

UNVEILING THE SECRETS OF PROXIMA CENTAURI'S ENVIRONMENT

M5.5V

$M/M_{\odot} = 0.120 \pm 0.015$

$R/R_{\odot} = 0.141 \pm 0.021$

$T_{\text{eff}} = 3050 \pm 100 \text{ K}$

Delfosse+00, Boyajian+12

Alpha Centauri A

Proxima Centauri

Alpha Centauri B

4 light-years

2 light-years

Oort Cloud

Sun

Discovered by:
Innes+1915

UNVEILING THE SECRETS OF PROXIMA CENTAURI'S ENVIRONMENT

Kervella+17
Prox Cen is in a
gravitationally bound
orbit around the AB pair
 $P_{\text{orbit}} \sim 5.5\text{Myr}$

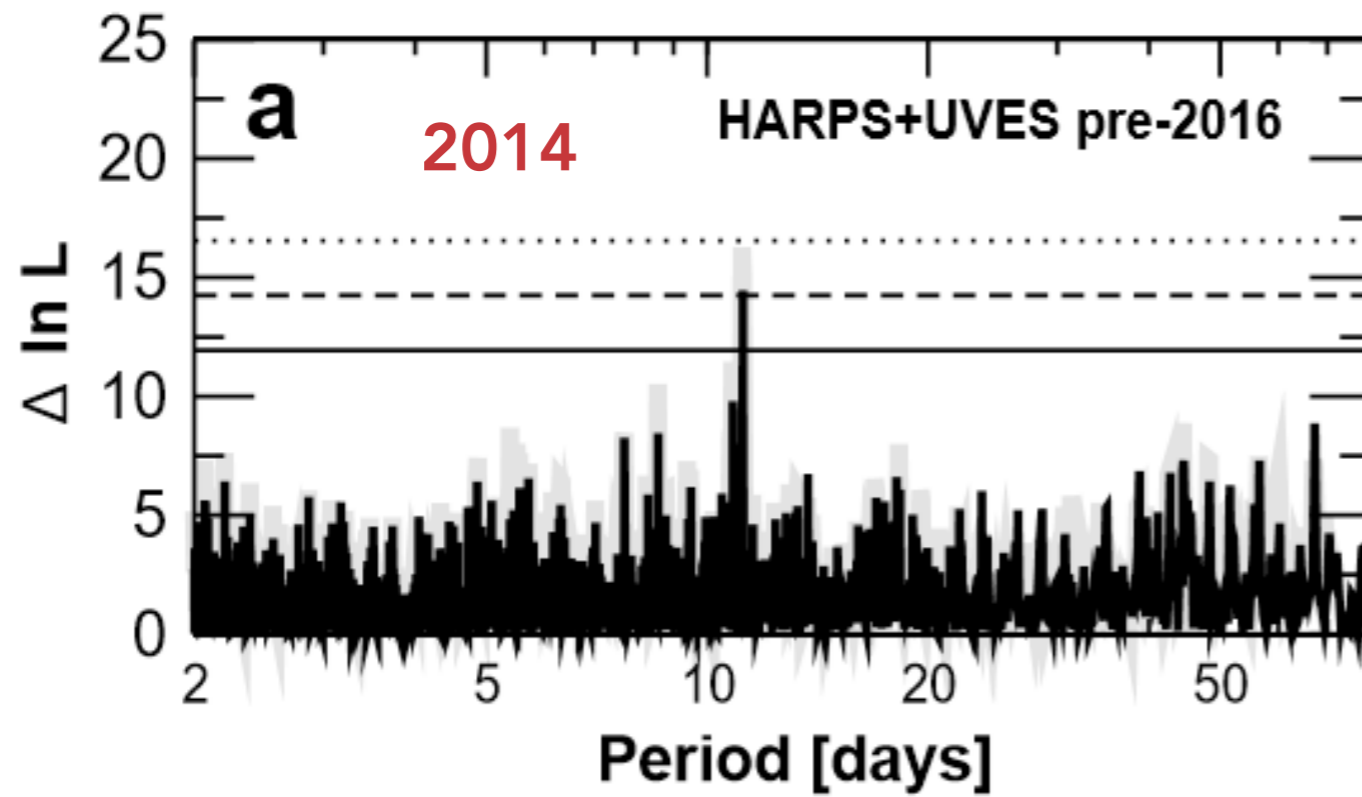
Alpha Centauri A
or **ALPHA CEN C**
Proxima Centauri
Alpha Centauri B

4 light-years

2 light-years

Oort Cloud

Sun



2000-2008 : UVES
 2002-2012 : HARPS-archive
 2013-2014 : HARPS-CTB

N
 232
 70
 194

496

PALE
BLUE DOT

Earth



PALE RED DOT



β Cen



Proxima Cen



α Cen AB



PALE BLUE DOT



PALE RED DOT

β Cen

Doppler Spectroscopy (HARPS) Guillem Anglada-Escude, Mathias Zechmeister

Doppler Spectroscopy (UVES) R. Paul Butler, Martin Kuerster, Michael Endl

Data analysis Mikko Tuomi, James Jenkins, Hugh R. A. Jones

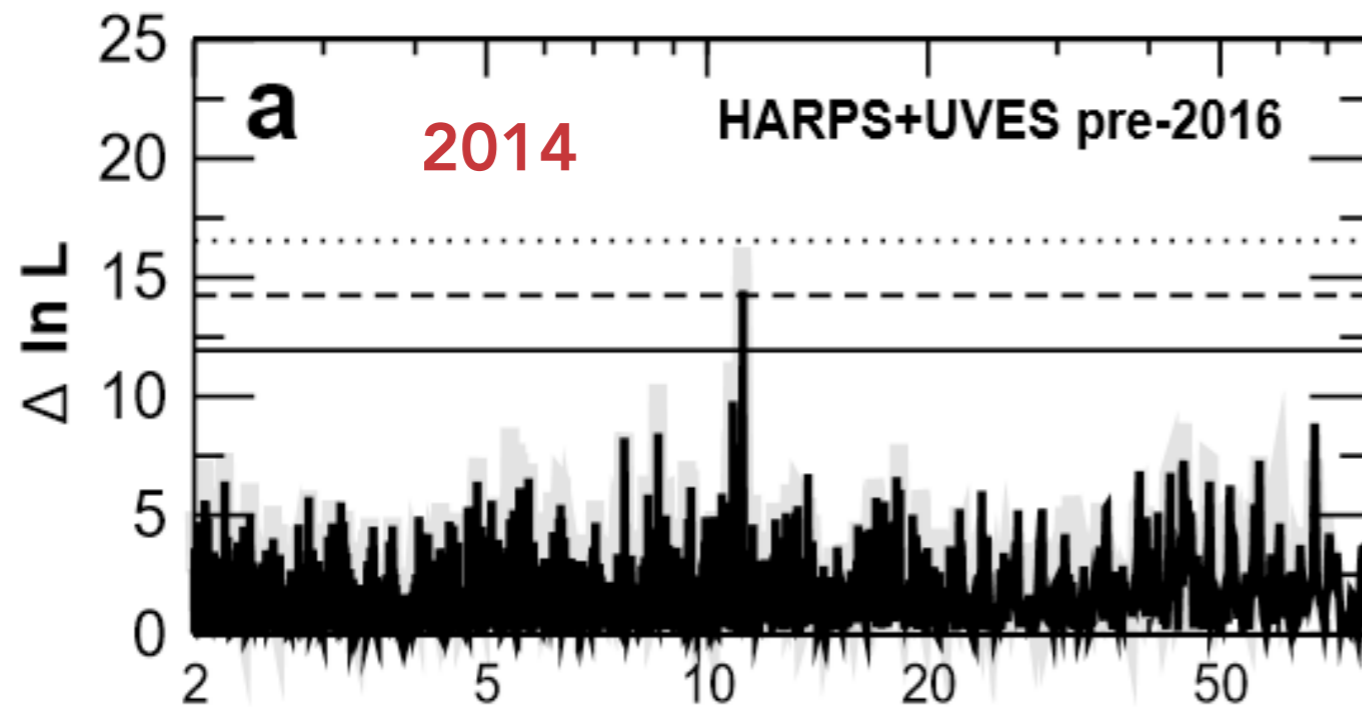
Spectroscopic Analyses John Barnes, Zaira M. Berdinas, John P. Strachan

Photometry Cristina Rodriguez-Lopez, Eloy Rodriguez, Nicolas Morales, Jose Ortiz, Ignacio de la Cueva, Maria J. Lopez Gonzalez (ASH2), Yiannis Tsappras (lcogt.net), Aviv Ofir, Marcin Kiraga

Stellar physics and activity Ansgar Reiners, Pedro Amado, Sandra V. Jeffers, Julien Morin

Planet formation and Dynamics Richard P. Nelson, Gavin Coleman, Sijme-Jan Paardekooper, Stefan Dreizler, Benjamin Giesers

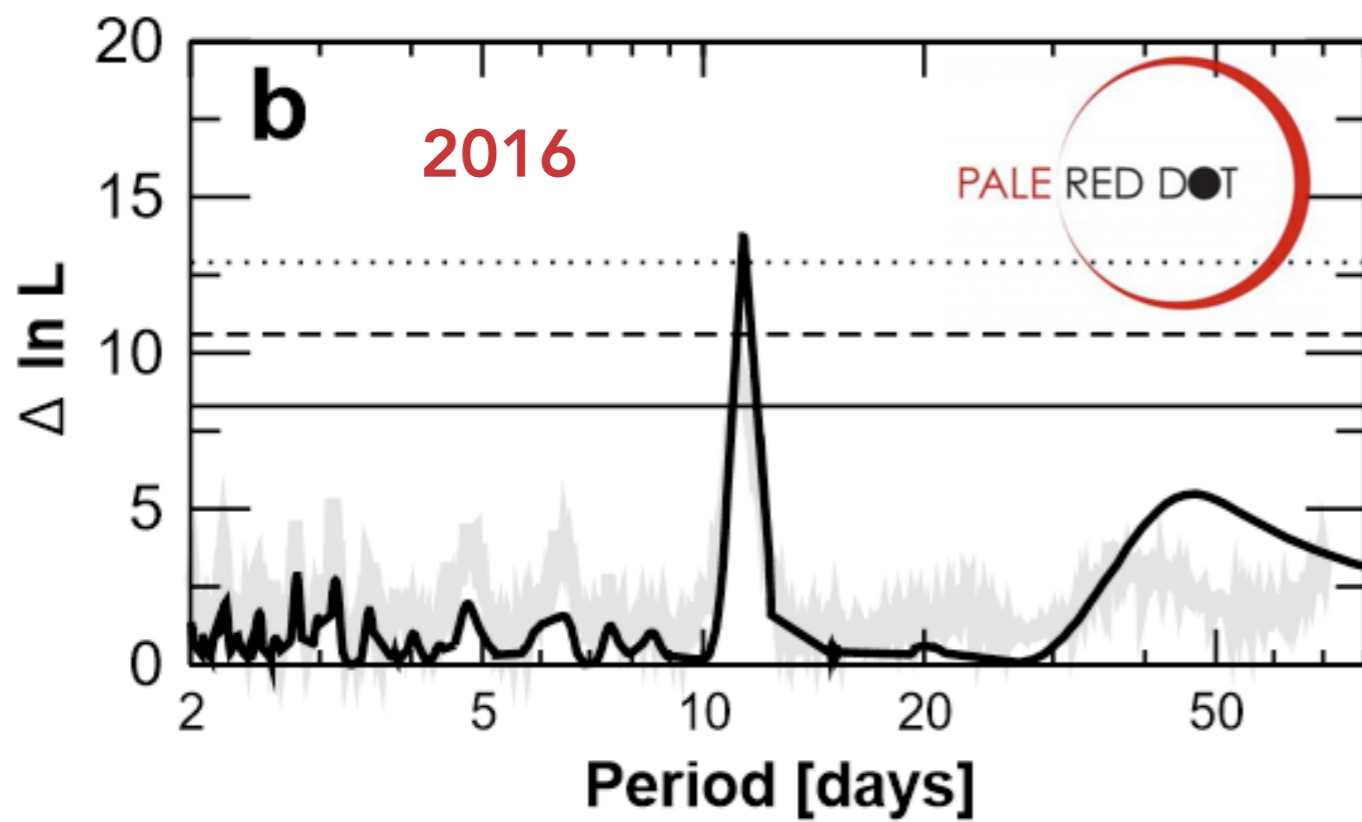
Observers Christopher Marvin, Luis F. Sarmiento



