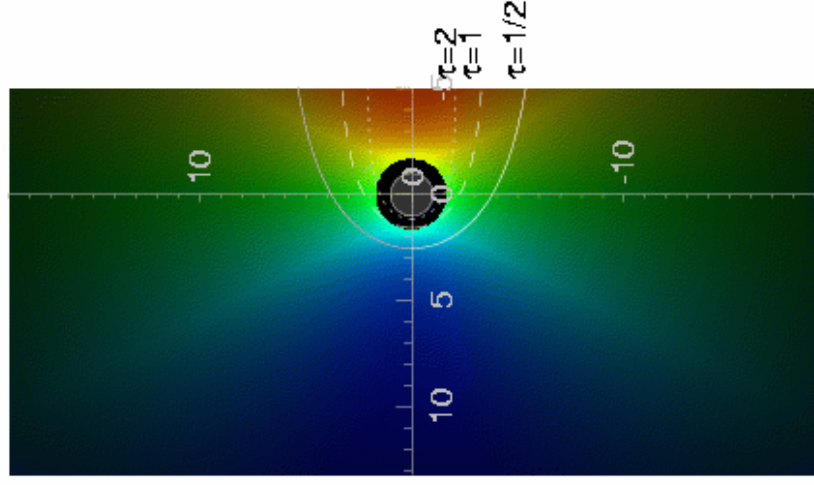
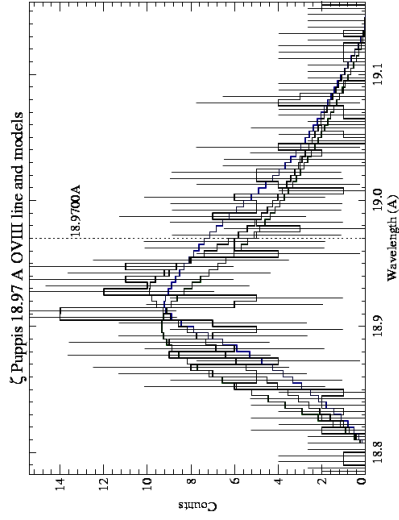
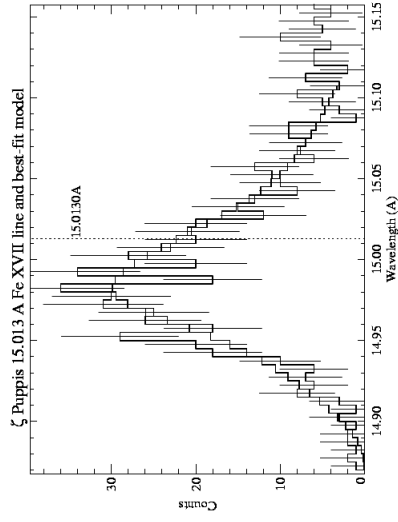


# X-ray Emission from Massive Stars: Using Emission Line Profiles to Constrain Wind Kinematics, Geometry, and Opacity



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# Outline

Introduction: the context of hot star X-rays

Line profile diagnostics

What do the observations look like?

What trends emerge?

ζ Pup: wind X-rays, but less absorption than expected

ζ Ori and δ Ori: similar situation, very little wind absorption; but wind-shock parameters are otherwise satisfactory

Magnetic OB stars are a different story: θ<sup>1</sup> Ori C, τ Sco, γ Cas

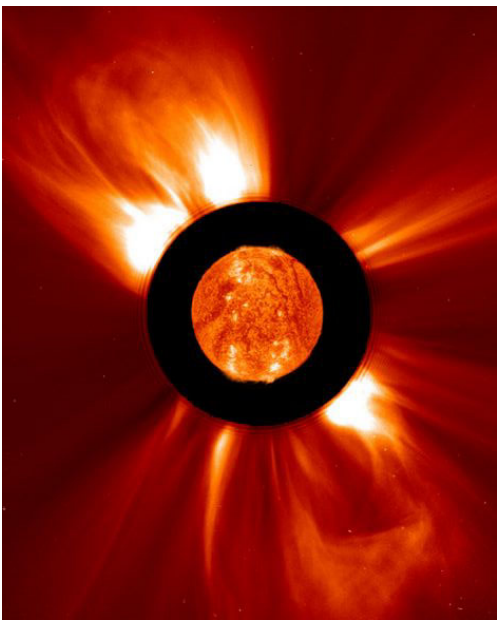
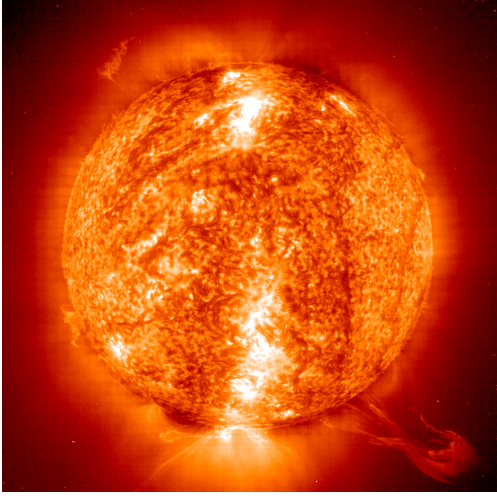
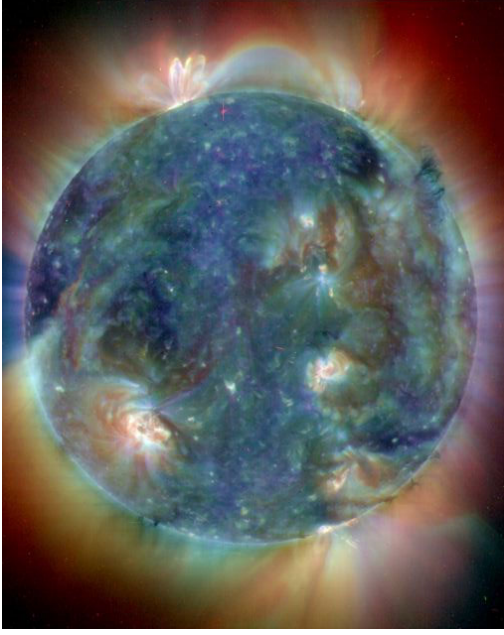
And so are normal B stars: β Cru, ε CMa

Conclusions

*Much of the work in this talk was done by Swarthmore students,*

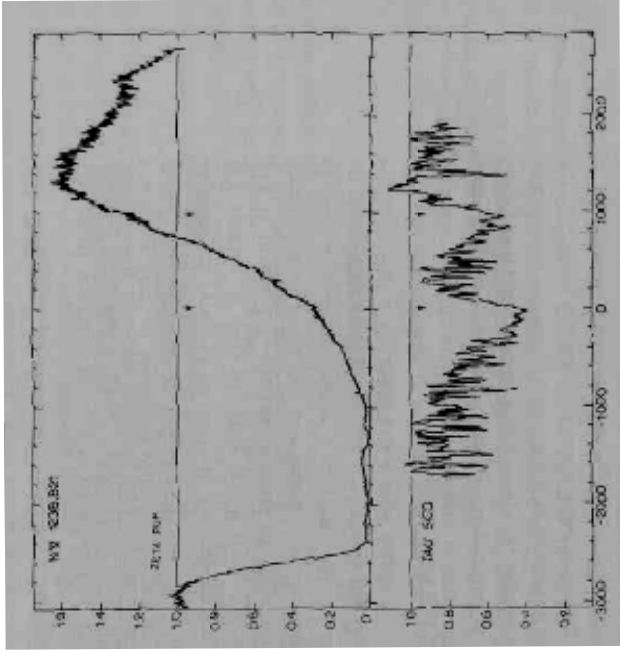
*Roban Kramer and Stephanie Tonnesen*

Cool stars, like the Sun, have convective envelopes that support a magnetic dynamo, heating a corona to X-ray emitting temperatures via magnetic reconnection (and other magnetic processes, perhaps)

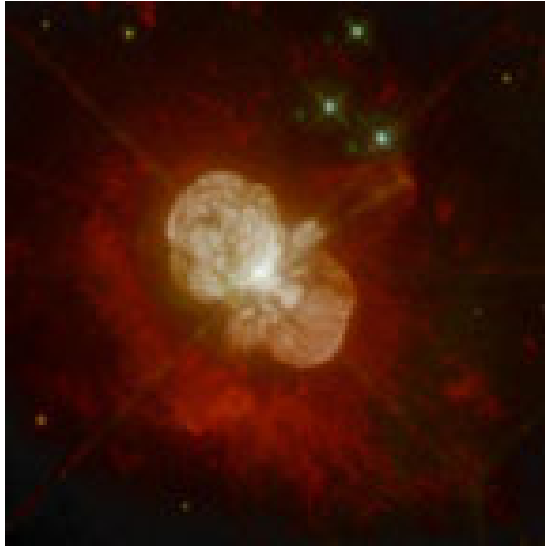


Stars earlier than about F5 ( $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 8000 \text{ K}$ ) don't have convective envelopes and don't have any X-ray emission...

Except that O and early B stars **do have X-ray emission** - they are strong sources of soft X-rays. And they have **strong stellar winds**.



Wind broadened and blueshifted UV absorption lines of an O and a B star.



HST image of  $\eta \text{ Car}$ ; an extreme example of a hot star wind.

# Questions we'd like to address with high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy

## **General:**

How do OB stars produce X-rays at all? What's the connection between their massive winds and their X-ray emission?

## **Specific:**

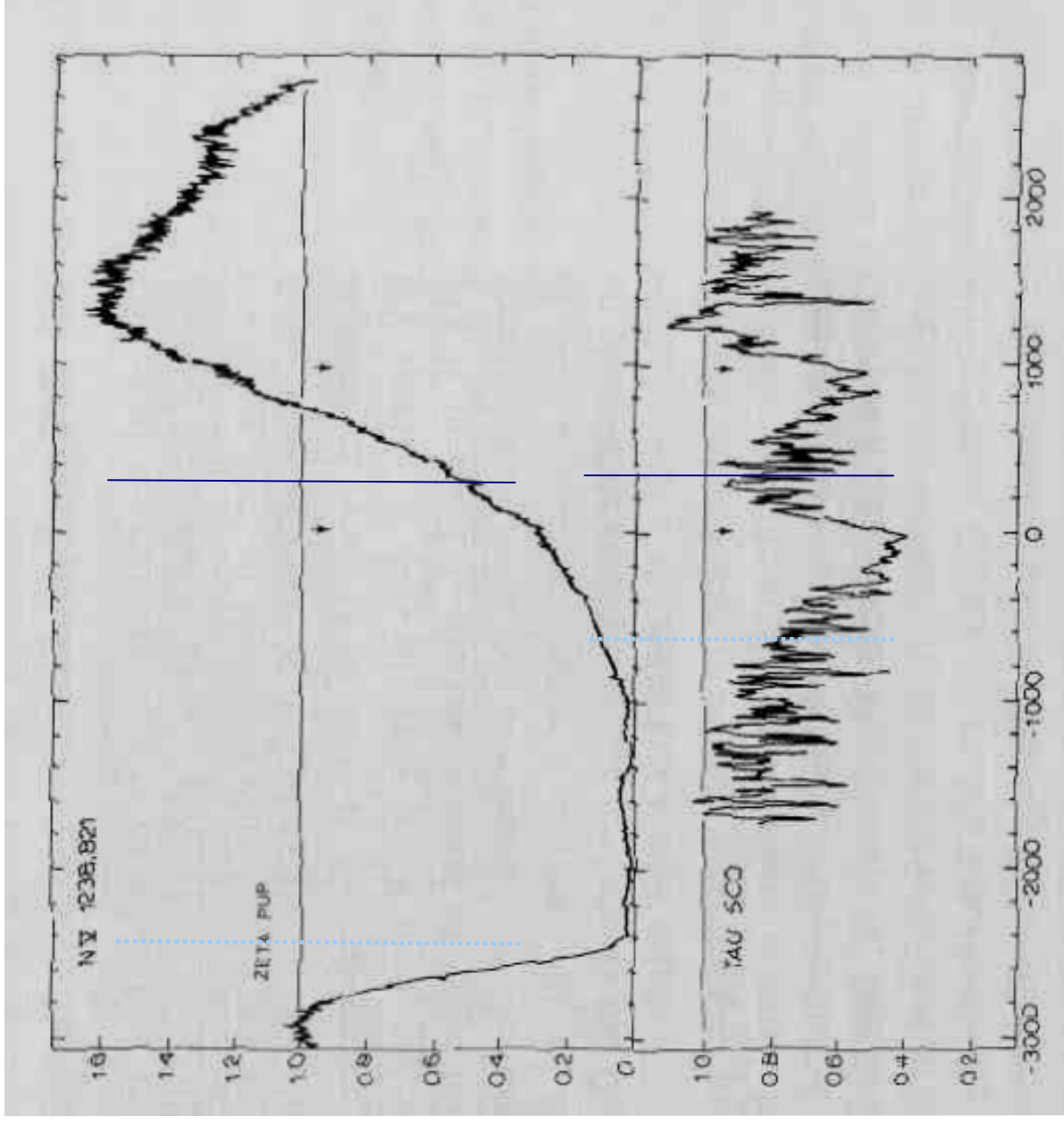
What's the nature of wind instabilities and shocks in normal hot stars? Can this (class of) model(s) work?

What role do magnetic fields play in hot stars and their X-ray emission? (e.g. do B stars have coronae? How can young hot stars be so hot and bright in X-rays? How can hot stars with extreme X-ray properties be understood?)

