Do MBH binaries coalesce?

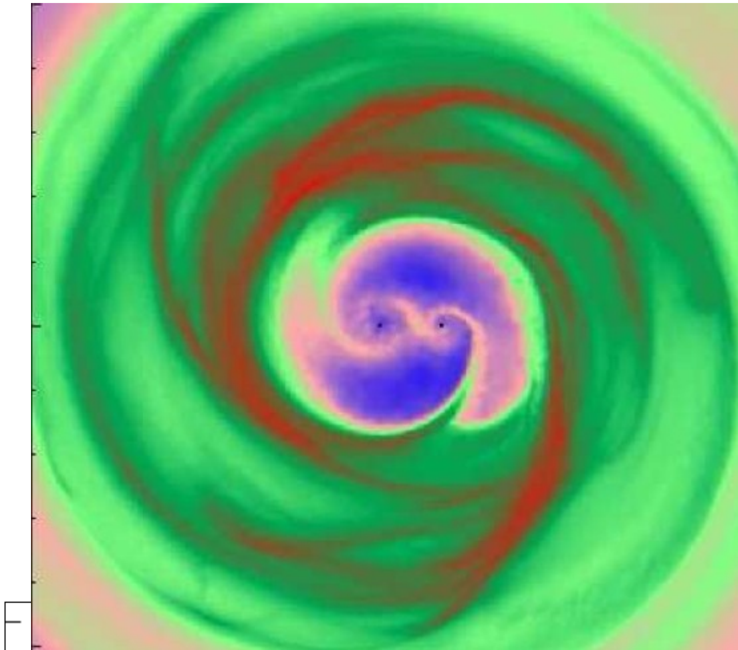
(Question 1.3 in Pau's list)

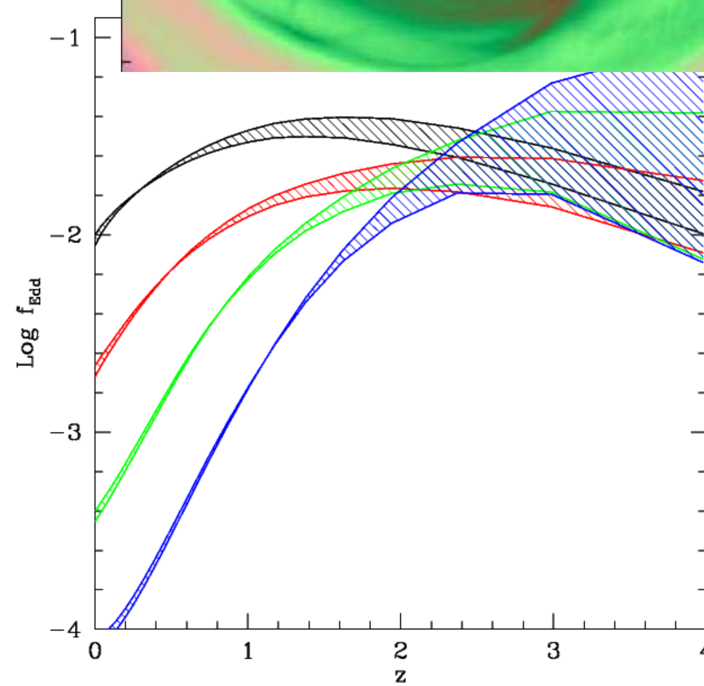
Massimo Dotti

University of Milano-Bicocca

Collaborators:

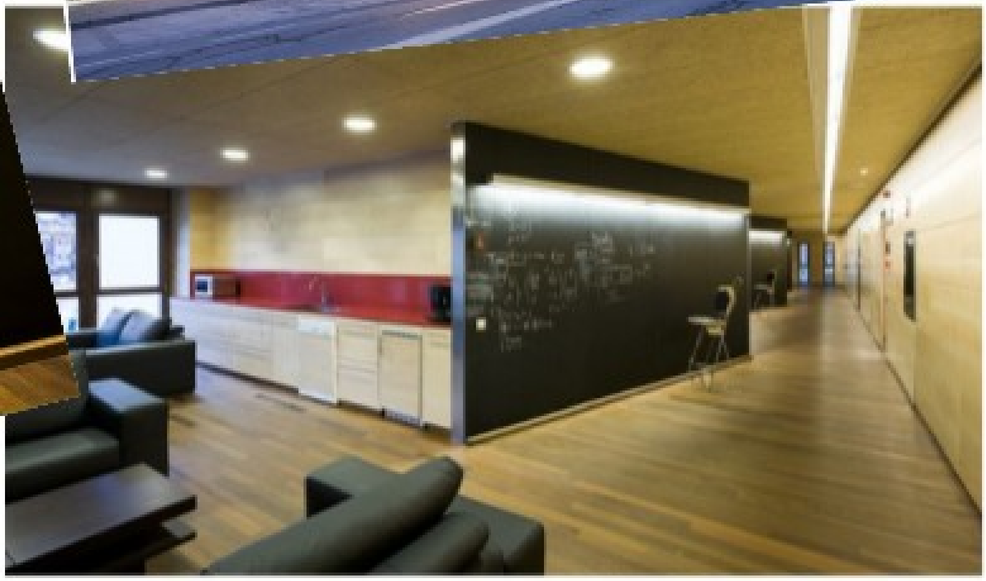
A. Merloni and **C. Montuori**





Astro-GR@Benasque 2016

June 6-18 2016



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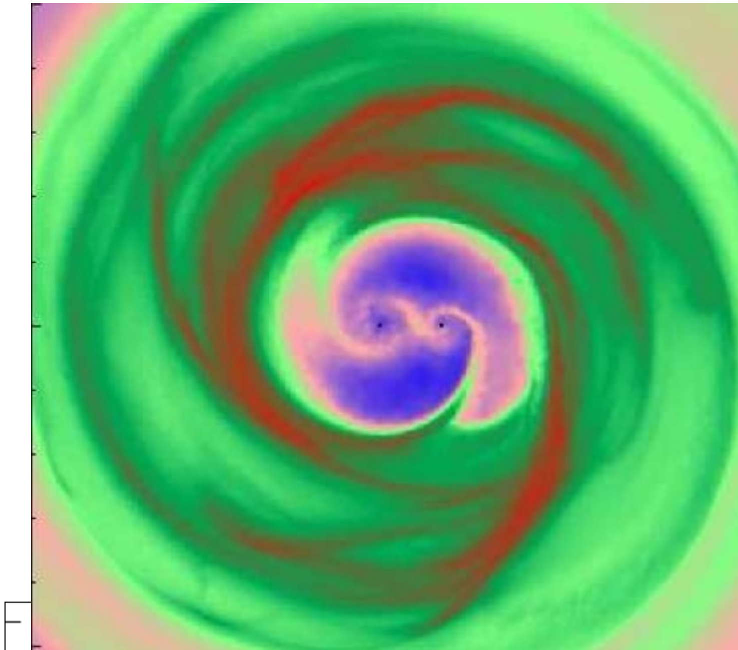
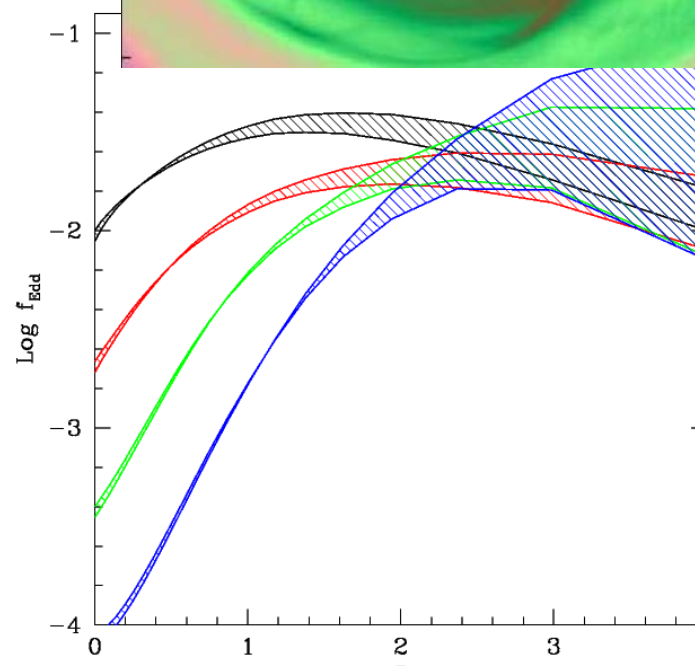




Merger phases

- Dynamical friction (from ~kpc to 100 pc)

