

First MATISSE observations of an exoplanet

Demonstration on β Pic b

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& the MATISSE & ExoGRAVITY teams, including:

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S. Lacour, S. Lagarde, J. Leftley, B. Lopez, A. Matter, P.
Mollière, M. Nowak, E. Pantin, R. Petrov, P. Priolet, M.
Ravet, J. Scigliuto, J. Woillez...

How to collect exoplanet photons?

- Easy! Point at a star.

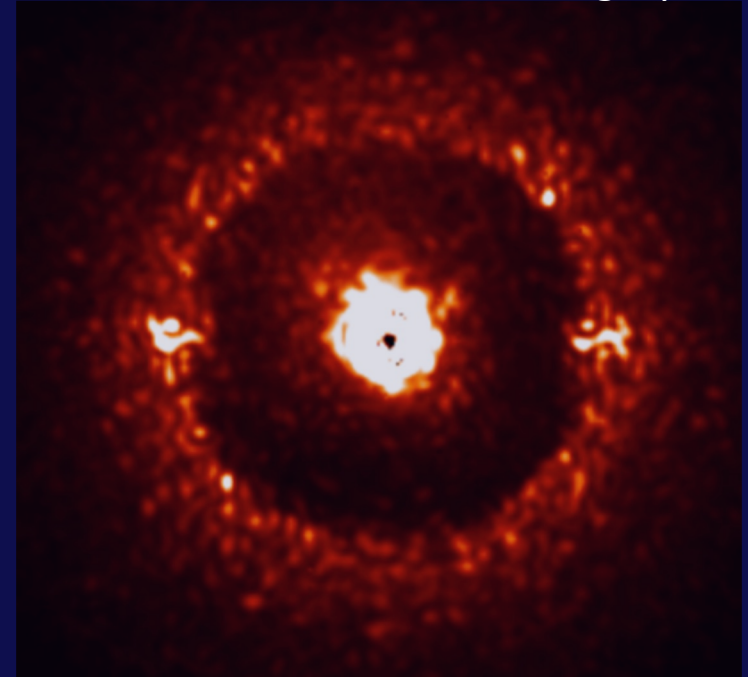
How to collect exoplanet photons?

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How to disentangle planet and star photons?

- This is the challenge
 - 1 planet photon for 10^4 (brown dwarfs/super-Jupiters) to 10^{10} (Earth) star photons
 - Diffraction limit

Stellar PSF with AO + coronagraph



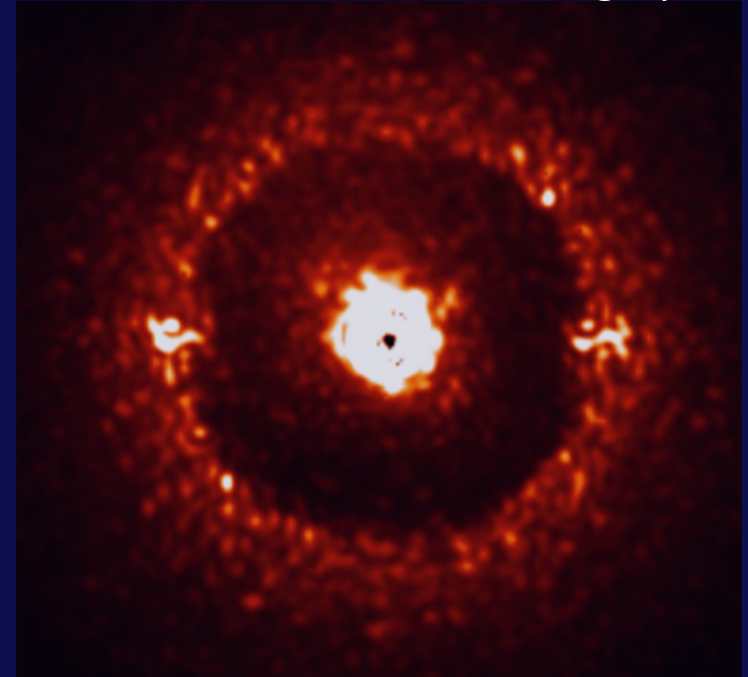
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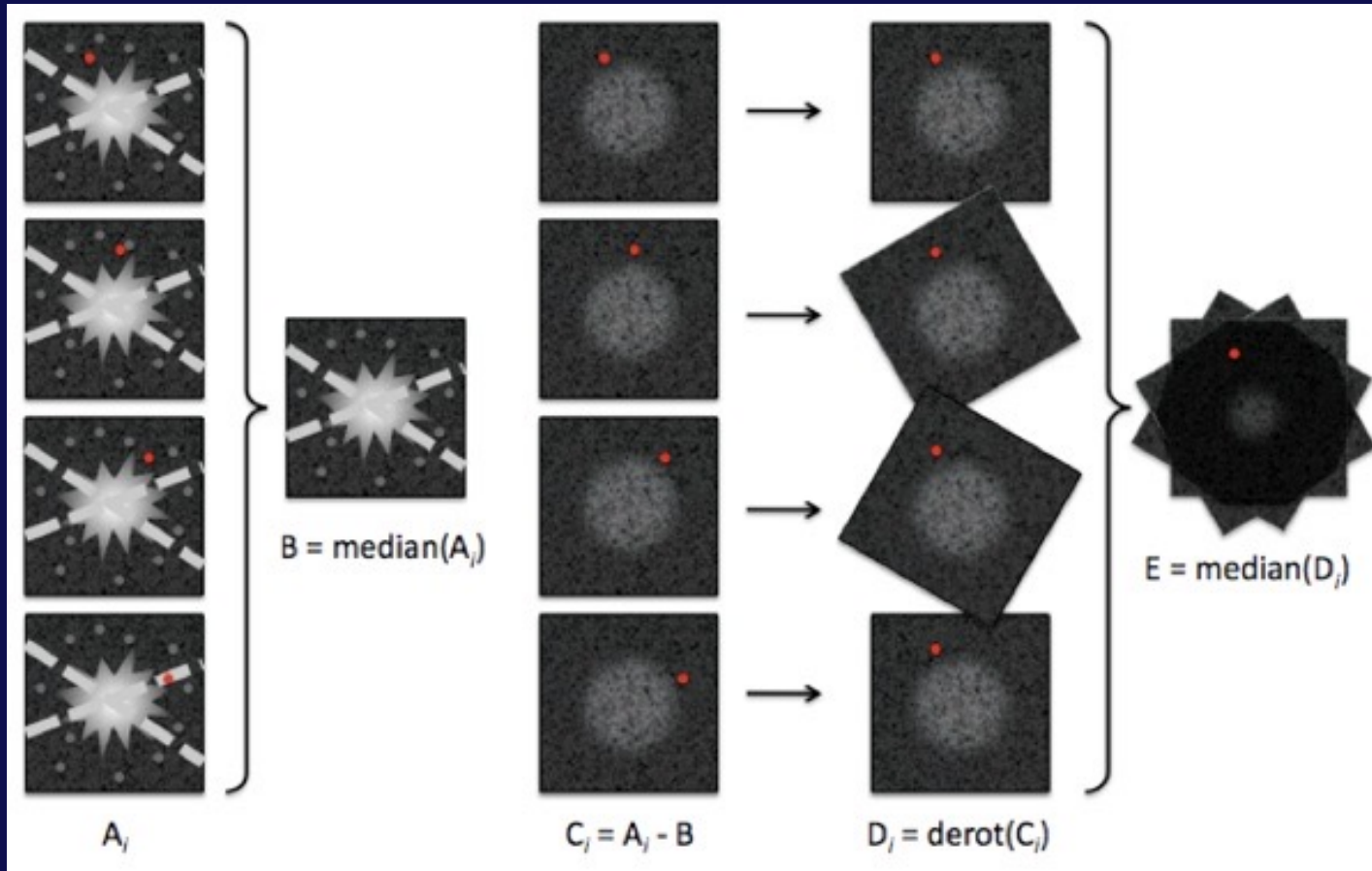
- This is the challenge
 - 1 planet photon for 10^4 (brown dwarfs/super-Jupiters) to 10^{10} (Earth) star photons
 - Diffraction limit
- Has to rely on some kind of *diversity*
 - Observations where the planet moves with respect to the stellar speckles
 - Can be field rotation, wavelength, polarization, time...

Stellar PSF with AO + coronagraph



Disentangling photons in direct imaging

- Angular differential imaging

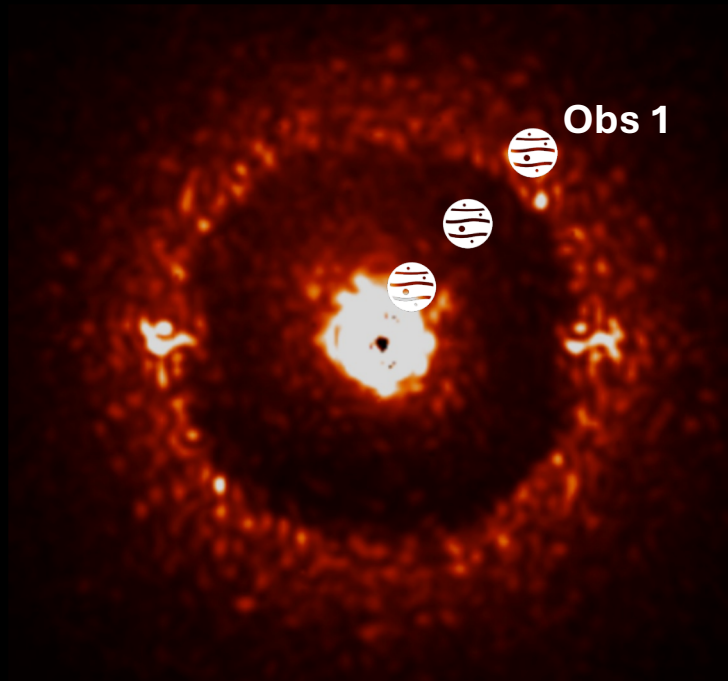


Field of view (including planets) rotate during the night, while the pupil (including speckles) stays fixed.

The two can then be disentangled.

