

Radio/mm/sub-mm observations of AGB stars

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AGB stars

- Post central-helium burning stars ascending the second red giant branch (the asymptotic giant branch).
- Mass range $\approx 0.8 - 8 M_{\odot}$.
- Three chemical types: M- (C/O \approx 0.5 by number), S- (C/O \approx 0.5-1), C-stars (C/O $>$ 1).
- C-stars are found in the range $1.5 < M < 4 M_{\odot}$.
- Pulsating: Irregular, Semi-regular, and Long-period (Mira) variables.
- Intense stellar winds (10^{-8} to $>10^{-4} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$), and important contributors of elements and dust grains to the ISM.
- The progenitors of Planetary Nebulae.

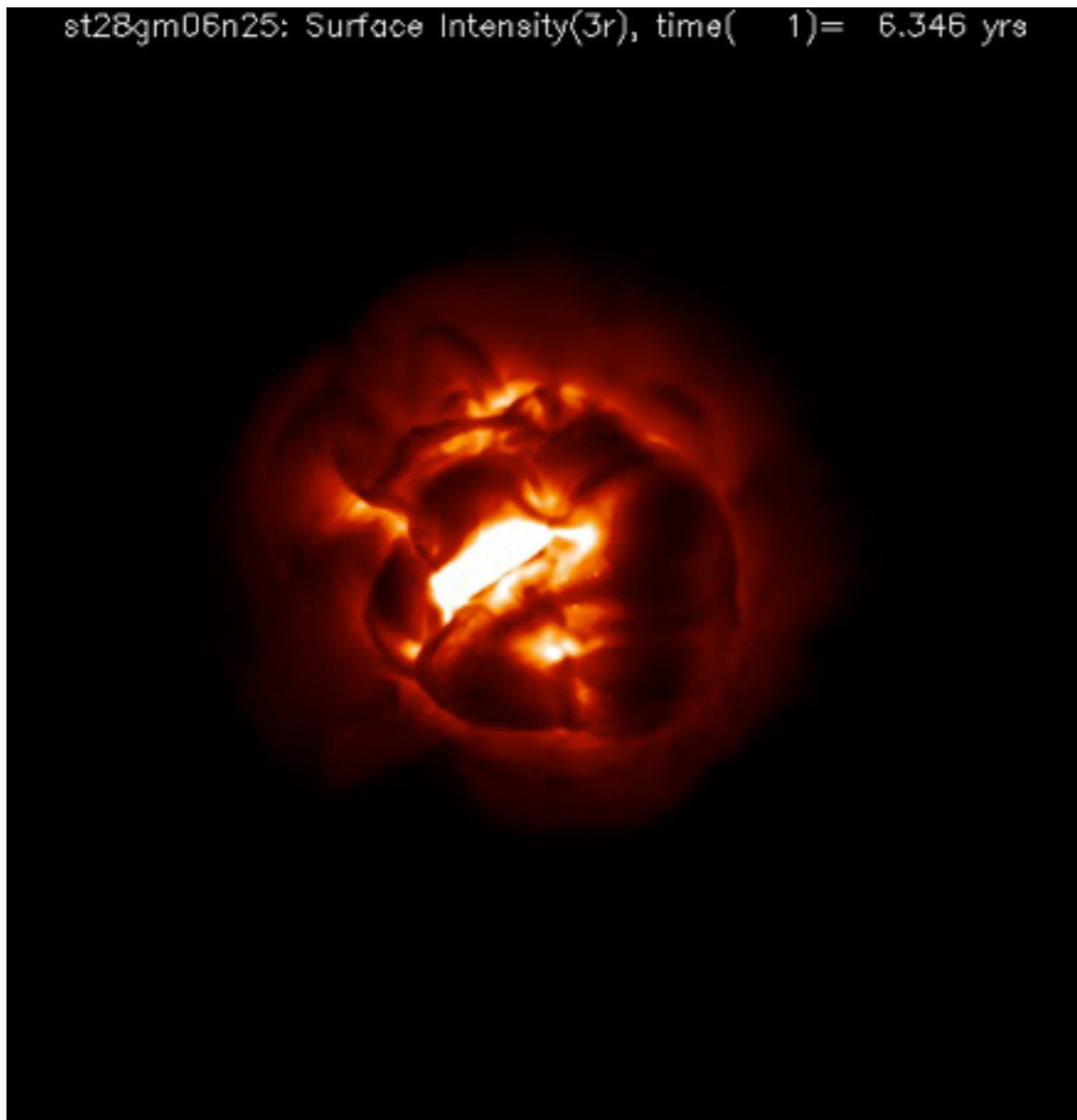
Central to this talk

Stellar surfaces & extended atmospheres

How do they look like?

We have reached the time when radio interferometers can resolve structures on the surface of a red giant star.

This will put important constraints on the modelling of the stars themselves and the initial conditions for mass loss.



Do they look like this?

3D simulations have come a long way, and they include convection, pulsation, and dust condensation

Pioneering work revealed a radio photosphere

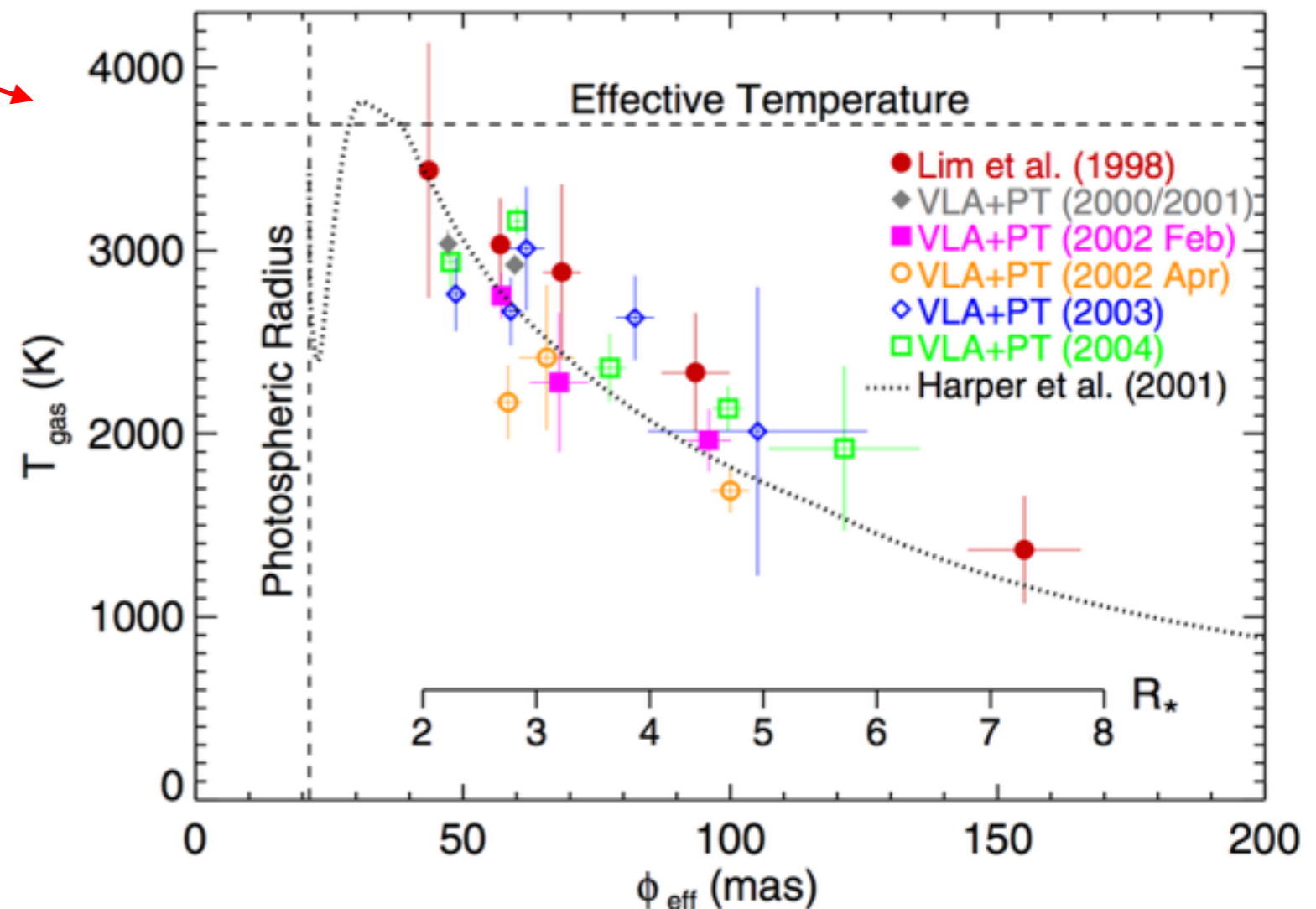
- Reid & Menten, ApJ 476, 327, 1997;
W Hya (M-star)
- Reid & Menten, ApJ 671, 2068, 2007;
o Ceti, R Leo, and W Hya (M-stars)
- O’Gorman et al., A&A 580, A101, 2015
 α Ori (RSG)

≈ 80 mas at 22 GHz

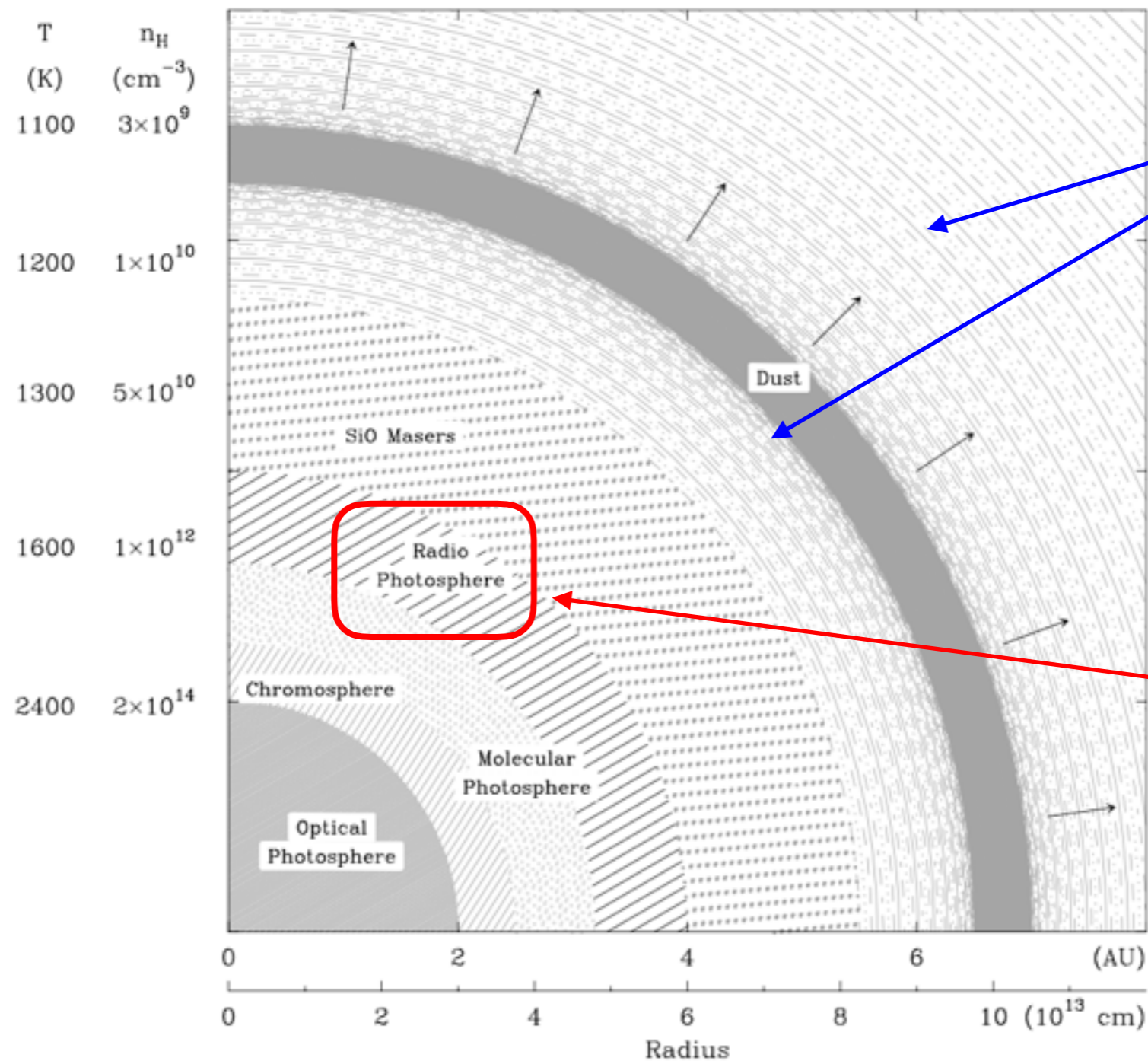
≈ 55 mas at 43 GHz

The size depends on the frequency!

This is what is expected. The surface where $\tau_{\text{ff}} \approx 1$ is wavelength dependent ($\nu^{-2.1}$).



A radio photosphere



The regions where the mass-loss characteristics (\dot{M} and v_∞) are determined.

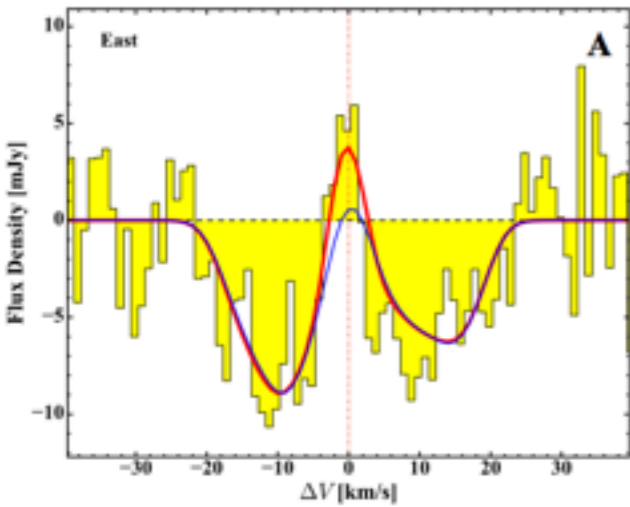
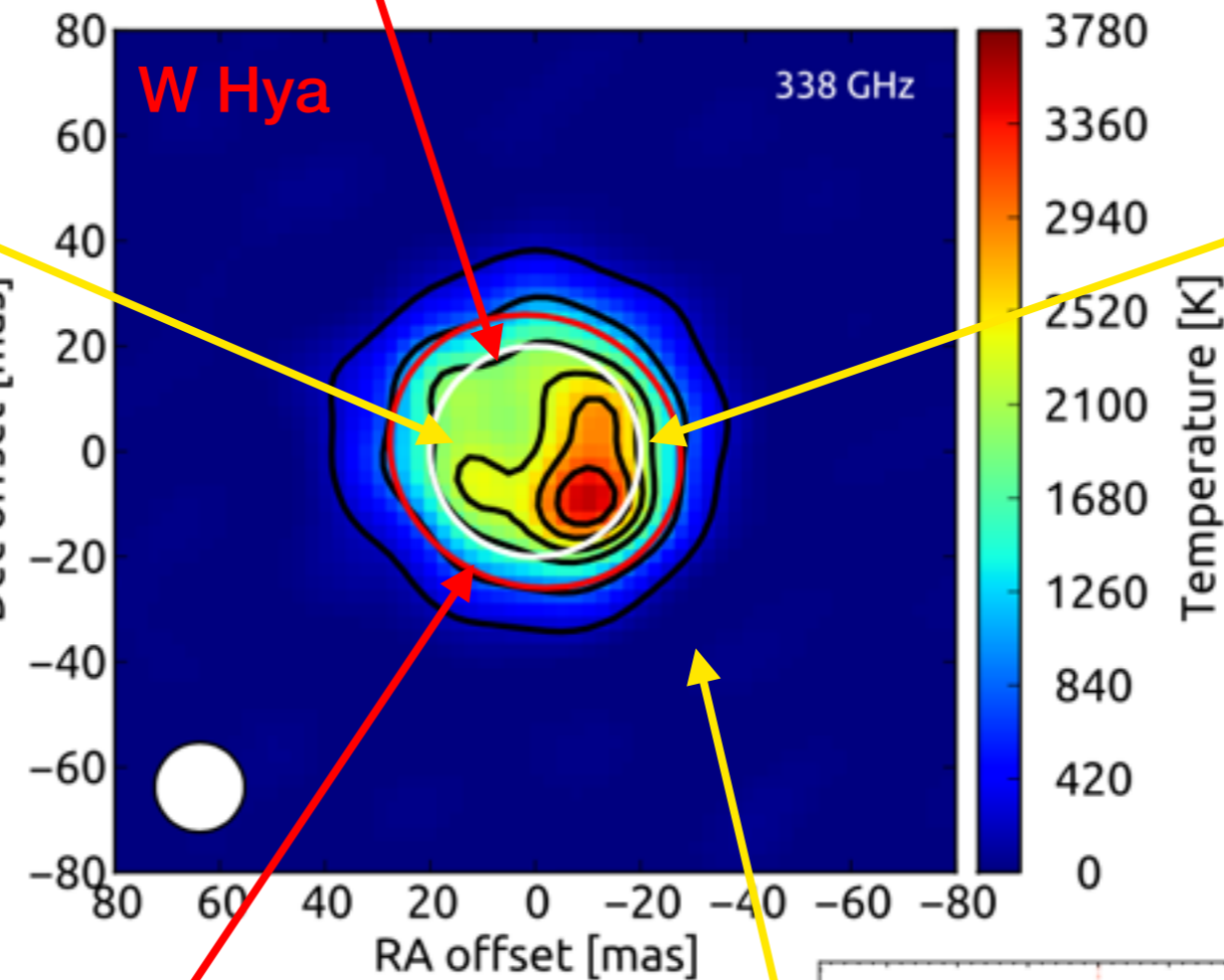
The location depends on v .

A very good probe of the extended atmosphere!

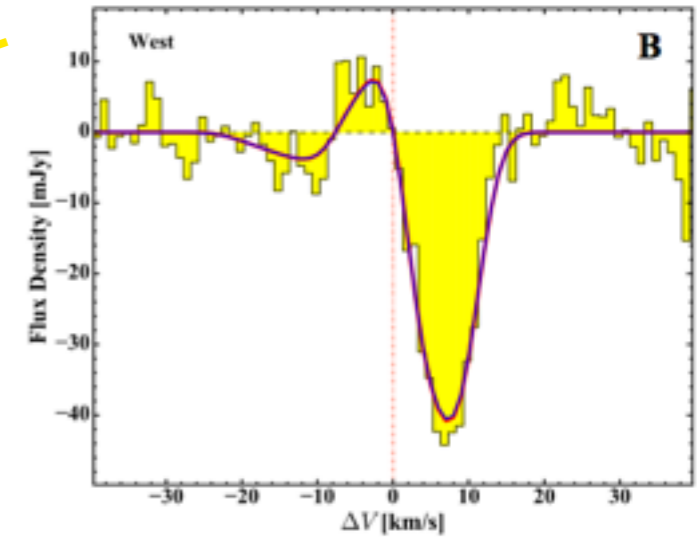
ALMA higher-frequency observations of W Hya

CO($v=1, J=3-2$)
 $E_{\text{up}} \approx 3120$ K

photospheric disk

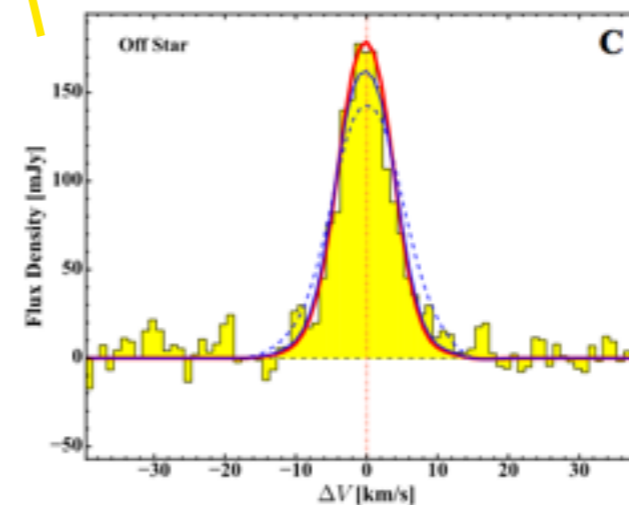


Eastern side



Western side

338 GHz disk
(\approx photospheric temperature)



Outside disk

Conclusions from this

- Gas with $T_b > 5 \times 10^4$ K (chromospheric characteristics) having a low volume filling factor.
- Shock velocities of ≈ 20 km/s.
- A warm (= 2900 K, photosphere is 2500 K) “stationary” molecular gas layer. Mass is enough for the mass-loss rate over ≈ 1000 yr (\Rightarrow all gas experience shock heating).
- A cool (≈ 900 K) molecular gas layer in the region of dust condensation.

