

# Effects of Eccentricity on Accreting Binary Black Holes

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Astronomy  
& Steward Observatory

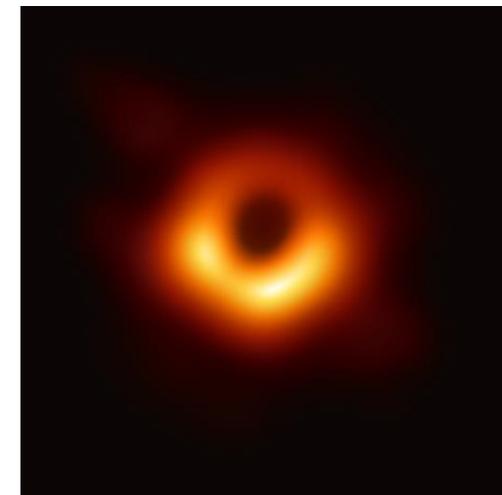


# SMBBHs Expected to be Ubiquitous Multi-messenger Sources

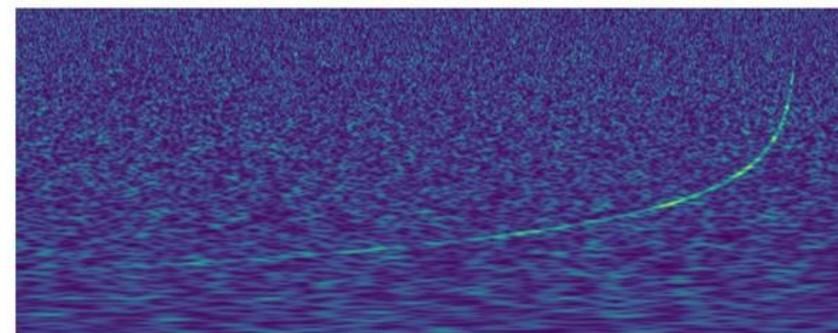
- Product of galaxy mergers (Begelman+1980)
- GWs from inspiral and EM emission from accretion (Bogdanovic+2022, LISA+2023)
- Understanding large-scale structure (Kormendy+2013, Heckman+2014)
- Probing  $H_0$  and universe's expansion (Schulz 1986, Holz+2005)



NGC 4676, Credits: NASA/ESA



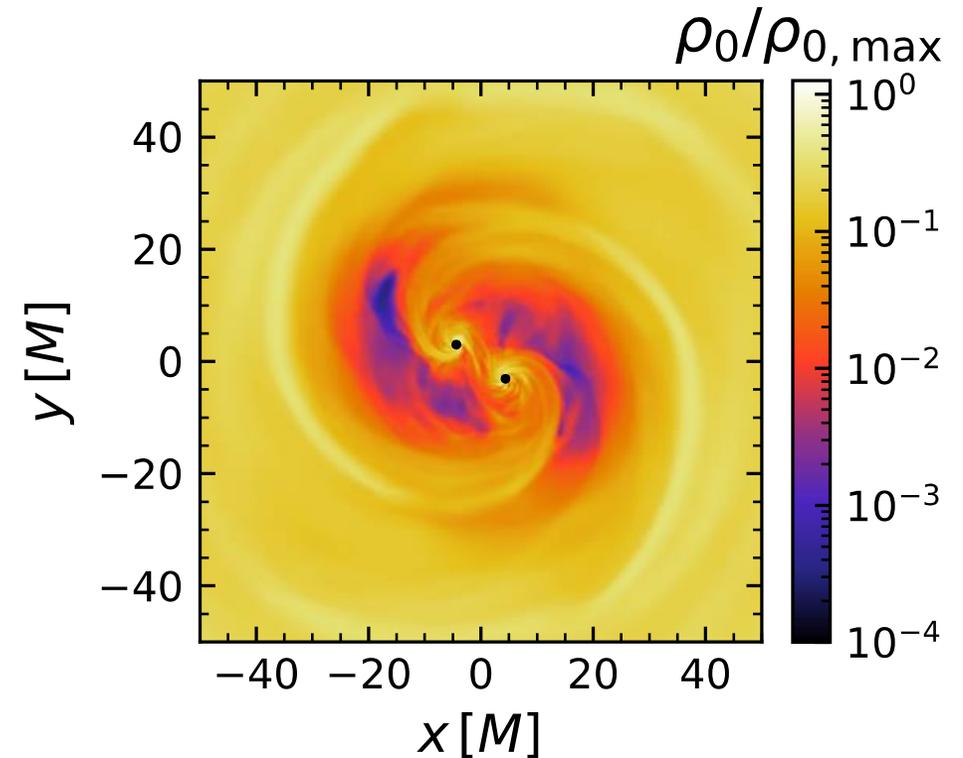
M87\*, EHT Collaboration



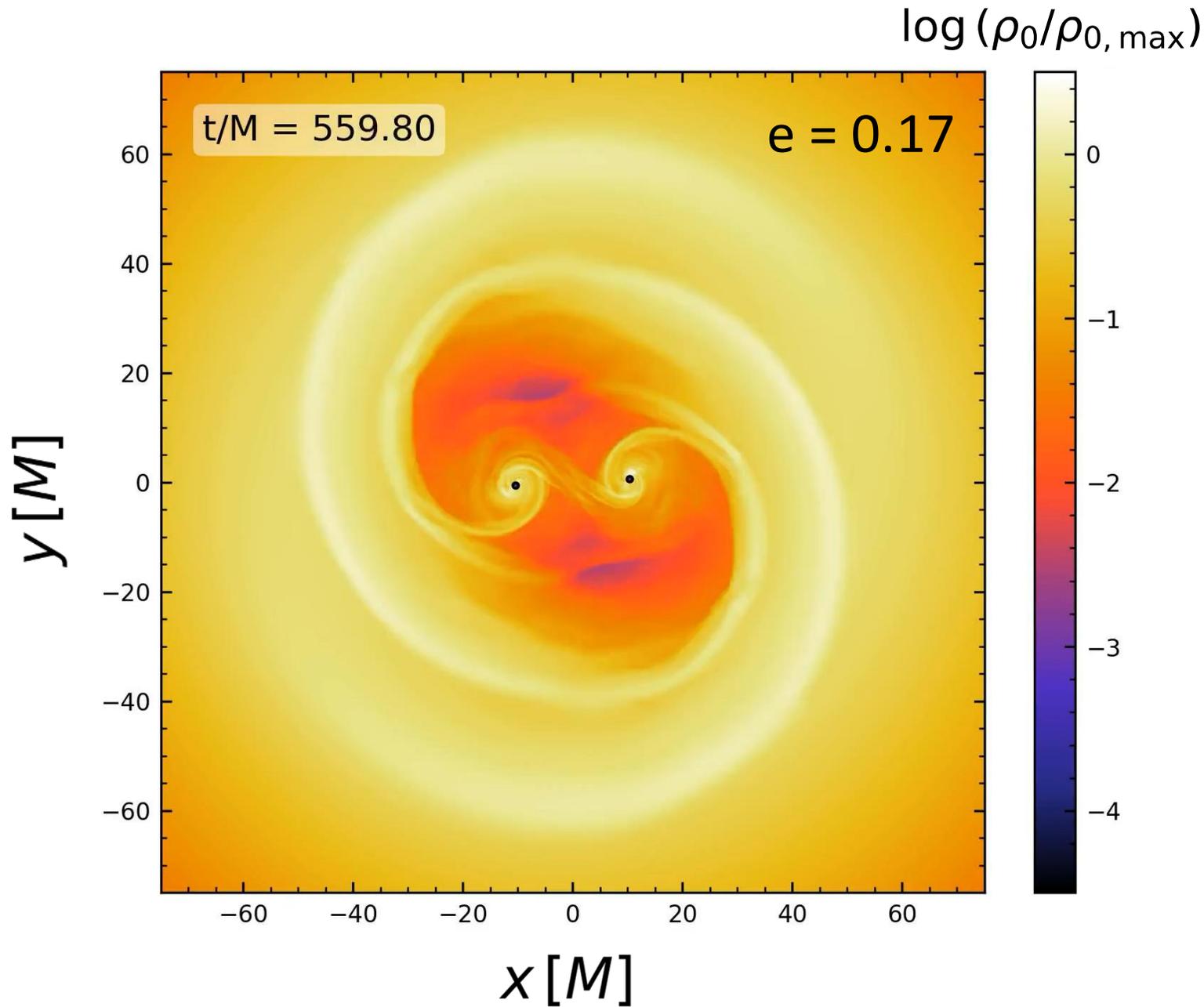
LIGO, GW170817 chirp signal

# Goal: Understand the Effect of Eccentricity on Relativistically Separated Binary Black Holes

- Einstein Toolkit: Full general relativity (LeanBSSN) & Ideal Magnetohydrodynamics (IllinoisGRMHD)
- Eccentricities:  $e = 0.00, 0.17, 0.31$  (Roedig+2011, Siwek+2024)
- Initial major axis:  $a = 20 M$
- Equal mass, non-spinning BBH

