

# Contemporaneous Observations of $H\alpha$ Luminosities and Photometric Amplitudes for M dwarfs



**Aylin García Soto**<sup>(1)</sup>, Elisabeth R. Newton<sup>(1)</sup>, Abigail D. Burrows<sup>(1)</sup>  
Tara Sweeney<sup>(1)</sup>, Stephanie T. Douglas<sup>(2)</sup>, and Aurora Y. Kesseli<sup>(3)</sup>



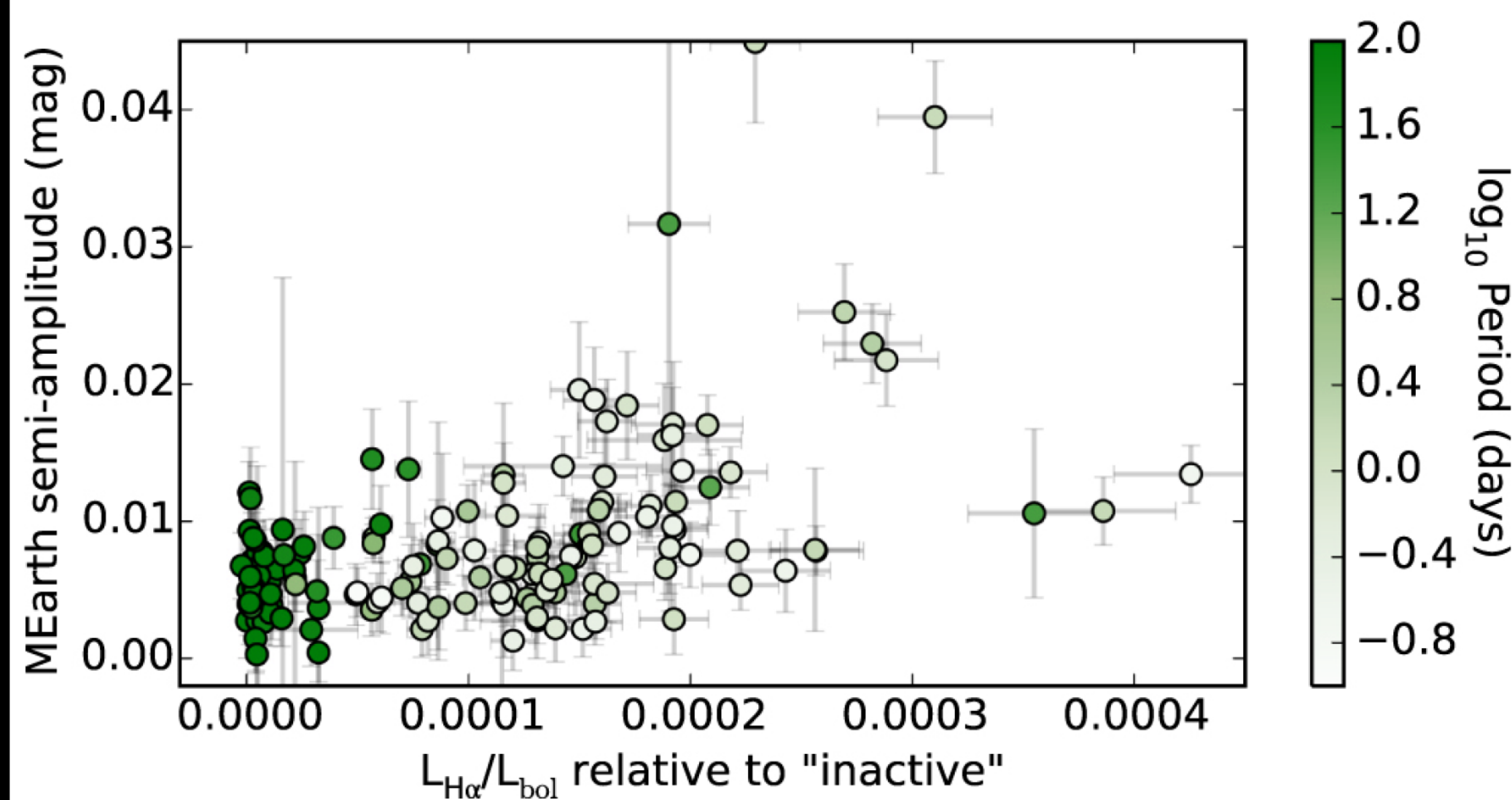
<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Dartmouth College Hanover, NH 03755, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, Lafayette College, 730 High Street, Easton, PA 18042, USA

