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# Giant planets around low-mass stars

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a challenge for  
core accretion theory

**Martin Schlecker**  
(MPIA Heidelberg)

and **Remo Burn** (MPIA), **Silvia Sabotta** (LSW Heidelberg), **Antonia Seifert** (Uni Heidelberg), **Thomas Henning** (MPIA), **Alexandre Emsenhuber** (USM Munich), **Christoph Mordasini** (University of Bern), **Sabine Reffert** (LSW Heidelberg), **Yutong Shan** (Uni Göttingen), **Hubert Klahr** (MPIA)

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, G. Bacon (STScI)

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Can planet formation theory\*  
reproduce the giant planet  
detections as a function of  $M_{\star}$ ?

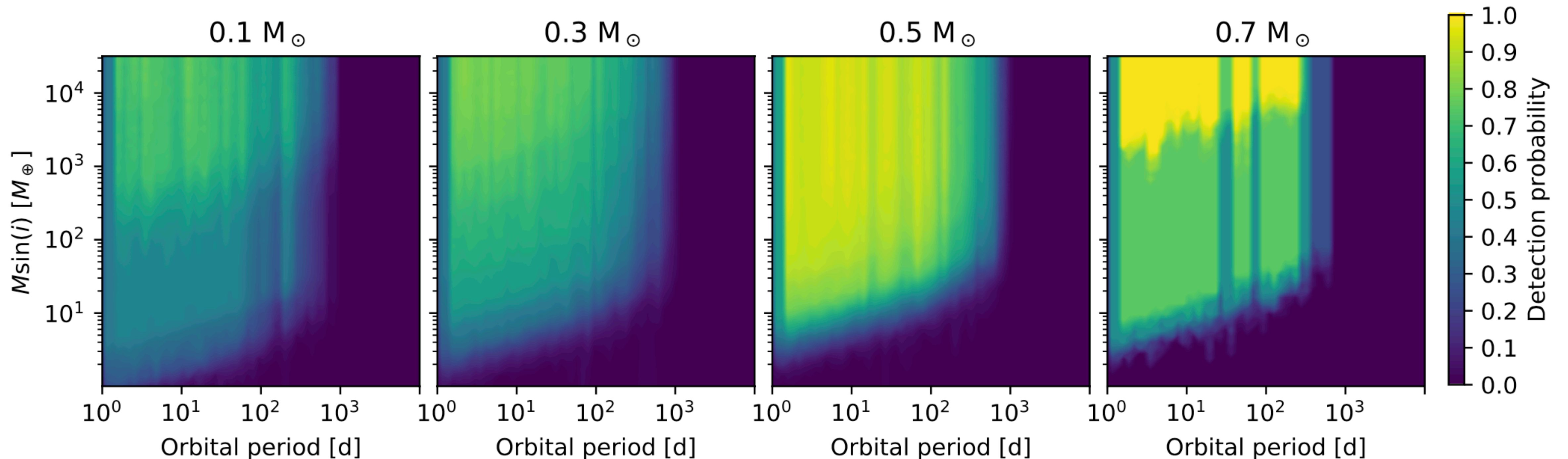
\* core accretion

# The planet sample: observed

combine HARPS (*Bonfils+2013*) and CARMENES (*Quirrenbach+2010, Reiners+2018*) M-dwarf surveys

