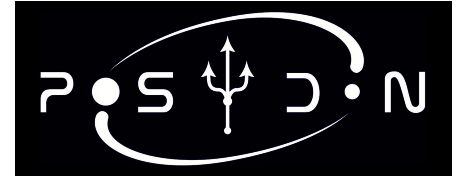


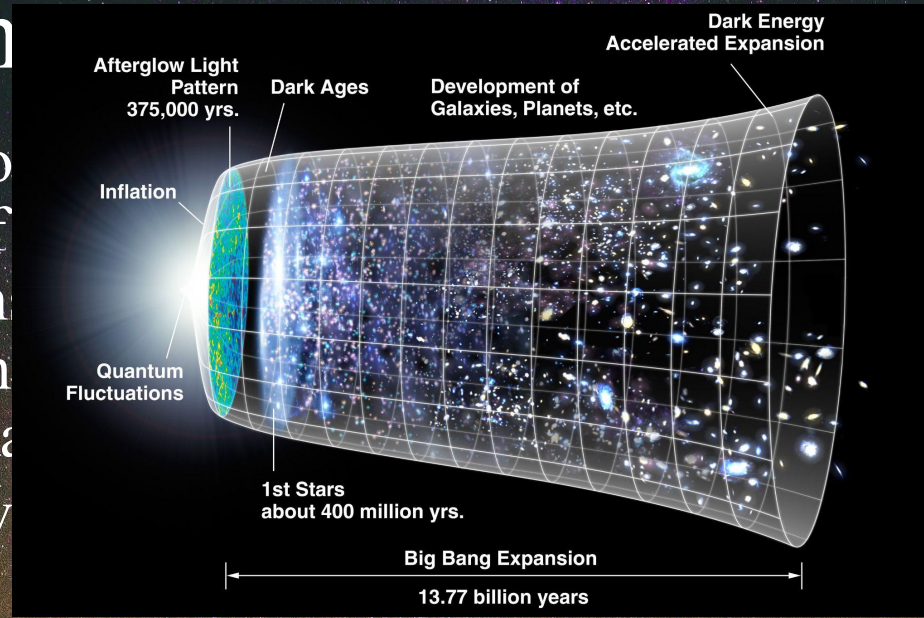
# Deep Neural Operators for Detailed Binary Evolution Simulation

Philipp M. Srivastava, Ugur Demir, Patrick Koller, Santiago Lopez, Manuel Ballester, Shamal Lalvani, Aggelos Katsaggelos, and Vicky Kalogera with the POSYDON collaboration



# Astronomy

- One of the oldest questions of science
- Observation of the universe through electromagnetic radiation
- Now, celestial objects can also be studied through gravitational waves



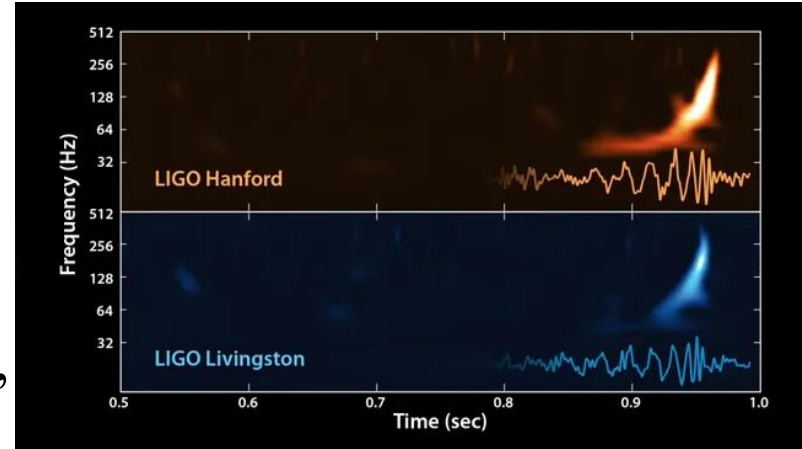
... fundamental  
... visible  
... be studied

[6]

Photo by [Greg Rakozy](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Gravitational Waves (GW)