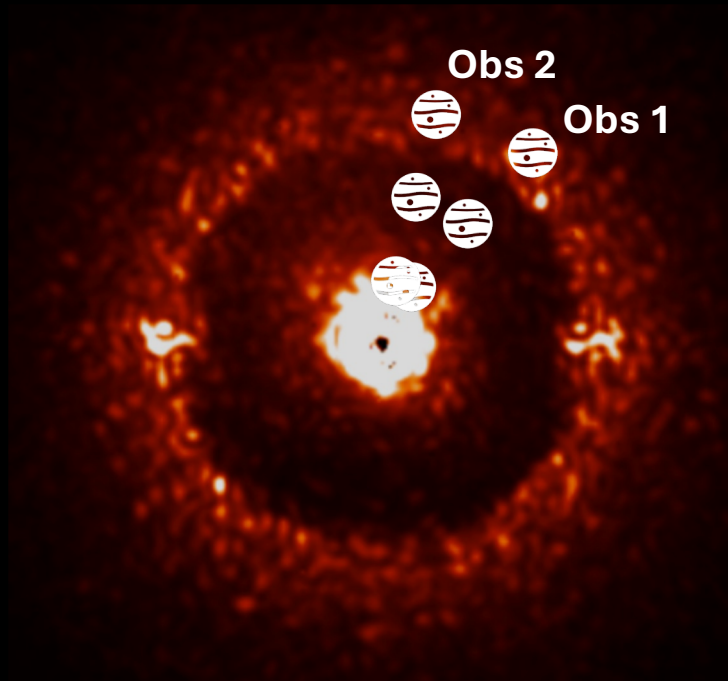
Disentangling photons in direct imaging

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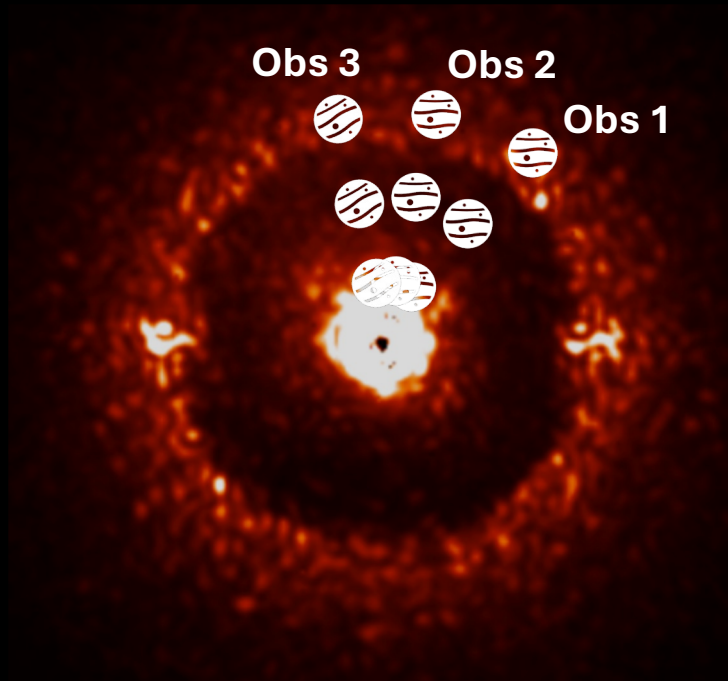
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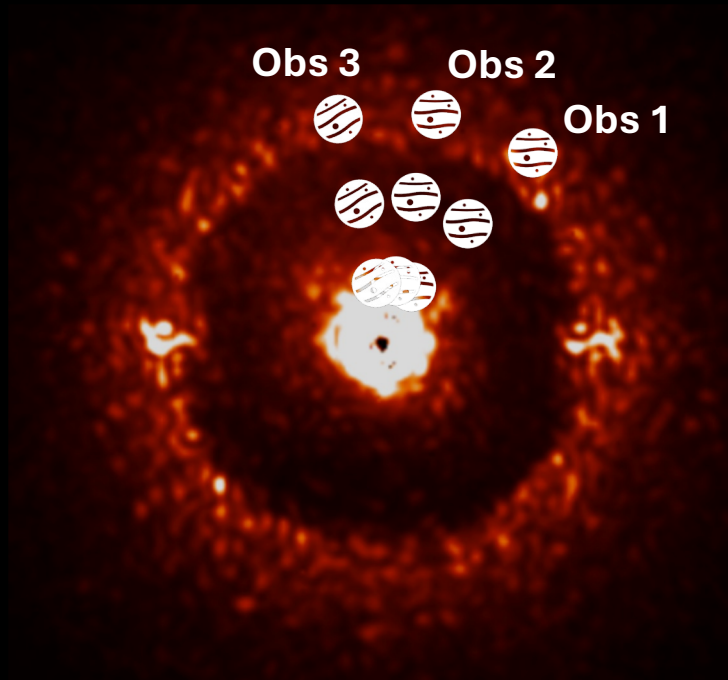
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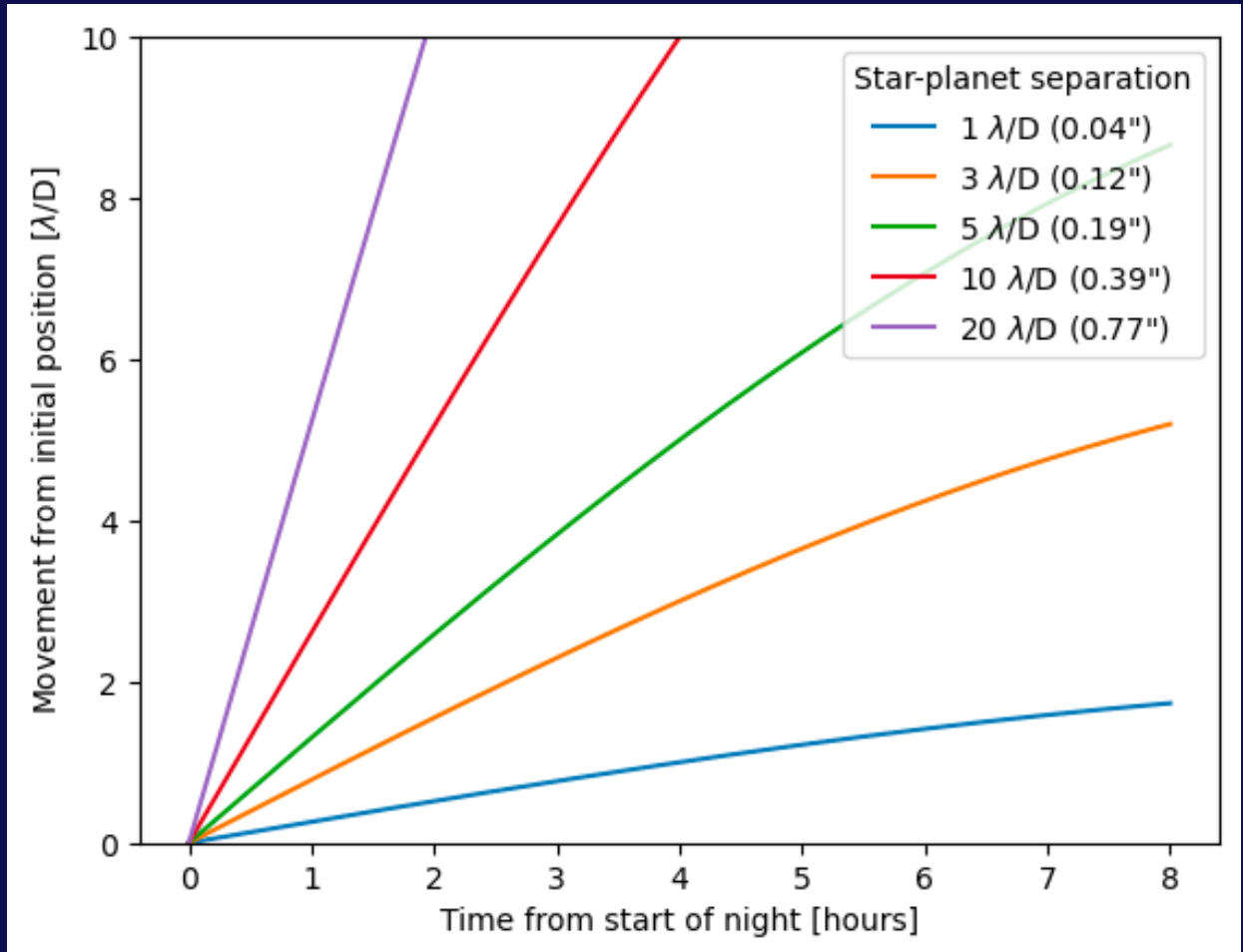
Disentangling photons in direct imaging

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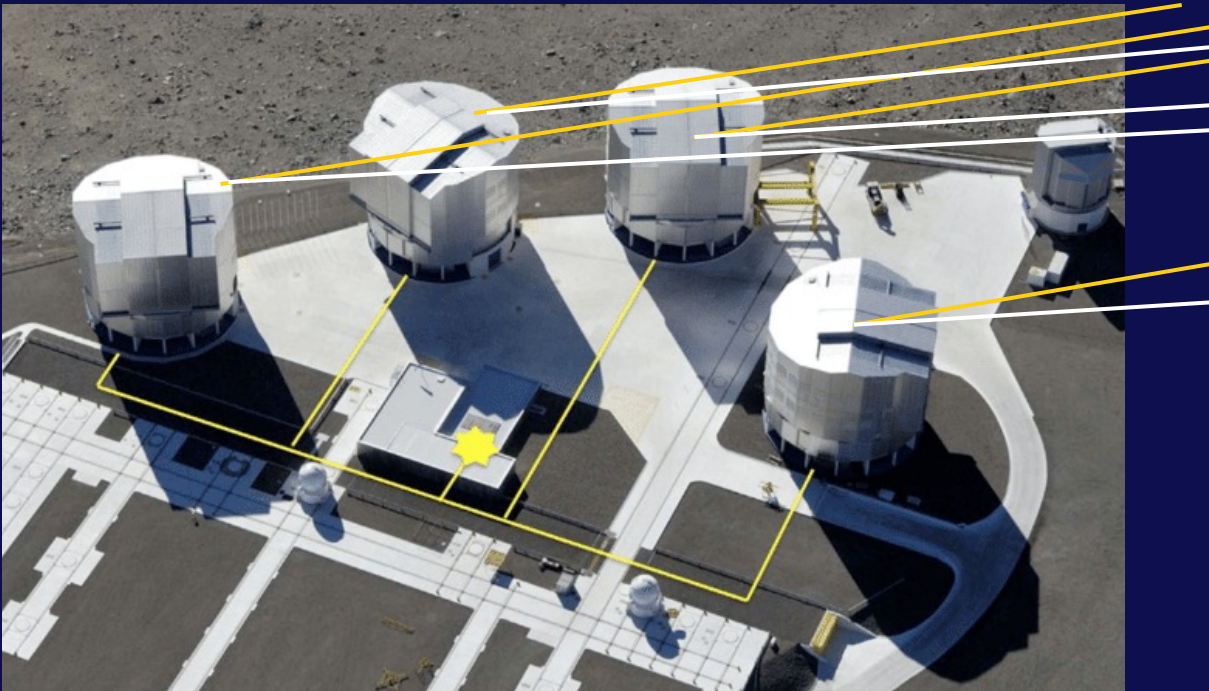
Few uncorrelated exposures at low separation

- self-subtraction



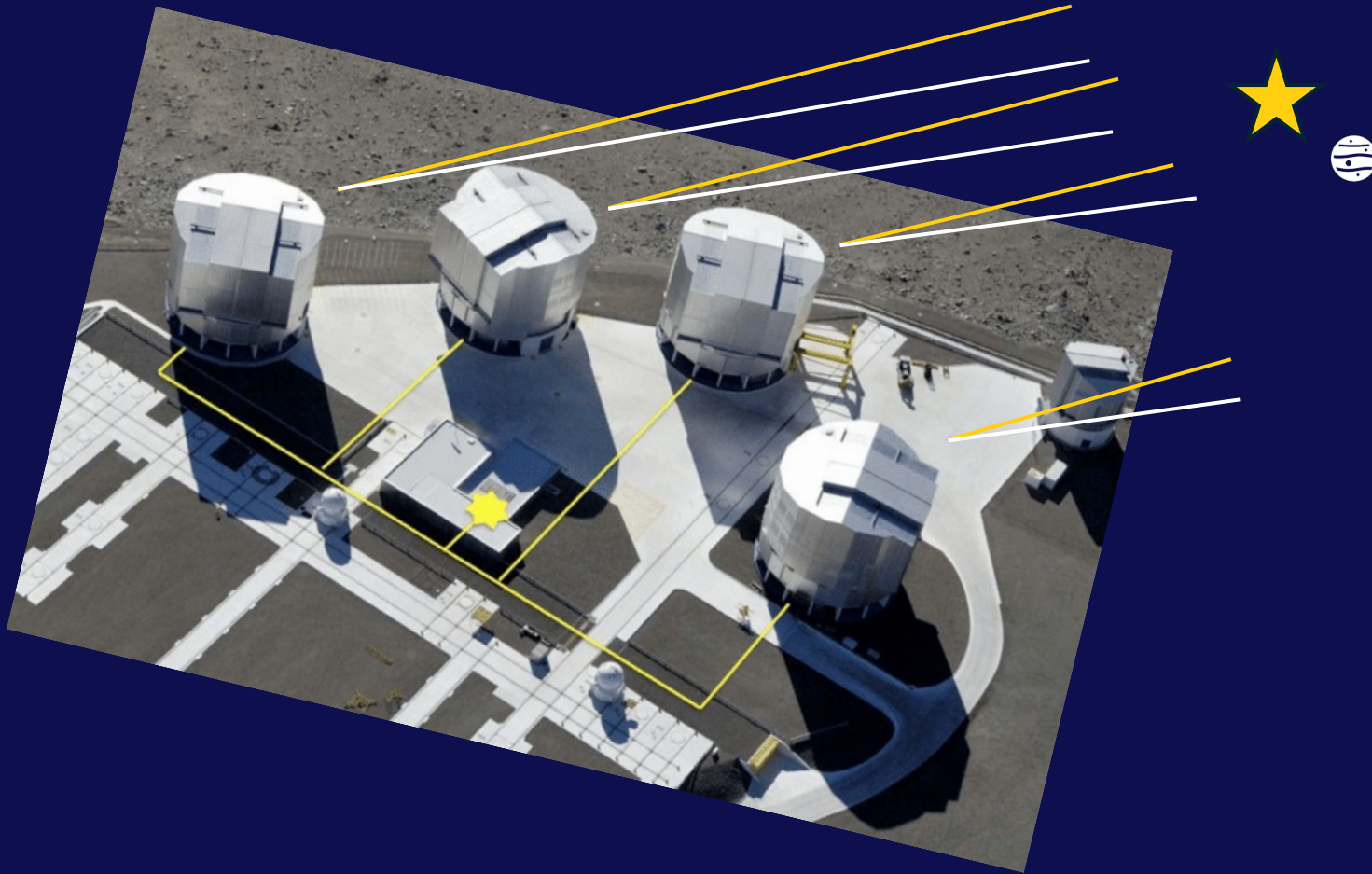
Disentangling photons in interferometry

- VLTi baselines rotate during the night



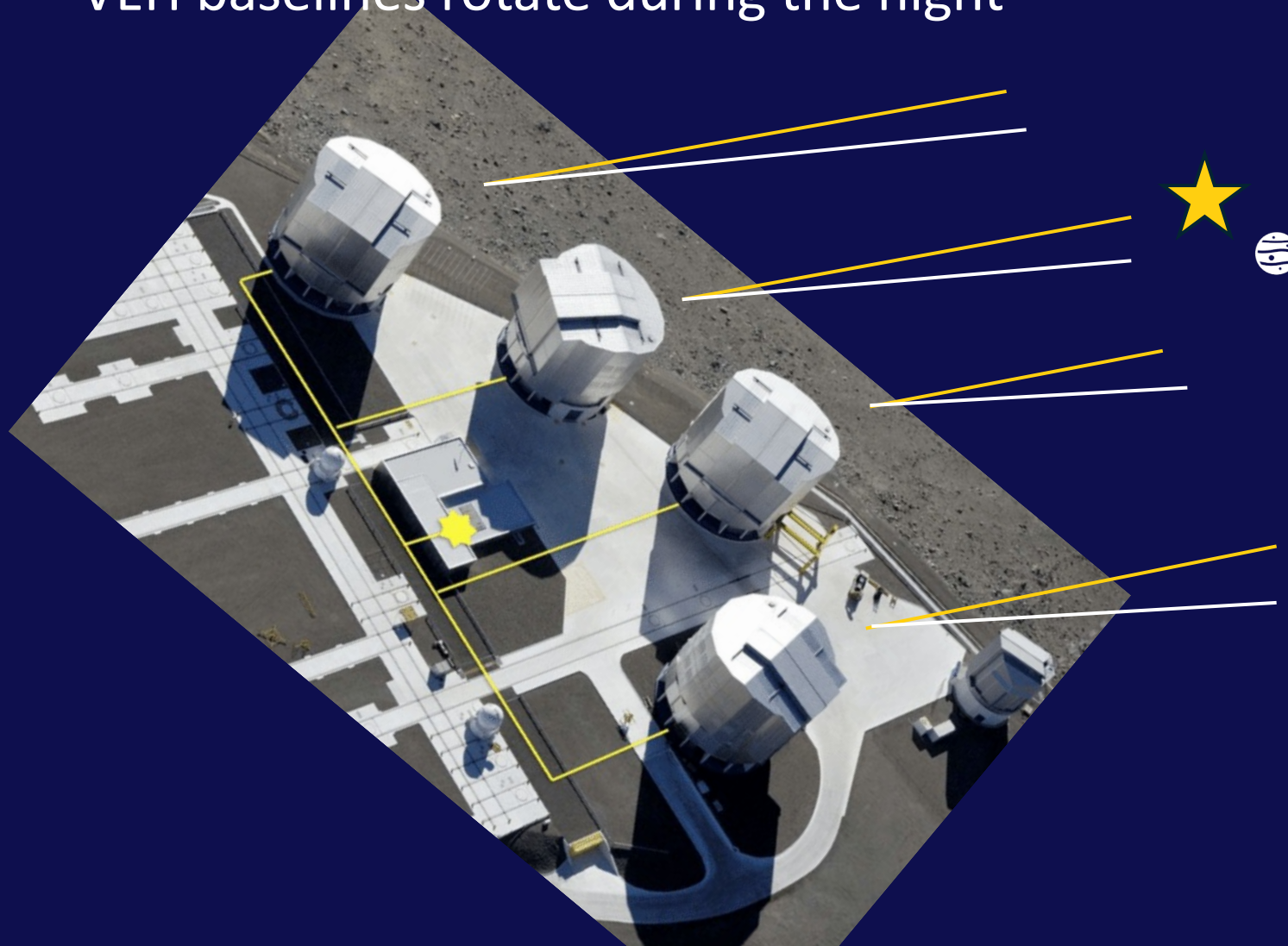
Disentangling photons in interferometry

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Disentangling photons in interferometry