↳ “HARPS&CARM70” survey: 148 stars, 35 planets

**Detection bias:** injection&retrieval of planets into original RV time series (*Sabotta+2021*)

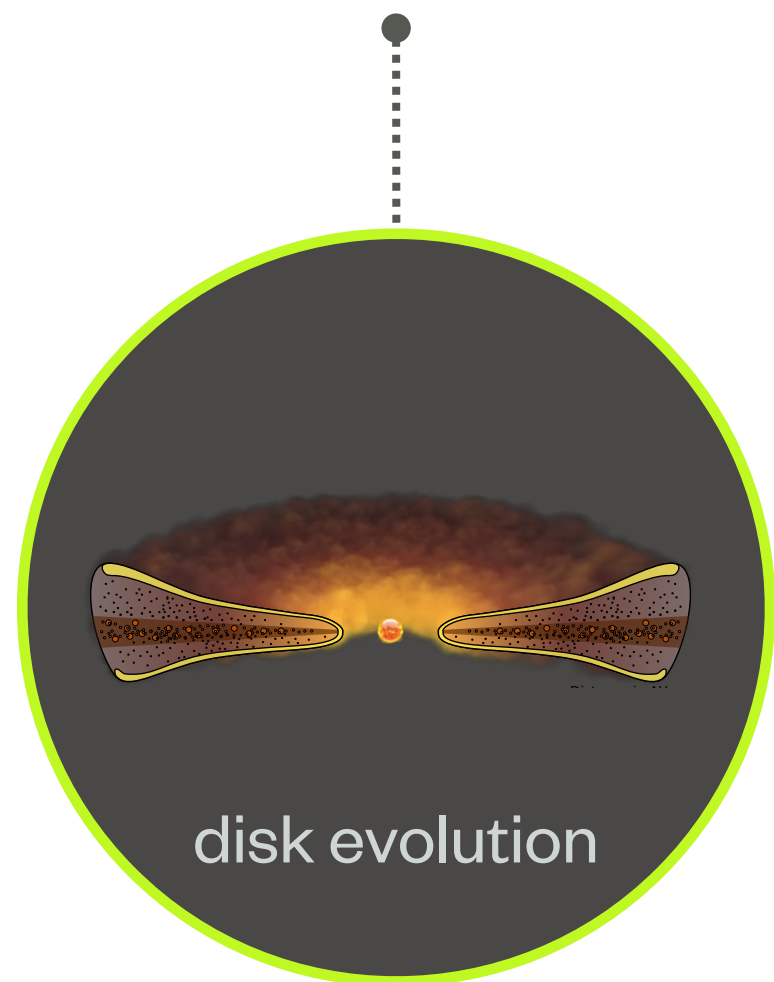


# Multi-planet formation & evolution model

*Alibert+2005; Mordasini+2009, 2012, 2016; Emsenhuber+2020a,b; Schlecker+2020a*

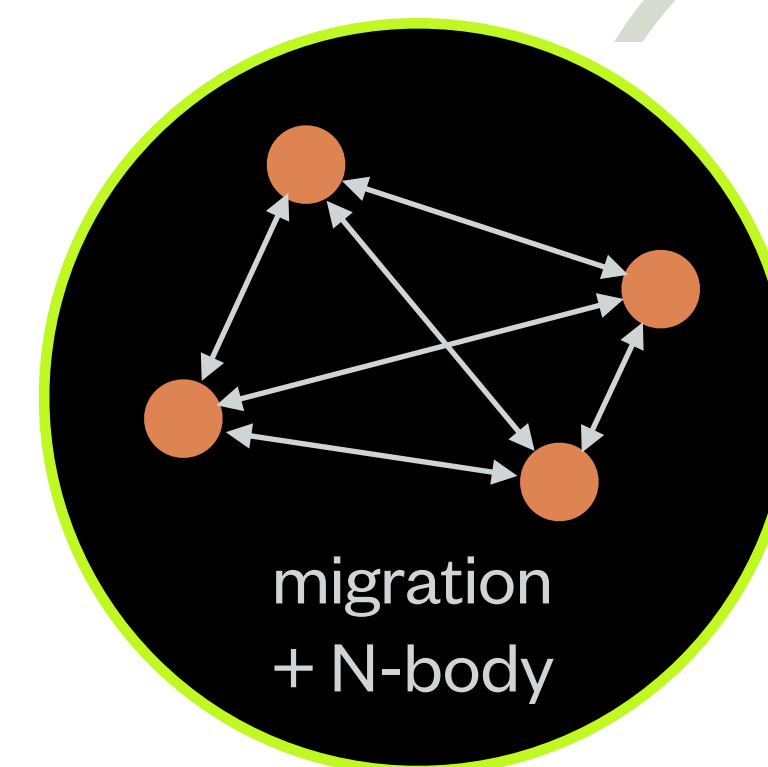
## 1D viscous accretion disk

+photoevaporation  
*Hueso&Guillot 2005*



## 1D structure equation; $t \rightarrow 5$ Gyr

*Mordasini+2012,2015; Jin+2014*



