

# The Origins of Gas Accreted by Supermassive Black Holes: The Importance of Recycled Gas

“What properties of host galaxies affect black hole growth?”

2023 Survey Science Group Workshop, Jan 16-18<sup>th</sup> 2023

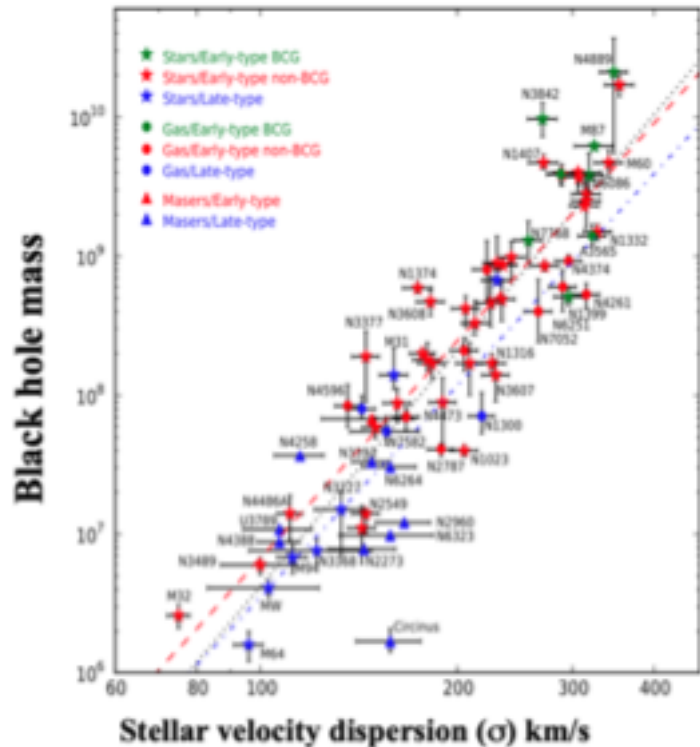
**Ena Choi (University of Seoul)**

Rachel Somerville (Flatiron Institute), Jeremiah P. Ostriker (Columbia U.),

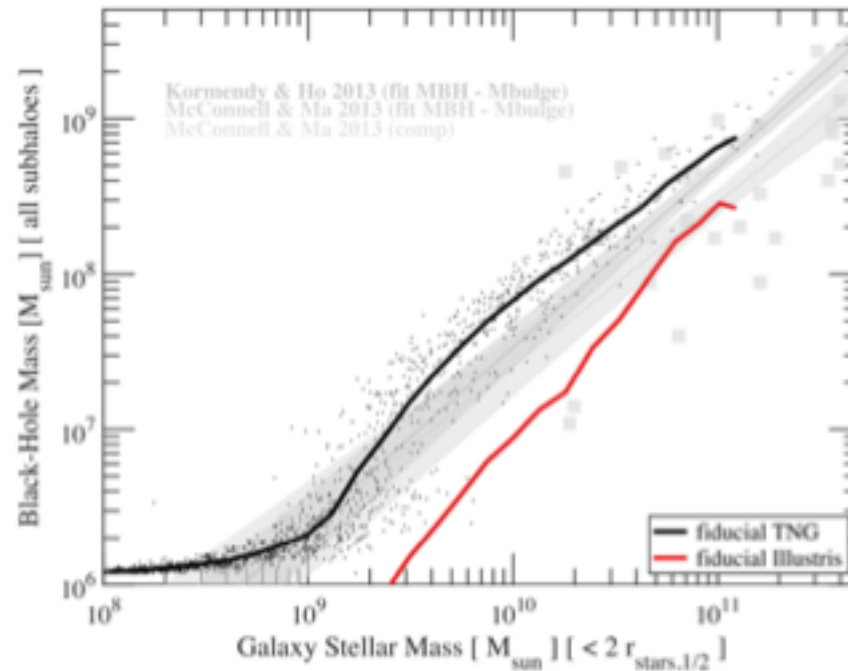
Michaela Hirschmann (EPFL), Thorsten Naab (MPA)

# Key question

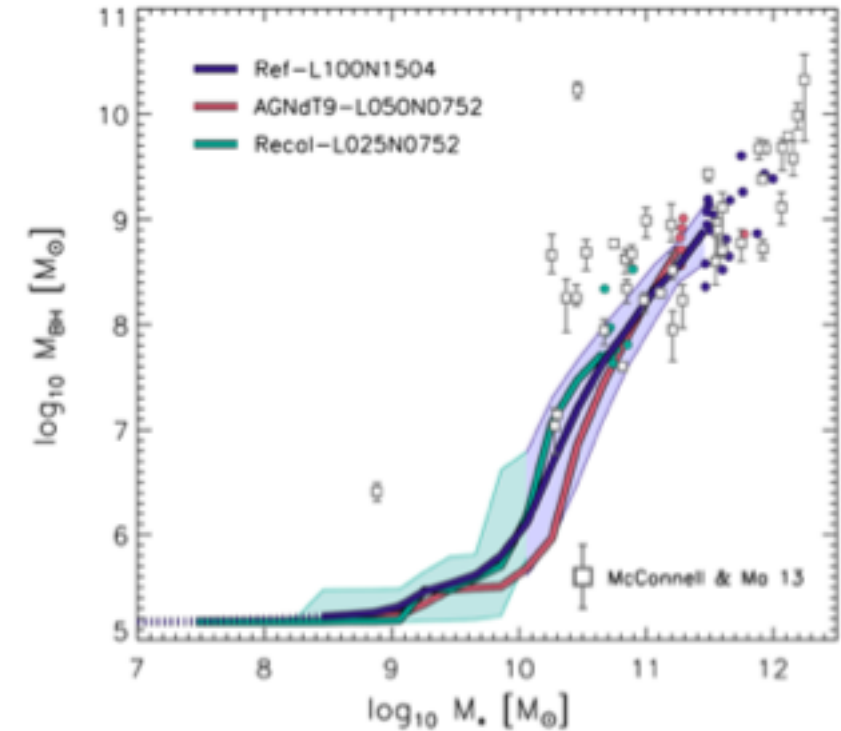
- $\sim 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$  supermassive blackholes (monsters) we see today...



Observation (McConnell&Ma+13)



TNG (Pillepich+17)

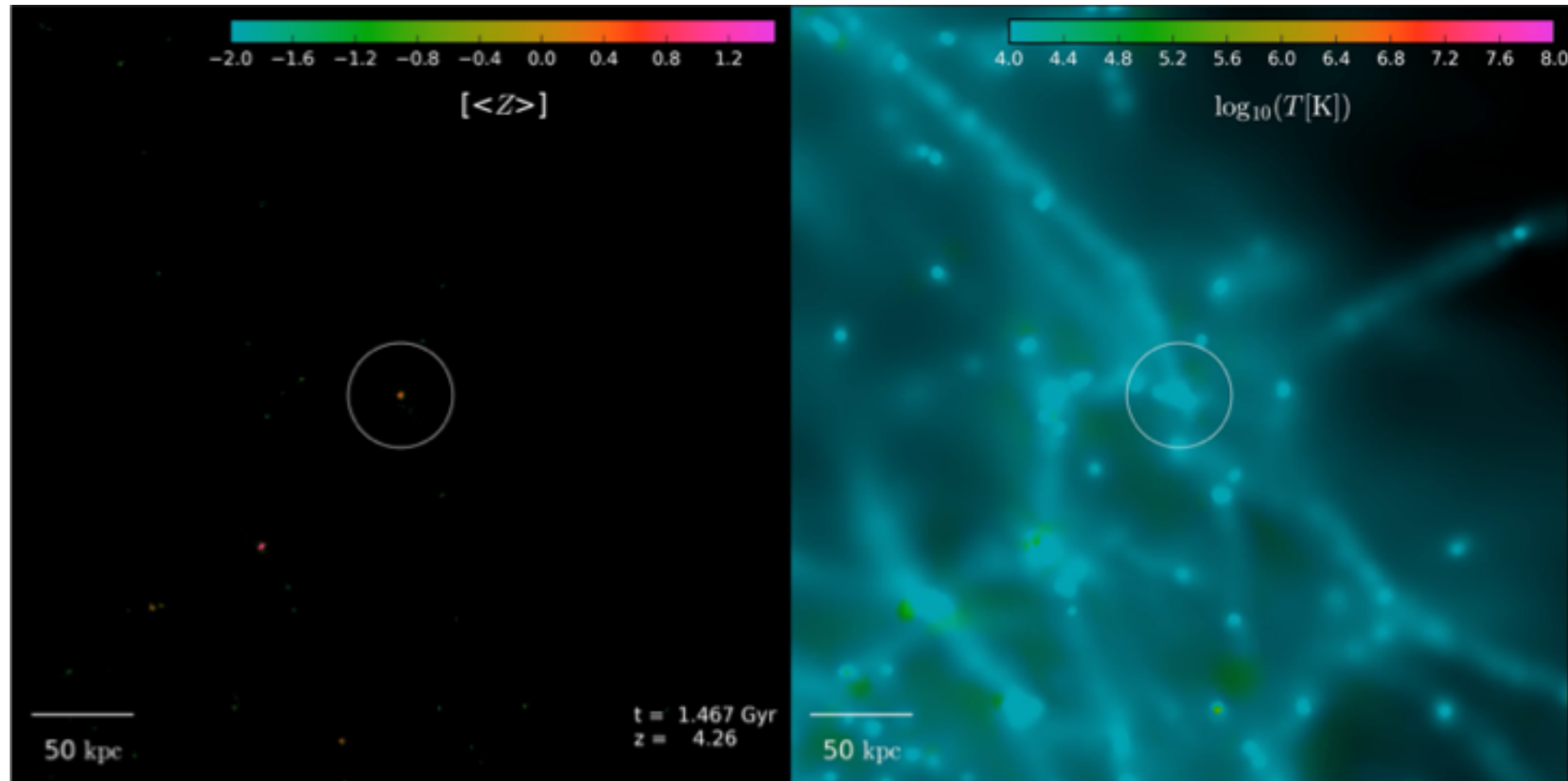


EAGLE (Schaye+15)

- How does the host galaxy nurture  $\sim 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$  central black holes?

