

# OFF-CENTRE SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES IN BRIGHT CENTRAL GALAXIES

JOURNAL ARTICLE

## Off-centre supermassive black holes in bright central galaxies FREE

Aline Chu ✉, Pierre Boldrini ✉, Joe Silk

*Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Volume 522, Issue 1, June 2023, Pages  
948–955, <https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stad1033>

Published: 06 April 2023    [Article history](#) ▼

**Pierre Boldrini,**  
*CNES fellow at GEPI,  
Paris Observatory*

PNCG 2024, Lyon

# BRIGHTEST CLUSTER GALAXIES (BCGS)

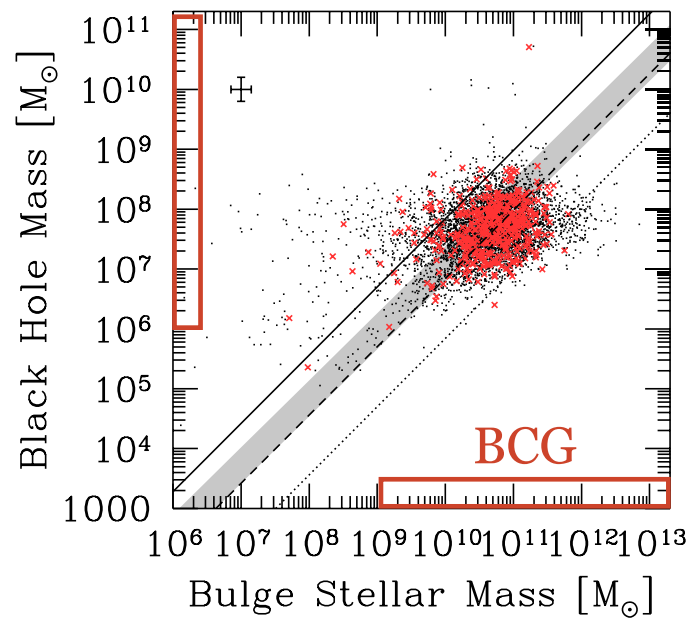
- ♦ **Most massive** galaxies observed in the Universe
- ♦ **Central** galaxies of galaxy clusters (rich systems of 100 - 1000 galaxies)
- ♦ They have **undergone many mergers** (~20 mergers per BCG in TNG-300)
- ♦ **Stellar mass:**  $10^9 - 10^{13} M_{\odot}$



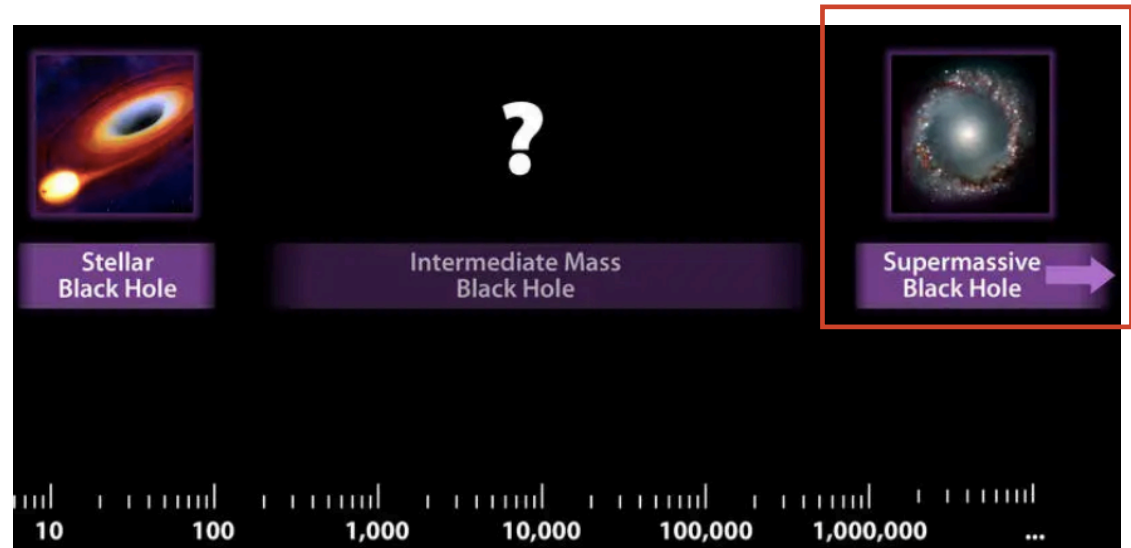
*Crédits : ESA/Hubble, NASA, Rivera-Thorsen et al.*

