

# The MagAO Giant Accreting Proto**planet** Survey (**GAPlanetS**): Recent Results



AMHERST  
COLLEGE



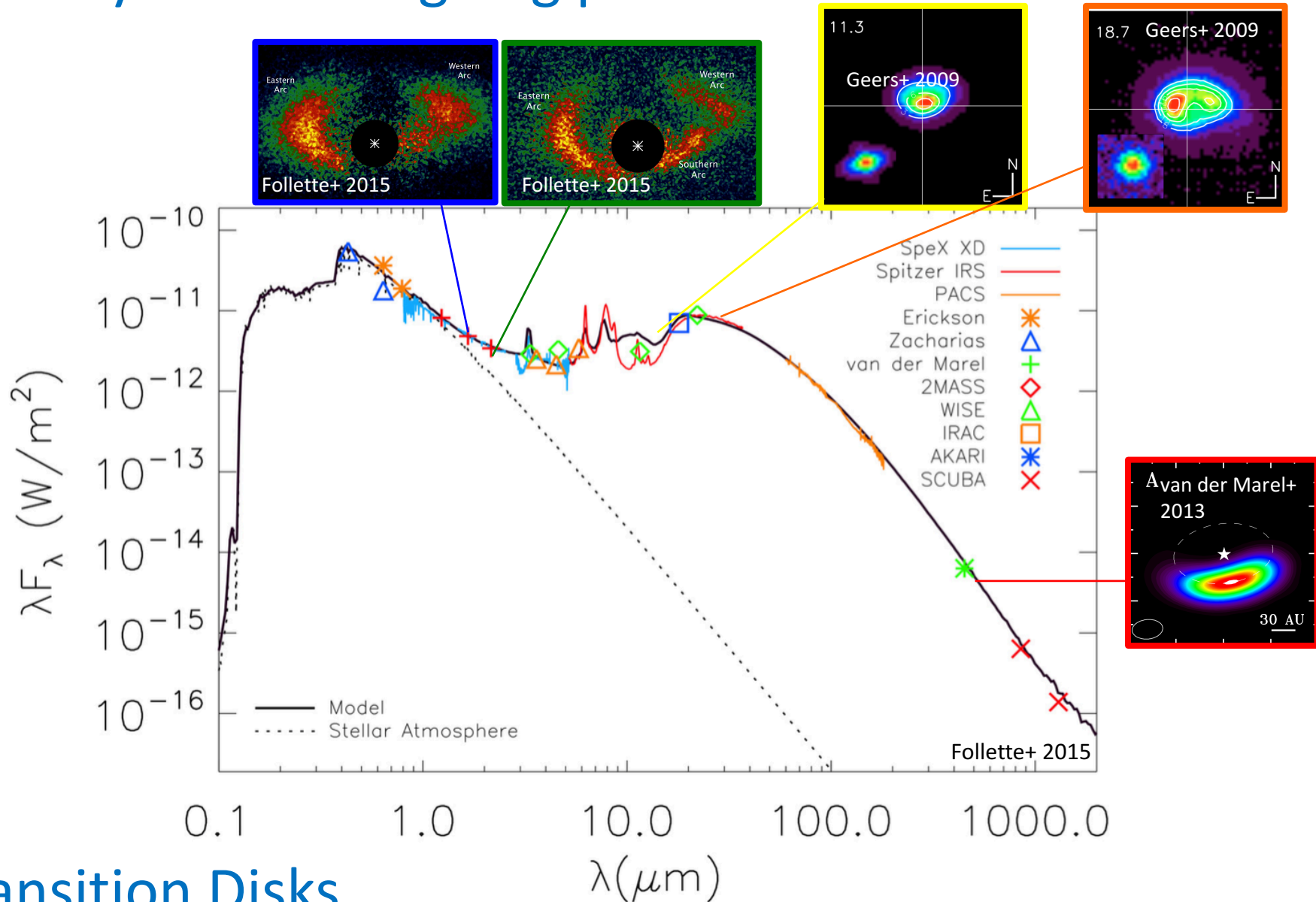
Kate Follette

Assistant Professor, Amherst College

[kfollette@amherst.edu](mailto:kfollette@amherst.edu)

# How do you study the planet formation process?

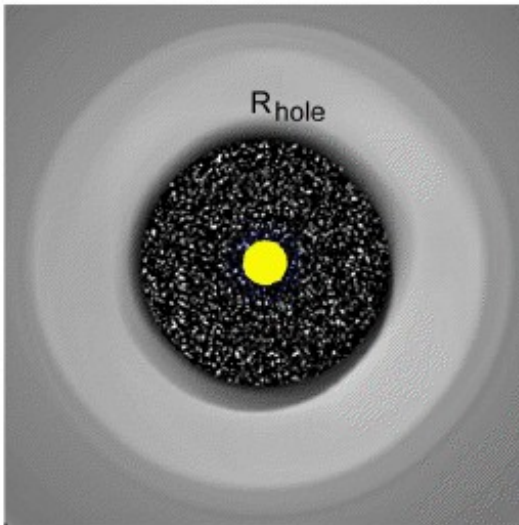
## Identify sites of ongoing planet formation



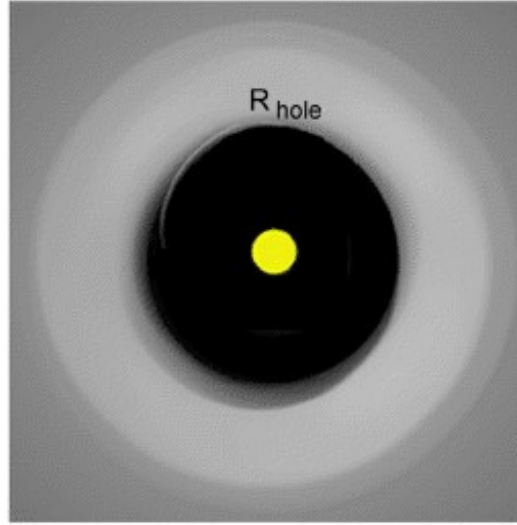
Transition Disks

# How do you study the planet formation process?

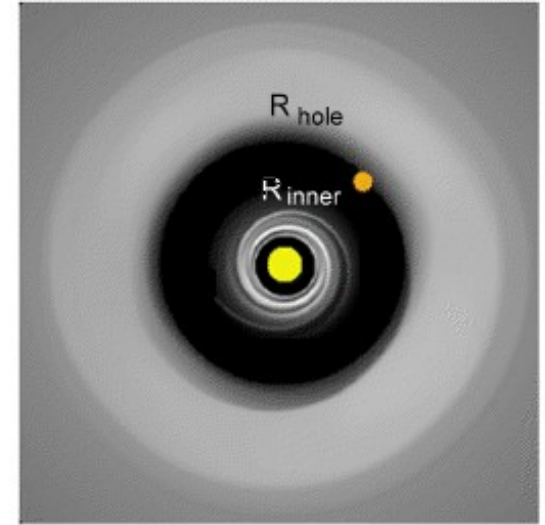
Grain Growth



Photoevaporation



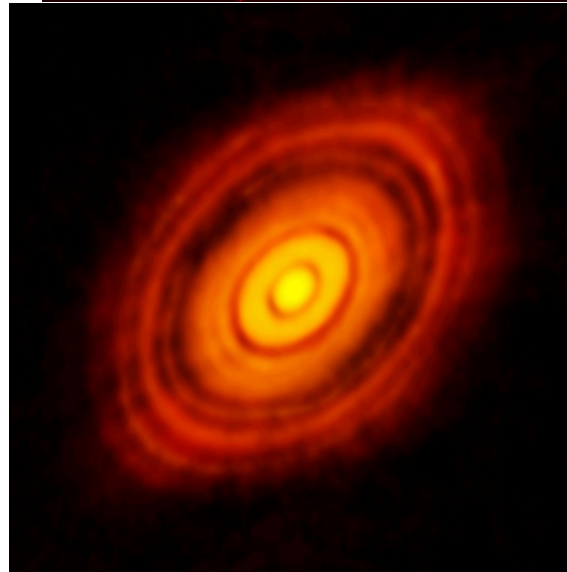
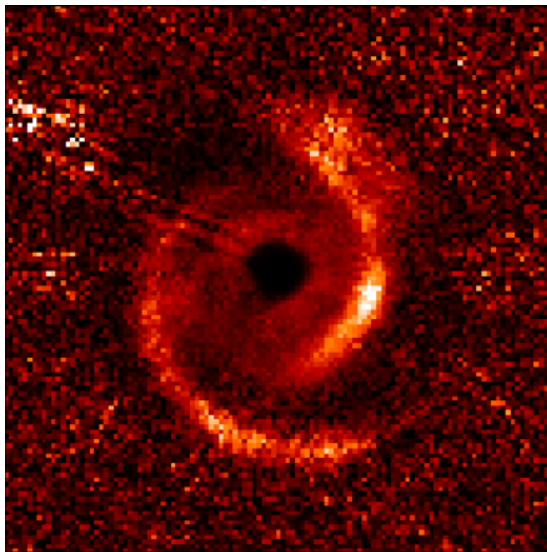
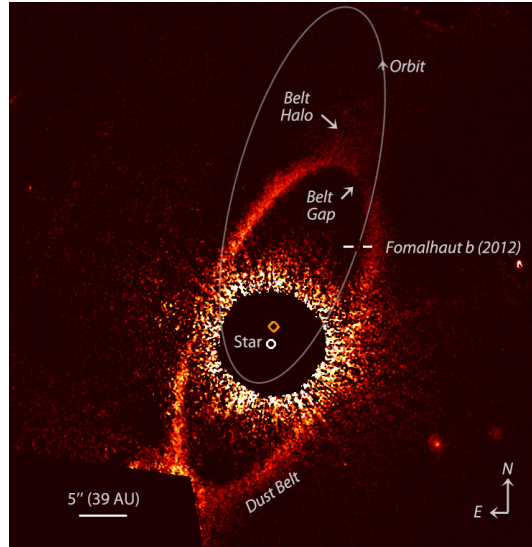
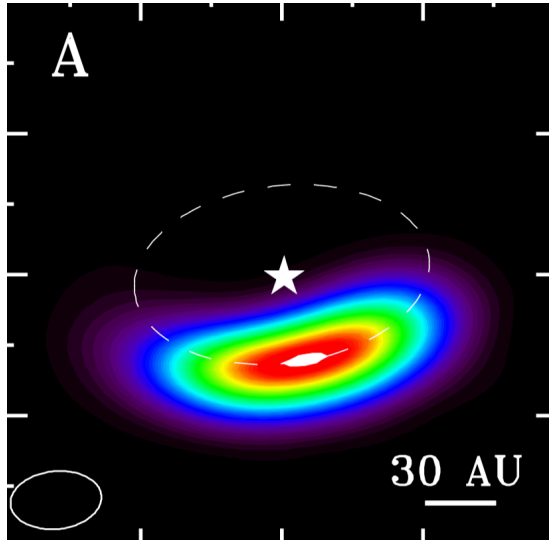
Planet Formation



