

Why "black widow" pulsar systems are  
important for the quest of neutron star  
maximum mass



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Once upon a time the idea of a single mass scale was firmly rooted in the community

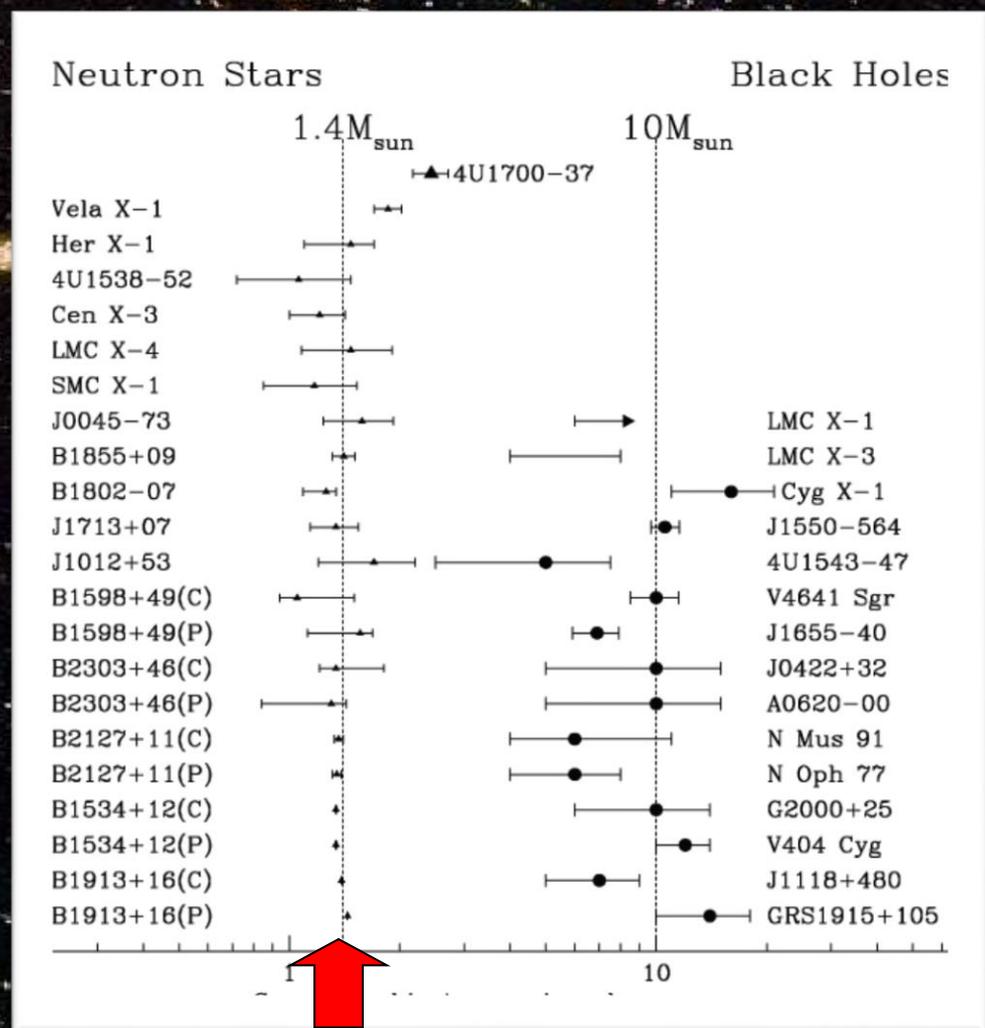
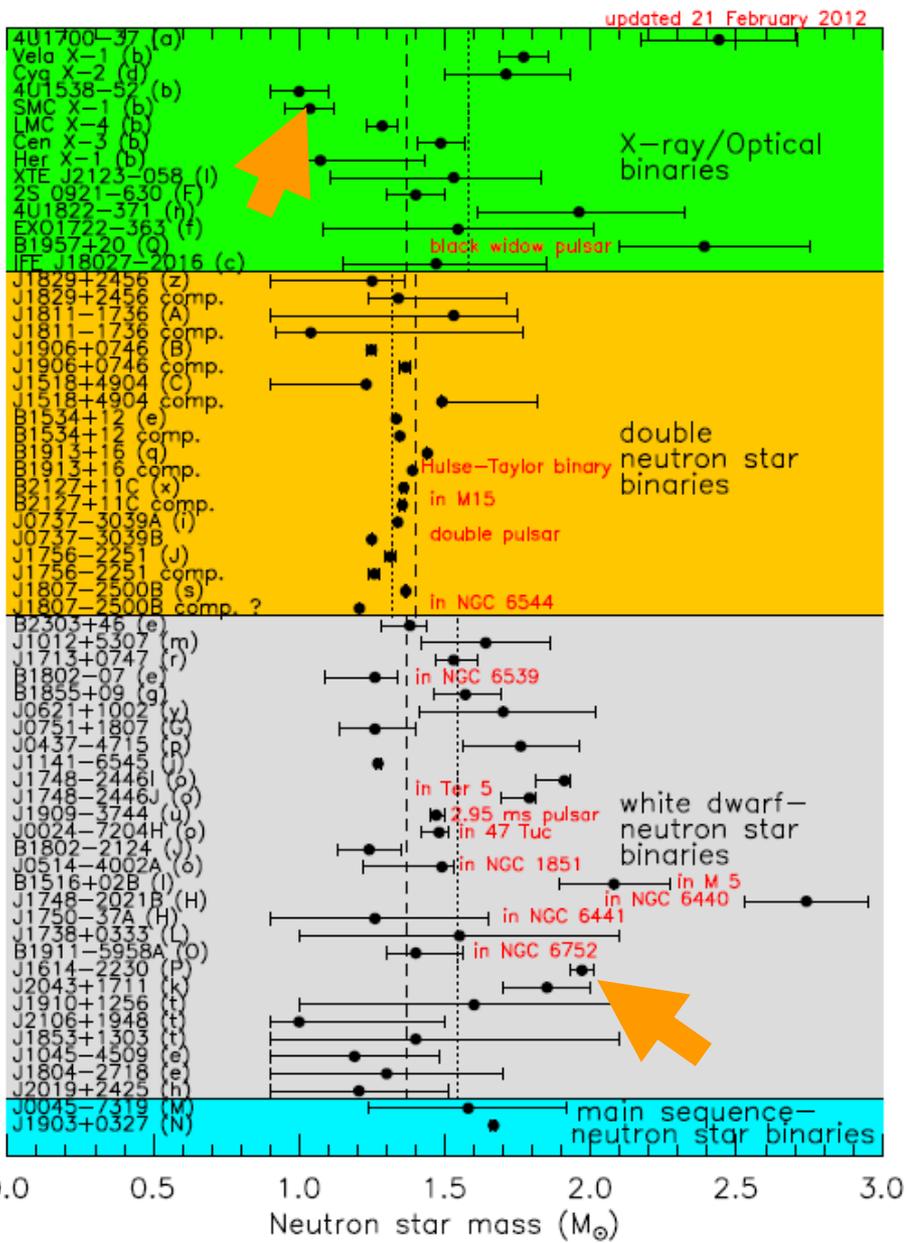


Figure from Clark et al. A&A 392, 909 (2002)

Consistent with  $1.4 M_{\odot}$



However, the newest evidence points towards a *much wider* range of masses

Sample compiled by Lattimer et al 2012, available at

<http://www.stellarcollapse.org/masses>

Bayesian analysis (Valentim, Rangel & Horvath, MNRAS 414, 1427, 2011) points out that one mass scale is unlikely, the distribution is more complex. Within a double gaussian scenario, two masses are present : 1.37 and 1.73  $M_{\odot}$  (by the way, exactly what Woosley & collab. predicted long time ago...)

