

High-energy gamma-rays from isolated stellar-mass black hole magnetosphere

(see also Kin et al. accepted in ApJ, arXiv:2310.12532)

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Kenji Toma (FRIS, Tohoku Univ.), and Amir Levinson (Tel Aviv Univ.)



TOHOKU
UNIVERSITY

CTA conference

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Theoretical Astrophysics
Tohoku University

©Take home message:

Galactic isolated stellar-mass BHs can be GeV-TeV target!

Introduction:

Isolated stellar-mass Black Holes in our Galaxy

© $\sim 10^{7-8}$ undetected IBHs in our Galaxy

(e.g. Sartore & Treves 10; Caputo et al. 17; Abrams & Takada 20)

→ possible interactions w/ Galactic gas clouds

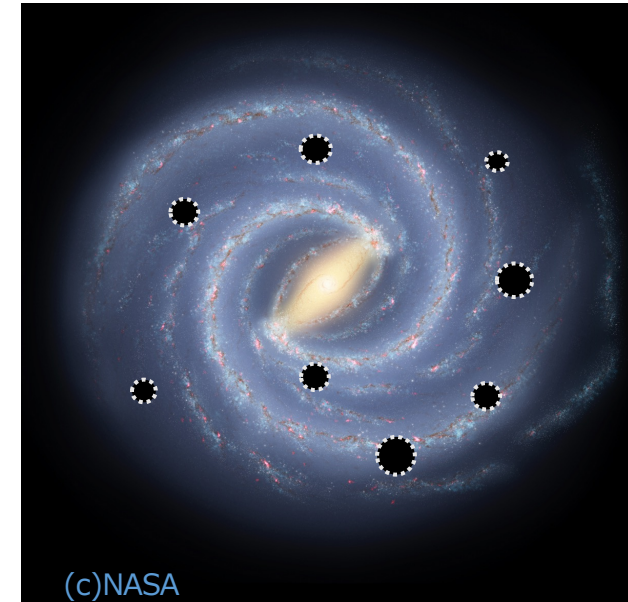
implication:

- massive star evolution
- upper limit on primordial BHs formation rate
- Galactic PeVatron? (c.f. Ioka et al.17)

Question:

Can we detect signals from gas-accreting IBH?

- accretion disk (Agol & Kamionkowski 02; Tsuna et al. 18; Kimura et al. 21)
- jet/disk outflow (Ioka et al. 17; Tsuna & Kawanaka 19)
- **magnetosphere ← this research**



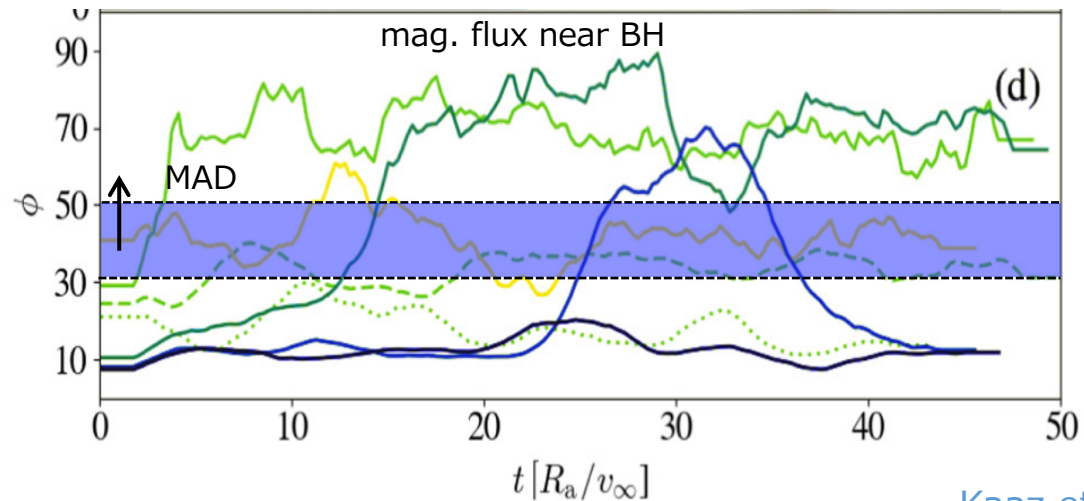
Introduction: IBH magnetosphere?

©Highly-magnetized disk (MAD) around IBH (Ioka et al.17; Kimura et al. 21; Kaaz et al. 23)

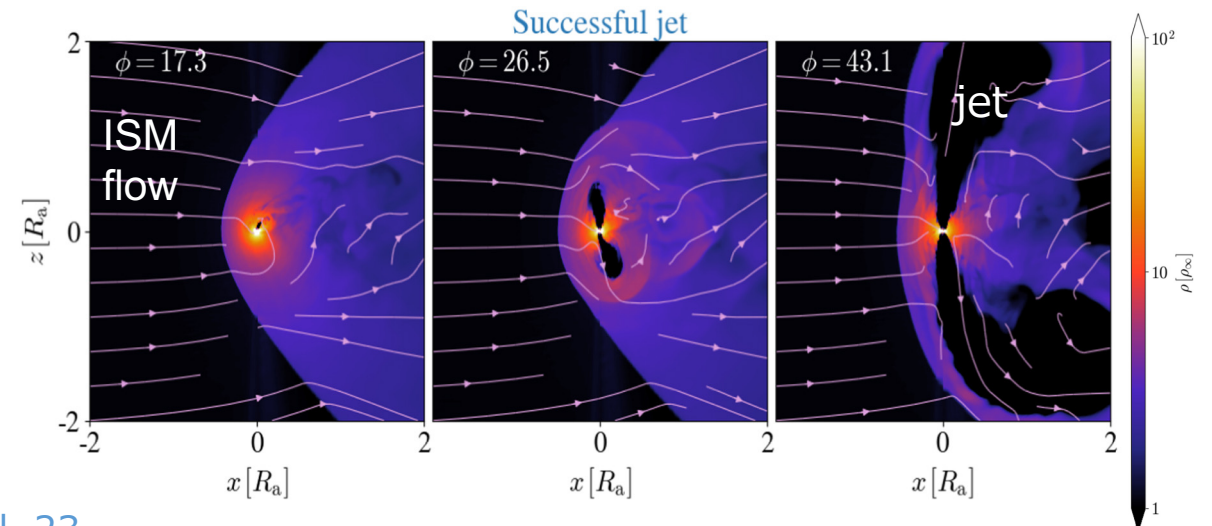
magnetic flux accumulate during gas accretion

→ B-field strong enough to become MAD state

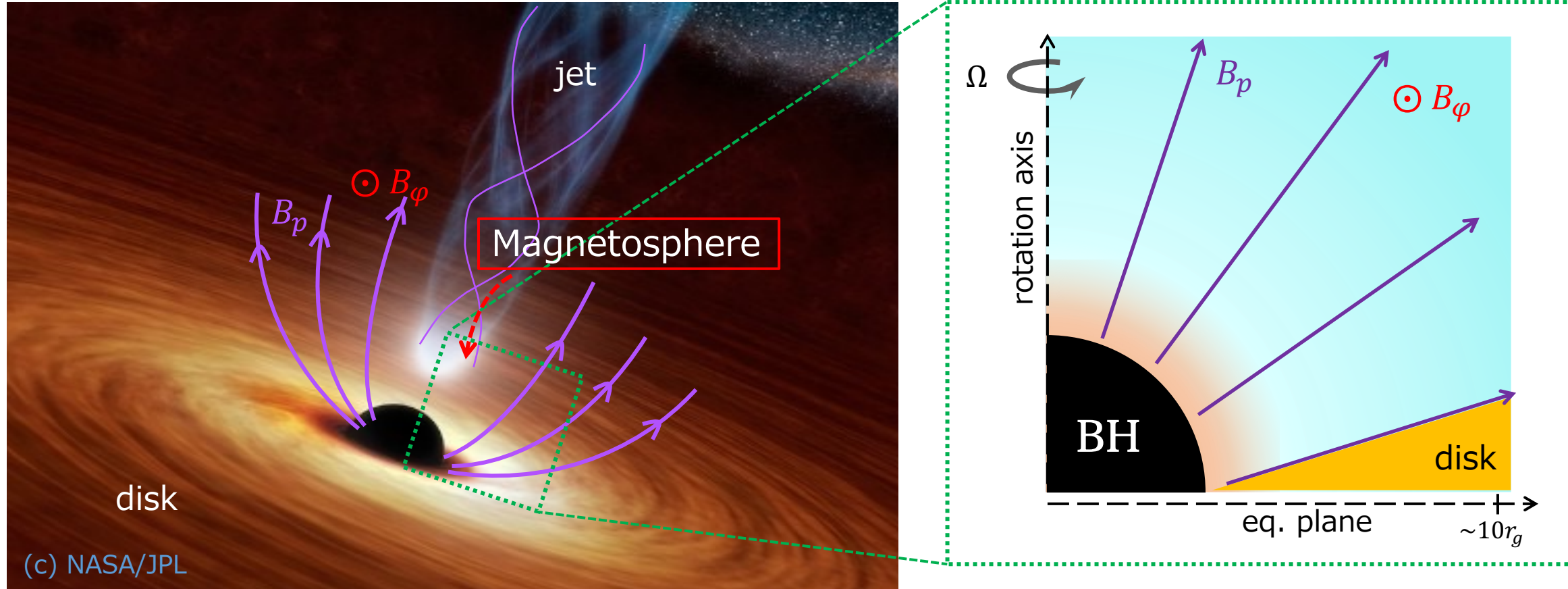
magnetospheres expected to be formed inside / launch jet



Kaaz et al. 23



Introduction: Particle acceleration in BH magnetosphere



Introduction: Particle acceleration in BH magnetosphere

©(expected) plasma source:

annihilation of two disk photons $\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$



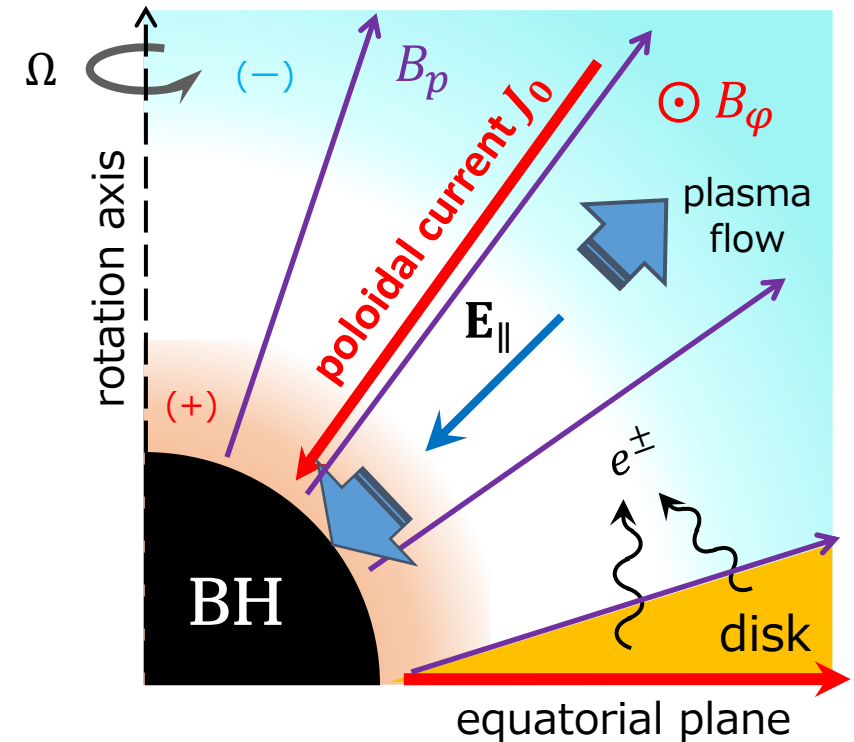
© ρ_e too low to maintain J_0 & screen E_{\parallel} for low \dot{M}

(Levinson & Rieger 11)

→ time-dependent particle acceleration

GeV-TeV gamma-rays?

(e.g.; Chen et al. 20; Kisaka et al. 20, 22; Crinquand et al. 20, 21)



Motivation:

Can we detect IBH magnetospheric gamma-rays?

→ numerical approach for acceleration dynamics & radiation feature

**Methods: Numerical simulation
of
stellar-mass BH magnetosphere**

Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

© **1D general-relativistic PIC code** (based on Zeltron, Levinson & Cerutti18; Kisaka et al.20;22)
Particle-in-Cell

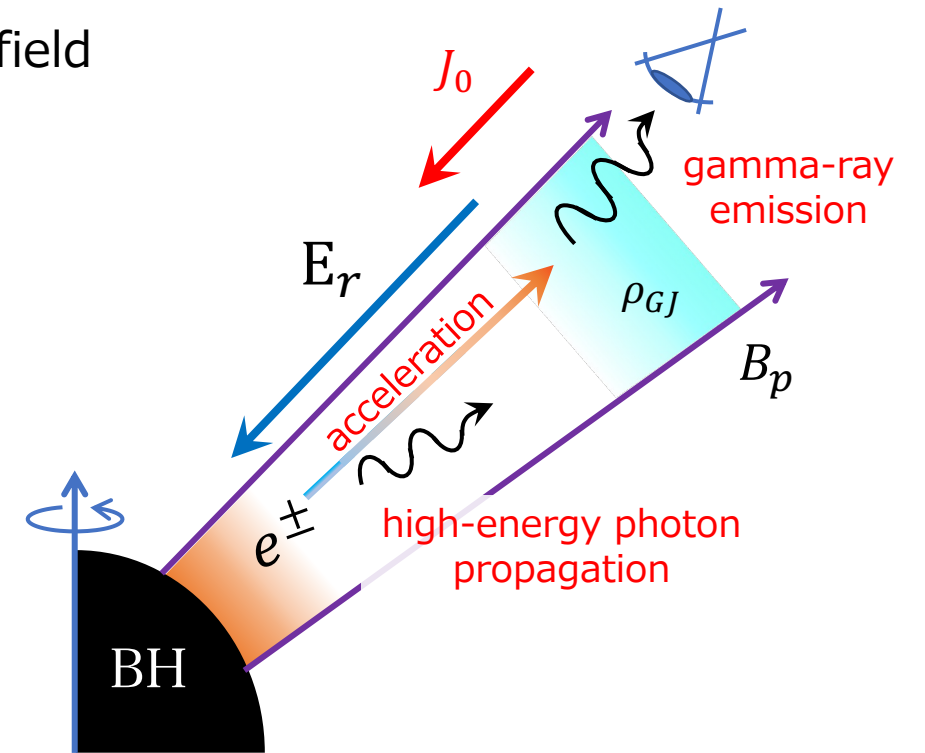
- background Kerr metric, monopole B-field

$$\frac{du_{\pm}}{dt} = -\underbrace{\sqrt{g_{rr}}\gamma_{\pm}\partial_r(\alpha)}_{\text{gravity (inertia term)}} + \alpha \left(\underbrace{\frac{q_{\pm}}{m_e} E_r}_{\text{acceleration}} - \underbrace{\frac{P}{m_e v_{\pm}}}_{\text{back reaction of gamma-ray radiation}} \right) : e^{\pm} \text{ EoM along B-field}$$

$$\frac{dp^r}{dt} = -\sqrt{g^{rr}}p^t\partial_r(\alpha) : \text{high-energy photon propagation}$$

$$\partial_t(\sqrt{A}E_r) = -4\pi(\underbrace{\Sigma j^r}_{\downarrow \text{current density}} - J_0) : \text{Ampere's law}$$

$$\partial_r(\sqrt{A}E_r) = 4\pi\Sigma(\underbrace{j^t}_{\uparrow \text{charge density}} - \rho_{GJ}) : \text{Gauss' law}$$



Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

© **1D general-relativistic PIC code** (based on Zeltron, Levinson & Cerutti18; Kisaka et al.20;22)

- reaction: IC, pair creation ($\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$)
- Monte-Carlo approach to calculate each reactions

