Impact of the Rotation and Compactness of Progenitors on the Mass of Black Holes

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1. Introduction

The mass function of stellar black holes (BHs) is still an open question in astrophysics. Gravitational wave data are going to revolutionize our knowledge about BHs in the coming years: the first two observing runs of the LIGO–Virgo collaboration (LVC) led to the detection of 10 binary BHs (Abbott et al. 2019a, 2019b); few additional events were claimed by Venumadhav et al. (2019) and Zackay et al. (2019), based on a different pipeline; and several new public triggers were announced during the third observing run of the LVC, (Kavl IPMU, WPI), Japan.

We investigate the impact of stellar rotation on the formation of black holes (BHs) by means of our population synthesis code SEVN. Rotation affects the mass function of BHs in several ways. In massive metal-poor stars, fast rotation reduces the minimum zero-age main sequence (ZAMS) mass for a star to undergo pair instability and pulsational pair instability. Moreover, stellar winds are enhanced by rotation, peeling off the entire hydrogen envelope. As a consequence of these two effects, the maximum BH mass we expect from the collapse of a rotating metal-poor star is only $\sim 45 M_\odot$, while the maximum mass of a BH born from a nonrotating star is $\sim 60 M_\odot$. Furthermore, stellar rotation reduces the minimum ZAMS mass for a star to collapse into a BH from $\sim 18–25 M_\odot$ to $\sim 13–18 M_\odot$. Finally, we have investigated the impact of different core-collapse supernova (CCSN) prescriptions on our results. While the threshold value of compactness for direct collapse and the fallback efficiency strongly affect the minimum ZAMS mass for a star to collapse into a BH, the fraction of the hydrogen envelope that can be accreted onto the final BH is the most important ingredient in determining the maximum BH mass. Our results confirm that the interplay between stellar rotation, CCSNe and pair instability plays a major role in shaping the BH mass spectrum.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Astrophysical black holes (98); Stellar mass black holes (1611); Stellar mass loss (1613); Computational methods (1965); Gravitational wave astronomy (675); Massive stars (732)

Abstract

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The mass function of stellar black holes (BHs) is still an open question in astrophysics. Gravitational wave data are going to revolutionize our knowledge about BHs in the coming years: the first two observing runs of the LIGO–Virgo collaboration (LVC) led to the detection of 10 binary BHs (Abbott et al. 2019a, 2019b); few additional events were claimed by Venumadhav et al. (2019) and Zackay et al. (2019), based on a different pipeline; and several new public triggers were announced during the third observing run of the LVC, which is still ongoing. This growing population of BHs complements the sample from dynamical mass measurements in nearby X-ray binaries (Özel et al. 2010; Farr et al. 2011) and will provide us with an unique opportunity to test BH formation models.

According to our current understanding, compact object masses are strictly related to the mass evolution and the final fate of their progenitor stars. Massive stars ($\gtrsim 30 M_\odot$) can lose a significant fraction of their initial mass by stellar winds, depending mostly (but not only) on their metallicity (Kudritzki et al. 1987; Vink et al. 2001) and luminosity (Gräfener & Hamann 2008; Vink et al. 2011). We expect that the final mass and the inner properties of a star at the onset of collapse have a strong impact on the final outcome of a core-collapse supernova (CCSN). If the final mass of the star is sufficiently large (Fryer 1999; Fryer & Kalogera 2001) and the central compactness sufficiently high (O’Connor & Ott 2011; Ugliano et al. 2012), a star might even avoid the final explosion and collapse to a BH quietly. Based on this reasoning, the maximum mass of BHs is predicted to depend on the progenitor’s metallicity, with metal-poor stars leaving more massive remnants than metal-rich ones (Heger et al. 2003; Mapelli et al. 2009, 2010, 2013; Belczynski et al. 2010; Fryer et al. 2012; Spera et al. 2015; Spera & Mapelli 2017).

This basic framework is complicated by uncertainties on CCSN models (e.g., Janka 2012, 2017; Foglizzo et al. 2015; Pejcha & Thompson 2015; Sukhbold et al. 2015; Burrows et al. 2018; Ebinger et al. 2019a, 2019b), by the existence of other explosion mechanisms, such as electron-capture supernovae (Nomoto 1984, 1987; Jones et al. 2013), pulsational pair instability supernovae (PPIsNe), and pair instability supernovae (PISNe) (Fowler & Hoyle 1964; Barkat et al. 1967; Woosley et al. 2007; Woosley 2017, 2019), and by the complex physics of massive star evolution.

