

# Towards precision measurements of dark matter

**Sukanya Chakrabarti (UAH)**

EPRV : J. Wright, P. Chang, A. Quillen, P. Craig\*, J. Territo\*, E. D'Onghia, K.

Johnston, R. de Rosa, K. Rhode, D. Huber & E. Nielsen

Pulsar timing: P. Chang, M. Lam, S. Vigeland & A. Quillen

Eclipse timing: D. Stevens, J. Wright, R. Rafikov, P. Chang, T. Beatty & D. Huber

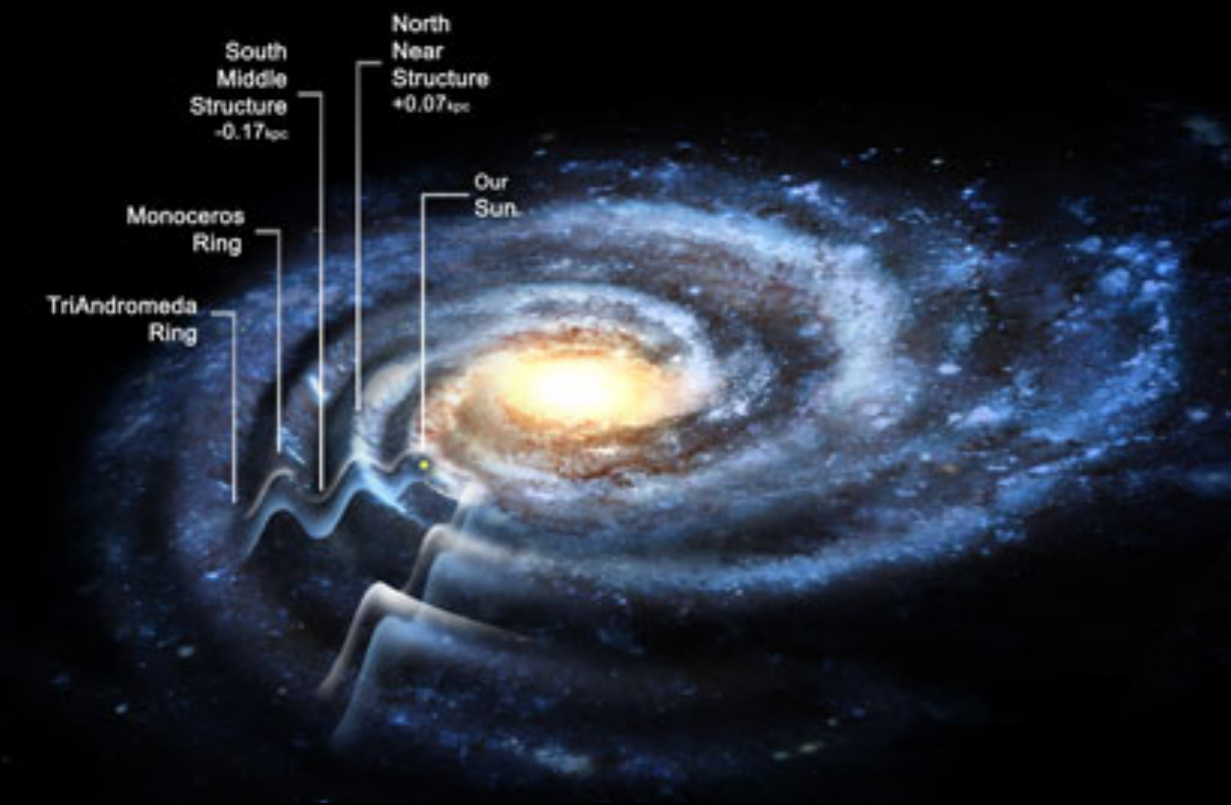
Acceleration ladder: P. Craig\*, R. Sanderson, F. Nikhatar

# Motivations: the dynamic Milky Way

Why direct measurements of the Galactic acceleration?

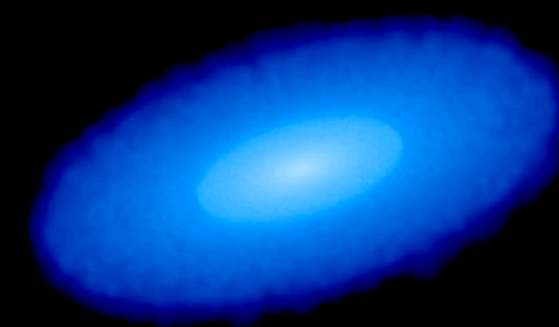
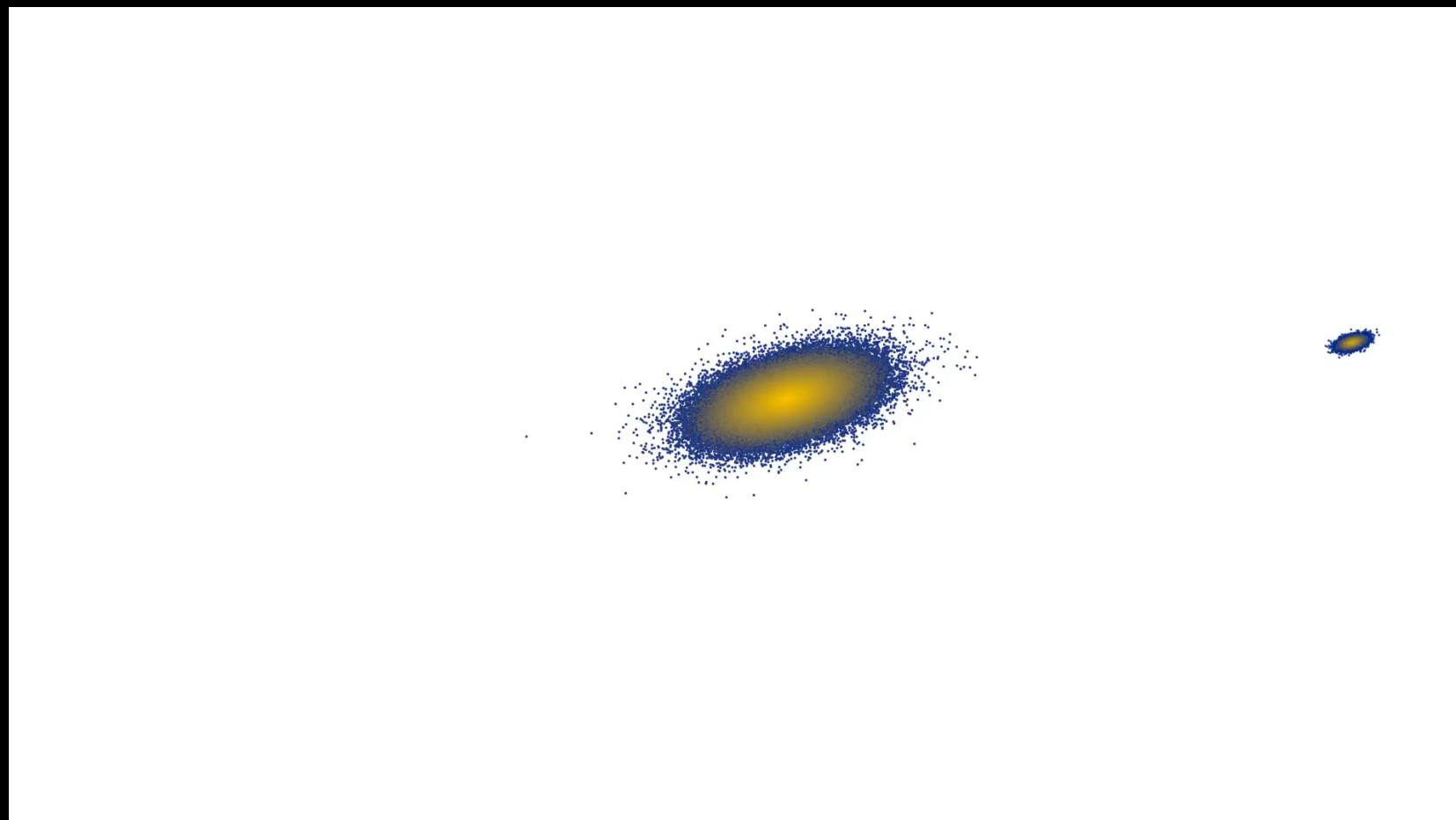
Traditional method: *estimate* accelerations. True acceleration in interacting Galaxy may be different

1. Extreme precision radial velocity measurements (Chakrabarti et al. 2020)
2. Pulsar timing (Chakrabarti et al. 2021)
3. Eclipse timing (Chakrabarti et al. 2022)

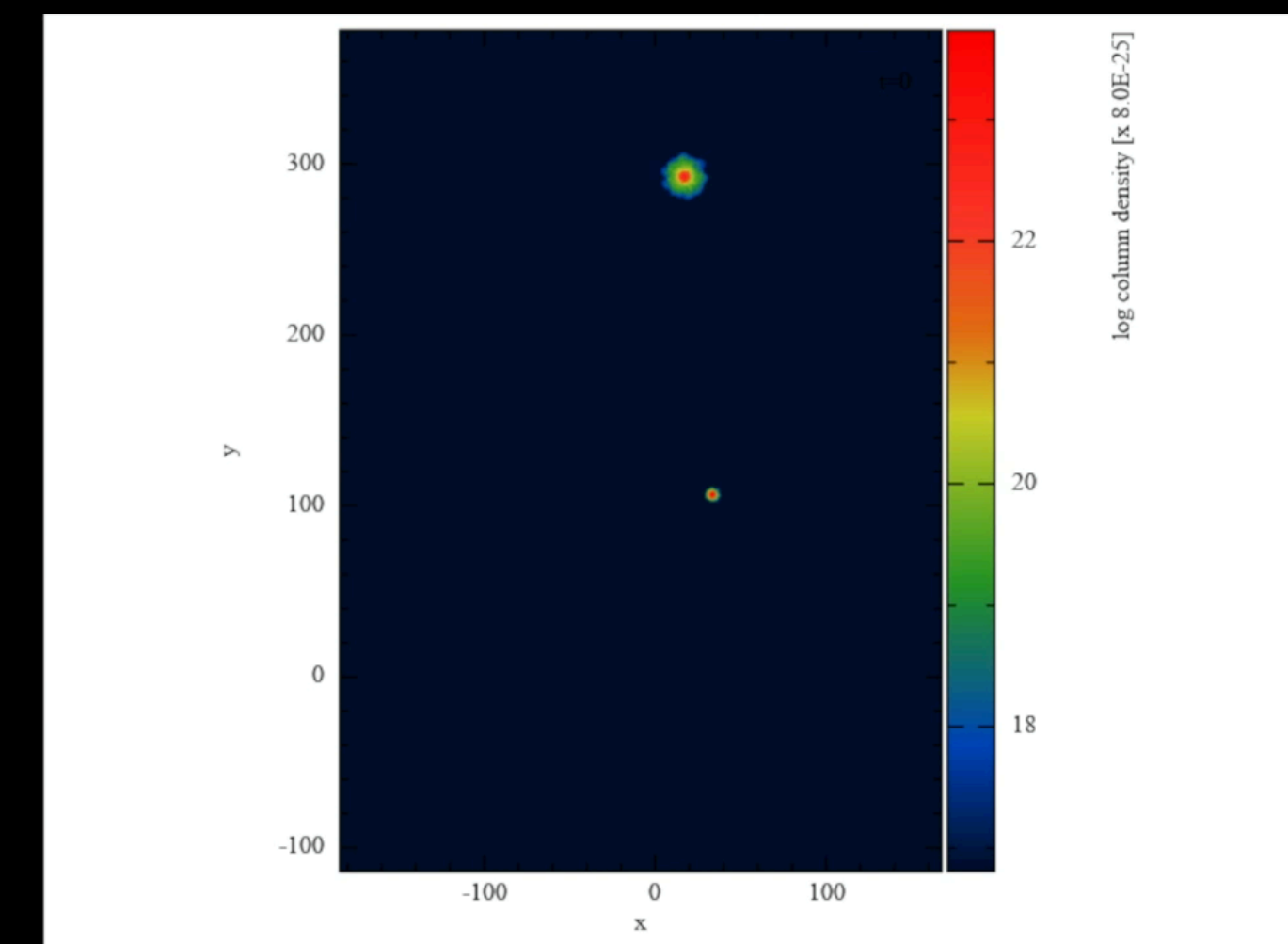


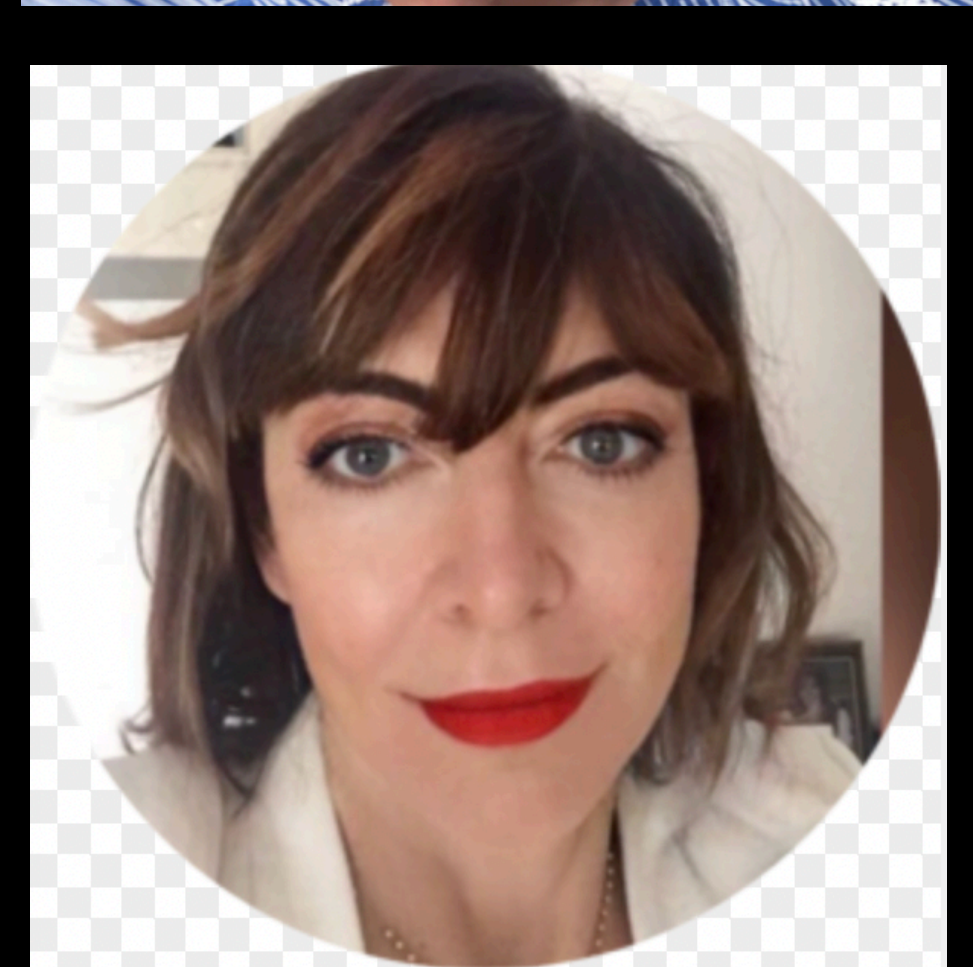
Xu et al. 2015

Milky Way interaction with Antlia2 :  
Chakrabarti et al 2019



Craig\*, Chakrabarti et al., 2021

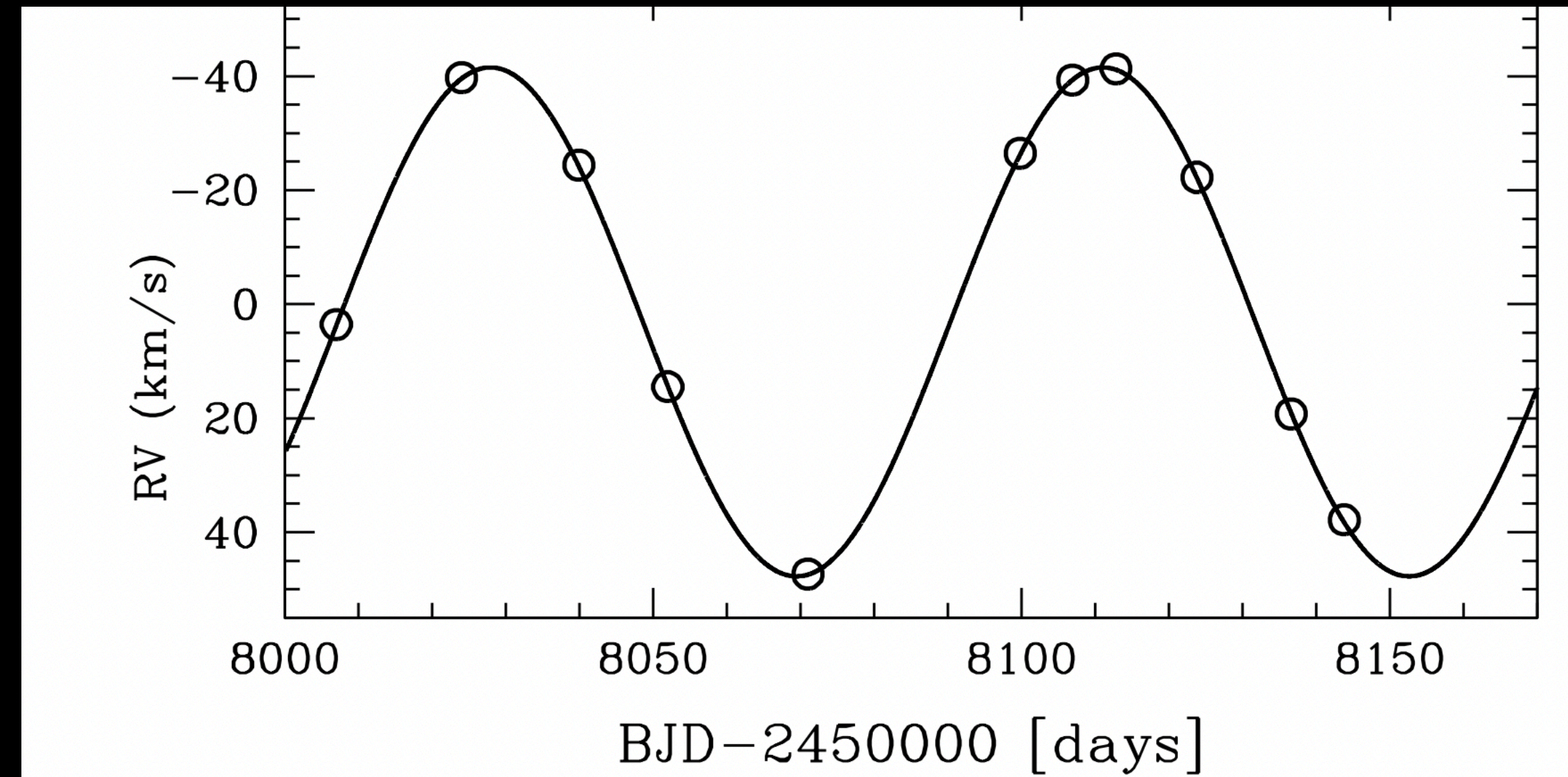
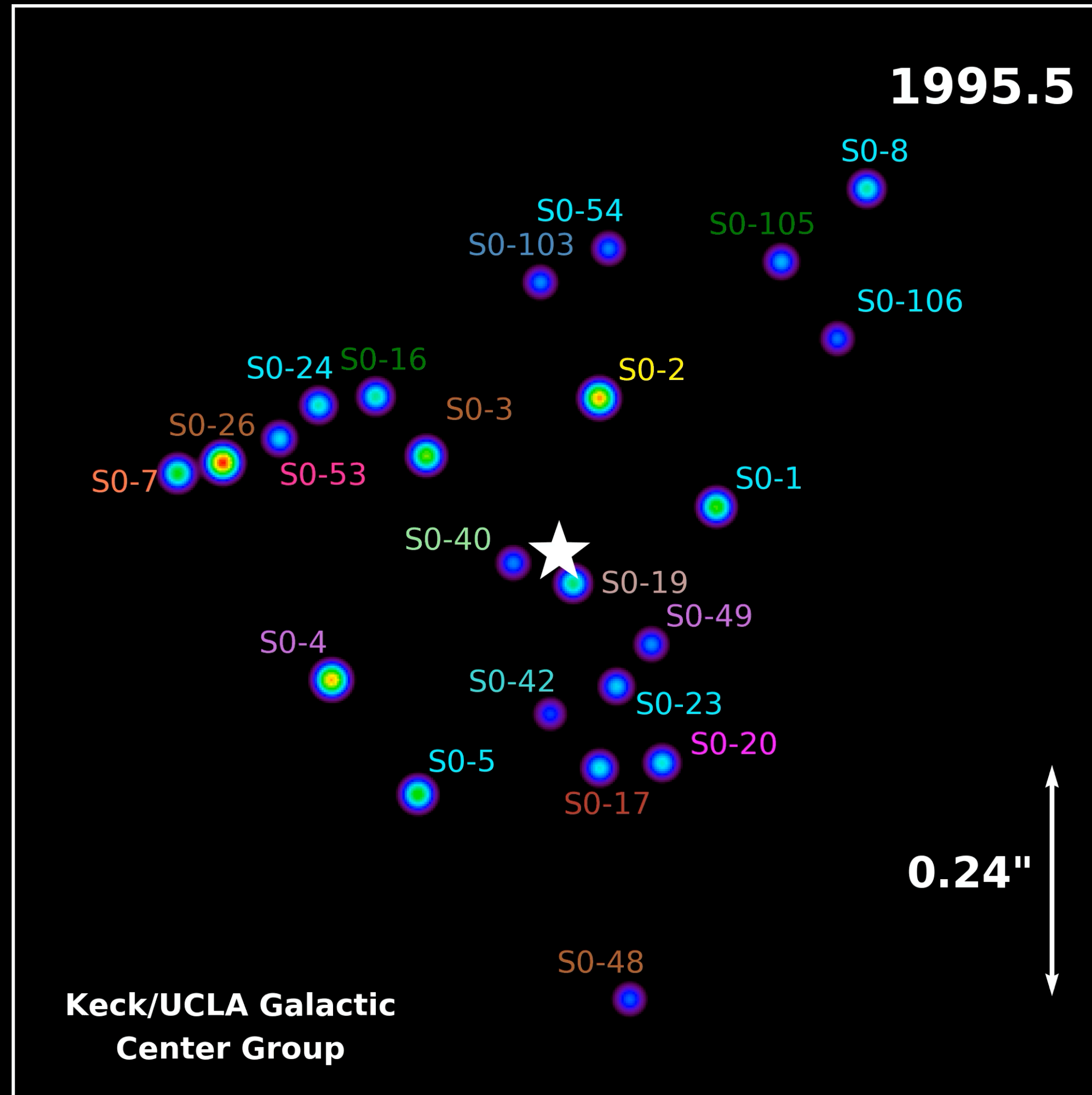




