

# Variability and the Assembly of Stars and Planets

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[Link to talk](#)

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Photo of KIAA by former PKU PhD student Ma Chao



# Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics Peking University

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科维理天文与天体物理研究所  
Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics

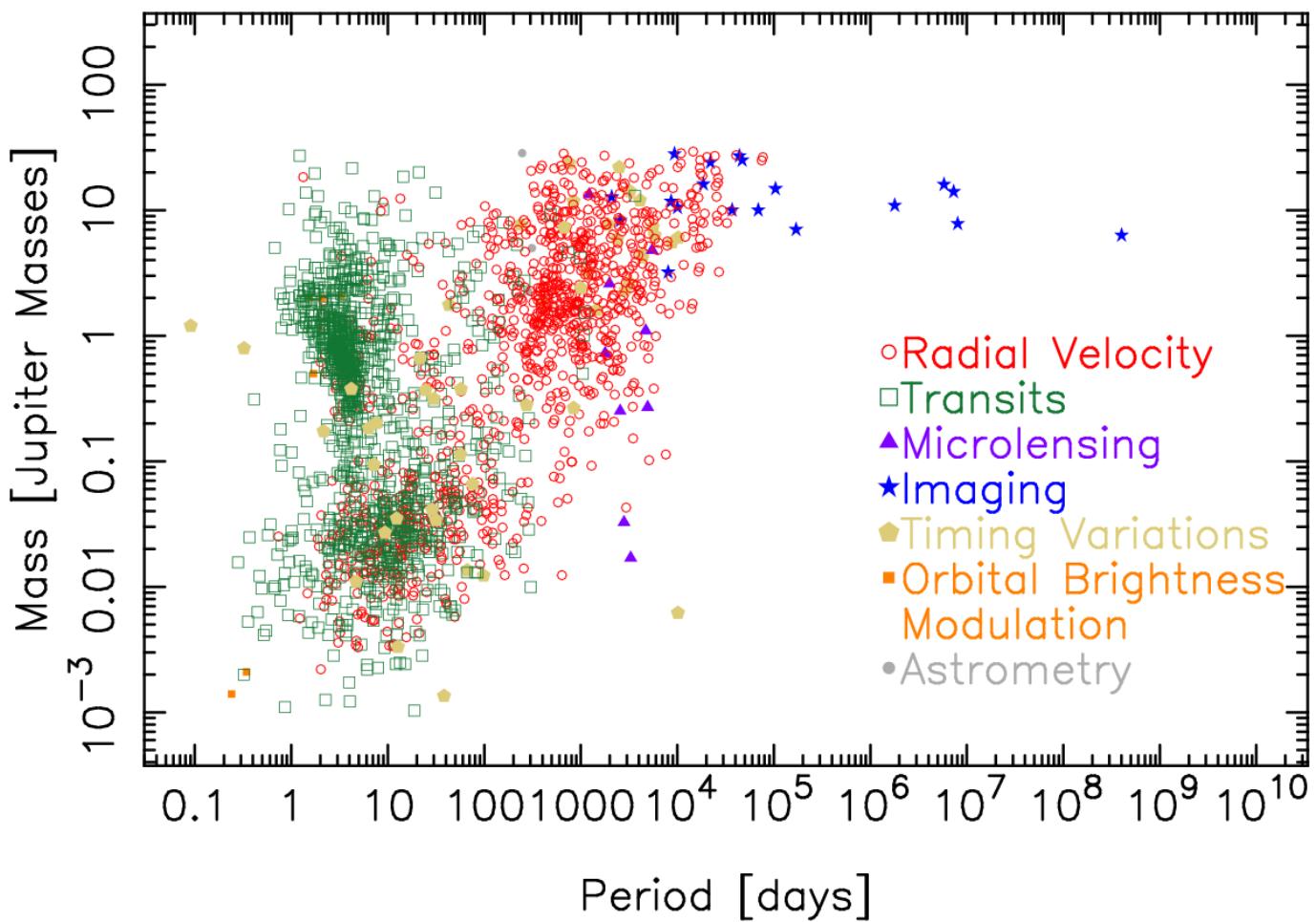
# Peking University Astronomy Family Photo

October 26, 2018



# Mass – Period Distribution

30 Nov 2023  
exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu

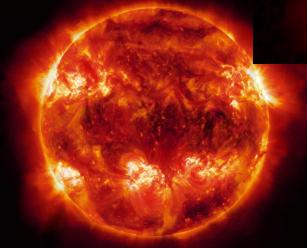


NASA exoplanet  
archive

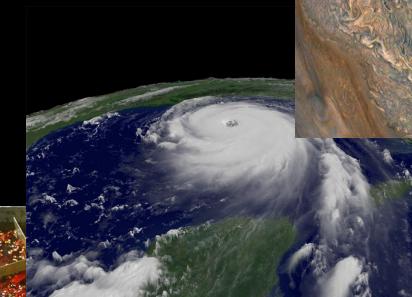
# The last astrophysical step of our origins

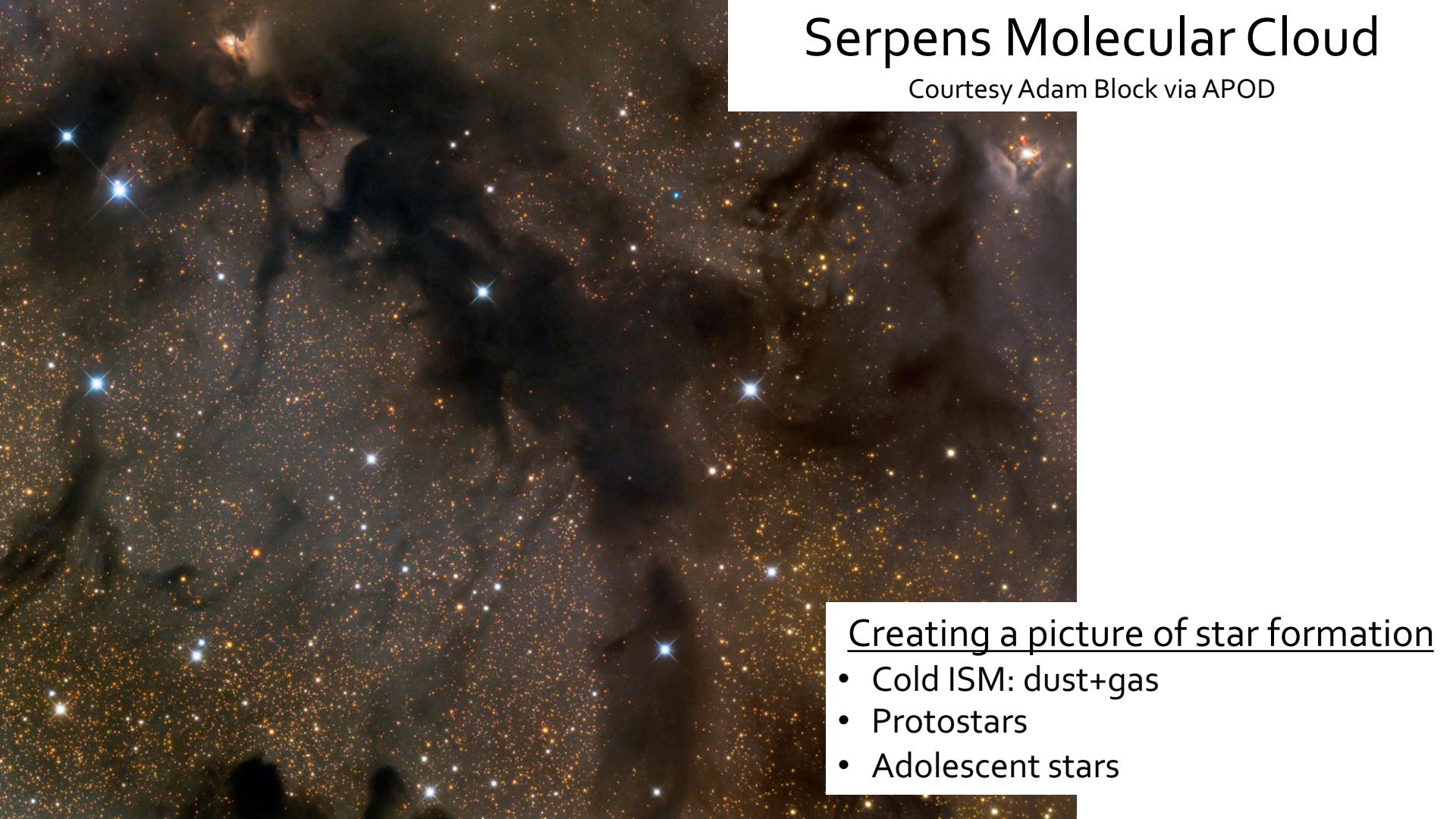


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# Serpens Molecular Cloud

Courtesy Adam Block via APOD

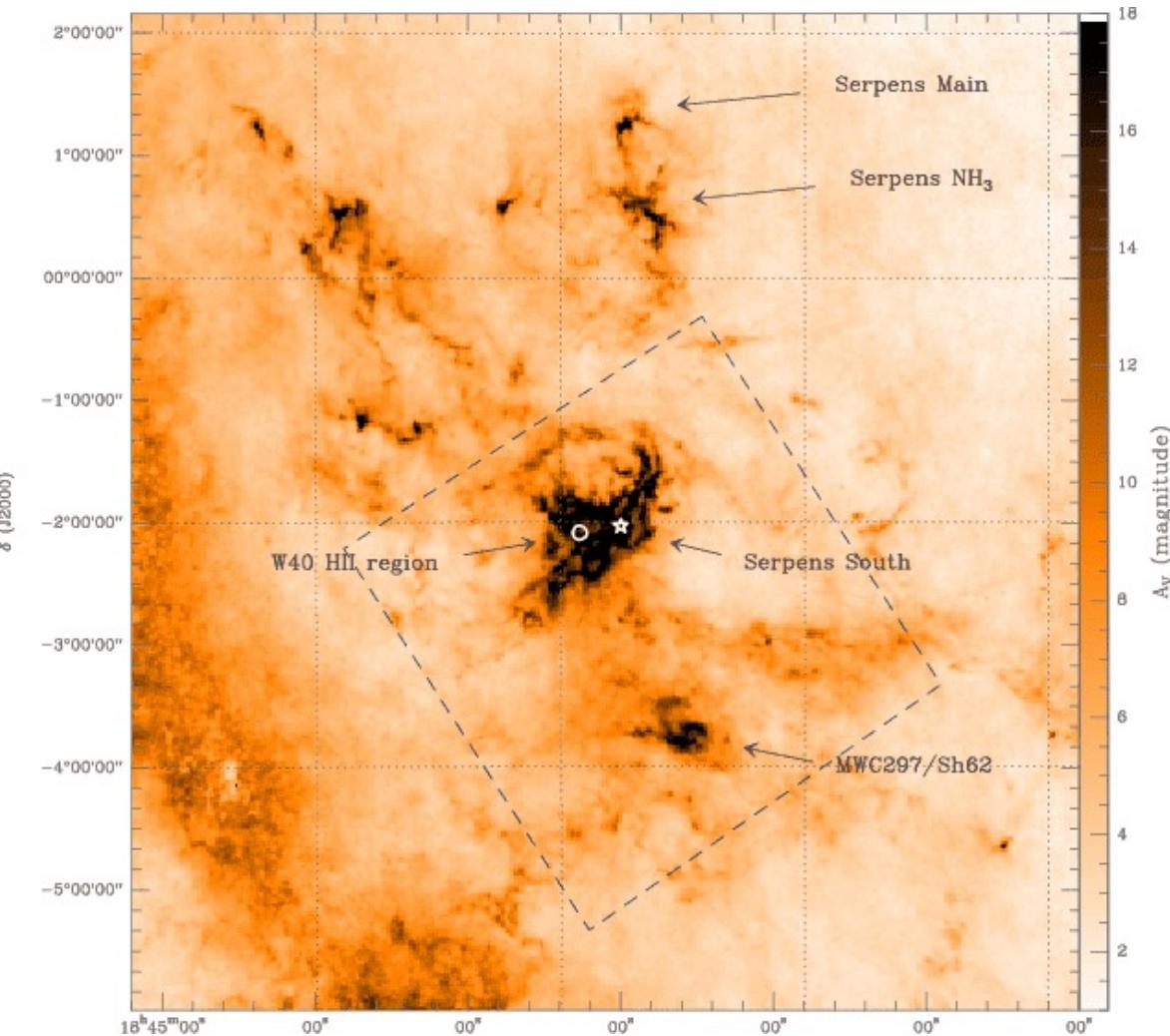
## Creating a picture of star formation

- Cold ISM: dust+gas
- Protostars
- Adolescent stars

# Serpens Molecular Cloud

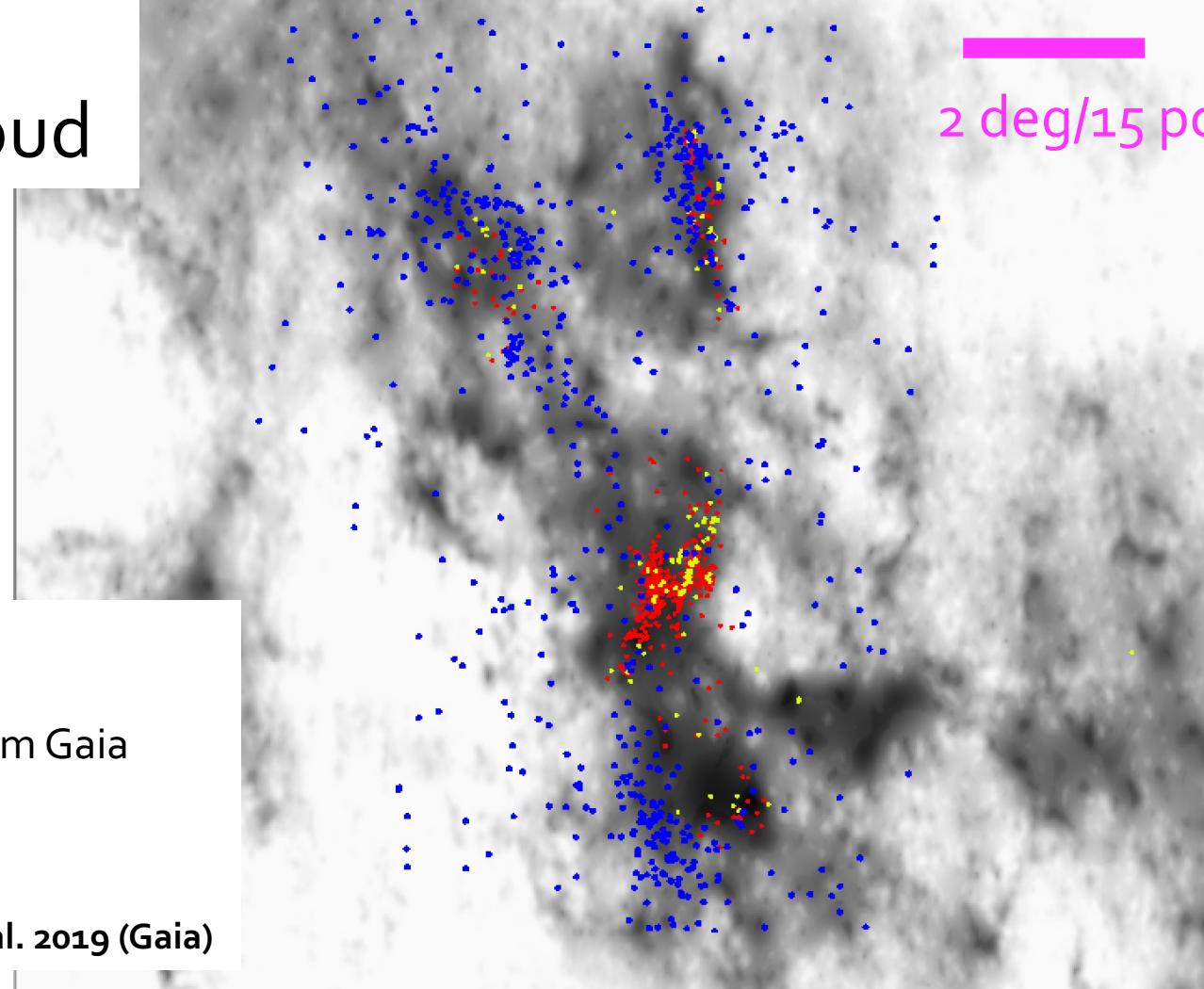
Far-IR/sub-mm:  
emission from dust and protostars

Herschel far-IR dust image,  
Bontemps et al. 2010



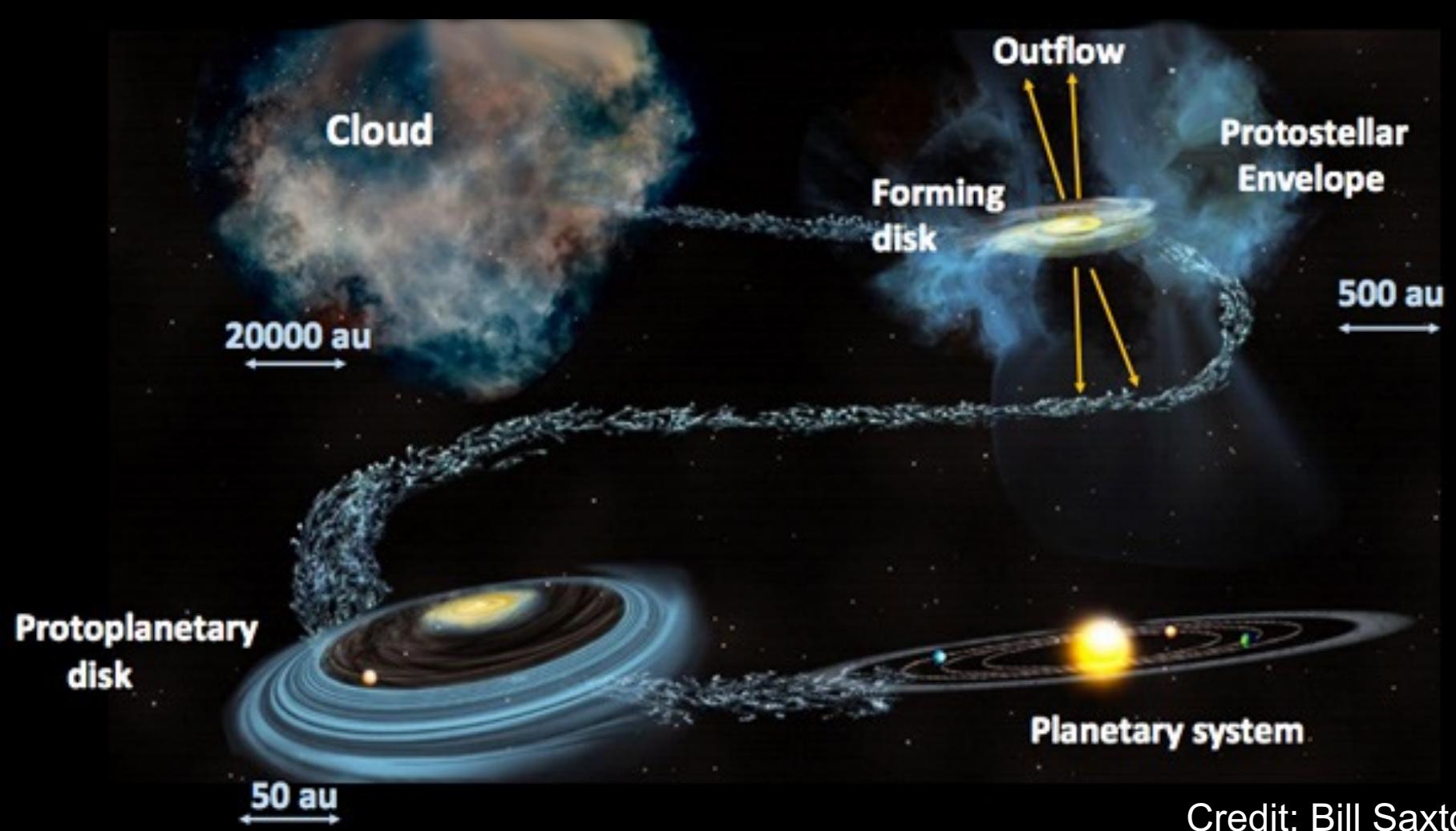
# Serpens Molecular Cloud

2 deg/15 pc



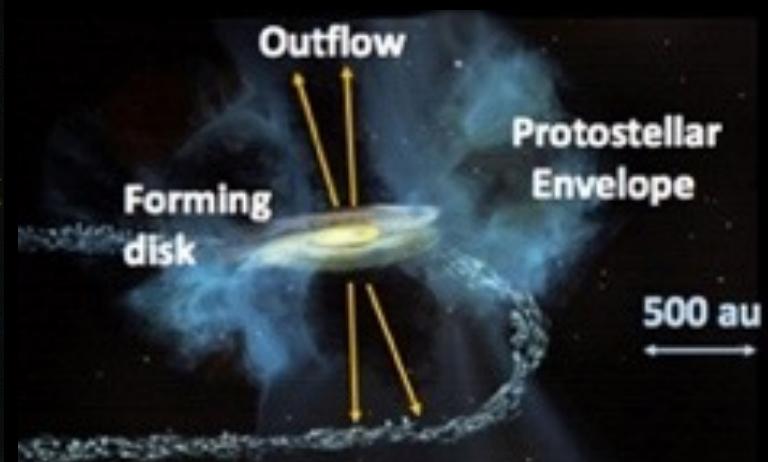
- Protostars (yellow)
- Disks (red)
- Optical members from Gaia astrometry (blue)

Kuhn+2010; Povich+2013;  
Dunham+2015, Herczeg et al. 2019 (Gaia)

