

# Dragon simulations



modelling million-body globular and nuclear star clusters over cosmic time

Kai Wu 吴开, Philip Cho, Rainer Spurzem, Francesco Flammini Dotti,  
Vahid Amiri, Mirek Giersz, Abbas Askar, Peter Berczik

kaiwu.astro@gmail.com  
kai.wu@uni-heidelberg.de

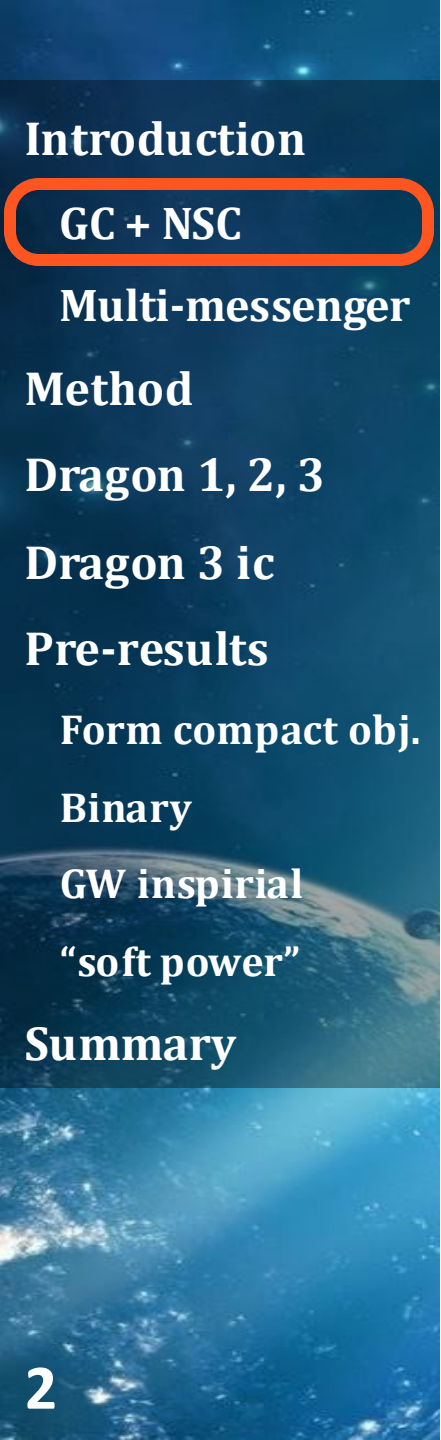


ZENTRUM FÜR  
ASTRONOMIE



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

2025 June | IAUS 398 + MODEST-25 | SNU



Introduction

GC + NSC

Multi-messenger

Method

Dragon 1, 2, 3

Dragon 3 ic

Pre-results

Form compact obj.