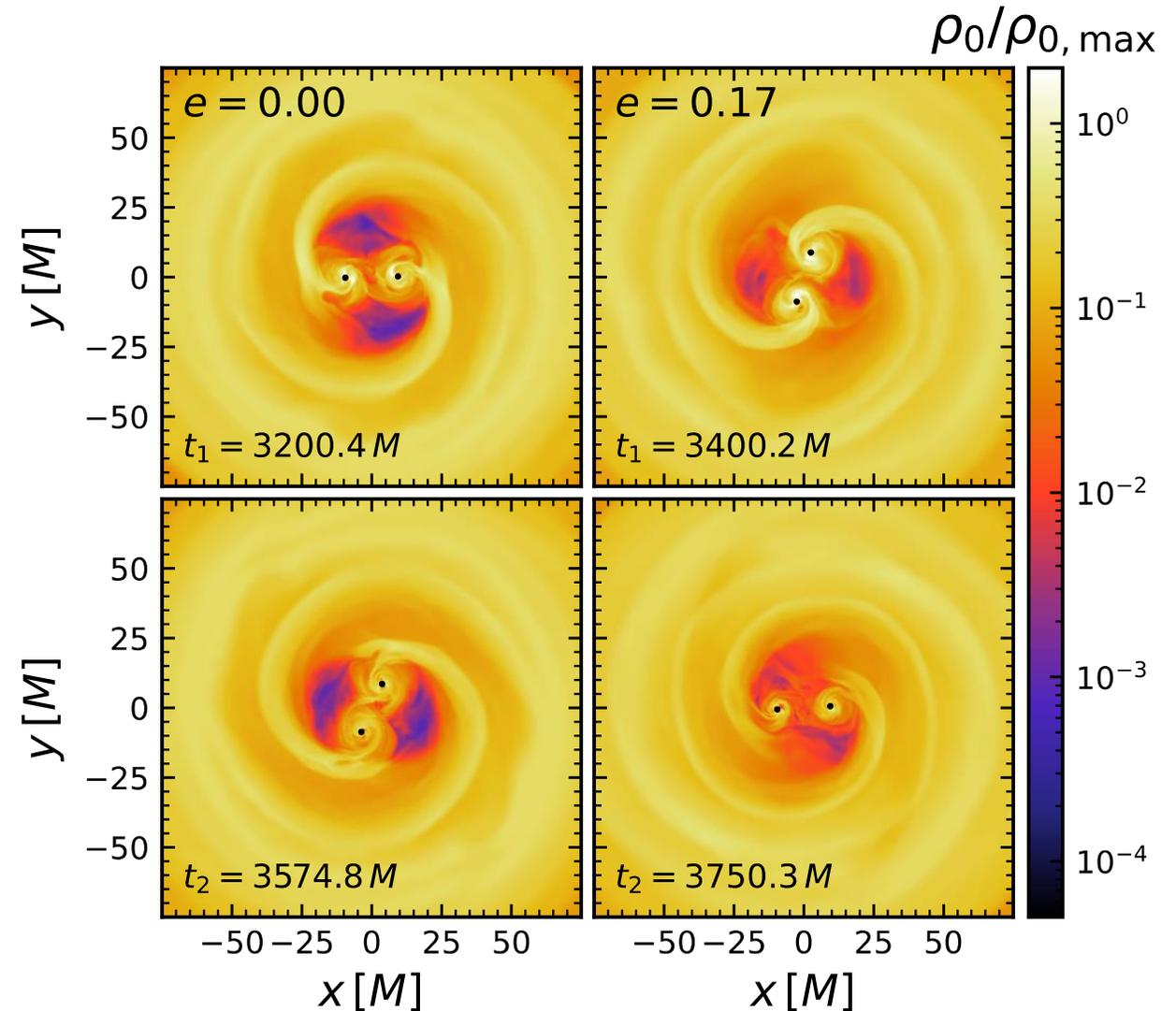


First GRMHD  
simulations of  
accreting,  
eccentric binaries

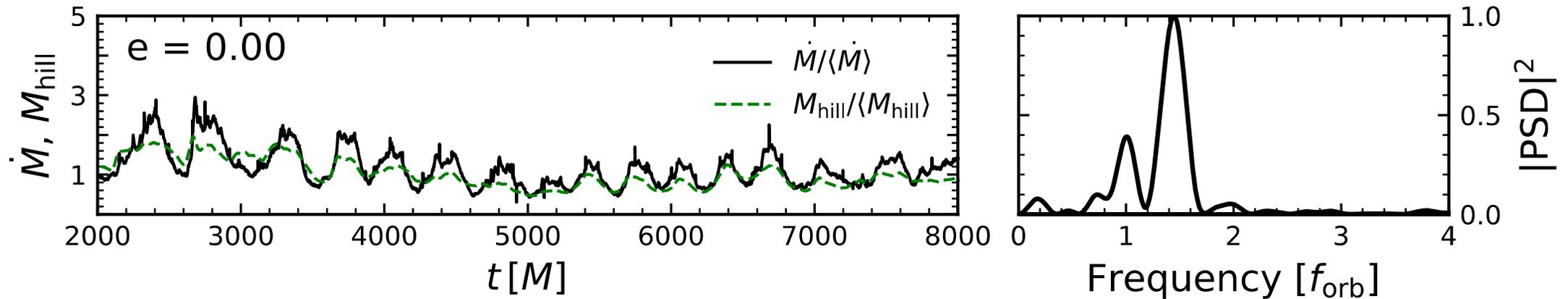


# Eccentric Binaries don't Sustain Minidisks

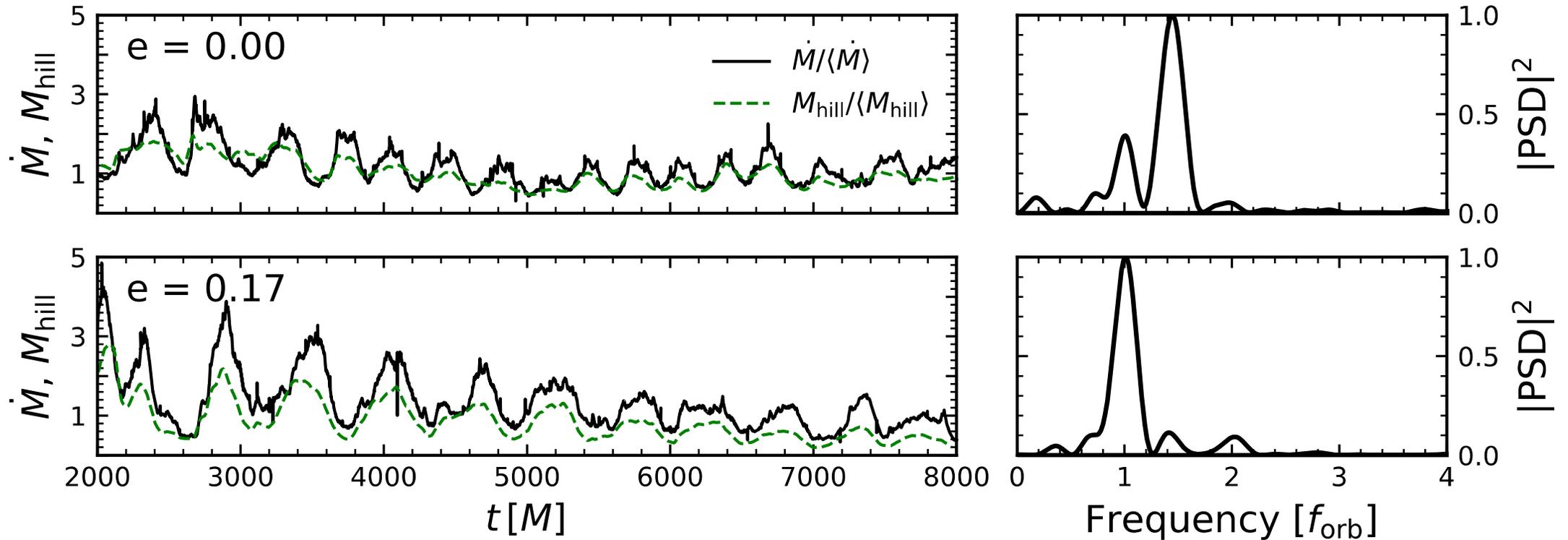
- Tidal streams circularize around BBH
- Form minidisks and then accrete
- Quasi-circular binary has persistent structure
- Eccentric Binaries don't sustain minidisks (at these separations)



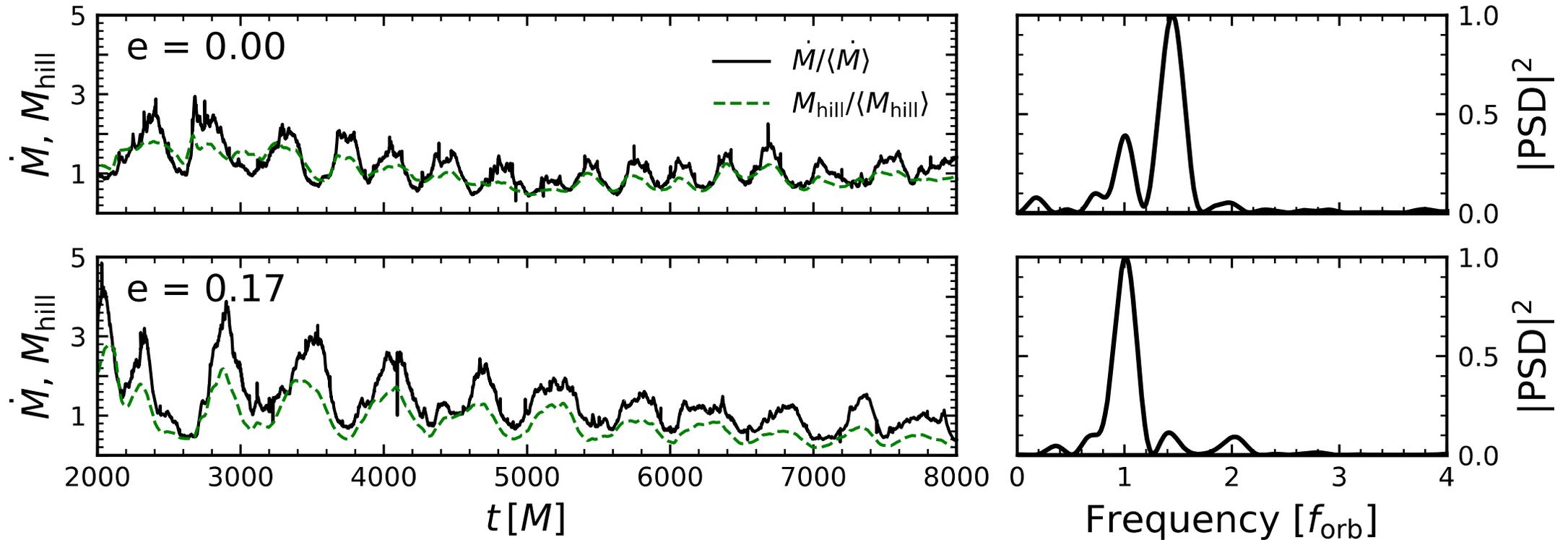
# Quasi-circular binaries accrete at $\sim 1.4 f_{orb}$



