

Effects of Superradiance in Active Galactic Nuclei

with Himanshu Verma, Kingman Cheung, Joseph Silk
MNRAS 538(2025)2

Priyanka Sarmah

Postdoctoral fellow

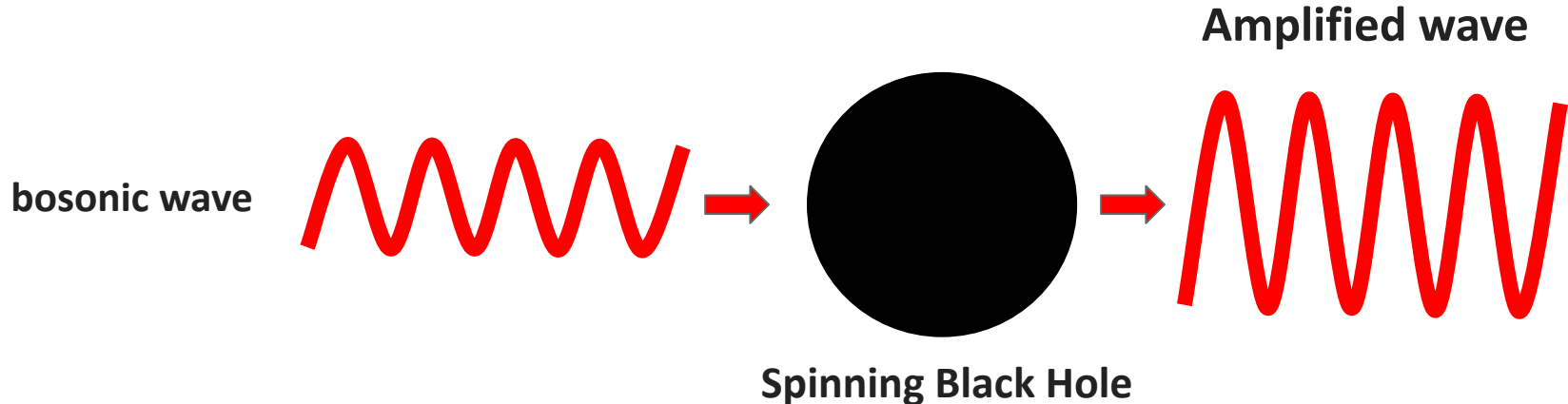
National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan



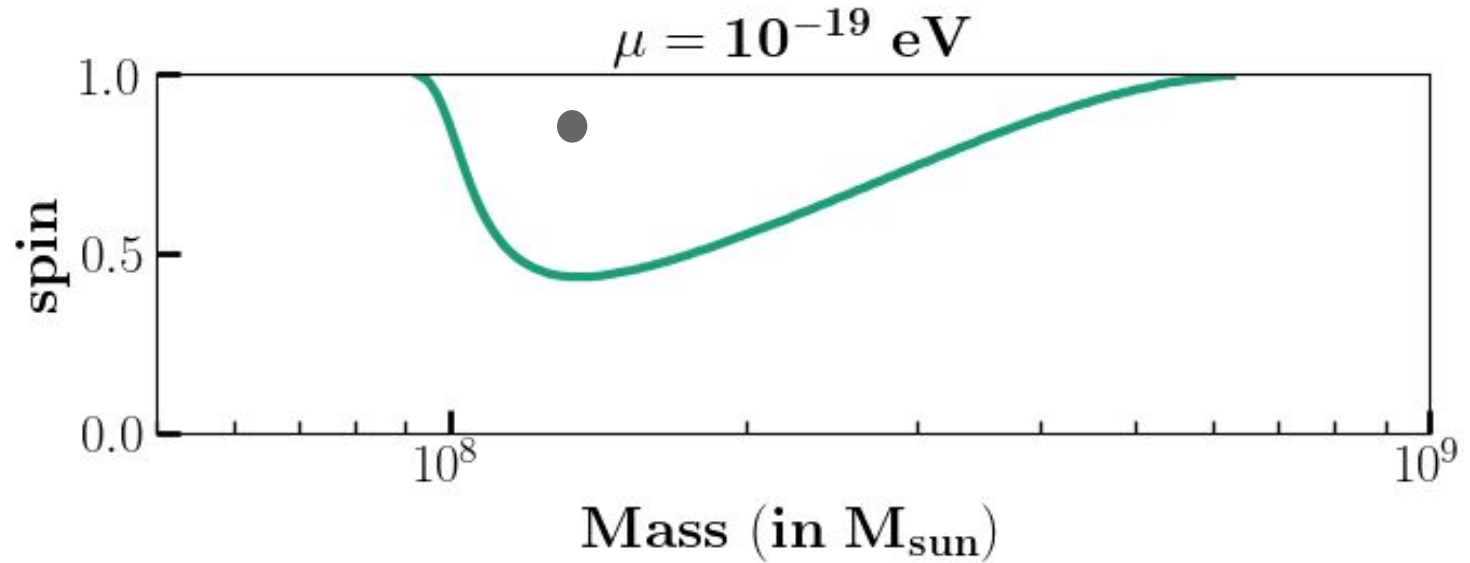
IPPP Durham, UK
July 21, 2025

Black Hole Superradiance

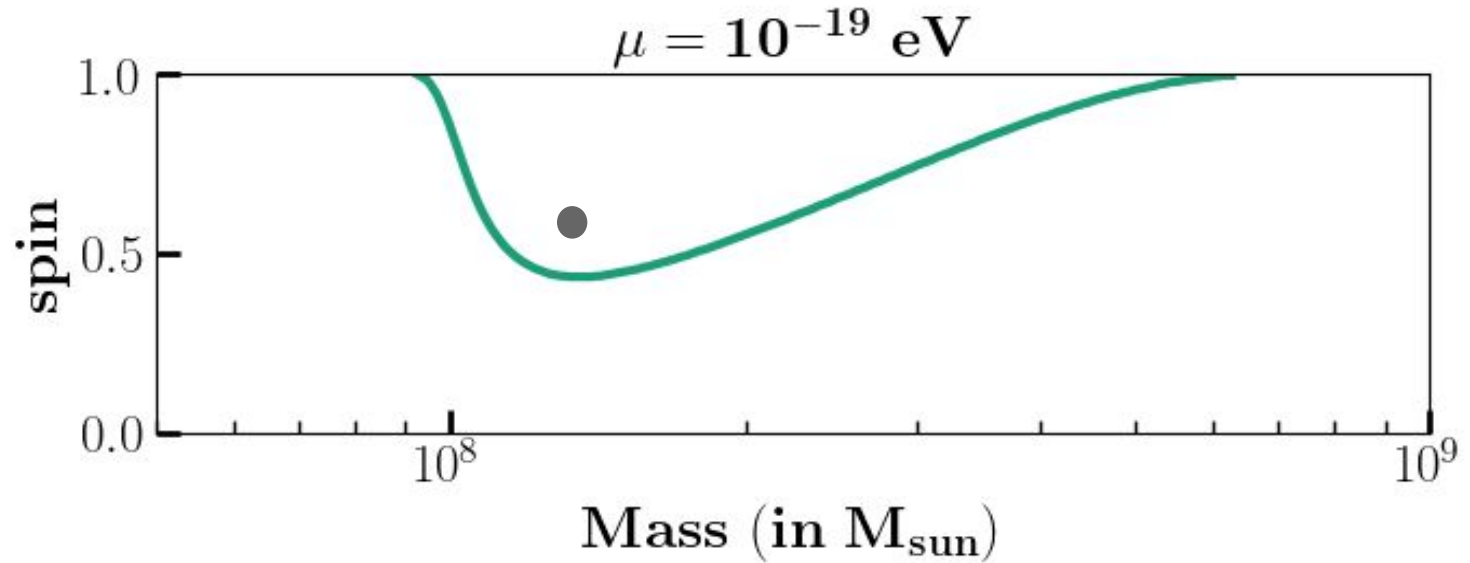
- Spinning supermassive BH opens a room for ultralight scalar particles to get produced through a phenomenon- **Superradiance (SR)**
- A bosonic cloud grow near the BH, *draining* the angular momentum of the BH



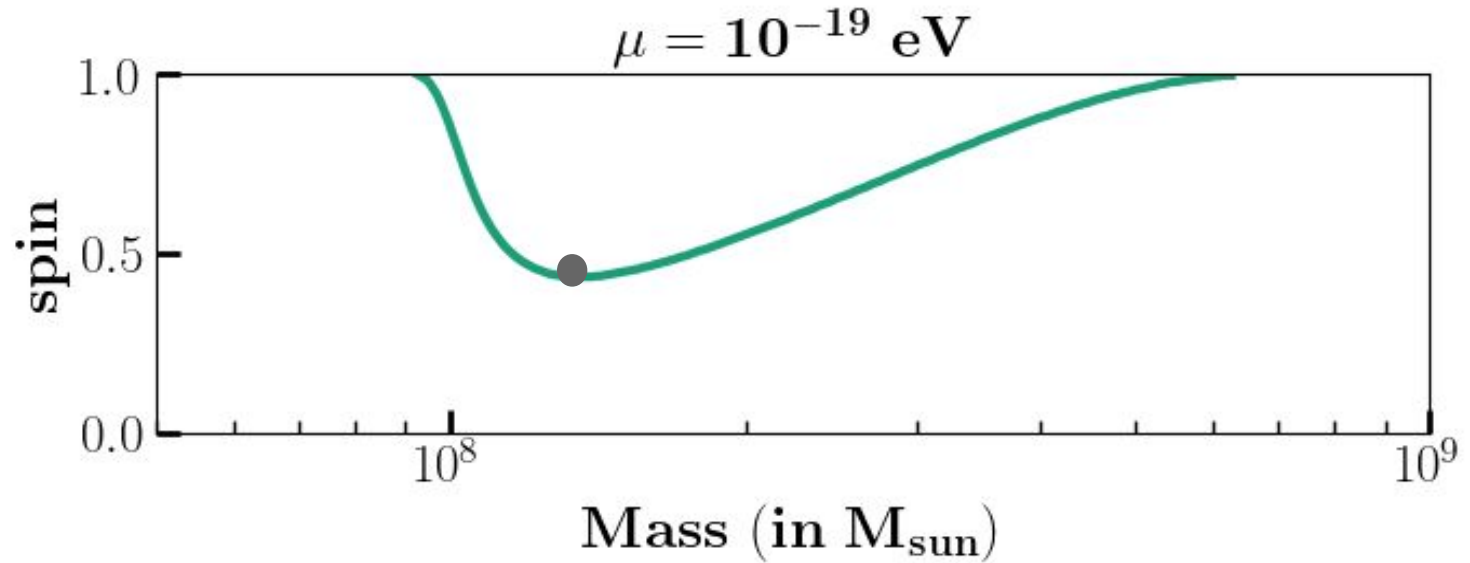
Observational signature of Superradiance: **Depletion region**



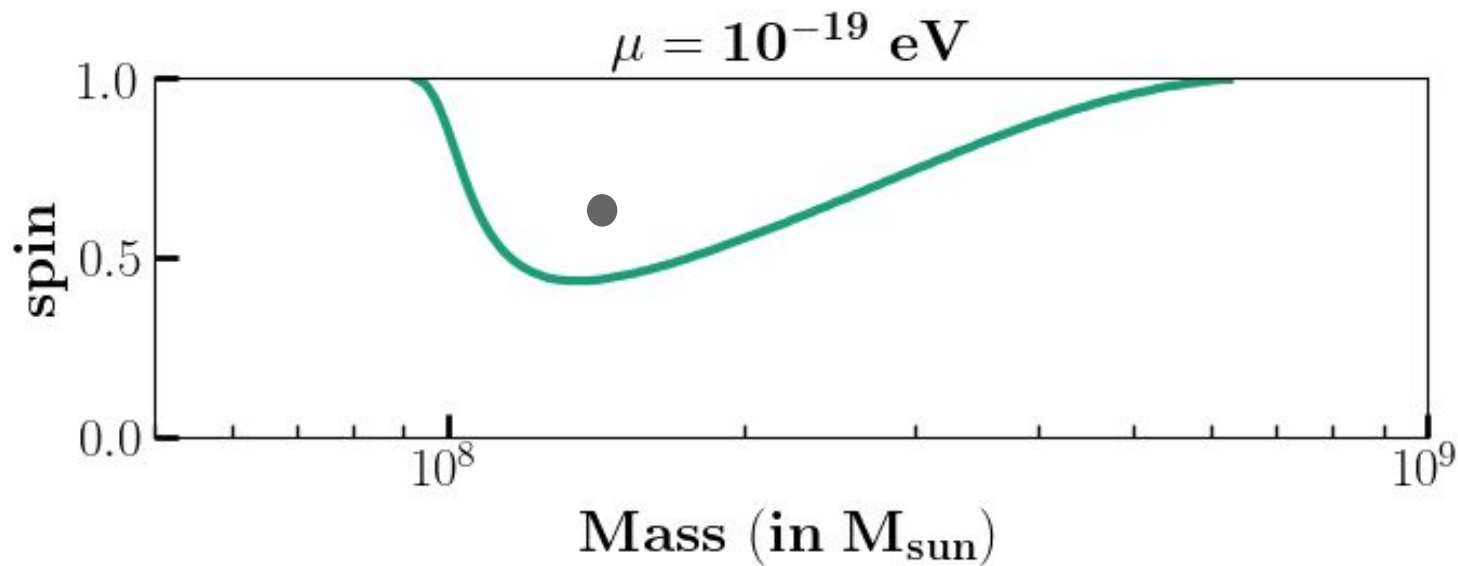
Observational signature of Superradiance: **Depletion region**