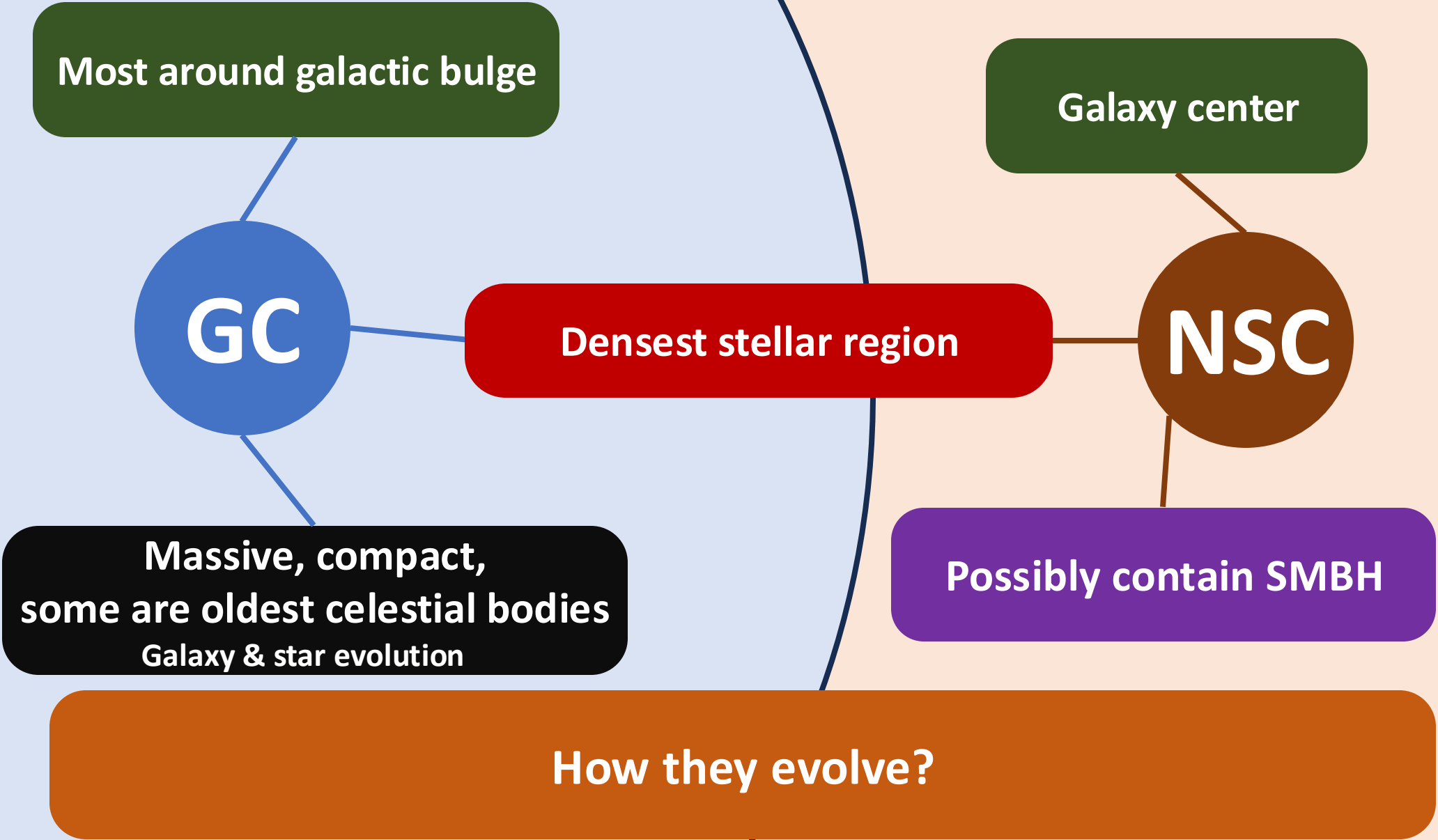
Binary

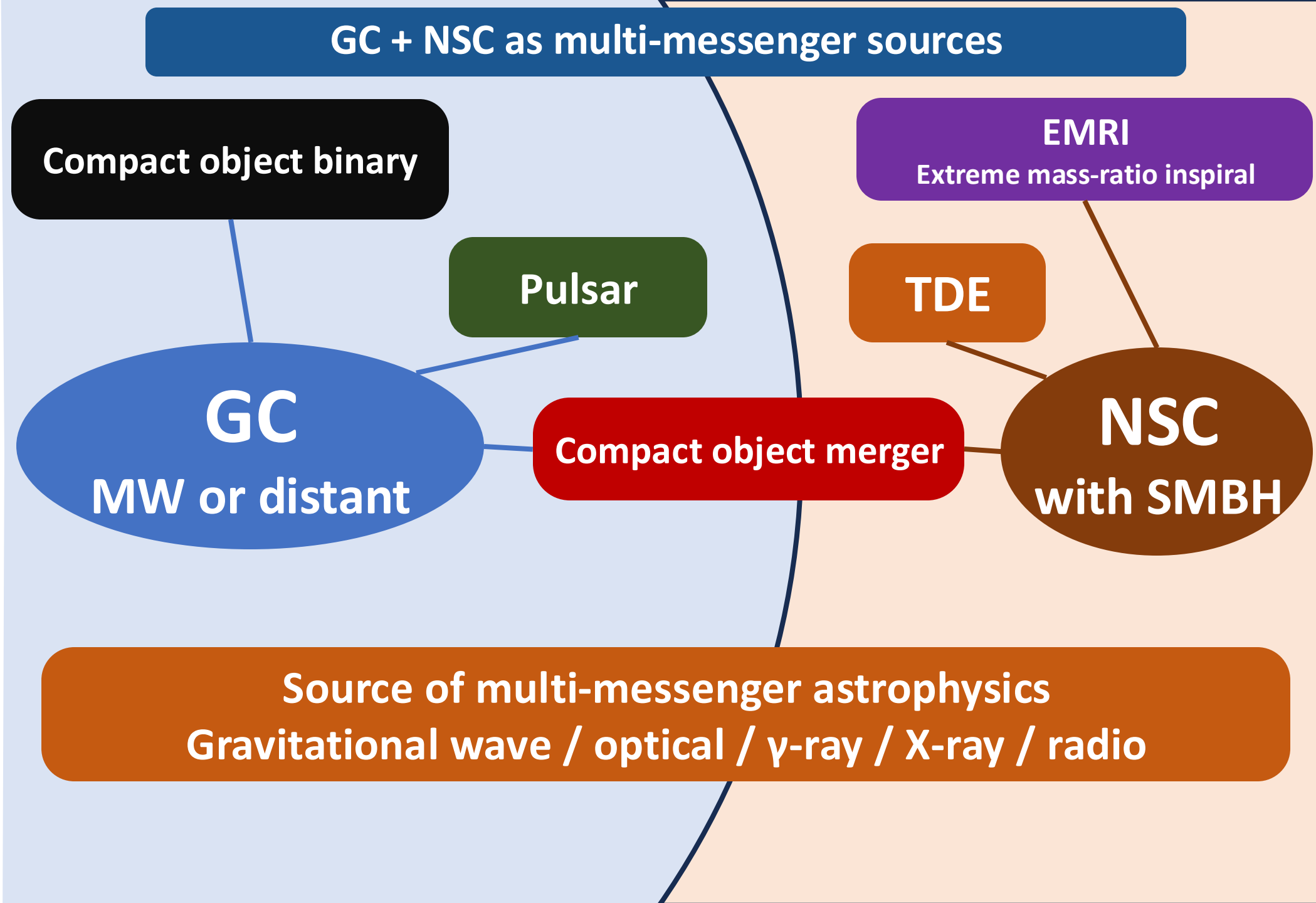
GW inspiral

“soft power”

Summary

Milky way globular + nuclear star clusters





# Group Introduction

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## Globular cluster simulations



Albrecht Kamlah



Kai Wu



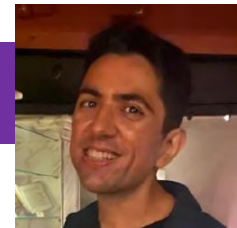
Long Wang



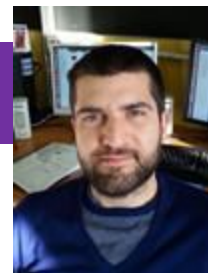
Peter Berczik



Mirek Giersz

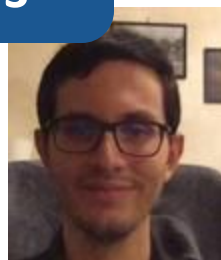


Abbas Askar



Manuel  
Arca Sedda

## Planetary systems in star clusters



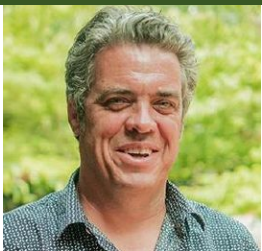
Francesco  
Flammini Dotti



Rainer Spurzem

## Stellar evolution updates

(talk today and tomorrow)



Jarrod Hurley



Yuzhe Song  
(Robert)

## Very massive star formation

(talk by Abbas on Mon.)



Marcelo Vergara

## Rotating cluster

(a nice photo here)



Vahid Amiri

Abylay Bissekenov  
(talk on Mon.)

## Nuclear cluster

(talk on Wed.)



Philip Cho

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## Method

### Star-by-star, direct $N$ -body simulation

#### NBODY6++GPU



star cluster  $N$ -body simulator

- 4<sup>th</sup> order Hermite integration
- Regularization; no softening
- Astrophysics (Stellar + Binary evo)
- External tidal field
- MPI, GPU, OpenMP, SIMD parallelization
- **Highly compatible with supercomputers**
- **Capable of million body  $\times$  Gyr simulations**

<https://github.com/nbody6ppgpu>

Also with PeTar !

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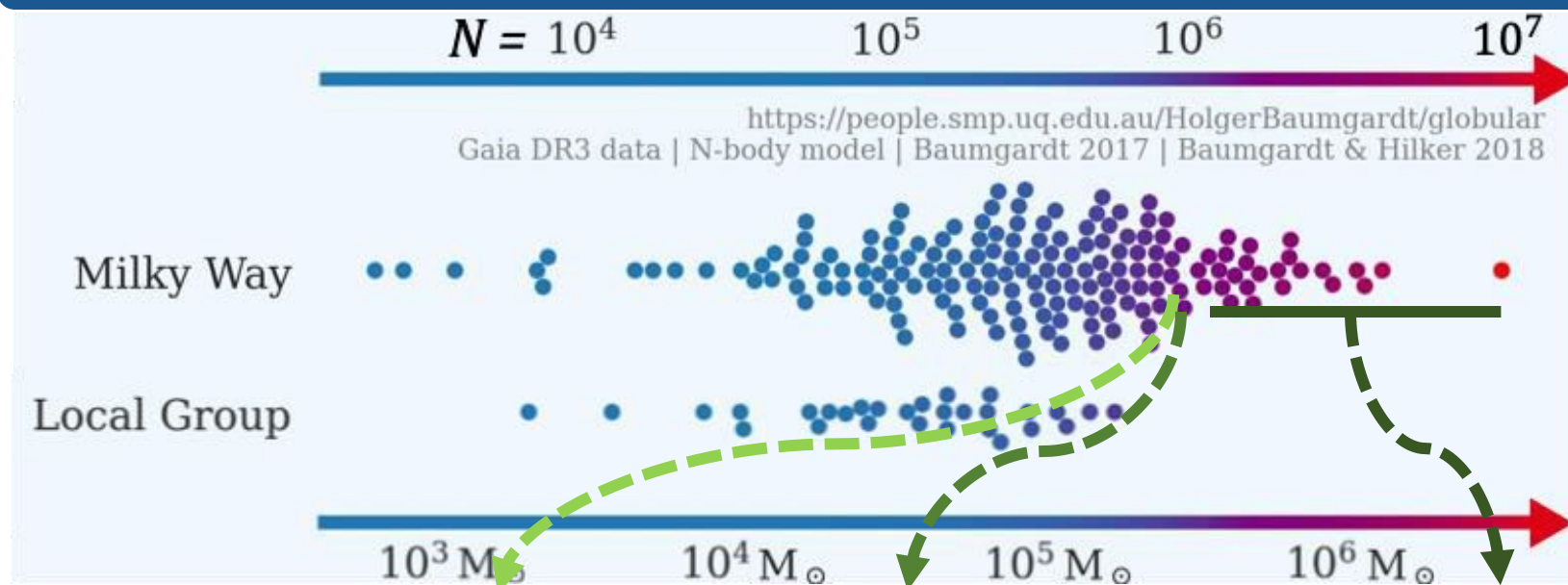
Binary