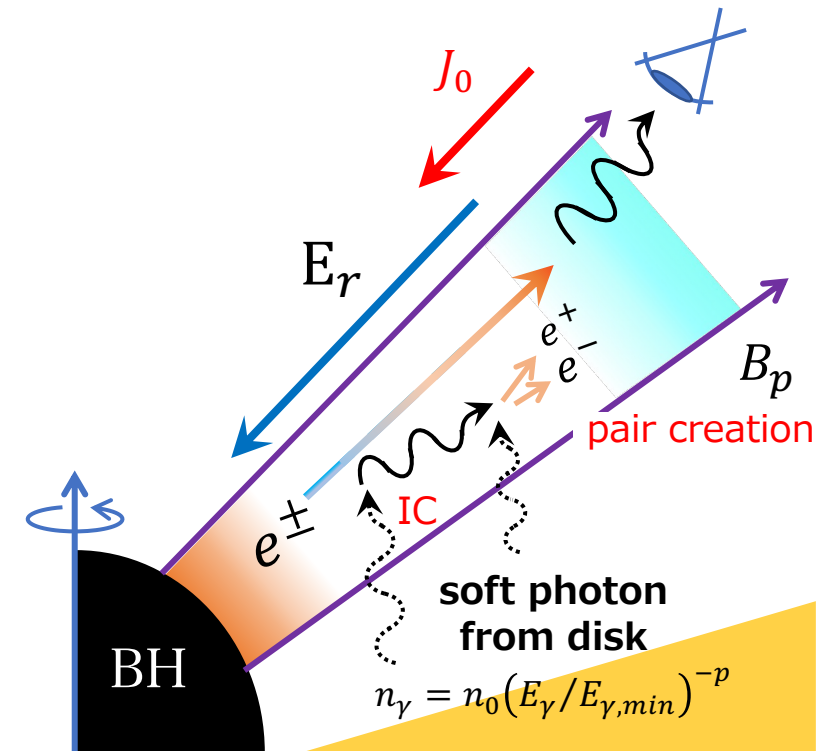
- parameters:

$$M = 10M_{\odot}, a_* = 0.9, B_H = 2\pi \times 10^7 \text{G}, \theta = 30^\circ$$

$$\tau_0 = n_{\gamma, \text{disk}} \sigma_T r_g = \{30, 55, 100, 175, 300\}$$

$$|j_0| \equiv |J_0/J_{0, \text{BZ}}| = \{1/2, 1/2\pi\}$$

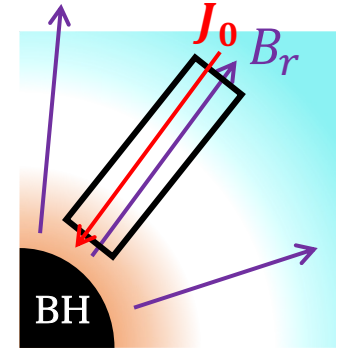
lower than steady state (BZ) solution
(c.f. Blandford & Znajek 77; Komissarov 04)



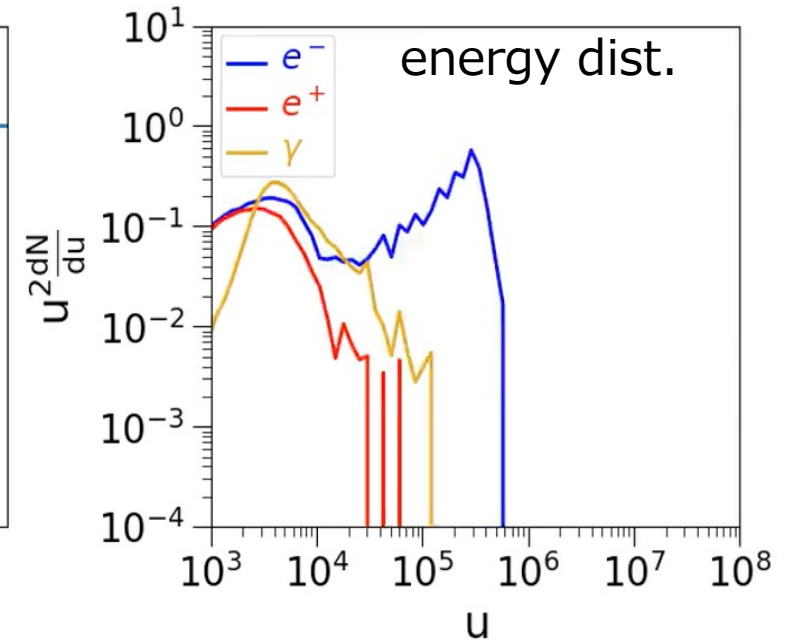
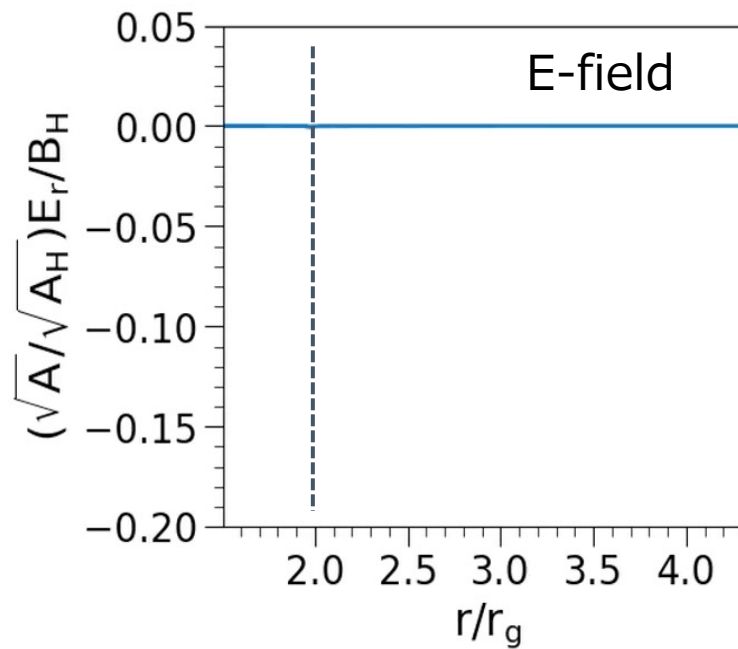
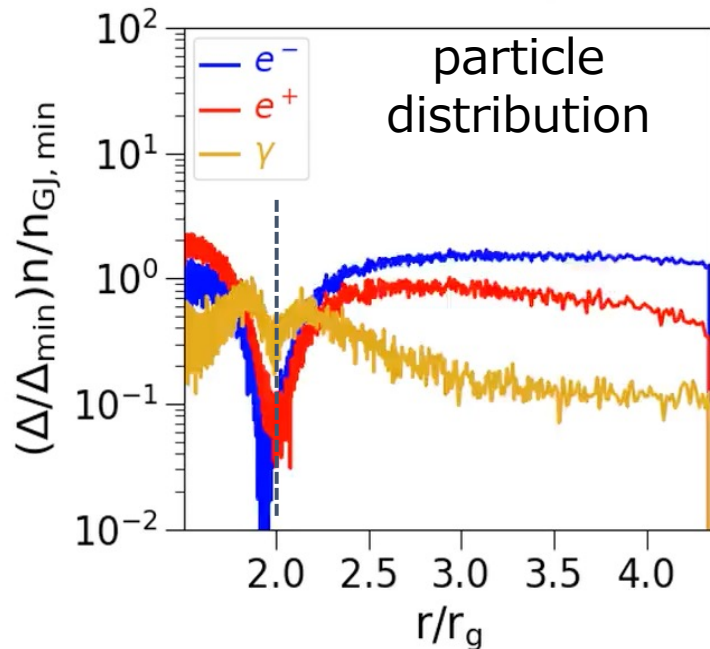
Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

© Results:

- quasi-periodic/steady E_r (period: $\lesssim 10 r_g/c \sim 10^{-4} M_1 s$)
- $\gamma_{e^-,pk} \sim 10^7 \rightarrow$ GeV-TeV gamma-rays (via curvature process, IC)



time step=6220000 $t = 30.02 r_g/c$



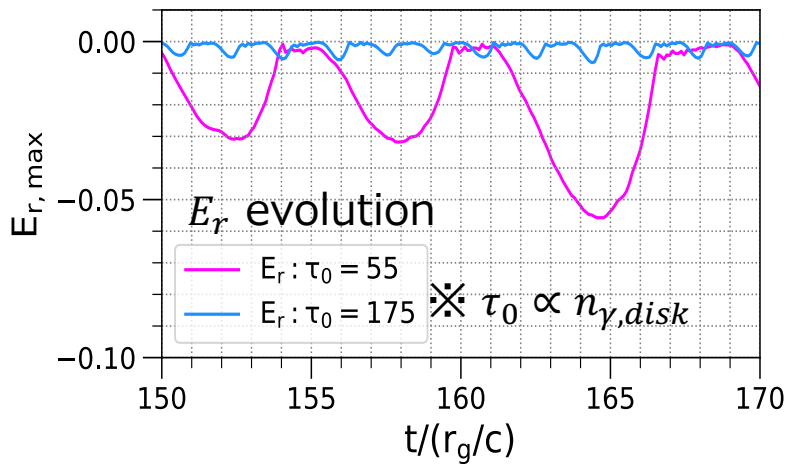
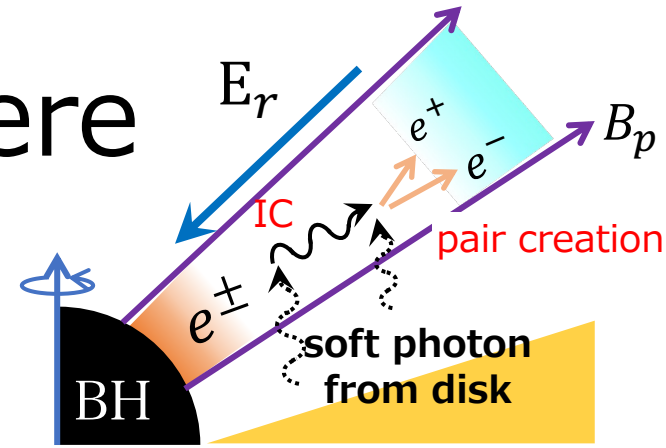
Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

© Results:

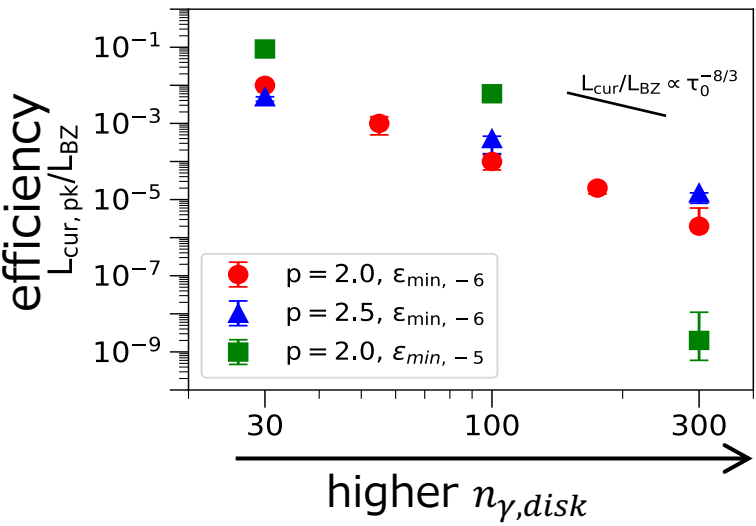
- higher $n_{\gamma,disk} \leftrightarrow$ weaker E_r

$\rightarrow L_{cur}/L_{BZ} \propto \gamma_e^4 n_{plasma}$ lower : $L_{cur,pk}/L_{BZ} \sim 10^{-2} (\tau_0/30)^{-\alpha}$ ($\alpha \sim 8/3$ for $p = 2.0, E_{\gamma,min} = 10^{-6} m_e c^2$)

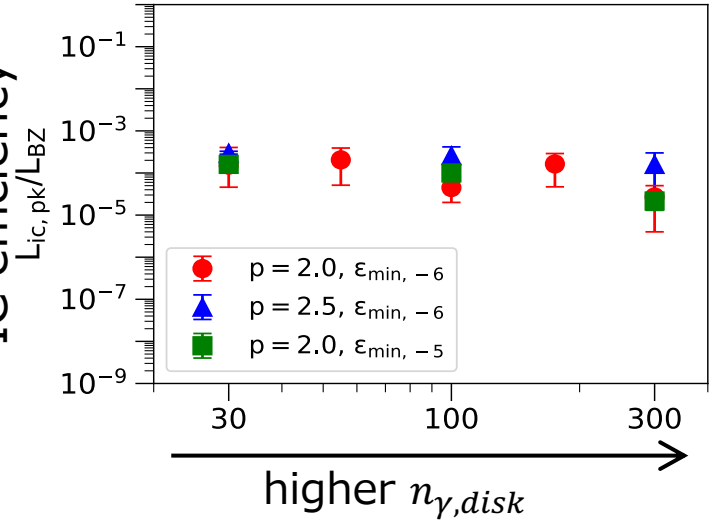
$L_{IC}/L_{BZ} \propto n_{plasma}$ almost const.



curvature process efficiency



IC efficiency



Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

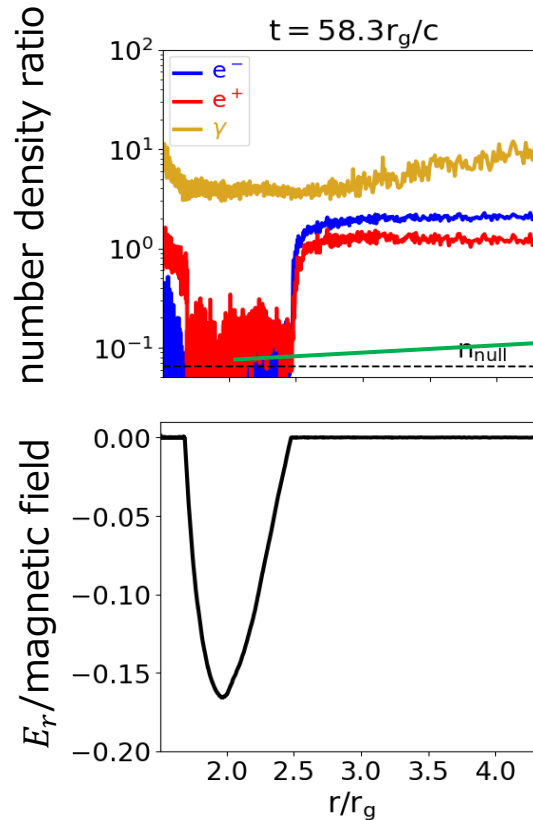
© Results:

- higher $J_0 \leftrightarrow$ higher amount of plasma, weaker E_r

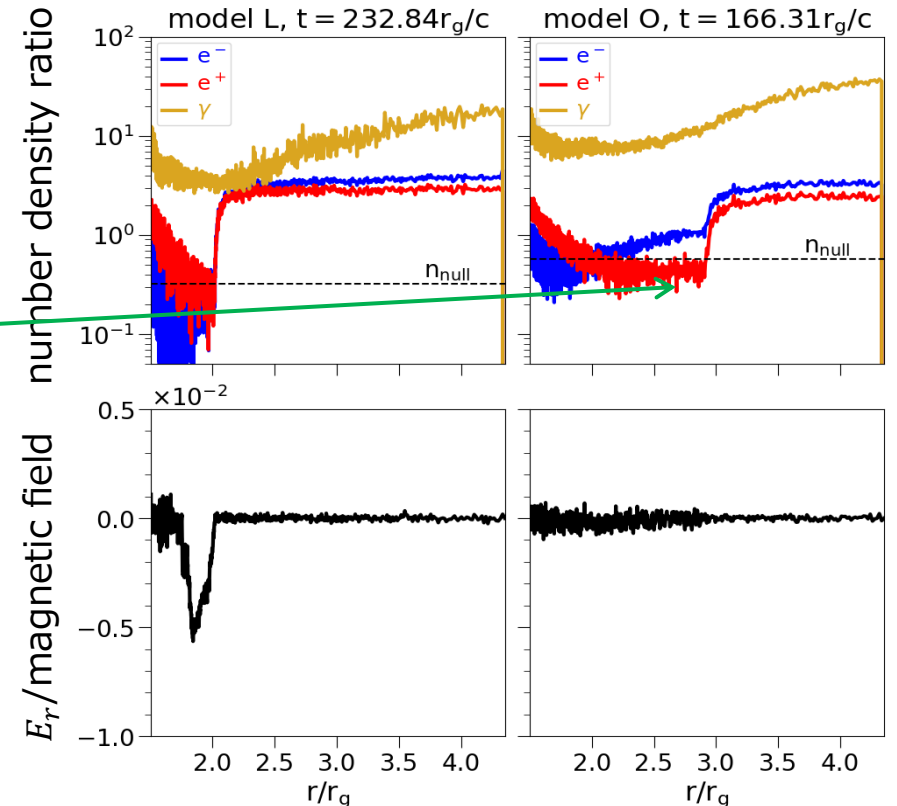
$$\partial_t(\sqrt{A}E_r) = -4\pi(\Sigma j^r - J_0)$$

$$\partial_r(\sqrt{A}E_r) = 4\pi\Sigma(j^t - \rho_{GJ})$$

$$\otimes |j_0| = |J_0/J_{0,BZ}|$$



$$|j_0| = 1/2\pi$$



$$|j_0| = 1/2$$

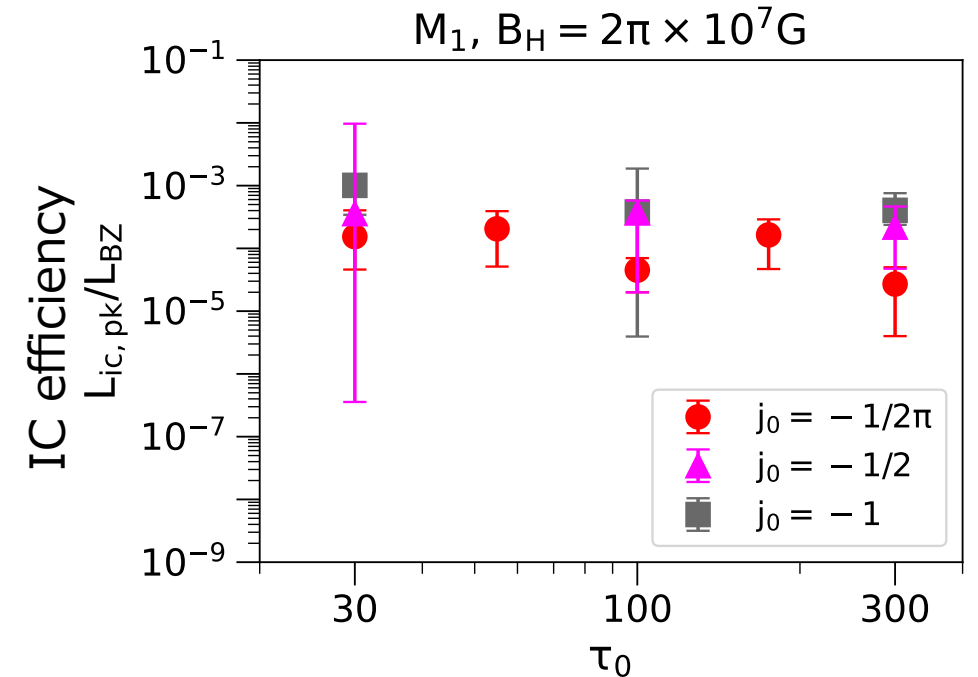
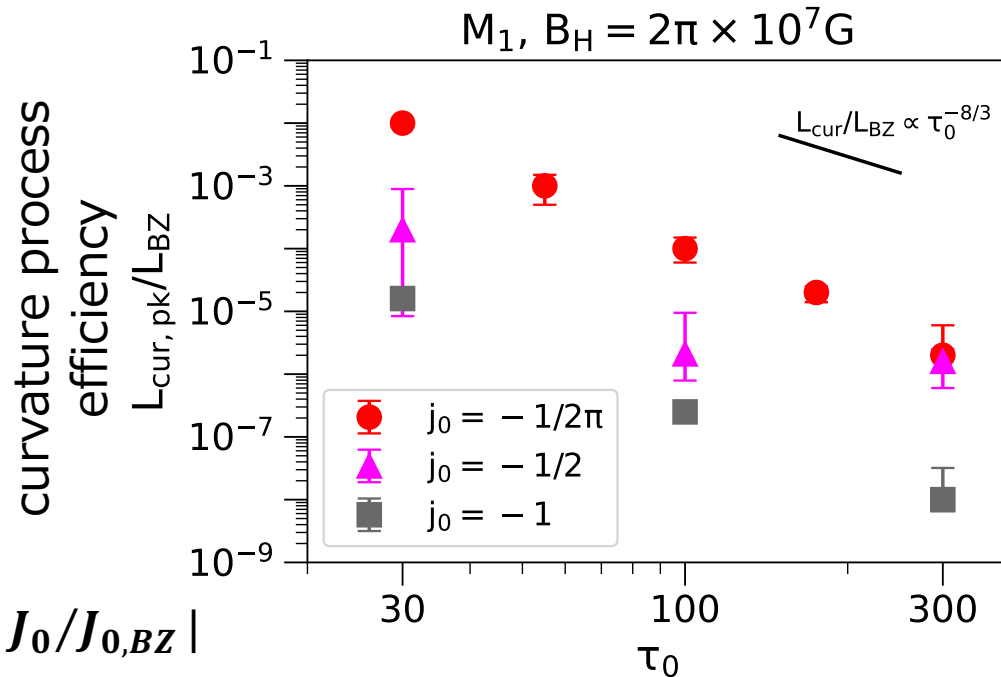
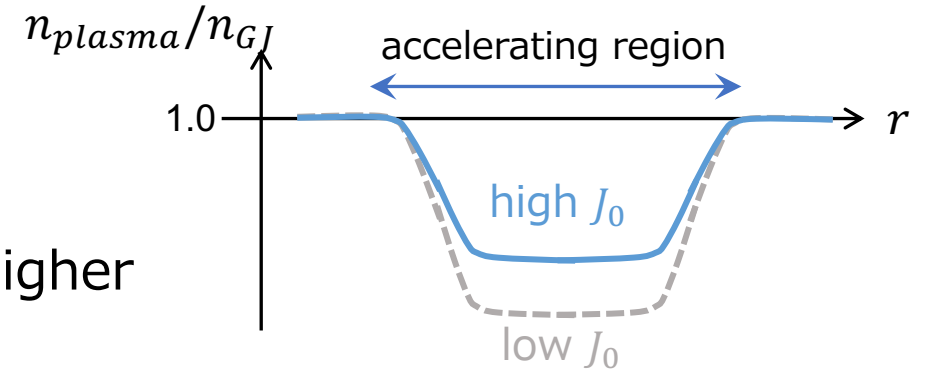
$$|j_0| = 1$$

Numerical simulation of stellar-mass BH magnetosphere

© Results:

- higher $J_0 \leftrightarrow$ higher amount of plasma, weaker E_r

$\rightarrow L_{cur}/L_{BZ} \propto \gamma_e^4 n_{plasma}$ lower, but $L_{IC}/L_{BZ} \propto n_{plasma}$ higher



Discussions on detectability

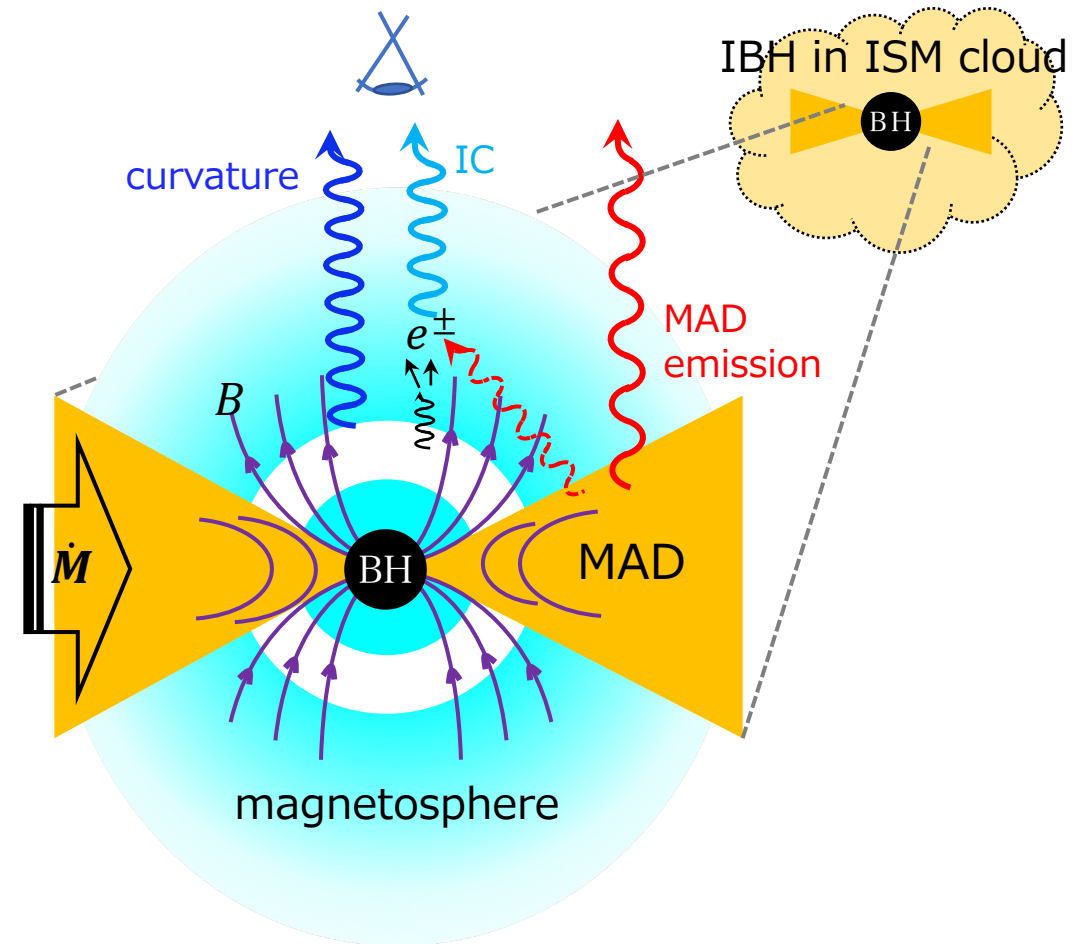
Expected emitting region

© two zones of emitting region:

- **Magnetospheric gamma-rays:**
 - curvature emission from accelerated plasma
 - IC emission from 2nd gen. of pairs

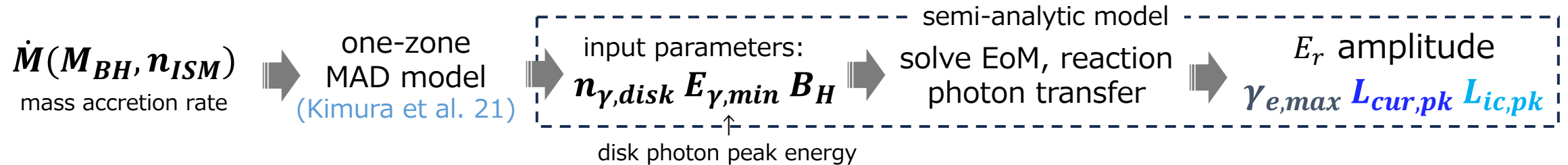
➔ **semi-analytic model
based on simulations**

- **MAD broadband emission** (c.f. Kimura et al. 21):
 - synchrotron from thermal e^- (IR~UV)
 - " from non-thermal e^- (X-ray~MeV)



Magnetospheric gamma-ray semi-analytic model

©predicting gamma-ray emissivity for wider range of BH mass , ISM density

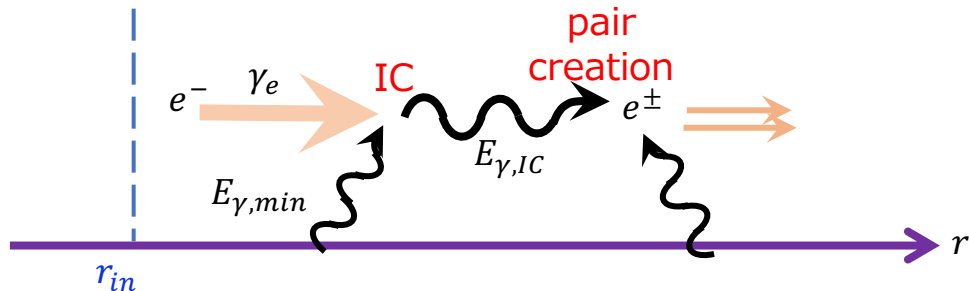


<basic eqs.>

electron EoM from inner boundary r_{in} :

$$E_r = E_r(\mathbf{B}_H, r), E_r(r_{in}) = 0$$

$$\frac{d\gamma_e}{dr} \sim \frac{1}{m_e c^2} \left(-eE_r - \frac{P_{cur}}{c} - \frac{P_{IC}}{c} \right) (\because cdt \sim dr)$$



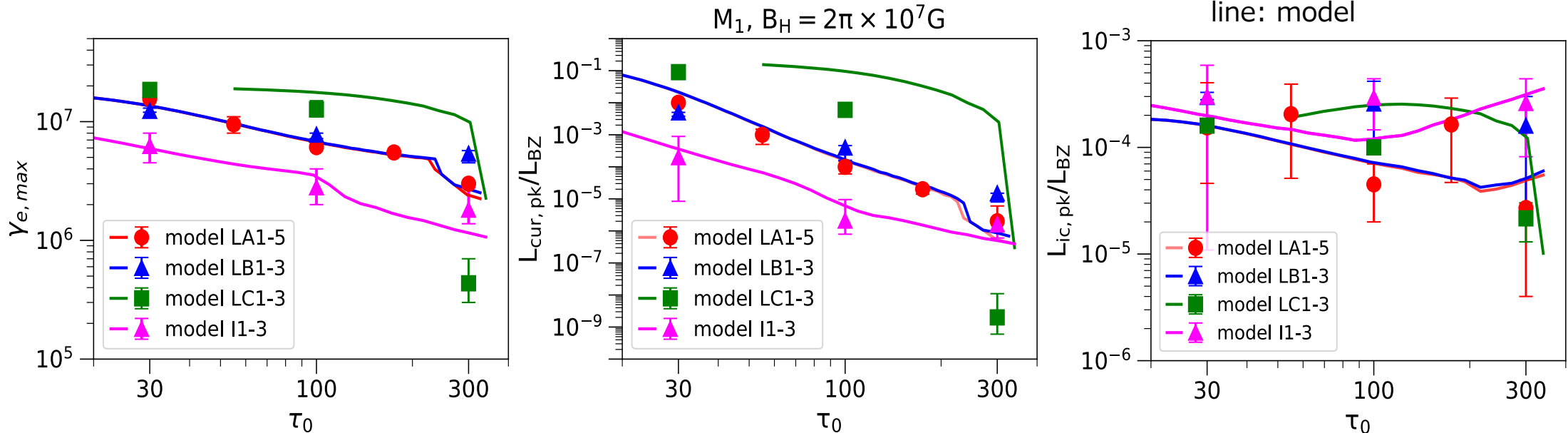
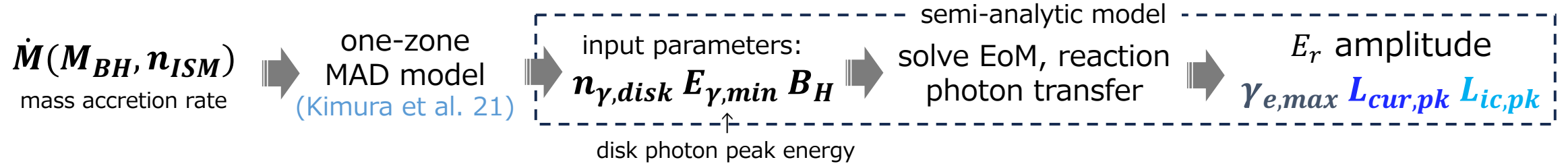
IC, pair annihilation mean free path \cdot energy:

$$l_{IC} \sim \frac{1}{n_{\gamma,disk} \sigma_{IC}} \sim \frac{r_g}{\tau_0} \times \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \\ \left(\frac{\gamma_e E_{\gamma,min}}{m_e c^2} \right) \end{array} \right. , E_{\gamma,IC} \sim \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_e^2 E_{\gamma,min} \text{ Thomson} \\ \gamma_e m_e c^2 \text{ KN} \end{array} \right.$$