# Measured BIG accelerations

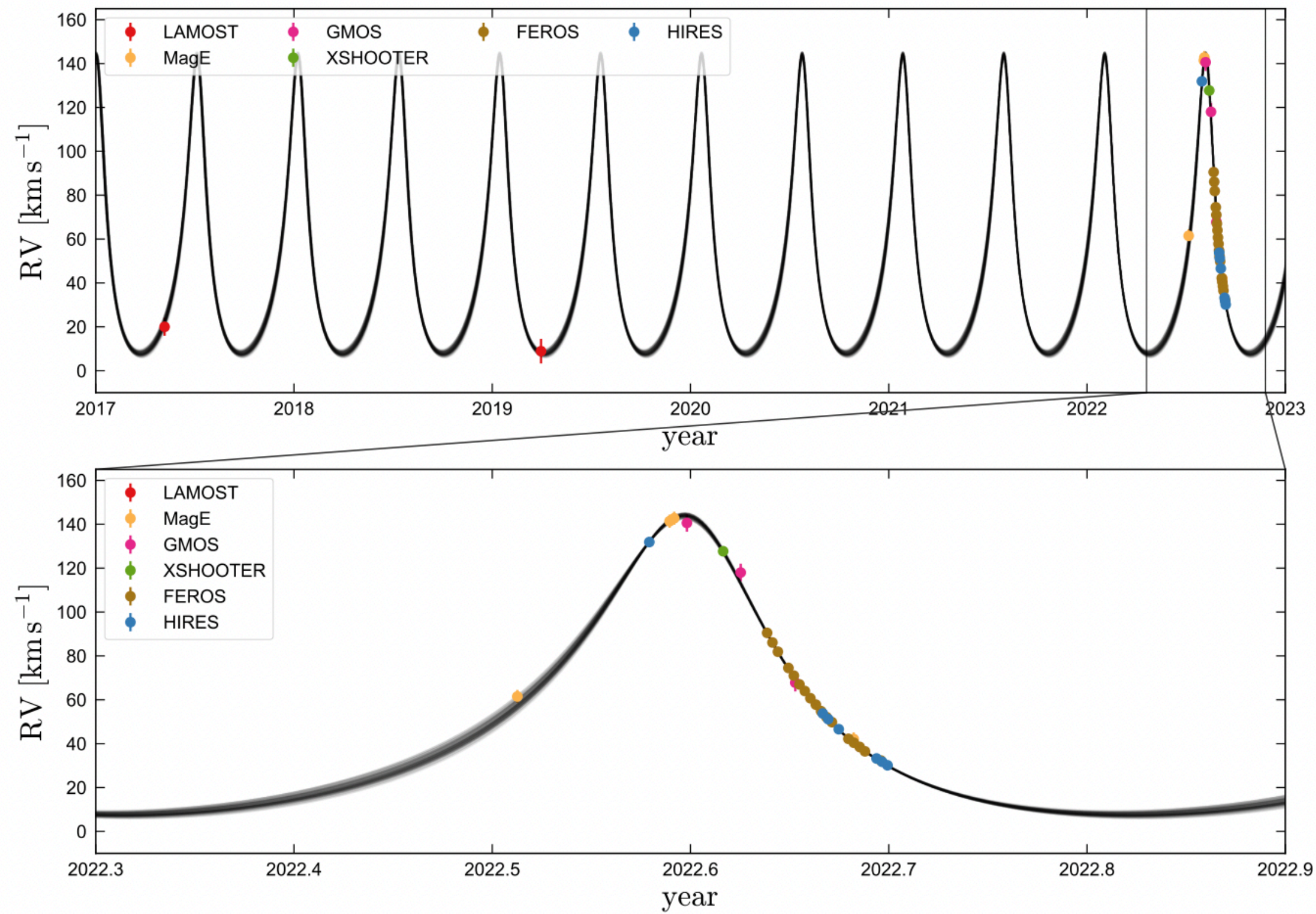
UCLA  
Galactic  
center

Ghez et al.  
1998++

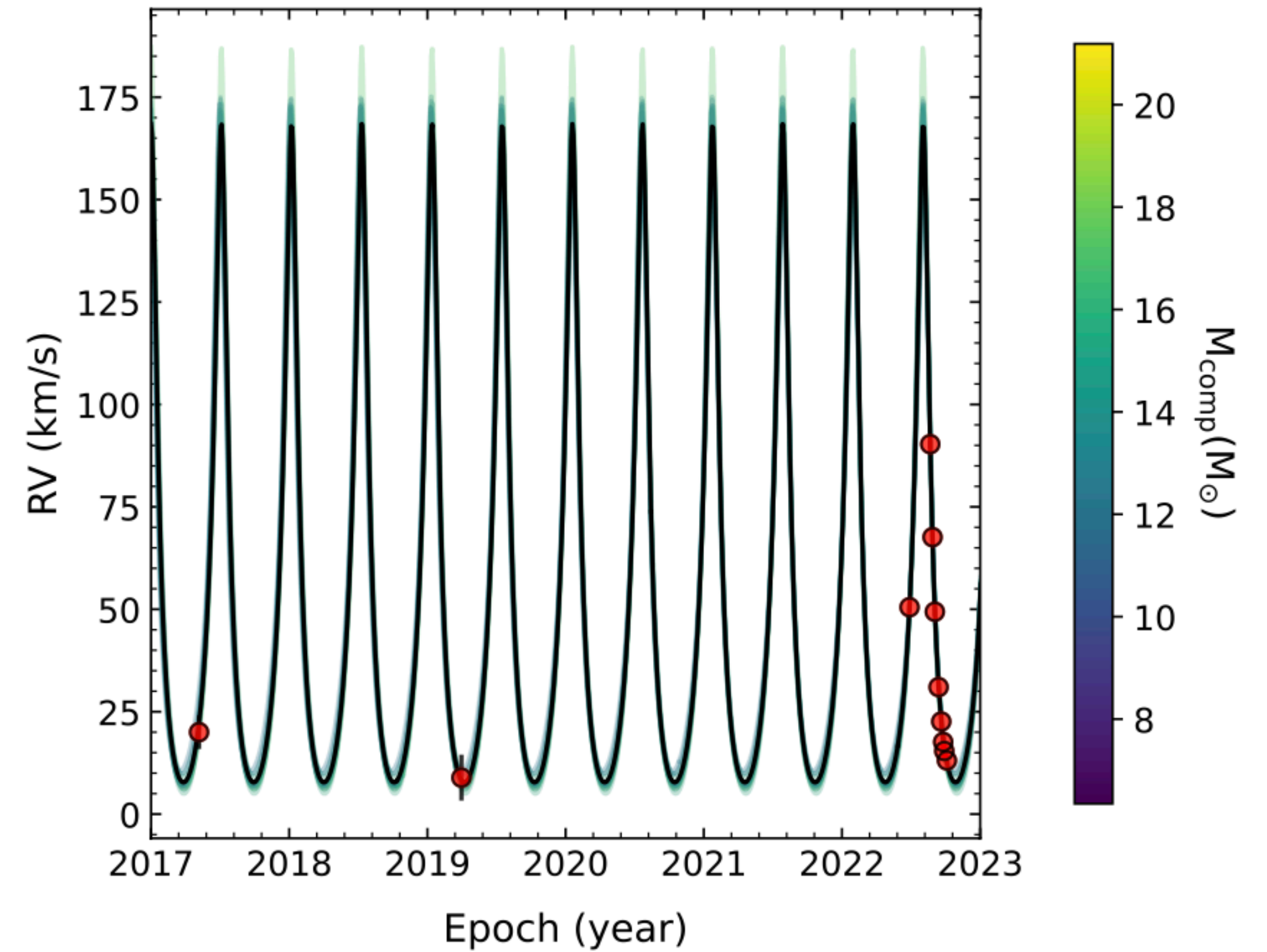


Black holes around luminous companions  
(Thompson et al. 2019)

# Non-interacting black holes from Gaia DR3



El-Badry et al. 2023



Chakrabarti et al. 2023

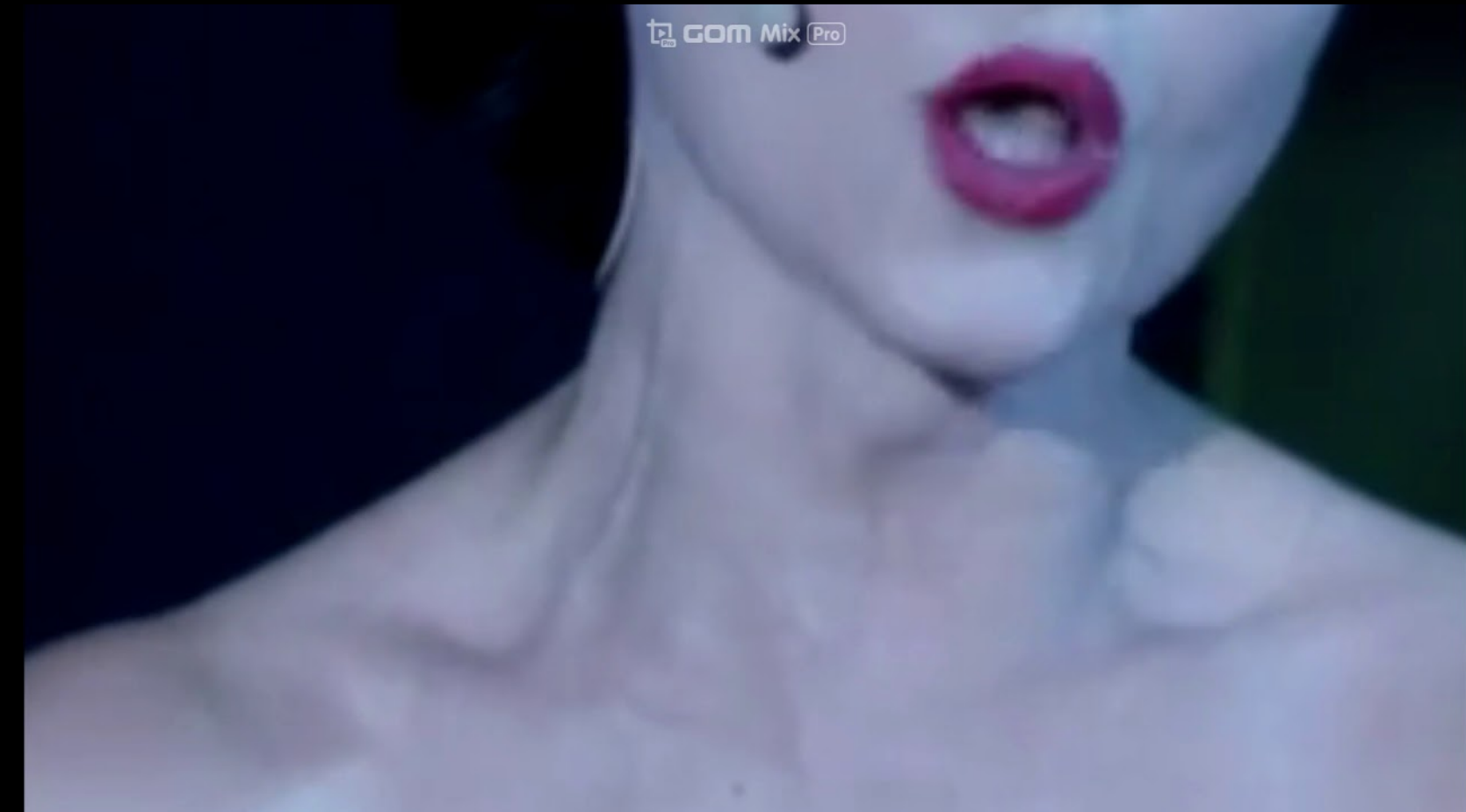
# Outline: “real-time” Galactic dynamics

- High precision RV observations to measure the Galactic acceleration : requires  $\sim 10$  cm/s precision (these accelerations  $\ll$  Galactic center accelerations)
- Milky Way simulations
- Pulsar timing measurements of the Galactic acceleration, the Oort limit & the local dark matter density : requires precision on

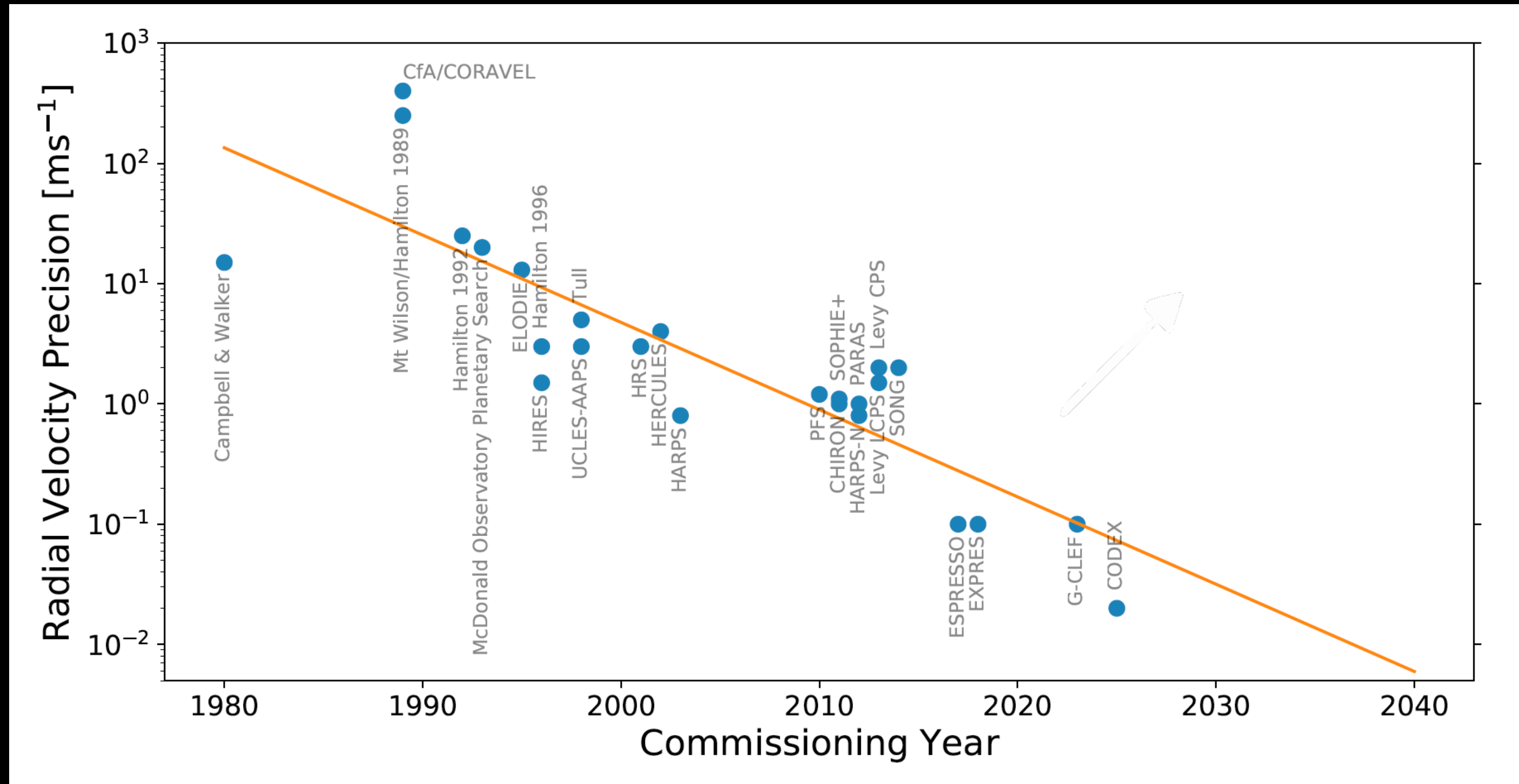
$$P_b \sim 10^{-13} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$A_G = c * \frac{\dot{P}_b^{Gal}}{P_b}$$

- Eclipse timing measurements of the Galactic acceleration: requires precision on eclipse mid-point time of  $\sim 0.1$ s over decade baseline



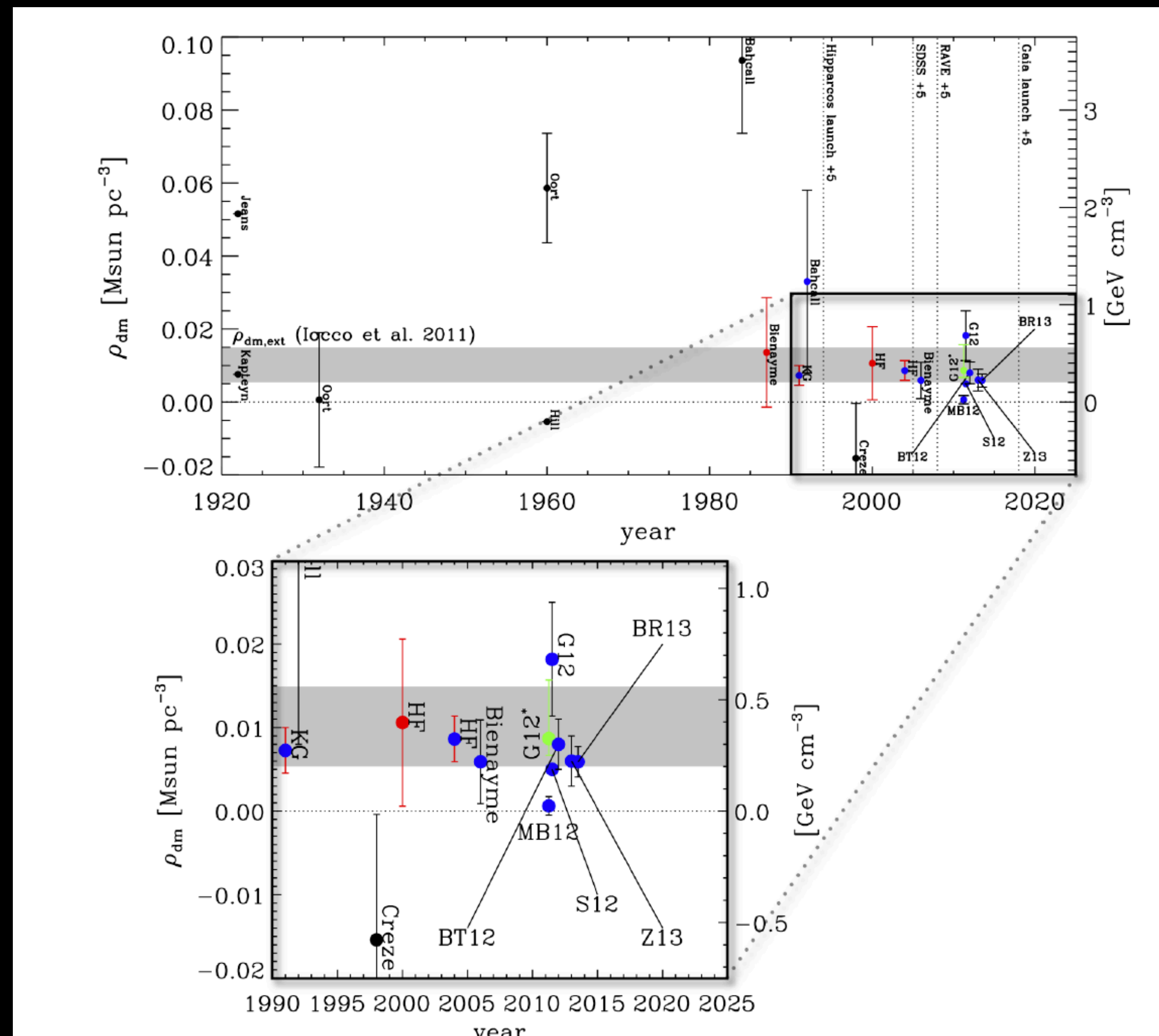
# Towards extreme precision RV measurements



[www.eso.org](http://www.eso.org)

Wright & Robertson 2017; Silverwood & Easter (2019)