BCGs are the final product of hierarchical merging

# BLACK HOLES



*Marleau et al. +13*

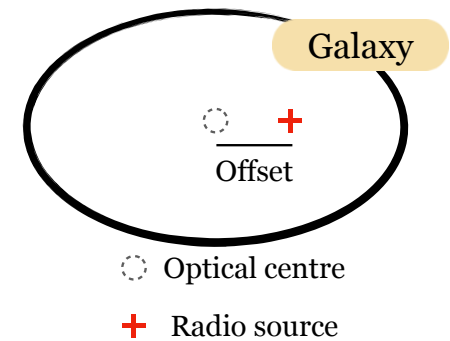
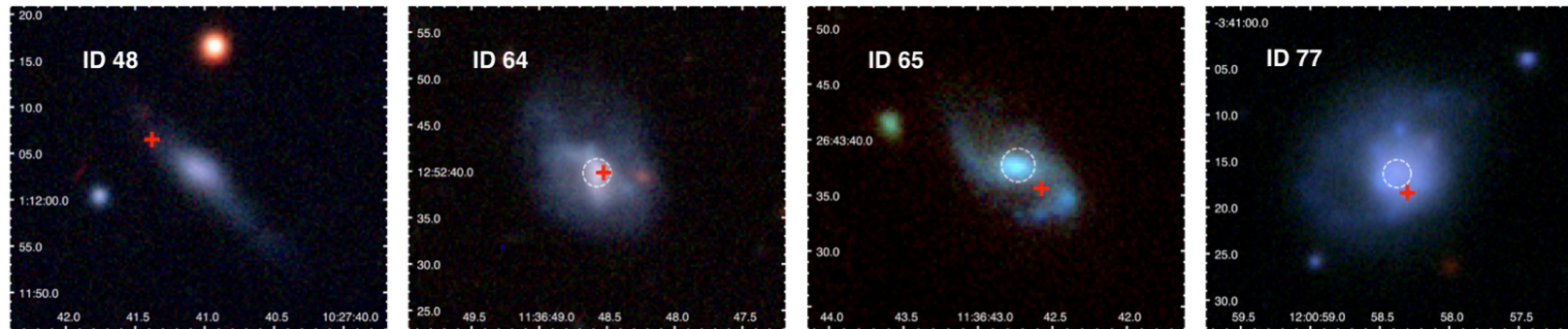


Black holes grow at the same time as their host galaxies



# OFF-CENTERED BLACK HOLES

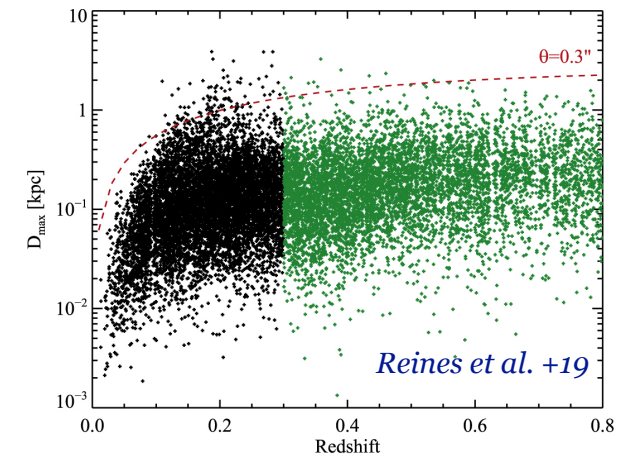
## AGN observations in dwarf galaxies



*Shen et al. +19*

## Scenarios:

- ◆ Presence of a binary system *Sundararajan et al. +10*
- ◆ Recoil of merging BHs *Merritt et al. +05; Volonteri et al +05; Loeb +07; Komossa +12*
- ◆ Interactions/mergers with other galaxies *Bellovary et al. +18,+19,+21; Pfister et al.+19*
- ◆ Infall of DM subhalos *Boldrini et al. +20*



BHs are not necessarily located exactly at the bottom of the galaxy potential



# MOTIVATIONS-CHALLENGES

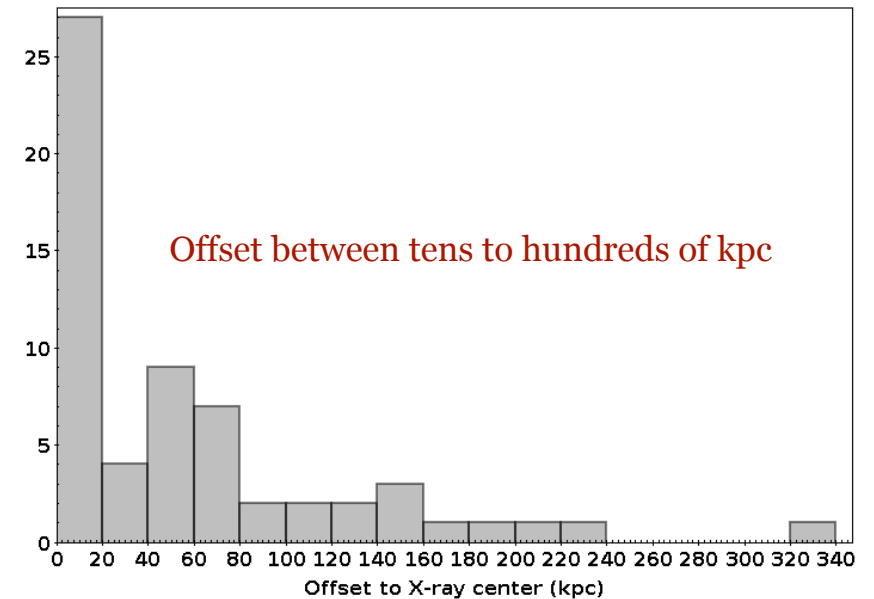
## In large volume cosmological simulations

- ♦ **Dynamical friction:** complex problem at sub-kpc scale  
*e.g. Reines et al. +20; Pesce et al +21*
- ♦ **Repositioning methods:** periodically or continuously ‘teleporting’ black holes towards the center of the galaxy potential  
*e.g. Davé et al. +19; Bassini et al. +20, Bahé et al. +22*

## In observations

- ♦ Offsets between the BCG and the cluster X-ray centers in dynamically disturbed clusters