GW inspiral

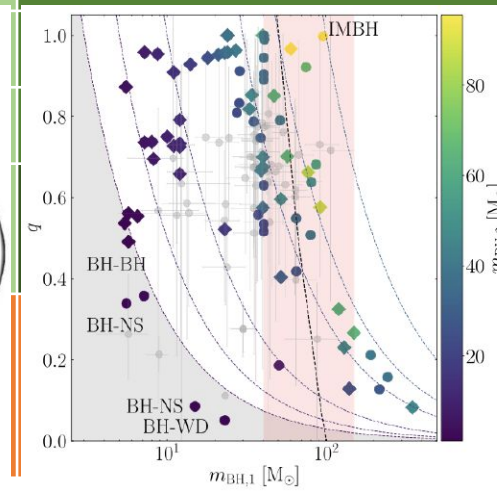
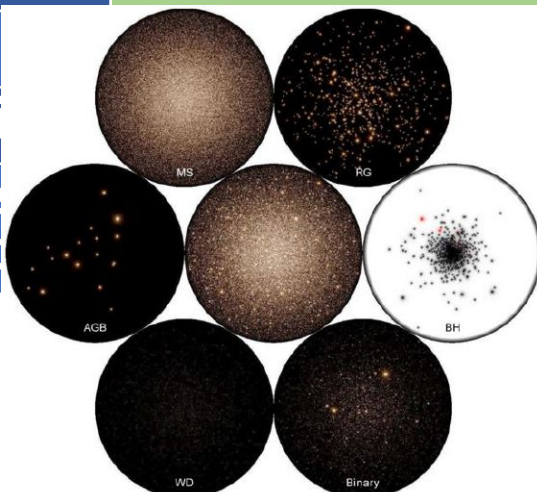
“soft power”

## Summary

# DRAGON simulation family



|                   | DRAGON-I         | DRAGON-II                     | DRAGON-III                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paper             | <i>Wang+2016</i> | <i>Arca Sedda+2023(a,b,c)</i> | <br>WORK IN PROGRESS |
| Time              |                  |                               | 1M, 4M, 10M                                                                                             |
| Stellar evolution |                  |                               | 1 – 10 Gyr                                                                                              |
|                   |                  |                               | Arca Sedda+2023<br>Wang+19,20,21                                                                        |
|                   |                  |                               | Largest $N$<br>+<br>latest stellar evo.                                                                 |