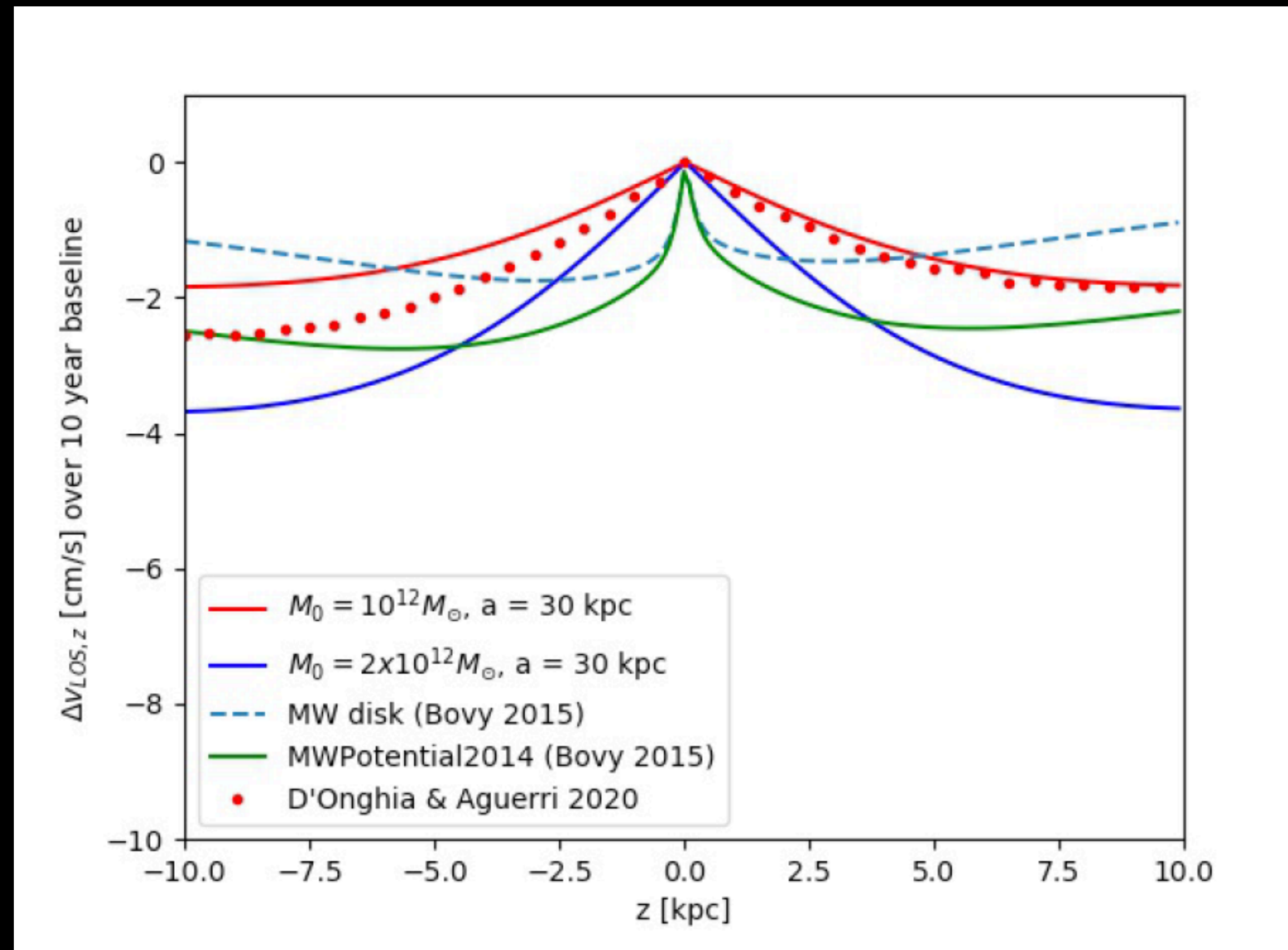
# The Oort limit & the local dark matter density



Read (2014) (recoil rate  $\sim$  local DM density)

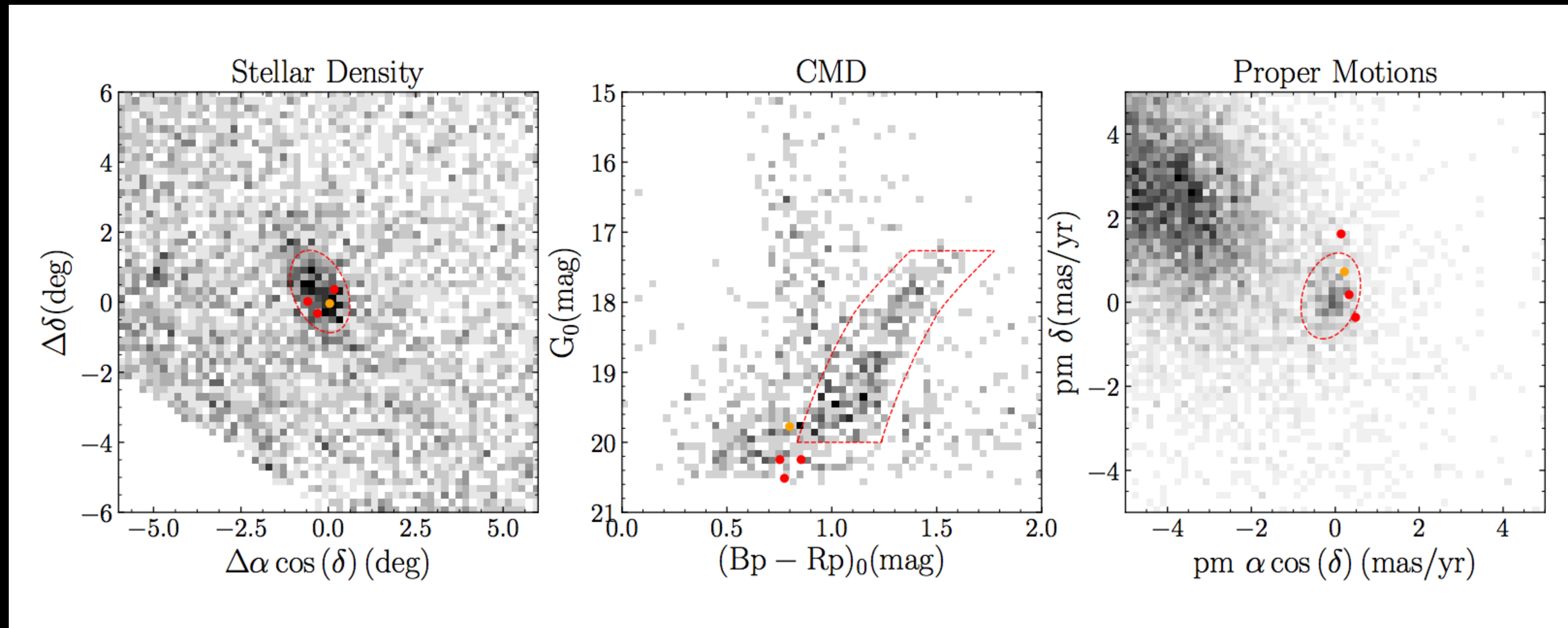


# Baseline expectations



Chakrabarti, Wright, Chang, Quillen, Craig\*, Territo\*, D'Onghia, Johnston, de Rosa, Rhode & Nielsen 2020

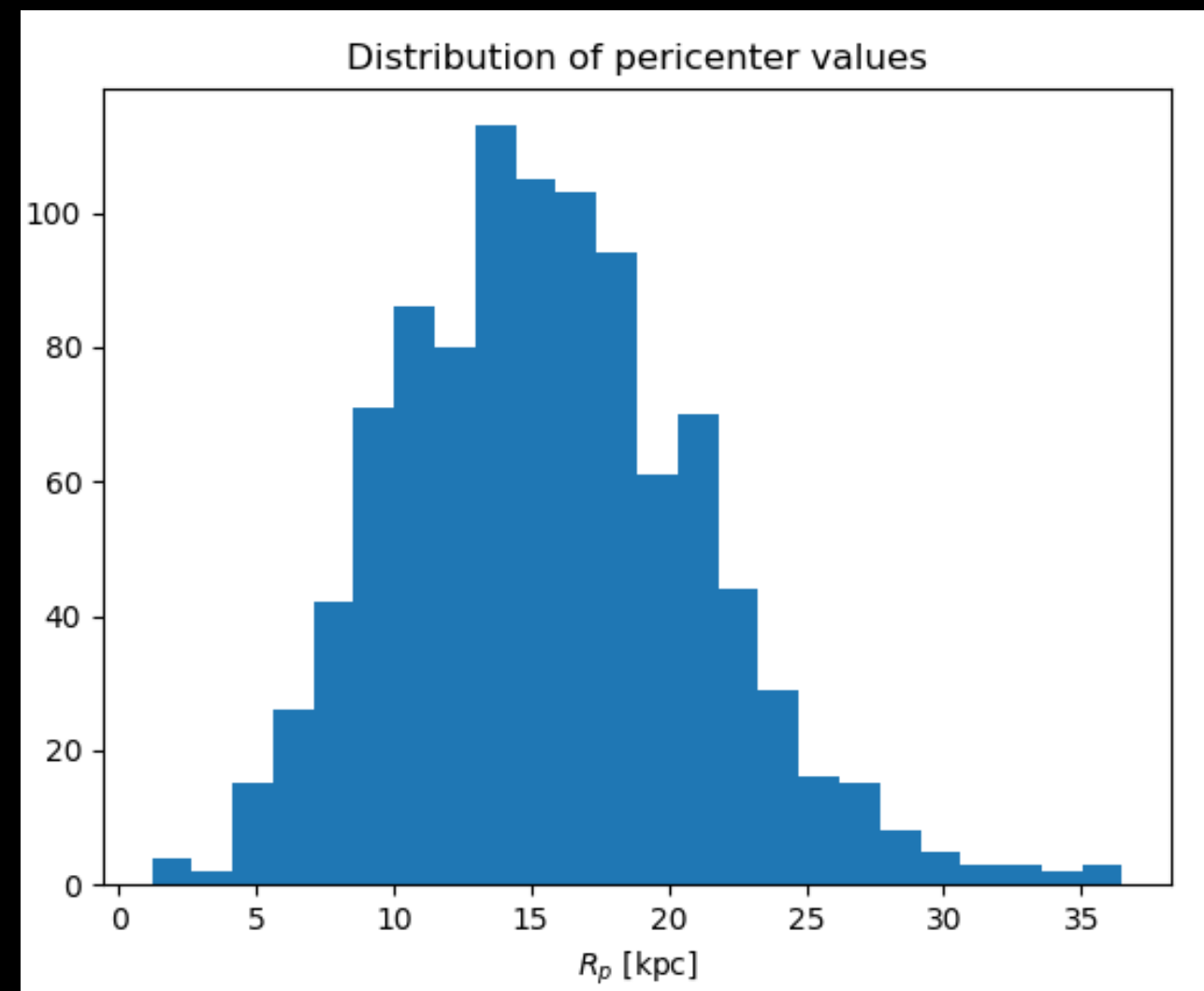
# The hidden giant : Gaia observations of Antlia 2



Torrealba et al. (2019)

- The least dense galaxy known — similar in extent to Large Magellanic Cloud, but 4000 times fainter
- 11 degrees from the plane of the Galaxy
- $\sim 130$  kpc away

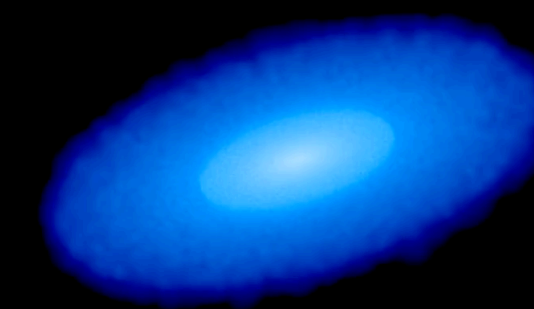
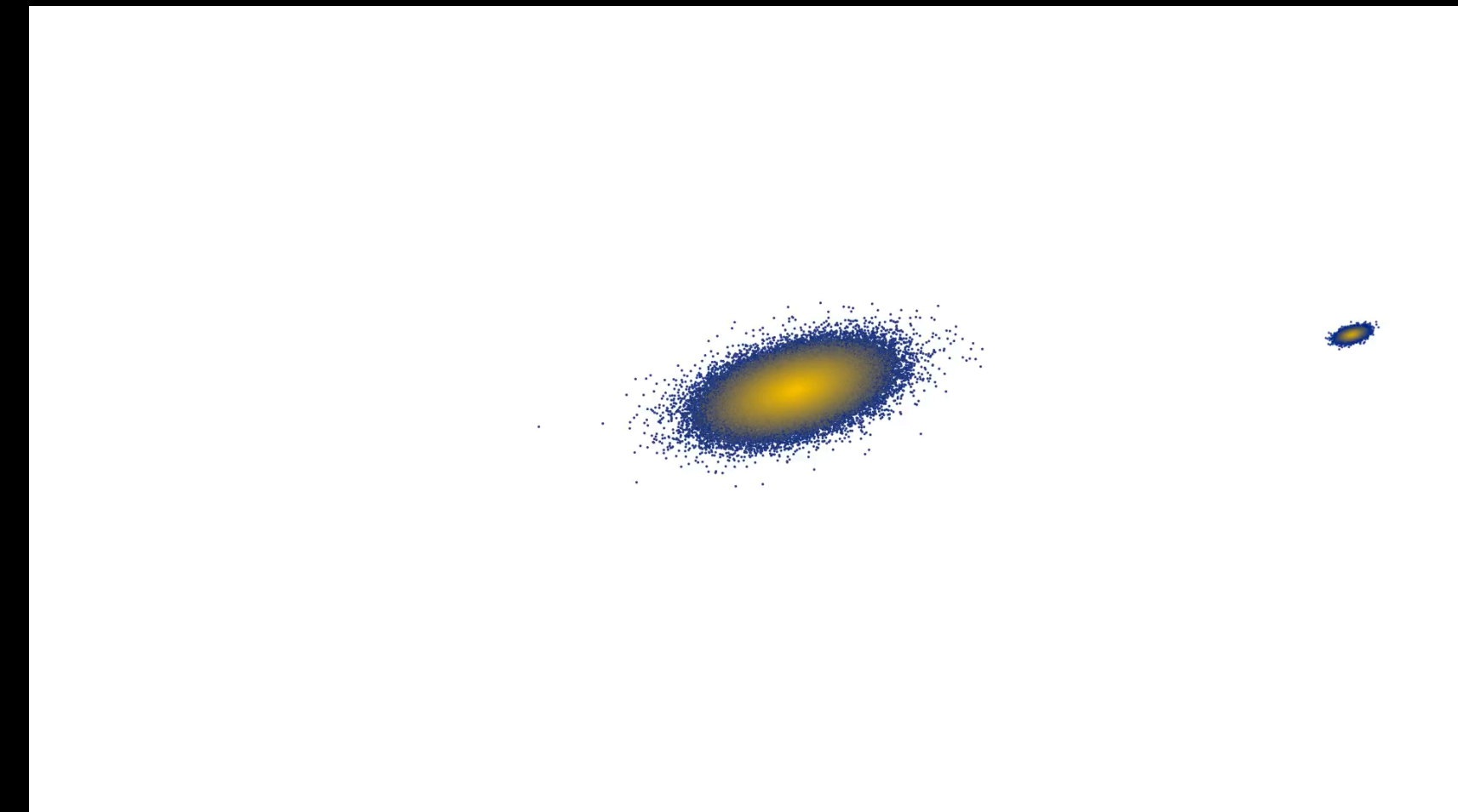
# Antila 2's orbit distribution & stream from Gaia observations



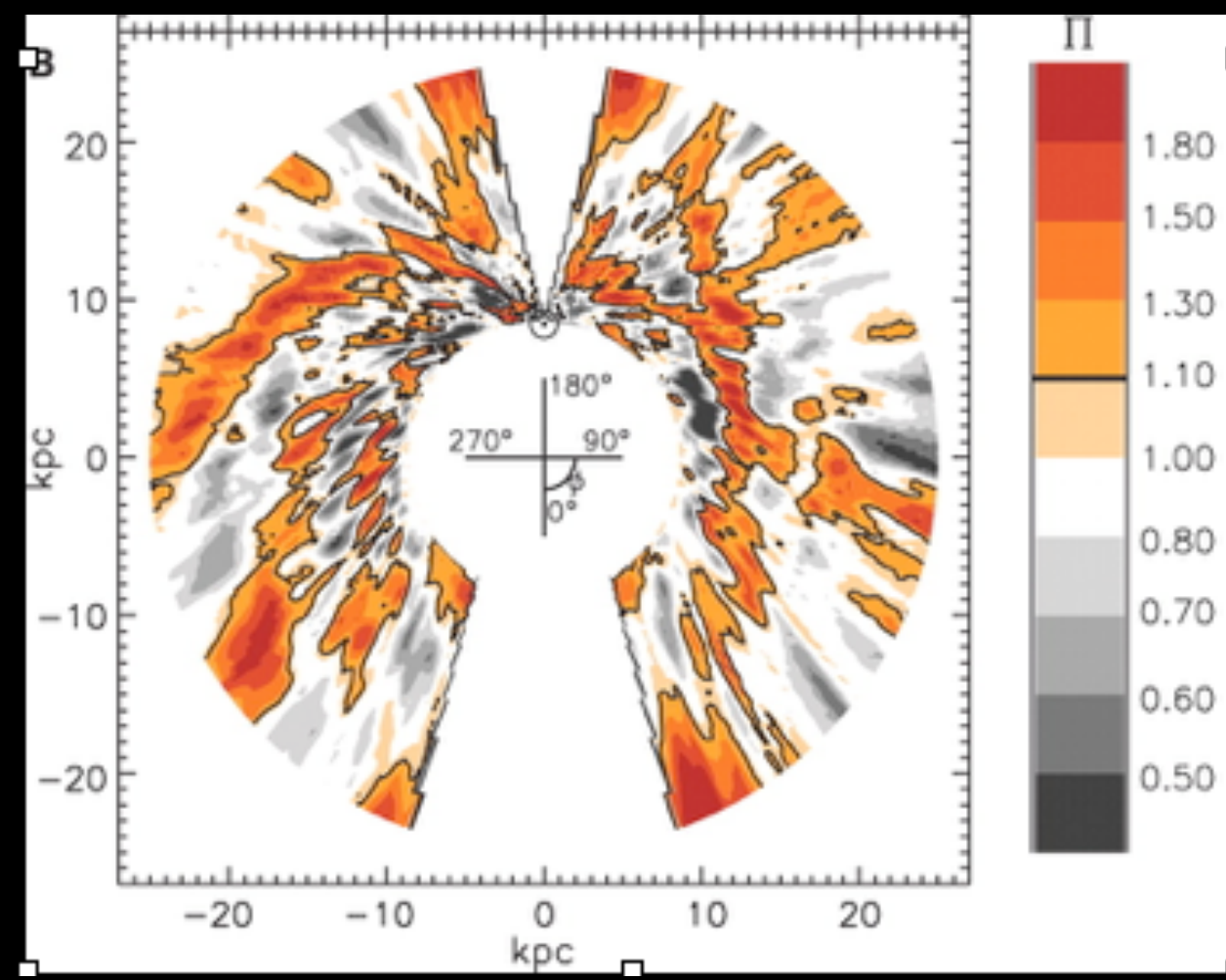
$$\langle R_p \rangle = 15 \text{ kpc}$$

