

# **Maser Investigation toward Off-Plane Stars (MIOPS): detection of SiO masers in the Galactic thick disk and halo**

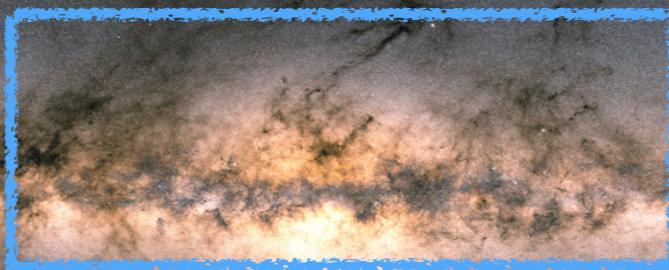
**Wenjin Yang**

**Main Collaborators: Yuanwei Wu (PI), Yan Gong, Nicolas Mauron, Bo Zhang, Karl M. Menten**

# Galactic structures

## Halo

very old, metal-poor stars  
randomly oriented orbits



**Thin disk** (~120-300 pc)  
young stars, metal-rich, circular

**Thick disk** (~500-1400 pc)  
older, lower metallicity stars,  
more eccentric/inclined orbits

## Bulge/bar

A dense mix of old and  
intermediate-age stars

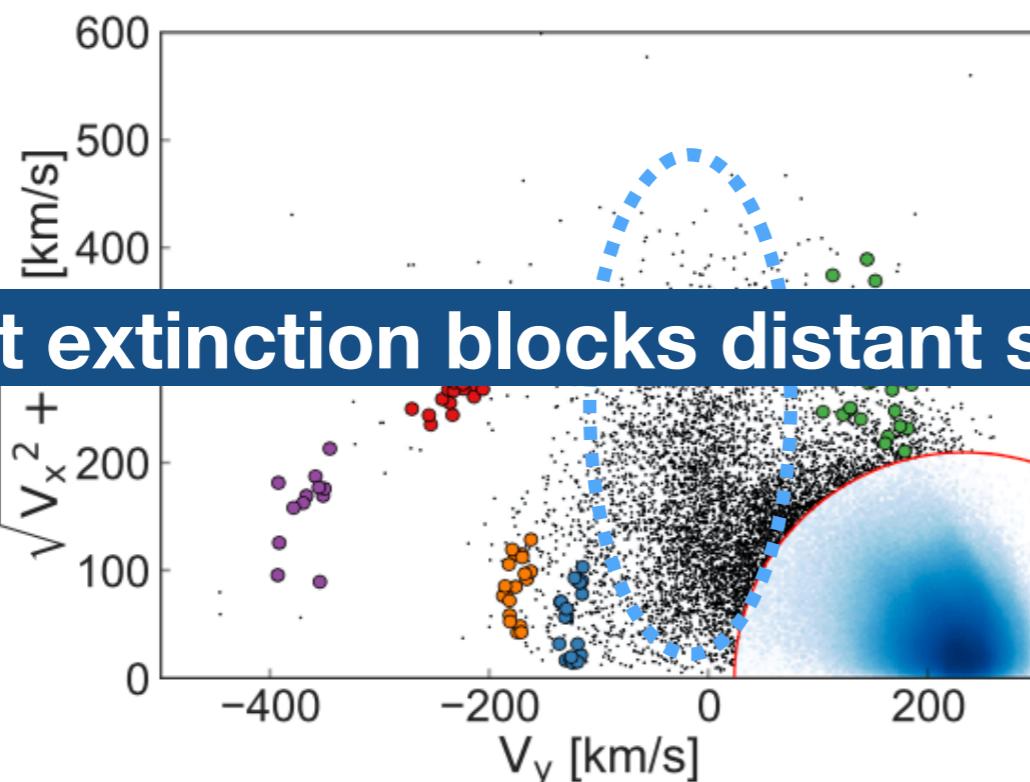


# Galactic Archaeology

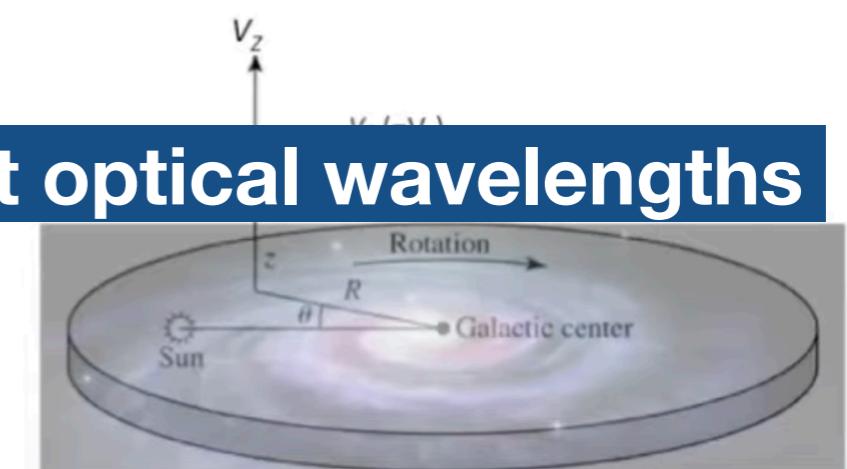
- Stars are “fossils”  
**Motions** → where they came from  
**Age** → when they were born  
**Chemical** → reflect chemical compositions of ISM which they formed