Other works finding the same pattern:

Zhang et al. A&A 527, A83, 2011

Özel et al., ApJ 757, 55, 2012 (1.33 and 1.48  $M_{\odot}$ )

Kiziltan, Kottas & Thorsett, 2013 (1.35 and 1.55  $M_{\odot}$ )

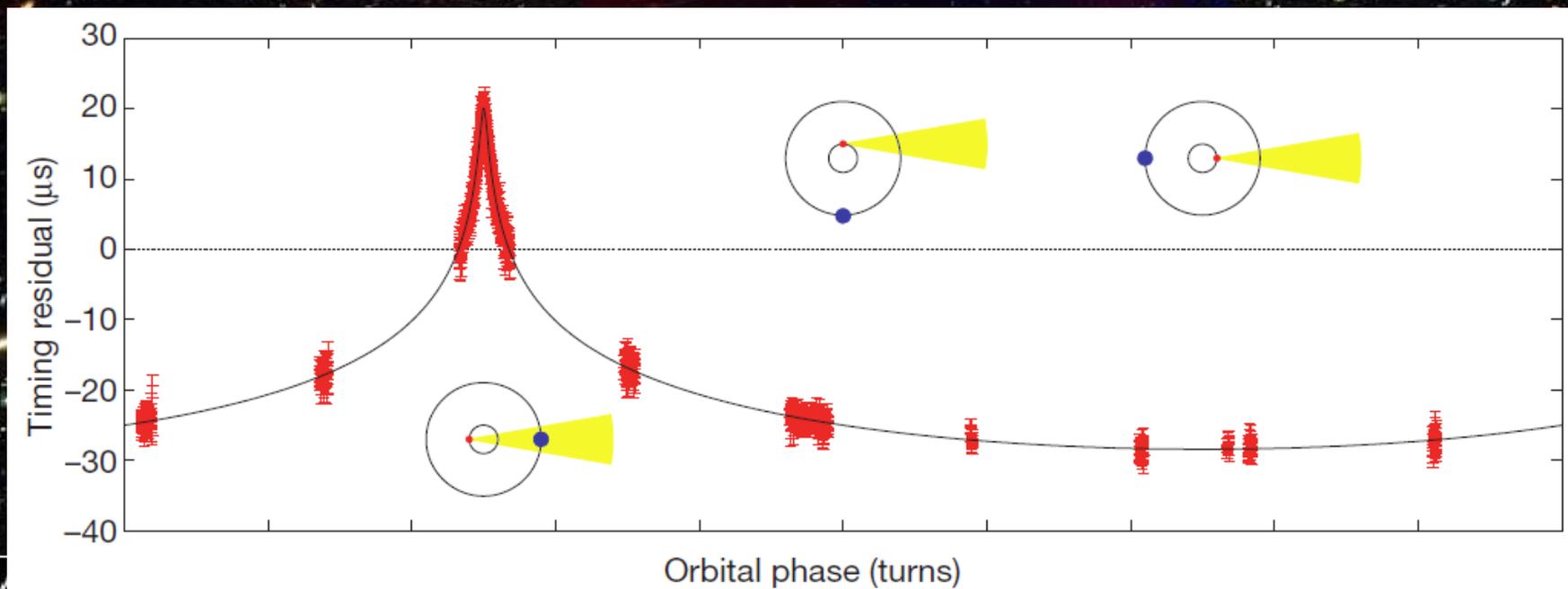
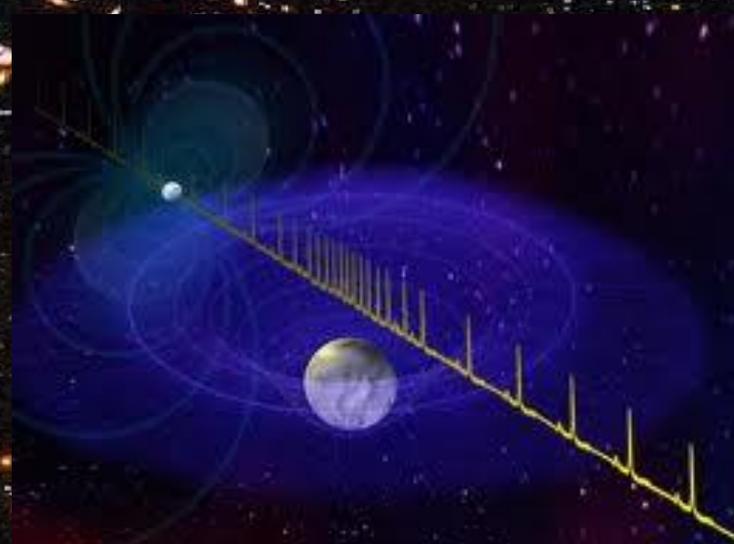
Is the high value related to the size of the Fe core? (jump @ 18  $M_{\odot}$ )

Are some of them born as such, massive ?

Accretion role dominating the high-mass sample? Stay tuned...

Demorest et al 2010: a NS with  $M \sim 2 M_{\odot}$  measuring the Shapiro delay

