

# Progenitors of the most massive (stellar-mass) black holes

**Mathieu Renzo**

D. D. Hendriks, R. Farmer,

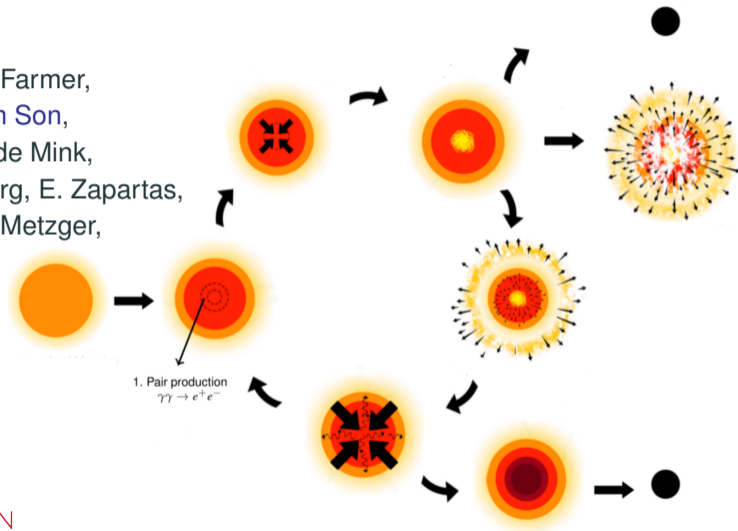
P. Marchant, L. van Son,

S. Justham, S. E. de Mink,

N. Smith, Y. Götzberg, E. Zapartas,

M. Cantiello, B. D. Metzger,

Y.-F. Jiang, ...



## (Pulsational) pair instability

---

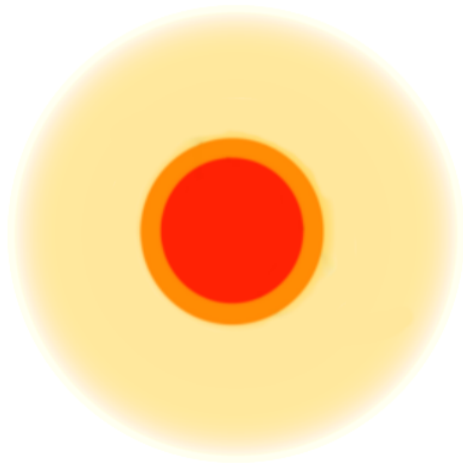
**Maximum  $M_{\text{BH}}$  from single He cores**

Implementation in pop. synth.

How robust are these predictions?

## Pair-production happens in the interior<sup>†</sup> after carbon depletion

---



<sup>†</sup> can be off-center

## Simulating the He core captures the important dynamics

---



H-rich envelope can be  
lost to:

- winds
- binary interactions
- first pulse

# Pair-instability SNe are the best understood supernovae



0. Evolved Massive  
He core

Radiation pressure dominated:

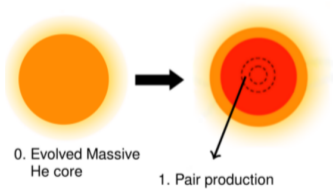
$$P_{\text{tot}} \simeq P_{\text{rad}}$$

$$M_{\text{He}} \gtrsim 32 M_{\odot}$$

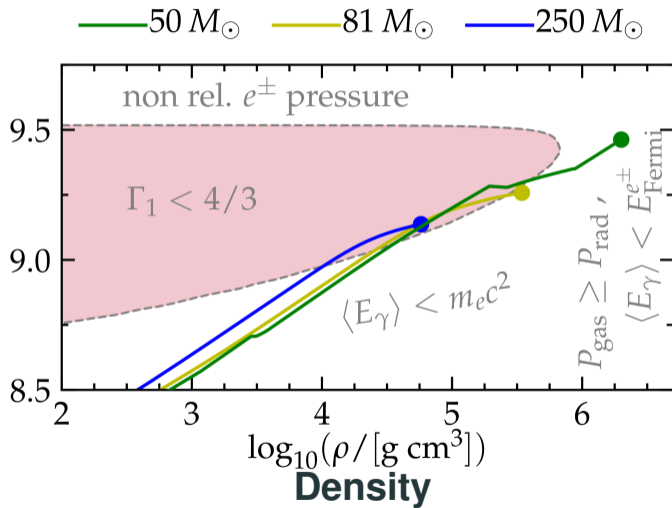
see Fowler & Hoyle 1964, Rakavy & Shaviv 1967, Barkat *et al.* 1967, 1968, Fraley 1968,

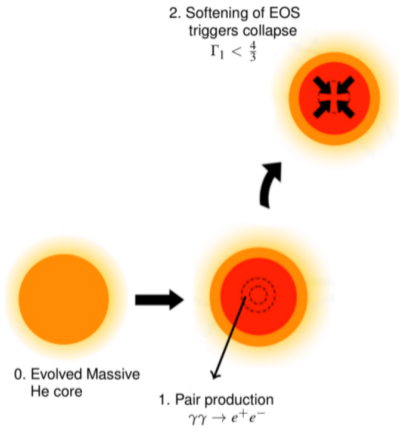
Glatzel *et al.* 1985, **Woosley** *et al.* 2002, 2007, Langer *et al.* 2007, Chatzopoulos *et al.* 2012, 2013, Yoshida *et al.* 2016,

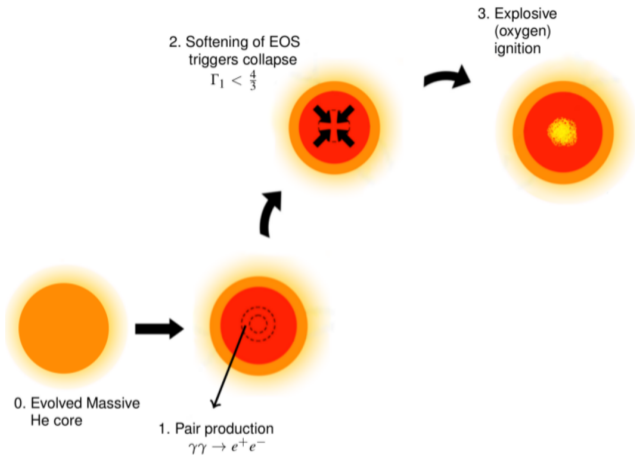
Woosley 2017, 2019, Marchant, MR *et al.* 2019, Farmer, MR *et al.* 2019, 2020, Leung *et al.* 2019, 2020,



