

# What's so great about accreting white dwarfs?

A brief (and biased!) review

Simone Scaringi

simone.scaringi@durham.ac.uk



The many faces of AWDs



- 1) Why study accretion? Why accreting white dwarfs?
- 2) Aperiodic variability properties
- 3) Magnetic gating vs. Type-II bursts
- 4) Transitional accreting white dwarfs vs. tMSPs
- 5) Micronovae vs. Type-I bursts



Martina Veresvarska (PhD)



Matteo Fratta (PhD)

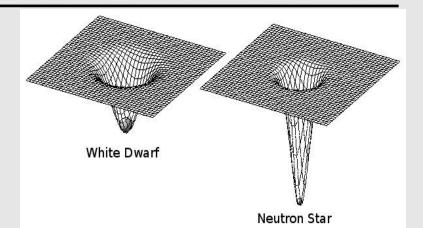


Krystian Ilkiewicz (PD)

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## Accretion across the scales

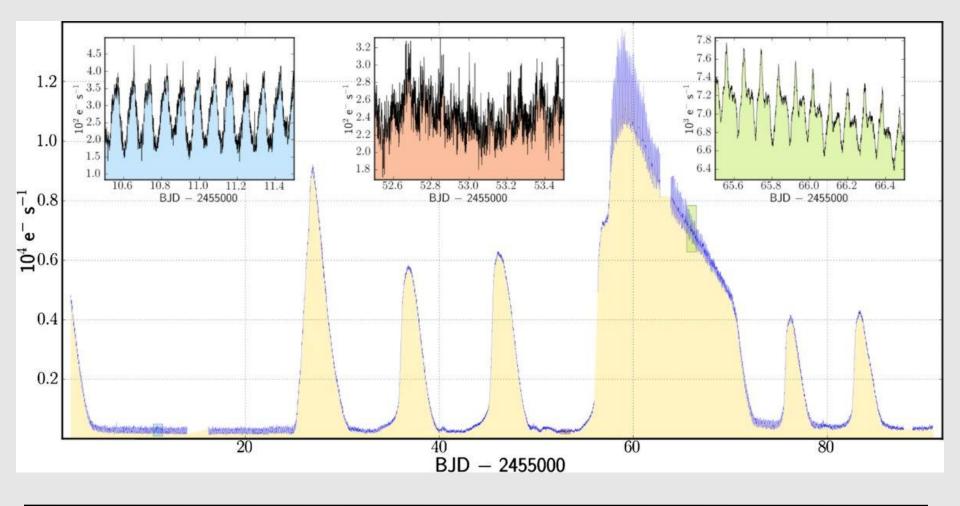
- Disk theory supposedly the same across different system types
- Disk dynamics governed by the embedded gravitational potential:



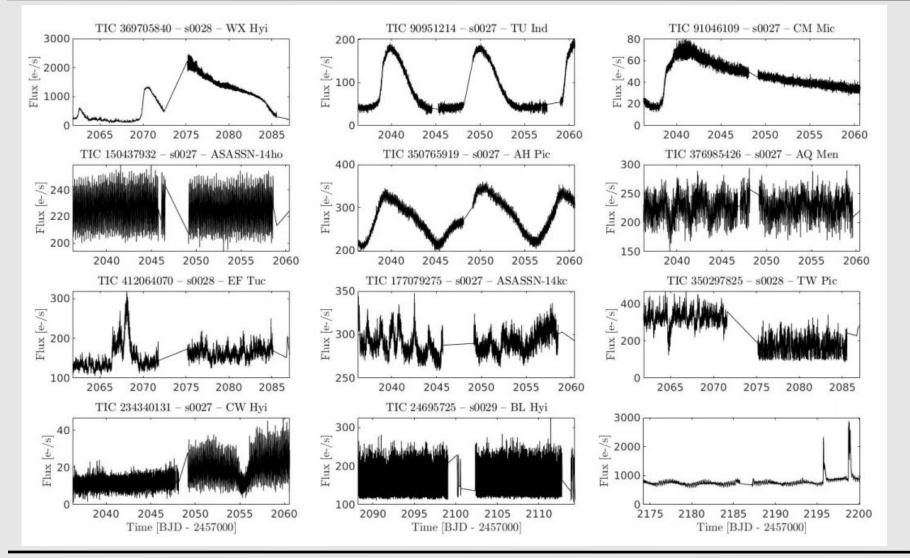
	BHs/NSs (XRBs)	WDs (CVs)	YSOs	AGN
Surface	~ km	~ thousand km	~ 10 million km	~ 10 million km
Emission	X-rays	Opt/UV	IR/Opt	UV/X-rays
t <sub>dyn</sub>	~1 millisecond	~10 seconds	~2 days	~2 days
Dynamic Range	~10 <sup>7</sup>	~300	~10 <sup>6</sup>	~10 <sup>8</sup>

### **Accretion disk instabilities**

#### V344 Lyrae with Kepler

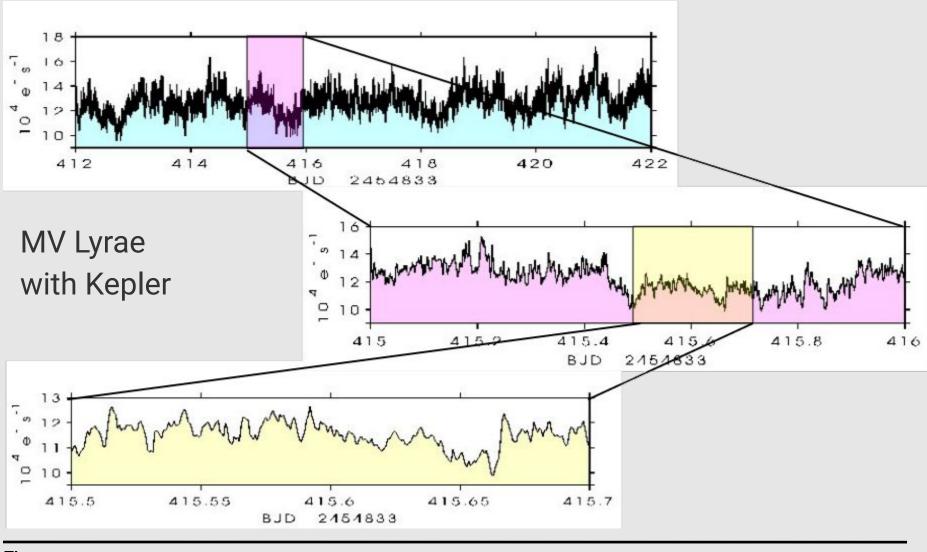


### **TESS** atlas of AWD – Cycle 3



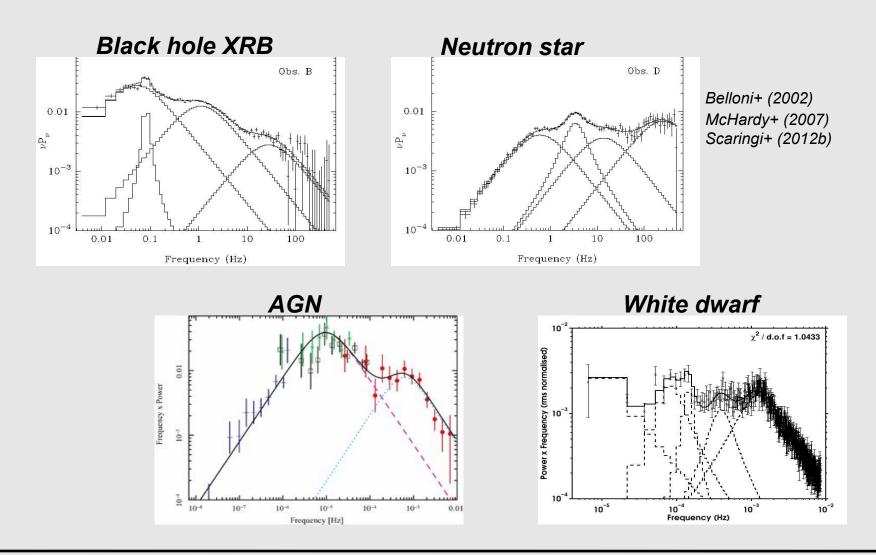
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### **Broad-band variability**



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### Power spectral densities: some examples

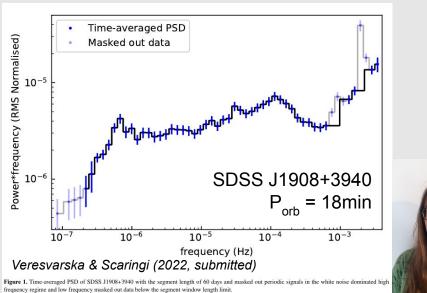


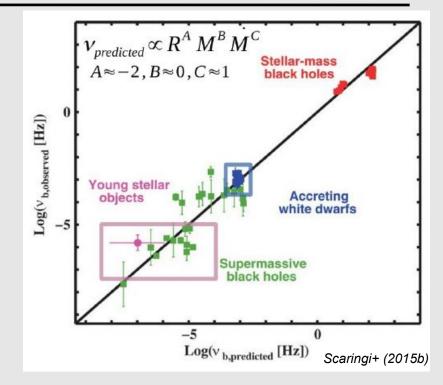
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# The accretion variability plane

- Need both novalikes (high Mdot) and dwarf nova in quiescence (low Mdot)
- 2) Where is the outer disk edge?

-> Need longer obs.



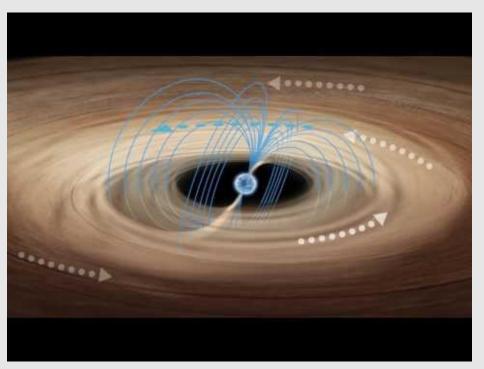


#### The many faces of AWDs

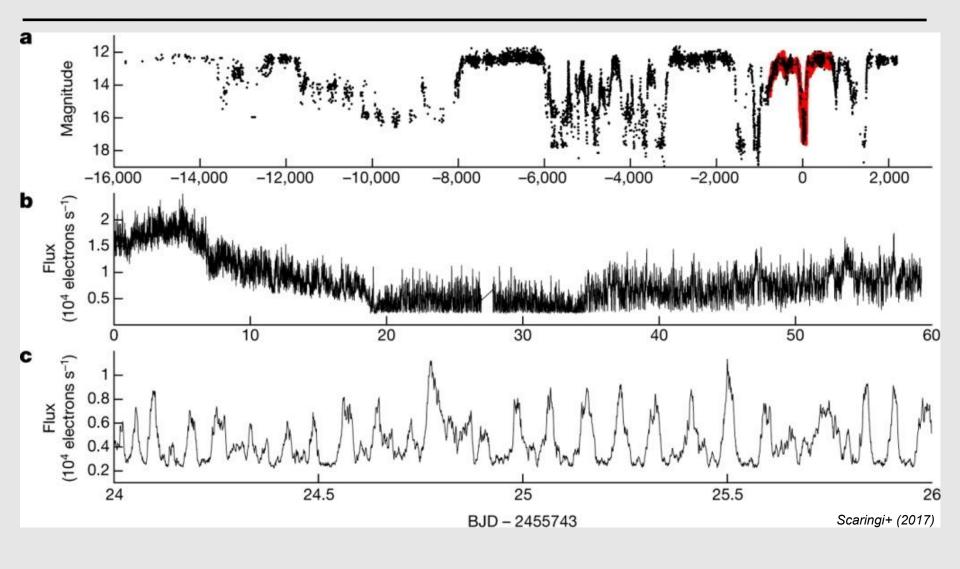
### **Magnetic gating**

VS.

#### Type II X-ray bursts (a.k.a. Rapid bursters)

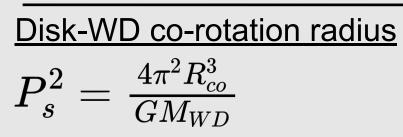


# **Magnetically gated accretion**

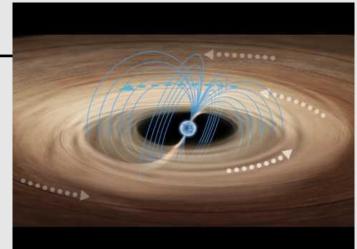


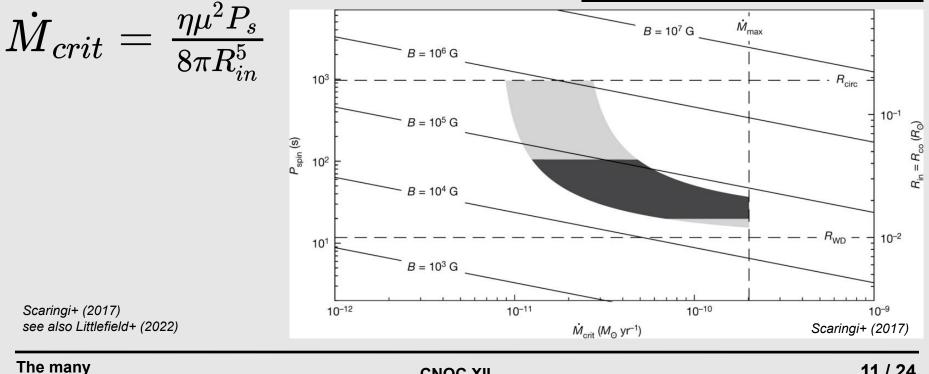
# Magnetically gated accretion

Type-II burst equivalent in XRBs



#### Critical mass transfer rate



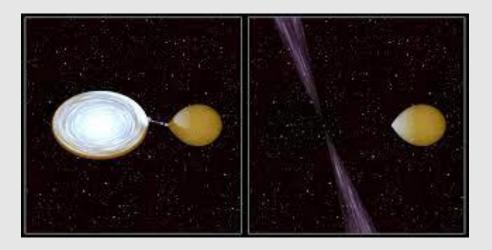


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# transitional Accreting White Dwarfs (tAWDs)

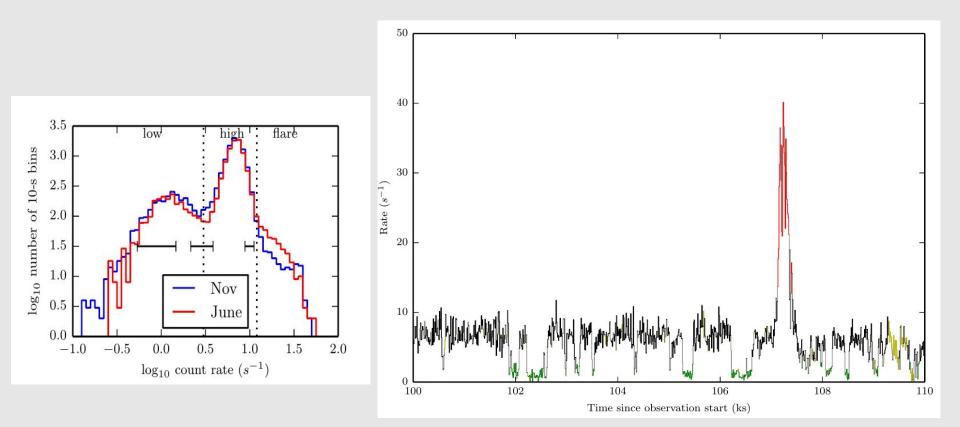
VS.

### transitional Millisecond Pulsars (tMSPs)



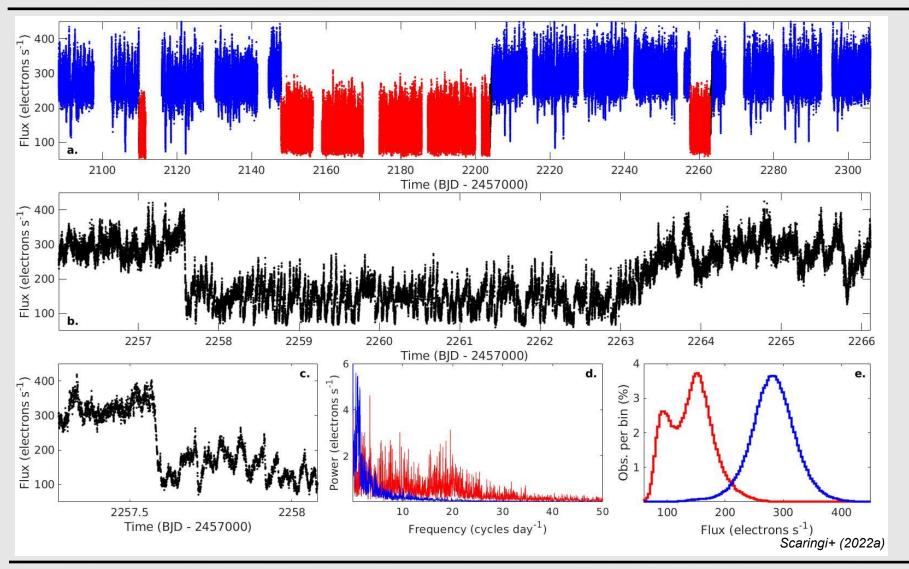
### PSR J1023+0038

Moding caused by accretion on/off state



e.g. Archibald+ (2015)

## **TW Pictoris**

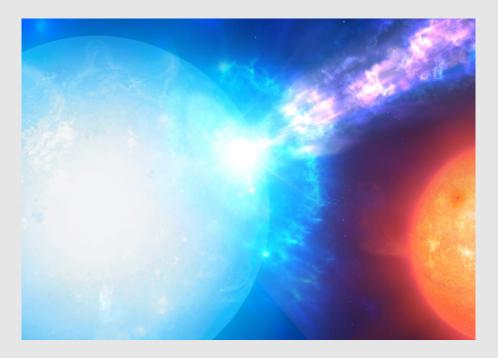


#### The many faces of AWDs

### **Type I X-ray bursts**

VS.

