

The impact of binaries on the determination of the stellar IMF

ESO Garching workshop:
The impact of binaries on stellar evolution

3-7 July 2017

Pavel Kroupa

*Helmholtz-Institute for Radiation und Nuclear Physics
(HISKP)*

University of Bonn

c/o Argelander-Institut für Astronomie

*Astronomical Institute,
Charles University in Prague*

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

1) The IMF does not exist in nature !

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

- 1) The IMF does not exist in nature !
- 2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

- 1) The IMF does not exist in nature !
- 2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

The estimation of this "hilfskonstrukt" is compromised by

the stellar mass-to-light relation

dynamical evolution of birth clusters (very early phase and long-term)

binaries

the most massive star in birth clusters

IMF = probability density distr.function

or an optimally sampled distribution function ?

evidence for top-heavy IMF in extremely massive star burst "clusters"

implications of this for the IMF of whole galaxies.

stellar IMF \neq IMF of stars in a galaxy

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

1) The IMF does not exist in nature !

2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

The estimation of this "hilfskonstrukt" is compromised by

the stellar mass-to-light relation

dynamical evolution of birth clusters (very early phase and long-term)

binaries

the most massive star in birth clusters

IMF = probability density distr.function

or an optimally sampled distribution function ?

evidence for top-heavy IMF in extremely massive star burst "clusters"

implications of this for the IMF of whole galaxies.

stellar IMF \neq IMF of stars in a galaxy

**Without binaries,
slowly evolving late-type
main-sequence stars**

**The observed stellar luminosity function
and
its relation to the IMF**

The distribution of stars

We have $dN = \Psi(M_V) dM_V$ = # of stars with
 $M_V \in [M_V, M_V + dM_V]$

$dN = \xi(m) dm$ = # of stars with
 $m \in [m, m + dm]$

since

$$\frac{dN}{dM_V} = - \frac{dm}{dM_V} \frac{dN}{dm}$$

follows

$$\Psi(M_V) = - \frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$

the **observable**

the **obstacle**

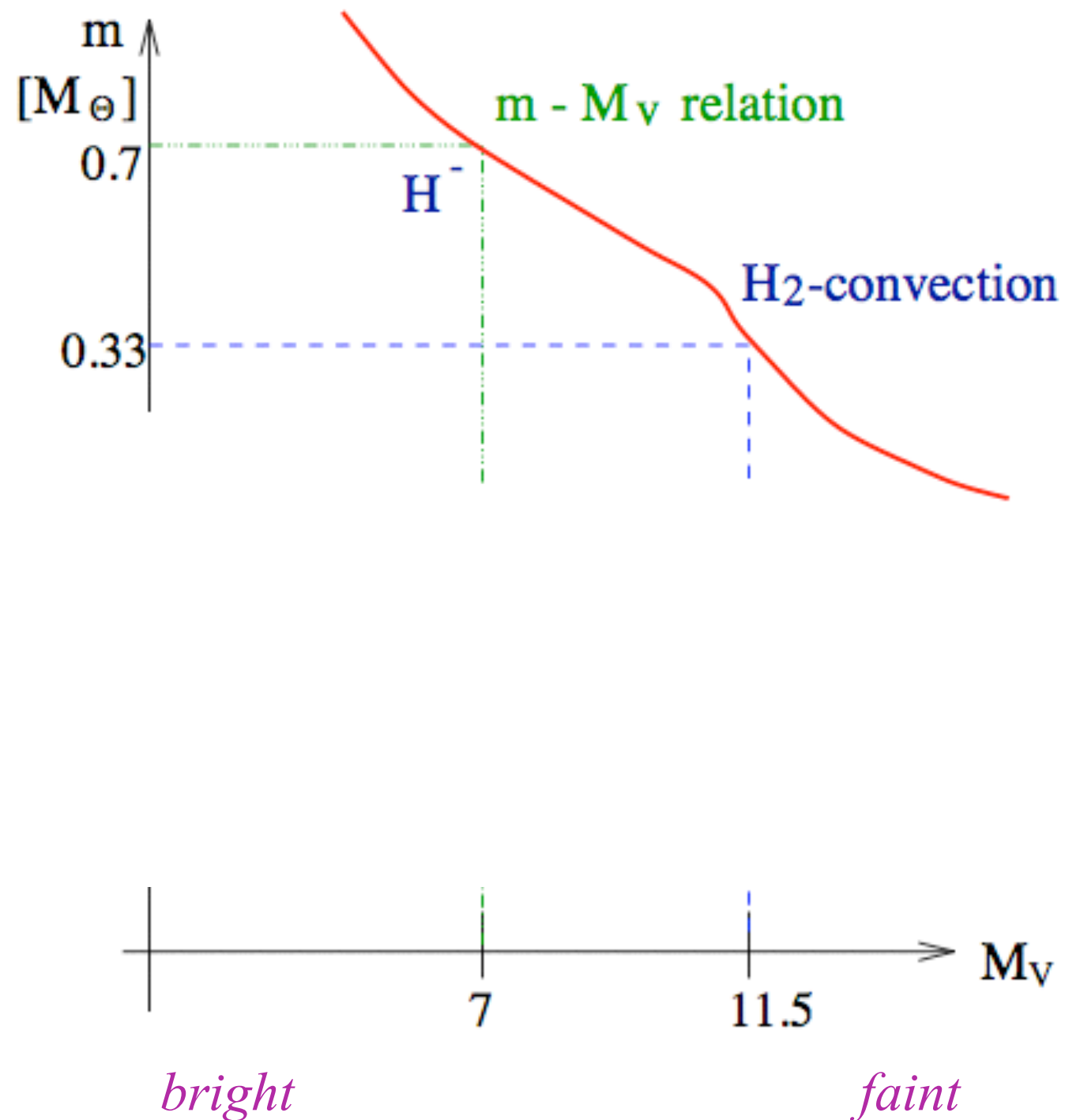
the **target**

Understand *detailed shape* of LF
from fundamental principles :

$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$

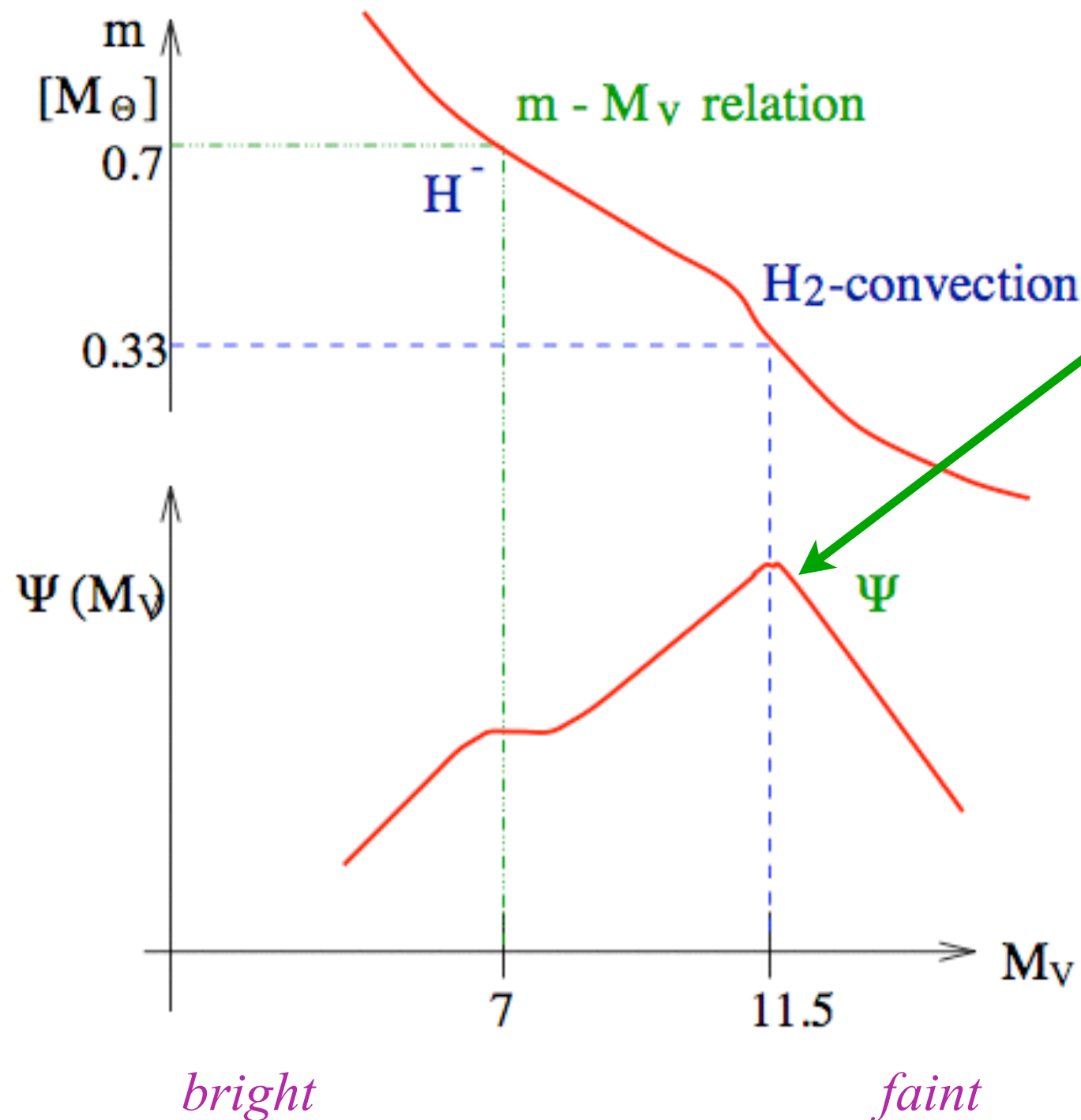
Understand *detailed shape* of LF
from fundamental principles :

$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$



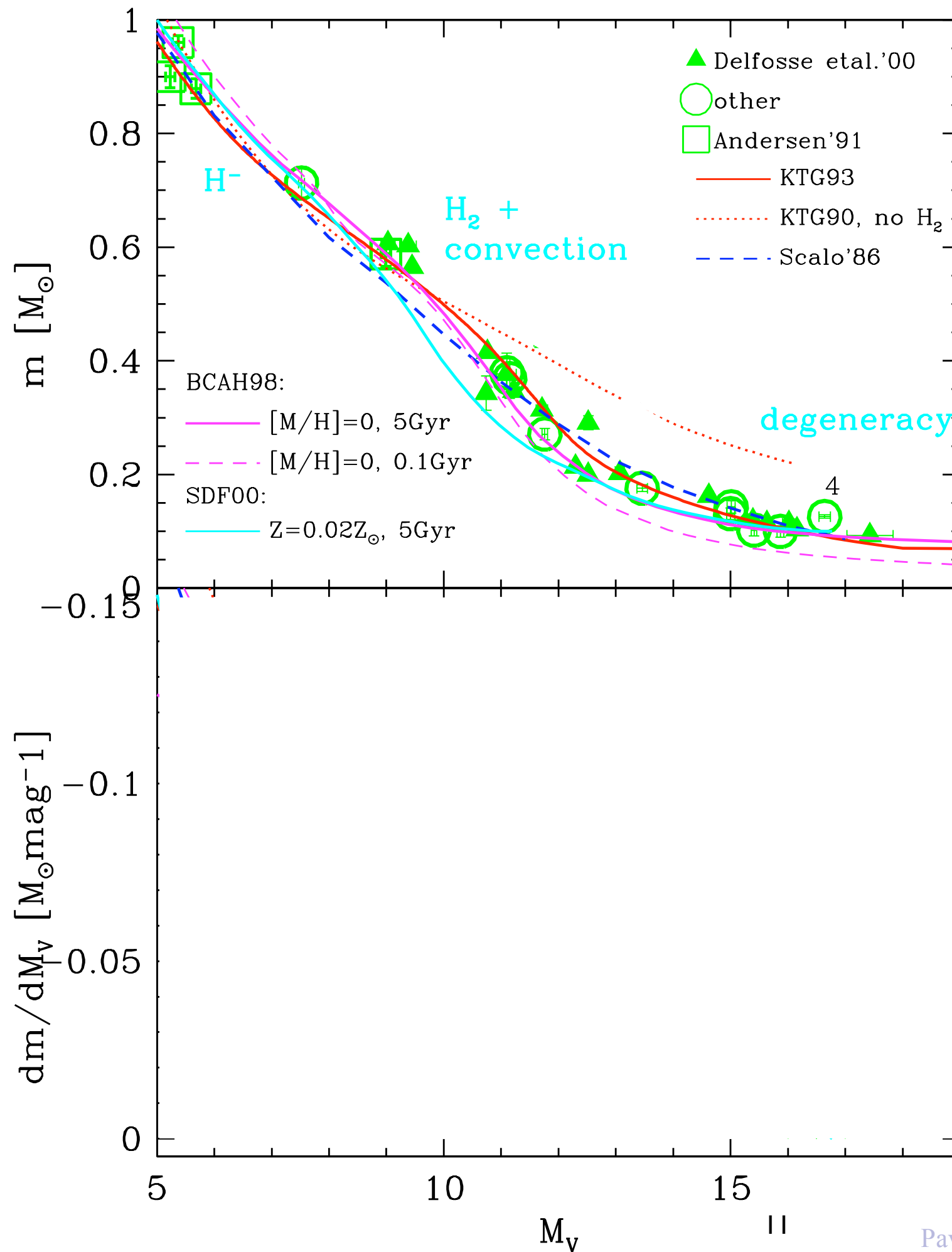
Understand *detailed shape* of LF
from fundamental principles :

$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$



Kroupa, Tout & Gilmore 1991

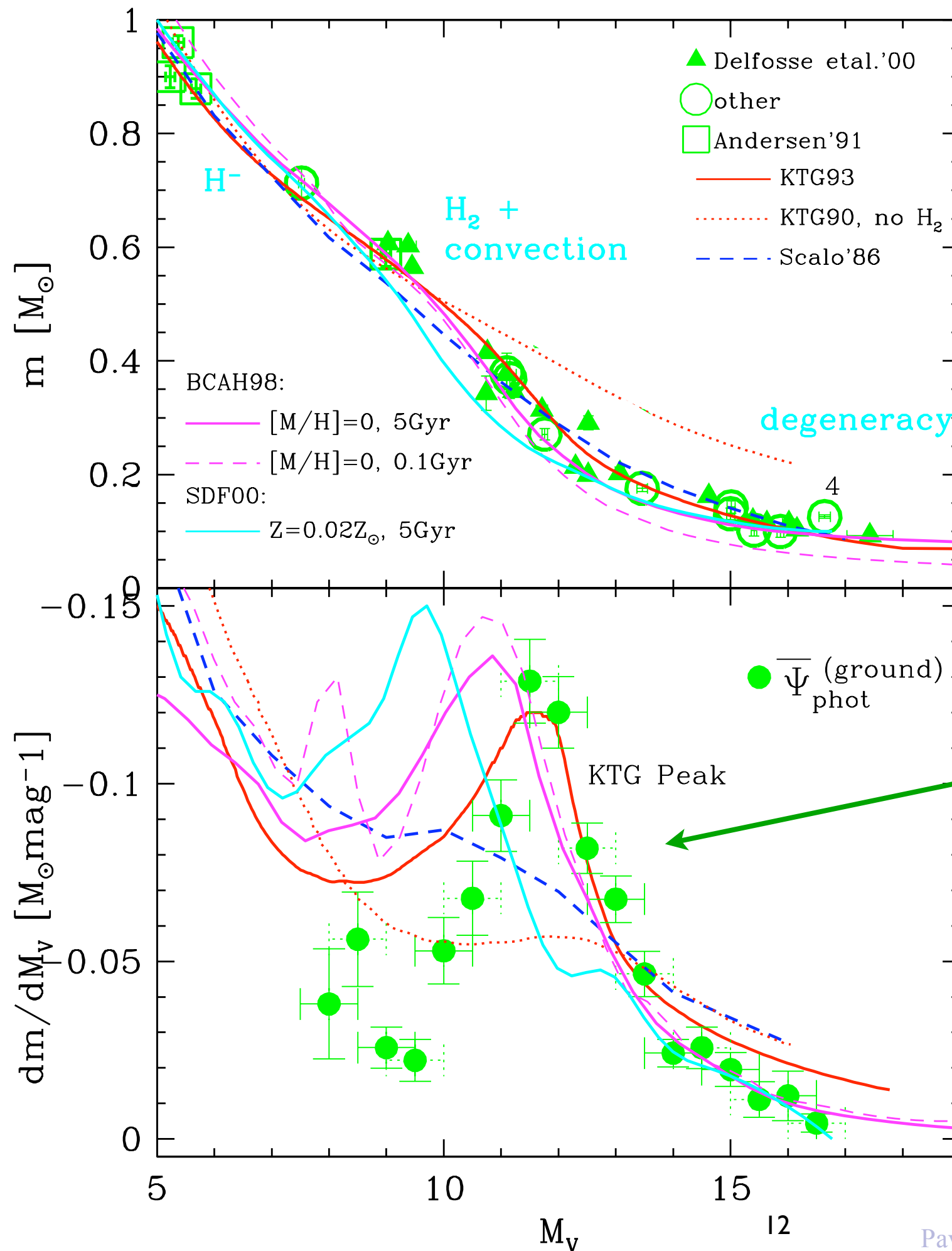
The mass-luminosity relation of low-mass stars



$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$

Kroupa, 2002, *Science*

The mass-luminosity relation of low-mass stars



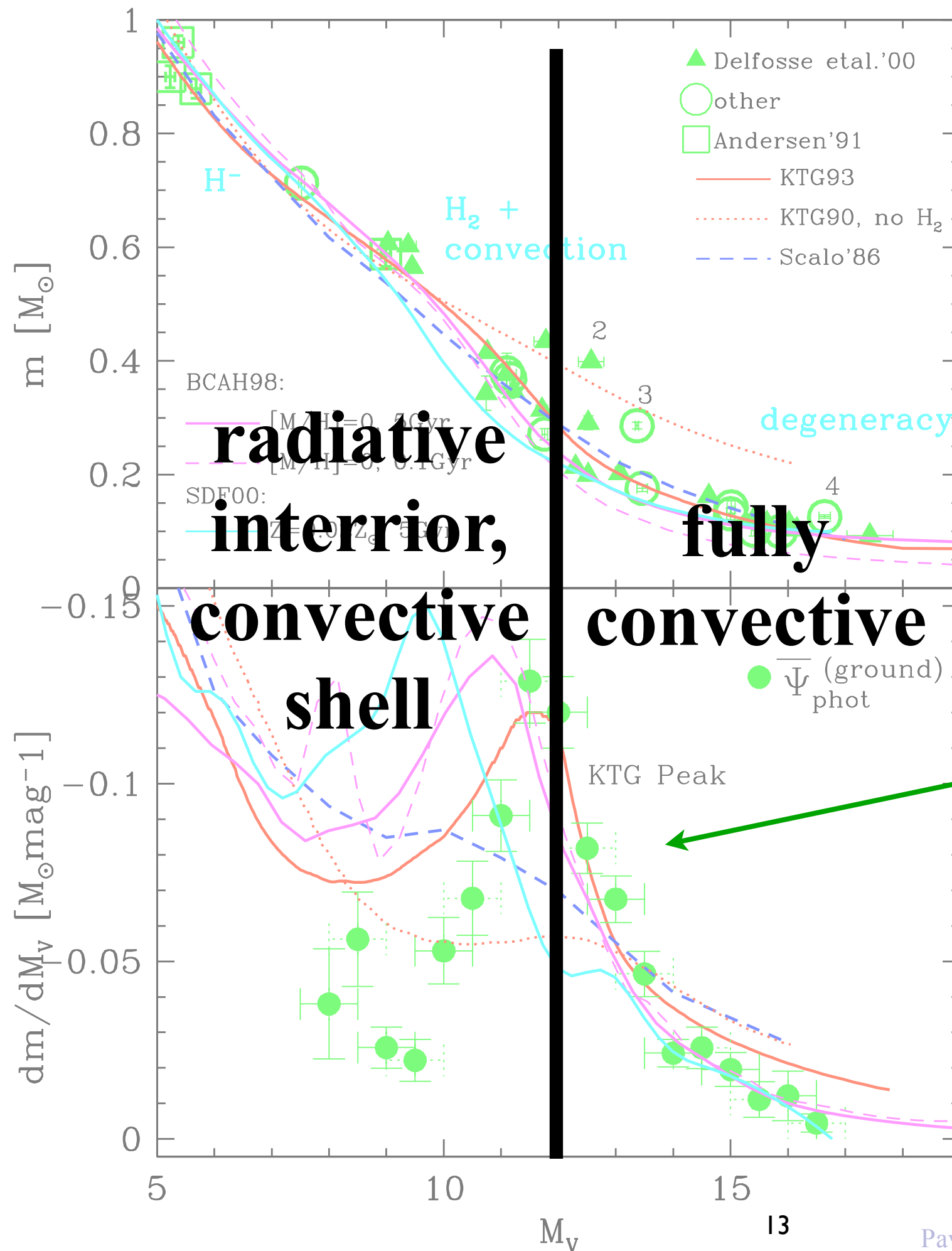
$$\Psi(M_V) = - \frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$

1. position
 2. width
 3. amplitude
- all agree !*

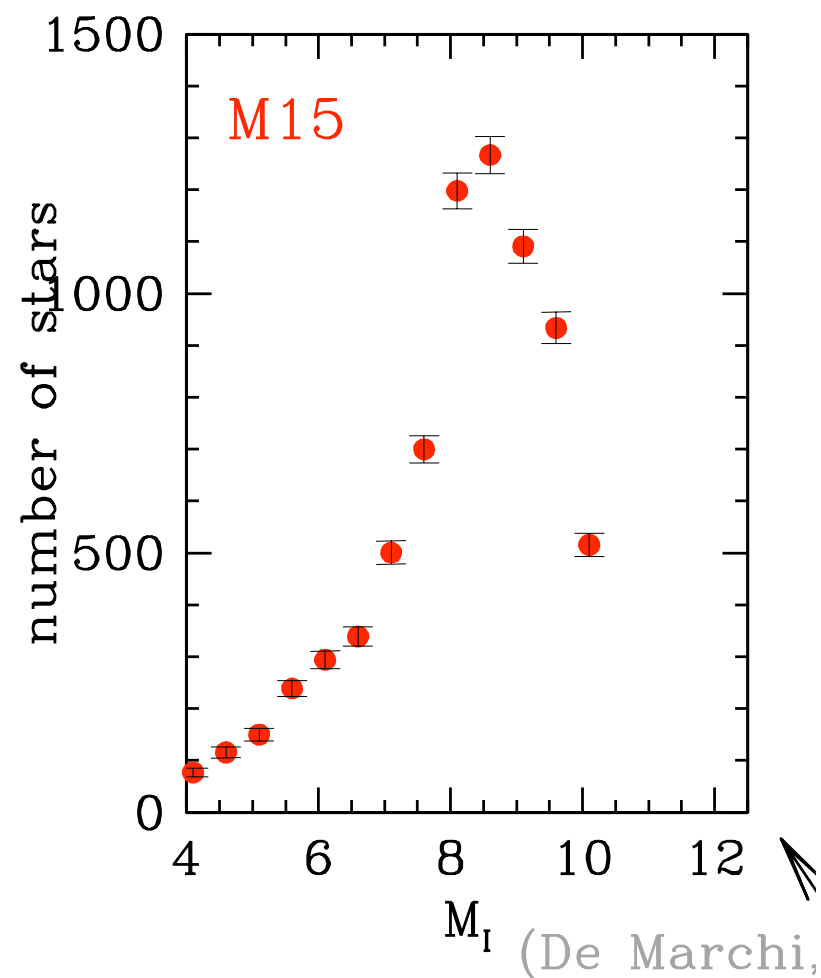
Kroupa, 2002, *Science*

The mass-luminosity relation of low-mass stars

Kroupa, Tout & Gilmore, 1991
Kroupa, 2002, *Science*



$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m) \quad \textit{Science}$$

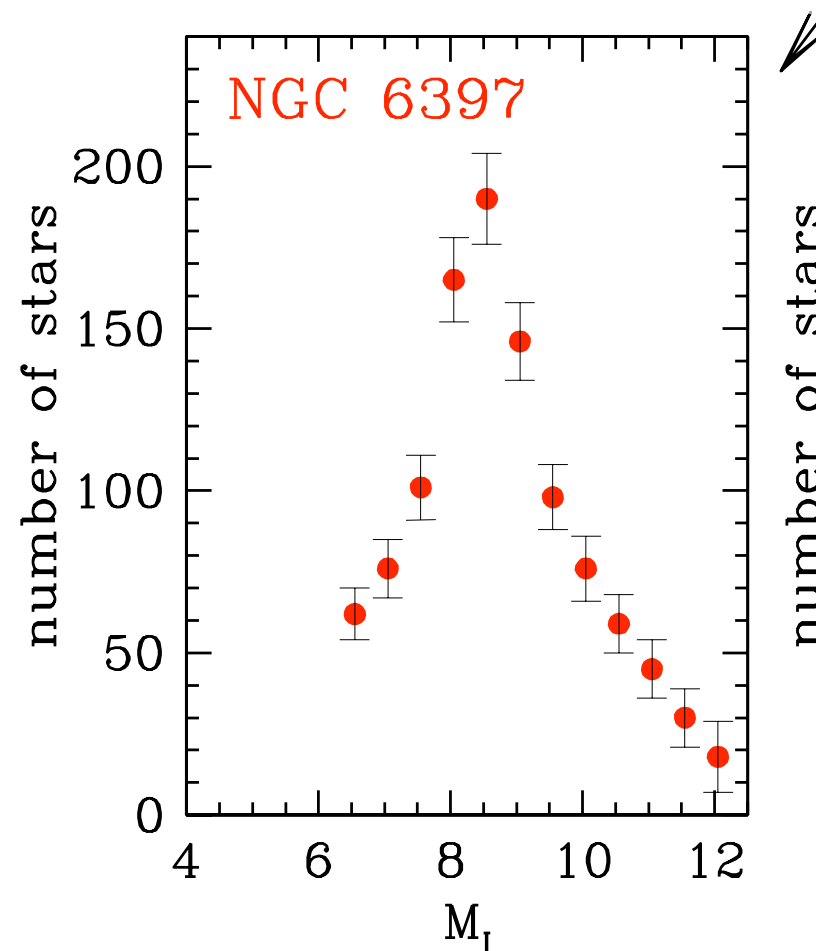
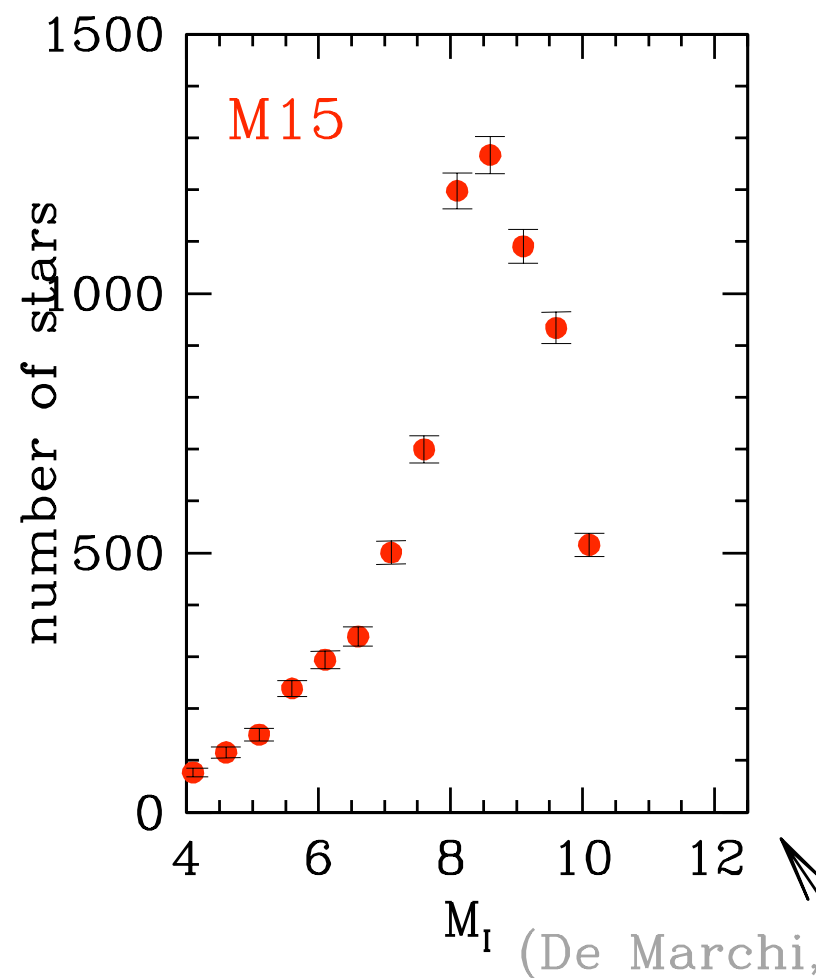


By counting stars
we look into their
internal
constitution !

