## X-ray Spectroscopy of Early O Supergiants: Stellar Wind Mass-Loss Rates and Shock Physics

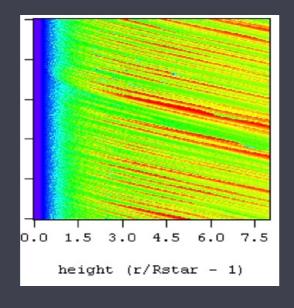
# David Cohen Swarthmore College

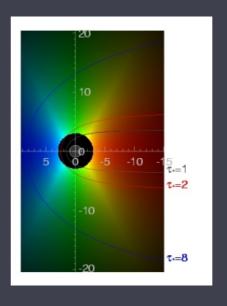
with Jon Sundqvist & Stan Owocki (U. Delaware), Maurice Leutenegger (GSFC), Marc Gagné & Véronique Petit (West Chester University), Asif ud-Doula (Penn St.), Alex Fullerton (STScI), Rich Townsend (Wisconsin)

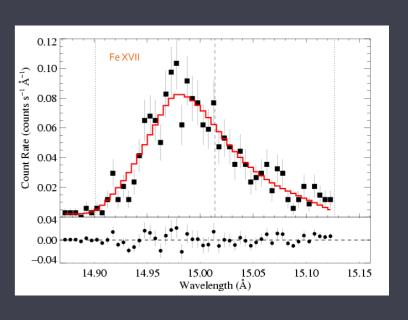
and

Roban Kramer (Swarthmore '03; ETH), Emma Wollman (Swarthmore '09; Caltech), Erin Martell (Swarthmore '09; U. Chicago), James MacArthur (Swarthmore '11; Sandia National Lab)









## Outline

- Cool stars vs. hot stars
- O star winds
- O star X-ray production: the line deshadowing instability
- X-ray spectral properties, especially line profiles
- Constraints on wind shock physics and mass-loss

## cool stars vs.

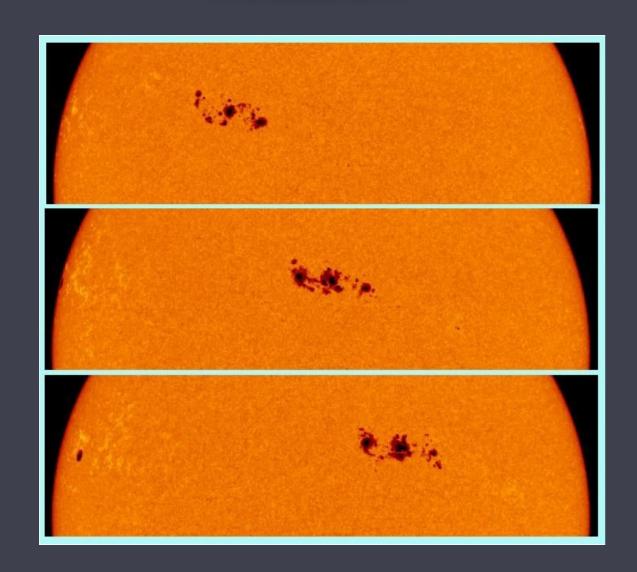


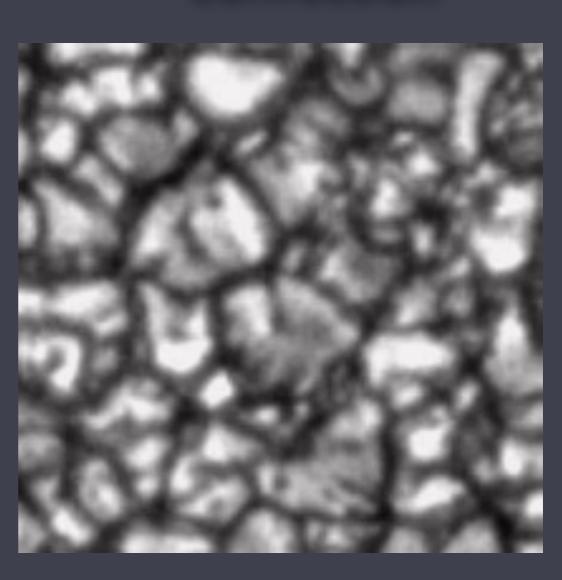
starfish, in situ, at the Monterey, California Aquarium (photo: D. Cohen)

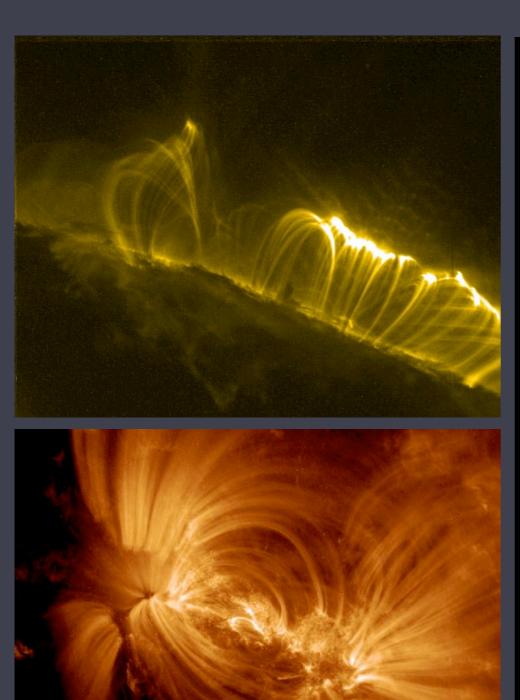
hot stars

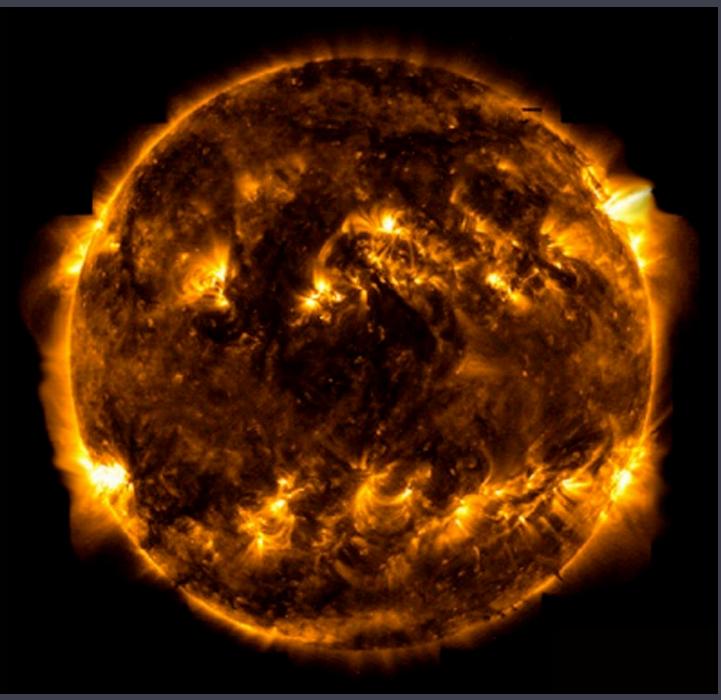
# The Sun's X-ray emission is associated with its magnetic dynamo (rotation + convection are key ingredients)

rotation convection









NASA:TRACE

## discovery of massive star X-ray emission in 1970s

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 234:L51-54, 1979 November 15 © 1979. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

#### DISCOVERY OF AN X-RAY STAR ASSOCIATION IN VI CYGNI (CYG OB2)

F. R. HARNDEN, JR., G. BRANDUARDI, M. ELVIS,<sup>1</sup> P. GORENSTEIN, J. GRINDLAY, J. P. PYE,<sup>1</sup> R. ROSNER, K. TOPKA, AND G. S. VAIANA<sup>2</sup> Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Massachusetts Received 1979 June 26; accepted 1979 July 26

#### ABSTRACT

A group of six X-ray sources located within 0.4 of Cygnus X-3 has been discovered with the Einstein Observatory. These sources have been positively identified and five of them correspond to stars in the heavily obscured OB association VI Cygni. The optical counterparts include four of the most luminous O stars within the field of view and a B5 supergiant. These sources are found to have typical X-ray luminosities  $L_x$  (0.2-4.0 keV)  $\sim 5 \times 10^{33}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, with temperatures  $T \sim 10^{6.8}$  K and hydrogen column densities  $N_{\rm H} \sim 10^{22}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and therefore comprise a new class of low-luminosity galactic X-ray sources associated with early-type stars.

## Massive stars have some other X-ray production

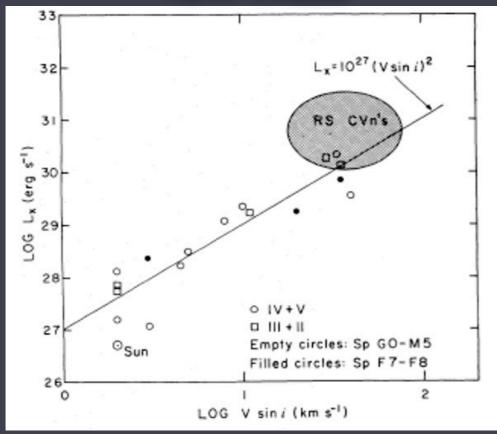
## mechanism

Most massive stars do *not* have magnetic fields (theoretically understood as due to lack of convection)

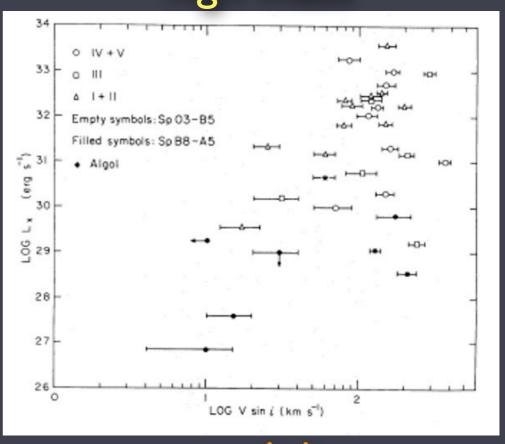


No observed correlation between rotation and X-ray luminosity

#### low mass



### high mass



## Basic properties of massive stars - O stars

mass ~  $50 \, M_{sun}$ luminosity ~  $10^6 \, L_{sun}$ surface temperature ~  $45,000 \, K$ 



## Basic properties of massive stars - O stars

mass ~  $50 \, \text{M}_{\text{sun}}$  signal surface temperature ~  $45,000 \, \text{K}$ 

significant **momentum**in the photospheric
radiation field



## wind-blown bubble around a massive star

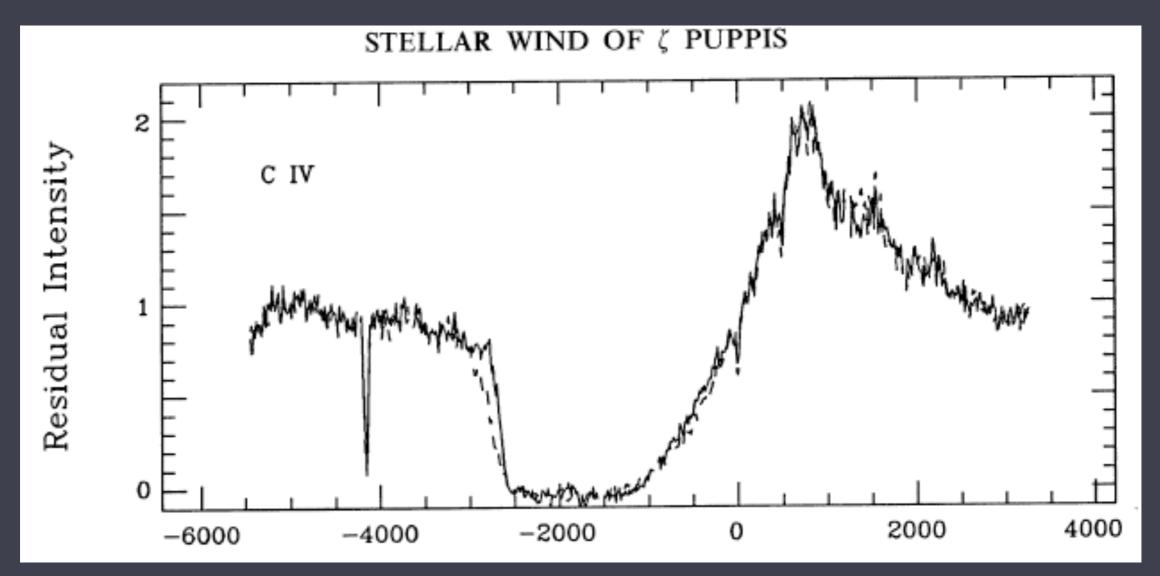


NGC 6888 Crescent Nebula - Tony Hallas

## Radiation-driven O star winds

 $\zeta$  Pup (O4 supergiant):  $\dot{M}$  ~ few 10<sup>-6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>/yr

UV spectrum: C IV 1548, 1551 Å

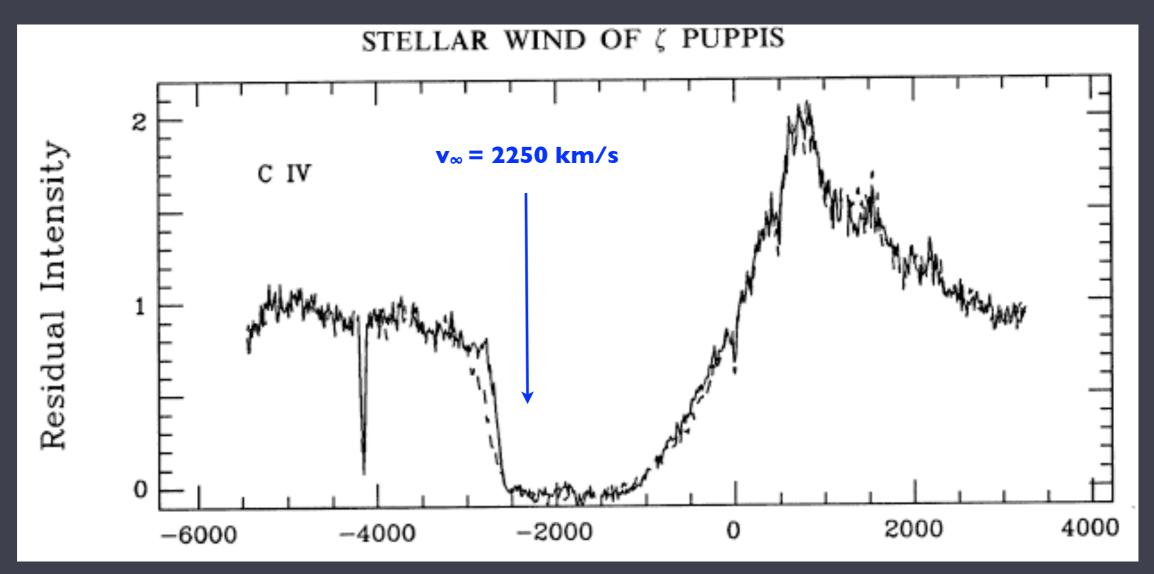


Prinja et al. 1992, ApJ, 390, 266

## Radiation-driven O star winds

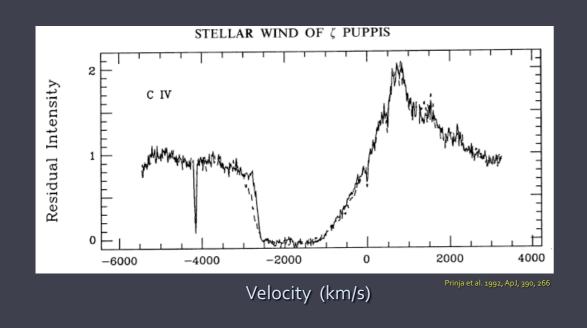
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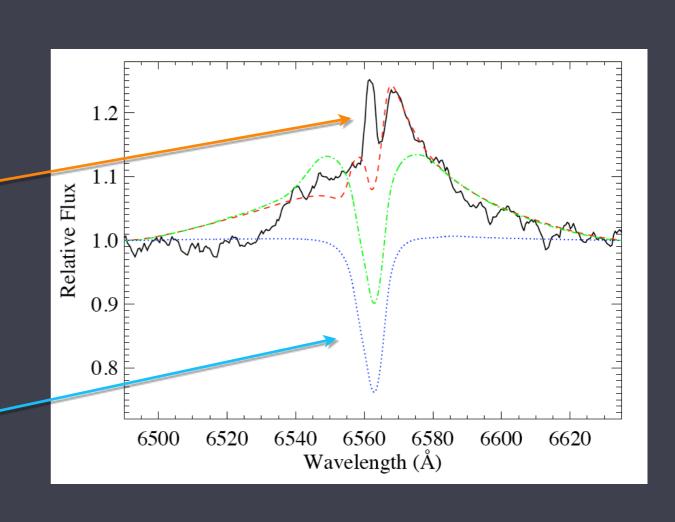
# Wind mass-loss rates (M) can be inferred from the strength of the absorption component



but, more reliable are emission lines such as  $H\alpha$ 

emission from the wind, scales as density-squared

photosphere only, no wind



## Radiation driving

L/c = momentum in the (mostly UV) radiation from the stellar surface >  $M_{V\infty}$  (wind momentum)

radiation couples to the matter in the wind via resonance line scattering

 $\dot{M} \sim 10^{-6} \, M_{sun}/yr \, (10^8 \, times \, the \, Sun's \, value)$ 

kinetic power in the wind =  $1/2 \text{ M}_{V}^2 (\sim 10^{-3} \text{ L}_{bol})$ 

## back to massive star X-ray emission

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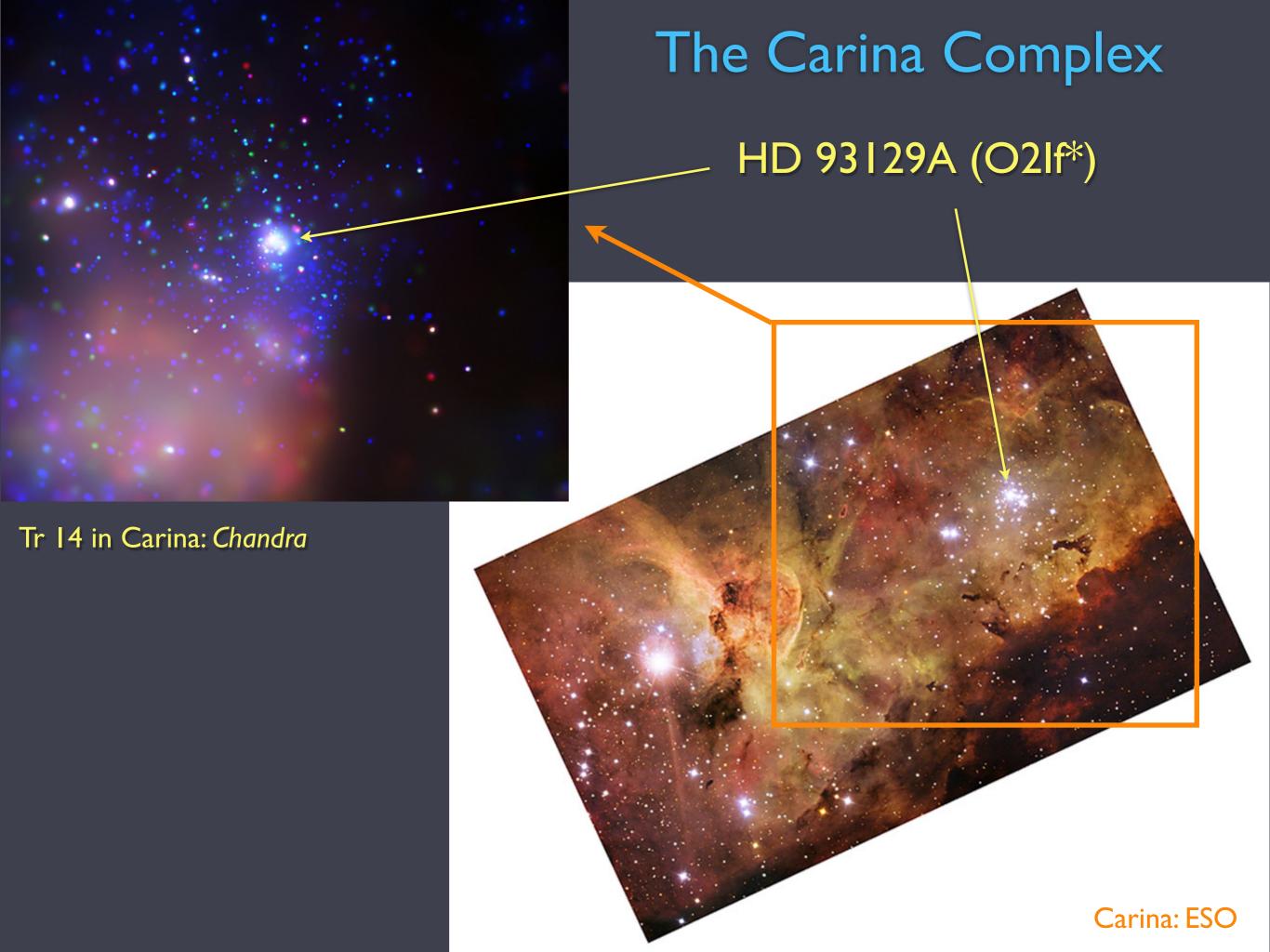
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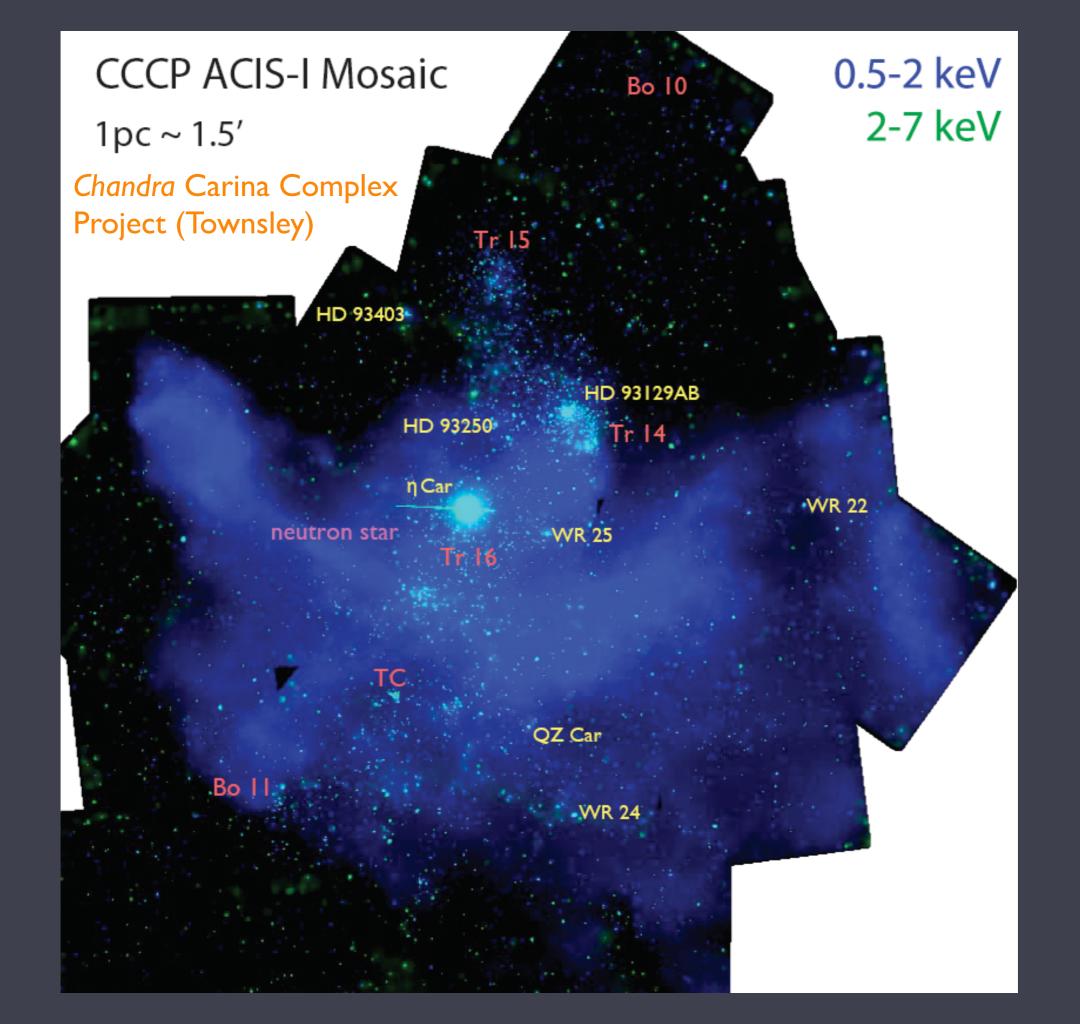
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\*Received 1979 June 26; accepted 1979 July 26

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A group of six X-ray sources located within 0.4 of Cygnus X-3 has been discovered with the Einstein Observatory. These sources have been positively identified and five of them correspond to stars in the heavily obscured OB association VI Cygni. The optical counterparts include four of the most luminous O stars within the field of view and a B5 supergiant. These sources are found to have typical X-ray luminosities  $L_x$  (0.2-4.0 keV)  $\sim 5 \times 10^{33}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, with temperatures  $T \sim 10^{6.8}$  K and hydrogen column densities  $N_{\rm H} \sim 10^{22}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, and therefore comprise a new class of low-luminosity galactic X-ray sources associated with early-type stars.