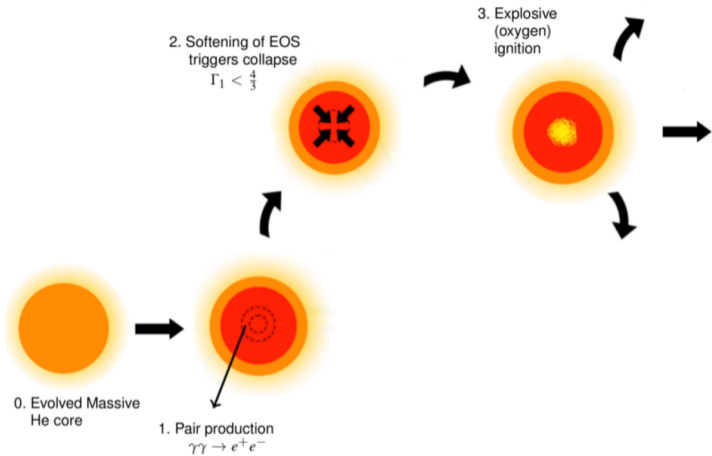
**Temperature**  
 $\log_{10}(T/[K])$

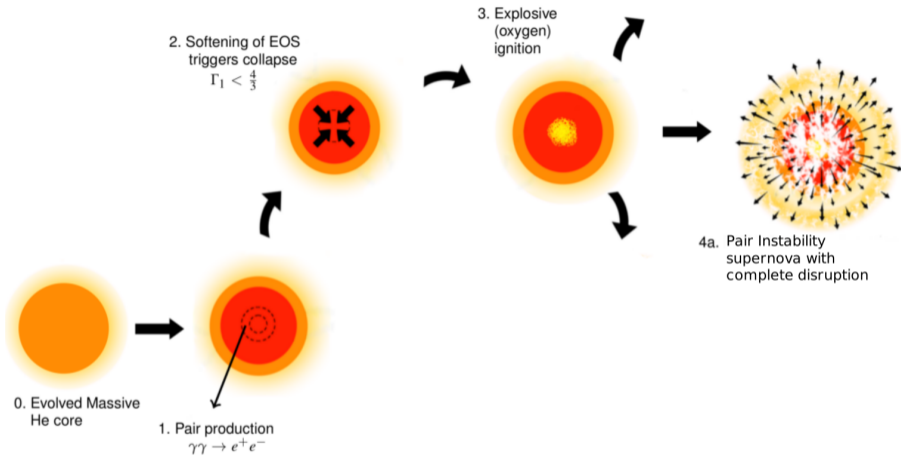


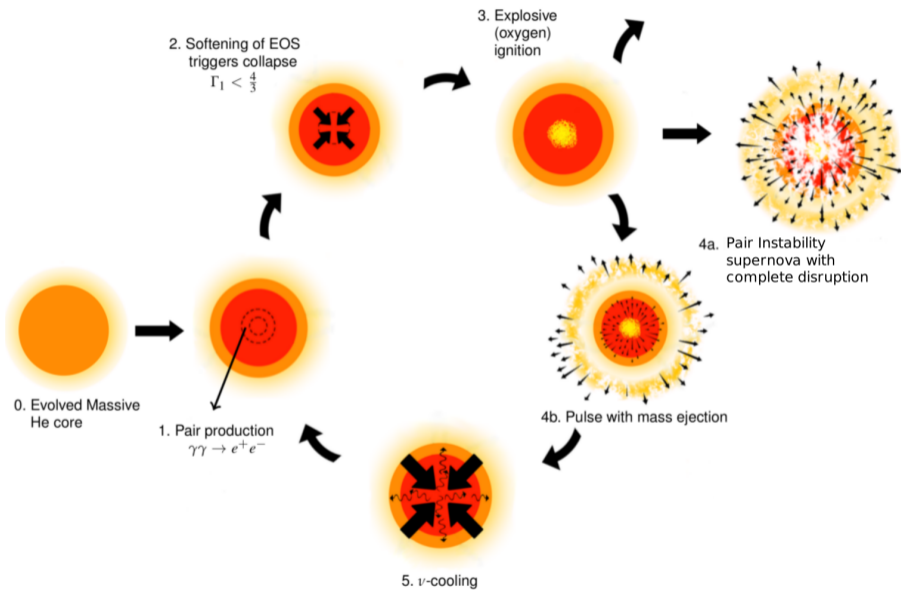


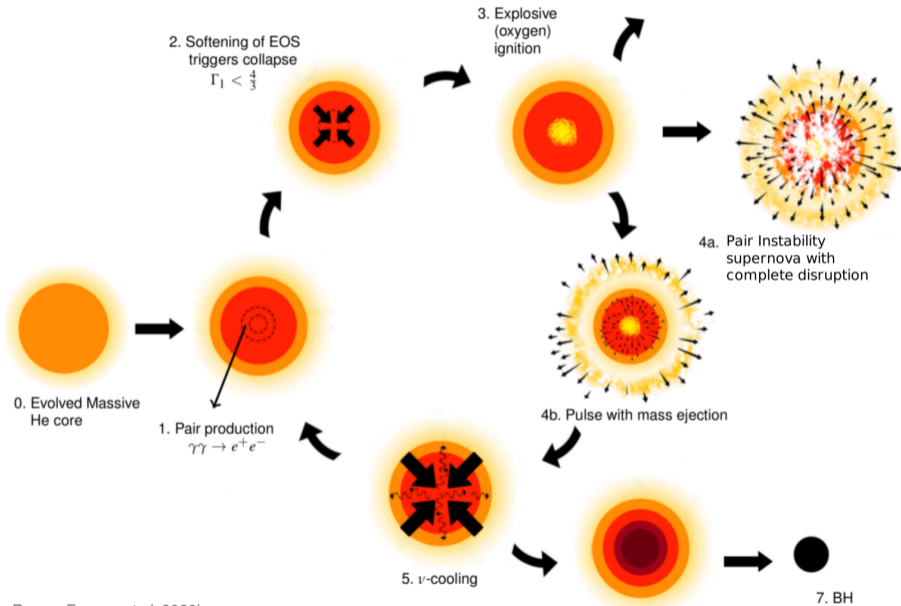


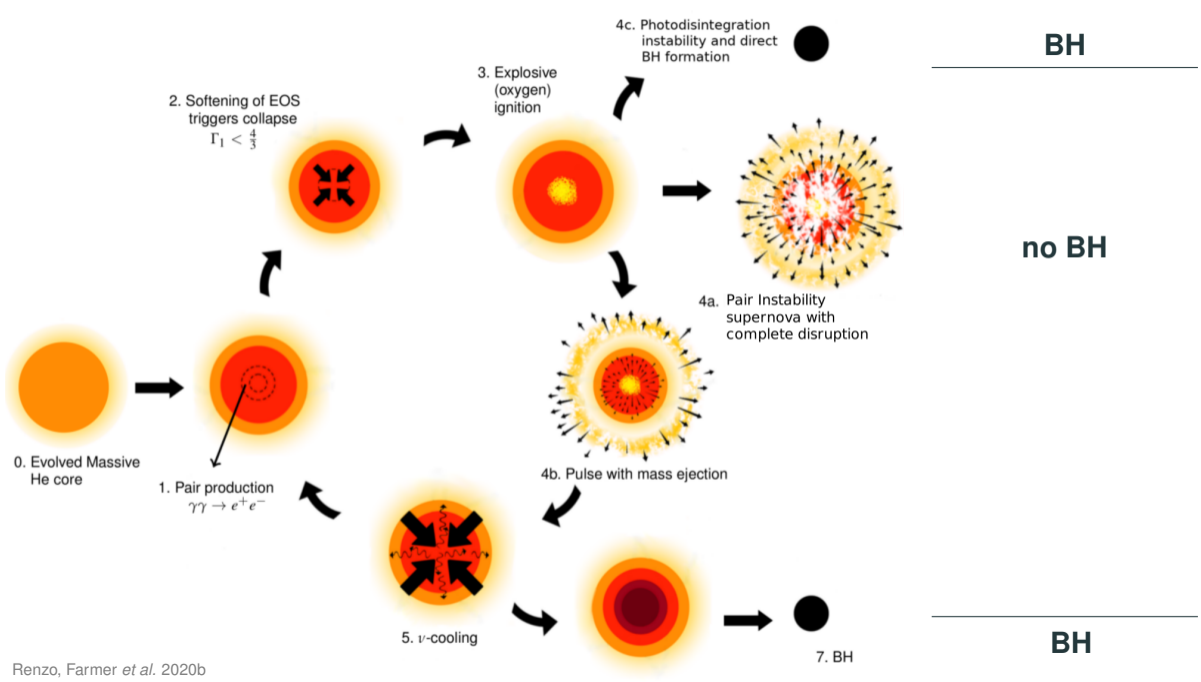




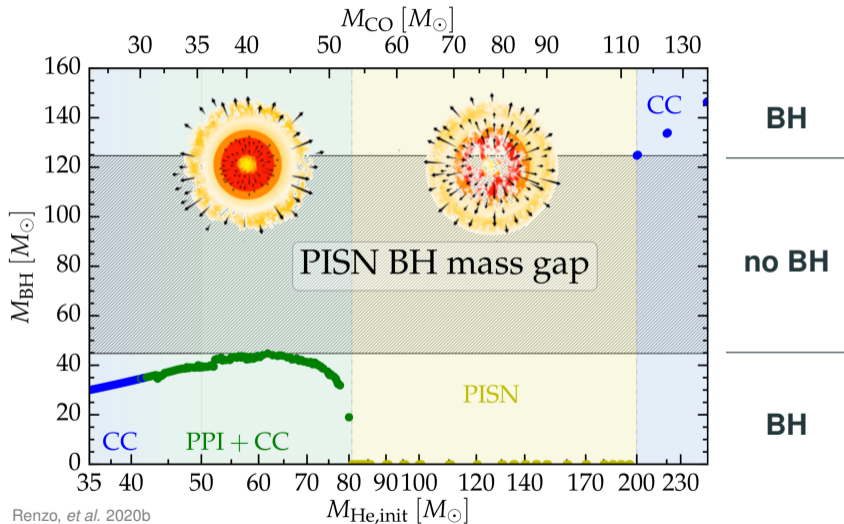








# Resulting stellar BH masses



Renzo, *et al.* 2020b

see also:

Rakavy & Shaviv 1967, Fraley 1968, Woosley *et al.* 2002, 2007, Woosley 2017, 2019, Marchant, MR *et al.* 2019, Leung *et al.* 2019, Farmer, MR *et al.* 2019, 2020, MR 2020a, Stevenson *et al.* 2019, Spera & Mapelli 2019, van Son *et al.* (incl. MR) 2020, Costa *et al.* 2021, Woosley & Heger 2021, Mehta *et al.* 2022