# O stars' radiation-driven winds contain enormous kinetic energy

Observed P Cygni profiles in two hot stars:  $\zeta$  Pup (O4,  $10^6 L_{\text{sun}}$ ) and  $\tau$  Sco (B0 V,  $50,000 L_{\text{sun}}$ )

**Steady-state theory is very successful at explaining the time-average properties of hot-star winds**

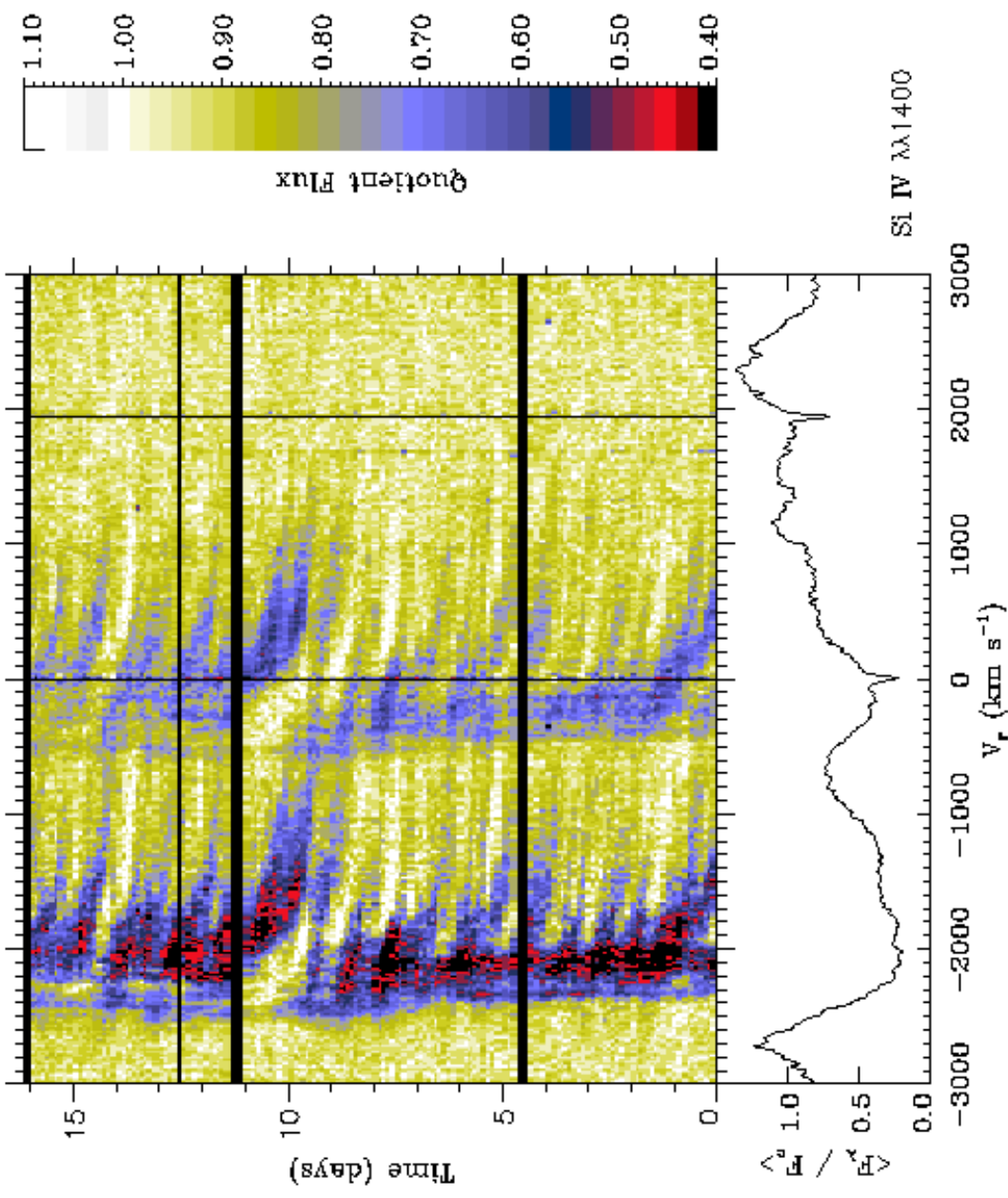


But, hot star winds are not steady-state: They display lots of time variability.

16 days of UV spectra of  $\zeta$  Pup.

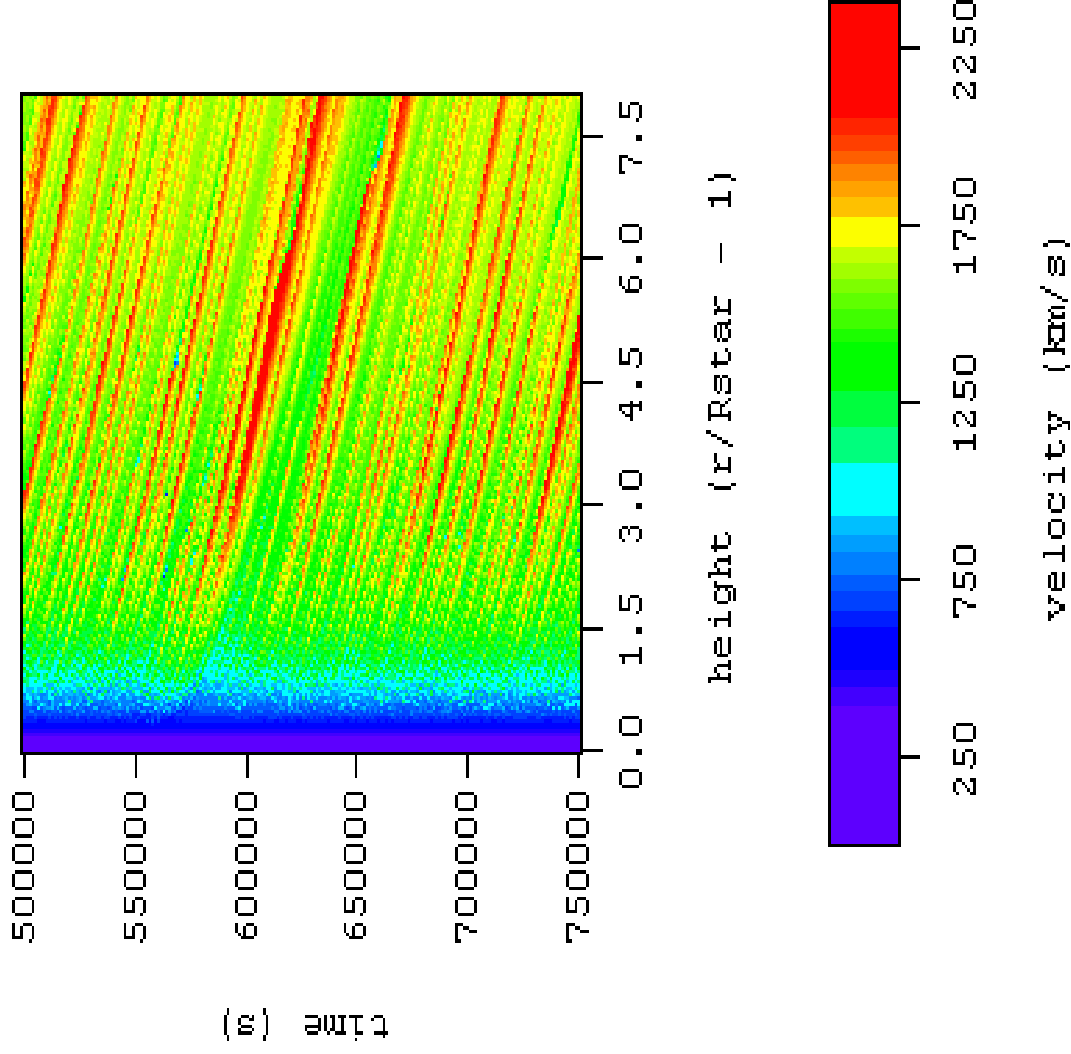
The color plot is the ratio of each spectrum to the mean spectrum (bottom).

Cyclical and stochastic variability is seen in most hot stars' winds



**Time dependent** models of the winds show lots of structure: turbulence, shock waves, collisions between “clouds”

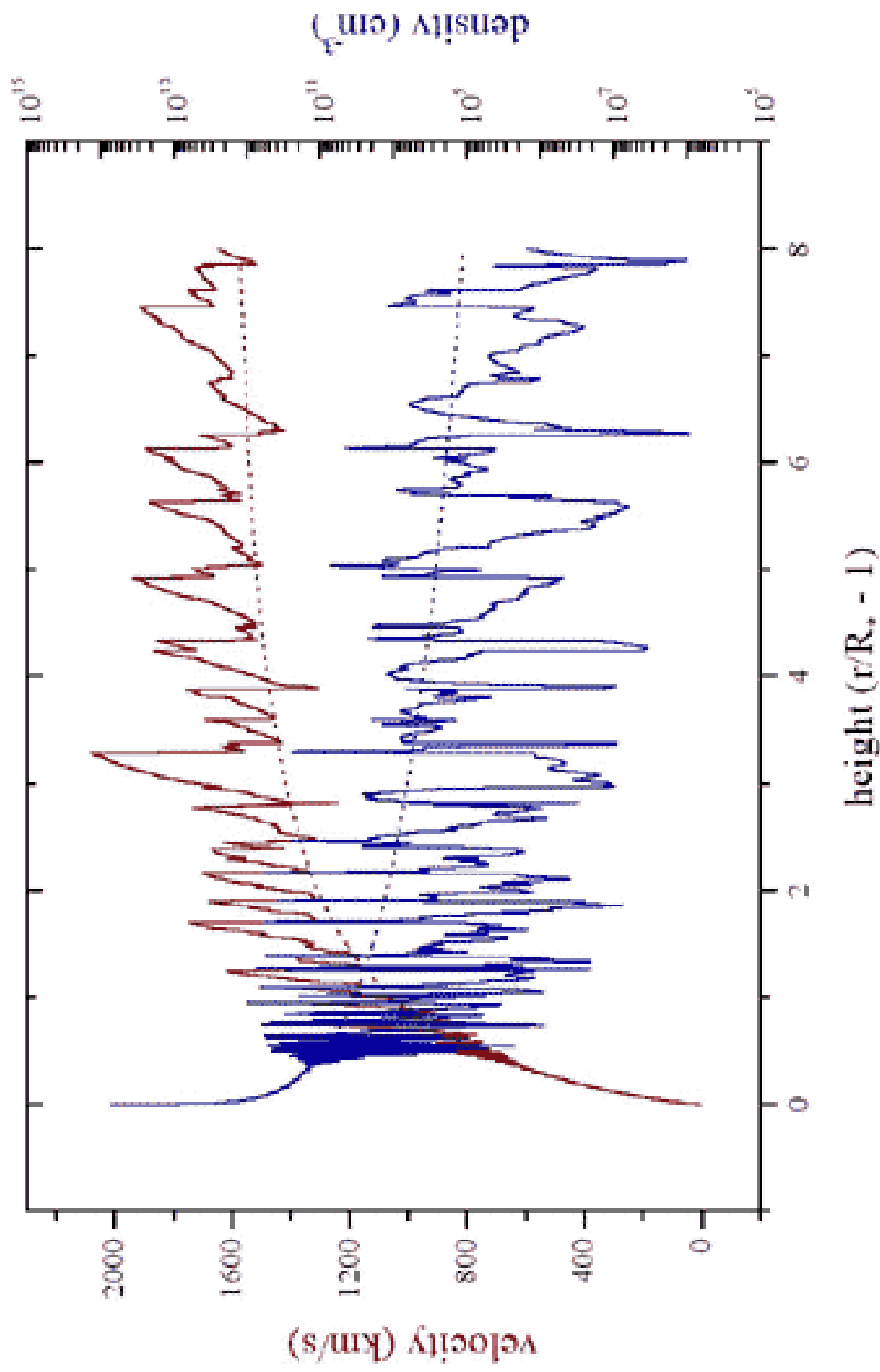
This chaotic behavior is predicted to **produce X-rays** through **shock-heating** of some small fraction of the wind.



The wind structure - and associated shock heating - is generated by the **line-force instability**, which relies on Doppler deshadowing of radiatively-driven ions to increase the radiative driving in an exponentially growing feedback process.



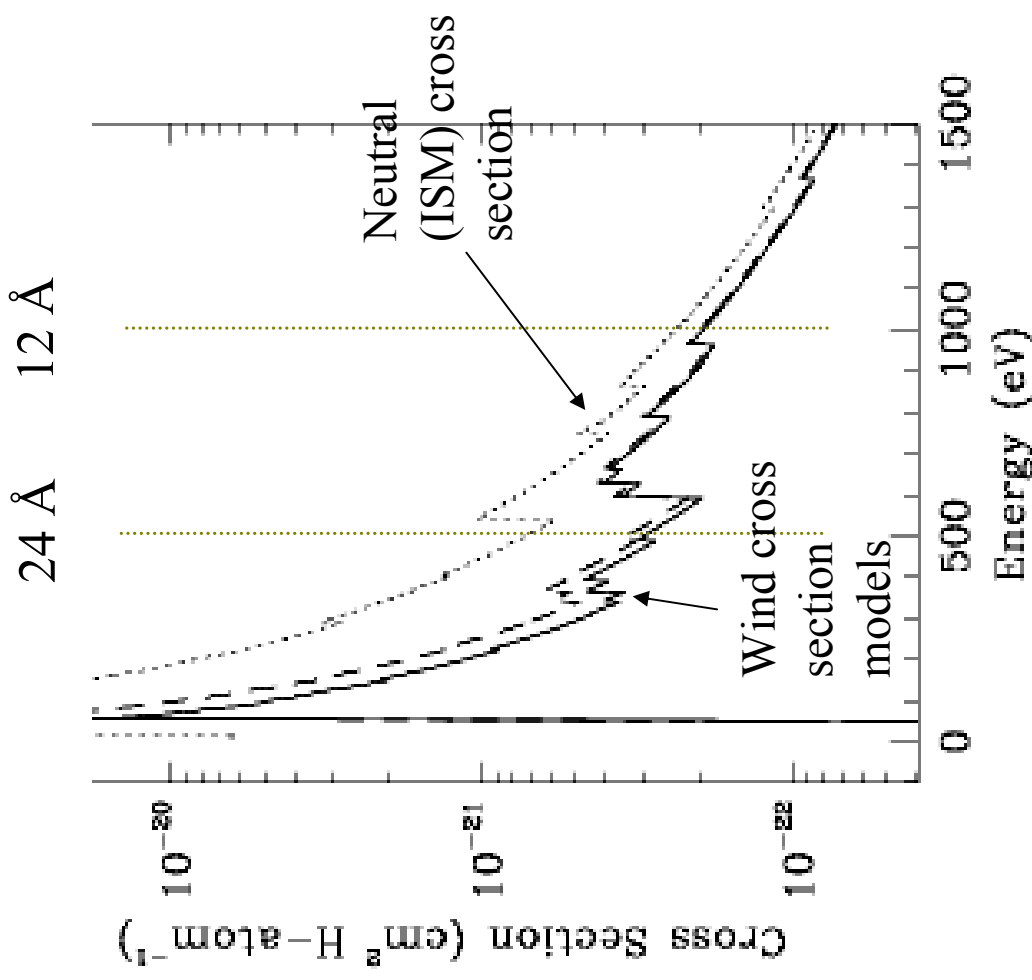
A snapshot at a single time from the same simulation. Note the discontinuities in velocity. These are shock fronts, compressing and **heating** the wind, producing **X-rays**.



# Even in these instability shock models, **most of the wind is cold** and is a source of X-ray continuum opacity

The massive winds of O stars are expected to be **optically thick** to soft X-rays...the inner tens of  $R_*$  may be heavily absorbed: or so it is thought.