Initial conditions

**Aim**

Use *N*-body codes  
to their **limits**

**Simulate**

- **Biggest**
- **Realistic**
- **Lifetime**

globular clusters

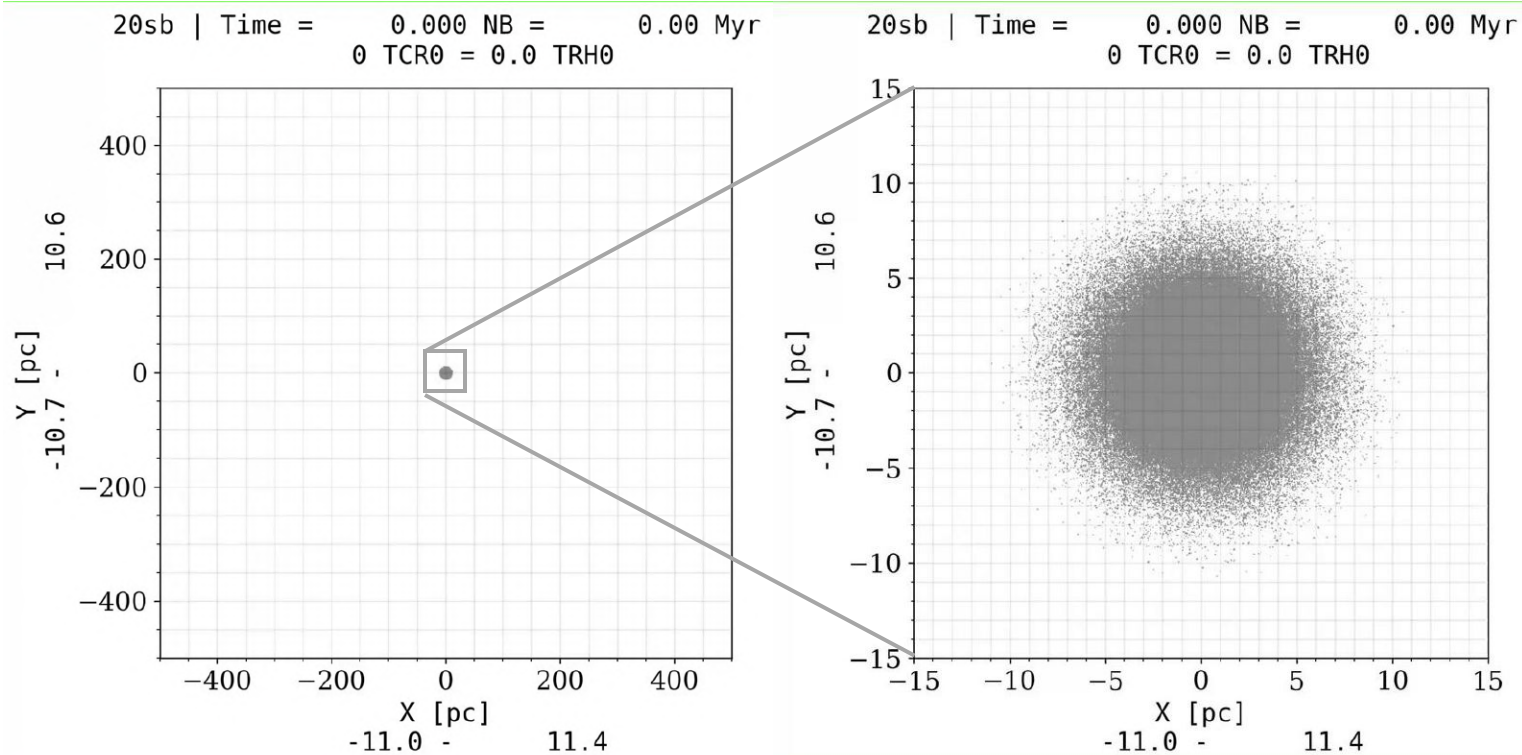
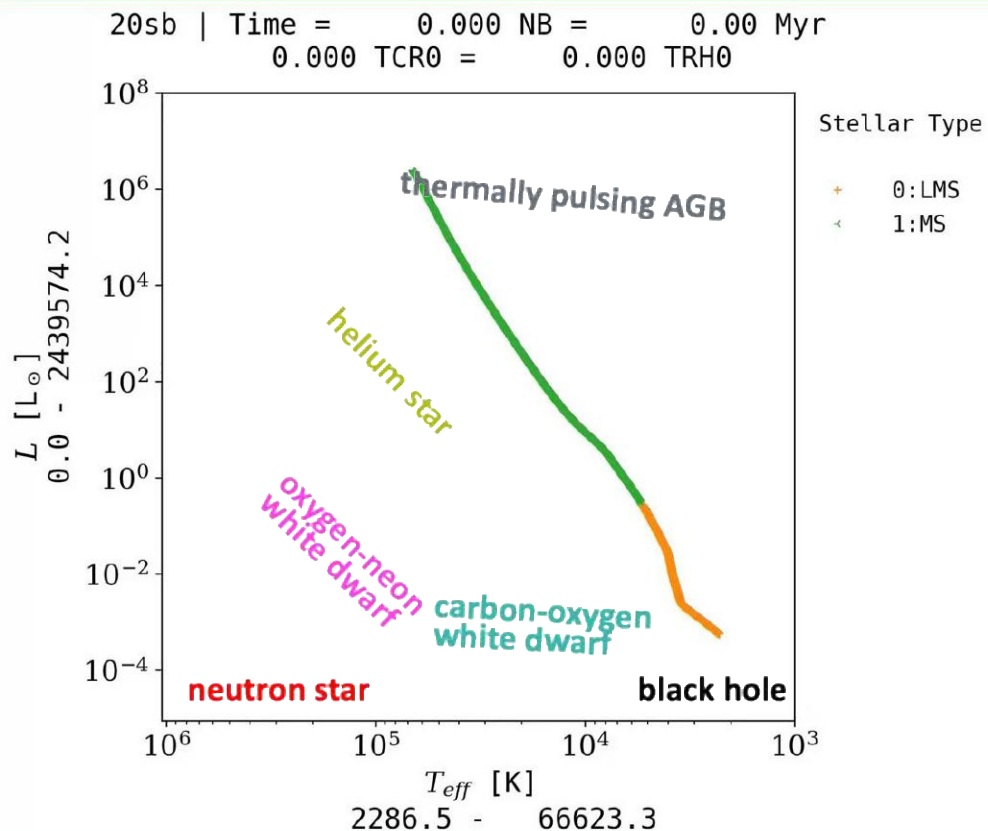
|                       | DRAGON-III<br>Globular SC                                                           | DRAGON-III<br>Nuclear SC                                                            |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |  |  |
| N                     | 1M, 4M, 10M                                                                         | 1M                                                                                  |
| Time                  | 1 – 10 Gyr                                                                          | ~ Gyr                                                                               |
| Binary                | hard: 5%<br>soft: 0% / 20% / 60%                                                    |                                                                                     |
| Stellar<br>evolution  | Kamleh+23<br>Banerjee+19,20,21                                                      |                                                                                     |
| Tidal field           | Galpy MWPotential2014<br>representative value of MW GC                              |                                                                                     |
| IMF & profile         | Kroupa 0.08 – 150 & King                                                            |                                                                                     |
| Additional<br>Physics |                                                                                     | Accreting CMBH                                                                      |
| Computer              | GPU-based Supercomputers<br>in Germany, China, Finland                              |                                                                                     |

Other params follow DRAGON-II



# Stellar evo. → form compact objects

## Introduction



## Summary

1. natal kicks
2. keep evolving escapers (+ compact obj. bin)
3. stellar evo. form wide range of stellar types
4. hierarchical BH/NS/WD subsystems?



# Compact object binaries form & escape

20sb | Time = 0.000 NB = 0.00 Myr  
0 TCR0 = 0.0 TRH0

6 escaped BH-BH  
1 escaped BH-NS  
2 escaped NS-WD  
5 escaped BH-non-compact  
14 escaped NS-non-compact

## Pre-results

Form compact obj.