## Stellar mass dependency

*Burn+2021; Schlecker+ (in prep.)*



initially 50 embryos  
gas and planetesimals

*Fortier+2013*

type I & II migration

*Paardekooper+2011*

N-body: key for small planets

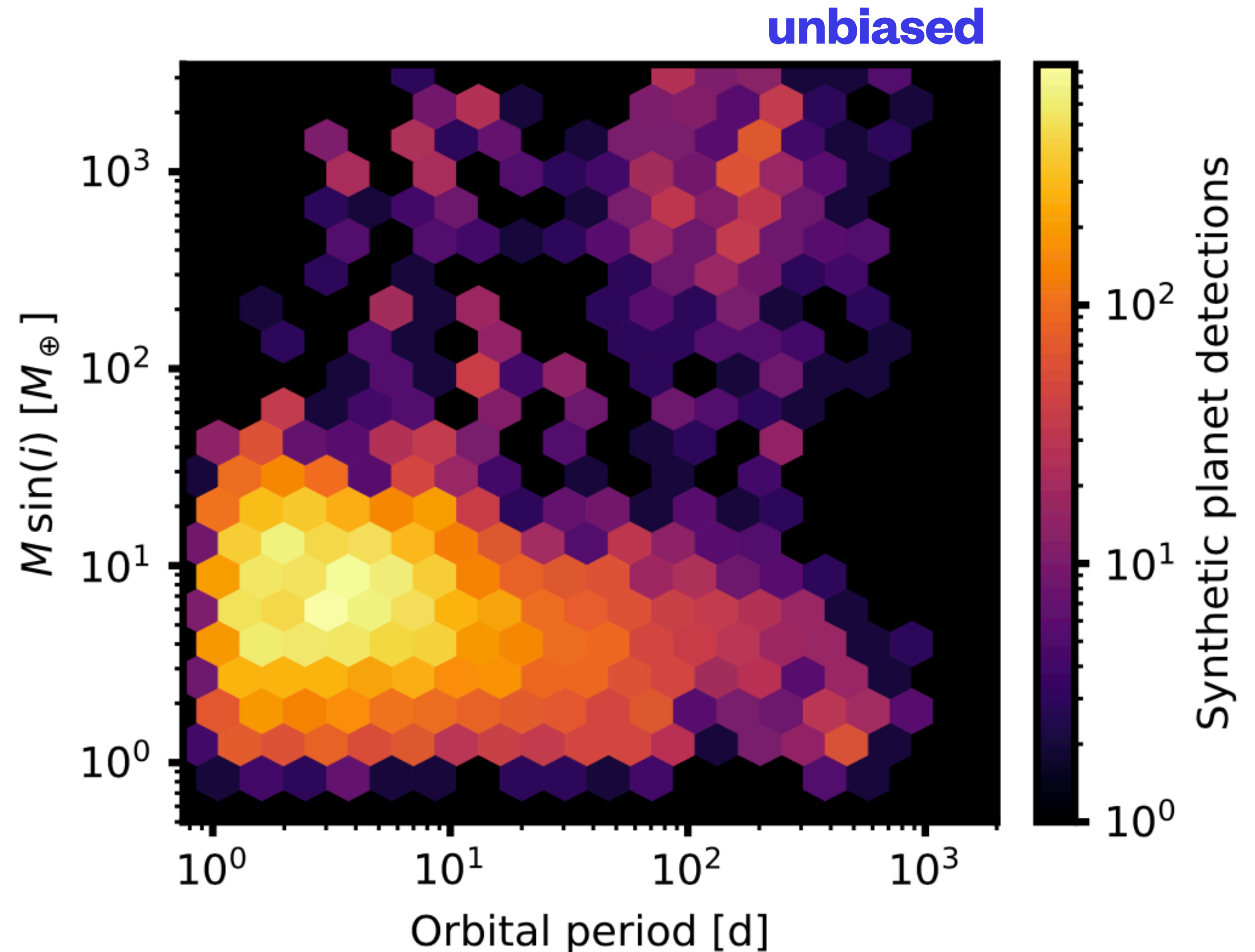
*Alibert+2013*

# The planet sample: **synthetic**

100,000 simulated multi-planet systems

host star masses as in the observed sample

-> **20,082 detectable synthetic planets**

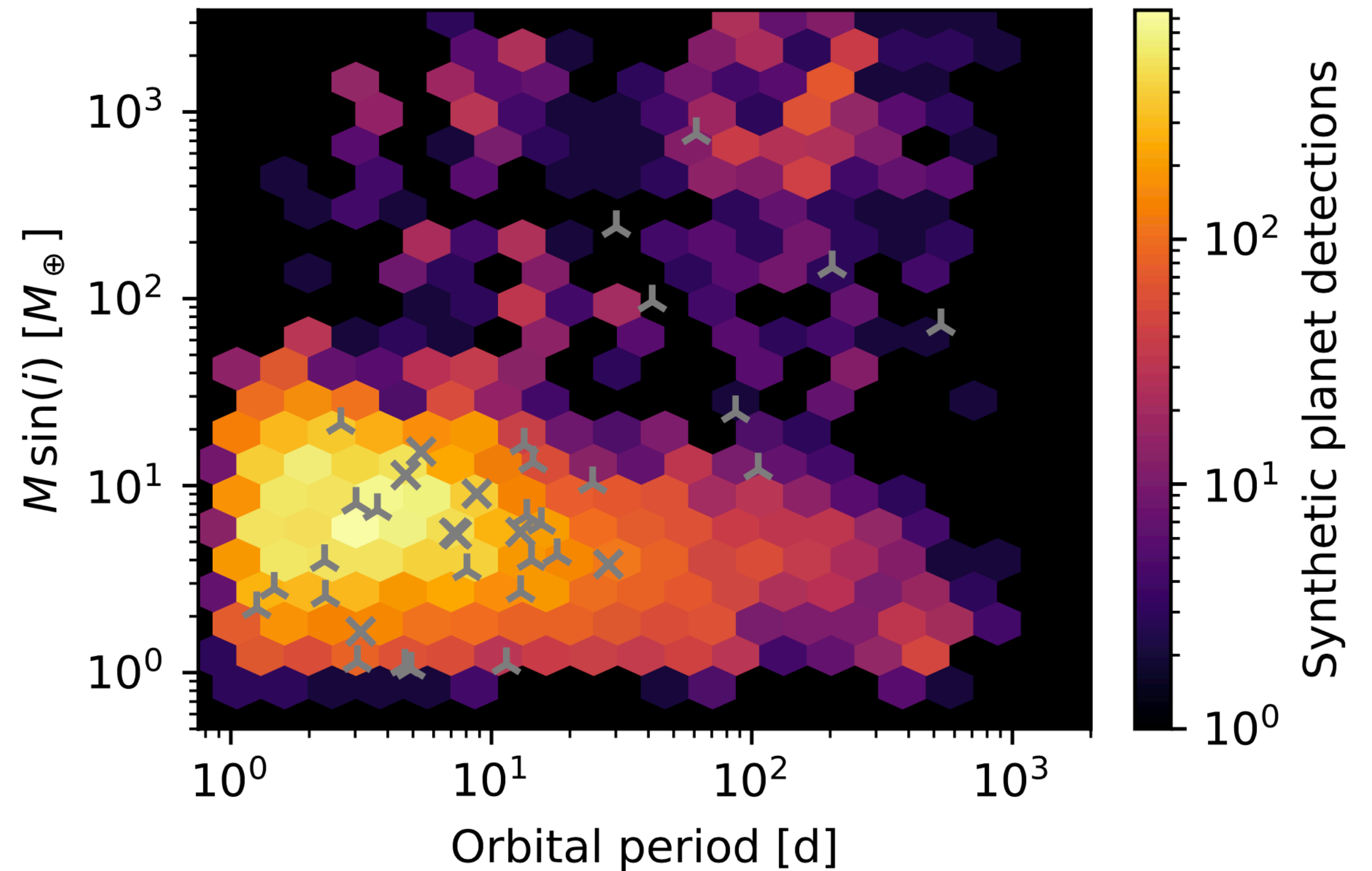