- Dynamical friction
  (from ~100 pc down to $\lesssim$ binary formation)

Scales:

i.e., when (where) a binary forms

$$a_{\rm BHB} \sim \frac{GM_{\rm BHB}}{2\sigma^2} \sim 0.2\ M_{\rm BHB,6}\,\sigma_{100}^{-2}\ {\rm pc},$$

… assuming the M-sigma relation (!!!)

$$a_{\rm BHB} \sim 0.5\ M_{\rm BHB,6}^{1/2}\ {\rm pc}.$$

Merger phases

- Dynamical friction (from ~kpc to 100 pc)

- Dynamical friction
  (from ~100 pc down to $\lesssim$ binary formation)

- Gravitational wave emission

$$a_{GW} \approx 0.0014\,\mathrm{pc}\left(\frac{M M_1 M_2}{10^{18.3}\ \mathrm{M_\odot}^3}\right)^{1/4} F(e)^{1/4}\, t_9^{1/4}$$

From binary formation to GW: three body interactions with stars

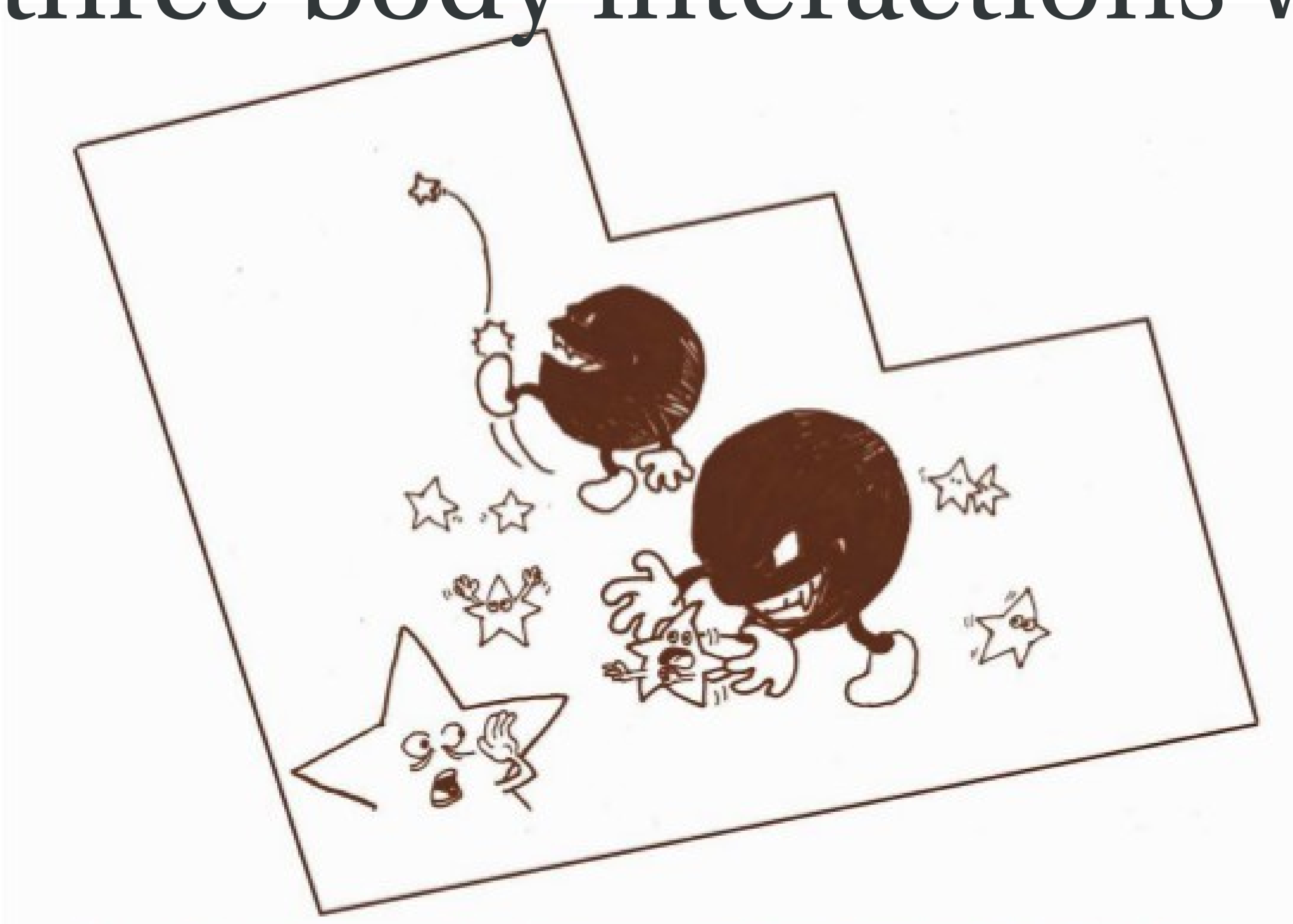


FIG. 7.— Cartoon showing a pair of supermassive black holes kicking stars away as they dance towards coalescence at the centre of a galaxy. Credit: Paolo Bonfini.

(actually taken from Graham arXiv:1501:02937)

Gravitational slingshot

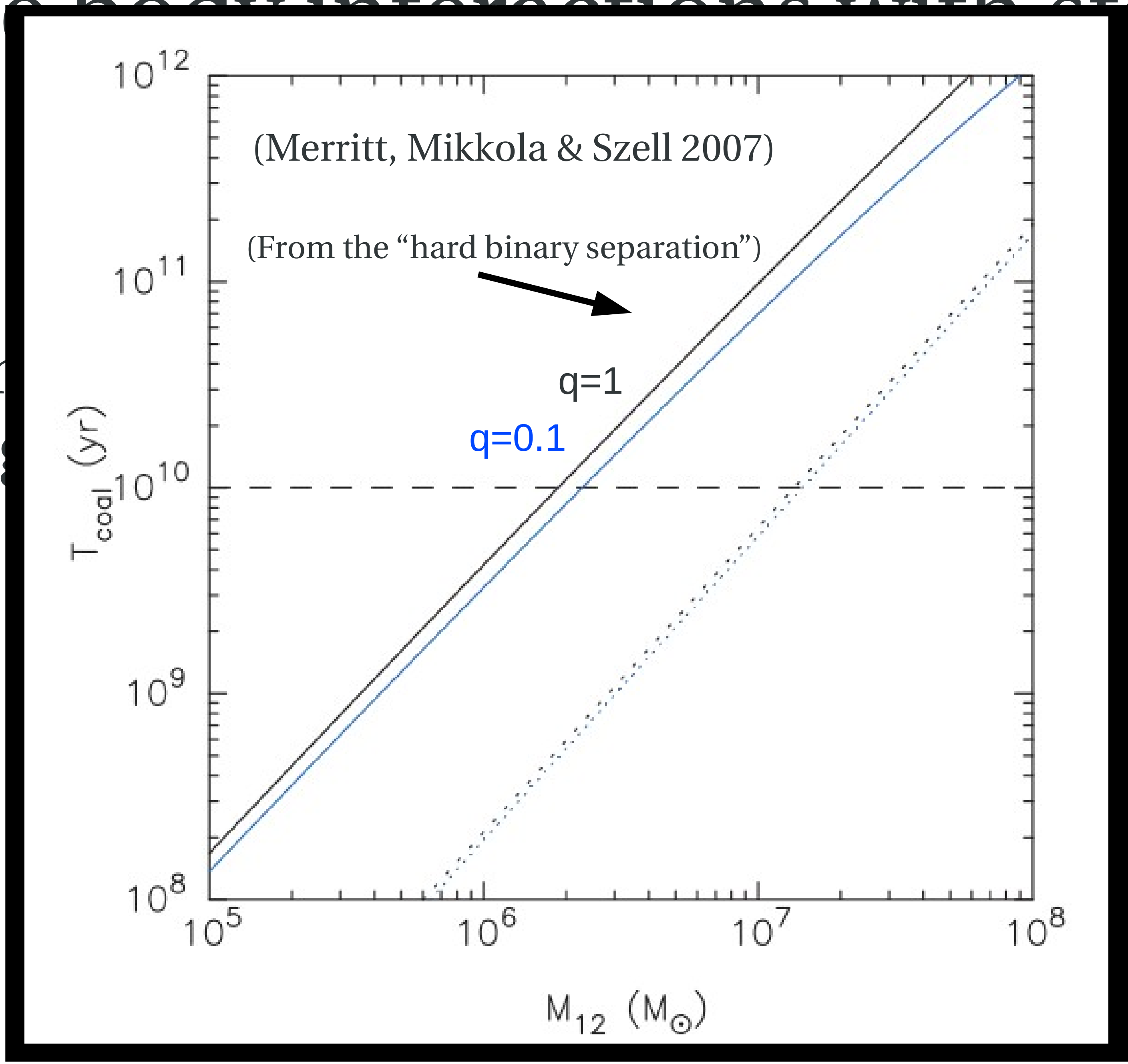
Stars are (on average) ejected with a net energy gain (see, e.g. Merritt 2013) → the binary hardens with time

From binary formation to GW: three body interactions with stars

It has soon been realized that for many MBHs there are not enough stars in the immediate proximity of a binary, and that the refilling through 2-body relaxation does not suffice

From binary formation to GW: three body interactions with stars

It has … BHs
there … iate
proxi… ling
throu…



Stellar perspective:
searching for efficient mechanisms to refill the loss cone

Best candidates (to date):

Massive perturbers
(Perets & Alexander 2008)

Non-spherical potentials (leading to centrophilic orbits)
(e.g. Khan+ 2011, Preto+ 2011, Gualandris+ 2011, Vasiliev+ 2014...)