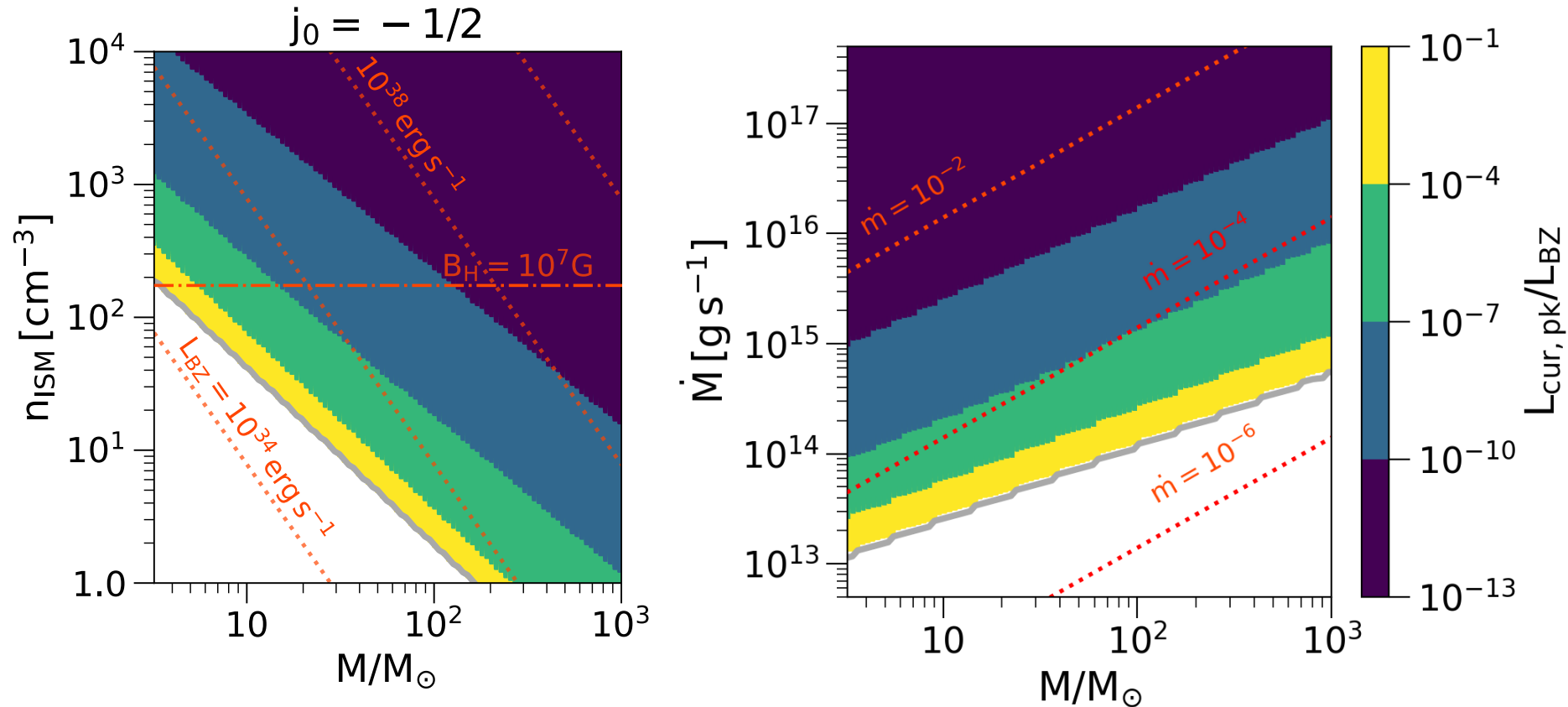
$$l_{\gamma\gamma} \sim \frac{1}{n_{\gamma,disk} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma}} \sim 10 \frac{r_g}{\tau_0} \times \left(\frac{E_{\gamma,IC} E_{\gamma,min}}{(m_e c^2)^2} \right)$$

Magnetospheric gamma-ray semi-analytic model

©predicting gamma-ray emissivity for wider range of BH mass , ISM density



Application of Semi-analytic Model



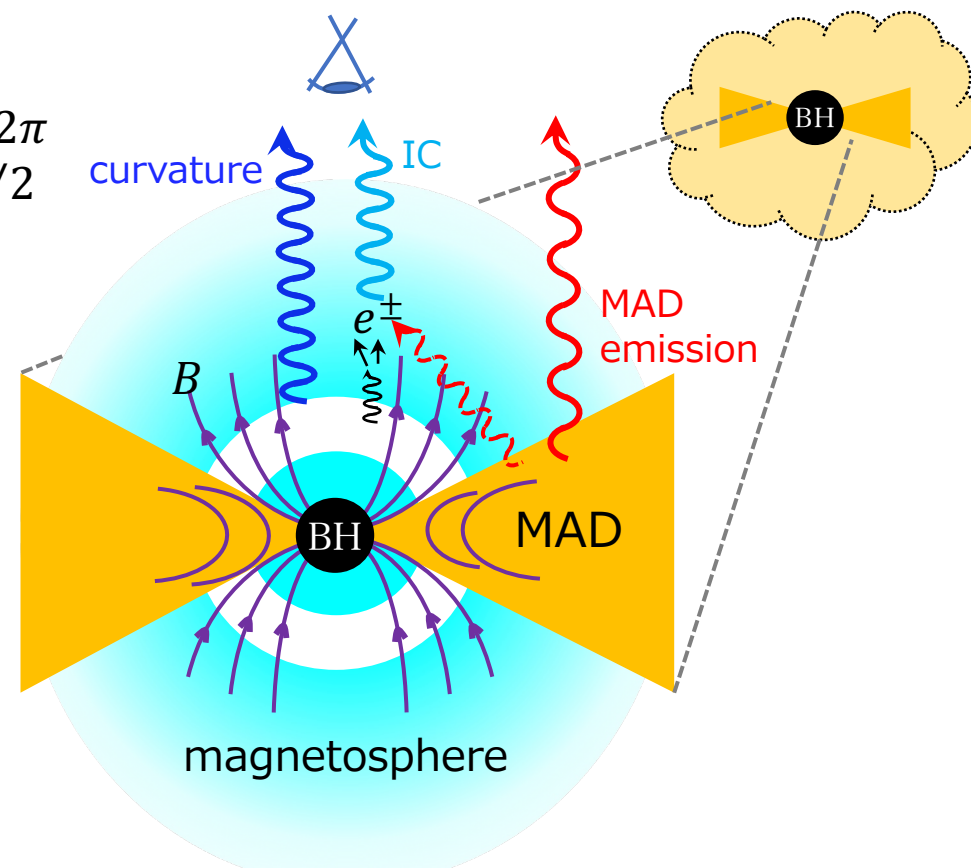
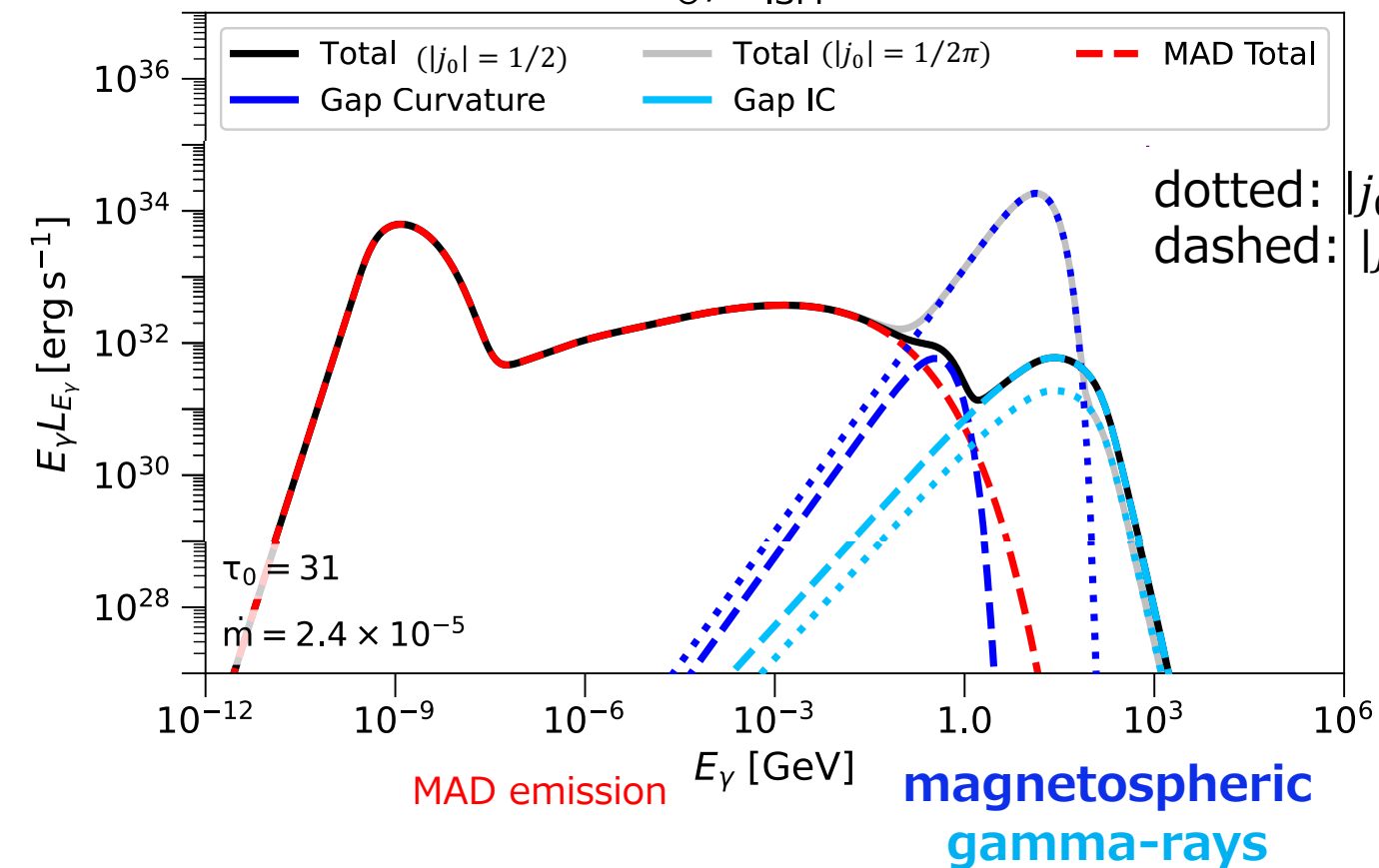
© IBHs in dense gas clouds = bright in GeV-TeV

© sweet spot: $\dot{m} = \dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} \sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-4}$ ($\sim 10^{14} M_1 \text{ g s}^{-1}$)

Spectra

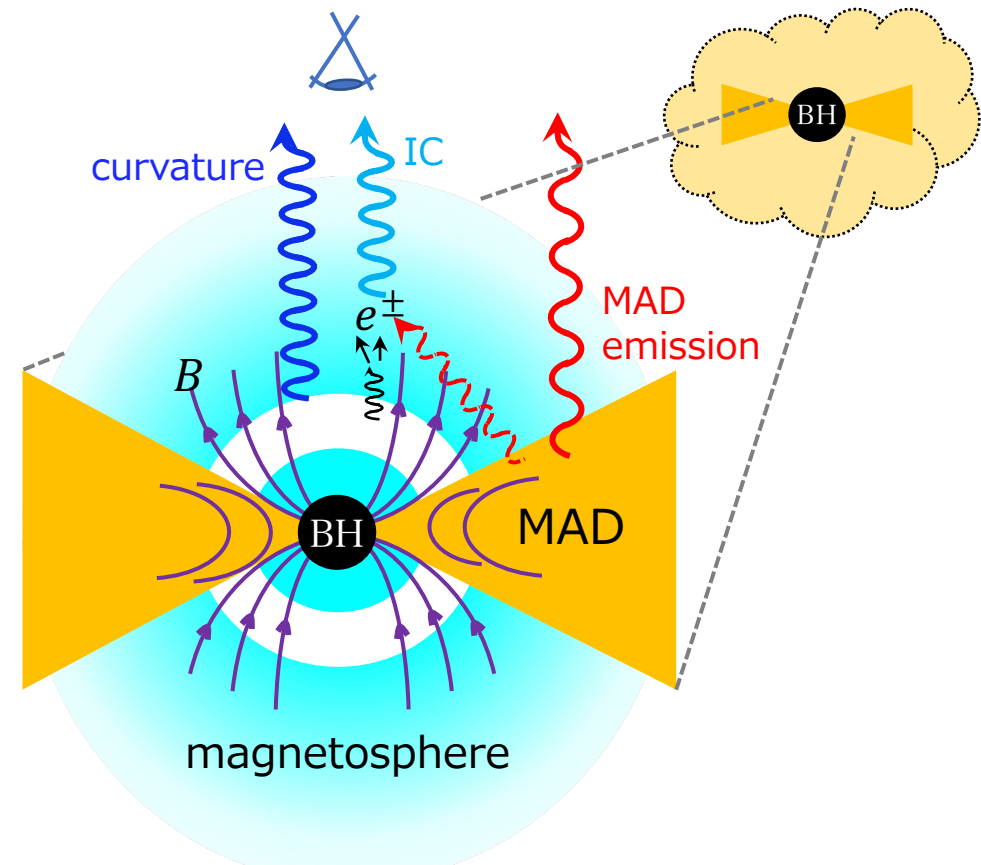
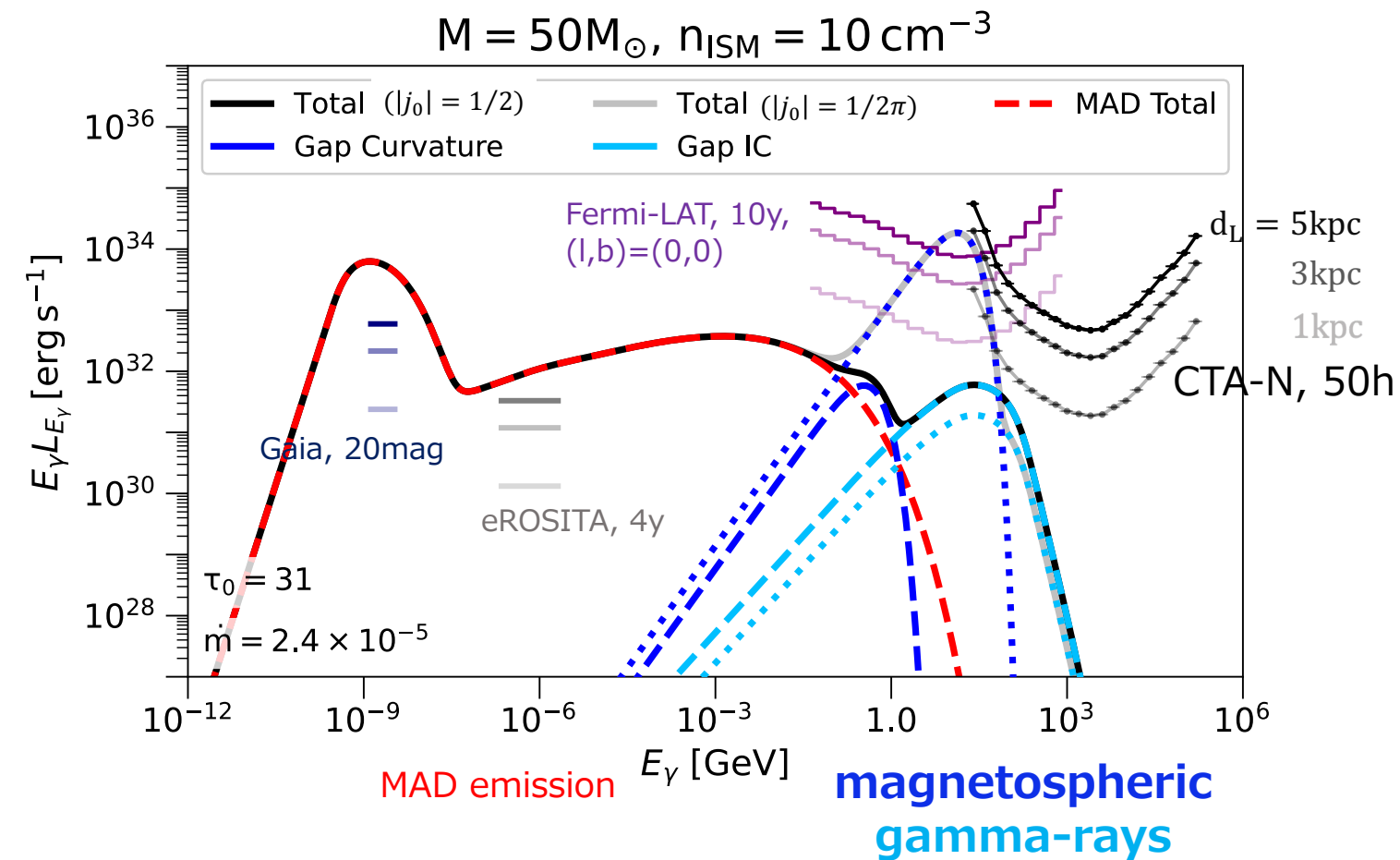
© GeV-TeV gamma-rays: $L_{GeV-TeV} \gtrsim 10^{-4} L_{BZ} \sim 10^{32} M_1^2 \left(\frac{a}{0.9}\right)^2 B_{H,7} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$

