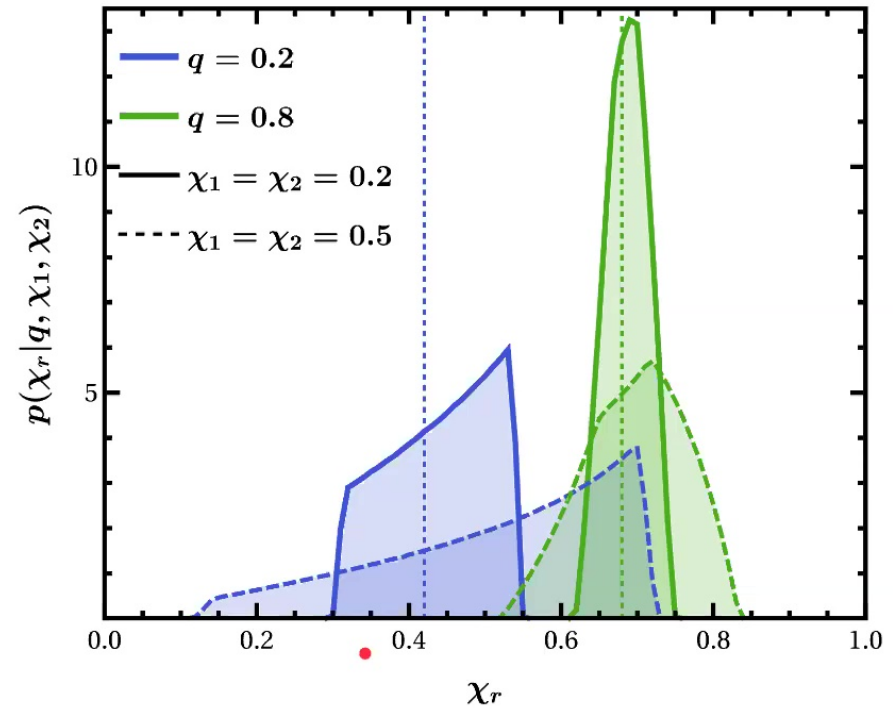
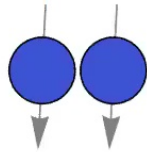
Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin



Max remnant's spin

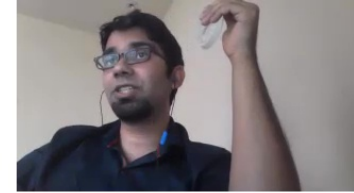


Min remnant's spin

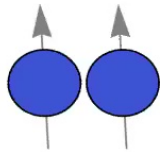


# Parents of GW190412

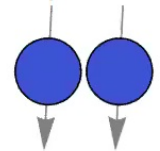
Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin



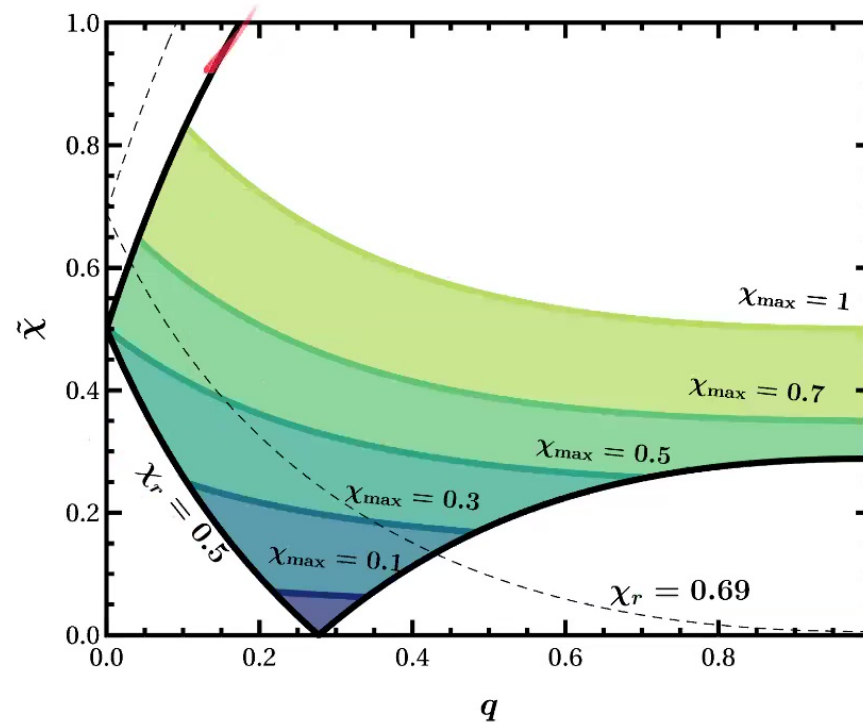
Max remnant's spin



Min remnant's spin

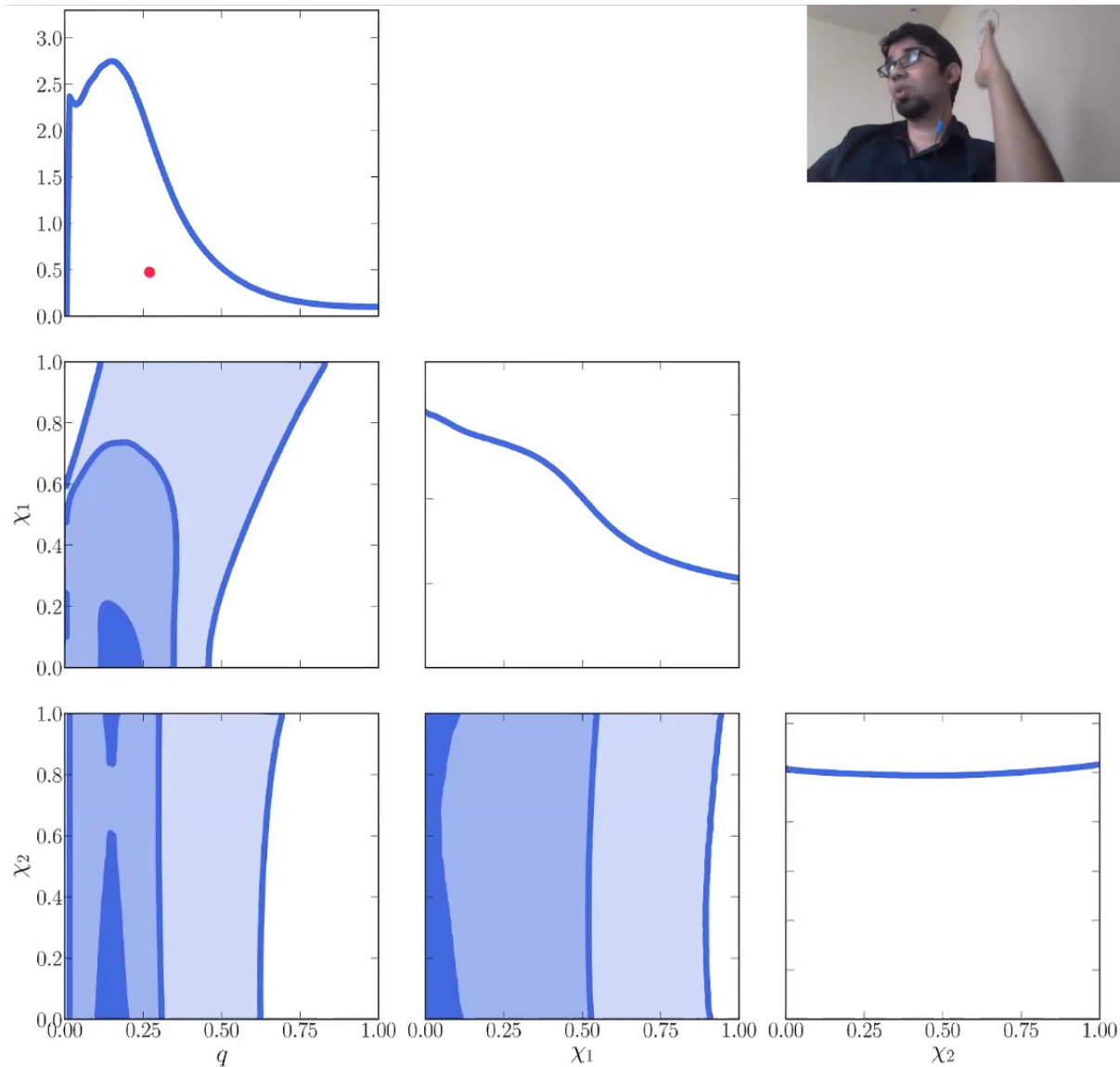


$$\tilde{\chi} = \frac{\chi_1 + q^2 \chi_2}{1 + q^2}$$



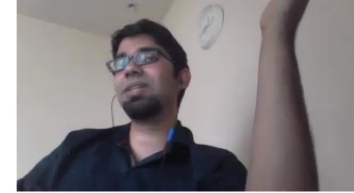
# Parents of GW190412

Parents of  
GW190412 likely  
had **asymmetric**  
**masses**,  $q=0.2$   
and **near-zero**  
**spins**

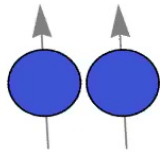


# Parents of GW190412

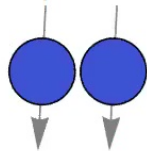
Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin



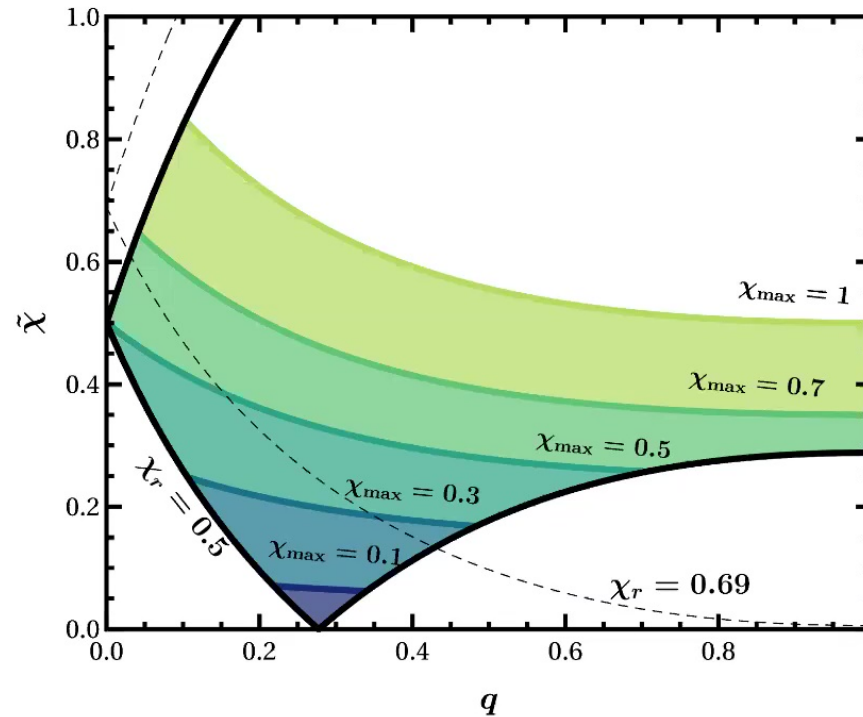
Max remnant's spin



Min remnant's spin



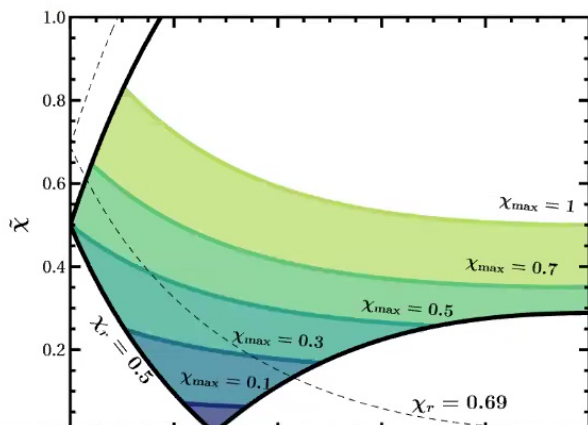
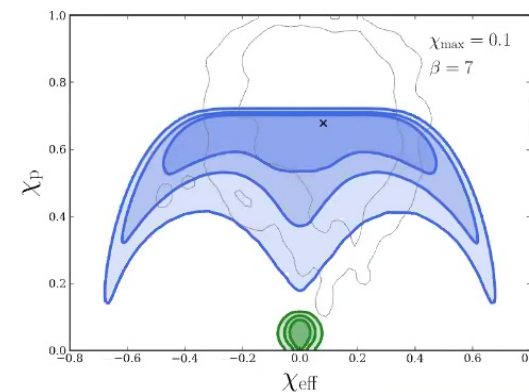
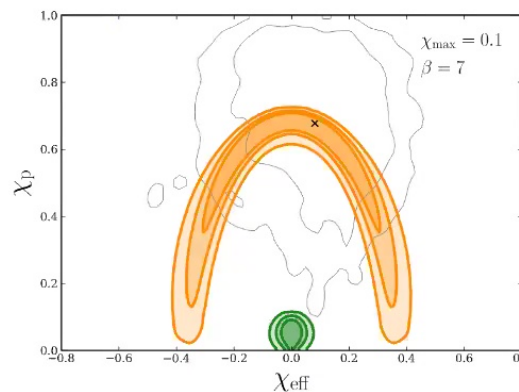
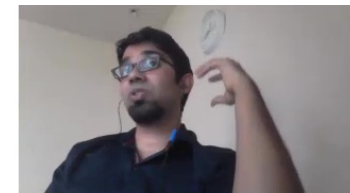
$$\tilde{\chi} = \frac{\chi_1 + q^2 \chi_2}{1 + q^2}$$