Peak in LF
is not due to MF
turnover,

because the formation
of pre-stellar cores is
independent of the physics of
stellar interiors.

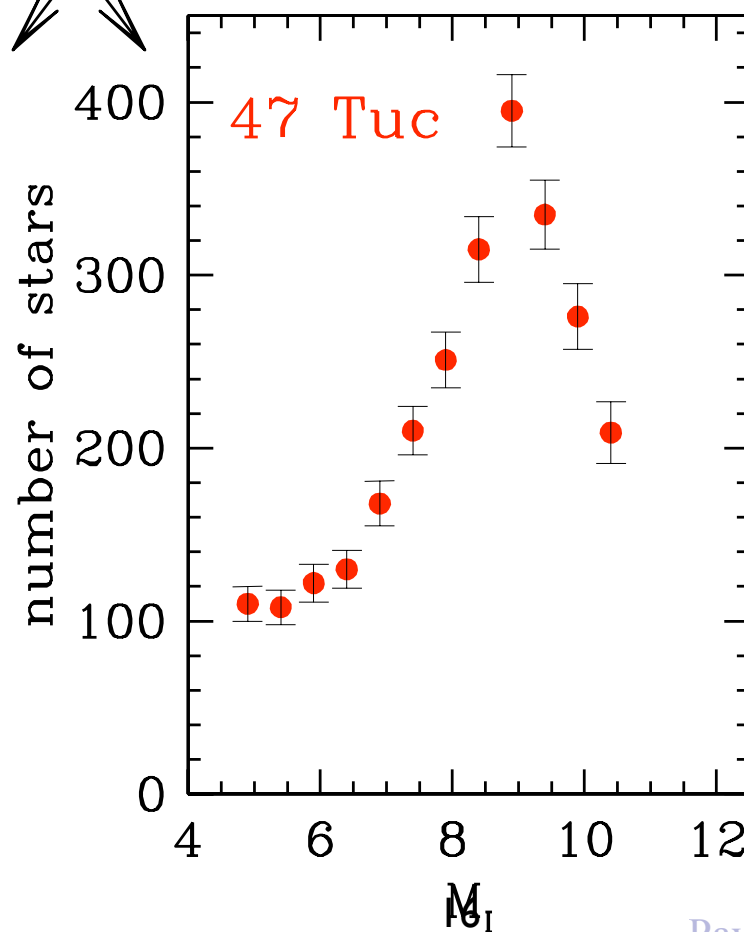
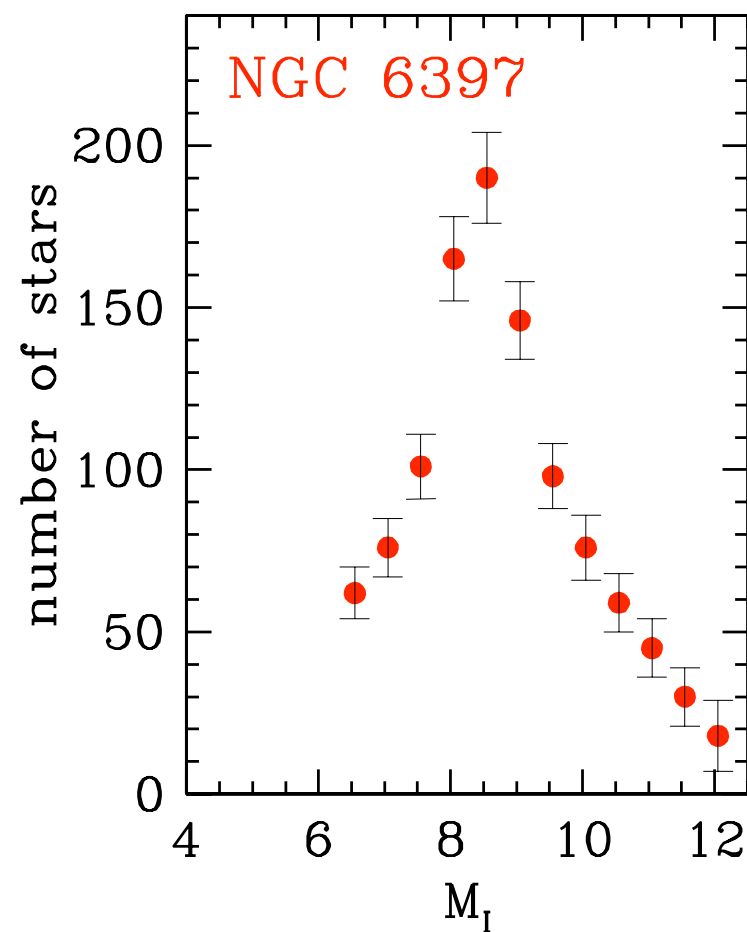
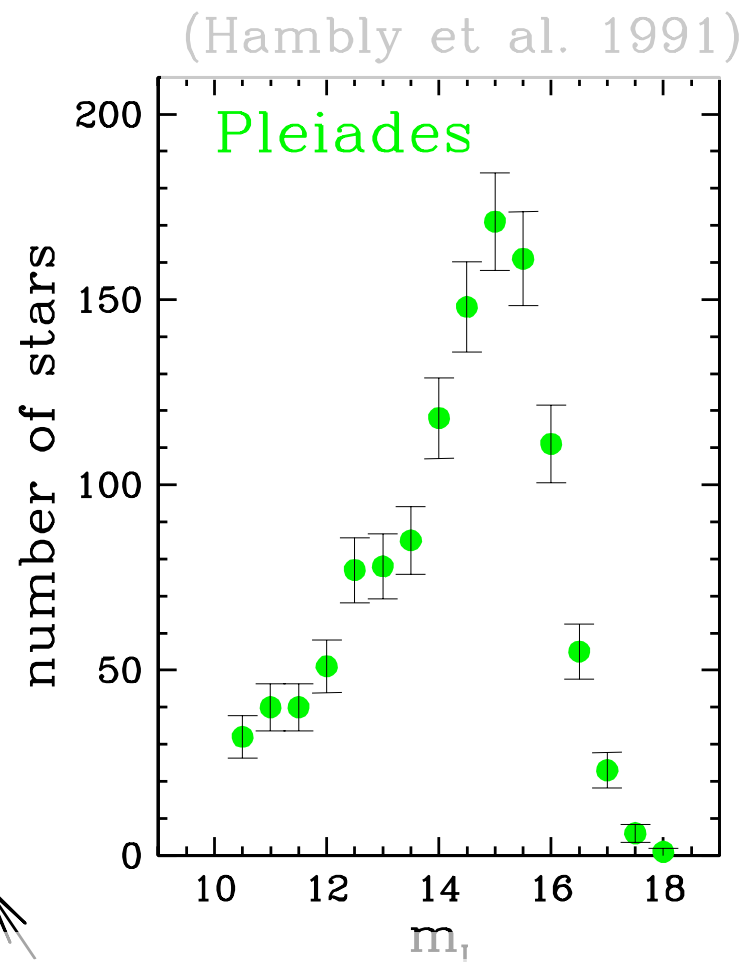
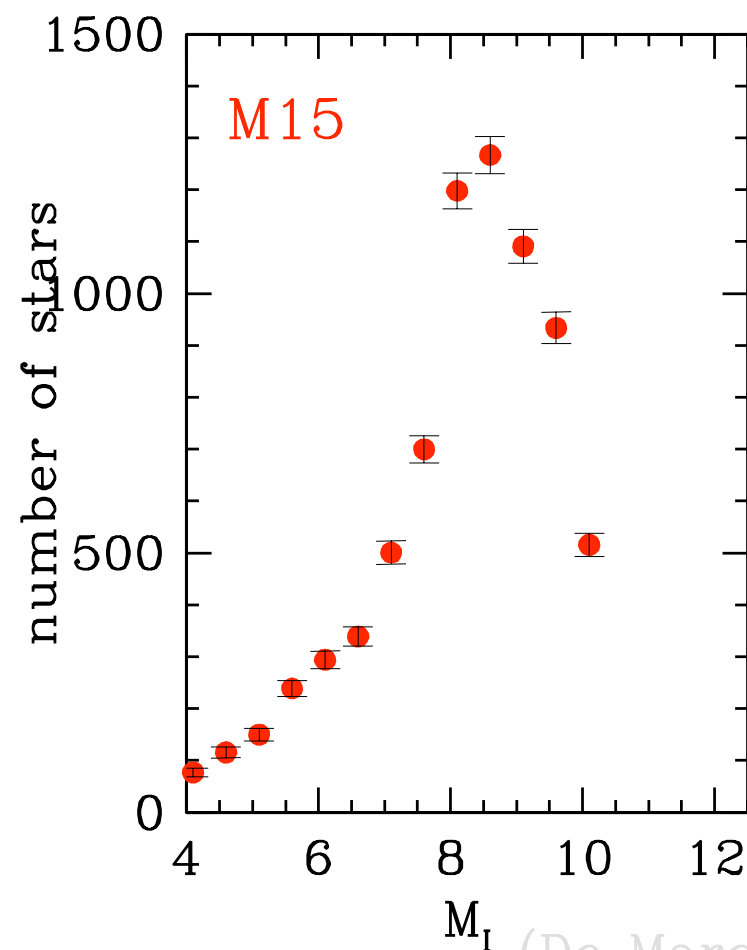
$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m) \quad \textit{Science}$$



By counting stars
we look into their
internal
constitution !

Peak in LF
is not due to MF
turnover,

because the formation
of pre-stellar cores is
independent of the physics of
stellar interiors.



Kroupa 2002
 $\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$ Science

By counting stars
we look into their
internal
constitution !

Peak in LF
is not due to MF
turnover,

because the formation
of pre-stellar cores is
independent of the physics of
stellar interiors.

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

1) the IMF does not exist !

2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

The estimation of this "hilfskonstrukt" is compromised by

the stellar mass-to-light relation

dynamical evolution of birth clusters (very early phase and long-term)

binaries

the most massive star in birth clusters

IMF = probability density distr.function

or an optimally sampled distribution function ?

evidence for top-heavy IMF in extremely massive star burst "clusters"

implications of this for the IMF of whole galaxies.

stellar IMF \neq IMF of stars in a galaxy

**Now take into account binaries,
first for late-type stars**

**The observed stellar population
in clusters and field
and
its relation to the IMF**

What do we know about binary-star distribution functions?

Collapsing pre-stellar molecular cloud core (< 0.1 pc)

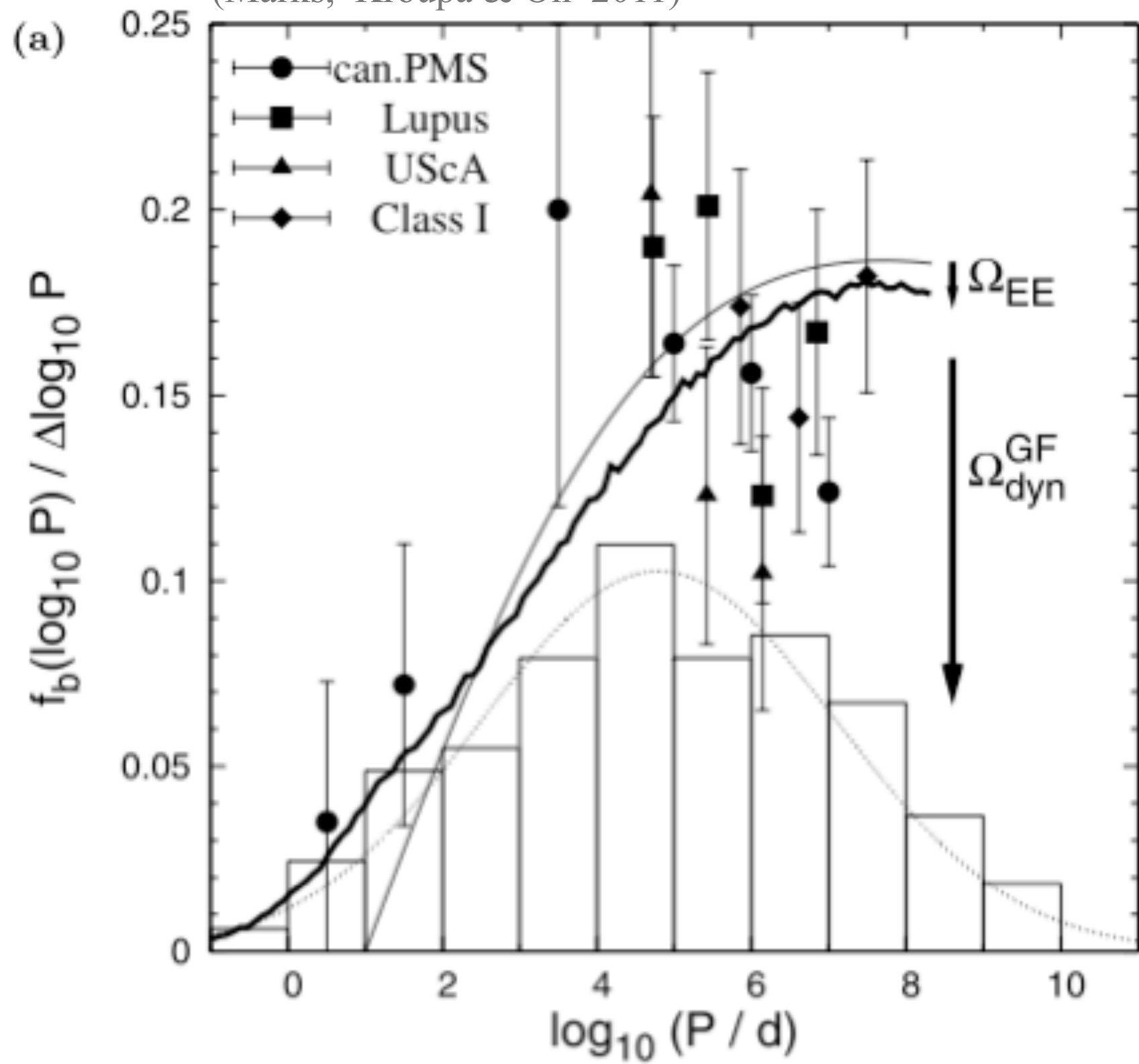
\Rightarrow binary due to angular momentum conservation

(typically not triples, quadruples -- **why ?**)

\rightarrow Goodwin & Kroupa (2005, A&A)

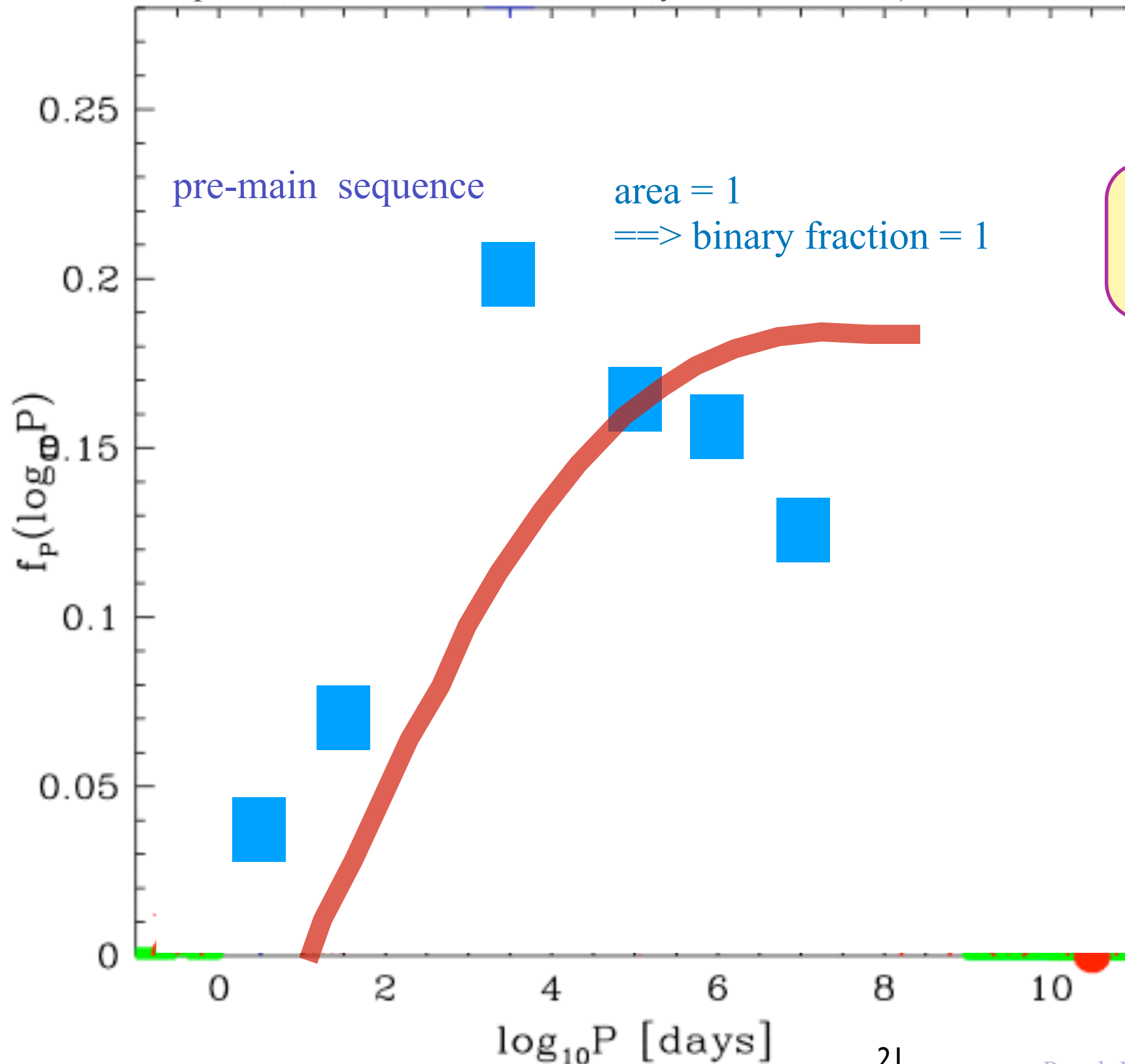
Indeed, the vast majority of
 $< 5 M_{\text{sun}}$ stars
are observed to form as binary systems :

(Marks, Kroupa & Oh 2011)



The birth period / energy -distribution function for low-density (isolated) <5Msun star formation

Kroupa & Petr-Gotzens 2011; Sadavoy & Stahler 2017)



**canonical birth
binary population:**

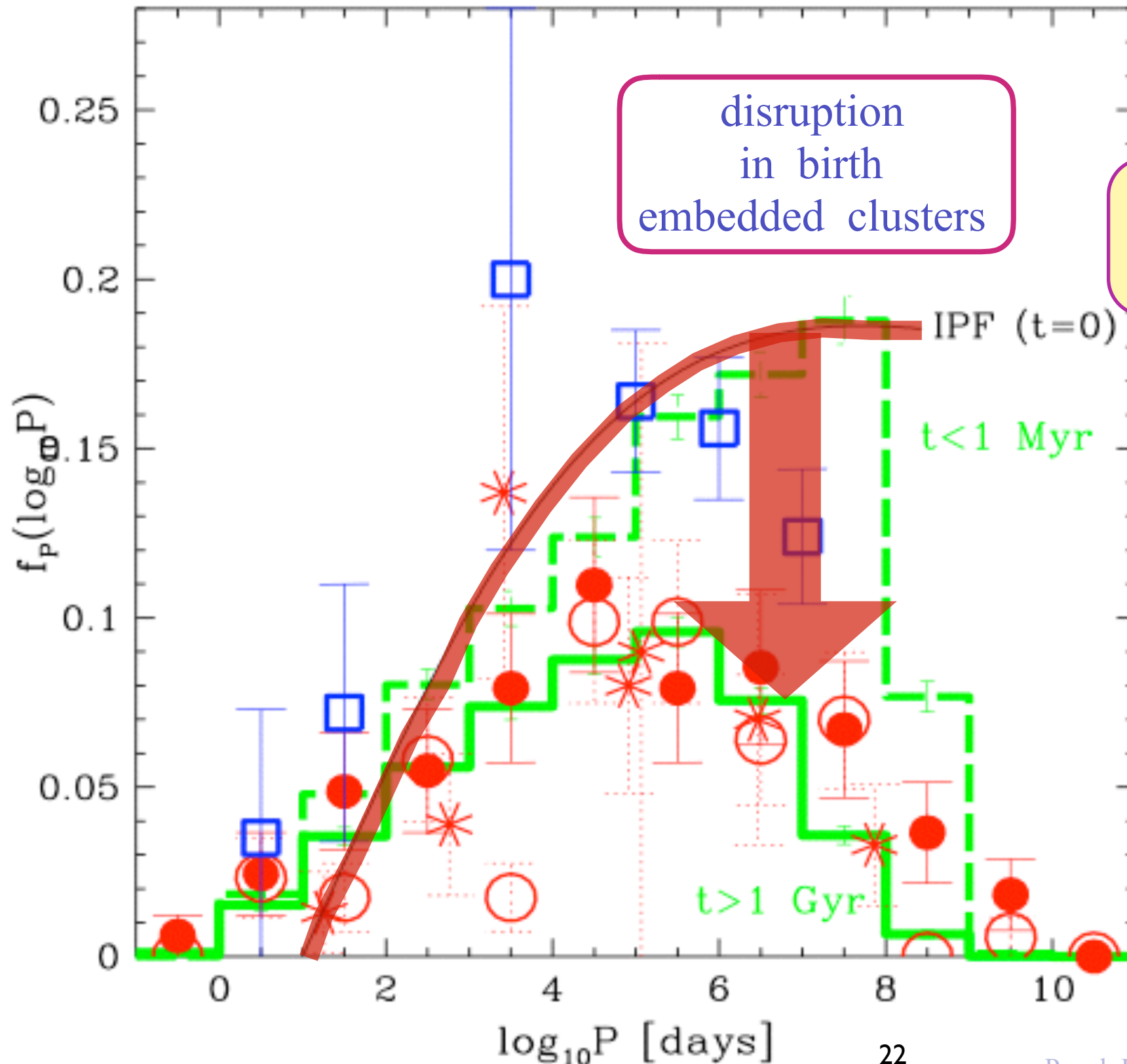
$$f_{P,\text{birth}} = 2.5 \frac{lP - 1}{45 + (lP - 1)^2}$$

with $lP_{\text{max}} = 8.43$

with subsequent
pre-main sequence
adjustments
(*eigenevolution*) for
 $P < 10^3$ d systems

The birth period / energy -distribution function for low-density (isolated) <5Msun star formation

Kroupa 2011, IAU

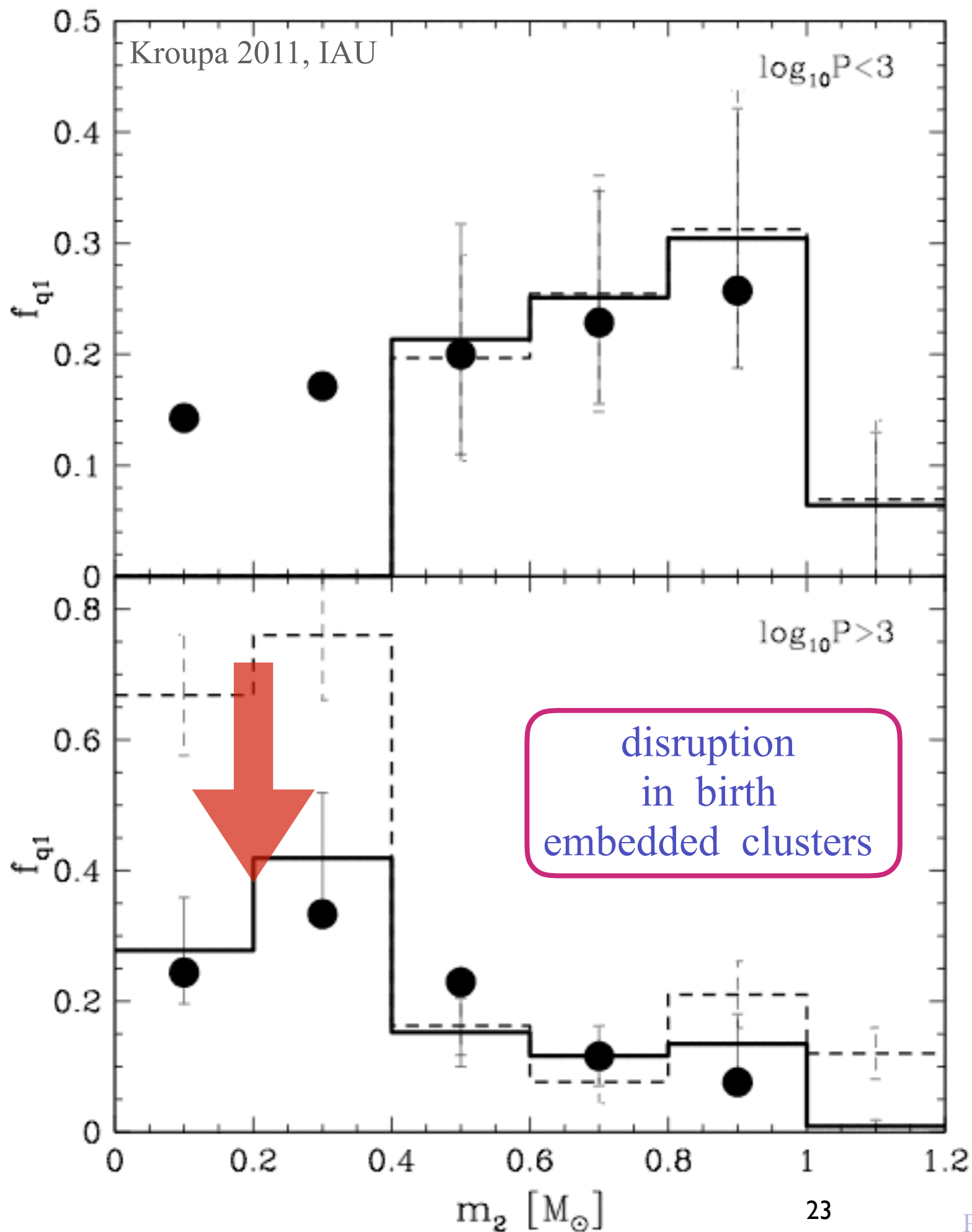


**canonical birth
binary population:**

$$f_{P,\text{birth}} = 2.5 \frac{lP - 1}{45 + (lP - 1)^2}$$

with $lP_{\text{max}} = 8.43$

with subsequent
pre-main sequence
adjustments
(*eigenevolution*) for
 $P < 10^3$ d systems



The birth mass-ratio distribution for G-dwarfs

canonical birth binary population:

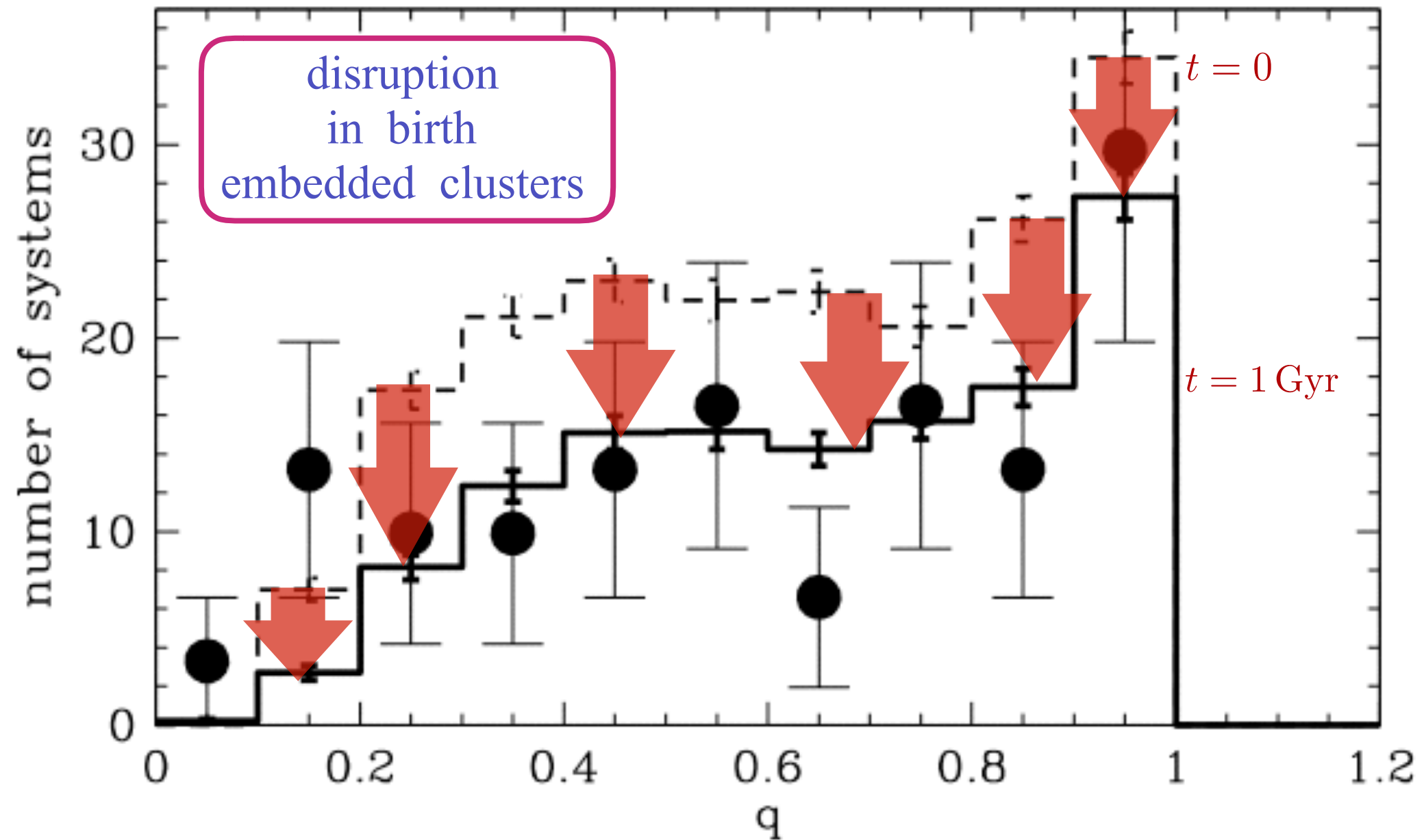
random pairing !

with subsequent pre-main sequence adjustments (*eigenevolution*) for $P < 10^3$ d systems

The initial / final mass-ratio distribution for late-type dwarfs

random pairing !