Presently, not all of this is consistent with models!

This type of observations are difficult because:

- the stars are variable and multi-epoch data are required
- in addition, these are required at multi-wavelengths

Mass loss

The importance of AGB mass loss

The mass-loss rate determines the AGB evolution, in particular the number of dredge-ups and the maximum light reached.

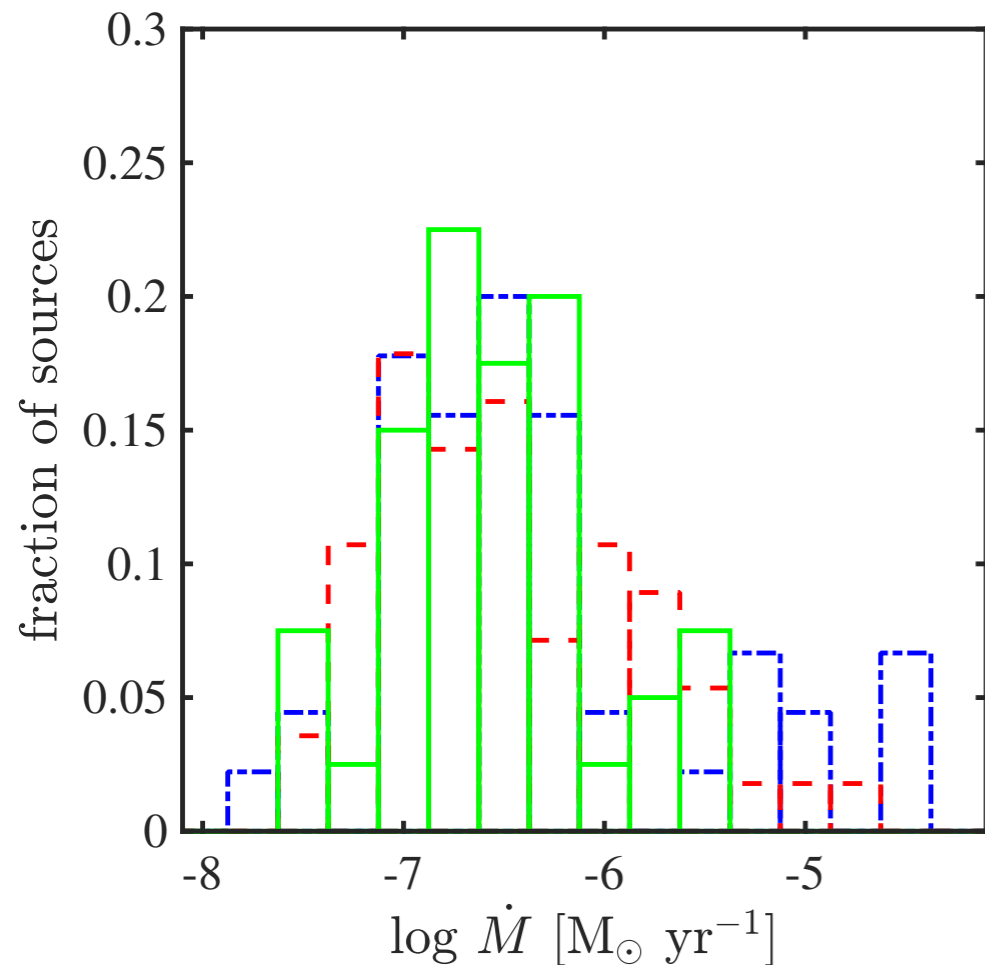
It is therefore crucial to determine its properties for stars in different phases of its AGB evolution.

However, the study is complicated by the fact that the mass-loss rate depends on stellar parameters like M , L , T_{eff} , and Z and their evolution with time on the AGB.

Any sample of (detected) stars will therefore be inhomogeneous and general conclusions are not always easily drawn.

The best mass-loss-rate estimator for these stars is CO rotational line emission from their circumstellar envelopes (CSEs).

Mass-loss rate & expansion velocity



CO data towards
nearby stars:

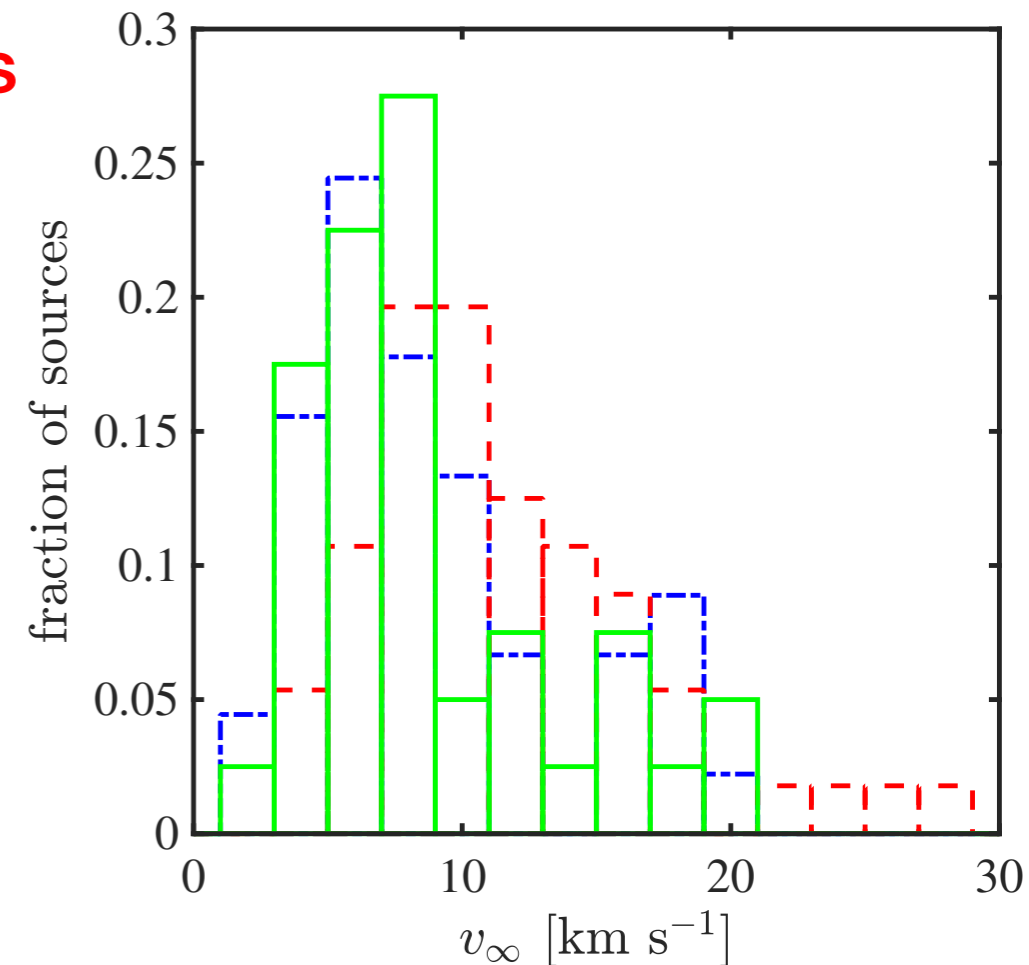
73 M-stars

40 S-stars

61 C-stars

+

Radiative
transfer CO
line modelling

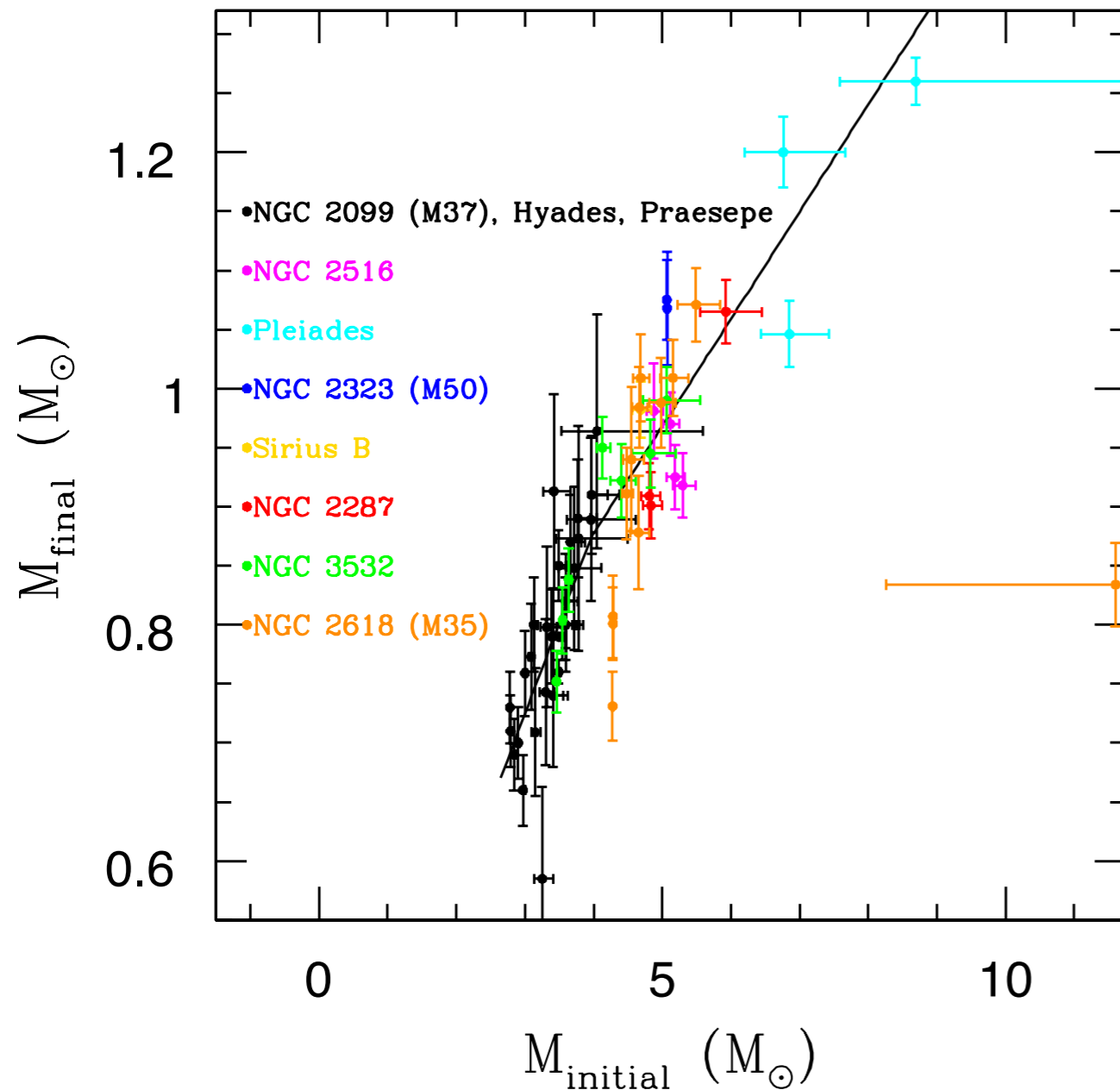


- Mass-loss rate independent of chemistry
- Expansion velocity (on average) somewhat higher for C-stars
- The mass return is dominated by the rare (<5%) high-mass-loss-rate objects ($> 10^{-5} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$)

Interferometric data can improve the accuracy of mass-loss-rate estimates.

Temporal evolution: Is there a superwind?

Various evidences point to a mass-loss rate that increases substantially at the end of the AGB evolution.



Initial-final mass relation

They must lose $M_i - M_f$.

This can be more than 80% of M_i .

Justtanont et al. (A&A 556,A101, 2013):

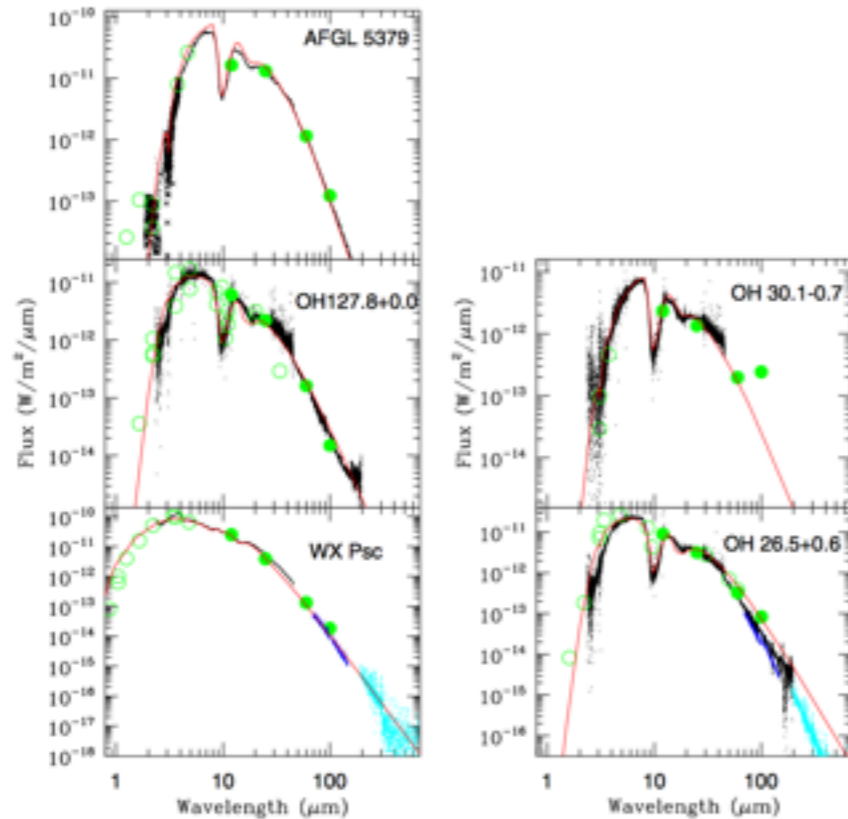


Fig. 1. SED fits for the sample stars (solid line) to the ISO spectra (black dots) and photometric points from IRAS (filled green circles). The PACS (blue dots) and SPIRE (cyan dots) spectra are also plotted when available. The published photometric data (open circles) are taken from Dyck et al. (1974) and Epchstein et al. (1980) for WX Psc, Persi et al. (1990) for OH 127.8+0.0, Garcia-Lario et al. (1997) and Lepine et al. (1995) for AFGL 5379, Werner et al. (1980) for OH 26.5+0.6, and Justtanont et al. (2006) for both OH 26.5+0.6 and OH 30.1-0.7.

4 extreme OH/IR-stars ($M \approx 5 M_{\odot}$):

$$\dot{M}_{\text{dyn}} \approx (2 - 10) \times 10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

but $\dot{M} \approx 3 \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ beyond $(1-3) \times 10^{16}$ cm to explain the low-J CO lines.

With $v_{\infty} \approx 15$ km/s this means that the SW phase has lasted for only $\approx 200 - 600$ yr.

Amount of mass lost during the SW is of the order $0.1 M_{\odot}$, but they need to lose about $4 M_{\odot}$ in total.

Independent evidence:

de Vries et al. (A&A 561, A75, 2014)

used the $69 \mu\text{m}$ feature to estimate that the outer radius of the SW must be $< 3 \times 10^{16}$ cm (≈ 500 yr).

Are there several SW phases for an individual star?

Measure the duration using ALMA and CO lines!

$$\dot{M}(M, L, T_{\text{eff}}, P, Z)$$

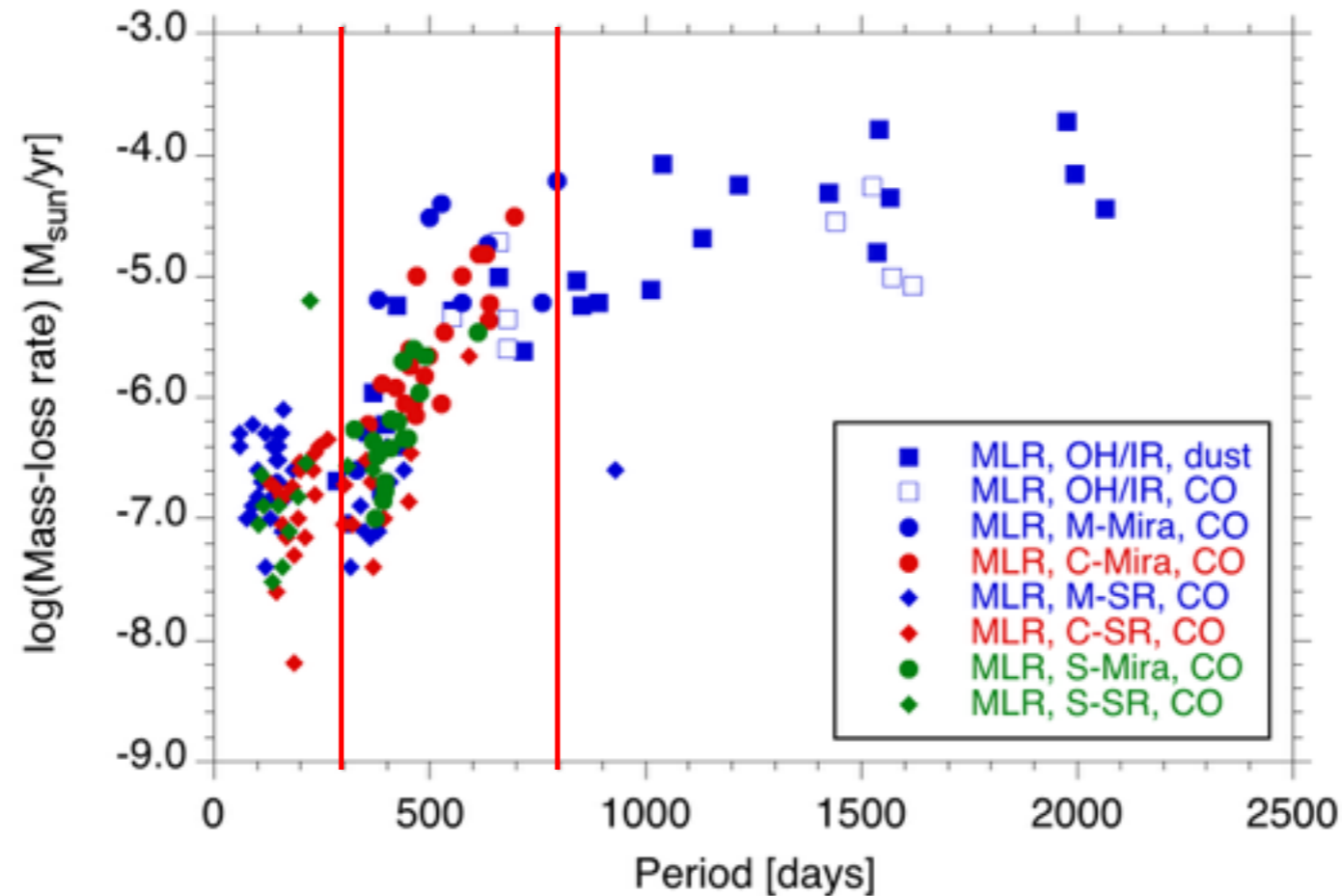
A mass-loss-rate prescription where the mass-loss rate can be calculated from stellar characteristics are important for stellar population and chemical yields modelling.

