

# Stable mass transfer

**Mathieu Renzo**

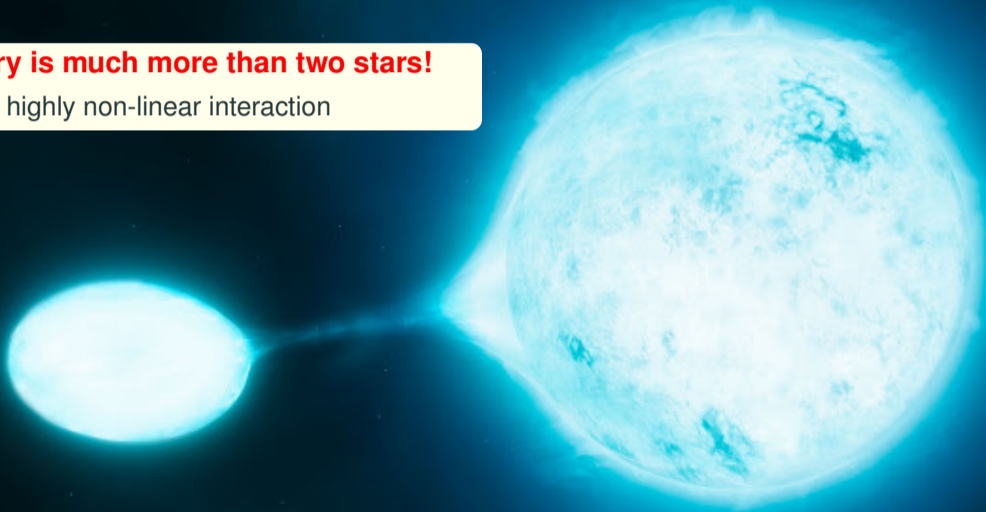


with Y. Göberg, R. Farmer, S. Justham, S. E. de Mink, E. Laplace, L. van Son,  
K. Breivik, E. Zapartas, M. Lau, M. Cantiello, B. D. Metzger, J. Goldberg, Y.-F. Jiang, D. Hendriks, R. Izzard, C. Xin

# Stable mass transfer

**A binary is much more than two stars!**

highly non-linear interaction

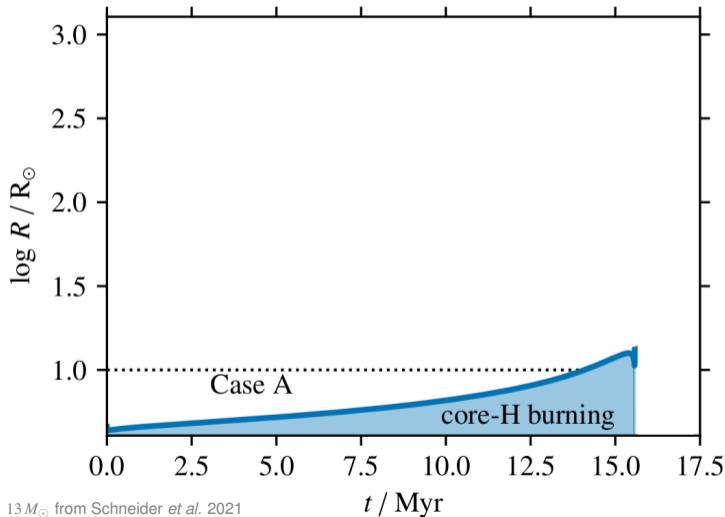


## **Mandatory nomenclature**

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## The evolutionary phase of the donor decides which RLOF “case”

Very roughly for massive stars:



$P \lesssim 10$  days

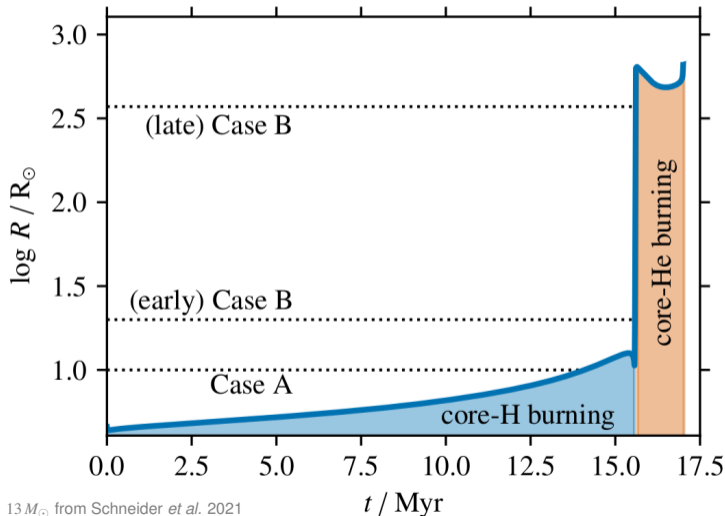
$13 M_{\odot}$  from Schneider *et al.* 2021

see also Kippenhahn & Weigert 1967, Lauterborn 1970, Paczynski 1971, 1976, Ulrich & Burger 1976



# The evolutionary phase of the donor decides which RLOF “case”

Very roughly for massive stars:



$P \lesssim 500$  days

$P \lesssim 100$  days

$P \lesssim 10$  days

$13 M_{\odot}$  from Schneider *et al.* 2021

see also Kippenhahn & Weigert 1967, Lauterborn 1970, Paczynski 1971, 1976, Ulrich & Burger 1976

## The evolutionary phase of the donor decides which RLOF “case”

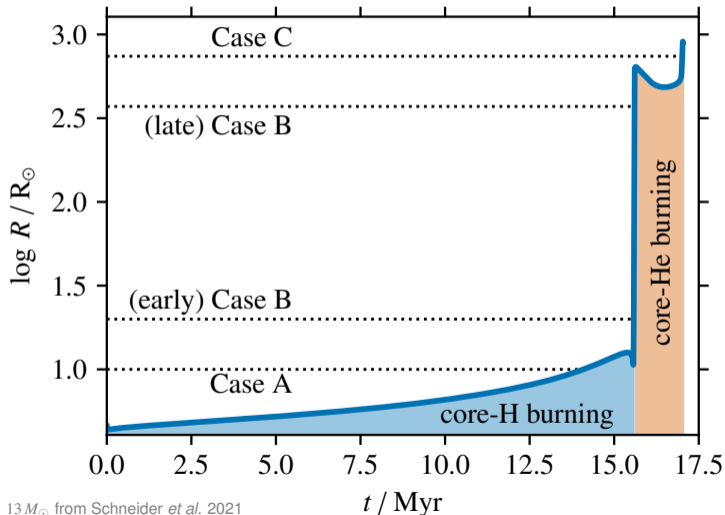
Very roughly for massive stars:

$$P \lesssim 500 - 1000 \text{ days}$$

$$P \gtrsim 500 \text{ days}$$

$$P \lesssim 100 \text{ days}$$

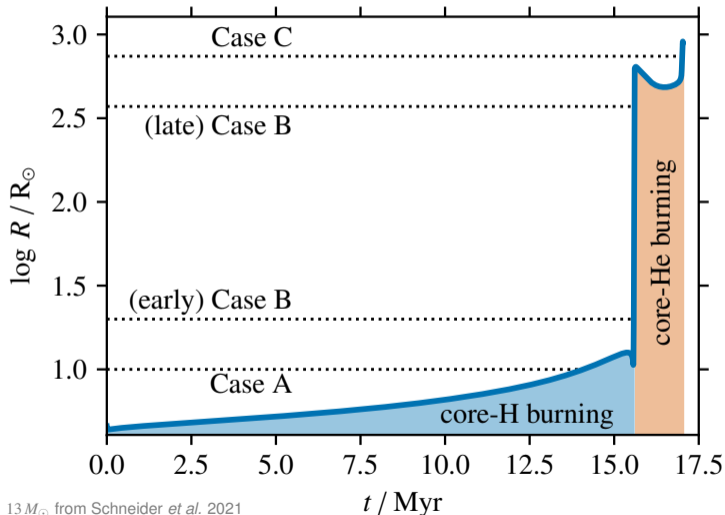
$$P \lesssim 10 \text{ days}$$



$13 M_{\odot}$  from Schneider *et al.* 2021

see also Kippenhahn & Weigert 1967, Lauterborn 1970, Paczynski 1971, 1976, Ulrich & Burger 1976

