

# TESTING DISK EVOLUTION THROUGH MASS ACCRETION RATES AND ITS VARIABILITY: THE CASE OF XX CHA

RIK CLAES

Carlo Manara, Justyn Campbell-White, Antonio Frasca, R. Garcia-Lopez, A. Natta, M. Fang, Z. P. Fockter, P. Ábrahám and Many more



*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*



# ● Who am I?

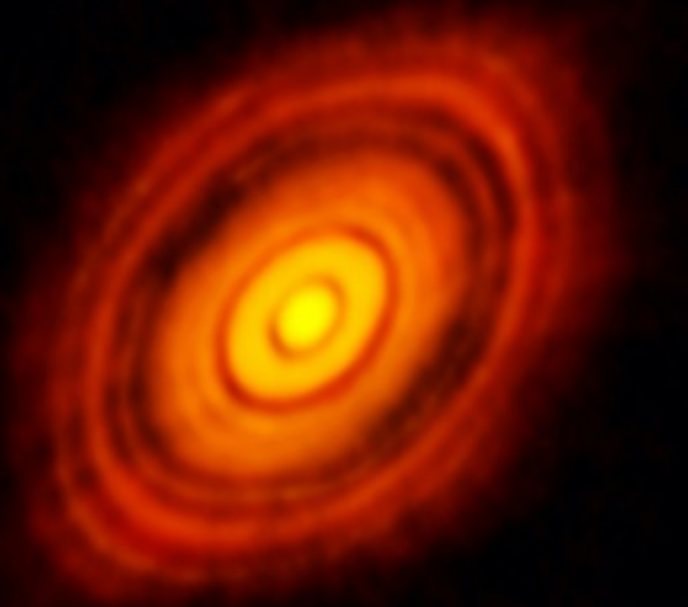
- Born and raised in Duffel
- Bachelors and Masters @ KU Leuven
- Now: 2nd year IMPRS PhD. Student @ ESO in Garching



# ● Protoplanetary disks

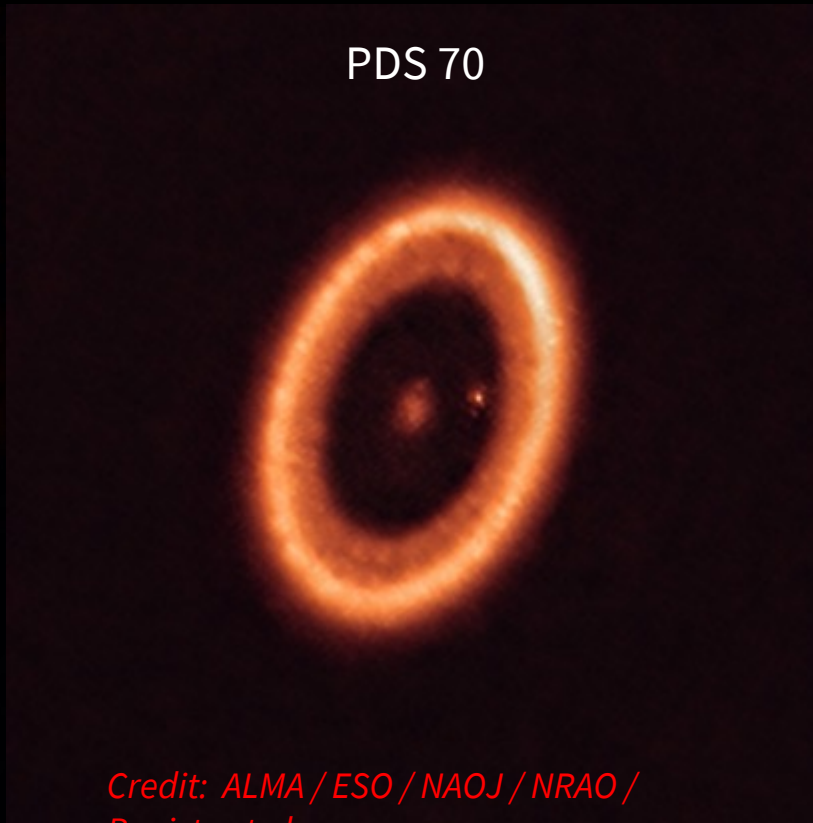
- Stage of star formation
- Planets are expected to form here
- How remains uncertain

HL Tauri



Credit: ALMA (NRAO/ESO/NAOJ);  
C. Brogan, B. Saxton (NRAO/AUI/NSF)

PDS 70



Credit: ALMA / ESO / NAOJ / NRAO /  
Benisty et al.

Class 0

Class I

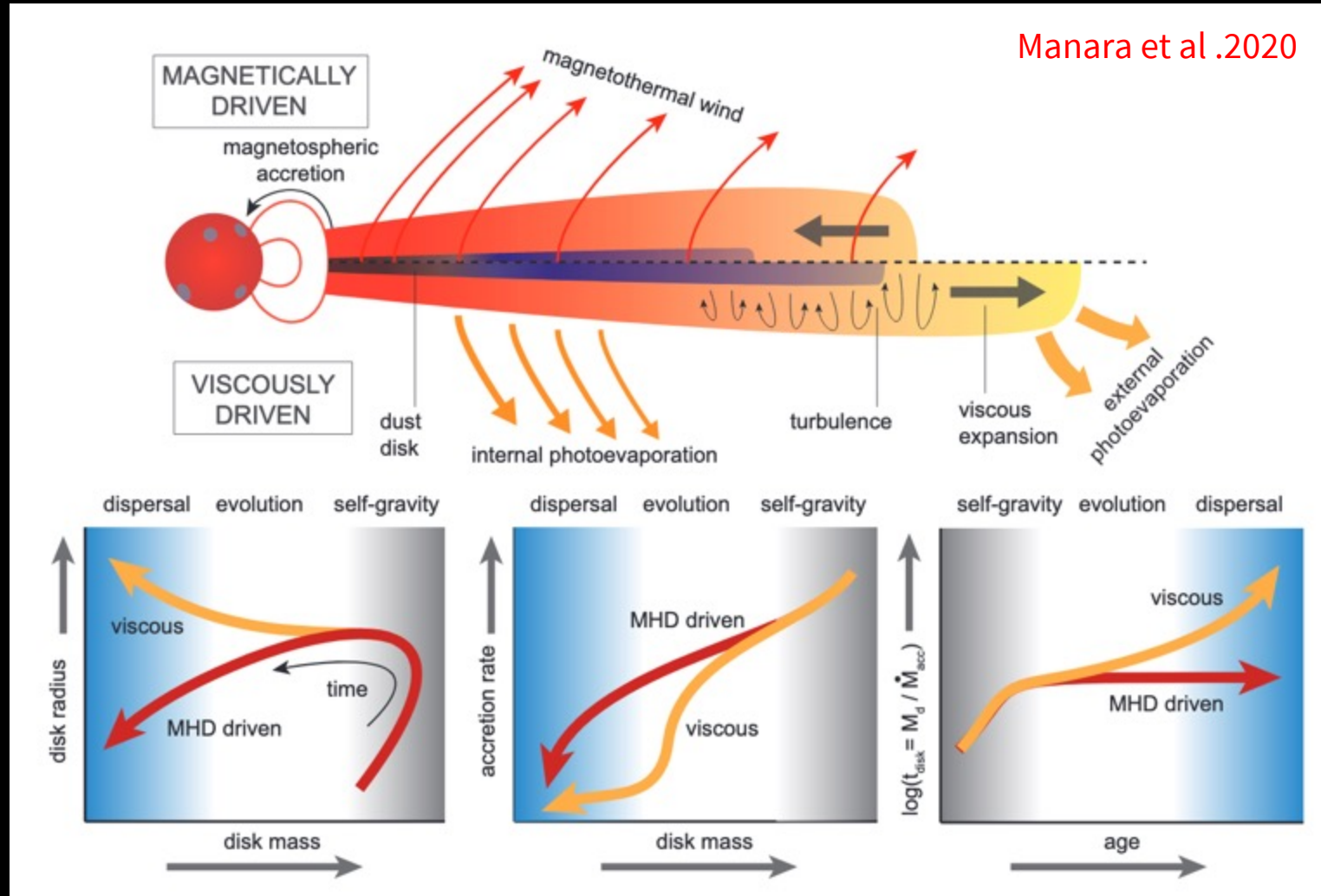
Class II  
(classical  
T Tauri star)

Class III  
(weak-lined  
T Tauri star)