2000-2008 : UVES
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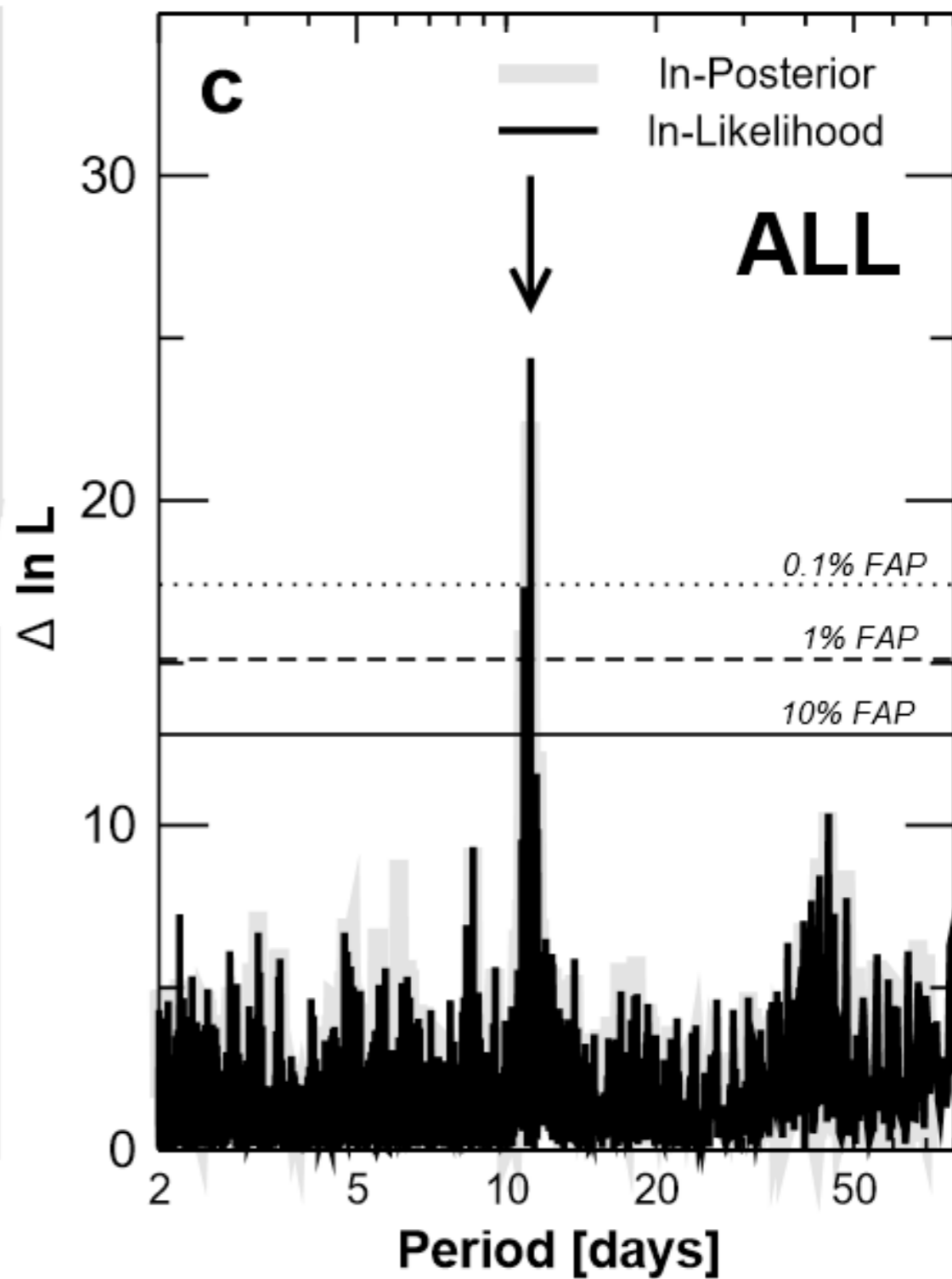
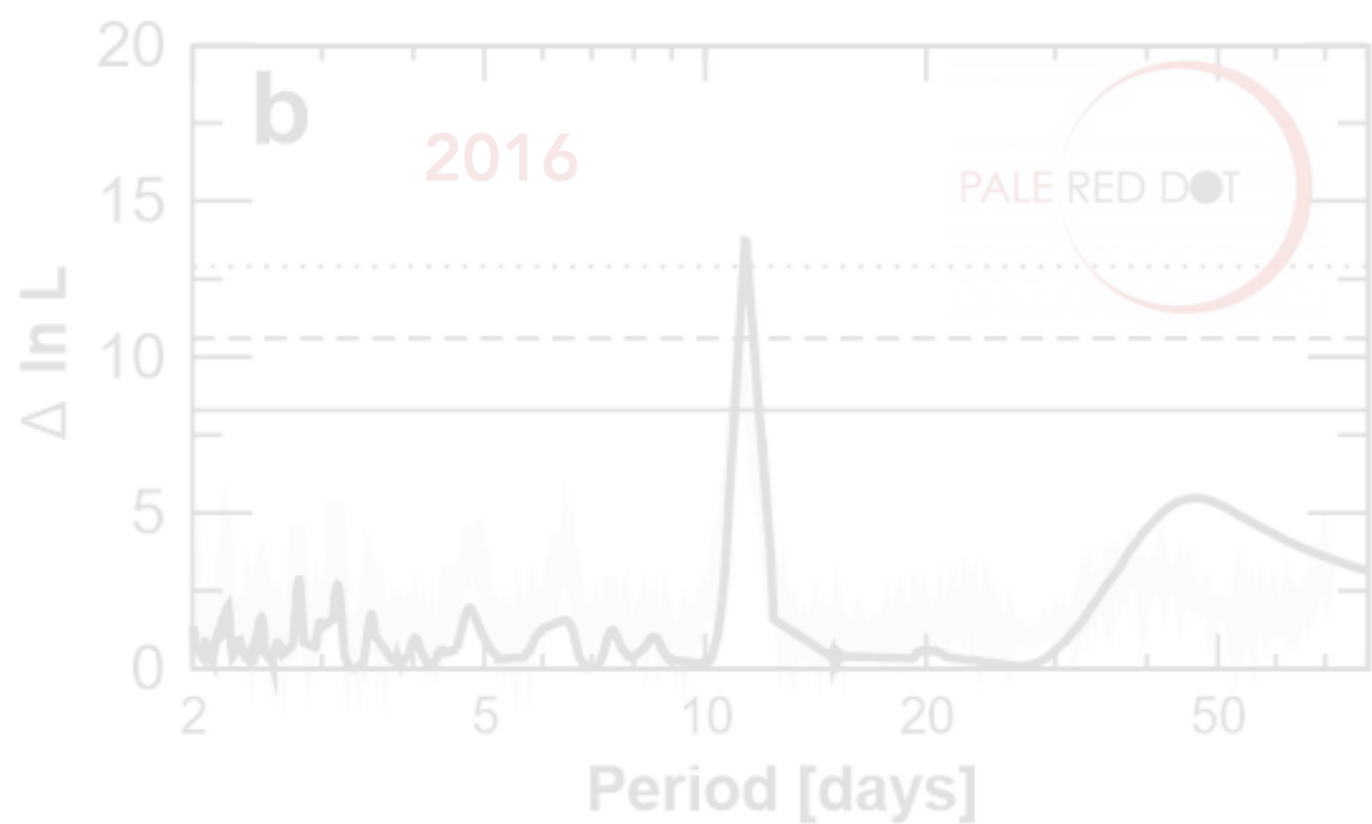
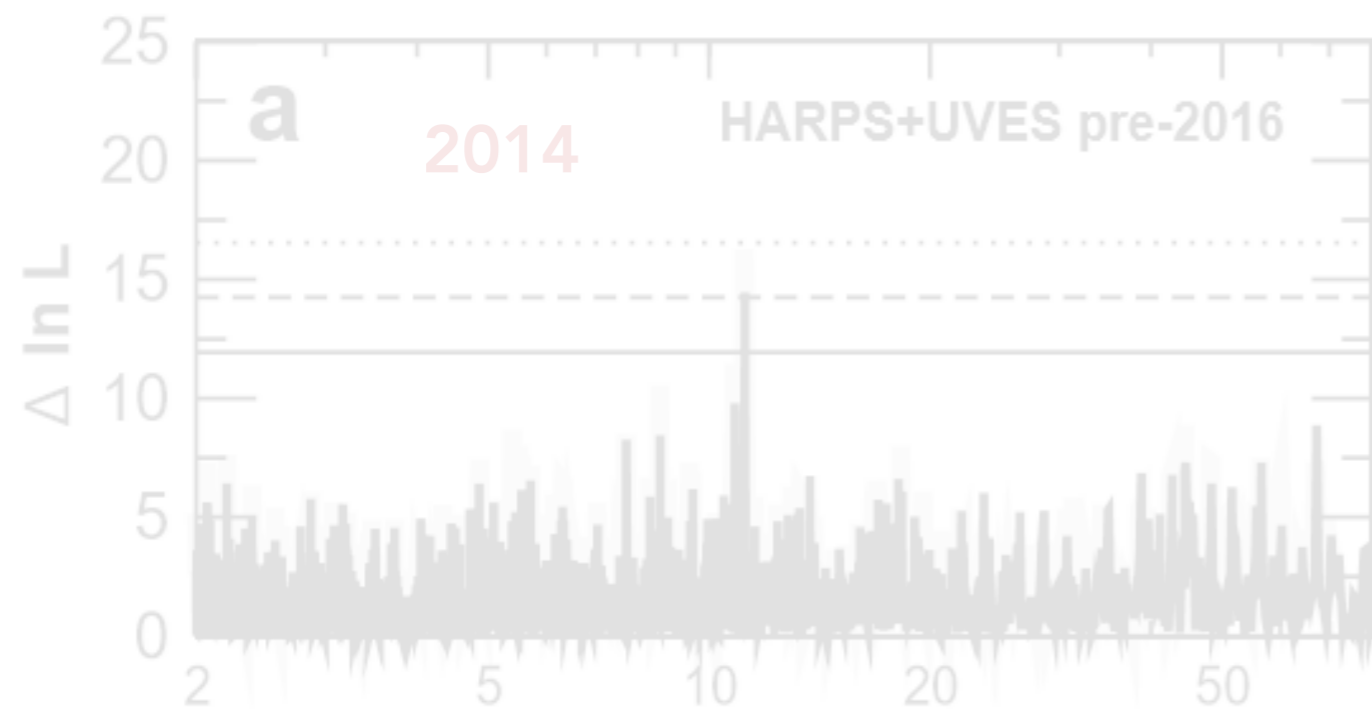
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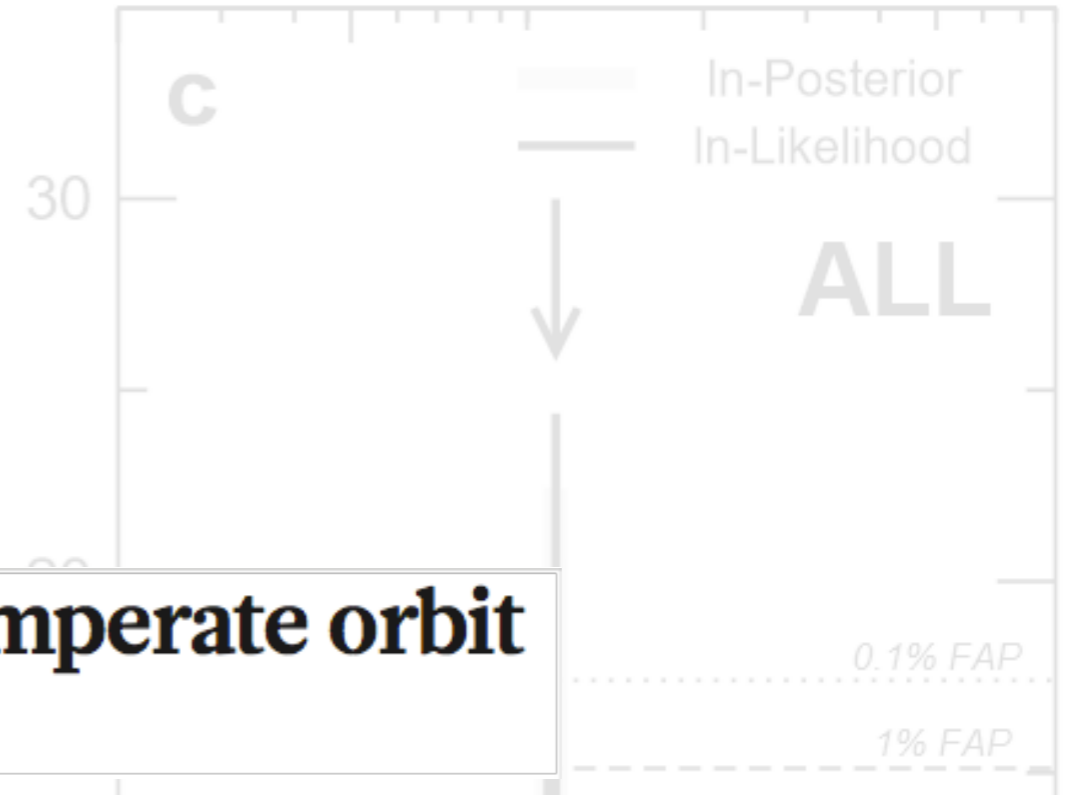
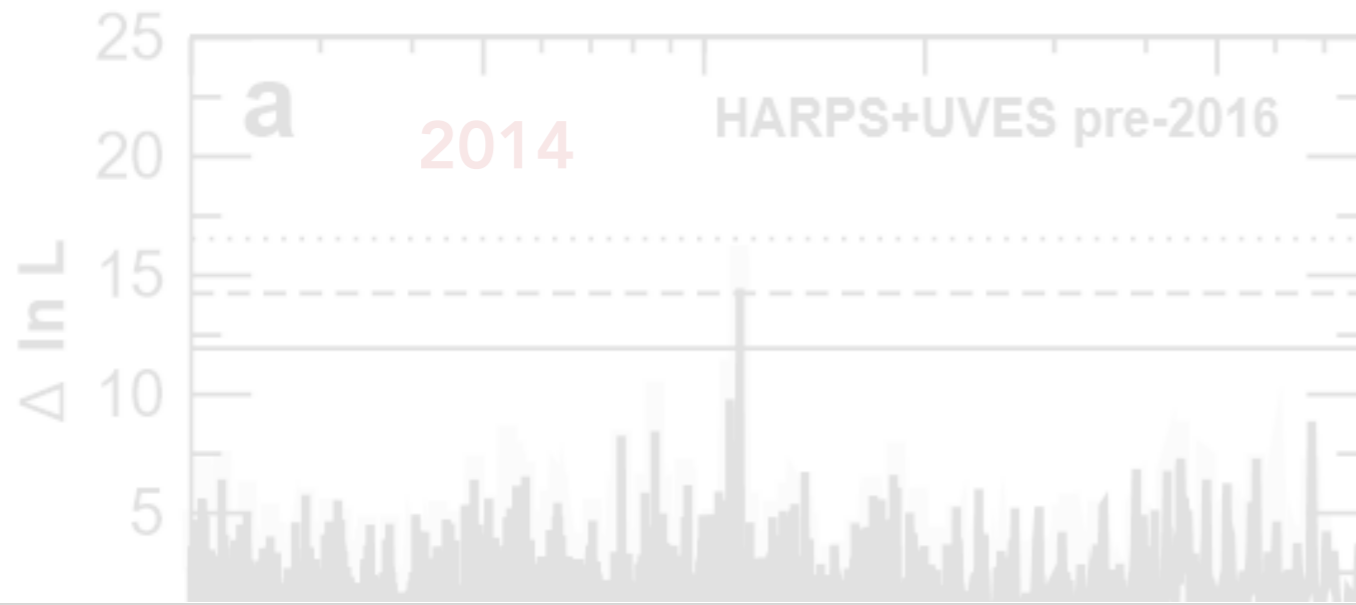
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2016: HARPS-Pale Red Dot