# The evolutionary phase of the donor decides which RLOF “case”



## The later, the faster

Timescales:

- **Case A:** thermal  $\rightarrow$  nuclear
- **Case B:** thermal
- **Case C:** thermal/dynamical

(but see Klencki *et al.* 2022)

$13 M_{\odot}$  from Schneider *et al.* 2021

see also Kippenhahn & Weigert 1967, Lauterborn 1970, Paczynski 1971, 1976, Ulrich & Burger 1976

## **The most common massive binary evolution path**

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## The Expected Fraction of Evolved Close Binaries among Main-Sequence Stars of Spectral Type Earlier than A5\*

E. P. J. VAN DEN HEUVEL†

*Lick Observatory, University of California, Santa Cruz, California*

(Received 17 April 1969; revised 13 August 1969)

CBR formed by evolution according to KW's case B (in which the primary reaches the Roche lobe during the expansion following core-hydrogen exhaustion), since more than 80% of the observed B-type spectroscopic binaries are in this case (cf. Table I) as well as many A-type systems (cf. Conti 1968).

# Stable post-donor-main-sequence RLOF (case B)

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Credits: ESO, L. Calçada, M. Kornmesser, S.E. de Mink

## **Known unknowns** (for all cases)

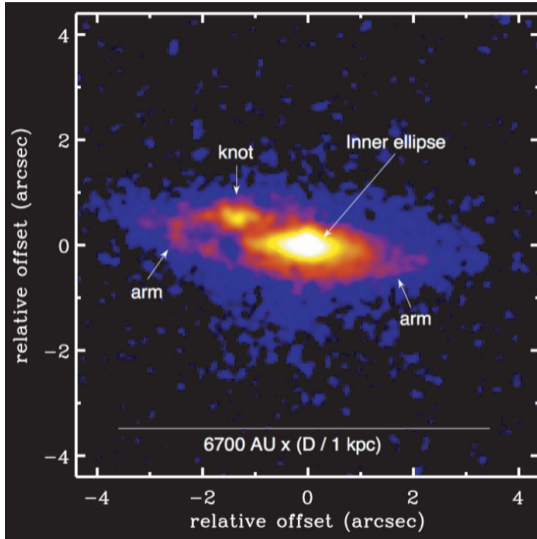
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Leaks from the system?

Disk or direct impact?

Dynamical stability  $\Rightarrow$  talks tomorrow

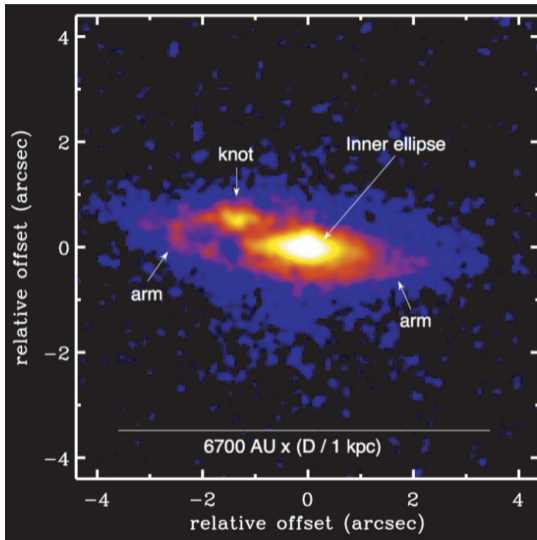
## Reality can be much messier...



Nebular structure around WR122/NaSt1  
Mauerhan *et al.* 2015

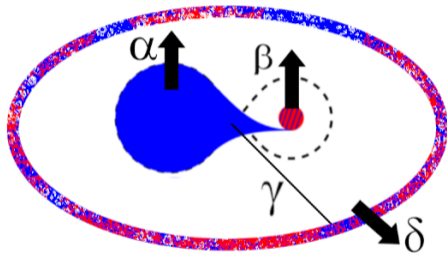


## Reality can be much messier...



Nebular structure around WR122/NaSt1  
Mauerhan *et al.* 2015

... so we parametrize unknowns



e.g., Sobermann *et al.* 1997

**Same algorithms in 1D & pop. synth.**

e.g., Renzo & Zapartas 2020

## **Known unknowns** (for all cases)

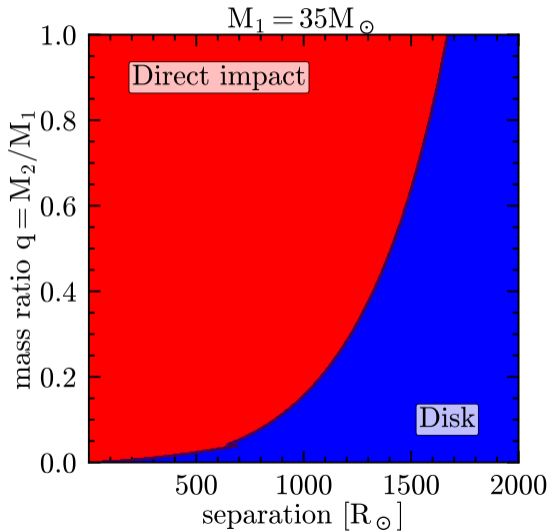
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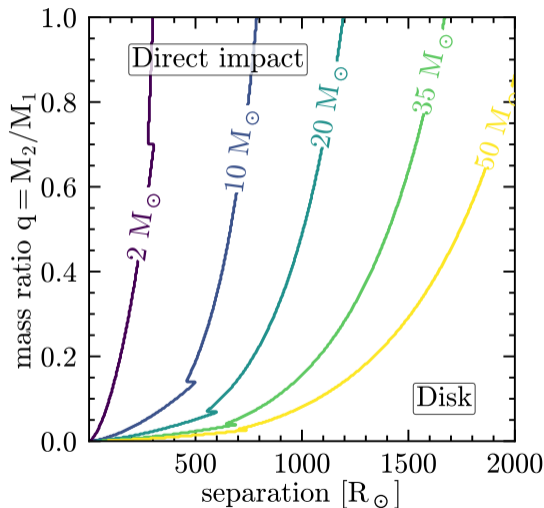
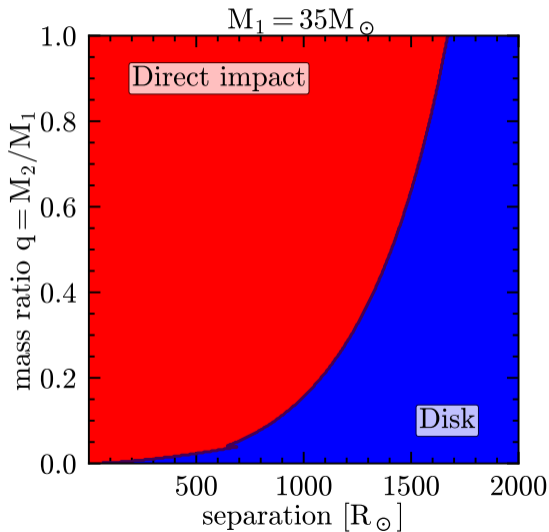
Dynamical stability  $\Rightarrow$  talks tomorrow