Kroupa 2011, IAU



● Reid & Gizis (1997)

**From Nbody computations using Aarseth codes
we understand the distribution functions of
< 5 Msun binaries well**

The binary population decreases on a crossing time-scale;
disruption and hardening depend on cluster density.

---> major influence on deducing the shape of the
stellar mass function (and thus the IMF).

Kroupa 1995 a,b,c; Marks et al. 2011

Observed binaries in clusters

Pleiades (Stauffer 1984; Kaehler 1999)

$d = 126\text{pc}$, age = 100Myr

Stauffer $f_{\text{phot}} \approx 0.26$

Kaehler $f_{\text{phot}} \approx 0.6 - 0.7$ possible

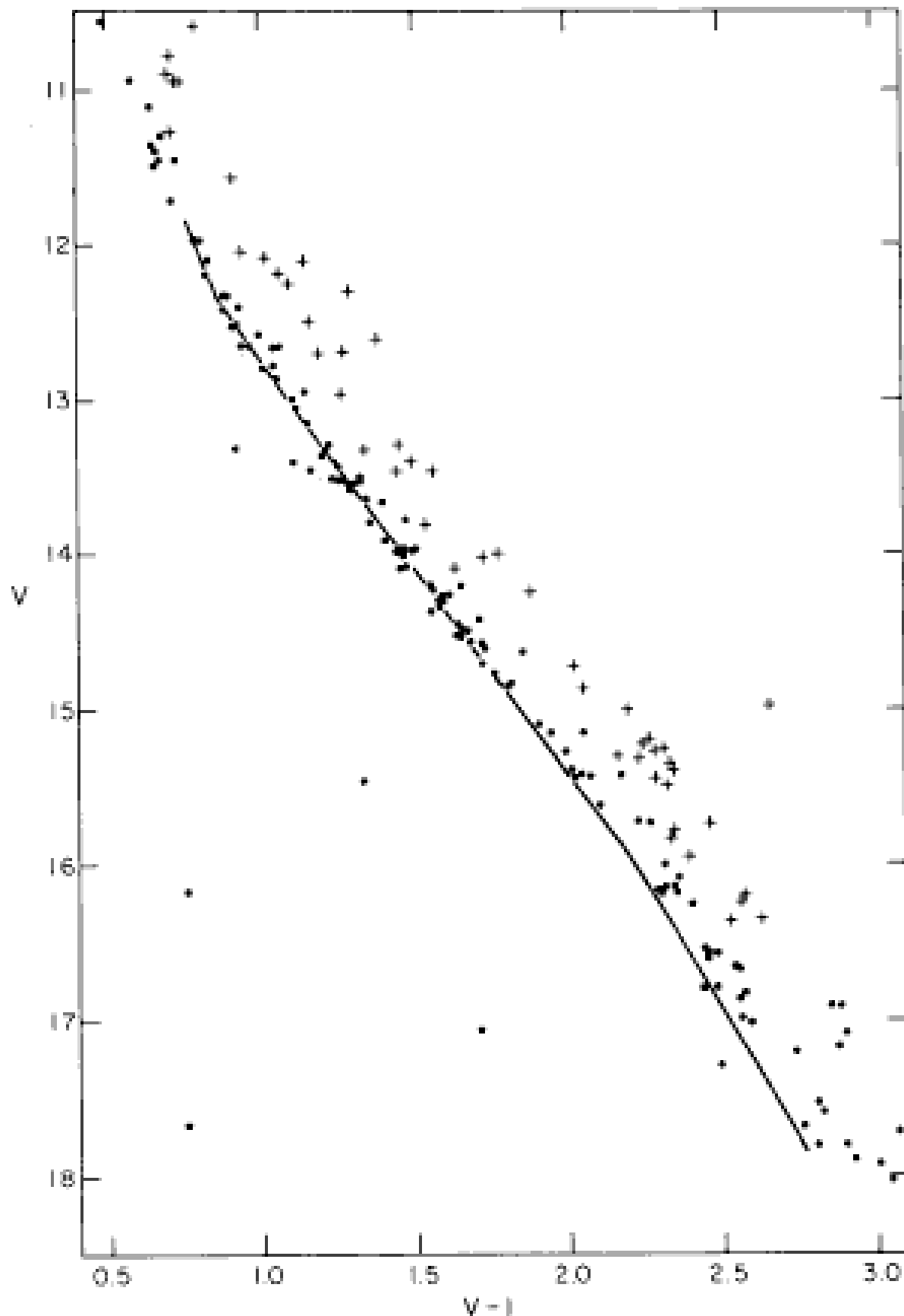
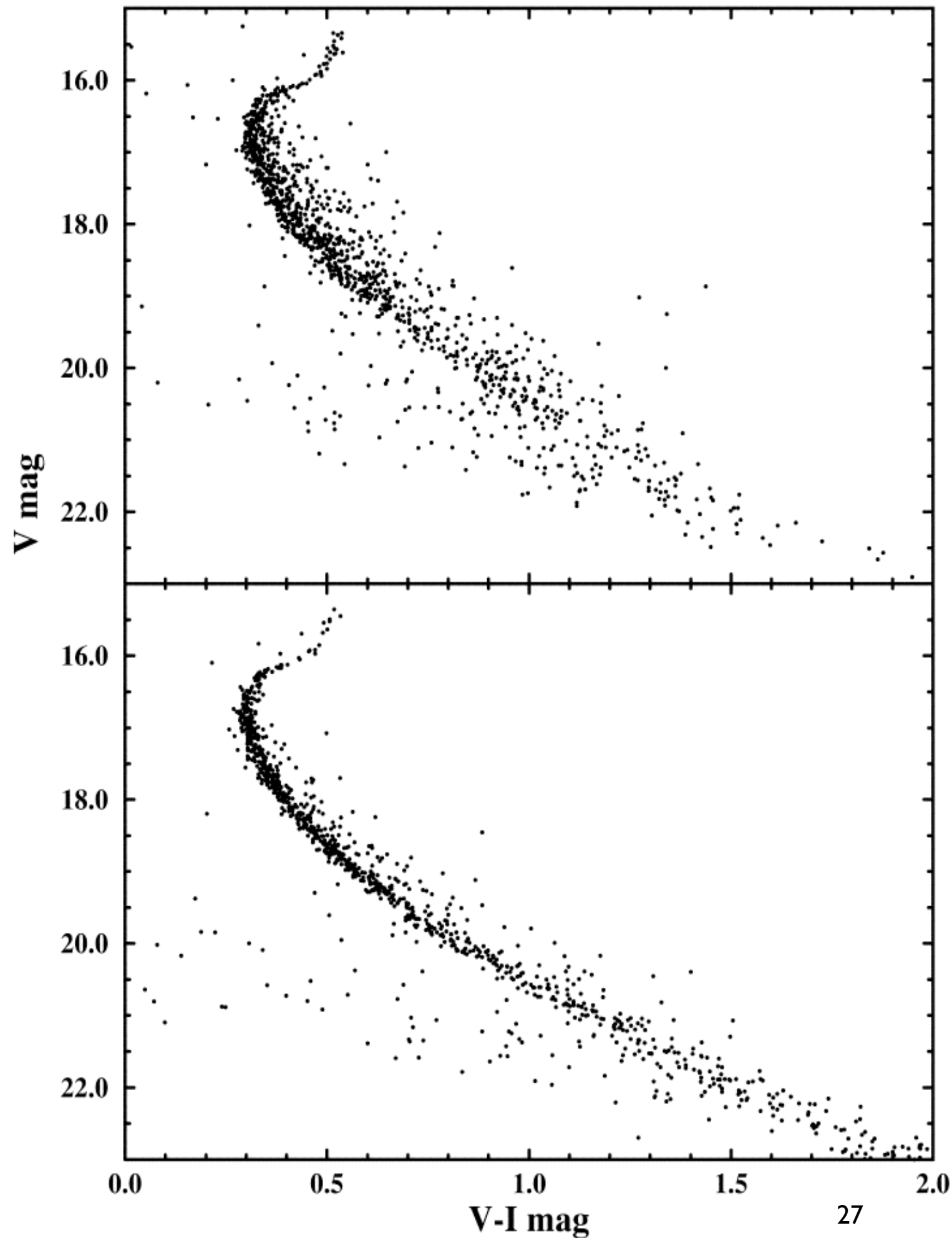


FIG. 7.—Same as Fig. 1, except that the main-sequence line has been shifted downward by 0.25 mag. The larger symbols in this diagram denote stars identified as photometric binaries.

The binary fraction f evolves with time :

$$f = \text{fn} \left(\frac{t}{t_{\text{cross}}} \right)$$

but $t_{\text{cross}} = \text{fn}(t)$



GC *NGC6752*

(Rubenstein & Bailyn 1997)

inner core: $0.15 \lesssim f_{\text{phot}} \lesssim 0.4$

outer region: $f_{\text{phot}} \lesssim 0.16$

Generally:

$$f_{\text{GC}} < f_{\text{popI}}$$

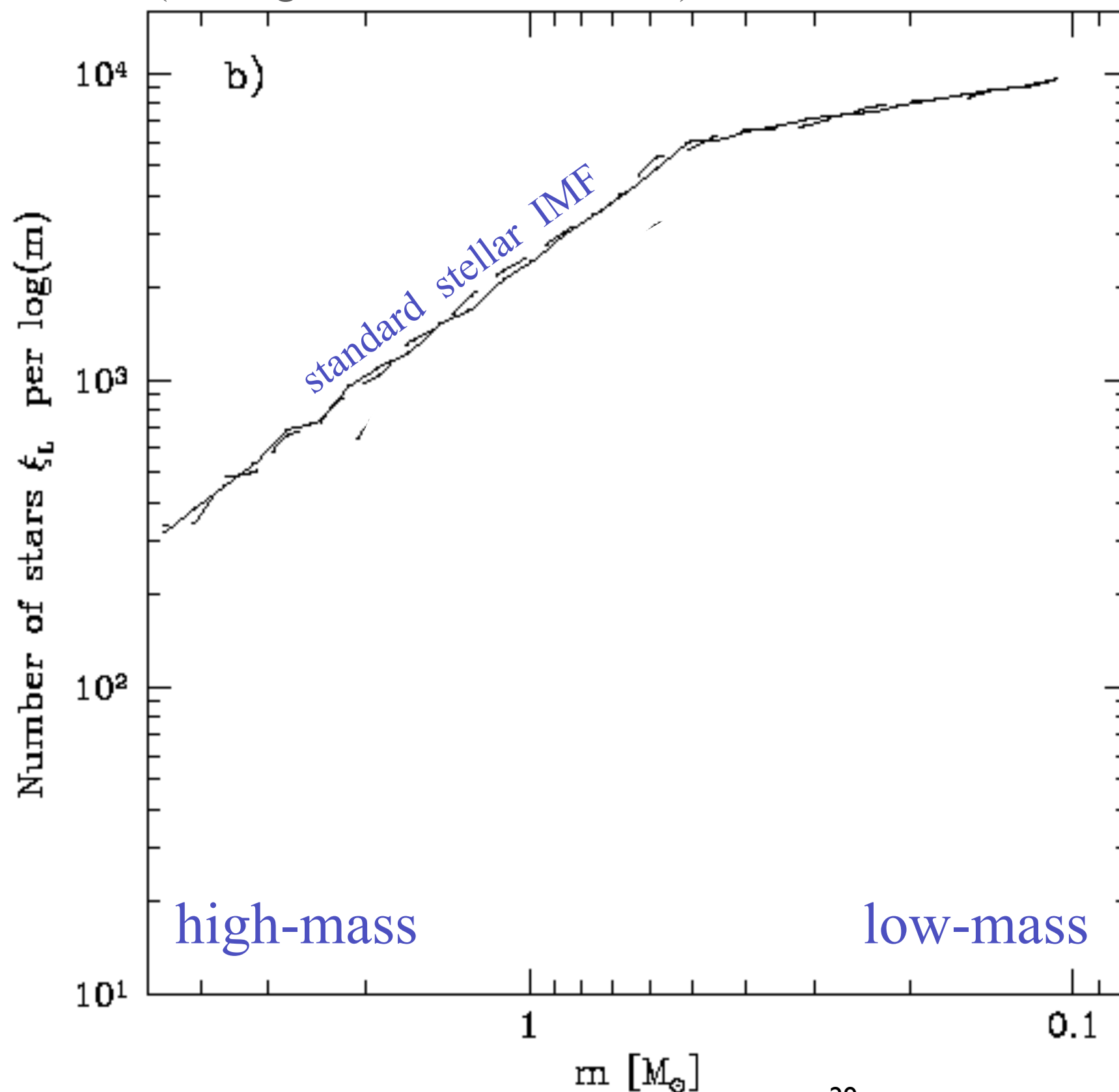
Clusters evaporate (loose stars) and
their substantial binary population evolves dynamically

*stellar MF in star clusters
evolves due to cluster evolution*

$MF(t)$ due to cluster evolution:

Clusters evaporate

(Baumgardt & Makino 2003)



$f = 0$

— $N = 1.28 \times 10^5$

- - - $4 \times (N = 8000)$

$t = 0$

$t = 0.3 T_{diss}$

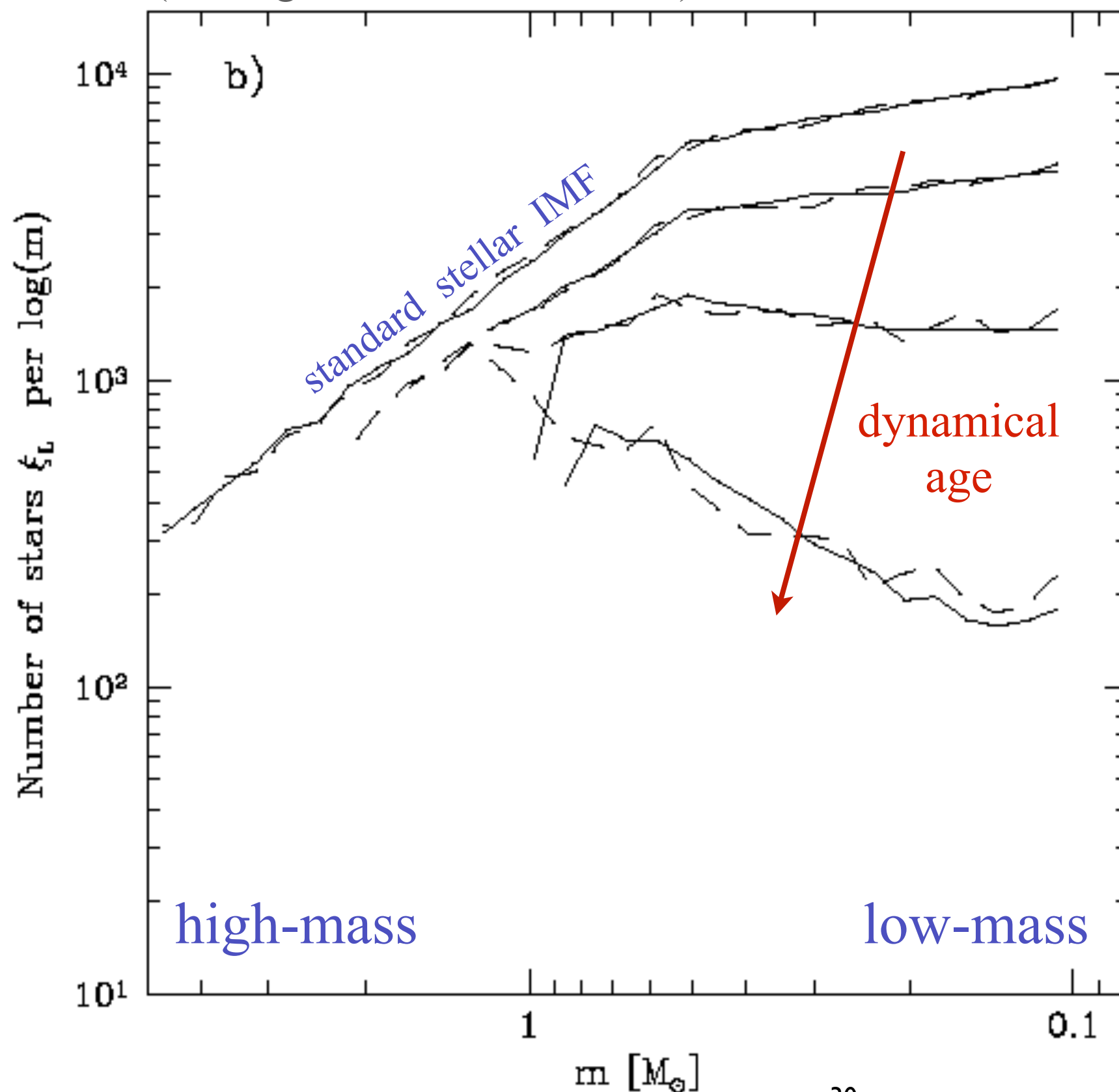
$t = 0.6 T_{diss}$

$t = 0.9 T_{diss}$

$MF(t)$ due to cluster evolution:

Clusters evaporate

(Baumgardt & Makino 2003)



$f = 0$

— $N = 1.28 \times 10^5$

- - - $4 \times (N = 8000)$

$t = 0$

$t = 0.3 T_{diss}$

$t = 0.6 T_{diss}$

$t = 0.9 T_{diss}$

As a cluster seeks to achieve energy equipartition it expels its least-massive stars

stellar $MF(t)$ in clusters

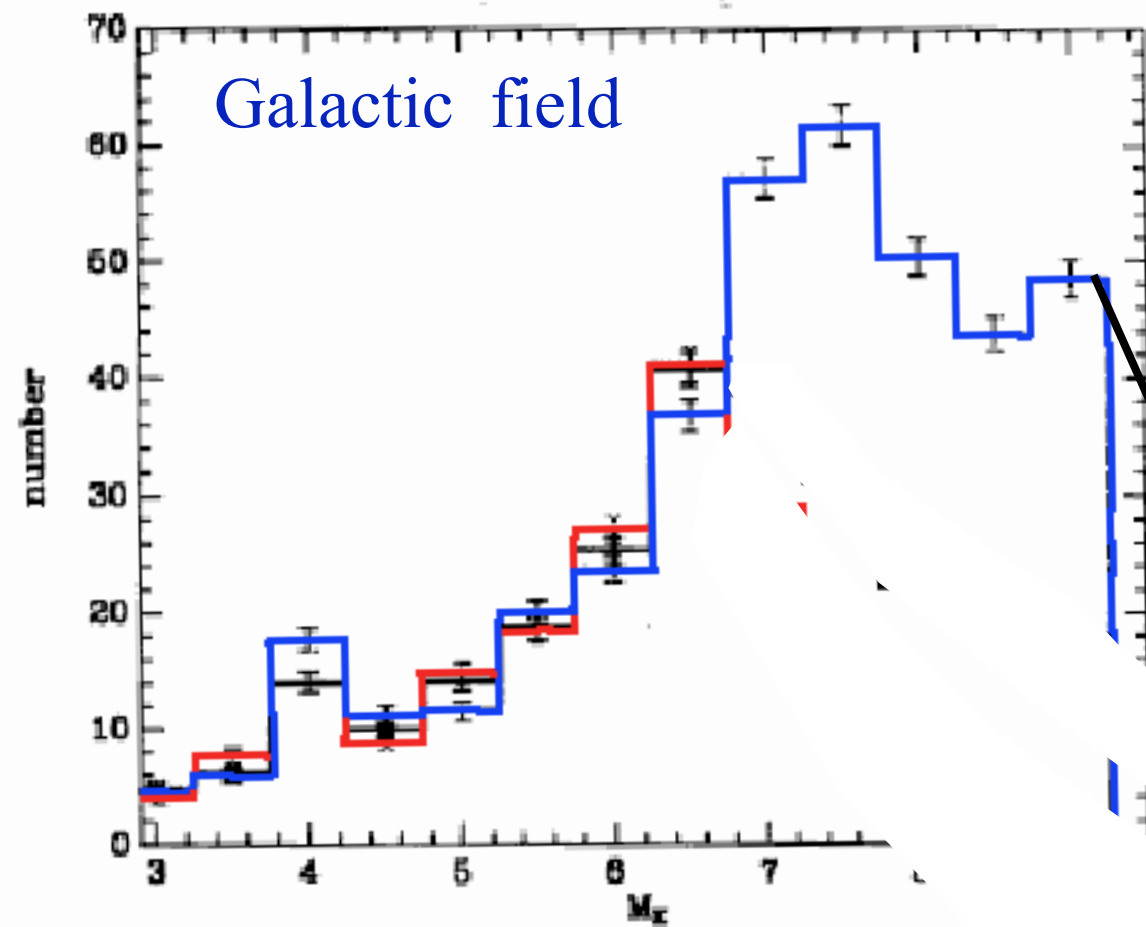
Clusters evaporate (loose stars) and
their substantial binary population evolves dynamically

N-body Models of Binary-Rich Clusters

(Kroupa 1995)

$$f = 1 \quad 20 \times (N = 400 \text{ stars})$$

individual-star LF $t = 0$



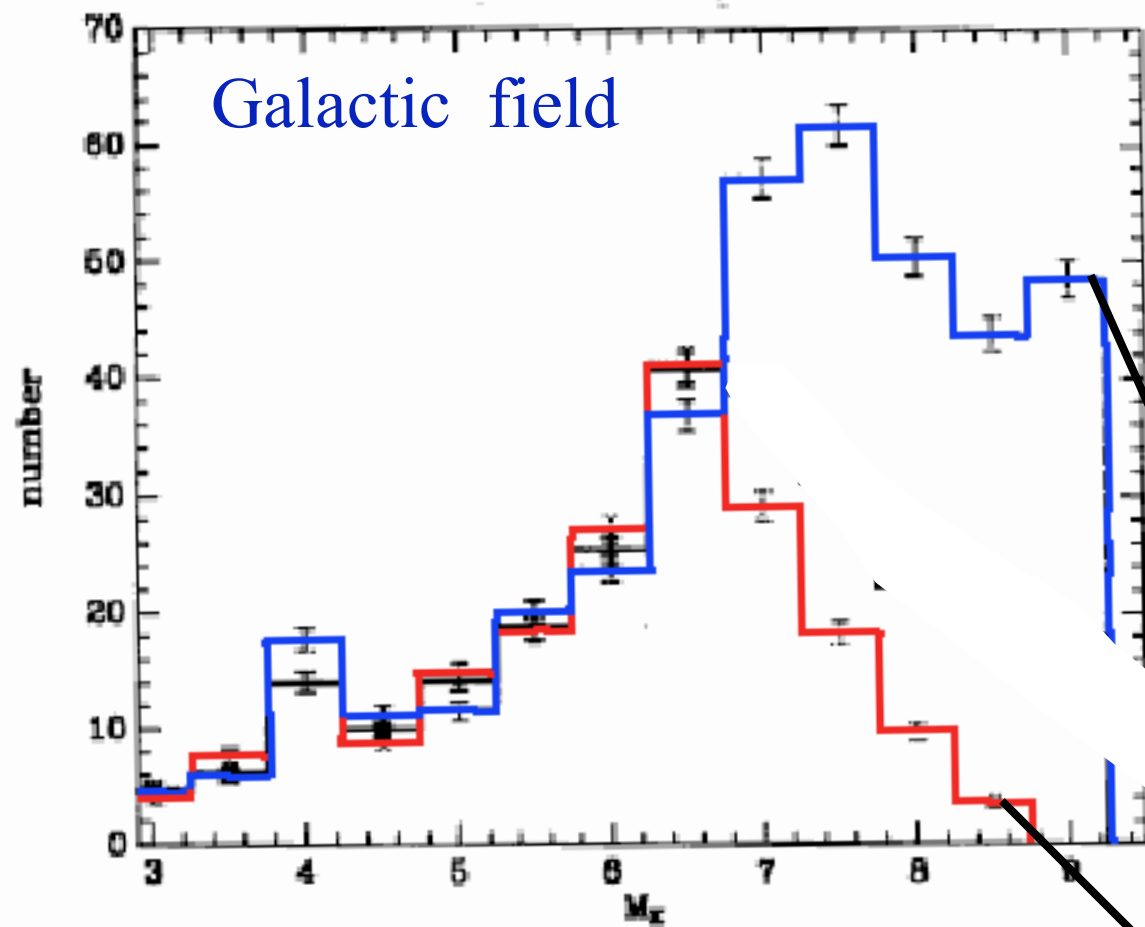
N-body Models of Binary-Rich Clusters

(Kroupa 1995)

$$f = 1 \quad 20 \times (N = 400 \text{ stars})$$

individual-star LF $t = 0$

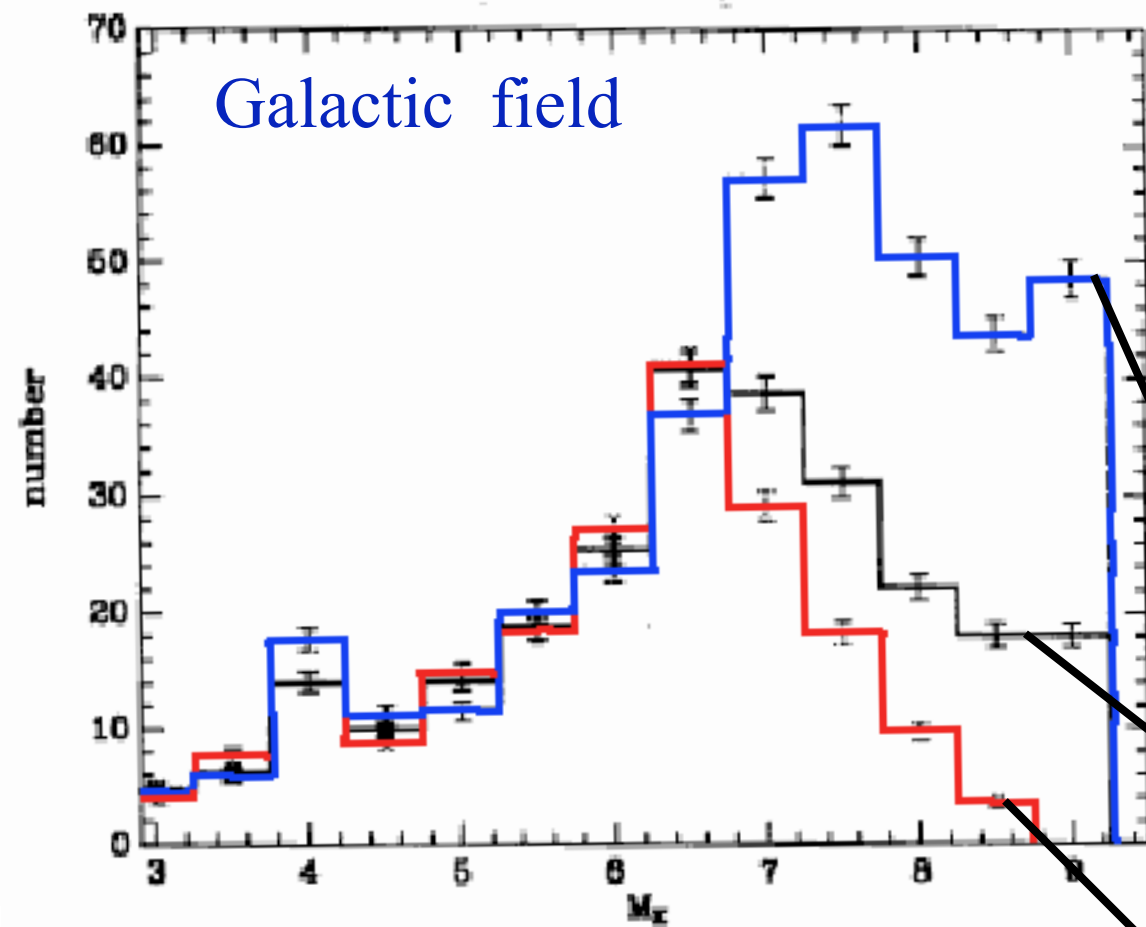
system LF $t = 0$
 $f = 1$



N-body Models of Binary-Rich Clusters

(Kroupa 1995)