#### Micronovae



#### TV Columbae ...a brief history...

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 280:729-733, 1984 May 15 © 1984. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

#### AN UNPRECEDENTED UV/OPTICAL FLARE IN TV COLUMBAE

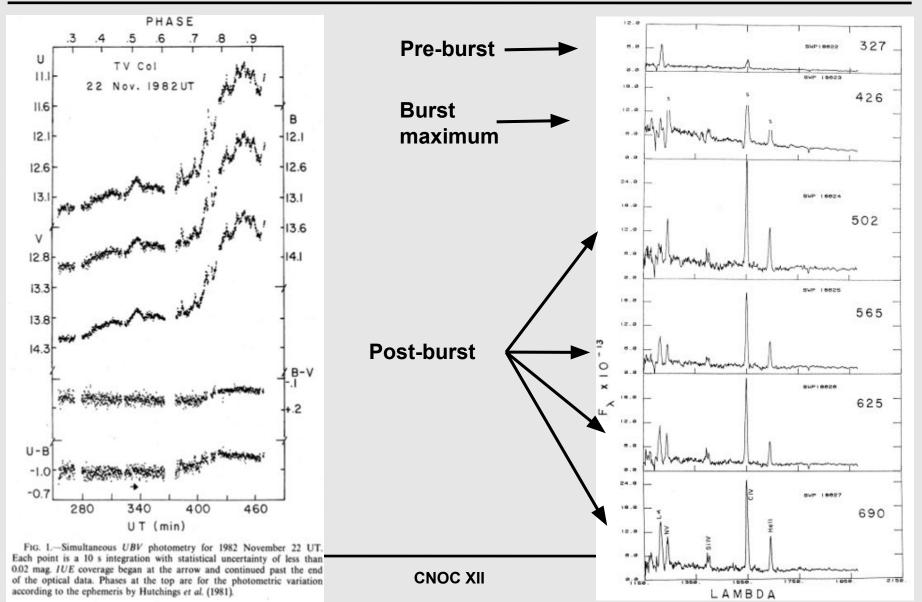
PAULA SZKODY<sup>1</sup> AND MARIO MATEO<sup>2</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Washington Received 1983 August 8; accepted 1983 November 23

#### ABSTRACT

We report a surprising, 2 mag, short time scale (hr) outburst of TV Col (2A 0526-328) observed simultaneously at *IUE* and optical wavelengths in 1982 November. During this "flare," the *IUE* emission lines of N v  $\lambda$ 1240, C IV  $\lambda$ 1550, and He II  $\lambda$ 1640, intensified by more than an order of magnitude and developed P Cygni profiles, indicating mass loss. Continuum fits with a power law plus a blackbody from the UV through the optical showed a steepening of the UV power-law component and an increase in the temperature and size of the blackbody component during the flare activity. We discuss this unusual behavior in terms of an accretion disk instability.

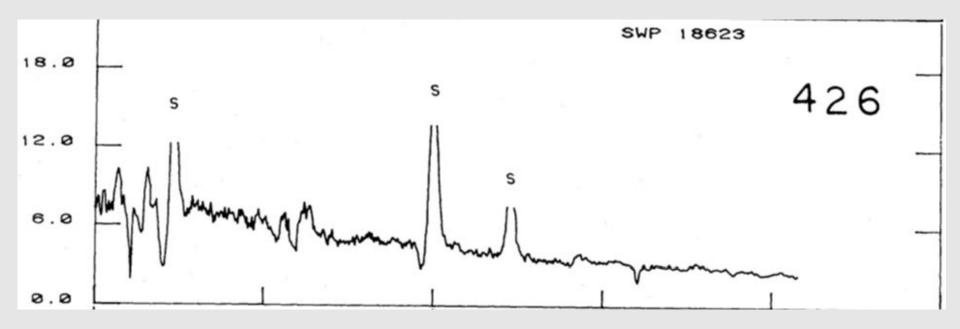
Subject headings: stars: accretion - stars: dwarf novae - stars: flare - stars: individual - ultraviolet: spectra

#### TV Columbae ...a brief history...

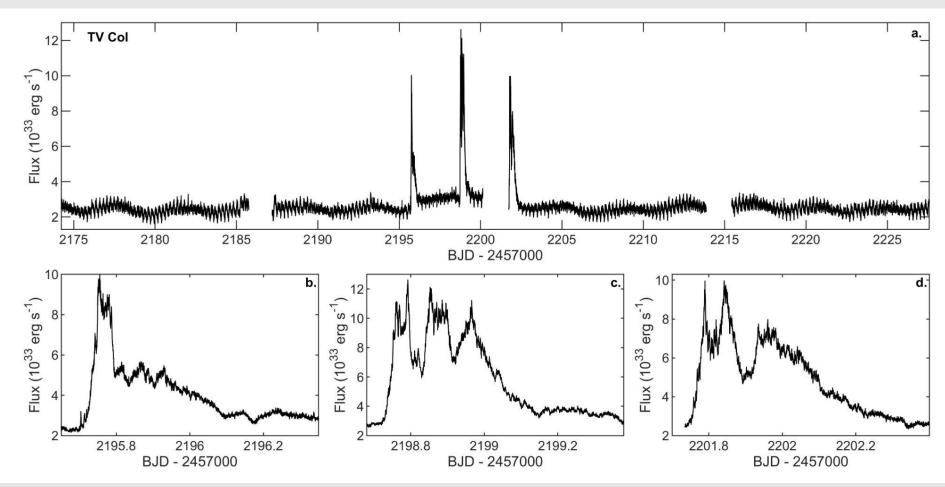


### TV Columbae ...a brief history...

- High ionisation Hell and NV lines appear during burst and persist for ~1 month
- P-Cygni profile suggests outflows of >2500 km/s only at peak luminosity

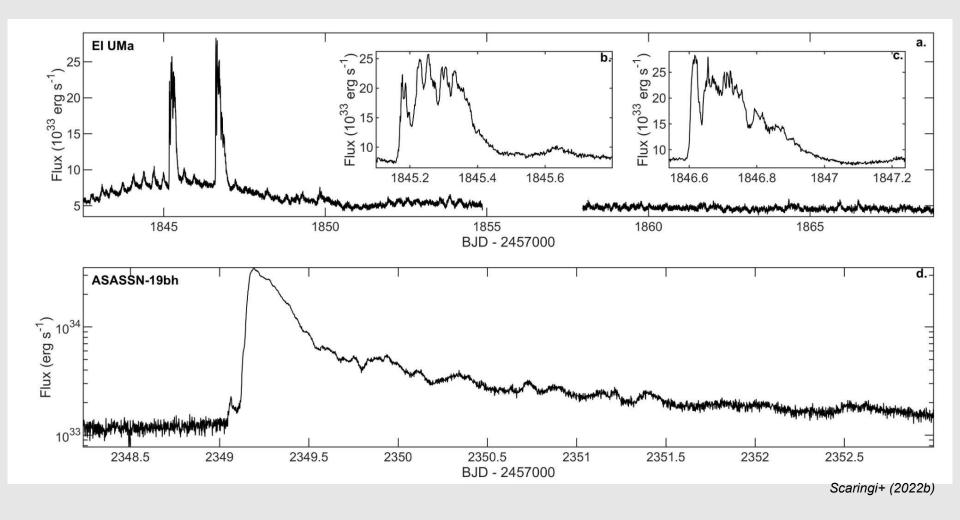


# TV Columbae ....with TESS...

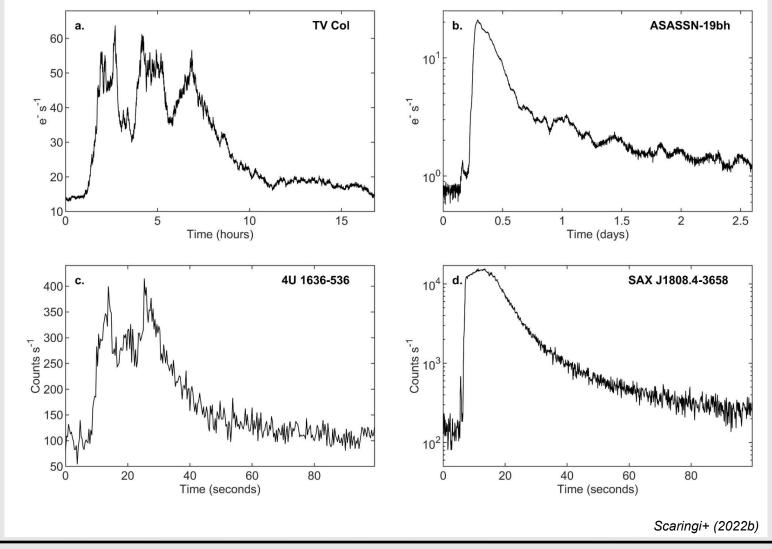


Scaringi+ (2022b)

# EI UMa and ASASSN-19bh ...with TESS...



# Micronovae vs. Type I X-ray bursts



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#### The many faces of AWDs

# How to trigger micronovae?

To ignite, we require:

$$P_{col}pprox P_{crit}>10^{18} dyn\,cm^{-2}$$

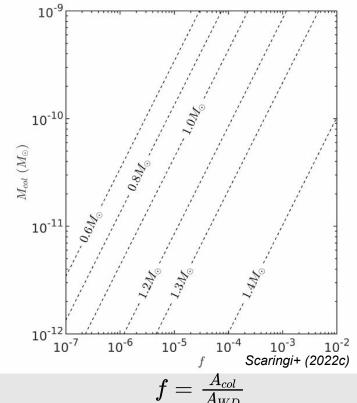
As long as magnetic confinement of material holds:

$$t_{rec} = rac{M_{col}}{\dot{M}_{acc}}$$

#### **Problem:**

As column pushes into WD, at what depth do triggering conditions occur? (spoiler: maybe too deep)





#### THE FIRST VASTO ACCRETION MEETING

19 - 23 JUNE 2023 VASTO, ITALY

#### Scientific Organising Committee

Enrico Bozzo (Uni. of Geneva) Sergio Campana (INAF-Brera) Nathalie Degenaar (Uni. of Amsterdam) Domitilla de Martino, co-chair (INAF-Capodimonte) Tiziana Di Salvo (Uni. of Palermo) Chris Done (Durham University) Boris Gaensicke (Uni. of Warwick) Christian Knigge, co-chair (Uni. of Southampton) Gian Luca Israel (INAF-Rome Observatory) Lidia Oskinova (AIP Potsdam) Simone Scaringi, co-chair (Durham University) Jennifer Sokoloski (Columbia University) Paula Szkody (Uni. of Washington) Phil Uttley (Uni. of Amsterdam)

#### **Invited Speakers**

Aydi E. (Michigan State) Blaes O. (UCSB) De Marco B. (UPC) Ferrario L. (ANU) Malzac J. (IRAP) Motta S. (INAF-Brera) Pala A. (ESO) Parfrey K. (Trinity Dublin)

Bilous A. (Amstedam) Coppejans D.(Warwick) El Mellah I. (CNR5) Grinberg V. (ESA) Middleton M. (Soton) Munoz-Darias T. (IAC) Papitto A. (INAF-OAR) Schwope A. (AIP)

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Photo credit: Laura Sergio Binary illustration: Fahad Sulehria

#### Local Organising Committee

Gisella De Rosa (STSci) Simone Scaringi, chair (Durham University)



Con il Patrocinio del

Comune di Vasto

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Palazzo

d'Avalos

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23 / 24

# **Open questions**

#### **Broad-band variability**

 How does disk geometry/viscosity change with Mdot and radius? Do AWDs have an analogous "corona" as seen in XRBs?

#### Mag. Gating

• Why only a handful of AWDs show this? What are the "optimal" parameters to initiate mag. Gating? Does it happen in a specific evolutionary phase?

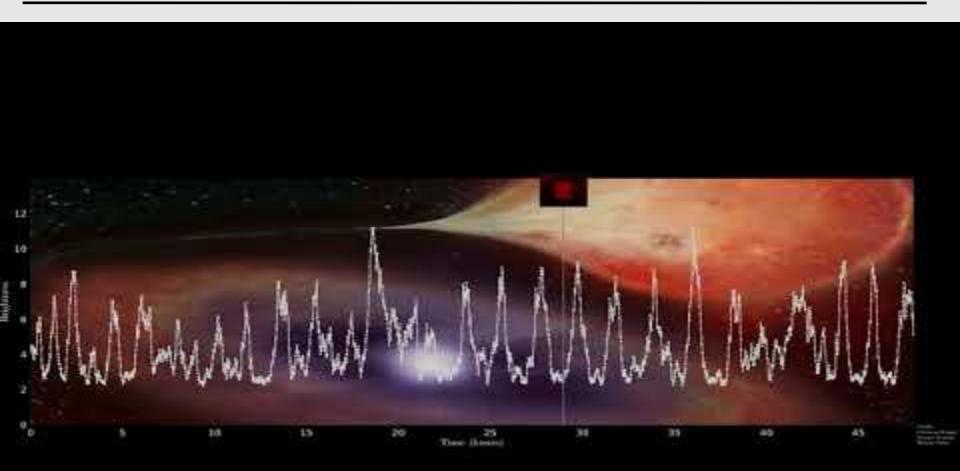
#### <u>tAWD</u>

 What causes the abrupt drops in luminosity/sudden reduction in Mdot? Can we make direct analogies to tMSPs? How are these related to mag. Gatiting and/or evolution?

#### <u>Micronovae</u>

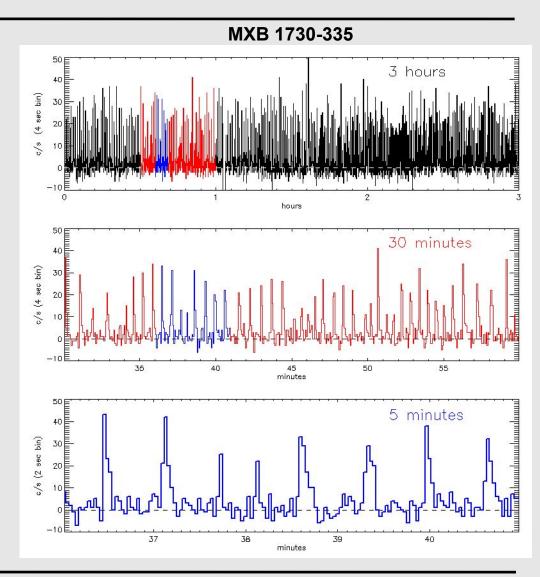
 What triggers these, and how common are they? What are the implications of common micronovae to chemical enrichment and multi-messenger emission?

