The Evolution of Stellar Triples



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Triples

Stellar Trio

In a three-star system, two stars orbit each other, then the pair and a third star also orbit each other.



Fairly common

	Binary fraction	Triple fraction
Low-mass stars	40-50%	10-15%
High-mass stars	>70%	>30%
Refs	Raghavan+ '10, Tokovinin '08, '14, Remage Evans '11, Duchene & Kraus '13, Sana+ '14, Moe+ '17	

Triple evolution

✓ Triple evolution provoked for:

- Gravitational wave sources, supernova type Ia progenitors, mergers, blue stragglers, low-mass X-ray binaries etc. etc.

- ✓ Unique evolution
 - Three-body dynamics
 - Stellar (& binary) evolution



- ✓ Impressive recent progress, but little coupling
 - Rich interacting regime (Shappee+ '13, Hamers+ '13, Michaely+ '14, Antonini+ 17)

Modelling Triple Evolution

New code TRES (Toonen, Hamers, Portegies Zwart 2016)

- Couples three-body dynamics with parametrized stellar evolution
 - * Dynamics based on the secular-approach (quadrupole & octupole order included)
 - * Stellar evolution tracks from SeBa (Portegies Zwart+ 96, Toonen+ 12, 13)
 - Including:
 - GW emission
 - Tides
 - Precession
 - Stellar winds



- Valid for isolated coeval stellar hierarchical triple evolution
 - Coupling possible with N-body code or detailed stellar evolution code

Kozai-Lidov cycles

MI=1.3, M2=0.5, M3=0.5MSun, aI=200, a2 =20000RSun, eI=0.1, e2 =0.5, i=80, gI=0.1, g2=0.5



Binary caseTriple case

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... with dissipation

MI=1.3, M2=0.5, M3=0.5MSun, aI=200, a2 =20000RSun, eI=0.1, e2 =0.5, i=80, gI=0.1, g2=0.5



Triple evolution leads to ...

Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer

- ~1.5x more often mass transfer compared to binaries (Toonen+ in prep.)
- ~40% of Roche lobe overflow in an eccentric orbit (Toonen+ in prep.)



- Interesting for
 - Blue stragglers (Perets & Fabrycky '09)
 - Great eruption of Eta Carinae (Portegies Zwart & van den Heuvel '16)

Triple evolution leads to...

- Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer
- Enhanced formation rate of compact binaries
 - * Excess of close MS-MS (Fabrycky & Tremaine '07, Naoz+ '11)
 - ✤ 96% is part of a triple (Tokovinin+ '06)



Triple evolution leads to...

- Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer
- Enhanced formation rate of compact binaries
- Enhanced merger rate of compact objects

BH-BH mergers

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BH-BH mergers

Conventional formation channels:

- Dynamical interactions in dense environments (e.g. Rodriguez+ 15)
- * Isolated massive binaries in the field (e.g. Belczynski+ 10, 16)
- Chemically homogeneous evolution of compact binary (e.g. Mandel & de Mink '16)



I) Three massive stars in wide orbits





Difficulties



Difficulties



BH-BH mergers

- Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer
- Enhanced formation rate of compact binaries
- Enhanced merger rate of compact objects
 - Observed rate (Abbott+16): 2-600 per year per Gpc^3
 - With natal-kick: ~0.4 per year per Gpc^3
 - * Only Blaauw-kick: ~1.2 per year per Gpc^3

Hobbs / Arzoumanian, momentumconserving kicks, direct collapse for M>40Msun,



Distinct characteristics

 Eccentricity upon entering the LIGO band



Taken from Breivik+ '16

 High eccentricities in the LISA band!