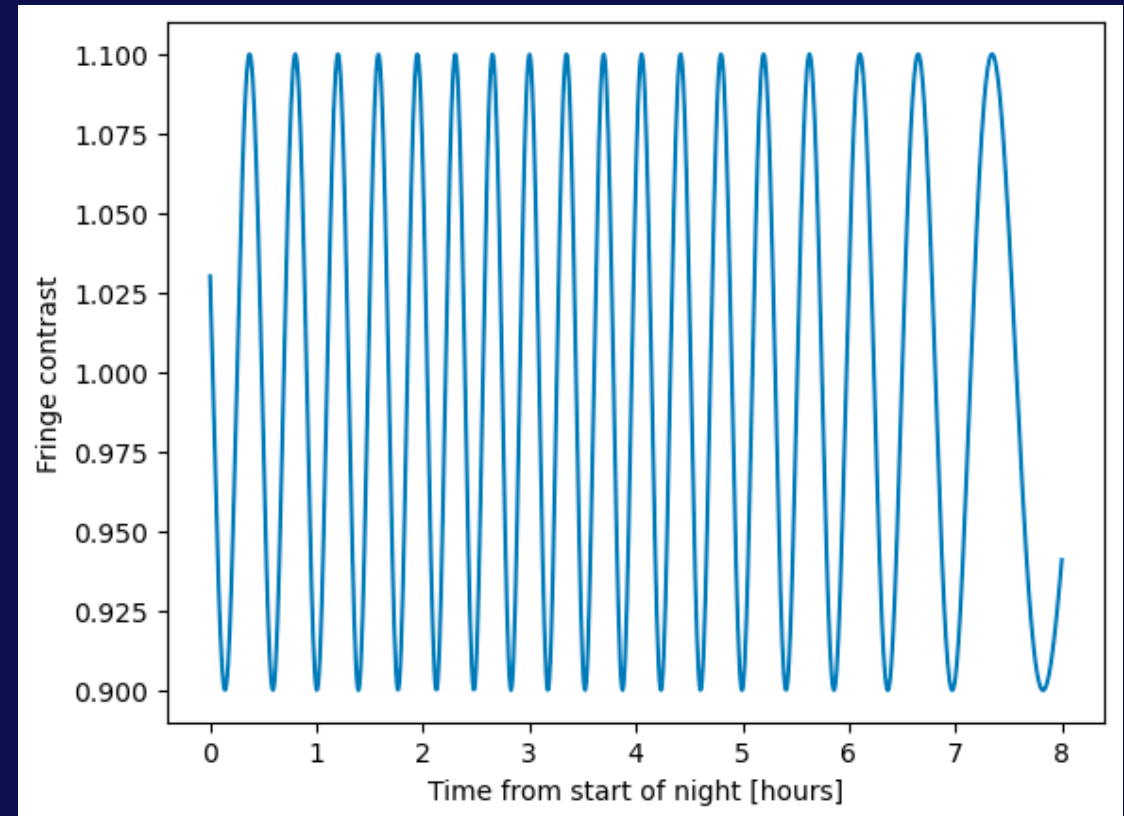
- VLTi baselines rotate during the night



Disentangling photons in interferometry

- Two telescopes interfering make fringes
- The fringes amplitude and phase is related to the Fourier transform of the target spatial distribution
- For a star and planet:
 - Fringe envelope = $S_p + R S_* \exp i \frac{2\pi \vec{\alpha} \vec{u}}{\lambda}$
 - \vec{u} : baseline vector
 - $\vec{\alpha}$: star-planet separation
 - S_*, S_p : stellar & planetary spectra
 - R : stellar speckle chromaticity

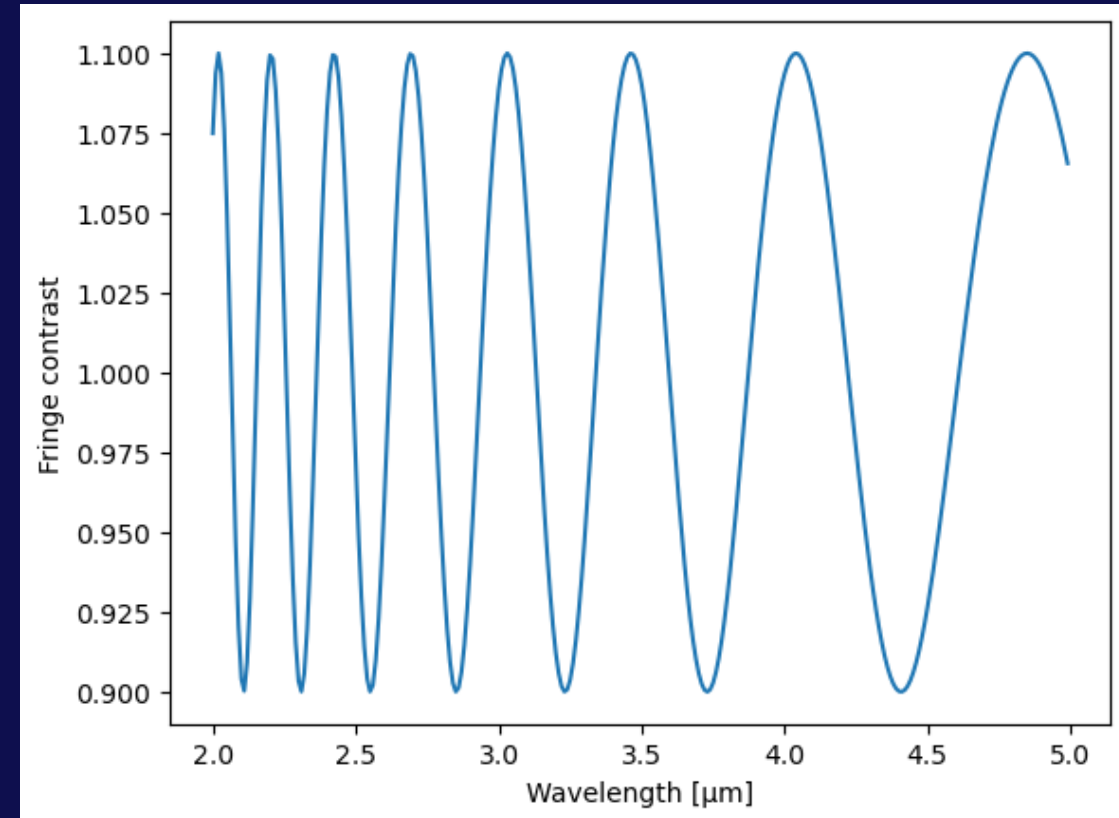
Fringe amplitude for a planet at 0.05" separation and baseline of 100 m



Disentangling photons in interferometry

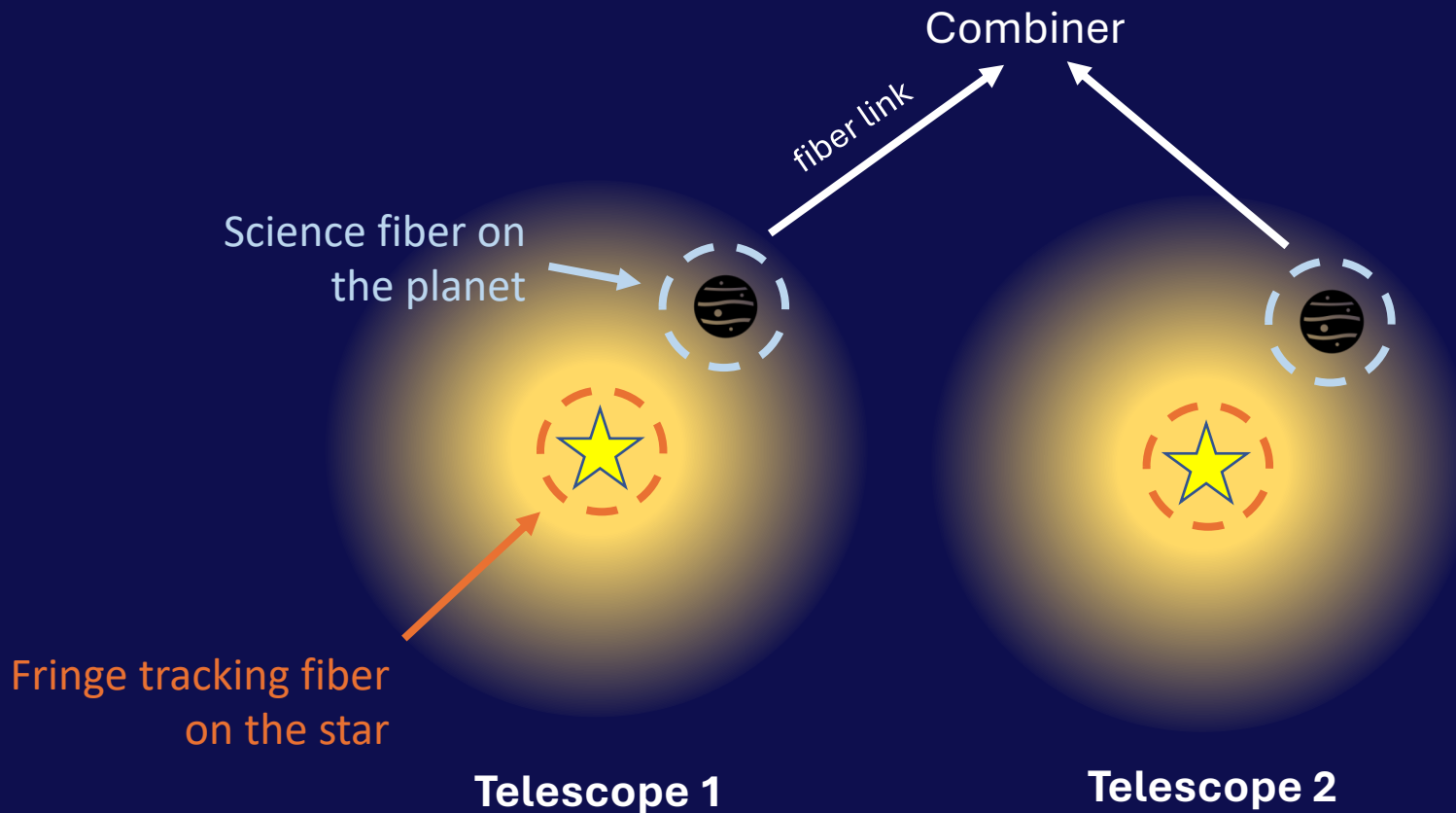
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Fringe amplitude for a planet at 0.05" separation and baseline of 100 m



Disentangling photons in interferometry

GRAVITY exoplanet observations



Adaptive optics
MACAO / GPAO

+

Spatial filtering
The monomode fiber filters most of the stellar flux, acting similarly as a coronagraph.

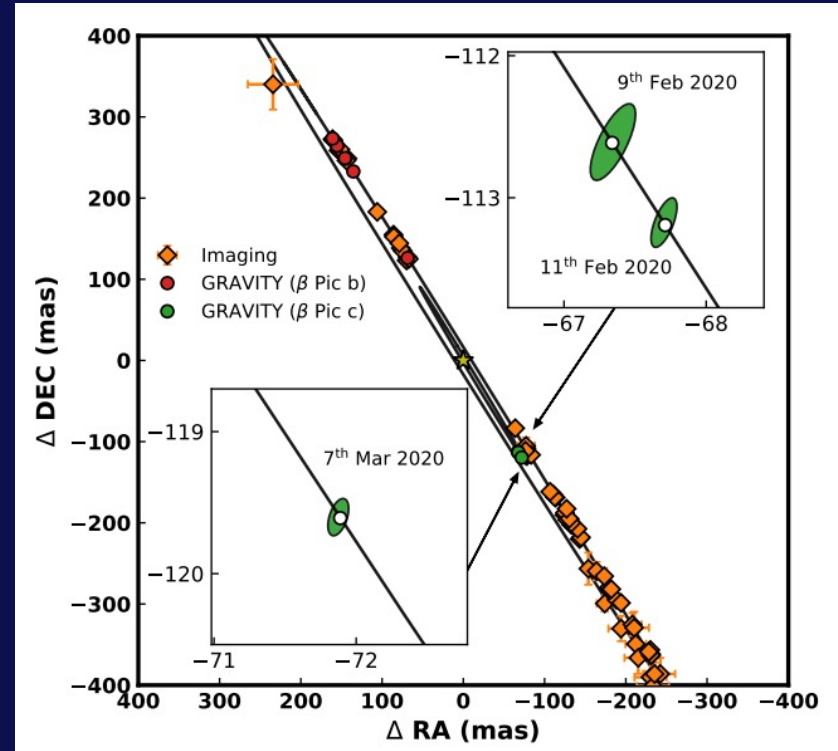
+

Post-processing
Decoupling stellar and planetary signals

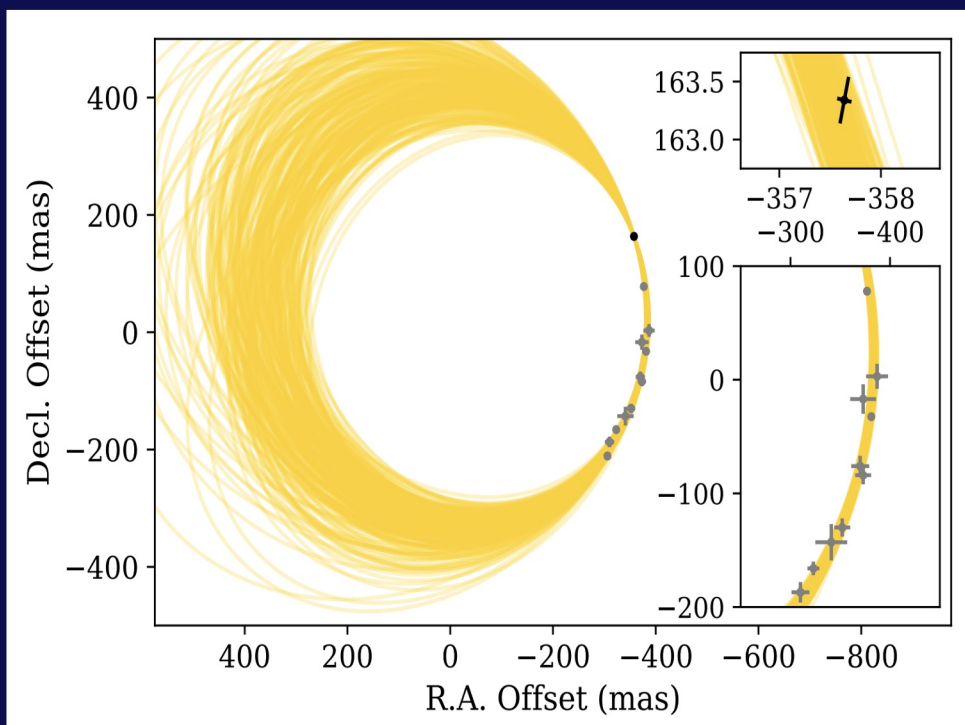
Exoplanet interferometry with GRAVITY

- Ultra-precise **planet astrometry**
 - orbital fitting
 - gives **dynamical masses** (vs. model-dependent "photometric" masses in direct imaging)