#### Magnetically gated accretion bursts in MV Lyrae



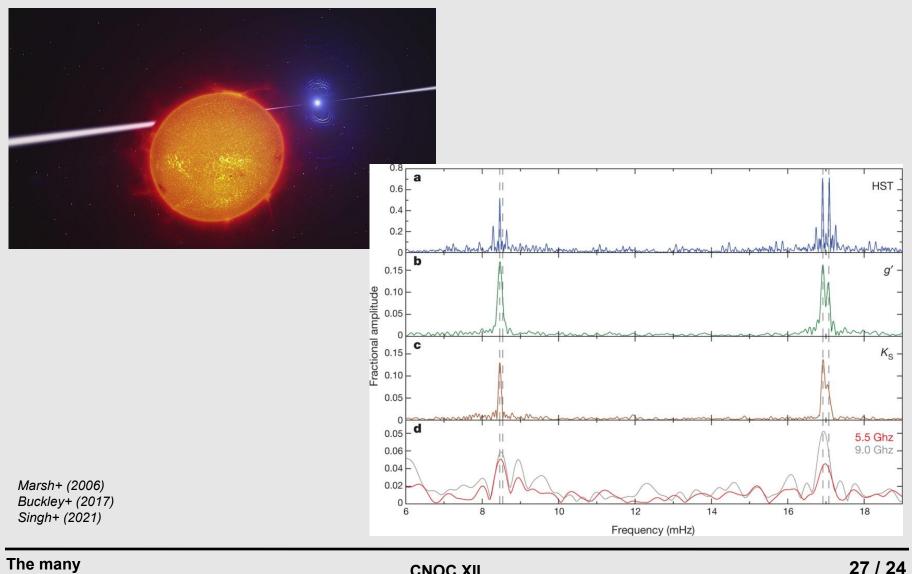
# **Rapid Bursters**

- Accreting neutron stars with excess power in the kHz regime
- Only a handful known to date
- Very short bursts (few seconds)
- Best explained through magnetically gated accretion



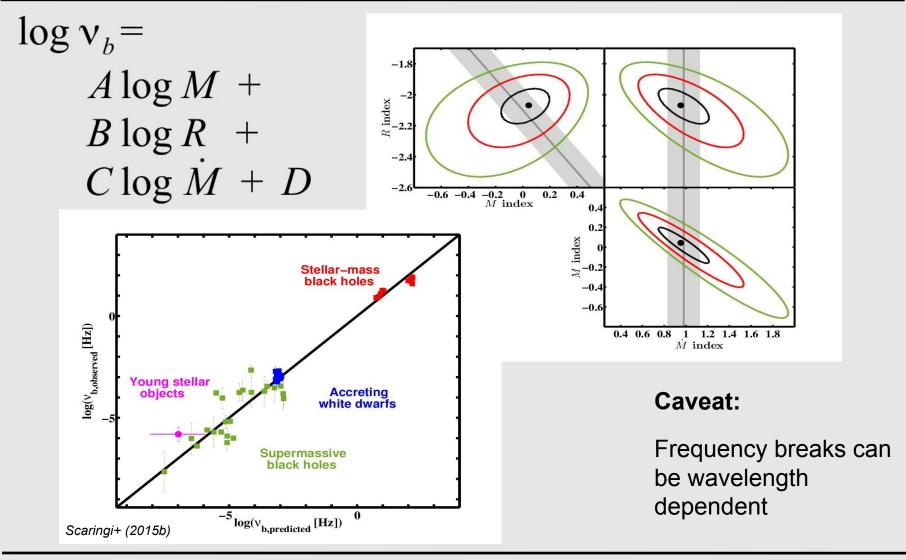
Spruit & Taam (1993), Patruno+ (2009), D'Angelo & Spruit (2010,2012), Patruno & D'Angelo (2013), Bagnoli+ (2015), van den Eijnden+ (2016), Kuulkers+ (200\*), etc...

#### **AR Sco** WD pulsar: when and how did it "turn off"?

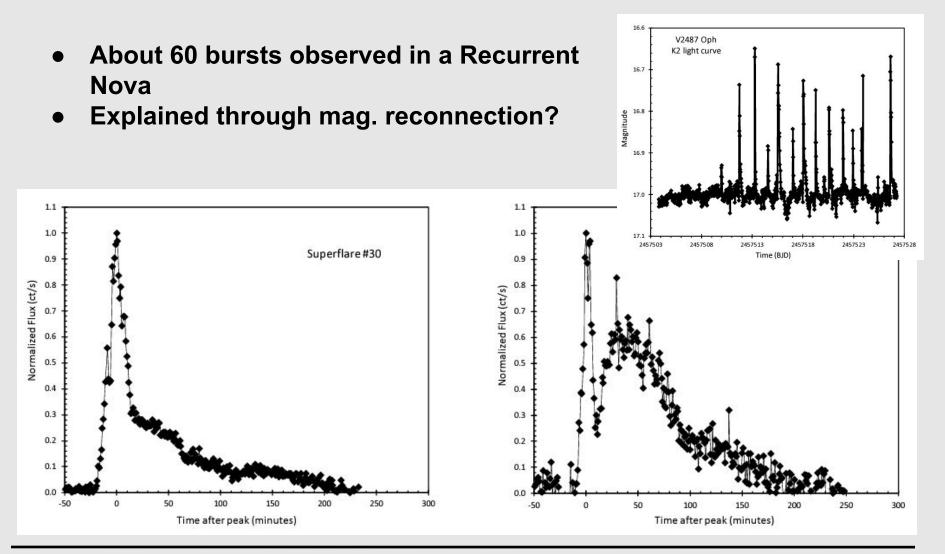


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## The accretion variability plane



#### V2487 Oph ...with Kepler...



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### DW Cnc ....IP....

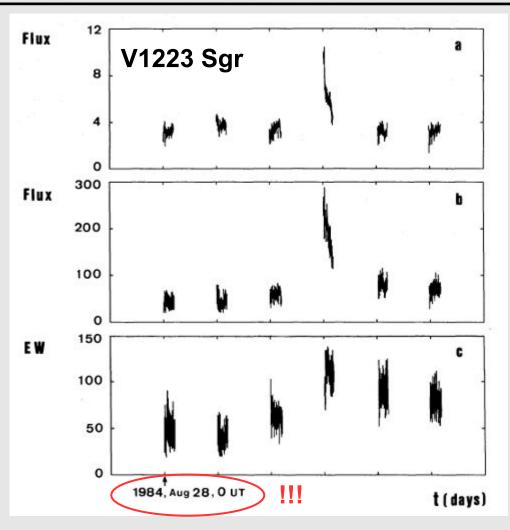
#### The return of the spin period in DW Cnc and evidence of new high state outbursts

C. Duffy,<sup>1,2\*</sup> G. Ramsay,<sup>1</sup> D. Steeghs,<sup>2,8</sup> M. R. Kennedy,<sup>3,4</sup> R. G. West,<sup>2</sup> P. J. Wheatley,<sup>2</sup> V. S. Dhillon,<sup>5,6</sup> K. Ackley,<sup>2,7,8</sup> M. J. Dyer,<sup>5</sup> D. K. Galloway,<sup>7,8,9</sup> S. Gill,<sup>2</sup> J. S. Acton,<sup>10</sup> M. R. Burleigh,<sup>10</sup> S. L. Casewell,<sup>10</sup> M. R. Goad,<sup>10</sup> B. A. Henderson,<sup>10</sup> R. H. Tilbrook,<sup>10</sup> P. A. Strøm,<sup>2</sup> D. R. Anderson <sup>2</sup>

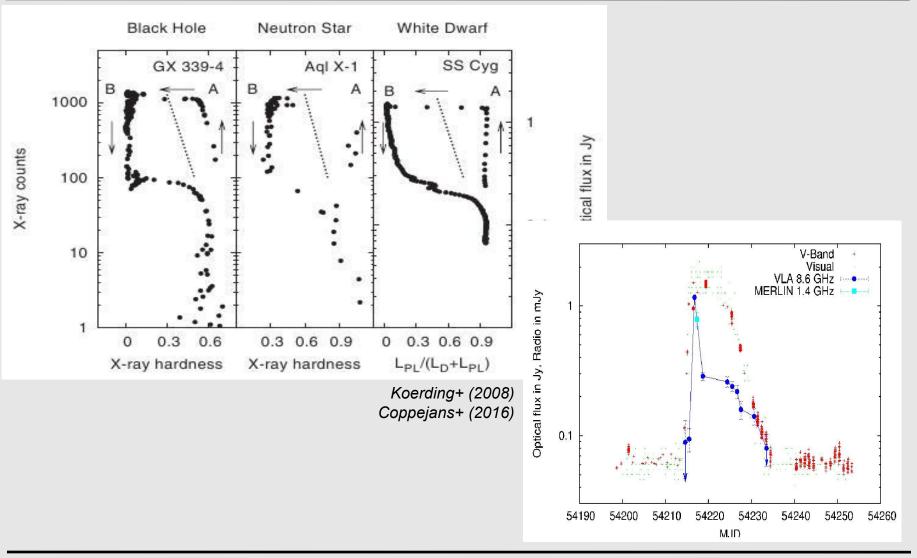
#### ABSTRACT

DW Cnc is an intermediate polar which has previously been observed in both high and low states. Observations of the high state of DW Cnc have previously revealed a spin period at ~ 38.6 min, however observations from the 2018/19 low state showed no evidence of the spin period. We present results from our analysis of 12 s cadence photometric data collected by NGTS of DW Cnc during the high state which began in 2019. Following the previously reported suppression of the spin period signal we identify the return of this signal during the high state, consistent with previous observations of it. We identify this as the restarting of accretion during the high state. We further identified three short outbursts lasting ~ 1 d in DW Cnc with a mean recurrence time of ~ 60 d and an amplitude of ~ 1 mag. These are the first outbursts identified in DW Cnc since 2008. Due to the short nature of these events we identify them not as a result of accretion disc and the magnetic field generated by the white dwarf or the result of magnetic gating.

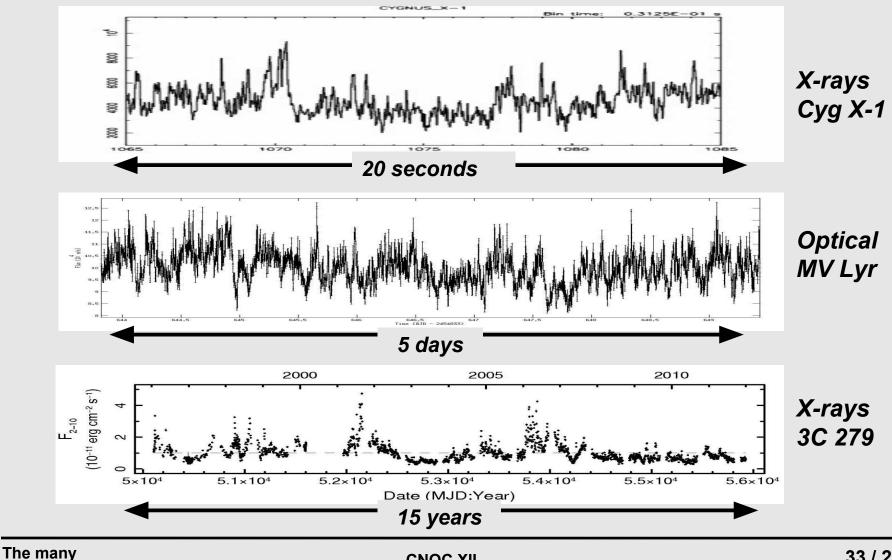
# V1223 Sgr



## State changes + jets in WDs

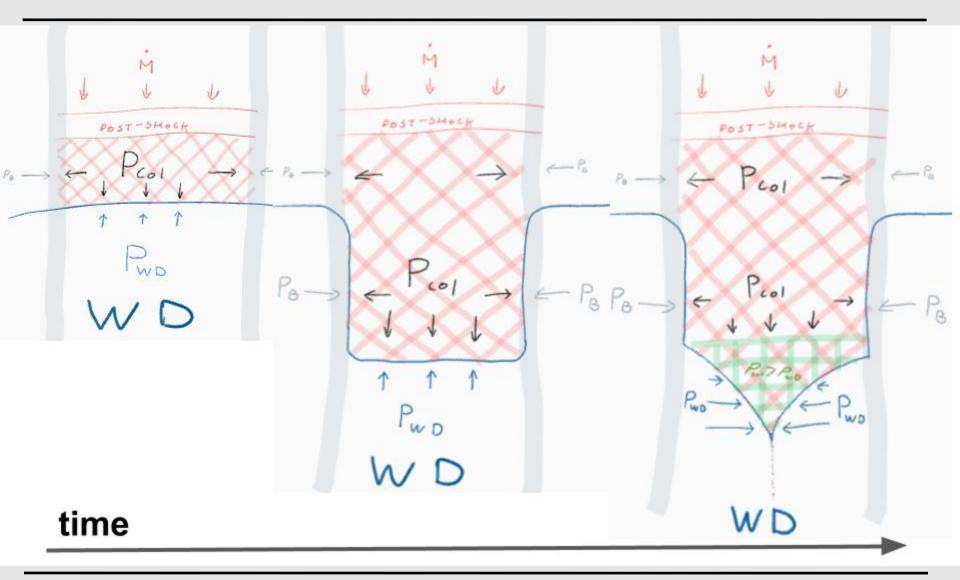


### **Accretion-driven flickering**



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## **Density-driven Instabilities?**



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### **Accretion disk instabilities**

SS Cygni 1900-2010 (1-day means)
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FAULULULULULULULULULULULULULULULULULULUL



## **Broad-band variability**

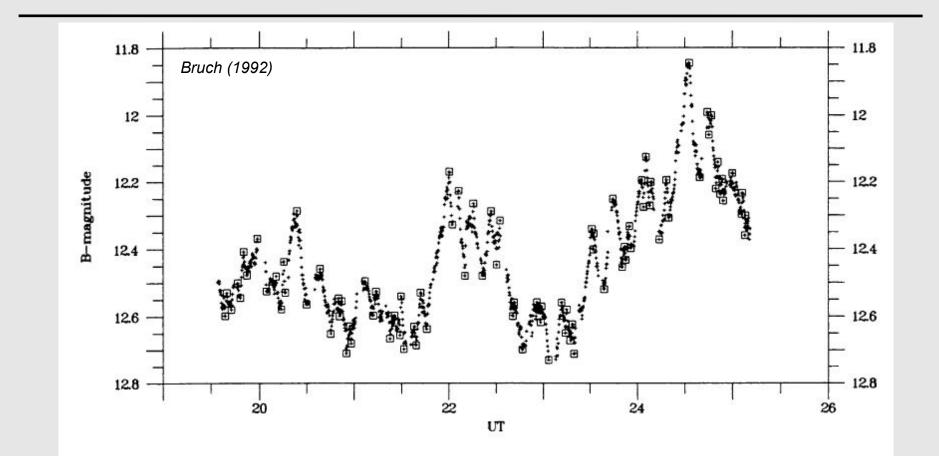
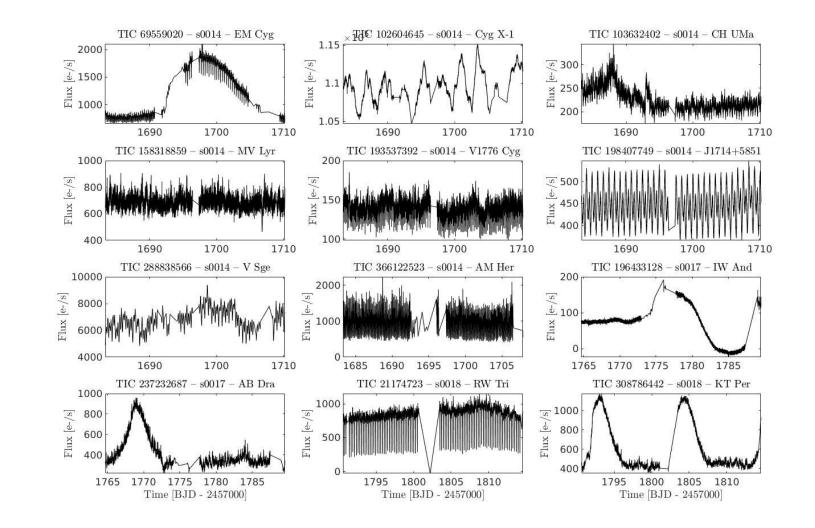


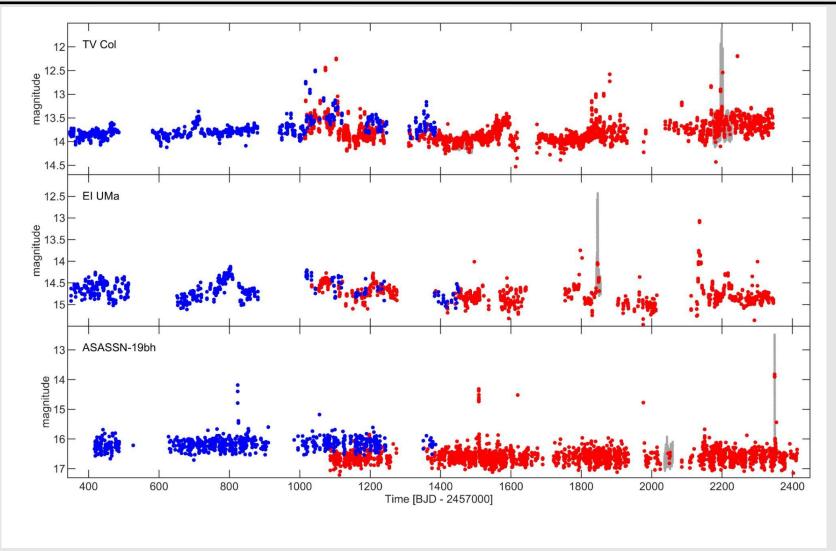
FIG. 1: Light curve of SS Cyg of 1983, Aug. 12, as an example for the formal definition of flickering flares. The base points and peaks of individual flares recognized as significant are marked by squares. The limiting amplitude for a flare was chosen to be  $0^{\text{m}}_{\cdot}03$ .