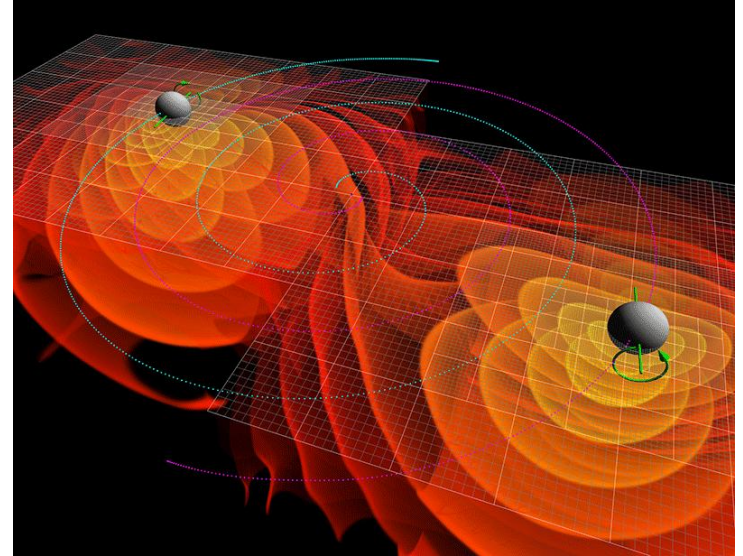
- First detected on September 14, 2015
- Theorized 100 years earlier in Einstein theory of general relativity
- When two compact objects inspiral, they emit GWs
- What kinds of objects create GWs?



[1]

# Binary star systems as GW emitters

- Most stars are born as a binary system
- Binary evolution can leave imprints in these GW events
- Binary population synthesis codes allow us to estimate the number of these sources



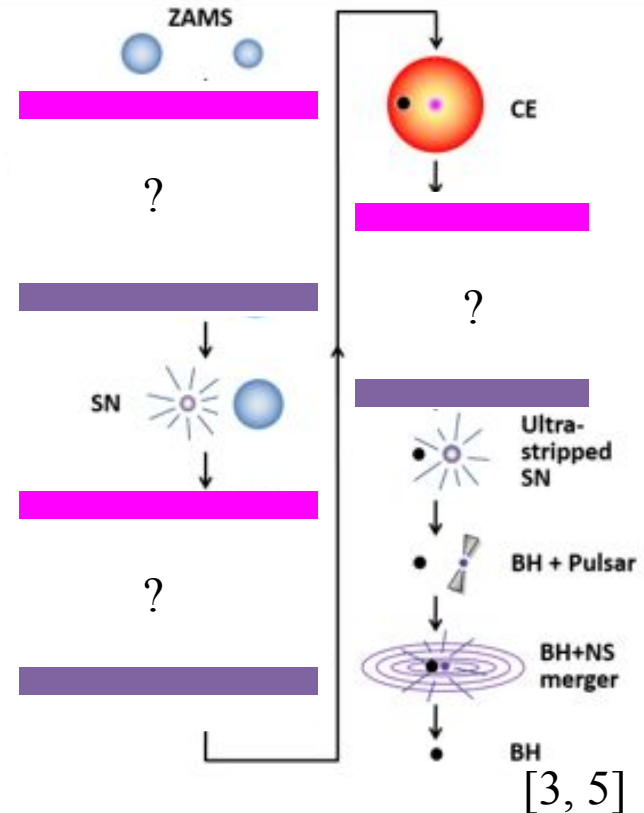
[2]

# Outline

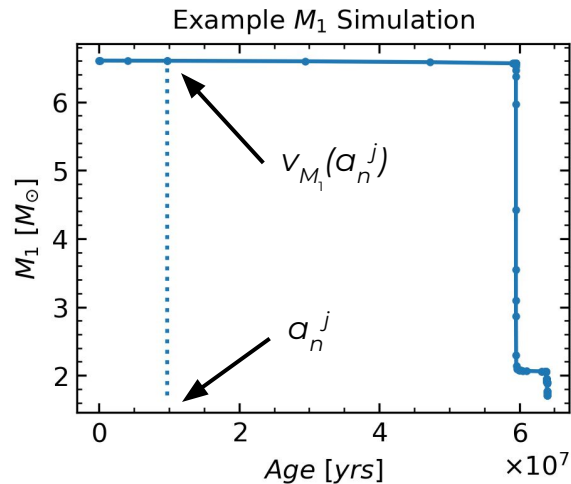
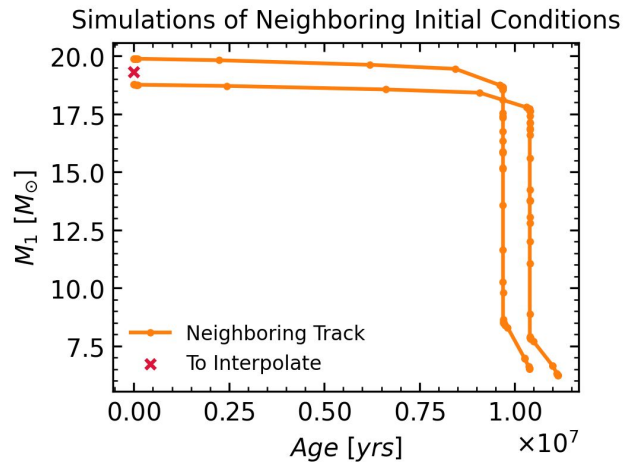
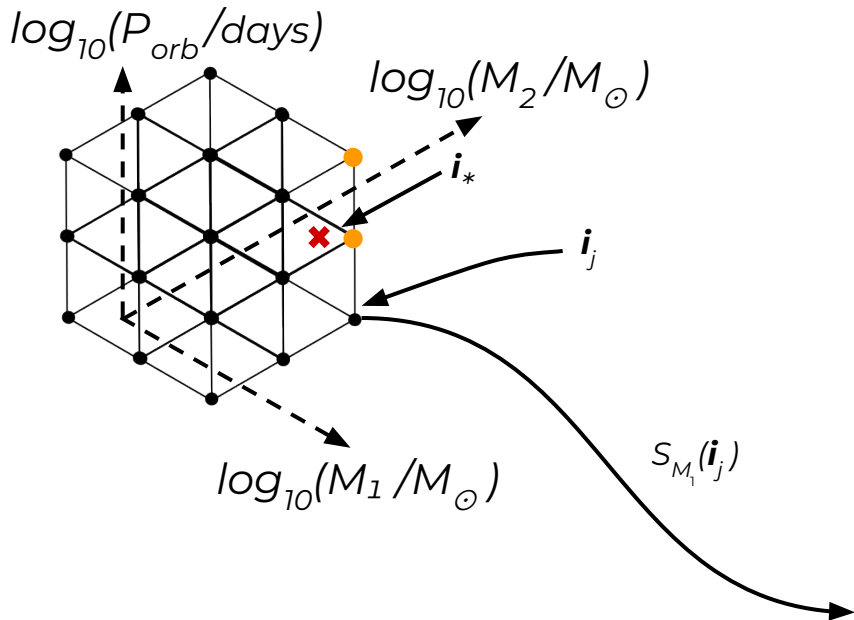
1. What is binary population synthesis (BPS)
2. Problem definition
3. Proposed method
4. Results
5. Discussion & future work