$M = 50 M_\odot, n_{\text{ISM}} = 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

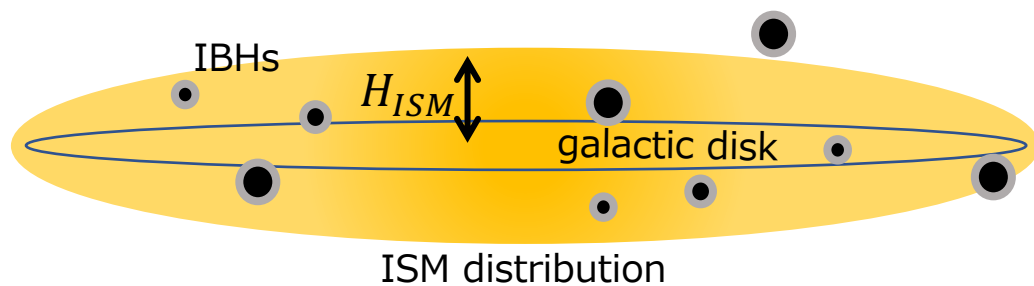
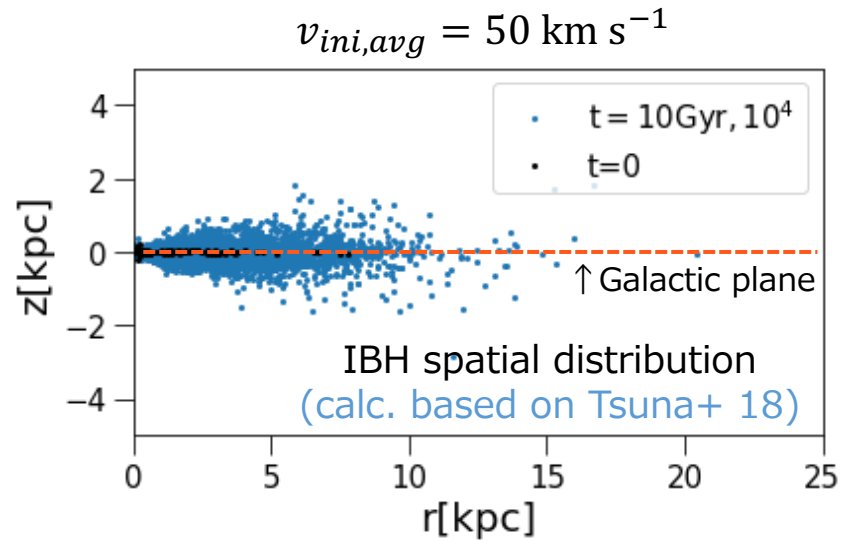


Spectra

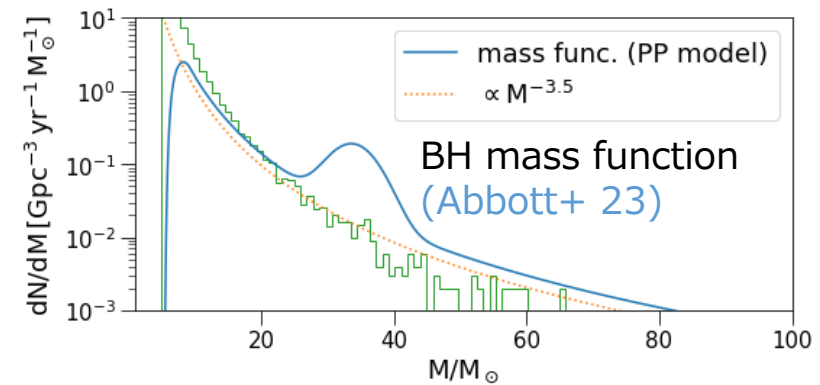
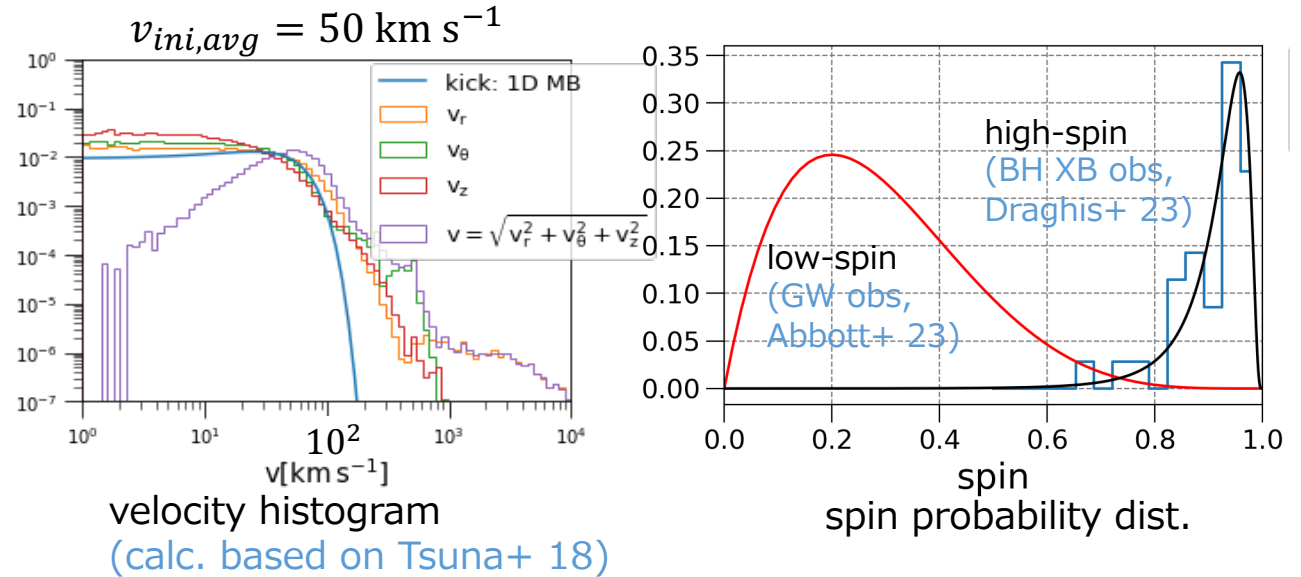
© GeV-TeV gamma-rays detectable from \sim kpc, by Fermi-LAT, CTA



Preliminary: Expected number of detection



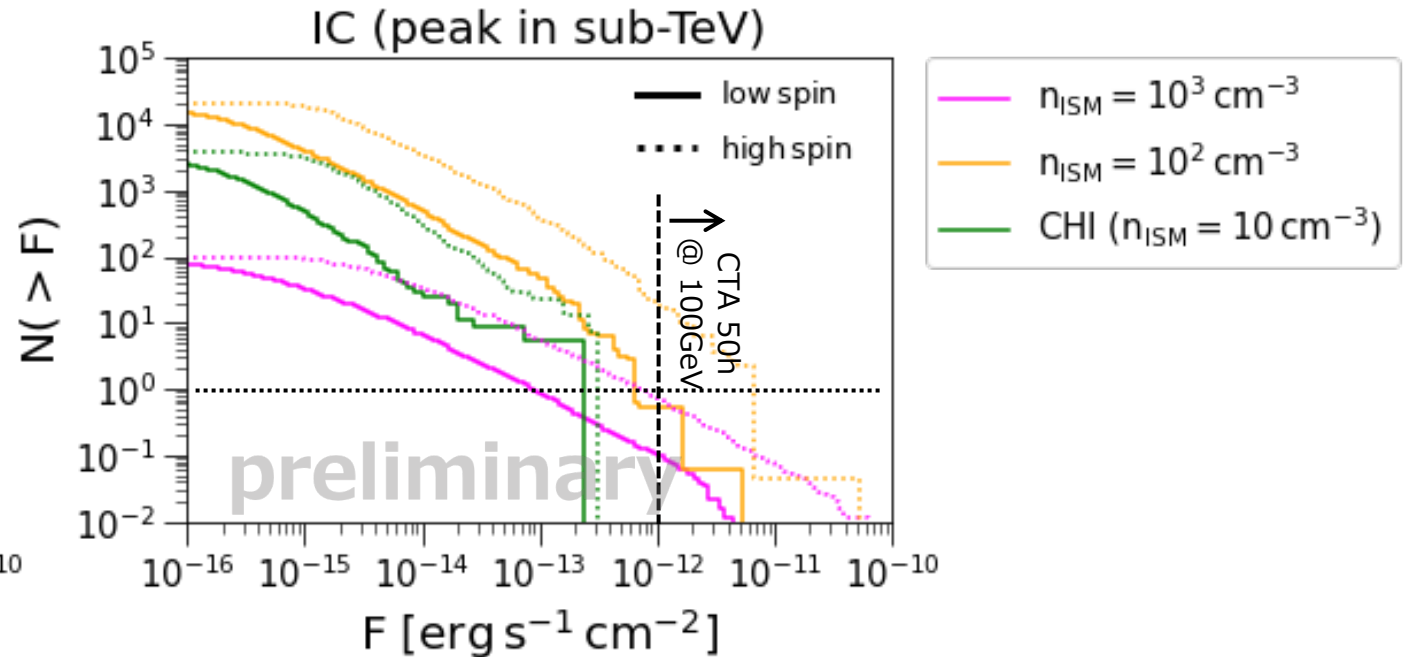
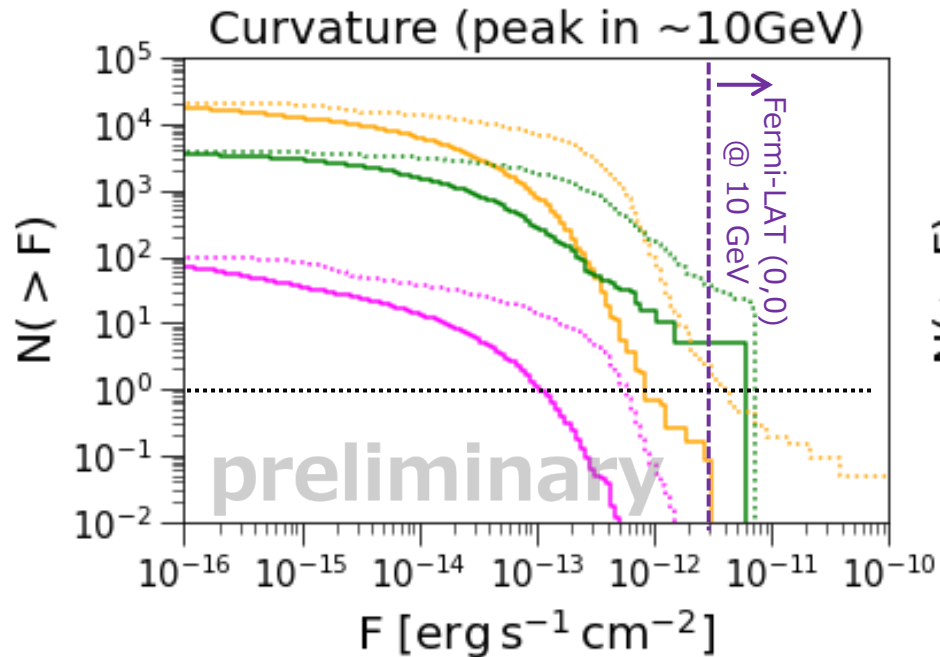
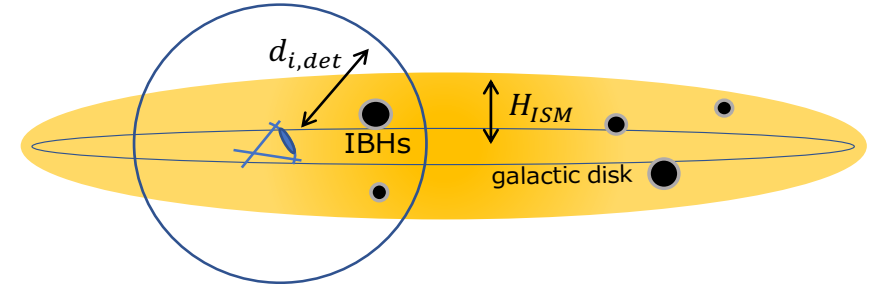
© How many IBHs in Galactic ISM?



© How many of them are detectable in GeV-TeV?

Preliminary: Expected number of detection

© 10-100 IBH detectable, sensitive to BH spin



Detection strategy

© **Optical~X-ray:** MAD signals

Gaia \leftrightarrow X-ray survey (eROSITA, Chandra...)

