

# Constraining the Post-Thermal Pulse Mass-Loss History of R Scl with SOFIA/FORCAST

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3/7/18

SOFIA Teletalk

# Overview

- A short background on AGB stars, Thermal Pulses (TP), and circumstellar shells
- Observations of R Scl
  - Examining the multiwavelength morphology
  - Color-Temperature maps of dust emission
- Modeling the thermal dust emission
  - Examining the chemistry of R Scl
  - Constraining the mass loss history
- What about other post-TP AGB stars?
  - Future prospects

# AGB Stars: A Few Simple Schematics

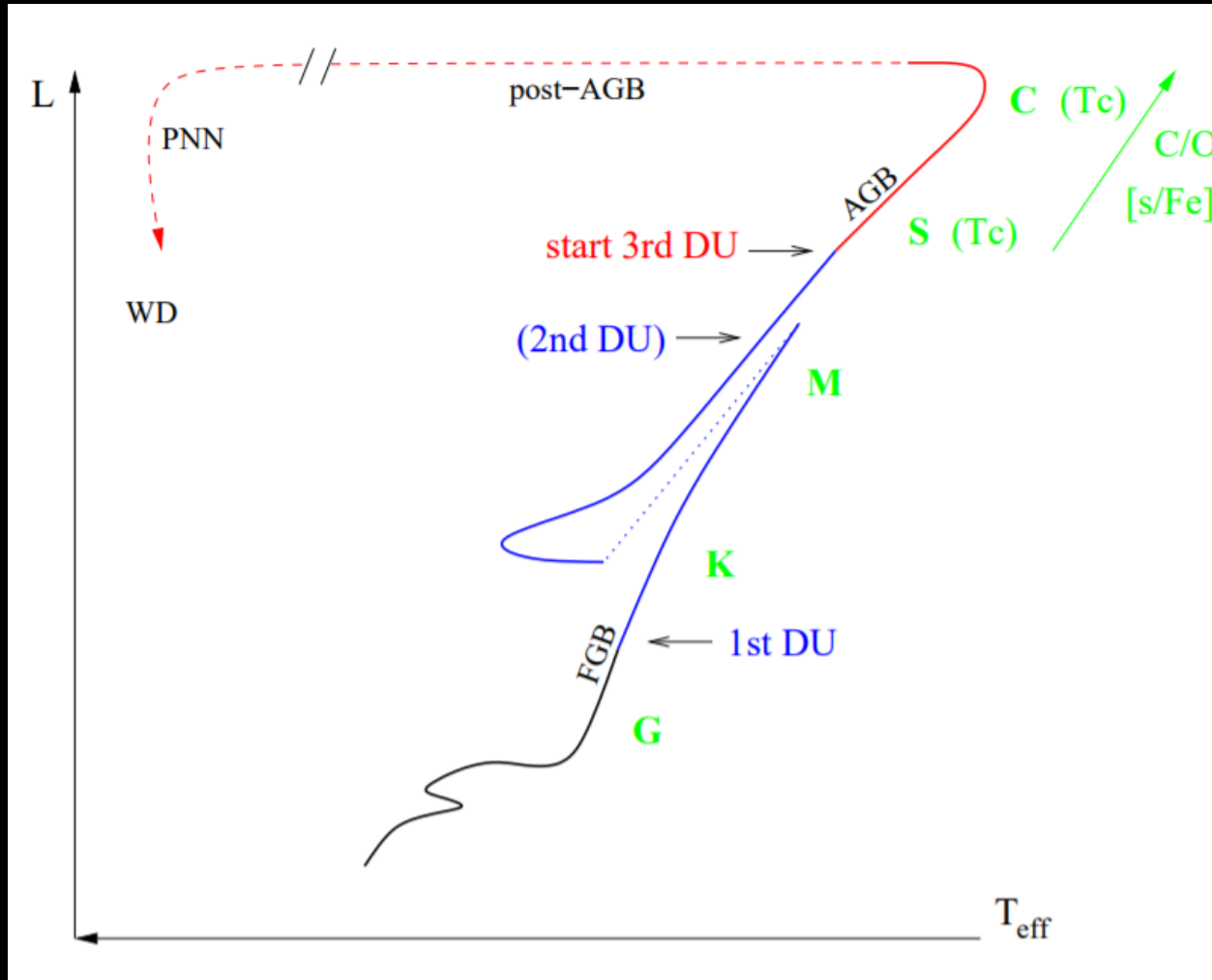


Image Credit: N. Langer

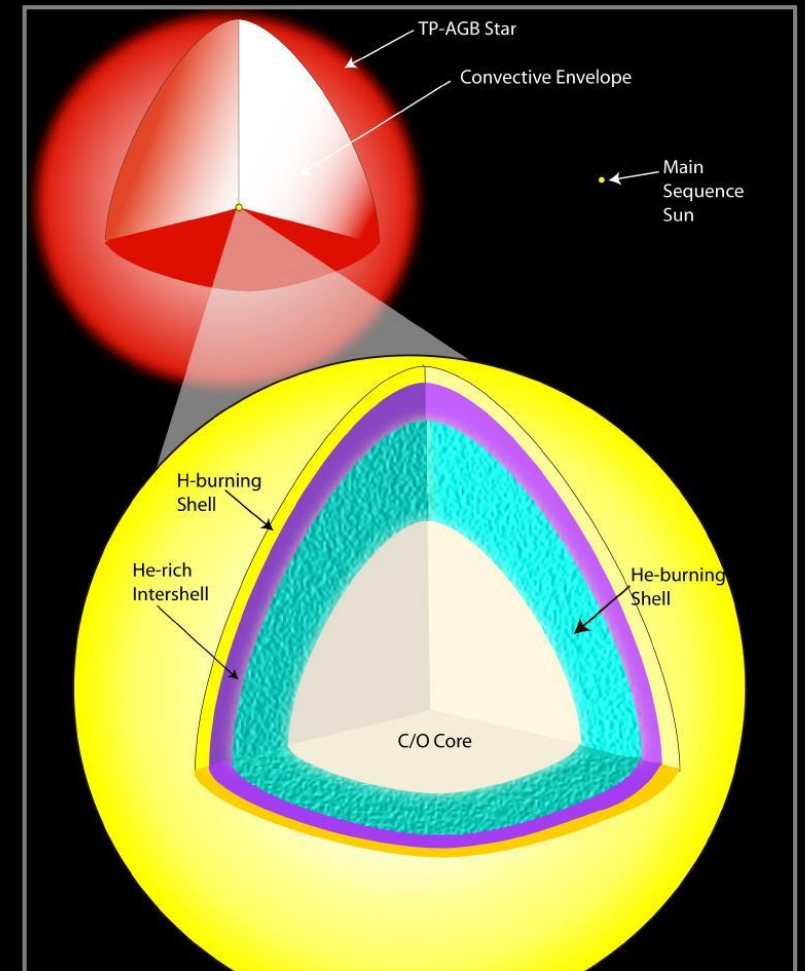
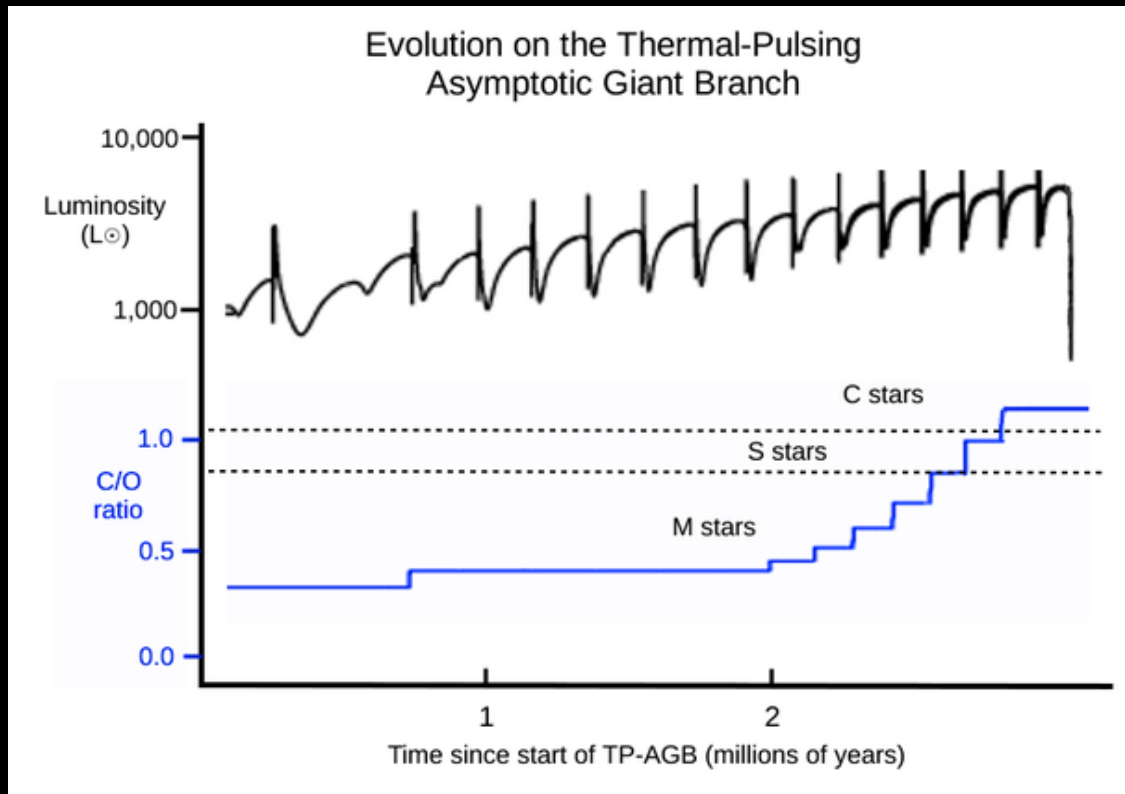


