

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Exoplanets!

Homework: due now!

Probably a 2-week turnaround for grades

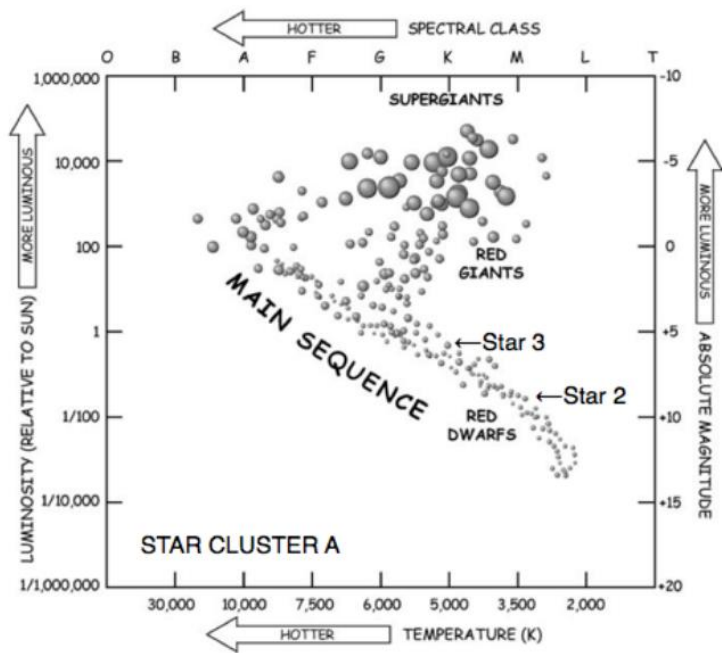
Class next week, then no class (Qing Ming)

Project 1: due on 4.13

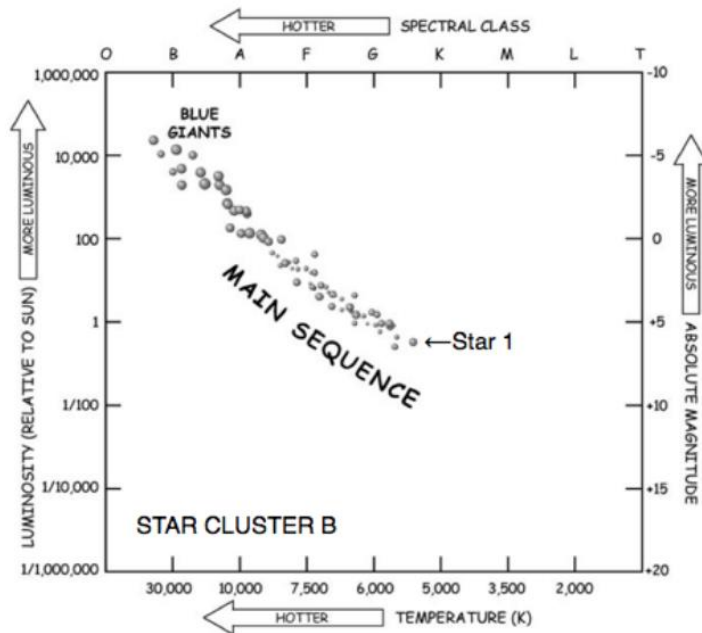
- Due before class on April 13
- Oral report
 - 6 min (don't go over)
 - Max 7 slides (including intro slide)
- Choose any astronomy-related topic
- Make it interesting!
- Upload video to PKU server
- Will circulate assignment to wechat group tomorrow

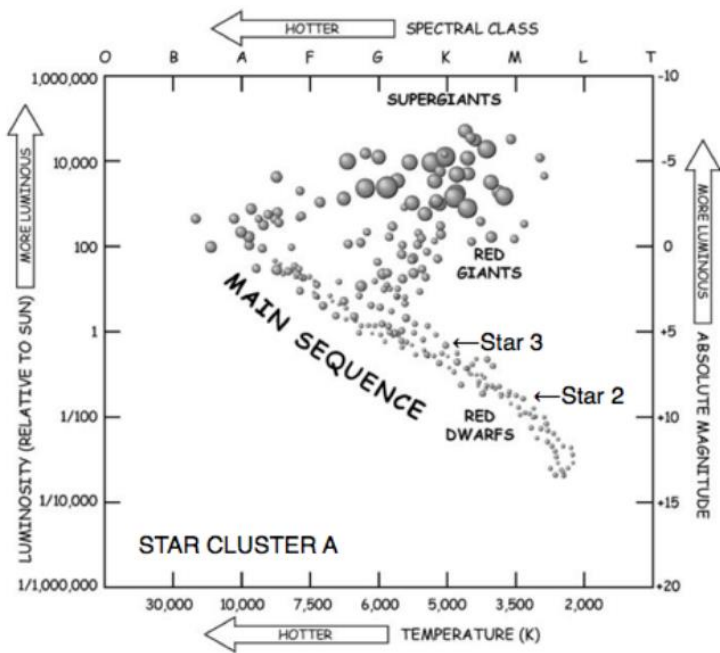
Homework

- Distances! If the sun is the size of a soccer ball (0.1 m radius):
 - Earth is 20 m away (other side of room)
 - Nearest star is 6000 km away (Europe)!
 - Nearest (large) galaxy is at location of Uranus!
 - Distance between Mars, Earth changes with time

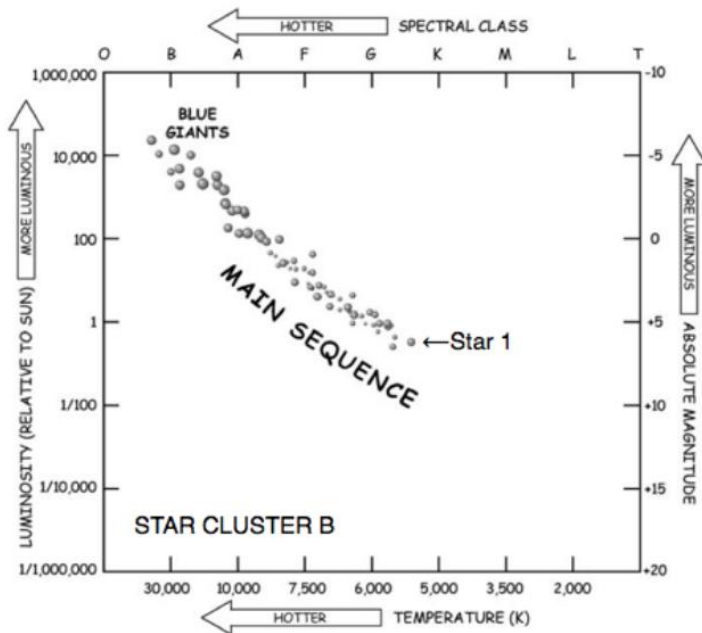


- Star 2: very faint! Any planet would be very cold! (more today and in a future homework)





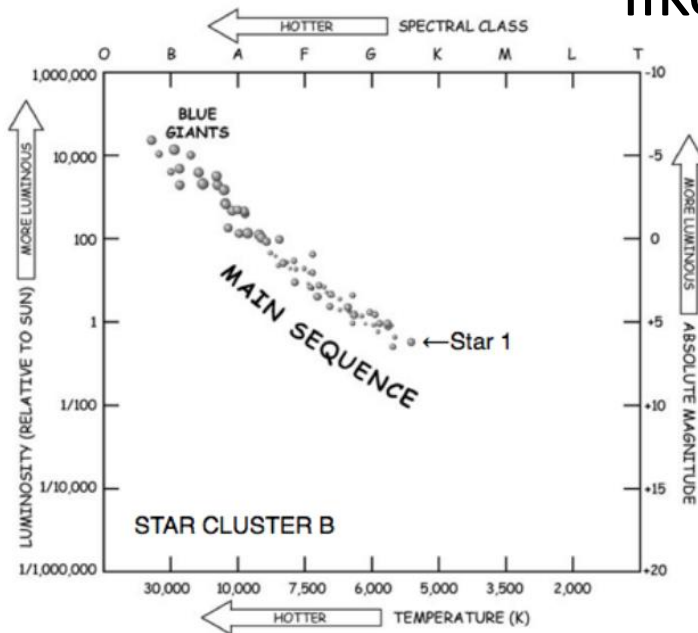
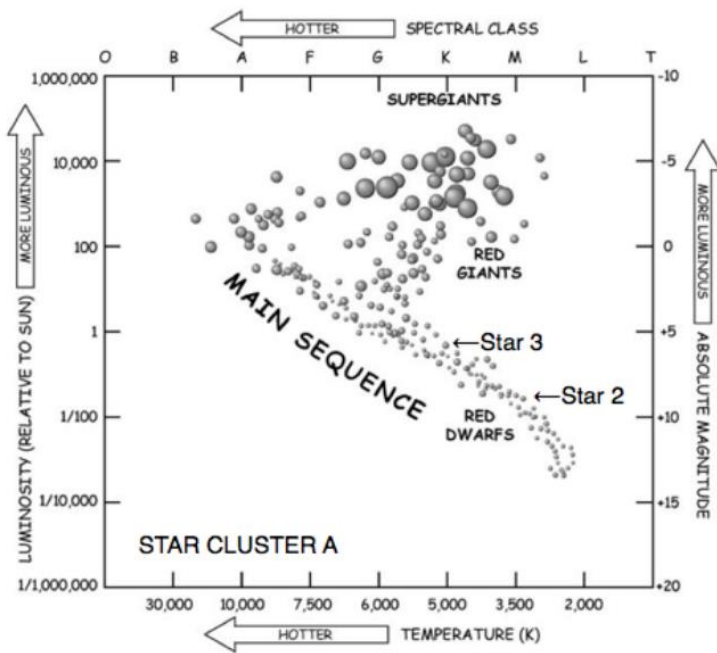
- Binary: if two stars, the total brightness needs to add to observed luminosity
 - Both stars fainter
 - Color (temperature) should cancel, so one hotter, other is cooler



Which is more distant?

Same y-axes (absolute luminosity/magnitude).

One has fewer faint points, so likely further away

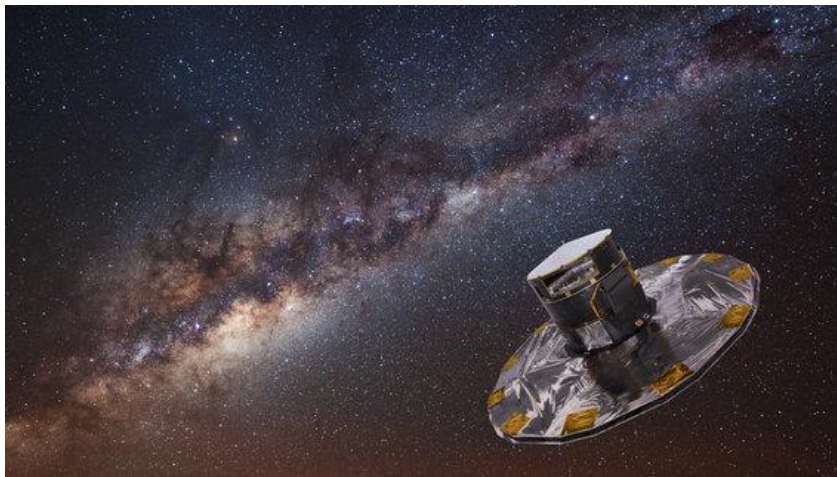


Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Stars that are born together travel together

--large clusters stay together

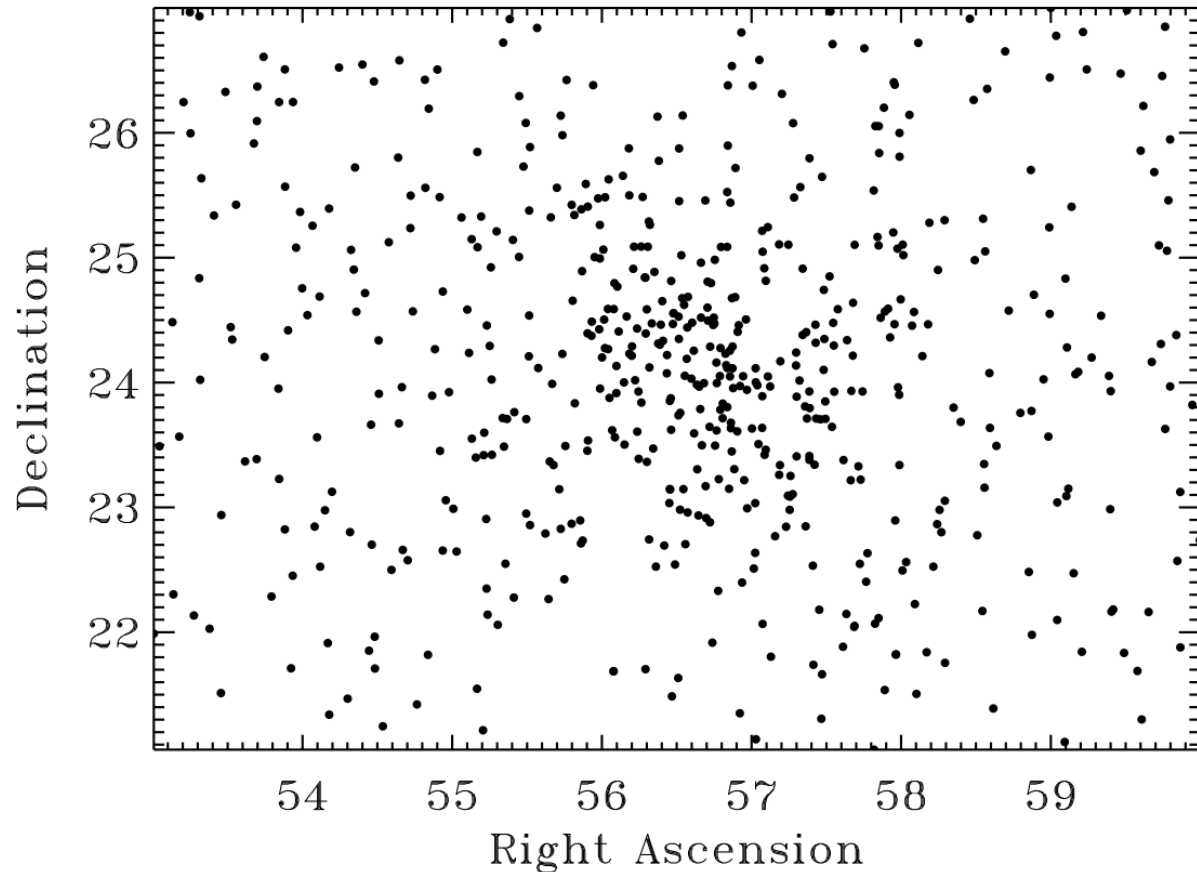
--smaller clusters disperse with time



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

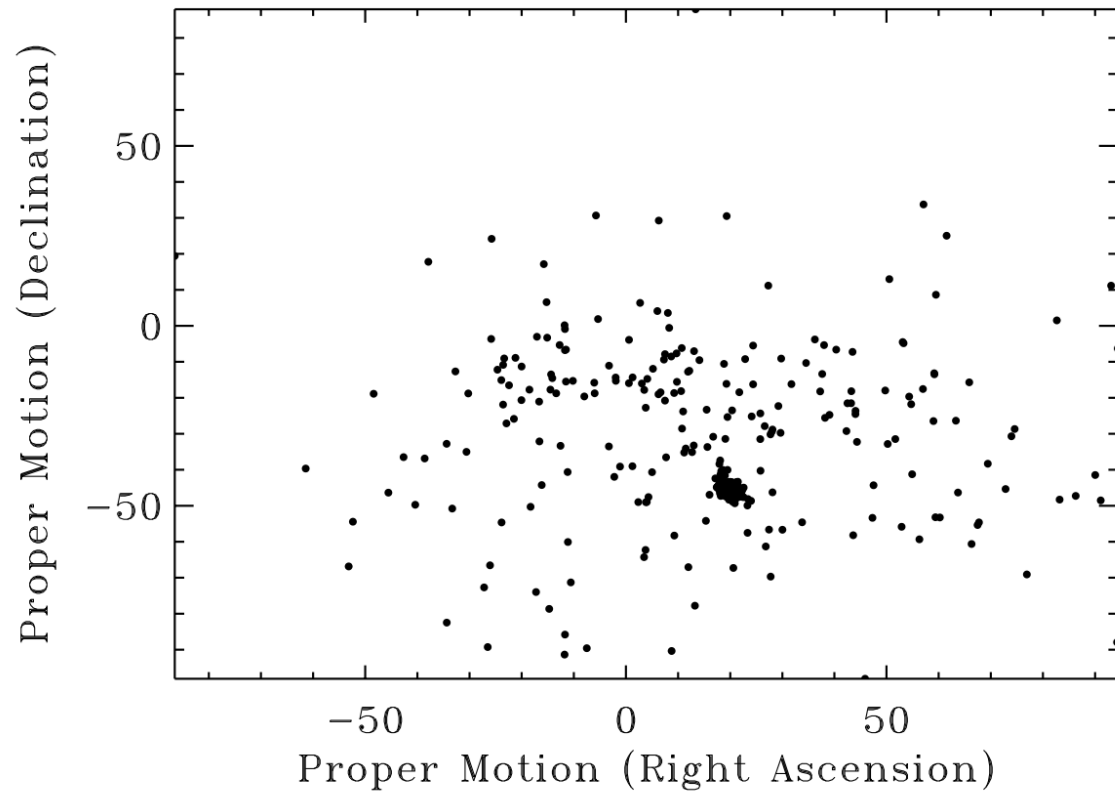
Plot:
Positions



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

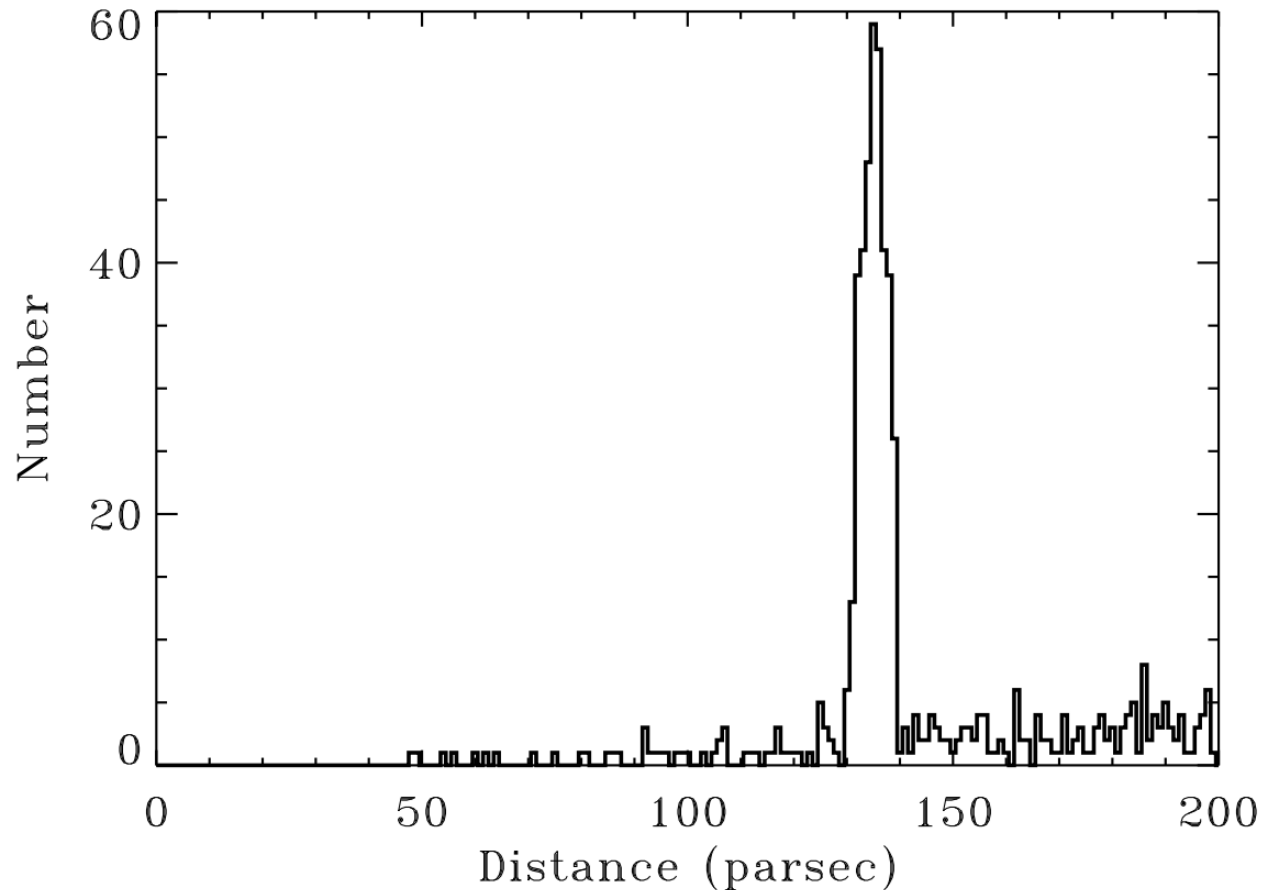
Plot: Proper motions
(movement
along sky)



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

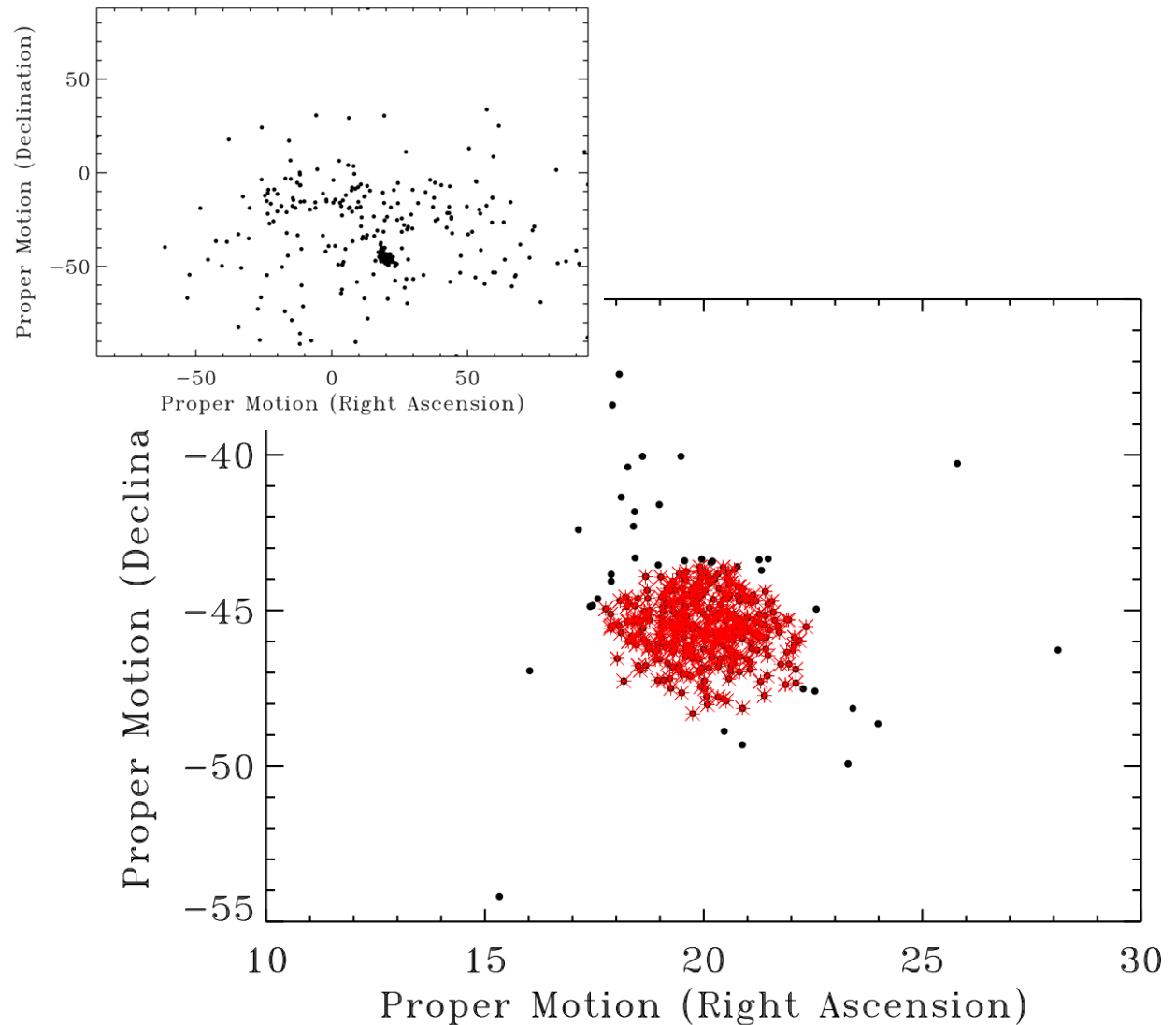
Histogram of
distances



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Plot: Proper motions
(movement along sky)

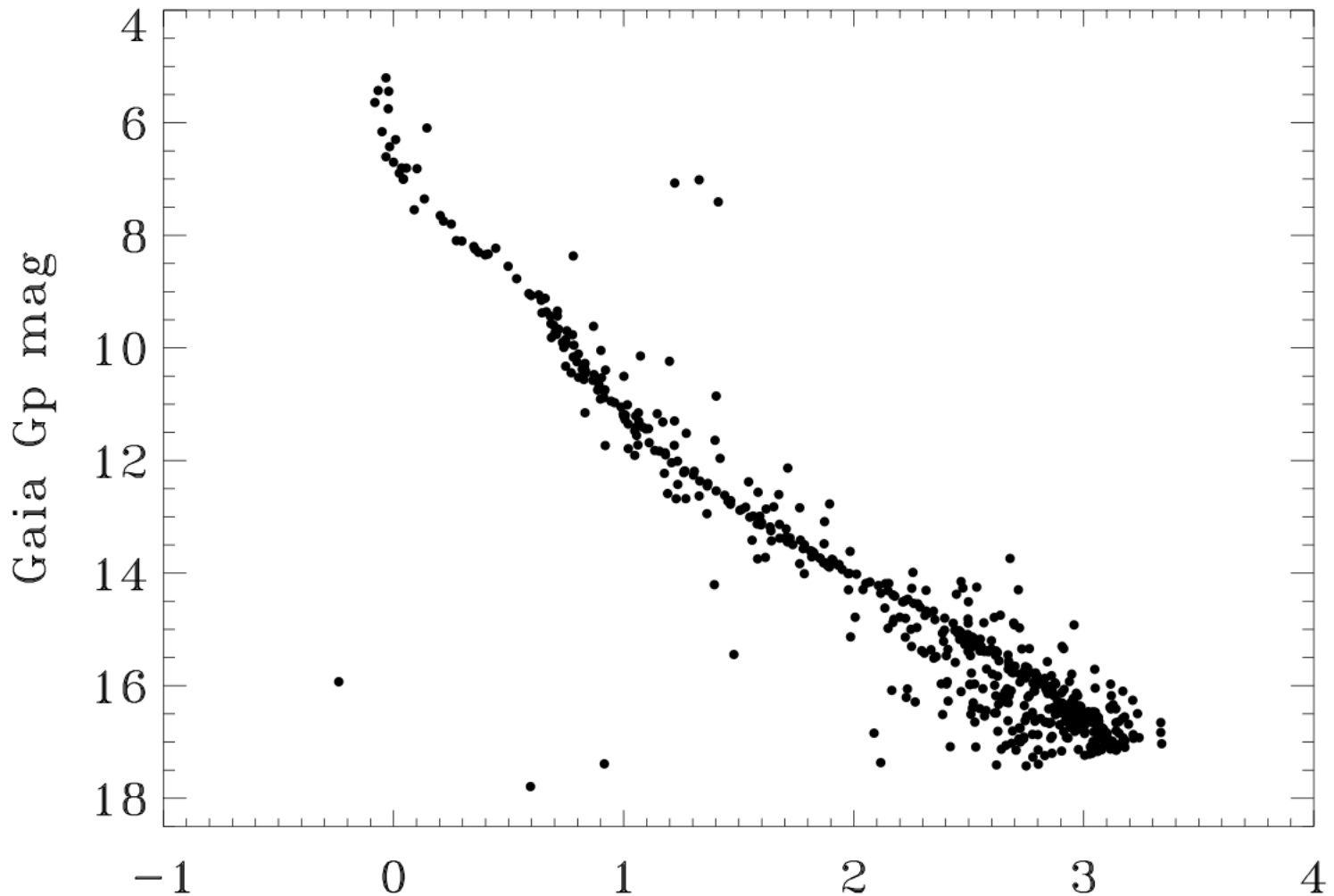
Selected for
Pleiades
distance (130-
140 parsecs)



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

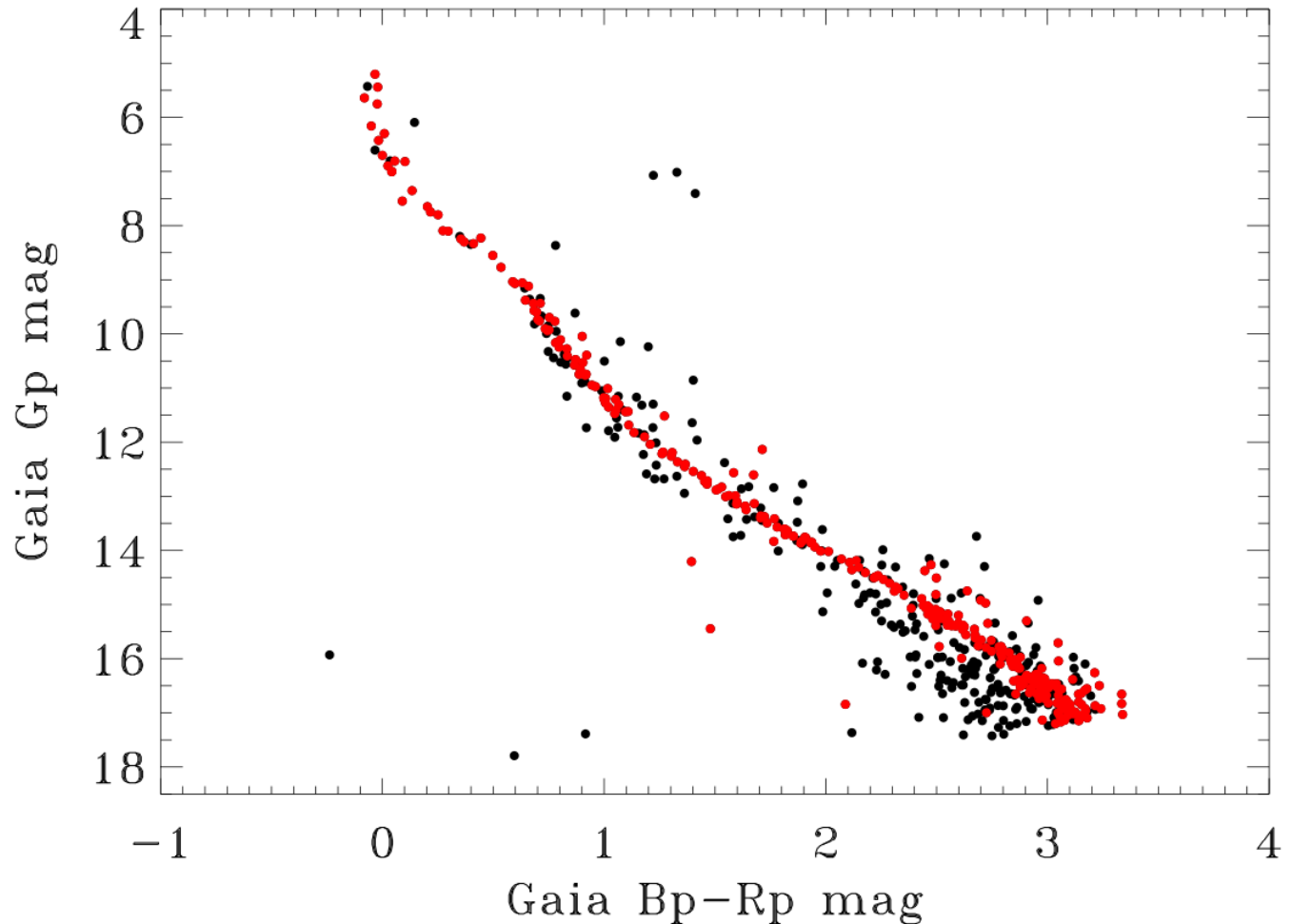
All stars



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

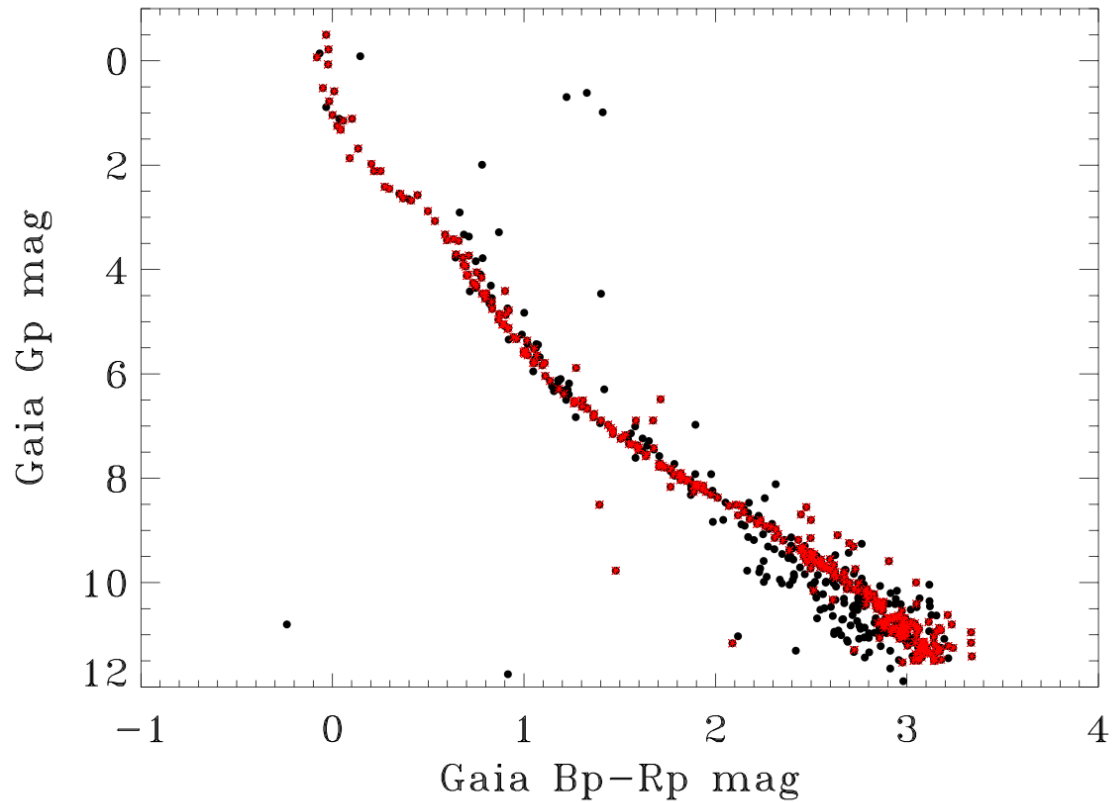
Red: cut in
distance
and proper
motion



Gaia satellite and the Pleiades!