- Chen & Amaro-Seoane+17:
 - * e ~>5e-3 hard to detect with LISA
 - ≁40% of our systems

Summary

- The presence of a third star can have a strong effect on the evolution of the inner binary
- Evolution: Three body dynamics + stellar evolution
 - Rich interacting regime (Shappee+'13, Hamers+'13, Michaely+'14, Toonen+'16, Antonini, Toonen
 & Hamers '17)
- New code TRES for (coeval stellar hierarchical) triple evolution (Toonen+ 2016 => also for review on triple evolution in stellar systems)
- BH-BH mergers from isolated triples (Antonini, Toonen & Hamers '17)
 - * Rate: 0.3-1.3 per year per Gpc^3
 - * Few detections per year with aLIGO, harder to detect with LISA
 - High eccentricities due to 3body dynamics



Example: (inner) binary: M1 = 8.96, $M2 = 7.51M_0$, a_in= 1727 AU, e_in=0.65, g_in = .61 rad tertiary star M3=8.35M_0 on an orbit with a_out = 16571 AU, e_out =0.29, i=93^o, g_in = -2.82 rad



- High-eccentricity behaviour: jump in J_{inner_orbit} by order unity (Antonini & Perets 12, Katz & Dong '12)
- Step 3): high-precision direct integrator for systems with weaker hierarchies (Mikkola & Merritt 08)

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MIEK

Shappee & Thompson (2013) studied the case of massloss from a component in the inner binary, which leads to a transition from a more regular Kozai-Lidov secular behavior to the regime where octupole level perturbations become significant, and the amplitude of eccentricity changes become significant; a behavior

MIEK - Mass-loss induced eccentric Kozai (Shappee & Tho

 Mass-loss from the inner binary causes a transition from regular quadrupole Kozai behaviour to where the octupole becomes significant

$$P_{\rm oct} \sim P_{\rm kozai}/\epsilon$$
 $\epsilon \equiv \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \frac{a_1}{a_2} \frac{e_2}{1 - e_2^2}$

In other words:

- I. Primary star becomes compact object without RLOF
- 2. Afterwards, secondary fills RL
- Special evolutionary channel: accreting compact objects without common-envelope phase! (see also: Shappee & Thompson '13, Michaely & Perets '14)
- * How often does this happen in triples?
 - * a few in a 1000 systems for all models (Toonen+ in prep.)

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Standard example:

mI = 7MSun, m2 = 6.5MSun, m3 = 6Msun; aI = 10AU, a2 = 250AU, eI = 0.1,e2=0.7, g1=0, g2=180, i=60

- Varying i, e1, e2, g1:
 - * 2 up to 7% of systems go through MIEK (Shappee & Thompson 2013)
- However...
 - Even if the inner binary was isolated, RLOF when al<15AU</p>
 - Slightly wider orbits affected by Kozai-Lidov induced-RLOF and wind-induced dynamical instabilities

Roche Lobe Overflow

- In the outer binary from the outer companion
- How often does this happen in triples?
 - 0.5% for model uncorrelated binaries I
 - I% for model uncorrelated binaries II (Tokovinin)
 - 0.9% for model Eggleton
- In good agreement with de Vries ea '13
 - For 1% of triples in the Tokovinin catalogue (full primary mass range), the outer companion initiates RLOF before any of the inner stars leave the main sequence
 - Predominantly evolved (AGB) donor stars
 - From SPH simulations for ξ Tau and HD97131

$$\frac{(\dot{a}_{in}/a_{in})}{(\dot{a}_{out}/a_{out})} \simeq 1$$

Dynamical instability

MI = 7, M2 = I, M3 = 6MSun, aI = Ie4, a2 = 5e5RSun, eI = 0.1, e2 = 0.8, i=0, gI = 0.1, g2 = 0.5



Effect of wind mass-loss in inner binary:

- Orbits widen, inner orbit widens more
- Orbits come closer to each other
 possible dynamical instability

 $\frac{a_f}{a_i} = \frac{M_i}{M_f} = 1 - \frac{\Delta M}{M}$

Dynamical instability

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Triple dynamical instability (e.g. Kiseleva+ '94, Iben & Tutukov '99)

- Rate: 3% of all triples (Perets & Kratter '12, Hamers+ '13, Toonen+ in prep.)
 - close encounters, collisions, stellar exchanges, eccentric binaries
 - high collision rate, involving AGB stars (Perets & Kratter '12)

Sumr

At the same time, triple evolution is often invoked to explain exotic systems which cannot be explained easily by binary evolution. Examples are low-mass X-ray binaries, supernova type la progenitors and blue stragglers.

 The presence of a third star can have a evolution of the inner binary

What are the common evolutionary pathways that triple systems evolutionary? Are there any evolutionary pathways open to triples, which are not open to iso binaries?