**Substructures in halo → debris from accretion events**

- Accurate 6D information → formation history of the milky Way



**Dust extinction blocks distant stars at optical wavelengths**



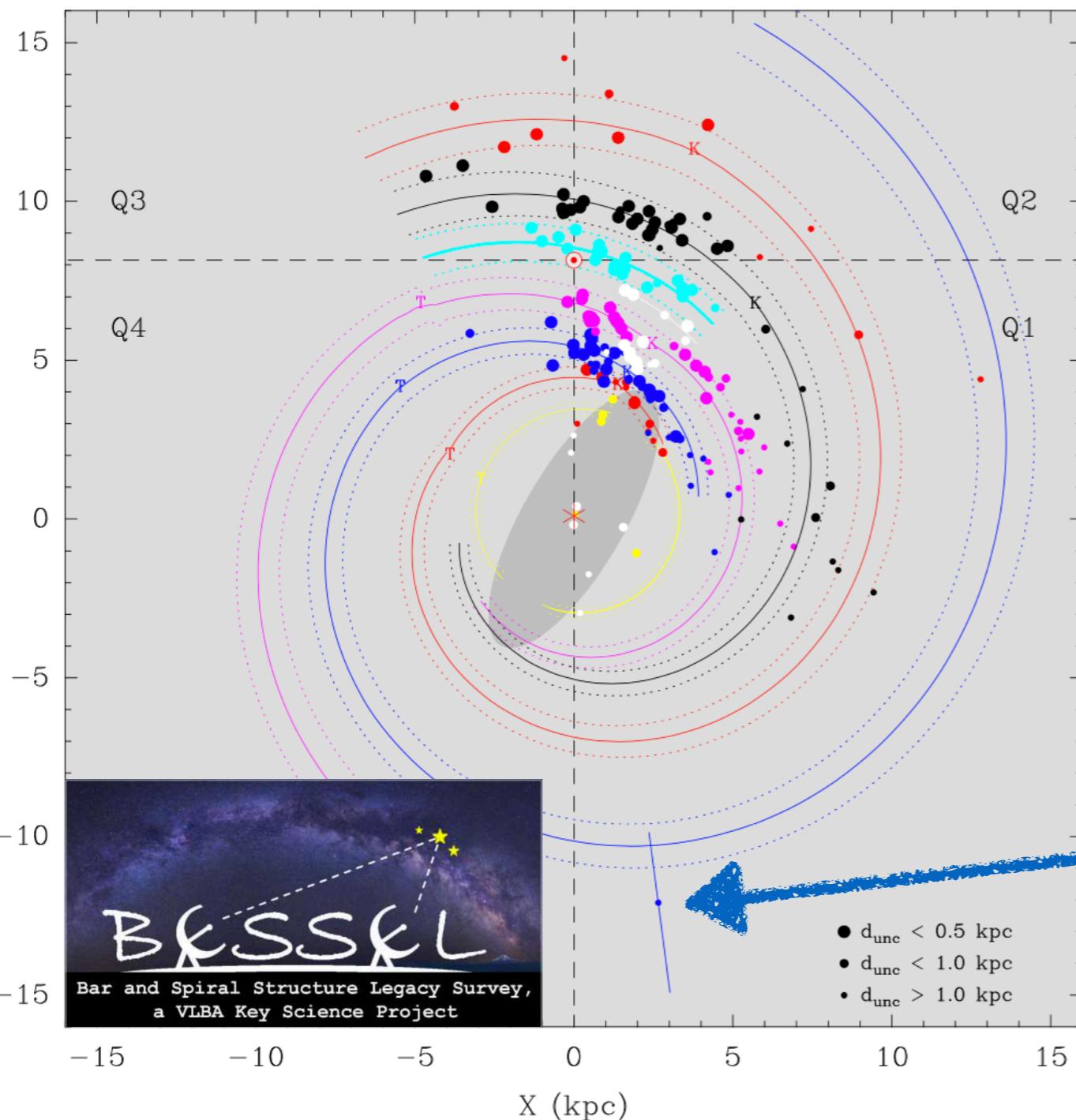
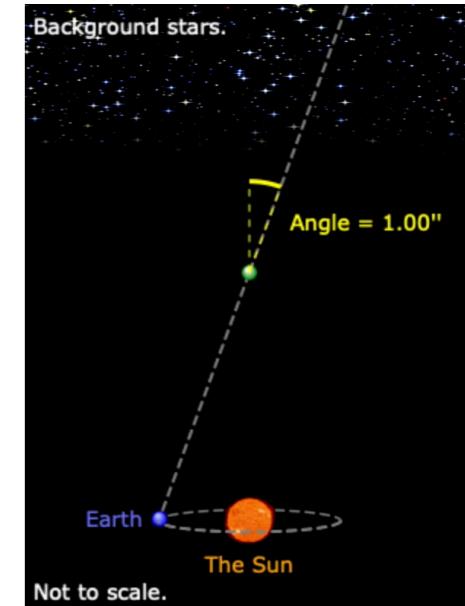
Koppelman et al. (2018)

All Gaia DR2 stars within 1 kpc from the Sun  
Relatively accurate parallaxes (uncertainty < 20%)

# VLBI astrometry pinpoint spiral arms

The BeSSeL Survey + VERA project

Aim: study the spiral structure and kinematics of the Milky Way



**~ 200 High-mass SFRs**  
(6.7 GHz CH<sub>3</sub>OH masers  
22 GHz H<sub>2</sub>O masers)  
**Typical parallax accuracy ~0.02 mas**