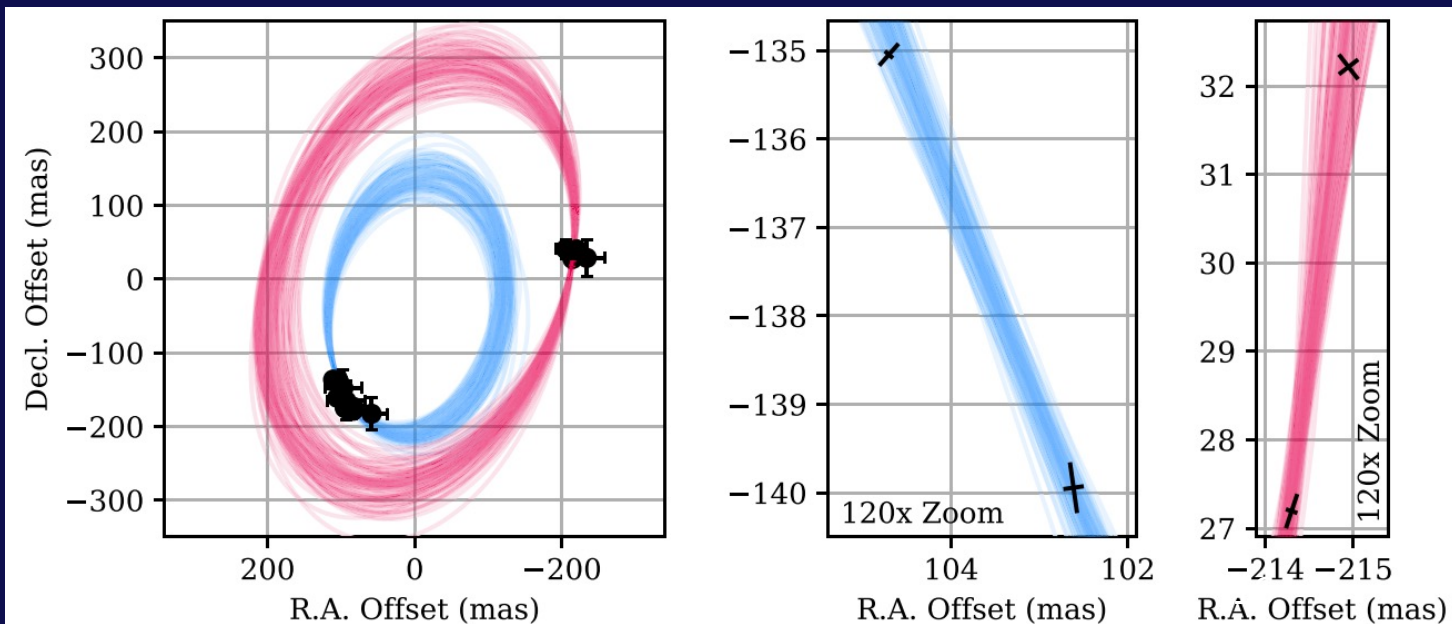
β Pic b & c
(Nowak+ 2020)



HR 8799 e (GRAVITY Collab.+ 2019)



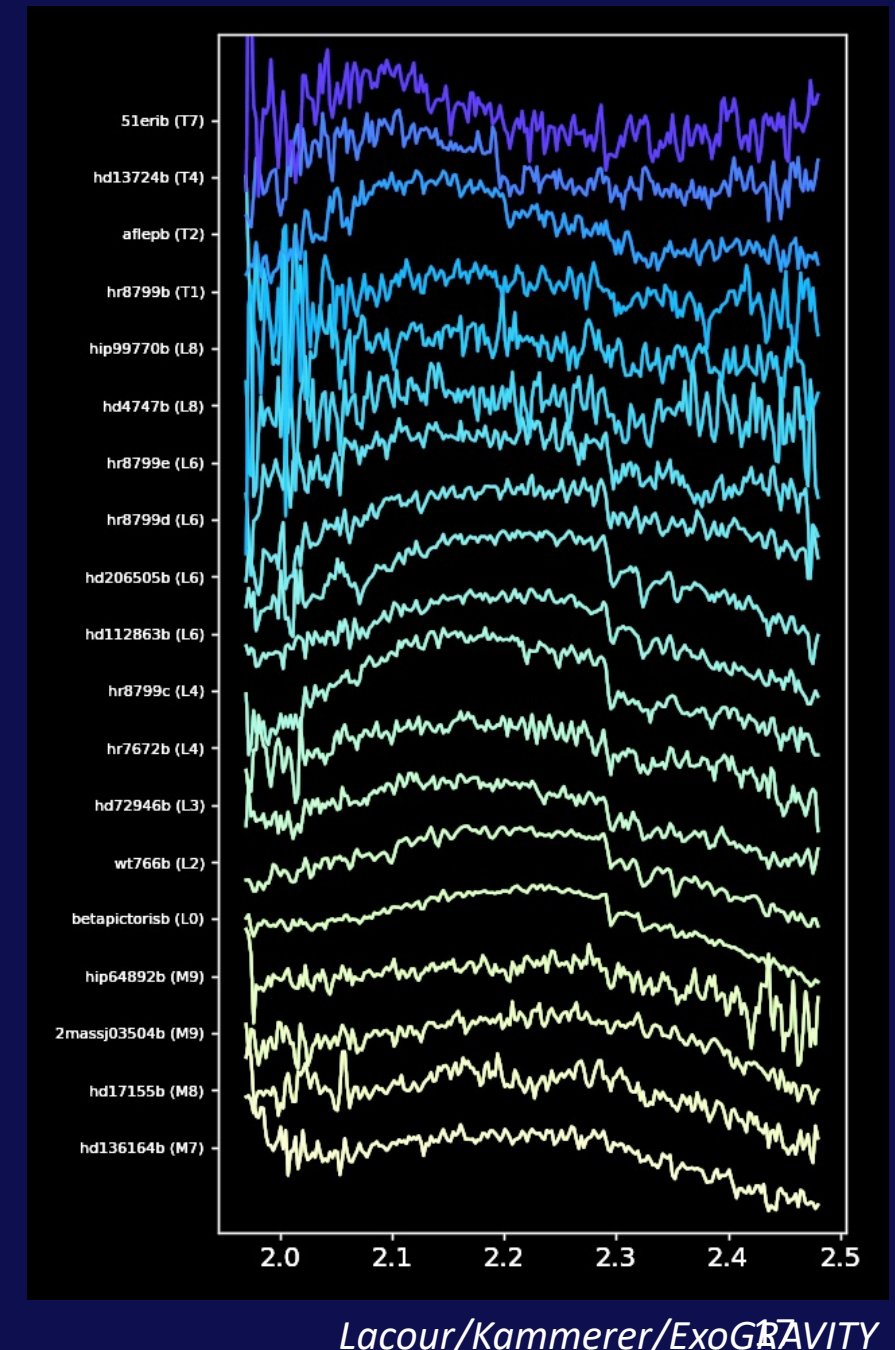
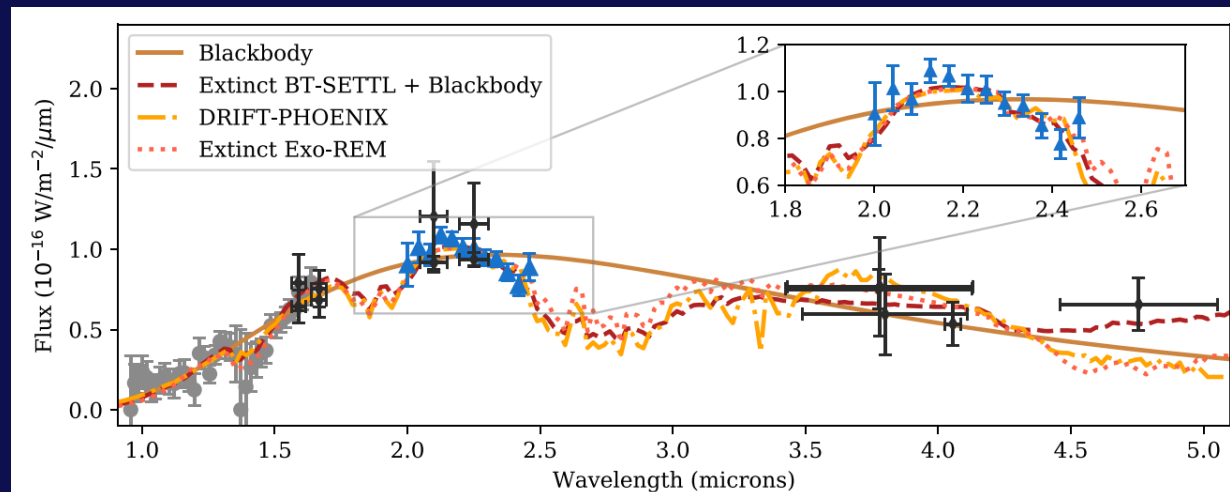
PDS 70 b & c
(Wang+ 2021)



Exoplanet interferometry with GRAVITY

- High-quality near-infrared spectra
 - medium spectral resolution ($R=500$)
 - constrains atmospheric parameters: temperature, surface gravity, C/O, metallicity...
 - C/O linked to planet birthplace and formation mechanism

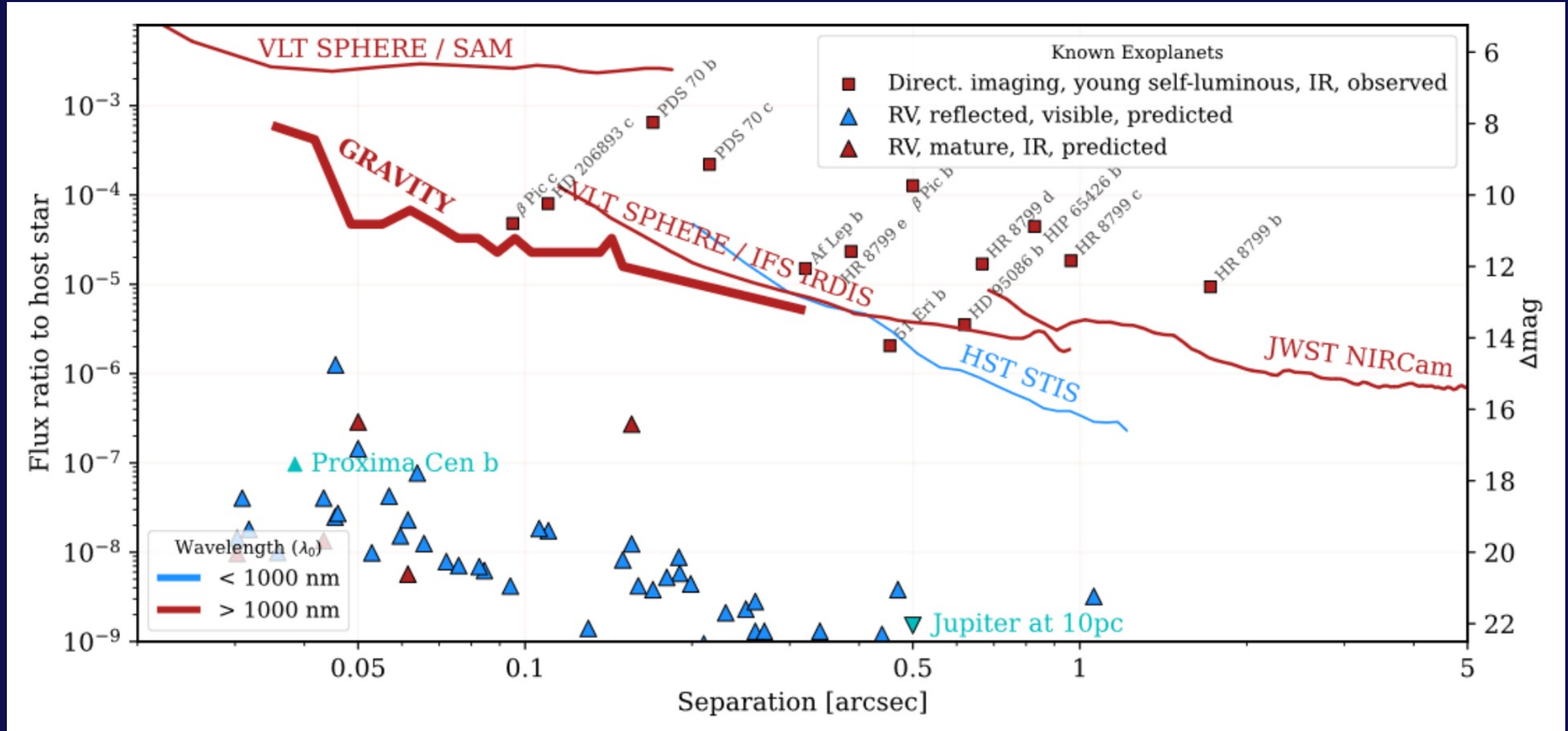
PDS 70 b (Wang+ 2021)



Lacour/Kammerer/ExoGRAVITY

Interferometry & direct imaging

Pourré et al. 2024



MATISSE & GRA4MAT

- **MATISSE**: L, M and N band spectro-interferometer
- The GRAVITY fringe tracker can now assist MATISSE observations:
 - This is **GRA4MAT** (Woillez et al. 2024)
 - Greatly improves MATISSE sensitivity:
 $t_{\text{exp}} = 100 \text{ ms} \Rightarrow 10 \text{ s}$
 - Now limited to background noise instead of detector noise
 - In addition: narrow off-axis mode:
Fringe tracker on star, MATISSE on planet