Near co-planar orbit

Chakrabarti et al. 2019



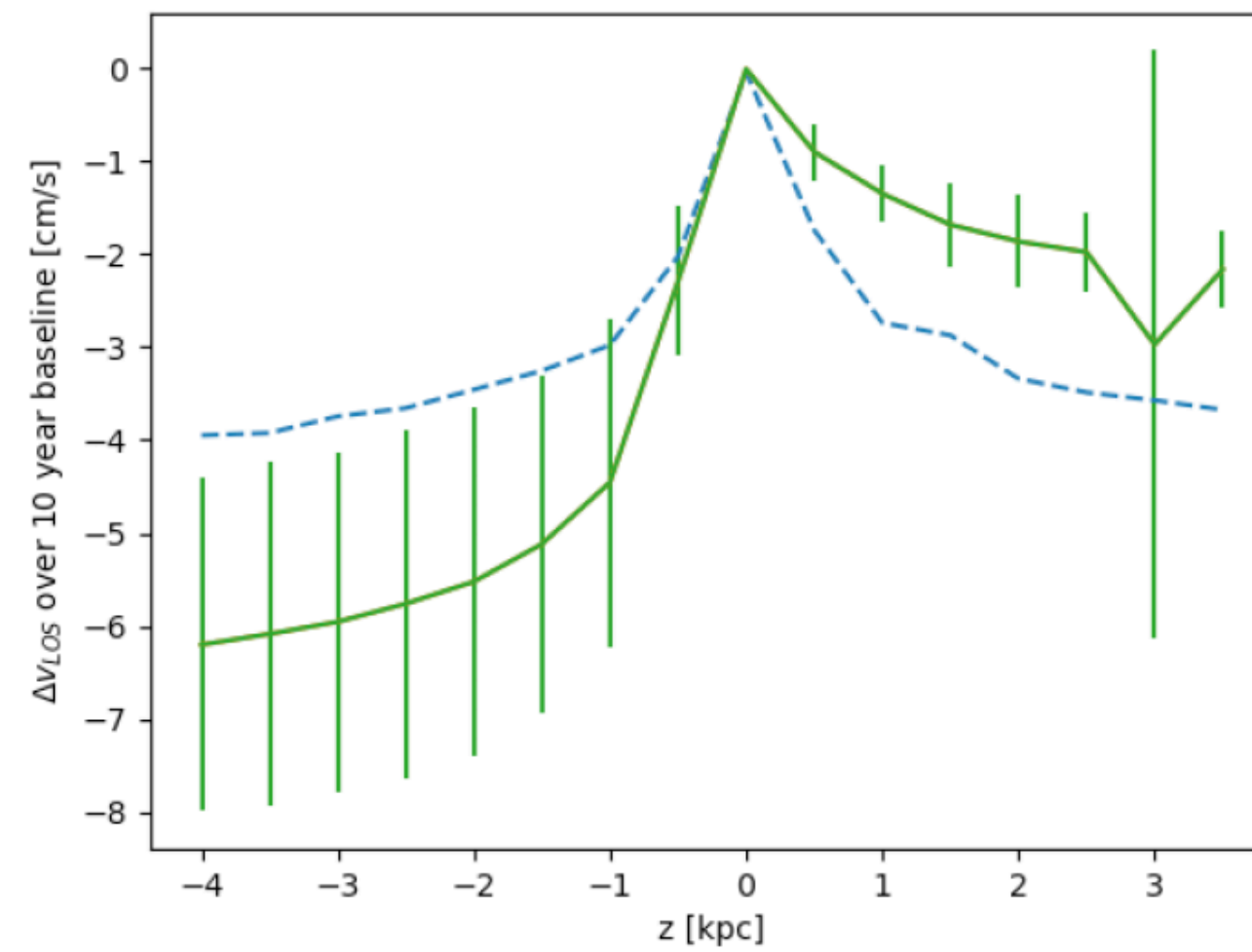
Levine,  
Blitz &  
Heiles  
2006



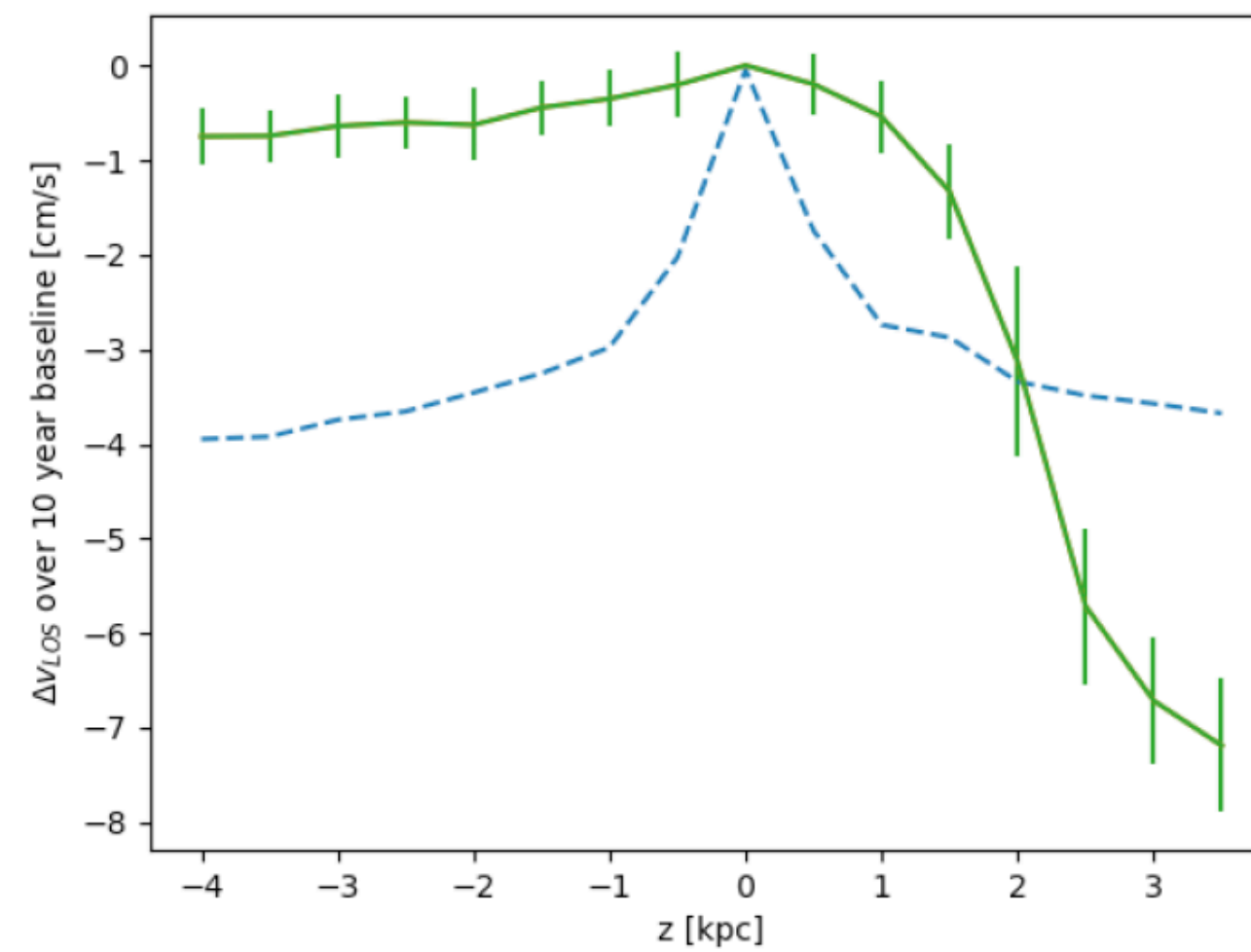
Chakrabarti & Blitz 2009:

- radial location
- near co-planar orbit
- dwarf galaxy mass

# Vertical acceleration profile in interacting simulations



Antlia 2



Sgr dwarf

Chakrabarti et al. (2020) - dwarf galaxy orbits from Gaia proper motions

# Contaminants to the Galactic signal

## Magnetically driven

star spots/faculae

flares

...

RV jitter increases with **activity**

Saar et al. (1998), Santos et al. (2000), Wright (2005),  
Isaacson & Fischer (2010)...among others

## Convection driven

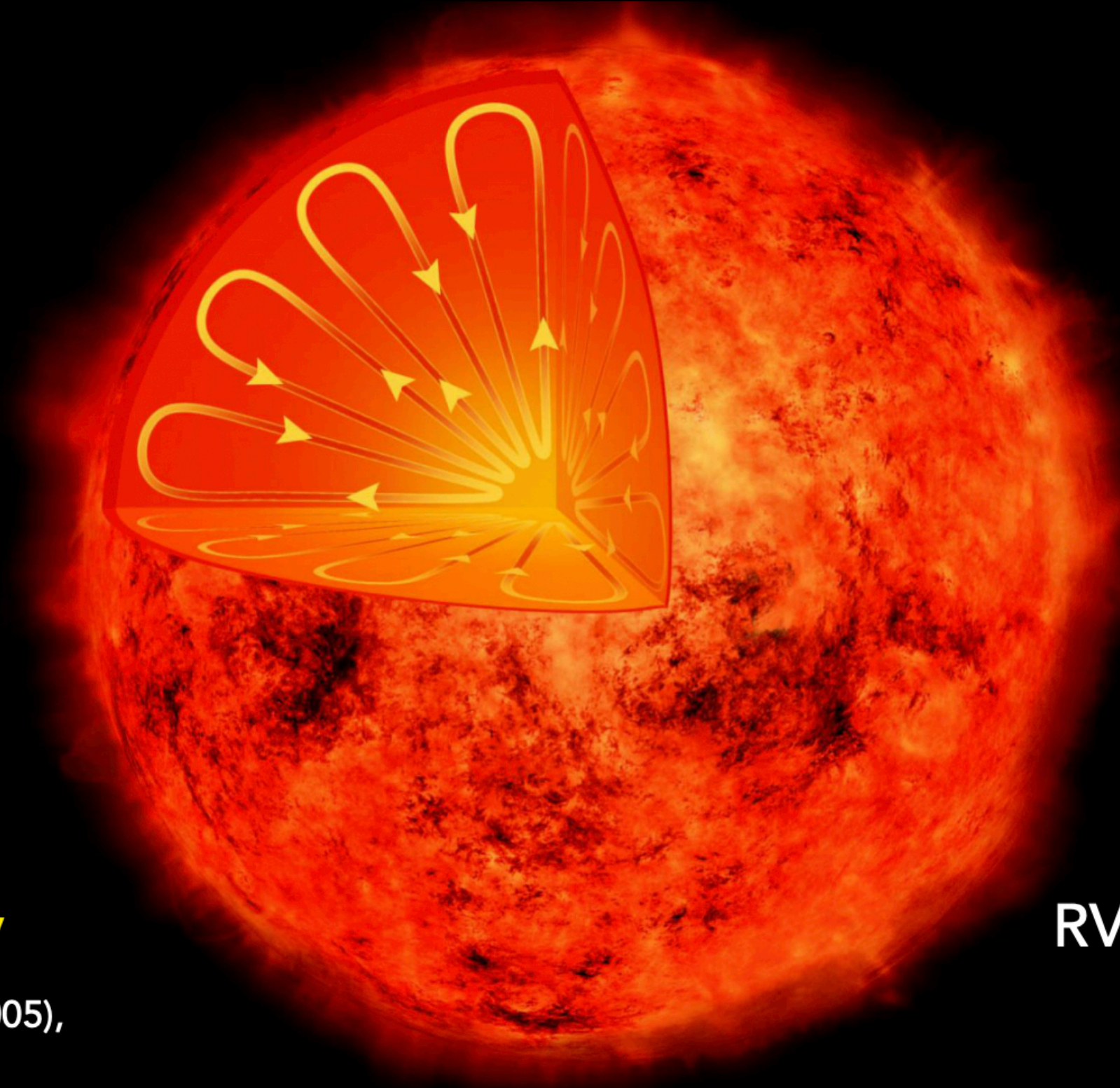
granulation

oscillations

Credit: Jacob Luhn

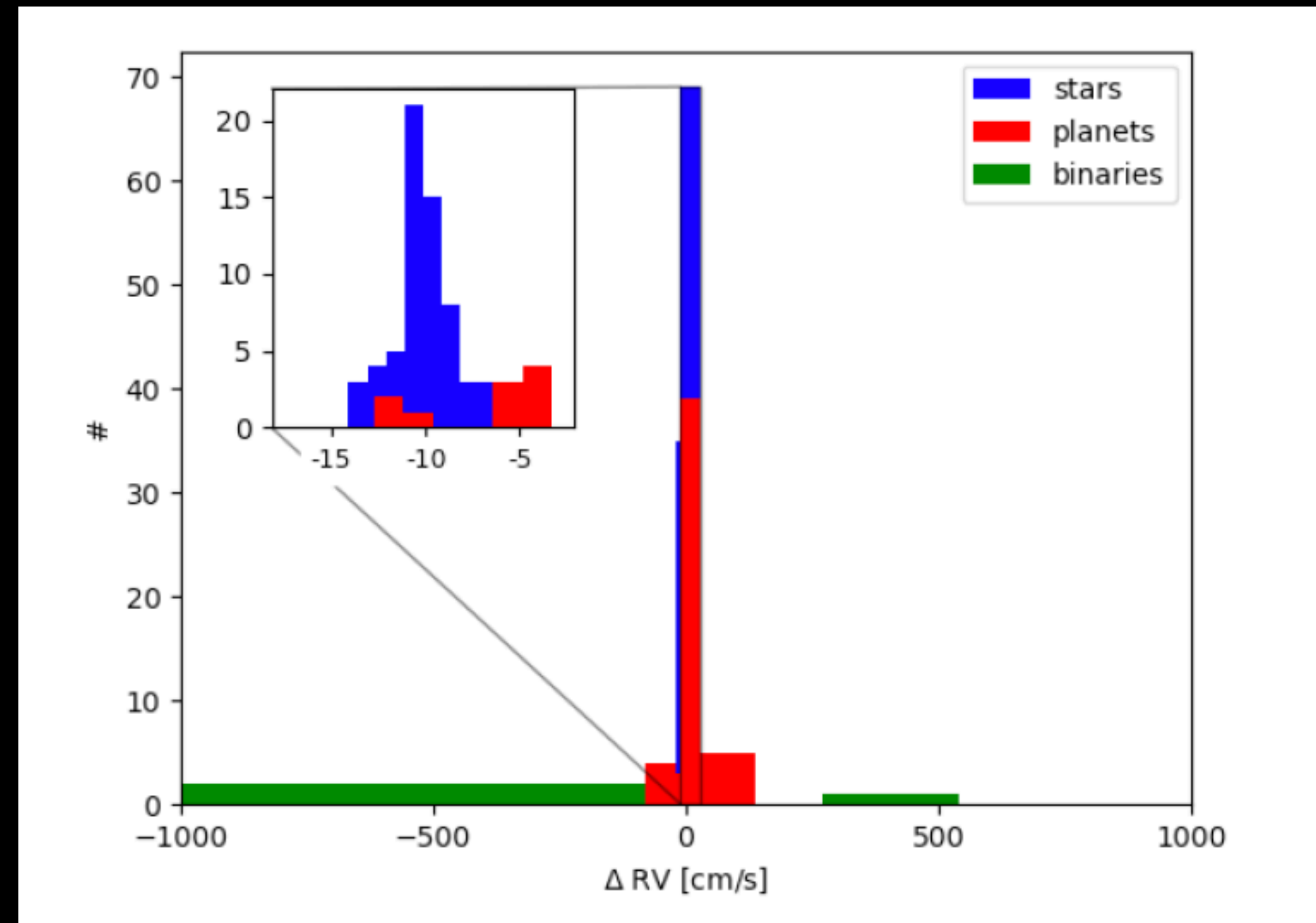
RV jitter increases with **convection**

Wright et al. (2005), Dumusque et al. (2011),  
Bastien et al. (2014)



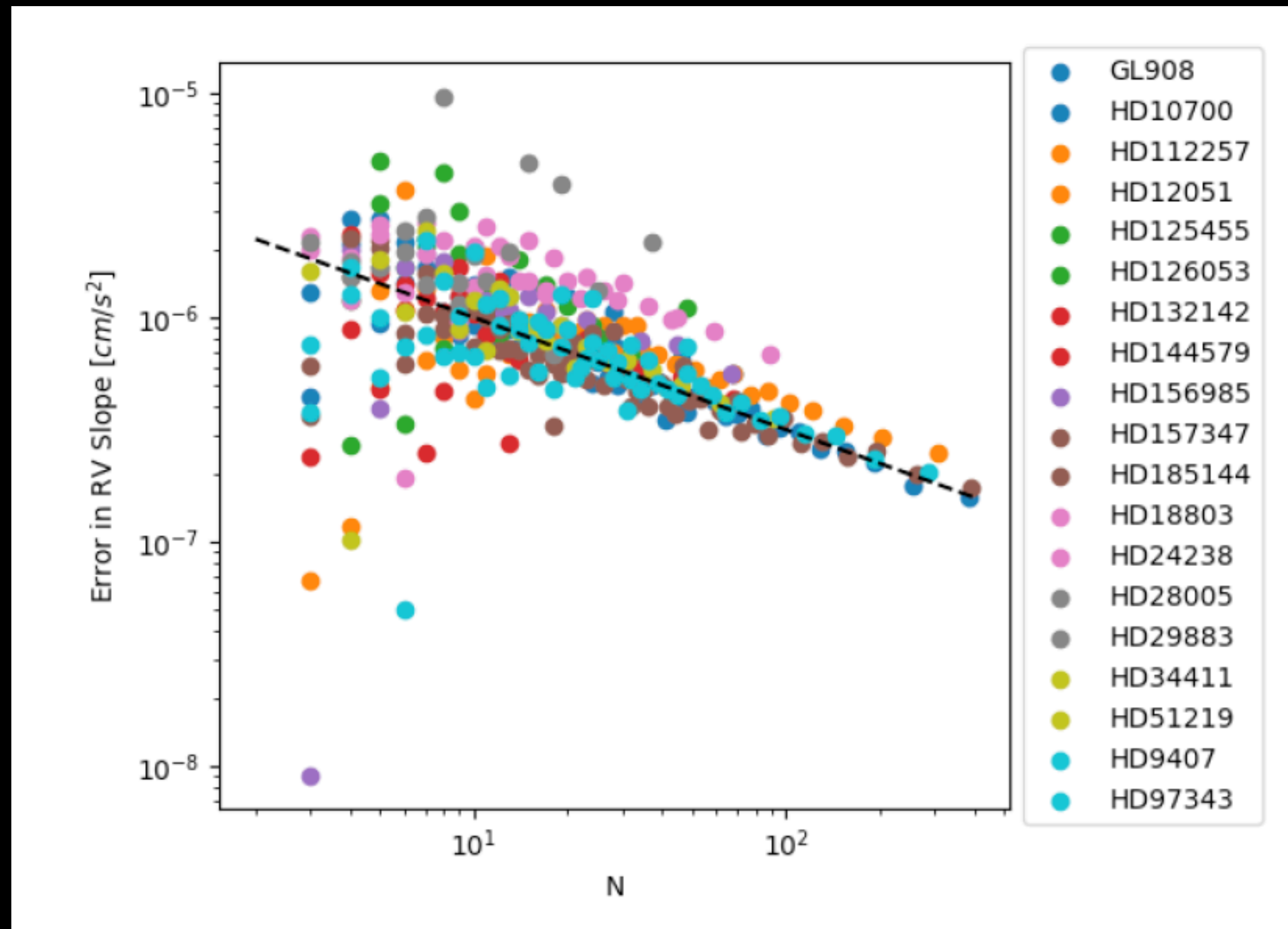
- Stellar jitter : choose sub-giants as compromise between bright stars and fainter, low-jitter dwarfs. Relations between Gaia color & RV jitter (Luhn et al. 2020)
- Stellar binaries
- Planets