## Disk only if stream misses the accretor: $R_{\min} > R_2(t = t_{\text{RLOF}})$



- ✗ Neglect evolution of  $R_2 \equiv R_2(t)$
  - Possibly different impact of accretion
  - Favorable comparison with LMC eclipsing binaries
- Sen *et al.* 2022

## Massive binaries rarely make accretion disks during stable RLOF



## **Known unknowns** (for all cases)

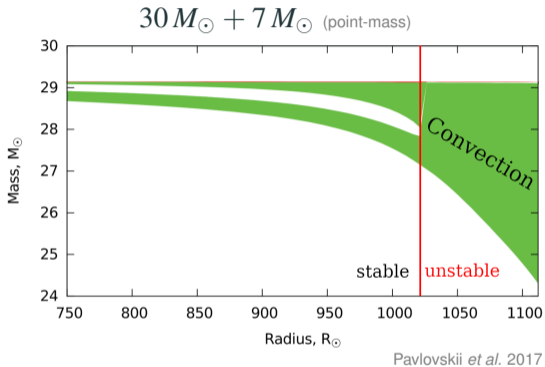
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Leaks from the system?

Disk or direct impact?

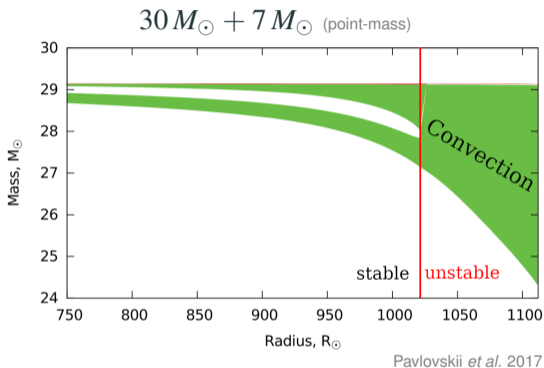
Dynamical stability ⇒ **talks tomorrow**

## Roche lobe overflow or common envelope? Donor star's opinion



**Convective donors expand  
as they lose mass**

# Roche lobe overflow or common envelope? Donor star's opinion

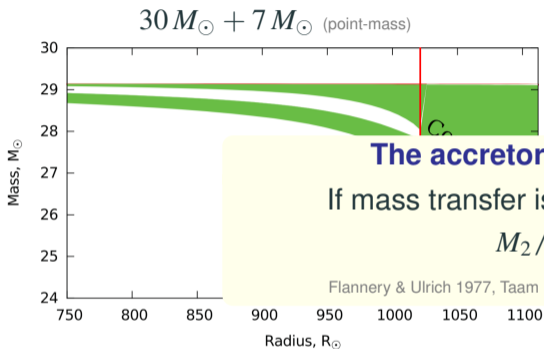


**3D envelopes  $\neq$  1D envelopes**

Turbulent  $\nu$  all the way to the “surface”

Chiavassa *et al.* 2011, Jiang *et al.* 2015, 2018, Goldberg *et al.* 2022,  
Schultz *et al.* 2023a,b, J.-Z. Ma *et al.*, in prep.

# Roche lobe overflow or common envelope? Donor star's opinion



**The accretor has an opinion too!**

If mass transfer is too fast, accretor swells

$$M_2 / \dot{M}_2 \ll \tau_{\text{KH},2}$$

Flannery & Ulrich 1977, Taam *et al.* 1978, Justham *et al.* 2011, Vigna-Gómez *et al.* 2020

Pavlovskii *et al.* 2017

**3D envelopes  $\neq$  1D envelopes**

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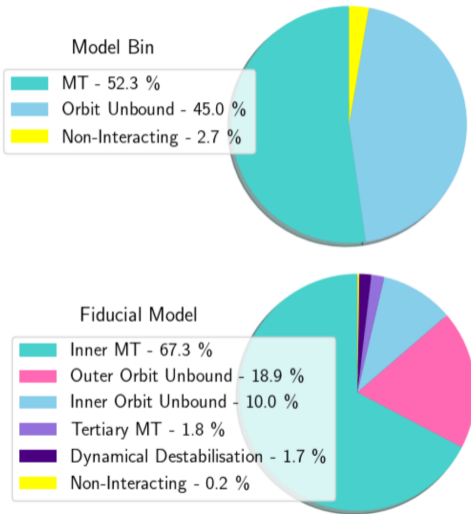


## Stable mass transfer

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- 3.** Triples enhance binary interactions
- 2.* *Both* stars and the orbit are modified
- 1.* Presently single stars

## (Initially stable, hierarchical) Triples lead to 15% more mass transfer overall

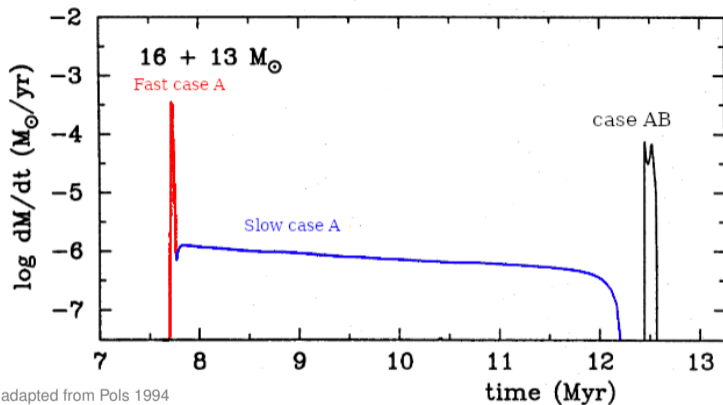


### More case A RLOF because

- Tighter inner orbits
- von Zeipel-Kozai-Lidov oscillations  $e_{in} \leftrightarrow i_{out}$

⇒ see F. Kummer's poster (P10)

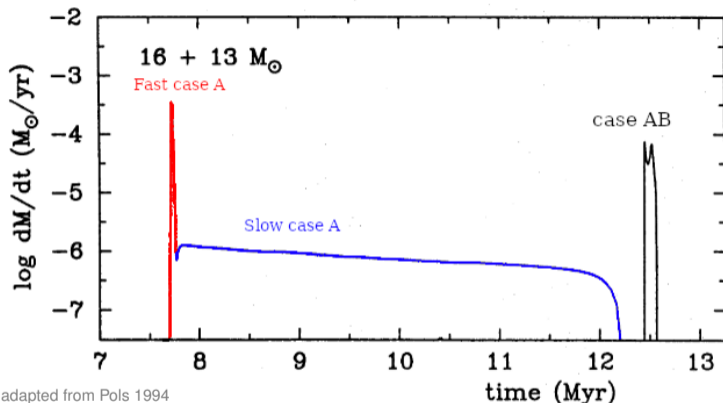
## Stable RLOF during donor's main sequence (case A)



adapted from Pols 1994

- **Fast case A**  $\Leftrightarrow$  orbital evolution,  $\sim \tau_{\text{thermal}}$
- **Slow case A**  $\Leftrightarrow$  donor expansion,  $\sim \tau_{\text{nuc}}$
- **case AB**  $\sim \tau_{\text{thermal}}$

# Stable RLOF during donor's main sequence (case A)



adapted from Pols 1994

- **Fast case A**  $\Leftrightarrow$  orbital evolution,  $\sim \tau_{\text{thermal}}$
- **Slow case A**  $\Leftrightarrow$  donor expansion,  $\sim \tau_{\text{nuc}}$
- **case AB**  $\sim \tau_{\text{thermal}}$