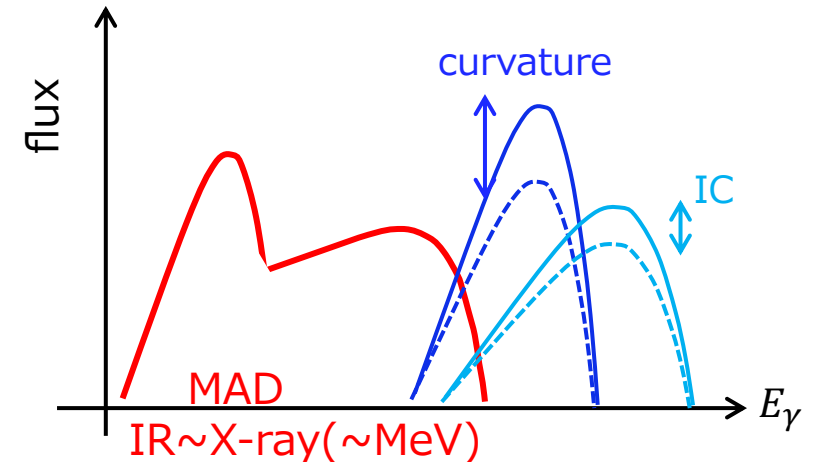
© **Fermi-LAT:** ~ 3000 unIDs

criteria : $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ hard index (flux } \propto E_\gamma^{4/3}) \\ \bullet \text{ spectral break} \\ \bullet \text{ association w/ Galactic MC} \end{array} \right.$

© **CTA:** flux time variation via short-term observation

gamma-ray efficiency sensitive to $n_{\gamma,disk}$ i.e. \dot{M}

\rightarrow ISM turbulence creates $\times 10^{\pm 2}$ flux variation



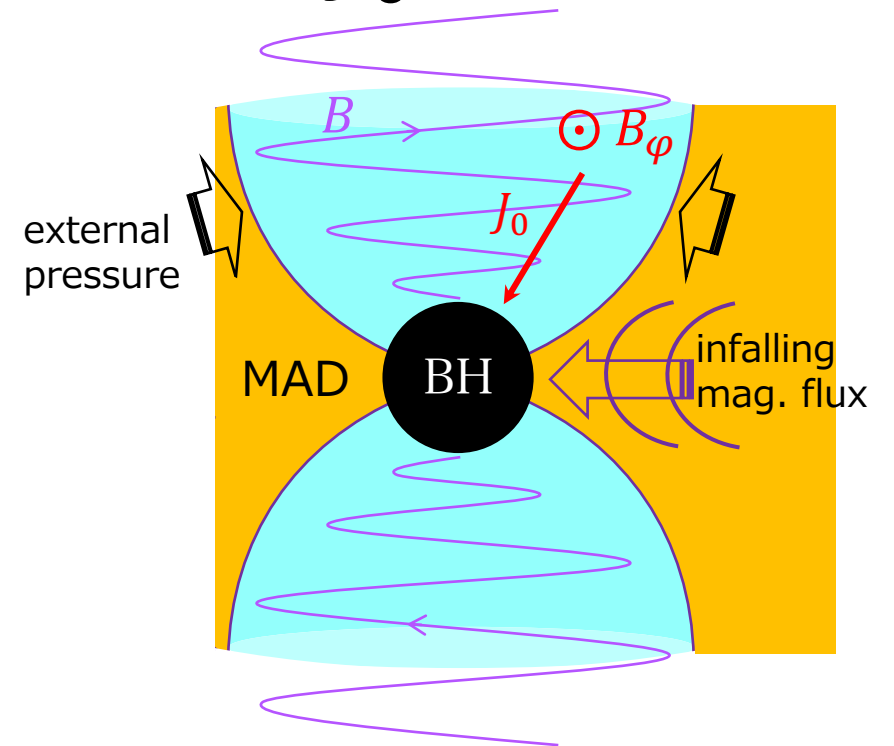
$$\Delta t \sim \frac{GM}{v^3} \sim 10^7 M_1 \left(\frac{v}{40 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-3} \text{ s}$$

Caveat: magnetospheric current J_0

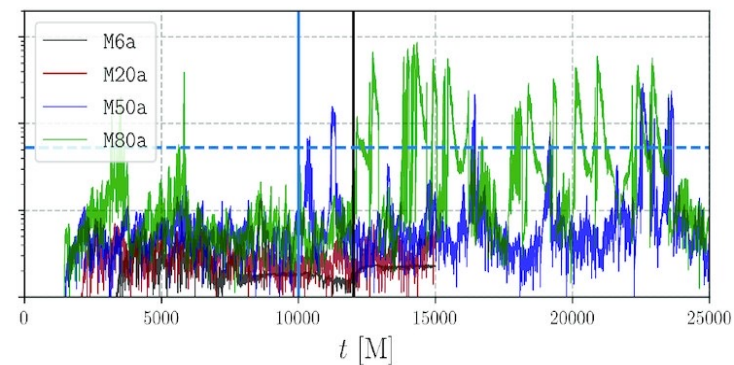
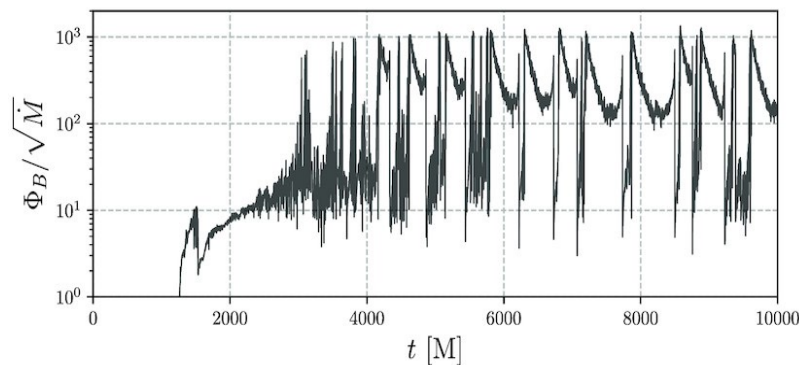
© assumption: $|J_0/J_{0,BZ}| < 1$

$$J_0 \propto \nabla \times B_\phi$$

→ accretion flow pressure / mag. flux perturbation determine J_0 fluctuation timescale



Jiang et al. 23: infalling mag. flux at the horizon



Caveat: magnetospheric current J_0

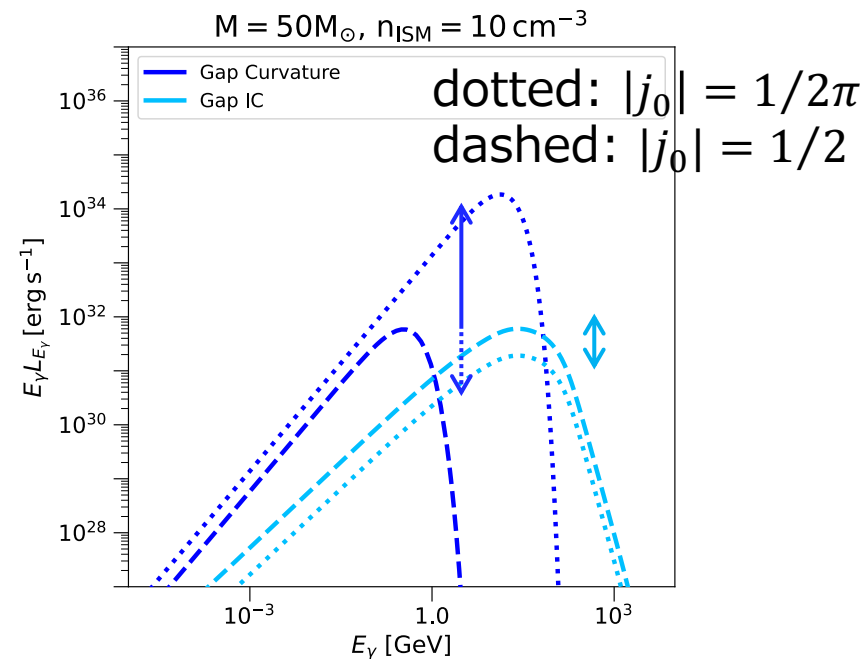
© assumption: $|J_0/J_{0,BZ}| < 1$

$$J_0 \propto \nabla \times B_\varphi$$

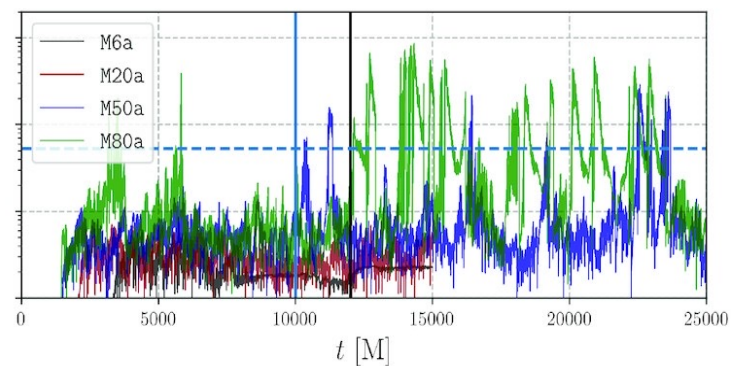
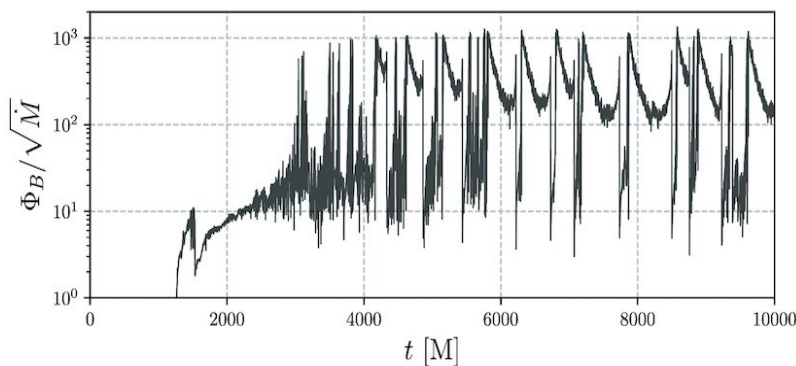
→ accretion flow pressure / mag. flux perturbation
determine J_0 fluctuation timescale

curvature: luminosity duty cycle $\sim 1-10\%$?

IC: almost persistent



Jiang et al. 23: infalling mag. flux at the horizon



Summary & future works

©Motivation: finding undetected isolated BHs through **gamma-ray from magnetosphere**

©Method: **1D GRPIC simulation + semi-analytic modeling**

→ **GeV-TeV gamma rays detectable from \sim kpc**

(see also Kin et al. accepted in ApJ, arXiv:2310.12532)

optimistic estimate on the detection number: 10-100 in Fermi-LAT · CTA

©Model uncertainty:

- J_0 evolution timescale
- additional plasma injection
- B_ϕ structure affecting on plasma flow dynamics, radiation feature, plasma injection

©Future work:

- simulation including **additional plasma injection, multi-dimensional effect**
- candidate search from catalog data

Back up

Caveat: magnetospheric current J_0

© assumption: $|j_0| < 1$

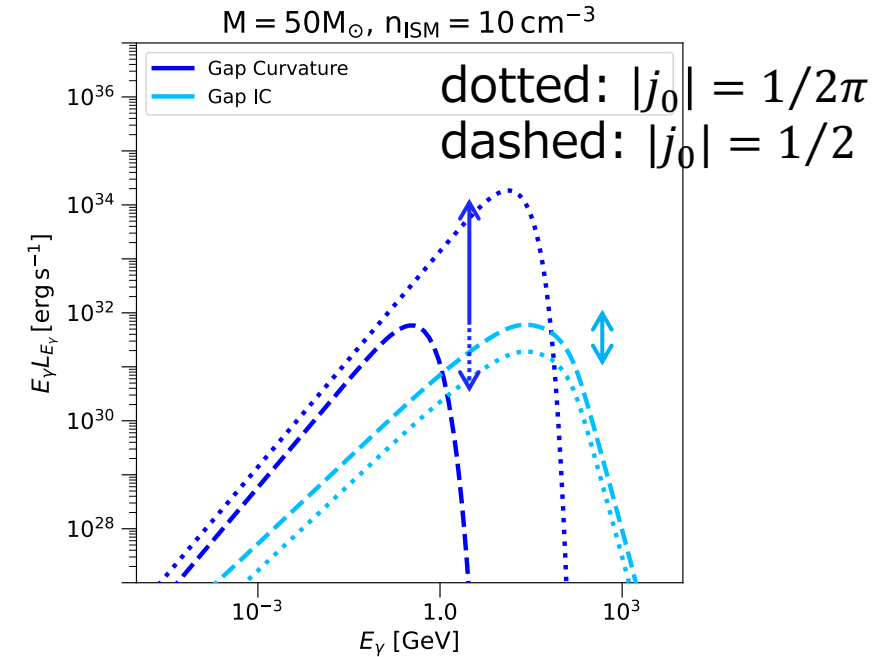
$$J_0 \propto \nabla \times B_\phi$$

→ accretion flow pressure determine

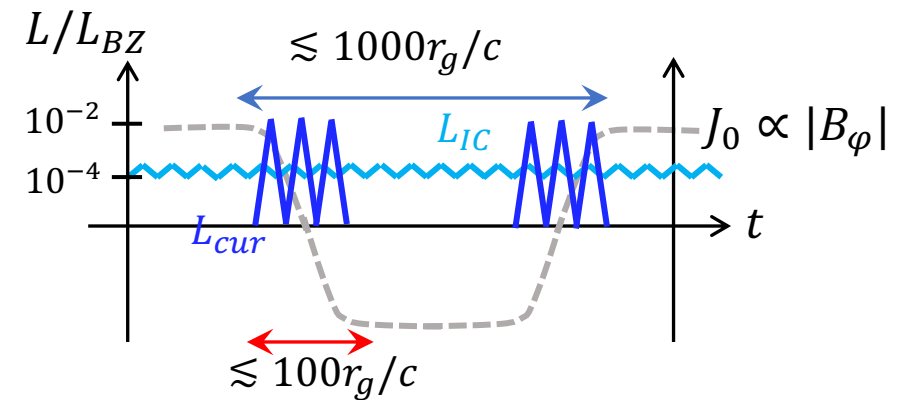
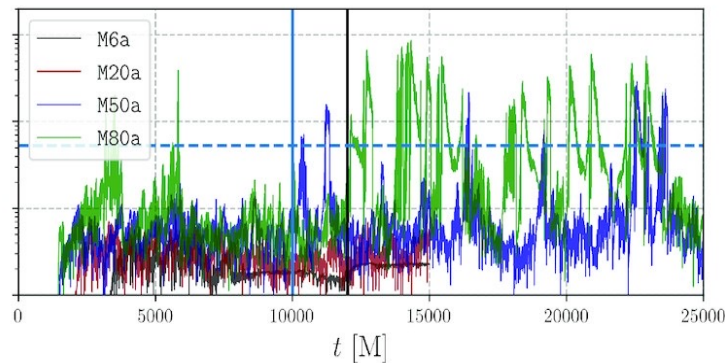
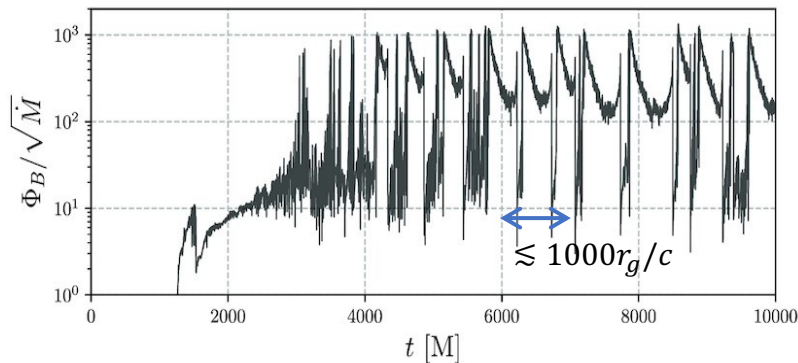
J_0 fluctuation timescale

curvature: luminosity duty cycle $\sim 1-10\%$?