# **TESS atlas of AWD – Cycle 2**

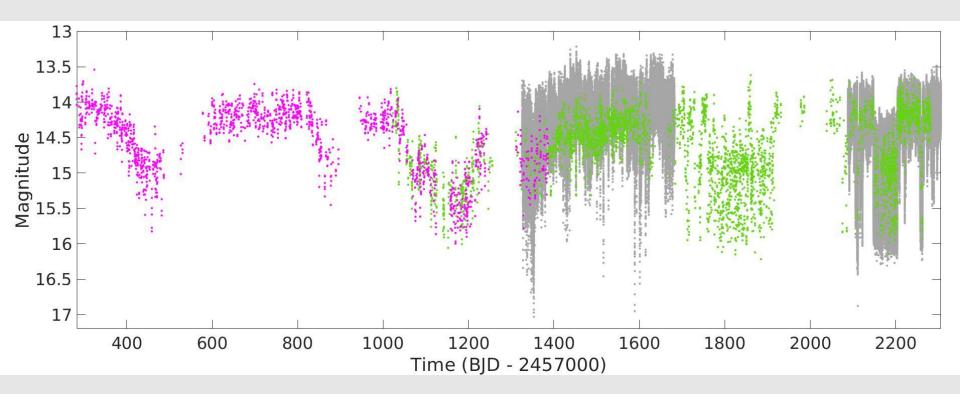


**CNOC XII** 

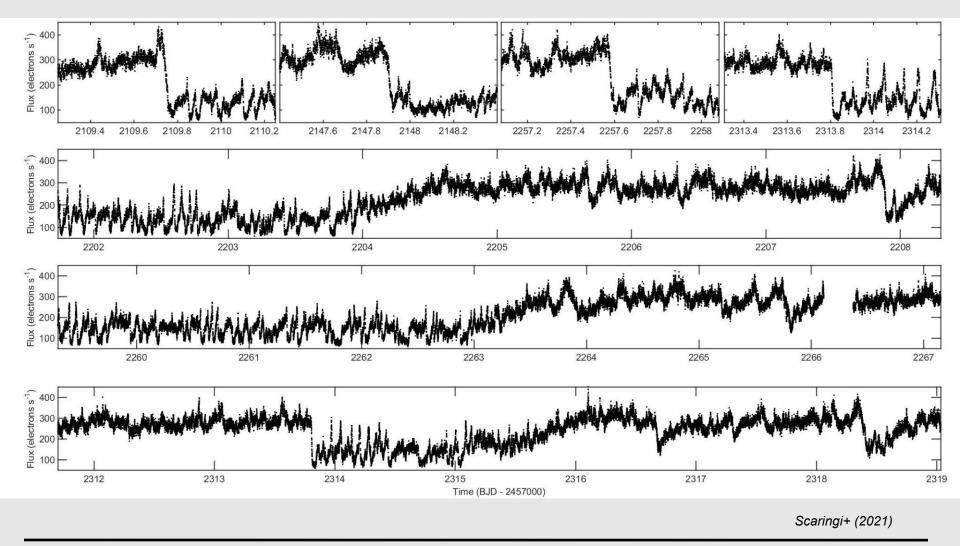
# TV Col, El UMa and ASASSN-19bh ...with ASASSN...



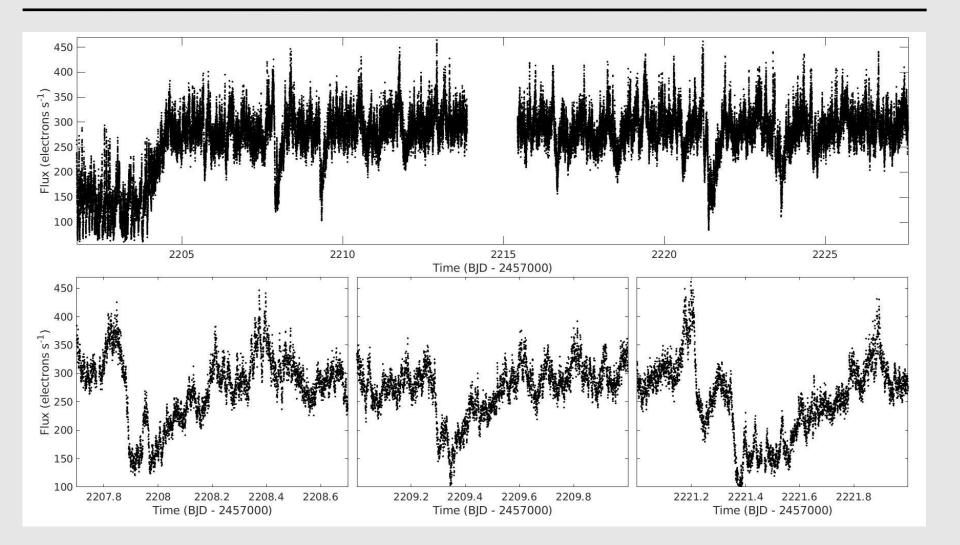
#### TW Pictoris including Cycle 1 and ASAS-SN

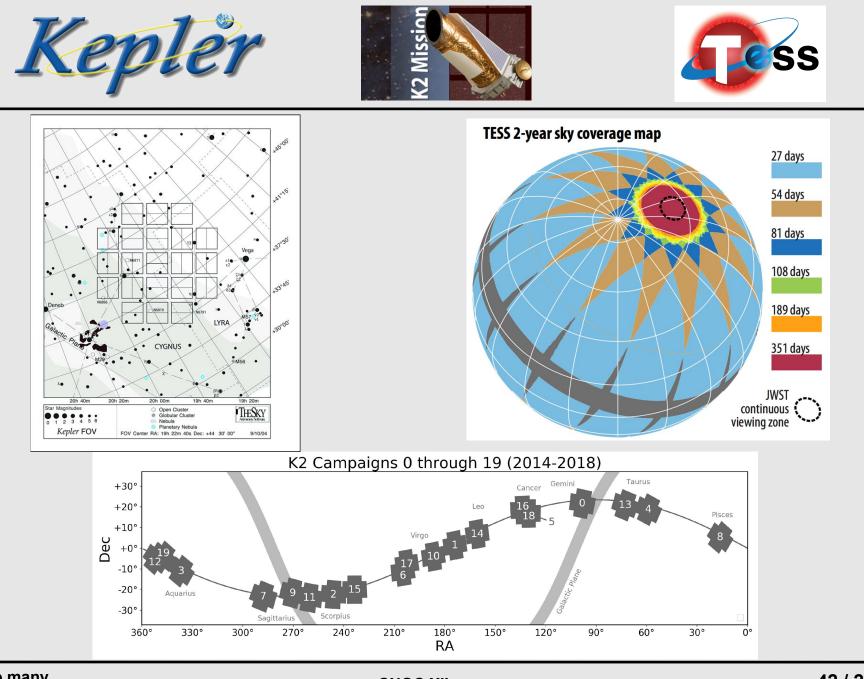


# **TW Pictoris**



# **TW Pictoris**

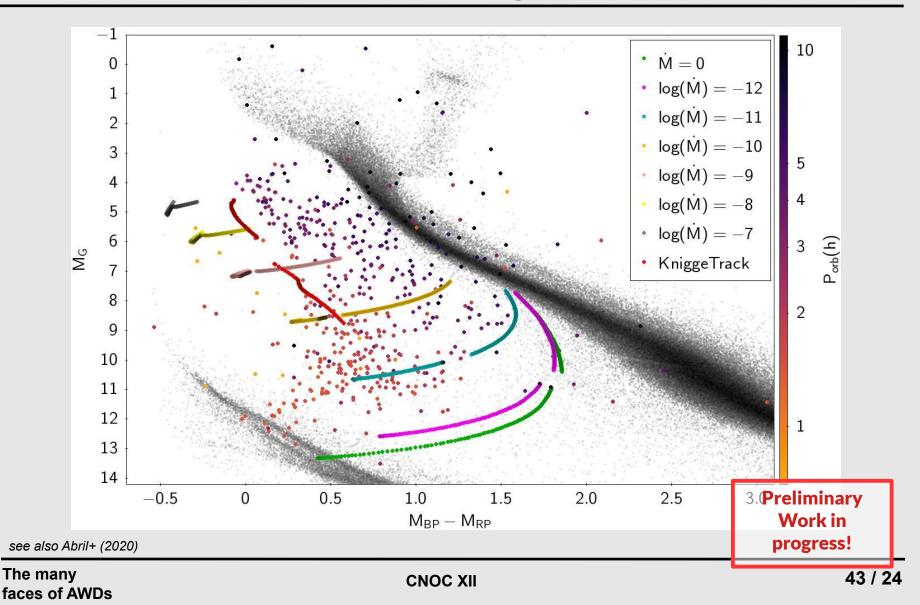




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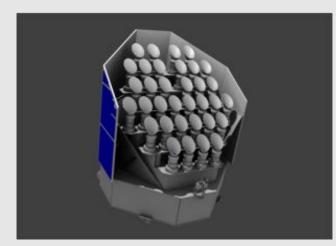
#### **AWD laboratories** can we infer Mdot using Gaia distances?



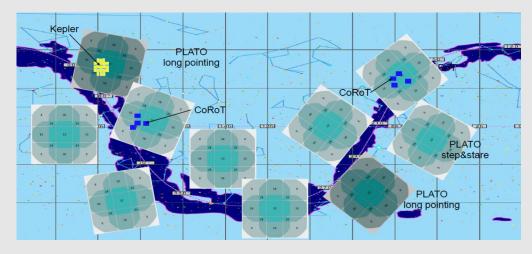


#### What next? PLATO & TESS

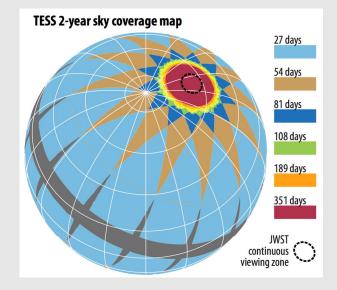




#### Launch 2024



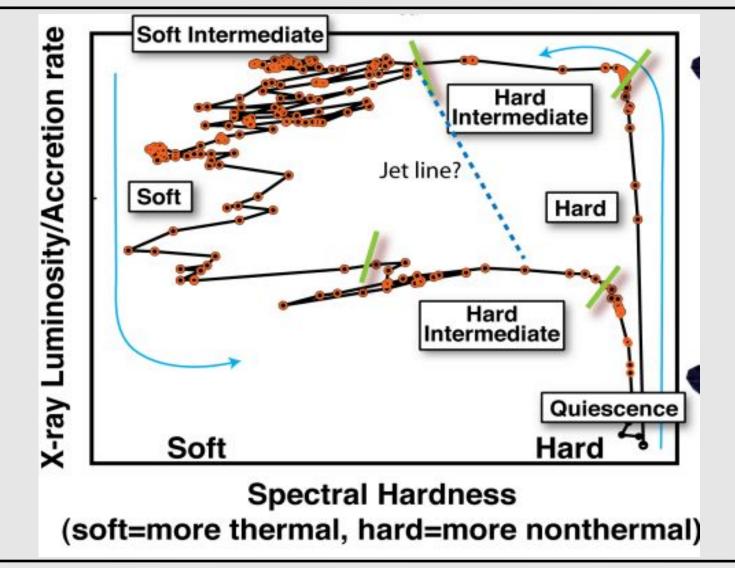




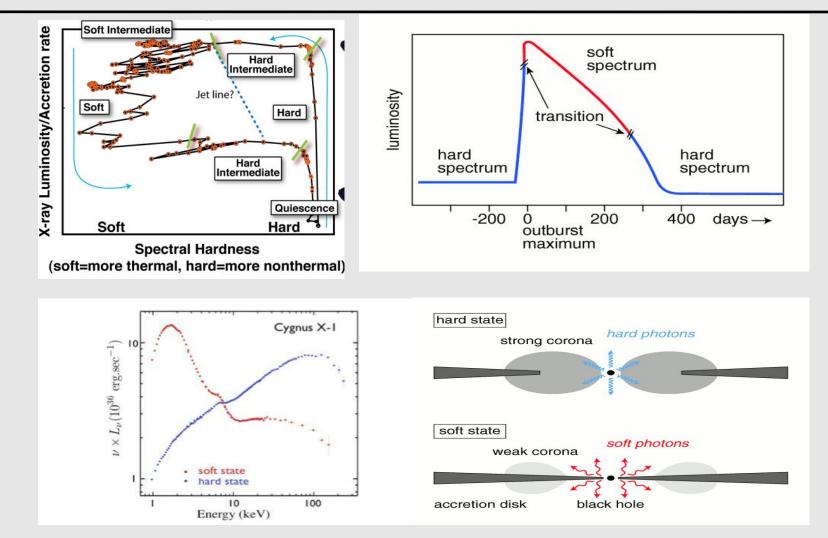
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# State changes in XRBs

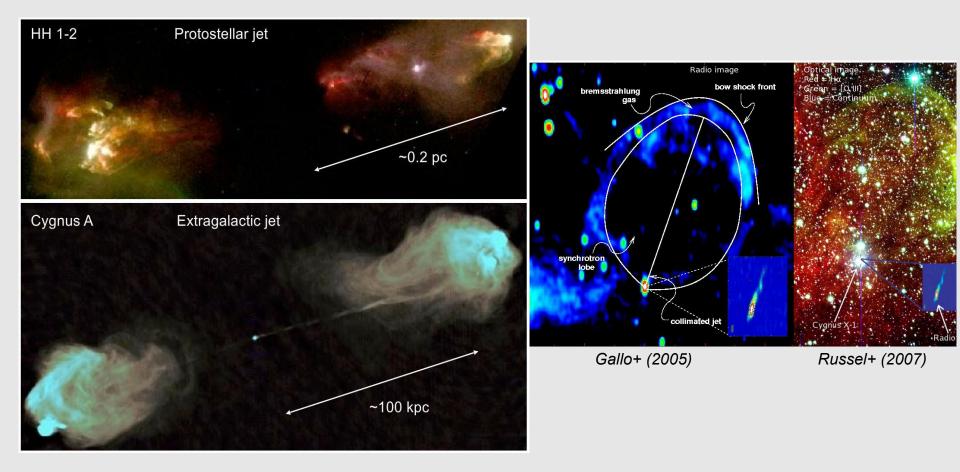


# **State changes in XRBs**



Fender+ 2004, Meyer+ 2005, Meyer-Hofmeister+ 2005, Belloni+ 2005, etc...