- Triple evolution can lead to:
 - Enhanced formation of compact binaries
 - Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer
- Evolution: Three body dynamics + stellar evolution
 - * Rich interacting regime (Shappee+ '13, Hamers+ '13, Michaely+ '14, Toonen+ '16)
- New code TRES for (coeval stellar hierarchical) triple evolution (Toonen + 2016, Toonen+ in prep.)
- * Goal veni: Create comprehensive model of triple evolution

Code for Triple Evolution

- New code TRES for (isolated coeval stellar hierarchical) triple evolution (Toonen+ 2016, Toonen+ in prep.)
 - Will become publicly available

- Written in Astrophysical Multipurpose
 Software Environment
 - software framework astrophysical simulations
 - existing codes from different domains (stellar dynamics, stellar evolution, hydrodynamics and radiative transfer)



- easy coupling between the codes
- easy coupling to N-body code or detailed stellar evolution codes



- Monte Carlo method to generate initial systems containing zero-age main-sequence stars
- 3 sets of distributions

	uncorrelated binaries I	uncorrelated binaries 2	Eggleton
ml			
m2			
m3			
a			
е	thermal	thermal	thermal
i	circular uniform [0,pi]	circular uniform [0,pi]	circular uniform [0,pi]
g	uniform [-pi,pi]	uniform [-pi,pi]	uniform [-pi,pi]
Ω	fit of Hurley ea '00 to Lang '92	fit of Hurley ea '00 to Lang '92	fit of Hurley ea '00 to Lang '92

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ml	Kroupa IMF (Kroupa ea '93)	Kroupa IMF (Kroupa ea '93)	Eggleton '09
m2	flat in m2/ml	flat in m2/ml	Eggleton '09
m3	flat in m3/(ml+m2)	flat in m3/(mI+m2)	Eggleton '09
a	flat in log a (Abt '83)	Tokovinin '14 (lognormal, mu = 1e5d, sigma=2.3)	Eggleton '09
е	thermal	thermal	thermal
i	circular uniform [0,pi]	circular uniform [0,pi]	circular uniform [0,pi]
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- Mass ratio distribution
 - Uncorrelated binaries



Eggleton '09



Note: per definition m1>m2
m1 => primary, m2 => secondary

Distribution of orbital separation



Roche Lobe Overflow

- In the inner binary by the secondary
 - after the primary has become a compact object
 - special evolutionary channel
 - to form compact binaries without mass transfer (see also: Shappee & Thompson '13, Michaely & Perets '14)
- * How often does this happen in triples?
 - * a few in a 1000 systems for all models
- How eccentric is the orbit?
 - Roughly half of systems: e_in~0
 - Other half: e_in > 0.8
- Donor stars can be evolved or non-evolved stars



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- However...
 - Even if the inner binary was isolated, RLOF when aI<I5AU</p>
 - Slightly wider orbits affected by Kozai-Lidov induced-RLOF and wind-induced dynamical instabilities
Secular evolution

Solve set of first-order ordinary differen

As a function of semimajor-axis a, ε
 inclination i, argument of pericente
 node h, spin angular frequency Ω

processes that are described are independent such that the intime derivative terms can be added linearly. In addition, in the expressions for 'gl,tide, 'gl,rotate, 'el,TF, 'al,TF, 'i,TF and ' θ we assume coplanarity of spin and orbit at all times, even though Kozai cycin principle affect the relative orientations between the spin ar orbit angular momentum vectors and in turn a misalignment of Weish vectors affects the Kozai cycles themselves (e.g. Correia 2011). We justify this assumption by noting that for the majorit systems that we study the orbit? Angular momenta of both in outer orbits greatly exceed the spin angular momenta in magn therefore, the stellar spins cannot greatly affect the exchange of **Eulinchorden lux bets en the spin** (Hut '81)

tides (Smeyers & Willems '01)

rotate (Fabrycky & Tremaine 2002)

= Moment of inertia

G orbital angular momentum $\theta \equiv \cos(i)$

BH-BH mergers

- Enhanced occurrence rate of mass transfer
- Enhanced formation rate of compact binaries
- Enhanced merger rate of compact objects
 - * Antonini, Toonen & Hamers in prep.
 - Preliminary rate: 0.3-1.2 per year per Gpc^3