# Zoom-in cosmological hydro simulations

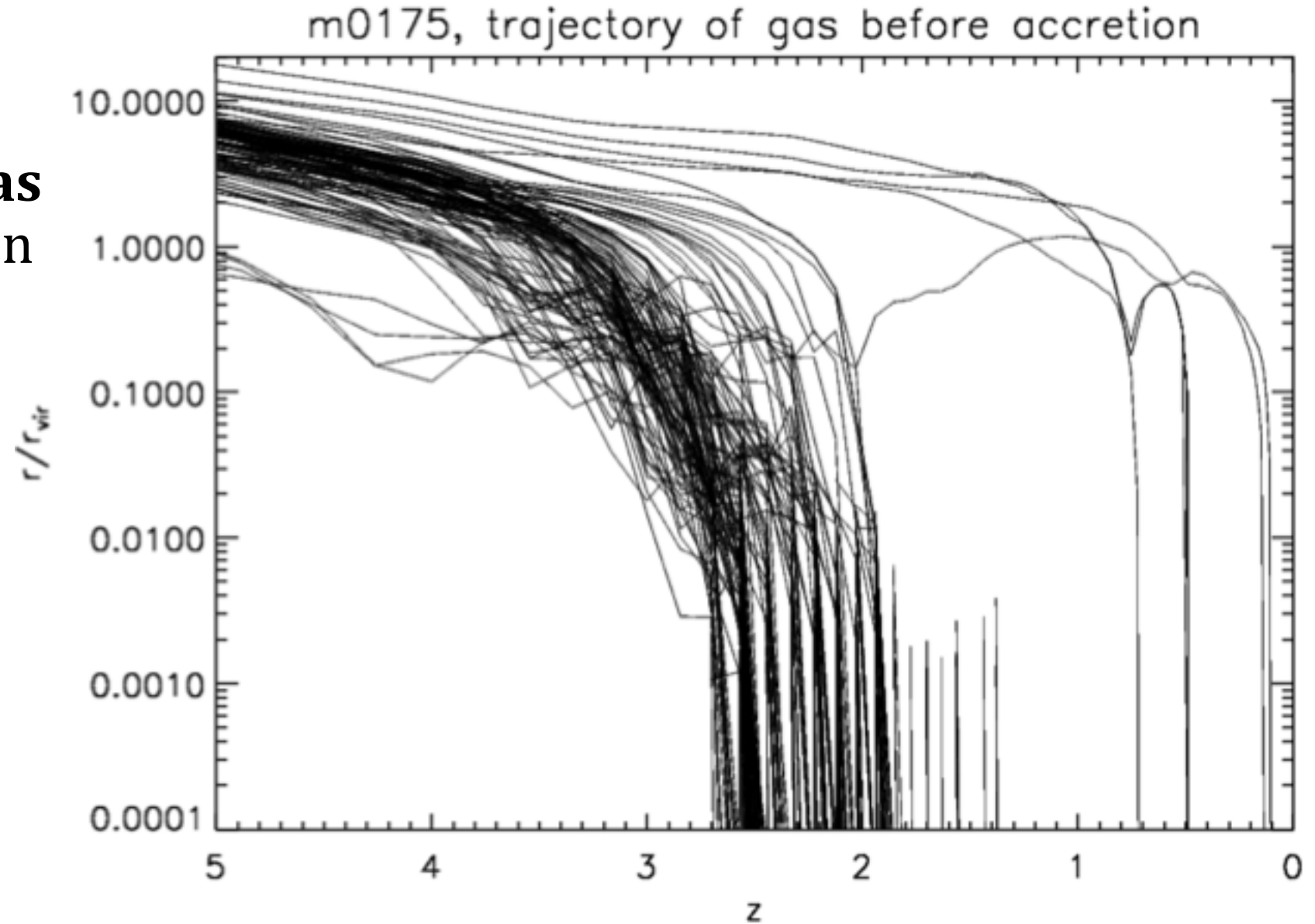
- 10 cosmological zoom-in simulations:
  - 10 central galaxies with  $z=0$  mass
  - $M_{\text{stel}} = 10^{11-12} M_{\text{sun}}$
  - $M_{\text{BH}} = 1-5 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$from [Choi+17](#)
- GADGET-3 SPH simulations
- Feedback from AGN
  - [Choi+12/14/15](#)
- 1. Momentum feedback via broad absorption line winds
- 2. Radiative feedback via photoionization & Compton heating



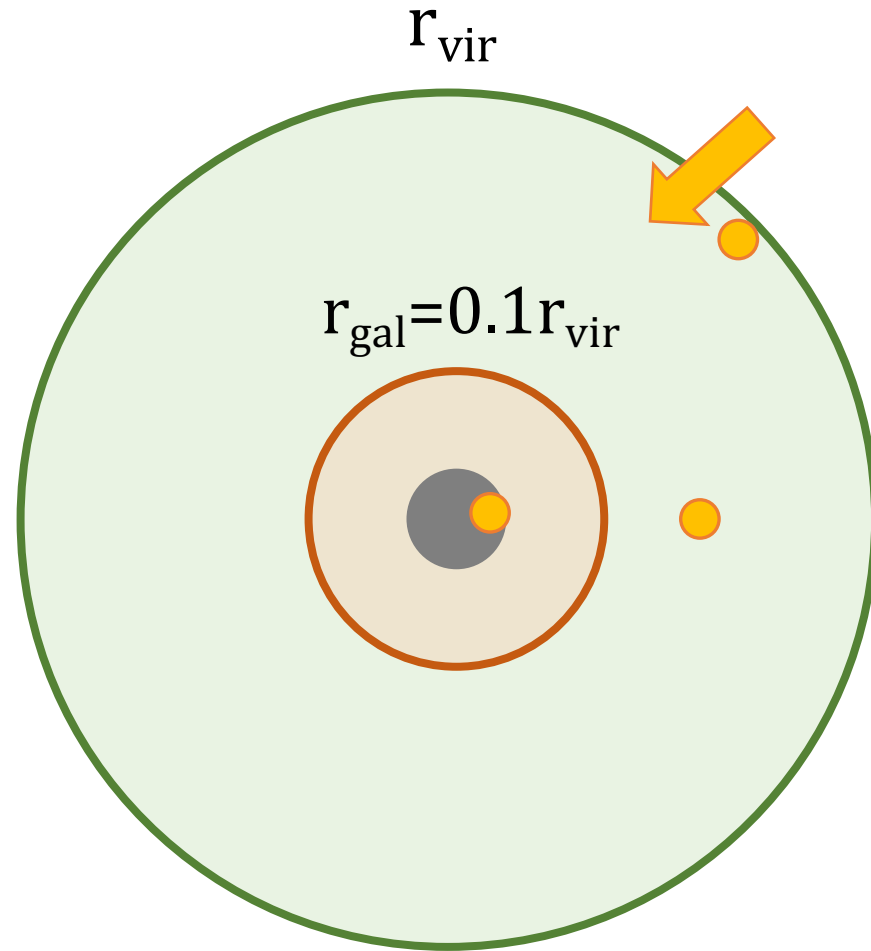
- BH accretion: Bondi-Hoyle-Littleton + Soft Bondi criterion (limits the accretion to the bound gas within the Bondi radius) [Choi+12](#)
- Feedback from stellar population: SN winds, winds from young massive stars, and AGB winds [Nunez+17](#)

# The trajectory of gas particles

- Methodology: we trace back the evolution of **each gas particle** that is eaten by central BHs in cosmological hydrodynamic simulation.

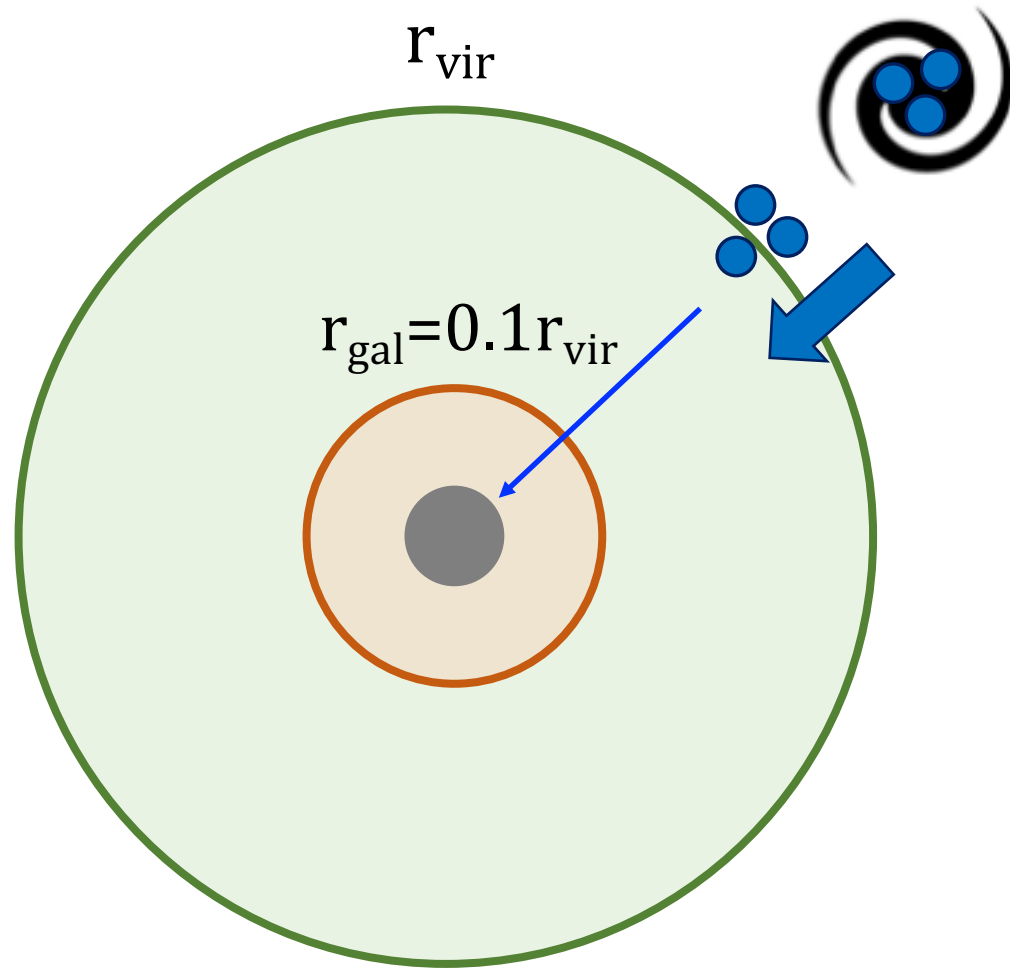


# Definition #1. *early*



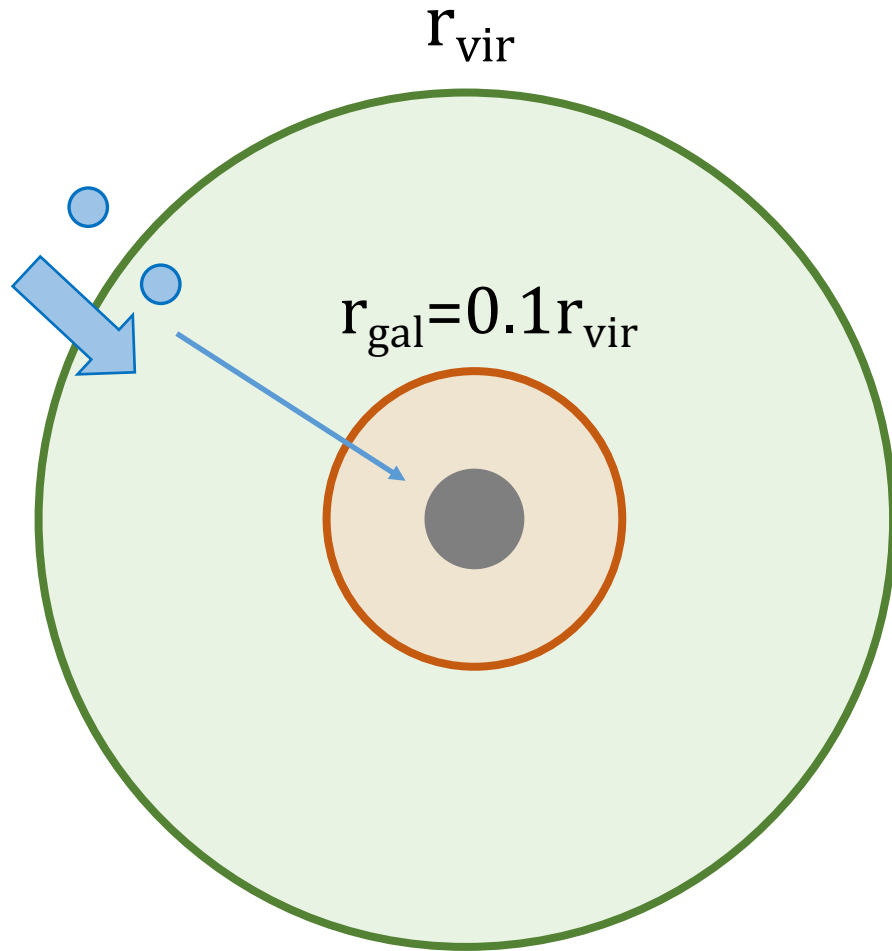
- All gas entered the main halo virial radius **by  $z=5$** .
- All gas eaten by central BHs by  **$z=5$** .