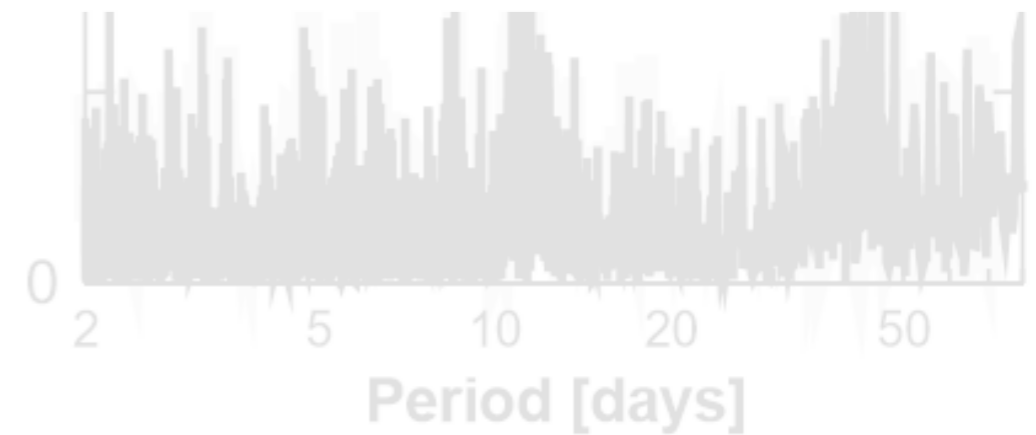
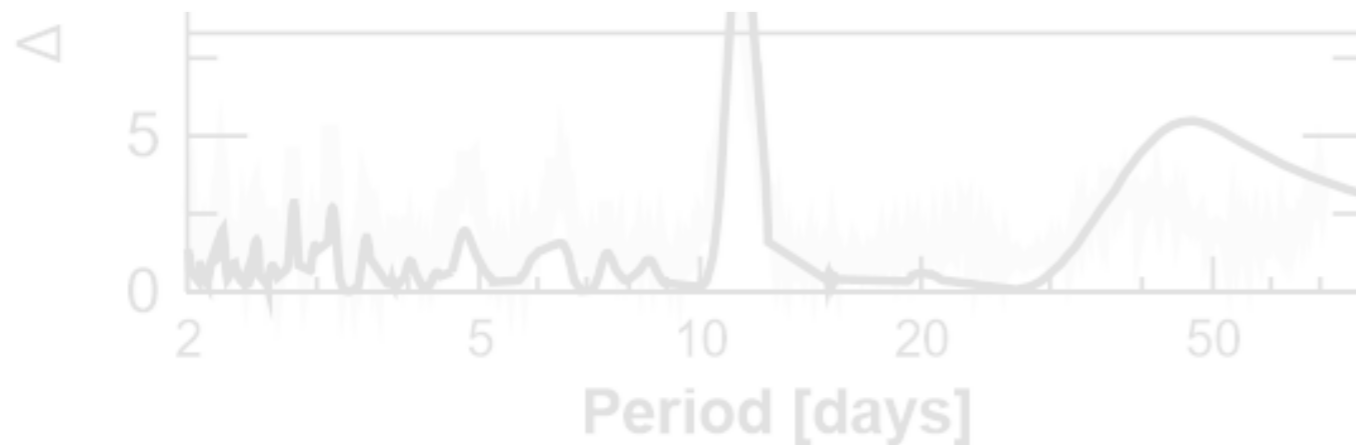
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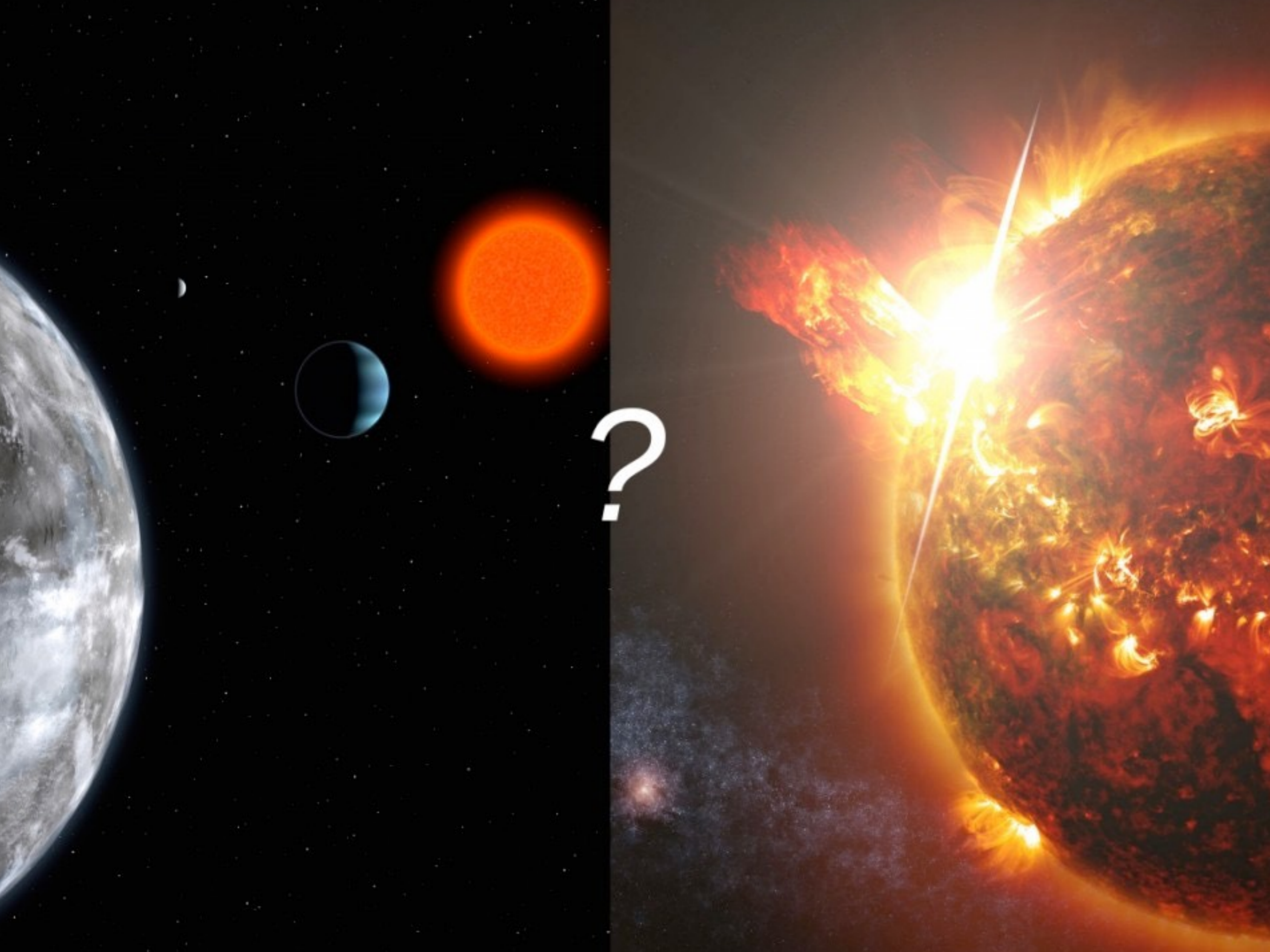




A terrestrial planet candidate in a temperate orbit around Proxima Centauri

Guillem Anglada-Escudé¹, Pedro J. Amado², John Barnes³, Zaira M. Berdiñas², R. Paul Butler⁴, Gavin A. L. Coleman¹, Ignacio de la Cueva⁵, Stefan Dreizler⁶, Michael Endl⁷, Benjamin Giesers⁶, Sandra V. Jeffers⁶, James S. Jenkins⁸, Hugh R. A. Jones⁹, Marcin Kiraga¹⁰, Martin Kürster¹¹, María J. López-González², Christopher J. Marvin⁶, Nicolás Morales², Julien Morin¹², Richard P. Nelson¹, José L. Ortiz², Aviv Ofir¹³, Sijme-Jan Paardekooper¹, Ansgar Reiners⁶, Eloy Rodríguez², Cristina Rodríguez-López², Luis F. Sarmiento⁶, John P. Strachan¹, Yiannis Tsapras¹⁴, Mikko Tuomi⁹ & Mathias Zechmeister⁶







