

# Surface Features with VLT

*Claudia Paladini*

**ULB**

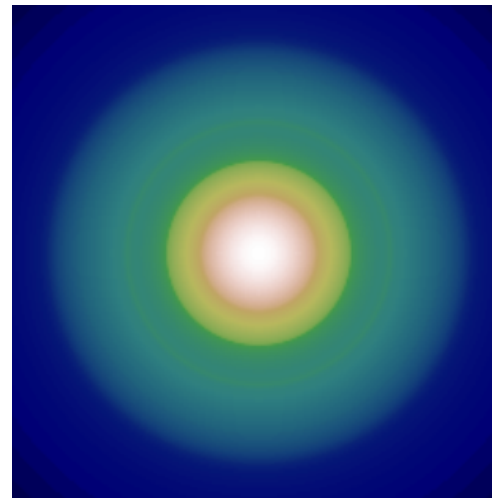
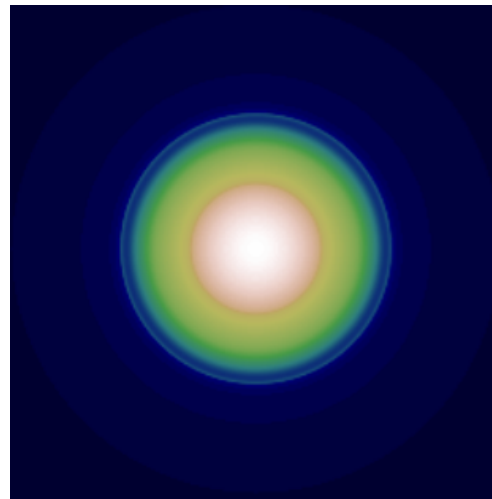
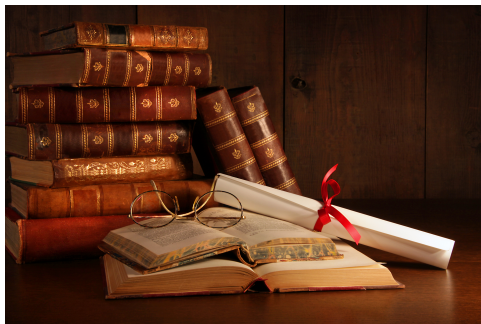
UNIVERSITÉ  
LIBRE  
DE BRUXELLES

**fnrs**  
FREEDOM TO RESEARCH

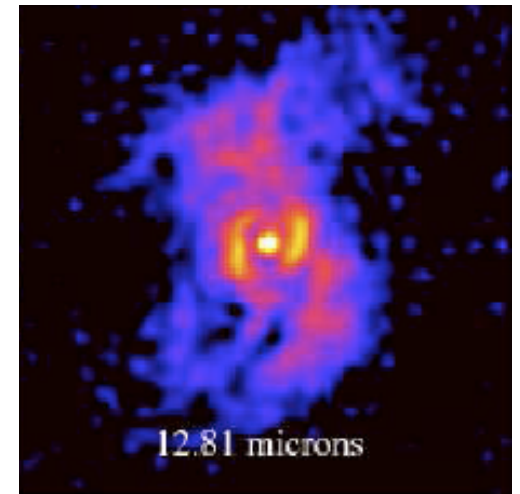
# Old concept

AGB are round

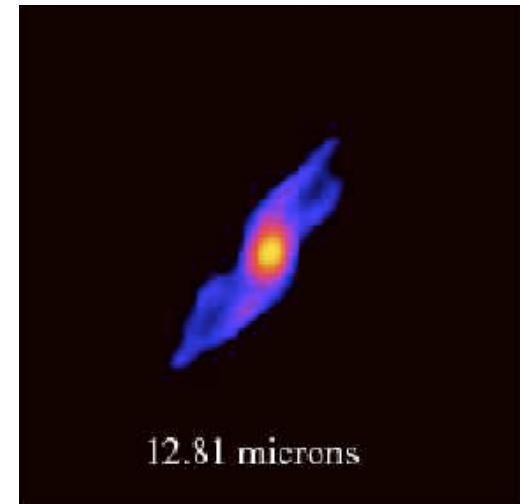
Post-AGB, planetary nebulae  
are not



1D models Höfner 2003



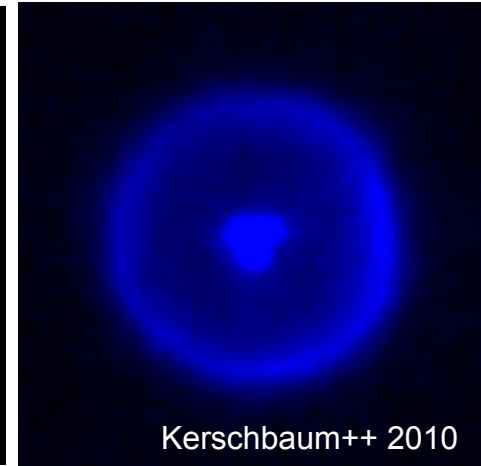
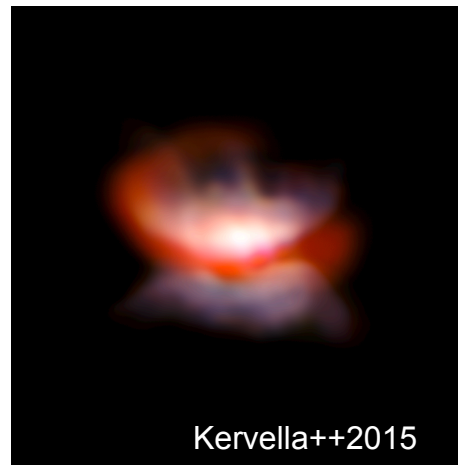
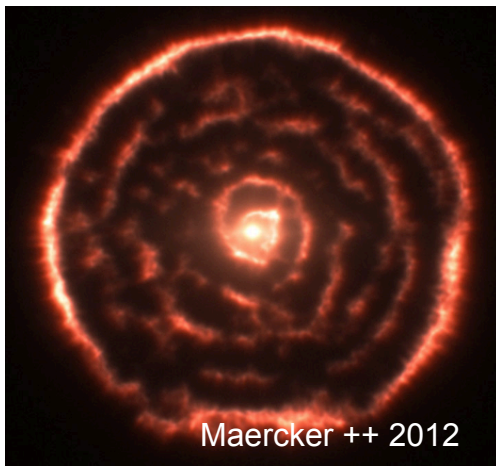
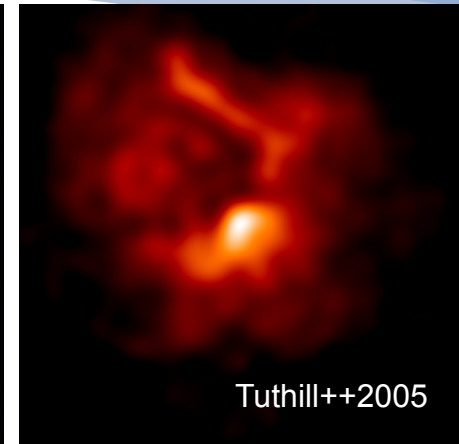
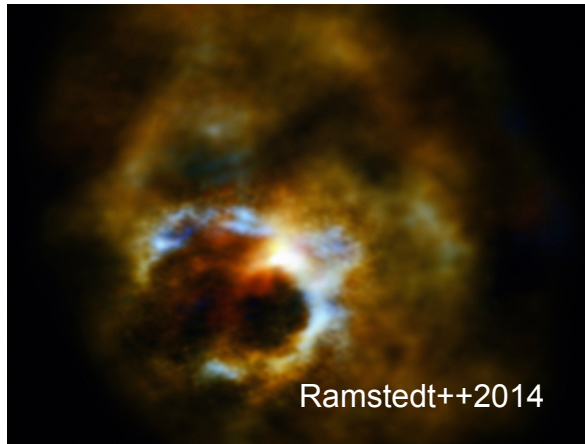
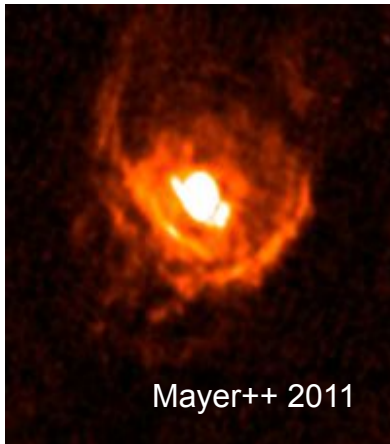
12.81 microns