# Binary Population Synthesis (BPS)

- BPS is the large scale simulation of binary star systems
- Accurate systems omit large parts of binary evolution
- Numerical methods for approximating omitted parts can take up to ~48 hours per binary
- Traditional methods lack sufficient accuracy, don't exploit known physics, and don't account for dependencies between system parameters



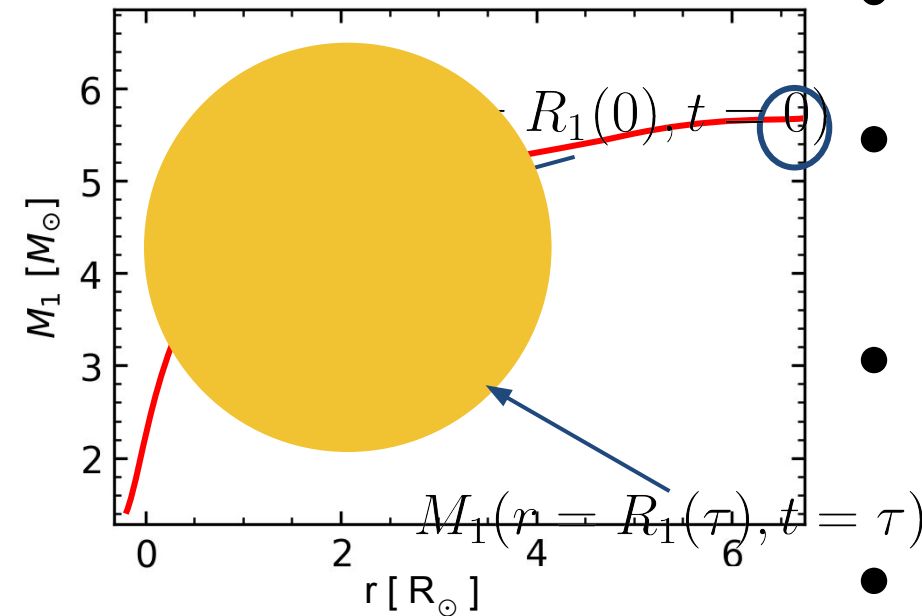
# Problem Definition



[Srivastava et al. 2025]

