

# Tracing the orbital evolution of binaries within the Milky Way

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- Questions to Answer
- Research Aim
- Galactic Environment
- Orbits of Binaries

## Part 2 – Constructing the Simulation

## Part 3 – Case studies:

- Hunting for Spiders
- Galactic Neutron Star Binaries (Time permitting)
- Summary



# Part 1 - Background



# Open questions to answer:

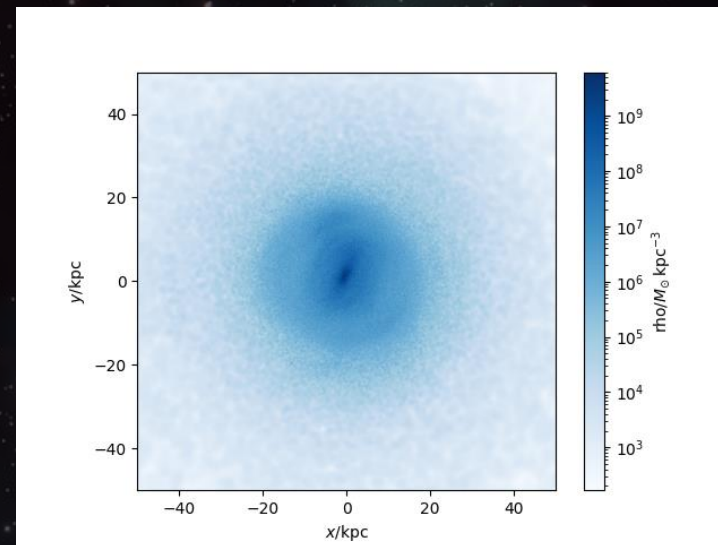
1. How many compact binaries are in the MW?
2. What fraction of neutron star binaries have pulsars?
3. How do spiders form?
4. Can we optimise search strategies?

YOUR QUESTIONS HERE!

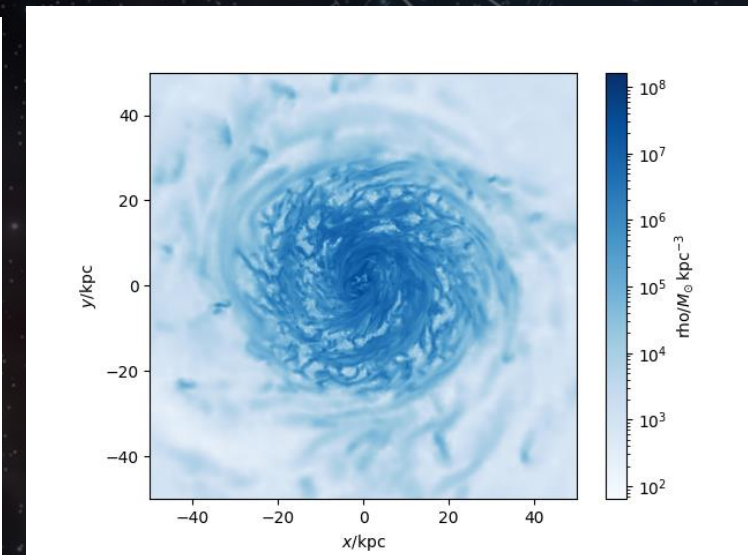


# Key aims:

1. Evolving binaries in detailed galaxy potential
2. Explore the zoo of binaries (NSNS/WDWD/NSWD/etc.)
3. Probing Spiders (case study) evolutionary channel



Stellar



Gas

(Using AURIGA – See Grand et al., 2017 )



# Generating Binary Orbits



# Evolving Binary Orbits

## with OCARINA (Orbital Characterisation of binARles iN gAlaxies)

Galaxy Evolution is traced until the compact binaries merge.

Binaries of Interest

Simulated Milky Way Analogues  
(e.g. AURIGA)

Trace Merger Host

Binaries are weighted by the  
Star Formation Rate + Metallicity of the galaxies.

Observing/  
GW Science

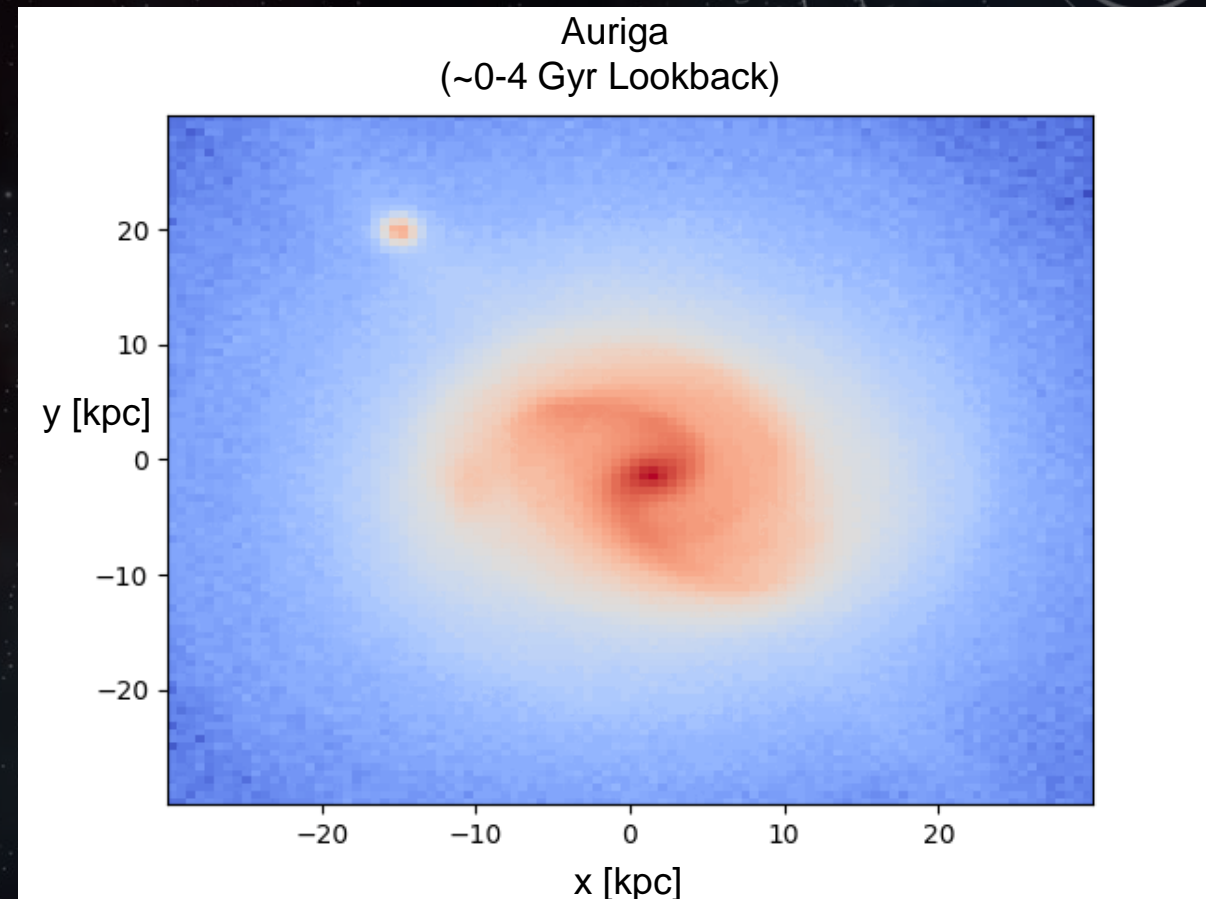
Environments of Binaries

Observe Binary  
Orbit With Kick

Galactic Potential Accounted For

# Ingredients

- Population Synthesis Code:
  - BPASS
    - Using Bray & Eldridge, 2016 Configurations
    - NS-NS and BH-NS binaries
  - COSMIC
    - NS+, WD+, BH+
- Cosmological Simulation – EAGLE (Schaye et al., 2014)/Auriga (Grand et al., 2017)/\*Gadget 2 derivatives (Springel et al.,)
- zELDA – Redshift Electromagnetic Localisation & Deduction Algorithm (Mandhai et al., 2022)
- Metallicities ( $Z$ ):
  - 0.004
  - 0.013
  - 0.02

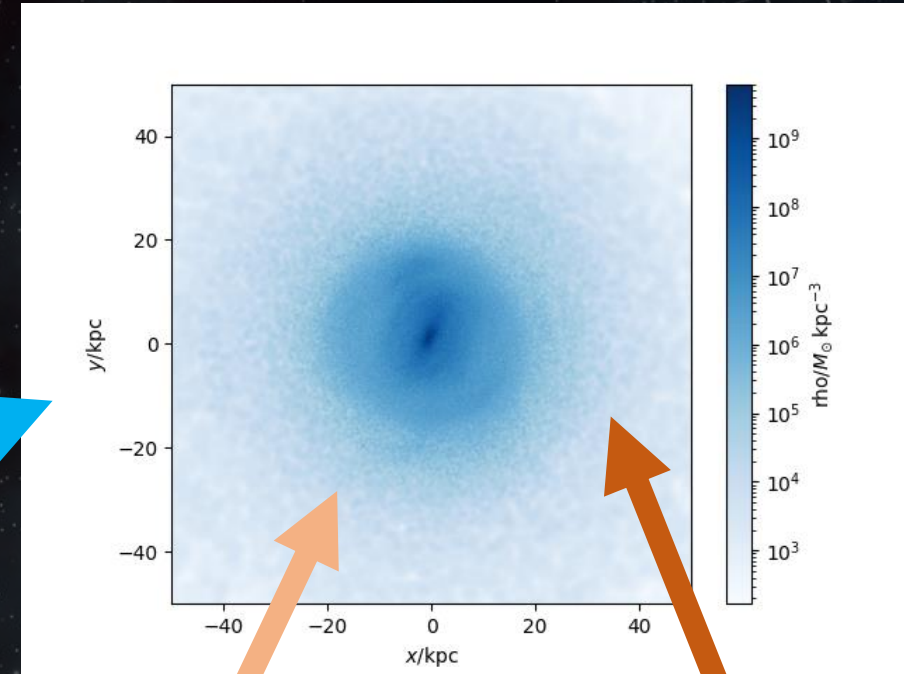
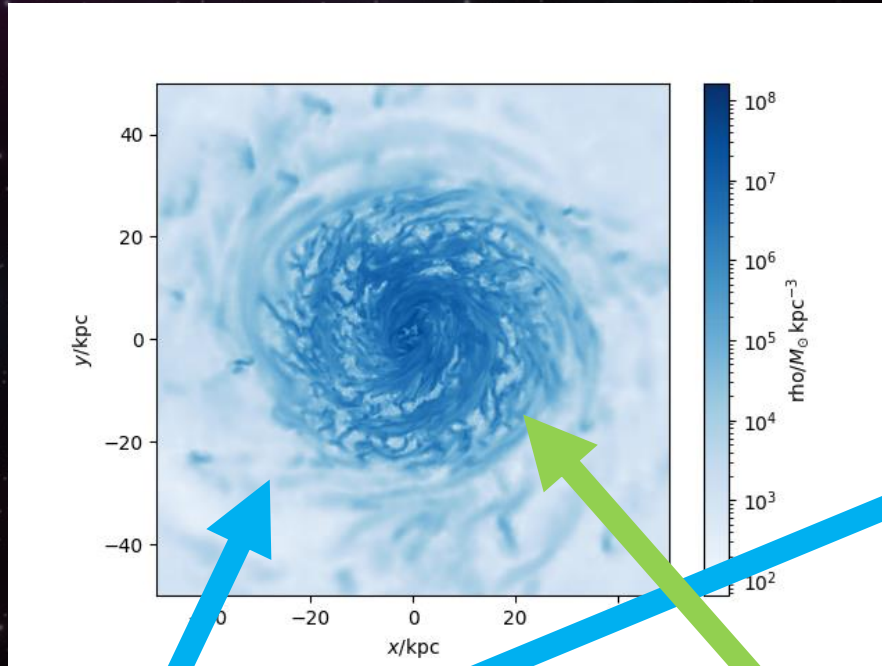




# Galaxy Simulation:

Gas

Stellar



Metallicity

Star Formation

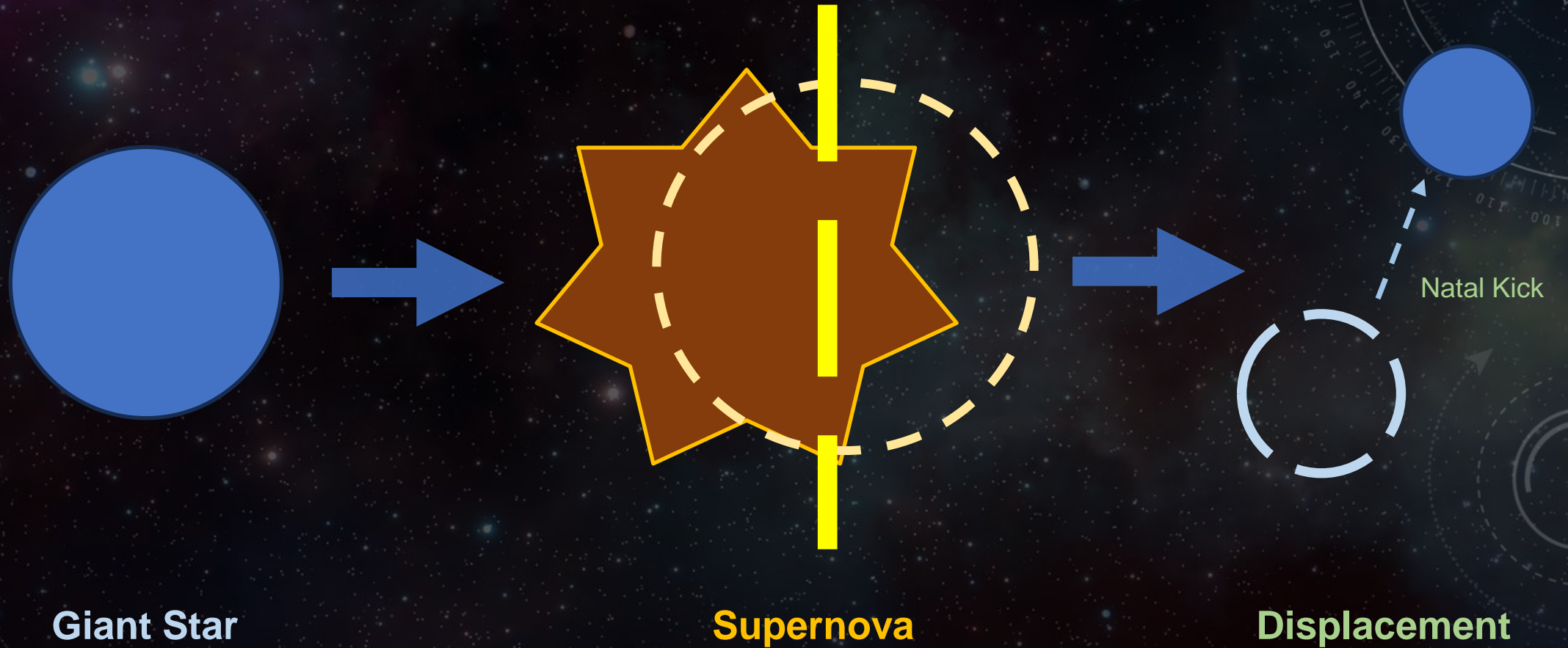
Density

Velocity

(Using AURIGA – See Grand et al., 2017 )



# Natal Kicks



Natal Kick

Giant Star

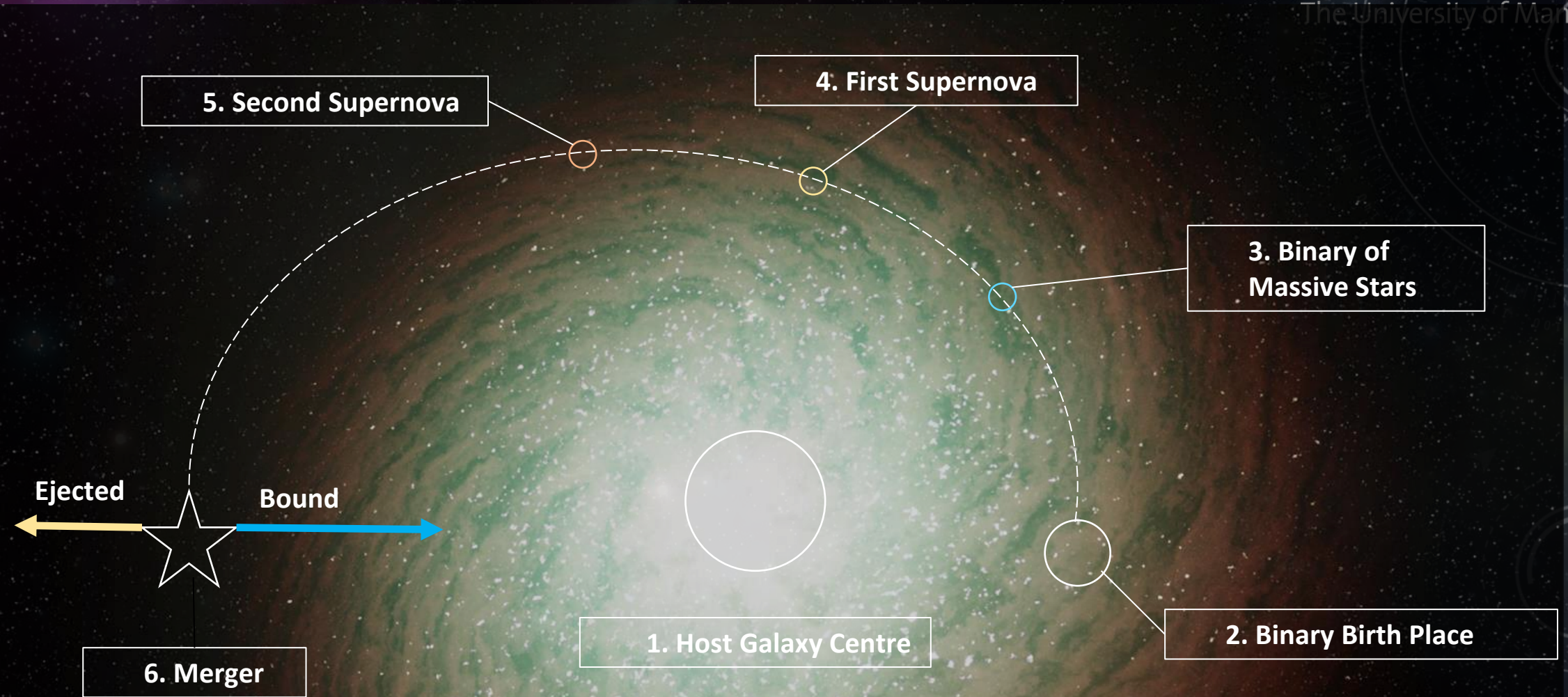
Supernova

Displacement



# zELDA/OCARINA (Orbital Characterisation of binARles iN gAlaxies)

Schematic:

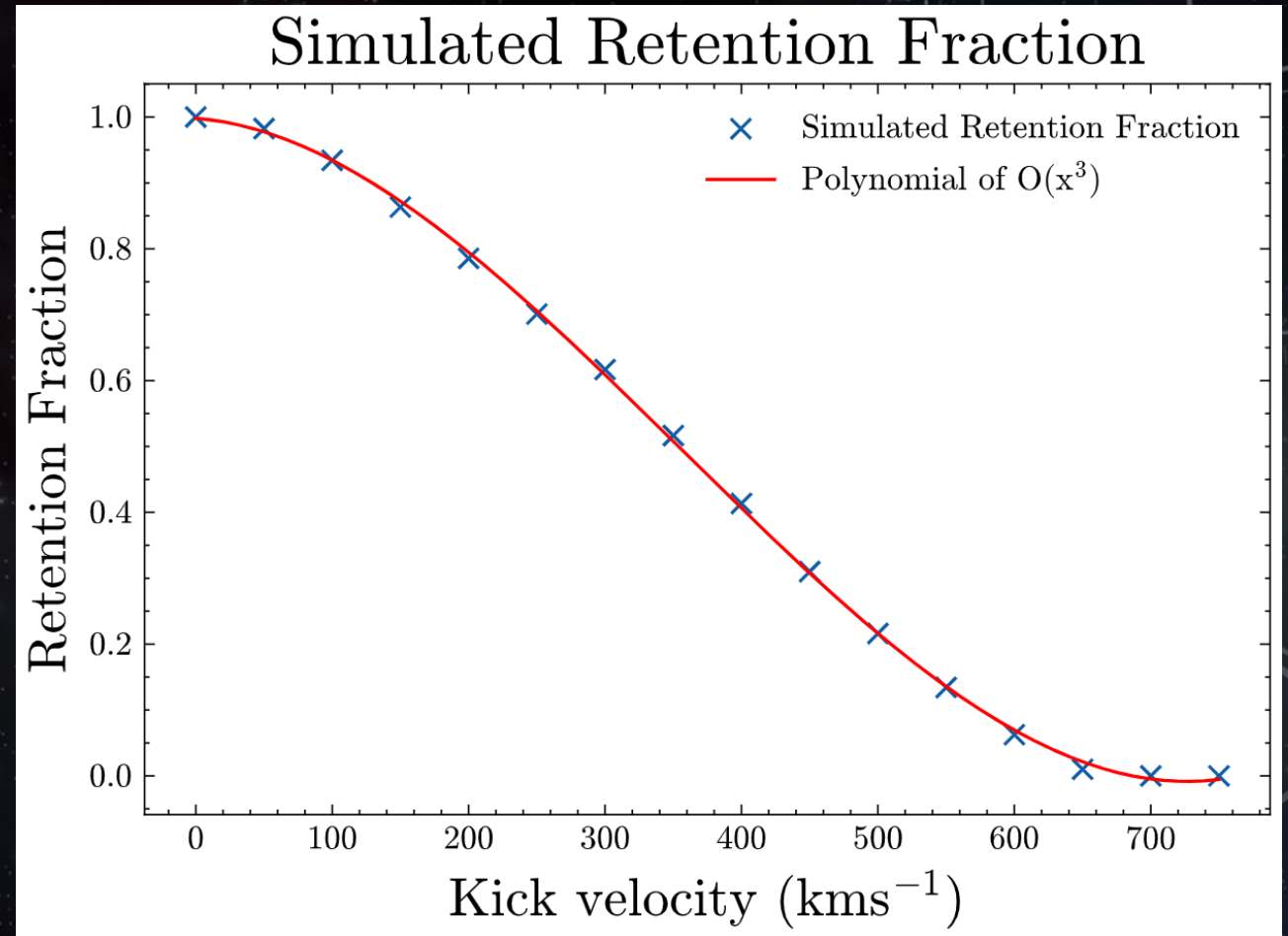




# Orbital Evolution Summarised

- Galaxy simulation broken down into 3 major components:
  - Stellar
  - Gas
  - Dark Matter Halo
- Simulation -> Semi-Analytical Interpolated Potential
- Objects evolved using galpy (Bovy et al.,)

## BUT WHAT ABOUT KICKS?



Credit: Mark Janosdeask



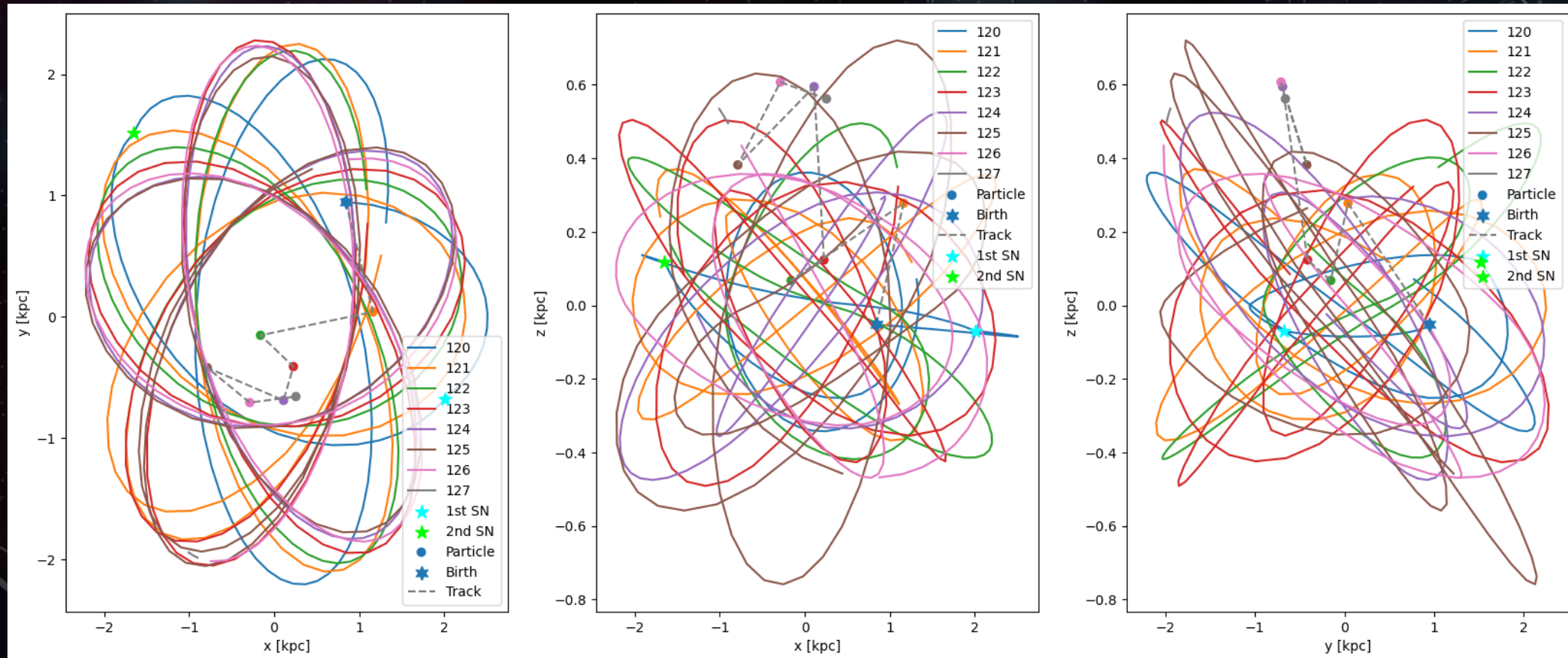
# WORLD PREMIER

(cue excitement)



# OCARINA Preliminary Results

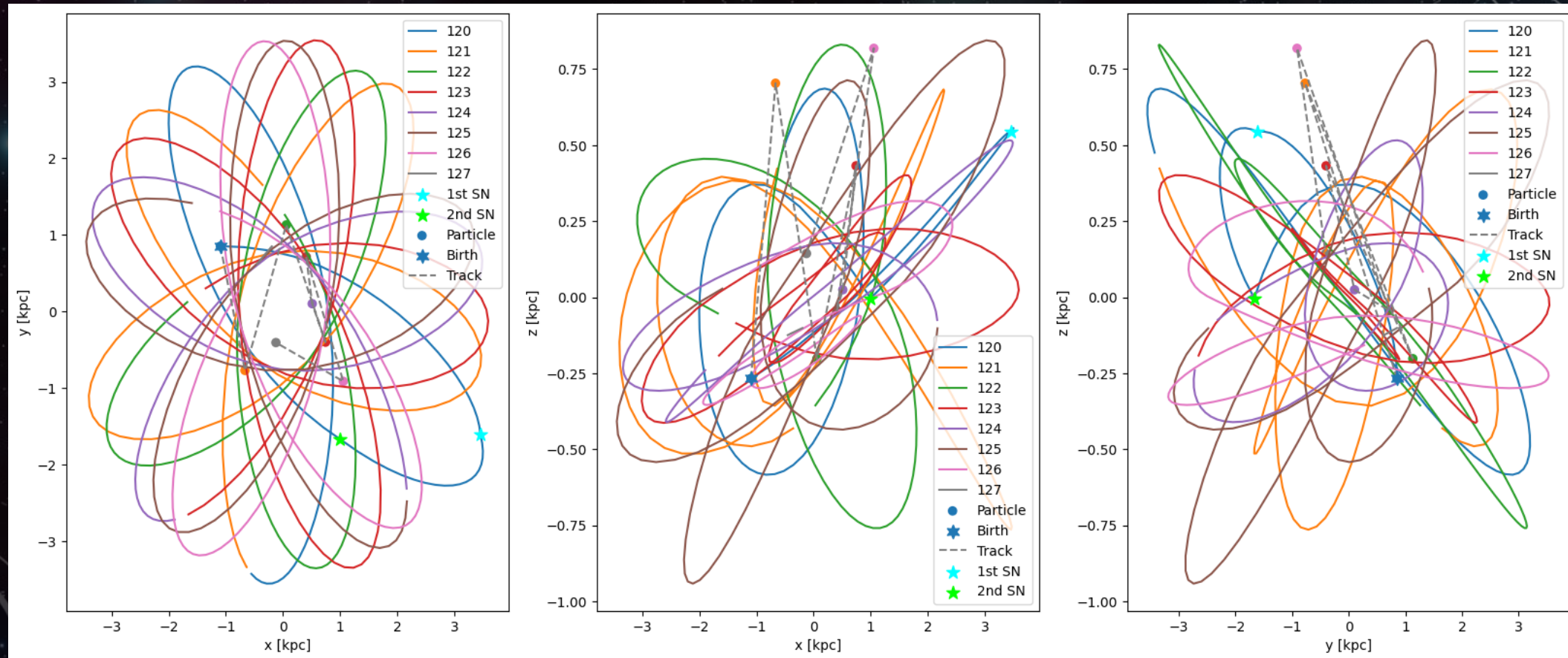
- Case: Weak Kick ( $\sim 50$  km/s and  $\sim 50$  km/s)





# OCARINA Preliminary Results

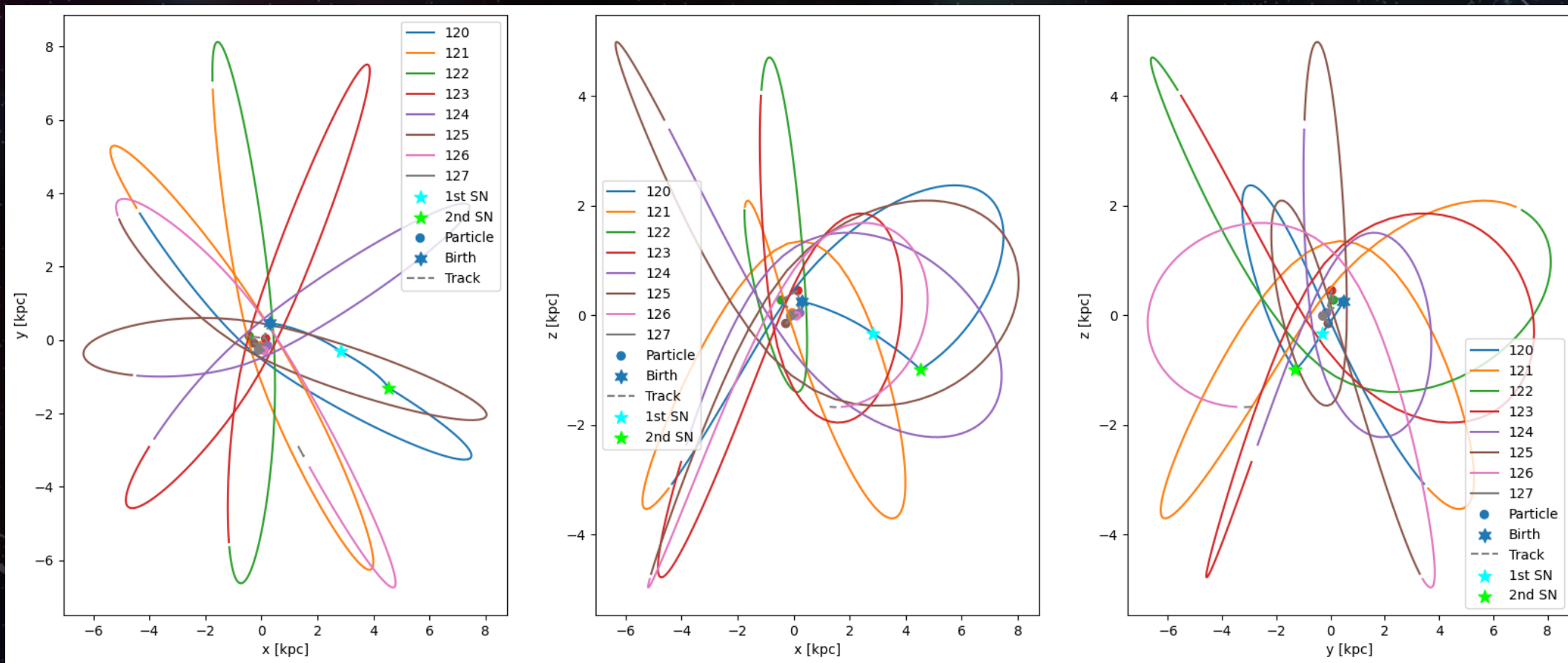
- Case: Moderate Kick ( $\sim 30$  km/s and  $\sim 100$  km/s)