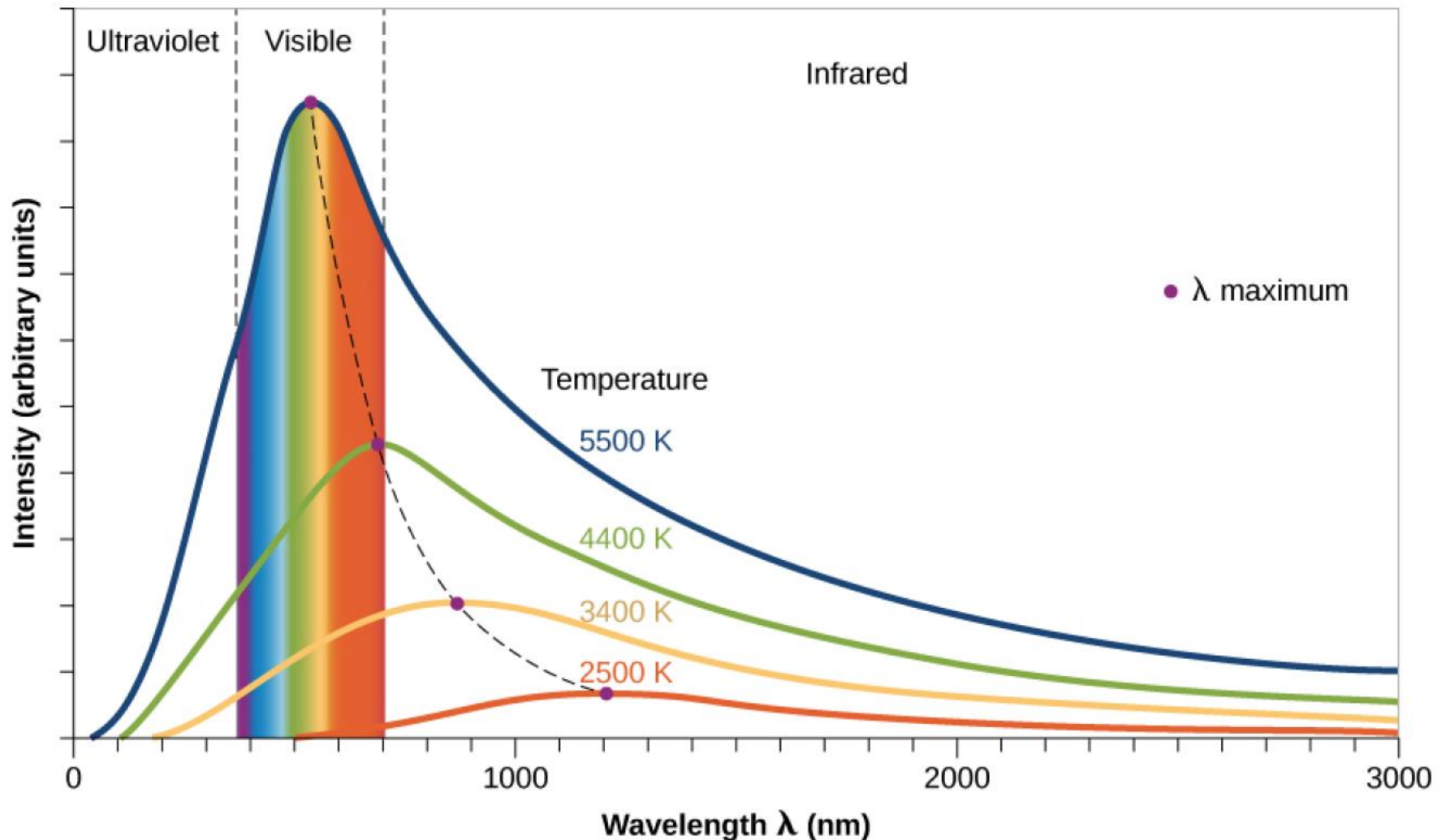
Dataset: positions on the sky, motions on the sky, brightness in 3 bands

Corrected for
distance

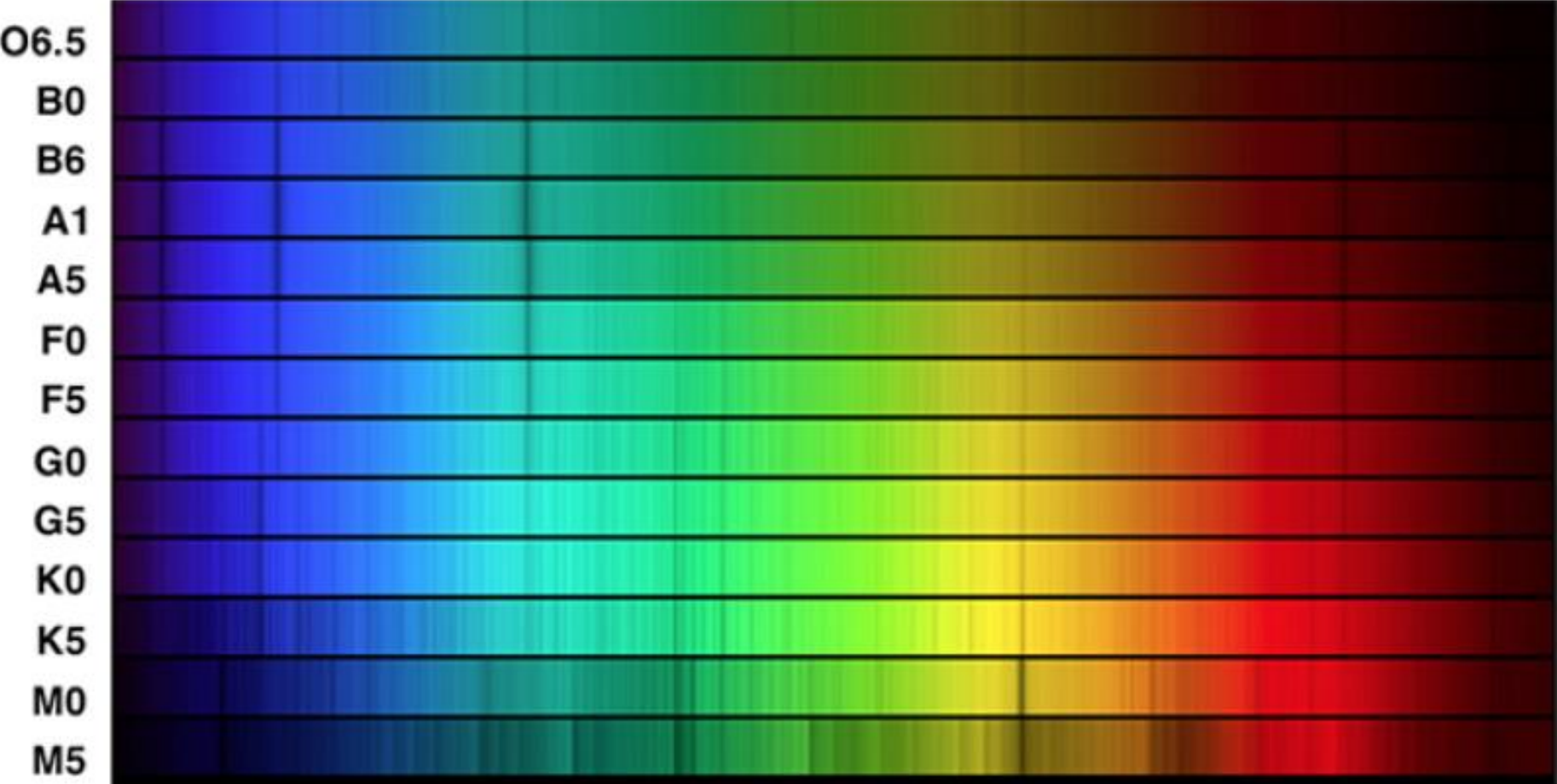


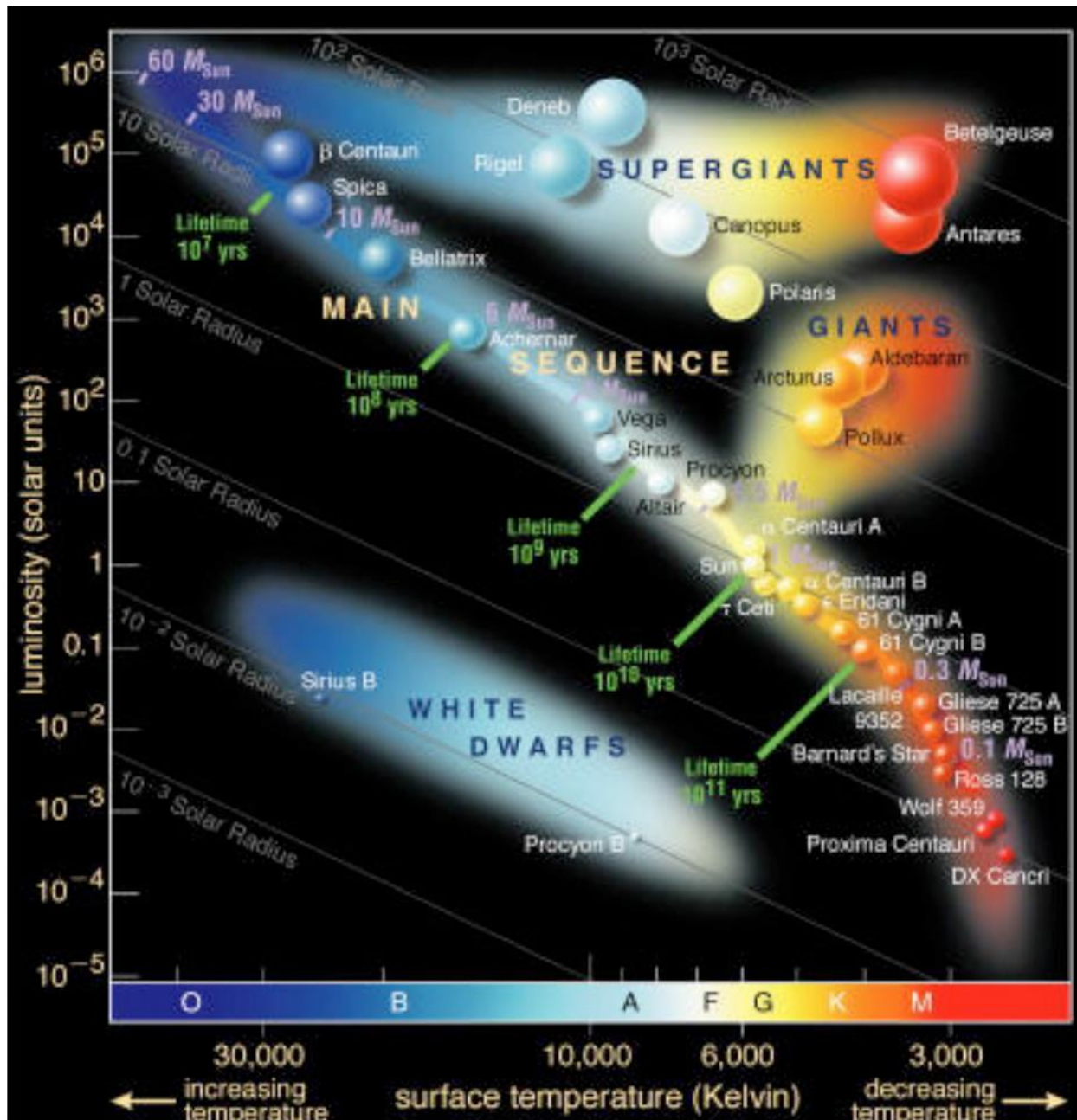
Blackbody emission: hotter things emit at higher energies
(=shorter wavelengths)

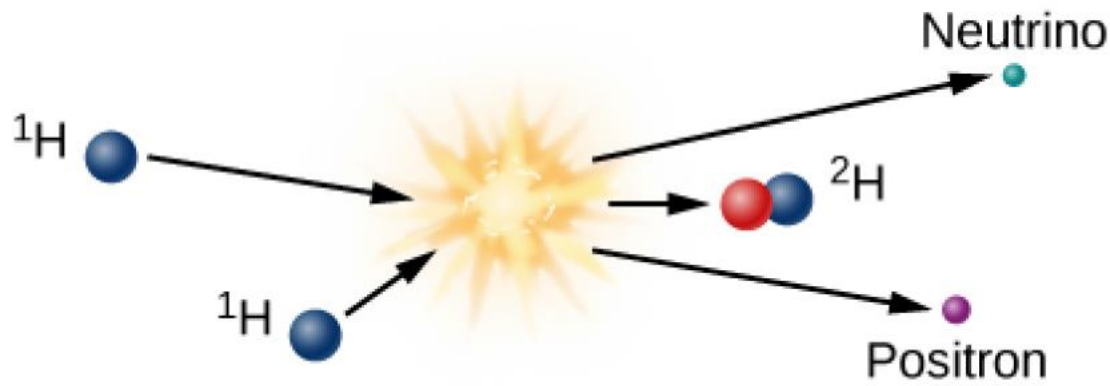
Peak of blackbody: $\lambda_{\max} \cdot T = 0.288 \text{ cm} \cdot \text{K}$



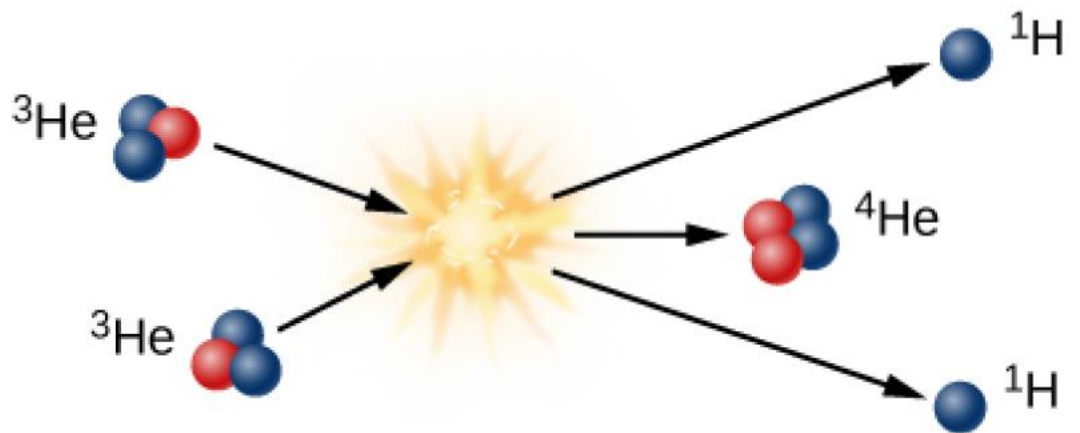
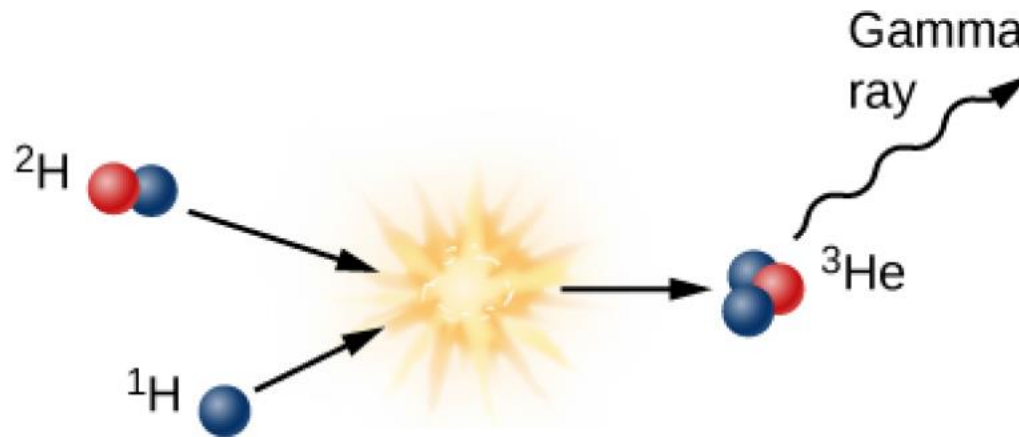
Spectral type = temperature squence

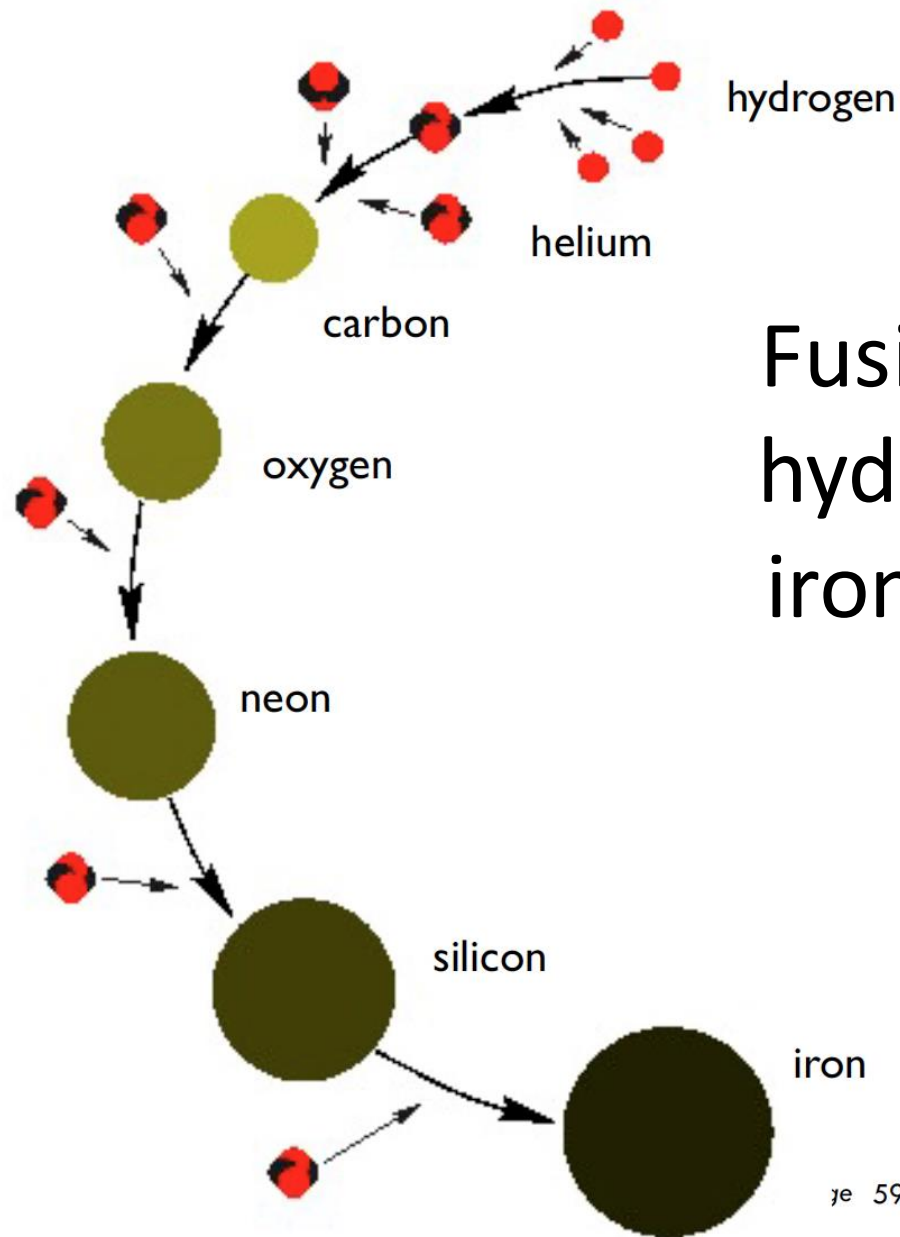




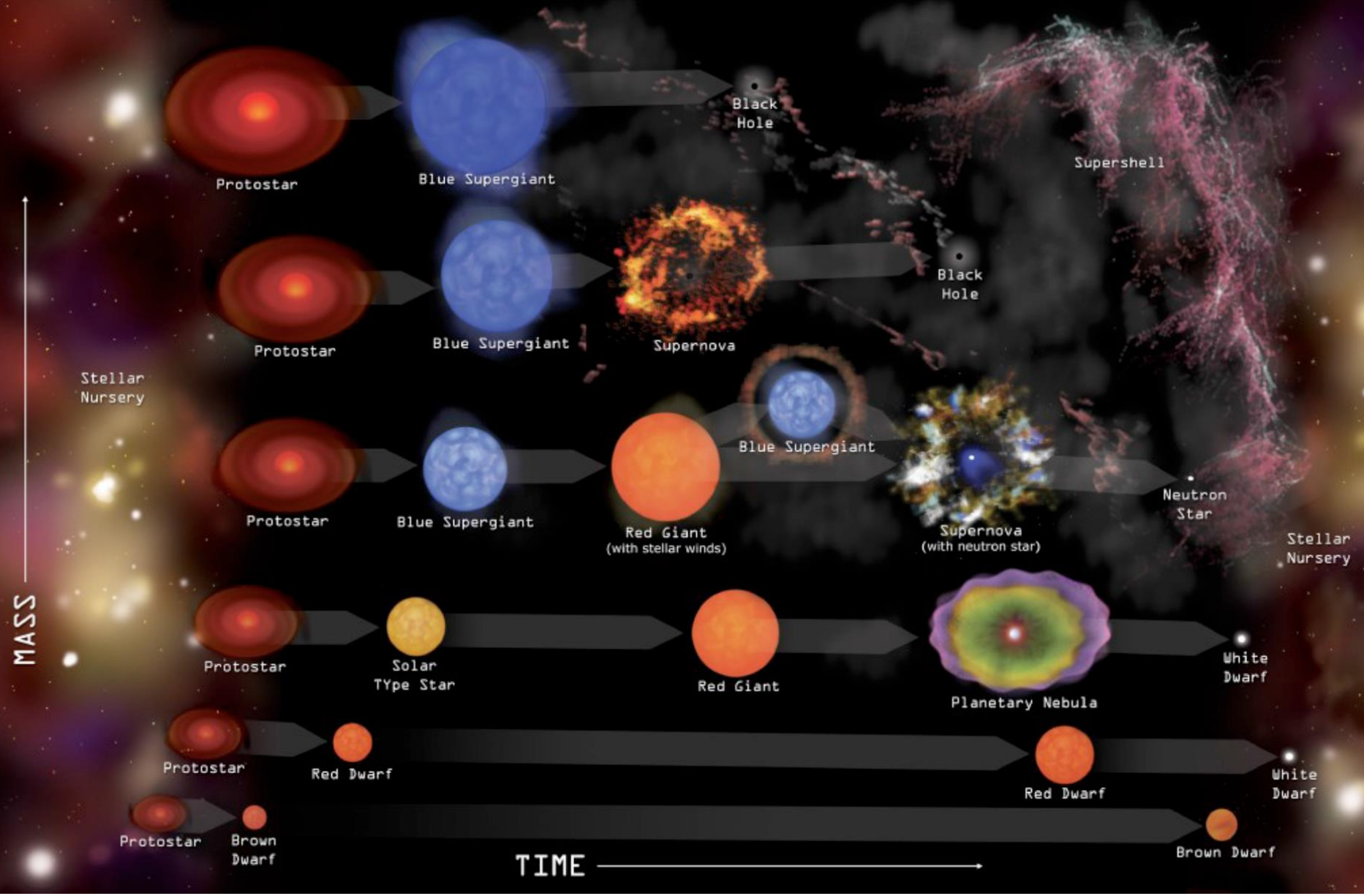


Fusion at core
4 Hydrogen atoms
turns into 1 He atom









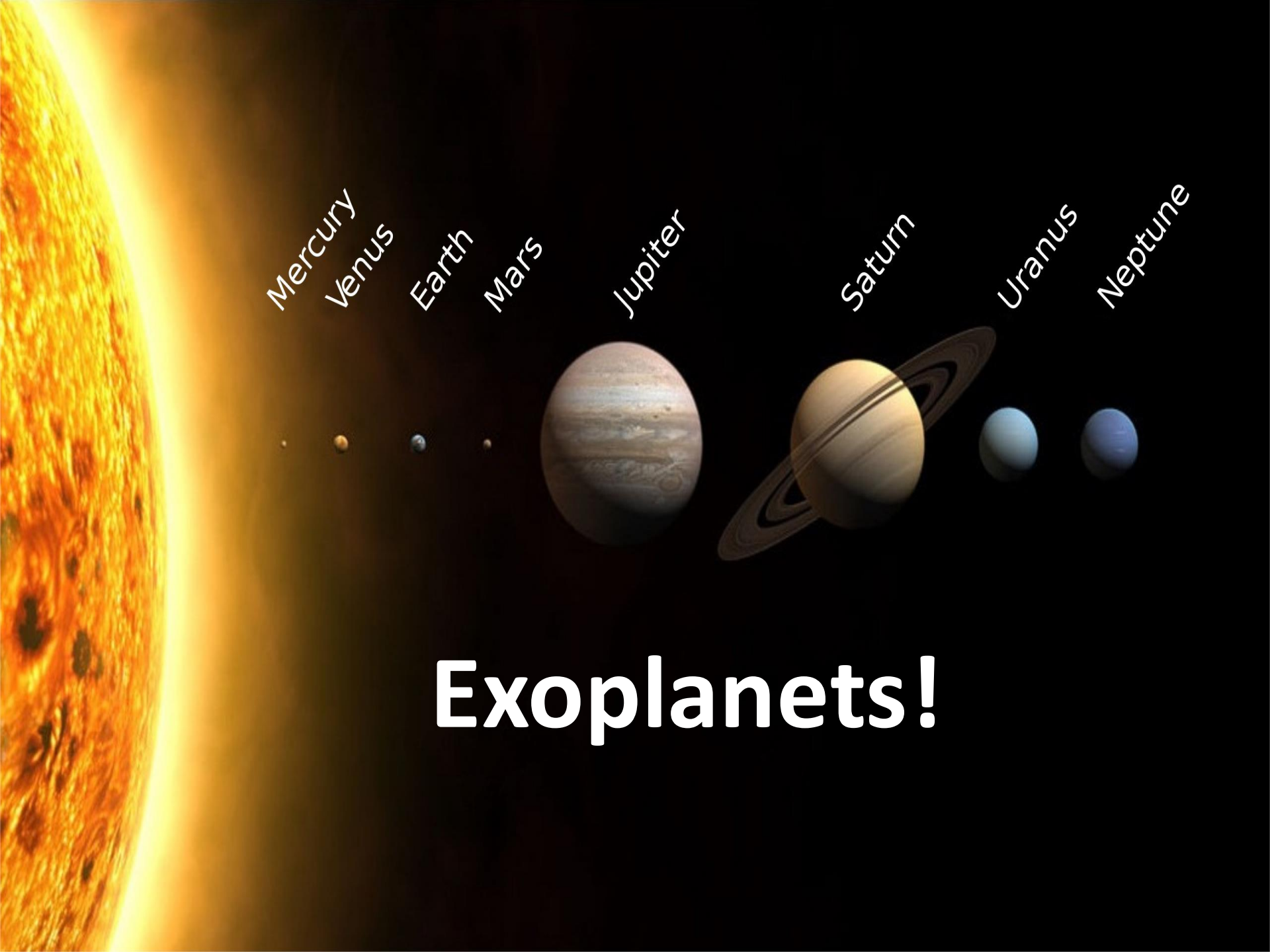


Fusion from
hydrogen to
iron in stars



The Origin of the Solar System Elements

1 H	big bang fusion 										cosmic ray fission 					2 He						
3 Li	4 Be	merging neutron stars? 										exploding massive stars 					5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg	dying low mass stars 					exploding white dwarfs 					13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar					
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr					
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe					
55 Cs	56 Ba	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn						
87 Fr	88 Ra																					
		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu						
		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	Very radioactive isotopes; nothing left from stars														



Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Exoplanets!

Exoplanets!!!

(planets outside of our solar system)

6,150 confirmed exoplanets!

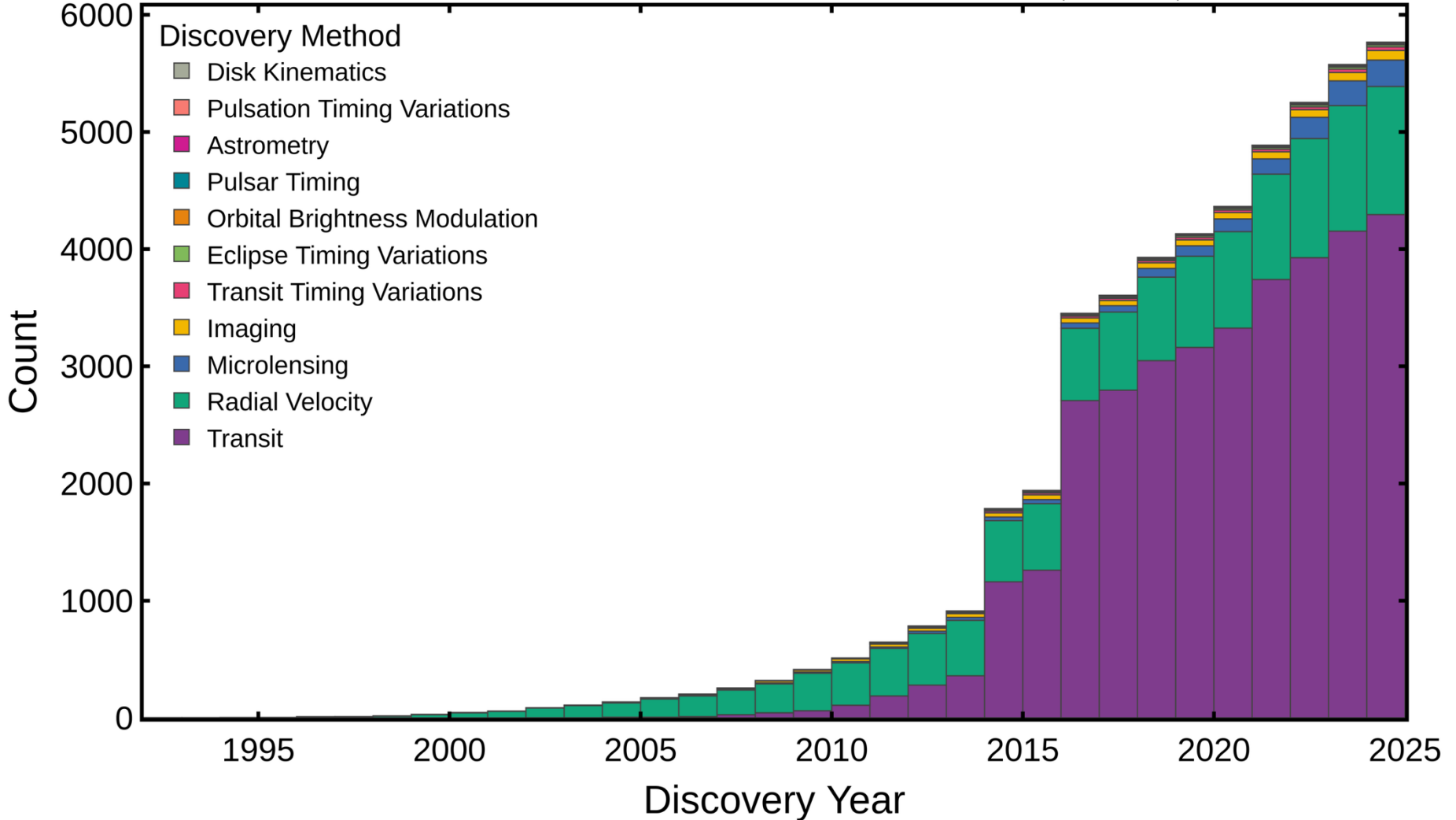
first detection around normal star: 1995

~10,000 more likely planets

This is amazing!