## (Pulsational) pair instability

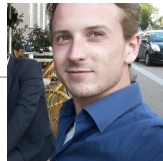
---

Maximum  $M_{\text{BH}}$  from single He cores

**Implementation in pop. synth.**

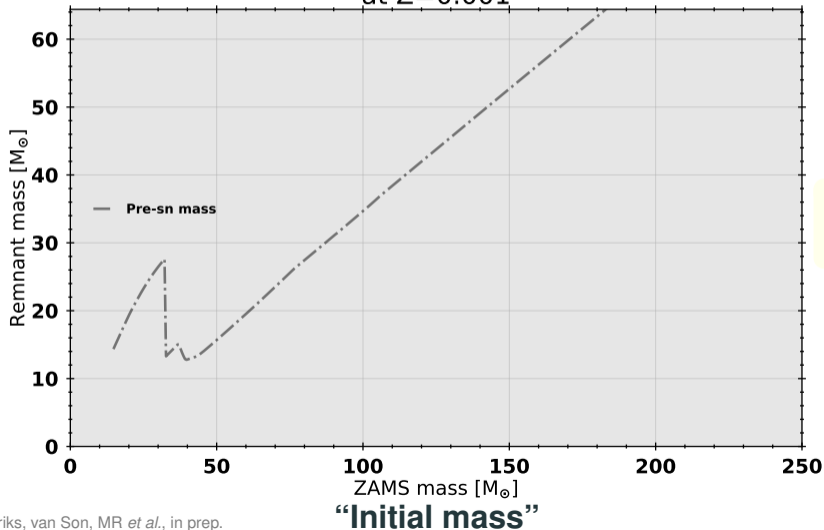
How robust are these predictions?

$M_{\text{initial}} \rightarrow \text{CO core mass}^{\dagger} \rightarrow \text{BH mass}$   
and composition! (Patton & Sukhbold 2020)



David D. Hendriks  
Univ. Surrey

## Black hole remnant mass distribution for single star evolution at $Z=0.001$



Fryer *et al.* 2012

see also Fryer *et al.* 22, Olejak *et al.* 22

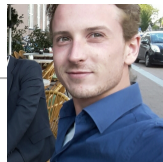
see also:

Belczynski *et al.* 2016, Spera & Mapelli  
2017, Stevenson *et al.* 2019, van Son  
*et al.* (incl. MR) 2021, Olejak *et al.* 2022,

...

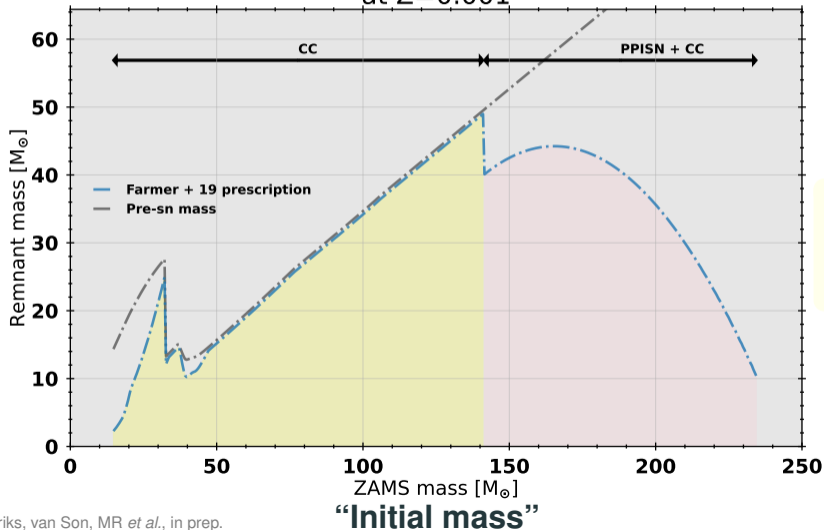


$M_{\text{initial}} \rightarrow \text{CO core mass}^{\dagger} \rightarrow \text{BH mass}$   
 and composition! (Patton & Sukhbold 2020)



David D. Hendriks  
 Univ. Surrey

### Black hole remnant mass distribution for single star evolution at $Z=0.001$



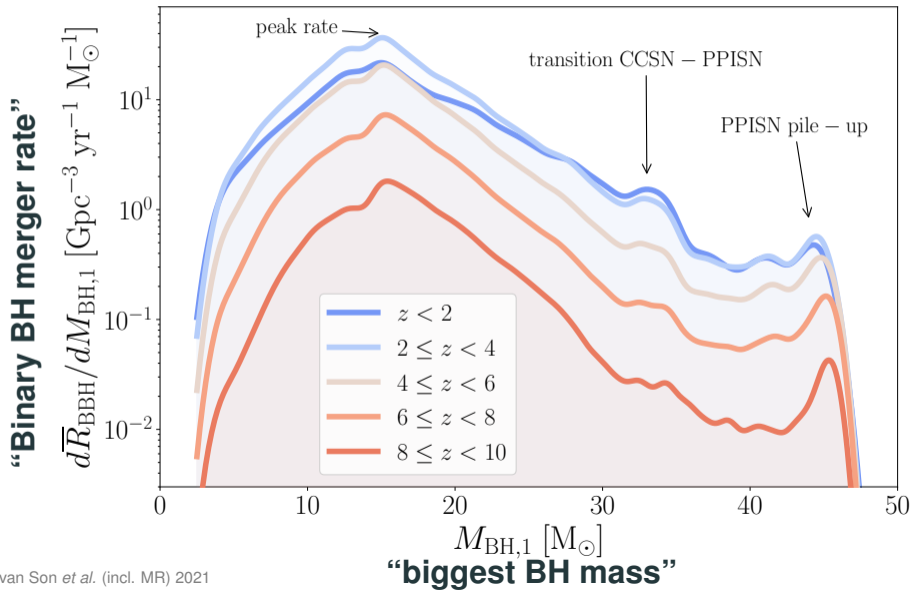
Fryer *et al.* 2012  
 +  
 Farmer, MR *et al.* 2019

see also:  
 Belczynski *et al.* 2016, Spera & Mapelli 2017, Stevenson *et al.* 2019, van Son *et al.* (incl. MR) 2021, Olejak *et al.* 2022,  
 ...

# Using “recipes” out-of-the-box leads to artificial features



Lieke van Son  
Harvard



# Pair-instability mass loss for top-down compact object mass calculations

M. RENZO,<sup>1,2</sup> D. D. HENDRIKS,<sup>3</sup> L. A. C. VAN SON,<sup>4,5,6</sup> AND R. FARMER<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Center for Computational Astrophysics, Flatiron Institute, New York, NY 10010, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, USA*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 7XH, Surrey, UK*

<sup>4</sup>*Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, 60 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138, USA*

<sup>5</sup>*Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy, University of Amsterdam, Science Park 904, 1098XH Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

<sup>6</sup>*Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 1, 85741 Garching, Germany*

$$M_{\text{BH}} = M_{\text{proto-NS}} + M_{\text{fallback}}$$

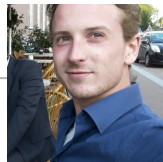
(Fryer *et al.* 2012, 2022)



$$M_{\text{BH}} = M_{\text{pre-explosion}} - (\Delta M_{\text{SN}} + \Delta M_{\nu, \text{core}} + \Delta M_{\text{env}} + \Delta M_{\text{PPI}} + \dots)$$

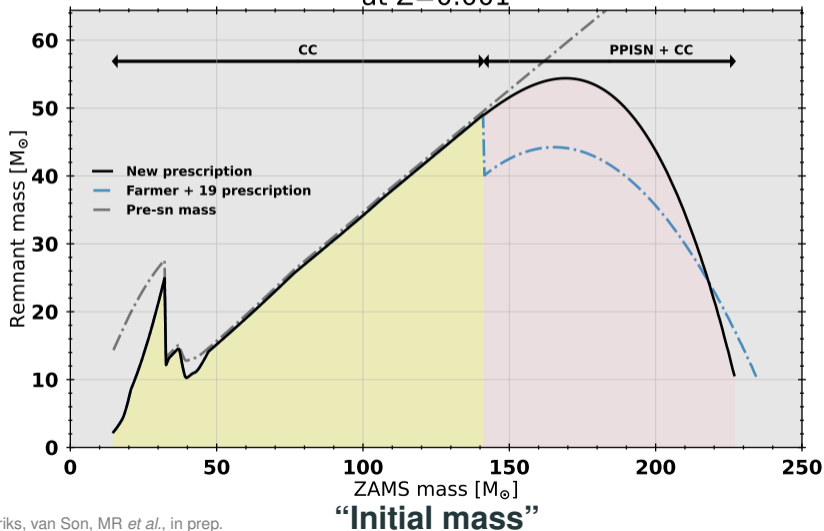
New fit to Farmer, MR *et al.* 2019

$M_{\text{initial}} \rightarrow \text{CO core mass}^{\dagger} \rightarrow \text{BH mass}$   
 and composition! (Patton & Sukhbold 2020)