# The planet sample: synthetic & observed

biased

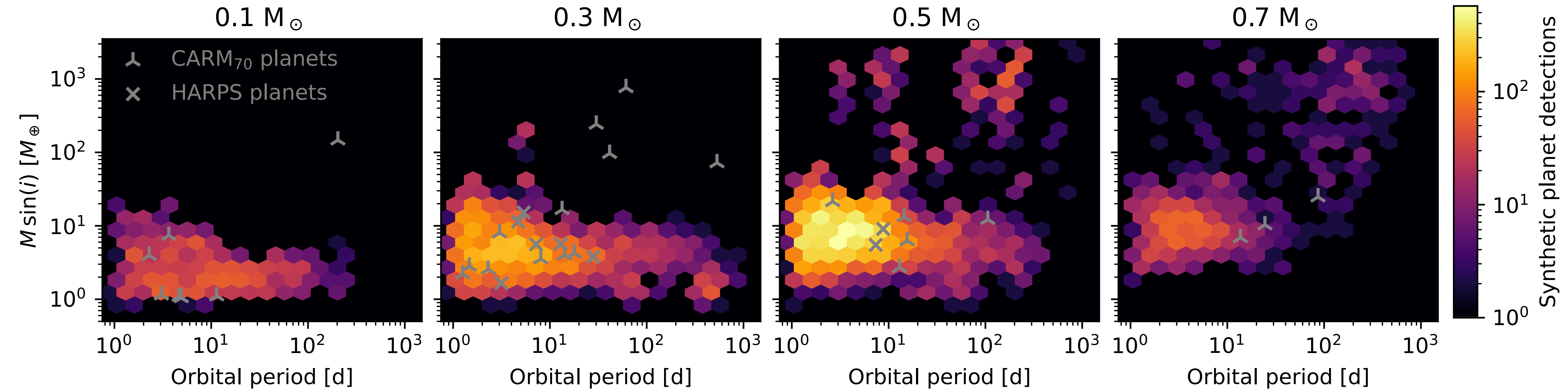
⋈ CARM<sub>70</sub> planets    × HARPS planets

combined HARPS&CARM<sub>70</sub>  
sample:  
35 planets around 148 stars



# The planet sample: synthetic & observed

Increasing host star mass →

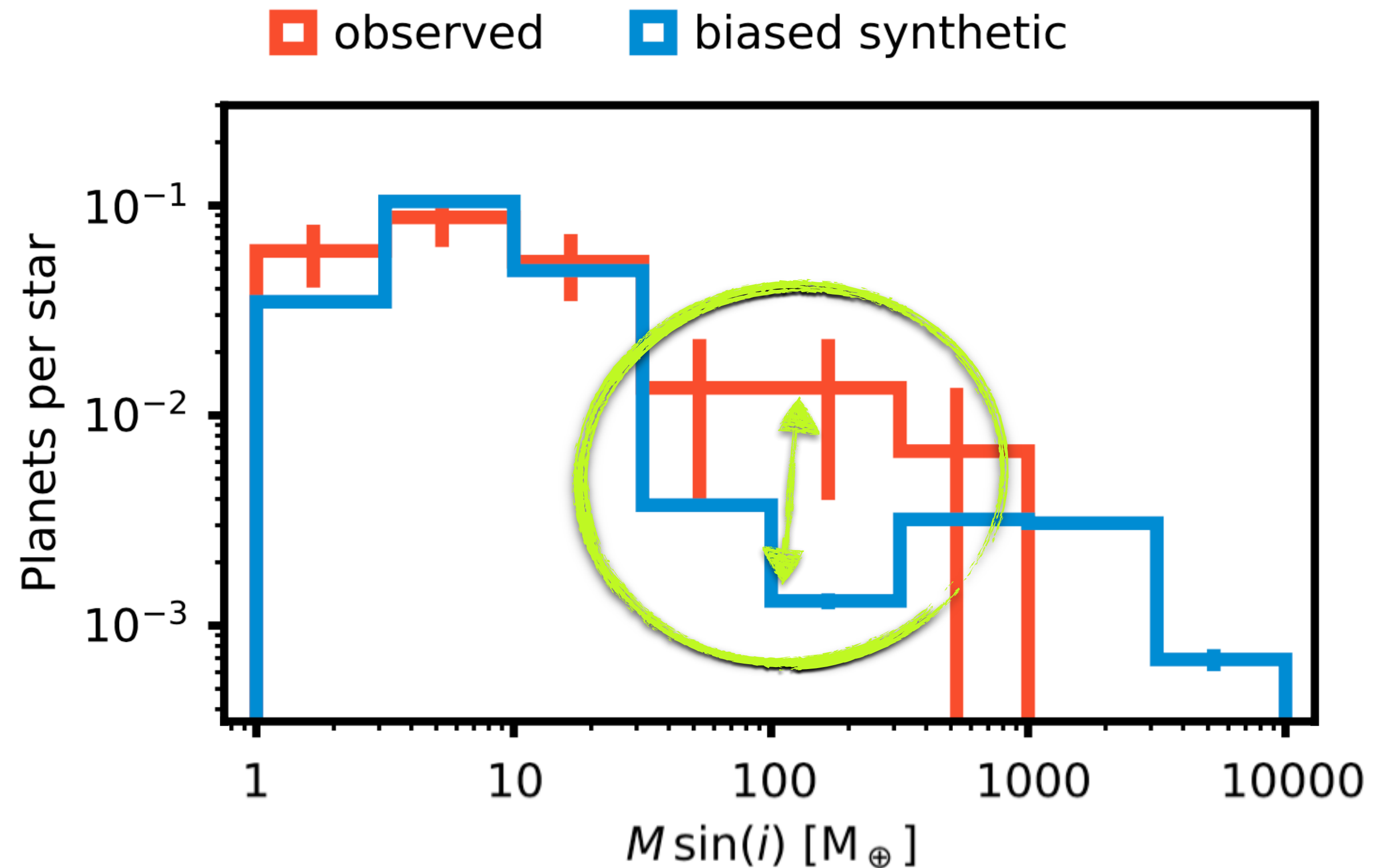


# Two issues with the planetary mass function

1. “sub-Saturn desert” only in the simulated population

Core accretion theory robustly predicts this valley.