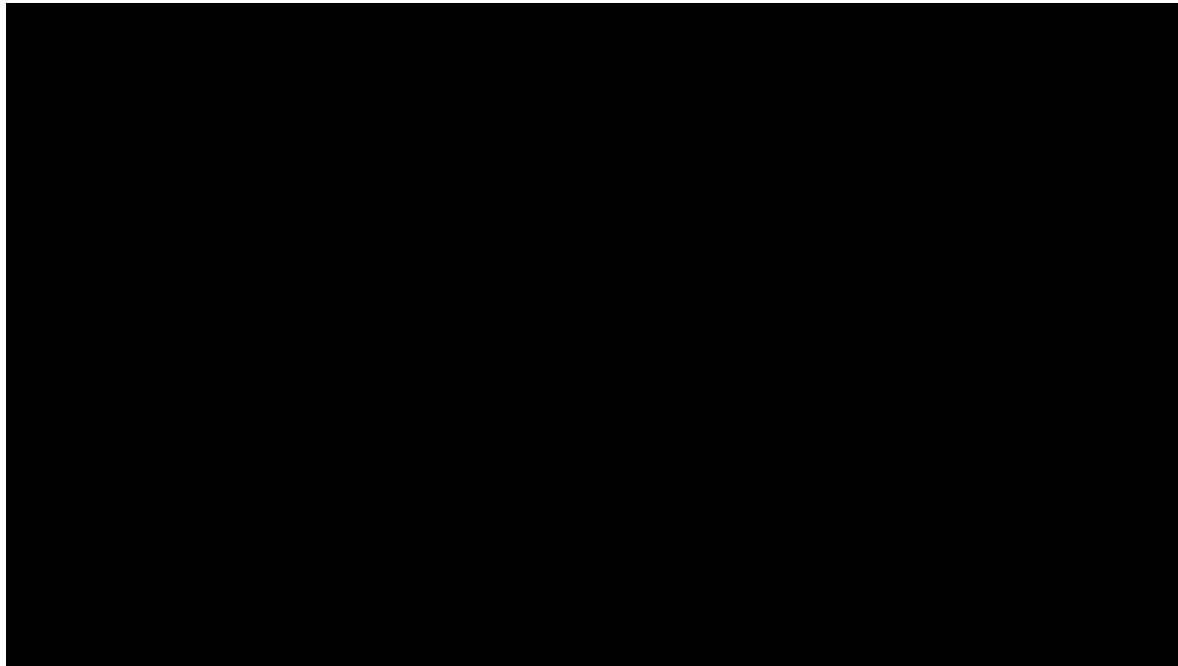
*Chu et al. +21*



Need of a new approach to study BH dynamics at sub-kpc scale

# MOTIVATIONS-CHALLENGES

What is the impact of mergers in BCGs on their central supermassive black hole?



*Crédits : Illustris TNG*

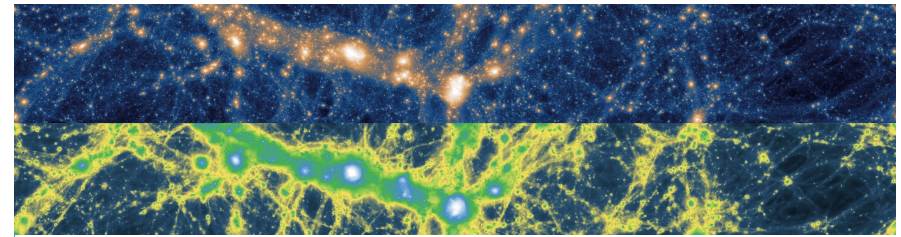
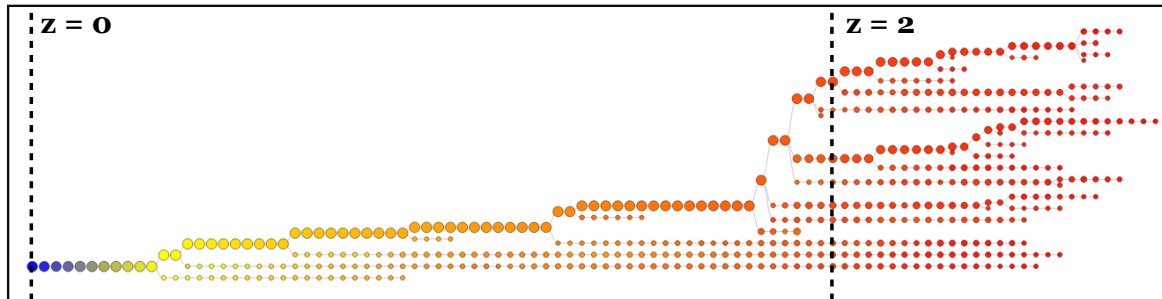
A main driver for such BH displacements in BCGs?



# METHODOLOGY

Cosmological  
simulation  
*Illustris TNG-300*

- 1 Retrieve the merger history of the 370 BCG since  $z = 2$   
*Barnes et al. +18*



*Crédits : Illustris-TNG*

Merger and BCG histories by *Illustris TNG-300*, satellite and BH dynamics by *galpy*

# METHODOLOGY

Cosmological  
simulation  
*Illustris TNG-300*

Orbital  
integration  
methods  
via

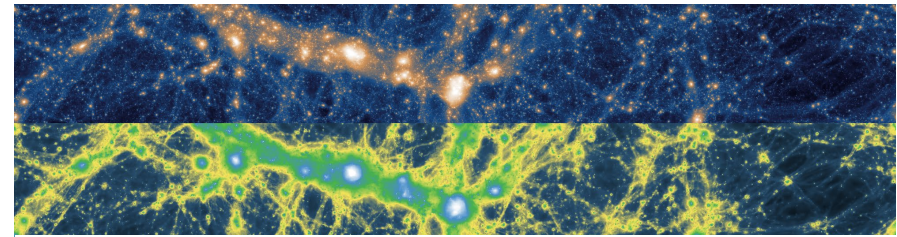
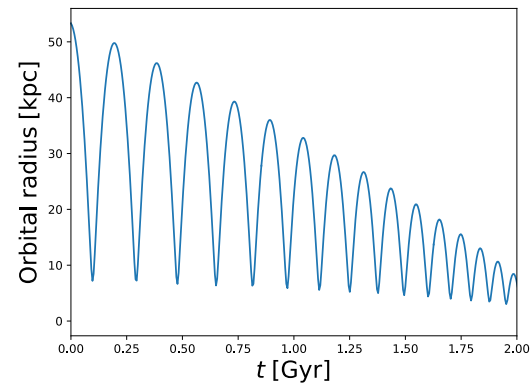