# Neural Operator?

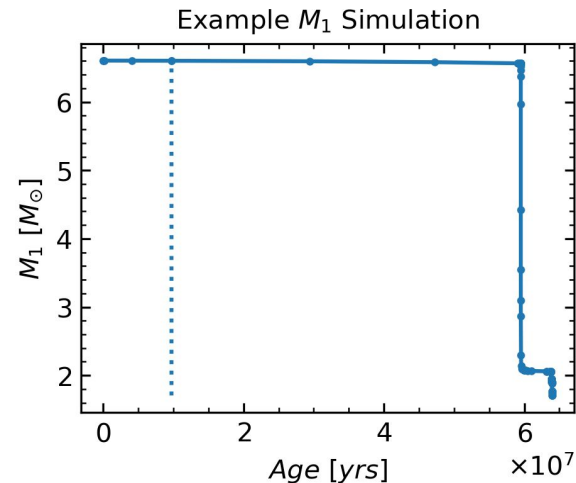
Example Track Interpolation



- Neural operators are typically used to solve initial value problems
- In the context of partial differential equations (PDEs) this is an initial value function
- We can define the initial value function as  $M_1(r, t = 0)$  which we sample at  $M_1(r = R_1(0), t = 0)$
- The task becomes to approximate  $M_1(r = R_1(\tau), t = \tau)$  at arbitrary  $\mathcal{T}$

# Simply put

$$f(\mathbf{i}_*, t) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{z}}_{\mathbf{i}_*}^t$$



Initial value

$$\mathbf{i}_* \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

Arbitrary time

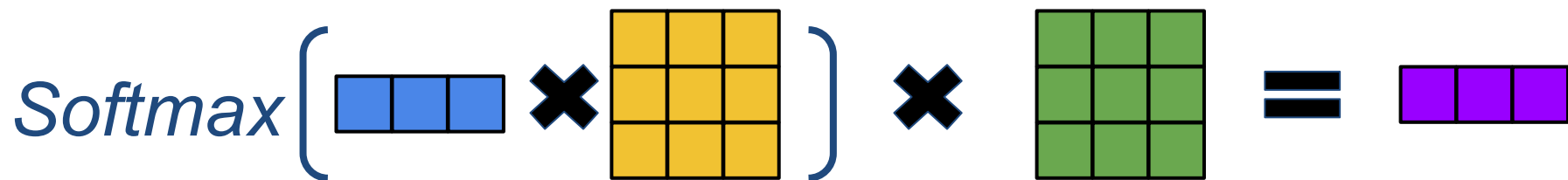
$$t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Initial value with time

$$\mathbf{i}_*^t = (\mathbf{i}_*, t) \in \mathbb{R}^4$$



# Cross-Attention

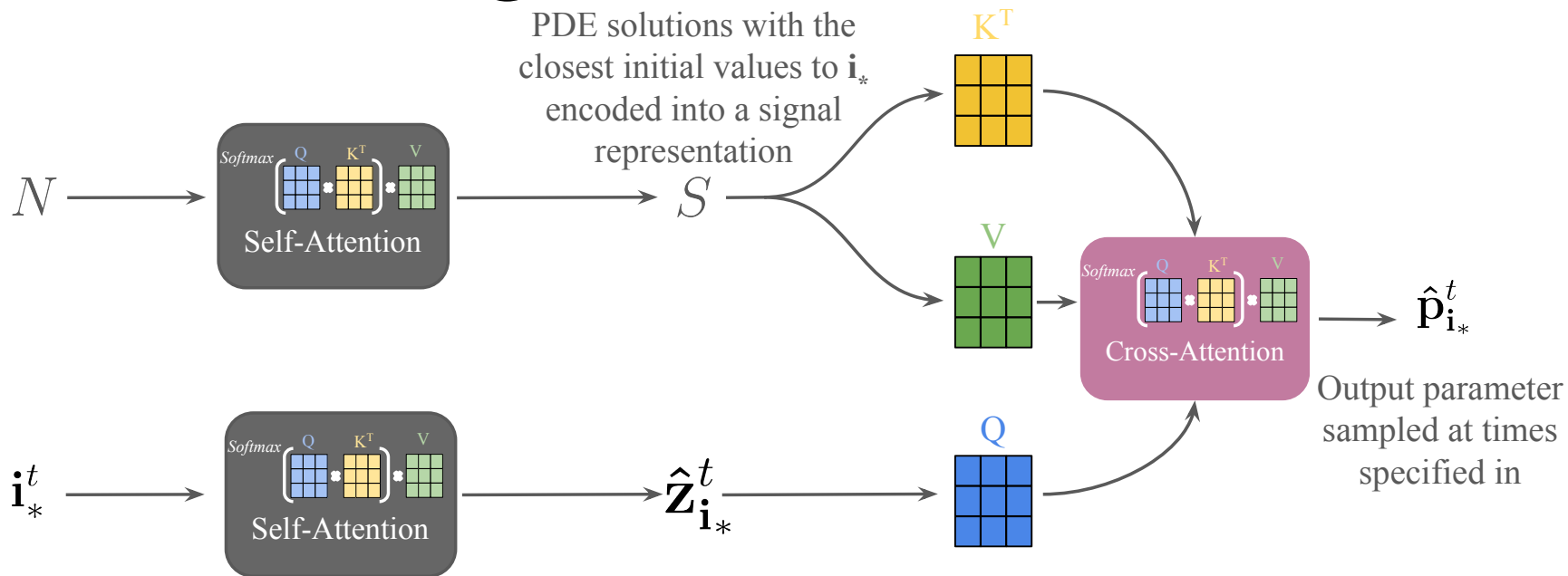


$$Q = \hat{\mathbf{z}}_{i_*}^t W_Q \quad K = N W_K \quad V = N W_V \quad \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{i_*}^t$$