12.81 microns

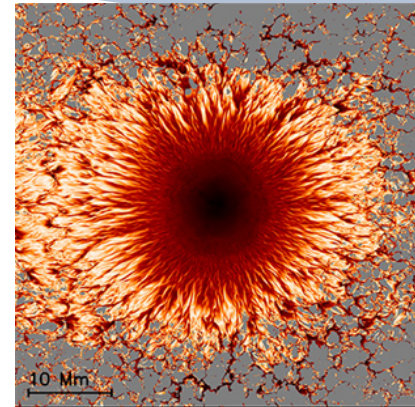
Lagadec et al., 2011

# New observations

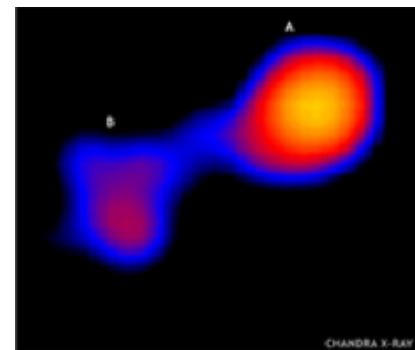


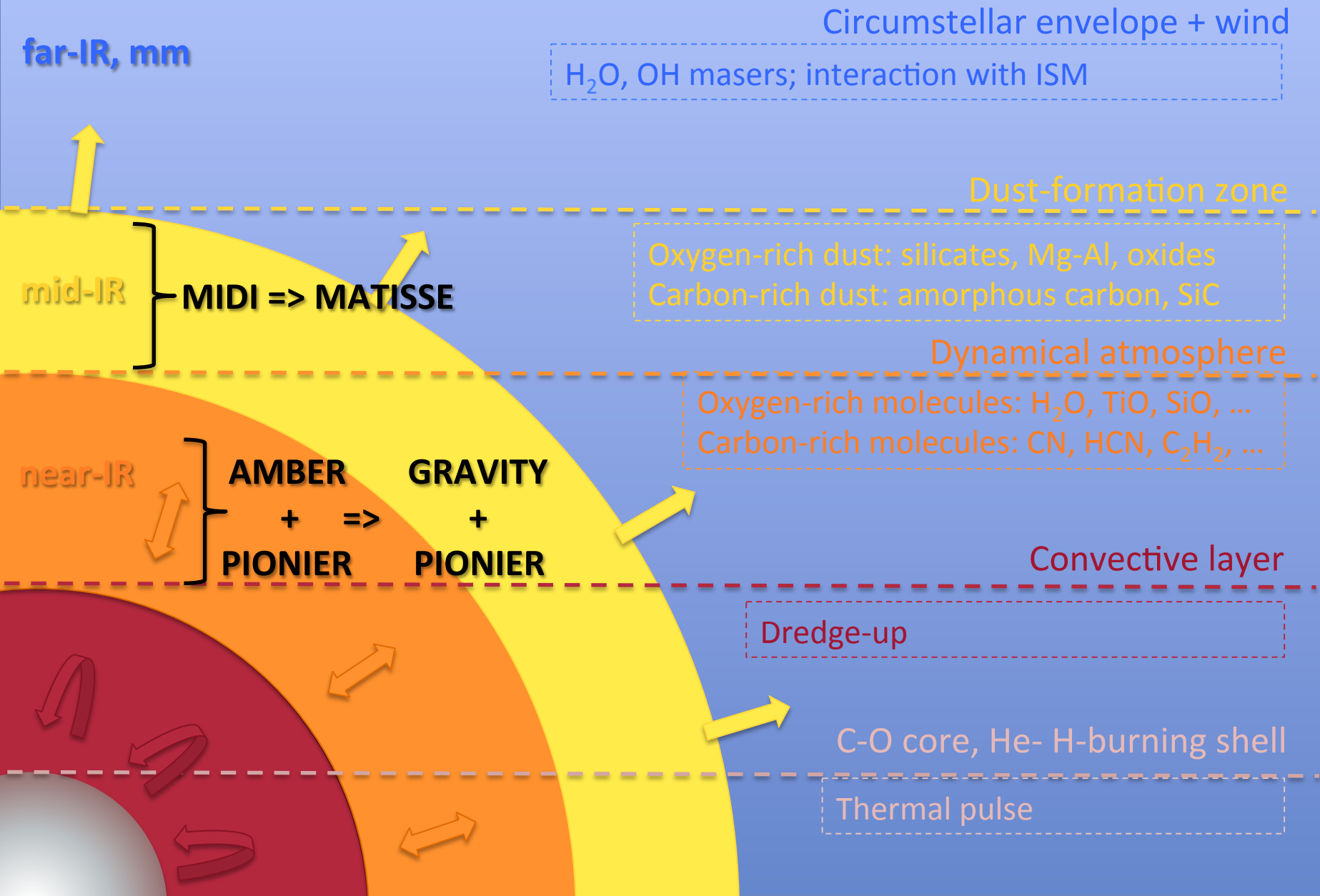
# What does it shape the circumstellar envelope?

- \* Convection
- \* Magnetic activity
- \* Rotation
  - Increase density scale height in the equatorial plane
- \* Binarity = companion transfers angular momentum
  - Influence of rotation on dust distribution
  - System may capture lost mass in circum-binary disc



©UCAR, image courtesy M. Rempel





# Literature

Lunar Occultation (Richichi et al. 1995; Meyer et al. 1995), aperture masking, speckle, optical interferometry

- \* Departure from spherical symmetry detected at 1-5 stellar radii
- \* Ragland 2006: "only" 29% AGB stars asymmetric

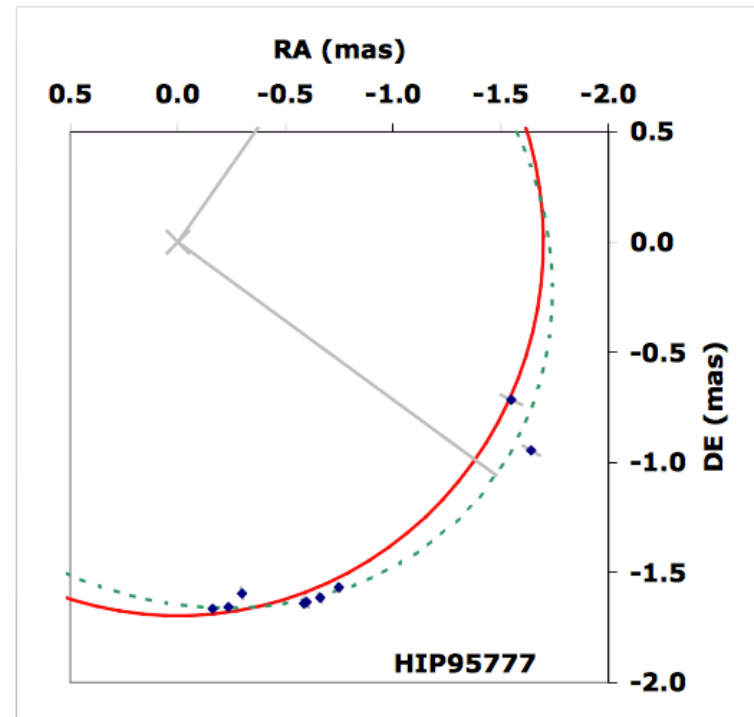
Many works are in *broad band* or with *low resolution*.  
**Still no clear answer on what process is causing those asymmetries!**

# Rotation?

van Belle et al. (2013) studied a sample of C-stars by means of model atmospheres and geometric models

evidence of asymmetries for many C-stars

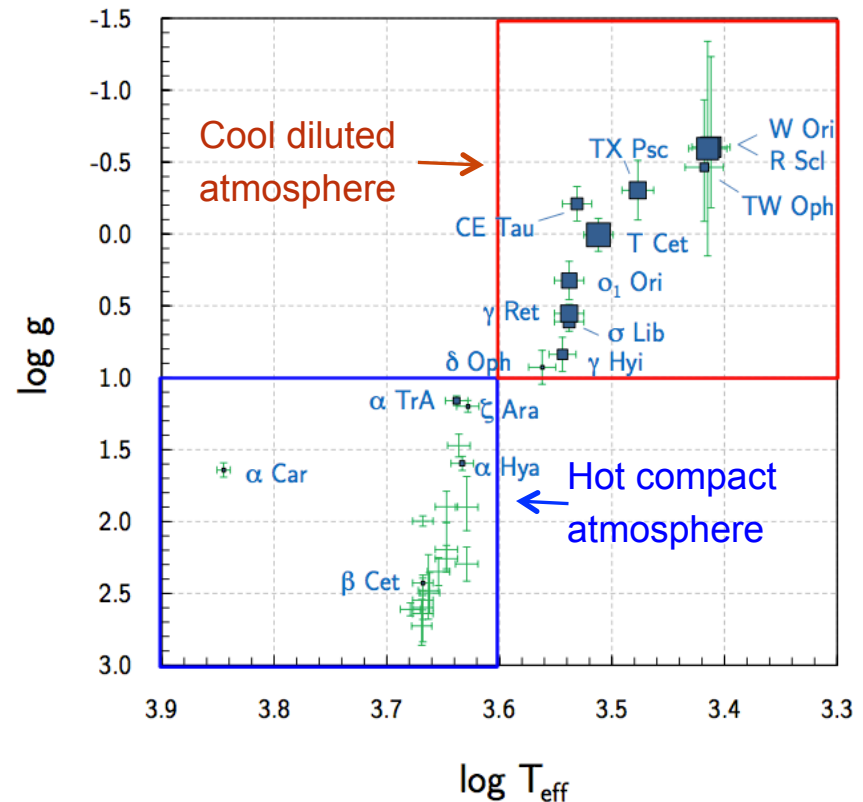
- \* surface inhomogeneities or effect of stellar rotation?



# Convection (I)

Cruzalebes et al. (2014) found closure phase signatures with VLT/AMBER for many AGB

- \* Asymmetry increase following the sequence K giants  $\rightarrow$  RSG  $\rightarrow$  AGB





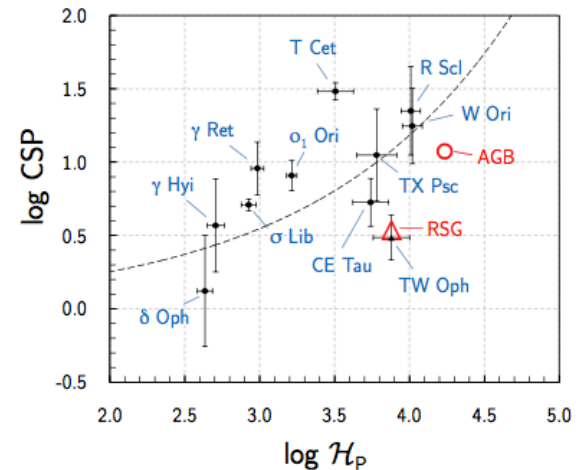
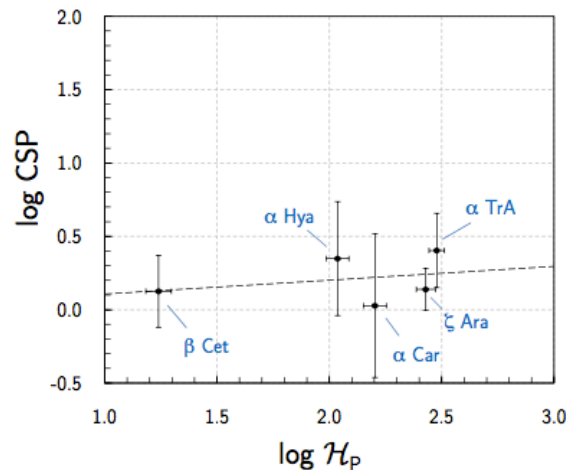
# Convection (II)

Cruzalebes et al. (2014)

Asymmetries increase with  $H_p$  parameter

Agreement with photocentric motion relation predicted by 3D-RHD simulations (Chiavassa et al. 2011)