Observational signature of Superradiance: **Depletion region**

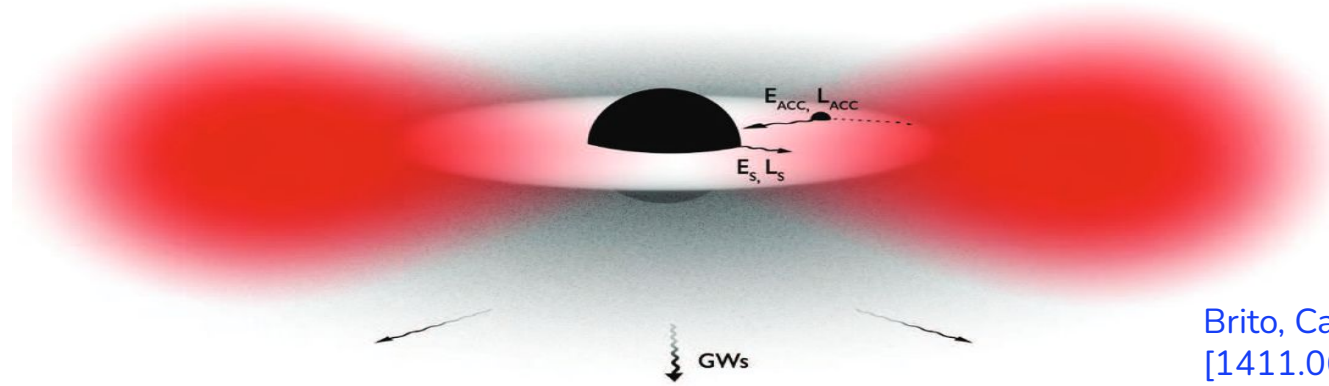


Observational signature of Superradiance



Observation of a BH inside the depletion region in the Regge plane exclude the scalar

Realistic environment for BH Superradiance: The Active Galactic Nucleus (AGN)

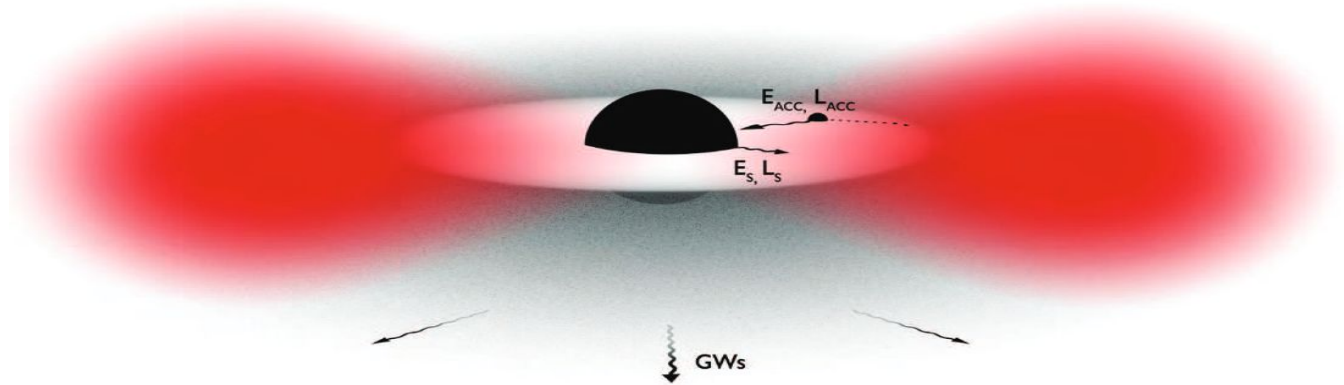


Brito, Cardoso, Pani, 2014
[1411.0686]

- **Key points:** Role of accretion in adding mass and angular momentum to the BH
- 2 competing process: Spin up- accretion, Spin down- Superradiance

Question

Can we search for ULSP using the observable characteristics of AGN?



Key Findings

As the accreting SMBH spins down due to superradiance:

- **Sudden drops** in the time-variation of the luminosities of AGNs in various wavelength bands.
- Observation of **depletion regions** in various planes of band-luminosities and f_{Edd} and **accumulation** of AGN along the boundaries of the depletion region.

Superradiance in a nutshell

- Condition of Superradiance(SR):

$$\omega_R < m\Omega,$$

ω_R, Ω = angular velocity of the particle and BH

- Consequence of Superradiance: Growth of scalar cloud, BH loses mass and angular momentum.
 - Angular momentum lost till : $\tilde{a} \sim \tilde{a}_{\text{critical}} = 4\alpha m / (m^2 + \alpha^2)$,
gravitational fine structure constant - $\alpha \sim GM\mu$

Time evolution of BH + scalar cloud system

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = - \sum_{nlm} 2M_s^{nlm} \omega_I^{nlm} + \dot{M}_{\text{Acc}} ,$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dt} = - \sum_{nlm} \frac{2}{\mu} m M_s^{nlm} \omega_I^{nlm} + \dot{J}_{\text{Acc}} ,$$

$$\frac{dM_s^{nlm}}{dt} = 2M_s^{nlm} \omega_I^{nlm} - \dot{E}_{\text{GW}}^{nlm} ,$$

$$\frac{dJ_s^{nlm}}{dt} = \frac{2}{\mu} m M_s^{nlm} \omega_I^{nlm} - \frac{1}{\mu} m \dot{E}_{\text{GW}}^{nlm}$$

Accretion Model

- **Total Luminosity**

$$L = \epsilon(\tilde{a}) \dot{M}_{\text{disk}} c^2$$

Radiative efficiency

- **Accretion rate parameter**

$$\dot{m} \equiv \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{disk}} c^2}{L_{\text{Edd}}}$$

$[\dot{m} > 0.01 \text{ for thin accretion disk}]$

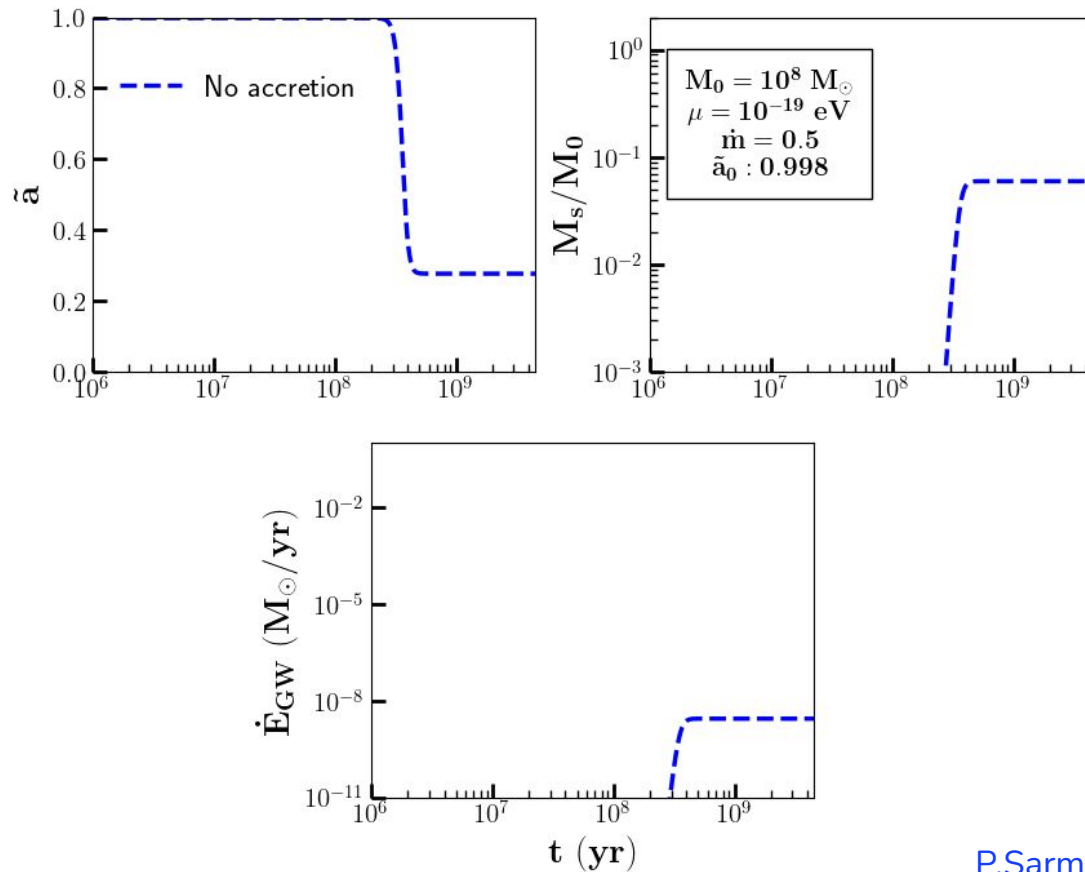
- **Eddington Luminosity**

$$L_{\text{Edd}} \approx 1.26 \times 10^{38} \text{ erg/s } \frac{M}{M_{\odot}}$$

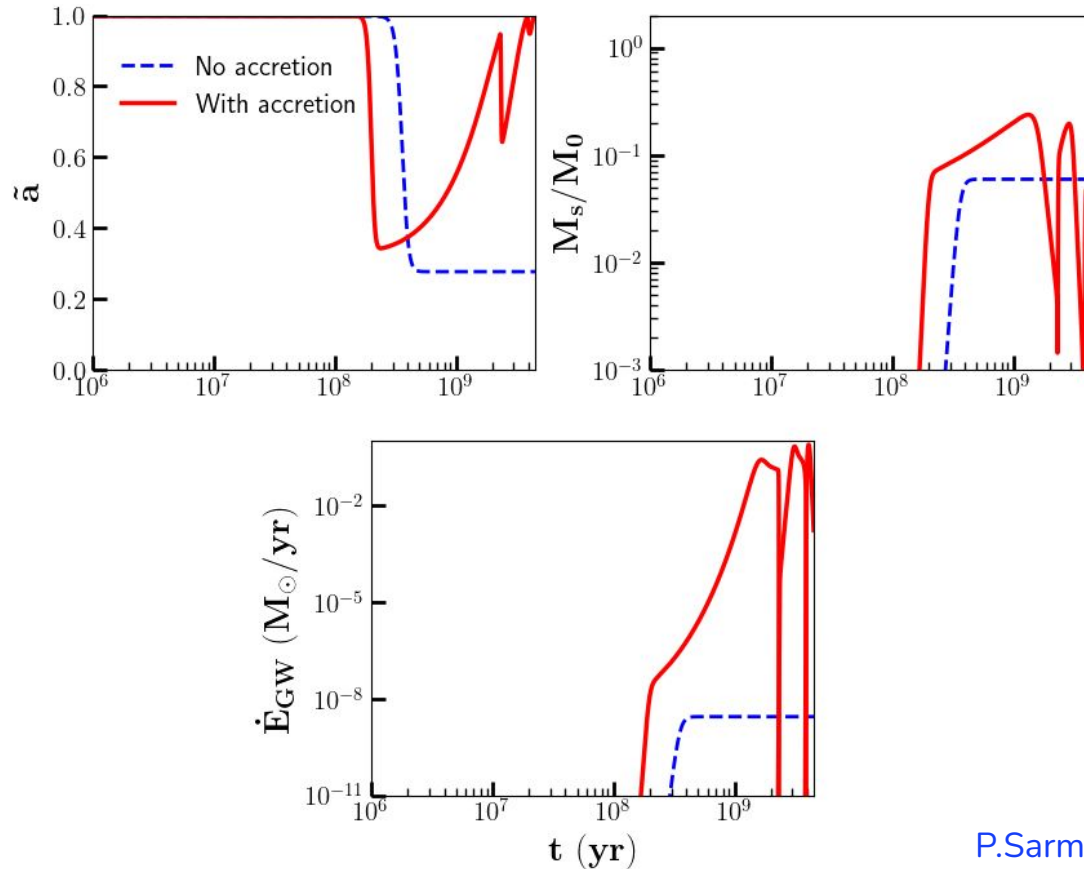
BH Accretion rate

$$\dot{M}_{\text{Acc}} = (1 - \epsilon(\tilde{a})) \dot{m} \frac{L_{\text{Edd}}}{c^2}$$