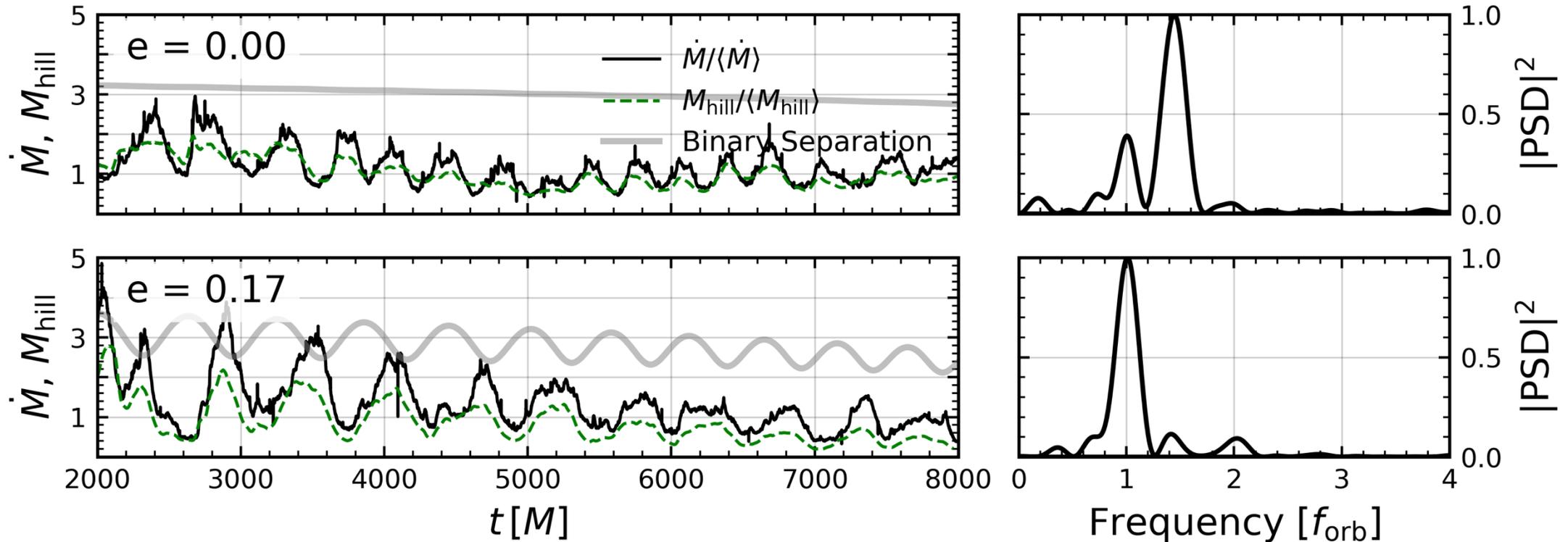
# Eccentric Binaries Accrete at their Orbital Frequency



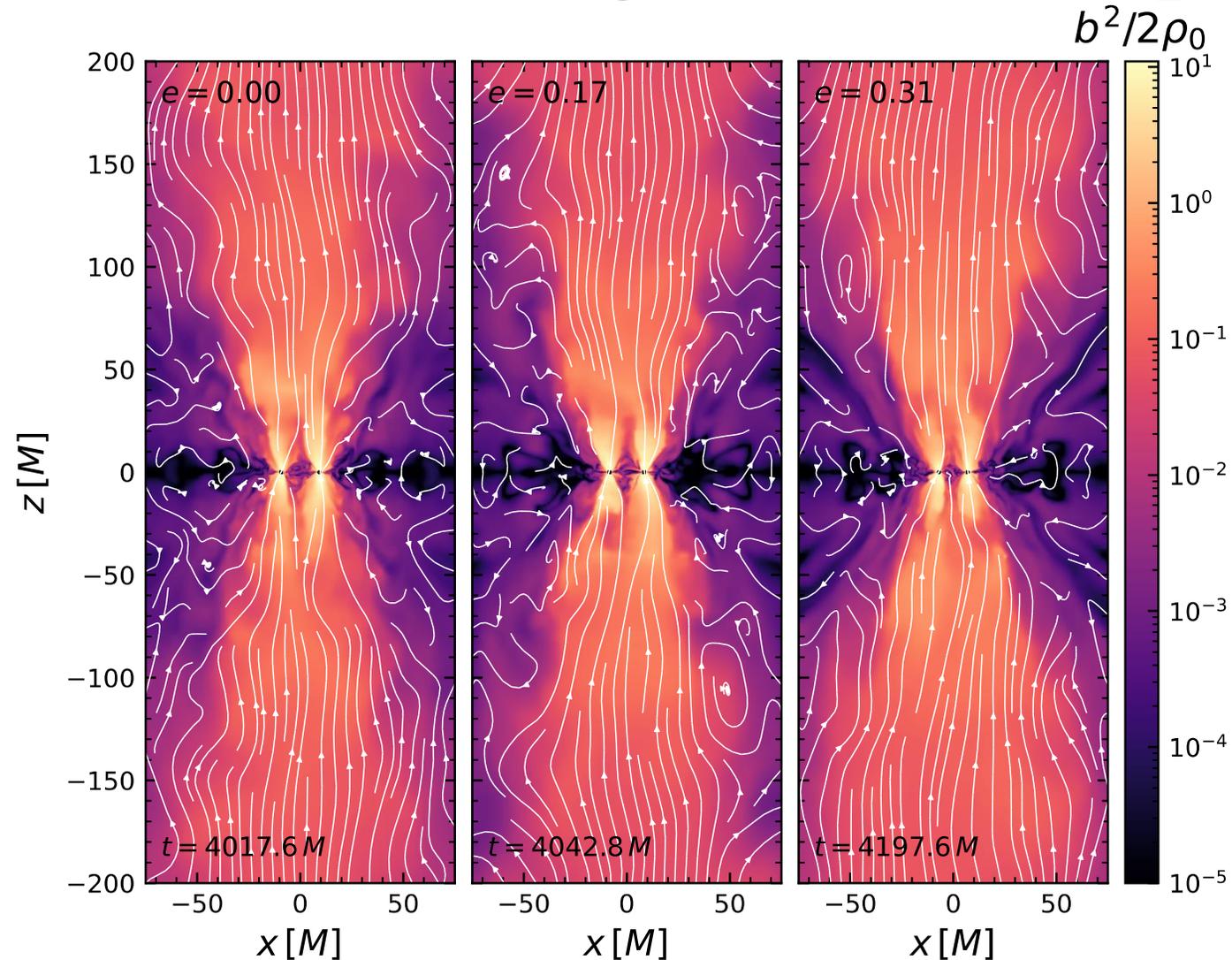
# Accretion is Driven By Pericenter Approach