IC: almost persistent

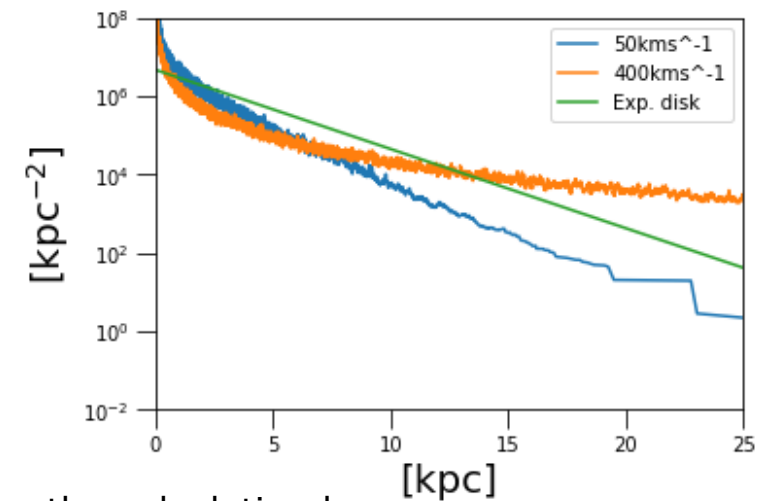
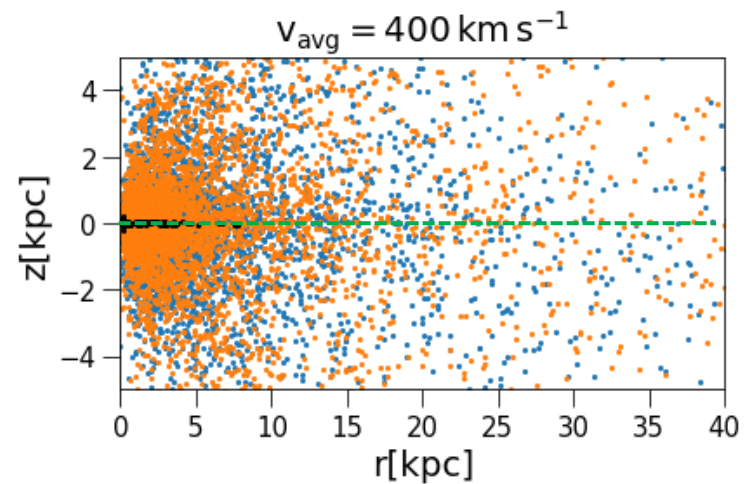
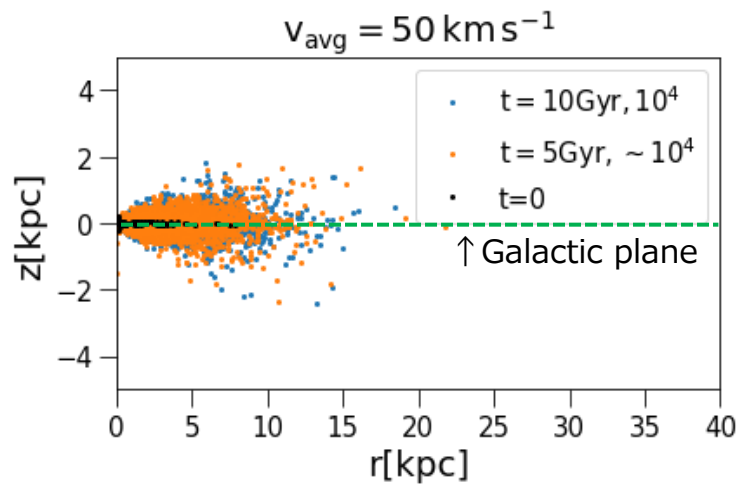


Jiang et al. 23: infalling mag. flux at the horizon



IBH dist. in Galaxy

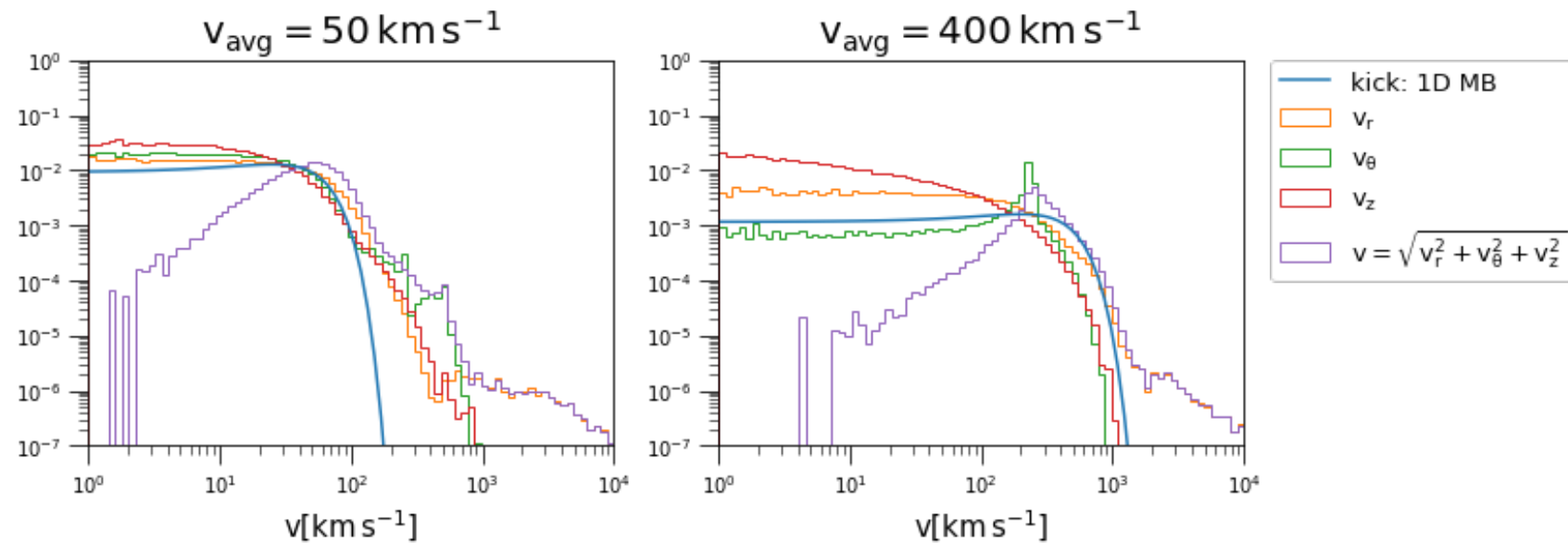
©sensitive to "initial" velocity of BHs: $\mathbf{v}_{init} = \begin{pmatrix} v_{prog,disk} \\ v_{prog,bulge} \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{v}_{kick}$



Based on the calculation by
[Tsunai et al. 18](#)

IBH velocity in Galaxy

©typically $10 \sim 10^2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$



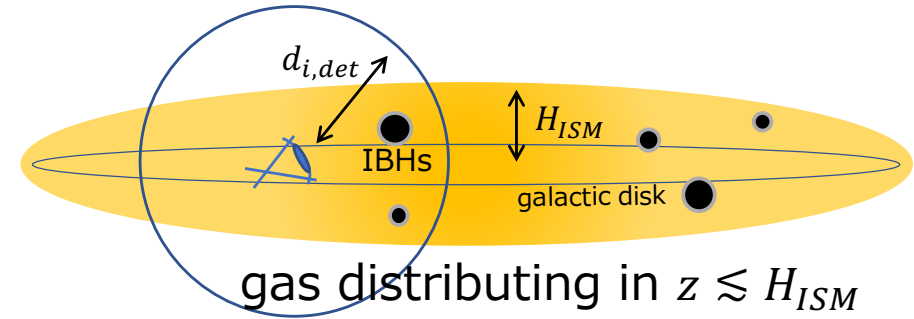
Based on the calculation by
[Tsunai et al. 18](#)

Discussion: expected number of detection in certain gas phase \mathcal{N}_{det}

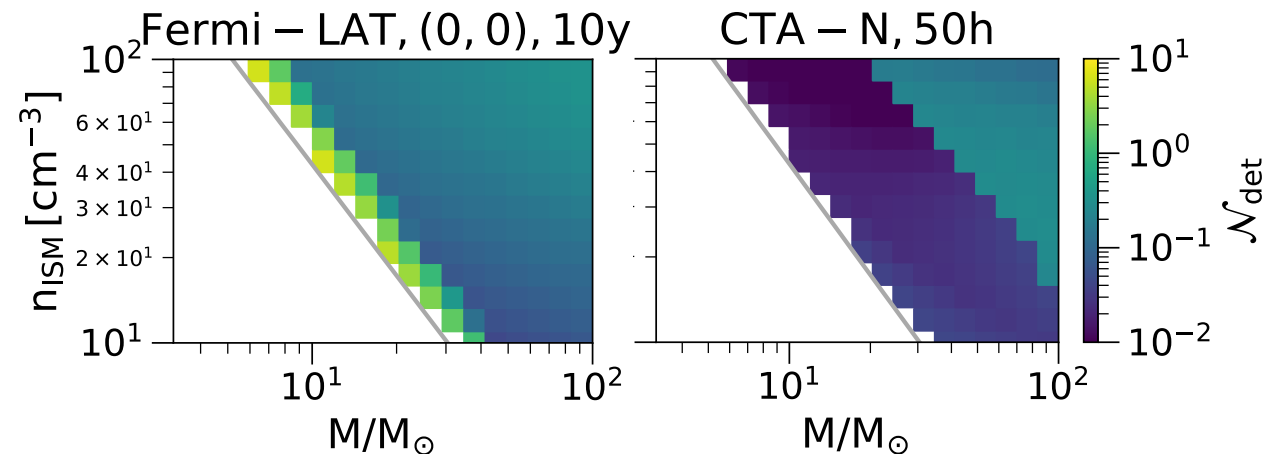
© \mathcal{N}_{det} = number of IBHs in gas & sensitivity limit
 sensitivity limit $d_{i,det}$: luminosity vs sensitivity

$$d_{i,det} = \sqrt{\frac{L_{obs}}{4\pi F_{sen}}} \sim 5 L_{obs,33}^{1/2} F_{sen,-12}^{-1/2} \text{ kpc}$$

$$\therefore \mathcal{N}_{det} \sim n_0 \xi_0 M \frac{dN}{dM} 2\pi H_{ISM} d_{i,det}^2 \simeq 3.7 \left(\frac{d_{i,det}}{5\text{kpc}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{M}{50M_\odot}\right)^{1-\gamma}$$



$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \frac{dN}{dM} \propto M^{-\gamma} \quad (\gamma \sim 2.6 \text{ Abbott et al.21}) \\ \xi_0 : \text{Volume filling factor} \\ n_0 \sim \mathcal{R}_{GW} n_{gal}^{-1} H_0^{-1} \sim 2 \times 10^2 \text{ kpc}^{-3} : \text{merged BH density} \end{array} \right)$$



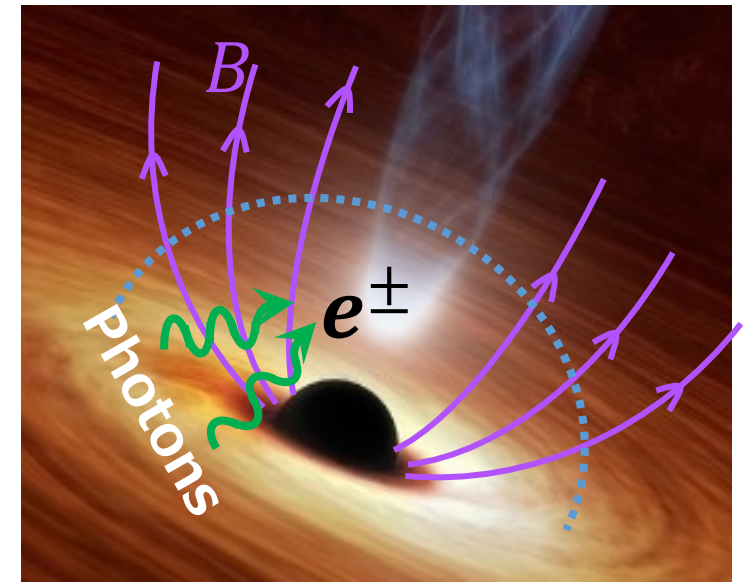
Preliminary: Introducing MeV Photon Injection

©evaluate how injection via **MeV photon annihilation** affects gap dynamics, radiation feature

expectation for gap formation threshold :

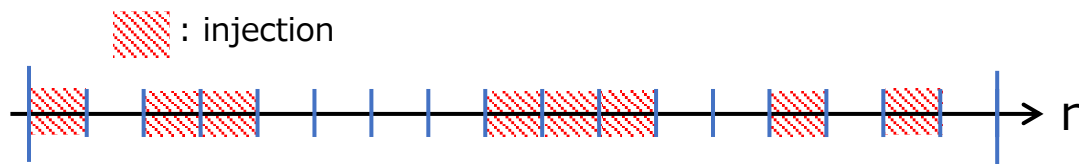
$$n_{inj}(\dot{M}) \gtrsim n_{GJ}$$

(Levinson & Rieger 11; Kimura & Toma 20)

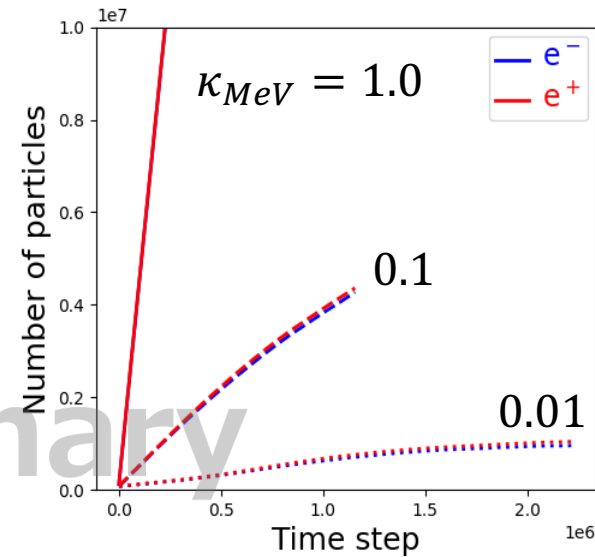
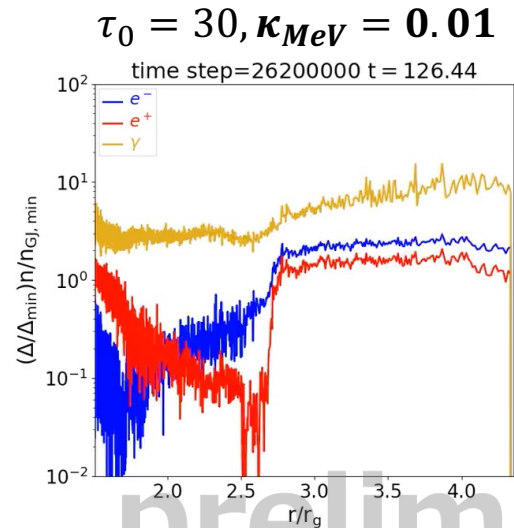
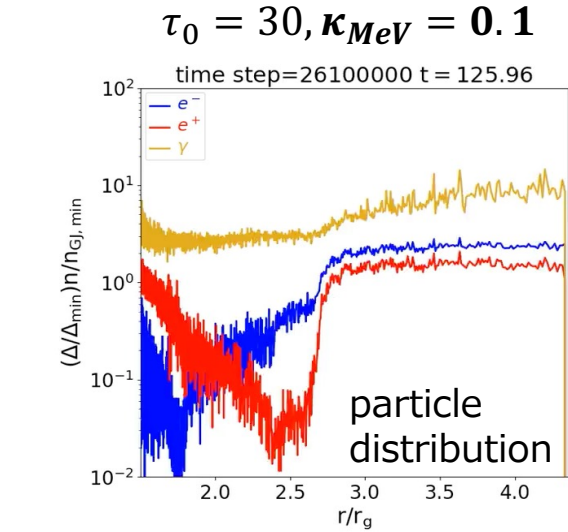


©Methodology:

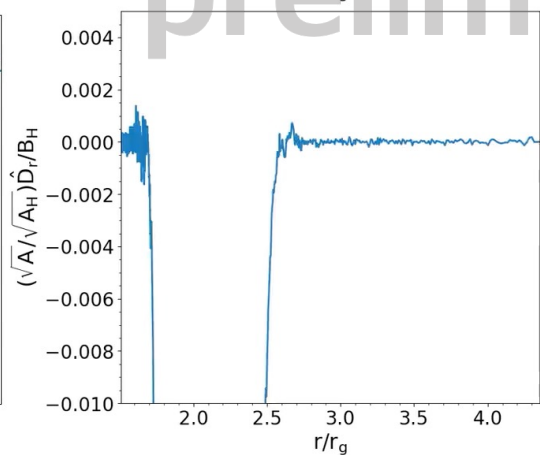
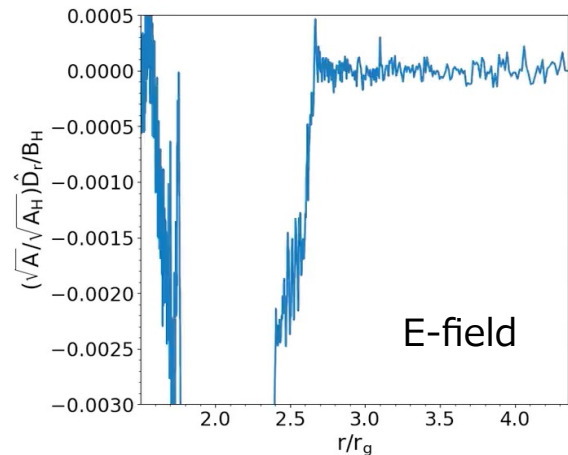
random injections in each step, $\dot{n}_{inj} dt \sim \kappa_{MeV} n_{GJ}$ in total