Time evolution of BH + scalar cloud system



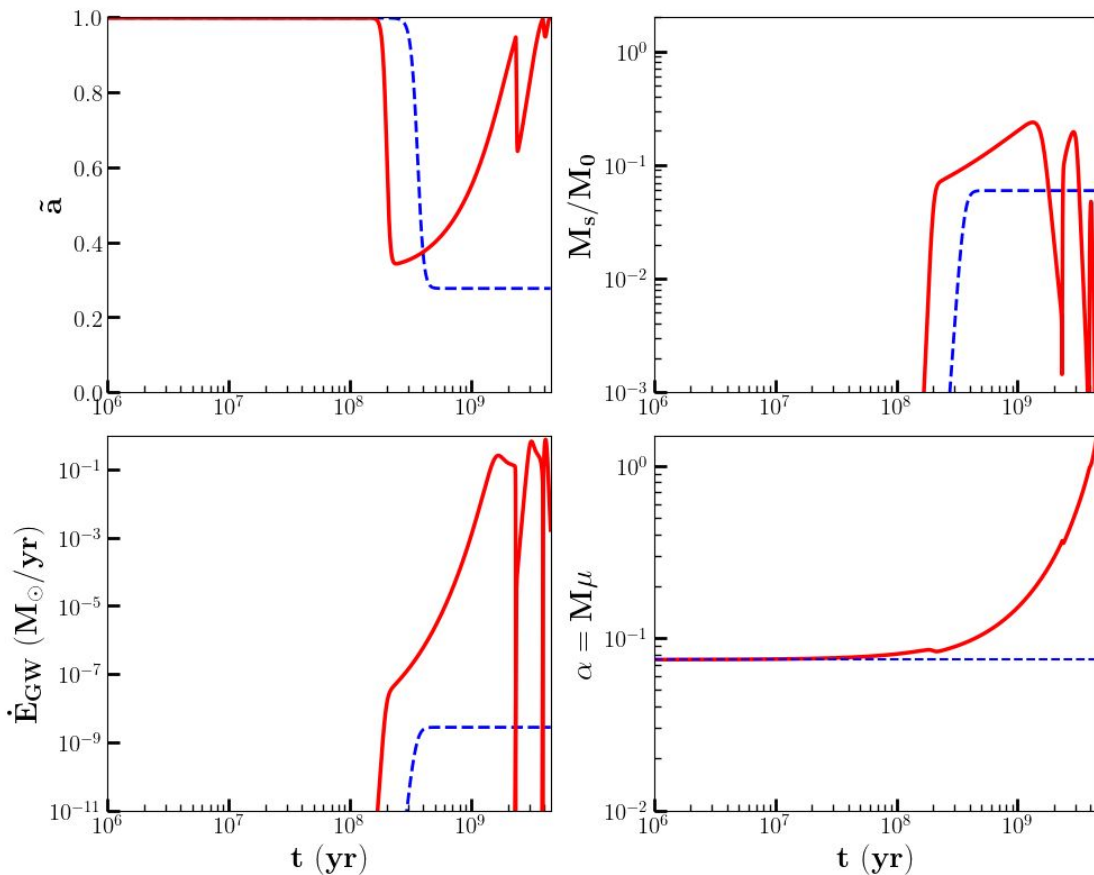
Time evolution of accreting BH + scalar cloud system



Time evolution of accreting BH + scalar cloud system

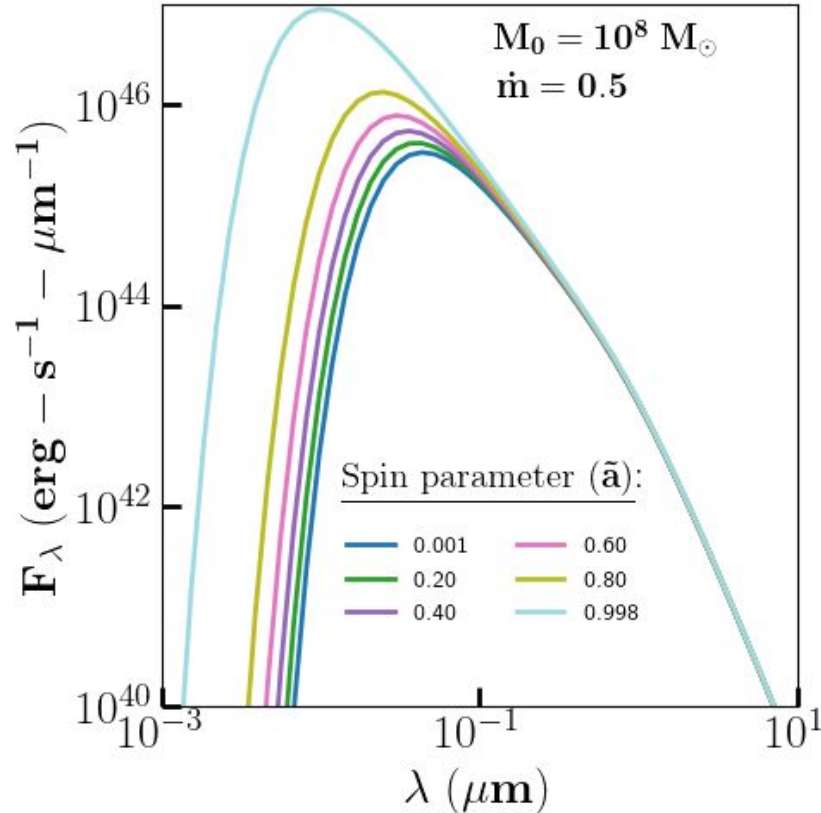
$$dE_{\text{GW}}/dt \sim (M_s/M)^2 \alpha^{4l+10}$$

Yoshino H., Kodama H.'14



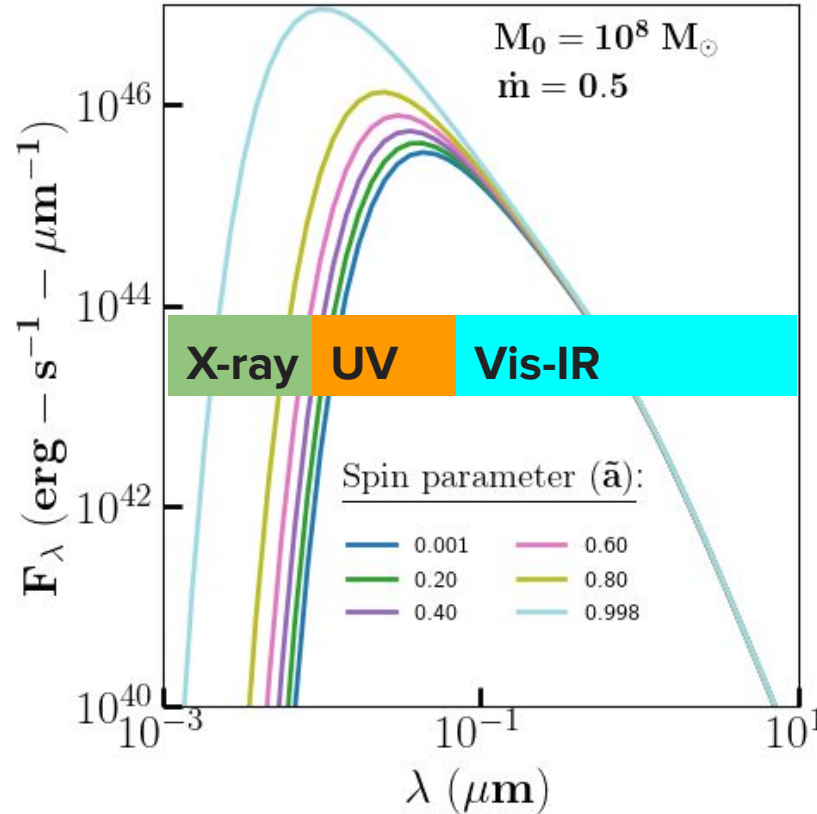
Continuum Spectrum of AGN

Using Novikov-Thorne model of the accretion disk, get the spin-dependant flux $F_{\lambda}(\tilde{a}, r)$

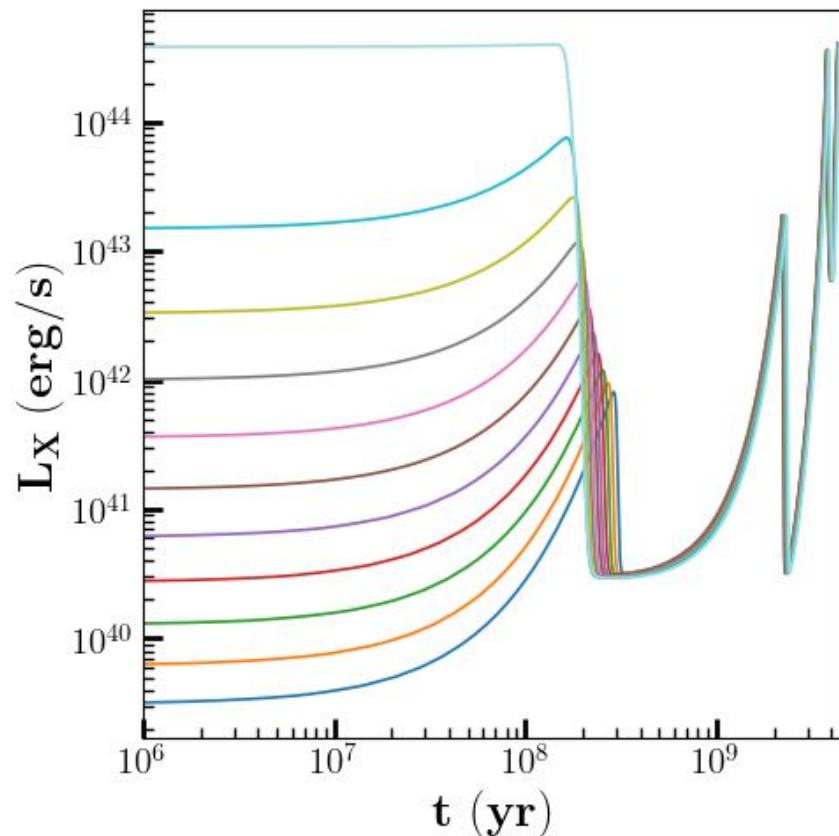
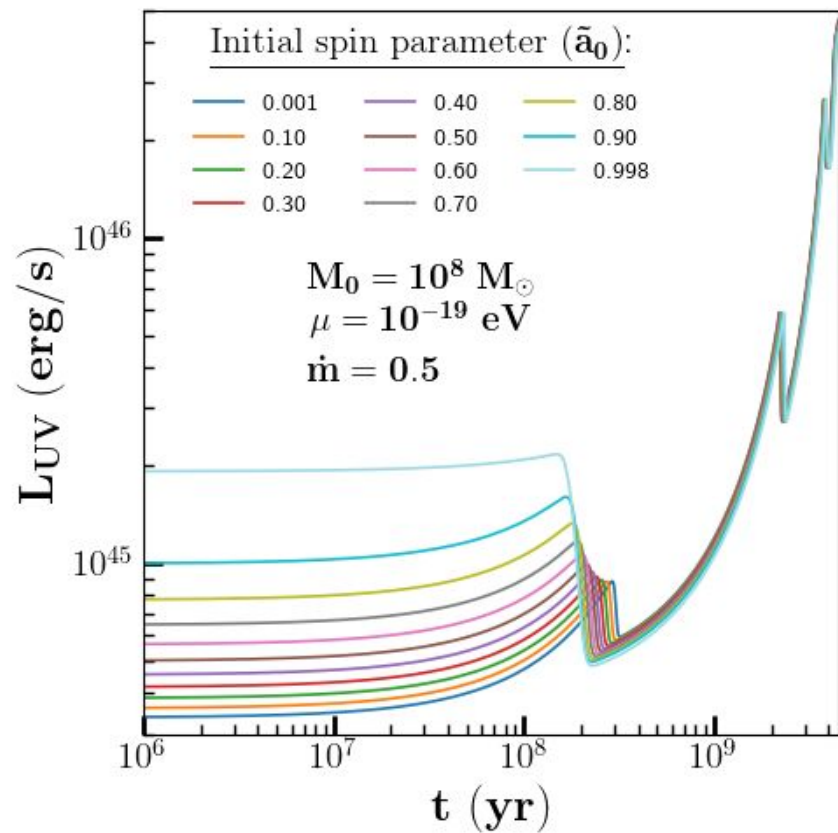