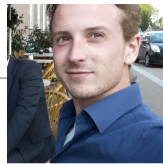


David D. Hendriks  
 Univ. Surrey

### Black hole remnant mass distribution for single star evolution at $Z=0.001$

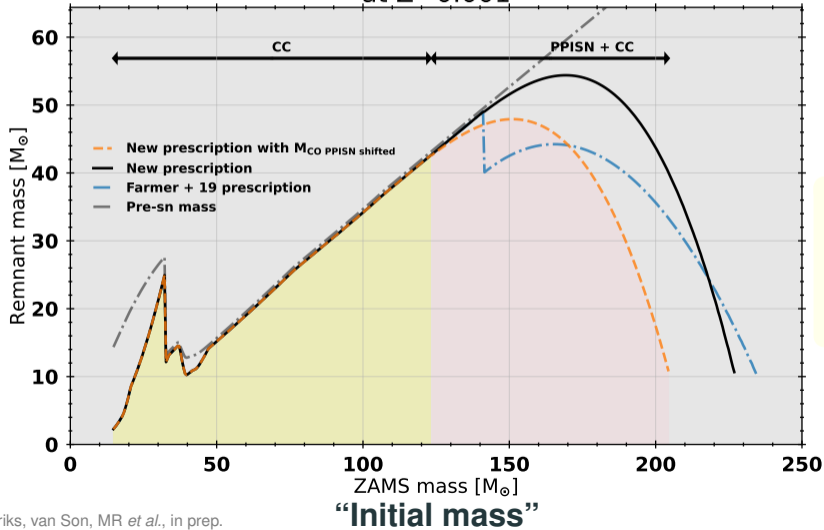


$M_{\text{initial}} \rightarrow \text{CO core mass}^{\dagger} \rightarrow \text{BH mass}$   
 and composition! (Patton & Sukhbold 2020)



David D. Hendriks  
 Univ. Surrey

Black hole remnant mass distribution for single star evolution  
 at  $Z=0.001$



Fryer *et al.* 2012  
 +  
 Farmer, MR *et al.* 2019  
 Renzo *et al.* 2022

## (Pulsational) pair instability

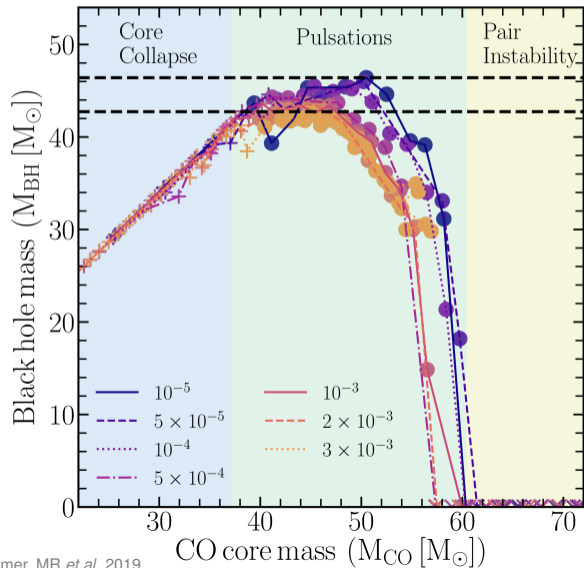
---

Maximum  $M_{\text{BH}}$  from single He cores  
Implementation in pop. synth.

**How robust are these predictions?**

# Metallicity? Small effect

Focus on lower edge of the gap



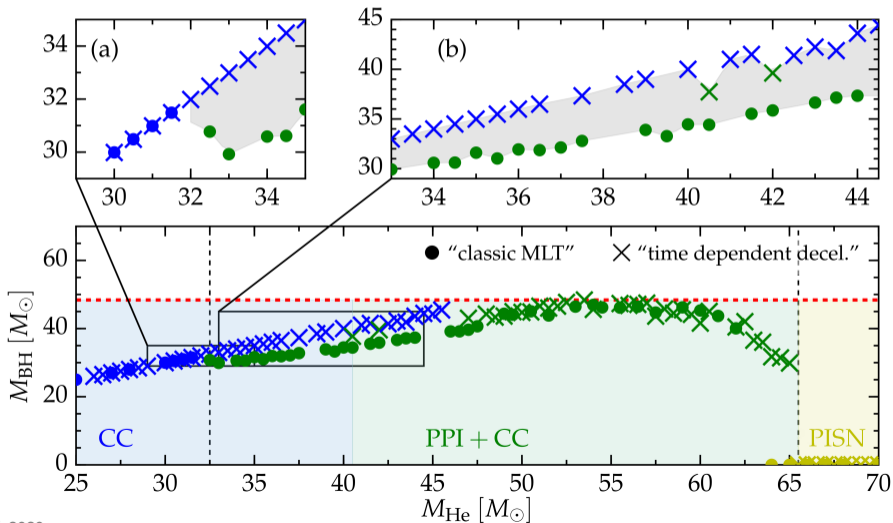
## Metallicity shift

$\Delta \max\{M_{\text{BH}}\} \sim 7\%$   
over 2.5 orders of magnitude

Comparable or smaller effects:  
mixing, resolution, winds, nuclear  
reaction network size, rotation, code  
used, etc..

# Treatment of **time-dependent** convection? Not the edge

Matters for least massive PPI, not for the most massive BH progenitors

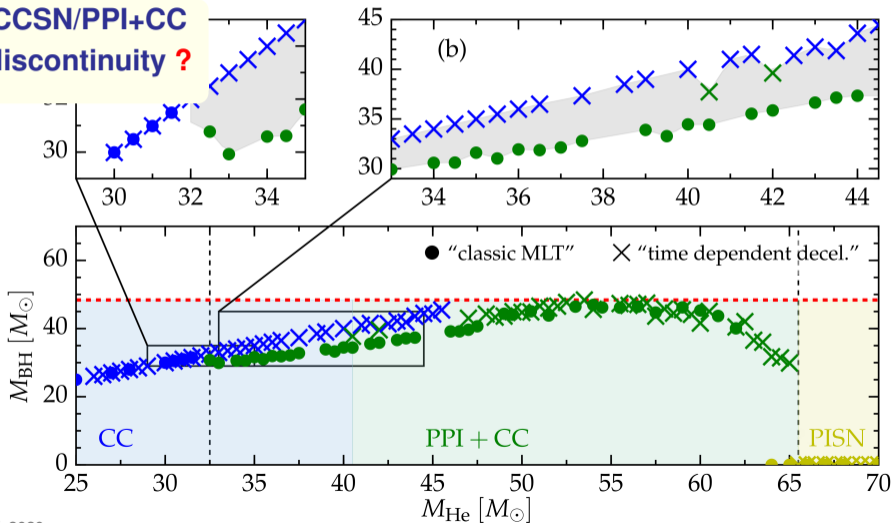




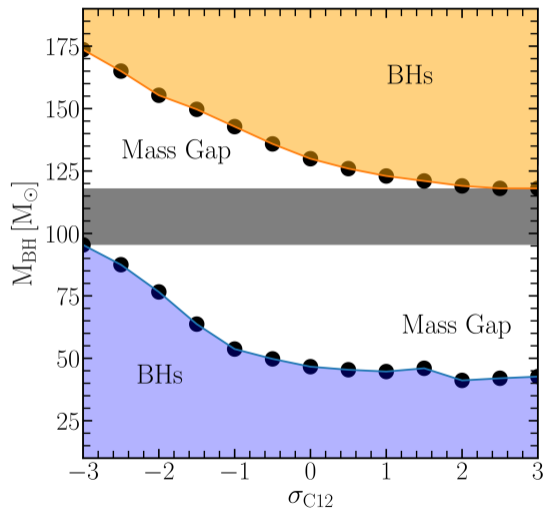
# Treatment of **time-dependent** convection? Not the edge