*Bovy +15*

1 Retrieve the merger history of the 370 BCG since  $z = 2$   
*Barnes et al. +18*

2 Compute the orbit of the satellites in the BCG potential

**BCG potential** = Hernquist profile + Plummer profile  
+ (DM) (stars)  
**Chandrasekhar dynamical friction**



*Crédits : Illustris-TNG*

Merger and BCG histories by *Illustris TNG-300*, satellite and BH dynamics by *galpy*



# METHODOLOGY

Cosmological  
simulation  
*Illustris TNG-300*

Orbital  
integration  
methods  
via

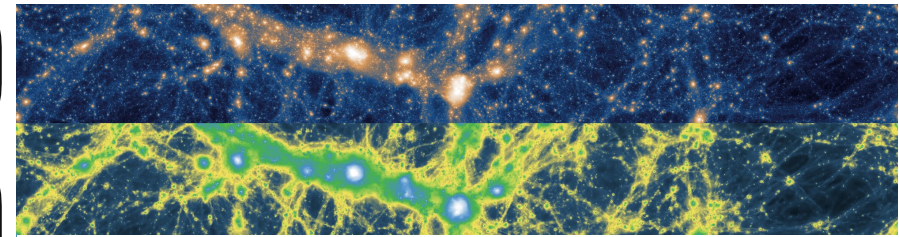


*Bovy +15*

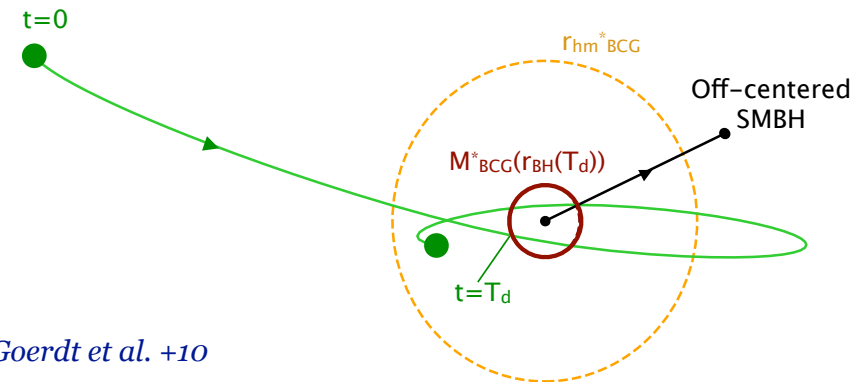
- 1 Retrieve the merger history of the 370 BCG since  $z = 2$   
*Barnes et al. +18*
- 2 Compute the orbit of the satellites in the BCG potential
- 3 Identify all satellites which can potentially affect central SMBHs

- ♦ Radial merger  $d \leq r_{\text{hm}}^{\text{sat}}$
- ♦ Massive enough satellites  $M_{\text{tot}}^{\text{sat}} \geq M_{\text{int}}^{\text{BCG}}(d)$

*Read et al +06; Goerdt et al. +10*



*Crédits : Illustris-TNG*



*Chu, Boldrini and Silk +23*

Merger and BCG histories by *Illustris TNG-300*, satellite and BH dynamics by *galpy*

# METHODOLOGY

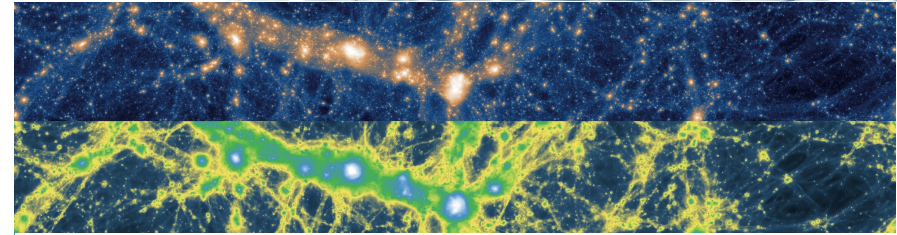
Cosmological  
simulation  
*Illustris TNG-300*

Orbital  
integration  
methods  
via

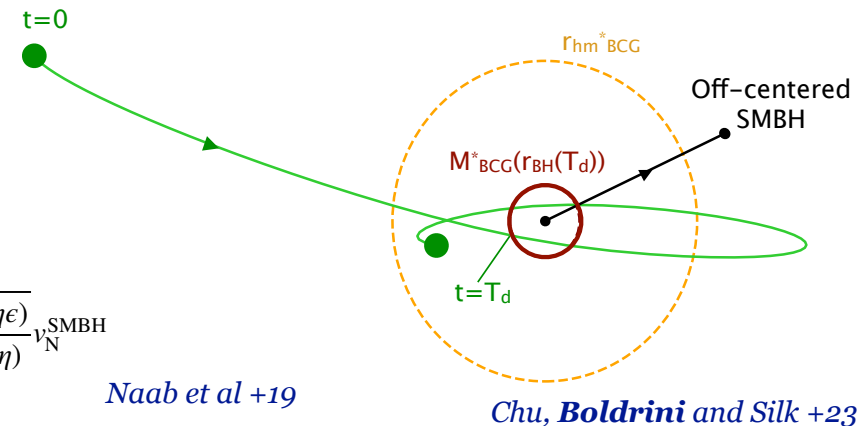


*Bovy +15*

- 1 Retrieve the merger history of the 370 BCG since  $z = 2$   
*Barnes et al. +18*
- 2 Compute the orbit of the satellites in the BCG potential
- 3 Identify all satellites which can potentially affect central SMBHs
- 4 Compute the orbit of SMBHs in BCG potential through several mergers