Image Credit: A. Karakas

# AGB Stars: Thermal Pulse Behavior

- Events powered by He-shell burning in Asymptotic Giant Branch stars (TP-AGBs)
  - He shell burning is very brief (years), but very powerful ( $\sim 10^5$ - $10^6$  times the H-shell burning luminosity)
- Changes Caused by TPs:
  - Dredge-up and mixing of materials – production of carbon stars
  - Thought to increase mass-loss from the star- formation of circumstellar shells

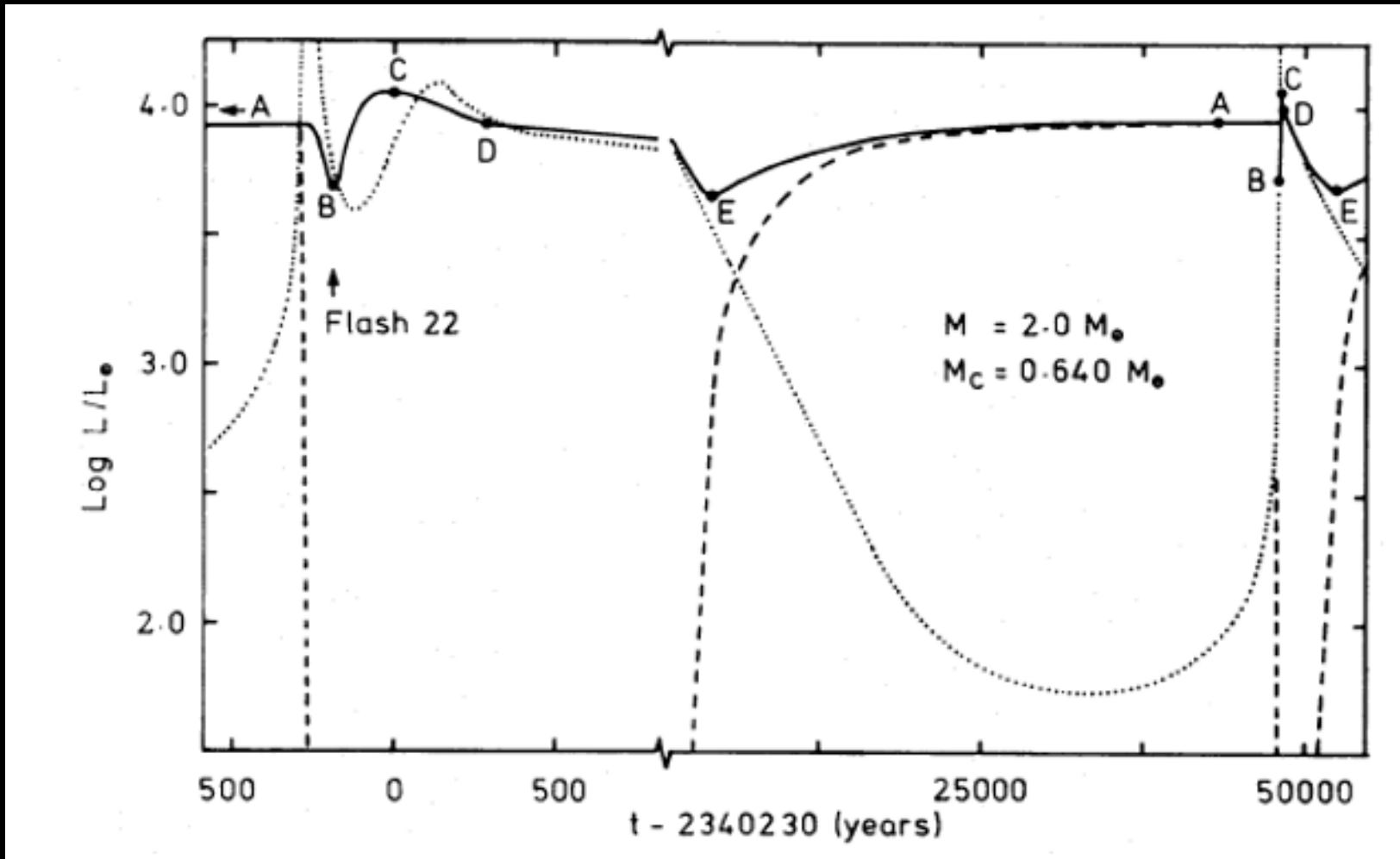
# TP-AGB Stars: Thermal Pulse Behavior



Interpulse Period:  $\sim 10^4$ - $10^5$  yr

> Timescale depends on mass  
(lower mass  $\rightarrow$  longer  
timescale)