Cumulative Counts vs Discovery Year

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08

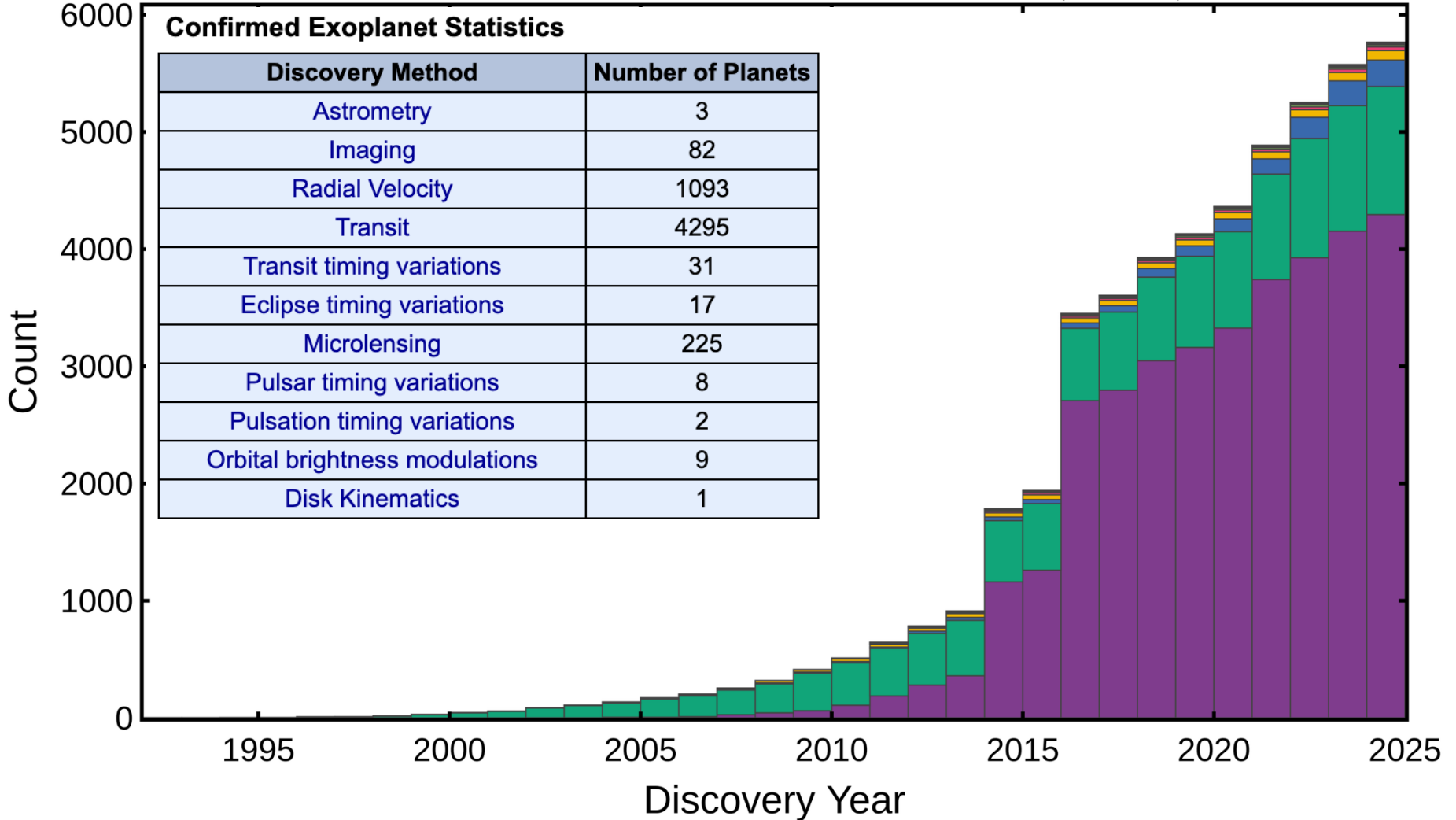


Cumulative Counts vs Discovery Year

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08

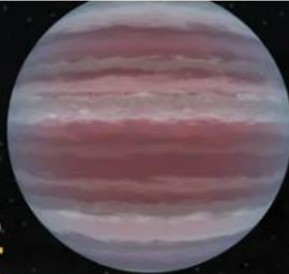
Confirmed Exoplanet Statistics

Discovery Method	Number of Planets
Astrometry	3
Imaging	82
Radial Velocity	1093
Transit	4295
Transit timing variations	31
Eclipse timing variations	17
Microlensing	225
Pulsar timing variations	8
Pulsation timing variations	2
Orbital brightness modulations	9
Disk Kinematics	1



30%
GAS GIANT

The size of Saturn or Jupiter (the largest planet in our solar system), or many times bigger. They can be hotter than some stars!



31%
SUPER-EARTH

Planets in this size range between Earth and Neptune don't exist in our solar system. Super-Earths, a reference to larger size, might be rocky worlds like Earth, while mini-Neptunes are likely shrouded in puffy atmospheres.



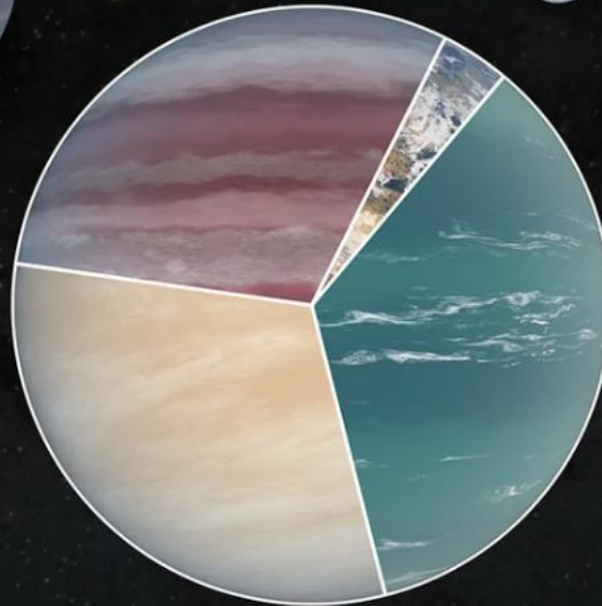
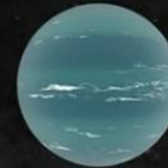
4%
TERRESTRIAL

Small, rocky planets. Around the size of our home planet, or a little smaller.



35%
NEPTUNE-LIKE

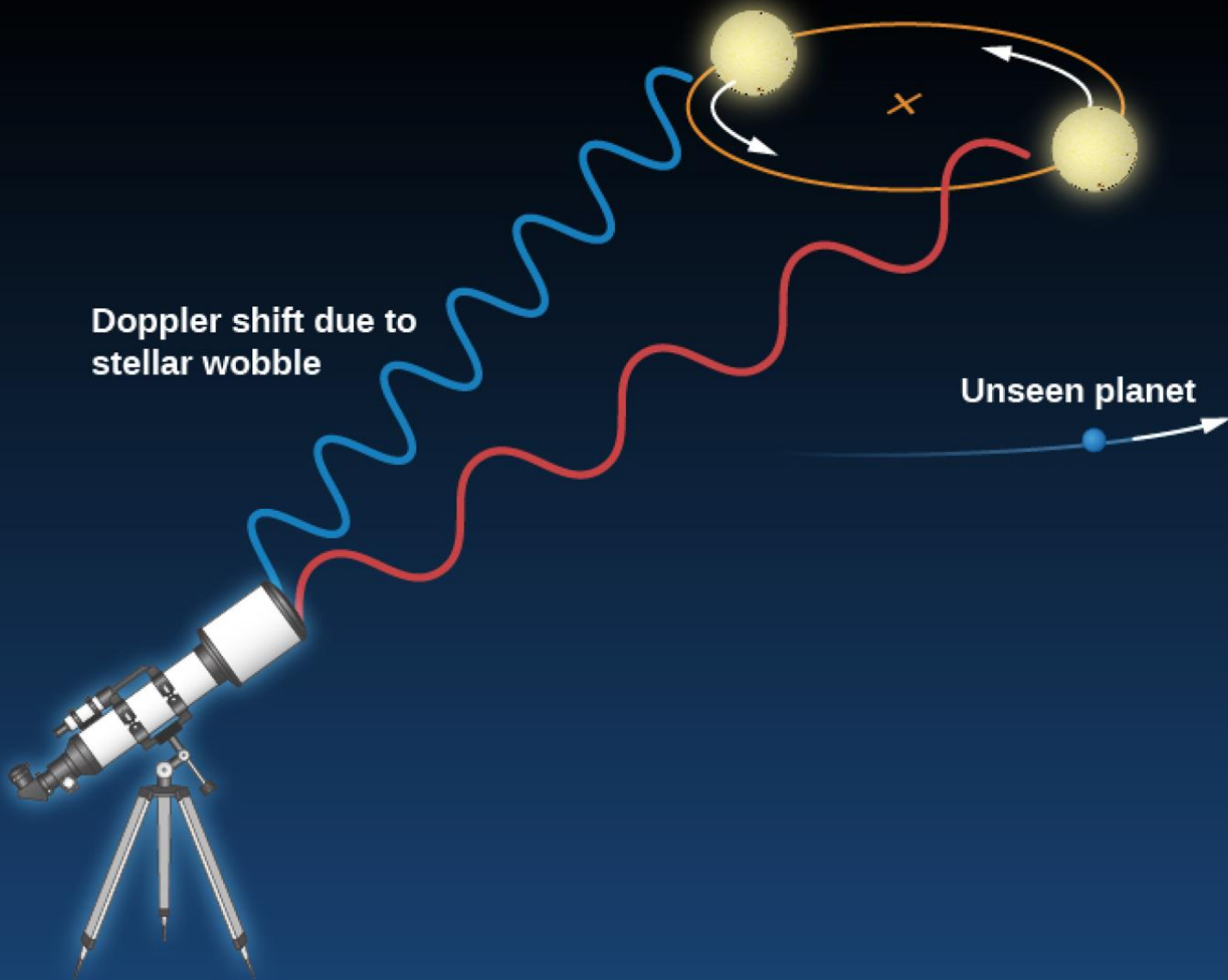
Similar in size to Neptune and Uranus. They can be ice giants, or much warmer. "Warm" Neptunes are more rare.



5000+
PLANETS FOUND

Keywords for Lecture 4

- Exoplanet: a planet around a different star
- Detection techniques: how exoplanets are detected?
 - Radial Velocity
 - Transits
 - Direct Imaging
- Atmospheres
- Protoplanetary disks
- Habitability
- Biases

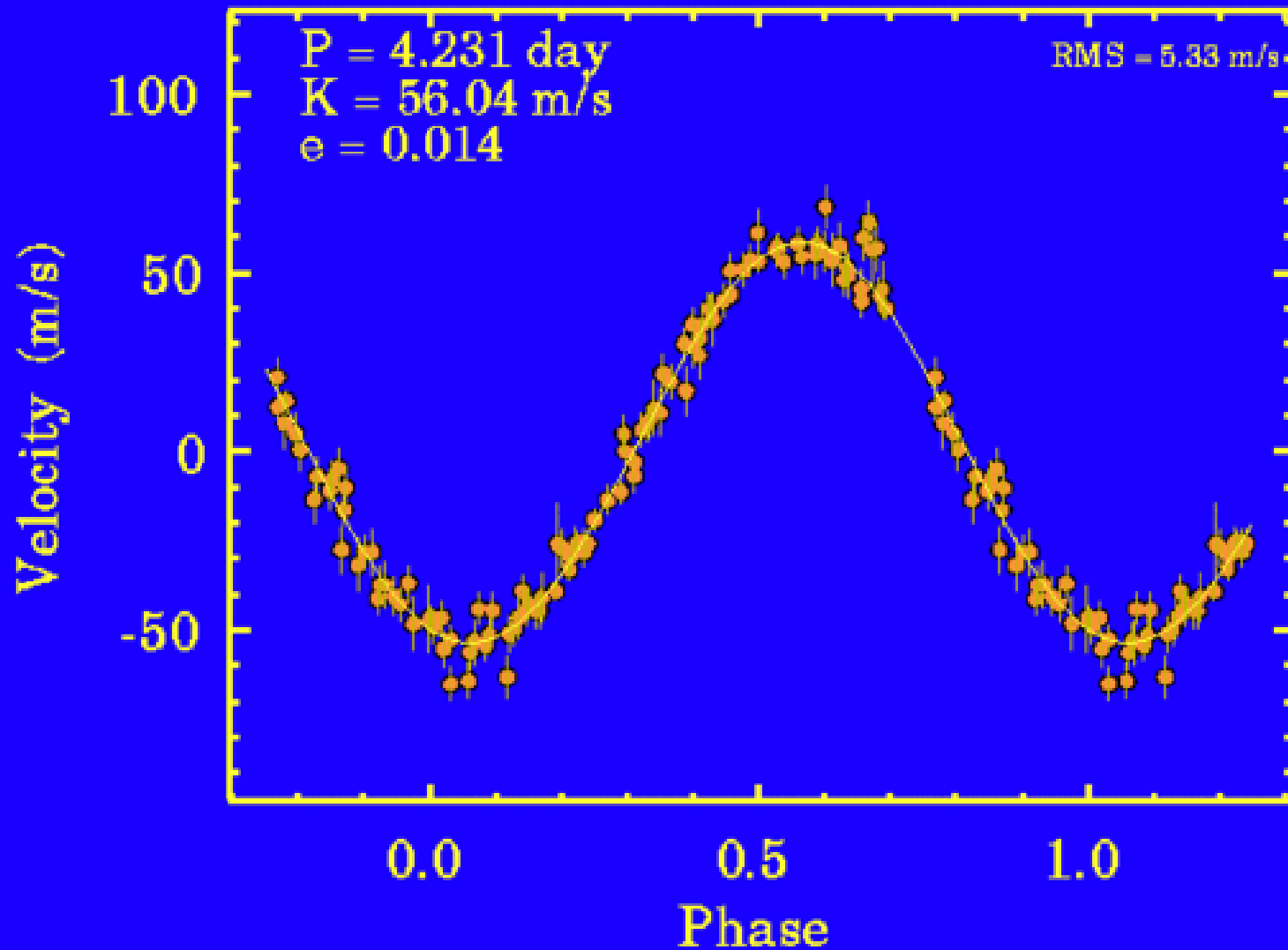


Doppler shift due to stellar wobble

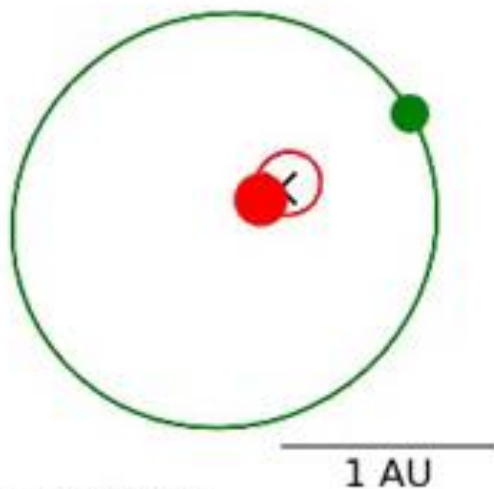
Unseen planet

The first planet: a hot Jupiter

51 Pegasi



↑
observer



time = 0.000 yr

● star

● planet

(note: planet's mass exaggerated to enhance effect)

× center of mass

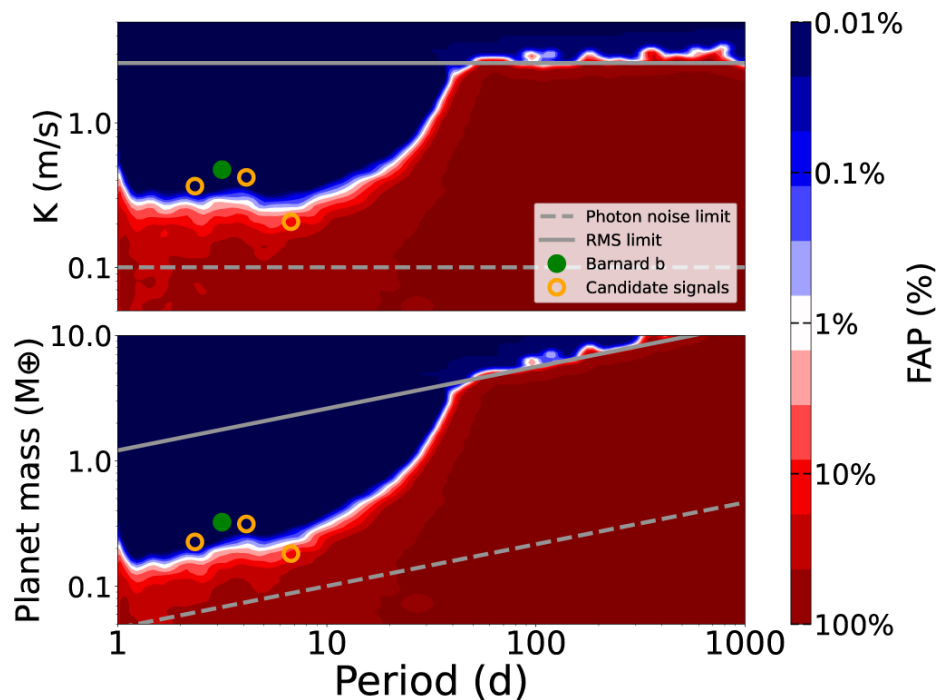
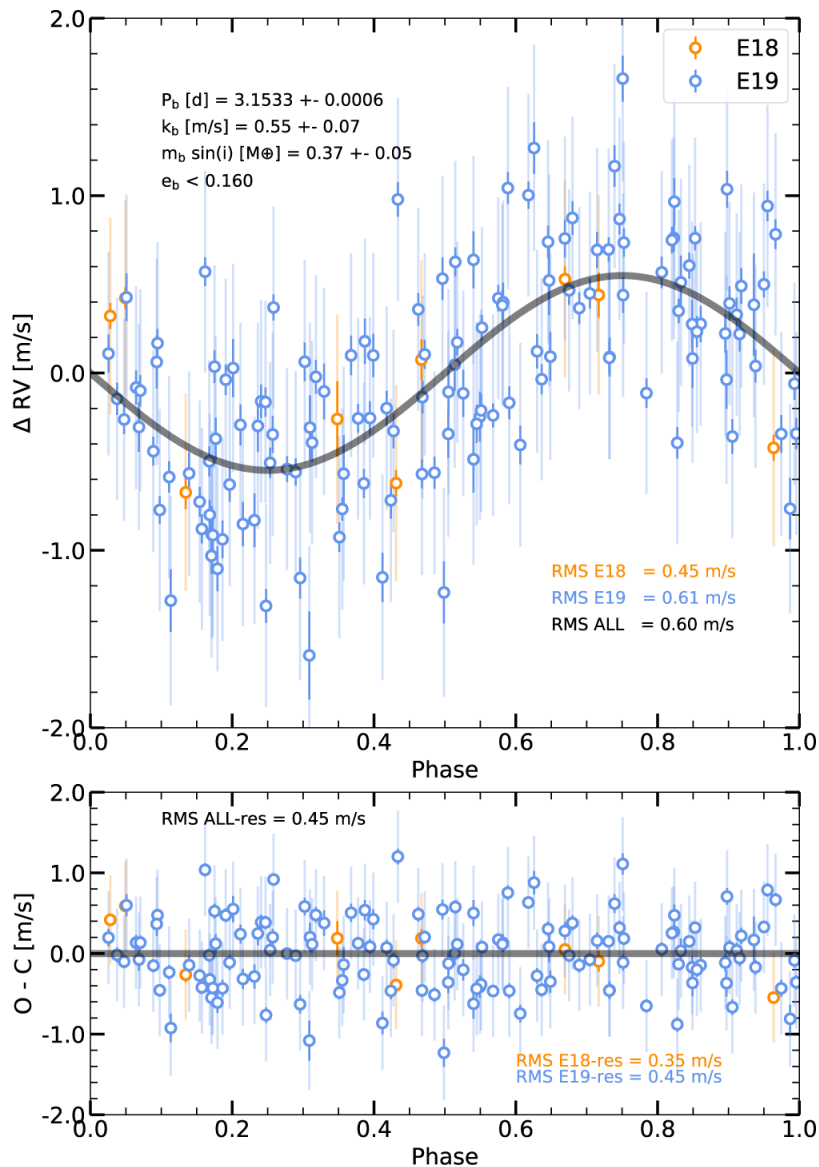
Bias of radial velocity

- What kinds of planets are easiest to detect?
 - Higher mass
 - Closer to the star
- Motion of star

$$v_{\text{obs}} = 28.4 \frac{M_P \sin i}{P_{\text{orb}}^{1/3} M_*^{2/3}}$$

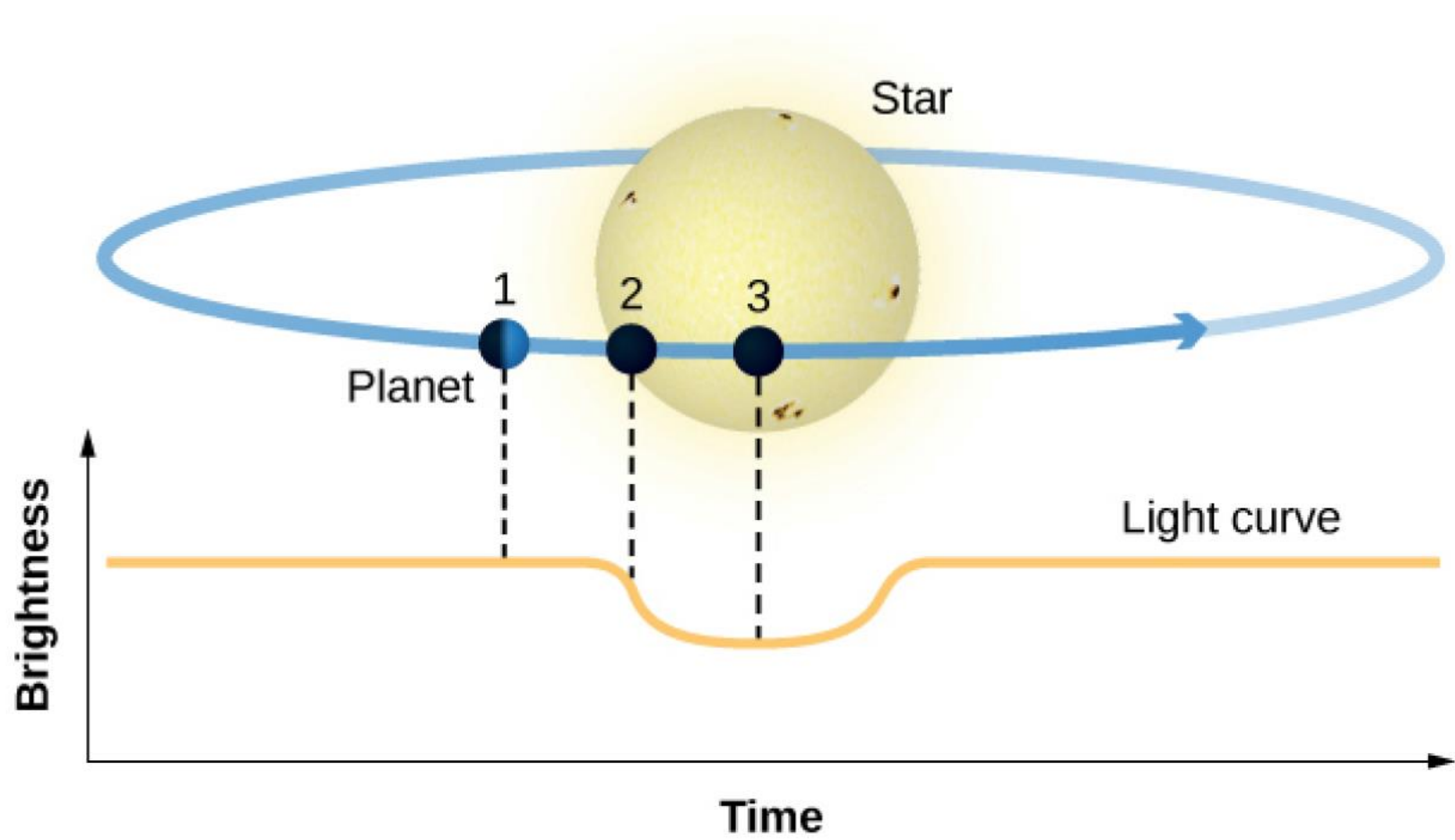
- M_P in Jupiter masses
- P_{orb} in years
- M_* in solar masses

Barnard star planet: 3-day period, 0.37 M_{earth}



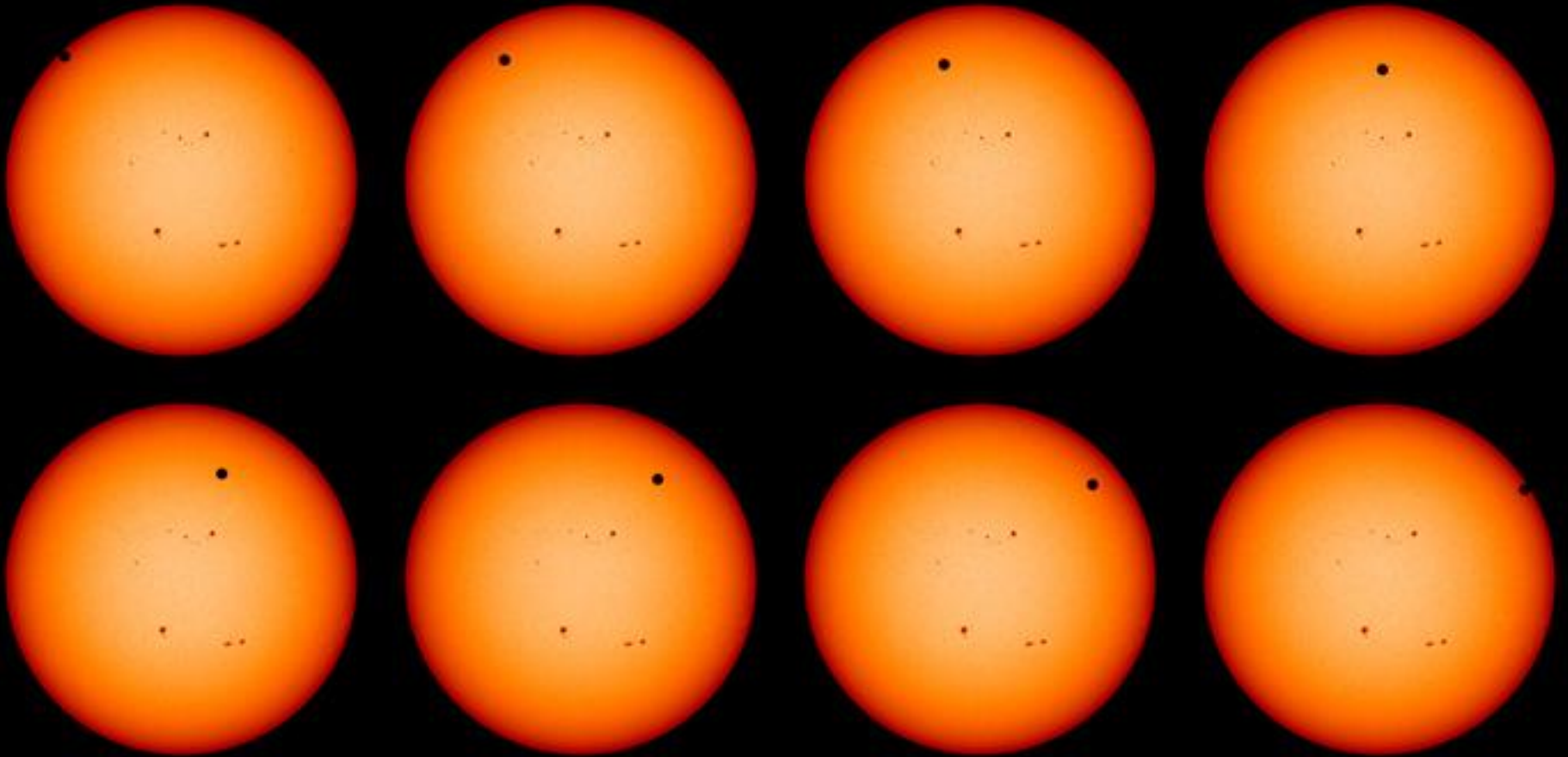
Bias: sensitivity to planet mass/radius

Radial velocity signal+residual



Venus transit

Every 112 years: (two times, separated by 8 years)
last time in 2004/2012

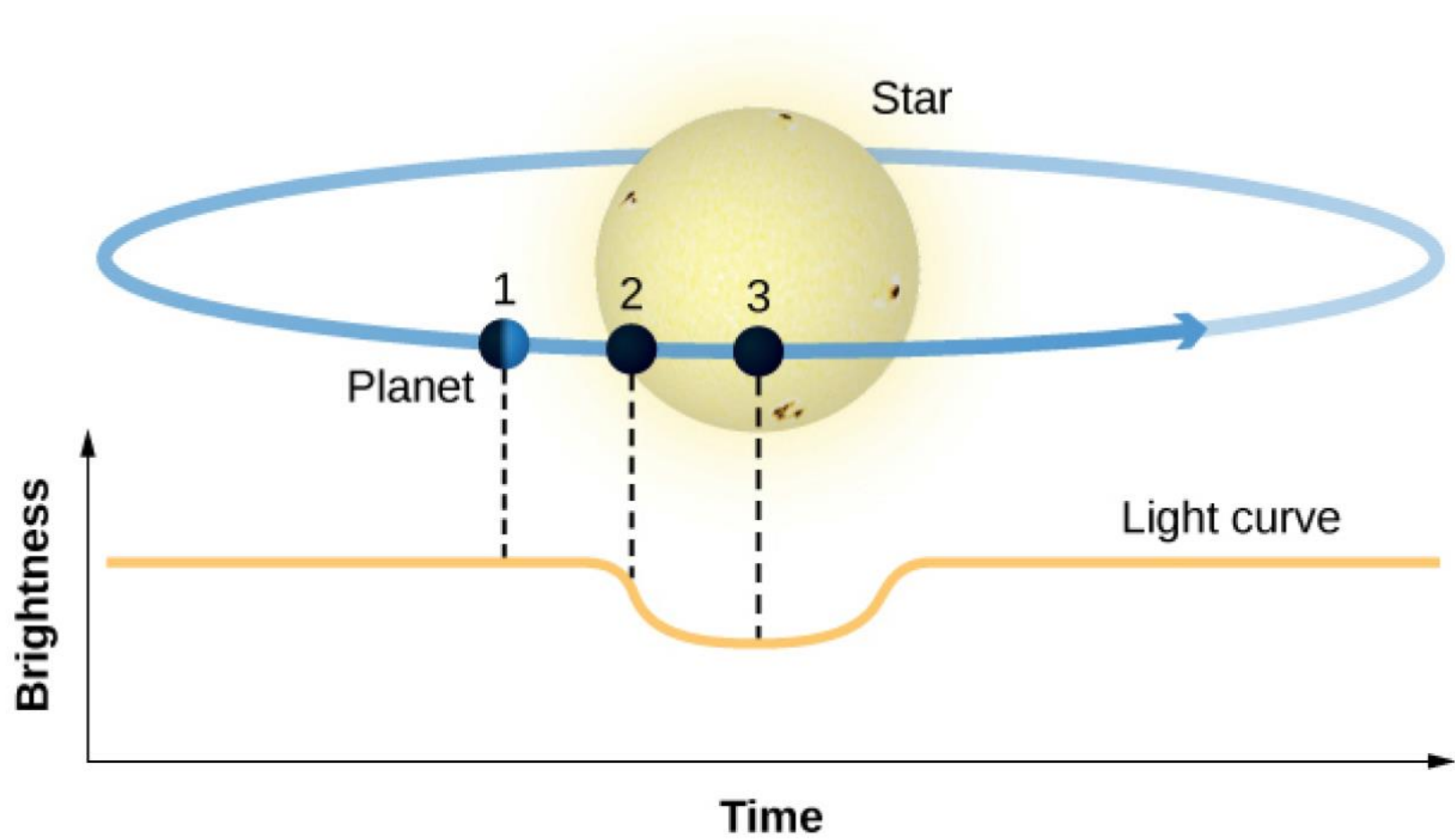


Venus transit

Guillaume Le Gentil: the unluckiest astronomer

1761/1769 transits from India?