*=> Something wrong with our gas accretion formalism?*



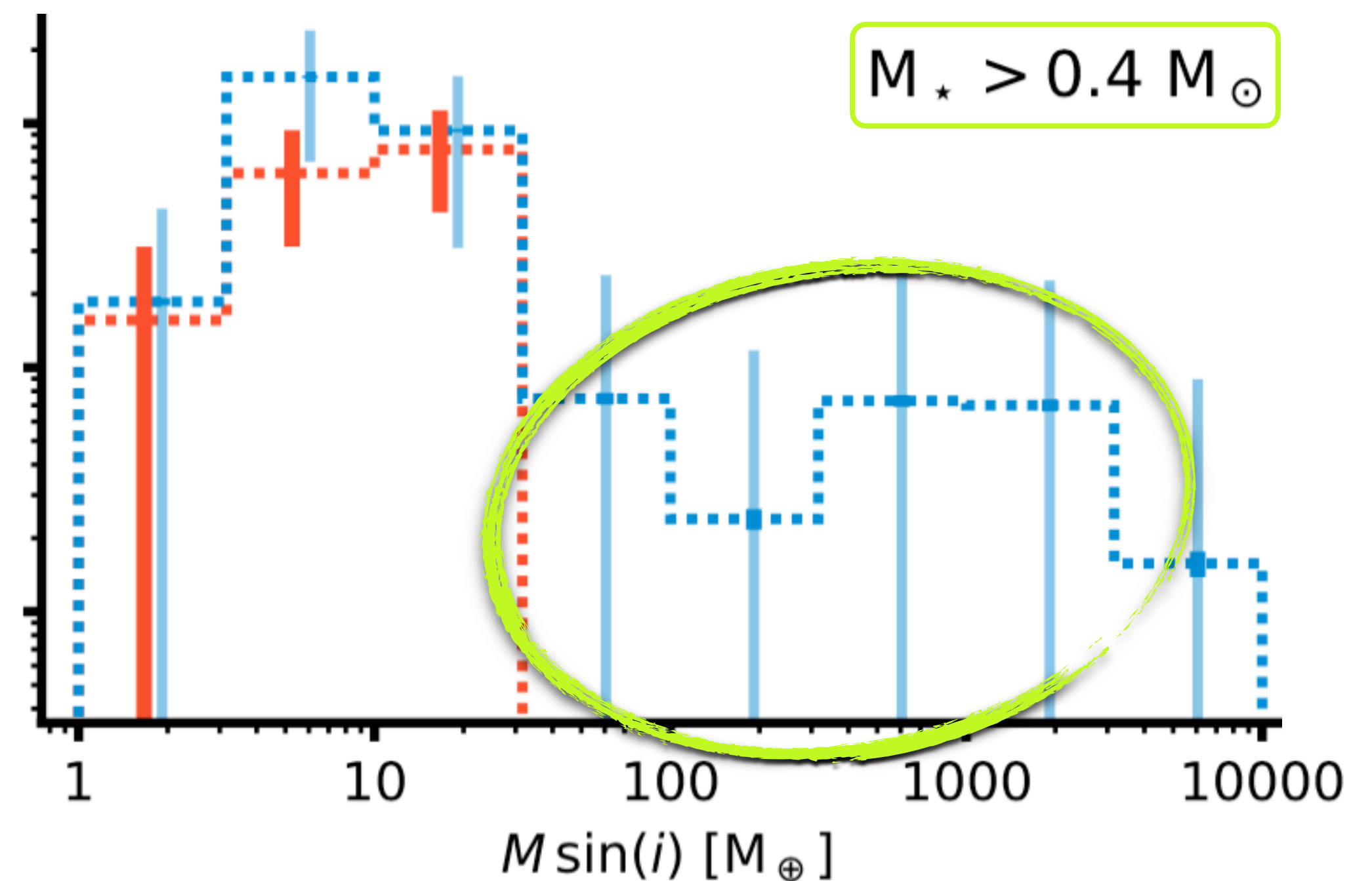
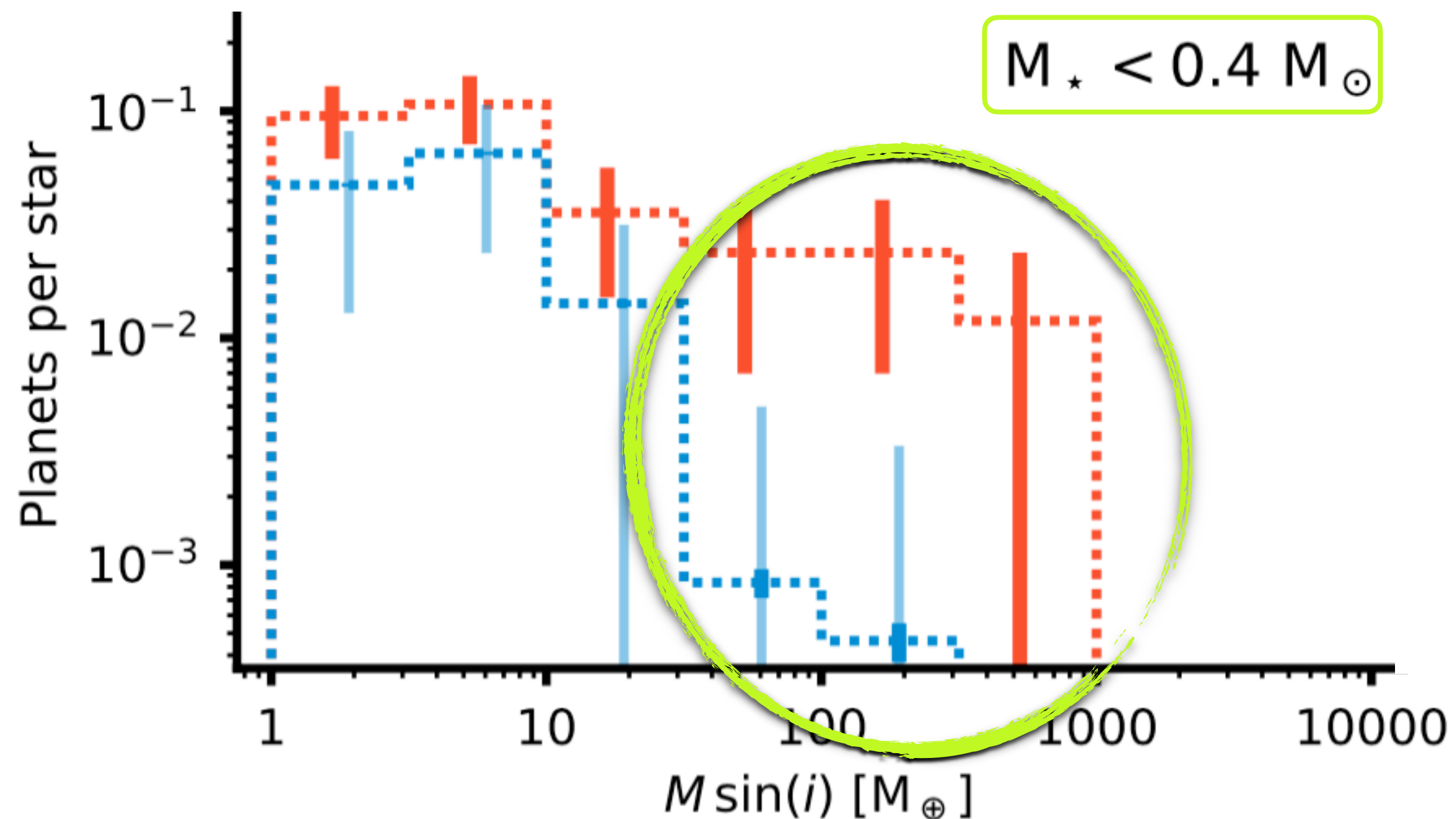