#### Jets launching: ubiquitous mechanism?



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faces	of AWDs

## **AGN states**

### AGN population studies show similar HID diagrams to XRBs and AWDs (caveat selection effects!)

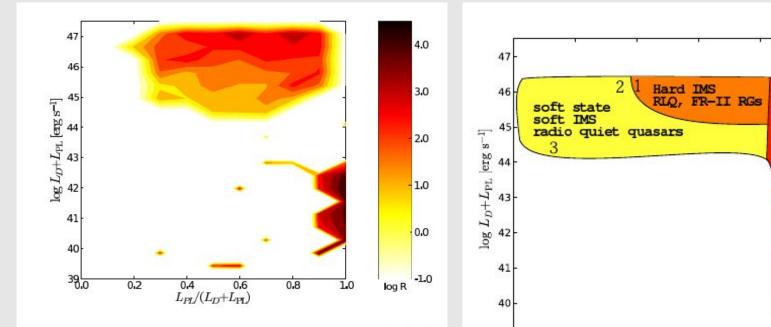
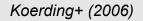


Figure 7. DFLD showing the average radio loudness for SDSS quasars and LLAGN from the Hd (1999) sample. Note that the gap between LLAGN and Quasars is an artefact of our sample selection.



log R

38.0

0.2

0.4

 $L_{PL}/(L_D + L_{PL})$ 

0.6

4.0

3.0

2.0

1.0

0.0

-1.0

RGG

luminosity AGN FR-I

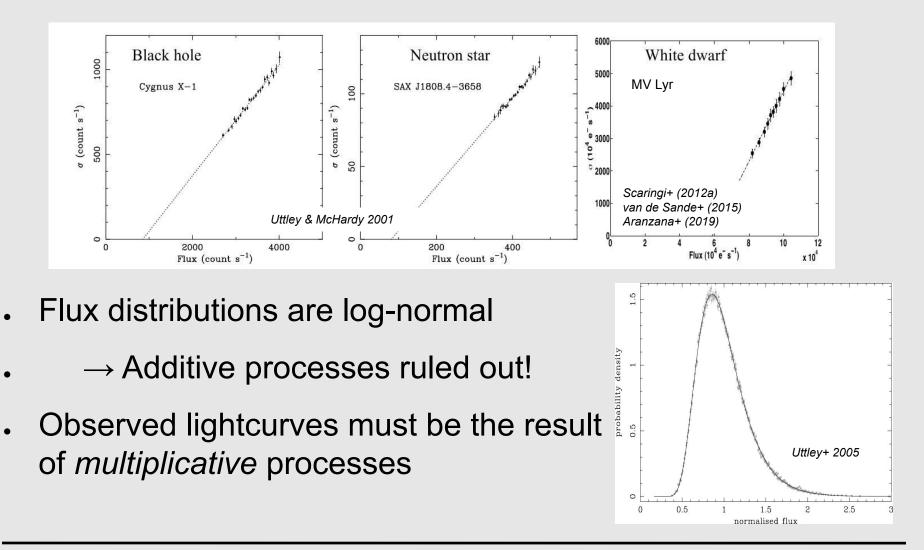
state

Hard Low 1

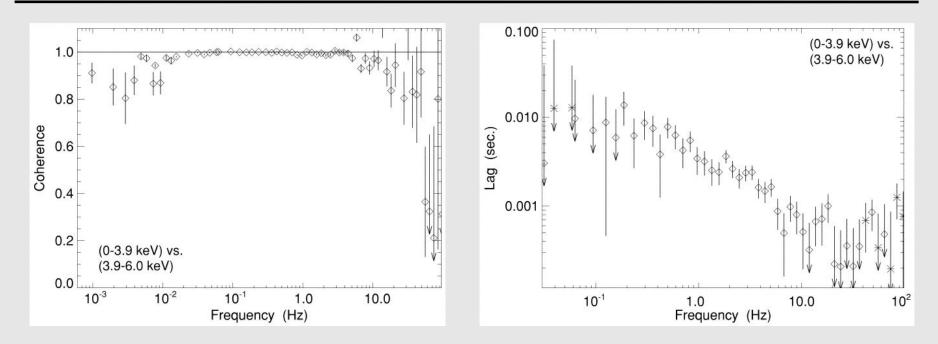
1.0

0.8

# The rms-flux relation



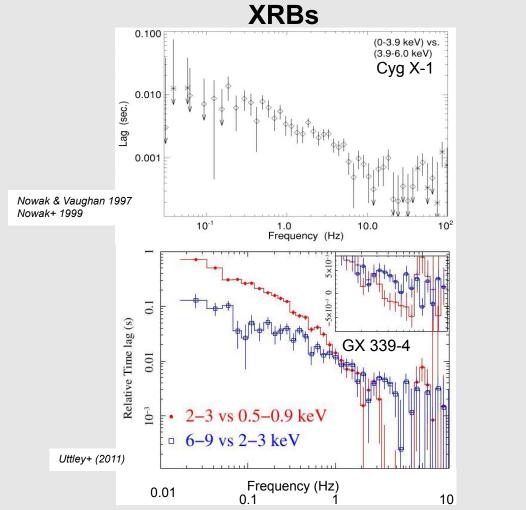
### **Coherence & Fourier-dependent lags**

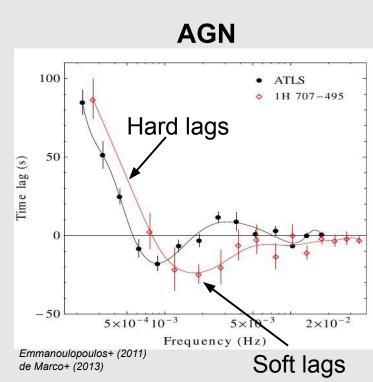


#### Fourier frequency-dependant measure of the linear correlation between 2 time series observed simultaneously in two energy channels

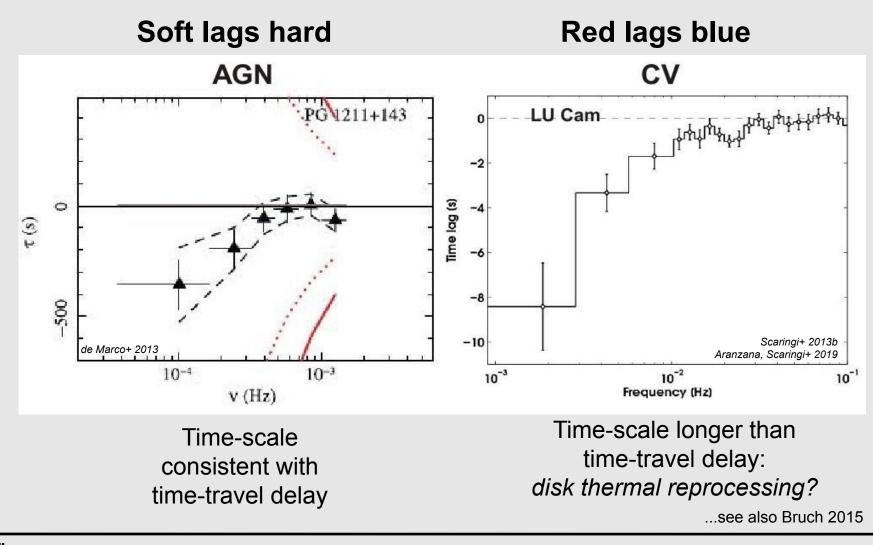
Nowak & Vaughan 1997 Nowak+ 1999

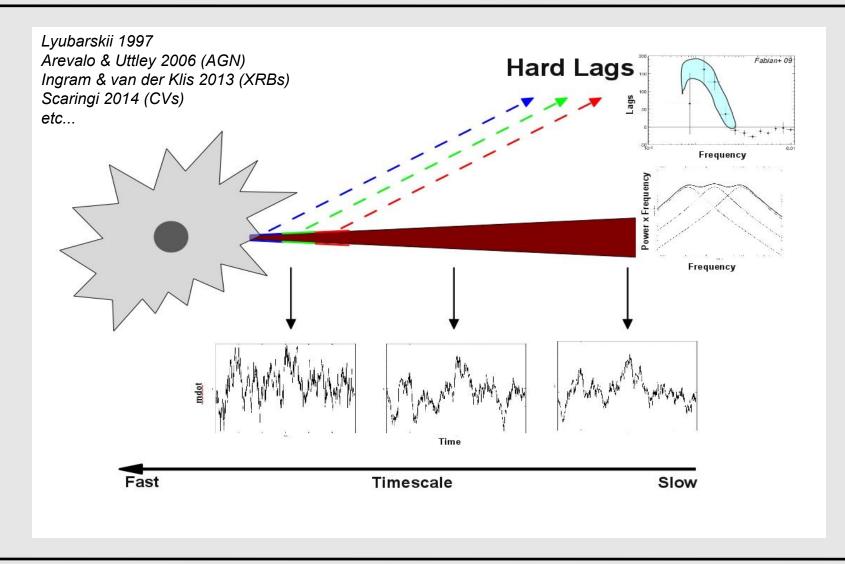
# **Fourier-dependent time lags**

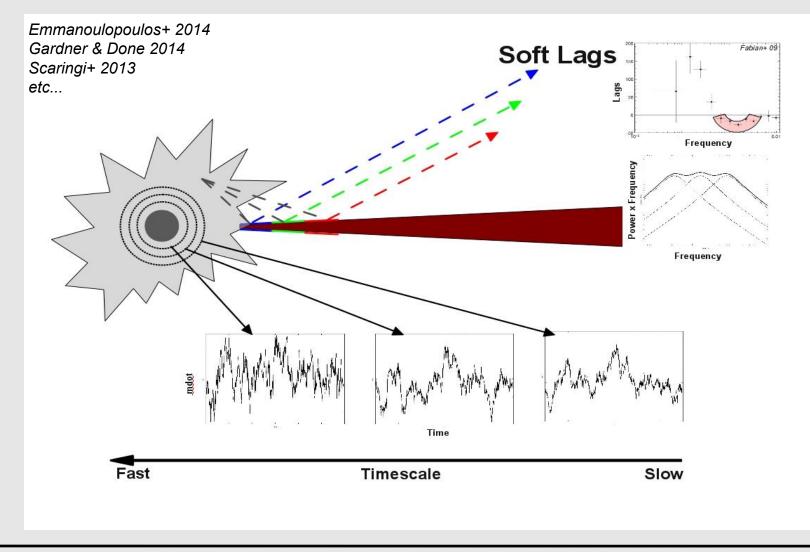


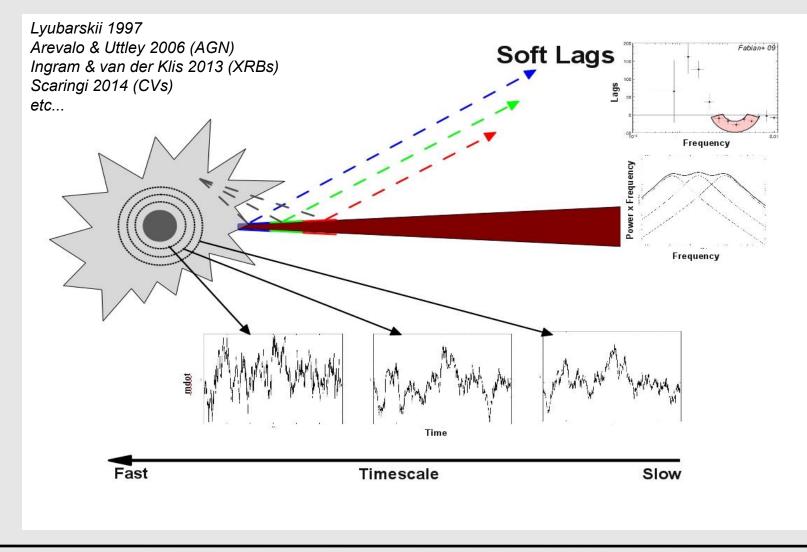


# Fourier time-lags in CVs

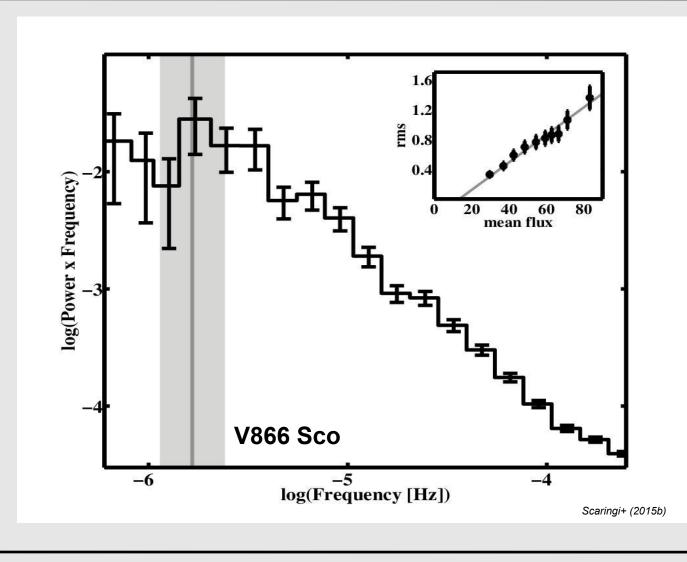




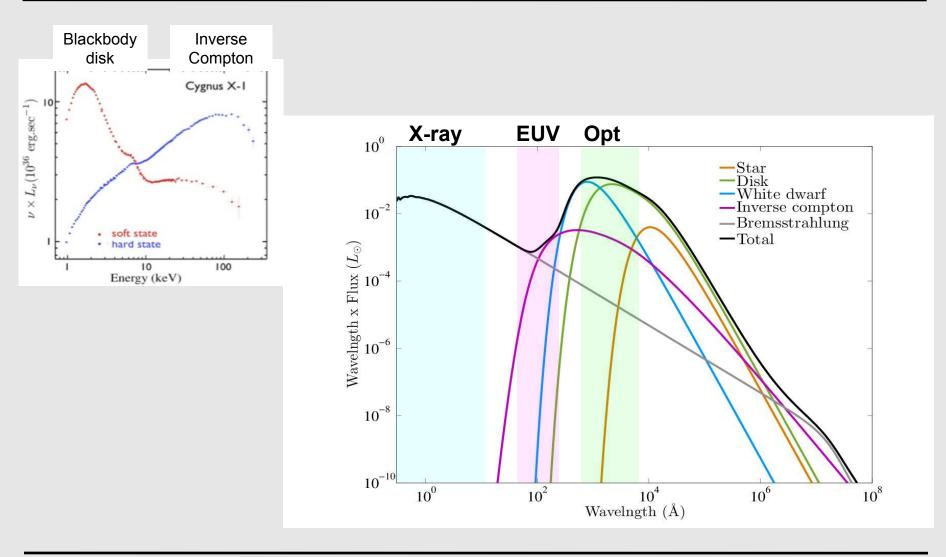




# **YSOs join the family!**



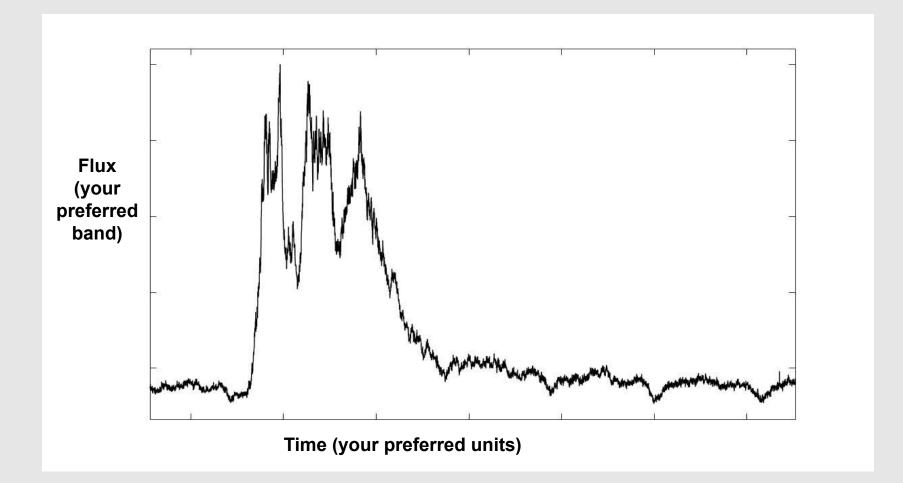
#### Fluctuating Accretion disk: how can we test for "corona" in CVs?



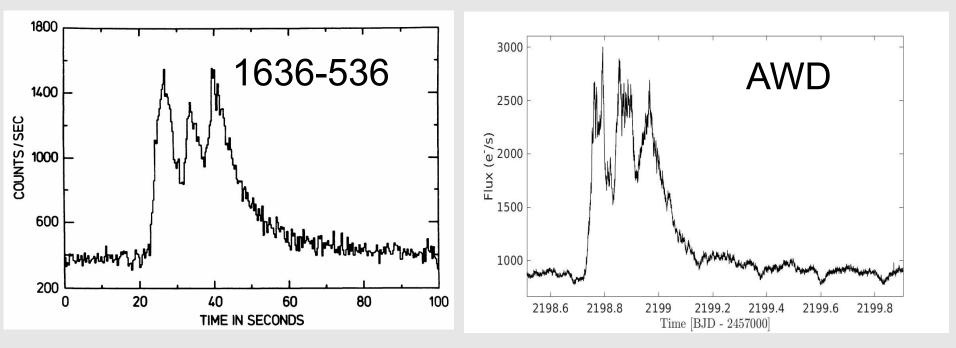
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**CNOC XII** 