<sup>3</sup>Infrared Processing and Analysis Center, Caltech, Pasadena CA 91125, USA

aylin.garcia.soto.gr  
@dartmouth.edu

Does a relationship between  $L_{H\alpha}/L_{bol}$  and Photometric variability exist?

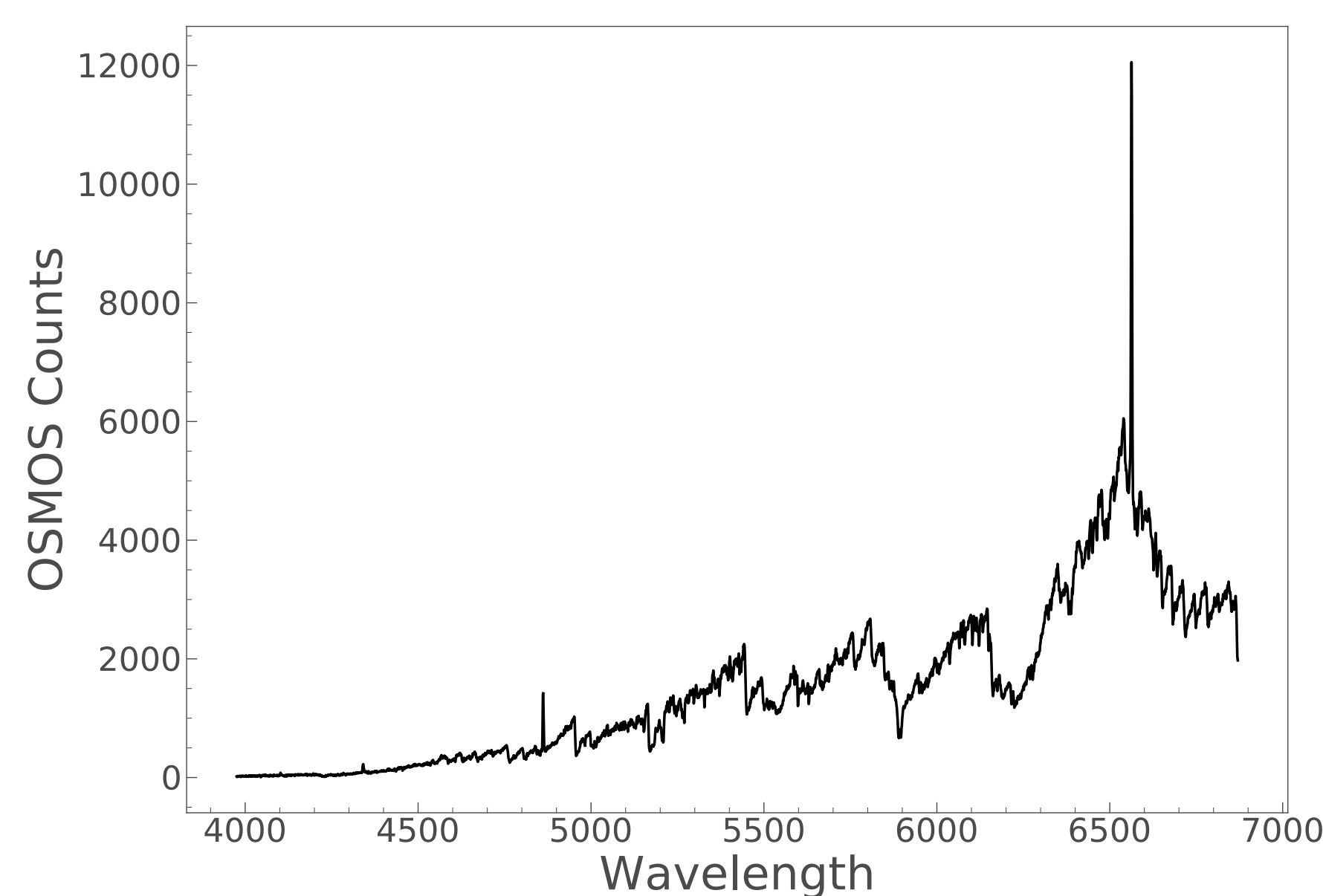


- Newton+17 noted a positive correlation between photometric amplitude and  $L_{H\alpha}/L_{bol}$  