$$W_Q, W_K, W_V \in \mathbb{R}^{(d \times d')}$$

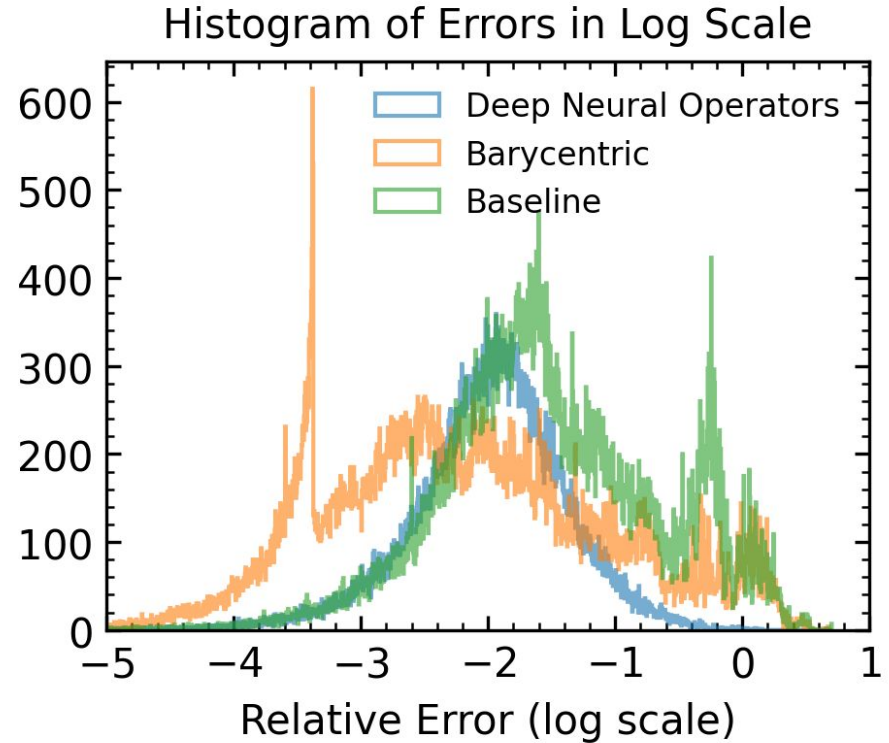
\*Followed by fully connected layers

# System Design



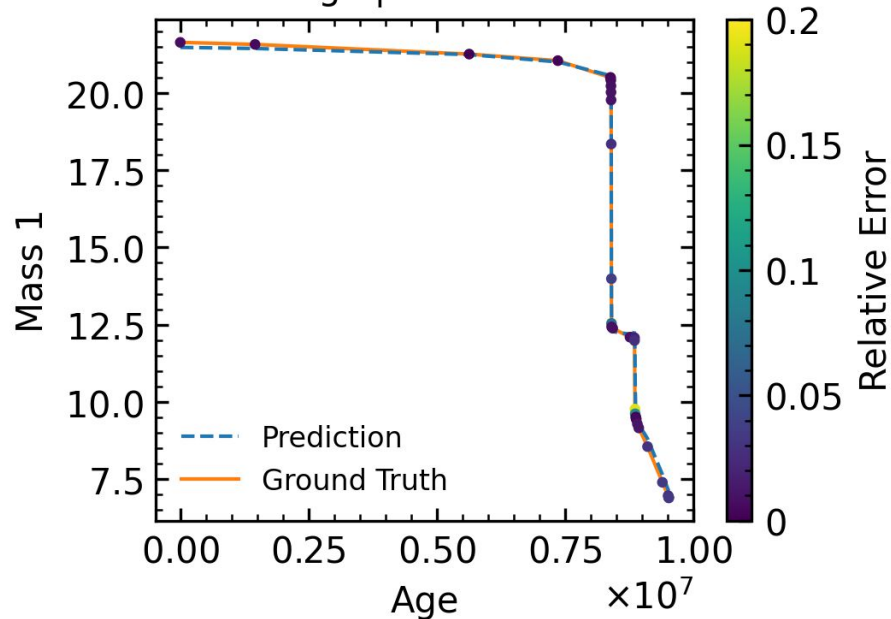
# With predicted classes results

	Median	Mean