Source: PhD thesis by N. Cuello

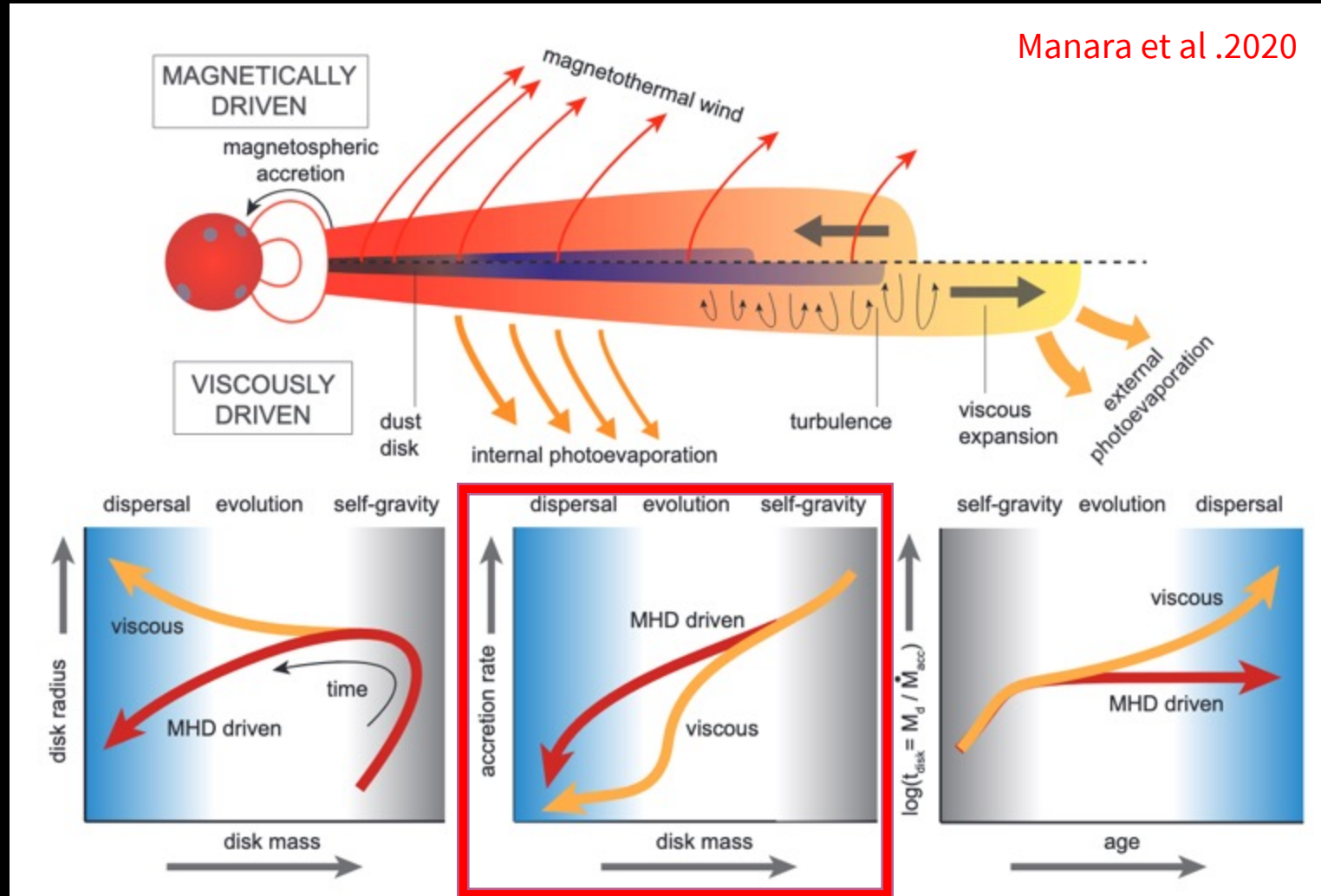
# ● Disk evolution

- Protoplanetary disks are poorly understood
- Dissipation over time
- Currently: viscous evolution vs MHD wind driven evolution



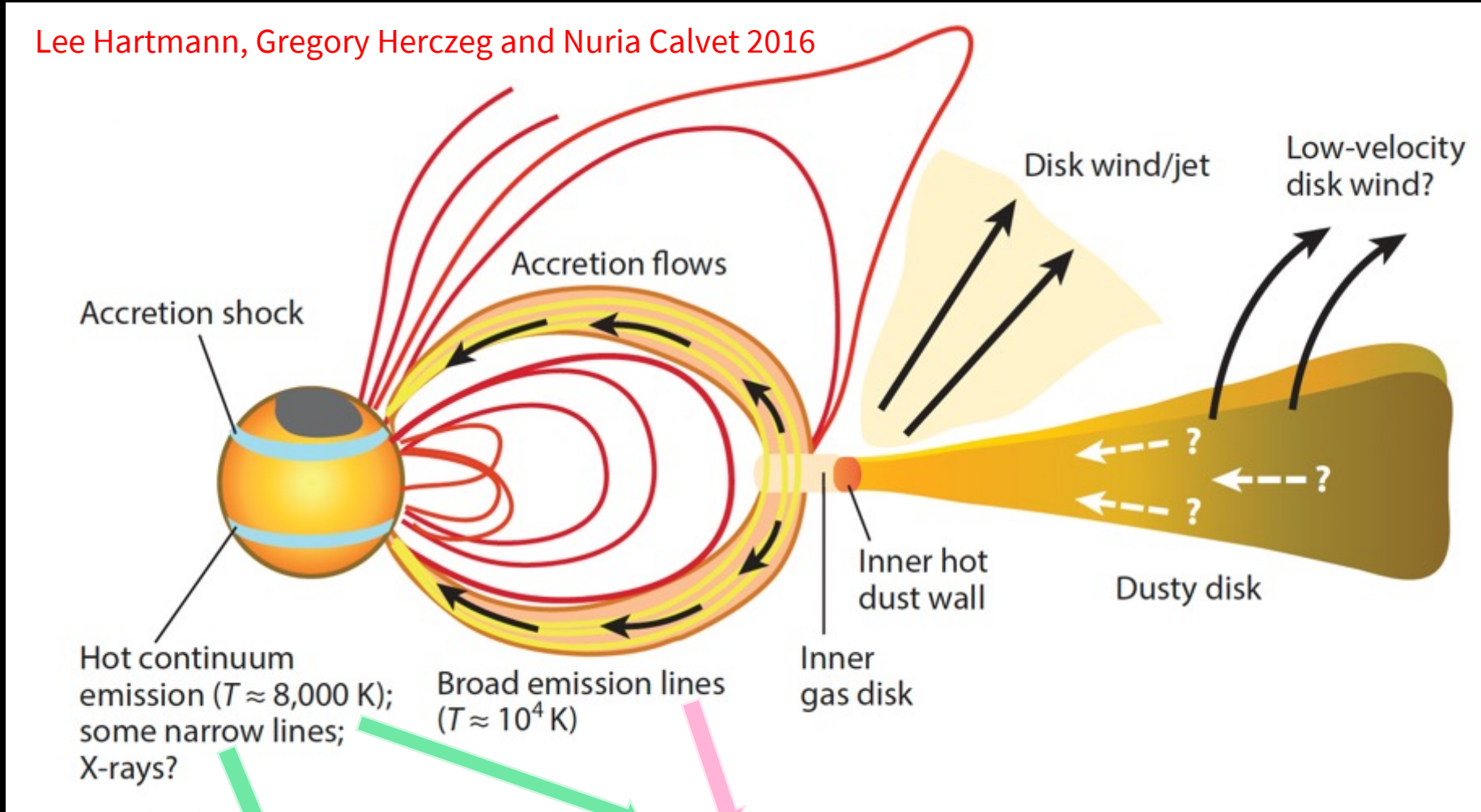
# ● Disk evolution

- Protoplanetary disks are poorly understood
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# ● Magnetospheric accretion onto the star