# TP-AGB Stars: Variability



**Solid** – Surface luminosity

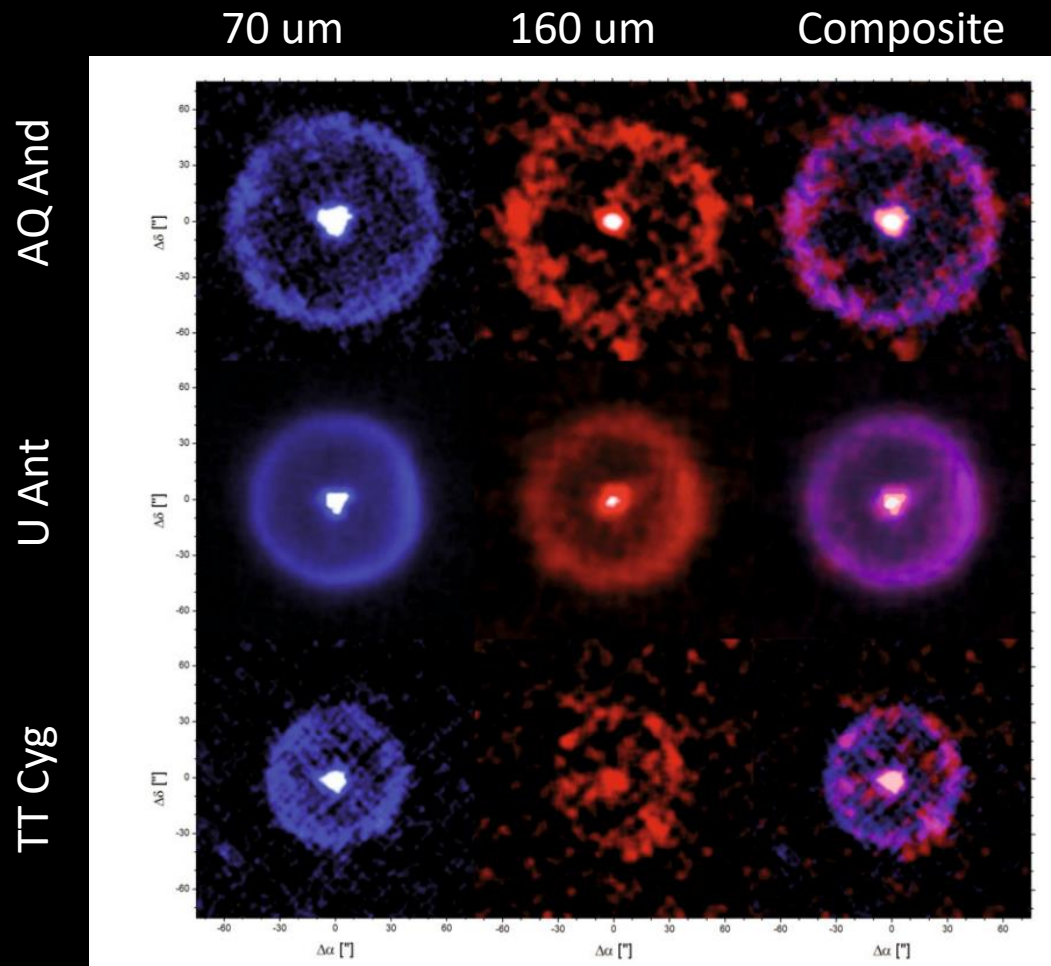
**Dashed** – H burning  
luminosity

**Dotted** – He burning  
luminosity

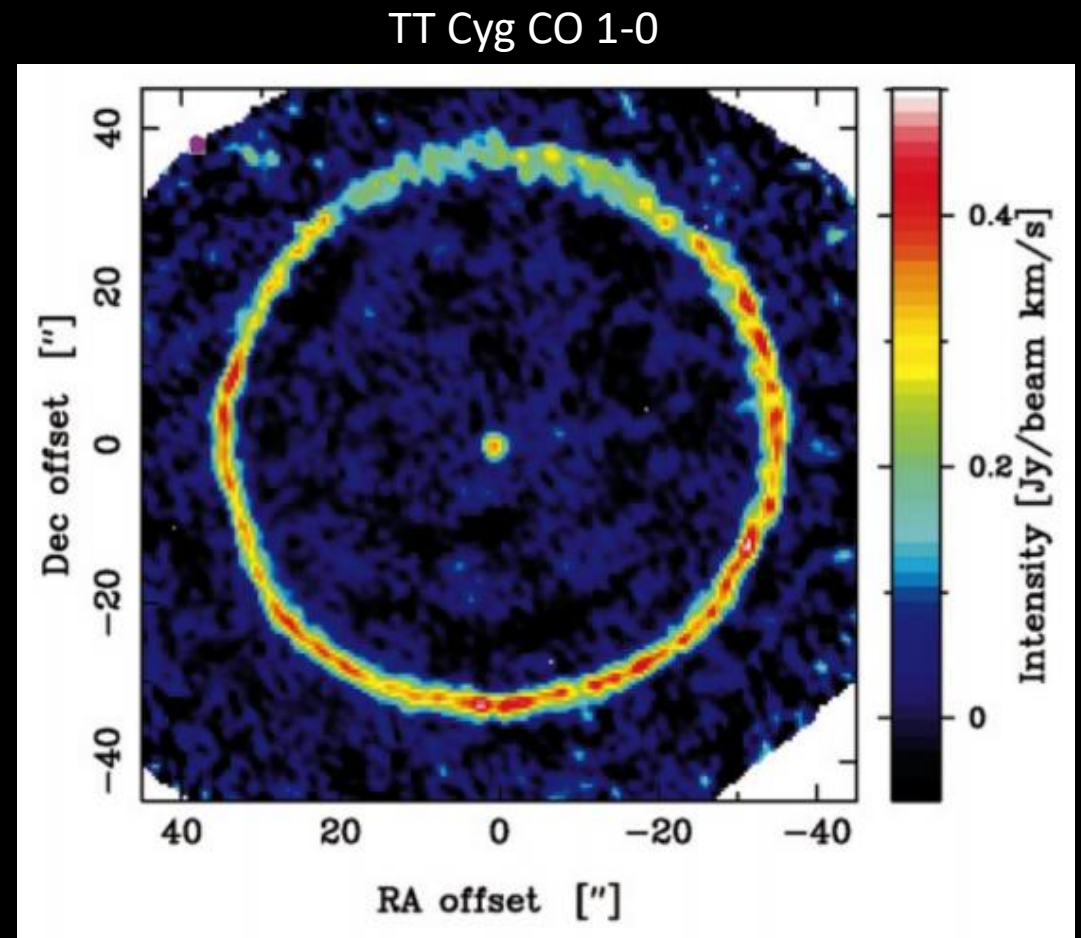
# TP-AGB Stars & Circumstellar Shells

- Circumstellar shells thought to be produced as a byproduct of the thermal pulse
  - Two-wind interaction model (Schoier+2005)
- Only a handful of known objects: S Sct, U Ant, TT Cyg, R Scl, V644 Sco, U Cam, DR Ser
- Circumstellar shells known to be associated with C-type AGB stars
- Shells are geometrically thin ( $\Delta R/R$ ) with large radii ( $\sim 10,000$  AU)