In particular, for estimating the contribution from AGB stars to galactic light, dust production, and element synthesis.

Observationally a very difficult problem due to observational biases and the correlation of different stellar parameters, meaning very difficult to determine dependences on for instance M , L , and T_{eff} .

A mass-loss-rate prescription

Best correlation is that between mass-loss rate and pulsational period.



The correlation in the range $300^{\text{d}} < P < 800^{\text{d}}$ is most likely a combined effect of decreasing mass and increasing luminosity.

This lead to the best mass-loss-rate prescription so far:

$$\log \dot{M}(M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}) = -11.4 + 0.0123P \text{ (days)} .$$

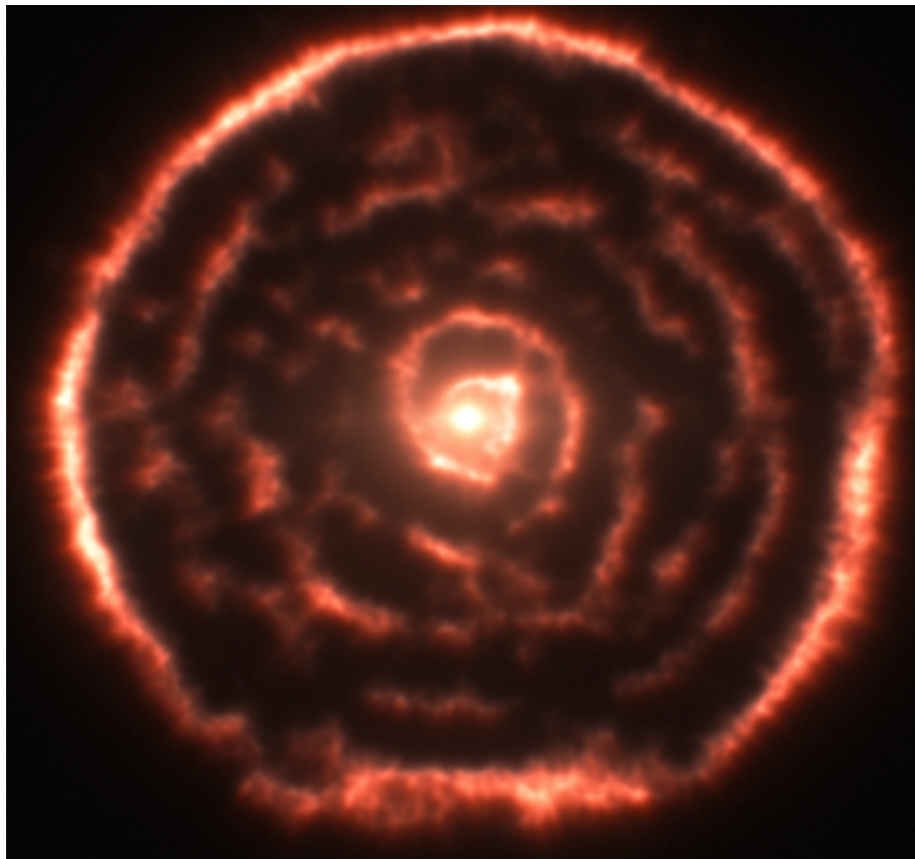
$$\log P \text{ (days)} = -2.07 + 1.94 \log R/R_{\odot} - 0.9 \log M/M_{\odot}$$

Vassiliadis & Wood
ApJ 413, 641 (1993)

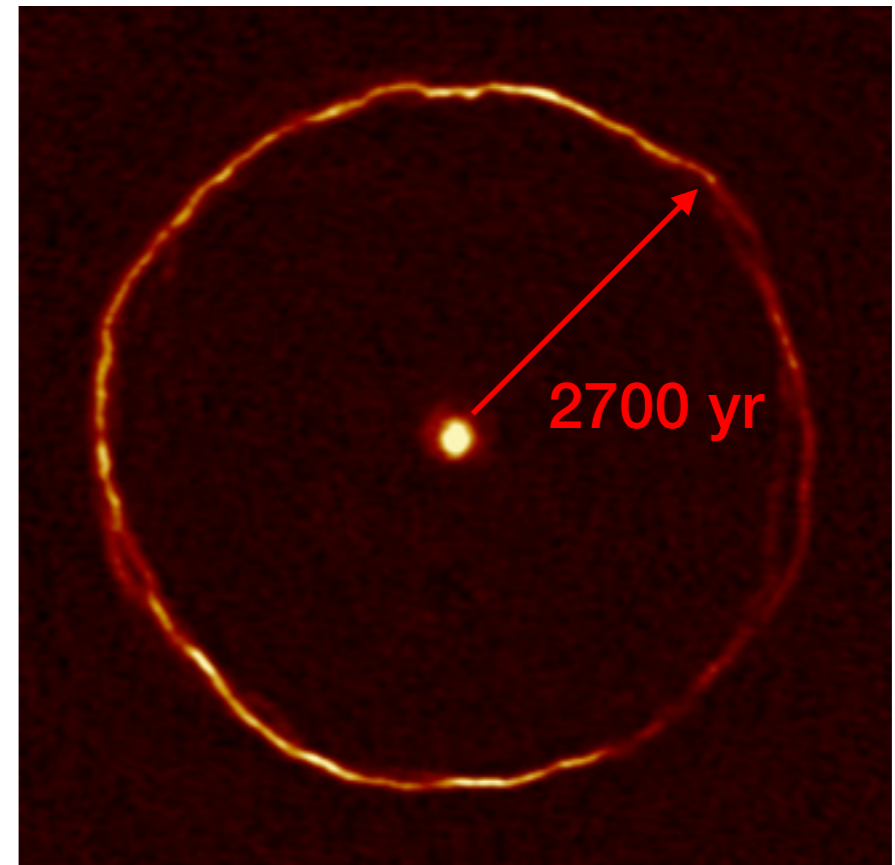
An object, caught in action when the changes in stellar parameters are known, may be the “Rosetta stone” in this context.

Mass-loss rate variation during and after a thermal pulse, the He-shell flash phenomenon.

$^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)$ image of R Scl (ALMA)
Maercker et al. Nature 409, 232 (2012)



$^{12}\text{CO}(2-1)$ image of U Ant (ALMA),
Kerschbaum et al. A&A 605, A116 (2017)



The mass-loss-rate history may be the same for these two objects. It is the effect of the companion to R Scl that makes the CO line emission from the intershell region detectable in that case.

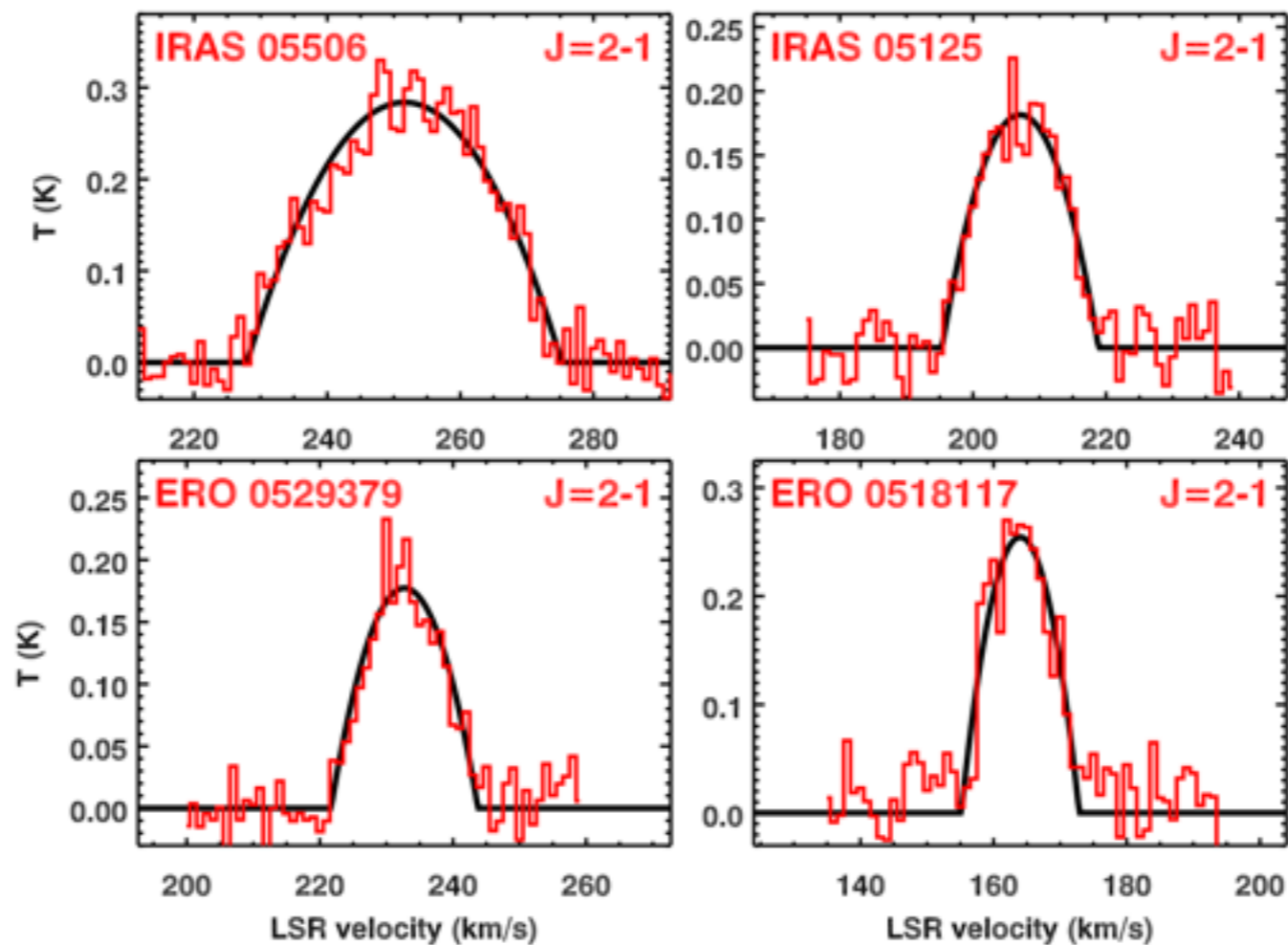
Central to astrophysics is the mass-loss-rate dependence on metallicity.

This requires samples of more distant (extragalactic) sources observed in CO, hence ALMA !!

Lower Z means:

- Lower CO abundance in both M- and C-stars.
- Often smaller CO envelopes due to more intense UV field and lower CO abundance.
- Both effects lower the CO line intensities.

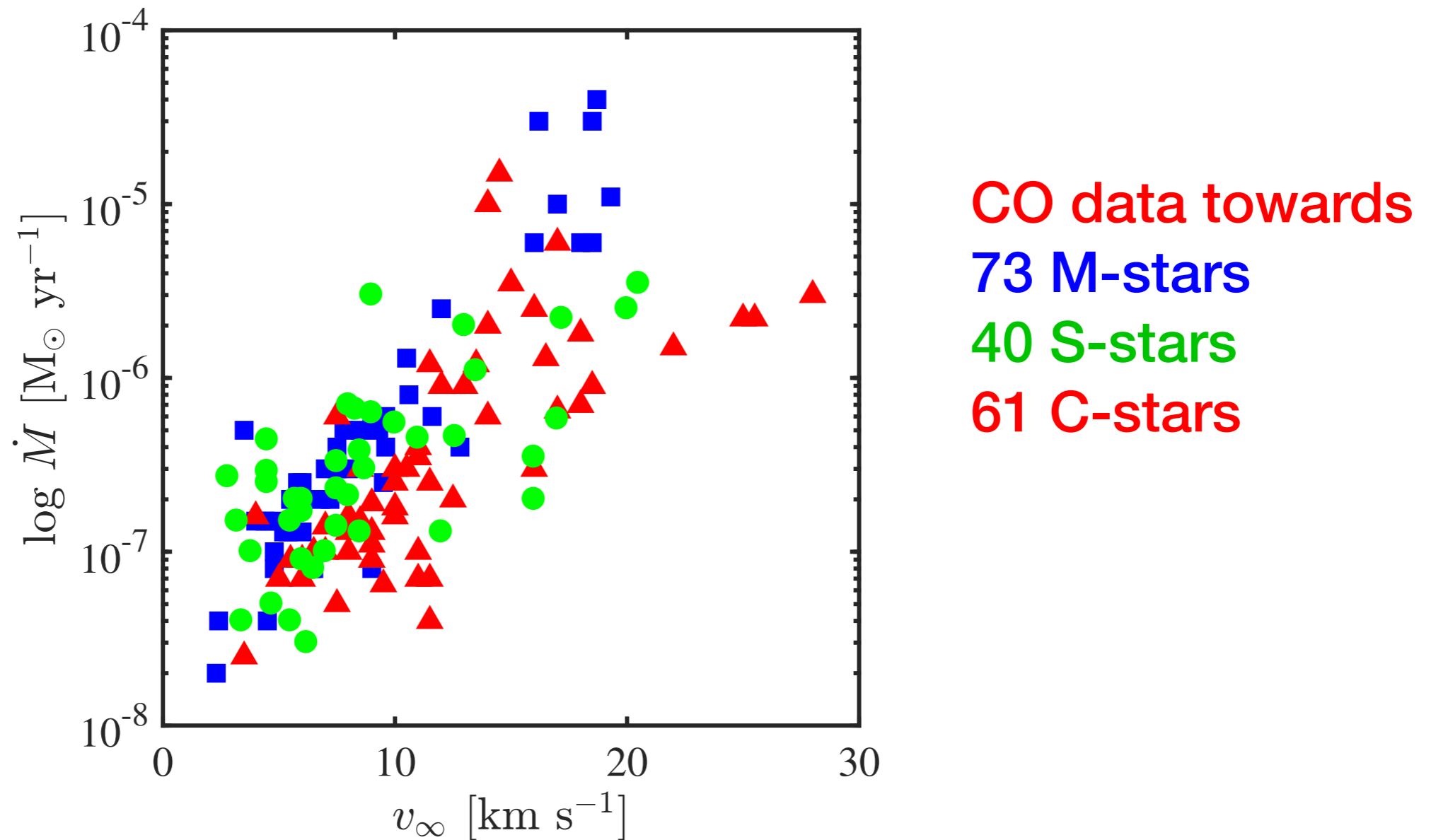
Four C-stars detected in CO in the LMC using ALMA.



The LMC has $0.5 Z_{\odot}$, and it would be very interesting to try also the SMC at $0.2 Z_{\odot}$.

It will most likely be difficult to go beyond the MCs to detect AGB stars in CO rotational line emission, even with ALMA.

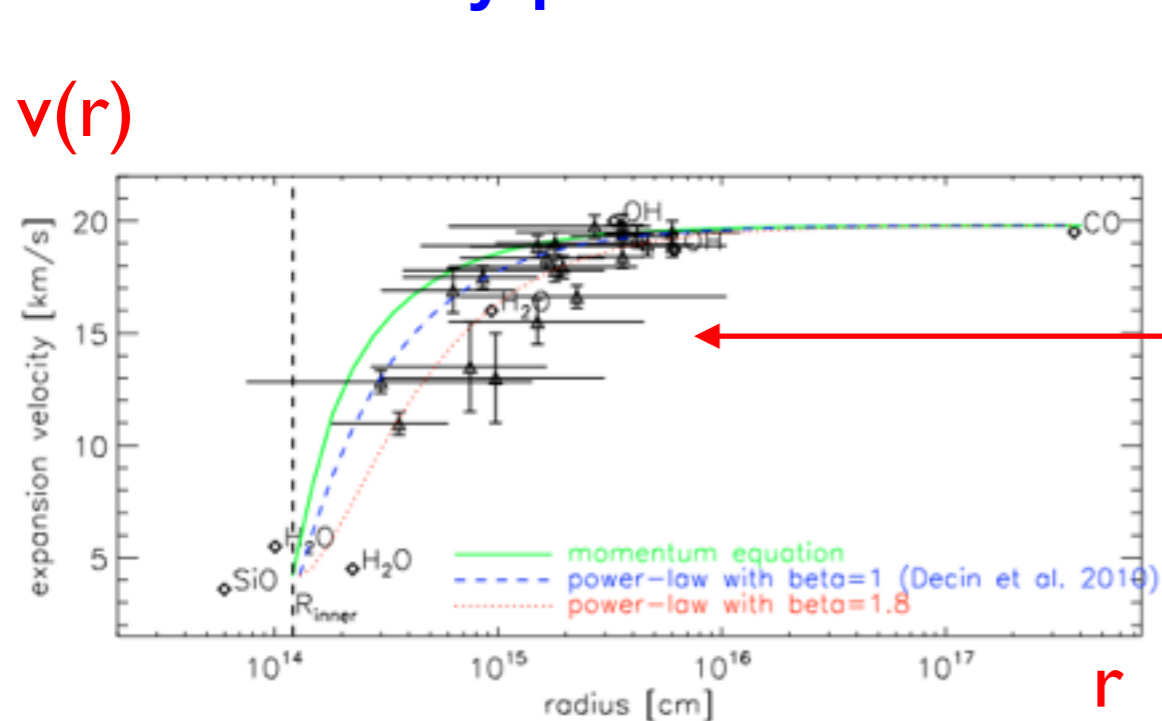
Mass-loss rate vs. expansion velocity



Important constraint on any viable mass-loss mechanism !!

The velocity profile

Decin et al. (A&A 521, L14, 2010) used Herschel CO, H₂O, SiO, to derive velocity profile for IK Tau.



$$v(r) \simeq v_0 + (v_\infty - v_0) \left(1 - \frac{R_\star}{r}\right)^\beta$$

IK Tau $\beta=1.8$

W Hya $\beta=5$ (Khouri et al.)

W Aql $\beta=2$ (Danilovich et al.)

A simple acceleration model assuming dust-driven wind yields $\beta \approx 0.4-0.7$!!

Any viable mass-loss mechanism must adhere to the behaviour in the acceleration zone !!