Lee Hartmann, Gregory Herczeg and Nuria Calvet 2016

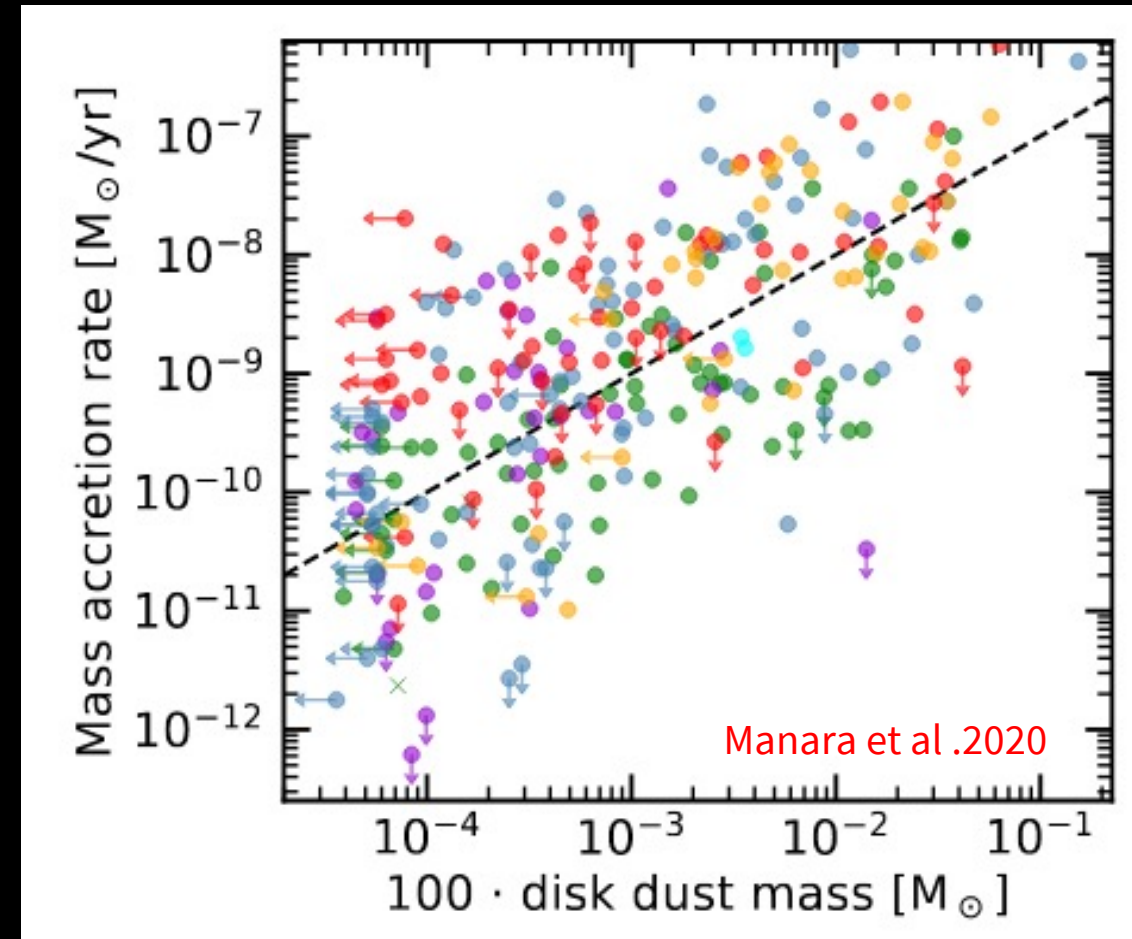


Two Main observables: UV continuum excess and Emission lines

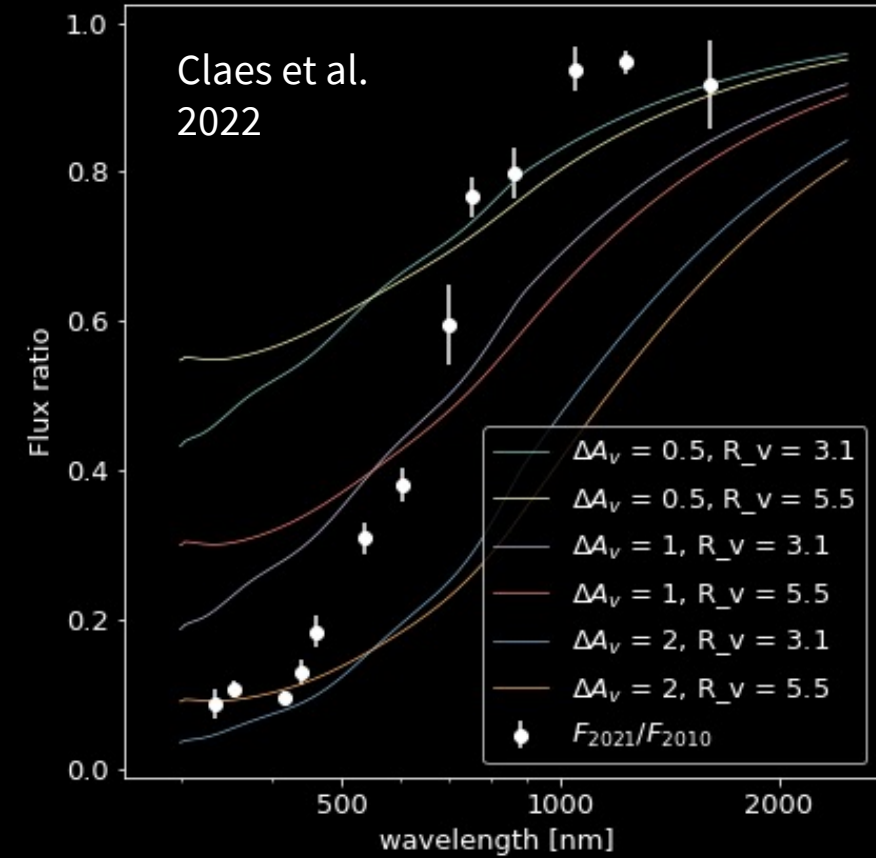
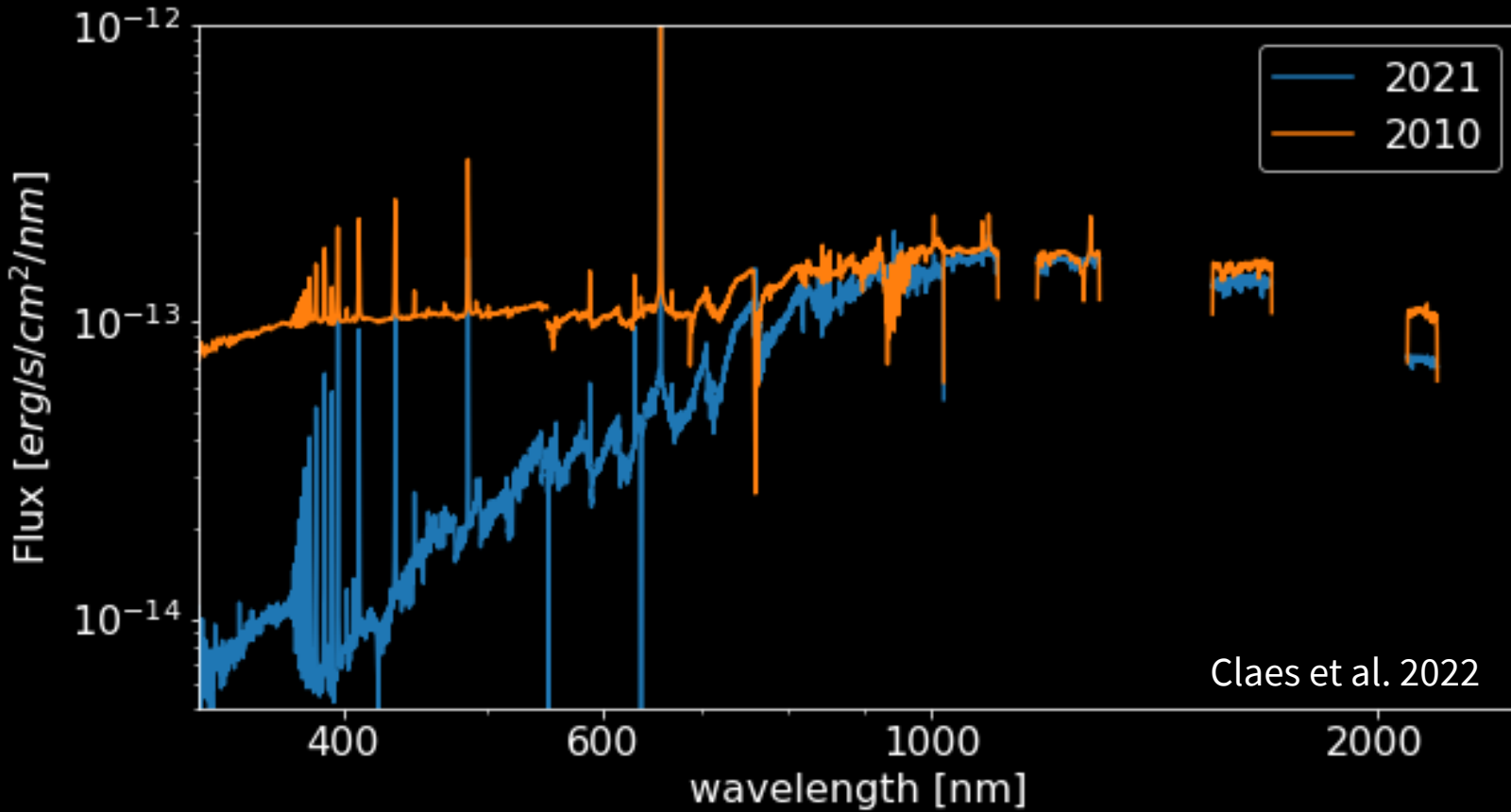


# ● Mass accretion rates as a constraint on disk evolution

- Tight correlation between  $\dot{M}_{\text{acc}} - M_{\text{disk}}$  is expected from viscous theory (Lodato 2017, Rosotti 2017, Mulders 2017)
- In MHD wind case the existence of a correlation is dependent on the initial conditions (Tabone et al 2021.)
- Correlation is observed, but with a large spread!
- What could contribute to this spread?