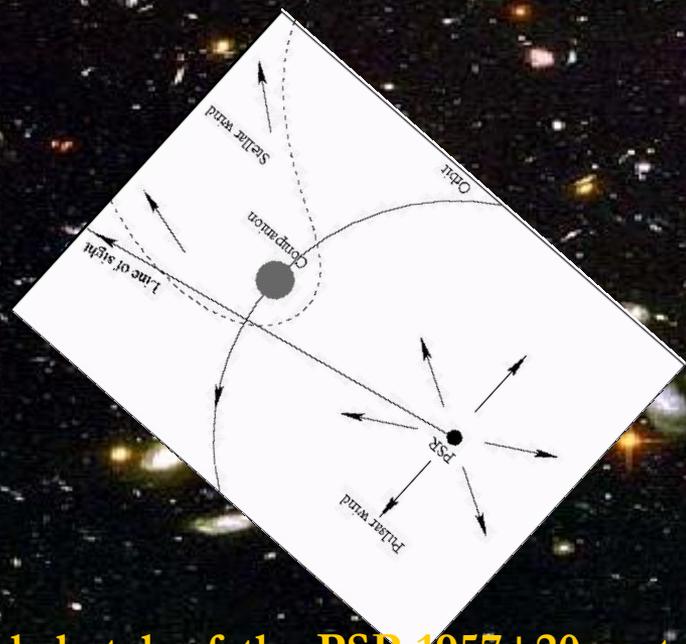
“clean” measurement  
widely accepted



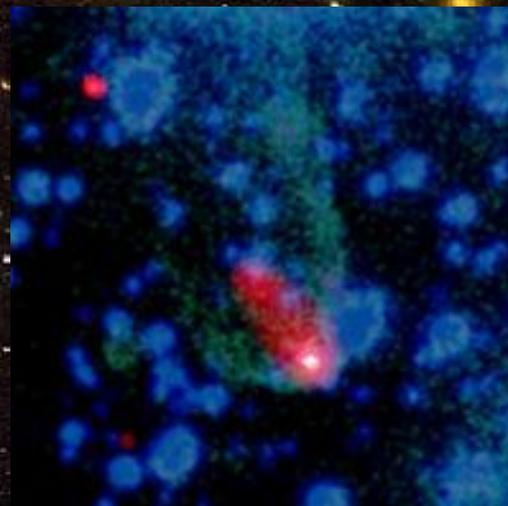
# A class of NS systems which may be crucial for the mass iss

1982: Backer et al. discovered the first member of the *ms* pulsar class **RECYCLED BY ACCRETION?**

1988: Fruchter, Stinebring & Taylor (Nature 333, 237, 1988) found an eclipsing pulsar with a very low mass companion, the hypothesis of **ablation** wind quickly follows



Original sketch of the PSR 1957+20 system

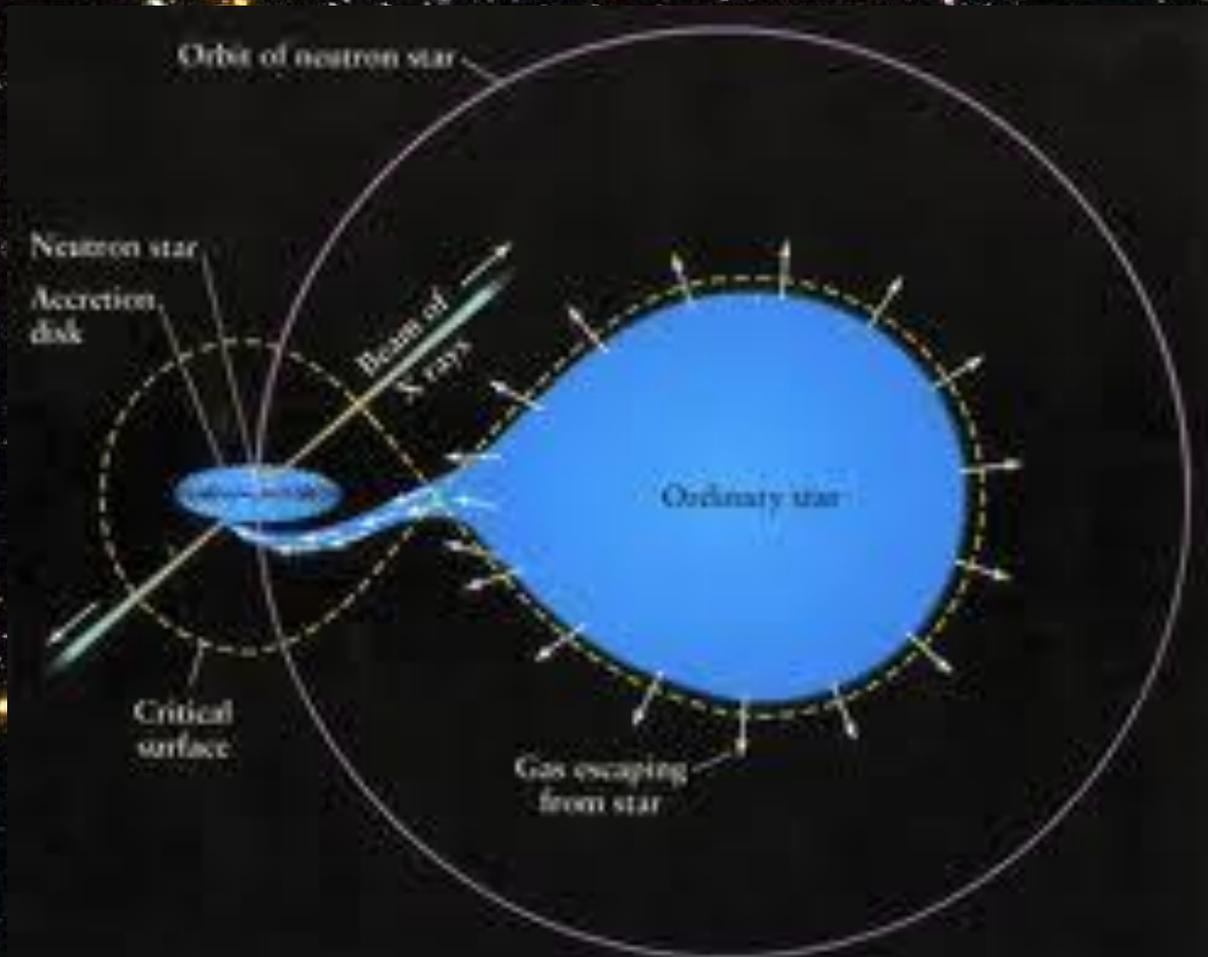


Composite Image from *Chandra* (2012)