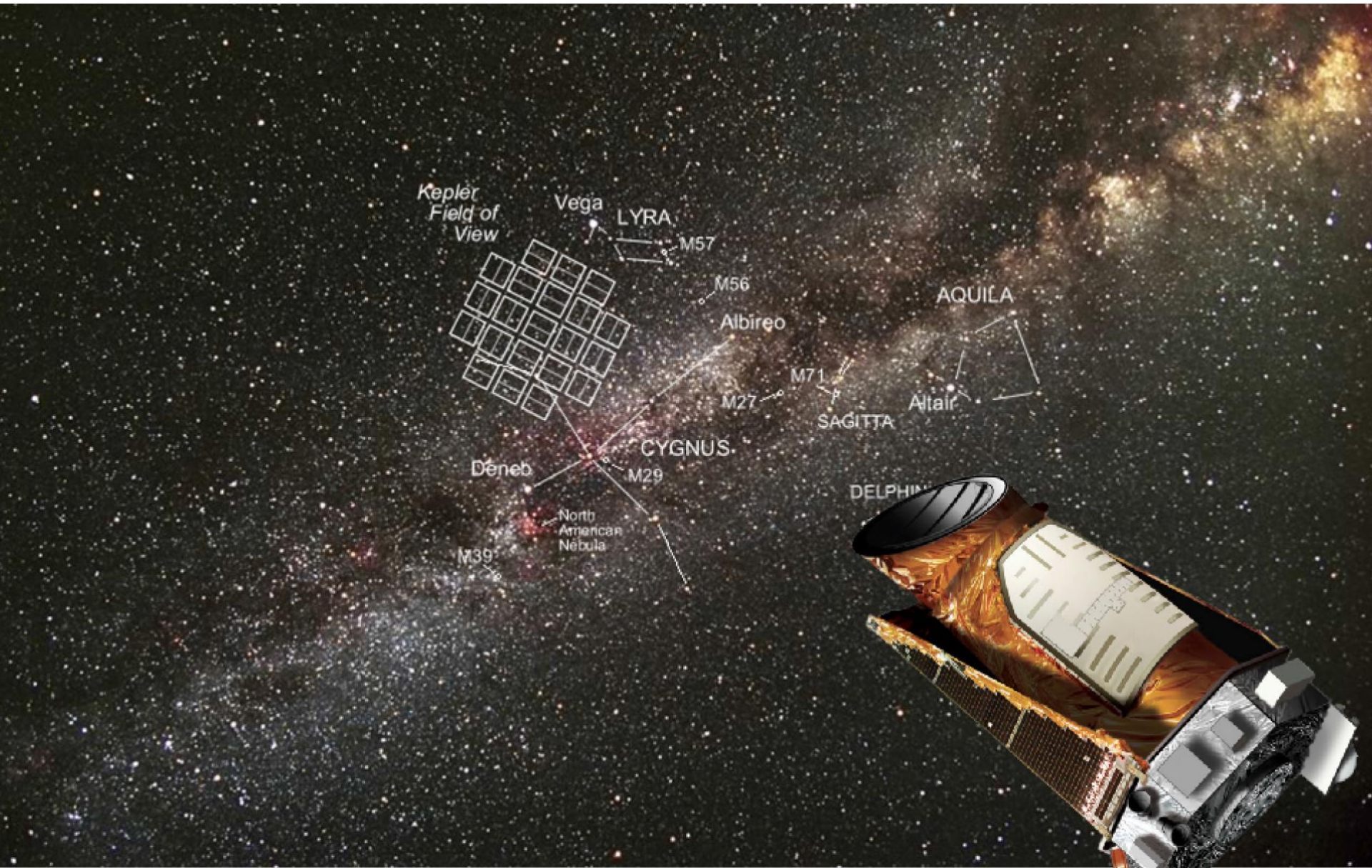




Brightness

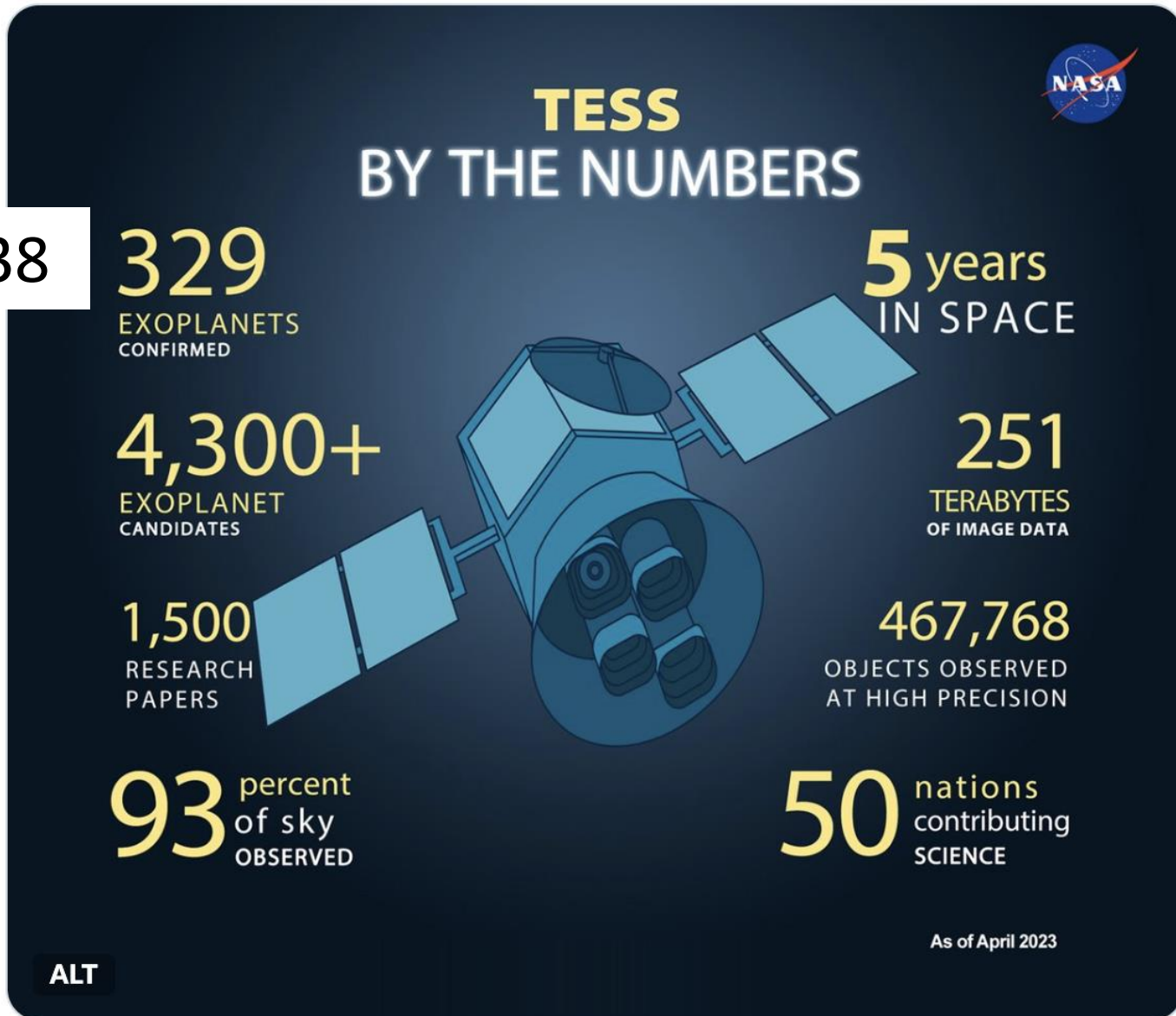
Time

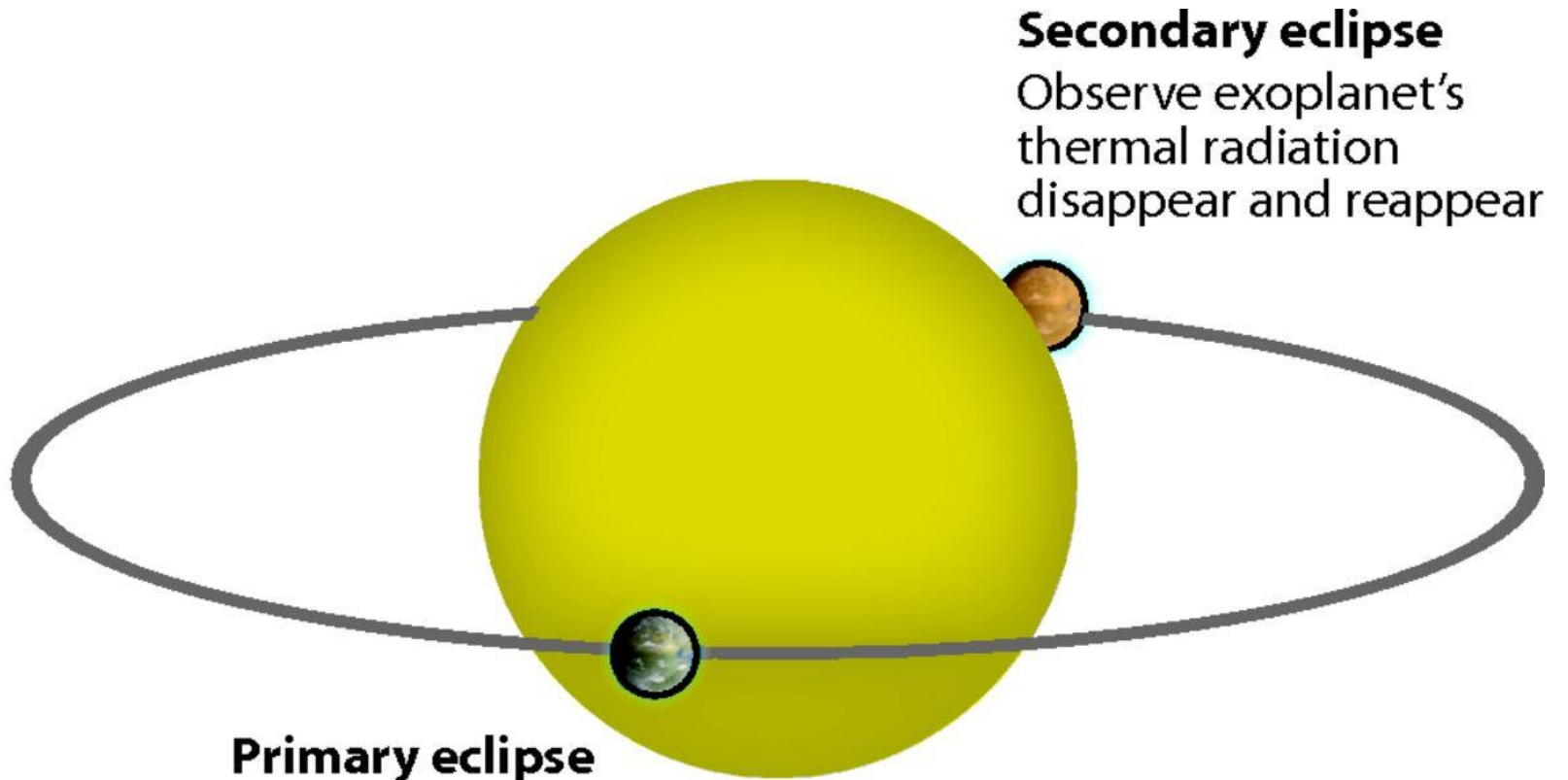
Kepler Observatory: thousands of planets



TESS Observatory: all-sky, bright stars

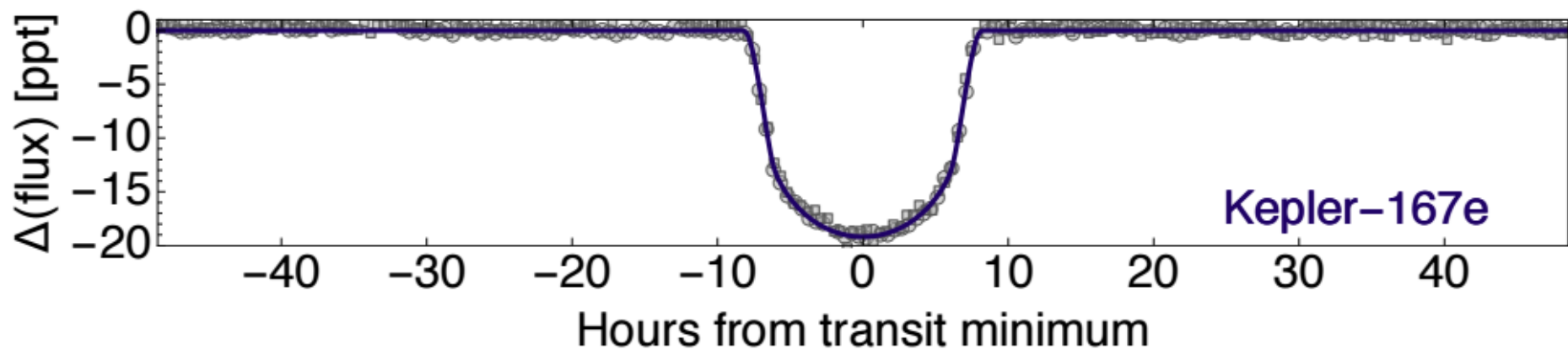
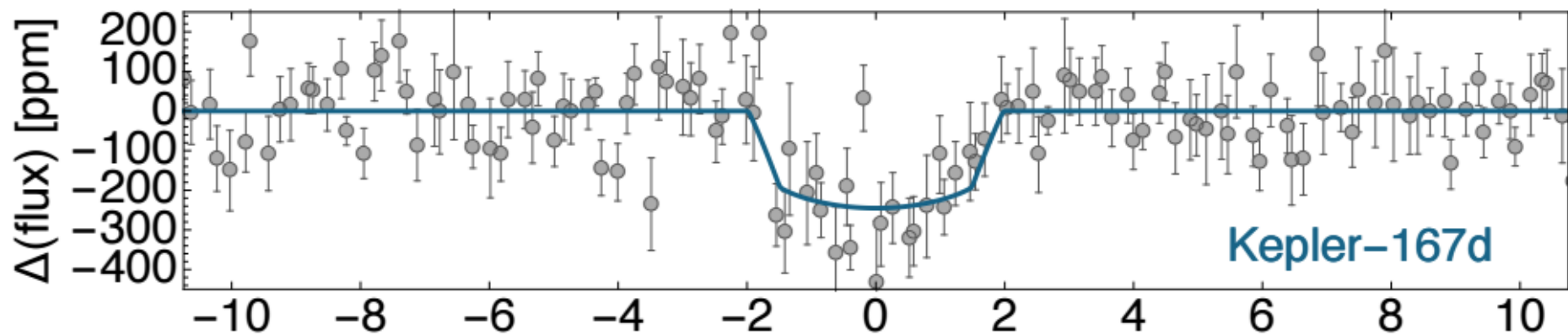
Now 638





Secondary eclipse
Observe exoplanet's thermal radiation disappear and reappear

Primary eclipse
Exoplanet's size relative to star
See star's radiation transmitted through the planet's atmosphere

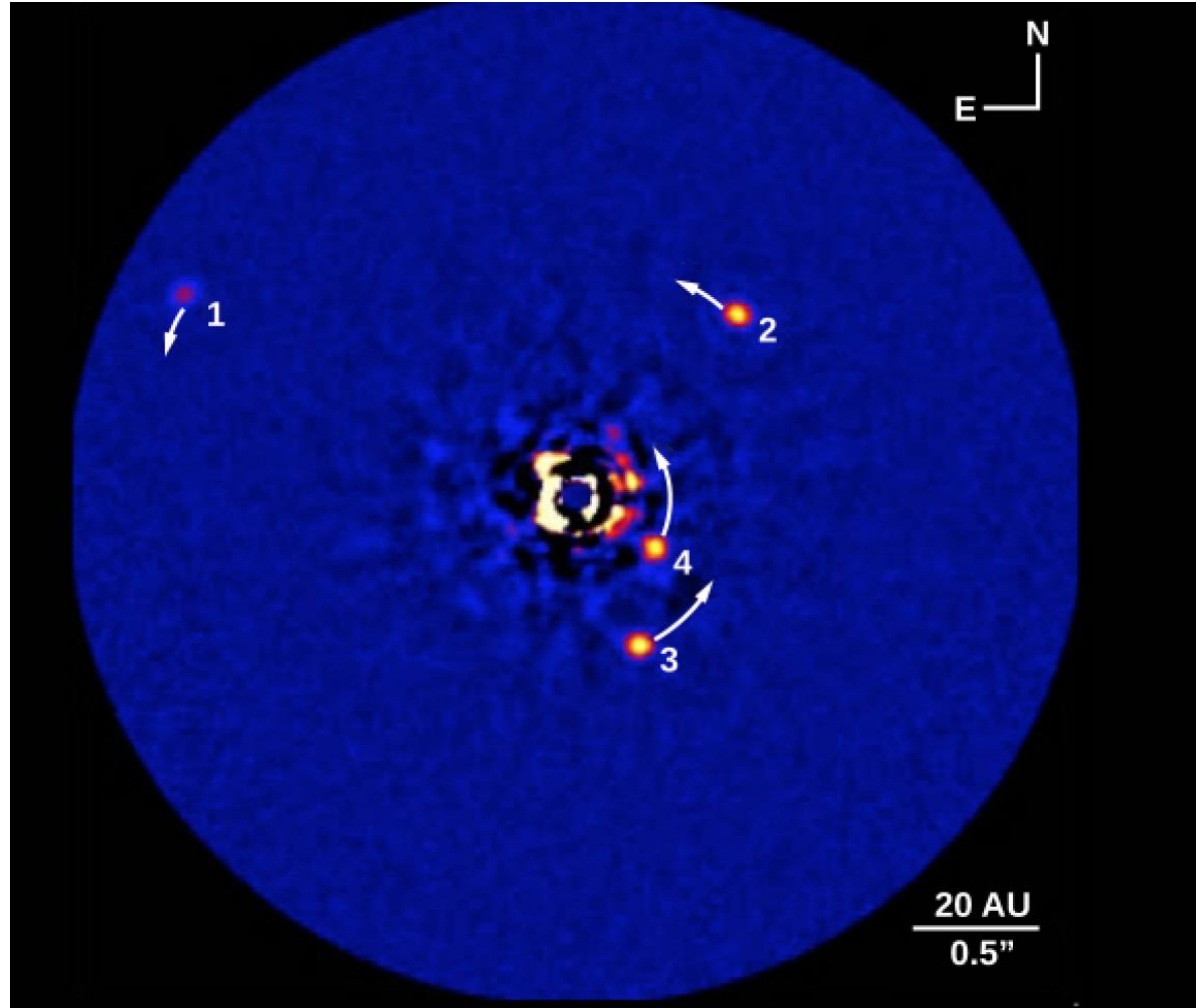


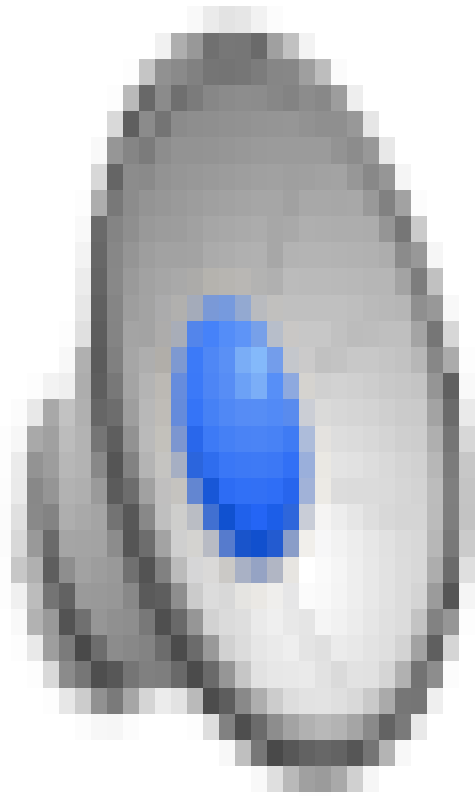
Bias of transits

- What kinds of planets are easiest to detect?
- Close to star
- Large radius

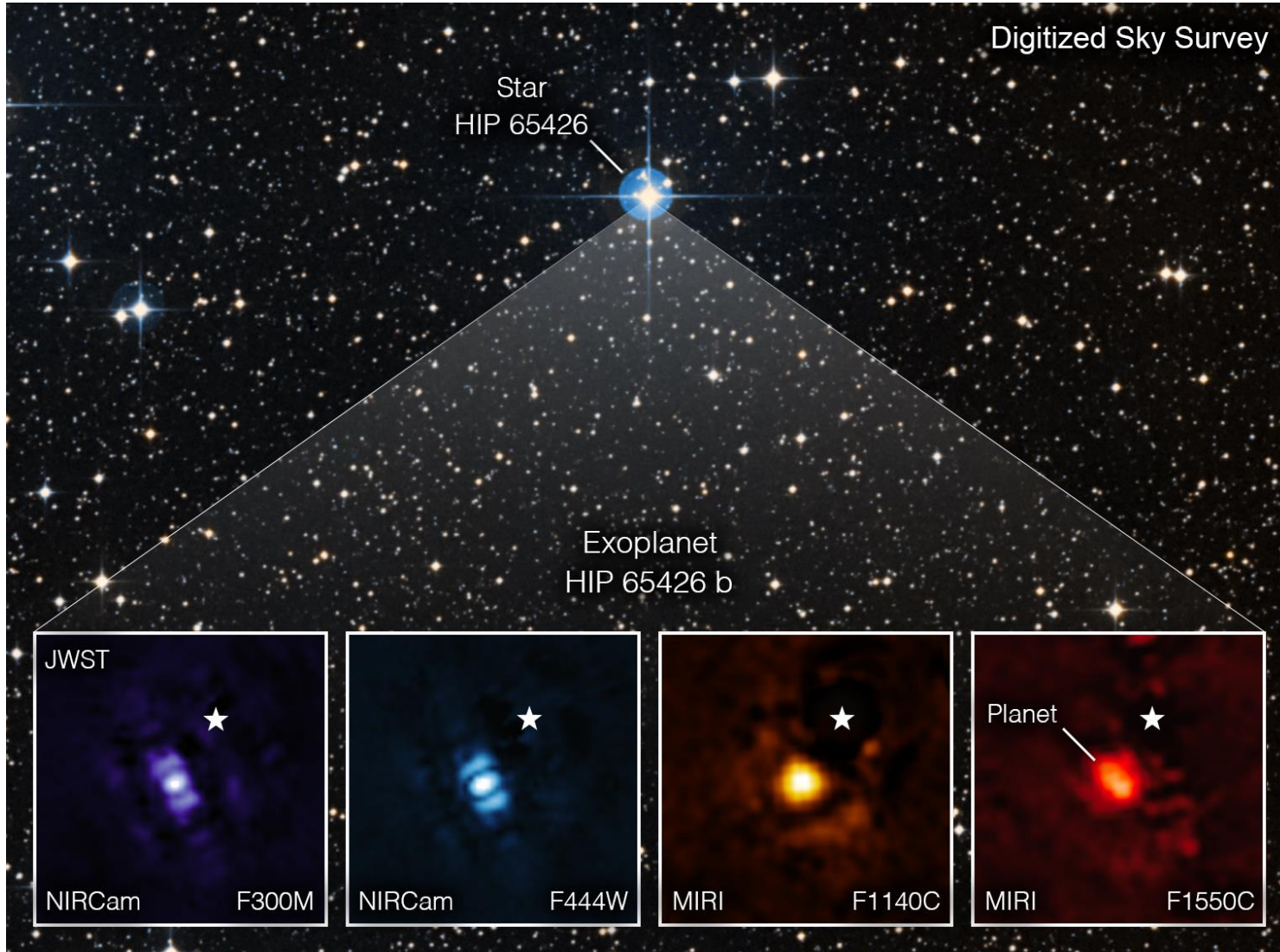
$$R_p = R_{\star} \sqrt{\text{Depth}}$$

Direct Imaging: requires coronagraph to block out the star (similar to eclipse)





First JWST image of a planet

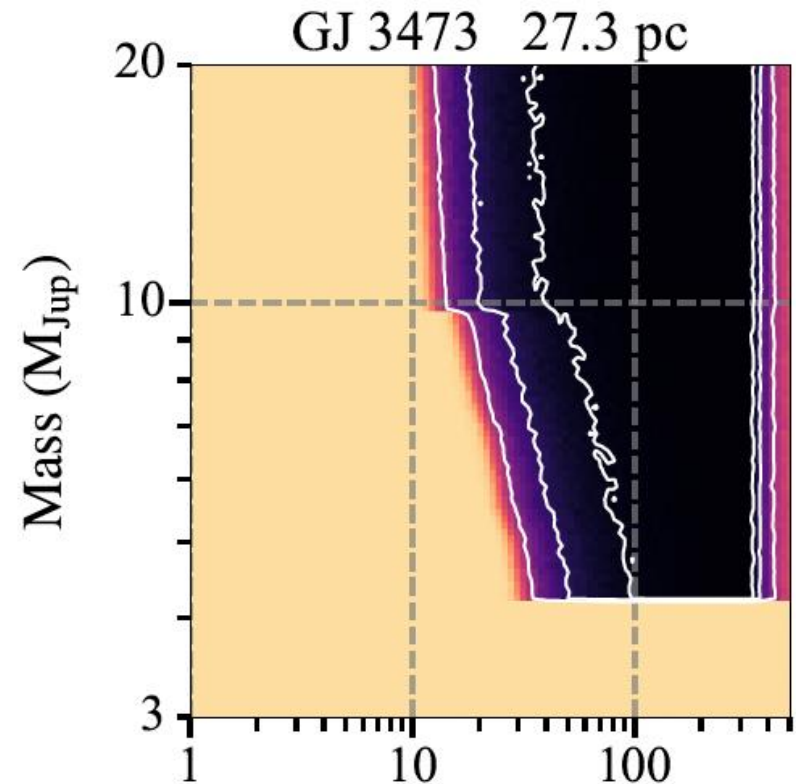
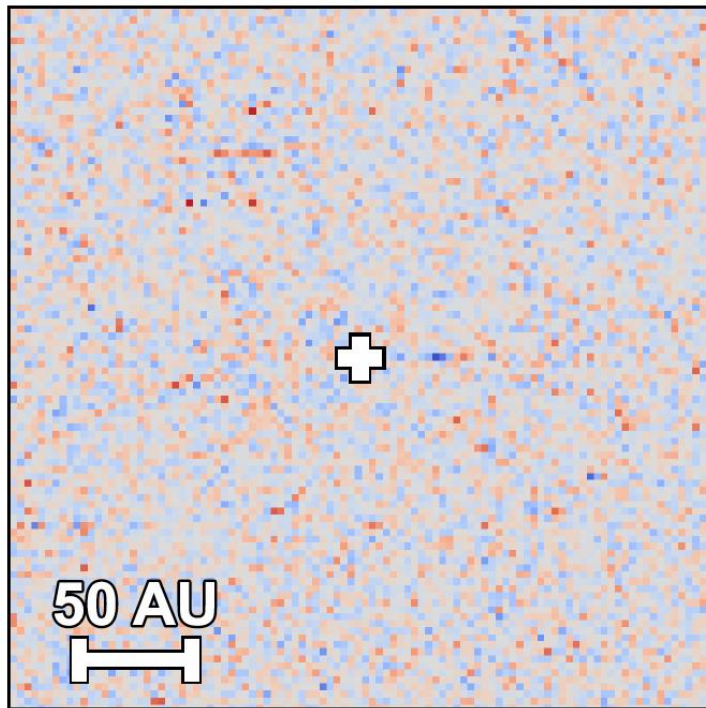


JWST:
Powerful new
infrared
telescope

Searching for cool planets with JWST

(new method from Yihan Li et al 2026)

GJ 3473, SUB256



Bias of direct imaging

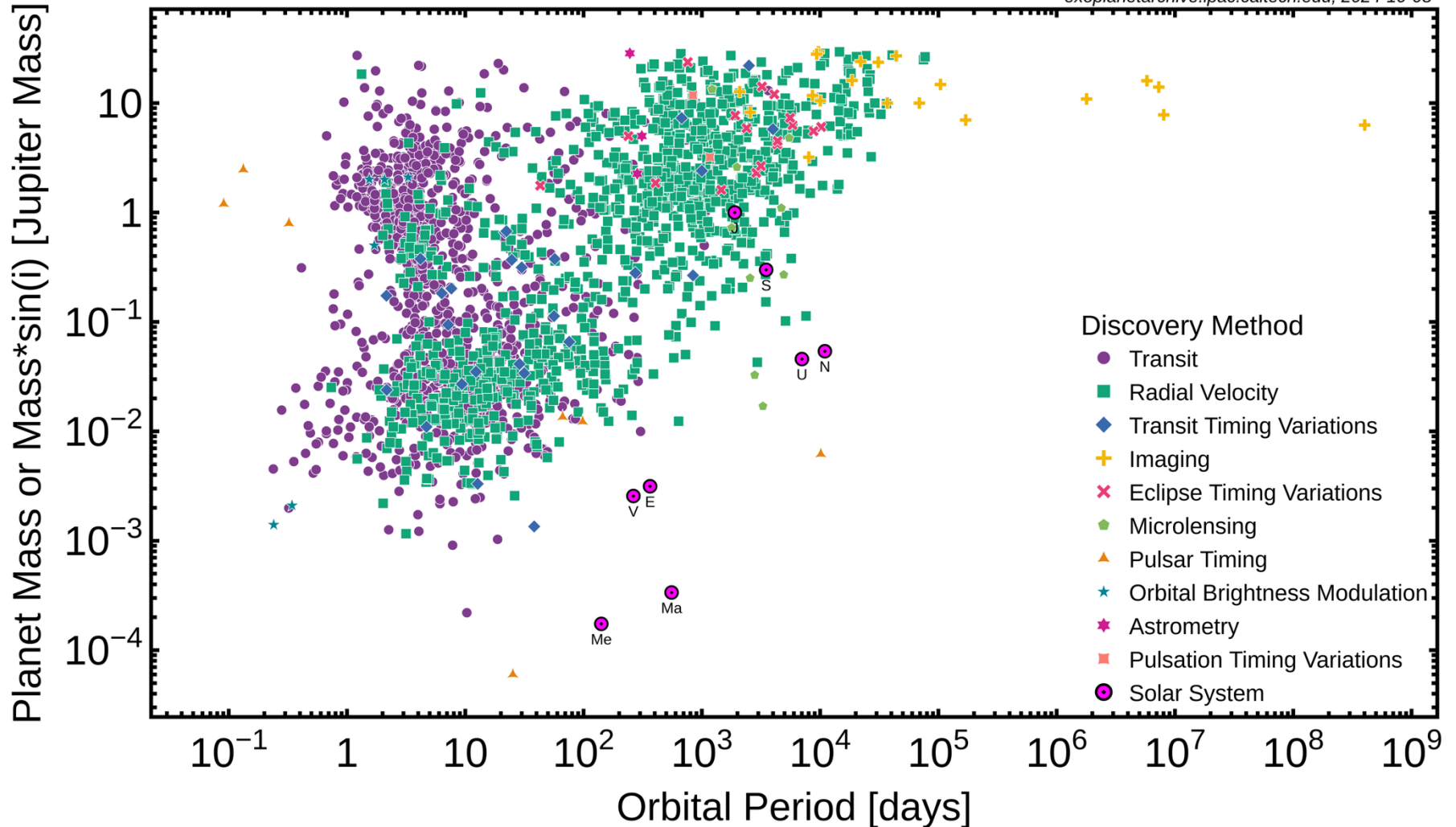
- What kinds of planets are easiest to detect?
- Very bright (higher mass)
- Far from the star!

[also this is very hard]

Exoplanets are common!

Planet Mass or Mass* $\sin(i)$ vs Orbital Period

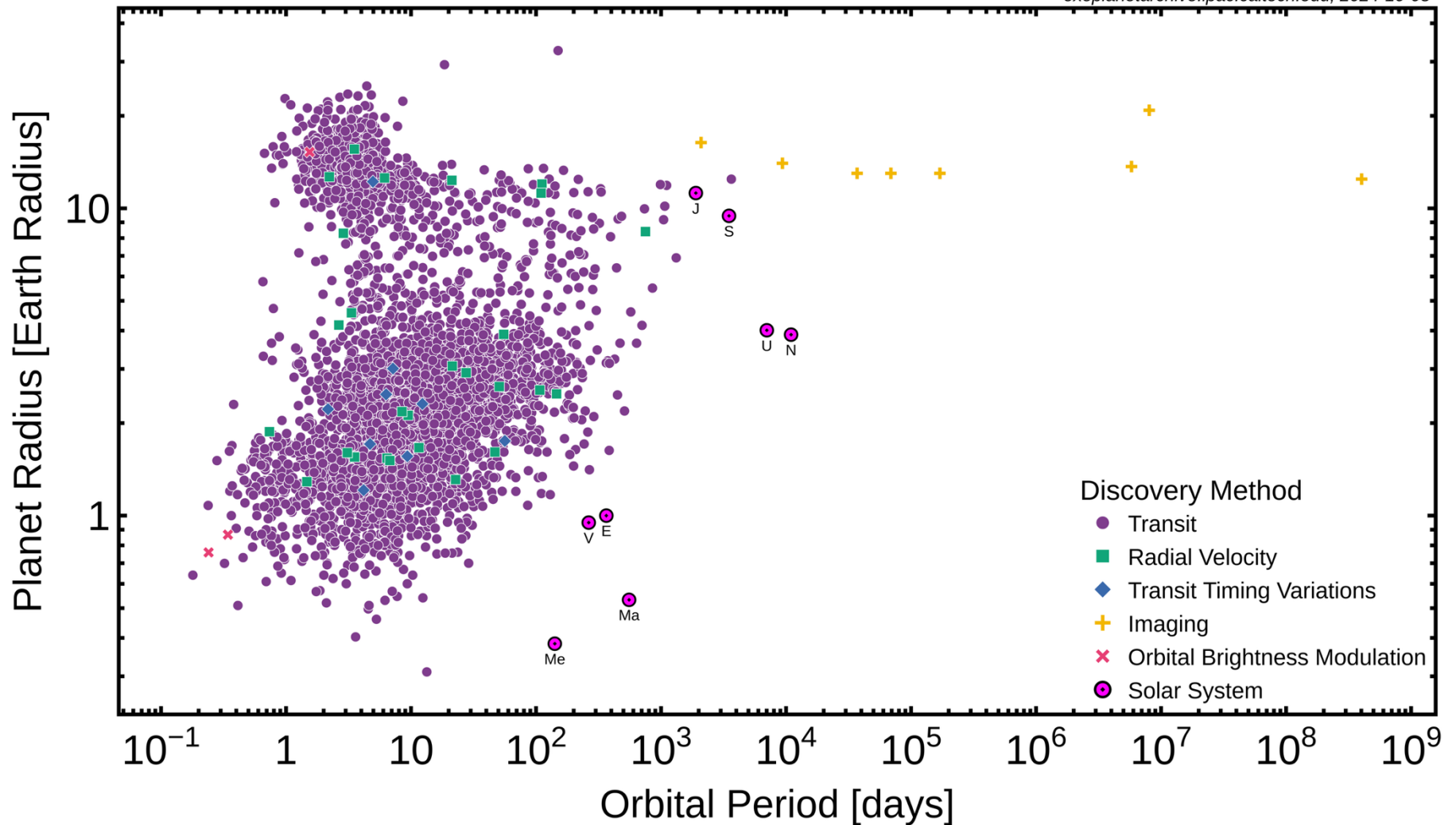
exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



Exoplanets are common!