## X-ray properties of bright OB-type stars detected in the ROSAT all-sky survey

T.W. Berghöfer<sup>1,2\*</sup>, J.H.M.M. Schmitt<sup>1</sup>, R. Danner<sup>1,3</sup>, and J.P. Cassinelli<sup>4</sup>

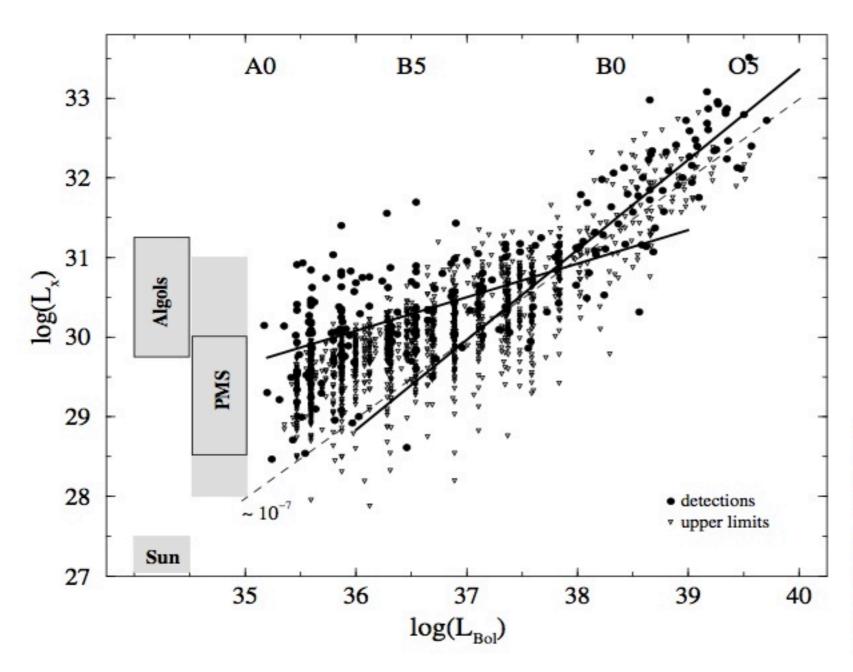
- Max-Planck-Institut f
  ür Extraterrestrische Physik, Giessenbachstr, 1, D-85740 Garching, Germany
- <sup>2</sup> Center for EUV Astrophysics, 2150 Kittredge Street, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA
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Abstract. The ROSAT all-sky survey has been used to study the X-ray properties for all OB-type stars listed in the Yale Bright Star Catalogue. Here we present a detailed astrophysical discussion of our analysis of the X-ray properties of our complete sample of OB-type stars; a compilation of the X-ray data is provided in an accompanying paper (Berghöfer, Schmitt & Cassinelli 1996).

We demonstrate that the "canonical" relation between X-ray and total luminosity of  $L_x/L_{Bol} \approx 10^{-7}$  valid for O-type stars extends among the early B-type stars down to a spectral type B1–B1.5; for stars of luminosity classes I and II the spectral type B1 defines a dividing line for early-type star X-ray emission.

1979, Pallavicini et al. 1981, Chlebowski et al. 1989, Sciortino et al. 1990). However, the scatter for values of individual stars, 2 orders of magnitude, around the mean value is quite large. The widely accepted model for the X-ray emission from O stars assumes that it is produced by shock-heated gas propagating in the strong winds of these stars. In a phenomenological model Lucy & White (1980) and Lucy (1982) postulate the existence of shocks in the radiation driven winds of hot stars which are formed as a consequence of a strong hydrodynamic instability (e.g., Lucy & Solomon 1980). Hydrodynamical calculations for hot star winds (e.g., Owocki, Castor & Rybicki 1988) provide strong support for such a model. The base corona source of X-



**Fig. 4.** X-ray luminosities  $L_x$  plotted versus bolometric luminosities  $L_{Bol}$ ; solid lines represent regression lines for  $L_{Bol}$  <  $10^{38} erg \, s^{-1}$  and  $L_{Bol} > 10^{38} erg \, s^{-1}$ , whereas the dashed line shows  $L_x = 10^{-7} \times L_{Bol}$ , grey bars at the left side show typical ranges for the X-ray luminosity of Algol-type systems, pre-main sequence stars (PMS), and our Sun.

# The wind kinetic power is typically $10^4$ times larger than the observed $L_x$

some process - which doesn't have to be very efficient - converts a small fraction of this kinetic power to heat

the observed X-rays are the thermal radiation from this hot stellar wind plasma

## The line-deshadowing instability (LDI)

causes fast, rarefied wind plasma to slam into slower, denser wind plasma

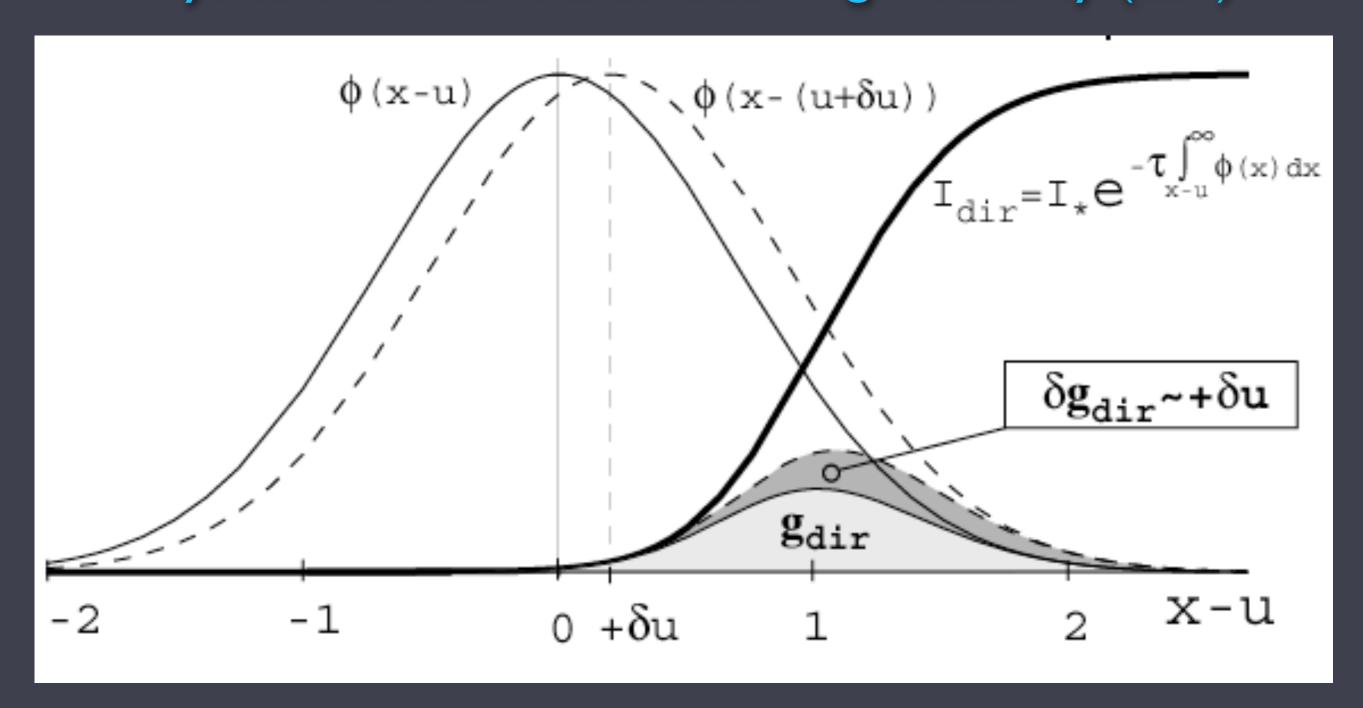
the resulting shocks heat the plasma

the X-rays we see are the thermal emission from this hot wind plasma

general result from shock theory:

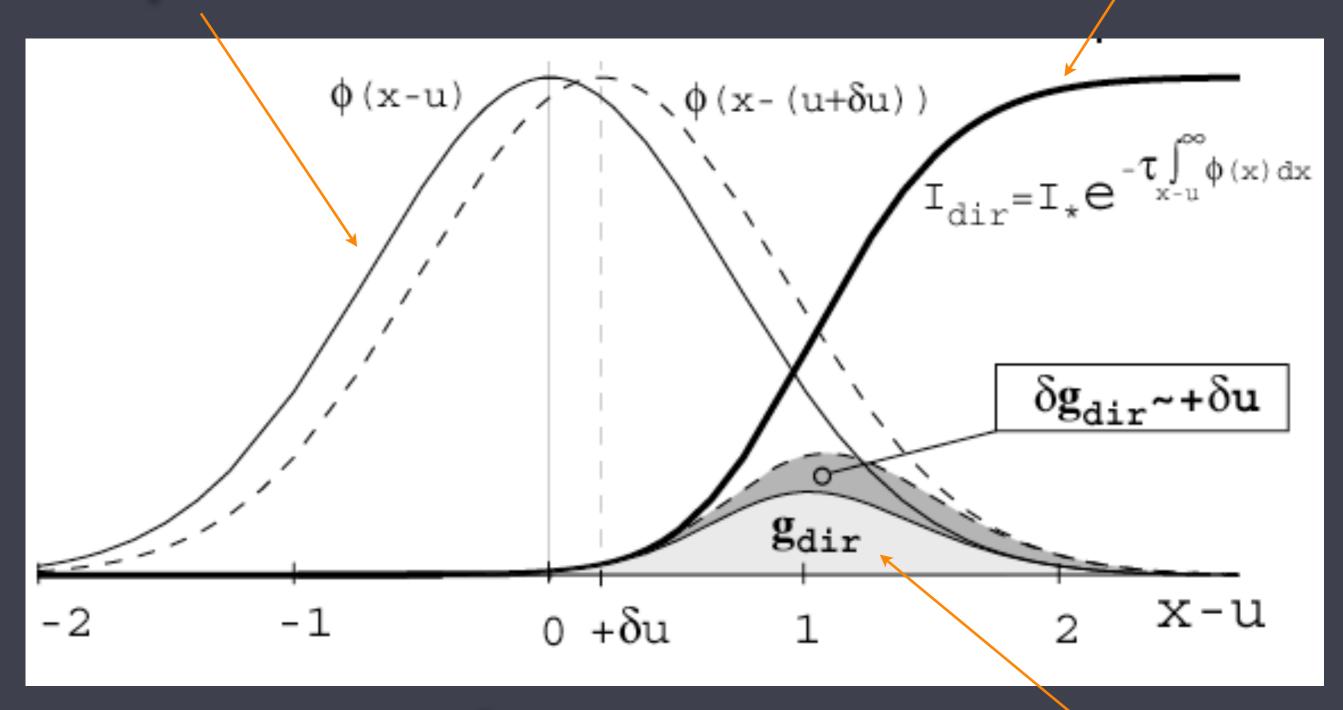
 $T \sim 10^6 (\Delta v_{\text{shock}}/300 \text{ km/s})^2$ 

## Physics of the Line Deshadowing Instability (LDI)



radiation force is proportional to the line opacity profile function and the local photospheric intensity

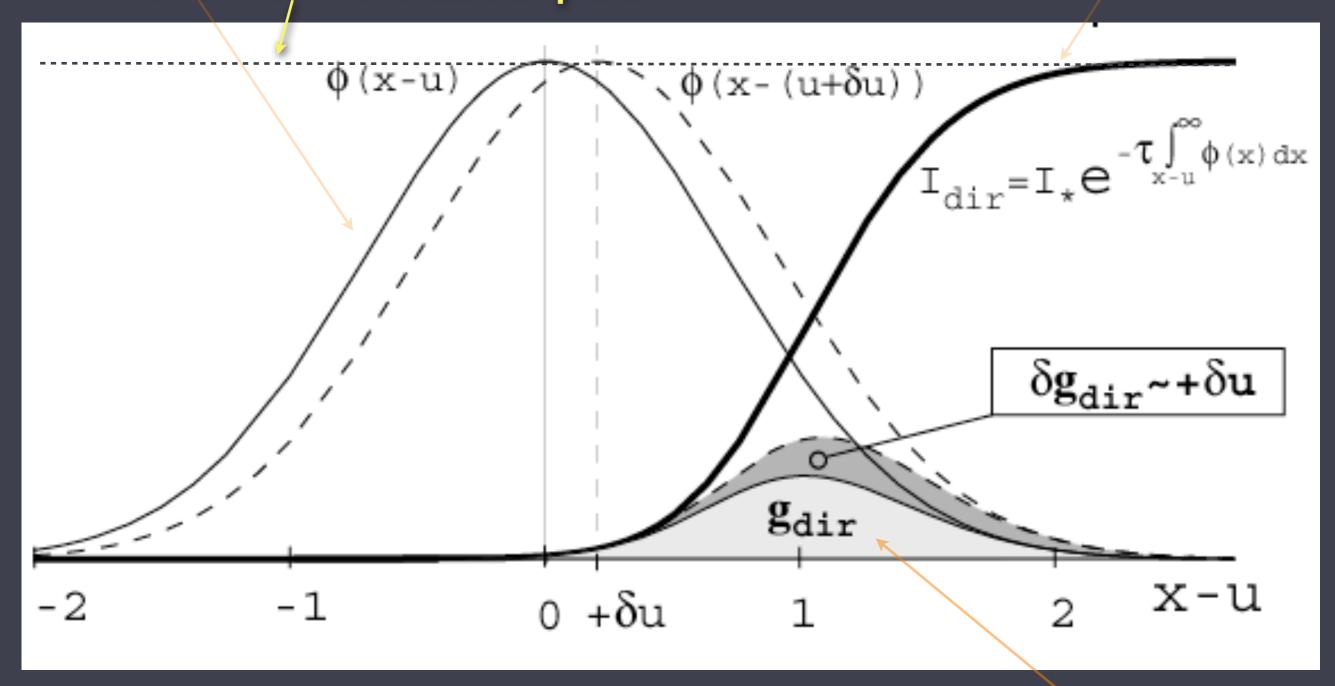
## photospheric radiation



frequency

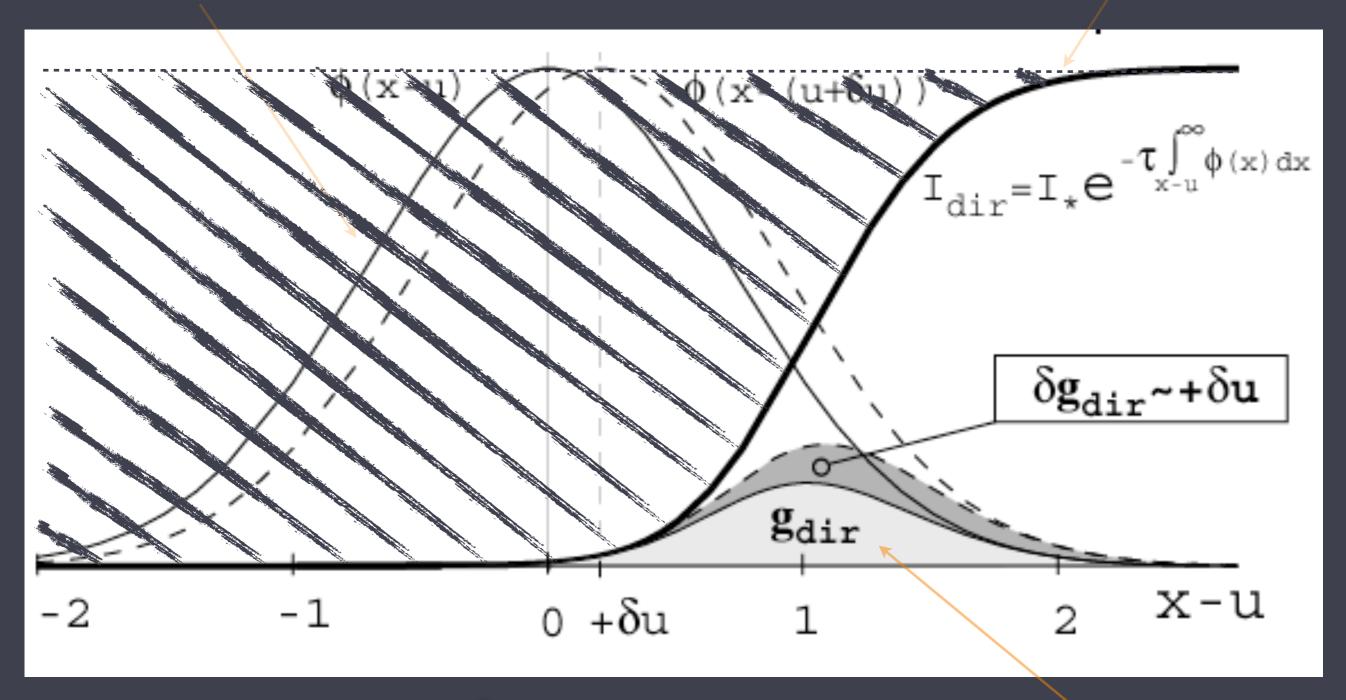
# photospheric radiation if there were no wind absorption

ohotospheric radiation



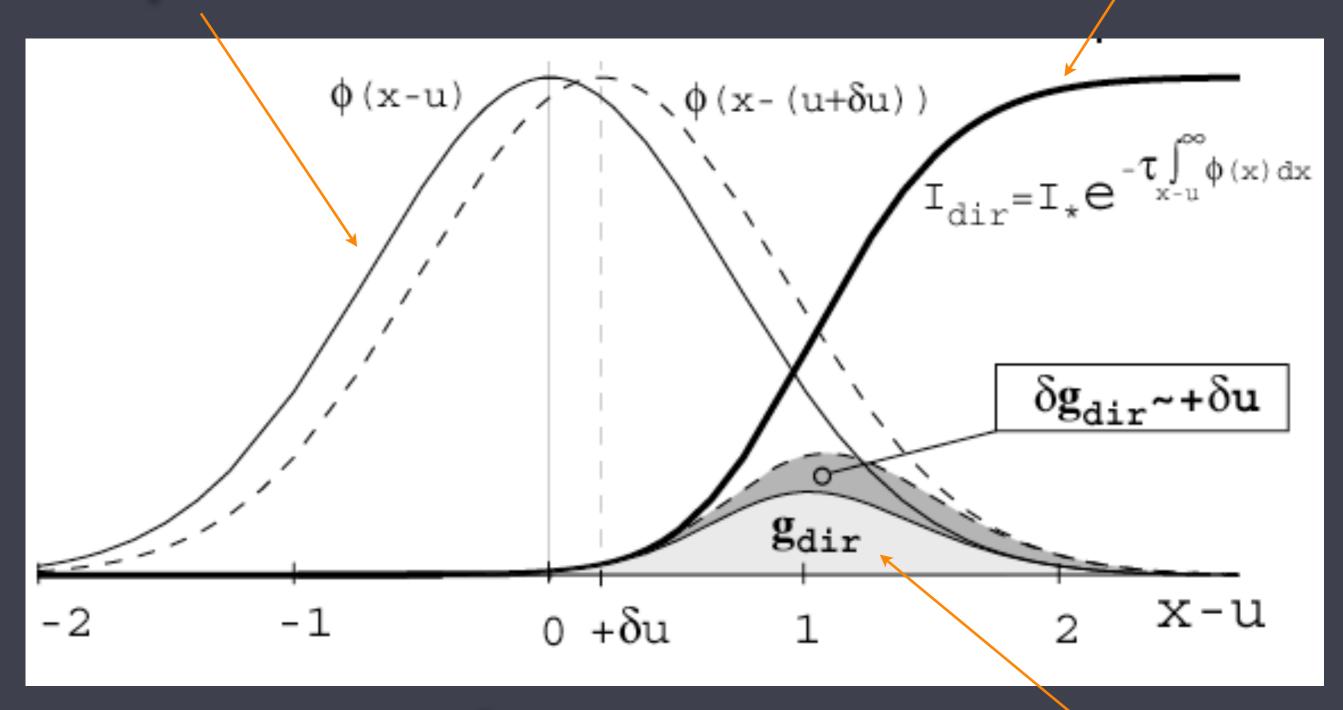
frequency

## photospheric radiation



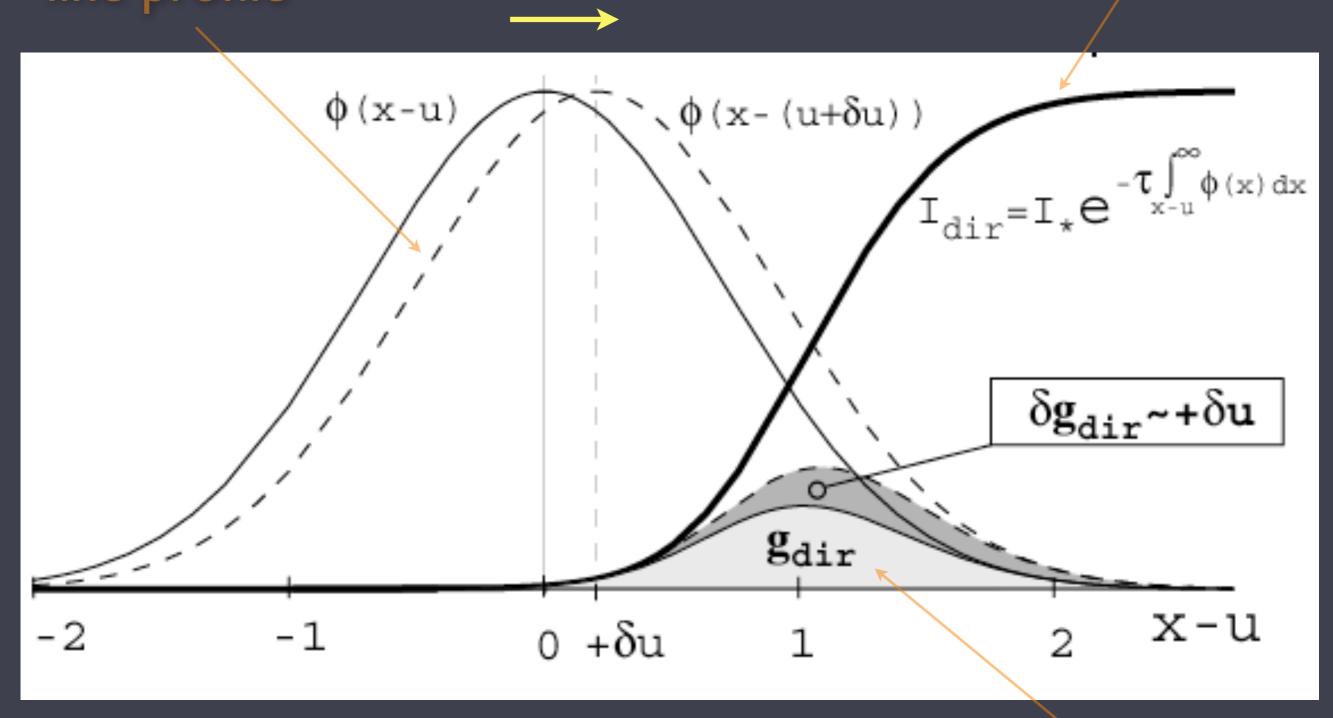
frequency

## photospheric radiation



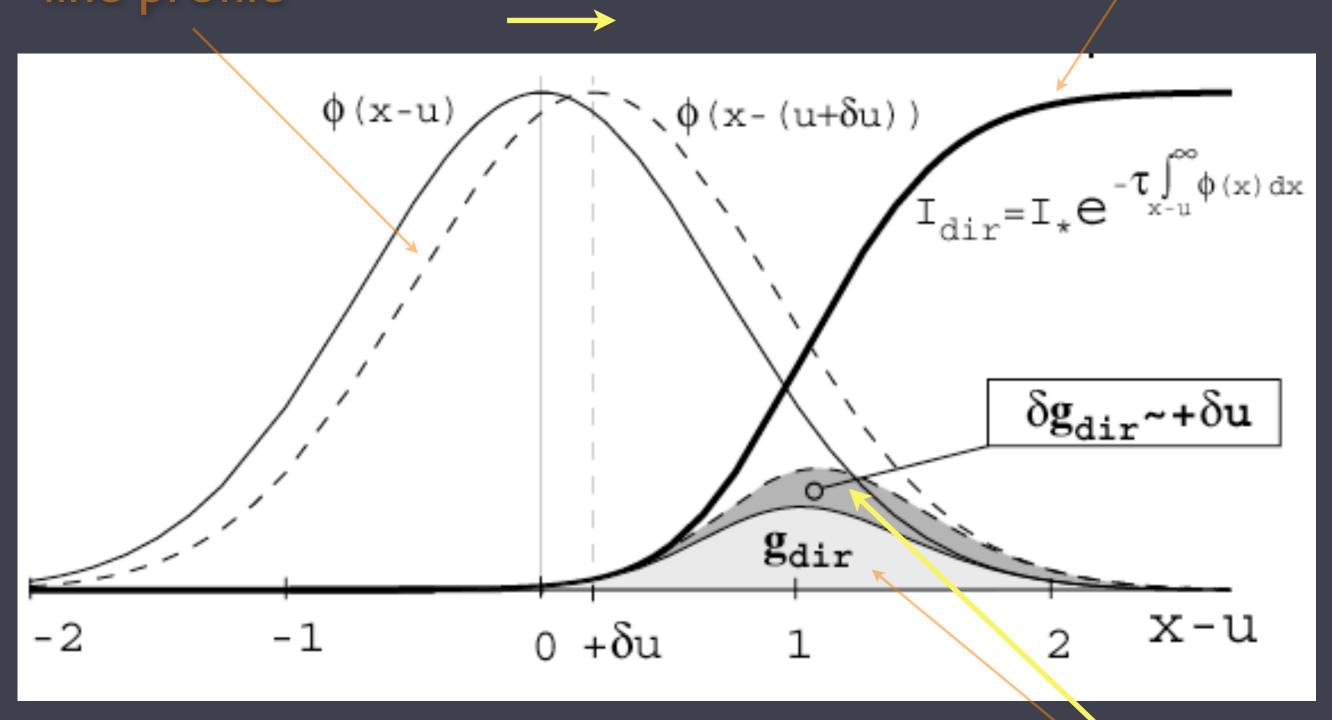
frequency

positive velocity perturbation photospheric radiation line profile



frequency

positive velocity perturbation photospheric radiation line profile

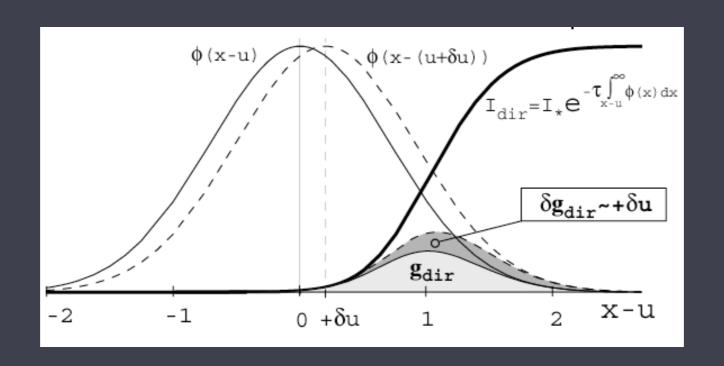


frequency

radiation force increases

## Physics of the Line Deshadowing Instability (LDI)

radiation force depends on changes in the local wind velocity (moving out of the Doppler shadow), but acceleration depends on the force (Newton): strong feedback and resulting instability