# Two issues with the planetary mass function

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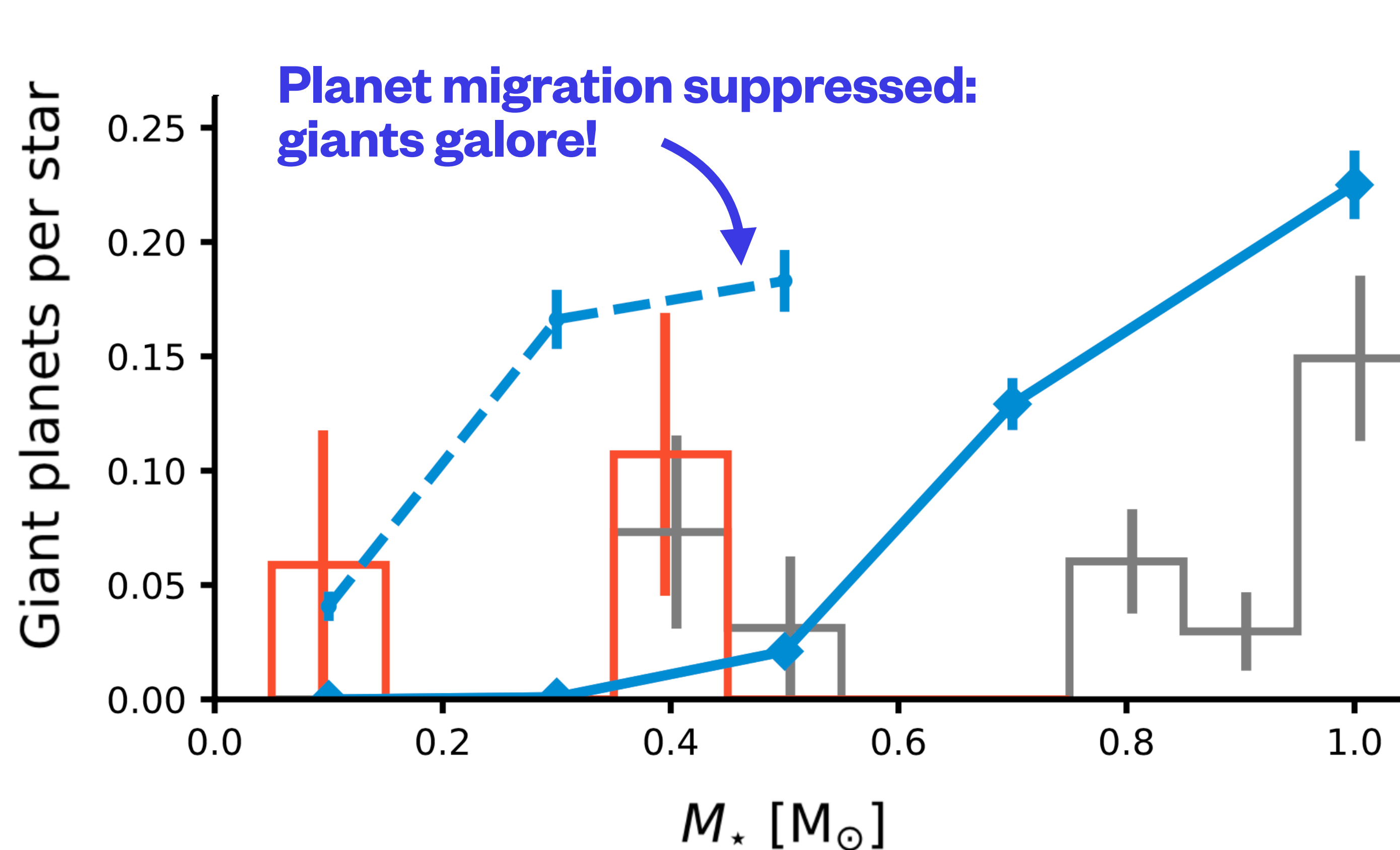
2. core accretion predicts giant planets around early stars, RV sample has them around late stars