In particular, population synthesis models (e.g., Bethe & Brown 1998; Portegies Zwart & Yungelson 1998; Belczynski et al. 2002, 2008, 2010; Mapelli et al. 2013, 2017, 2019; Mennekens & Vanbeveren 2014; Spera et al. 2015, 2019; Eldridge & Stanway 2016; Spera & Mapelli 2017; Stevenson et al. 2017, 2019; Giacobbo et al. 2018; Giacobbo & Mapelli 2018; Kruckow et al. 2018; Mapelli & Giacobbo 2018;
Eldridge et al. 2019) do not usually include stellar rotation among their ingredients. This might be a serious issue because stellar rotation can dramatically affect the evolution of the progenitor star (Dvorkin et al. 2018; Limongi & Chieffi 2018; Groh et al. 2019). Rotation has (at least) two competing effects on stellar evolution. It enhances chemical mixing (Meynet & Maeder 2005; Ekström et al. 2012; Chieffi & Limongi 2013; de Mink & Mandel 2016; Marchant et al. 2016; Mandel & de Mink 2016), leading to the development of larger stellar cores, and at the same time enhances mass loss, quenching the final stellar mass (see e.g., Limongi 2017 for a review). Stars with a He core $15 \geq M_{He}/M_{\odot} \geq 64$ are expected to undergo a PISN leaving no compact remnant. Stars with $64 \geq M_{He}/M_{\odot} \geq 32$ experience enhanced mass loss because of pulsational pair instability. Since stellar rotation leads to the formation of more massive He cores, especially at low metallicity where winds are quenched, the minimum zero-age main sequence (ZAMS) mass for a rotating star to undergo PISN and PPISN can be significantly smaller than the minimum ZAMS mass for a nonrotating star.

Moreover, most population synthesis codes model the outcome of a CCSN explosion based on the carbon–oxygen mass of the progenitor star, following the prescriptions in Fryer et al. (2012), but hydrodynamical simulations of CCSNe suggest that this approach might be incomplete. For example, O’Connor & Ott (2011) propose that the outcome of a CCSN, for a given equation of state, can be estimated, to the first order, by the compactness of the stellar core at bounce, defined as

$$\xi_{\text{M}} = \frac{M/M_{\odot}}{R(M)/1000 \text{km}},$$

where $R(M)$ is the radius that encloses a baryonic mass equal to $M$ at core bounce and $M$ is a given mass (usually $M = 2.5 M_{\odot}$).

Here we present a new version of the population synthesis code SEVN (Spera et al. 2015; Spera & Mapelli 2017; Spera et al. 2019) in which we include stellar rotation by means of the FRANEC stellar evolution tracks (Limongi et al. 2000; Chieffi & Limongi 2004, 2013; Limongi & Chieffi 2006, 2018). We discuss the impact of stellar rotation on compact object mass. We also add a new simple prescription to include compactness and we compare the outcomes of CCSNe described by compactness with prescriptions from Fryer et al. (2012).

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1. SEVN

SEVN’s main difference with respect to most population synthesis codes is the approach to stellar evolution (Spera et al. 2015; Spera & Mapelli 2017; Spera et al. 2019). While the vast majority of population synthesis codes implement stellar evolution through the polynomial fitting formulas initially derived by Hurley et al. (2000), SEVN describes stellar evolution through look-up tables, obtained from stellar evolution tracks. The look-up tables contain information on star mass and core mass, star radius and core radius, stellar metallicity, and evolutionary stages. Currently, the default tables are derived from the PARSEC stellar evolution tracks (Bressan et al. 2012; Tang et al. 2014; Chen et al. 2015; Marigo et al. 2017). In this work, we describe the implementation of new tables derived from FRANEC (see the Section 2.2). The interpolation algorithm adopted in SEVN is already described in Spera & Mapelli (2017) and Spera et al. (2019). The main advantage of using look-up tables with respect to polynomial fitting formulas is that stellar evolution in SEVN can be updated very easily by changing the current set of look-up tables with a new one, while polynomial fitting formulas are bound to the stellar evolution model they were extracted from.

Binary evolution is implemented in SEVN following the prescriptions by Hurley et al. (2002). We include a treatment of tides, decay by gravitational wave emission, mass transfer, and common envelope as already discussed in Spera et al. (2019). The main novelty with respect to Hurley et al. (2002) consists of the description of common envelope and stellar mergers. Thanks to the interpolation algorithm, the mass and the stellar type of the outcome of a common envelope or a stellar merger are derived from the look-up tables directly, without the need for a collision matrix or other fitting formulas.

Here, we describe the new tables derived from FRANEC and the updates to the description of CCSN outcomes in SEVN.

#### 2.2. FRANEC Stellar Evolution Tracks

The stellar models adopted in this paper have been computed by means of the latest release of the FRANEC code. Here, we summarize their main features, while we refer to Limongi & Chieffi (2018) for a full description of the models and the code. The initial masses are 13, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 60, 80, and 120 $M_{\odot}$, the initial metallicities are $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0, -1, -2, -3$, and the initial equatorial rotation velocities are 0, 150, and 300 km s$^{-1}$. We adopt the solar composition from Asplund et al. (2009), corresponding to a total heavy element mass fraction of $Z_{\odot} \sim 0.0135$. At metallicities lower than solar we consider a scaled solar distribution with the exception of C, O, Mg, Si, S, Ar, Ca, and Ti, for which we assume $[\text{C}/\text{Fe}] = 0.18, [\text{O}/\text{Fe}] = 0.47, [\text{Mg}/\text{Fe}] = 0.27, [\text{Si}/\text{Fe}] = 0.37, [\text{S}/\text{Fe}] = 0.35, [\text{Ar}/\text{Fe}] = 0.35, [\text{Ca}/\text{Fe}] = 0.33,$ and $[\text{Ti}/\text{Fe}] = 0.23$, consistent with the observations of unevolved metal-poor stars (Cayrel et al. 2004; Spite et al. 2005). As a consequence, the total metallicities corresponding to $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -1, -2, -3$ are $Z \sim 3 \times 10^{-3}, 3 \times 10^{-2}, 3 \times 10^{-3}$, respectively. The initial velocities were chosen to roughly span the range of observed values (Dufton et al. 2006; Hunter et al. 2008; Ramírez-Agudelo et al. 2017).