The atomic CSE & HI 21 cm line

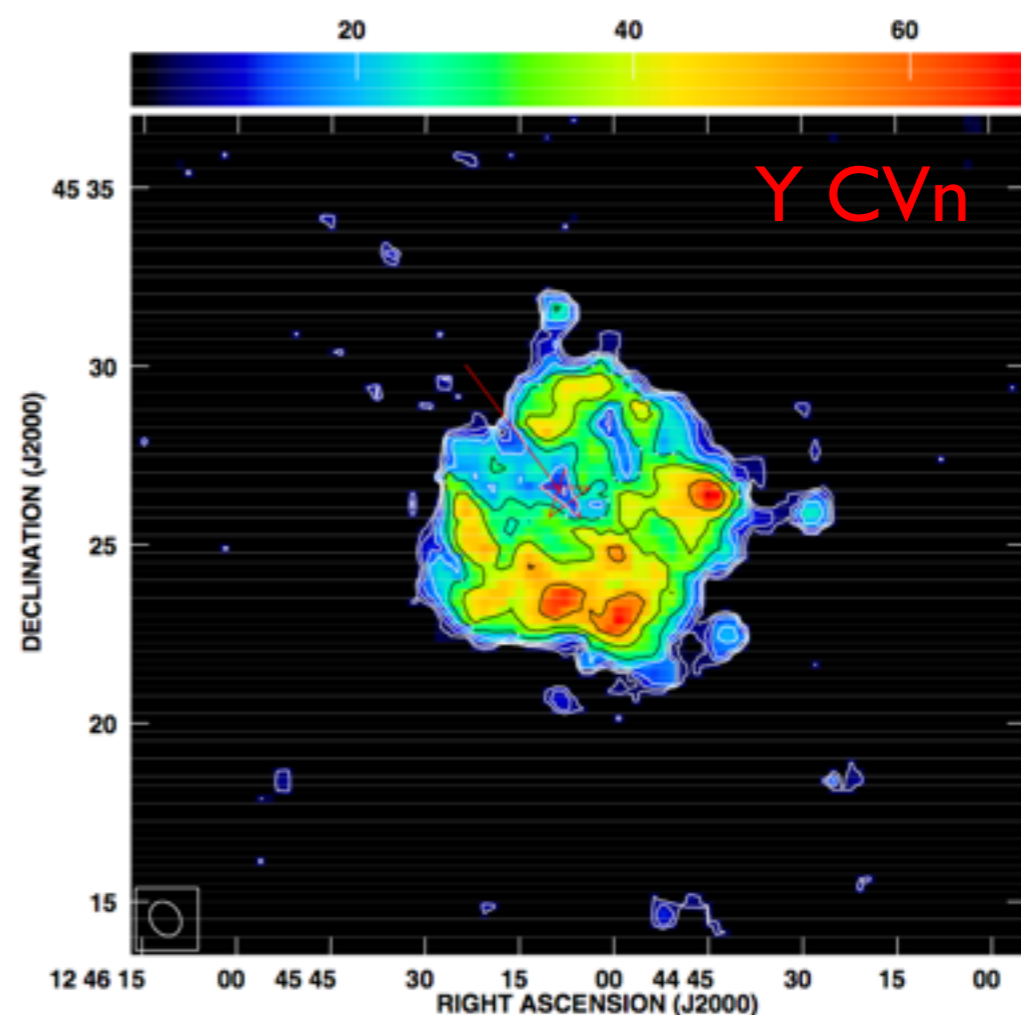
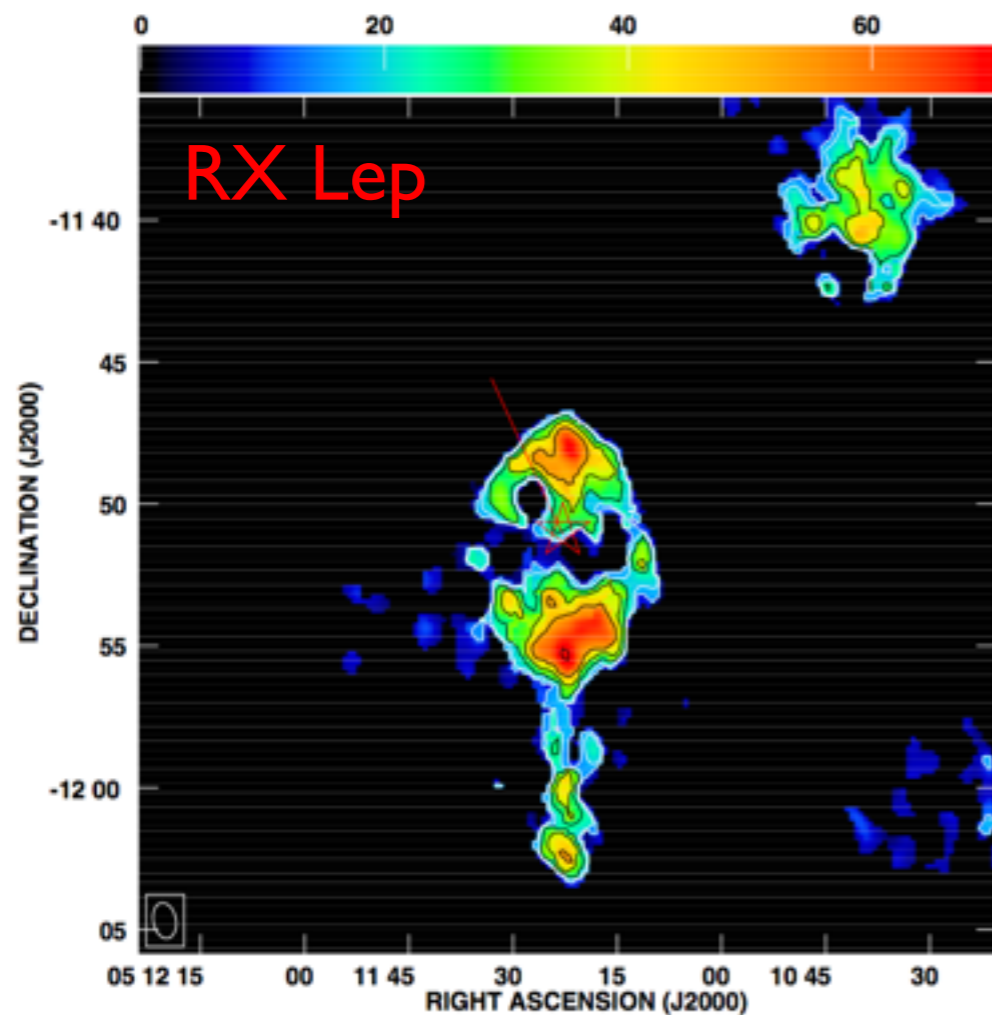
The CSEs ought to be partly atomic, e.g., HI, but this is a difficult observational problem due to the ubiquitous interstellar HI emission.

Conclusions so far from Nancay survey of ≈ 100 stars of different chemical types, variability types, and mass-loss rates in the HI 21 cm line (Gerard, Le Bertre, Libert, et al.):

- High detection rates for low mass-loss rates ($< 10^{-7} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$; irregulars and semi-regulars), but lower for Miras.
- Double-component line profiles: suggesting an expanding, decelerated wind, and a quasi-stationary shell of material that accumulates between the termination shock and the ISM.
- Total HI masses are only of the order few $\times (10^{-3} - 10^{-2}) M_{\odot}$
- HI line centroids are often displaced towards zero velocity (in LSR scale).

Conclusions from VLA imaging of about a dozen sources in HI 21cm line (Matthews et al.):

- Confirm that the HI envelopes are characterised by both their inherent properties and their interaction with the ISM.
- Deceleration of the gas is measured; this gives an age estimate of the mass-losing history of the star.



Chemistry

Table 1: Molecules detected in AGB CSEs

<i>2-atoms:</i>	AlCl	CN	KCl	SiC
	AlF	CP	NaCl	SiN
	AlO	CS	OH	SiO
	C ₂	ClH	PN	SiS
	CO	FH	PO	SO
<i>3-atoms:</i>	AlNC	CO ₂	HNC	SiC ₂
	C ₃	FeCN	KCN	SiCN
	C ₂ H	HCN	MgCN	SiCSi
	C ₂ N	HCP	MgNC	SiNC
	C ₂ P	H ₂ O	NaCN	SO ₂
	C ₂ S	H ₂ S		
<i>4-atoms:</i>	<i>c</i> -C ₃ H	C ₃ S	H ₂ CS	NH ₃
	<i>ℓ</i> -C ₃ H	C ₂ H ₂	HMgNC	PH ₃
	C ₃ N	HC ₂ N	MgC ₂ H (?)	SiC ₃
	C ₃ O	H ₂ CO	NC ₂ P (?)	
<i>5-atoms:</i>	C ₅	<i>c</i> -C ₃ H ₂	CH ₂ NH	H ₂ C ₃
	C ₄ H	CH ₂ CN	HC ₃ N	HNC ₃
	C ₄ Si	CH ₄	HC ₂ NC	SiH ₄
<i>6-atoms:</i>	C ₅ H	C ₅ S	CH ₃ CN	H ₂ C ₄
	C ₅ N	C ₂ H ₄	HC ₄ N	SiH ₃ CN (?)
<i>≥ 7-atoms:</i>	C ₆ H	CH ₂ CHCN	HC ₇ N	
	C ₇ H	CH ₃ CCH	HC ₉ N	
	C ₈ H	HC ₅ N	H ₂ C ₆	
<i>Ions:</i>	C ₄ H ⁻	C ₆ H ⁻	C ₈ H ⁻	HCO ⁺
	CN ⁻	C ₃ N ⁻	C ₅ N ⁻	

The number of detected molecules in AGB-CSEs is impressive: 90 + 3?

To this can be added a few that are unique to the post-AGB objects.

The importance of circumstellar astrochemistry:

- Reasonably well-defined boundary conditions.
- Three different chemistries ($C/O < 1$, ≈ 1 , > 1).
- Possibility to do time-resolved chemistry.
- Necessary for estimating elemental abundances of highly obscured objects.
- The possibility to study dust formation in detail.

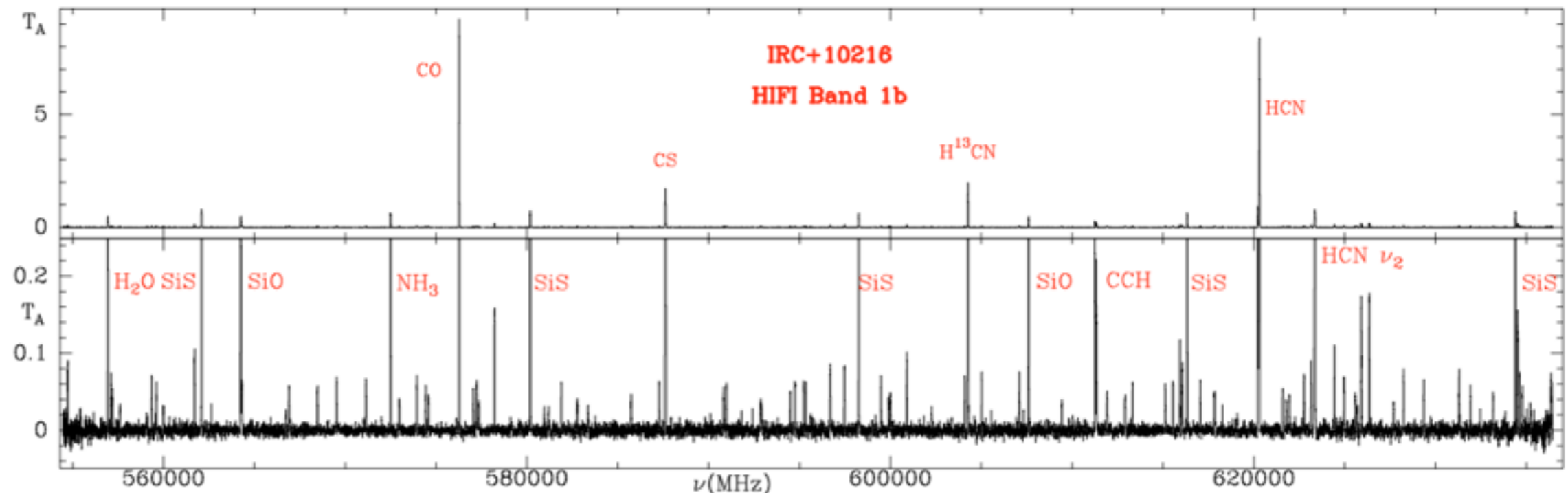
These studies can be done in different ways!

Unbiased spectral scans

The importance of unbiased spectral scans for understanding circumstellar chemistry must be emphasized !!

The spectral scans at 3, 2, and 1.3 mm of CW Leo (IRC+10216) done at the IRAM 30m telescope have lead to an unprecedented number of new circumstellar molecules detected.

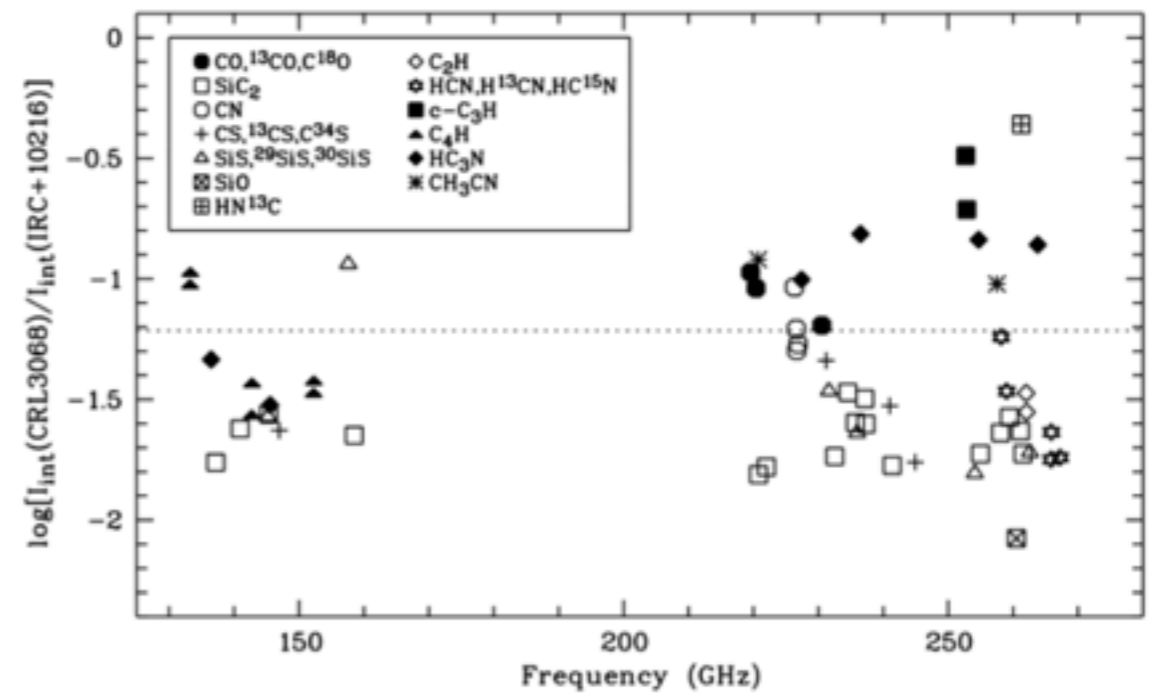
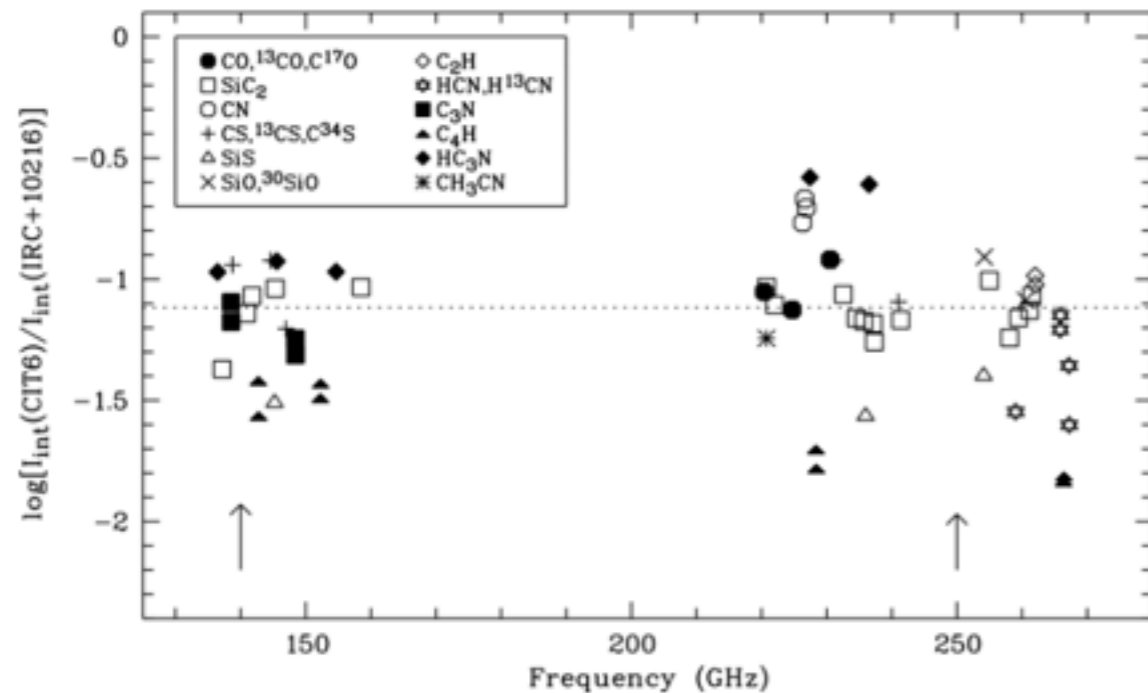
Herschel added to this.



Additional C-stars

Zhang et al. (ApJ 691, 1660, 2009):
ARO/SMT spectral scan of RW LMi
131 – 160, 219 – 244, 252 – 268 GHz
74 lines were detected;
5 were unassigned

Zhang et al. (ApJ 700, 1262, 2009):
ARO/SMT spectral scan of AFG L3068
130 – 162, 220 – 268 GHz
72 lines were detected;
3 were unassigned



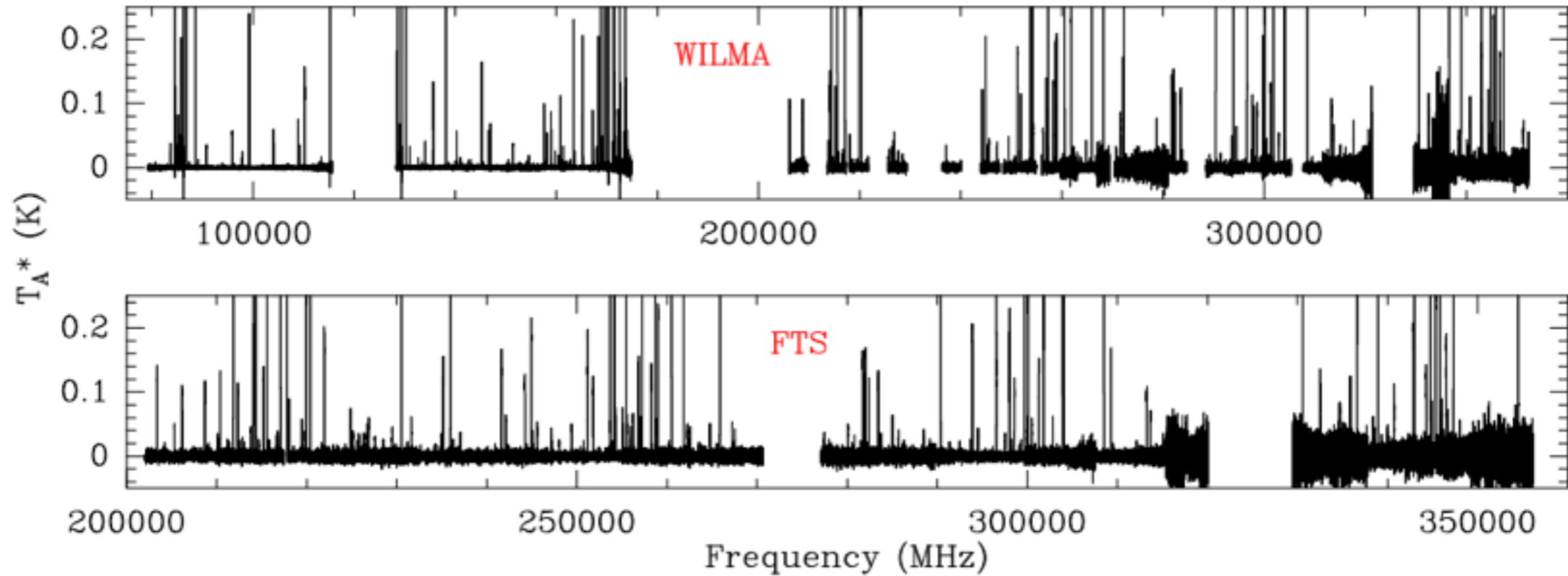
Enhanced emission from CN and HC₃N,
 depleted emission from HCN, SiS, and
 C₄H in RW LMi (compared to CW Leo).

A more extensive synthesis of cyclic
 and long-chain molecules in
 AFG L3068 (compared to CW Leo).

