

# Star Planet Interactions



**“So, have you thought about magnetic fields?”**

# Star Planet Interactions

# What are star-planet interactions?

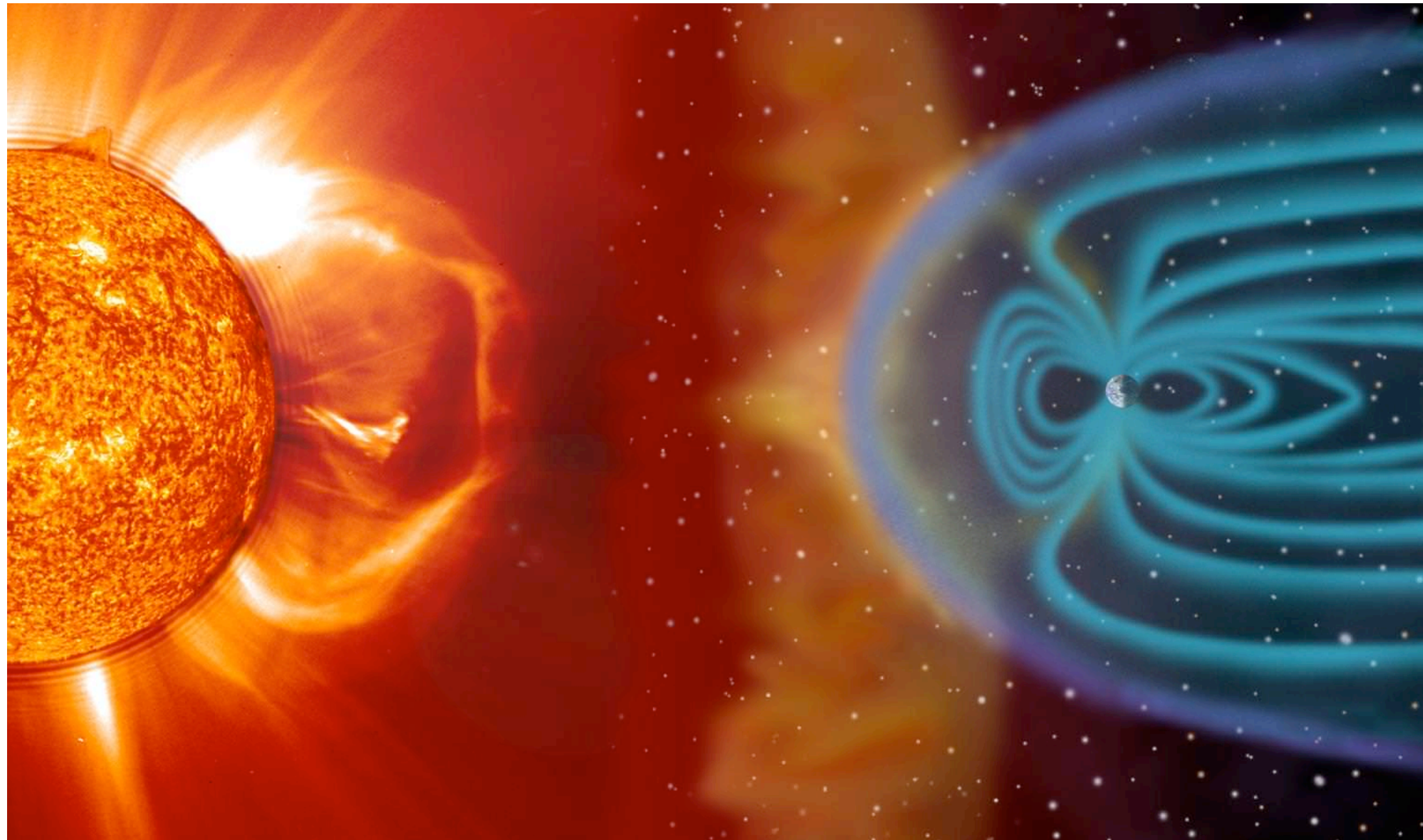
## From the star:

- High-energy particle events such as Coronal Mass Ejections
- Radiation from flares etc.

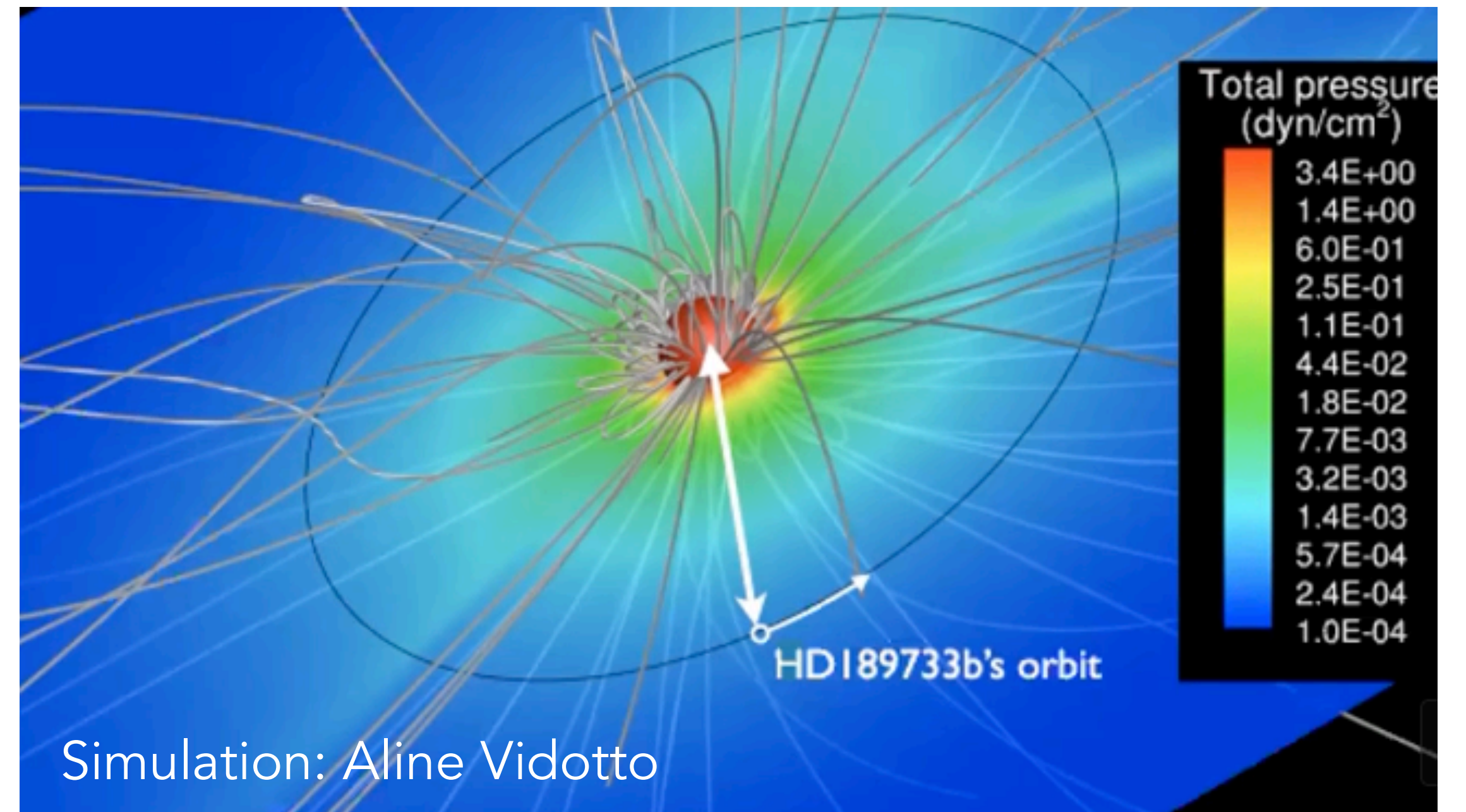
Influence environment around planet

# How does space-weather impact a planet?

Earth  
1 AU = 215  $R_{\text{sun}}$



Hot-Jupiter  
0.05 AU = 6  $R_{\text{sun}}$



Close-in planets, in general, experience

- Higher density external environment
- Higher ambient magnetic field
- Higher radiative flux

Hot-Jupiters are excellent targets in the search for exoplanet magnetic fields



# Hot-Jupiters are excellent targets in the search for exoplanet magnetic fields

## Planetary Consequences

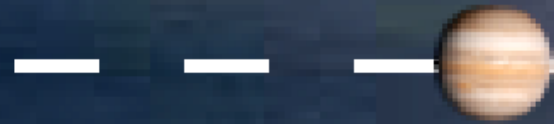
- Atmospheric escape
- aurora / radio emission
- tidal heating
- ...



# Hot-Jupiters are excellent targets in the search for exoplanet magnetic fields

## Planetary Consequences

- Atmospheric escape
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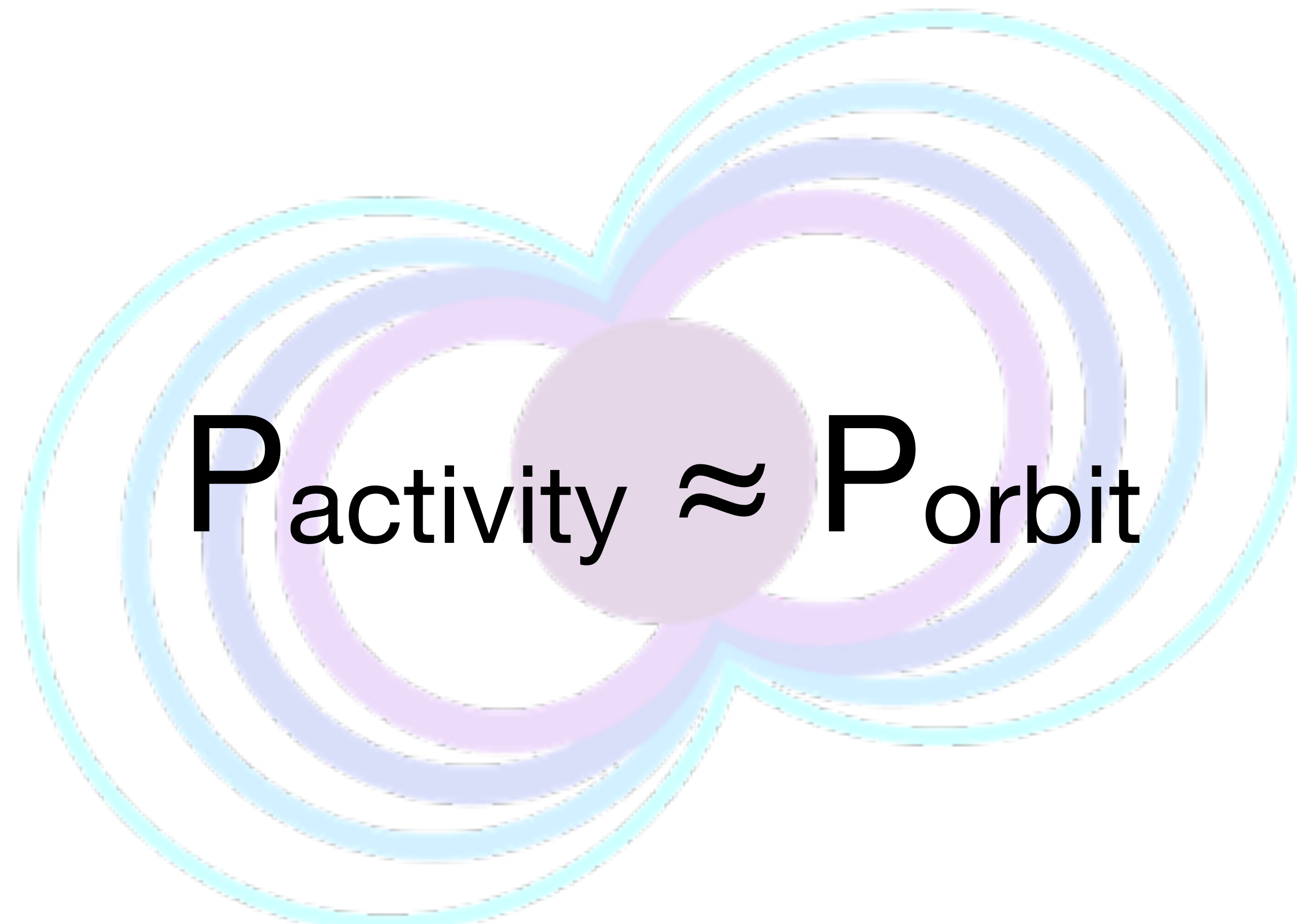


## Stellar Consequences

- Magnetic interactions
- tidal interactions
- Increased stellar activity
- ...

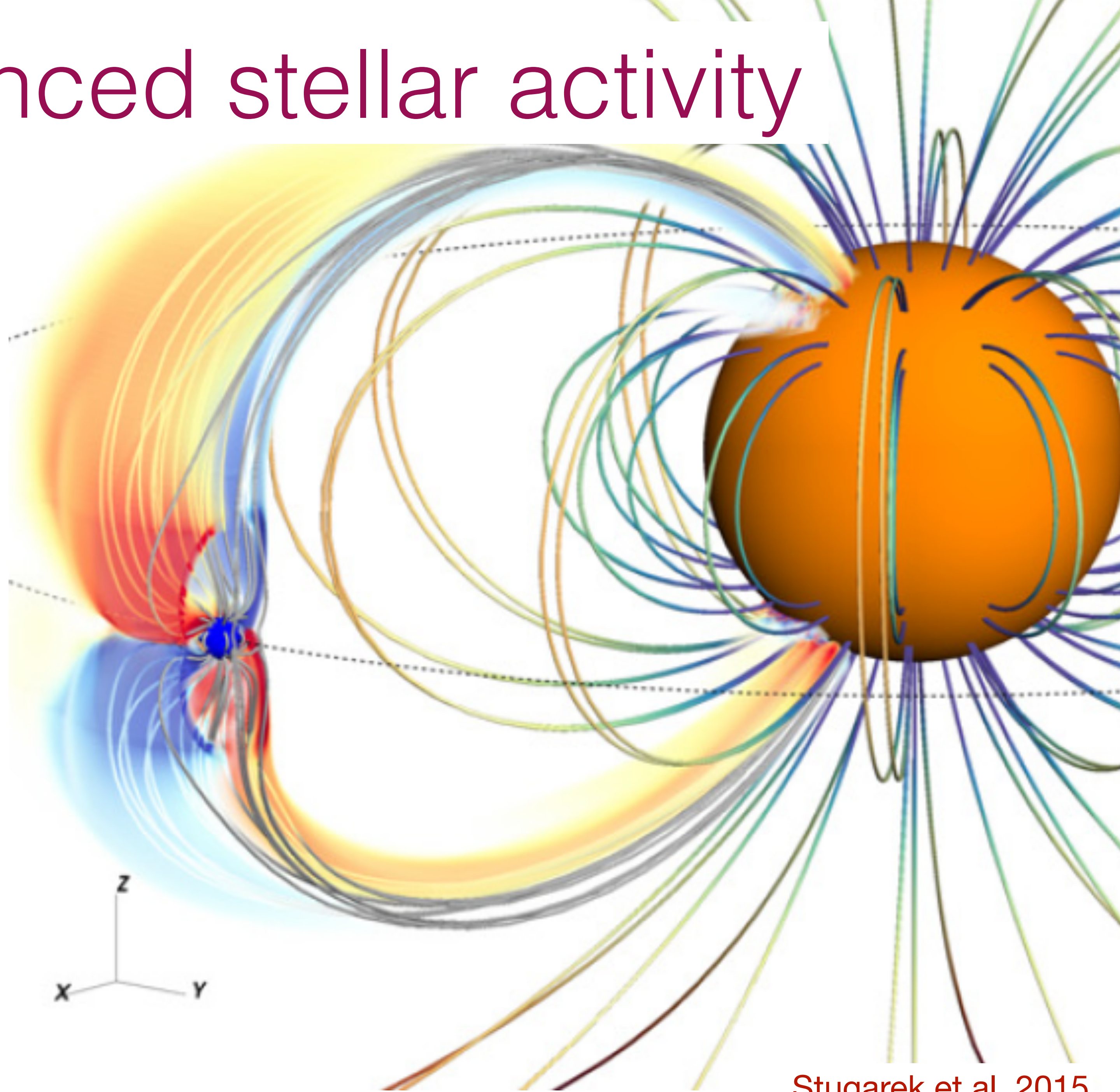


# How do we detect Star-Planet Interactions?



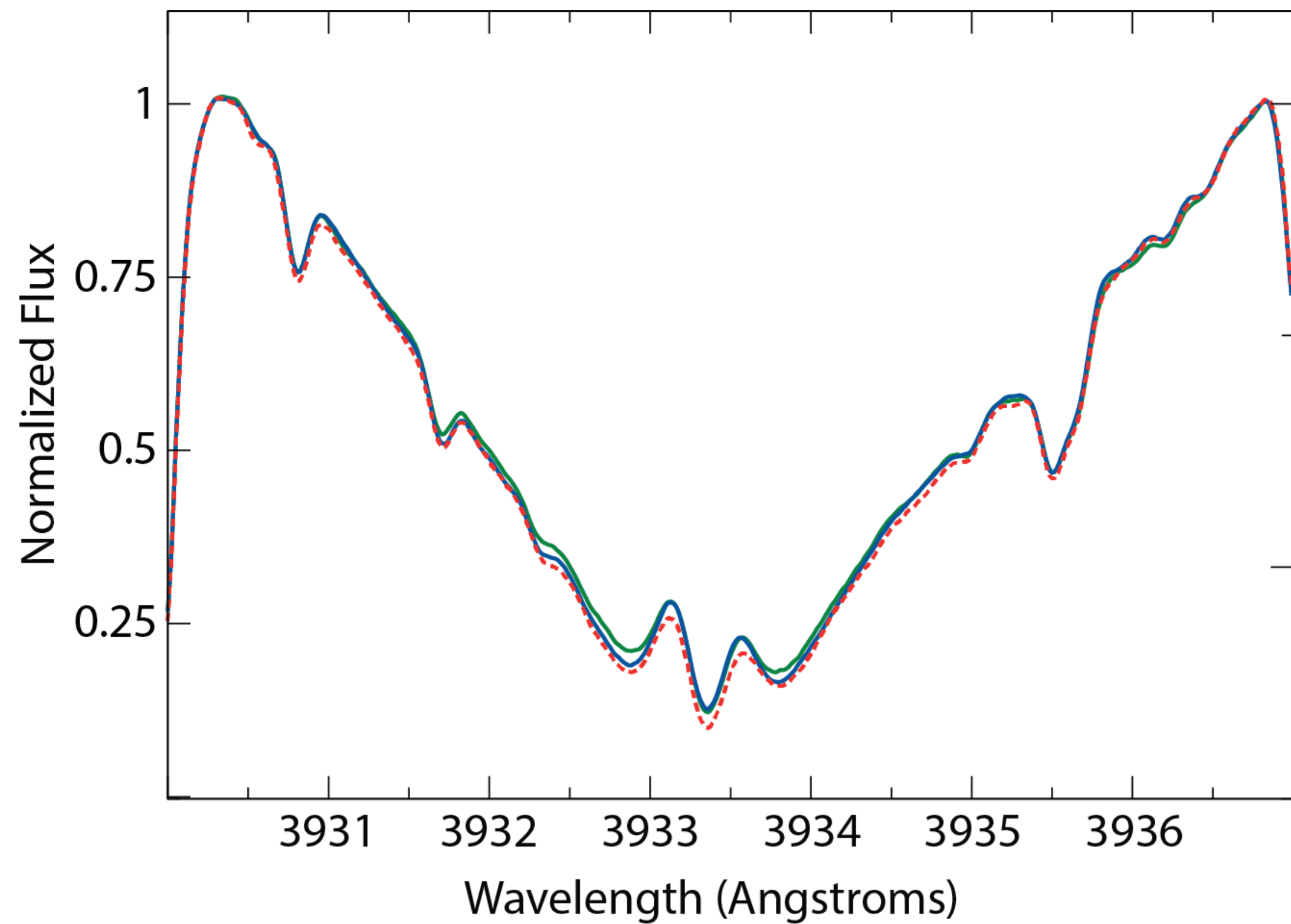
# Searching for enhanced stellar activity

- Stellar magnetic field and planetary magnetic field lines can connect.
- Results in “hot spots” that can be detected as enhanced chromospheric activity.