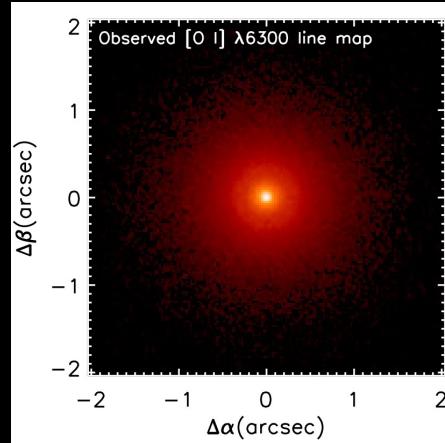


Credit: Bill Saxton

JWST image of protostar L1527



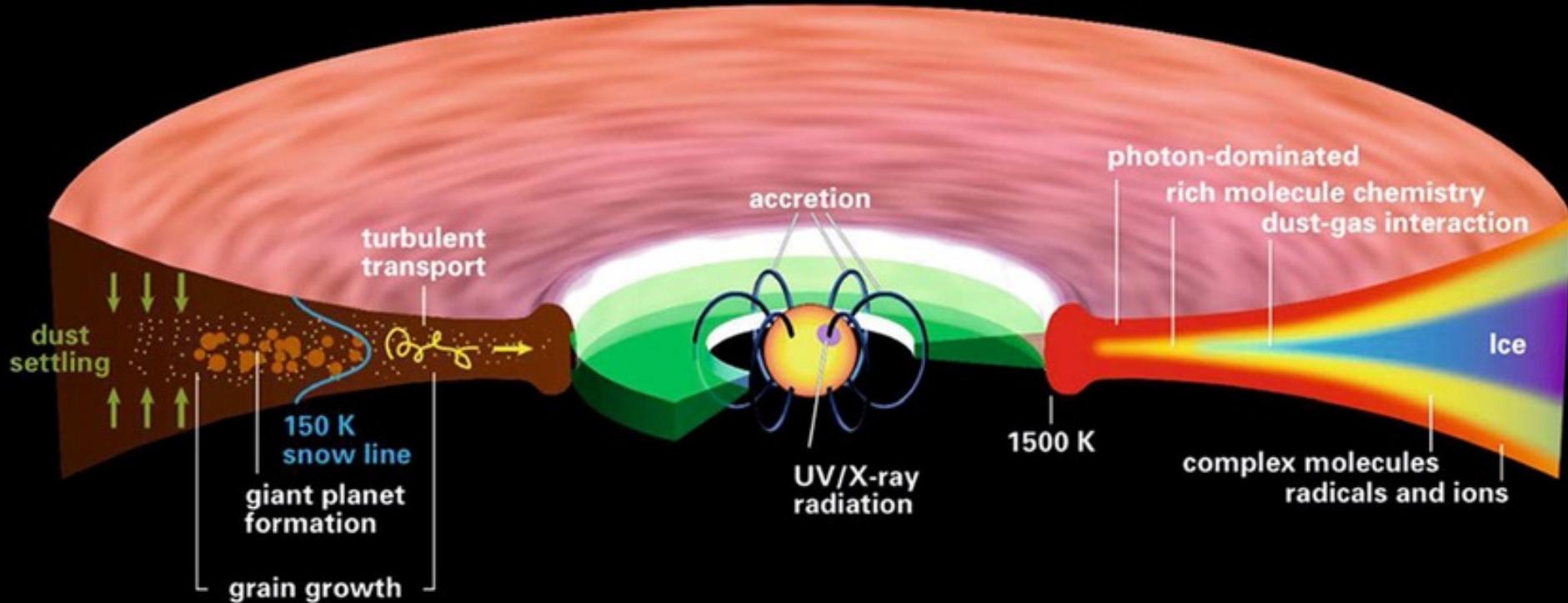
**ALMA Image of HL Tau disk**  
(cold dust, ALMA Partnership et al. 2015)



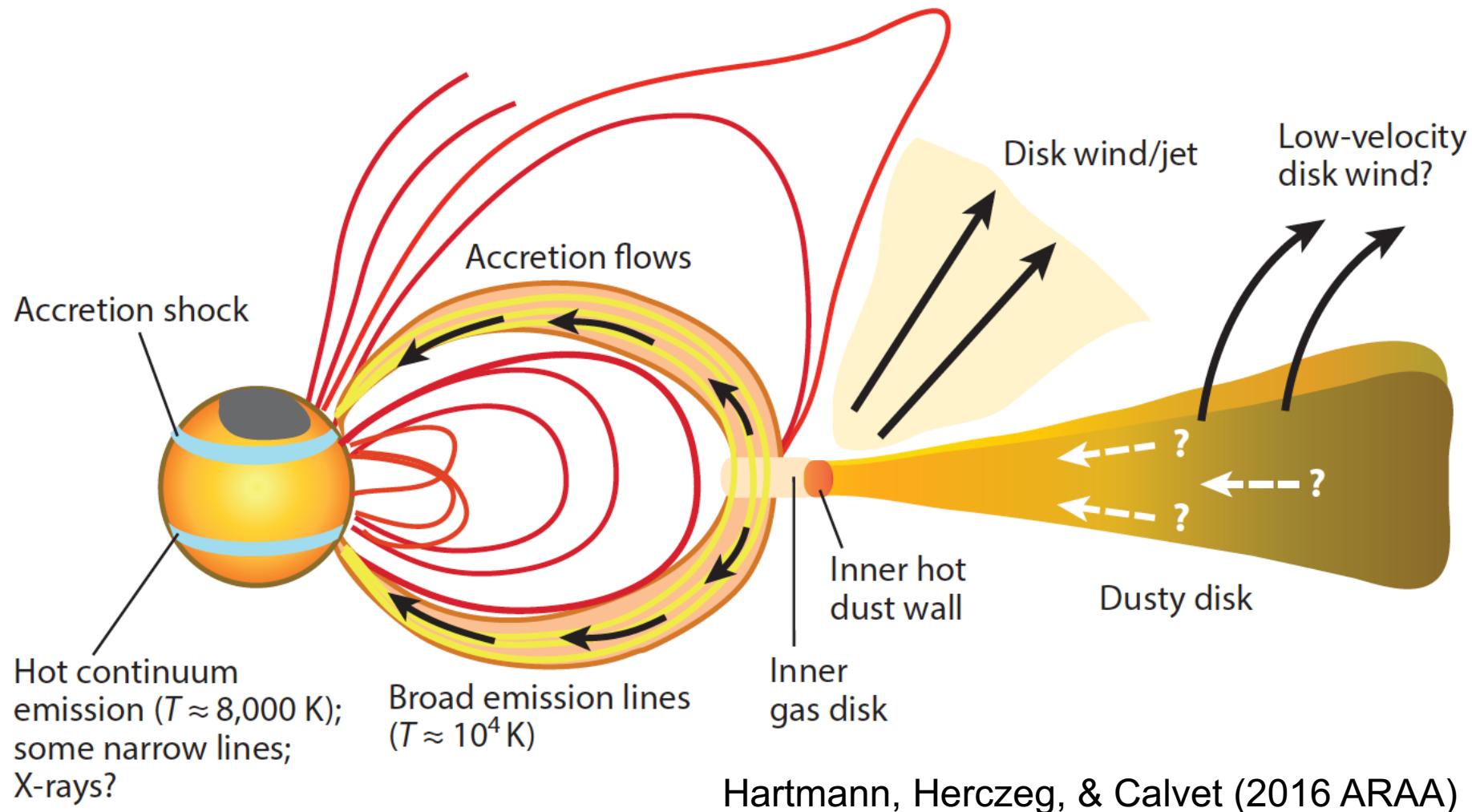
**VLT MUSE image of [O I] in a disk**  
Fang, Wang, Herczeg, et al.,  
NatAs, 2023



**VLT/SPHERE image of scattered light;**  
Boccaletti+2019

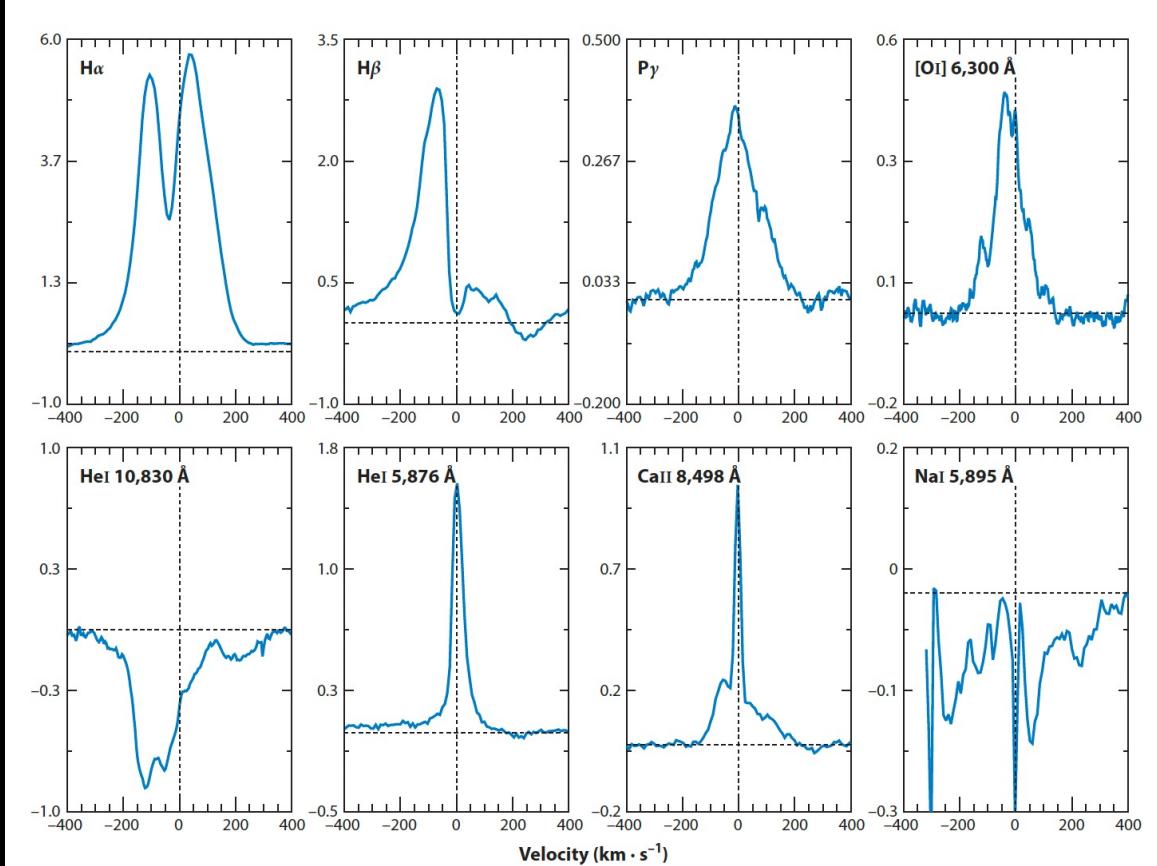


Henning & Semenov (2013)

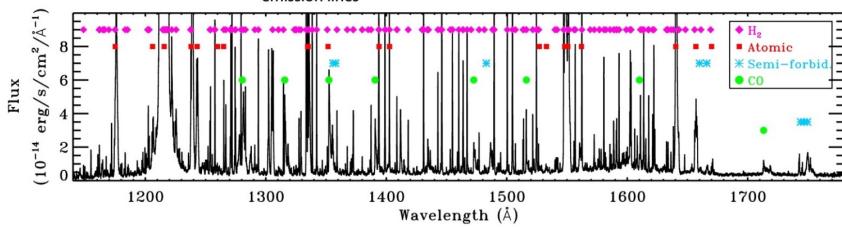
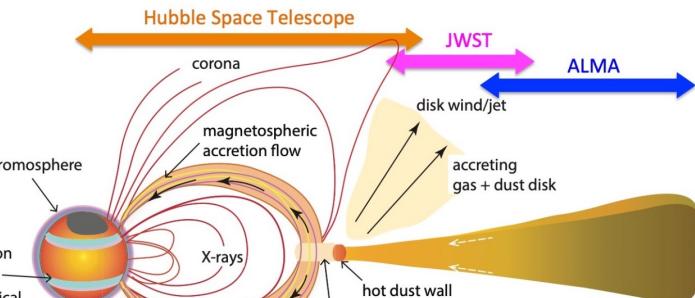
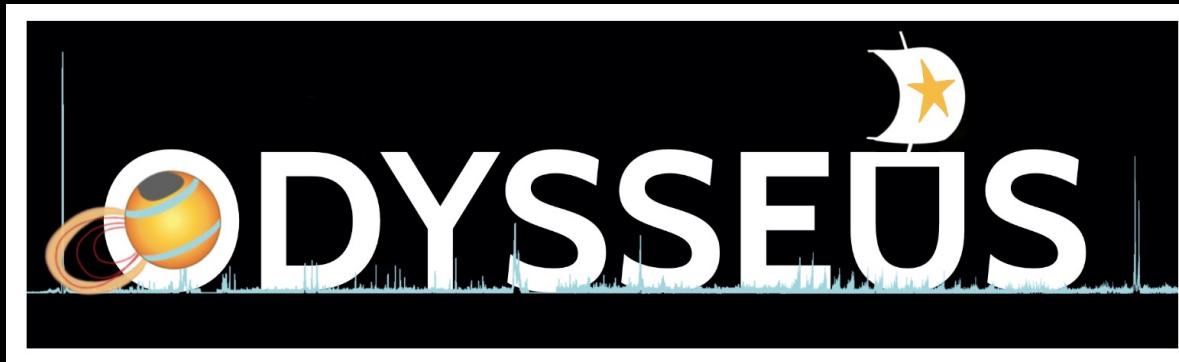


Hartmann, Herczeg, & Calvet (2016 ARAA)

# Spectroscopy: structures from dynamics



Courtesy Suzan Edwards, from Hartmann+2016 ARAA



ODYSSEUS: archival HST program to analyze  
ULLYSES UV spectra of accreting young stars  
(PI Herczeg, co-PI Espaillat)

VLT Large Program PENELLOPE (PI Manara)

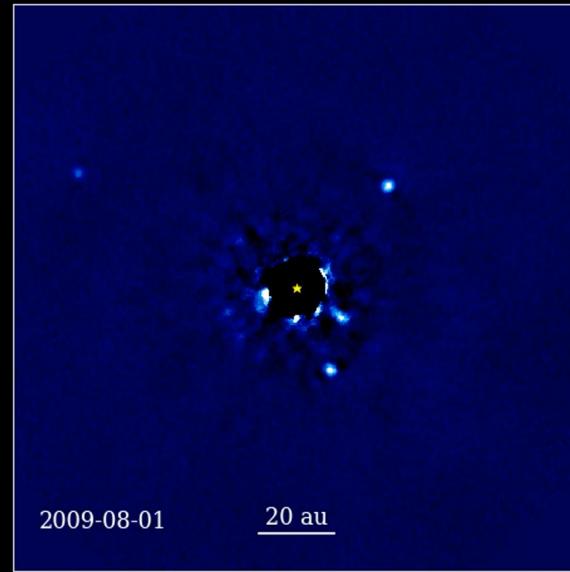
ULLYSES: DDT Legacy Program from HST

- 500 orbits, FUV-optical spectroscopy of young stars
- Disk accretion, accretion-driven winds, disk surfac

# Young stars after disk dissipation: debris disks and targets for giant planet searches



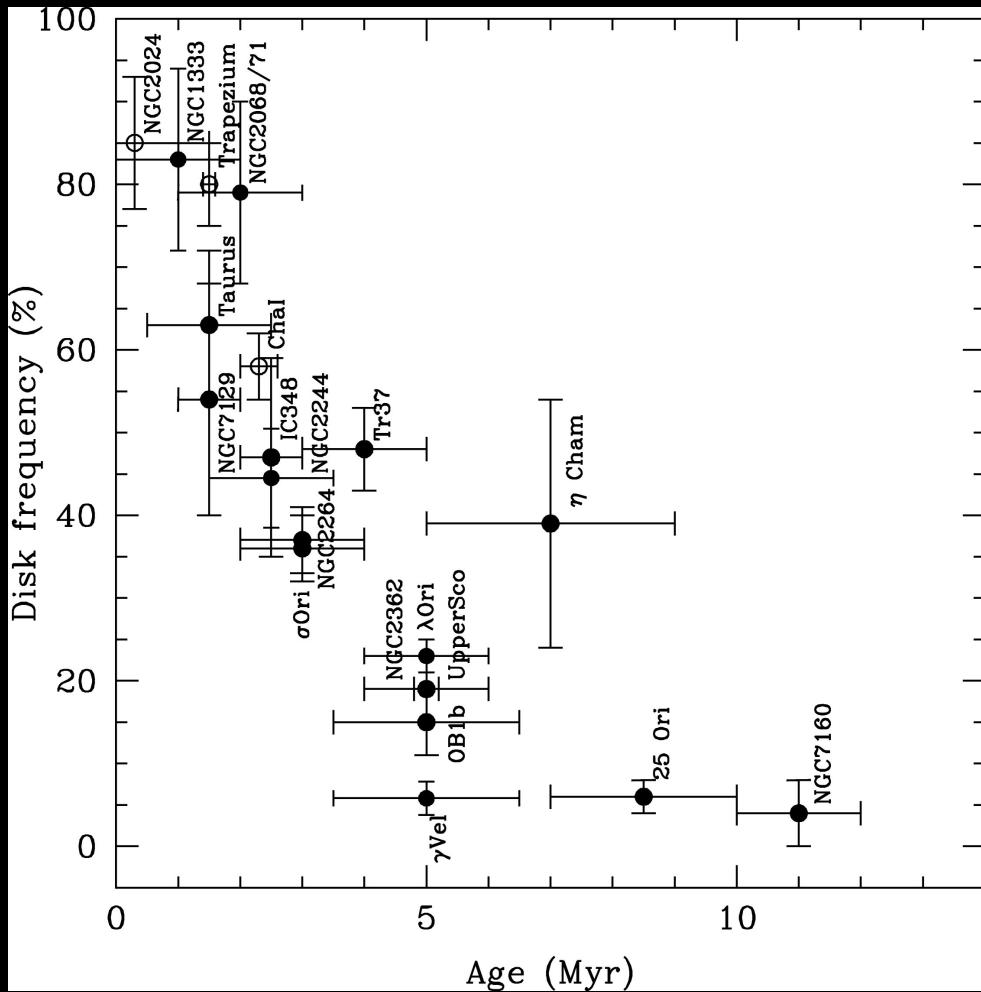
HST scattered light image of AU Mic  
Kalas et al. 2004