**A flat Galactic rotation curve**  
 $R_0 = 8.15 \pm 0.15 \text{ kpc}$   
 $\Theta_0 = 236 \pm 7 \text{ km/s}$

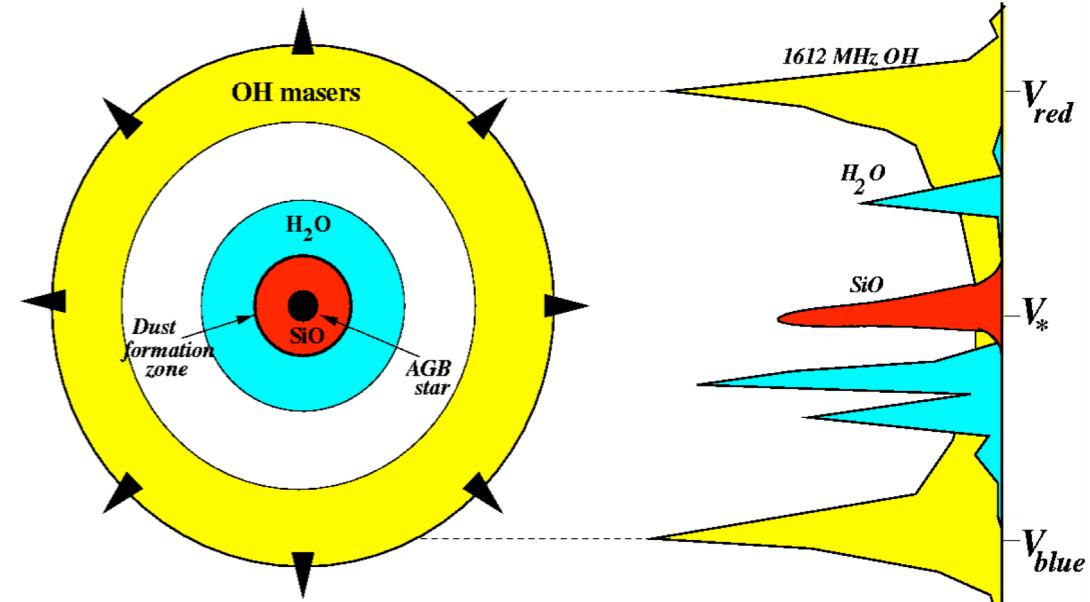
Reid et al. (2019)

**0.049 ± 0.006 mas**  
distance: 20.4 (+2.8, -2.2) kpc  
(Sanna et al. 2017)

**Very high accuracy**

# AGBs + SiO masers

- **Asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars:**  
a few Gyr & widely distributed & host maser  
> 2000 O-rich AGBs host SiO masers  
**OH & SiO masers trace stellar velocity**  
(e.g., Reid & Dickinson et al. 1976, Jiang et al. 1995,  
Sevenster 1999, Wu et al. 2018, Iwanek et al. 2023)



- **Bulge Asymmetries and Dynamical Evolution - BAaDE**  
survey ~28000 AGB/RGBs in the Galactic bulge and inner Galaxy for SiO maser emission at 7 & 3mm → **Dynamics of the Milky Way bar and bulge**  
(Trapp et al. 2018; Stroh et al. 2018, 2019; Lewis et al. 2020)
- No masers in streams were detected (Deguchi et al. 2010, Wu et al. 2018, 2022).
- **An off-plane O-rich AGBs catalog:**  
417 stars belong to the thick disk, the halo, and the Sgr stream (Mauron et al. 2019)

As a first step

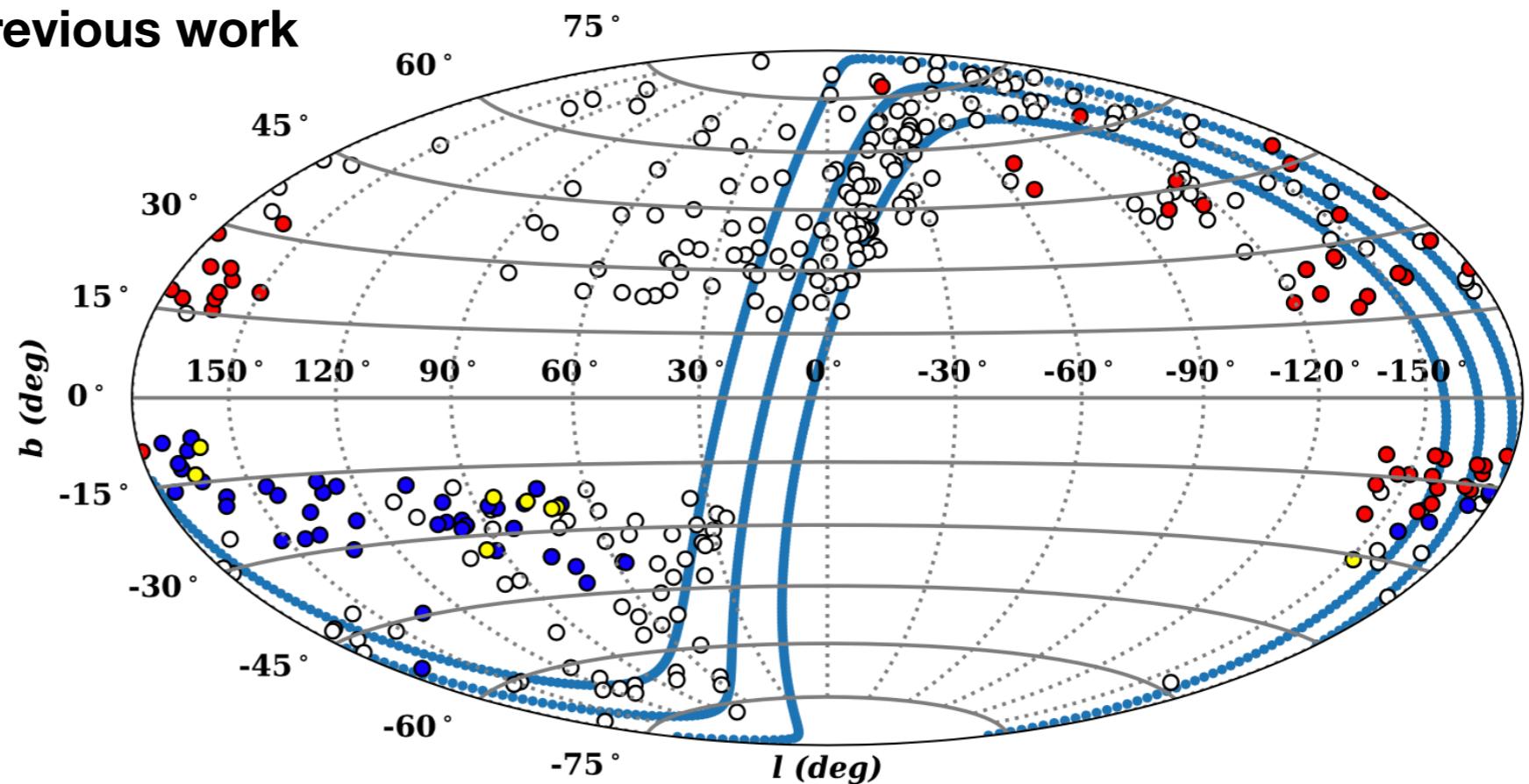
Find off-plane SiO masers → SiO maser VLBI measurements