for mid-to-late M dwarfs ( $P_{rot} < 200$  days; the Northern Hemisphere).
- They concluded the experiment could benefit from considering non-sinusoidal rotational variability and spot evolution.

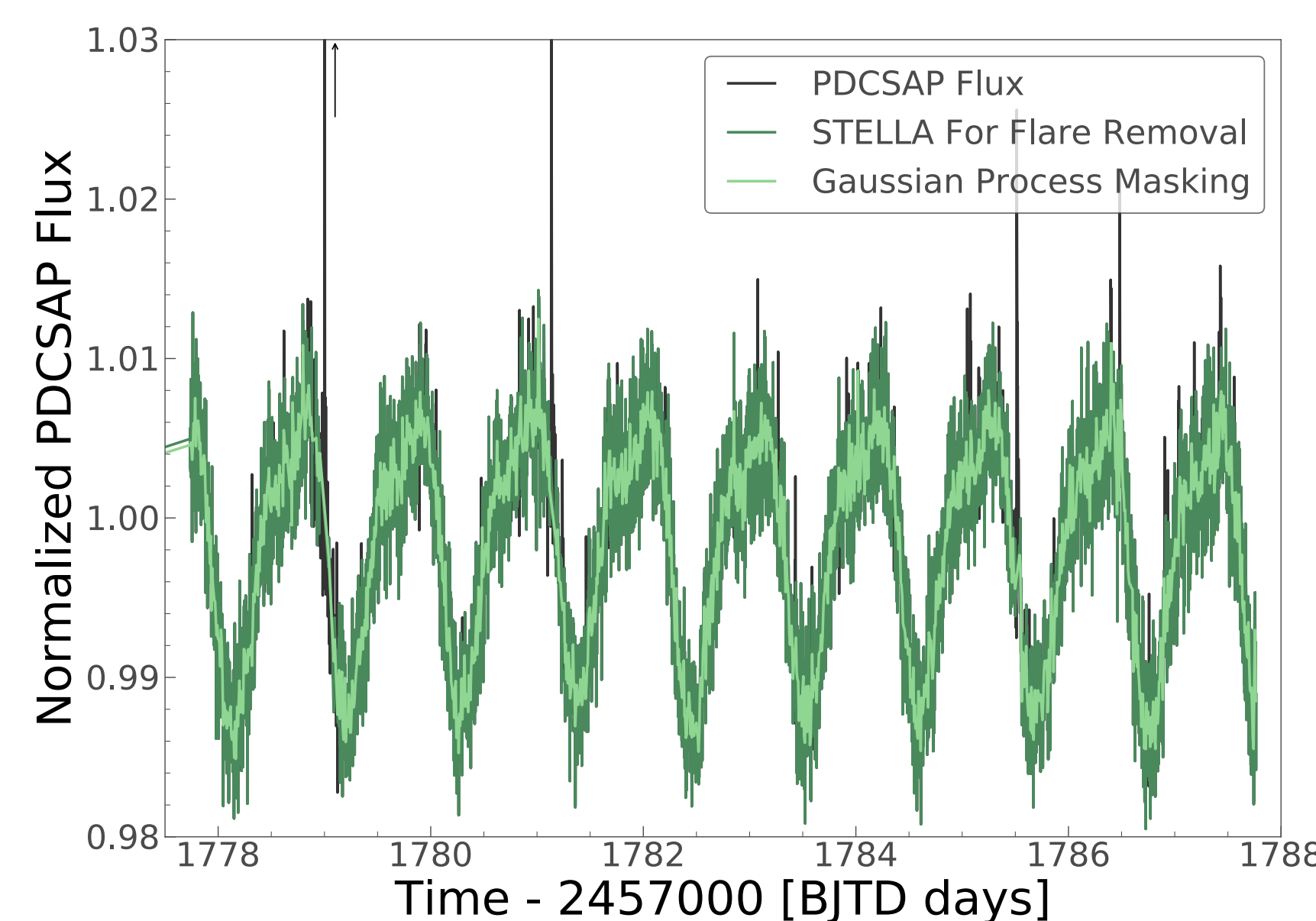
We selected M dwarfs in the Northern Hemisphere with existing Rotation Periods and  $v \sin i$

