Black hole archaeology with gravitational waves

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# Particle physics in stars



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# Binary mergers in LIGO/Virgo O1-3



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 $M_{\rm in} = 120 {
m M}_{\odot}$ 





# The danger zone: pair-instability

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Barkat, Rakavy, Sack PRL (1967) Rakavy, Shaviv, ApJ (1967)

The high temperatures of stellar cores mean electronpositron pairs can be created from photons:  $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ 

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<sup> $\gamma$ </sup> <sup> $e^+$ </sup> The high temperatures of stellar cores mean electronpositron pairs can be created from photons:  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^$  $e^-$ 

Unstable, because:

The photons give the star outward pressure

The electron-positron pairs imply extra gravity but no pressure

 $\rightarrow$  the core starts to collapse



# Evolution of old population-III stars



# Pair instability

in a nutshell







# Pair instability

in a nutshell

2. Explosive burning of oxygen (a burning product of helium) gets ignited



# Pair instability

in a nutshell

3a. Photodisintegration instability triggers immediate BH collapse

Initial star mass

 $M_{\rm in}\gtrsim 200\,{\rm M}_\odot$ 

 $M_{\rm in}\gtrsim90\,{\rm M}_\odot$ 

3b. Explosive oxygen burning unbinds all material in the star: PISN

Adapted from Renzo et al [2002.05077]











# Upper end of the mass gap

Photodisintegration: rapid absorption of high energy photons

Photodisintegration leads to decrease in  $\Gamma_1$  and therefore a contraction



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In very high mass stars: oxygen burning can no longer keep up with contraction due to photodisintegration



No pulsations, immediate collapse into black holes

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Nuclear astrophysics: pairinstability is a sensitive probe of  ${}^{12}C(\alpha, \gamma){}^{16}O$  Farmer, Renzo, de Mink, Fishbach, Justham arXiv:2006.06678

Gravity: the BHMG is a test of  $G_N$  in stellar Straight, Sakstein, Baxter, arXiv: 2009.10716

# Axions in the cosmological triangle



e.g. Carenza, Straniero, Dobrich, Giannotti, Lucente, Mirizzi, PLB, arXiv:2004.08399

#### Axions in stars



#### Axions in stars



## Axions and the stellar EOS

• Assume an equilibrium distribution of axions, need to update the stellar EOS with axion contributions to:

$$\begin{array}{c} \cdot P_{g} \\ \cdot E \\ \cdot S \\ \cdot S \\ \cdot C_{V} \\ \cdot C_{P} \\ \cdot C_{P} \\ \cdot C_{A} \\ \cdot C_{P} \\ \cdot C_{A} \\ \cdot C_{P} \\ \cdot C_{A} \\$$

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# AISN: evolution







#### AISN: resulting black holes



# AISN: luminosity



### Axions and photo disintegration instability



#### Black hole archeology: what about the data?



#### Black hole archeology: what about the data?



Black hole mass

We can predict black hole masses from stellar masses through stellar evolution simulations



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New particles or different nuclear physics may change this prediction

DC, McDermott, Sakstein arXiv:2007.00650 [hep-ph]

DC, McDermott, Sakstein, PRD (editor's suggestion), arXiv:2007.07889 [gr-qc]

Straight, Sakstein, Baxter, PRD, arXiv:2009.10716 [gr-qc]

Sakstein, DC, McDermott, Straight, Baxter, PRL, arXiv:2009.01213 [gr-qc]

Ziegler, Freese arXiv:2010.00254 [astro-ph]

... More work in progress



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New particles or different nuclear physics may change this prediction





Baxter, DC, McDermott, Sakstein, arXiv:2104.02685



See also Talbot & Trane, arXiv:1801.02699



Baxter, DC, McDermott, Sakstein, arXiv:2104.02685





## AISN and black hole populations





# Dynamical mergers and black hole genealogy

Black holes formed in prior mergers may in principle populate the mass gap.

Their mass distribution inherits from the 1g mass distribution.



# Dynamical mergers and black hole genealogy



# Binary mergers in LIGO/Virgo O3a



Baxter, DC, McDermott, Sakstein, arXiv:2104.02685 — +O3b: work in progress with McDermott, Ulrich, Sakstein

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#### To conclude,

- Gravitational waves offer an exciting new opportunity to study open questions in stellar astrophysics and particle physics
- Pair-instability supernovae lead to unpopulated space in the stellar graveyard → the black hole mass gap is an entirely new probe of particle & nuclear physics
- Black hole population studies will allow us to study stellar evolution → black hole archeology





#### ...ask me anything you like!

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# Physics dependence of the BHMG



Farmer, Renzo, de Mink, Marchant, Justham arXiv:1910.12874 [astro-ph.SR]

deBoer et al arXiv:1709.03144 [hep-ex] Farmer, Renzo, de Mink, Fishbach, Justham arXiv:2006.06678 [astro-ph.SR]

# Helium burning rates as a function of T



#### Farmer, Renzo, de Mink, Fishbach, Justham arXiv:2006.06678 [astro-ph.SR]



#### The BHMG and BSM cooling DC, McDermott, Sakstein arXiv:2007.00650 [hep-ph] DC, McDermott, Sakstein arXiv:2007.07889 [gr-qc]

 Scenario: new, light particles coupled to material in the star introduce new loss channels

Extra scenarios: large extra dimensions (d = 4 + 2) and neutrino magnetic moment work through *essentially the* 

- Case studies:  $\mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{SM}}$  + . . .
  - the electrophilic axion  $\mathscr{L}_{ae} = -ig_{ae}\bar{\psi}_e\gamma_5\psi_e a$  (will also work with  $\alpha_{26} \equiv 10^{26}g_{ae}^2/4\pi$  for convenience)\*
  - the photophilic axion  $\mathscr{L}_{a\gamma} = -\frac{1}{4}g_{a\gamma}aF_{\mu\nu}\widetilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$  (will also define  $g_{10} \equiv 10^{10}g_{a\gamma}$  GeV)
  - the hidden photon  $\mathscr{L}_{A'\gamma} = -\frac{\epsilon}{2}F'_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_{A'}^2}{2}A'_{\mu}A'^{\mu}$  (and define nothing)

\*Interesting in light of the XENON1T excess, arXiv:2006.09721 [hep-ex]



Central losses:  $Q_{ae}$ ,  $Q_{a\gamma}$ ,  $Q_{A'}$  (erg g<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>)