- accurate distance, proper motions (6D)
- dynamics of the thick disk, halo (even streams)
- formation/merge history of the Milky Way

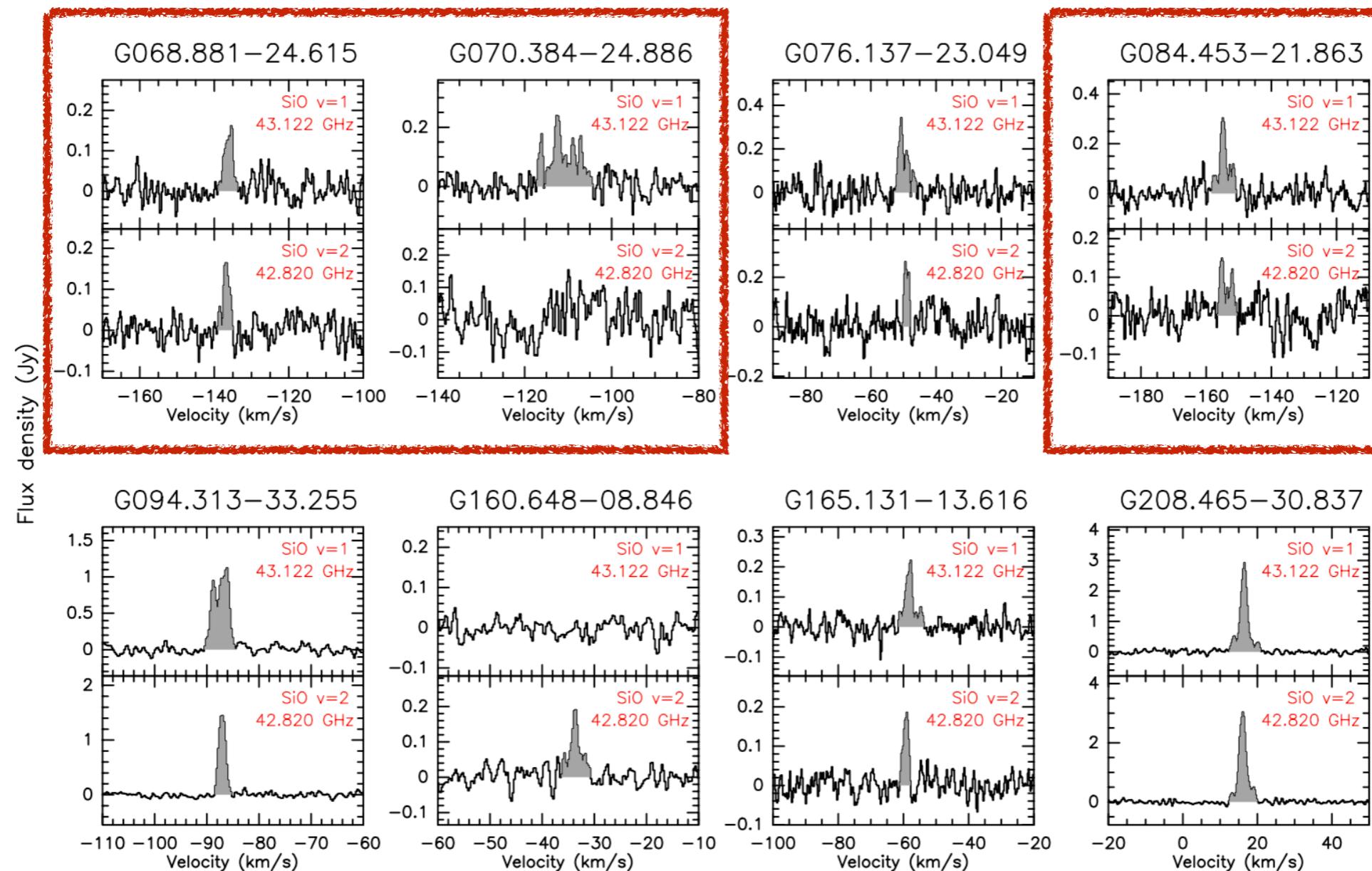
Motivation

# Observations

- **Targets:** 102 AGBs from Mauron et al. (2019)  
 $5 < \text{corrected Ks} < 11 \rightarrow \text{Faint stars}$
- **Targeted lines:** SiO  $J=1-0$ ,  $v=1$  (43.122030 GHz)  
 $v=2$  (42.820480 GHz)
- **Obs. dates:** 2022 Sep – 2023 Feb
- **rms:**  
52 stars,  $\sim 0.04$  Jy @ 0.27 km/s (Effelsberg-100 m)  
50 stars,  $\sim 0.03$  Jy @ 0.21 km/s (Tianma-65 m)  
**more sensitive than previous work**

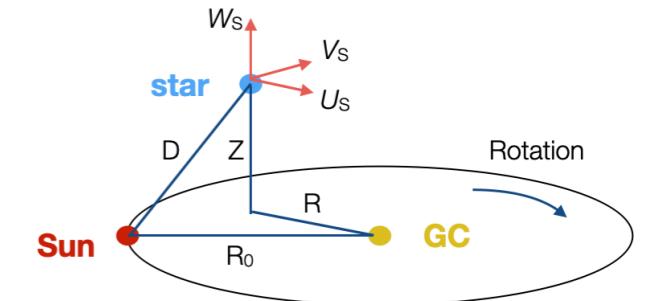


# Detection



- **Narrow line profile → maser**  
**All new maser detections**
- No stellar radial velocity given in the APOGEE DR17, RAVE DR6, Gaia DR3  
→ **Firstly provide the stellar velocity for the faint stars**
- **Three SiO masers with velocities < -100 km/s clearly offset circular motions**

# Revisit distances → Locations



WISE Period-Luminosity Relations dist. (Iwanek et al. 2023)

Gaia DR3 corrected parallax

GC dist.

Gaia DR3 proper motions

Peculiar motions

Name	Parallax	$D_{\text{m-PLR}}$	$D_{\text{adopt}}$	$R$	$Z$	$\mu_x$	$\mu_y$	$V_{\text{LSR}}$	$U_s$	$V_s$	$W_s$
	(mas)	(kpc)	(kpc)	(kpc)	(kpc)	(mas yr $^{-1}$ )	(mas yr $^{-1}$ )	(km s $^{-1}$ )	(km s $^{-1}$ )	(km s $^{-1}$ )	(km s $^{-1}$ )