## put detailed spectral line transport in a radiationhydro code

### 2.1. Conservation equations

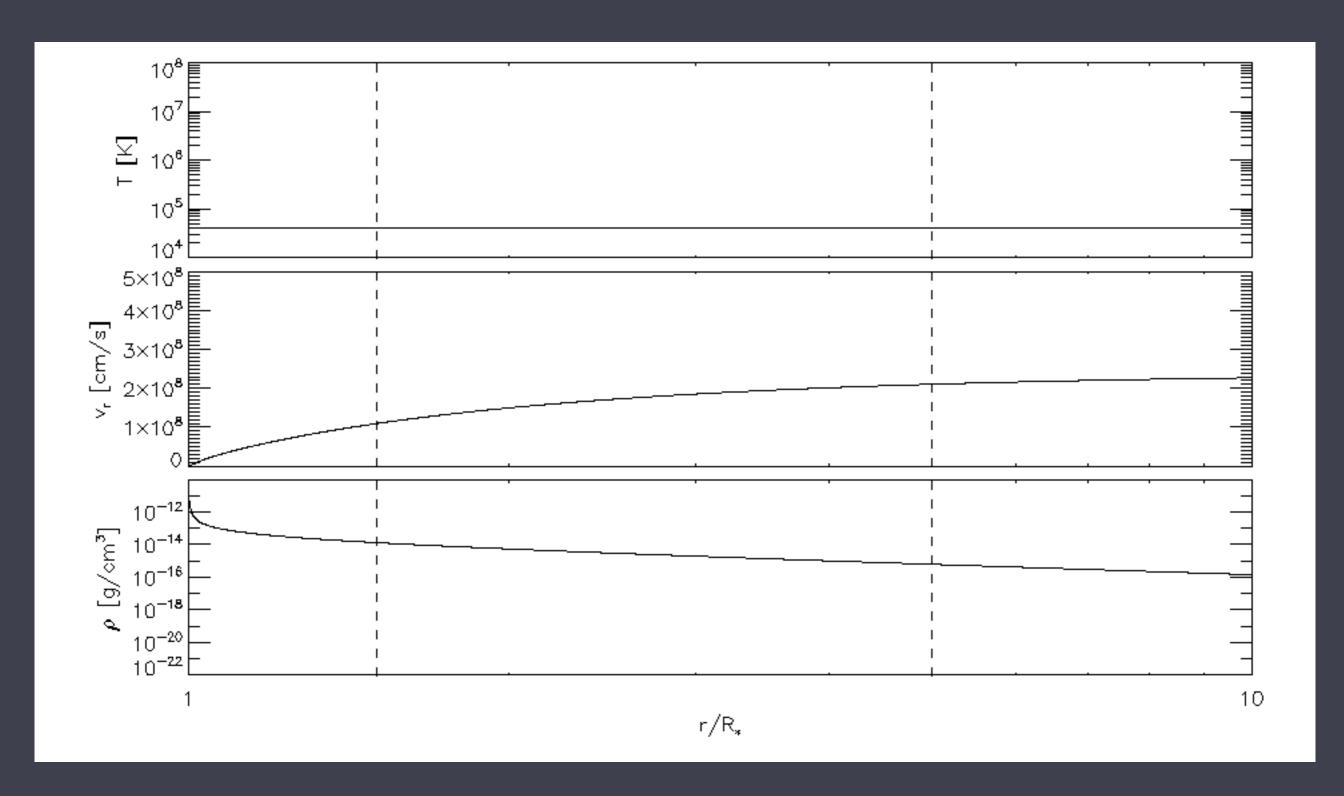
Consider an inviscid flow along the radial direction r from a central star. In Eulerian form, the one-dimensional (1D) time-dependent equations for conservation of mass, momentum, and energy are:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 \rho v)}{\partial r} = 0 \tag{1}$$

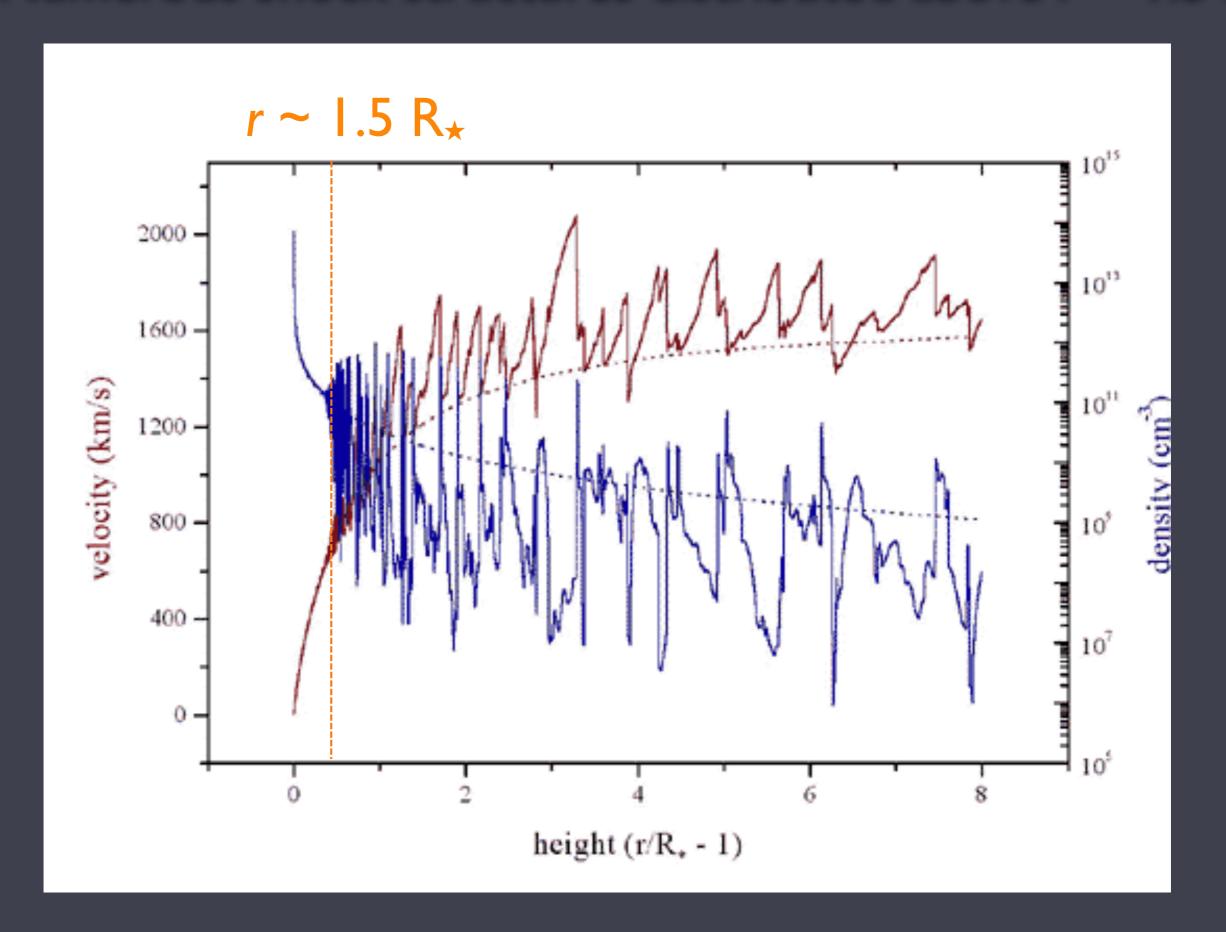
$$\frac{\partial(\rho v)}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial(r^2 \rho v^2)}{\partial r} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} - \rho g_* + \rho g_{\rm rad} \tag{2}$$

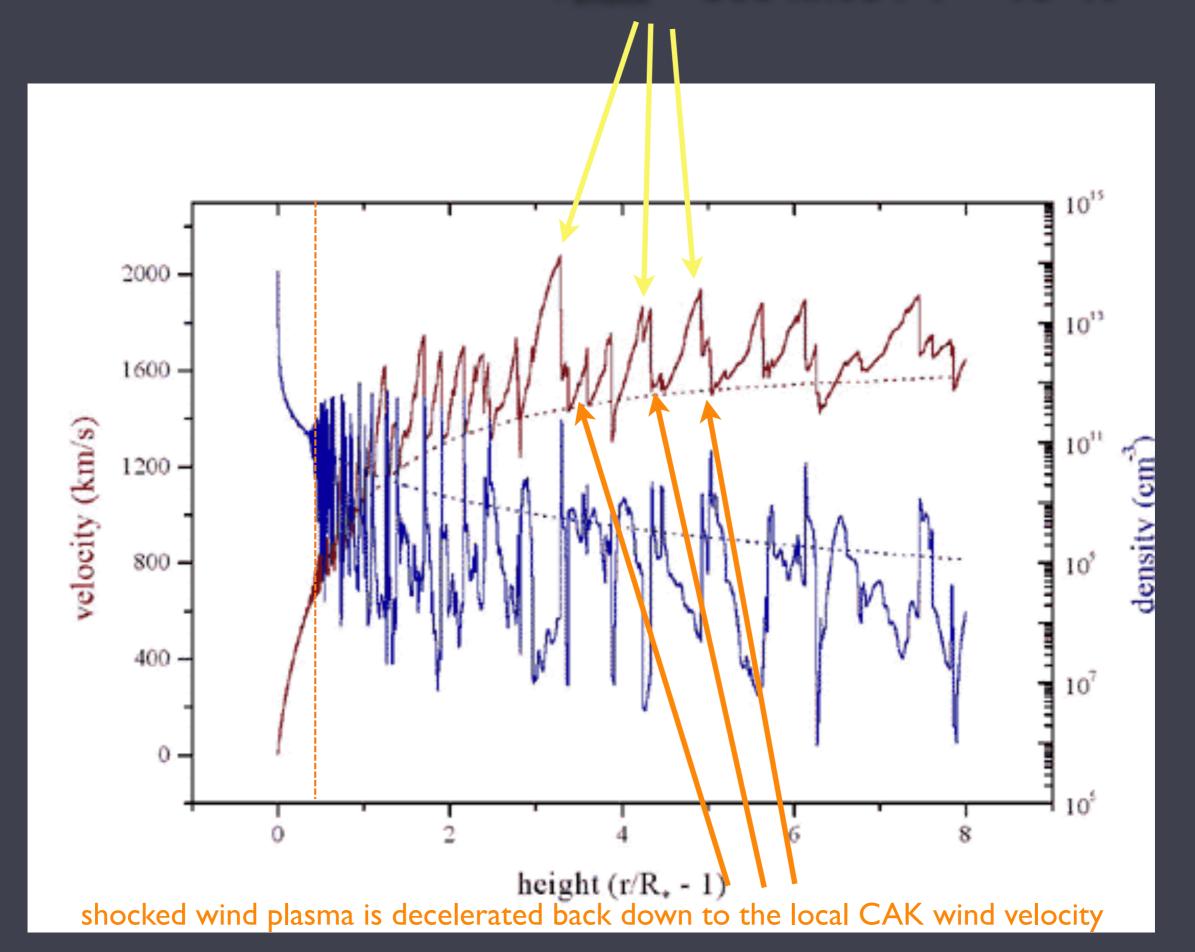
$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 e v)}{\partial r} = -\frac{p}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 v)}{\partial r} - Q_{\text{rad}}.$$
 (3)

## testable predictions from this model?

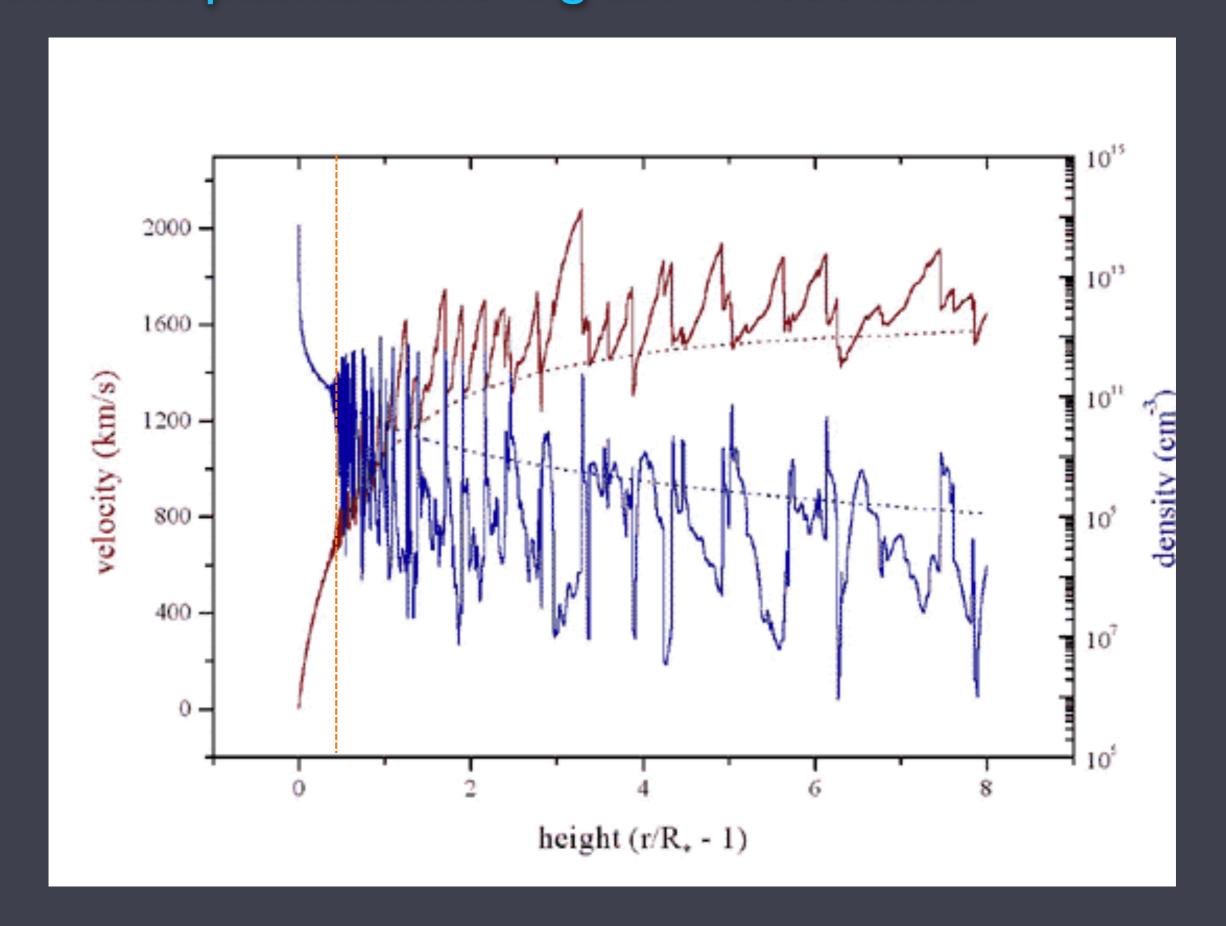


## Numerous shock structures distributed above $r \sim 1.5 \text{ R}_{\star}$

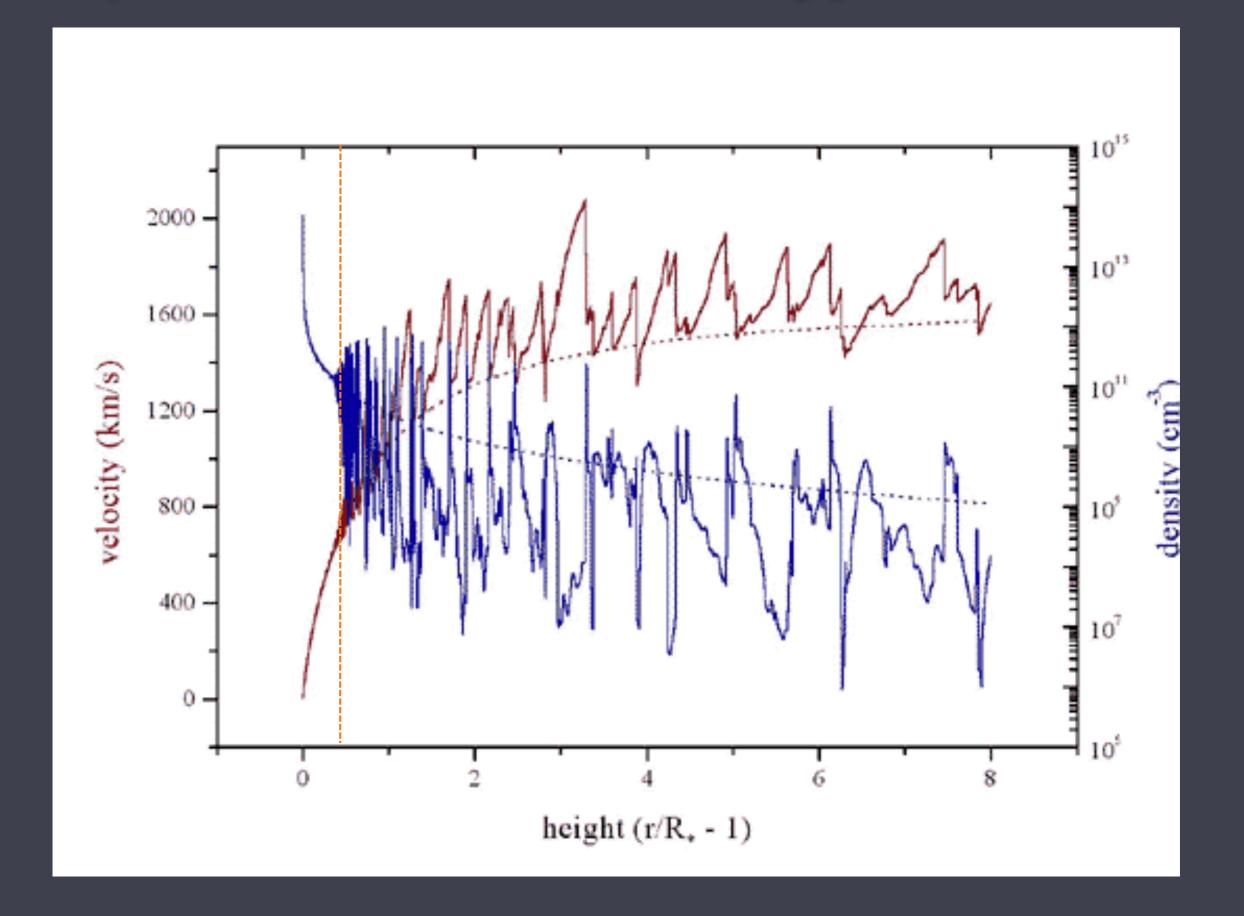




## Shocked plasma is moving at $v \sim 1000 \text{ km/s}$

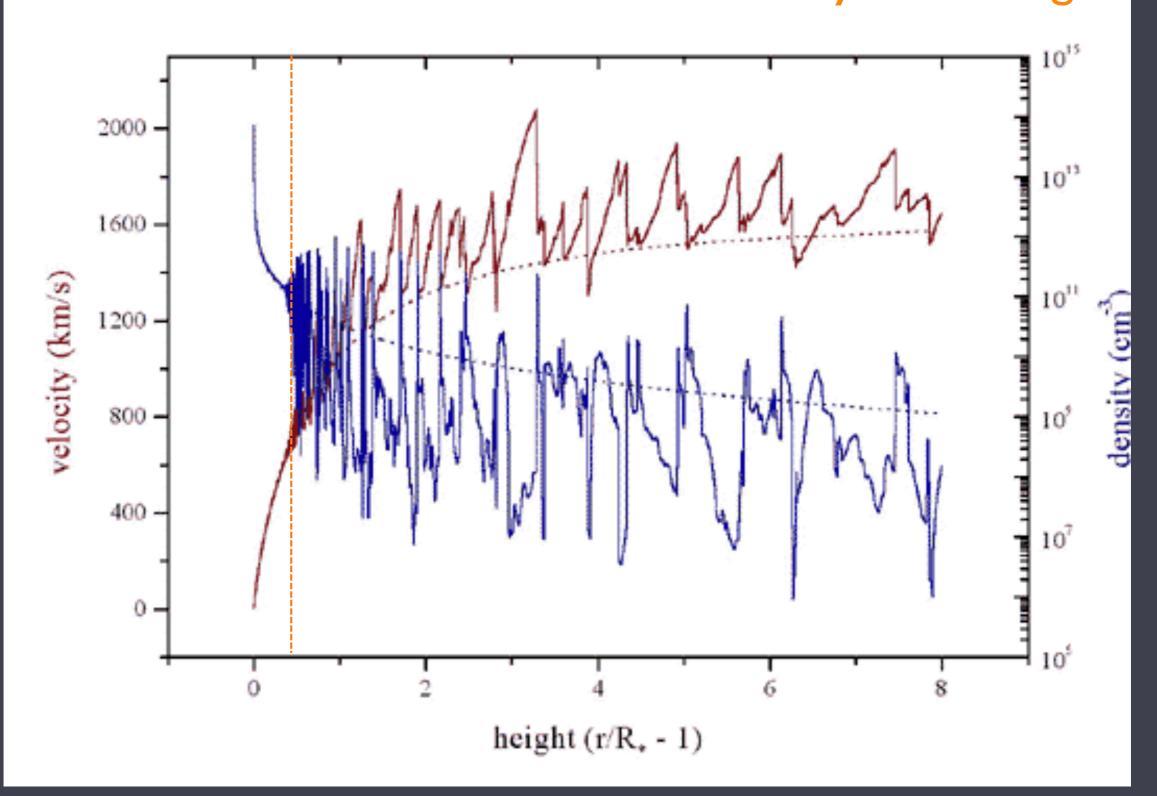


## X-ray emission lines should be Doppler broadened



### Less than 1% of the wind is emitting X-rays

>99% of the wind is cold and X-ray absorbing

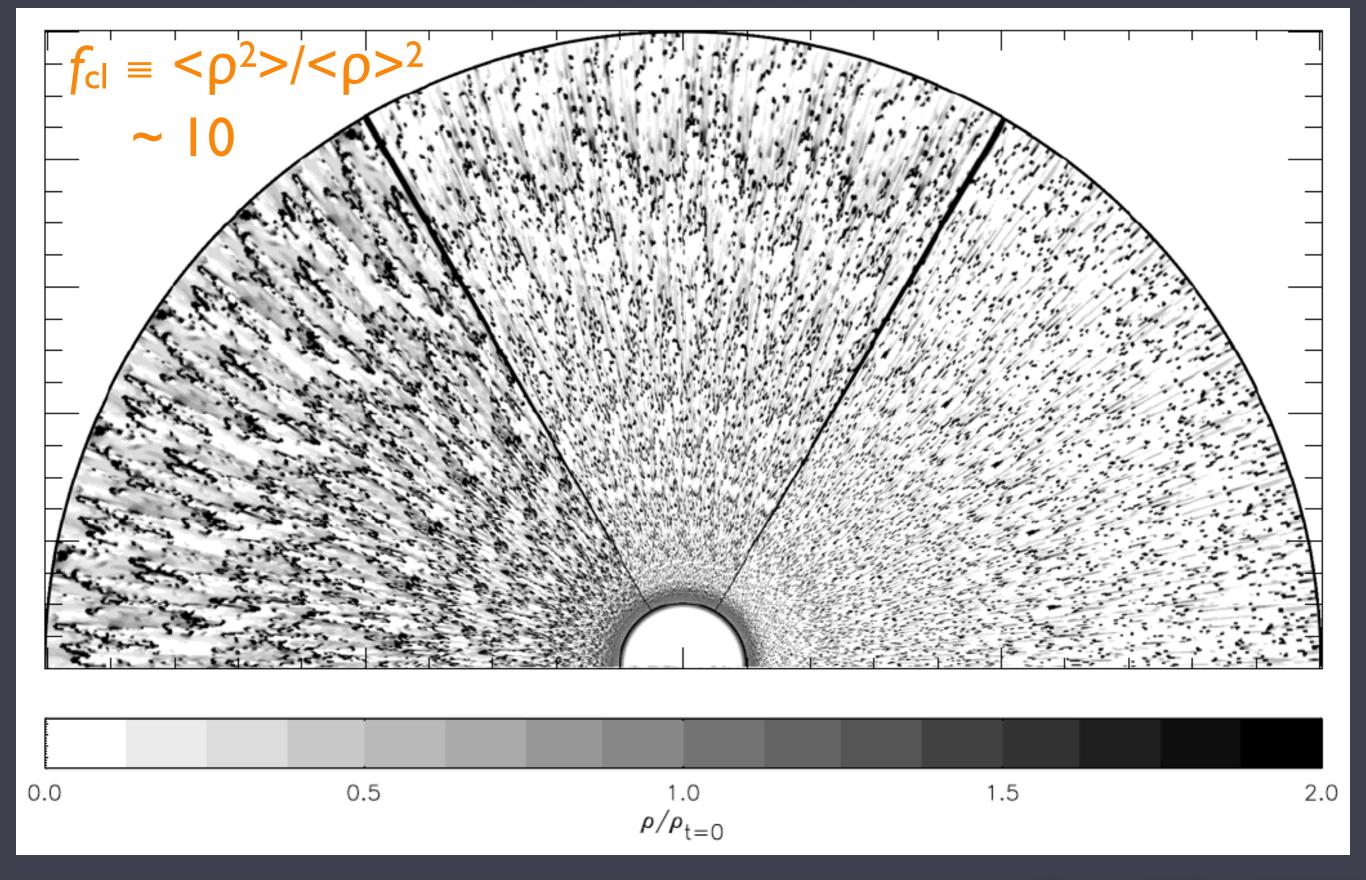


#### I-D is a severe limitation

e.g. the simulations show huge X-ray variability

but, the lack of observed time variability suggests numerous (>100) individual post-shock cooling volumes in the wind