$$f = 1 \quad 20 \times (N = 400 \text{ stars})$$



individual-star LF $t = 0$

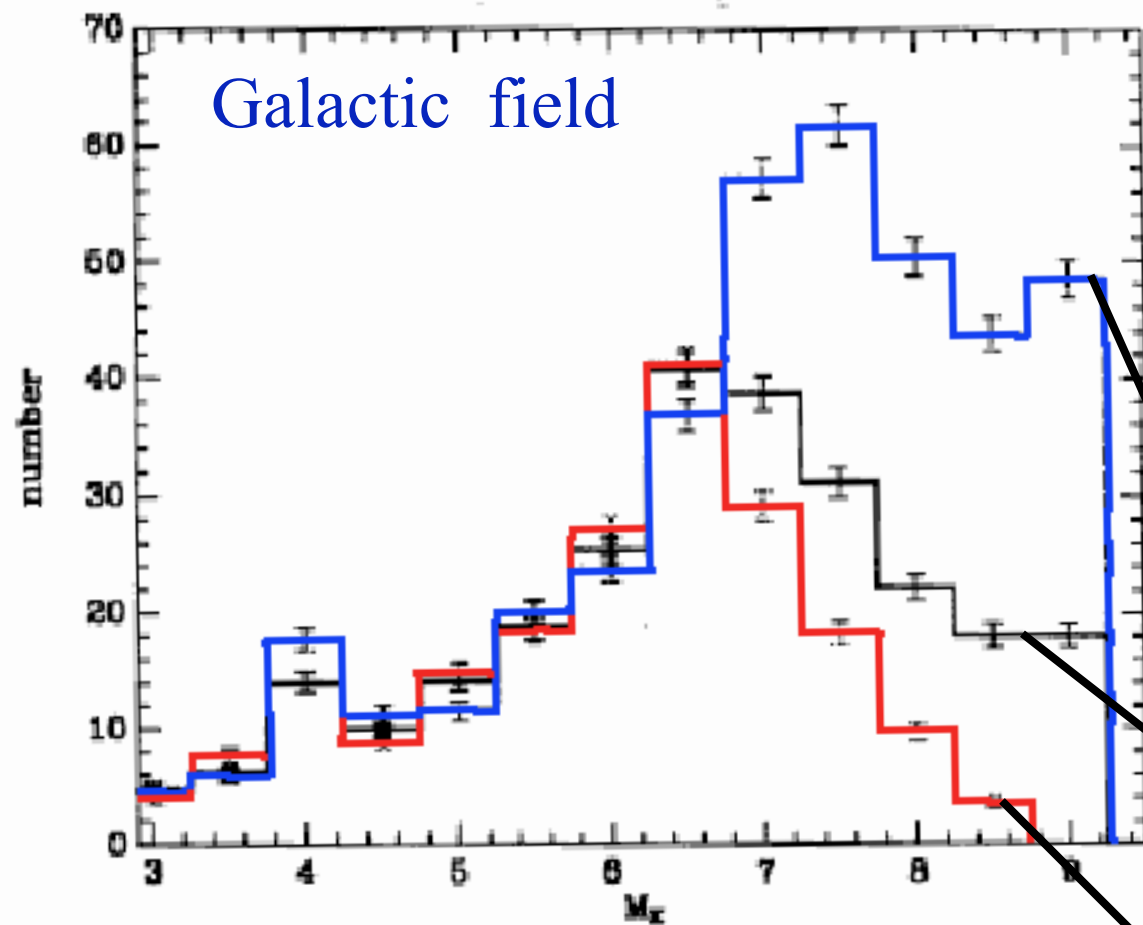
system LF $t = 10^9 \text{ yr}$
 $f = 0.48$

system LF $t = 0$
 $f = 1$

N-body Models of Binary-Rich Clusters

(Kroupa 1995)

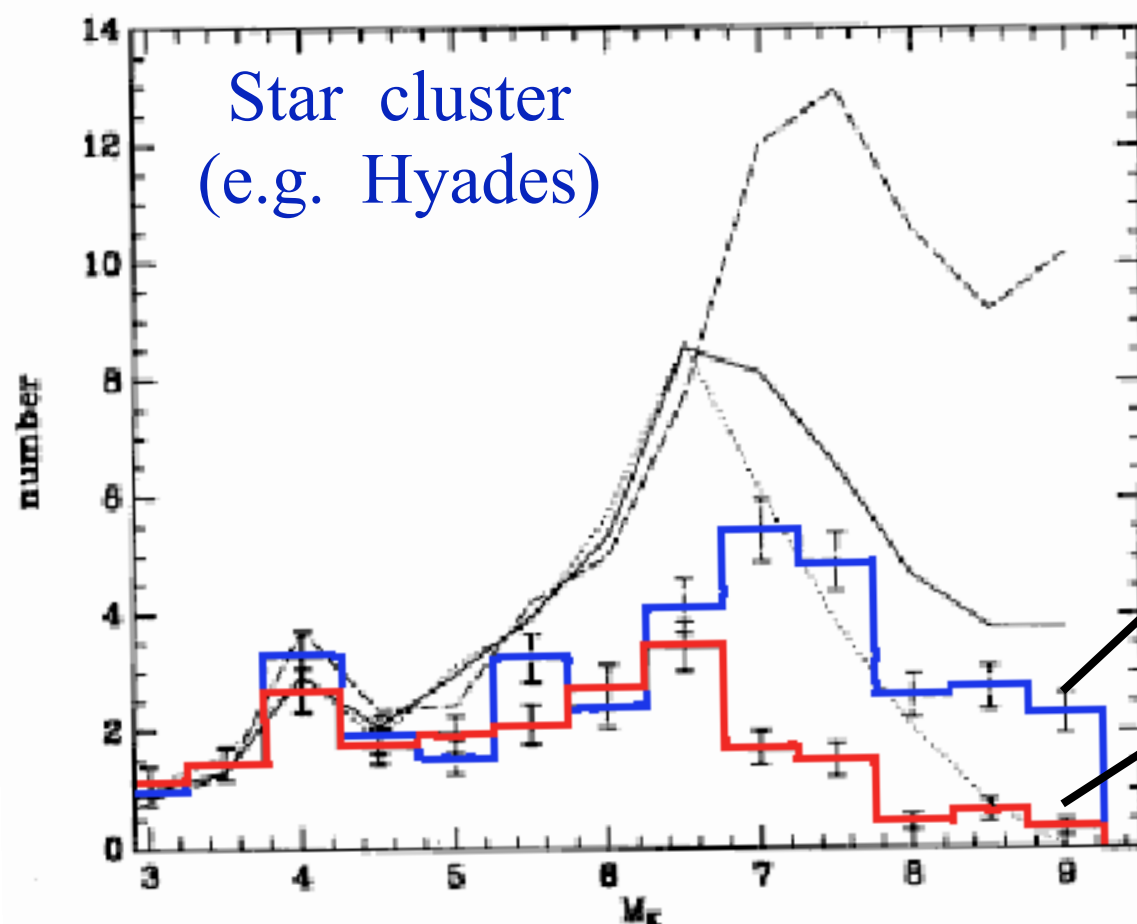
$$f = 1 \quad 20 \times (N = 400 \text{ stars})$$



individual-star LF $t = 0$

system LF $t = 10^9 \text{ yr}$
 $f = 0.48$

system LF $t = 0$
 $f = 1$



In the cluster :

individual-star LF

system LF $\longrightarrow \xi_{\text{obs}}(m) \neq \xi_{\text{true}}(m)$

$$t = 44 t_{\text{cross}} = 5 \times 10^8 \text{ yr}$$

Thus, in order to *constrain the IMF*
for an observed population
need to statistically correct
for *unresolved companions* and
for *dynamical evolution*.

Both corrections can be significant.

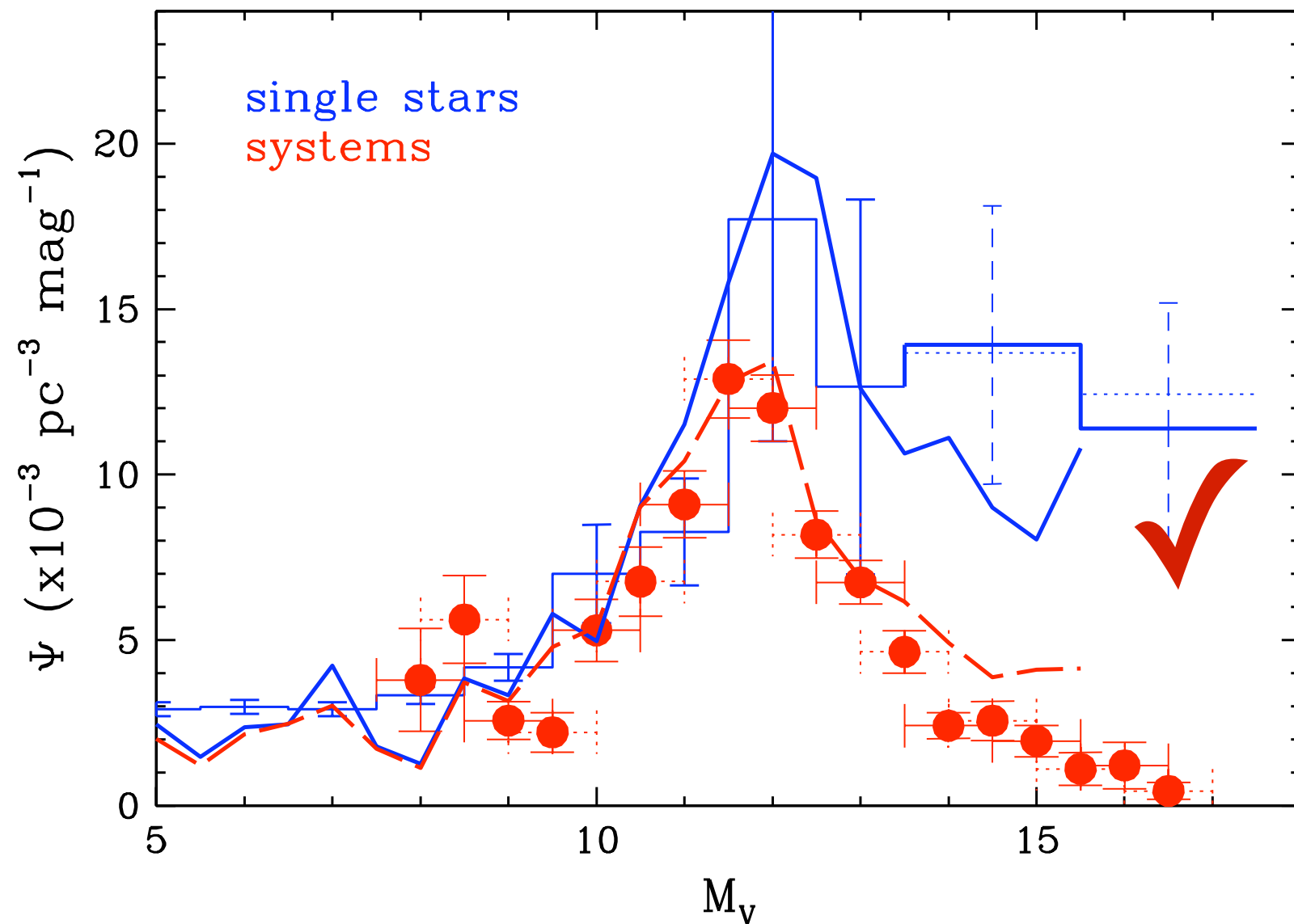
**Put a birth binary population into embedded cluster models,
use Aarseth Nbody code to synthesize a Galactic field**

Marks & Kroupa 2011

The Galactic field MF

Dynamical Population Synthesis:

$$\Psi(M_V) = -\frac{dm}{dM_V} \xi(m)$$



(Kroupa 1995)

Assume all stars
form as binaries in
typical open
clusters:

$R \approx 0.8 \text{ pc}$, $N \approx 800 \text{ stars}$

(Using KTG93 MLR)

---> a good understanding
of the
stellar IMF (deduced from the PDMF)
in embedded / very young clusters
and in the field

(Kroupa et al. 2013)

**With binaries,
early-type stars**

What do we know about binary-star distribution functions?

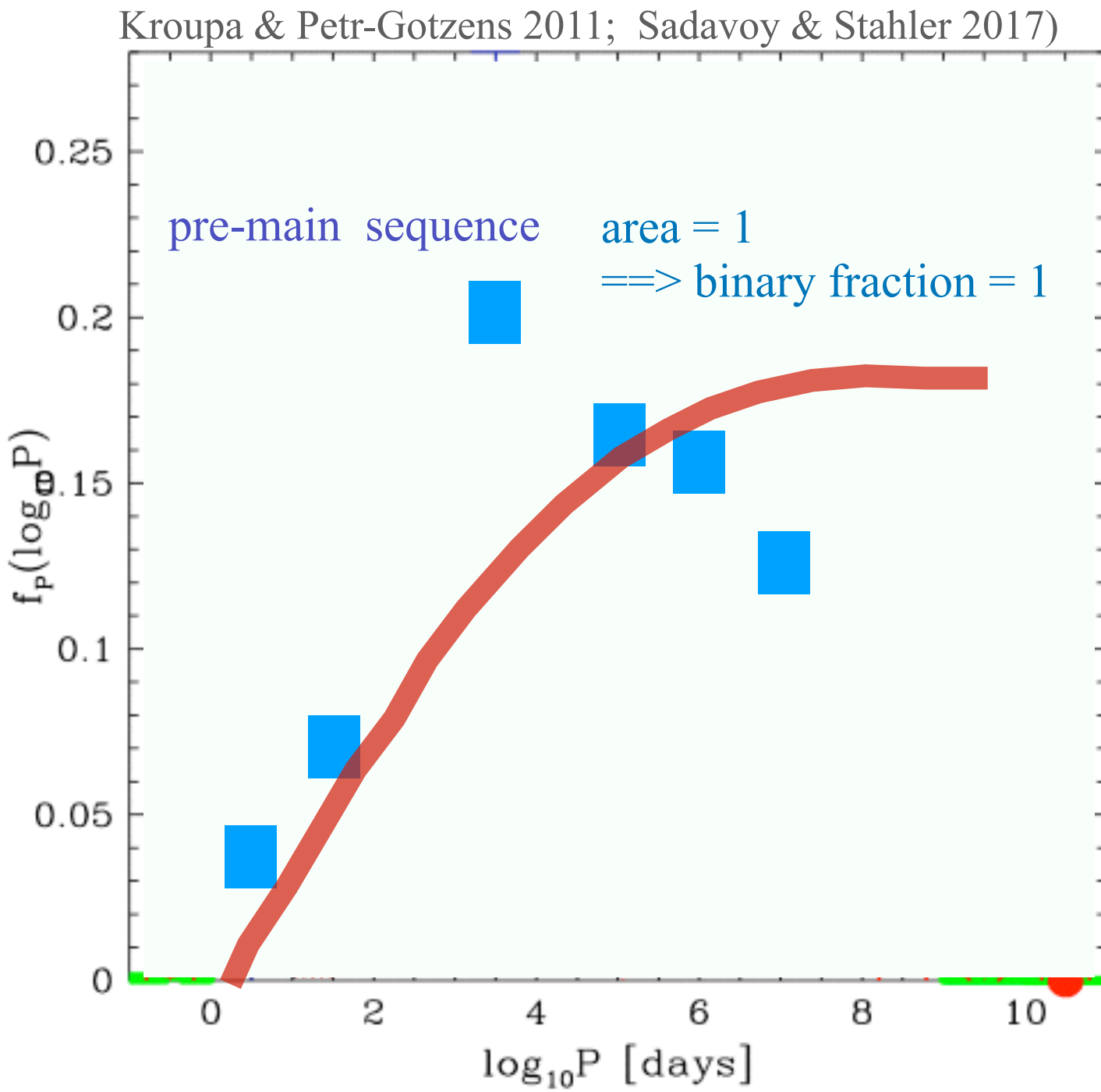
The vast majority of
> 5 Msun stars
are observed to form as binary systems,
perhaps as triples/quadruples

Sana et al. 2012

Chini et al. 2013

Moe & Di Stefano 2017

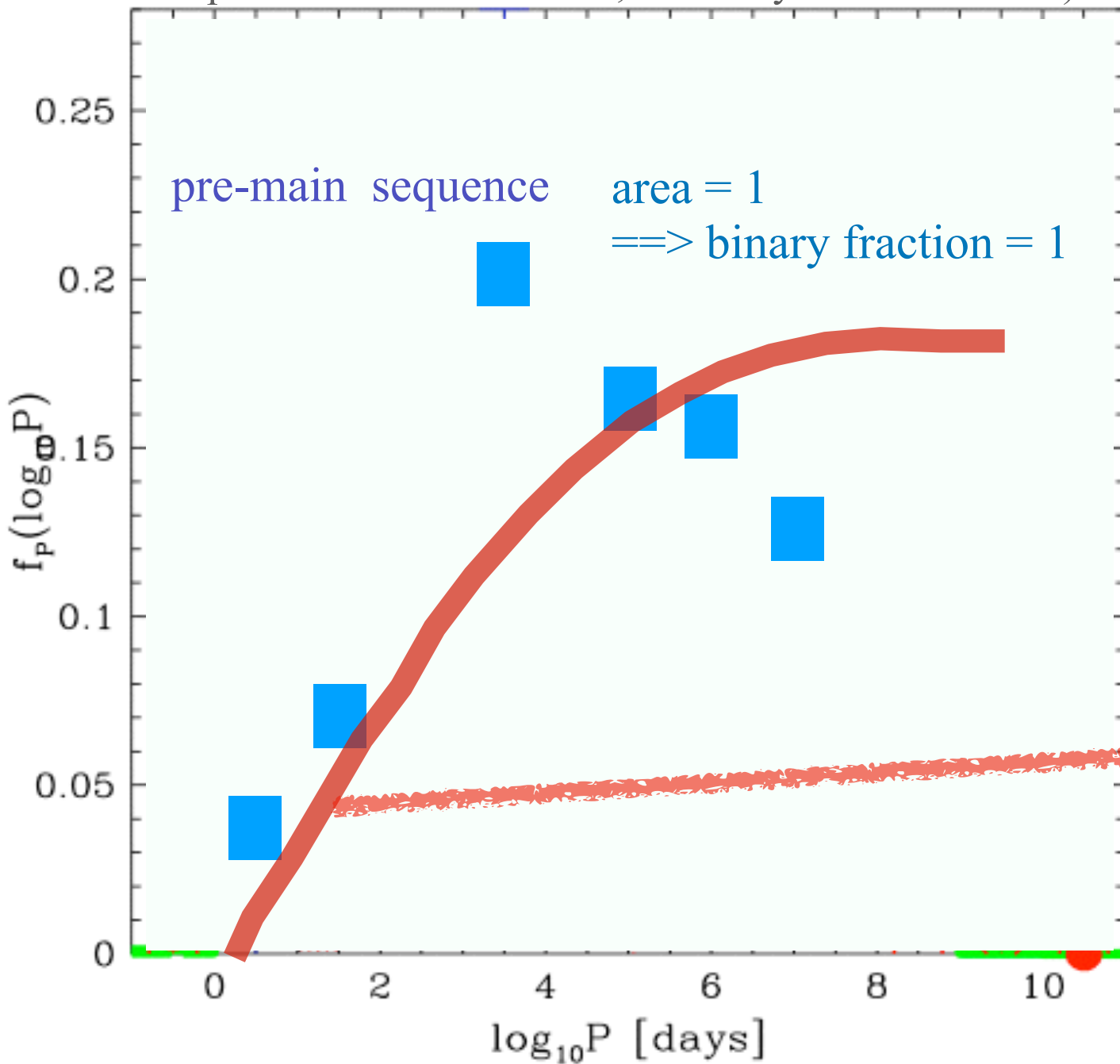
Most < 5 Msun binaries are born wide



Most < 5 Msun binaries are born wide

> 5 Msun binaries are tighter

Kroupa & Petr-Gotzens 2011; Sadavoy & Stahler 2017)



ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 805:92 (18pp), 2015 June 1

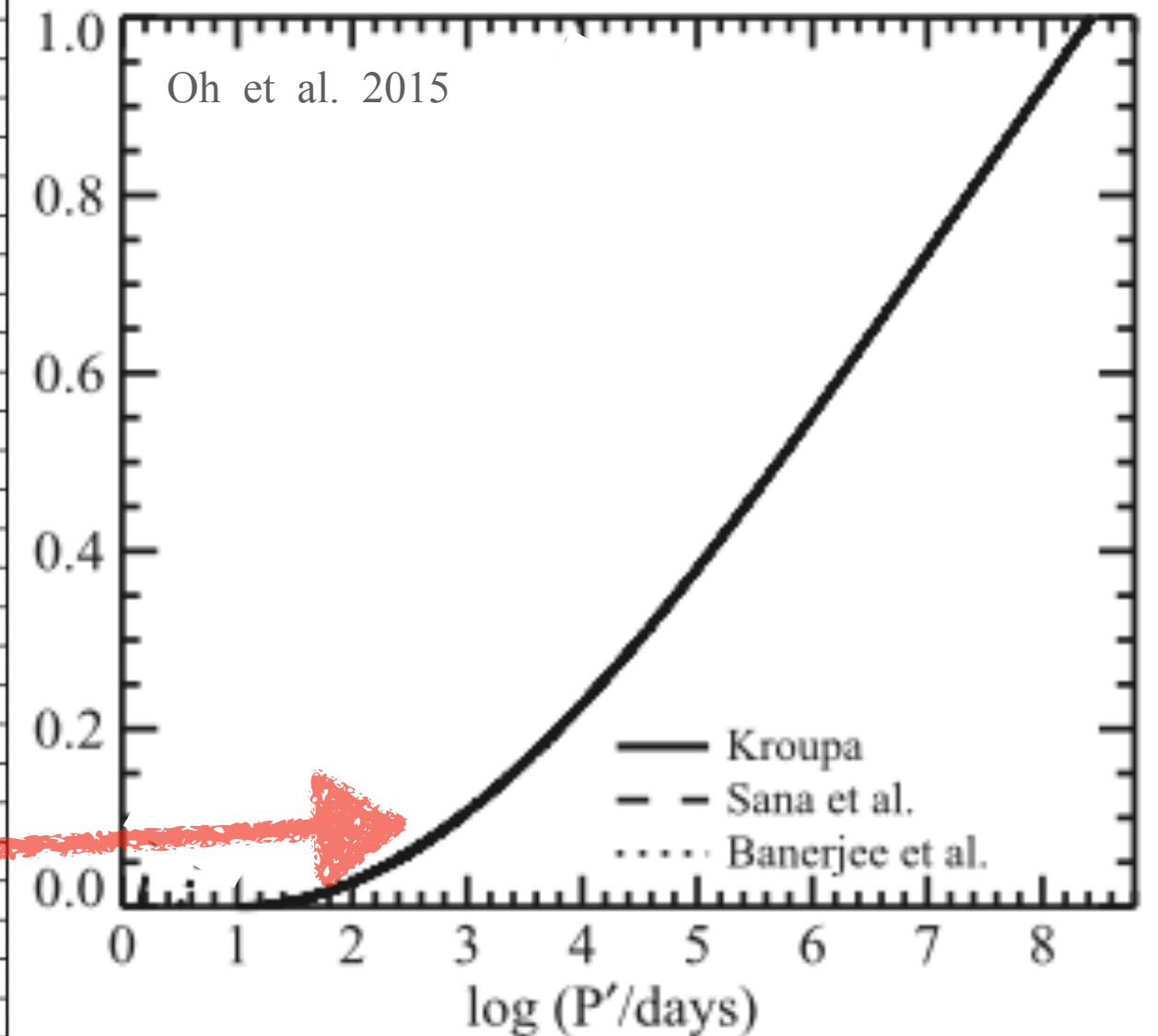
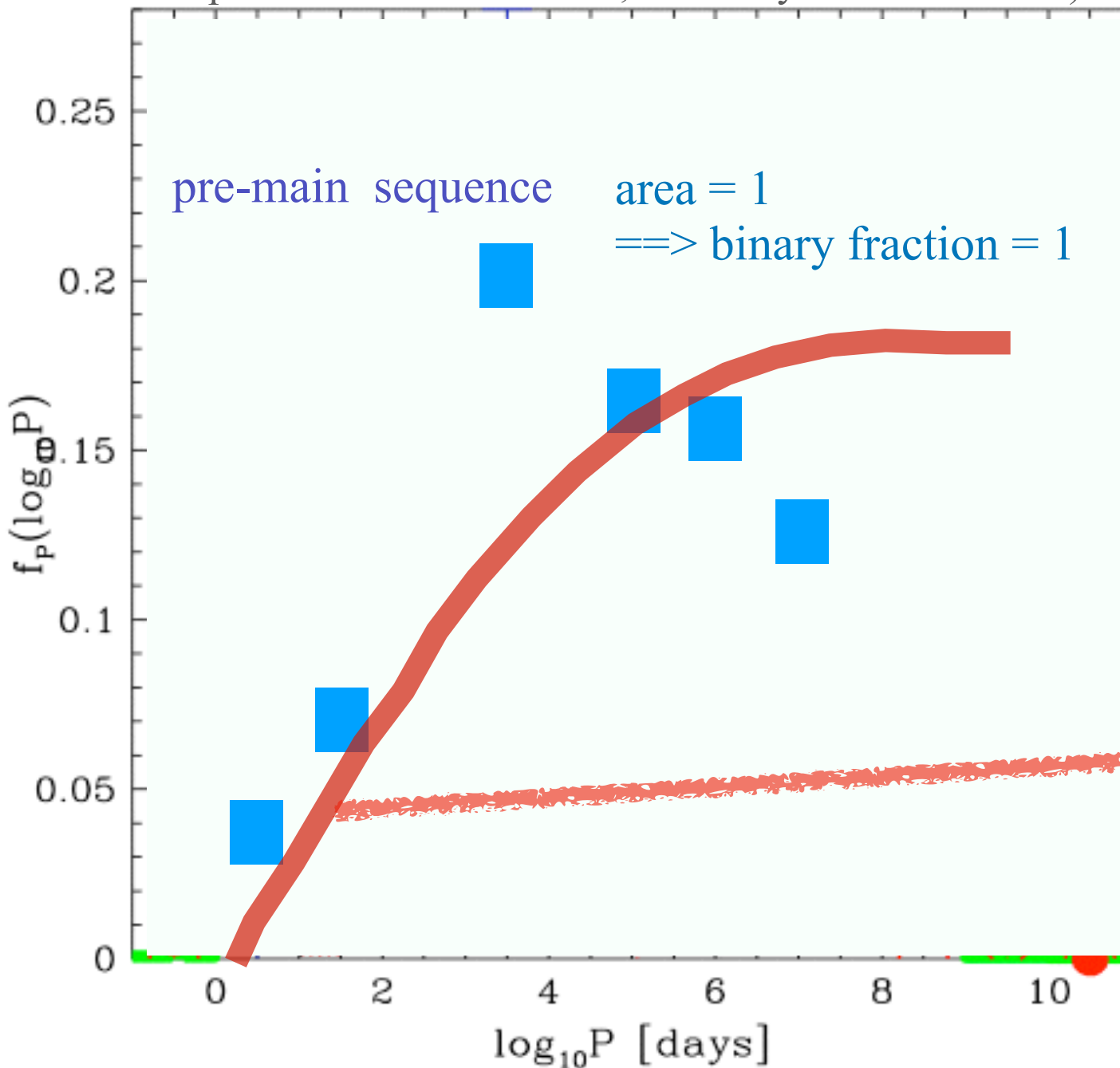


Figure 1. Cumulative binary fraction for $\log_{10} P < \log_{10} P'$ among all O stars. The solid and dashed lines are calculated from the Kroupa (1995b, Equation (2)) and Sana et al. (2012, Equation (3)) period distributions, respectively. The dotted line is a uniform period distribution with a period range of $0.5 < \log_{10}(P/\text{days}) < 4$ used in Banerjee et al. (2012) for O star binaries. For example, 49% of all O stars are binaries with period shorter than 100 days according to the Sana et al. distribution.