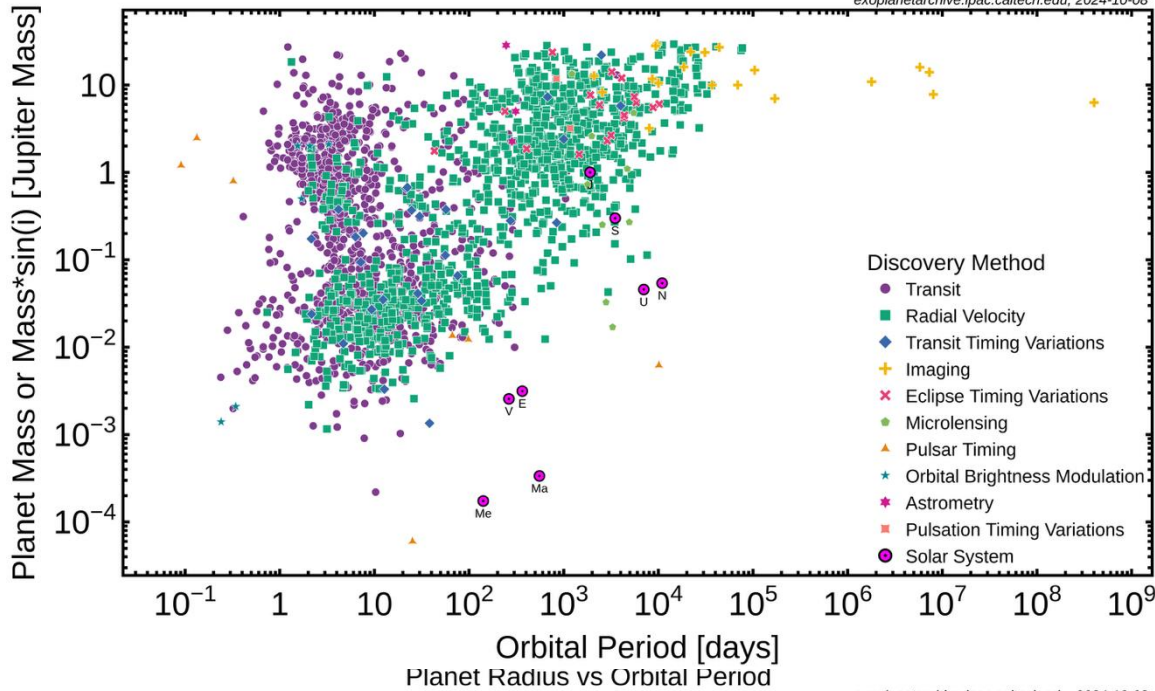
Planet Radius vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



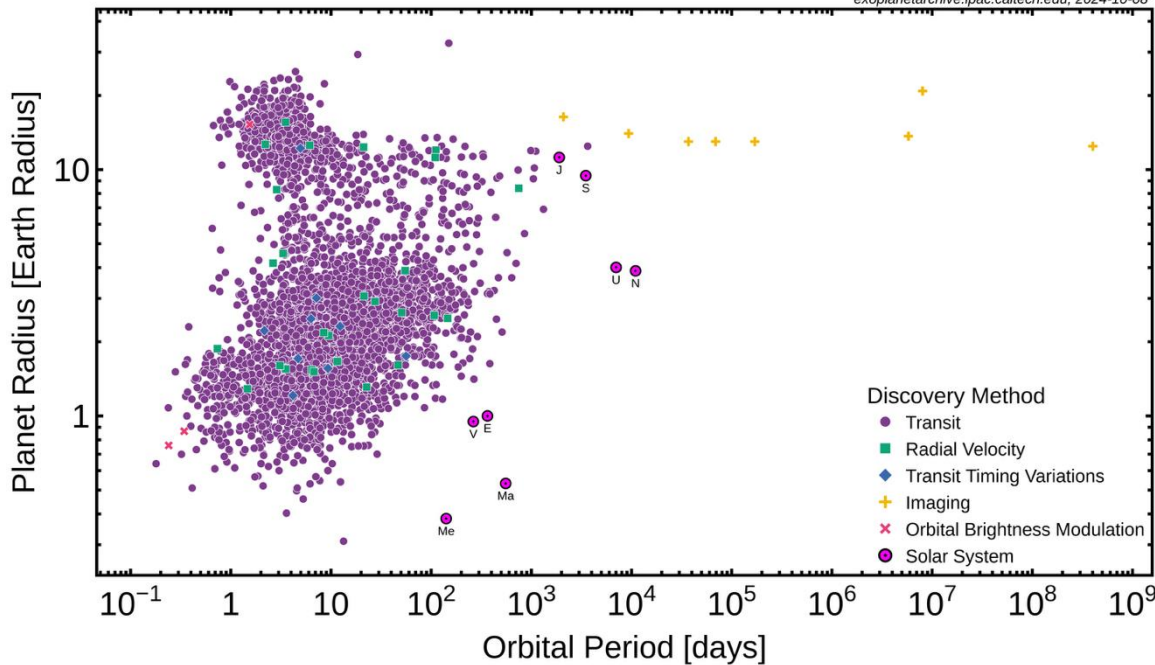
Planet Mass or Mass* $\sin(i)$ vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



Planet Radius vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



Differences in methods:

measuring

mass or

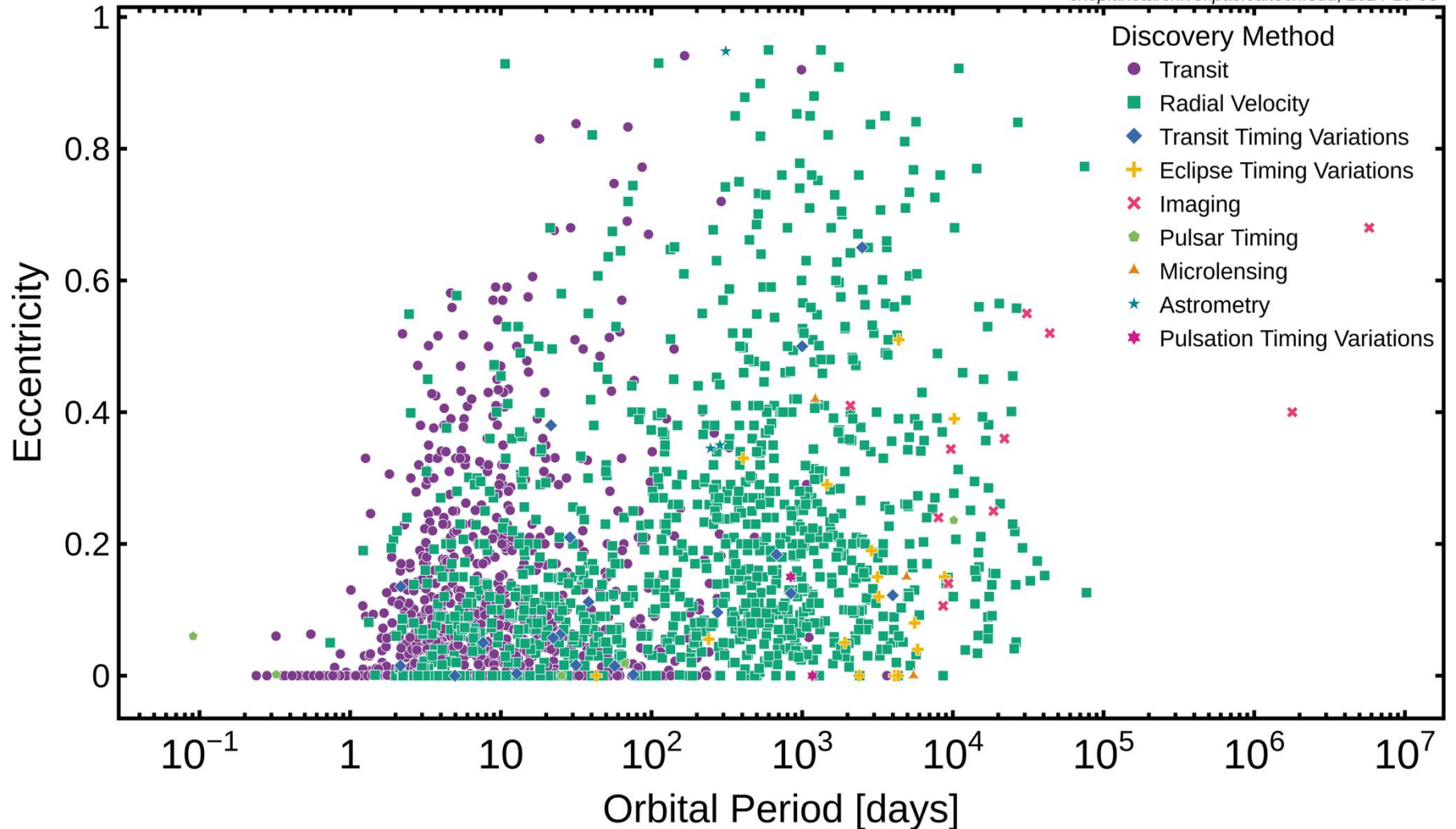
radius?

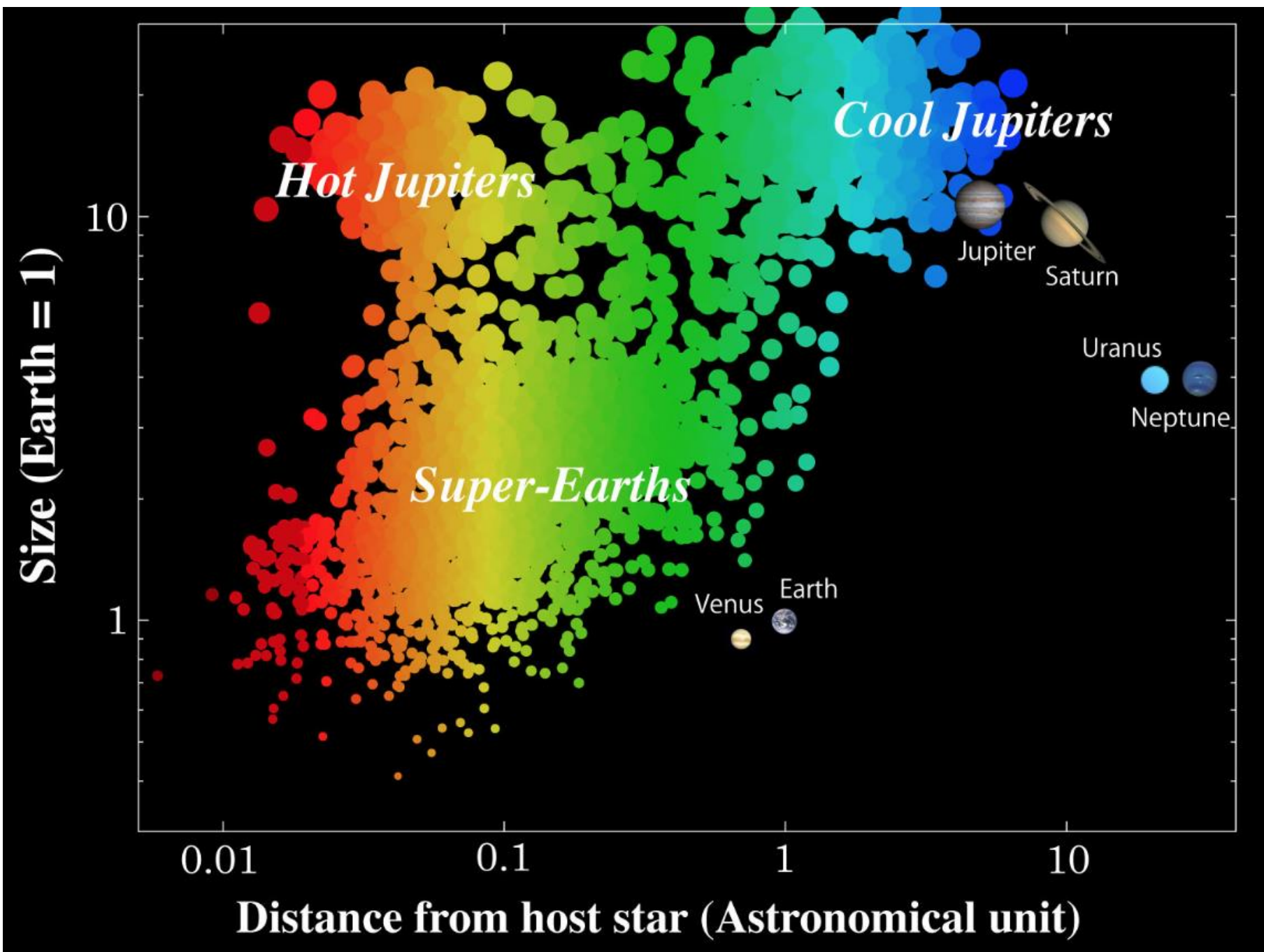
(ideally both)

Most orbits are circular (but some eccentric)

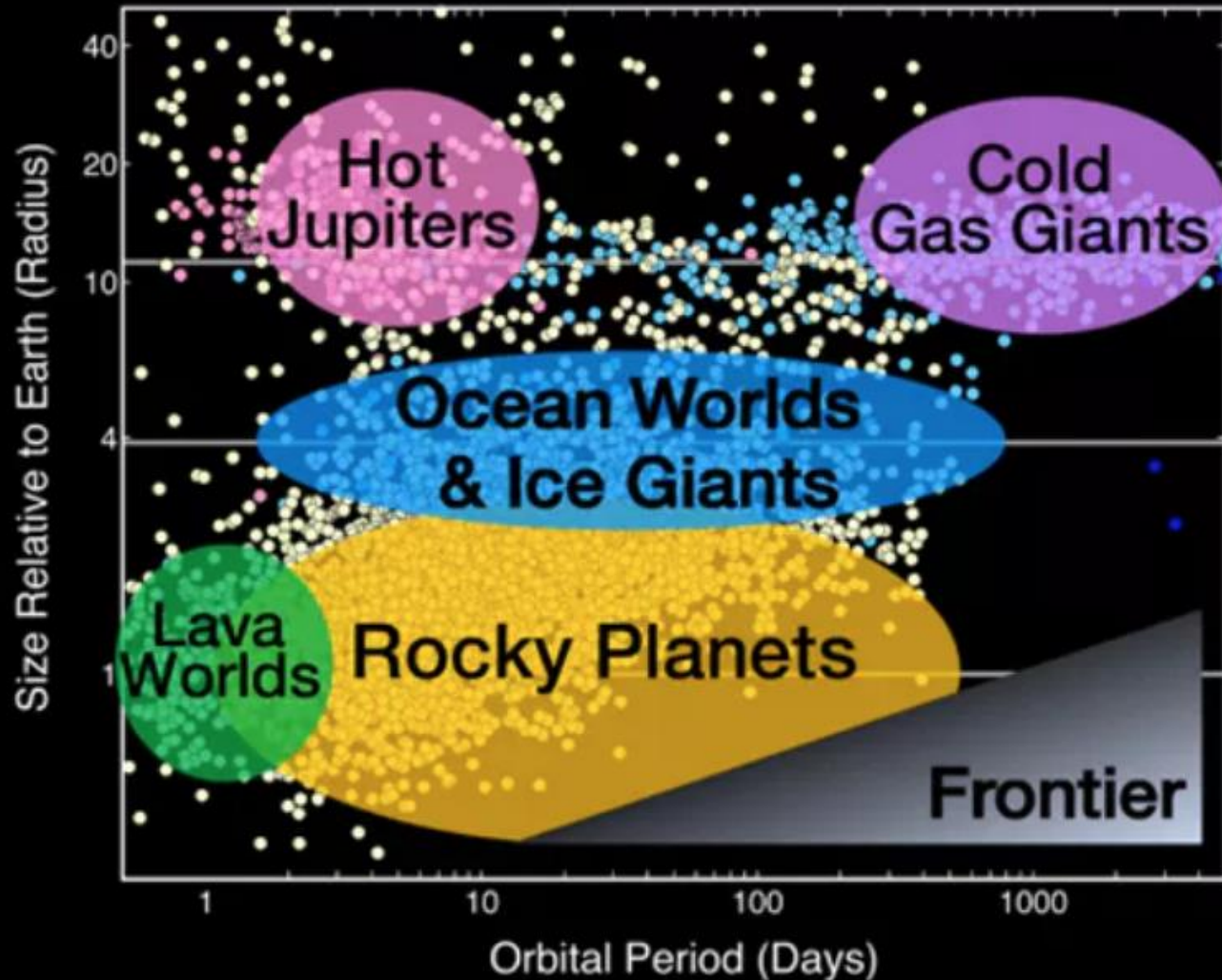
Eccentricity vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08





Exoplanet Populations



Planetary Systems by Number of Known Planets



As of December 14, 2017

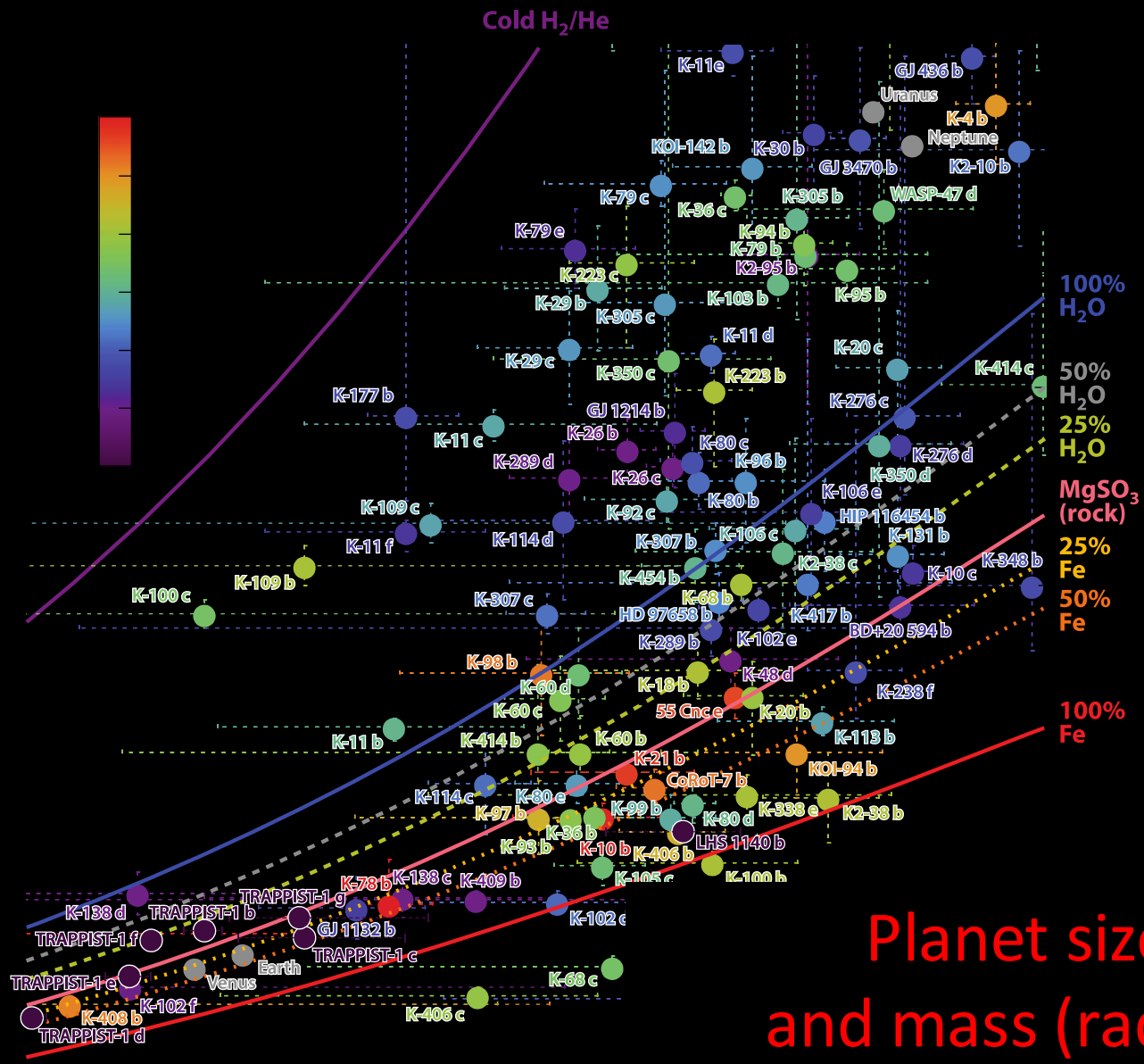
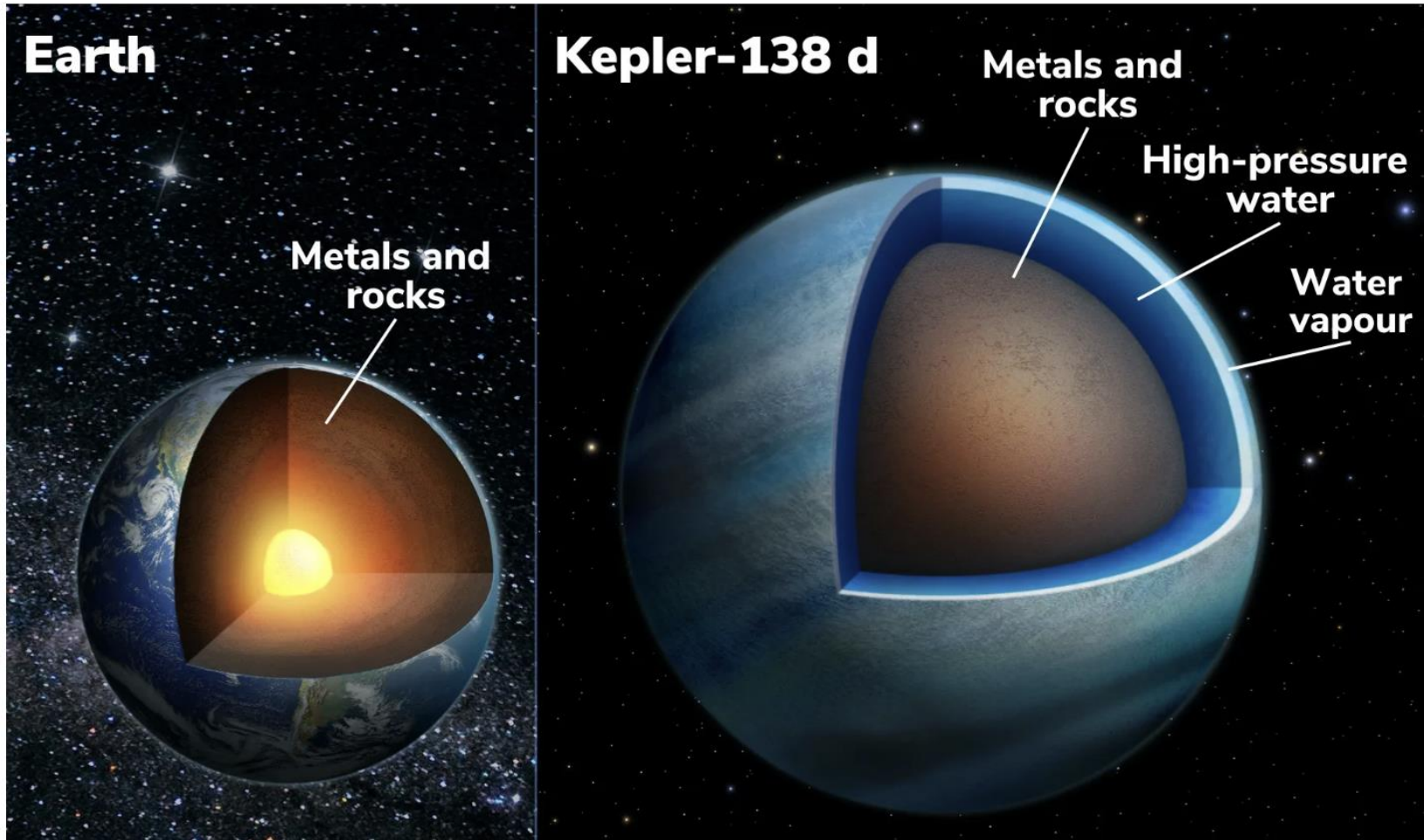


Figure 1

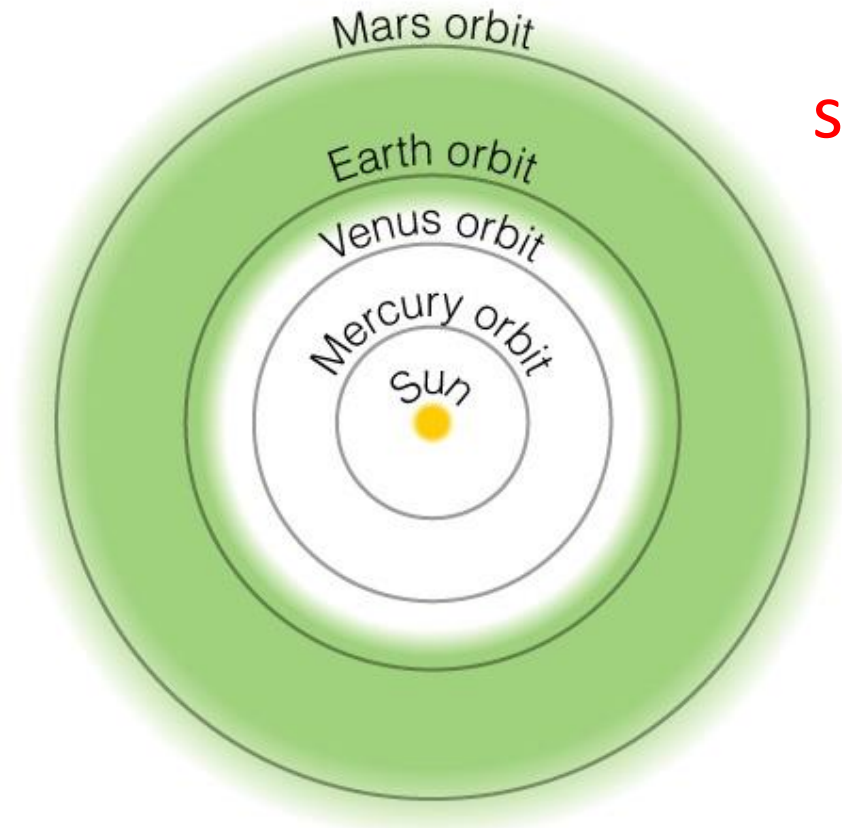
Water worlds?

Perhaps common for “super-earths”



Are habitable planets likely?

Planet temperature:
stellar irradiation, atmosphere



Solar System



**Star with
mass $\frac{1}{2} M_{\text{Sun}}$**



**Star with
mass $\frac{1}{10} M_{\text{Sun}}$**

Habitable: liquid water

HABITABLE ZONE

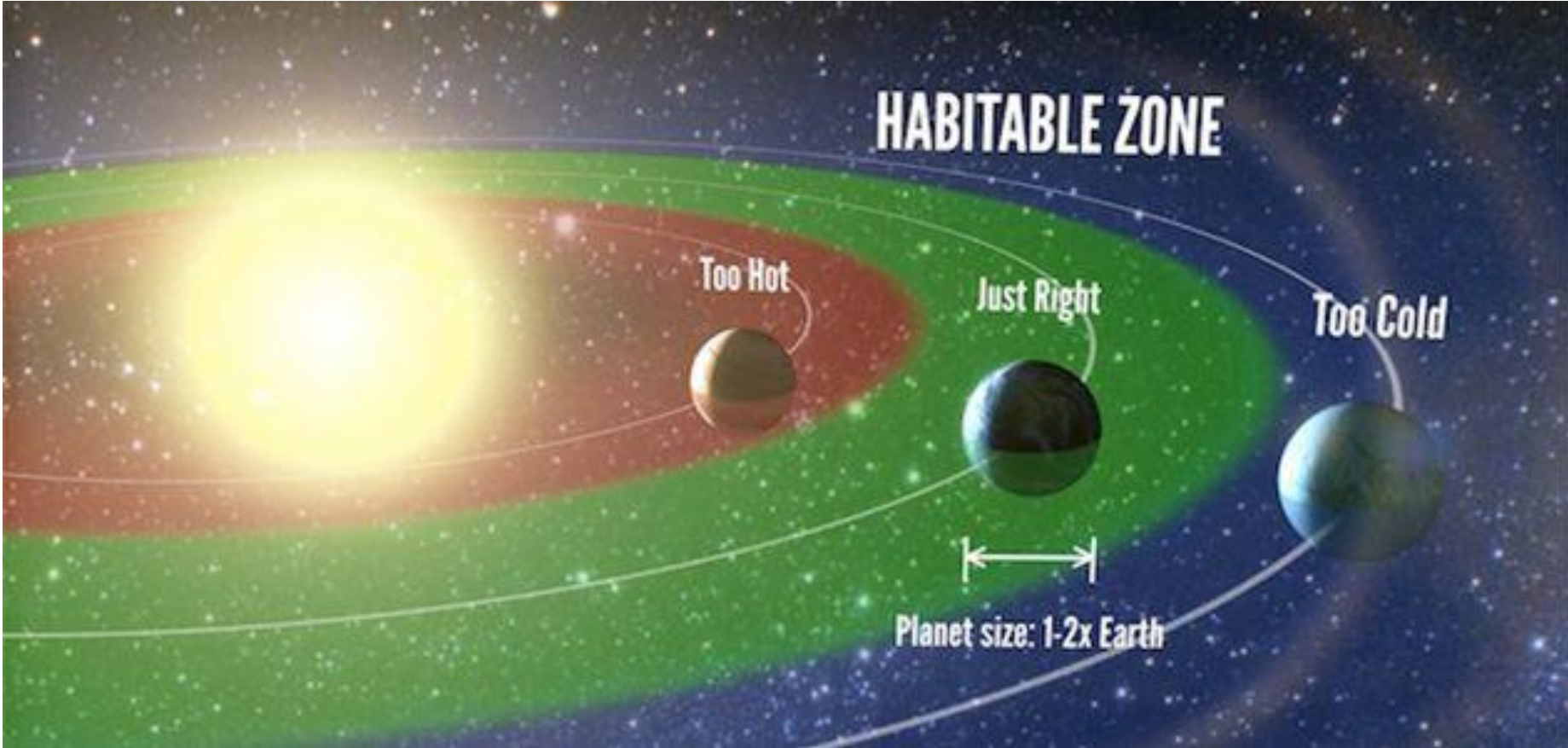
Too Hot

Just Right

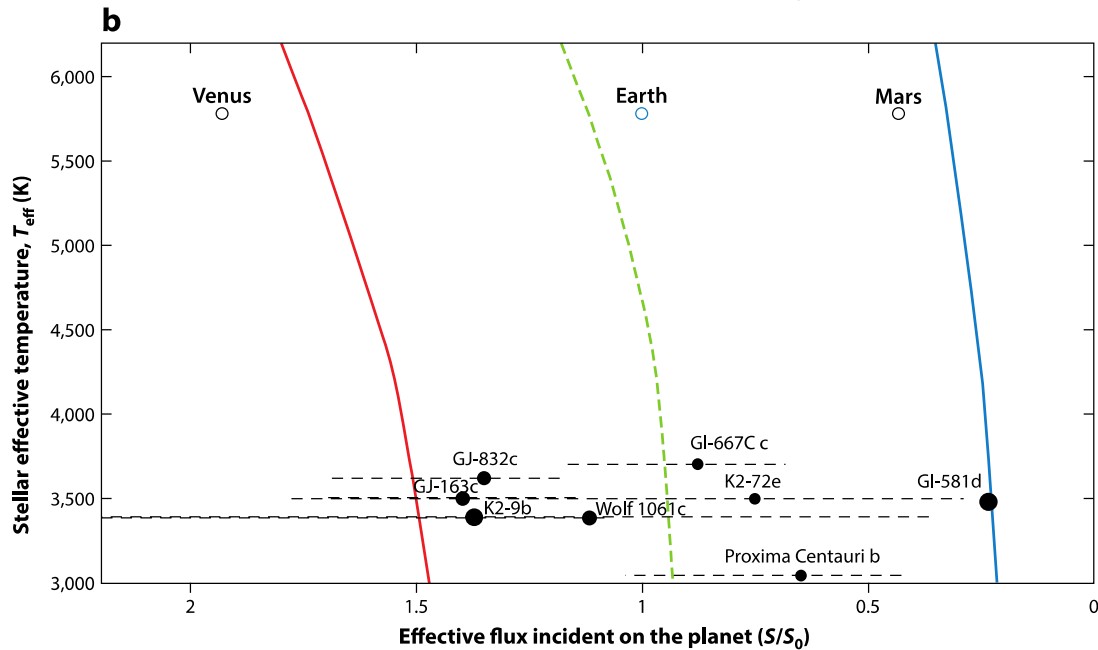
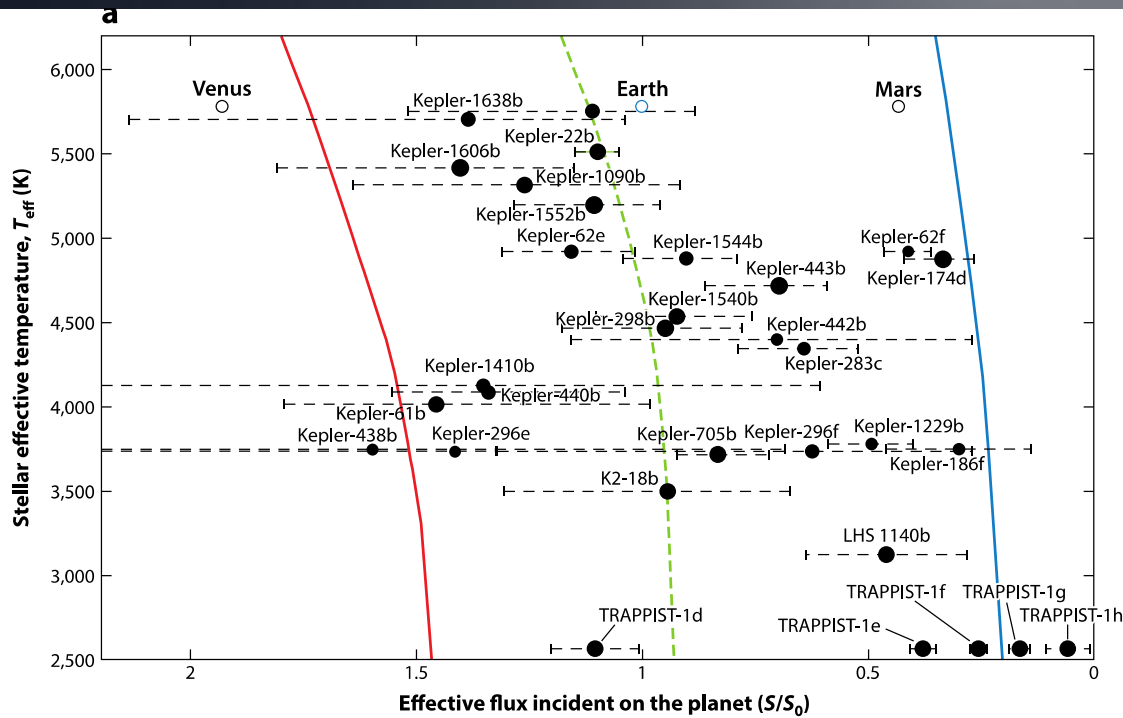
Too Cold