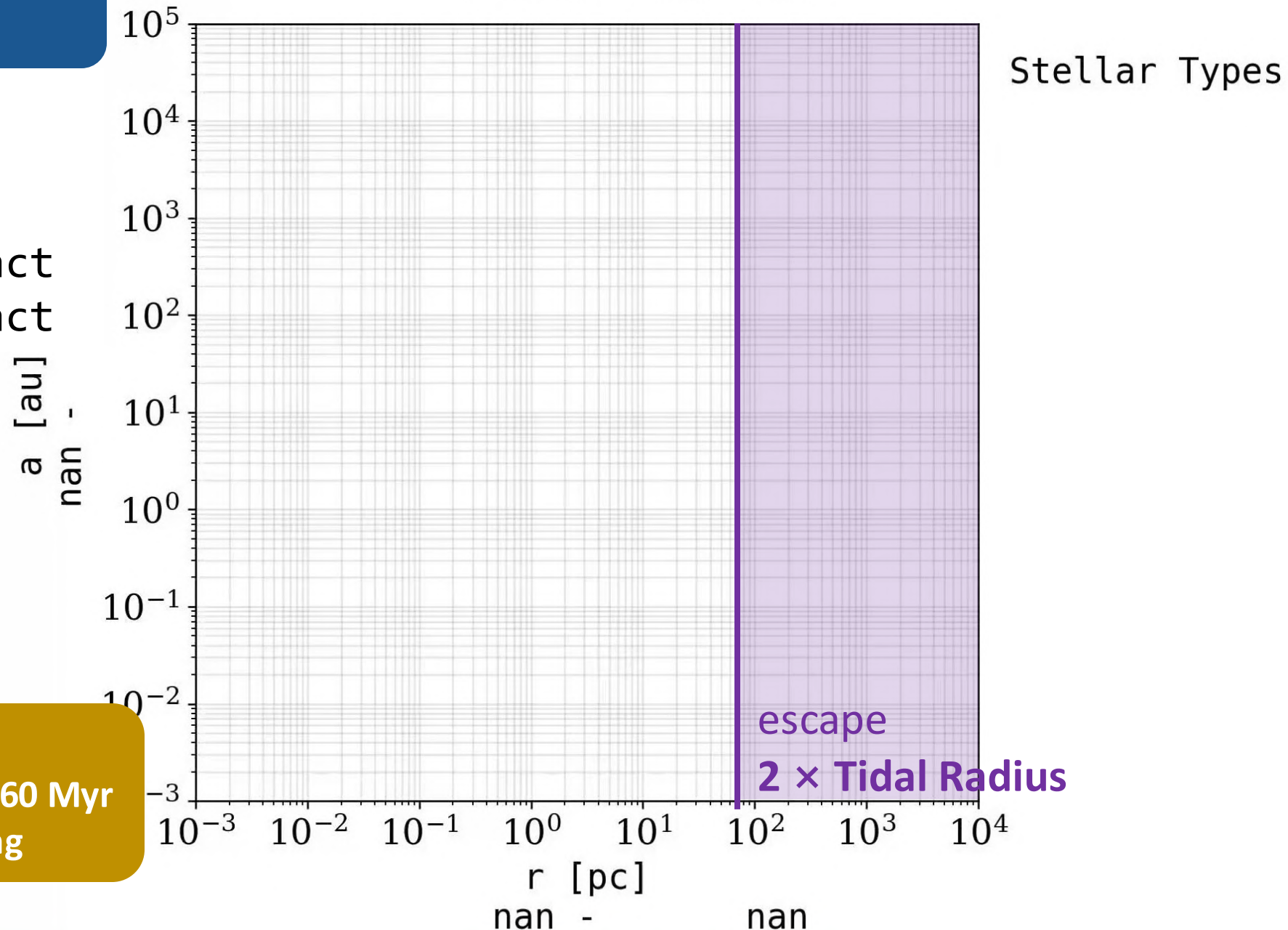
Binary

GW inspiral

“soft power”

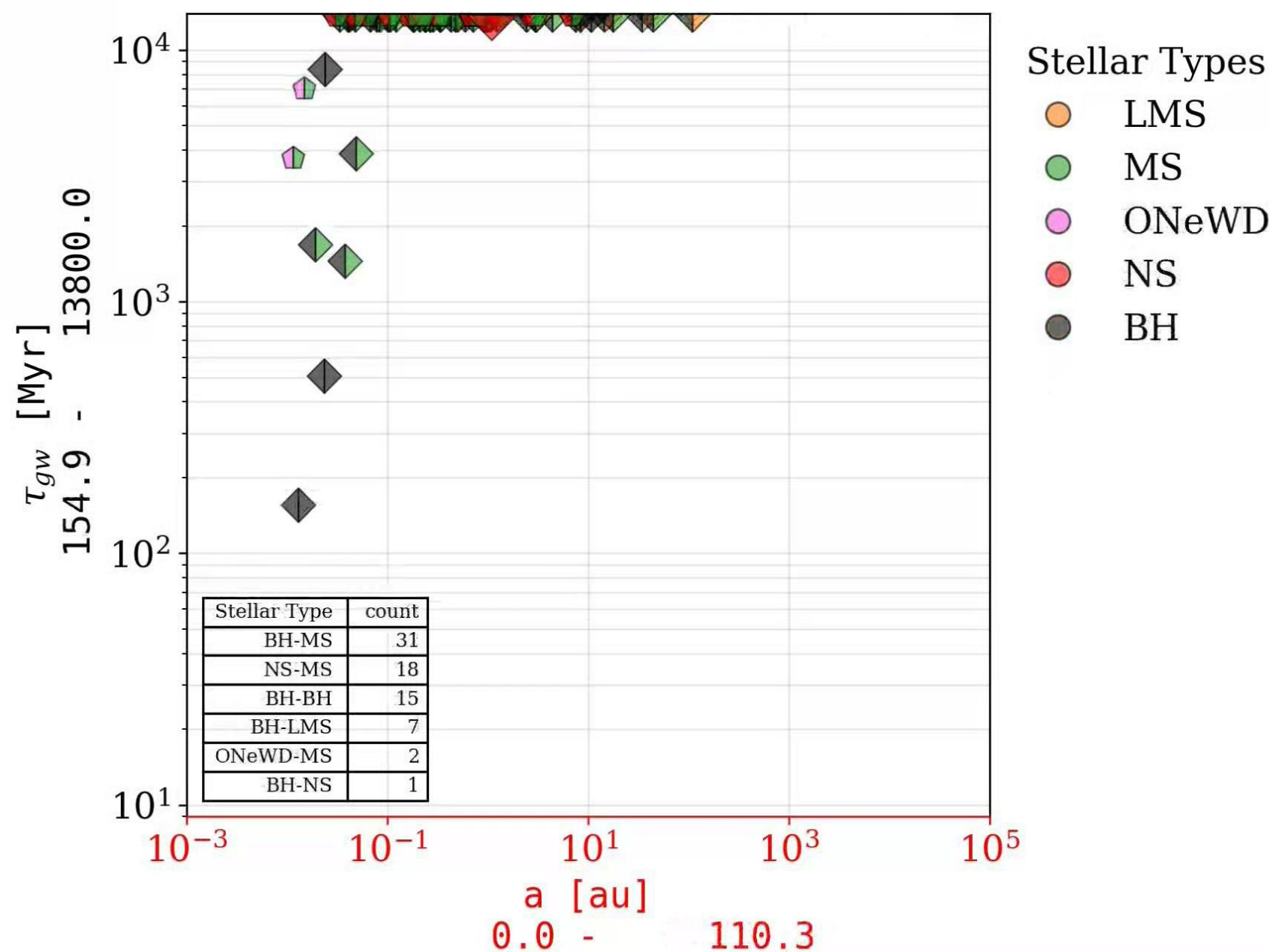
## Summary

1. “escapers” are not removed
2. NS-MS *baby-boom* at 15 Myr & 60 Myr
3. we also have “Gaia BH”, escaping



GW inspiral

20sb | Time = 646.000 NB = 40.63 Myr  
1810.092 TCR0 = 0.233 TRH0



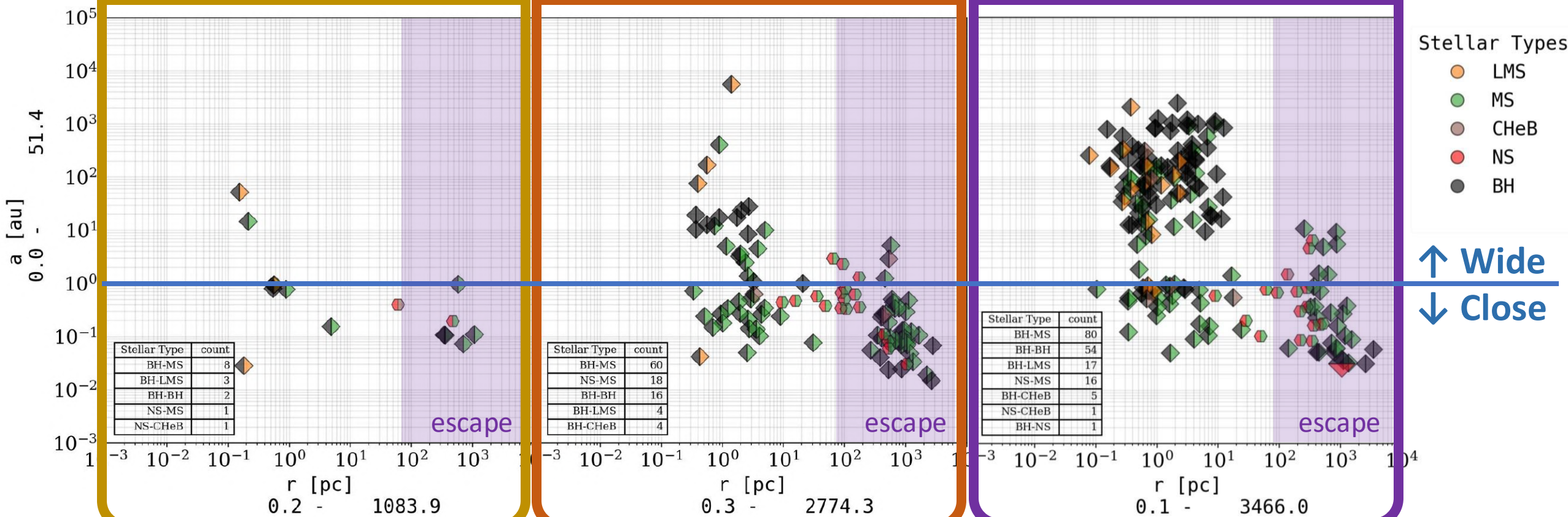
# The “soft power”