# What is this?

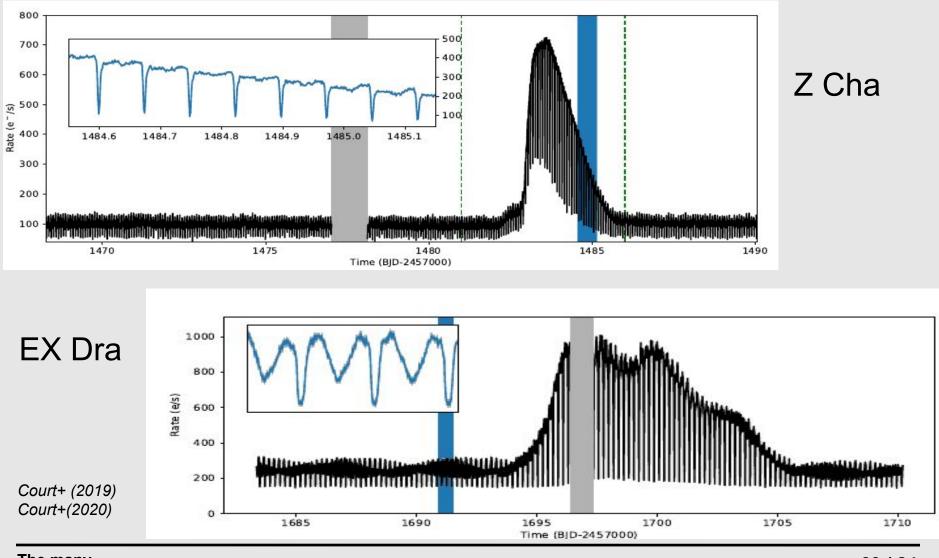


# Type I X-ray bursts in AWDs?



# Z Cha & EX Dra



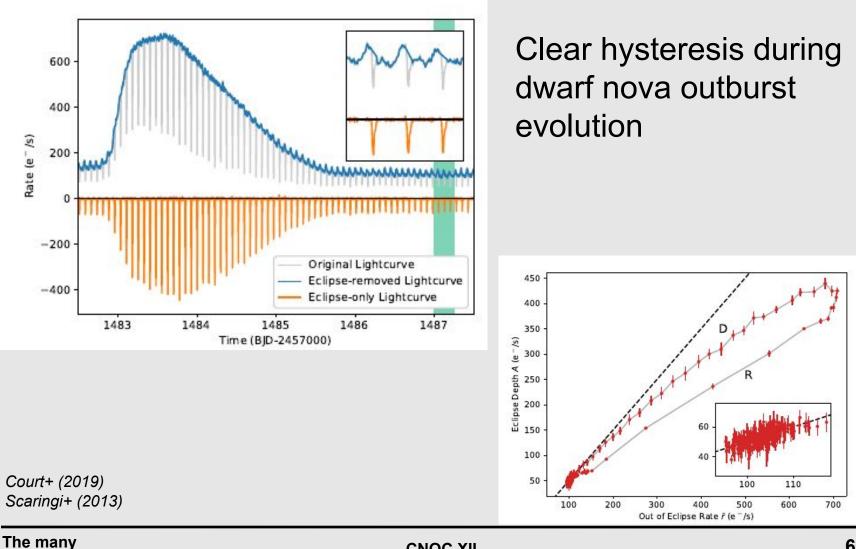


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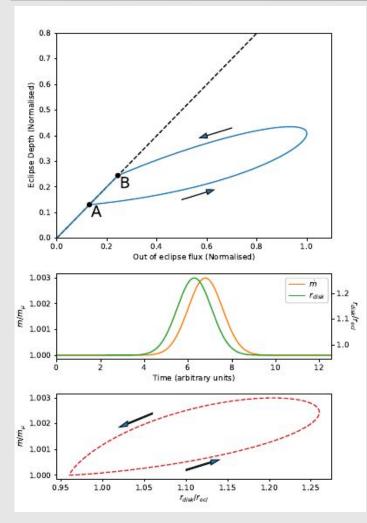
### Z Cha **Outside-in outburst evolution**





**CNOC XII** 

#### Z Cha Outside-in outburst evolution



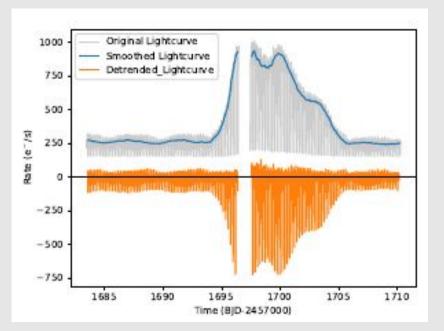
$$L(\dot{M}, R_{\text{out}}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{R_{\text{in}}}^{R_{\text{out}}} \sigma 2\pi R T^4(R) \, \mathrm{d}R$$
$$\propto \dot{M} \left( \frac{2\sqrt{R_*}}{3R_{\text{out}}\sqrt{R_{\text{out}}}} - \frac{1}{R_{\text{out}}} + \frac{1}{3R_*} \right)$$

Hysteresis must be caused by outer disk size increasing **before** mass transfer rate increase  $\rightarrow$  outside-in outburst

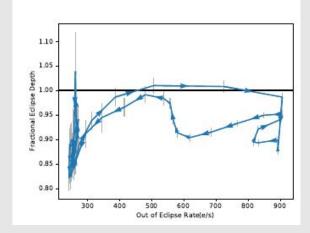
Court+ (2019)

### **EX** Dra

#### Inside-out outburst evolution



800 700 600 h(e/s) 500 Dept ₩ 400 Clips 300 200 100 300 400 500 600 800 700 900 Out of Eclipse Rate(e/s)

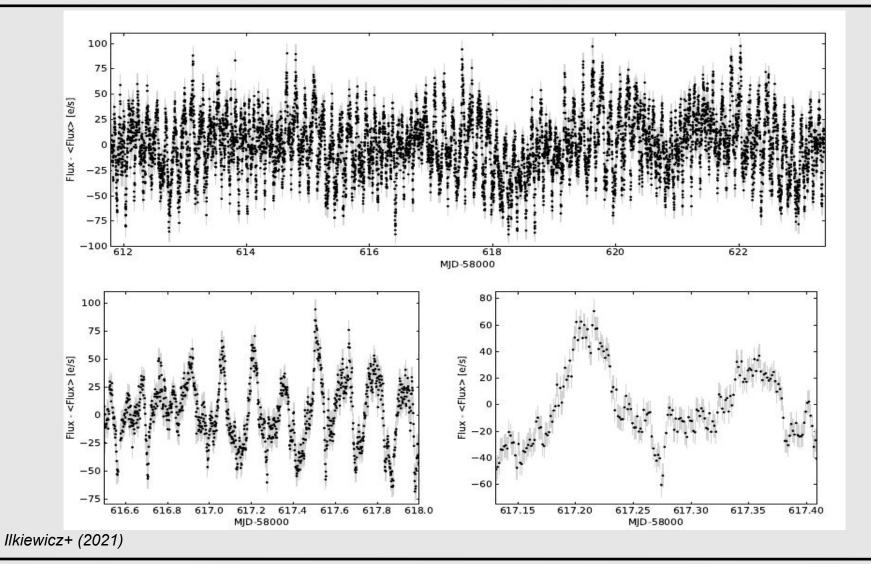


Hysteresis must be caused by mass transfer increasing **before** outer disk radius → inside-out outburst

Court+ (2020)



#### AQ Men exploring the tilted disk

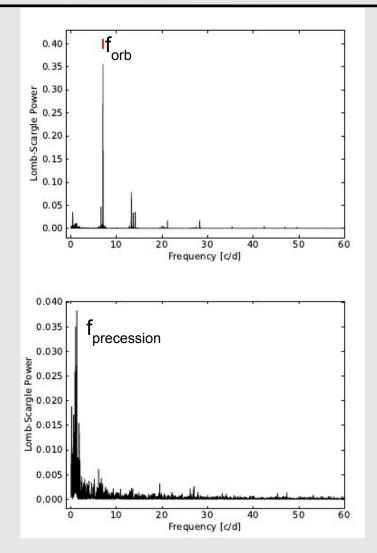


The many faces of AWDs

**CNOC XII** 

#### AQ Men exploring the tilted disk





ID	Frequency [c/d]	Amplitude [e/s]	$MJD_0$
$\omega_0$	7.06869(13)	24.66(17)	58667.68379(16)
$2\omega_+$	13.29413(28)	11.25(17)	58667.67647(18)
$\omega_+$	6.64591(34)	9.42(17)	58667.71802(42)
Ν	0.42093(41)	7.78(17)	58668.449(8)
$2\omega_0$	14.13860(41)	7.70(17)	58667.64725(24)
$2\omega_0$ -N	13.71513(44)	7.28(17)	58667.70072(27)
$4\omega_0$	28.27526(60)	5.29(17)	58667.68000(18)
$3\omega_0$	21.20627(62)	5.10(17)	58667.69222(25)
$\omega_{-}$	7.4890(10)	3.42(17)	58667.69220(11)
$2\omega_0-3N$	12.8742(11)	3.08(17)	58667.7019(7)
$3\omega_+$	19.9415(11)	3.11(17)	58667.65870(43)
$3\omega_0-2N$	20.3658(11)	2.91(17)	58667.69293(45)
$\omega_0$ -2N	6.2228(12)	2.84(17)	58667.7486(15)
$6\omega_0$	42.4152(12)	2.71(17)	58667.66454(24)
$5\omega_0$	35.3431(13)	2.56(17)	58667.67009(30)
$4\omega_0-2N$	27.4305(14)	2.32(17)	58667.68465(42)
$7\omega_0-6N$	46.9523(15)	2.11(17)	58667.68200(27)
$7\omega_0$	49.4830(17)	1.89(17)	58667.68073(29)
$2\omega_0 + N$	14.5574(19)	1.68(17)	58667.6597(11)
$4\omega_+$	26.5834(21)	1.53(17)	58667.68059(65)
$3\omega_0-N$	20.7830(21)	1.51(17)	58667.67364(84)
6ω0-5N	40.3054(24)	1.36(17)	58667.66312(49)
$8\omega_0$	56.5535(29)	1.09(17)	58667.67454(44)
$6\omega_0-4N$	40.7268(32)	0.99(17)	58667.66489(66)

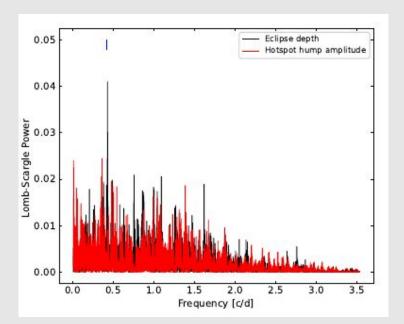
Ilkiewicz+ (2021)

#### The many faces of AWDs

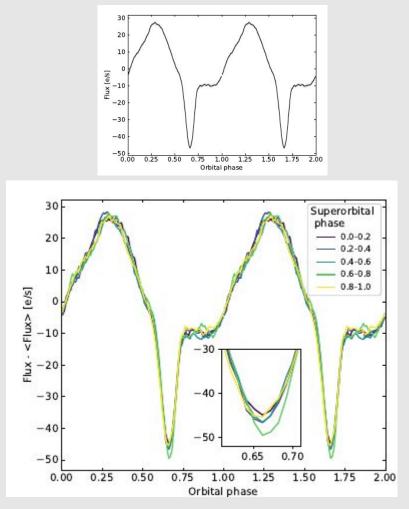
**CNOC XII** 

#### AQ Men exploring the tilted disk



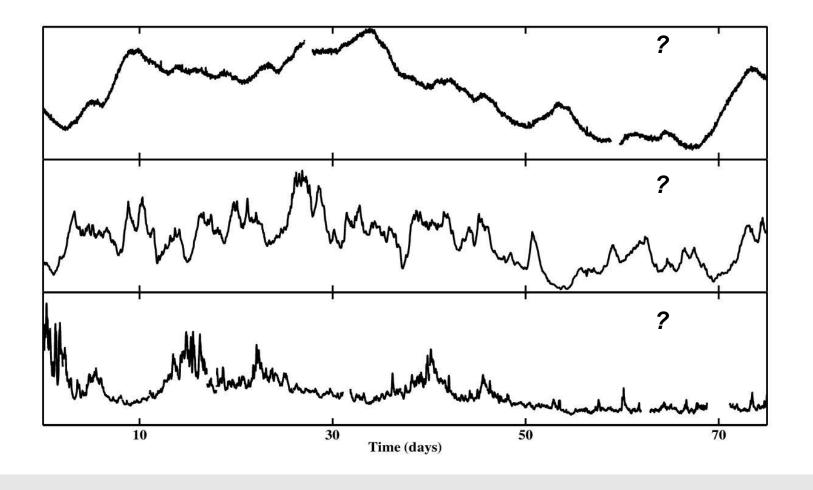


Eclipse depth variations on tilted disk precession period

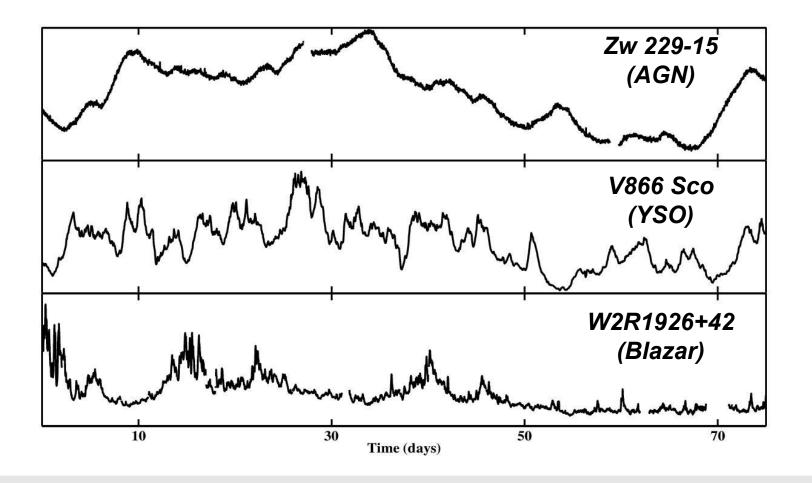


Ilkiewicz+ (2021)

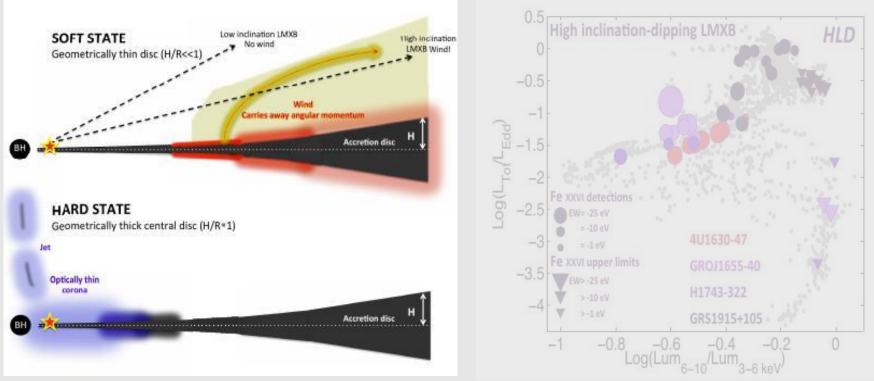
# **Accretion-driven flickering**



# **Accretion-driven flickering**



# State changes + disk winds

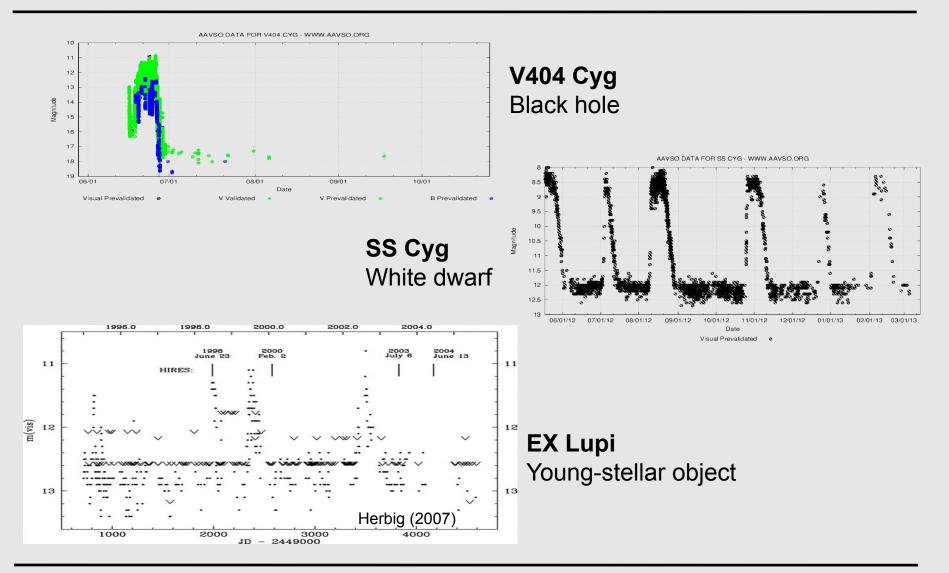


Ponti+ (2012)