Barycentric	<b>0.53%</b>	10.82%
Neural Ops	1.1%	<b>2.43%</b>

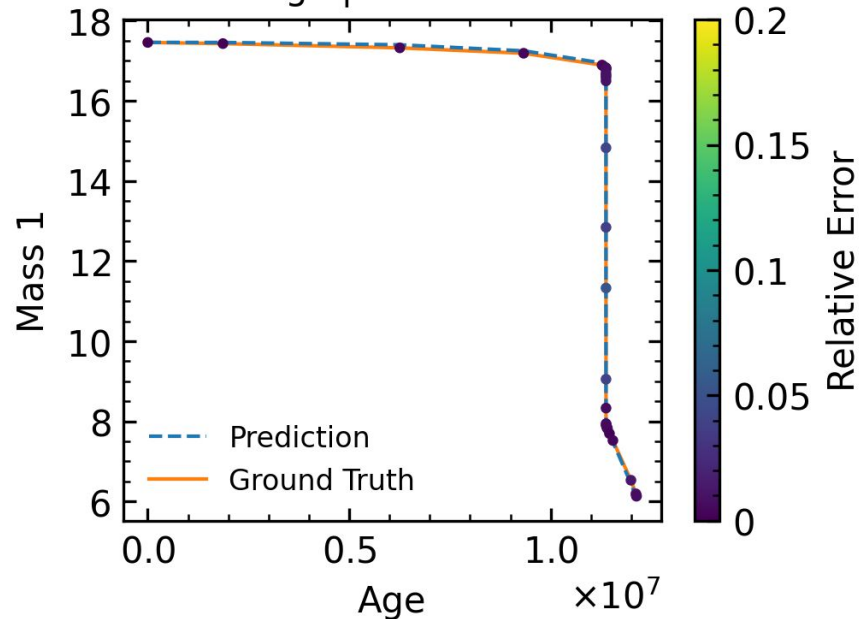


# Some tracks

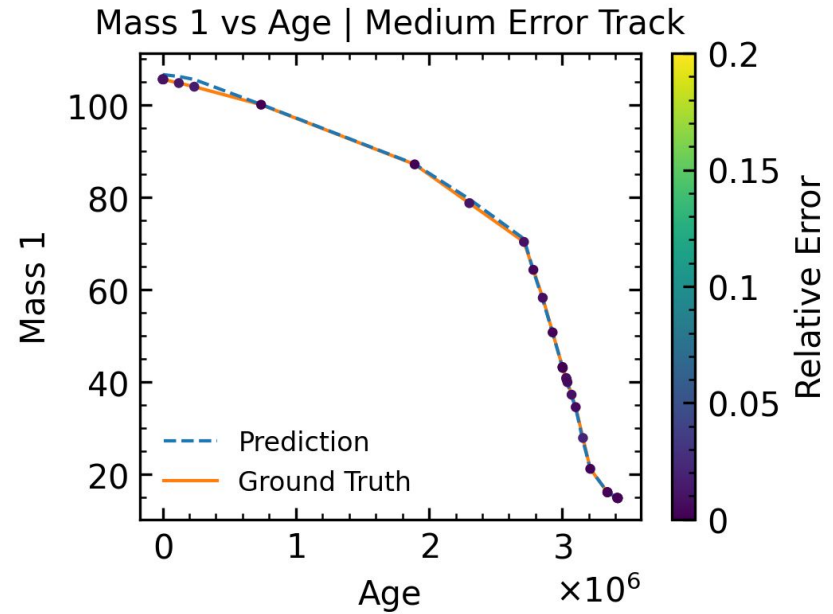
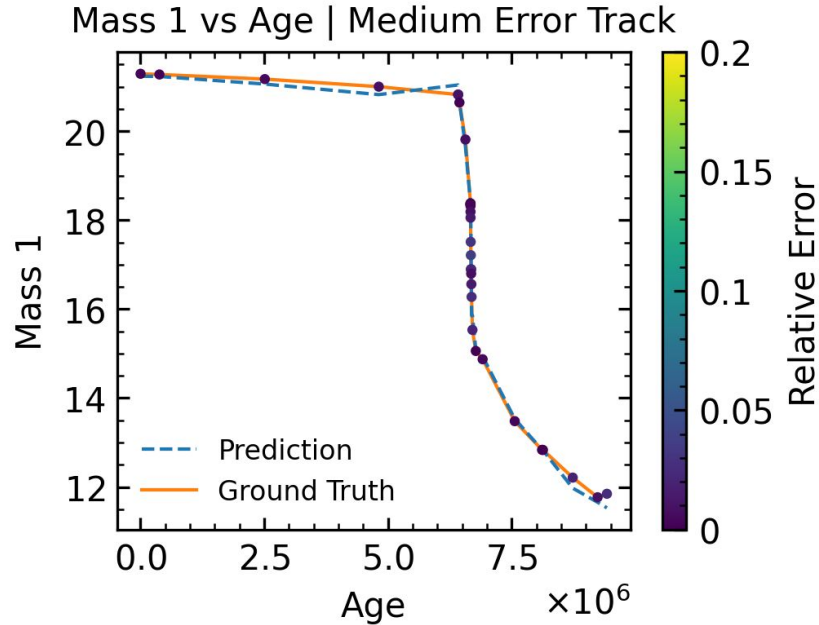
Mass 1 vs Age | Medium Error Track