Non-static potentials (very little investigated)
(e.g. Vasiliev+ 2014)

Gas perspective:

Approach 1: full merger simulations, following the binary formation (and possibly a bit of the hardening)
(e.g. Capelo+2015, Roskar+2015, Chapon+2013, Hopkins & Quataert 2010)

Approach 2: idealized initial conditions, to study the gas-binary interaction
(Many people in the room...)

MBHs growth through gas accretion

MBHs growth through gas accretion

Baby black hole, credits: ButterflyLove1.Etsy.com

MBHs growth through gas accretion

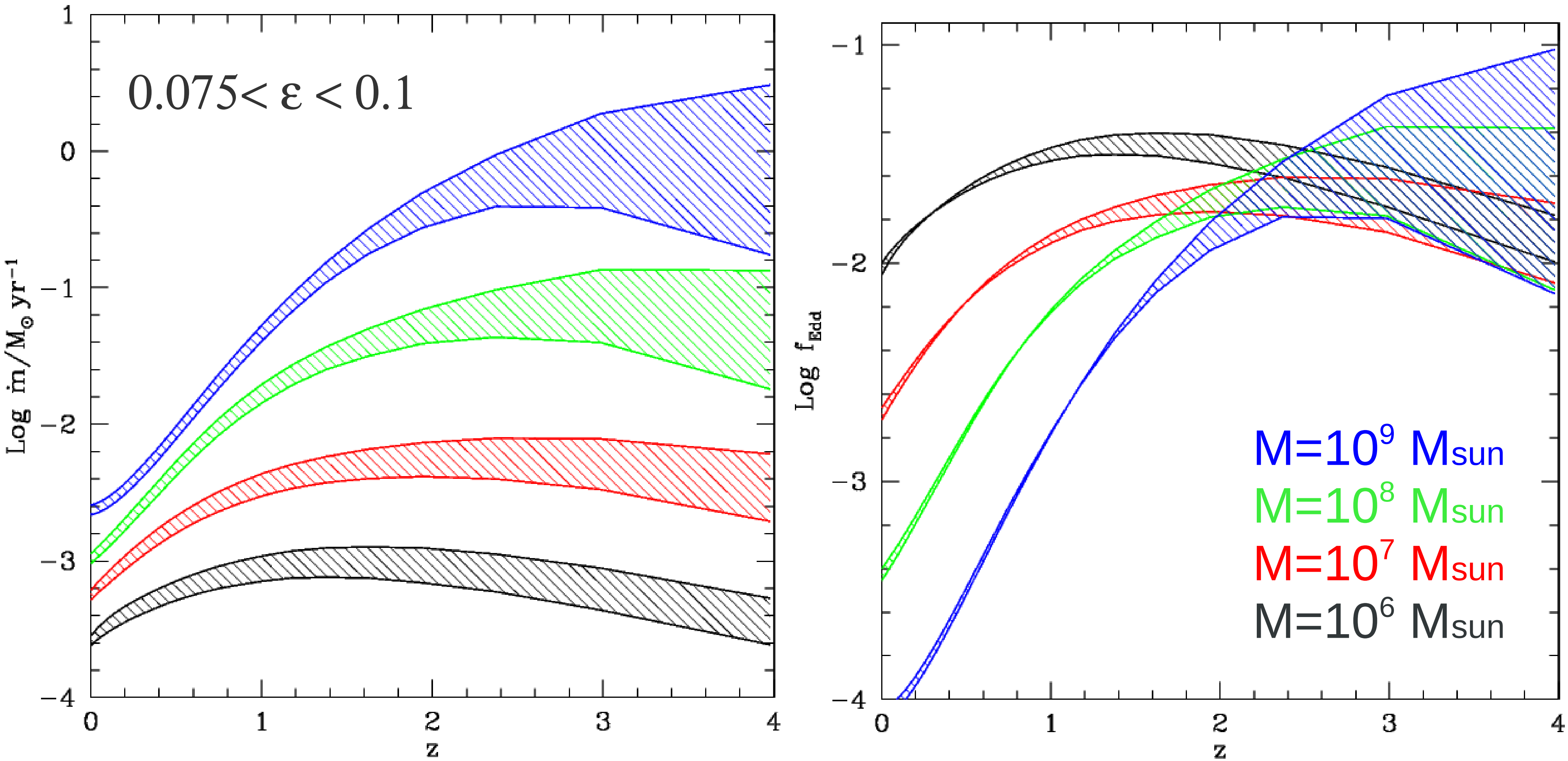


Figure 1. Average Eddington ratios (left panel) and mass accretion rates (right panel) of MBHs as function of z. Black, red, green and blue colors refer to MBH masses of 10^6, 10^7, 10^8, and 10^9 $M_\odot$, respectively. The shaded areas show the range of values comprised between the two limiting cases considered for the radiative efficiency (see discussion in the text) corresponding to $\epsilon = 0.075$ and $\epsilon = 0.1$.

(Dotti, Merloni & Montuori 2015, revisited from Merloni & Heinz 2008)

Gas perspective:

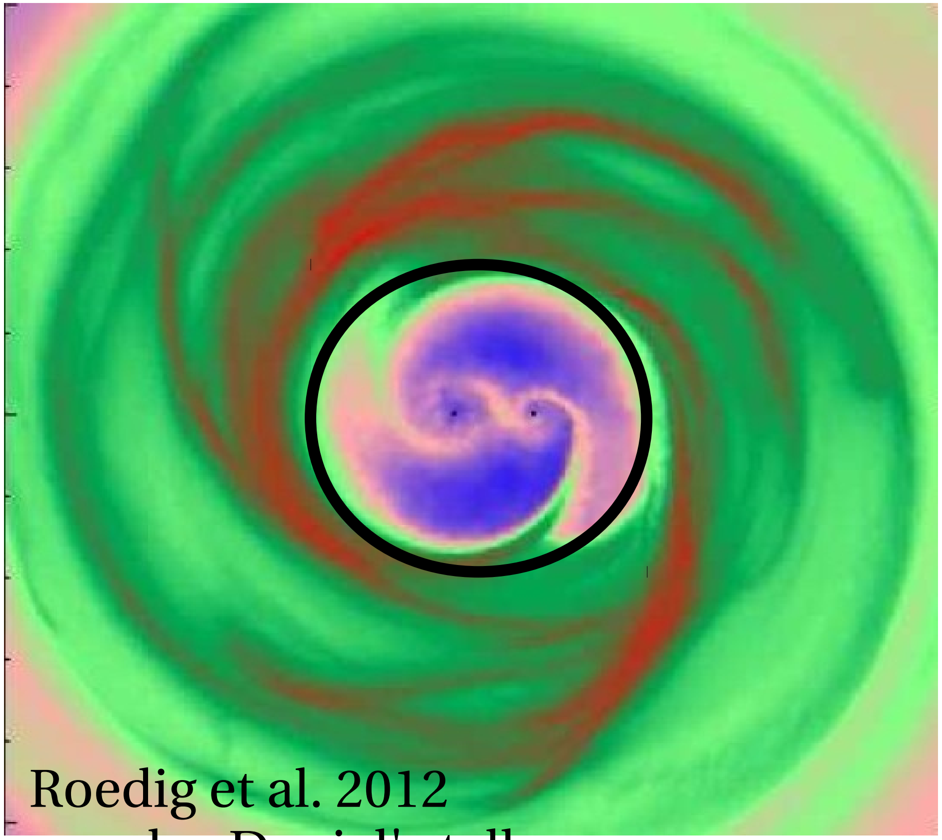
Approach 1: full merger simulations, following the binary formation (and possibly a bit of the hardening)