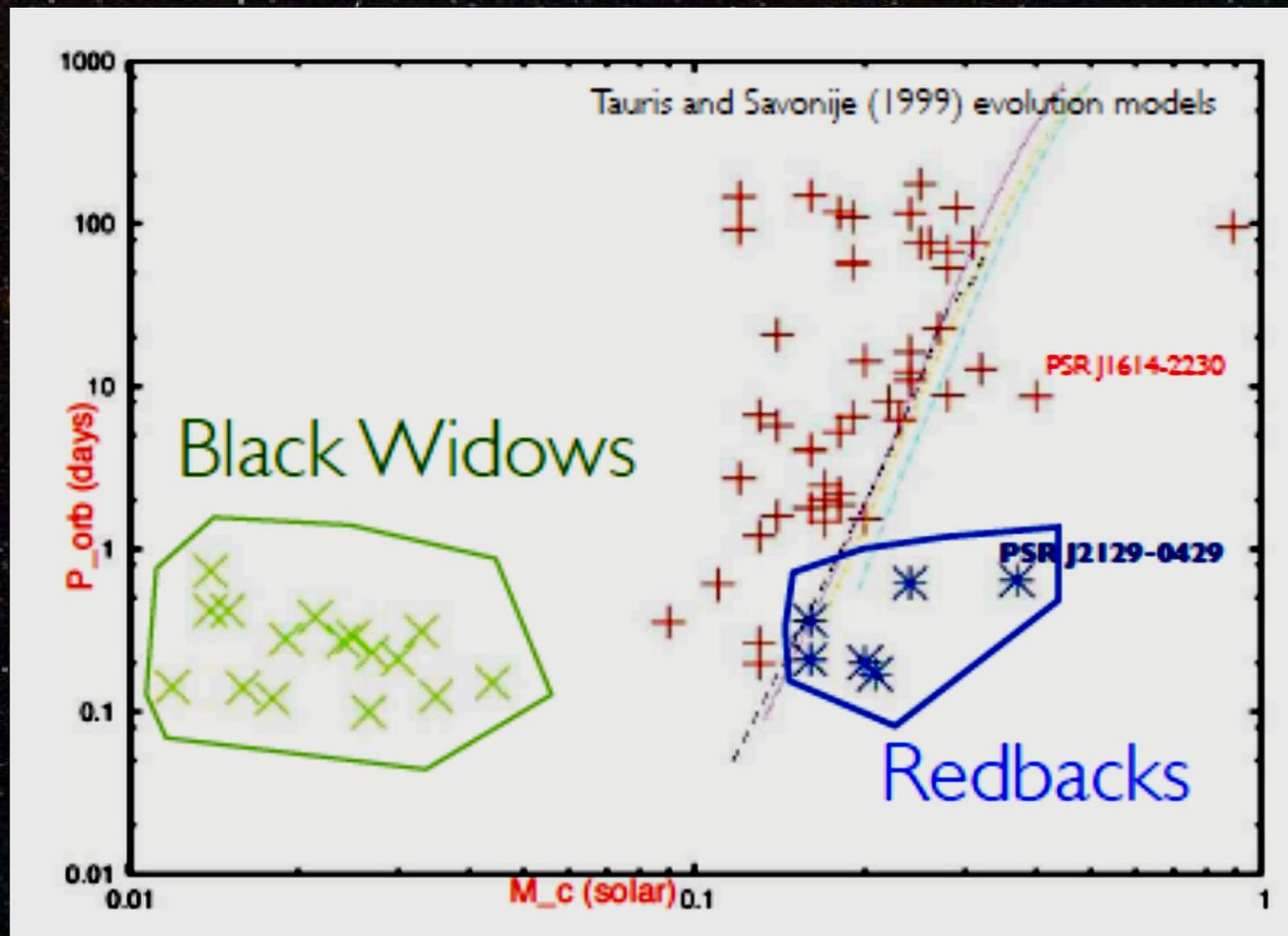
# *“Black widow” pulsars*

*Relatives of the accreting X-ray binaries...*



*LMXRB  
and others*

*Many ms  
pulsars in  
binaries*



M. Roberts, arXiv:1210.6903

*Last members of the zoo (~ 30 detected members):*

*PSR J1719-1438* (Bailes et al., Science 333, 1717, 2011)

Extremely low mass companion, yet high mean density  
 $\rho \geq 23 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for it

*PSR J1311-3430* (Romani et al. , ApJ 760, L36, 2012)

similar system, but with extremely low hydrogen  
abundance for the donor  $n_H < 10^{-5}$

# How are these ultra-compact systems formed and evolve?

*(Benvenuto, De Vito & Horvath ApJL 753, L33, 2012)*

$M_1$  primary (NS),  $M_2$  secondary (donor)

*Onset of Roche Lobe Overflow (RLOF) of the donor, Paczynski*

$$R_L = 0.46224 a \left( \frac{M_2}{M_1 + M_2} \right)^{1/3}$$



$$\dot{M}_1 = -\beta \dot{M}_2$$

*Accreted by the NS,  
always <*

$$\dot{M}_{Edd} = 2 \times 10^{-8} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

In general,  $\beta < 1$  and angular momentum is lost from the system. The exact value of  $\beta$  is **not** critical for evolution (but keep an eye on it !!!)

$$\dot{M}_{2,RLOF} = -\dot{M}_0 \exp\left(\frac{R_2 - R_L}{H_P}\right)$$

1<sup>st</sup> ingredient

(Ritter, A&A 202, 93, 1988)

Evaporating wind

$$\dot{M}_{2,evap} = -\frac{f}{2v_{2,esc}^2} L_P \left(\frac{R_2}{a}\right)^2$$

2<sup>nd</sup> ingredient

(Stevens et al., MNRAS 254, 19, 1992)