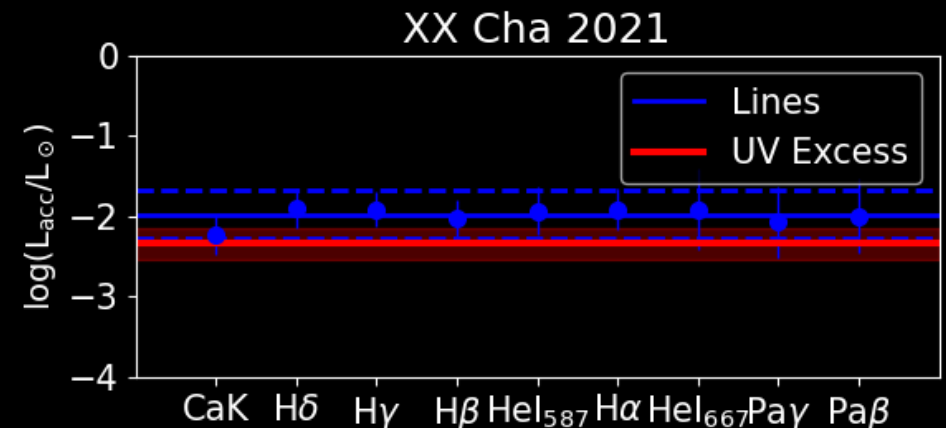
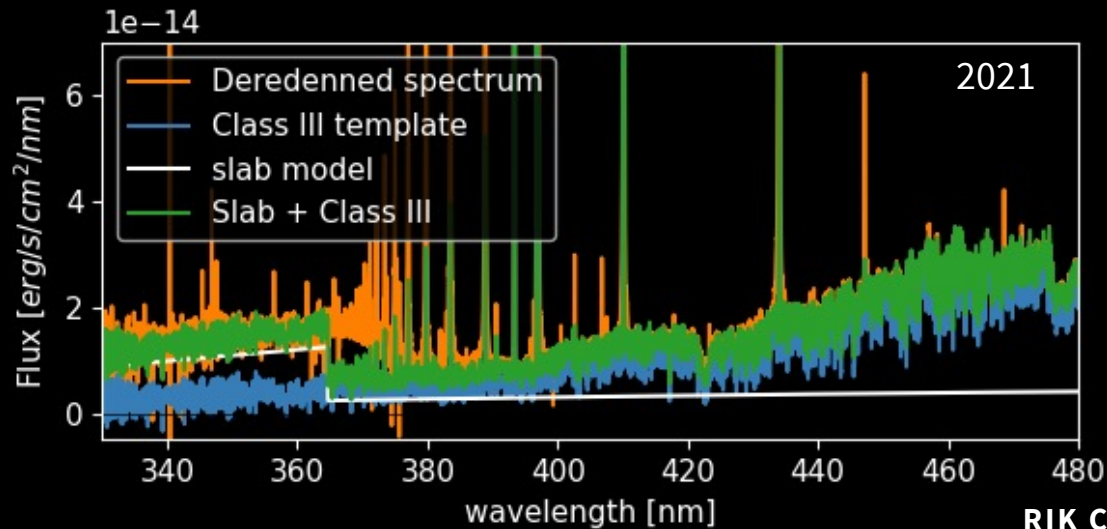
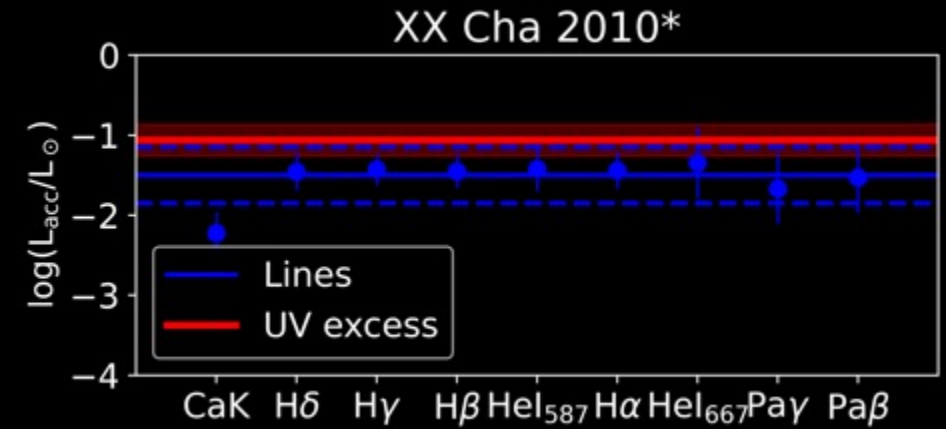
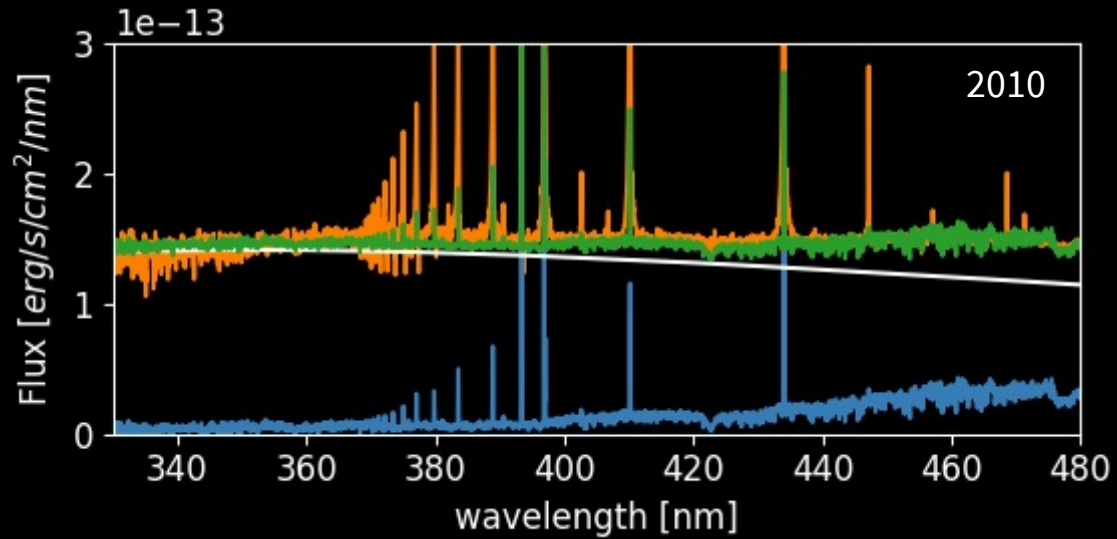
# ● XX Cha: Extreme accretion variability





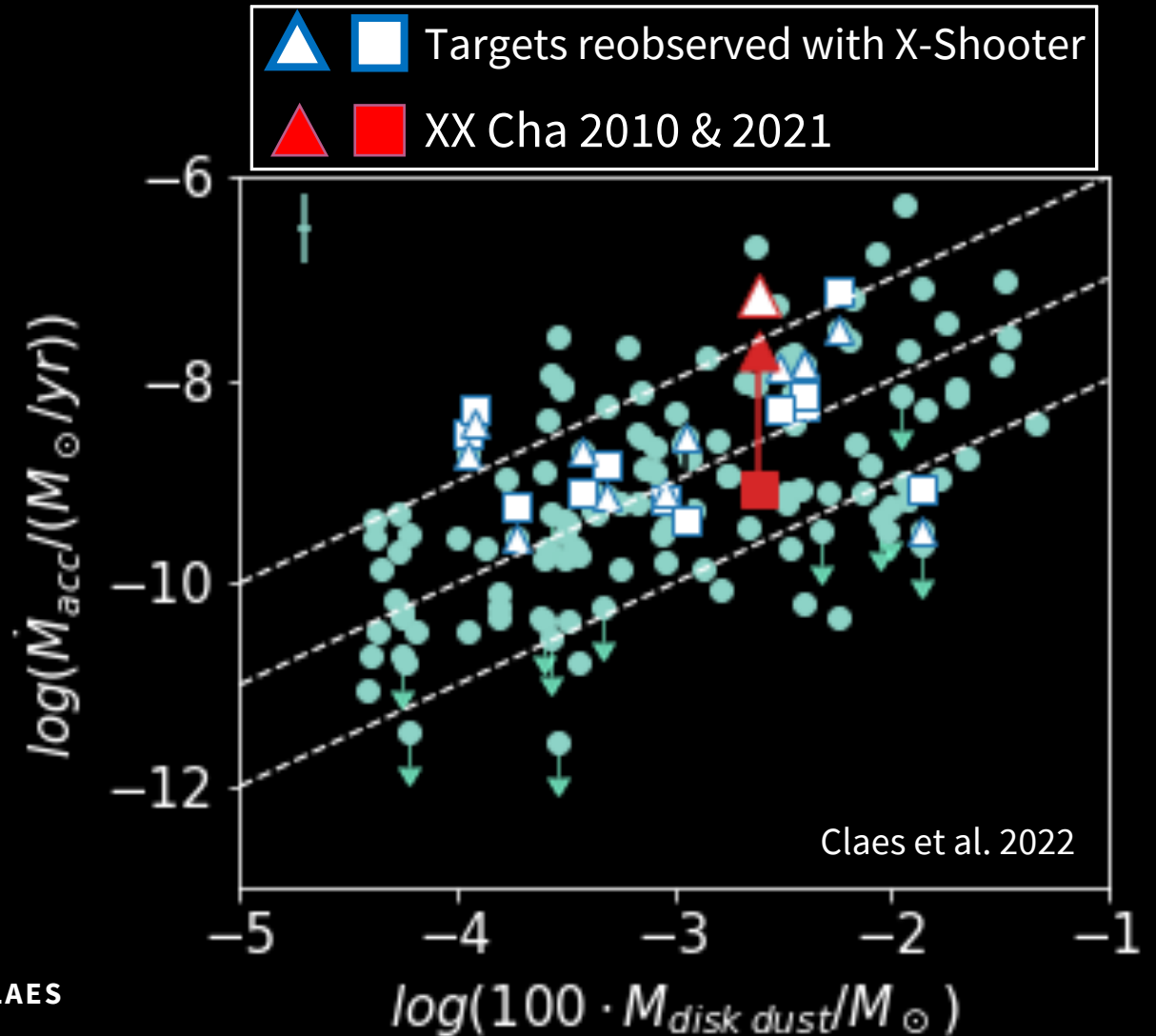
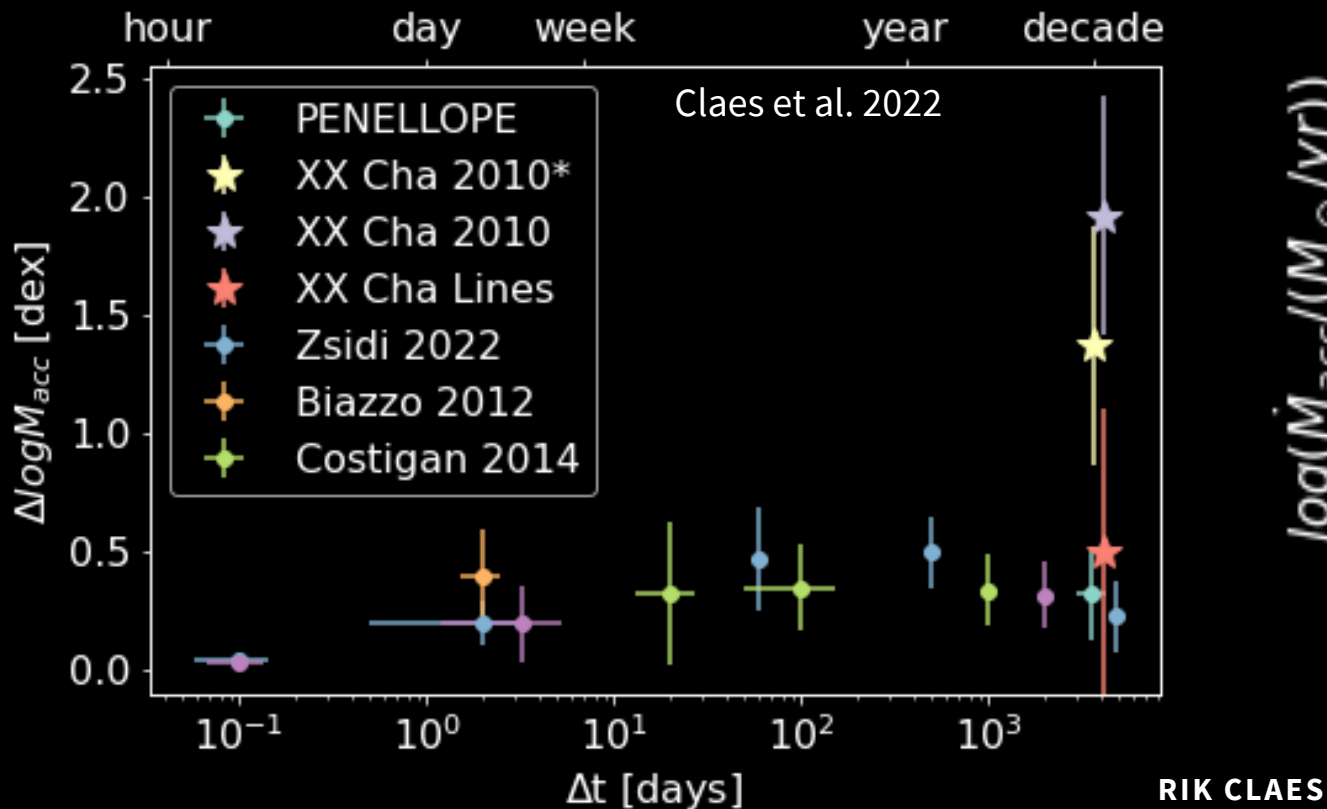
# ● Determining the accretion rate