## 1. Short period



Tides are important

⇒ see N. Britavskiy and L. Ma's talks

Zahn 1977, Hut 1981, Hurley *et al.* 2002, Qin *et al.* 2018

## 2. Mass loss before He core



~ 4% reverse SN order  
He WD, NS instead of BH

Pols 1994, Belczynski & Taam 2008, Renzo *et al.* 2019,

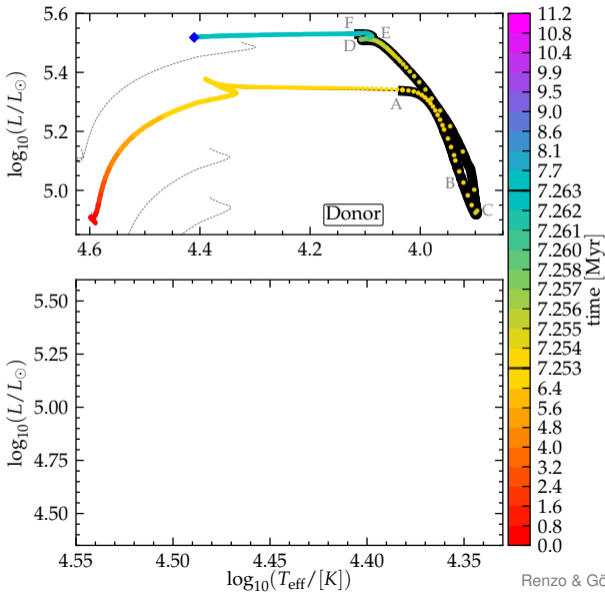
van der Meij *et al.* 2021

## Stable mass transfer

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3. Triples enhance binary interactions
2. *Both* stars and the orbit are modified
1. Presently single stars

# Hertzprung-Russell diagrams of a case B binary



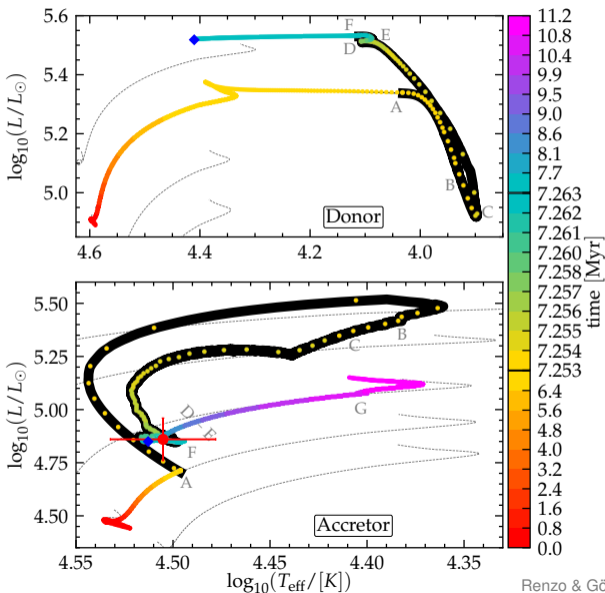
## Donor star

⇒ B. Ludwig & V. Ramachandran's talk

- Loses (almost all) H-rich envelope
- Becomes a hot, stripped star
- Stripped envelope SN progenitors

Vanbeveren *et al.* 2007, Götberg *et al.* 2017, 2018, 2023,  
Gilkis *et al.* 2019, Laplace *et al.* 2020, 2021, Drout *et al.* 2023, ...

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## Donor star

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Gilkis *et al.* 2019, Laplace *et al.* 2020, 2021, Drout *et al.* 2023, ...

## Accretor star

⇒ session after coffee

- No thermal equilibrium during RLOF
- Often neglected

Hellings 1983, 1985, van Resbergen *et al.* 1994, Braun & Langer 1995,  
Wang *et al.* 2020, 2022, 2023, Renzo *et al.* 2021, 2023

## Stable mass transfer

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3. Triples enhance binary interactions
2. *Both* stars and the orbit are modified
1. Presently single stars



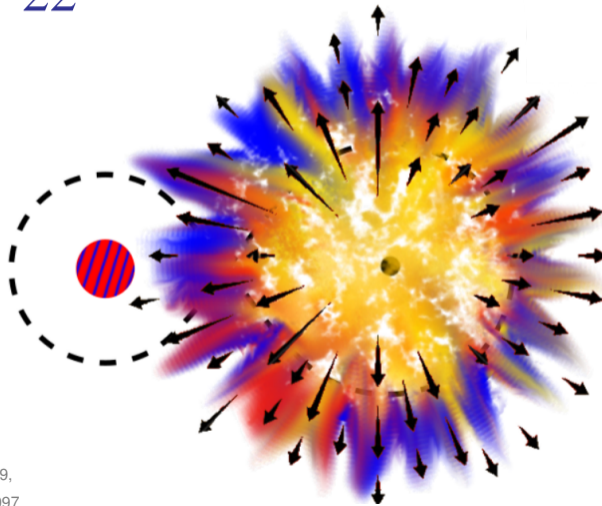
# Continuing the post-case B RLOF evolution: the donor explodes first

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Credits: ESO, L. Calçada, M. Kornmesser, S.E. de Mink

## Accretors may live alone, **but they are *not* single stars**

$86^{+11}_{-22}\%$  of massive binaries are disrupted



# Mass transfer occurs before the 1<sup>st</sup> explosion

- **Spin-up**

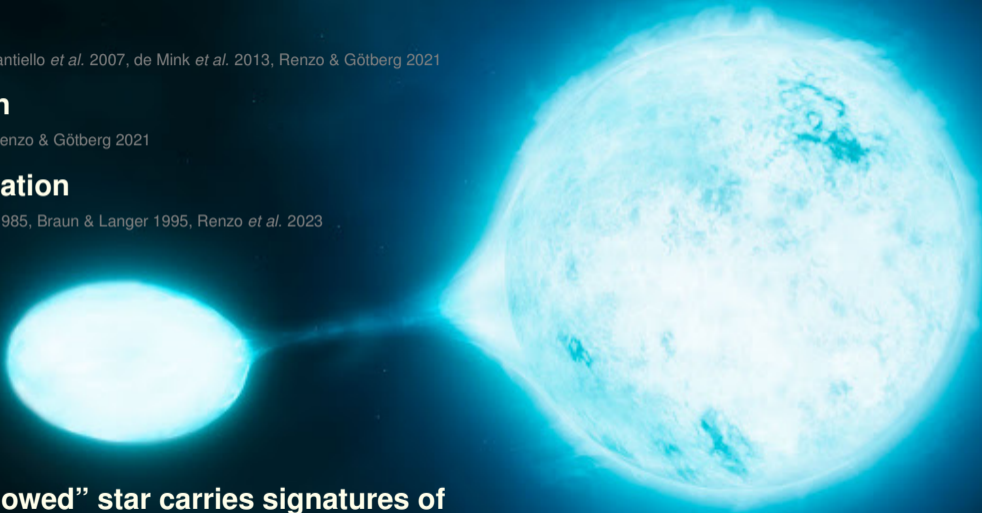
Packet 1981, Cantiello *et al.* 2007, de Mink *et al.* 2013, Renzo & Götzberg 2021