#### What about accreting WDs?

The m	nany
faces	of AWDs

# **Accretion disk instabilities**

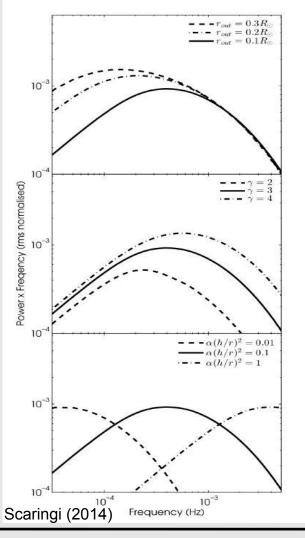


The many faces of AWDs

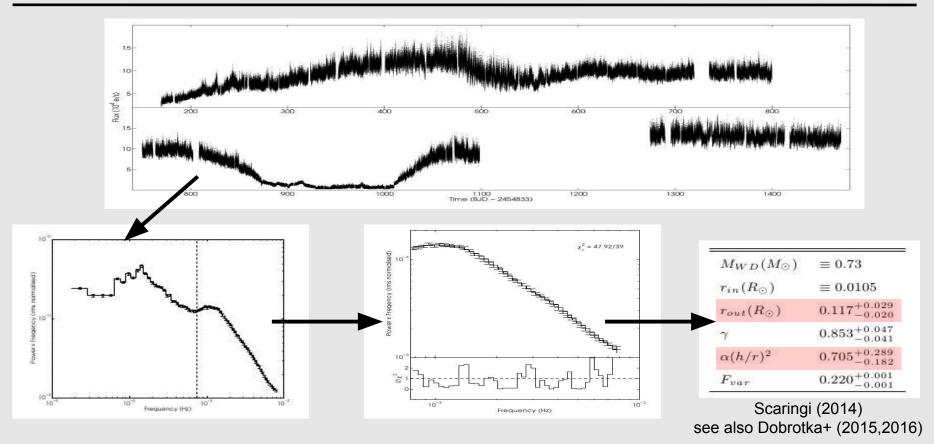
1) Fix  $M_{WD} \rightarrow R_{WD}$  (mass-radius relation) 2) Set  $r_{in} = R_{WD}$ (assume disk extends to WD surface) 3) Fit 4 free parameters:  $r_{out}$  = outer disk radius  $\alpha(h/r)^2$  = viscosity and

disk scale height

= emissivity index



### Fluctuating Accretion disk: what generates the variability?

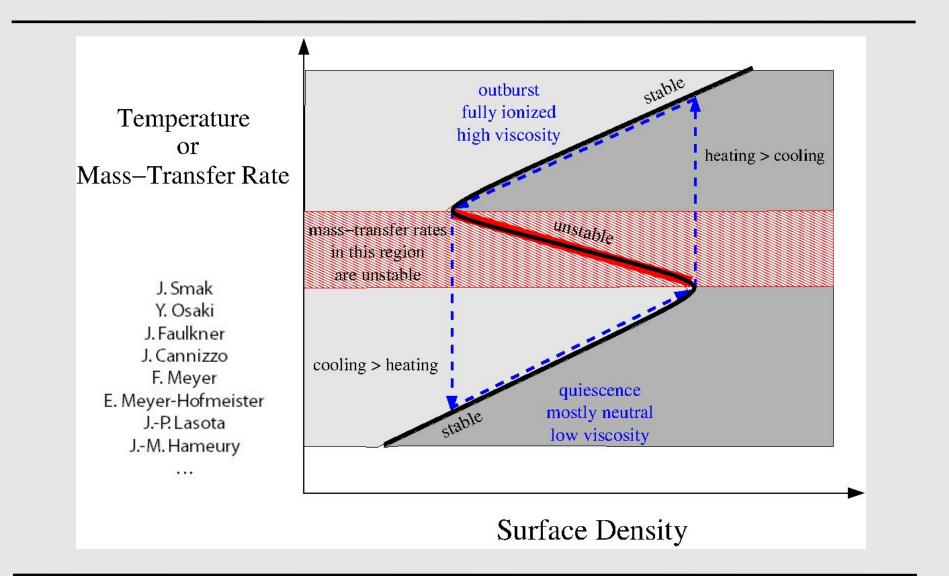


#### Geometrically thick disk close to the WD with large viscosity parameter?

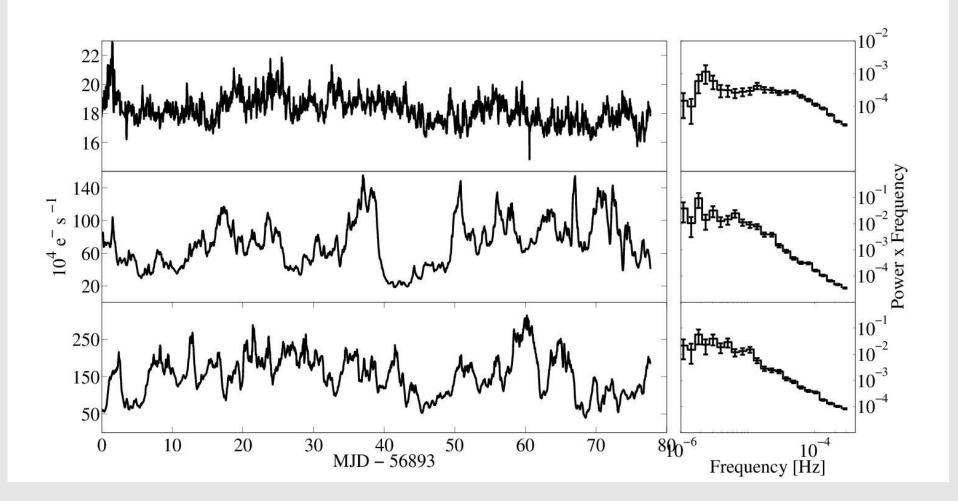
also inferred from eclipse mapping studies:

Feline+ (2005), Wood+ (1986,1992), Groot+ (2000,2004), Baptista&Bortoletto (2004), etc...

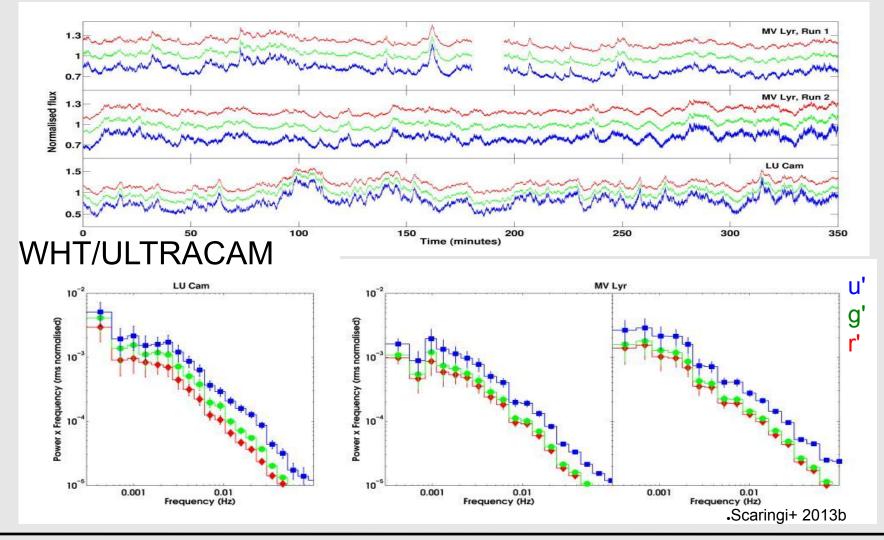
# **The Disk Instability Model**



#### Accretion-driven flickering: YSO variability

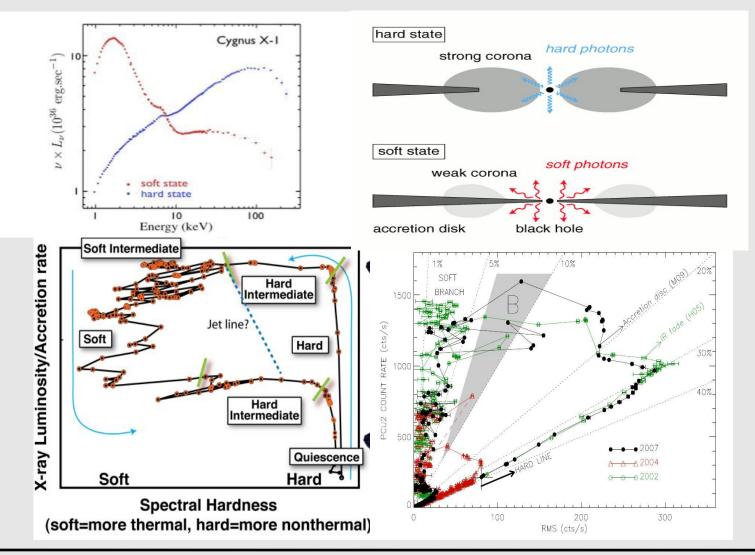


#### Fourier time-lags in CVs

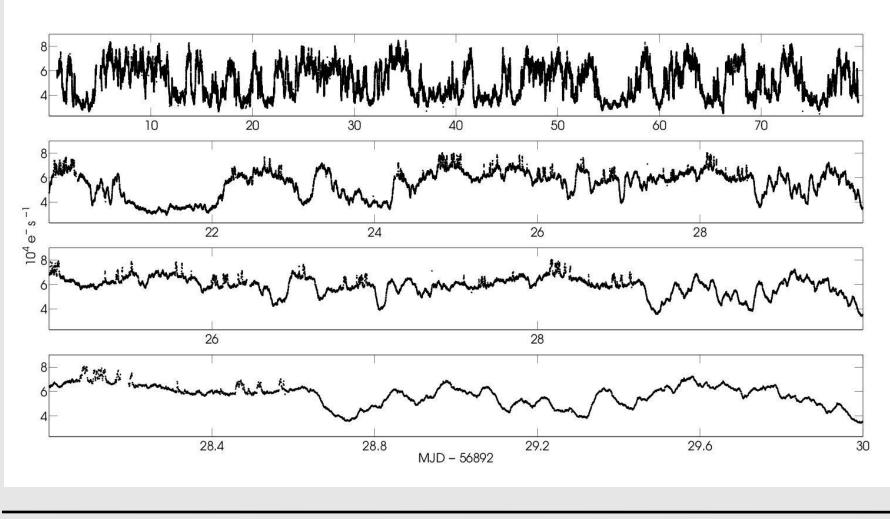


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#### Fluctuating Accretion disk: what generates the variability in XRBs?

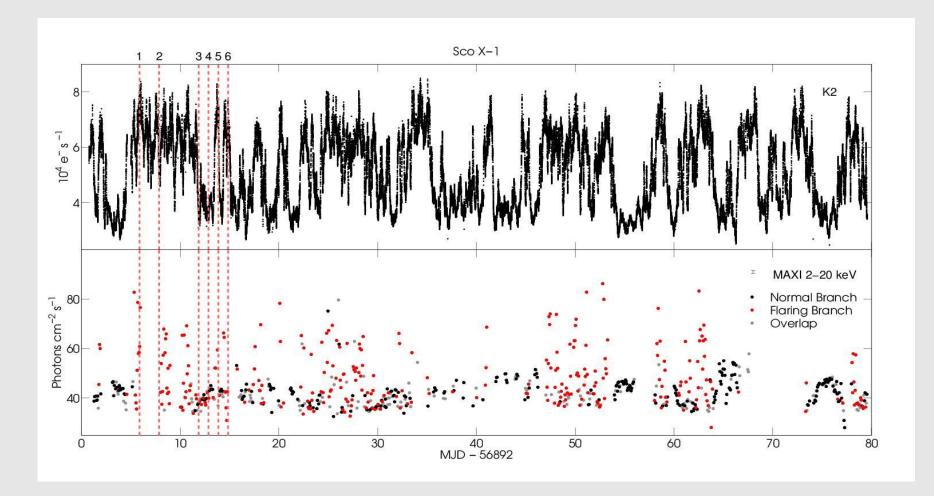


#### Sco X-1 with K2



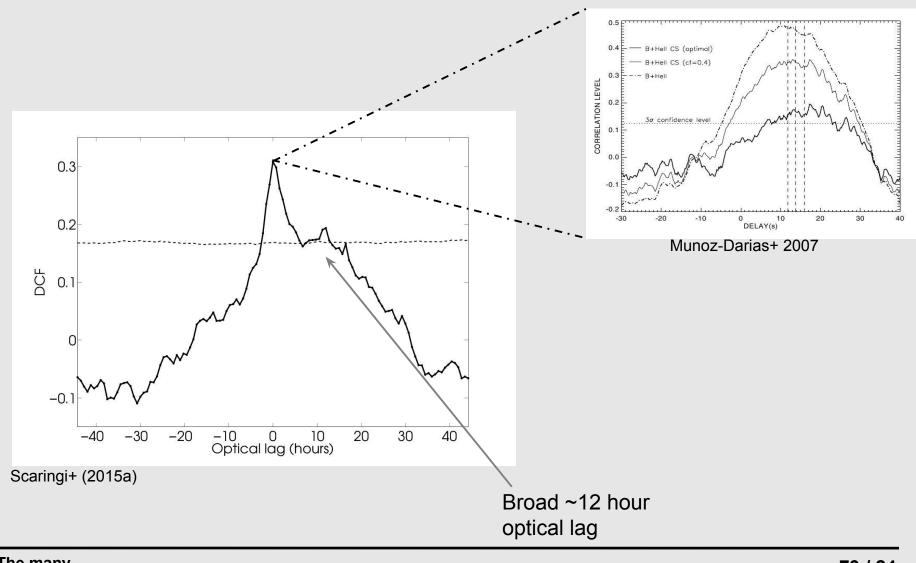
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#### Sco X-1 with K2



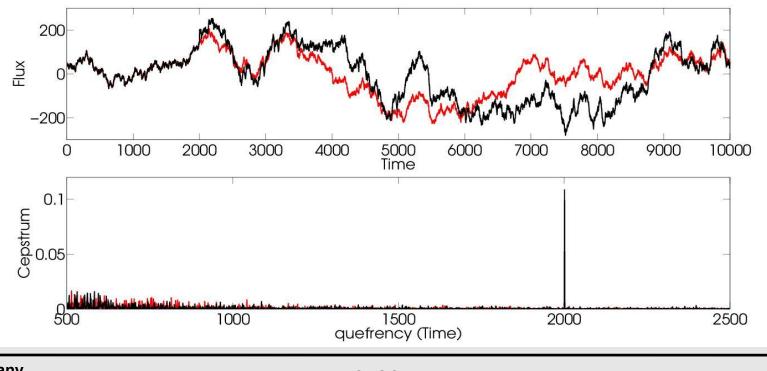
Scaringi+ (2015a)

# X-ray/optical DCF

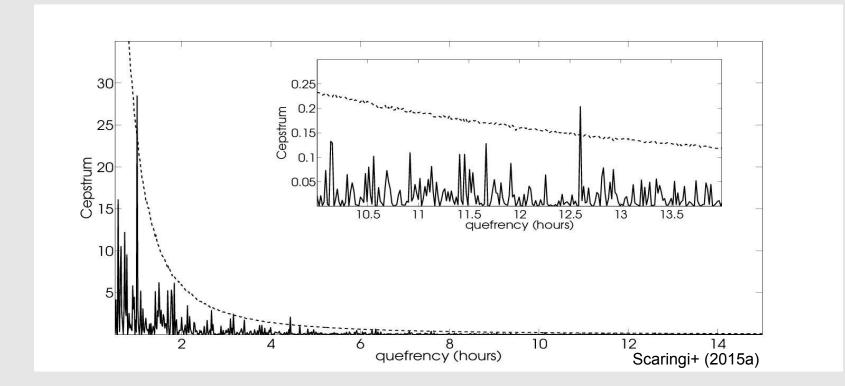


# **The Cepstrum**

- . Used to find echoes in time-series data
- Developed for earthquakes/bomb explosion studies power cepstrum of signal =  $|\mathcal{F}^{-1} \{ \log(|\mathcal{F} \{f(t)\}|^2) \}|^2$

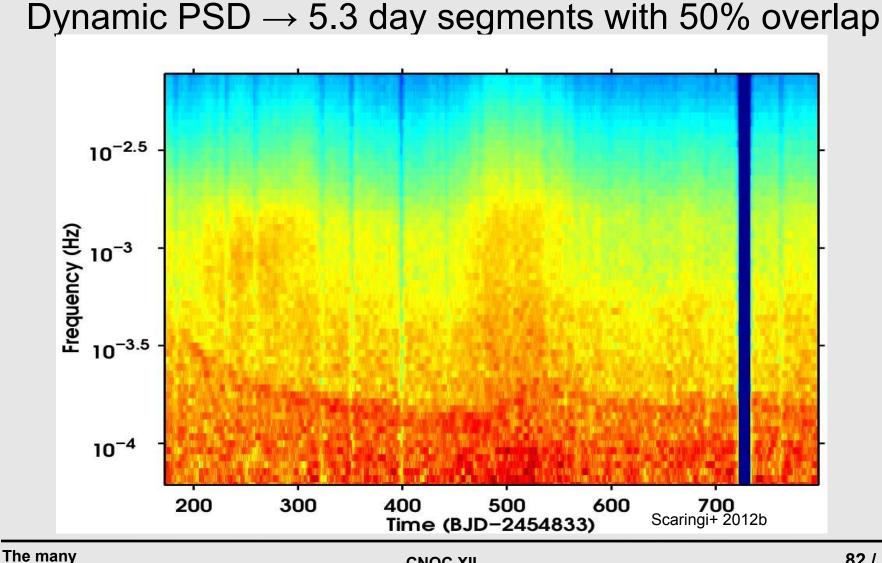


## **The Cepstrum**



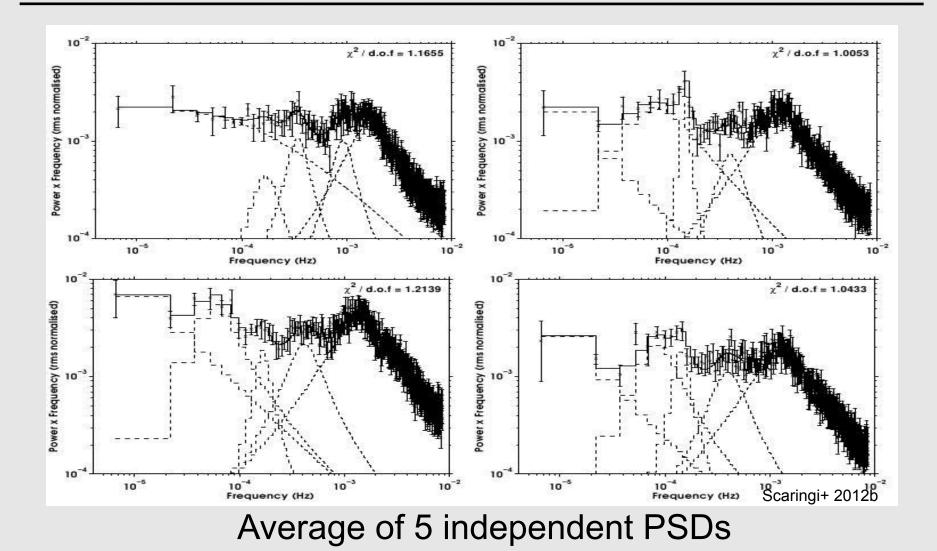
- 3 significant echoes:
- $\rightarrow$  1 hour, 4.4 hours, 12.6 hours