# Circumstellar Shells with TP-AGB Stars



Kerschbaum+ 2010

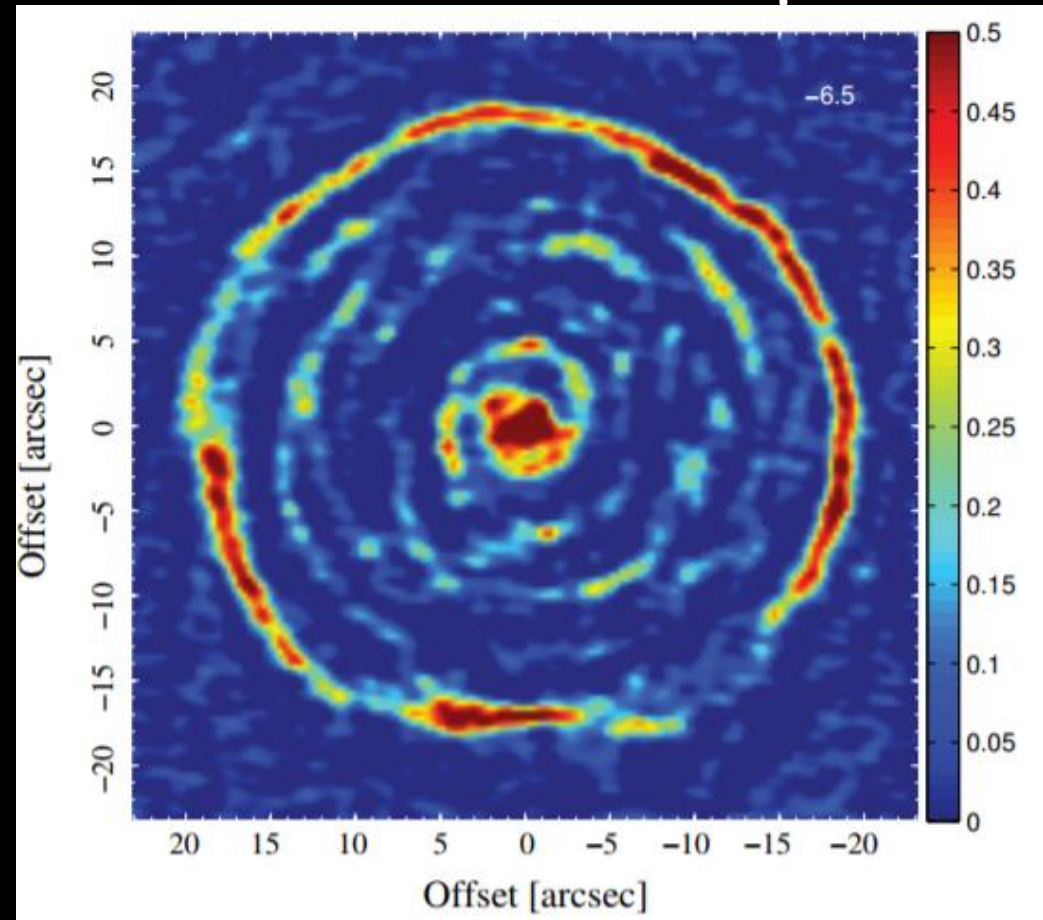


Olofsson+ 2010

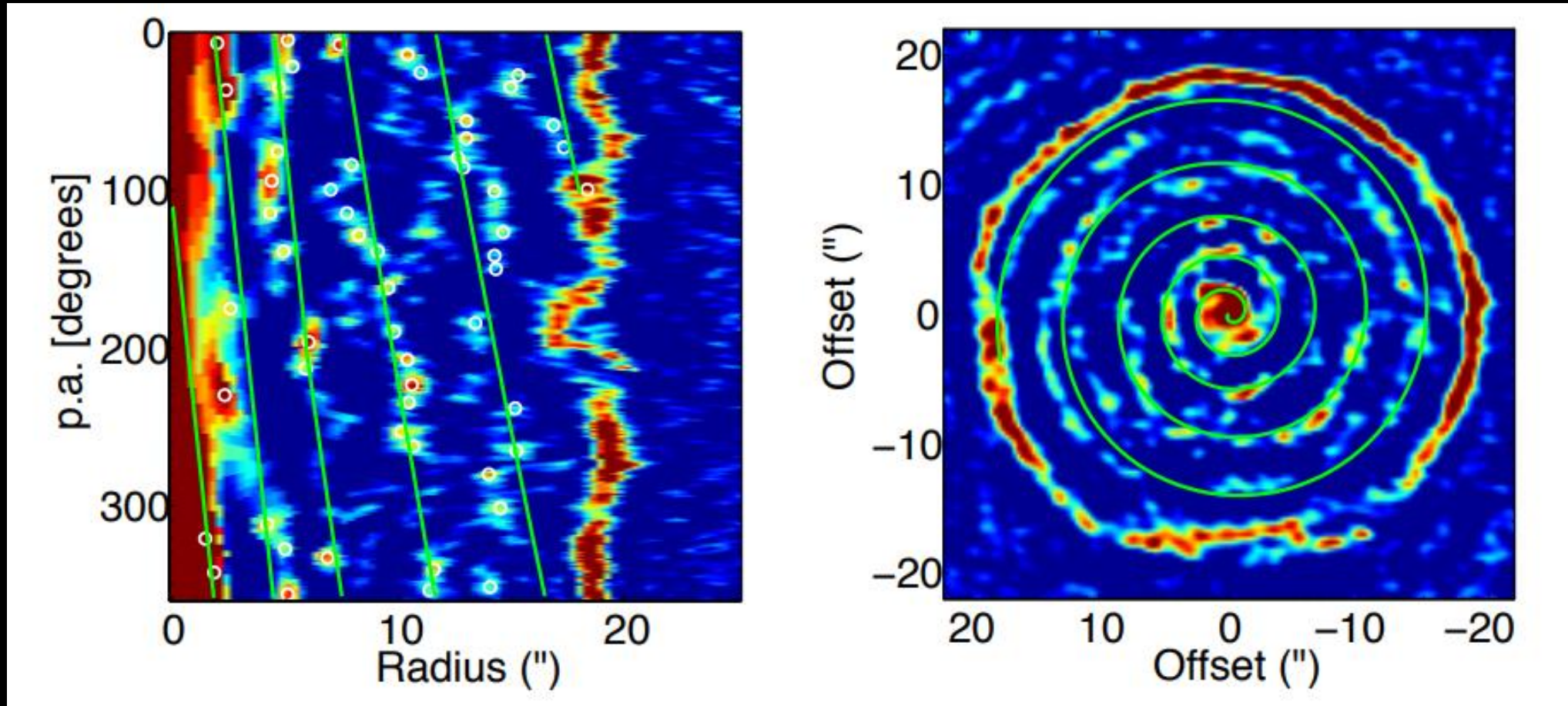


# R Scl: A Well-Known Carbon Star with a Circumstellar