- **Pollution**

Blaauw 1993, Renzo & Götzberg 2021

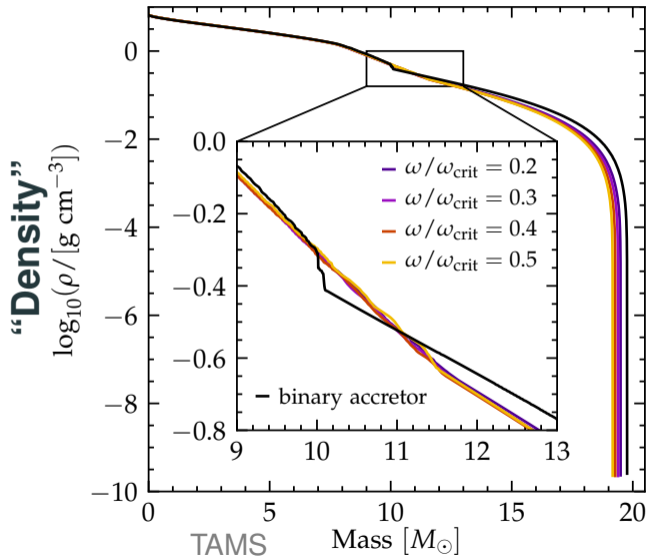
- **Rejuvenation**

Hellings 1983, 1985, Braun & Langer 1995, Renzo *et al.* 2023

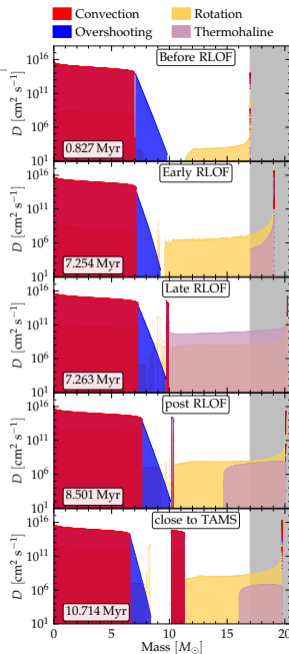


The “widowed” star carries signatures of its past in a binary

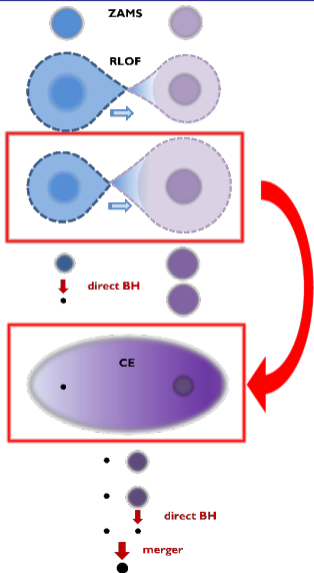
# Rejuvenation changes the core/envelope boundary



**“Diffusion coeff.”**



# The common envelope in GW progenitors is initiated by the accretor

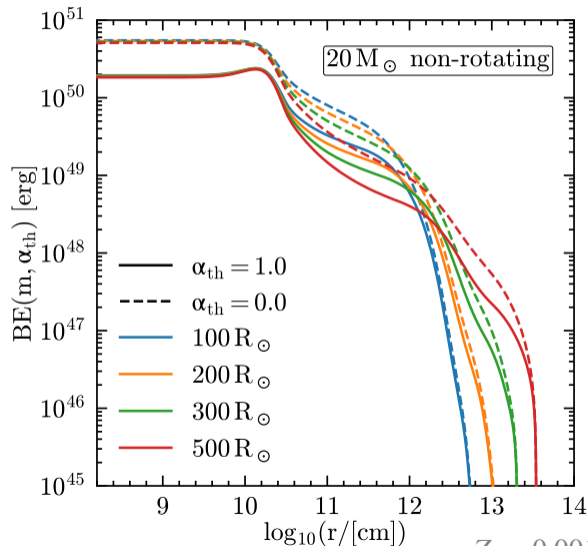


Does RLOF rejuvenation impact how easy it is to remove the envelope ?

Renzo *et al.* 2023

1. Binary evolution until detachment
2. Continue evolution of accretors as single
3. Compare **binding energy** of accretors and single stars of same total mass at given  $R$

## The binding energy is the cost to “dig” into the star



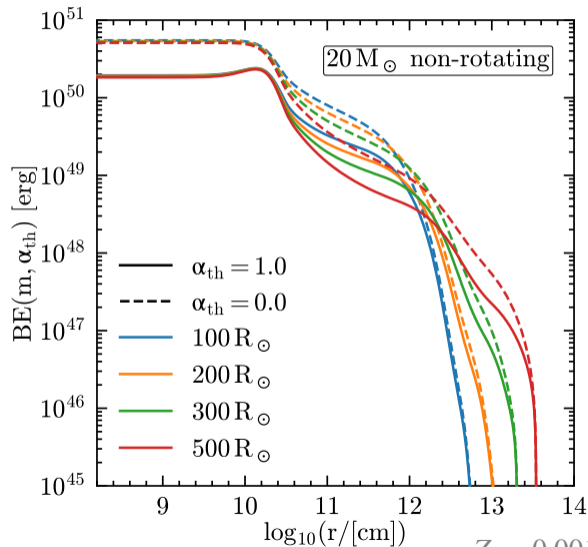
$$BE(m, \alpha_{\text{th}}) = - \int_m^M dm' \left( -\frac{Gm'}{r(m')} + \alpha_{\text{th}} u(m') \right)$$

- Gravitational potential energy
- Internal energy
- $\alpha_{\text{th}}$  free parameter

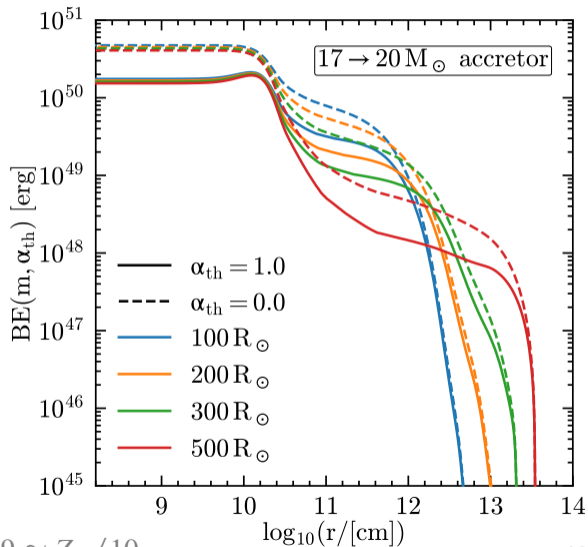
fraction of internal energy usable to eject envelope

$$Z = 0.0019 \simeq Z_{\odot} / 10$$

# Comparing $20 M_{\odot}$ non-rotating single star vs. accretor



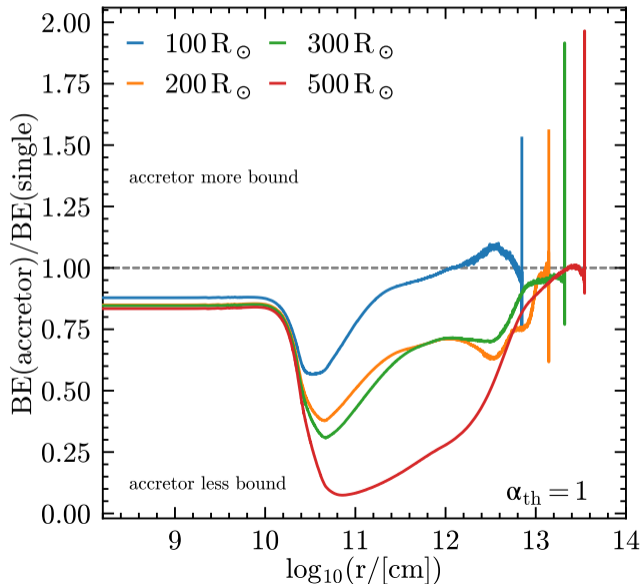
$Z = 0.0019 \simeq Z_{\odot}/10$



## Ratio of binding energies: accretors are easier to unbind

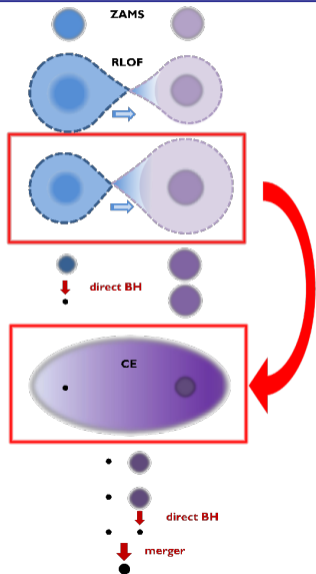
NS progenitor  
 $15 \rightarrow 17 M_{\odot}$