Interacting regime

Example: (inner) binary: M1 = 3.95, $M2 = 3.03M_o$, $a_in= 19.7 AU$, $e_in=0.23$ tertiary star $M3=2.73M_o$ on an orbit with $a_out = 636 AU$, $e_out = 0.82$, $i=116^o$







Fairly common

	Triple fraction	Binary fraction	
Low-mass stars 10-15%		40-50%	
High-mass stars	~50	>70%	
Refs	Tokovinin '08, '14, Remage Evans '11	Raghavan ea '08, Duchene & Kraus '13)	

- Evolution: Three body dynamics + stellar evolution
 - * Rich interacting regime (Shappee ea 2013, Hamers ea 2013, Michaely ea 2014)
- * TRES: self-consistent treatment of triple evolution (Toonen et al. in prep.)
 - judge the importance of this interacting regime
 - curious evolutionary products from triples

- Monte Carlo method to generate initial systems containing zero-age main-sequence stars
- 3 sets of distributions

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- Mass ratio distribution
 - Uncorrelated binaries



Eggleton '09



Note: per definition m1>m2
m1 => primary, m2 => secondary

Distribution of orbital separation











PopCORN



- Population synthesis used extensively for binaries (e.g. Eggleton '89, de Kool ea '92, Willems & Kolb '94, Nelemans ea '01, Han ea '02, Belczynski ea '08, Ruiter ea '12, Mennekens ea '13, Claeys ea '14, Toonen ea '12, 13, 14)
- Comparison of codes for binary population synthesis
- When input assumptions are equalized: different binary population synthesis codes give similar populations.
- Differences are not caused by numerical differences, but can be explained by differences in the input physics

ref: Toonen, Claeys, Mennekens, Ruiter 2014

see also: www.astro.ru.nl/~silviato/popcorn



Similar simulated populations



Similar simulated populations

No interactionCommon-EnvelopeStable mass transfer



Similar simulated populations

No interactionCommon-EnvelopeStable mass transfer



Similar simulated populations

No interactionCommon-EnvelopeStable mass transfer





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Double white dwarfs



Similar simulated populations

Double white dwarfs



Similar simulated populations



Triples

New code for the evolution of coeval hierarchical stellar triples Combines:

- Stellar evolution
 - * Using SeBa (Portegies Zwart & Verbunt 1996, Nelemans et al.
 - Tracking realistic mass and radius as a funct
- Secular hierarchical triple dynamics
 - Based on Hamers et al. 2013



- in which the orbit-averaged equations of motion are solved numerically
- Simulate consistently stellar evolution + tides + Kozai-Lidov
 - including mass transfer, supernova kicks

Secular evolution

Solve set of first-order ordina

 As a function of semimajc inclination i, argument of node h, spin angular frequ

$$\begin{array}{lll} \dot{a}_{1} &= \dot{a}_{1,GR} + \dot{a}_{1,TF} + \dot{a}_{1,wind} & \text{thereform angular} \\ \dot{a}_{2} &= \dot{a}_{2,GR} + \dot{a}_{2,TF} + \dot{a}_{2,wind} \\ \dot{e}_{1} &= \dot{e}_{1,STD} + \dot{e}_{1,GR} + \dot{e}_{1,TF}, \\ \dot{e}_{2} &= \dot{e}_{2,STD} + \dot{e}_{2,GR} + \dot{e}_{2,TF}, \\ \dot{\theta} &= \frac{-1}{G_{1}G_{2}} [\dot{G}_{1}(G_{1} + G_{2}\theta) + \dot{G}_{2}(G_{2} + G_{1}G_{1})] \\ \dot{g}_{1} &= \dot{g}_{1,STD} + \dot{g}_{1,GR} + \dot{g}_{1,tides} + \dot{g}_{1,rotate}, \\ \dot{g}_{2} &= \dot{g}_{2,STD} + \dot{g}_{2,GR} + \dot{g}_{2,tides} + \dot{g}_{2,rotate}, \\ \dot{h}_{1} &= \dot{h}_{1,STD}, \\ \dot{\Omega}_{\star 1} &= \dot{\Omega}_{\star 1,TF} + \dot{\Omega}_{\star 1,I}, \\ \dot{\Omega}_{\star 2} &= \dot{\Omega}_{\star 2,TF} + \dot{\Omega}_{\star 2,I}, \\ \dot{\Omega}_{\star 3} &= \dot{\Omega}_{\star 3,TF} + \dot{\Omega}_{\star 3,I}, \end{array}$$

