

The background of the slide is a stunning astronomical image of the Pillars of Creation nebula. Two prominent, towering columns of interstellar dust and gas rise vertically, their surfaces textured and layered. The tips of these pillars are illuminated with a bright, ethereal blue and cyan glow, contrasting with the warmer, golden-yellow and orange hues of the nebula's base and surrounding clouds. The entire scene is set against a deep, dark blue space filled with numerous bright, multi-pointed stars, some of which are particularly prominent in the upper left and lower right quadrants.

FROM UNIVERSE

TO PLANETS

LECTURE 2

OUTLINE

- ▶ Review + protoplanetary disc formation:
 - ▶ Orbital dynamics
- ▶ Disc structure:
 - ▶ Observations and composition
- ▶ Gas disc evolution/lifetime:
 - ▶ Viscous evolution + hint of photoevaporation
- ▶ Dust evolution
 - ▶ Drag, radial drift, and vertical settling

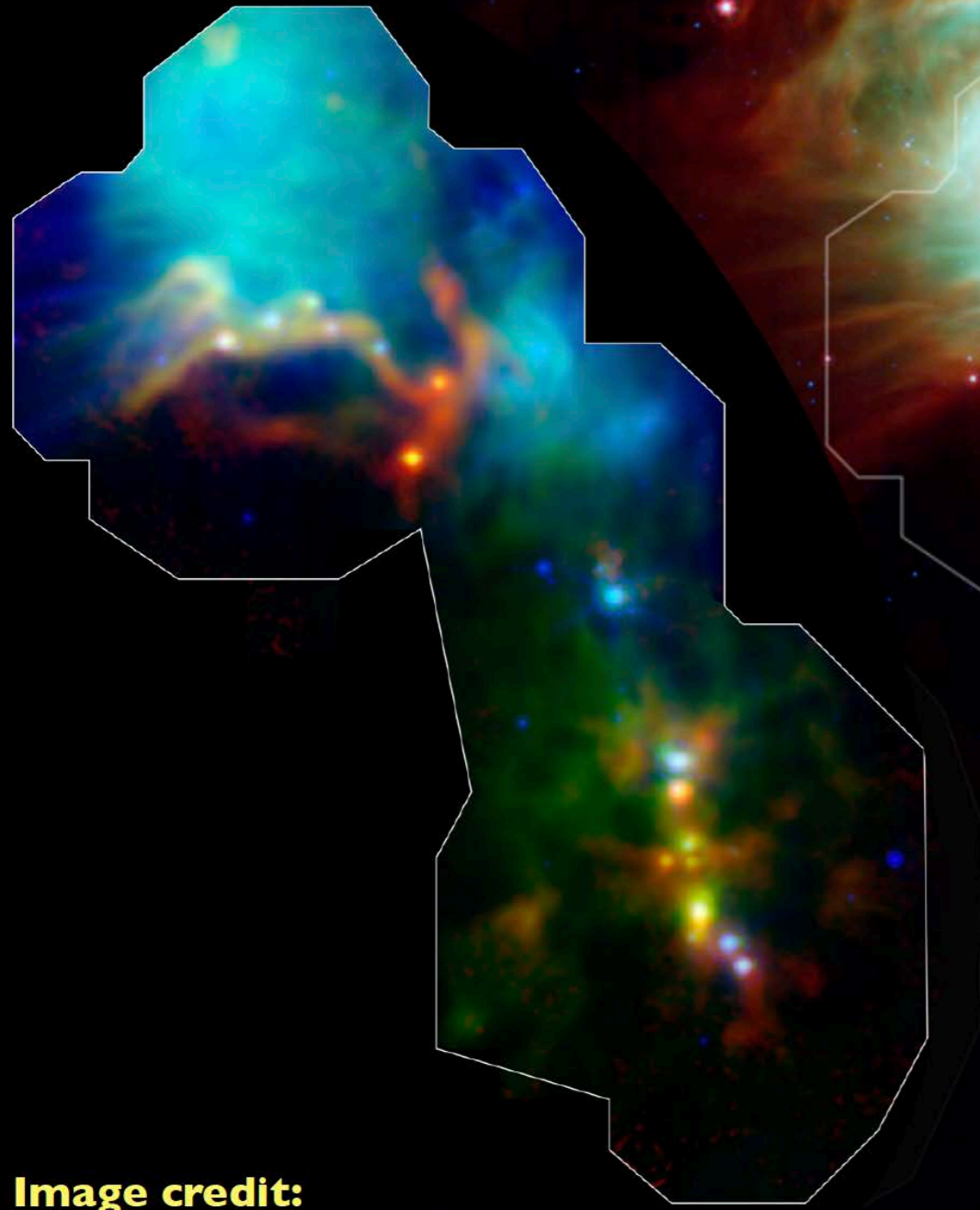
FROM UNIVERSE

TO PLANETS

LECTURE 2.1: DISC FORMATION

EMBEDDED SOURCES REVEALED IN INFRARED (NIR AND MIR)

**Orion B / NGC2068
with MIPS, Herschel, and APEX**



**Orion B / NGC2068
with Spitzer IRAC & MIPS**



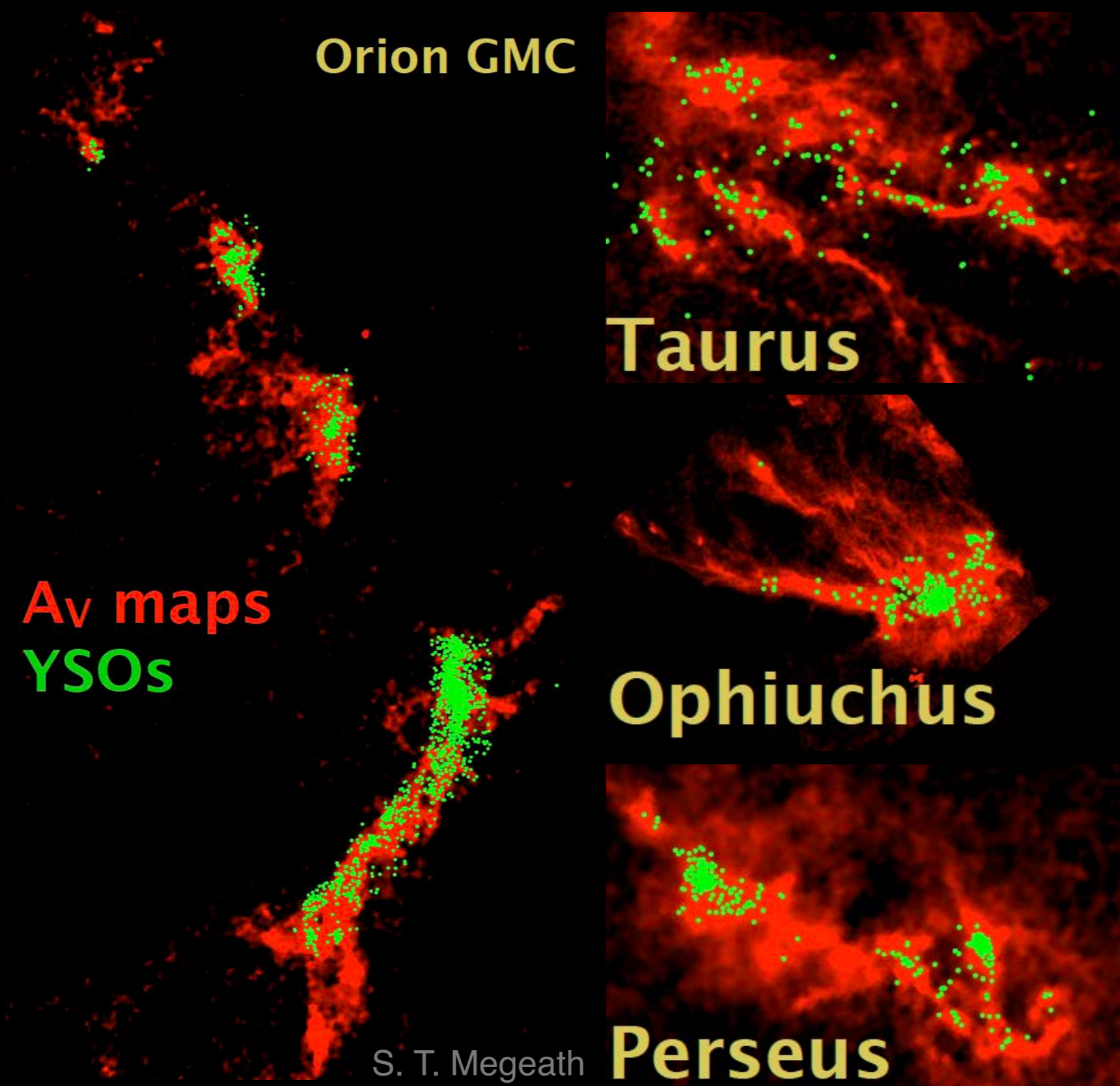
**Orion B / NGC2068
Optical**



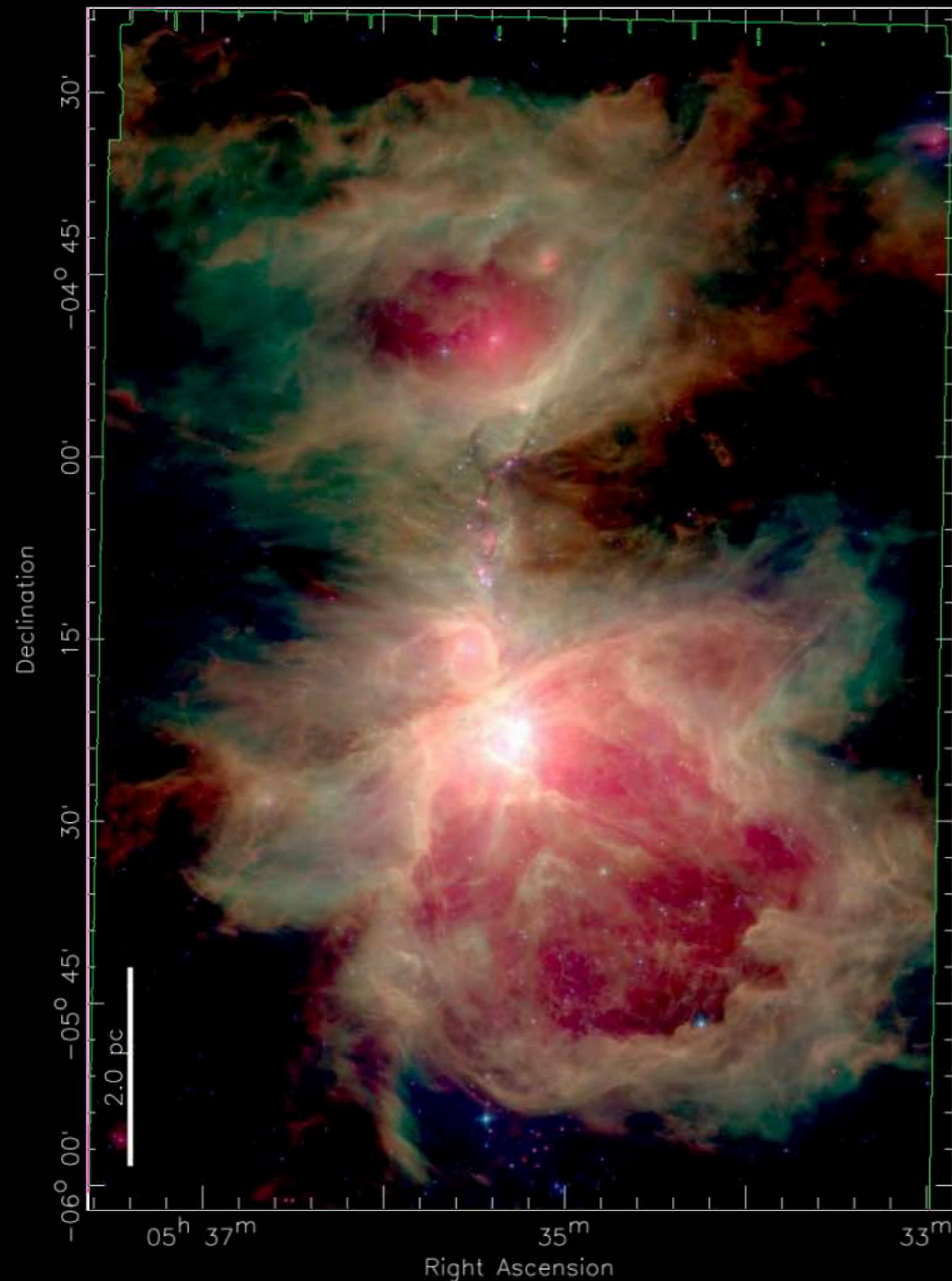
**Image credit:
NASA/ESA/ESO/JPL-Caltech/
Max-Planck Institute for Astronomy/University of Toledo**

**Image credit & copyright:
Ignacio de la Cueva
Torregrosa (APOD)**

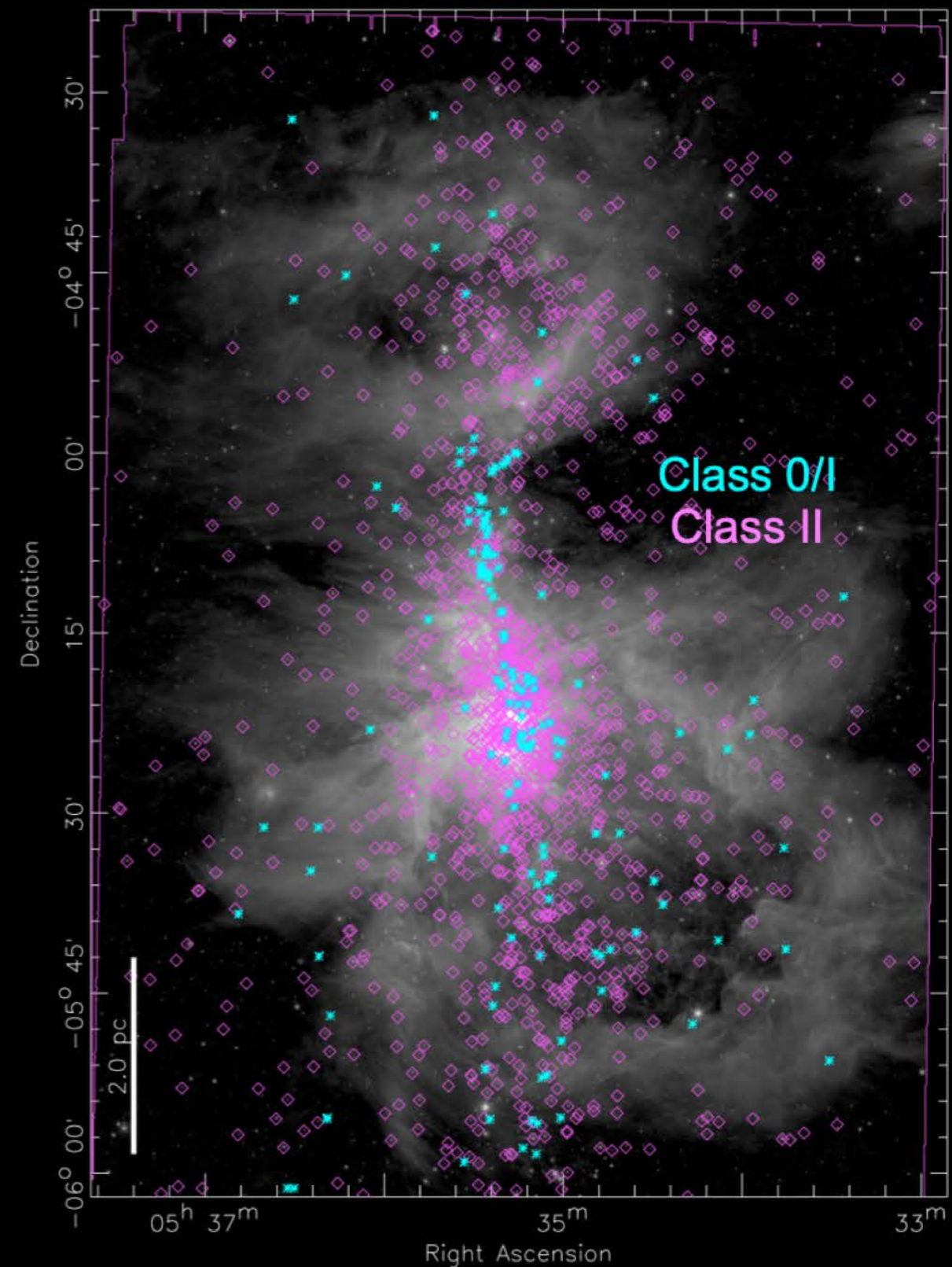
EMBEDDED SOURCES REVEALED IN INFRARED (NIR AND MIR)



THE AGE SPREAD IN STAR FORMING REGIONS



Spitzer 4.5, 5.8, +24 μm image of Northern Orion A



Megeath et al. (2006)

THE AGE SPREAD IN STAR FORMING REGIONS

- Observations of T Tauri (Class II and III) stars show a small age spread:

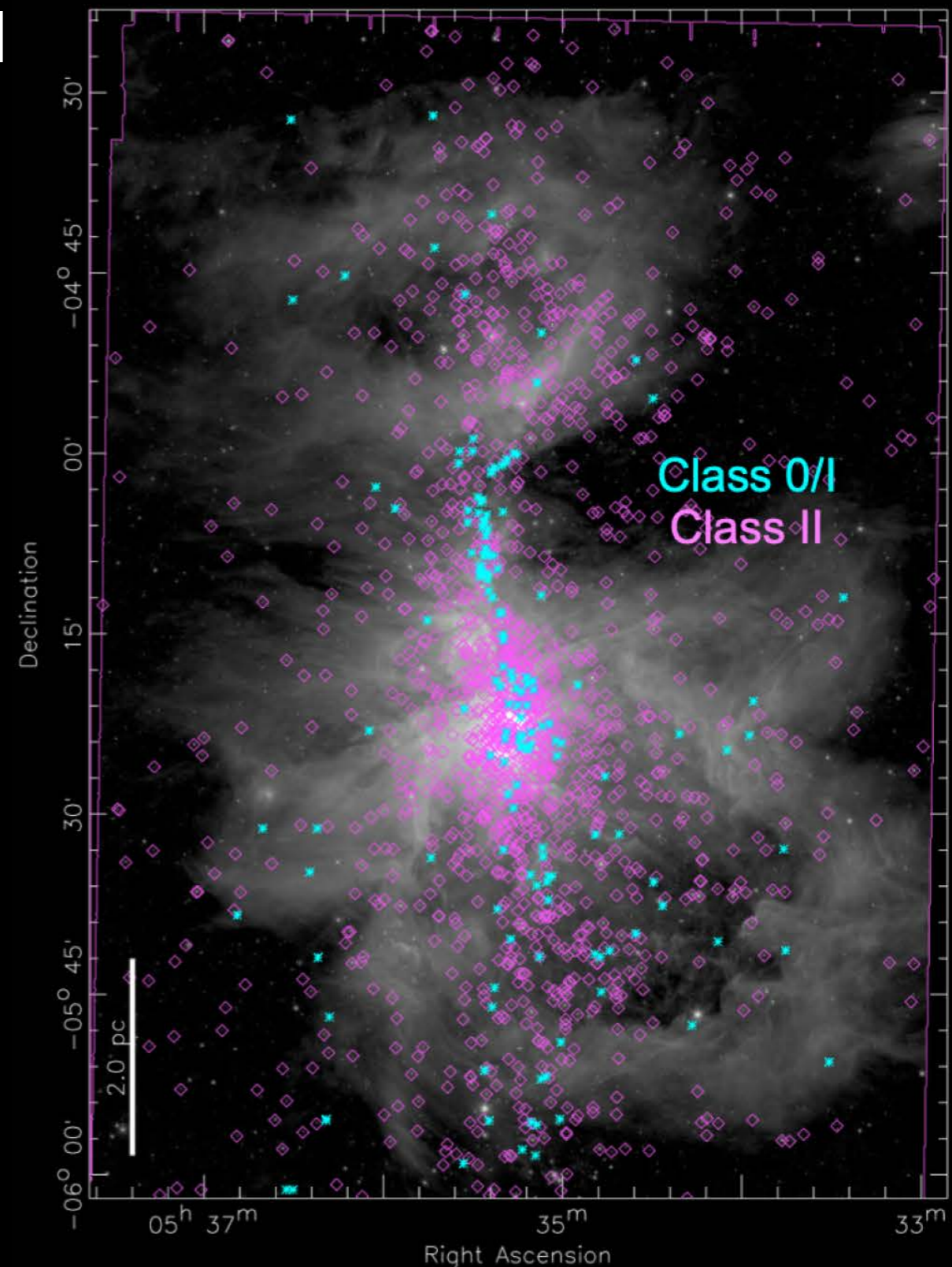
$$\Delta t_{\text{age}} \sim 1-3 \text{ Myr}$$

- Compare this to typical crossing times and lifetimes:

$$t_{\text{cross}} = \frac{L}{v} \sim 10 \text{ Myr}$$

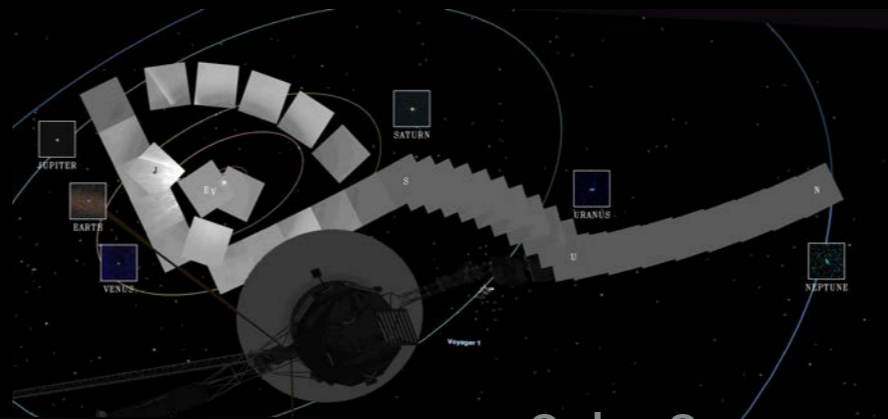
$$t_{\text{life}} \sim 10-30 \text{ Myr}$$

Star Formation must happen **fast** (i.e. in 1-2 crossing or freefall times) since the global star formation efficiency is low

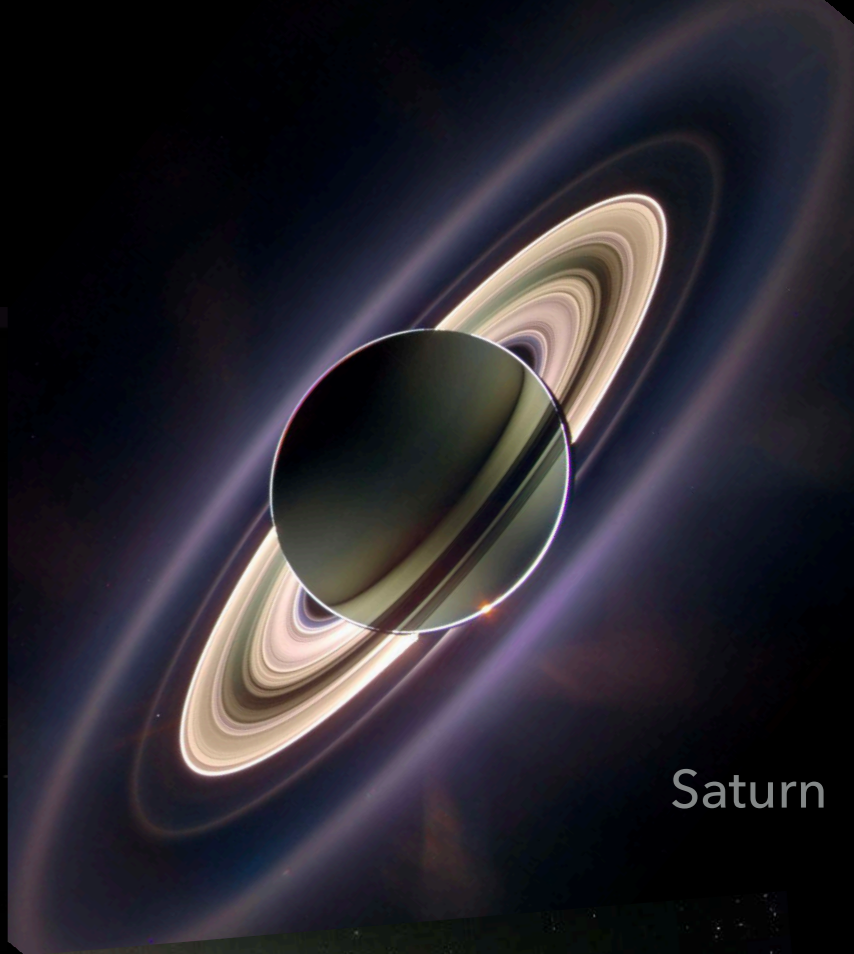


M87*

WHY DISCS?



Solar System

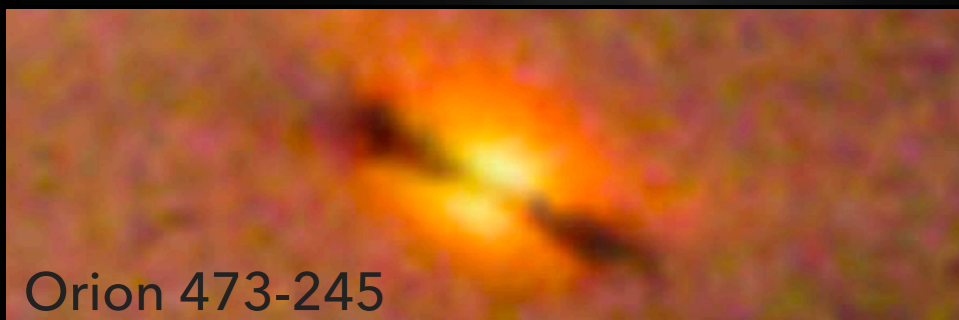


Saturn

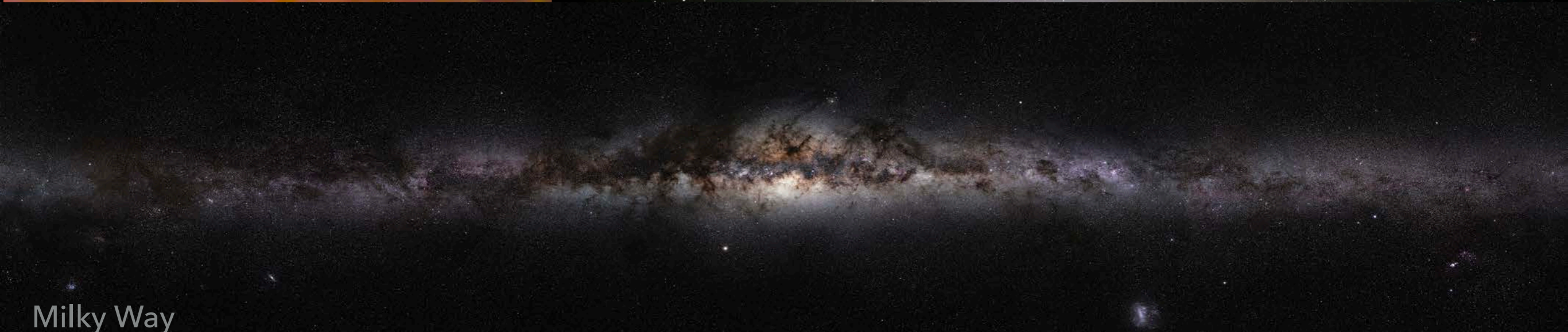
Jupiter



Sombrero Galaxy



Orion 473-245



Milky Way

M87

NGC 1316

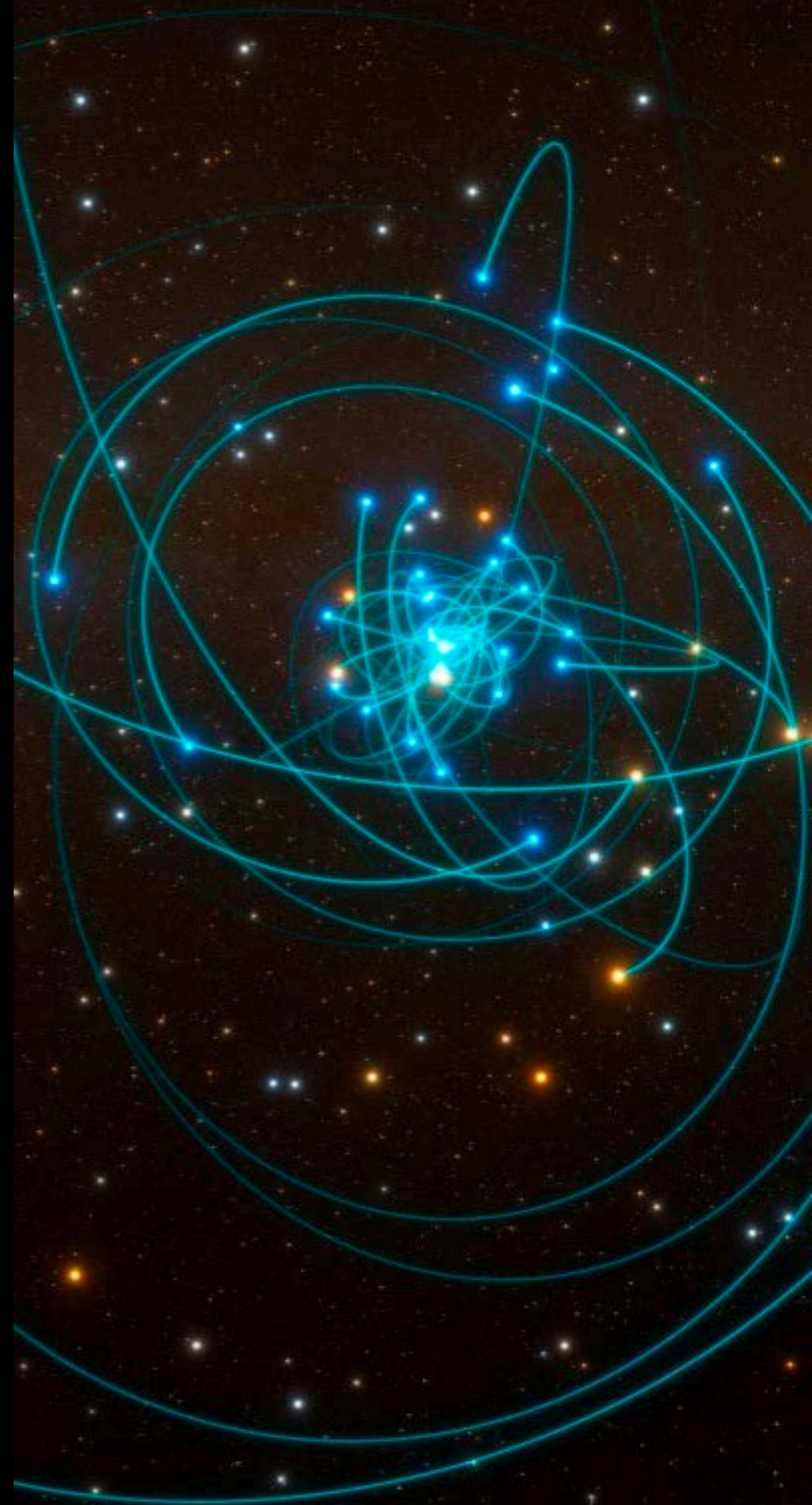
WHY NOT SPHERICAL?