- Cross-correlate three M dwarf catalogs with  $v \sin i$ : Fouqué+18, Reiners+18 and Kesseli+18 against Newton+16,17.
- Other Constraints:
  - V magnitude ( $V < 17.5$ )
  - $P_{rot} < 27$  d (TESS sector length; Ricker+15)
- Merged catalog 133 targets:
  - Observed 65 with MDM 2.4m Ohio State Multi-Object Spectrograph (OSMOS; Martini+11)
  - Multiple observations for 22.
  - **Final sample:** 56 were observed close in time by TESS.

We obtained low-resolution optical spectra contemporaneously with optical photometry from TESS.

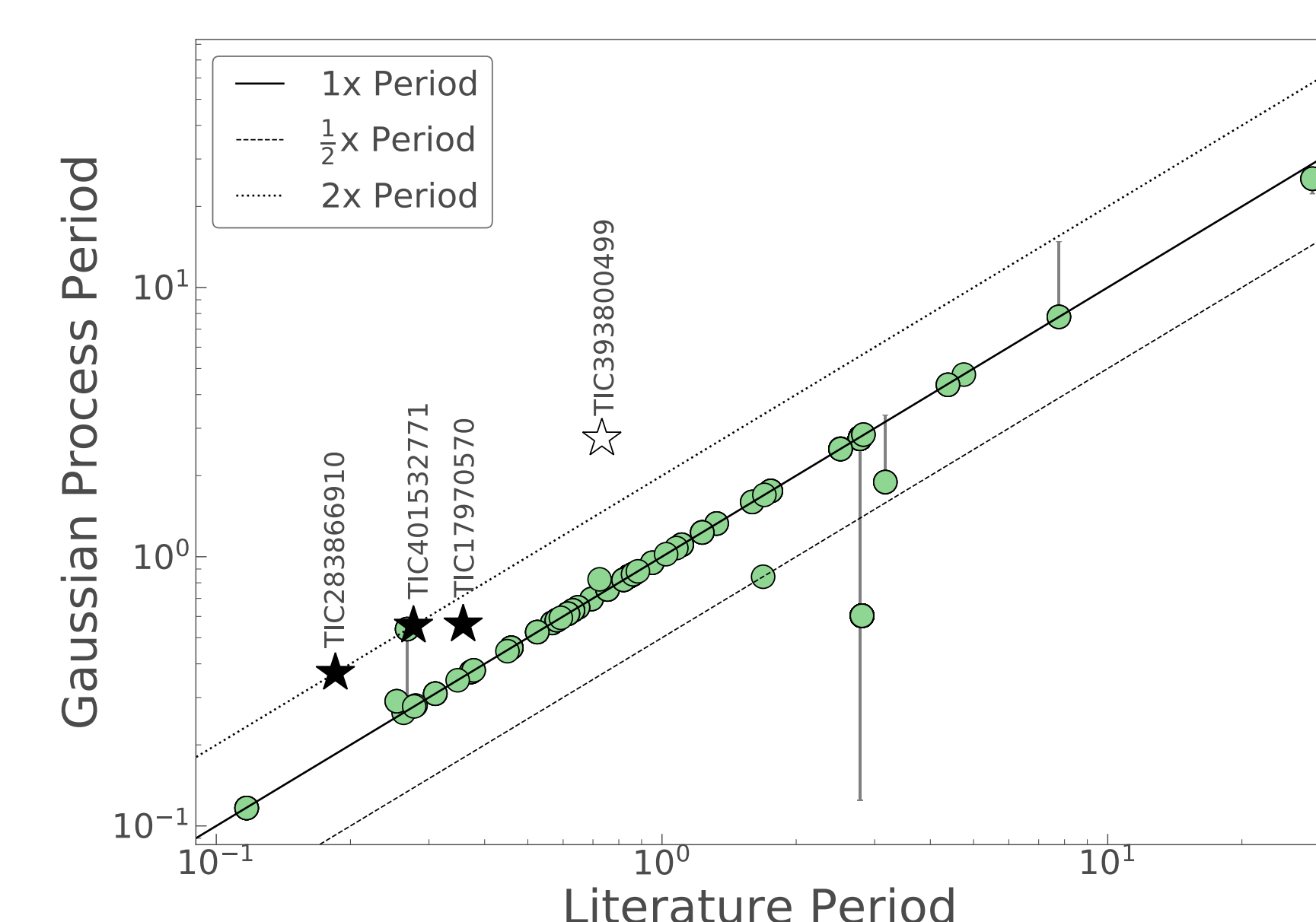


- We obtained low-resolution optical spectra using the OSMOS.
- An example spectrum shows strong emission at  $H\alpha$ , due to magnetic heating of the stellar atmosphere.