# Population synthesis model



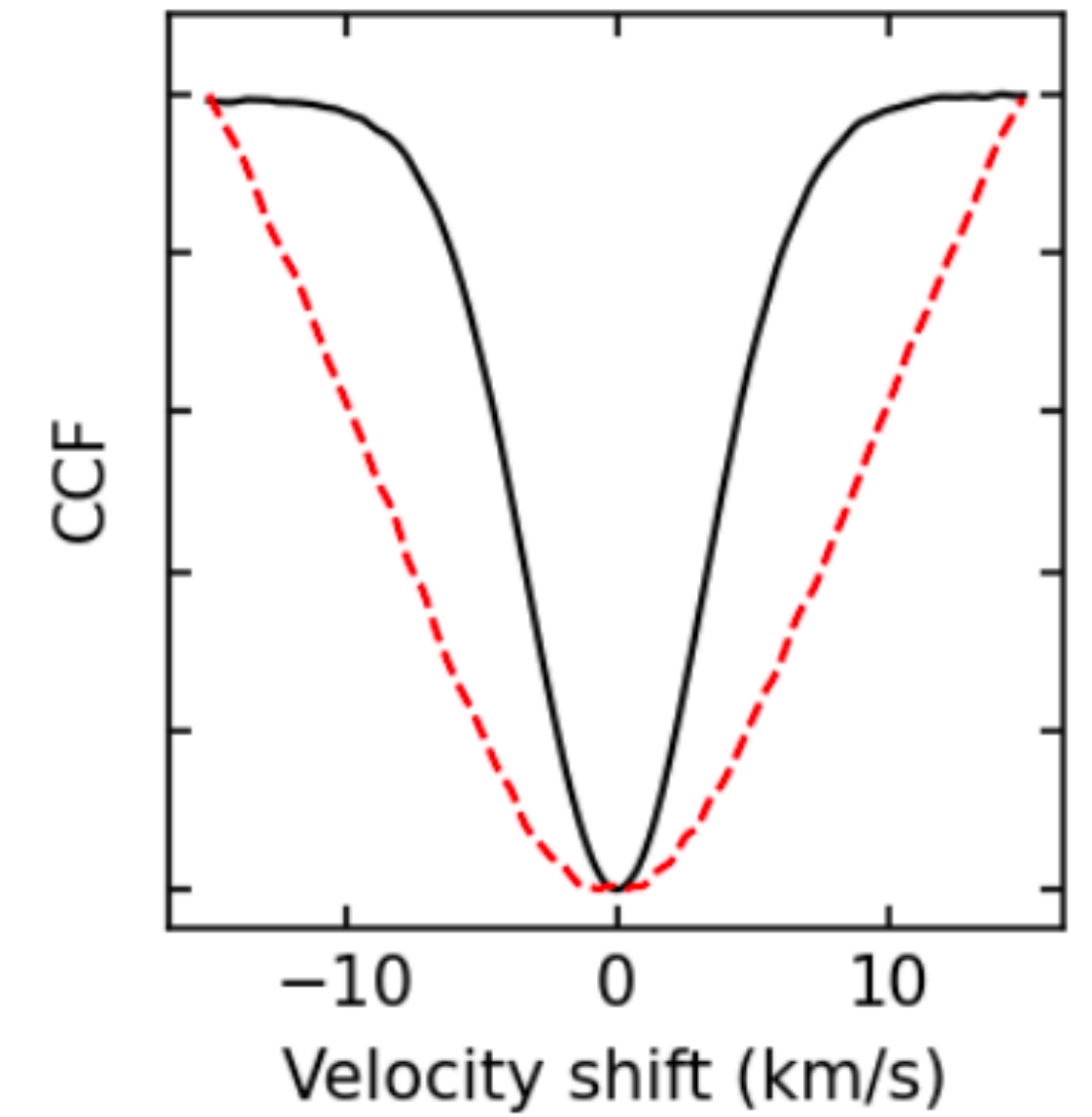
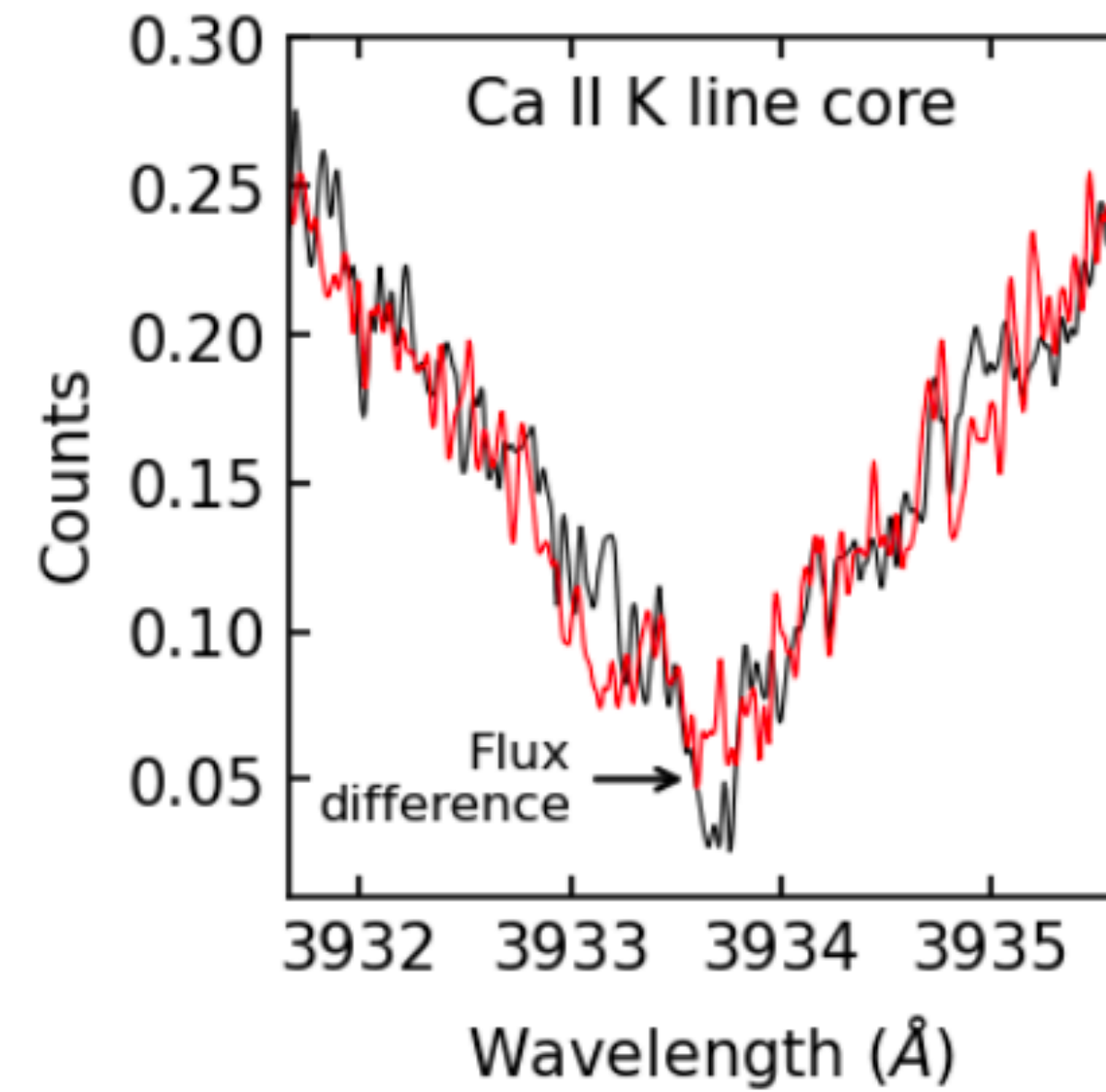
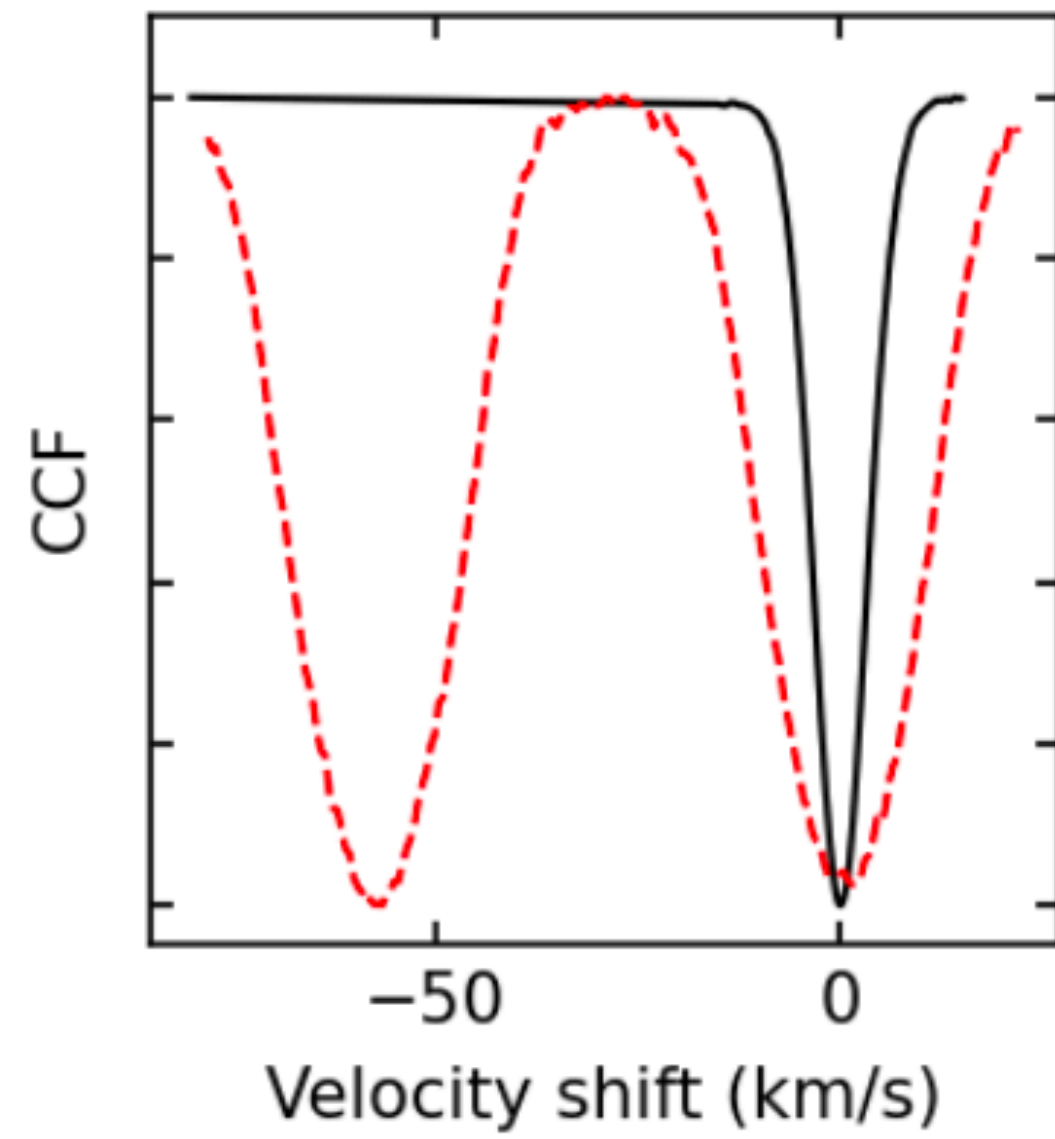
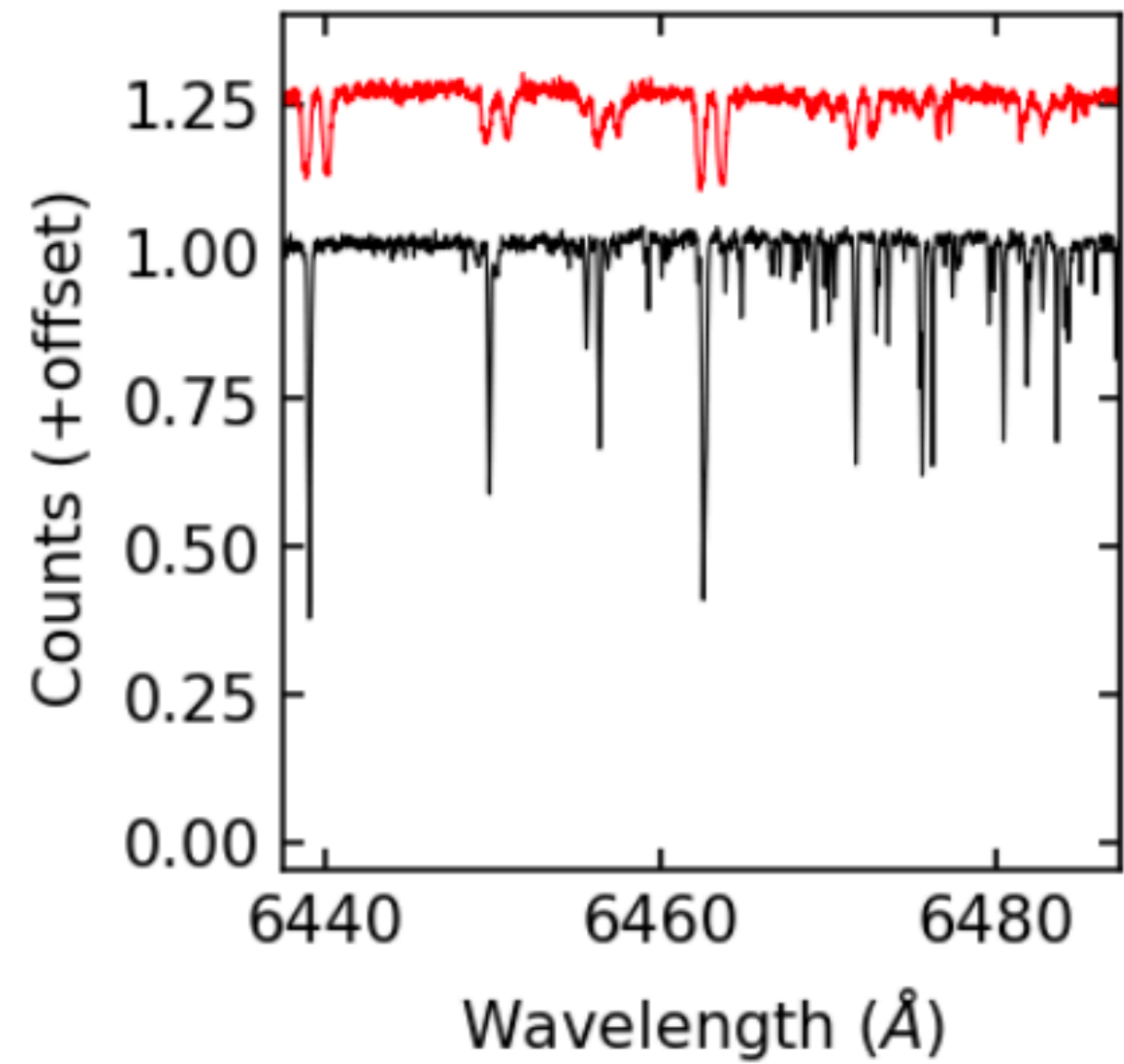
Chakrabarti et al. 2020 : low-mass, long-period planets are a contaminant but their contribution to the Galactic signal is very small. Can reject null hypothesis that signal is due to stars with planets at high confidence.

# Expectation for error in RV slope



- Chakrabarti et al. 2020: analysis of RV data of standard RV stars from 10 year LCES/HIRES survey (Butler et al. 2017); error in RV slope  $\sim N^{-1/2}$

# The good, the bad, and the ugly



ESPRESSO spectra (PI:  
Chakrabarti)

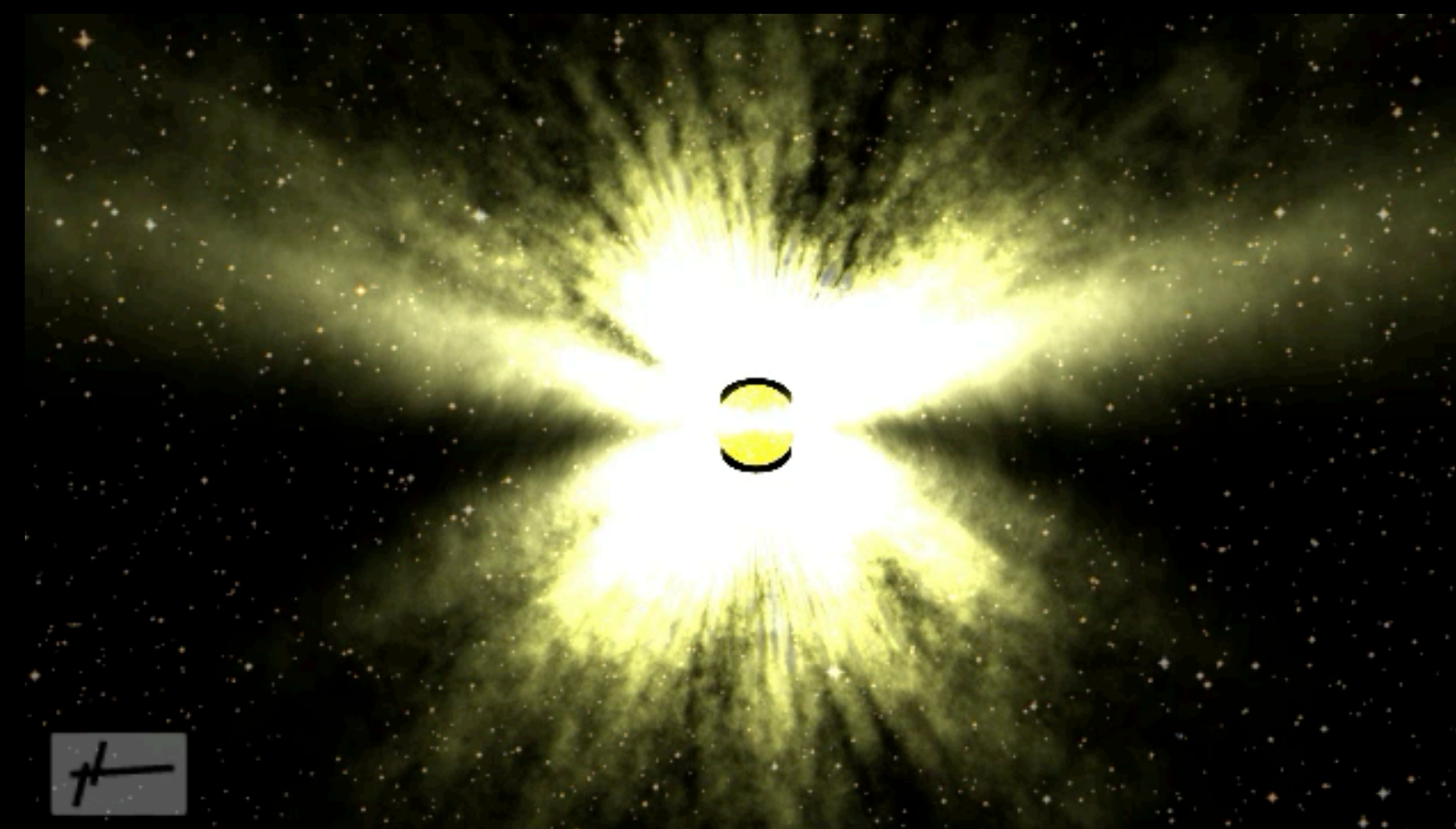
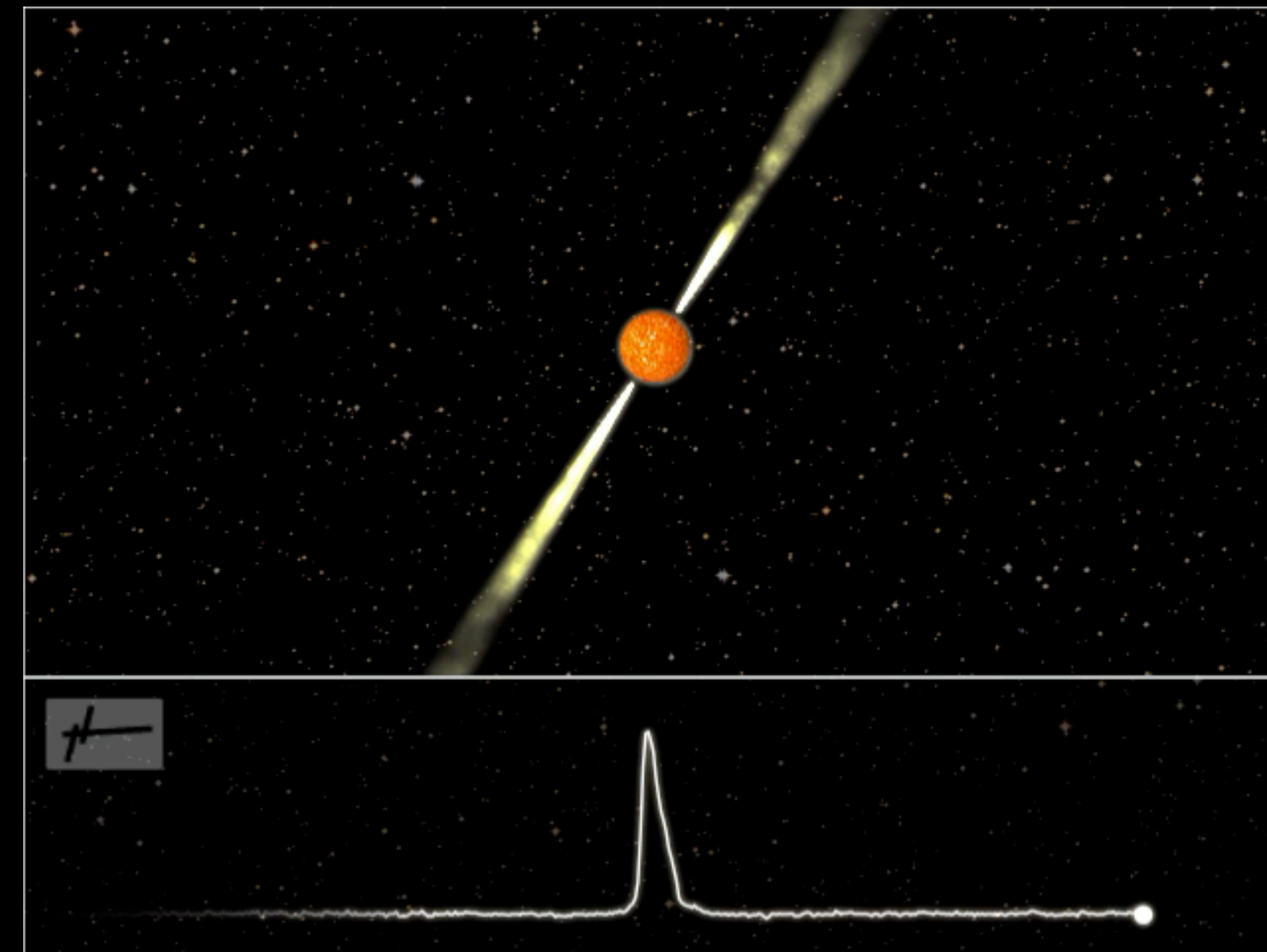
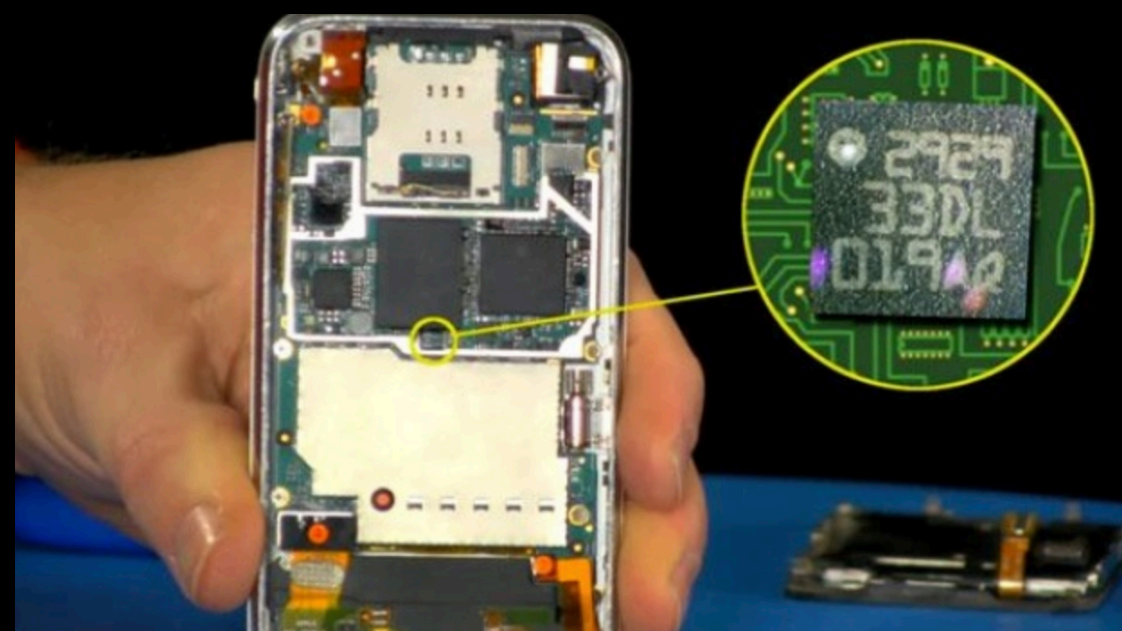


The quietest stars  
are dead stars



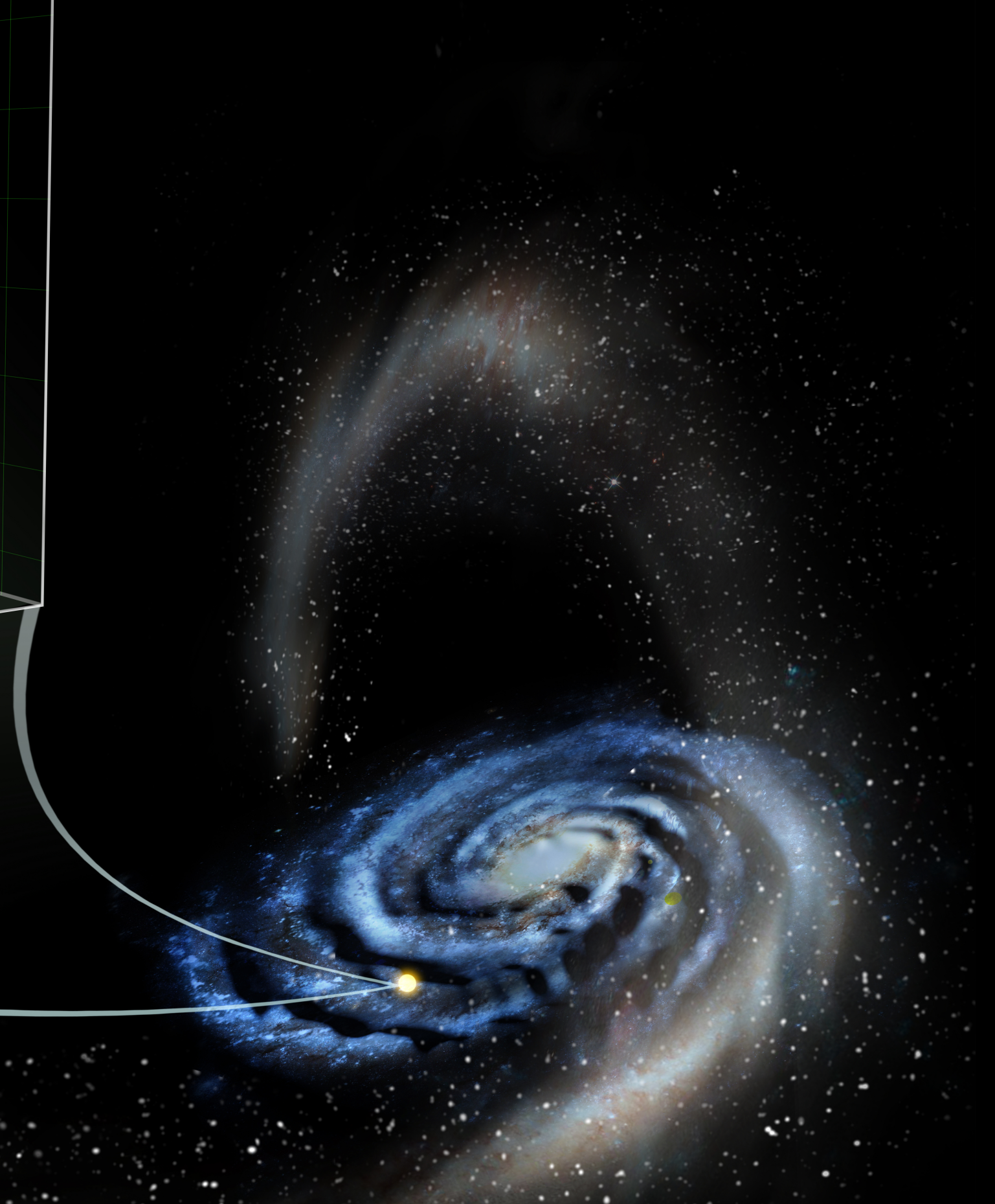
# Galactic acceleration from pulsar timing

- Temporal stability of pulsars rivals atomic clocks, a Galactic GPS system?
- Binary millisecond pulsars & change in *orbital* period: Galactic accelerometers.