The nuclear network, fully coupled to the equations for the stellar structure as well as to the various kinds of mixing, includes 335 isotopes in total, from H to $^{209}$Bi, linked by more than 3000 nuclear reactions. This network is well suited to properly follow all the stable and explosive nuclear burning stages of massive stars.

Mass loss is taken into account following different prescriptions for the various evolutionary stages, e.g., Vink et al. (2000, 2001) for the blue supergiant phase ($T_{\text{eff}} > 12,000$ K), de Jager et al. (1988) for the red supergiant phase ($T_{\text{eff}} < 12,000$ K) and Nugis & Lamers (2000) for the Wolf–Rayet phase. The dust driven wind occurring during the red supergiant phase has been included following the prescriptions of van Loon et al. (2005). Mass loss is enhanced, in rotating models, according to Heger et al. (2000). When the star approaches the
stellar evolution was derived from PARSEC. Here, we update and Limongi & Chiefi.

The Eddington limit, mass loss is modeled as described in Limongi & Chiefi (2018).

Rotation is treated as described in Chieffi & Limongi (2013) and Limongi & Chiefi (2018). Two main rotation driven instabilities are taken into account, i.e., meridional circulation and turbulent shear. The efficiency of the mixing induced by these two phenomena has been calibrated by requiring the fit to a subset of stars (taken from the Large Magellanic Cloud samples of the FLAMES survey, Hunter et al. 2009) for which both the surface N abundance and the projected rotation velocity are available.

2.3. Core-collapse Supernovae (CCSNe)

SEVN includes five different models to describe the outcome of CCSNe: the rapid and delayed models presented in Fryer et al. (2012), the prescriptions adopted in STARTRACK (Belczynski et al. 2008), the compactness criterion (O’Connor & Ott 2011), and the two-parameter criterion by Ertl et al. (2016). The first three models depend only on the carbon–oxygen mass after carbon burning and on the presupernova mass of the star, the fourth model depends also on the compactness \( \xi_{2.5} \) defined in Equation (1) (assuming \( M = 2.5 M_\odot \)), while the fifth model depends on the enclosed mass at a dimensionless entropy per nucleon \( s = 4 (M_\odot) \) and the mass gradient at the same location \( (\mu_4) \).

2.3.1. Compactness Model

In the previous version of SEVN, the criterion based on compactness and the two-parameter criterion were implemented in a non-self-consistent way, because the table of compactness \( \xi_{2.5} \) and that of \( M_4 \) and \( \mu_4 \) were calculated through the MESA code (Paxton et al. 2011, 2013, 2015), while stellar evolution was derived from PARSEC. Here, we update the treatment of compactness in a self-consistent way. In fact, compactness can be calculated directly from FRANEC models, because they are evolved up to the onset of core collapse.

Limongi & Chiefi (2018) have shown that there is a strong correlation between compactness and carbon–oxygen mass at the onset of collapse (see their Figure 21) and this correlation is not significantly affected by stellar rotation. Thus, in our new version of SEVN, we interpolate compactness among stellar models by using the following fitting formula:

\[
\xi_{2.5} = a + b \left( \frac{m_{\text{CO}}}{1 M_\odot} \right)^c,
\]

where \( a = 0.55, b = -1.1, c = -1.0 \). Figure 1 shows the fit reported in Equation (2) overlaid on the FRANEC data.

O’Connor & Ott (2011) suggest that progenitors with \( \xi_{2.5} > 0.45 \) most likely form BHs without an explosion, while Horiiuchi et al. (2014) suggest a lower threshold value \( (\xi_{2.5} \gtrsim 0.2) \). In this work, we adopt \( \xi_{2.5} = 0.3 \) as a threshold (unless explicitly stated otherwise) and we simply assume that progenitors with \( \xi_{2.5} \leq 0.3 \) form a neutron star (NS) by CCSN explosion, while progenitors with \( \xi_{2.5} > 0.3 \) form a BH by direct collapse.

Several recent papers claim that \( \xi_{2.5} \) does not show a monotonic trend with the CO core (Sukhbold et al. 2018 and references therein), but rather has a complicated trend, with several localized branches and multivalued solutions. This result is still a matter of debate. We are studying this problem in detail and will discuss our results in a forthcoming paper. For this reason, and for the purposes of the present paper, here we adopt a conservative approach based on the results presented in Limongi & Chiefi (2018).