Continuum Spectrum of AGN

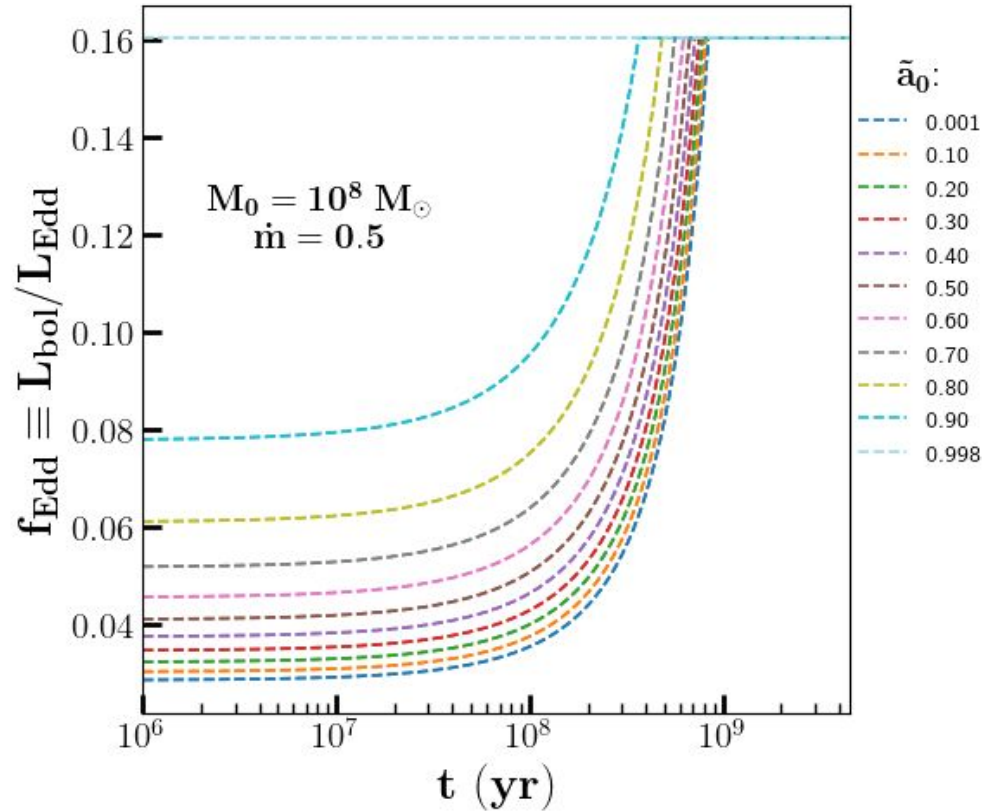
Using Novikov-Thorne model of the accretion disk, get the spin-dependant flux $F_{\lambda}(\tilde{a}, r)$



Luminosity in various bands

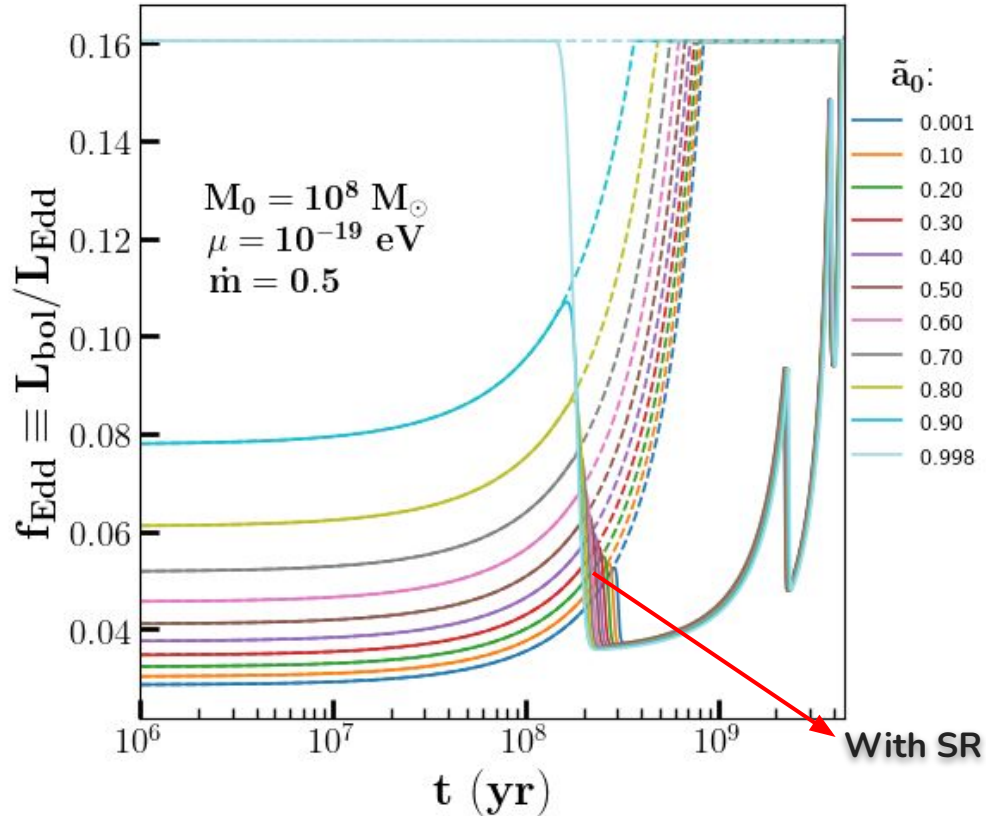


Eddington Ratio



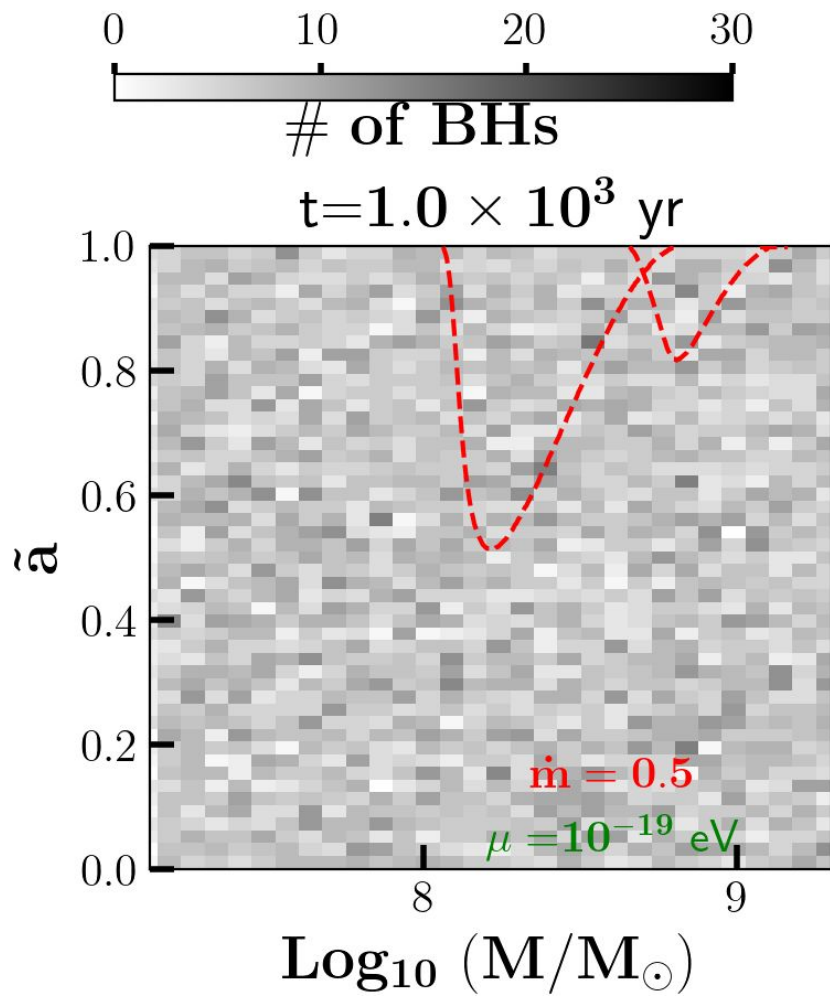
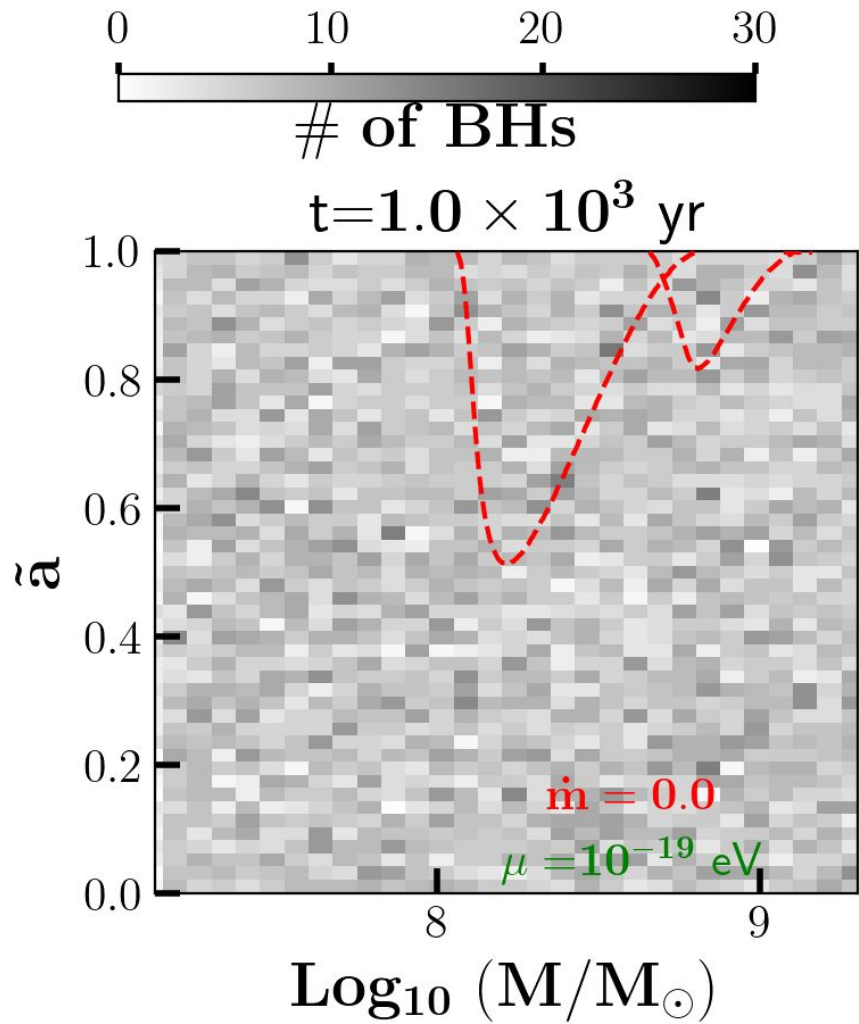
- Without scalar field, f_{Edd} monotonically increases with time due to accretion.