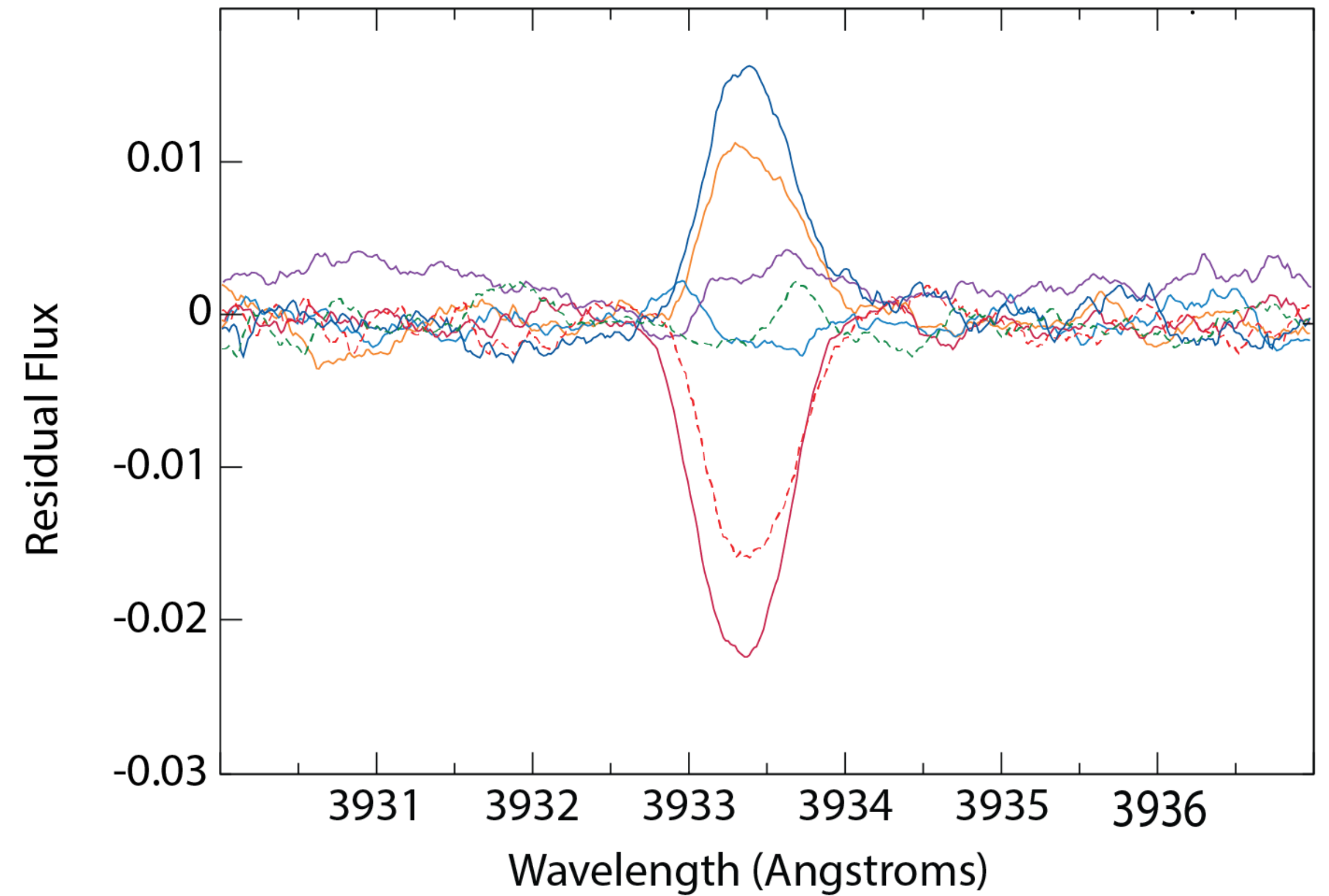


# Searching for enhanced stellar activity

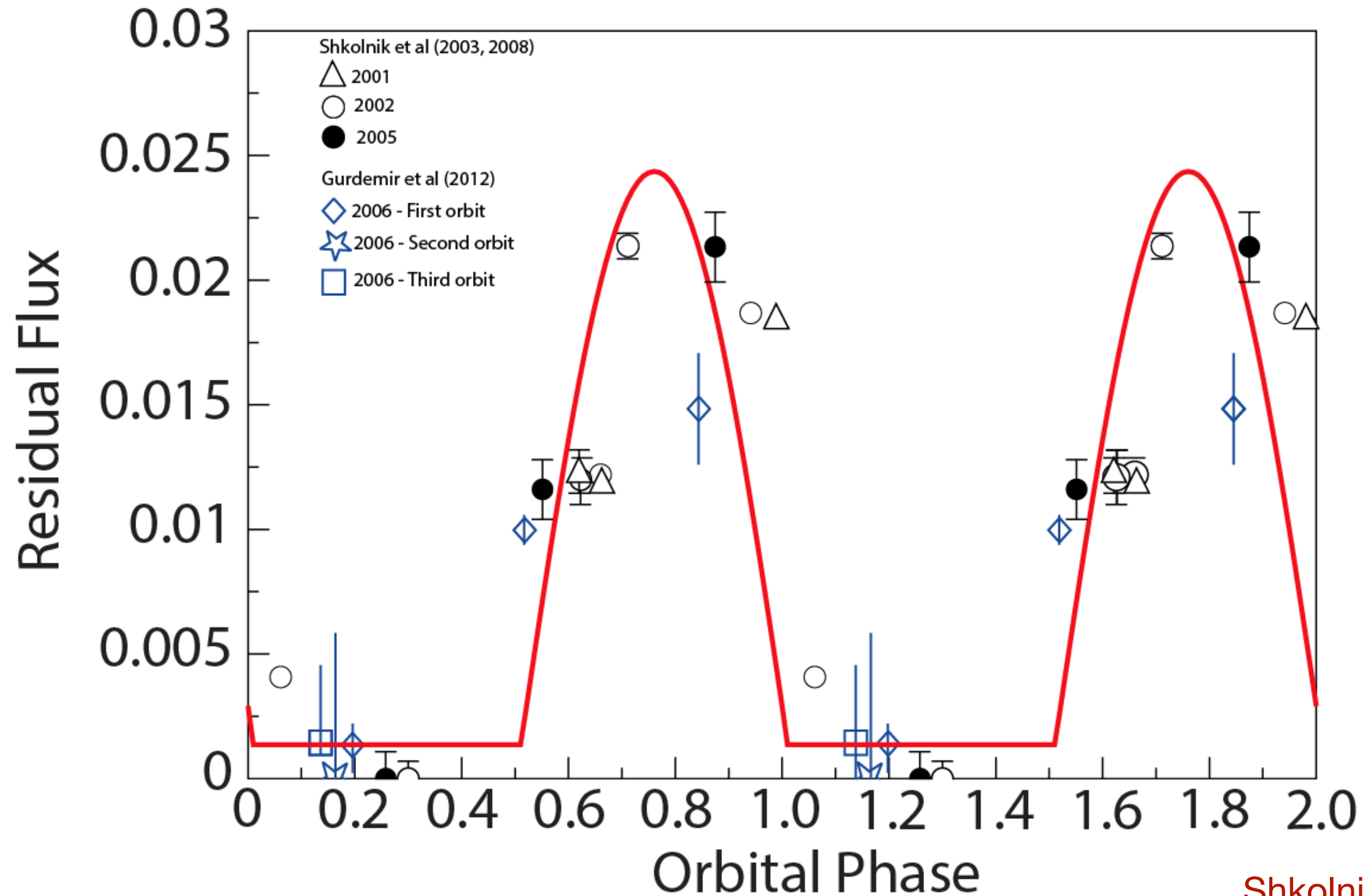
HD 179949 Ca II K



HD 179949 Ca II K



# Searching for enhanced stellar activity

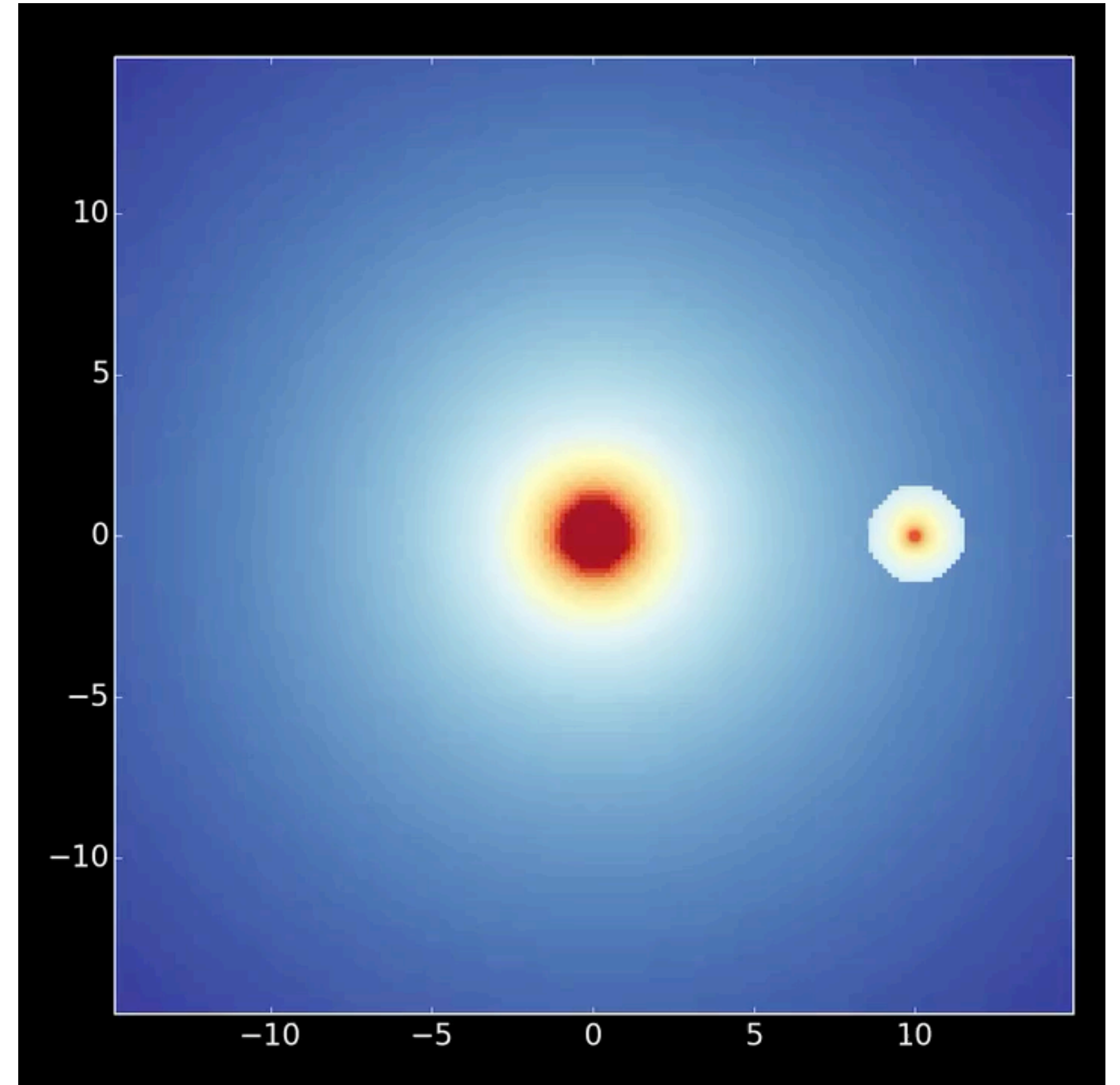


Shkolnik et al. 2003, 2005, 2008

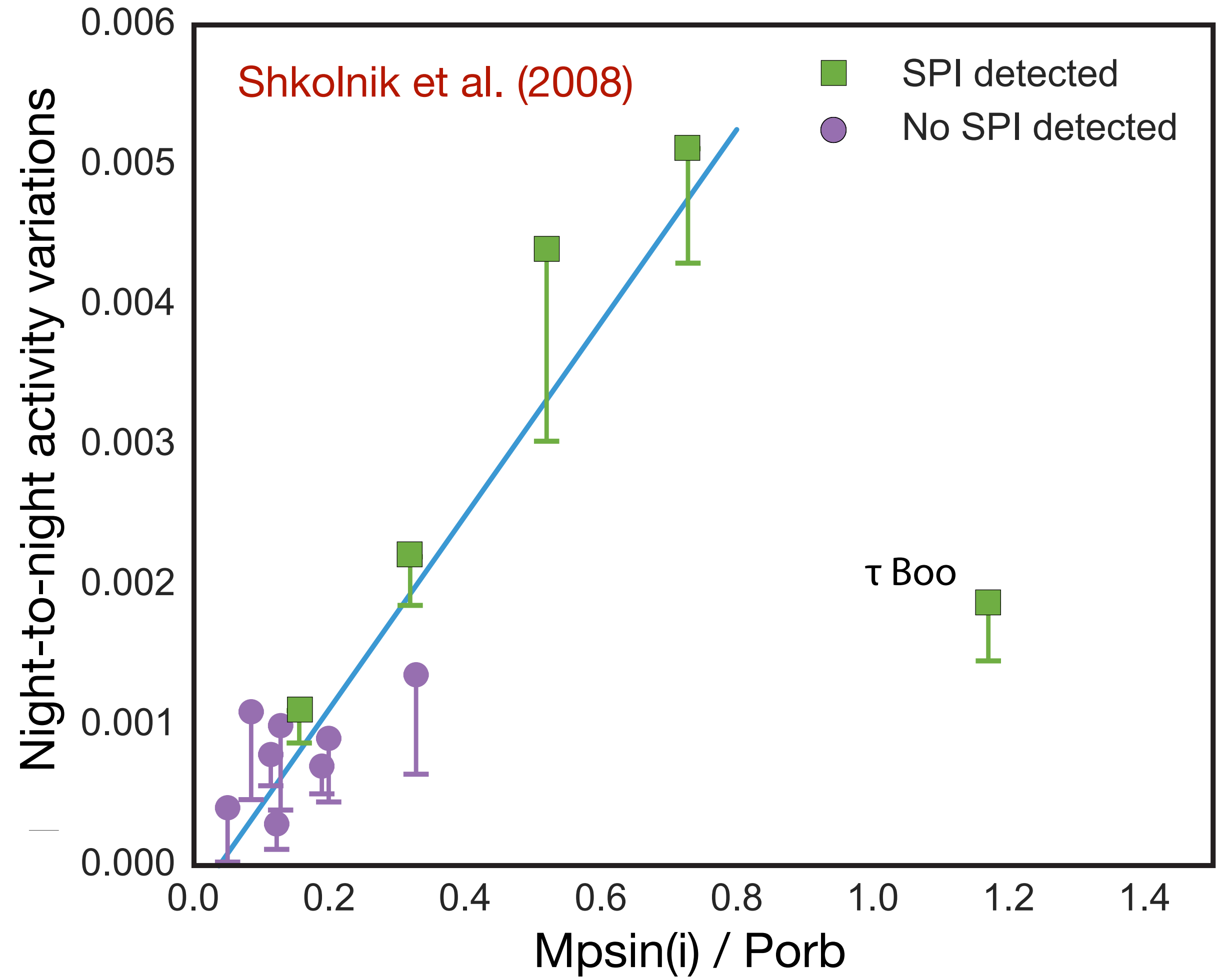
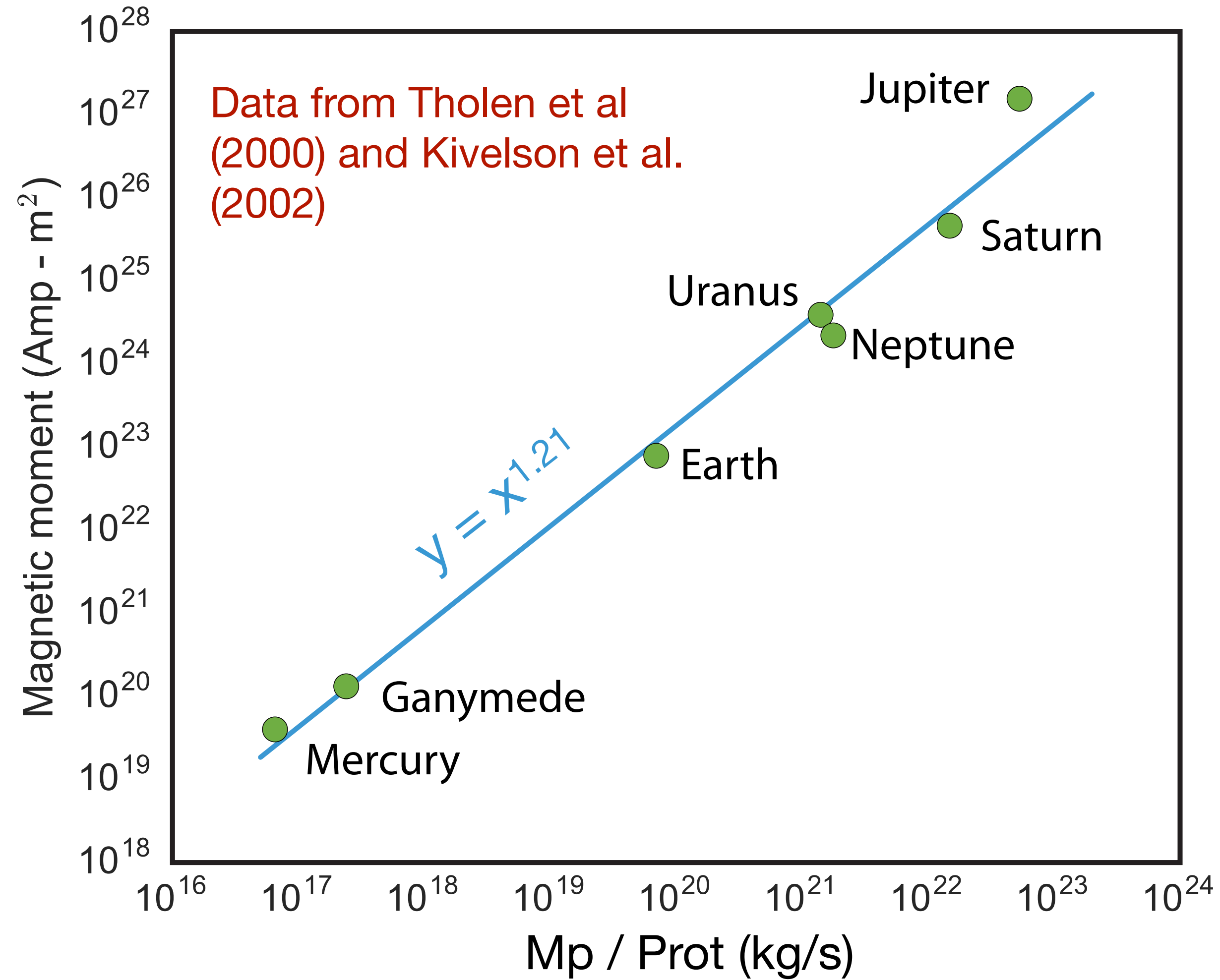
Gurdemir et al. 2012

# Searching for enhanced stellar activity

- MHD modeling predicts enhanced activity that phases with the orbital period of the planet.
- The “hot spot” on the stellar surface leads the orbit of the planet by  $\sim 30^\circ$ .