**Strategy 1: Take high resolution, high contrast images of transition disks and look for "signposts"**



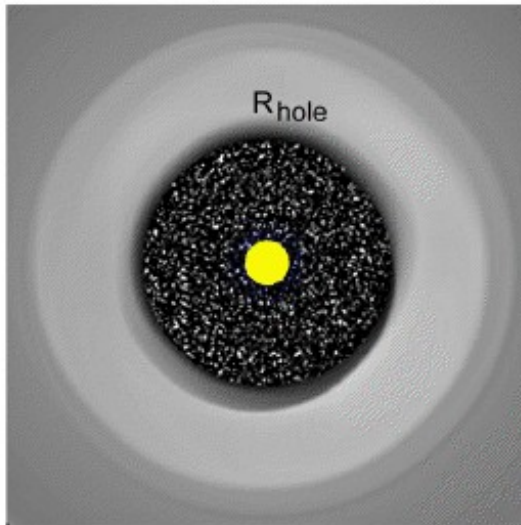
# Disks as “Signposts” of Planets



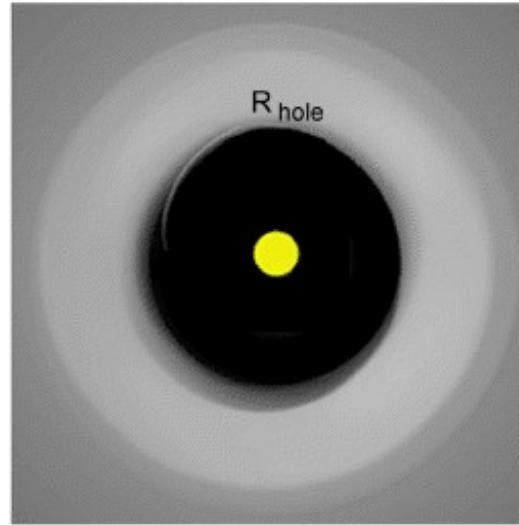


# How do you study the planet formation process?

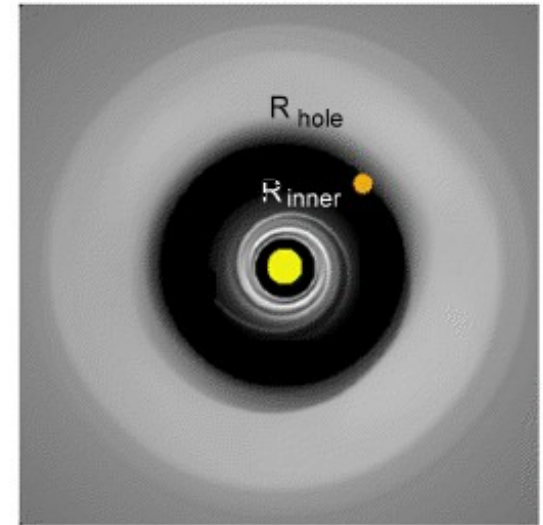
Grain Growth



Photoevaporation



Planet Formation



Strategy 1: Take high resolution, high contrast images of the disks and look for "signposts"

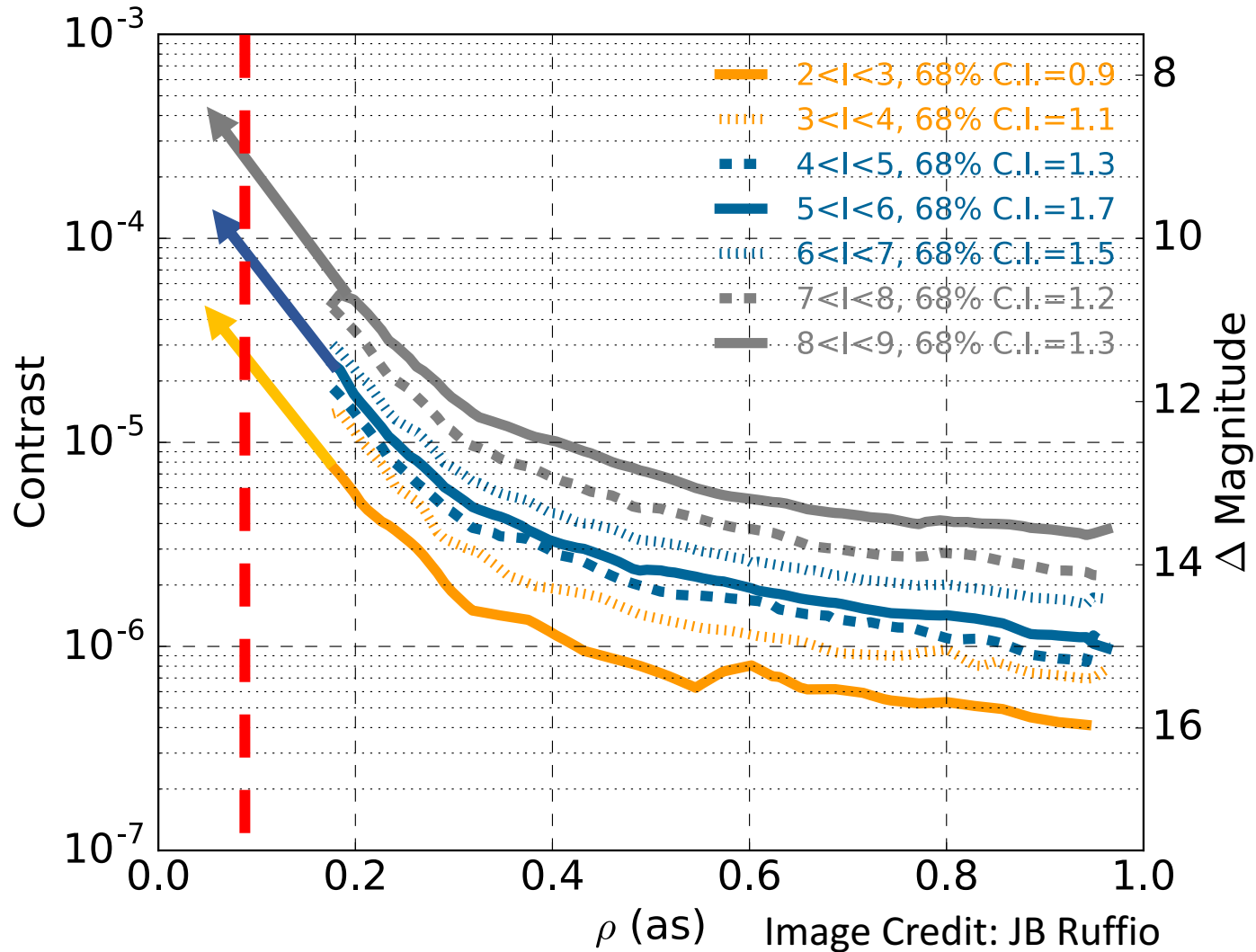
**Strategy 2: Look for the planets themselves!**