NGC 474

NGC 4365

ORBITAL DYNAMICS

- In a spherically symmetric potential, all objects move on orbital planes
 - Not necessarily in a disc!
- Stars are collisionless and only interact through gravity
 - Structure at time of formation is largely preserved
 - Stars randomly thrown together (e.g. galaxy mergers) create spherical clouds → Elliptical galaxies



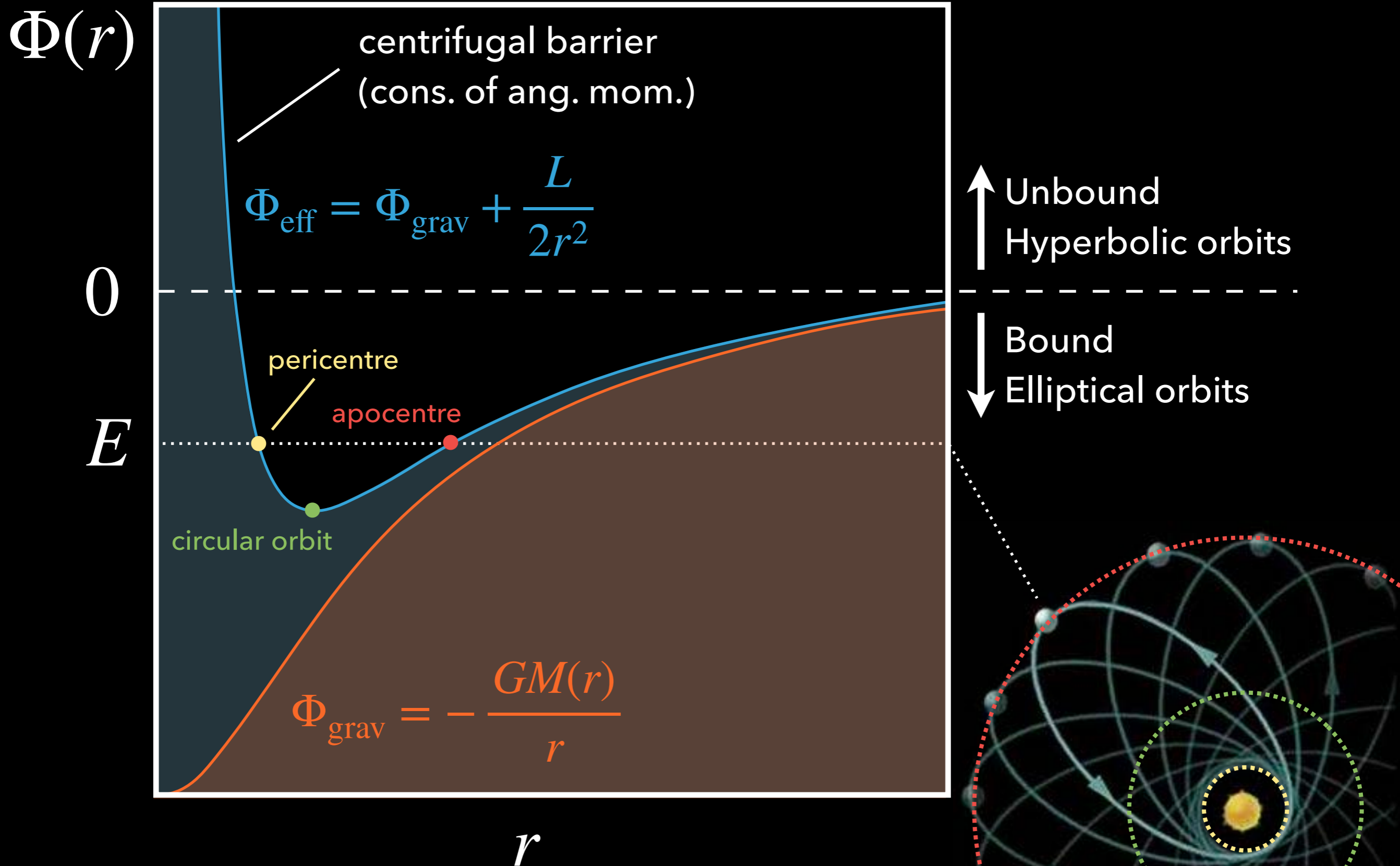
ORBITAL DYNAMICS

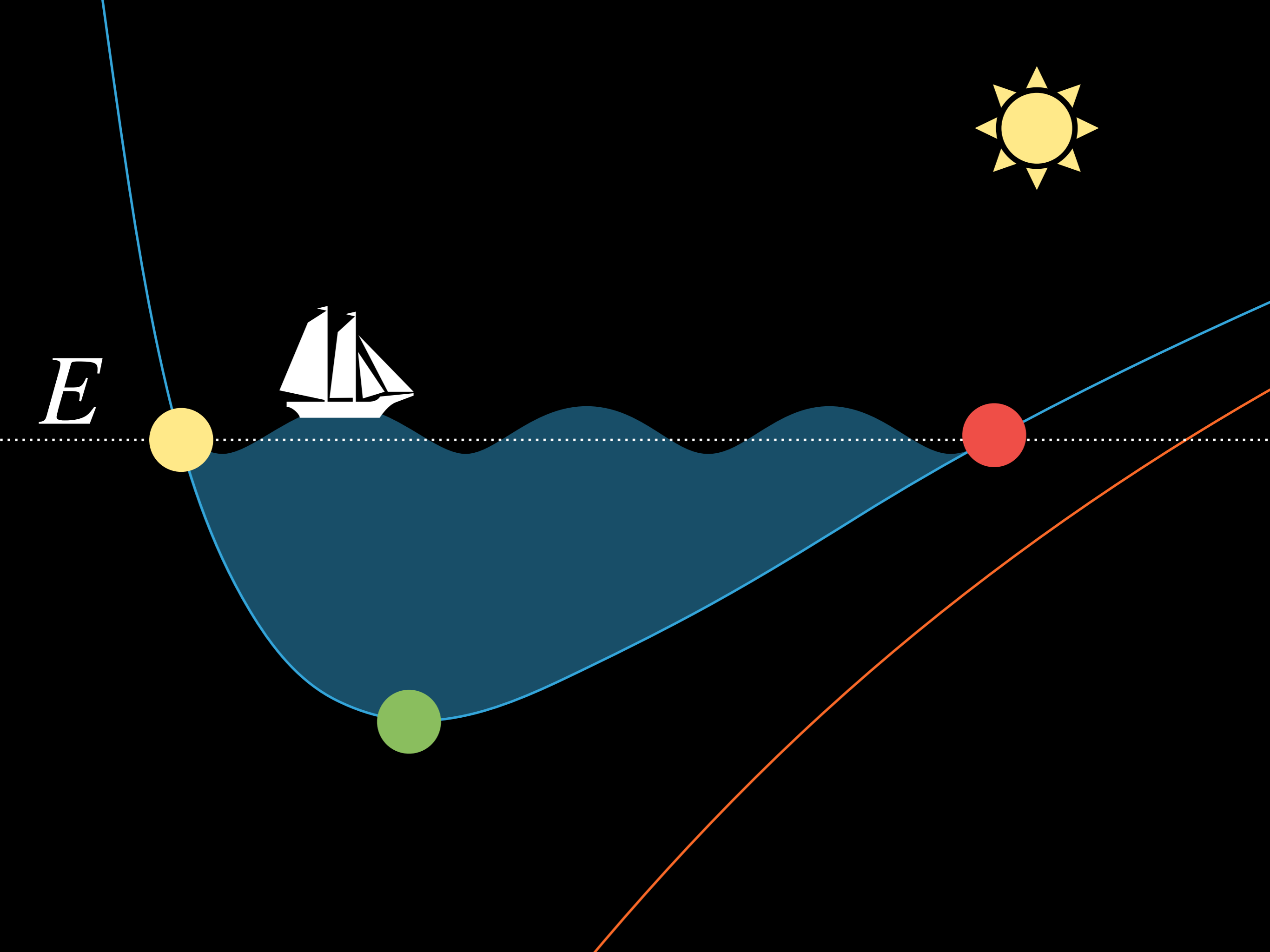


ORBITAL DYNAMICS

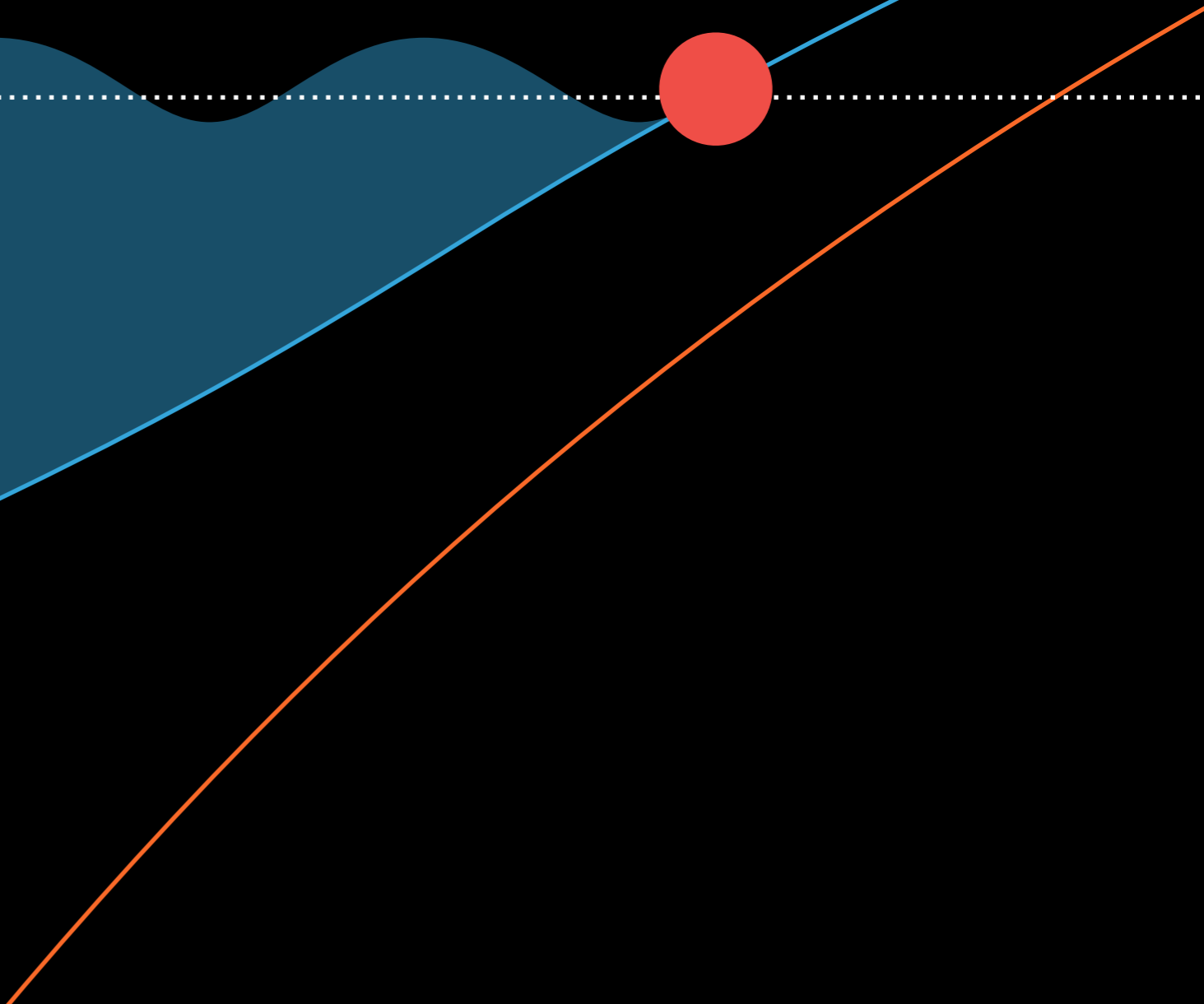
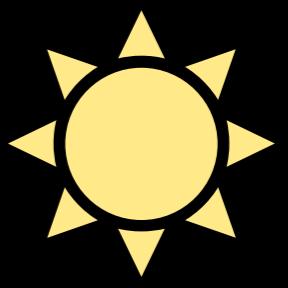
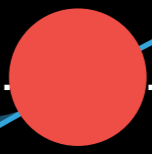
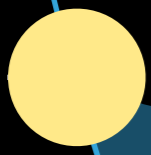
- Effective potential is a combination of gravity and angular momentum conservation
- Energy conservation can be violated by dissipative forces (e.g. viscous friction) and radiative cooling
- Angular momentum does not dissipate and cannot be radiated away (although it can be redistributed)
- Unlike stars, gas molecules are constantly colliding
 - Energy loss and relaxation onto circular orbits
 - Gas with low angular momentum accumulates at the centre of the potential well
 - Stars/planets that form in gas disc remain in a disc

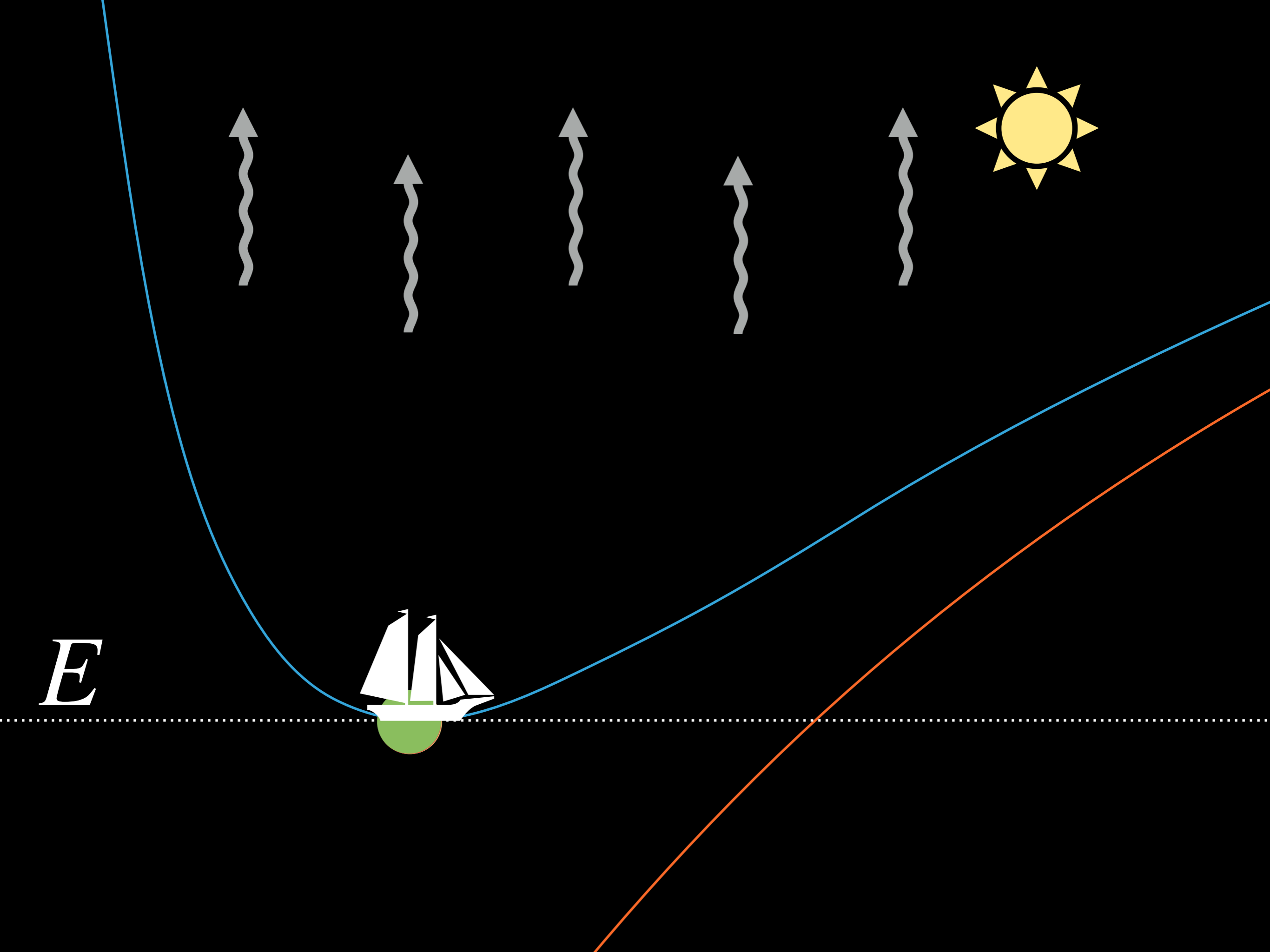
ORBITAL DYNAMICS





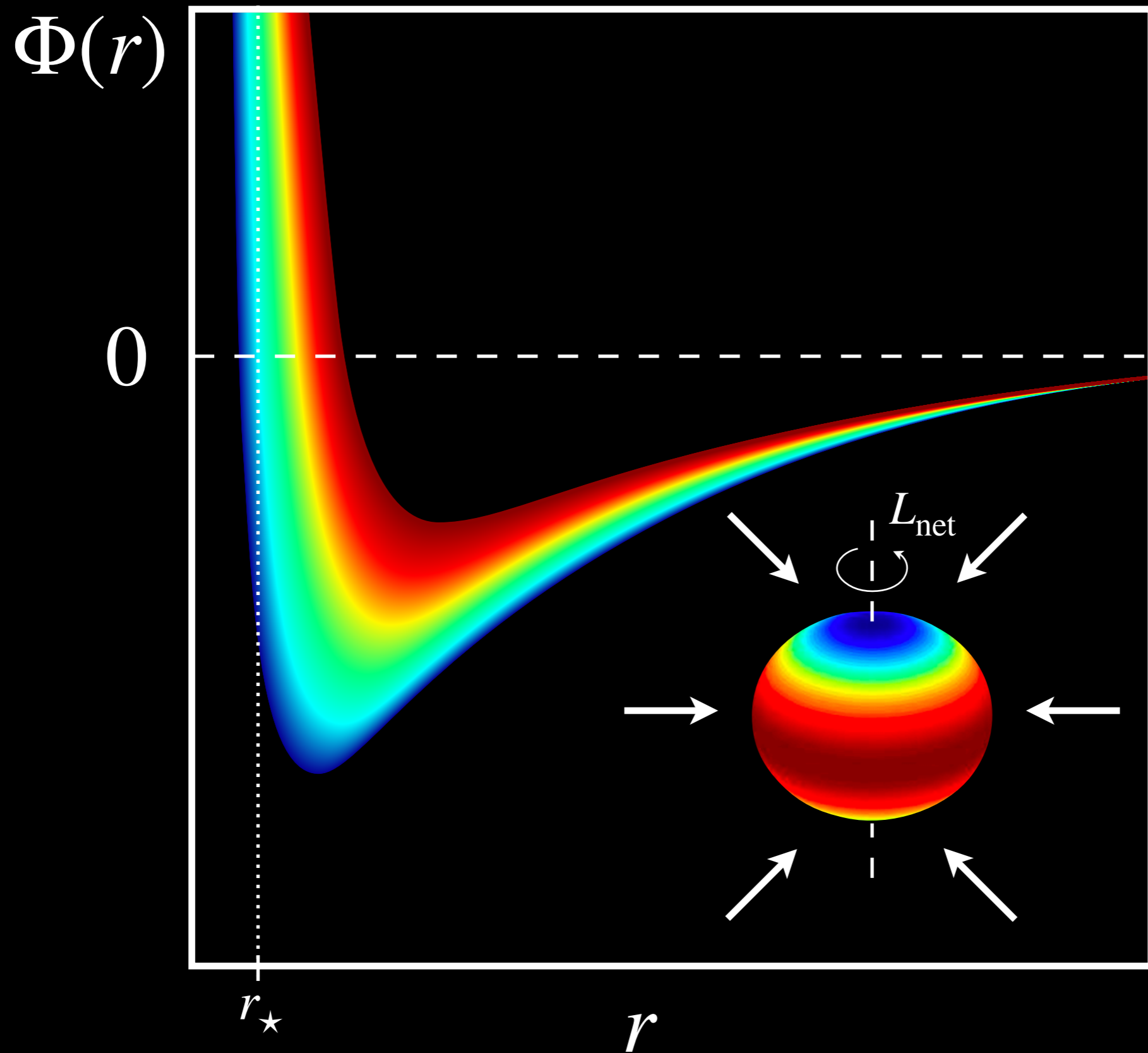
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E

ORBITAL DYNAMICS



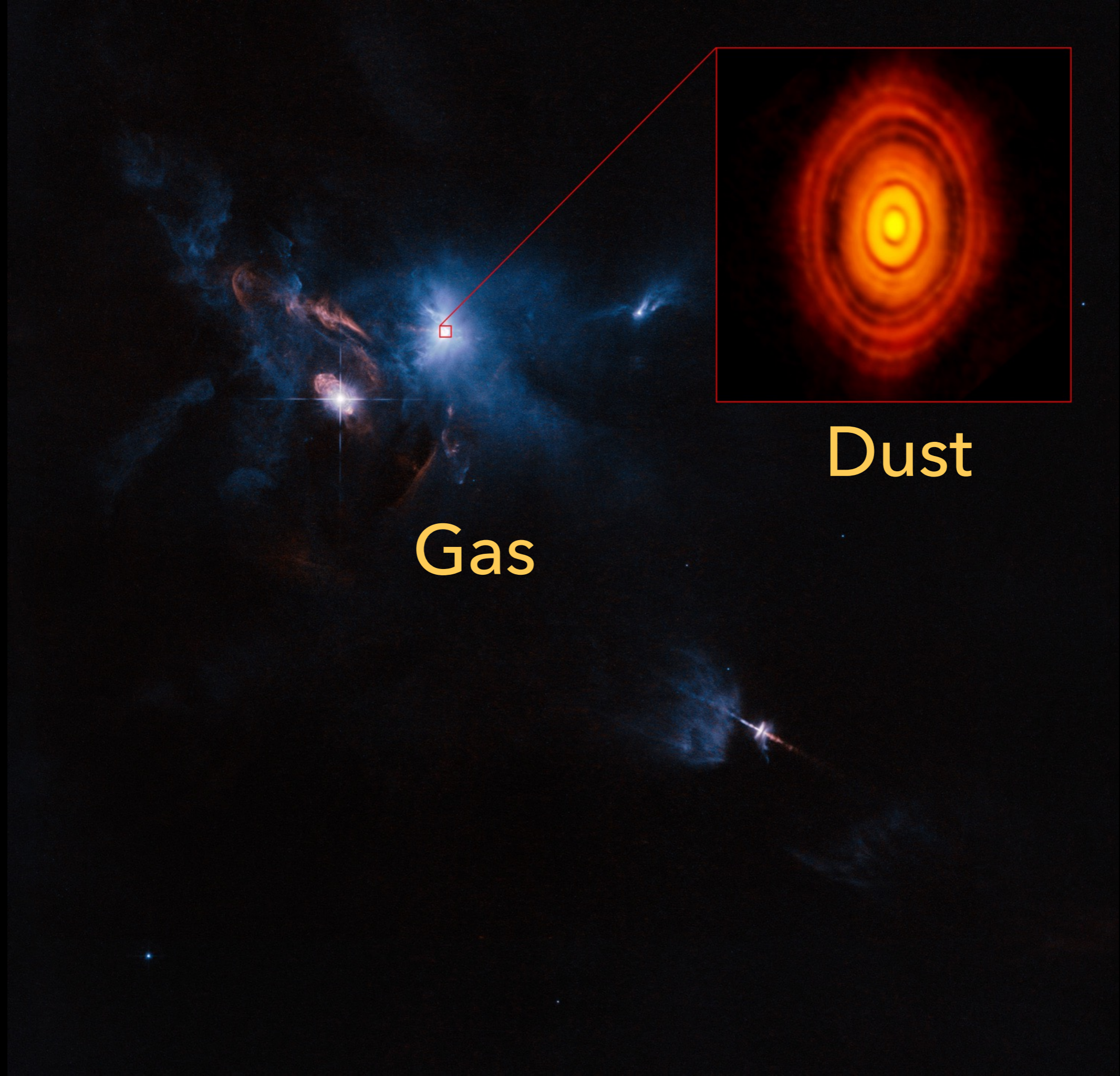
DISC FORMATION

- Stars accumulate angular momentum (spin $\sim 10\%$ of their critical breakup)
- Most of the angular momentum resides with a smaller fraction of the mass in a **protostellar disc**
- Some is dissipated away through magnetic braking
- Very **unlikely** to form a prestellar core without forming a disc
- Exceptions may include: massive stars, large magnetic fields, binary/multiple systems