Most < 5 Msun binaries are born wide

> 5 Msun binaries are tighter

Kroupa & Petr-Gotzens 2011; Sadavoy & Stahler 2017)



ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 805:92 (18pp), 2015 June 1

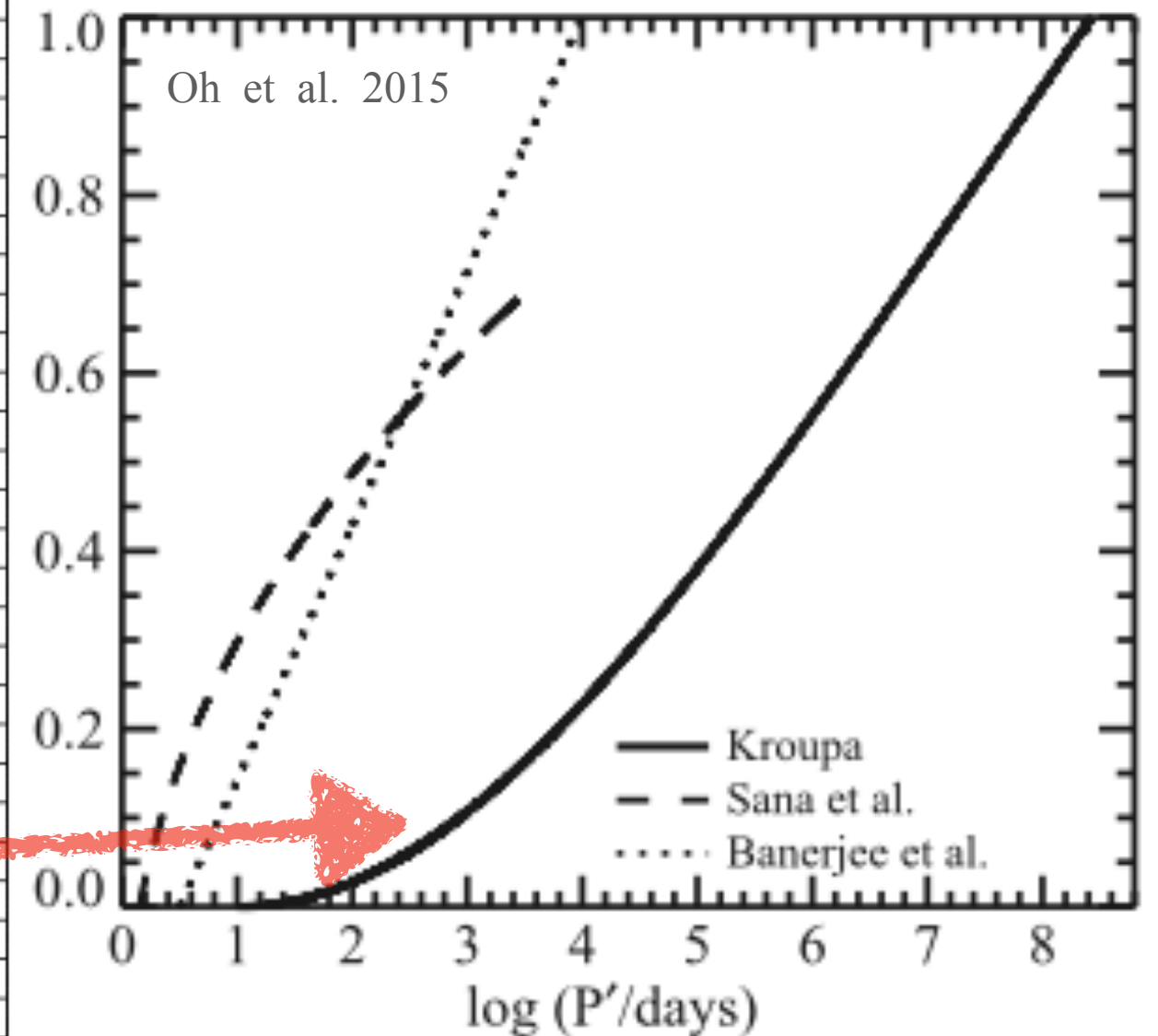
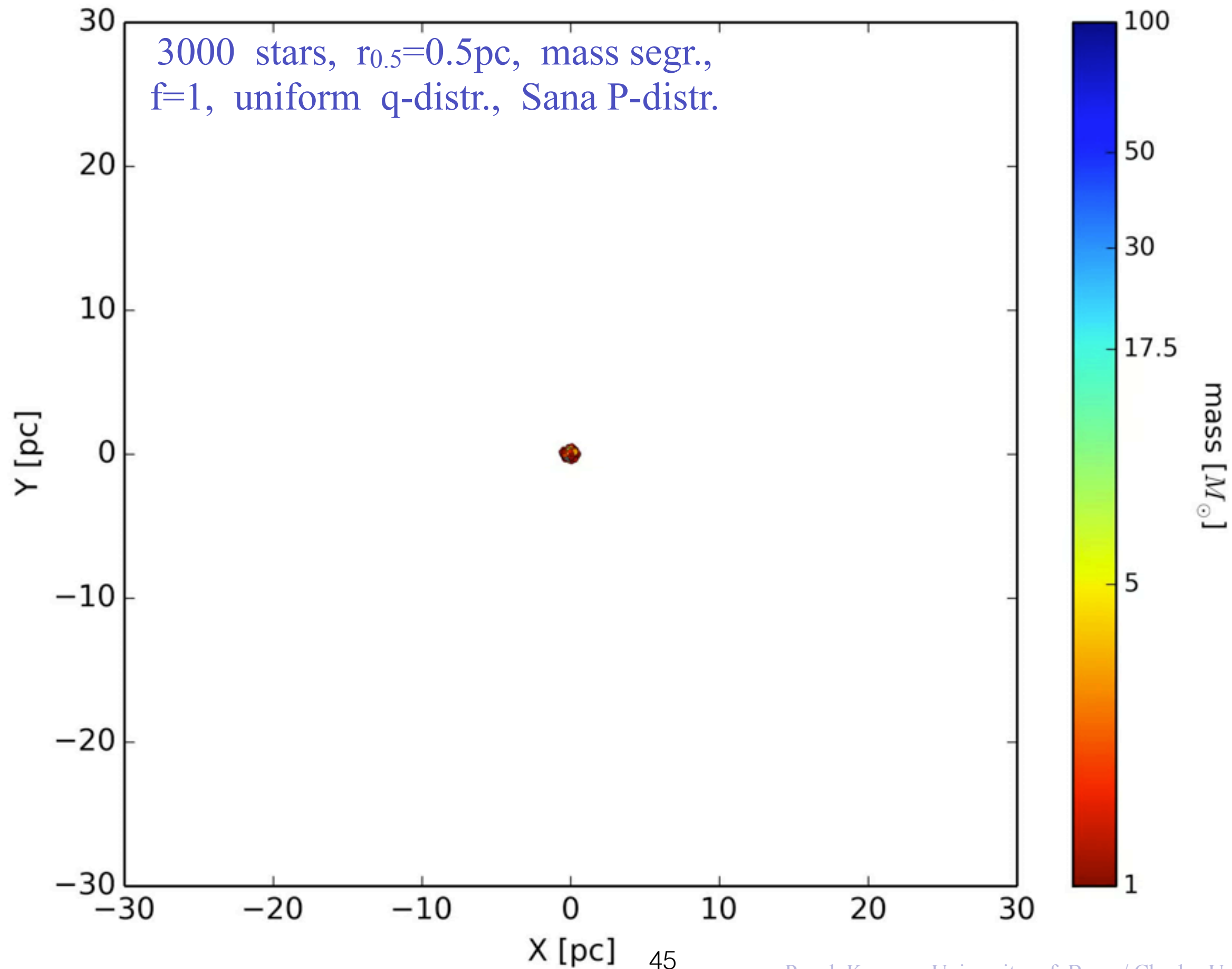


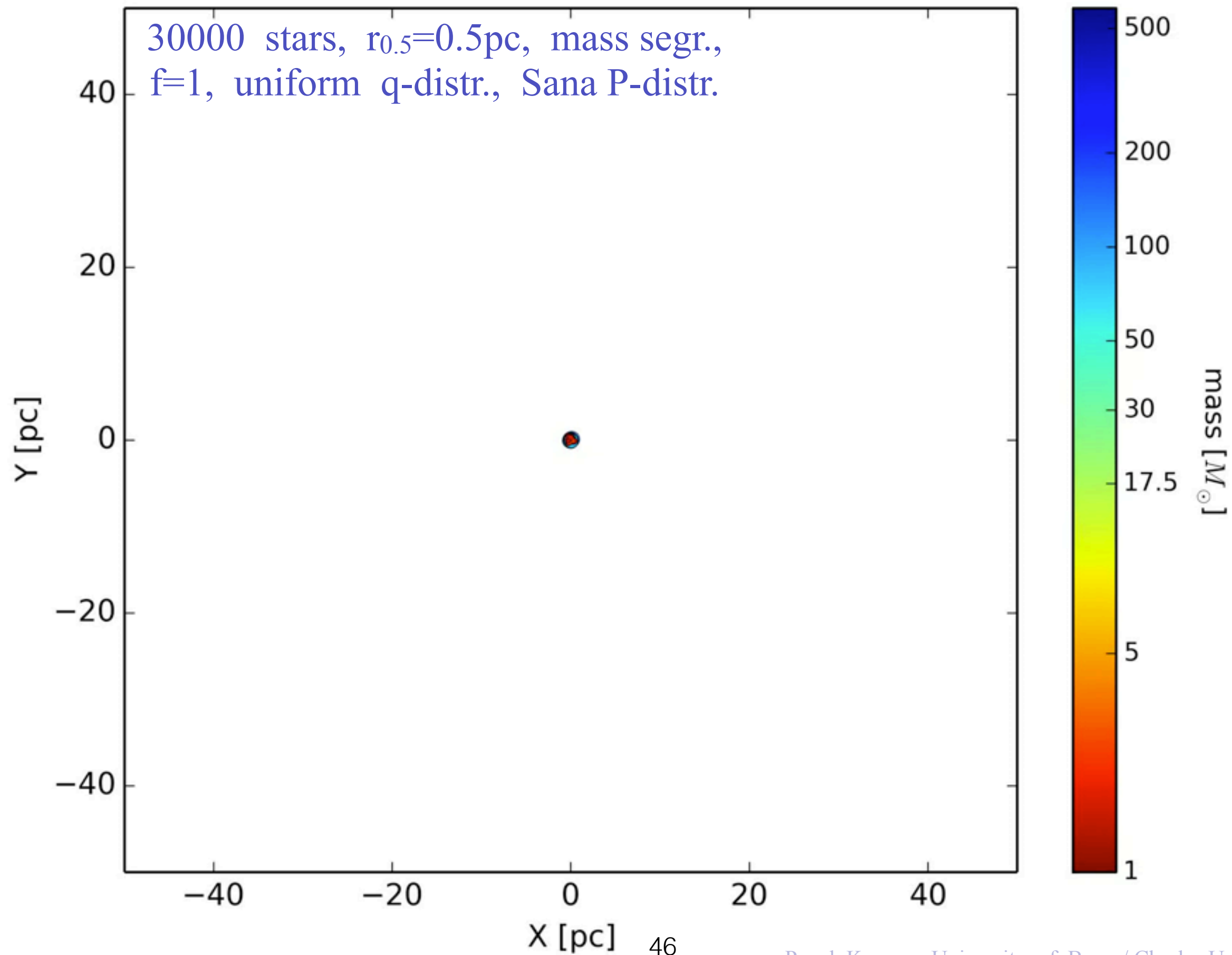
Figure 1. Cumulative binary fraction for $\log_{10} P < \log_{10} P'$ among all O stars. The solid and dashed lines are calculated from the Kroupa (1995b, Equation (2)) and Sana et al. (2012, Equation (3)) period distributions, respectively. The dotted line is a uniform period distribution with a period range of $0.5 < \log_{10}(P/\text{days}) < 4$ used in Banerjee et al. (2012) for O star binaries. For example, 49% of all O stars are binaries with period shorter than 100 days according to the Sana et al. distribution.

Massive stars are either born near
cluster centres or segregate there
on a short (<1 Myr) time-scale

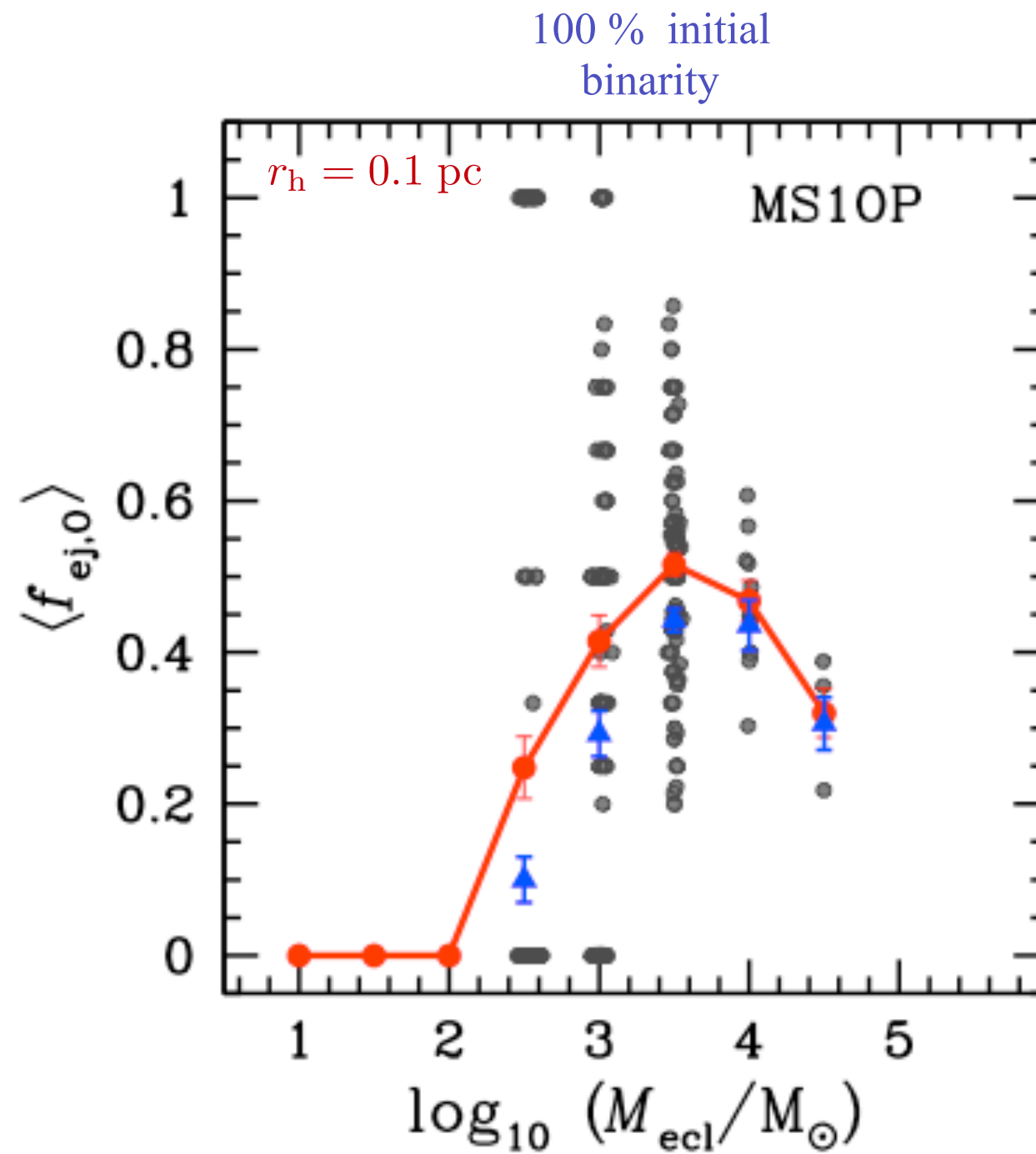
---> significant dynamical activity in the cores
of young clusters

---> papers by Seungkyung Oh ; Sambaran Banerjee
& PK



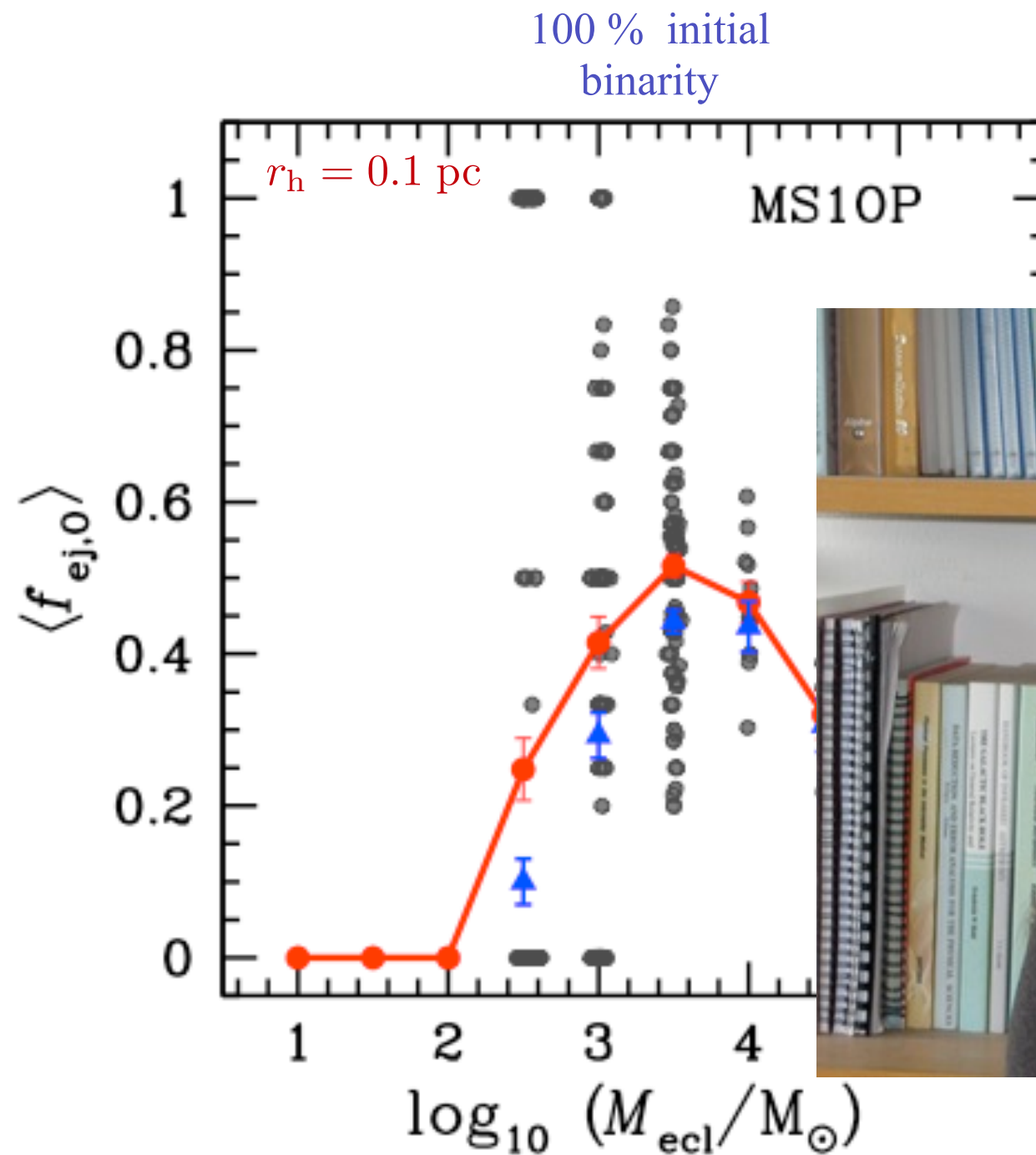


Efficient ejections of O stars (within 3Myr)

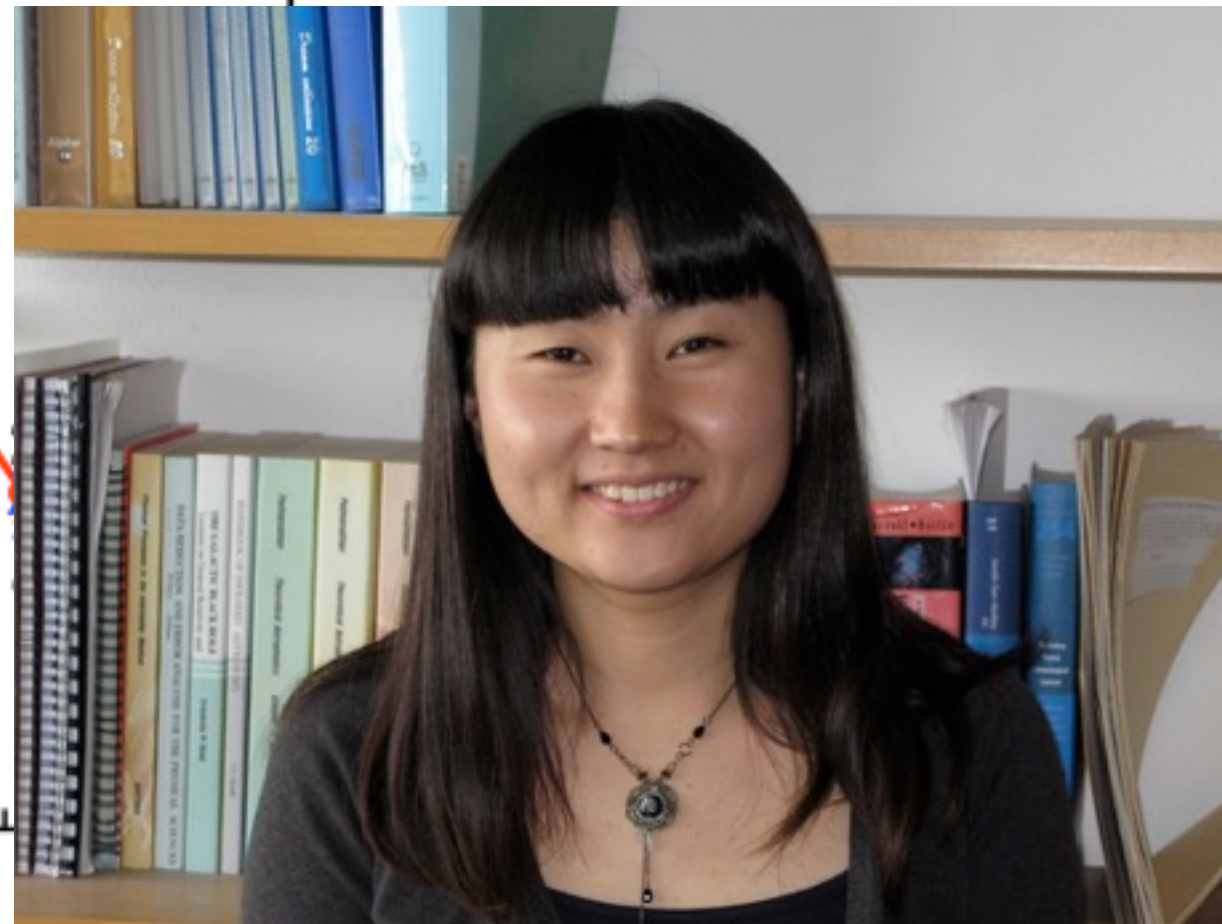


(Oh, Kroupa
& Pflamm-Altenburg
2015)

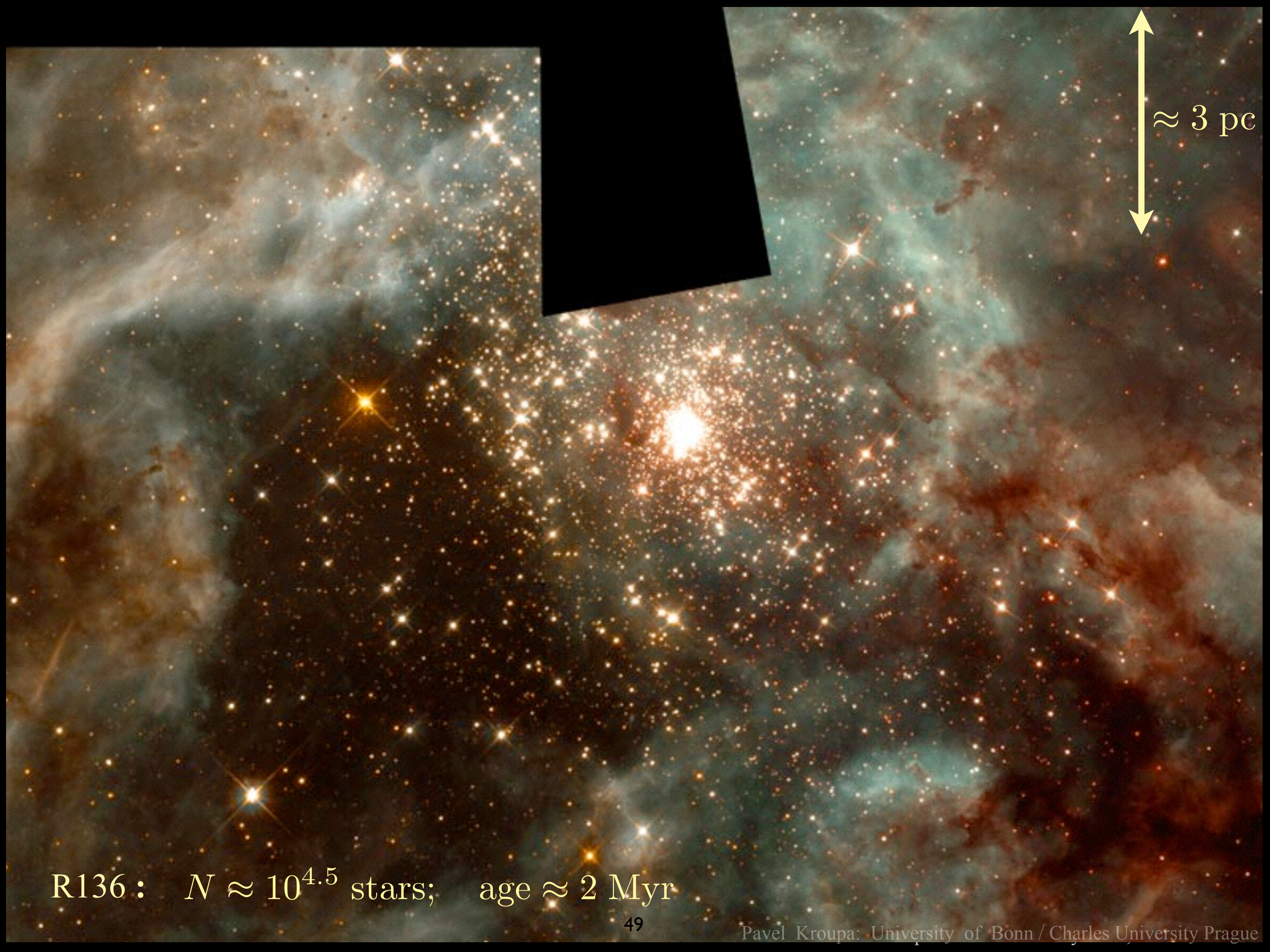
Efficient ejections of O stars (within 3Myr)



(Oh, Kroupa
& Pflamm-Altenburg
2015)