5% initial hard binary, AND

0 % initial soft binary

20 % initial soft binary

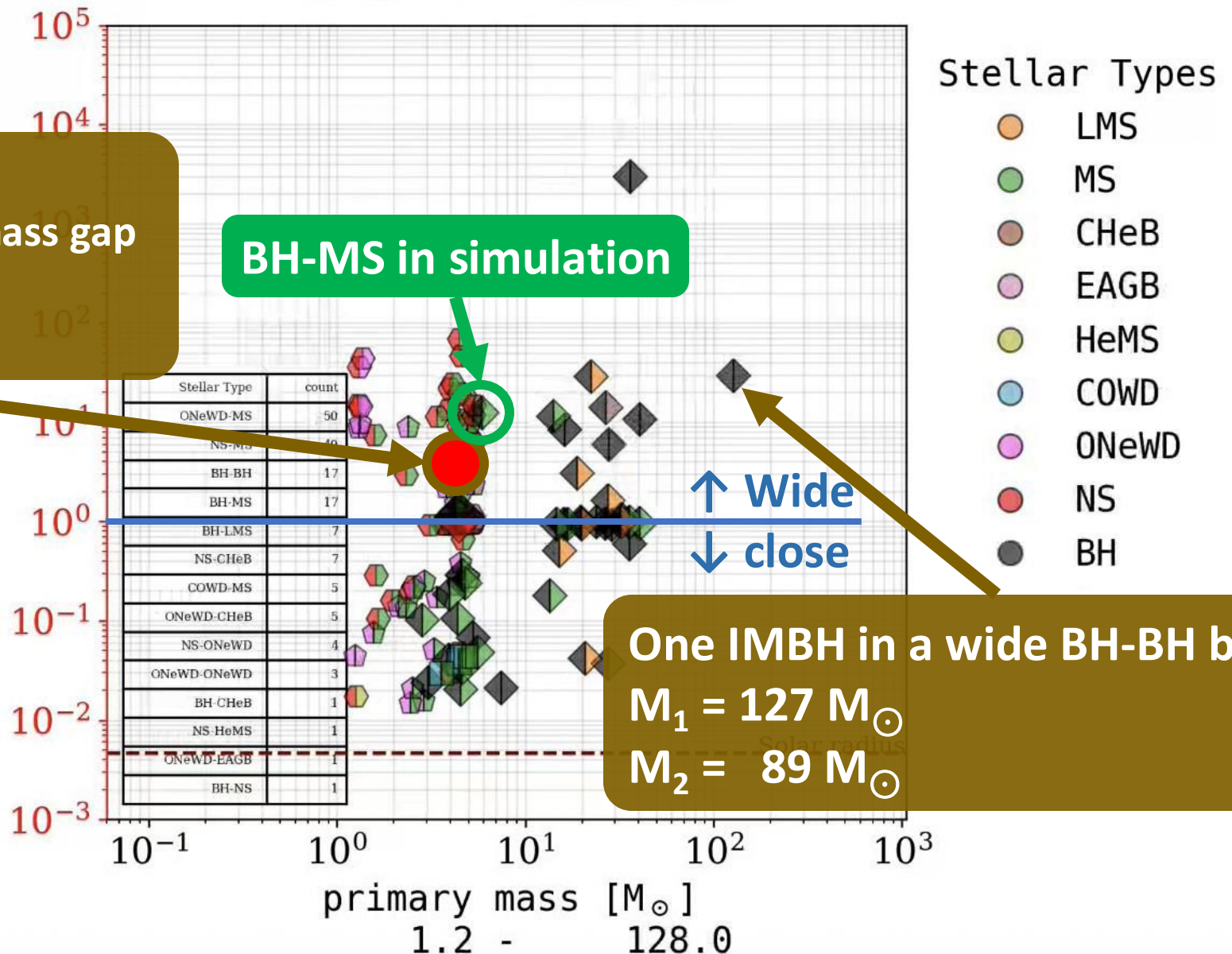
60% initial soft binary



age = 17 Myr

# Wide compact object binaries

20sb | Time = 1338.000 NB = 84.16 Myr  
3749 TCR0 = 0.5 TRH0



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Dr Song Wang+24 (Nat. Astro.)  
Wide BH-giant binary in the mass gap

- $2.1 < a < 5.1$  au
- $3.1 M_{\odot} < M_{\text{BH}} < 4.1 M_{\odot}$

Pr Form compact obj.

Binary

GW inspiral

“soft power”

Summary

up to  
**10,000,000**  
particles

up to  
**10 Giga-year**  
simulation

**Globular**  
&  
**Nuclear**  
star cluster

stellar evolution  
**Latest**  
single + binary  
× compact obj.

Escaper **trace**

**41**  
Pulsar source  
within 100 Myr



**Dragon III simulations**

**€ 0.00**

data reduction  
on demand

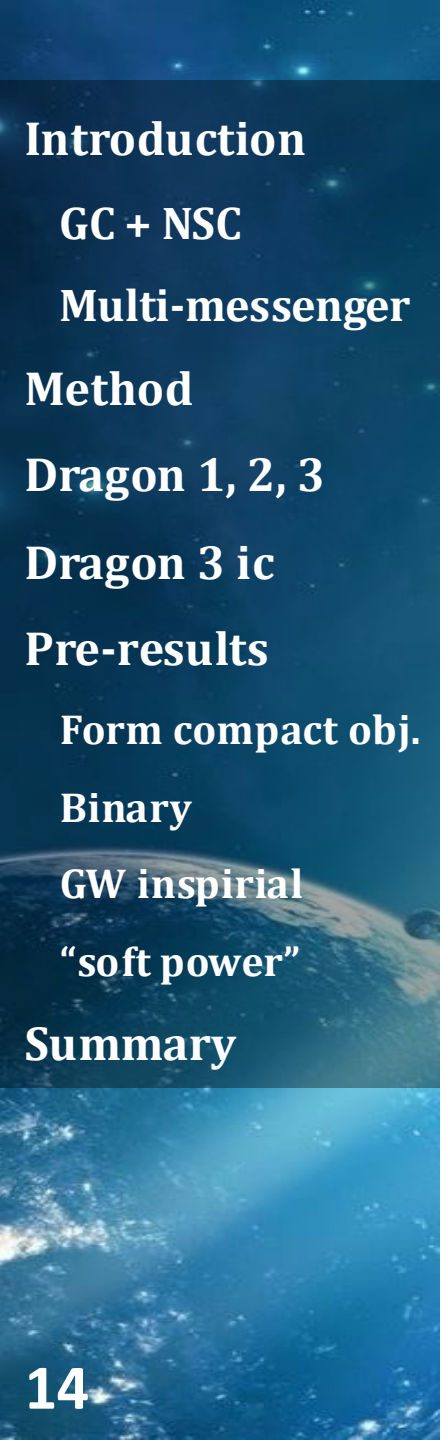
Dragon DR1 & paper  
**Coming soon**  
this year

**191**  
X-ray binaries  
within 100 Myr

**17**  
GW source  
within 100 Myr

**1**  
BH-BH merger  
within 100 Myr

**kaiwu.astro**  
**@gmail.com**



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**Pre-results**

Form compact obj.