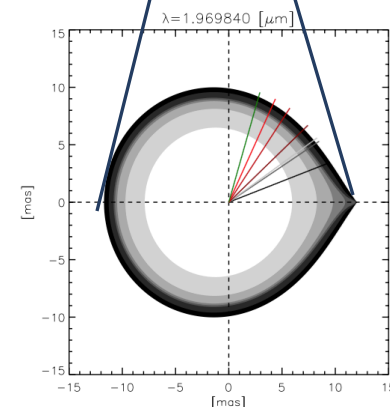
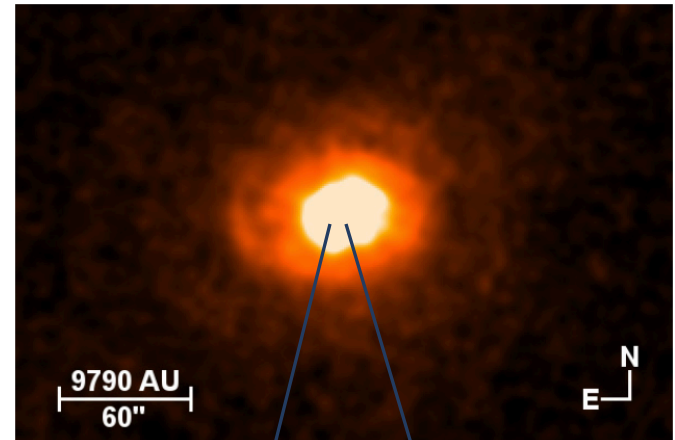
$$H_p \sim \frac{T_{\text{eff}}}{g}$$



# The effect of binarity

Mayer et al. (2014)  
Herschel/PACS + Hipparcos  
+ VLT/AMBER data S-type  
AGB

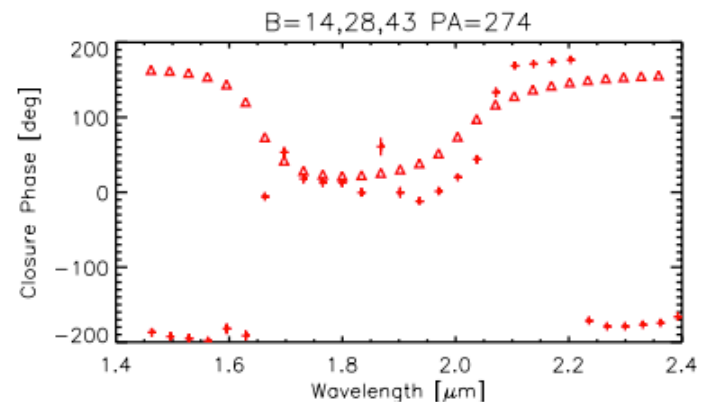
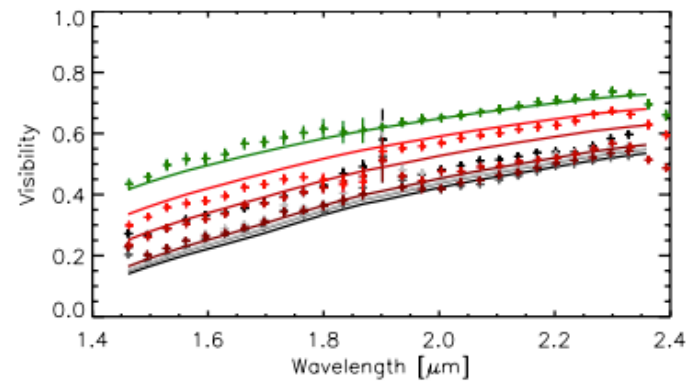
- \* Literature + Hipparcos  
+ AMBER suggest  
presence of close binary



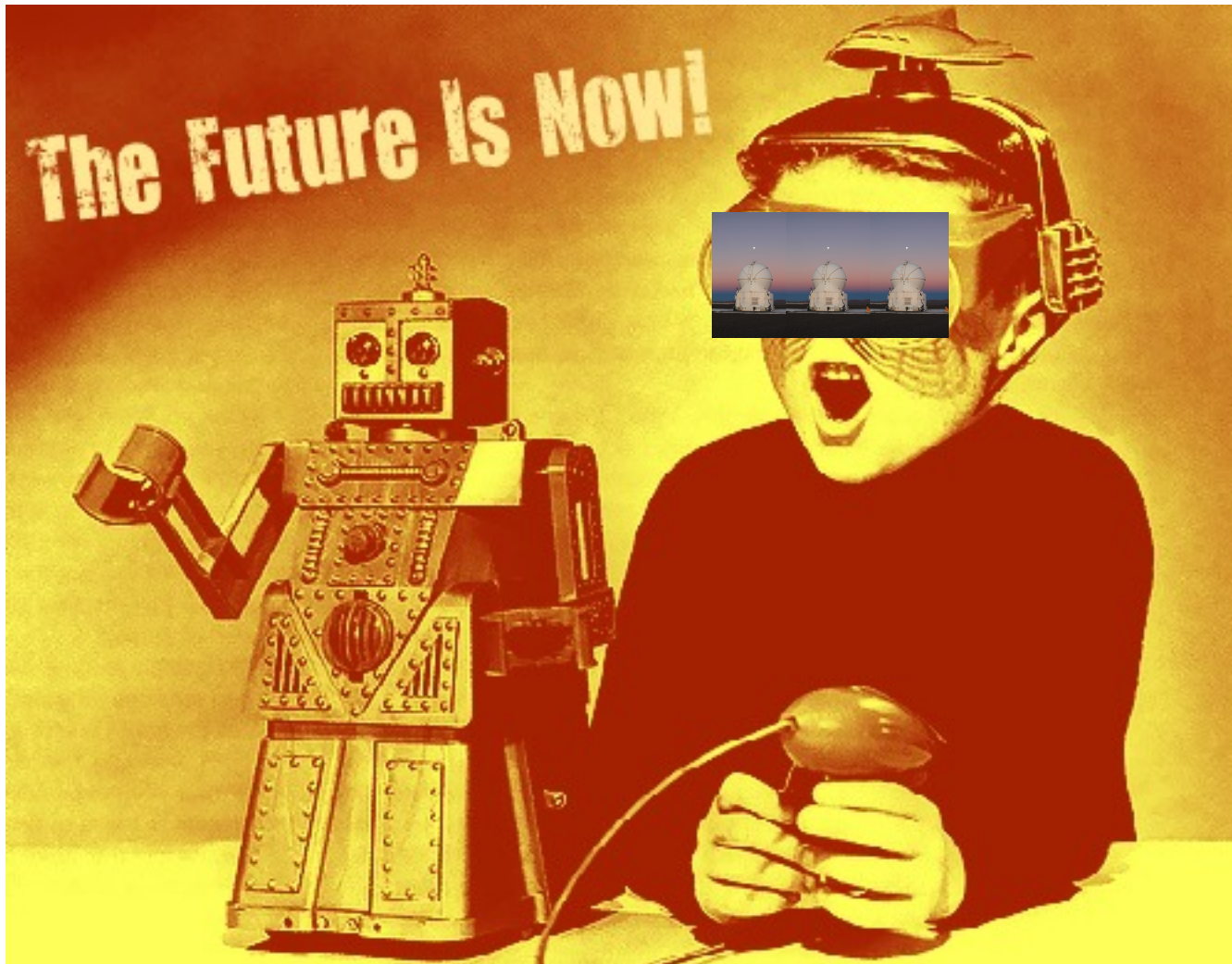
# The effect of binarity

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# Imaging!

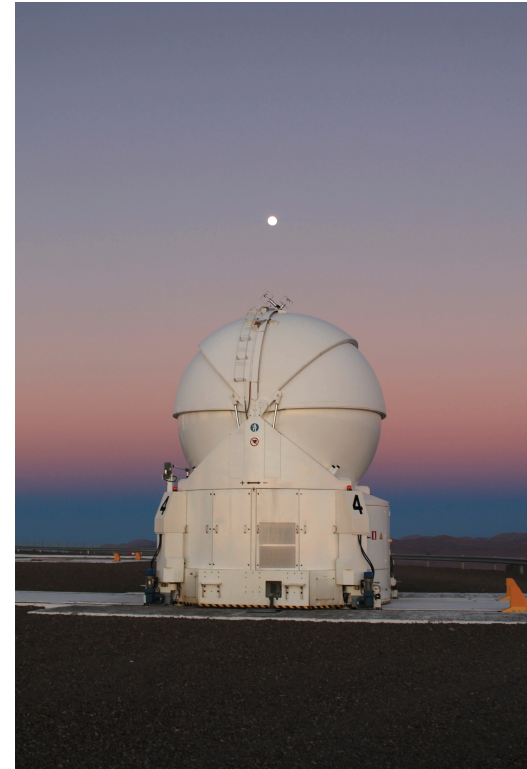


# Imaging of Giants

## things to be aware of

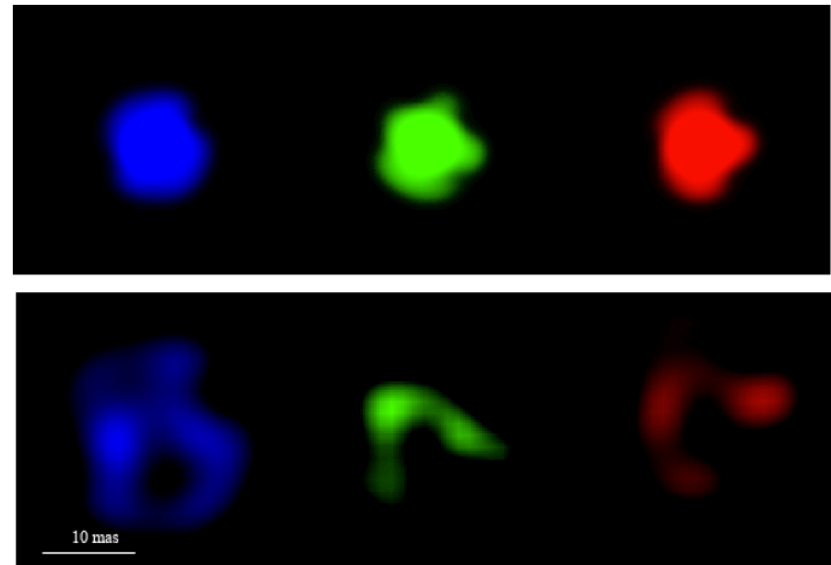
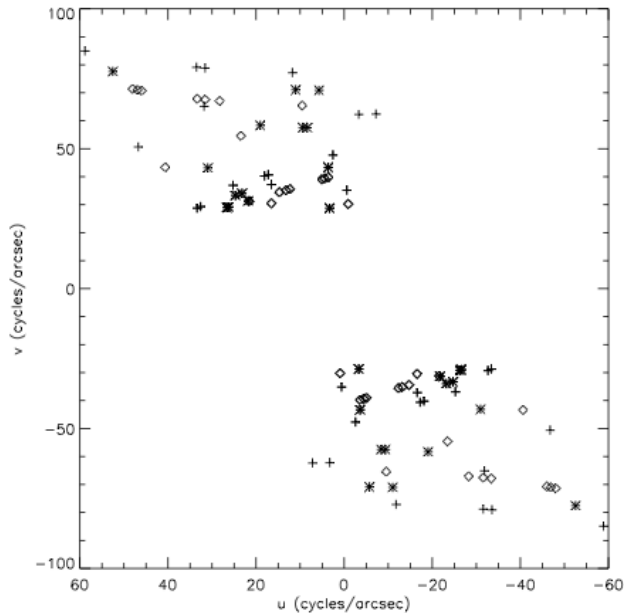
Not an easy task. Why?