Shell (and a surprise or two!)

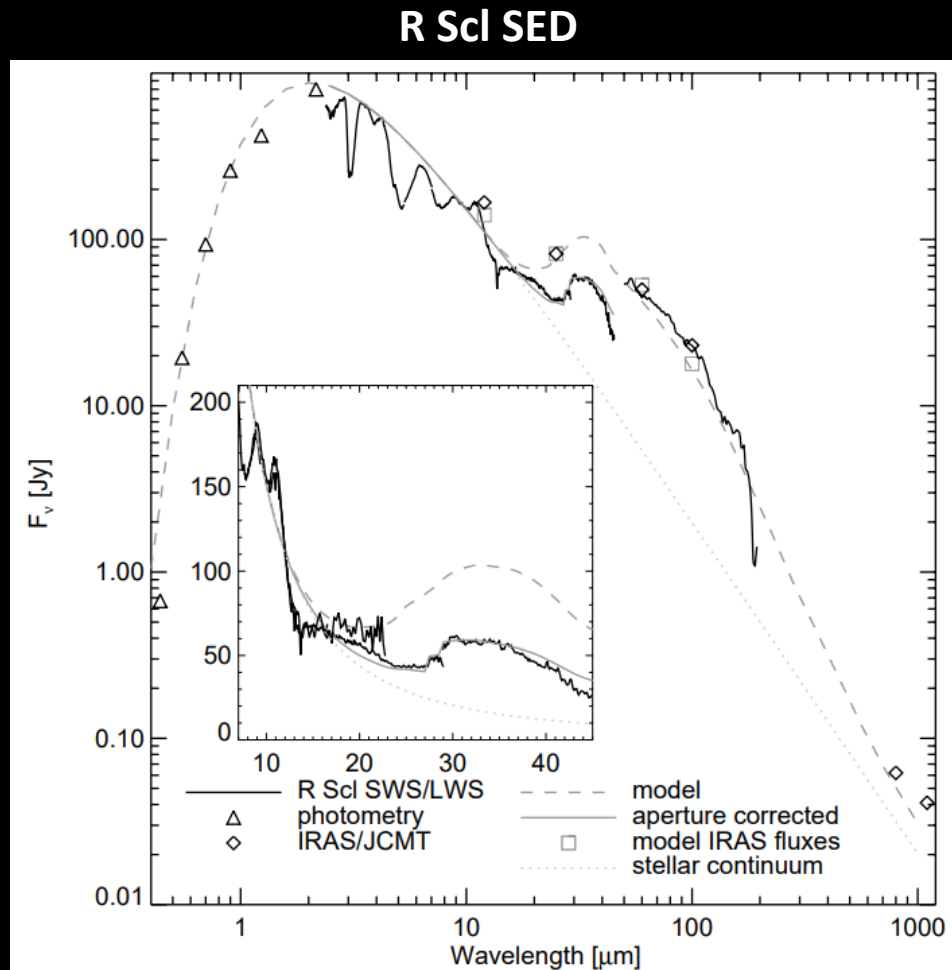
ALMA CO 3-2 Map



# R Scl: The Surprising Spiral

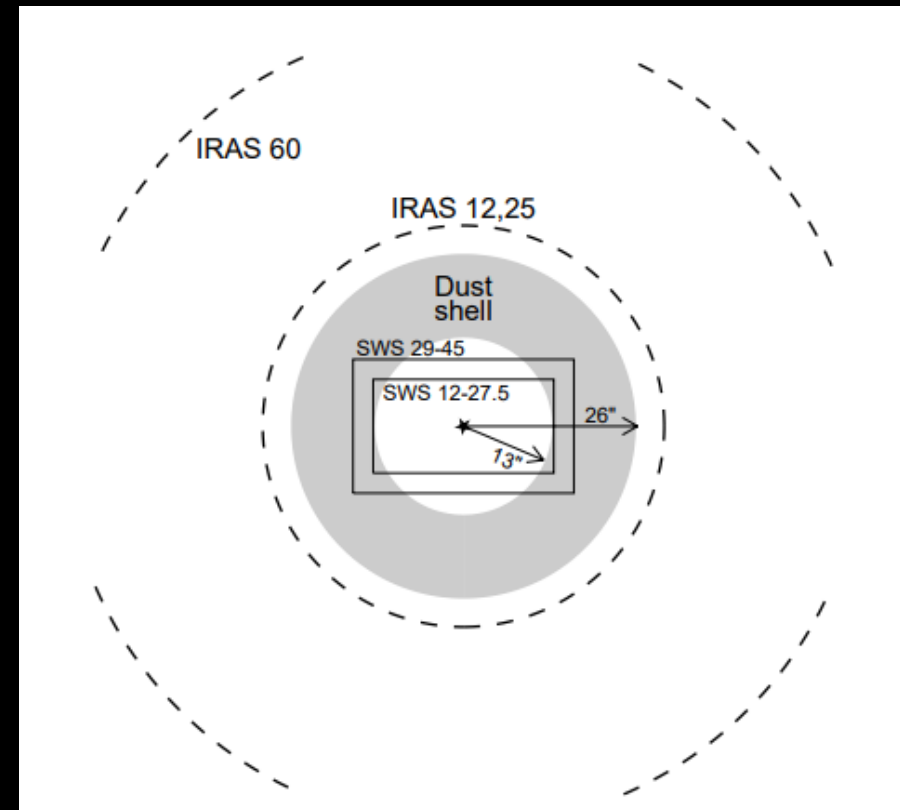


# Earlier Works: Modeling the SED of R Scl