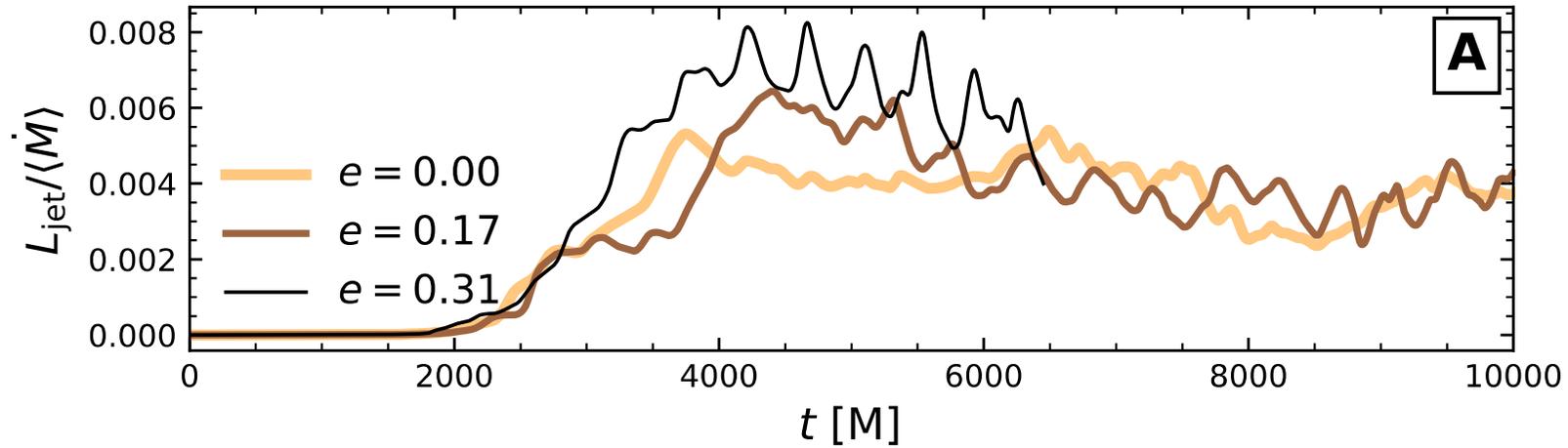
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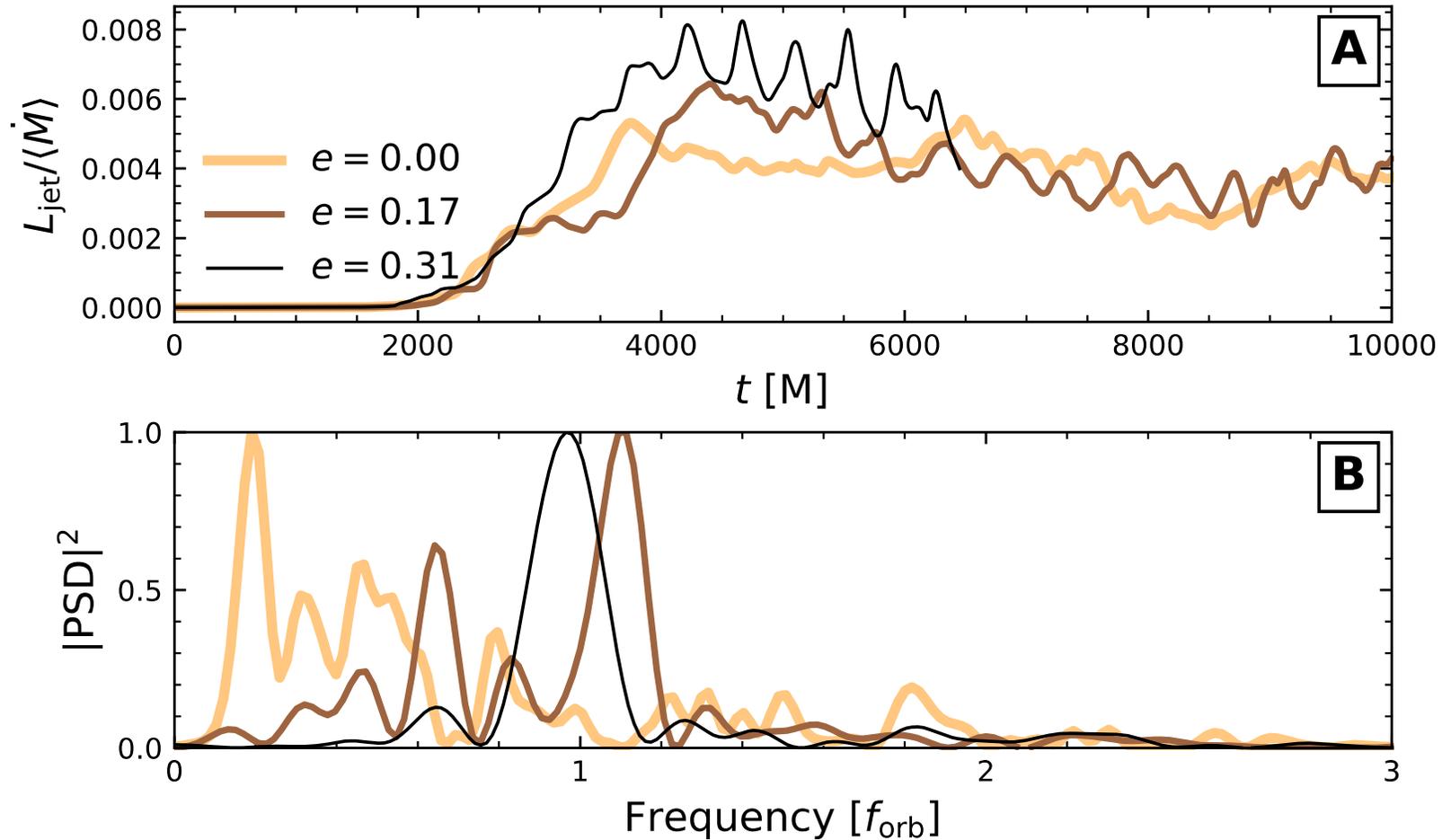
# Ubiquitous Jet Launching from Non-spinning BBH