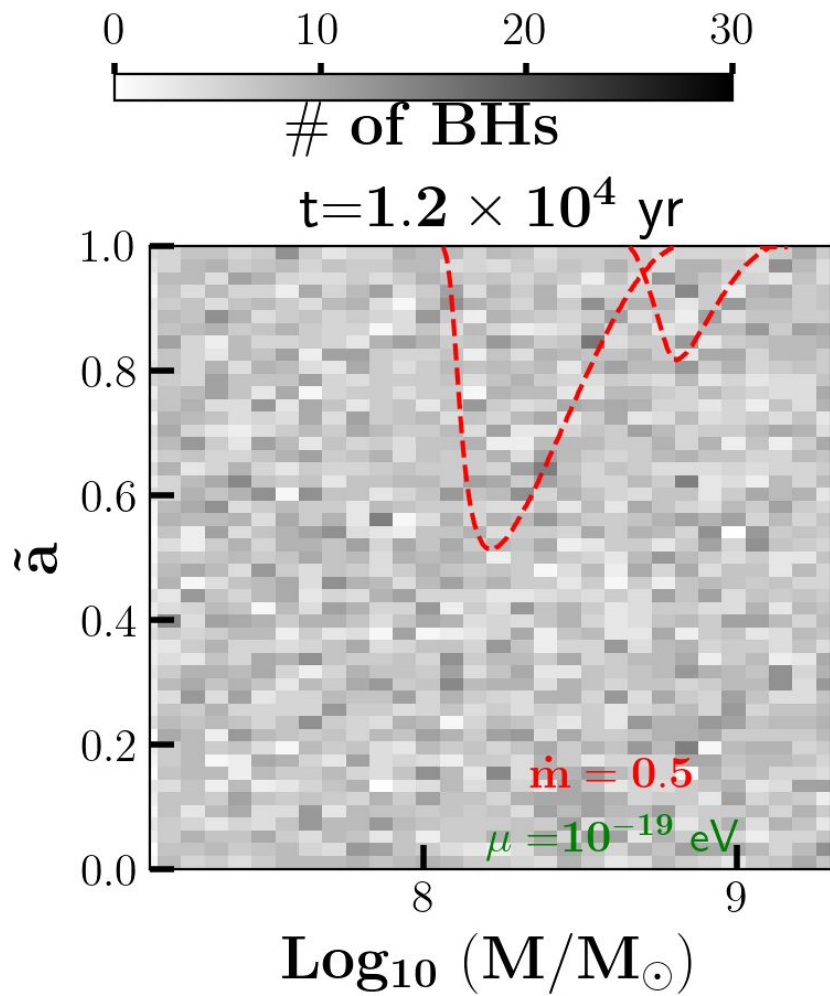
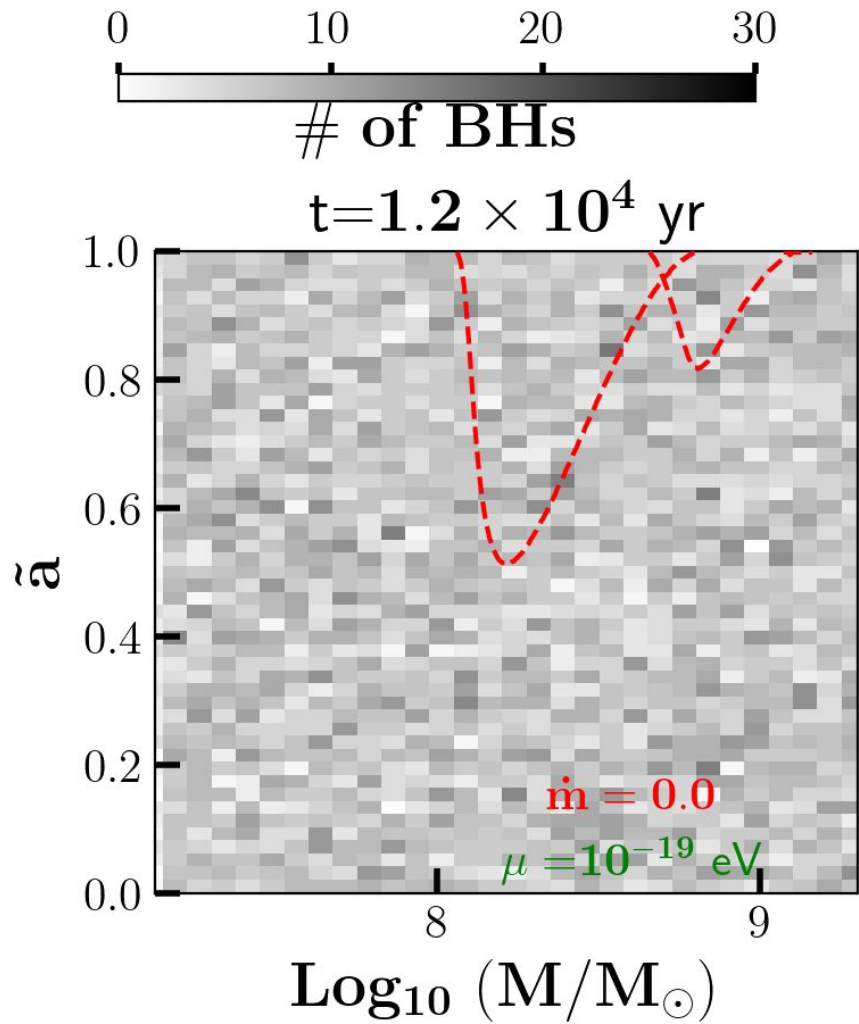
Eddington Ratio

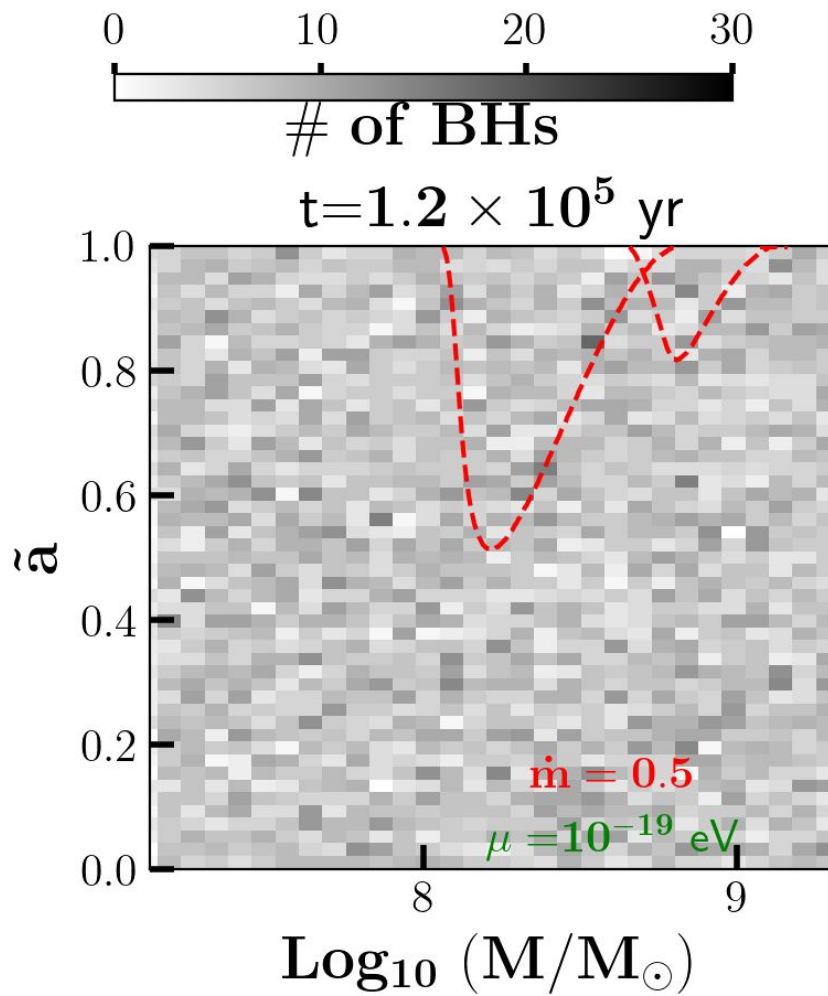
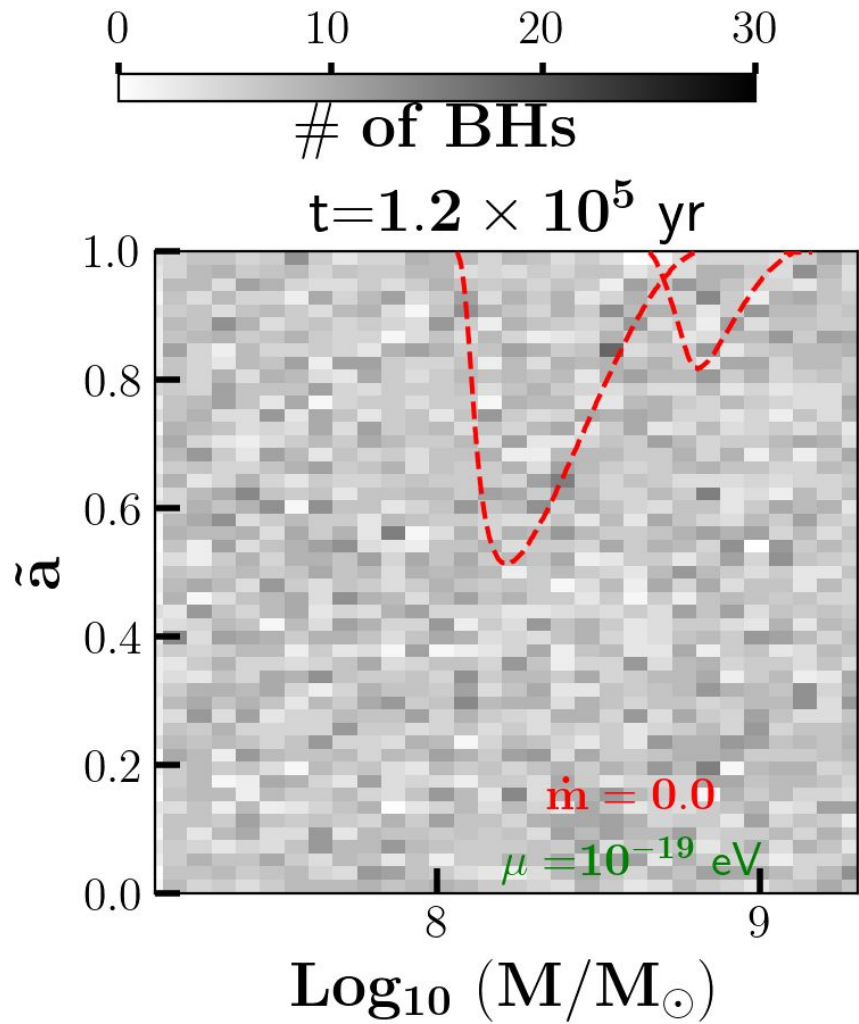