Matters for least massive PPI, not for the most massive BH progenitors

**CCSN/PPI+CC  
discontinuity ?**

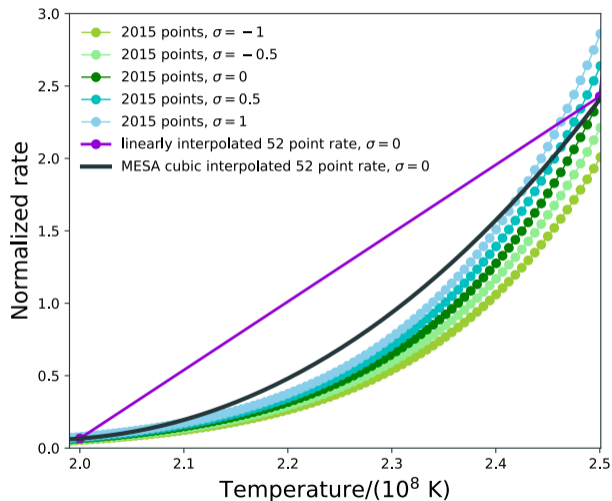
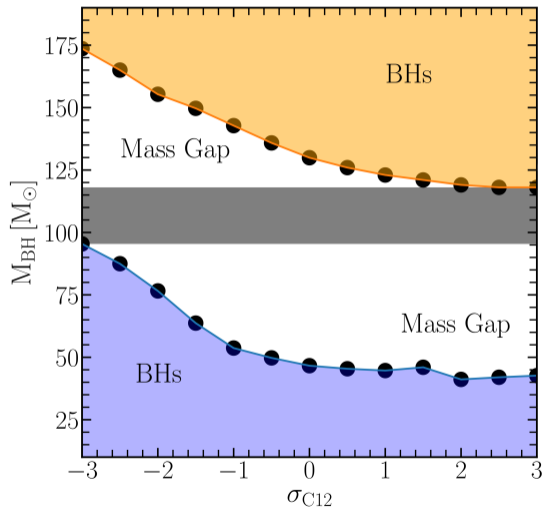


# The only input physics that matters: $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ reaction rate



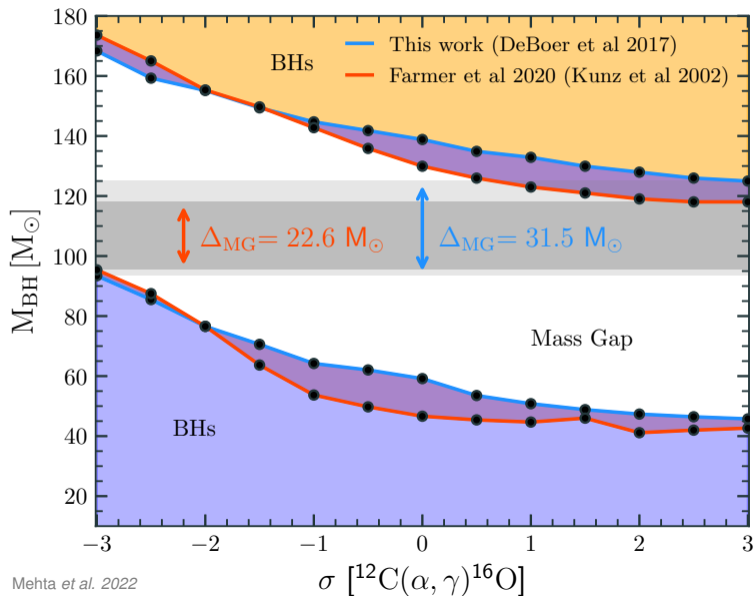
⇐ lower      Rate      higher ⇒

# $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ reaction rate was undersampled in tables

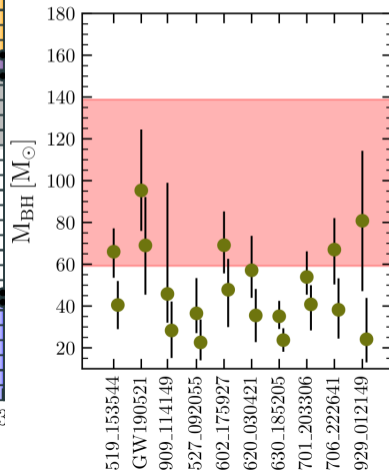
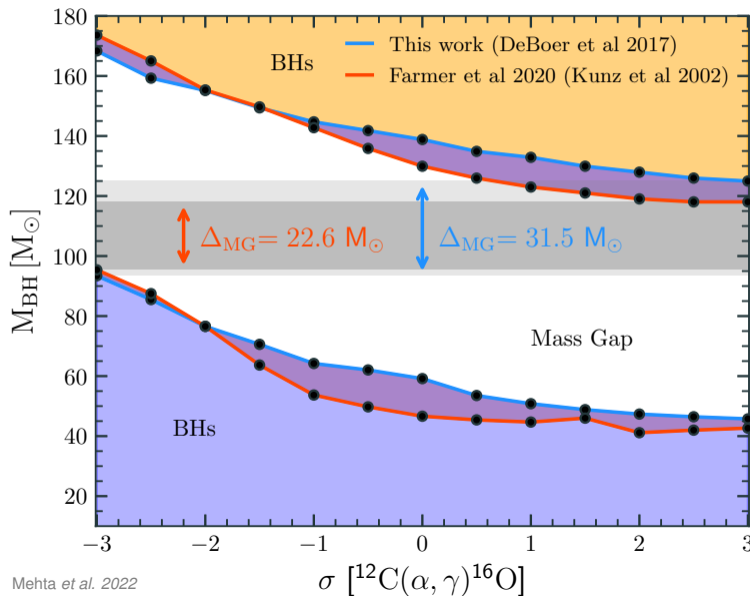


⇐ lower **Rate** higher ⇒

# BH mass gap with updated nuclear reactions



# BH mass gap with updated nuclear reactions



# Filling the PISN BH mass “gap”

---

**More ideas than events**

Filling the gap “from above”

Siegel *et al.* (incl. MR) 2021

# Filling the PISN BH mass gap

pre-BH formation

post-BH formation

## Move the gap

- decrease by  $\sim 2.5\sigma$  the  $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$

Farmer *et al.* 20, Belczynski 20, Costa *et al.* 21

- Beyond standard model physics

Choplin *et al.* 17, Croonet *et al.* 20a,b, Sakstein *et al.* 20,22

Straight *et al.* 20, Ziegler *et al.* 20

## Avoid pair-instability

- “wet” stellar merger scenario

Spera & Mapelli 2019, di Carlo *et al.* 19, 20a, 20b, Renzo *et al.* 20c,

Kremer *et al.* 20, Costa *et al.* 22, Ballone *et al.* 22

- population III

Farrell *et al.* 20, Kinugawa *et al.* 20

- Quench winds

Belczynski *et al.* 20, Vink *et al.* 20

## Accretion:

- in proto-cluster

Roupas & Kazanas 2019a,b

- PBHs before re-ionization

de Luca *et al.* 2020

- in isolated binary

van Son *et al.* 2020

- in halos

Safarzadeh & Haiman 20

## Multiple generations of BBH mergers

- in clusters

Fragione *et al.* 20, Liu & Lai 20

- in nuclear clusters

Perna *et al.* 19

- in AGN disks

McKernan *et al.* 12, Bartos *et al.* 17, Stone *et al.* 19

“Impostor” GW events: High eccentricity merger? Lensing?