G068.881–24.615	$0.0792 \pm 0.1530$	$4.79 \pm 1.07$	$5.1 \pm 1.7$	$8.1 \pm 0.7$	$-2.1 \pm 0.7$	$1.301 \pm 0.076$	$-6.217 \pm 0.066$	-136.0	$-184.61 \pm 7.50$	$-2.73 \pm 18.22$	$-33.52 \pm 27.03$
G070.384–24.886	$0.2647 \pm 0.1521$	$6.42 \pm 1.63$	$5.5 \pm 1.7$	$8.3 \pm 0.7$	$-2.3 \pm 0.7$	$-4.021 \pm 0.086$	$-5.380 \pm 0.082$	-112.6	$-92.18 \pm 31.43$	$69.83 \pm 20.85$	$44.46 \pm 5.30$
G076.137–23.049	$0.3277 \pm 0.3549$	$4.93 \pm 1.13$	$4.5 \pm 1.7$	$8.4 \pm 0.7$	$-1.8 \pm 0.7$	$-2.345 \pm 0.108$	$-3.974 \pm 0.098$	-50.0	$-56.83 \pm 7.42$	$-2.36 \pm 3.14$	$11.07 \pm 6.20$
G084.453–21.863	$0.2581 \pm 0.0869$	$5.96 \pm 1.33$	$5.1 \pm 1.2$	$9.2 \pm 0.6$	$-1.9 \pm 0.5$	$-1.759 \pm 0.064$	$-4.104 \pm 0.056$	-154.9	$-128.78 \pm 14.34$	$47.61 \pm 10.26$	$17.56 \pm 11.18$
G094.313–33.255	$0.3735 \pm 0.2583$	$2.27 \pm 0.66$	$2.4 \pm 1.2$	$8.6 \pm 0.5$	$-1.3 \pm 0.7$	$1.580 \pm 0.100$	$-5.730 \pm 0.098$	-86.6	$-102.64 \pm 12.92$	$1.02 \pm 5.44$	$-2.80 \pm 27.72$
G160.648–08.846	$0.6016 \pm 0.1818$	$4.06 \pm 0.98$	$2.9 \pm 1.4$	$10.9 \pm 1.3$	$-0.4 \pm 0.2$	$0.185 \pm 0.150$	$-1.859 \pm 0.091$	-33.5	$-15.14 \pm 7.35$	$13.79 \pm 7.04$	$-3.91 \pm 6.40$
G165.131–13.616	$0.1581 \pm 0.1387$	$6.07 \pm 1.31$	$5.7 \pm 1.6$	$13.6 \pm 1.6$	$-1.3 \pm 0.4$	$0.086 \pm 0.115$	$-1.818 \pm 0.072$	-58.3	$-36.11 \pm 13.97$	$34.92 \pm 6.45$	$-14.36 \pm 13.05$
G208.465–30.837	$0.3344 \pm 0.2696$	$2.73 \pm 1.06$	$2.8 \pm 1.2$	$10.4 \pm 1.0$	$-1.4 \pm 0.6$	$3.736 \pm 0.115$	$-0.374 \pm 0.094$	16.3	$-35.35 \pm 12.20$	$0.20 \pm 4.52$	$26.55 \pm 14.09$

With large uncertainties!