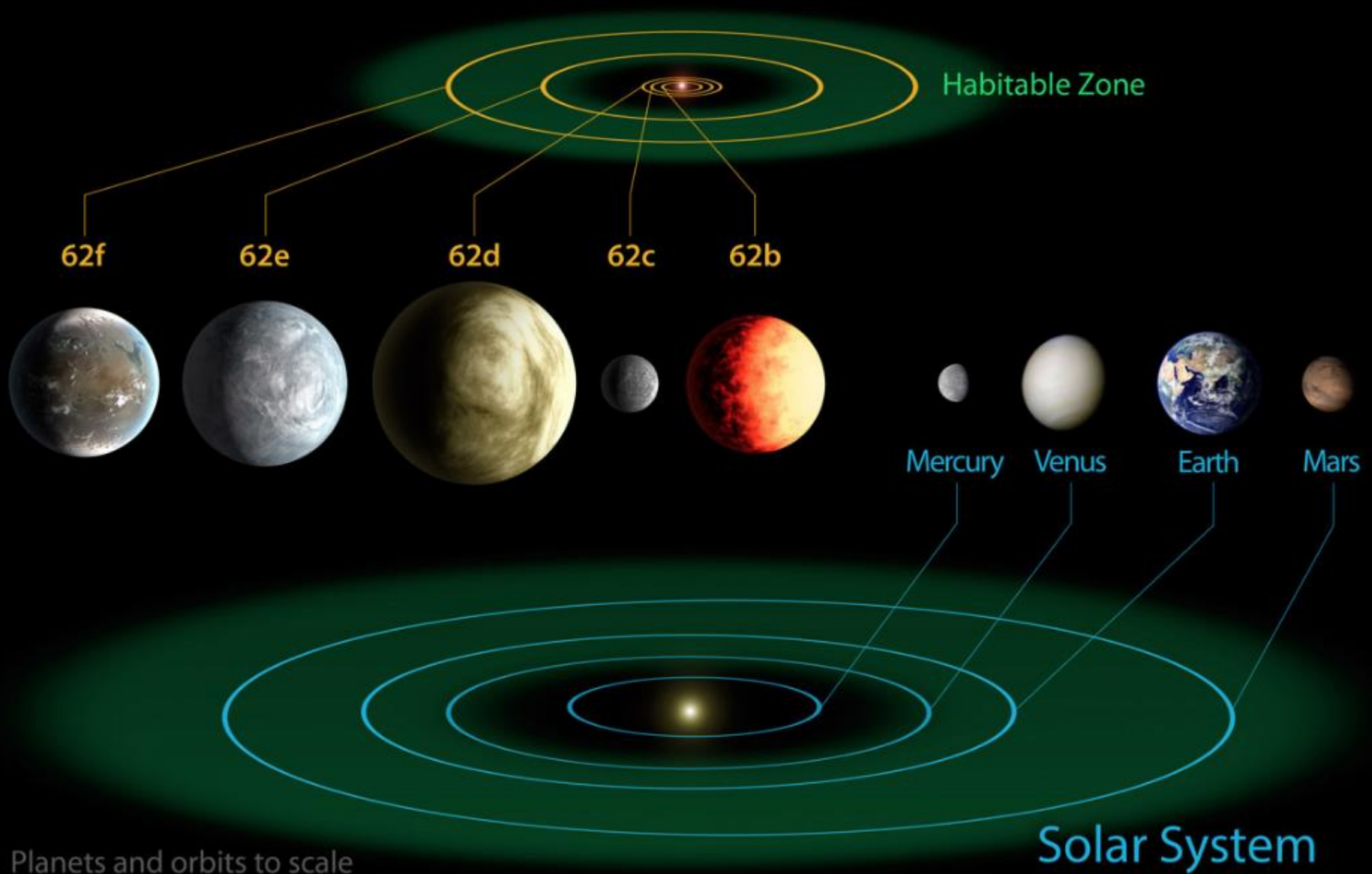
Planet size: 1-2x Earth



Exoplanets in habitable zone

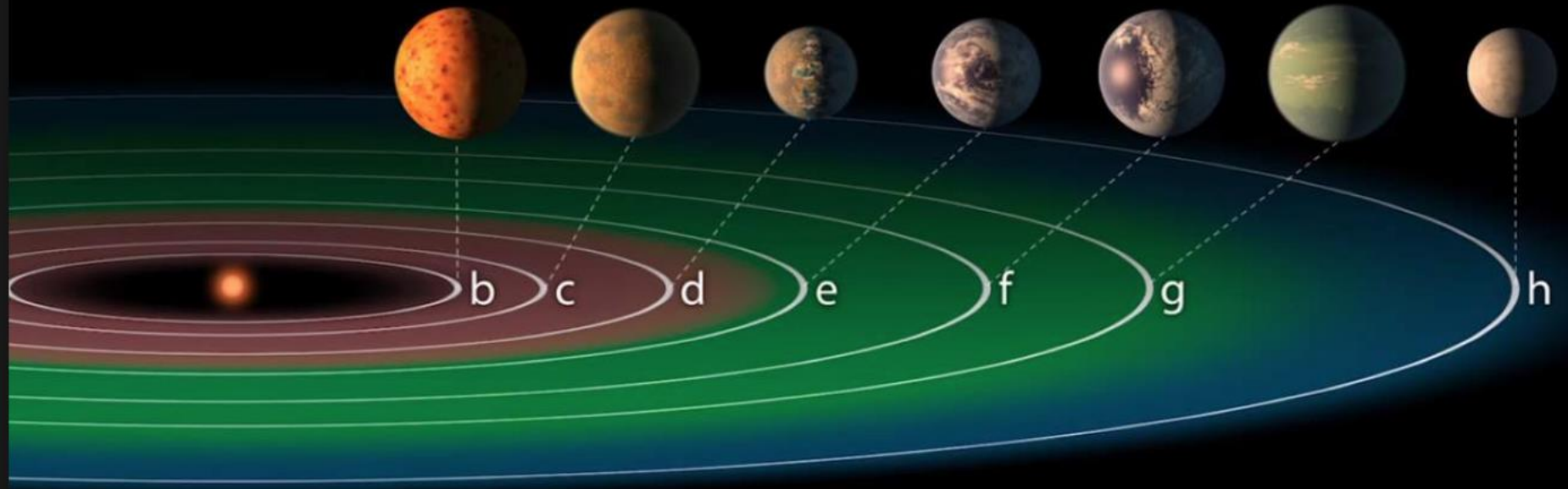


Kepler-62 System



TRAPPIST-1 System

Illustrations




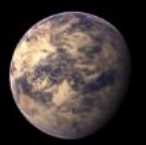
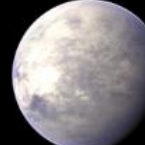

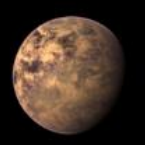
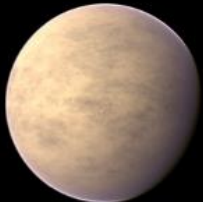
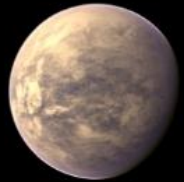
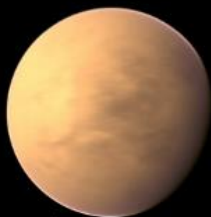
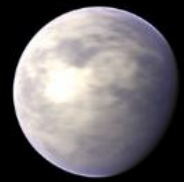
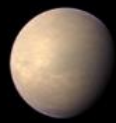


Relative scale
of Earth

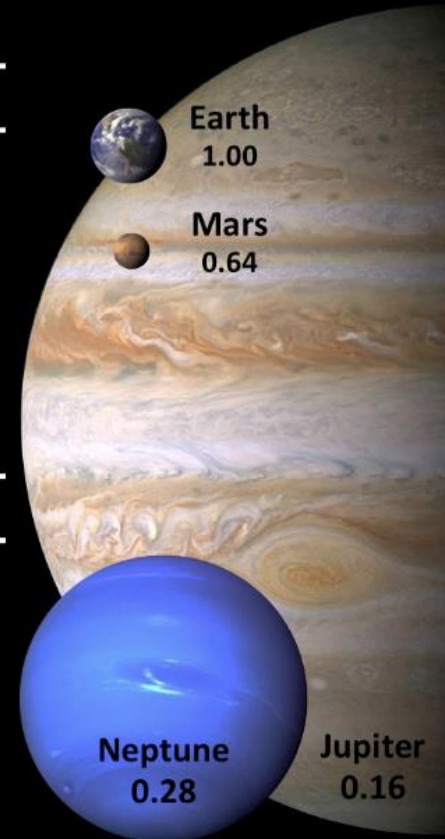


Star and orbits shown in scale
Planets enlarged approximately 7,600x

Current Potentially Habitable Exoplanets

Ranked in Order of Similarity to Earth

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
					
Gliese 667C c 0.83	Kepler-62 e 0.83	Tau Ceti e* 0.77	Gliese 581 g* 0.76	Gliese 667C f 0.76	HD 40307 g 0.73
#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12
					
Kepler-61 b 0.73	Gliese 163 c 0.73	Kepler-22 b 0.71	Kepler-62 f 0.67	Gliese 667C e 0.60	Gliese 581 d 0.53



*planet candidates

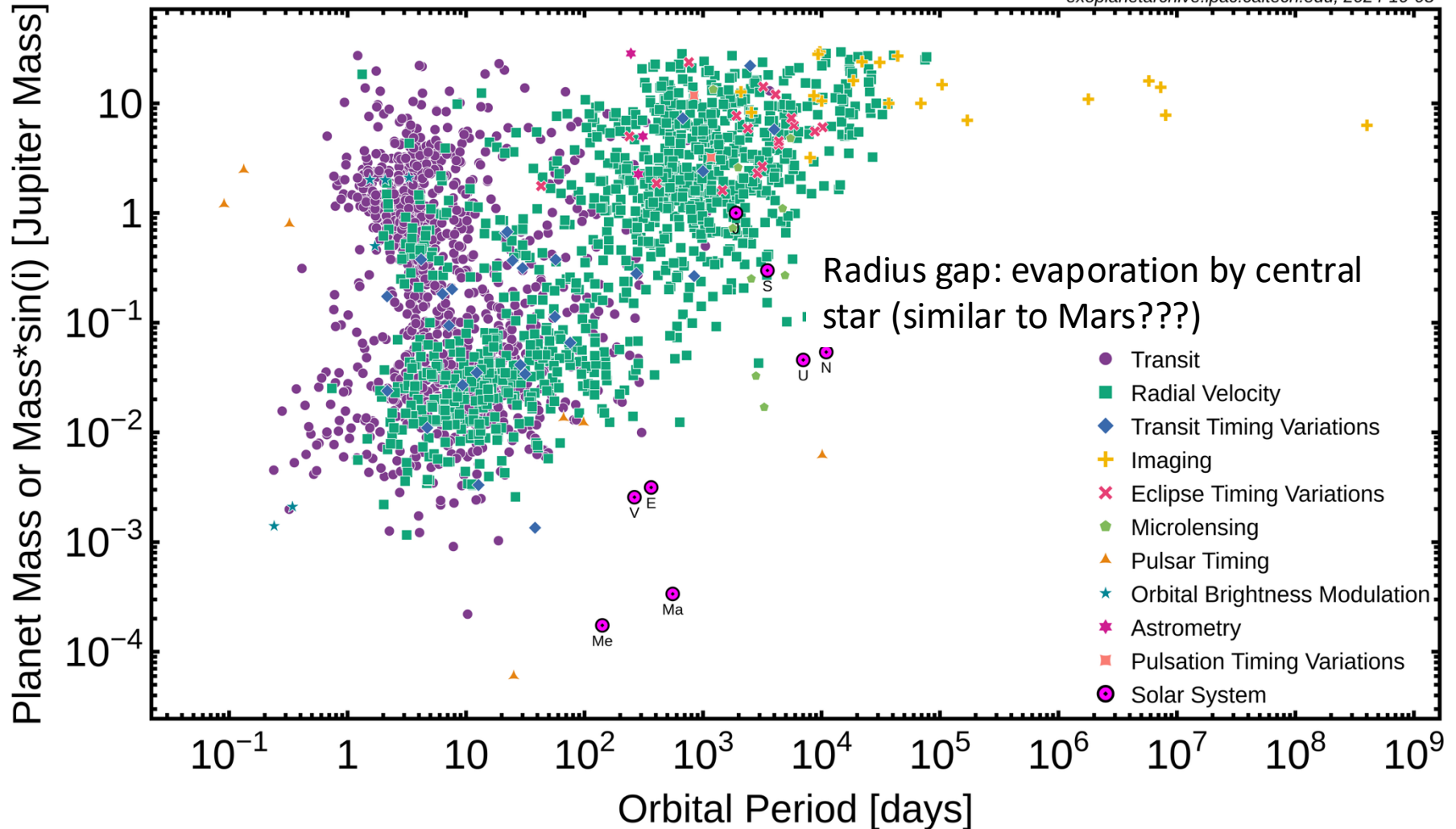
Number below the names is the Earth Similarity Index (ESI)

CREDIT: PHL @ UPR Arcibo (phl.upr.edu) December 5, 2013

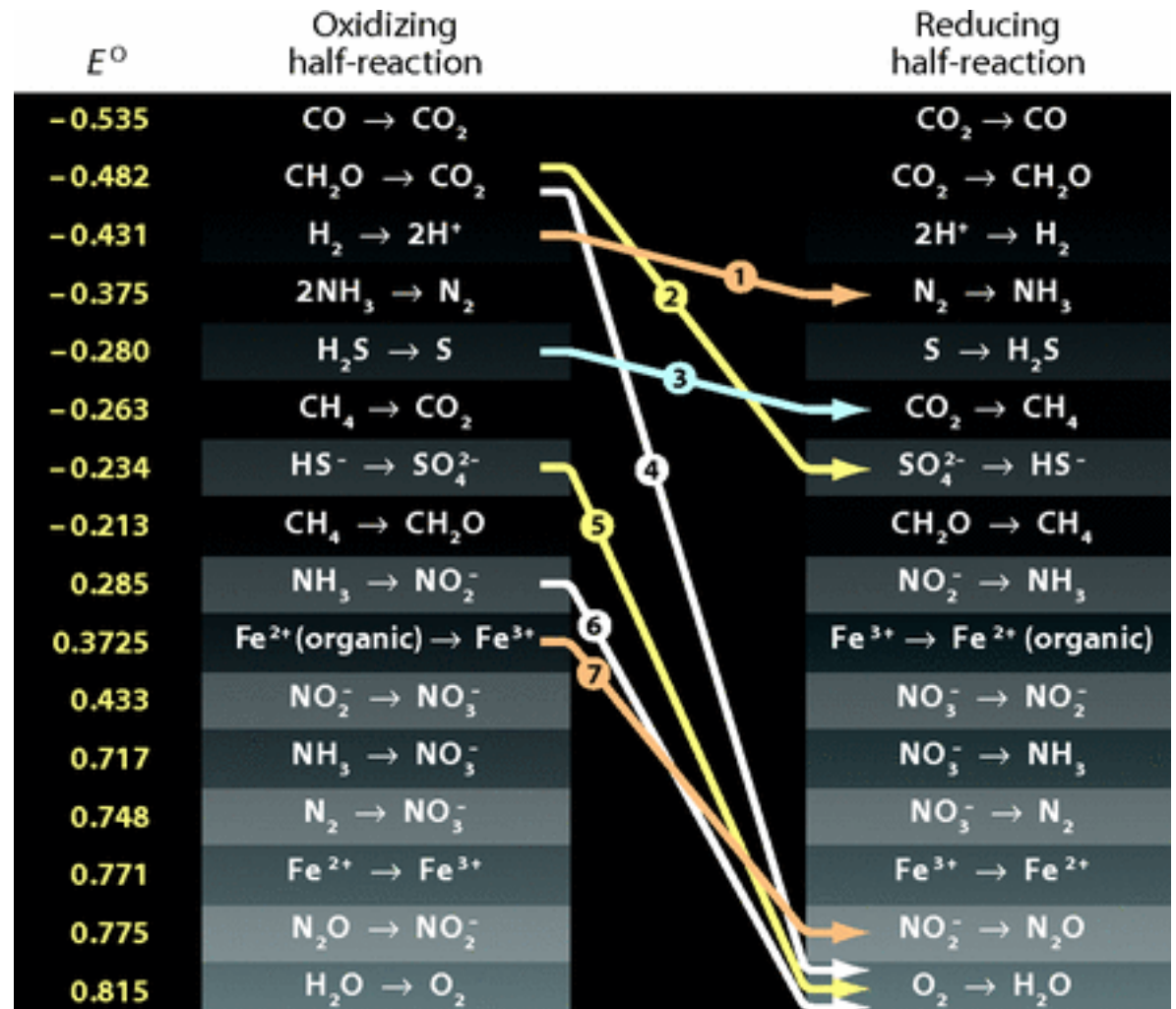
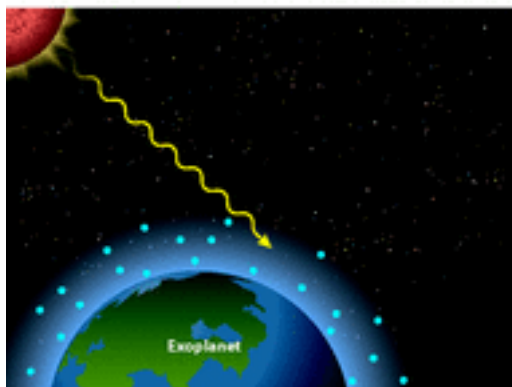
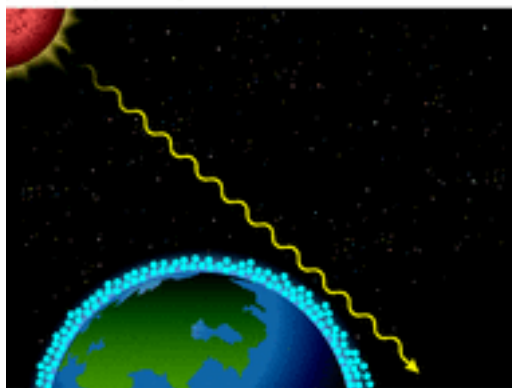
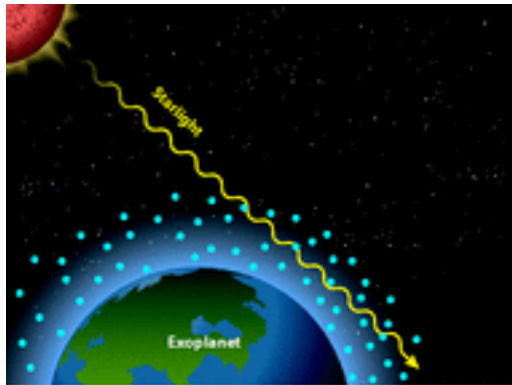
Searching for earth-like planets

Planet Mass or Mass* $\sin(i)$ vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08

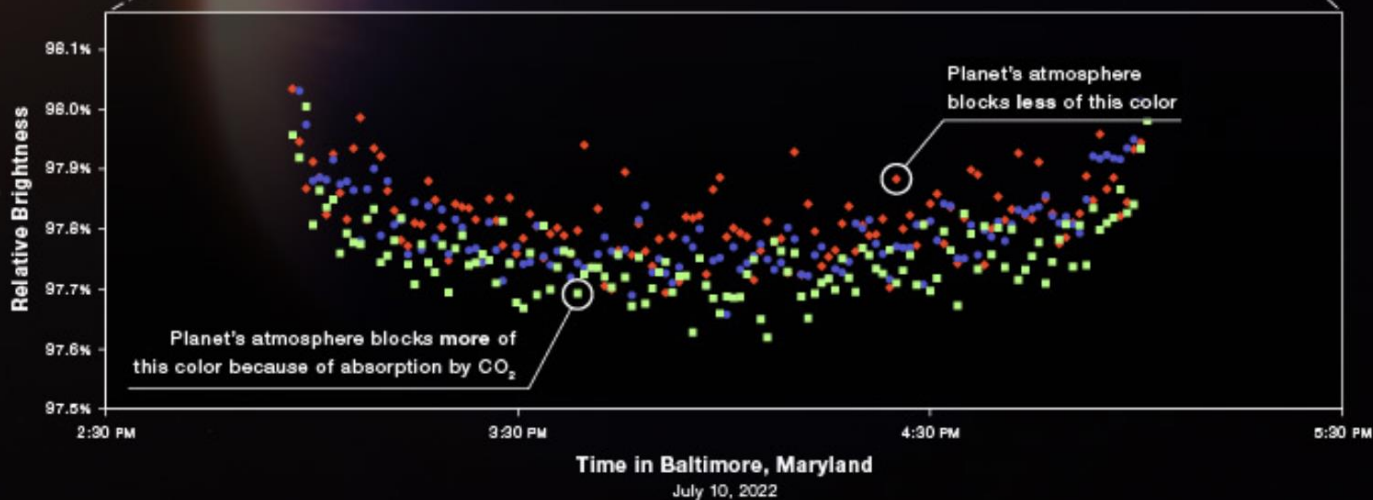
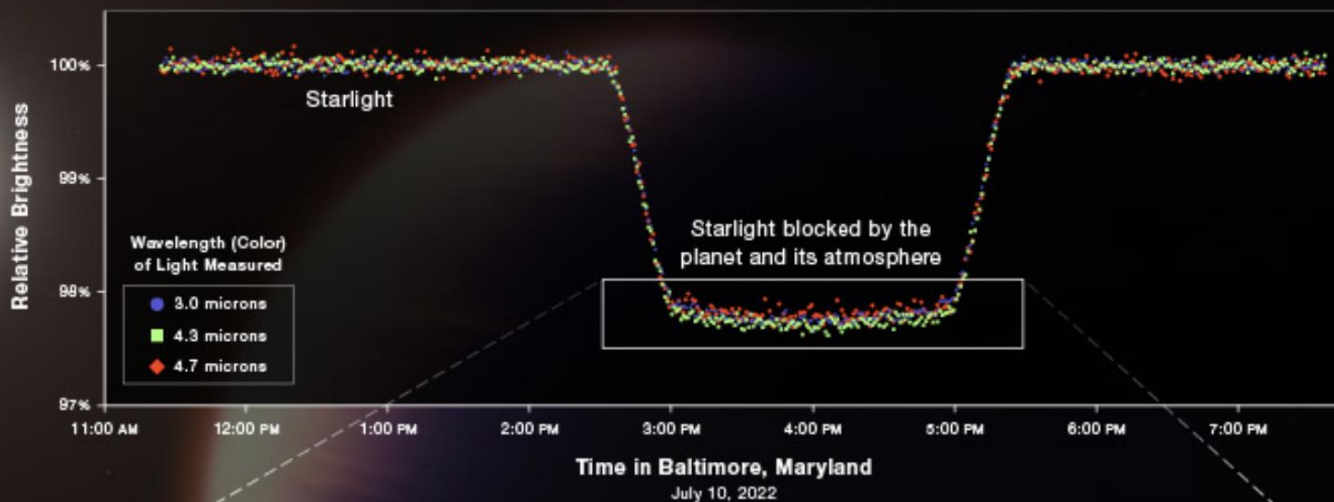


Exoplanet atmospheres!



HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b TRANSIT LIGHT CURVE

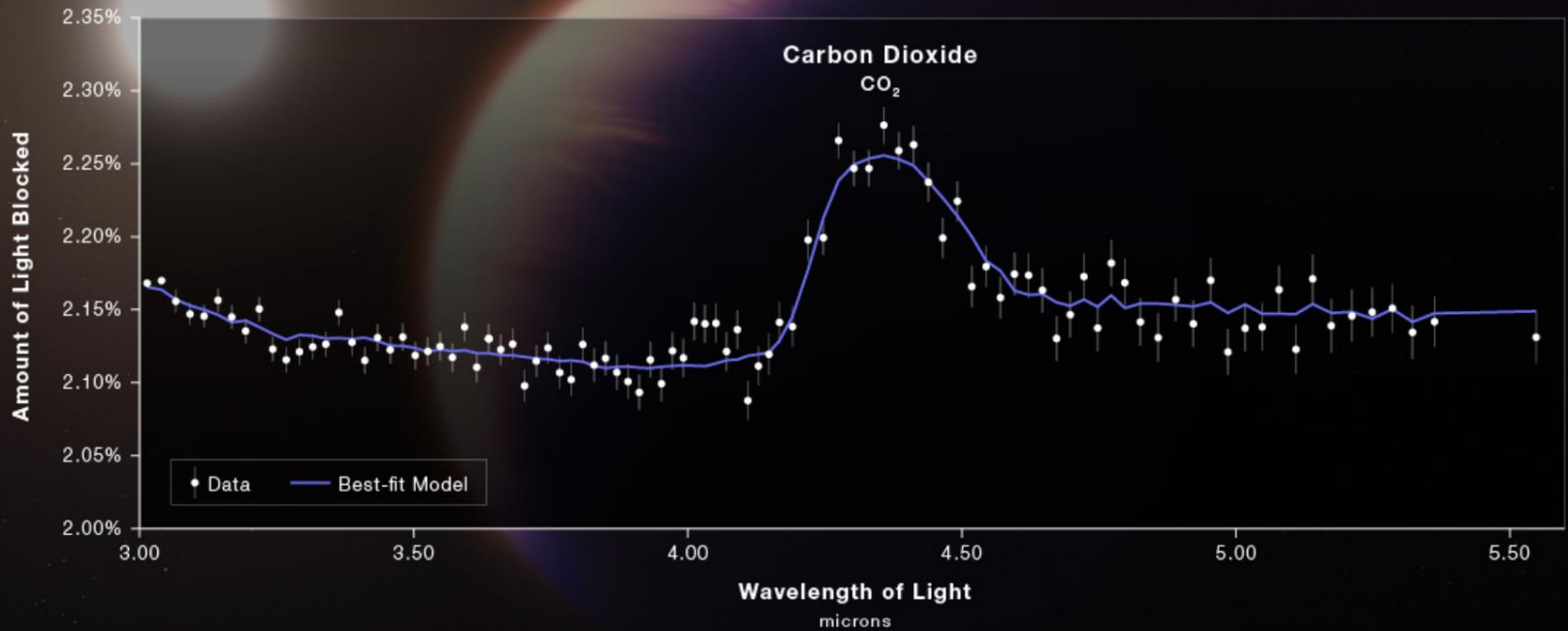
NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy



HOT GAS GIANT EXOPLANET WASP-39 b

ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION

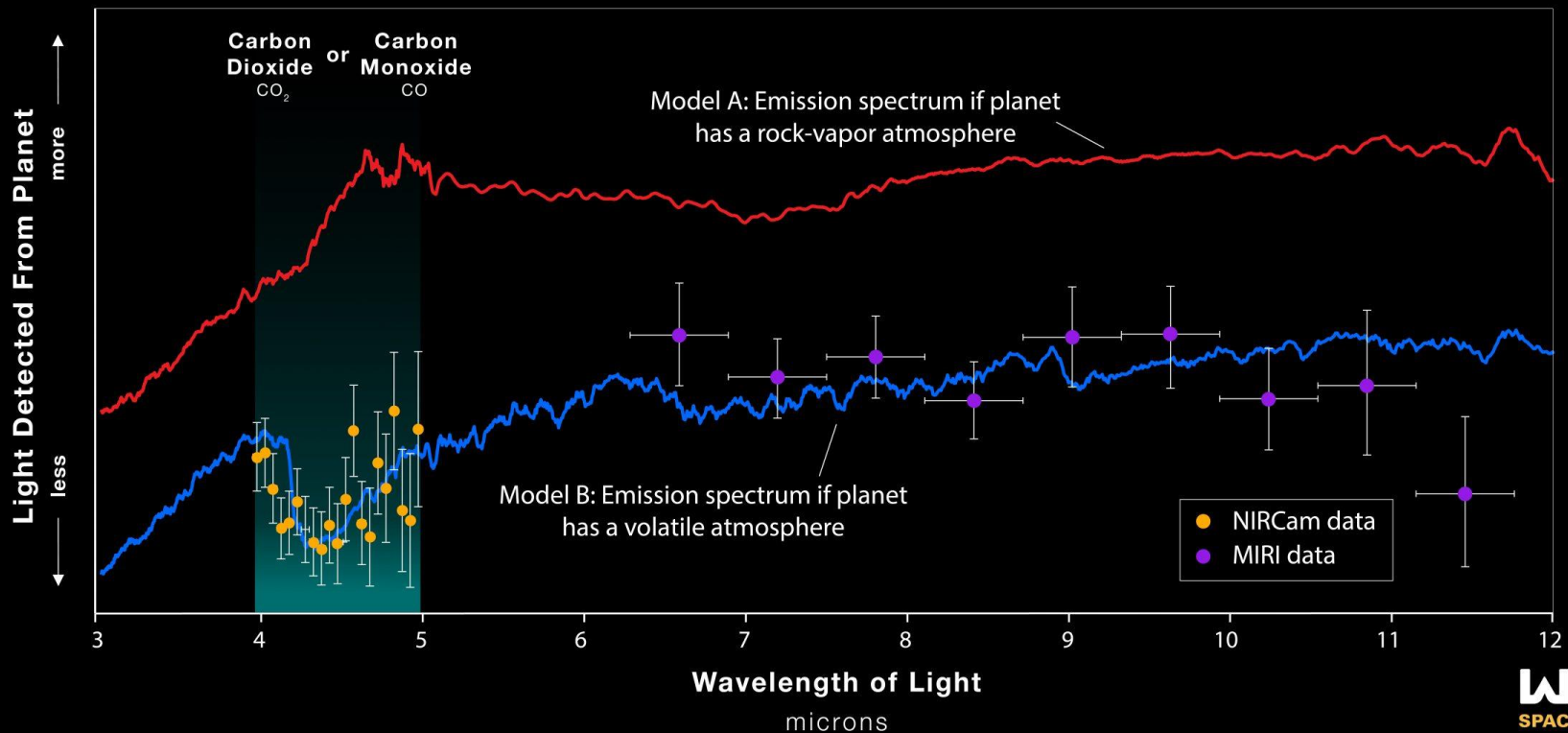
NIRSpec | Bright Object Time-Series Spectroscopy



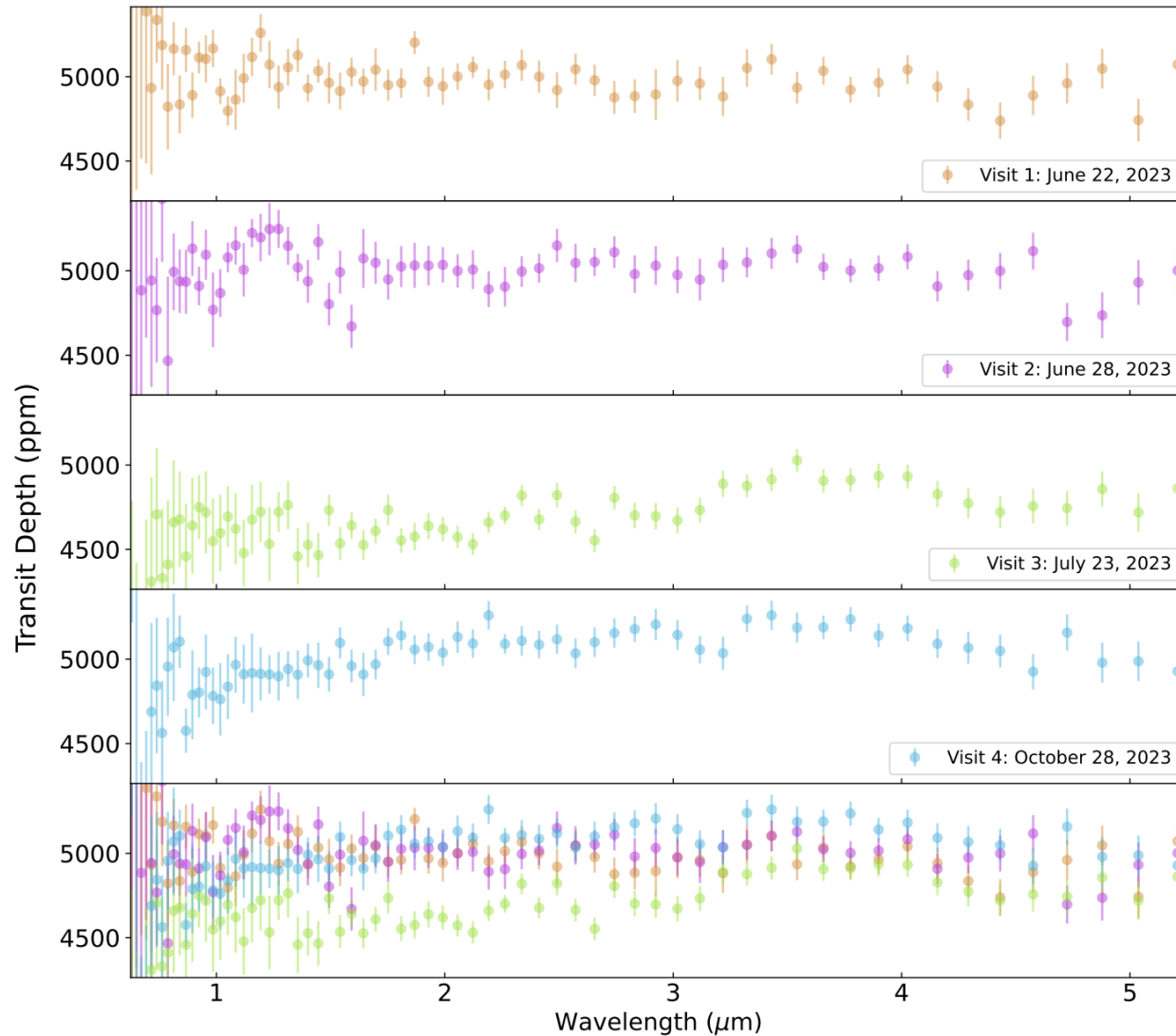
First atmosphere around a terrestrial exoplanet

SUPER-EARTH EXOPLANET 55 CANCRI e VOLATILE ATMOSPHERE

NIRCam | GRISM Spectroscopy (F444W)
MIRI | Low-Resolution Spectroscopy



Searching for terrestrial planet atmospheres is difficult!