2009-08-01      20 au

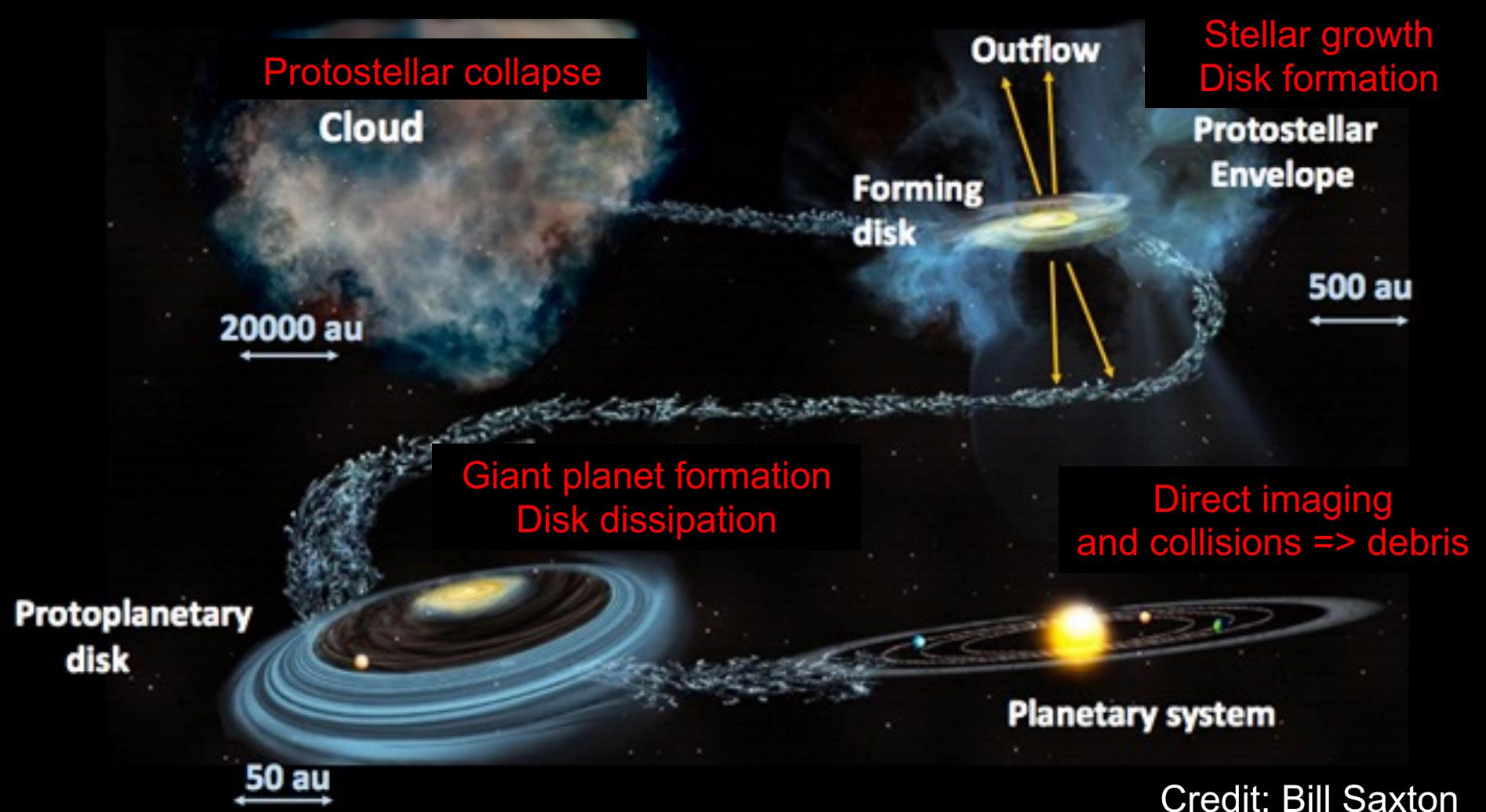
Wang et al., HR 8799

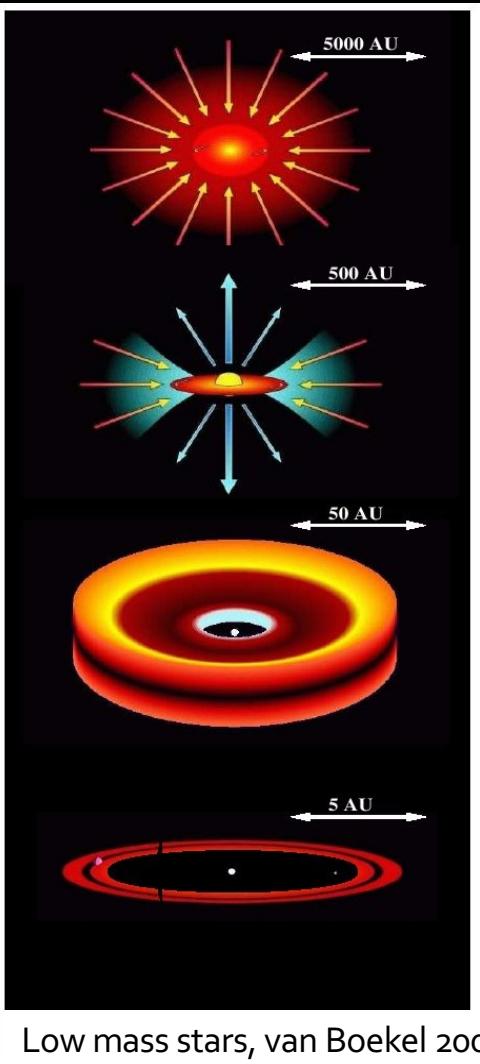
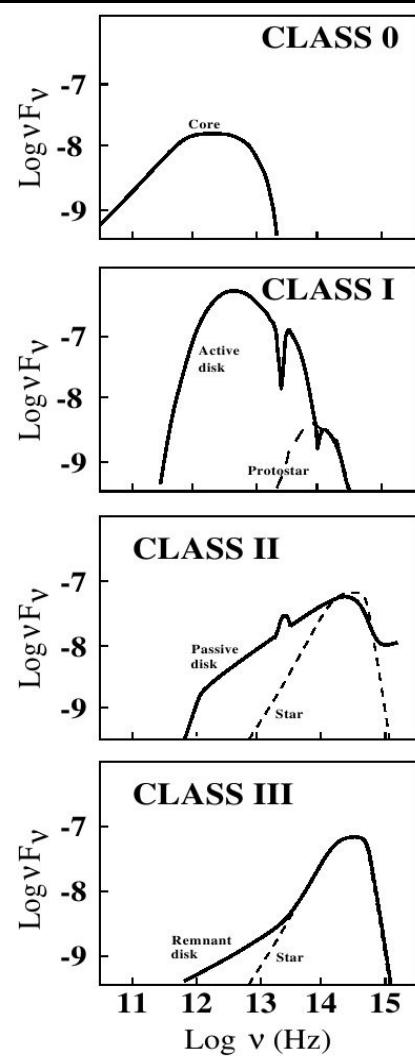
# Disk survival timescales



- Measure disk fraction in many regions
  - (Same with protostars)
- Average lifetime: 3 Myr

Hernandez+2008

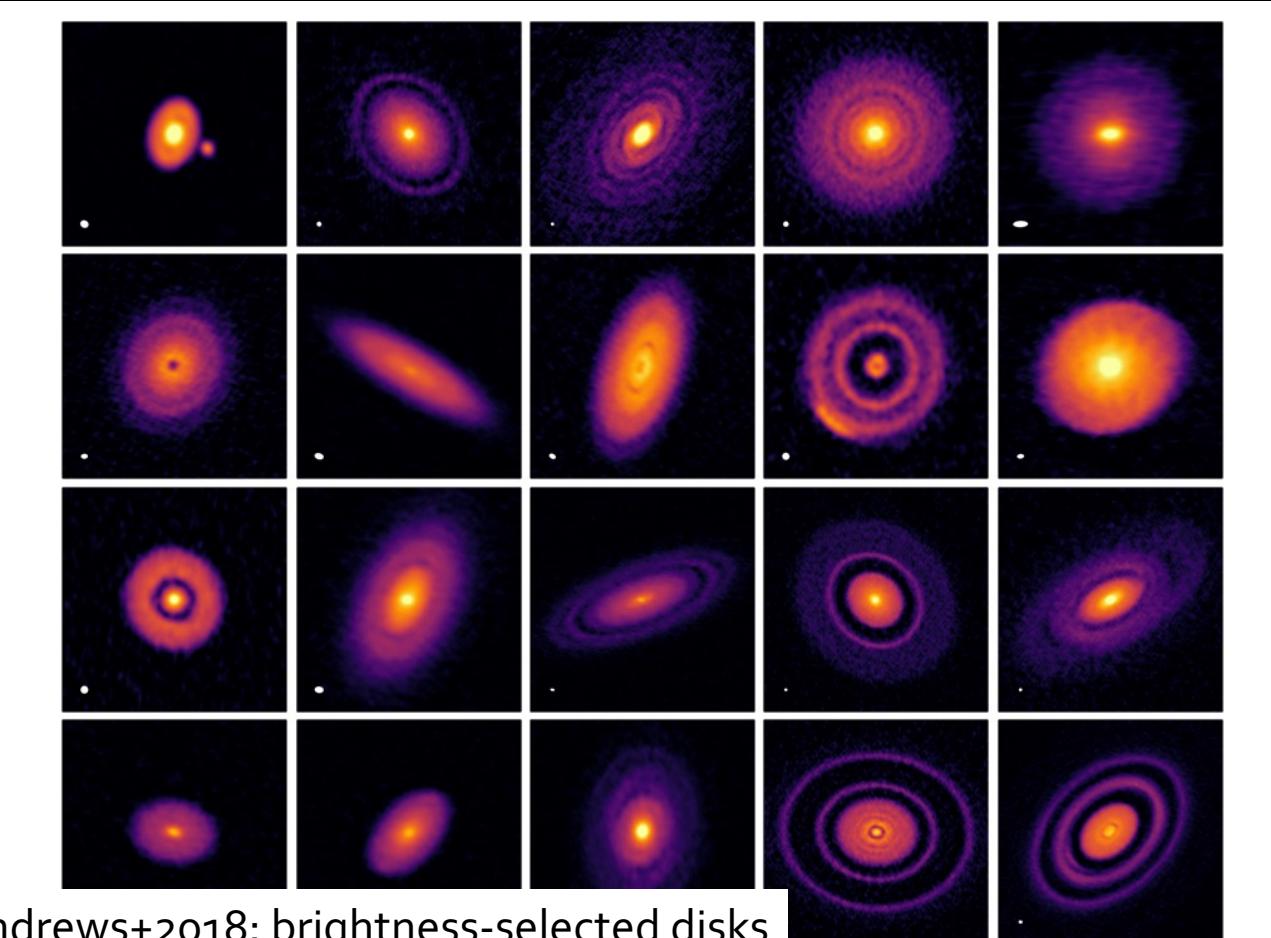




**Protostars:**  
~few  $10^5$  yr  
Stellar growth

**Disks**  
~few  $10^6$  yr  
Planet formation

## Diversity in substructures (and every other measureable)

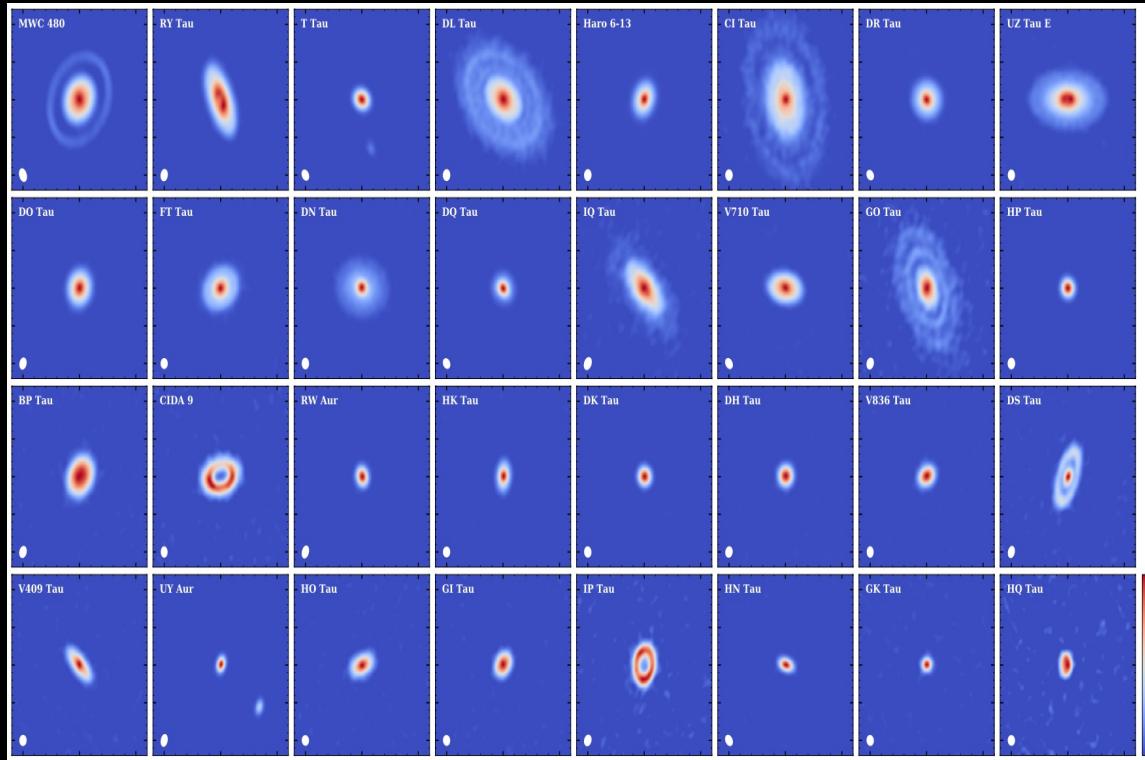


ALMA DSHARP, Andrews+2018: brightness-selected disks

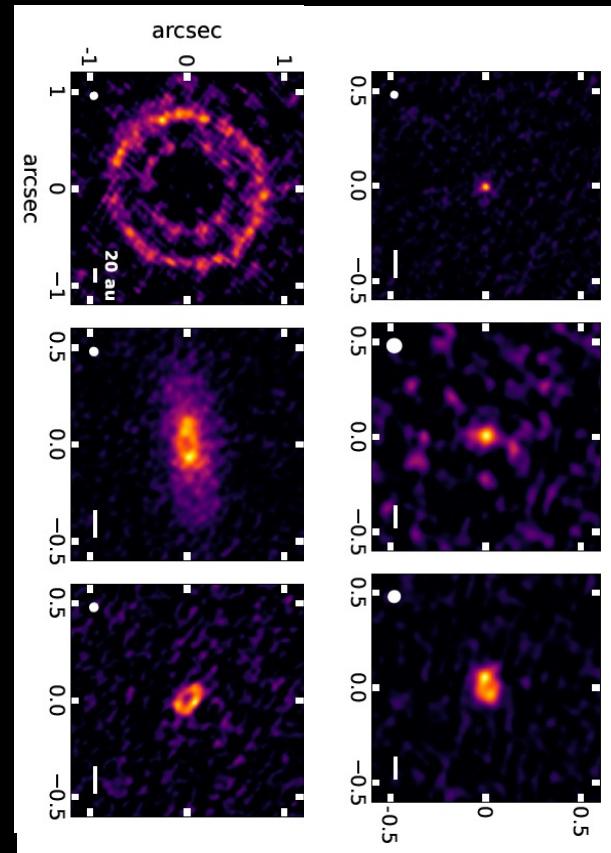
# Unbiased-ish ALMA survey of Taurus disks (0.1"/14 AU)

Diversity in disk size and substructures

Long et al. 2018/2019 (left); Shi et al. subm (right)



2.4'' (350 AU) on each side



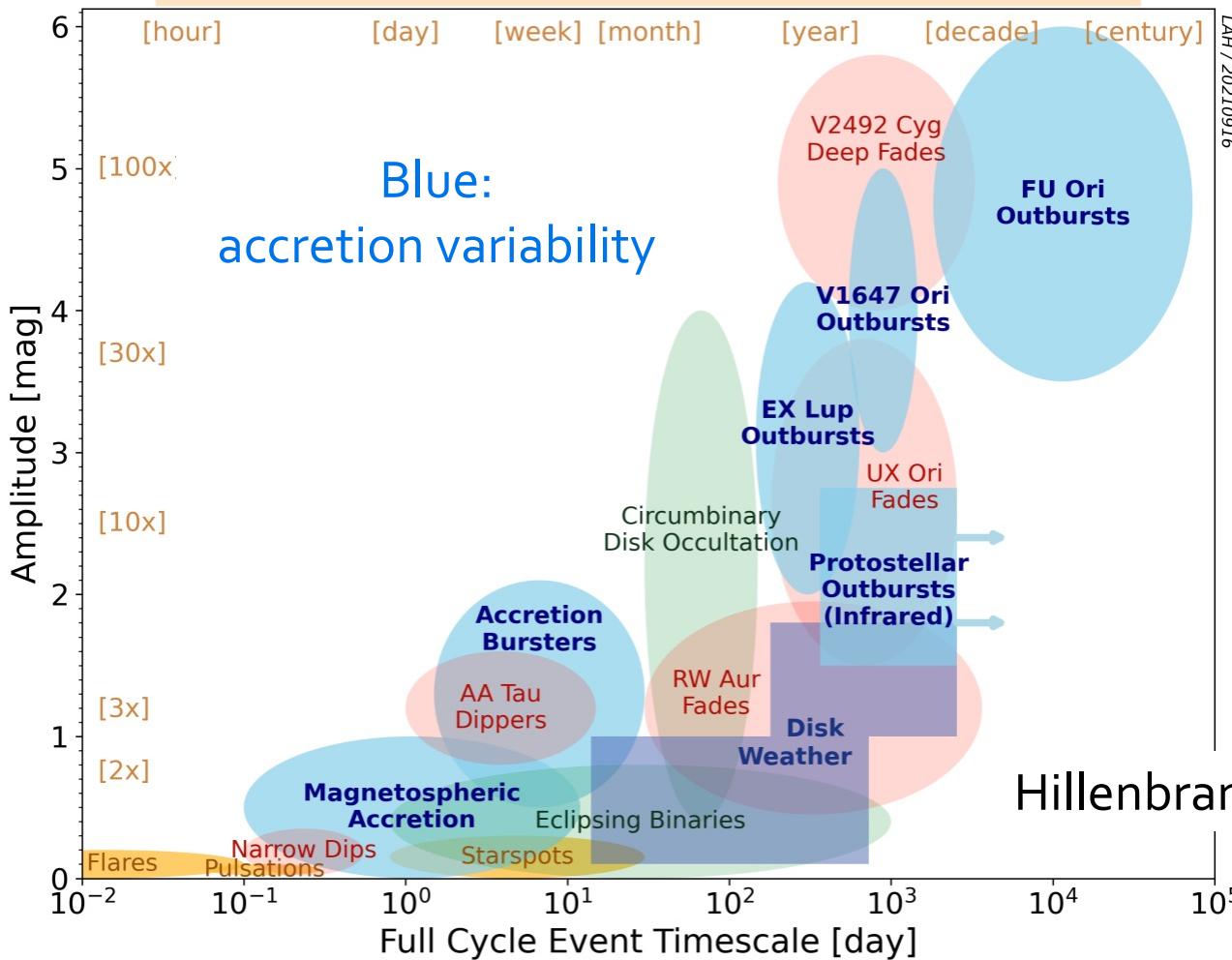
# Diversity in disk outcomes: mass flows versus time

Accretion/ejection physics

- Non-ideal MHD through the disk
- Microphysics: impossible to measure
- Assume accretion through disk = accretion onto star

Accretion physics is instability physics: variability

# Variability Behavior in Young Stellar Objects (YSOs)

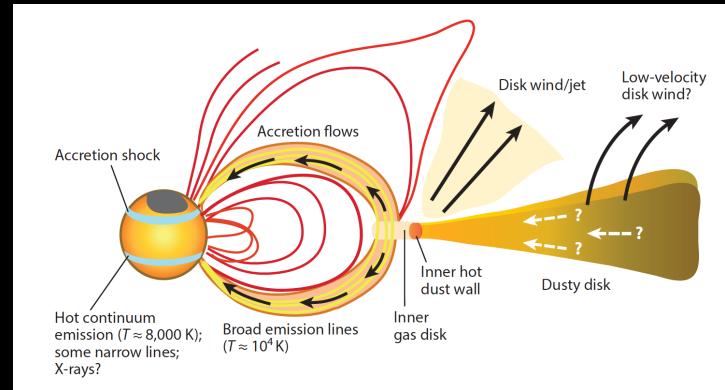


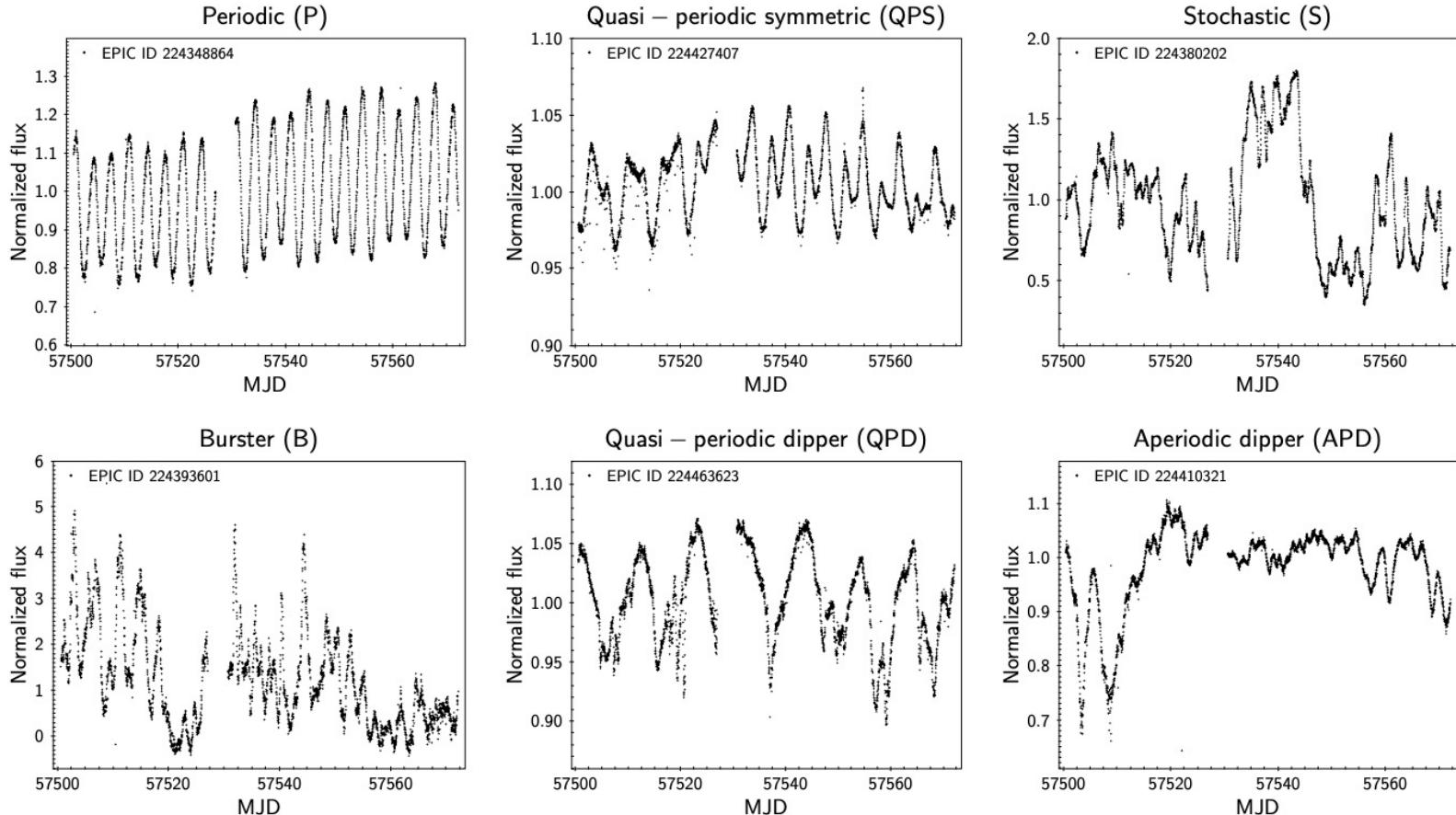
LAI / 20210916

Hillenbrand &amp; Findeisen (2015)

# Variability of Young Stellar Objects

- Diskless (often older): starspots
  - Ages of young stars
  - Extreme examples to evaluate spots in exoplanet transits
- Disks: accretion, extinction, winds
  - Instabilities lead to planet formation
  - Accretion astrophysics
- Protostars: stellar mass assembly
  - Disk and envelope chemistry
  - Initial conditions for stellar evolution