# OCARINA Preliminary Results

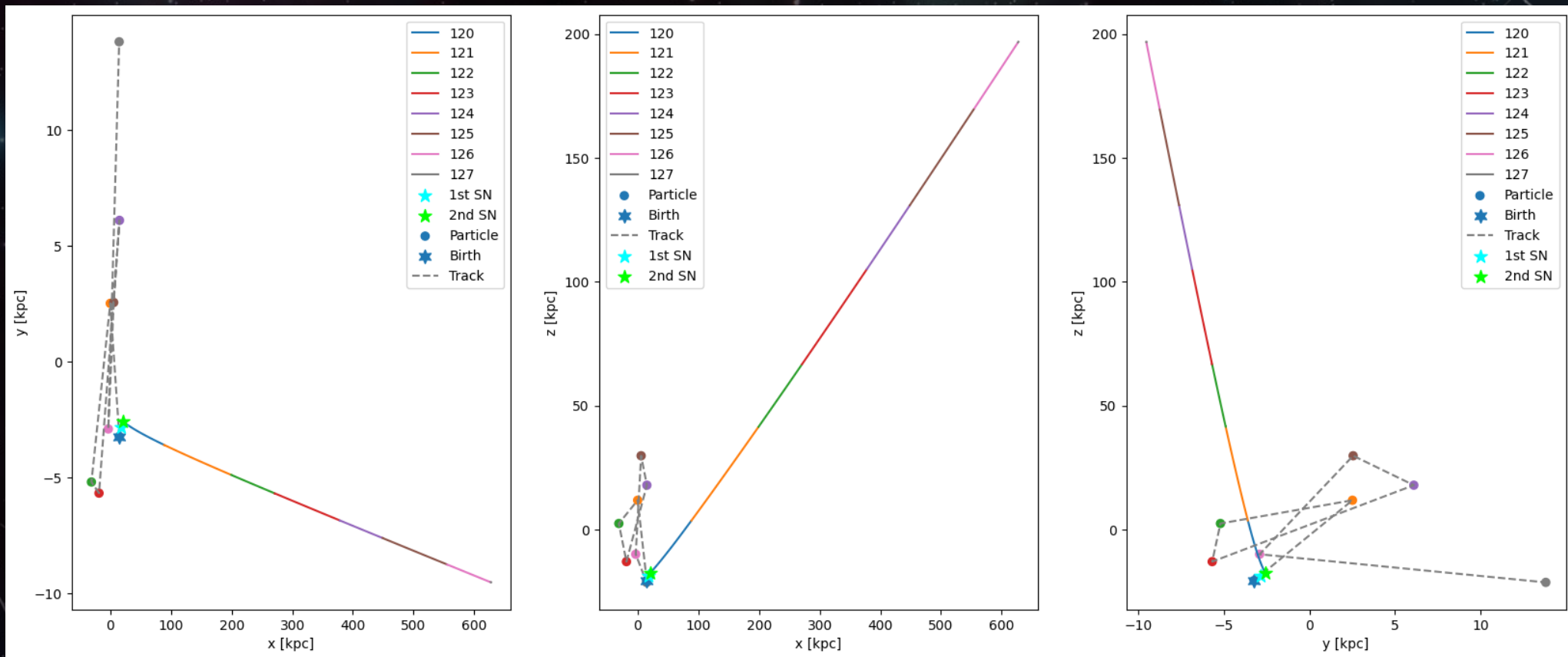
- Case: High Kick ( $\sim 70$  km/s and  $\sim 200$  km/s)





# OCARINA Preliminary Results

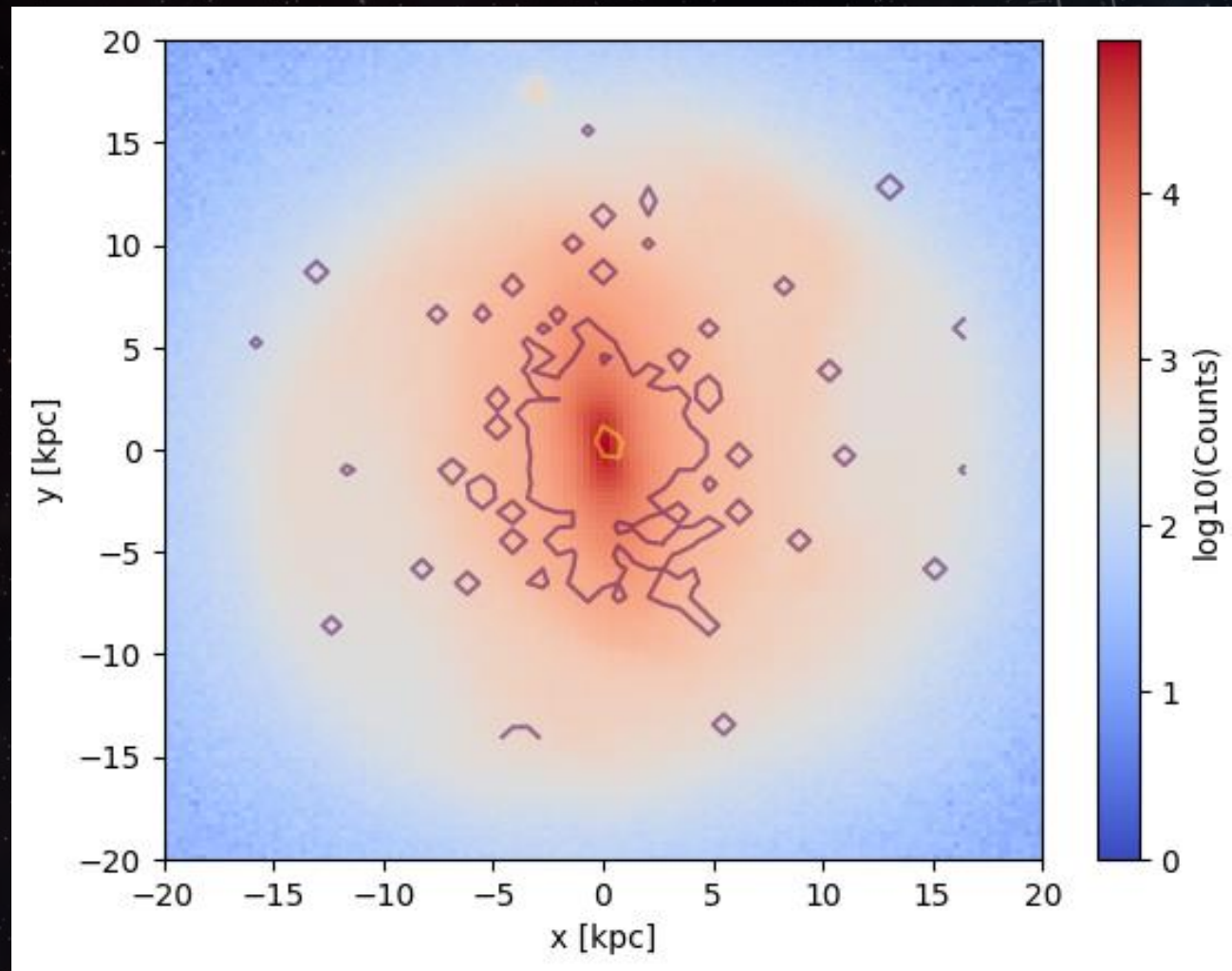
- Case: EXTREMELY High Kick ( $\sim 70$  km/s and  $\sim 360$  km/s)





# Spatial Distributions of Binaries

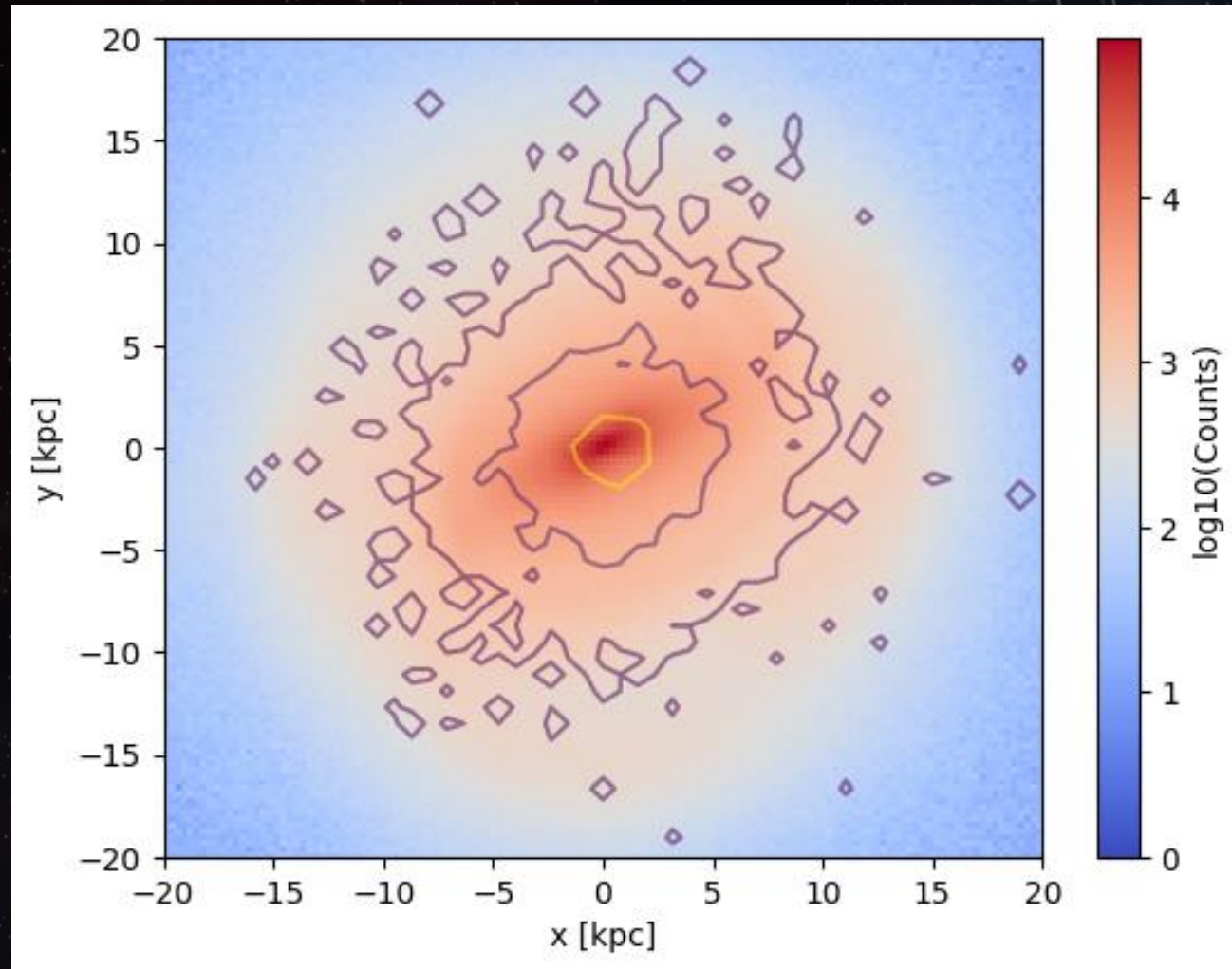
- Distribution of seeded binaries 1 Gyr ago ( $N \sim 2000$ )





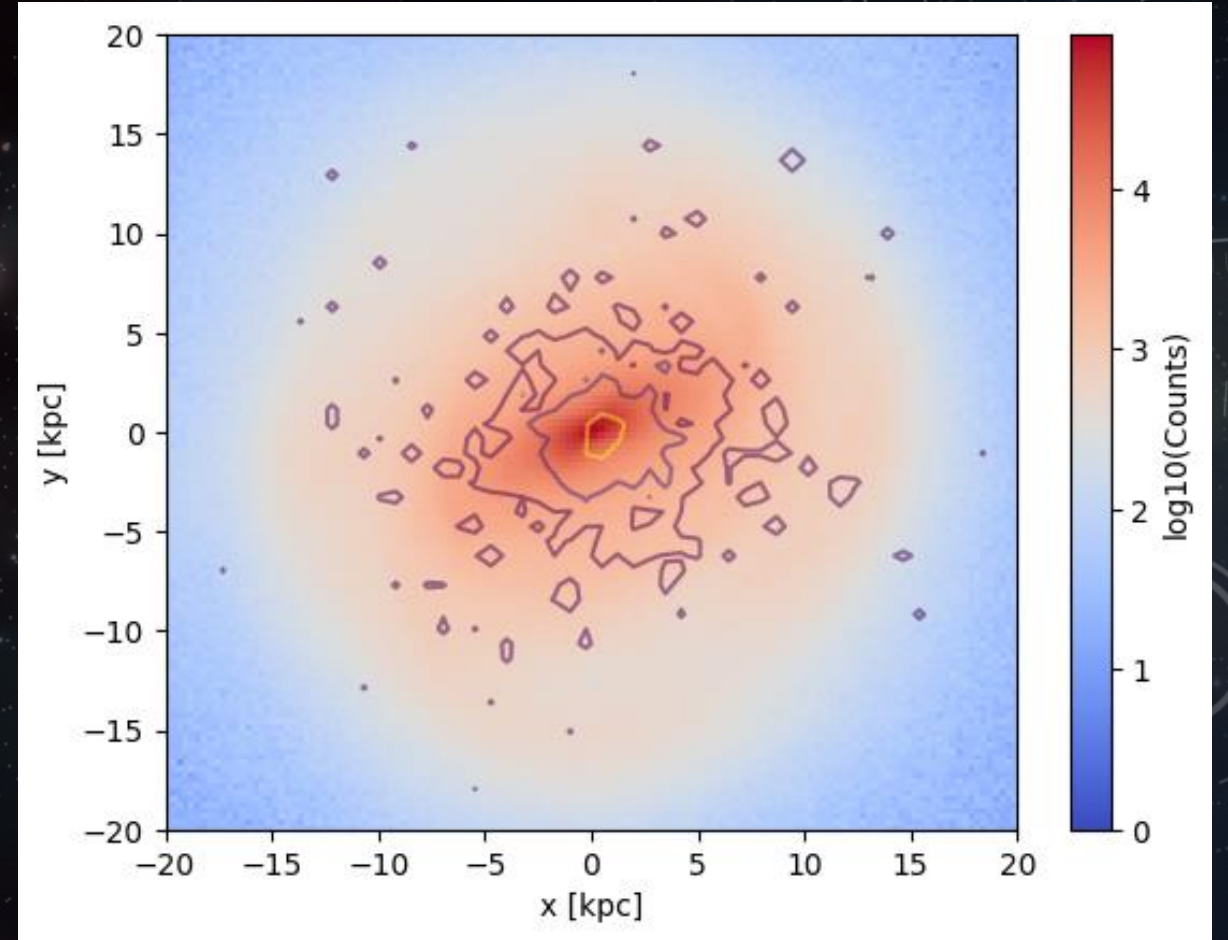
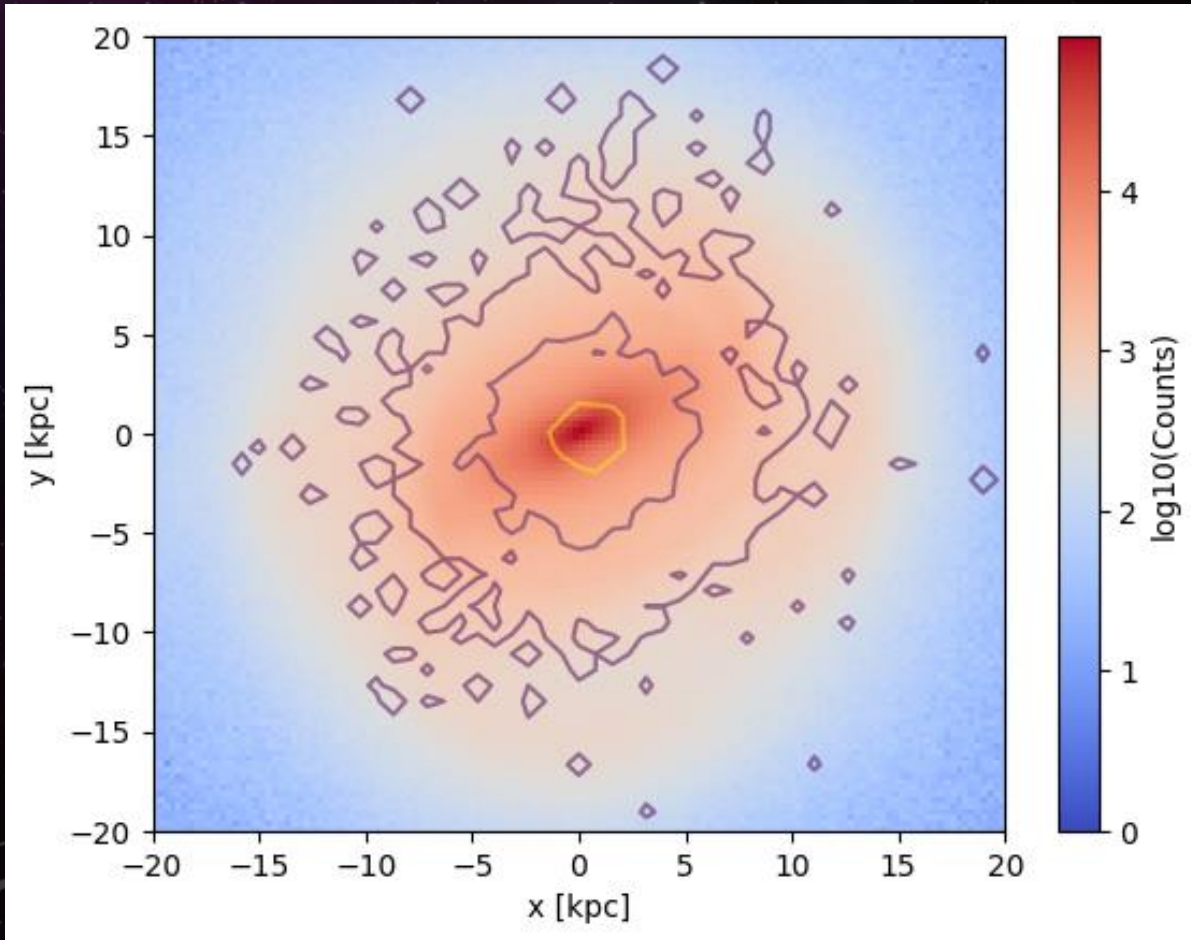
# Spatial Distributions of Binaries

- Binaries evolved into the current epoch ( $z \sim 0$ )