**Obstacle 1: Resolution**

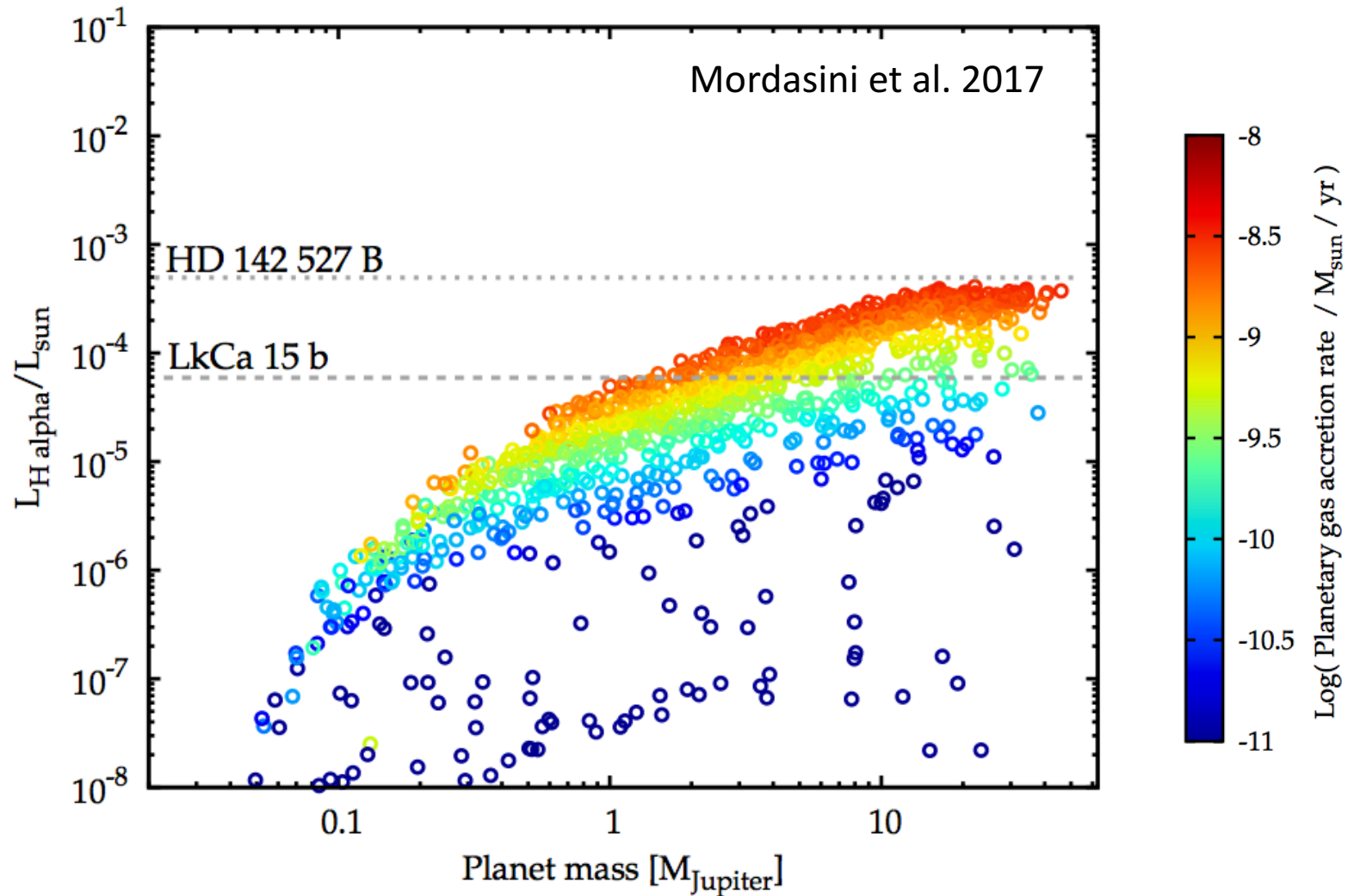
@ 140pc, a 10AU hole (Saturn-sized orbit) is 0.07"

$$\theta = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{D} \rightarrow \text{Bigger telescope or } \underline{\text{shorter wavelength}}$$