# Definition #2. external



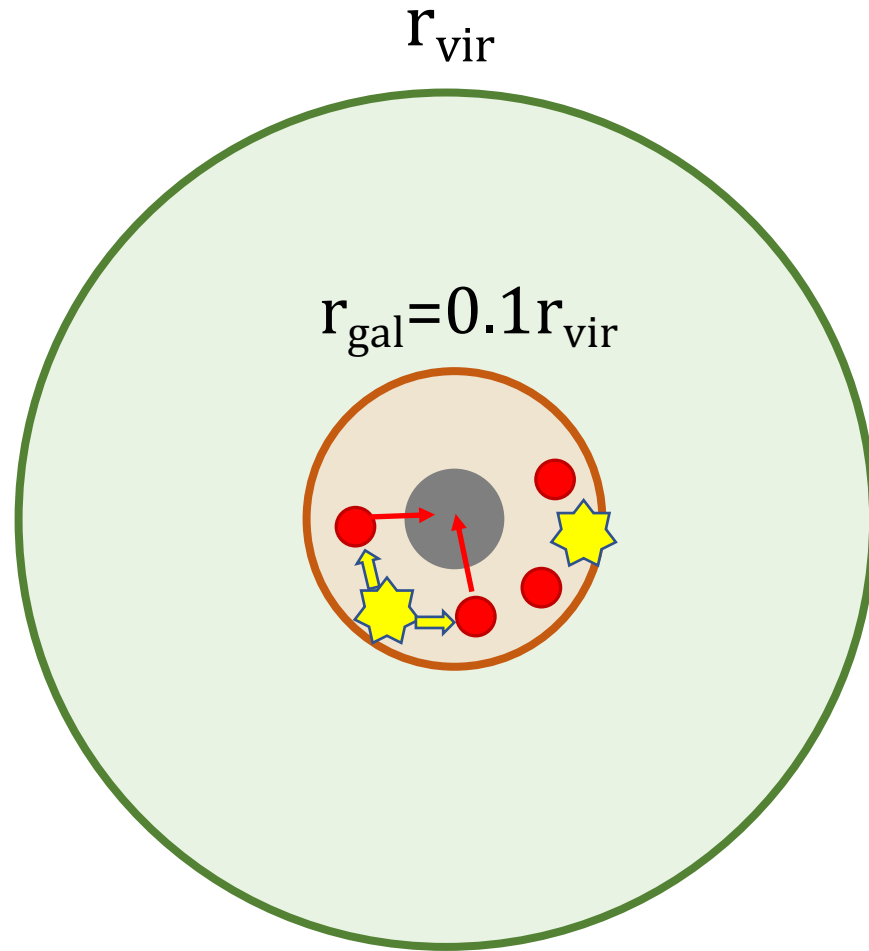
- All gas ever belonged to the other galaxies or subhalos before they entered the main halo after  $z=5$ .
- Gas that enters the main along a merging galaxy
- Stripped gas from a merging galaxy

# Definition #3. smooth



- Smoothly accreted gas – not ever belonged to any other galaxies, and accreted after  $z=5$ .
- Usually enter the main halo along the filamentary gas streams.

# Definition #4. recycled

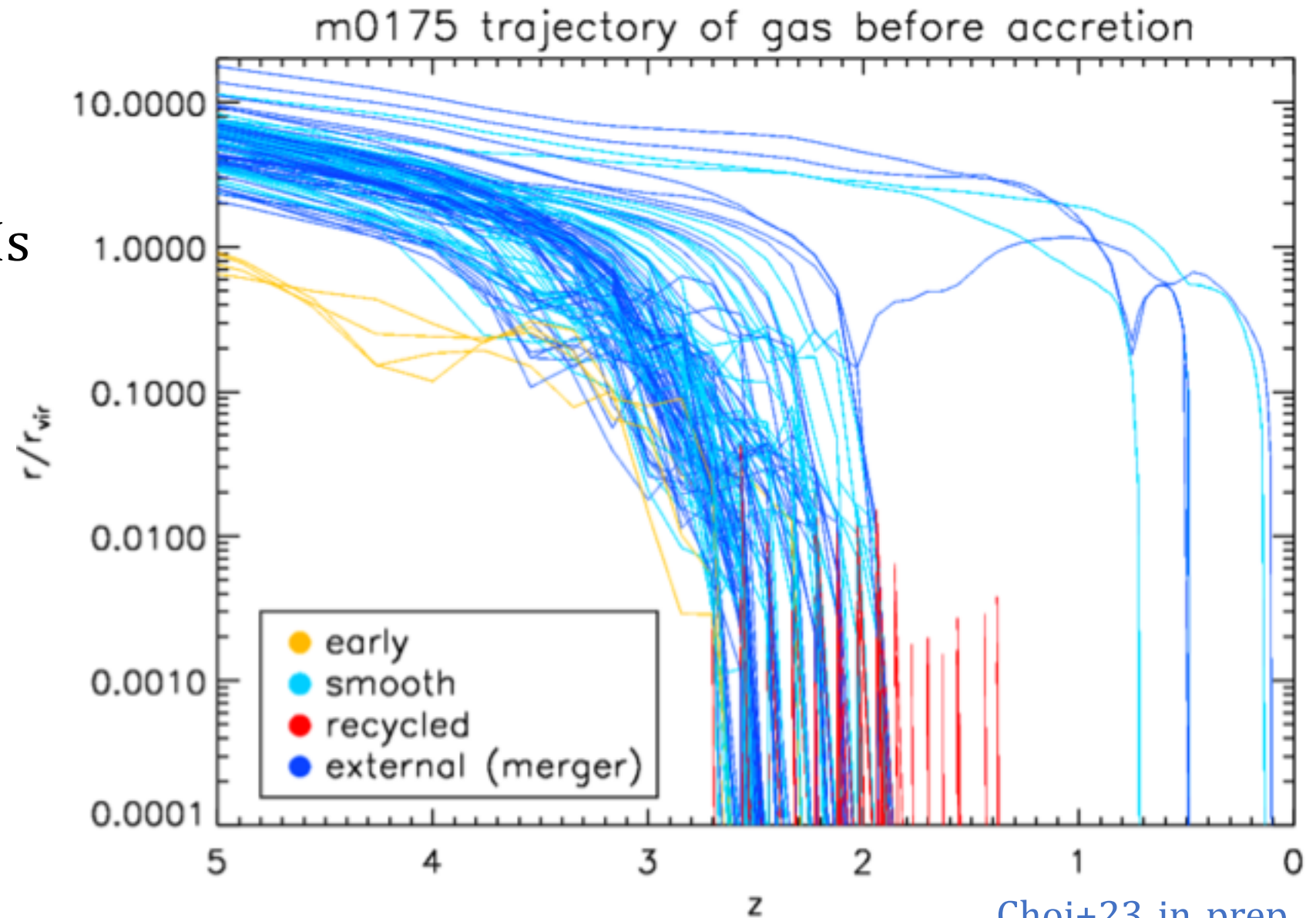


- **Stellar evolution output:** SN winds, winds from young massive stars, AGB winds.
- With our assumed IMF,  $\sim 30\%$  of initial stellar mass will return to ISM over 14 Gyr evolution.
- We only count for recycled gas produced within  $0.1 r_{\text{vir}}$  in this analysis.
- i.e., Recycled gas produced outside of  $0.1 r_{\text{vir}}$  (in other galaxies, etc.) is **not** defined as “recycled”.