Seungkyung Oh



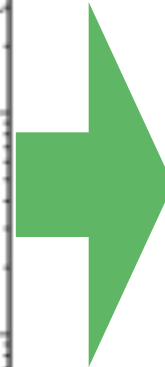
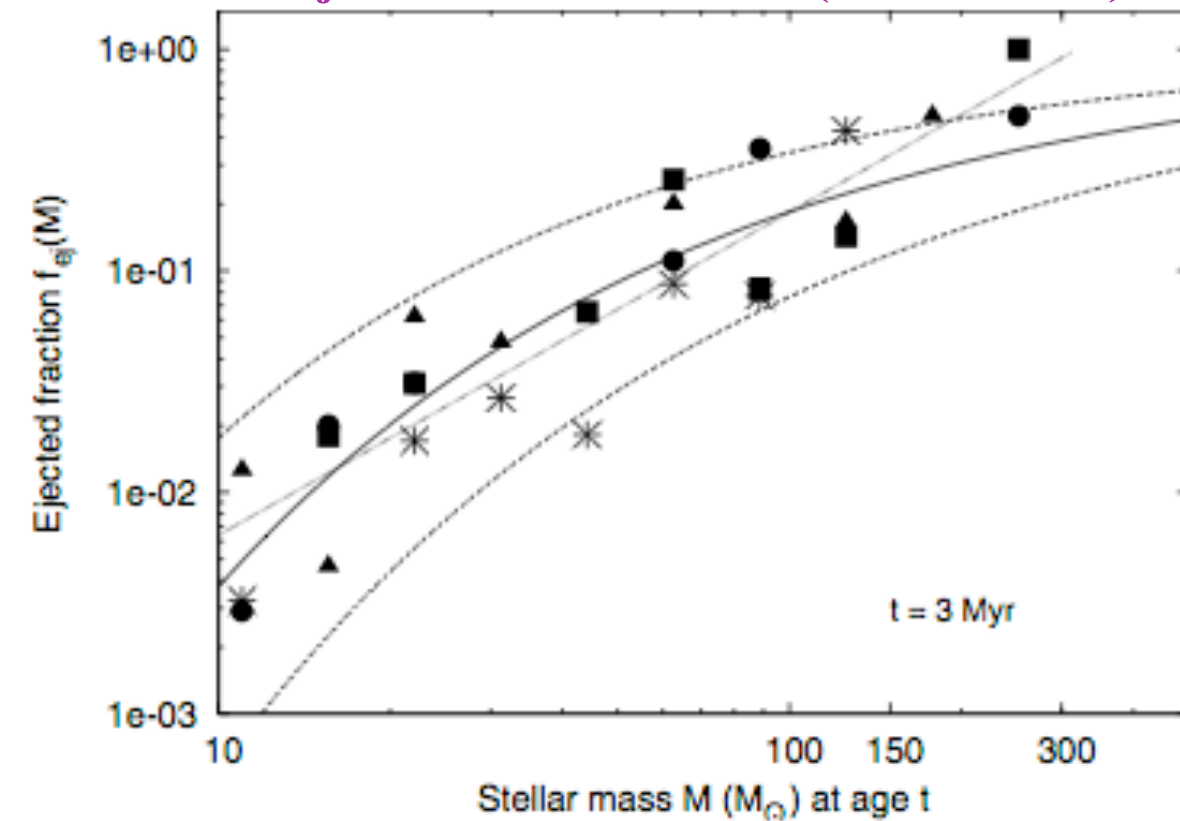
$\approx 3 \text{ pc}$

R136 : $N \approx 10^{4.5}$ stars; age $\approx 2 \text{ Myr}$

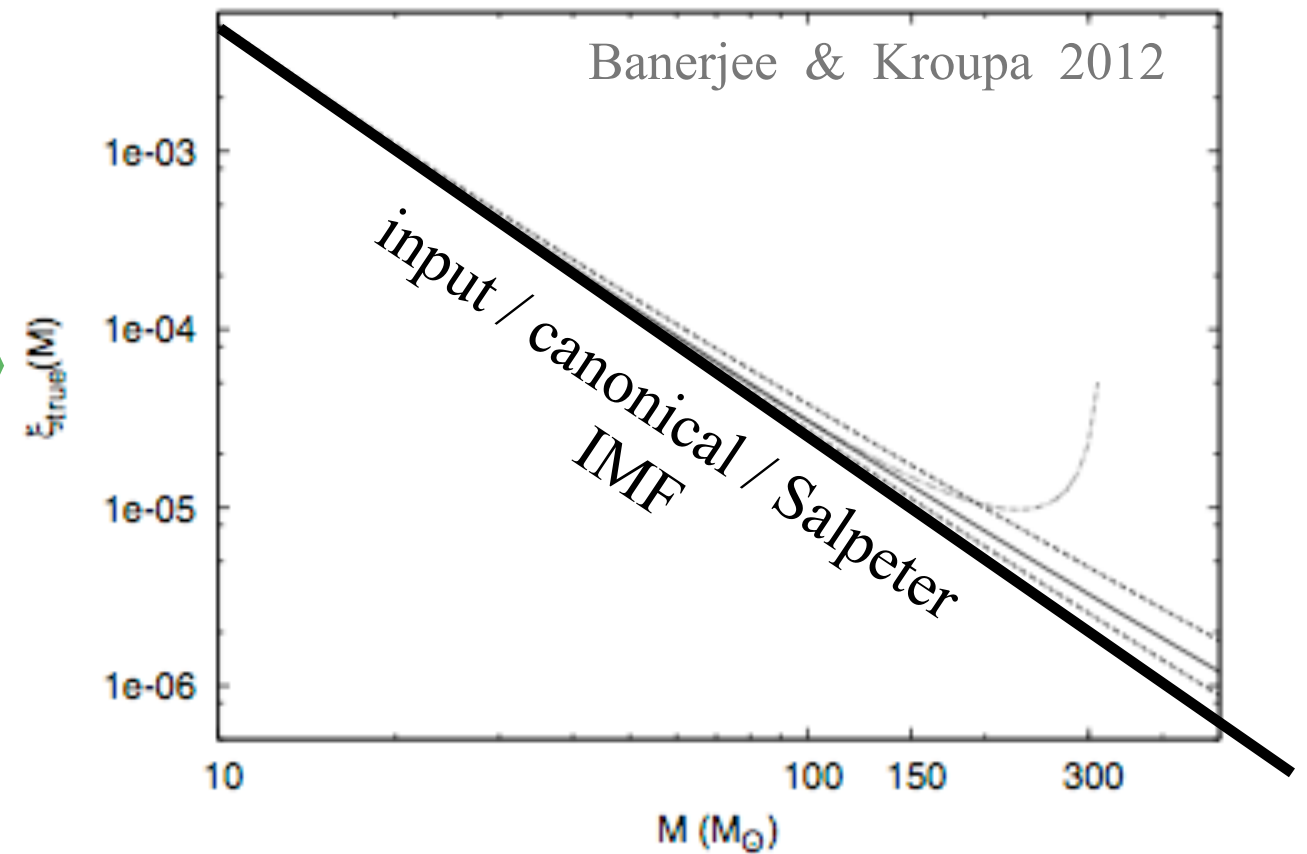
Statistically add ejected massive stars back into the cluster ---> improved IMF estimate

Nbody model of R136

Ejection fraction = $\text{fn}(\text{stellar mass})$



Corrected IMF



IMF becomes top heavy with increasing density

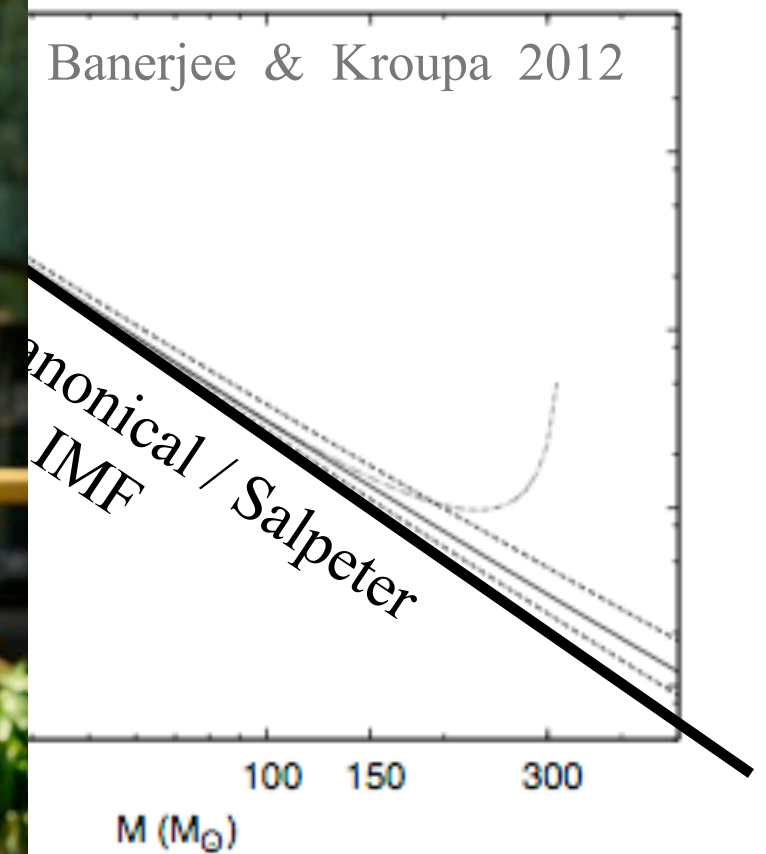
Statistically add ejected massive stars back into the cluster ---> improved IMF estimate

IMF becomes top heavy with increasing density :



corrected IMF

Banerjee & Kroupa 2012



Sambaran Banerjee + Sverre's code

Random sampling in mass ranges :

0.1 -- 5 Msun and separately

5 - 150 Msun

Random sampling in mass ranges :

0.1 -- 5 Msun and separately
5 - 150 Msun

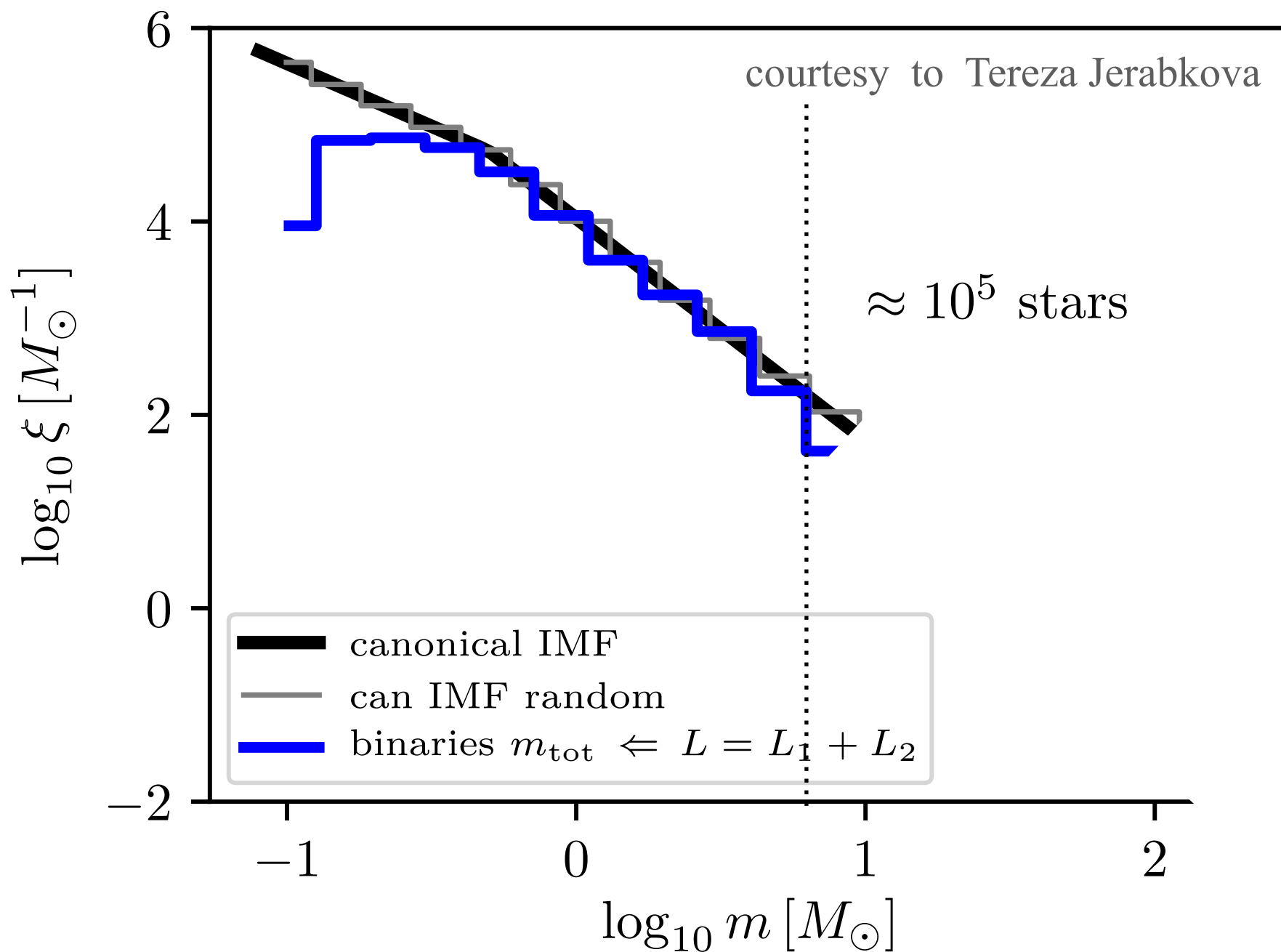
Salaris, Mauricio & Cassi (2005)
Duric & Nebojsa (2004)

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx .23 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{2.3} \quad (M < .43 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} = \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^4 \quad (.43 M_{\odot} < M < 2 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 1.5 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{3.5} \quad (2 M_{\odot} < M < 20 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 3200 \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \quad (M > 20 M_{\odot})$$



Random sampling in mass ranges :

0.1 -- 5 Msun and separately
5 - 150 Msun

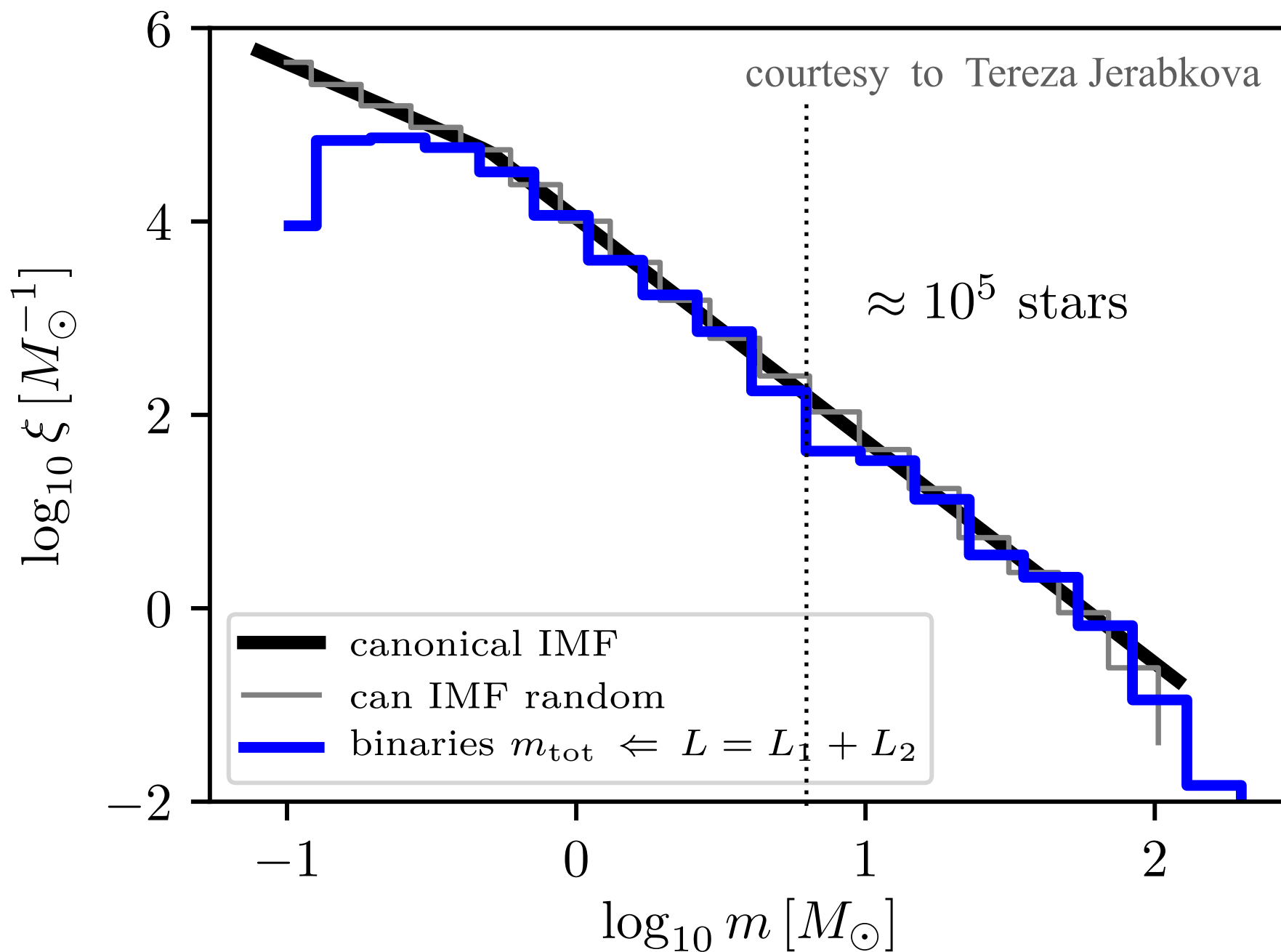
Salaris, Mauricio & Cassi (2005)
Duric & Nebojsa (2004)

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx .23 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{2.3} \quad (M < .43 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} = \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^4 \quad (.43 M_{\odot} < M < 2 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 1.5 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{3.5} \quad (2 M_{\odot} < M < 20 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 3200 \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \quad (M > 20 M_{\odot})$$



Random sampling in mass ranges :

0.1 -- 5 Msun and separately
5 - 150 Msun

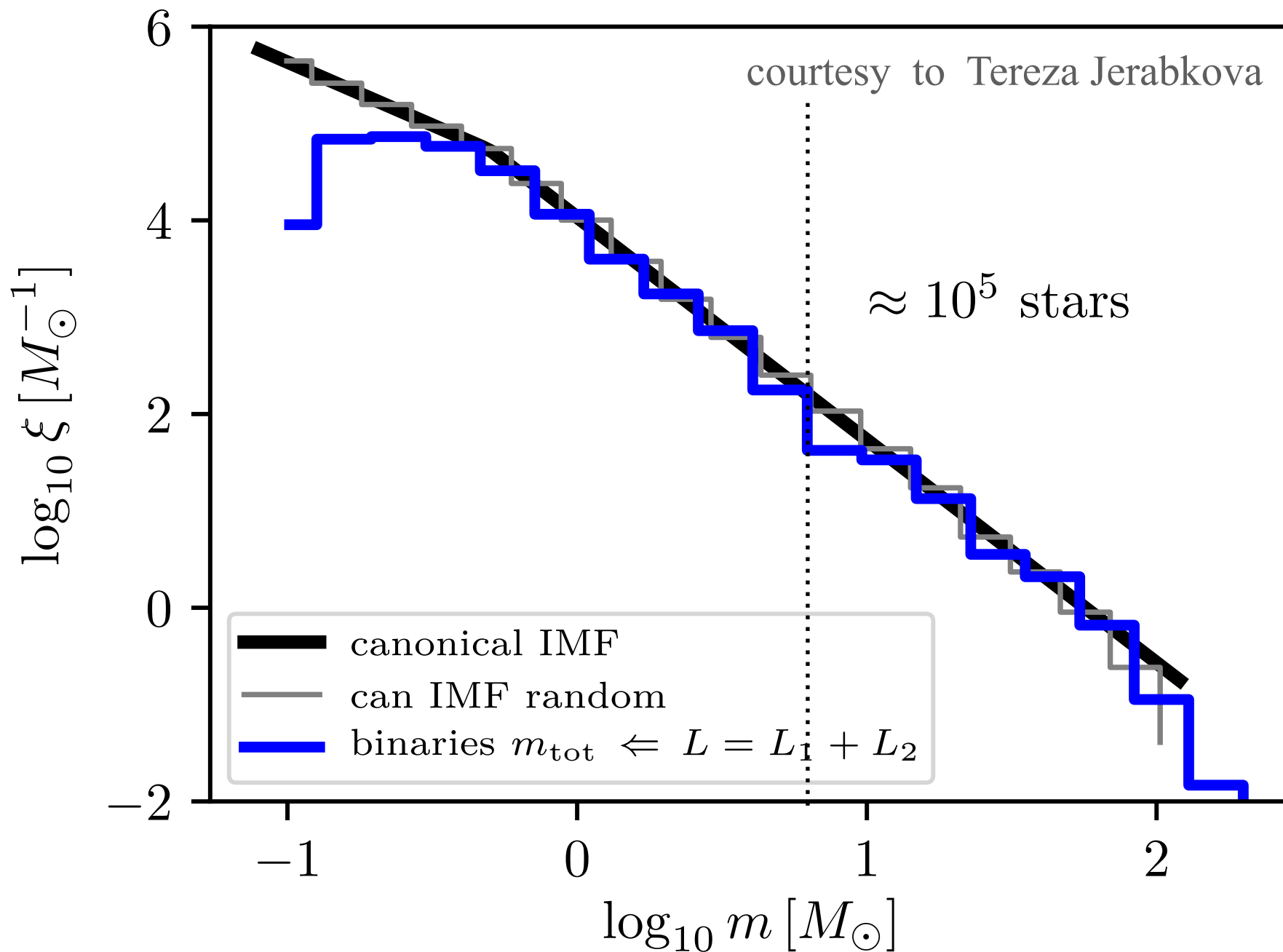
Salaris, Mauricio & Cassi (2005)
Duric & Nebojsa (2004)

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx .23 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{2.3} \quad (M < .43 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} = \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^4 \quad (.43 M_{\odot} < M < 2 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 1.5 \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{3.5} \quad (2 M_{\odot} < M < 20 M_{\odot})$$

$$\frac{L}{L_{\odot}} \approx 3200 \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \quad (M > 20 M_{\odot})$$



Unresolved binaries have a negligible effect in mass range 1-80 Msun

significantly flatter unresolved IMF below 1 Msun

significantly steeper unresolved IMF above 80 Msun

Stellar mass loss moves stars in the present-day MF
towards smaller masses;

mass gain (mergers, overflow from companion) move stars
to larger masses;

unresolved binaries remove stars (unseen companions)
moving the system to larger mass;

dynamical ejections remove stars from population

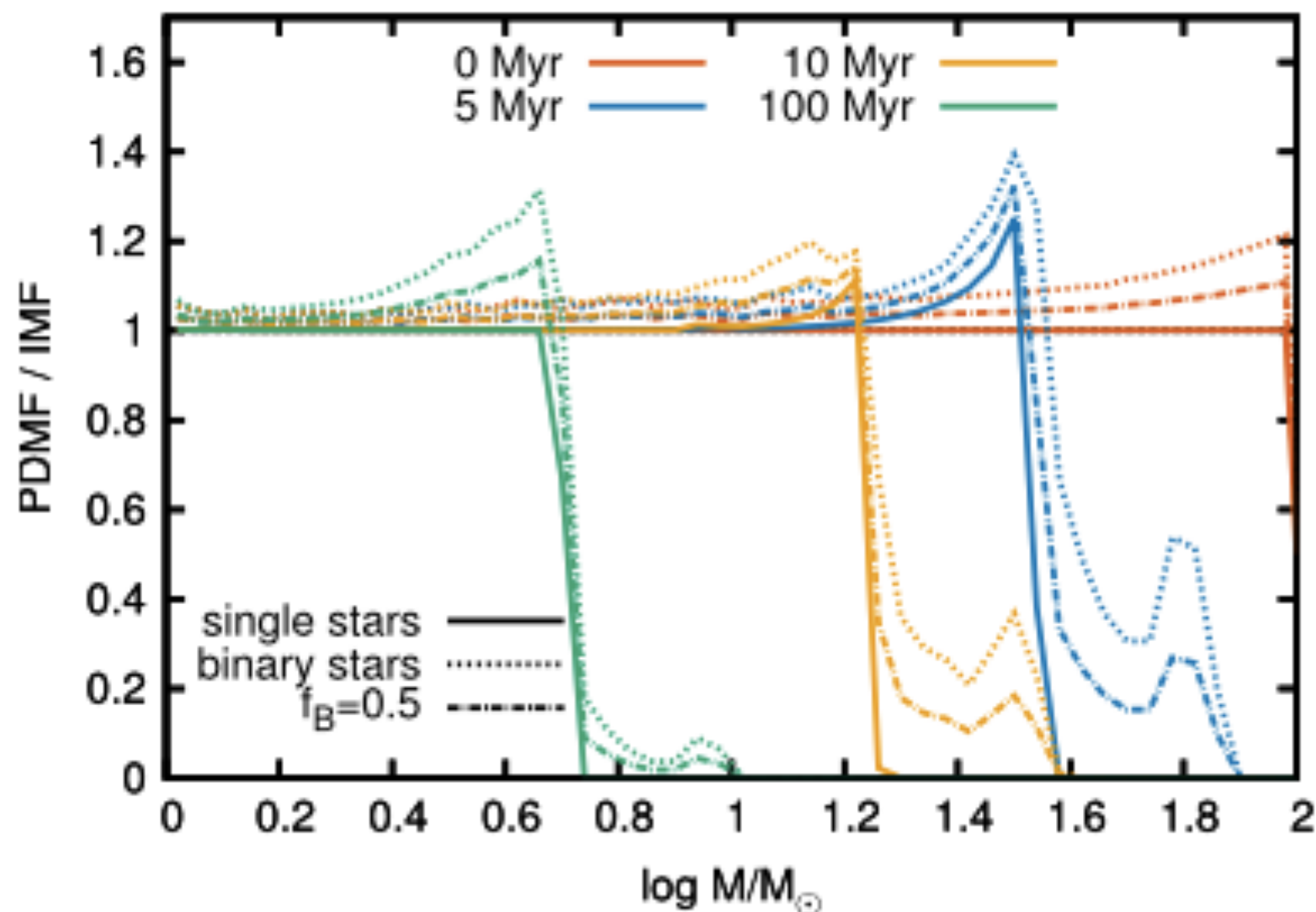
---> high-mass end of the IMF is difficult

see also e.g. De Donder & VanBeveren (2003) and Zapartas, de Mink et al. (2017)

Weidner et al. (2009): detailed study of massive unresolved binaries / triples / quadruples, the IMF and stellar evolution
 ---> apparent age spreads in young clusters and IMF shape not much affected.