The compactness criterion allows us to discriminate between the formation of a NS (if the progenitor explodes) and that of a BH (if the progenitor collapses directly). When the progenitor explodes leaving a NS, the mass of the NS is assigned randomly, following a Gaussian distribution with mean \( m_{\text{NS}} = 1.33 M_\odot \) and dispersion \( \sigma_{\text{NS}} = 0.09 M_\odot \), based on the distribution of observed NSs in binary NS systems (Özel & Freire 2016).

When the progenitor undergoes a direct collapse, the mass of the BH is derived as

\[
m_{\text{BH}} = m_{\text{He}} + f_H (m_{\text{fin}} - m_{\text{He}}),
\]

where \( m_{\text{fin}} \) and \( m_{\text{He}} \) are the total mass and the He core mass of the star at the onset of collapse, respectively (the He core, by definition, includes also heavier elements inside the He core radius), while \( f_H \) is a free parameter which can assume values from 0 to 1. The presence of \( f_H \) accounts for the uncertainty about the collapse of the H envelope (if the progenitor star retains a H envelope to the very end). Some studies (e.g., Nadezhin 1980; Lovegrove & Woosley 2013; Sukhbold et al. 2016; Fernández et al. 2018) stress that is quite unlikely that the H envelope collapses entirely, even during a direct collapse, because it is loosely bound. In the following, we consider the two extreme cases in which \( f_H = 0 \) (the H envelope is completely lost) and \( f_H = 0.9 \) (90% of the H envelope collapses). Equation (3) is a toy model and does not intend to capture the complex physics of direct collapse. However, if we consider the two extreme cases with \( f_H = 0 \) and \( f_H = 0.9 \), we are able to bracket the main uncertainties on direct collapse.

In the compactness model, we assume that the efficiency of fallback is negligible, following recent hydrodynamical simulations (e.g., Ertl et al. 2016).
2.3.2. Rapid Model

In this work, we compare the new compactness criterion implemented in SEVN with the rapid CCSN model by Fryer et al. (2012), which assumes that the explosion occurs <250 ms after bounce. In the rapid model, the mass of the compact object is \( m_{\text{rem}} = m_{\text{proto}} + m_{\text{fb}} \), where \( m_{\text{proto}} = 1 M_\odot \) is the mass of the protocore object and \( m_{\text{fb}} = f_{\text{fb}} (m_{\text{fin}} - m_{\text{proto}}) \) is the mass accreted by fallback. In the previous expression, \( f_{\text{fb}} \) is the fractional fallback parameter, defined as in Fryer et al. (2012).

In the rapid CCSN formalism, the maximum NS mass is \( 2 M_\odot \), while the minimum BH mass is \( 5 M_\odot \). This result strongly depends on the assumptions about fallback. In contrast, our compactness-based model cannot predict a maximum NS mass, because the mass of the NS is derived from an observational distribution (Özel & Freire 2016).

We stress that none of the prescriptions currently adopted in the literature to infer the mass of compact objects (including the rapid model and the compactness-based models adopted in this work) are sufficient to capture the complexity of CCSN physics (see, e.g., Burrows et al. 2018, 2019; Vartanyan et al. 2019). The aim of our study is to compare different CCSN prescriptions and to quantify the uncertainties on the BH mass spectrum that arise from a different choice of these simplified prescriptions.

2.4. PPISNe and PISNe

SEVN includes a treatment for PISNe and PPISNe as described in Spera & Mapelli (2017), based on the results of Woosley (2017). In particular, if the He core mass is \( 135 > m_{\text{He}}/M_\odot > 64 \), the star undergoes a PISN and leaves no compact object. If the He core mass is \( 64 > m_{\text{He}}/M_\odot > 32 \), the star undergoes pulsational pair instability and the final mass of the compact object is calculated as \( m_{\text{rem}} = \alpha_P m_{\text{pp}} \), where \( m_{\text{pp}} \) is the mass of the compact object we would have obtained if we had not included pulsational pair instability in our analysis (just CCSN), and \( \alpha_P \) is a fitting parameter described in the Appendix.

3. Results

3.1. Impact of Rotation on BH Masses

Figures 2 and 3 show the mass of compact objects as a function of the ZAMS mass of their progenitor stars for different CCSN models (rapid, compactness with \( \xi_{2.5} = 0.3 \) and \( f_{1.5} = 0 \), and compactness with \( \xi_{2.5} = 0.3 \) and \( f_{1.5} = 0.9 \)). We show the results we obtain with FRANEC stellar evolution tables for three initial equatorial velocities of the progenitor stars: \( \nu = 0, 150, \) and \( 300 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). For comparison, we show also the results of PARSEC stellar evolution tables with \( \nu = 0 \text{ km s}^{-1} \).

From these figures the strong impact of rotation on the minimum ZAMS mass for BH formation, regardless of the progenitor’s metallicity, is apparent. The minimum progenitor mass to collapse to a BH is \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \approx 13-18 M_\odot \). For rotating stars and \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \approx 18-25 M_\odot \) for nonrotating stars (with a mild dependence on the CCSN model, see Table 1). This happens because stars with \( 10 \lesssim m_{\text{ZAMS}}/M_\odot \lesssim 30 \) are not particularly affected by stellar winds, regardless of their metallicity. Thus, angular momentum is not efficiently removed by mass loss and rotation has enough time to induce chemical mixing, leading to the growth of the stellar core. This shifts the threshold between explosion and direct collapse toward lower ZAMS masses.