with

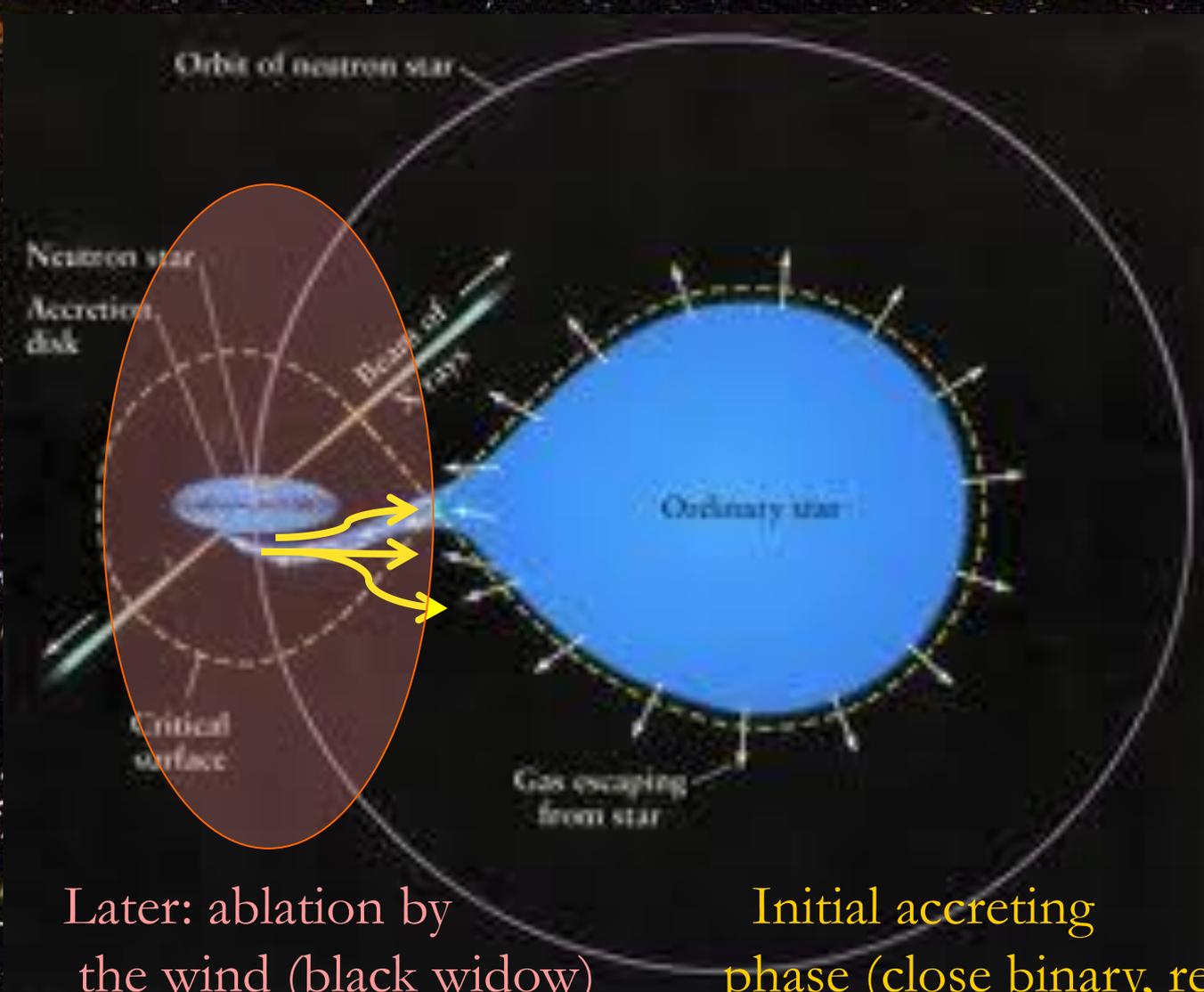
$$L_P = 4\pi^2 I_1 P_1 \dot{P}_1$$

Irradiation feedback

$$F_{irr} = \frac{\alpha_{irr}}{4\pi a^2} \frac{GM_1}{R_1} \dot{M}_1$$

3<sup>rd</sup> ingredient

(Bunning & Ritter, A&A 423, 281, 2004  
Hameury)



Later: ablation by the wind (black widow)

Initial accreting phase (close binary, redback)

All three effects incorporated into an adaptative Henyey code, solving simultaneously structure and orbital evolution (Benvenuto & De Vito, 2003 ; De Vito & Benvenuto, 2012)

$(M_1, M_2, P_i)$  *must be in the “right” range to explain the observed systems*

If  $P_i$  is too short ( $< 0.5$  d), the mass transfer would start at ZAMS

If  $P_i$  is too long ( $> 0.9$  d), the orbit widens when donor is  $\sim 0.3 M_\odot$   
not the observed “black widow” state !

If  $M_2$  is too small, mass transfer would be  $>$  age universe

If  $M_2$  is too high, mass transfer is unstable (Podsiadlowski et al)

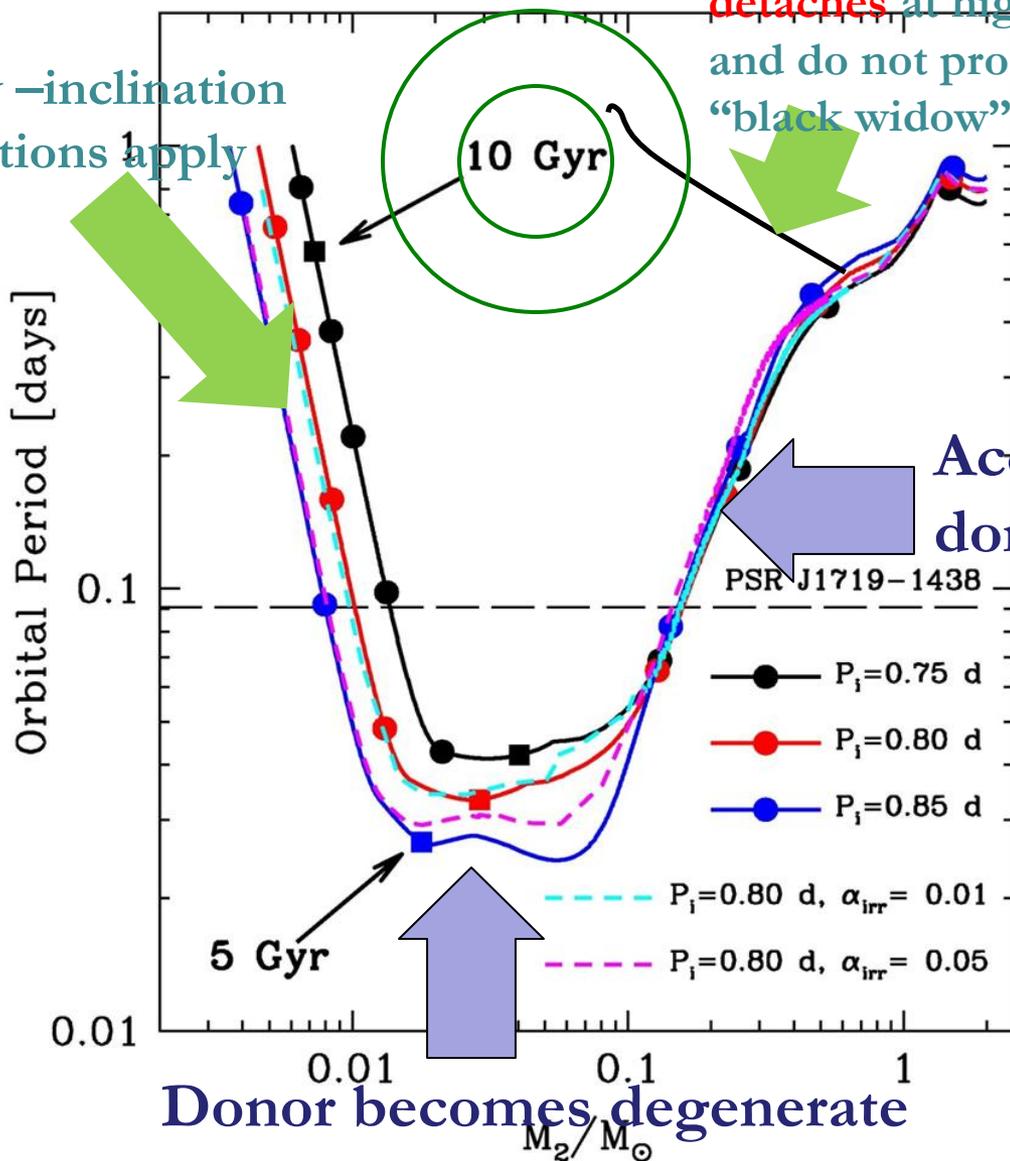
Started calculations right after the NS formation  $M_2 = 2M_\odot$