■ observed    ■ biased synthetic



# Giant planets around late M dwarfs challenge core accretion

□ California Legacy Survey (Rosenthal+2021)    ■ observed

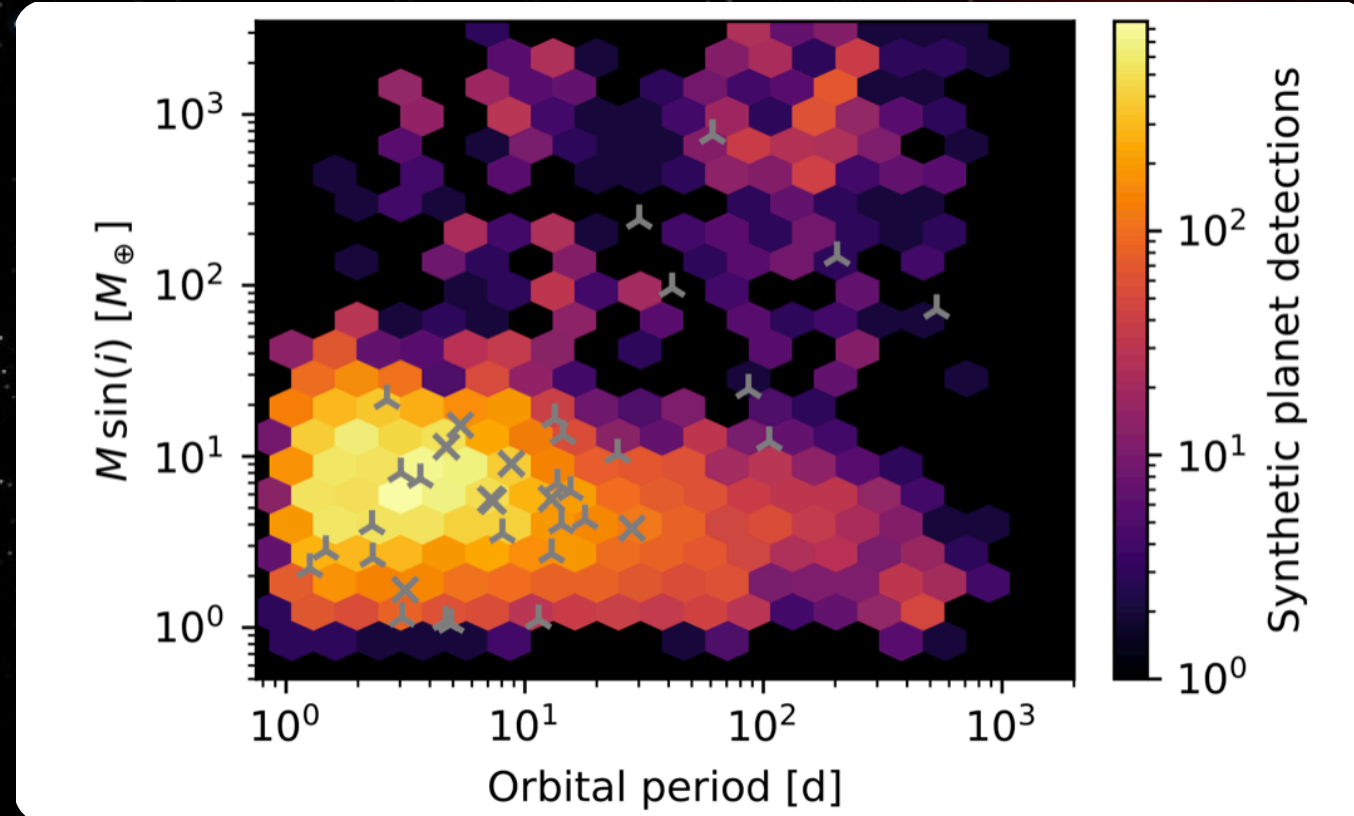


Core accretion with 10x longer migration timescale reconciles giants around the latest stars.