# Eccentric binaries have variable jets

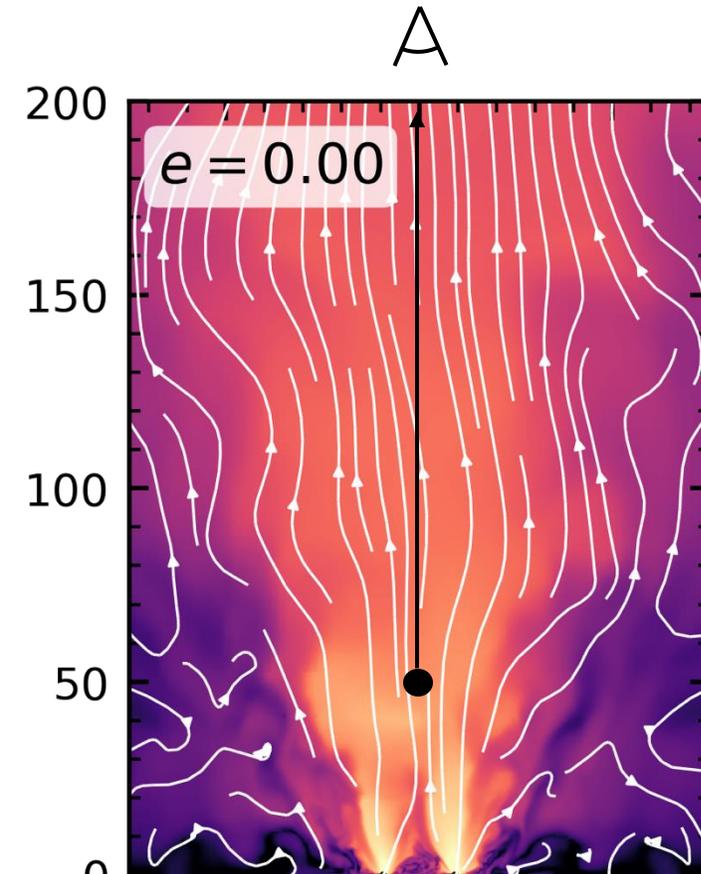


# Eccentric binaries have variable jets

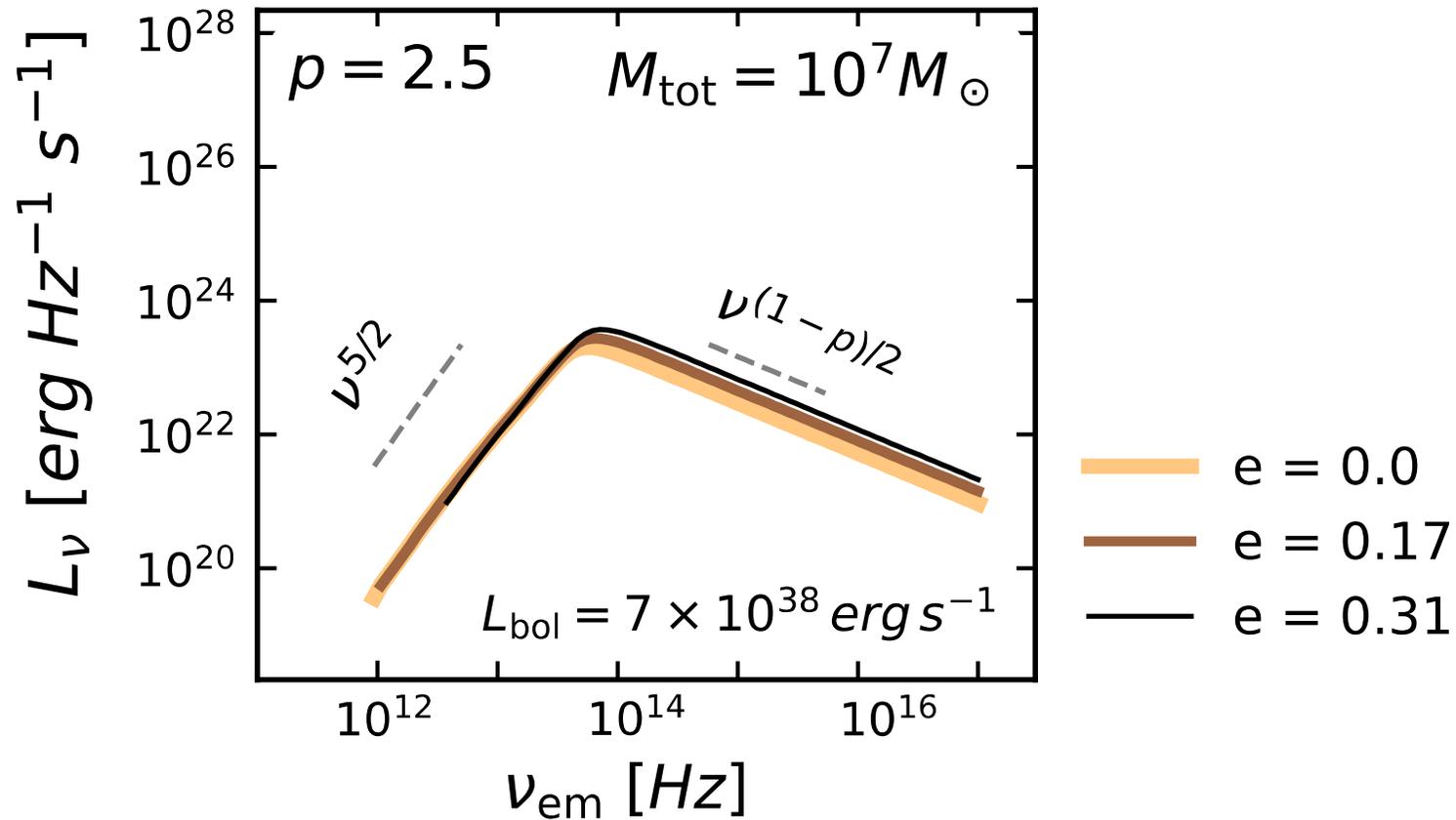


# Synchrotron Radiative Transfer

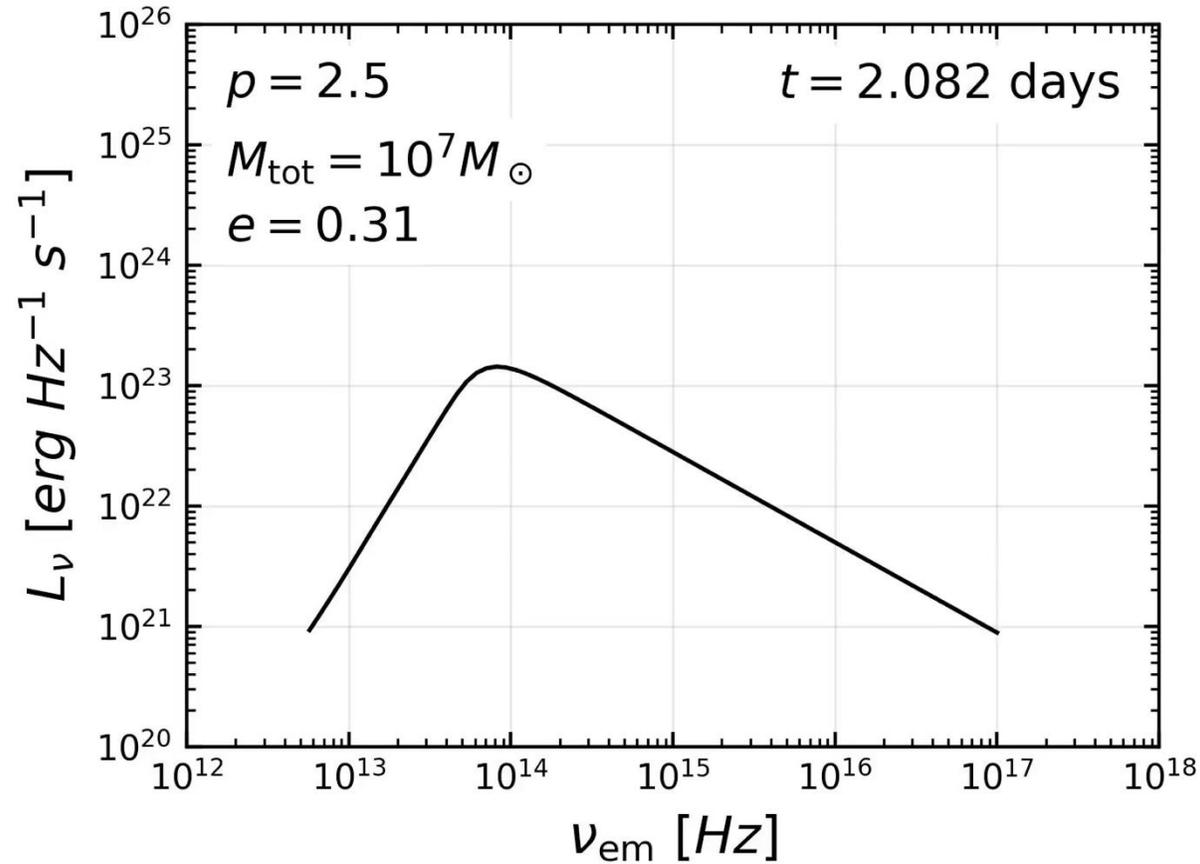
- Choose a line of sight
- Choose electron distribution
- Rybicki & Lightman synchrotron coefficients
- Assumptions:
  1. Fast-light
  2. Non-relativistic
  3.  $z > 50 M$
  4. 10% Eddington
  5. 10% radiative efficiency



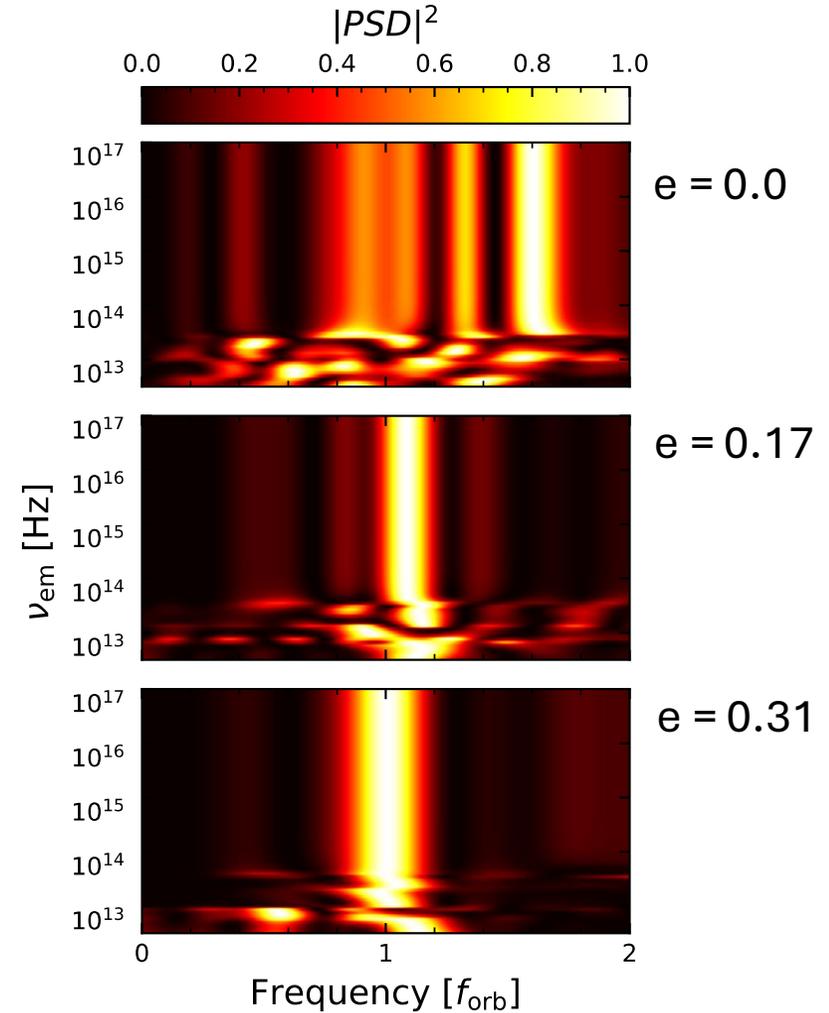
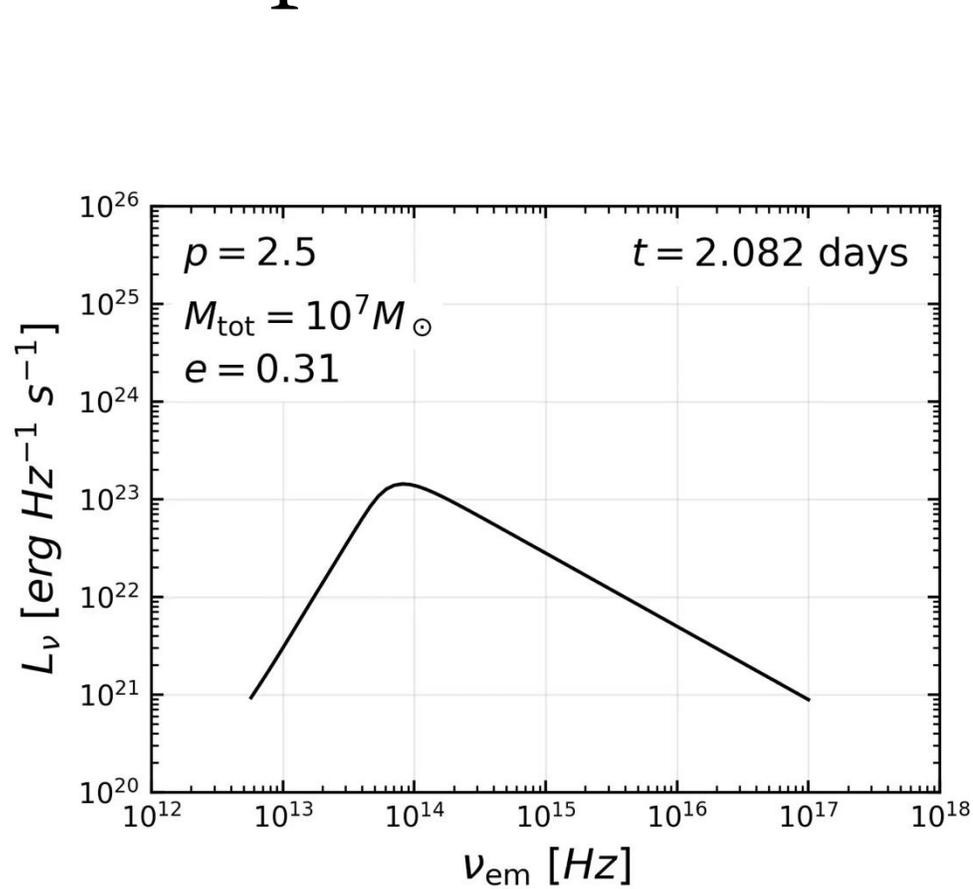
# Recover the Typical Synchrotron SED



