

Drawings of 21 of the 23 known X-ray Binaries containing a Black Hole

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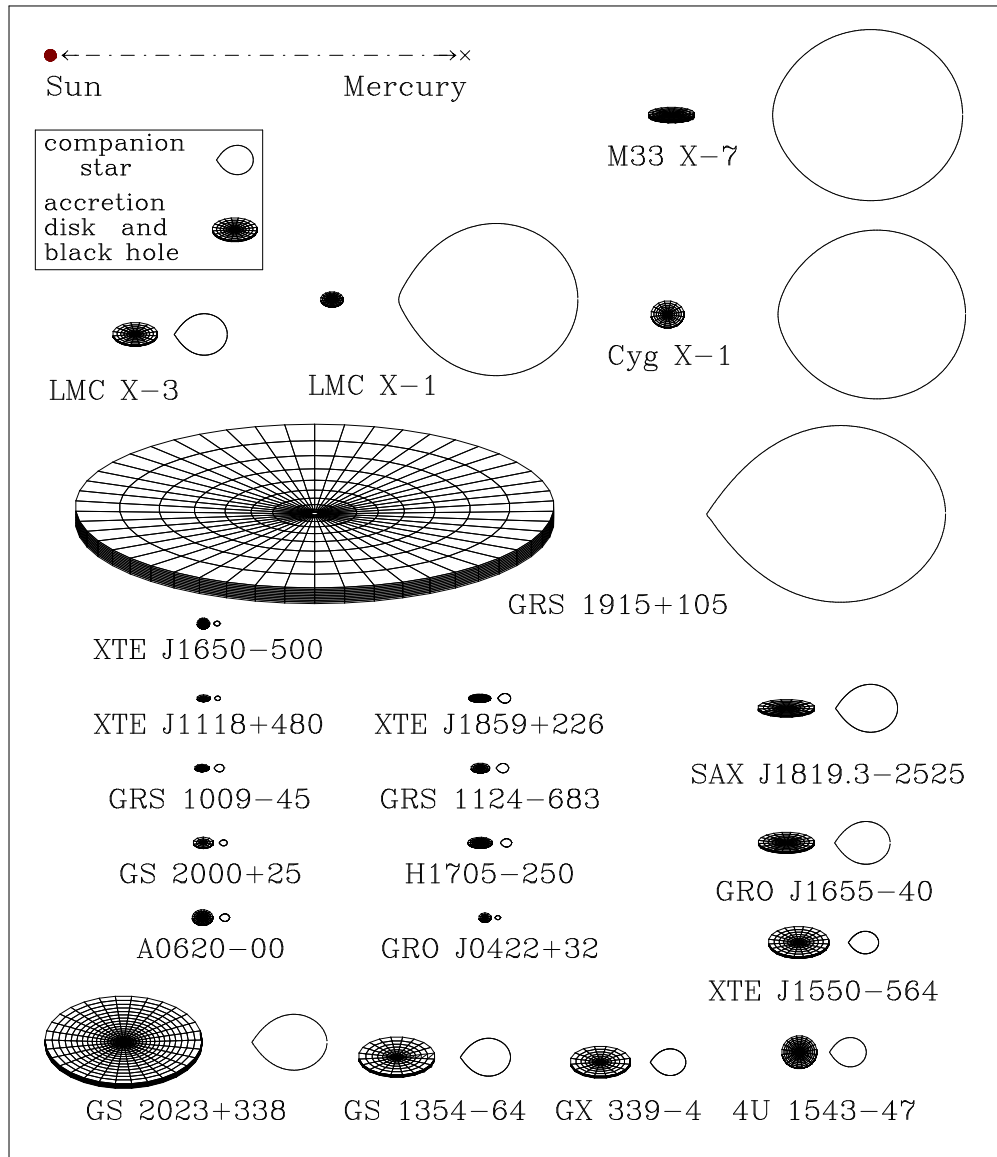


Figure 1: Scale drawings of 21 black hole binaries. The size of the Sun and the Sun-Mercury distance (0.4 AU) are indicated at the top. The systems range in size from the giant GRS 1915+105 with an orbital period of 30.8 days to tiny XTE J1118+480 with an orbital period of 0.2 days. The shapes of the tidally distorted stars are accurately rendered, and the black hole is located at the center of the accretion disk (see key in inset). The inclination of the binary to our line of sight is indicated by the tilt of the accretion disk.