The **wavelength dependence** of individual lines leads to the expectation that different absorption characteristics will be seen in different lines from a given star.



# What Line Profiles Can Tell Us

The wavelength of an emitted photon is proportional to the line-of-sight velocity:

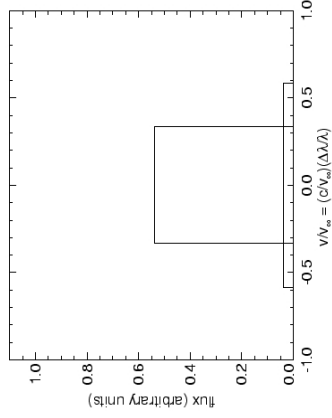
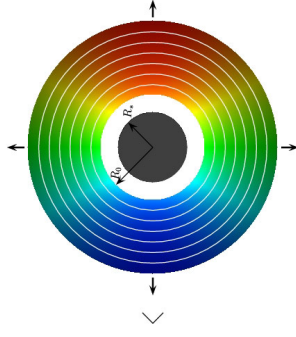
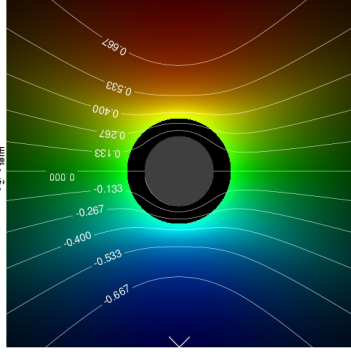
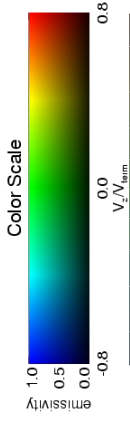
Line *shape* maps emission measure at each velocity/wavelength interval

Continuum absorption by the cold stellar wind affects the line shape

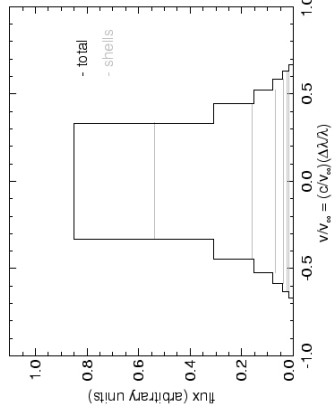
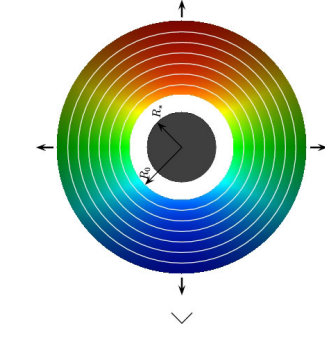
Correlation between line-of-sight velocity and absorption optical depth will cause *asymmetries* in emission lines

**X-ray line profiles can provide the most direct observational constraints on the X-ray production mechanism in hot stars**

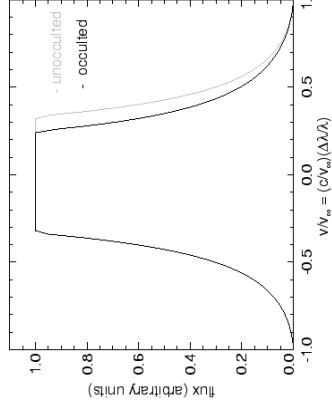
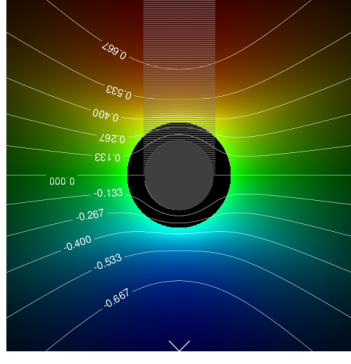
# Emission Profiles from a Spherically Symmetric, Expanding Medium



A uniform shell gives a rectangular profile.

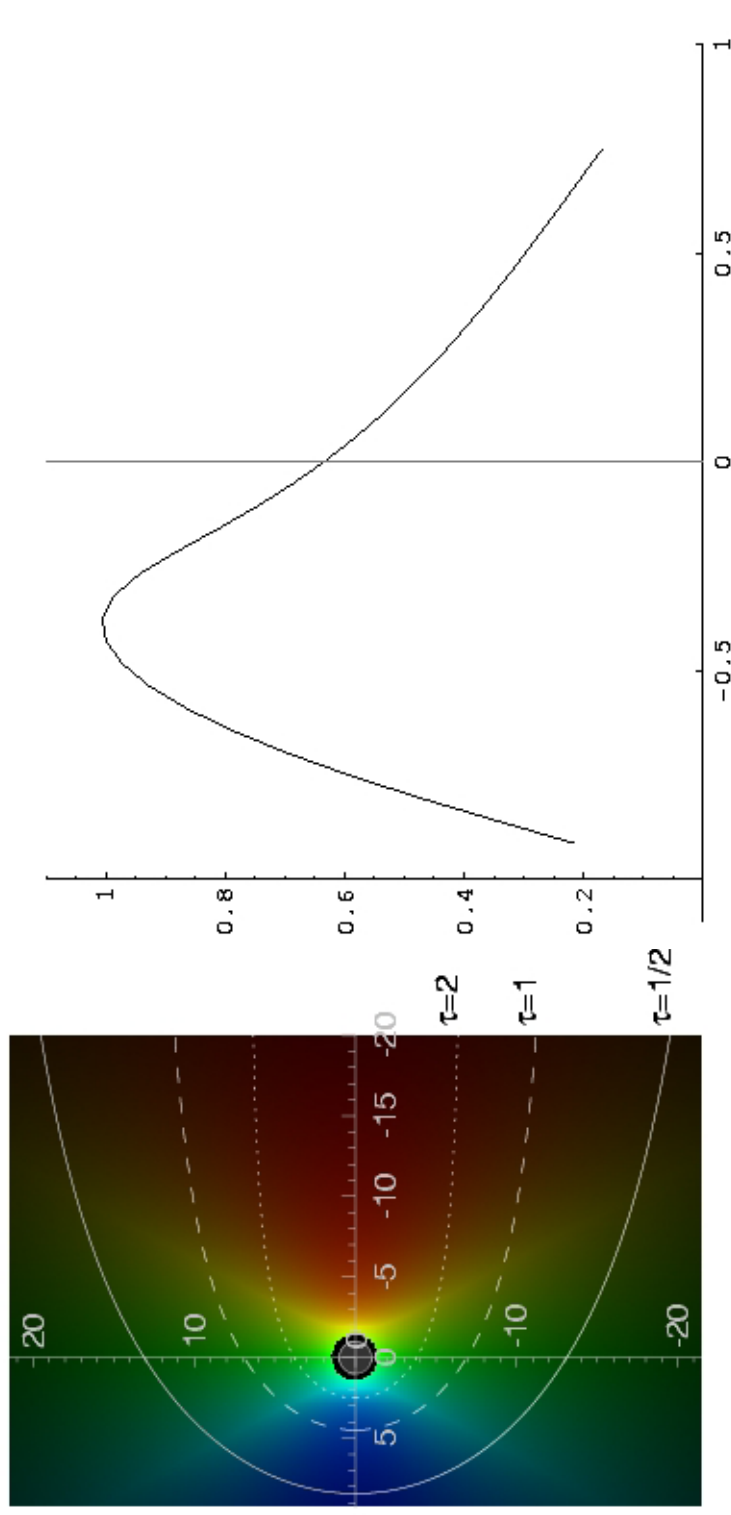


A spherically-symmetric, X-ray emitting wind can be built up from a series of concentric shells.



Occultation by the star removes *red* photons, making the profile asymmetric

# Continuum Absorption Acts Like Occultation



Red photons are preferentially absorbed, making the line asymmetric: The peak is shifted to the blue, and the red wing becomes much less steep.

We calculate line profiles using a 4-parameter model

3 parameters describe the *spatial and velocity distribution* of the emission:  $R_0$  is the minimum radius of X-ray emission, while  $\beta$  describes the acceleration of the wind and  $q$  parameterizes the radial dependence of the filling factor.

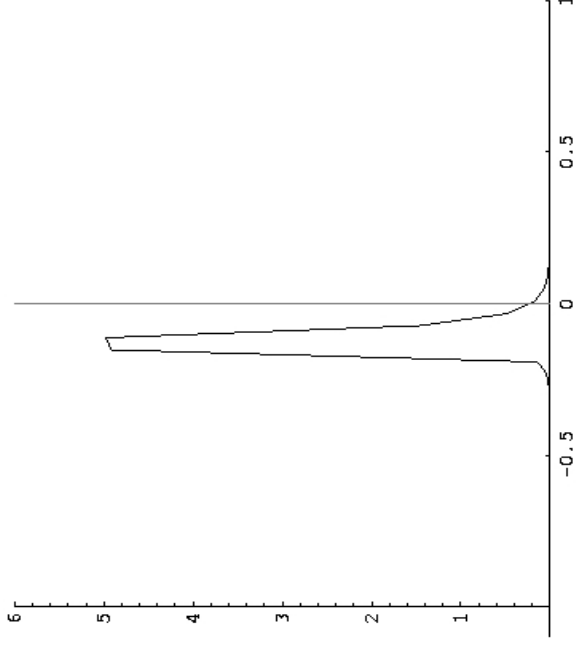
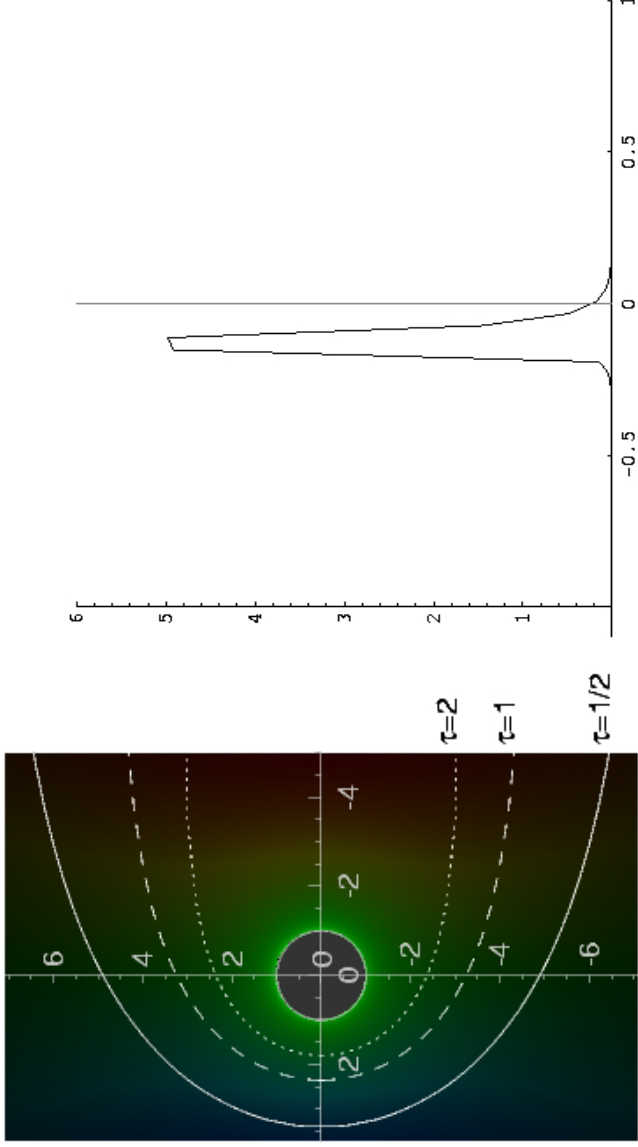
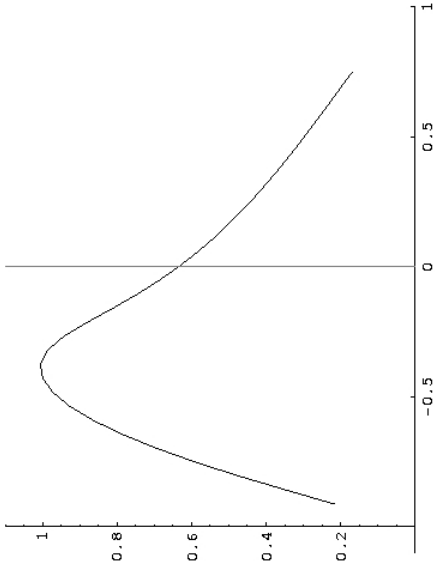
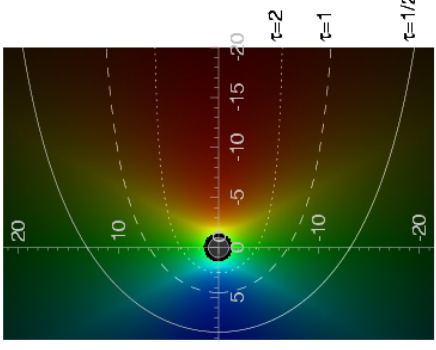
1 parameter,  $\tau_*$  describes the level of *continuum absorption* in the overlying wind.

A wind terminal velocity is assumed based on UV observations, and the calculated line profile is convolved with the appropriate instrument-response function for each line.