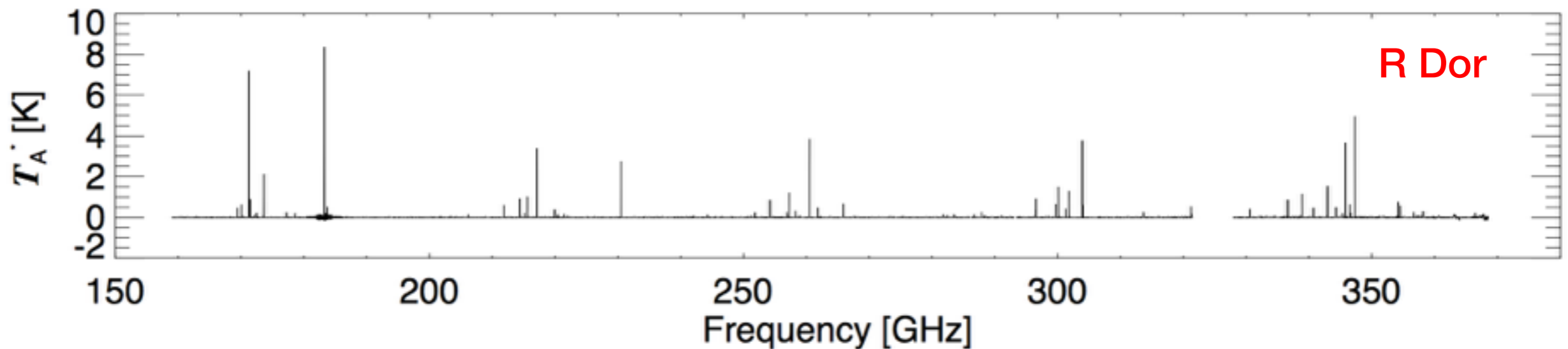
Interesting differences between sources are emerging.

Also M-stars

Velilla Prieto et al. (A&A 597, A25, 2017) survey of IK Tau:

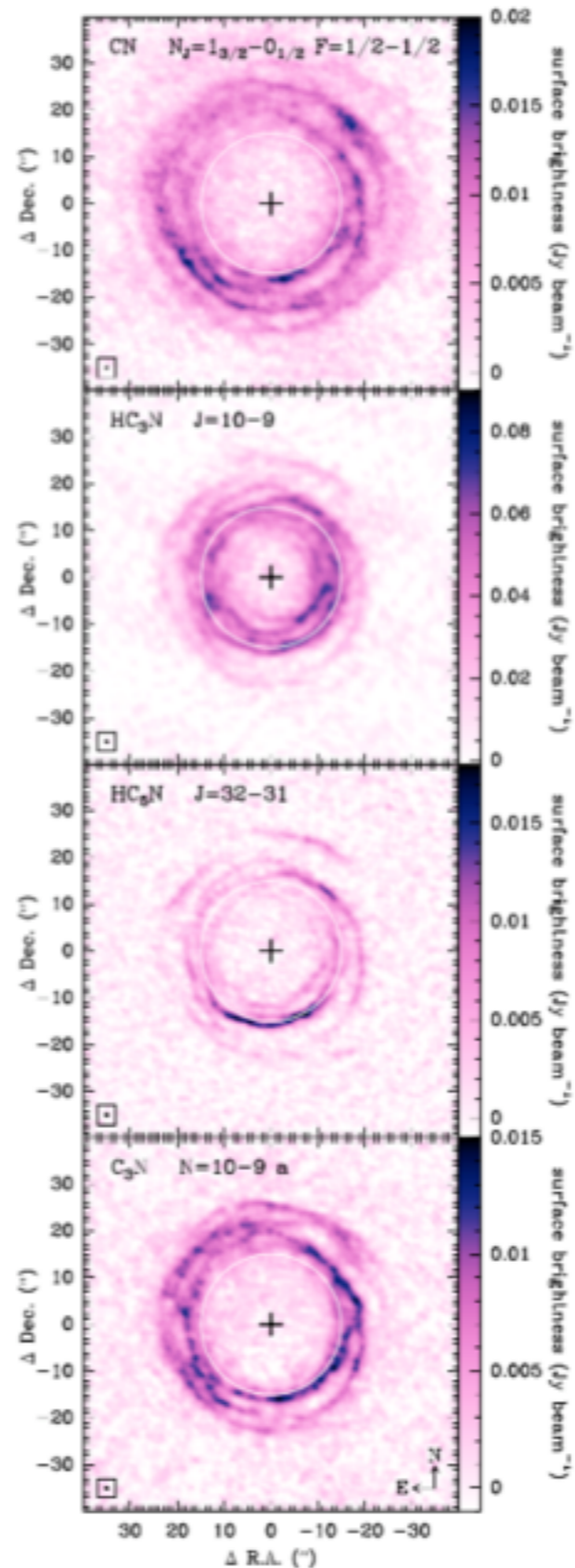
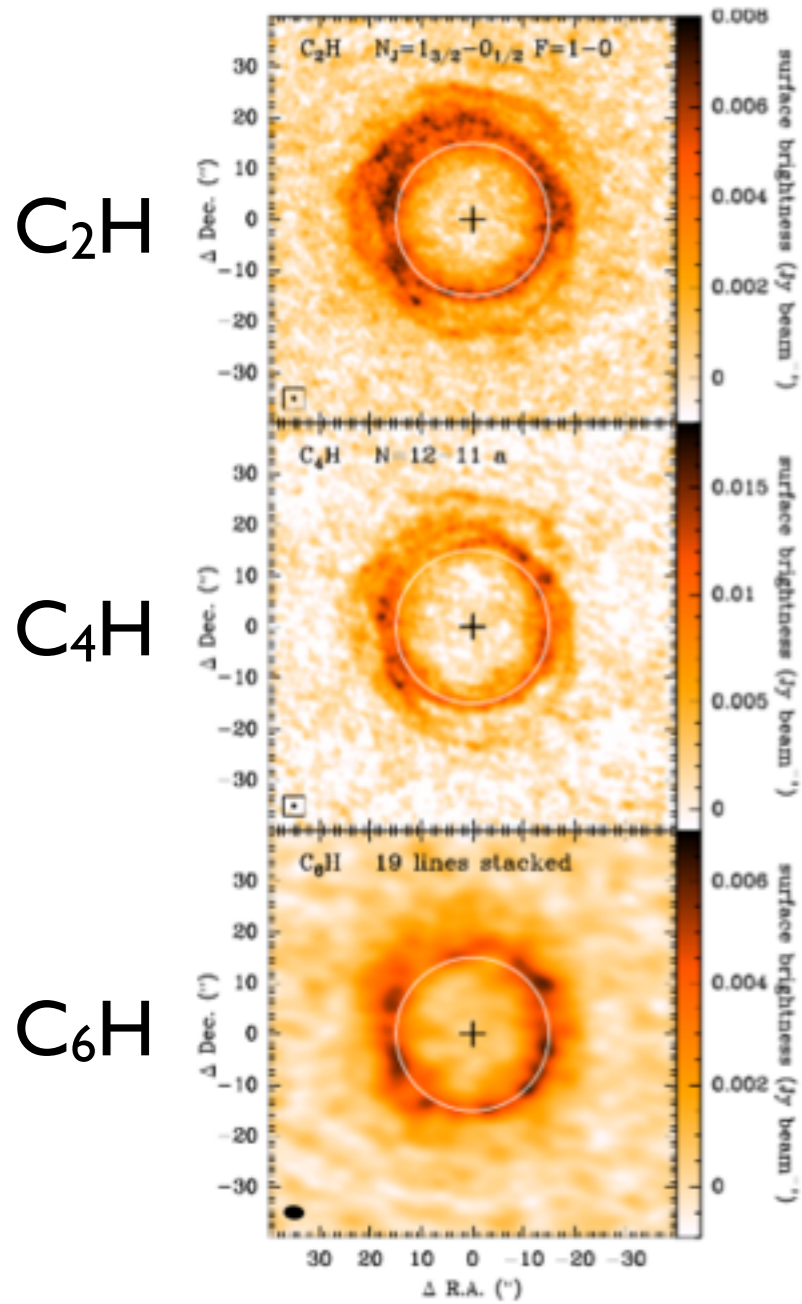


De Beck & Olofsson (in prep) survey of R Dor:



Some molecules & Imaging & One source

& rad. transfer



CN

HC_3N

HC_5N

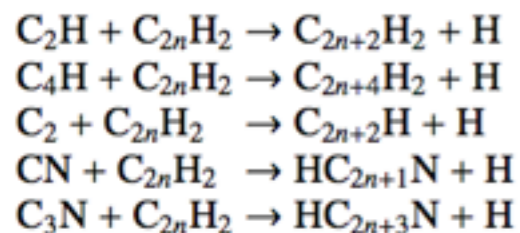
C_3N

Imaging of
carbon-chain
molecules
(chemically
connected)
towards the
carbon star
CW Leo

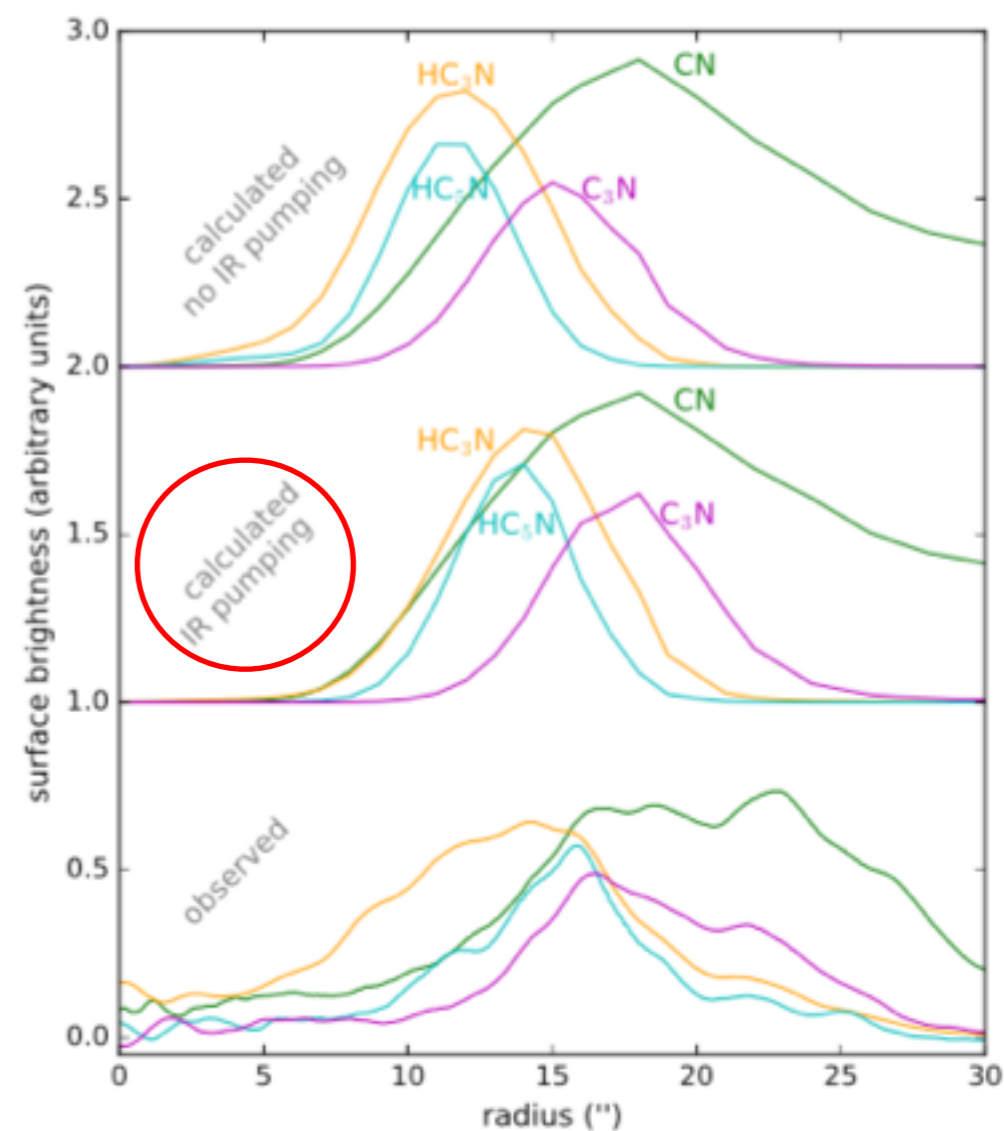
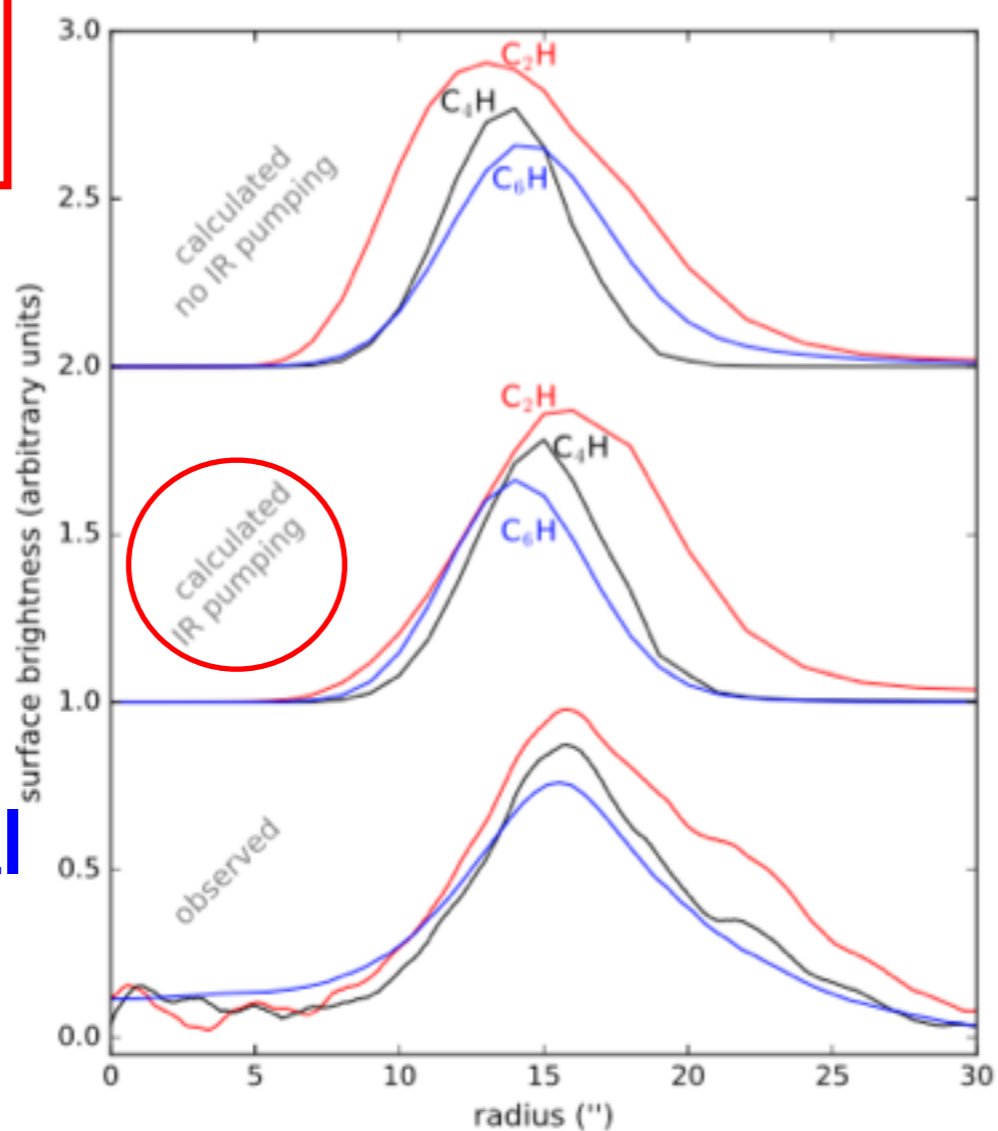
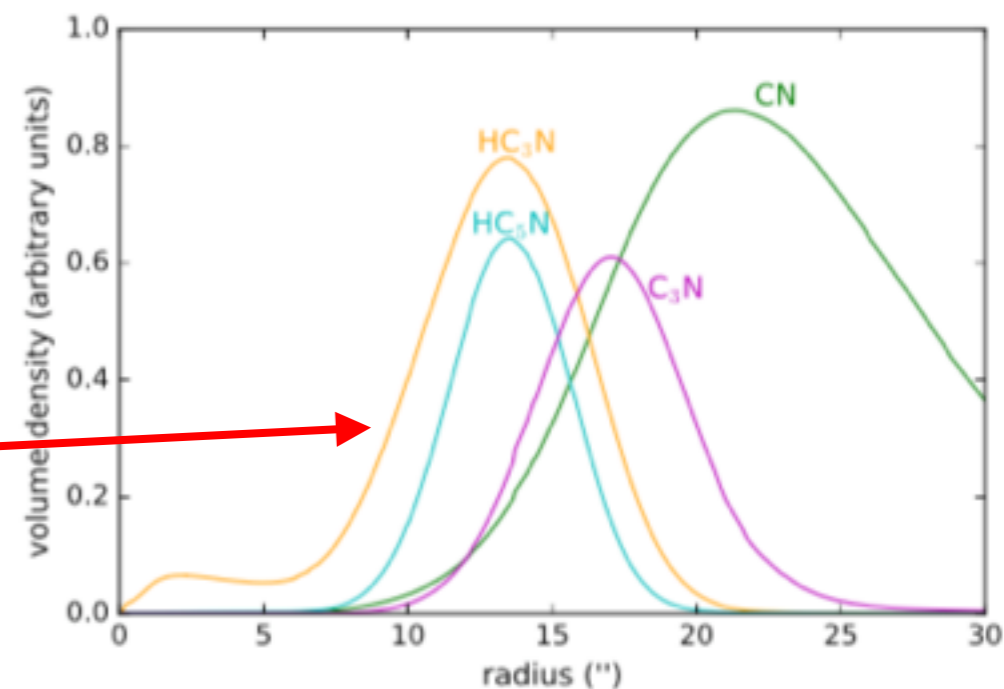
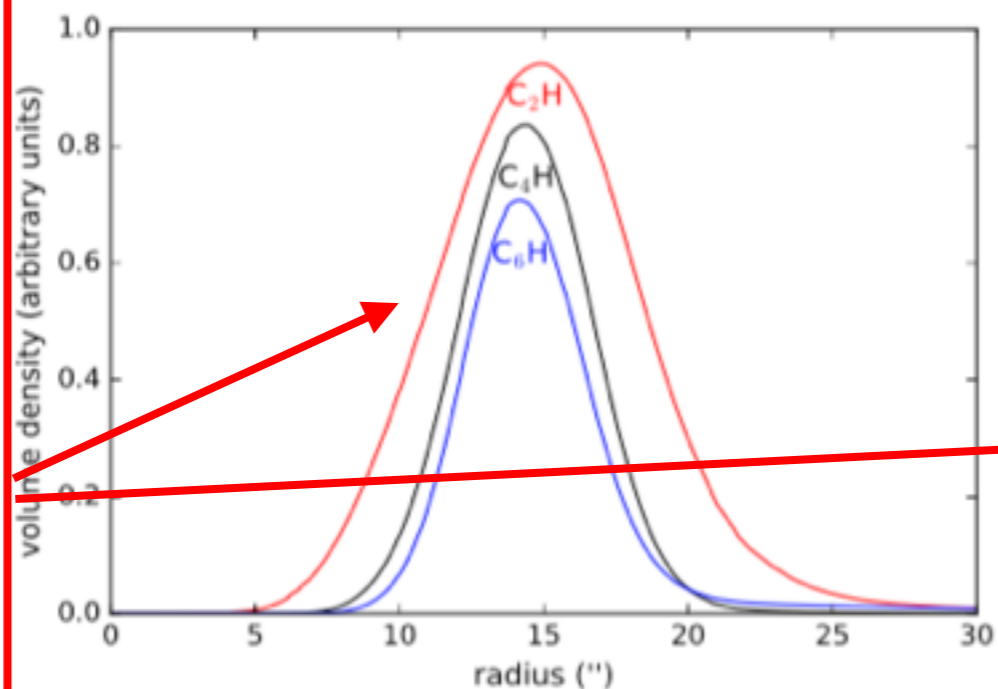
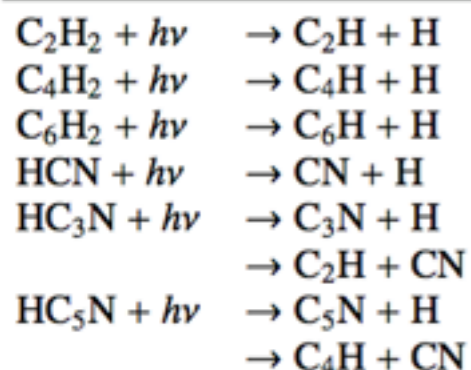
Chemical model vs Observations