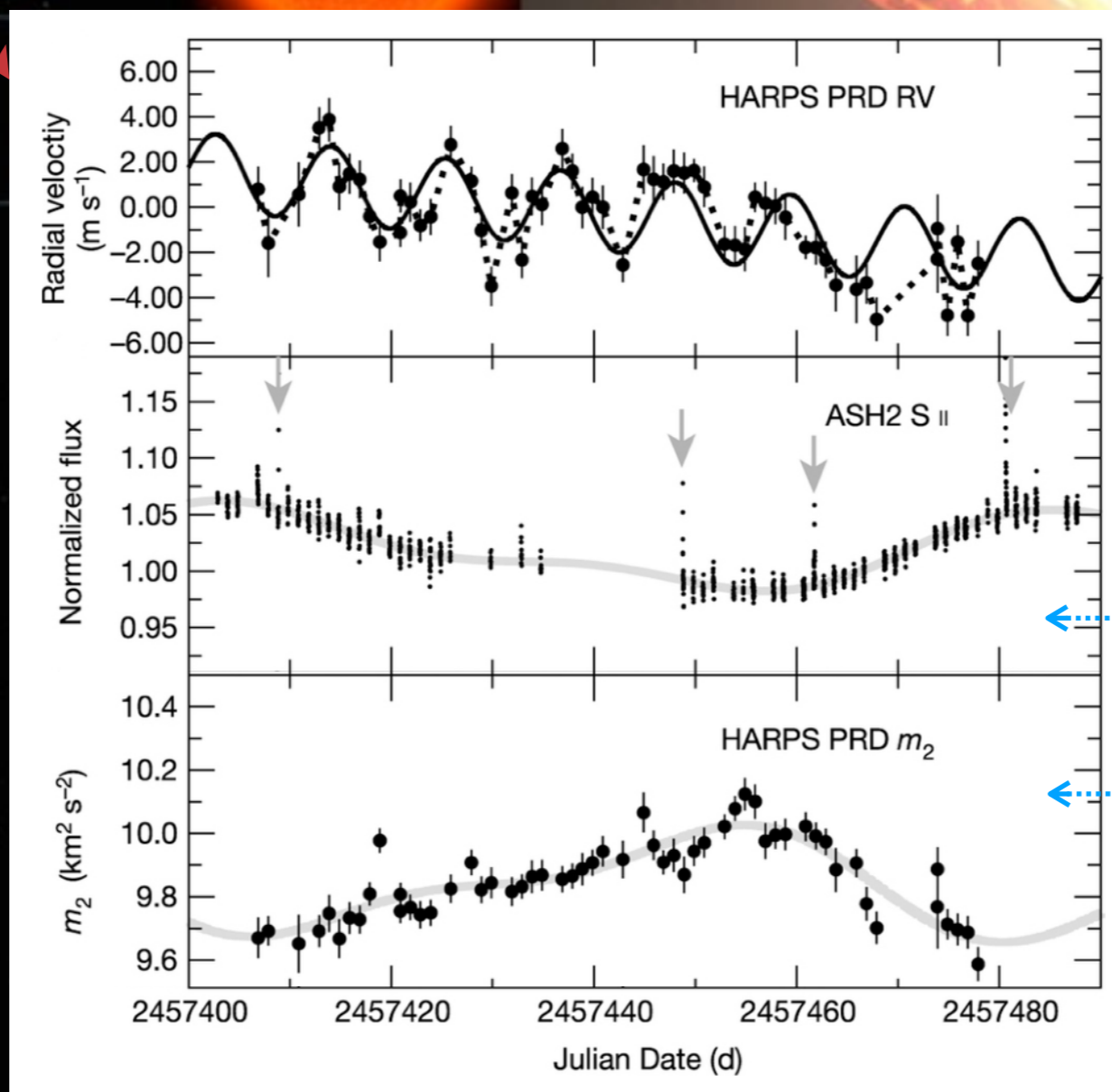
HARPS, La Silla/ESO, Doppler RV



LCOGT.net, Photometry



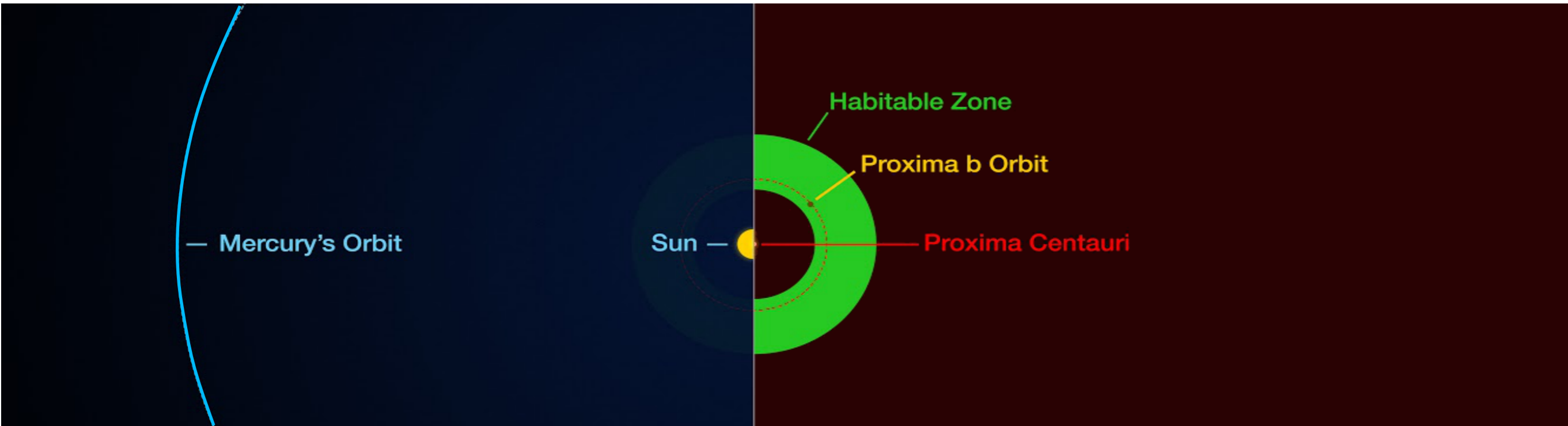
ASH2-SpaceObs, Photometry



m_2 is a spectroscopic measurement which follows the photometry !

See Berdiñas+16

What did we find about **Proxima b** ?



Min Mass $m_p \sin(i) = 1.27 \pm 0.095 M_{\oplus}$
Period $P = 11.186 \pm 0.0015$ days
eccentricity < 0.35

semi-major axis $a = 0.0485 \pm 0.0046$ au
Irradiance 65% compared to Earth
Eq Temp. $T = 234 \pm 10$ K

HABITABLE ZONE \neq HABITABLE PLANET

The habitability recipe



- 1. Be at the right distance from the star** —> Yes! It is... now.
- 2. Have initial reservoirs of water** —> ?
- 3. Have an atmosphere** —> If exists... can it keep it?
- 4. Have a magnetic field** —> Would it be strong enough?
- 5. Be a terrestrial planet** —> The orbit inclination is needed.

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5. Be a terrestrial planet \rightarrow The orbit inclination is needed.

Ribas+16 \rightarrow "Proxima b is likely to have lost less than an Earth ocean's worth of hydrogen (EO_H) before it reached the HZ 100-200 Myr after its formation."

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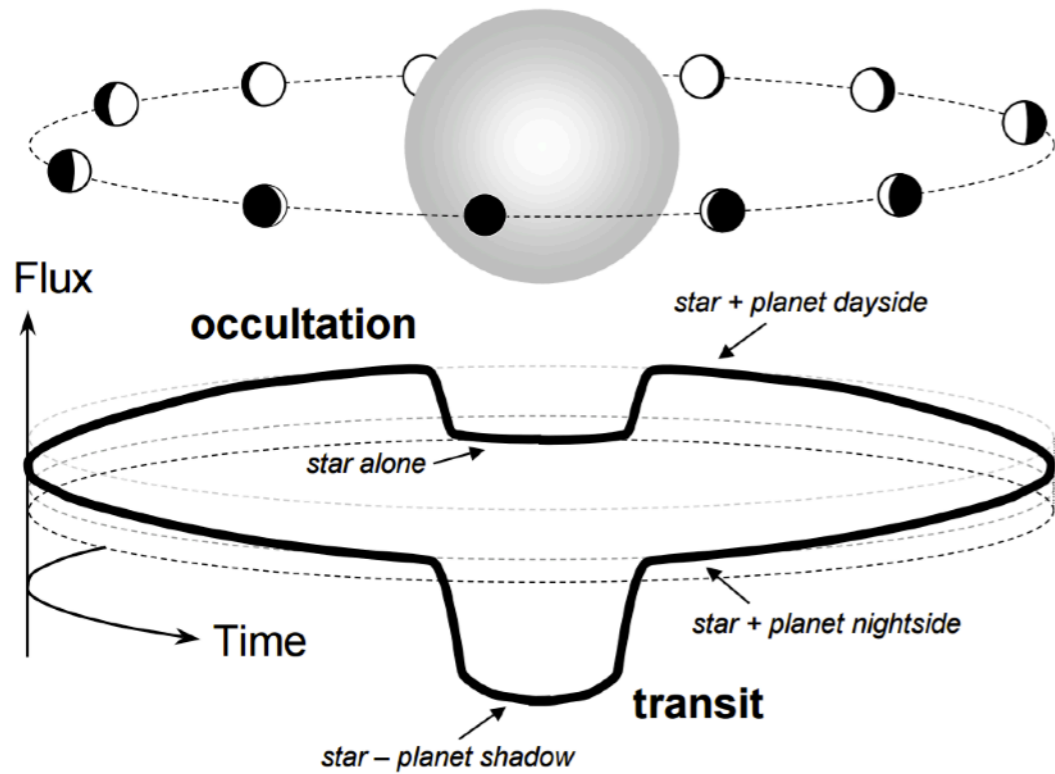
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2. Have initial reservoirs of water —> ?
3. Have an atmosphere —> If exists... can it keep it?
4. Have a magnetic field —> Would it be strong enough?
5. **Be a terrestrial planet** —> The orbit inclination is needed.

How to get the **orbit inclination**



→ From **transits**: R_p , $i \Rightarrow m_p$ [extra: Atm]

- **Three** non-conclusive candidate transits:

1. **MOST** (Kipping+16)

2. **BSST in Antarctic** (Liu+18)

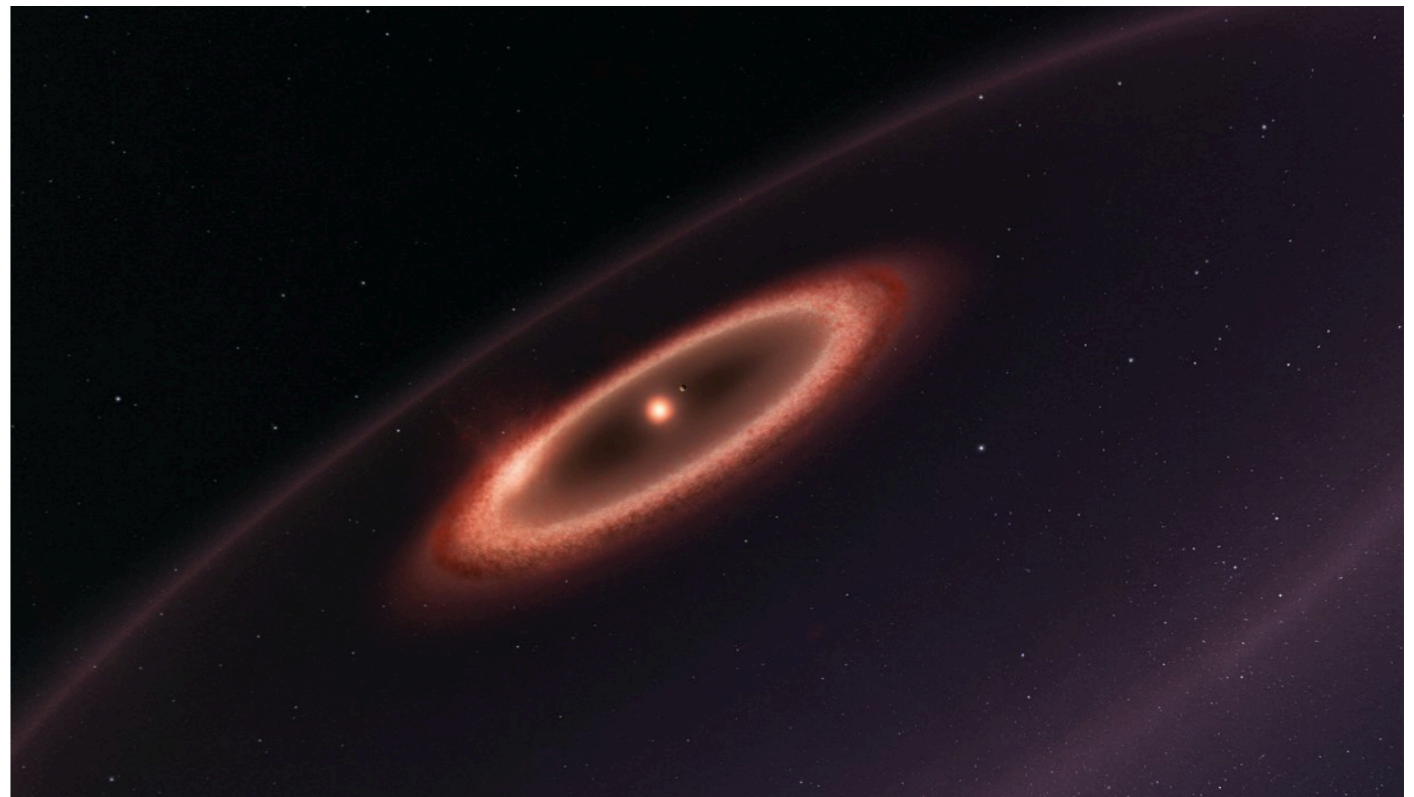
3. **Las Campanas Observatory** (Li+17)

- Likely require nIR (e.g. **Spitzer**) to suppress flaring

See poster by Nicolás Kurtovic

→ Search for a **debris disk**: $i \Rightarrow m_p$
[extra: system dust structure]