*Crédits : Illustris-TNG*



$$v_{\text{kick}}^{\text{first}} = \sqrt{\frac{(1 + \eta \epsilon^2)}{(1 + \eta)}} v_c^{\text{SMBH}}$$

Satellite-BH velocity ratio  
Satellite-BCG mass ratio

$$v_{\text{kick}}^{\text{sub}} = \sqrt{\frac{(1 + \eta \epsilon)}{(1 + \eta)}} v_N^{\text{SMBH}}$$

*Naab et al +19*

*Chu, Boldrini and Silk +23*

Merger and BCG histories by *Illustris TNG-300*, satellite and BH dynamics by *galpy*



# METHODOLOGY

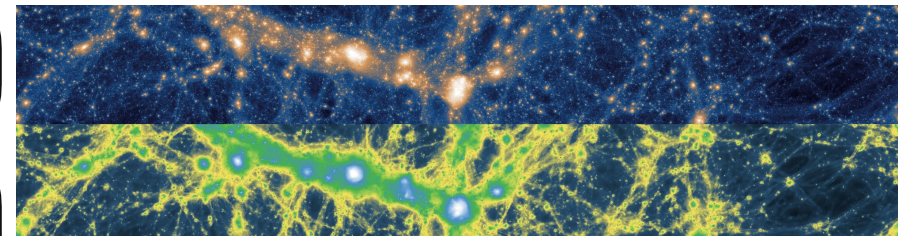
Cosmological  
simulation  
*Illustris TNG-300*

Orbital  
integration  
methods  
via

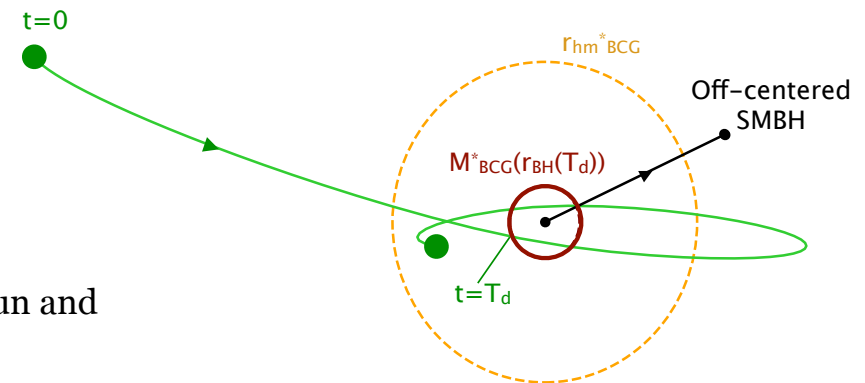


*Bovy +15*

- 1 Retrieve the merger history of the 370 BCG since  $z = 2$   
*Barnes et al. +18*
- 2 Compute the orbit of the satellites in the BCG potential
- 3 Identify all satellites which can potentially affect central SMBHs
- 4 Compute the orbit of SMBHs in BCG potential through several mergers