Approach 2: idealized initial conditions, to study the gas-binary interaction

Approach 3: idealized gas-binary interaction, with a prescription for a mass and time dependent gas inflow from the AGN luminosity function

(BBR1980, Dotti Merloni Montuori 2015)

The model in a nutshell 1:



Roedig et al. 2012
see also Daniel's talk

$$\left.\begin{aligned} \mathrm{dL_{BHB}} = -\mathrm{dL_{gas}} = -\dot{m}\,\mathrm{d}t\,\sqrt{G\,M\,r_{\mathrm{gap}}} \\ \mathrm{L_{BHB}} = \mu\,\sqrt{G\,M\,a} \end{aligned}\right\}$$

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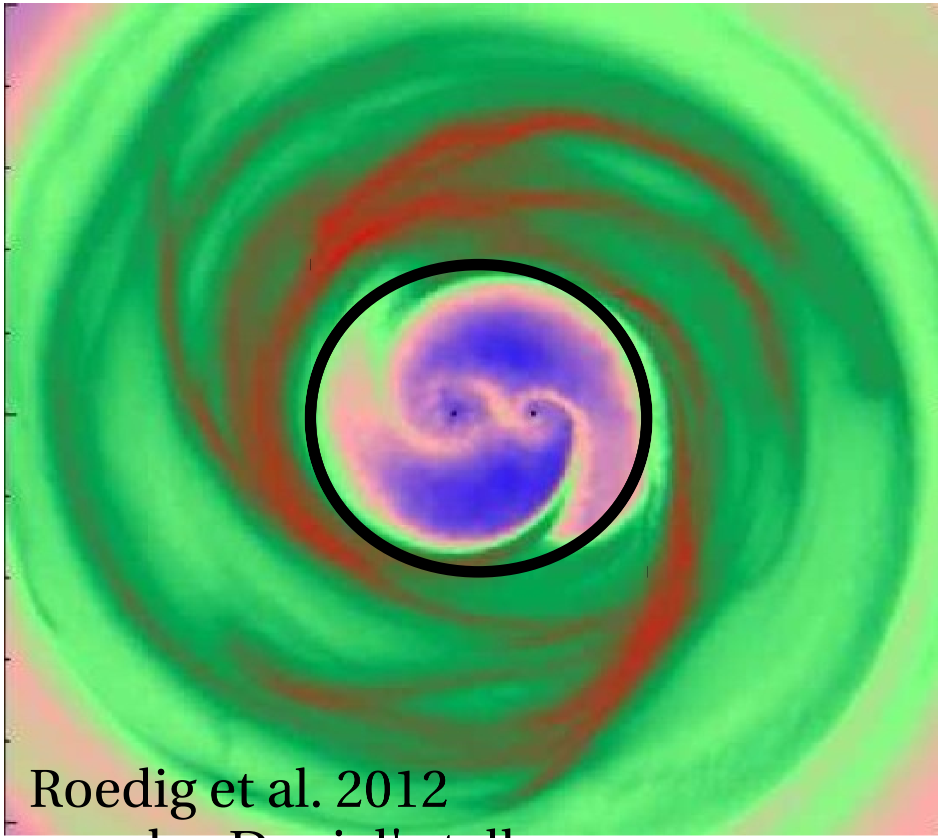

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$$\mathrm{L_{BHB}} = \mu\,\sqrt{G\,M\,a}$$

$$\frac{\mu}{2\sqrt{2}}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}a}{a} \approx -\dot{m}\,\mathrm{d}t$$

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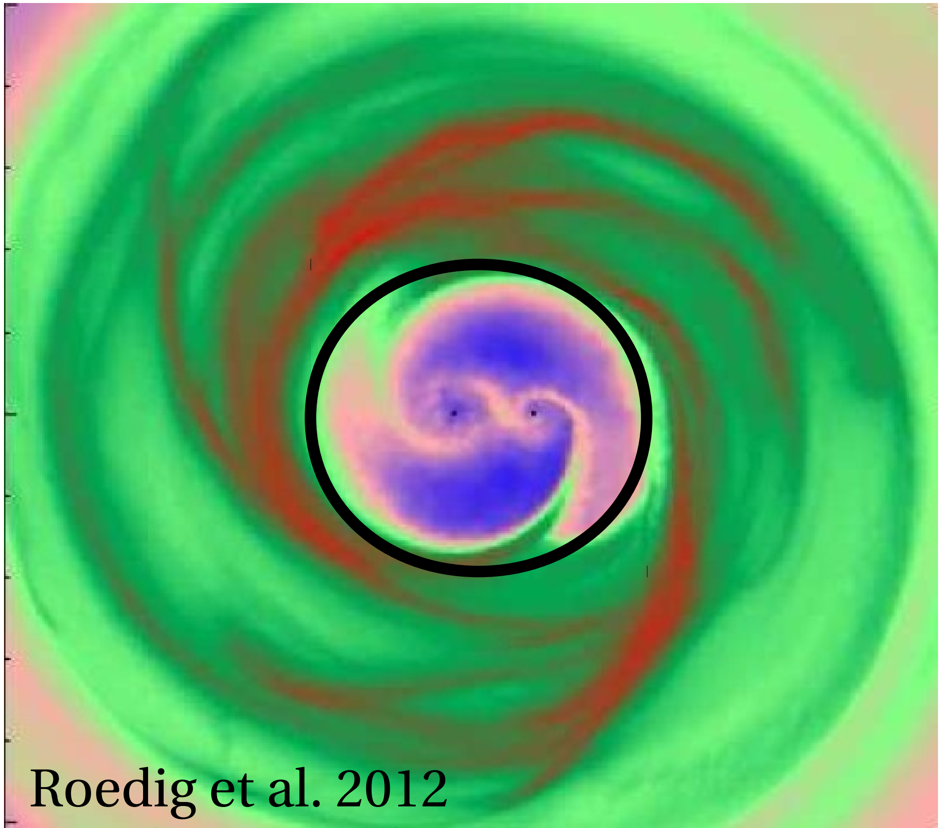

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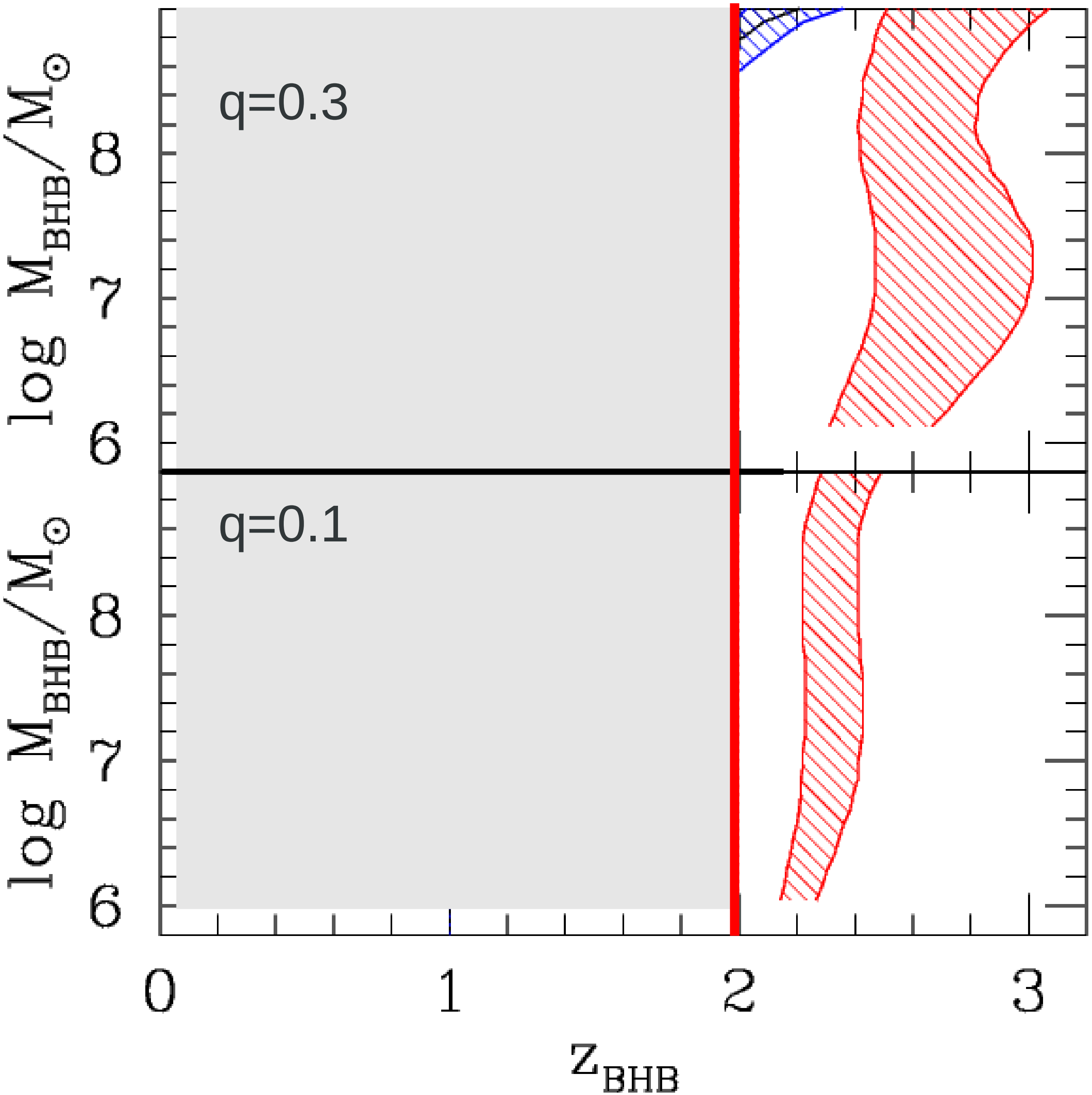
$$\boxed{\frac{\mu}{2\sqrt{2}}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}a}{a} \approx -\dot{m}\,\mathrm{d}t}$$