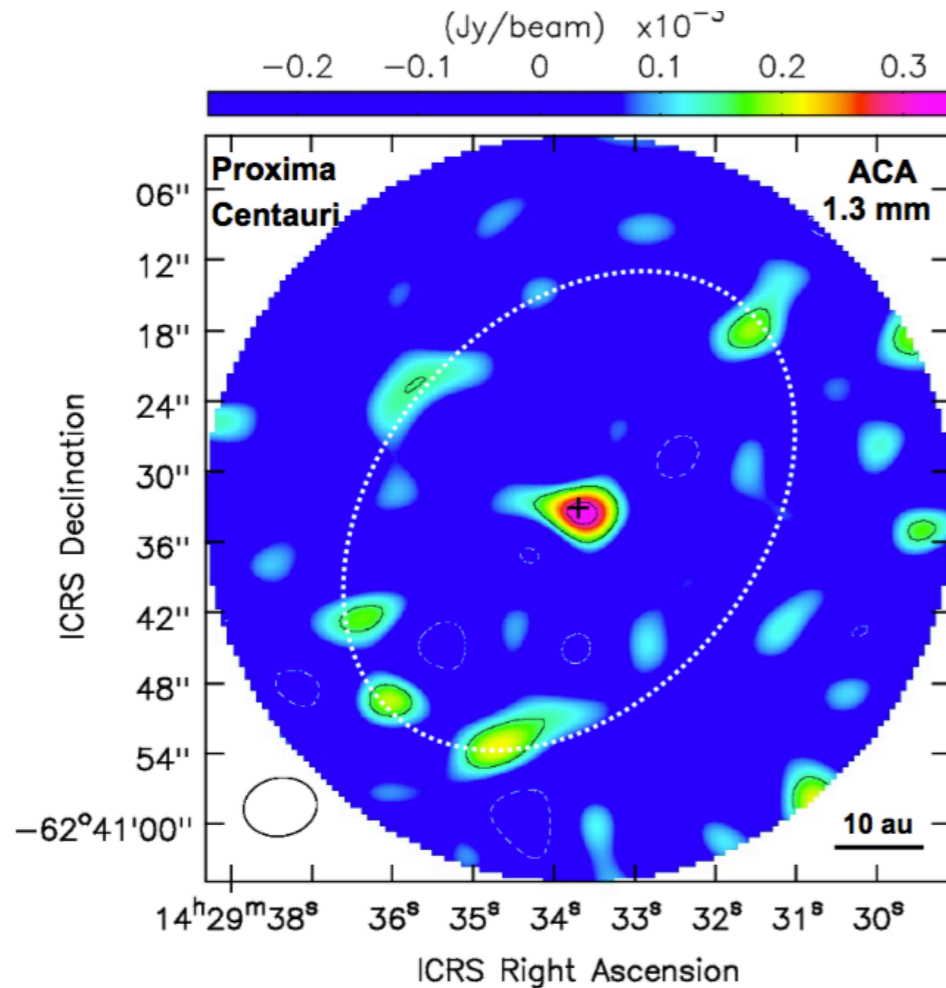
→ **ALMA!**



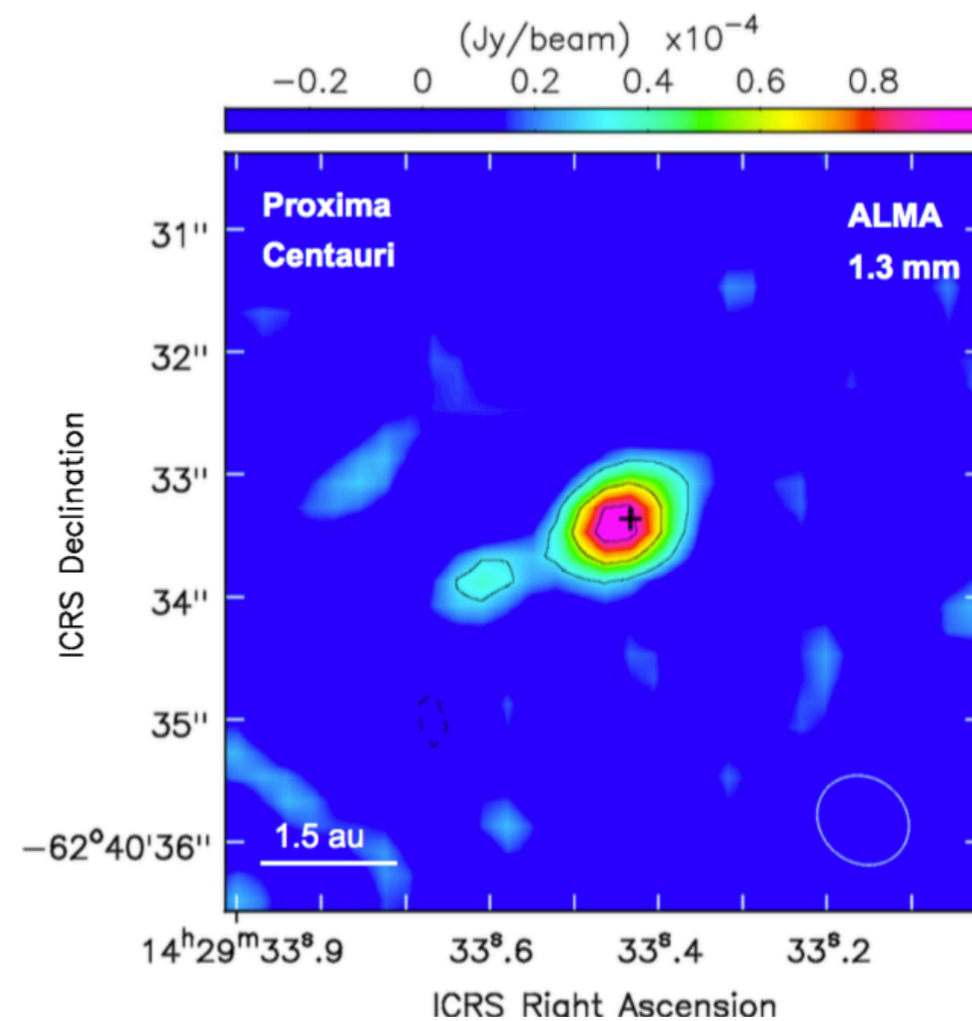
ALMA DISCOVERY OF DUST BELTS AROUND PROXIMA CENTAURI

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 CRISTINA RODRÍGUEZ-LÓPEZ,¹ AND ELOY RODRIGUEZ¹

ACA => 13 epochs x ~1.6h (21/1/-24/3/2017)



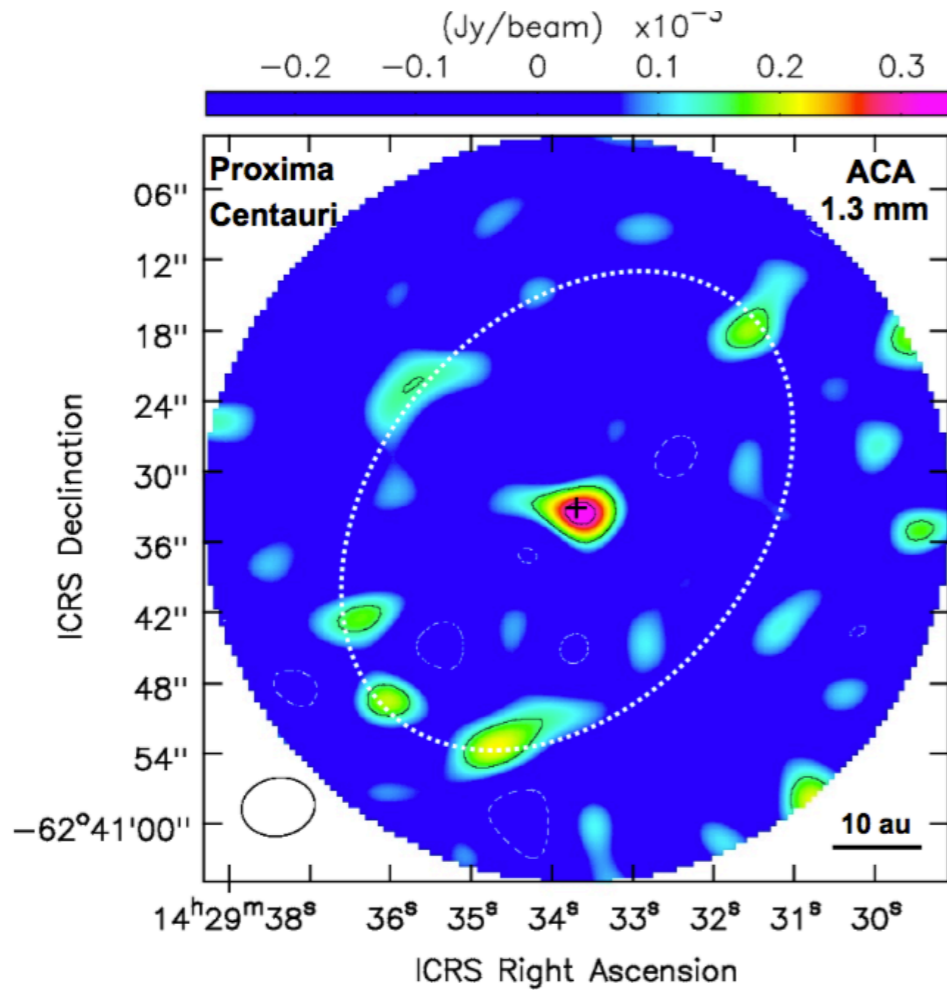
ALMA=>1 epoch x ~2.6h (25/4/2017)



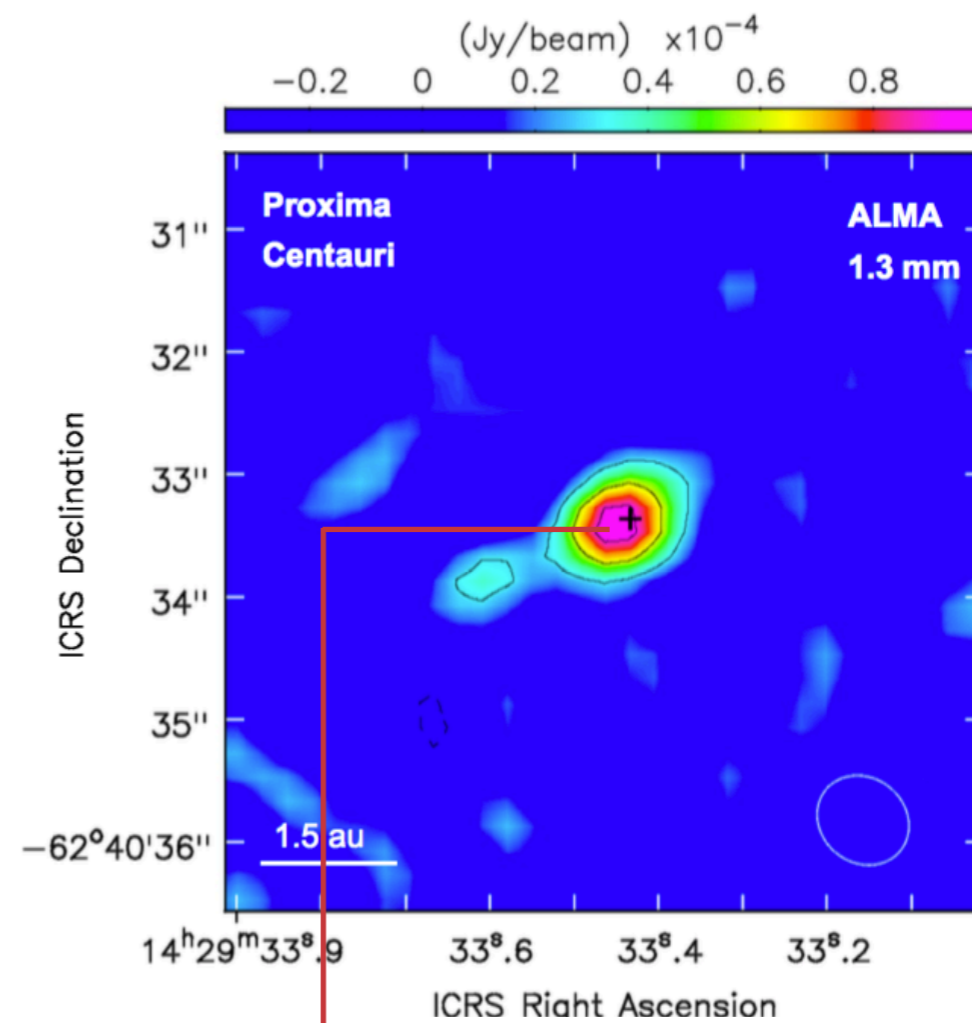
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106 ± 12 μJy (>9σ)

↓
74 ± 4 μJy
expected thermal
emission from the star

~30 μJy

warm dust,
r~0.4 au (2)