First demonstration on β Pictoris b

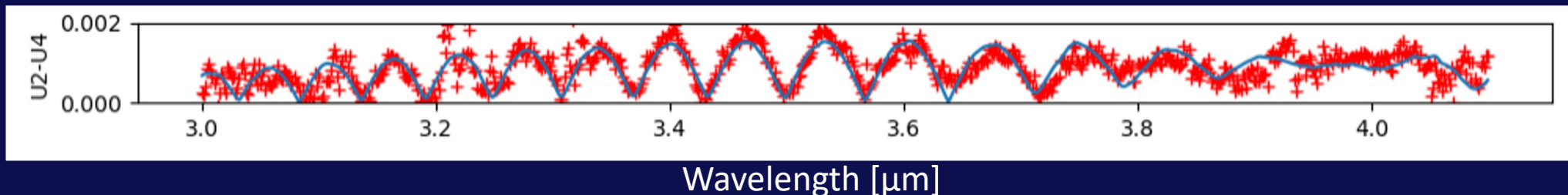
- First demonstration:
 - β Pictoris b (Nov. 2022)
 - 4 UTs
 - Medium spectral resolution ($R = 500$)
 - 45 min on planet
15 min on star

MATISSE science
pinhole on the planet



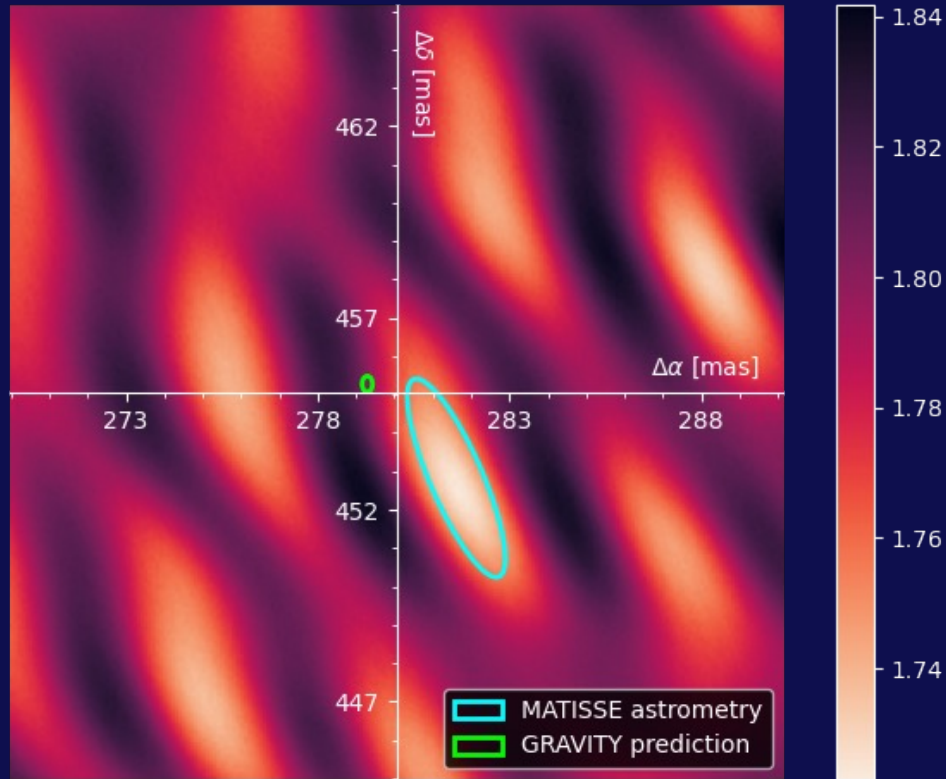
GRAVITY fringe tracking fiber
on the star

Fringe amplitude

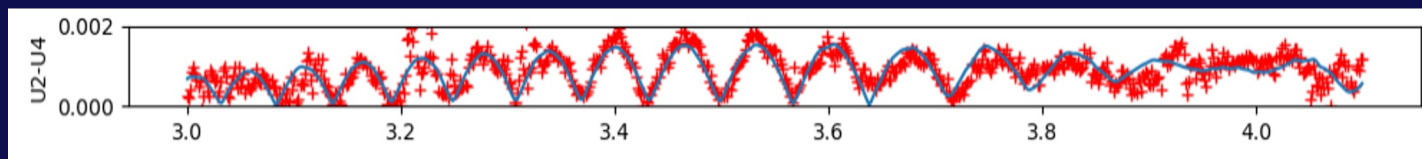


1st step: astrometry & stellar contamination

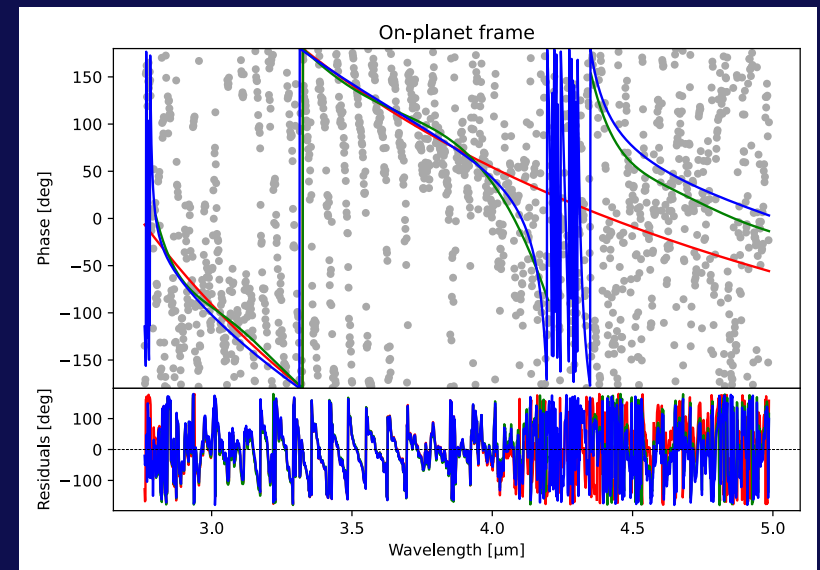
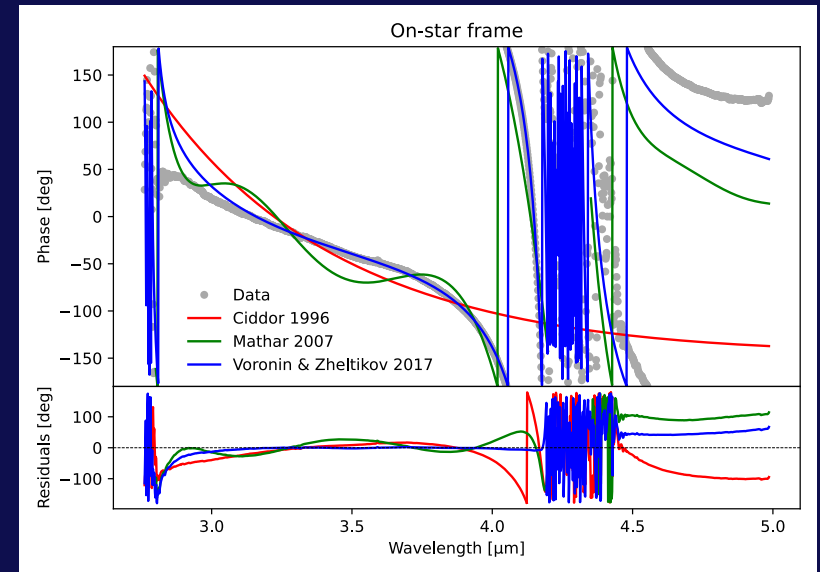
Fitting the planet astrometry & stellar contamination



- Planet found ~ 3.5 mas away from GRAVITY predictions.
- GRAVITY astrometry more reliable thanks to its internal metrology.



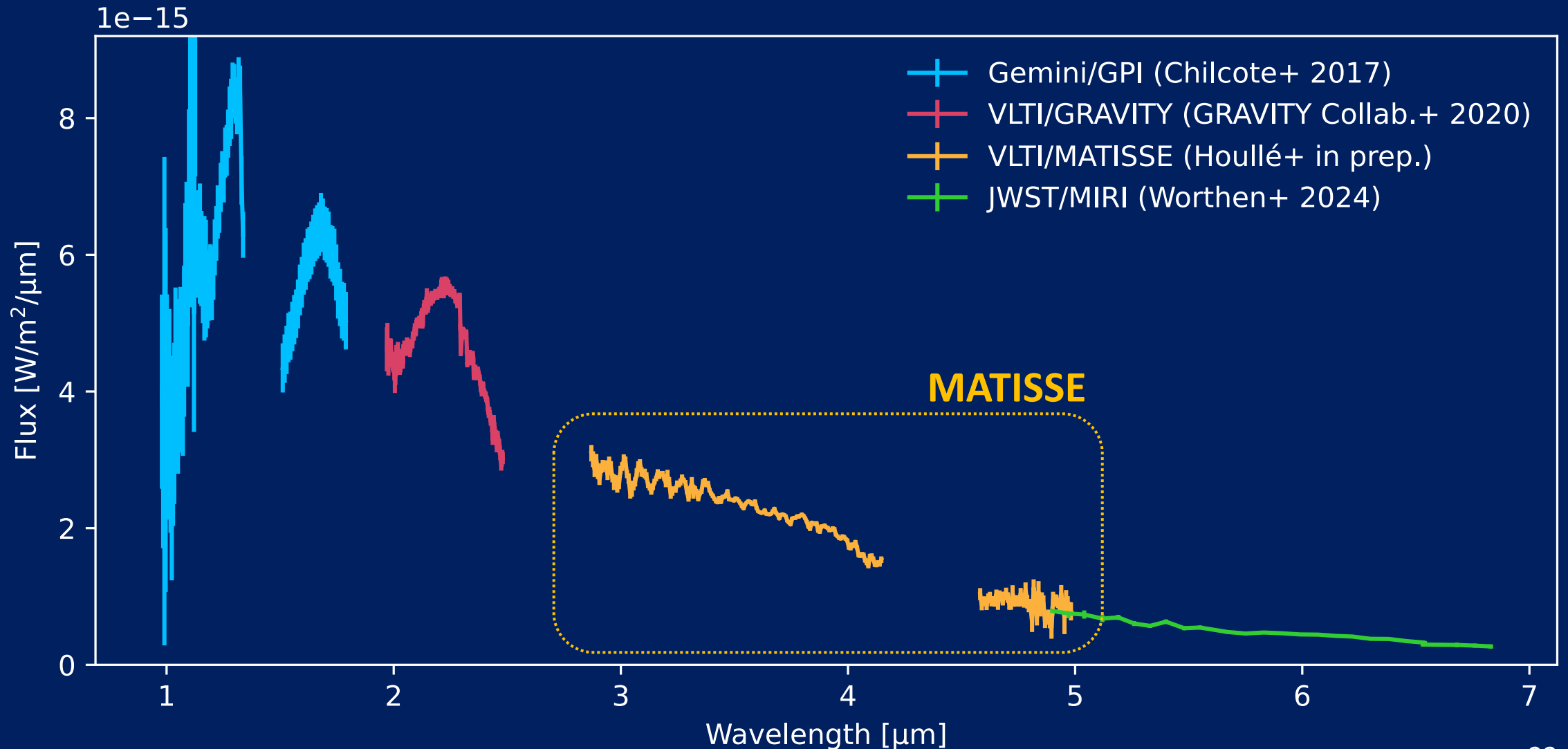
Testing several air refractive index models to correct the fringe phase



2nd step: the spectrum!

$$S_p(\lambda) = C(\lambda) \times S_*(\lambda)$$

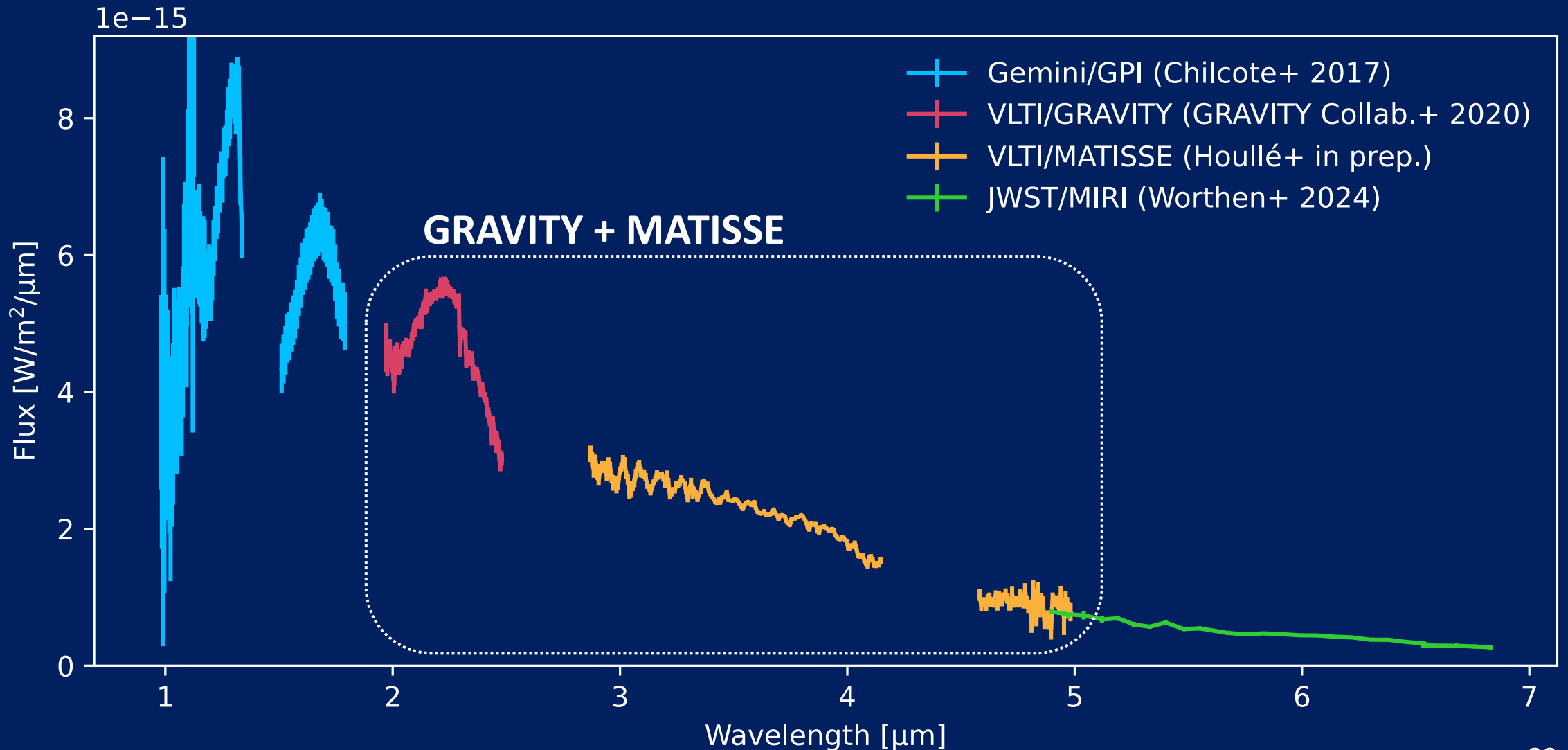
β Pic b spectra now covers a range of 1 to 7 μm !



