

# At what temperature does magnetic dynamo action cease?

or

# How hot is the hottest cool star?



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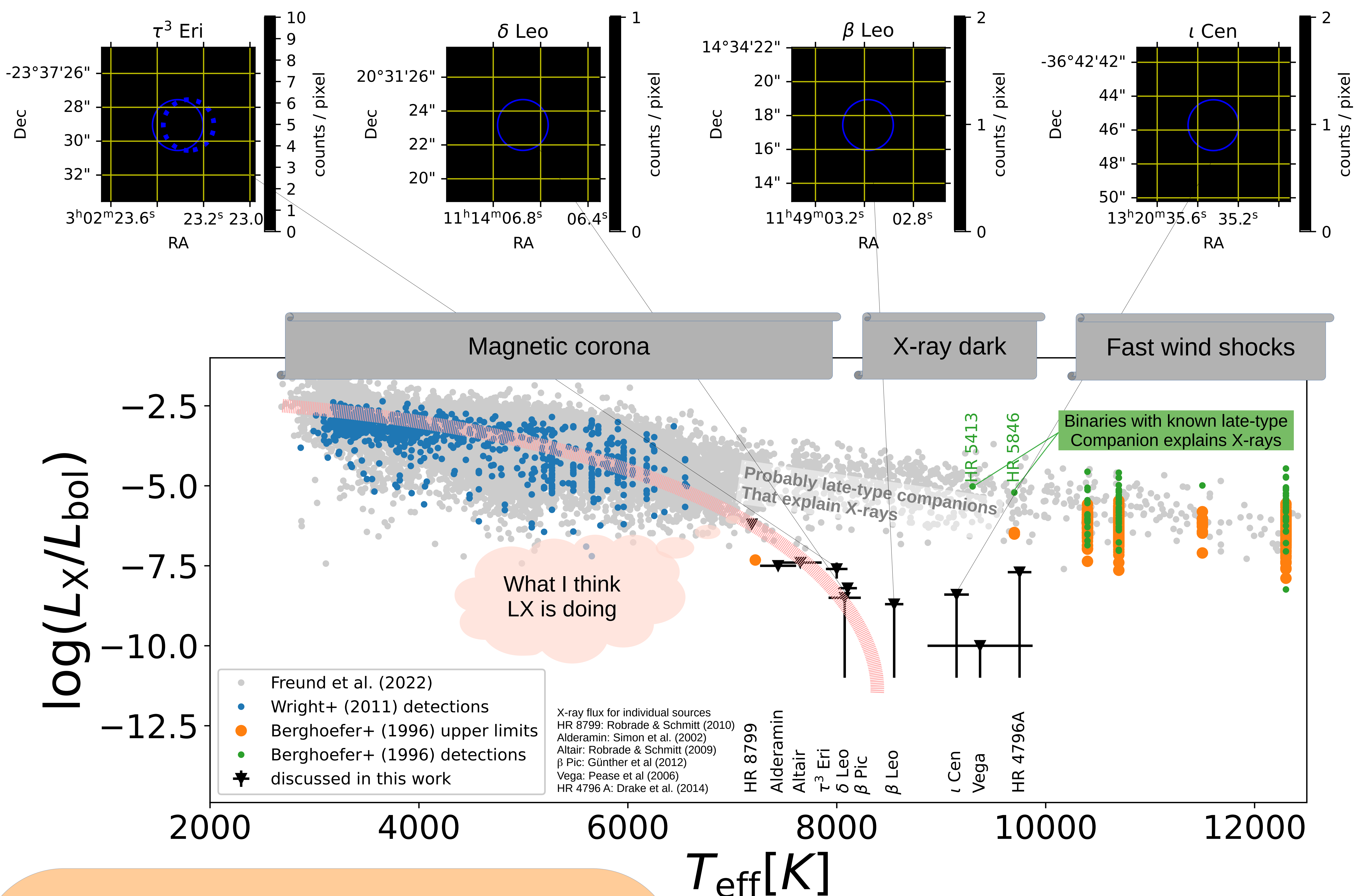
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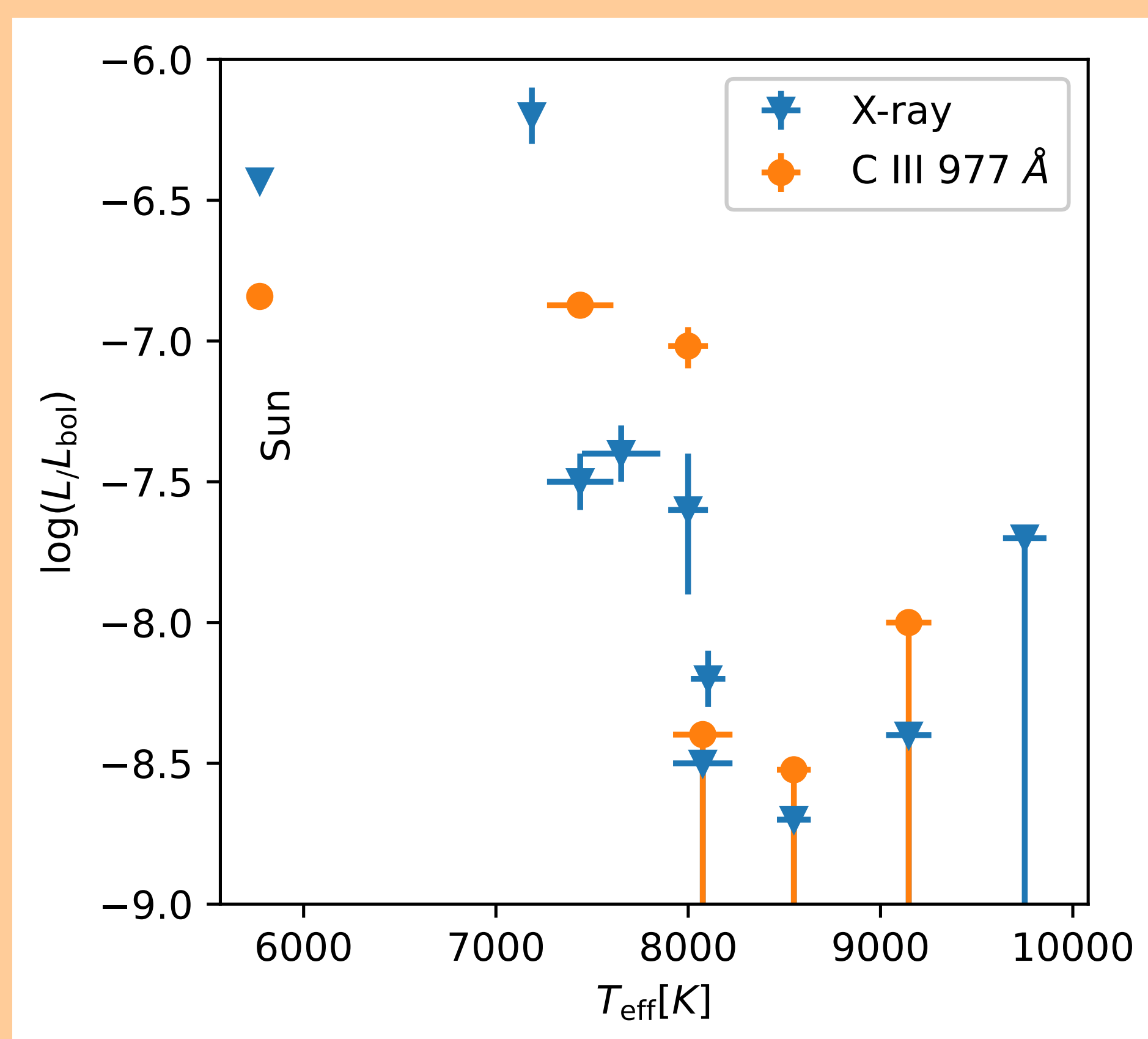
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Cool stars on the main sequence generate X-rays from coronal activity, powered by a convective dynamo. With increasing temperature, the convective envelope becomes smaller and X-ray emission fainter, so some cool star must be the “hottest cool star” before emission ends. We present Chandra/HRC-I observations of four single stars with early A spectral types. Only the coolest star of this sample,  $\tau^3$  Eri ( $T_{\text{eff}} = 8000$  K), is detected with  $\log(L_X/L_{\text{bol}}) = -7.6$ , while the three hotter stars ( $T_{\text{eff}} > 8100$  K), namely  $\delta$  Leo,  $\beta$  Leo, and  $\iota$  Cen, remain undetected with upper limits  $\log(L_X/L_{\text{bol}}) < -8.4$ . The drop in X-ray emission thus occurs in a narrow range of effective temperatures around 8100 K and matches the end of activity in the C III and O VI transition region lines. Based on our observations,  $\tau^3$  Eri might well be the hottest star that still shows cool-star like coronal activity.



**Coronal and chromospheric emission are correlated.**  
When  $L_x$  drops, so does C III (data from Simon et al., 2002)



### Note

Fast rotating stars have temperature difference between equator and pole, essentially:  
Different spectral type (e.g. Monnier et al. 2007 for Altair)

Not important for coronal emission:

- planets
- rotation rate
- debris disk

Important: Temperature < 8100 K