# Filling the PISN BH mass “gap”

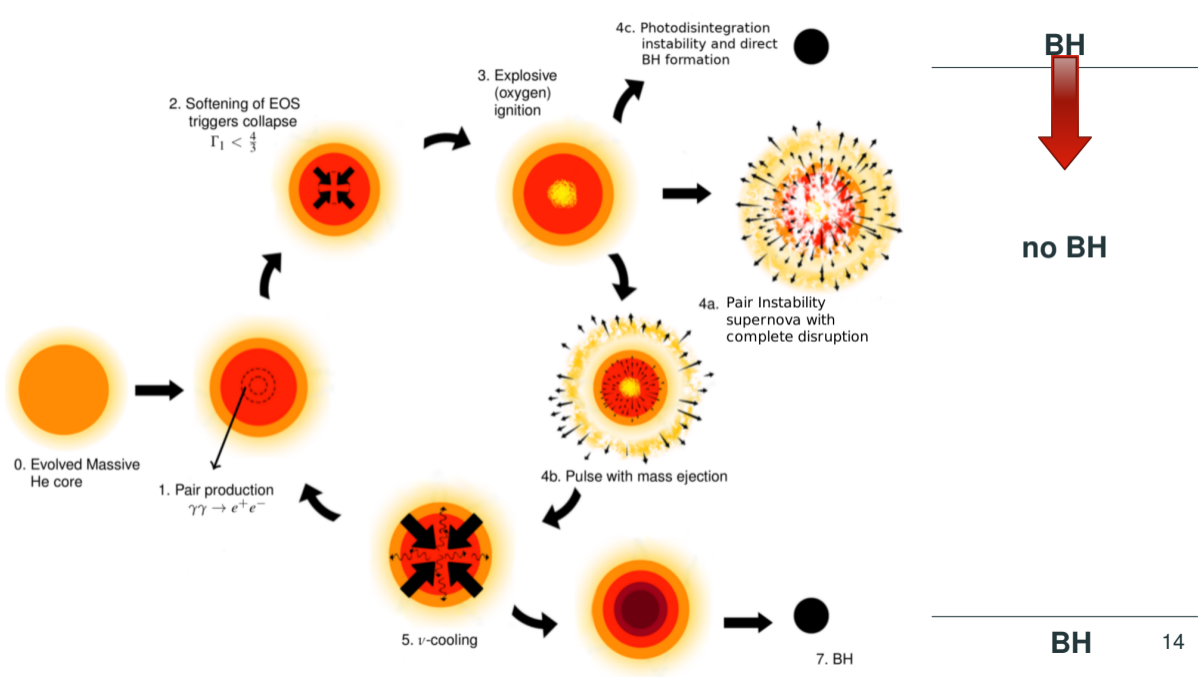
---

More ideas than events

**Filling the gap “from above”**

Siegel *et al.* (incl. MR) 2021

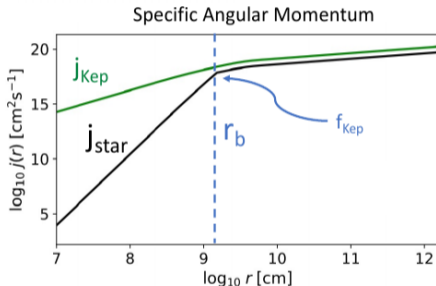




# Extrapolation of long-GRB models to progenitors above the gap

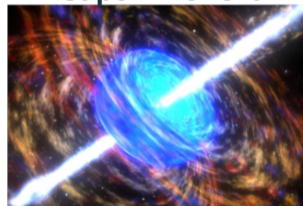


+



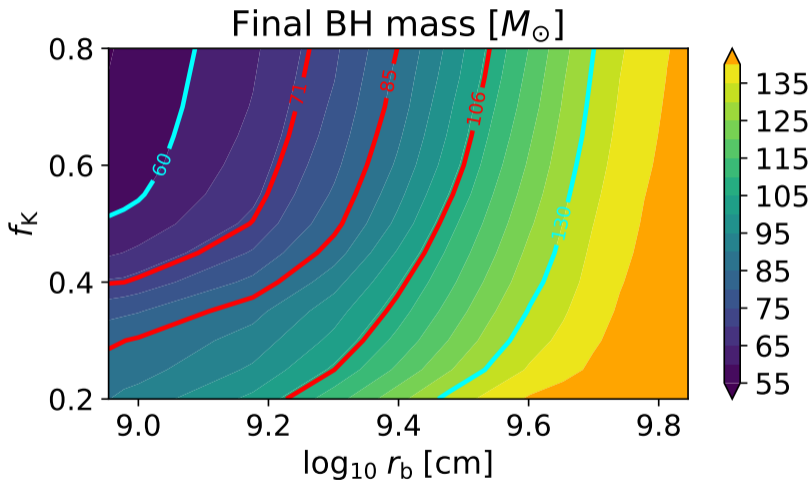
=

“super-kilonova”



Disk so massive it  
self-neutronize  
and does r-process

## Result: BH in the gap, r-process nucleosynthesis, and observable transient



$$M_{56\text{Ni}} \sim 10 - 60 M_{\odot}$$

$$M_{\text{r-process}} \sim 1 - 20 M_{\odot}$$

Rubin & Roman rate:

$$\sim 10^{-2}\text{-few/year}$$

## Conclusions

---



# Filling the PISN BH mass gap

pre-BH formation

post-BH formation

## Move the gap

- decrease by  $\sim 2.5\sigma$  the  $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$

Farmer *et al.* 20, Belczynski 20, Costa *et al.* 21

- Beyond standard model physics

Choplin *et al.* 17, Croonet *et al.* 20a,b, Sakstein *et al.* 20,22

Straight *et al.* 20, Ziegler *et al.* 20

## Avoid pair-instability

- “wet” stellar merger scenario

Spera & Mapelli 2019, di Carlo *et al.* 19, 20a, 20b, Renzo *et al.* 20c,

Kremer *et al.* 20, Costa *et al.* 22, Ballone *et al.* 22

- population III

Farrell *et al.* 20, Kinugawa *et al.* 20

- Quench winds

Belczynski *et al.* 20, Vink *et al.* 20

## Accretion:

- in proto-cluster

Roupas & Kazanas 2019a,b

- PBHs before re-ionization

de Luca *et al.* 2020

- in isolated binary

van Son *et al.* 2020

- in halos

Safarzadeh & Haiman 20

## Multiple generations of BBH mergers

- in clusters

Fragione *et al.* 20, Liu & Lai 20

- in nuclear clusters

Perna *et al.* 19

- in AGN disks

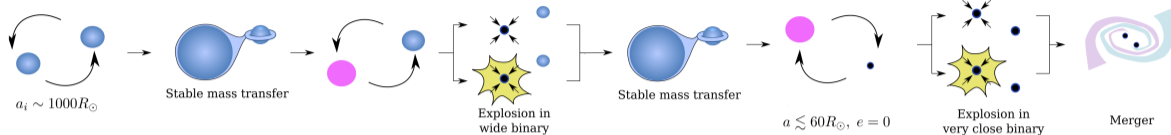
McKernan *et al.* 12, Bartos *et al.* 17, Stone *et al.* 19

**“Impostor” GW events:** High eccentricity merger? Lensing?

**Backup slides**

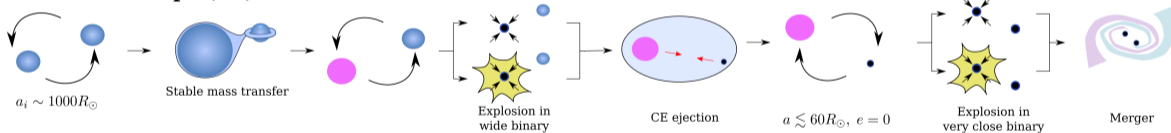
# Isolated binary evolution removes the H-envelope anyways

## Stable mass transfer (RLOF)

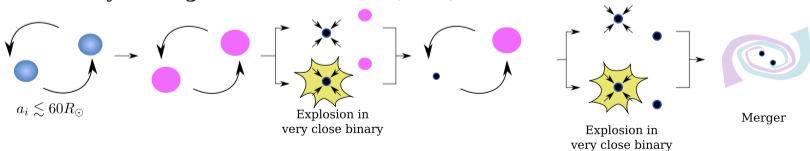


e.g., Klencki *et al.* 2021, van Son *et al.* (incl. MR) 2021, Marchant *et al.* 2021, Gallegos-Garcia *et al.* 2022