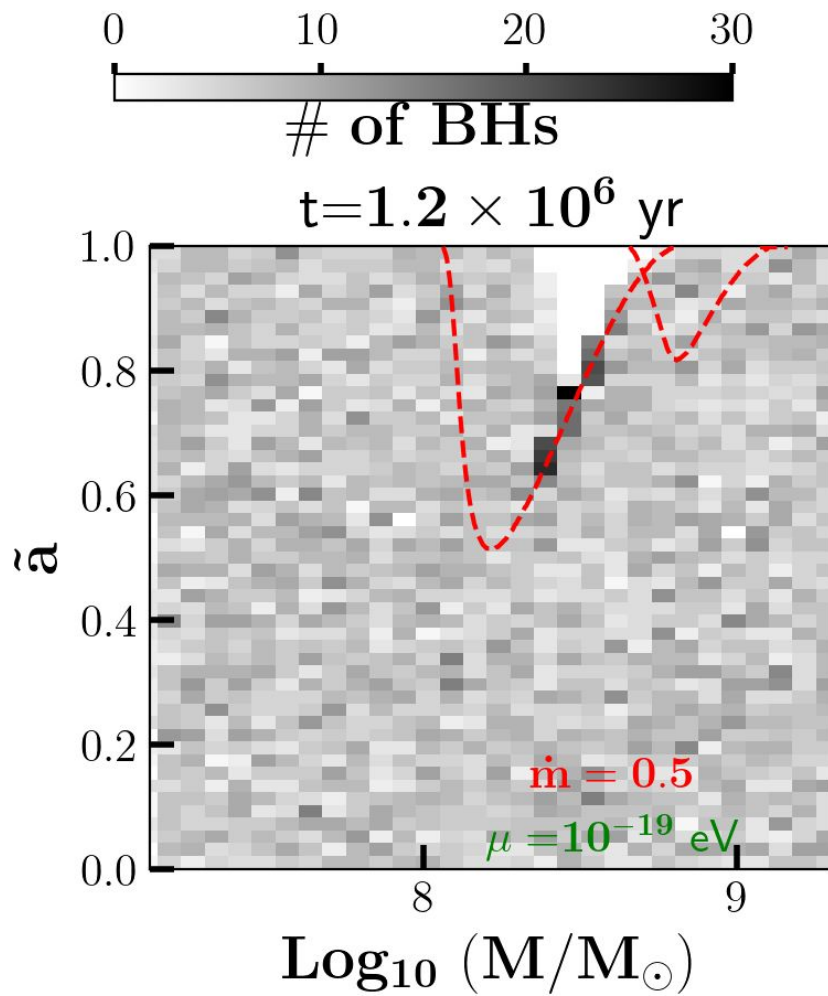
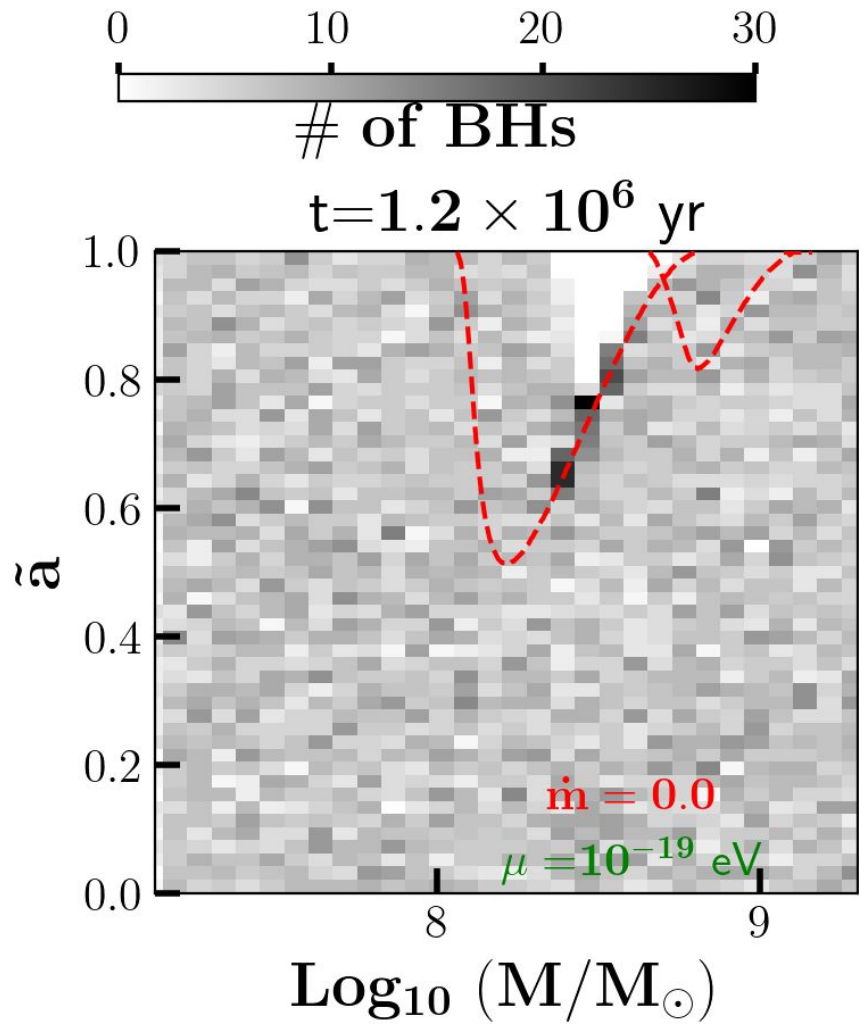
- With SR, no longer monotonically increasing, falls (due to SR) and rise (due to accretion) at various epochs.

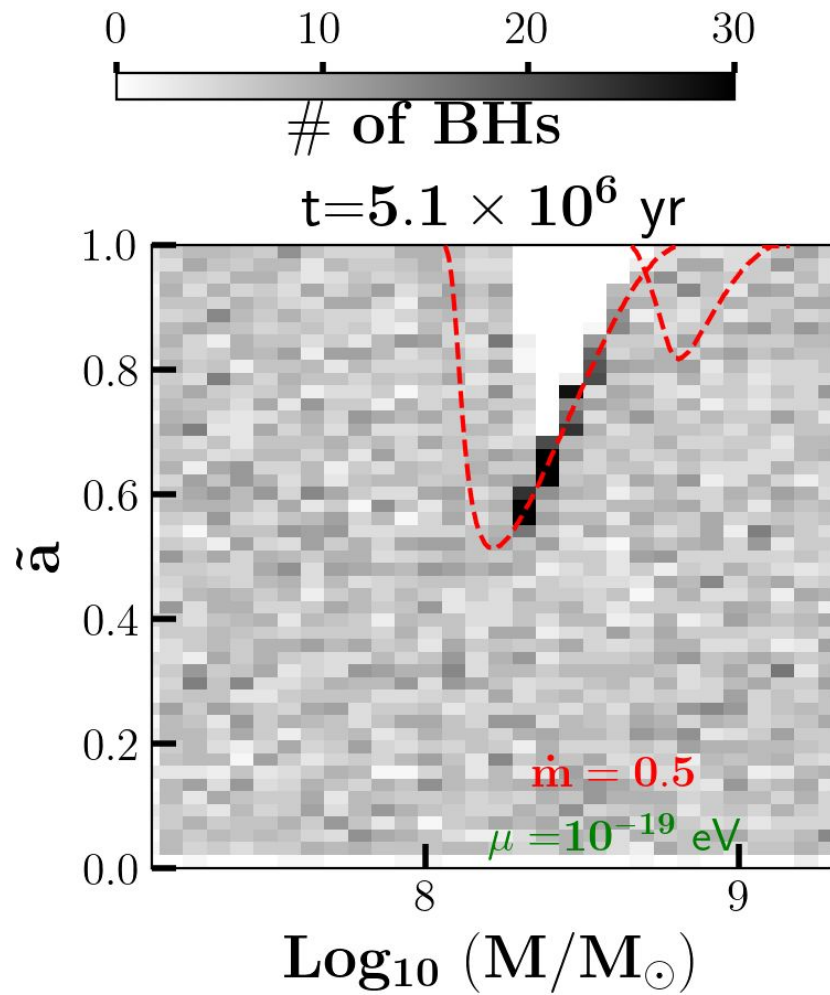
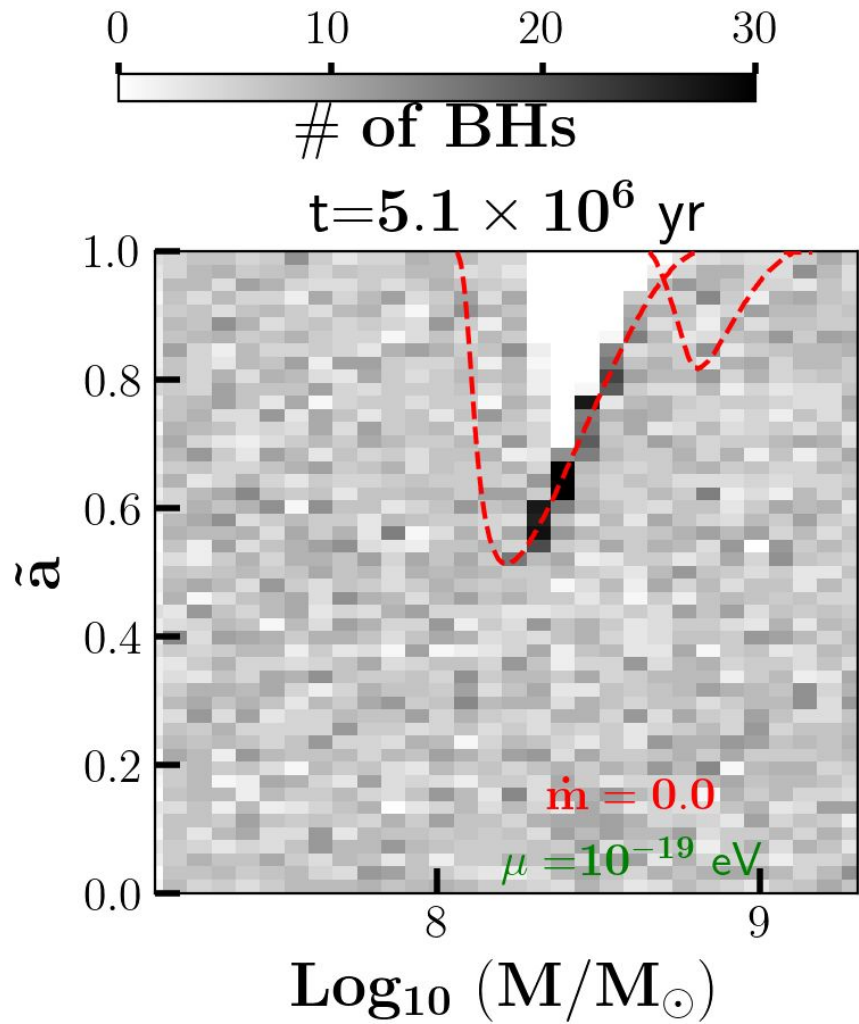
Distribution of SMBHs at the AGN core

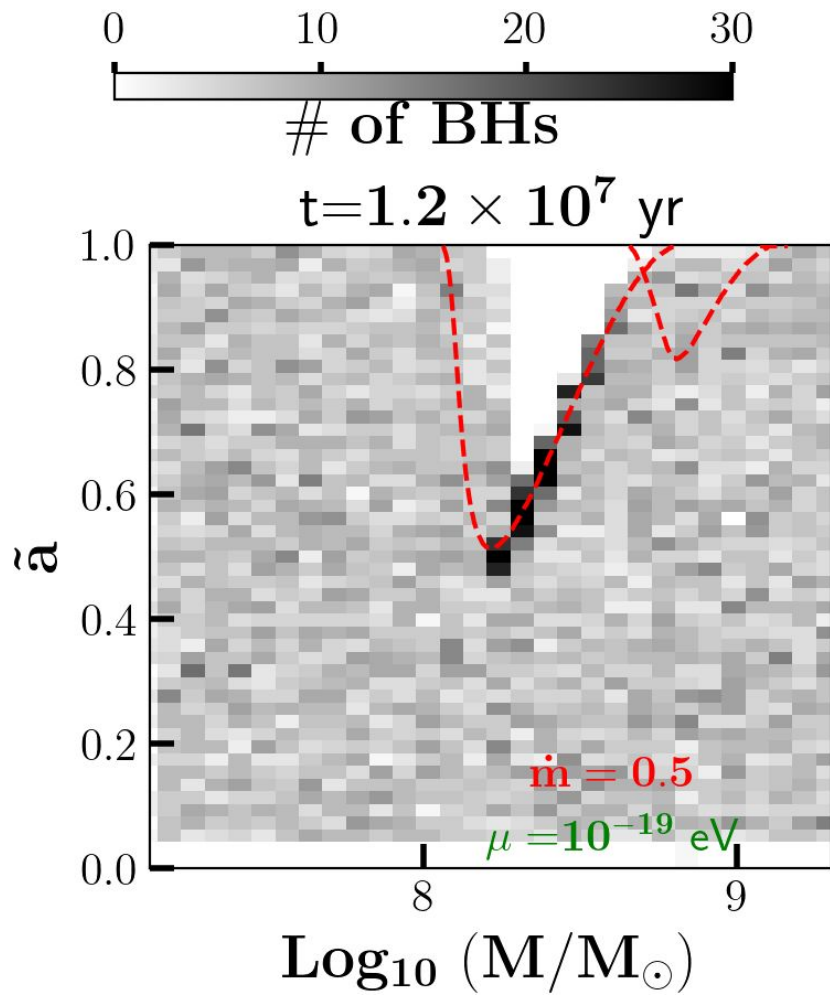
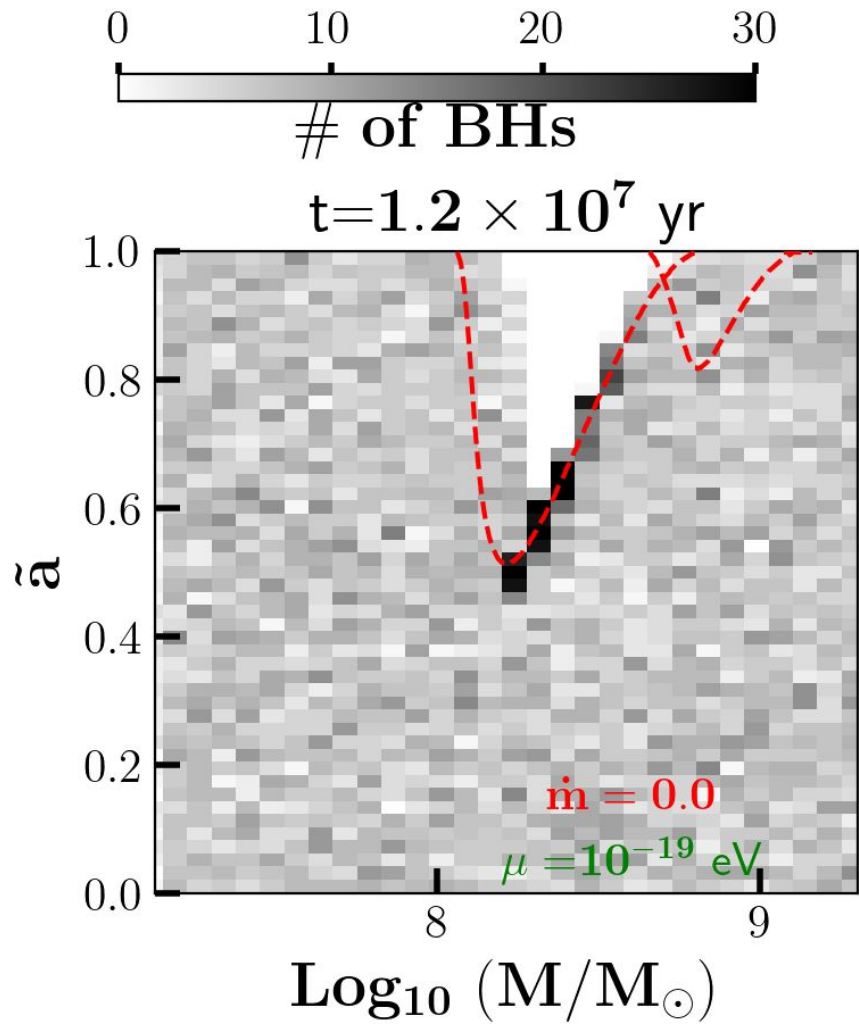