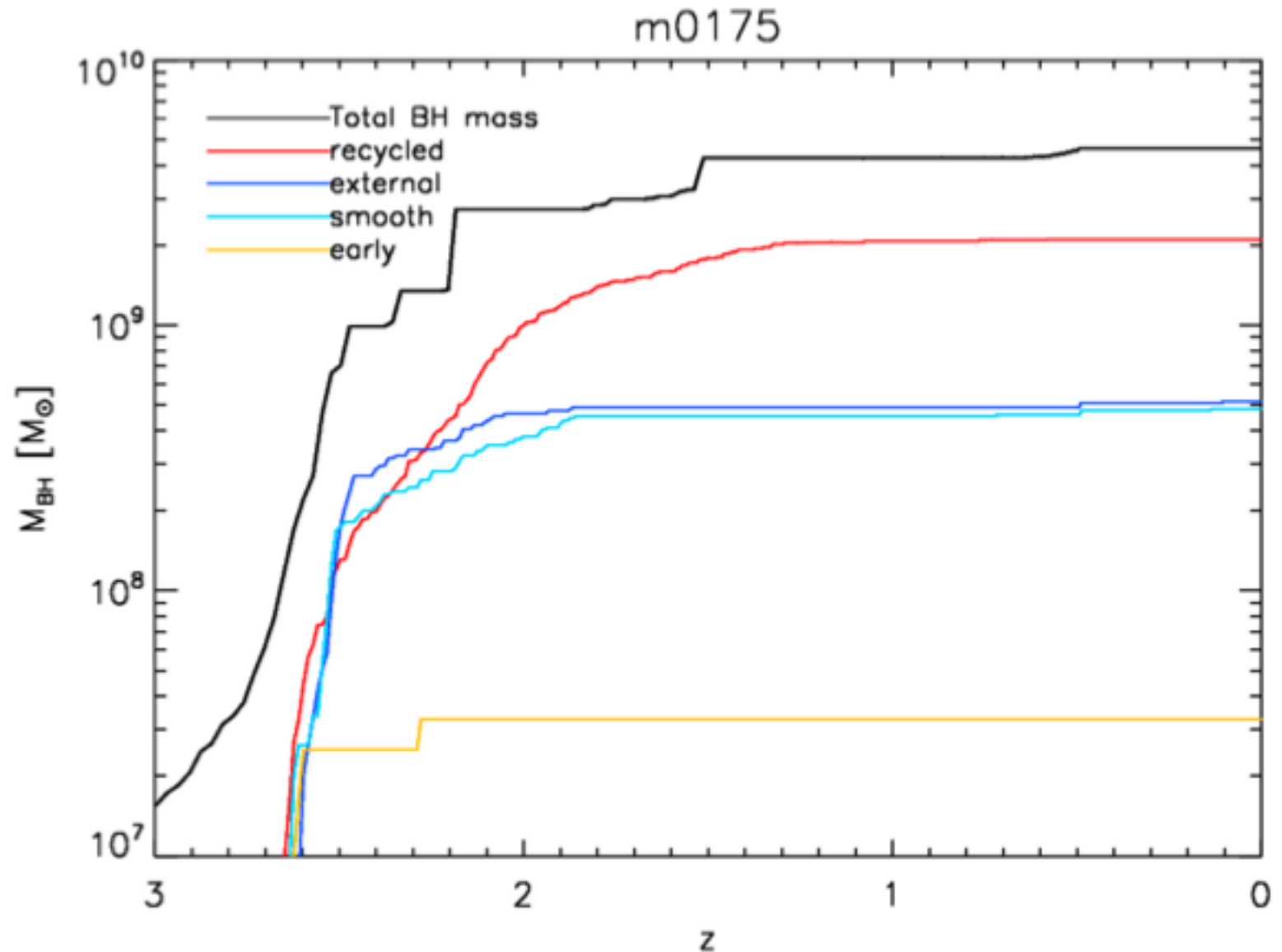
# The trajectory of gas particles

- We trace back the evolution of **each gas particle** that is eaten by central BHs and classify their origin:
  - Early
  - Smooth
  - Recycled
  - External



# Central black hole mass evolution

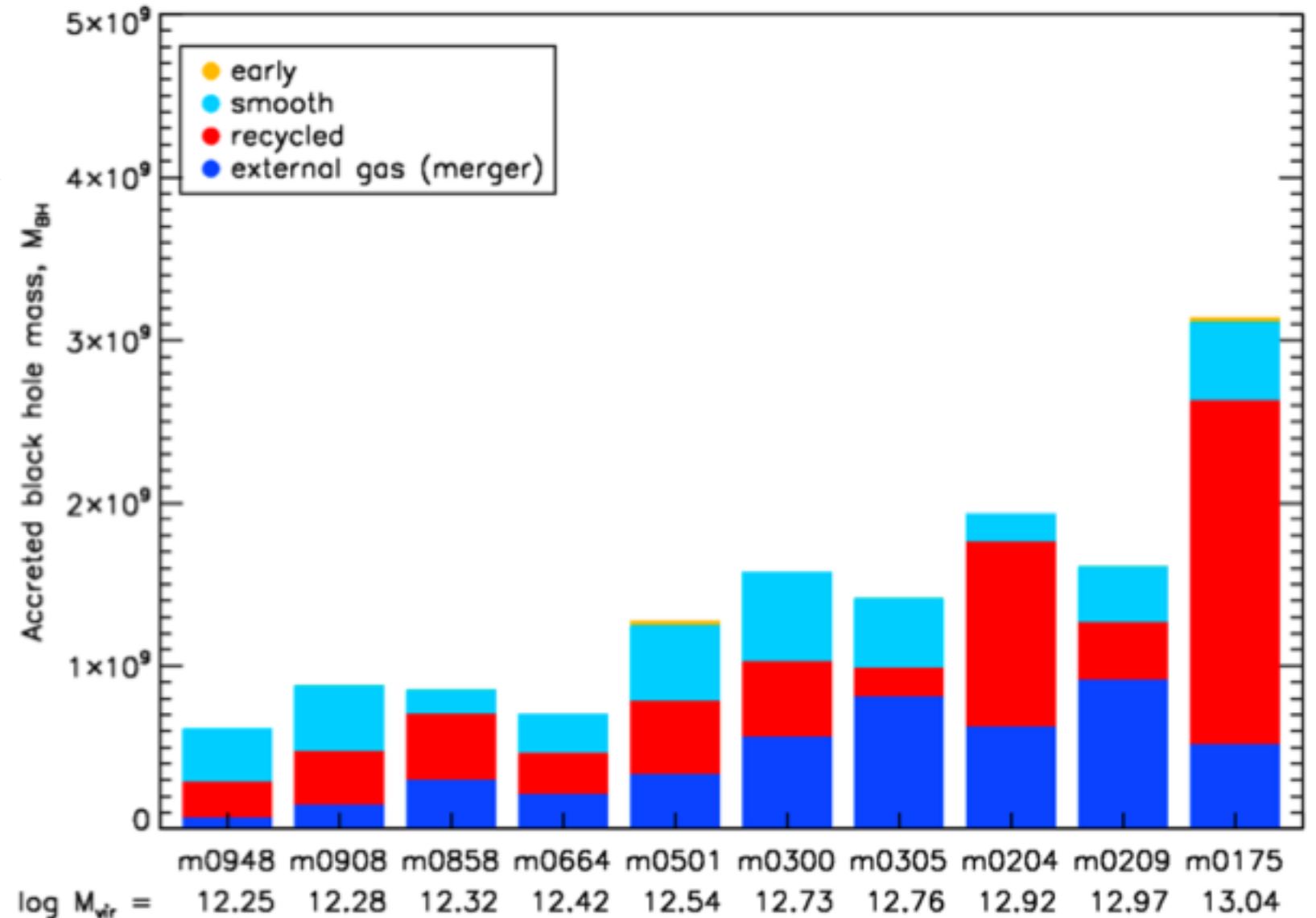
- Cumulative mass contribution of  $\sim 5e9 M_{\text{sun}}$  SMBH by recycled, external, smooth, and early.
- Recycled gas is the dominant source of fuel for this black hole, especially in the late times.



# Black hole mass budget (bar plot)

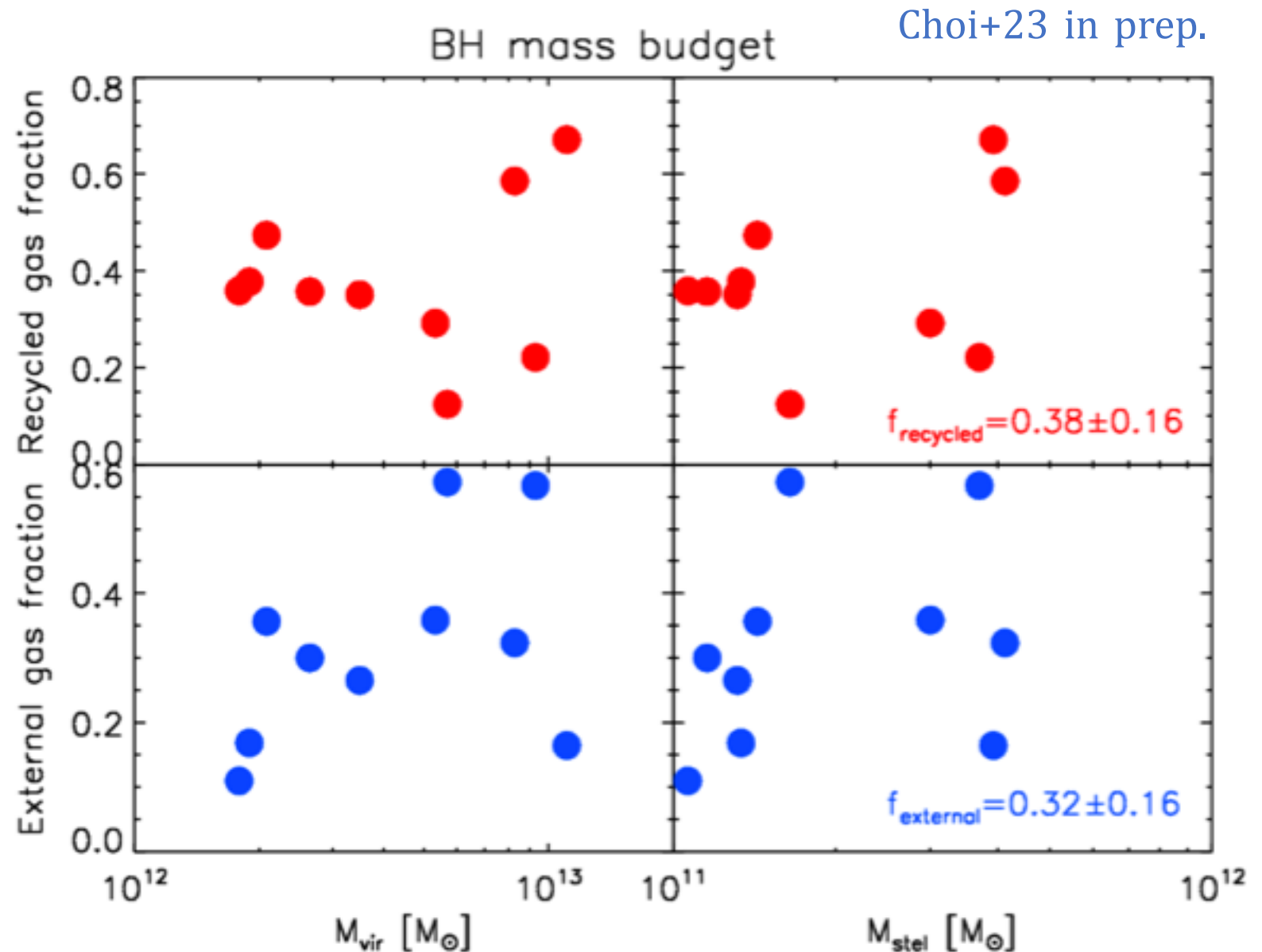
Choi+23 in prep.

- Analysis for 10 SMBH evolution  
 $M_{\text{BH}} = 1-5 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$
- Among accretion mass budget, recycled gas appears to be the dominant fuel for most SMBHs.