# Detections of exoplanet B-fields

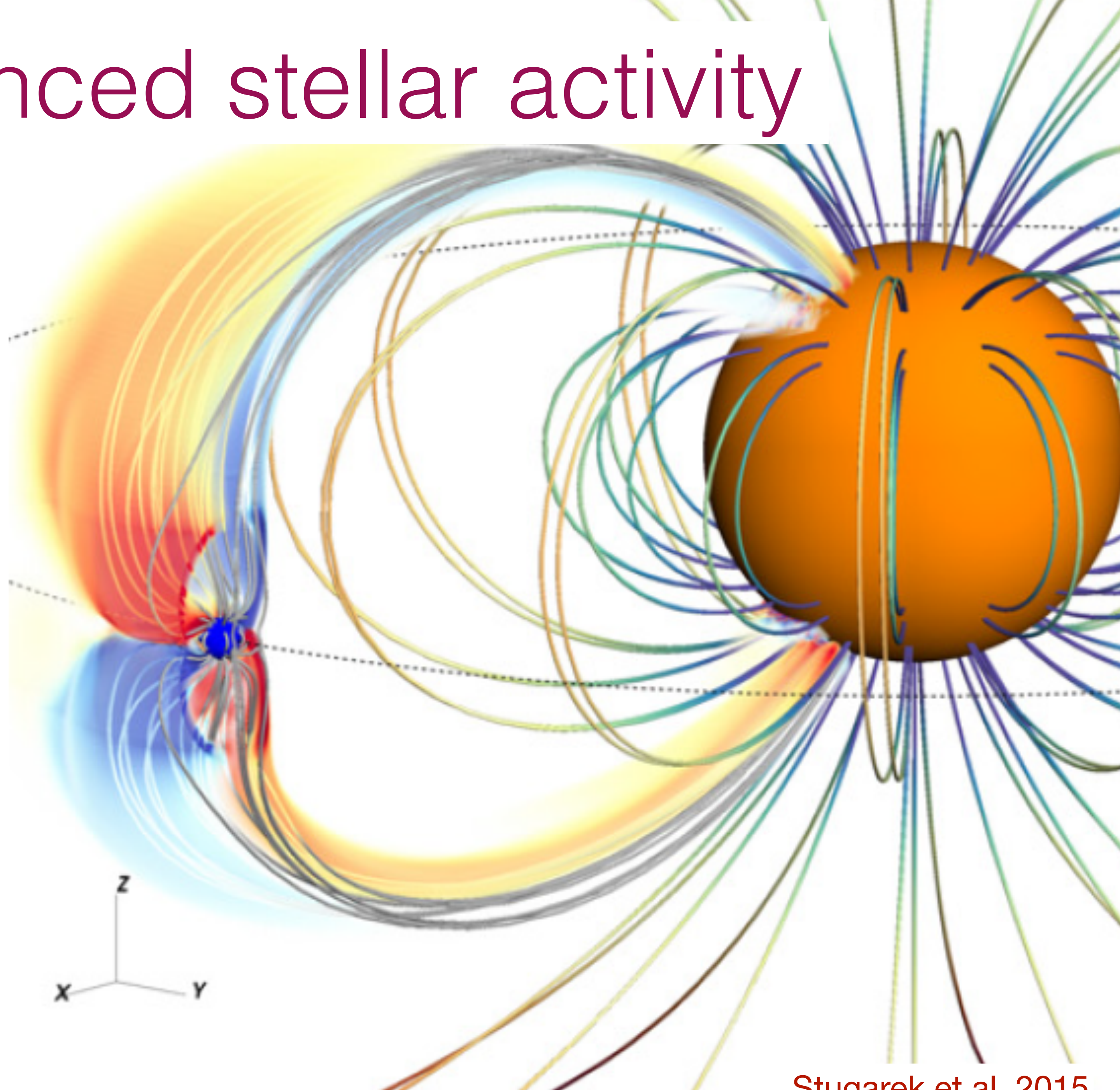


# Searching for enhanced stellar activity

- Stellar magnetic field and planetary magnetic field lines can connect.
- Results in “hot spots” that can be detected as enhanced chromospheric activity.
- Measured SPI power can be used to estimate planetary field strength:

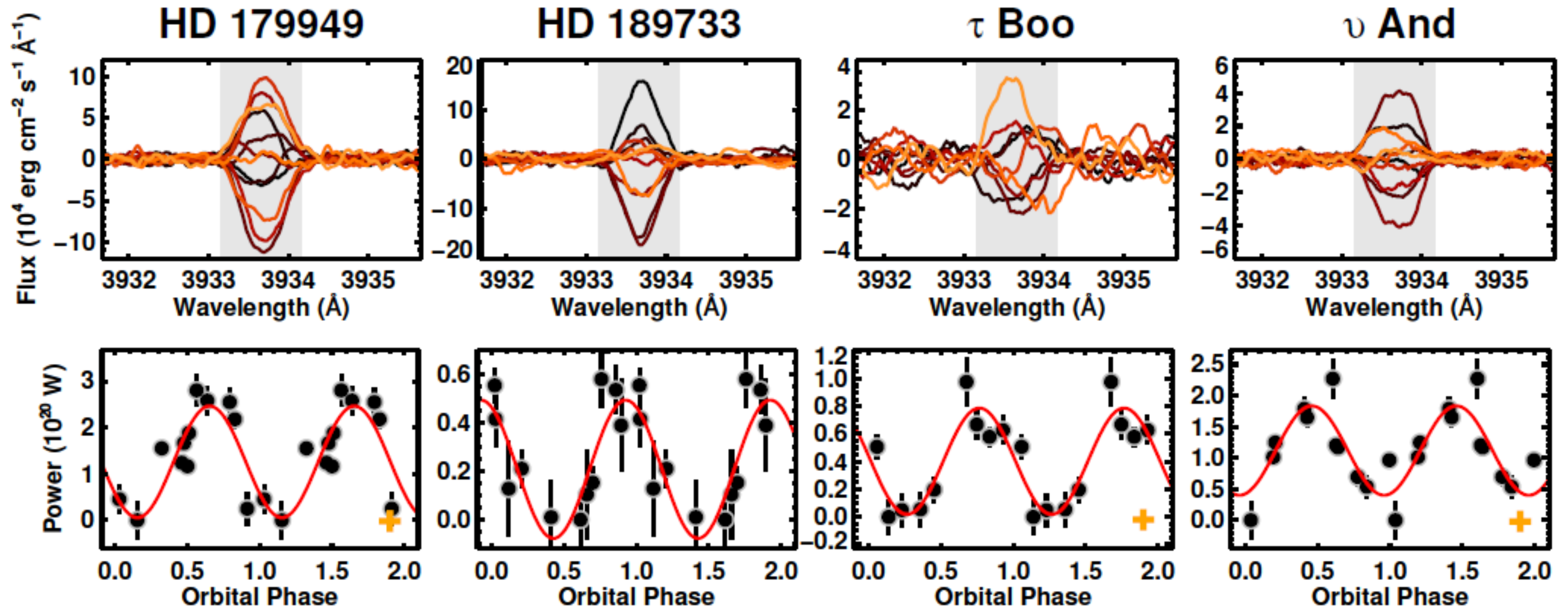
$$\text{SPI Power} \propto B_{\star}^{4/3} B_p^{2/3} v_{\text{rel}}$$

Lanza et al. (2009, 2012, 2013)



Stugarek et al. 2015

SPI sample with accurate flux calibration and stellar magnetic fields measured measurements.





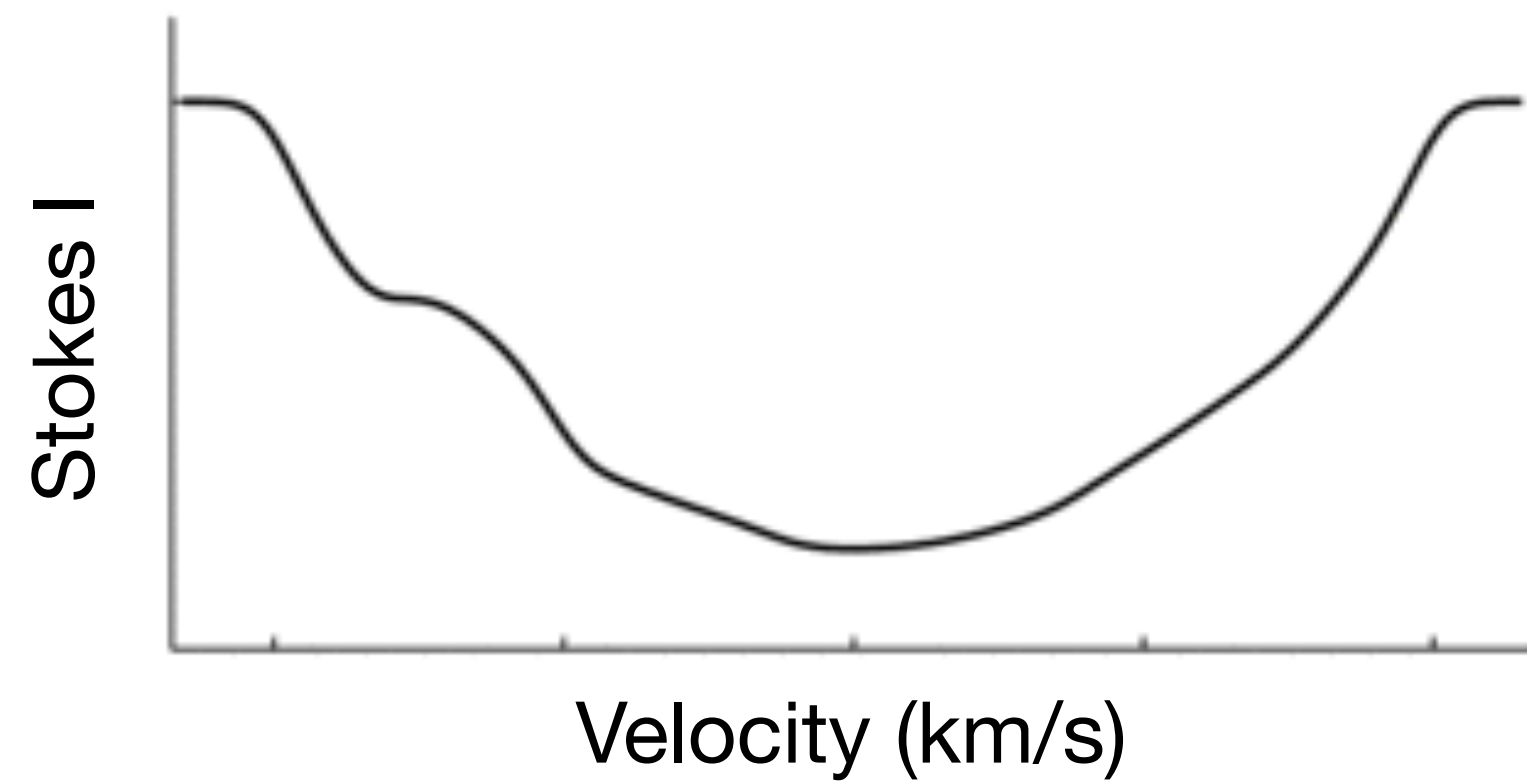
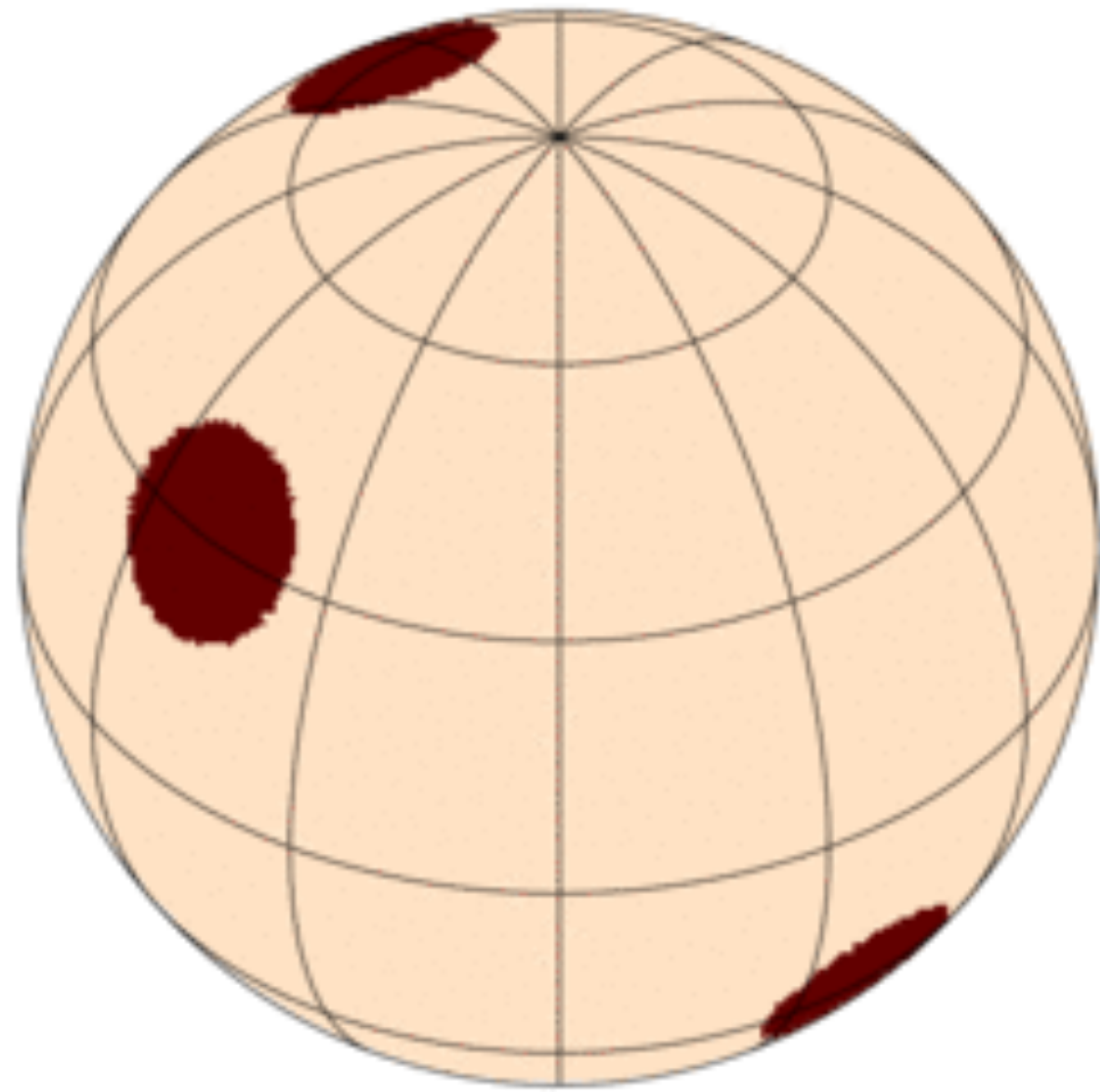
Now we have



SPI Power  $\propto B_{\star}^{4/3} B_p^{2/3} v_{\text{rel}}$

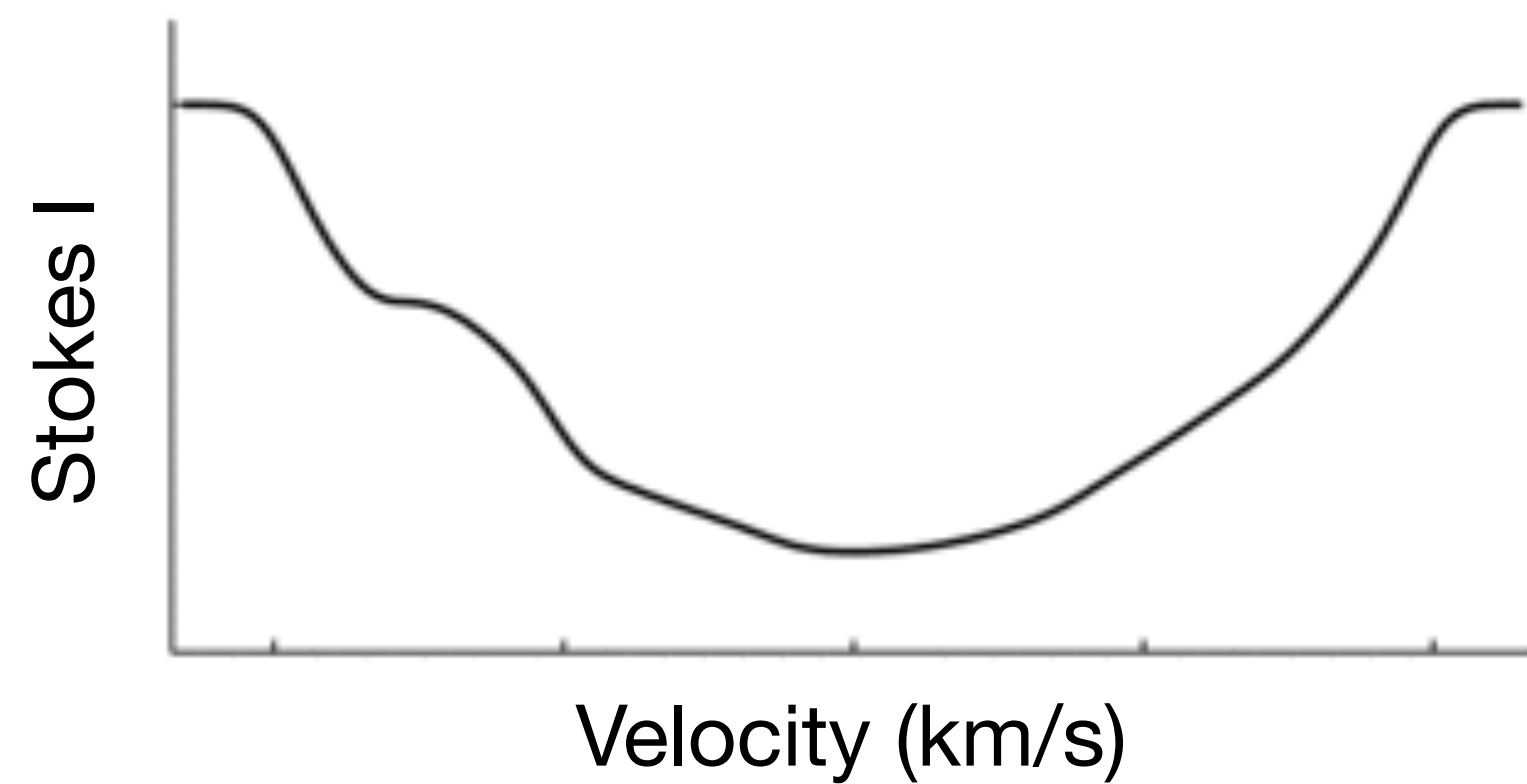
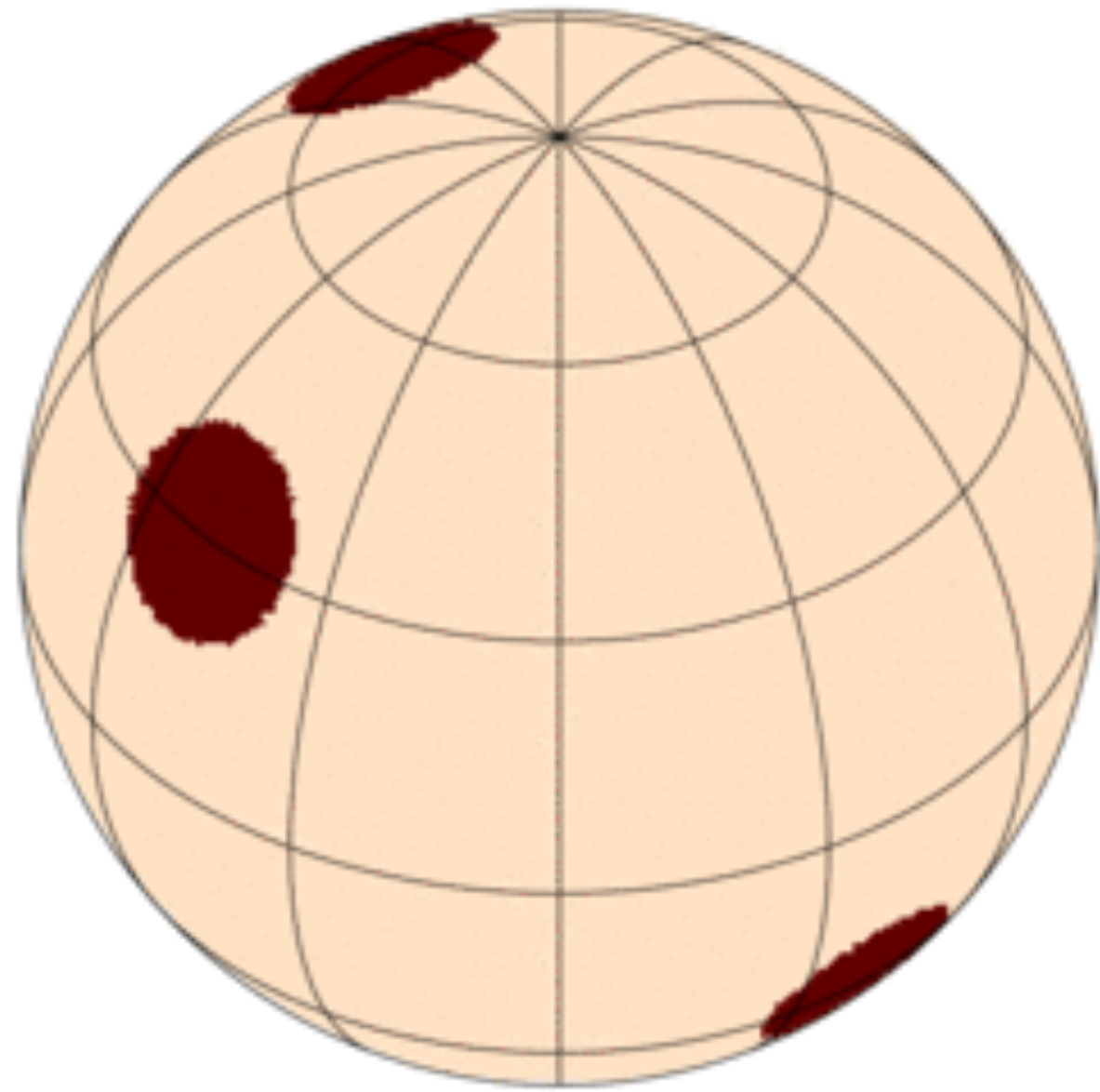
# How do we observe stellar magnetic fields?