- Thin disk scale: ~120 to 300 pc; Thick disk scale: ~500 to 1400 pc

(e.g., Gilmore & Reid 1983; Jurić et al. 2008; de Jong et al. 2010)

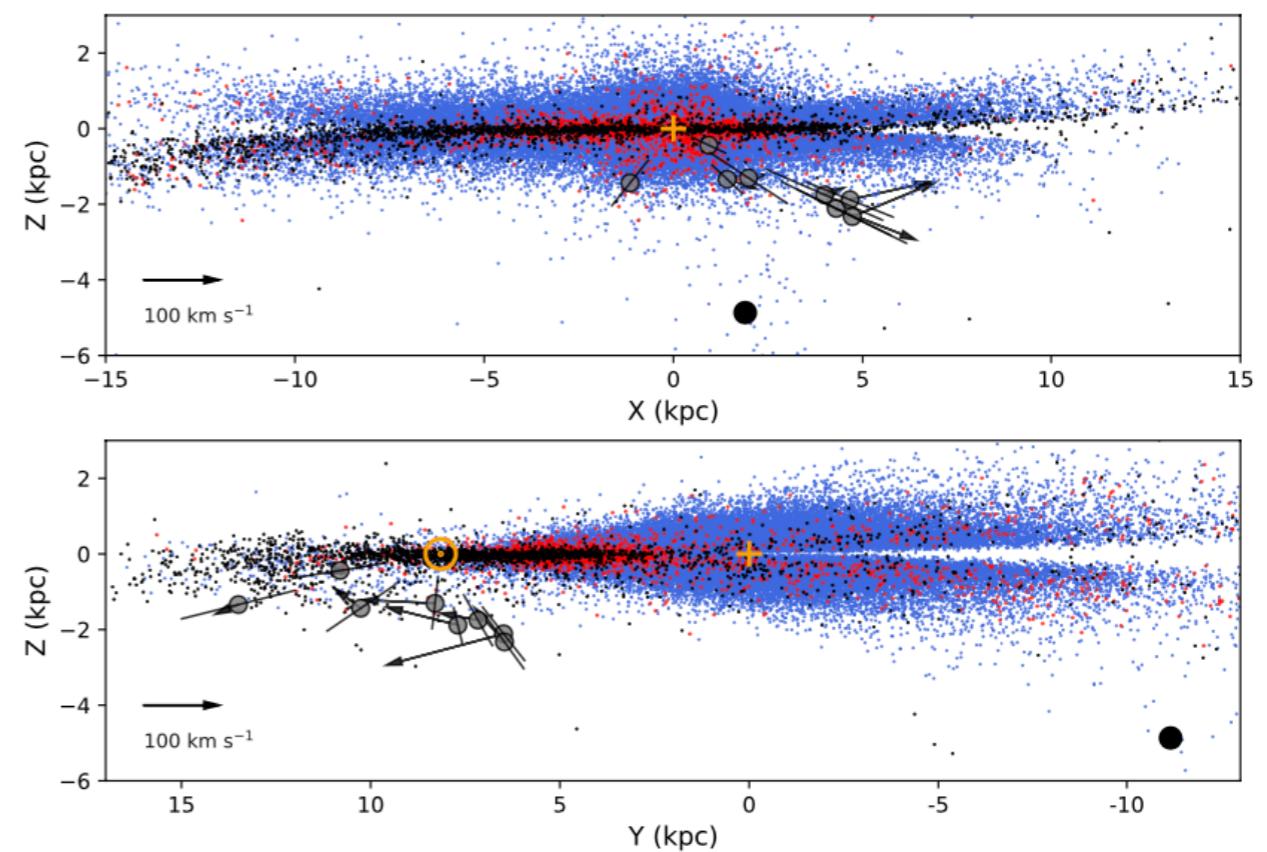
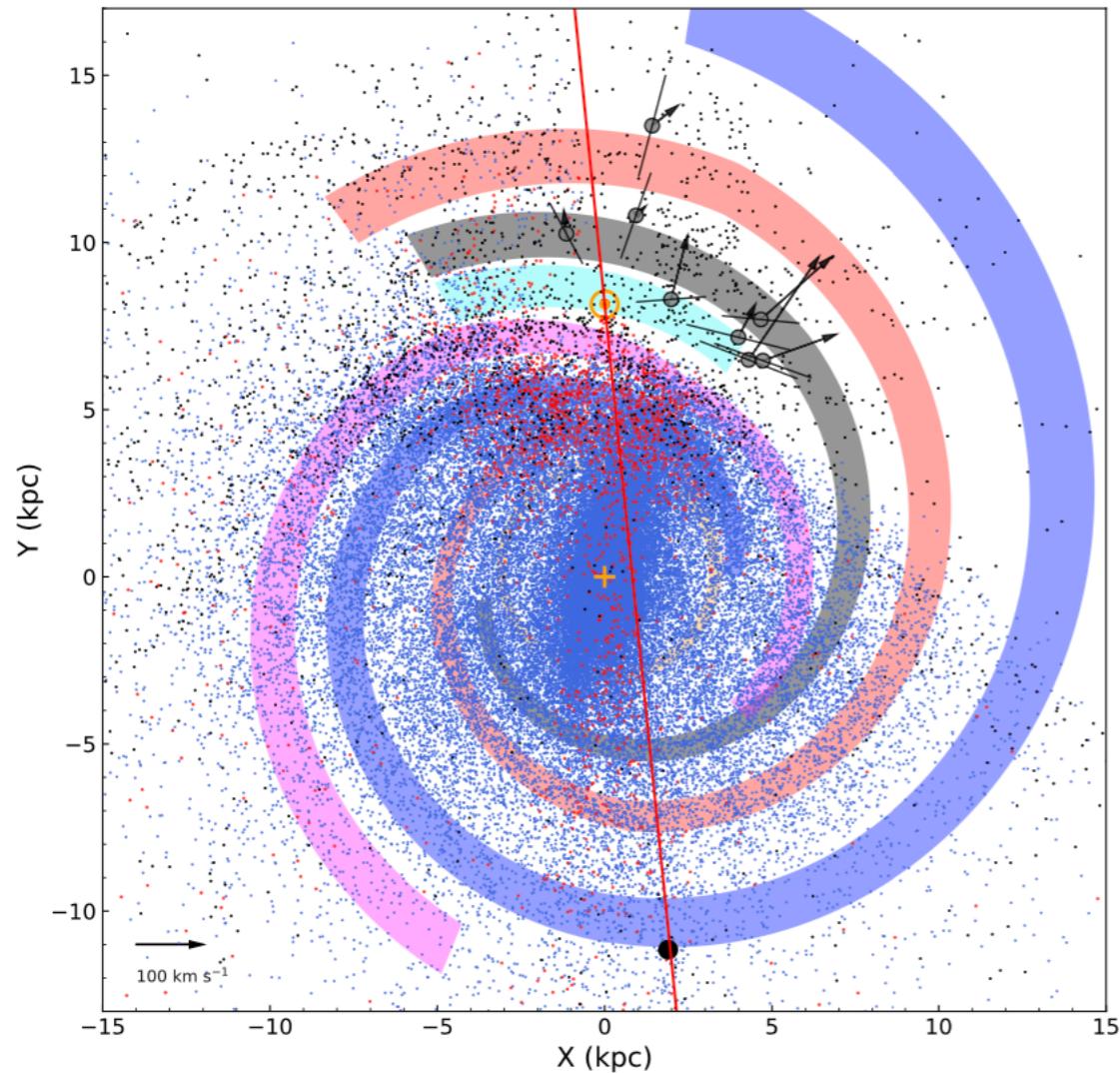
→ probably located in the thick disk (except for G160)