Assuming ε =0.075 and Eddington limited accretion:

$$\Delta t_{\mathrm{BHB}} \sim \ln\left(\frac{a_i}{a_c}\right)\frac{\mu\,\epsilon\,c^2}{2\sqrt{2}\,L_{\mathrm{Edd}}} \sim 10^7\,\frac{q}{(1+q)^2}\,\ln\left(\frac{a_i}{a_c}\right)\ \mathrm{yr}$$

Results: 1



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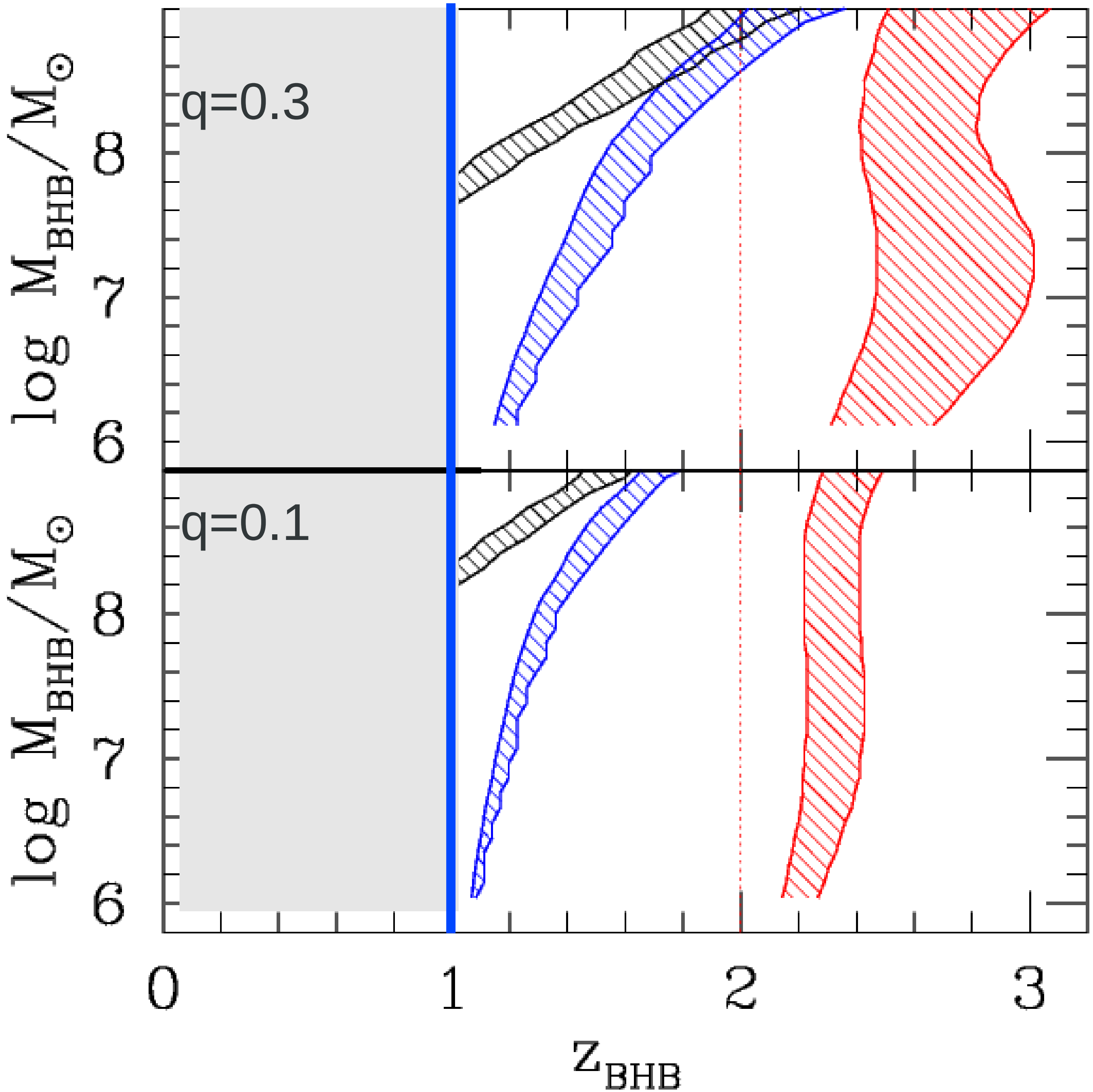