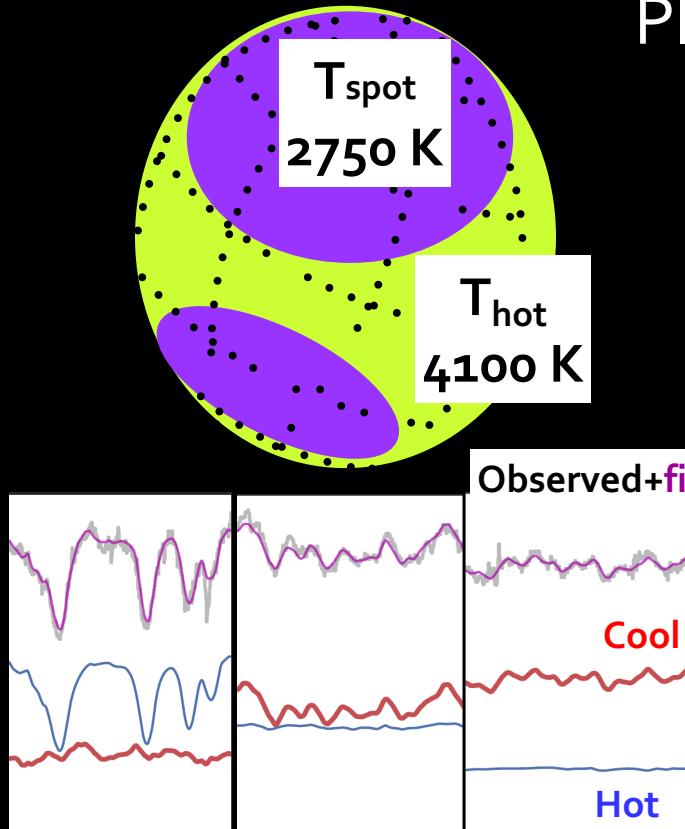




**Venuti+2021 from K2**, see also, YSOVar and K2 from Cody, Stauffer, et al.; COROT (Alencar et al. 2010); TESS (e.g., Serna et al. 2023)

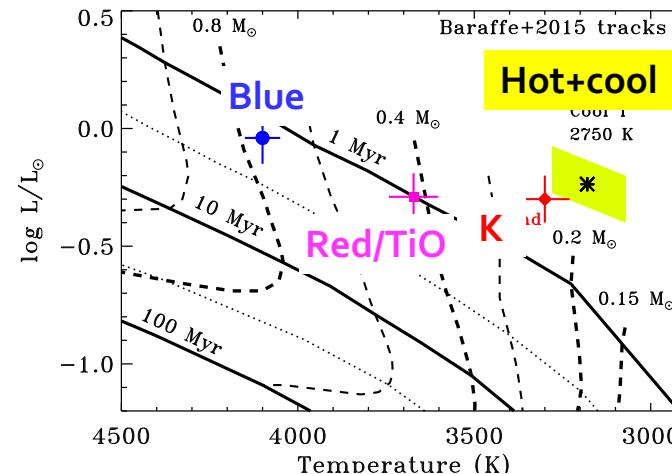
# Placing the spotted young star LkCa 4 on the HR diagram

(Gully-Santiago, Herczeg, et al. 2017,  
using STARFISH from Czekala+2015)



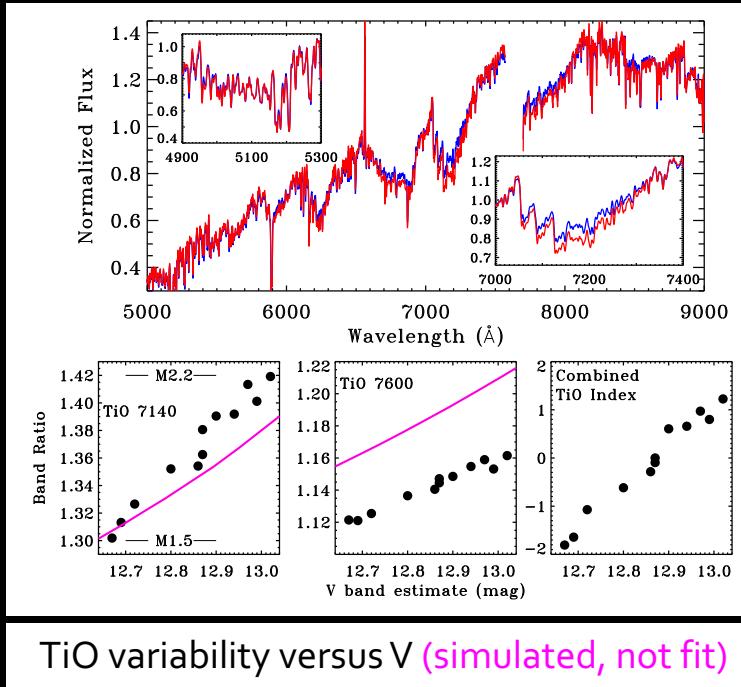
Example fits to segments of  
high-res IGRINS H+K spectra

Two temperature fit: 4000, 2750 K  
Fill factor of cool component: 80%

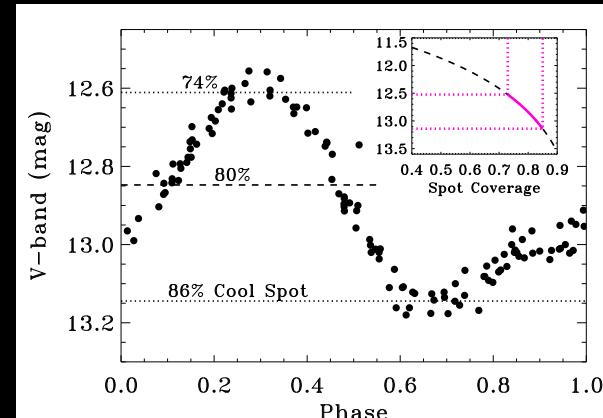


Extreme case but spots are universal for convective stars:  
See, e.g., Fang et al. 2016, Cao et al. 2022

# Optical spectroscopic and photometric variability: confirms large spots (Gully-Santiago, Herczeg+2017)



CFHT/ESPaDOnS spectra

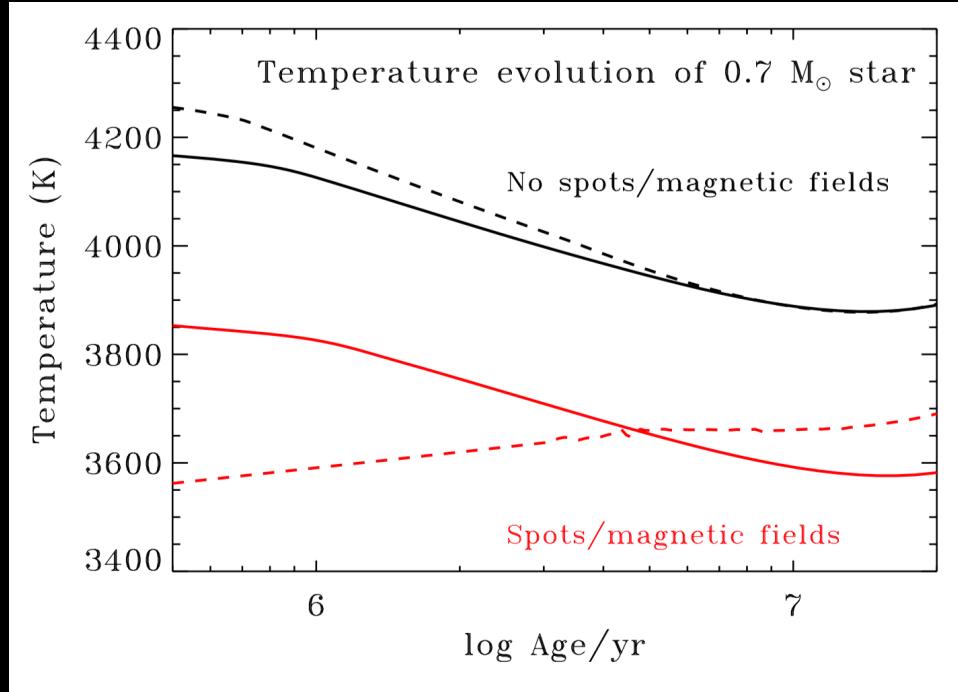


ASAS-SN lightcurve

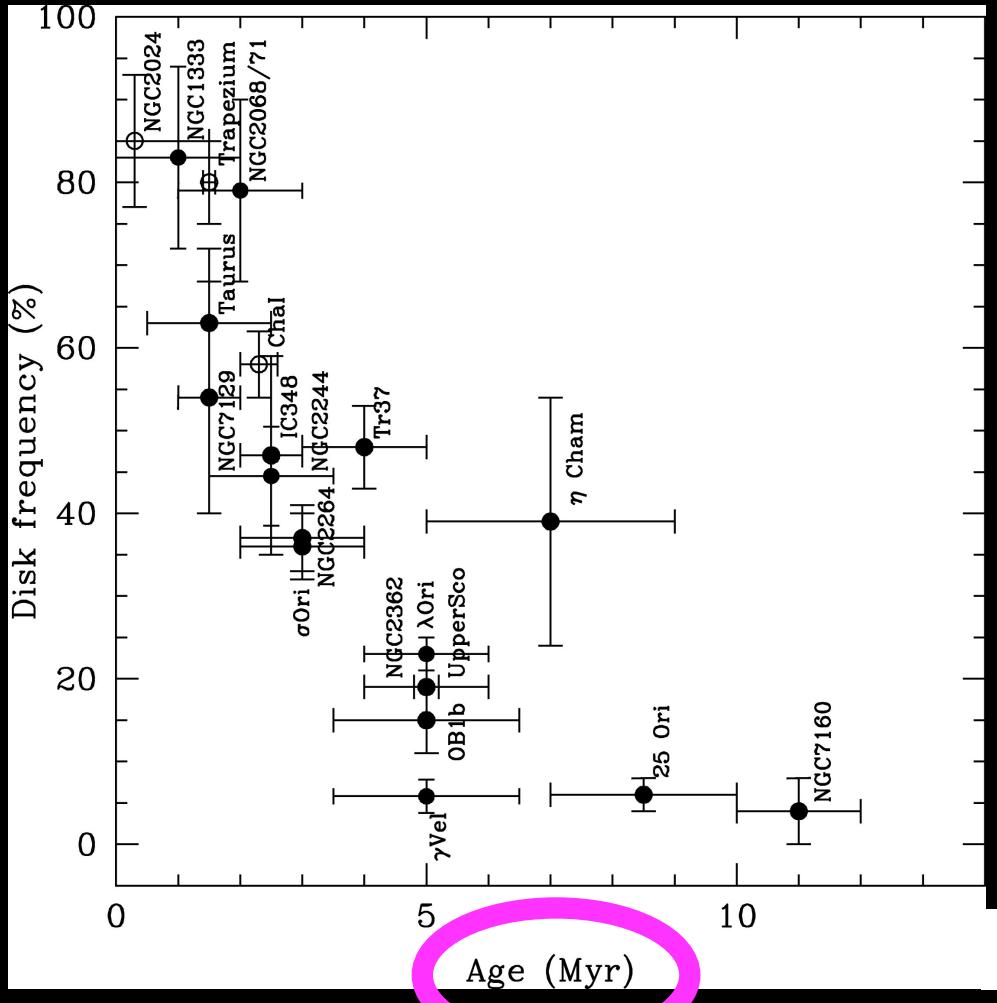
See also, Bouvier+1992; Herbst+1994; Petrov+1994; Grankin+2008;  
Debes+2013; Jackson & Jeffries 2014; Bary+2014; others

# New evolutionary models incorporate spots

(Somers et al. 2020; see also Cao+2022, 2023)



Significant changes in Temperature, Radius => differences in inferred ages, masses



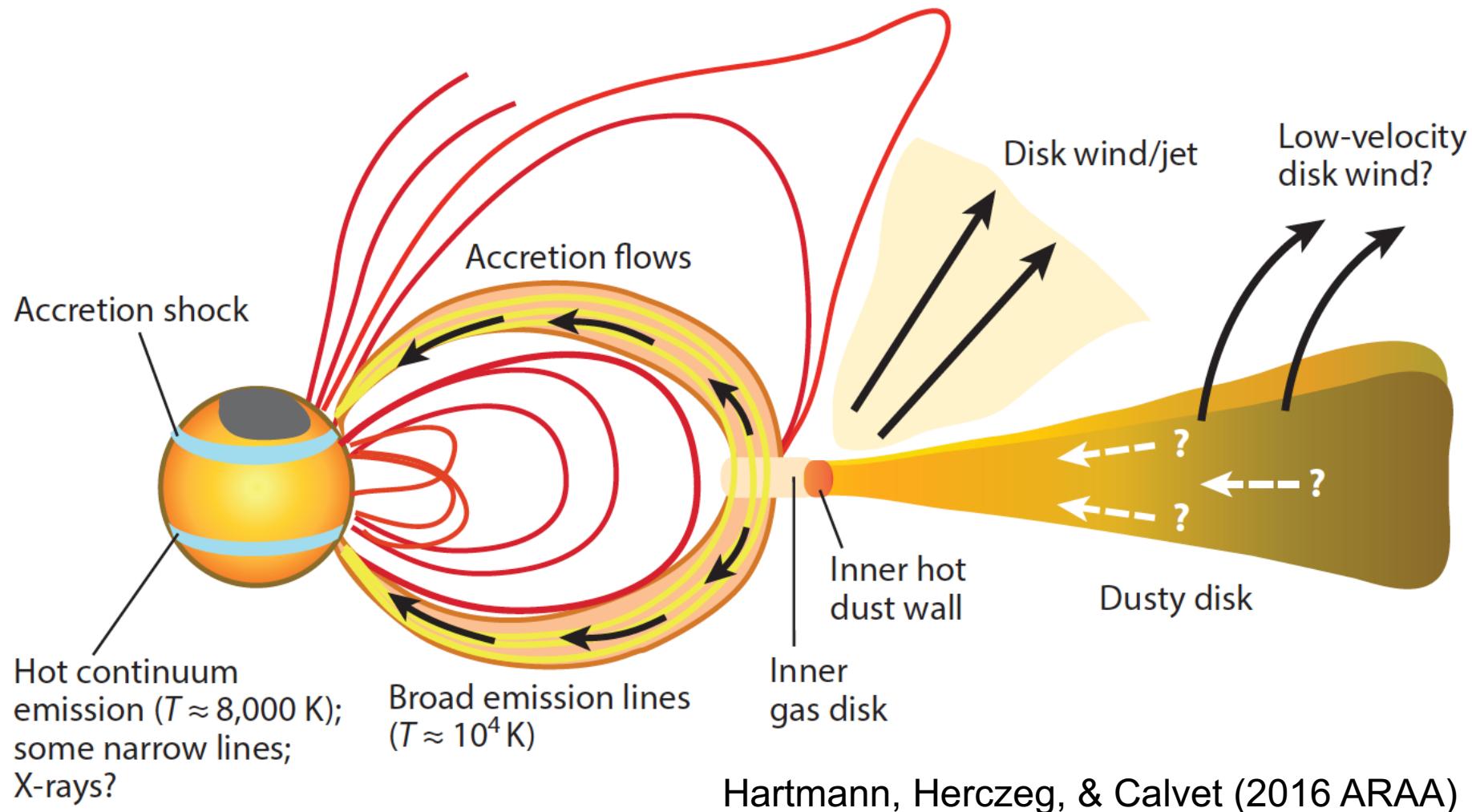
# Spots affect ages

Age from HR diagram:  
Luminosity and Teff

Factor of ~2 uncertainty;  
individual stellar ages uncertain

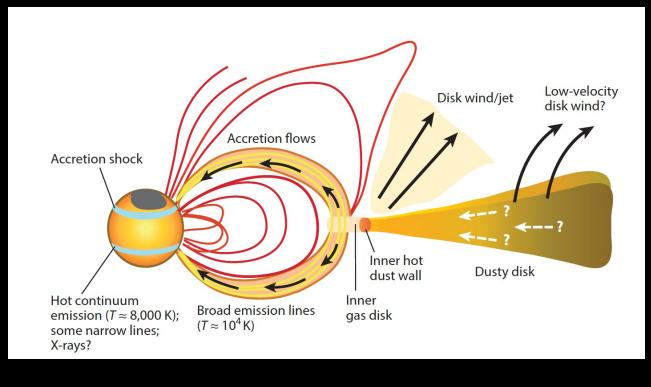
- Star formation history
- Stellar assembly
- Disk evolution
- Size, substructures, etc

Hernandez+2008

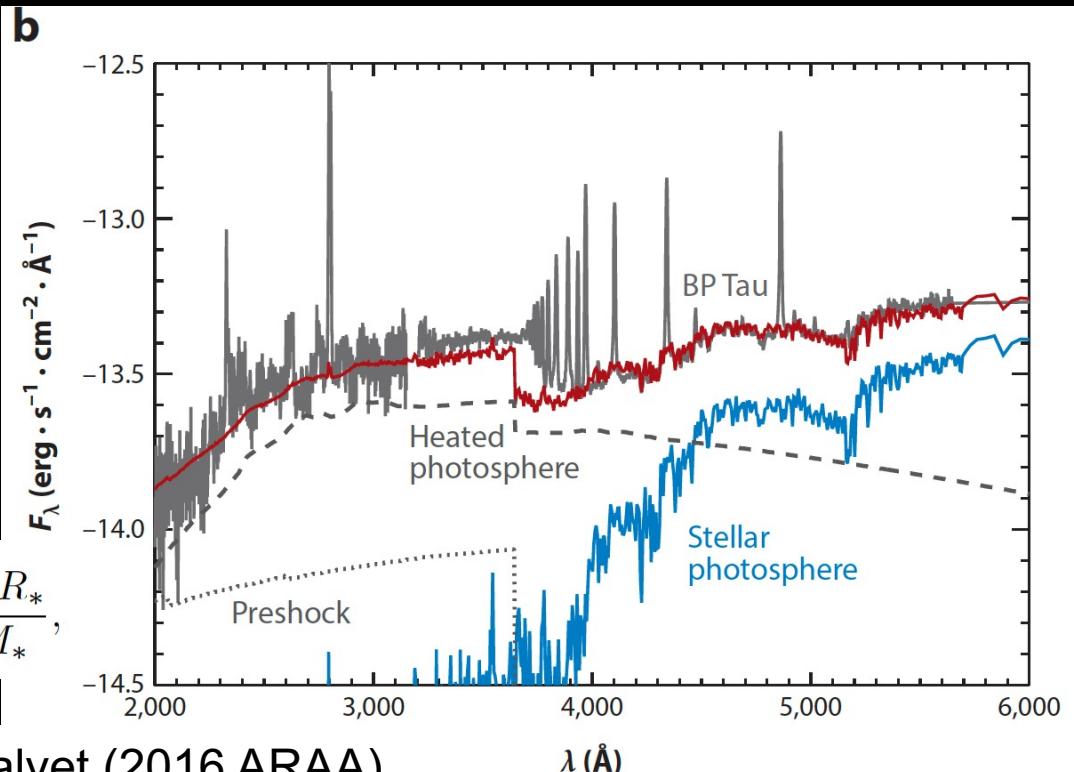


Hartmann, Herczeg, & Calvet (2016 ARAA)

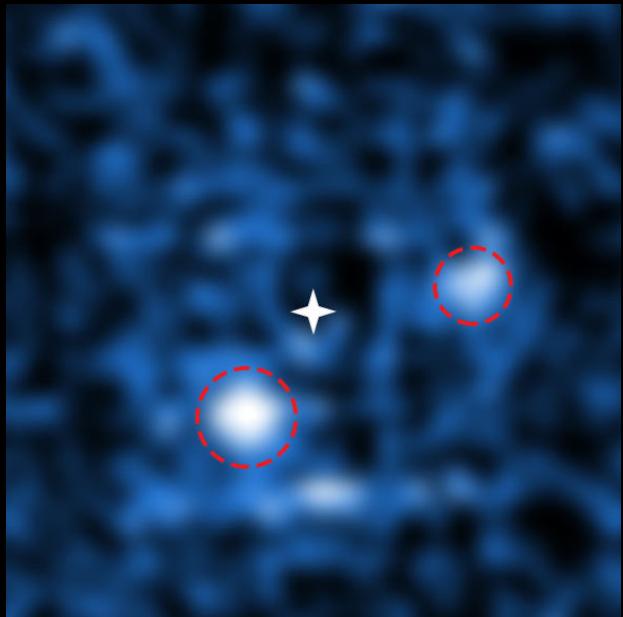
# Accretion disks: variability in spots, accretion, and extinction



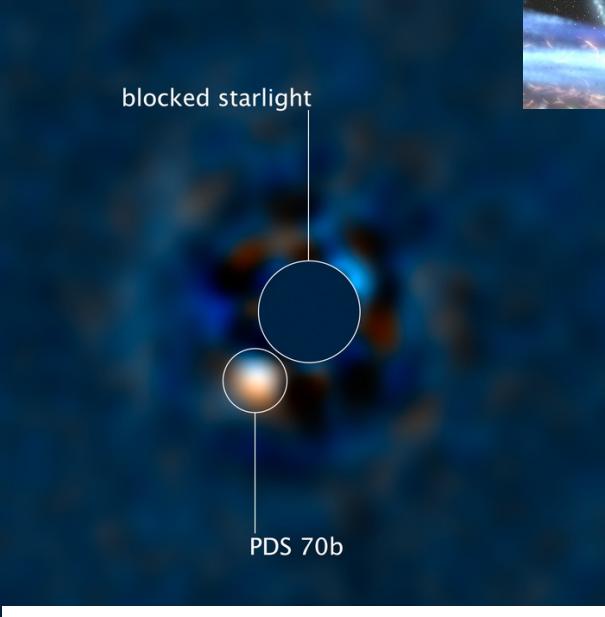
$$\dot{M}_{\text{acc}} = \left(1 - \frac{R_*}{R_{\text{in}}}\right)^{-1} \frac{L_{\text{acc}} R_*}{GM_*} \sim 1.25 \frac{L_{\text{acc}} R_*}{GM_*},$$