# Obstacle 2: Contrast

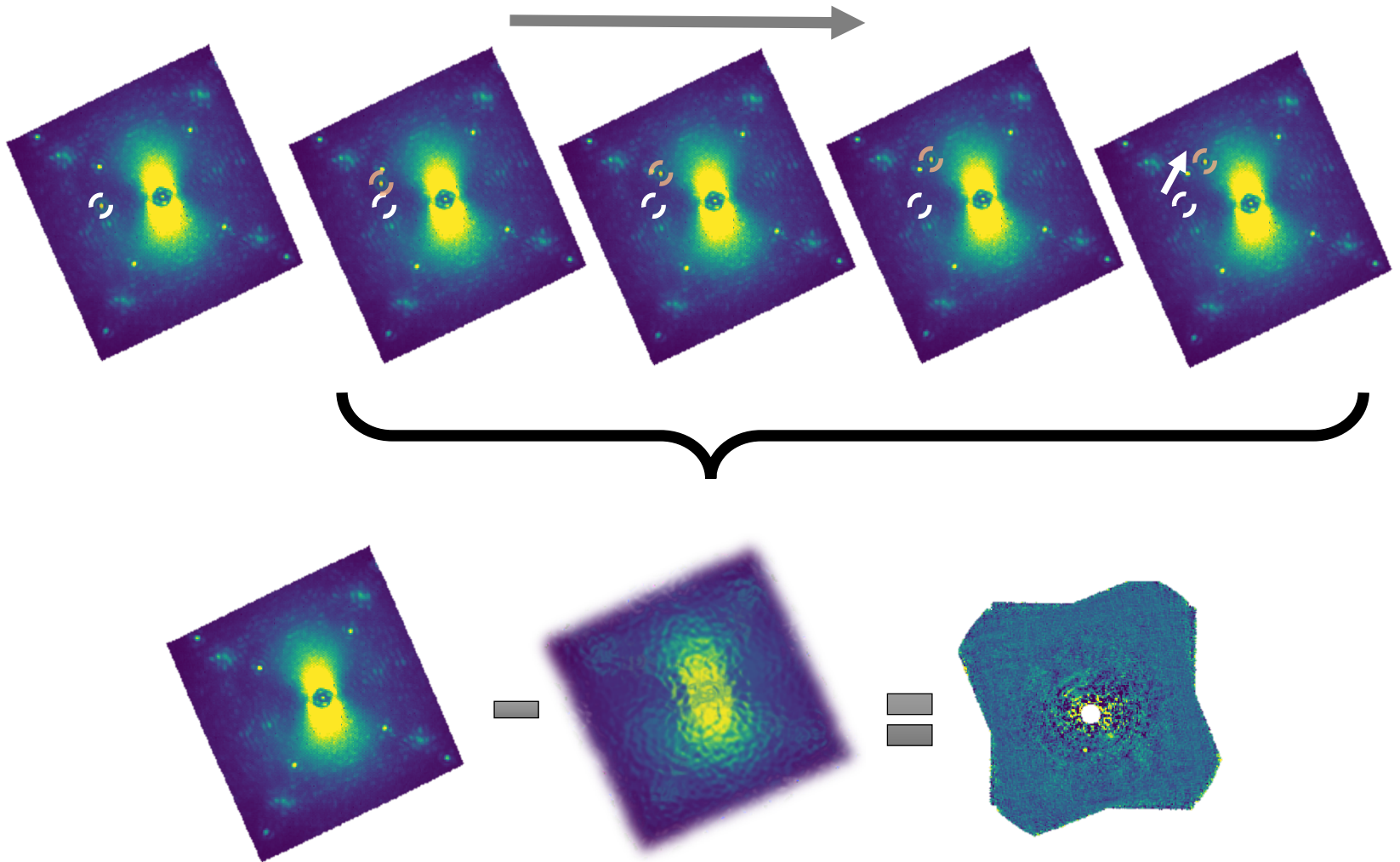


# Obstacle 2: Contrast

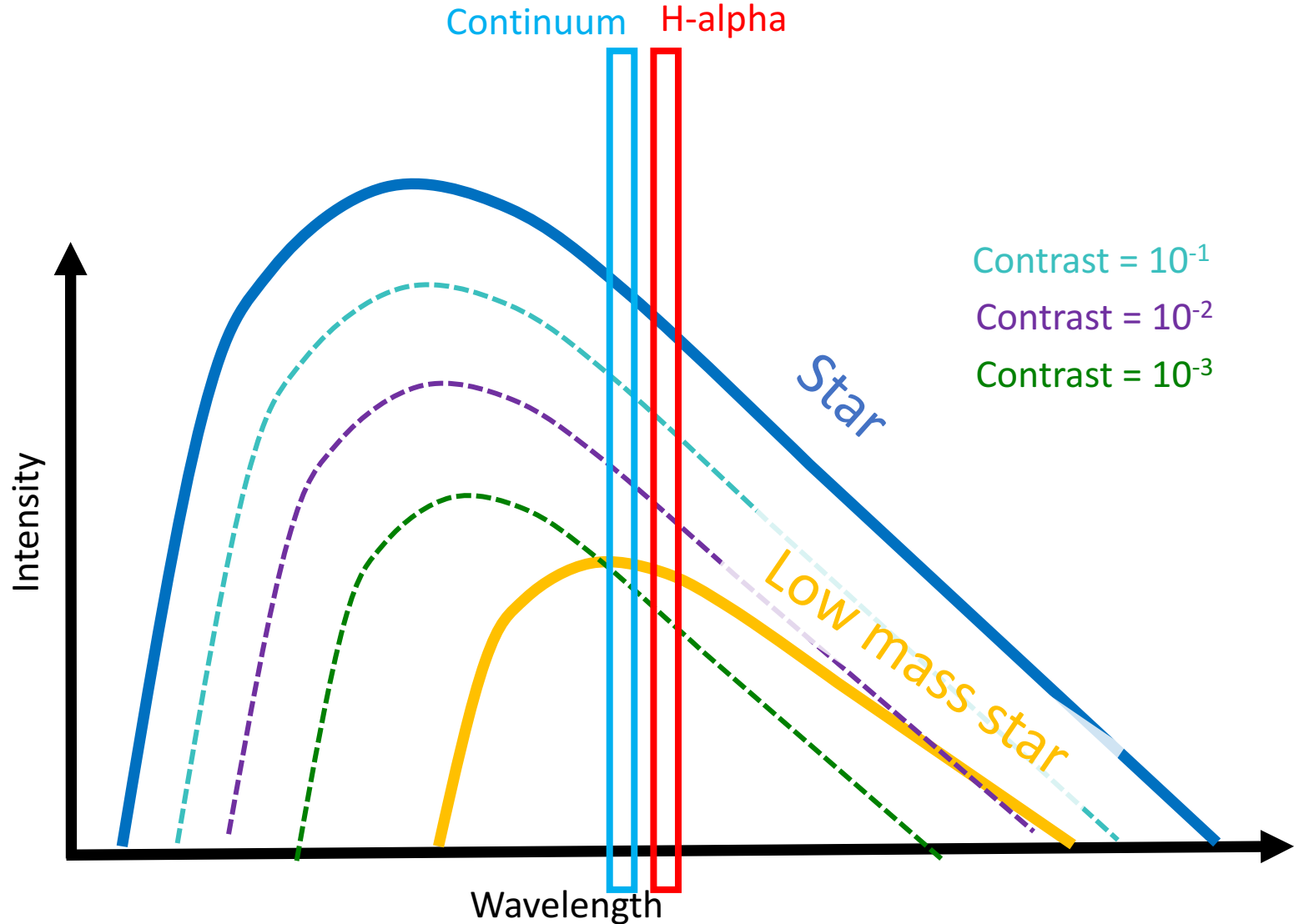




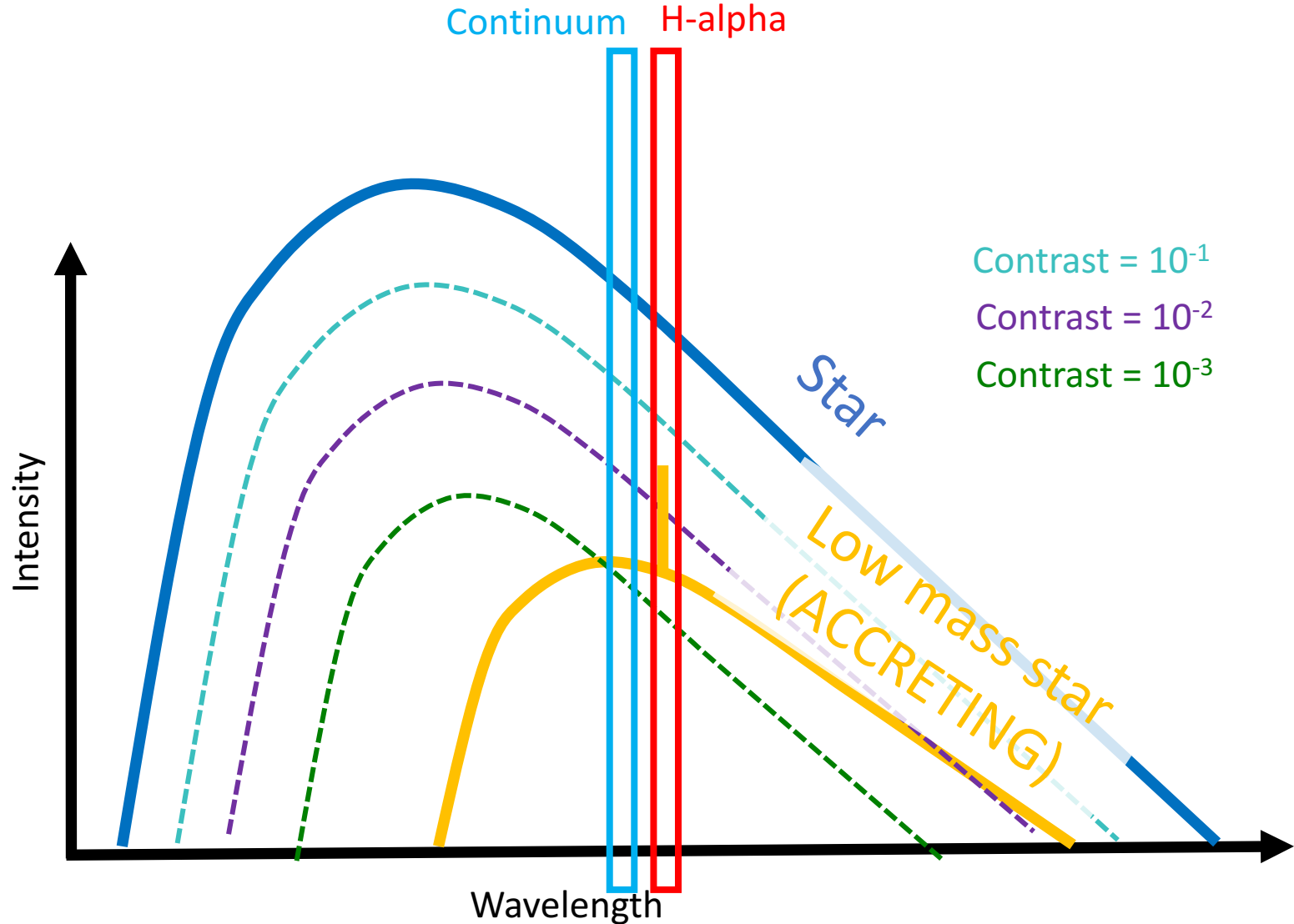
# ADI<sup>+</sup> Post-Processing = LOCI/KLIP