# Kicked vs Non-Kicked





# Benefits to Continuous GW Detection Studies

- Population of binaries with known parameters
- Toy models and playgrounds:
  - Can change galaxy simulations:
    - Different Morphologies
    - Different Cosmology
- Test different stellar evolutionary models
- **Orbital Parameters for classifying binary orbits:**
  - Eccentricities
  - Angular momentum evolution
  - Orbital Plane Inclination



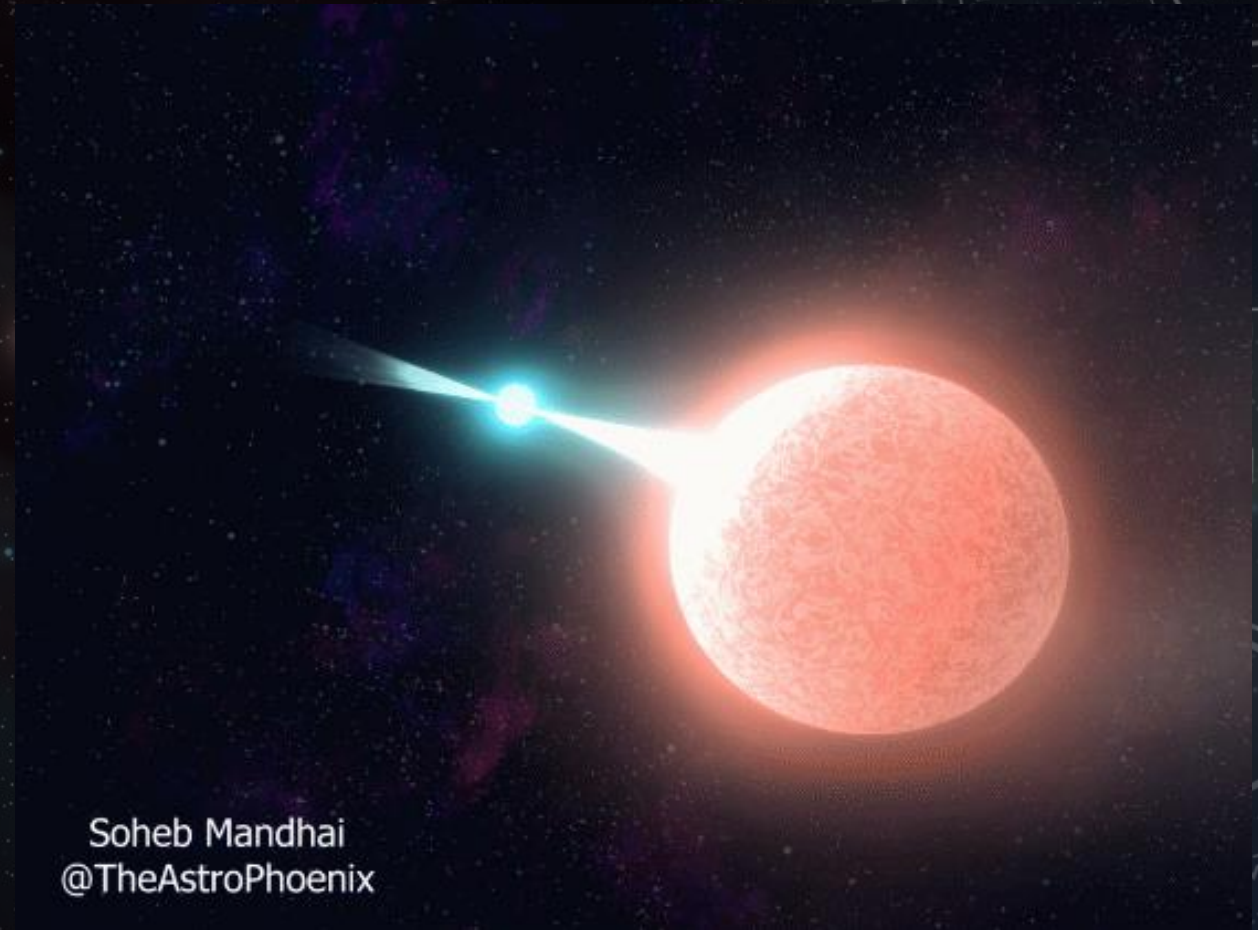
# Part 3 - Galactic Binaries

## Case Study: Spider Pulsars



# Case Study: What are Spiders?

- Binary: Pulsar + Ablated Low-mass companion (Spidery Pulsar/**Spiders**)
- Orbital periods: **<1 day**
- Non-accreting systems
- **~80-90** known
- Within a **~few kpc**.
- Objective: Identify **densest Spider regions** within the galaxy
- Formulate LISA Science Case

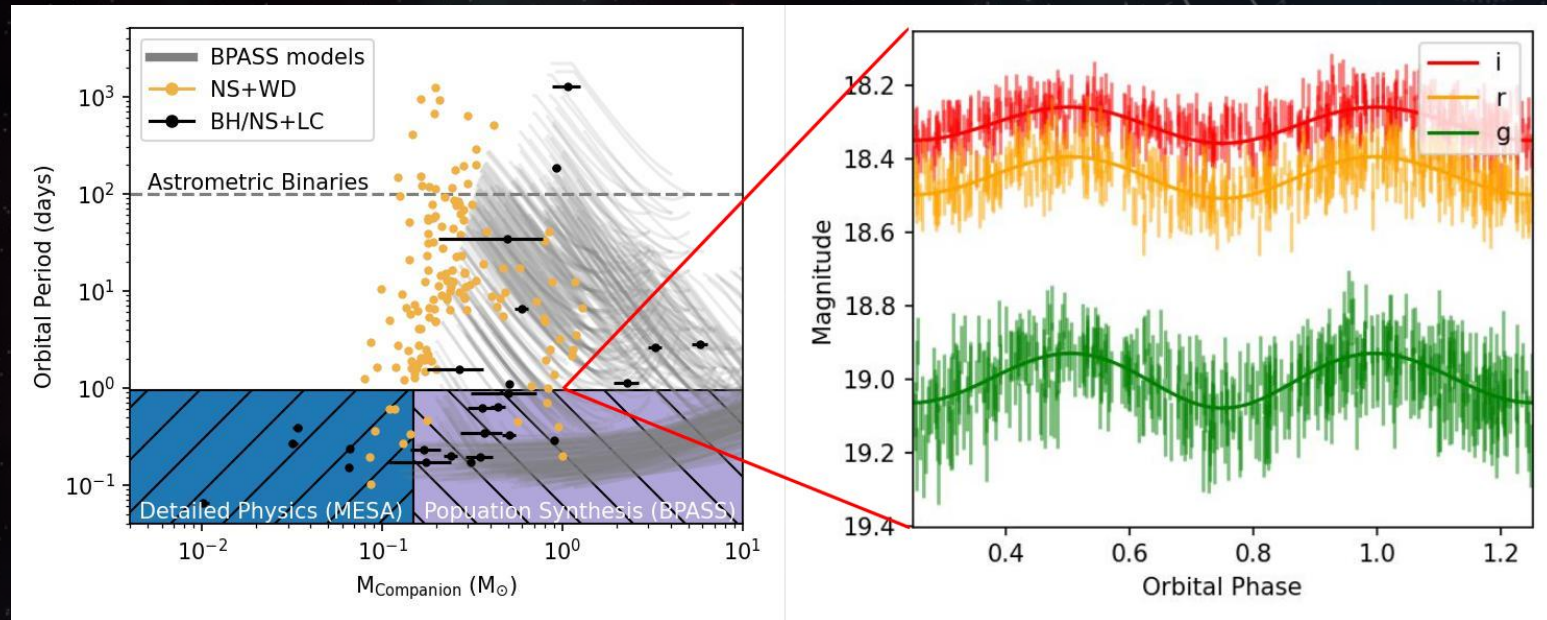


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@TheAstroPhoenix



# Probing Spider Formation Channels

- Using NS-WD as proxies
- Regular Sky Surveying enables regions of interest to be probed ( see GOTO-SpyDer)
- Explore short period binaries within a ~few x kpc
- Provide constraints on MESA modelling of Spiders



Credit: Mark Kennedy



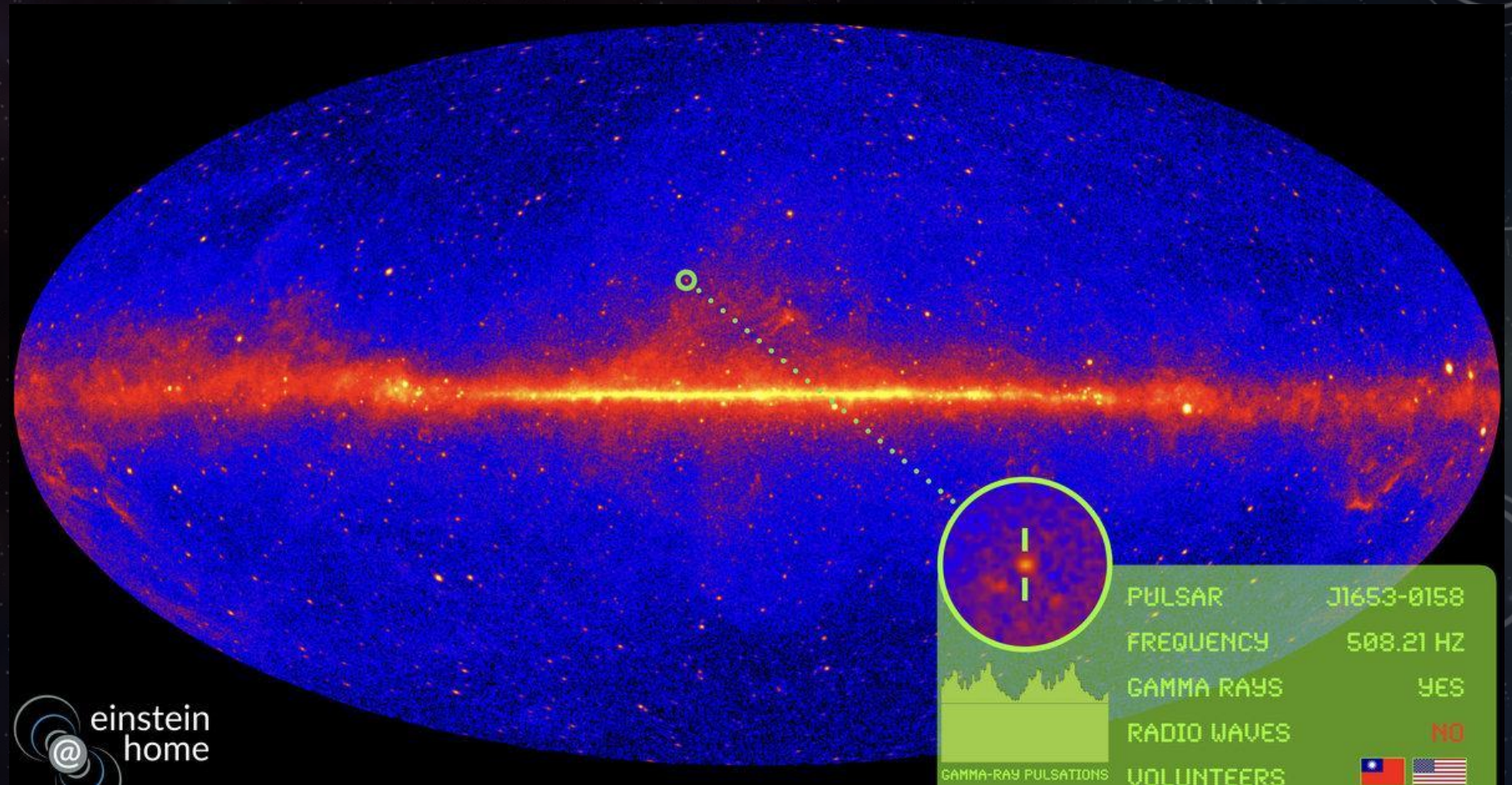
# Optimising Searches

Prior to Fermi:

- Spider Count: 4

With Fermi:

- Spider Count: 80-90



Physics/NASA/DOE/Fermi LAT Collaboration



# Summary

- Created a semi-analytical model of a Milky Way type galaxy using OCARINA
- Evolved the orbits of binaries with kicks
- Future work will aim to develop this further and aid observations
  - Identify more binaries within the MW
  - Prime expectations for future GW campaigns
- Potential to offer insight into optimising searches
- Orbital parameters and spatial distributions can aid continuous GW searches

YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS/BINARIES WELCOME!

- Get in touch: [Soheb.Mandhai@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Soheb.Mandhai@manchester.ac.uk)



# Extra Slides



# Part 3 - Galactic Binaries

## Case Study: Neutron Stars



# What can we learn?

General:  
Insight into Formation  
Mechanism  
Orbital Constraints

## Black-Holes:

- Stifles EM Counterparts
- Environment Constraints

## Gravitational Waves:

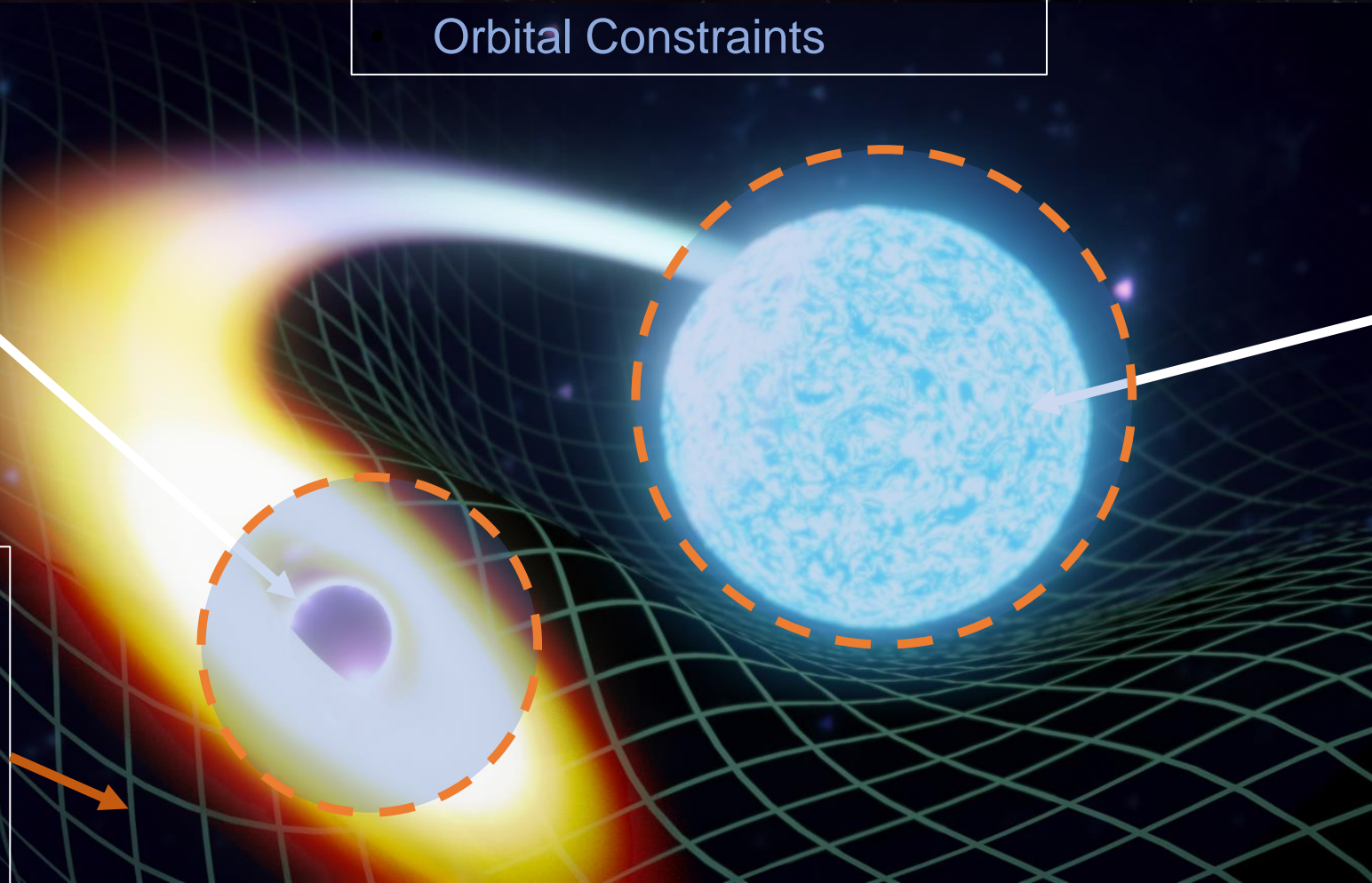
- Perturbations in Space-Time
- Tests for GR