CAVEAT !!!, just an hypothesis  $\longrightarrow M_1 = 1.4M_\odot$

# PSR J1719-1438

Low-inclination solutions apply

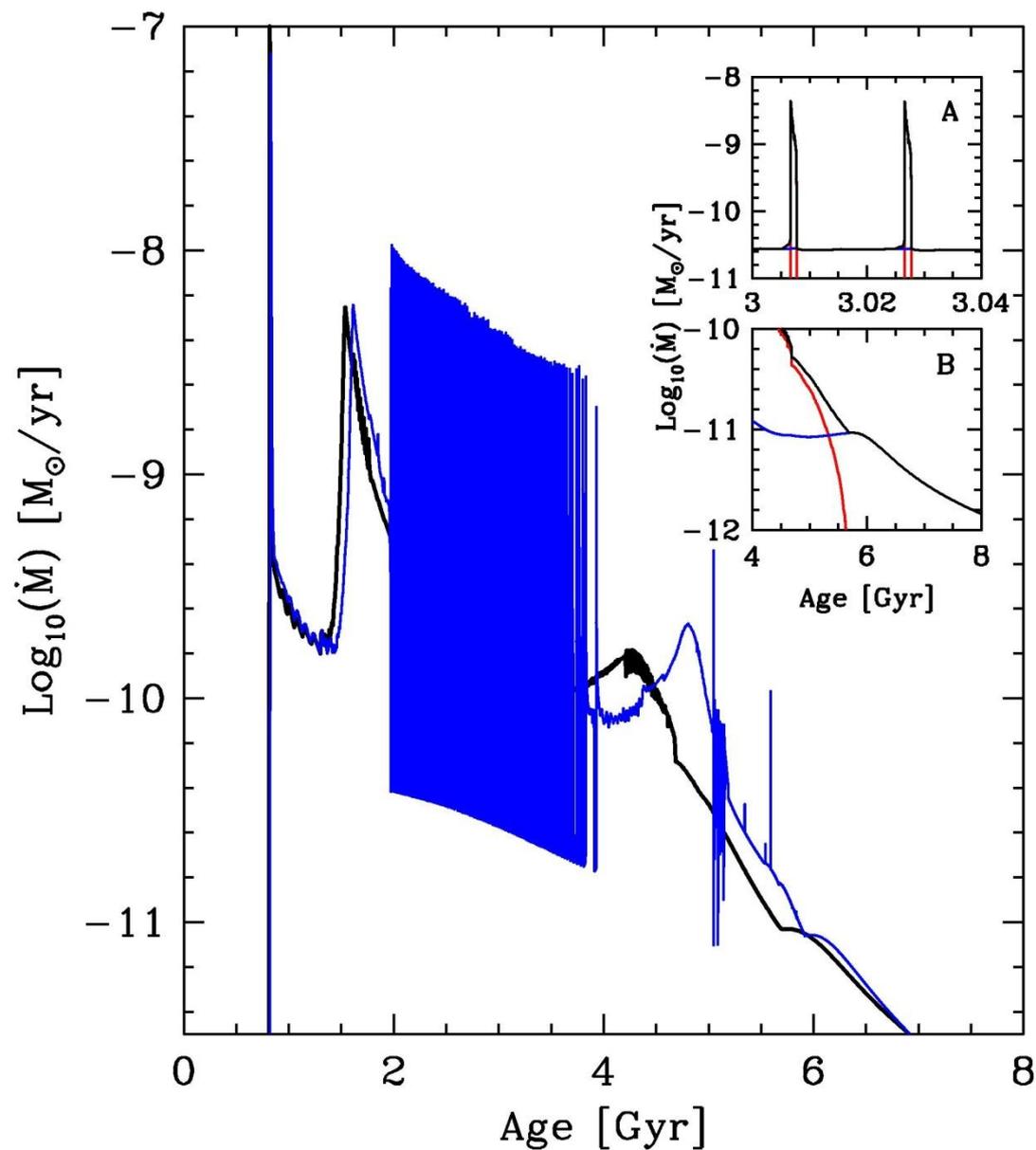
At slightly larger initial periods, the secondary detaches at high mass and do not produce "black widow" systems



Accretion dominant

The system goes  
back and forth  
from accretion to  
isolation at  
intermediate mass  
(redback stage !)

*Not* a numerical  
instability



The original “black widow” PSR 1957+20: new results  
(van Kerkwijk, Breton & Kulkarni, ApJ 728, 95, 2011)

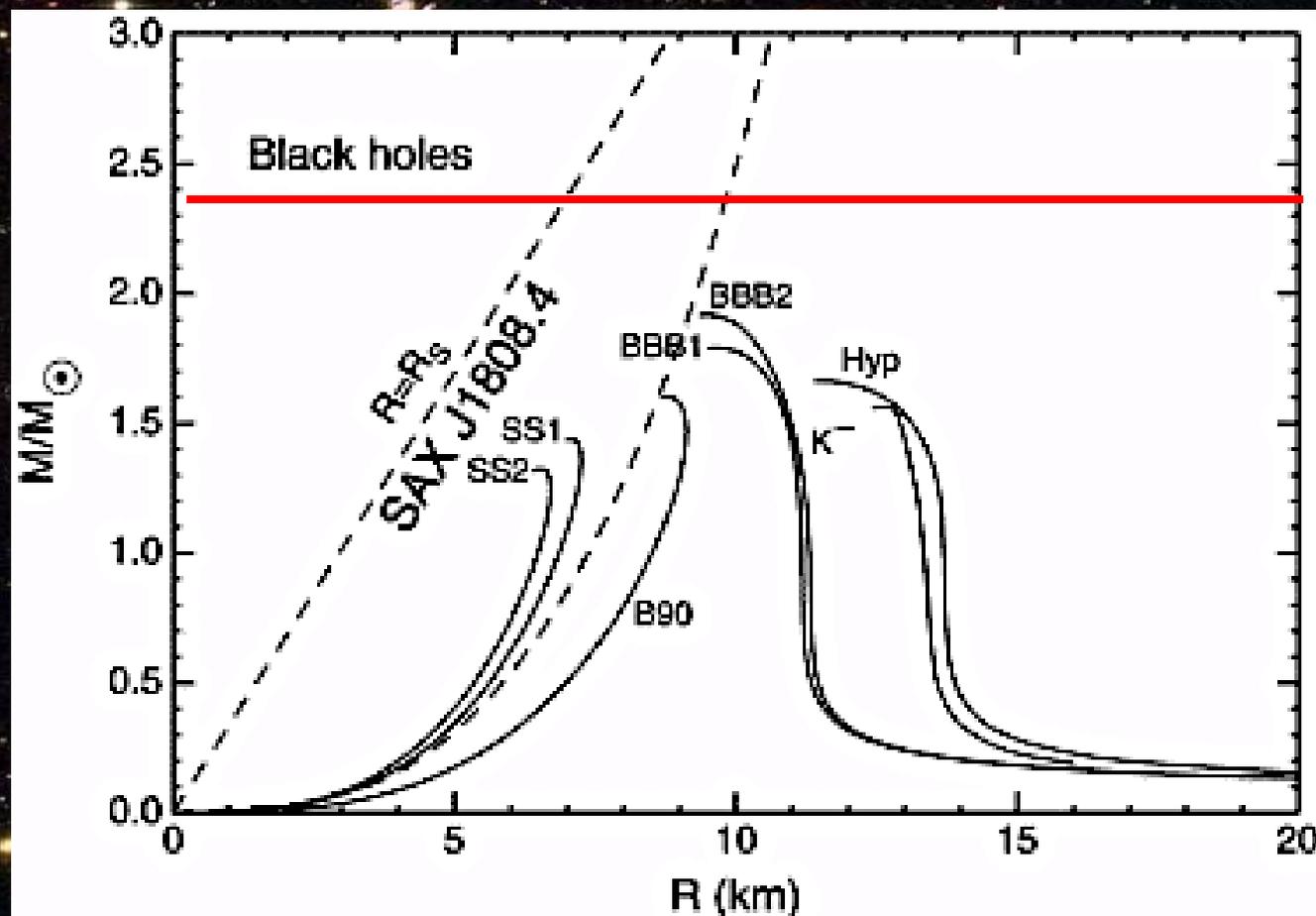
$M_{\text{psr}}/M_2 \sim 70$  (through spectral lines, radial velocity)