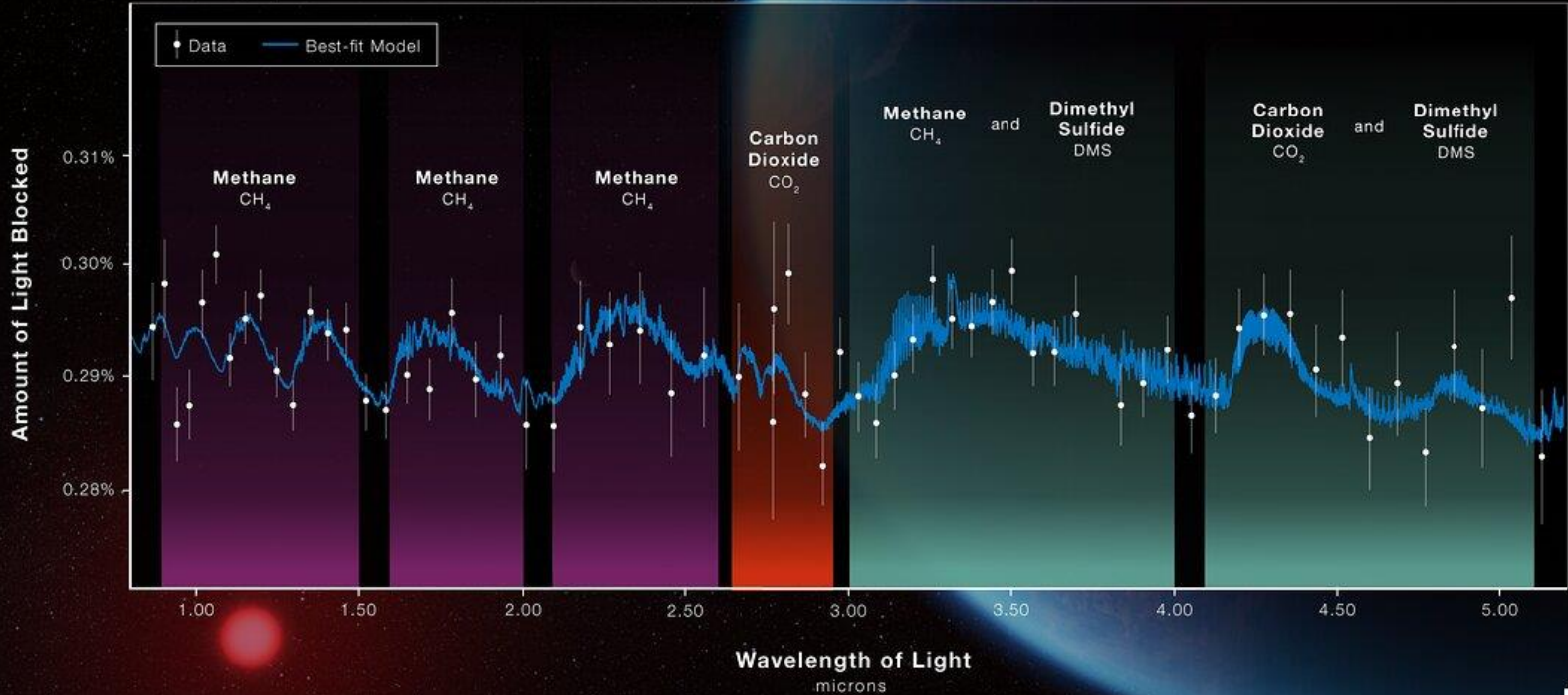


Biosignatures from a super-earth???

EXOPLANET K2-18 b

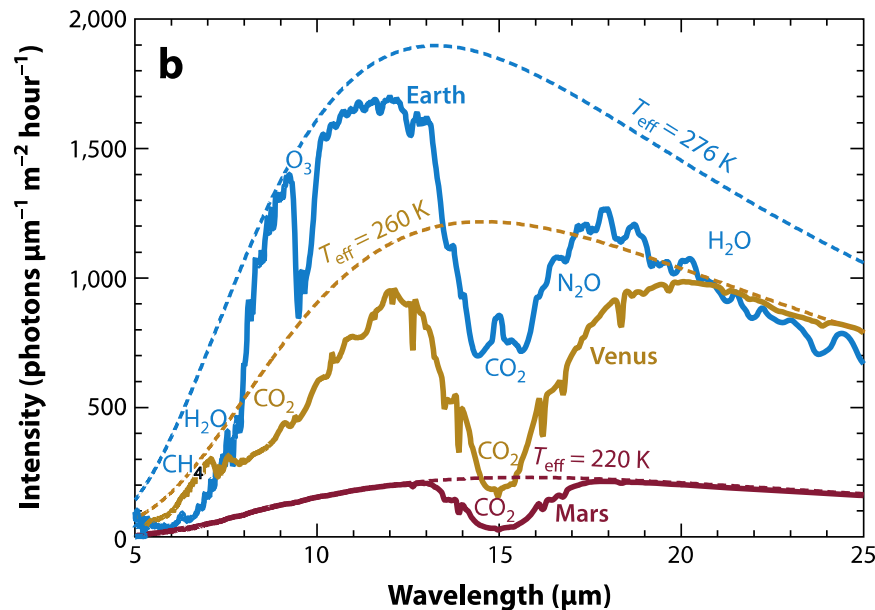
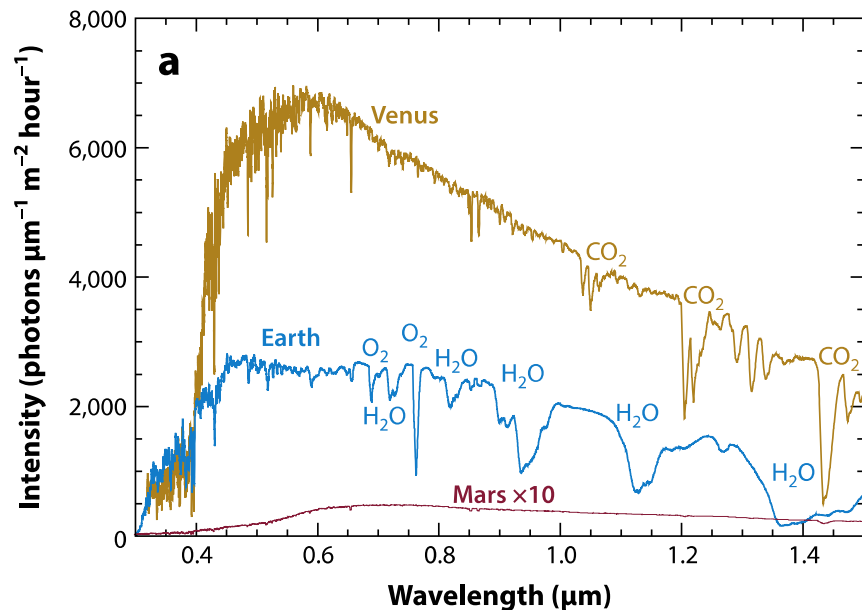
ATMOSPHERE COMPOSITION

NIRISS and NIRSpec (G395H)

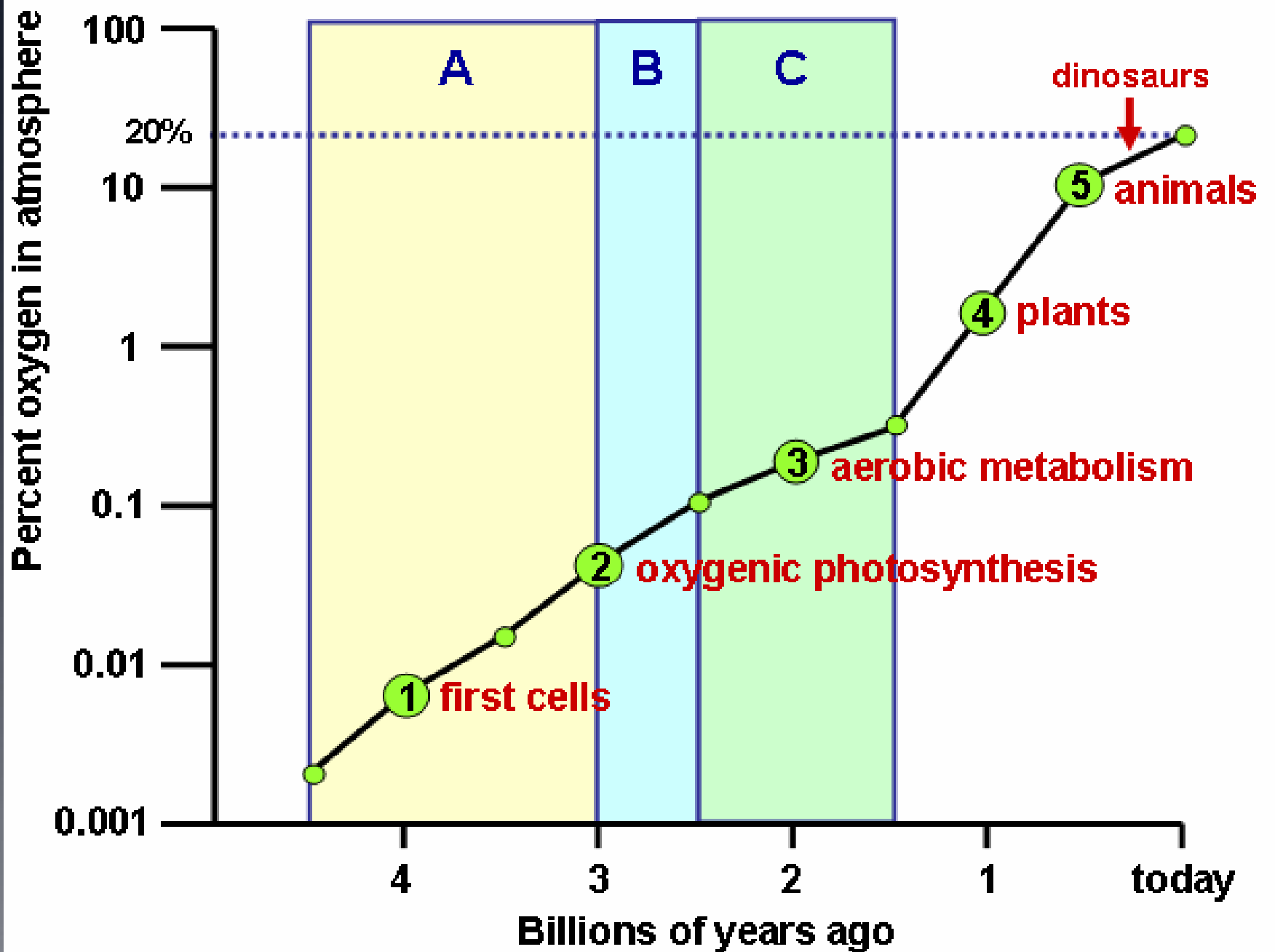


WEBB
SPACE TELESCOPE

Life changes its environment

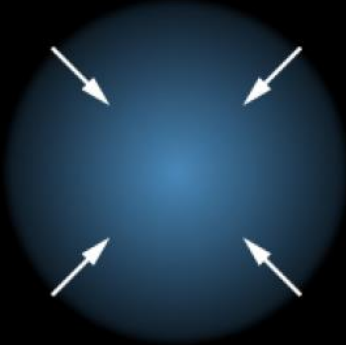


- Life needs a suitable environment to flourish.
- Feedback on environment and atmosphere
- Changes: biosignature, a sign of the presence of life
- Oxygen: a biosignature of life. Looking from afar, we cannot see plants and bacteria directly, but we can infer the presence of photosynthetic life if there is atmospheric oxygen.



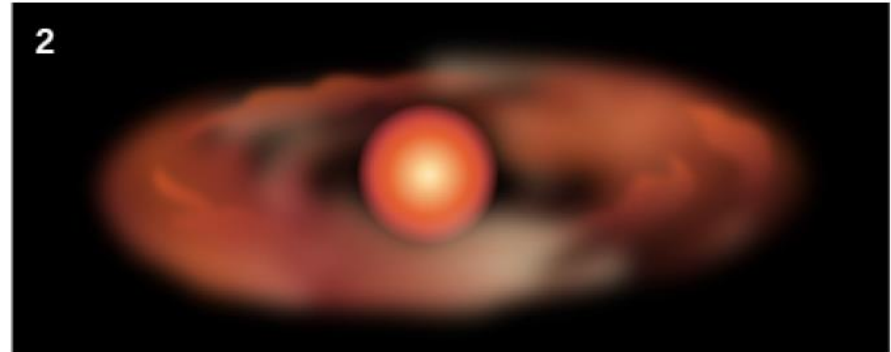
Planet Formation

1



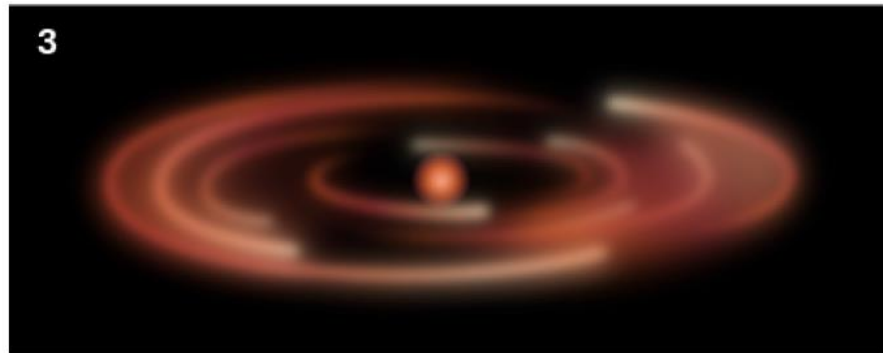
The solar nebula contracts.

2



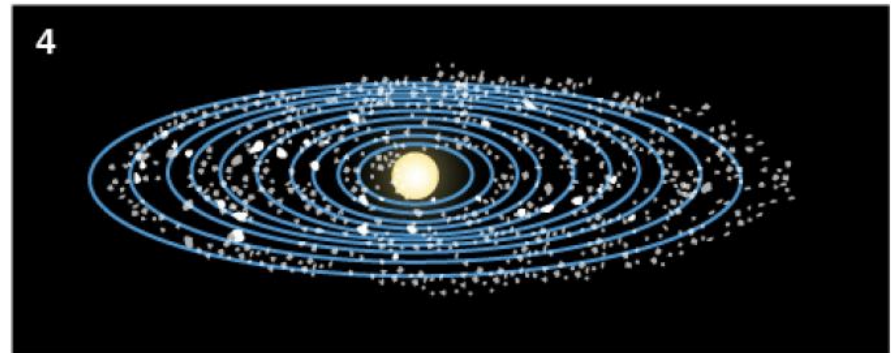
As the nebula shrinks, its motion causes it to flatten.

3



The nebula is a disk of matter with a concentration near the center.

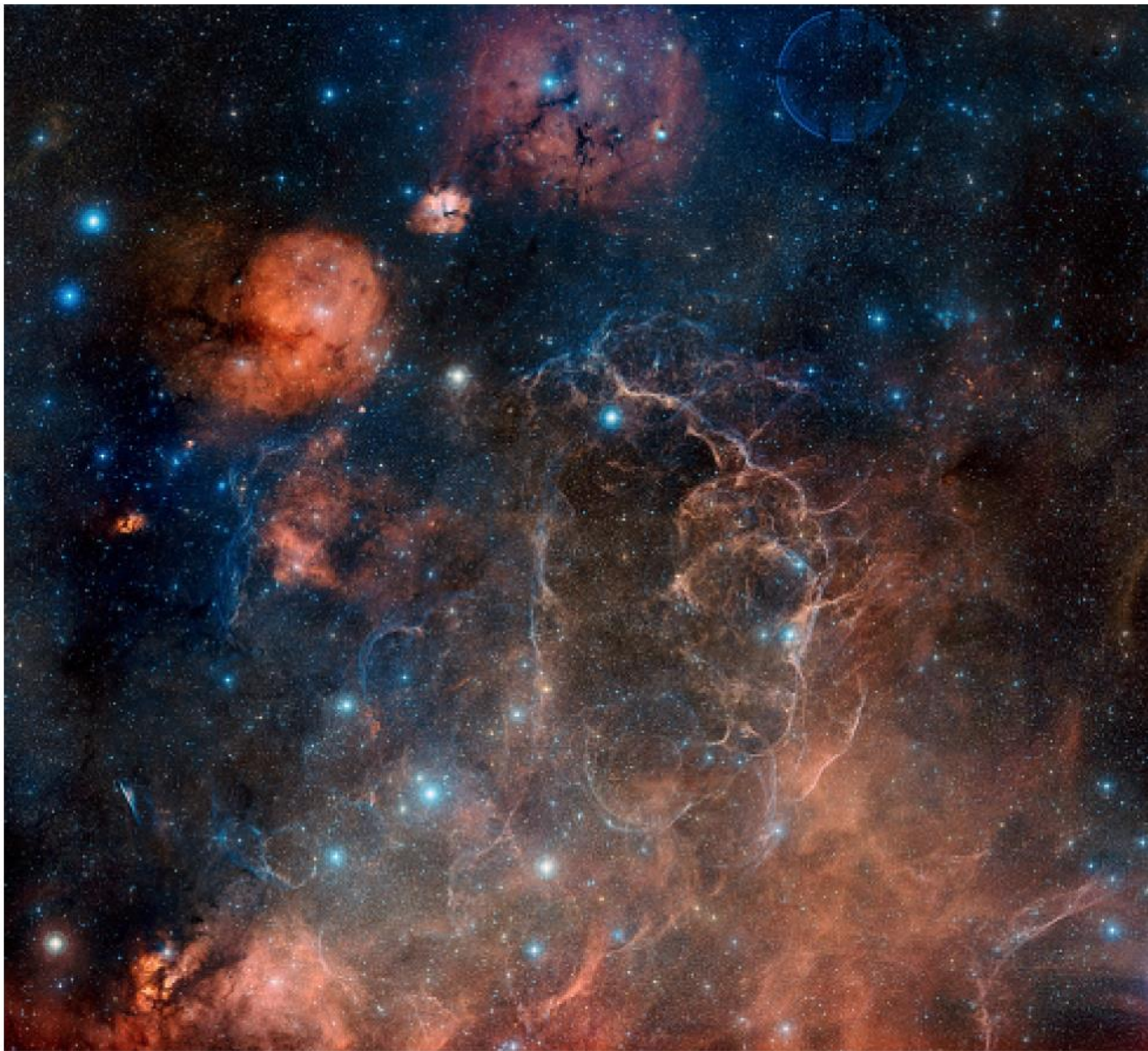
4



Formation of the protosun. Solid particles condense as the nebula cools, giving rise to the planetesimals, which are the building blocks of the planets.

Interstellar medium

- Space is not quite empty
 - Hot interstellar medium: 10^{-4} ions per cm^3
 - In this room: 10^{19} molecules/ cm^3
 - Best vacuum in lab: 10^{10} molecules/ cm^3
- Some places are denser and colder
 - **Molecular clouds**, where stars form
 - Densities of 10^2 - 10^6 molecules/ cm^3

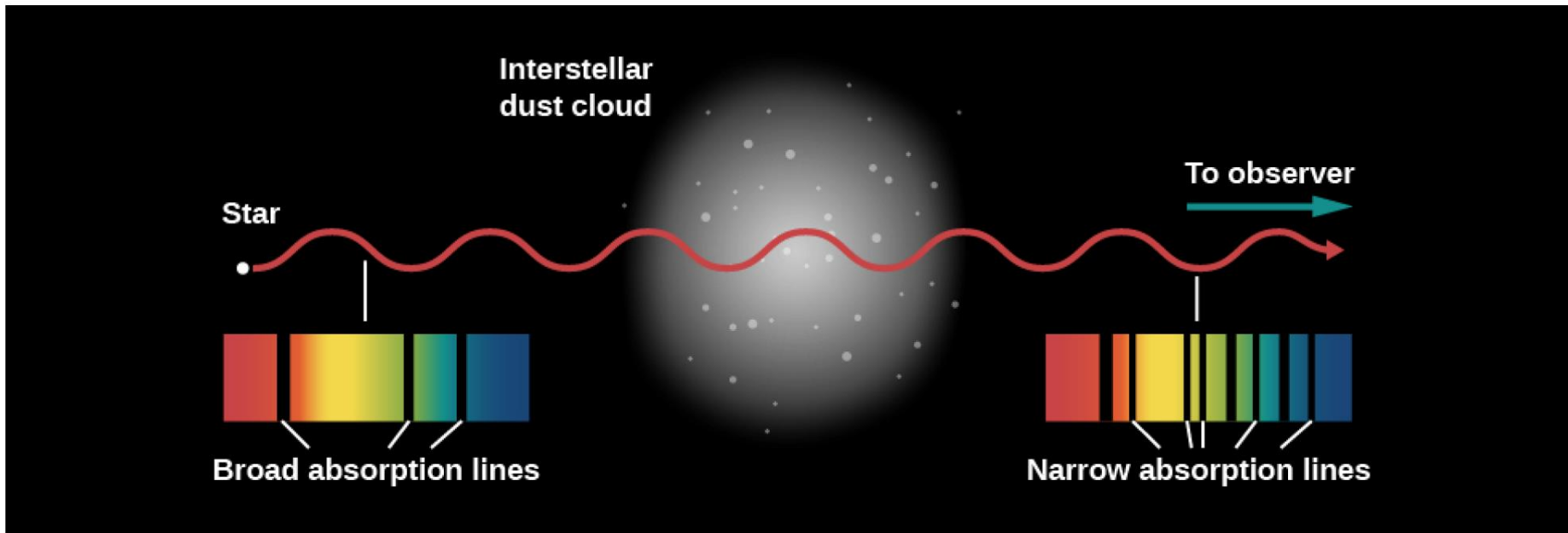


Interstellar medium, supernova remnants

Interstellar medium: how to detect?

Absorption of photons by gas

Emission from gas/dust




Orion Nebula
Largest nearby star-
forming region



**Eta Carina Cluster,
Hubble Space Telescope
Much larger than Orion Nebula**



"Mystic Mountain" A Pillar of Gas and Dust in the Carina Nebula  HUBBLESITE.org



Pillars of Creation:
Hubble Space Telescope (optical) on left
JWST (infrared) on right



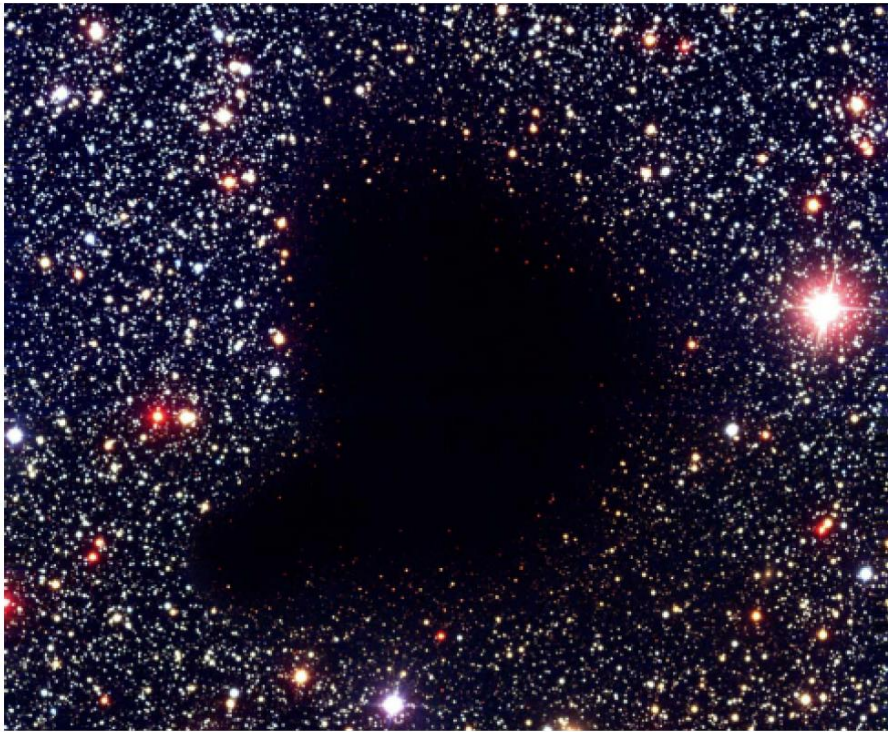
Hubble's "Pillars of Creation"
[shown to scale]

"Pillars" and "Mountains" of Star Formation

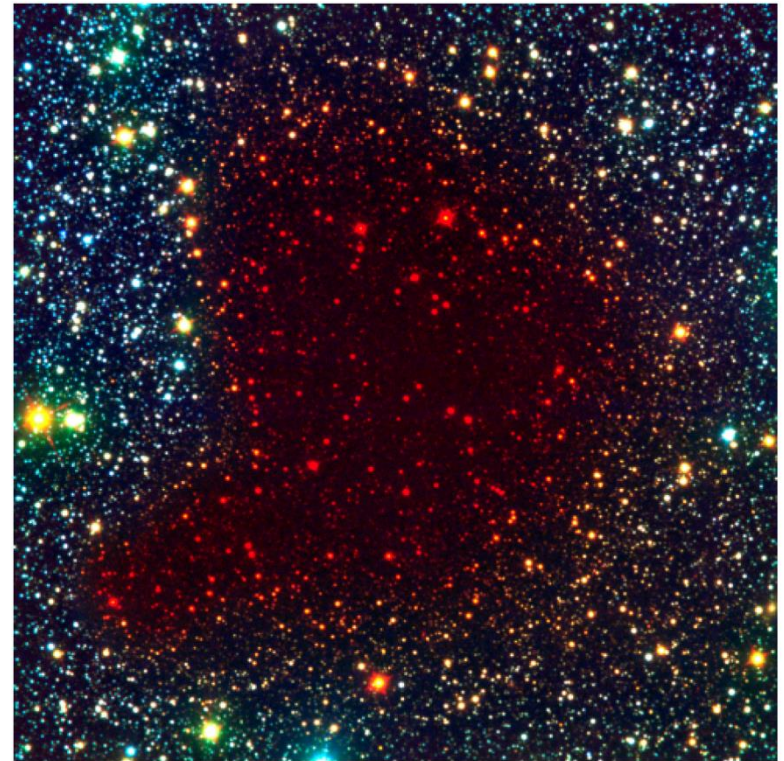
Spitzer Space Telescope • IRAC

NASA / JPL-Caltech / L. Allen (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA)

Inset: Hubble Space Telescope
ssc2005-23b



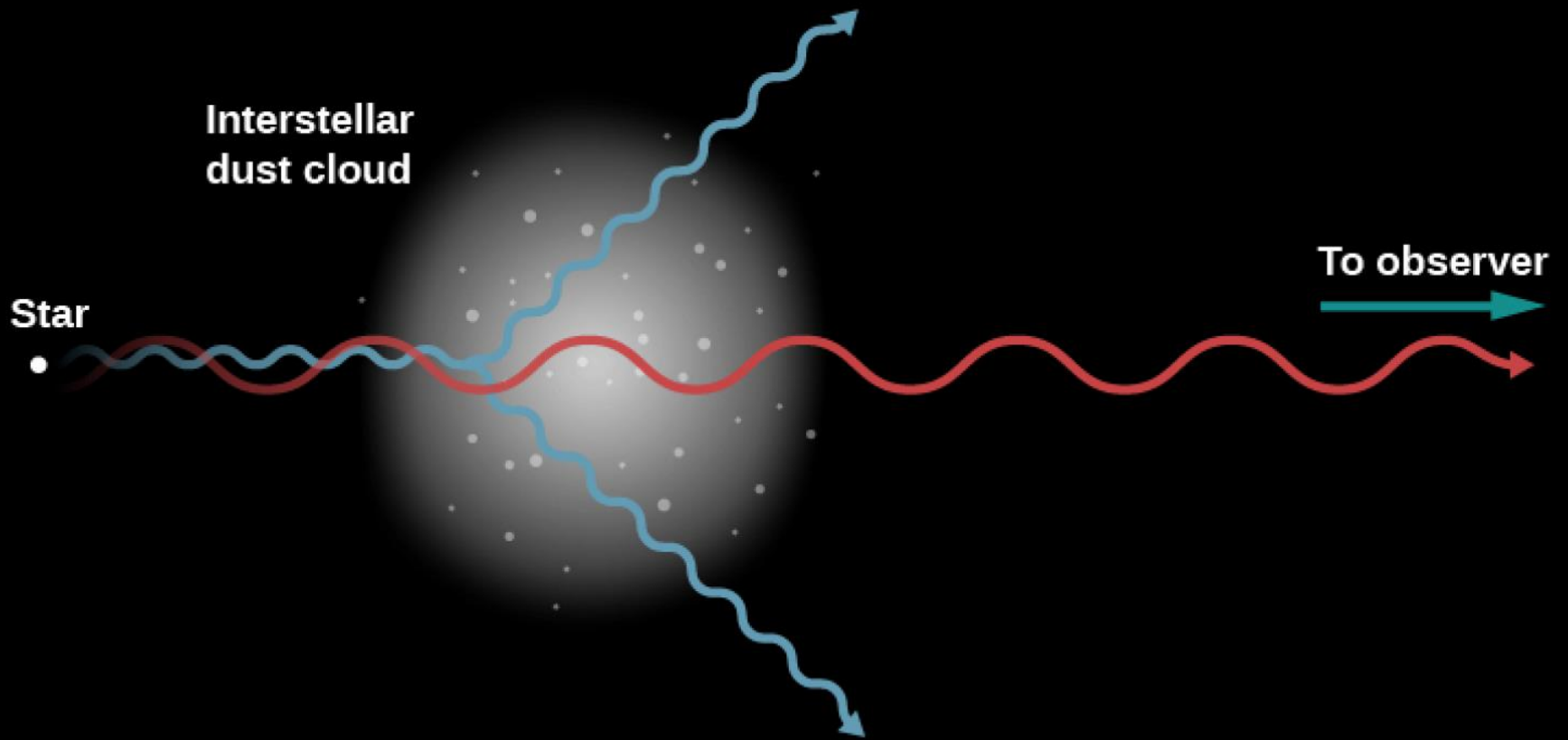
Optical



Near-infrared

Barnard 68: very dusty!