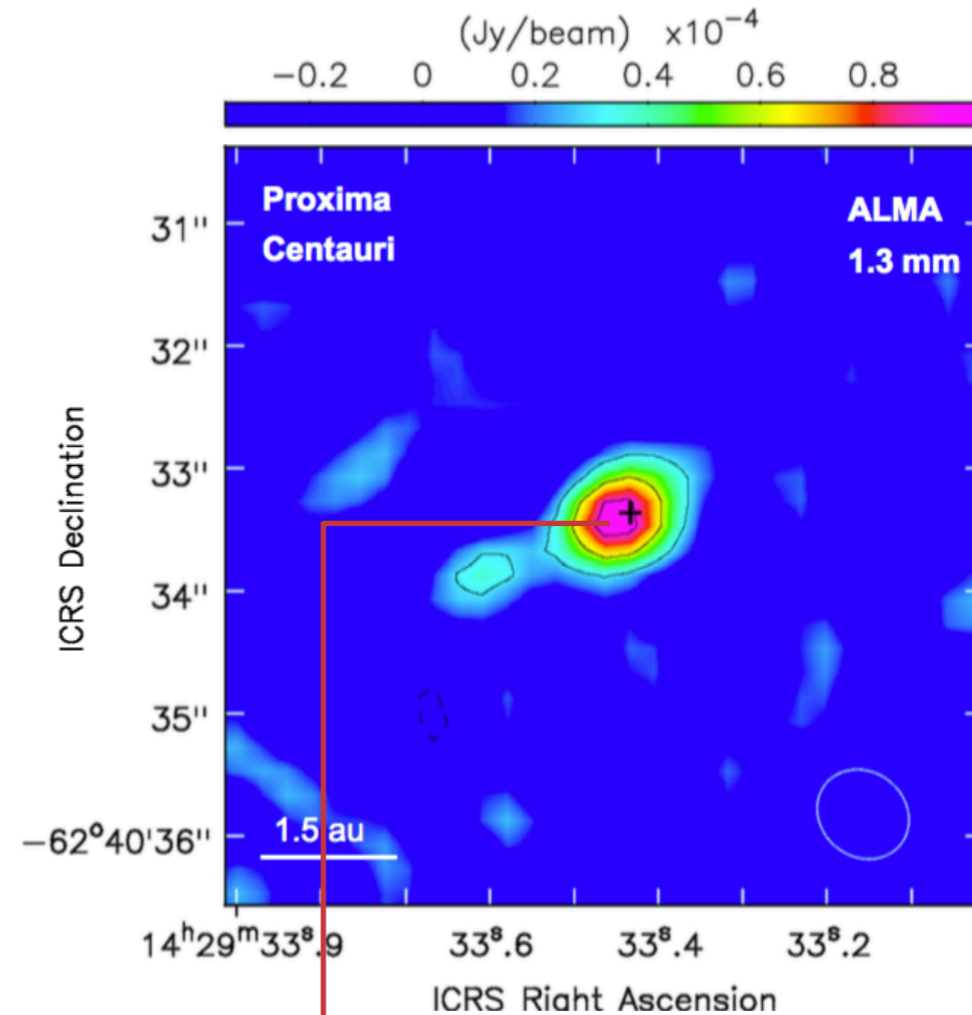
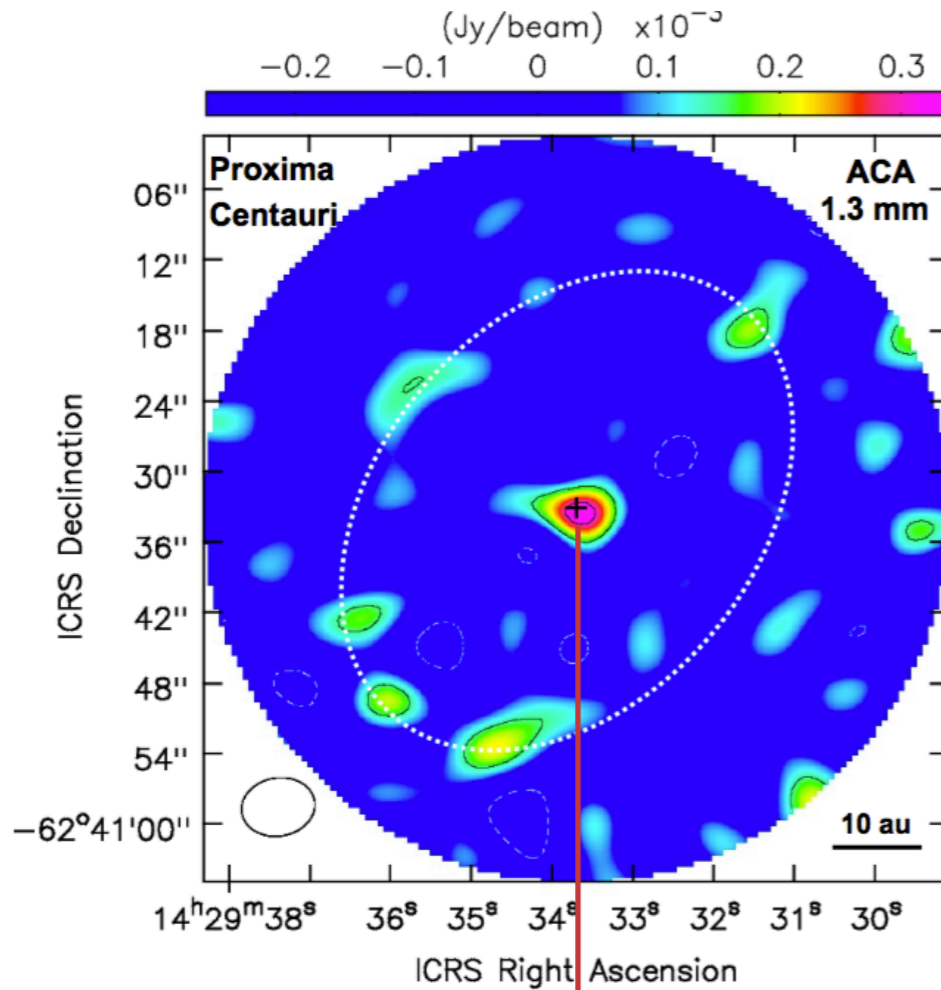
Talk by S.
Marino

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340 ± 60 μJy (>6σ)

106 ± 12 μJy (>9σ)

~270 μJy
cold belt, r~1-4au (4)

74 ± 4 μJy
expected thermal emission from the star

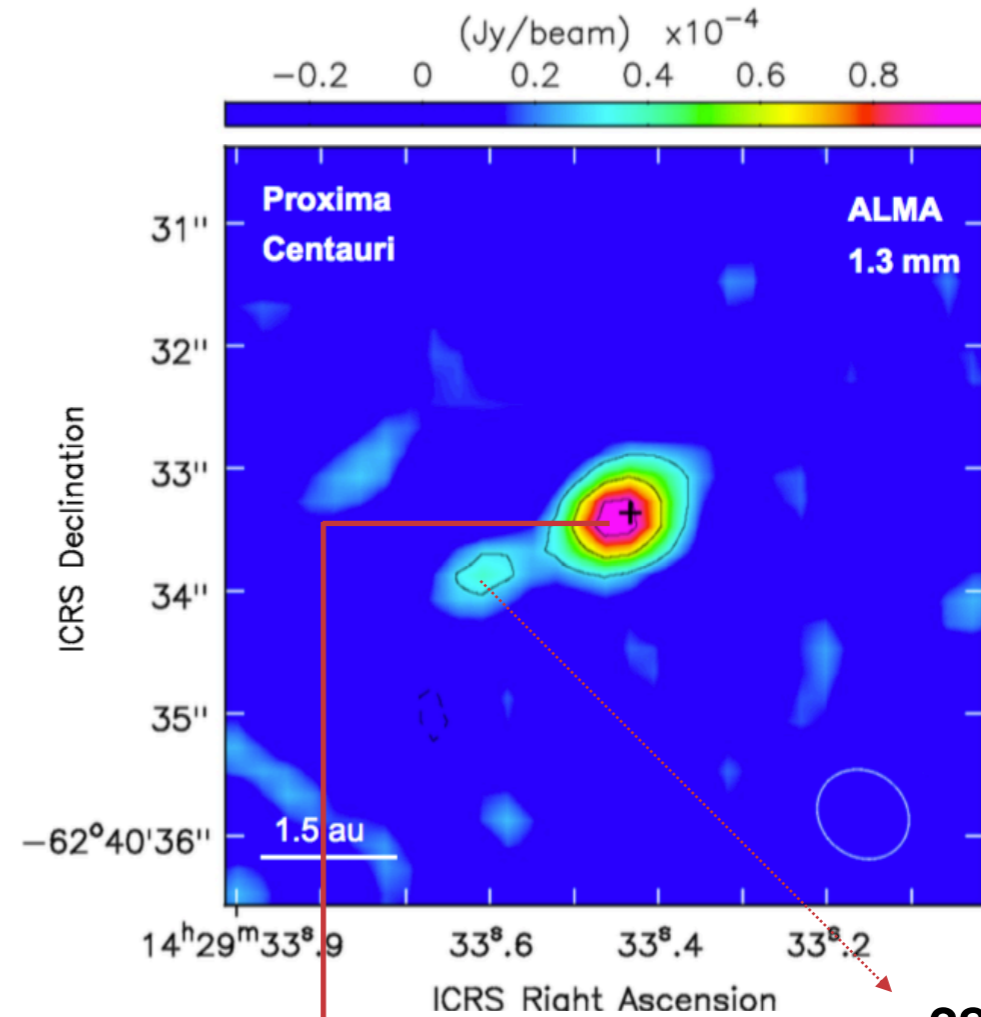
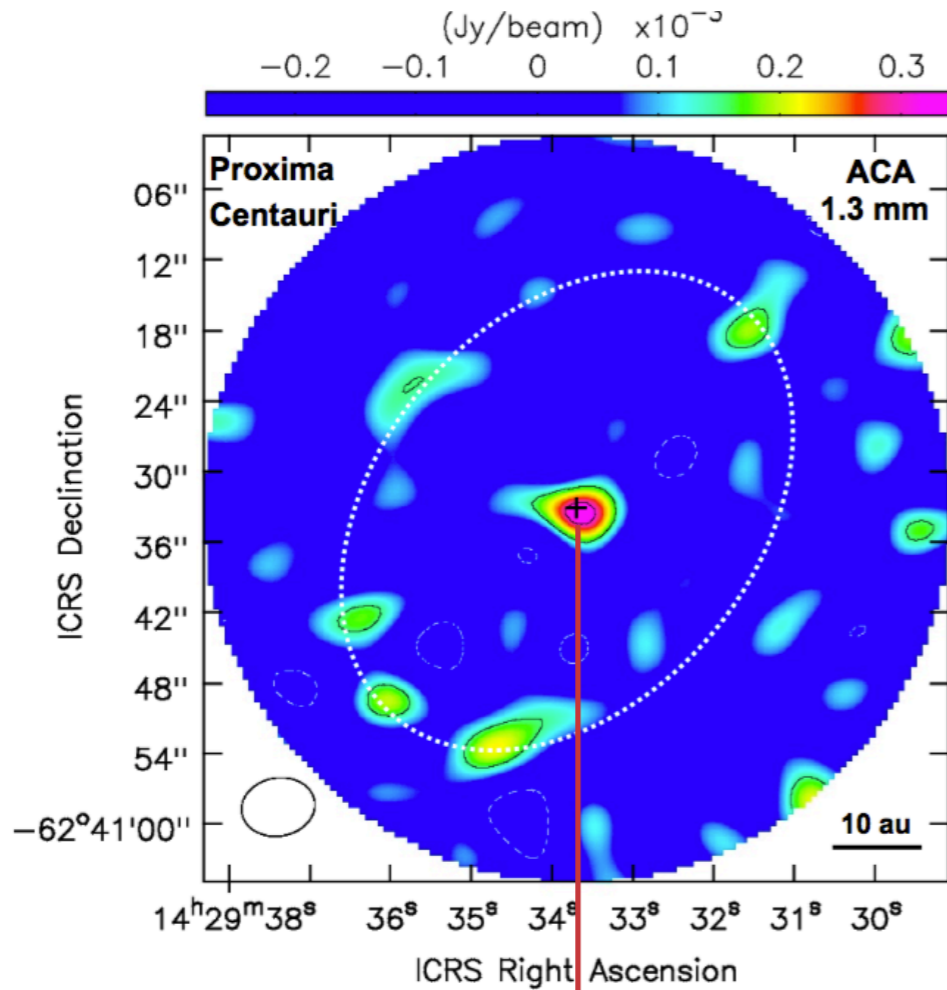
~30 μJy
warm dust, r~0.4 au (2)

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340 ± 60 μJy (>6σ)

106 ± 12 μJy (>9σ)

~270 μJy
cold belt, r~1-4au (4)

74 ± 4 μJy
expected thermal emission from the star

~30 μJy
warm dust, r~0.4 au (2)

38 ± 10 μJy (>3σ)

Unknown source, r~1.6 au (3)