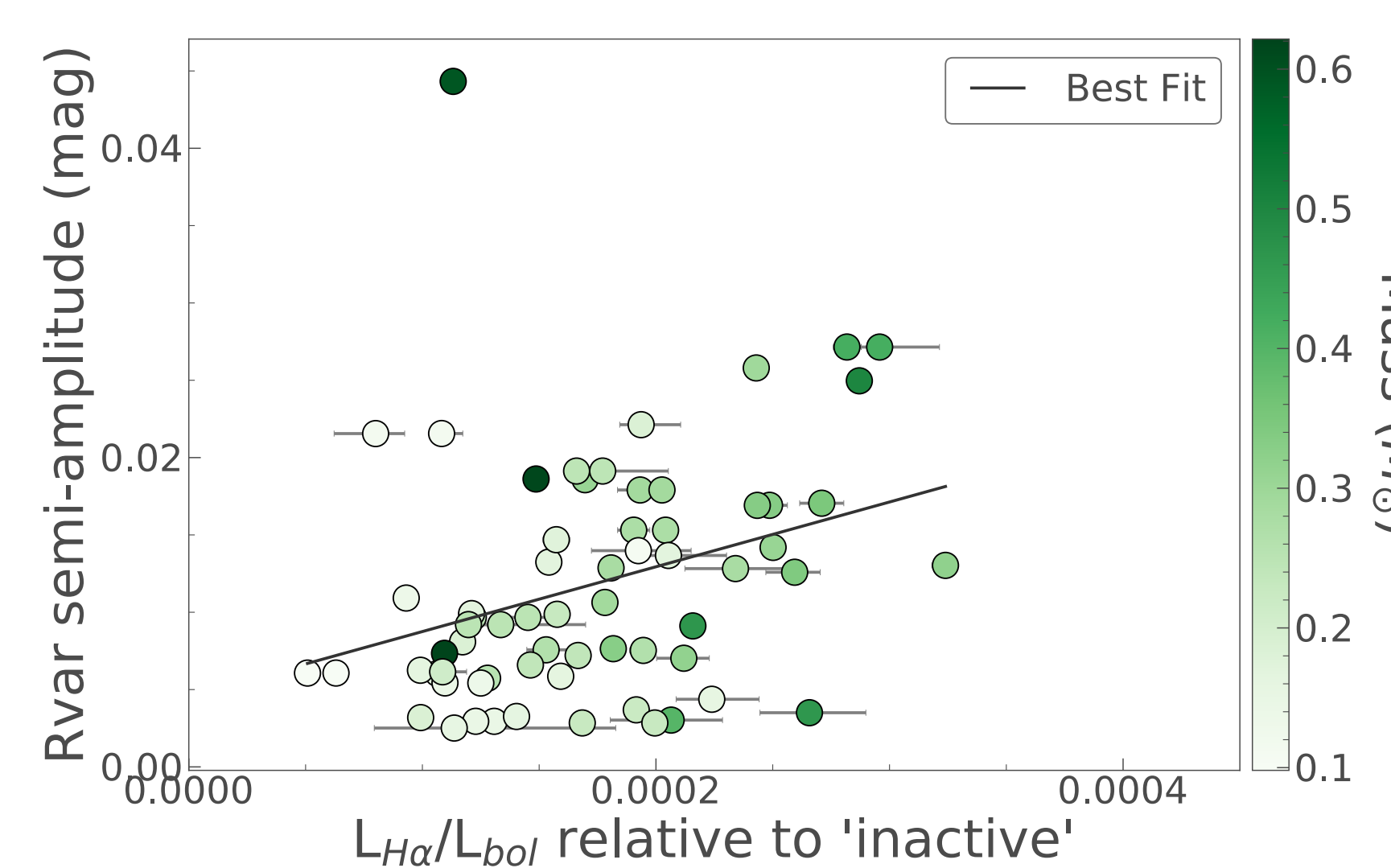


- Active stars can produce frequent flares which we remove to get amplitude:
  1. Use Feinstein+20a,b's *stella* which trains a CNN using TESS light curves (LC).
  2. Bin to 10 minutes