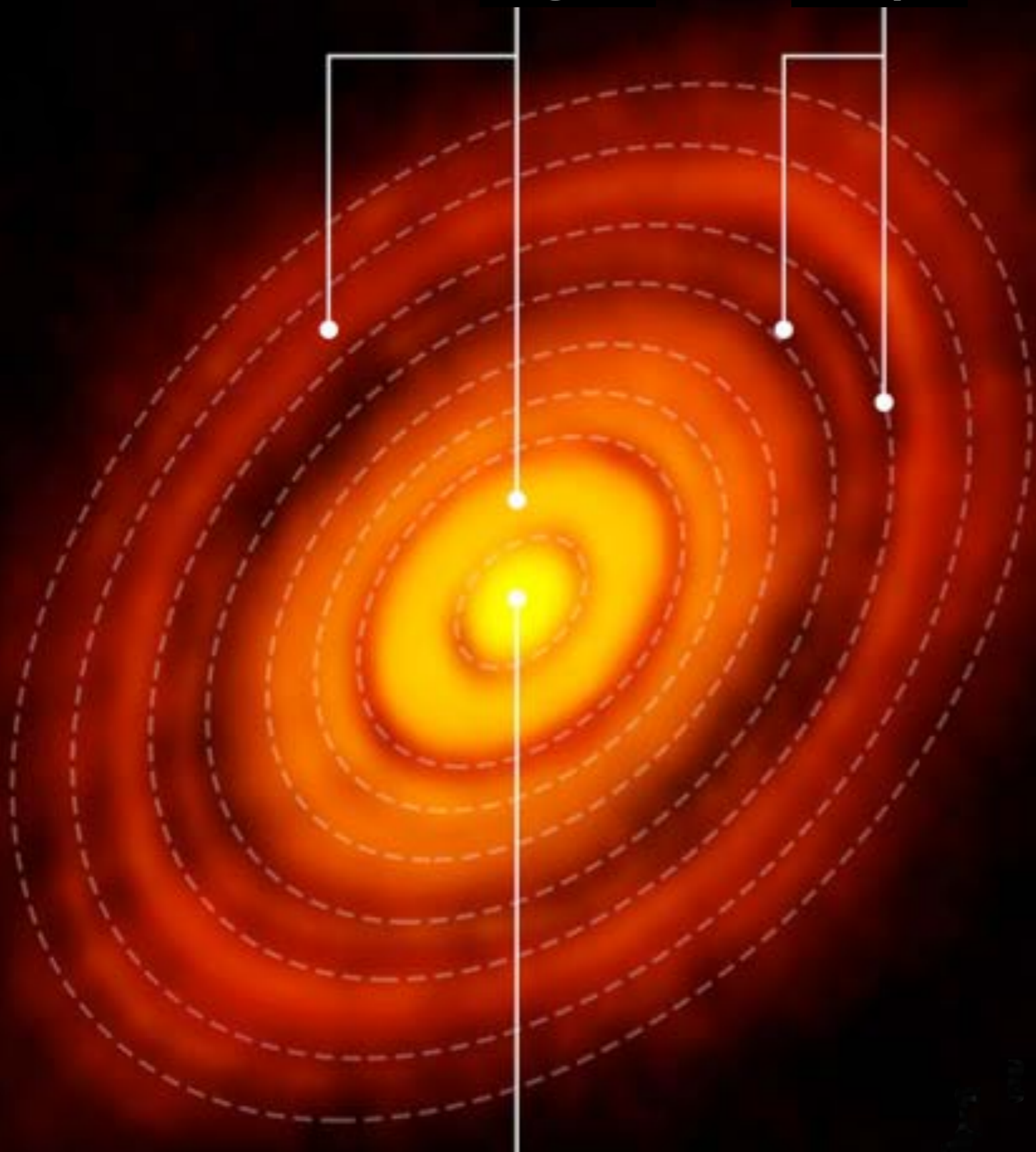


Gas

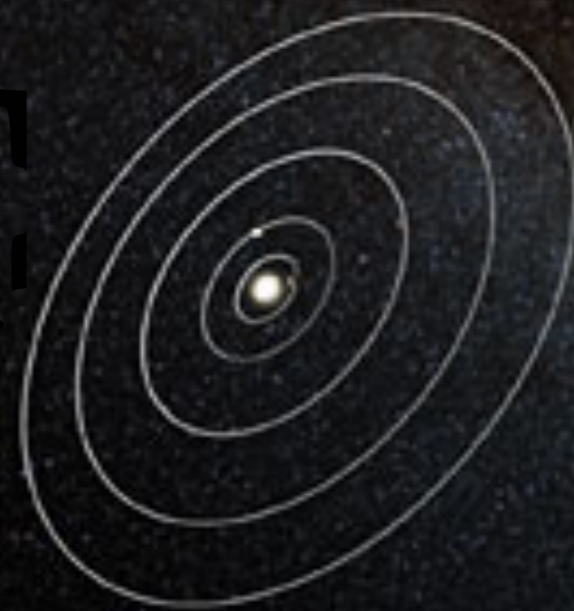
Dust

Rings

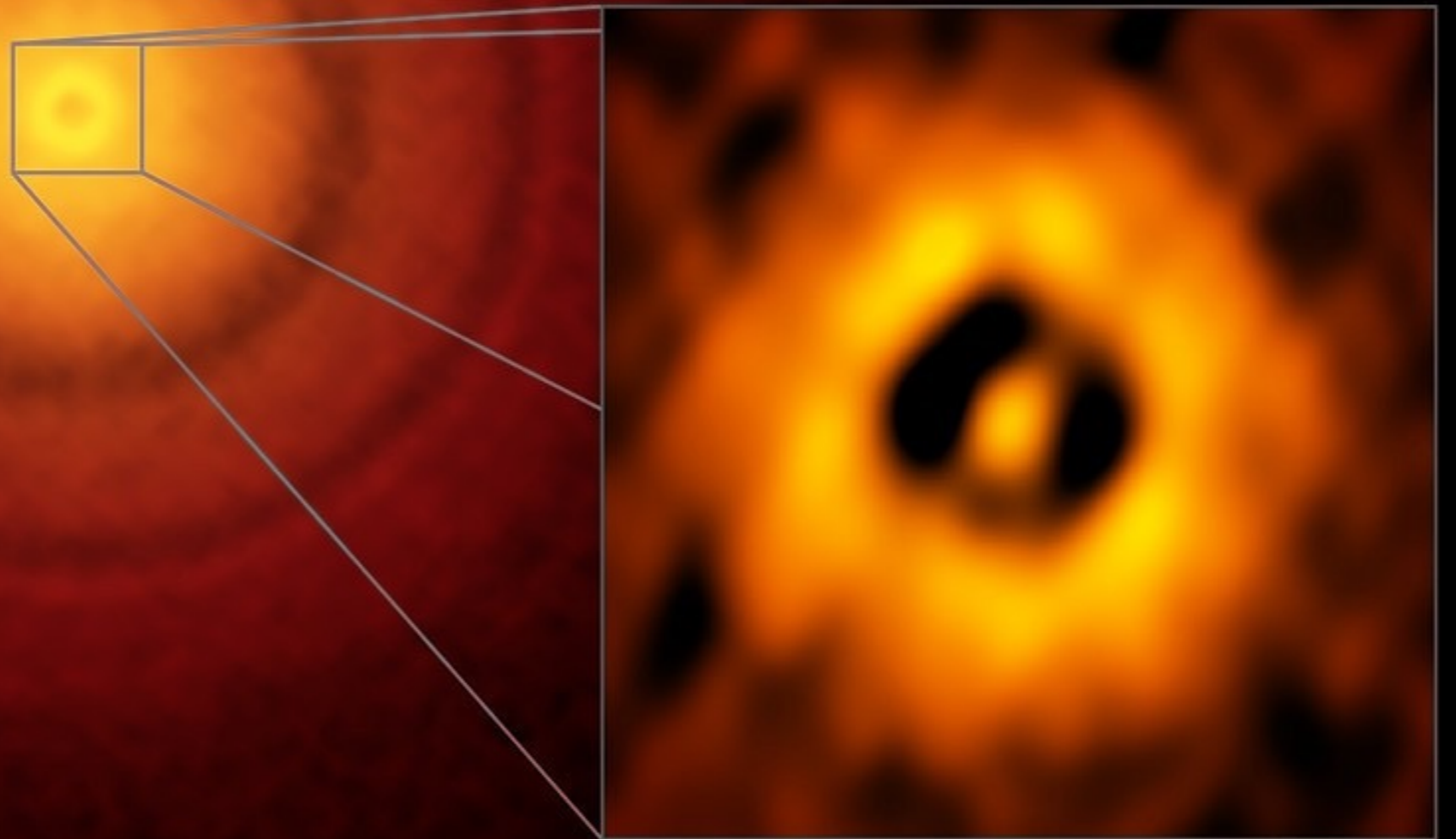
Gaps

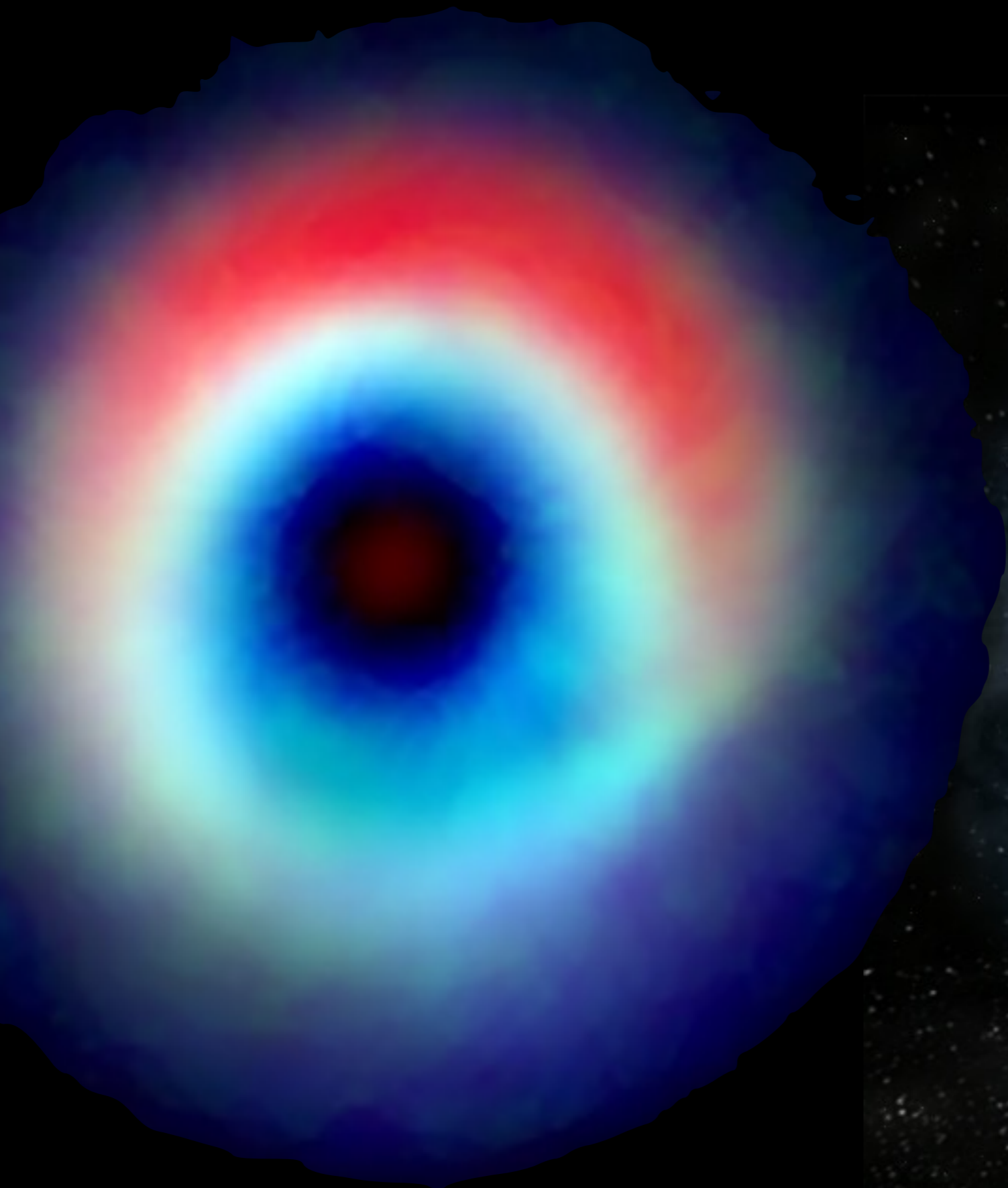


HL Tauri

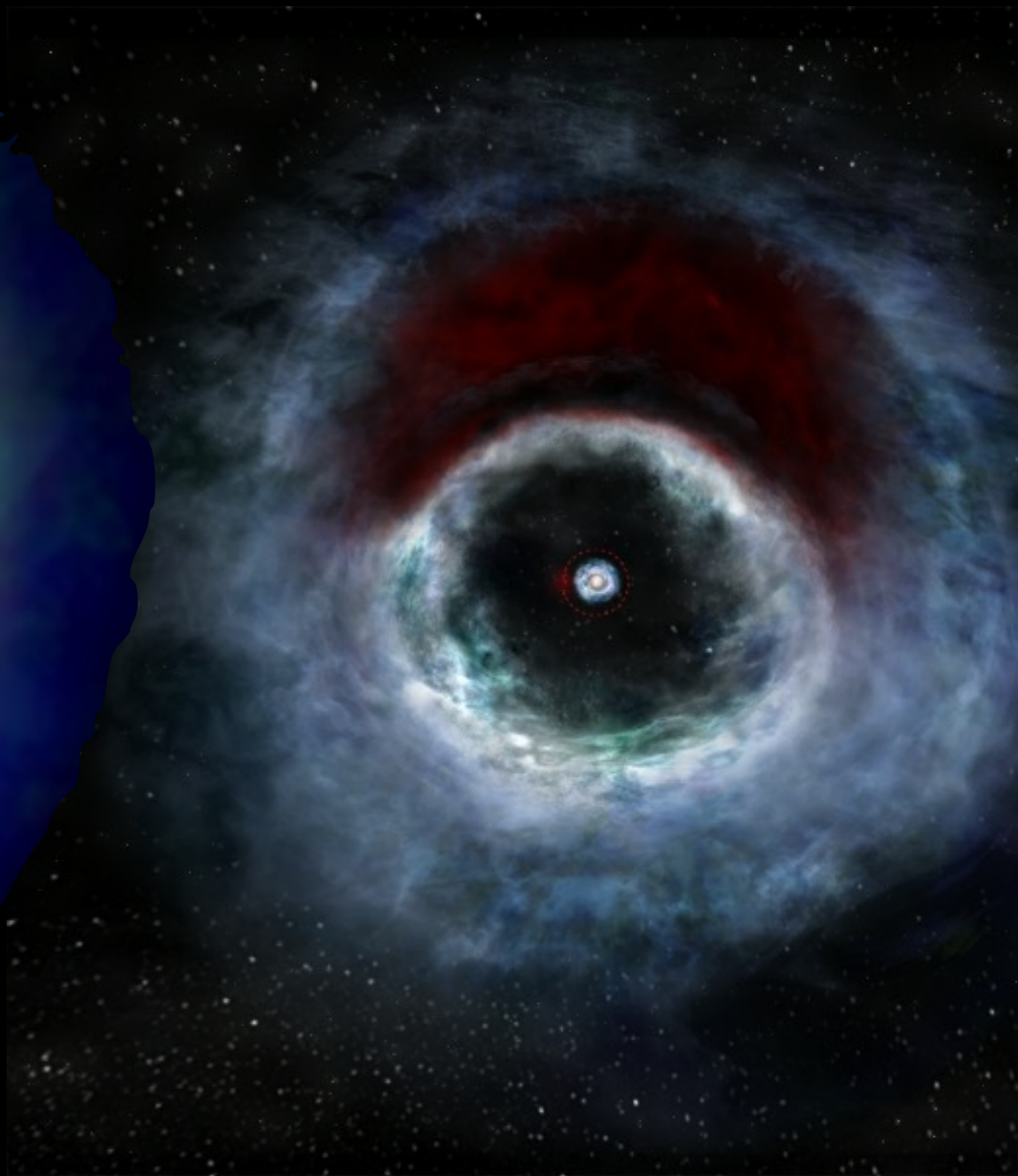


TW Hydrae

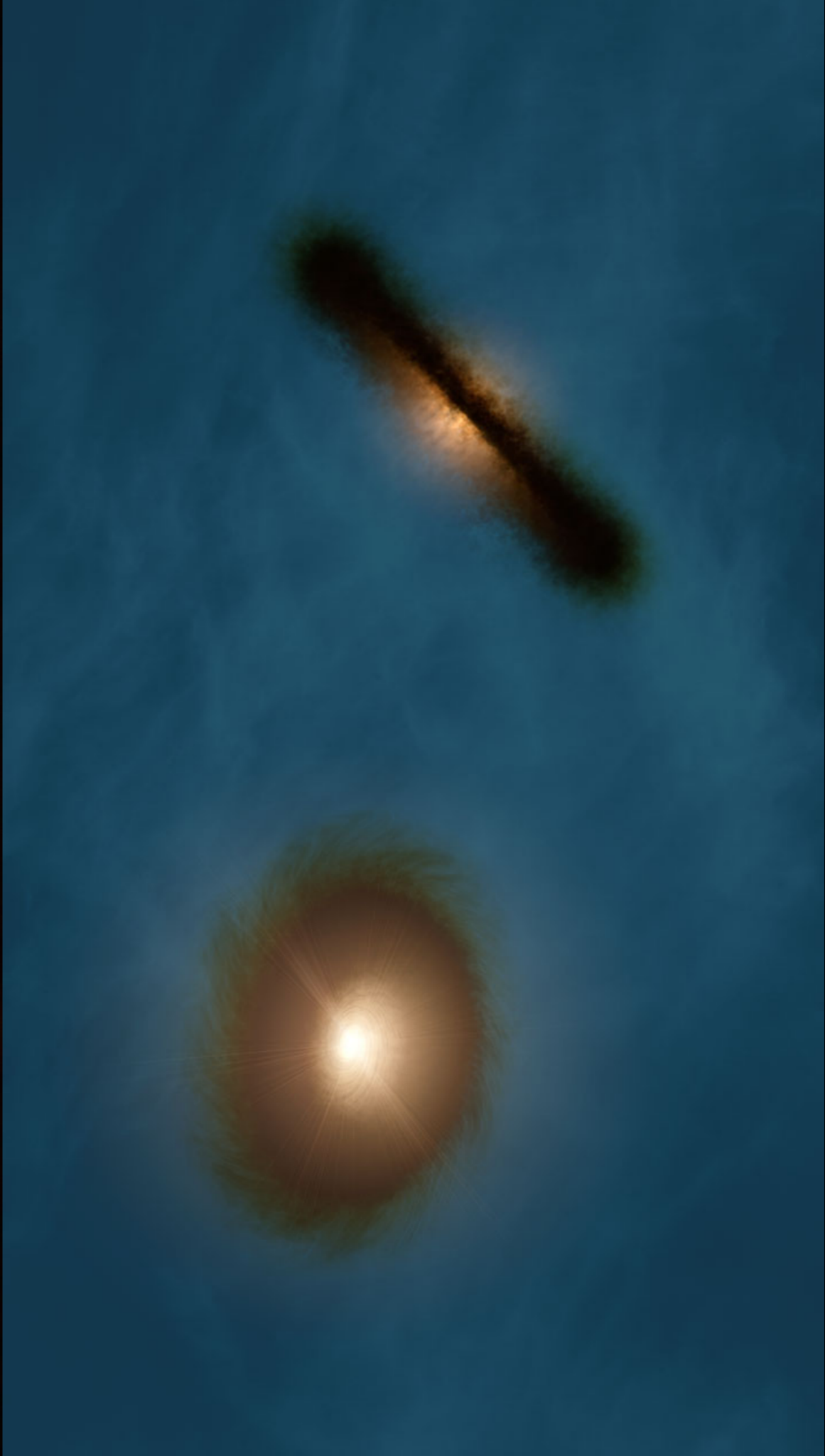
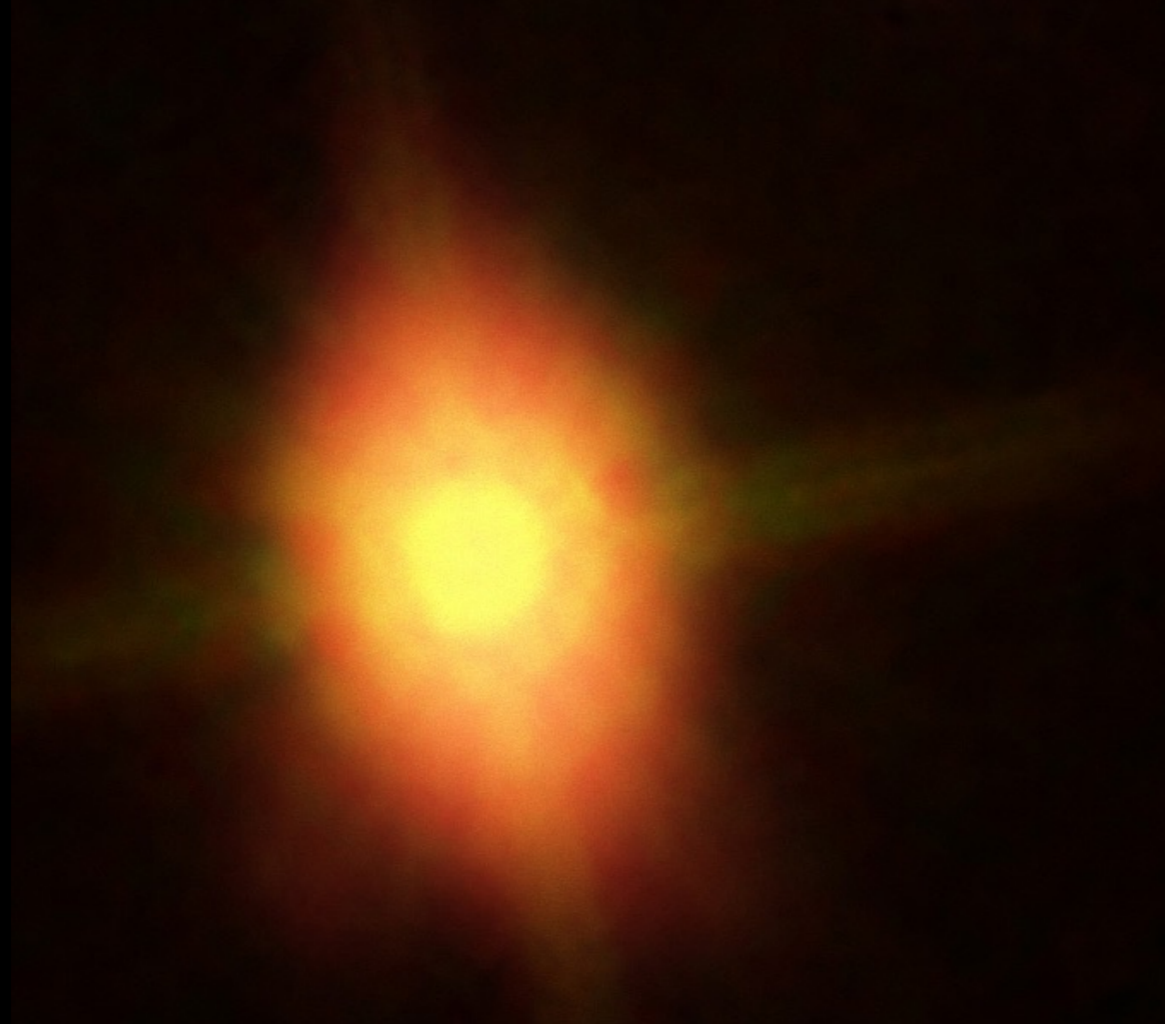




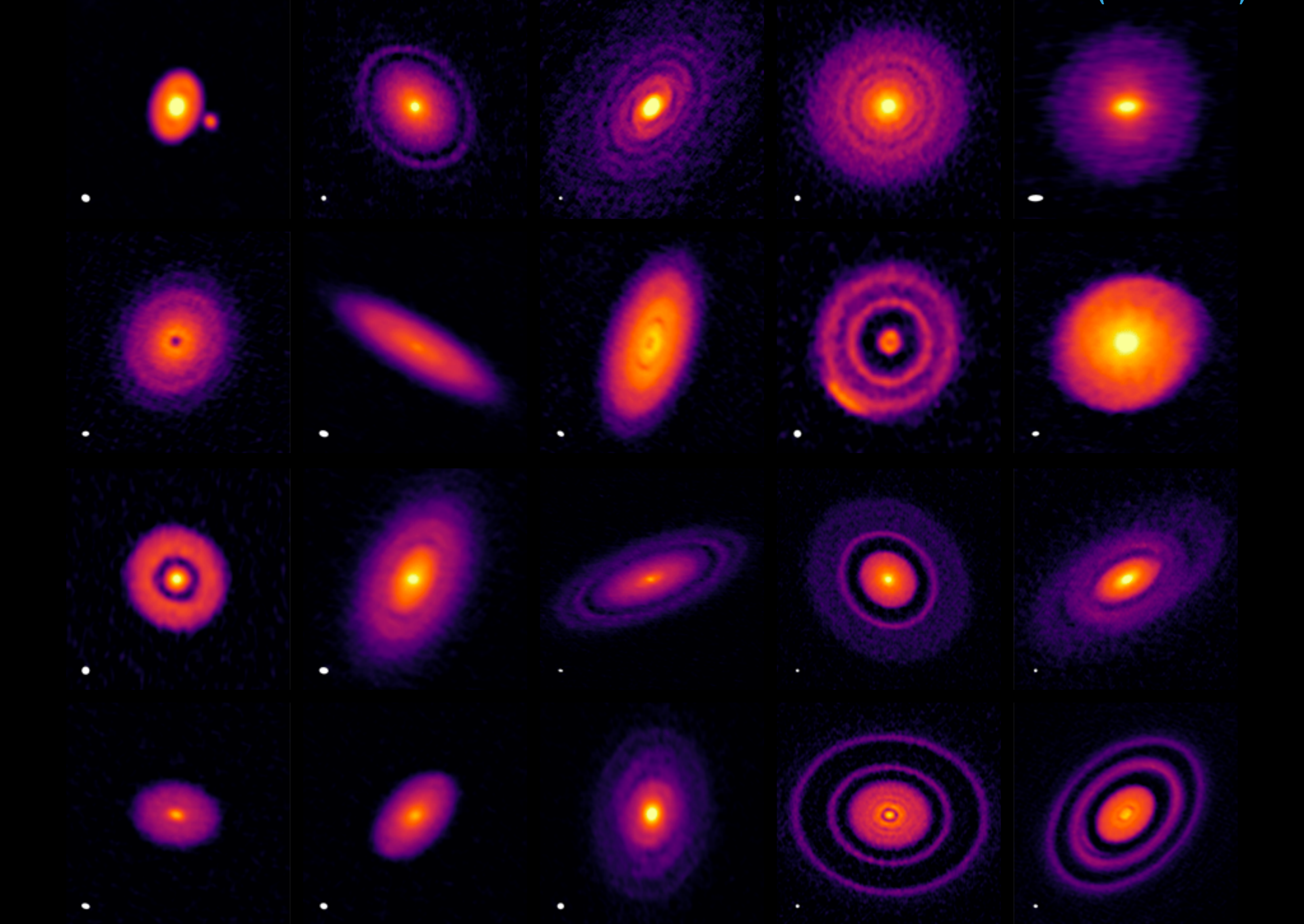
HD 142527



HK Tauri



DISK SUBSTRUCTURES AT HIGH ANGULAR RESOLUTION PROJECT (DSHARP)



BASIC PROPERTIES (UNCERTAIN, BUT IMPROVING)

- ▶ Masses: $\sim 10^{-3}$ – $10^{-1} M_{\odot}$
- ▶ Radii: ~ 100 au
- ▶ Accretion rates: $\sim 10^{-10}$ – $10^{-7} M_{\odot} / \text{yr}$
- ▶ Lifetimes: ~ 1 – 15 Myr
- ▶ Relevant information for planet formation:
 - ▶ **Structure** – rotation, density, temperature, and chemical composition.
 - ▶ **Early evolution and disc lifetimes** – strength and nature of turbulence.
 - ▶ **Dust** dynamics – radial drift, vertical settling (we'll discuss growth and fragmentation next time).



FROM UNIVERSE

TO PLANETS

LECTURE 2.2: DISC STRUCTURE

ACTIVE VS PASSIVE DISCS

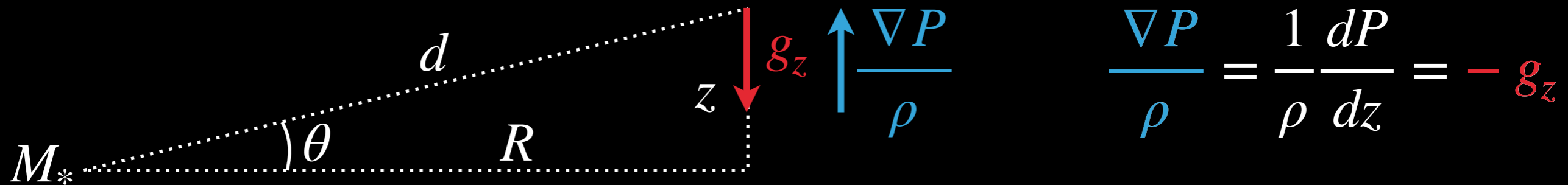
- ▶ Active: most of their luminosity comes from the release of gravitational energy as material flows inwards.
- ▶ Passive: luminosity comes from reprocessed starlight.
- ▶ Critical Accretion rate can be estimated by assuming the disc is flat and intercepts 1/4 of the stellar flux:

$$\frac{1}{4}L_* = \frac{GM_*\dot{M}}{2R_*}$$

- ▶ Solving for \dot{M} we find: $\dot{M} \approx 3 \times 10^{-8} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$
- ▶ Accretion rates are higher for younger objects, so young disks are generally active, while older objects are dominated by reprocessed radiation (passive).

PASSIVE DISCS: VERTICAL STRUCTURE

- Consider hydrostatic equilibrium with pressure gradient:



- For $M_{\text{disc}} \ll M_*$ and $z \ll R$: $g_z = \frac{GM_*}{d^2} \sin \theta \approx \Omega_K^2 z$

- Where **Keplerian angular frequency**: $\Omega_K \equiv \sqrt{\frac{GM_*}{R^3}}$

- Equation of state for an isothermal disc: $P = \rho c_s^2$

- Equation of hydrostatic equilibrium: $\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dz} = c_s^2 \frac{d \ln \rho}{dz} = -\Omega_K^2 z$

$$\longrightarrow \rho(z) = \rho_0 \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{z}{H} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{where} \quad H \equiv c_s / \Omega_K$$

PASSIVE DISCS: VERTICAL STRUCTURE

- ▶ Often convenient to use vertically averaged quantities, e.g. **surface density**:

$$\Sigma = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho(z) dz = \sqrt{2}H\rho_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{2\pi}H\rho_0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \rho_0 = \frac{\Sigma}{\sqrt{2\pi}H}$$

- ▶ Typically assumed to follow: $\Sigma \propto R^{-p}$ with $p \in [0, 1.5]$
- ▶ Minimum Mass Solar Nebula (**MMSN**): the minimum amount of solids necessary to build the solar system
 - ▶ An **aspect ratio** $h \equiv H/R \sim 0.05$ gives a mid-plane density (ρ_0) of about $10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ at 1 au
- ▶ If we assume: $T \propto R^{-q}$ then $c_s \propto R^{-q/2}$ and $h \propto R^{-(q-1)/2}$
 - ▶ Flared discs have $q < 1$ (typical values $q \in [0.4, 0.8]$)

PASSIVE DISCS: RADIAL STRUCTURE



- ▶ In the radial direction a parcel of gas in the disc feels:

- ▶ **Gravity** from the star (non self-gravitating case)

- ▶ **Centrifugal** force

- ▶ **Pressure** force

$$\frac{v^2}{R} = \frac{GM_*}{R^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dR}$$

- ▶ Pressure decreases with radius, so gas rotates slightly slower than solids at the same radius (**sub-Keplerian**).

$$\frac{v^2}{R} \approx \Omega_K^2 R - f \frac{c_s^2}{R} \sim \Omega_K^2 R \left(1 - \frac{c_s^2}{R^2 \Omega_K^2} \right) \rightarrow v = v_K \left[1 - \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{H}{R} \right)^2 \right]$$

$f = p + \frac{q}{2} + \frac{3}{2} \sim \mathcal{O}[1]$

- ▶ $H/R \ll v_K$ so we say the disc is in **Keplerian motion**, but this difference is crucial for understanding dust dynamics.

$$\Sigma \propto R^{-p}$$

$$T \propto R^{-q}$$

$$c_s \propto R^{-q/2}$$

$$\rho \propto R^{-(p-q/2+3/2)}$$

$$H \propto R^{3/2-q/2}$$

$$\Omega_K \propto R^{-3/2}$$

$$P \propto R^{-(p+q/2+3/2)}$$

DISC STRUCTURE



When a parcel of gas in the disc feels:

Force from the star (non self-gravitating case)

Centrifugal force

$$\frac{v^2}{R} = \frac{GM_*}{R^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dR}$$

Pressure force

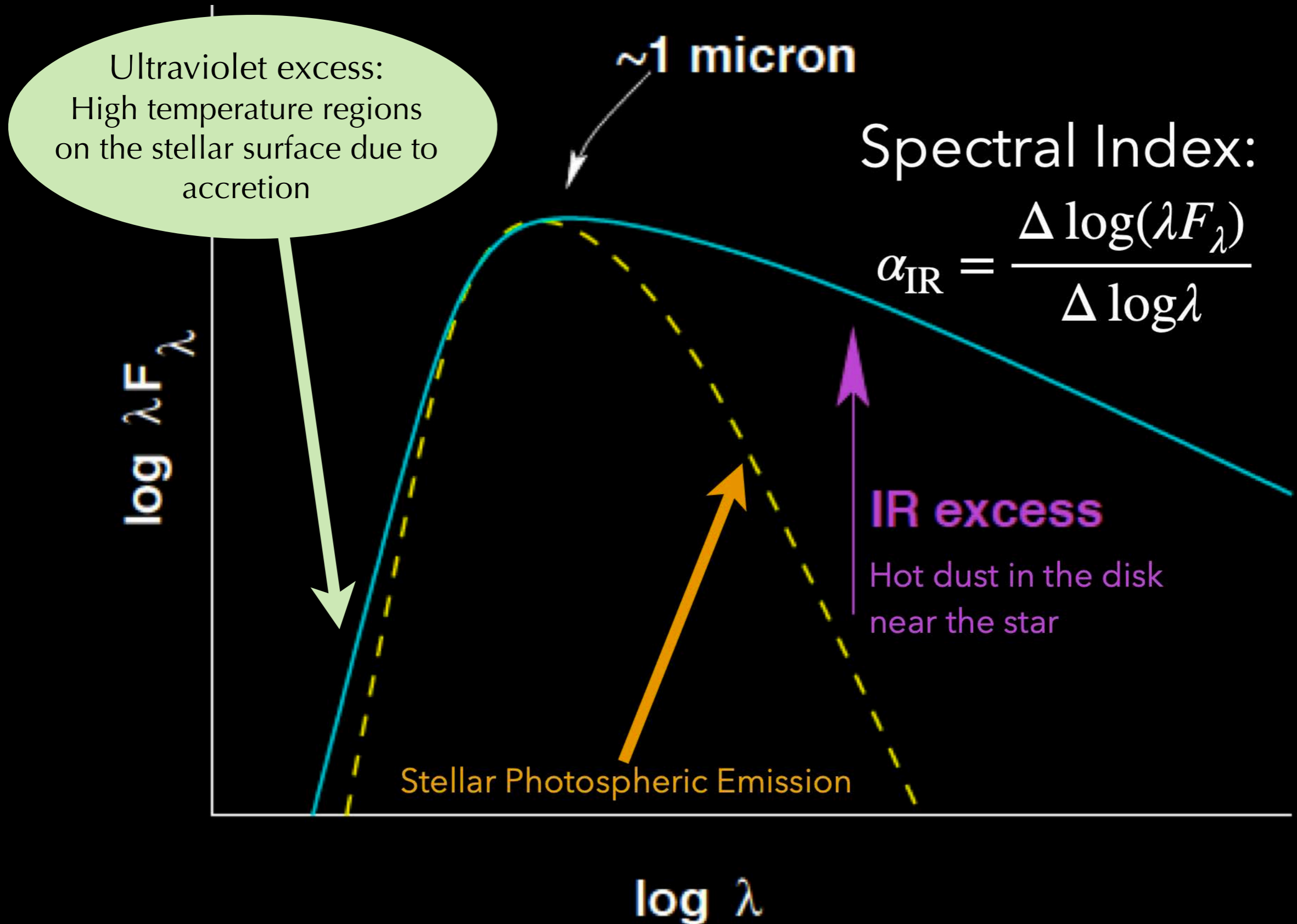
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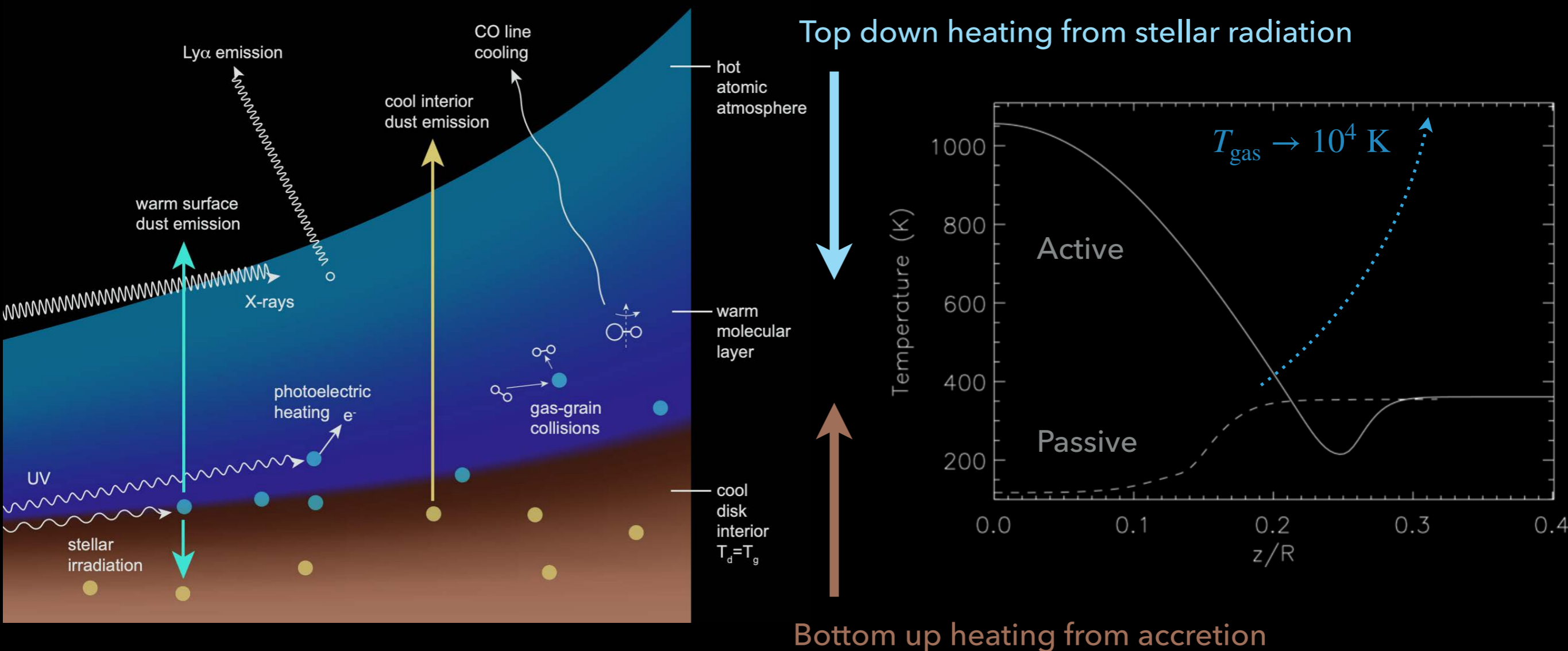
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PASSIVE DISCS: SPECTRAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTION (SED)