# Watching young planets grow!



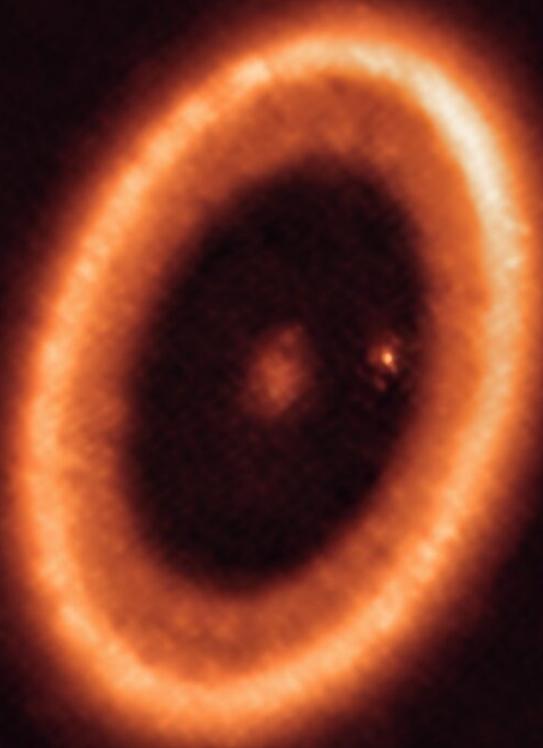
VLT MUSE H-alpha images  
Haffert et al. 2019



Hubble Space Telescope: H-alpha and U-band imaging  
(Zhou et al. 2021; see also Zhou, Herczeg, et al. 2014)



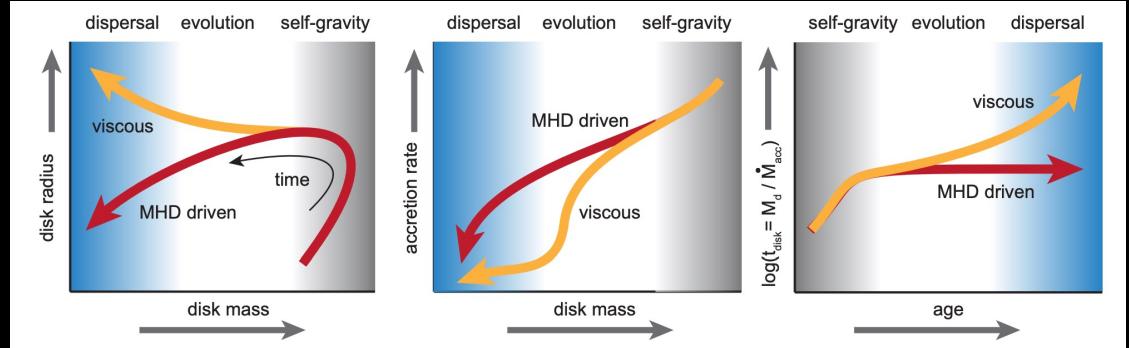
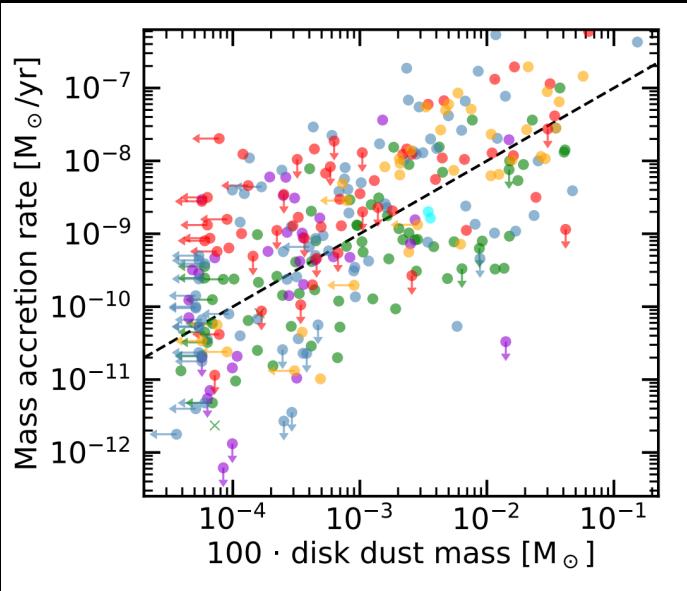
Planets in disk  
around PDS 70



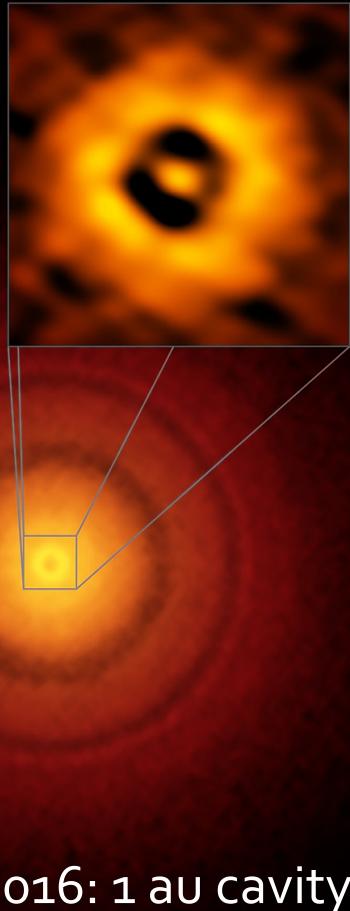
ALMA Image of PDS 70c  
(Isella+2019; Benisty+2021; Wang+2022)

# Accretion rates: how do stars evolve?

(see Manara+2023 PPVII review)



Diversity versus mass, age: role of variability?



# TW Hya: a remarkable disk

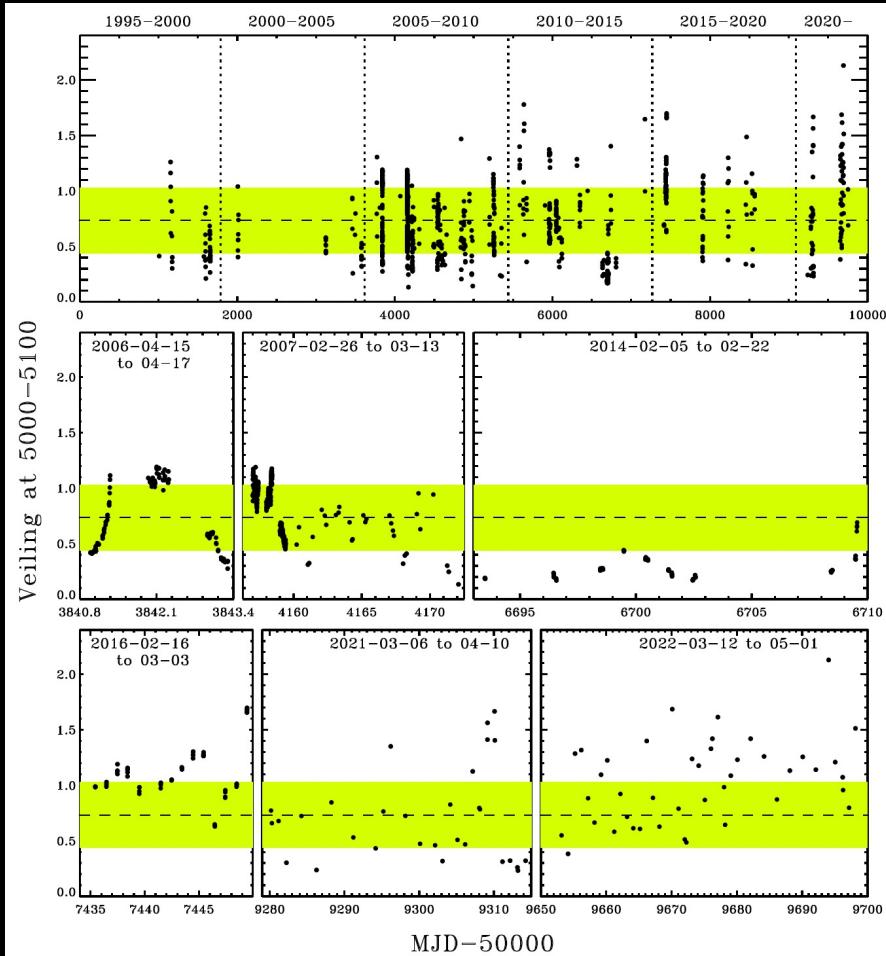
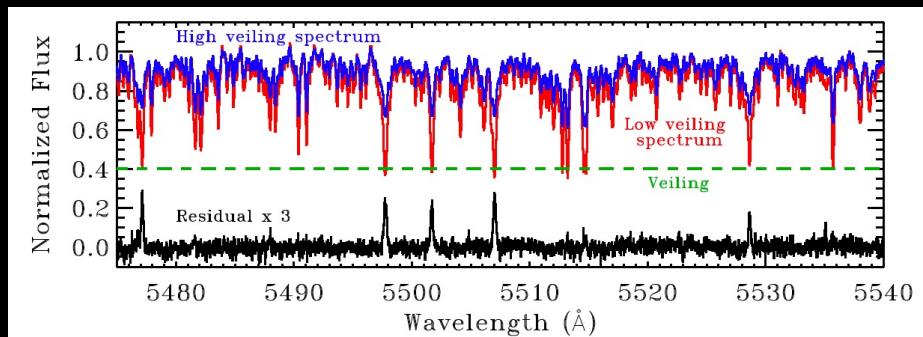
- closest (60 pc) disk around solar mass star
- ~10 Myr old: how did the disk survive?
- Face-on
- No extinction

Andrews+2016: 1 au cavity

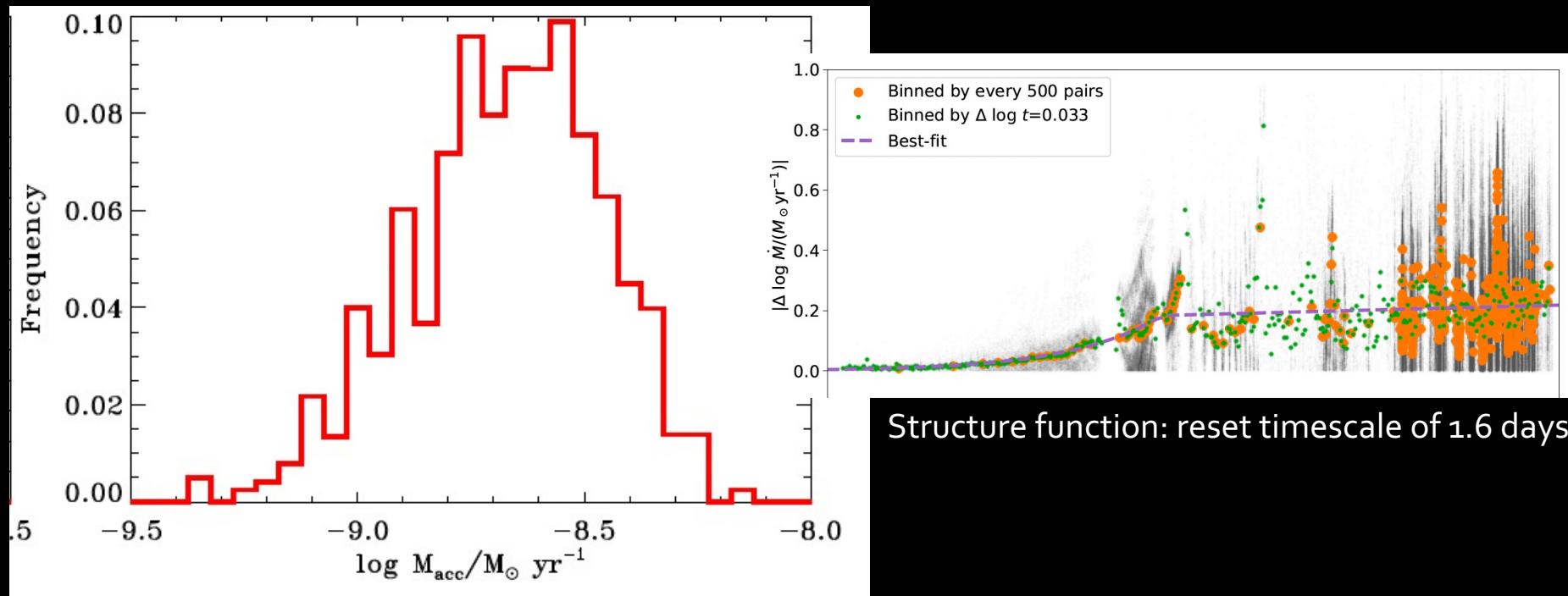
# Twenty-five years of variable accretion onto TW Hya

(Herczeg, Chen, et al. 2023)

- Veiling (accretion) from 1168 high-res spectra
  - TW Hya is a “normal” accretor with 0.2 dex variability (weather)



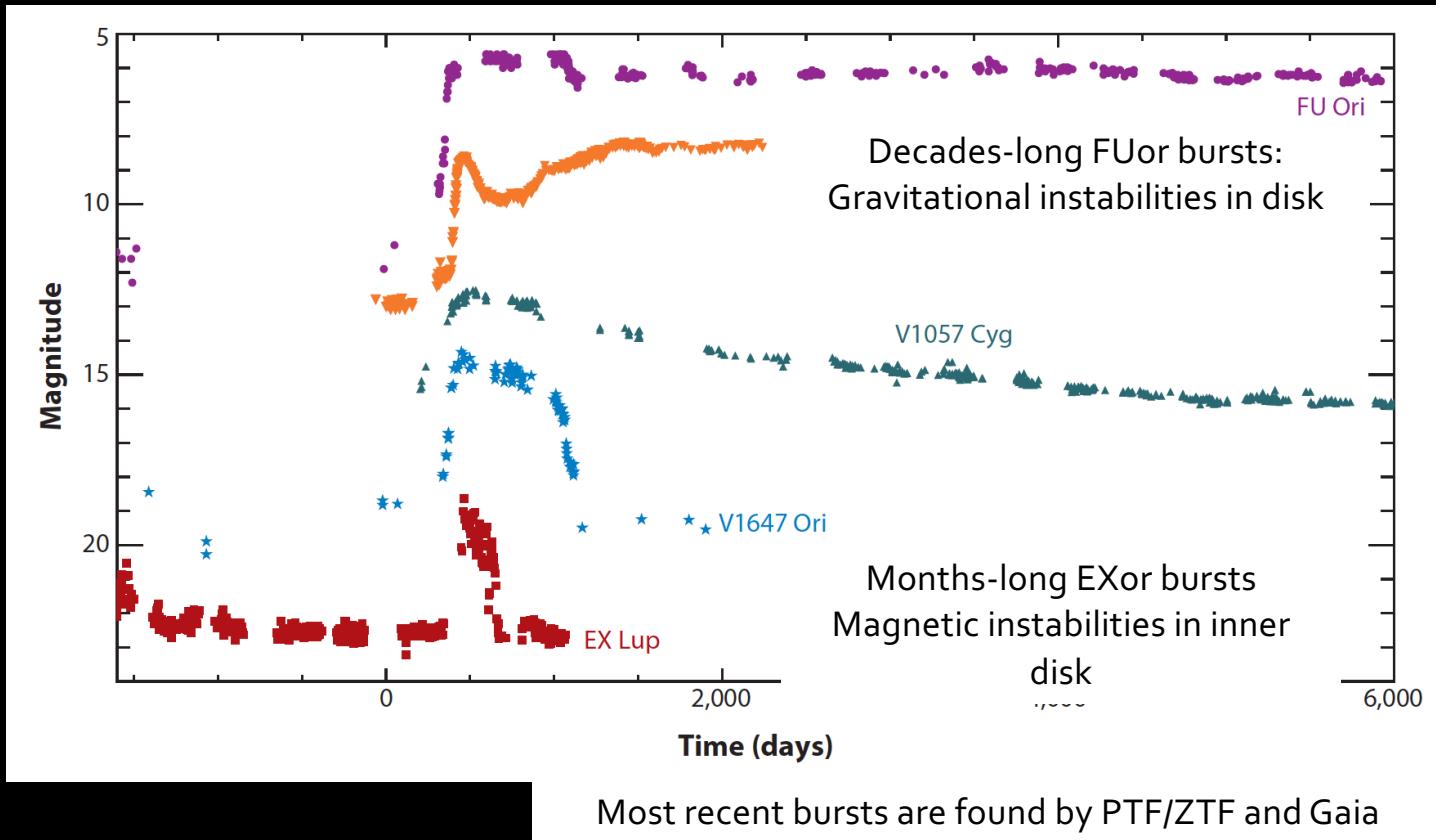
# Variability of accretion rate of TW Hya

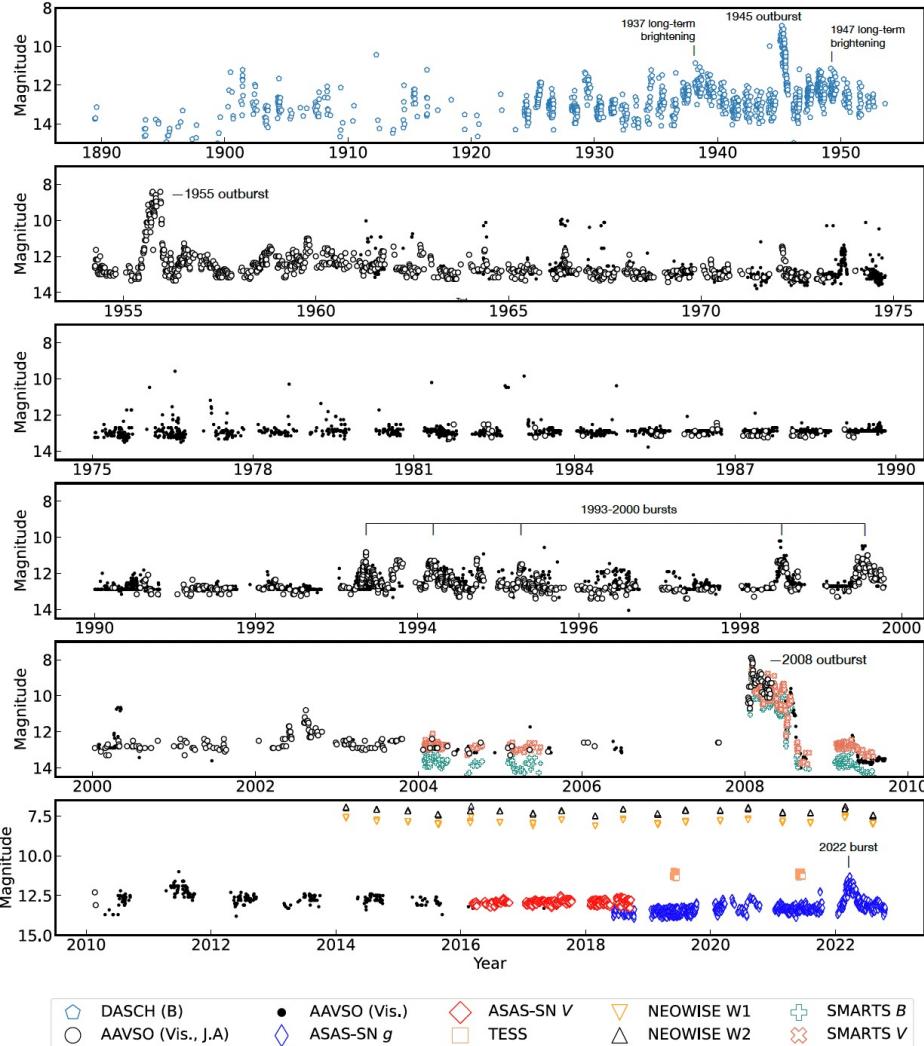


Log (average accretion rate):  $-8.65 \pm 0.22$   
(short-term variability insufficient to explain scatter)

# EX Lup and FU Ori type outbursts

(adapted from Kospal+2011)

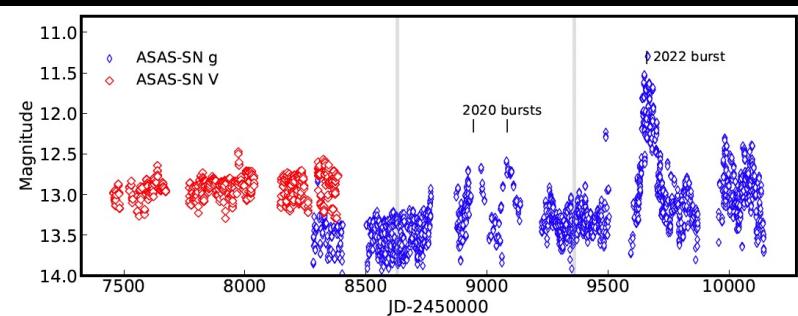




# A century of accretion bursts onto EX Lup

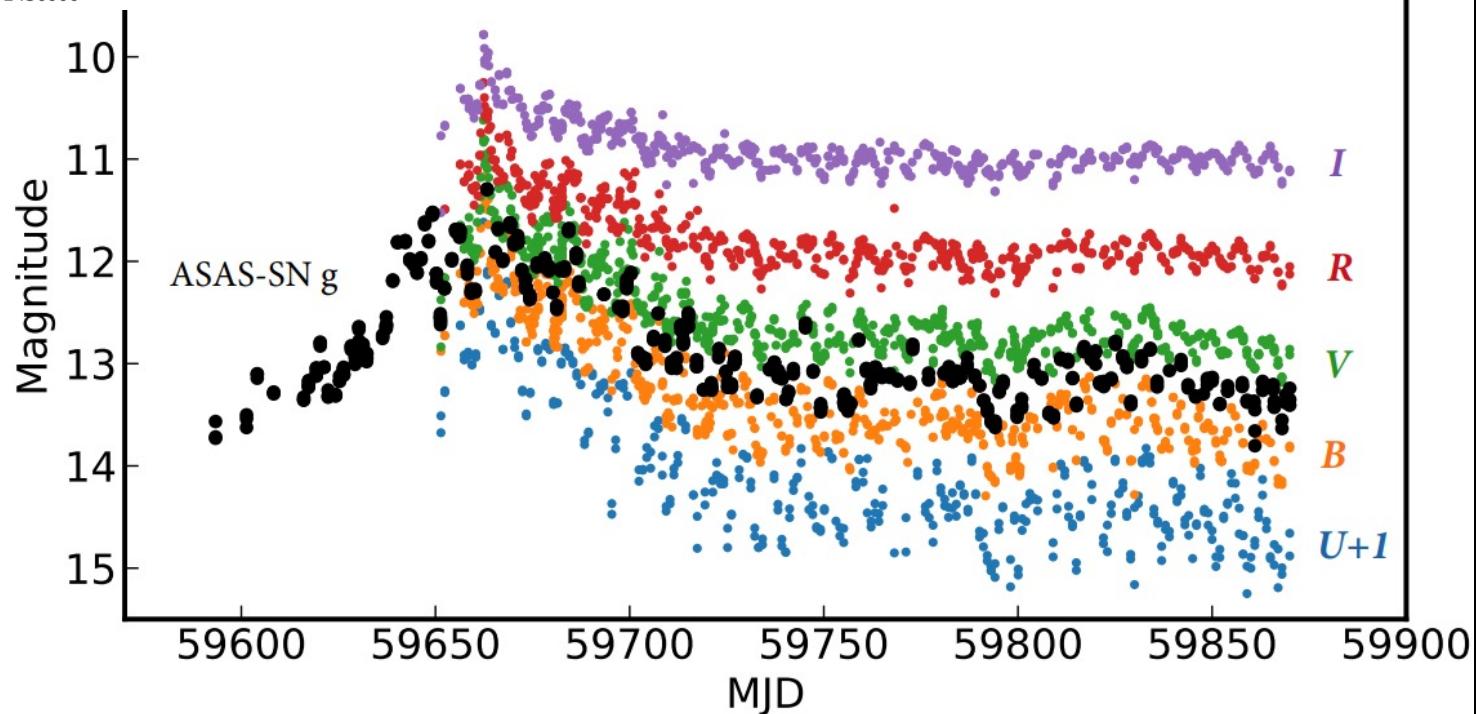
Wang Mu-Tian, Herczeg, et al. 2023;  
see also Cruz Saenz de Miera et al. 2023)

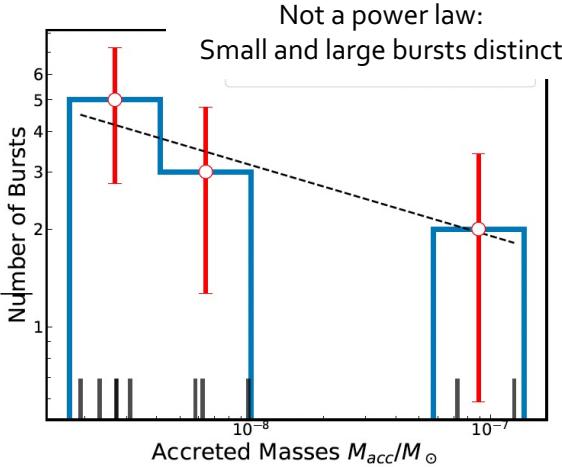
- Archetype of EX Lup-type bursts
  - Herbig 1951; 2008
- 160 pc, few Myr old
- Long history of photometry
  - How to interpret?



