Testing Substellar Models with Keck LGS AO Dynamical Masses



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Liu et al., Allers et al., Biller et al., in prep.

It is very important to test substellar theoretical models.









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Directly imaged planets

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Initial Mass Function



To test substellar models we are measuring dynamical masses.





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Keck LGS AO program targets ~30 binaries over ~3 years.





Carefully selected binaries likely to complete enough of their orbit by 2010.





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- Orbit fit using Markov Chain Monte Carlo
- Astrometric errors derived from Monte Carlo simulations of artificial binaries
- Covariances tracked in analysis (e.g., M_{tot} and L_{bol} correlated via distance)

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Substellar model tests

- 1. Do models predict the luminosity evolution of substellar objects accurately?
- 2. Do evolutionary and atmospheric models give consistent temperature estimates?
- 3. Do evolutionary models accurately predict near-infrared colors of ultracool dwarfs?

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(1998); Gaidos (2000); Hünsch et al. (1999); Stelzer & Neuhäuser (2001); Soderblom et al. (1993a,b,c)

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Substellar model tests

- 1. Do models predict the luminosity evolution of substellar objects accurately?
 - No: ~2–3× under-luminous
- 2. Do evolutionary and atmospheric models give consistent temperature estimates?
 - No: typically off by > 100 K
- 3. Do evolutionary models accurately predict near-infrared colors of ultracool dwarfs?
 - No: for JHK colors at all spectral types

Future model tests:

- 4. Do models predict the lithium depletion of substellar objects accurately?
 - young cluster ages (e.g., Pleiades)



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- Does the L/T transition (dust removal) depend on surface gravity?
 - dust physics in stars/BDs/planets



Future model tests:

- 4. Do models predict the lithium depletion of substellar objects accurately?
 - young cluster ages (e.g., Pleiades)
- 5. Does the L/T transition (dust removal) depend on surface gravity?
 - dust physics in stars/BDs/planets
- 6. Do orbital parameters (e.g., eccentricity) match brown dwarf formation models?