# Simultaneous (Spectral) Differential Imaging

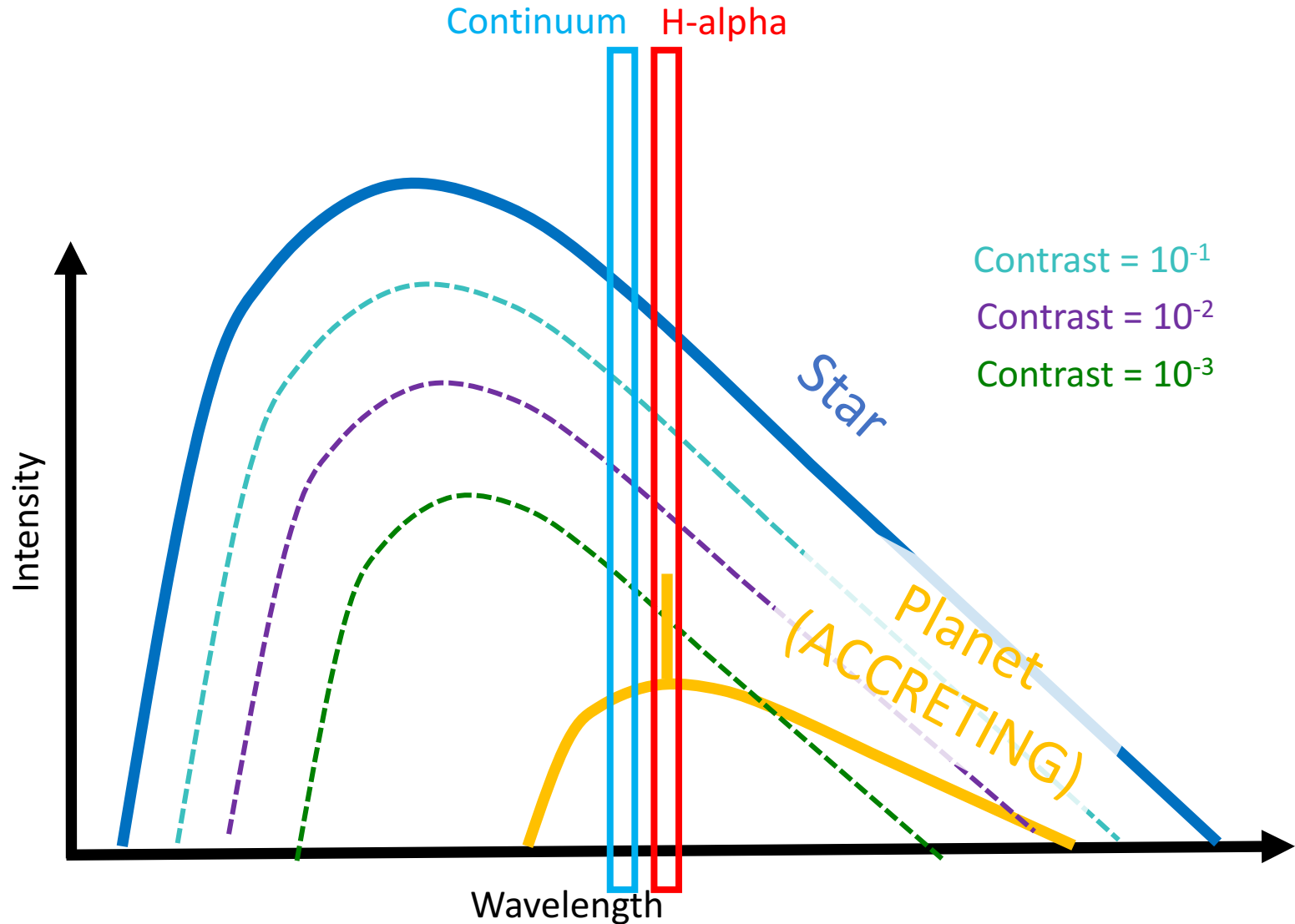


# Simultaneous (Spectral) Differential Imaging

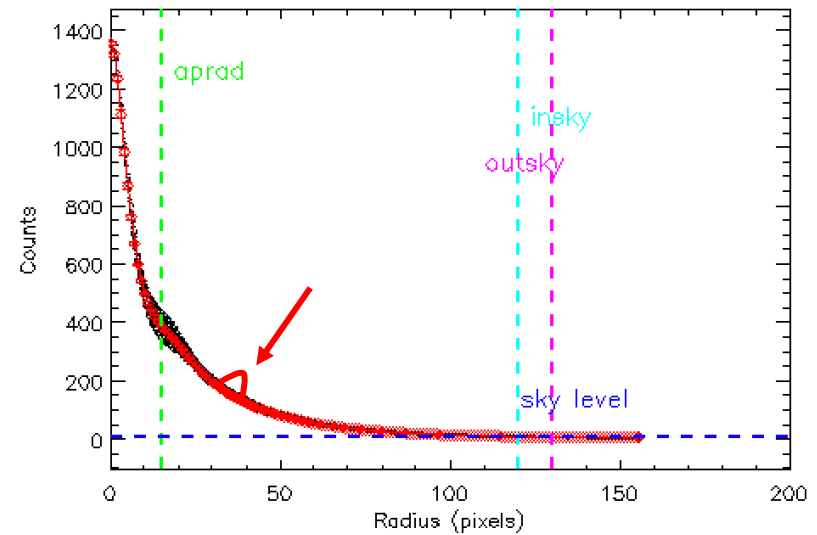
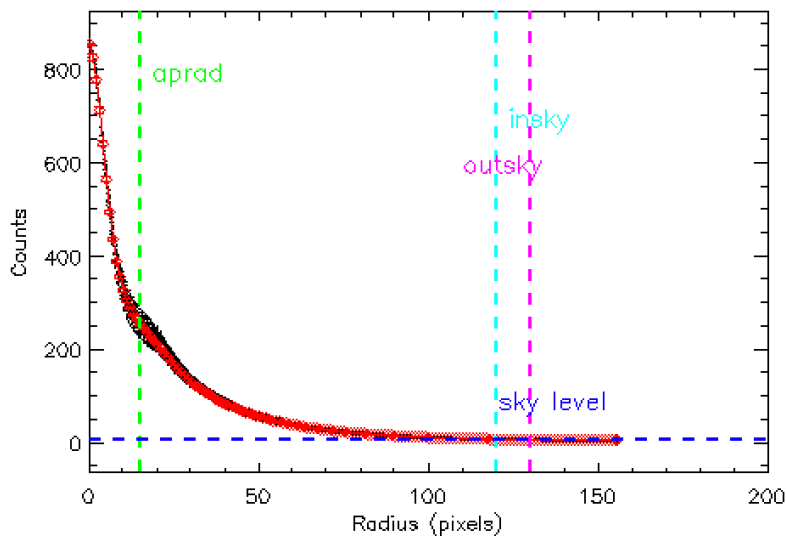
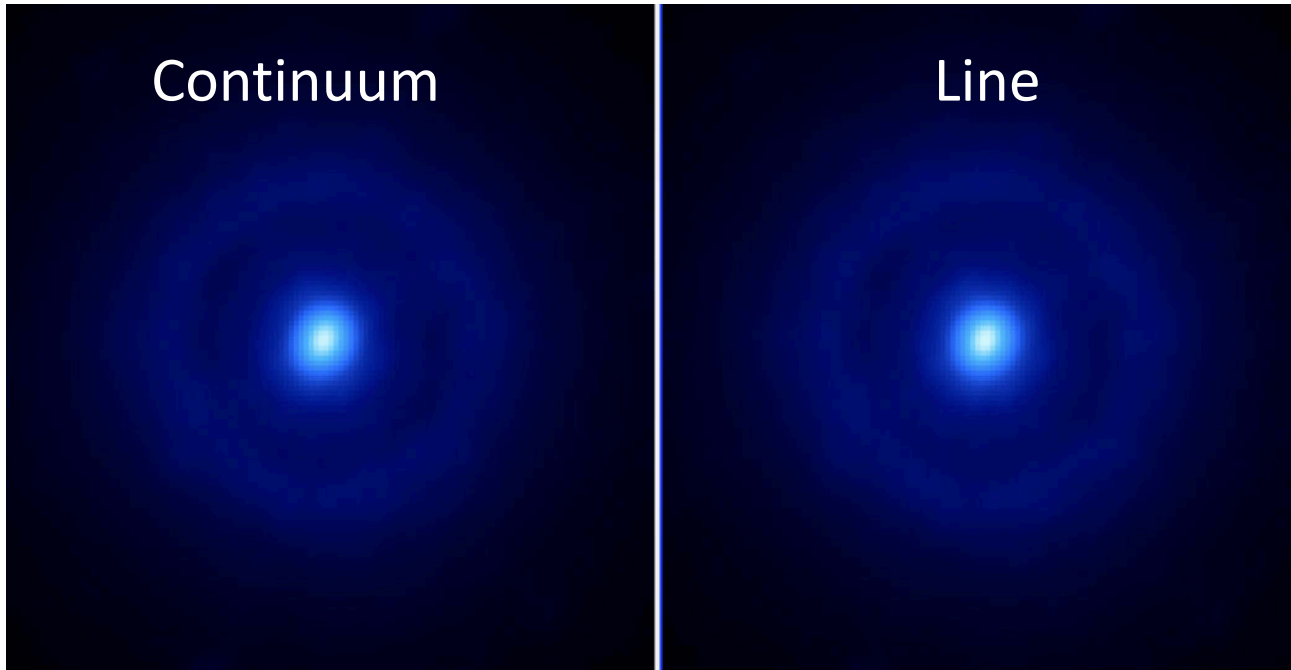




# Simultaneous (Spectral) Differential Imaging



# Simultaneous (Spectral) Differential Imaging



# Giant Accreting Protoplanet Survey (GAP planetS)

<b>GAPplanetS Candidates</b>	<b>Rmag</b>	<b>Cavity Radius (AU)</b>	<b>distance (parsec)</b>
HD100546	6.7	13	97
HD142527	7.0	100	144
Object 3	7.0	15	98
Object 4	8.2	23	145
Object 5	8.3	130	230
Object 6	8.3	73	200
Object 7	8.4	5.9	47
Object 8	8.4	80	150
Object 9	8.7	46	142
Object 10	9.7	46	385
Object 11	10.2	29	73
Object 12	10.7	25	140
Object 13	10.8	43	160
Object 14	10.9	46	56
LkCa15	11.6	50	140