- \* Very extended objects bright sources means very low visibilities
- \* Good uv-coverage needed
- \* Different wavelength cannot be combined
- \* Image reconstruction algorithms & multi-wavelength
- \* Stars are variable: need to have all configurations in a short time



# Asymmetric shells

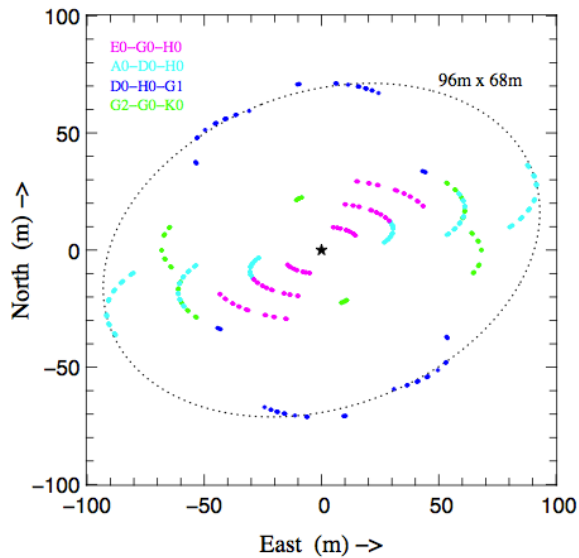
R Aqr reconstructed in 3 channels 1.51, 1.64 and 1.78 micron with IOTA (Ragland 2008)



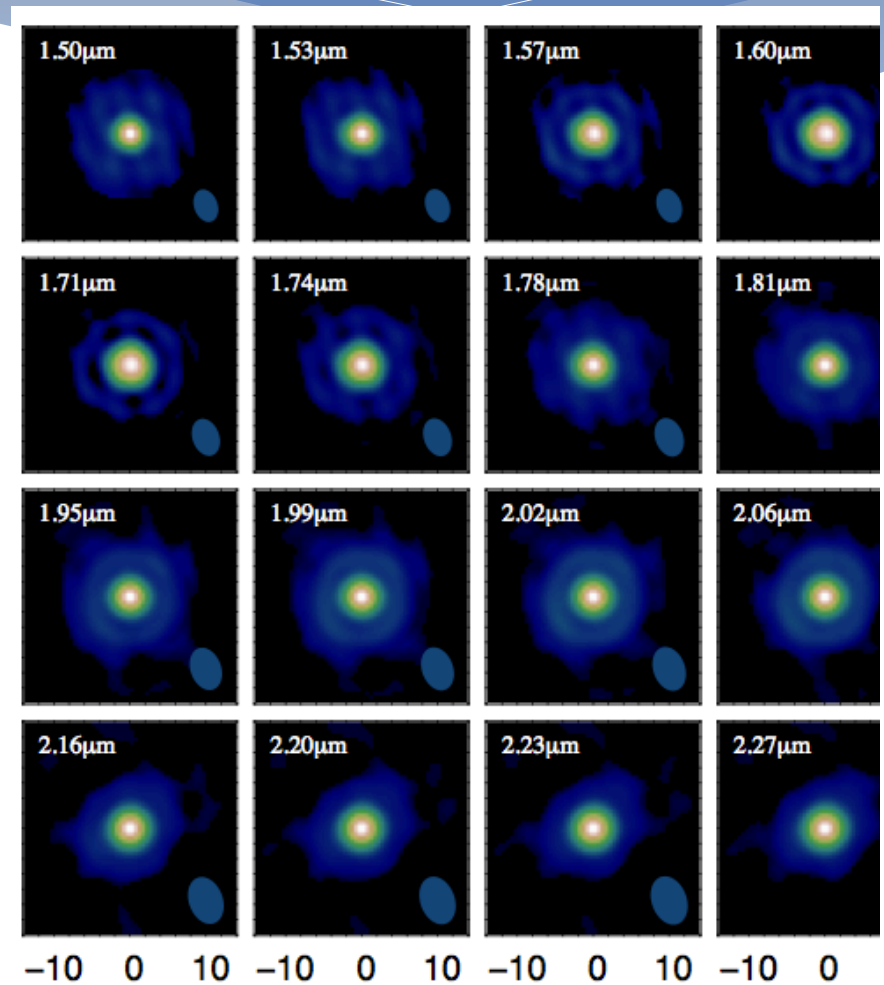
Strong asymmetric structures  
in the H<sub>2</sub>O molecular layer

# Molecular shells

T Lep imaged with VLTI/  
AMBER (Le Bouquin et  
al. 2009)

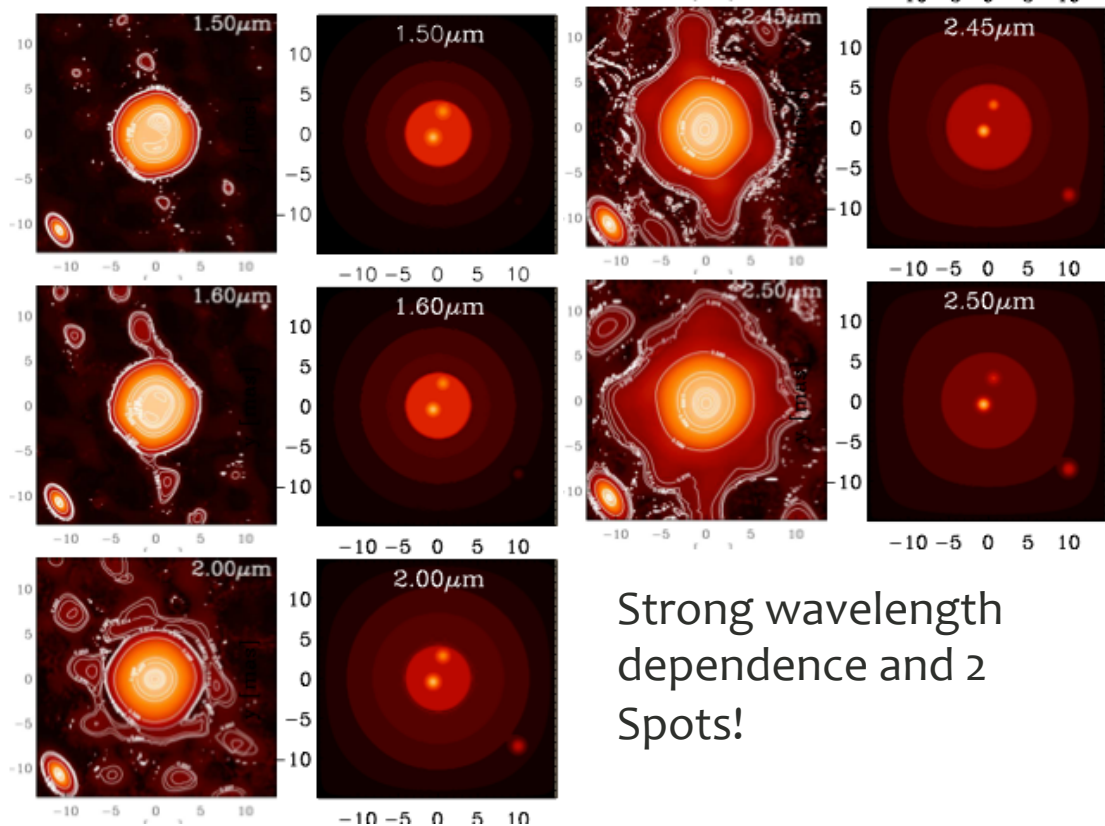
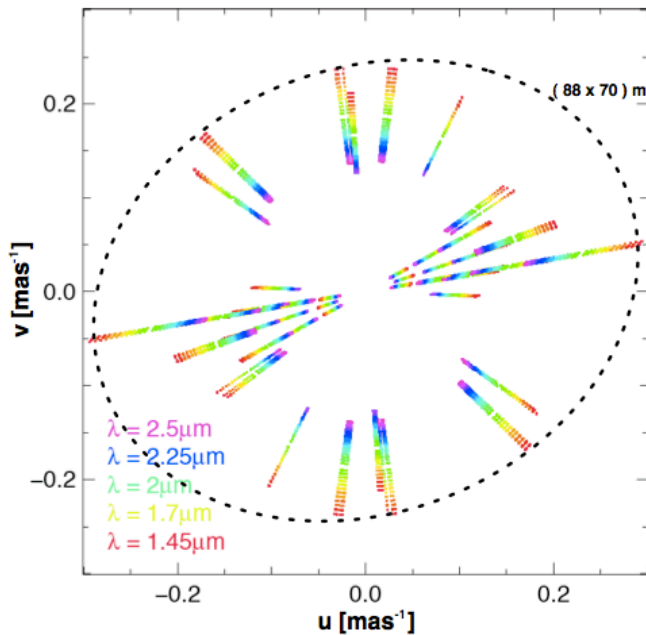


Unveil a “onion-like” shape  
(molecular shells)