processes that are described are independent such that the individual time derivative terms can be added linearly. In addition, in the expressions for 'gl,tide, 'gl,rotate, 'el,TF, 'al,TF, 'i,TF and ' θ we assume

coplanarity of spin and orbit at all times, even though Kozai cycles in principle affect the relative orientations between the spin and orbit angular momentum vectors and in turn a misalignment of these vectors affects the Kozai cycles themselves (e.g. Correia et al. 2011).We justify this assumption by noting that for the majority of systems that we study the orbital angular momenta of both inner and outer orbits greatly exceed the spin angular momenta in magnitude, therefore, the stellar spins cannot greatly affect the exchange of angular momentum between both orbits.

> rotate (Fabrycky & Tremaine 2002) ^İ = Moment of inertia

G orbital angular momentum $\theta \equiv \cos(i)$

Coupling of the codes:



Astrophysical Multipurpose Software Environment

- software framework astrophysical simulations,
- existing codes from different domains (stellar dynamics, stellar evolution, hydrodynamics and radiative transfer)
- easy coupling between the codes
- * easy coupling to N-body code

Maximum radius



Dynamical instability





Inner RLOF donor type







Distribution of Eggleton '09



- Simulate the evolution of a large number of binaries
- From ZAMS to remnant formation (or any desired evolutionary phase)
- At each timestep for each binary take into account relevant physics
 => Combination of stellar evolution & dynamics





• Consensus on the principles of binary evolution

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Evolutionary channels



Population synthesis

- Population synthesis used extensively for binaries (e.g. Eggleton '89, de Kool ea '92, Willems & Kolb '94, Nelemans ea '01, Han ea '02, Belczynski ea '08, Ruiter ea '12, Mennekens ea '13, Claeys ea '14, Toonen ea '12, 13, 14)
 - Studying e.g. supernova type la progenitors, WD-MS stars, cataclysmic variables, double white dwarf, X-ray binaries, SdB stars, gravitational wave sources

- Consensus on the principles of binary evolution
 - Many questions remain, e.g. regarding mass transfer stability, unstable mass transfer (common-envelope phase), accretion

Dynamical instability

Triple evolution dynamical instability (e.g. Kiseleva ea '94, Iben & Tutukov '99, Perets & Kratter '11)

Through wind mass loss: Example: MI = 7, M2 = I, M3=6MSun, aI = Ie4, a2 = 5e5RSun, eI=0.1, e2 =0.8, i=0, gI=0.1, g2=0.5

Supernova Type la progenitors

Triples as SNIa progenitors (Katz & Dong 2012, Hamers ea 2013)

- Classical progenitor systems:
- * Single degenerate (Whelan & Iben '73)

Double degenerate (Iben & Tutukov '84)

Rate (per 10 ⁴ M _o)		
Observed (Maoz ea 2011, 2012, Perrett ea 2012, Graur ea 2012)	4-23	
Triples	>0.02	
Single degenerate	< 0.001-1.3	
Double degenerate	2-3.3	

Roche Lobe Overflow

- In the inner binary by the primary
- How often does this happen in triples?
 - 63% for model uncorrelated binaries I
 - 72% for model uncorrelated binaries II (Tokovinin)
 - 69% for model Eggleton

- * How does this compare to isolated binary evolution?
 - Educated guess: ~40%
 - Assuming RLOF occurs when a(I-e^2)<Ie3|units.RSun (see Toonen et al. 2014) & uncorrelated binaries I (Abt)
 - Detailed comparison: to be continued....
Roche Lobe Overflow

- Mass transfer in eccentric orbit
- * How often does this happen in triples?
 - 38% for model uncorrelated binaries I
 - 42% for model uncorrelated binaries II (Tokovinin)
 - 38% for model Eggleton
 - * % of total number RLOF in simulation