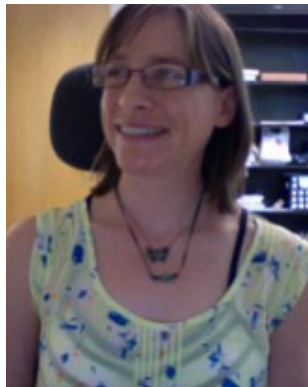
# GAPlanetS Team



Laird Close  
MagAO PI



Jared Males  
VisAO PI  
MagAOX PI

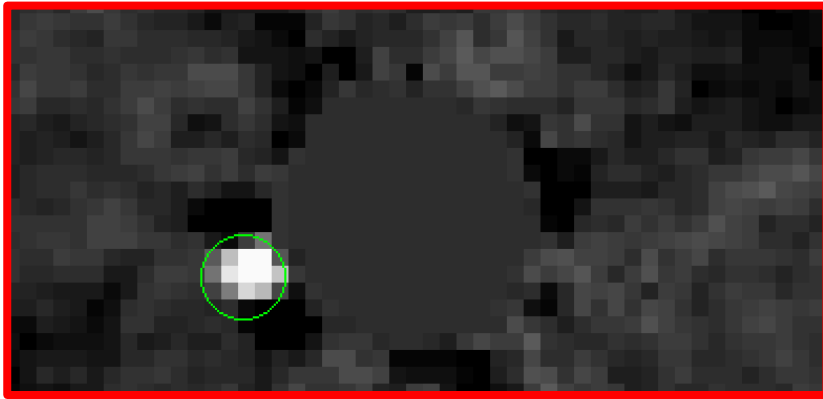


Katie Morzinski  
MagAO Instrument  
Scientist

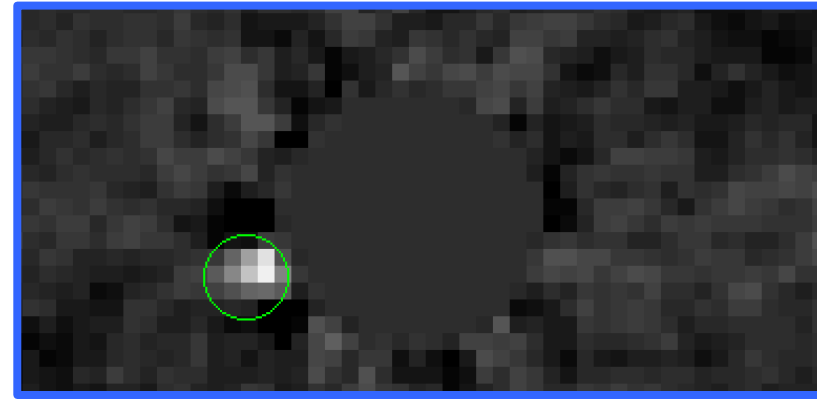


Clare Leonard  
Alex Watson  
Elijah Spiro  
Wyatt Mullen  
Ray Saitoti

# HD 142527 – An Accreting Stellar Companion



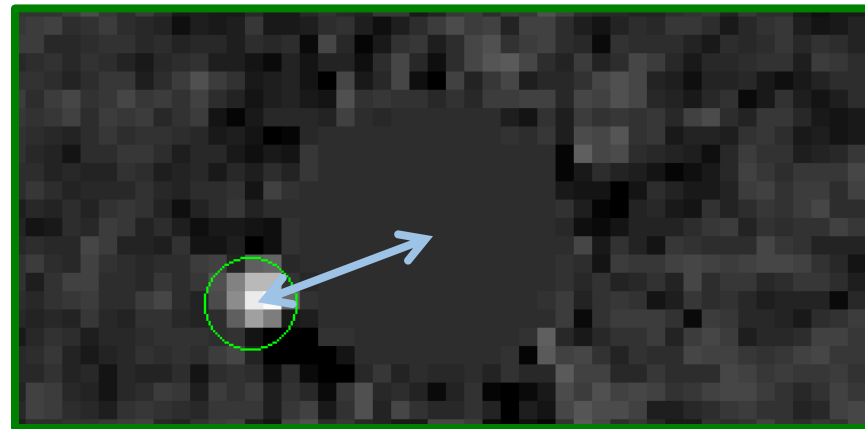
H-alpha



Continuum



Alex Watson  
Undergraduate thesis

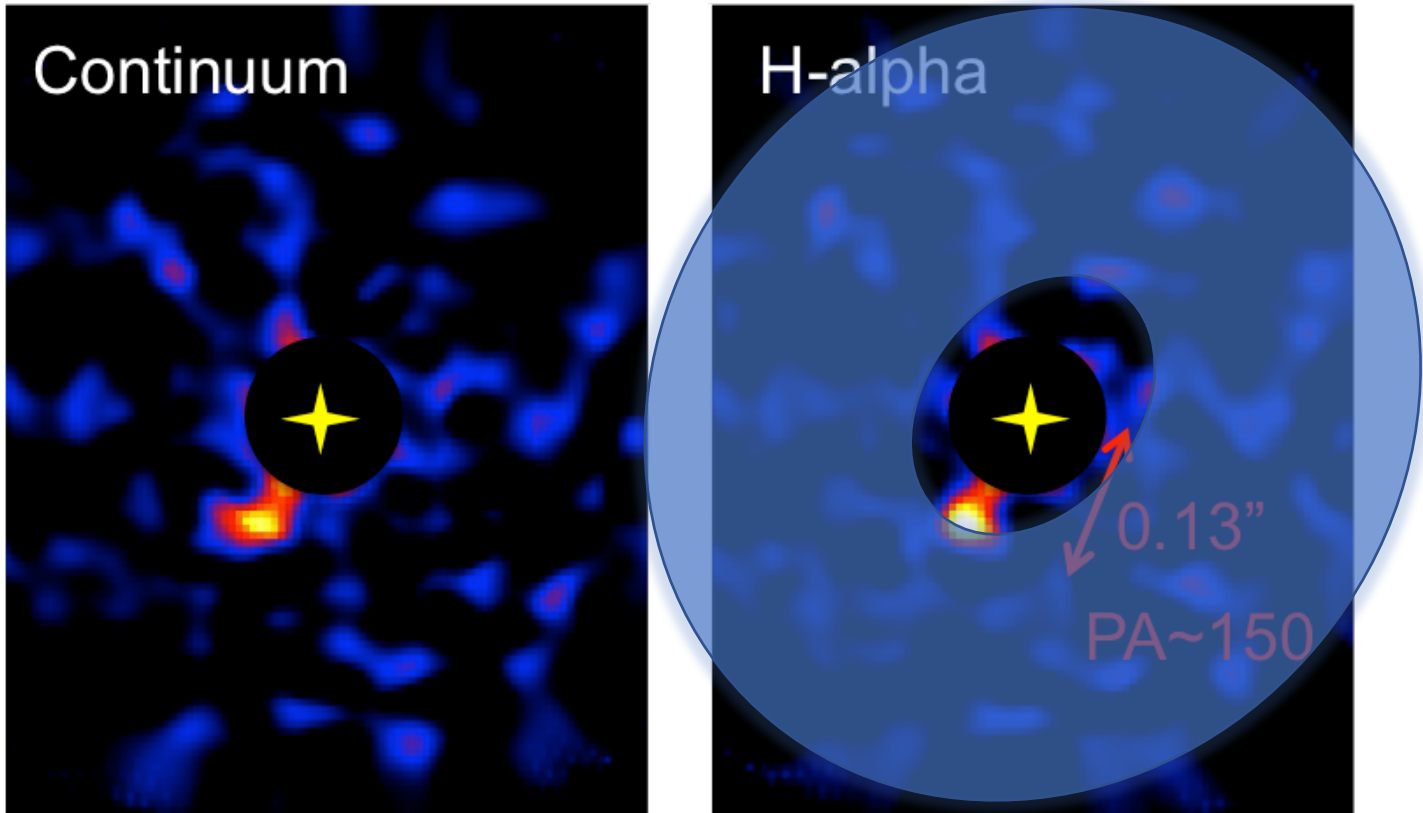


Difference (ASDI)

Brighter in H-alpha  
→ accreting

Just 0.086" separation → 12AU!

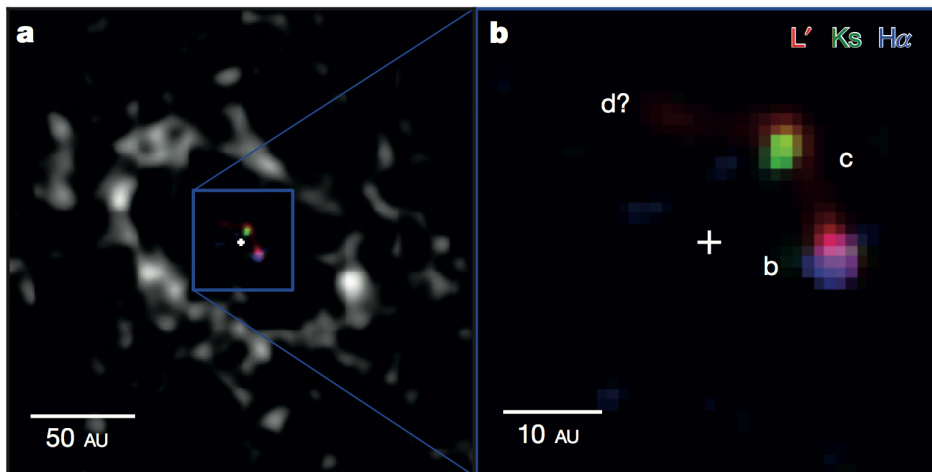
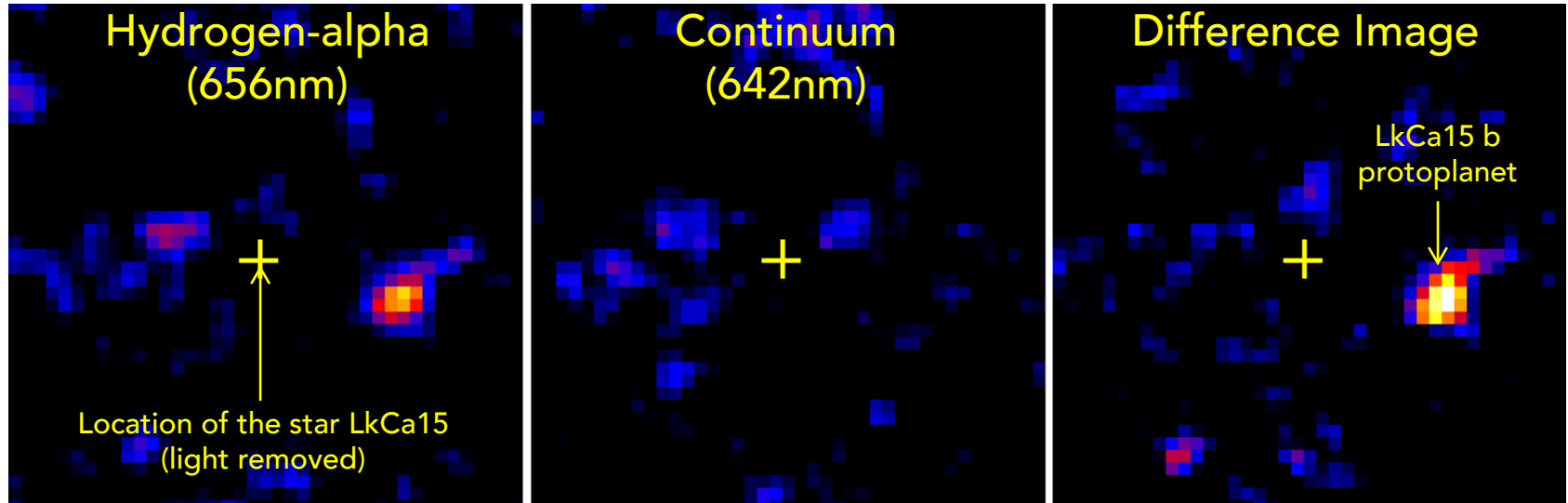
# HD100546 “b” – An accreting protoplanet?