# Time-dependent SED are Variable

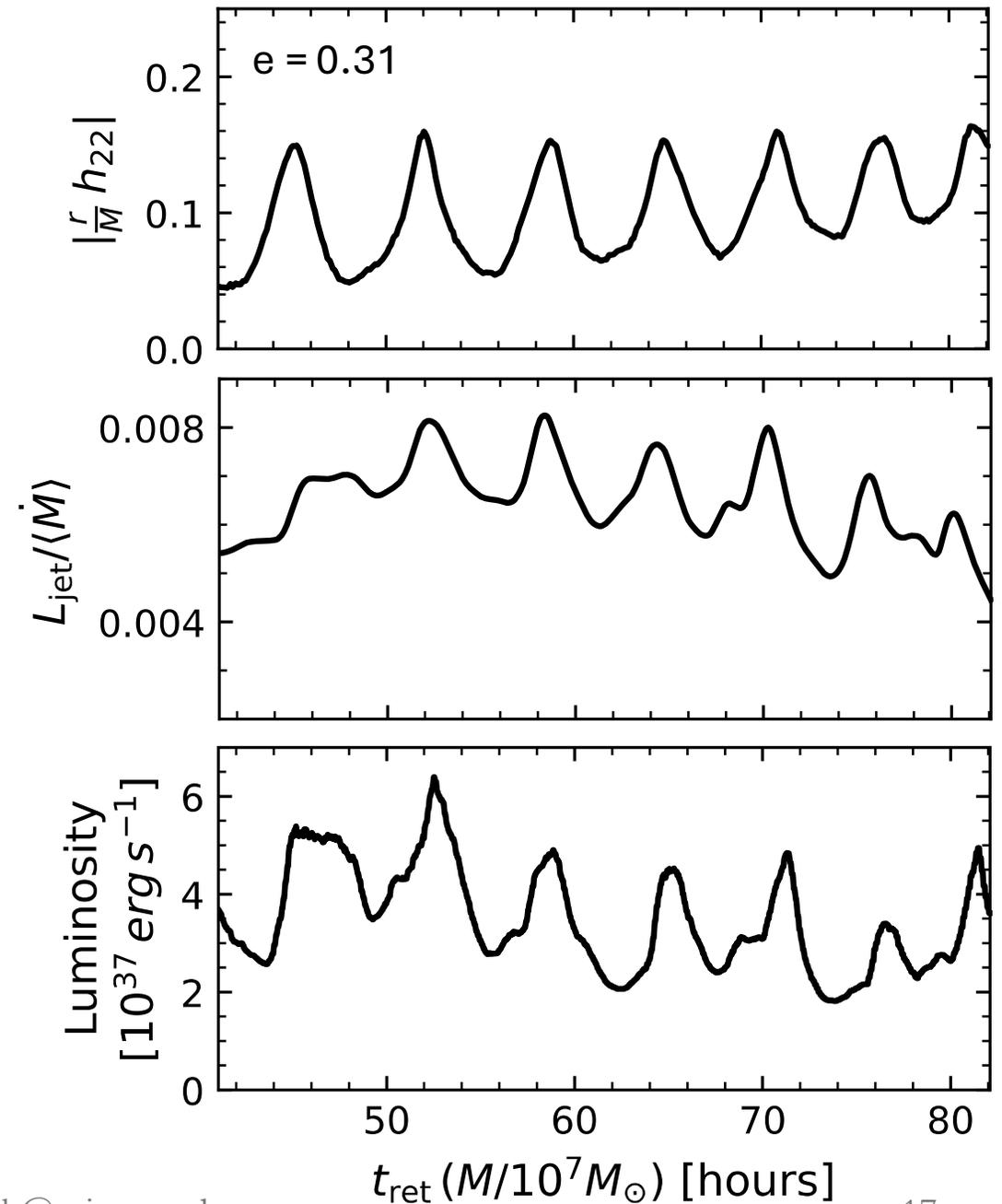


# Time-dependent SED are Variable



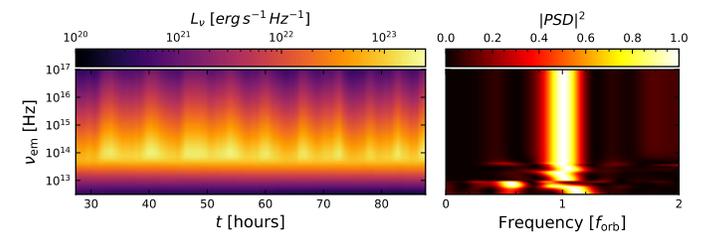
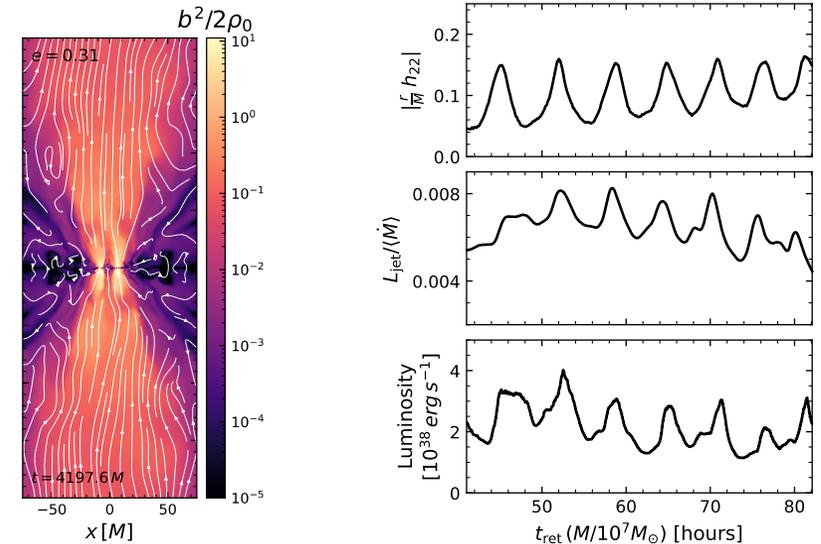
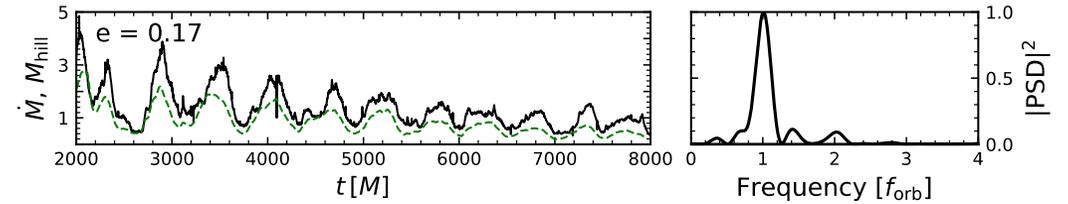
# Coincident EM and GW Bursts

- Gravitational waves
- Jet power
- Synchrotron emission
- ‘Burst’ at the same time and at equal intervals