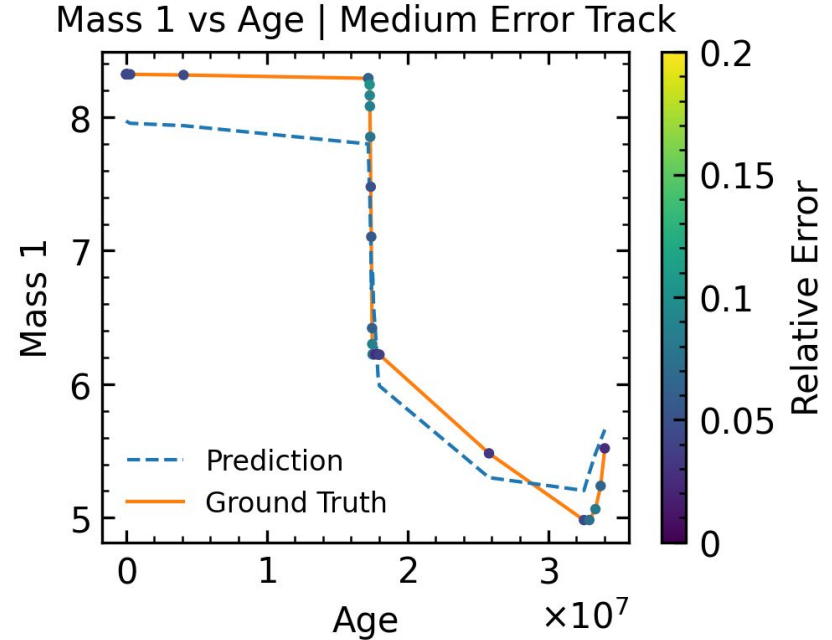
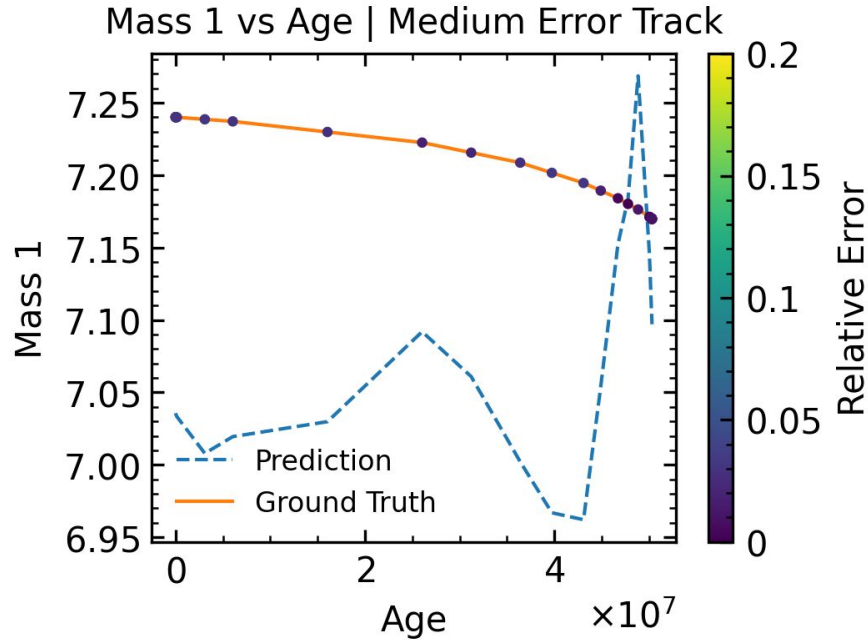
Mass 1 vs Age | Medium Error Track



# Some tracks



# Problematic tracks



# Discussion & future work

- Want to predict more parameters simultaneously to exploit dependencies between them
- Using known Physics to train the system is an enticing prospect
- Efficacy needs to be verified through usage by astrophysical community