Binary

GW inspiral

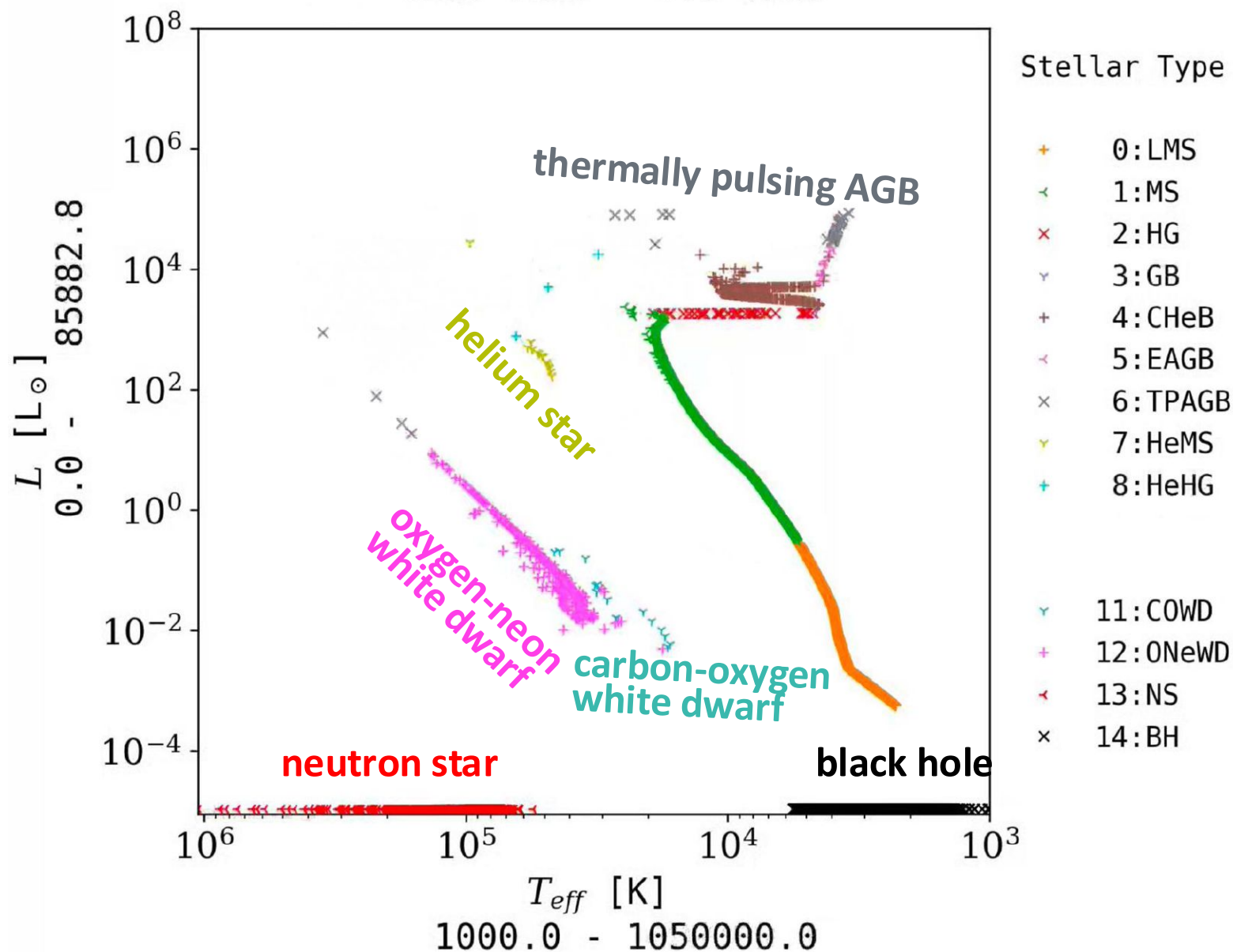
“soft power”

**Summary**

**BACKUP SLIDES BELOW**

# CMD

20sb | Time = 1499.000 NB = 94.29 Myr  
4200 TCR0 = 0.5 TRH0



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Summary

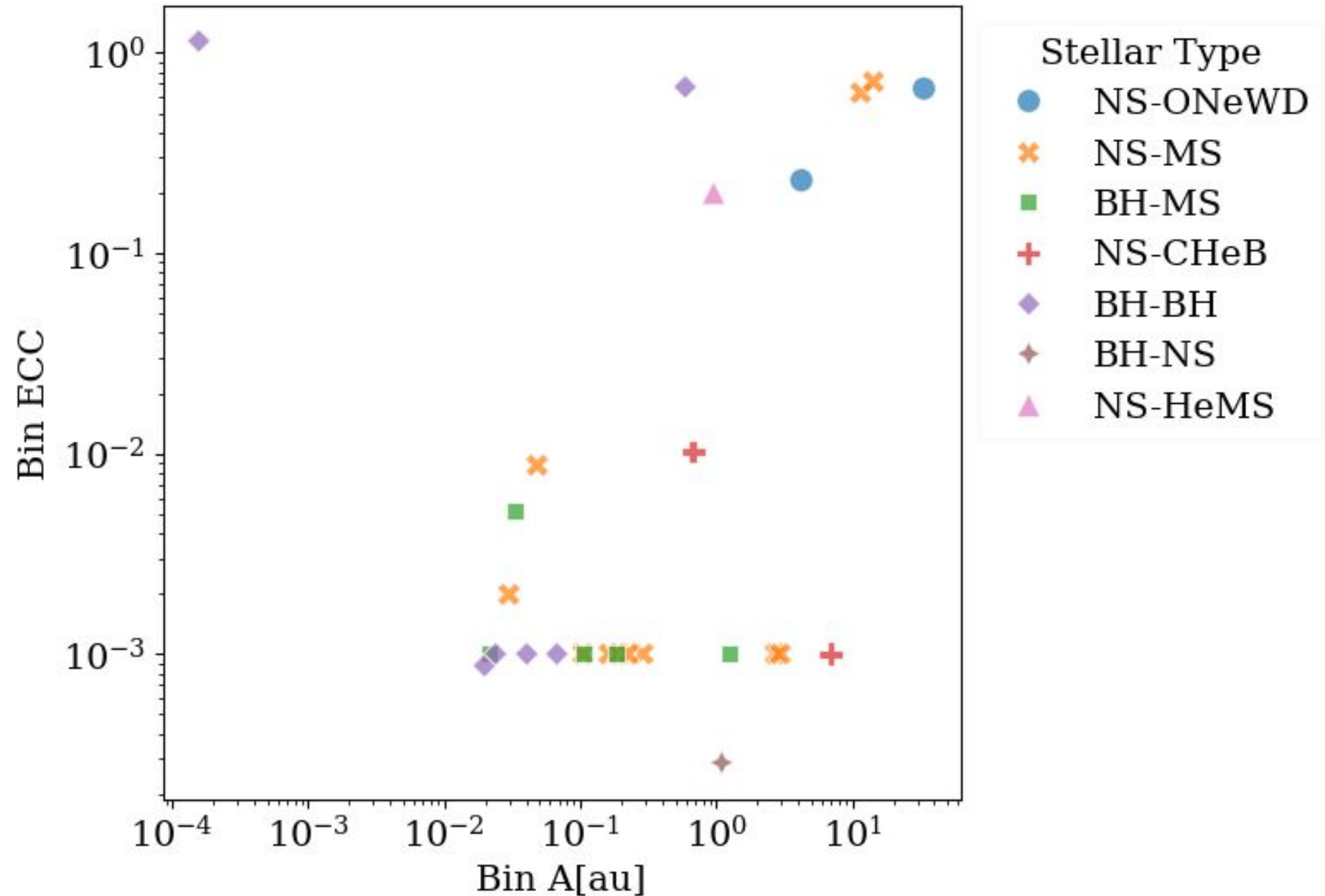
compact object binaries (1+)  
in 5% hard + 20% soft run