Credit: "Joeri van Leeuwen"

# Using binary millisecond pulsars to measure Galactic accelerations



# Basic setup

$$\dot{P}_b^{obs} = \dot{P}_b^{Gal} + \dot{P}_b^{Shk} + \dot{P}_b^{GR}$$

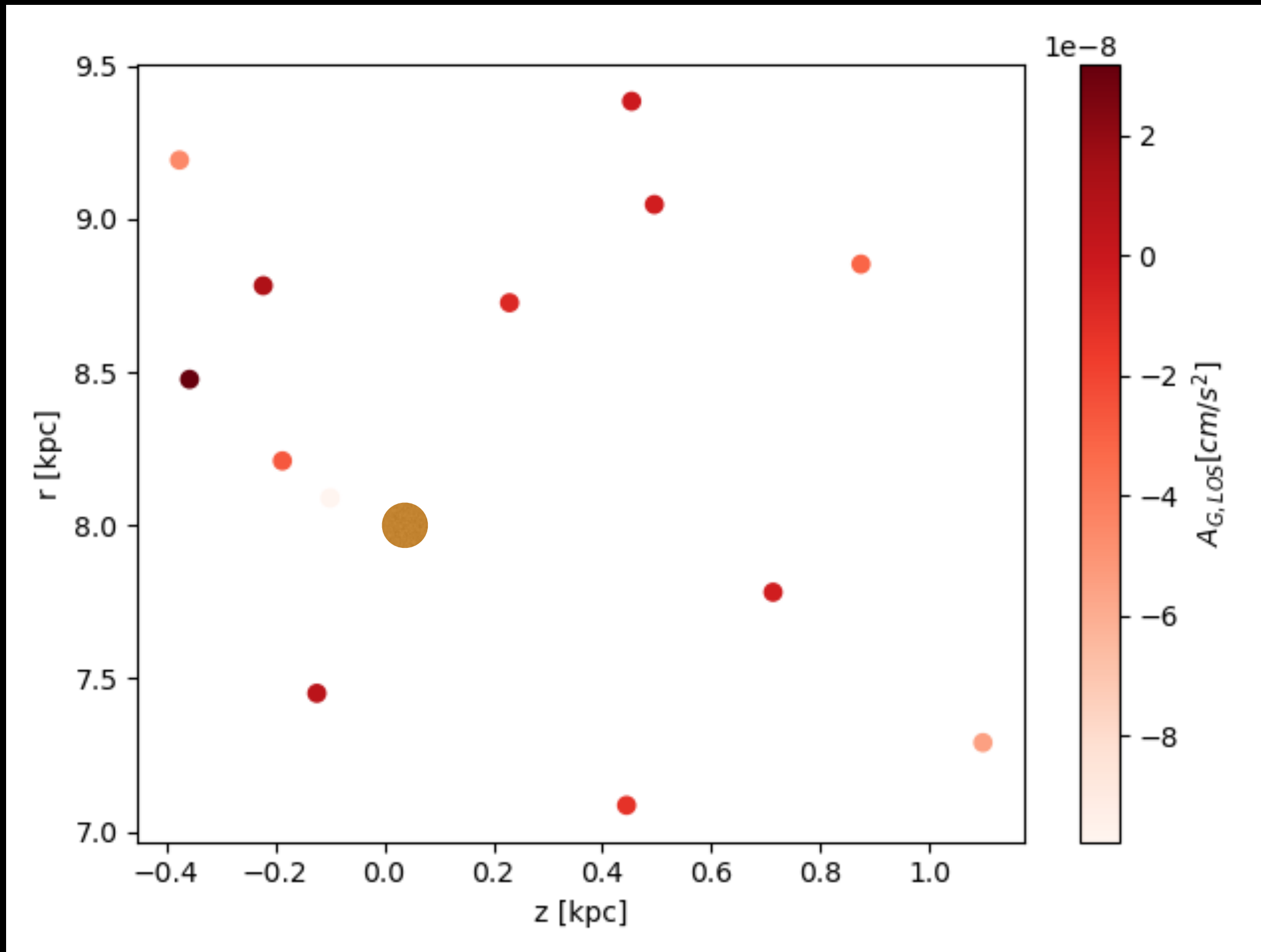
$$\dot{P}_b^{Shk} = \frac{P_b \mu^2 * d}{c^2}$$

Shlovskii effect : apparent orbital change due to pulsar's transverse motion (Damour & Taylor 1991)

$$A_G = c * \frac{\dot{P}_b^{Gal}}{P_b}$$

Exclude sources in globular clusters, use only sources with proper motions and parallaxes

# Models vs observations



## An example

$$\Phi(r, z) = \Phi(r) + \Phi(z)$$

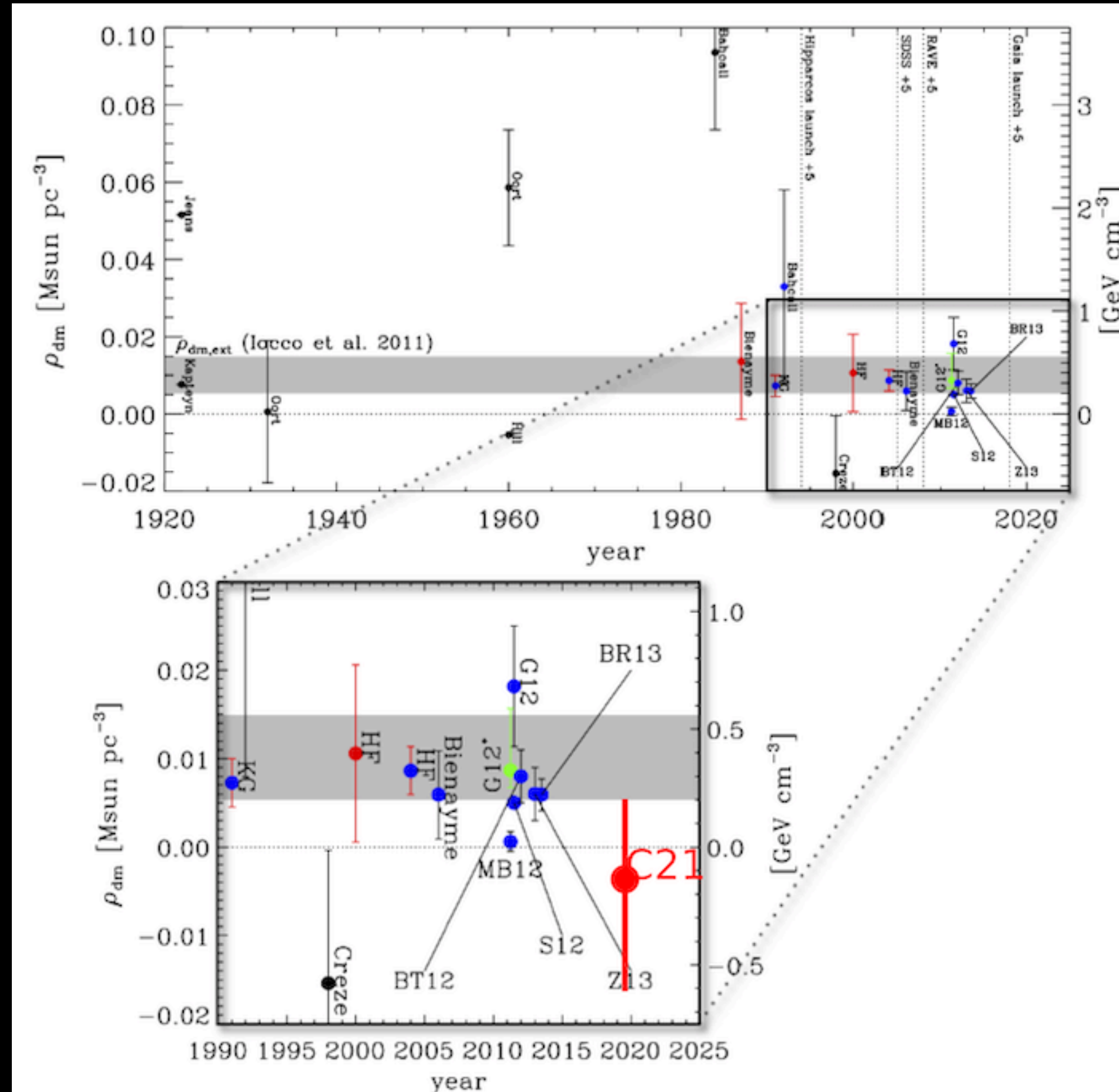
$$\Phi_r = \begin{cases} V_{LSR}^2 \ln\left(\frac{r}{R_\odot}\right) & \text{for } \beta = 0 \\ \frac{V_{LSR}^2}{2\beta} \left(\frac{r}{R_\odot}\right)^{2\beta} & \text{for } \beta \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_1 z_g^2$$

$$\nu^2 = \left. \frac{d^2 \Phi_z(z)}{dz^2} \right|_{z=0} = 4\pi G \rho_0 - 2\beta \Omega_\odot^2$$

$$\beta = 0 : \quad \alpha_1 = 4\pi G \rho_0$$

# Best-fit parameters & Oort limit from pulsar timing



## Oort limit

$$0.08_{-0.02}^{0.05} M_{\odot}/pc^3$$

With baryon density from  
McKee et al. 2015:

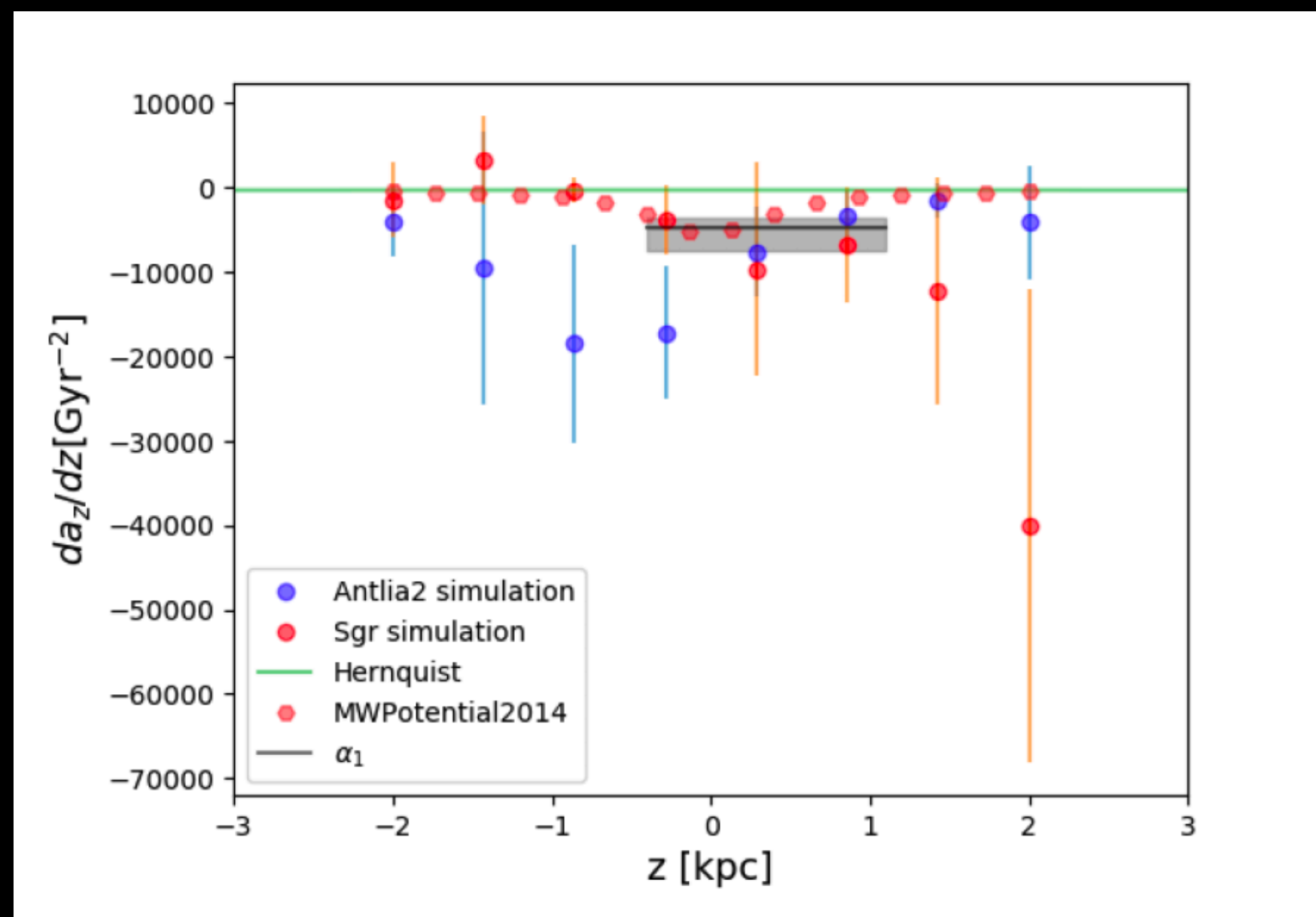
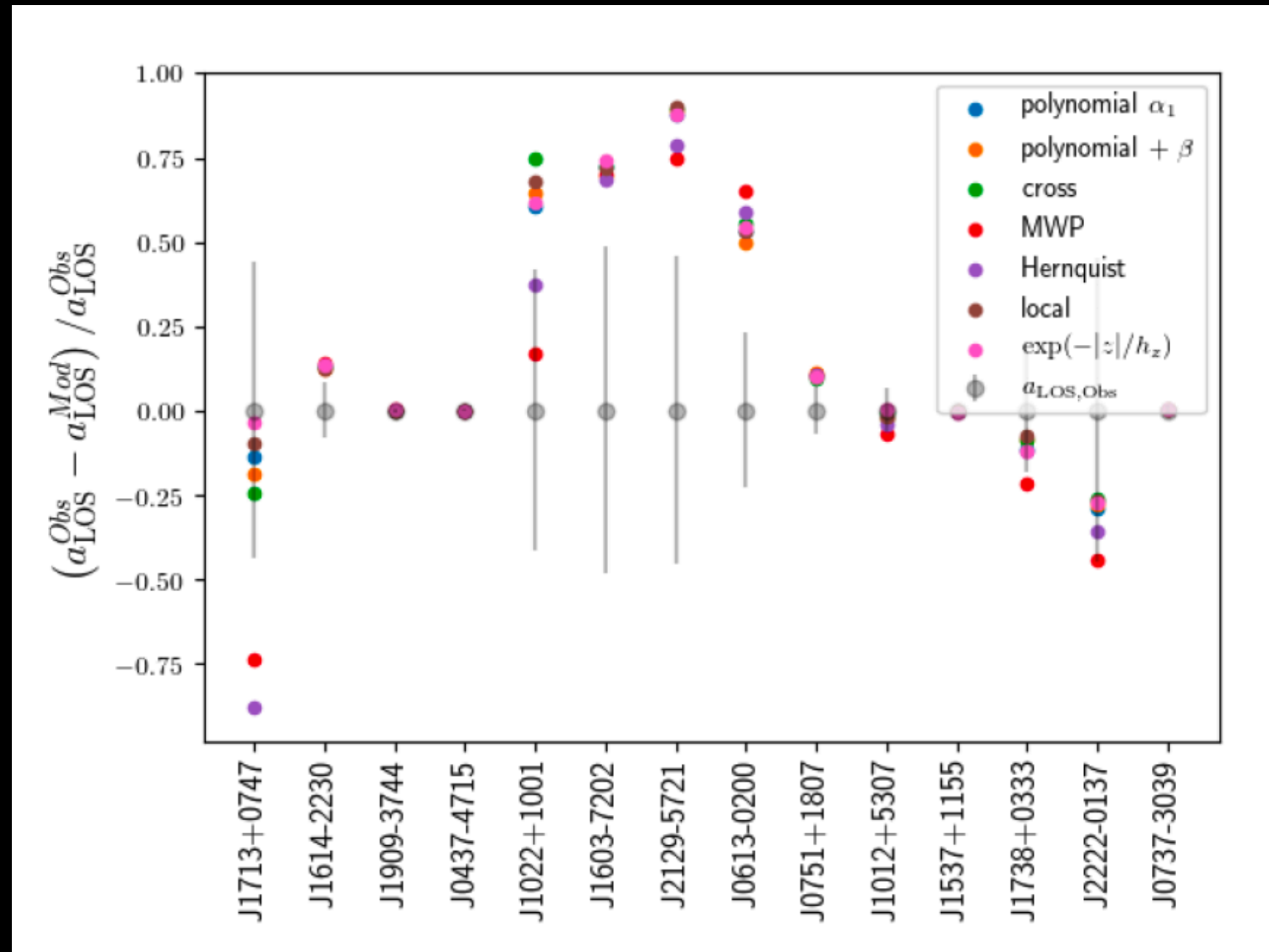
$$\rho_{DM} = -0.004_{-0.02}^{0.05} M_{\odot}/pc^3$$

With baryon density from  
Bienyame et al. 2015:

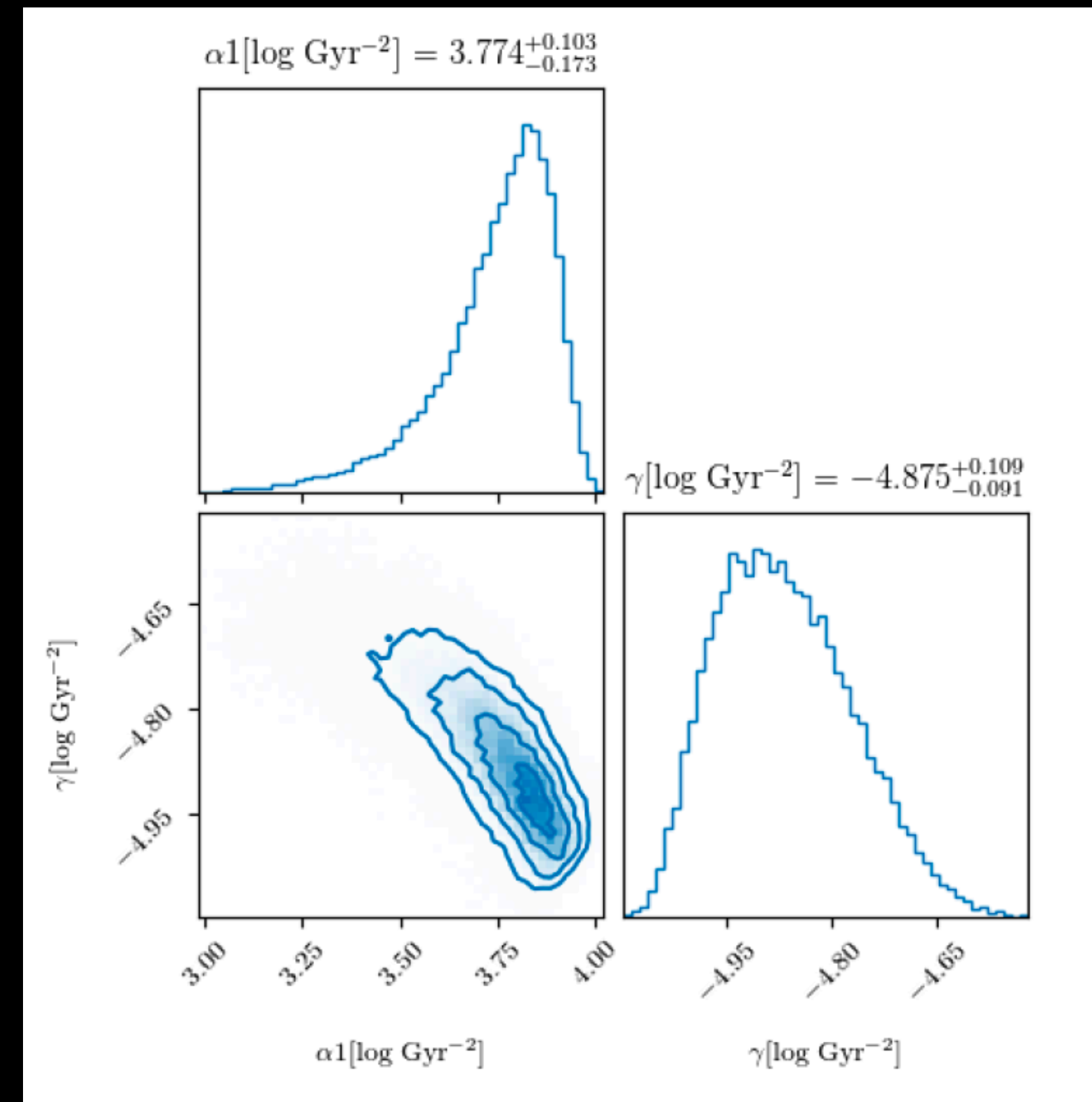
$$\rho_{DM} = 0.0034_{-0.02}^{0.05} M_{\odot}/pc^3$$