Process

Bimolecular gas-phase chemical



Photodissociation processes^b



Chemical results and line radiative transfer

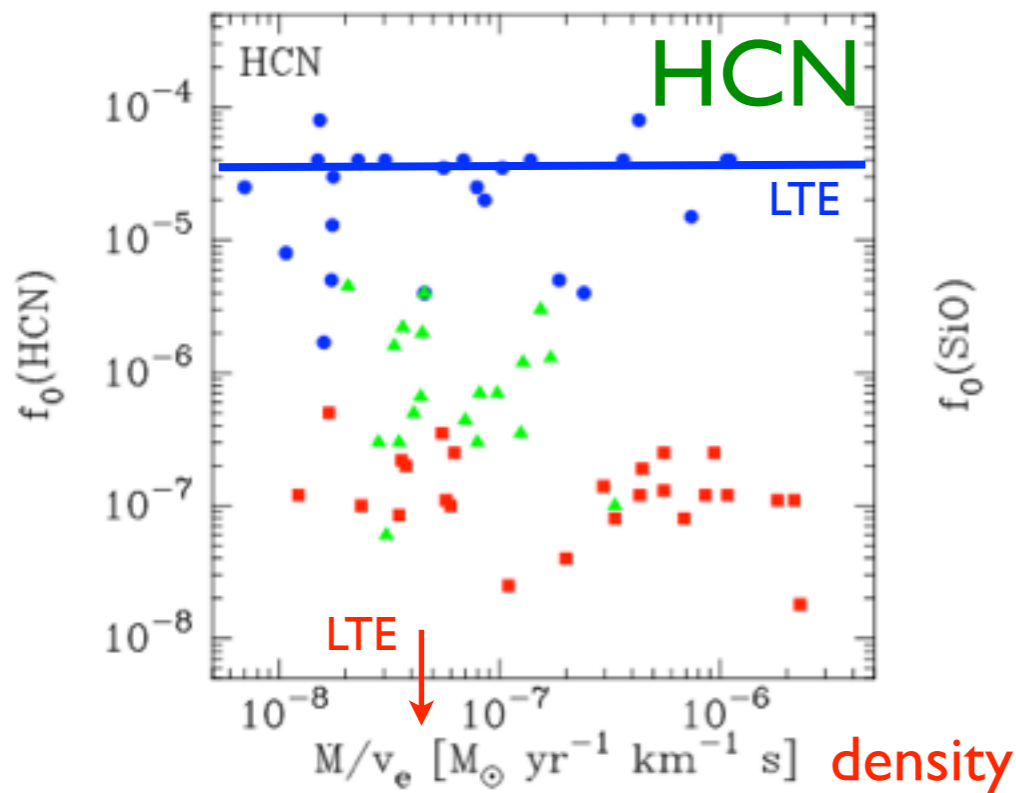
Observational results

Few molecules & Some lines & Many sources

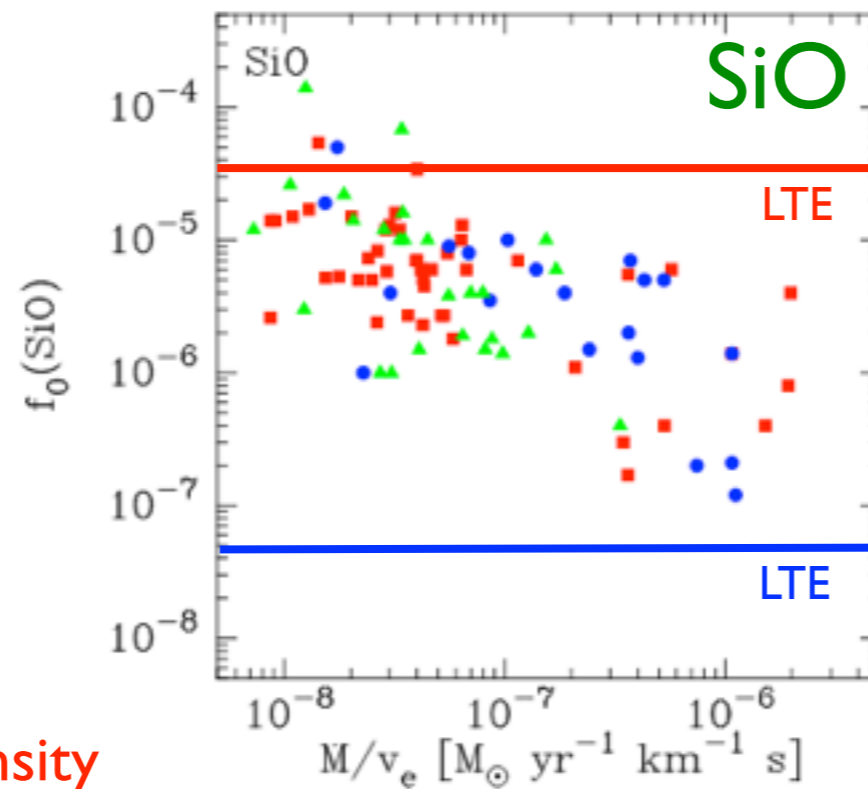
& rad. transfer

Schöier et al., (A&A 473, 871, 2007; A&A 550, A78, 2013) & Ramstedt et al., (A&A 499, 515, 2009) studied samples of the order **20 M-**, **20 S-**, and 20 C-stars in HCN, SiO, and SiS.

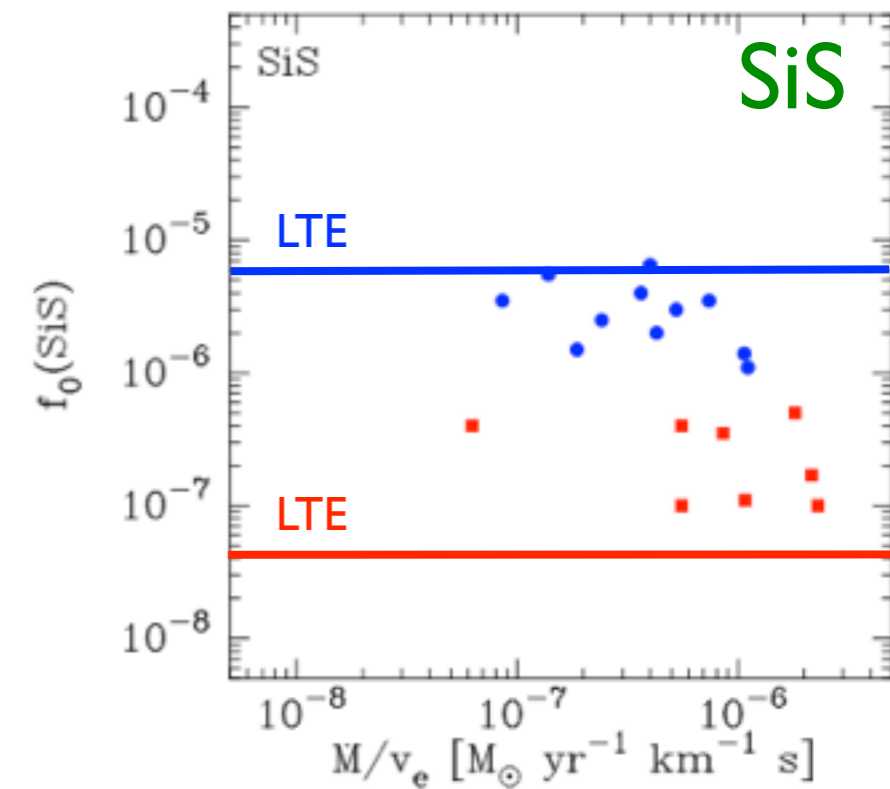
abundance



C/O dep.
no dM/dt dep.



no C/O dep.
dM/dt dep.



C/O dep.
no dM/dt dep.

Provide important constraints on chemical models !!

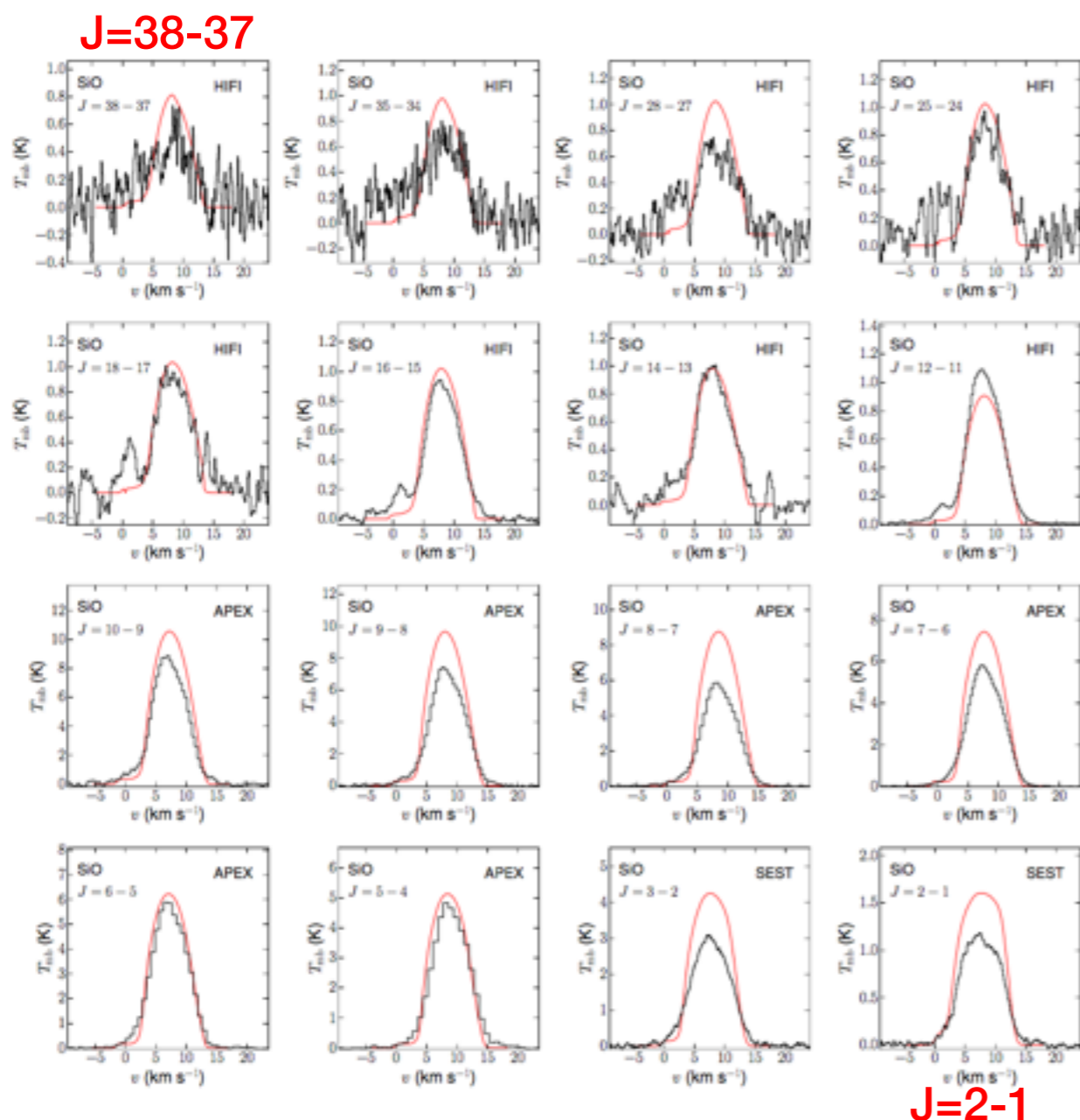
Few molecules & Many lines & One source

& rad. transfer

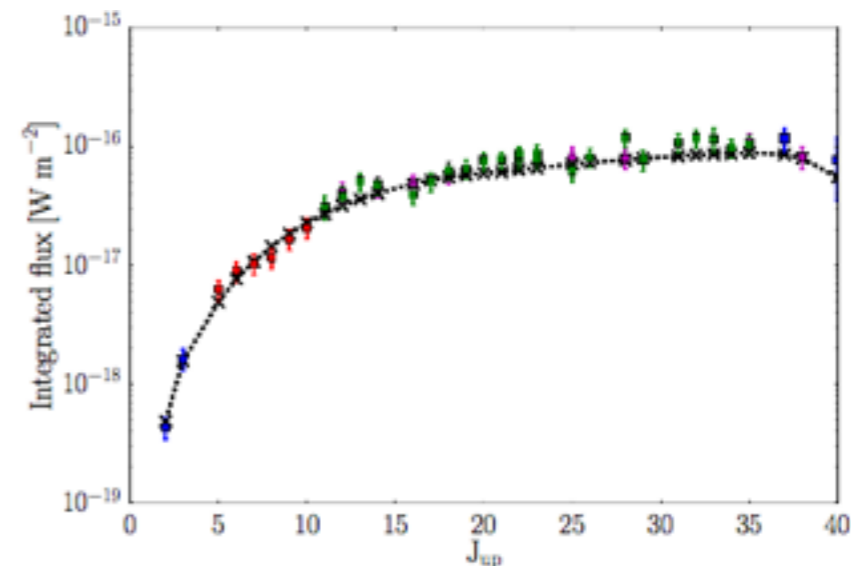
Observed and model SiO line profiles towards R Dor.

No imaging. E_{up} acts as the radial discriminator.

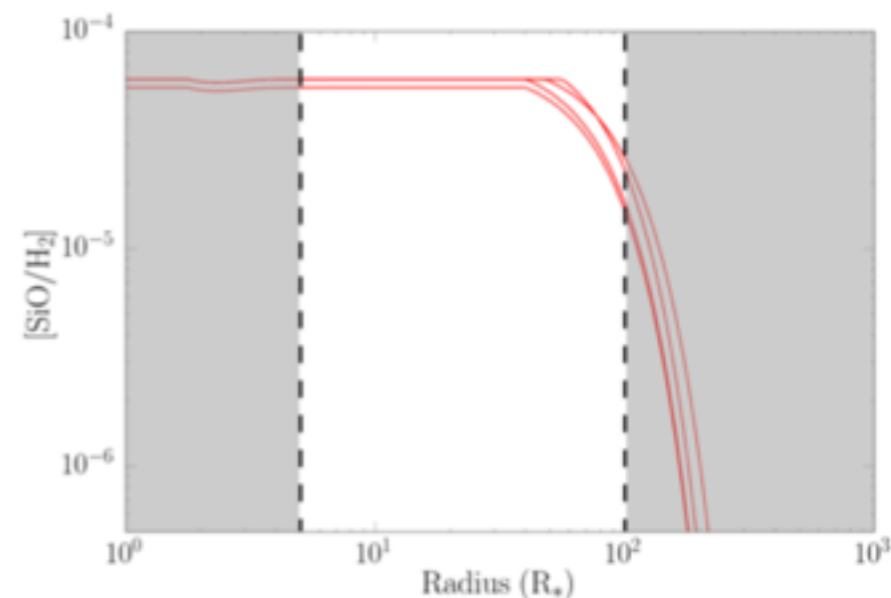
Comparison of observed and model SiO line intensities.



J=2-1



Derived radial SiO abundance distribution.



Radial range probed by the observed transitions

Isotopes

Isotope ratios

Isotope ratios are important tracers of stellar nucleosynthesis.

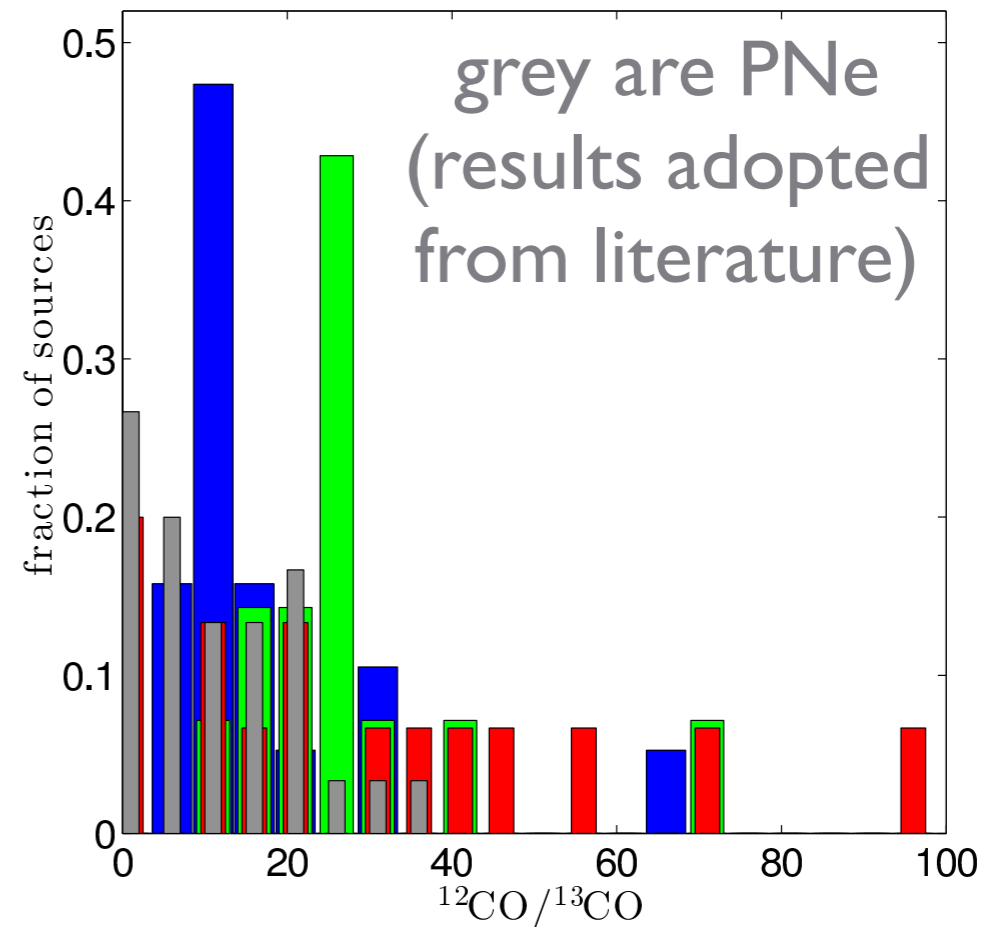
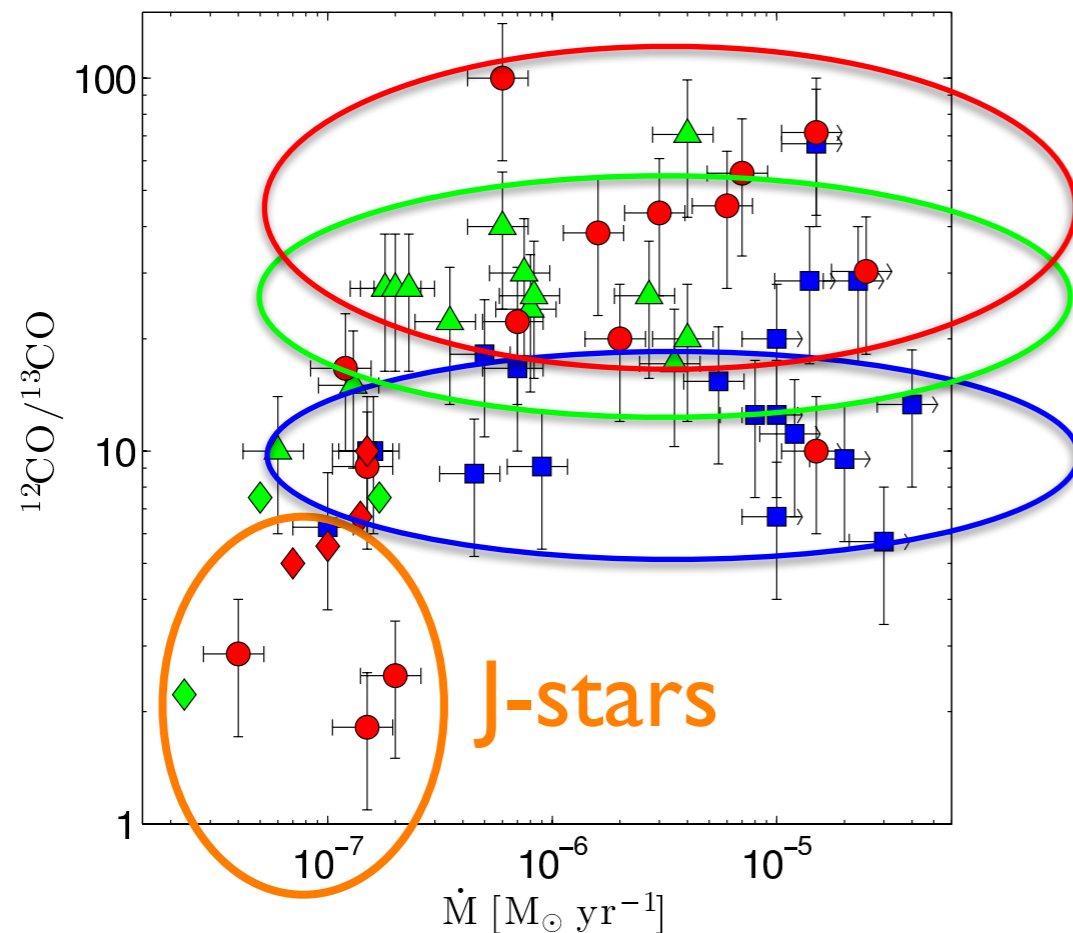
The problem is to convert $I(^nXA)$ & $I(^mYA)$ into $[^nX]$ & $[^mY]$, i.e., molecular isotopologue ratios into elemental isotope ratios