Claes et al. 2022

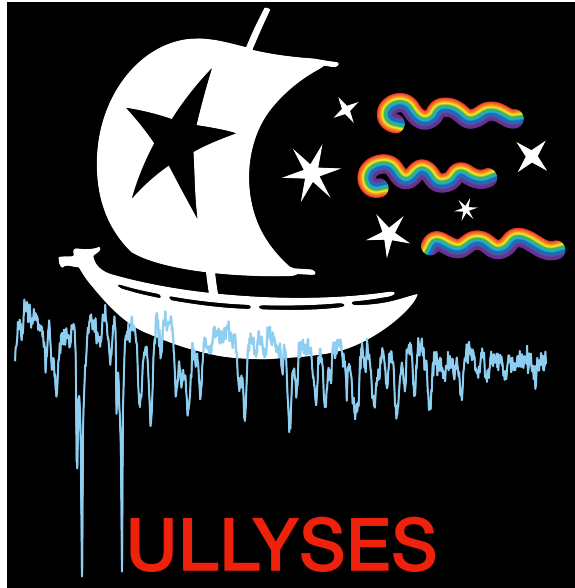


# ● Result and impact

XX Cha –like variability is rare and not big enough to explain observed spread!

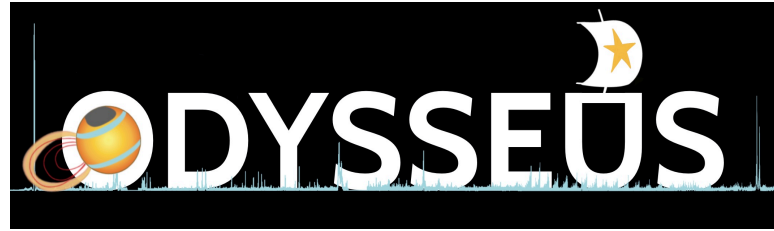


# A world-wide collaboration



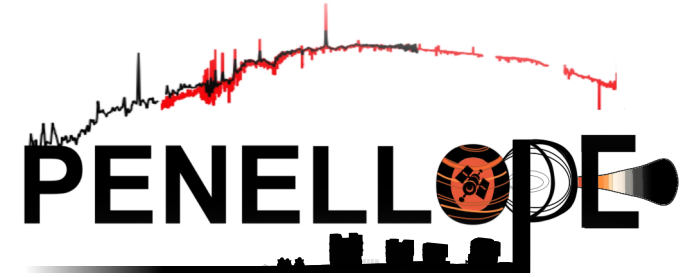
Hubble **UV** Legacy  
Library of **Y**oung  
**S**tars as **E**ssential  
**S**tandards

500 orbits of HST COS/STIS  
for low-mass stars (Director's  
Discretionary program)  
*PI Roman-Duval*



**O**utflows and **D**isks around  
**Y**oung **S**tars: **S**ynergies for  
the **E**xploration of **U**llyses  
**S**pectra

- ~90 astronomers worldwide
- using the **ULLYSES** data to study accretion, outflows, and inner disk composition
- **coordinating complementary data collection** efforts.
- **Lead:** G. Herczeg (KIAA Beijing), C. Espaillat (Boston University)



**PENELLOPE**

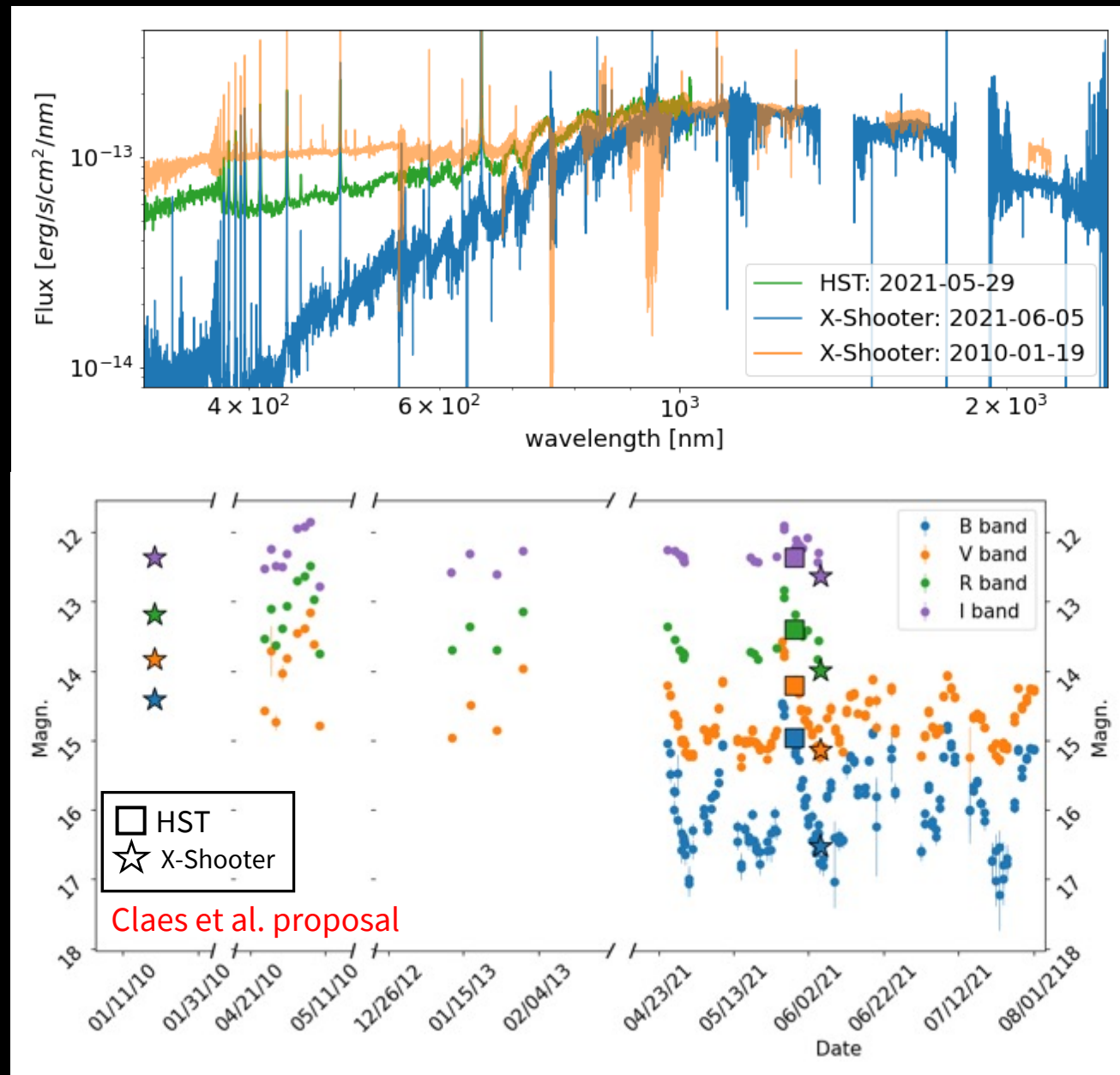
Large international team  
acquiring complementary data  
with a ~250h **Large Program**  
at the ESO Very Large  
Telescope (VLT).