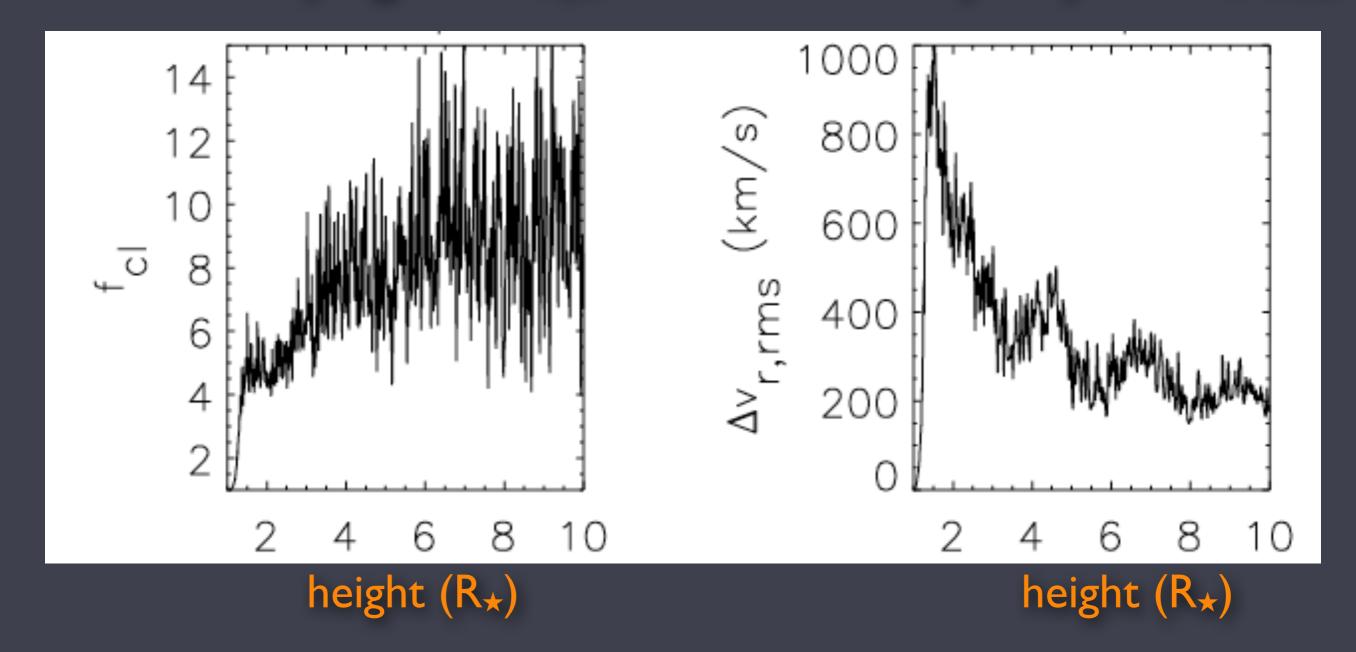
### 2-D simulations



### Statistics (time-average quantities) from 2-D simulations

clumping factor,  $f_{cl}$ 

velocity dispersion, v<sub>rms</sub>

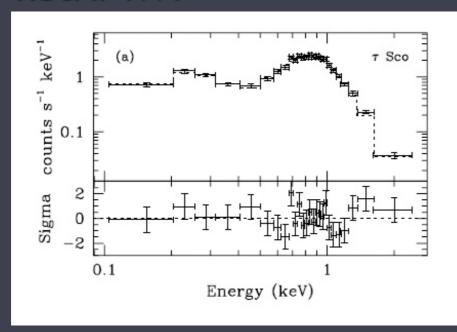


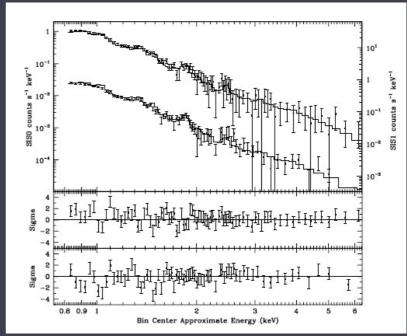
basic definition:  $f_{cl} = \langle \rho^2 \rangle / \langle \rho \rangle^2$ 

Dessart & Owocki 2005

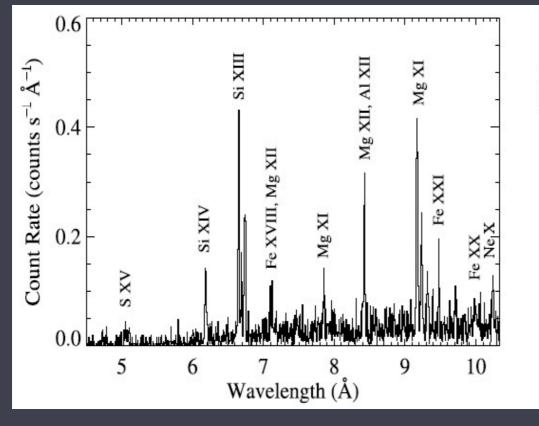
now for some X-ray data... the same star (tau Sco) observed with three different X-ray telescopes

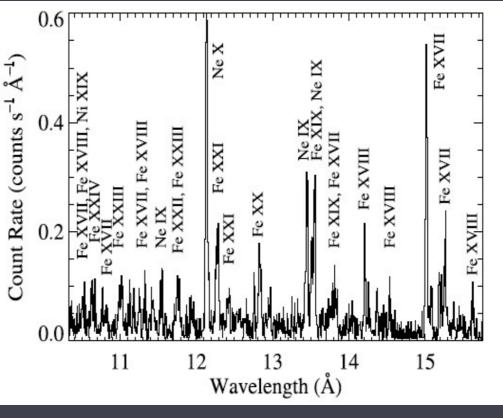
ROSAT 1991 ASCA 1994





#### Chandra 2001





#### Chandra

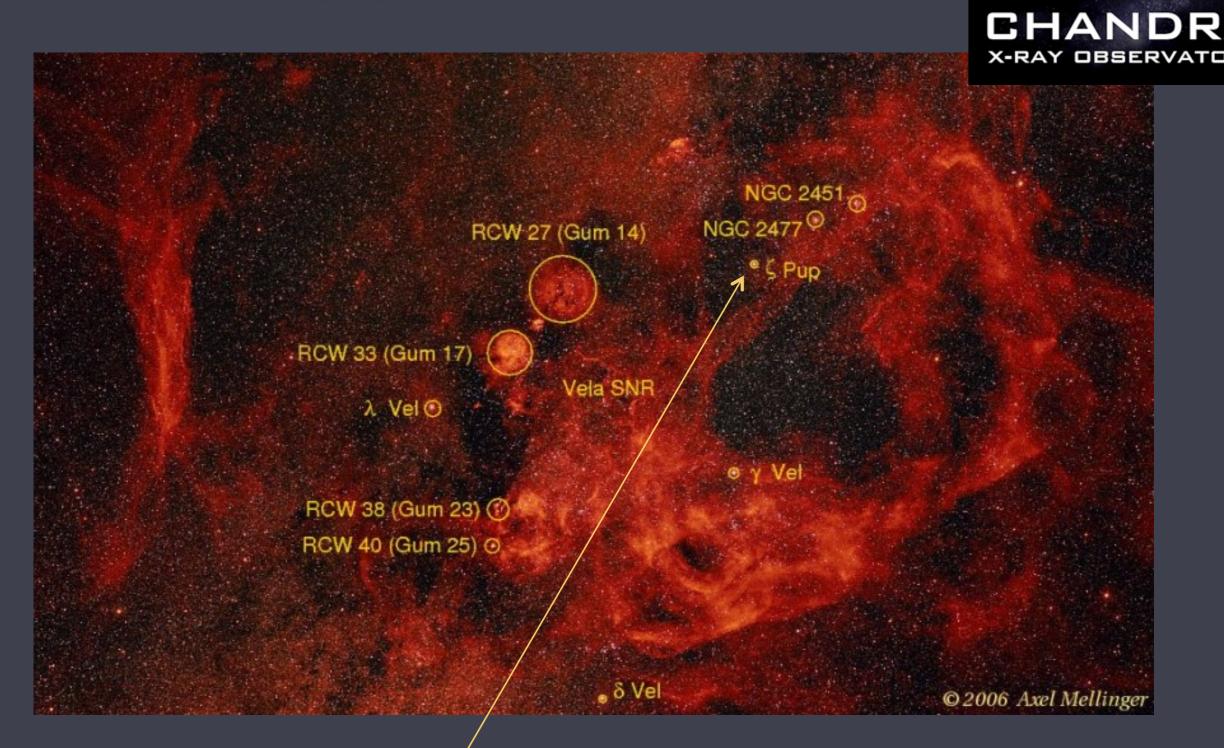
small effective area (poor sensitivity)
but very low background and very
well calibrated



X-ray imaging? > 0.5 arc sec, at best (100s of AU) spectroscopy (R < 1000 corresp. > 300 km/s)

response to photons with hv ~ 0.5 keV up to a few keV (corresp. ~5Å to 24Å)

### Chandra grating spectroscopy (R < 1000)



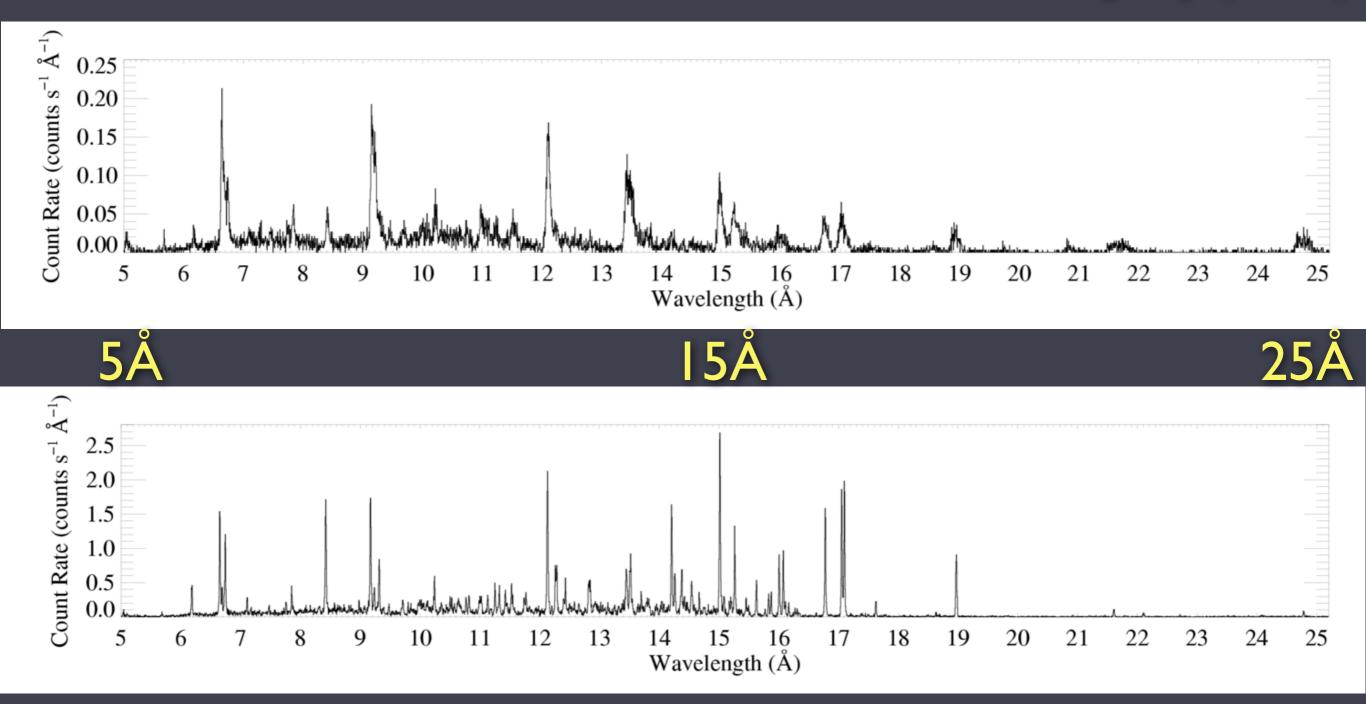
### cool stars vs.



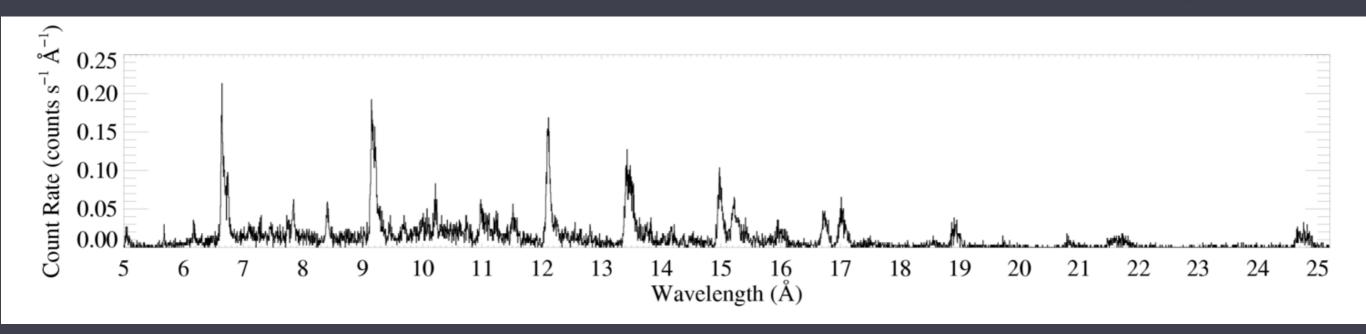
starfish, in situ, at the Monterey, California Aquarium (photo: D. Cohen)

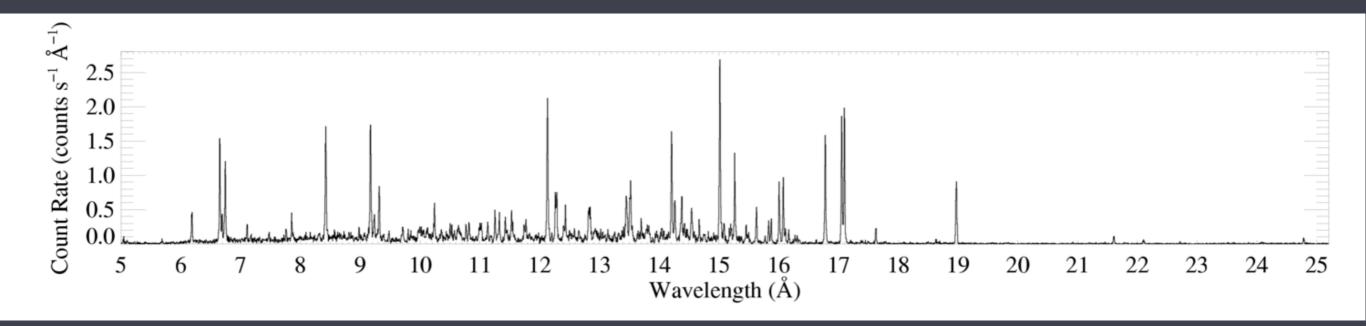
hot stars

### Chandra grating (HETGS/MEG) spectra

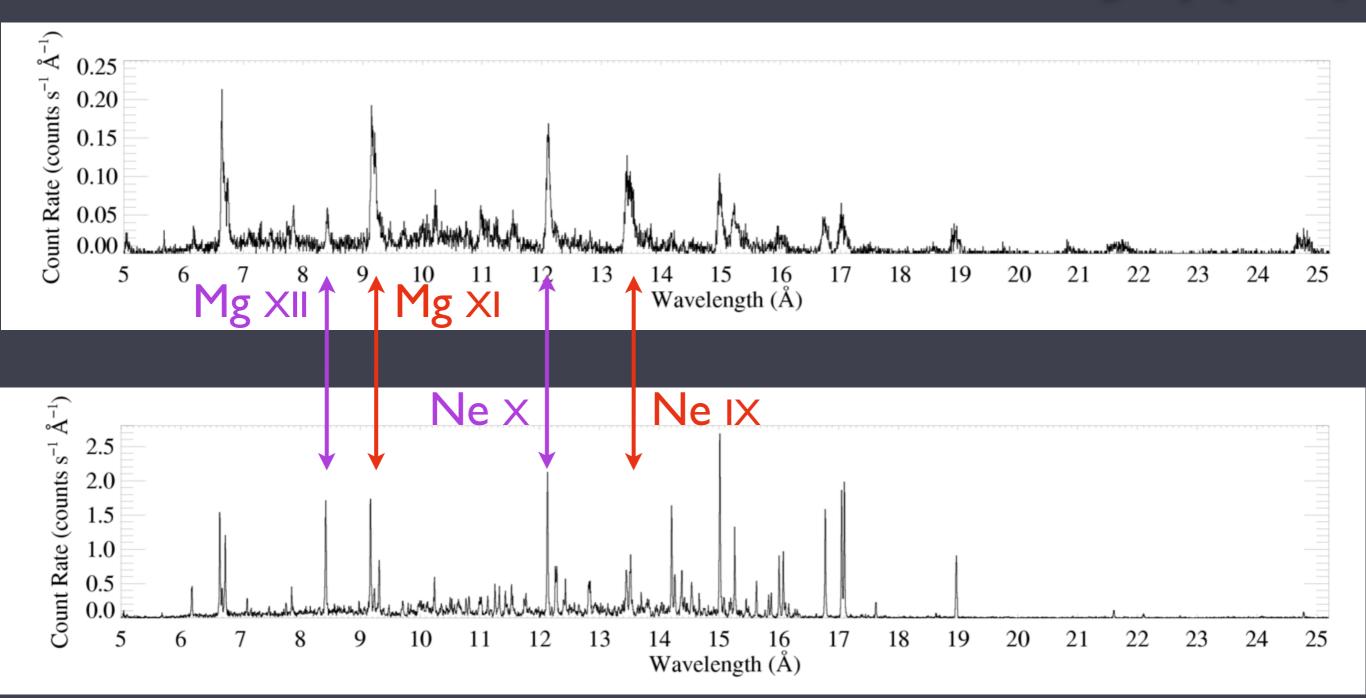


### emission lines + bremsstrahlung + recombination



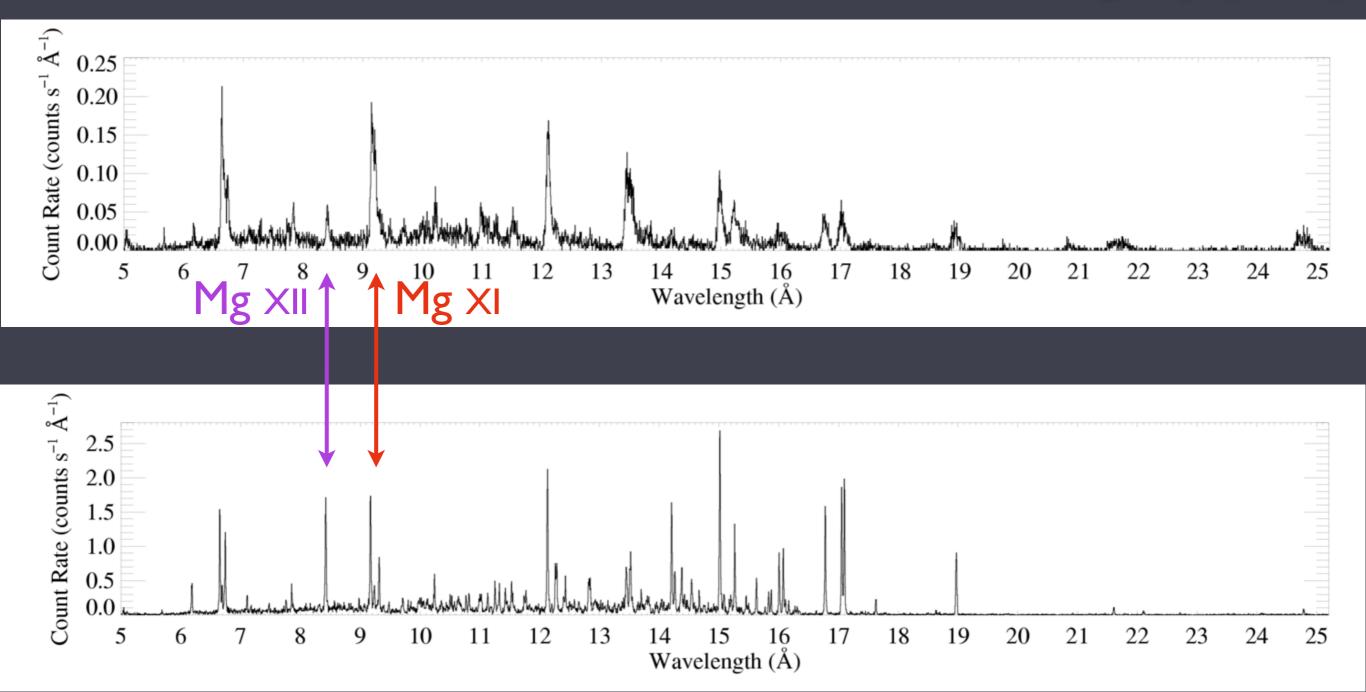


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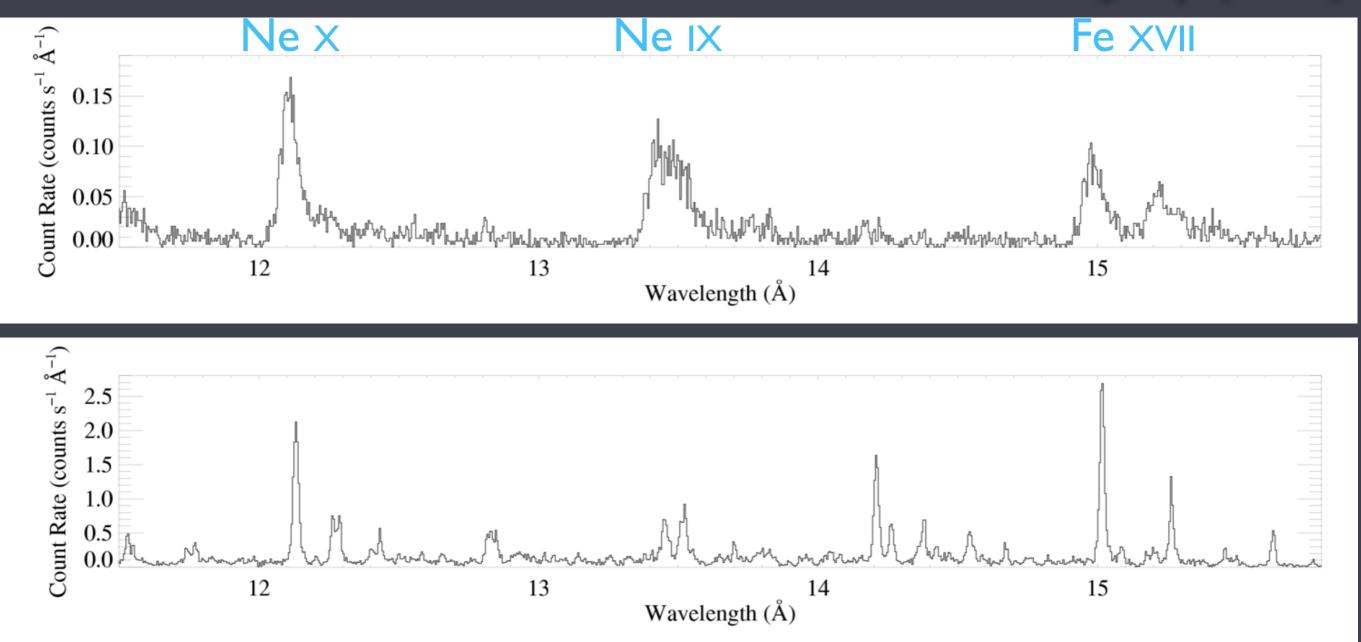
# typical temperatures $T \sim \text{few } 10^6 \text{ K}$ (late-type stellar coronae tend to be hotter)