Burst in 2022: leverage amateur photometry  
to interpret past photometry

Mar. May July Sep. Nov.



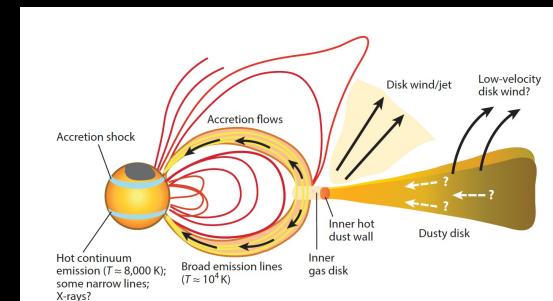
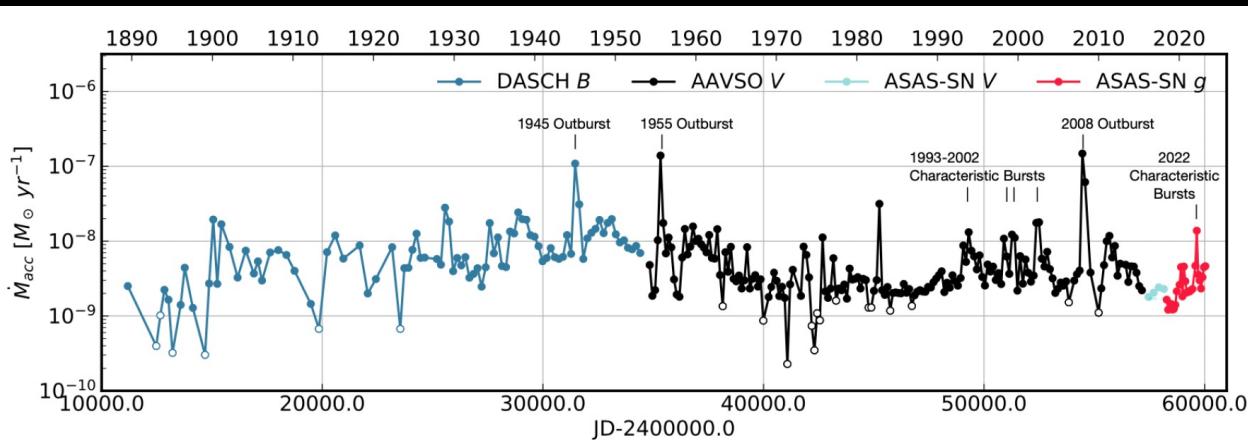


## A 100-year picture of accretion onto EX Lup

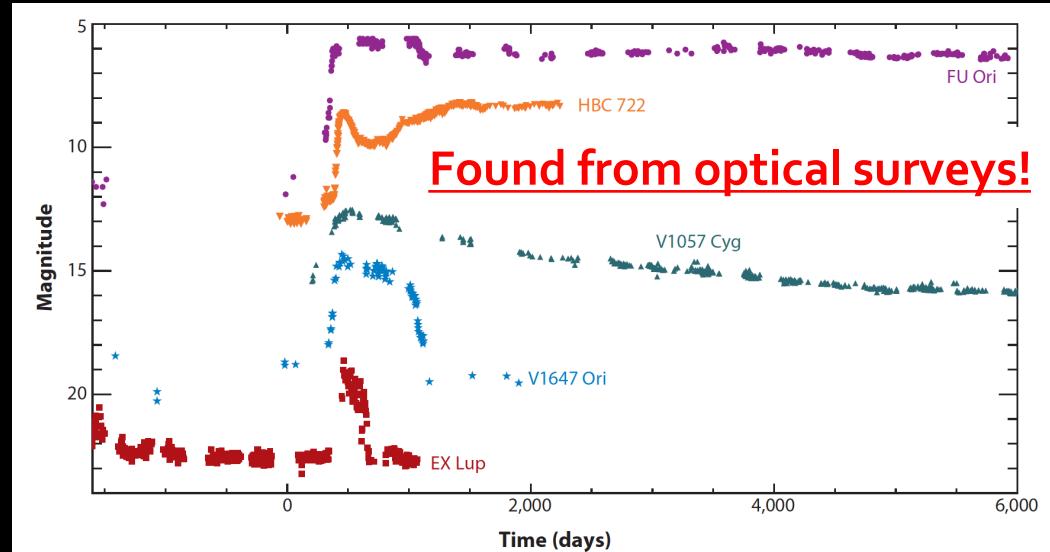
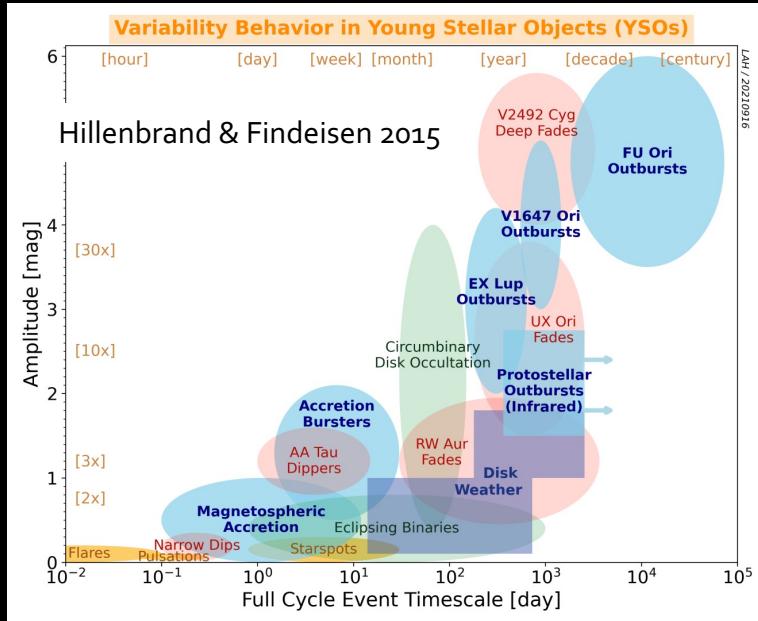
- Similar mass accreted in quiescence and bursts
- Large bursts are more important than small bursts
- Important for disk chemistry; irrelevant in building star

### Magnetospheric Instability (D'Angelo & Spruit 2010)?

- Truncation radius  $\gg$  corotation: little accretion
- Gas builds up until the dam breaks



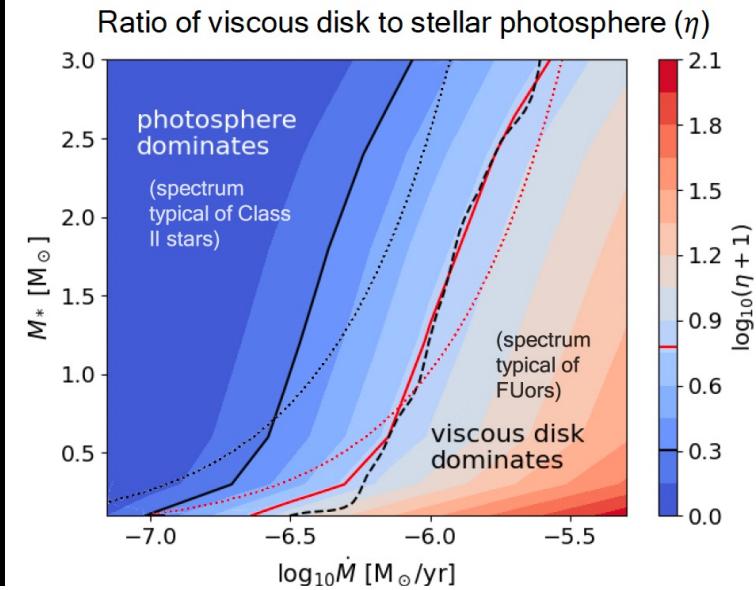
# The largest and rarest bursts: FU Ori-type objects (FUors)



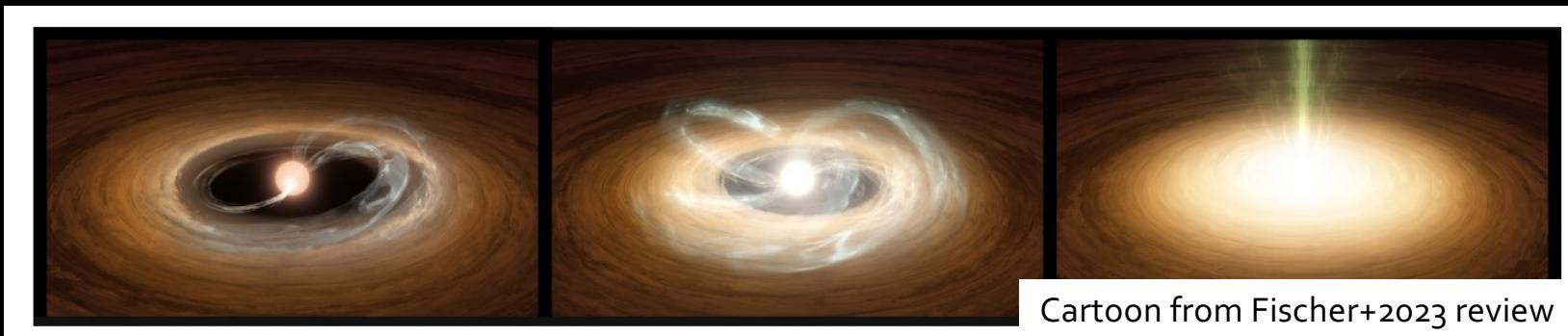
Accrete  $10^{-5} M_{\text{sun}}/\text{yr}$ , for decades-centuries

# FU Ori type outbursts

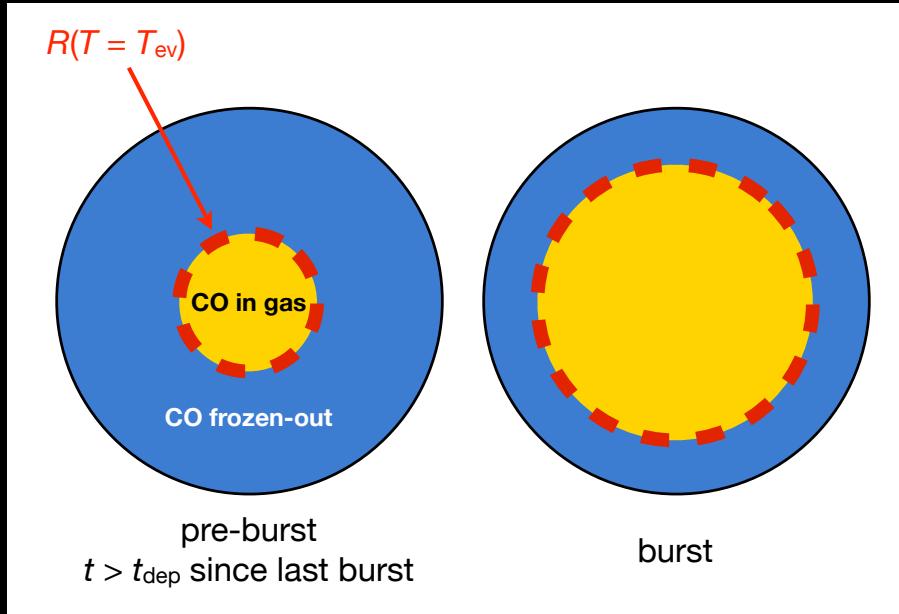
- Accretion crushes stellar magnetosphere
- Disk viscously heated to  $\sim 10000$  K
- Disk emission overwhelms star
- Viscous timescales: 0.1-1 AU
- May play major role in stellar assembly
  - Mass/outburst:  $1e-5 * 1e2 = 1e-3$  Msun



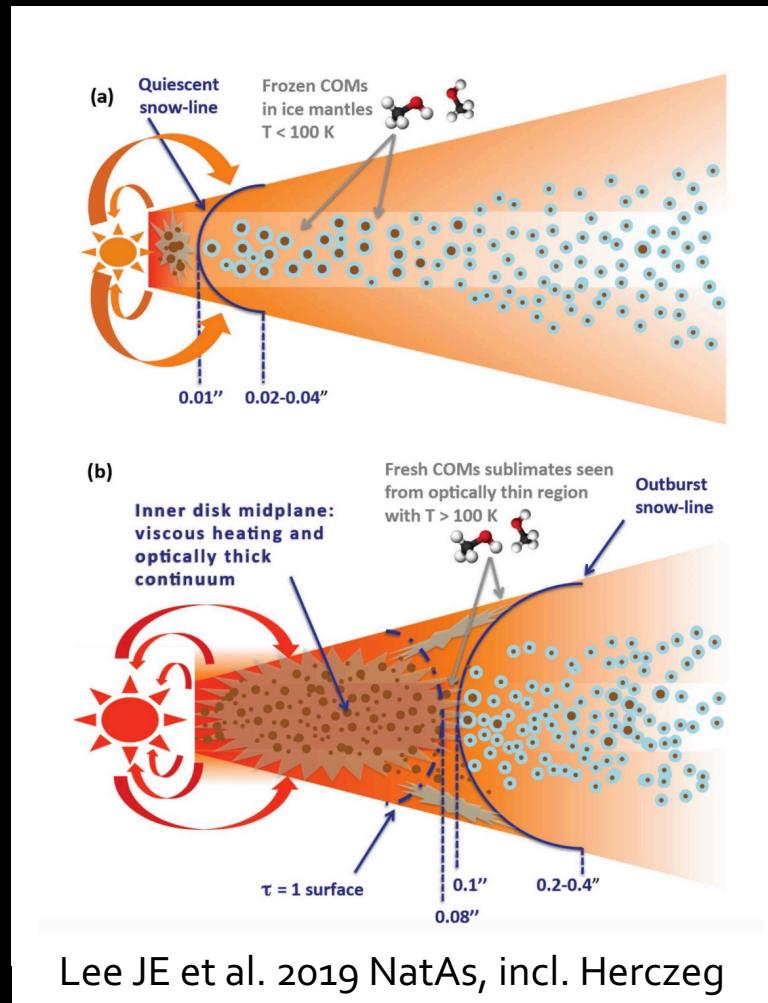
Liu, Herczeg, et al. 2022; see also, eg, Calvet 1990;  
Zhu et al. 2007, Rodriguez & Hillenbrand 2022



# Disk and envelope heating: Ices sublimate at larger radii



Jørgensen+2015; Lee 2007;  
Hsieh+2019; Molyarova+2018; others

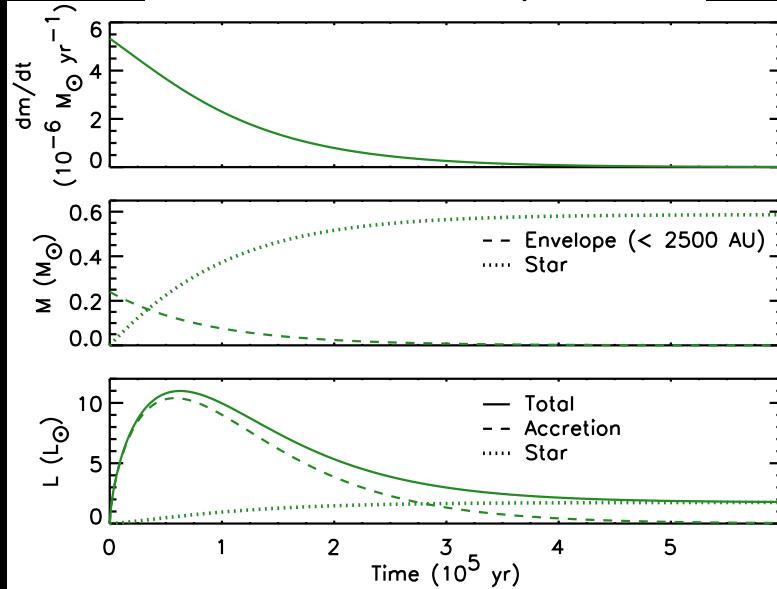


Lee JE et al. 2019 NatAs, incl. Herczeg

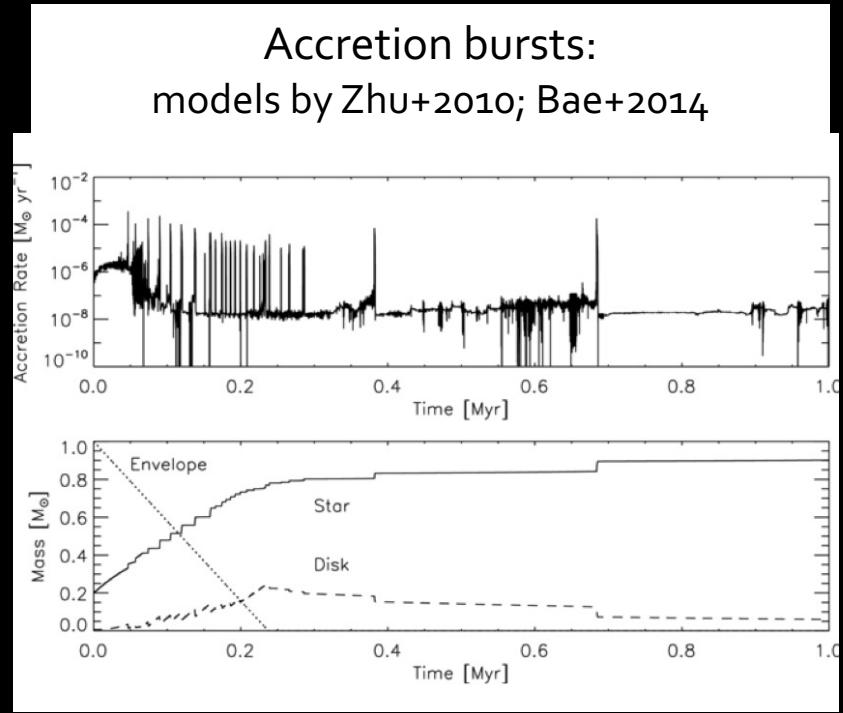
# Role of bursts in stellar assembly is uncertain

(Fischer, Hillenbrand, Herczeg, et al., 2023, PPVII review)