## Neutron Star

- Responsible for EM Emission
- Equation of State
- Constraints on Mass Limits

## Key:

- Progenitor
- Astrophysics
- Definition

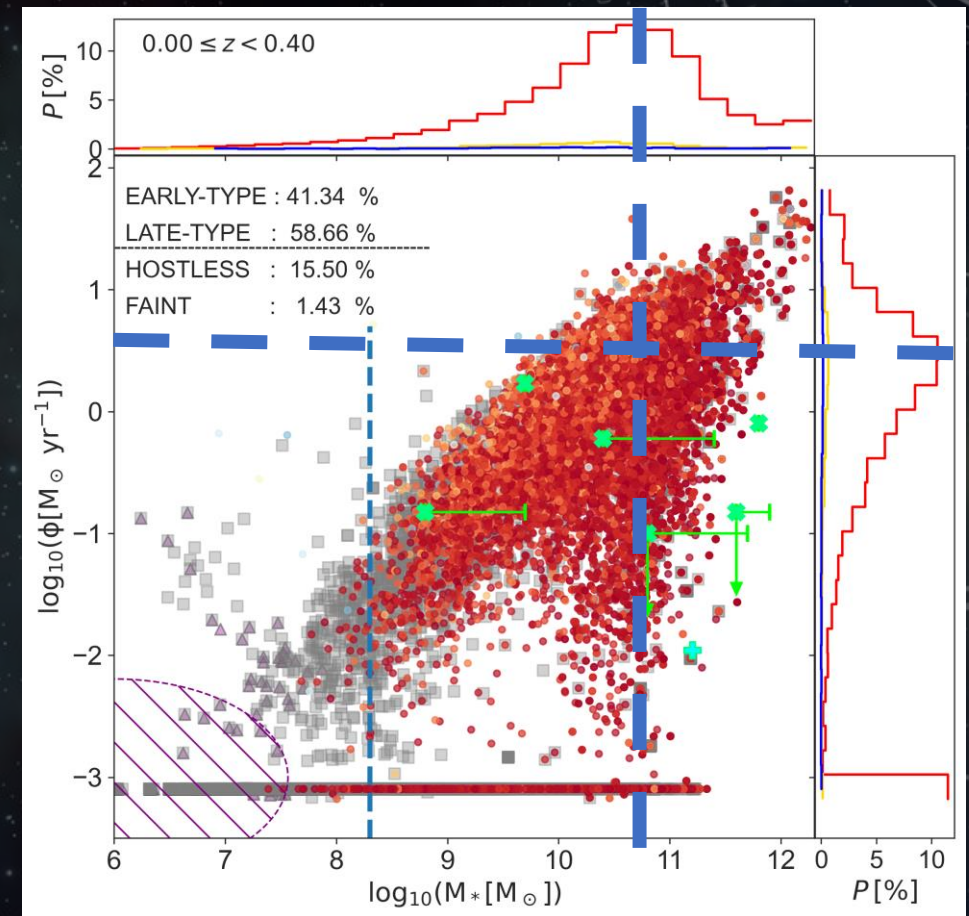




# Why are NS Binaries important?

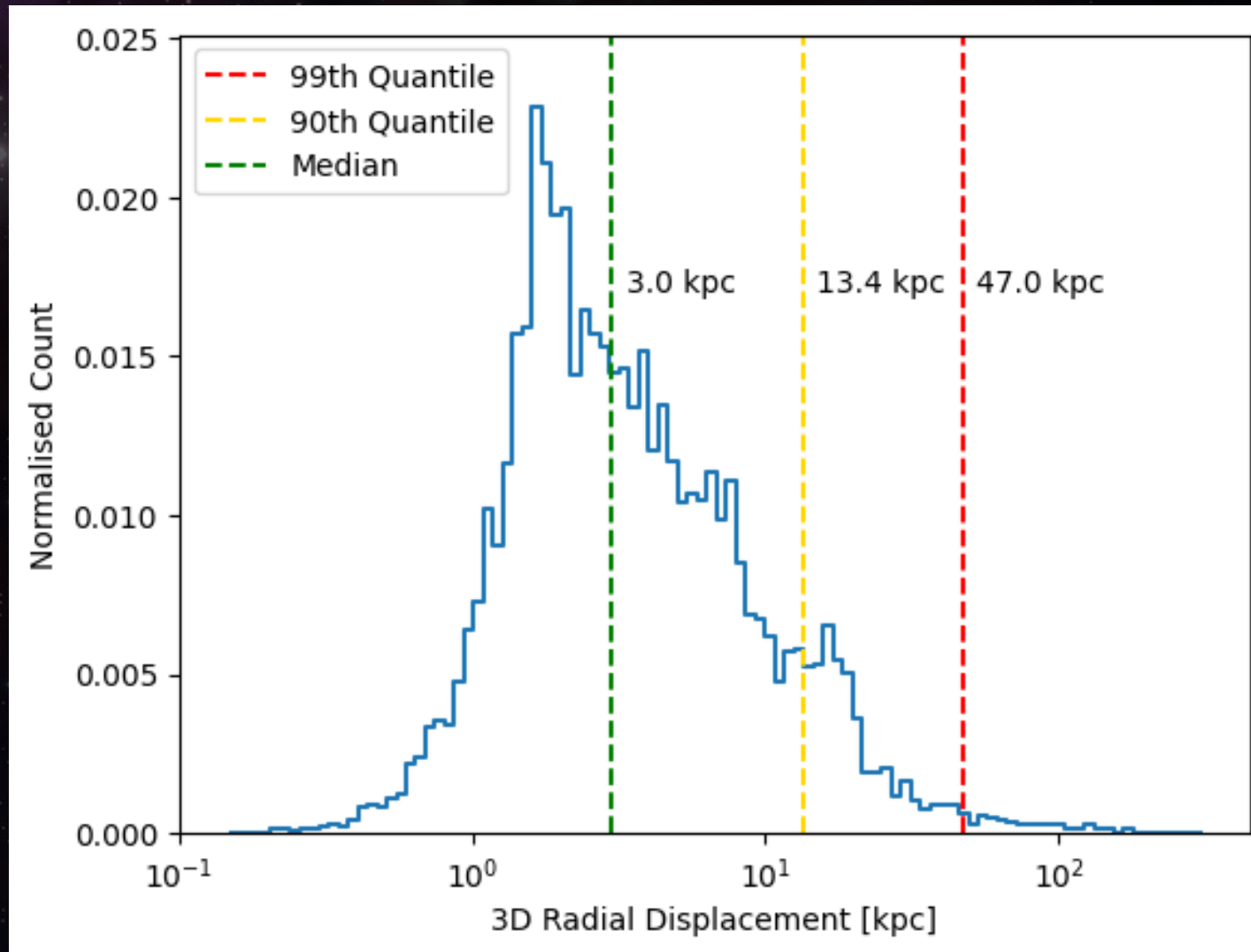
- Laboratories for extreme physics
- Evolution favours supernovae:
  - Natal Kicks
- Detectable with current generations of gravitational waves
- Important for the formation of GRBs/Kilonovae
  - R-process Enrichment of the Universe
- Favour MW type hosts – see zELDA results, Mandhai et al., 2022 (also see works by Artale et al., Jiang et al., 2020)
- MW Statistical Studies – Sgalletta et al., 2023