Chakrabarti, Chang, Lam, Vigeland &  
Quillen, 2021

# Comparison to models



# Constraint on oblateness of potential

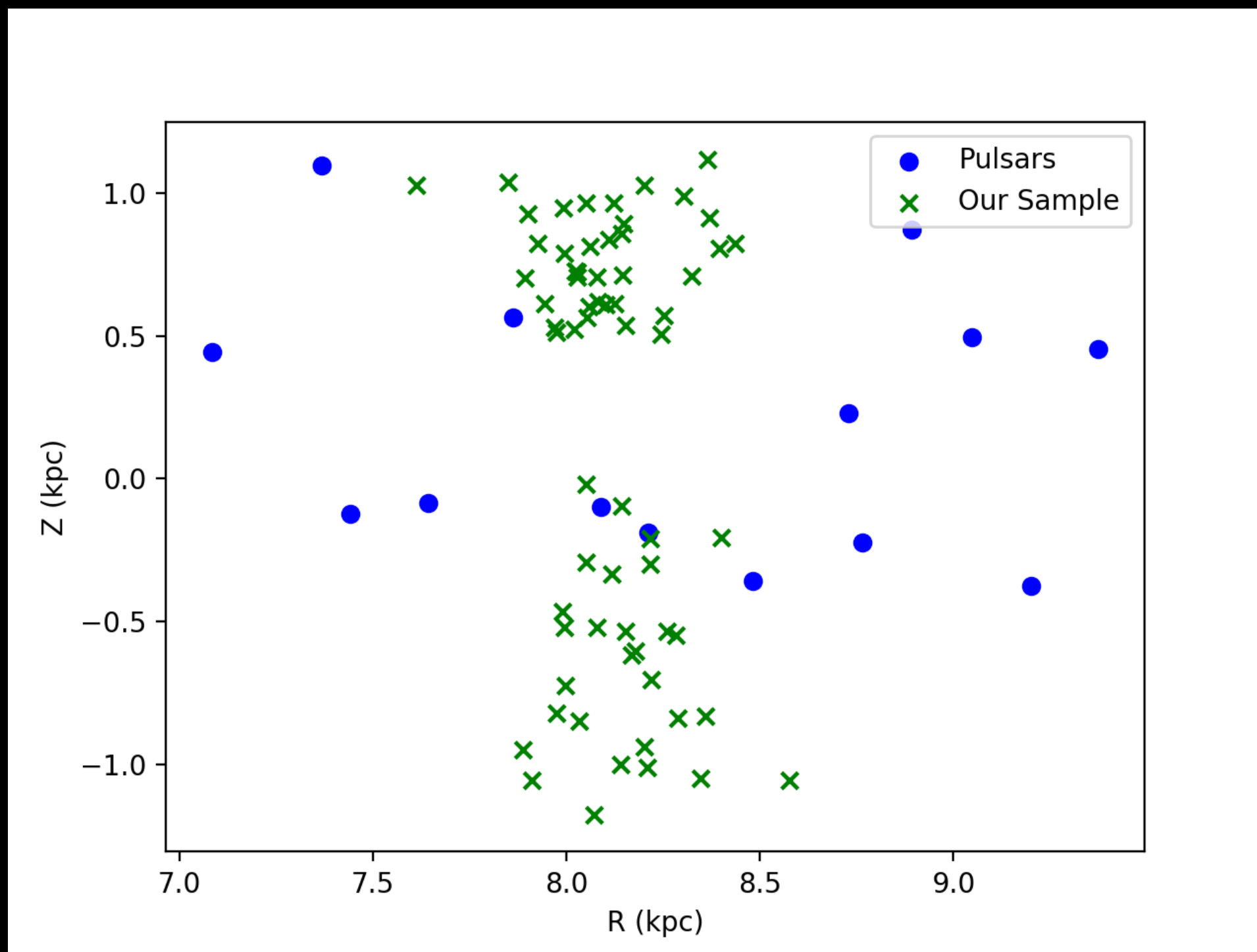


- Oblateness traces disk

Effect of interactions, dark matter sub-structure

Future work — from smooth accelerations to measuring “jerks” in the acceleration

Extreme precision RV sample ESPRESSO (PI: Chakrabarti)



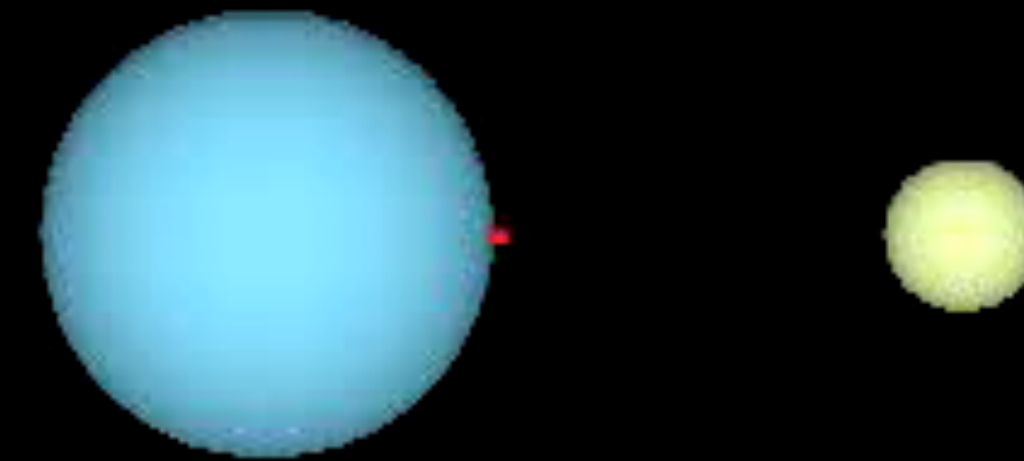
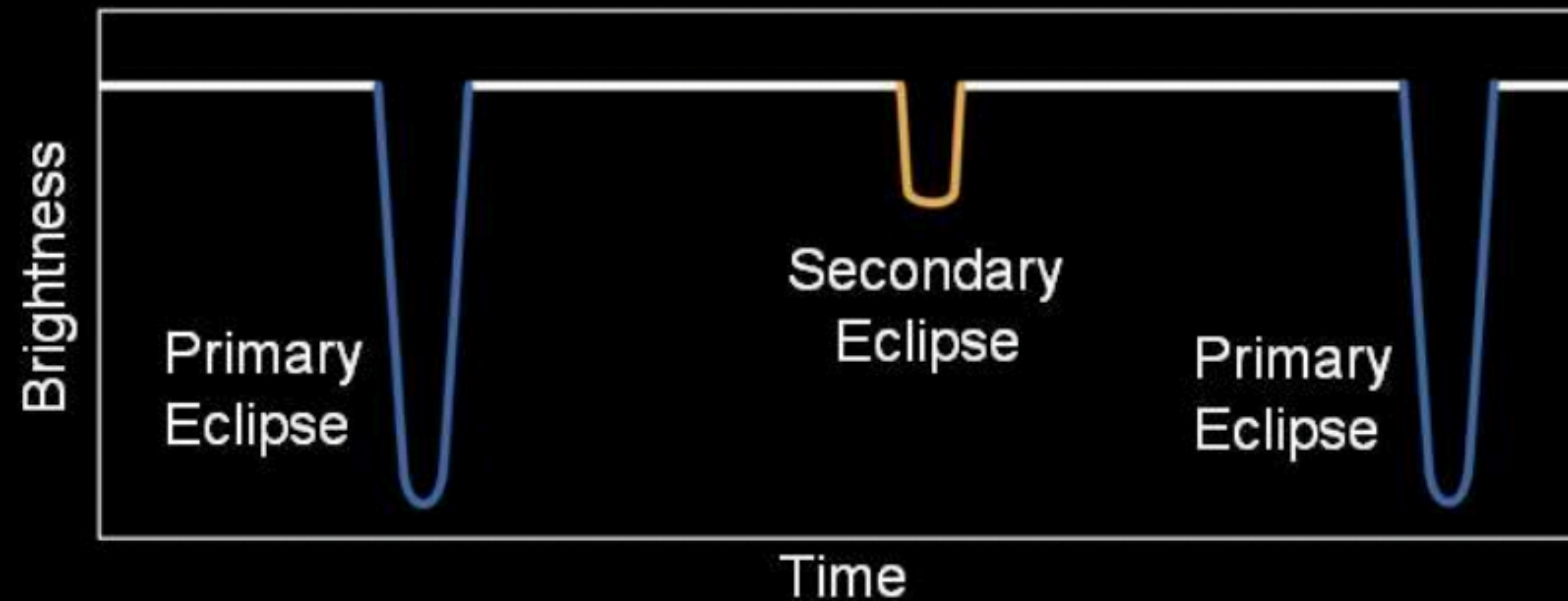
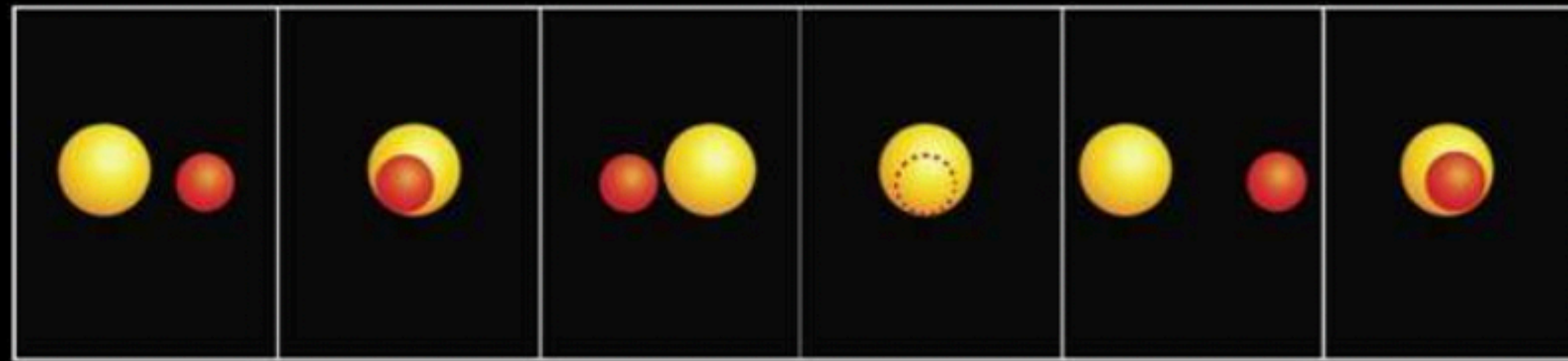
Non-smooth acceleration



Bullock & Boylan-Kolchin 2017

# Eclipse timing

## Eclipsing Binary Stars



- Measure Galactic acceleration from shift in eclipse mid-point time over decade baseline  $\sim 0.1$ s.
- Requires v high (space-based) photometric precision
- It's been about a decade since Kepler!

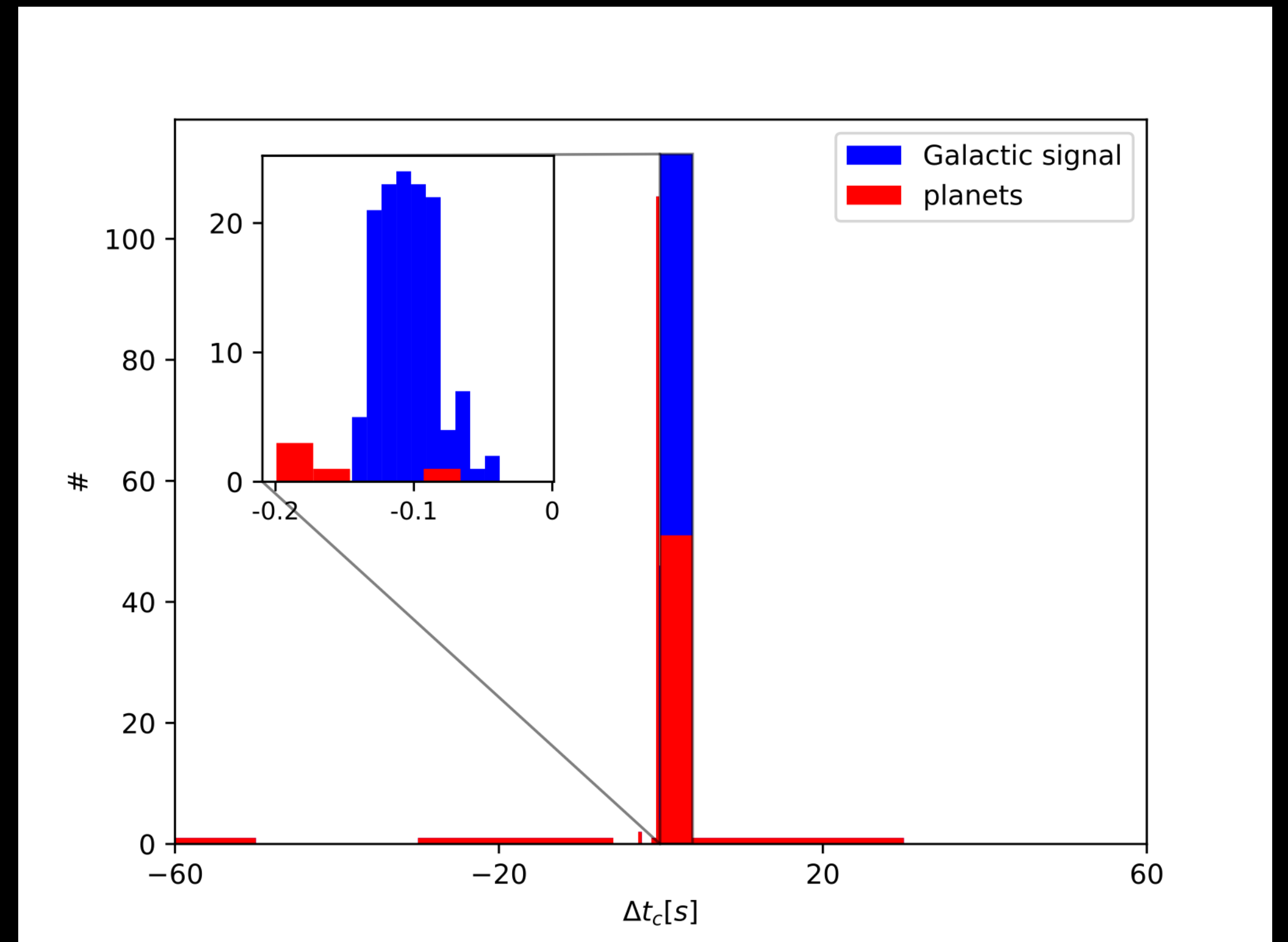
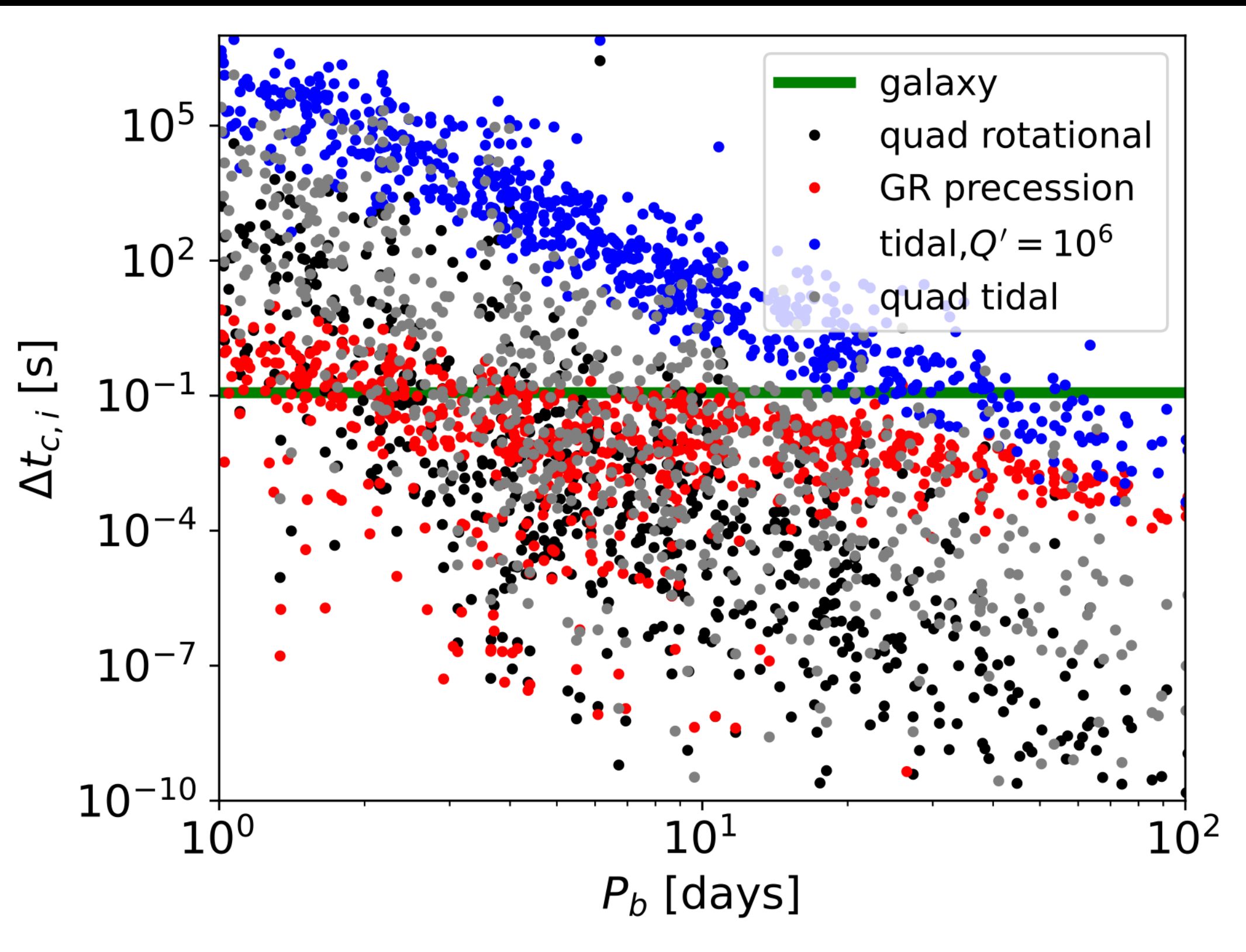
$$\Delta t_{c,Gal} = \frac{\dot{P}_{b,Gal}}{P_b} T^2$$



# Contaminants to the Galactic signal

$$\dot{P}_b^{obs} = \dot{P}_b^{Gal} + \dot{P}_b^{Shk} + \dot{P}_b^{GR} + \dot{P}_b^{tidal} + \dot{P}_b^{quad/rot} + \dot{P}_b^{quad/tidal} + \dot{P}_b^{pl}$$