# Eccentric SMBBHs are Uniquely Identifiable

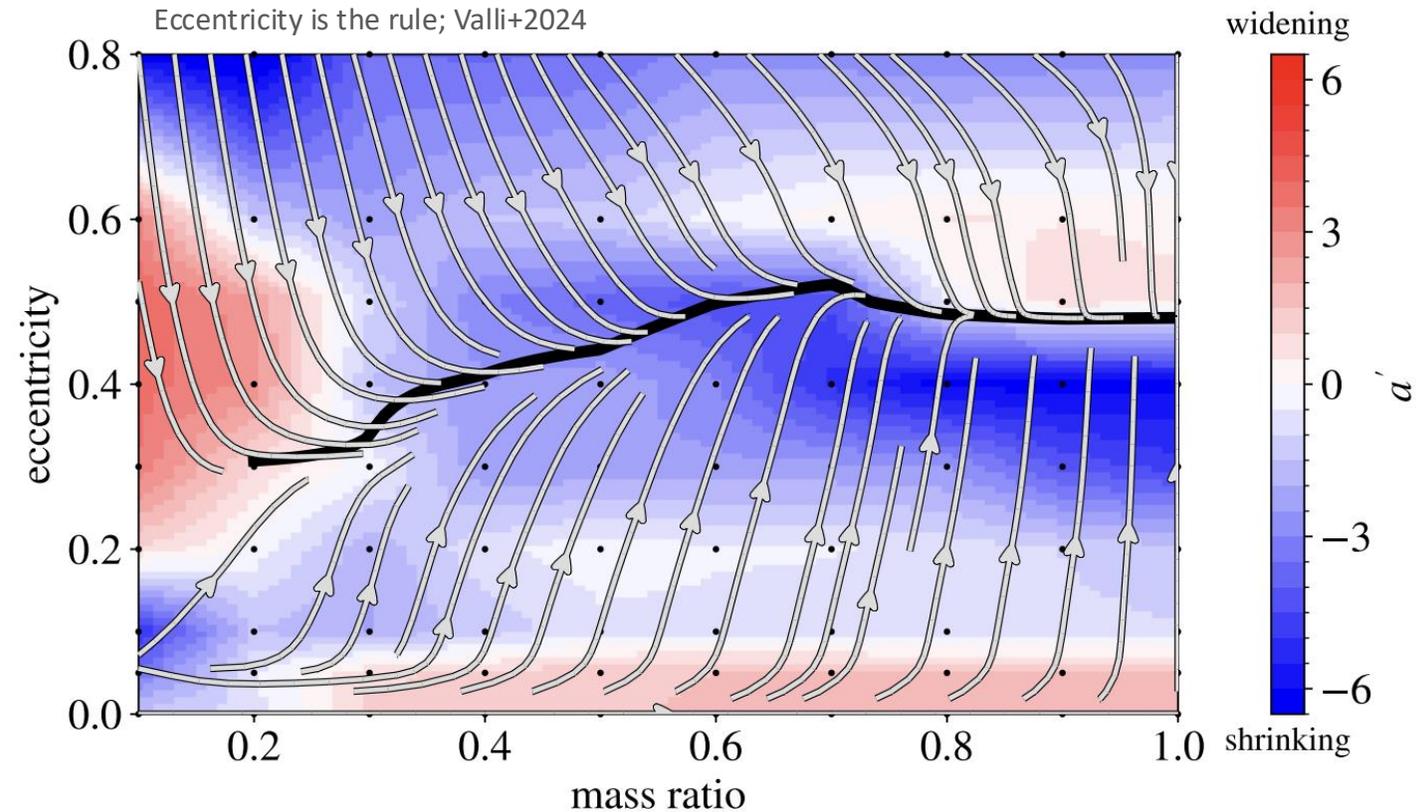
- Eccentric BBHs accrete at  $\sim f_{orb}$
- Their jets are variable on  $\sim f_{orb}$
- This variability is reflected in their synchrotron emission
- Coincident GW and EM bursts
- “Coincident Multi-messenger Bursts from Eccentric Supermassive Binary Black Holes” [Manikantan, Paschalidis, Bozzola, arXiv:2411.11955](#)
- “Effects of Eccentricity on Accreting Binary Black Holes” [Manikantan, Paschalidis, Bozzola, on arXiv next week](#)





# Eccentricity is expected to be common

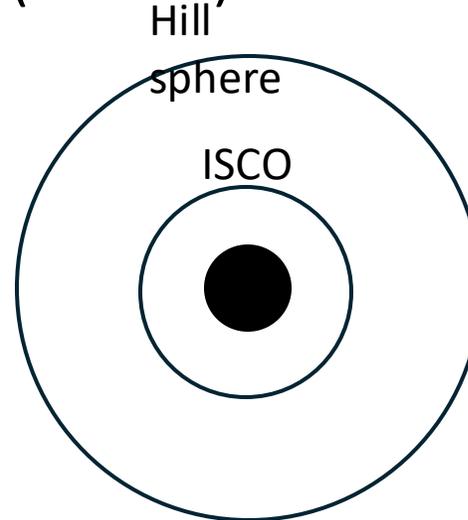
- Galaxy mergers are eccentric; SMBBHs preserve that eccentricity (Gualandris+2022)
- CBD-binary interactions induce long-term eccentricity (Valli+2024)
- SMBBH eccentricity is the norm, and up to  $e=0.5$  (Siwek+2024)



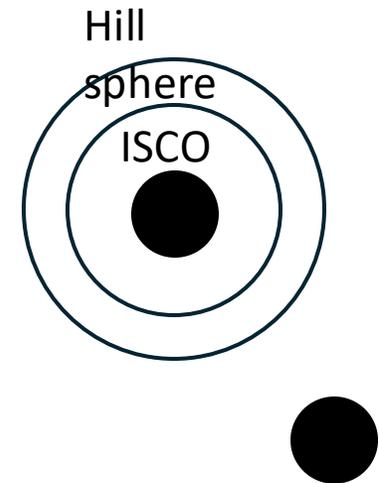
# Accretion is Driven By Pericenter Approach

- ISCO: plunging radius
- Hill sphere-ISCO ratio determines presence of minidisks

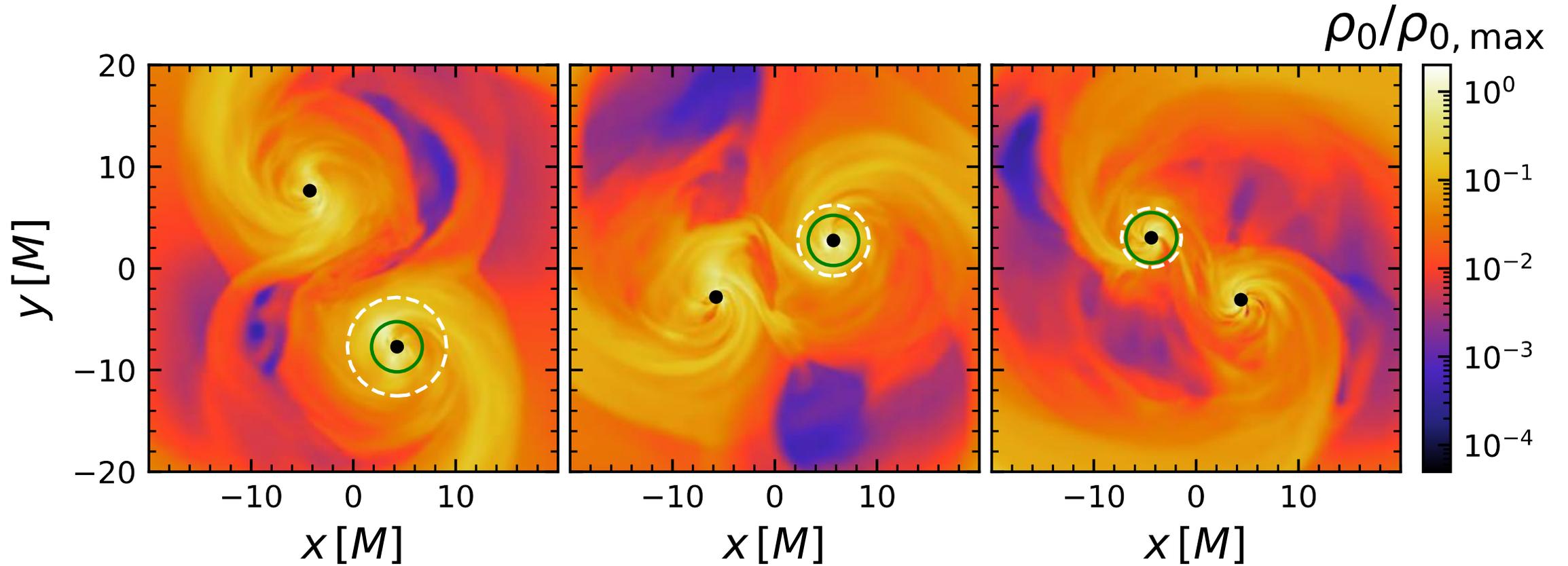
At apocenter  
( $d \sim 26M$ )