**PI:** C.F. Manara (ESO)  
Data public

Several other teams are  
collecting **photometry**, **high-  
resolution spectra** and more.  
Observations are coordinated  
with **TESS**.

# ● HST data

- HST spectrum suggests a short timescale of  $\sim$ week. In line with magnetospheric accretion variability
- Follow-up observations can provide clarity about the mechanism driving this variability



Feel free to reach out:  
rclaes@eso.org

## ● Take home messages

- An understanding of the accretion properties of disks provides a necessary constraint on their evolution
- Variability is unlikely to explain the observed spread in  $\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$ , although some extreme variables such as XX Cha are present and need to be explained
- A thorough analysis of flux calibrated broad wavelength range spectra is needed to understand the accretion properties of young stars

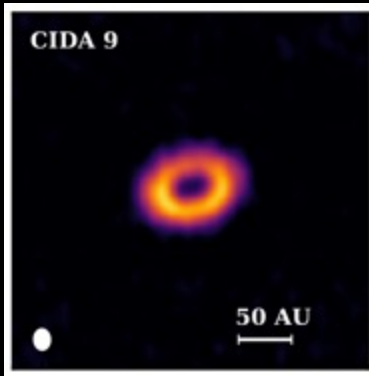
Letter on XX Cha  
(Claes et al. 2022)  
Published on A&A:



# Future work

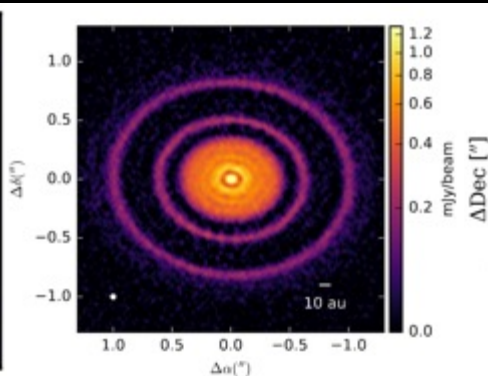
- The tool used to derive mass accretion rates from a UV excess needs to be made more straightforward
- Impact of disk structures on mass accretion rate

Cavities



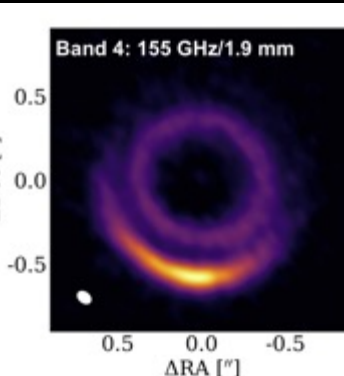
Long et al. 2018

Rings: AS 209



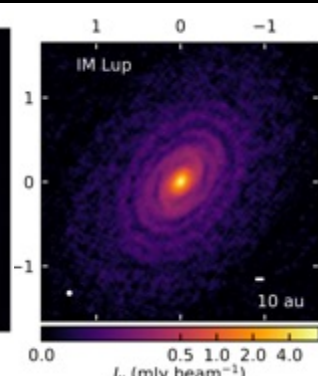
Huang et al. 2018c

Arcs: HD 135344B

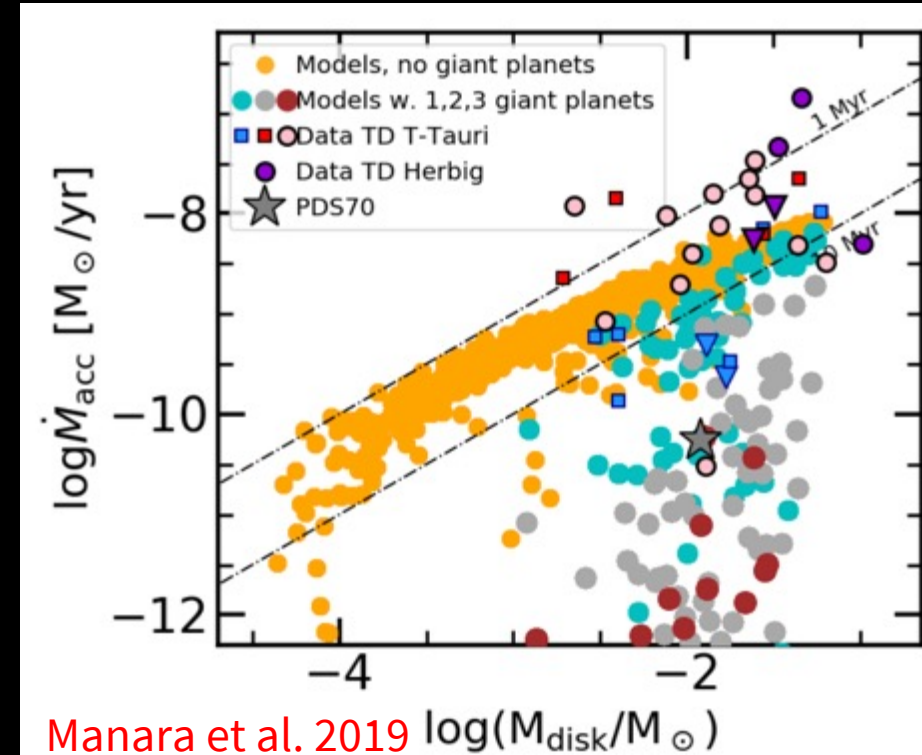


Cazzoletti et al. 2018

Spirals: IM Lup



Huang et al. 2018b





Interested in being an  
ESO student?

Come and have a  
chat!!!

More information in  
later talk by Henri  
Boffin

Also here: Adrien Houge

Ms: ULiège

Currently: Exeter + ESO Studentship



# ● WANDA @ ESO

ERC grant of Carlo Manara

Aims to study structures in protoplanetary disks and answer:

- How the presence of planets affects accretion properties
- If large cavities and ring are related to strong MHD winds
- How external photoevaporation affects disk properties
- How planet formation differs across star forming regions



RIK CLAES

Shameless advertisement:  
Open fully funded PhD  
position!!





# ● The ESO Garching experience



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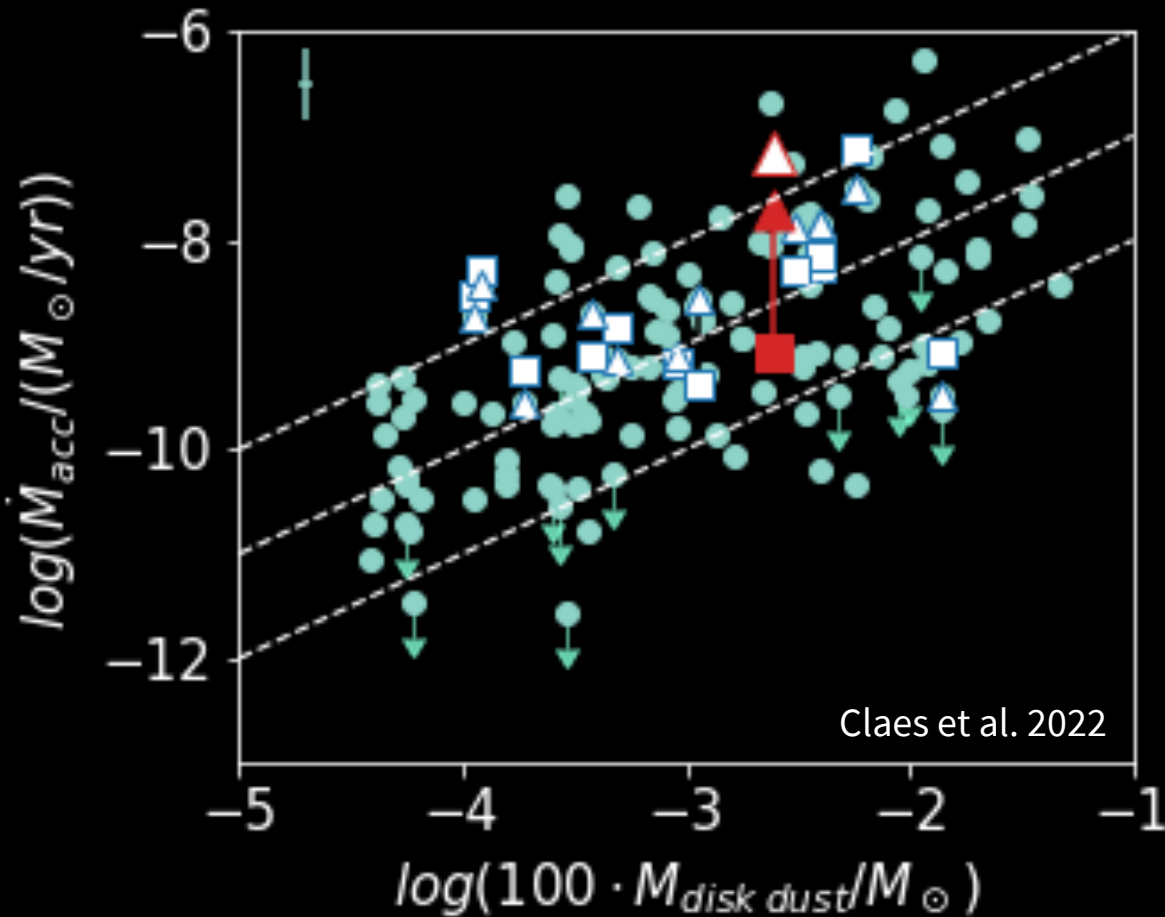