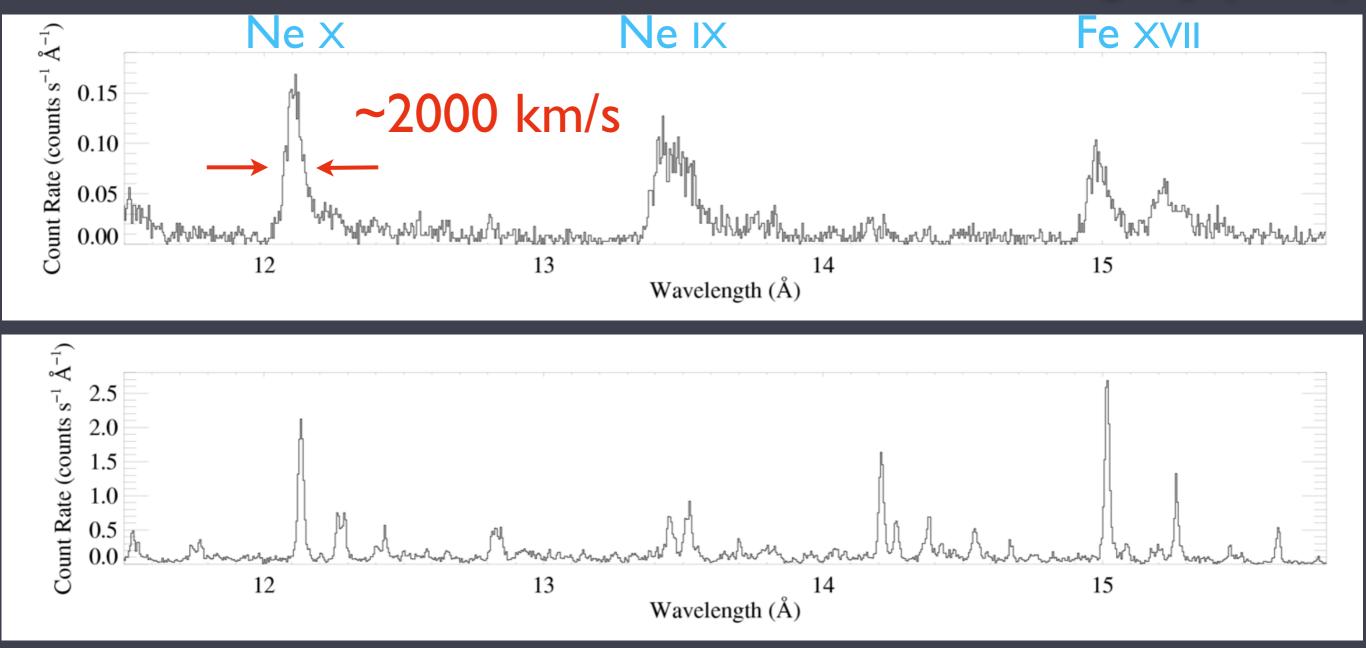


### Zoom in

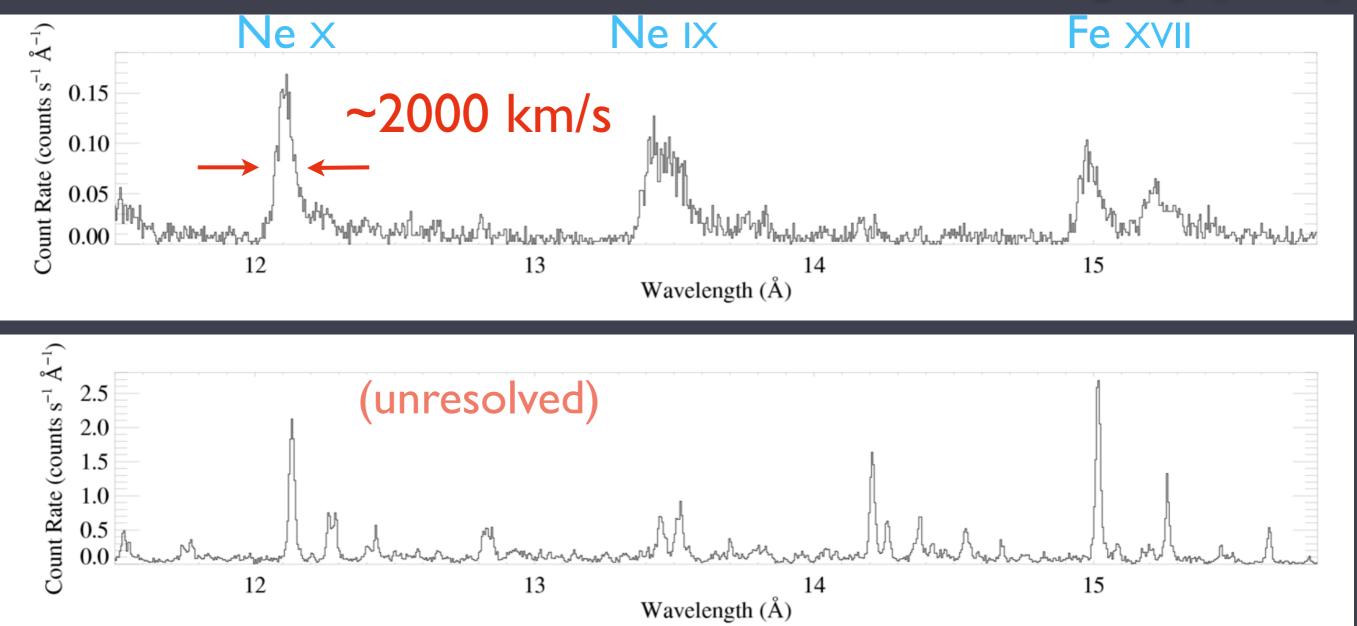
### ζ Pup (O4 If)



### **ζ Pup (O4 If)**



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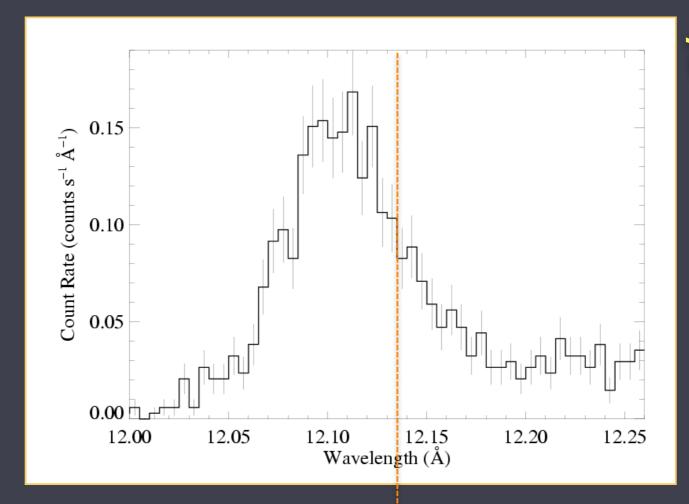


cool stars: narrow lines = magnetically confined coronal plasma

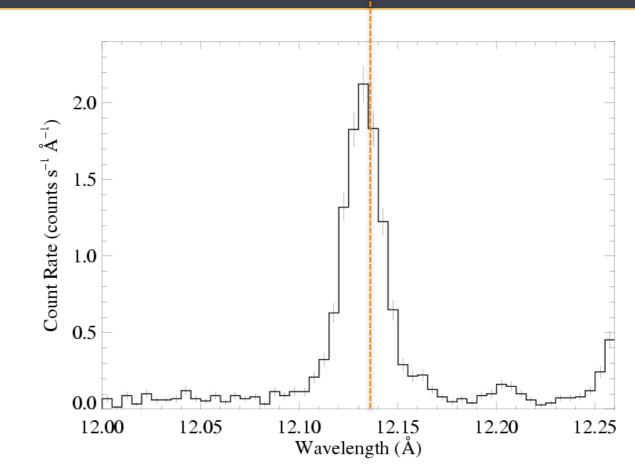
hot stars: broad lines = outflowing, shock-heated wind plasma



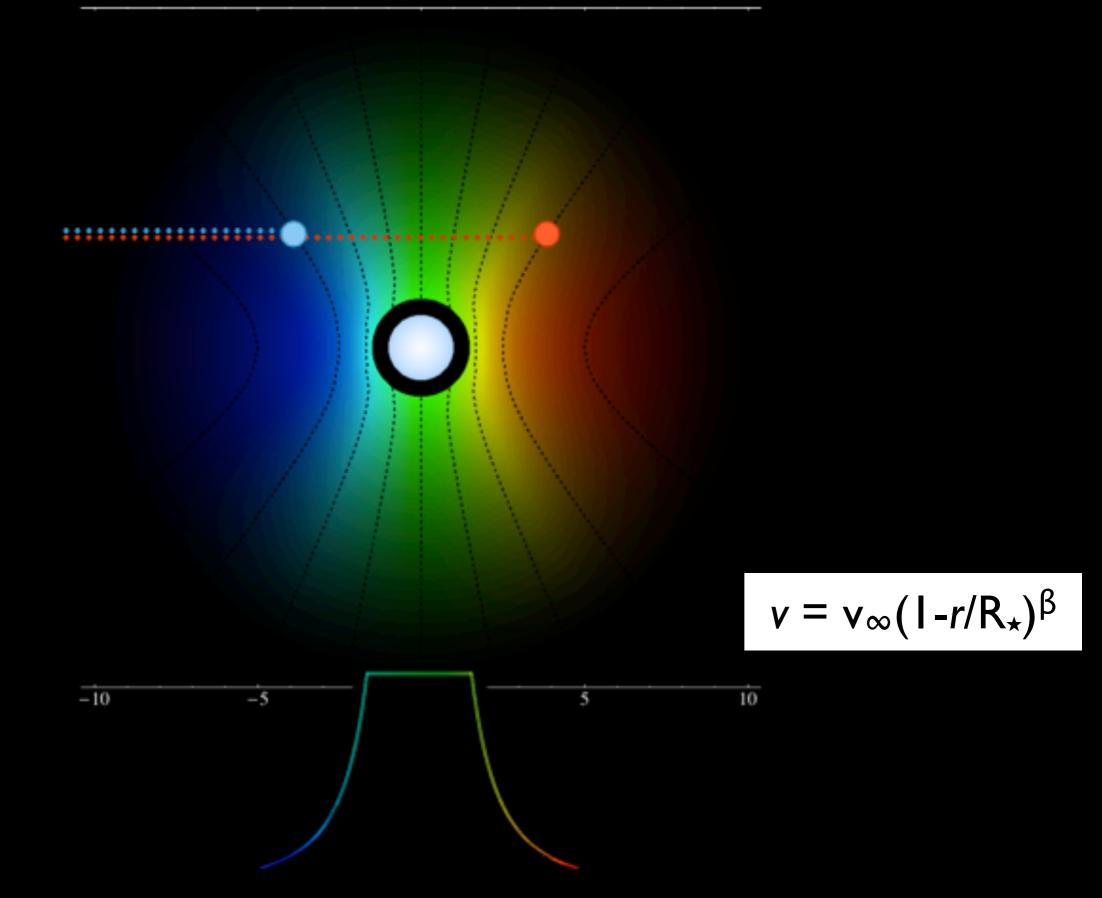
# lines are asymmetric



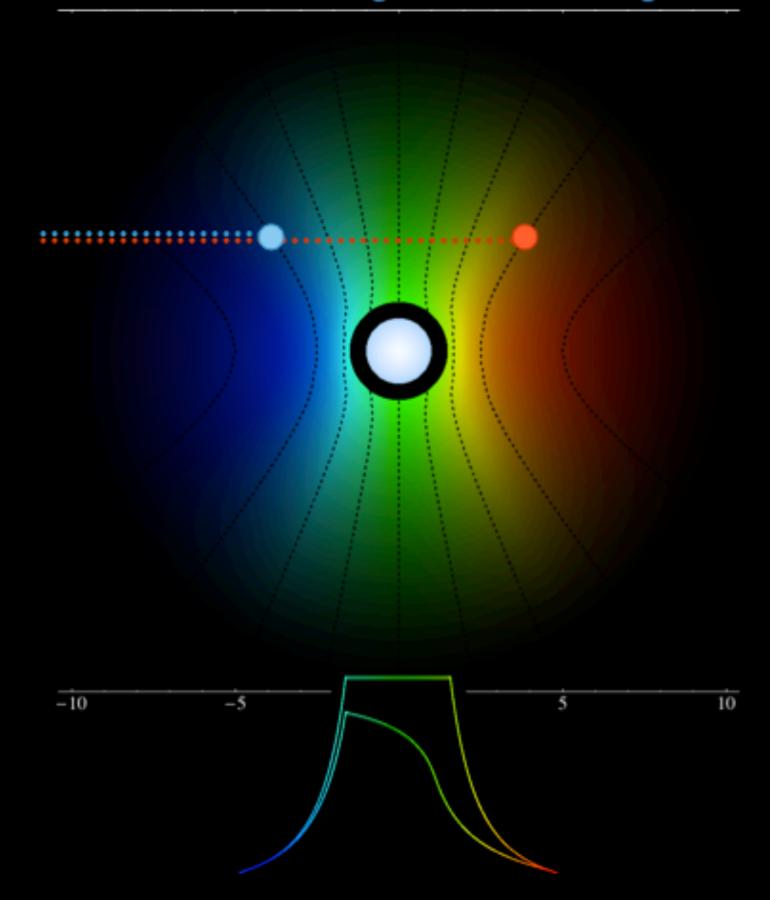
### ζ Pup (O4lf)



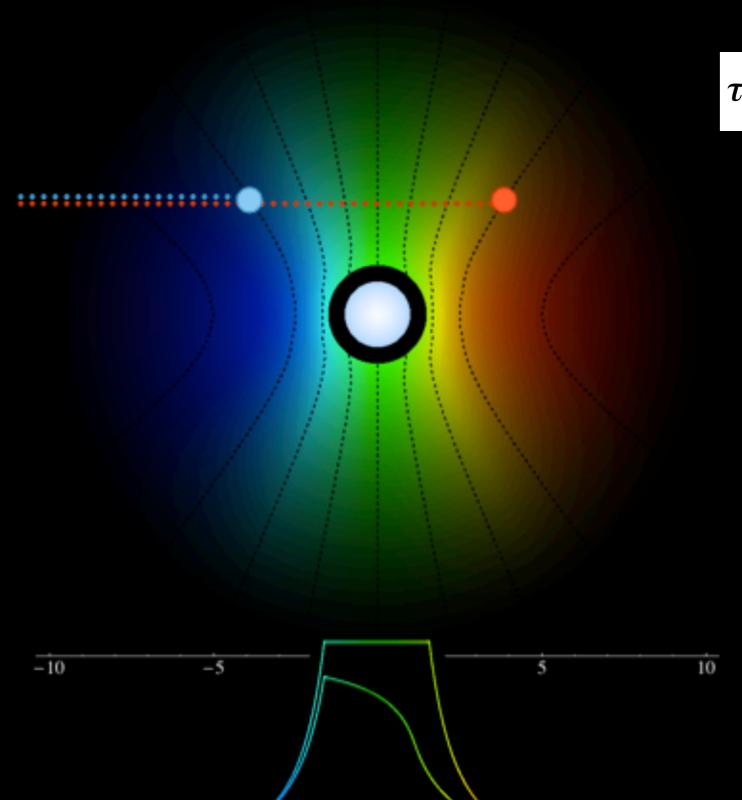
## Line Asymmetry

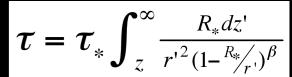


## Line Asymmetry



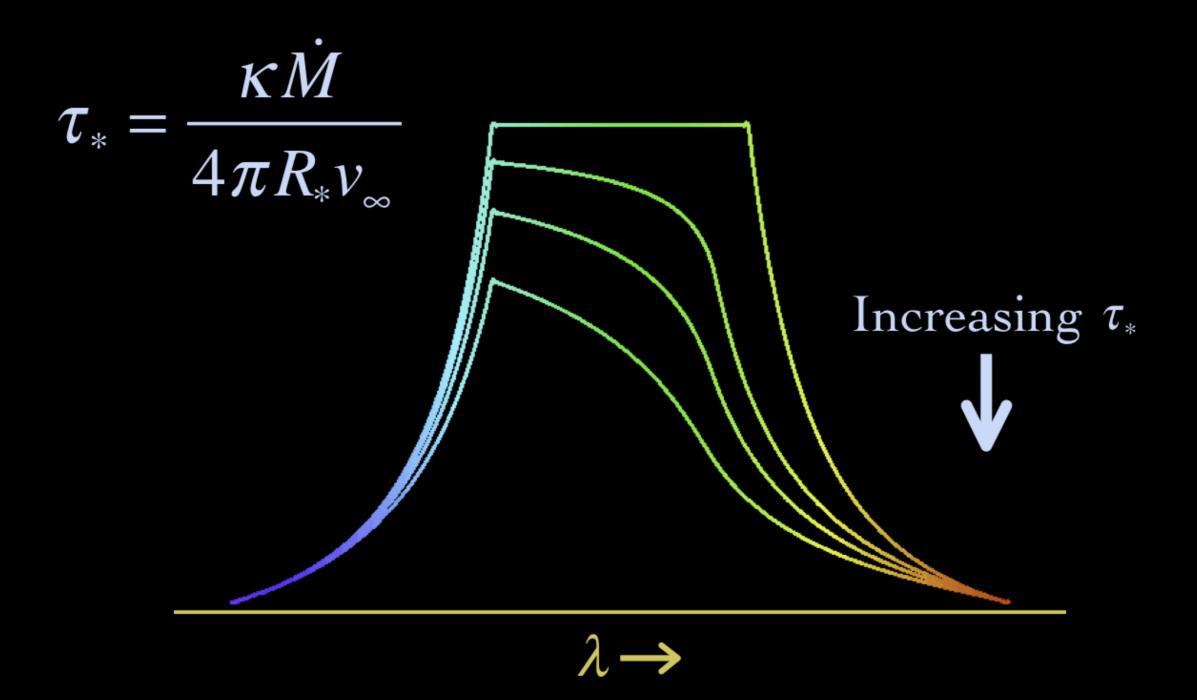
## Line Asymmetry



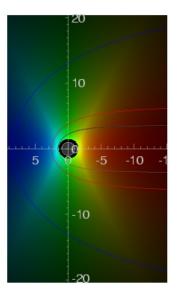


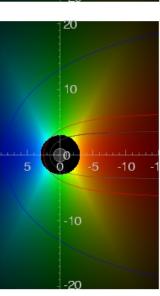


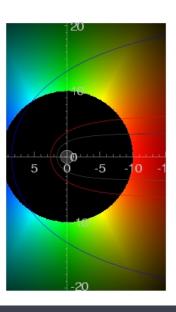
### Wind Profile Model

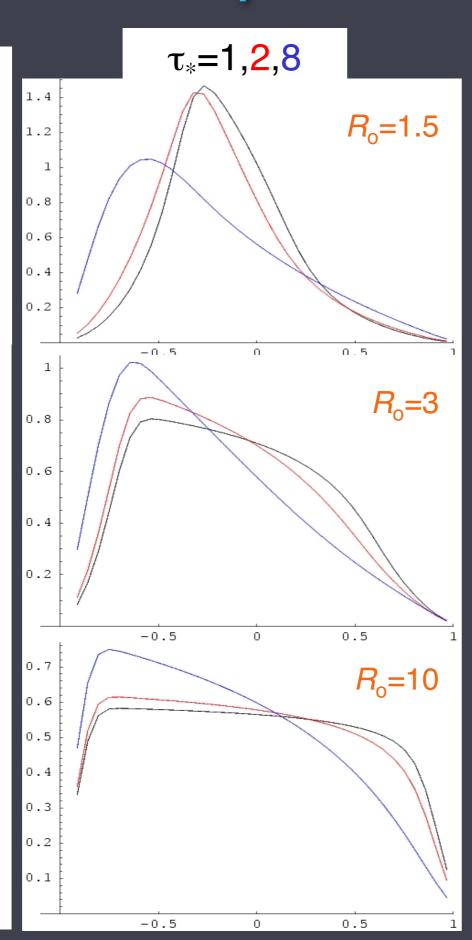


### Line profile shapes









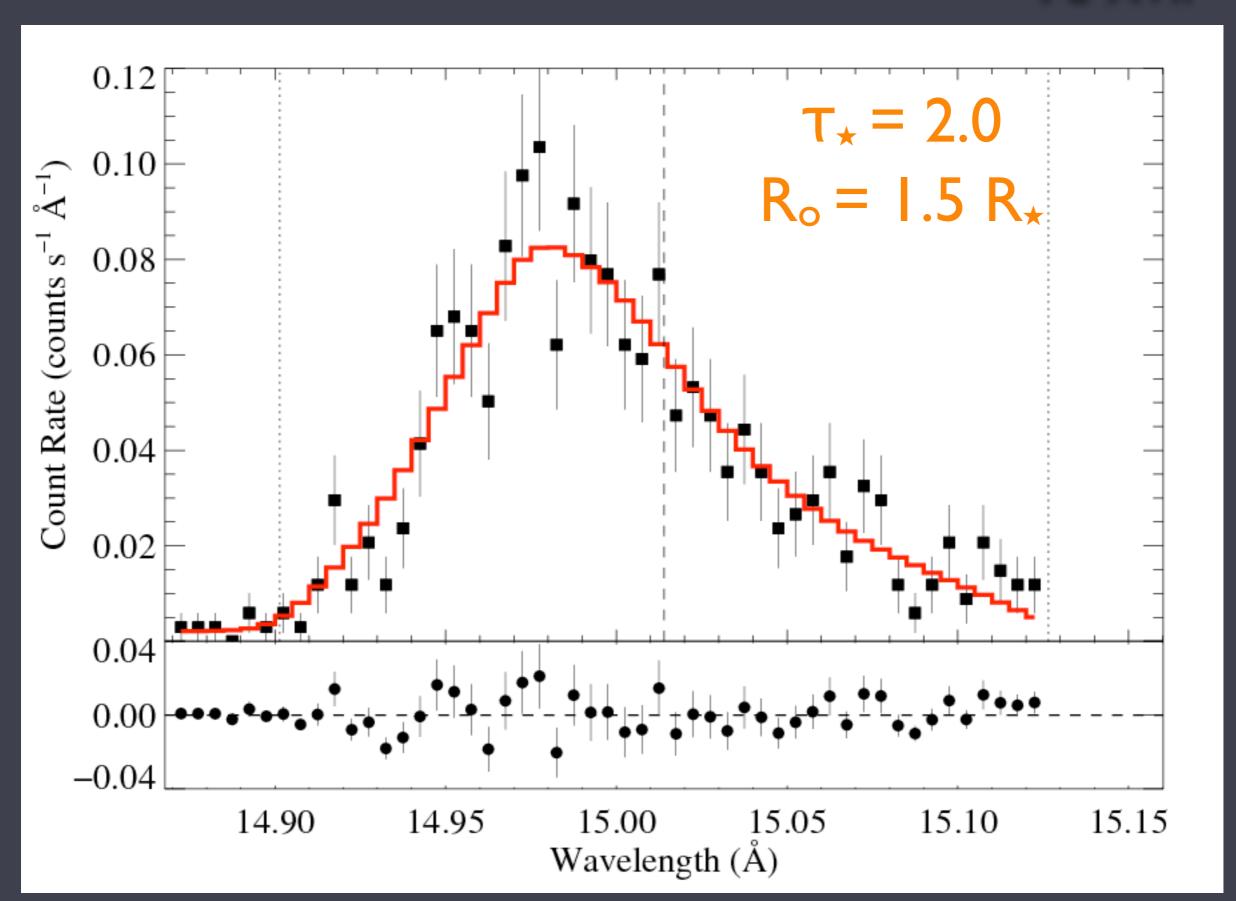
### key parameters: R<sub>o</sub> & T<sub>⋆</sub>

$$v = v_{\infty} (I - r/R_{\star})^{\beta}$$

$$j \sim \rho^2 \text{ for } r/R_* > R_o,$$
  
= 0 otherwise

$$\tau = \tau_* \int_{z}^{\infty} \frac{R_* dz'}{r'^2 (1 - \frac{R_*}{r'})^{\beta}}$$

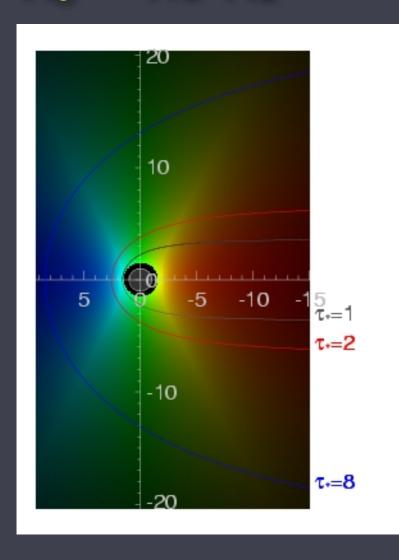
$$\tau_* = \frac{\kappa M}{4\pi R_* v_\infty}$$