Furthermore, Figures 2 and 3 show that stellar rotation has a strong impact on the (pulsational) pair instability window for metal-poor stars \( Z = 0.0003 \), independent of the assumed CCSN model. The most metal-poor rotating models \( Z = 0.0003 \) undergo PISN and PPISN if significantly lower ZAMS masses than the nonrotating models (e.g., \( m_{\text{PPISN}} \approx 50 M_\odot \) and \( \approx 70 M_\odot \) for rotating and nonrotating models, respectively, see Table 1). Again, this happens because chemical mixing leads to significantly larger He cores in rotating metal-poor stars. We note that there are no significant differences between \( \nu = 150 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \( \nu = 300 \text{ km s}^{-1} \).

We now go through different metallicities, to discuss how the effect of stellar rotation changes with \( Z \). In metal-poor stars \( Z \lesssim 0.0003 \), stellar winds are relatively inefficient over the entire mass spectrum, even for rotating stars. Thus, the main effect of rotation is always the enhancement of chemical mixing, leading to the growth of the stellar core. Thus, the two main consequences we discussed above, i.e., a smaller minimum ZAMS mass for BH formation and a smaller minimum ZAMS mass for PPISNe and PISNe.

In contrast, at intermediate metallicity \( Z = 0.003 \), approximately 1/5 of the solar metallicity, the impact of rotation is different for stars with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \lesssim 30 M_\odot \) and \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \gtrsim 30 M_\odot \). If \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \lesssim 30 M_\odot \), stellar winds are not particularly efficient, even in rotating models. Thus, rotating stars develop larger cores and end their life with higher compactness than nonrotating stars. The main consequence of this is that the minimum progenitor mass to collapse to a BH is smaller for rotating stars than for nonrotating stars. In contrast, if \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \gtrsim 30 M_\odot \), stellar winds are efficient at \( Z = 0.003 \) and they are significantly enhanced by rotation. Because of enhanced mass loss, the He core of rotating stars tends to be smaller than the He core of nonrotating stars. As a consequence of this, at \( Z = 0.003 \) the minimum ZAMS mass to enter the PPISNe regime is slightly lower for nonrotating models \( m_{\text{PPISN}} \approx 66-68 M_\odot \) for \( \nu = 0 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), Table 1 \) than for rotating models \( m_{\text{PPISN}} \approx 80 M_\odot \) for \( \nu = 300 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), Table 1 \), with an opposite behavior with respect to more metal-poor stars. Stars with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \lesssim 120 M_\odot \) and \( Z = 0.003 \) do not develop He cores \( > 64 M_\odot \), thus they do not enter the PISN regime.

Finally, metal-rich stars \( Z = 0.0135 \sim Z_{\odot} \) with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \lesssim 30 M_\odot \) behave similarly to metal-poor stars: they are only mildly affected by mass loss; hence, rotating stars grow larger He cores than nonrotating stars, causing the minimum ZAMS mass for BH formation to shift to lower values in rotating models. In contrast, stellar winds are so efficient in metal-rich stars with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \gtrsim 30 M_\odot \) that they do not enter either the PPISN or PISN window, regardless of their rotation speed (with the exception of the PARSEC model, which undergoes PPISNe at \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \gtrsim 94 M_\odot \)). At high \( Z \), stellar rotation does not significantly affect the maximum BH mass, which is \( \sim 16-24 M_\odot \) regardless of the assumed CCSN model.

3.2. Impact of CCSN Model on BH Masses

Figure 2 shows the mass of compact objects we obtain assuming the rapid CCSN model described in Fryer et al. (2012). In contrast, Figure 3 is based on the compactness criterion. By considering these different models, we want to
quantify the uncertainty on BH mass derived from CCSN prescriptions.

The main sources of uncertainty are the amount of fallback, the minimum value of the compactness (or carbon–oxygen mass) required for direct collapse, and the fate of the hydrogen envelope (if any). The rapid model by Fryer et al. (2012) assumes that fallback can be efficient (mass accreted by fallback $m_{fb} \geq 0.2 M_\odot$) and that stars with a carbon–oxygen core mass $m_{CO} \geq 11 M_\odot$ collapse to a BH directly, including their hydrogen envelope (if any). In contrast, in the compactness model we assume no fallback at all and we require that stars with compactness $\xi_{2.5} \geq 0.3$ collapse to a BH directly. In the case of direct collapse with the compactness criterion, if $f_H = 0$ ($f_H = 0.9$ we assume that the hydrogen envelope does not collapse (90% of the hydrogen envelope collapses) to a BH.

The main difference between the rapid model and the compactness model, which manifests regardless of stellar rotation and metallicity, is the minimum ZAMS mass to form a BH (Table 1). This difference arises mostly from the adopted threshold for direct collapse. In fact, direct collapse happens in the rapid model if $m_{CO} \geq 11 M_\odot$, which (according to Equation (2)) corresponds to the compactness threshold $\xi_{2.5} \geq 0.45$. By increasing the threshold for direct collapse from $\xi_{2.5} = 0.3$ to $\xi_{2.5} = 0.45$, the compactness models produce approximately the same minimum ZAMS mass for BH formation as the rapid model.