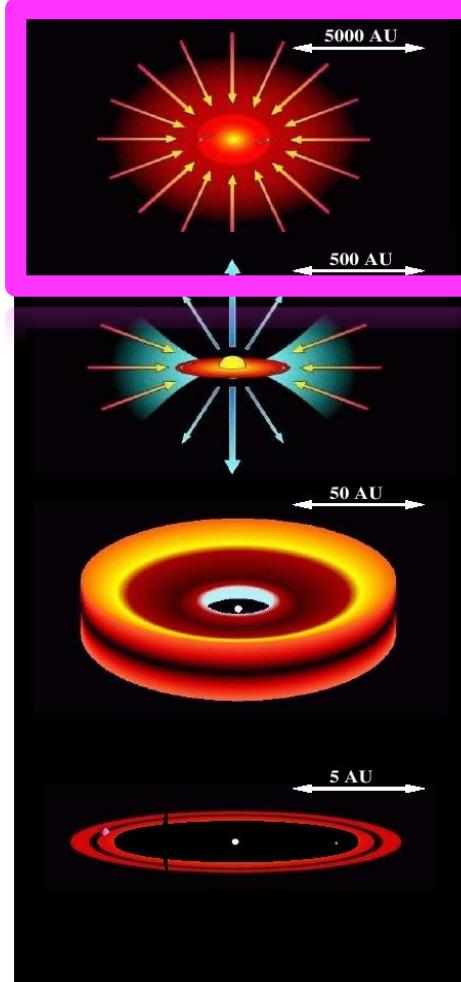
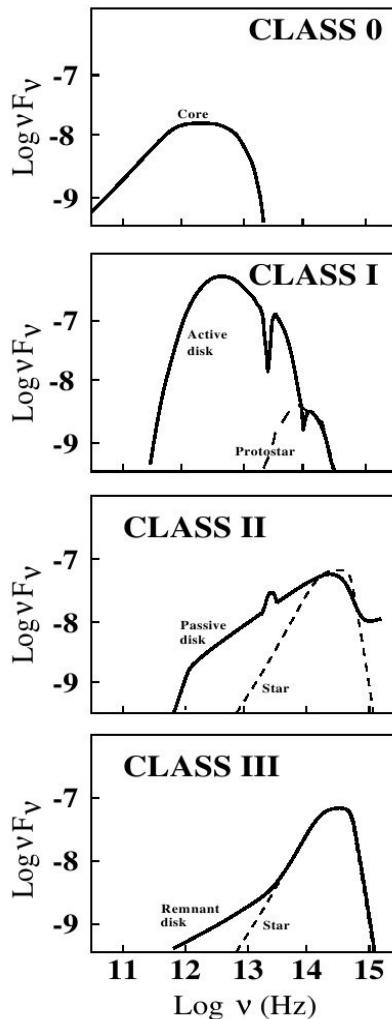
Smooth accretion:  
Fischer+2017



Accretion bursts:  
models by Zhu+2010; Bae+2014



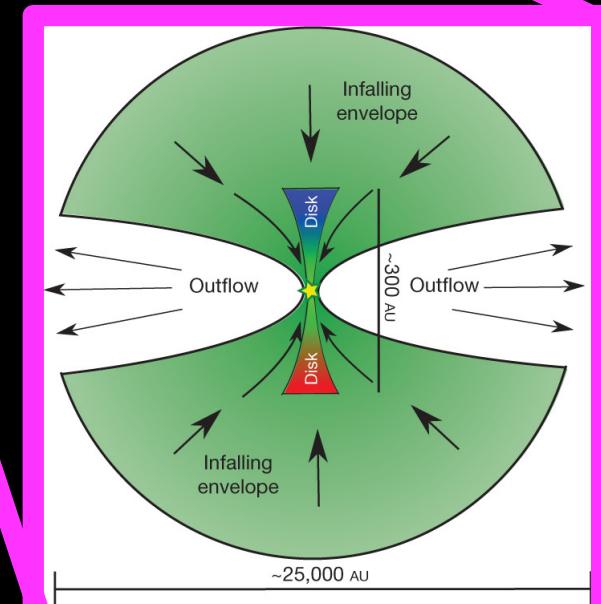
If occur early and radiative, affects initial radius (age estimate) of star  
(e.g., Baraffe et al. 2009; Hosokawa et al. 2011; Kunitomo et al. 2017)



Low mass stars, van Boekel 2005

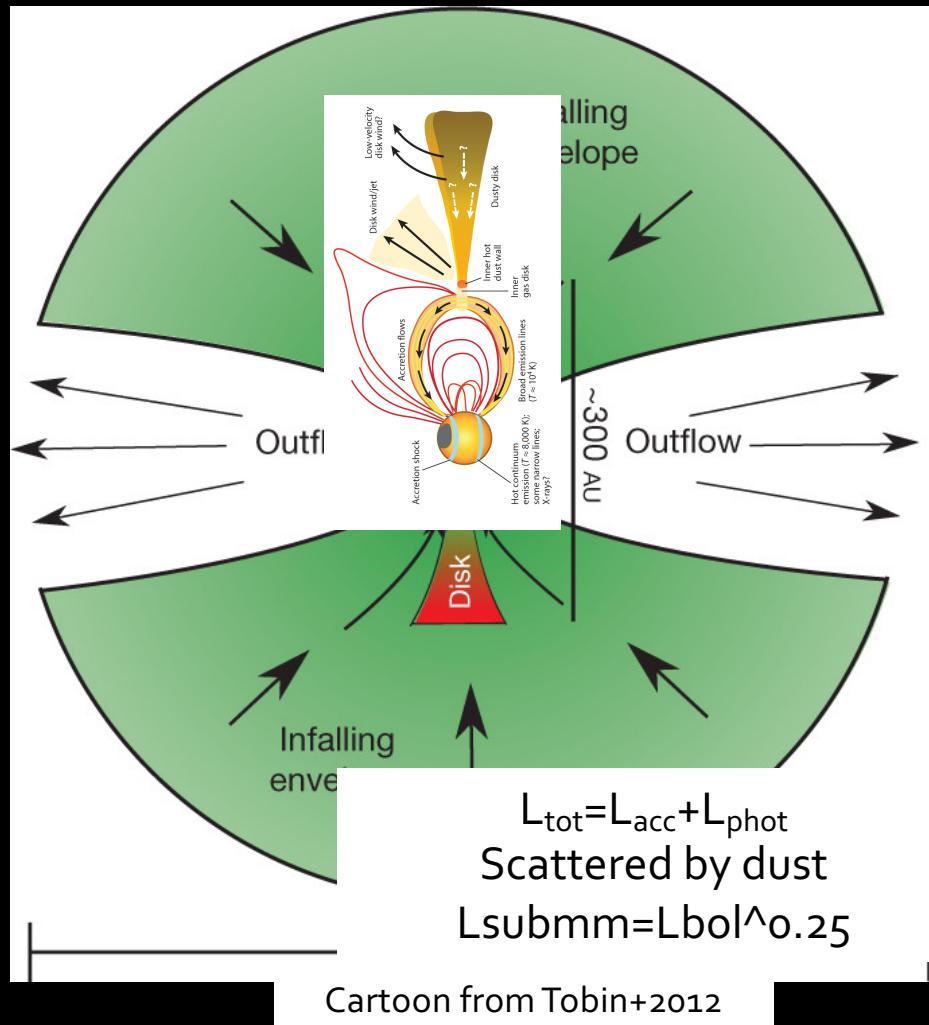
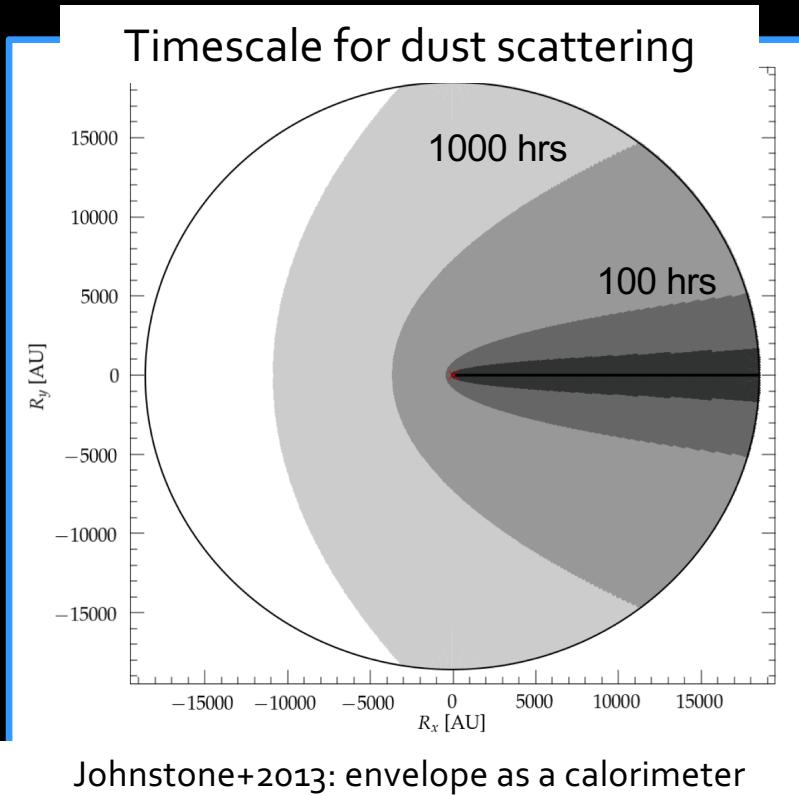
Stellar assembly occurs during protostellar phase

$L_{\text{tot}} = L_{\text{acc}} + L_{\text{phot}}$   
Buried in envelope, Scattered by dust

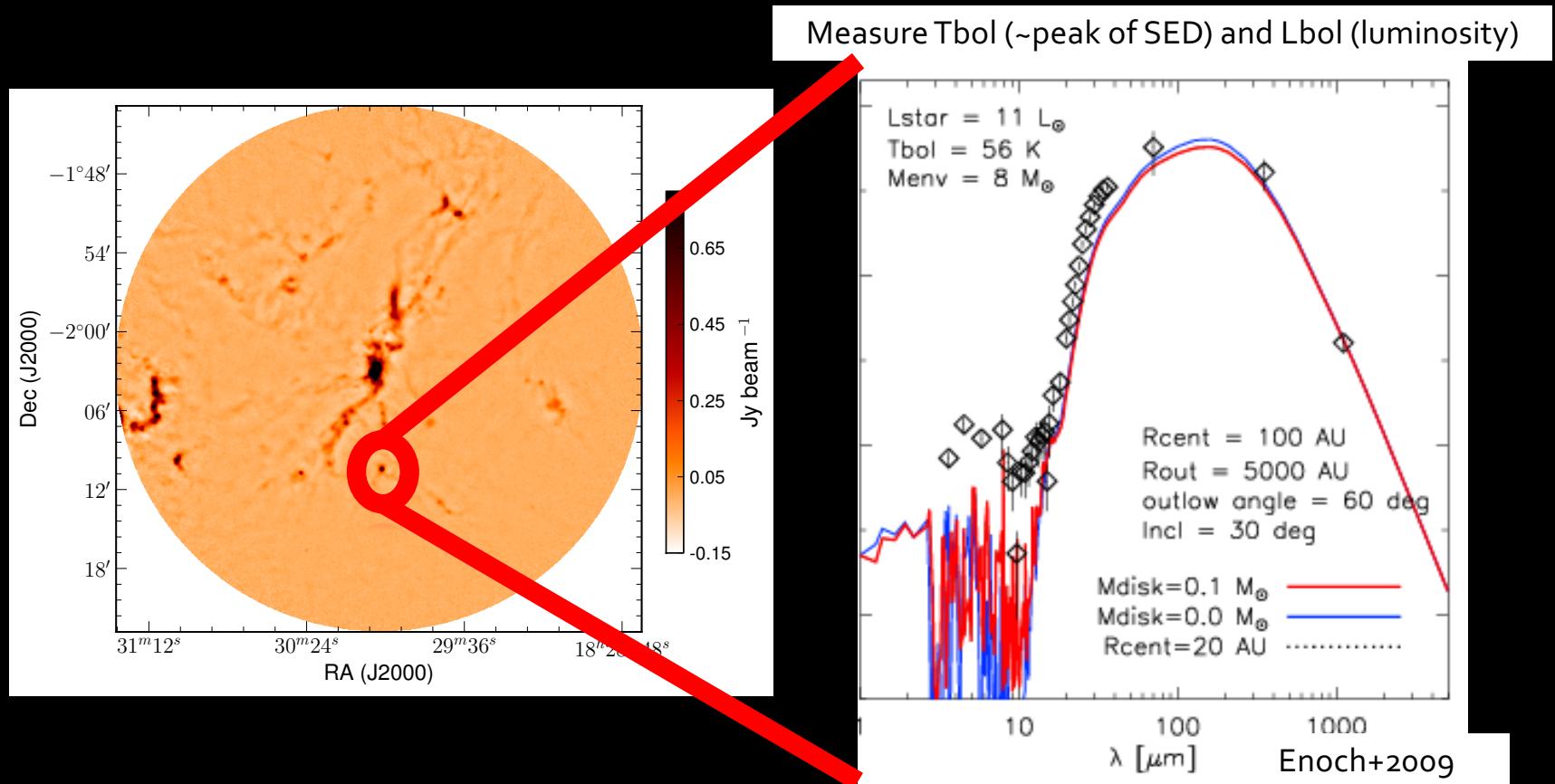


Cartoon from Tobin+2012

# Stars grow during protostellar phase



# Measure: $T_{\text{bol}}$ (SED peak) and $L_{\text{bol}}$



# The East Asian Observatory JCMT-Transient Survey: the first long-term sub-mm monitoring program (Herczeg+2017)



Gregory Herczeg (co-PI; PKU/China)

Doug Johnstone (co-PI; NRC/Canada)

Jeong-Eun Lee (co-PI; SNU/Korea)

**Steve Mairs (UBC/EAO/BC Health Care)**

**NEOWISE+follow-up: Carlos Contreras Pena (SNU)**

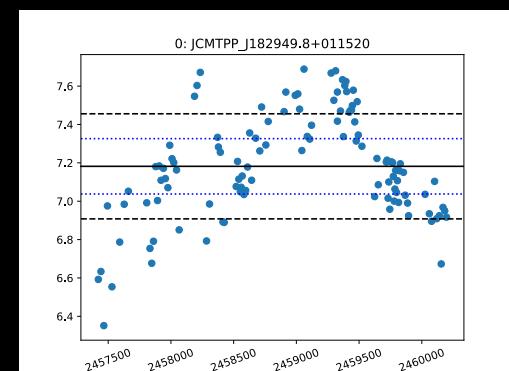
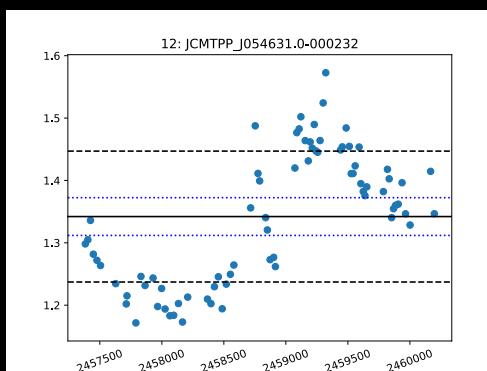
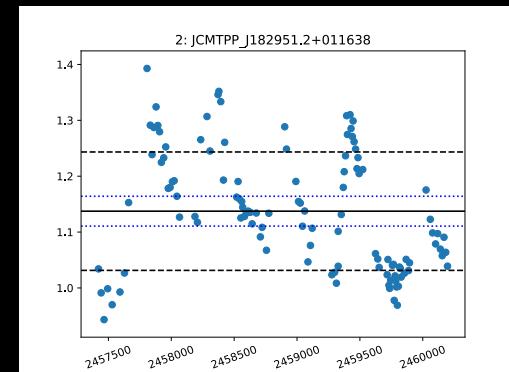
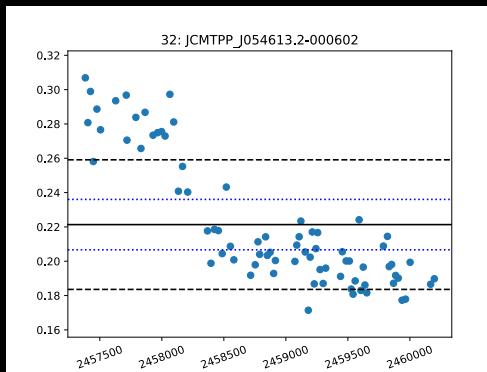
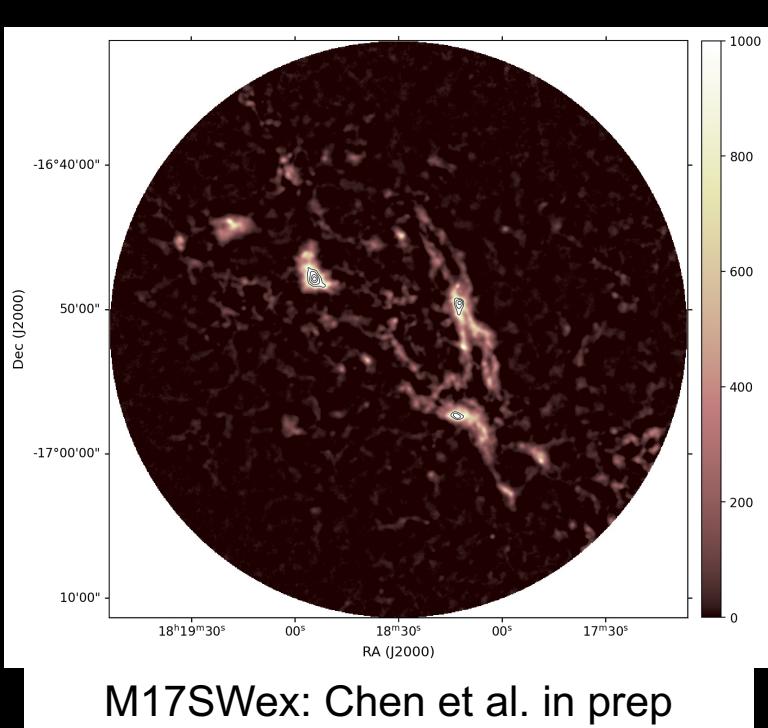
Yong-hee Lee (KHU), Wooseok Park (KHU), Jenny Hatchell (Exeter), Geoff Bower (ASIAA), Zhiwei Chen (PMO), Xu Zhang (NJU), Sheng-Yuan Liu (ASIAA/NTU), Yuri Aikawa (Tokyo), Graham Bell (EAO), Mizna Ashraf (IISER-Tirupathi), Sung-Yong Yoon (KASI), many others



JCMT Transient Survey: 523 hrs allocated from 2016.02-2024.01

# JCMT Transient: sample 850-micron light curves

(Mairs+2017ab; Johnstone+2018; Lee et al. 2021; Mairs+2023)

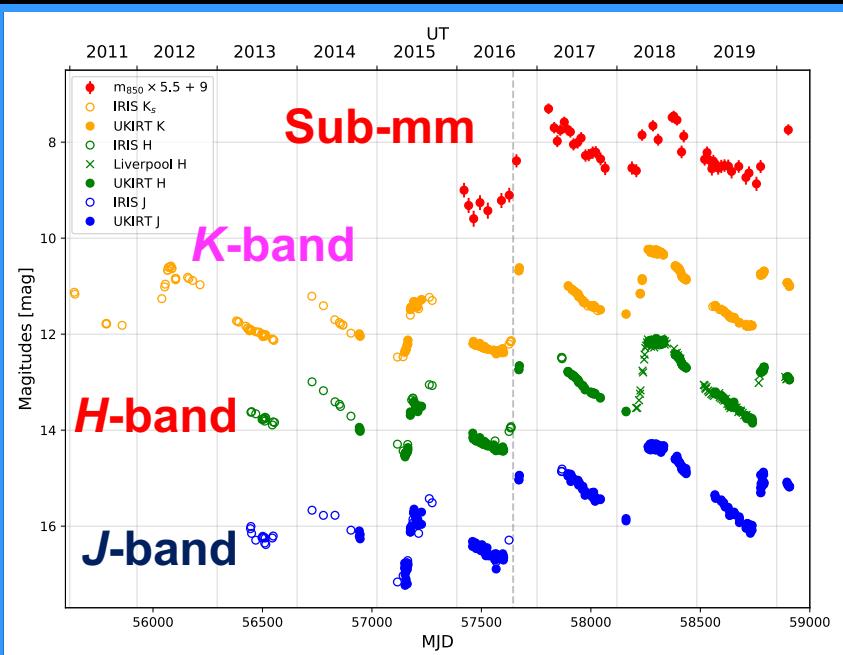


Precision of ~1% from “differential photometry” (Mairs+2023)



# EC 53 (V371 Ser): Young Faithful

(YH Lee, Johnstone, JE Lee, et al. 2020)

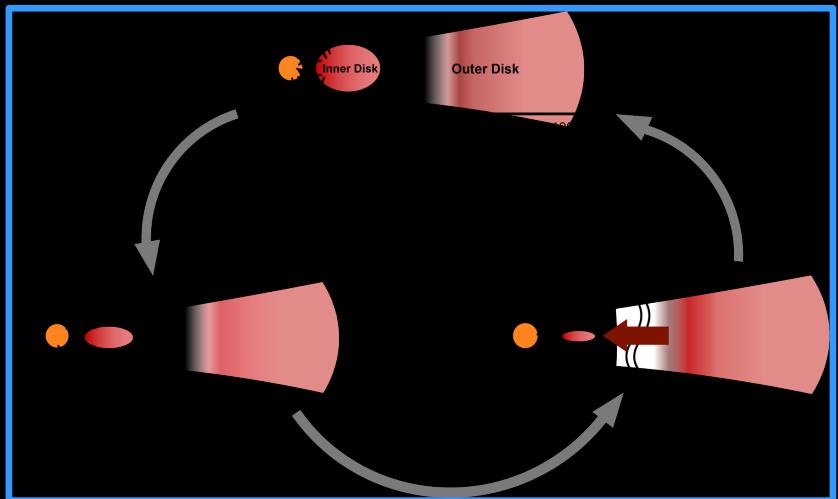


Near-IR periodicity discovered by Hodapp 2012;

Source similar to Muzerolle+2011; Dahm & Hillenbrand 2020

Approved JWST program (PI Lee) timed for faint and bright epochs!