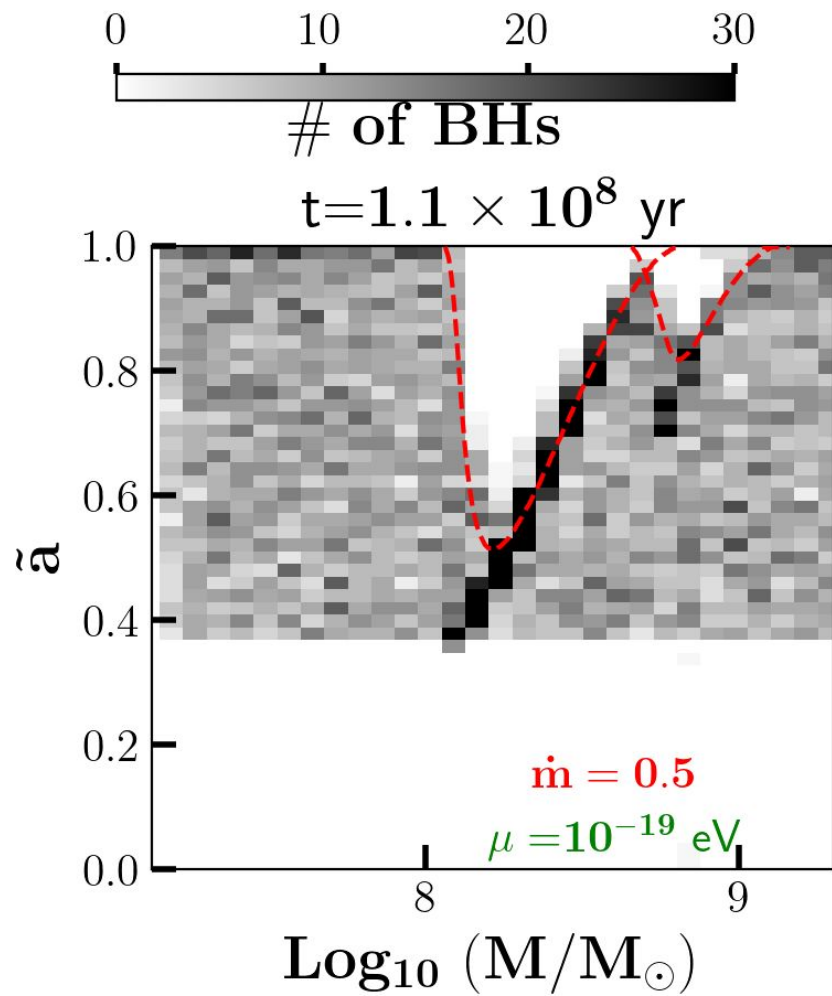
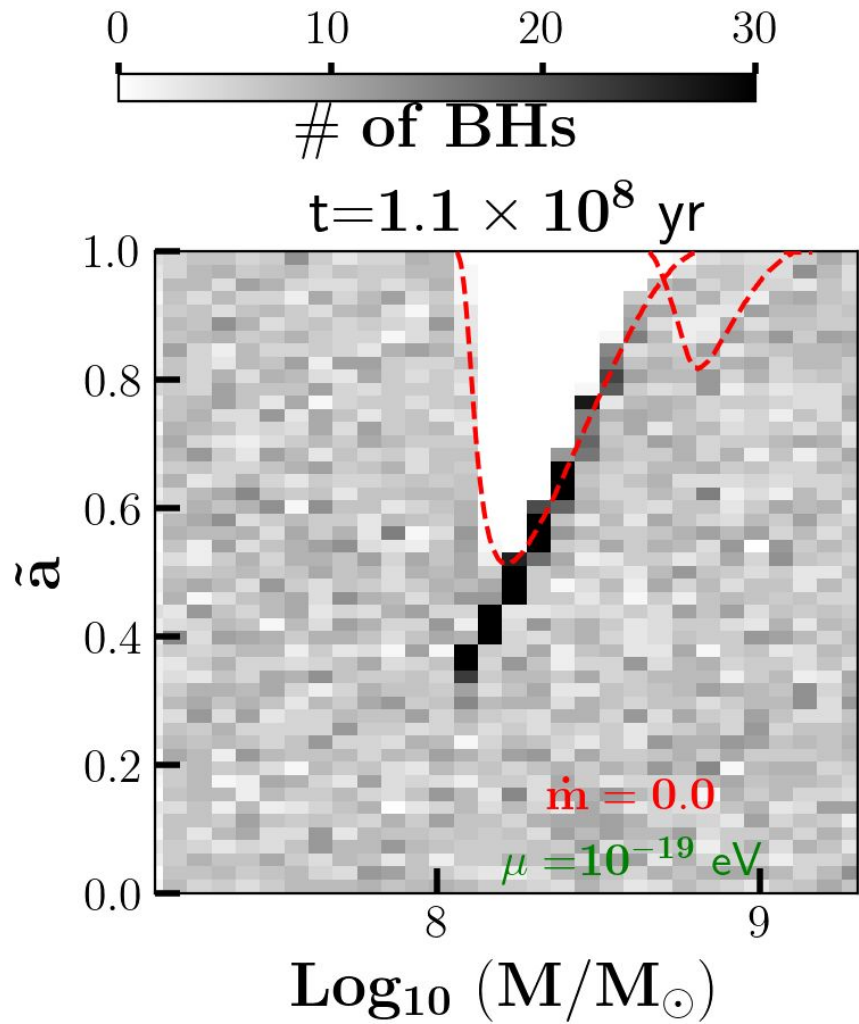


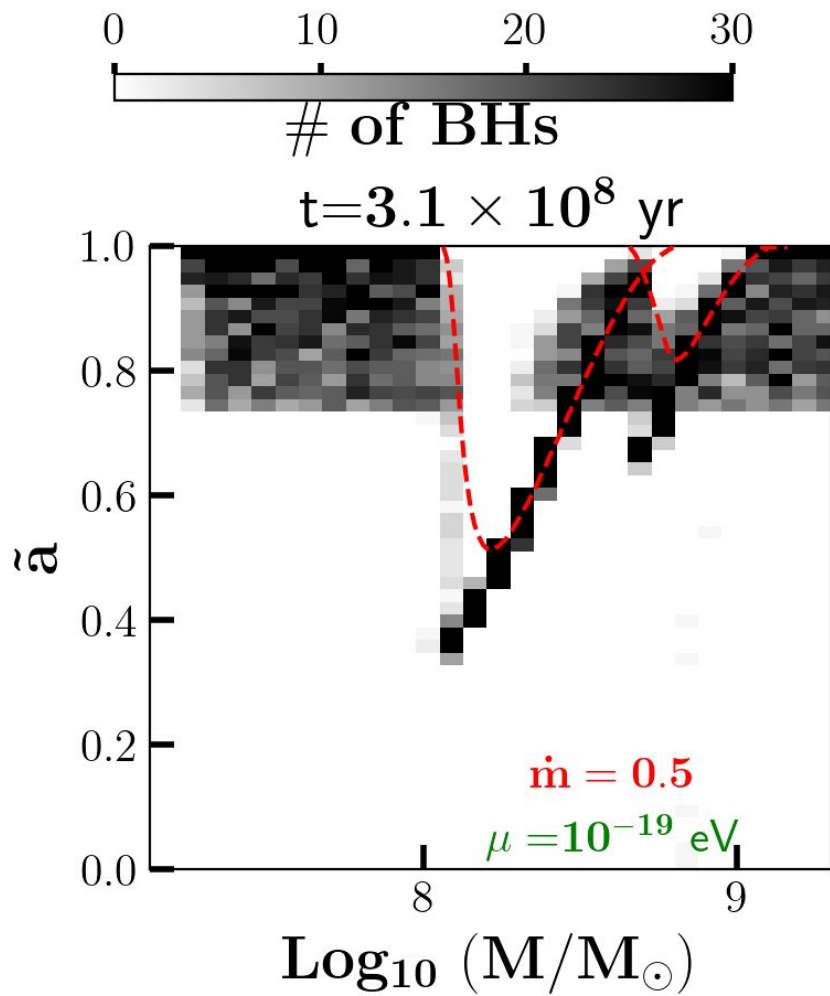
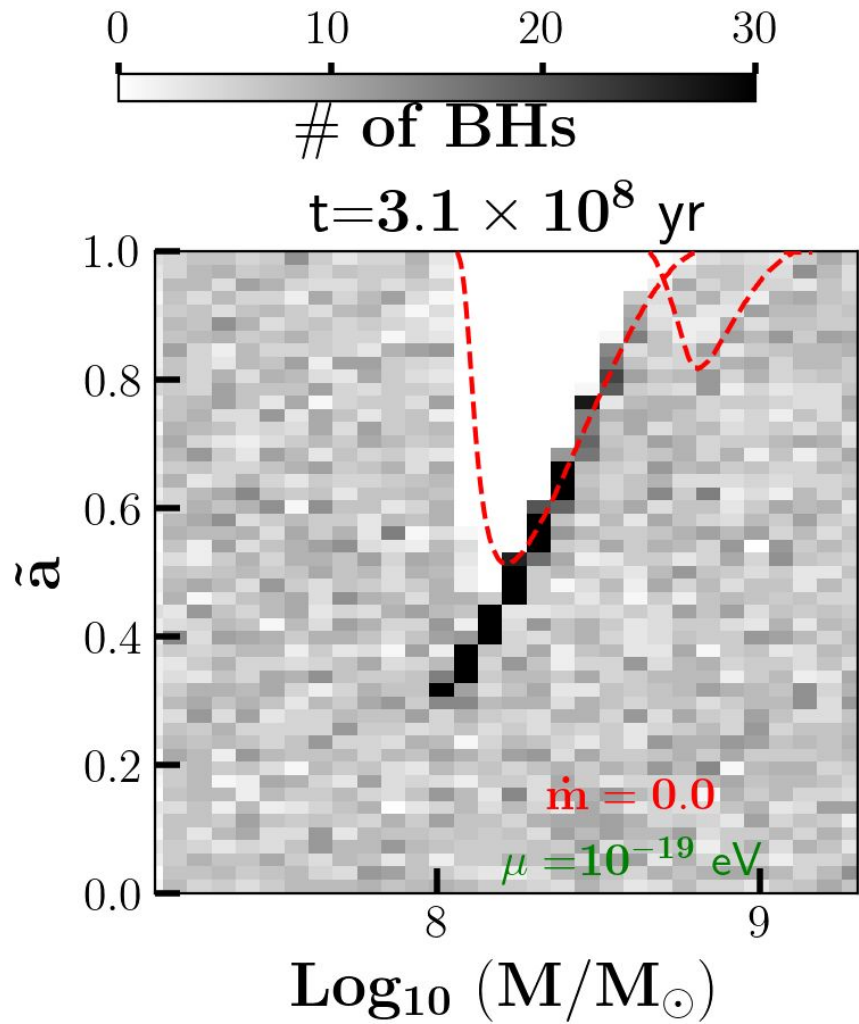