# **QPOs in MV Lyrae**



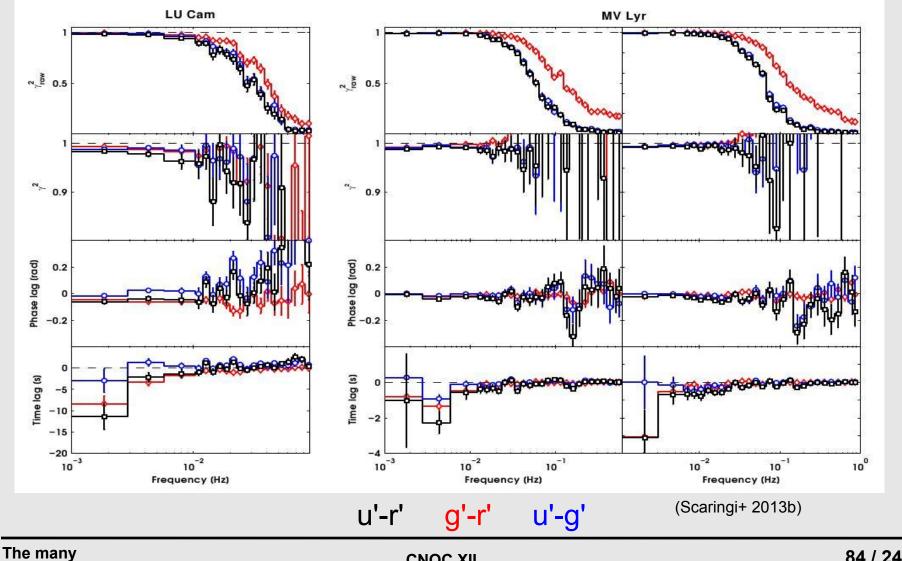
faces of AWDs

## **QPOs in MV Lyrae**



The many faces of AWDs

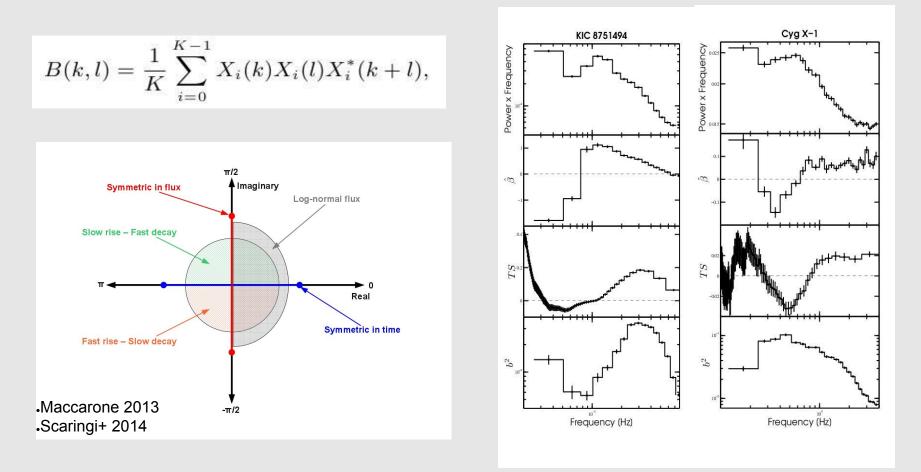
# Fourier time-lags in CVs



faces of AWDs

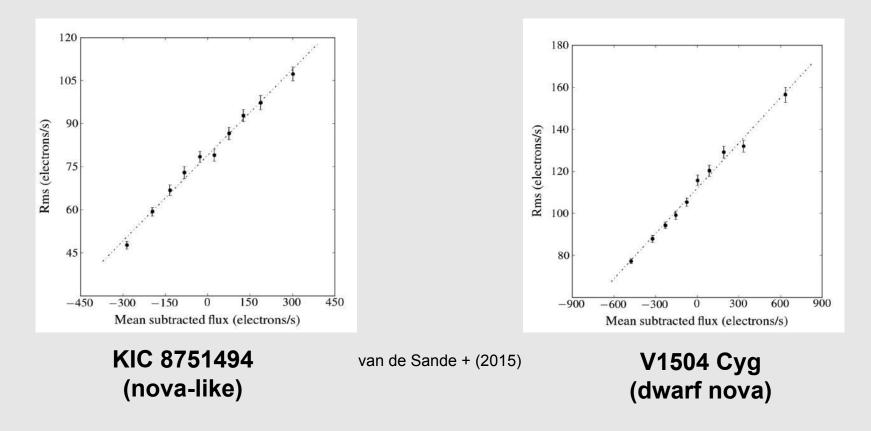
#### **Bispectrum**

For frequency pairs **k** & **I**, it is defined by:

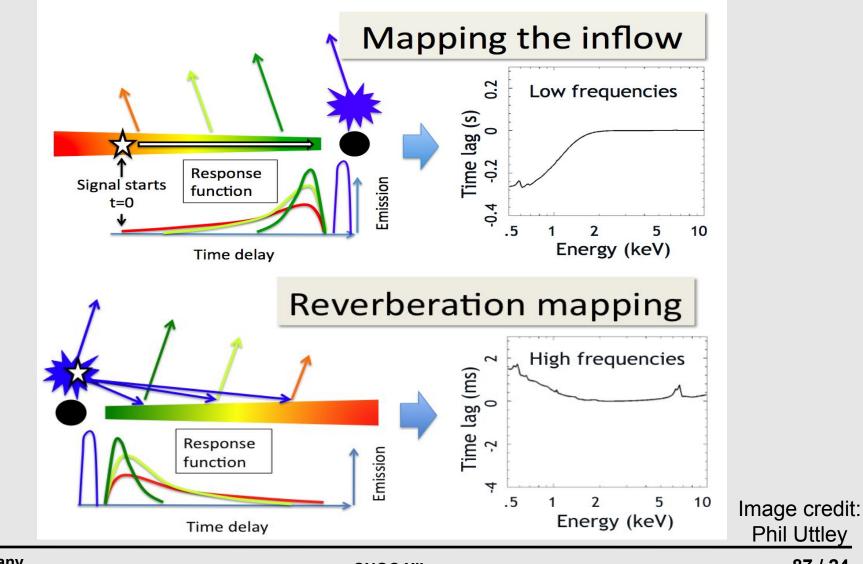


#### The rms-flux relation

# All Kepler CVs with good enough quality data show it!

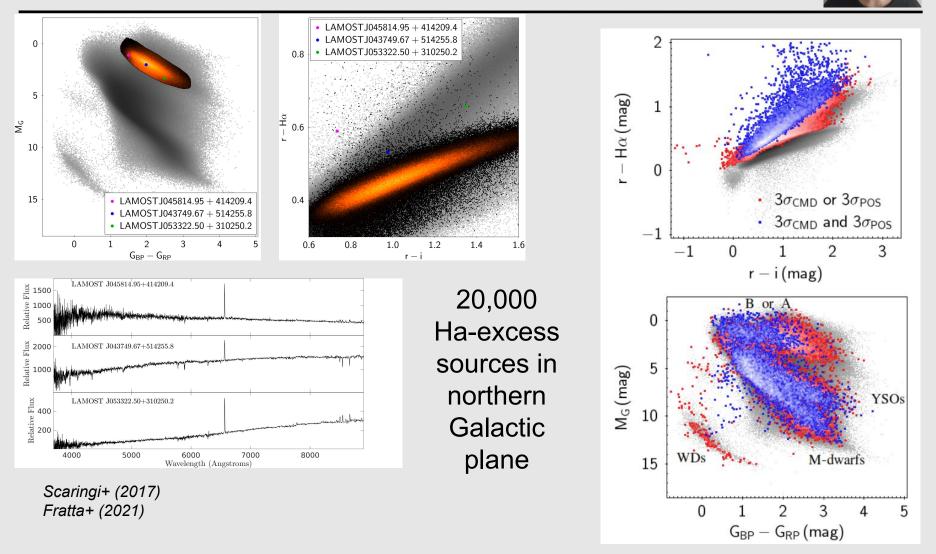


## **Fluctuating Accretion disk**



The many faces of AWDs

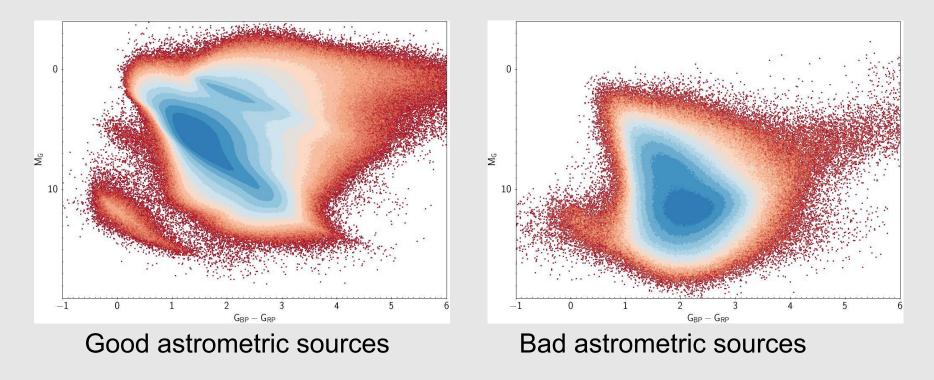
#### What next? Gaia - IPHAS – UKIDSS - TESS



#### The many faces of AWDs

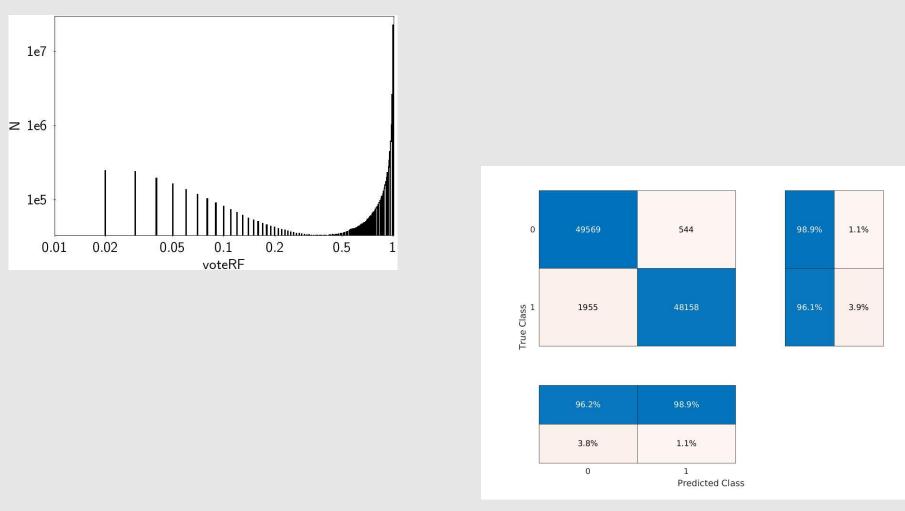
#### **XGAPS** Gaia EDR3 - IGAPS – UKIDSS

34 million matches Random Forest used to select "good" astrometric sources U,g,r,i,Ha,J,H,K + Gaia



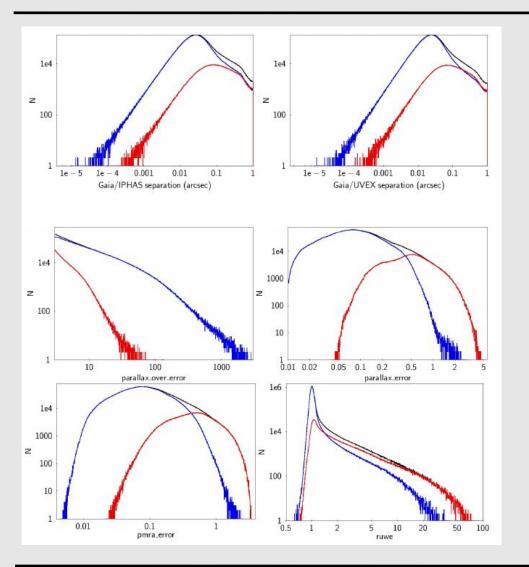
Scaringi+ (in prep)

#### **XGAPS** Gaia EDR3 - IGAPS – UKIDSS - TESS



Scaringi+ (in prep)

#### **XGAPS** Gaia EDR3 - IGAPS – UKIDSS - TESS



Predictor Name	Predictor Importance
pmra	11.68
pmdec	9.07
bMJD_separation_UVEX	4.30
bMJD_separation_IPHAS	4.26
ipd_frac_multi_peak	4.06
ipd_gof_harmonic_amplitude	3.61
astrometric_n_good_obs_al	2.67
astrometric_n_obs_al	2.65
scan_direction_mean_k1	2.53
parallax_error	2.42
scan_direction_mean_k2	2.24
scan_direction_mean_k3	2.22
ruwe	1.96
astrometric_excess_noise_sig	1.84
astrometric_gof_al	1.81
astrometric_excess_noise	1.74
pmdec_error	1.70
redChi2	1.64
scan_direction_strength_k1	1.57
astrometric_sigma5d_max	1.50
ipd_frac_odd_win	1.49
scan_direction_mean_k4	1.49
astrometric_n_bad_obs_al	1.42
astrometric_chi2_al	1.36
pmra_error	1.33
astrometric_n_obs_ac	0.27

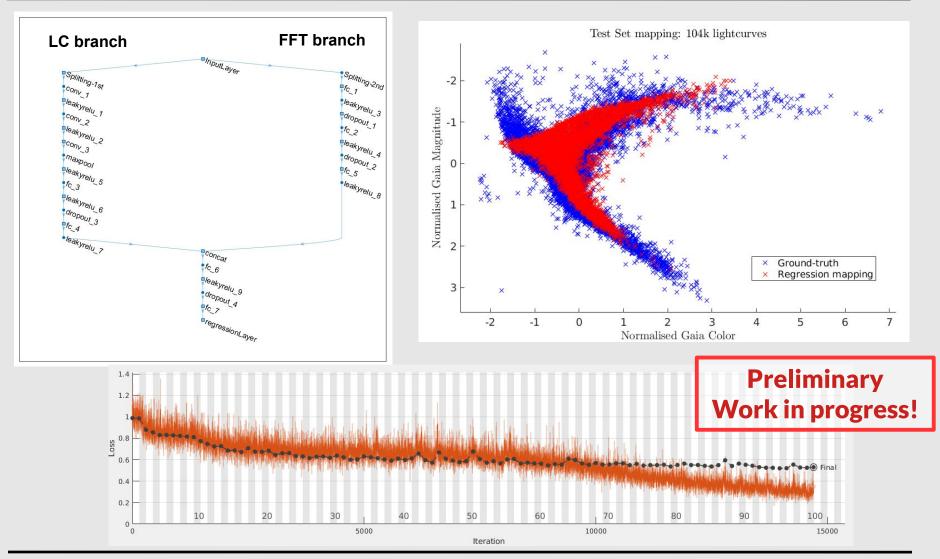
Table 1. Out-of-bag predictor importance of all predictors used for classification by the Random Forest classifier ordered according to importance.

#### Scaringi+ (in prep)

#### The many faces of AWDs

# What next?

Mapping lightcurves to the Gaia CMD and more...



The many faces of AWDs