## NSNS



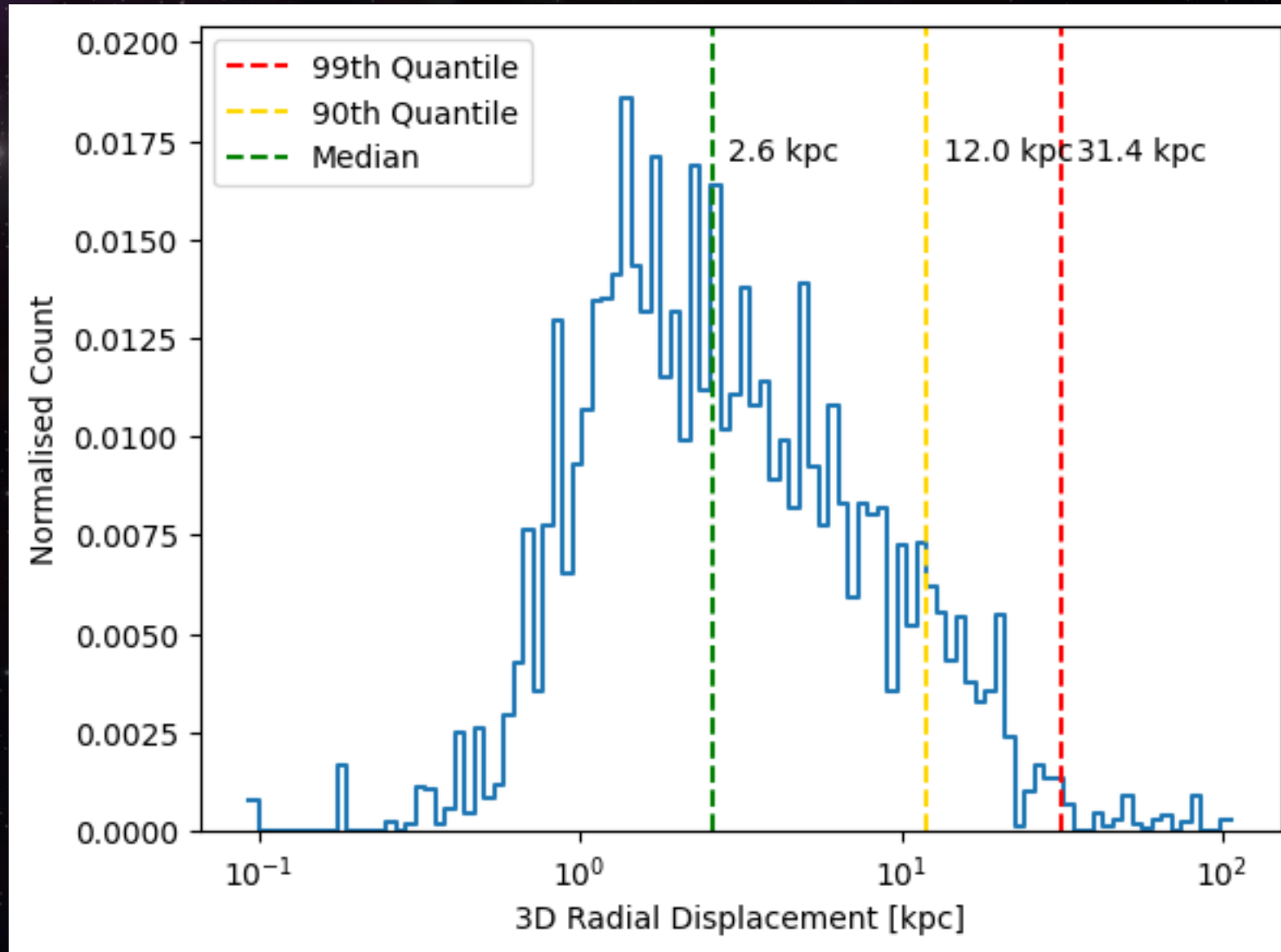


# General Displacement (w/ kicks)



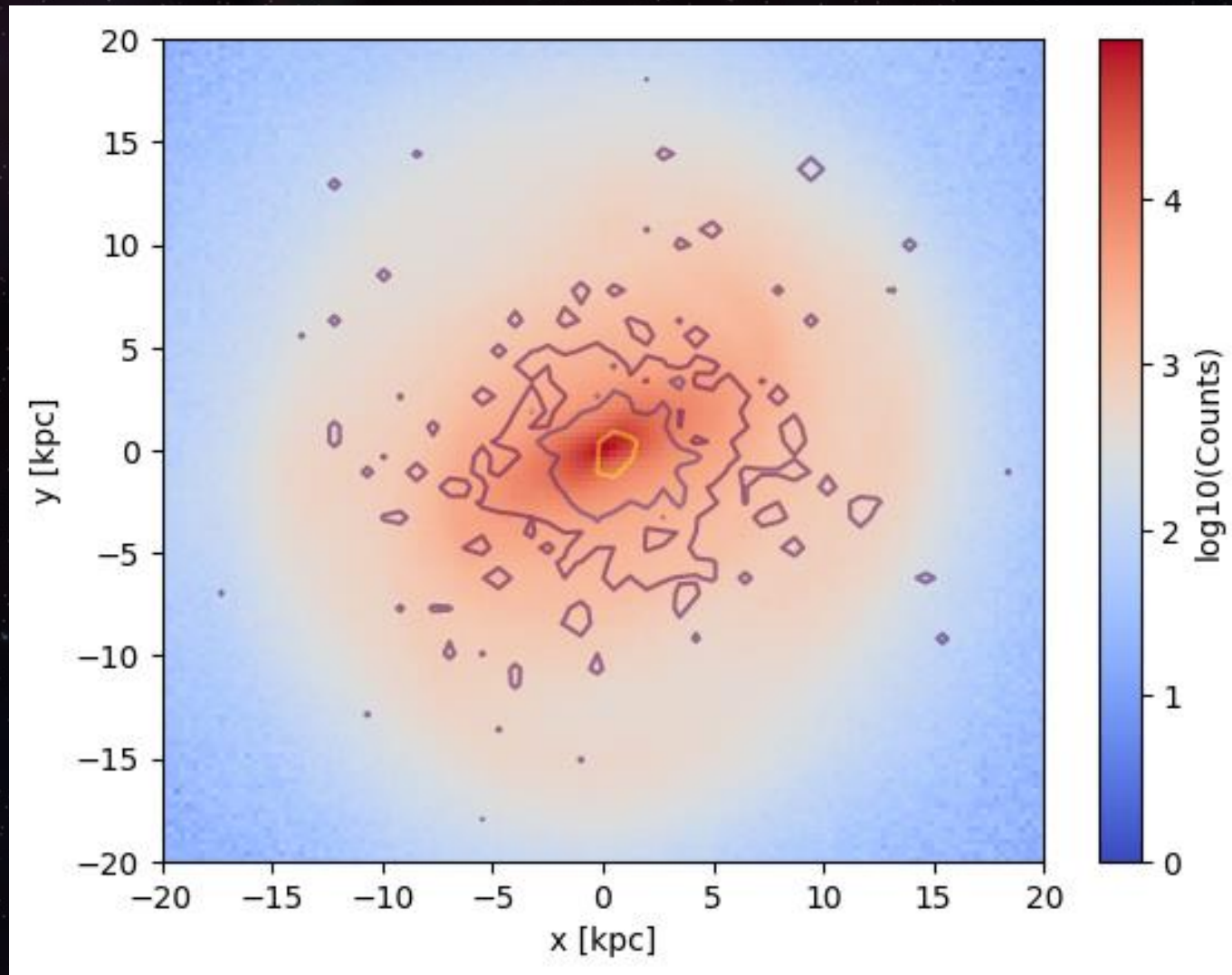


# General Displacement (w/o kicks)



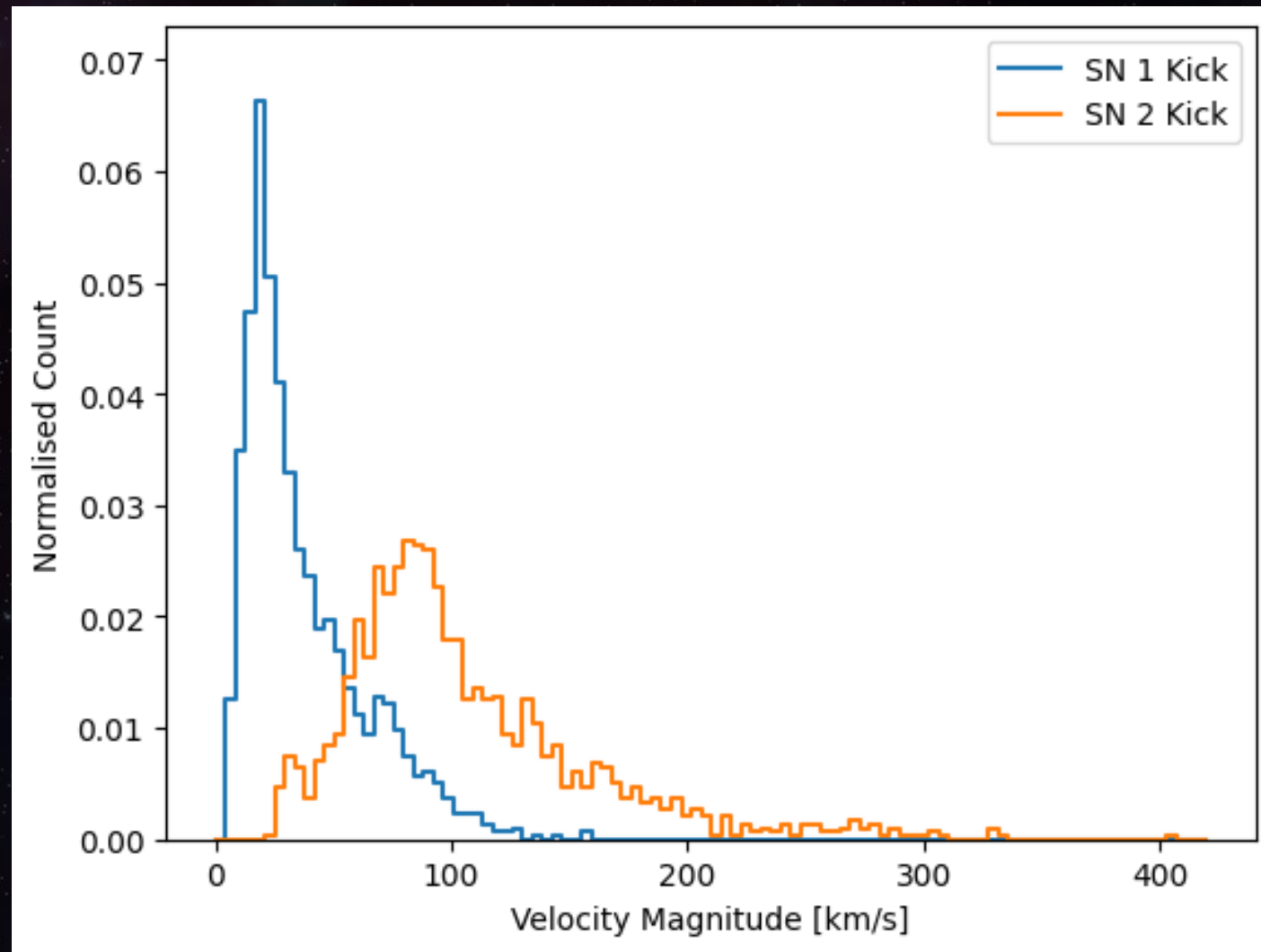


# Spatial Distribution w/o kicks





# Kick Distribution – Preliminary OCARINA Test

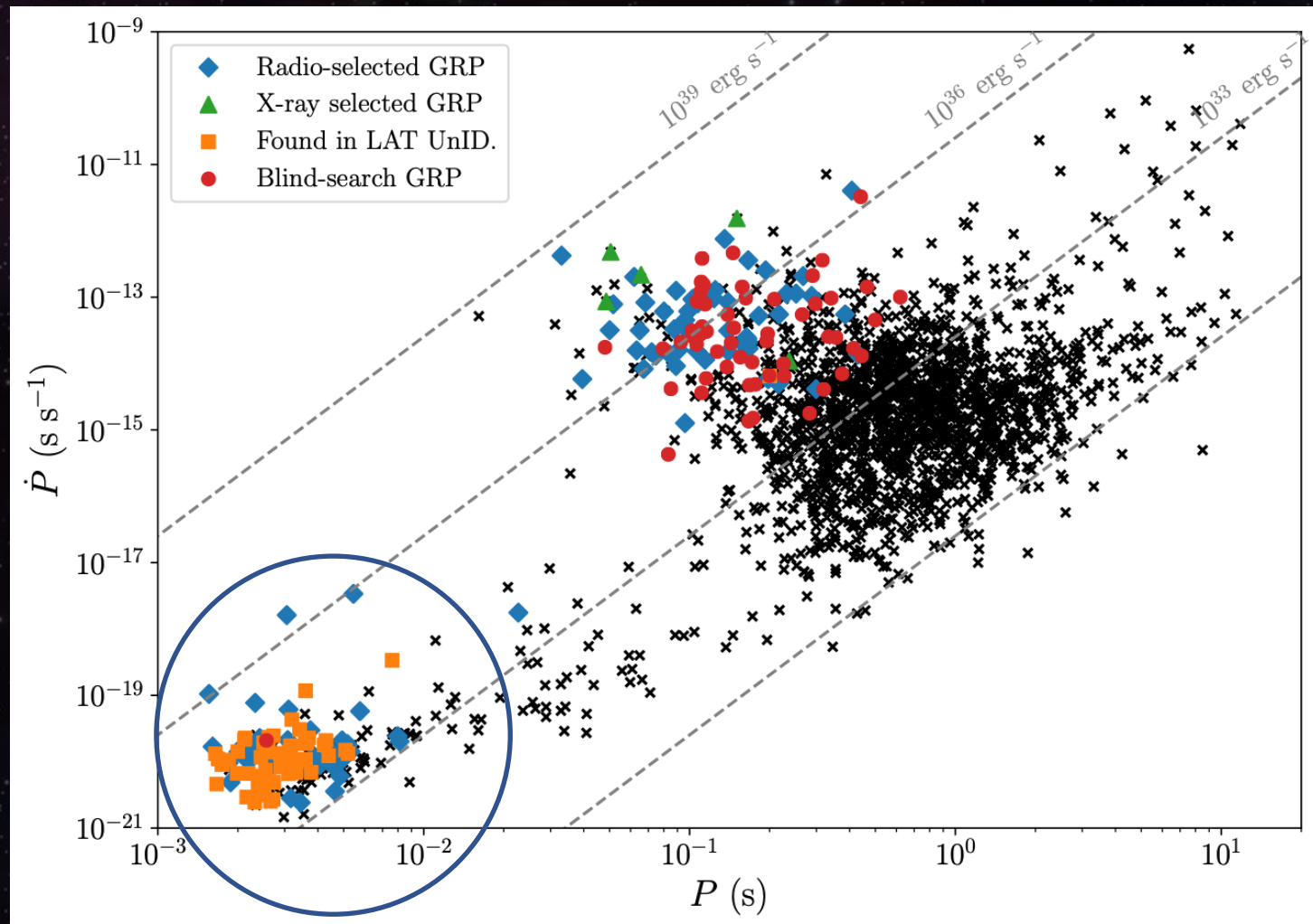




# More on Spiders...



# P-Pdot Diagram Example



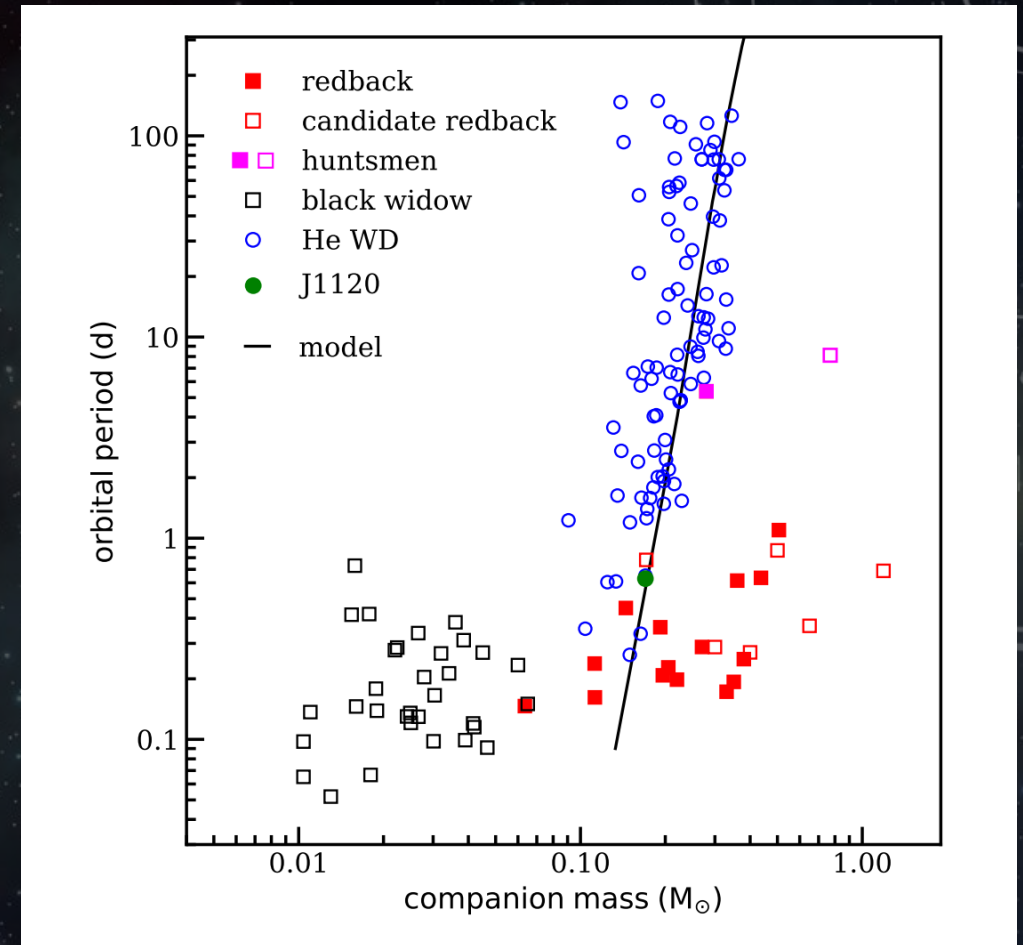
Credit: C. Clark

Hannover 2024



# Types of Spiders

- Typical orbital period  $\sim < 1$  day
- Black Widows:
  - Companion Mass  $< 0.1 M_{\text{sol}}$
  - Day and night side
  - Deformed
- Redbacks:
  - Companion Mass  $\sim < 0.5 M_{\text{sol}}$
  - Oblate Spheroid
- Huntsman (?)

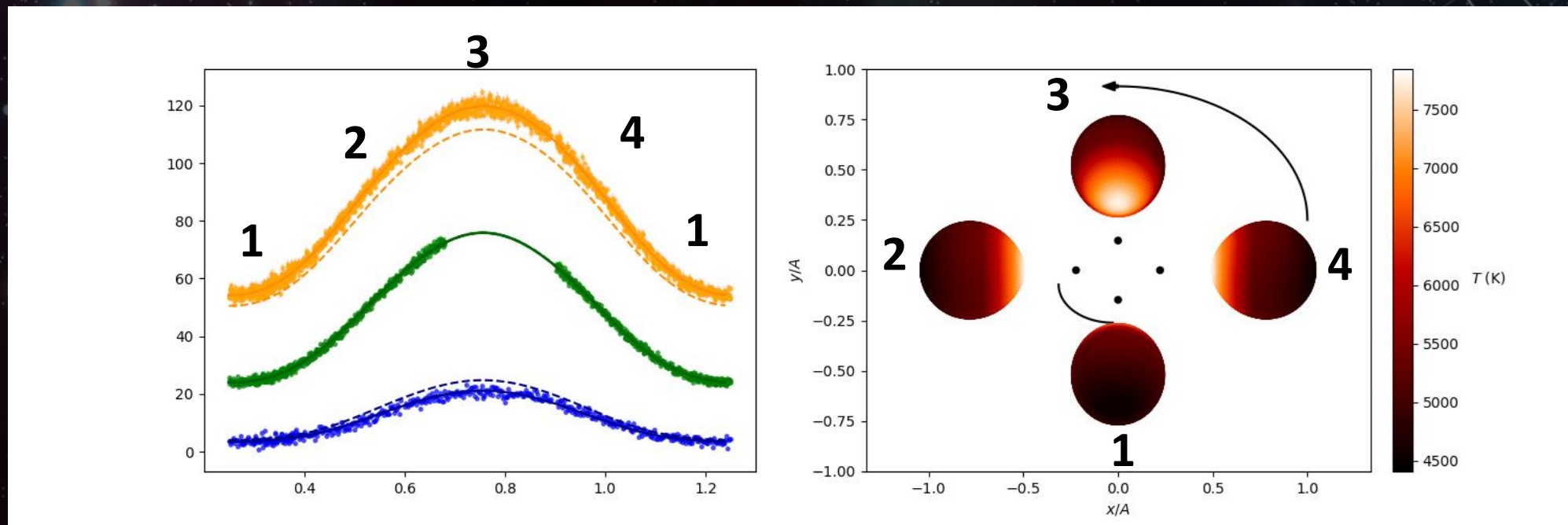


Credit: Swihart et al., 2022



# Phases of orbit

- Observations at different epochs tighten binary parameter space



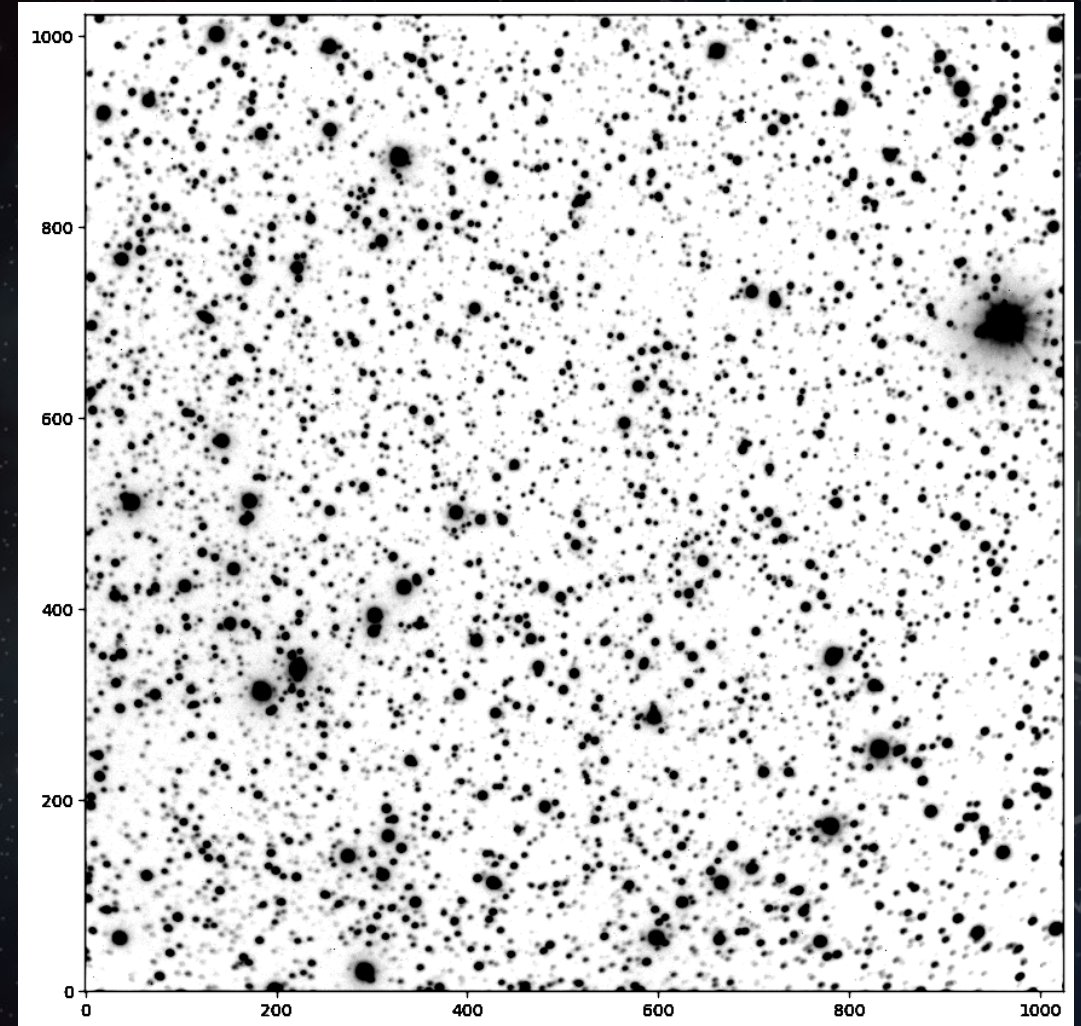
Credit: Oli Dodge



# Observational Campaign

- NTT/ULTRACAM search for Spiders
- ~25 Nights of Observations
- 90-100 individual observations
  - 30 unique sources observed.
- Light curve of each source gauged
- Discovery of Asteroids
- Schedule: John Paice