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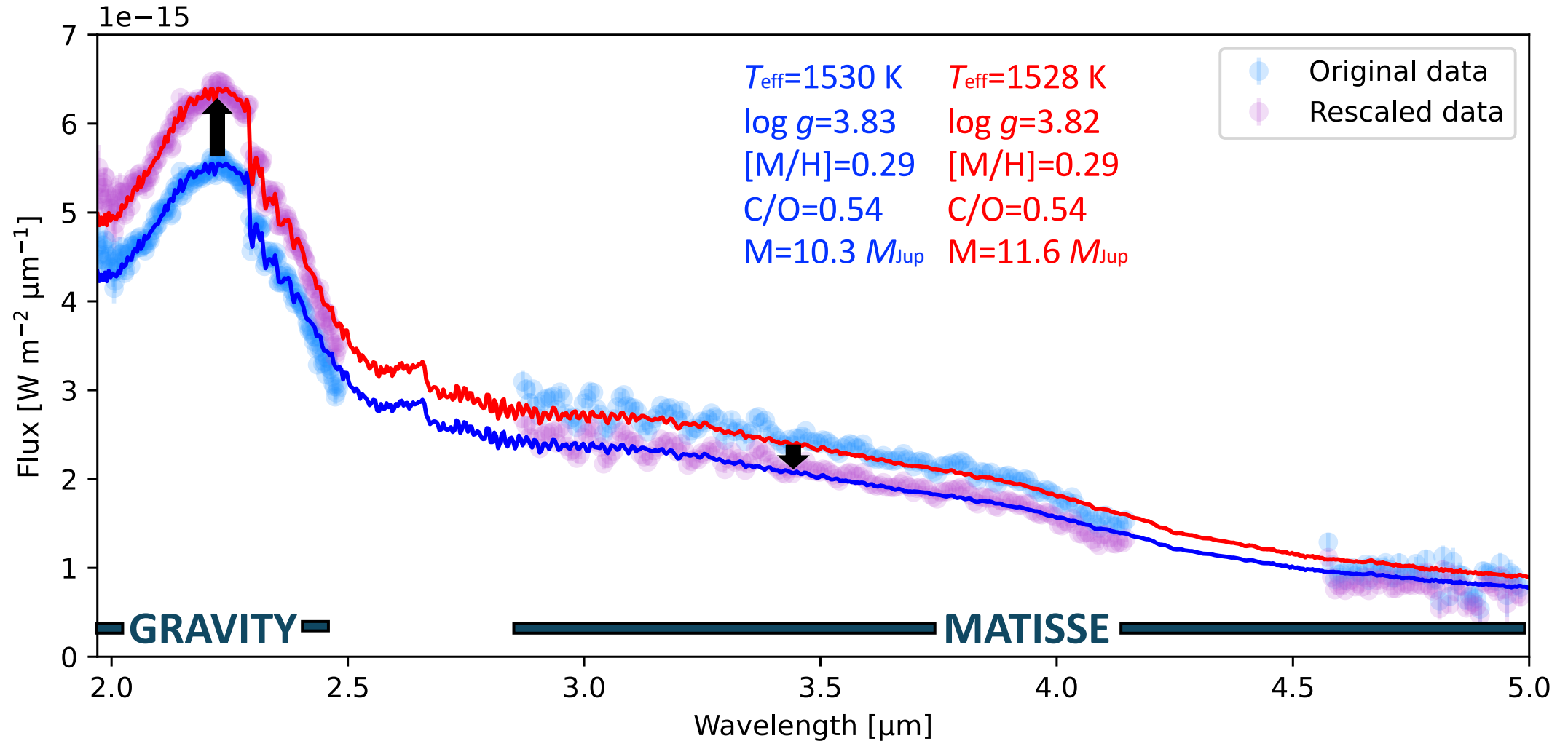
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Atmospheric modelling

ForMoSA fitting code (Petrus+23)

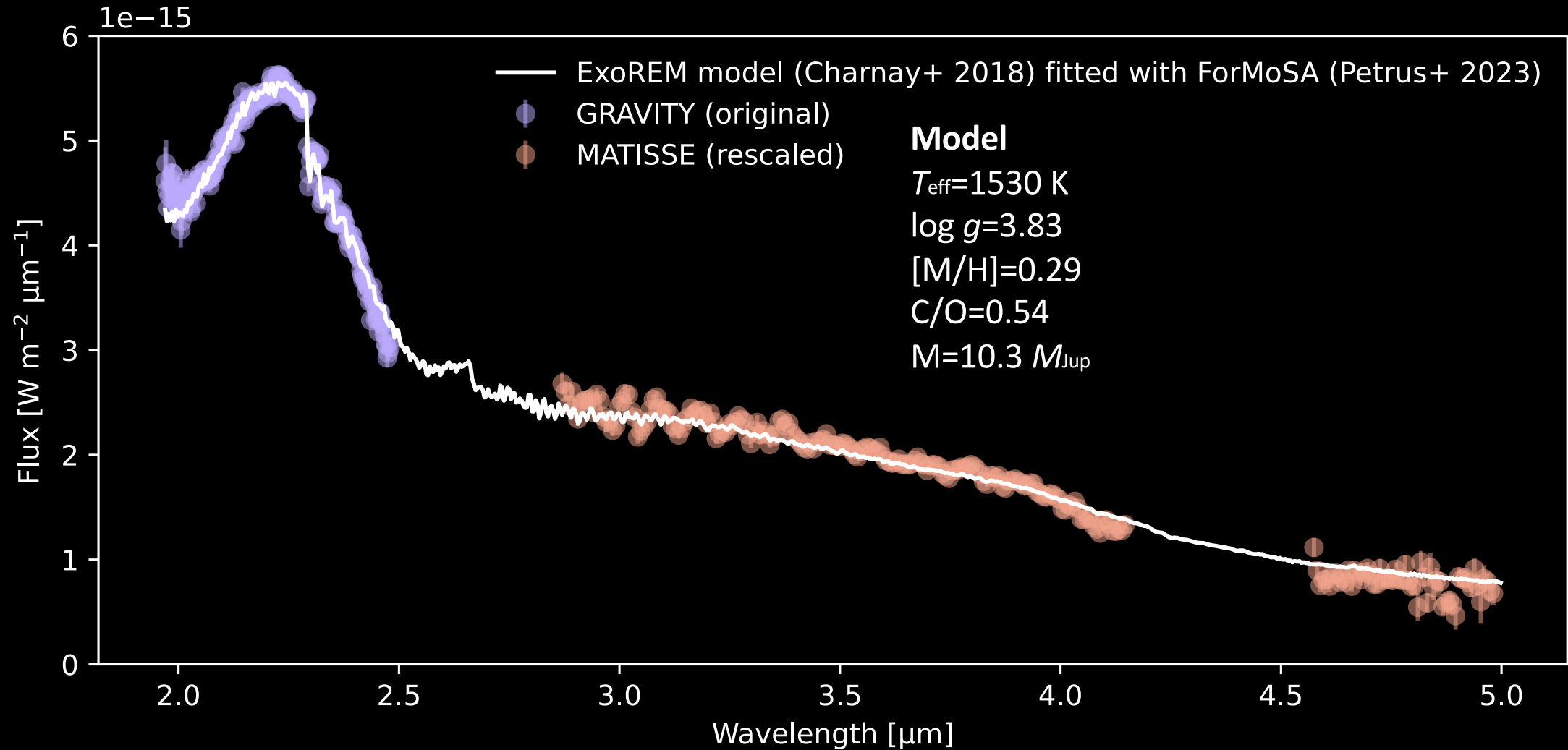
ExoREM model grid (Charnay+18)



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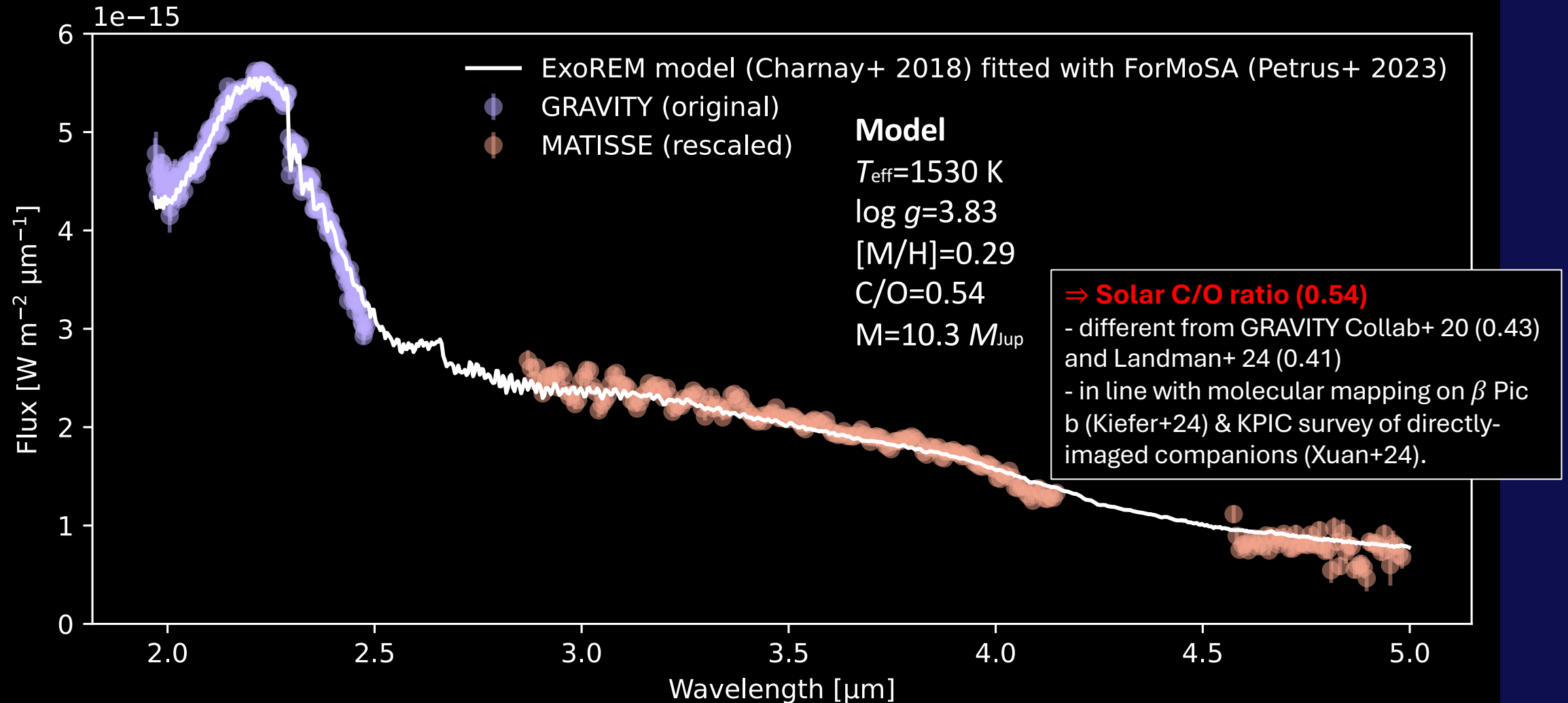
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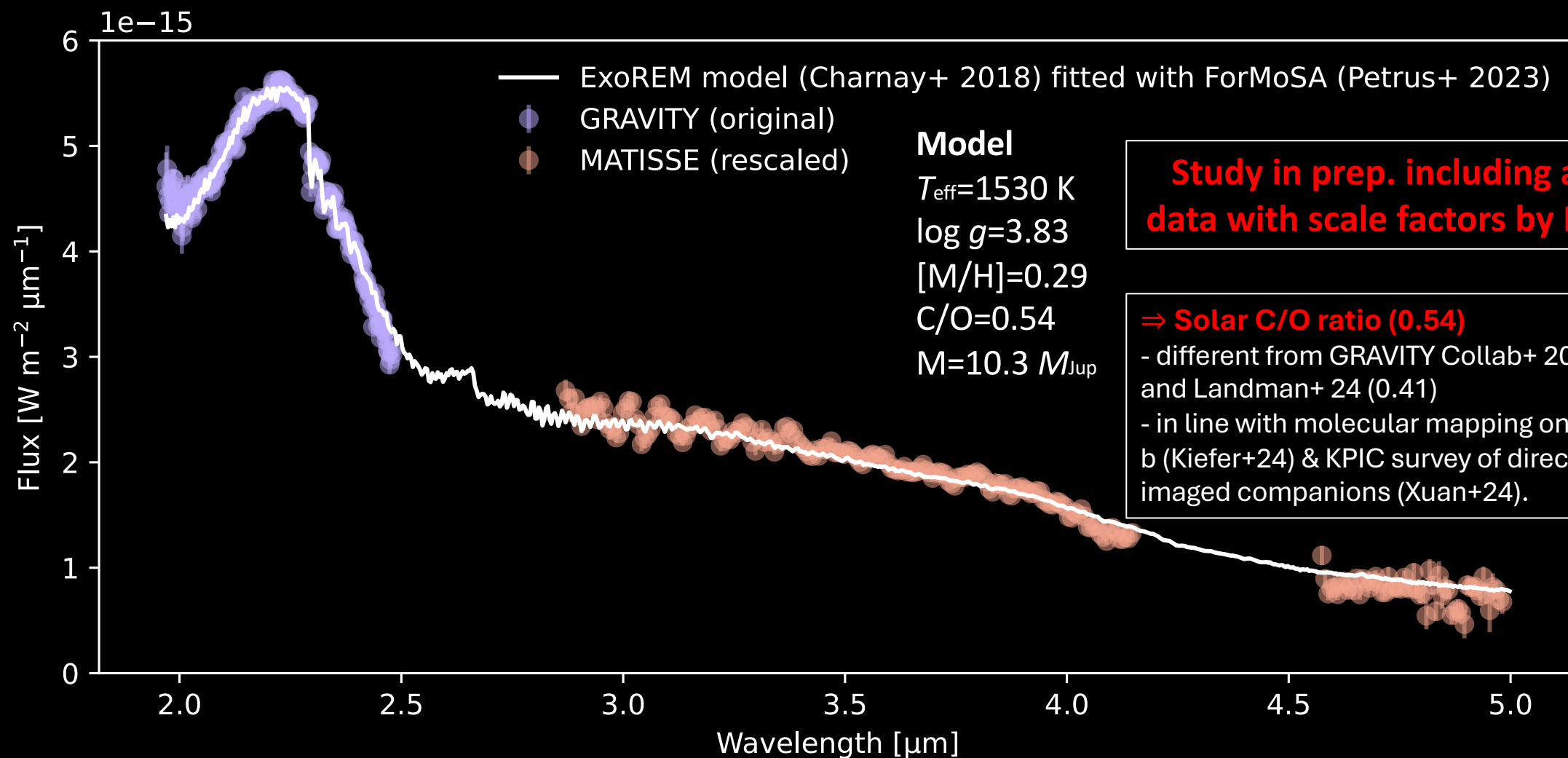
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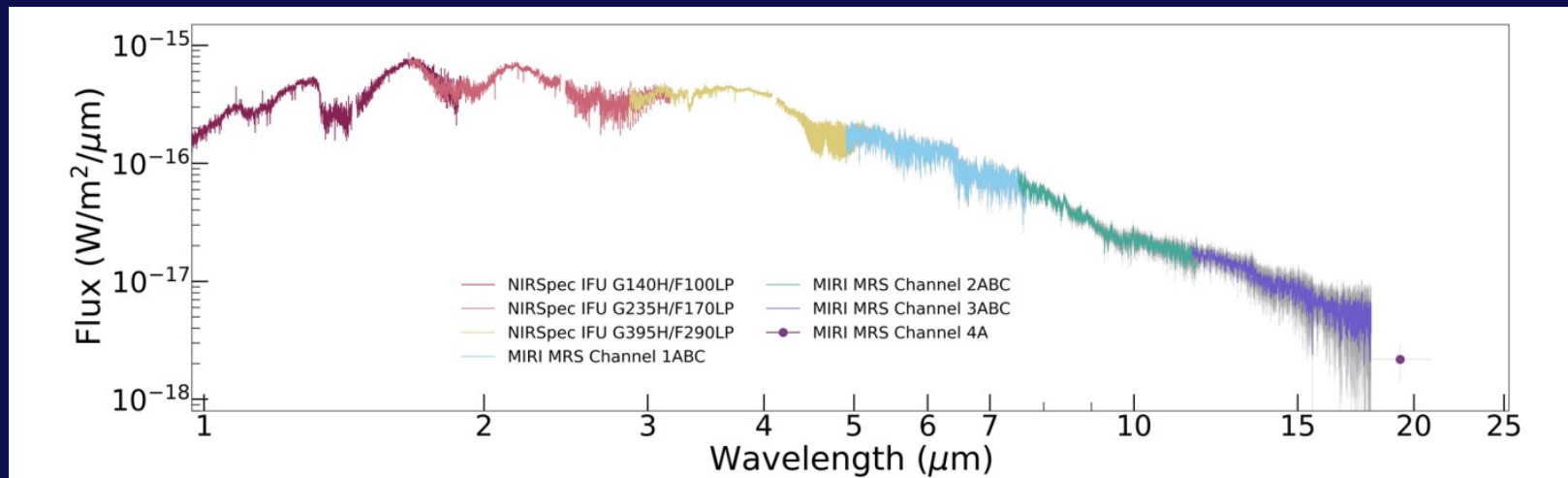
Study in prep. including all β Pic b data with scale factors by Ravet et al.