  3. Fit a Gaussian process model to the data, masking additional outliers.

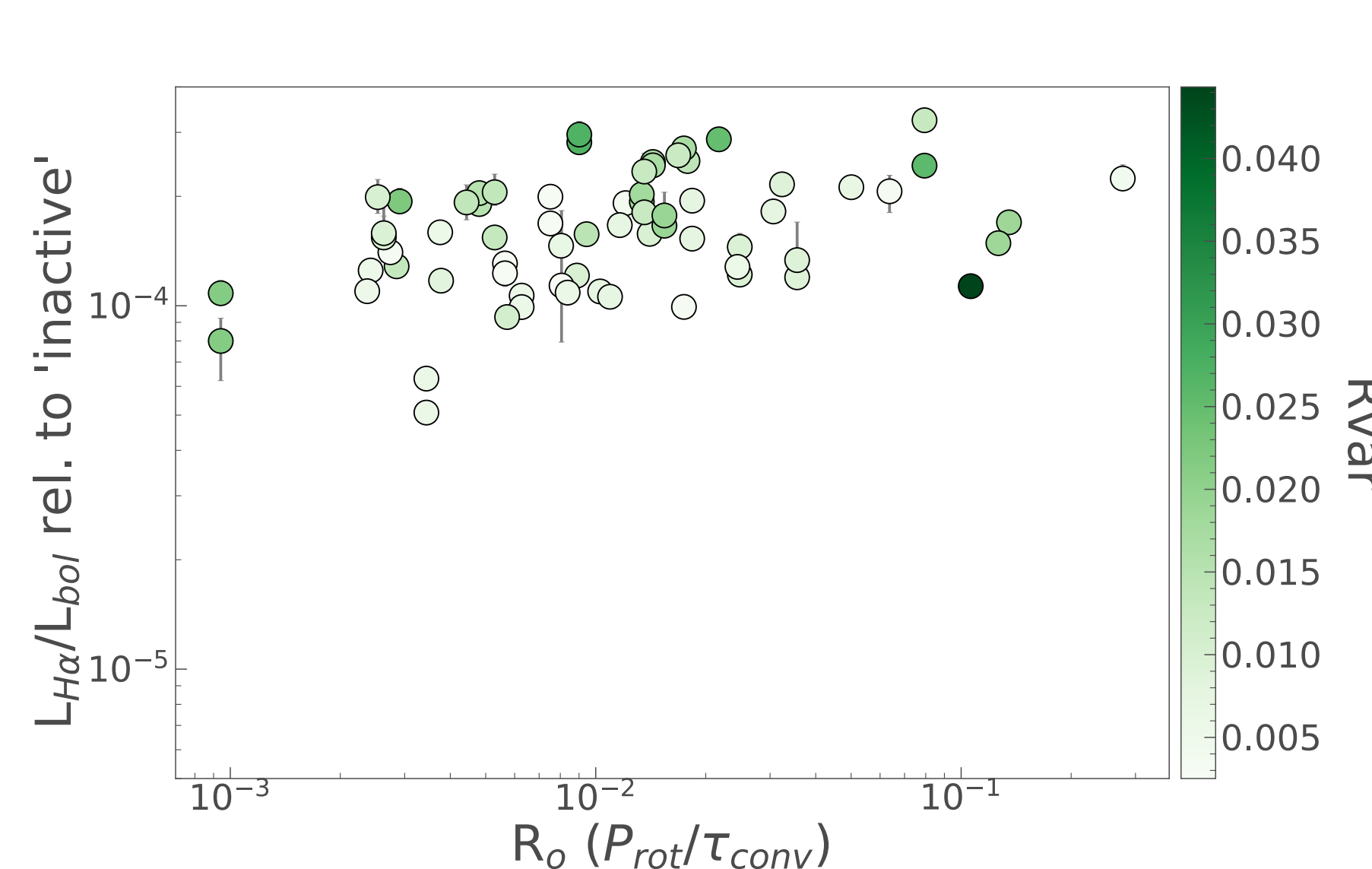
A Scattered Relationship between  $L_{H\alpha}/L_{bol}$  and Photometric Variability for M dwarfs in the Saturated Regime exists!