# Spots!

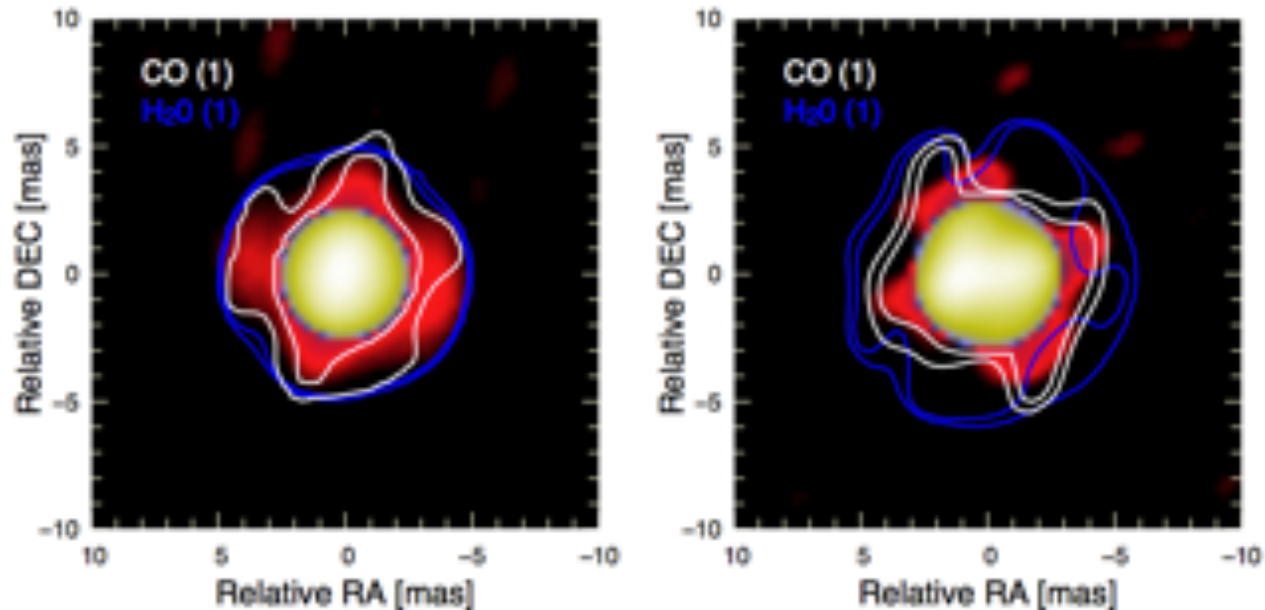
VX Sgr imaged with  
AMBER (Chiavassa et al.  
2009)



Strong wavelength  
dependence and 2  
Spots!

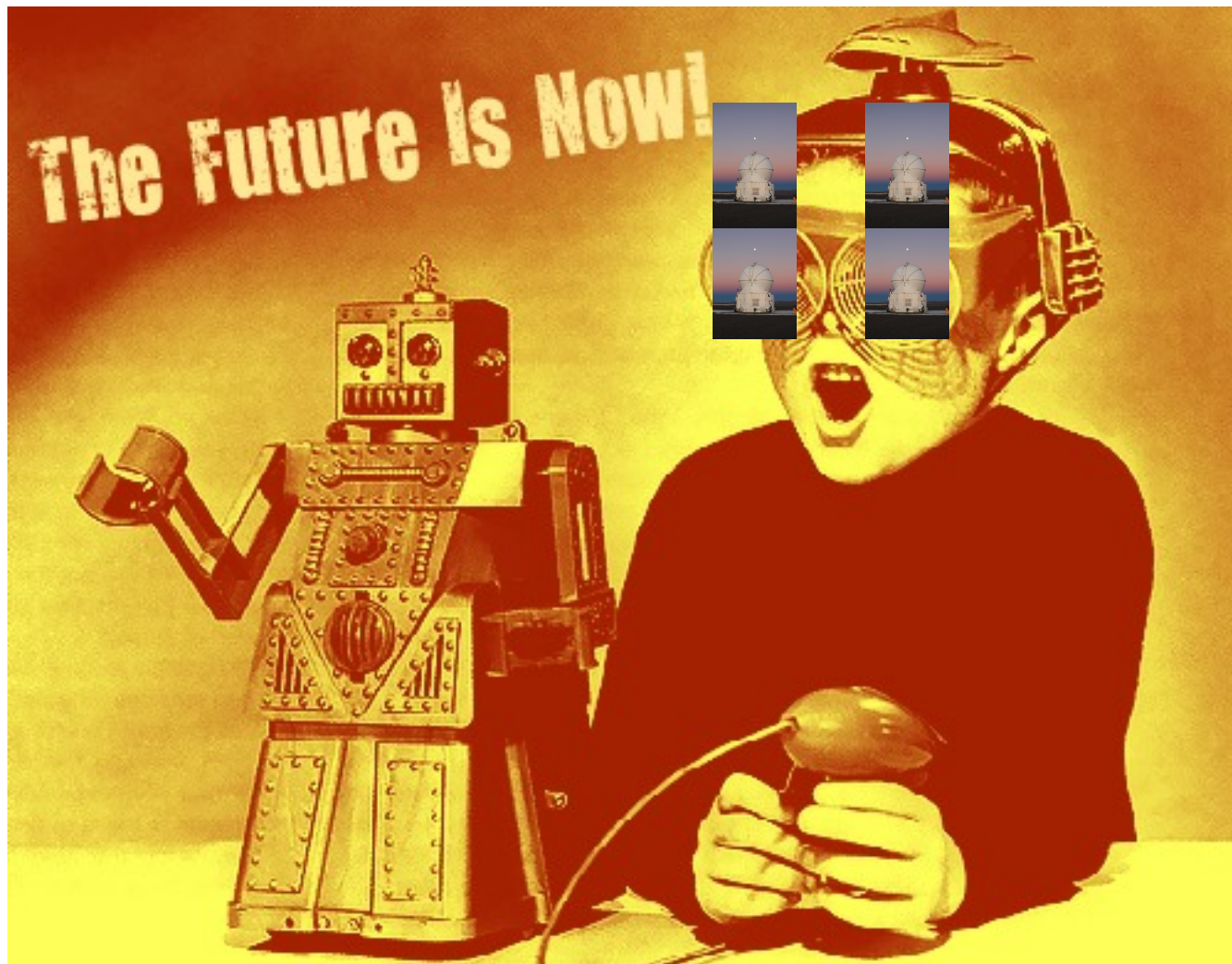


# Variability

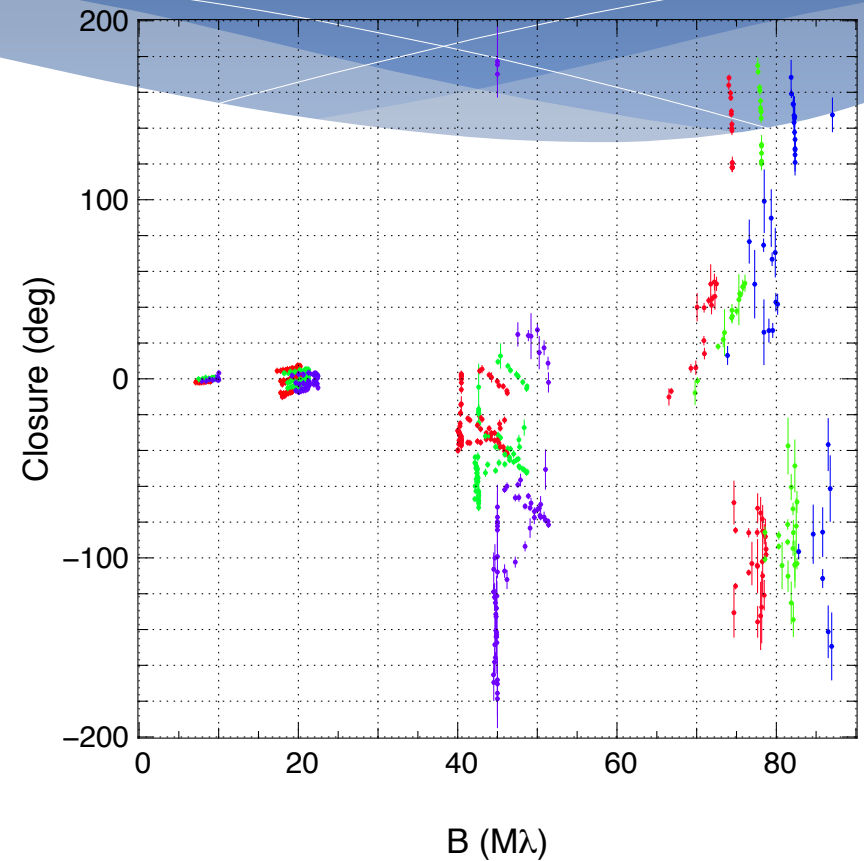
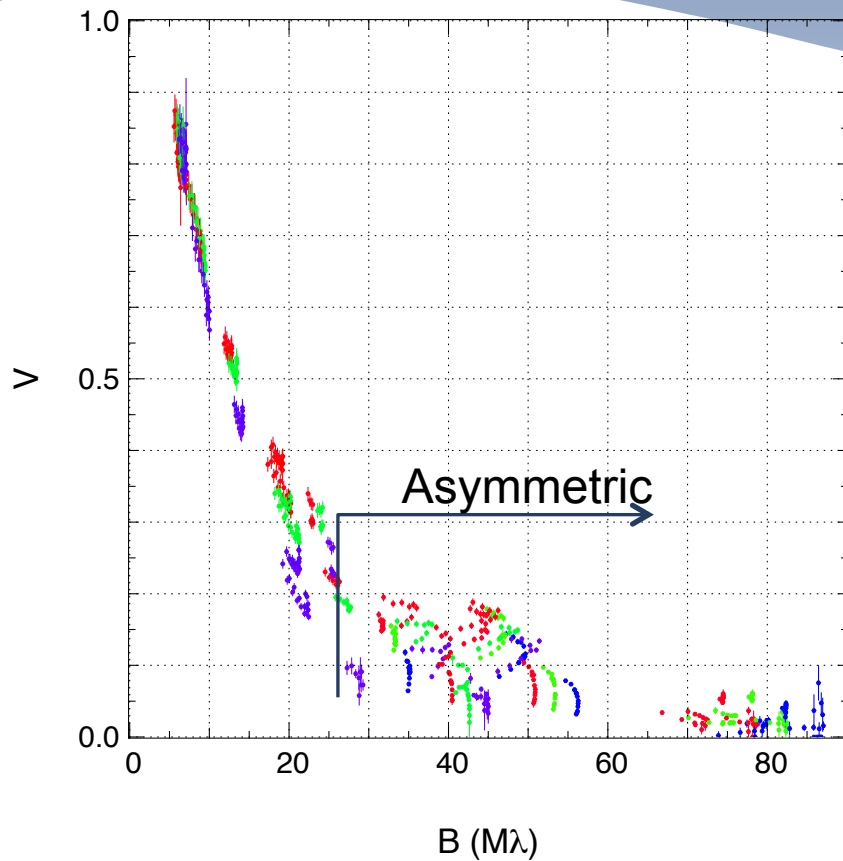