⇒ Solar C/O ratio (0.54)

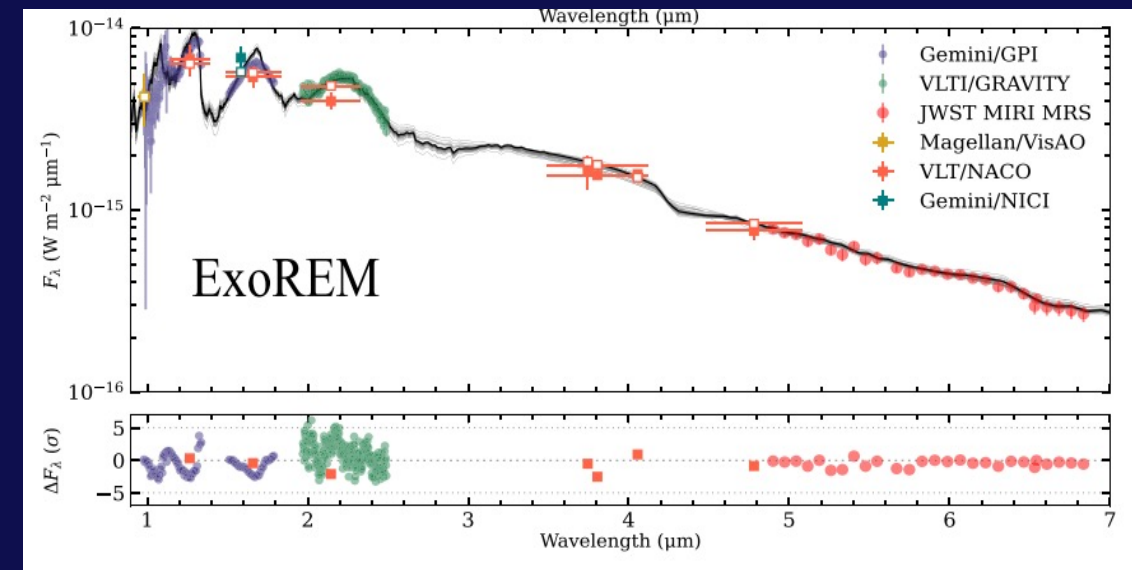
- different from GRAVITY Collab+ 20 (0.43) and Landman+ 24 (0.41)
- in line with molecular mapping on β Pic b (Kiefer+24) & KPIC survey of directly-imaged companions (Xuan+24).

Exoplanets in the mid-infrared

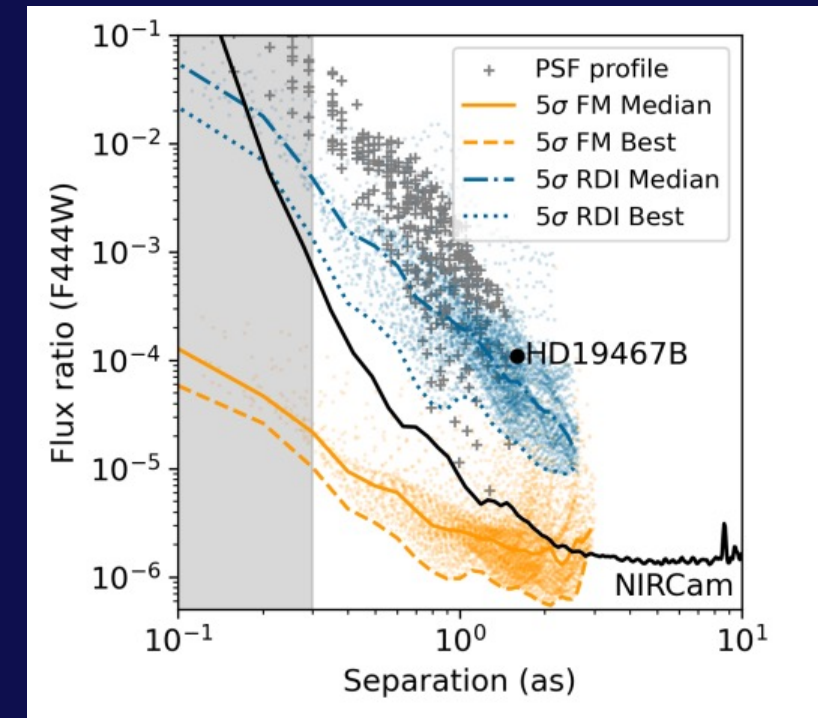
- **Few mid-IR spectra**
(Janson+2010, Wang+2018, Doelman+2022)
- **JWST** starting to deliver
 - But sensitivity still unclear at low separations
 - No coronagraphy on the spectroscopic modes of the JWST



Miles+ 2023, VHS 1256 1257 b



Worthen+ 2024
 β Pic b

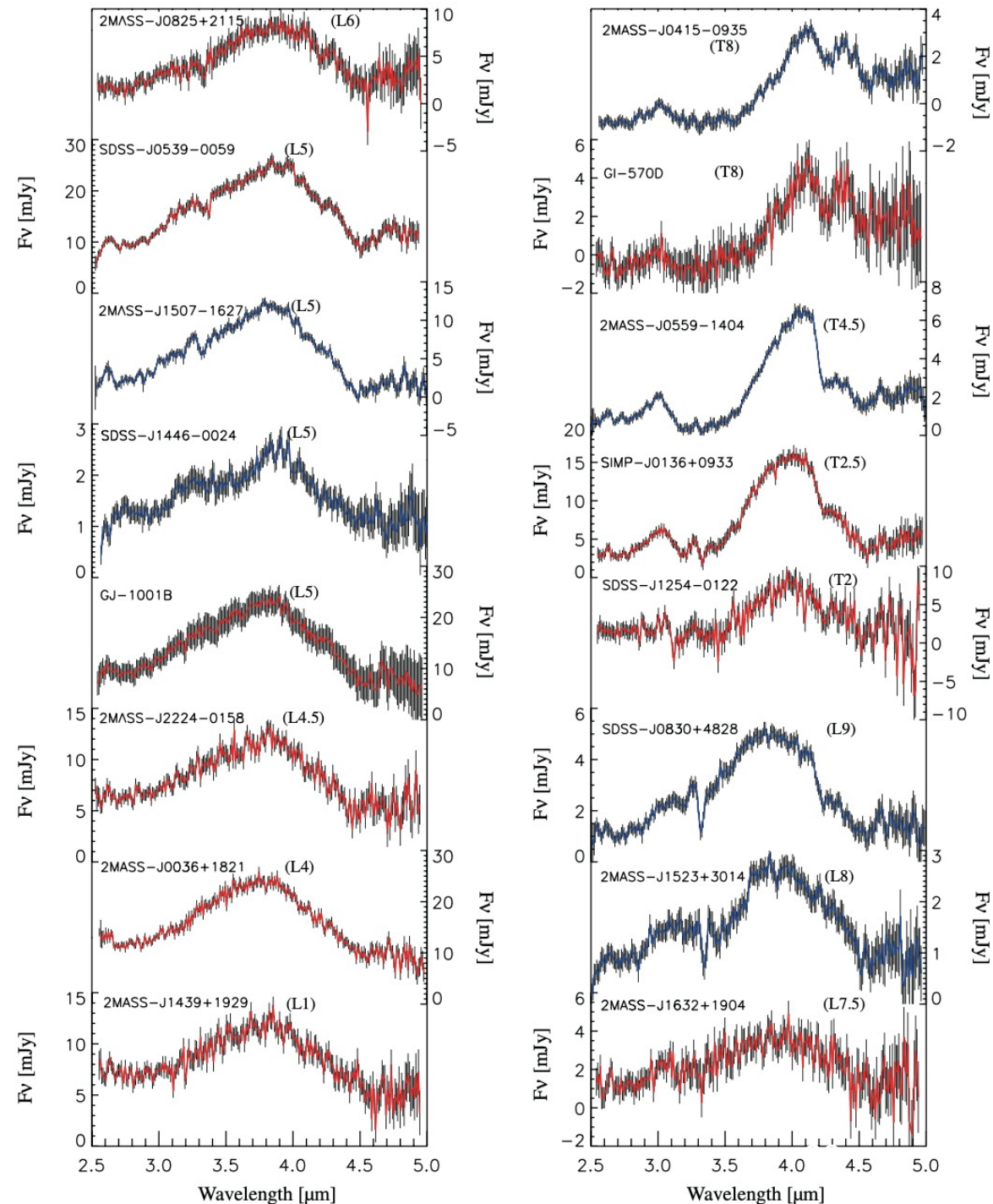


Ruffio+ 2024

The mid-infrared potential

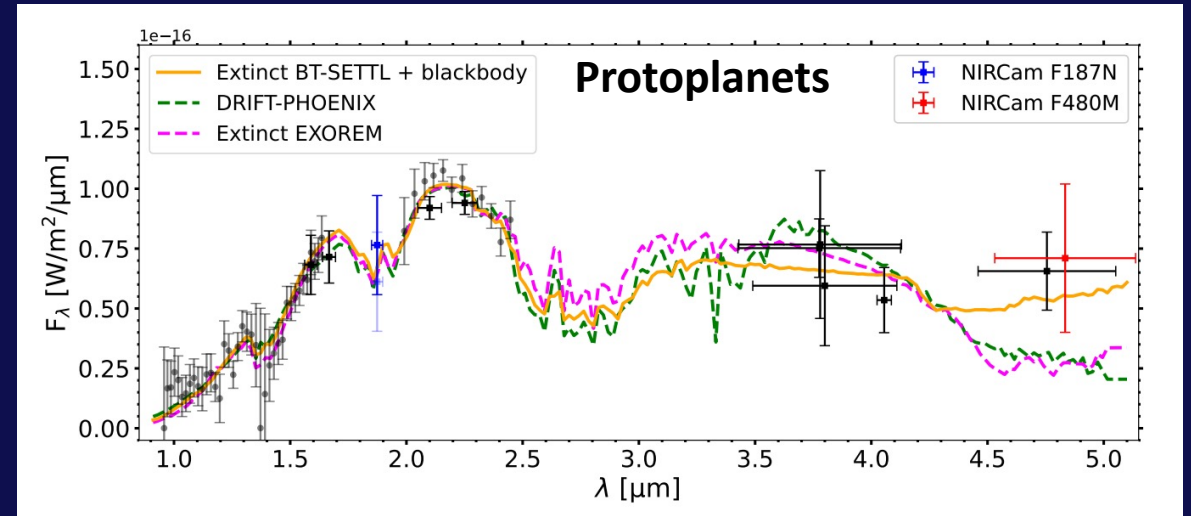
- Rich in spectral lines (CH_4 , CO_2 , CO ...)