Another feature of the rapid model which does not show up in the compactness-based models, regardless of stellar metallicity and rotation, is the complex behavior of BH mass as the rapid model if $m_{CO} \geq 11 M_\odot$, which (according to Equation (2)) corresponds to the compactness threshold $\xi_{2.5} \geq 0.45$. By increasing the threshold for direct collapse from $\xi_{2.5} = 0.3$ to $\xi_{2.5} = 0.45$, the compactness models produce approximately the same minimum ZAMS mass for BH formation as the rapid model.

If $m_{ZAMS} \gtrsim 40 M_\odot$, metallicity and rotation matter, as we have seen in the previous section. If stellar metallicity is high ($Z = 0.0135$) and $m_{ZAMS} \gtrsim 40 M_\odot$, the mass of BHs in the rapid model and in the compactness models have a remarkably similar behavior. The reason is that stellar winds are very efficient in massive stars with $Z = 0.0135$ (almost independently of rotation) and remove the entire envelope, leveling the differences among the considered models.

In contrast, if stellar metallicity is low ($Z \leq 0.003$) and $m_{ZAMS} \gtrsim 40 M_\odot$, the initial rotation becomes the crucial
ingredient. If the star rotates, the minimum ZAMS mass for PPISN and PISN decreases significantly (see Section 3.1) and stellar winds are efficient even at low metallicity. The combination of these two effects removes the hydrogen envelope and even a fraction of the He core. For this reason, the rapid model and the two compactness models are indistinguishable for rotating stars with \( Z \lesssim 0.003 \) and \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \gtrsim 40M_\odot \).

If the star does not rotate, the BH mass for \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \approx m_{\text{BH,max}} \approx 45M_\odot \) if the H envelope is assumed to collapse, and \( m_{\text{BH,max}} \approx 45\sim 60M_\odot \) (originating from stars with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \approx 110\sim 120M_\odot \) and \( Z \lesssim 0.0003 \)) if the H envelope is assumed to be ejected. These conclusions depend on the adopted description of PPISNe and PISNe (from Spera & Mapelli 2017).

3.3. Impact of Rotation, CCSN Model and Metallicity on BH Mass Function

For each considered metallicity, for each rotation speed, and for each CCSN model separately, we have generated a set of 10\(^5\) single stars distributed according to a Kroupa initial mass function (IMF; i.e., \( dN/dm \propto m^{-\alpha} \) with \( \alpha = 2.3 \), Kroupa 2001), with a minimum ZAMS mass \( m_{\text{min}} = 13M_\odot \) and a maximum ZAMS mass \( m_{\text{max}} = 120M_\odot \).

Figure 4 shows the mass function of compact objects for the three considered rotation speeds, for three metallicities (\( Z = 0.0003 \) is not shown because it is almost indistinguishable from \( Z = 0.0003 \)) and for the three CCSN models. Note that the NS population is severely incomplete, because the minimum ZAMS mass currently available in the FRANEC tracks is \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} = 13M_\odot \). Smaller masses will be included in follow-up works.
In general, the mass function of single BHs can be approximated with an power law, but the slope of the power law depends on metallicity, rotation speed, and on the assumed CCSN prescription. If we make a linear fit of $\log_{10} \text{PDF} = D \log_{10} m_{\text{rem}} + G$ across our models, we find a preferred value of $D \approx -0.5$, with a very large scatter. Binary evolution can change this scaling dramatically and will be included in a follow-up study.

The main differences among all the considered models are the number of NSs and the minimum mass of BHs. Because of the difference in the minimum ZAMS mass to form a BH (see Sections 3.1 and 3.2), stars with $v = 300$ km s$^{-1}$ and minimum mass $m_{\text{ZAMS}} = 13 M_\odot$ adopting a compactness-based CCSN criterion do not form NSs, regardless of their metallicity. For these extremely fast rotating models to produce NSs, we need to assume a significantly higher $\xi_{2.5}$ threshold.

The minimum BH mass spans from $\sim 4.5 M_\odot$ to $\sim 15 M_\odot$, depending on the CCSN prescription (the compactness-based model with $f_H = 0.9$ produces significantly larger minimum BH masses at low metallicity) and on metallicity (metal-rich populations tend to produce BHs with a smaller minimum BH mass). The maximum BH mass dramatically depends not only on metallicity, but also on rotation (BHs with mass $m_{\text{rem}} \gtrsim 60 M_\odot$ form only from nonrotating models).

At solar metallicity, the three CCSNe models and the three rotation speeds produce very similar BH populations (almost
identical in the case of the two compactness-based models). The reason is that stellar winds peel off massive stars, regardless of their initial rotation velocity and of the assumed CCSN model. In contrast, at lower metallicities the differences between the three CCSN models become important.