$$M_{\text{psr}} = 2.4 \pm 0.12 M_{\odot}$$

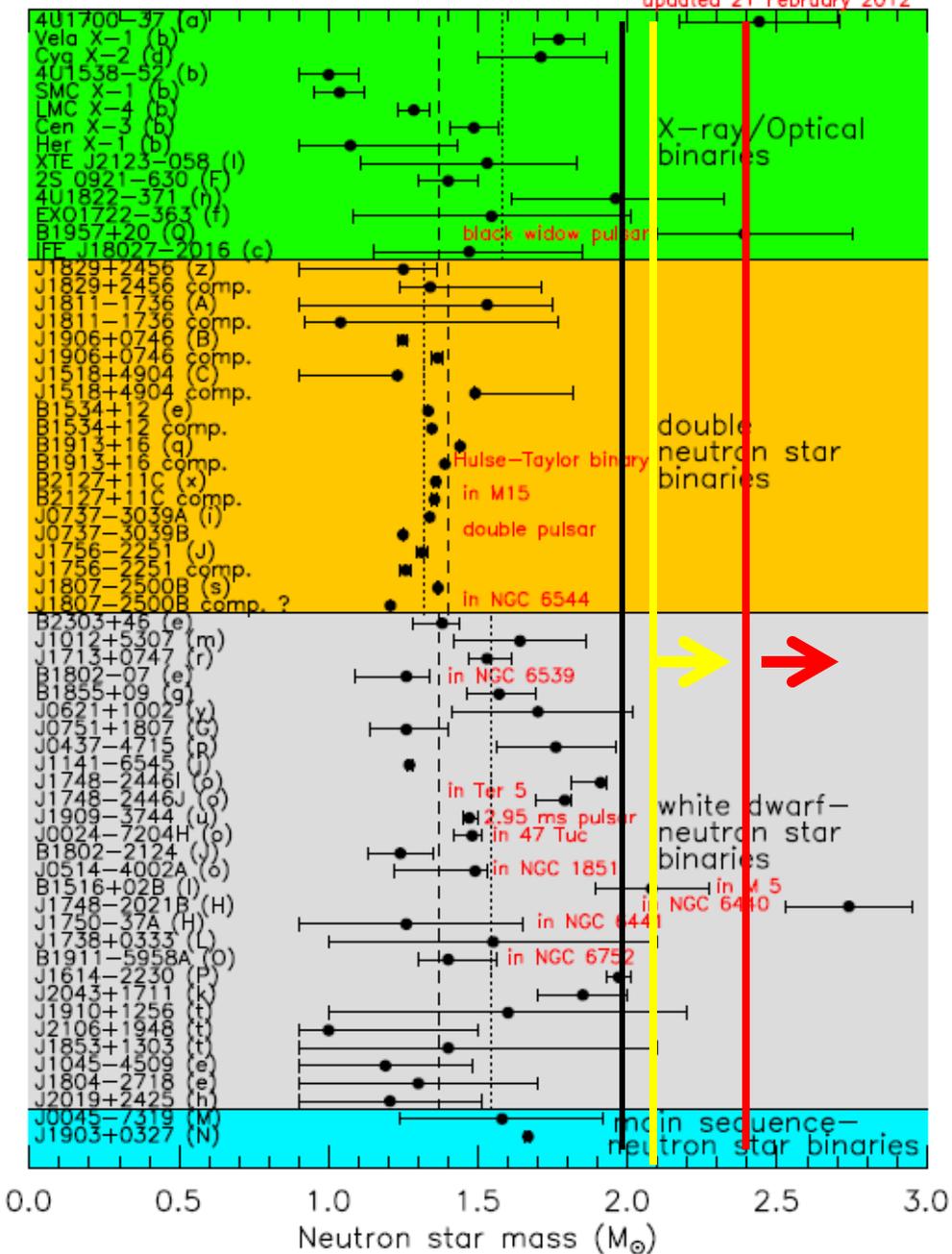
( $M_{\text{psr}} > 1.66 M_{\odot}$  very firm)

Romani et al. (ApJ 760, L36, 2012) found three high values for the neutron star in PSR J1311-3430, depending on the interpretation  $M_{\text{psr}} > 2.1 M_{\odot}$  up to  $\sim 3 M_{\odot}$  but...