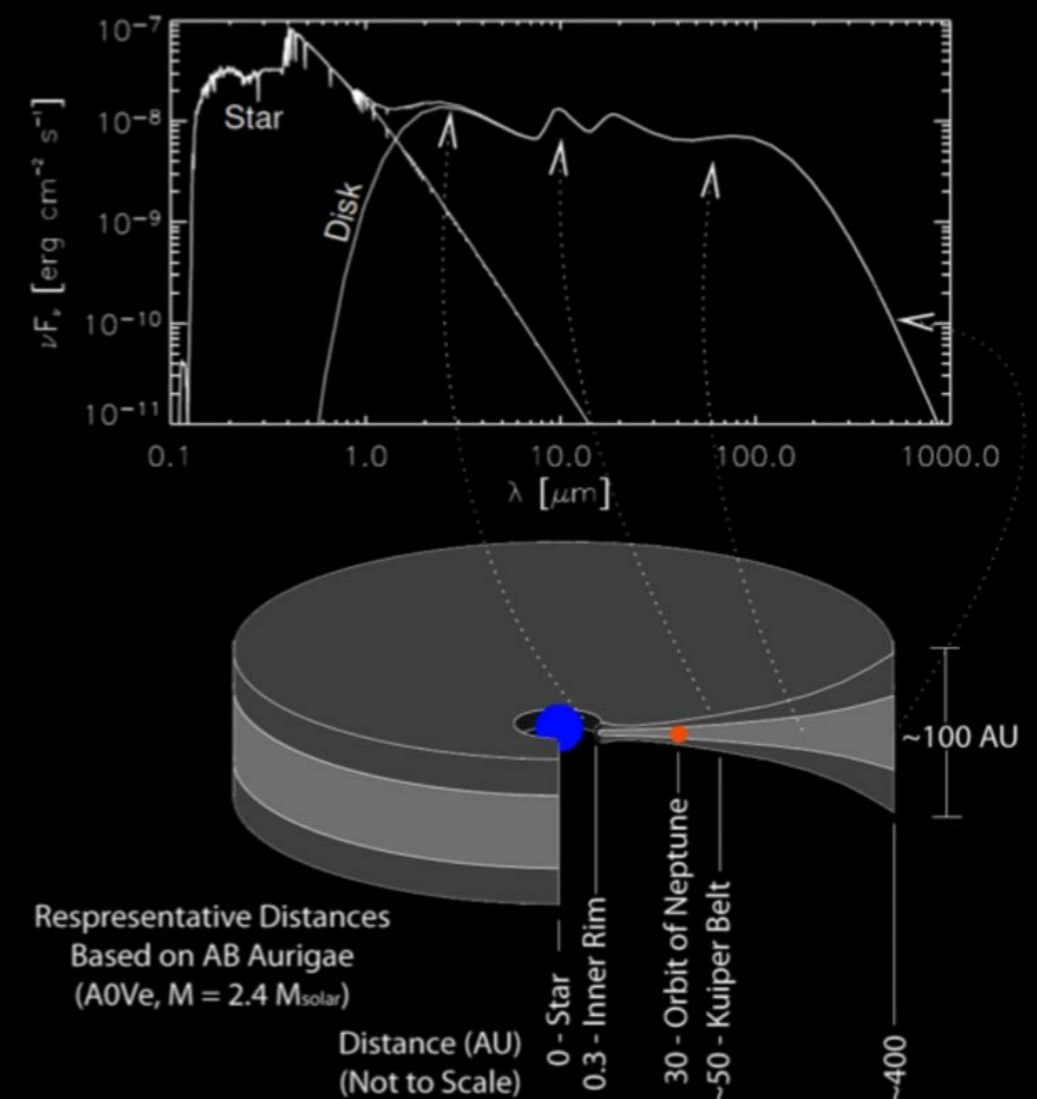
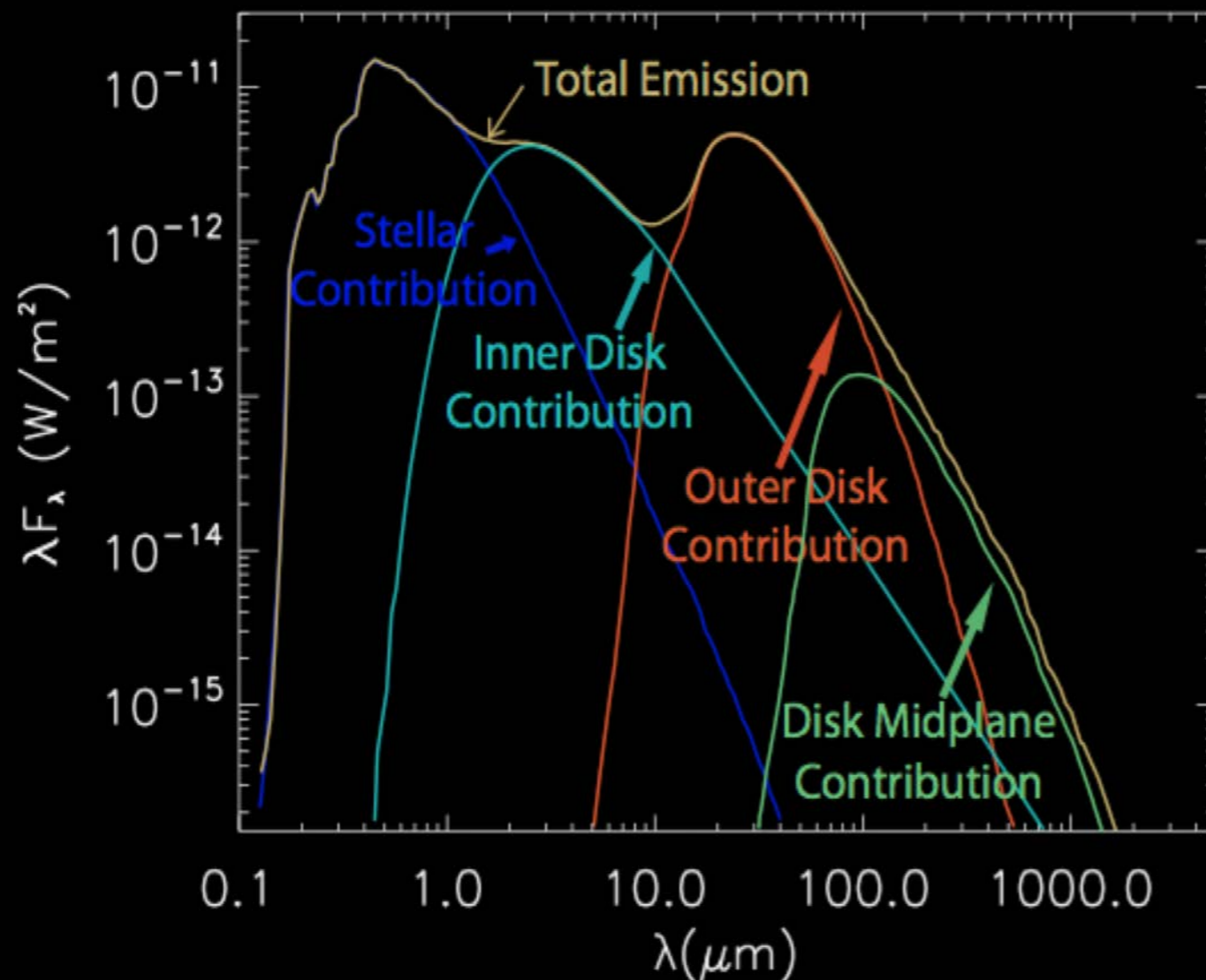
PASSIVE DISCS: SED

- ▶ Of course we are oversimplifying: discs are not single T black bodies
- ▶ Dust in the upper layers absorbs stellar radiation more efficiently than it emits IR radiation

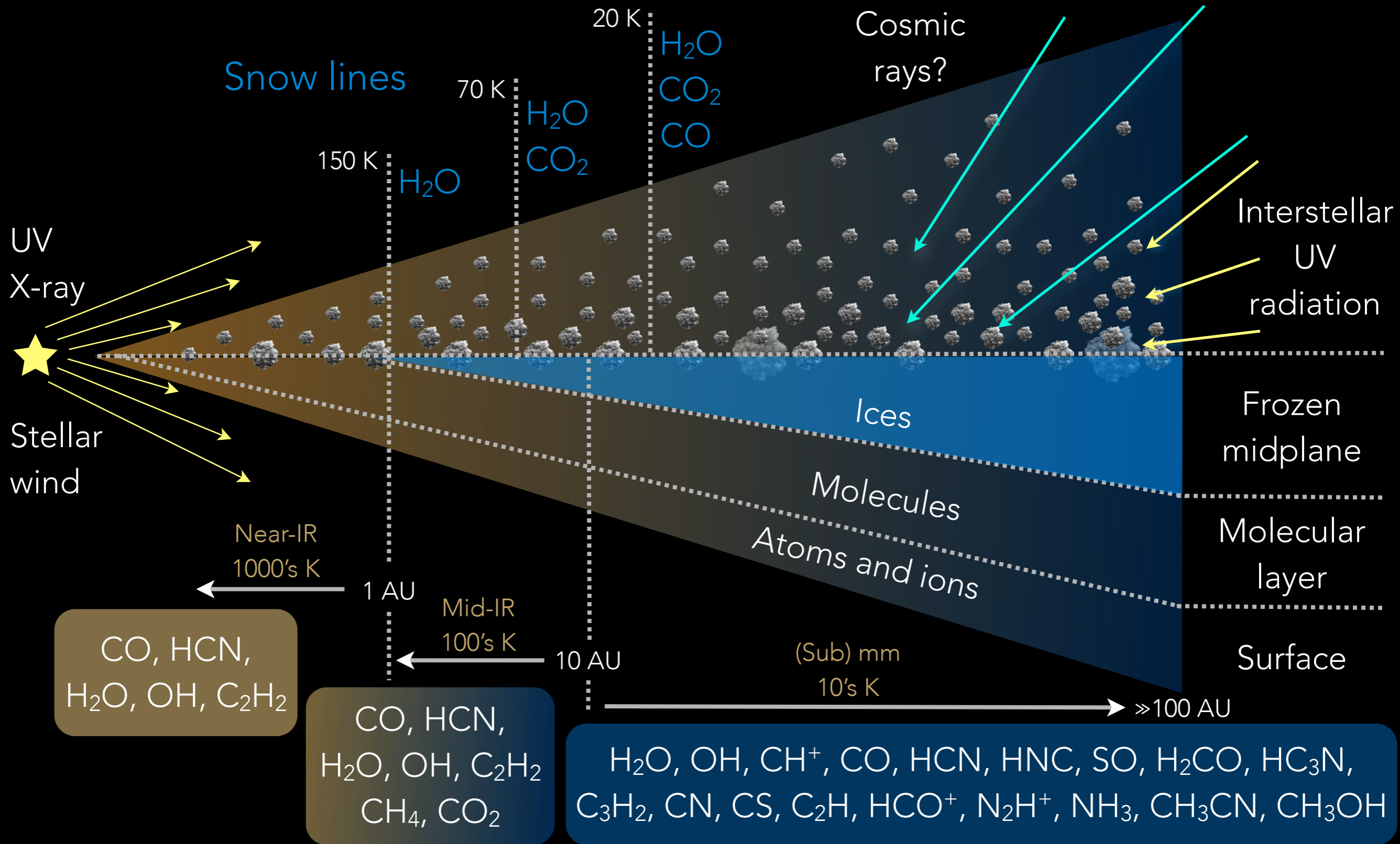


PASSIVE DISCS: SED

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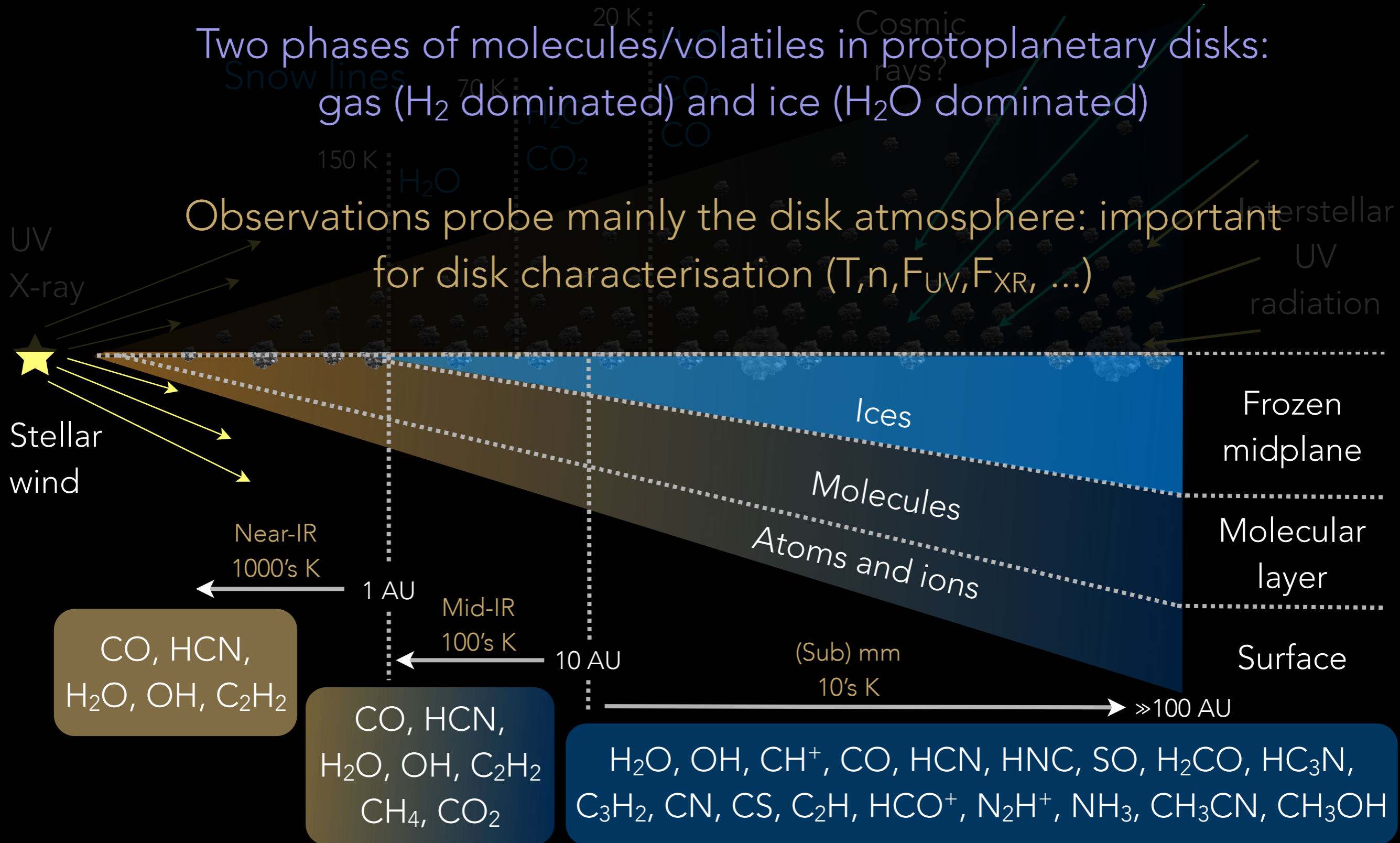
COMPOSITION



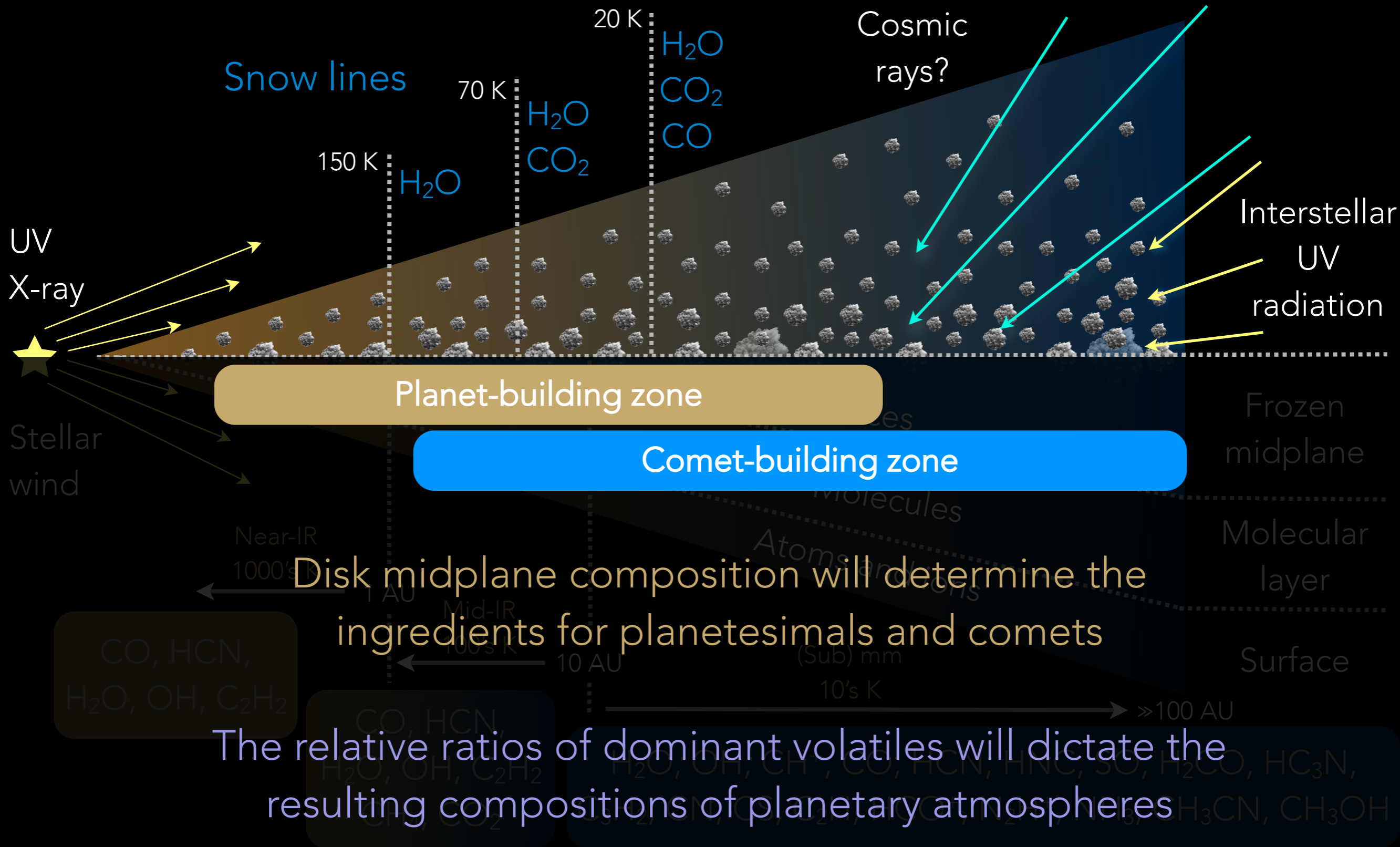
COMPOSITION

Two phases of molecules/volatiles in protoplanetary disks:
 gas (H₂ dominated) and ice (H₂O dominated)

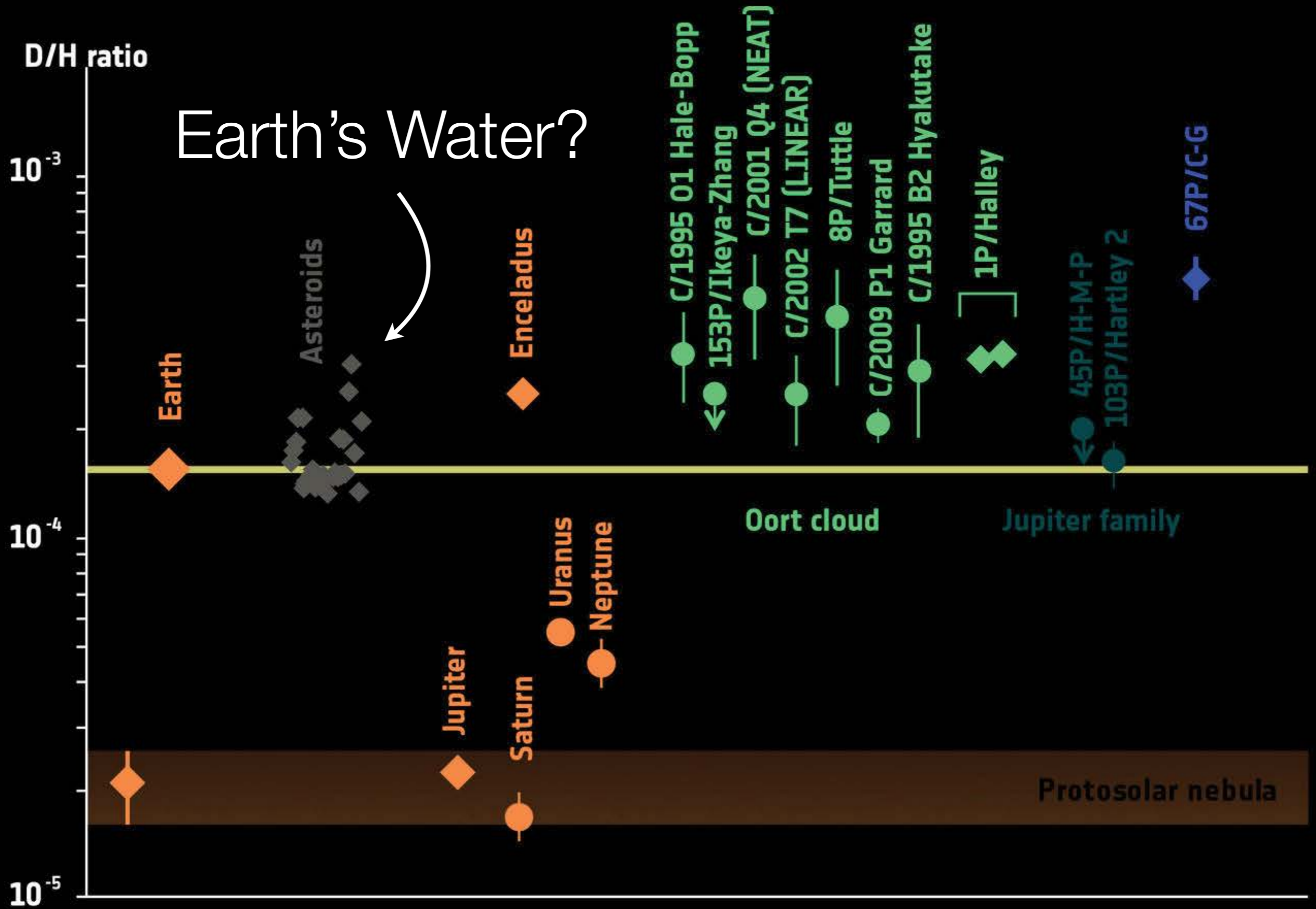
Observations probe mainly the disk atmosphere: important
 for disk characterisation ($T, n, F_{UV}, F_{XR}, \dots$)



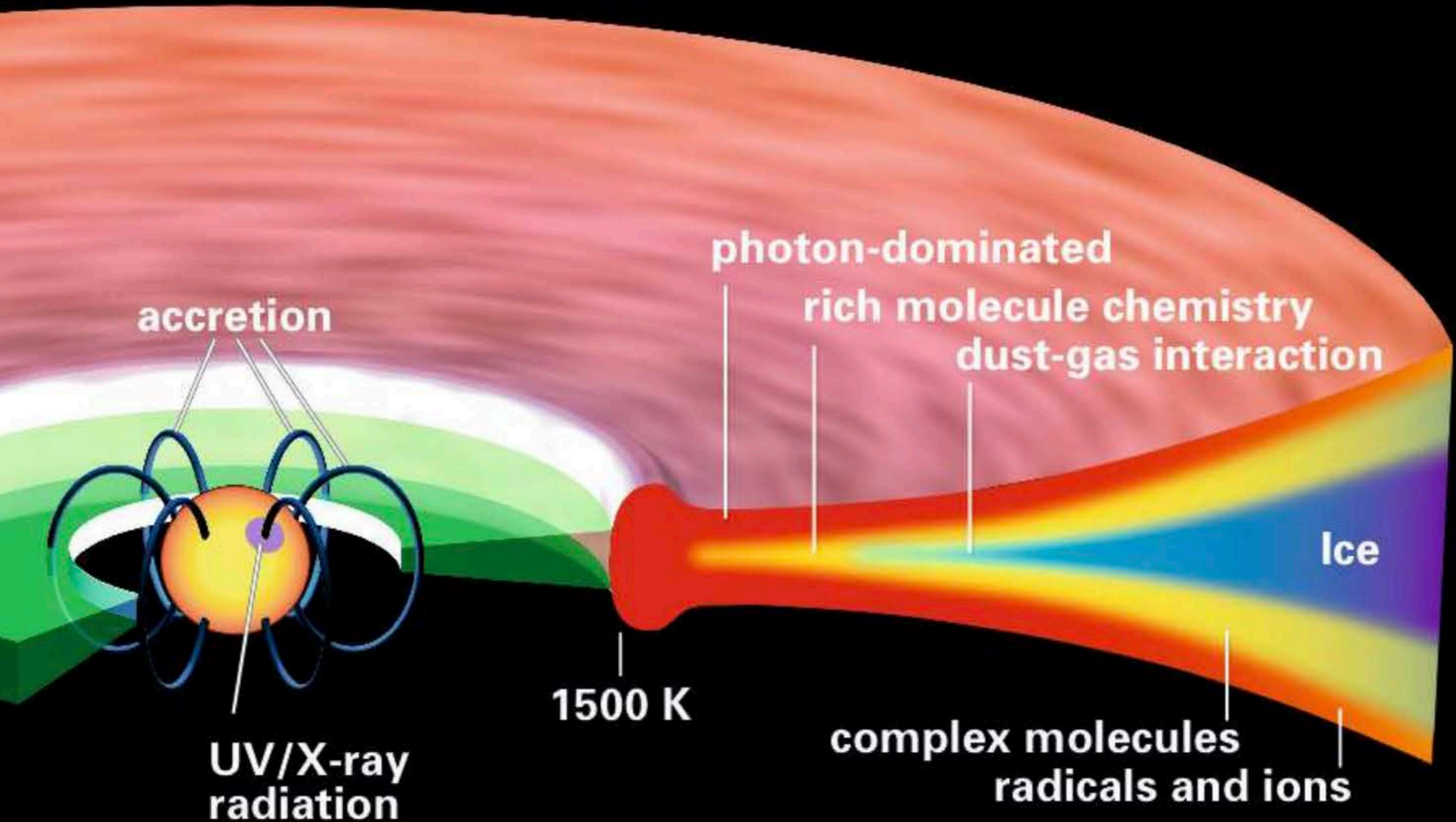
COMPOSITION



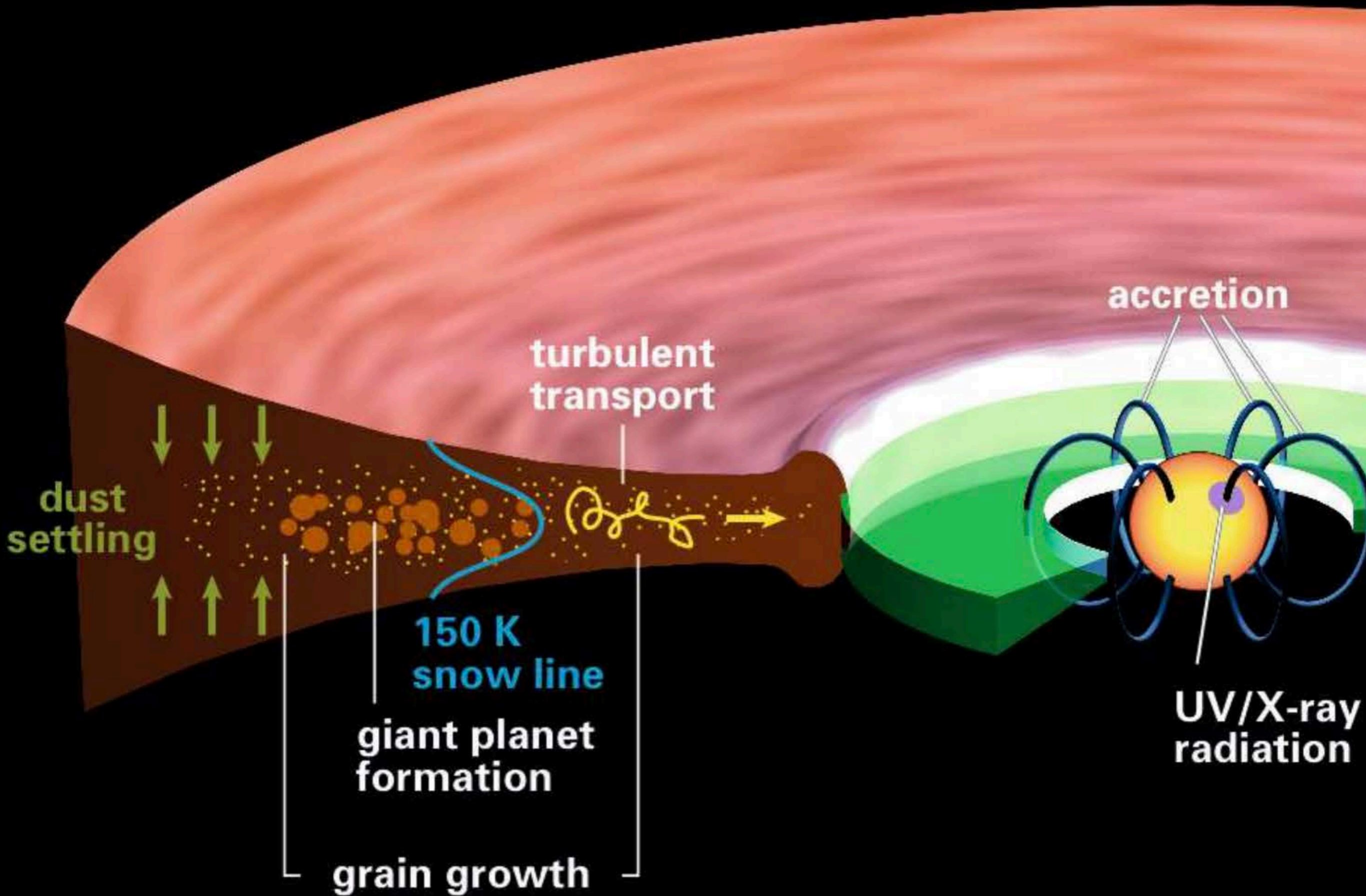
COMPOSITION



STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION



EVOLUTION AND LIFETIME





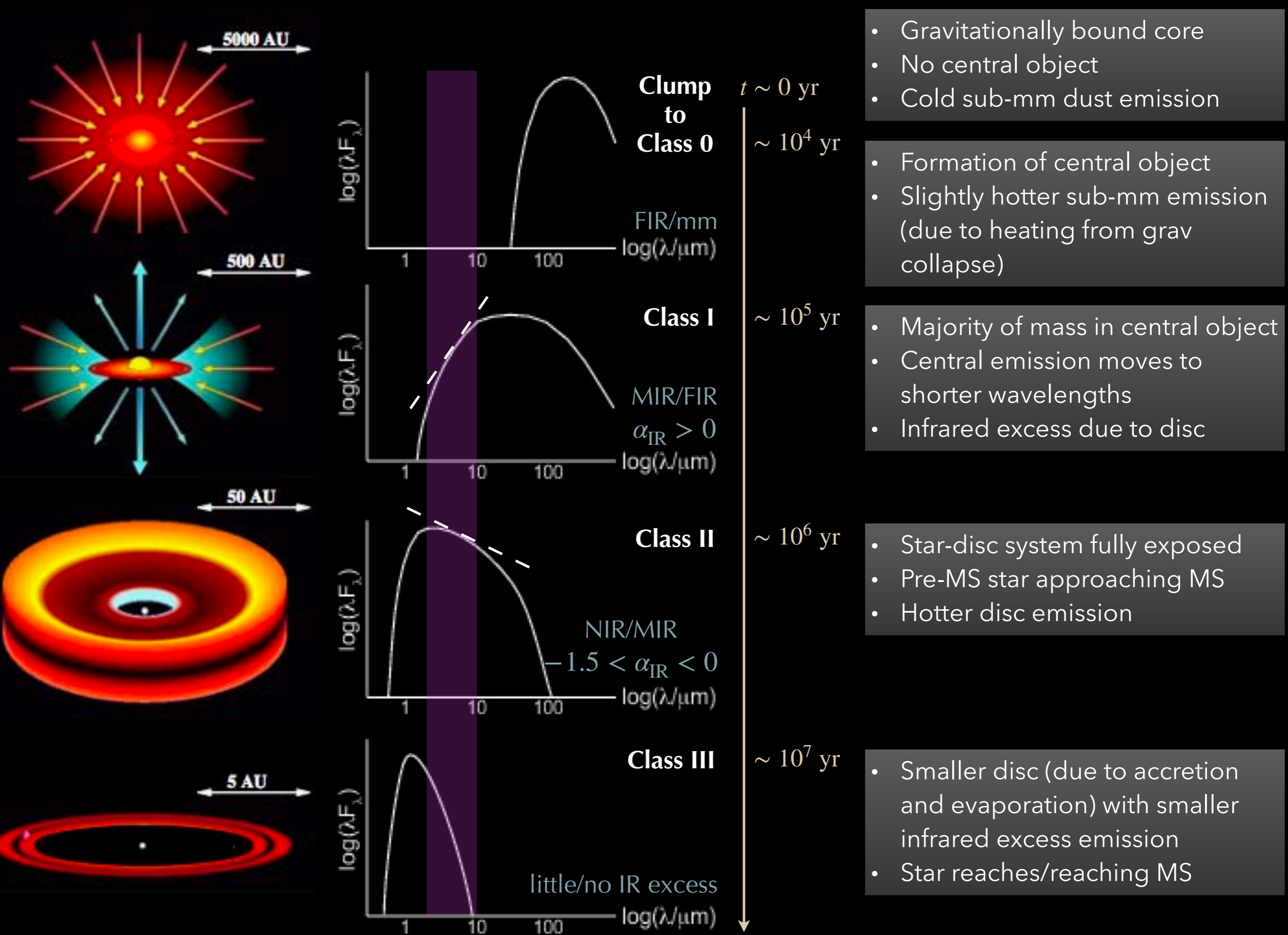
FROM UNIVERSE

TO PLANETS

LECTURE 2.3: DISC EVOLUTION/LIFETIME

STAGES OF EVOLUTION

- ▶ **Class 0** sources are the youngest stage, here the protostar rapidly accretes the bulk of its mass (main accretion phase) and is surrounded by a massive envelope and a disc.
- ▶ **Class I** sources are slowly accreting the rest of the final stellar mass (late accretion phase). The young stellar object (**YSO**) is still surrounded by a remnant envelope and massive disc.
- ▶ **Class II** sources no longer have an envelope, but still have an accretion disc producing the observed excess infrared emission. Most T Tauri stars (classical & some weak-line) belong to this class.
- ▶ At the **Class III** stage finally, the star is basically free from circumstellar material, evolving towards the main sequence. Most weak-line, but no classical T Tauri stars.