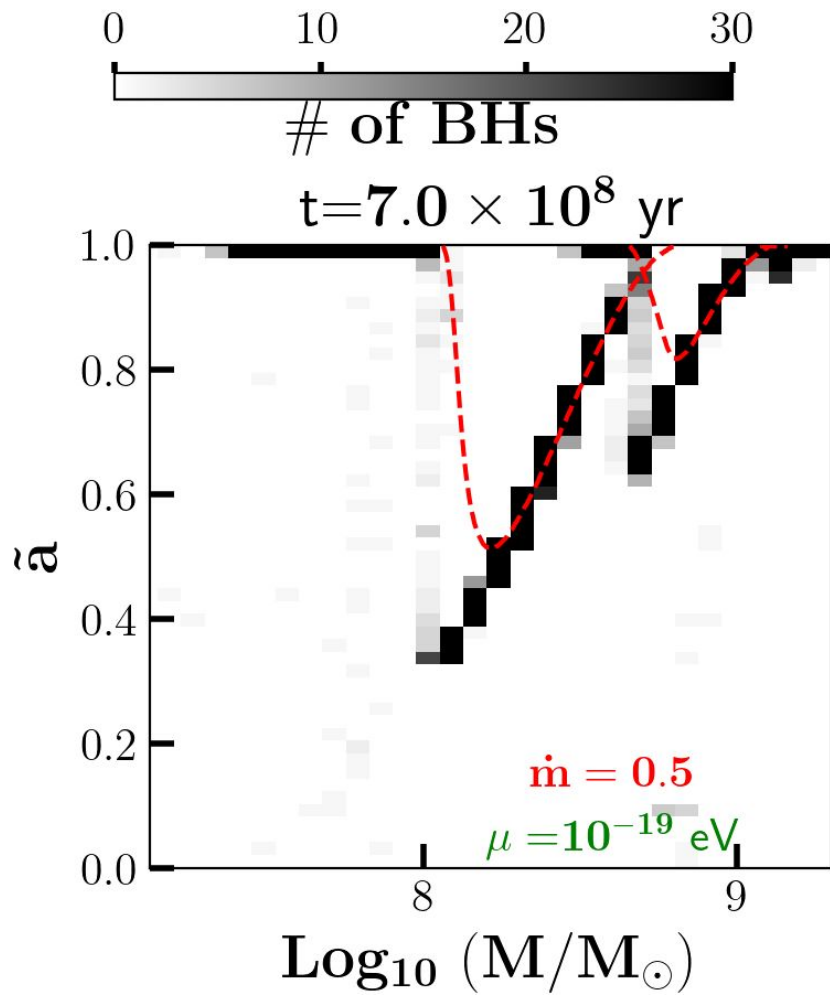
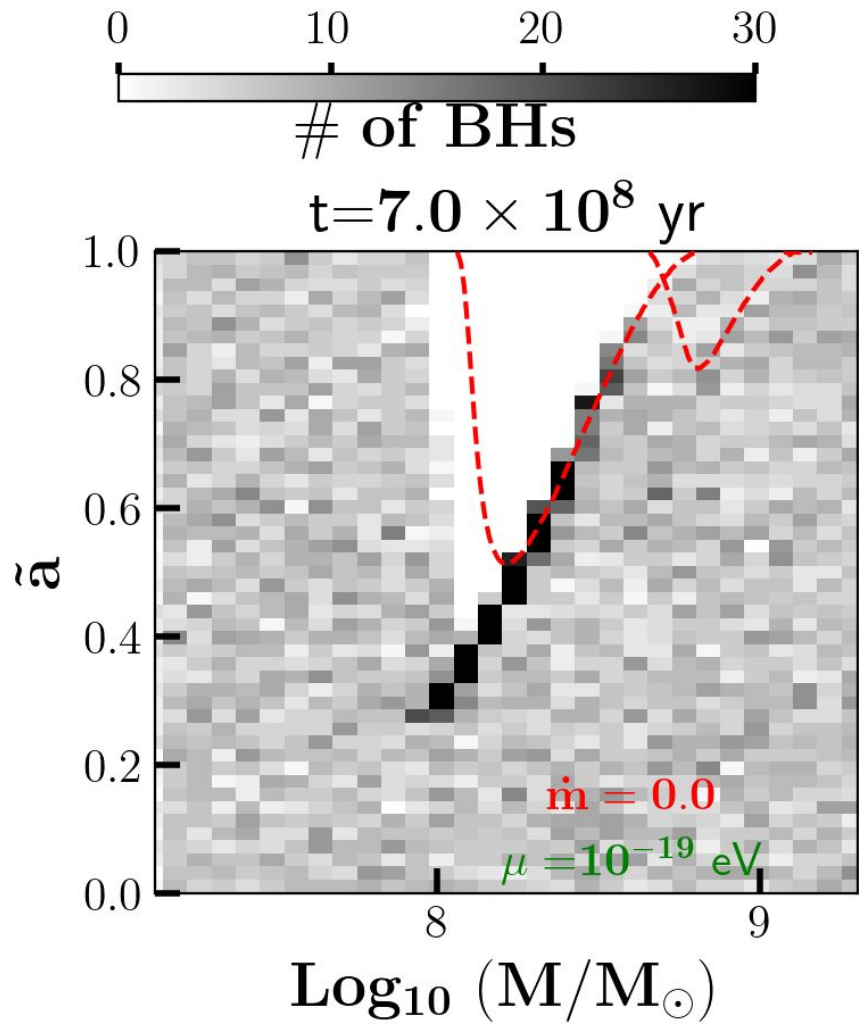




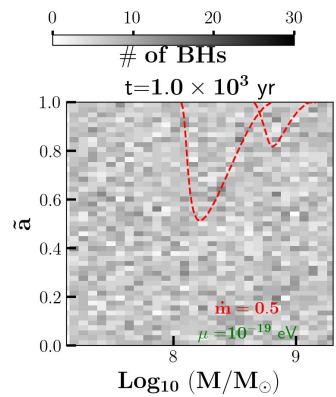


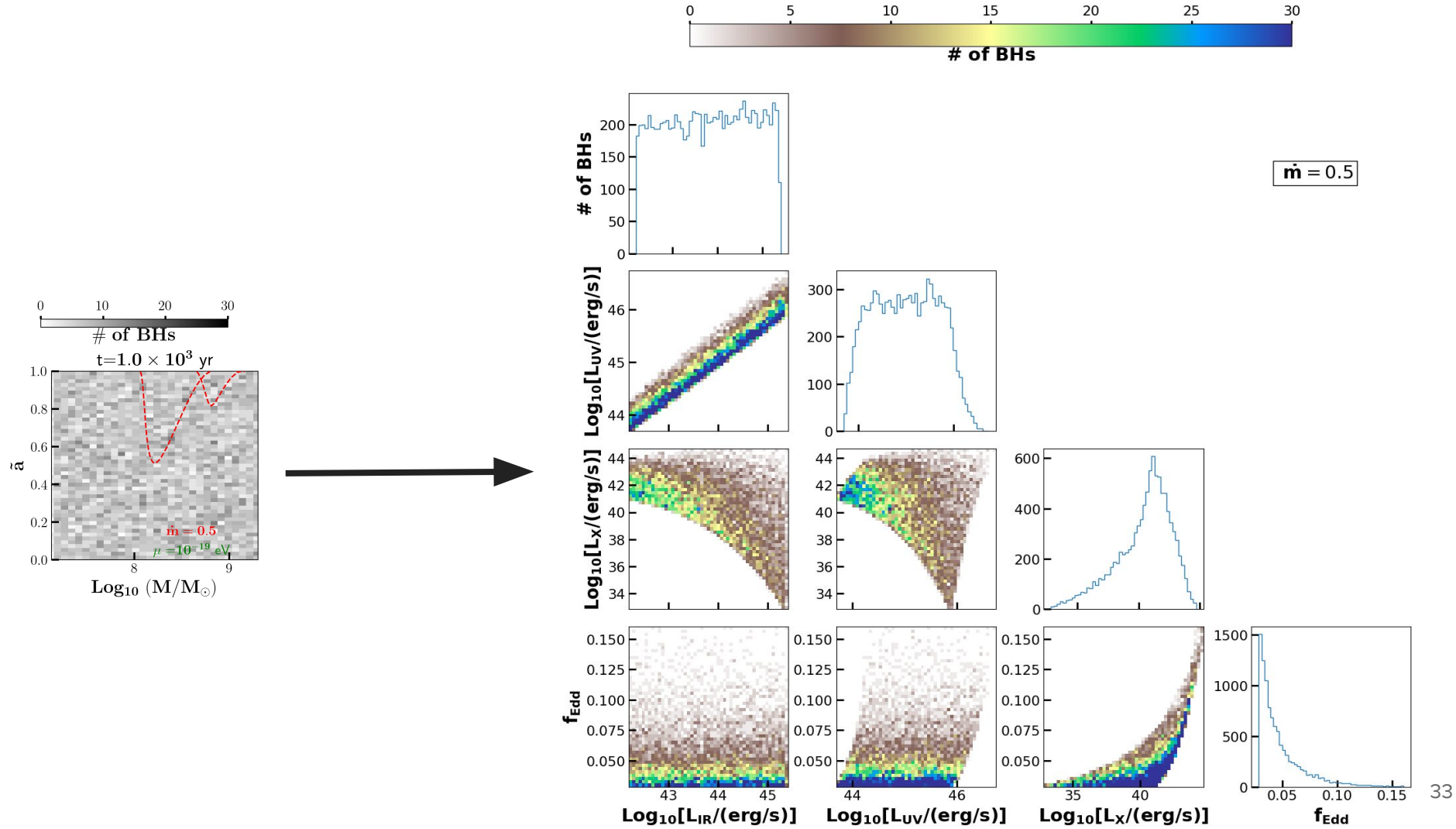






Distribution of AGN Characteristics





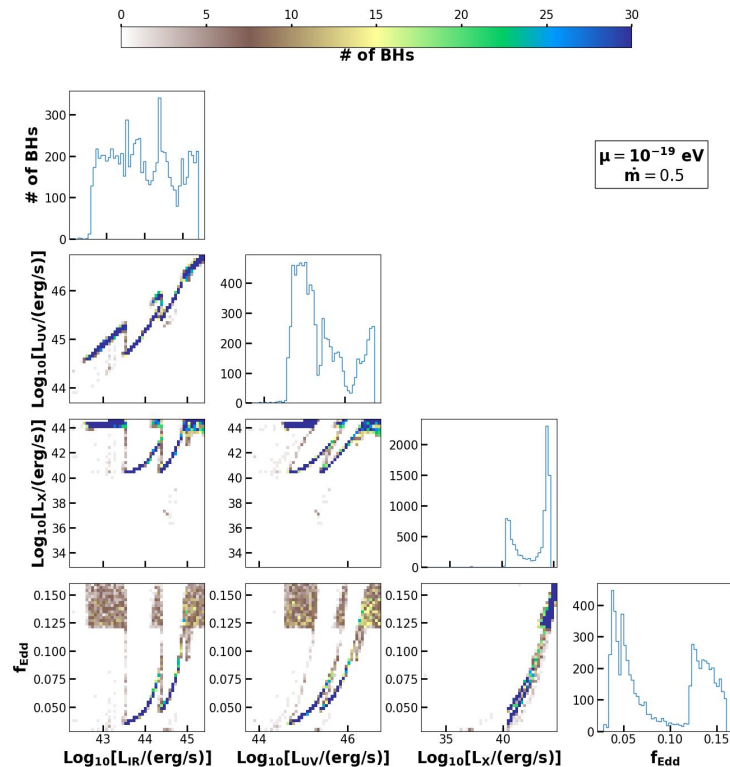
Summary

- Accreting SMBH undergoing Superradiance at the core of AGN leads to-

Enhanced growth of scalar cloud and GW emission rate and appearance of higher modes within the age of the universe.

- Multiple dips** in the luminosity evolution corresponding to timescales of dominant modes of superradiance.

- Observation of **depletion regions** in various planes of band-luminosities and f_{Edd} and **accumulation** of AGN along the boundaries of the depletion region.



Thank you!

Questions?
Comments?
Suggestion?