In addition to the wind-shock model,

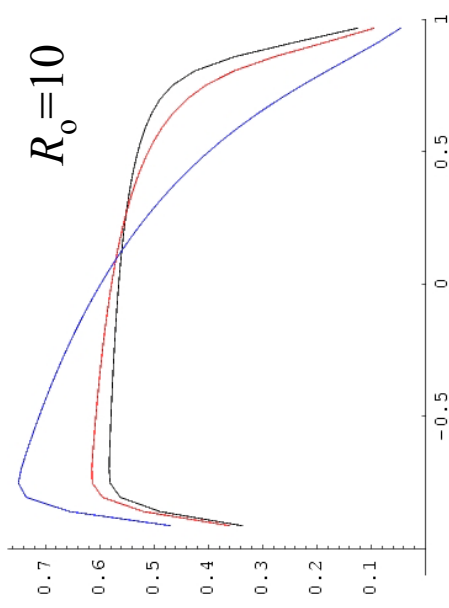
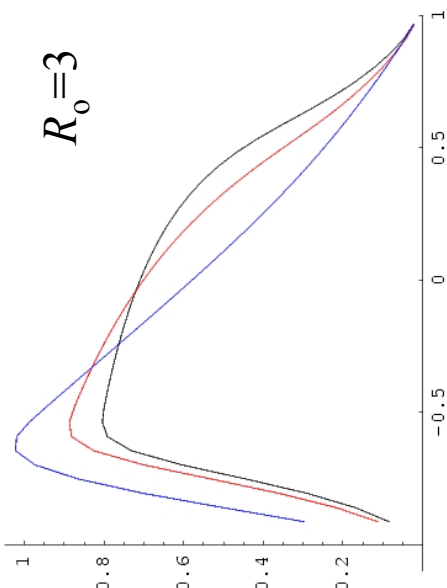
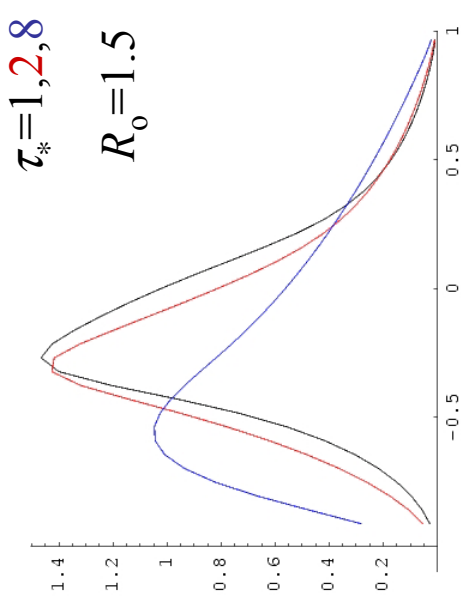
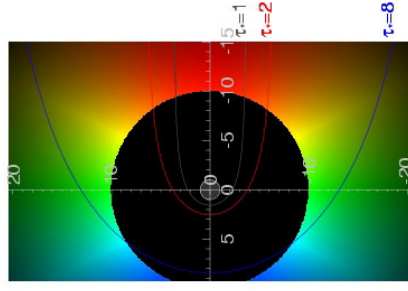
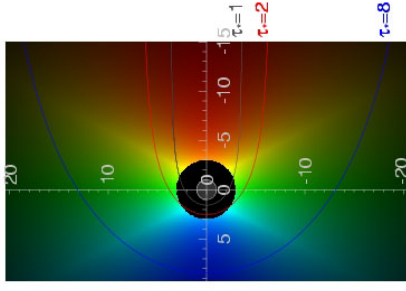
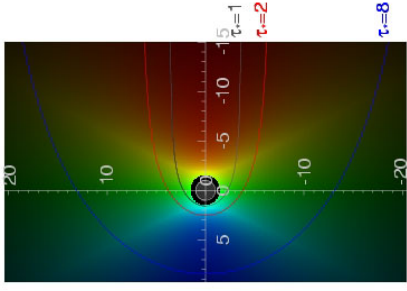
our empirical line profile model can also describe a corona

With most of the emission concentrated near the photosphere and with very little acceleration, the resulting line profiles are very narrow.



A wide variety of wind-shock properties can be modeled

Line profiles change in characteristic ways with  $\tau_*$  and  $R_0$ , becoming broader and more skewed with increasing  $\tau_*$  and broader and more flat-topped with increasing  $R_0$ .





# The *Chandra* Archive of Hot Stars

Because of the pathetically small effective area of the gratings, only a handful of single OB stars can produce high-quality spectra – maybe a dozen total; we will look at several representative single OB stars

Star	Sp. Ty.	$M_{\text{dot}}$	$V_{\text{inf}}$	comments
$\zeta$ Pup	O4	2.5 (-6)	2500	
$\zeta$ Ori	O9.5 II	1(-6)	1860	
$\delta$ Ori	O9.7 I	1(-6)	2000	
$\theta^1$ Ori C	O7 V	4(-7)	2500	1100 G dipole magnetic field
$\tau$ Sco	B0 V	3(-8)	1500	Unusually X-ray bright and hard
$\gamma$ Cas	B0.5 Ve	1(-8)	1800	Same, but more so
$\beta$ Cru	B0.5 IV	$\sim$ 5(-9)	1200	Beta Cep var.

*Chandra* (and *XMM*) have increased the spectral resolution available to X-ray astronomers by almost a factor of 100.

## Diagnostics and Physical Properties

We're talking about thermal, collisional/coronal, equilibrium, optically thin plasmas here...*probably*

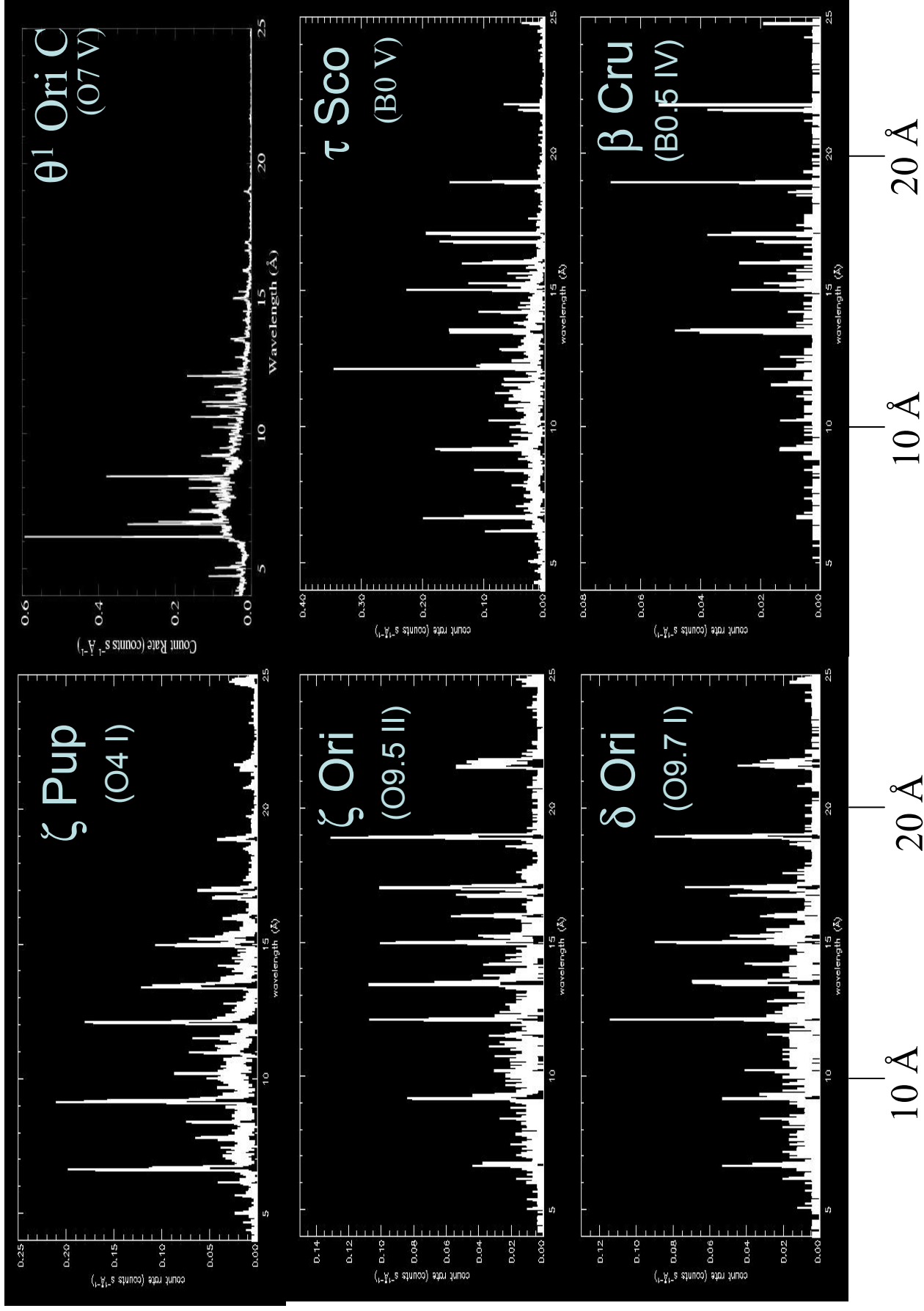
Temperatures and overall emission levels: DEMs

Densities: line ratios...but also source location via  $f/i$

Abundances: line ratios and line-to-continuum ratios

**Kinematics: line broadening and profile shapes**

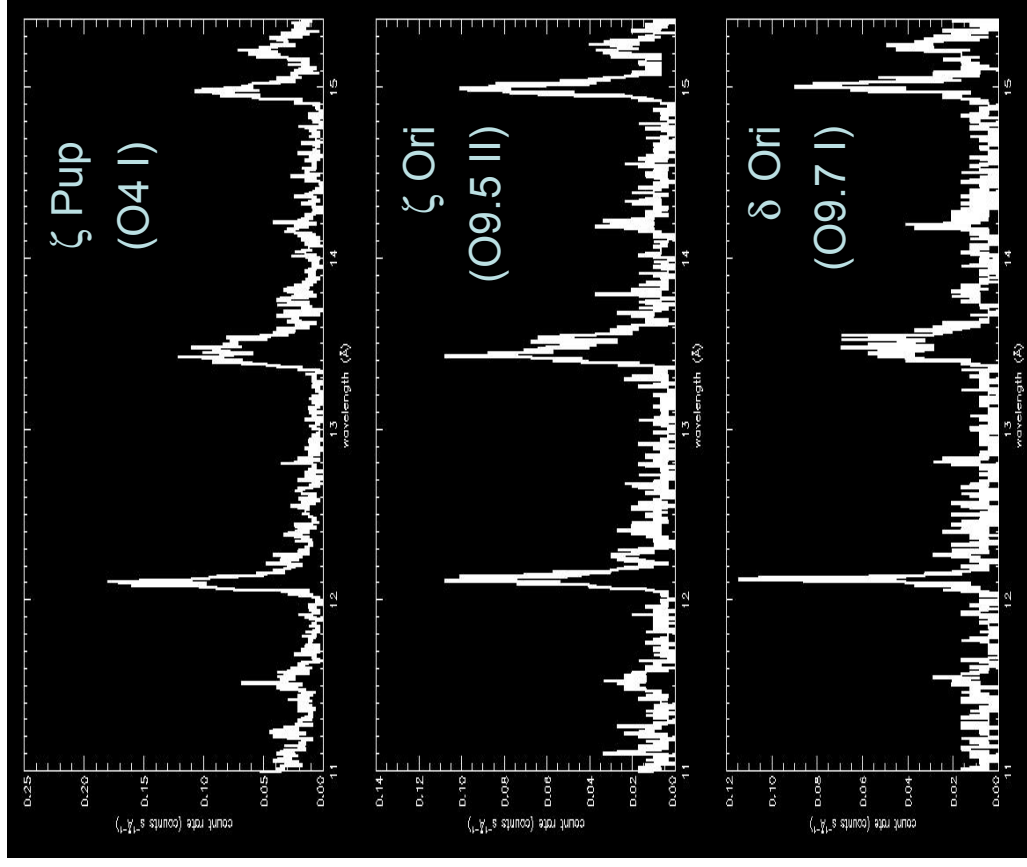
# Global appearance of spectra (*Chandra* MEG)