Doppler Imaging  
recovers dark  
spots

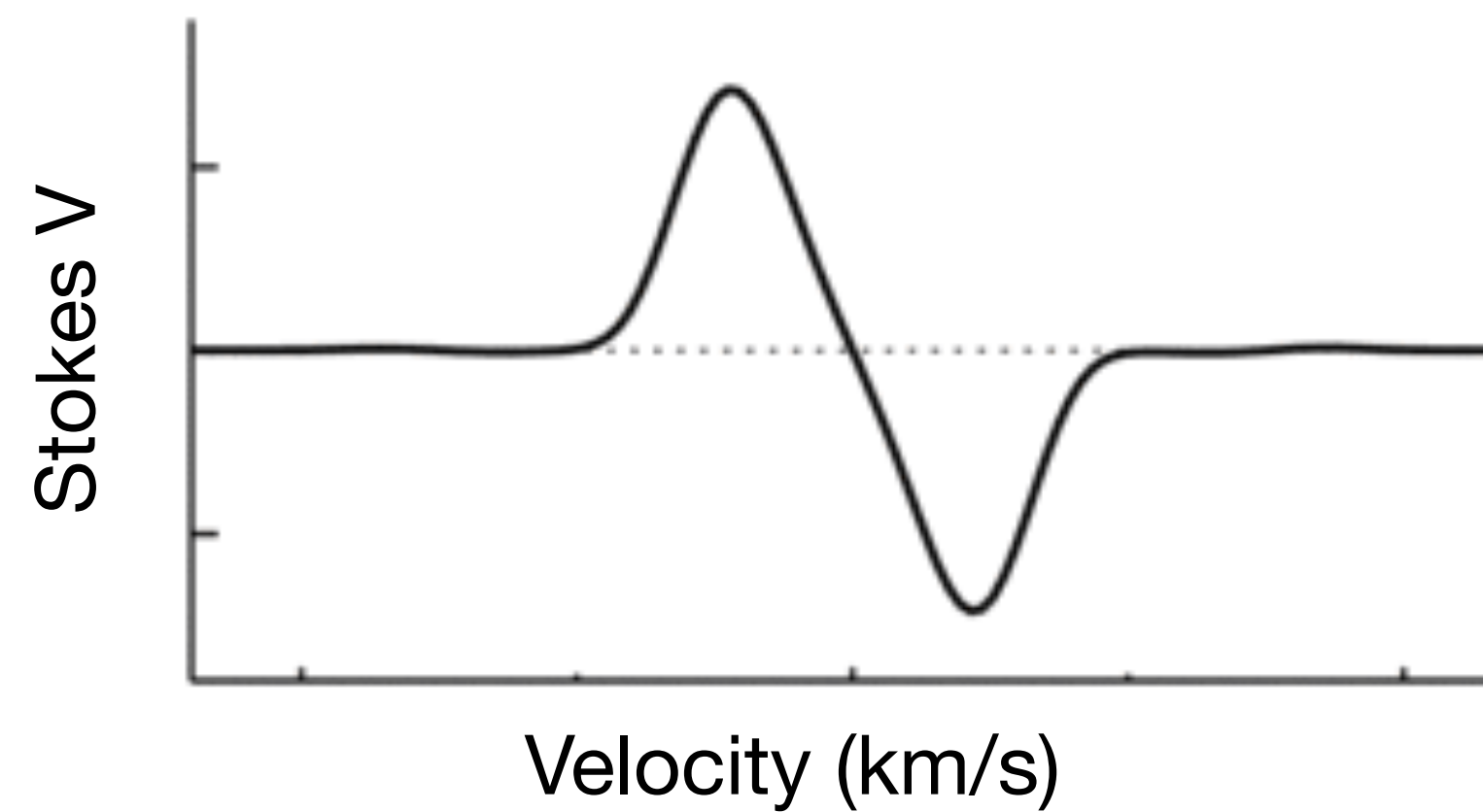
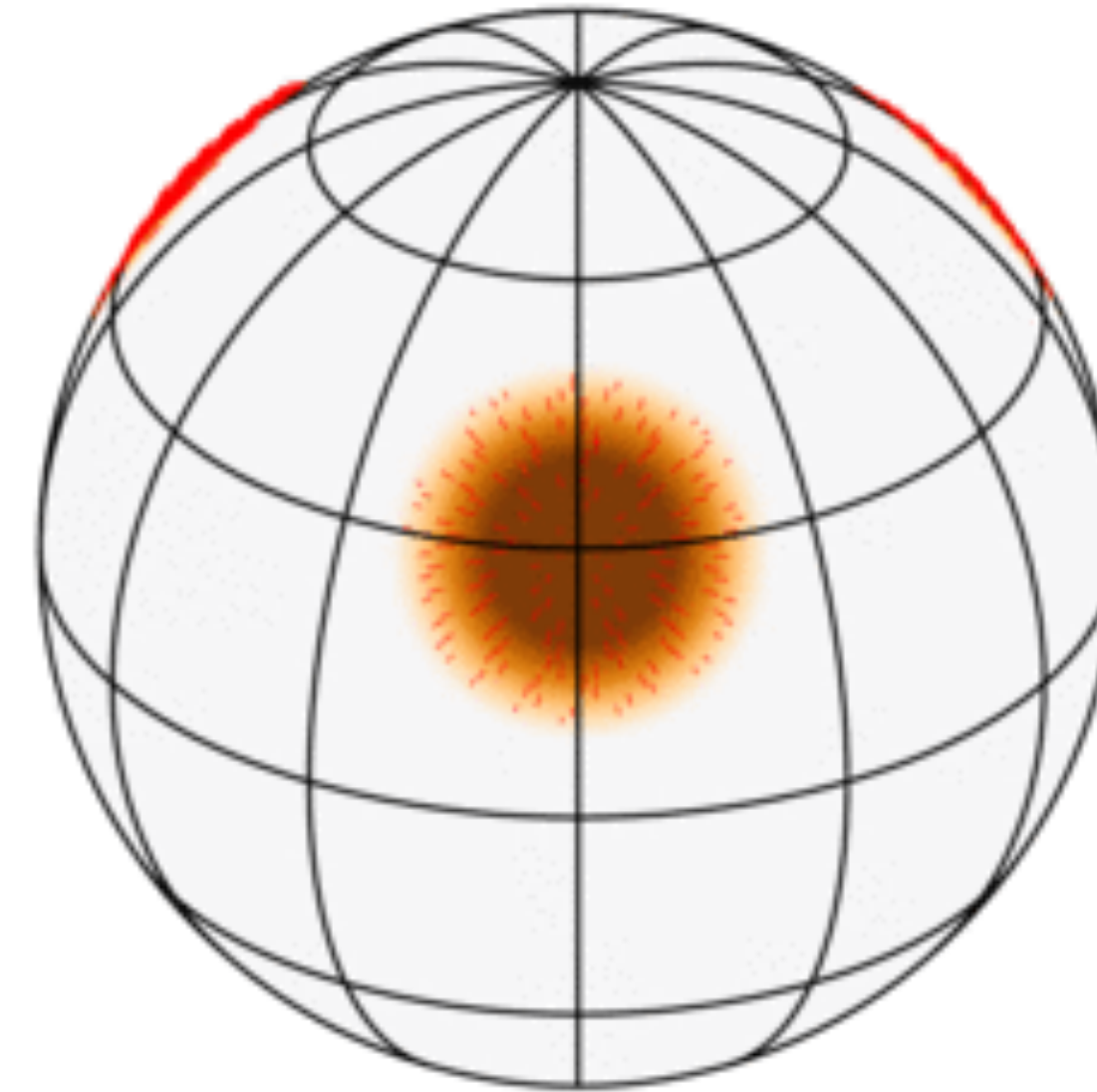


# How do we observe stellar magnetic fields?

Doppler Imaging  
recovers dark  
spots



Zeeman Doppler  
Imaging uses circularly  
polarized light to  
recover magnetic field



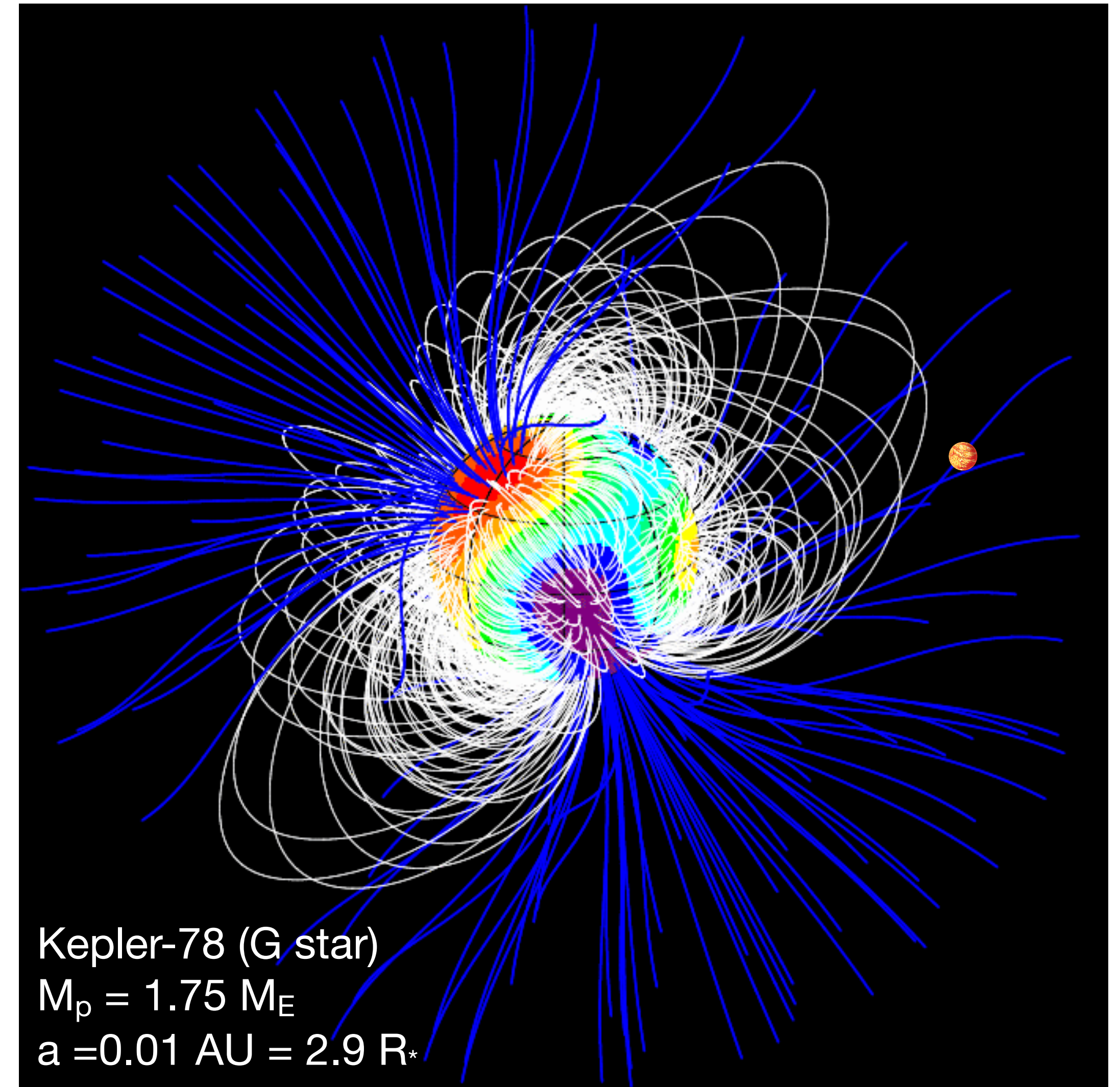
Now we have



SPI Power  $\propto B_{\star}^{4/3} B_p^{2/3} v_{\text{rel}}$

# Magnetic maps of exoplanet host stars

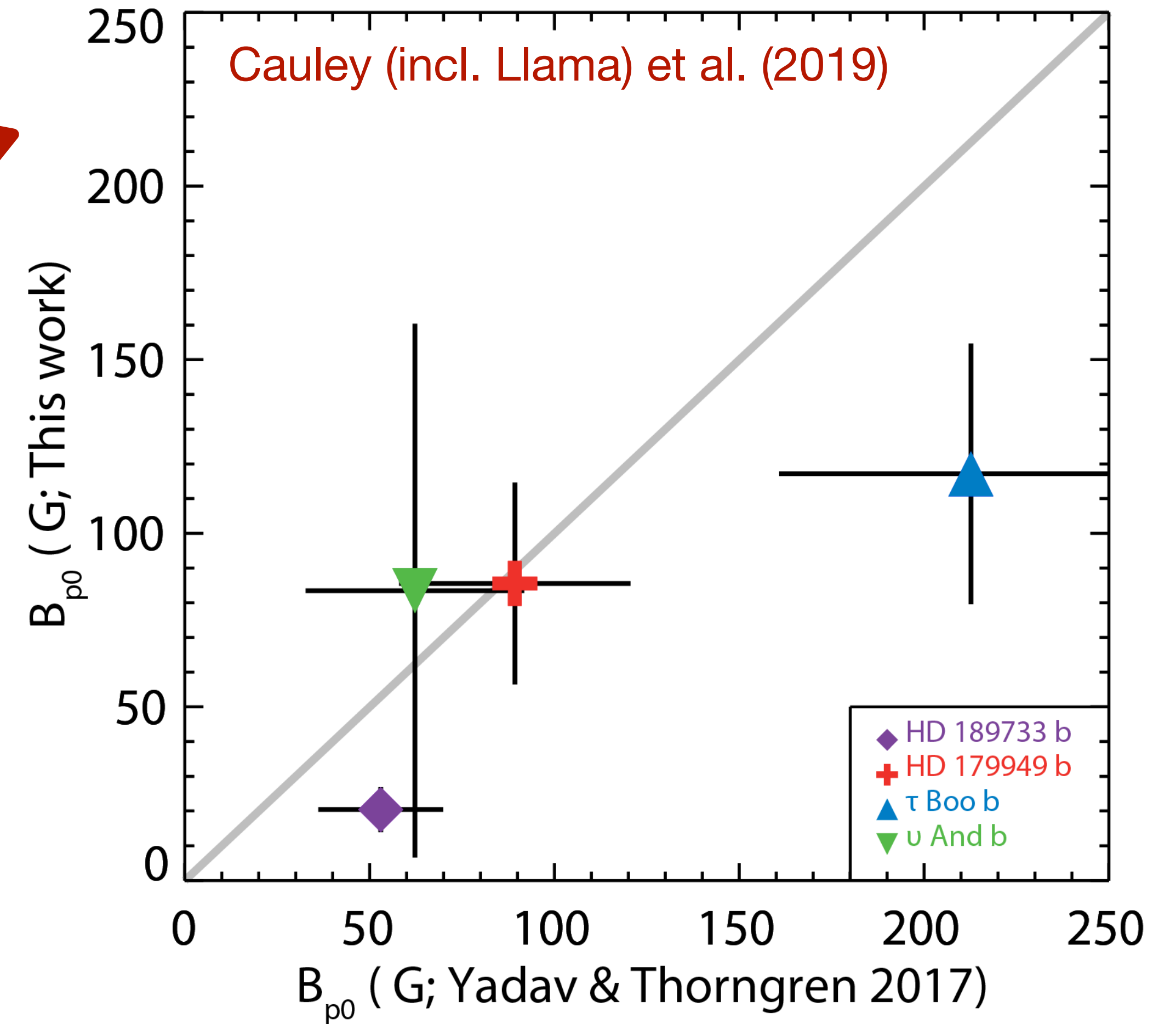
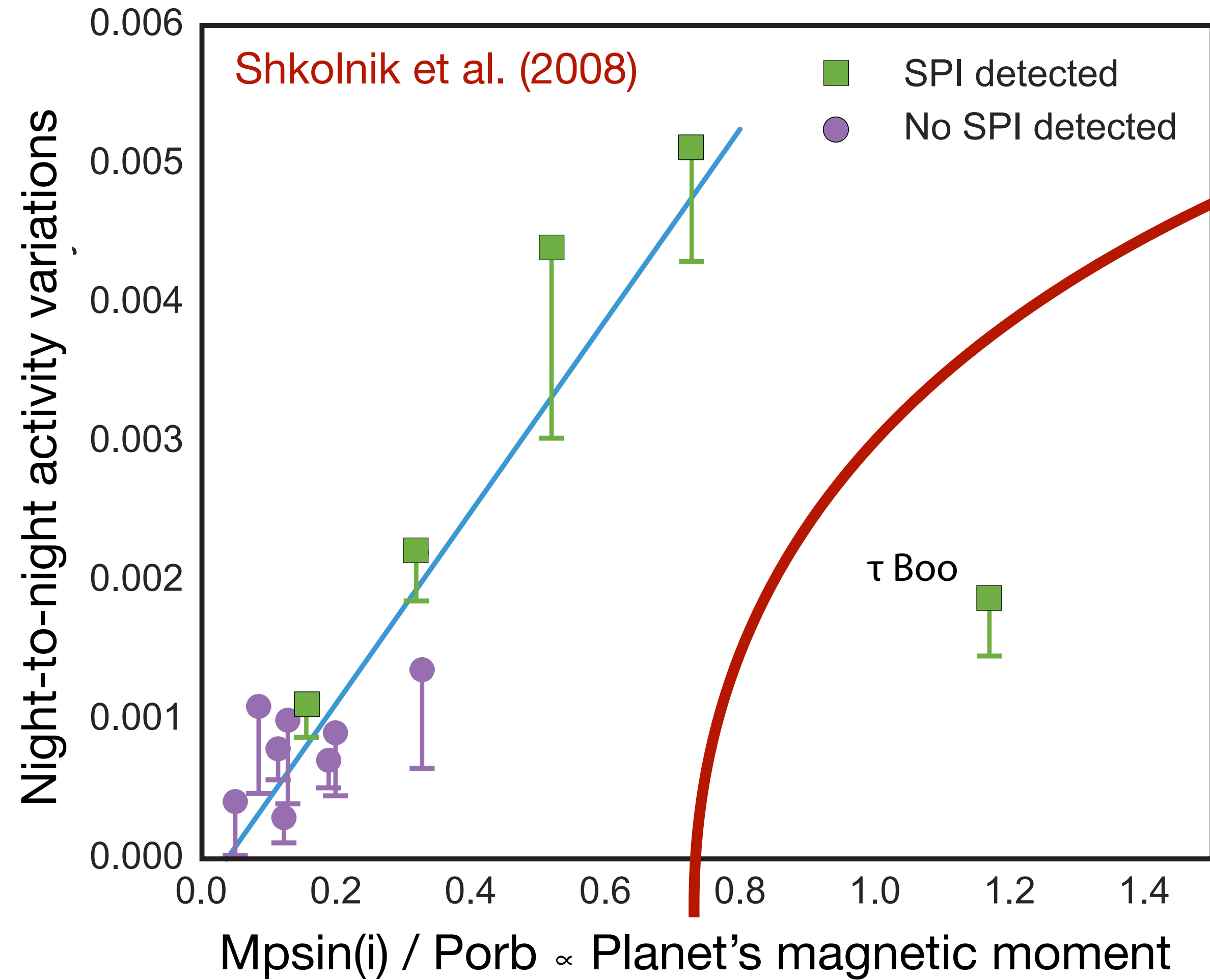
- Zeeman-Doppler Imaging maps can be used as input into MHD models to extrapolate the stellar wind (e.g., Jardine et al. 2006, Vidotto et al. 2015, Cohen et al. 2023)
- Allows us to study the space-weather conditions around an orbiting exoplanet.