Preliminary: Introducing MeV Photon Injection



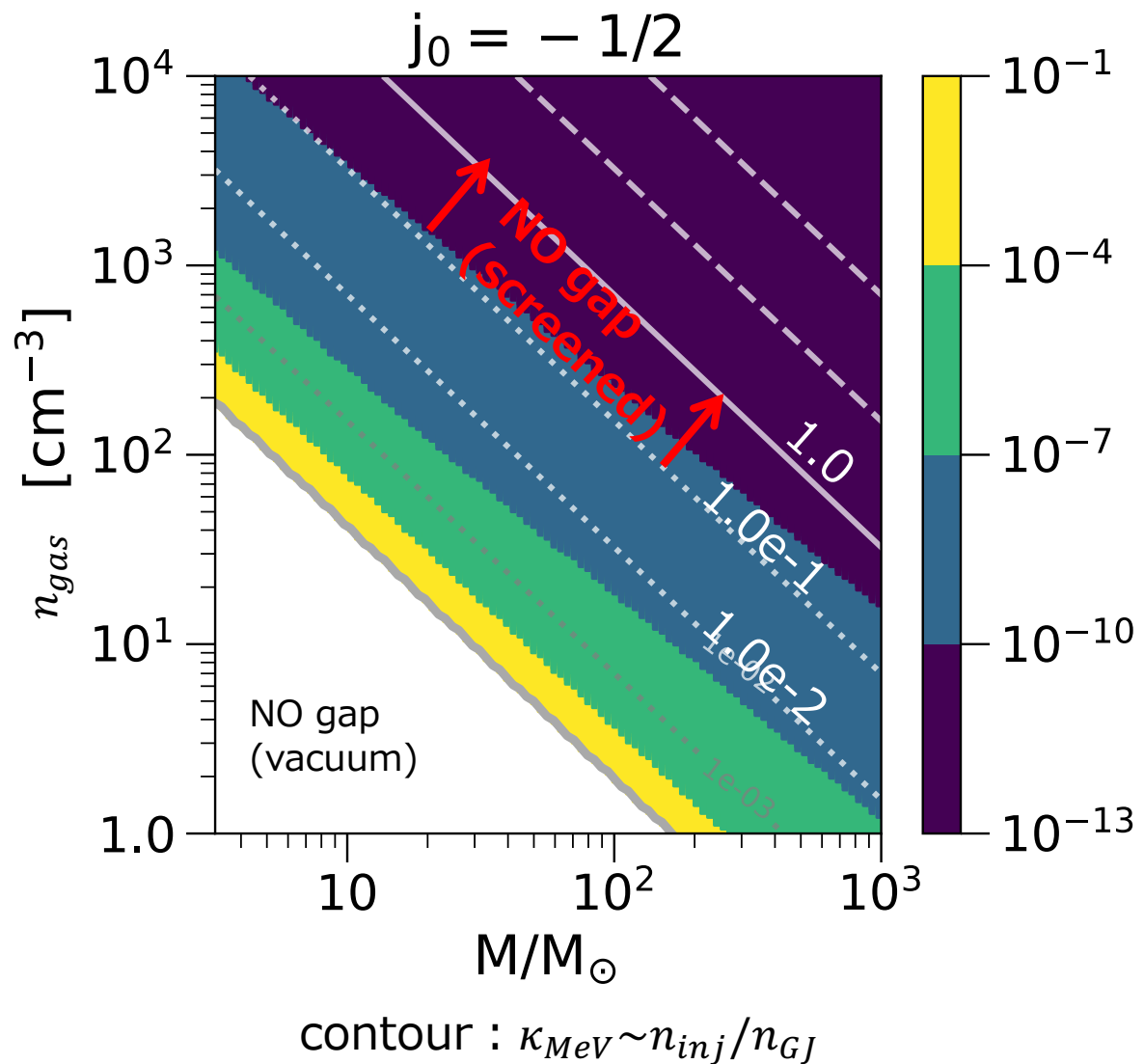
| j_0 | κ_{MeV} | gap? |
|-----------|----------------|------|
| $-1/2$ | 1.0 | × |
| " | 10^{-1} | × |
| " | 10^{-2} | ○ |
| $-1/2\pi$ | 10^{-1} | × |



© E-field screened for $n_{inj} \gtrsim 0.1 n_{GJ}$???

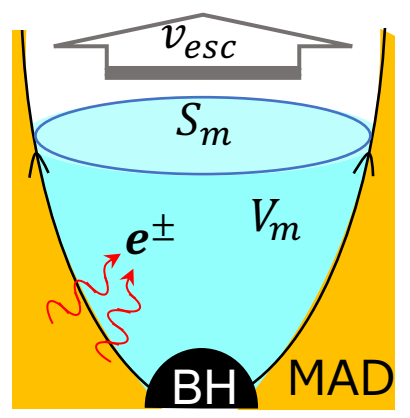
→ setting upper limit on gamma-ray bright parameter range?

Preliminary discussion: Upper Limit on Gap Formation in $M - n_{gas}$ Plane



gamma-ray luminosity/BH spin power

$$\kappa_{MeV} = \frac{n_{inj}}{n_{GJ}} \sim \frac{\sigma_{\gamma\gamma} \left(\frac{L_{MeV}}{4\pi R^2 c E_{MeV}} \right)^2 \frac{V_m c}{S_m v_{esc}}}{\frac{\Omega_H B}{4\pi e c}}$$



- ⊙ insignificant for gamma-ray bright range?
- ⊙ future work: dynamical difference, gap formation lower limit

Very preliminary: intermediate BHs in TeV?

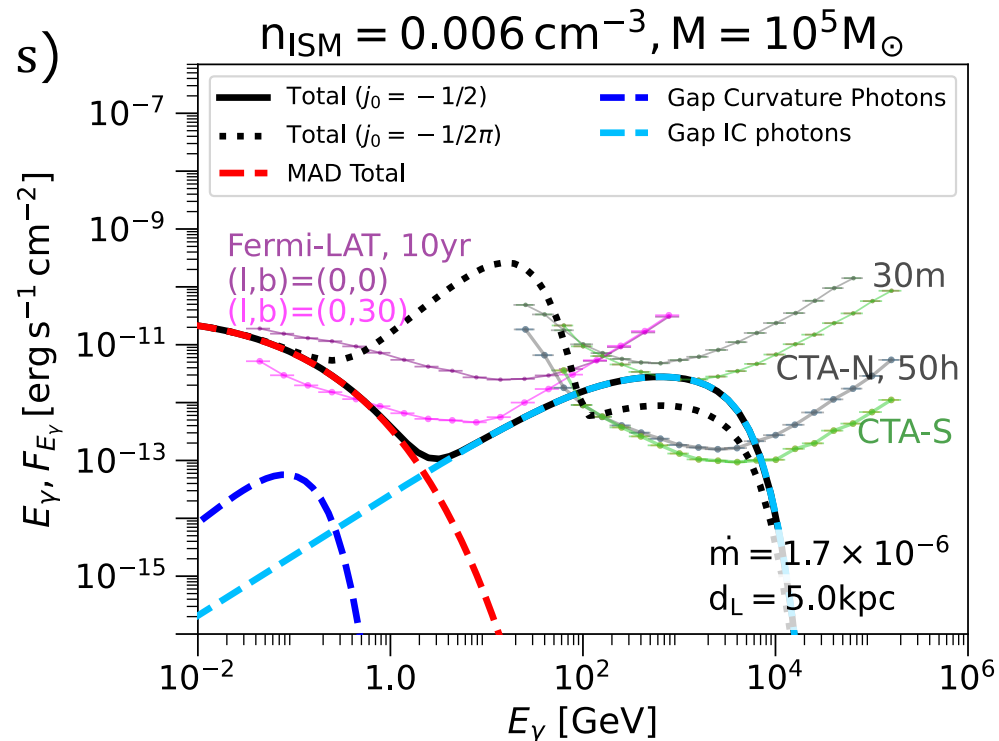
© GeV-TeV bright in $\dot{M}/\dot{M}_{Edd} \sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-4} \leftrightarrow n_{ISM} \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-1} \text{cm}^{-3}$ for $10^3 - 10^5 M_{\odot}$ BHs

→ 10~1000 intermediate BH in Galaxy (e.g., Rashkov & Madau 14)

some of them found in TeV?

MAD dynamical timescale ($\sim 10^3 r_g/c \sim 10^4 M_5 \text{ s}$)

distinguishable?



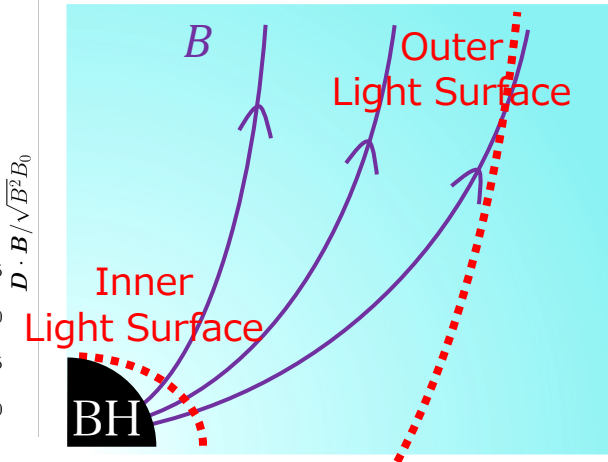
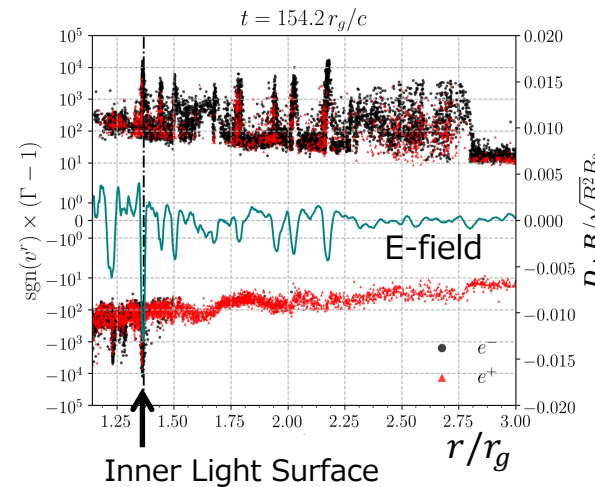
Light surfaces

© $E \times B$ drift velocity $\hat{v}^\varphi = 1$ under $B_\varphi = 0$ assumption (monopole-like)

$$\hat{v}^\varphi = (\Omega - \omega) \sqrt{\gamma_{\varphi\varphi}} / \alpha = \pm 1 \quad (\text{c.f. Toma \& Takahara 14}) \rightarrow r_{ILS} \sim 1.5r_g, \quad r_{OLS} \sim 12r_g \quad \text{for } a=0.9$$

B_φ dominant inside/outside LS

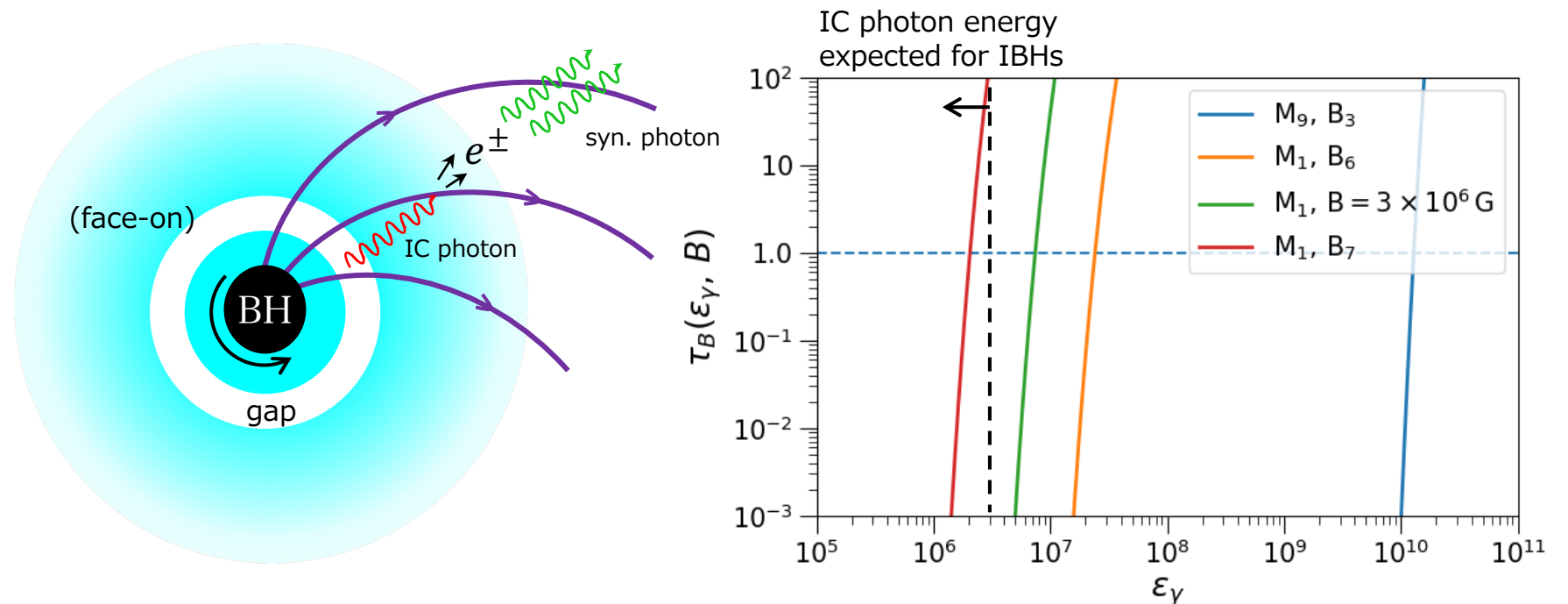
E-field develops around LS (Crinquand et al. 20)



B_ϕ effect on radiation/plasma injection

©synchrotron emission from 2nd pairs propagating in curved B-field?

©magnetic pair production: $\gamma + B \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$ in " ?



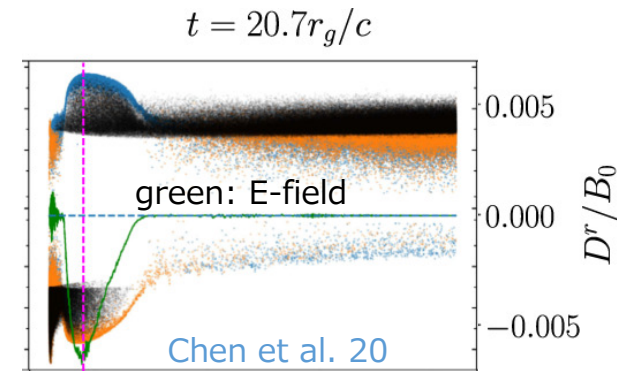
BH magnetosphere PIC: so far

- 1D local model

(Levinson & Cerutti 18; Chen et al. 20; Kisaka et al. 20, 22)
 fixed global B-field structure
 solving E-field & plasma evolutions

- 2D global model

(Parfrey et al. 19; Crinquand et al. 20,21;
 Hirotani et al. 22,23; Niv et al. 23)
 time-dependent B-field



⊙ local E-field particle acceleration (Kisaka et al. 20;22, Chen et al. 20; Crinquand et al.20)

→ gamma-ray luminosity \lesssim 1% of BZ luminosity

⊙ magnetic reconnection at equatorial plane/in ergosphere

→ flare-like Poynting flux release? (Hirotani et al.23)

⊙ injection site affect dynamics (Niv et al.23)