A number of things need to be considered:

- Optical depths
- Isotope-different excitation (in some cases masering)
- Isotope-selective photodissociation
- Chemical fractionation

Circumstellar ^{12}C and ^{13}C

Ramstedt & Olofsson (A&A 566, A145, 2014) have presented an extensive study of circumstellar ^{12}CO and ^{13}CO : 19 M-, 17 S-, and 19 C-stars

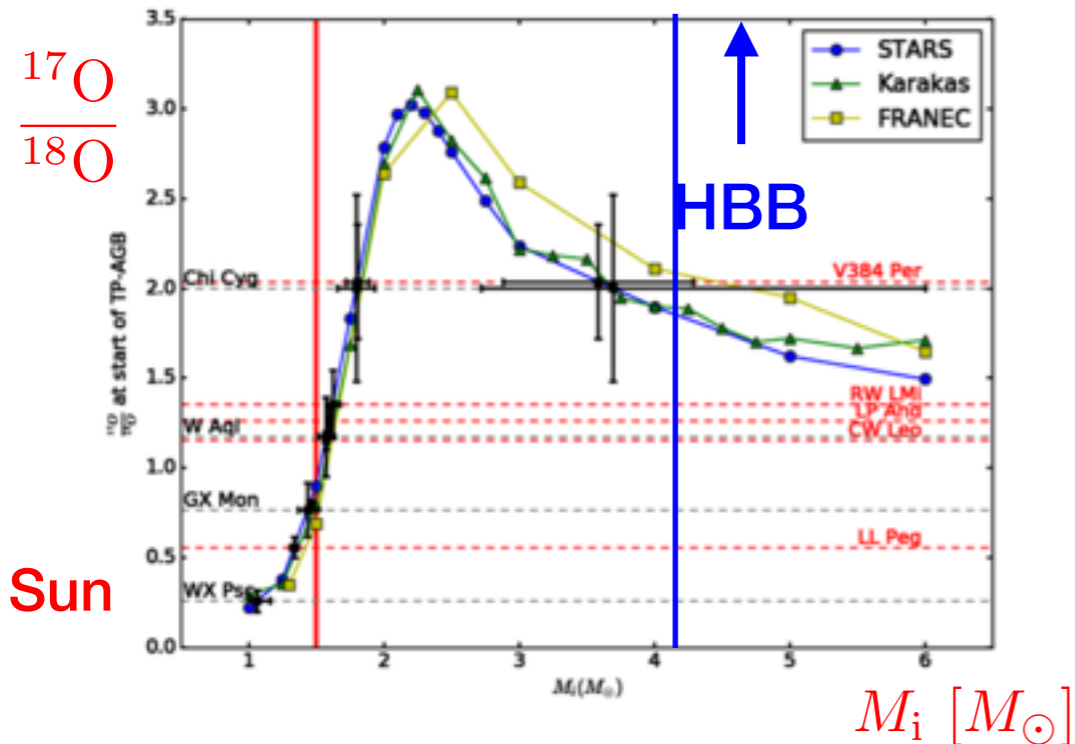


- The three chemical types have (on average) different $^{12}\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$ as expected when evolving from M to C via S.
- No dependence on mass-loss rate.
- The J-stars are very different from the rest.
- PNe come from the low $^{12}\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$ objects.

Circumstellar ^{16}O , ^{17}O , and ^{18}O

The $^{17}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$ ratio is an initial mass estimator for $M < 4 M_{\odot}$!!

C-star limit



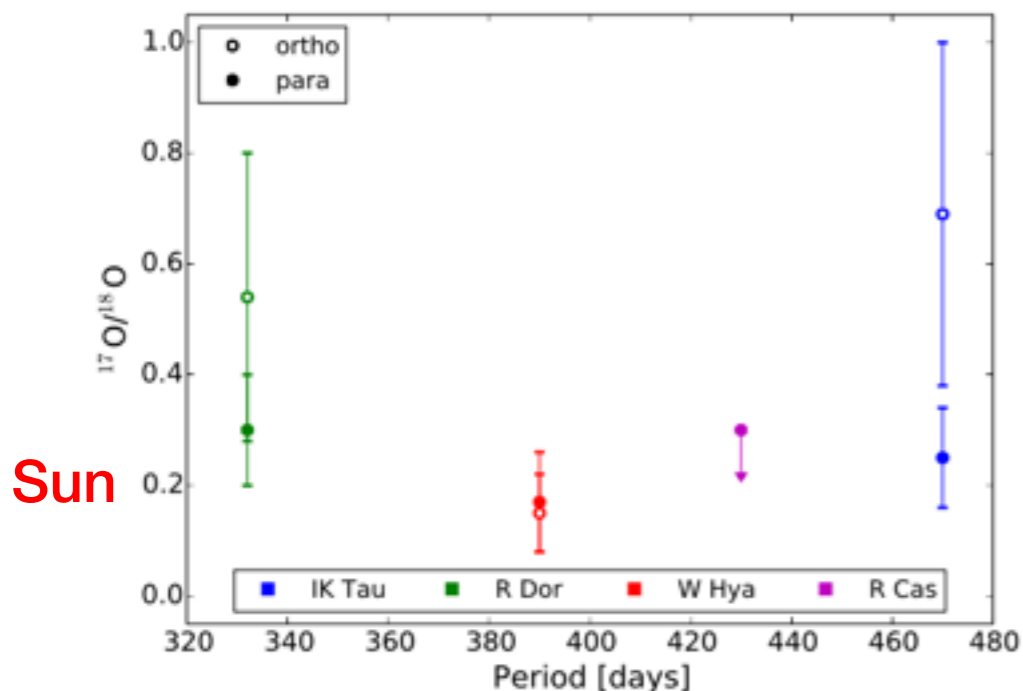
deNutte et al. (A&A 600, A71, 2017)

9 AGB stars with both C^{17}O and C^{18}O
+ some objects with only C^{18}O

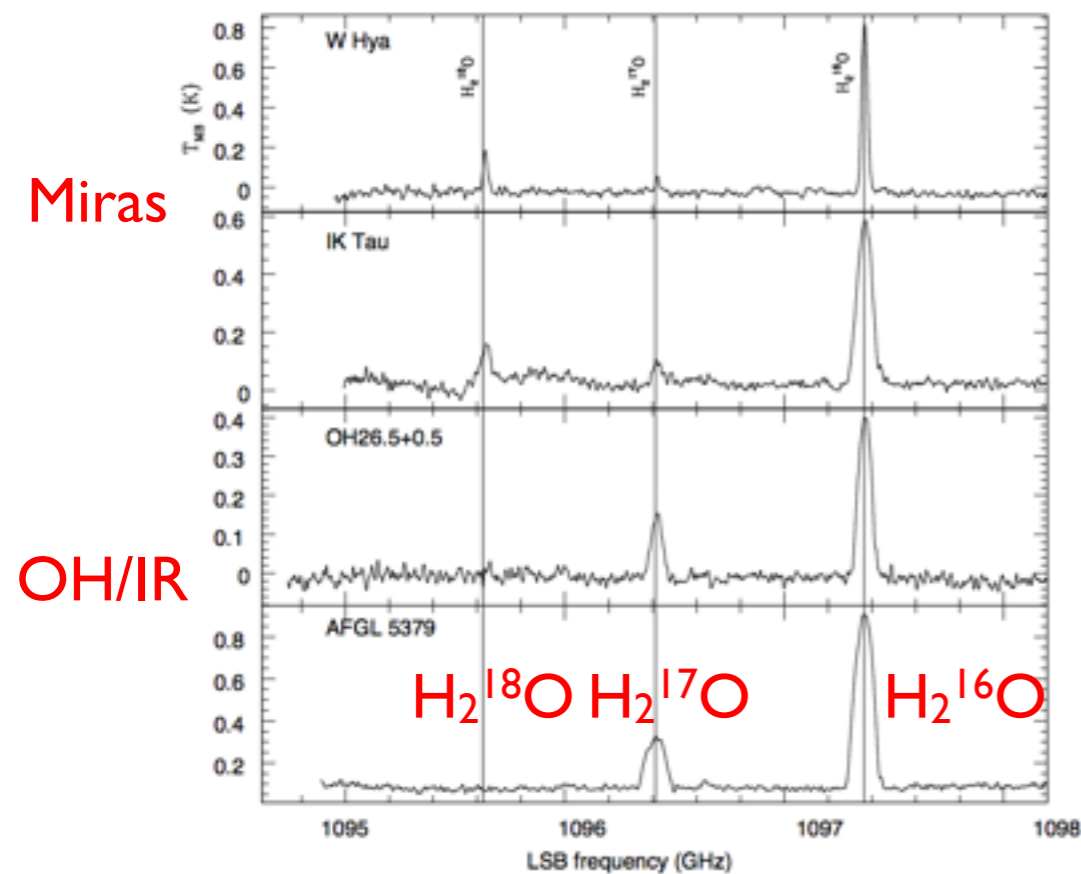
Studies of the rarer isotopes
are reaching their limits on
single telescopes !!

Danilovich et al. (A&A 602, A14, 2017)

4 AGB stars with both H_2^{17}O and H_2^{18}O



The $^{17}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$ ratio is also a discriminator between low- and “high”-mass stars due to the hot-bottom-burning process (destroys effectively ^{18}O) !!



9 OH/IR stars, only H_2^{17}O detected

In general, $I(\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O})/I(\text{H}_2^{17}\text{O}) < 0.1$

These are massive stars, $>5M_{\odot}$

Multi-isotope studies of individual sources

CW Leo

CW Leo, RW LMi, AFGL3068

Table 1: Isotope ratios in the CSE of IRC+10216

Isotope ratio	Ratio	IRC/Solar	Species used
$^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$	45	0.5	CS
$^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$	> 63000		CO
$^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$	5300	20	HCN
$^{16}\text{O}/^{17}\text{O}$	840	0.3	CO
$^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$	1300	3	CO
$^{28}\text{Si}/^{29}\text{Si}$	18	0.9	SiO, SiS
$^{28}\text{Si}/^{30}\text{Si}$	27	0.9	SiO, SiS
$^{32}\text{S}/^{33}\text{S}$	110	1	SiS
$^{32}\text{S}/^{34}\text{S}$	22	1	SiS
$^{32}\text{S}/^{36}\text{S}$	2700	0.4	CS
$^{35}\text{Cl}/^{37}\text{Cl}$	3.0	1	AlCl, HCl, NaCl, KCl
$^{24}\text{Mg}/^{25}\text{Mg}$	8	1	MgNC
$^{24}\text{Mg}/^{26}\text{Mg}$	7	1	MgNC

Table 3
Isotopic Abundance Ratios

Isotopic Ratio	CRL 3068		CIT 6 ^a	IRC+10216 ^b	Solar ^c
	Species	Value			
$^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$	$^{12}\text{C}^{34}\text{S}/^{13}\text{C}^{32}\text{S}$	29.7 ^d	45.4	45	89
	$^{12}\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$	5.6 ^e	...	...	...
	$^{12}\text{CS}/^{13}\text{CS}$	9.8 ^e	...	...	...
$^{14}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$	$\text{H}^{12}\text{CN}/\text{H}^{13}\text{CN}$	1.2 ^e	...	...	...
	$\text{H}^{13}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}/\text{H}^{12}\text{C}^{15}\text{N}$	1099 ^f	...	...	272
$^{16}\text{O}/^{17}\text{O}$	$\text{HC}^{14}\text{N}/\text{HC}^{15}\text{N}$	45 ^e	...	...	...
	$^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}/^{12}\text{C}^{17}\text{O}$	668 ^f	890	967	2680
$^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$	$\text{C}^{16}\text{O}/\text{C}^{17}\text{O}$	125 ^e	...	...	...
	$^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}/^{12}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$	472 ^f	...	1172	499
$^{17}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$	$\text{C}^{16}\text{O}/\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$	88 ^e	...	...	...
$^{32}\text{S}/^{34}\text{S}$	$\text{C}^{17}\text{O}/\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$	0.7:	...	1.14	0.2
$^{33}\text{S}/^{34}\text{S}$	$\text{C}^{32}\text{S}/\text{C}^{34}\text{S}$	7.4 ^e	6.7 ^e	18.9	22.5
$^{29}\text{Si}/^{30}\text{Si}$	$\text{C}^{33}\text{S}/\text{C}^{34}\text{S}$	0.3:	0.2:	0.19	0.18
$^{28}\text{Si}/^{30}\text{Si}$	$^{29}\text{SiS}/^{30}\text{SiS}$	2.5	1.0	1.46	1.52
$^{28}\text{Si}/^{29}\text{Si}$	$^{28}\text{SiS}/^{30}\text{SiS}$	28.8	8.8 ^e	24.7	29.9
	$^{28}\text{SiS}/^{29}\text{SiS}$	11.5	8.9 ^e	17.2	19.6

Notes.

^a From Zhang et al. (2009).

^b From He et al. (2008) except the $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$ ratio which was taken from Cernicharo et al. (2000).

^c From Lodders (2003).

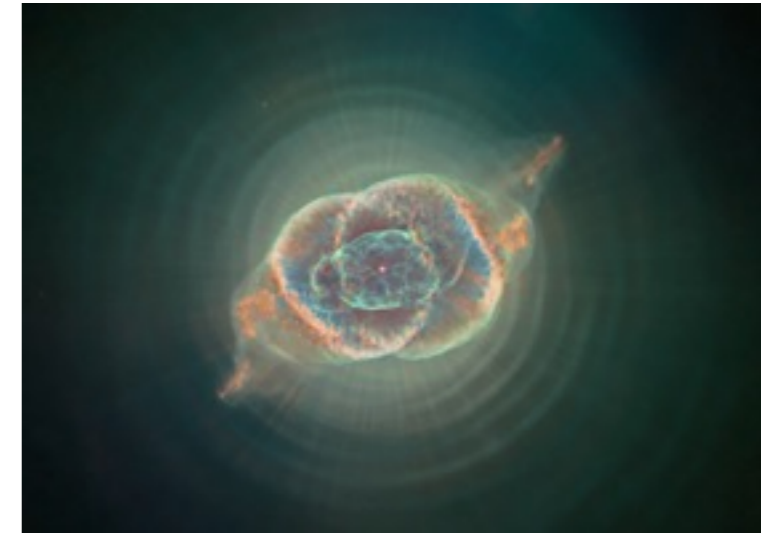
^d Assume that the $^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$ ratio is solar.

^e Should be treated as lower limits due to opacity effect.