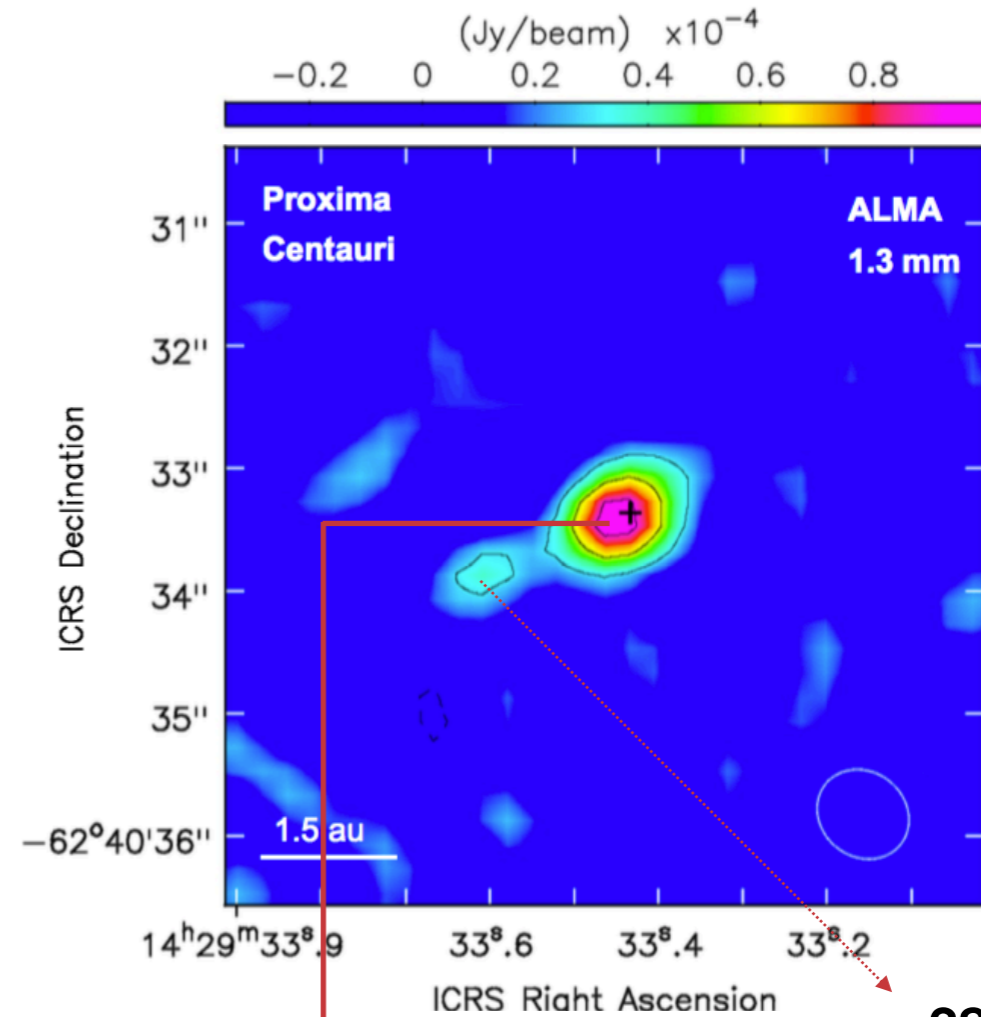
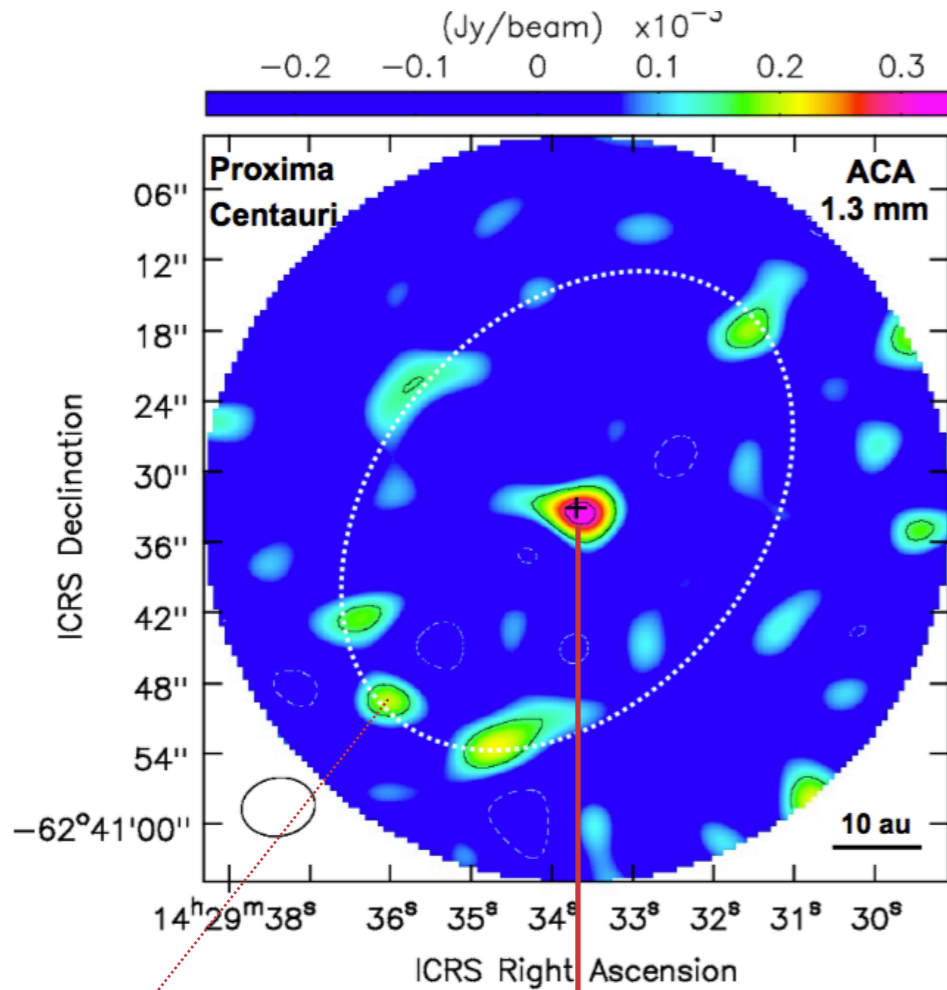
noise, trojans, planet ring, backg. source, collision residuals

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~1.7 mJy
 (>3σ, *i*~45°)
 outer belt?, *r*~30au (5)

340 ±60 μJy (>6σ)

106 ±12 μJy (>9σ)

~270 μJy
 cold belt, *r*~1-4au (4)

74 ±4 μJy
 expected thermal
 emission from the star

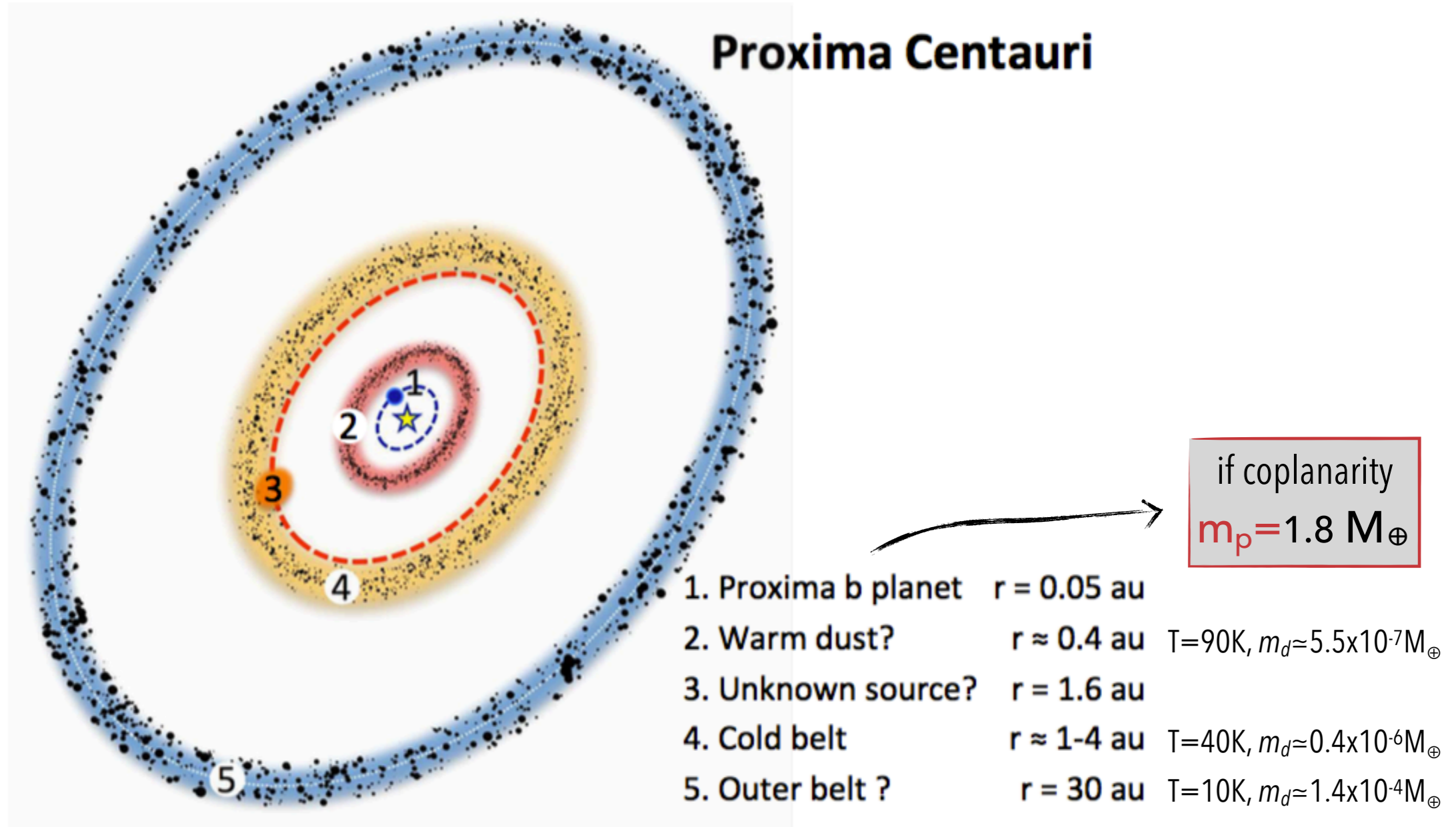
~30 μJy
 warm dust,
r~0.4 au (2)

38 ±10 μJy (>3σ)
 Unknown source,
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noise, trojans,
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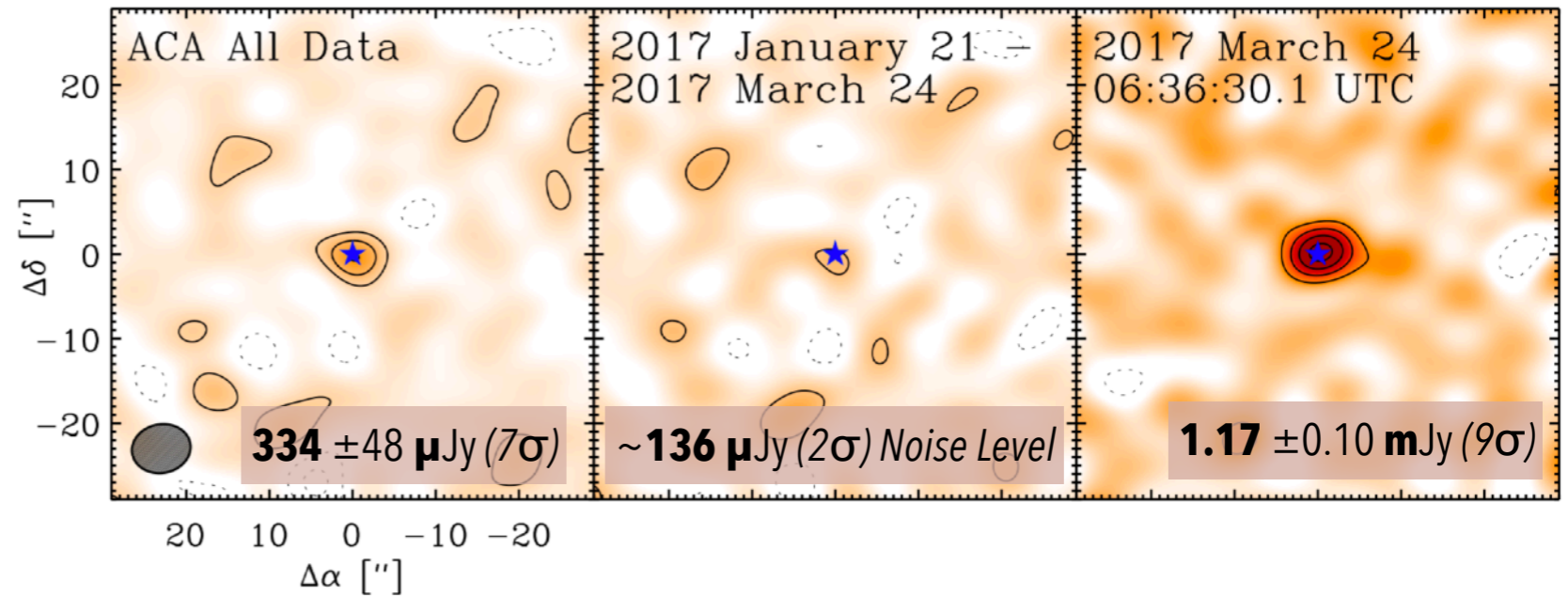
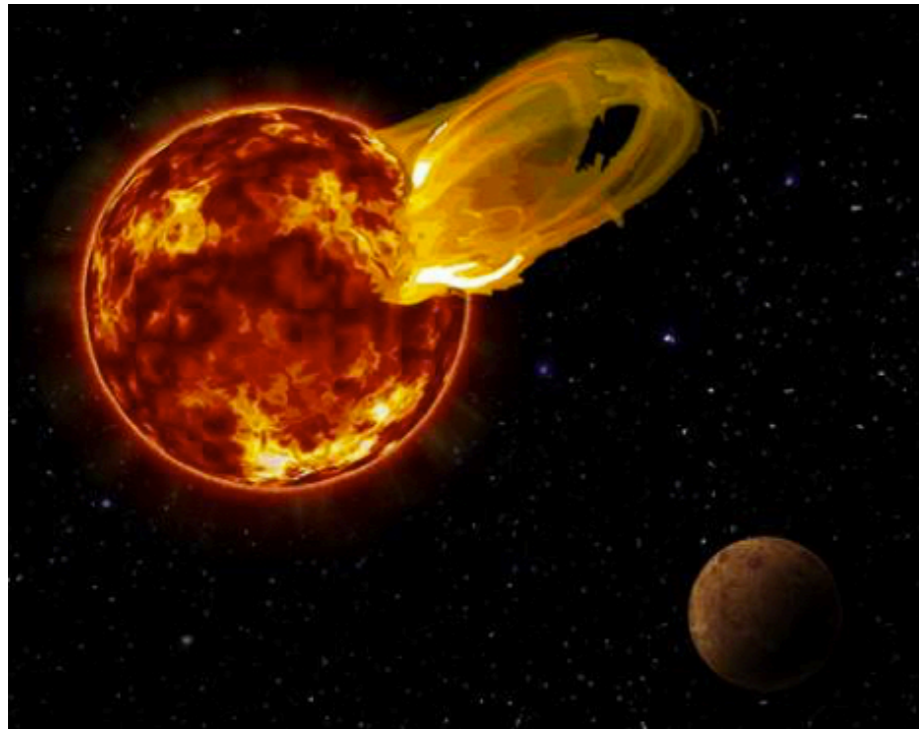
Nov 2017