Now we have


$$\text{SPI Power} \propto B_{\star}^{4/3} B_p^{2/3} v_{\text{rel}}$$

# Detections of exoplanet B-fields



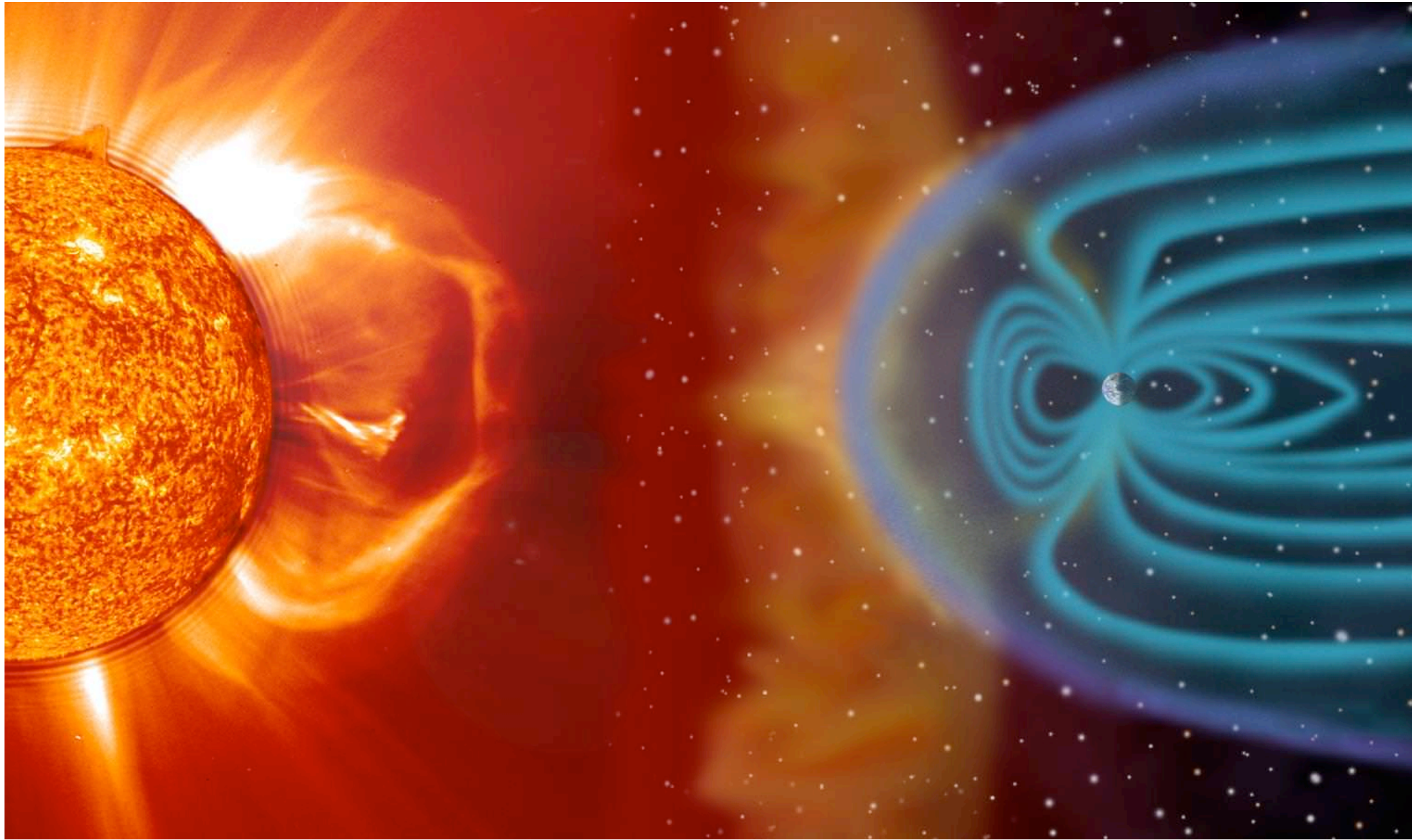
Typical magnetic field strengths of these hot-Jupiters: 20 - 120 G



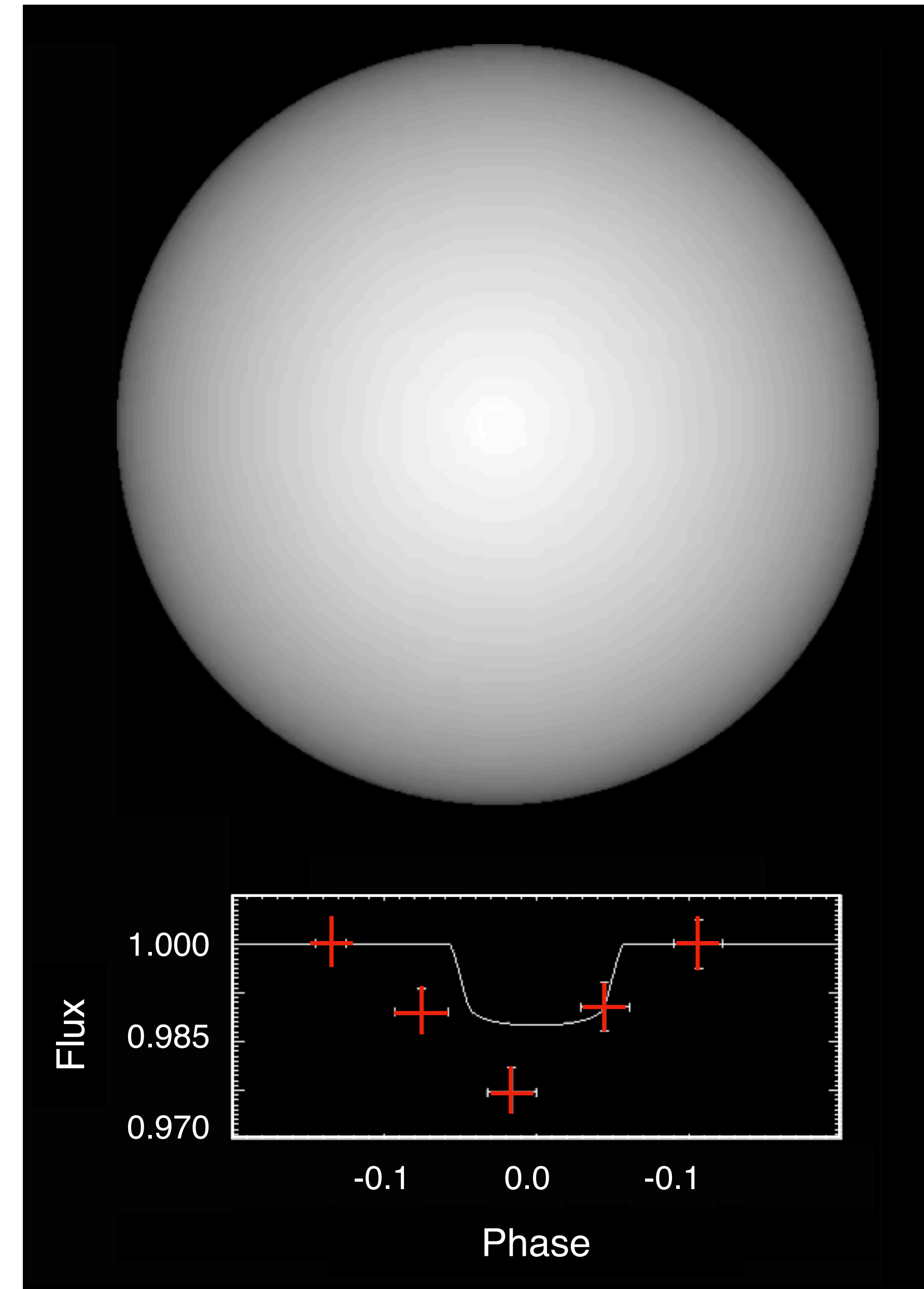
# Other star-planet interaction manifestations



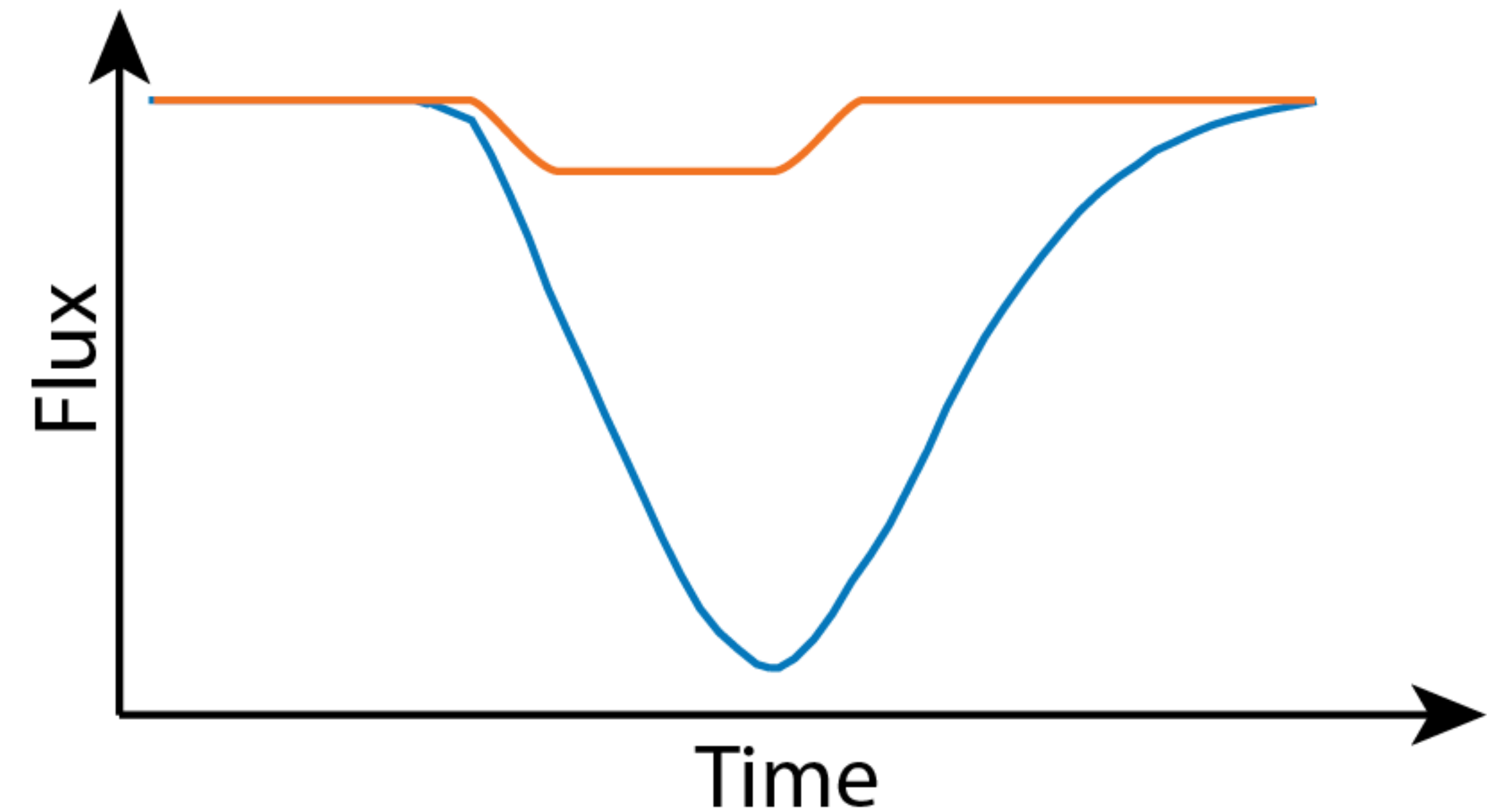
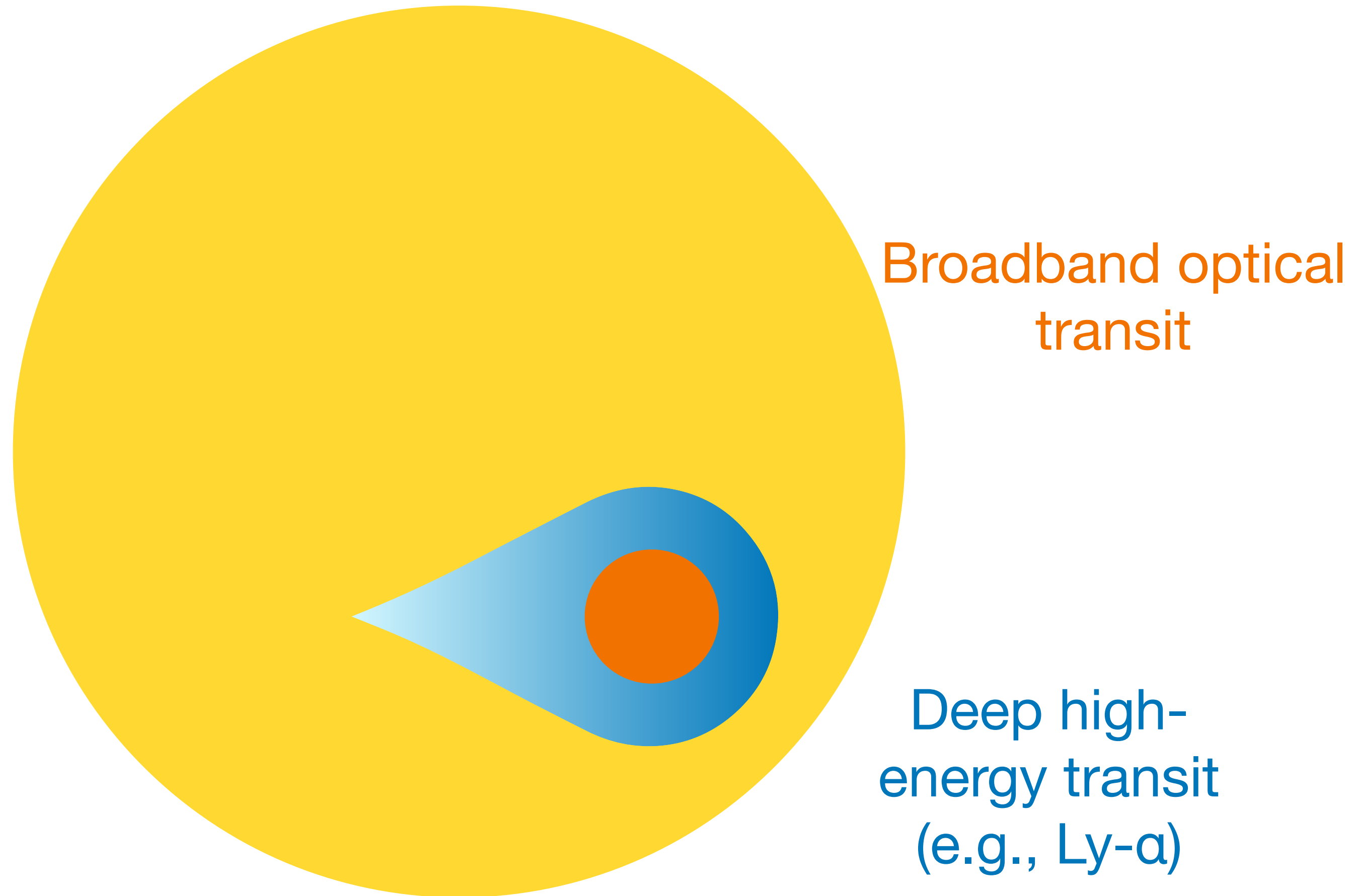
# Searching for transit asymmetries



- Potential detections of a magnetic field induced bow-shock around:
  - WASP-12b (Near-UV) with  $B_p < 24\text{G}$ .
  - HD 189733 b (H-alpha) with  $B_p \sim 28\text{G}$ .