# LkCa15 b – An Accreting Protoplanet



Sallum, Follette et al. 2015 *Nature*

## Properties

**Separation:**  $93 \pm 8$  mas

$1.3 \times$  FWHM

$14.7 \pm 2.1$  AU

**PA:**  $-104 \pm 3^\circ$

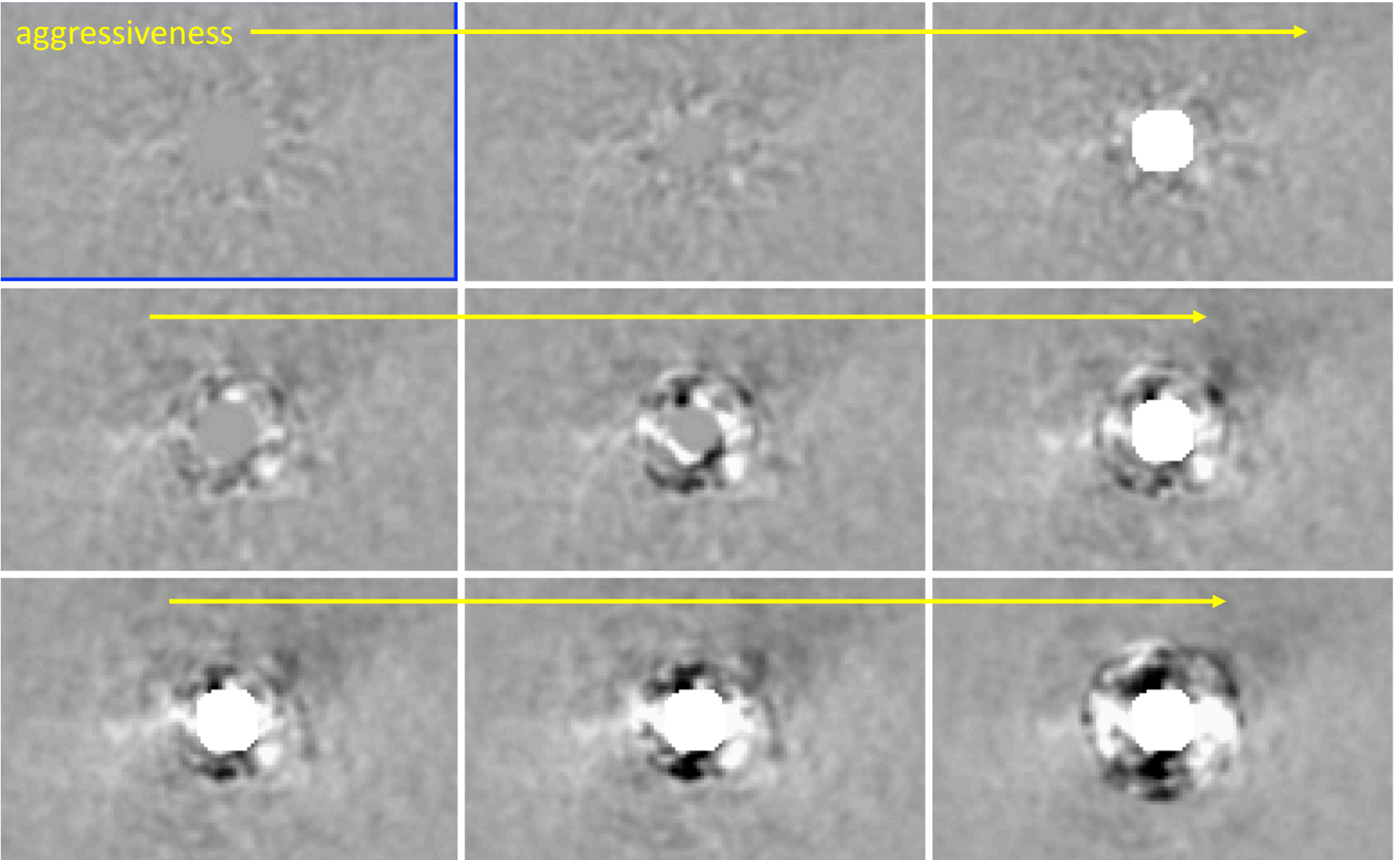
$\Delta_{\text{mag}}$ :  $5.2 \pm 0.3$

$8 \times 10^{-3}$  contrast

**SNR:** 6.8

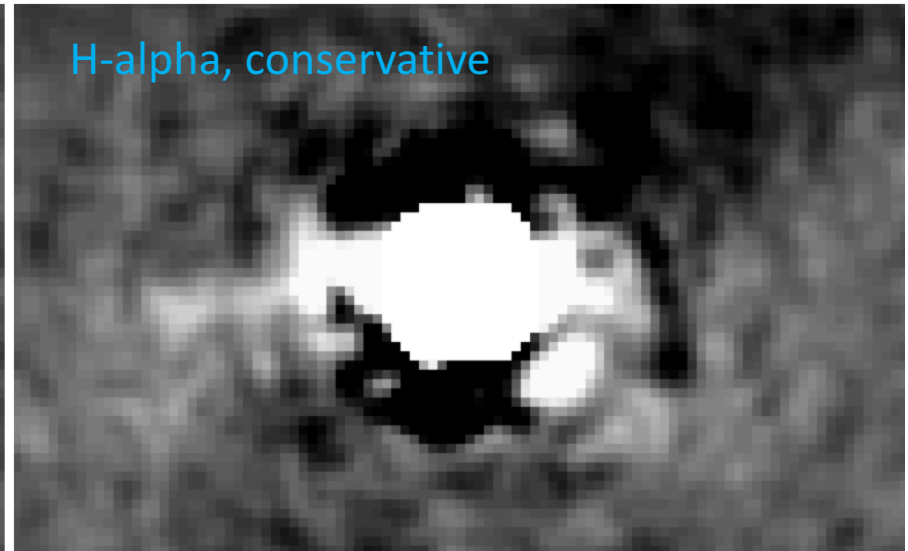
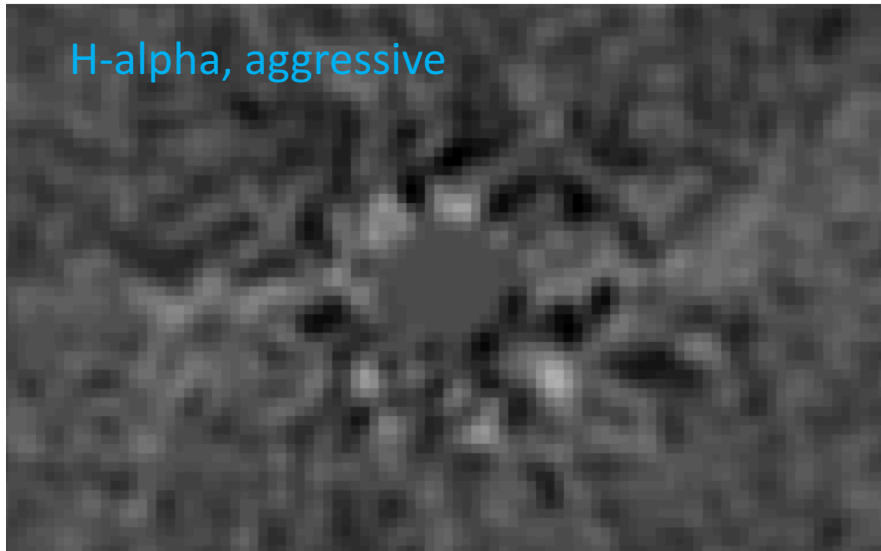
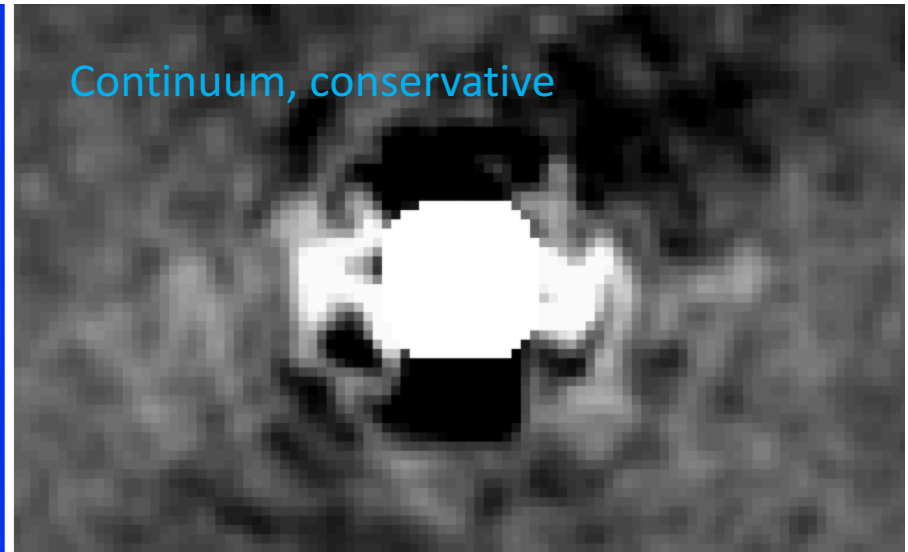
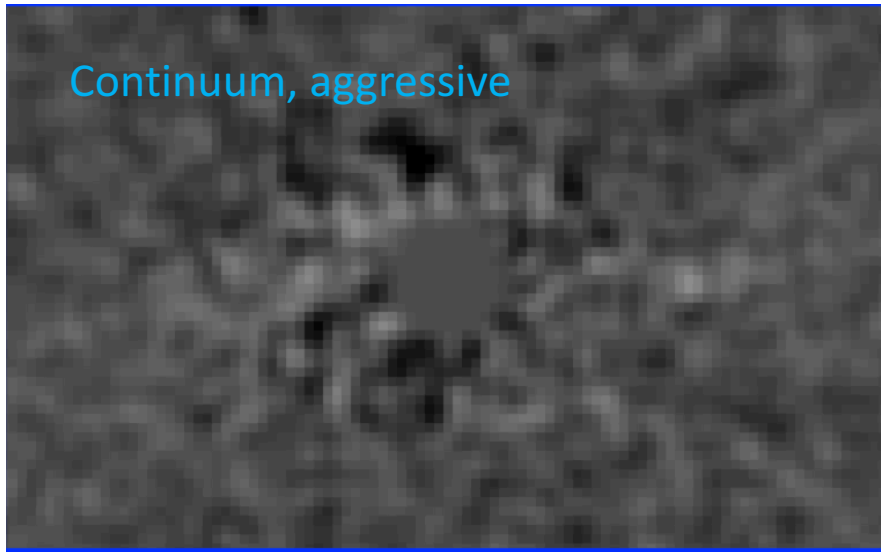
# New LkCa 15 Data (2016)