# Focus in on a characteristic portion of the spectrum

12Å

15Å



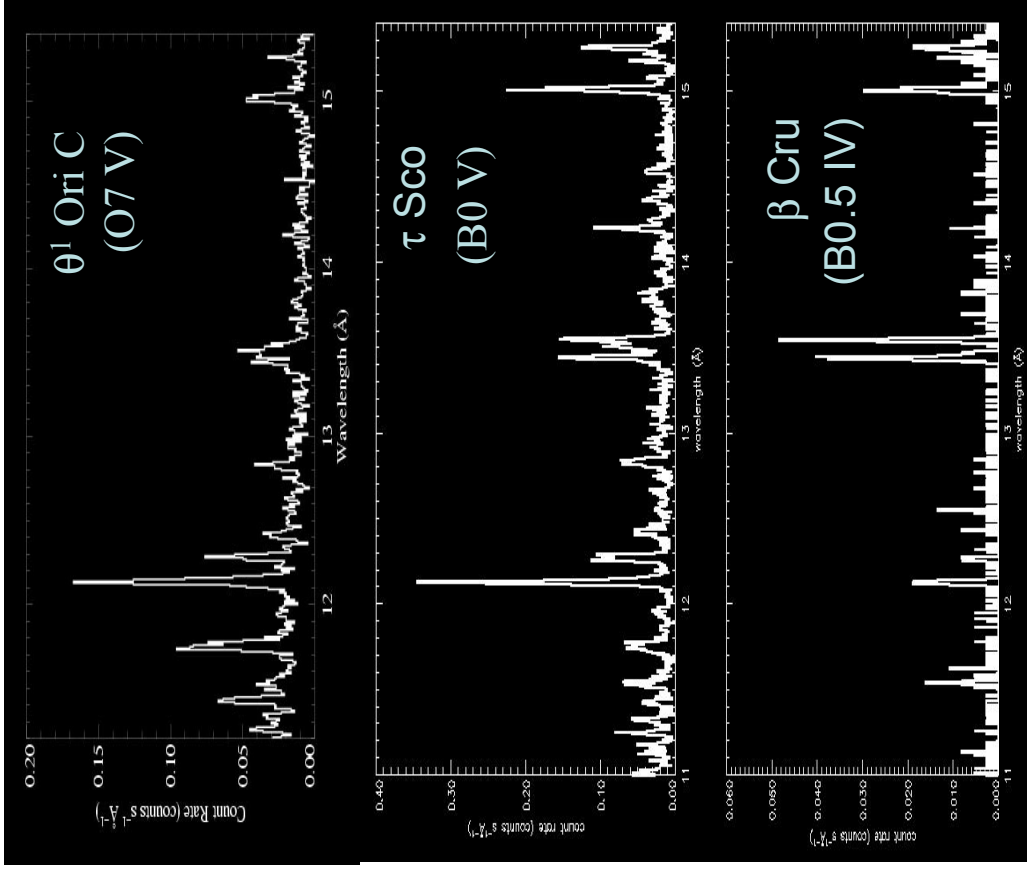
Ne X

Ne IX

Fe XVII

12Å

15Å



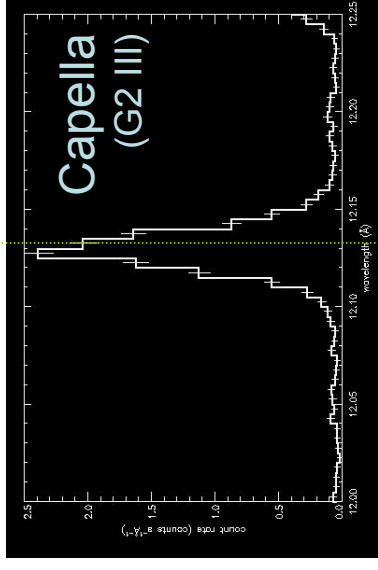
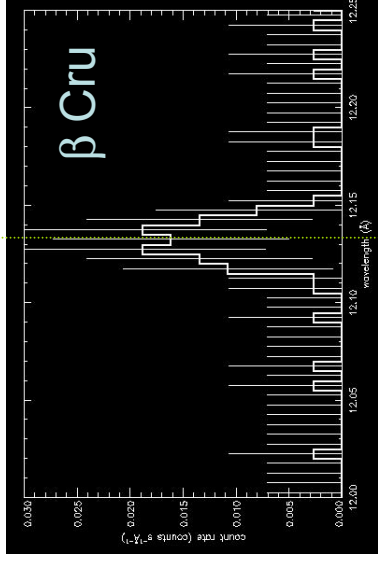
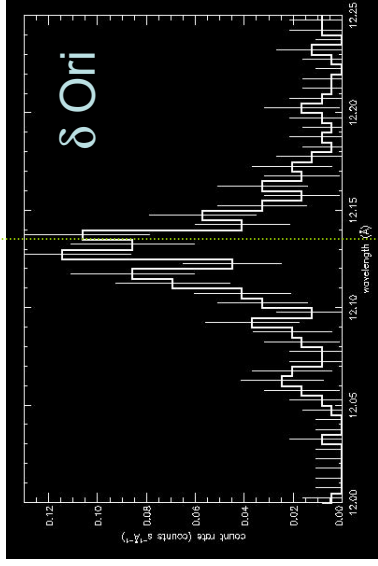
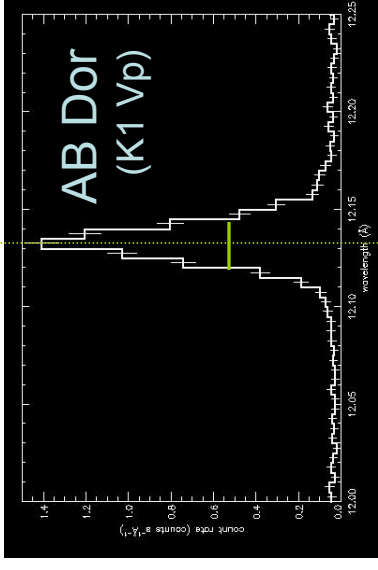
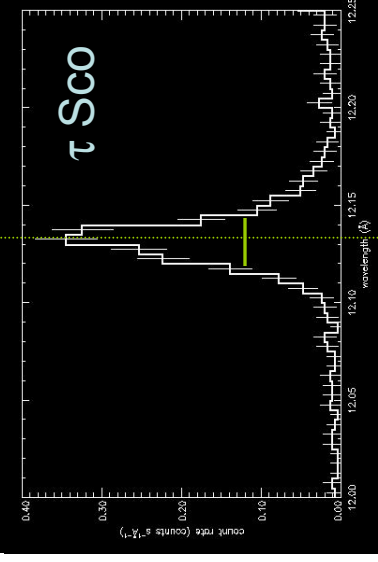
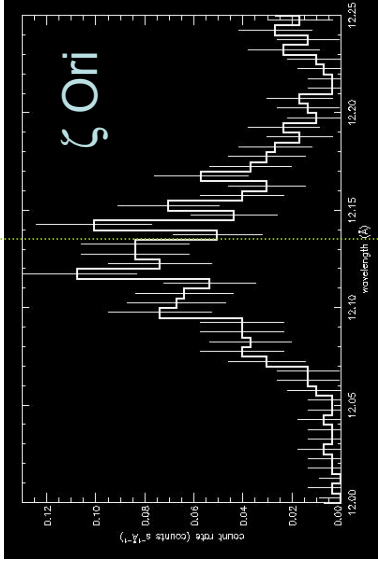
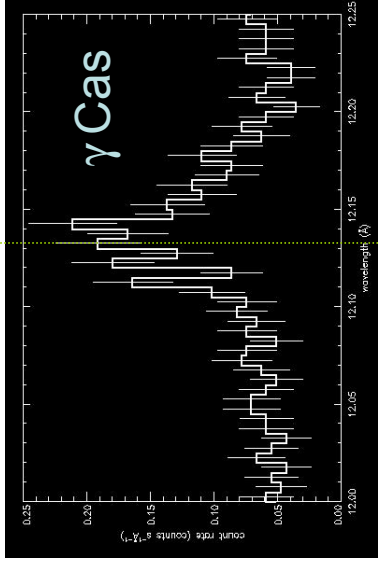
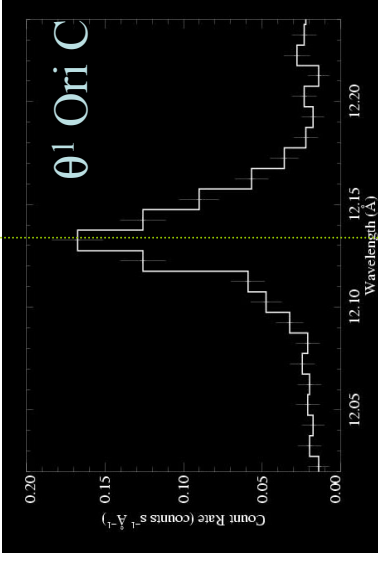
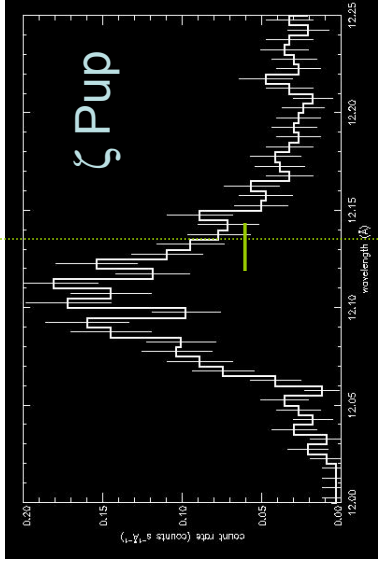
Ne X

Ne IX

Fe XVII

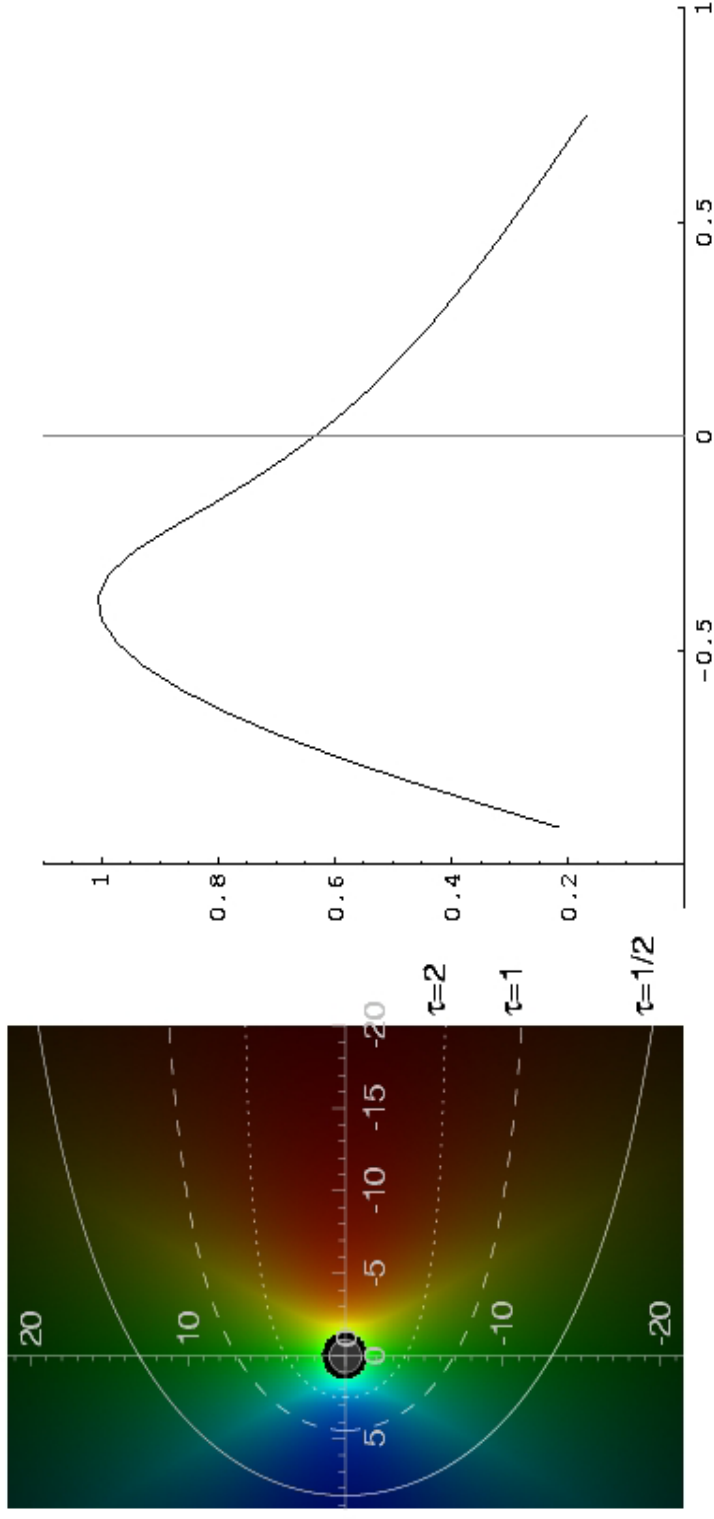
There is clearly a range of line profile morphologies from star to star

Differences in the line shapes become apparent when we look at a single line (here Ne X, Ly $\alpha$ )



Our idea: fit lines with the *simplest* model that can do the job, and use one that, while based in physics, is *general* in the sense that any number of physical models can be tested or constrained based on the model fits.

From Owocki & Cohen (2001): spherically symmetric, two-fluid (hot plasma is interspersed in the cold, x-ray absorbing bulk wind); beta velocity law.



Visualizations of the wind use *hue* to indicate *line-of-sight velocity* and *saturation* to indicate *emissivity*; corresponding profiles are plotted vs. scaled velocity where  $x = -1, 1$  correspond to the terminal velocity.

The model has four parameters:

$$\beta : v(r) = (1 - R_*/r)^\beta$$

$$R_0, q : j \propto \rho^2 r^{-q} \quad \text{for } r > R_0$$

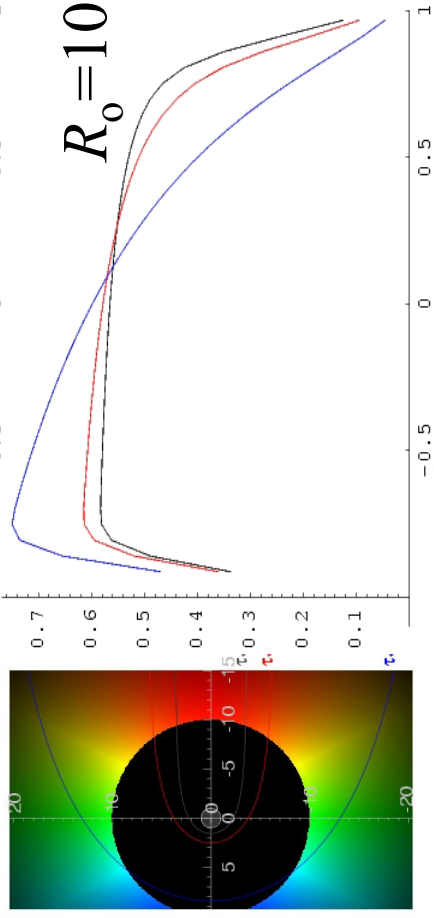
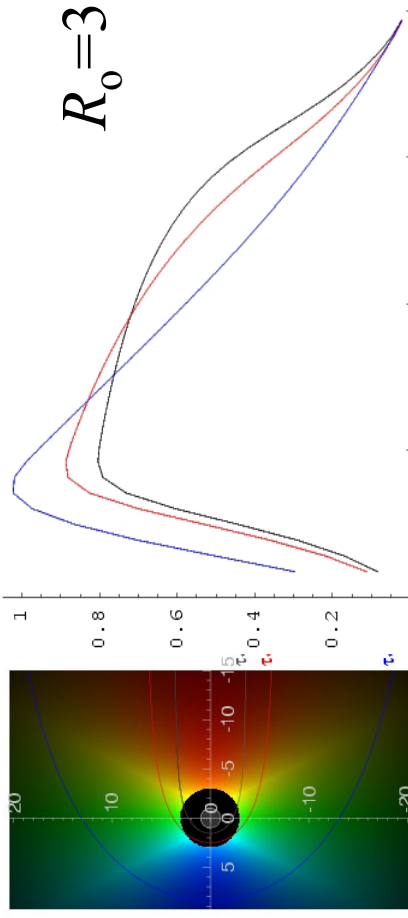
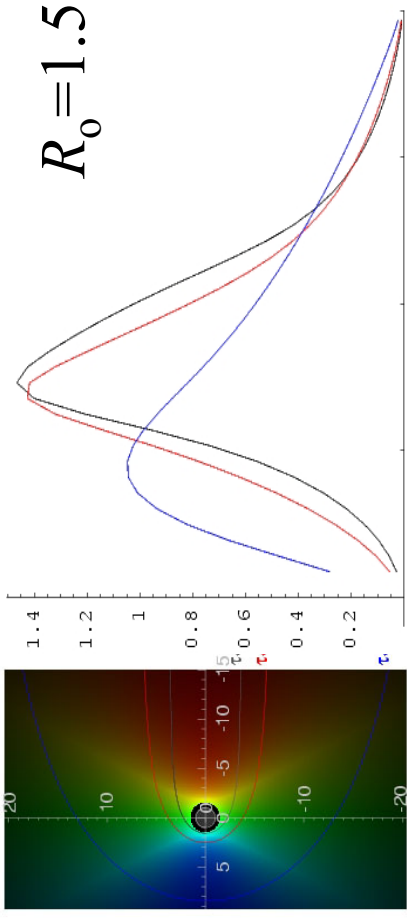
$$\tau_* : \tau(p=0; z) = \tau_* \int_z^\infty \frac{dz'}{r'^2 (1 - \frac{1}{r'})^\beta}$$

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

The line profile is calculated from:

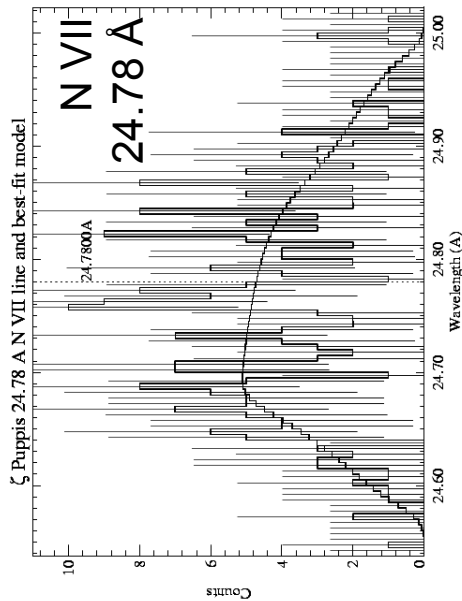
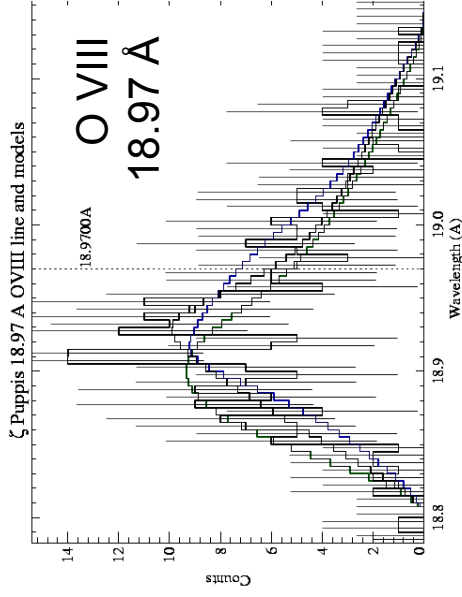
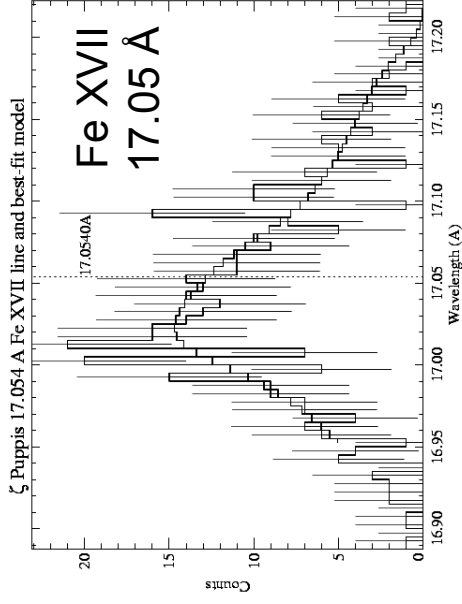
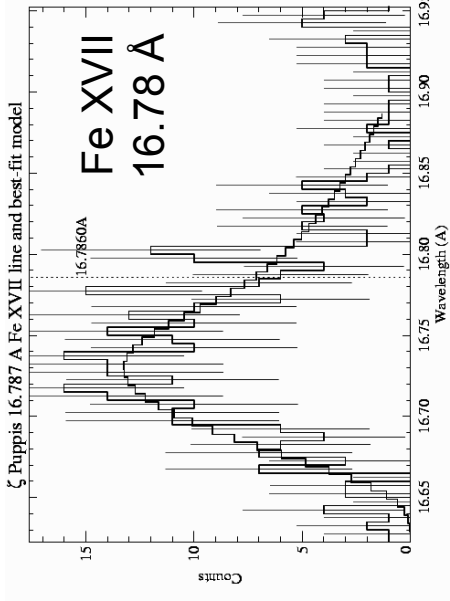
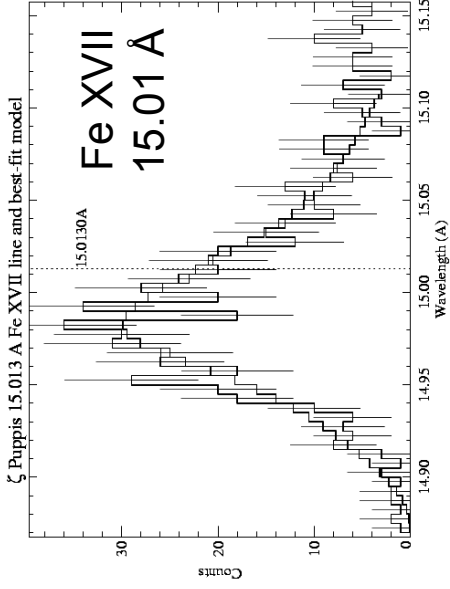
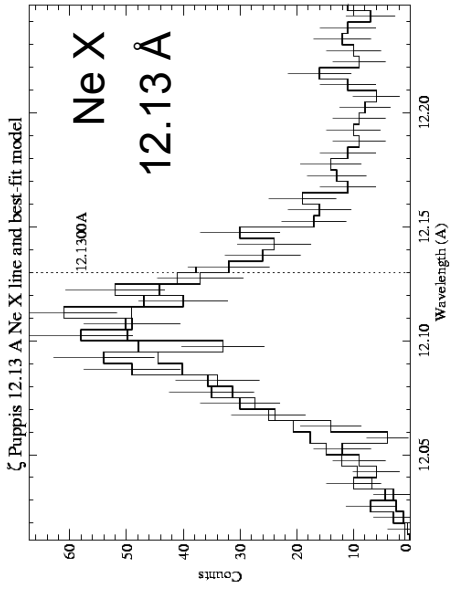
$$L_\lambda = 8\pi^2 \int_{-1}^1 \int_{R_*}^\infty j e^{-\tau} r^2 dr d\mu$$

Increasing  $R_0$  makes lines broader; increasing  $\tau_*$  makes them more blueshifted and skewed.



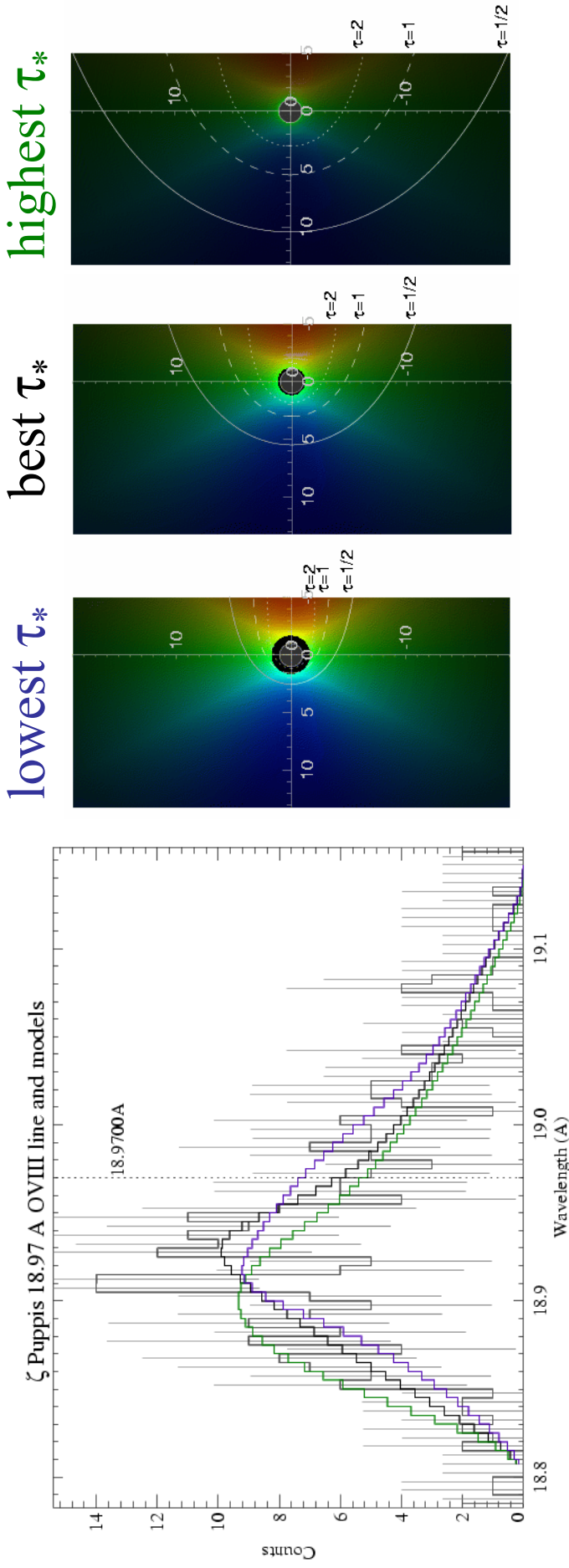
$\tau_* = 1, 2, 4$

We fit all the (8) unblended strong lines in the *Chandra* spectrum of  $\zeta$  Pup: all the fits are statistically good



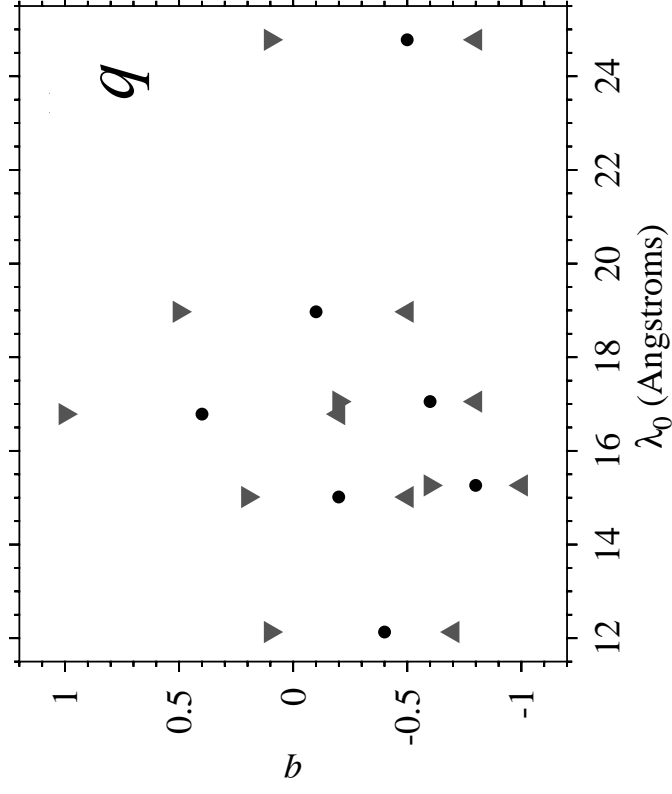
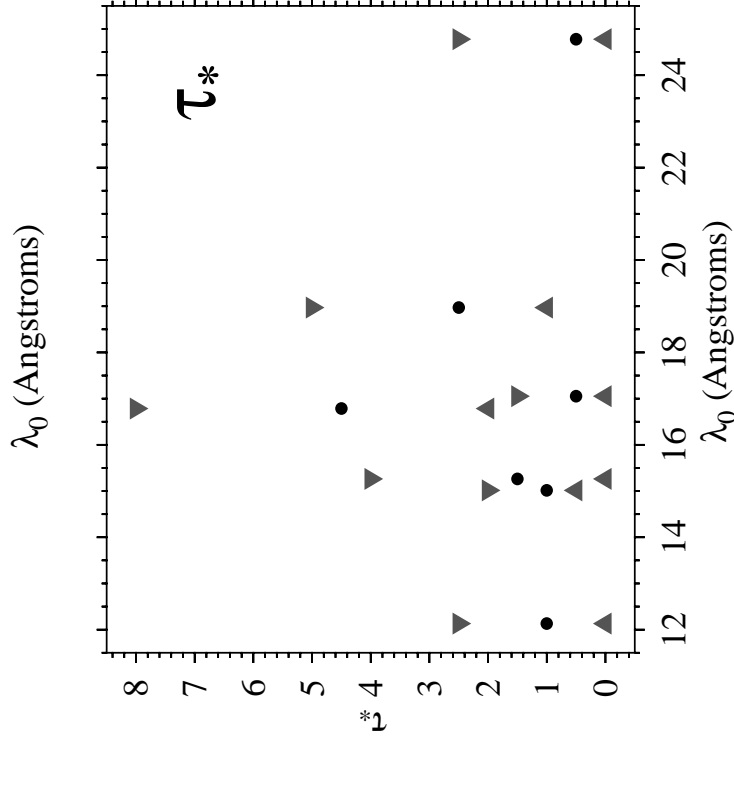
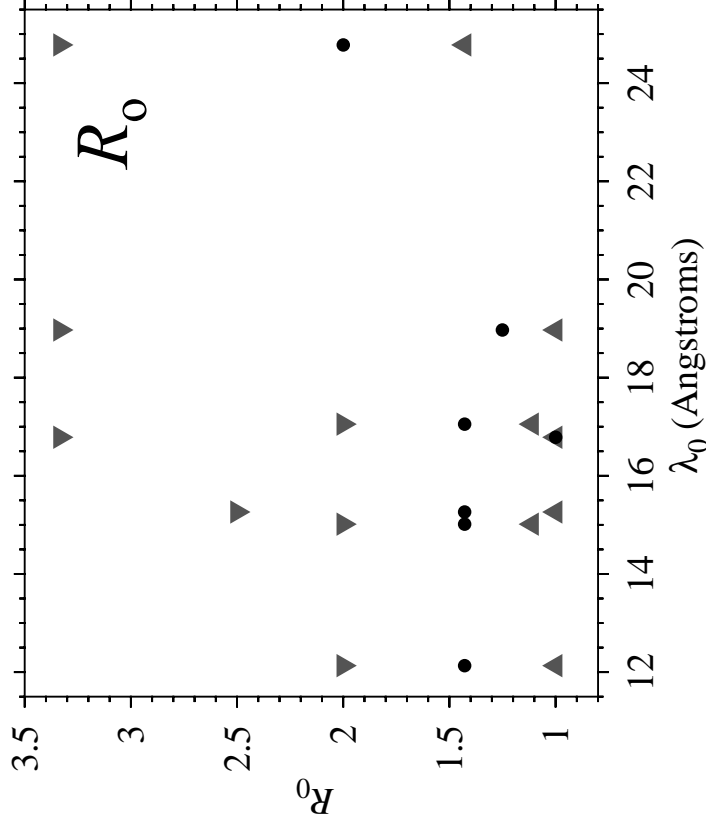


We place *uncertainties* on the derived model parameters



Here we show the best-fit model to the O VIII line and two models that are marginally (at the 95% limit) consistent with the data; they are the models with the **highest** and **lowest**  $\tau_*$  values possible.

Graphical depiction of the best fit (black circles) and 95% confidence limits (gray triangles) on the three fitted parameters for seven of the lines in the  $\zeta$  Pup spectrum.