Schneider, Izzard et al. (2015)

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 805:20 (20pp), 2015 May 20



"We have shown above that stellar wind-mass loss, binary products, and unresolved binaries re-shape the high-mass end of mass functions, which may complicate IMF determinations."

see also seminal work by
 Scalo (1986);
 Massey (2003, ARA&A)

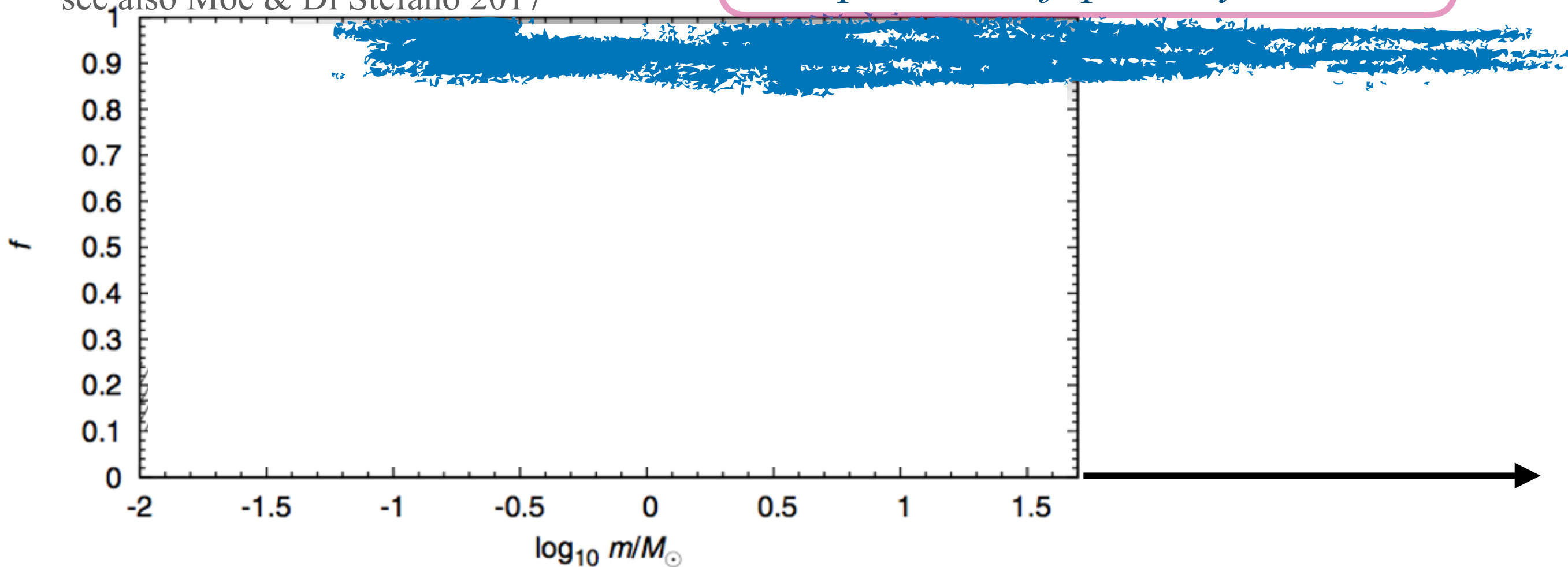
Brown Dwarfs

Binaries provide the clue to their origin

The binary fraction in dependence of primary mass

Thies et al. 2015, ApJ
see also Moe & Di Stefano 2017

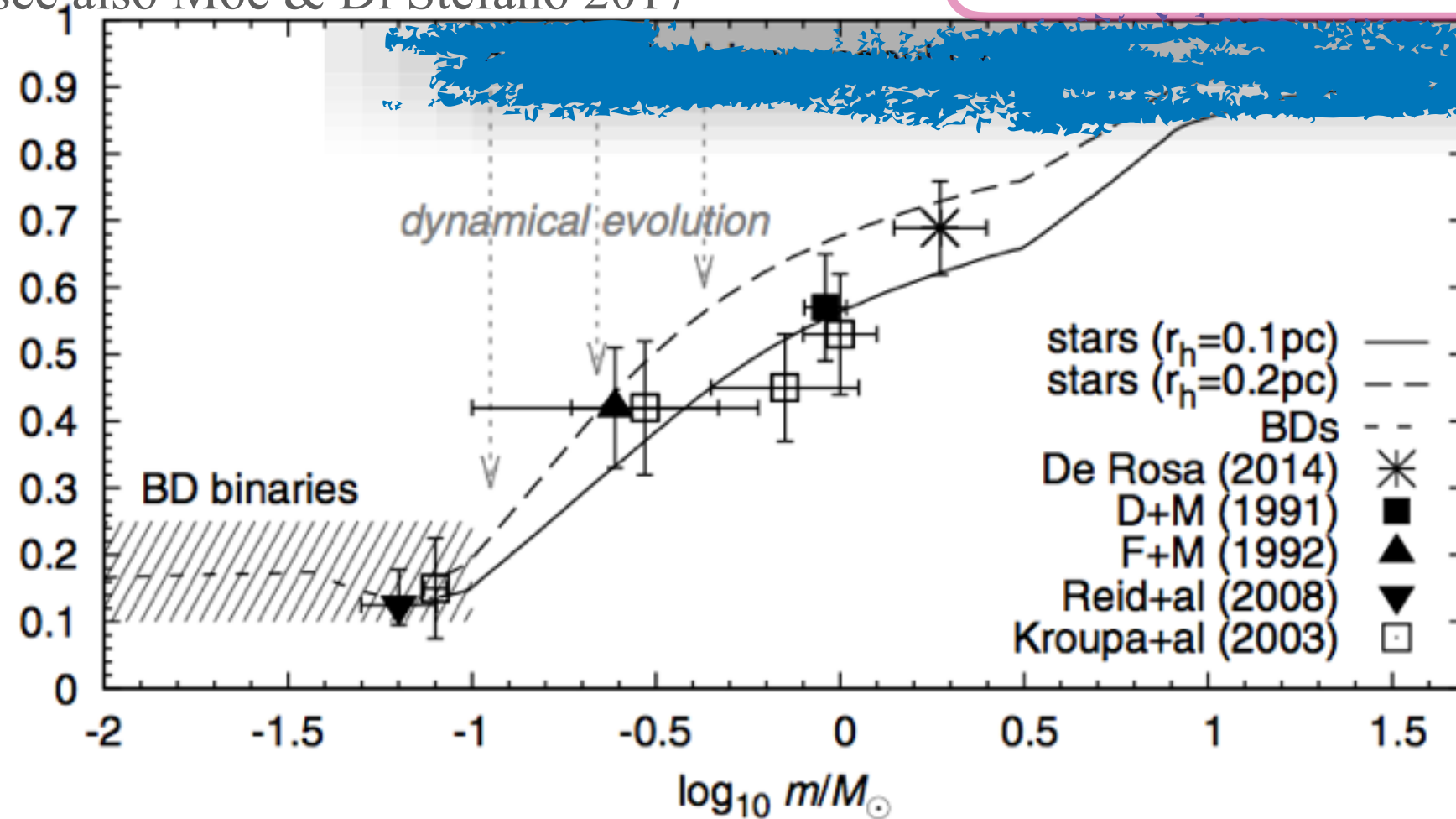
initial (<1Myr) binary fraction is
independent of primary mass !!



The binary fraction in dependence of primary mass

Thies et al. 2015, ApJ
see also Moe & Di Stefano 2017

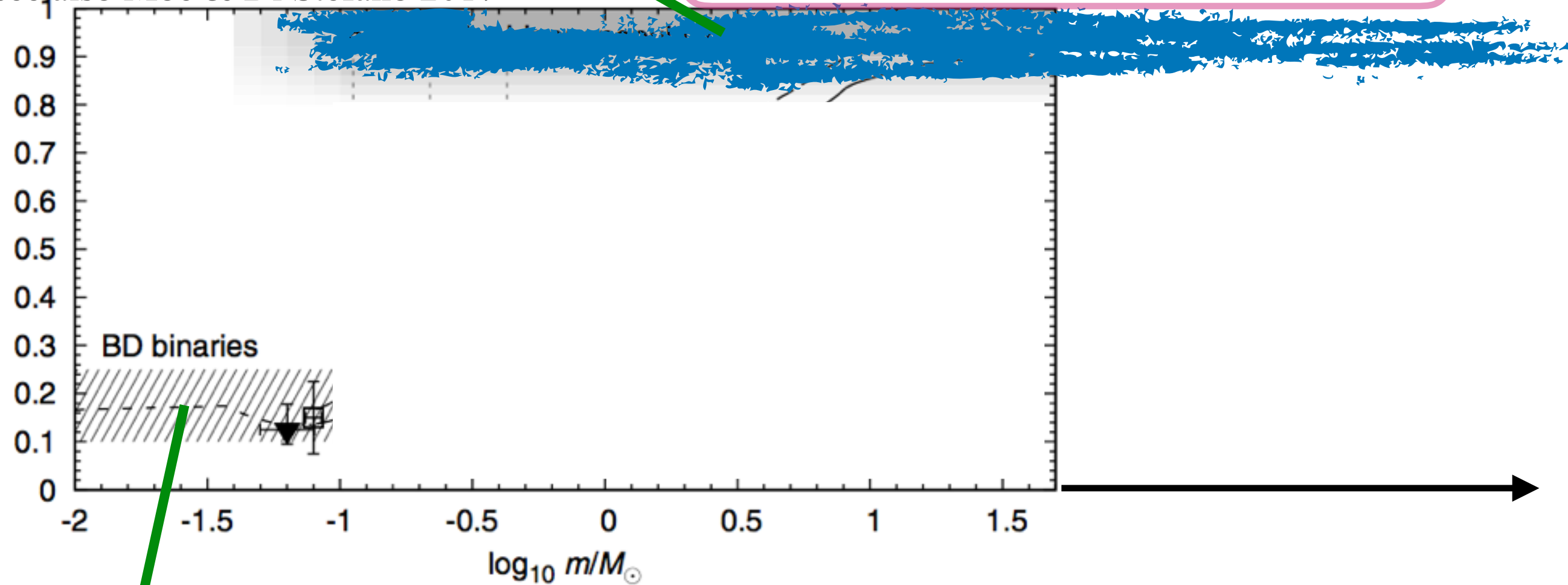
initial (<1Myr) binary fraction is
independent of primary mass !!



Primary fragmentation \Rightarrow high binary fraction due to angular momentum conservation

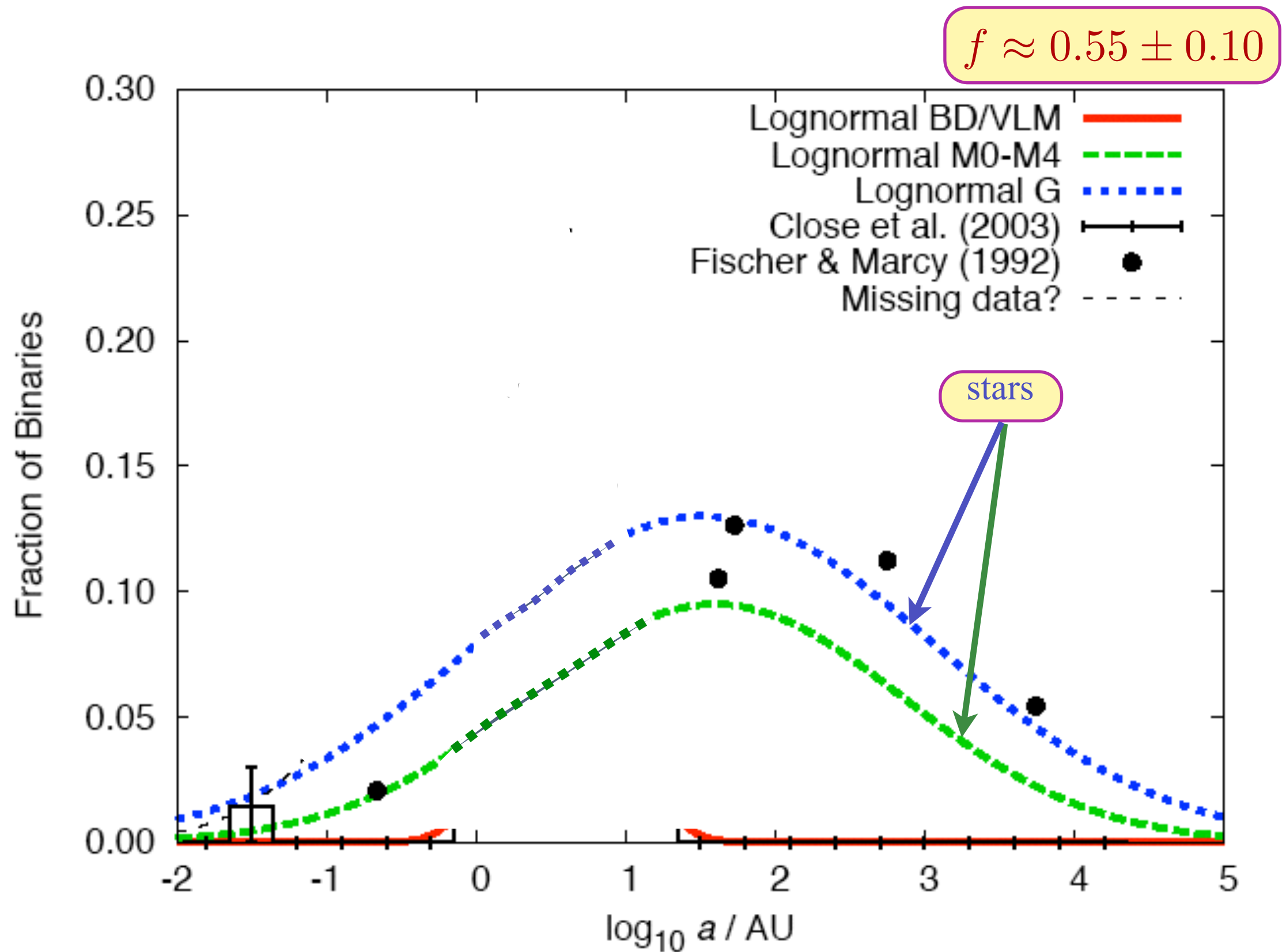
Thies et al. 2015, ApJ
see also Moe & Di Stefano 2017

initial ($<1\text{Myr}$) binary fraction is
independent of primary mass !!

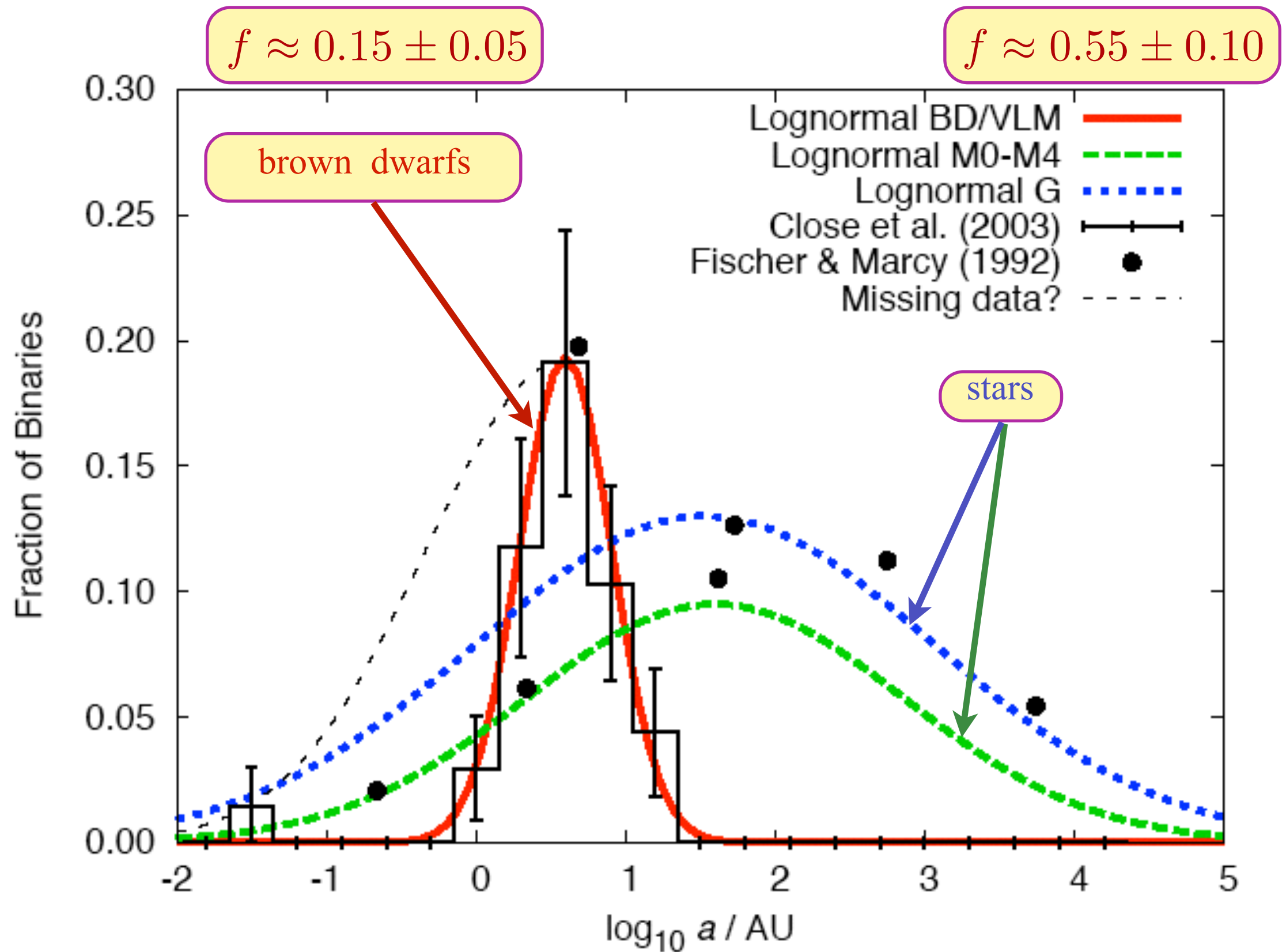


Peripheral fragmentation \Rightarrow low binary fraction due to chance pairing in circumstellar accretion discs

The semi-major axis distributions of BDs and stars differ :



The semi-major axis distributions of BDs and stars differ :

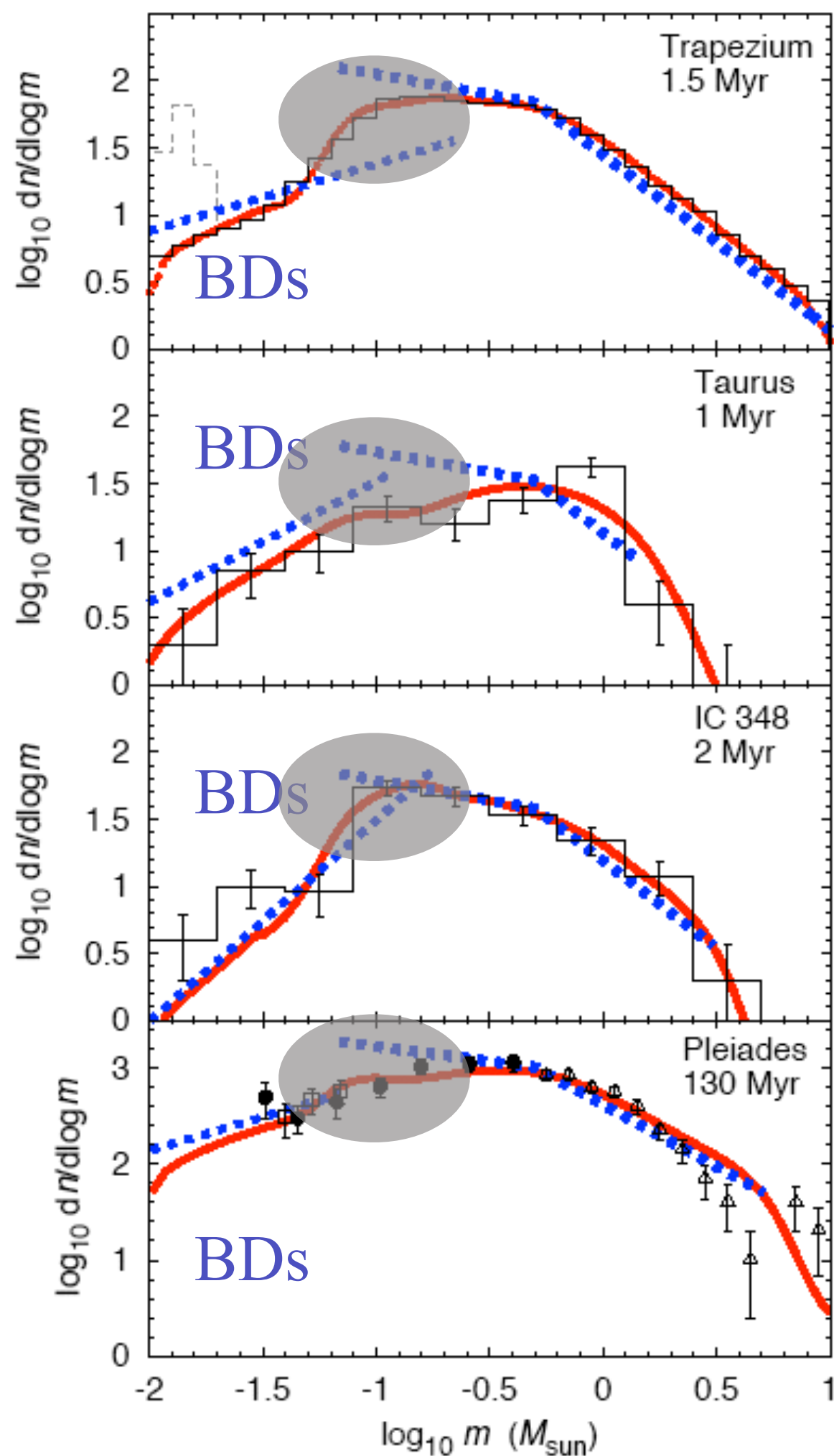


**... this implies that BDs and stars
are
different populations;
they have a
*different dynamical history !***

see also Riaz et al. (2012);
Dieterich et al. (2012)
Thies et al (2015)
Marks et al. (2015, 2017)

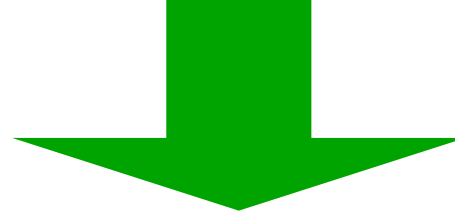
Correcting the observed IMF for unresolved components

(Thies & Kroupa 2007, 2008)



Conclusions

---> The data suggest :



2-part power-law canonical stellar IMF
+ separate BD IMF + separate Planet IMF

$\log dN/d\log(m)$

$$\xi(m) \propto m^{-\alpha_i}$$

$$\alpha_1 = 1.3$$

$$\alpha_2 = 2.3$$

$$\alpha_{3,\text{Massey}} = 2.3$$

BDs

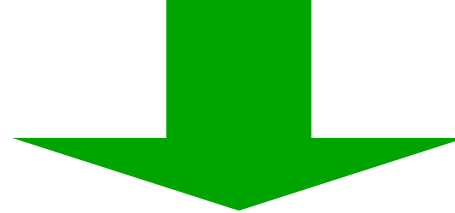
M stars

G stars

O stars

0

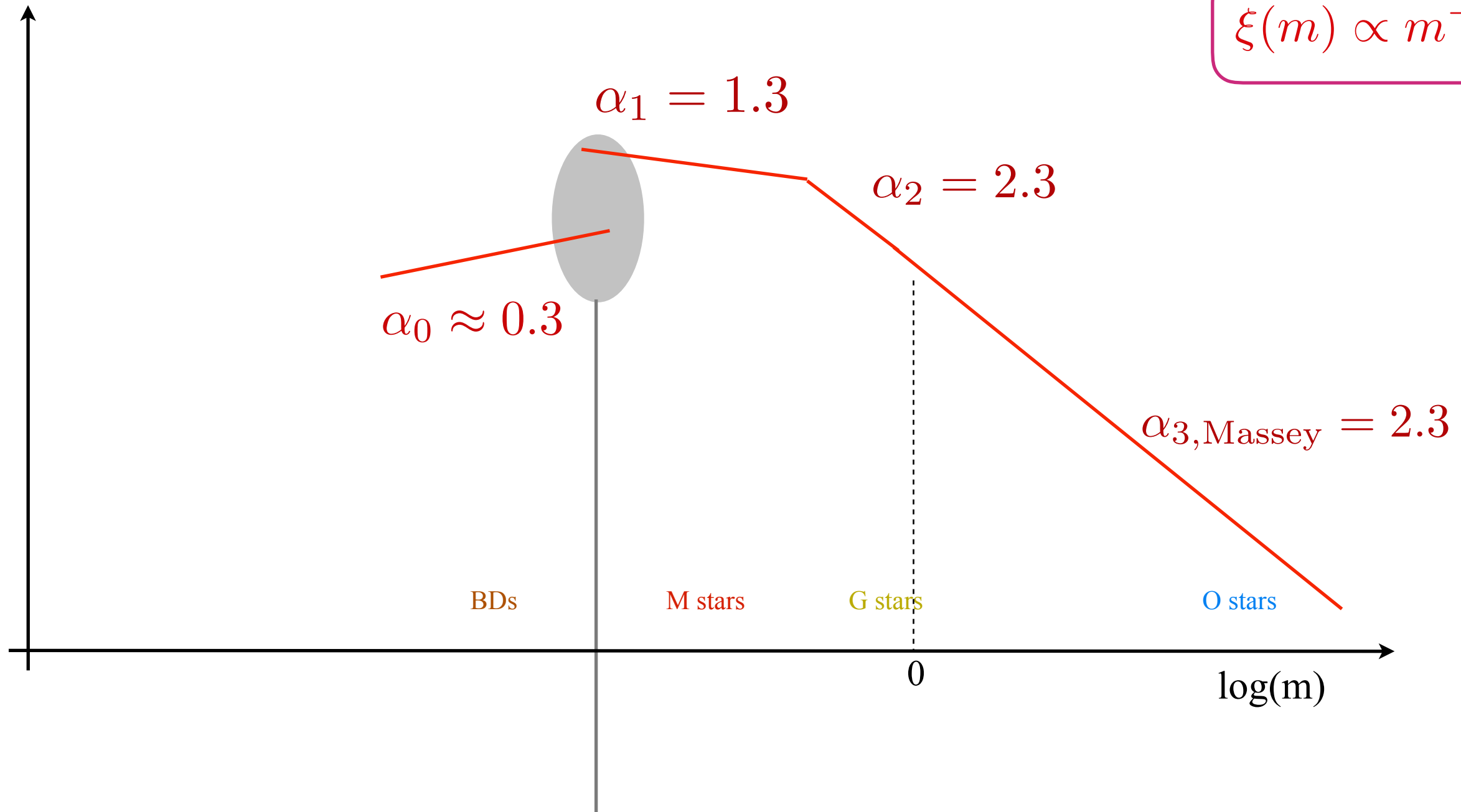
$\log(m)$



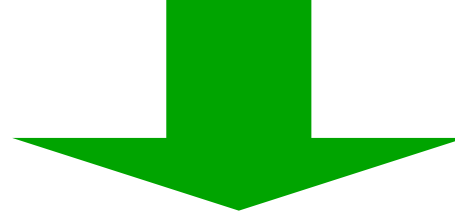
2-part power-law canonical stellar IMF
+ separate BD IMF + separate Planet IMF

$\log dN/d\log(m)$

$$\xi(m) \propto m^{-\alpha_i}$$

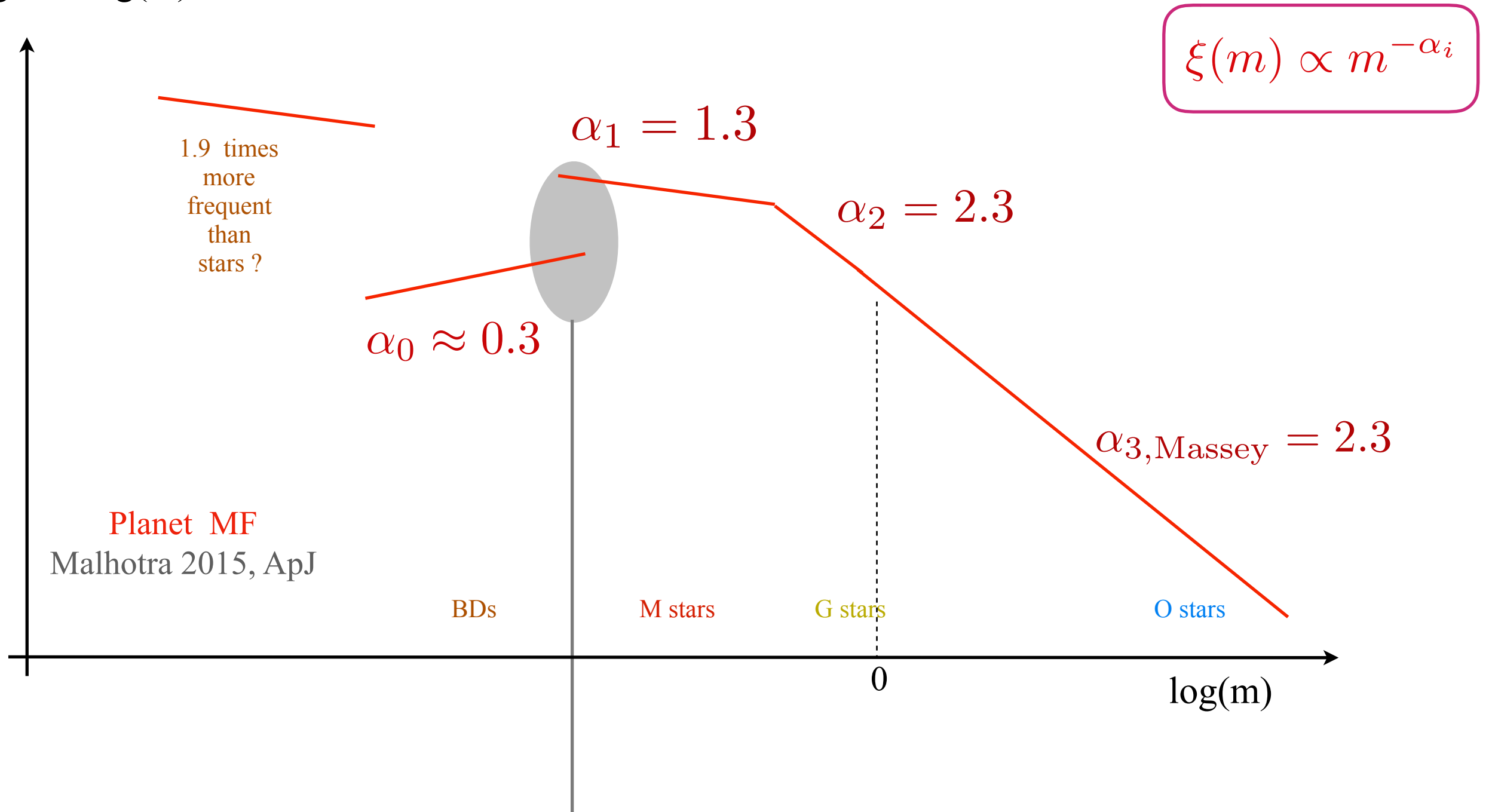


BD IMF : Thies & Kroupa (2007, 2008), Parker & Goodwin (2010)



2-part power-law canonical stellar IMF + separate BD IMF + separate Planet IMF

$\log dN/d\log(m)$



BD IMF : Thies & Kroupa (2007, 2008), Parker & Goodwin (2010)

What the observations suggest :

Globular clusters : deficit of low-mass stars increases with decreasing concentration