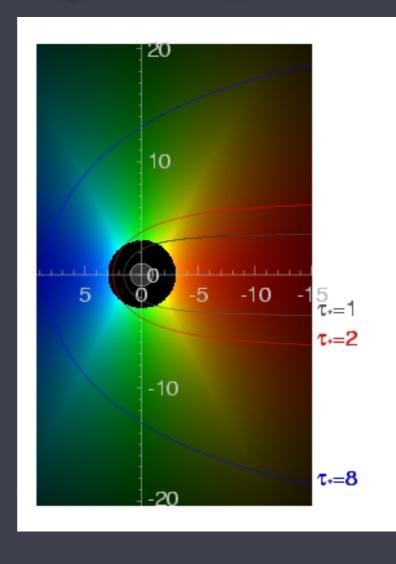
### Hot plasma kinematics and location

### Ro controls the line width via v(r)

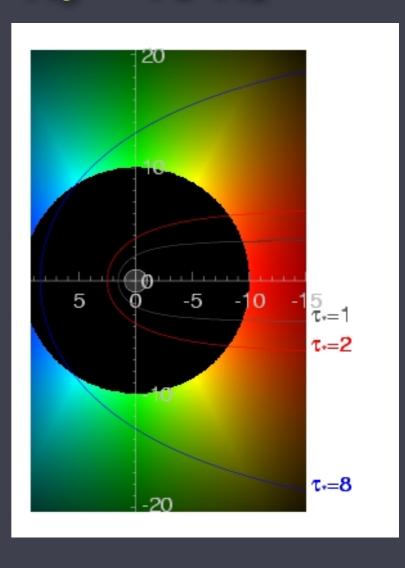
$$R_o = 1.5 R_{\star}$$



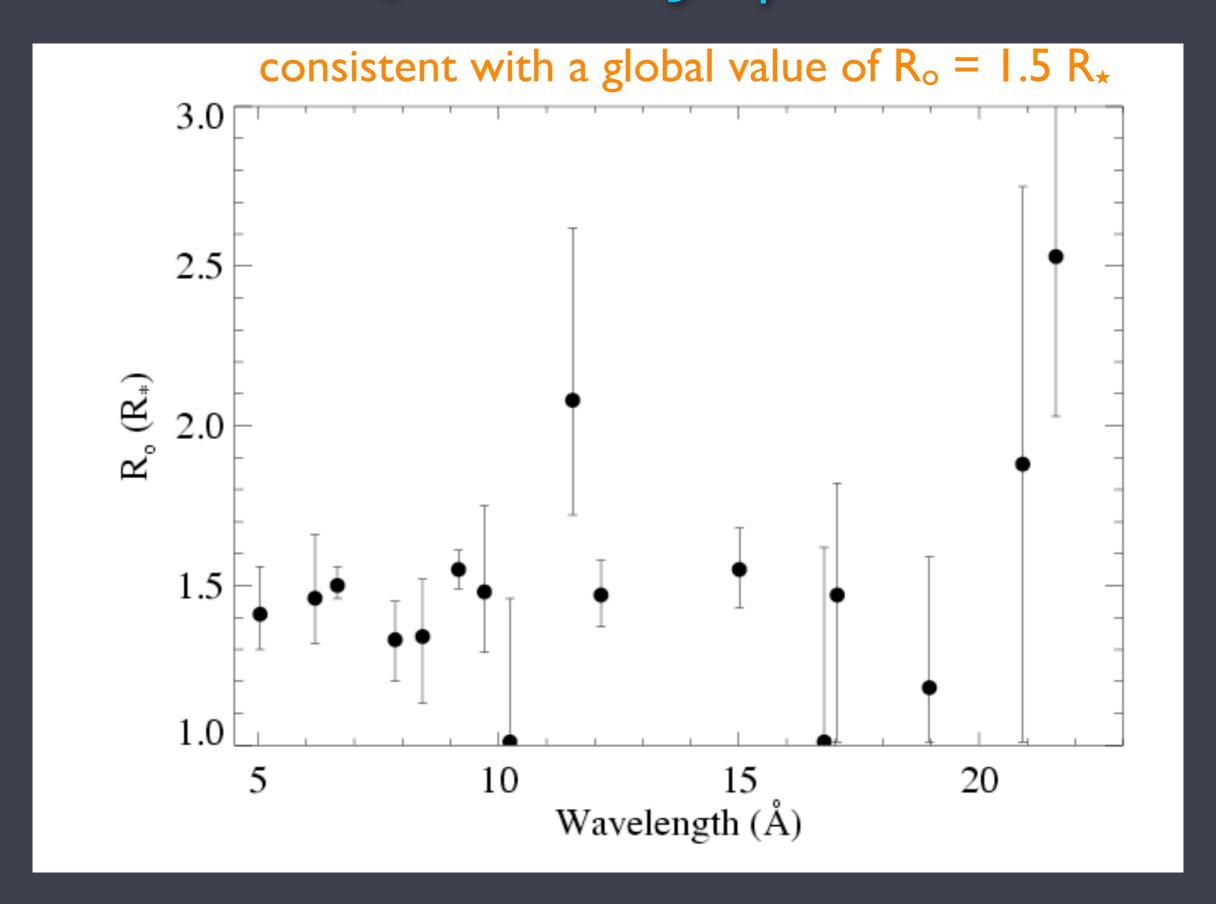
$$R_o = 3 R_{\star}$$



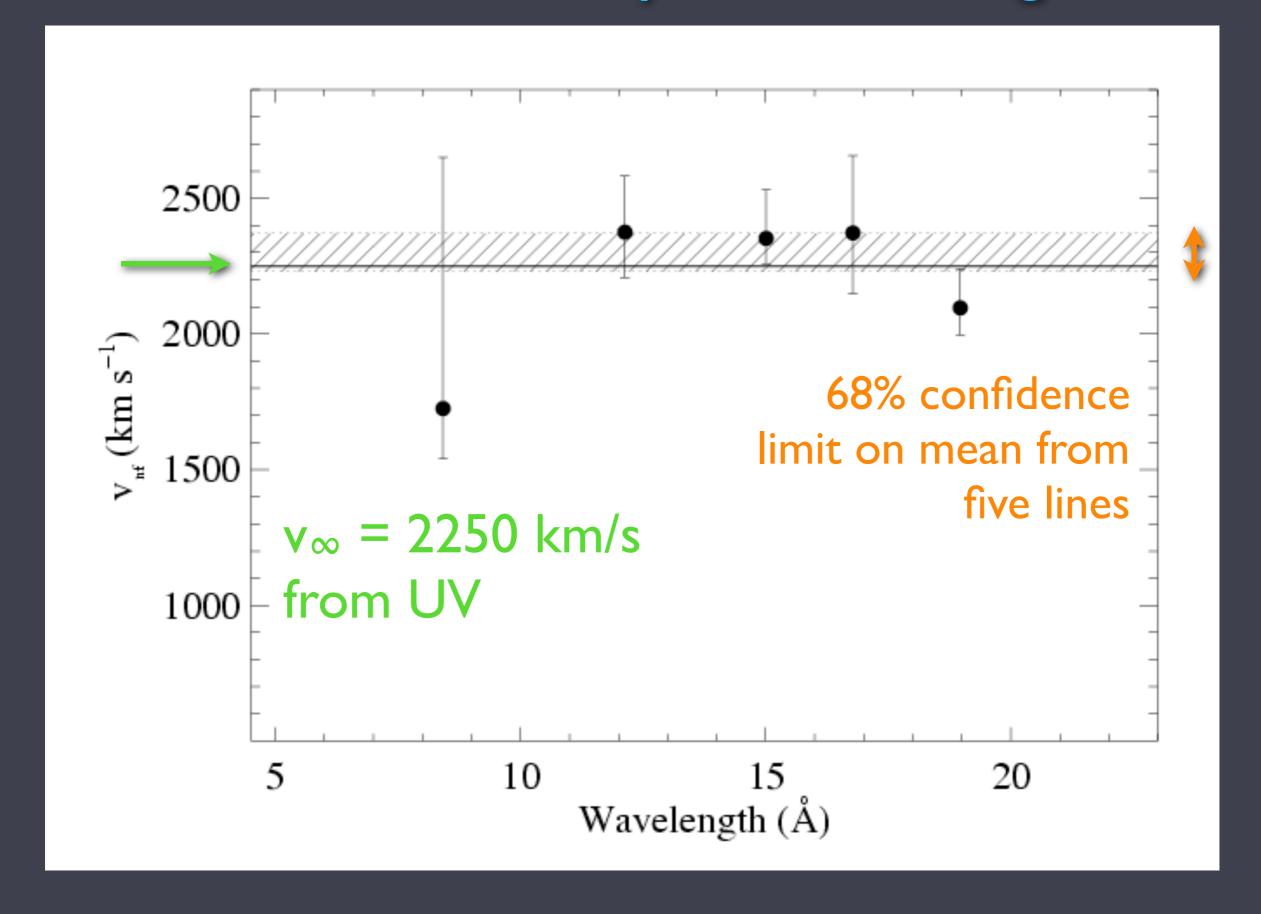
$$R_o = 10 R_{\star}$$



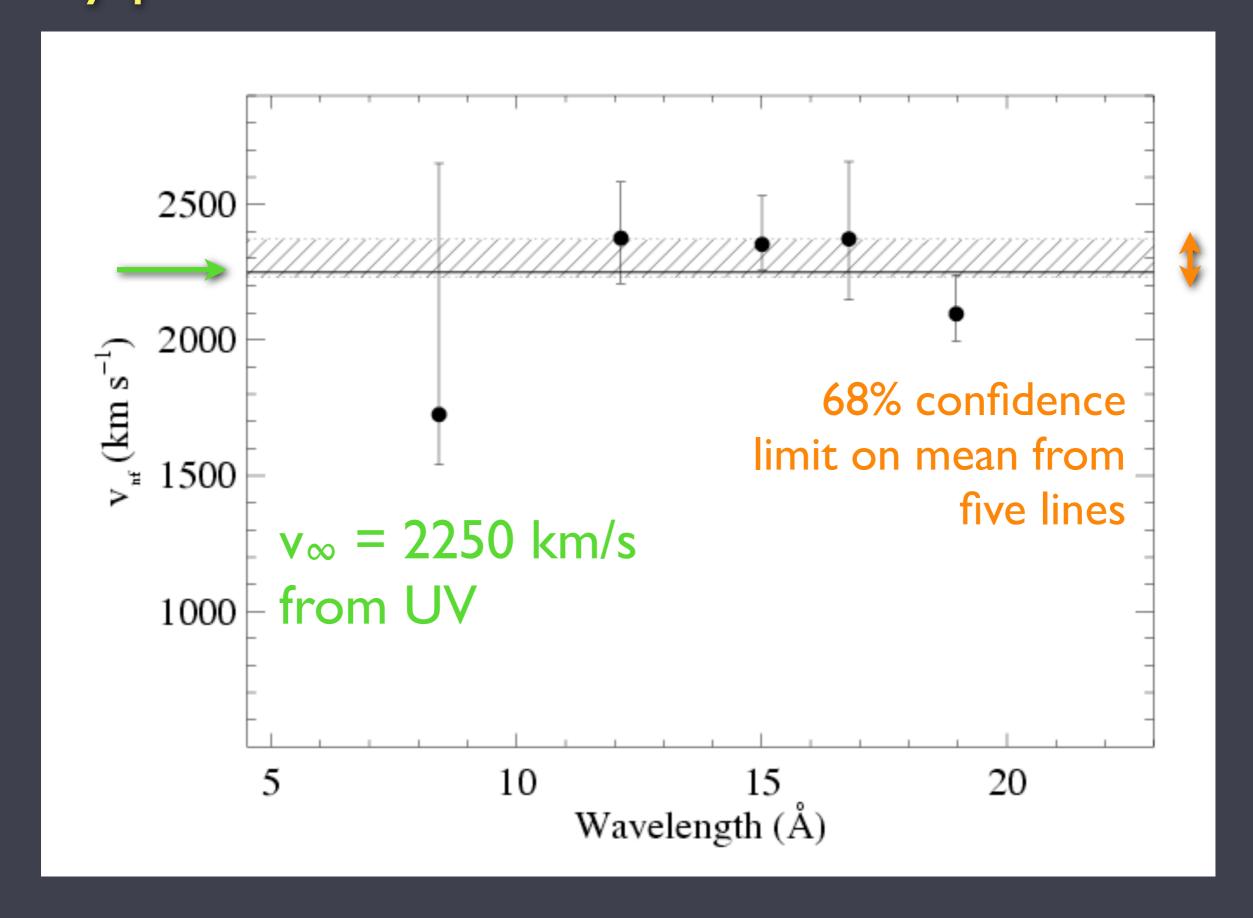
### Distribution of R<sub>o</sub> values for ζ Pup



### $v_{\infty}$ can be constrained by the line fitting too

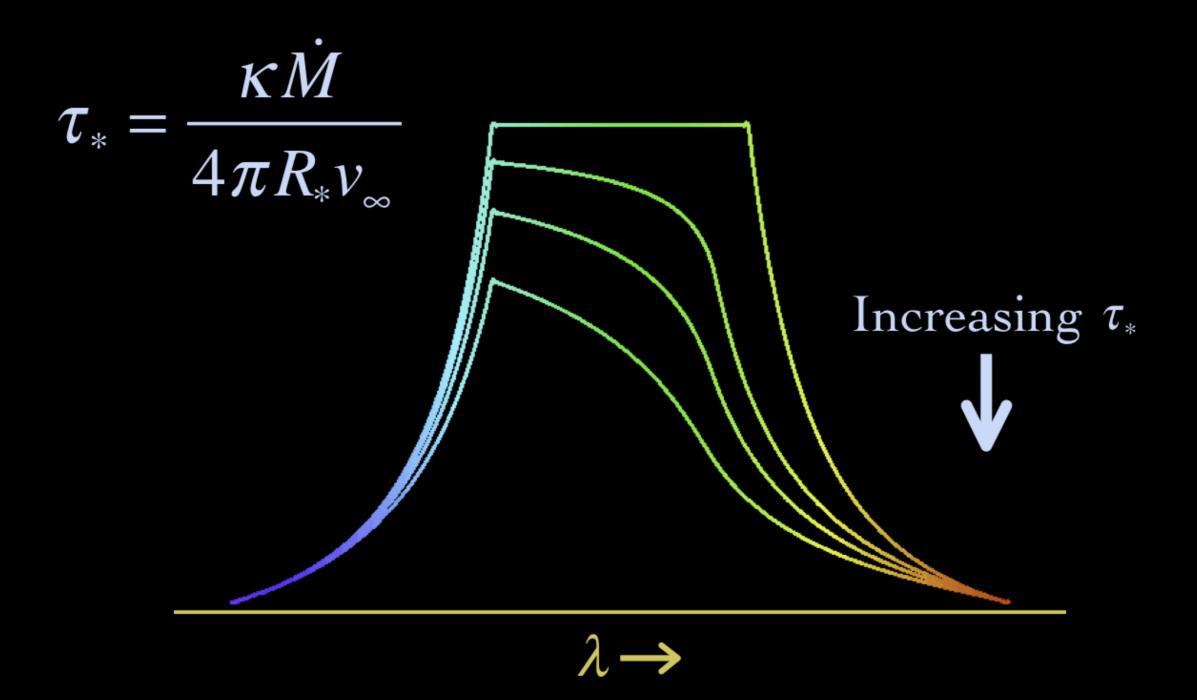


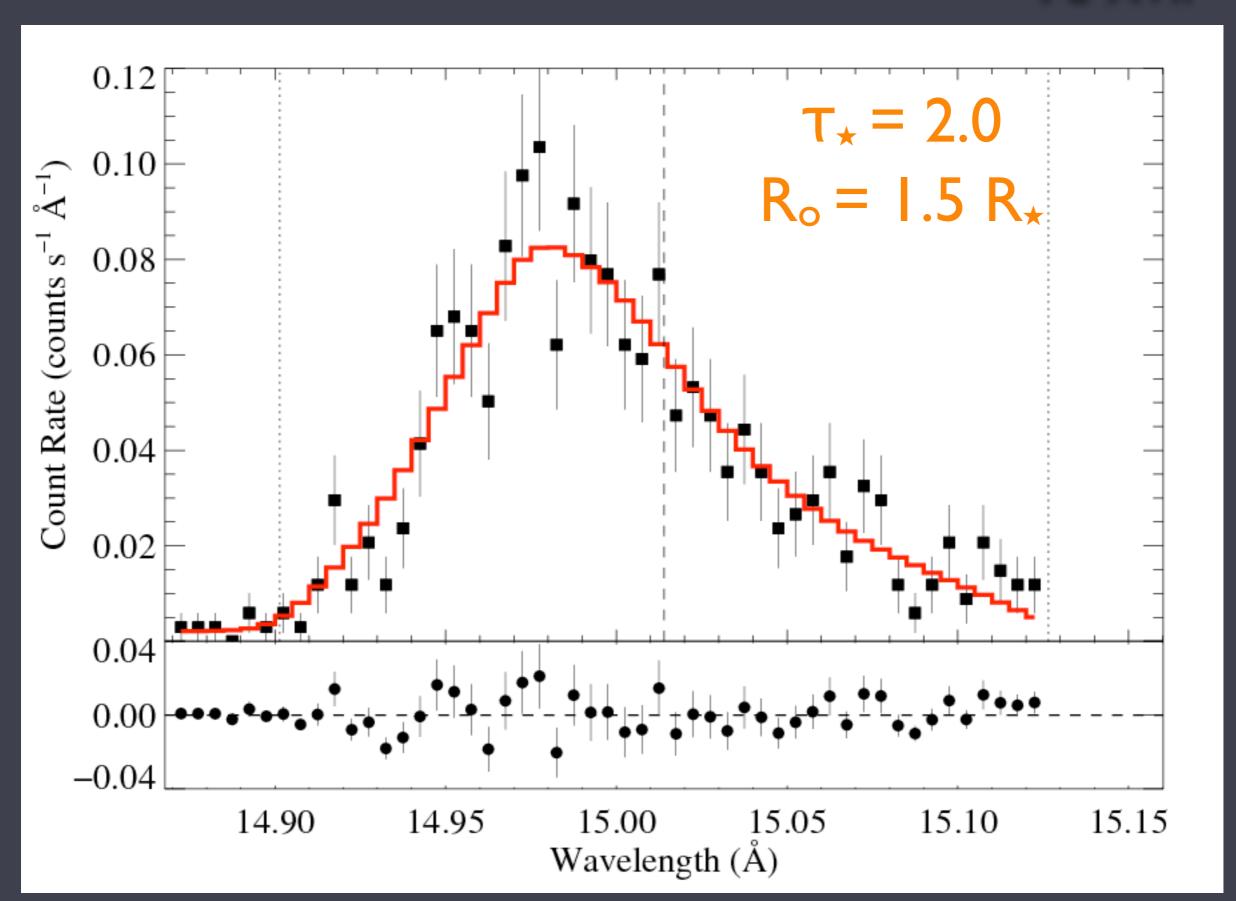
### X-ray plasma and mean wind have same kinematics



# The profiles also tell us about the level of wind absorption

### Wind Profile Model



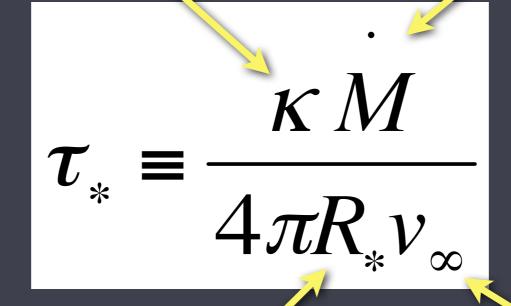


### Quantifying the wind optical depth

opacity of the cold wind component (due to bound-free transitions in C, N, O, Ne, Fe)

wind mass-loss rate

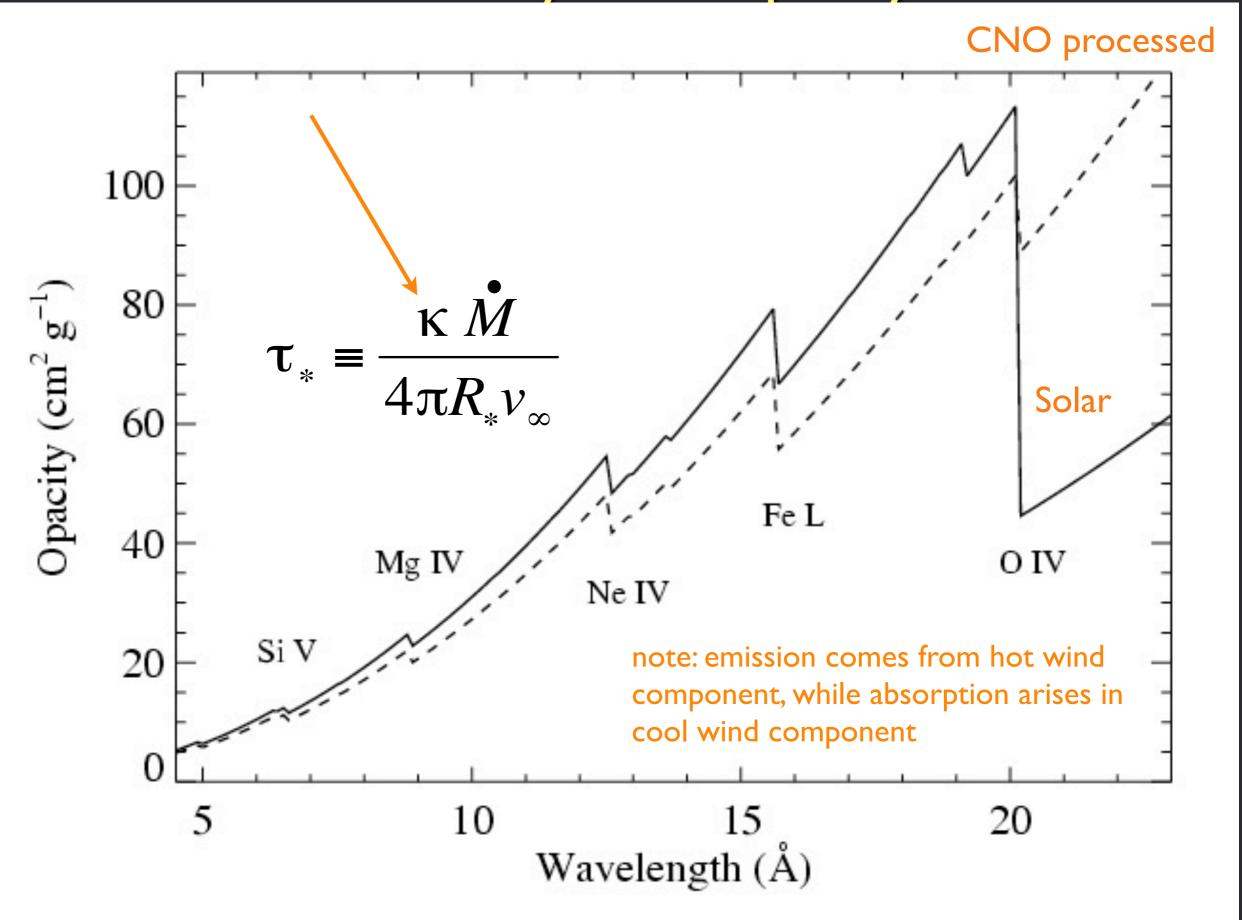
$$\dot{M} = 4\pi r^2 v \rho$$



stellar radius

wind terminal velocity

### soft X-ray wind opacity

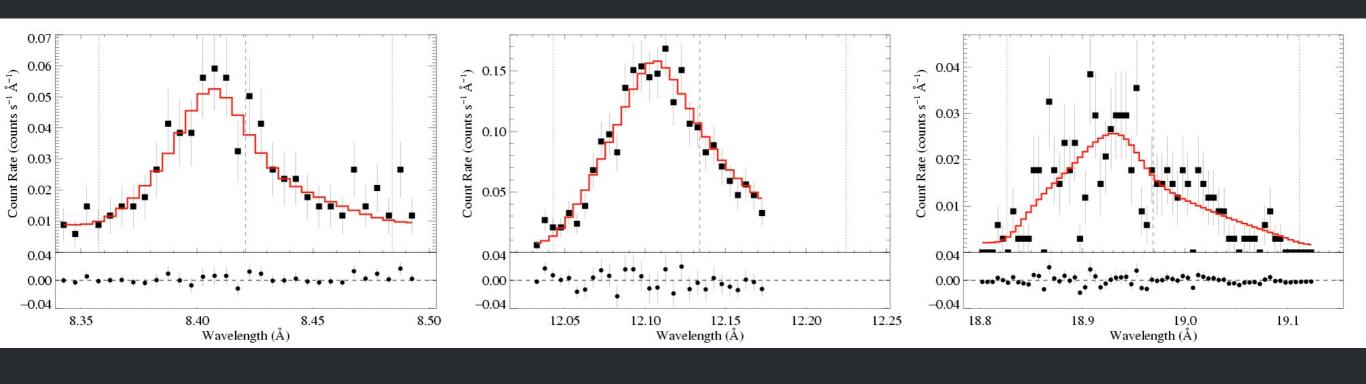


### ζ Pup Chandra: three emission lines

Mg Lyα: 8.42 Å

Ne Lyα: 12.13 Å

O Lyα: 18.97 Å



T\* ~ |

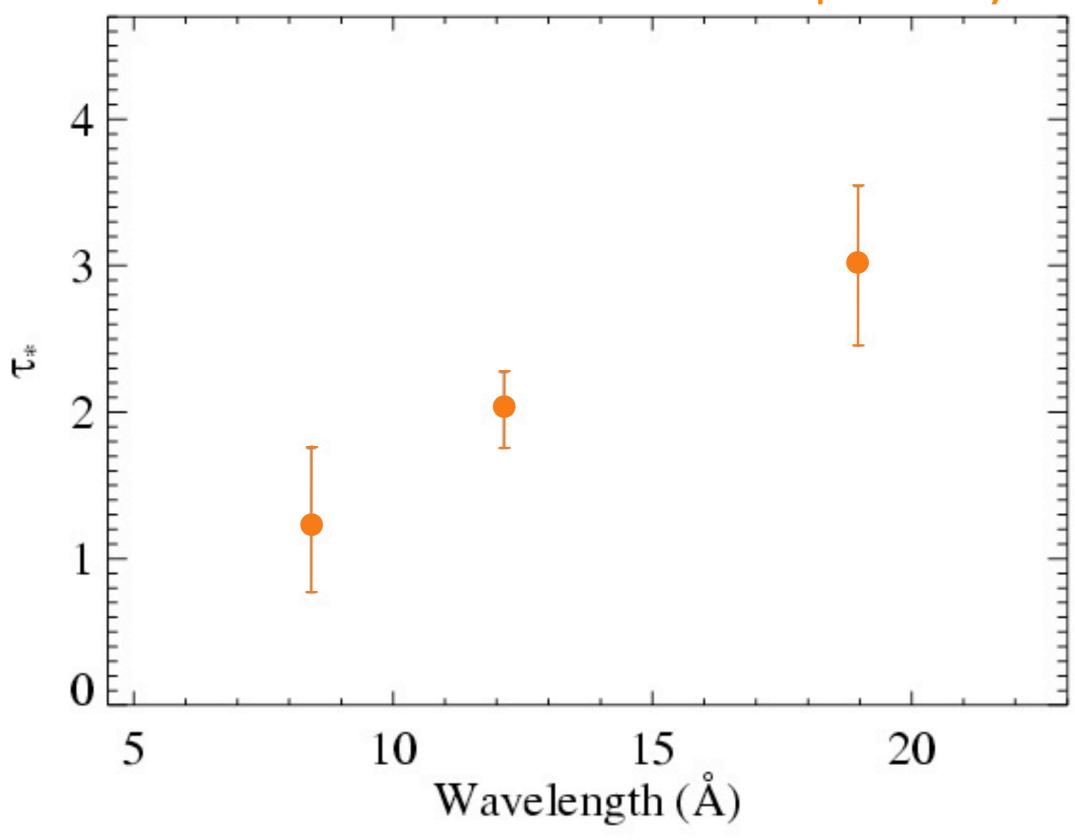
T<sub>\*</sub> ~ 2

T<sub>\*</sub> ~ 3

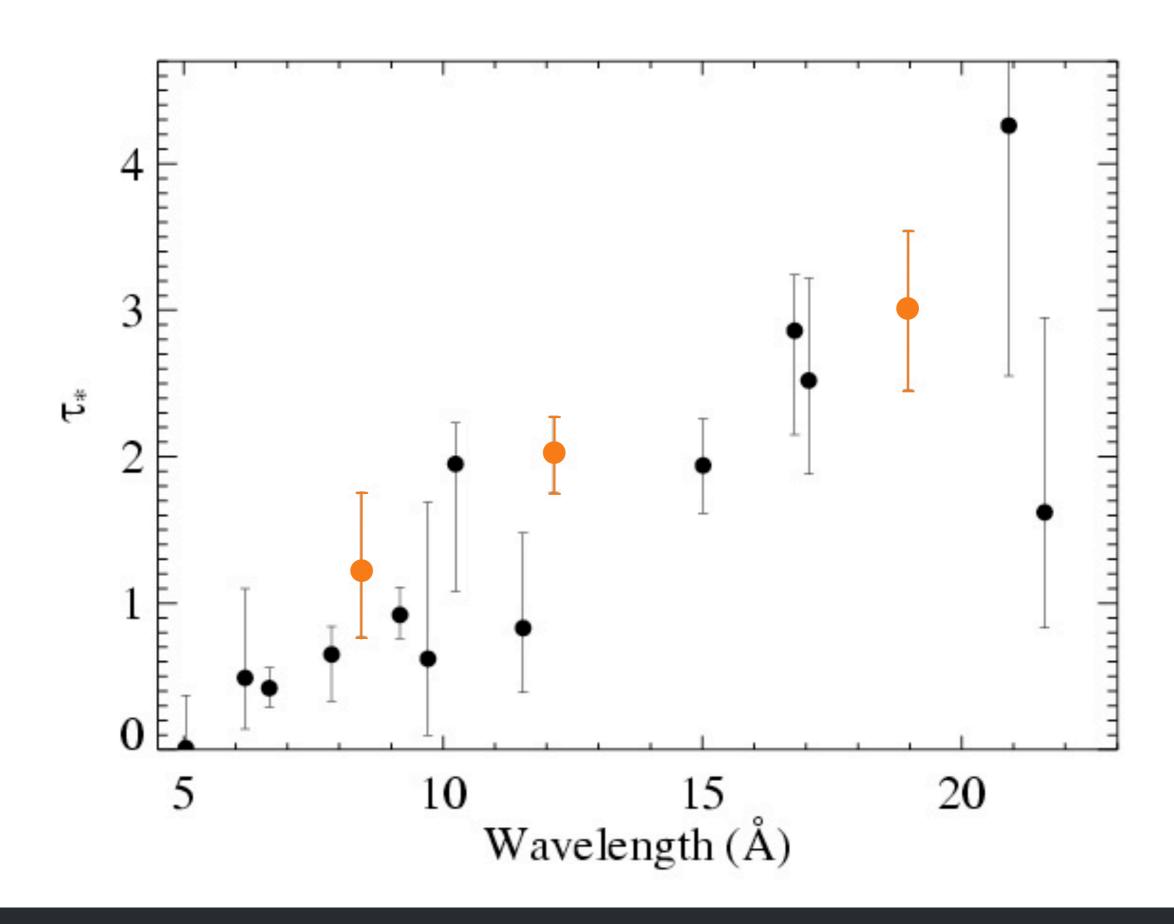
Recall:

$$\tau_* \equiv \frac{\kappa M}{4\pi R_* v_\infty}$$

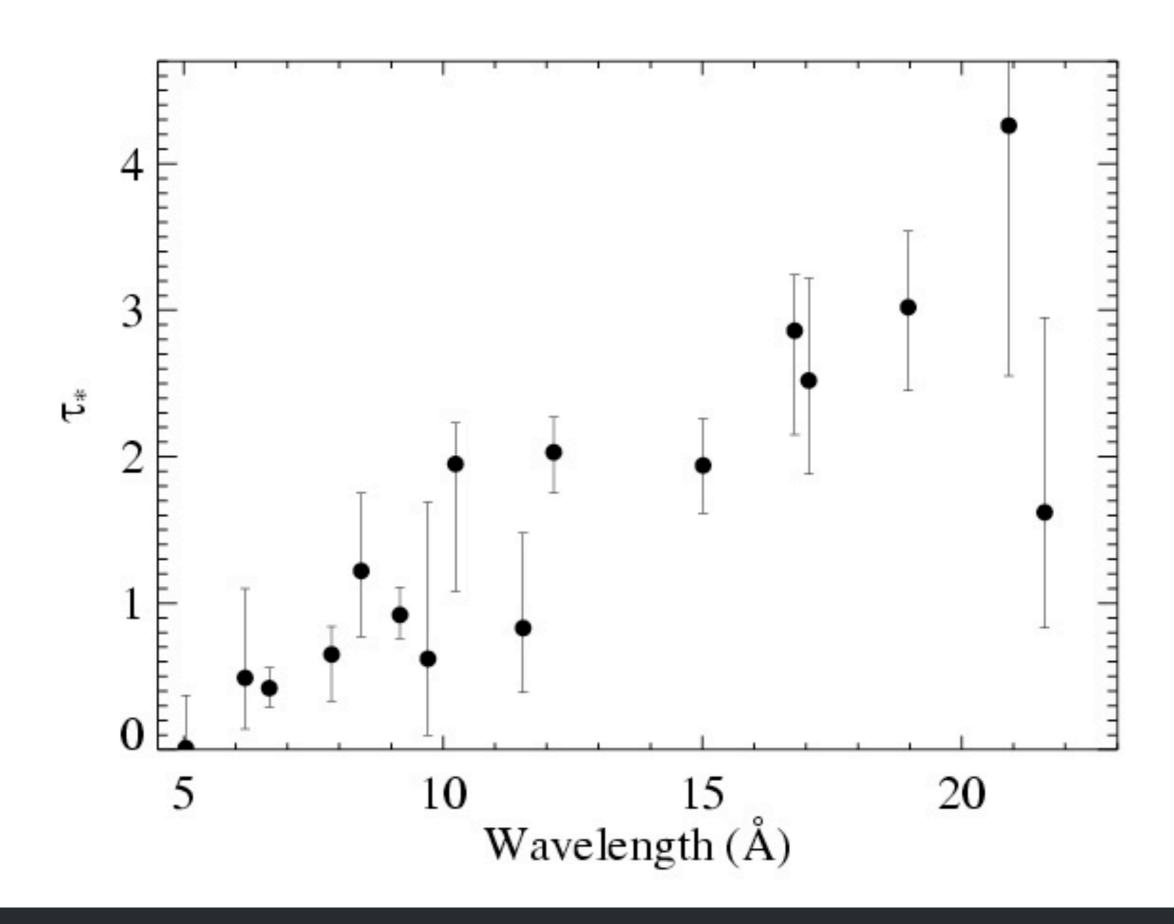
### Results from the 3 line fits shown previously



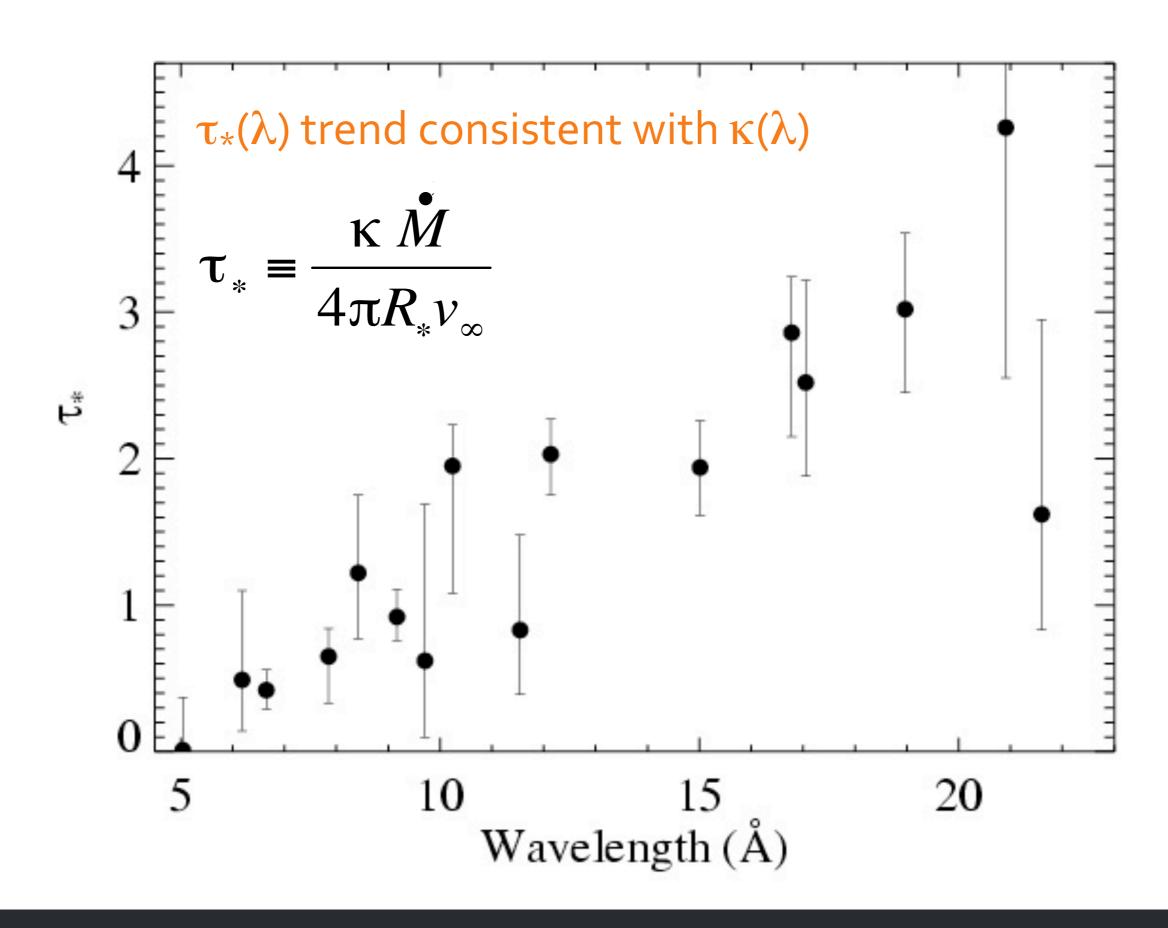
### Fits to 16 lines in the Chandra spectrum of $\zeta$ Pup



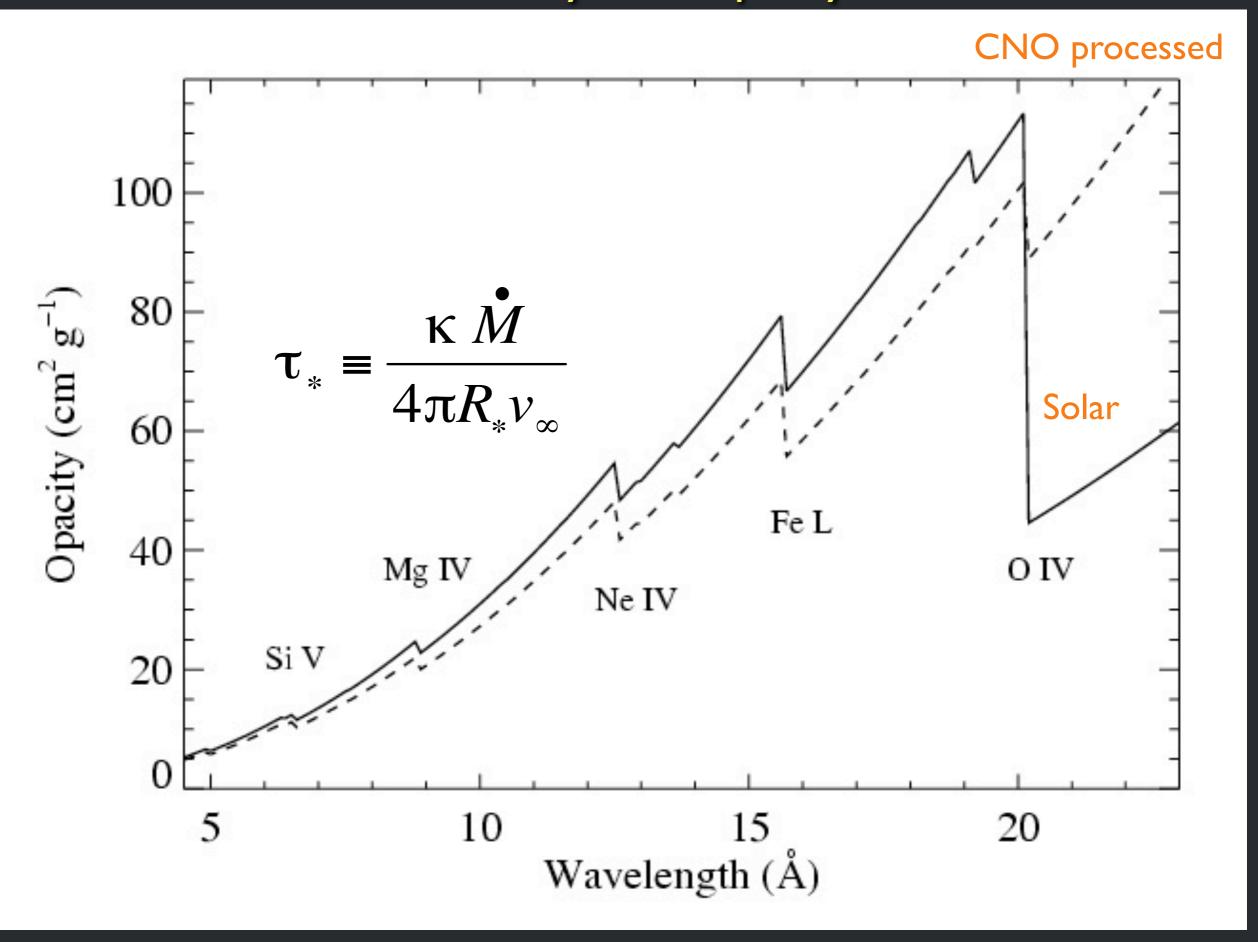
### Fits to 16 lines in the Chandra spectrum of $\zeta$ Pup



### Fits to 16 lines in the Chandra spectrum of $\zeta$ Pup

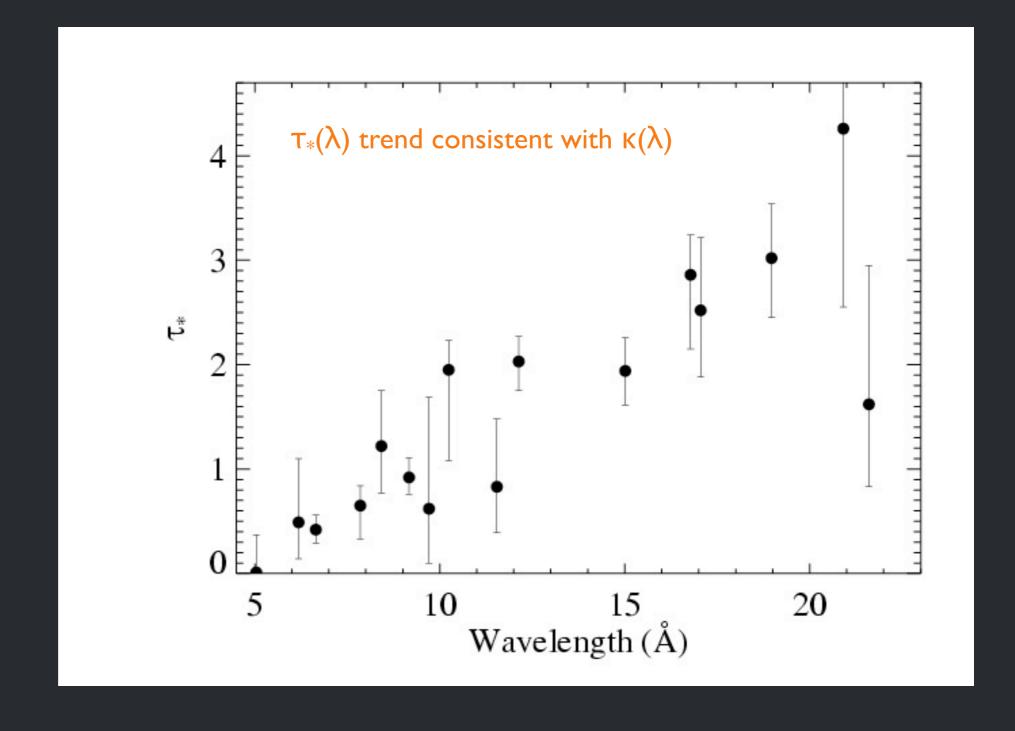


### soft X-ray wind opacity



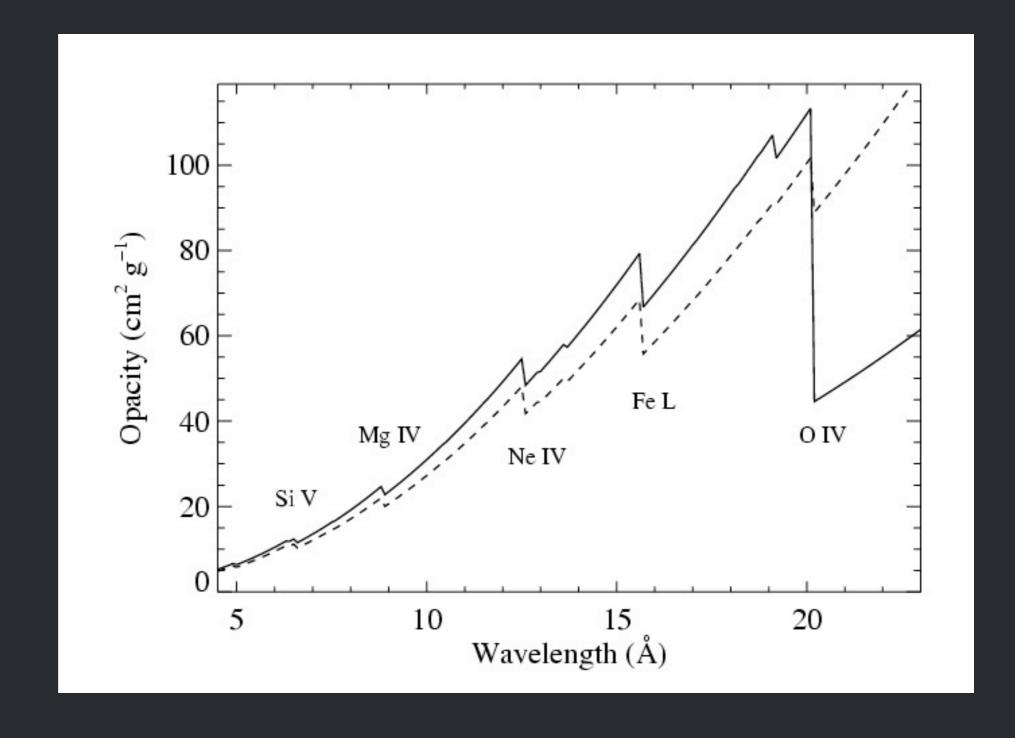
$$\tau_* \equiv \frac{\kappa \, \mathring{M}}{4\pi R_* v_\infty}$$

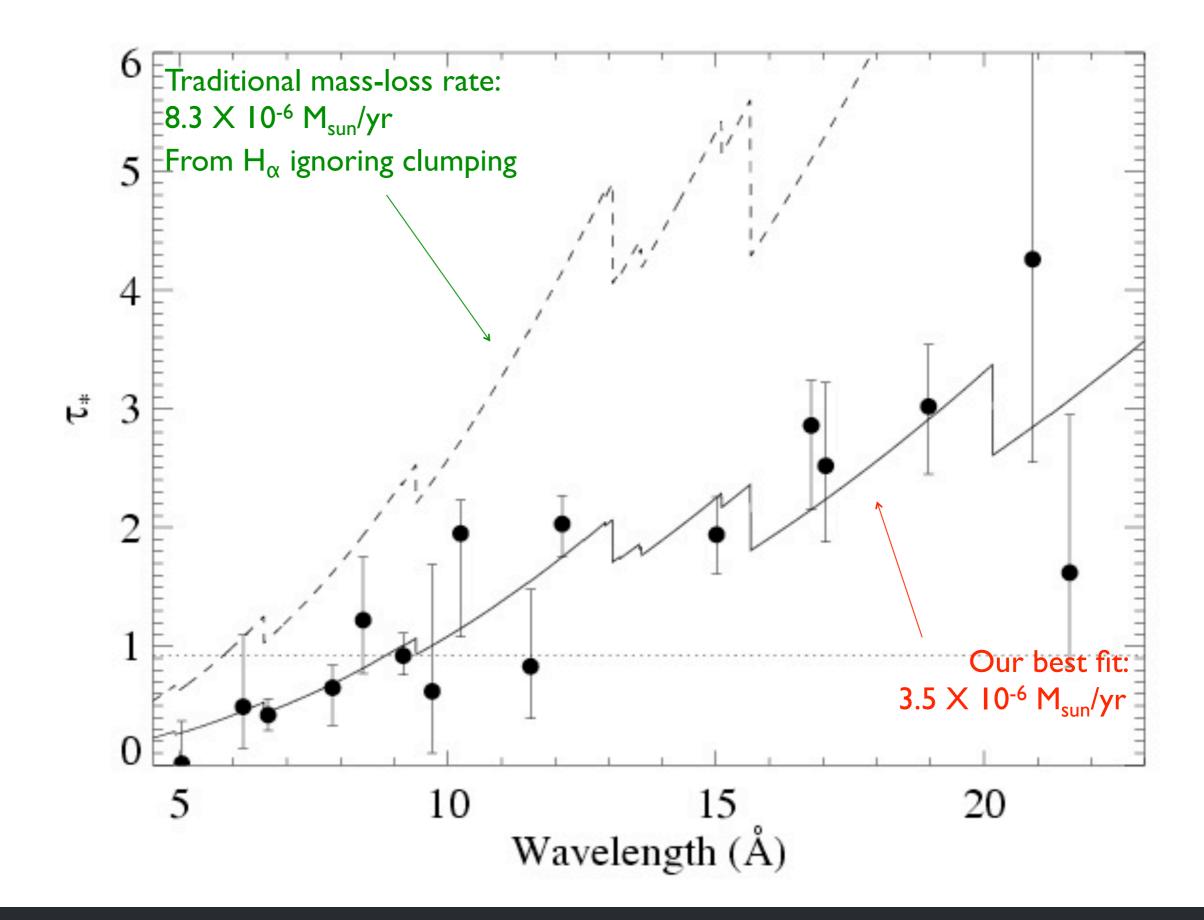
## $\check{M}$ becomes the free parameter of the fit to the $T_*(\lambda)$ trend

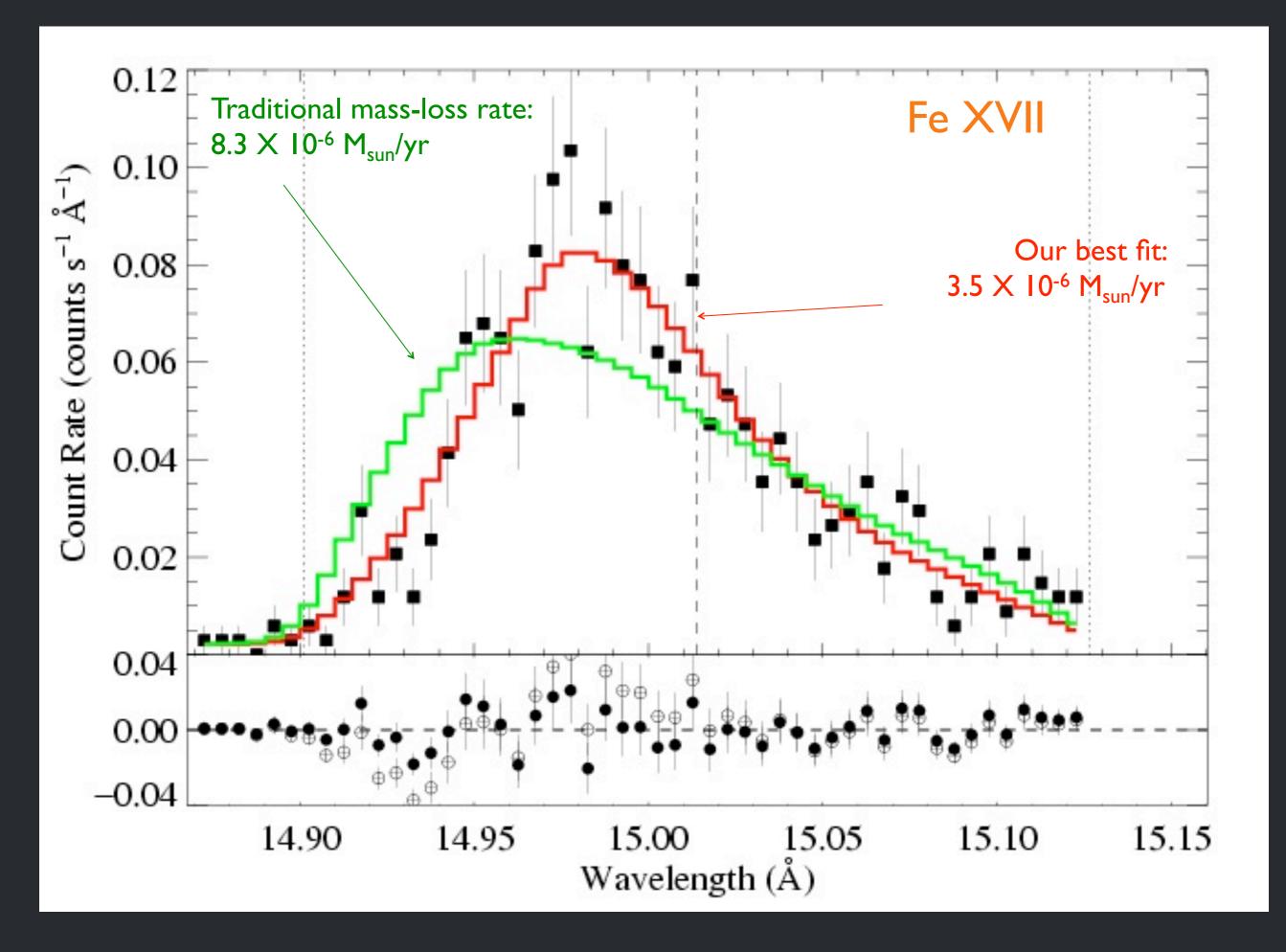


$$\tau_* \equiv \frac{\kappa \dot{M}}{4\pi R_* v_\infty}$$

# $\dot{M}$ becomes the free parameter of the fit to the $T_*(\lambda)$ trend







## X-ray line profile based mass-loss rate: implications for clumping

basic definition: 
$$f_{cl} = \langle \rho^2 \rangle / \langle \rho \rangle^2$$

clumping factor

## X-ray line profile based mass-loss rate: implications for clumping

basic definition:  $f_{cl} = \langle \rho^2 \rangle / \langle \rho \rangle^2$ 

from density-squared diagnostics like Hα, IR & radio free-free

from (column) density diagnostic like T\* from X-ray profiles

### $\zeta$ Pup mass-loss rate < 4.2 x 10<sup>-6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>/yr

### Bright OB stars in the Galaxy

### III. Constraints on the radial stratification of the clumping factor in hot star winds from a combined $H_{\alpha}$ , IR and radio analysis\*

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Received; accepted

**Abstract.** Recent results strongly challenge the canonical picture of massive star winds: various evidence indicates that currently accepted mass-loss rates,  $\dot{M}$ , may need to be revised downwards, by factors extending to one magnitude or even more. This is because the most commonly used mass-loss diagnostics are affected by "clumping" (small-scale density inhomogeneities), influencing our interpretation of observed spectra and fluxes.