Haubois et al. (2015 accepted)  
VLTI/AMBER, low resolution data ( $R \sim 30$ )  
Variability of the shell of a Mira over pulsation period

# Imaging with VLT1 PIONIER!

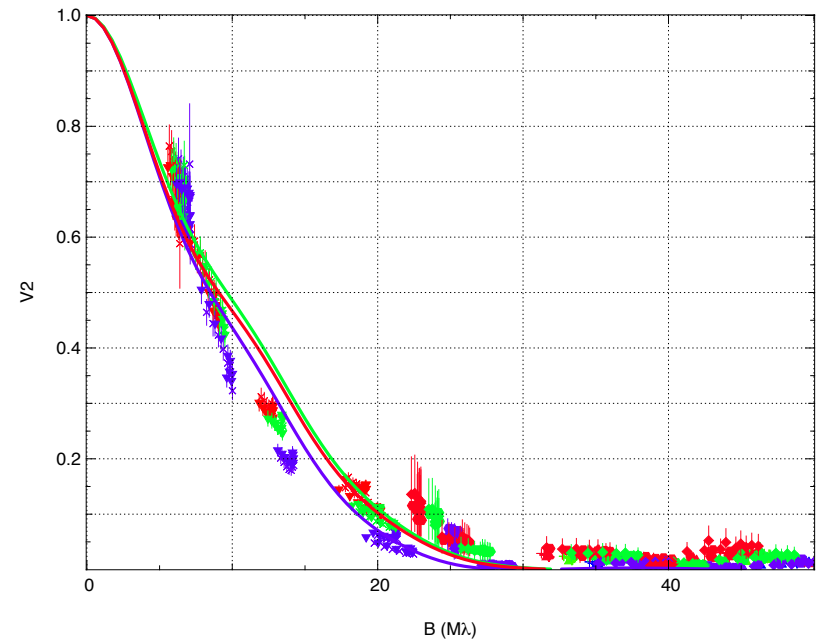
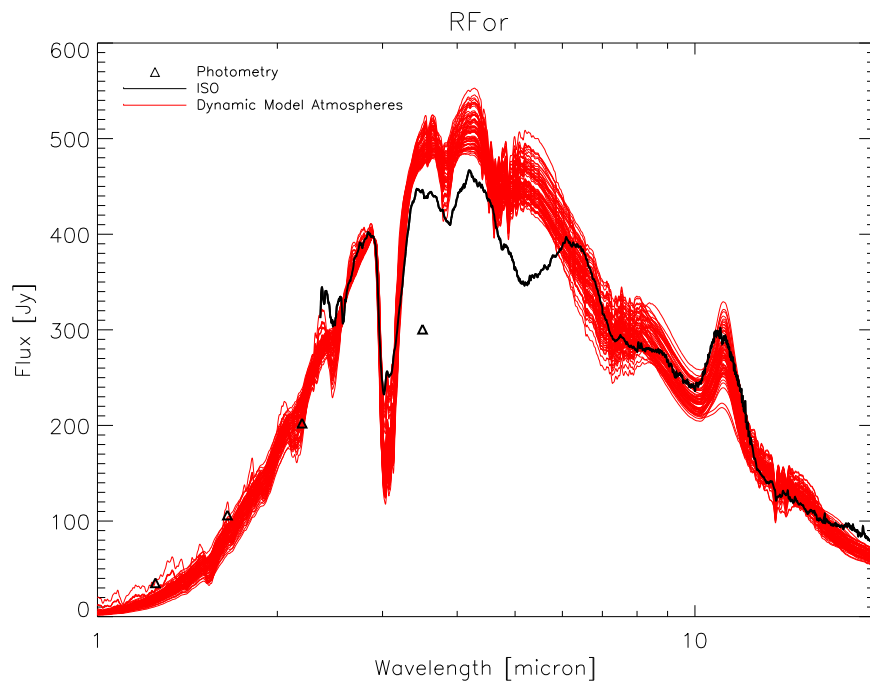


# VLT PIONIER data of C-rich Mira



3-half nights within 2 weeks with 3 quadruplets!

# Modelling the data



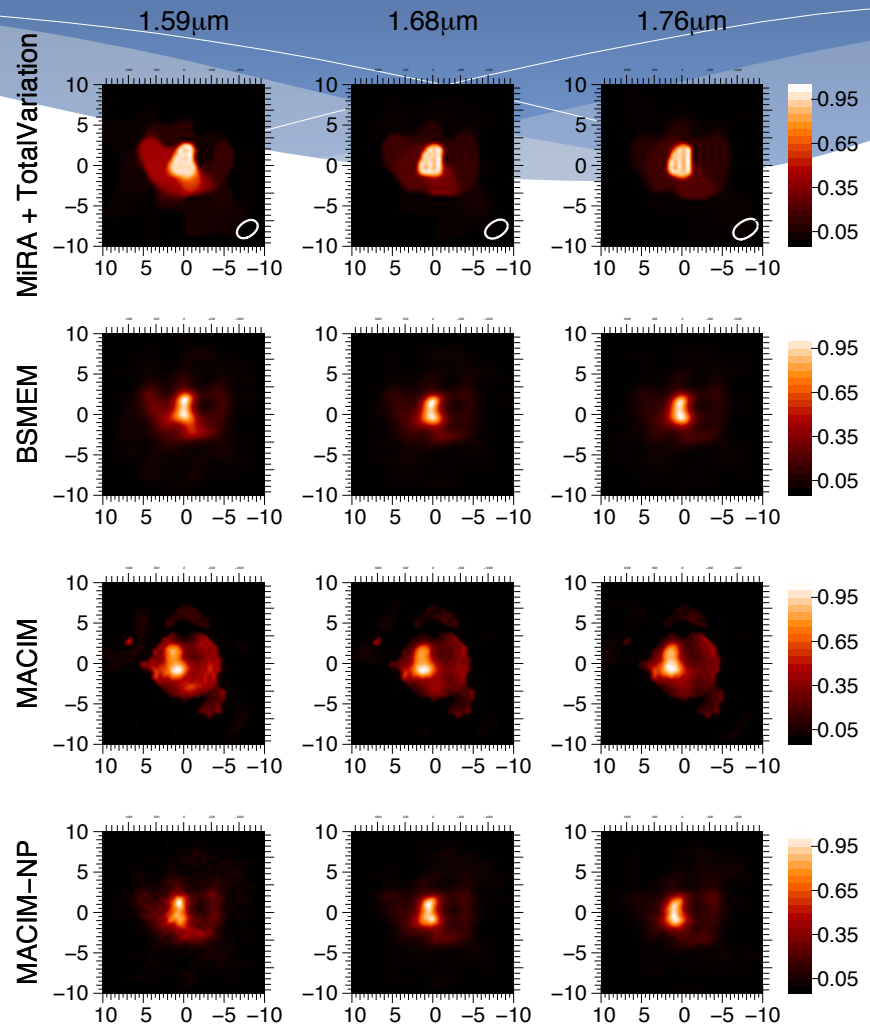
1D dynamic model atmospheres (Höfner et al. 2003, Mattsson et al. 2010)

# Image reconstruction (our internal beauty contest)

Blind reconstruction with different tools.

What we trust:

- \* Elongated structure + diffuse environment
- \* FWHM of the elongated structure  $\sim 2-4$  mas
- \* Extended bright “arc” in the first channel



# Preliminary interpretation

- \* Image compatible with models from Freytag & Höfner 2008

- \* Where is the star?

(Vassiliadis & Wood 1993)

$$\text{LogP} = -2.07 + 1.94 \text{LogR} - 0.9 \text{logM}$$

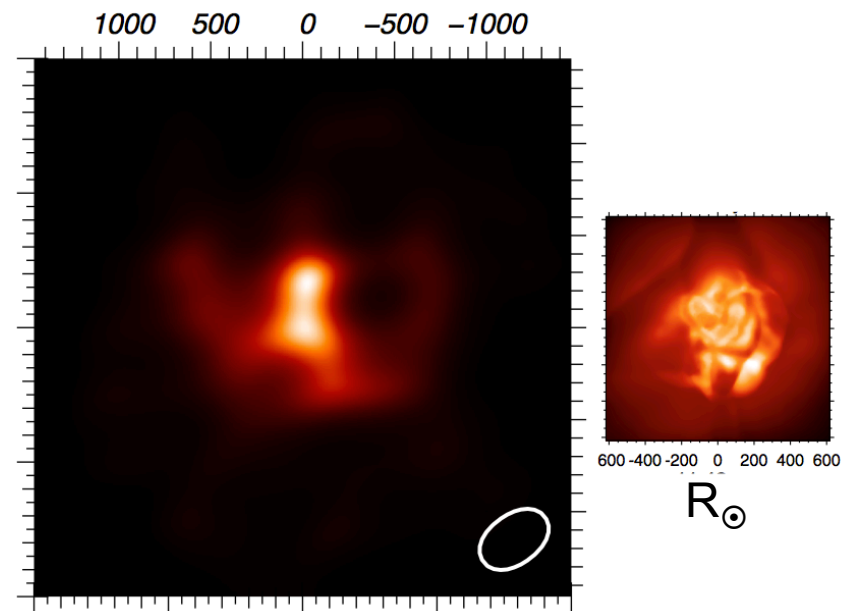
- \* Radius  $\sim 700 R_{\odot} \Rightarrow 3 M_{\odot}$

- \* Radius  $\sim 360 R_{\odot} \Rightarrow 0.4 M_{\odot}$

Be aware of uncertainties..

Is there a disc in front of the object?