Cycles of filling and draining the disk



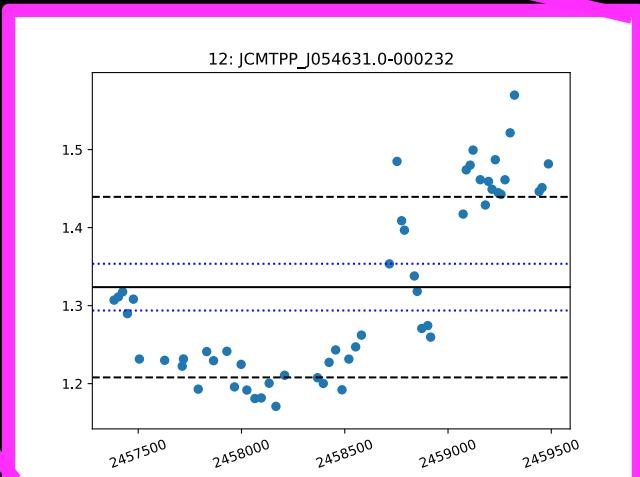
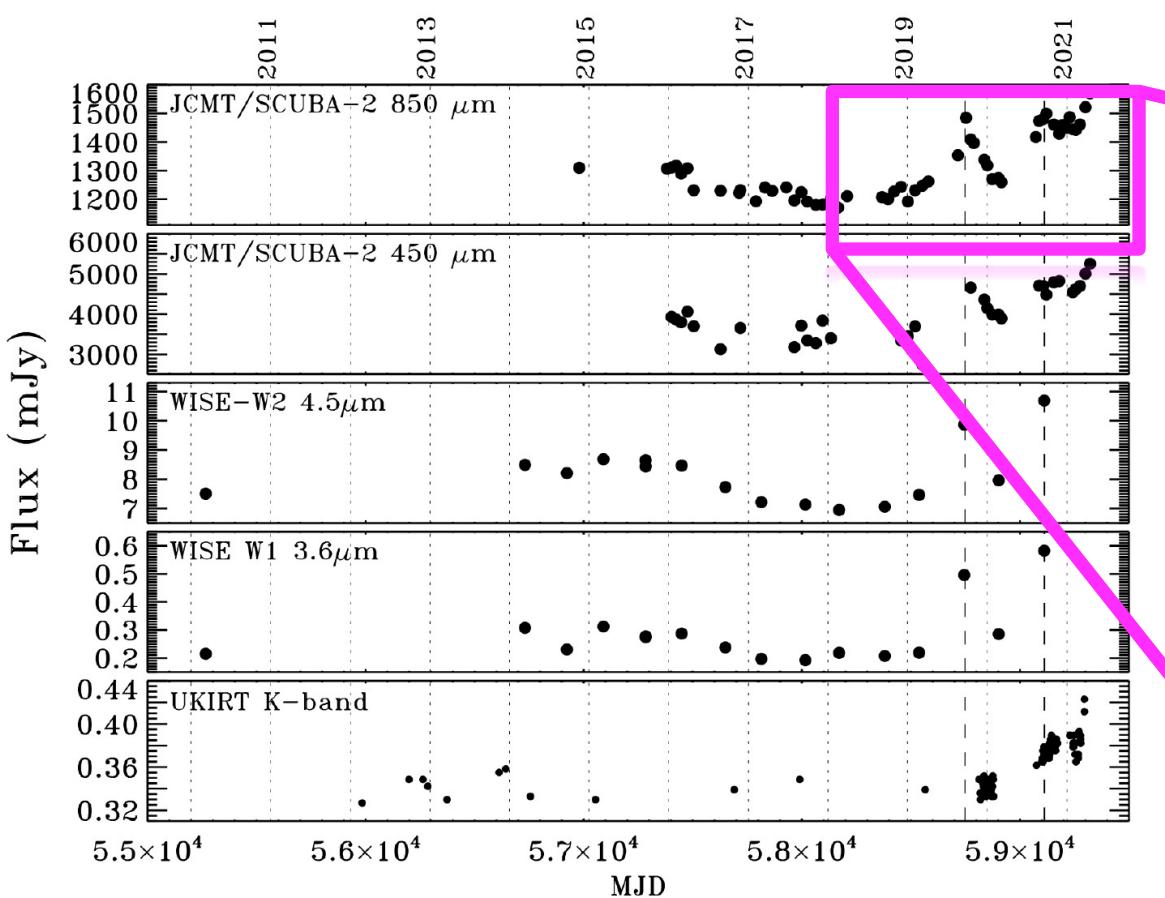
**Timescale (e-folding):**

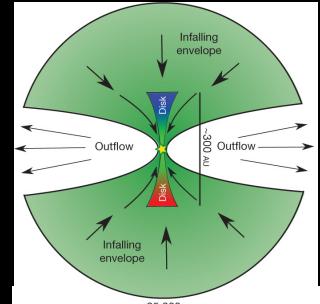
- Decay  $\sim 0.75$  yr
- Rise  $\sim 0.10$  yr

**Accretion rate:**  $\sim 2.5 \text{ to } 8 \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

# HOPS 373: a modest accretion burst

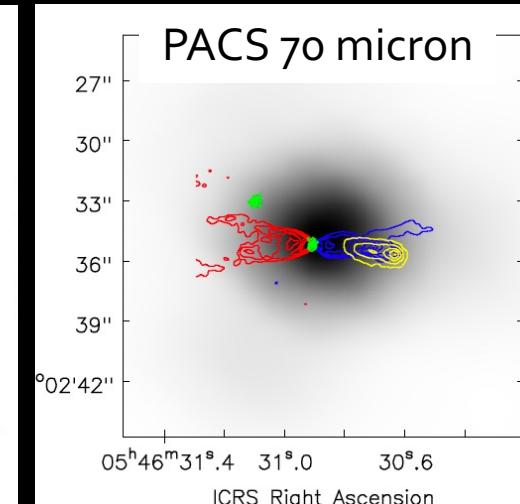
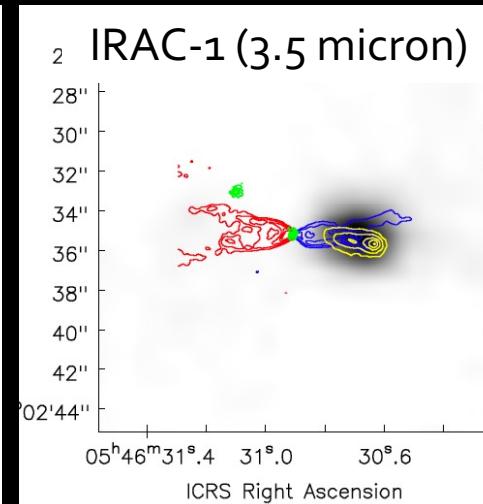
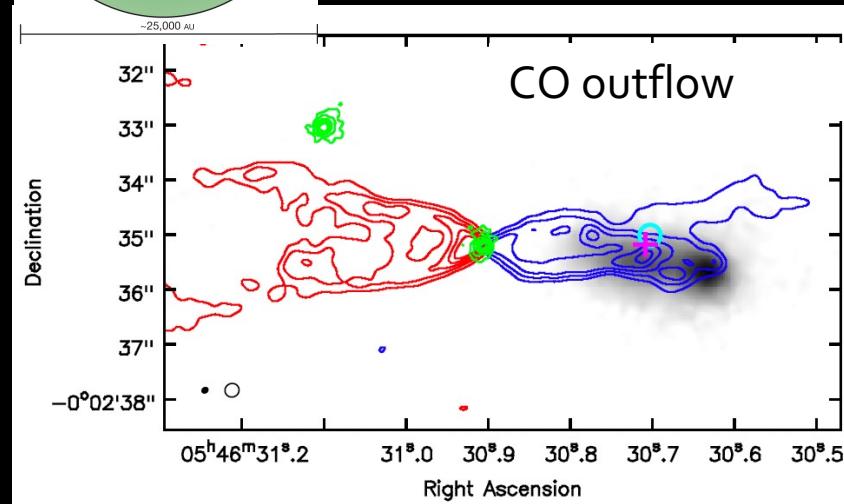
(Yoon, Herczeg, JE Lee, et al., 2022)





# HOPS 373: a modest accretion burst

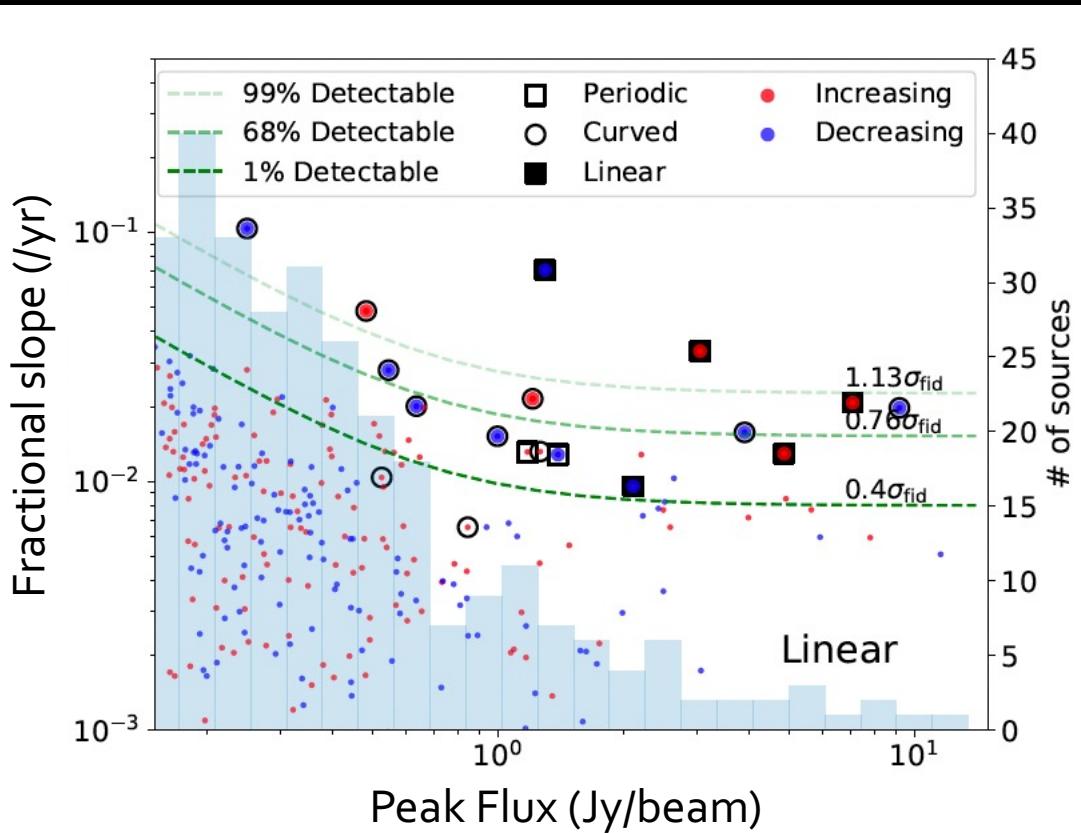
Yoon, Herczeg, JE Lee, et al. 2022



Near- and mid-IR emission: emission reflected and escapes out of cavity walls  
IRAC-2, K-band variability: suppressed by H<sub>2</sub>, CO?

# Summary of sub-mm variability over 4 years

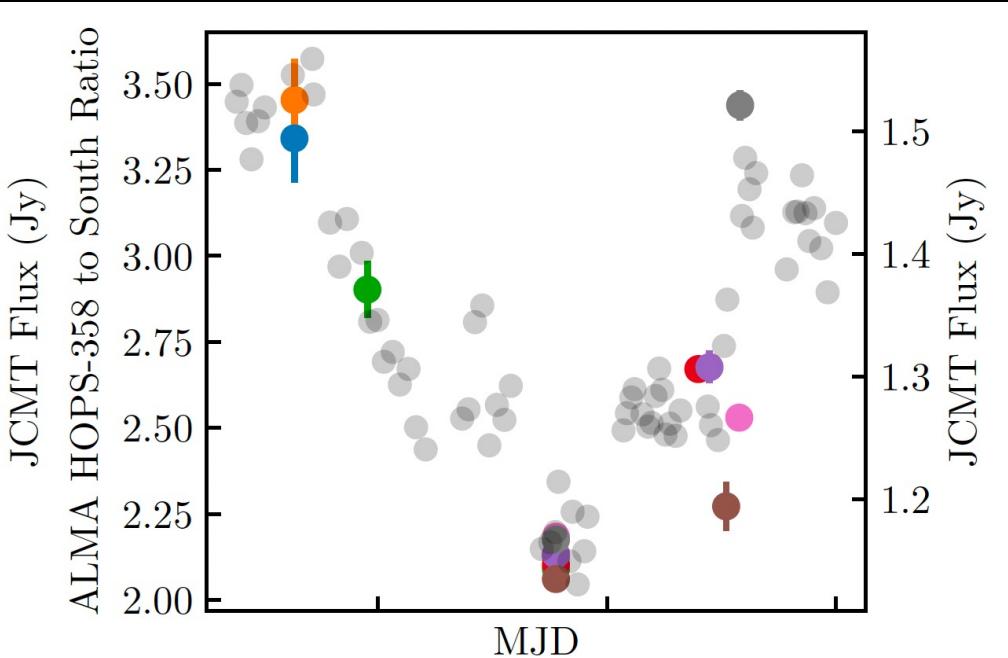
(Y-H Lee, Johnstone, JE Lee, et al. 2021; Johnstone et al. 2023)



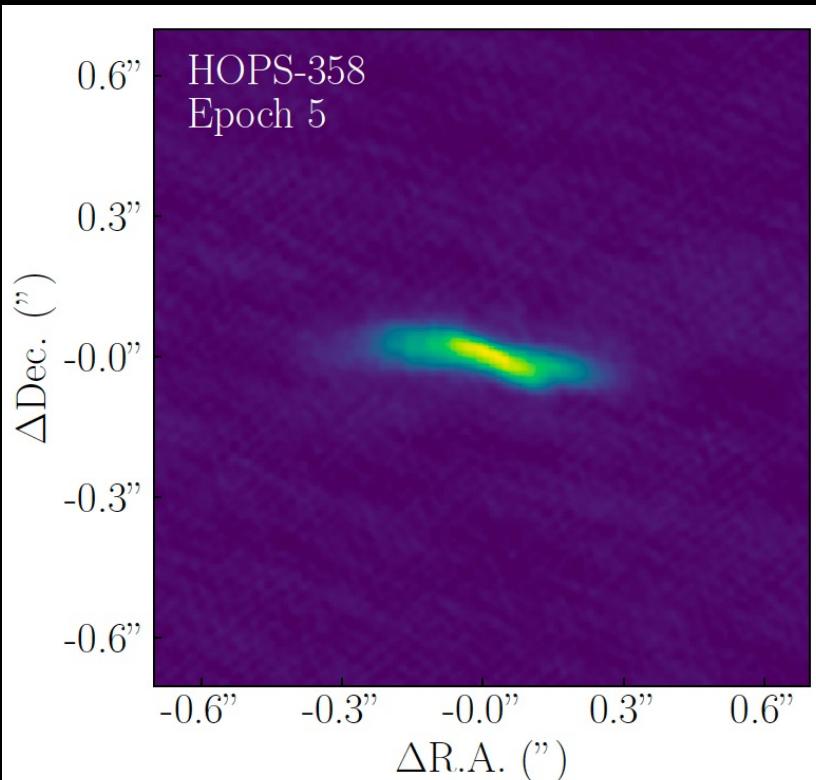
- Protostars are variable!
  - About half by 5-10% per year
  - L<sup>0.25</sup>, so modest changes
- Many interesting case studies
- Not enough time/number to detect largest bursts
- Expanding to more distant intermediate-mass star-forming regions

# HOPS 358: variability with JCMT and ALMA

(Sheehan et al. in prep; see also Francis+2020, 2022)

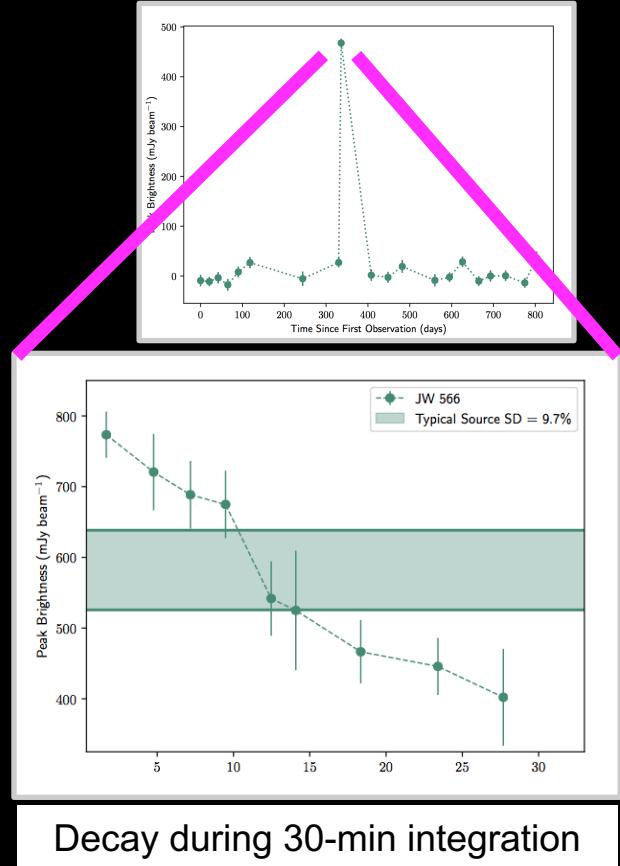


Different beam sizes: reverberation mapping



# The sub-mm variable sky

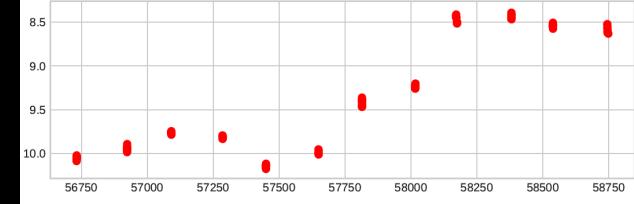
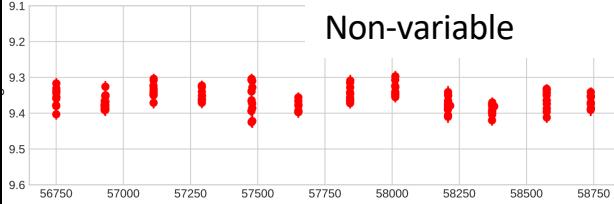
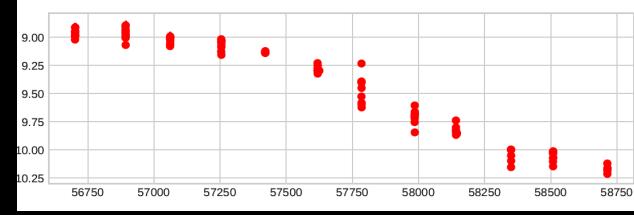
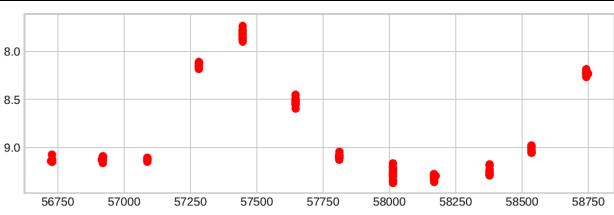
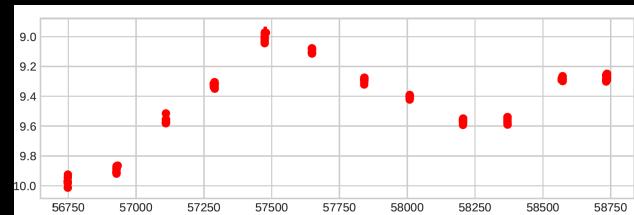
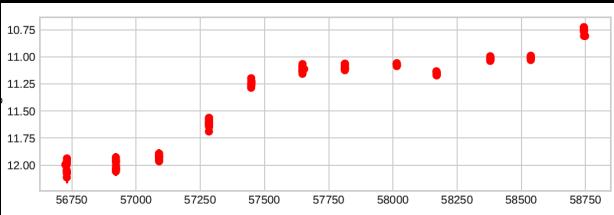
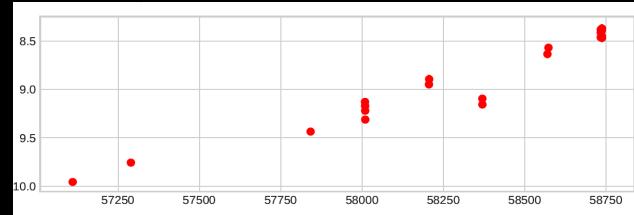
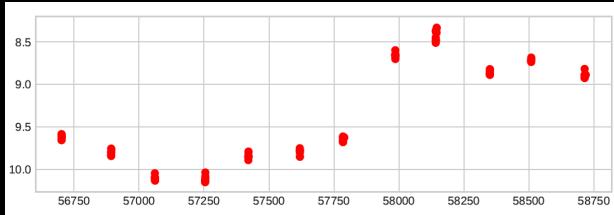
- Coronal flare on a YSO
  - Strongest ever recorded?
  - Mairs et al. 2019; Johnstone et al. 2023
- Two variable AGNs
- Sub-mm flux calibration techniques
  - Previously ~10% unquantified errors



Decay during 30-min integration

Essential for CMB-S4 Cosmology Experiment (2020 US Decadal)

# NEOWISE: mid-IR variable sky



- NEOWISE mission:
- All-sky, 3.6, 4.5 microns
- 2 epochs/year
- statistical analysis of variability

Long-term goal:  
frequency of FUor outbursts

Park, JE Lee, et al. 2021  
Contreras Pena et al. 2023

Follow-up spectroscopy  
(Gemini, IRTF, Palomar) by  
**Contreras Pena**, others

# Following the mass flows: the assembly of stars and planets

The era of the transient sky is here (ASAS-SN, ZTF, NEOWISE, others; soon LSST)!

- Weather
  - frequent changes in star-disk connections
  - Spots on accreting, non-accreting stars can affect ages
- Climate
  - major changes in accretion rate
- Stellar mass assembly: some fraction during outbursts
  - Need to pierce through envelope: long wavelengths
  - JCMT Transient, NEOWISE; future far-IR mission?
- ALMA: driving an amazing revolution in disk physics and planet formation
  - We may be detecting planets in formation!
  - Hopefully JWST will drive a similar revolution in direct detection of exoplanets

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