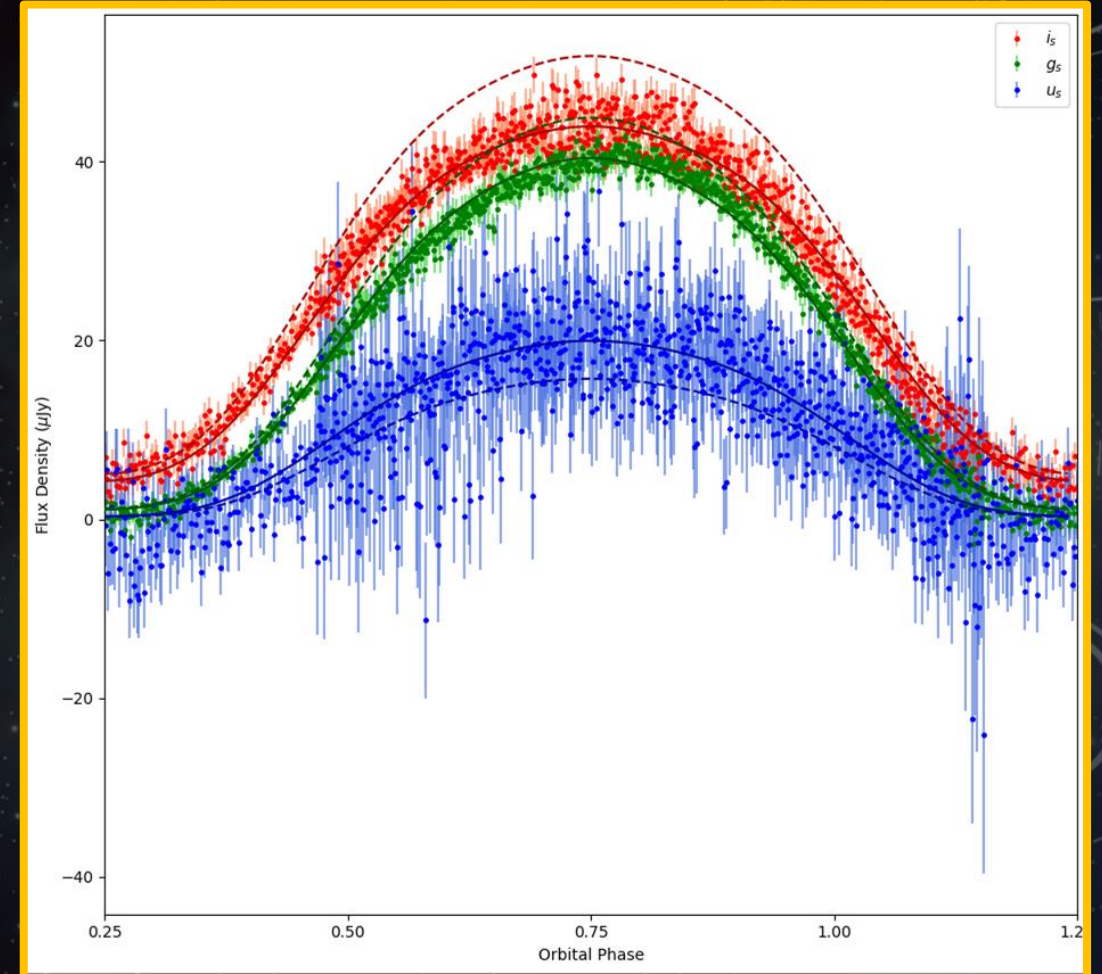
Example Shown: 4FGL J1517.9-5233





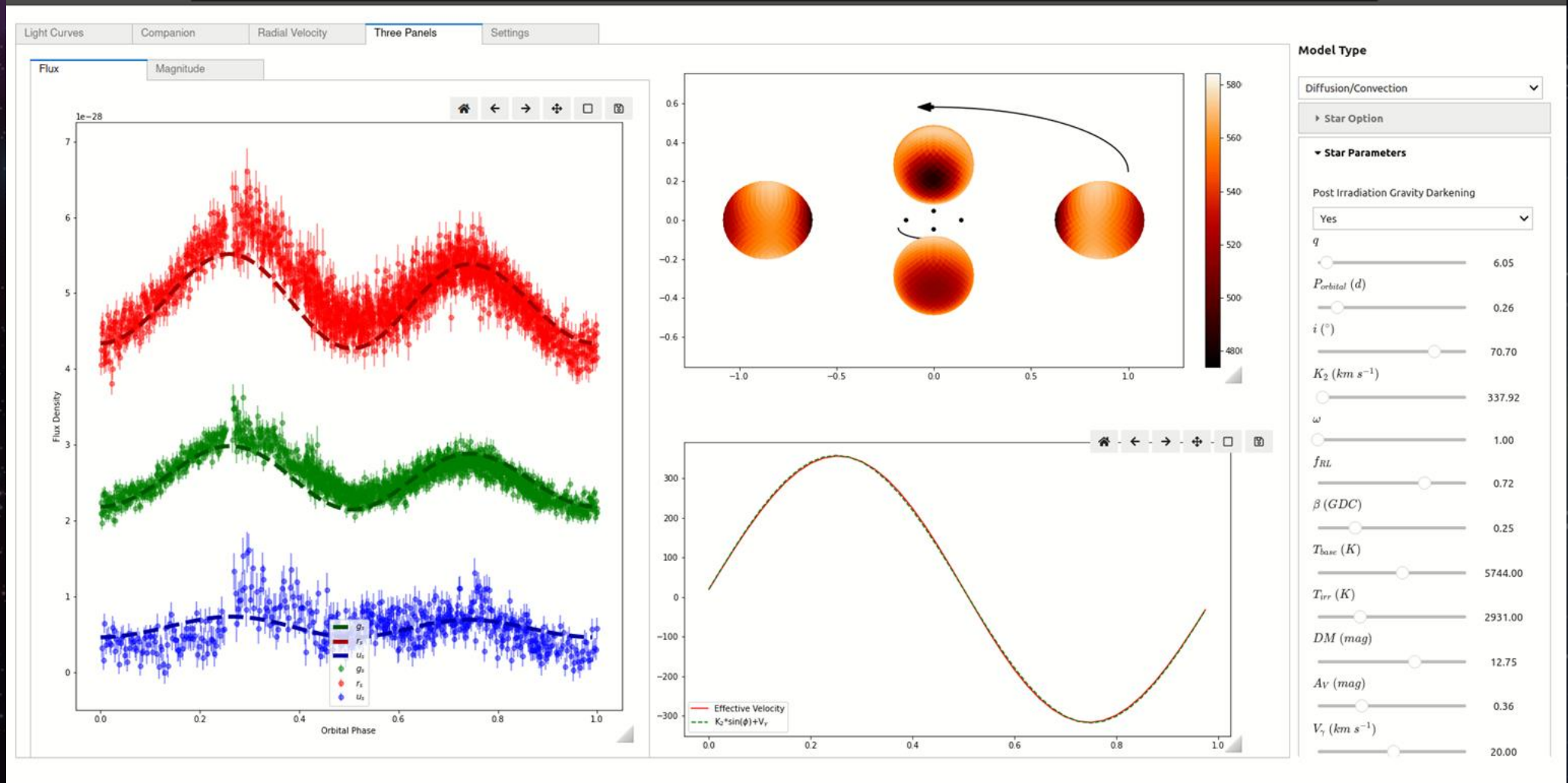
# Observational Analysis

- Work by Oli Dodge using ICARUS (Stellar light curve synthesis tool)
- Uses Observational data + estimated parameters
- Can be used to infer the heating of the companion
- Gives insight into eclipsing mechanism





# The challenges...

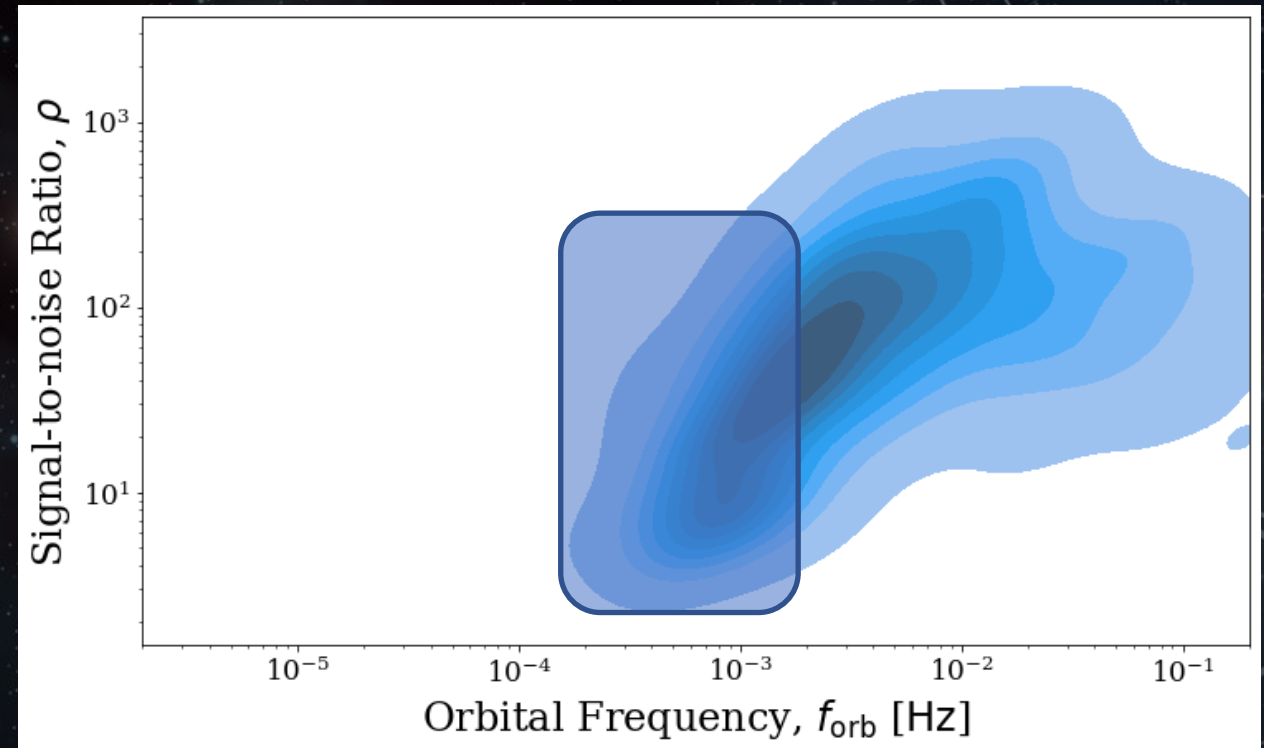




# Going forward:

- Create a binary zoo for the Milky Way
- Use similar hydrodynamical simulations to recreate host galaxy environments
- Form strategies for EM follow-up for GW detections, whether LVK or LISA/DECIGO

Example SNR Detectability for Spiders:



Using LEGWORK – See Wagg et al., 2022



# More on zELDA/Galaxy Evo...



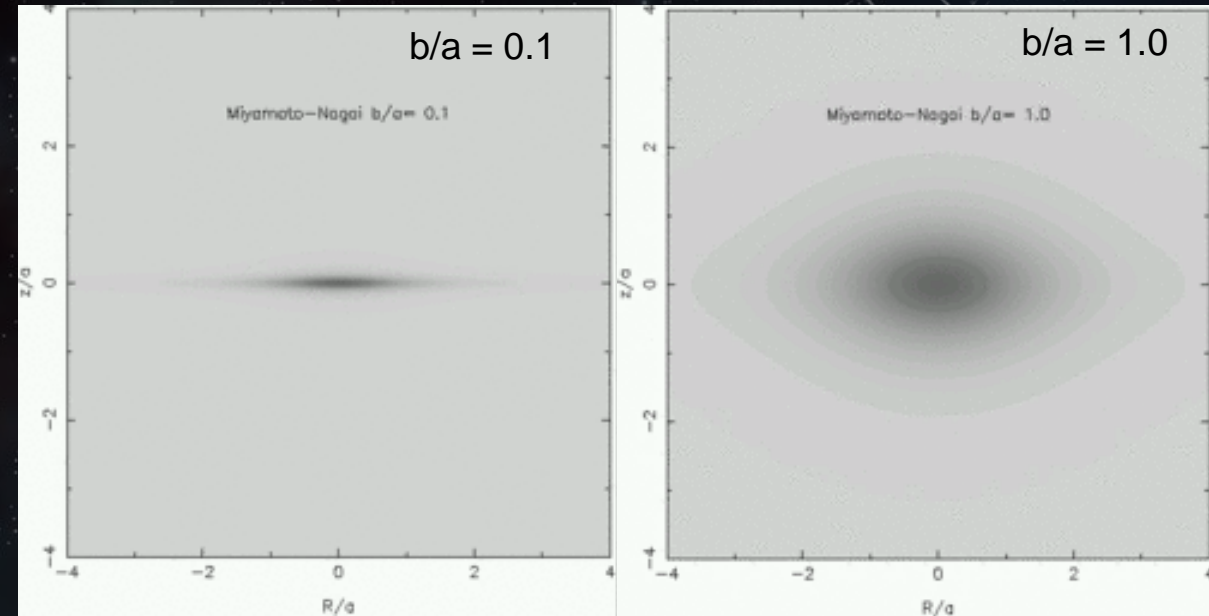
# Where do binary mergers occur?

## Host Potential:

- Integrated GalPy usage
- Stellar and Gas components = Miyamoto & Nagai Potentials
- DM Halo: NFW Profile
- Approximated based on initial EAGLE parameters

## Binary Placement:

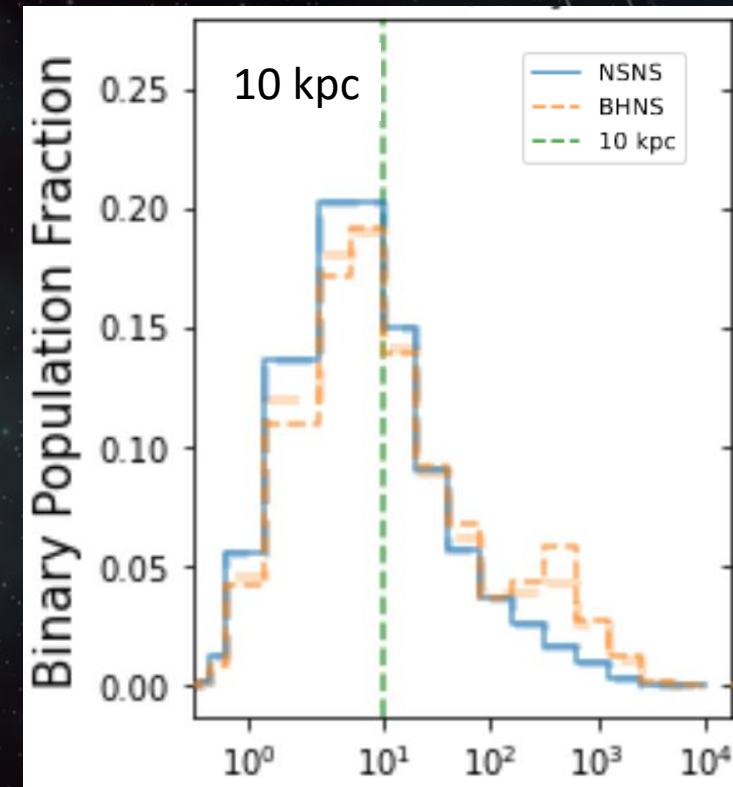
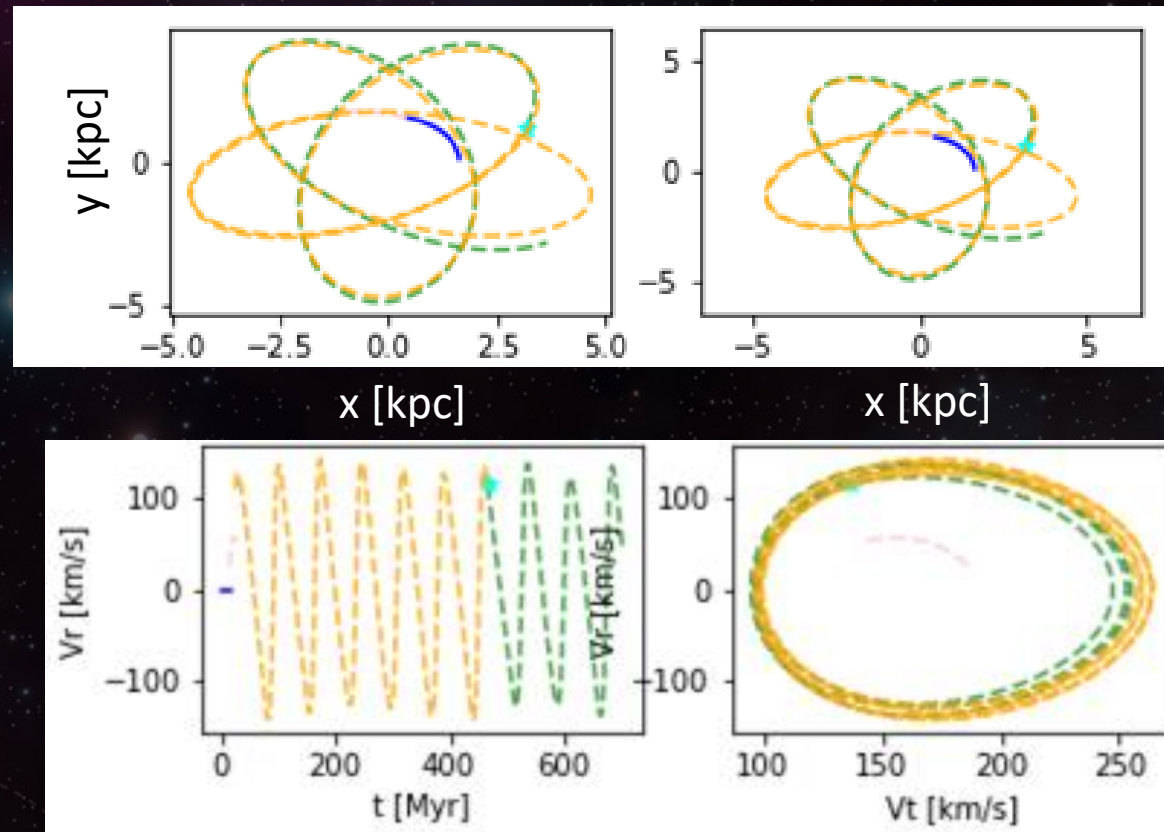
- Isolated binaries from Bray & Eldridge, (2018)
- Weighted by the Stellar Mass profile ( $z=0$ )
- Randomly placed