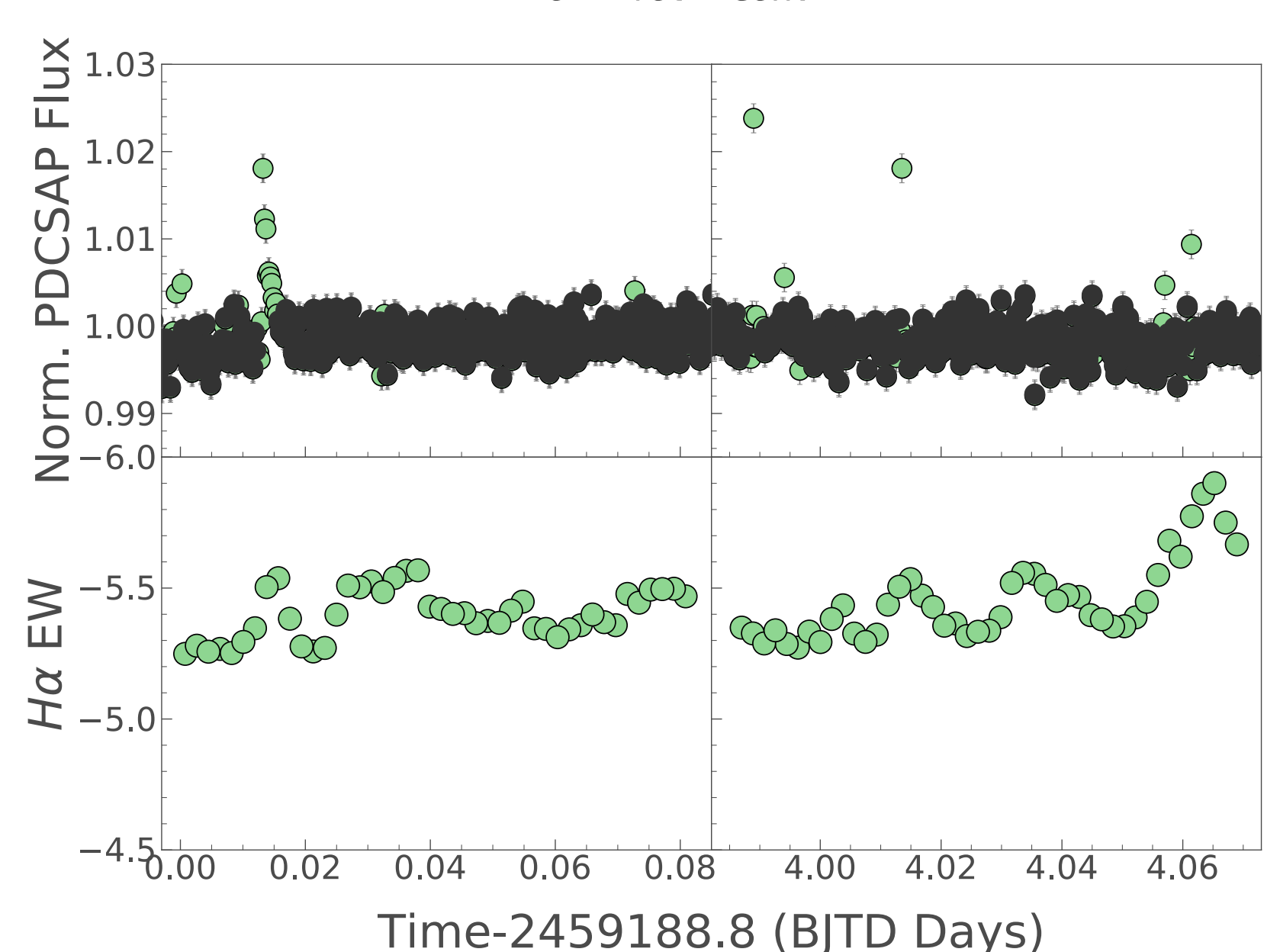
- Periods using Gaussian processes.
- We estimate newer periods:
  - ☆ - The literature period is an alias of the true period.
  - ★ - The literature period is double the true period.