- Gravitationally bound core
- No central object
- Cold sub-mm dust emission

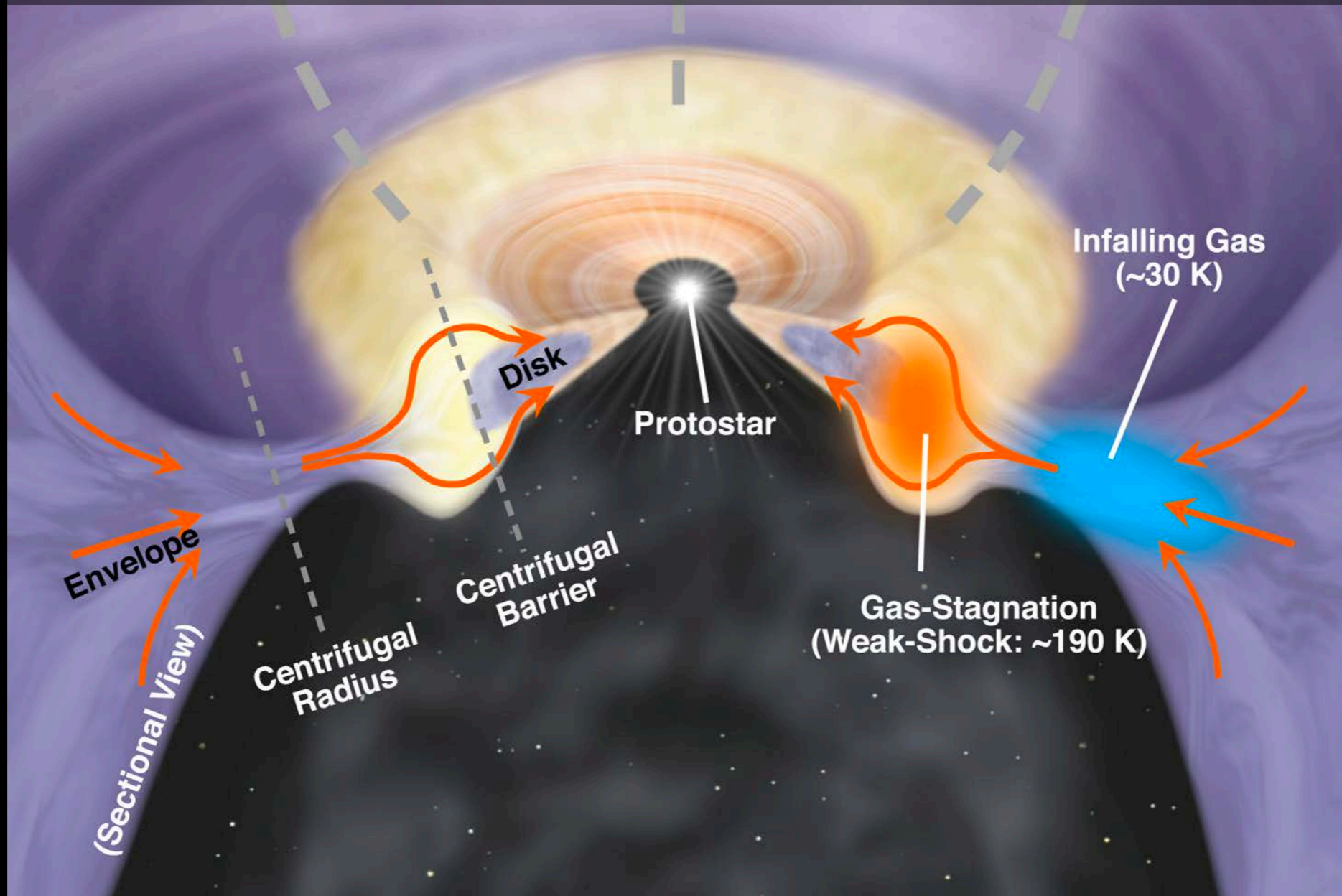
- Formation of central object
- Slightly hotter sub-mm emission (due to heating from grav collapse)

- Majority of mass in central object
- Central emission moves to shorter wavelengths
- Infrared excess due to disc

- Star-disc system fully exposed
- Pre-MS star approaching MS
- Hotter disc emission

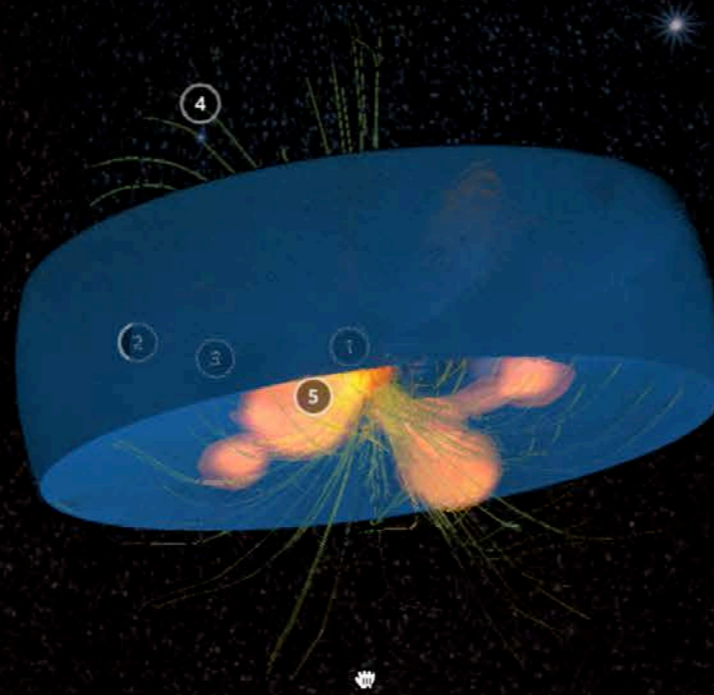
- Smaller disc (due to accretion and evaporation) with smaller infrared excess emission
- Star reaches/reaching MS

If gas can't initially fall onto the star, how does accretion work?



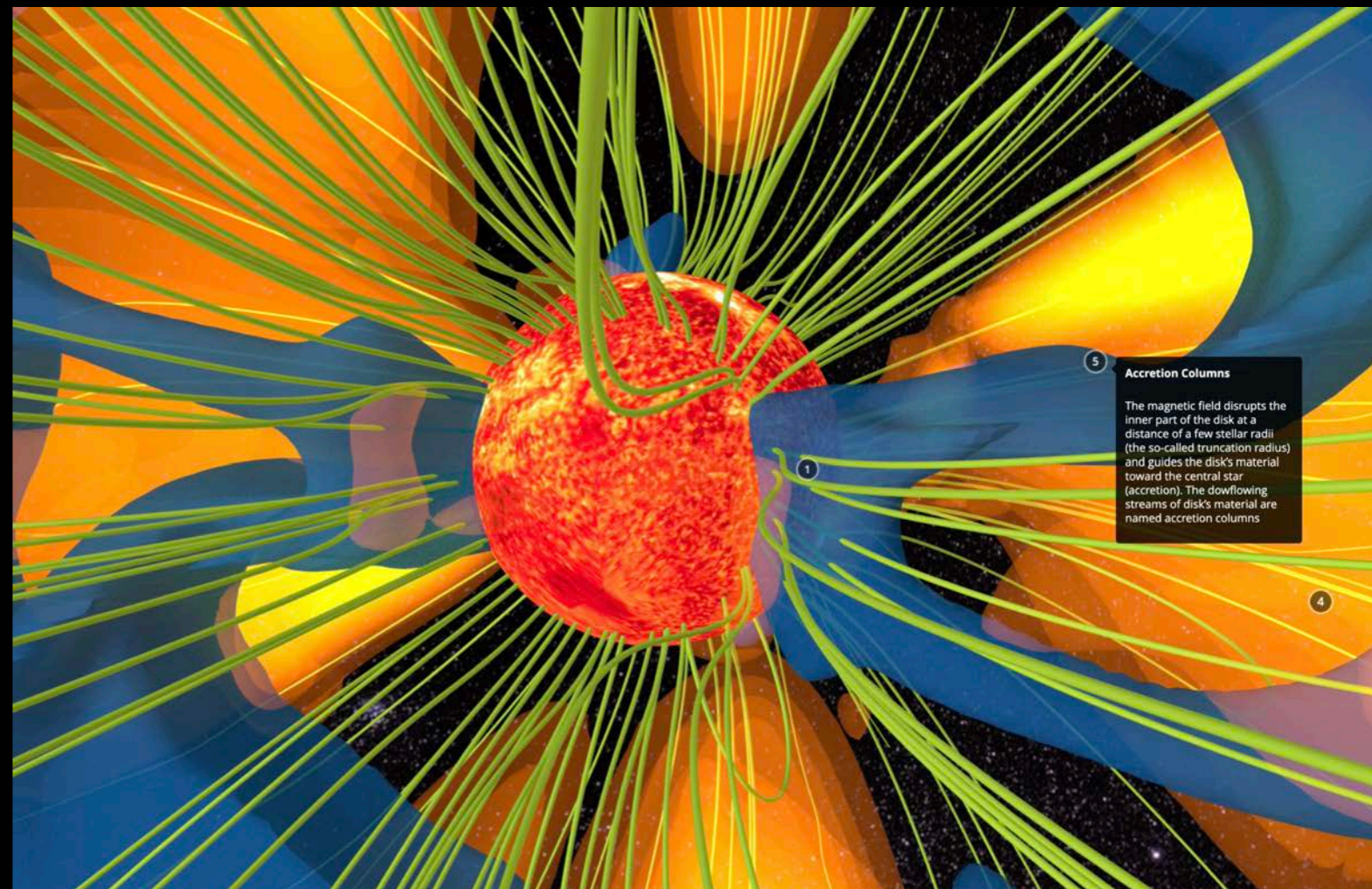
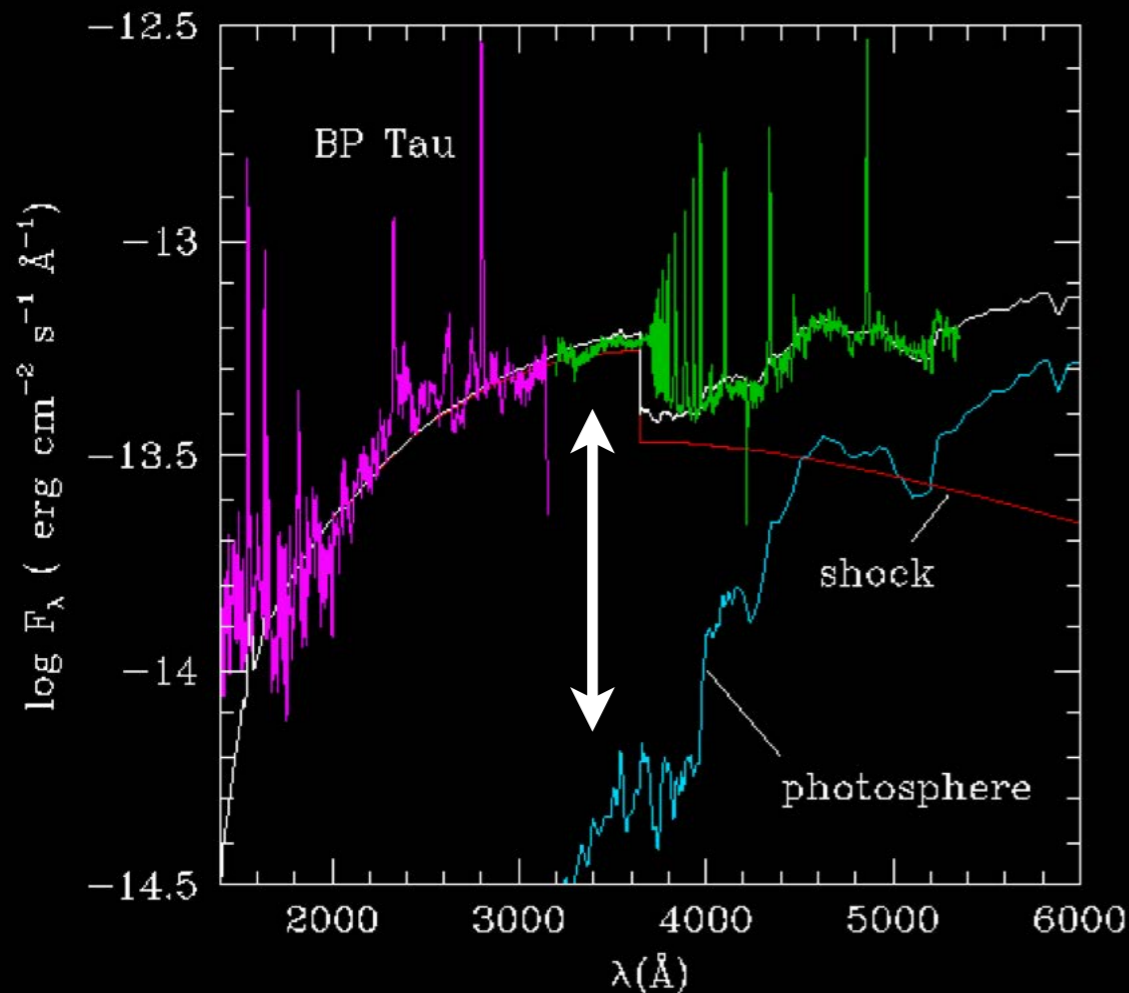
ACCRETION SIGNATURES

▼ Model Inspector



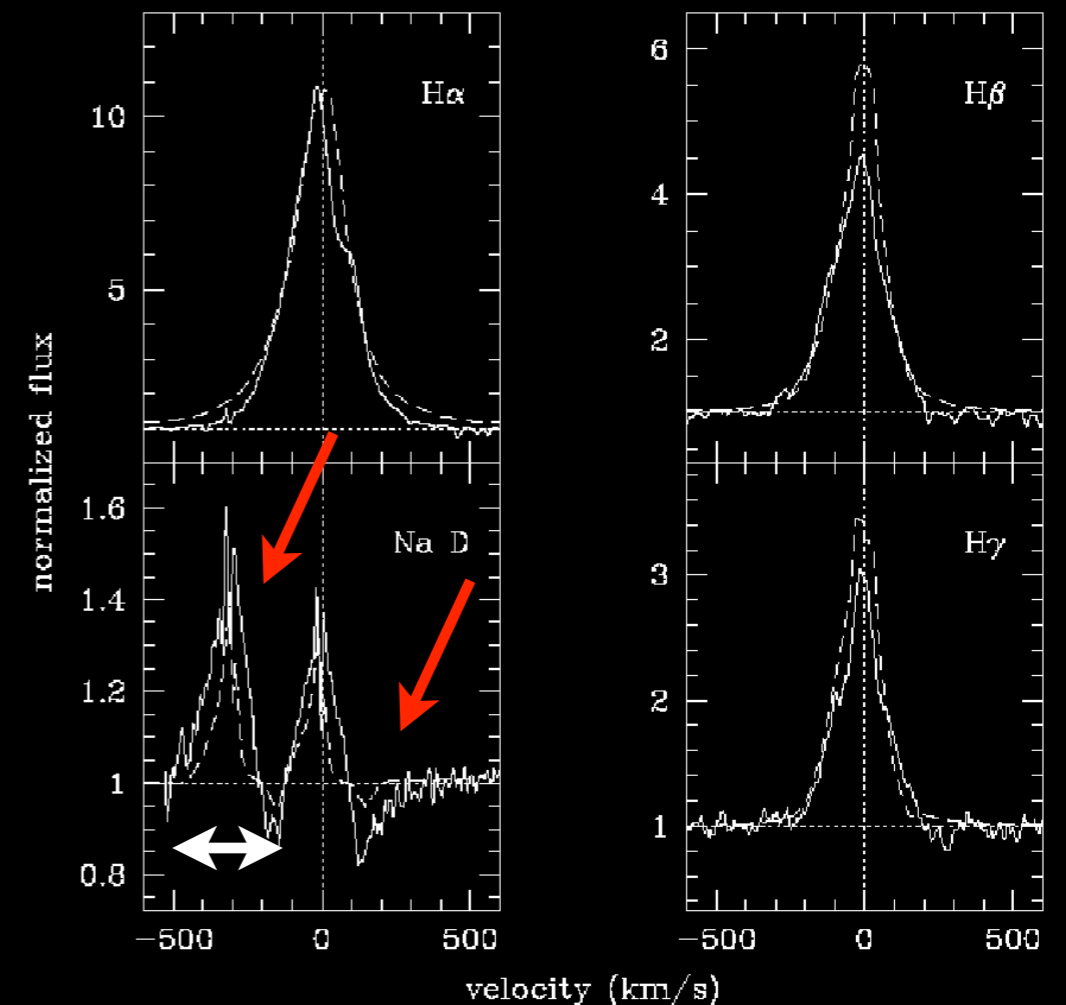
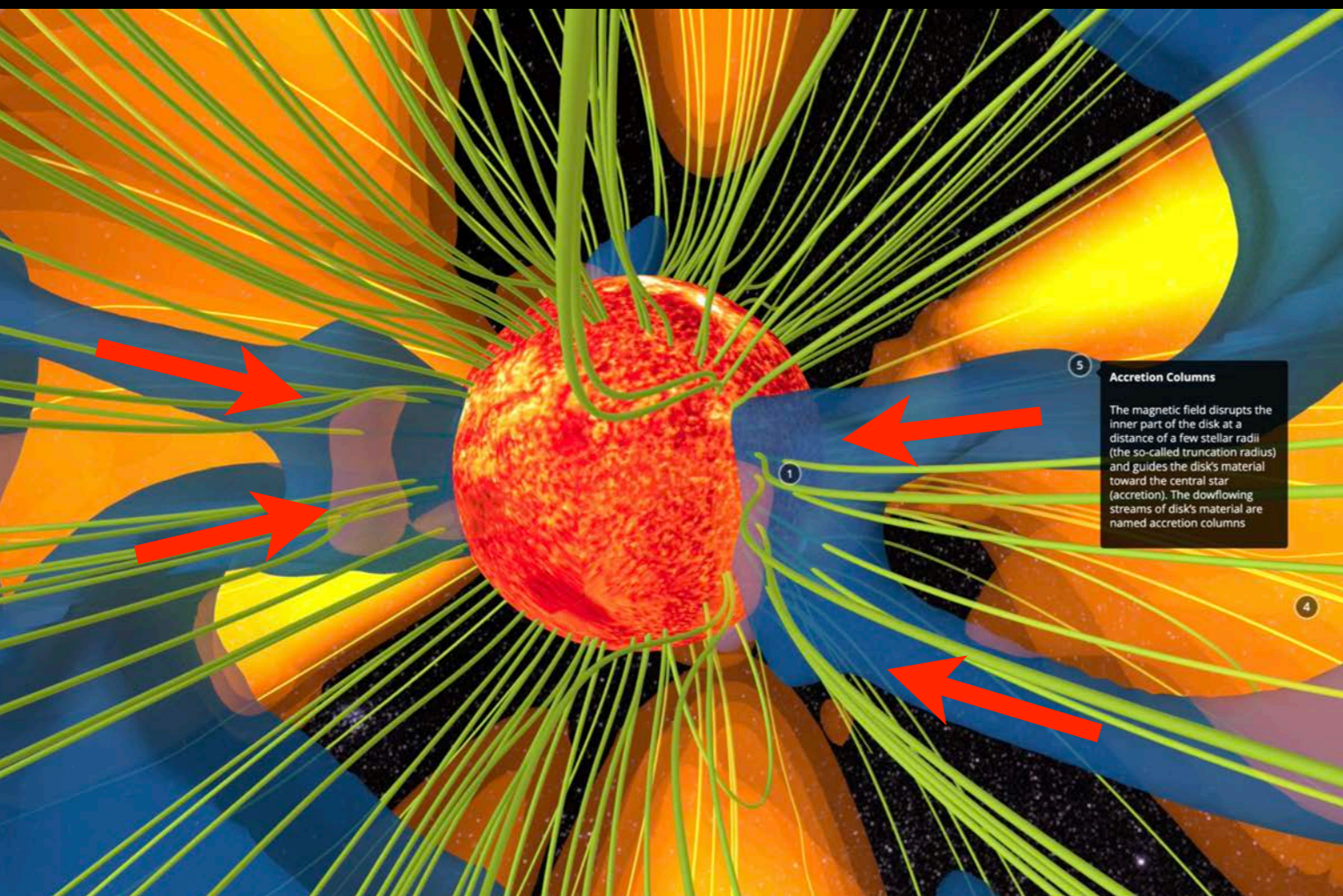
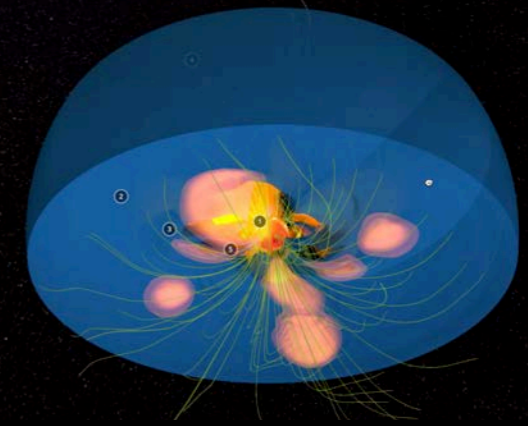
ACCRETION SIGNATURES

- ▶ Excess emission (veiling) over photosphere is strong evidence for accretion: $L_{\text{acc}} = G M \dot{M} / R$
- ▶ Class II (T Tauri) stars have excess continuum emission arising from the accretion shock on the star, and emission lines from both the magnetosphere and the shock region.



ACCRETION SIGNATURES

- ▶ Broad Emission lines ($\Delta v \sim 250$ km/s) from fast moving accretion flows show up as **redshifted** absorption
- ▶ Can only be seen at certain disc inclinations.



ANGULAR MOMENTUM

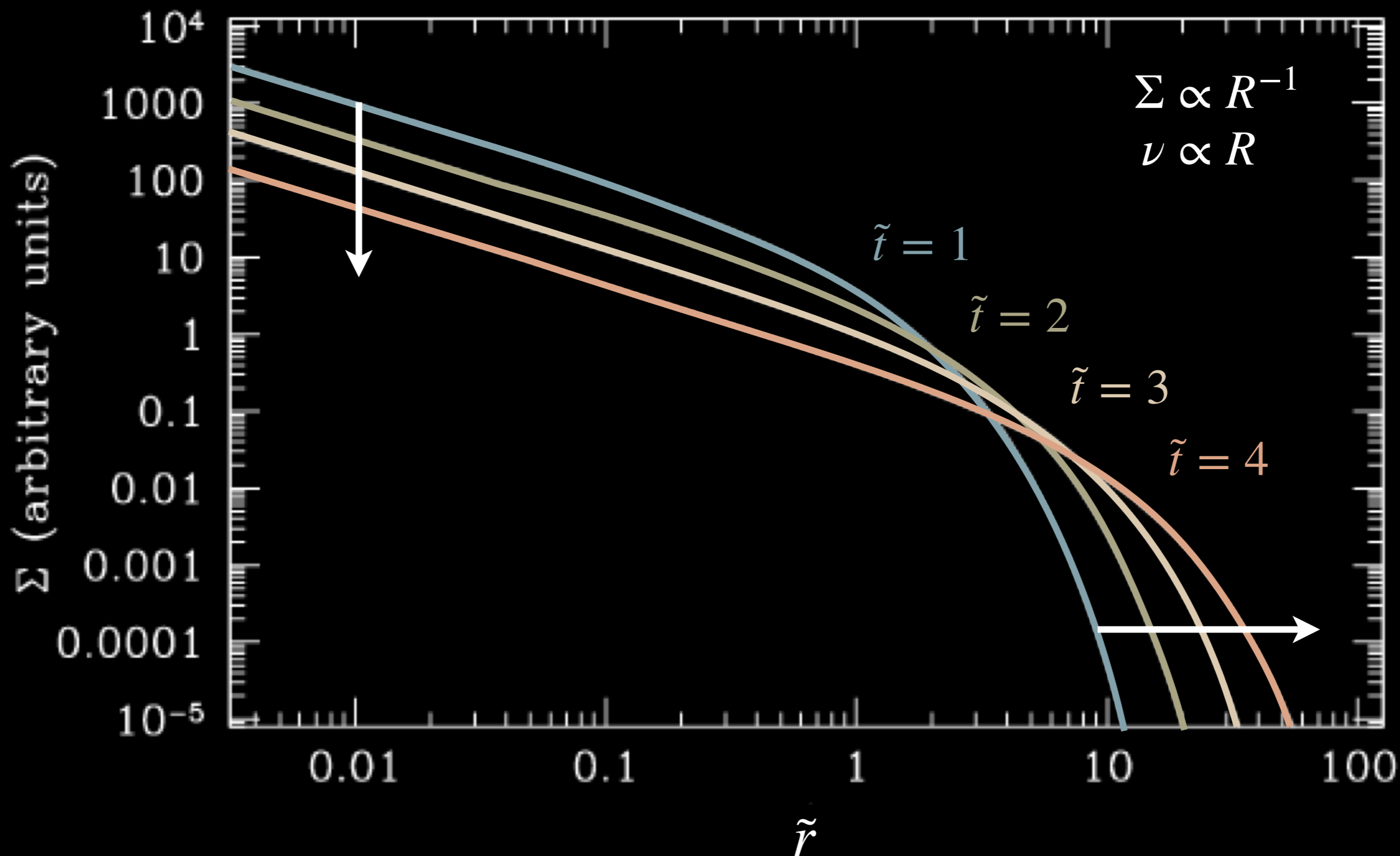
- ▶ Accretion requires angular momentum to be lost or redistributed in the disc.
- ▶ **Specific angular momentum** is approximately that of a Keplerian orbit: $l = \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{v}_K = R^2 \Omega_K = \sqrt{GM_* R}$.
 - ▶ Increasing function of radius.
- ▶ Two possibilities:
 - ▶ **Viscous** dissipation: predominant theory, but still not clear as to what causes the viscosity (friction).
 - ▶ Removed via outflows from the star-disc system.

VISCOUS EVOLUTION

- ▶ Within any shearing fluid, momentum is transported in the cross-stream direction because the random motion of molecules leads to collisions between particles that have different velocities.
- ▶ Assume a vertically thin axisymmetric sheet of viscous fluid to obtain a simple equation for the time evolution of the disk surface density $\Sigma(R, t)$.
- ▶ Large caveat: the molecular viscosity of the gas is much too small to lead to any significant dissipation.
 - ▶ ...but remains approximately valid if the "viscosity" is reinterpreted as the outcome of a turbulent process.

VISCOUS EVOLUTION

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial t} = \frac{3}{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left[\sqrt{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\nu \Sigma \sqrt{R} \right) \right]$$

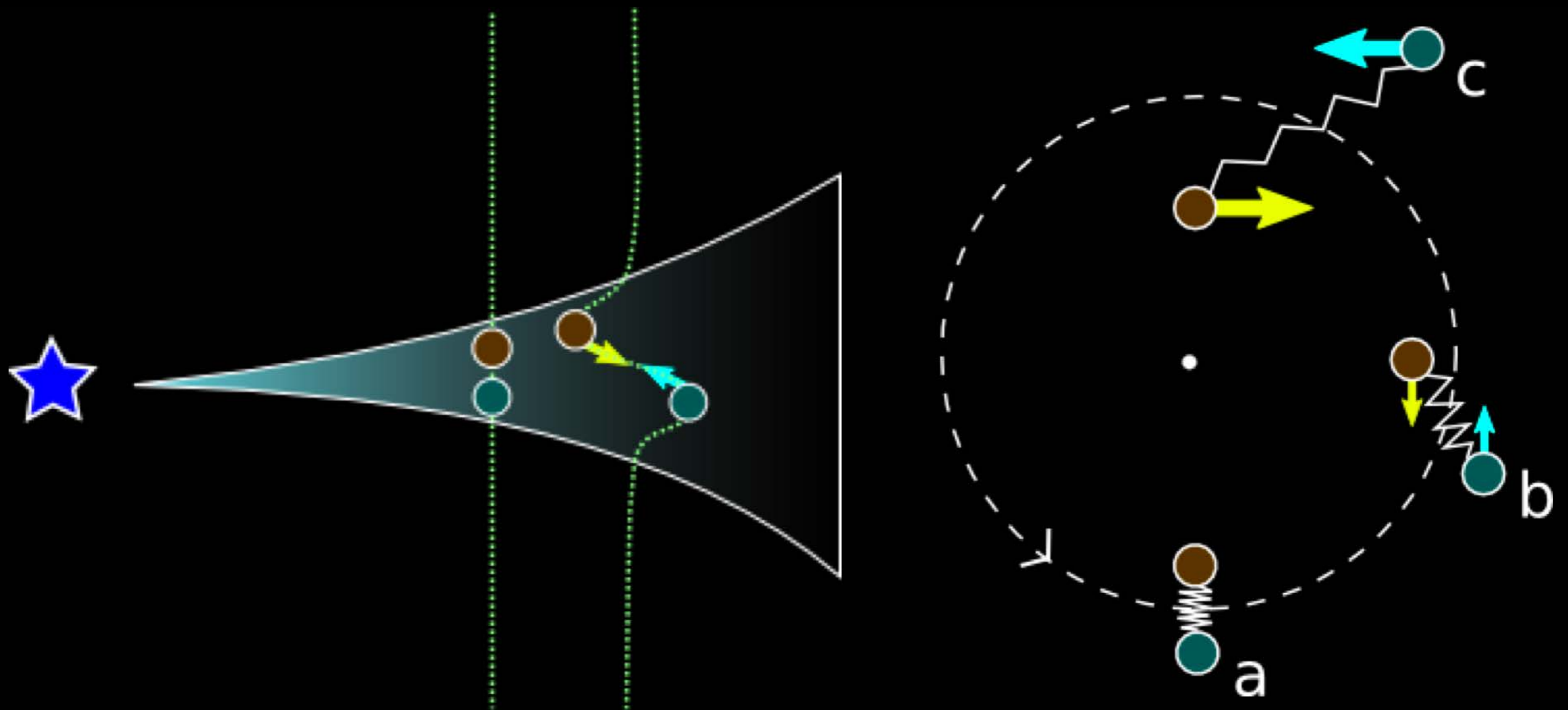


VISCOUS EVOLUTION

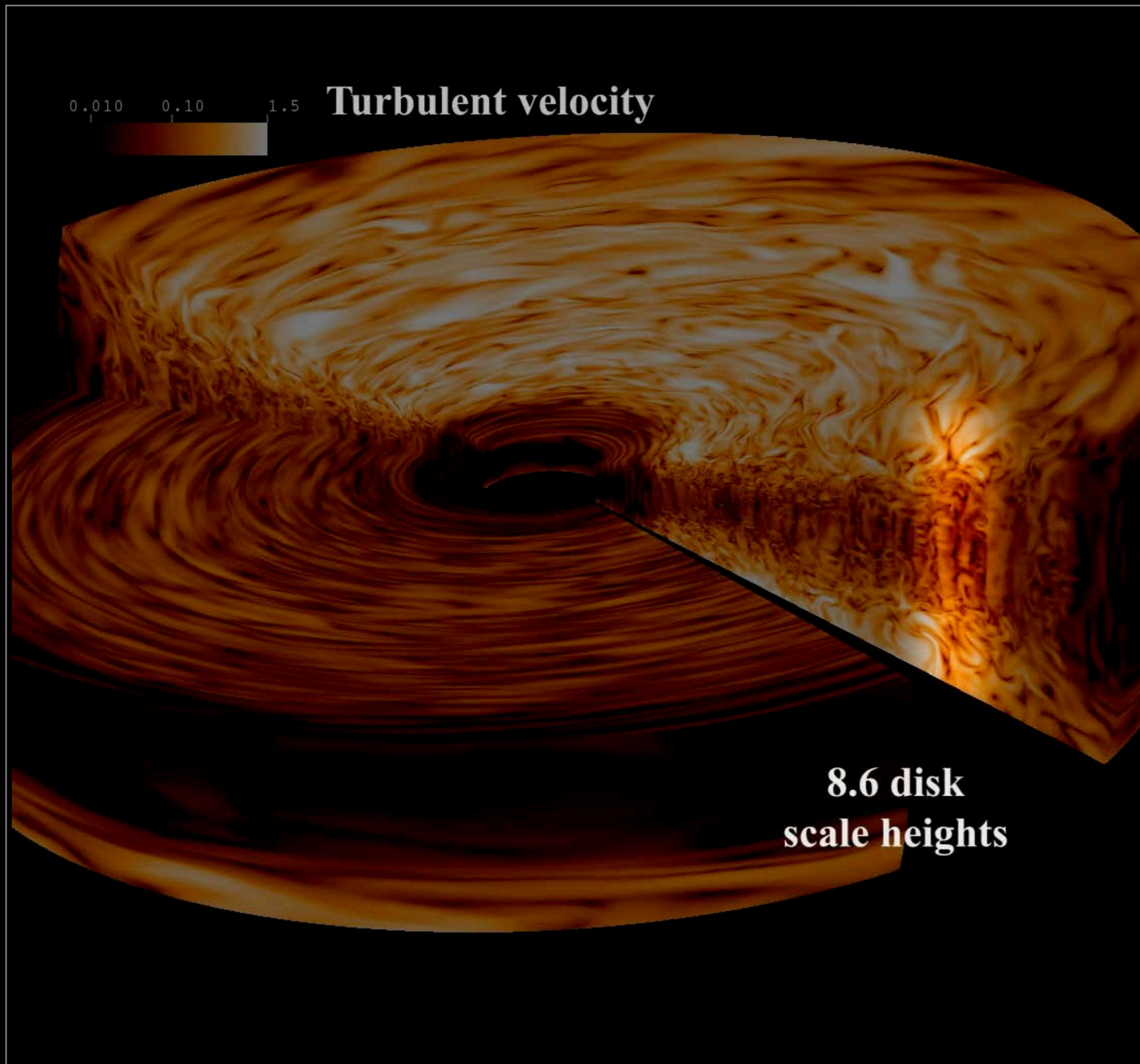
- ▶ Molecular viscosity alone yields timescales $\sim 10^{13}$ yrs, longer than the age of the Universe! Instead, we think there is an underlying **turbulence** that "acts" like an effective viscosity.
- ▶ To avoid specifying the source of the turbulence, we often parameterise the viscosity as: $\nu = \alpha c_s H$
 - ▶ The largest eddy $\lesssim H$
 - ▶ Turbulent velocity $\lesssim c_s$ (otherwise a shock would form)
- ▶ Describes the leading order scaling expected in disks (so that the dimensionless **Shakura-Sunyaev** α -parameter varies more slowly with temperature, radius, etc. than ν)