*=> hint for migration traps from disk substructure at work*

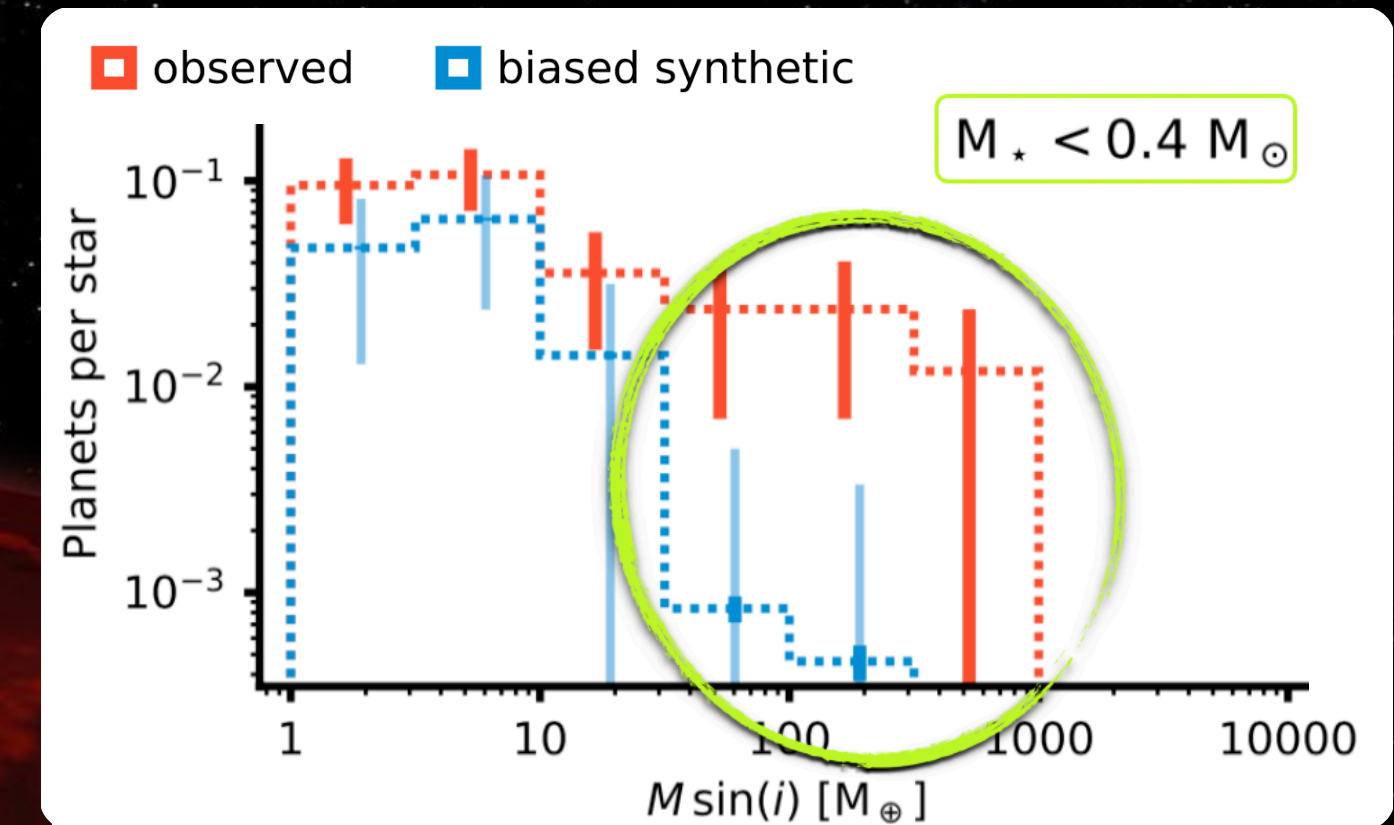
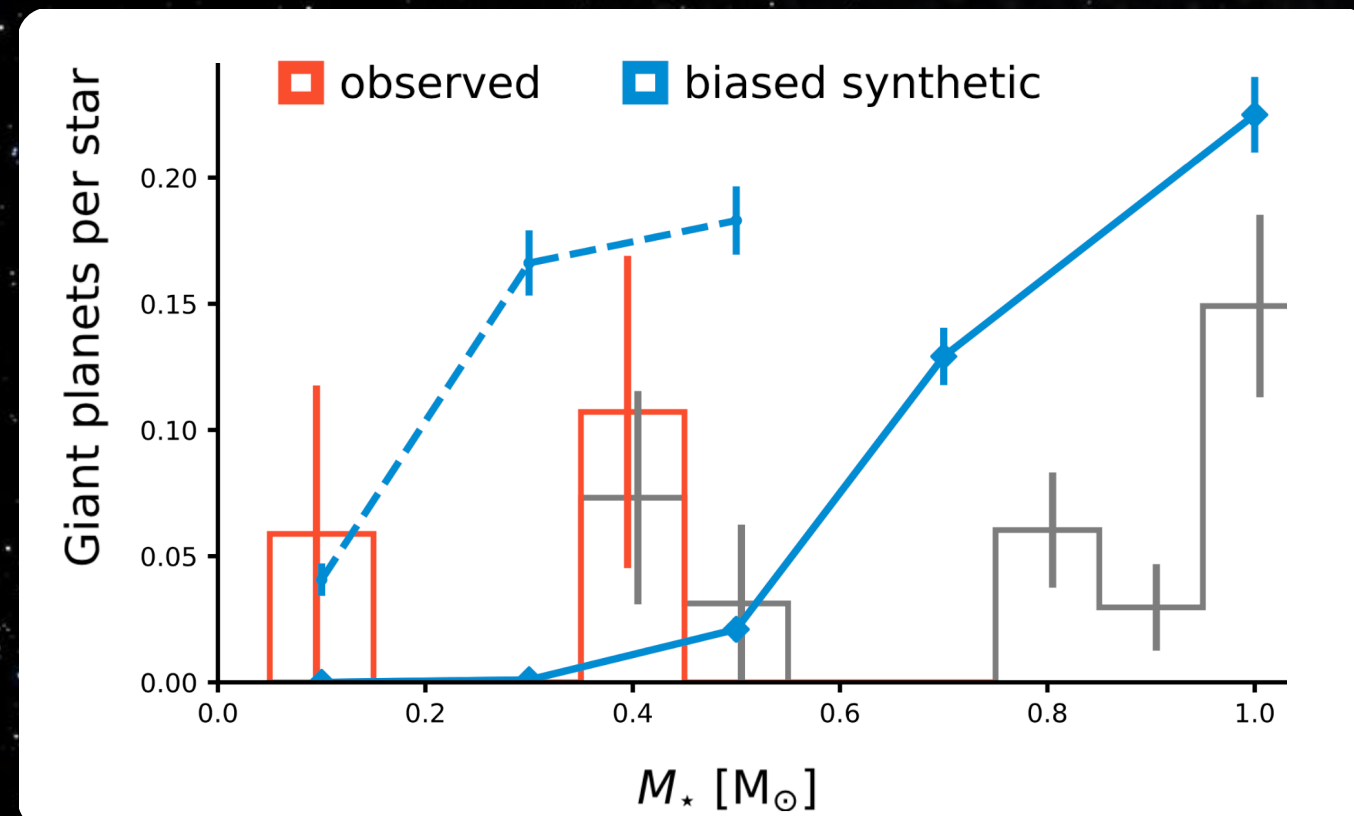
*Schlecker et al. (in prep.)*

# Giant planets around low-mass stars: key takeaways



**RV-detected rocky planets match with core accretion.  
No clear sub-Saturn valley in the sample.**

**Giant planets around lowest-mass stars are at odds  
with core accretion.**



**Suppressing planet migration eliminates the discrepancy.  
→ Migration traps might be at work in M dwarf disks.**