## Common envelope (CE)



## Chemically homogeneous evolution (CHE)



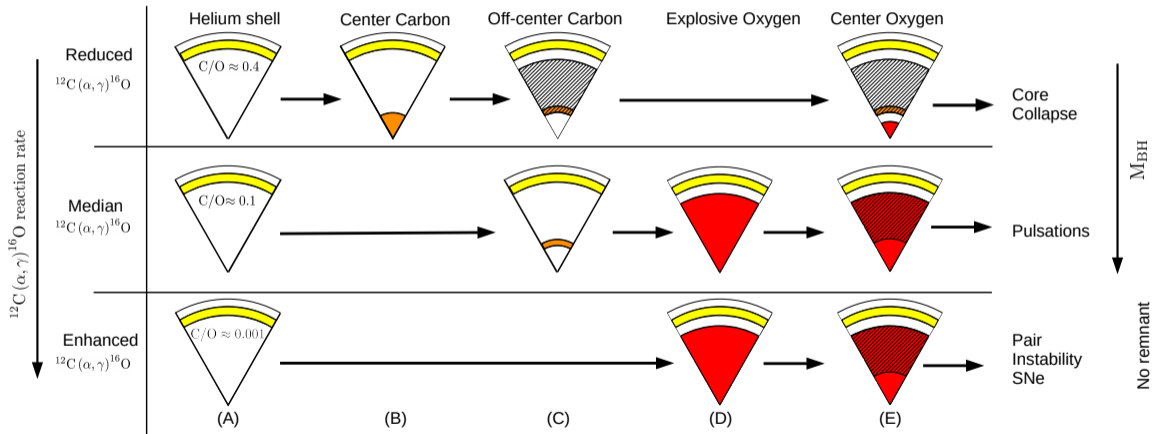
Marchant, MR *et al.* 2019



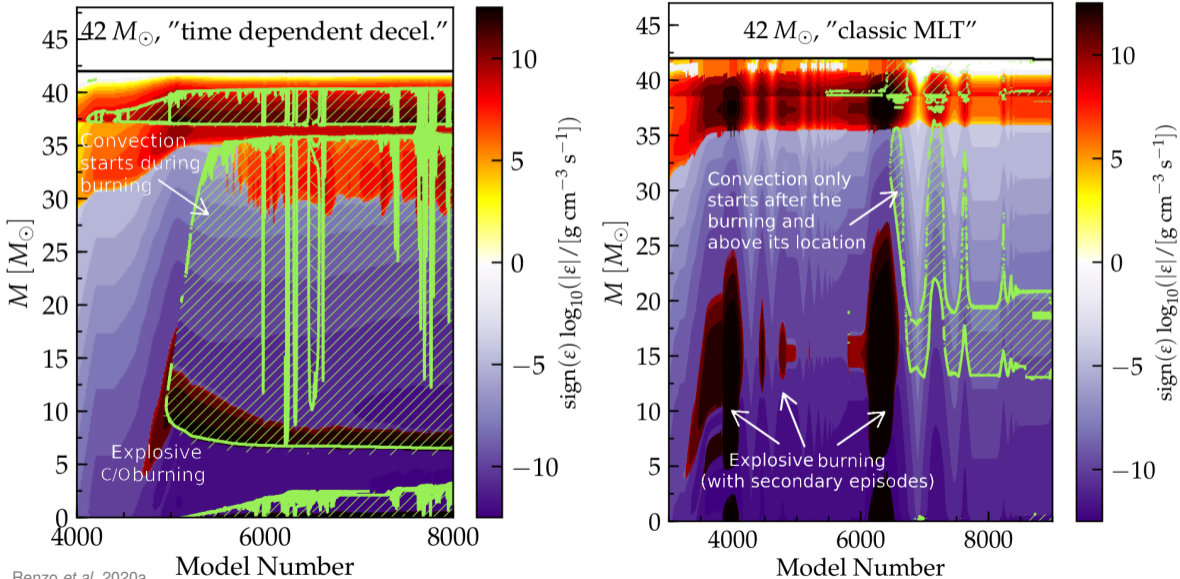


# The $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ ends He core burning

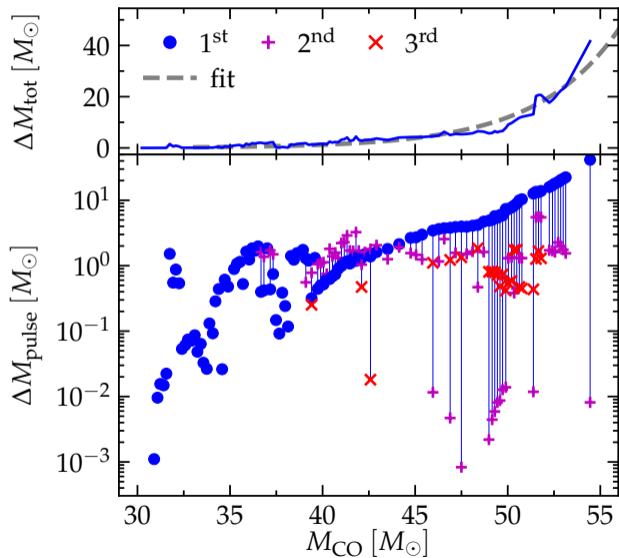
More  $^{12}\text{C} \Rightarrow$  C shell burning delays  $^{16}\text{O}$  ignition to higher  $\rho$



## Convection during the pulses quenches the PPI mass loss



## Amount of mass lost per pulse



Larger cores



More energetic pulses



More mass loss

(and longer delays)

# Summary of EM transients

## Approximate supernova type

(mass-loss dependent, Sec. 7)

## Pulse delay to core-collapse

(Sec. 6)

## Thermonuclear ignition

(Sec. 5.1)



## Radial expansion

$\max R(v < v_{\text{esc}})$  (Sec. 5.2)



## Number of mass ejections

(Sec. 5.3)



## $M_{\text{CSM}}$ He-rich

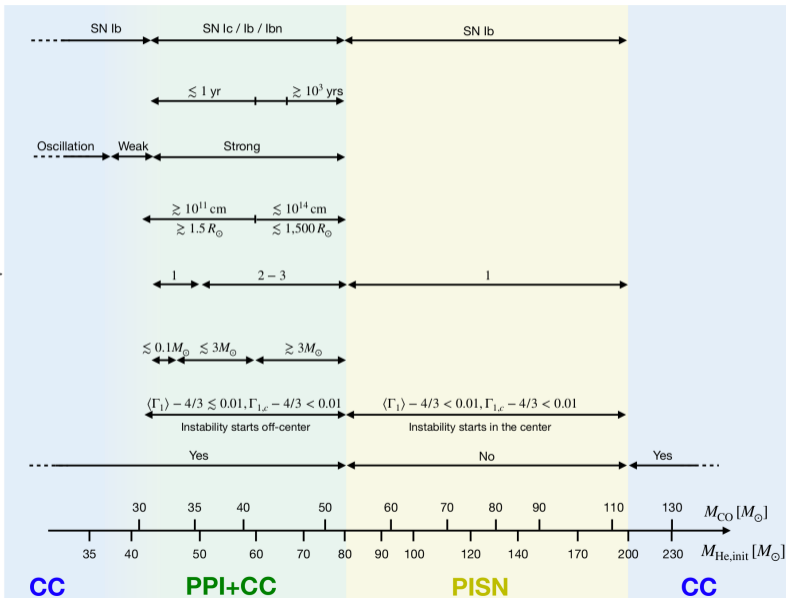
(Sec. 6)

## Thermal stability

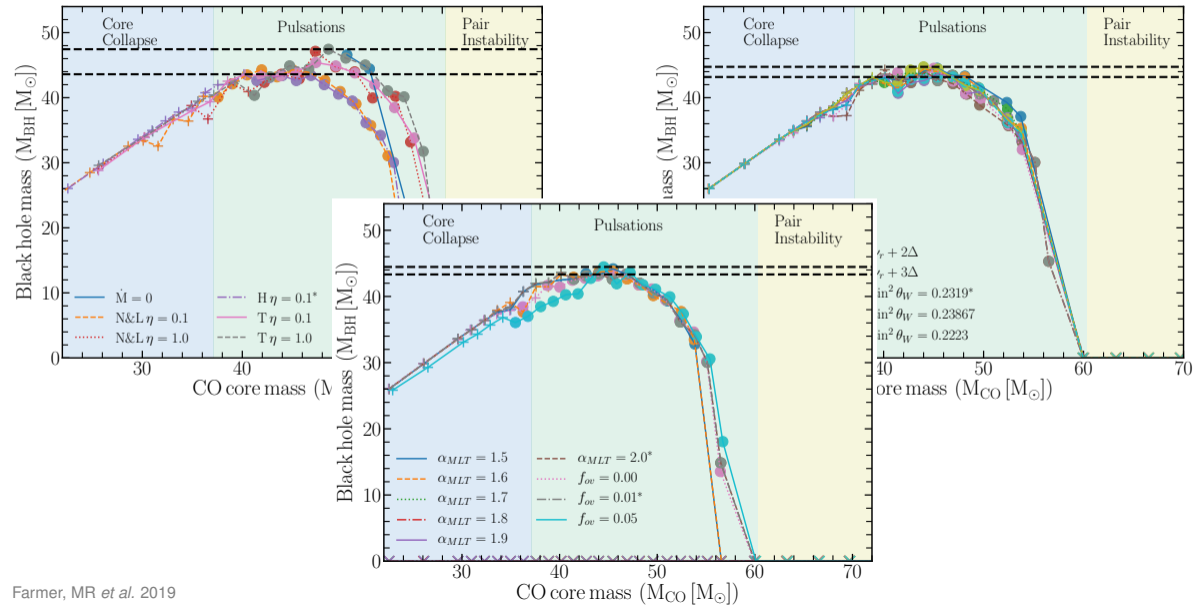
(Sec. 5.1.1)