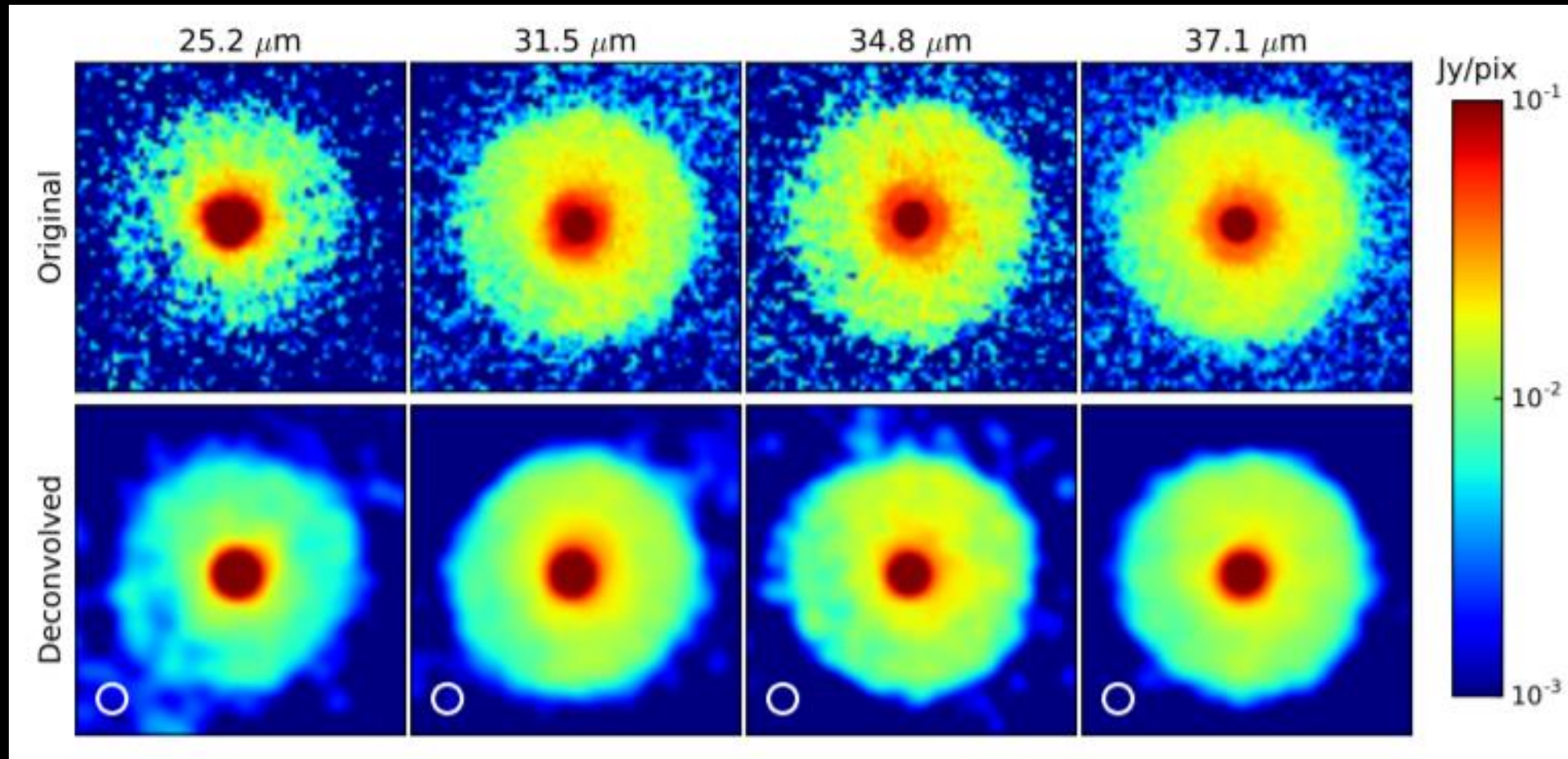
Hony & Bouwman 2004

## Issue with the Footprint of the ISO/SWS



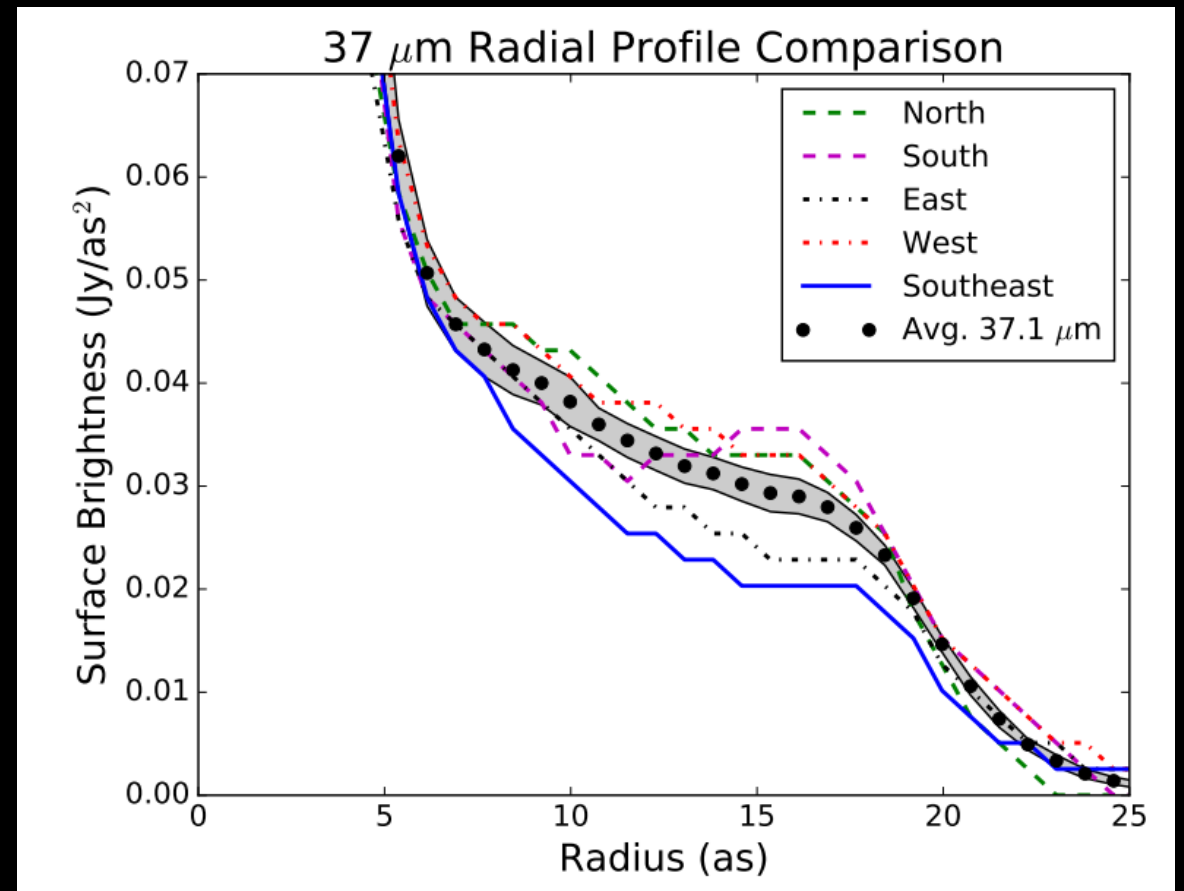
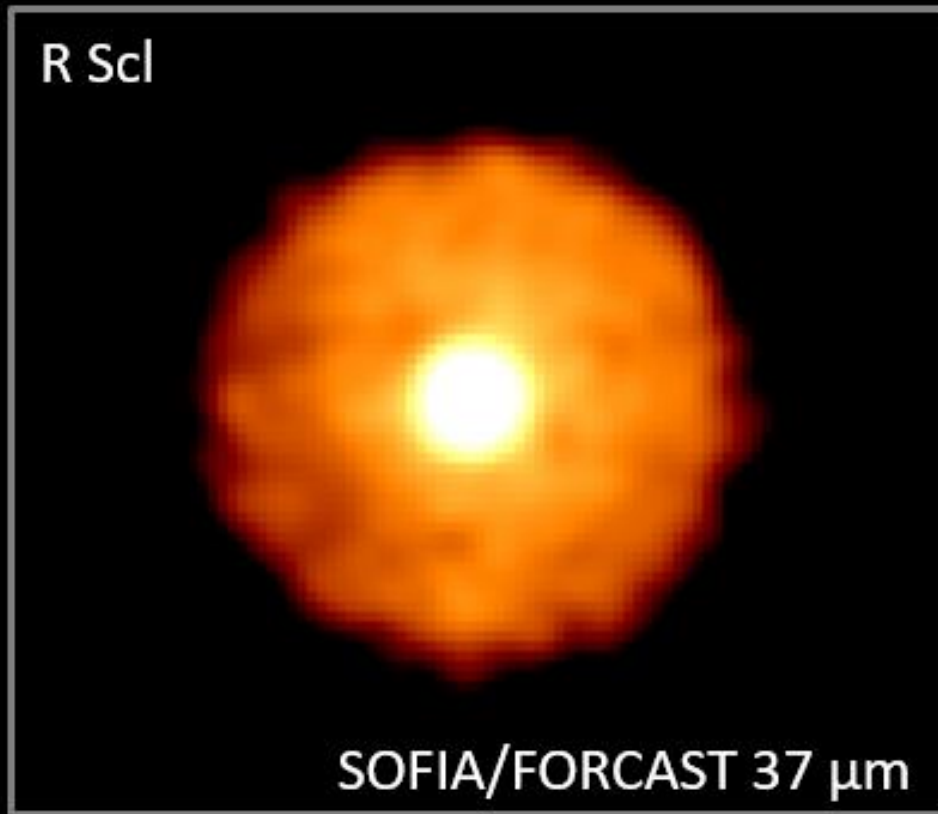
Hony & Bouwman 2004