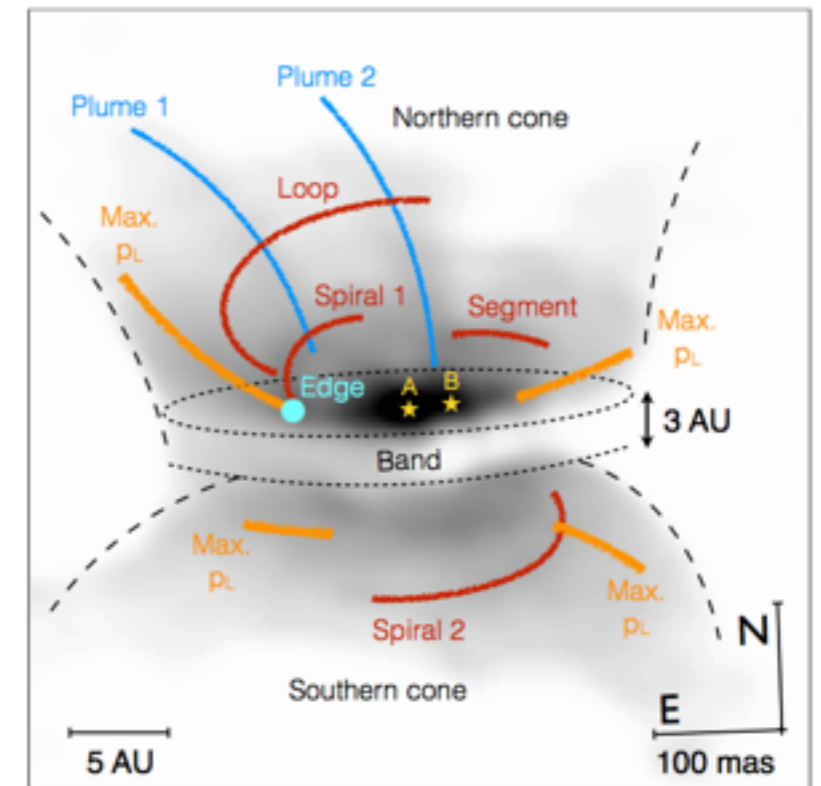
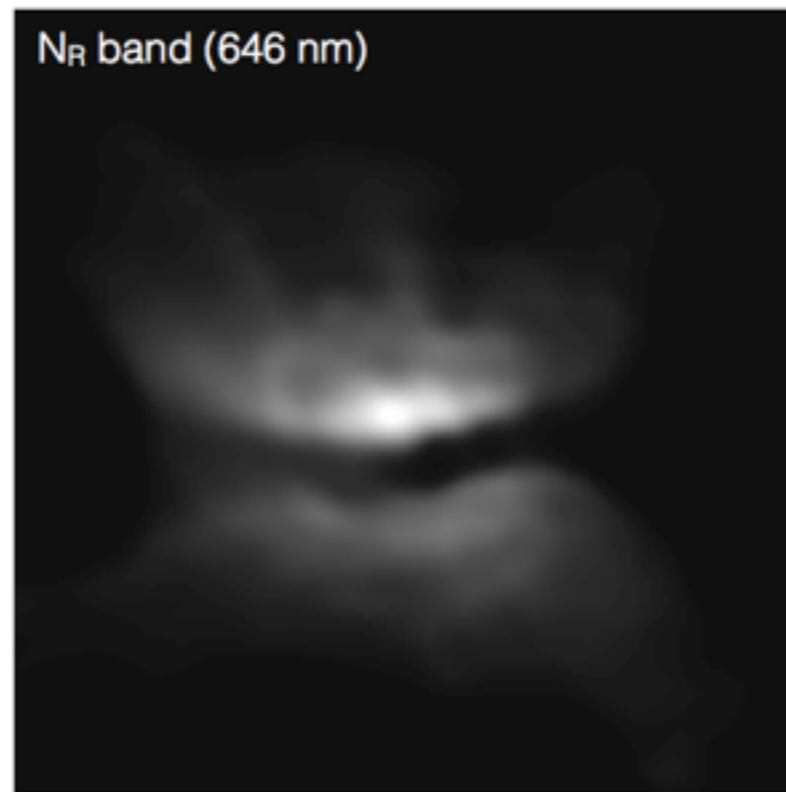
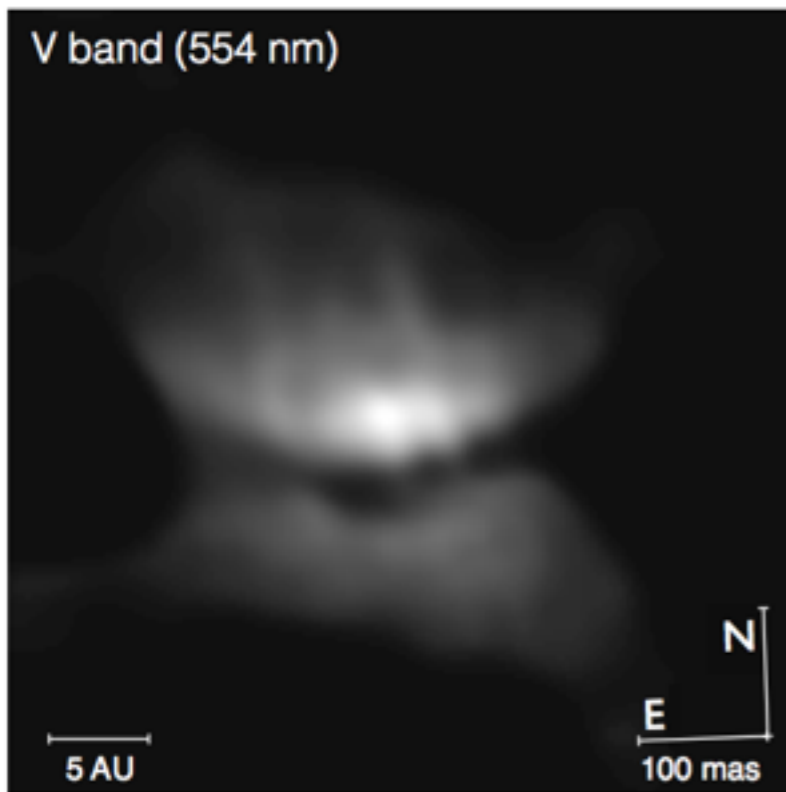
^f Adopted: $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C} = 29.7$.

Disks

Presence of disks already during the AGB is of great interest for the possible future evolution to a planetary nebula.

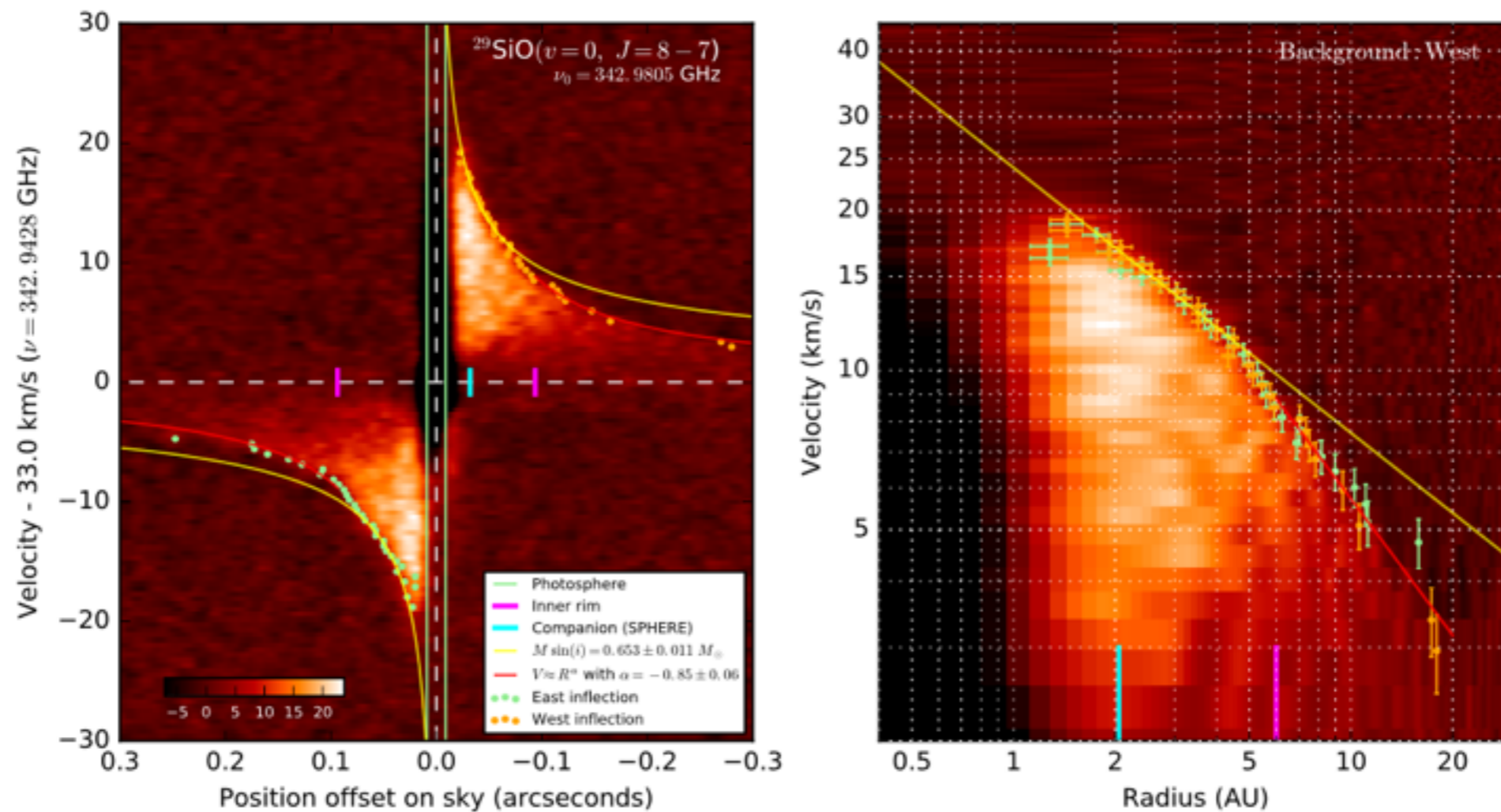


L₂ Pup is the only AGB star with a detected disk.

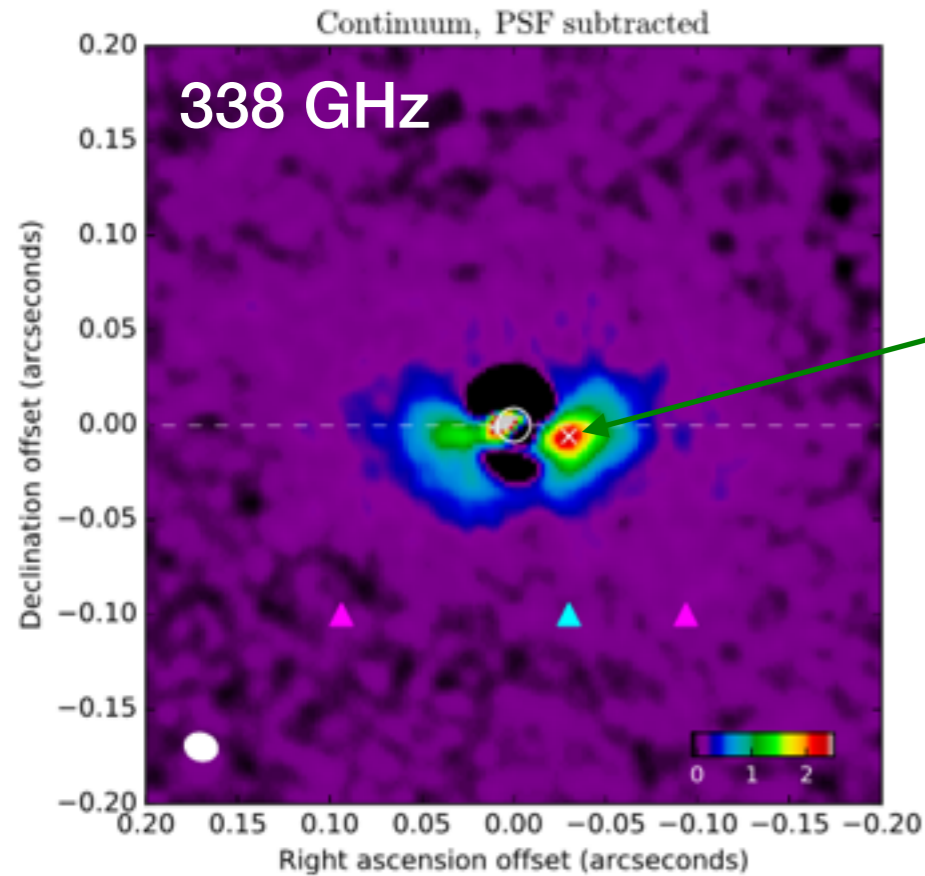


ALMA data reveal that the disk is (partly) in Keplerian rotation (18x15 mas resolution).

The current mass of L2 Pup is estimated to be $0.66 M_{\odot}$. Its initial mass was $\approx 1 M_{\odot}$. A very solar-like star.



ALMA detects also a companion



The companion is detected in continuum and in $^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)$ line.

Its mass is estimated to be $12 \pm 16 M_{\text{J}}$.

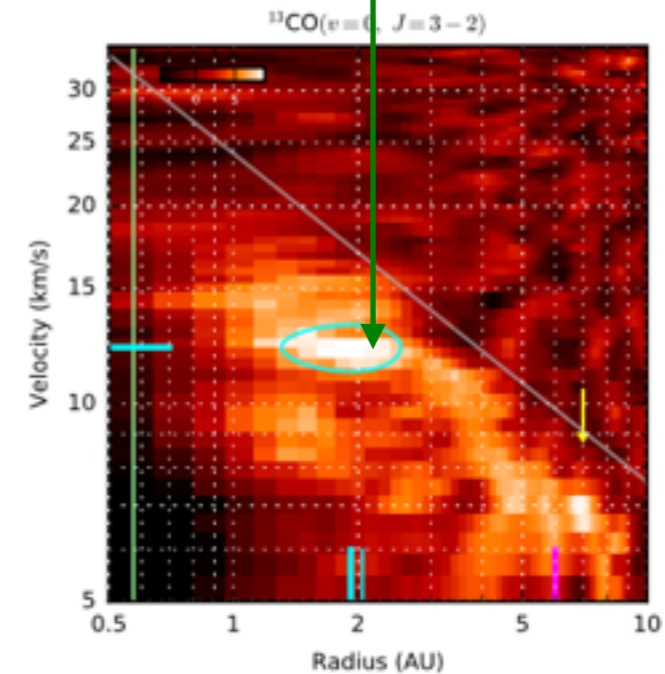
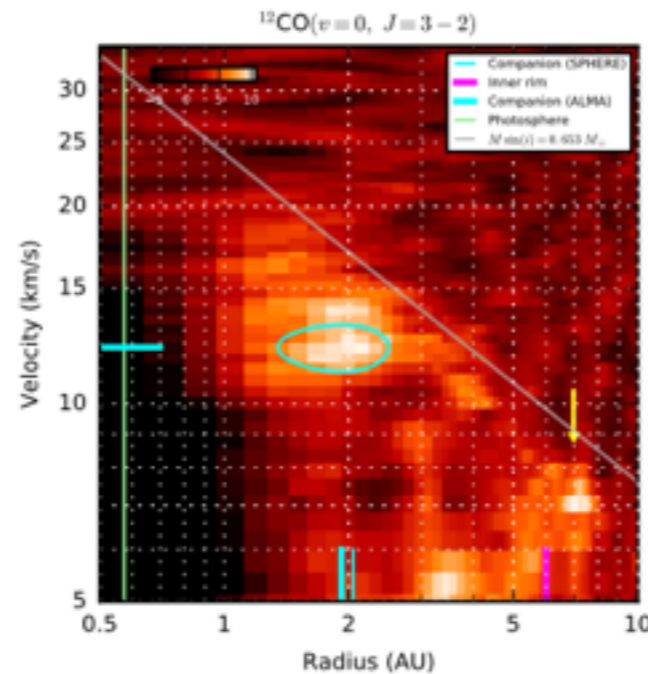
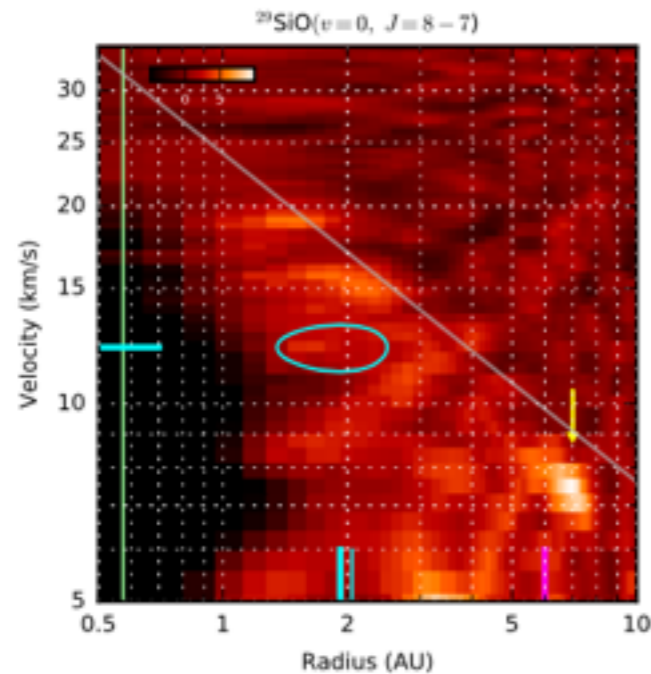


Fig. 8. Position-velocity diagrams of the $^{29}\text{SiO}(v=0, J=8-7)$, $^{12}\text{CO}(v=0, J=3-2)$ and $^{13}\text{CO}(v=0, J=3-2)$ lines for the west part of the gaseous disk from which the east part of the PVD has been subtracted. The cyan ellipse is centered on the position of B, with a radial extension corresponding to the beam size and a velocity range of $12.2 \pm 1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The yellow arrow indicates the position of the notch at 7 AU in the gaseous disk. The color scale is in mJy beam^{-1} .

Magnetic fields

Polarisation

Hopefully radio interferometers can contribute significantly in this field through polarisation measurements (maser as well as non-maser lines).

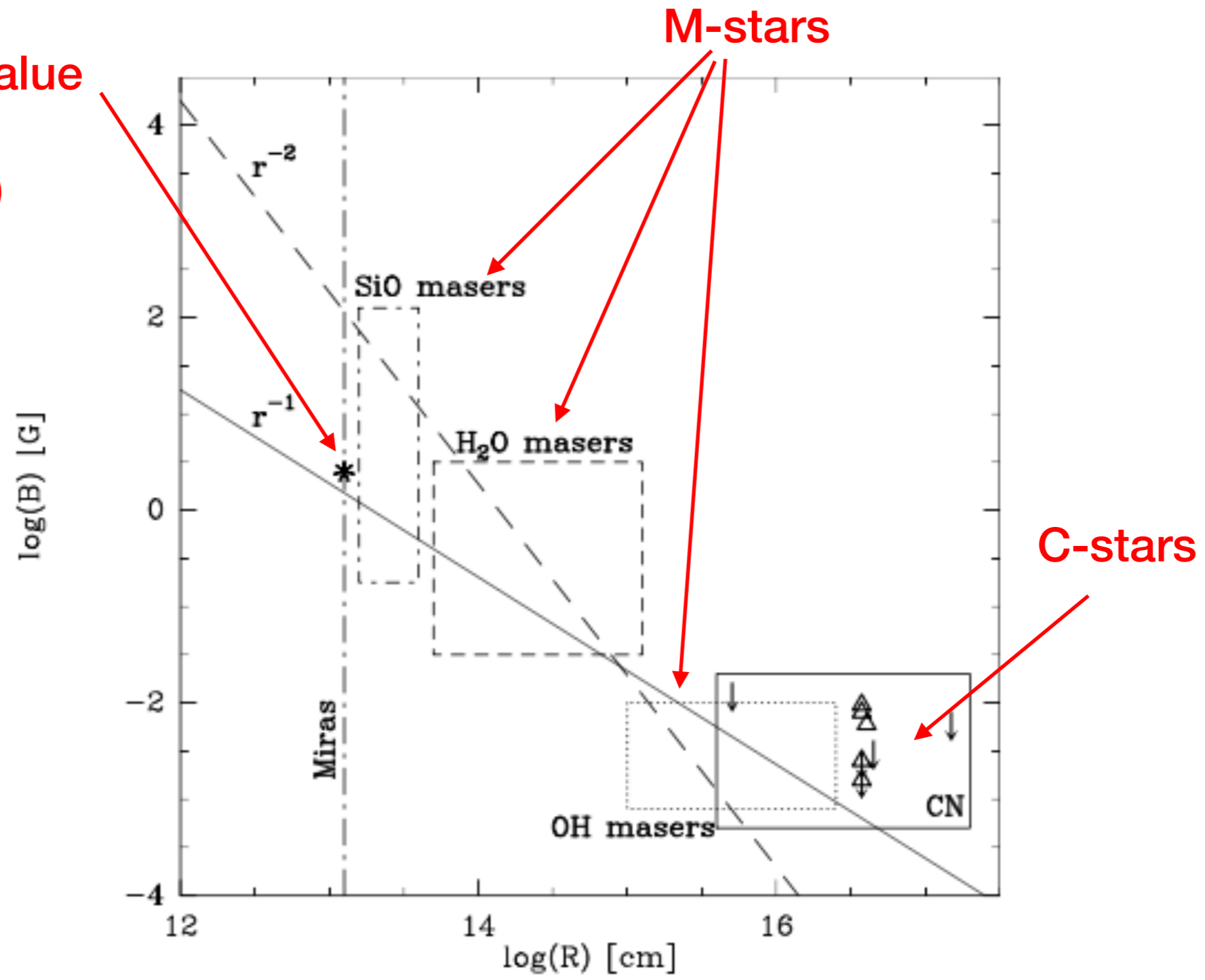
- The Zeeman effect (e.g. SiO, H₂O, OH, CN)
- Goldreich-Kylafis effect (e.g. CO)

Important characteristics:

- Magnetic field strength vs r
- Magnetic field shape
- Origin of magnetic field
- Importance of binarity

Critical to understand the possible importance of magnetic fields for the mass-loss characteristics and the post-AGB evolution.

Only measured value
for an AGB star
(χ Cyg, an S-star)



Thank you!