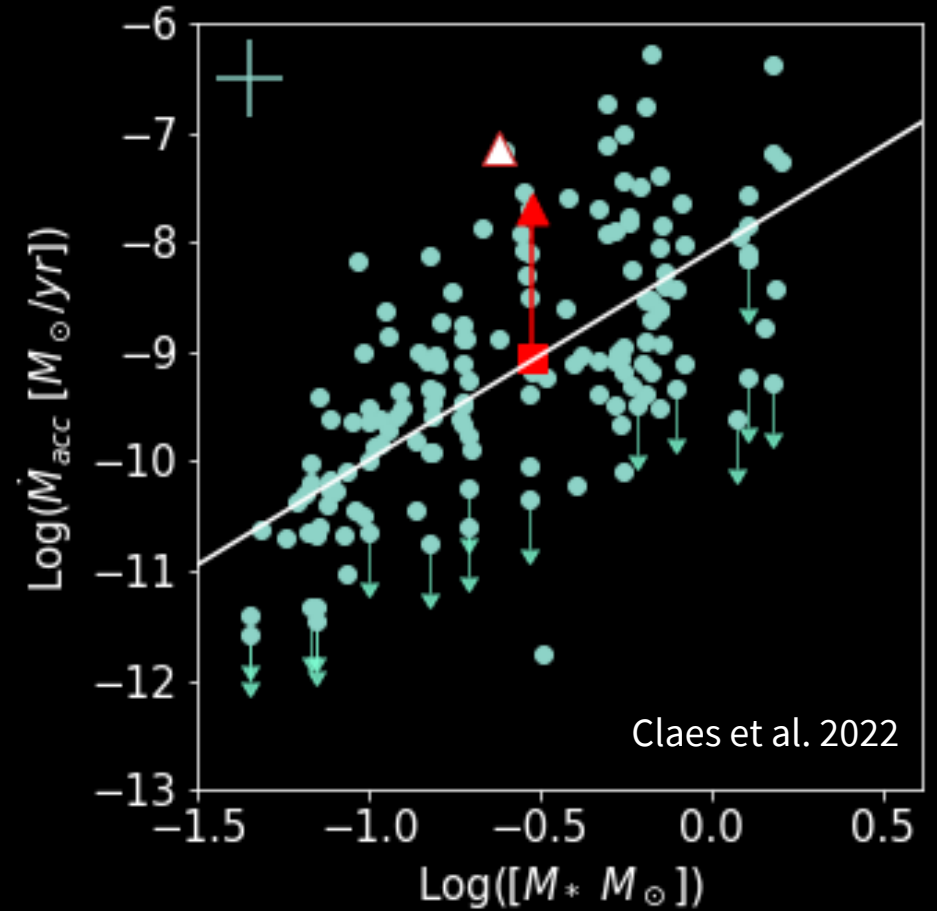
RIK CLAES



# ● XX Cha: Implications

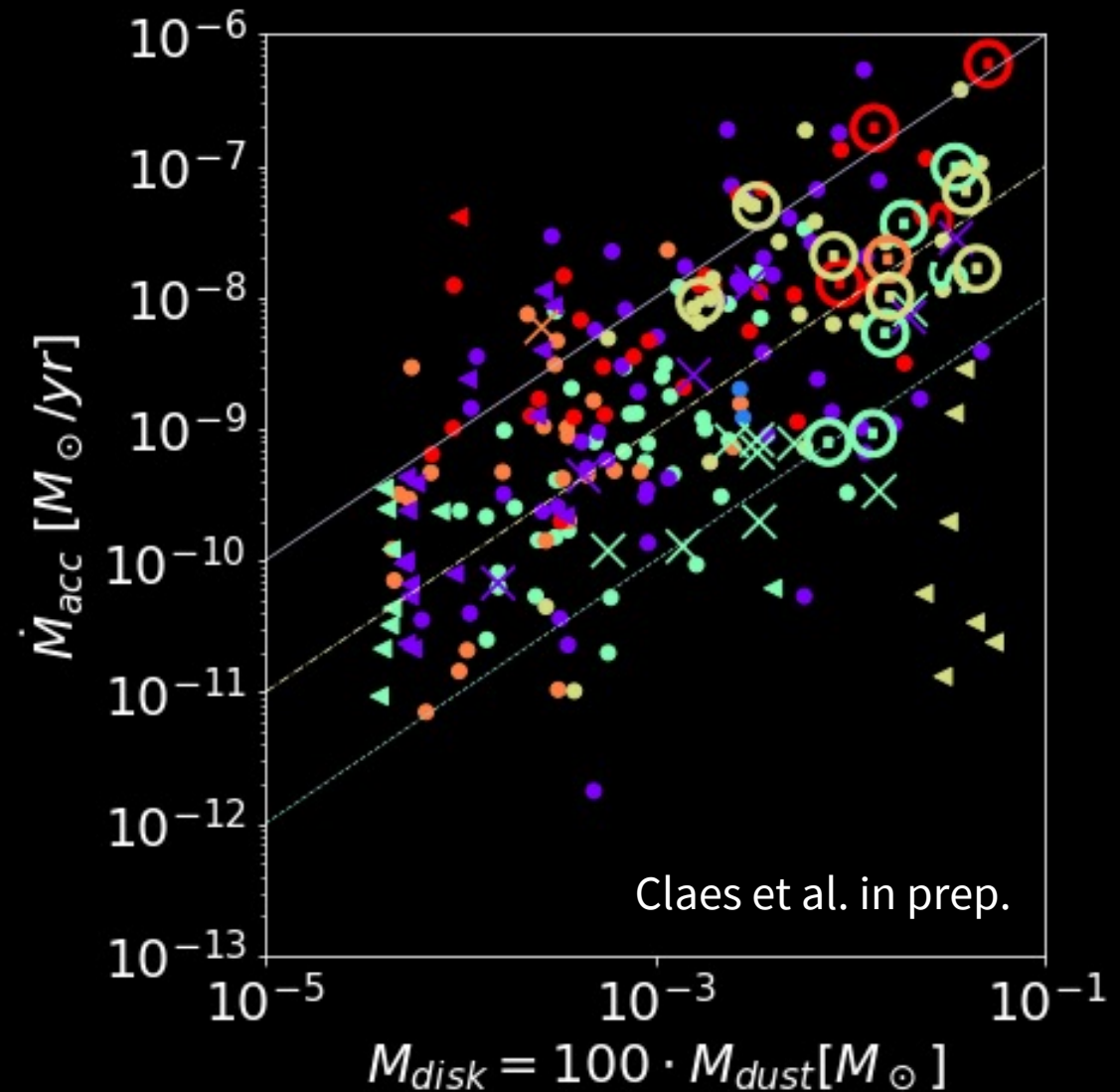


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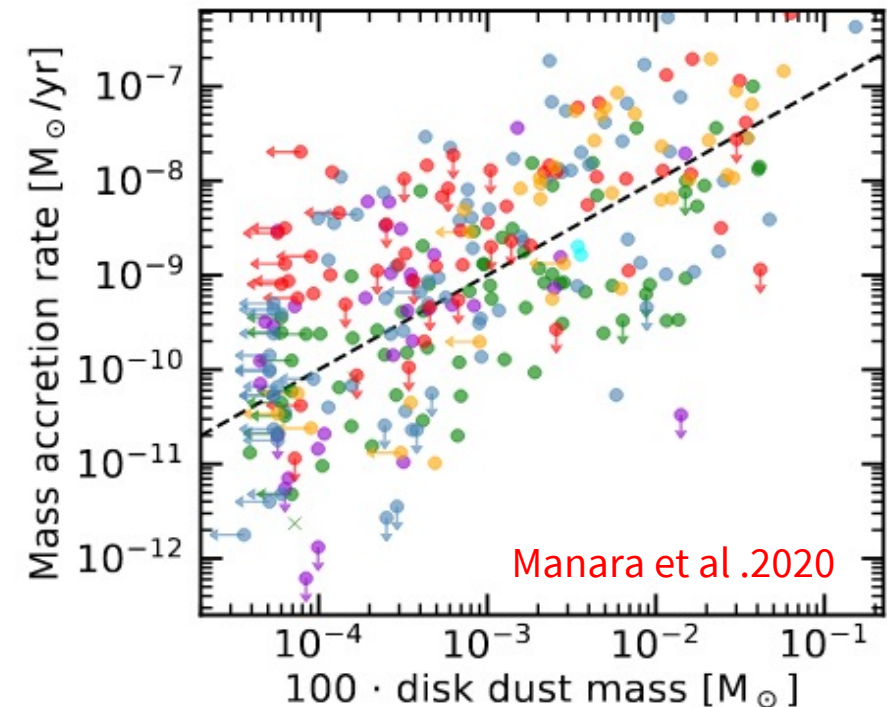
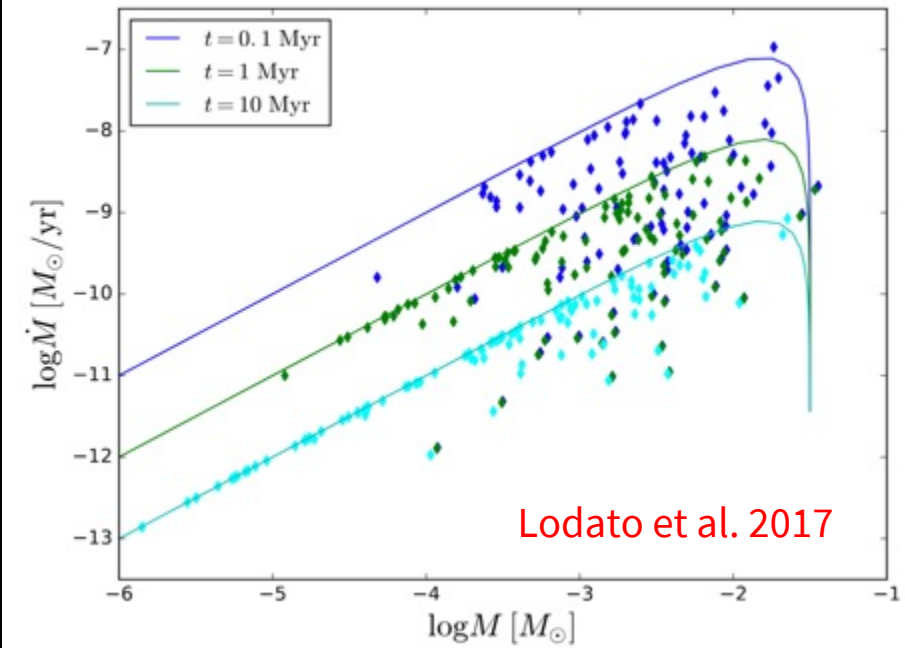
# ● Other future work

- Accretion rate in structured sources
- An improved publically available tool for fitting the UV excess in Class II YSO



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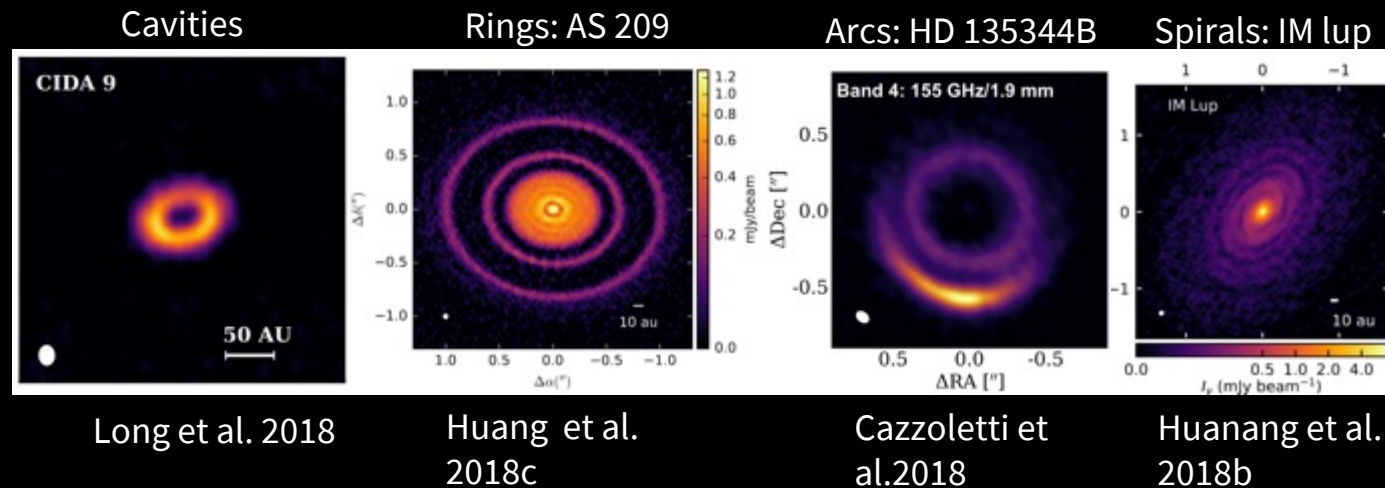
## ● Take home message

- An understanding of the accretion properties of PPD provides a powerful constraint on their evolution