# SOFIA/FORCAST Observations of R Scl



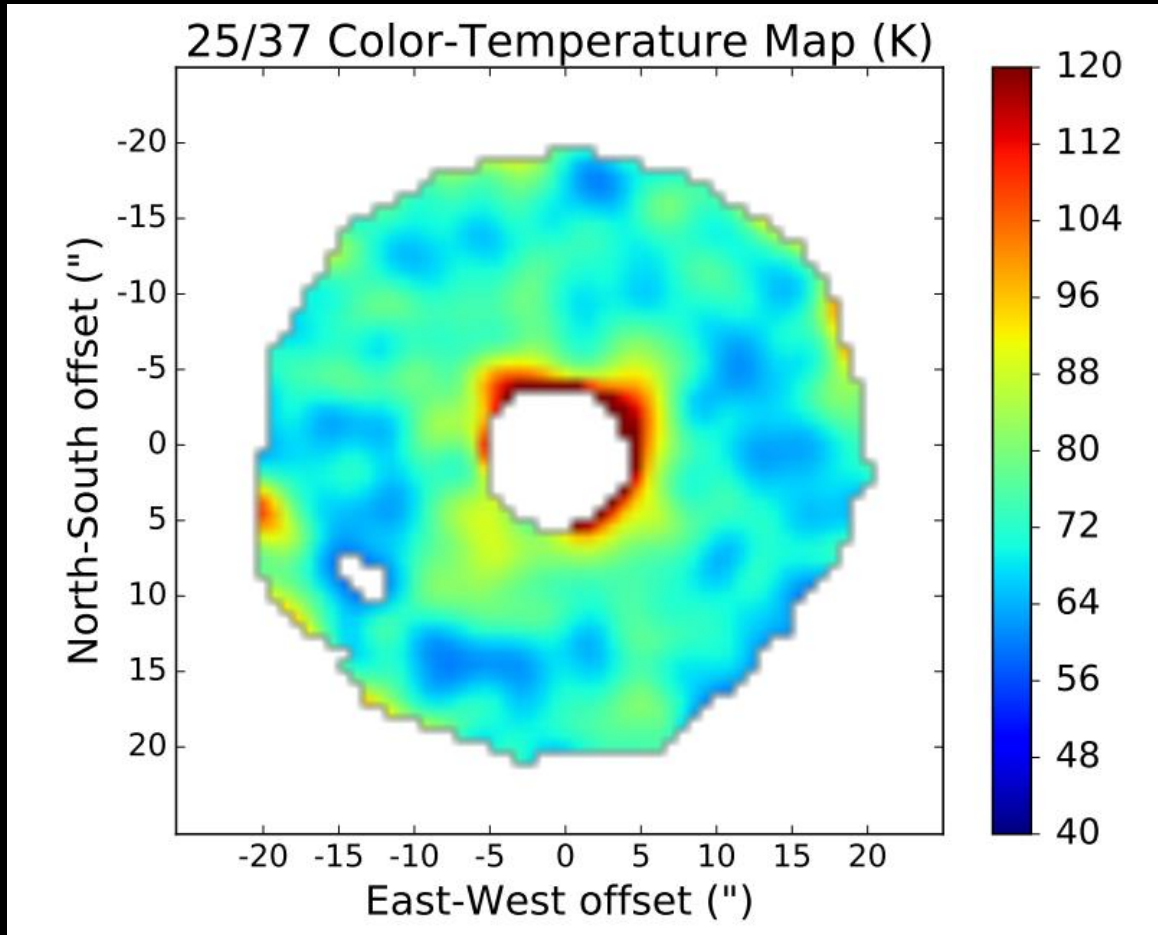
Hankins+ 2018

# Morphology: An Unusual Dimming in the East



Hankins+ 2018

# Color-Temperature Analysis

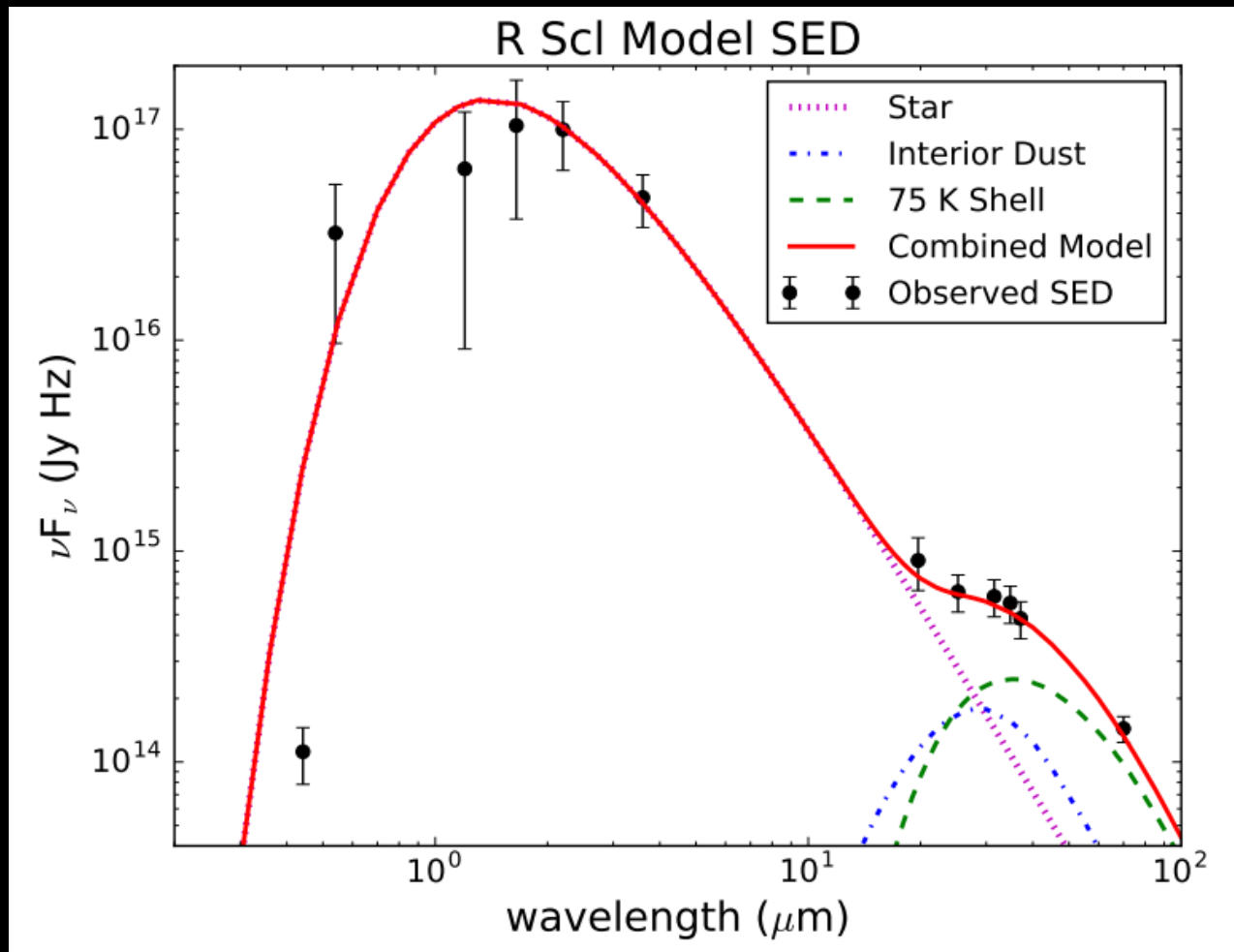


- Temperature is fairly uniform at  $\sim 75$  K
  - Consistent with SED fit of the dust temperature