→ disagrees with dynamical evolution

UCDs : higher dynamical M/L ratios

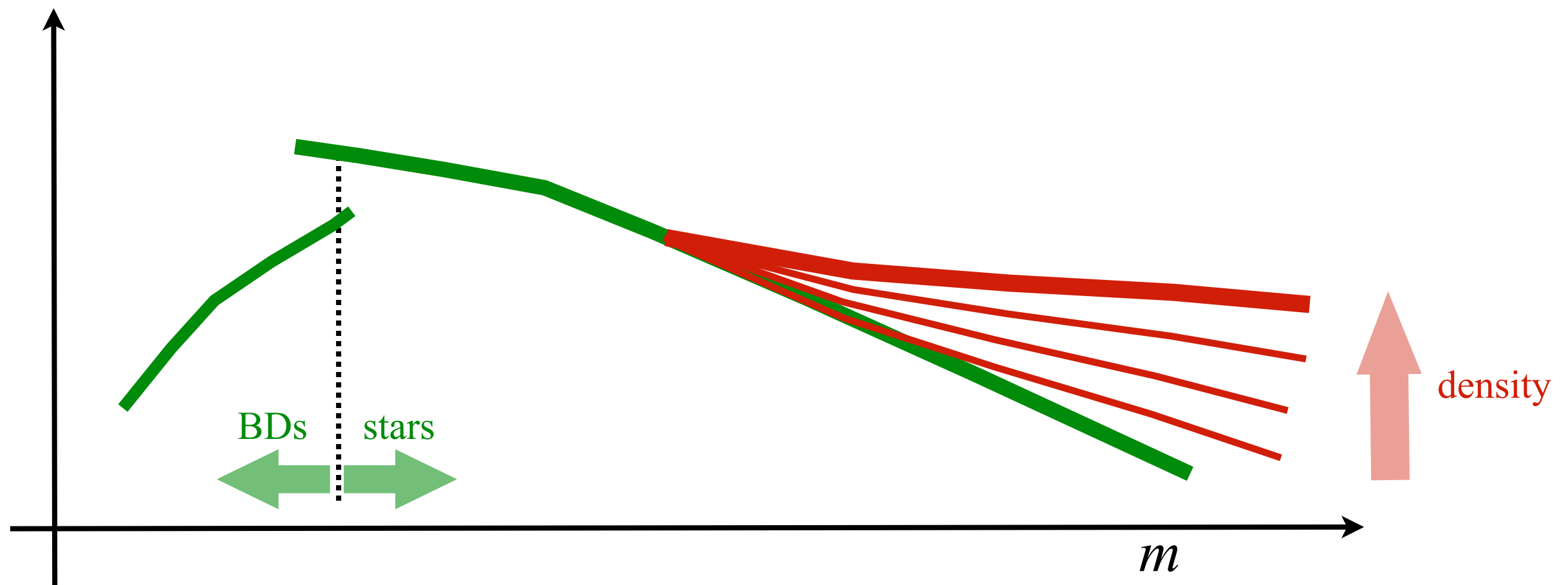
→ cannot be exotic dark matter

UCDs : larger fraction of X-ray sources than expected

→ no explanation other than many remnants

Dabringhausen et al., Marks et al. 2012

What this implies :



Using for $m < 1 M_{\odot}$

$$\alpha_{1,2} = \alpha_{1/2c} + 0.5 \left[\frac{\text{Fe}}{\text{H}} \right]$$

estimated from resolved MW populations

(Kroupa 2001)

where the canonical
solar-abundance values are

$$\alpha_{1c} = 1.3 \quad 0.07 < m/M_{\odot} < 0.5$$

$$\alpha_{2c} = 2.3 \quad 0.5 < m/M_{\odot} < 1.3$$

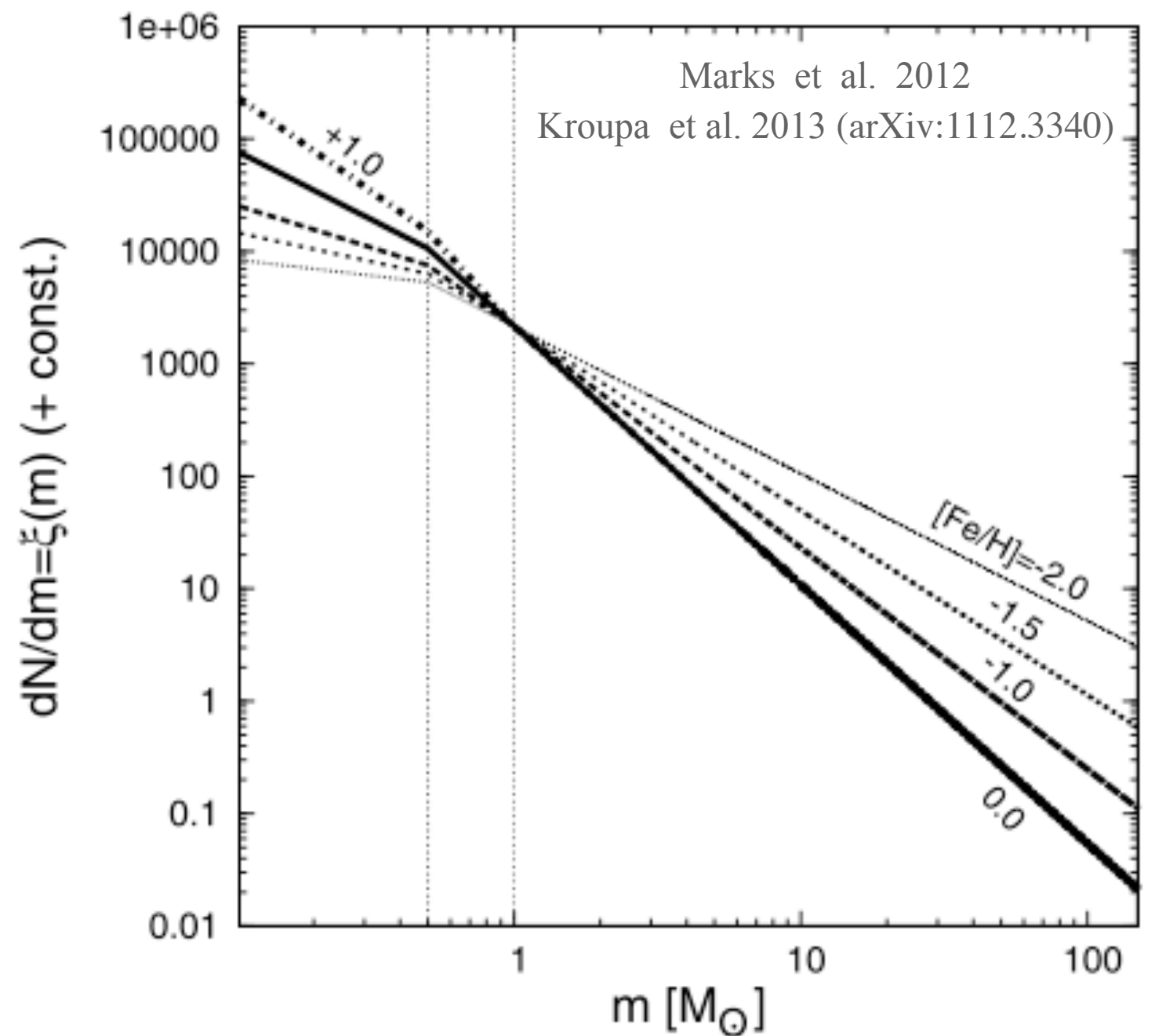


Figure 5. Suggested shape of the stellar IMF for different metallicities, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ (not taking into account the density dependence of the IMF). The IMFs are scaled such that their values agree at $m = 1 M_{\odot}$. Above $1 M_{\odot}$ the IMF slope is determined by the present work (Fig. 4, equation 11). Below $1 M_{\odot}$ the parametrization is determined by Kroupa (2001, equation 12), whose results suggest tentative evidence that more metal-rich environments produce relatively more low-mass stars. Note that only the metallicity dependence is shown, but not the dependence on mass (Fig. 2) or density (Fig. 3).

Conclusions

The *stellar IMF* is a computational *hilfskonstrukt*

Very significant progress has been made in constraining the shape of this *hilfskonstrukt* :

- 1) surveys (counts of stars)
- 2) stellar & binary-star evolution
- 3) binary star population
- 4) most stars born in embedded clusters
- 5) stellar-dynamical processes
- 6) stellar-dynamical evolution

---> The *stellar IMF* does change with *metallicity and density* and *BDs* and *planets* have their own *IMFs*

stellar IMF \neq IMF of stars in a galaxy

Thank You !

The *birth binary distribution functions* are equally computational *hilfskonstrukts*

END

Summary

We have seen that

- A birth binary population exists which unifies the observed field population and the pre-main sequence isolated population (e.g. Taurus-Auriga); the *canonical birth binary population* (**BBP**).
- The *field* population derives from the *birth* population because stars form in *clusters*.
- A compact pre-main sequence *eigenevolution theory* exists which creates the observed e, P and q, P correlations for short- P systems.
- A cluster with $N_{\text{bin}} = 200$ and $R_{0.5} = 0.8$ pc gives the right evolution for long- P systems - the typical ("*dominant-mode*") star-forming dynamical system.
- This is the $\Omega^{N, R_{0.5}} = \Omega^{200, 0.8}$ operator on the initial binary population.

Summary

For stars in the mass range $0.1 < m/M_{\odot} < \text{few}$
the **canonical birth binary population** can be described by

$$f_{P,\text{birth}} = 2.5 \frac{lP - 1}{45 + (lP - 1)^2}$$

+

random pairing !

with

$$lP_{\text{max}} = 8.43.$$

with subsequent
pre-main sequence
adjustments
(*eigenevolution*) for
 $P < 10^3$ d systems

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

1) the IMF does not exist !

2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

The estimation of this "hilfskonstrukt" is compromised by

the stellar mass-to-light relation

dynamical evolution of birth clusters (very early phase and long-term)

binaries

the most massive star in birth clusters

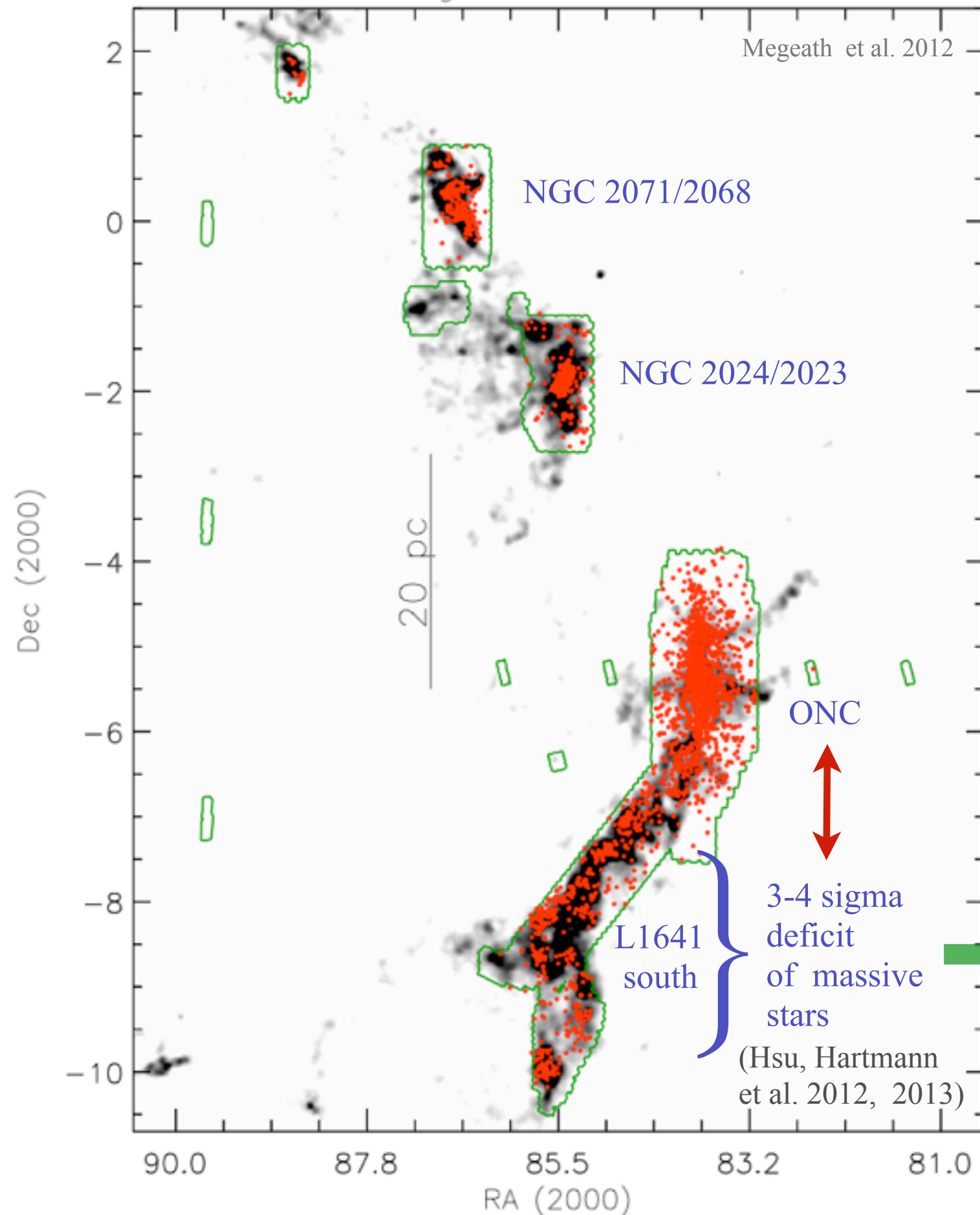
IMF = probability density distr.function

or an optimally sampled distribution function ?

evidence for top-heavy IMF in extremely massive star burst "clusters"

implications of this for the IMF of whole galaxies.

Young Stars with Disks



Lack of O stars

Many small / low-mass groups or clusters do not yield the same IMF as one massive cluster



stochastic IMF in each group is ruled out.



What is an optimally sampled distribution function ?

Given the *mass reservoir* in stellar mass M_{ecl} ,
starting with the most massive star,
select the next most massive such that
 M_{ecl} is distributed over the distribution function
without Poisson scatter.

Kroupa et al. 2013
Schulz, Pflamm-Altenburg & Kroupa 2015

The above ansatz can be extended to a discretized optimal distribution of stellar masses:
Given the mass, M_{ecl} , of the population, the following sequence of individual stellar masses
yields a distribution function which exactly follows $\xi(m)$,

$$m_{i+1} = \int_{m_{i+1}}^{m_i} m \xi(m) dm, \quad m_L \leq m_{i+1} < m_i, \quad m_1 \equiv m_{\text{max}}. \quad (4.9)$$

The normalization and the most massive star in the sequence are set by the following two equations:

$$1 = \int_{m_{\text{max}}}^{m_{\text{max}*}} \xi(m) dm, \quad (4.10)$$

with

$$M_{\text{ecl}}(m_{\text{max}}) - m_{\text{max}} = \int_{m_L}^{m_{\text{max}}} m \xi(m) dm \quad (4.11)$$

as the closing condition. These two equations need to be solved iteratively. An excellent approx-

What is an optimally sampled distribution function ?

$$N_{\text{tot}} = \int_{M_{\text{min}}}^{m_{N_{\text{tot}}}} \xi(M) dM + \int_{m_{N_{\text{tot}}}}^{m_{N_{\text{tot}}-1}} \xi(M) dM + \dots + \int_{m_{i+1}}^{m_i} \xi(M) dM + \dots + \int_{m_3}^{m_2} \xi(M) dM + \int_{m_2}^{M_{\text{max}}} \xi(M) dM, \quad (4)$$

Schulz, Pflamm-Altenburg & Kroupa 2015

$$M_{\text{tot}} = \int_{M_{\text{min}}}^{m_{N_{\text{tot}}}} M \xi(M) dM + \int_{m_{N_{\text{tot}}}}^{m_{N_{\text{tot}}-1}} M \xi(M) dM + \dots + \int_{m_{i+1}}^{m_i} M \xi(M) dM + \dots + \int_{m_3}^{m_2} M \xi(M) dM + \int_{m_2}^{M_{\text{max}}} M \xi(M) dM, \quad (5)$$

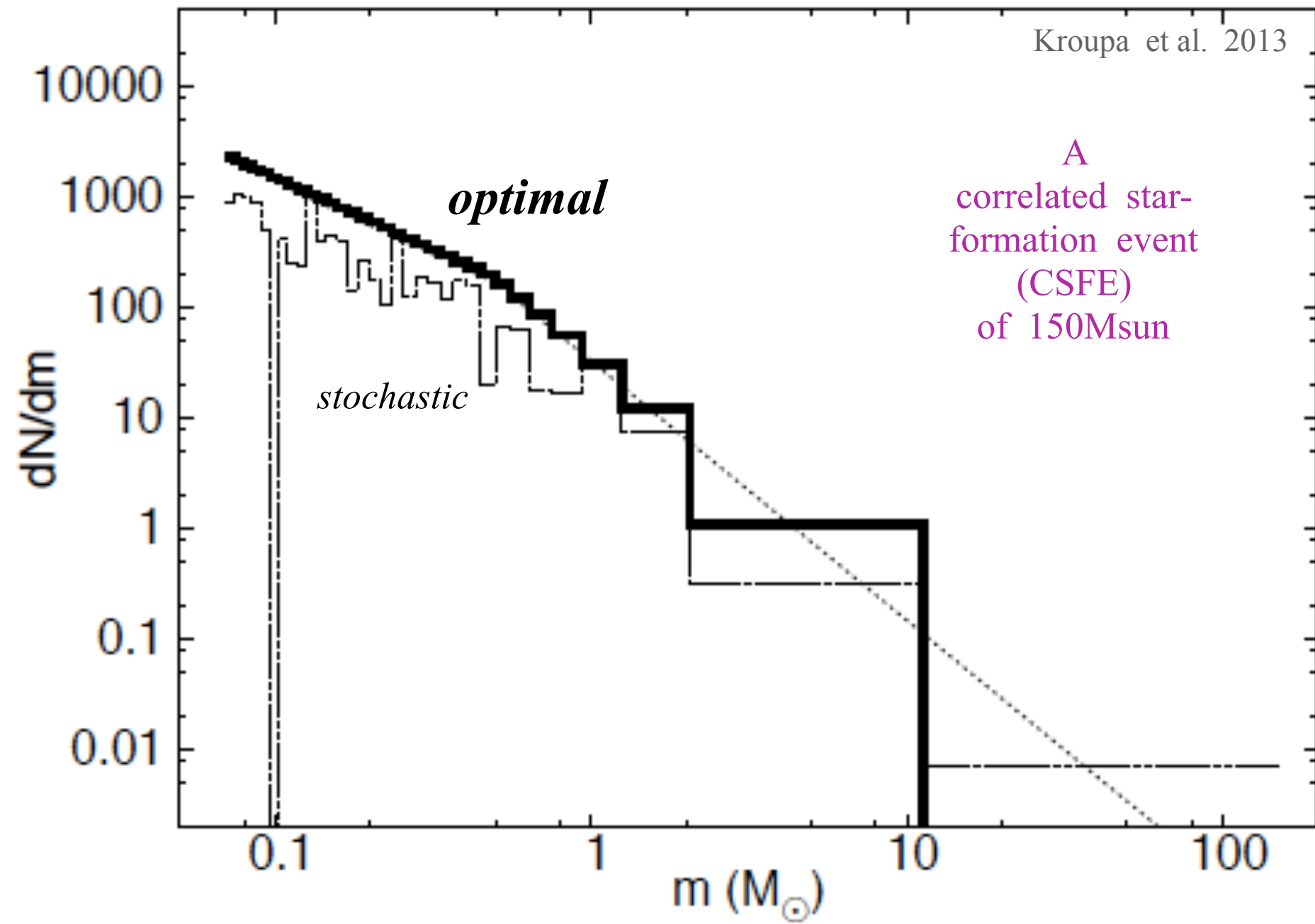
1. Each integral must give one object, i.e. integrating $\xi(M)$ within the limits m_i and m_{i+1} yields exactly unity:

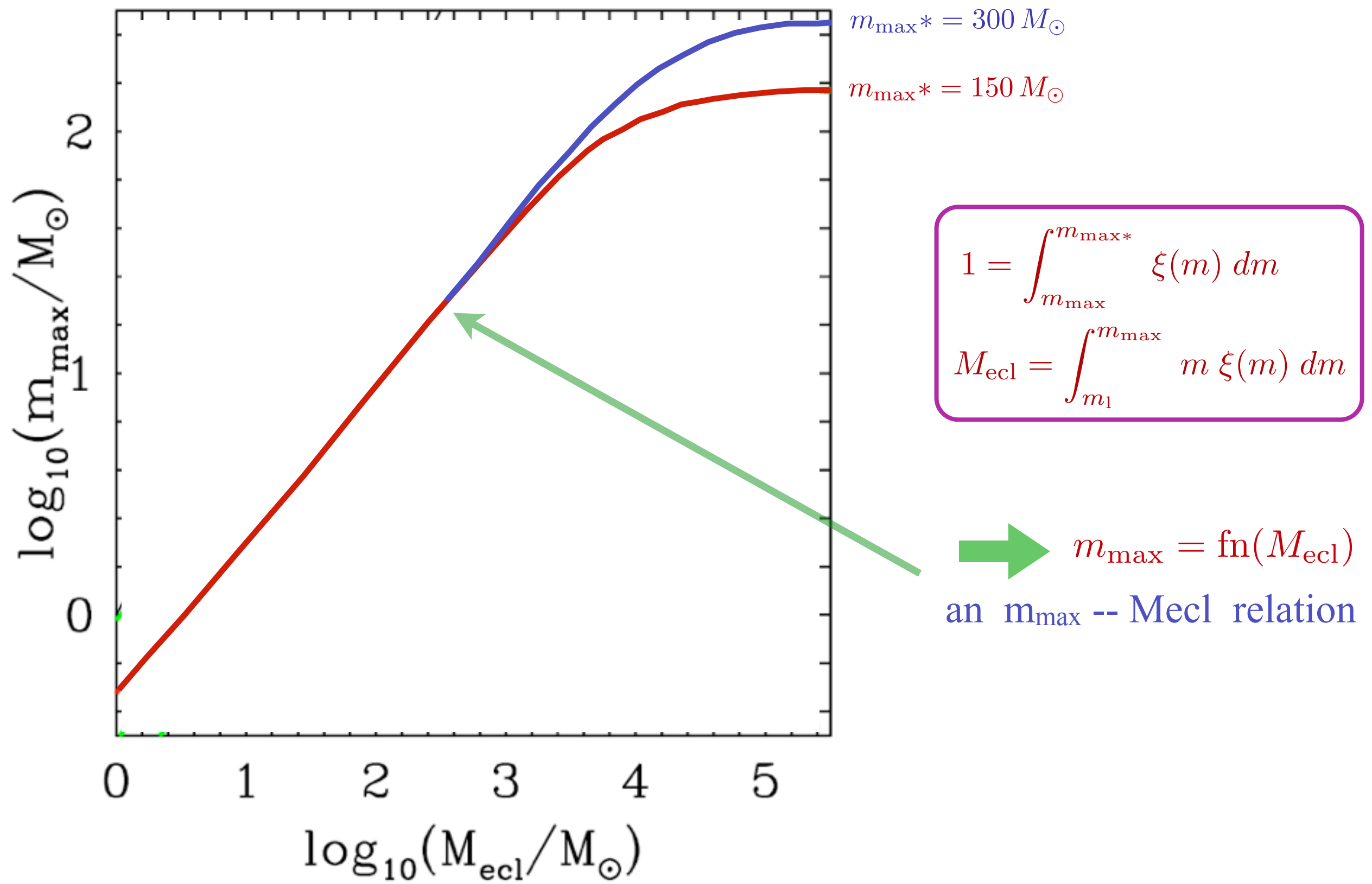
$$1 = \int_{m_{i+1}}^{m_i} \xi(M) dM. \quad (6)$$

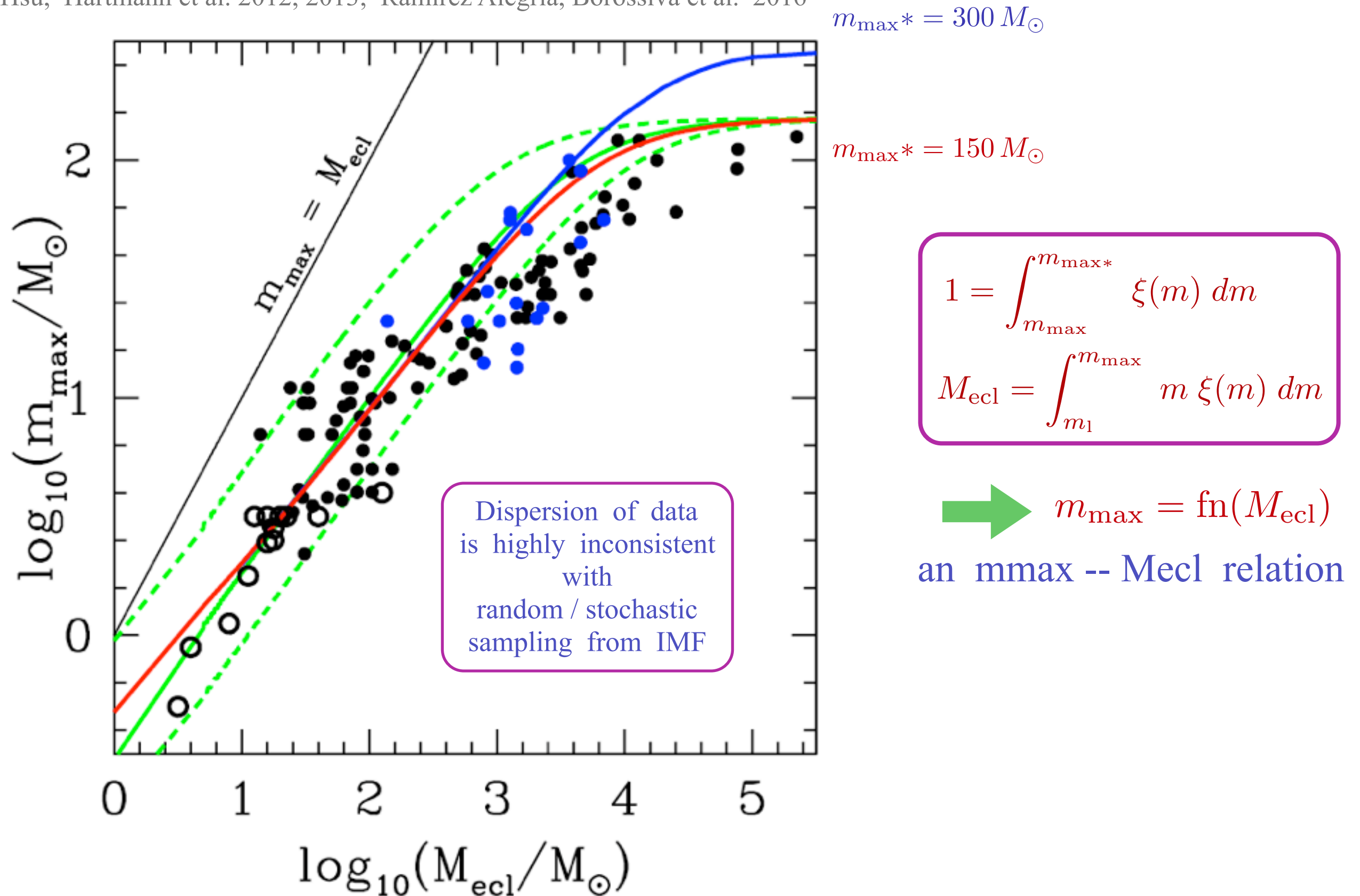
2. Then the mass of this i -th object, M_i , is determined by

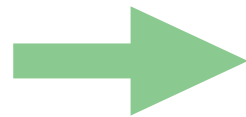
$$M_i = \int_{m_{i+1}}^{m_i} M \xi(M) dM, \quad (7)$$

where the limits m_i and m_{i+1} have to be equal to those in eq. 6.









Real young populations
are *not stochastic ensembles*
from invariant distr. functions

~~the IMF / star cluster MF an invariant probability density distribution function~~

Issues which affect the determination of the IMF :

1) the IMF does not exist !

2) What we call the IMF is a mathematical "hilfskonstrukt"

The estimation of this "hilfskonstrukt" is compromised by

- the stellar mass-to-light relation

- dynamical evolution of birth clusters (very early phase and long-term)

- binaries

- the most massive star in birth clusters

- IMF = probability density distr.function

 - or an optimally sampled distribution function ?

- evidence for top-heavy IMF in extremely massive star burst "clusters"

- implications of this for the IMF of whole galaxies.