# Fraction of gas origin for BH accretion

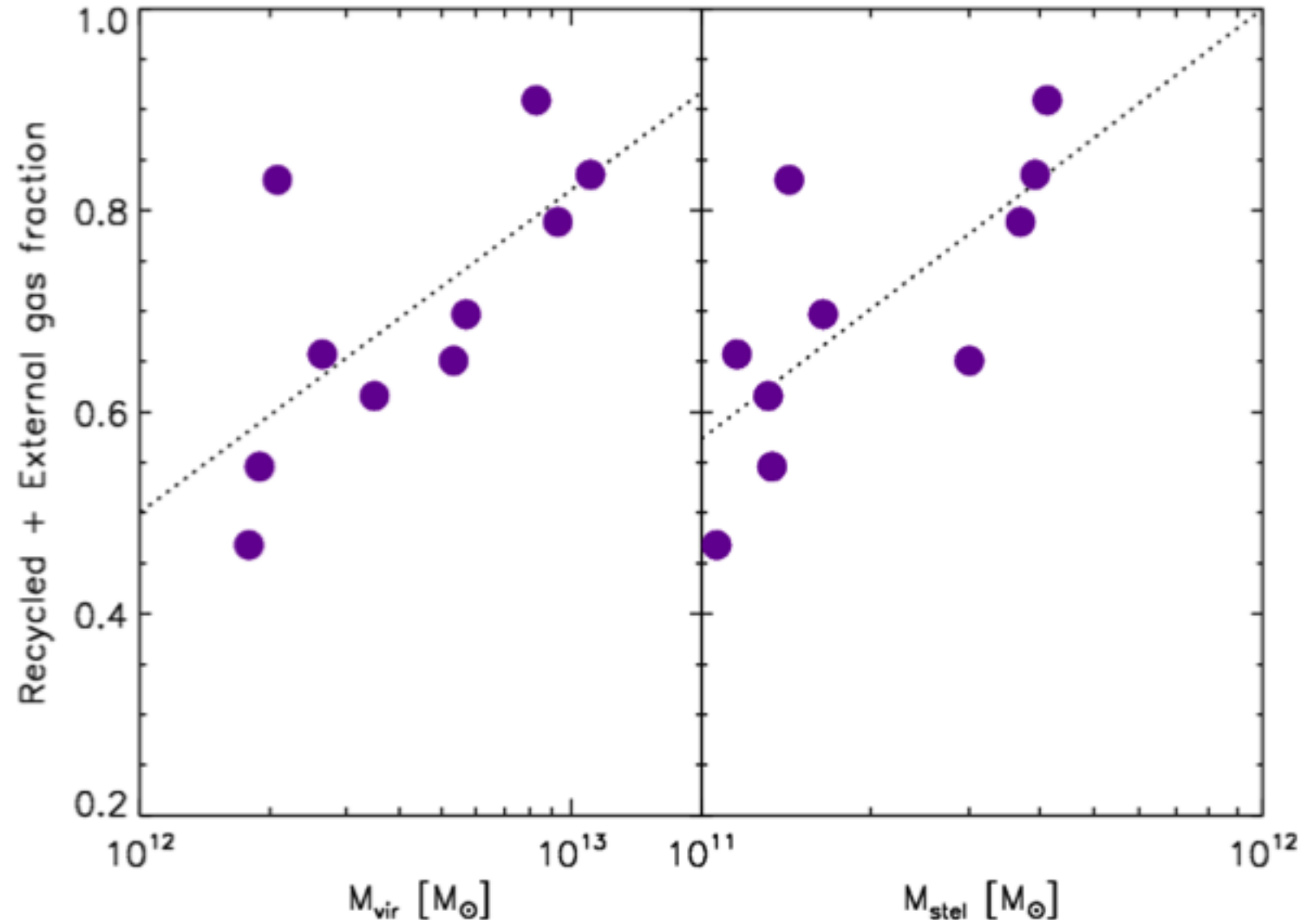
- Recycled gas appears to be the primary source of fuel for SMBHs ( $\sim 40\%$ ).
- External gas is the secondary source of fuel for SMBHs ( $\sim 30\%$ ).



# Fraction of gas origin for BH accretion

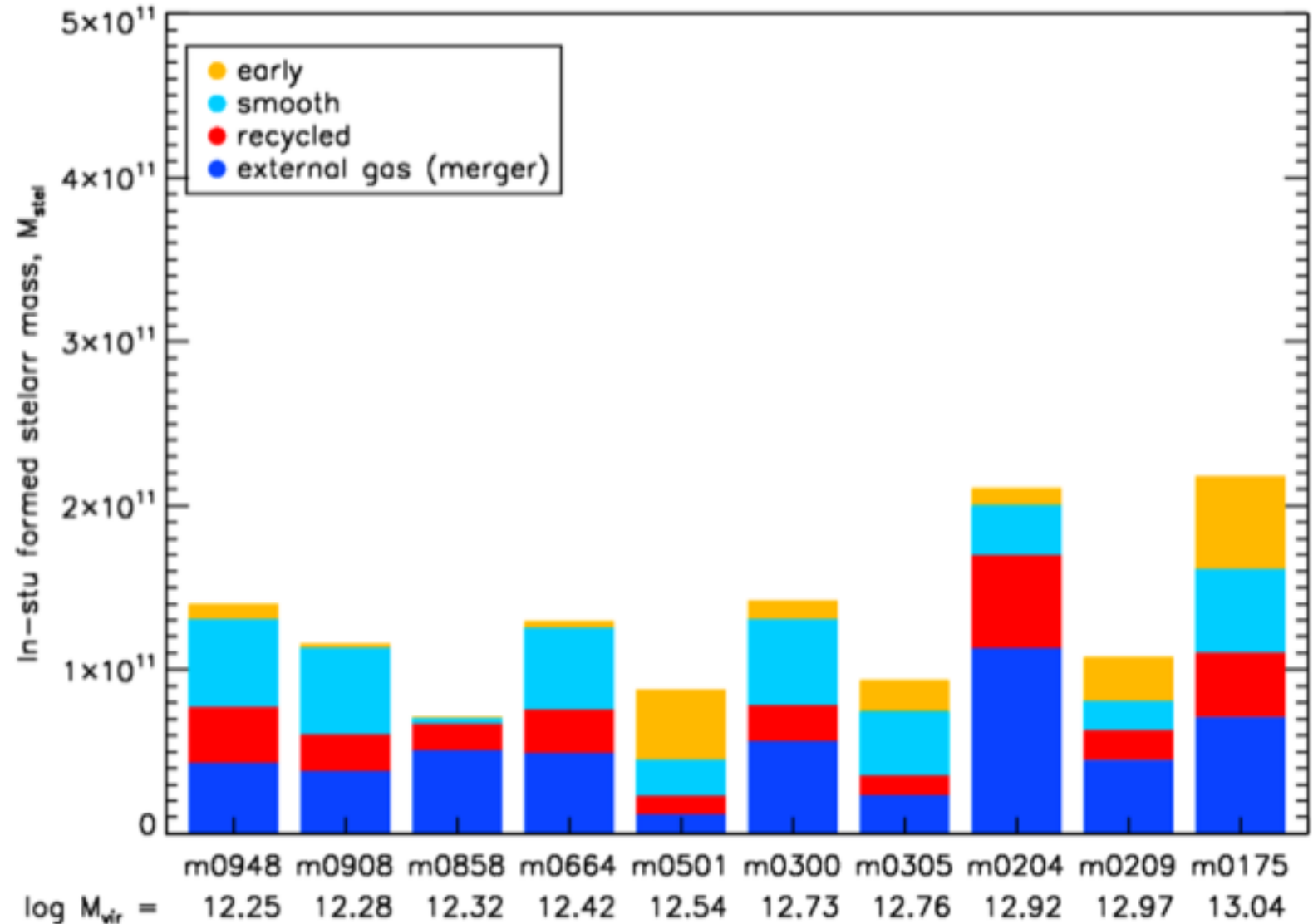
Choi+23 in prep.

- Recycled gas + external gas appears to form better correlations with galaxy masses (viral/stellar).



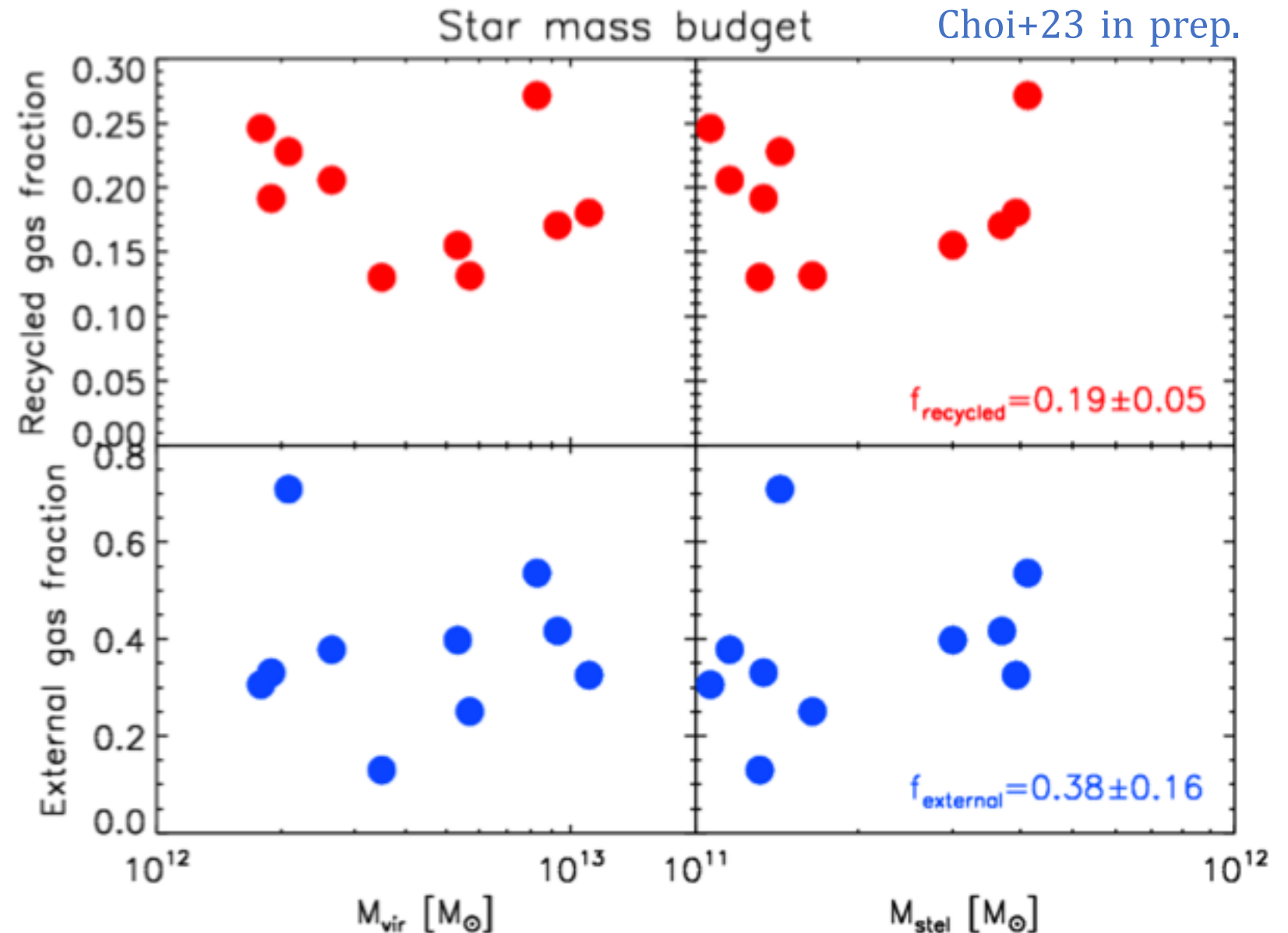
# Stellar mass budget (bar plot)

- Is recycled gas the most efficient BH fueling source? Or is it simply the most available gas?
- Same analysis for all stars born within the galaxy.
- External gas is the dominant fuel for star formation in many galaxy cases.
- Higher contribution by early and smooth gas compared to BH feeding.