Lines are well fit by our four parameter model ( $\beta$  is actually held constant at  $\beta=1$ ; so three free parameters):  $\zeta$  Pup's X-ray lines are consistent with a spatially distributed, spherically symmetric, radially accelerating wind scenario, with reasonable parameters:

$\tau_* \sim 1$  : 4 to 15 times less than predicted

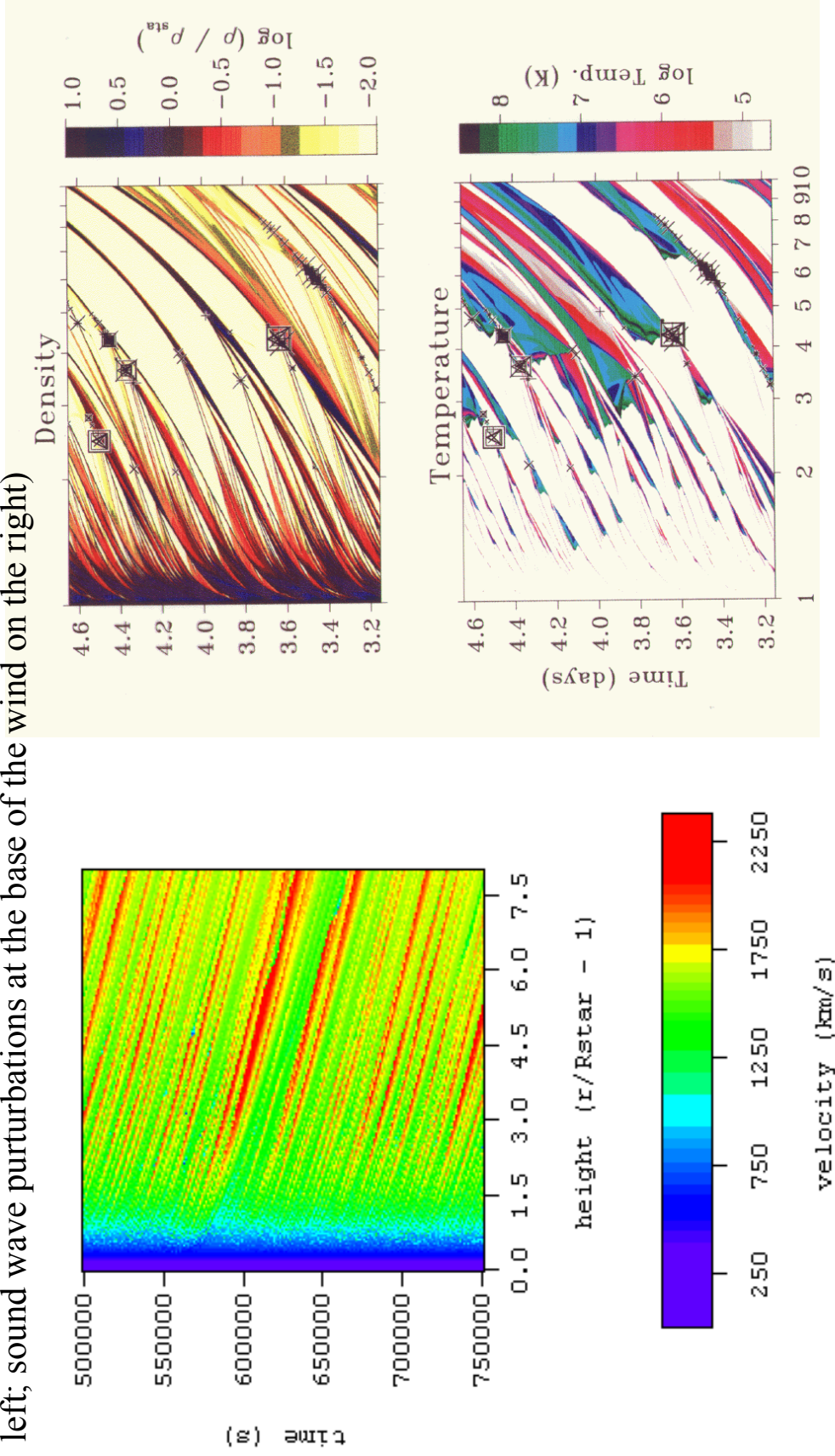
$R_0 \sim 1.5$

$q \sim 0$

But, the level of *wind absorption* is *significantly below* what's expected.

And, there's *no significant wavelength dependence* of the optical depth (or any parameters).

$R_0$  of several tenths of a stellar radius is expected based on numerical simulations of the line-force instability (self-excited on the left; sound wave perturbations at the base of the wind on the right)

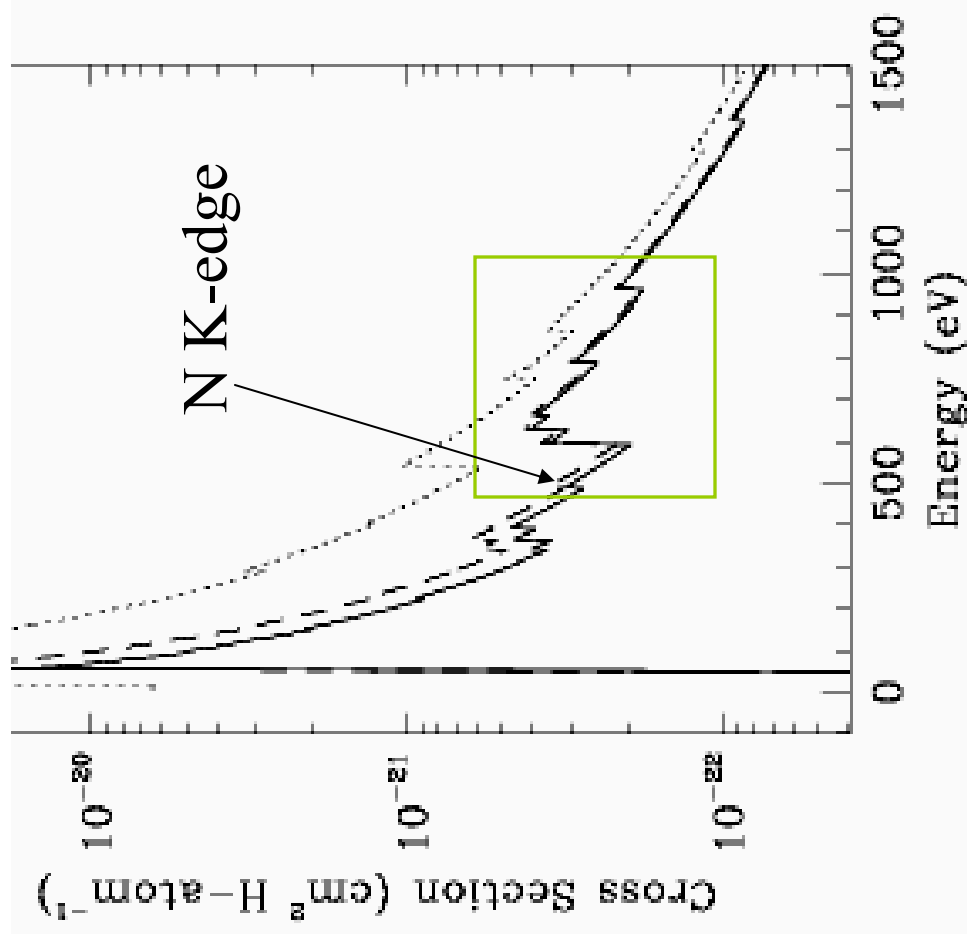


Location of the X-ray-emitting plasma near the photosphere is indicated by He-like  $f/i$  ratios (Kahn et al. 2001)

## Wind opacity for canonical B star abundances.

We do expect some wavelength dependence of the cross sections (and thus of the wind optical depth), BUT the lines we fit cover only a modest range of wavelengths. And in the case of  $\zeta$  Pup, nitrogen overabundance (not in calculation shown at right) could flatten out the wavelength dependence even more.

OR perhaps **clumping** plays a role. And clumping (alt. “porosity”) certainly could play a role in the overall reduction of wind optical depth.



Note: dotted line is interstellar.

## Clumping, or random density inhomogeneities

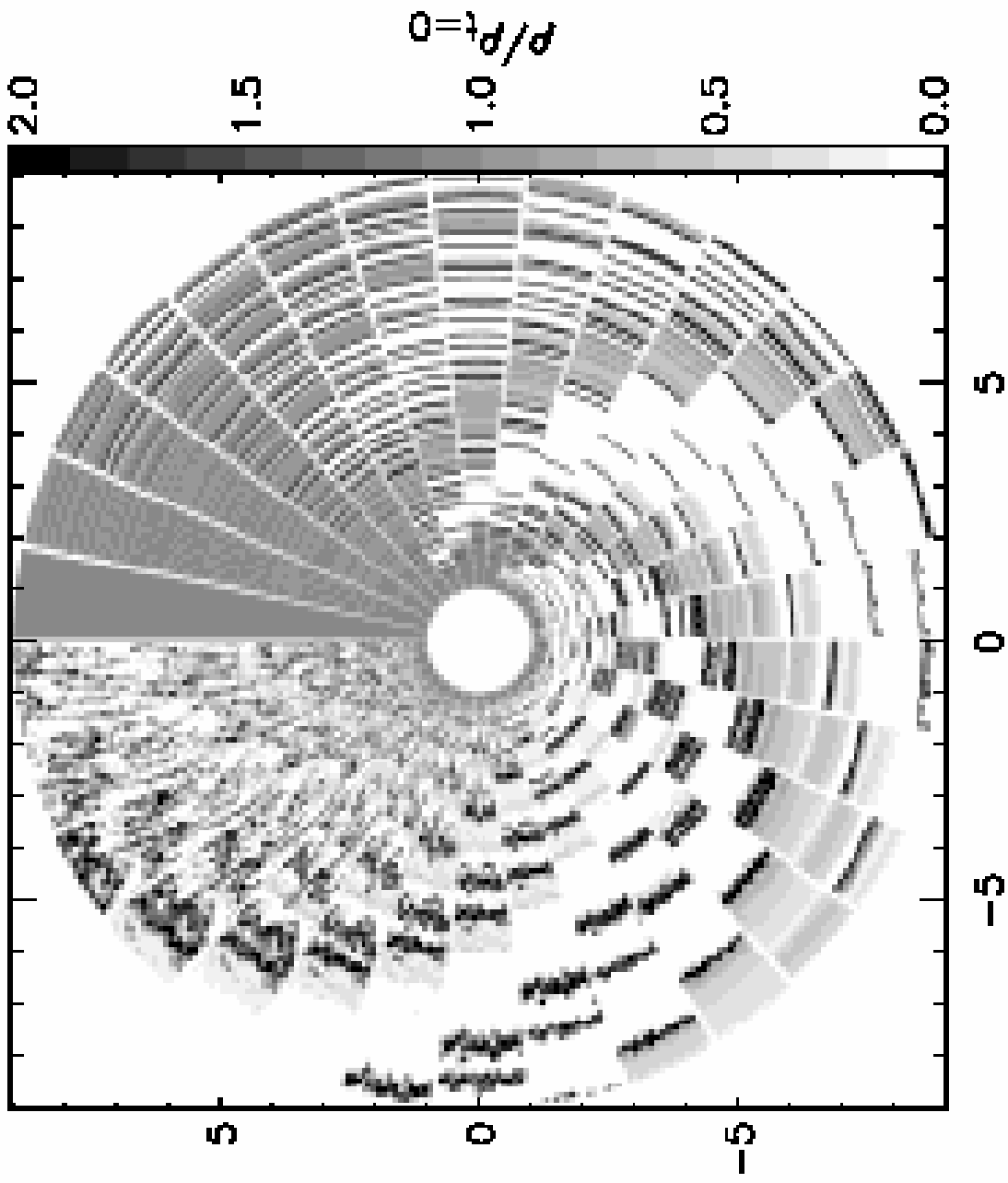
Creates a porous wind, potentially with paths having lower column densities (but other paths higher, if mass is conserved)

Can reduce average optical depth of the wind appreciably only if individual clumps are optically thick: Then the atomic cross section in the opacity is replaced by the physical cross section of the clump

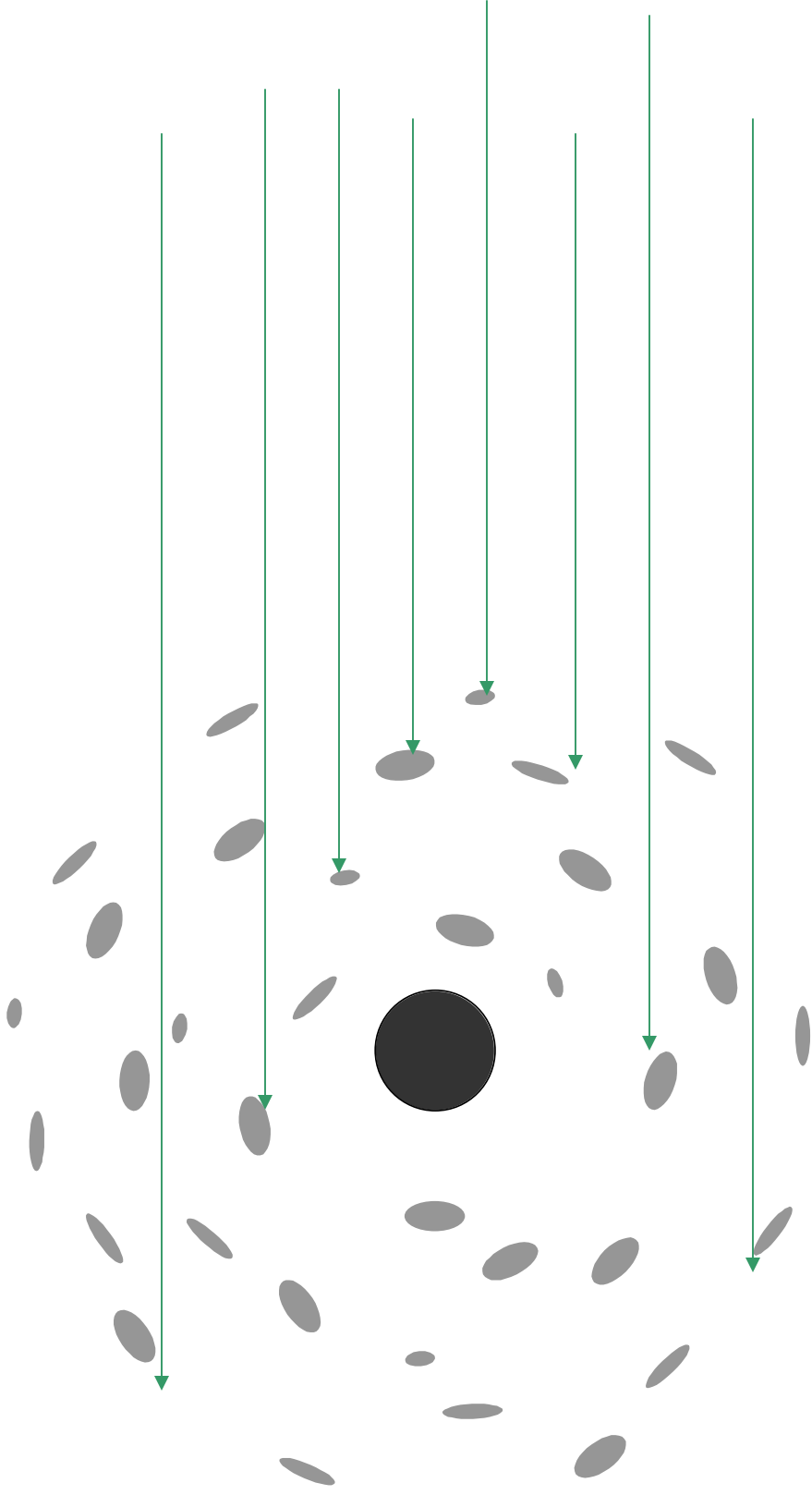
Clumps would therefore have to be quite large

Non-isotropic clumping can have an effect on line profiles...