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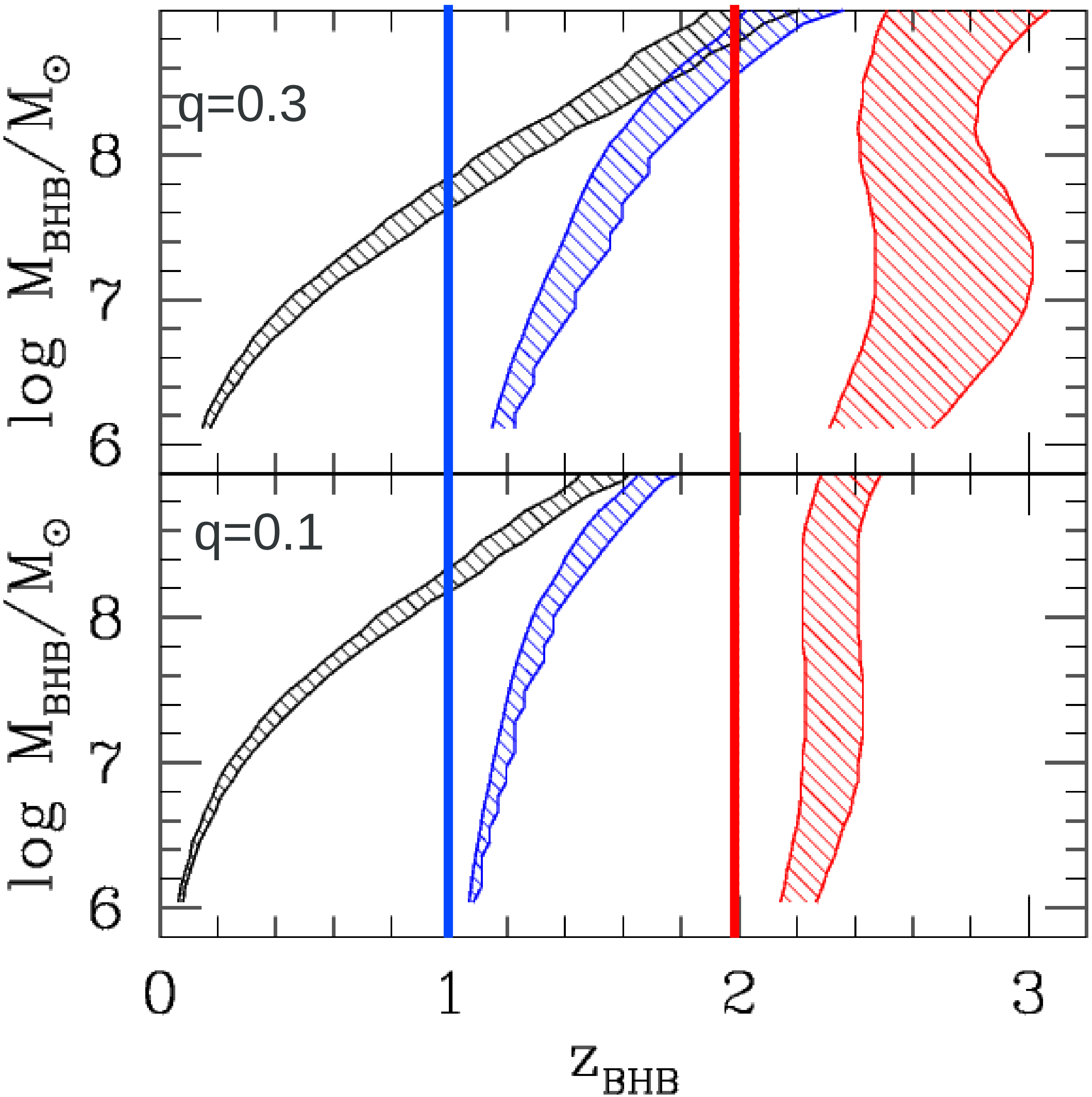
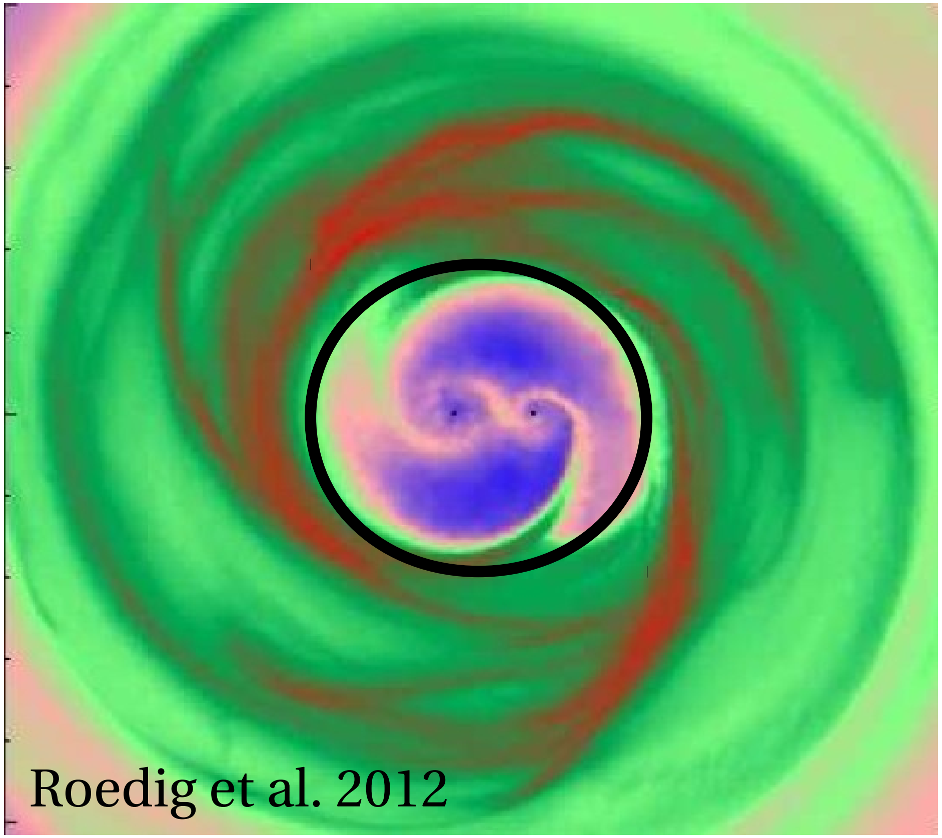


The model in a nutshell 2:



A fraction of the gas could manage to cross the gap edge (the system is not exactly axisymmetric, see e.g. D'Orazio et al. 2013).

It also would exert a (different) torque (e.g. Roedig 2012).

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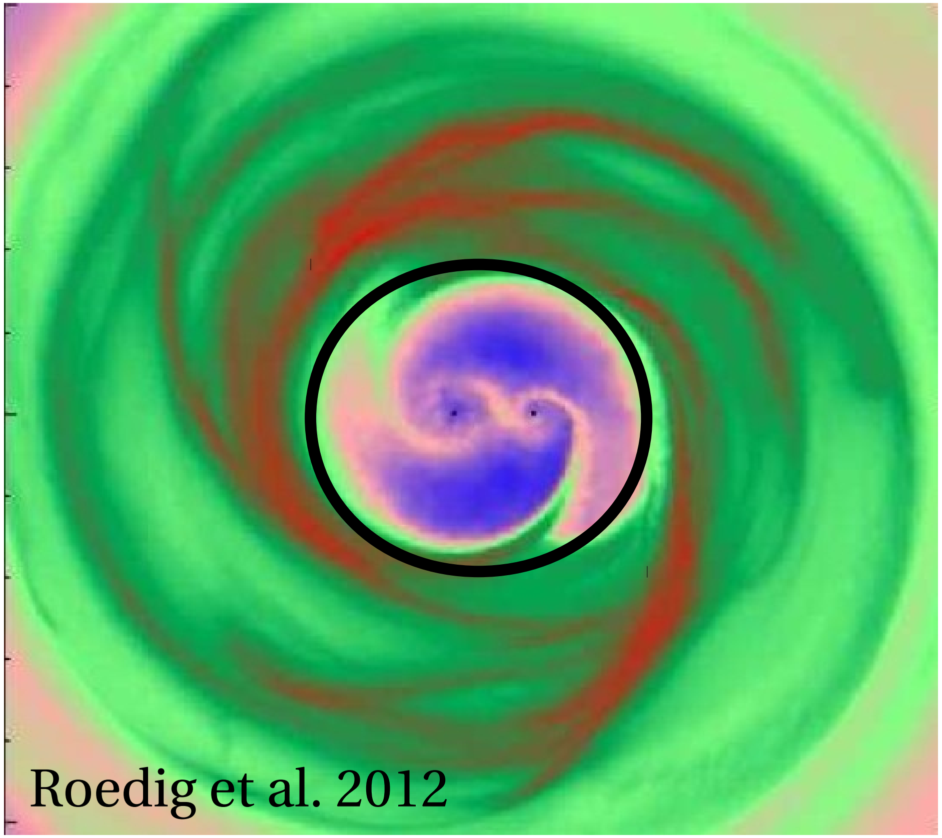

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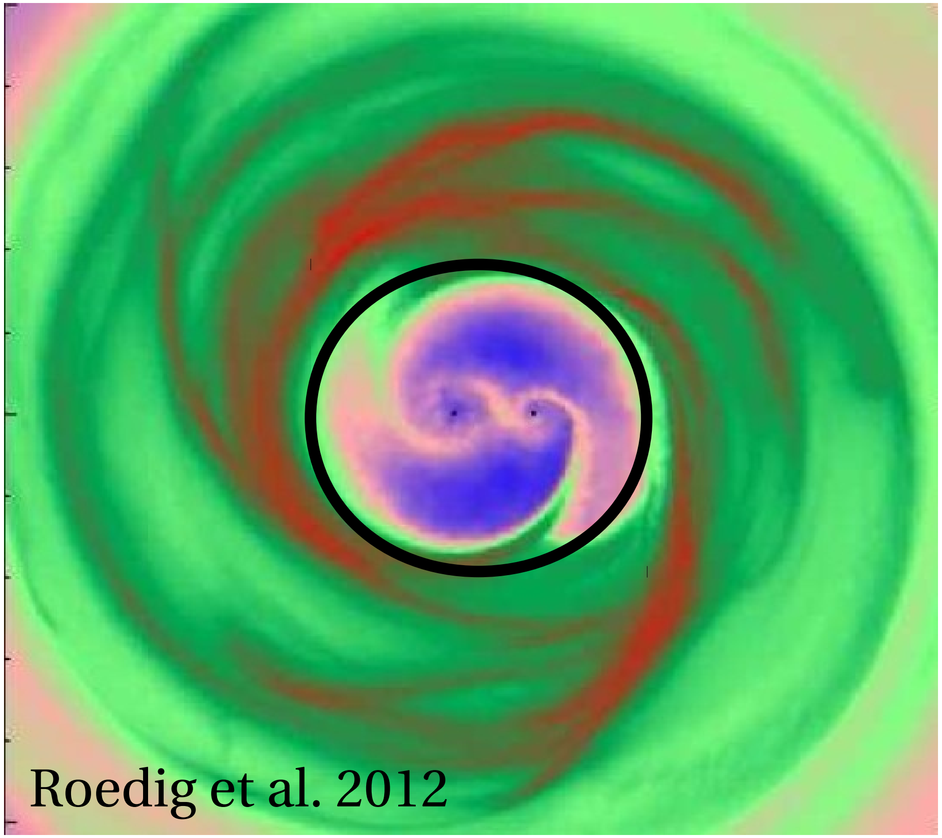