Such downward revisions would have dramatic consequences for the evolution of, and feedback from, massive stars, and thus robust determinations of the clumping properties and mass-loss rates are urgently needed. We present a first attempt concerning this objective, by means of constraining the radial stratification of the so-called clumping factor.

To this end, we have analyzed a sample of 19 Galactic O-type supergiants/giants, by combining our own and archival data for  $H_{\alpha}$ , IR, mm and radio fluxes, and using approximate methods, calibrated to more sophisticated models. Clumping has been included into our analysis in the "conventional" way, by assuming the inter-clump matter to be void. Because (almost) all our diagnostics depends on the square of density, we cannot derive absolute clumping factors, but only factors normalized to a certain minimum.

This minimum was usually found to be located in the outermost, radio-emitting region, i.e., the radio mass-loss rates are the lowest ones, compared to  $\dot{M}$  derived from  $H_{\alpha}$  and the IR. The radio rates agree well with those predicted by theory, but are only upper limits, due to unknown clumping in the outer wind.  $H_{\alpha}$  turned out to be a useful tool to derive the clumping properties inside  $r < 3...5 R_{\star}$ . Our most important result concerns a (physical) difference between denser and thinner winds: for denser winds, the innermost region is more strongly clumped than the outermost one (with a normalized clumping factor of  $4.1 \pm 1.4$ ), whereas thinner winds have similar clumping properties in the inner and outer regions.

Our findings are compared with theoretical predictions, and the implications are discussed in detail, by assuming different scenarios regarding the still unknown clumping properties of the outer wind. trade-off/degeneracy between clumping factor and mass-loss rate

$$\dot{M}_{cl} \equiv \dot{M}_{smooth} / f_{cl}^{0.5}$$

Puls et al. (2006): relative clumping (vs. radius), but free scale factor

$$\zeta$$
 Pup mass-loss rate < 4.2 x 10<sup>-6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>/yr

X-ray mass-loss rate breaks degeneracy and sets the scale factor

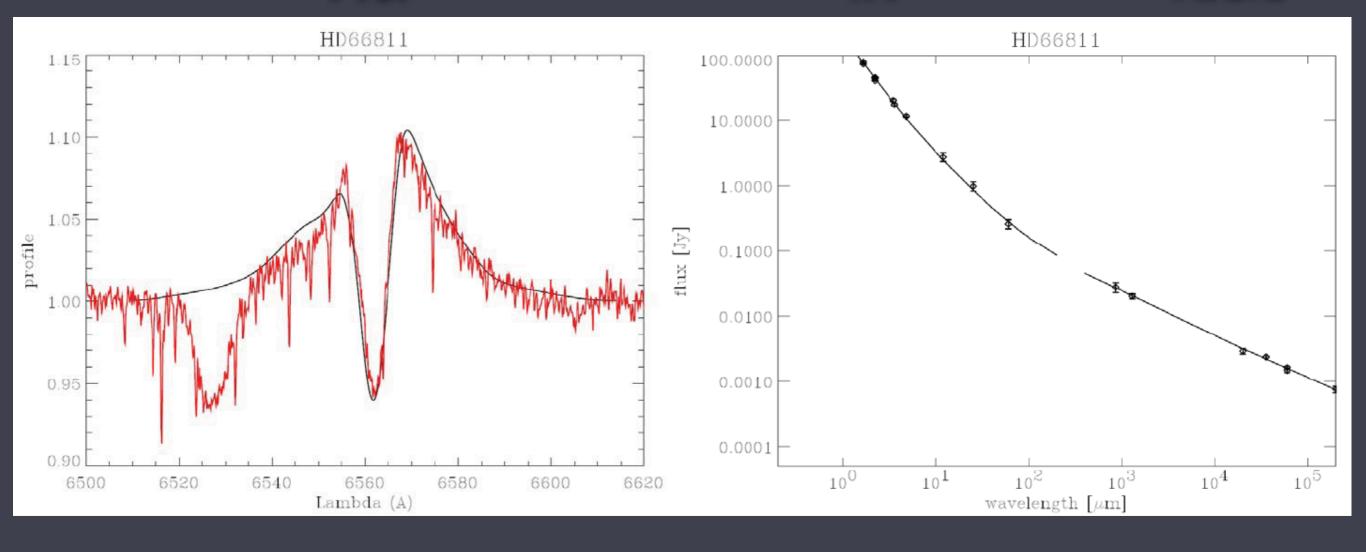
### ζ Pup: radially varying clumping

for  $\dot{M} = 3.5 \times 10^{-6} \, M_{sun}/yr$ 

$$f_{cl} \equiv \langle \rho^2 \rangle / \langle \rho \rangle^2$$
  
 $\dot{M}_{cl} \equiv \dot{M}_{smooth} / f_{cl}^{0.5}$ 

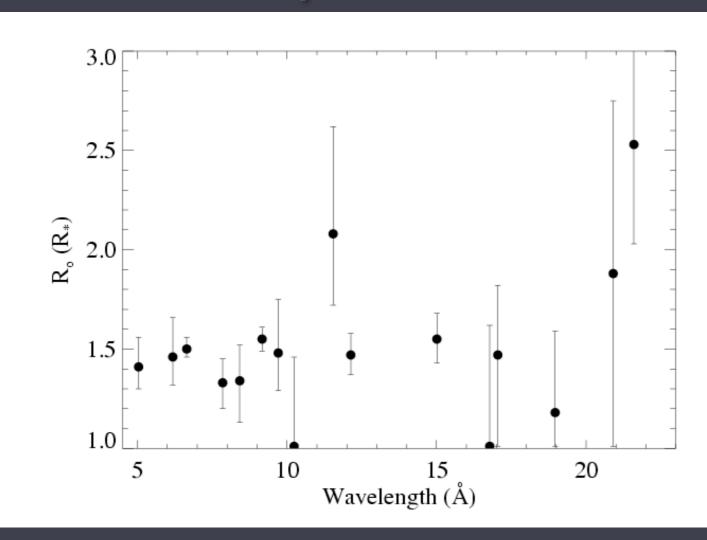
Ηα

 $f_{cl} = 1.3$  @ r < 1.12 R\* H $\alpha$   $f_{cl} = 6.0$  @ 1.12 < r < 1.5 R\* H $\alpha$   $f_{cl} = 3.7$  @ 1.5 < r < 2 R\* H $\alpha$   $f_{cl} = 2.6$  @ 2 < r < 15 R\* IR  $f_{cl} = 1.3$  @ r > 15 R\* radio

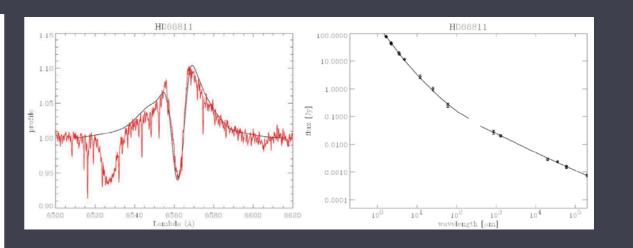


### base of the wind (r < 1.5 $R_{\star}$ )

recall: X-ray  $R_o = 1.5 R_{\star}$ 







### Conclusions

- X-ray emission is consistent with the LDI mechanism leading to shocks distributed throughout the wind
- Little or no X-ray emission at the base of the wind  $(r < 1.5 R_{\star})$ , though clumping extends lower
- Absorption signatures in line profiles enable a massloss rate measurement
- Mass-loss rates are lower (factor of 3 to 5) than traditionally thought (from density-squared diagnostics)
- This is consistent with clumping factors,  $f_{cl} \sim 10$



## Other Stars?

# HD 93129A Tr 14: Chandra Carina: ESO

Tr 14: Chandra

HD 93129A

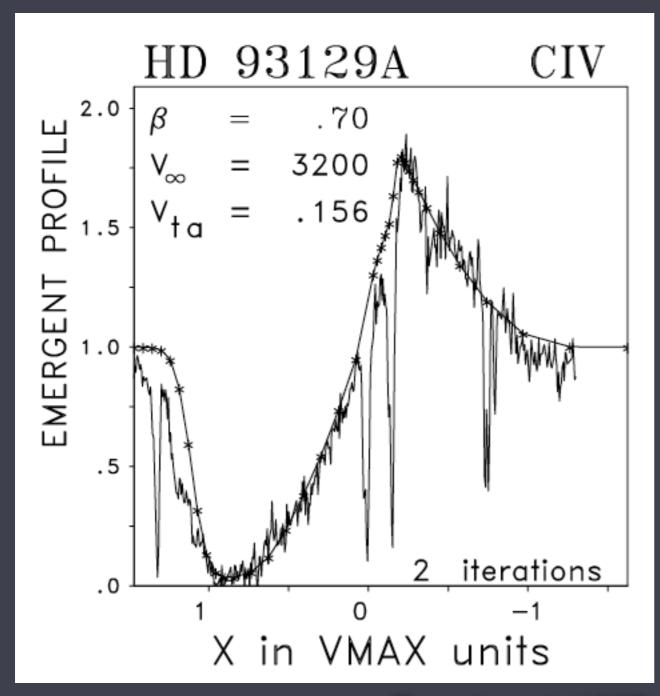
 $L_X \sim 7 \times 10^{32}$ 

<a href="https://www.enumber.com/">hv> ~ I keV</a>
:kT ~ I0<sup>7</sup> K

 $L_{bol} \sim 2 \times 10^6 L_{sun}$  so  $L_{x}/L_{bol} \sim 10^{-7}$ 

### Strong stellar winds: traditional diagnostics

### UV



Taresch et al. (1997)

 $\dot{M} = 2 \times 10^{-5} M_{sun}/yr$   $v_{\infty} = 3200 \text{ km/s}$ 

### Ηα

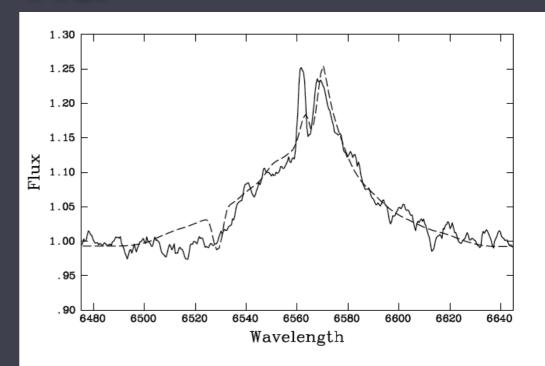


Fig. 13. Observed H $\alpha$  profile (solid) compared with the calculation assuming a mass loss of  $18 \times 10^{-6}~M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$  (dashed). Note that the blue narrow emission peak originates from the H II-region emission.

## HD 93129A: strongest wind measured in an O star

### Ηα

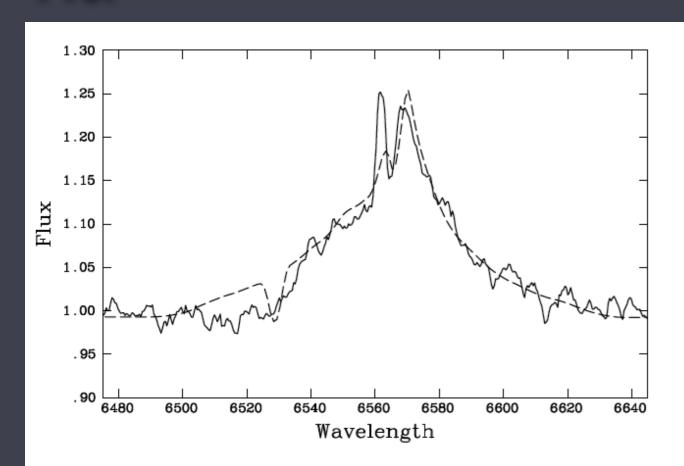


Fig. 13. Observed H $\alpha$  profile (solid) compared with the calculation assuming a mass loss of  $18\times10^{-6}~M_{\odot}/\rm{yr}$  (dashed). Note that the blue narrow emission peak originates from the H II-region emission.

 $\dot{M} = 2 \times 10^{-5} M_{sun}/yr$ 

assuming a smooth wind

i.e. no clumping

Taresch et al. (1997)

Tr 14: Chandra

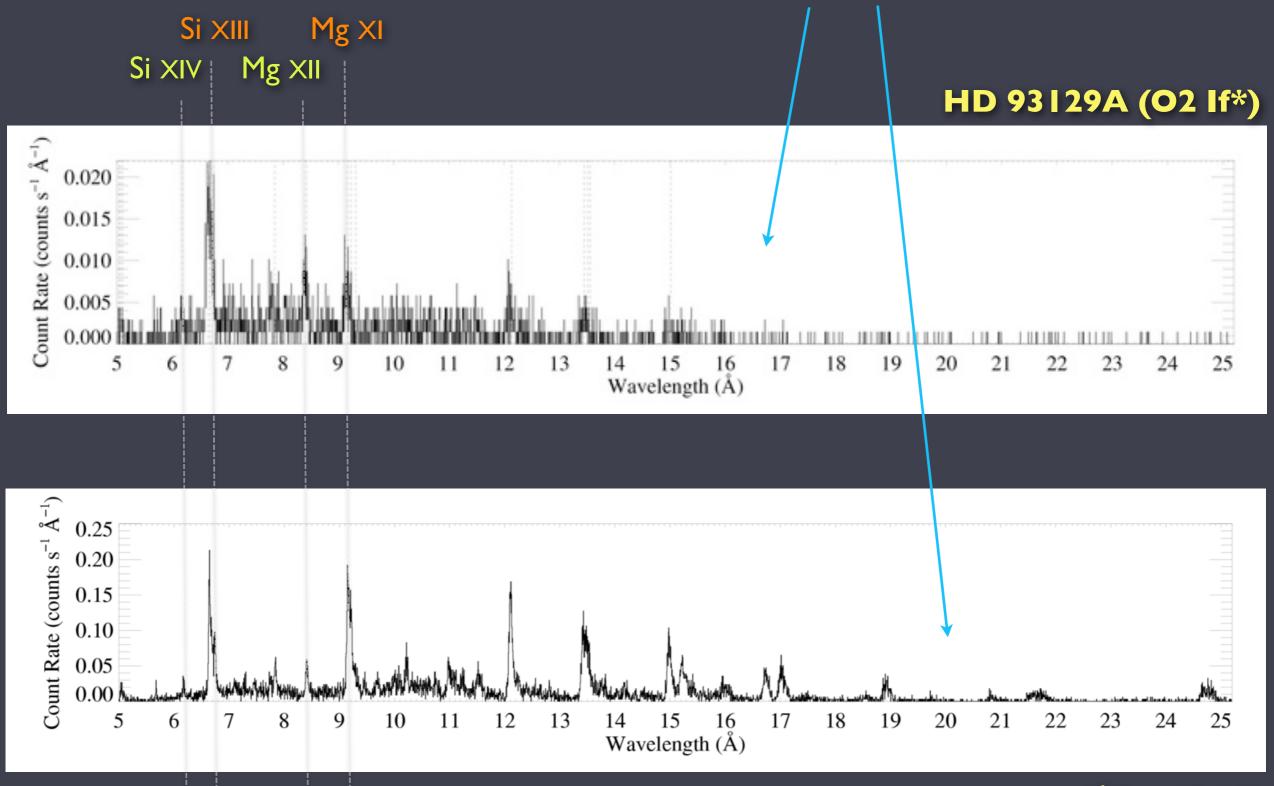
HD 93129A

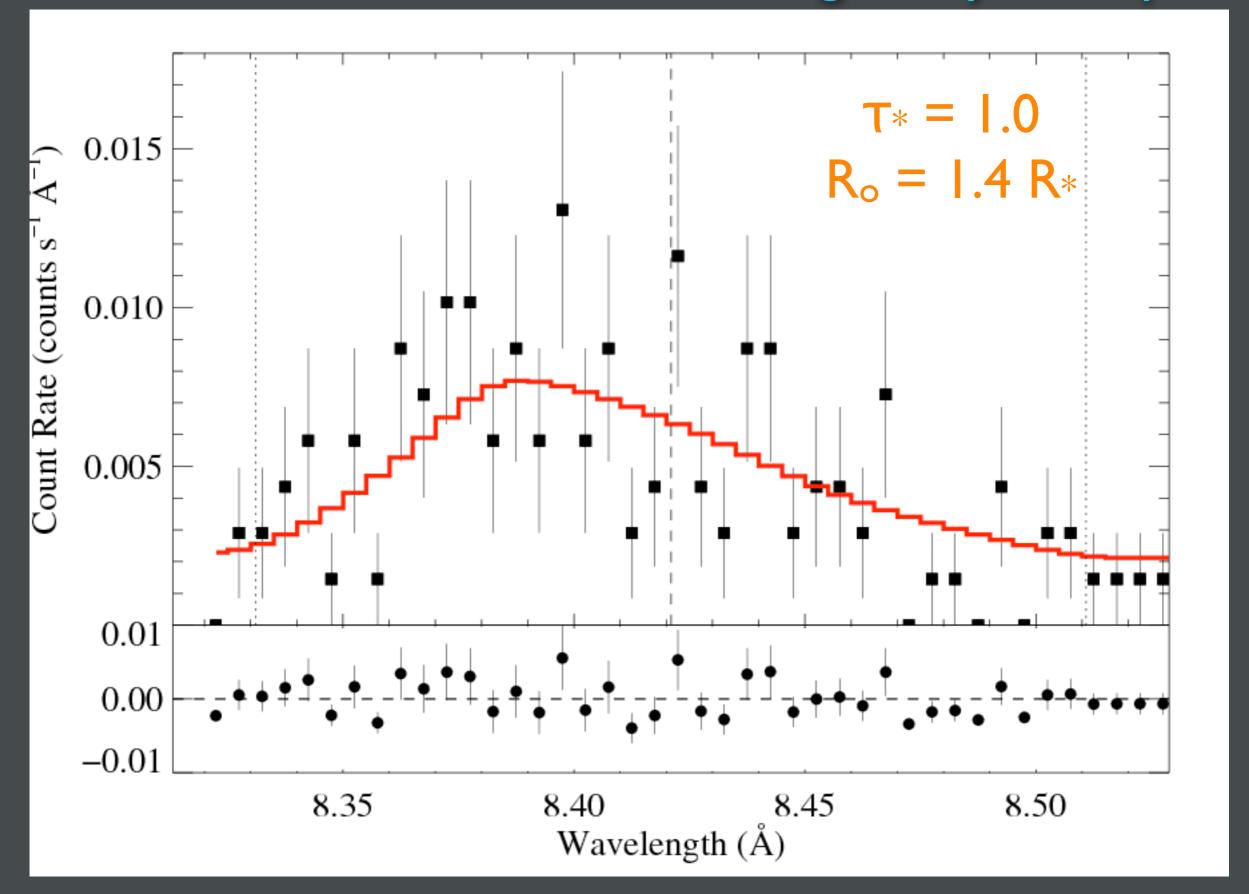
 $L_X \sim 7 \times 10^{32}$ 

<a href="https://www.enumber.com/">hv> ~ I keV</a>
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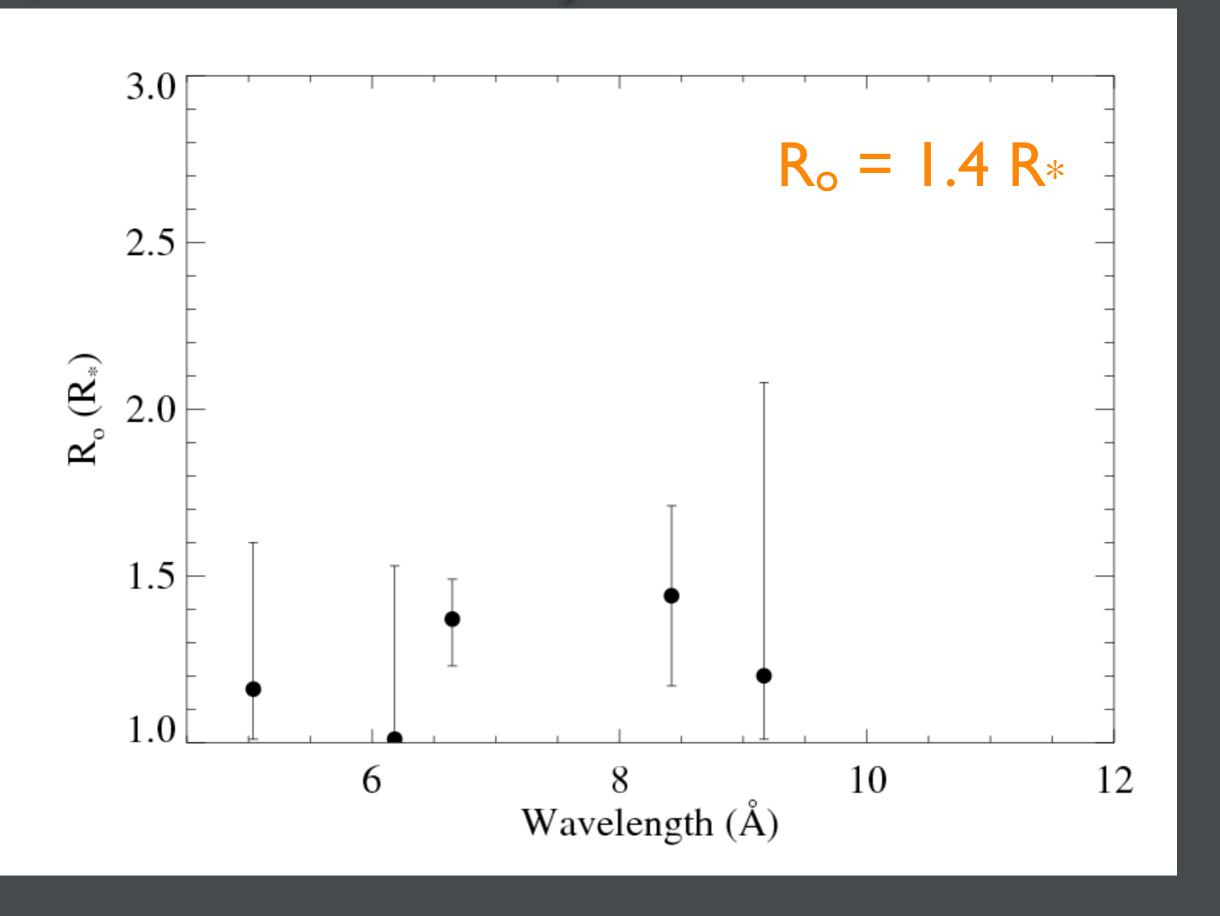
 $L_{bol} \sim 2 \times 10^6 L_{sun}$  so  $L_{x}/L_{bol} \sim 10^{-7}$ 

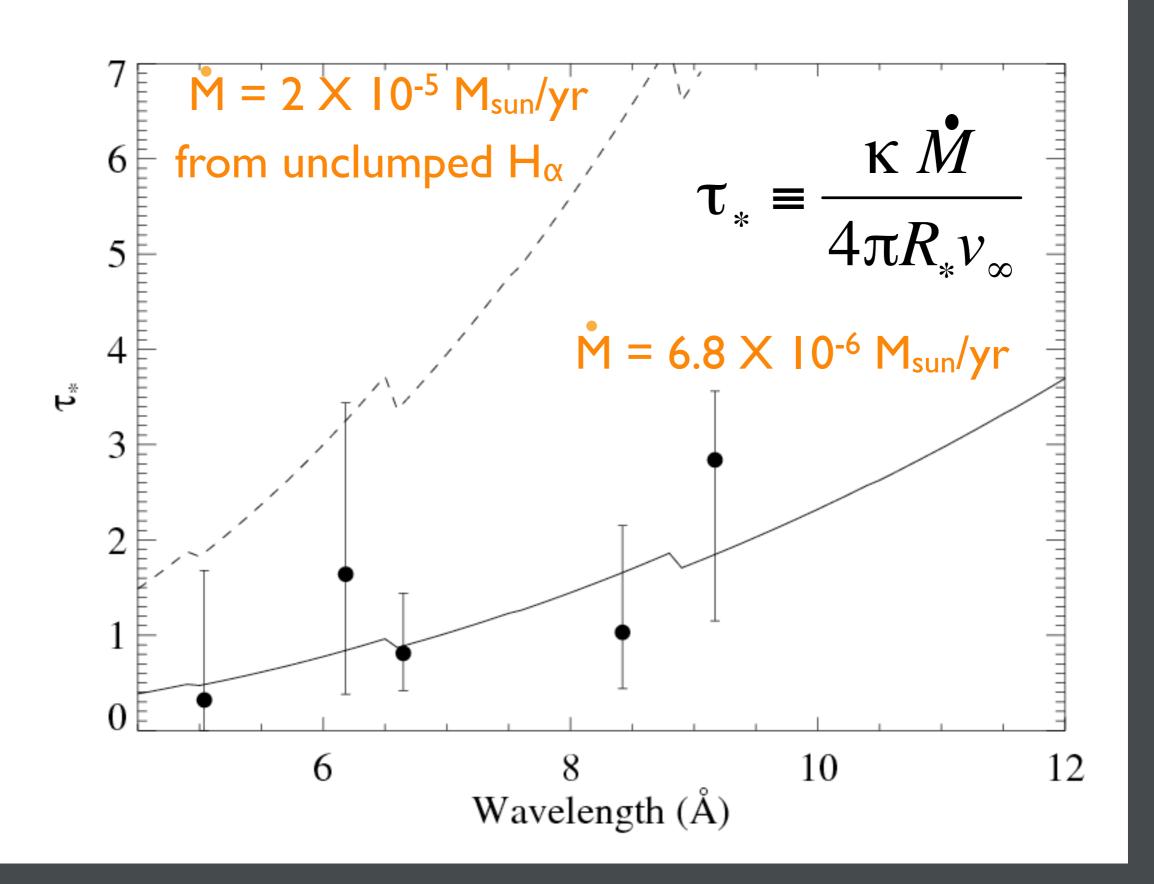
### H-like vs. He-like soft emission absent: wind attenuation





### $R_o$ = onset radius of X-ray emission





Lower mass-loss rate: consistent with Ha?

### Lower mass-loss rate: consistent with Ha?

Yes! With clumping factor of  $f_{cl} = 12$ 

### $\dot{M} = 7 \times 10^{-6} M_{sun}/yr$