ALMA DISCOVERY OF DUST BELTS AROUND PROXIMA CENTAURI

Feb 2018

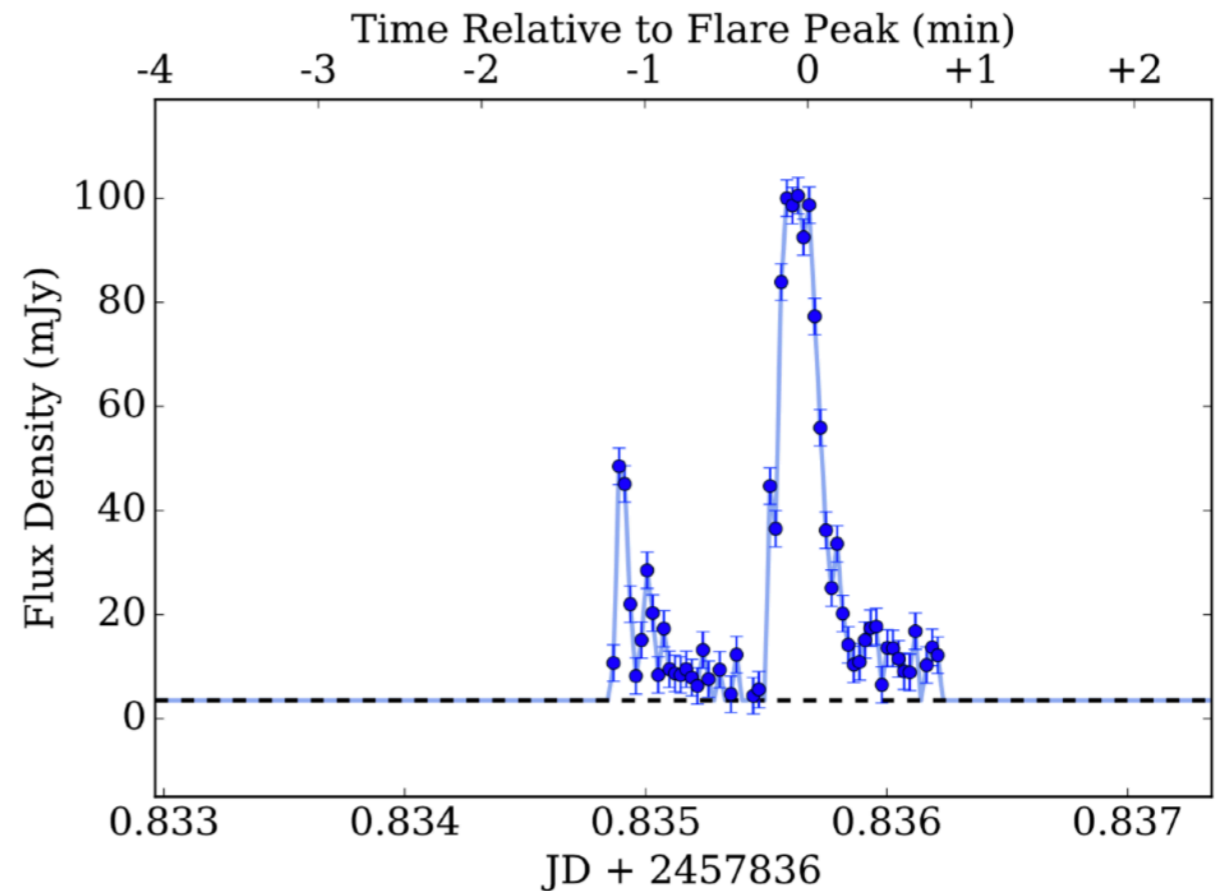
DETECTION OF A MILLIMETER FLARE FROM PROXIMA CENTAURI

MEREDITH A. MACGREGOR^{1,2}, ALYCIA J. WEINBERGER¹, DAVID J. WILNER³, ADAM F. KOWALSKI^{4,5}, STEVEN R. CRANMER⁴



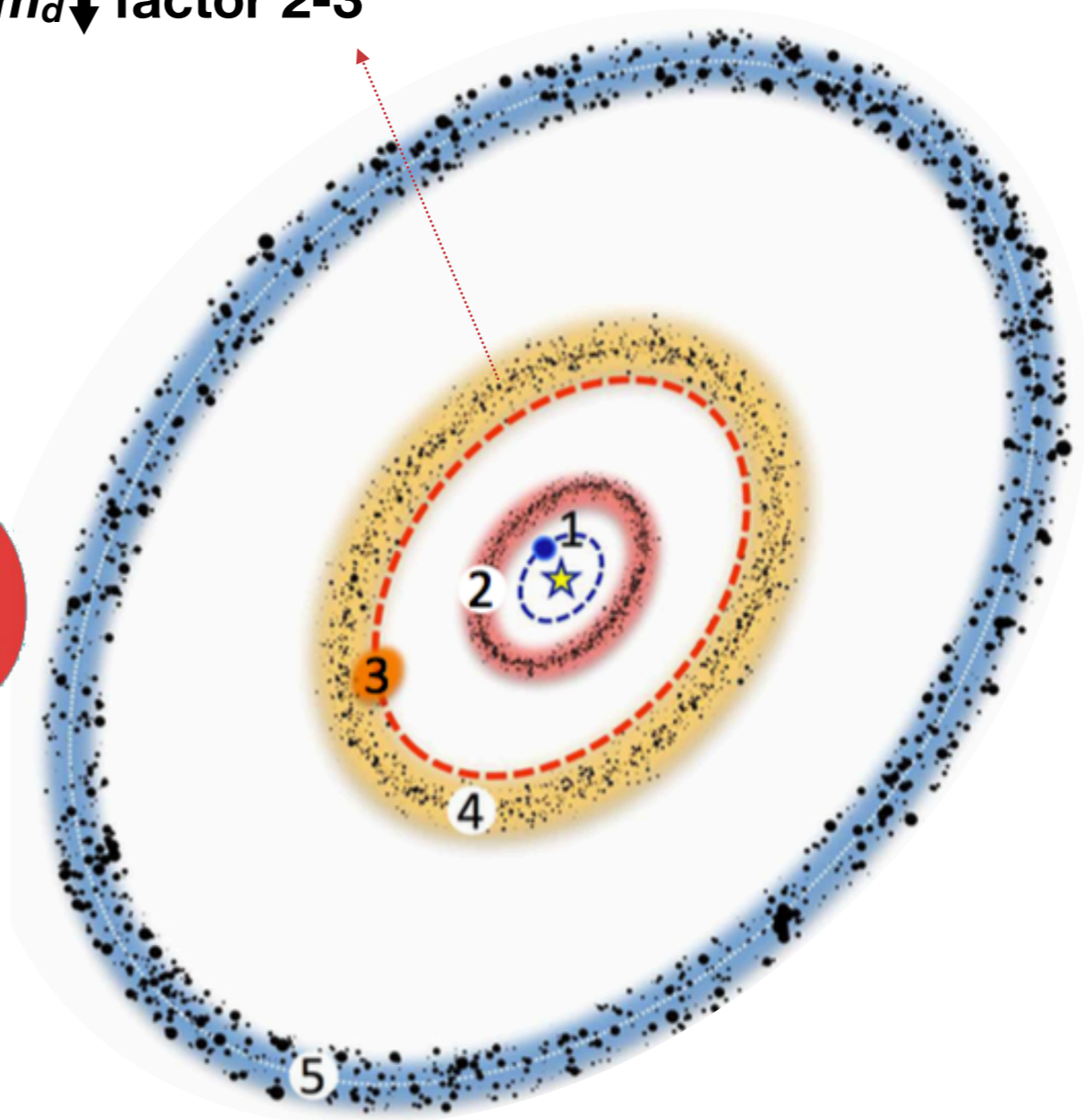
strong flare event
 $t_{\text{span}} \sim 1 \text{ min}$
 $\sim 1000\times$ the quiet star flux

new flaring regime!



$m_d \downarrow$ factor 2-3

This is how
**Science moves
forward**

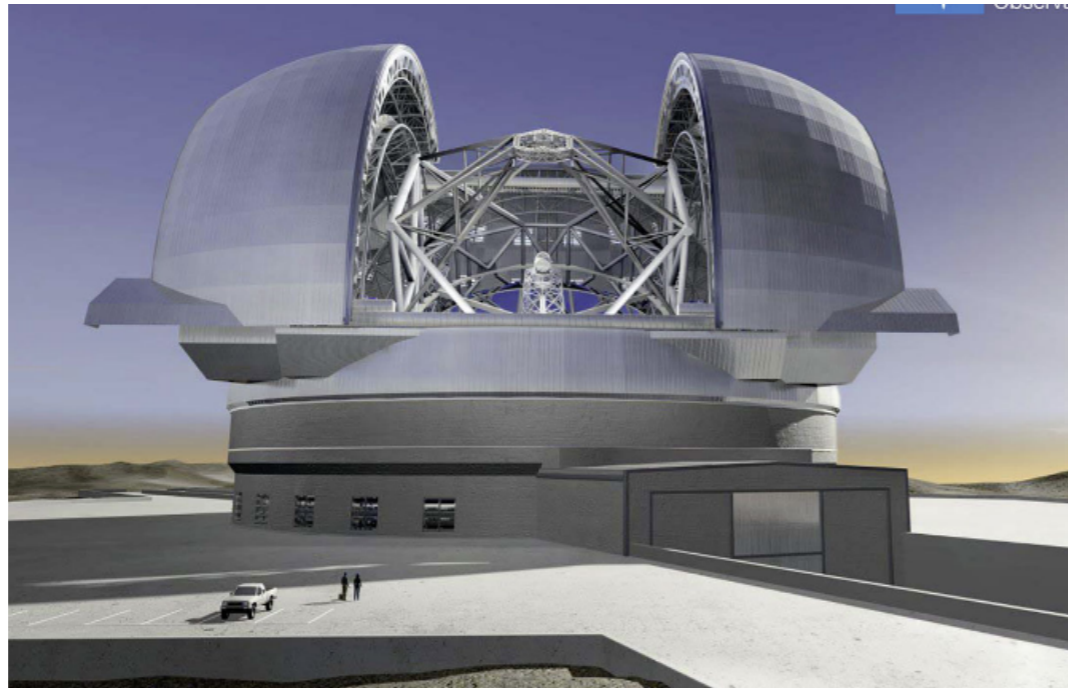


Good news is :

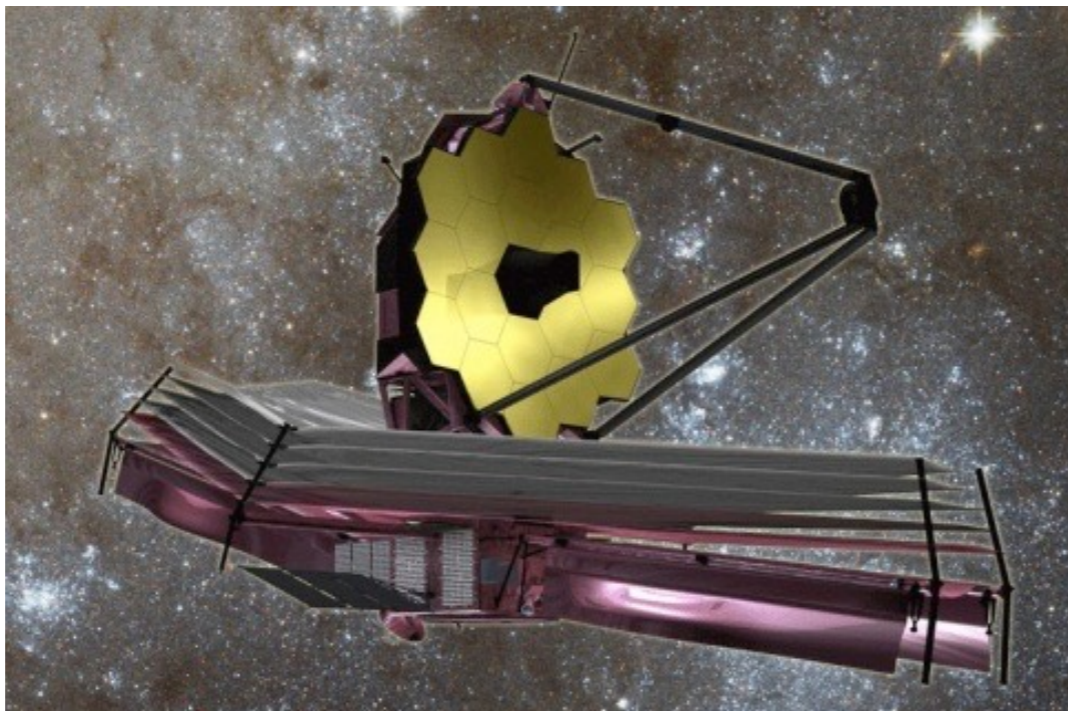
ALMA should be able to detect the disk with longer integrations.

more data is needed!

Next 2-10 years



ELT (39 m)



JWST/NASA
(6.5 m)

Atmospheric characterization will be possible via **direct imaging** with the forthcoming telescopes



The angular separation of $7\lambda/D$ at $1\ \mu\text{m}$ (with the E-ELT) and a contrast of $\sim 10^{-7}$ => will enable **high-resolution spectroscopy** and the search for *molecular signatures*, including H₂O, O₂, CO₂...



The observation of *thermal phase curves* can be attempted with JWST with a contrast of 2×10^{-5} at $10\ \mu\text{m}$.

CONCLUSIONS

We need **more observables to constrain the habitability models** of Proxima b

The activity related events on red dwarfs would be (and are) the main limiting factor to constrain and find planetary systems. **We need better stellar activity models!!**

The Proxima Centauri system is an **ideal target** to test the **models developed for the Solar System.**