- $\sqrt{U_s^2 + V_s^2 + W_s^2} > 180 \text{ km s}^{-1}$

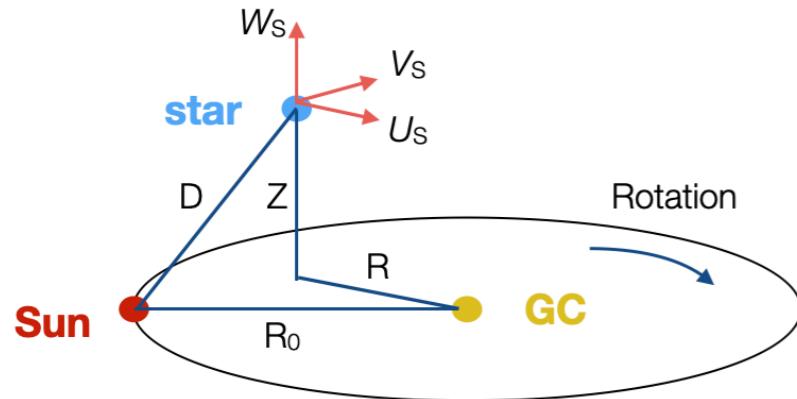
(e.g., Venn et al. 1994, Nissen & Schuster 2010)