Credit: Chris Flynn



# Example Orbits (using zELDA):

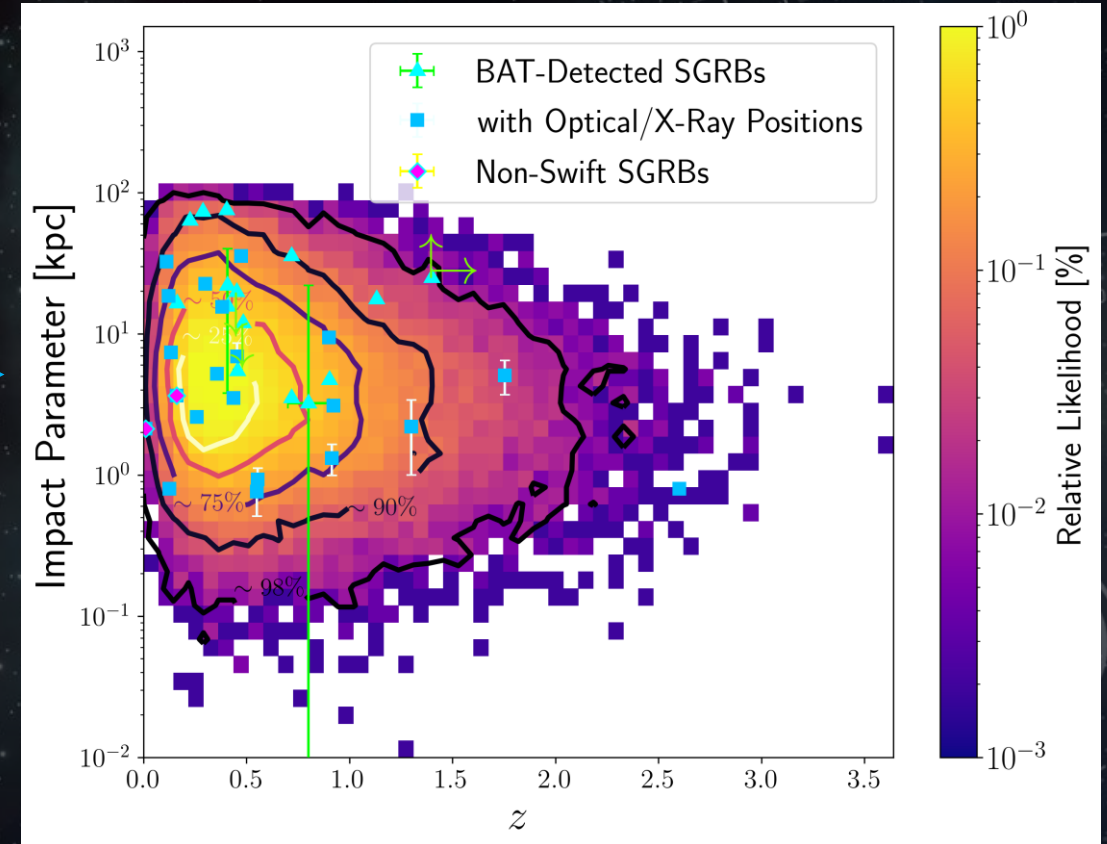
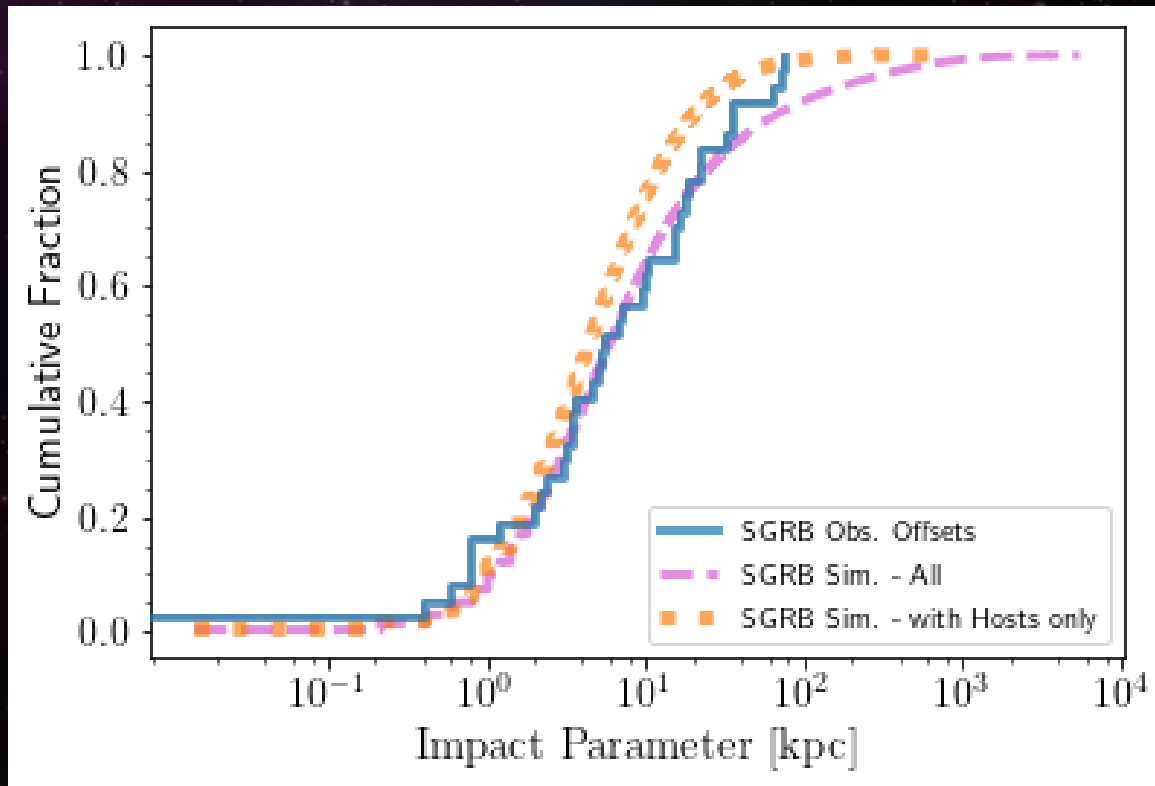


3D Radial Distance [kpc]

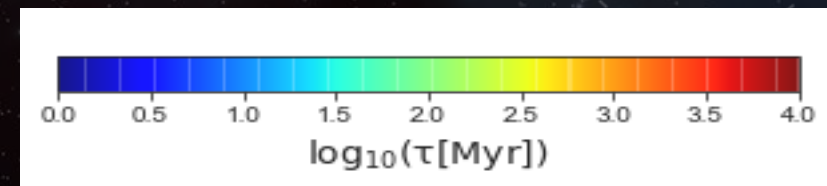
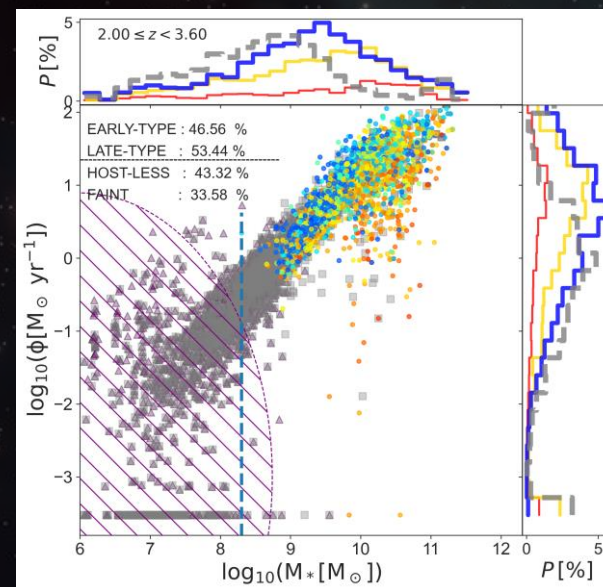
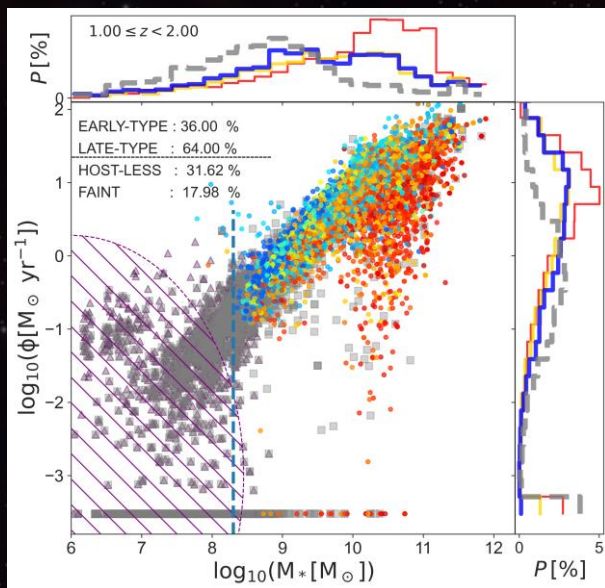
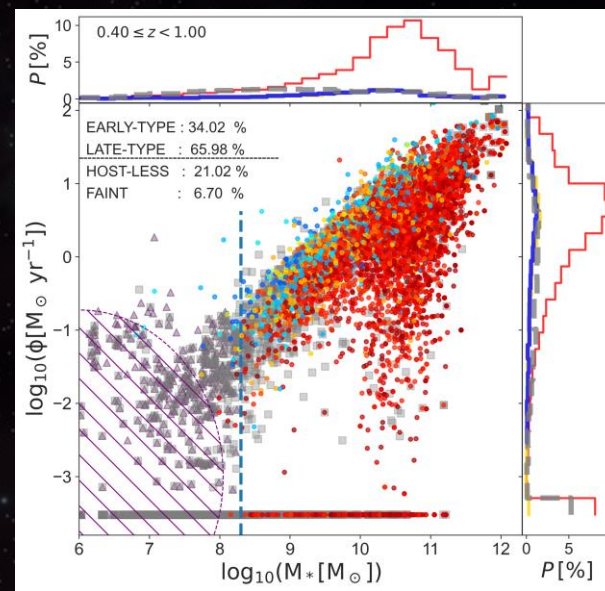
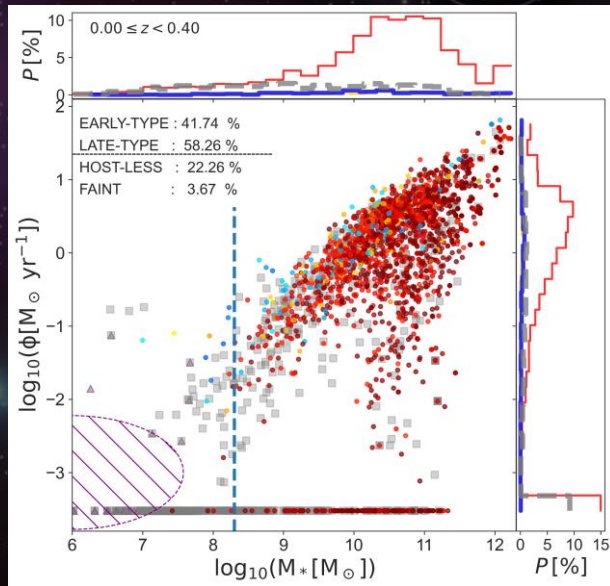
Mandhai et al., 2022



# GRB Offsets – Predictions vs Observations



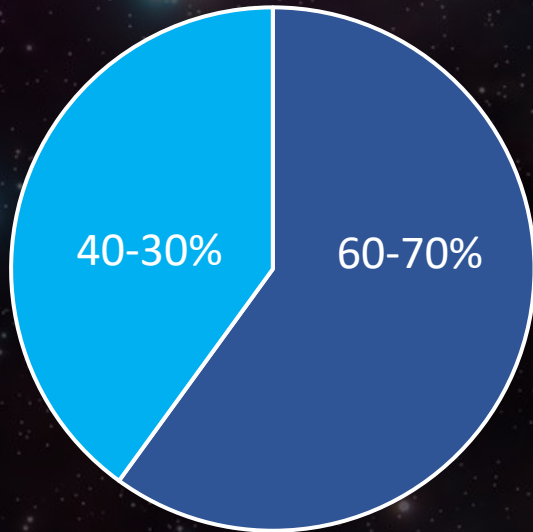




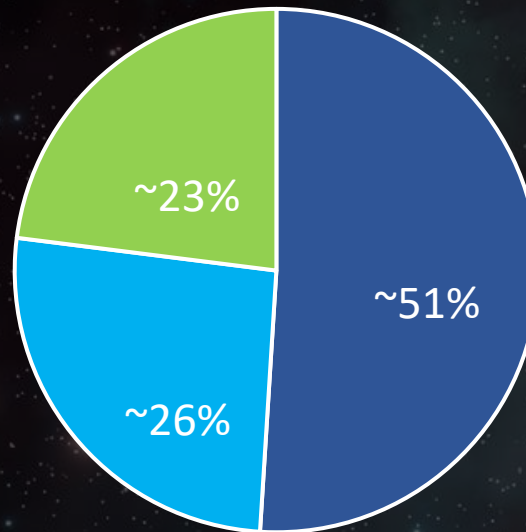


# Predicted Binary Demographics

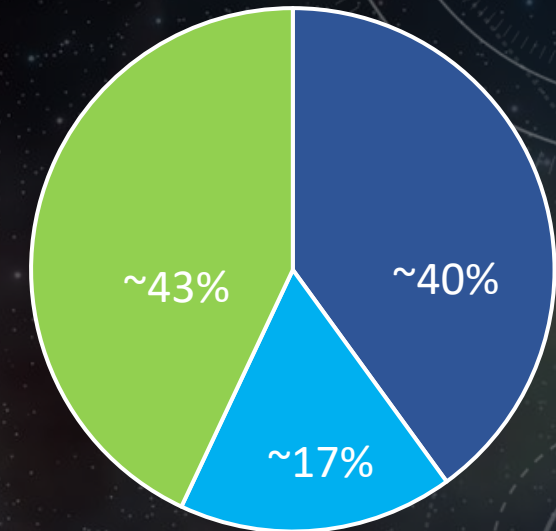
## Host Galaxy Morphology\*



## NSNS



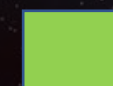
## BHNS



Late-Type\*\*



Early-Type\*\*



Host-less\*\*\*

\*Averaged across redshift for BHNS/NSNS

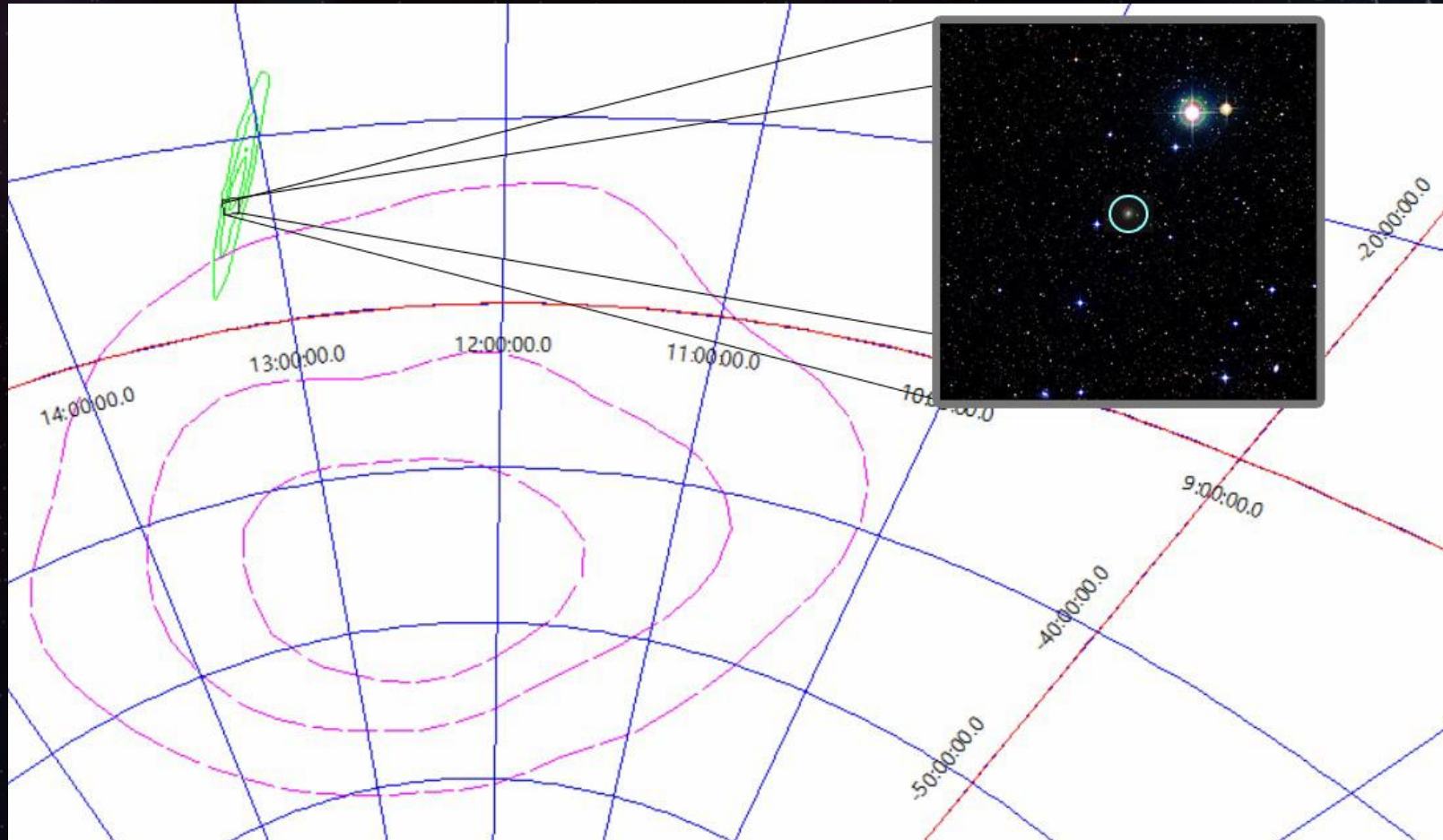
\*\* Defined using galaxy shape diagnostic from Thob et al., 2019

\*\*\* Have observationally faint hosts and/or merge remotely

(Reasonable agreement with Chu et al., 2021, Artale et al., 2019 – Also see Artale et al., 2020 a,b)



# Advantage of Swift – Great Localisation





# Extragalactic: Caveats

## Theory

- Stellar evolutionary models are not necessarily complete
  - BPASS+COSMIC used in this work
- Galaxy morphologies and evolution is not complete
- Kick prescriptions are approximations
- IMF dependence on metallicity is sparsely studied

## Computation

- Detailed orbital analysis is computationally expensive
- Concessions need to be made
- Approximations may not be completely physical

## Observations

- Host galaxy associations are not definite
- Offsets can be hard to distinguish
- Galaxies require surveying/deep field analysis