Navigation controls: Slide 41, Q & A, Notes, Pointer, Captions, Tips, EXIT

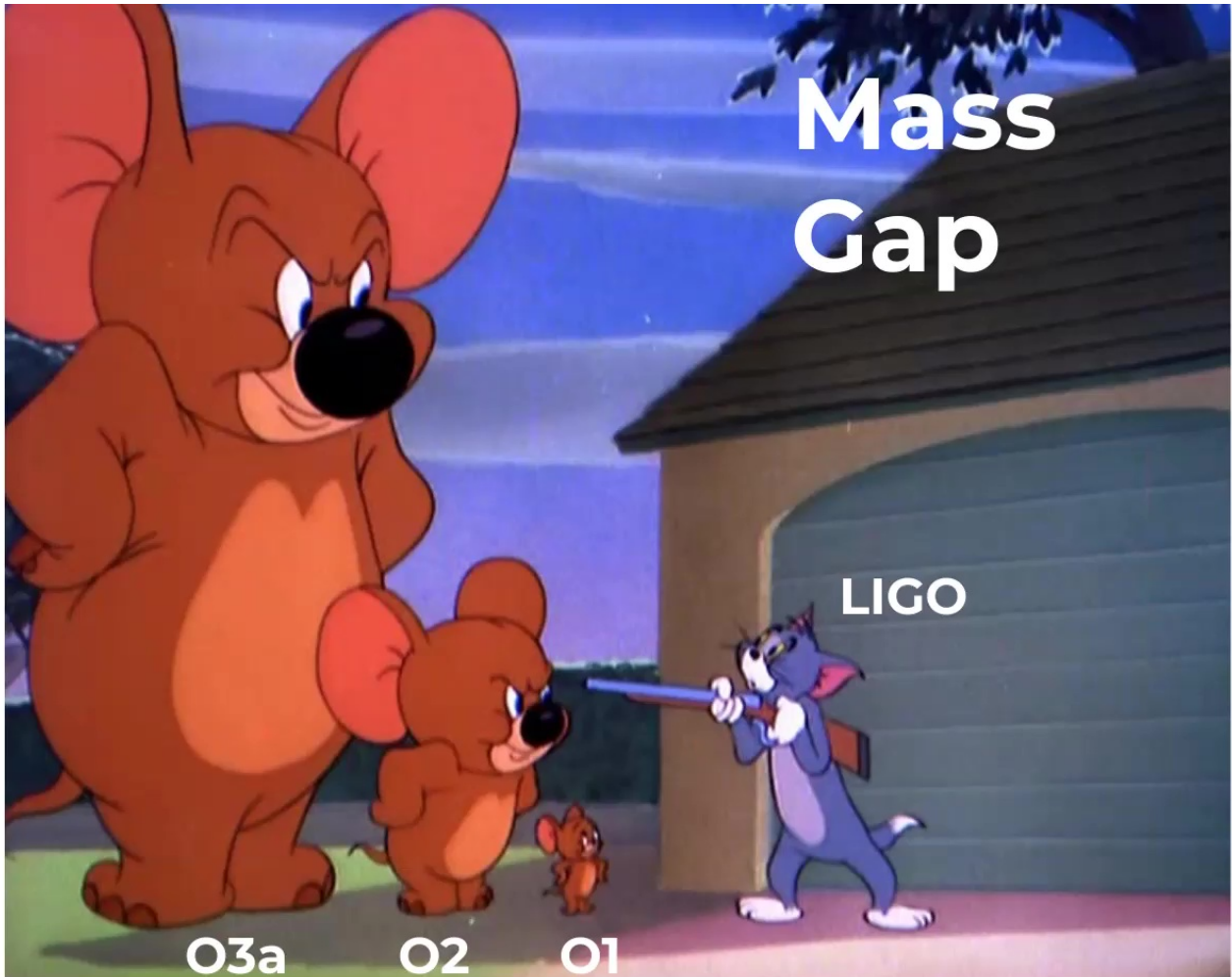
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Repeated mergers can  
**populate the SPIN GAP**



For some *lucky* events, we can  
**find their PARENTS**

Slide 43 | Q & A | Notes | Pointer | Captions | Tips | EXIT



# Mass Gap

LIGO

O3a

O2

O1

85M<sub>☉</sub>  
GW190521

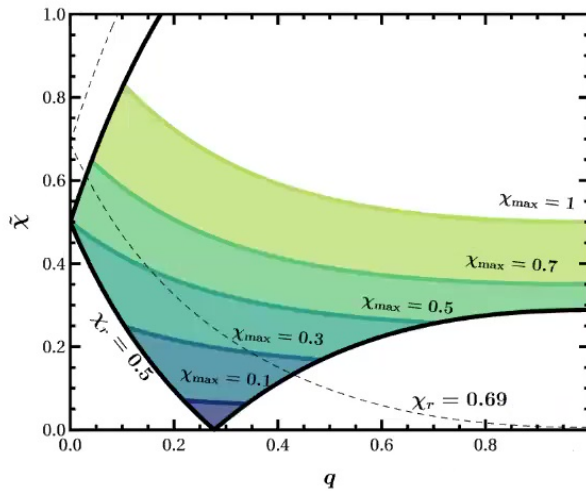
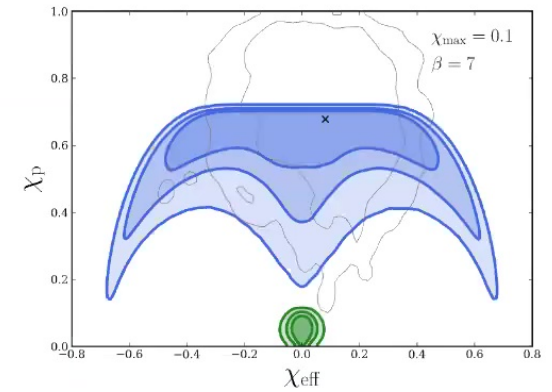
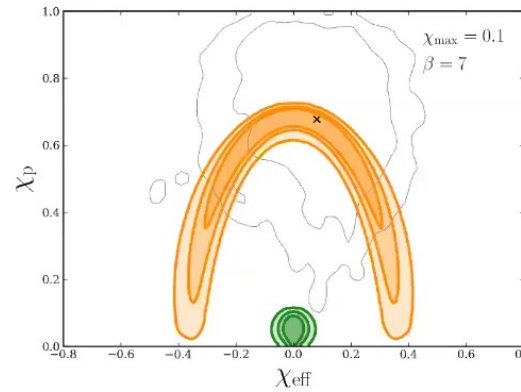
50M<sub>☉</sub>  
GW170729