*Crédits : Illustris-TNG*



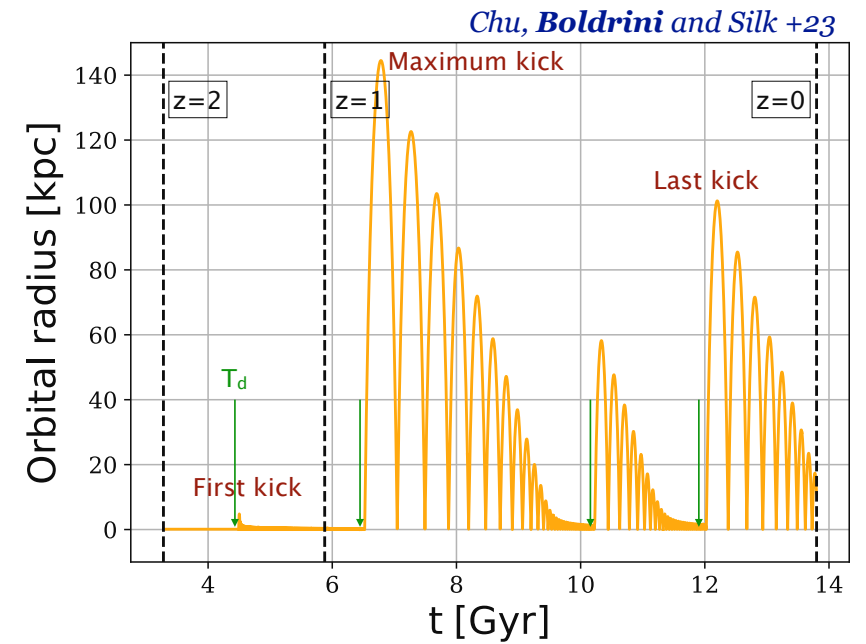
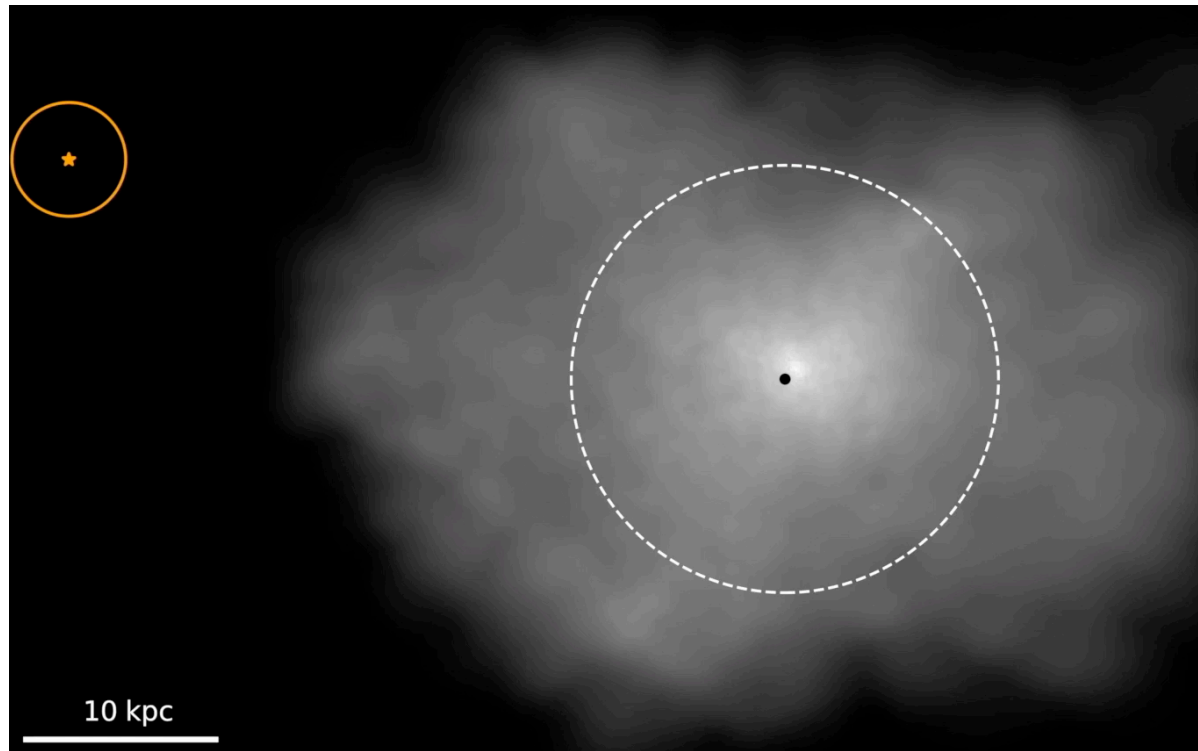
*Chu, Boldrini and Silk +23*

- ♦ **Advantages:** accurate orbital resolution ( $\sim pc$ ), no repositioning, 20 CPU hrs run and applied in post-treatment of simulations

Merger and BCG histories by *Illustris TNG-300*, satellite and BH dynamics by *galpy*

# RESULTS

## Example of a BH kick



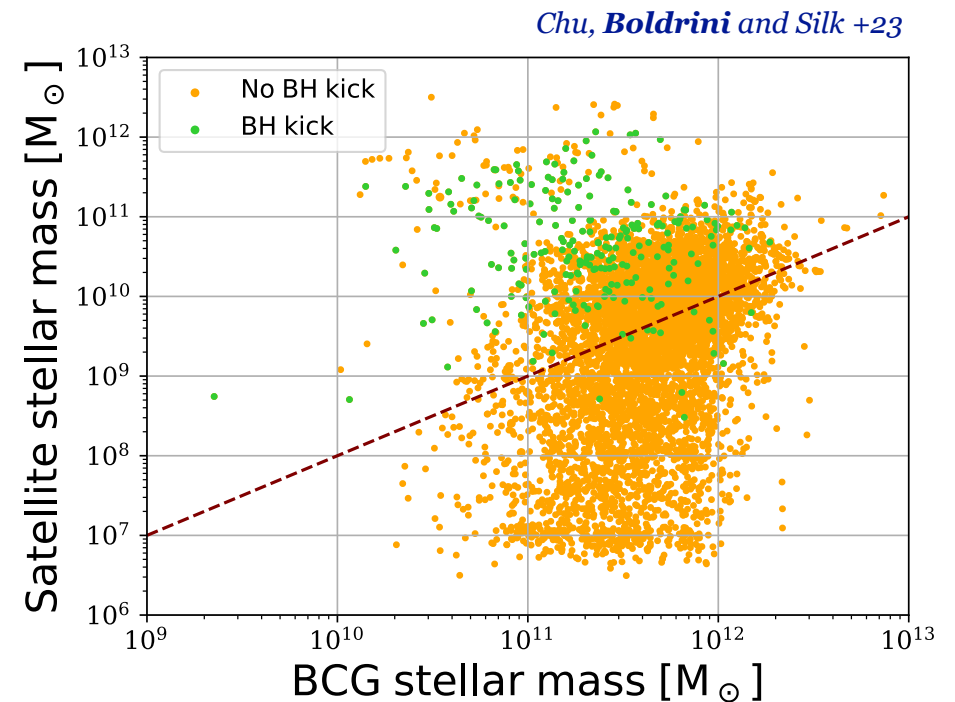
17 mergers since  $z = 2$  but only 4 mergers have satisfied our criteria, off-centered by 10 kpc at  $z=0$



# RESULTS

- ◆ Efficient mechanism to off-center SMBHs?