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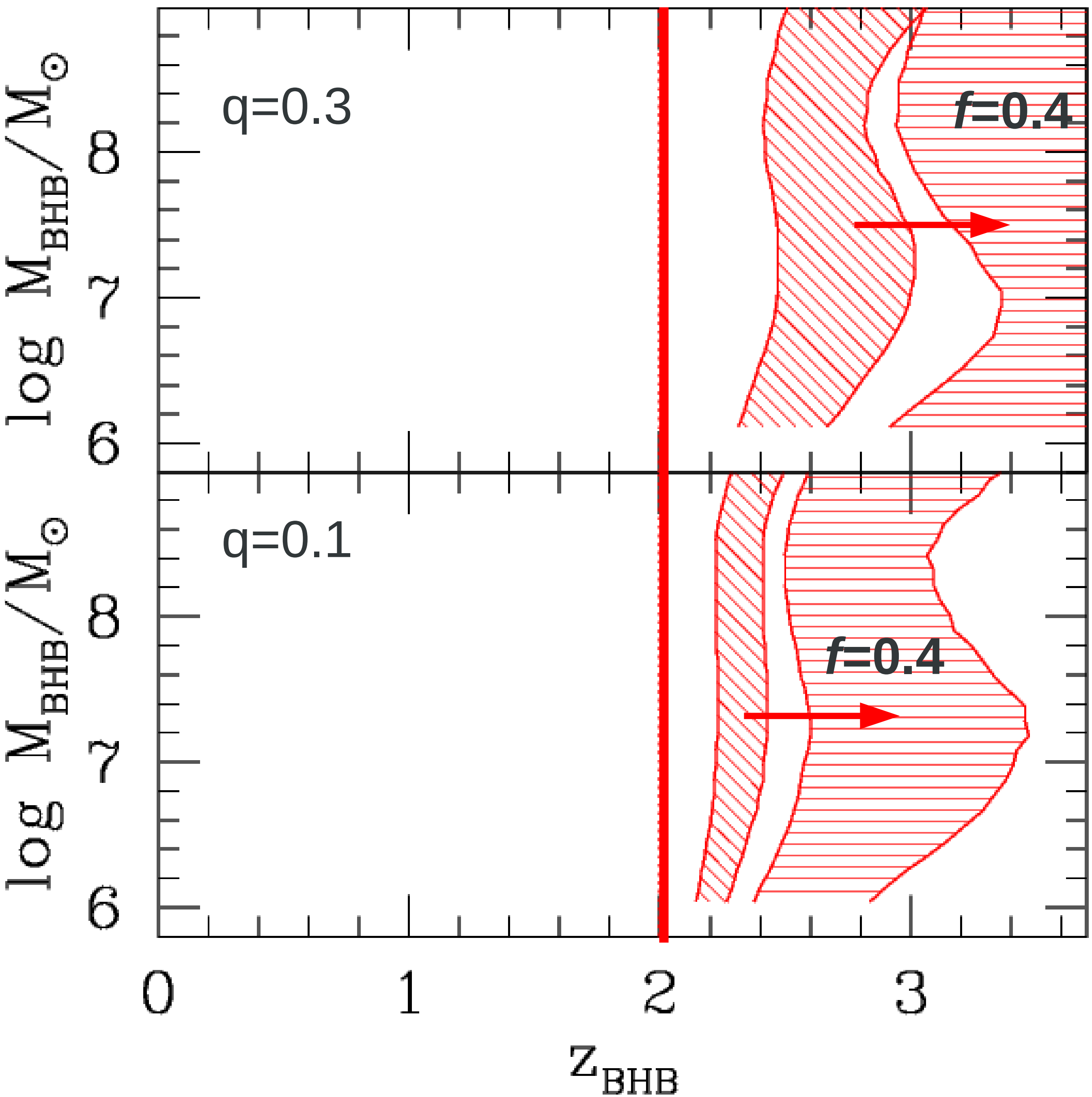
What if only a fraction ***f*** of the gas interacts dynamically with the binary?

Test: f=0.4

Results: 2



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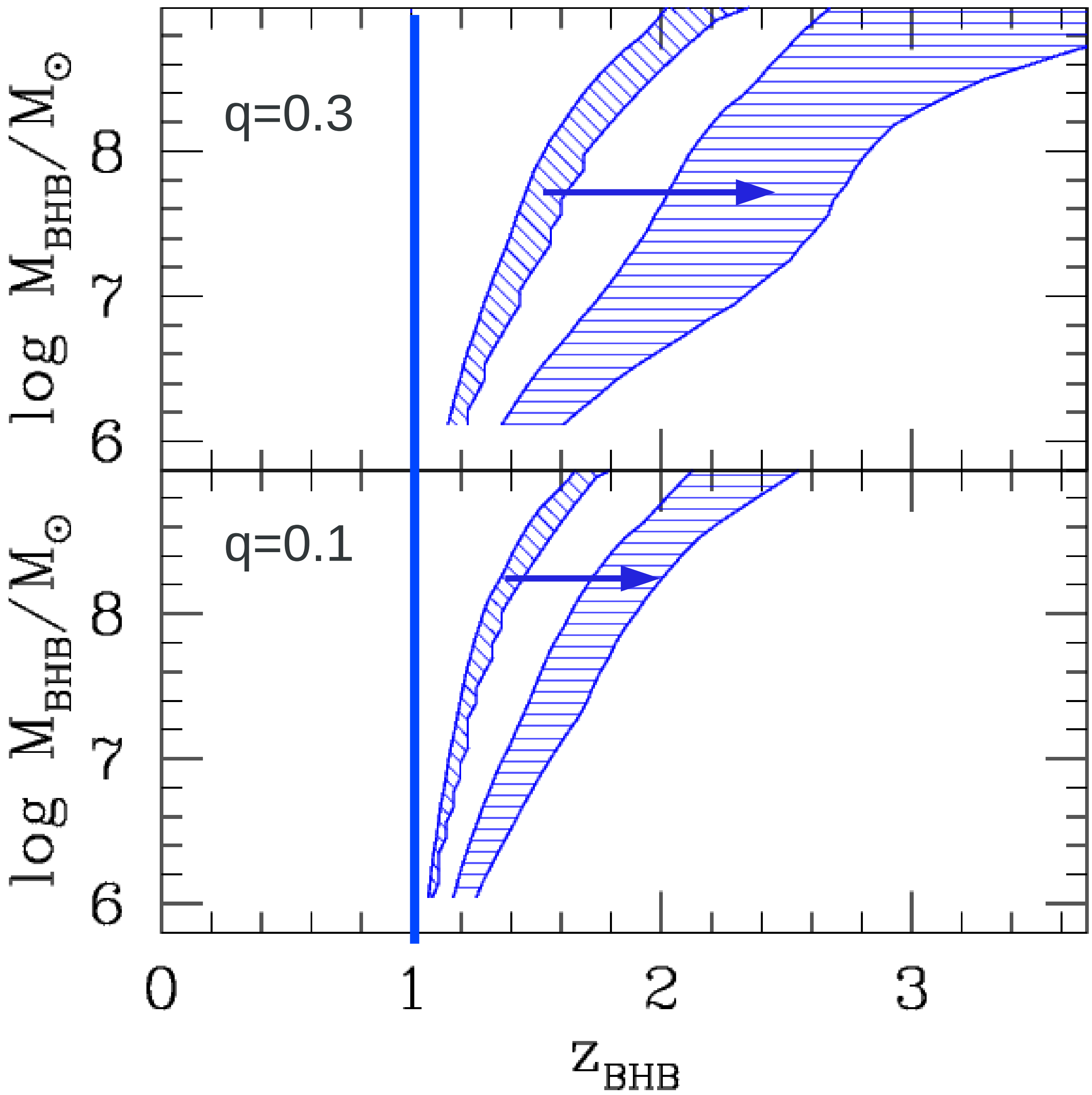