Recent 2-D hydro sims of the line-force instability (time evolution clockwise): Note--clumps are very small, and prolate.



**Non-isotropic clumping** can also favor “sideways” escape, and thus suppression of the bluest and reddest photons, if the clumps are *oblate*. This makes lines more symmetric.



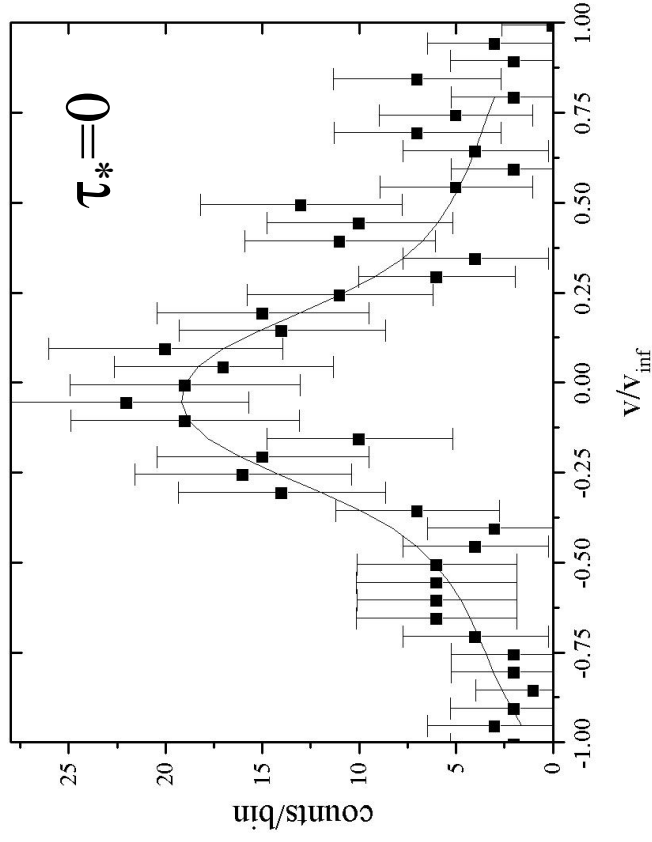
**The Venetian Blind Model...**



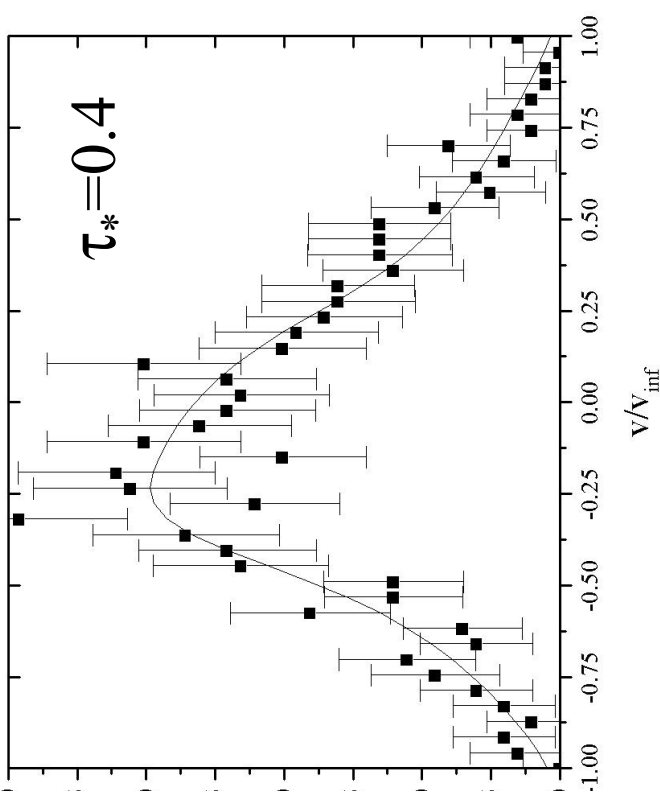
# Do the other O supergiants, $\zeta$ Ori and $\delta$ Ori, fit into the wind-shock paradigm?

The strong lines in these other O supergiants can also be fit by the simple spherically symmetric wind model

$\delta$  Ori Fe XVII 15.01 Å



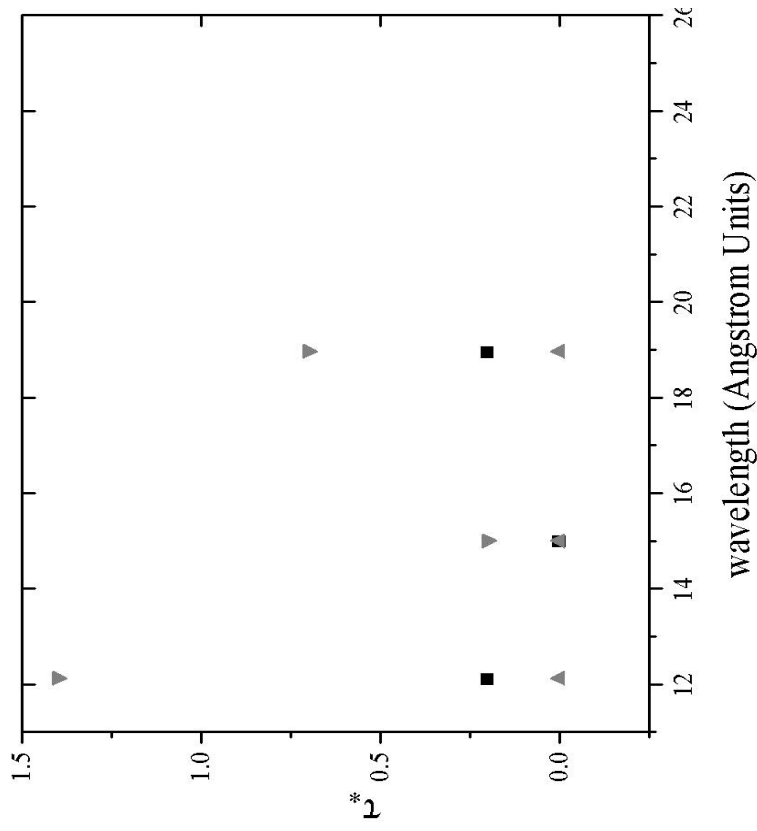
$\zeta$  Ori O VIII 18.97 Å



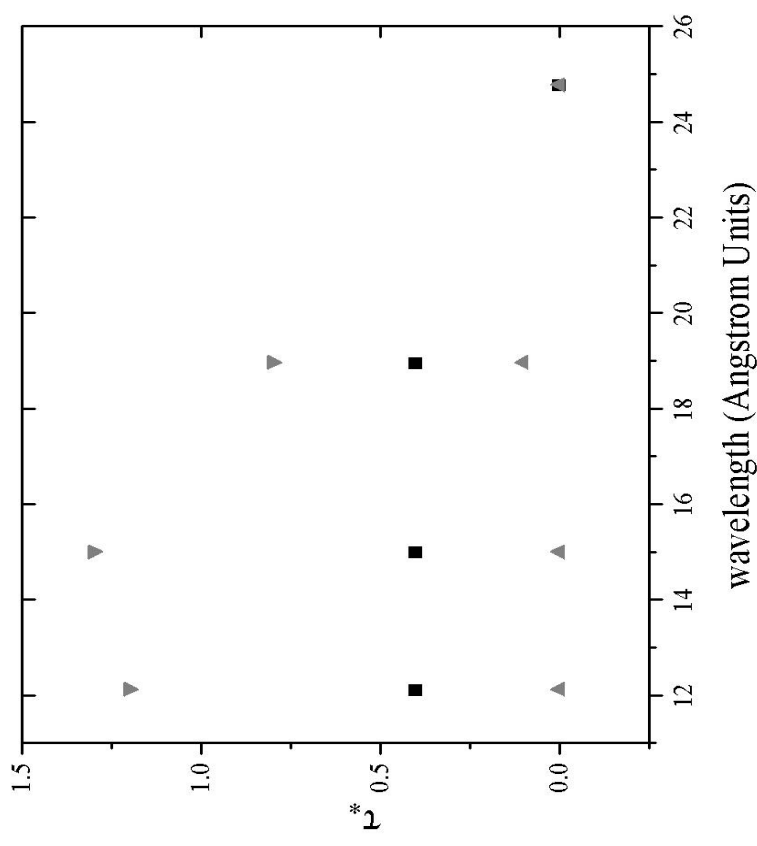
Though they are clearly less asymmetric and a little narrower

Best-fit  $\tau_*$  values are a few tenths, although a value of zero can be ruled out at the 95% confidence limit in all but one line...however, values above 0.5 or even 1 cannot be ruled out in most cases

$\delta$  Ori

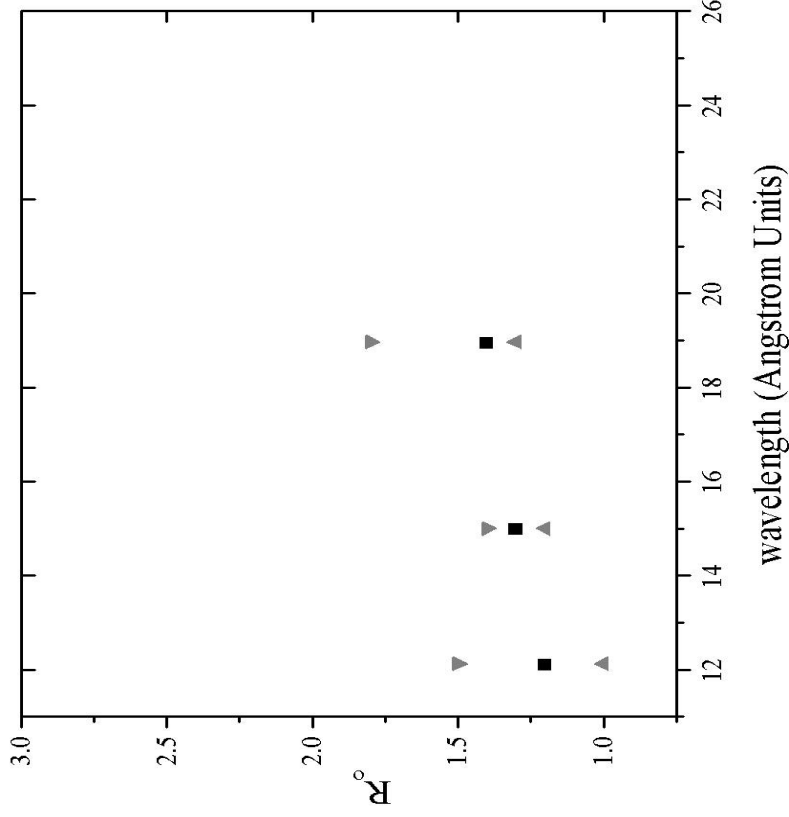


$\zeta$  Ori

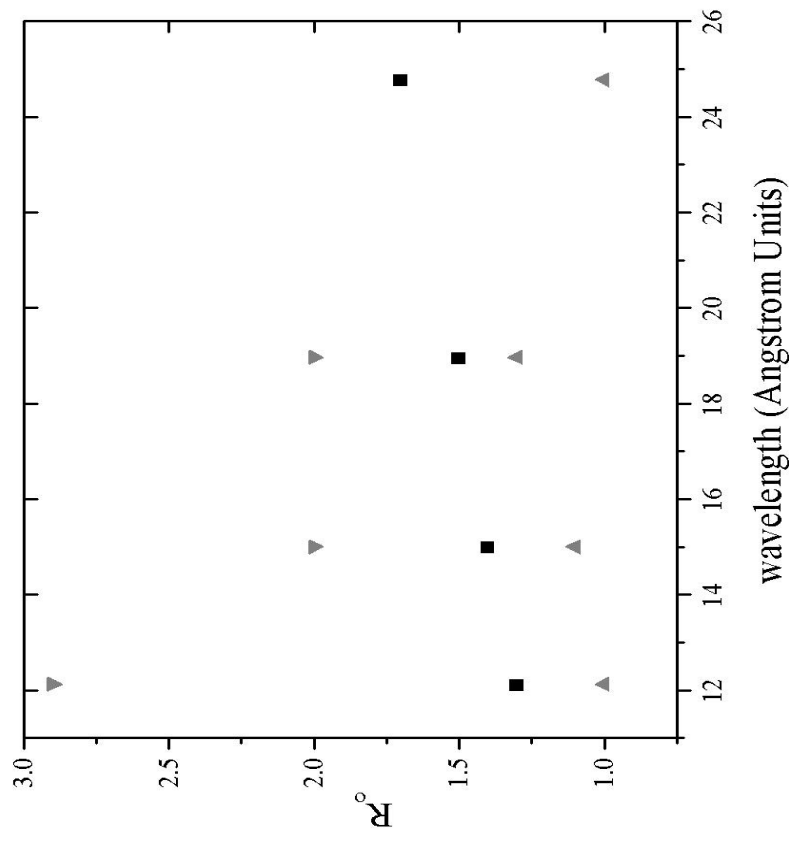


$R_o$ , the radius of the onset of X-ray emission is within the first stellar radius above the photosphere; and consistent with a height of  $3/10 R_*$  or less at the 95% confidence level for all the lines

$\delta$  Ori



$\zeta$  Ori



It's these **small  $R_o$  values** that produce the **relative narrowness** of the lines (compared to  $\zeta$  Pup).

# Conclusions for normal, O supergiants

Spherically symmetric, standard wind-shock model fits the data

But the level of continuum absorption in the wind must be reduced from expected values by factors of  $\sim 5$  (clumping?)

Other diagnostics (DEM, abundances, density-sensitive line ratios) provide information too; generally consistent with the standard picture.