- ◆ 3% (229/6628) mergers have affected the central SMBH
- ◆ 46% (70/370) SMBHs kicked away from the center at least once since  $z = 2$



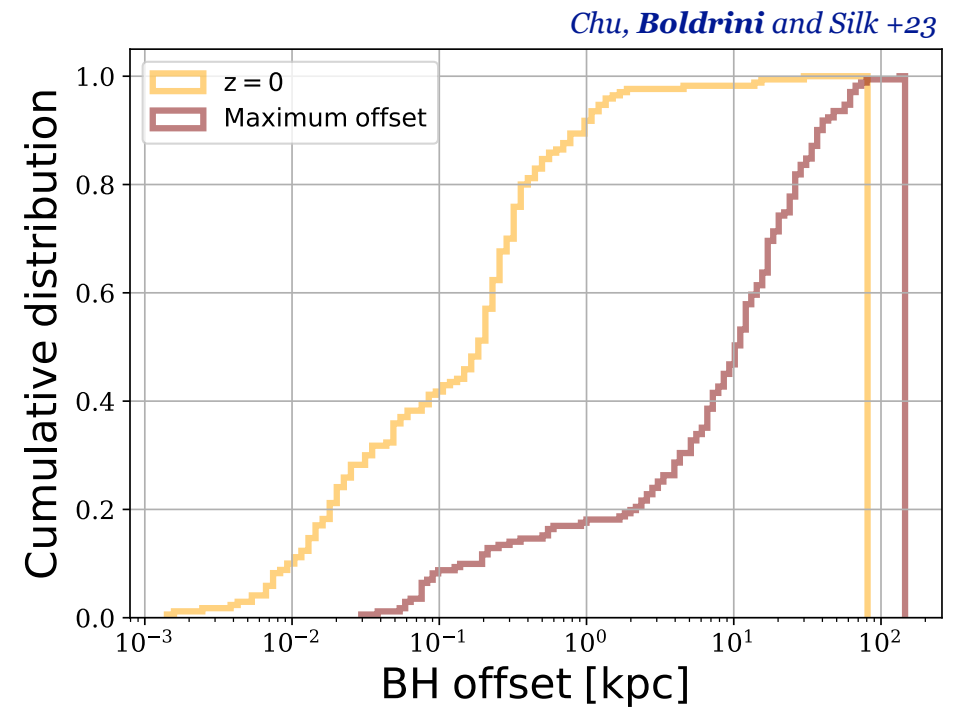
BHs are mainly kicked by satellites which have stellar masses  $M_{*}^{\text{sat}} > M_{*}^{\text{BCG}}/100$

# RESULTS

- ◆ Where are located SMBHs at  $z=0$ ?

- ◆ 60% of SMBHs off-centered at  $r > 100$  pc at  $z = 0$

- ◆ **Offset range:** 2 pc - 200 kpc

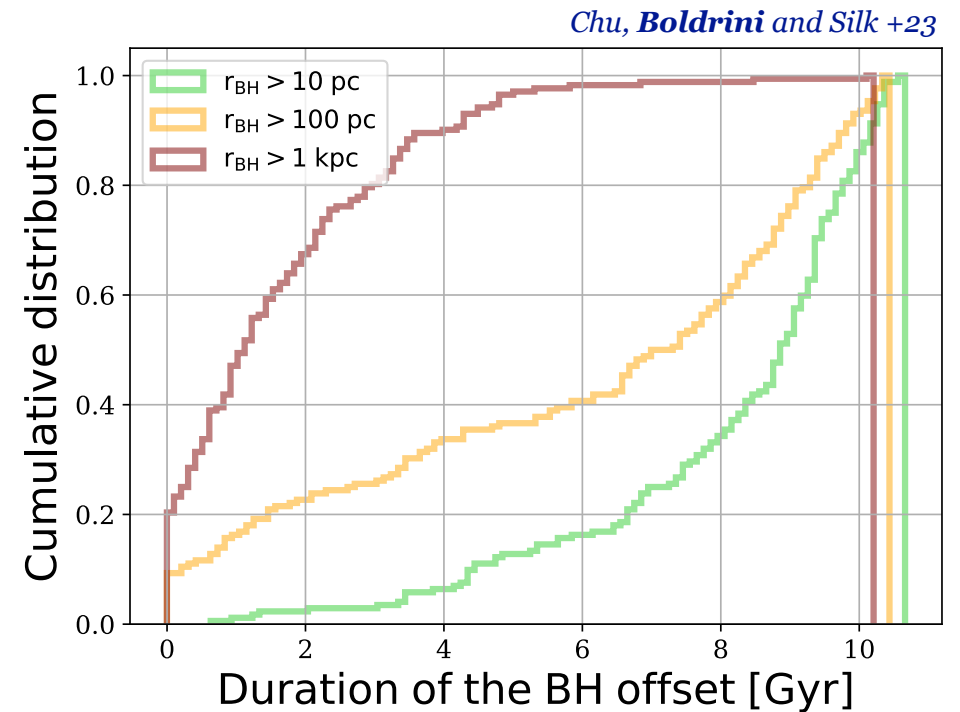


SMBH offsets are common in BCGs

# RESULTS

- ◆ How much time BHs are off-centered?