→ G068 is likely to locate in the halo

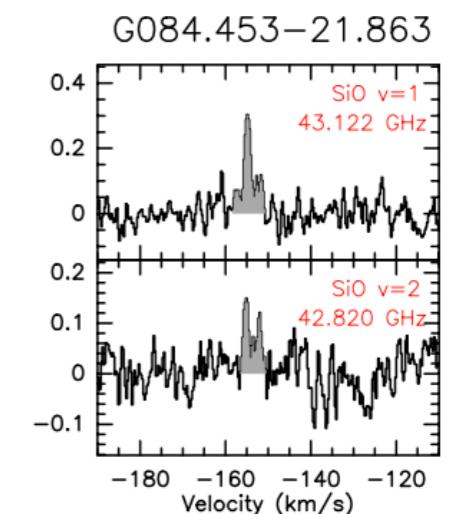
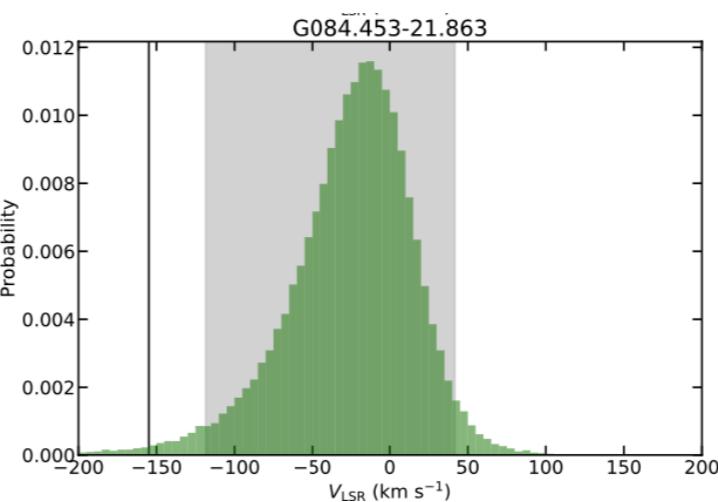
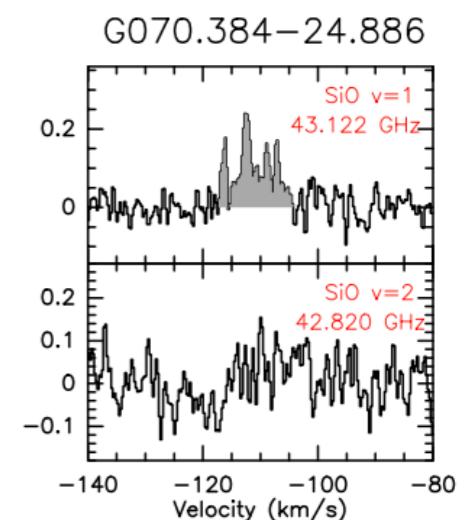
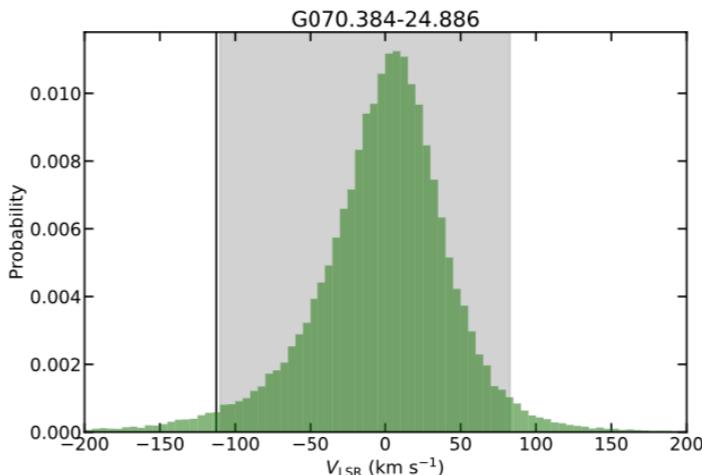
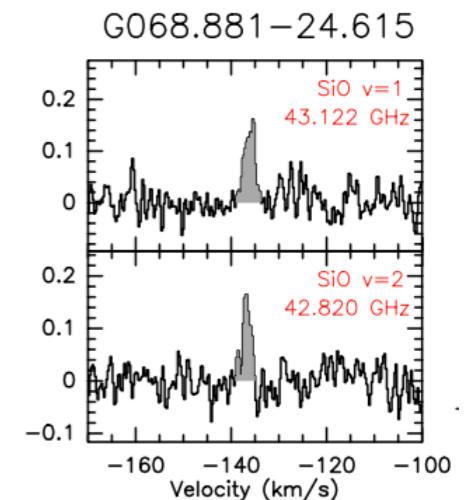
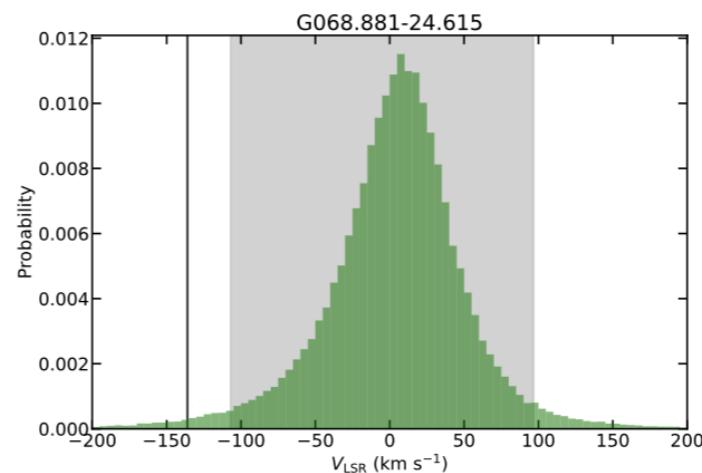
# Projections of 3D positions and 3D velocities



# Sources that offset circular motions



- **A flat Galactic rotation curve**  
 $R_0 = 8.15 \pm 0.15 \text{ kpc}$   
 $\Theta_0 = 236 \pm 7 \text{ km/s}$   
 (Reid et al. 2019)
- **Assume a velocity dispersion of 30 km/s in  $U_s$ ,  $V_s$ ,  $W_s$**
- **Monte Carlo analysis probability of LSR velocities if star follows circular motions**



## Summary

- **SiO masers are newly detected toward 8 off-plane O- rich AGBs firstly provide the stellar radial velocities for these stars**
- Based on the current 6D information,  
G068.881–24.615 is likely in Galactic halo,  
G160.648–08.846 is probably in the thin disk,  
and the other six stars are probably in the thick disk.
- **Future work:**
  - 1. Single-dish observations to search for more off-plane masers**  
(Effelsberg 100m proposal approved)
  - 2. VLBI measurements to determine the accurate distance**  
(EAVN proposal submitted)