Sorahana+ 2012, isolated brown dwarfs



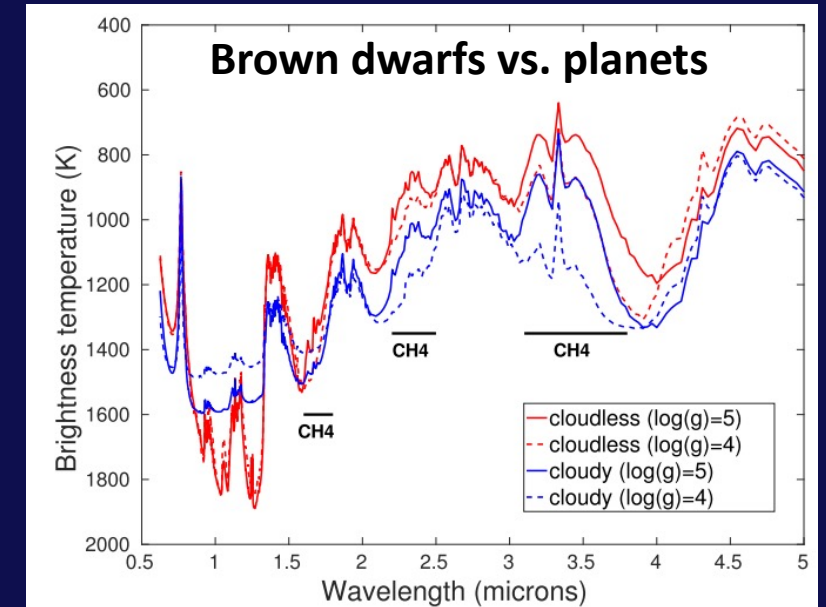
The mid-infrared potential

- Rich in spectral lines (CH_4 , CO_2 , CO ...)
- Science cases:
 - **cloud scattering** (Mollière+ 20) & **patchiness** (Currie+ 14)
 - **vertical mixing** (Phillips+ 20)
 - **protoplanets** (Christiaens+24)
 - **auroral methane emission?** (Faherty+ 24)



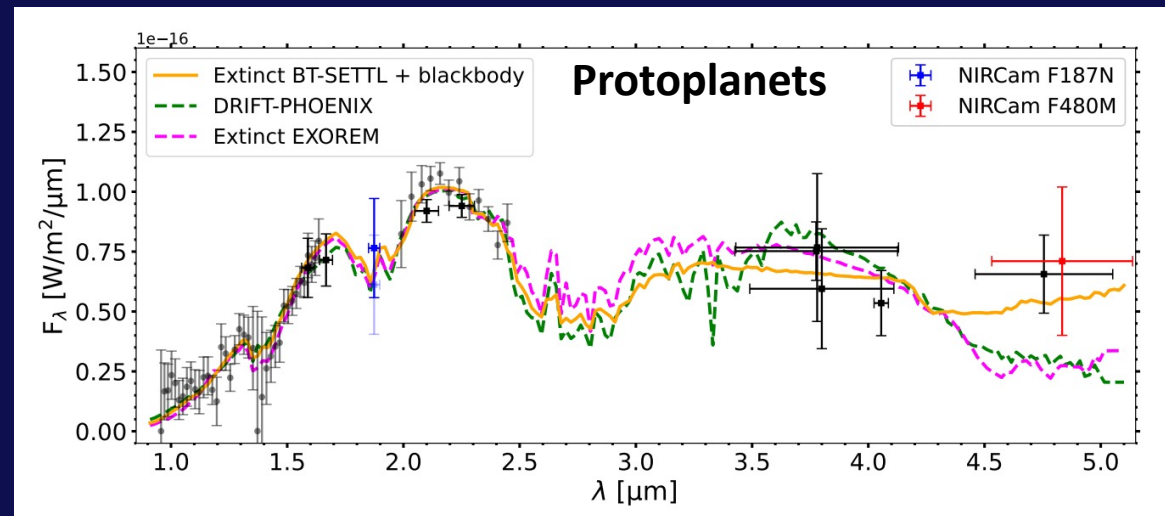
Christiaens+24, PDS 70 b spectrum

Charnay+18, ExoREM atmospheric models



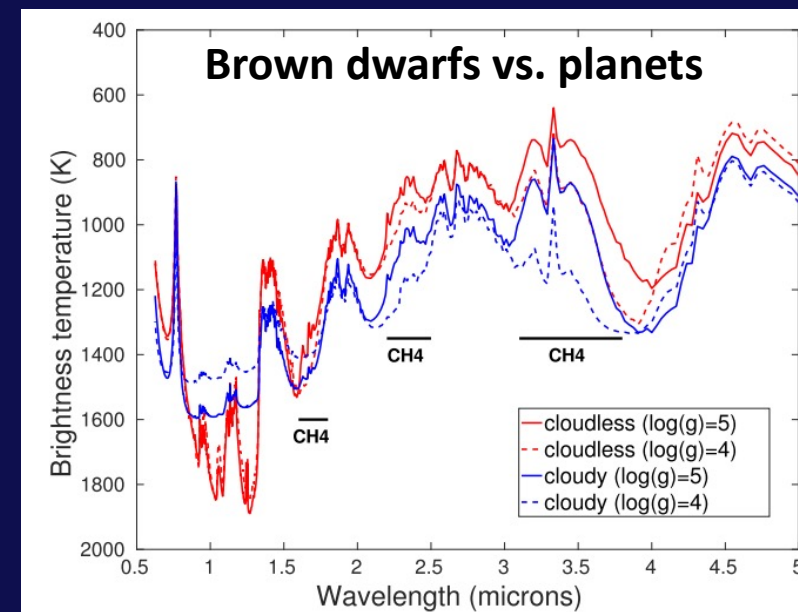
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 - **auroral methane emission?** (Faherty+ 24)
- **MATISSE complementarity with the JWST** at close separations ($< 0.4''$)
- Ongoing MATISSE programs:
 - β Pic c and HR 8799 e analysis in progress
 - PDS 70 b and c observed in March 2025

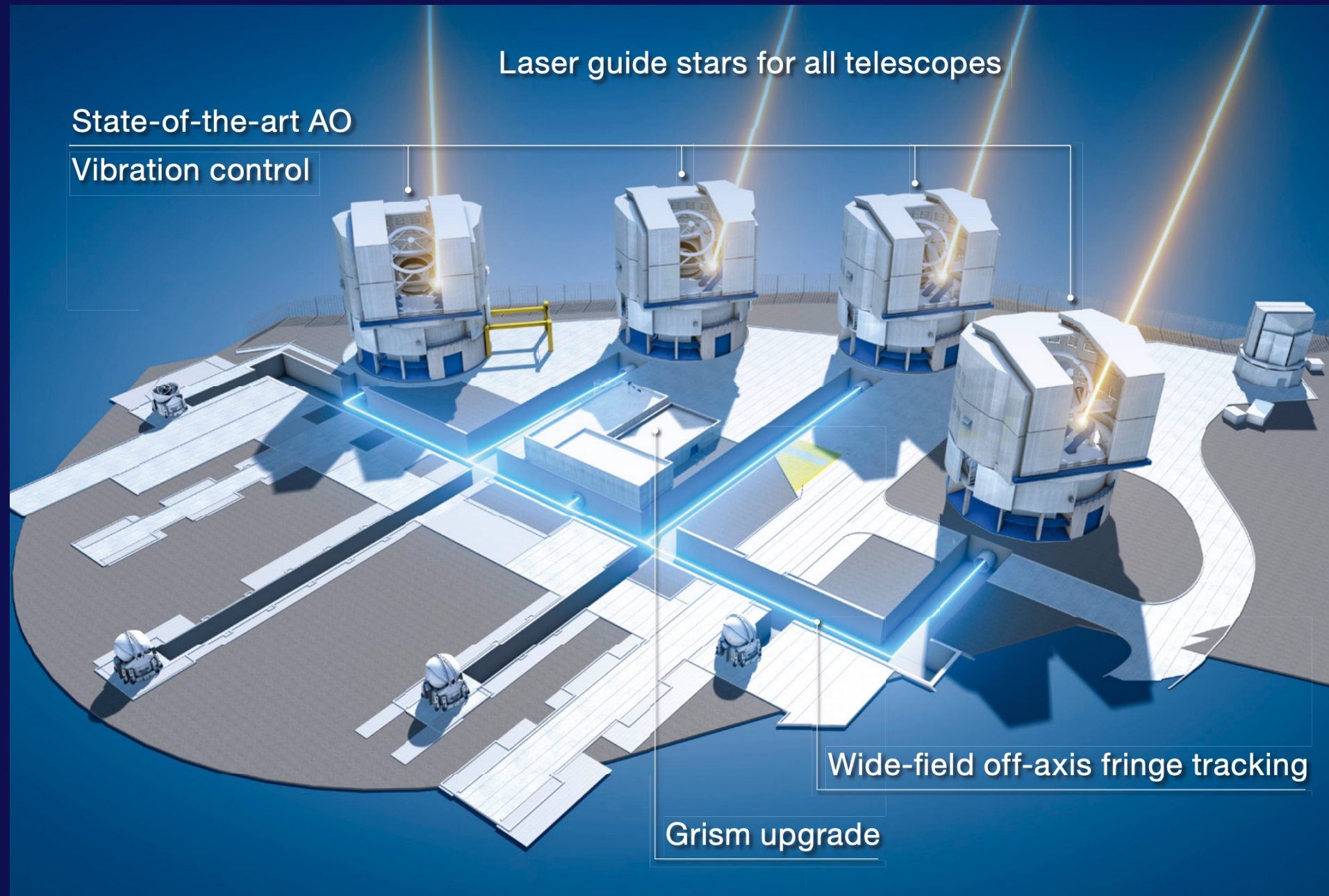


Christiaens+24, PDS 70 b spectrum

Charnay+18, ExoREM atmospheric models



The ongoing VLTI upgrade: GRAVITY+

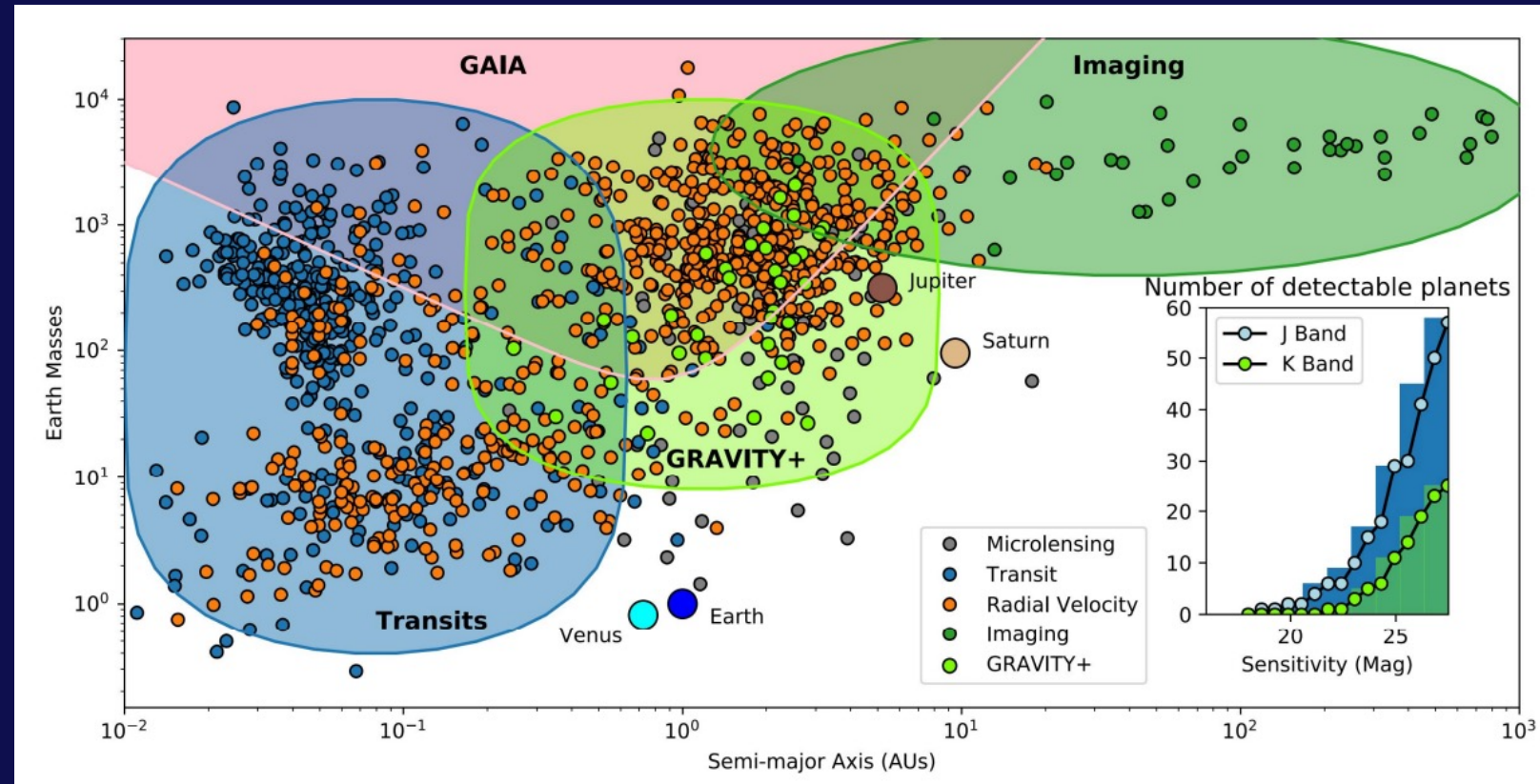


The GRAVITY+ AO (GPAO)

- Will replace MACAO and benefit all VLT instruments
- Ongoing commissioning in Paranal: first fringes obtained in September

GRAVITY+ white paper

- Higher performances in Shrehl ratio
- Provides access to lower separations and deeper contrasts
- Bridges the gap with other techniques and access planets within snowlines



Summary

- **Interferometry** is now a **robust technique of exoplanet characterization**
 - ultra-precise astrometry (GRAVITY)
 - medium-resolution spectra in *K* (GRAVITY), *L* and *M* bands (MATISSE)
- **MATISSE** observed an exoplanet for the first time thanks to **GRA4MAT**
 - High S/N obtained on β Pic b in 36 min
- The **GRAVITY+ upgrade** will provide access to deeper contrasts and lower separations
 - **bridging the gap with Gaia astrometry, radial velocities, transits**

Atmospheric modelling

ForMoSA fitting code (Petrus+23)

ExoREM model grid (Charnay+18)