works up to  
 $\sim 30 M_{\odot}$





## If the common-envelope donor is a former accretor



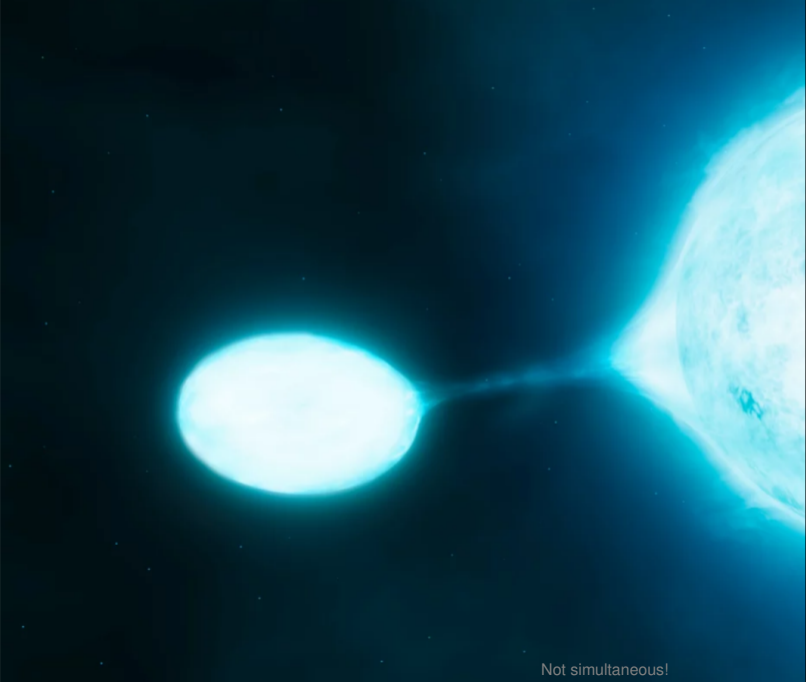
### Implications for common-envelope

- Fewer “reverse” stellar merger
- Wider post-CE separation
- Mass-dependent (?) impact on GW merger rates

## Conclusions

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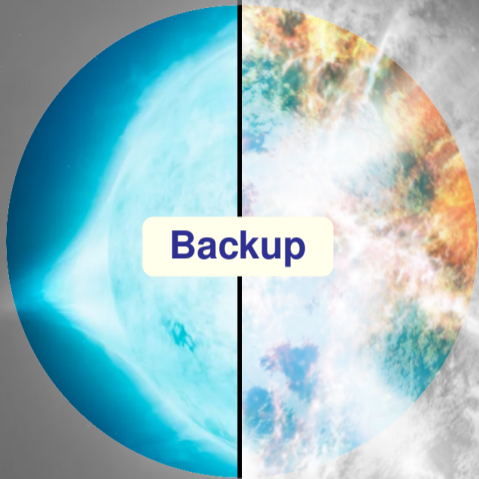


Not simultaneous!



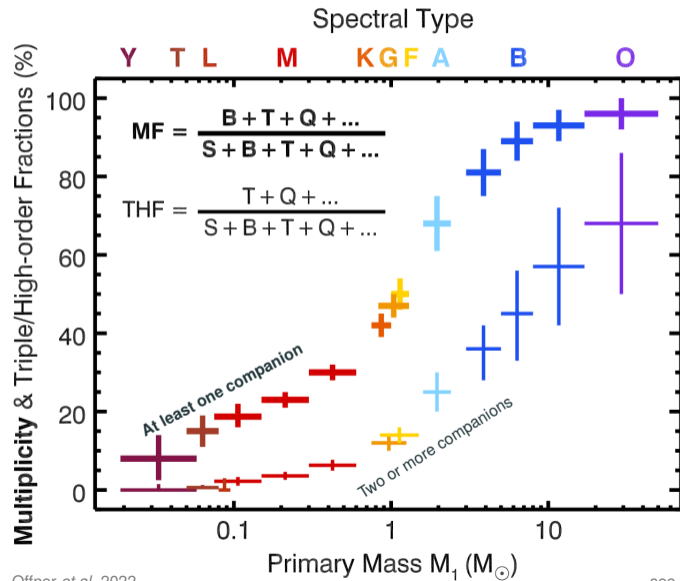


Not simultaneous!

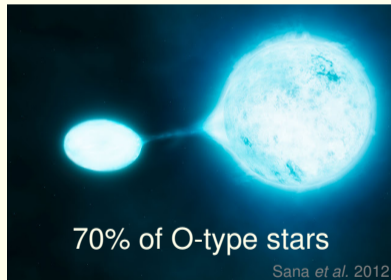


**Backup**

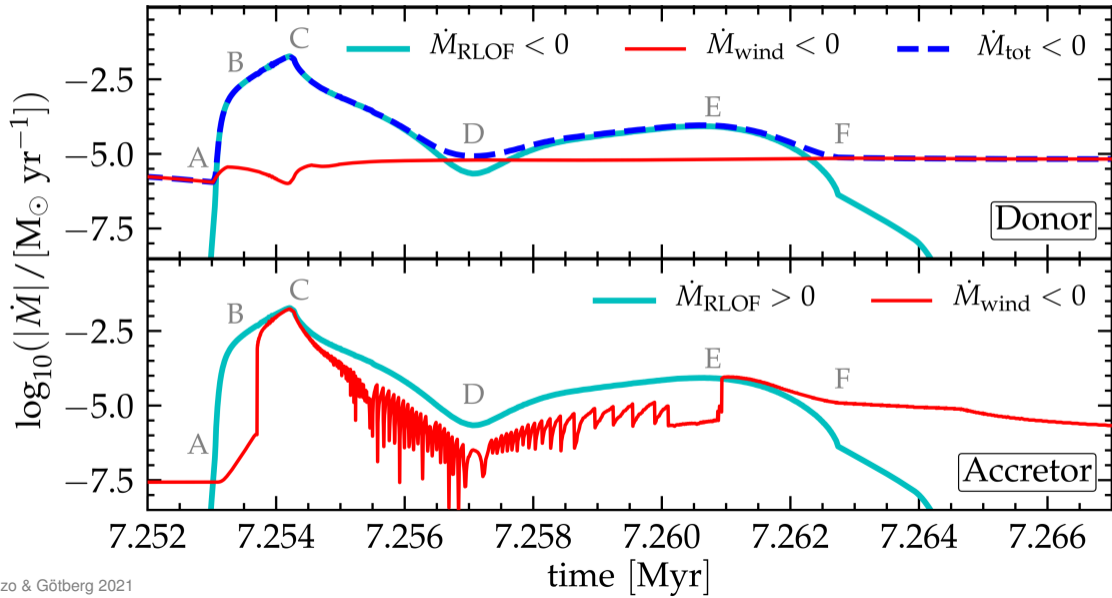
# Massive stars are typically born with companions