## BH remnant

(Sec. 3)



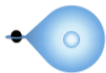
# Winds, mixing, $\nu$ physics? Also small effects



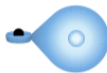
# Can **isolated** binary evolution “pollute” the gap?

van Son *et al.*, incl. MR, 2020

Fiducial  
Eddington limited



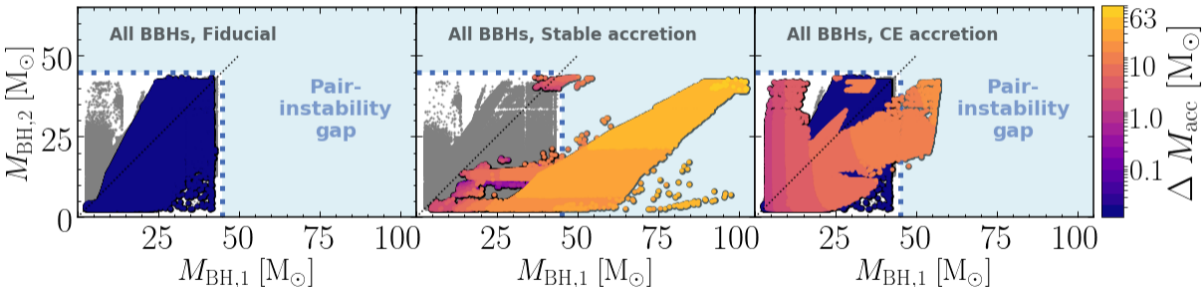
Stable BH accretion  
Super-Eddington



CE BH accretion  
Super-Eddington

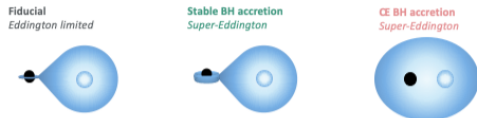


With unlimited accretion, some binary BHs can enter the gap...

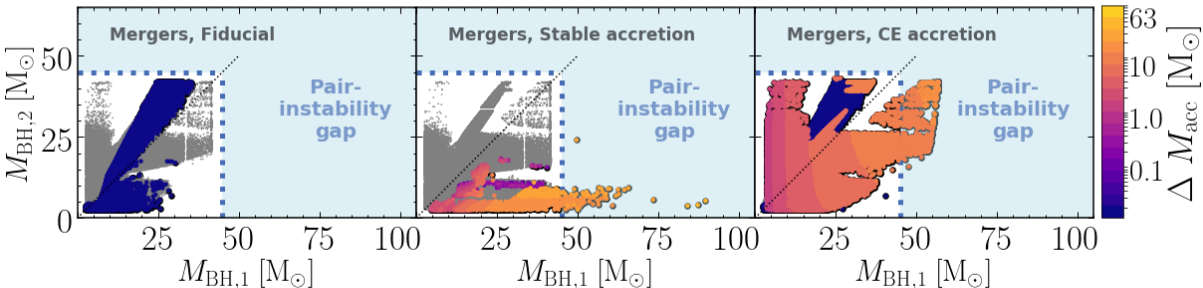


# Can **isolated** binary evolution “pollute” the gap?

van Son *et al.*, incl. MR, 2020



... but those entering the gap don't merge within 13.7 Gyr



**Mass accretion leads to orbital widening**

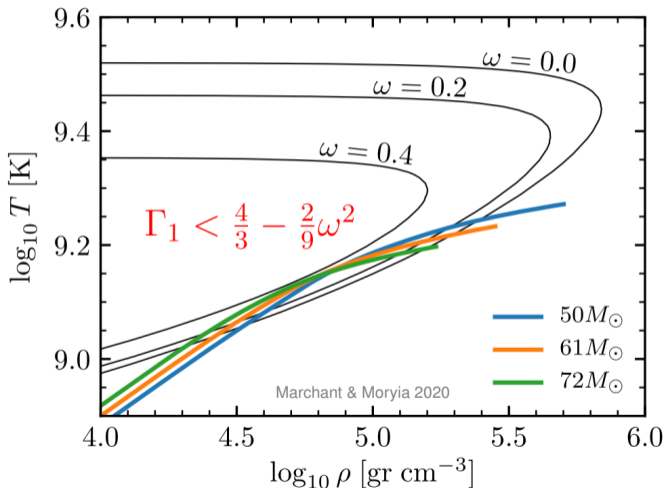
even with the most optimistic assumptions:

- $\lesssim 1\%$  systems with  $M_{\text{tot}} \gtrsim 90 M_{\odot}$
- No systems with  $M_{\text{tot}} > 100 M_{\odot}$

## Can rotation move the gap? Barely...

Rotation  $\Rightarrow$  bigger  $M_{\text{He}} \Rightarrow$  can increase the rates

Chatzopoulos *et al.* 2012, 2013



**Rotation stabilizes** only for *very* extreme assumption:

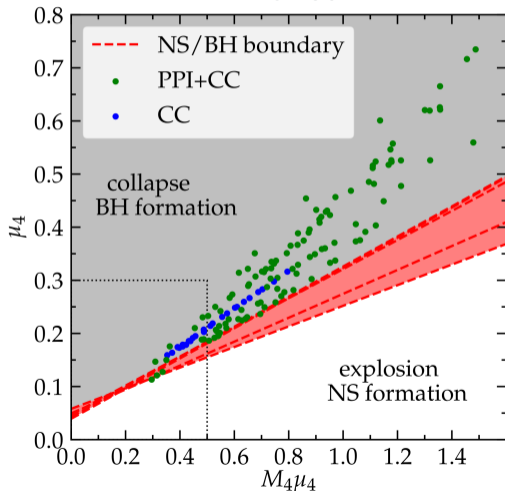
- No core-envelope coupling
- large initial rotation
- low  $Z$  ( $\simeq$  no winds)

only  $\sim 20\%$  shift of instability  
 $\lesssim 4\%$  for “realistic” coupling

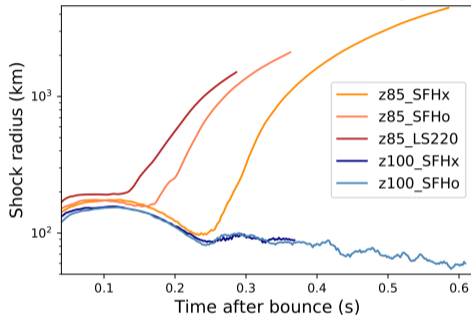


# Can the final core-collapse result in an explosion?

Parametric 1D explodability criteria are not really applicable.



3D simulations not conclusive yet

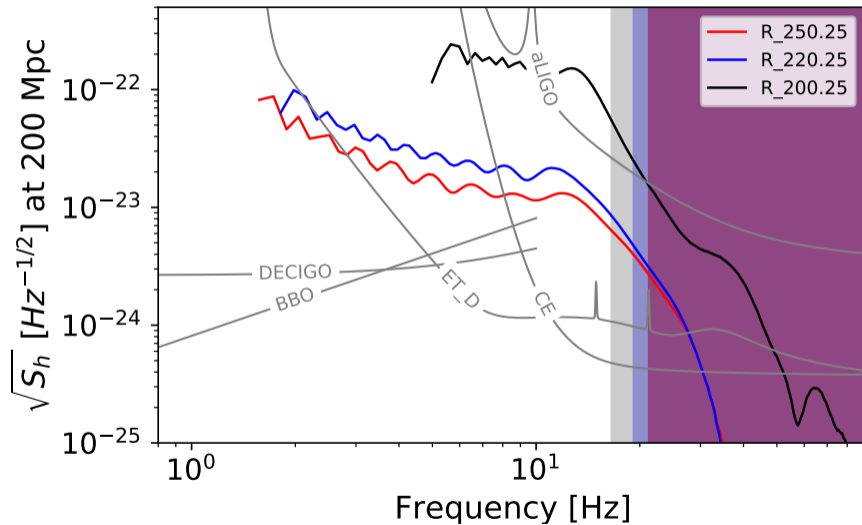


Powell, Müller, Heger 2021

$\max \Delta M_{CC} \lesssim 3.5 M_{\odot}$   
from  $\nu$ -driven engines

Rahman *et al.*, 2021

## Gravitational waves from super-kilonova



“sad trombone”  
 $\nu$  decreases  
as BH and its ISCO  
grow

# Disk self-neutronization allows for r-process nucleosynthesis