aggressiveness



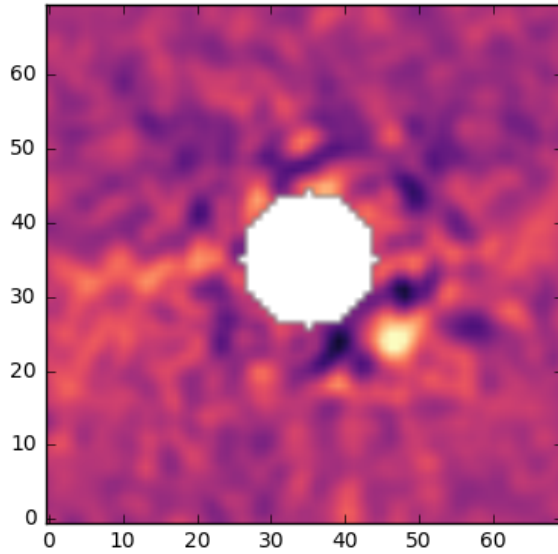


# New LkCa 15 Data (2016)

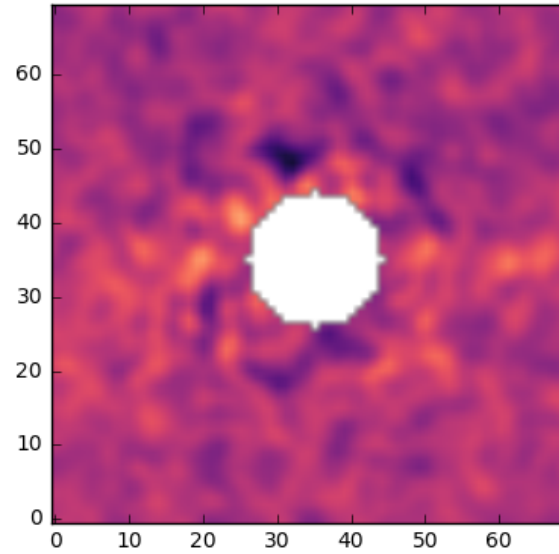


# New LkCa 15 Data (2016)

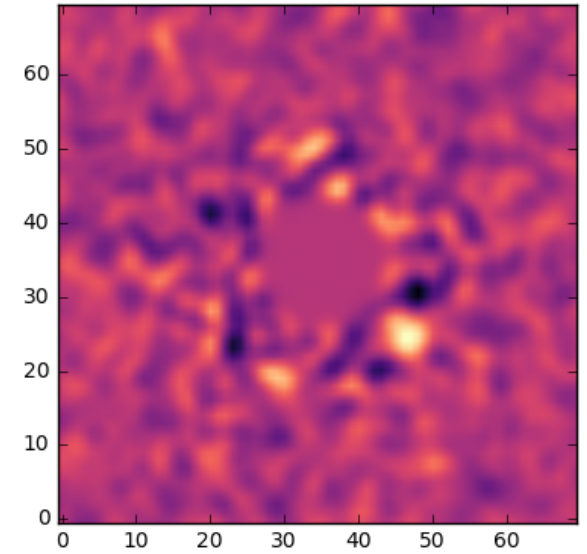
2016 Ha



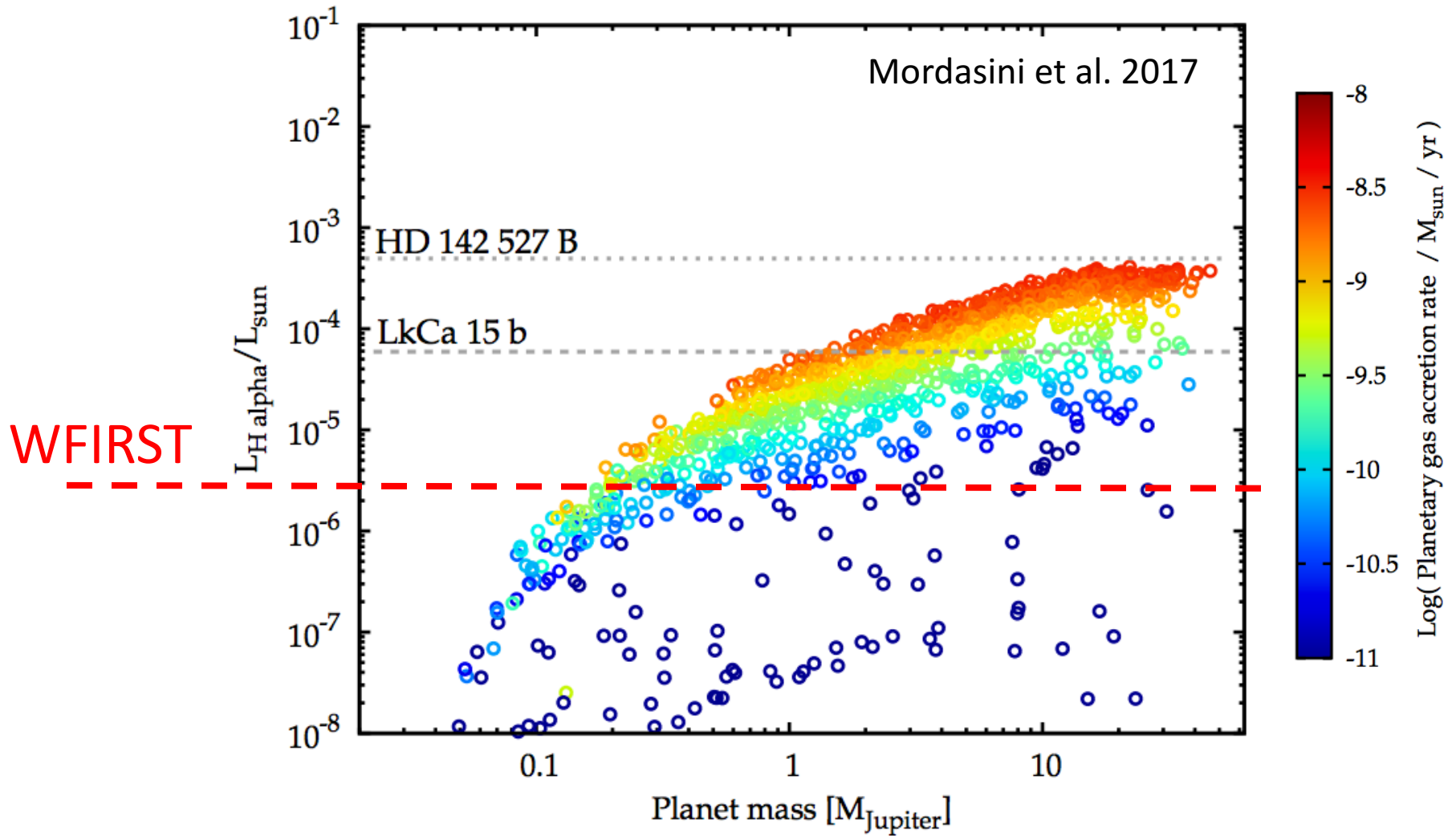
2016 Continuum



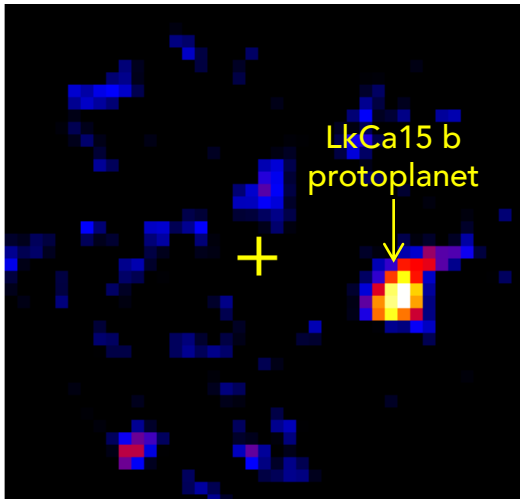
2016 SDI



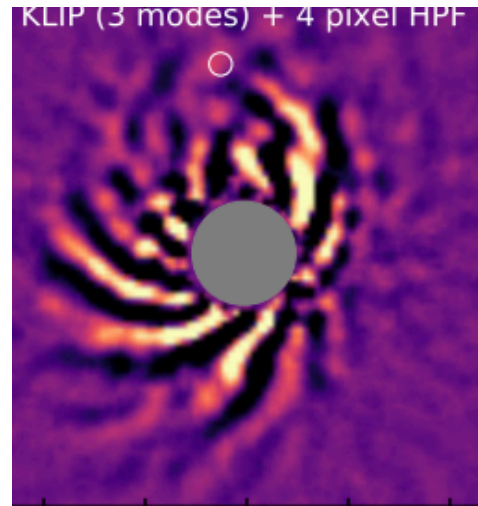
# Applications in Space



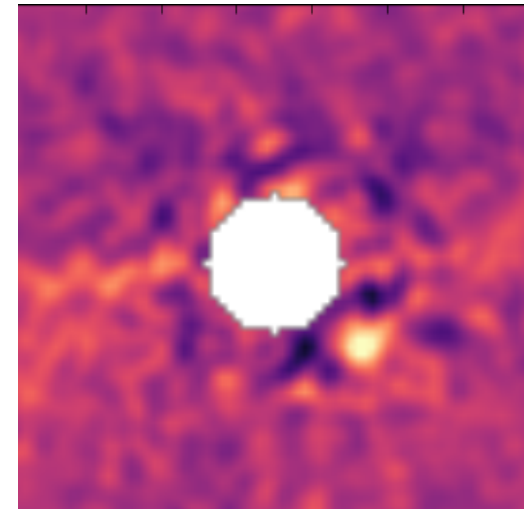
# Conclusions



Imaging in visible light and at wavelengths that require more moderate contrasts allows for **direct detection of planets within disk gaps...**



However **interpretation of sources near scattered light features is complicated** requires large rotations and thorough exploration of the parameter space



**The future of this technique is bright,** particularly in the context of future space missions