- Variability is unlikely to explain the observed spread, Although some extreme variables such as XX Cha are present and need to be explained

## Future work:

- The tool used to derive mass accretion rates from a UV excess needs to be made more straightforward
- Impact of disk structures on mass accretion rate

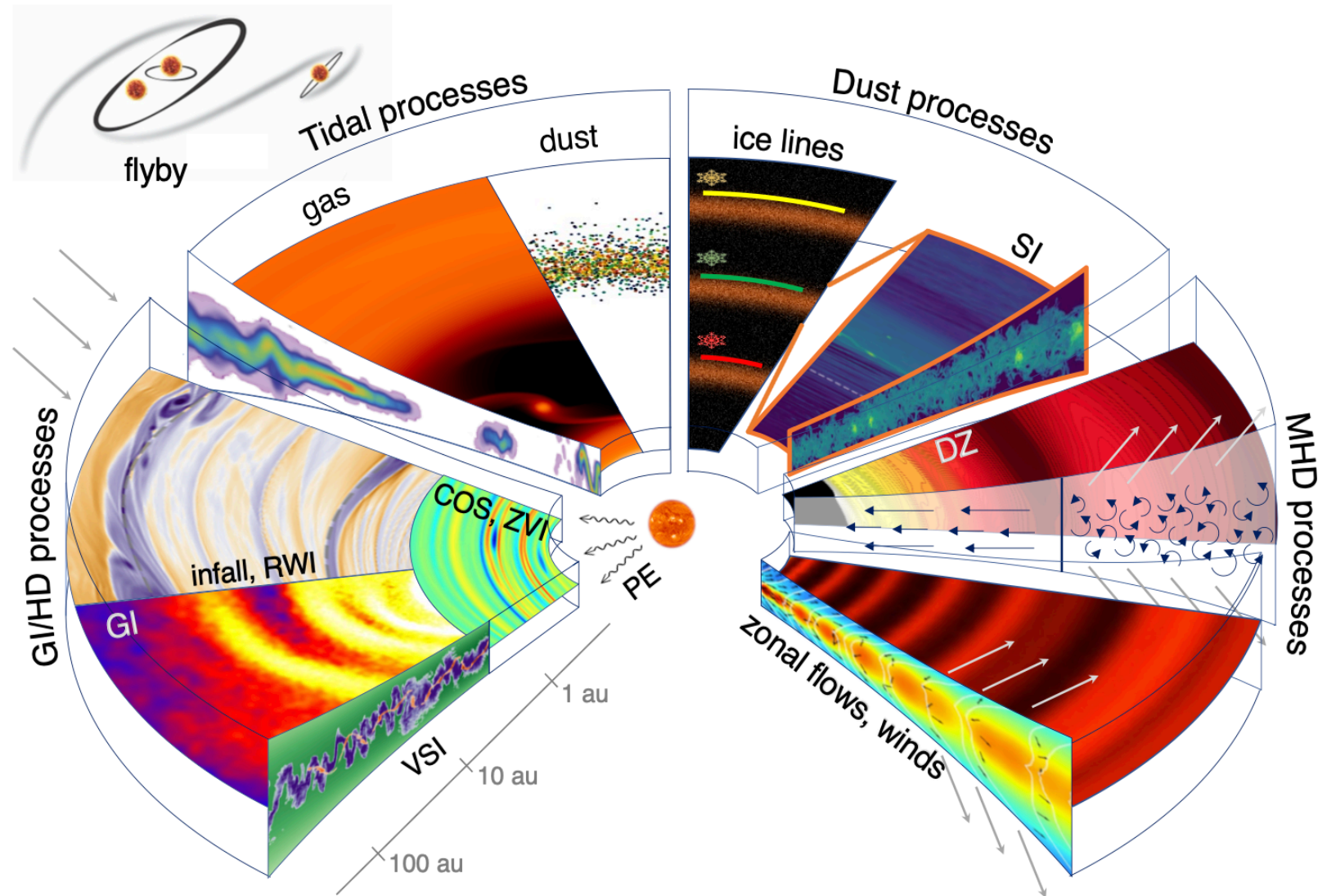
Letter on XX Cha  
(Claes et al. 2022)  
Published on A&A:



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# Disk evolution & substructures: key to planet formation?



Bae, Isella, Zhu, Martin, Okuzumi, & Suriano  
2022, PPVII chapter

Observing the dynamics (inflow/accretion + outflow/winds) helps us to disentangle the various disk processes