# References

- [1] B. P. Abbott *et al.*, “Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger,” *Physical Review Letters*, vol. 116, no. 6, Feb. 2016, doi: 10.1103/physrevlett.116.061102.
- [2] E. Berti, “The first sounds of merging black holes,” *Physics*, Feb. 11, 2016. <https://physics.aps.org/articles/v9/17>
- [3] Tauris, T. M. and van den Heuvel, E. P. J., *Physics of Binary Star Evolution. From Stars to X-ray Binaries and Gravitational Wave Sources*. 2023. doi:10.48550/arXiv.2305.09388.
- [4] Srivastava, P. M., “Irregularly Sampled Time Series Interpolation for Detailed Binary Evolution Simulations”, *The Astrophysical Journal*, vol. 984, no. 2, Art. no. 154, IOP, 2025. doi:10.3847/1538-4357/adbe6b.
- [5] Fragos, T., “POSYDON: A General-purpose Population Synthesis Code with Detailed Binary-evolution Simulations”, *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*, vol. 264, no. 2, Art. no. 45, IOP, 2023. doi:10.3847/1538-4365/ac90c1.
- [6] “Timeline of the Universe image.” <https://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/060915/index.html>

# Questions?

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# Definitions

Initial value

$$\mathbf{i}_* \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

Arbitrary time

$$t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Initial value

$$\mathbf{i}'_* = (\mathbf{i}_*, t) \in \mathbb{R}^4$$

Neighbors defined as

$$\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{(32 \times d)}$$

Concatenated neighbors

$$\mathbf{N} \in \mathbb{R}^{([2 \cdot 32] \times d)}$$

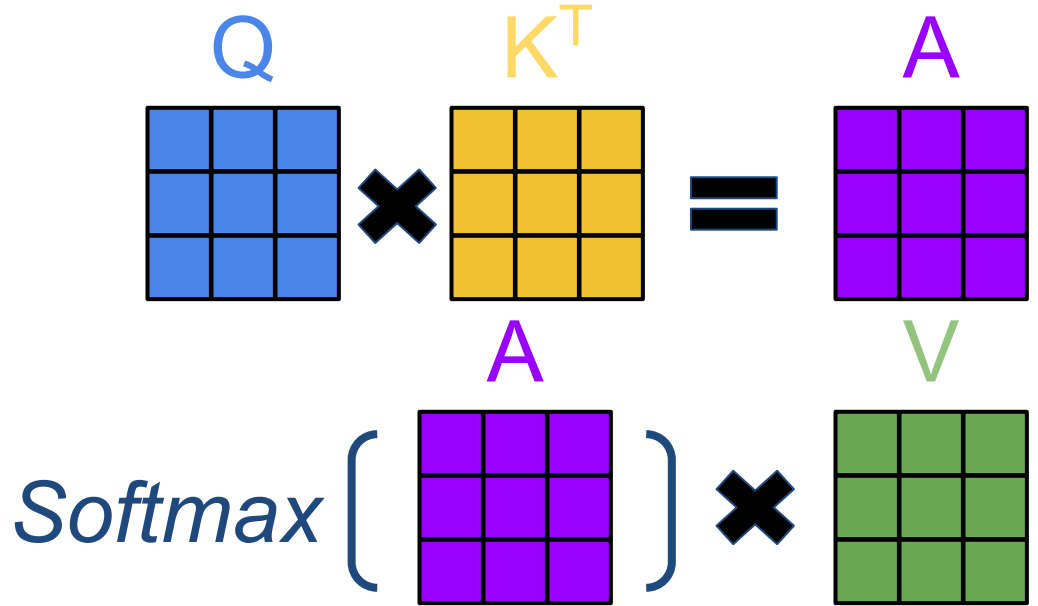
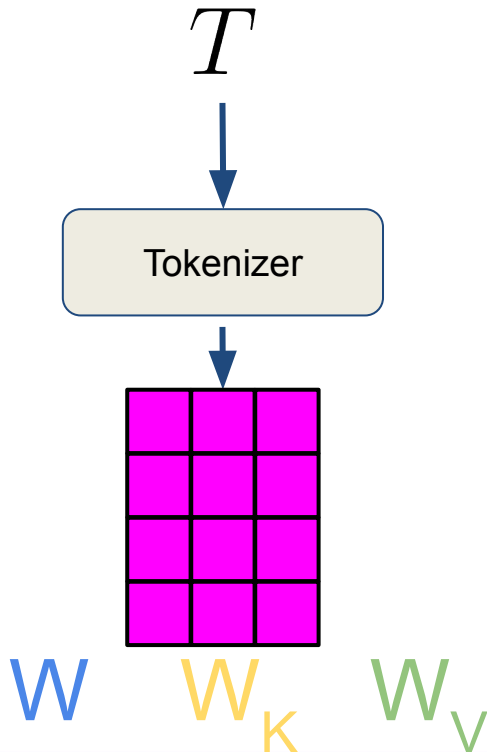
Arbitrary track

$$T \in \mathbb{R}^{(32 \times d)}$$

Embedded vector

$$\mathbf{z} \begin{pmatrix} (\cdot) \\ (\cdot) \end{pmatrix}$$

# Self-Attention



\*Followed by fully connected layers