Interactions are **common**

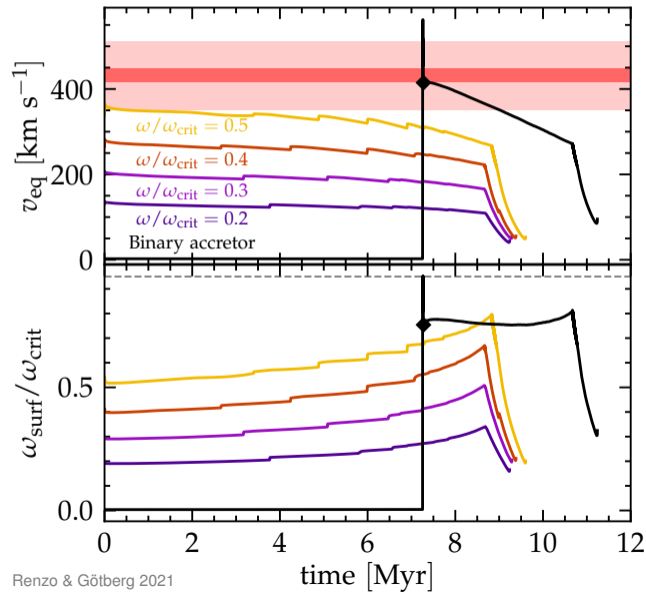


## Mass transfer history: $\Delta t_{\text{RLOF}} \simeq 2 \times 10^4$ years





## ✓ Surface rotation rate ?

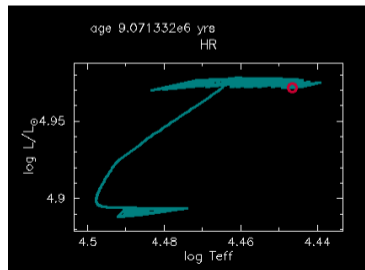


- but “weak wind problem”:

$$\frac{|\dot{M}_{\text{obs}}|}{M_{\odot}\text{yr}^{-1}} \simeq 10^{-8.8} \ll \frac{|\dot{M}_{\text{wind,theory}}|}{M_{\odot}\text{yr}^{-1}} \simeq 10^{-6.8}$$

(Marcolino *et al.* 2005, Lucy 2012, Lagae *et al.* 2021)

- ✗ Decreasing the wind:  $\omega > \omega_{\text{crit}}$



# Why care about the accretor?

## Stellar populations



accretors lurk in samples

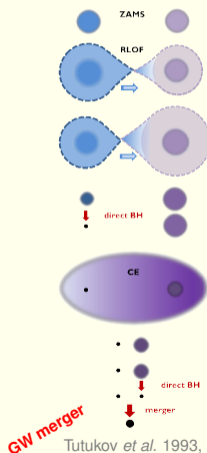
(10 – 12%) Renzo *et al.* 2019b

+

Oe/Be stars, stragglers

Pols *et al.* 1991, Wang *et al.* 2021

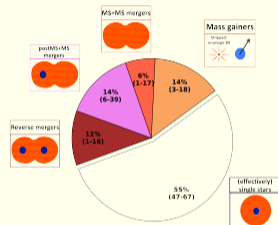
## Binary interactions



Belczynski *et al.* 2016, Renzo *et al.* 2023

## Transients

Common: H-rich SNe



Zapartas *et al.* (incl. MR) 2019

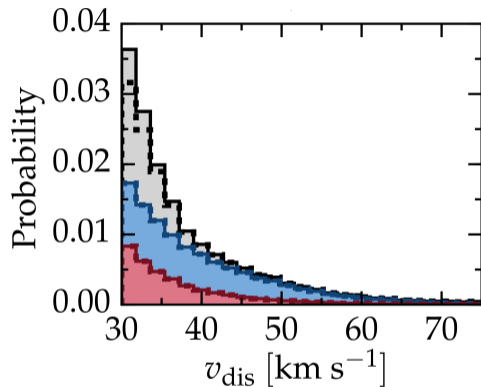
+

Uncommon: H-rich/H-poor SNe

L-GRB, LBV, SNIIn ?

Petrovich *et al.* 2005, Cantiello *et al.* 2007

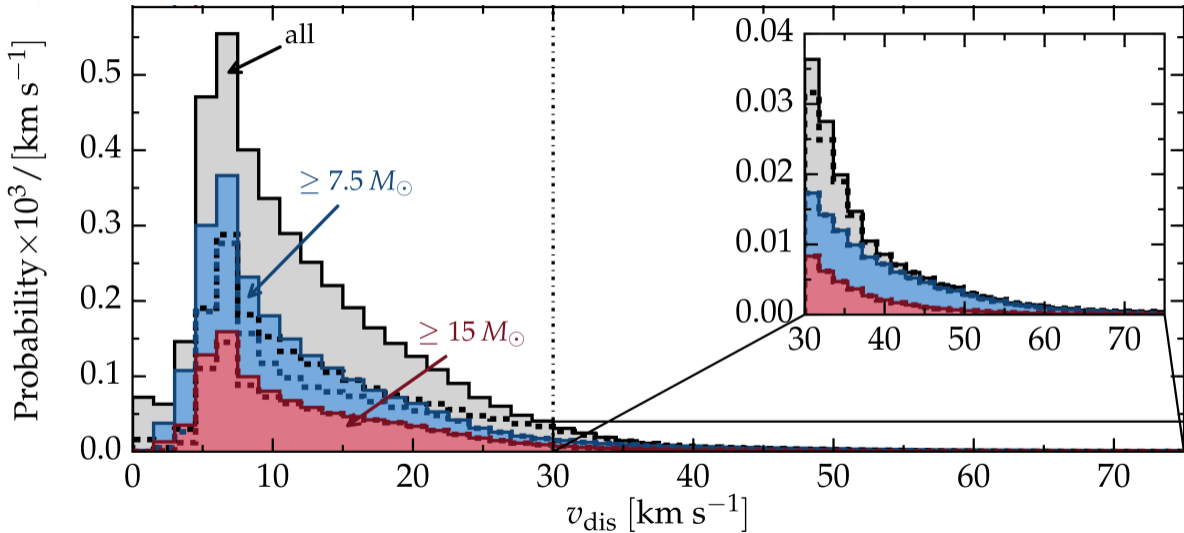
## Accretor stars can be *runaways*...



Velocity w.r.t. pre-explosion binary center of mass

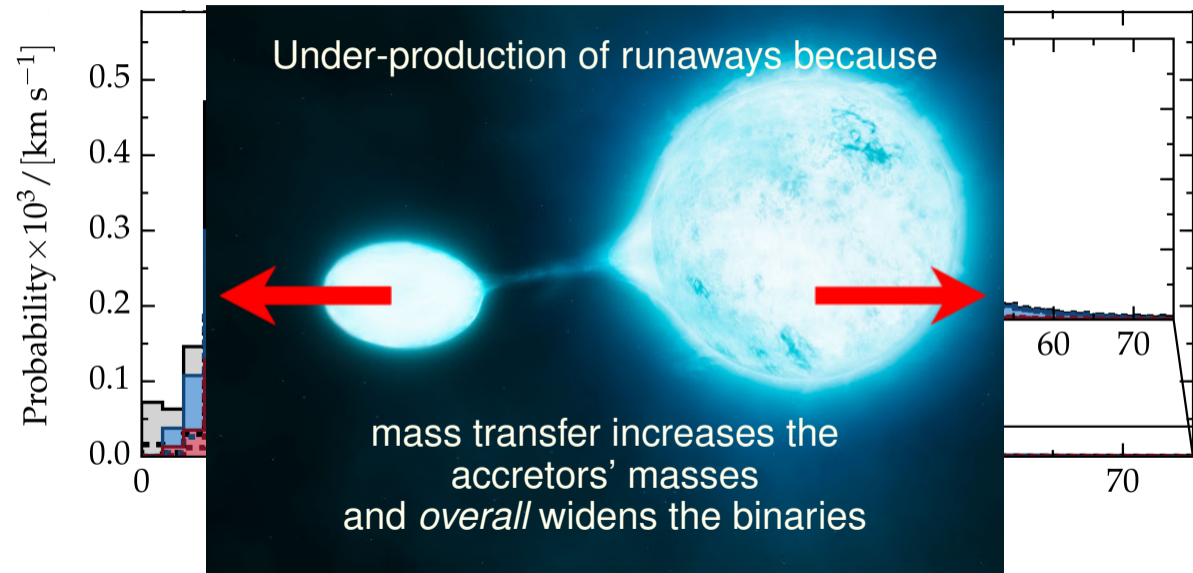
Numerical results: <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/624/A66>