VISCOUS EVOLUTION

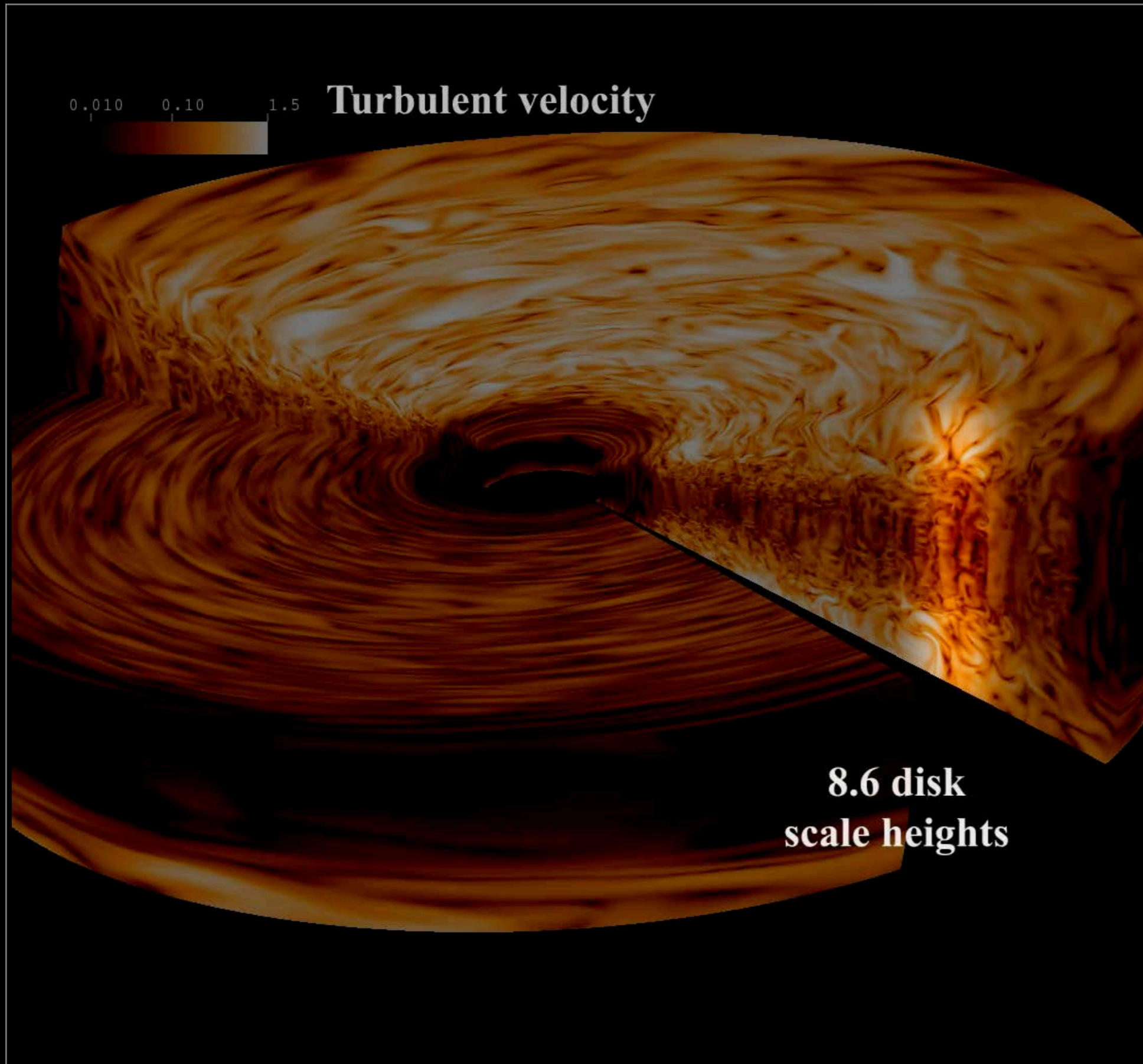
- ▶ In **ideal MHD**, the fluid acts like a perfect conductor and field lines are frozen into the fluid (zero diffusion of magnetic field lines). In this case, even weak magnetic fields will generate a Magnetorotational Instability (**MRI**).



VISCOUS EVOLUTION



VISCOUS EVOLUTION

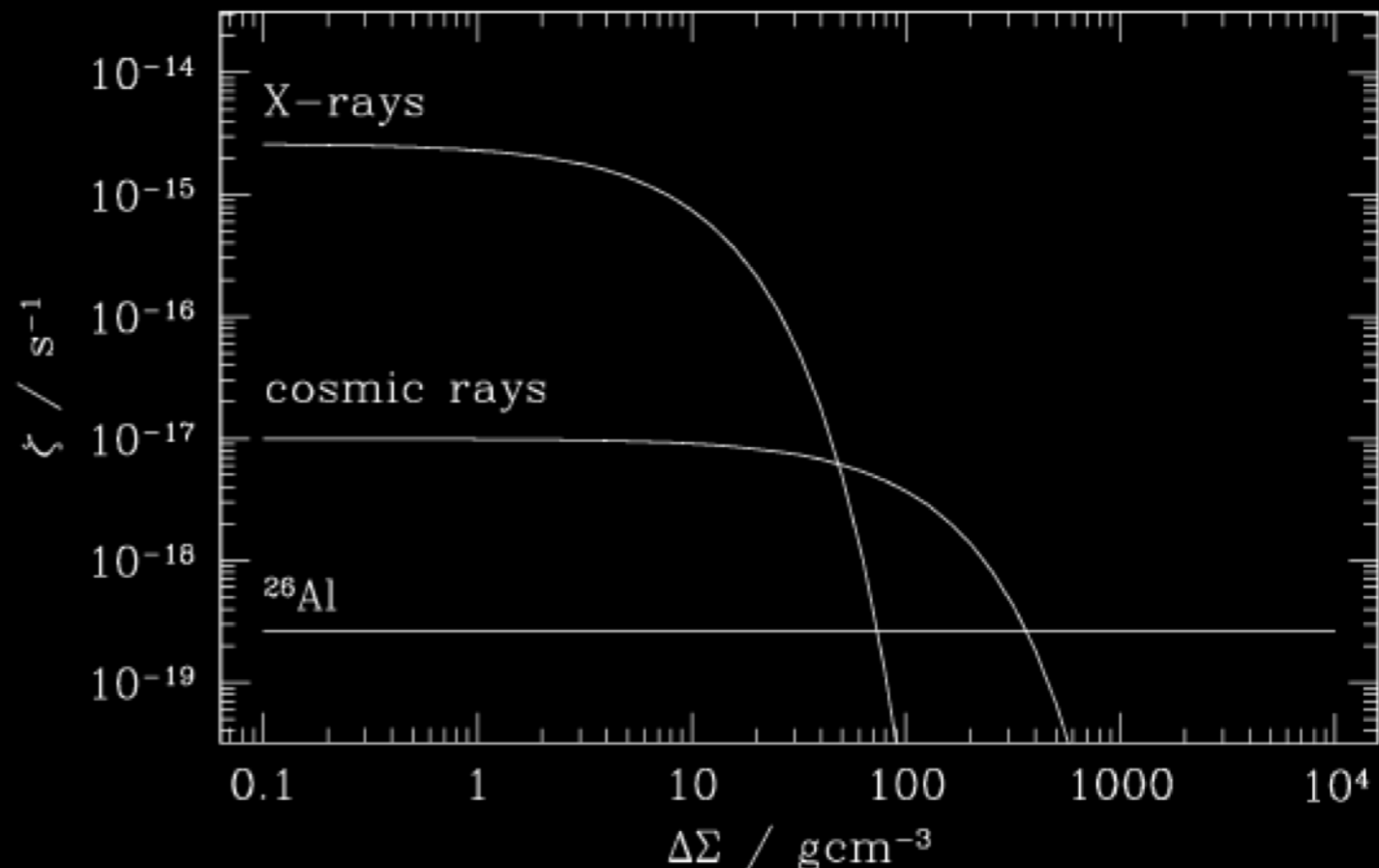


$$\beta = \frac{(\text{plasma pressure})}{\text{magnetic pressure}}$$

$$= \frac{nk_{\text{B}}T}{B^2/2\mu_0}$$

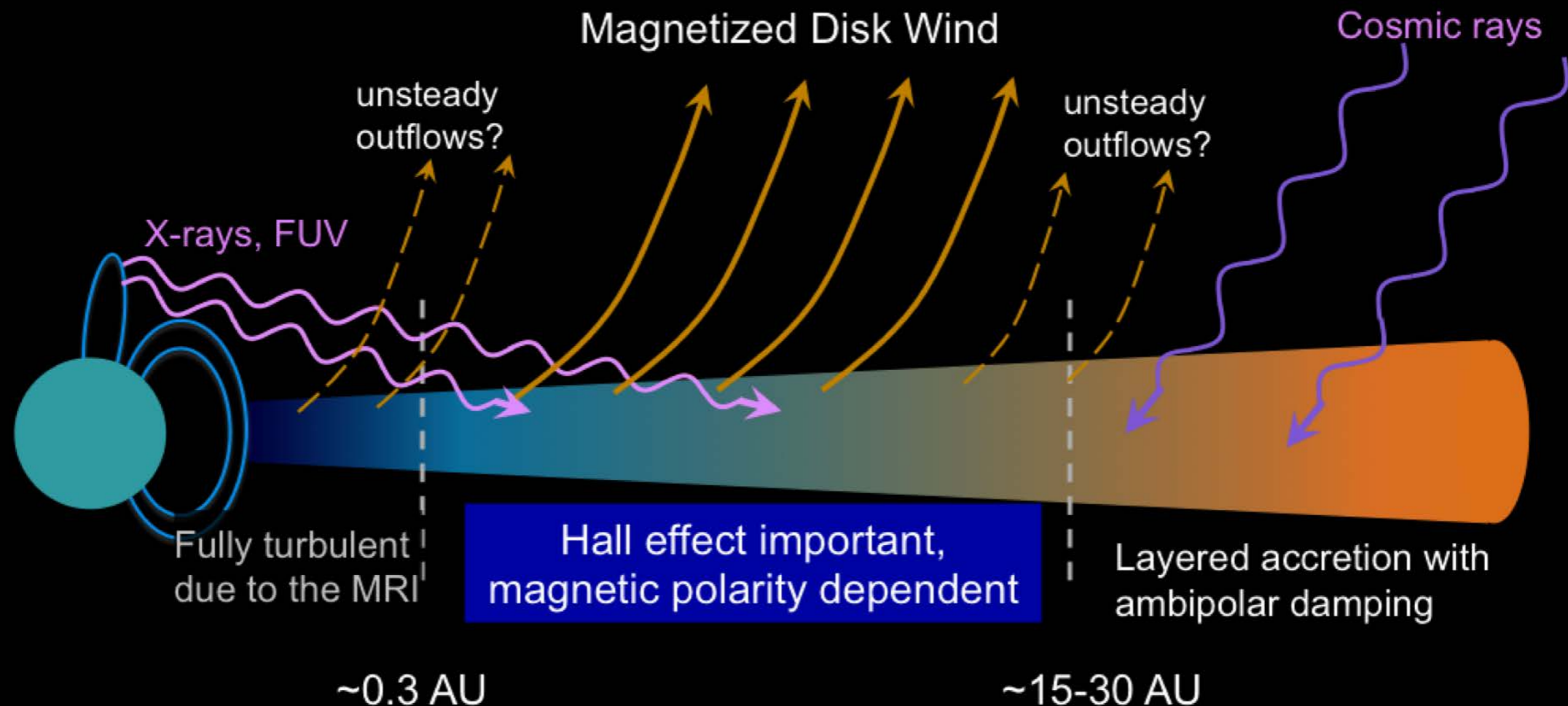
VISCOUS EVOLUTION

- ▶ **Non-ideal** MHD, the disc needs to be sufficiently ionised to overcome the effects of resistivity, which otherwise allows the field lines to diffuse back through the fluid.
- ▶ Two processes can ionise the gas in a disc:
- ▶ Thermal (collisional) ionisation: requires $T \gtrsim 1000$ K, only occurs in inner 1 au of disc.
- ▶ Non-thermal (photo-) ionisation by UV, X-rays, and/or cosmic rays.

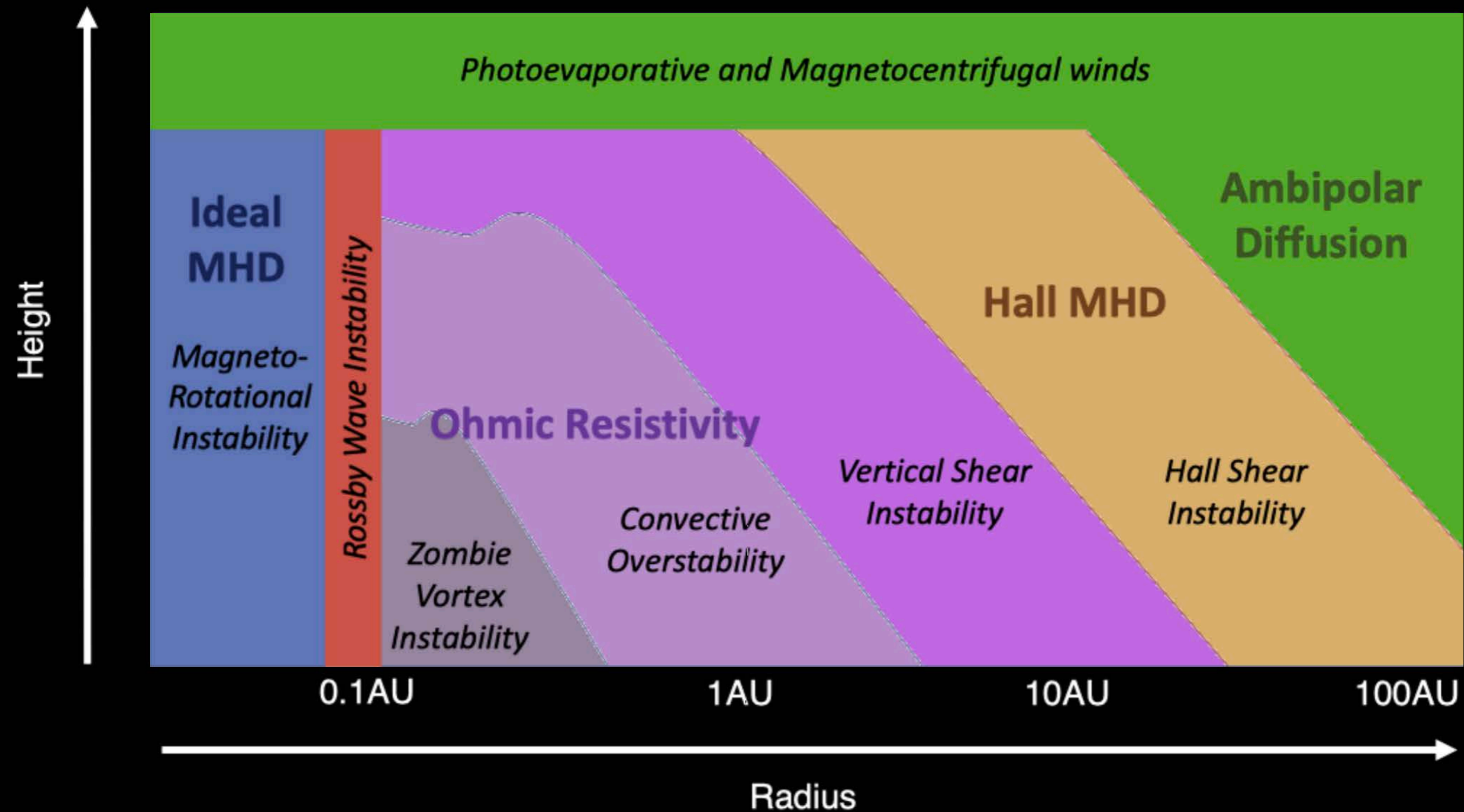


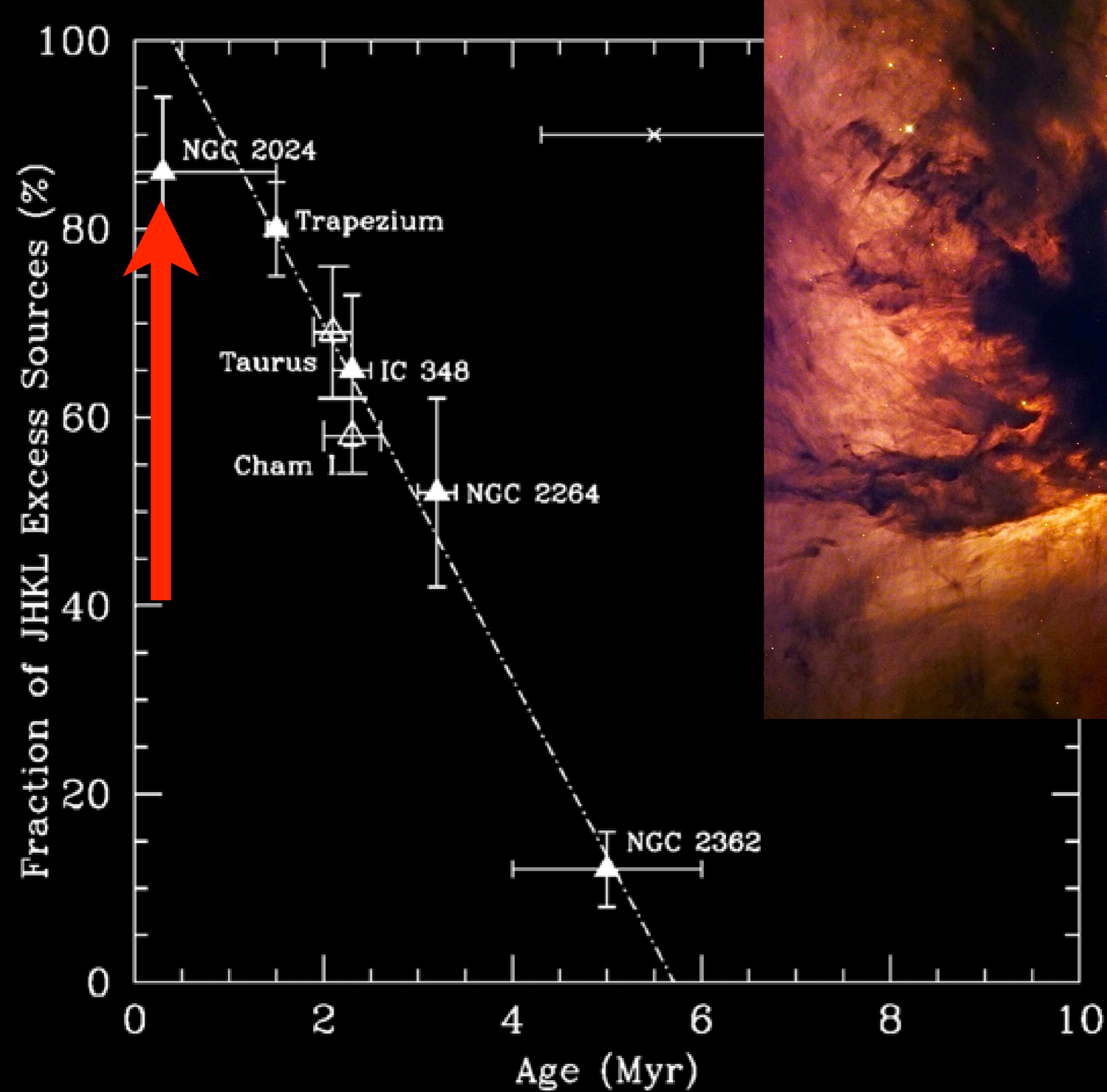
VISCOUS EVOLUTION

- ▶ MRI is likely damped between 0.1–10 au (**dead zones**)
- ▶ Important implications for dust dynamics, planetesimal formation, planet migration, and episodic accretion
- ▶ Potentially resurrected by hydro instabilities (e.g. **zombie vortices**)
- ▶ Evidence now pointing to influence by **magnetised disc winds**