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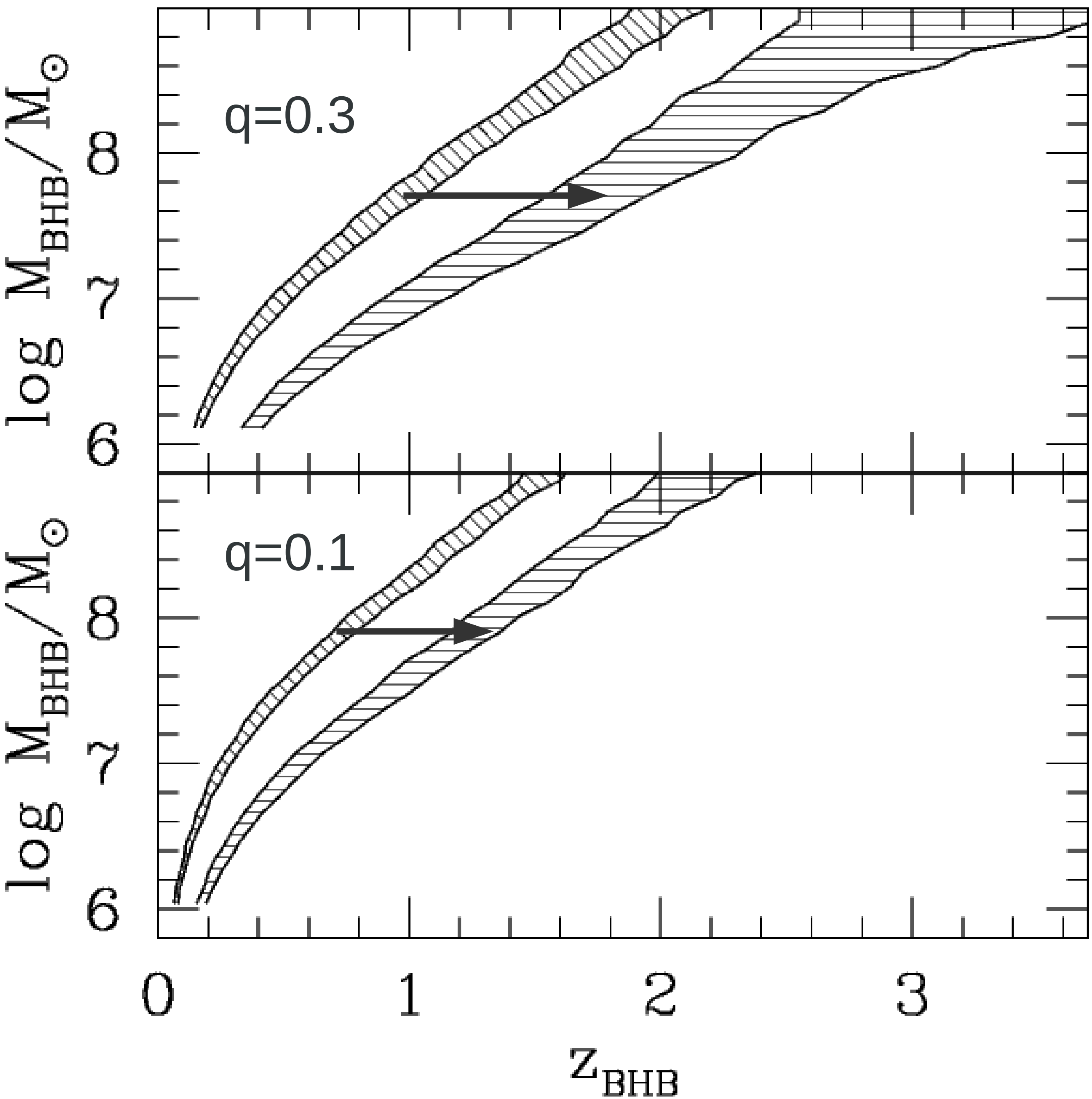

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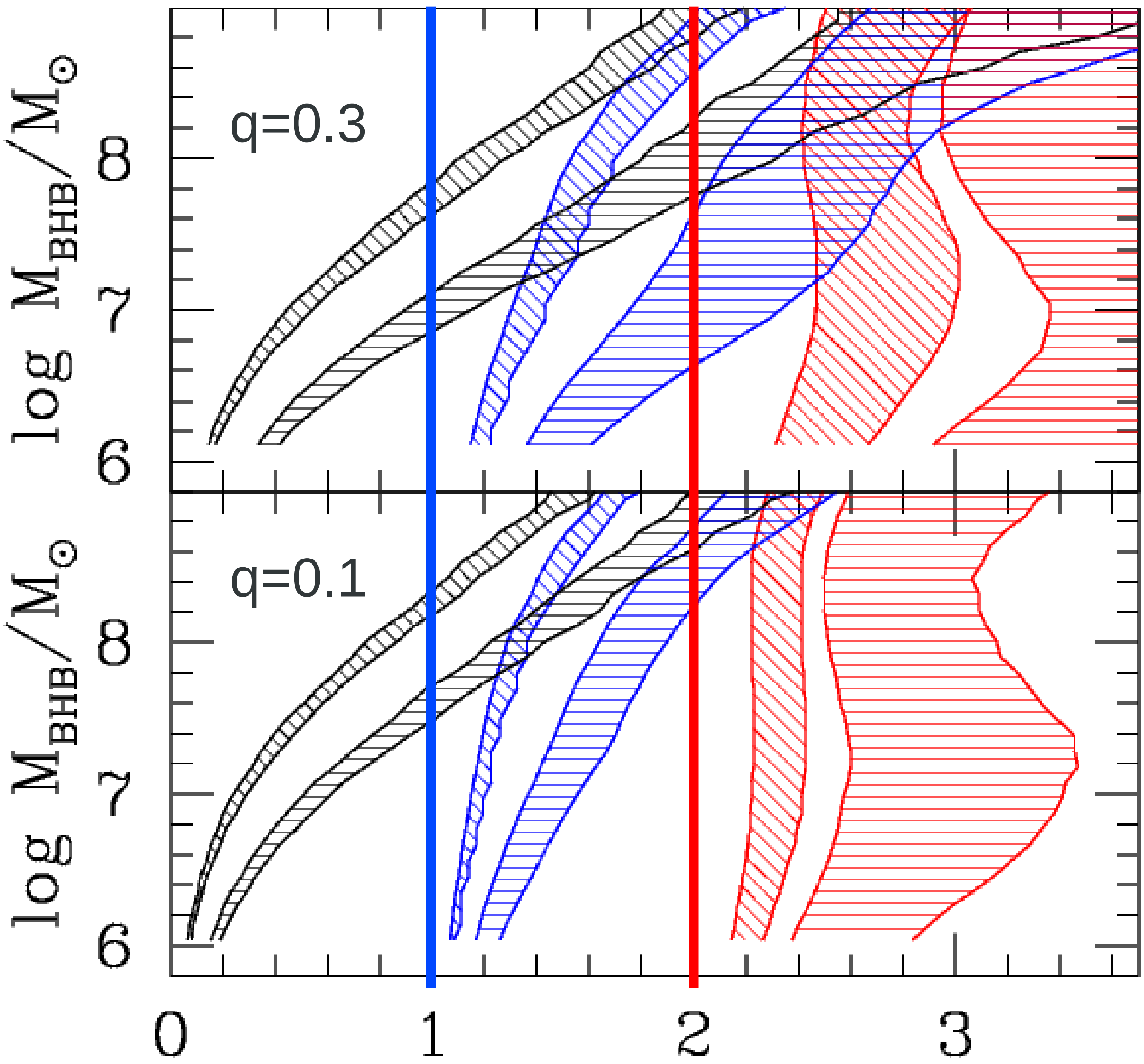

Conservative assumptions:

- Mergers do not boost accretion

- Gas accretion always radiatively efficient and no outflows from the binary separation down to few gravitational radii

Conclusions

High z BHBs of any mass coalesce on very short timescales

Low mass BHBs coalesce within z=0 even if binding at low z ($z \gtrsim 0.5$ for $M \lesssim 10^7$ M_{sun} – $z \gtrsim 0.2$ for $M \lesssim 10^6$ M_{sun})

Very massive BHBs could stall… often hosted in massive triaxial ellipticals, where non-collisional loss cone refilling could play a role

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Very massive BHBs could stall... often hosted in massive triaxial ellipticals, where non-collisional loss cone refilling could play a role

The fate of (many) BHBs depends on the MBH fueling mechanisms! (Question 2.3 in Pau's list)