33M<sub>☉</sub>  
GW150914



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Repeated mergers can  
**populate the SPIN GAP**



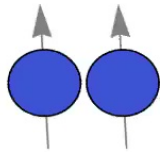
For some *lucky* events, we can  
**find their PARENTS**



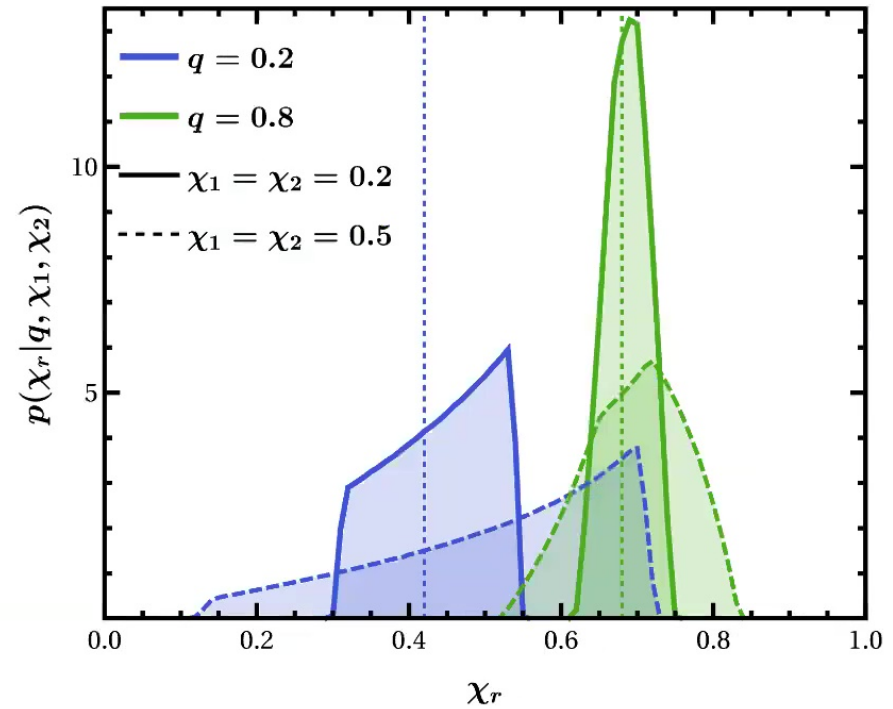
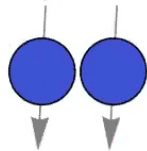
# Parents of GW190412

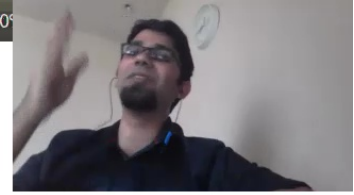
Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin

Max remnant's spin

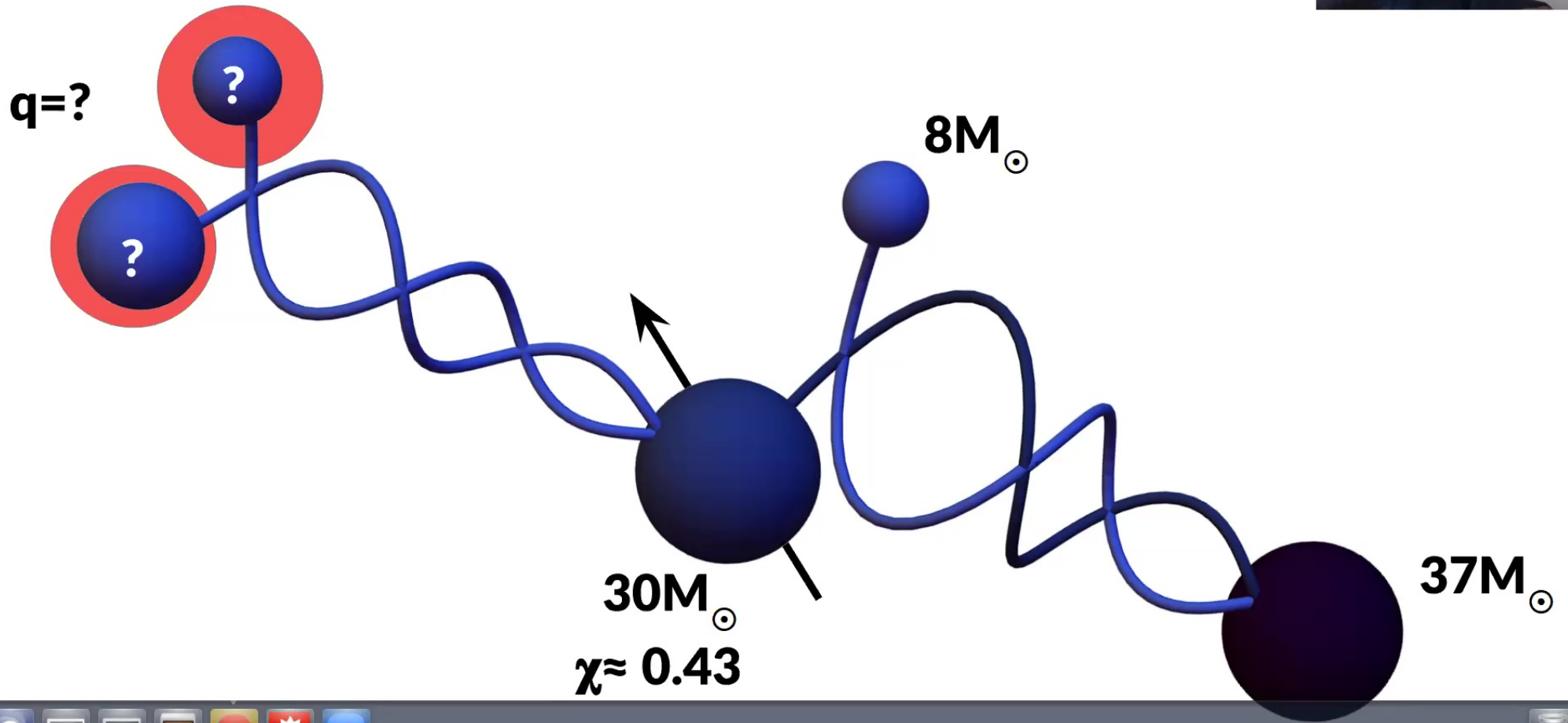


Min remnant's spin





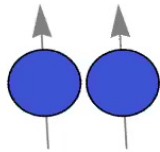
# Parents of GW190412



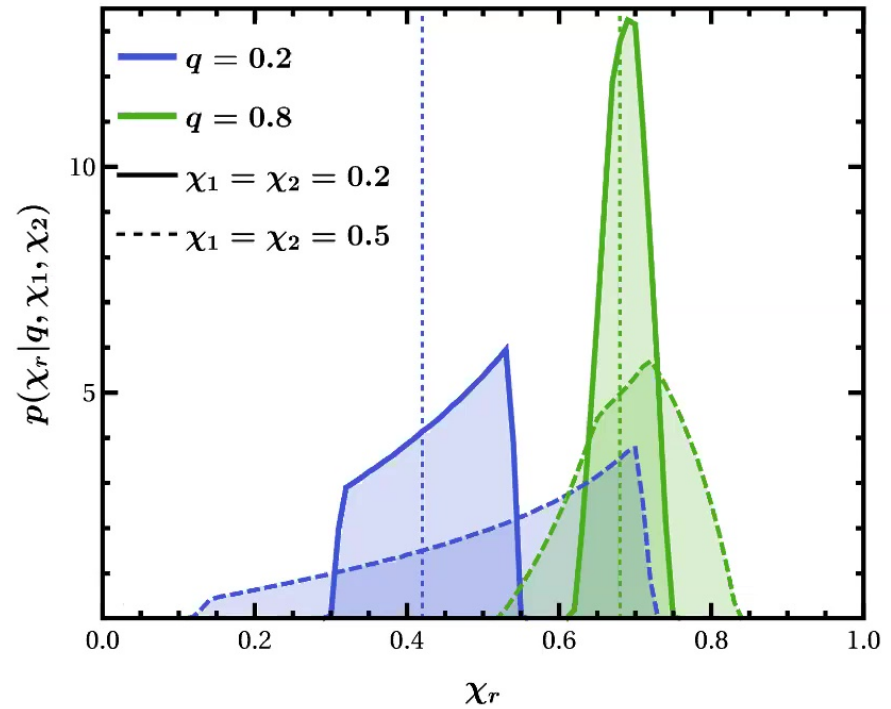
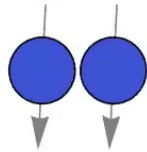
# Parents of GW190412

Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin

Max remnant's spin



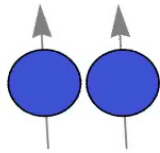