In this section, we assumed that stars in the same stellar population have the same initial rotation speed. This is clearly a simplistic assumption because stars might form with different initial speeds. Data of stellar rotation in the Milky Way show that stellar speeds should be distributed according to a Gaussian with an average speed \( \sim 200 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and dispersion \( \sim 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) (Dufton et al. 2006). In follow-up studies we will consider a distribution of initial stellar rotation velocities.

### 3.4. Comparison with Previous Work

Figures 2 and 3 show that there is not much difference between PARSEC models and FRANEC models with \( v = 0 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) when implemented inside SEVN and treated with the same model for CCSNe, PISNe and PPISNe. It is worth noting that while the typical difference in the maximum BH mass between FRANEC and PARSEC is \( \sim 10\% \) at low metallicity, the difference becomes \( \sim 27\% \) at solar metallicity \((Z = 0.0135, \text{ see Table 1})\). This is explained with a different treatment of mass loss and different assumptions for chemical abundances.

Figure 5 compares the mass spectrum of compact objects we derived in this study (considering only FRANEC tracks and accounting for the uncertainties induced by the CCSN model with a shaded area) with the mass spectrum obtained in previous studies, as a function of the ZAMS mass. In particular, we plot the mass spectrum from Spera & Mapelli (2017), hereafter SM2017, from Giacobbo & Mapelli (2018), hereafter GM2018, and from Limongi & Chiefi (2018), hereafter LC2018. We also consider a version of BSE (Hurley et al. 2000, 2002) that includes the same stellar wind, PISN and PPISN prescriptions as STARTRACK (Belczynski et al. 2016), hereafter B2016.

Our results are similar to the mass spectrum obtained with MOBSE (GM2018), although the maximum BH mass in MOBSE \((m_{\text{BH,max}} \sim 65 M_\odot)\) at \( Z = 0.0003 \) is \( \sim 8\% \) higher than the maximum mass we obtain with SEVN. Metal-poor stars with \( m_{\text{ZAMS}} \sim 40–80 M_\odot \) seem to retain a more generous portion of...
their hydrogen envelope at collapse when integrated with MOBSE. Our results are also broadly consistent with SM2017 for metal-poor progenitors, while at $Z = 0.0135$ SM2017 predict $\sim 20\%$–$30\%$ larger BH masses (up to $\sim 33 \, M_\odot$), explained by the fact that SM2017 adopt PARSEC tracks. The models labeled as B2016 predict a maximum BH mass $\sim 40 \, M_\odot$, significantly smaller than our model with $f_\text{H} = 0.9$ and similar to our model with H envelope ejection ($f_\text{H} = 0$). However, B2016 assume that the H envelope, when present, collapses with the rest of the star. In their model, metal-poor stars with $m_{\text{ZAMS}} \sim 40–80 \, M_\odot$ lose their H envelope almost completely for the different treatment of luminous blue variable stellar winds and of pulsational pair instability.

LC2018 adopt the same FRANEC tracks we use here. Figure 5 shows their model R which assumes that stars with $m_{\text{ZAMS}} \leq 25 \, M_\odot$ explode as CCSNe, while stars with $m_{\text{ZAMS}} > 25 \, M_\odot$ collapse to a BH directly, with $m_{\text{rem}} = m_{\text{fin}}$ (no mass ejection). Thus, the triangles shown in Figure 5 represent the upper limit to BH masses we can obtain with FRANEC if $m_{\text{ZAMS}} > 25 \, M_\odot$.

Finally, several previous studies investigate the impact of stellar rotation on PPISNe and PISNe (Chatzopoulos & Wheeler 2012a, 2012b; Yoon et al. 2012; Yusof et al. 2013; Takahashi et al. 2018; Uchida et al. 2019). Our main findings agree with their results: (i) the minimum ZAMS mass to undergo a PPISN and a PISN lowers significantly if stellar rotation is accounted for (Chatzopoulos & Wheeler 2012a), and (ii) rotating models of massive stars lose their entire hydrogen-rich envelopes by enhanced mass loss (Yusof et al. 2013).

4. Conclusions

We have investigated the impact of rotation and compactness on the mass of black holes (BHs), by implementing rotating stellar evolution models (Limongi & Chieffi 2018) into our population synthesis code SEVN (Spera et al. 2015, 2019; Spera & Mapelli 2017).

Rotation has two major effects on BH formation. First, rotation reduces the minimum ZAMS mass for a star to collapse into a BH from $\sim 18–25 \, M_\odot$ to $\sim 13–18 \, M_\odot$ (according to the assumed CCSN prescriptions), because intermediate mass ($m_{\text{ZAMS}} \sim 13–20 \, M_\odot$) rotating stars develop a larger carbon–oxygen core and a higher compactness than nonrotating stars.

Second, rotation reduces the maximum BH mass from metal-poor progenitors. This result comes from two combined effects: (i) rotation increases stellar wind efficiency; thus, rotating metal-poor ($Z = 0.00003–0.0003$) stars with $m_{\text{ZAMS}} \sim 40–80 \, M_\odot$ lose their H envelope entirely, while nonrotating metal-poor stars preserve most of it; (ii) chemical mixing induced by rotation increases the mass of the He core, reducing the minimum ZAMS mass for PPISNe and PISNe to happen.