- $Rvar$  (McQuillan+12,13;  $0.5 \times (95^{th} \% - 5^{th} \%)$ )
- The x-axis error bars are range of  $H\alpha$  EWs.
- Although the data is contemporaneous, the significant scatter is real. This is maybe because the magnetic field proxies measure different processes.



- Rotation-activity plot for stars in our sample
  - The Rossby number (rotational period over convective overturn) is defined in Wright+18.
  - The stars are all on the saturated regime.



- Top panels show portions of the TESS LCs, while the bottom panels show contemporaneous  $H\alpha$  EW time-series.
- Like Kruse+10, Lee+10 and Medina+22, EWs vary on timescales less than an hour.
- Evidence of flare enhancement BJTD 2459188.800 — 2459188.825.

I would like to thank my thesis committee: Prof. John Thorstensen and Prof. Brian Chaboyer, fellow graduate students: Thomas Boudreaux, Rayna Rampalli, Keighley Rockcliffe and Stephanie Podjed, and postdoc Kathryn Weil.

## References:

Agol, E., et al. 2020, AJ, 159, 123  
Angus, R., et al. 2018, MNRAS, 474, 2094  
Astropy Collaboration, et al. 2013, A&A, 558, A33  
Barentsen, G., et al. 2020, KeplerGO/lightkurve: Lightkurve v1.11.0, Zenodo

Feinstein, A. D., et al. 2020a, JOSS, 5, 2347  
Feinstein, A. D., et al. 2020b, AJ, 160, 219  
Foreman-Mackey, D. 2018, arXiv:1801.10156  
Foreman-Mackey, D., et al. 2017, ASCL, ascl:1709.008  
Foreman-Mackey, D., et al. 2020a, exoplanet-dev/exoplanet: exoplanet v0.3.2, Zenodo  
Foreman-Mackey, D., et al. 2020b, dfm/celerite: celerite v0.4.0, Zenodo  
Fouqué, P., et al. 2018, MNRAS, 475, 1960

Kesseli, A. Y., et al. 2018, AJ, 155, 225  
Kruse, E. A., et al. 2010, ApJ, 722, 1352  
Lee, K.-G., et al. 2010, ApJ, 708, 1482  
Lightcurve Collaboration, et al. 2018, ASCL, ascl:1812.013  
Martini, P., et al. 2011, PASP, 123, 187  
McQuillan, A., et al. 2012, A&A, 539, A137  
McQuillan, A., et al. 2013, MNRAS, 432, 1203

Medina, A. A., et al. 2022, ApJ, 928, 185  
Newton, E. R., et al. 2017, ApJ, 834, 85  
Newton, E. R., et al. 2016, ApJ, 821, 93  
Reiners, A., et al. 2018, A&A, 612, A49  
Ricker, G. R., et al. 2015, JATIS, 1, 01400  
Wright, N. J., et al. 2018, MNRAS, 479, 2351