Min remnant's spin



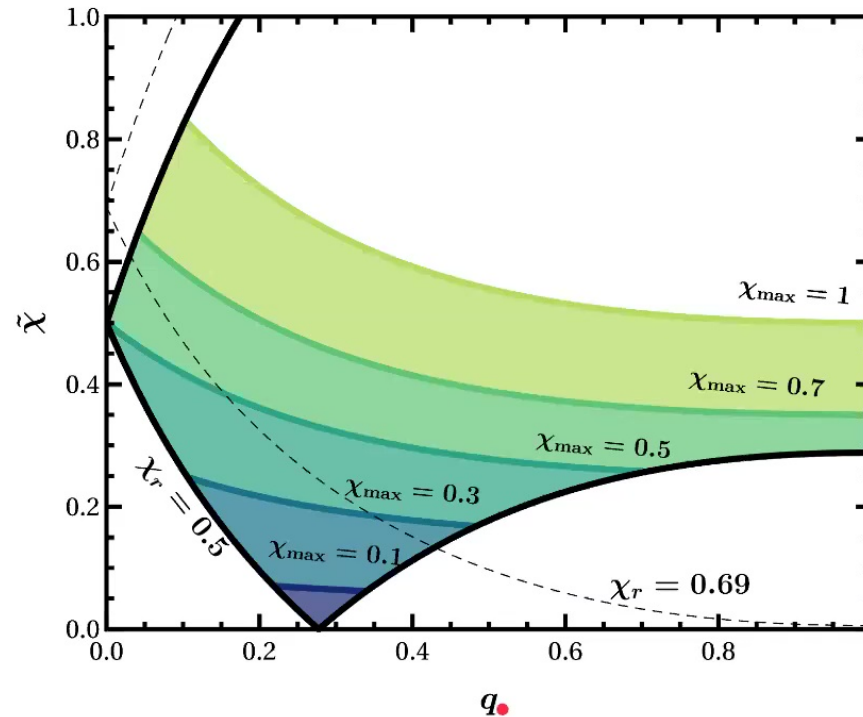
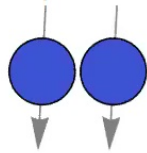
# Parents of GW190412

Reconstructing parents from the remnant's spin

Max remnant's spin



Min remnant's spin



$$\tilde{\chi} = \frac{\chi_1 + q^2 \chi_2}{1 + q^2}$$

EXIT

# Parents of GW190412

Parents of GW190412 likely had **asymmetric masses**,  $q=0.2$  and **near-zero spins**