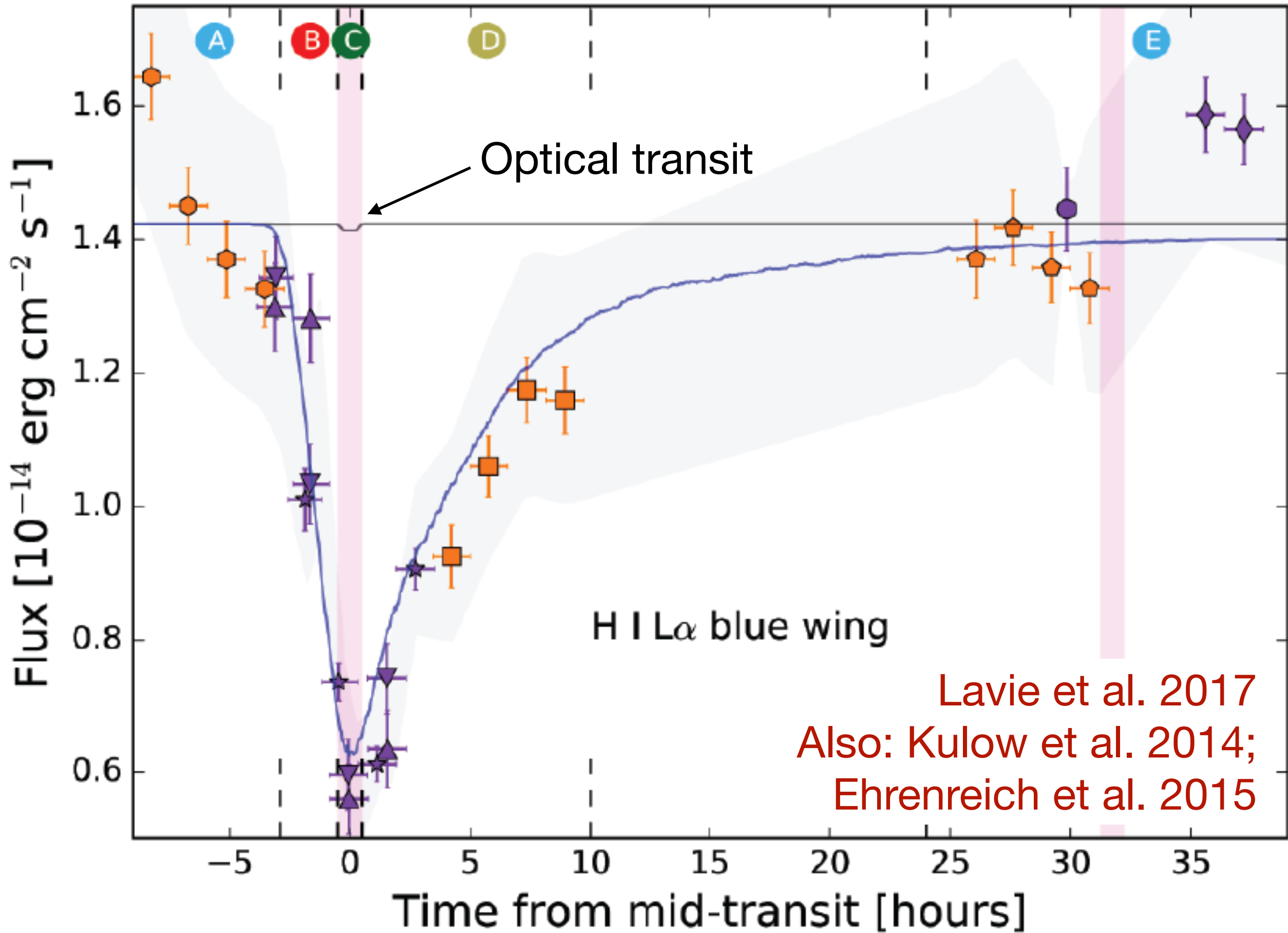
# Space weather and planetary escape



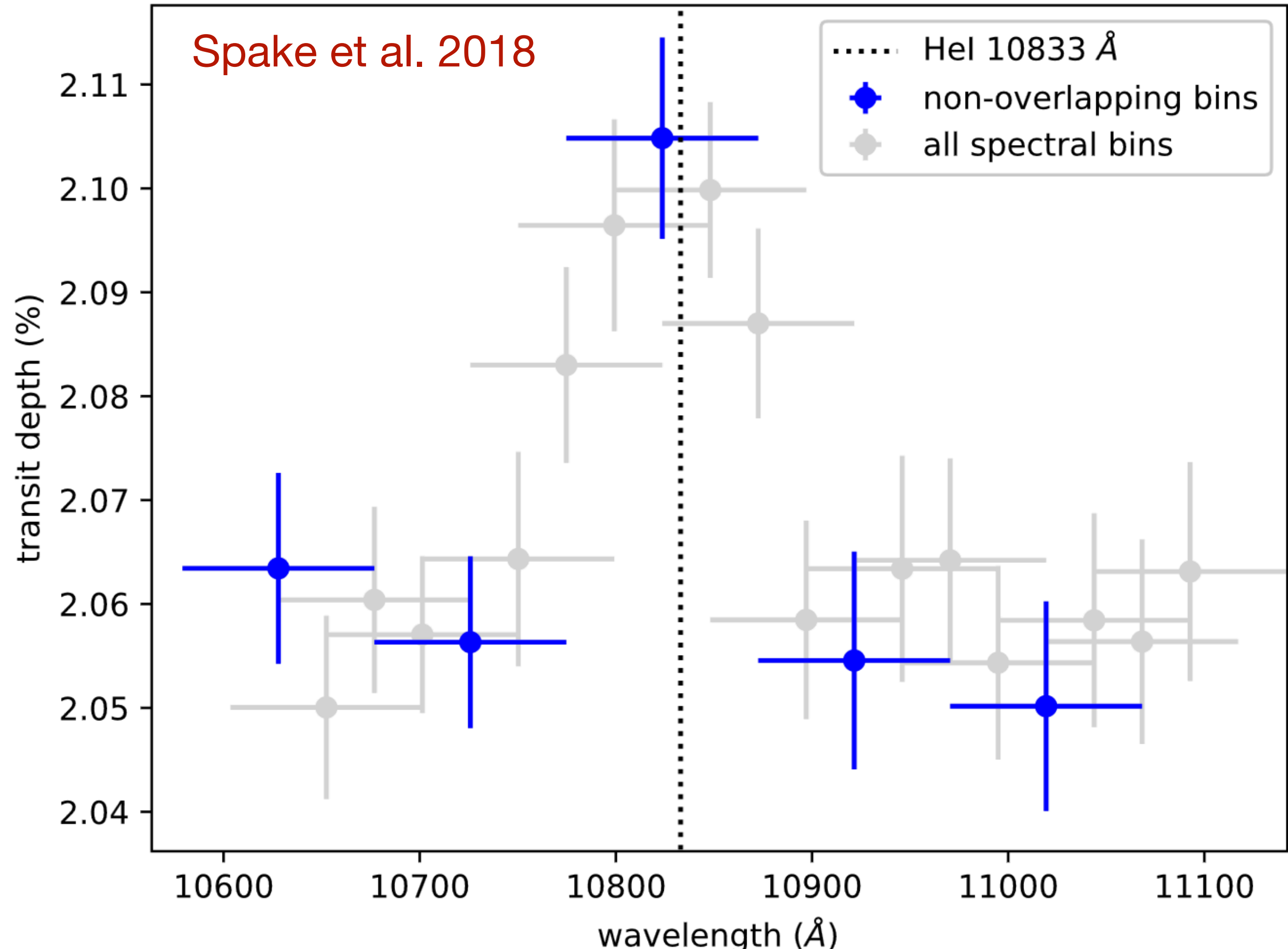
- Ratio in-and-out of transit as a function of wavelength to find % of absorption by the planetary atmosphere

# Space weather and planetary escape

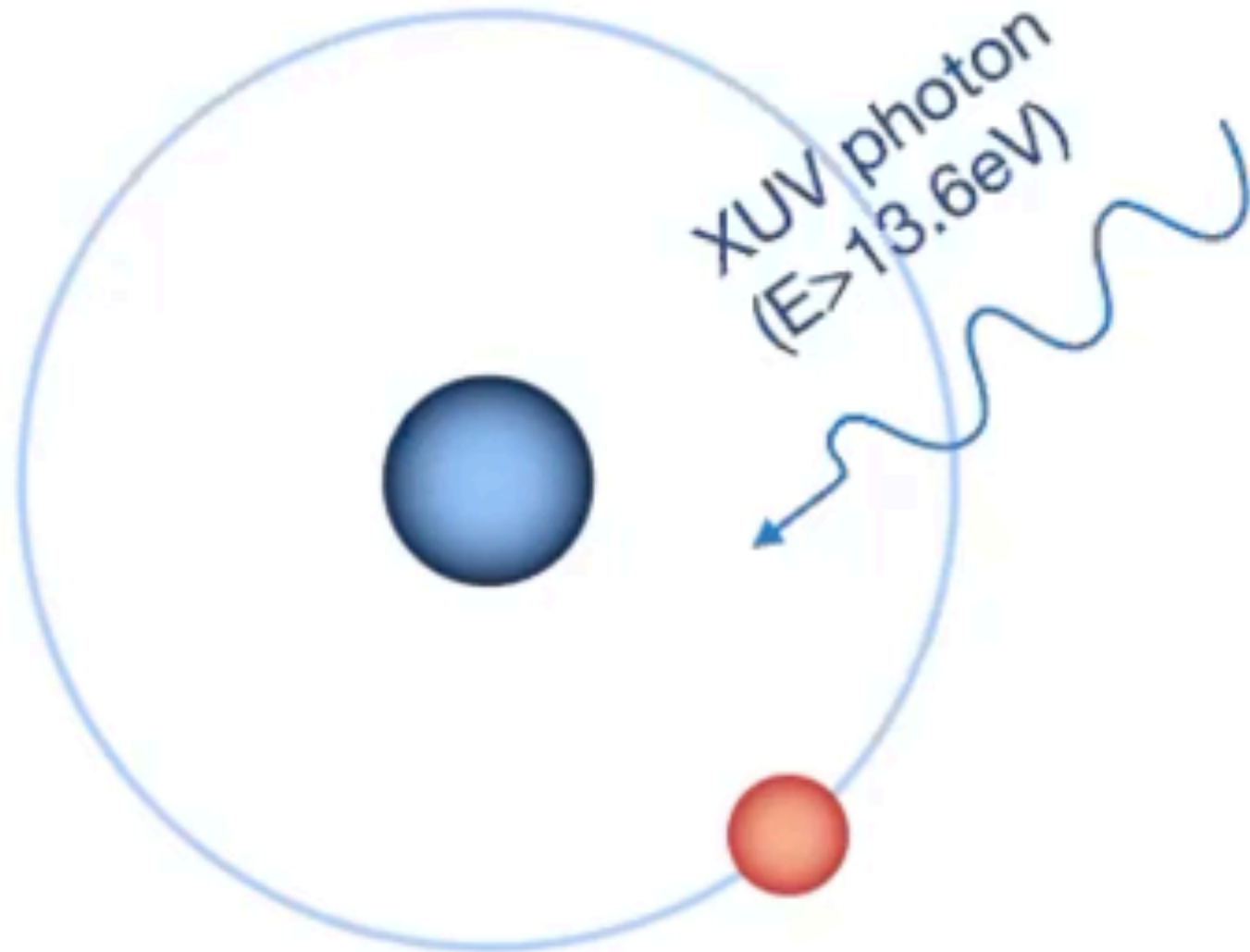
Lyman-alpha transit of GJ 436b



He-I transit of WASP-107b



# Space weather and planetary escape



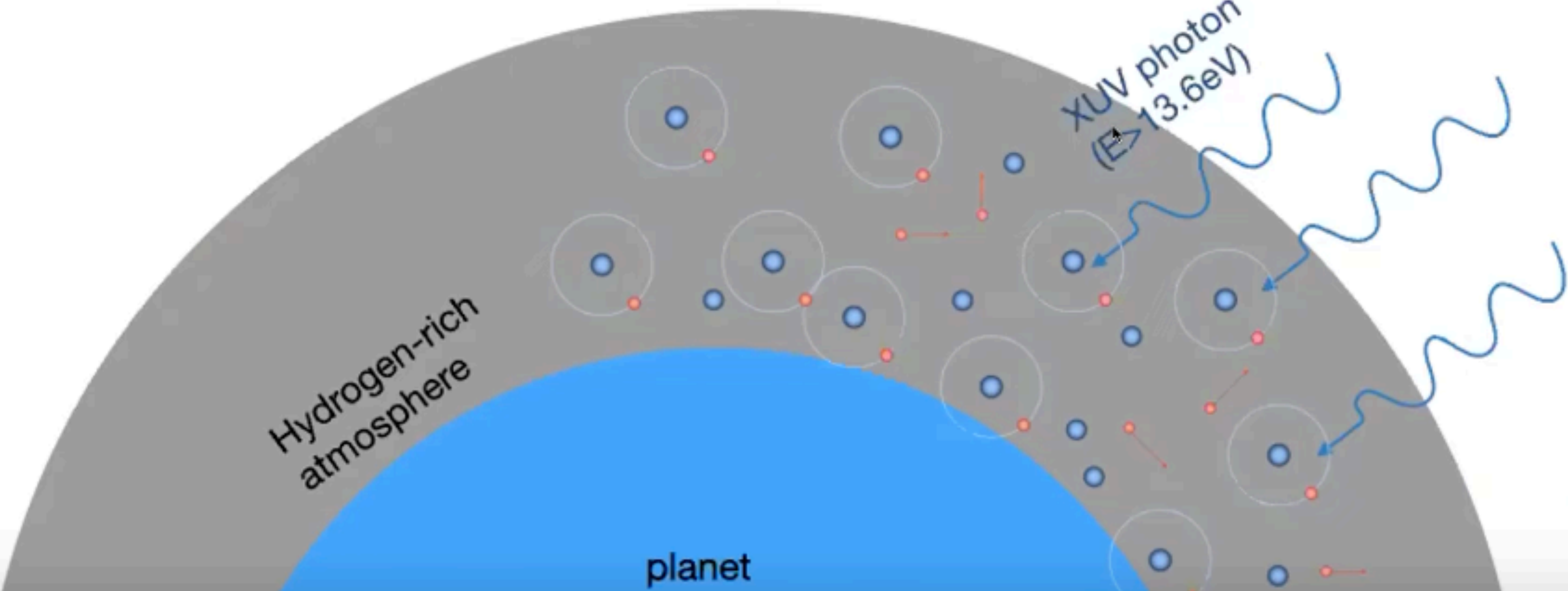
Ionises Hydrogen



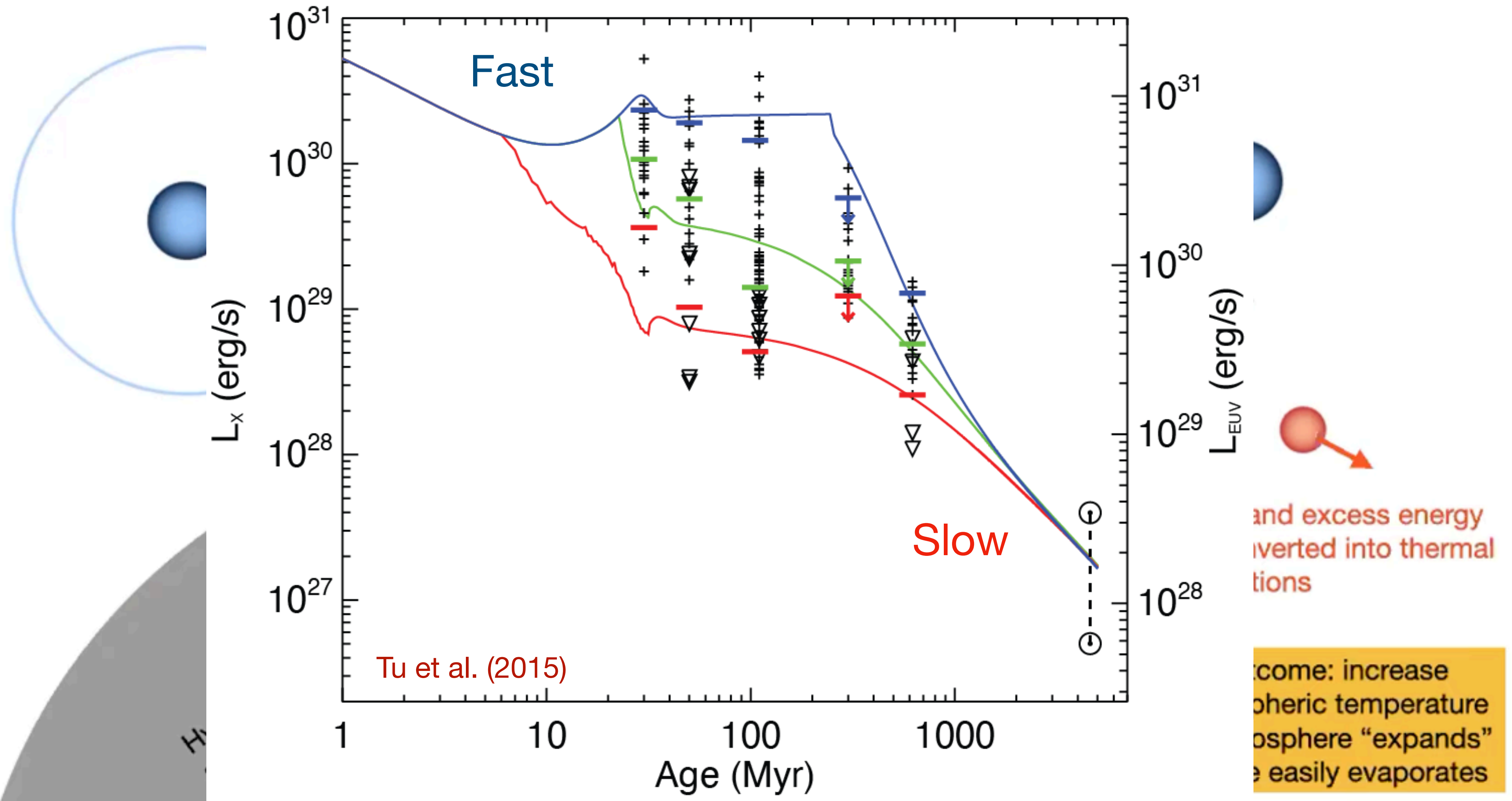
... and excess energy converted into thermal motions

Outcome: increase atmospheric temperature → atmosphere “expands” & more easily evaporates

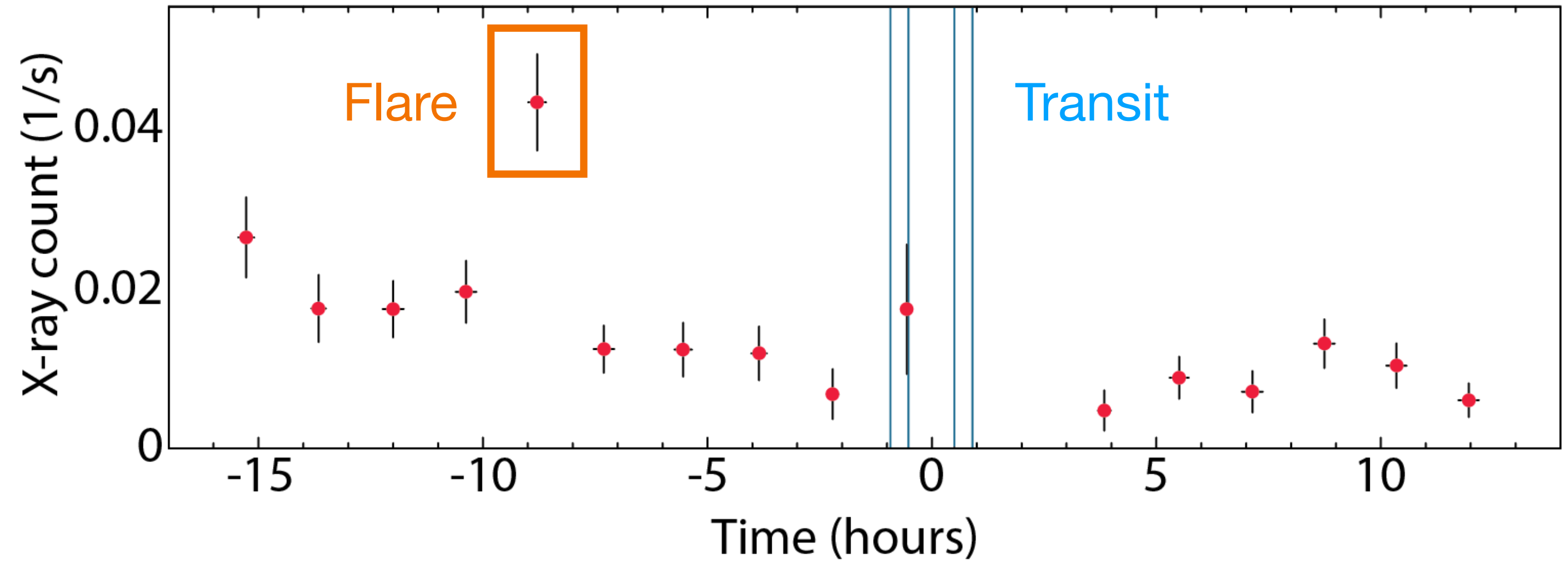
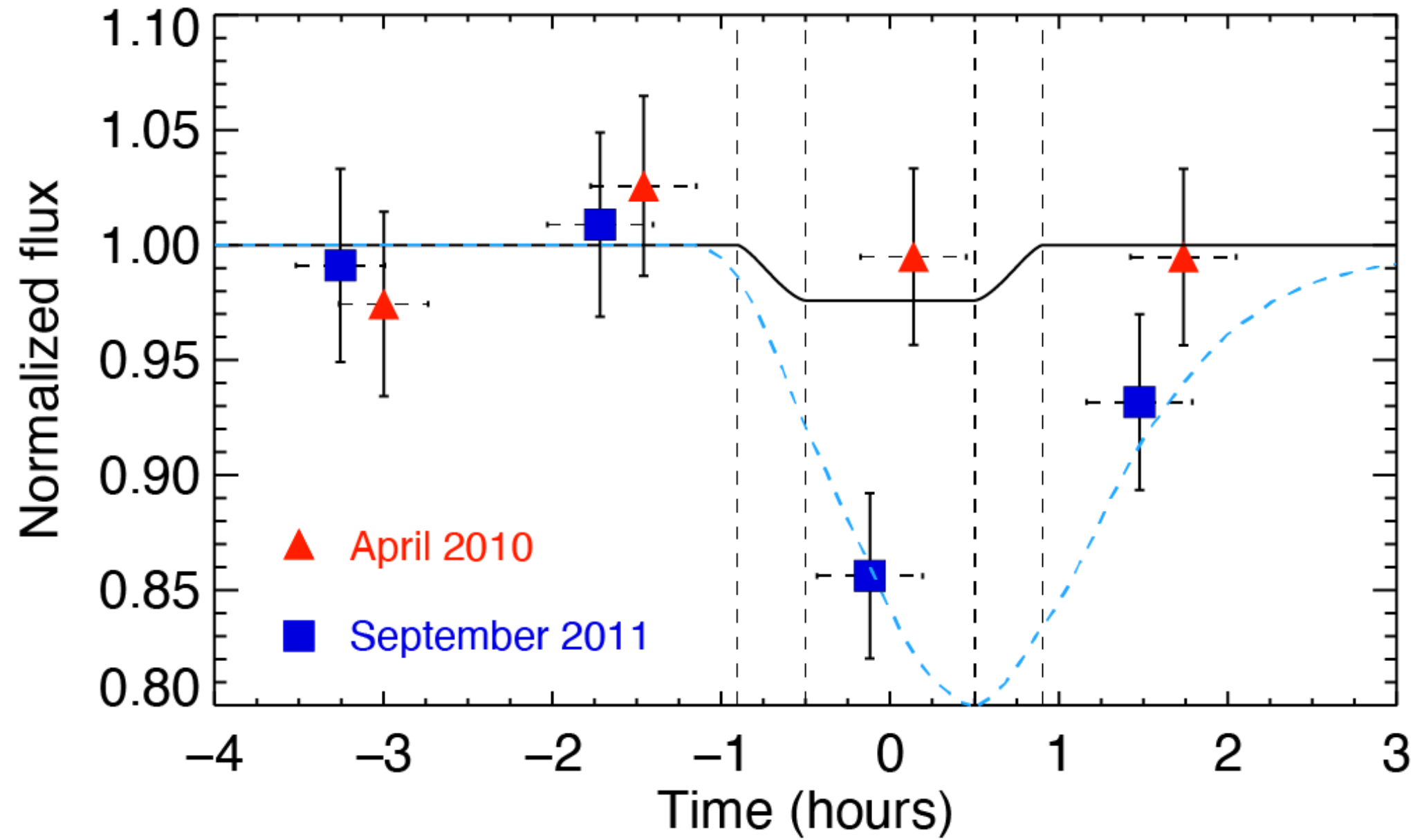
Slide credit: Aline Vidotto, Leiden