...but most are only *walkaways*



Velocity w.r.t. pre-explosion binary center of mass

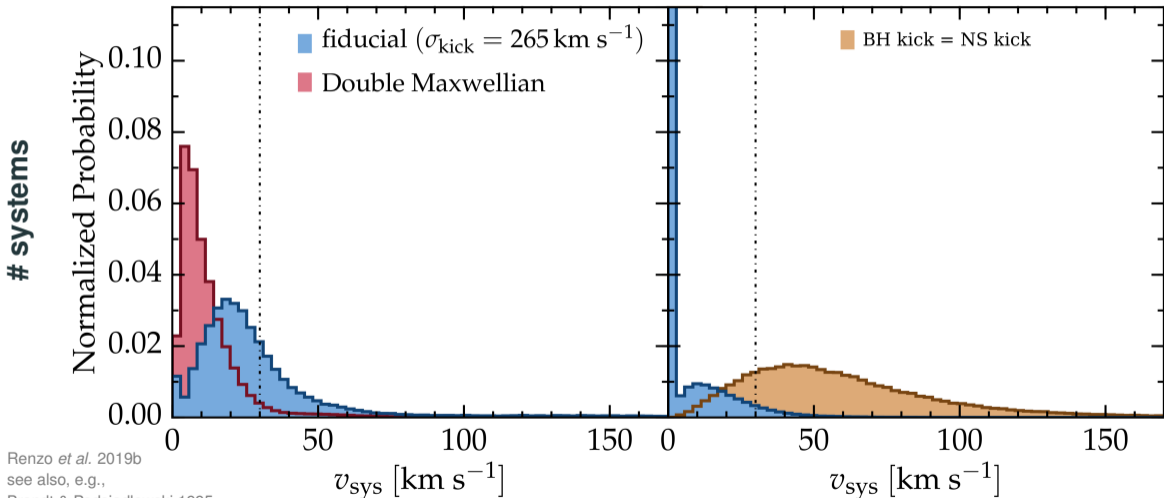
...but most are only *walkaways*



# Post-SN velocity of surviving binaries

NS + Main sequence

BH + Main sequence



Renzo *et al.* 2019b

see also, e.g.,

Brandt & Podsiadlowski 1995

Kalogera 1996

Tauris & Takens 1998

Velocity respect to the pre-explosion binary center of mass

Numerical results: <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/624/A66>

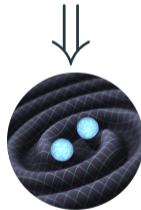
# Roche lobe overflow or common envelope? Accretor's reaction

If mass transfer too fast for  
accretor to accept

$$M_2 / \dot{M}_2 \ll \tau_{\text{KH},2}$$

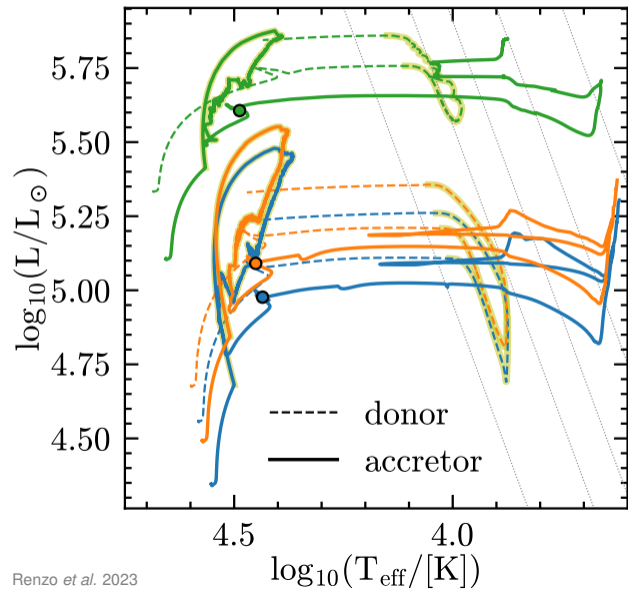


**Accretor swells**



adapted from Vigna-Gómez *et al.* 2020

## Low-Z massive accretors



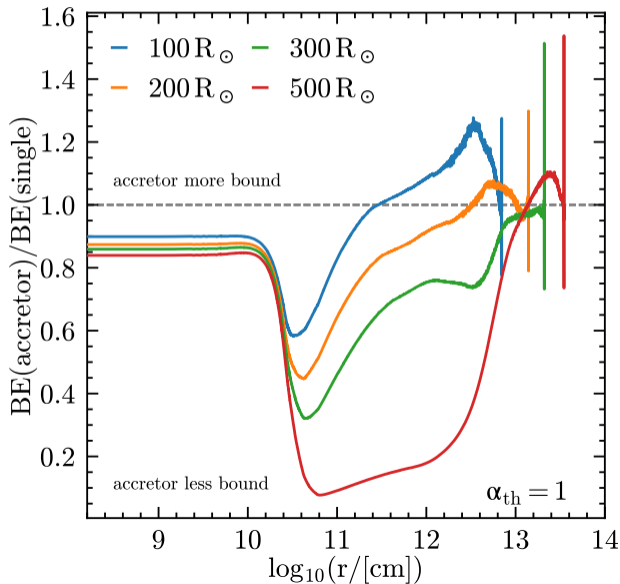
$$Z = 0.0019 \simeq Z_{\odot}/10$$

(to focus on GW merger progenitors)



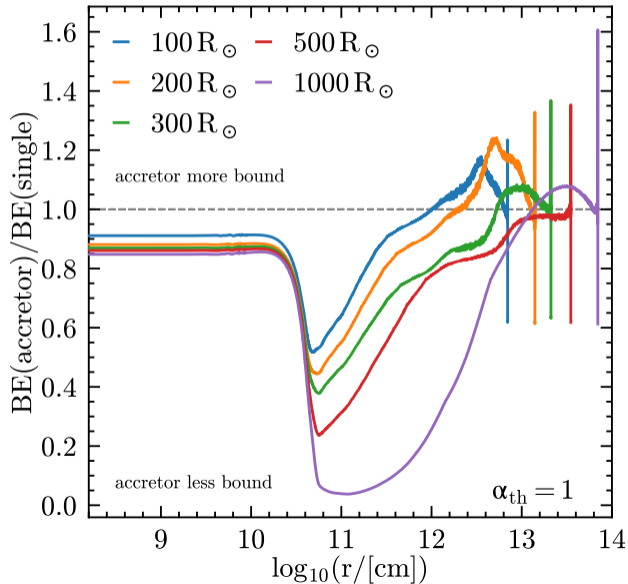
## Taking the ratio: accretors are easier to unbind

NS or BH progenitor  
 $17 \rightarrow 20 M_{\odot}$



## Taking the ratio: accretors are easier to unbind

BH progenitor  
 $30 \rightarrow 36 M_{\odot}$



$M_2$  increase  $\Rightarrow T_c$  increase  $\Rightarrow$  core tries to grow

“Mixing strength”  
Diffusion coefficients

## Overall widening of the orbits