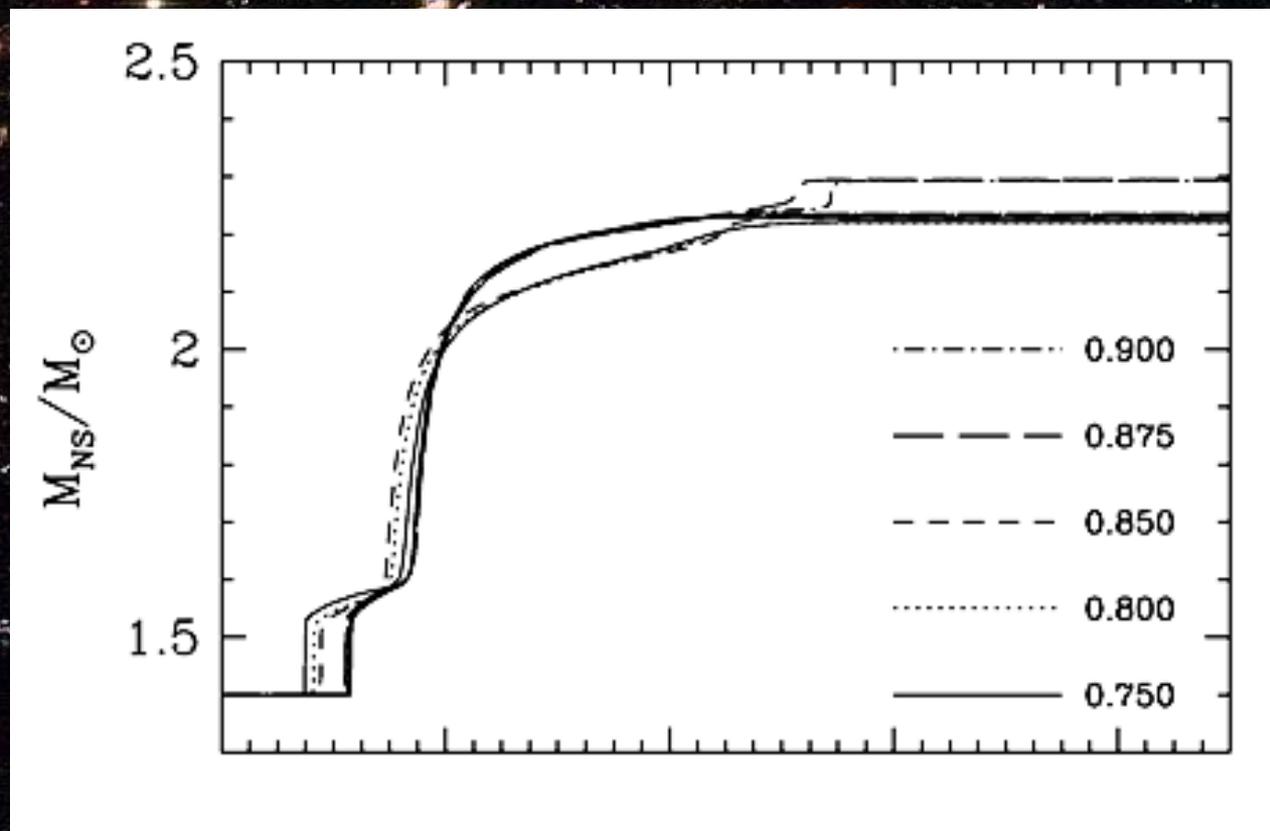
*Latest news:* systematic errors dominate and no value of the NS can be reliably confirmed (Romani, Filippenko & Cenko [arXiv:1503.05247](https://arxiv.org/abs/1503.05247) 2015)



updated 21 February 2012



Self-consistent calculations of the PSR J1311-3430 system require such high values to reach the observed state



Calculations for several values of the initial period, and fixed accretion efficiency  $\beta$  of 50%

# What do high masses mean: the “hyperon puzzle”

## Hyperons soften the equation of state, do they?

### Hyperon Puzzle: Hints from Quantum Monte Carlo Calculations

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<sup>2</sup>*Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA*

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The onset of hyperons in the core of neutron stars and the consequent softening of the equation of state have been questioned for a long time. Controversial theoretical predictions and recent astrophysical observations of neutron stars are the grounds for the so-called *hyperon puzzle*. We calculate the equation of state and the neutron star mass-radius relation of an infinite systems of neutrons and  $\Lambda$  particles by using the auxiliary field diffusion Monte Carlo algorithm. We find that the three-body hyperon-nucleon interaction plays a fundamental role in the softening of the equation of state and for the consequent reduction of the predicted maximum mass. We have considered two different models of three-body force that successfully describe the binding energy of medium mass hypernuclei. Our results indicate that they give dramatically different results on the maximum mass of neutron stars, not necessarily incompatible with the recent observation of very massive neutron stars. We conclude that stronger constraints on the hyperon-neutron force are necessary in order to properly assess the role of hyperons in neutron stars.

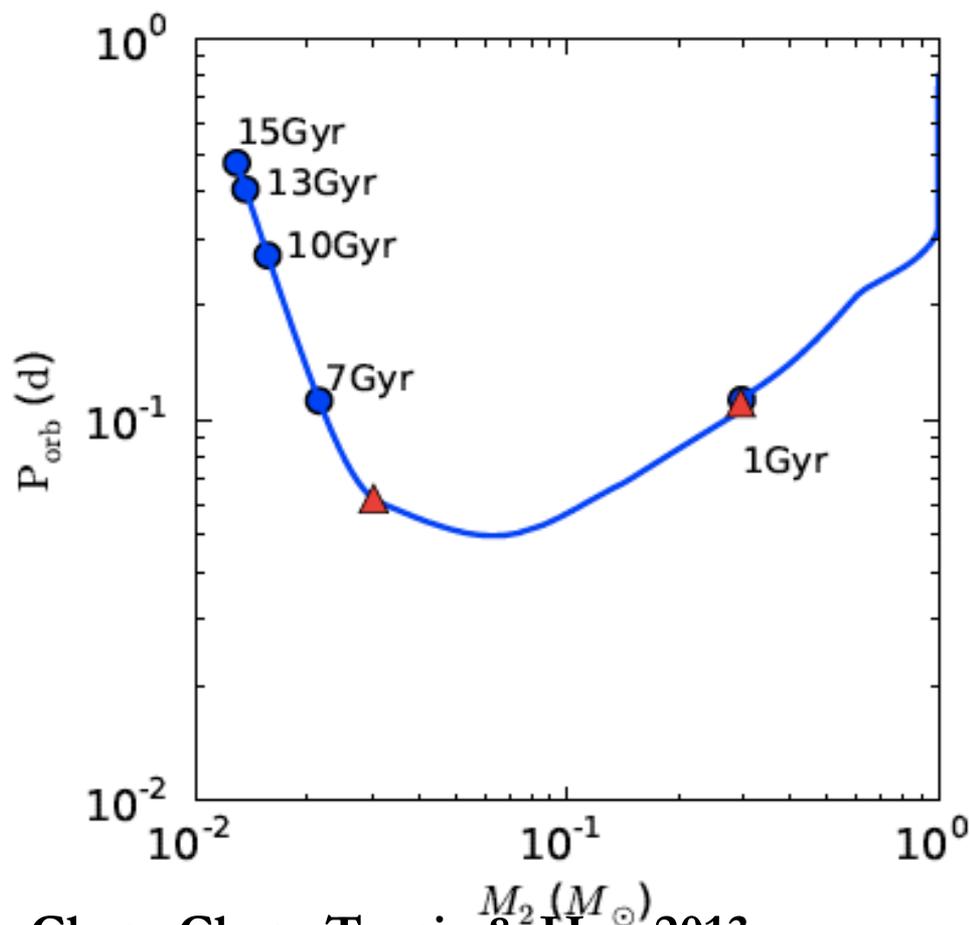
Can NS *avoid* the presence of hyperons?  
(the return of “pure neutrons”)

# Conclusions

\* Ultra-compact “black widow” pulsar systems result from a bifurcation in parameter space, in this sense they follow a new evolutionary path.

\* The role of winds+irradiation would not produce anything PSR J1311-3430 The full parameter space but we can state that PSR mass is very large because this is required for them to be currently observed Evolution supports high mass

$\beta$  Important for the final pulsar mass, but surely high



Chen, Chen, Tauris & Han 2013