# Space weather and planetary escape

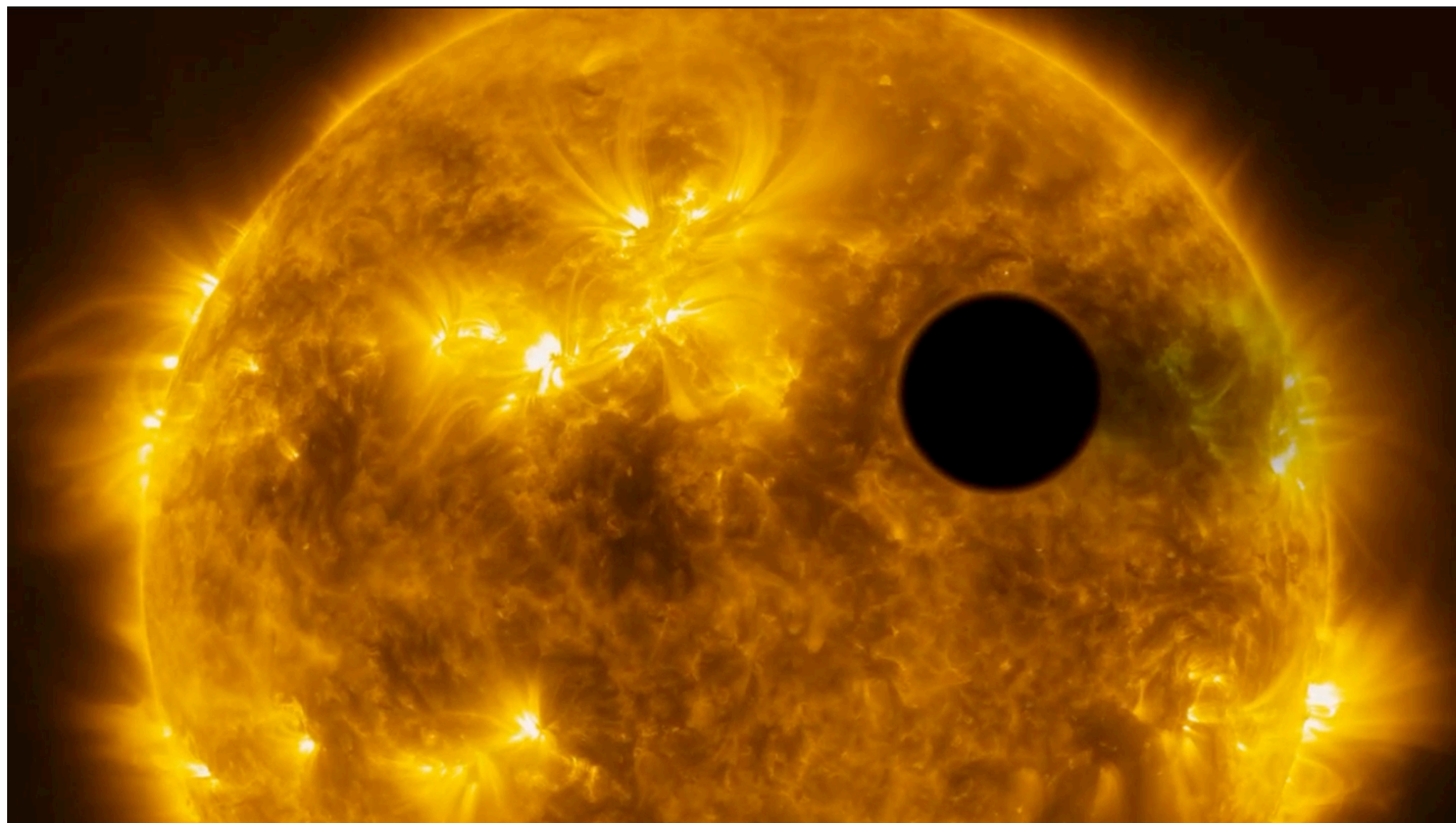


# Space weather and planetary escape



Lecavalier et al. 2012  
Bourrier et al. 2013

Credit: NASA/ESA, L. Calçada, SDO



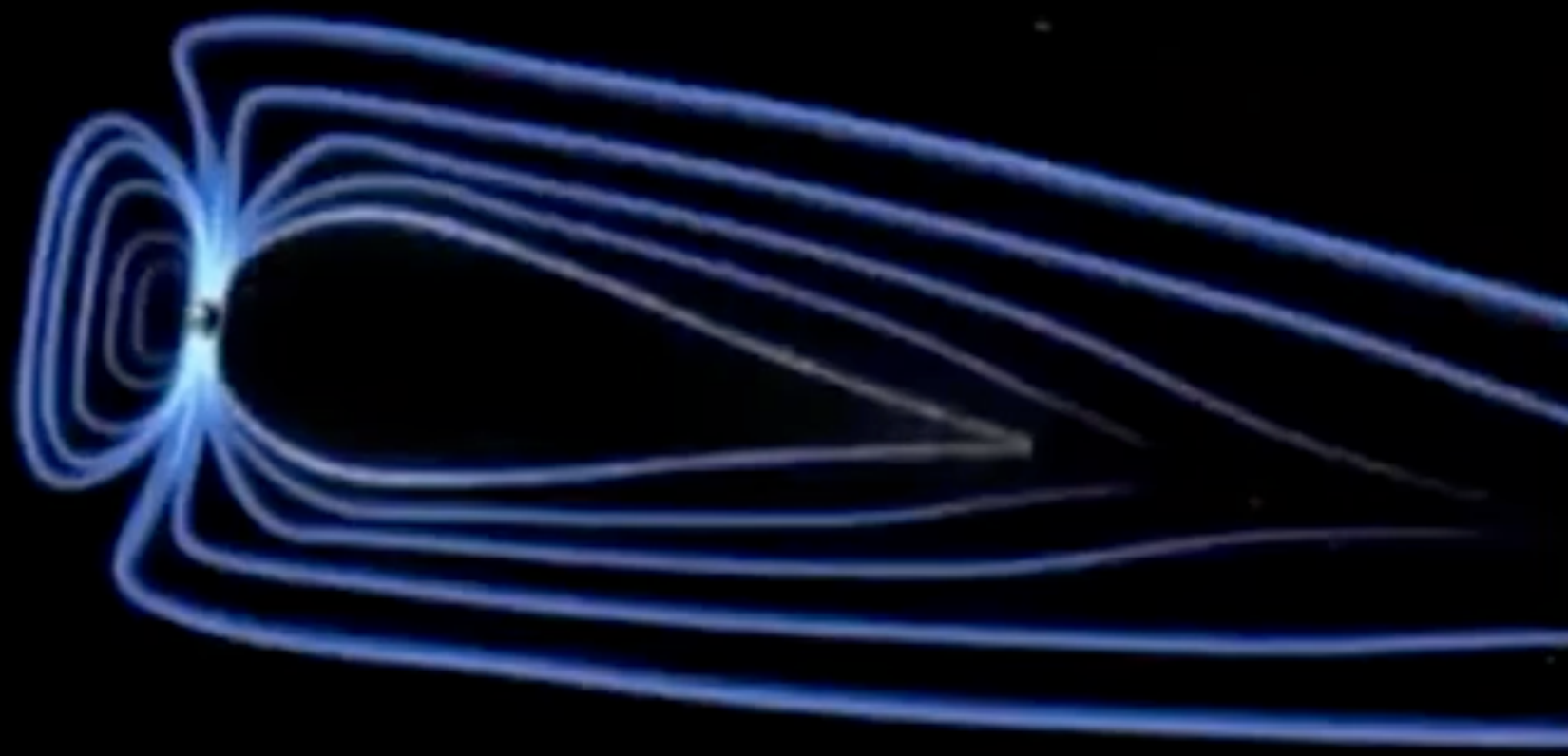
- Possible Interpretation:
  - Increase of stellar energy input into the planet's upper atmosphere caused increased escape?

# The search for radio emission from exoplanets

Radio emission from the exoplanet's magnetic field is emitted at the local cyclotron frequency:

$$\nu_{\text{MHz}} = 2.8 \times B_{\text{planet}}$$

$B_{\text{planet}}$  [1, 10] G  $\rightarrow$  Emission at [2.8, 28] MHz



Movie: NASA

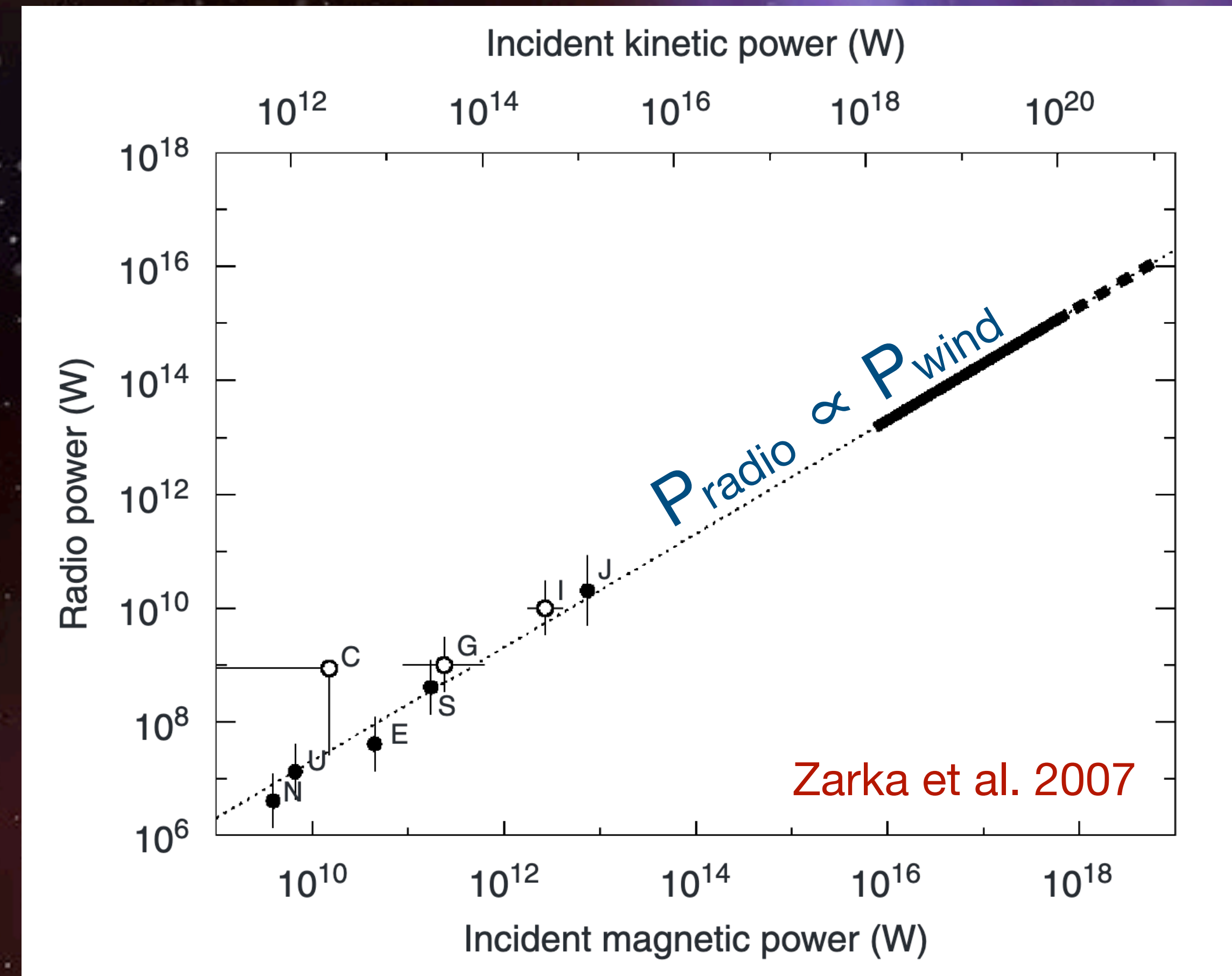
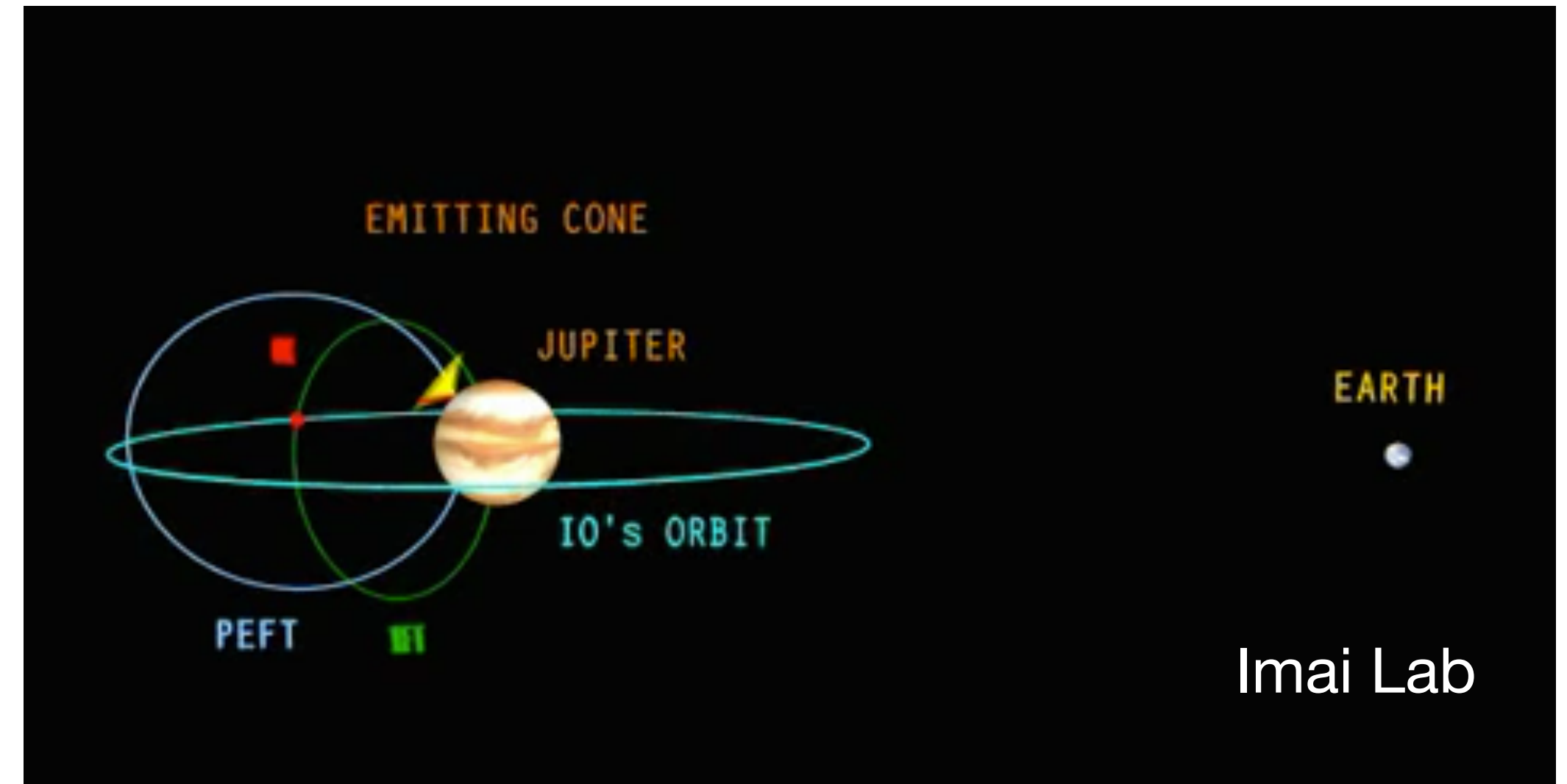


Image Credit: Danielle Futselaar, ASTRON

# The search for radio emission from exoplanets

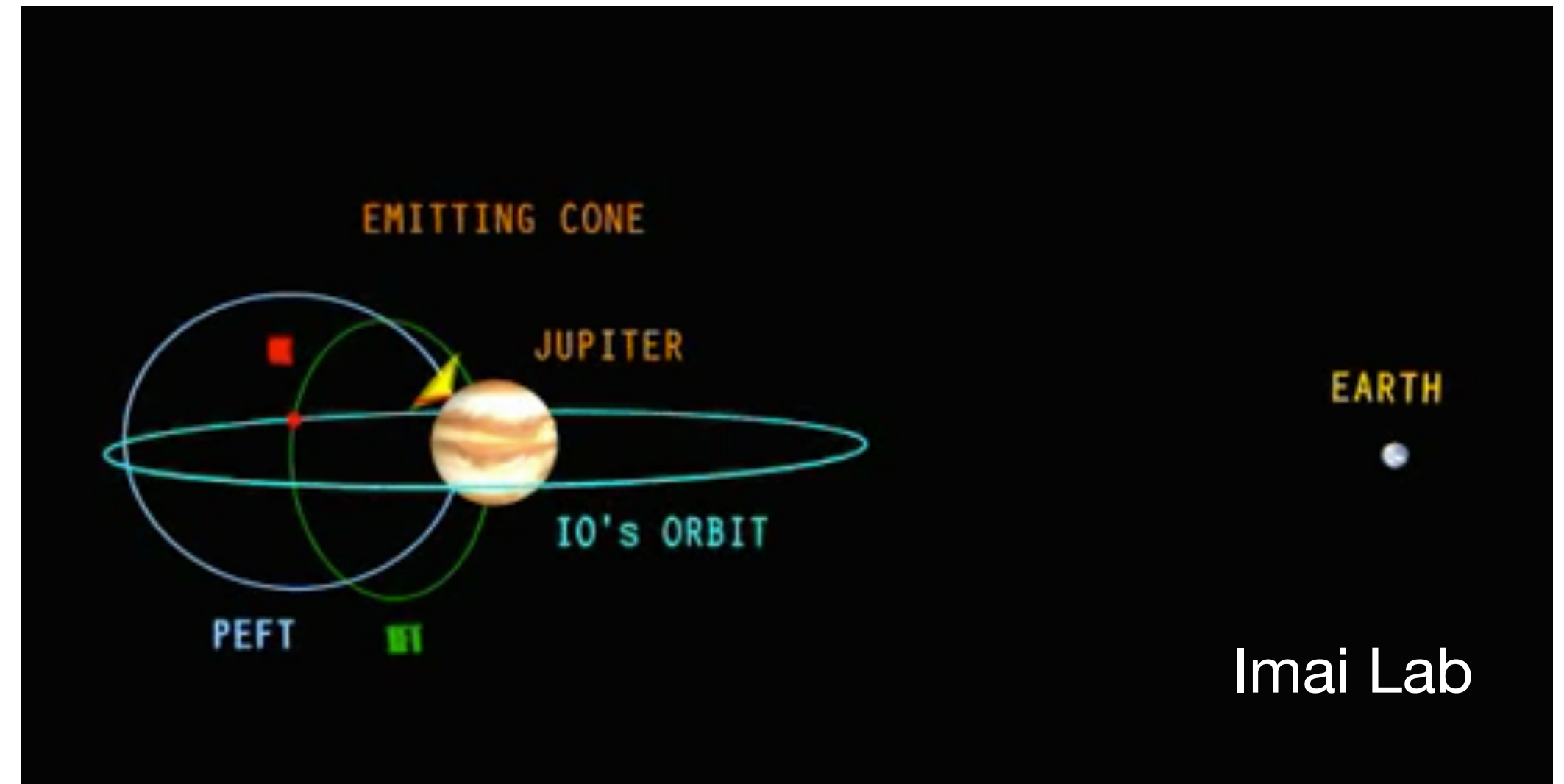
- Many unsuccessful searches:
  - Lack of sensitivity?
  - Low incident stellar wind power?
  - Lower planetary B-field?
  - Geometry of emission cone?