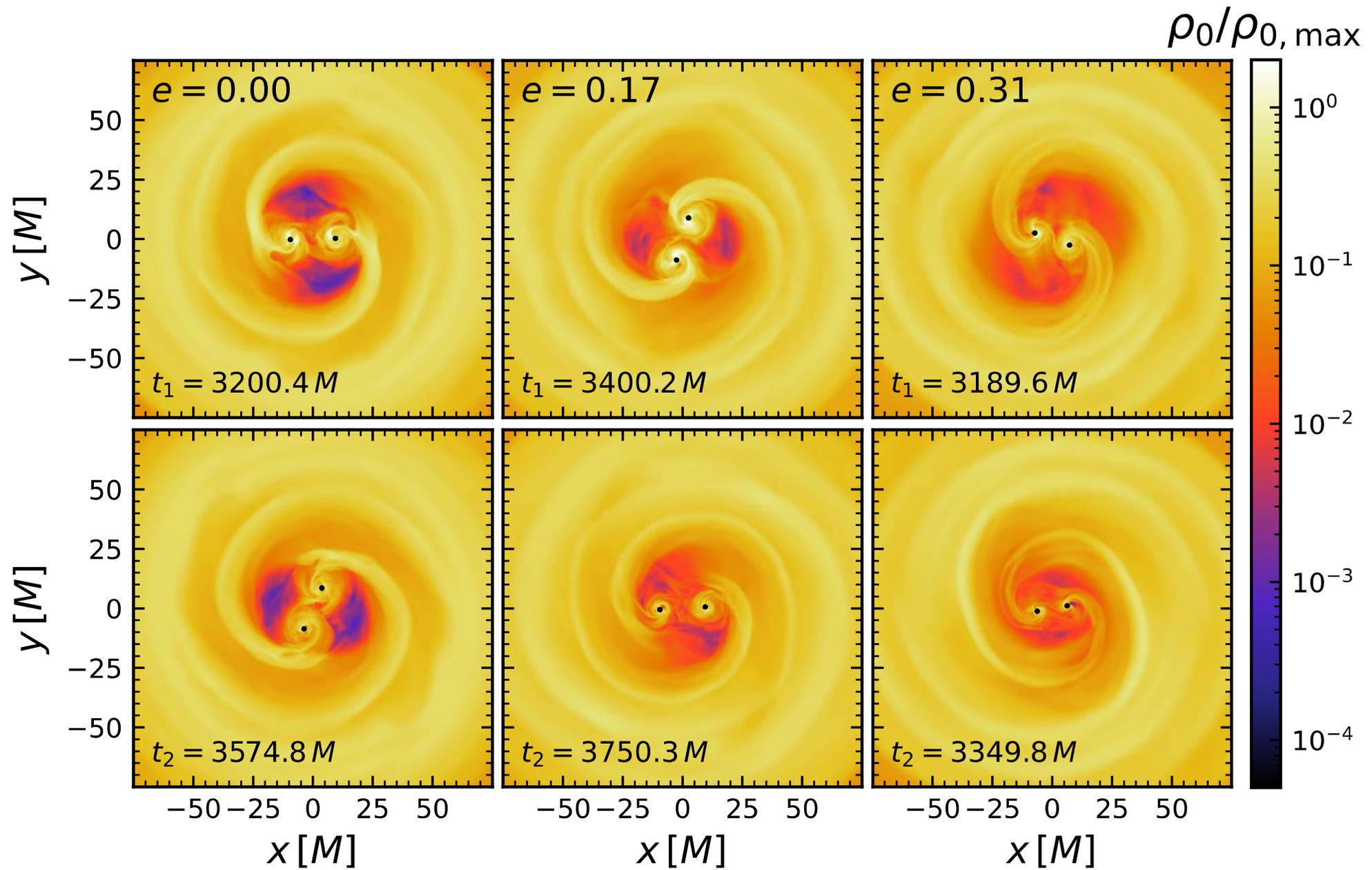


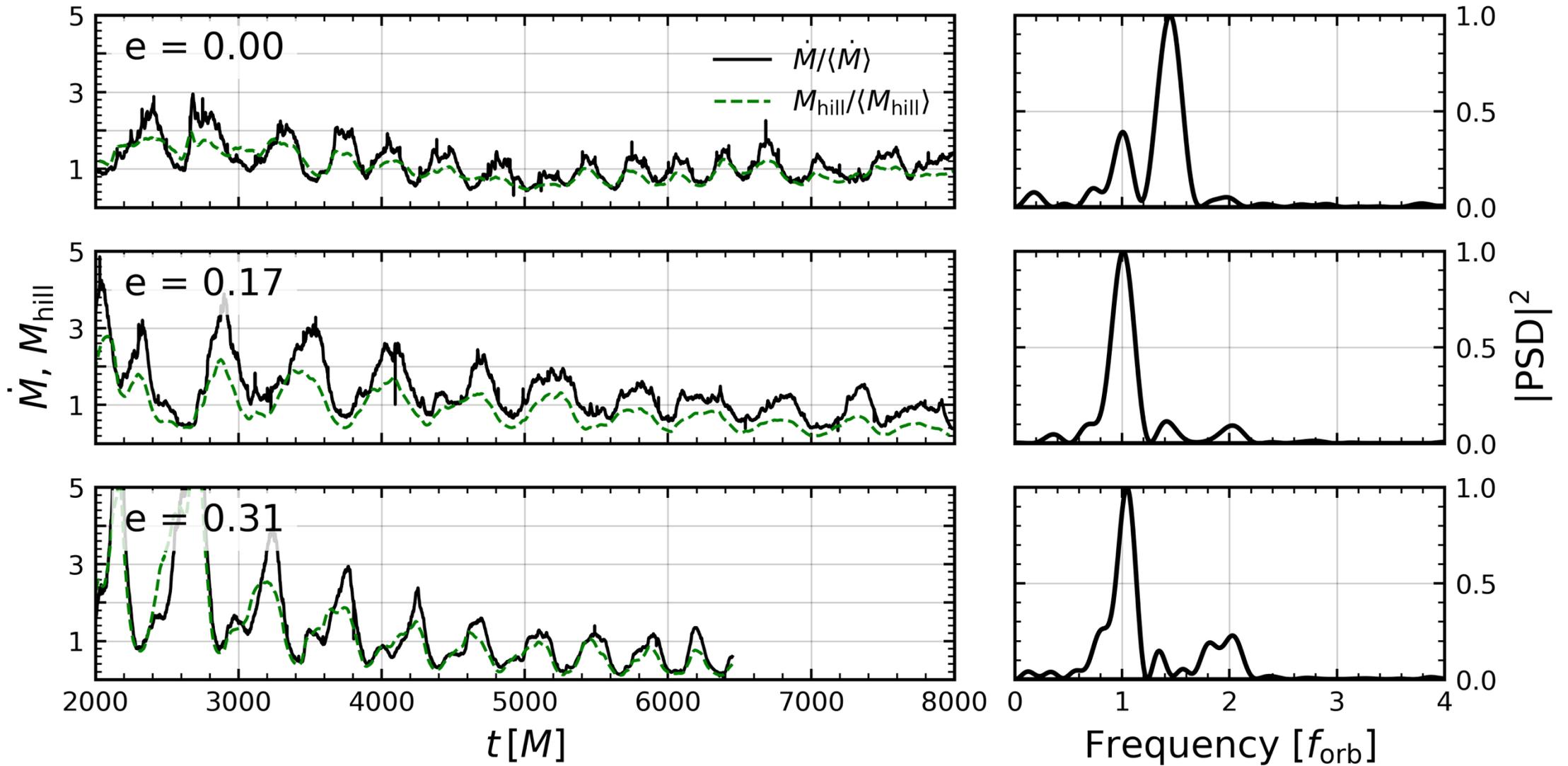
At pericenter ( $d \sim 14M$ )

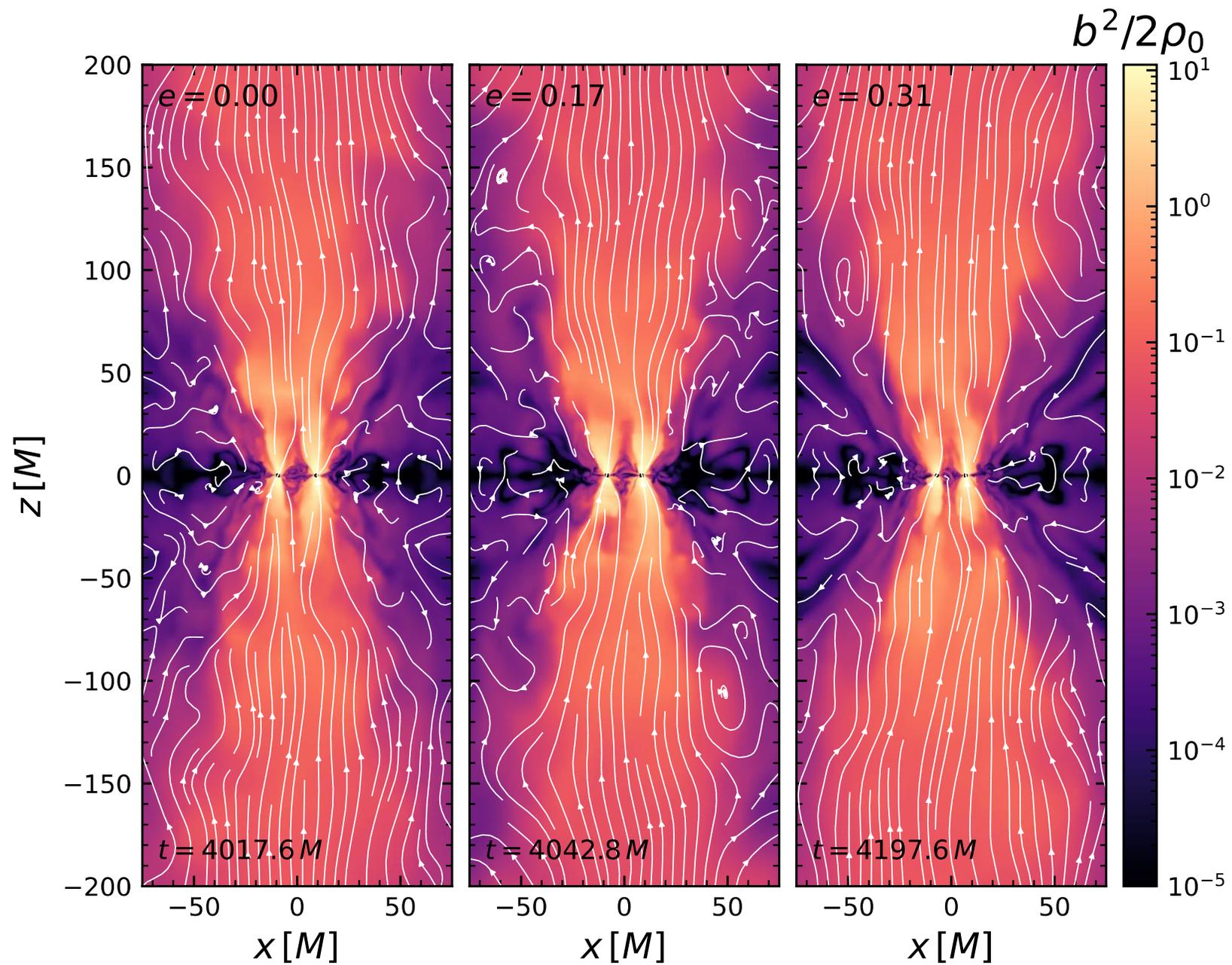


# Accretion is Driven By Pericenter Approach









# Time-dependent SED are Variable