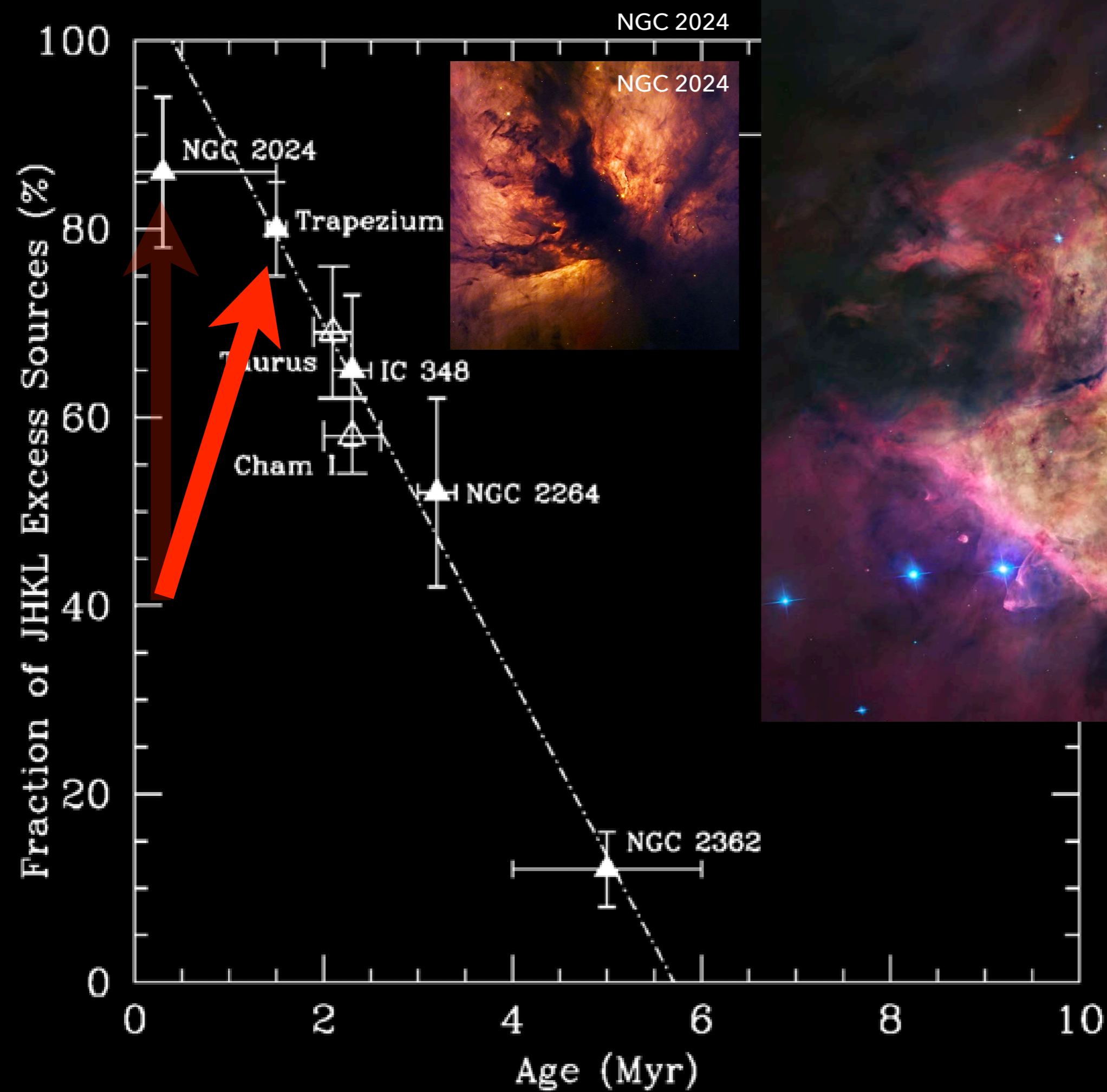


ZOO OF INSTABILITIES

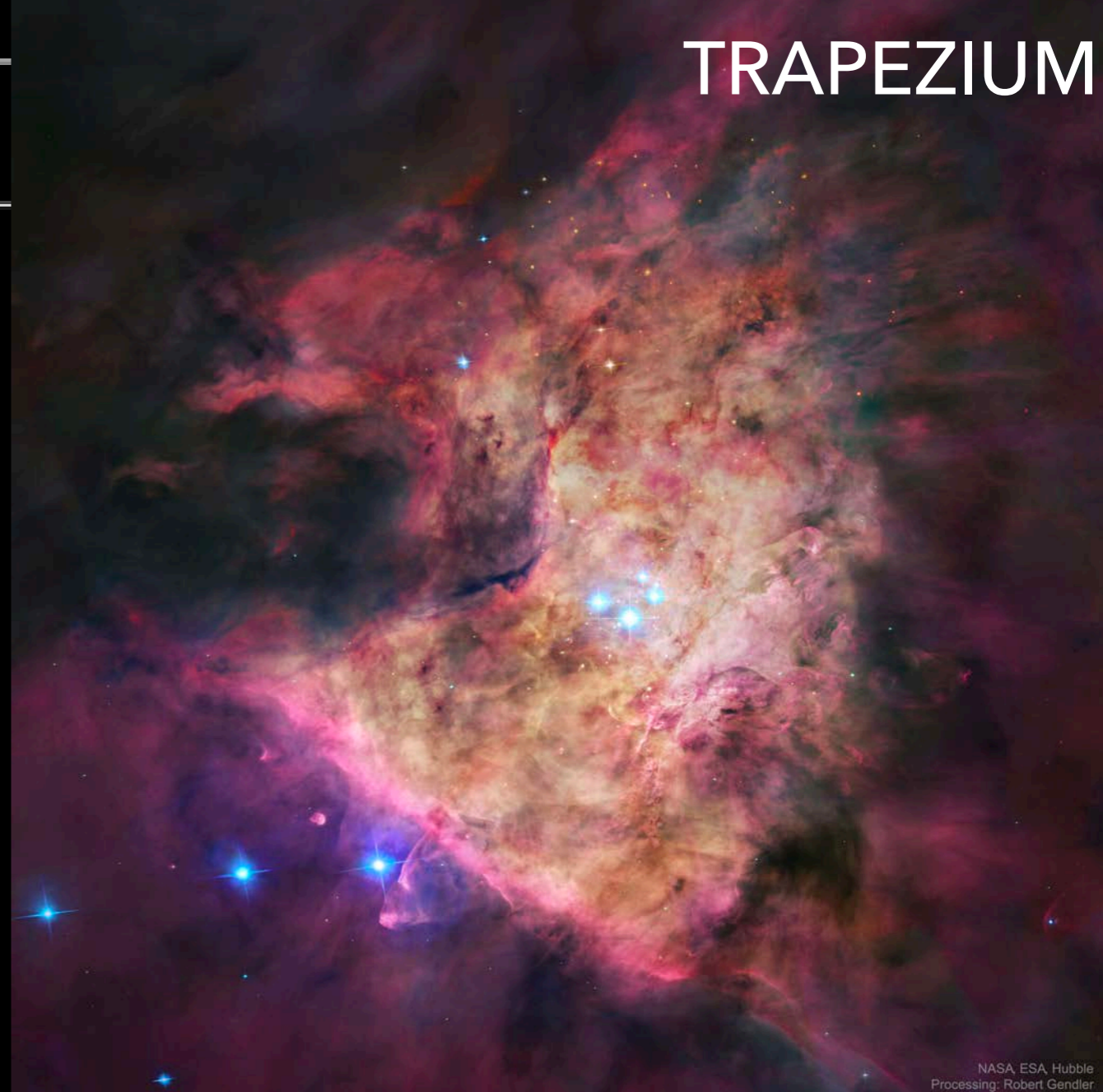




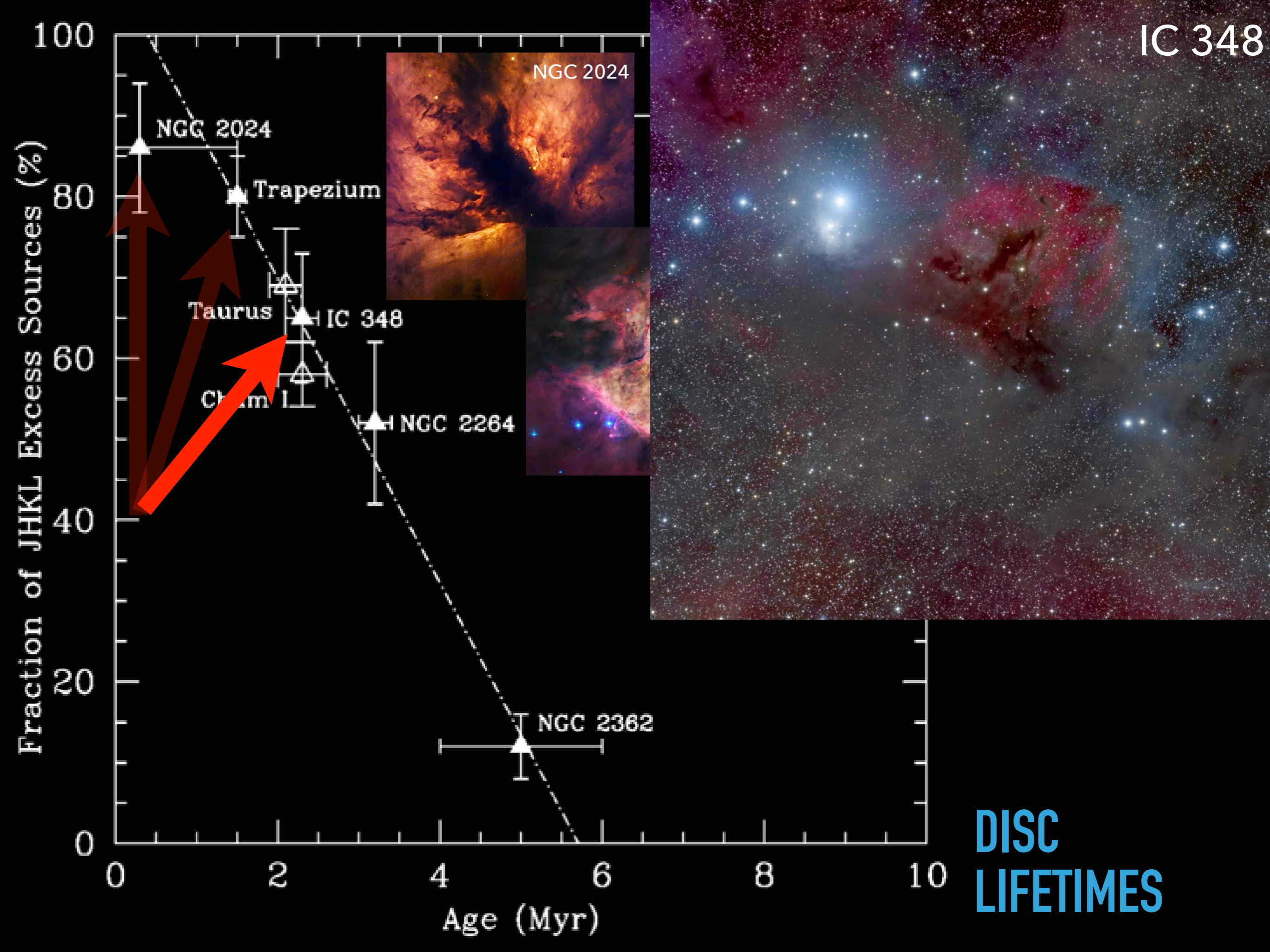
**DISC
LIFETIMES**



TRAPEZIUM



**DISC
LIFETIMES**



IC 348

NGC 2024

NGC 2024

Trapezium

Taurus

IC 348

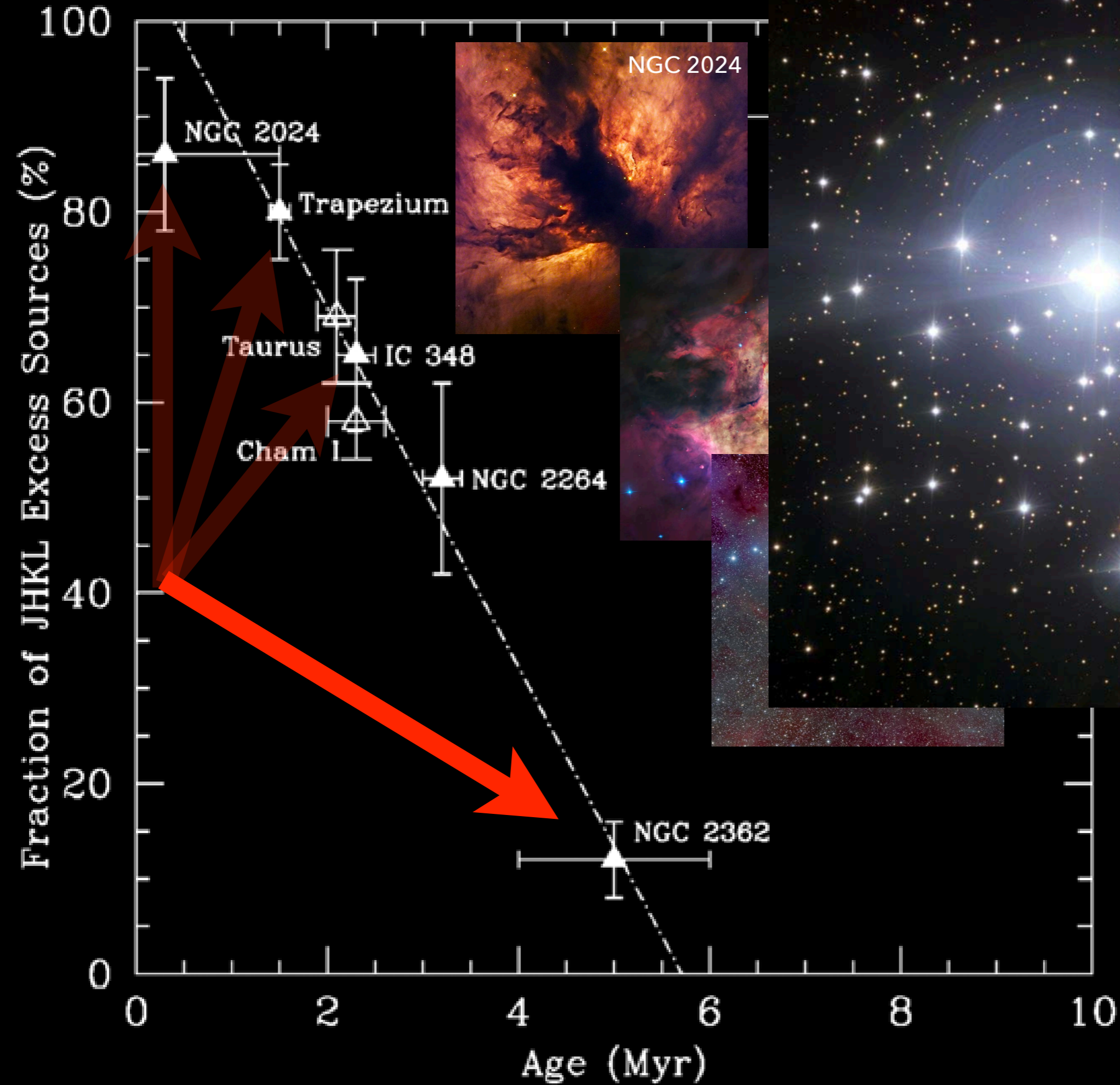
Cham I

NGC 2264

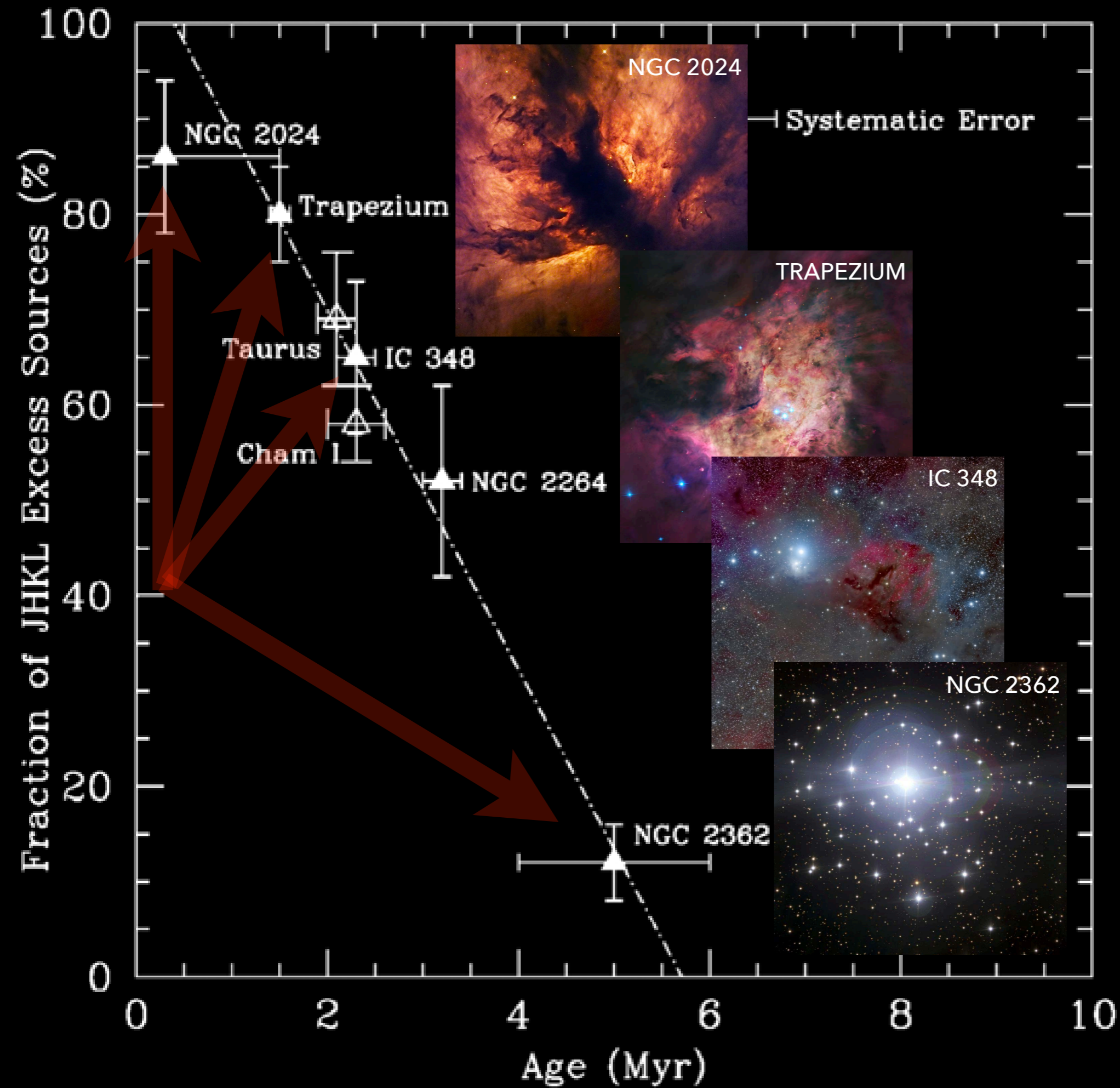
NGC 2362

DISC LIFETIMES

NGC 2362

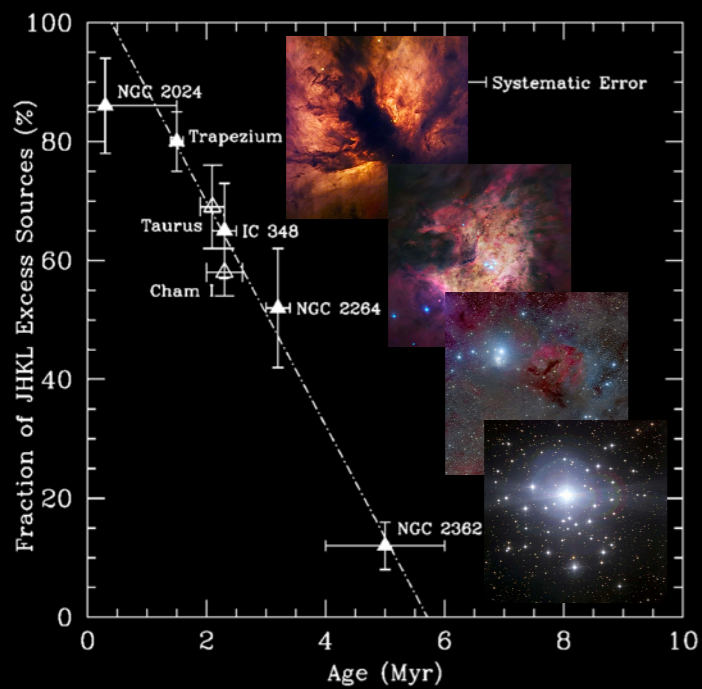


**DISC
LIFETIMES**

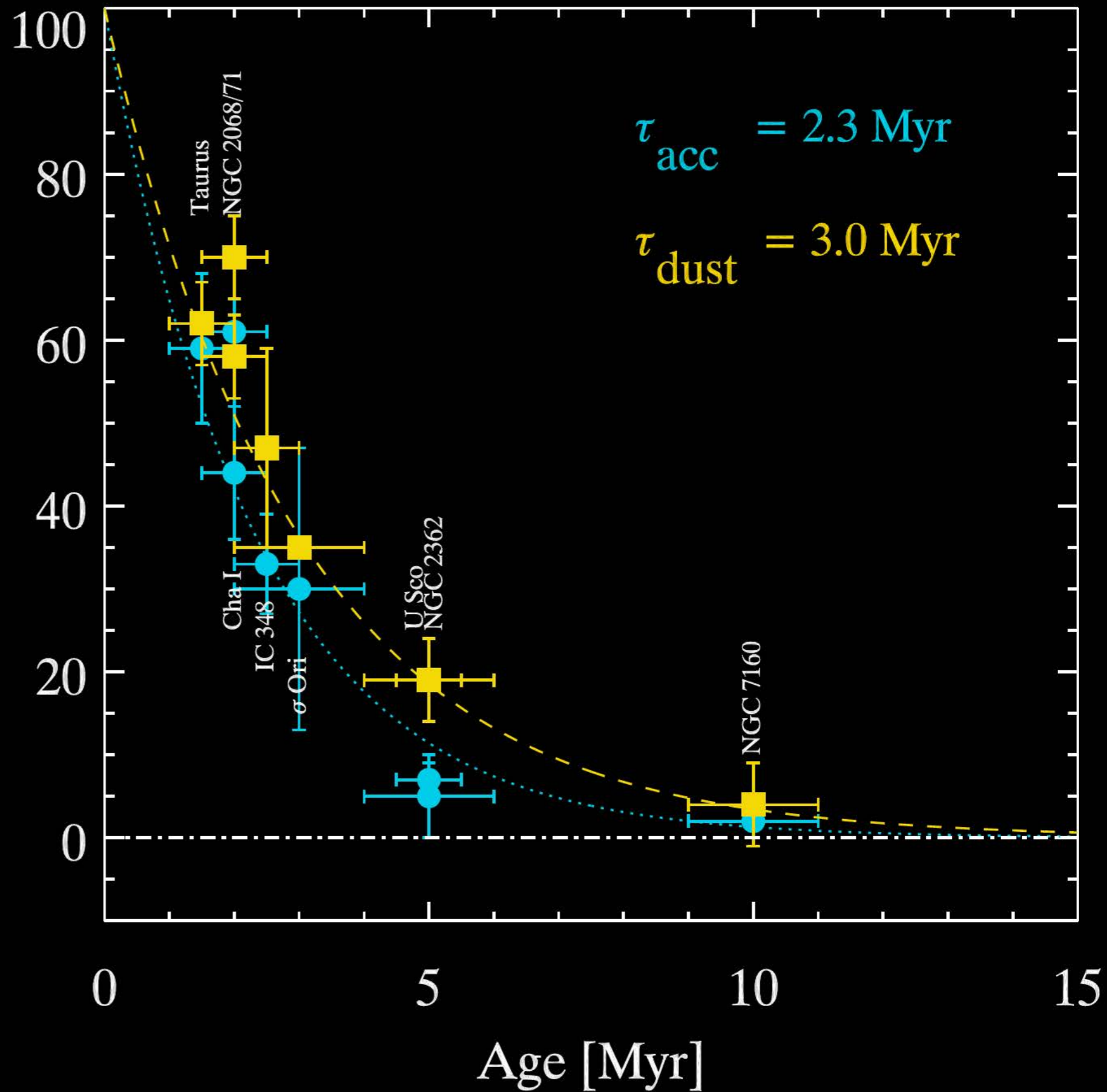


**DISC
LIFETIMES**

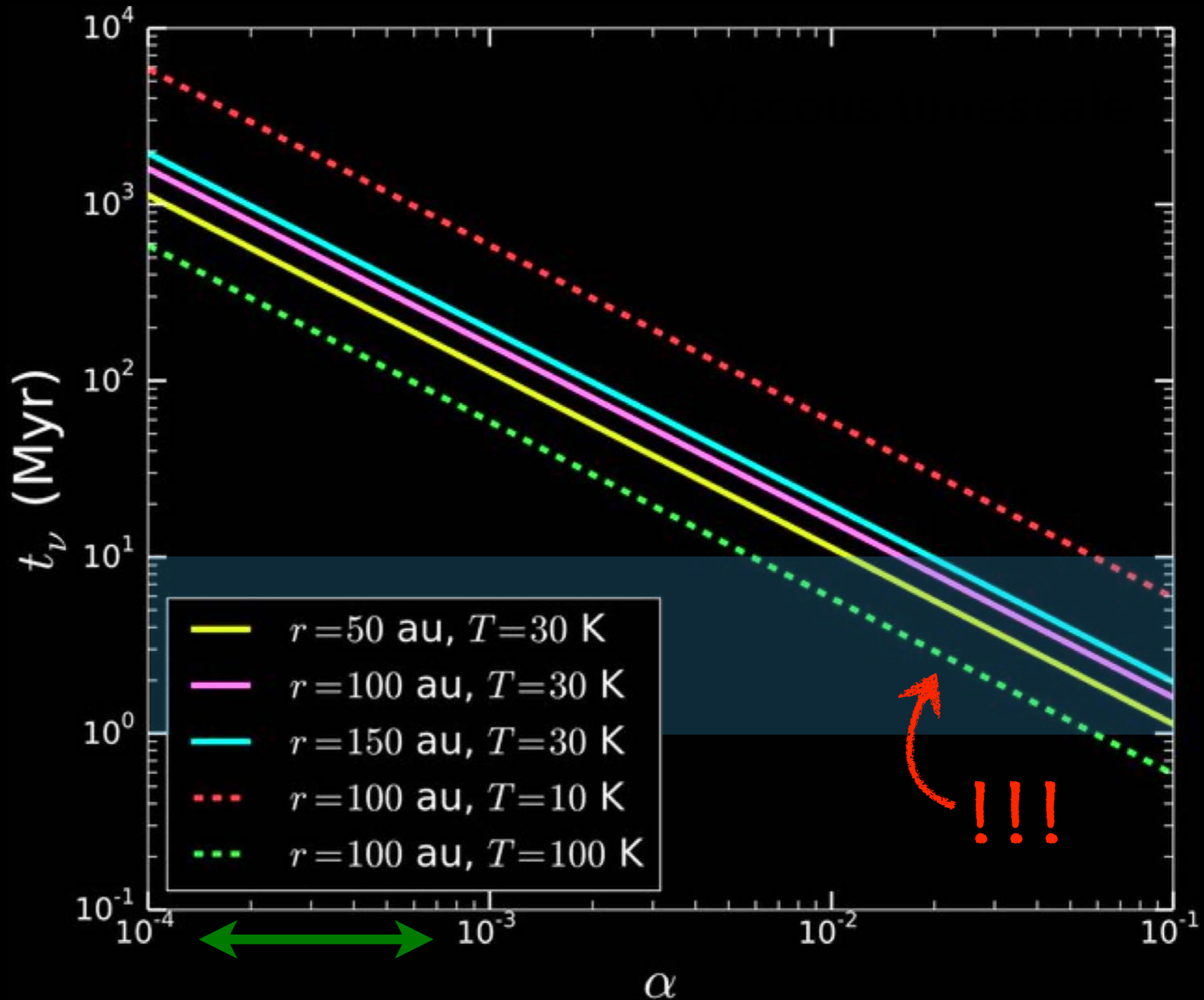
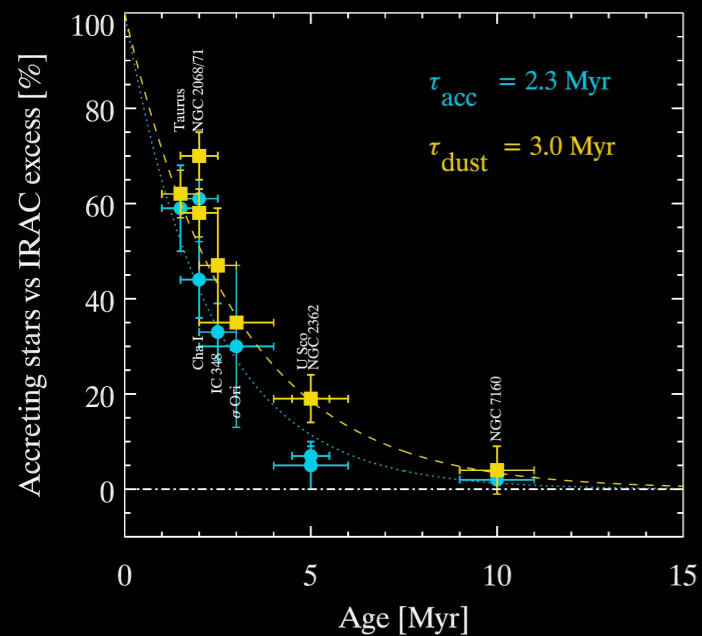
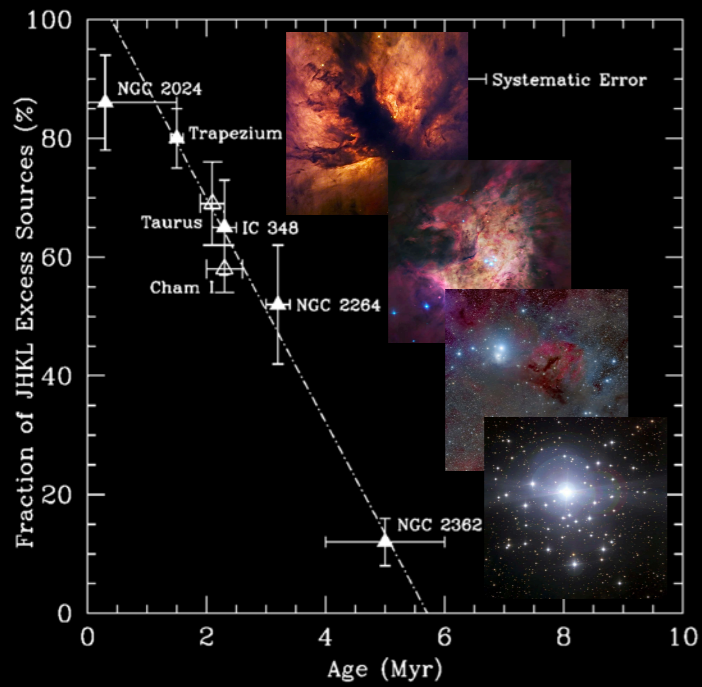
DISC LIFETIMES



Accreting stars vs IRAC excess [%]



DISC LIFETIMES

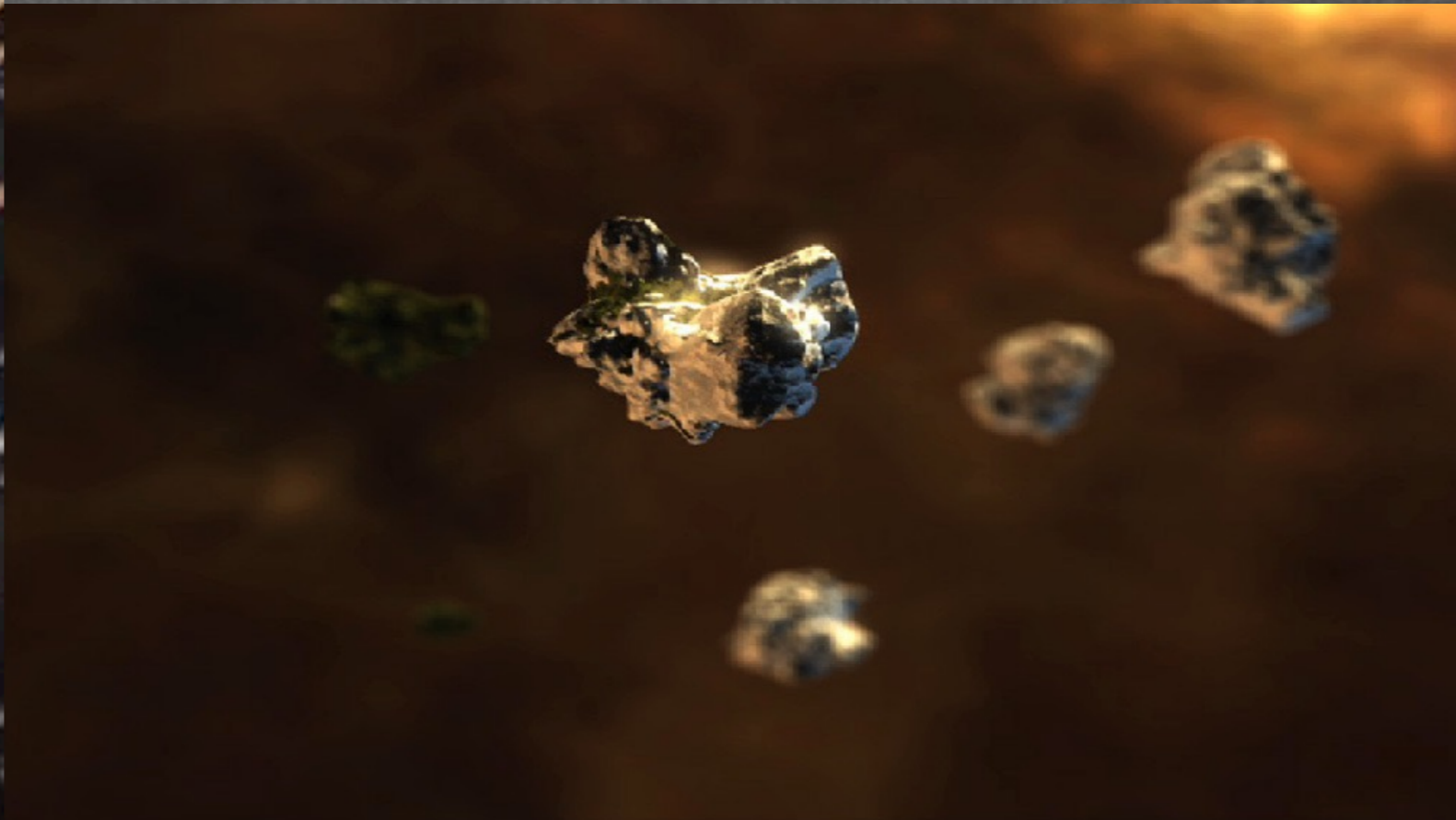
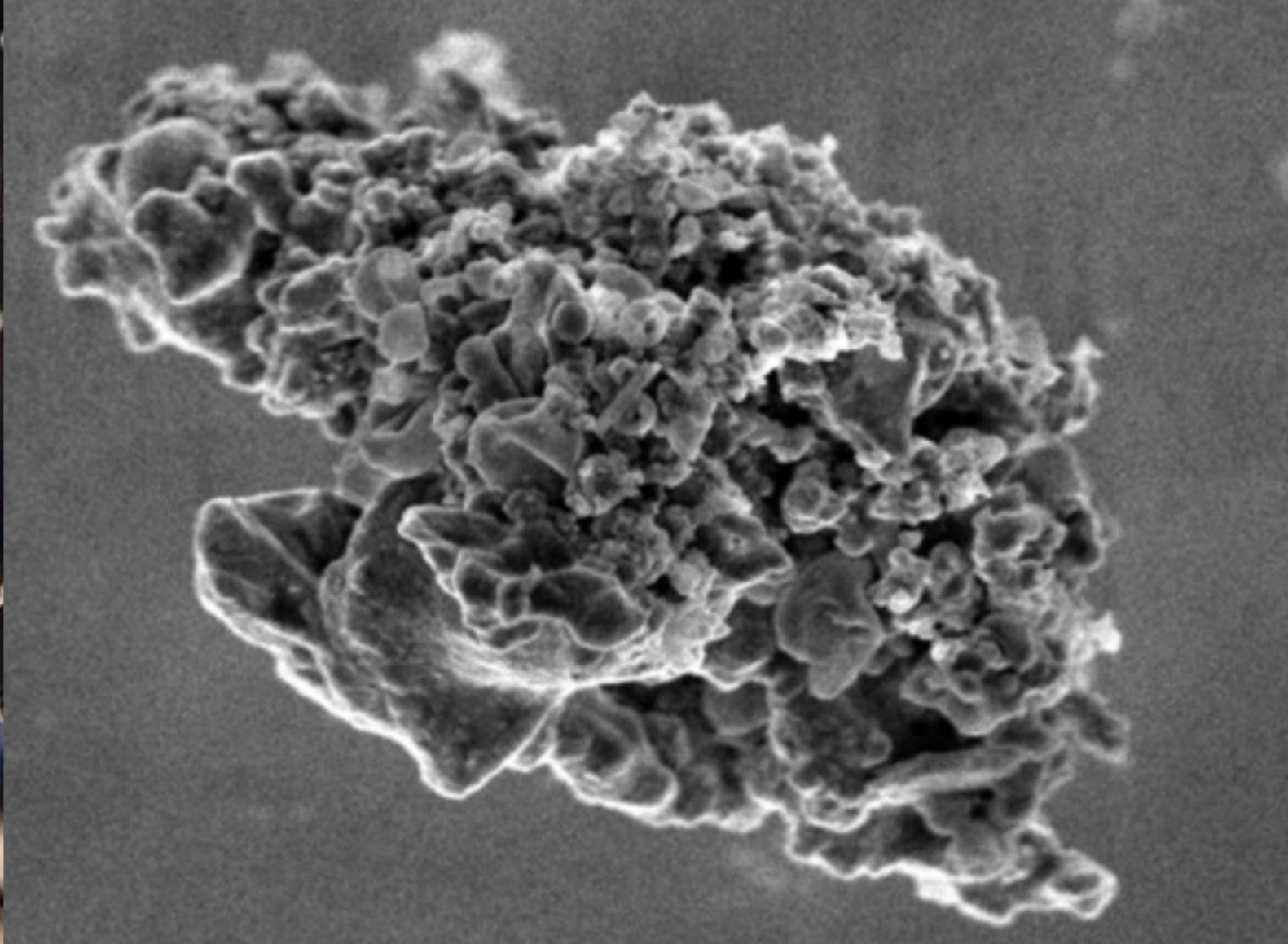




**FROM UNIVERSE
TO PLANETS**

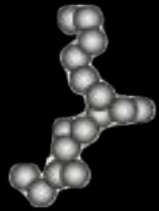
DUST

LECTURE 2.4



DUST: SIZES AND MASSES

Samples



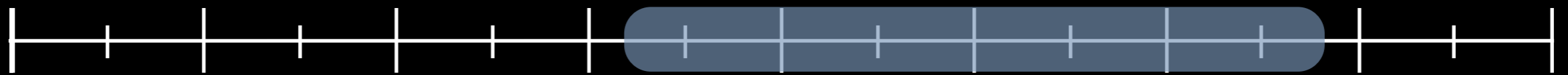
Lab & IDPs (interplanetary dust particles)

Meteorites

10^{-15} g

only theory

10^{27} g



μm

cm

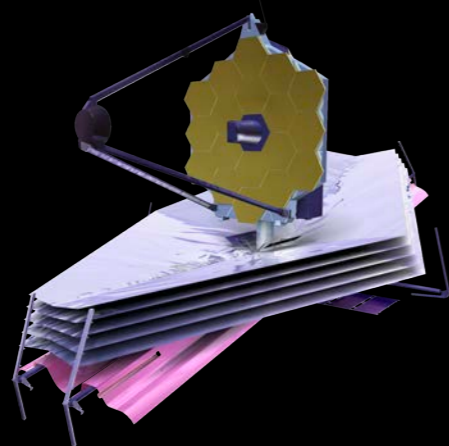
m

km

Telescopes: (sub-)mm



ALMA

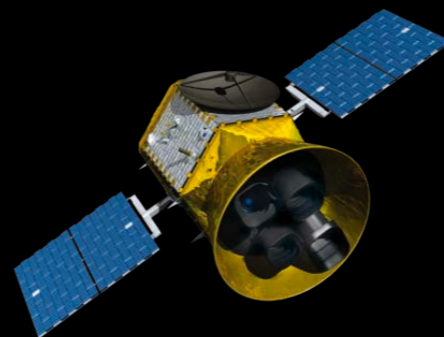


JWST



Spitzer

IR

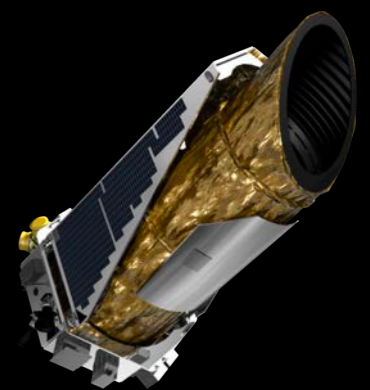


TESS

Visible



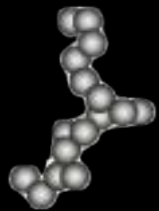
Hubble



Kepler

DUST: SIZES AND MASSES

Samples



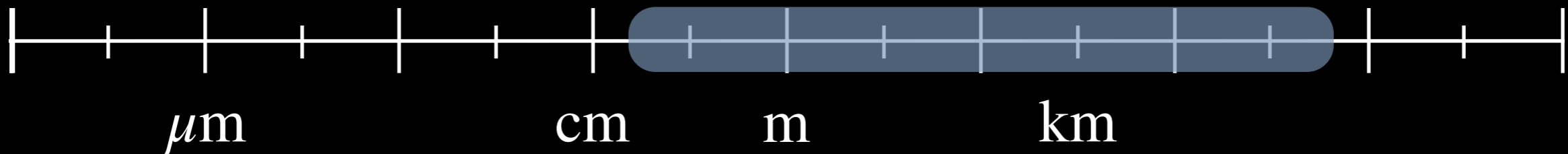
Lab & IDPs (interplanetary dust particles)

Meteorites

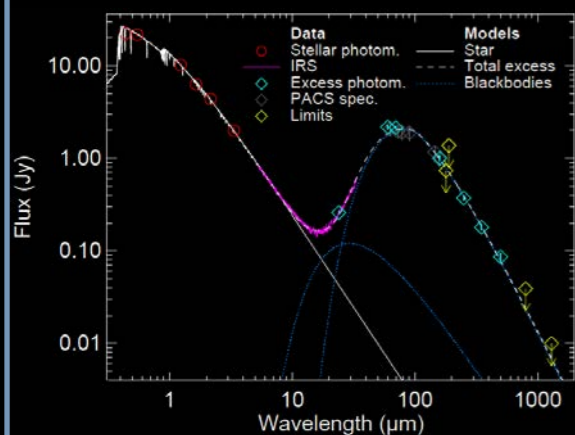
10^{-15} g

only theory

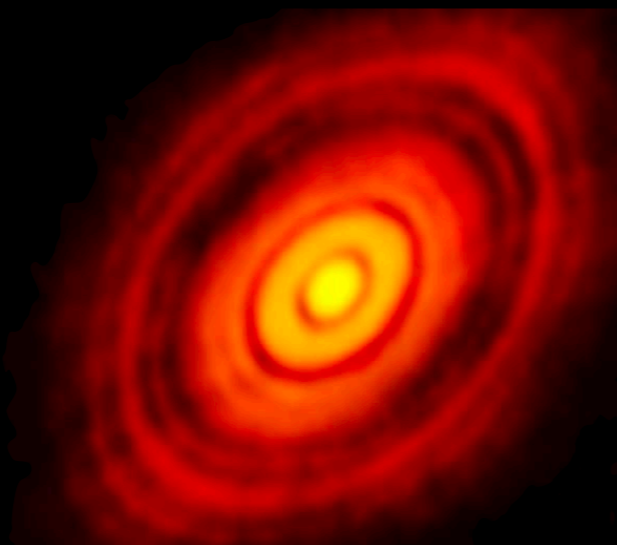
10^{27} g



Observations:



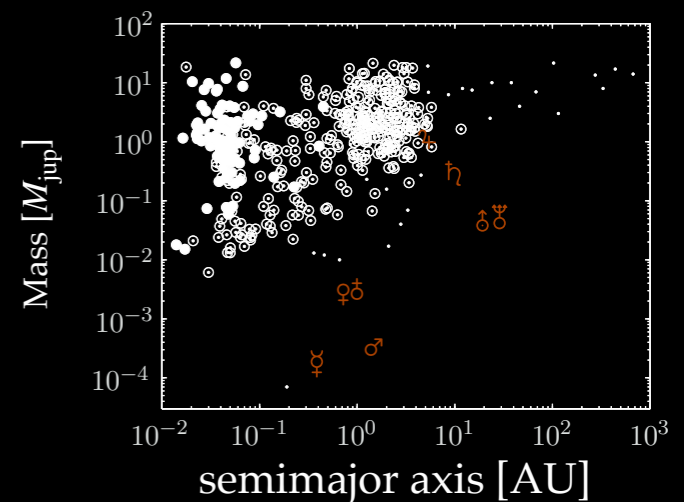
SED



Dust continuum



Direct imaging

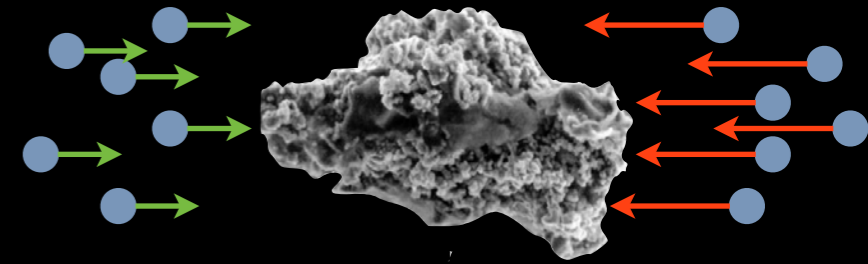


Transit surveys

DUST: DRAG LAWS

- ▶ **Epstein** regime: if particle size \lesssim mean free path

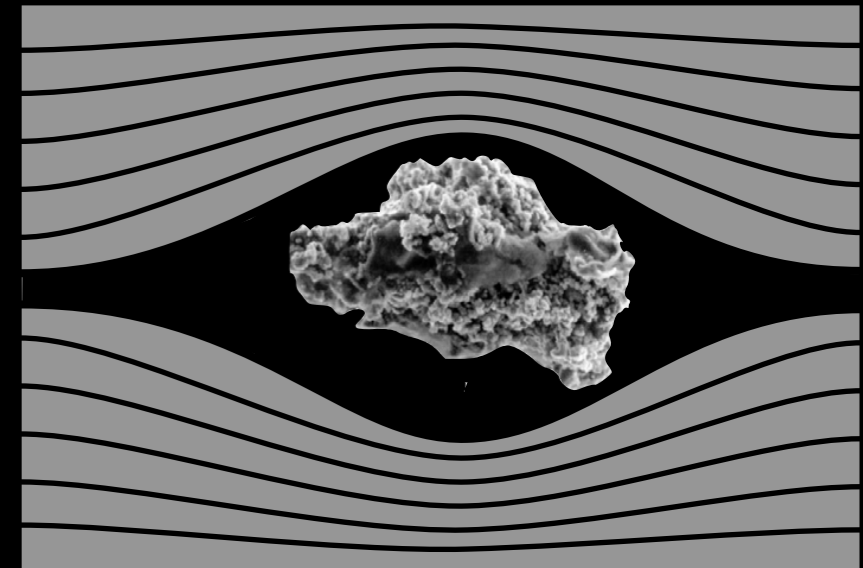
$$F_{\text{Epstein}} = -\frac{4\pi}{3}a^2\rho_{\text{gas}}v_{\text{th}}\mathbf{v}$$



- ▶ **Stokes** regime: if particle size \gtrsim mean free path

$$F_{\text{Stokes}} = -\frac{C_D}{2}\pi a^2\rho_{\text{gas}}v\mathbf{v}$$

- ▶ C_D depends on the particle **Reynolds number** (the ratio of inertial forces to viscous forces).



DUST: RADIAL DRIFT

- Force equation: drag, gravity, and pressure forces:

The diagram shows two equations for dust and gas velocities. The top equation is for dust velocity, and the bottom equation is for gas velocity. Arrows point from labels to variables in the equations.

dust velocity drag coefficient gas density

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_d}{dt} = -A\rho_g(\mathbf{v}_d - \mathbf{v}_g) - \frac{GM_*}{R^3}\mathbf{R}$$

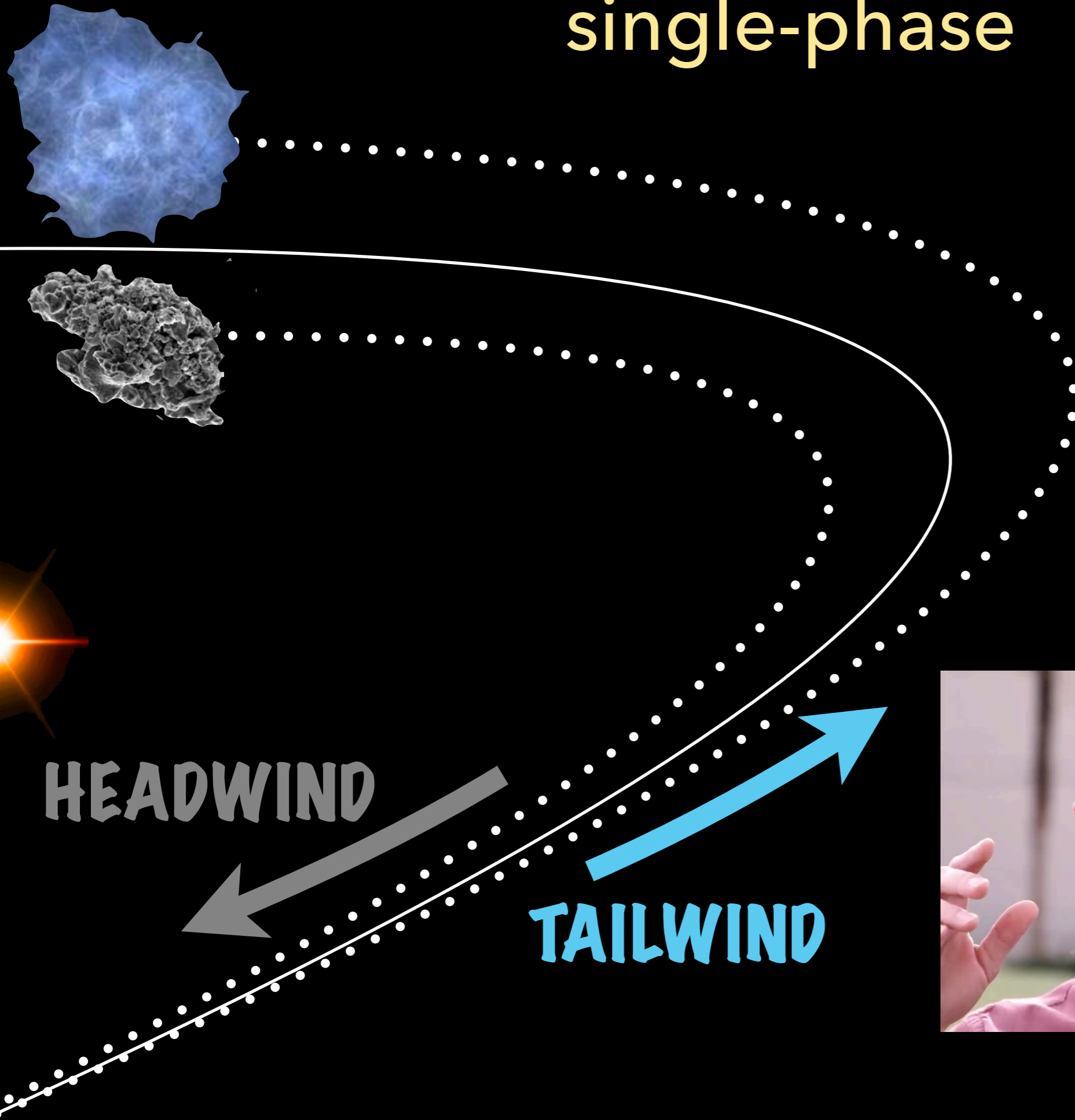
gas velocity dust density gas pressure

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_g}{dt} = +A\rho_d(\mathbf{v}_d - \mathbf{v}_g) - \frac{GM_*}{R^3}\mathbf{R} - \frac{\nabla P}{\rho_g}$$

- The drag coefficient is related to the Stokes number by:

$$A = \frac{v_{\text{th}}}{\rho_{\text{grain}}a} \longrightarrow \text{St} = \frac{\Omega_K}{A\rho_g}$$

single-phase



multi-phase

PLENTIFUL
AND LIGHT

FEWER BUT
MASSIVE



DUST: VERTICAL SETTling

- ▶ Now let's consider the vertical component on its own. To simplify things, we'll ignore the **back-reaction** of the dust onto the gas:

$$\frac{\partial u_d^z}{\partial t} = -A\rho_g(u_d^z - \cancel{u_g^z}) + z\Omega_K^2$$

- ▶ Which is the equation for a damped harmonic oscillator. The steady state **terminal velocity** has a simple relation:

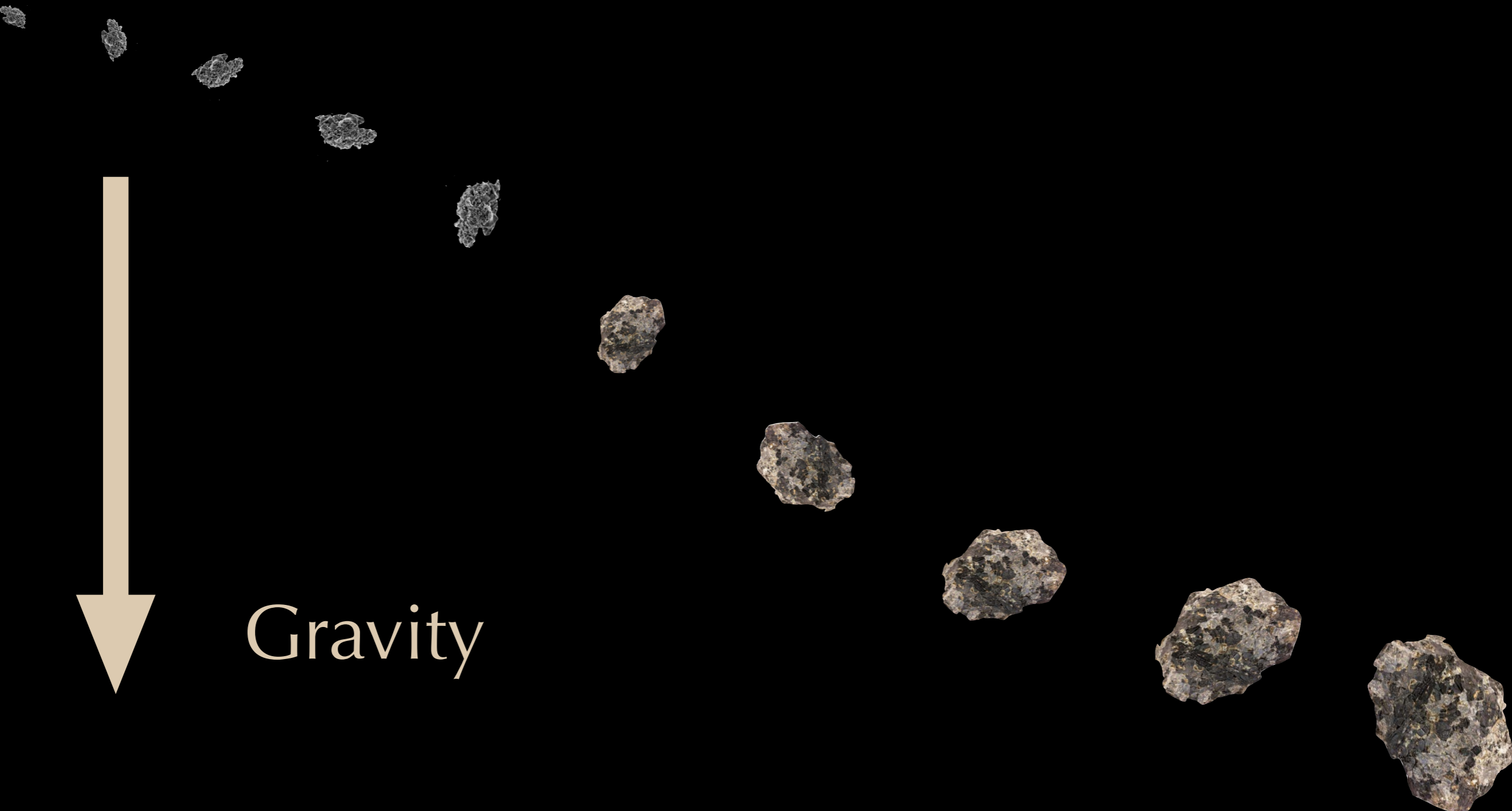
$$u_d^z = -z\Omega_K \text{St} = -z t_{\text{stop}}$$

- ▶ Importantly, t_{stop} depends on ρ_g which increases towards the disc mid-plane. Small grains slowly settle to the mid-plane. Large grains (if lofted up), will oscillate about the disc mid-plane.

DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING

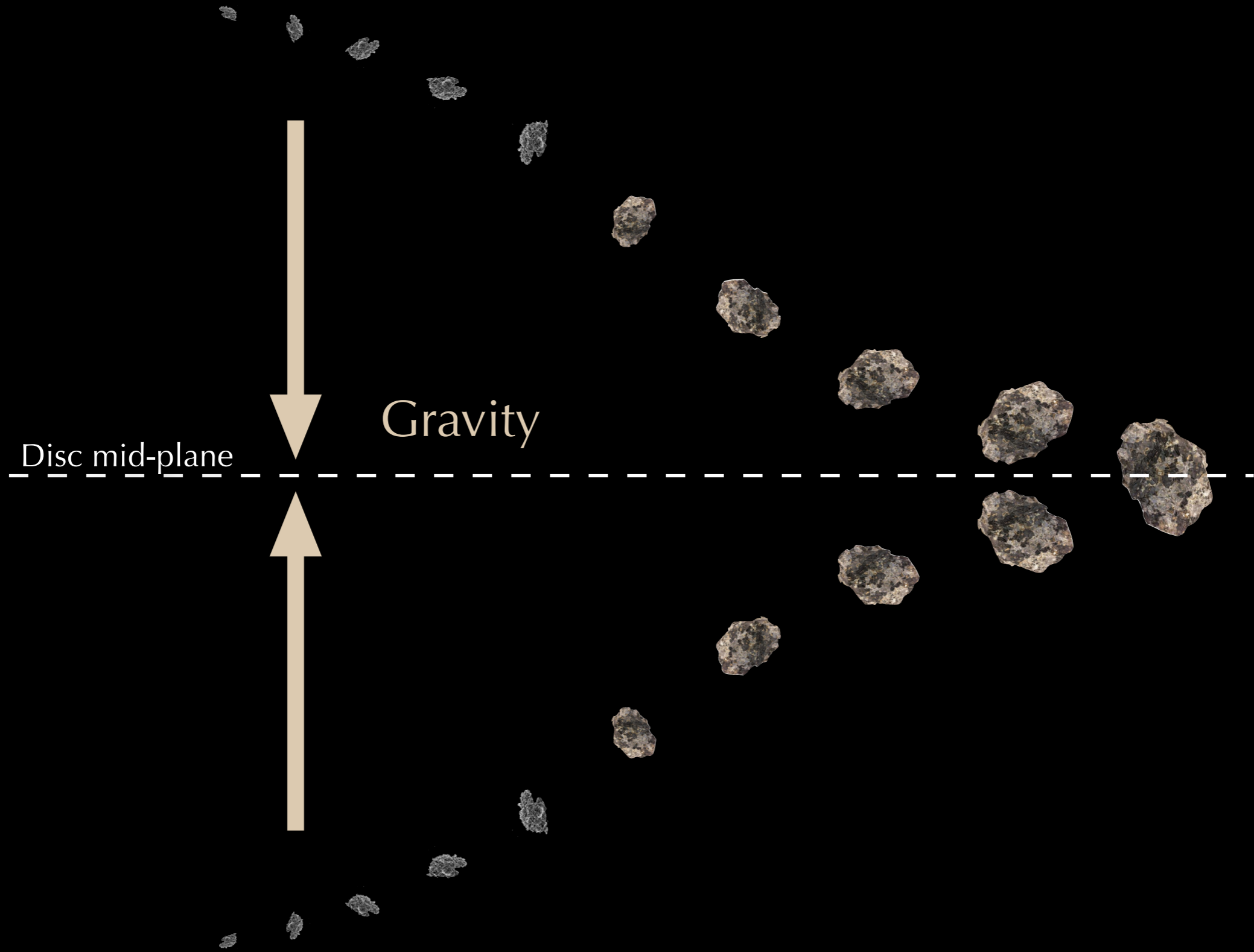


DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING

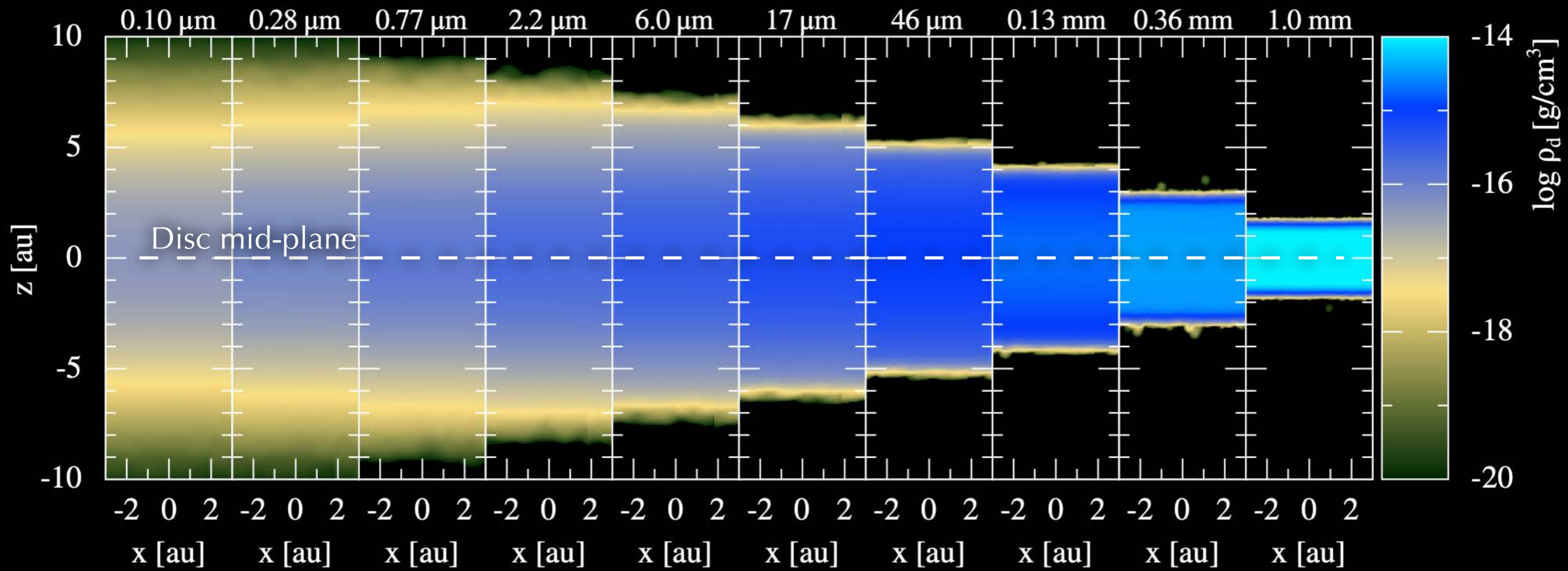


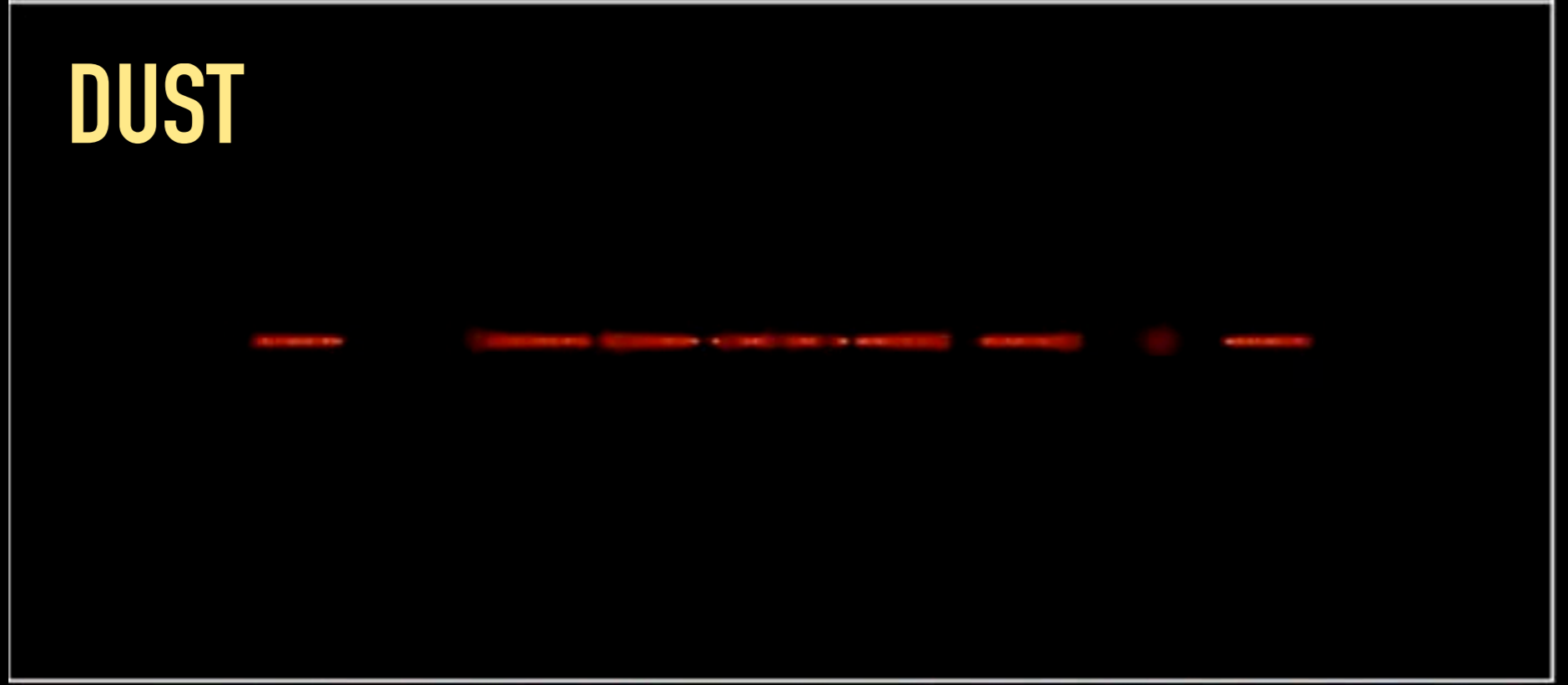
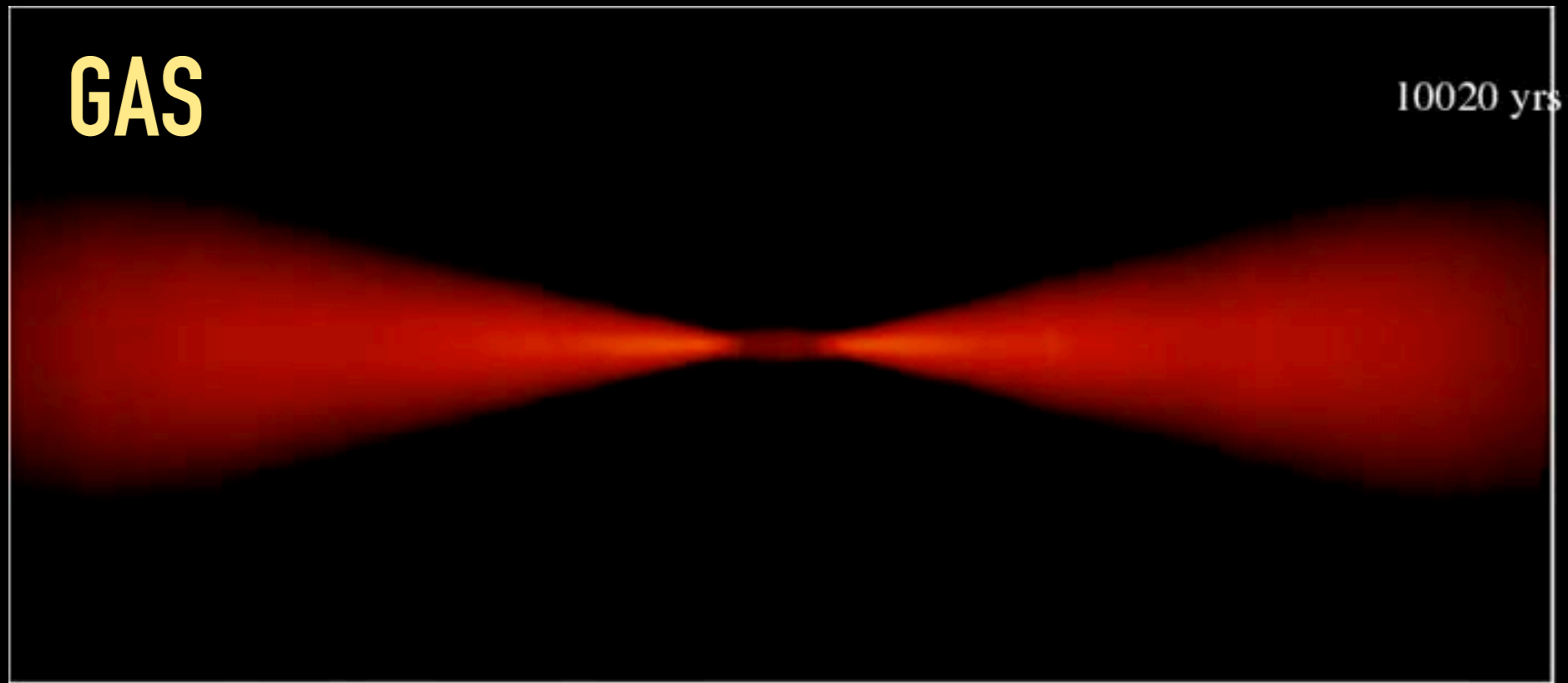
Gravity

DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING



DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING





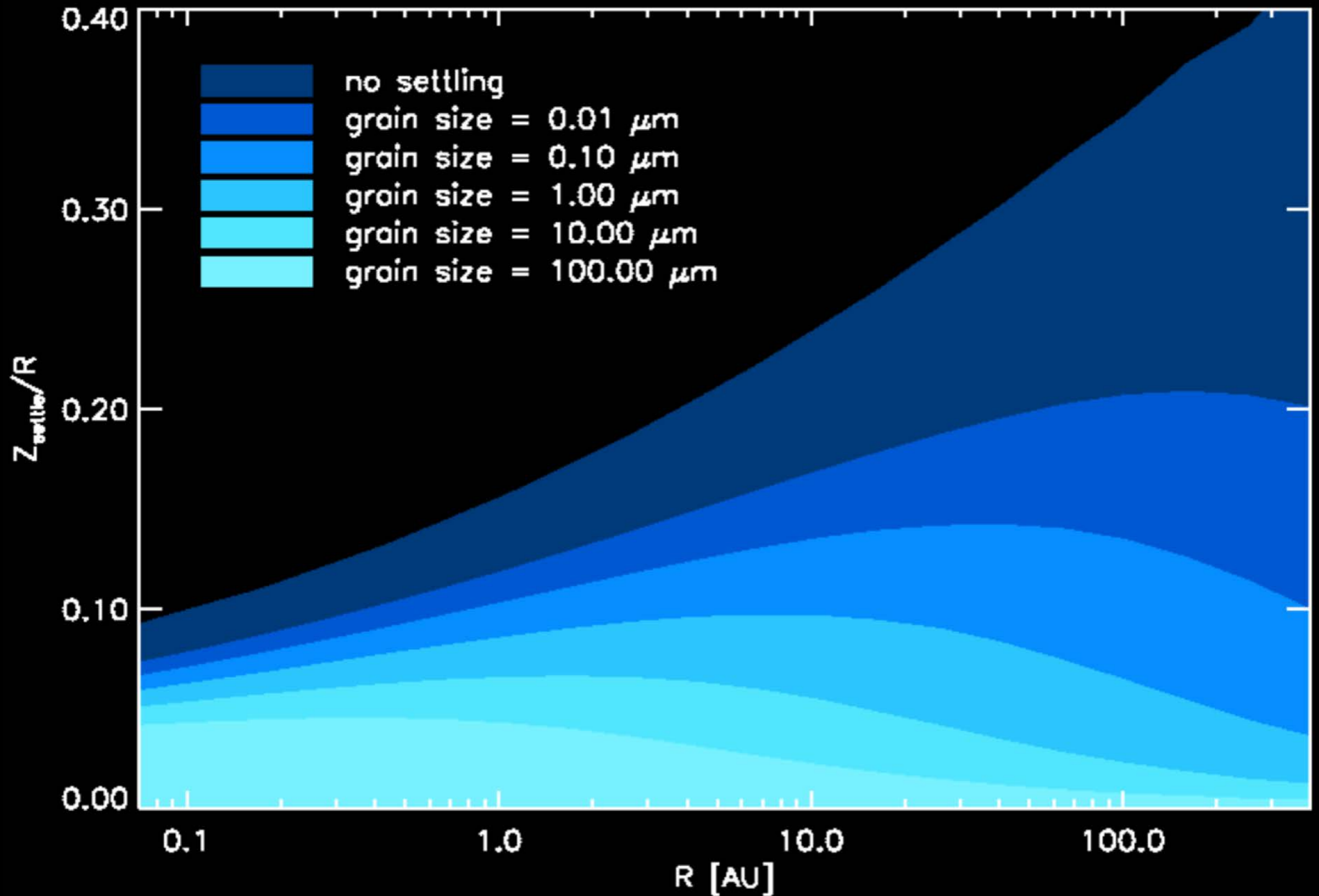
DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING

- ▶ In a turbulent disc, turbulent eddies will kick-up dust vertically. Eventually, dust will reach a steady state defined by the following diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_d}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[\rho_d v_d - \rho_g D_d \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\rho_d}{\rho_g} \right) \right] = 0$$

- ▶ Where the diffusion coefficient is defined as: $D_d \approx \frac{\alpha c_s H}{Sc}$
($Sc \sim 1 + St$ is the **Schmidt Number**)

DUST: VERTICAL SETTLING



MAIN POINTS 1

- ▶ Discs form naturally when gas collapses
- ▶ Energy is dissipated by friction and radiative cooling
- ▶ Clouds have a net angular momentum spin axis
 - ▶ Parallel \rightarrow small L ; Perpendicular \rightarrow large L
- ▶ Discs are thin, but flared due to incident stellar radiation.
 - ▶ Inner disc and disc surfaces are hot (usually ionised). Mid-plane is cold and molecules condense out of the gas onto dust grains.
- ▶ Evolutionary stages can be distinguished by their SED.

MAIN POINTS 2

- ▶ Discs redistribute angular momentum through viscous dissipation, thereby allowing them to accrete.
 - ▶ Source of turbulence is still not clear, but likely is related to magnetic fields.
- ▶ Gas is pressure supported and rotates at sub-Keplerian velocities.
 - ▶ Dust experiences a headwind and drifts radially inwards (important for planet formation)
- ▶ Dust settles vertically, increasing the concentration of dust at the mid-plane where planets form.