Longer wavelengths look through dust (red objects on right)



Blue wavelengths: absorbed/scattered by dust
Red wavelengths: pass through dust

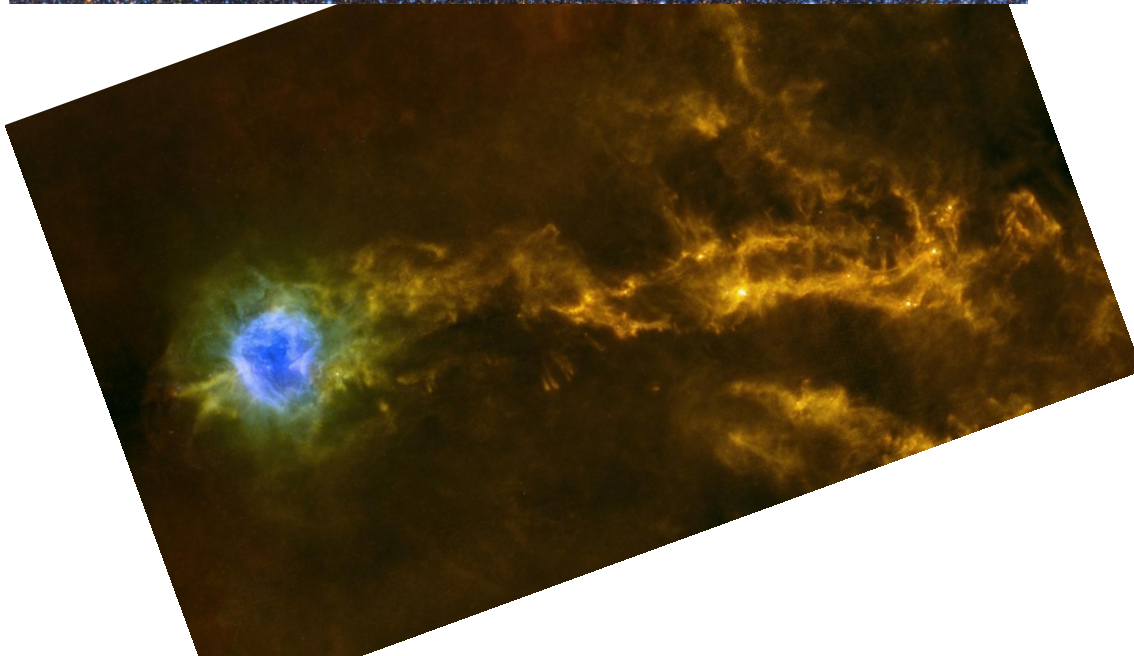


Rosette Nebula

Far-infrared: dust in emission



The same nebula can appear in both emission at short wavelengths and absorption at long wavelength

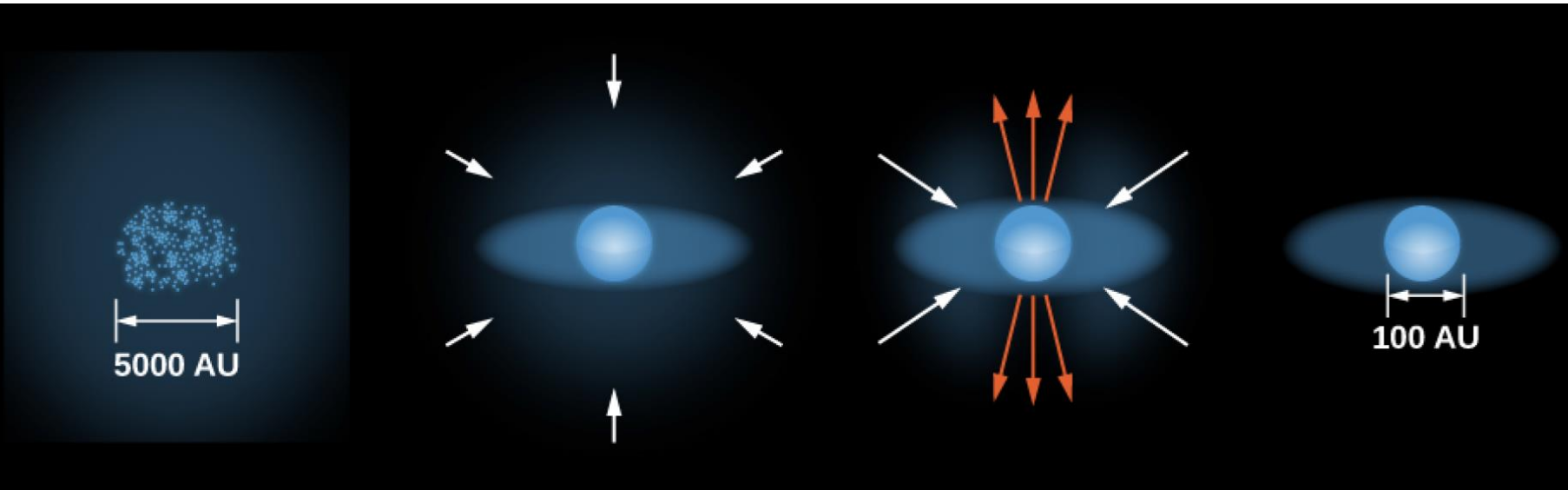


JWST image of Carina Nebula: hot stars ionize gas

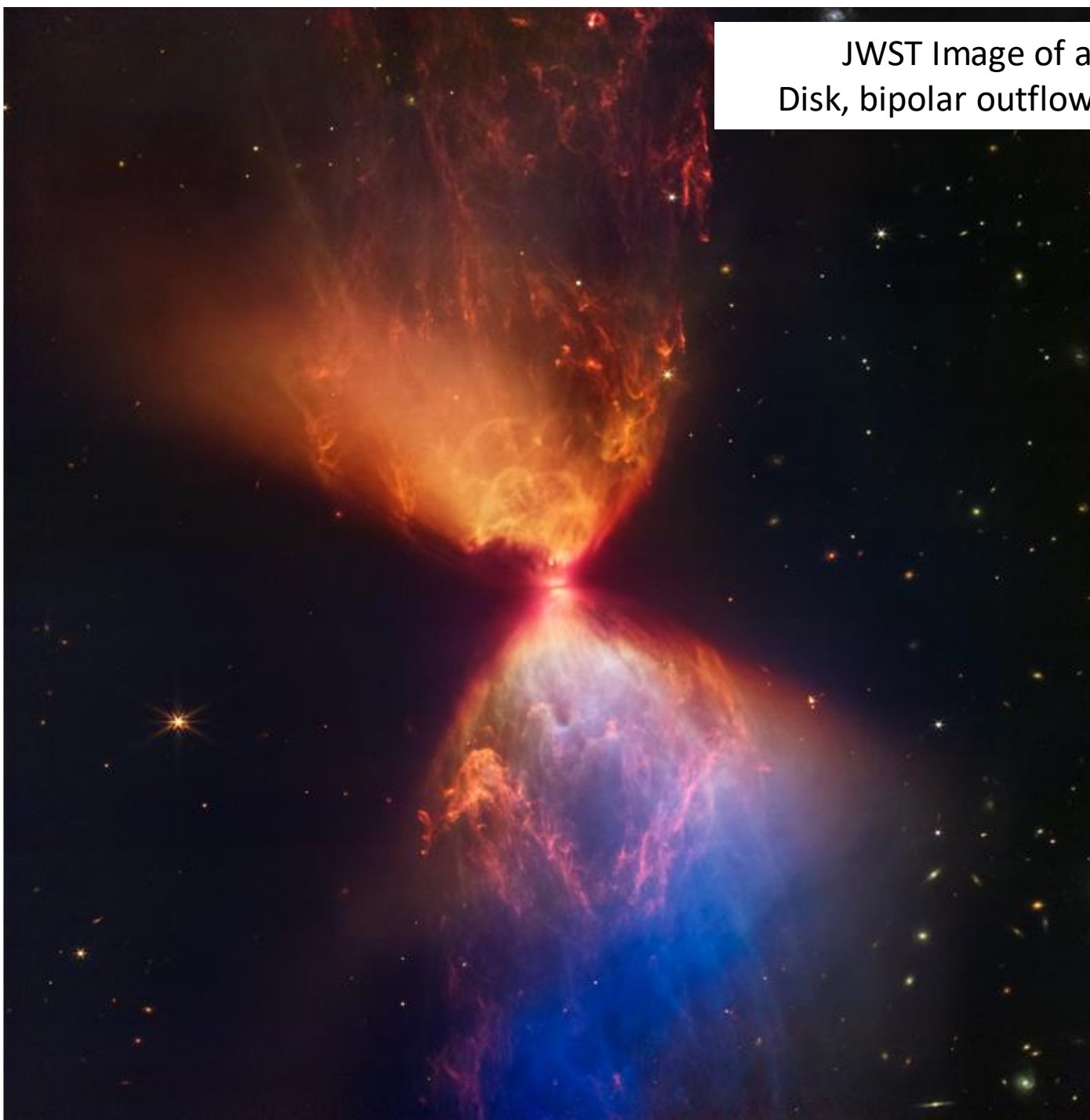


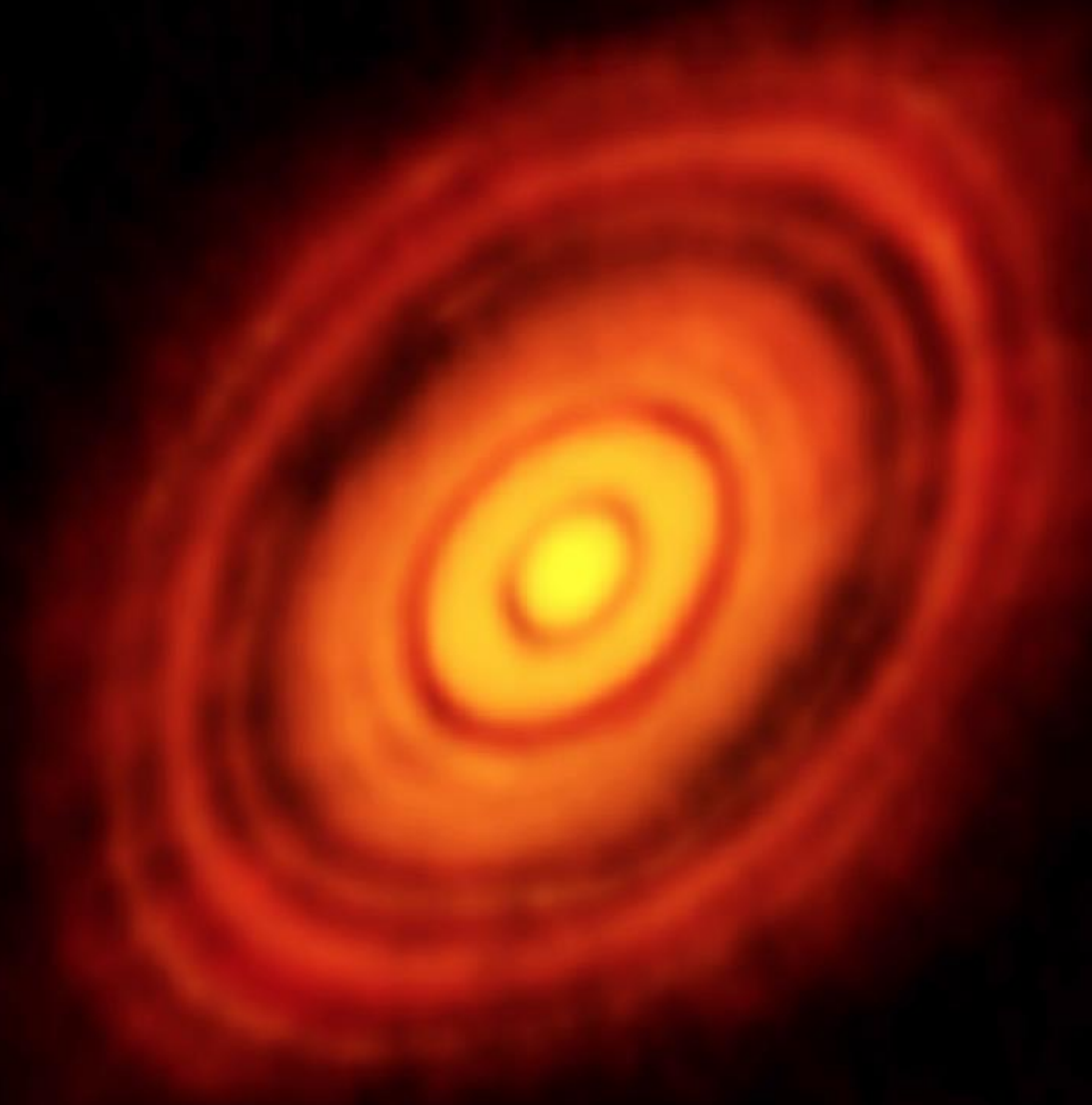
Steps of star formation:

- 1) Region is dense enough to be gravitationally unstable and collapse
- 2) Protostar forms, with envelope and disk
- 3) Star grows, leads to jets and outflows
- 4) Envelope and disk disappear, leaving behind planets+star

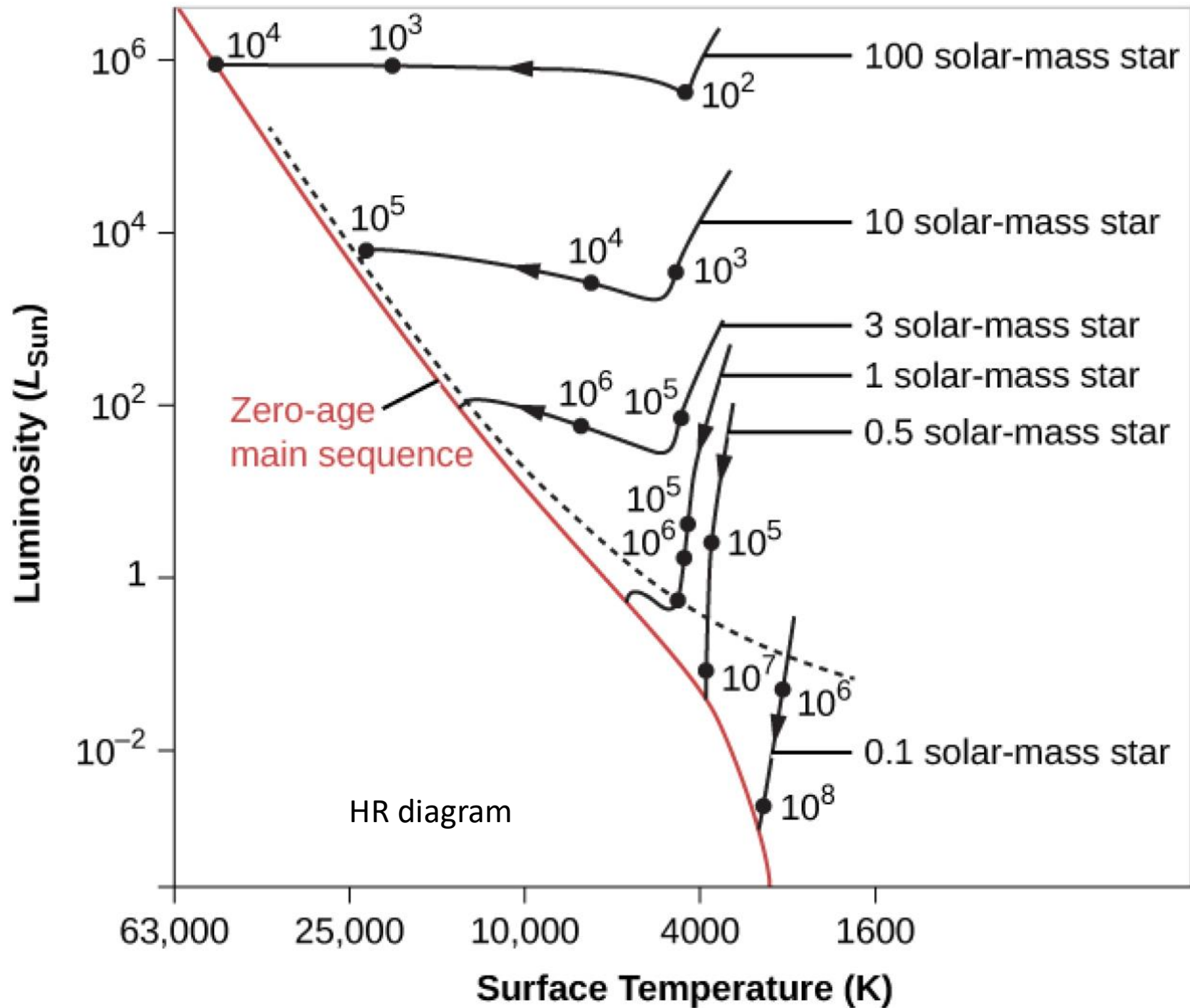


JWST Image of a Protostar:
Disk, bipolar outflow, and envelope

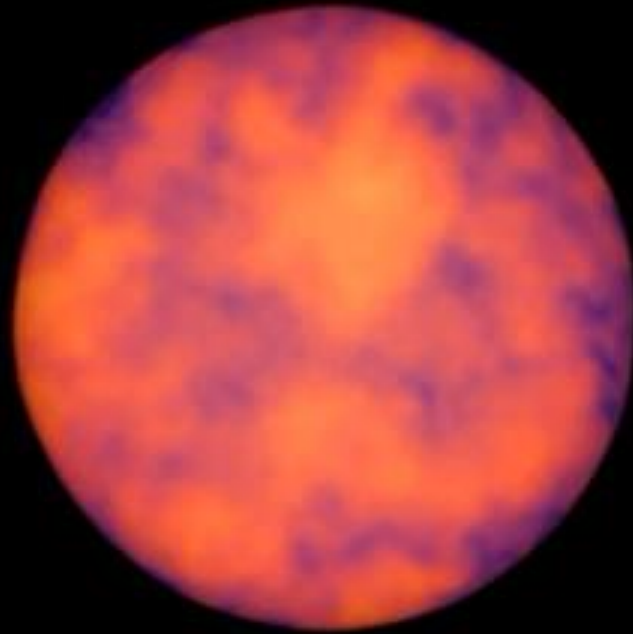




**Protoplanetary disk:
where planets form (next lecture)**



Simulation of a star-forming region: STARFORGE (Michael Grudic)

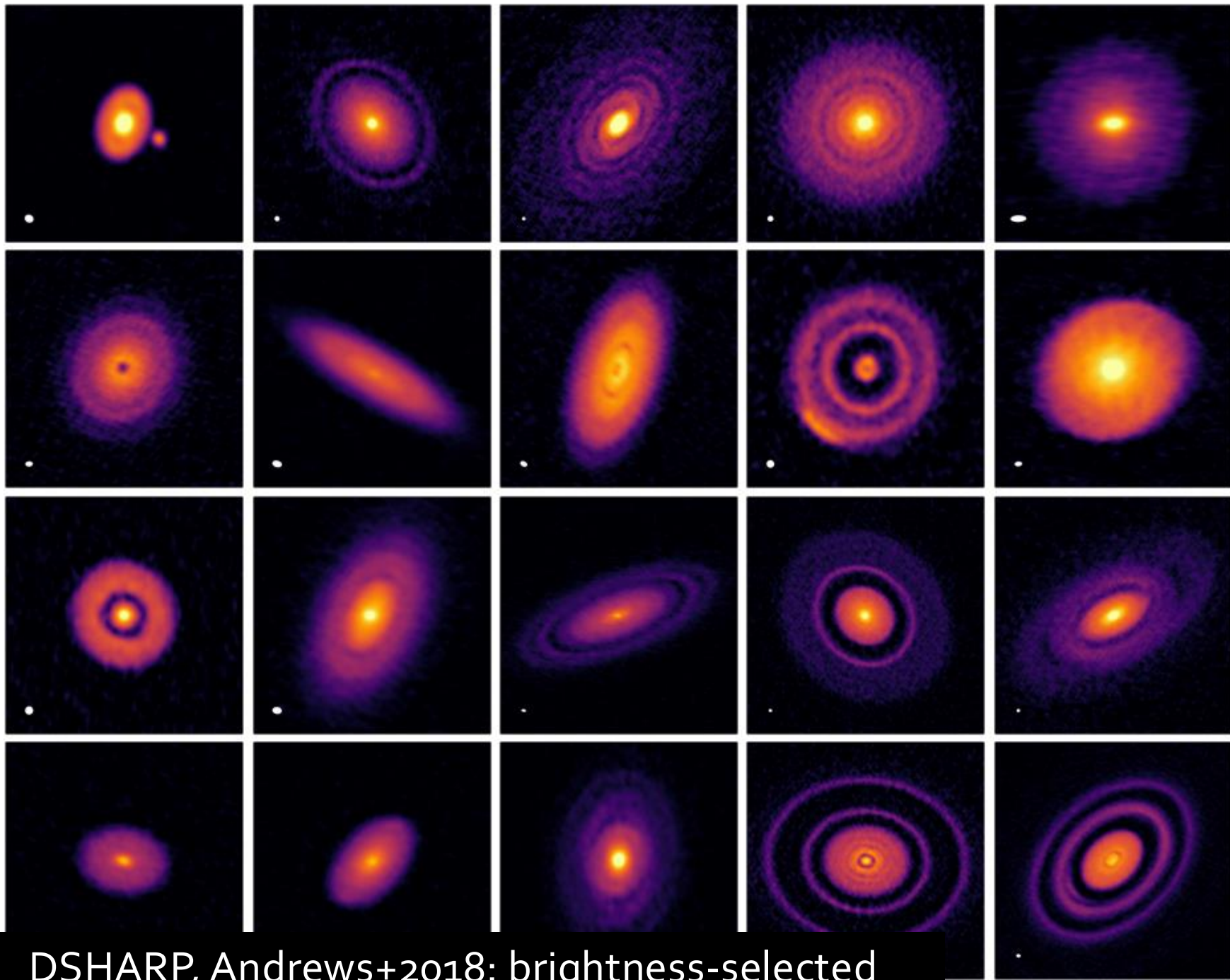


Planets should form in disk and carve a gap



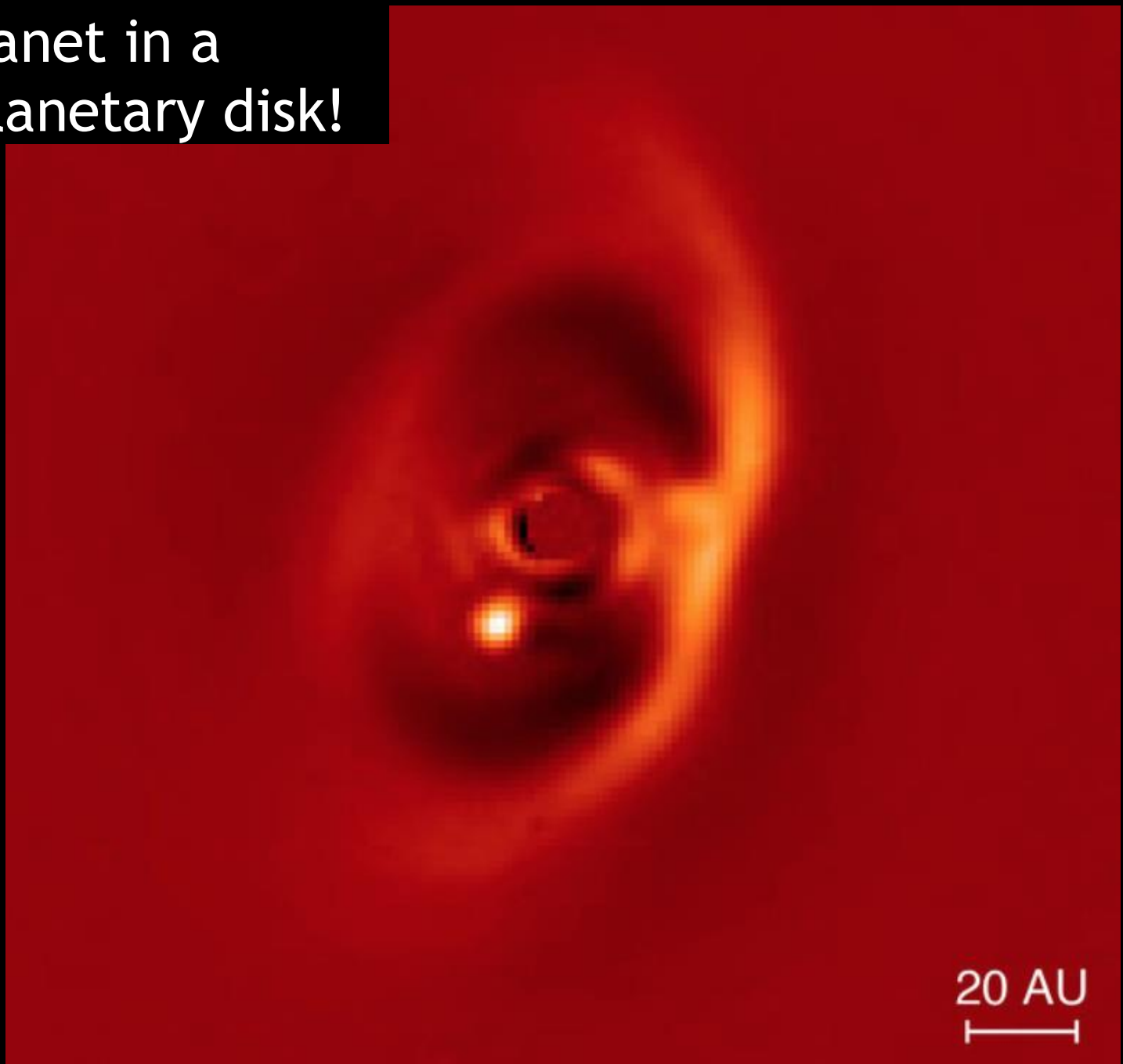
Image of a
protoplanetary disk



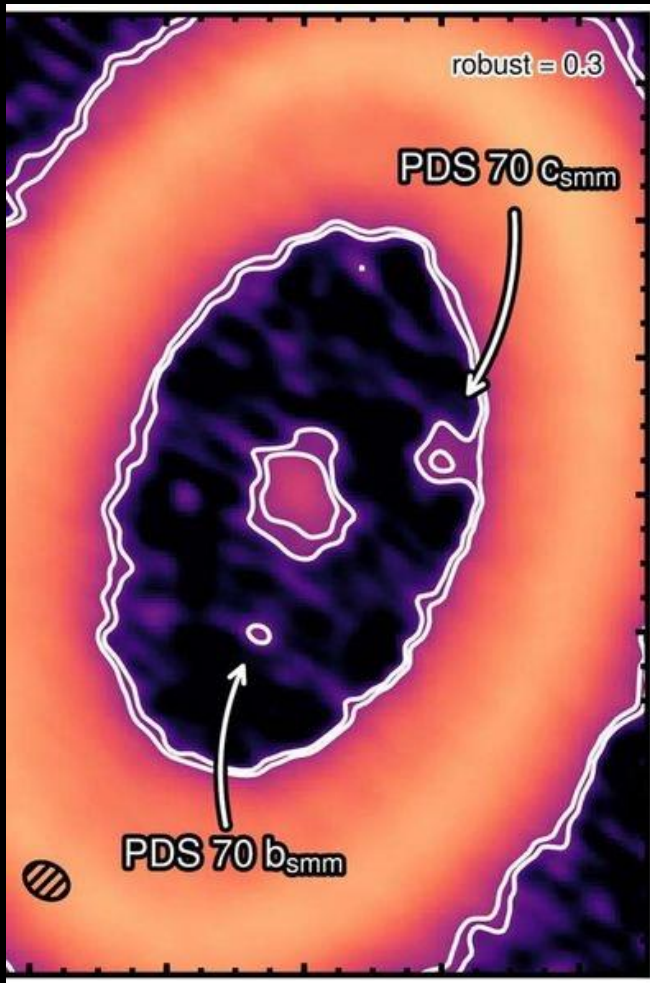


DSHARP, Andrews+2018: brightness-selected

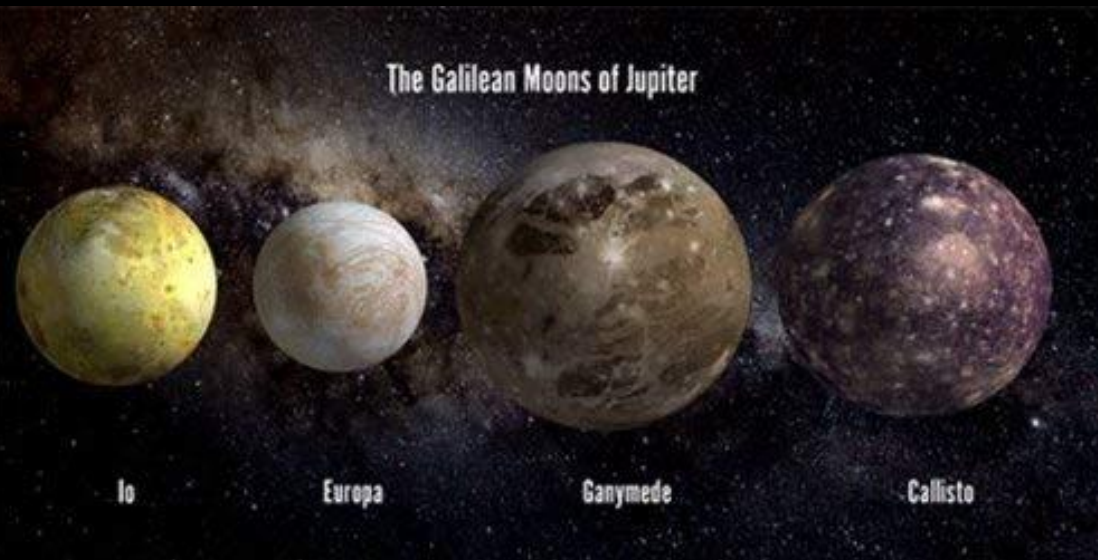
Planet in a
protoplanetary disk!



Proto-lunar disks around PDS 70bc?



ALMA/dust, Isella+2019

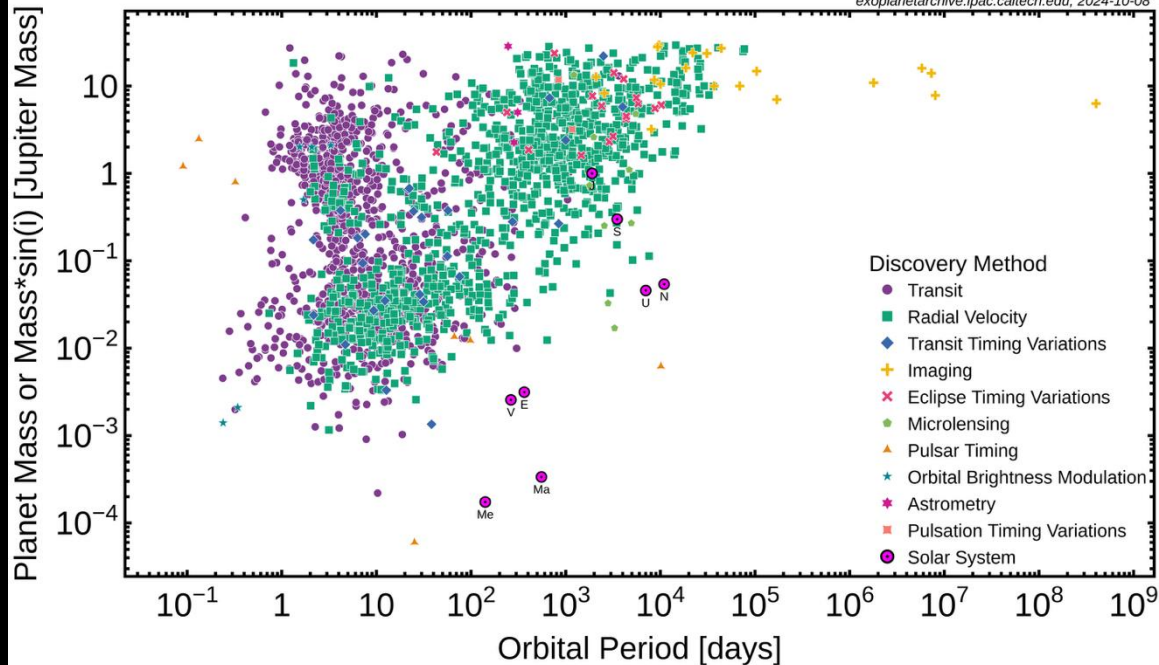


Planets are everywhere!

- Many different detection techniques
 - Most common planet: “Super Earth”
 - Earths still challenging
 - Atmospheres very challenging
 - Many biases to larger planets, closer objects
- Planet Formation
 - Observational evidence for unseen planets
 - Challenge: Microscopic interactions on tiny scales lead to planets
 - Requires simulations+observations

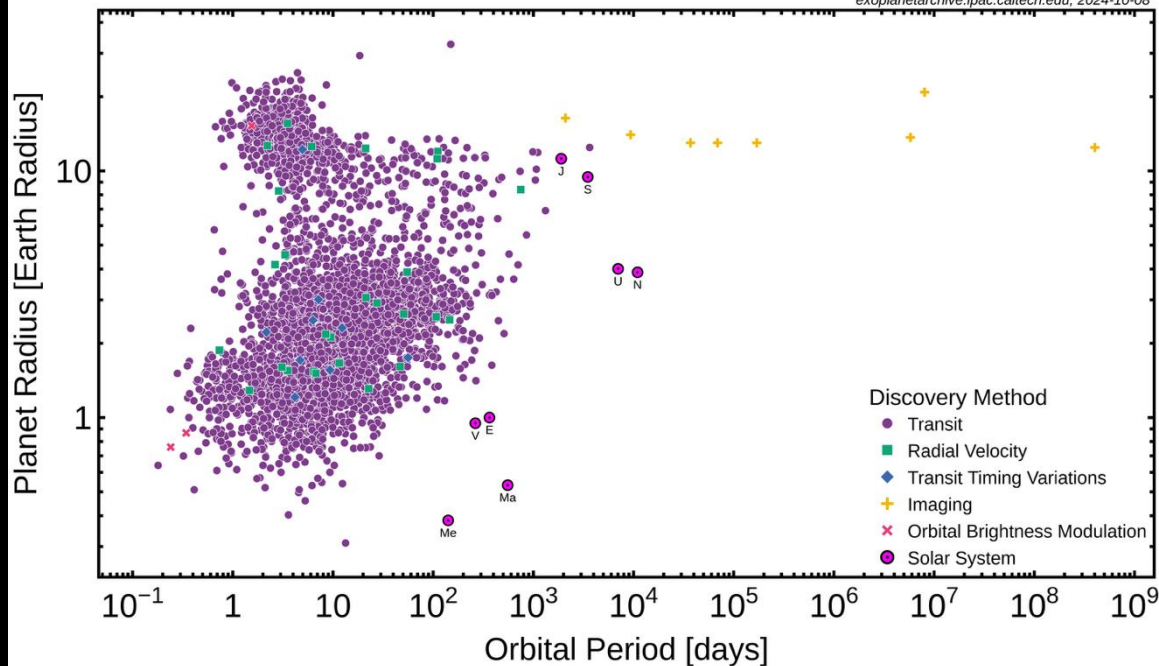
Planet Mass or Mass* $\sin(i)$ vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



Planet Radius vs Orbital Period

exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu, 2024-10-08



Planets are everywhere!

Next lecture: the Milky Way!