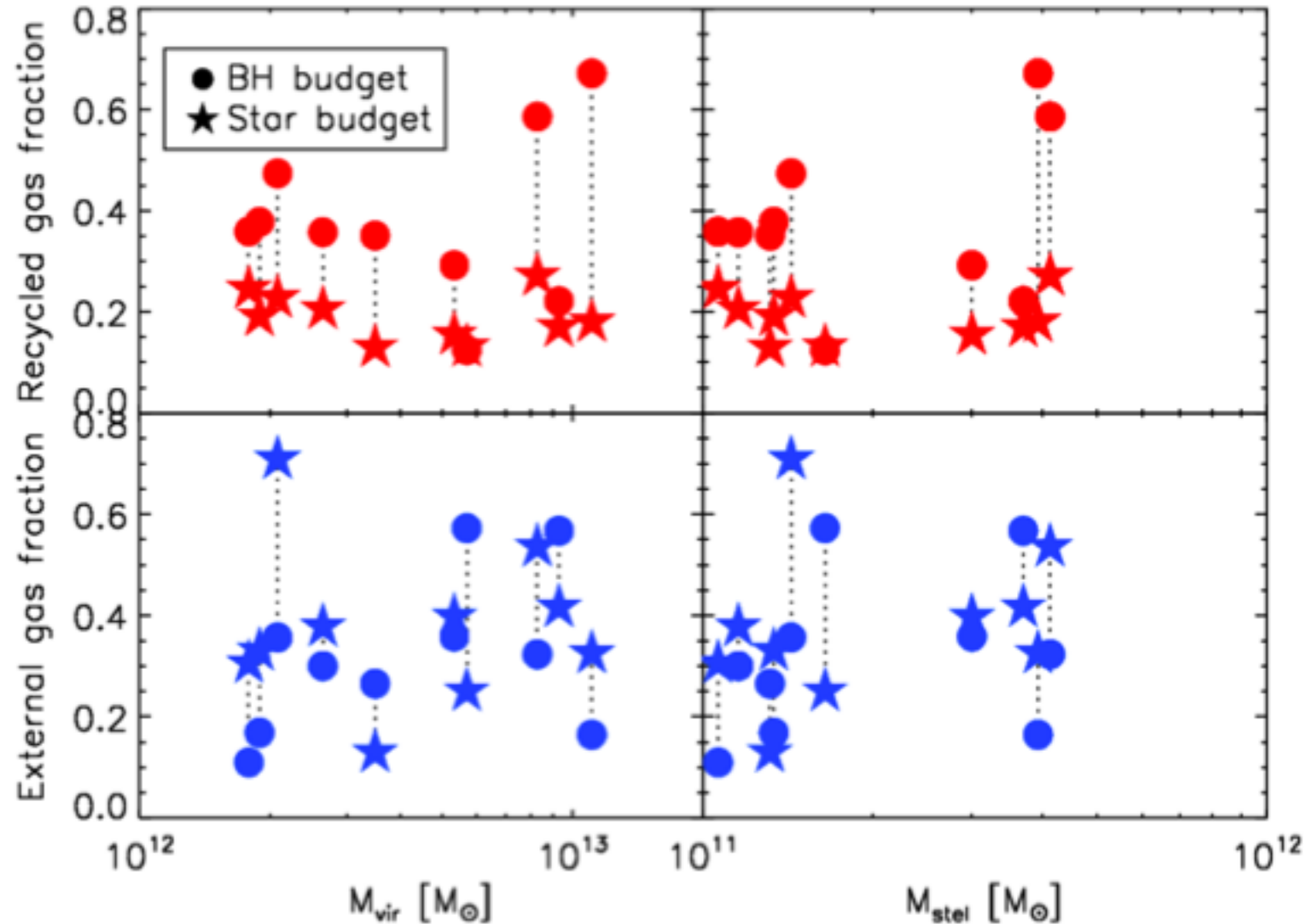
# Fraction of gas origin for SF formation

- Much lower fraction of contribution by recycled gas for star formation within the galaxy ( $\sim 20\%$ ).
- External gas is the primary source of fuel for star formation in most of massive galaxies ( $\sim 40\%$ ).



# Recycled gas fraction is always higher for BH

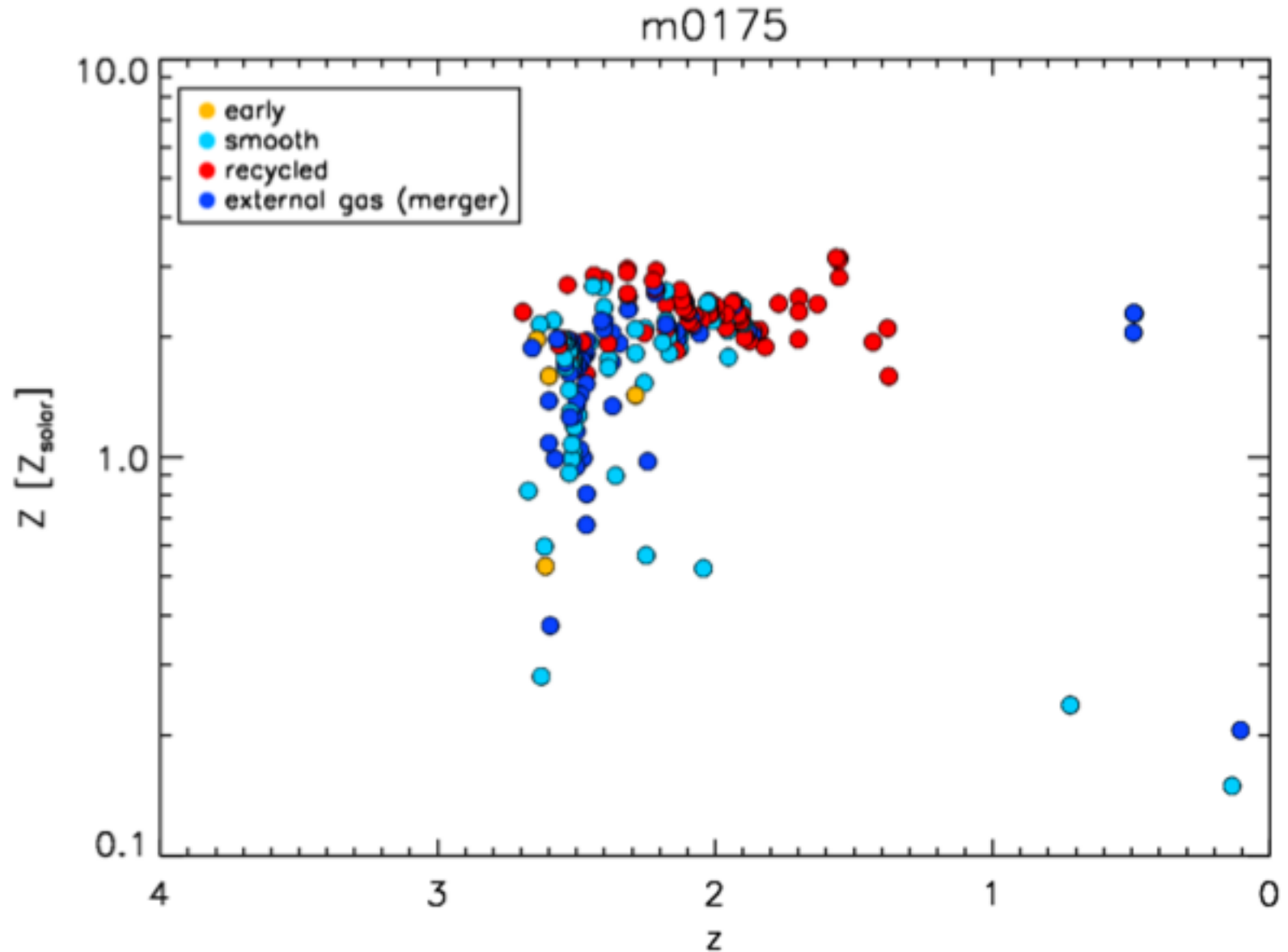
- The recycled gas from dying stars can trigger star formation, but it can more effectively collapse toward the galaxy center to feed the black hole.





# What we predict for AGN survey..(1)

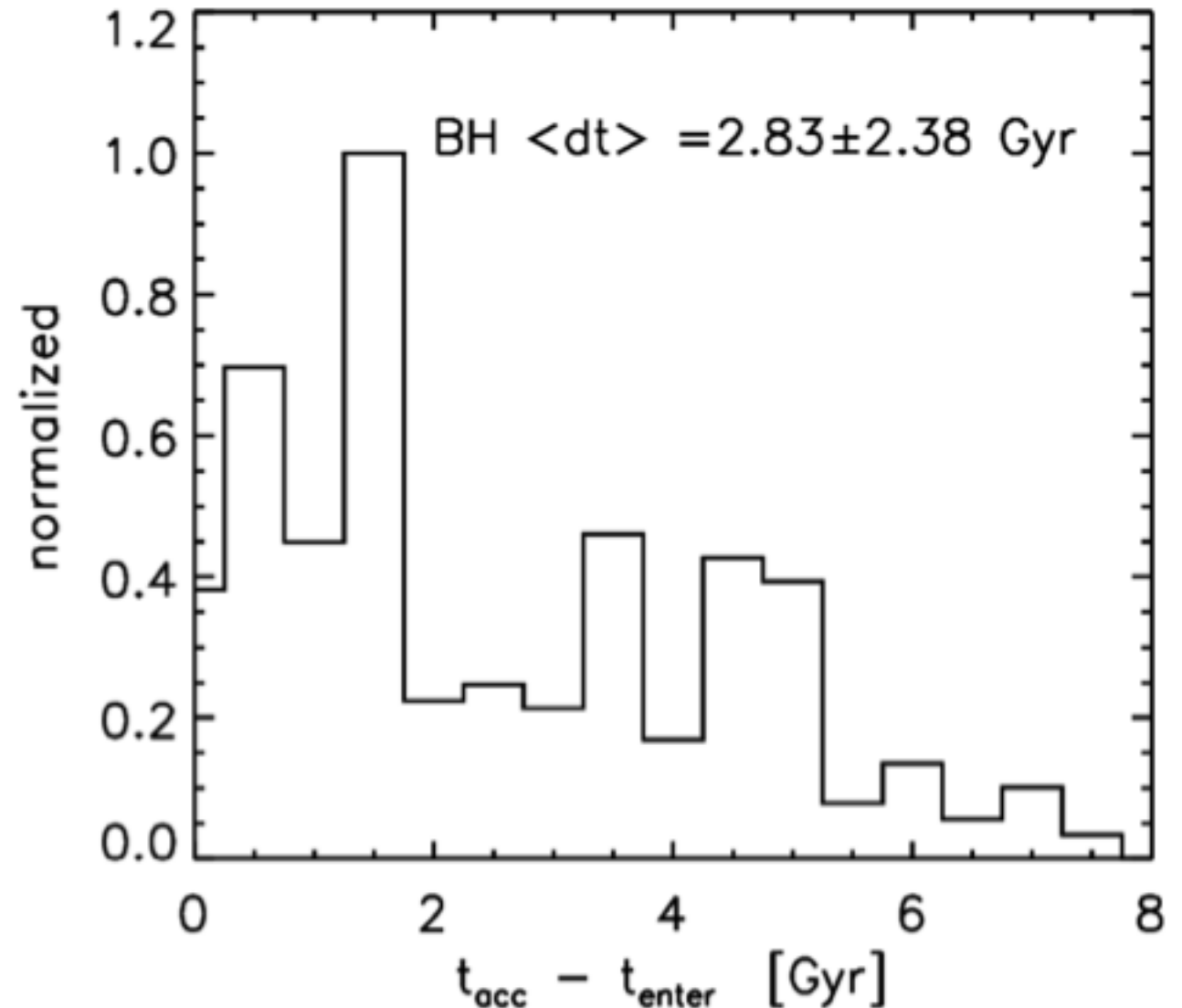
- **High-metallicity gas accretion** from  $z \sim 3$  due to recycled gas contribution.
- Future work: abundance comparison with high- $z$  BLR (Woo, J-H.)
- Element abundance prediction is also possible as we explicitly trace the evolution of 11 species (H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ca, Fe)