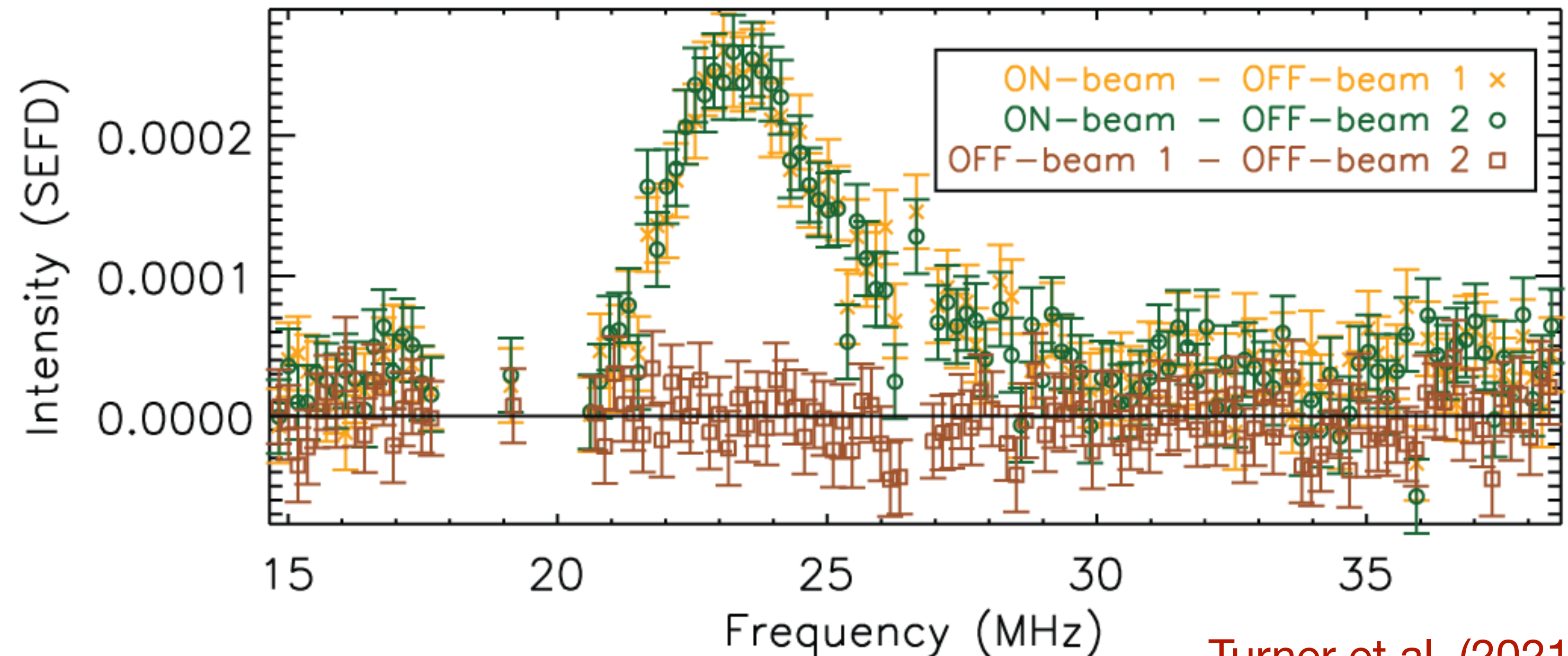
# The search for radio emission from exoplanets

- Many unsuccessful searches:
  - Lack of sensitivity?
  - Low incident stellar wind power?
  - Lower planetary B-field?
  - Geometry of emission cone?



- However!

- **Turner et al. 2021** find bursty emission from Tau Boo at 15-30 MHz using LOFAR.
- Possible planetary radio signature (5-11G)



# Planet Induced Radio emission

Radio emission from the **star's** magnetic field is emitted at the local cyclotron frequency:

$$\nu_{\text{MHz}} = 2.8 \times B_{\text{star}}$$

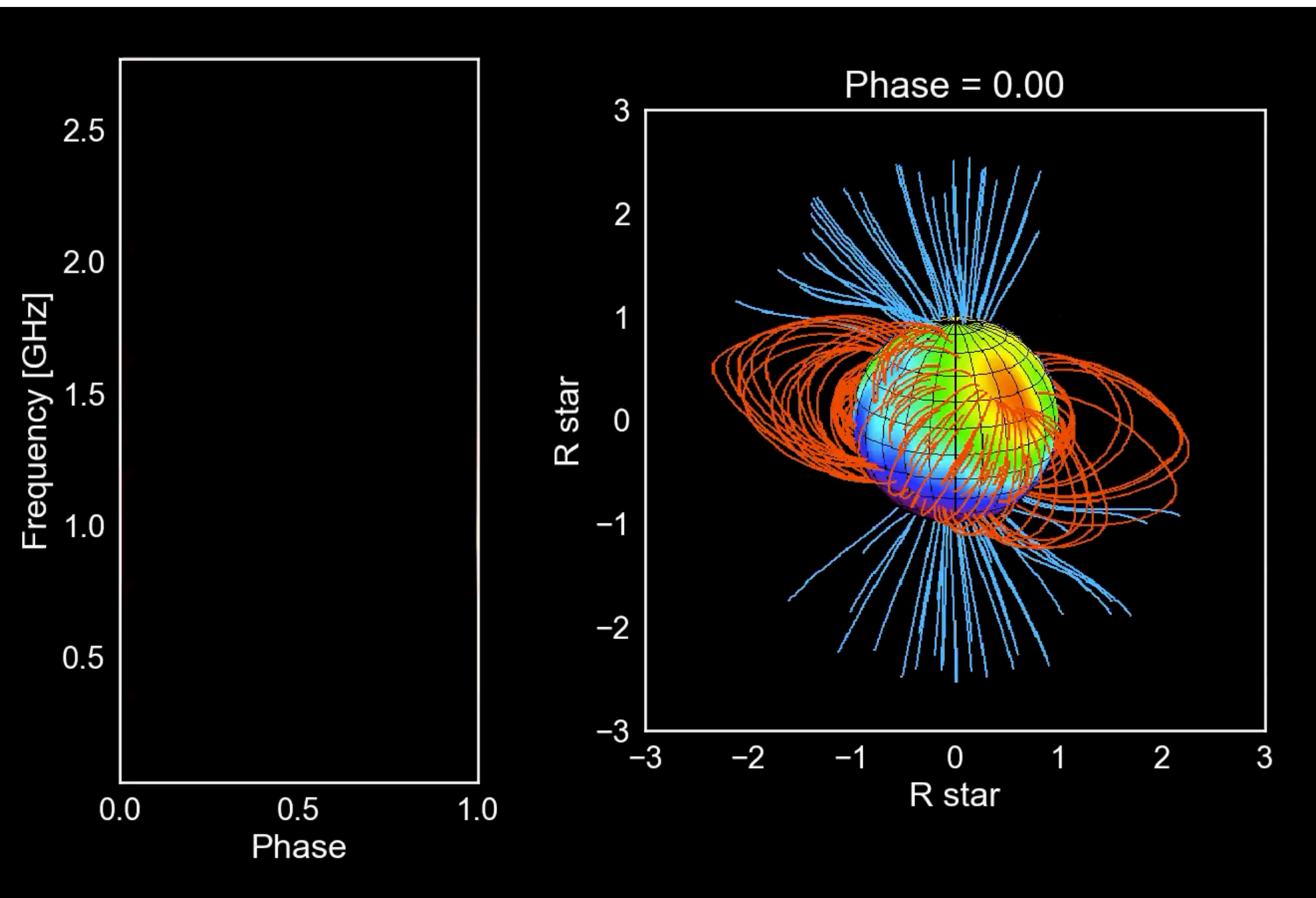
$B_{\text{star}}[40, 60]$  G  $\rightarrow$  Emission at  $[120, 160]$  MHz

Star  
(Jupiter)

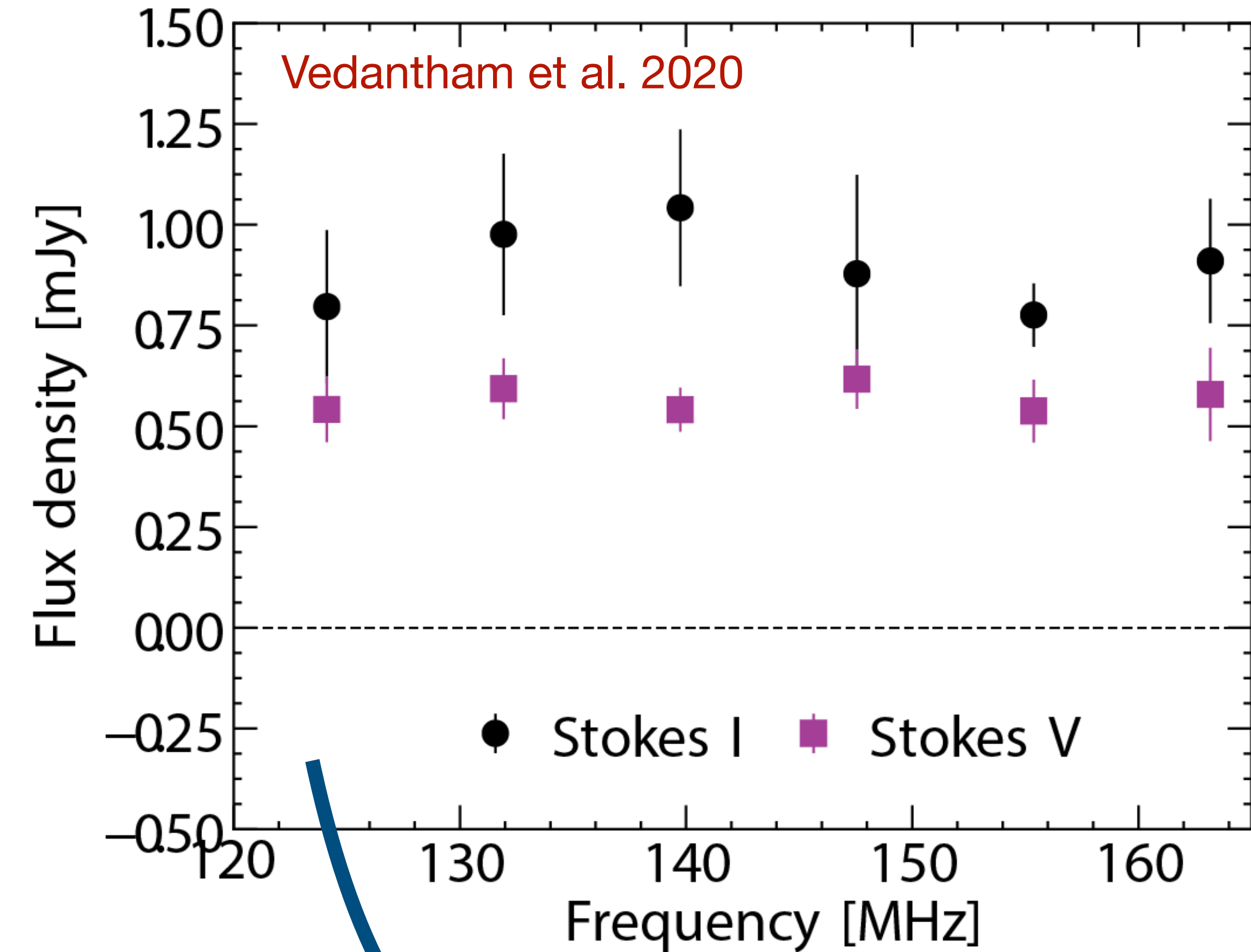
Planet  
(Io)

# Simulating Planet-induced radio emission

ECM Emission from an active  
M-star

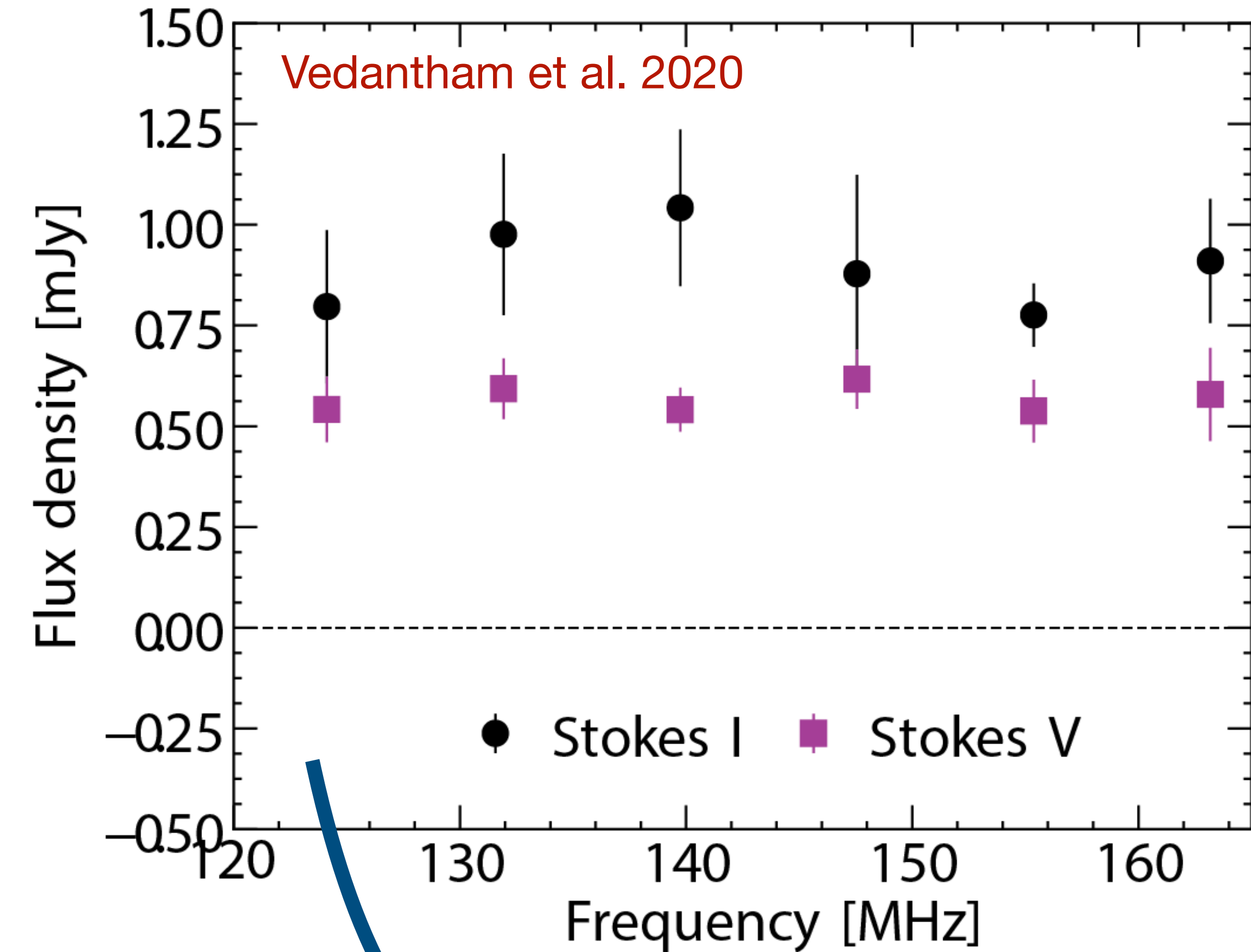


# Planet-induced radio emission on GJ 1151



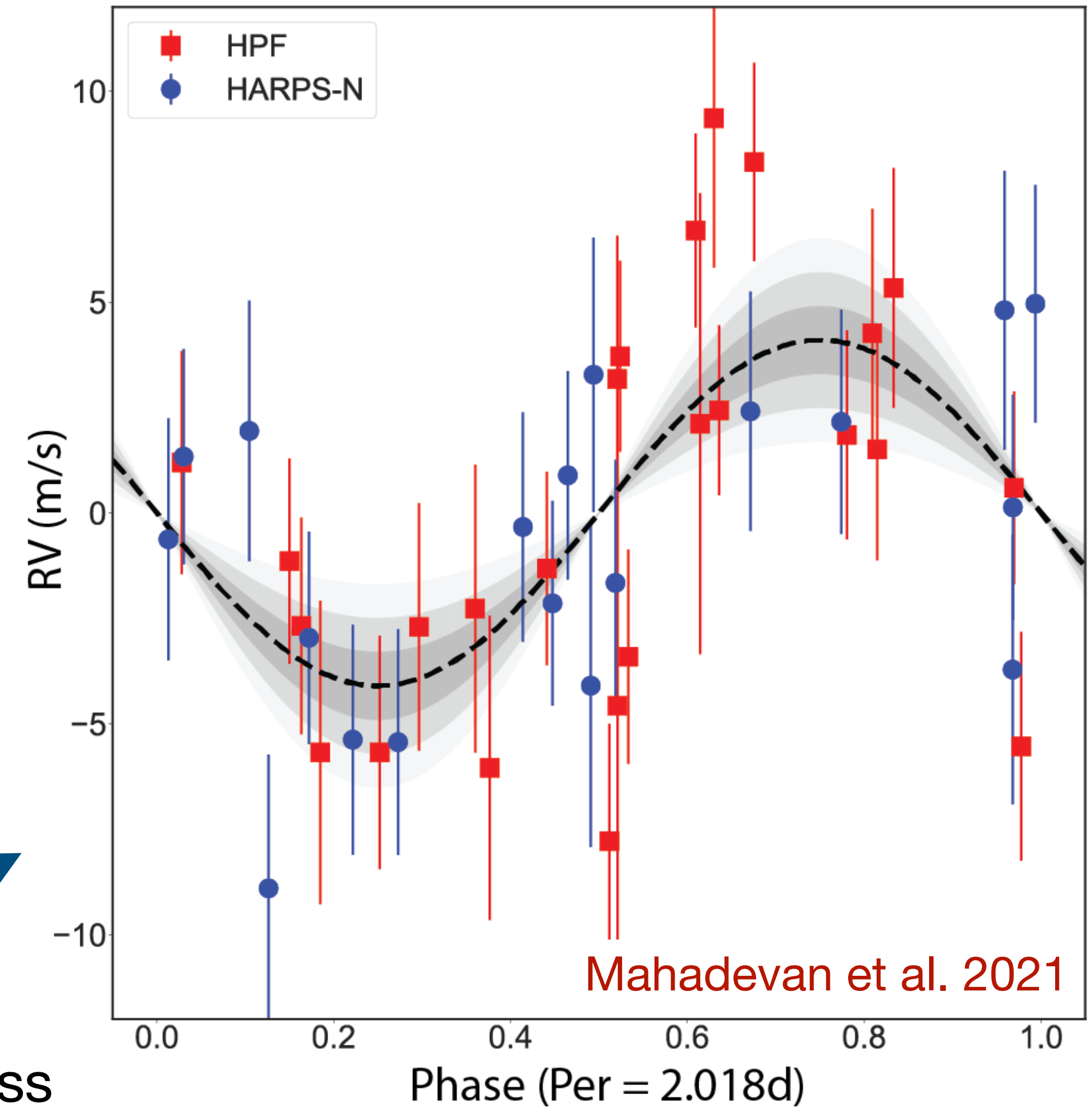
Consistent with ECM induced by a planet with  $P_{\text{orb}} = 1\text{-}5$  days

# Planet-induced radio emission on GJ 1151



Consistent with ECM induced by a planet with  $P_{\text{orb}} = 1-5$  days

2.5 Earth mass planet found in RVs



# Summary and Outlook

- Star-planet interactions are a powerful tool for learning about exoplanet magnetic fields and atmospheric evolution.
- Magnetic star-planet interactions occur on the orbital period of an exoplanet and are observed across the EM spectrum.
- SPI may be a method for detecting exoplanets using radio emission.
- Want to learn more?

Review on Magnetic Star-Planet Interactions - Shkolnik & Llama (2018)

Physics of star-planet magnetic interactions - Stugarek (2021)