=> Other spatial scales + time series



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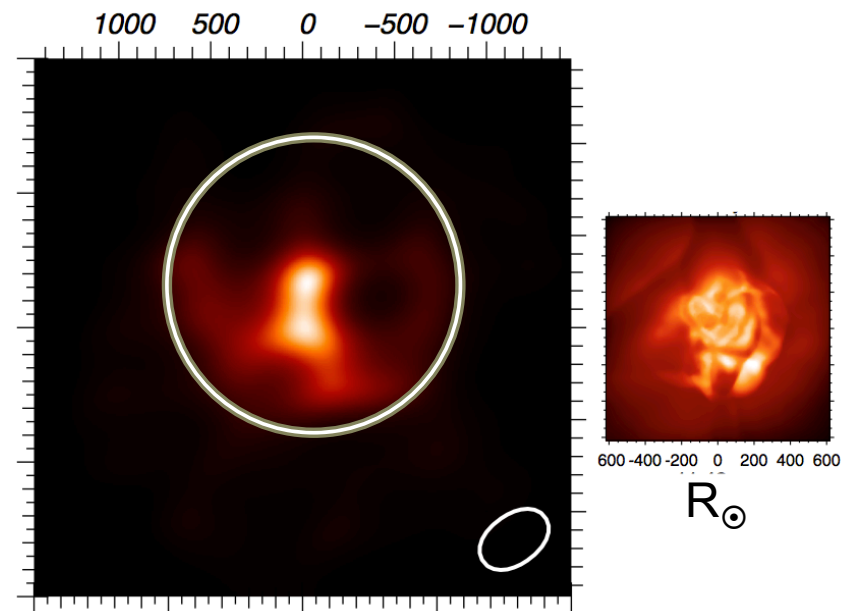
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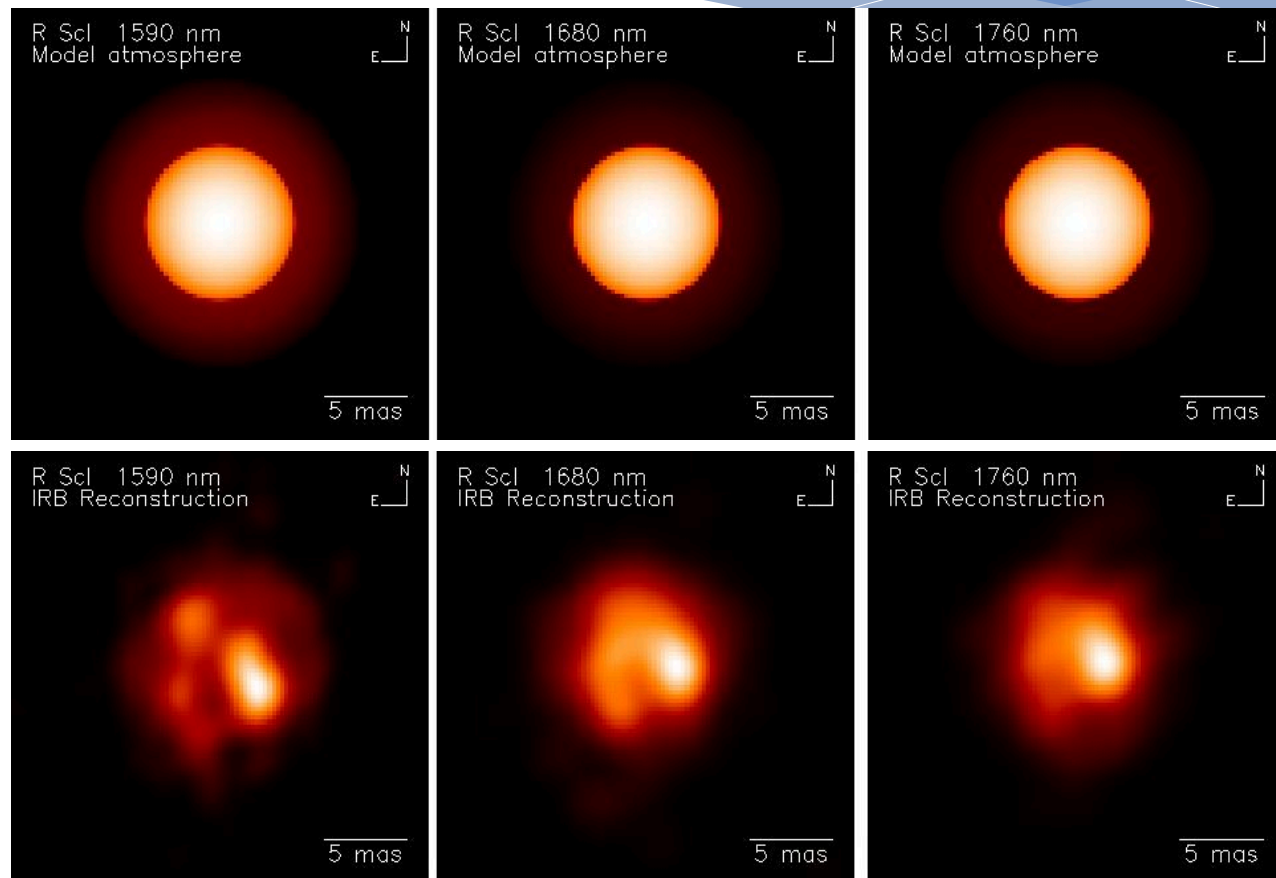
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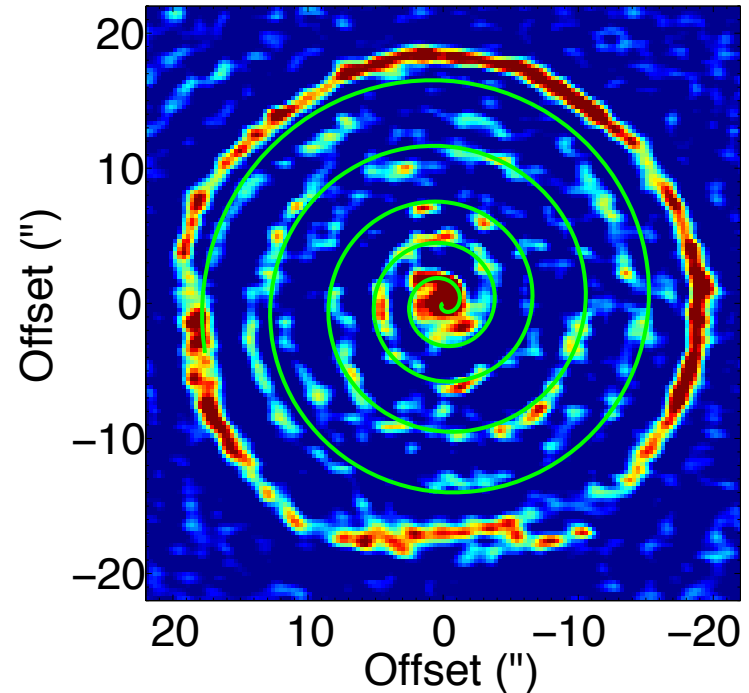
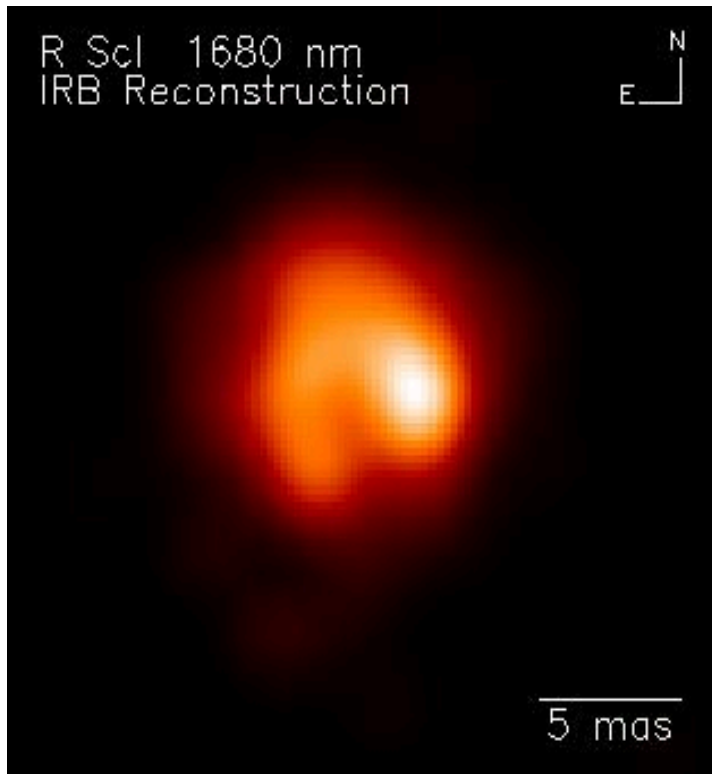