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 - after the primary has become a compact object
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- orbits come closer to each other
- possible dynamical instability



In the case of MS destabilization the triple system is initially marginally stable (i.e. only just satisfies $\beta > \beta_{crit}$; cf. Section 2.3) but due to octupole-order terms of the STD, which are important since β is (very) small and/or e2 is high, e2 varies periodically until it reaches a value high enough such that $\beta \leq \beta_{crit}$, i.e. a triple destabilization. The time when this occurs is determined by the Kozai period Pk. Similarly to the MS mergers, this occurs early in the evolution with most (90 per cent) destabilizations occurring within 10 per cent of the primary MS lifetime (cf. Fig. 7). In the other cases destabilization is triggered by mass loss in the inner orbit which, if fast and isotropic, acts to decrease β (i.e. the same mechanism discussed in the context of eccentric compact object mergers in Section 5.1) to a point where $\beta \leq \beta_{crit}$. This happens when the primary loses a significant amount of mass as it evolves from the AGB phase to a WD and similarly when this happens to the secondary. In a small number of cases both inner binary components are CO WDs when the instability occurs and since there exists a finite probability of collision in the triple evolution dynamical instability (approximately 0.1 as found by Perets & Kratter 2012) this could potentially lead to a CO WD collision. This scenario is included in Section 6.

mical ir

we demonstrate that the rate of stellar collisions due to the TEDI is approximately 10–4 yr-1 per Milky-Way Galaxy, which is nearly 30 times higher than the total collision rate due to random encounters in the Galactic globular

pen in triples? rrelated binaries | rrelated binaries II (Tokovinin) ton ling & Aarseth '01

Initial parameters



clusters.

all systems systems that become dynamically unstable



How often does this happen in triples?

- 3.6% for model uncorrelated binaries I
- 2.2% for model uncorrelated binaries II (Tokovinin)
- 2.4% for model Eggleton

Stability criterion of Mardling & Aarseth '

we demonstrate that the rate of stellar collisions due to the TEDI is approximately 10-4 yr-1 per Milky-Way Galaxy, which is nearly 30 times higher than the total collision rate due to random encounters in the Galactic globular Moreover, we find that the dominant type of stellar collisions is qualitatively different; most collisions involve asymptotic giant branch stars, rather than main sequence, or slightly evolved stars, which dominate collisions in globular clusters.

In good agreement with:

- Hamers ea '13
- Perets & Kratter '12 (3.5%, 5.3%) based on hybrid method without secular Kozai dynamics
 - => close encounters, collisions, stellar exchanges, eccentric binaries
 - => high collision rate, involving AGB stars

* Lastly, at each BINARY_C time-step the triple system is checked for dynamical stability by means of the stability criterion formulated by Mardling&Aarseth (2001), including the ad hoc inclination factor $f = 1 - (0.3/\pi)$ itot (with itot expressed in radians). Whenever $\beta \le \beta_{\text{crit}}$, where β_{crit} is given by this stability criterion, the STD

Future plans...

- More testing of the importance of secular evolution on the trip population. How different do the inner binaries evolve compare isolated binaries?
 - in particular for close inner binaries
- * What is the effect of a different initial eccentricity distribution?
- Fabrycky & Tremaine '07 showed that KCTF is important for th formation of close MS binaries. How important is its role in bina with more evolved stars?

 One possible consequence of t subsequent orbita cycles with tidal context

of (solar mass) n 1979; Eggleton & 2007; Kisseleva-Fabrycky & Tren for producing clo which is consiste likely (96 per cer It remains to be s in higher mass tr because their cor much less effecti counterparts, whi other hand, as su develop convecti and asymptotic g become much m effective at signif the RGB/AGB pl

Let's start with binaries

- Population synthesis
- A new code for simulating the evolution of triples, including:
 - stellar evolution
 - regular & non-regular dynamics
- Preliminary results
 - Common evolutionary pathways, dynamical instabilities through TEDI, mass transfer in eccentric orbits etc...
- Consensus on the principles of binary evolution
 - Many questions remain, e.g. regarding mass transfer stability, unstable mass transfer (common-envelope phase), accretion