# What we predict for AGN survey..(2)

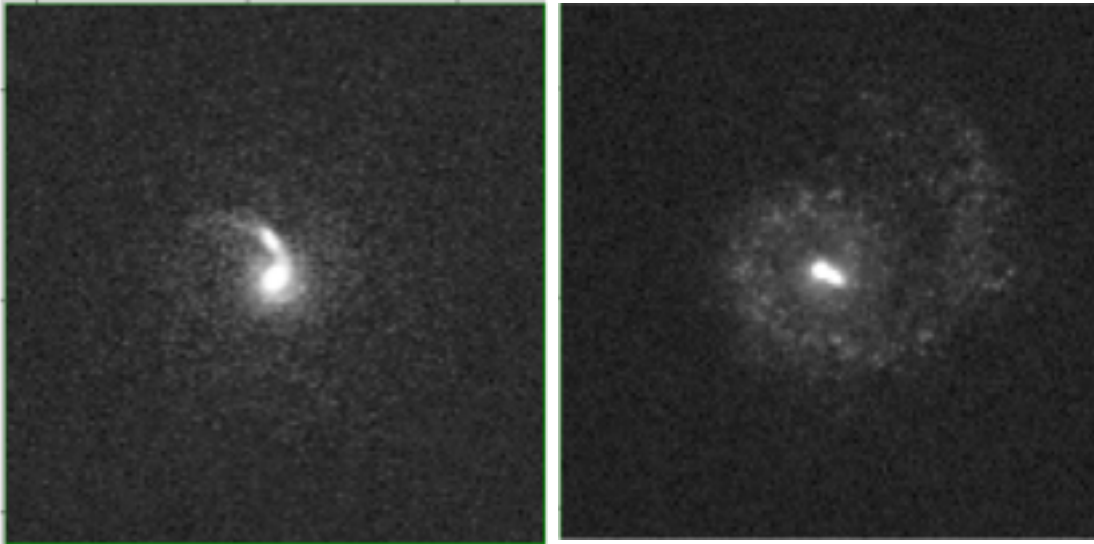
- Very long timescale for external gas to be actually accreted to the BH
- $t_{\text{enter}}$ : the moment gas enters the main halo ( $r_{\text{vir}}$ )
- $t_{\text{acc}}$ : the moment gas actually accretes to BH
- Possibly the reason **why we do not see a clear AGN-merger connection in AGN survey observations.**

Choi+23 in prep.

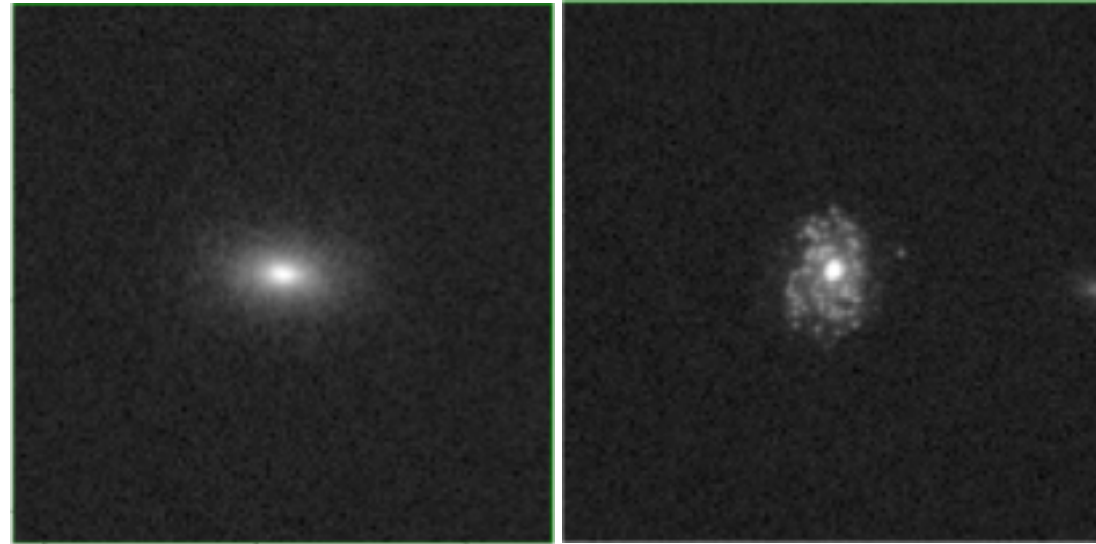


# What we predict for AGN survey.. (3)

- Galaxy mock images with **external** gas triggered AGN



- Galaxy mock images with **recycled** gas triggered AGN



- Can **machine learning** distinguish AGN with different fueling sources?

# Summary

- To study the fueling mechanisms of supermassive black holes (SMBH), we trace the history of gas that central SMBHs ( $1-5 \times 10^9 M_{\text{sun}}$ ) accrete and classify their origin as one of  
**early** / **external** / **smooth** / **recycled**
- The **recycled** gas from dying stars is the most important fuel source for the SMBH.
  - It can easily penetrate to galaxy center, feeding the SMBH.
- SMBHs in the massive halos ( $10^{12-13}$ ) tend to accrete a higher fraction of merger-accreted gas (**external** origin) than smooth-accreted gas.
  - Galaxy mergers also play an important role in feeding the SMBH in massive galaxies, but its effect highly depends on the galaxy's merger history.

Thank you!

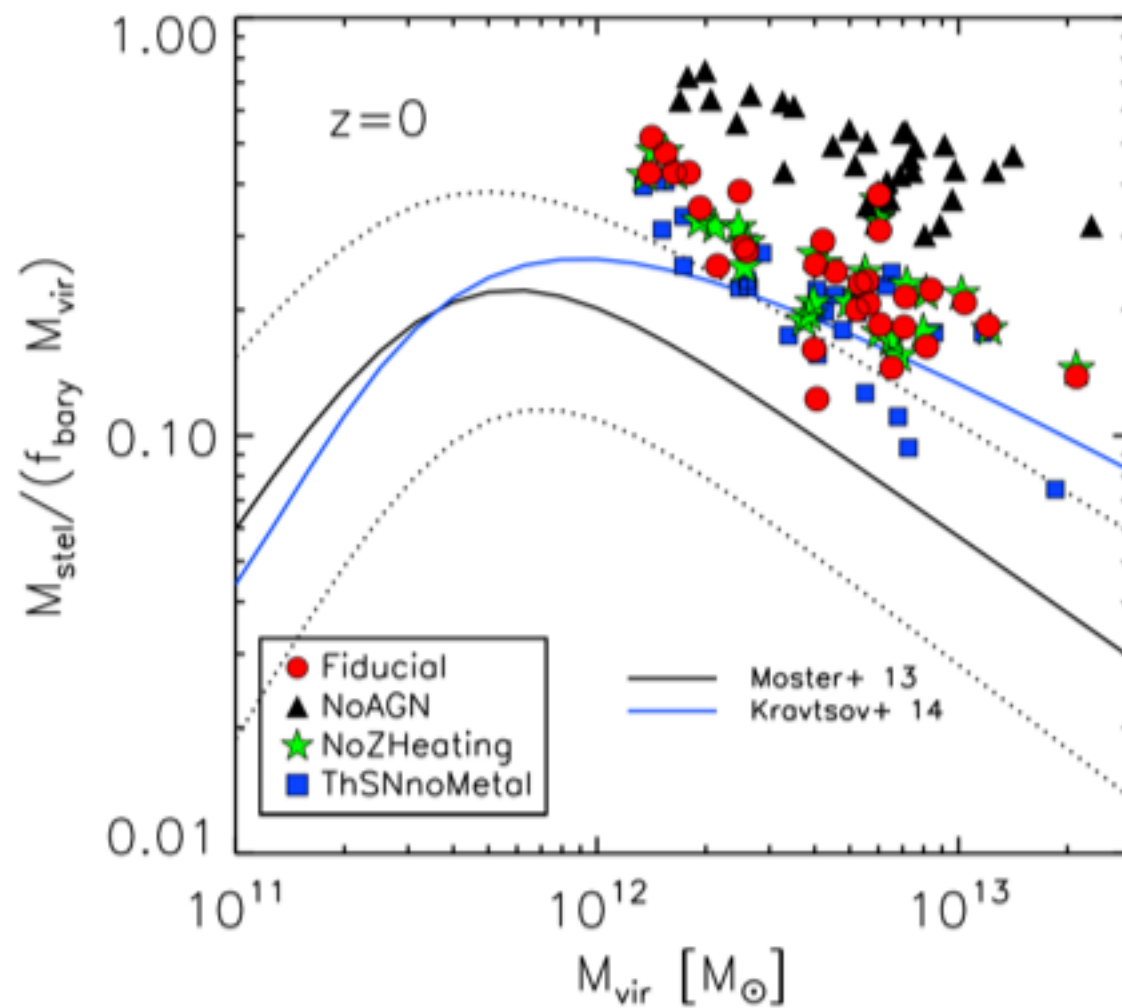
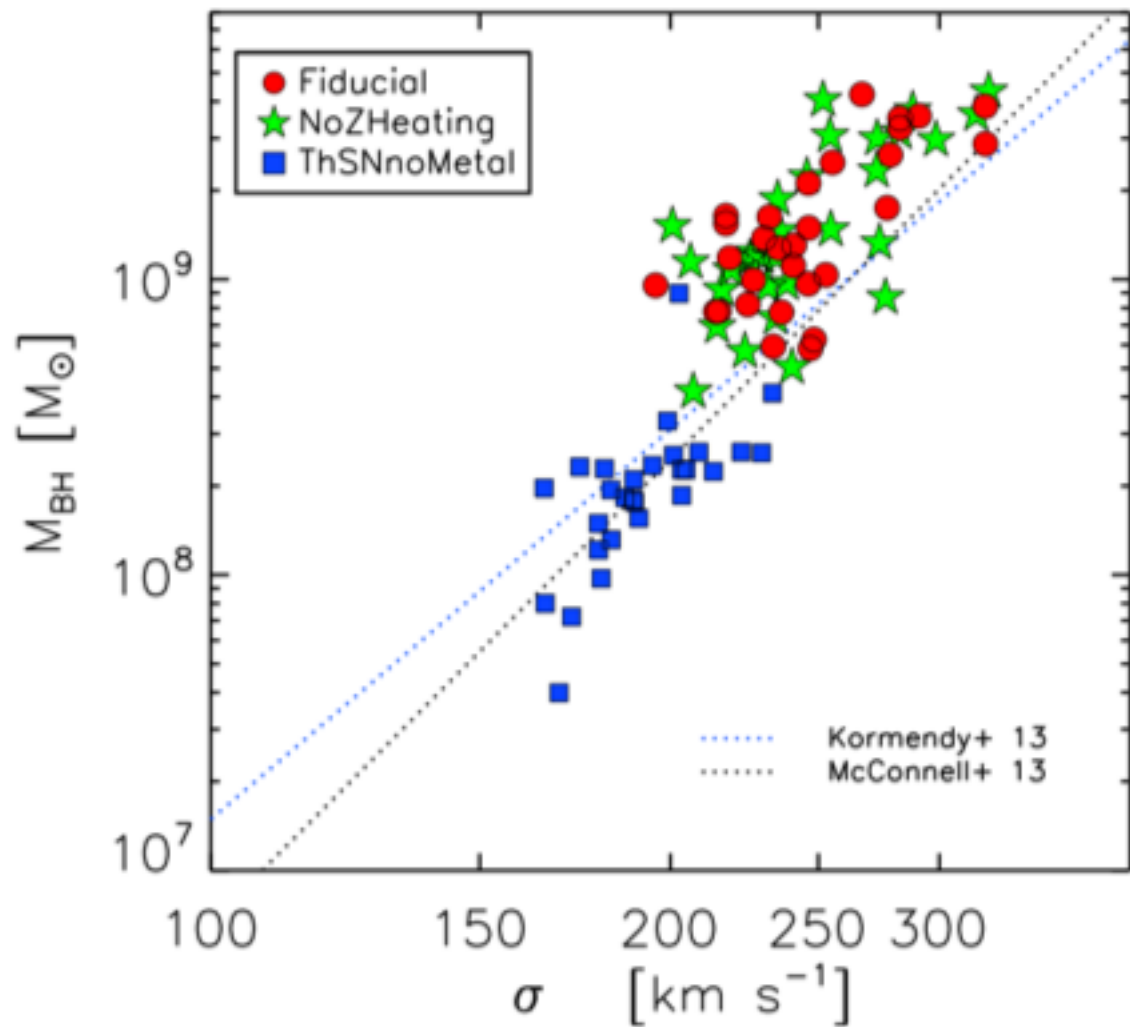