- ◆ 60% of SMBHs spent more than 6 Gyr at  $r > 100$  pc



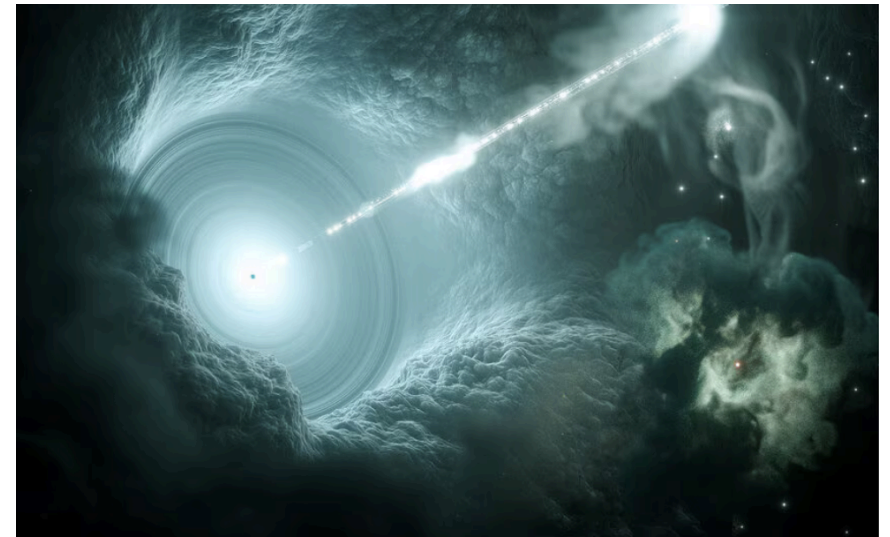
SMBHs in BCGs spend more than half of their lifetimes off-centered



# RESULTS - IMPLICATIONS

SMBH is kicked out from the central region of BCG

- ◆ Lower counts of BH-BH mergers  
*Barausse et al. +20; Bahé et al. +21*
- ◆ **Accretion less efficient:** gas clumps mostly condensed in the centre  
*Smith et al. +18*
  - ▶ Black hole growth halted  
*Bahé et al. +22*
  - ▶ Black hole feedback inefficient  
*Heckman et al. +14; Boldrini et al. +20*



*Credits: DESY*

The displacement of BH has significant consequences on its growth and feedback

# PUBLIC DATA & CODE

5 March  
About me Astro news Publications Collaborators Talks Public data and codes Contact

"Off-centre black holes in galaxy clusters" - Aline Chu, [P. Boldrini](#), and J. Silk (2023).

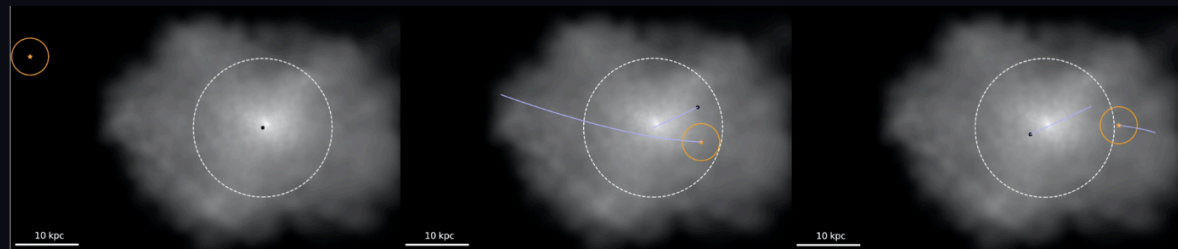
- 370 galaxy cluster merger history extracted from Illustris-TNG 300 (2 Mo of hdf5 files)  
[ BCG, FirstProg, NextProg ][ DM mass, DM  $r_{\text{hm}}$ , Id, Stellar mass, Stellar  $r_{\text{hm}}$ , posx, posy, posz, redshift, velx, vely, velz]



**Pierre Boldrini**  
Blackholan · he/him

python 3.8.2 License MIT

## pyCelebi (CEntraL massivE Black hole orbital Integration)



Data and codes are public on GitHub and on my website

<https://www.iap.fr/useriap/boldrini/>

# FUTUR WORKS

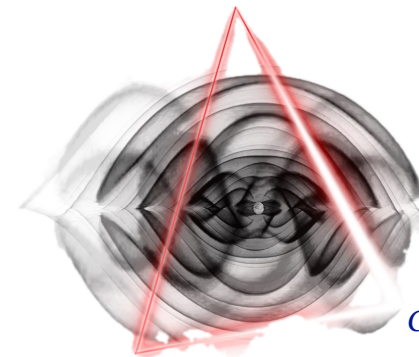
- ♦ **Advantage:** Applying to other cosmological simulations.
- ♦ **Improvement:** Modelling a complex potential that accounts for satellites and mergers (new function available in *galpy*)
- ♦ **Extension:** Applying this to the population of wandering black holes and providing predictions for LISA
- ♦ **Other application:** Similar approach to add globular clusters in post-processing of simulations (CNES project with P. Di Matteo)

## Moving object potential

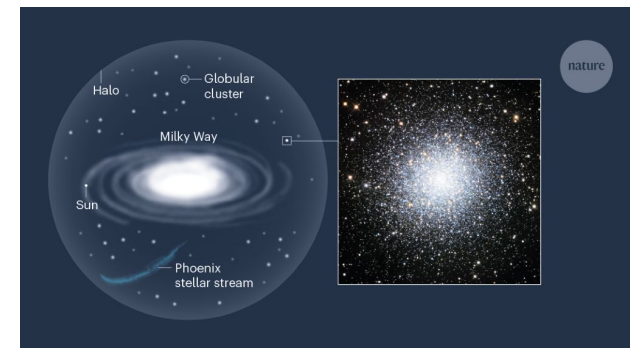
```
class galpy.potential.MovingObjectPotential(orbit, pot=None, amp=1.0, ro=None, vo=None) \[source\]
```

Class that implements the potential coming from a moving object by combining any galpy potential with an integrated galpy orbit.

*Credits : galpy*



*Credits : LISA*



*Credits : Nature*





THANK YOU!