97 WD – non-compact, but no escaper within 100 Myr

| Stellar Type | count |
|--------------|-------|
| ONeWD-MS     | 46    |
| NS-MS        | 26    |
| COWD-MS      | 26    |
| BH-MS        | 16    |
| BH-BH        | 16    |
| ONeWD-CHeB   | 14    |
| BH-LMS       | 9     |
| ONeWD-ONeWD  | 8     |
| NS-ONeWD     | 7     |
| NS-CHeB      | 6     |
| ONeWD-HeMS   | 2     |
| COWD-LMS     | 2     |
| ONeWD-LMS    | 2     |
| COWD-CHeB    | 2     |
| NS-HG        | 1     |
| BH-CHeB      | 1     |
| BH-NS        | 1     |
| NS-HeMS      | 1     |

# Ejected compact object binary eccentricities

| Stellar Type |    |
|--------------|----|
| NS-MS        | 11 |
| BH-BH        | 6  |
| BH-MS        | 5  |
| NS-ONeWD     | 2  |
| NS-CHeB      | 2  |
| BH-NS        | 1  |
| NS-HeMS      | 1  |



BH-BH Merger

BH-BH merger in Dragon 3 by far

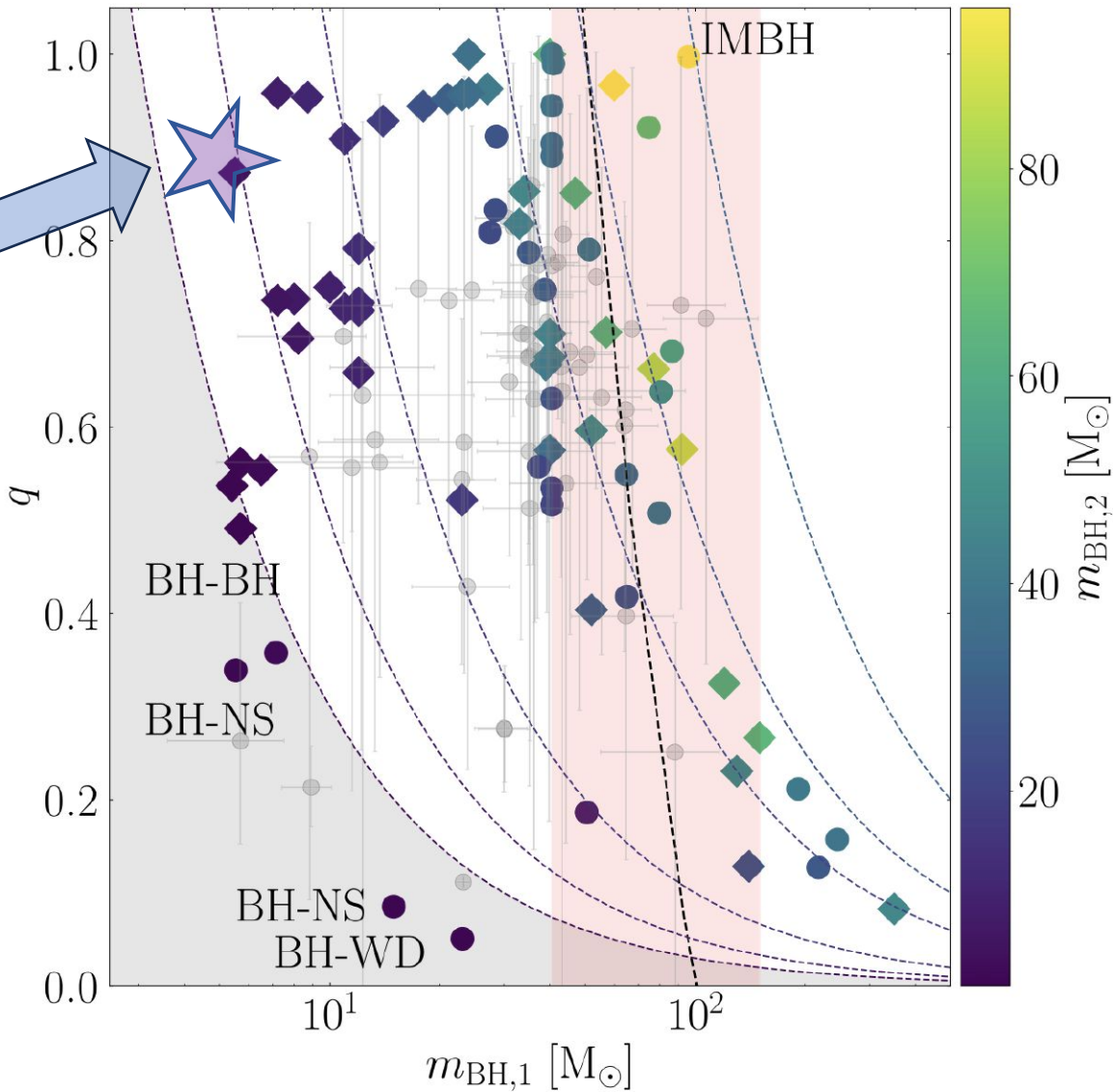
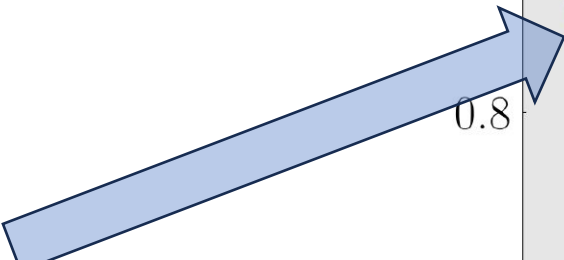


Fig. 2 of Arca Sedda+ 2023c

5% hard binary + 20% soft binary run  
lagrangian radii evolution