back-up slides 😊

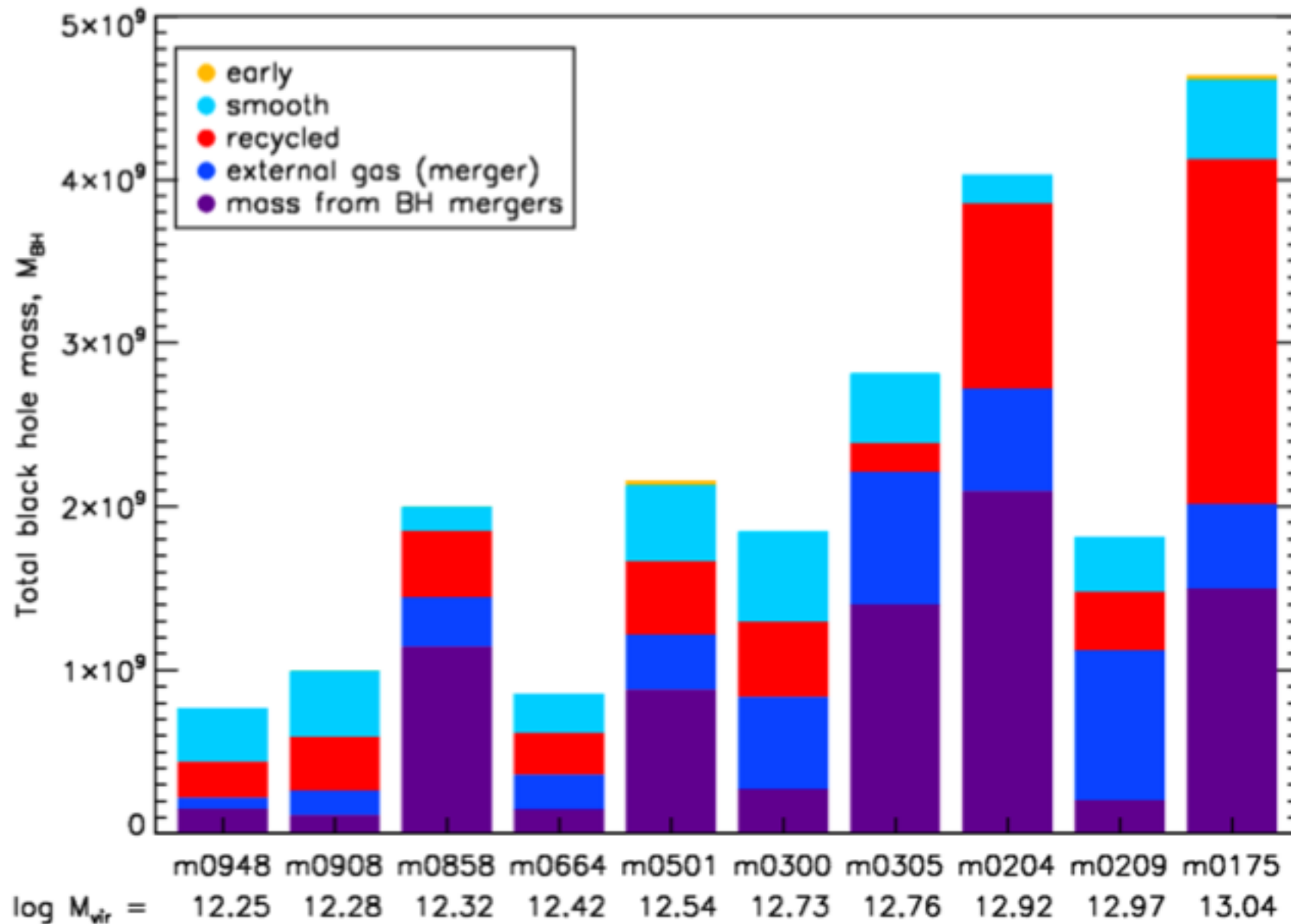


# Appendix: $M\text{-}\sigma$ / $M_{\text{halo}} - M_{\text{strel}}$

Choi+17

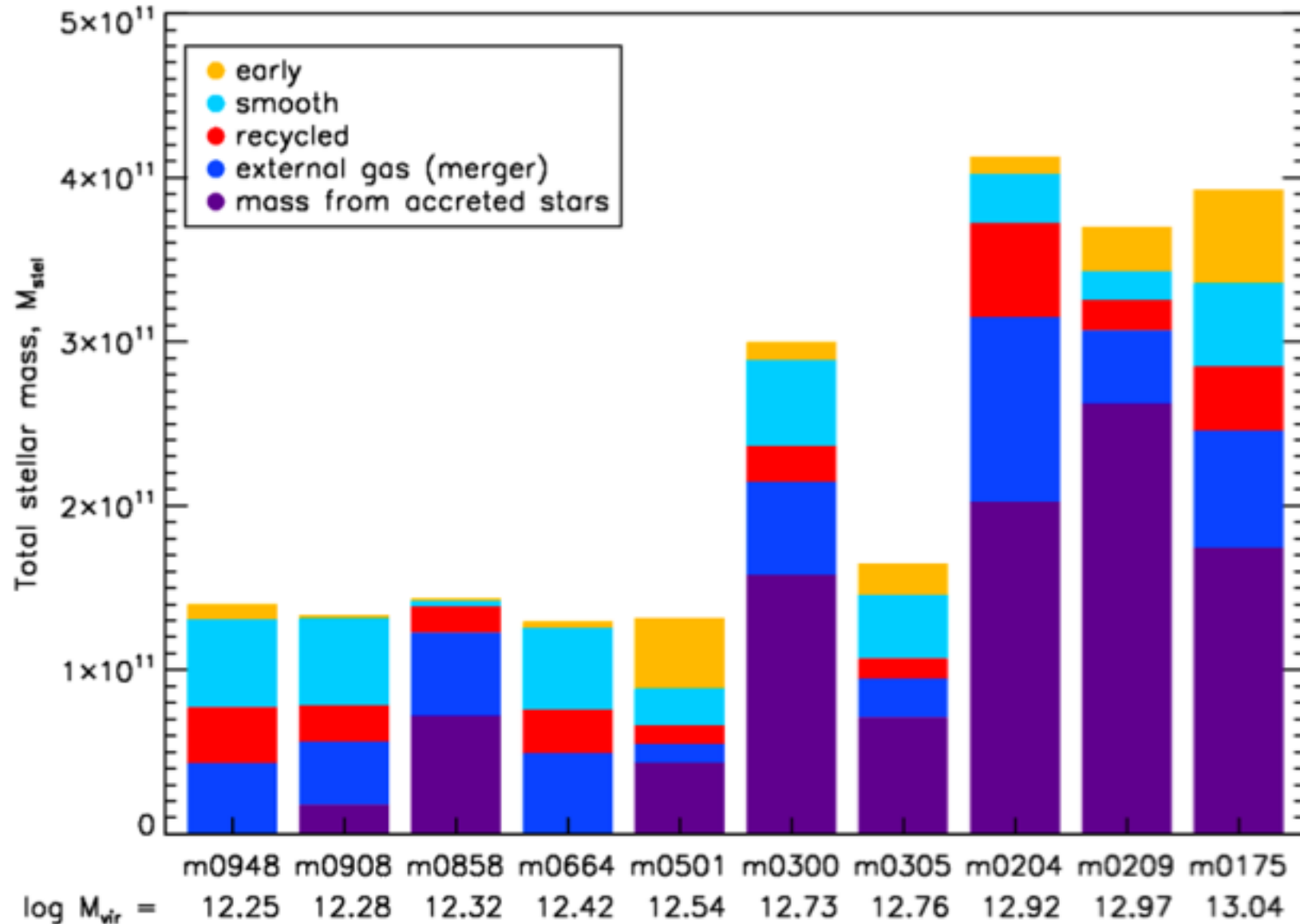


# Appendix : BH mass budget (bh mergers)





# Appendix : SF mass budget (accreted stars)



# Accretion & star formation timescales