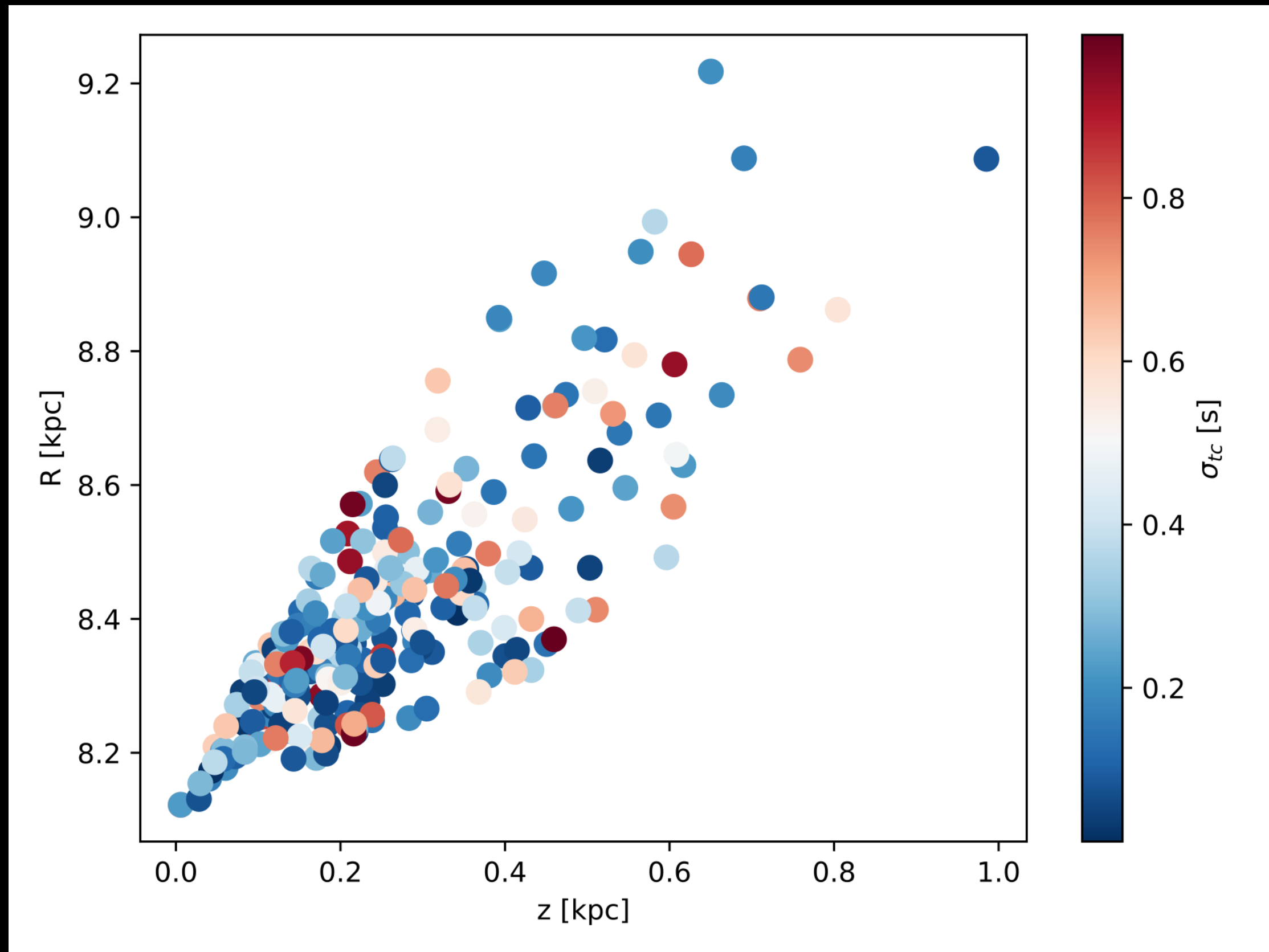
$$\Delta t_{c,i} = \frac{\dot{P}_{b,i}}{P_b} T^2$$



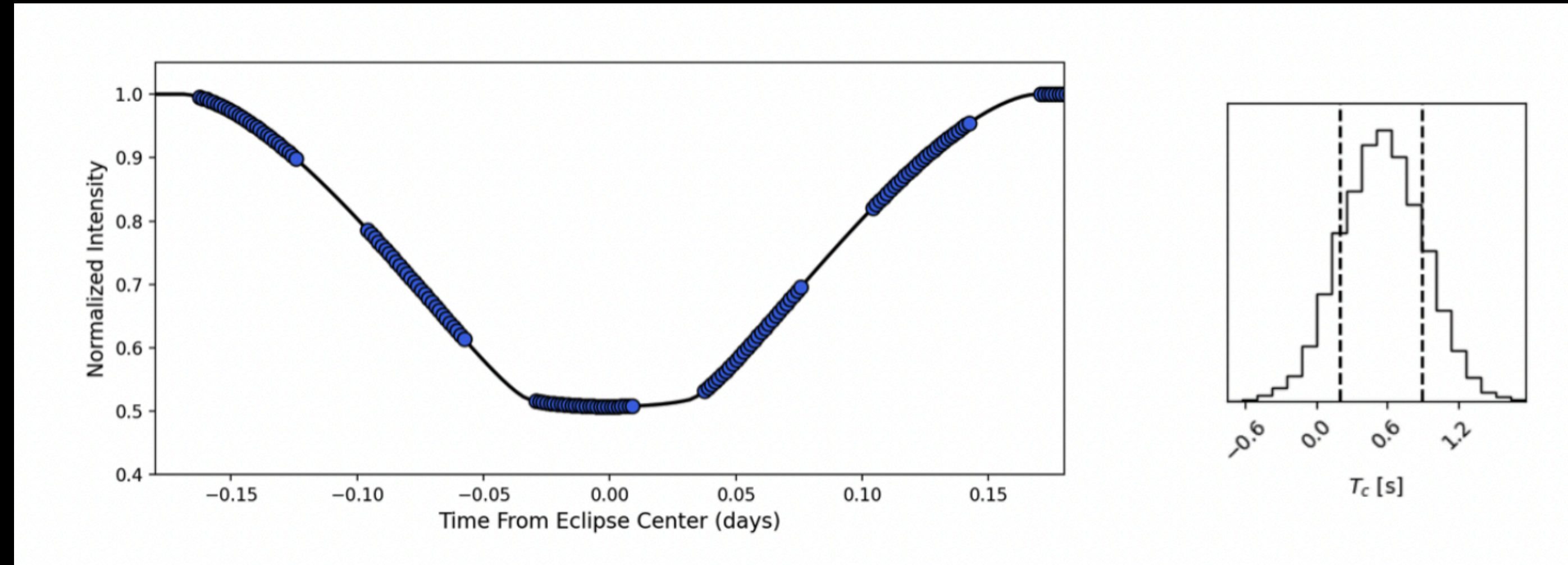
Circumbinary planets

A prototypical eclipsing binary - proof of principle

Expected precisions



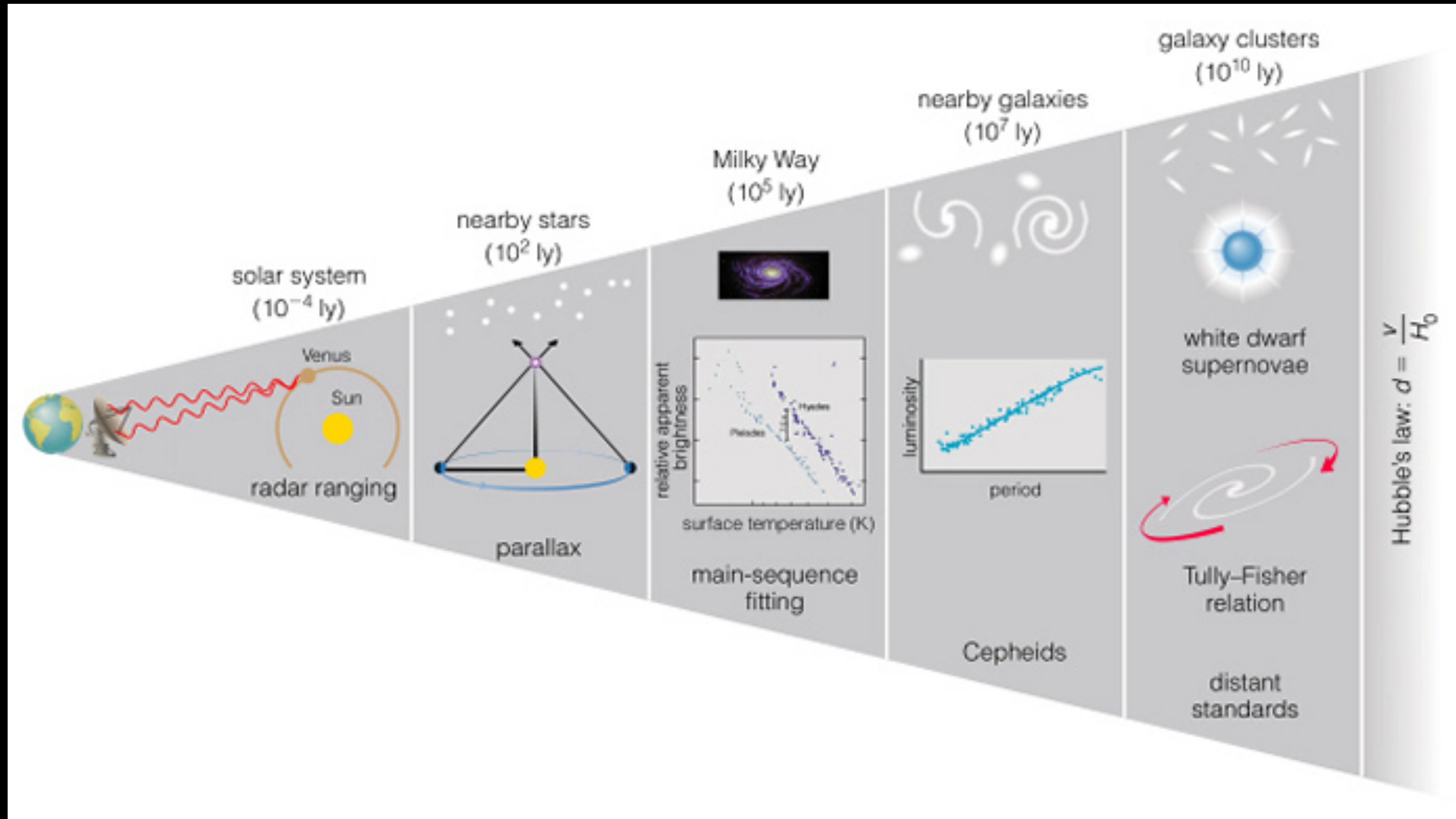
C22



Need HST level precision (C22)



# Acceleration measurements across the Galaxy



The distance ladder

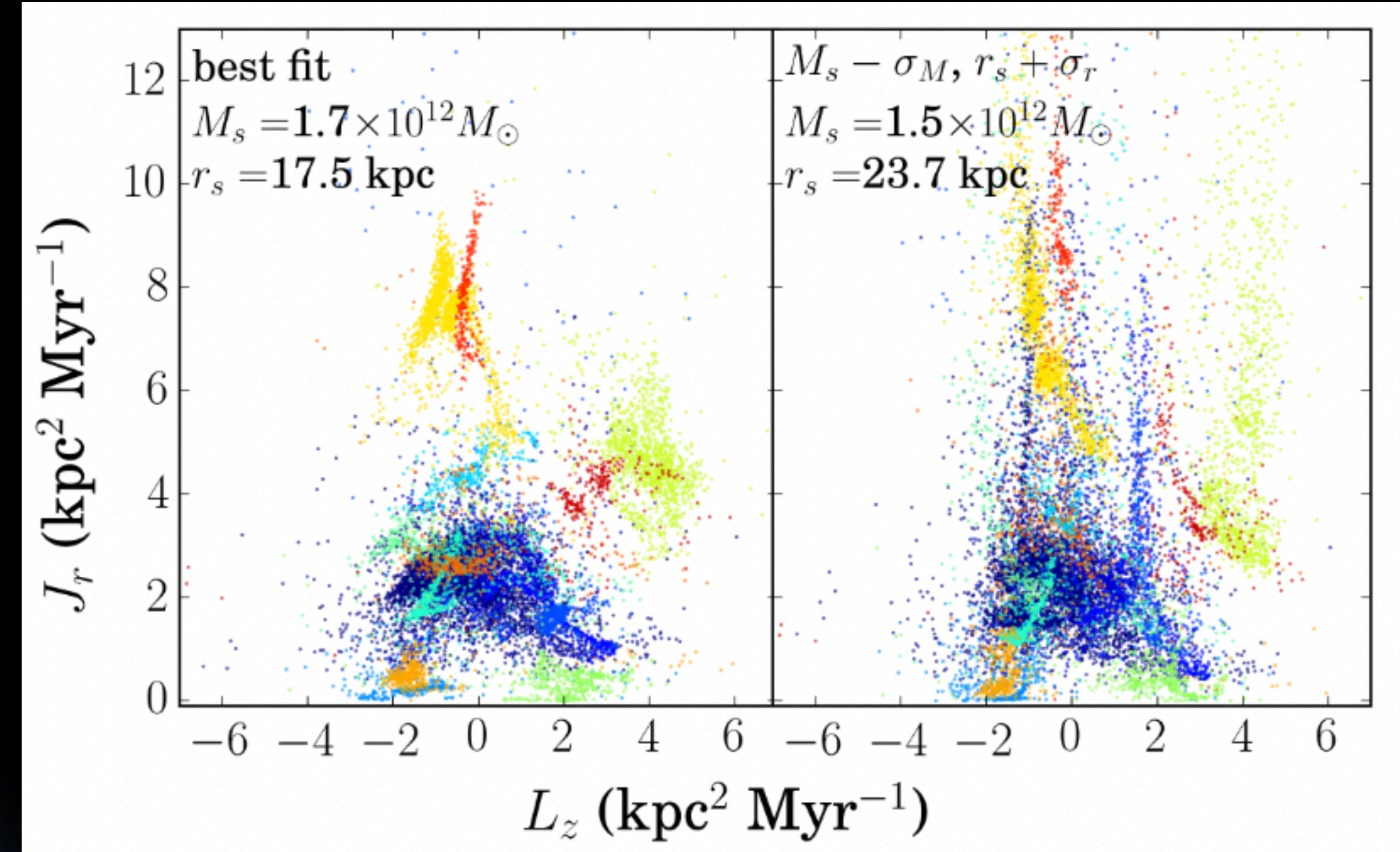


Peter Craig

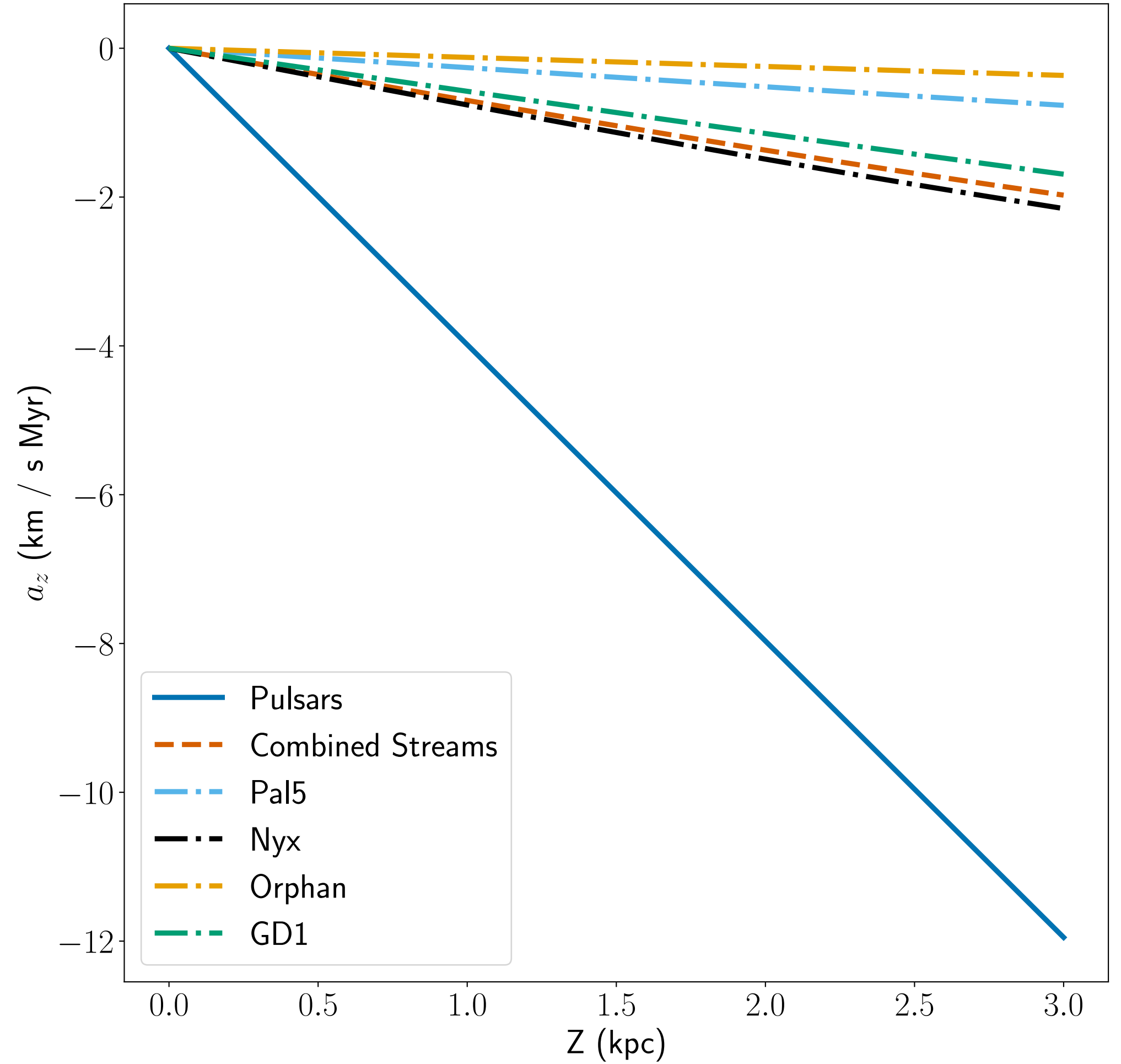
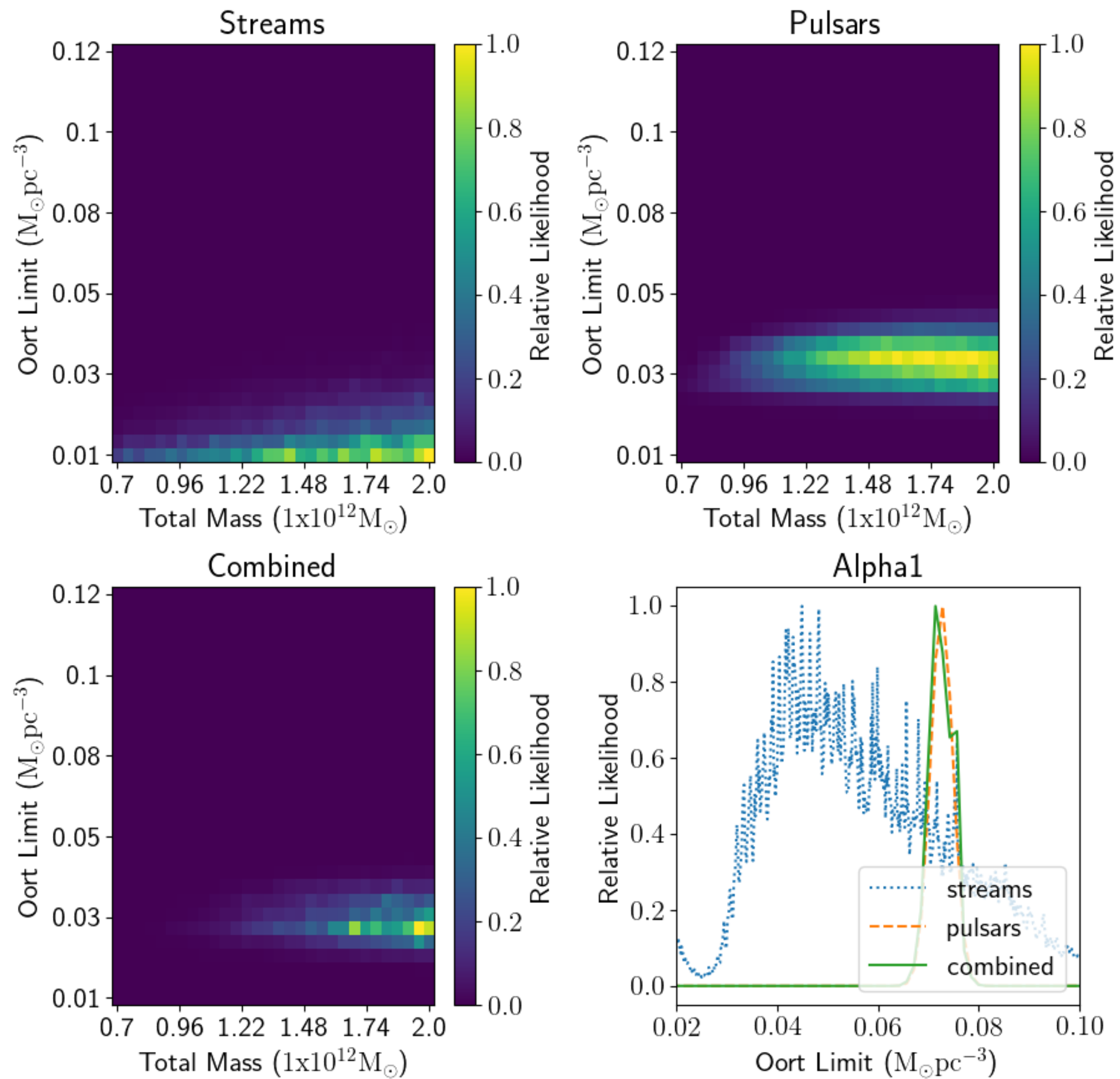
# Towards an acceleration ladder



- Stellar streams to constrain the Galactic potential. We can expect to discover many stellar streams in the Galaxy and beyond with Rubin & Roman!
- Direct acceleration measurements can at present only access a small volume
- Calibrate stellar stream accelerations to pulsar accelerations (Craig, Chakrabarti, Sanderson et al., 2023)



Sanderson et al. 2017



Stream accelerations vs pulsar accelerations

Joint constraints from streams  
and pulsar timing

Craig et al., 2023

# Precision Lab for Dark Matter: Summary

- First determination of Galactic parameters from acceleration measurements, which can inform direct detection experiments for dark matter:
  1. Mid-plane density and dark matter density close to but lower than modern estimates
  2. Oblateness of Galactic potential traced by pulsars similar to disk (rather than halo)
  3. Large uncertainties in slope of rotation curve (but consistent with being flat)
- Combination of EPRV measurements, pulsar timing and eclipse timing: dark matter sub-structure

Extending pulsar sample (15-year Nanograv dataset), EPRV surveys (ESPRESSO - Fall 2021 - onwards); **pathfinder for ELTs**