If we assume that the entire final mass of a star (including its residual H envelope) can collapse to a BH directly, the maximum BH mass from nonrotating stars is $\sim 60 \, M_\odot$, while the maximum BH mass from fast rotating stars is $\sim 45 \, M_\odot$.

Besides rotation, the mass of BHs is also strongly affected by the assumed CCSN model, especially by the amount of fallback, by the adopted threshold for direct collapse (based on $\zeta_{2.5}$ or on $m_{\text{CO}}$), and by the different fraction of H envelope that is able to collapse ($f_\text{H}$).

In particular, the minimum ZAMS mass for a star to form a BH depends on the assumed threshold of compactness $\zeta_{2.5}$ (larger values of the threshold leading to higher minimum ZAMS masses) and on the efficiency of fallback.

The maximum BH mass that we expect from nonrotating metal-poor ($Z = 0.00003–0.0003$) stars depends wildly on the assumed CCSN prescription: if we assume that the residual H envelope participates in the collapse, the maximum BH mass is up to $\sim 60 \, M_\odot$, approximately 1.5 times higher than if we assume that only the He core is able to collapse. This assumption is not important for metal-poor massive rotating stars and for metal-rich (both rotating and nonrotating) stars, because stellar winds remove their H envelope entirely, leveling these differences.

Here, we consider only single stars. In future works, we will investigate how binary evolution and star cluster dynamics affect our conclusions. We anticipate that close binary evolution should lead to a further stripping of the H envelope, affecting the maximum BH mass (see, e.g., Giacobbo & Mapelli 2018). On the other hand, star cluster dynamics can lead to the formation of binary BHs that incorporate the most massive BHs formed from single star evolution and from the
merger of massive binaries (e.g., Mapelli 2016; Di Carlo et al. 2019), making the final scenario even more complex.

The methodology we presented here might be applied to estimate upper limits on BH spins. For all our models we find an upper limit to the final spin close to maximally rotating BHs. However, our models do not include mechanisms for efficient angular momentum dissipation, such as the Tayler–Spruit dynamo (Spruit 2002; Fuller et al. 2019). Efficient angular momentum transport can lead to significantly lower BH spins \( (a_{\text{BH}} \lesssim 0.1) \), as described in several works (e.g., Heger et al. 2005; Belczynski et al. 2017; Fuller & Ma 2019; Qin et al. 2019). In a follow-up study, we will apply different models of angular momentum transport to our methodology.

Overall, we confirm that both stellar rotation and supernova prescriptions have a crucial impact on the mass function of BHs. This result provides a key to interpret future gravitational wave data and to constrain stellar evolution and CCSN mechanisms.

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Software: SEVN (Spera & Mapelli 2017), PARSEC (Bressan et al. 2012), FRANEC (Limongi et al. 2000), MOBSE (Giacobbo et al. 2018).

Appendix

Fitting Formula for PPISNe and PISNe

When PISNe and PPISNe are effective, we derive the mass of the compact object as \( m_{\text{rem}} = \alpha_p m_{\text{iso}} \), where \( m_{\text{iso}} \) is the mass of the compact remnant we would obtain without PPISN/PISN. First, we define the following quantities

\[
\mathcal{F} \equiv \frac{m_{\text{He}}}{m_{\text{fin}}}, \quad \mathcal{K} \equiv 0.67000 \mathcal{F} + 0.10000, \\
S \equiv 0.52260 \mathcal{F} - 0.52974.
\]

We then express \( \alpha_p \) as a function of \( \mathcal{F}, S, \mathcal{K} \) and \( m_{\text{He}} \):

\[
\alpha_p = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } m_{\text{He}} \leq 32M_{\odot}, \forall \mathcal{F}, \forall S \\
0.2(\mathcal{K} - 1)m_{\text{He}} + 0.2(37 - 32\mathcal{K}) & \text{if } 32 < m_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot} \leq 37, \mathcal{F} < 0.9, \forall S \\
\mathcal{K}(16.0 - 0.25m_{\text{He}}) & \text{if } 60 < m_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot} < 64, \mathcal{F} < 0.9, \forall S \\
S(m_{\text{He}} - 32) + 1 & \text{if } m_{\text{He}} \leq 37M_{\odot}, \mathcal{F} \geq 0.9, \forall S \\
SS + 1 & \text{if } 37 < m_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot} \leq 64, \mathcal{F} \geq 0.9, \forall S \\
-0.13813\mathcal{F} + 1.03999 & \text{if } m_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot} \geq 65, \mathcal{F} \geq 0.9, \forall S \\
0 & \text{if } 64 \leq m_{\text{He}}/M_{\odot} < 135, \forall \mathcal{F}, \forall S \\
1 & \text{if } m_{\text{He}} \geq 135M_{\odot}, \forall \mathcal{F}, \forall S.
\end{cases}
\]

These fits are the same as we adopted in Spera & Mapelli (2017), but here we fix some typos of Appendix B of Spera & Mapelli (2017) (these typos did not affect the results of Spera & Mapelli 2017, because the code contained the correct equations).

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