# VLTI/PIONIER image of R Scl



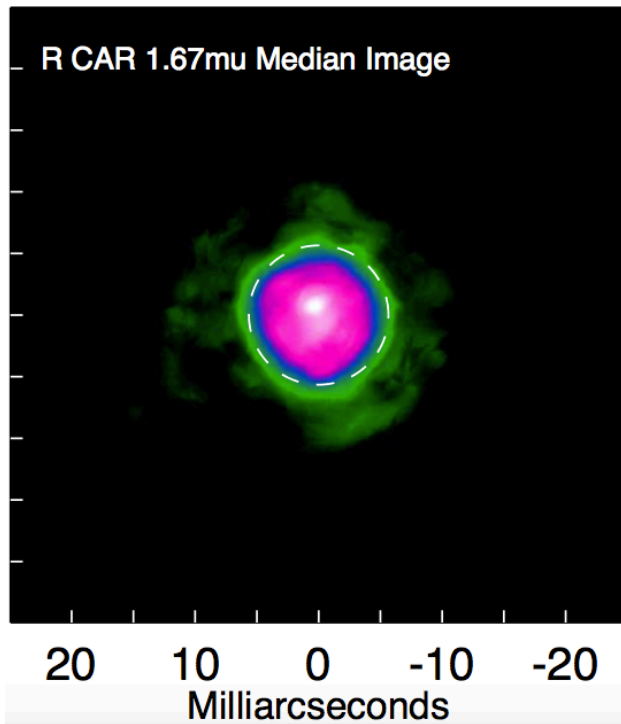


# VLT/PIONIER image of R Scl

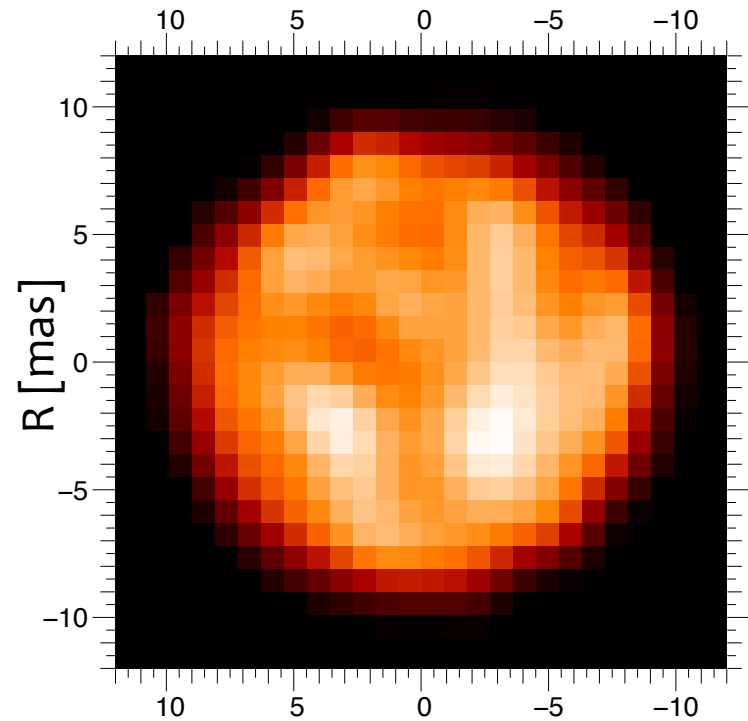


- Dominant (mass-losing?) spot on the surface of R Scl.
- Spiral structure consistent with large spiral, or simply a random convective morphology?

# Even more surface structures



Monnier et al. 2014



Paladini, Mayer et al. prep.

# Take home messages

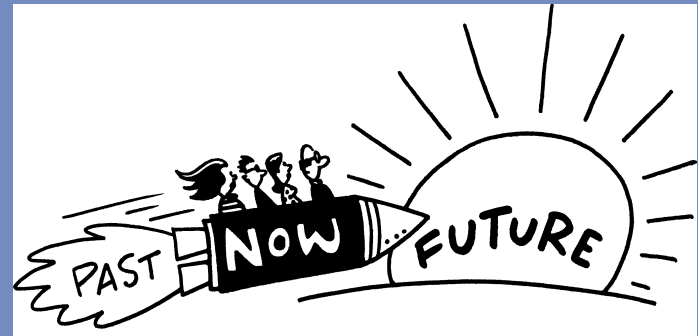
- \* Optical interferometry is the way to go to study the surface and inner circumstellar environment of giant stars
- \* New images show patterns due to the effect of convection => can be used to constrain the theory!
- \* Potential to detect binaries & to constrain their orbit
- \* Need of 3D models

The future is not *now*.

The future is *next*, and it is created by the decisions you make and the actions you take now.

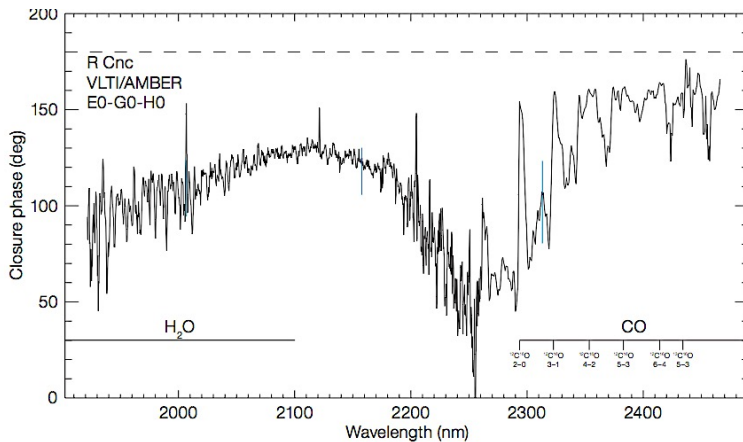
*What's next for you?*

- Spectral resolution
- Time series (constrain the dynamic)
- Different spatial scales
- Polarization?

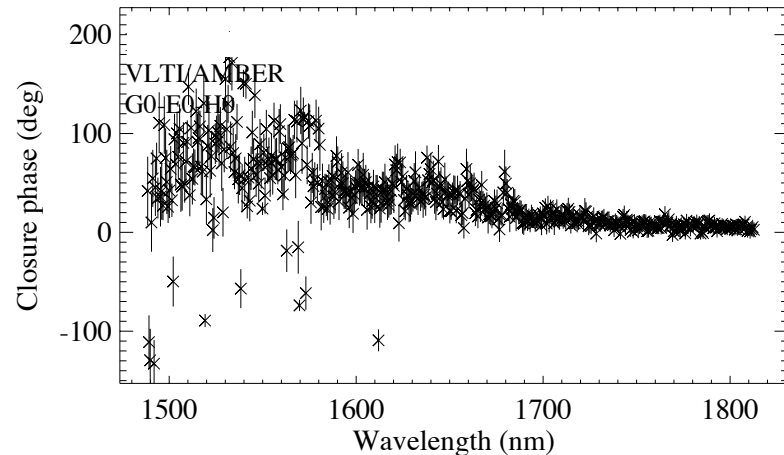


# The power of (spectral) resolution

Wittkowski et al. 2011



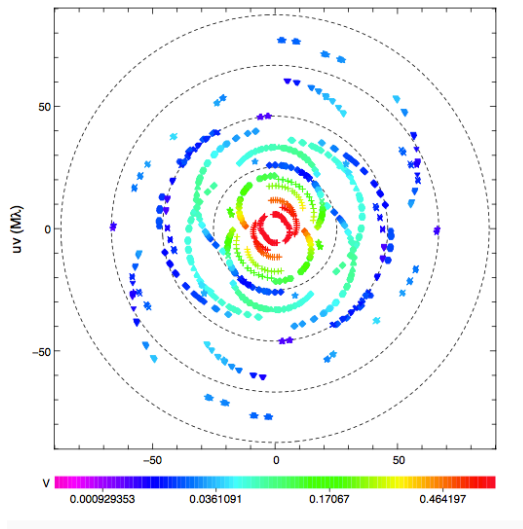
Paladini et al. (prep.)



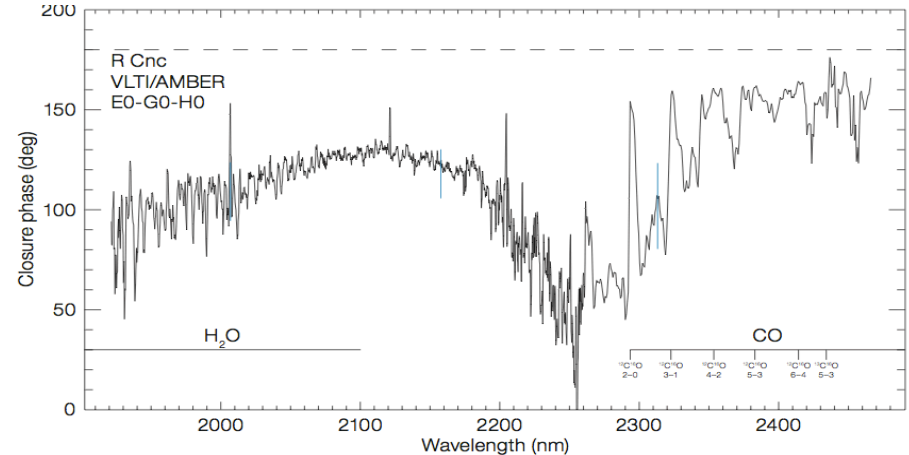
Clumps can be associated to  
specific spectral features!  
=> non-LTE processes of molecular formation  
=> dust formation...

# Second generation instruments

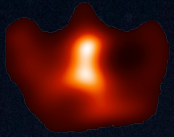
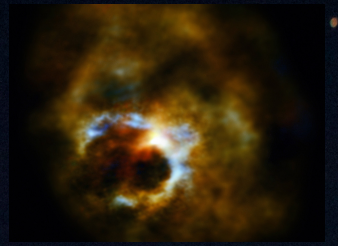
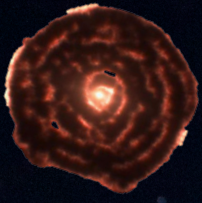
Imagine...



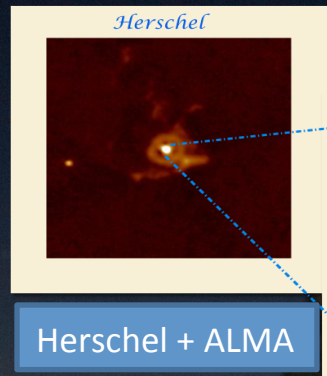
Wittkowski et al. 2011



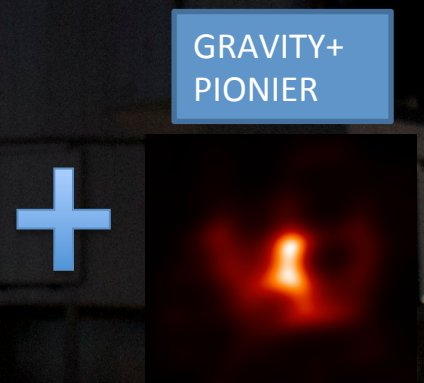
What will you do with GRAVITY? (K-band)  
What will you do with MATISSE? (L-M-N band)



☺ i-Shooter interferometer? ☺

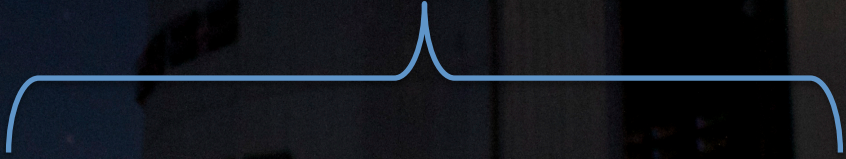


Herschel + ALMA



+

+ ...



# High angular resolution in astrophysics: optical interferometry from theory to observations

[www.astro.uni-koeln.de/vltischool2015](http://www.astro.uni-koeln.de/vltischool2015)

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Deadline 15 July!



JMMC



Santander