# Modeling R Scl's Circumstellar Dust Emission with DUSTY

- Fit the SED
  - Done in previous works
- Fit the radial profile of the extended dust emission
  - This gives our greatest constraints on the models
- Fit the composition of the dust
  - R Scl is a known carrier of the 30  $\mu\text{m}$  MgS feature

# DUSTY SED Model

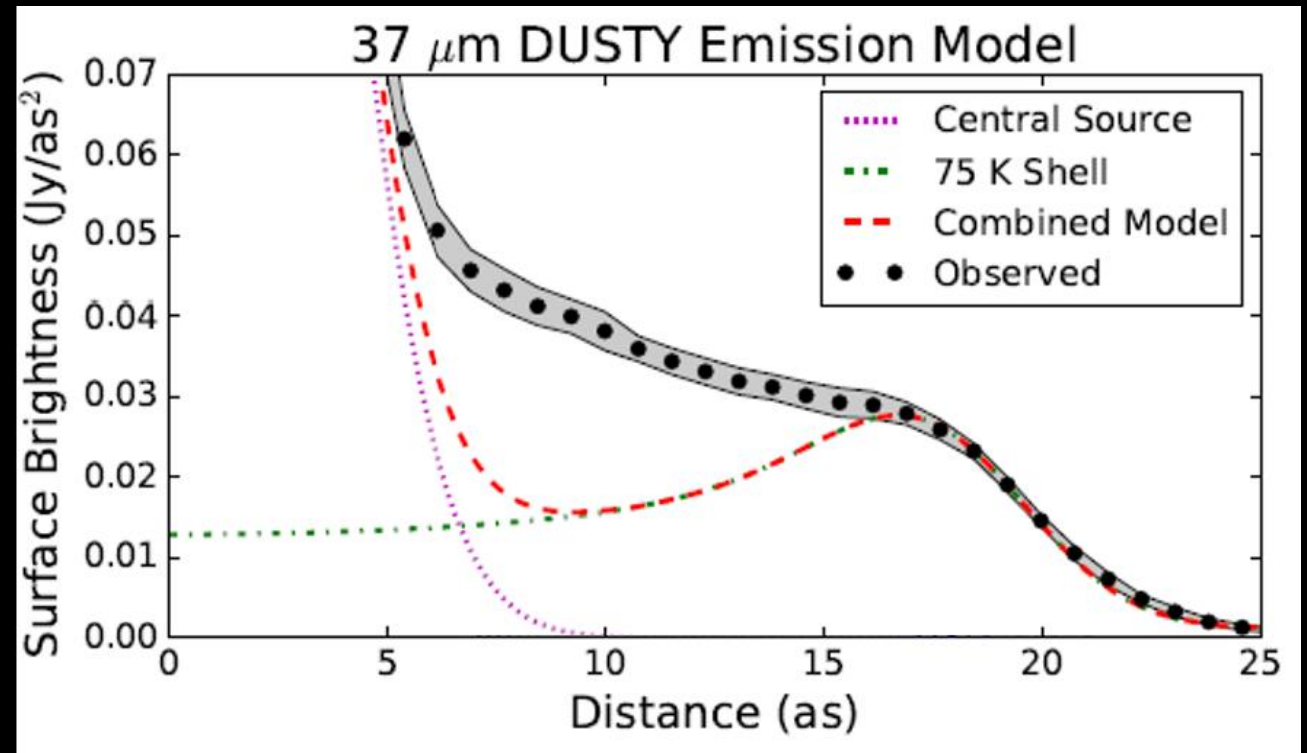
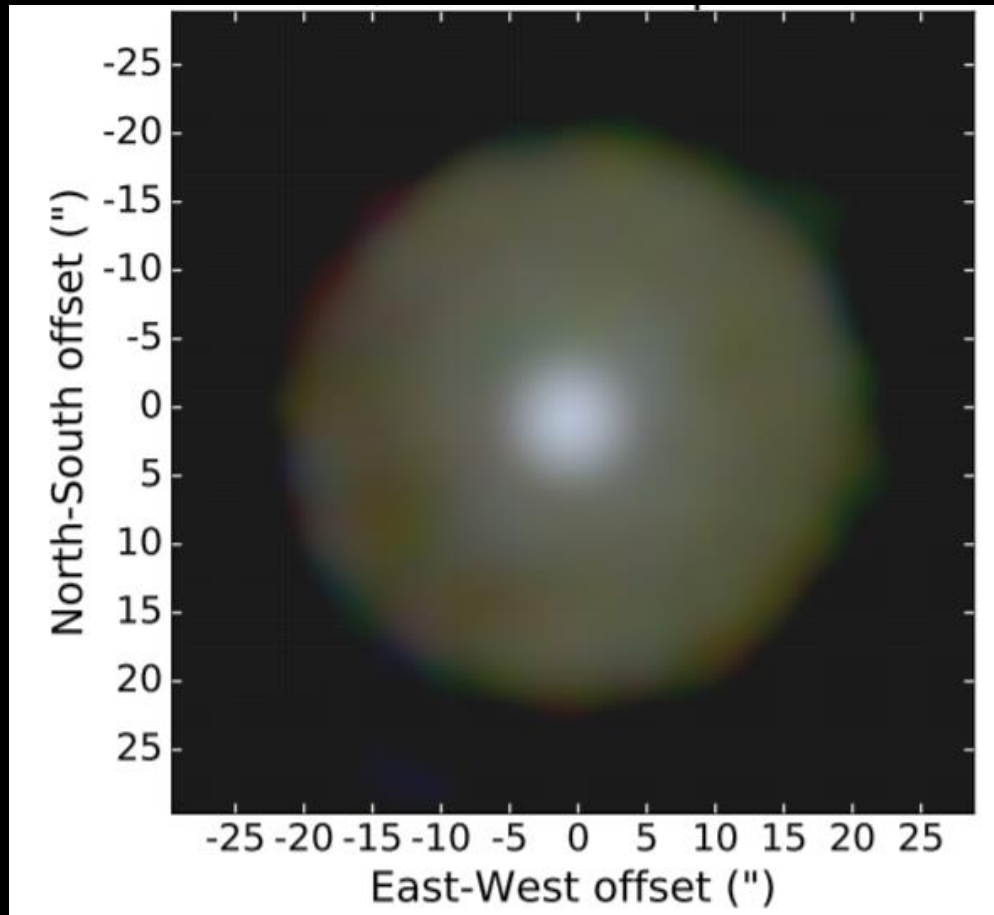


- Started with 2 component model (Star + Shell)
  - Need an additional component to fit the radial profile



# Modeling the Extended Dust: Two Components

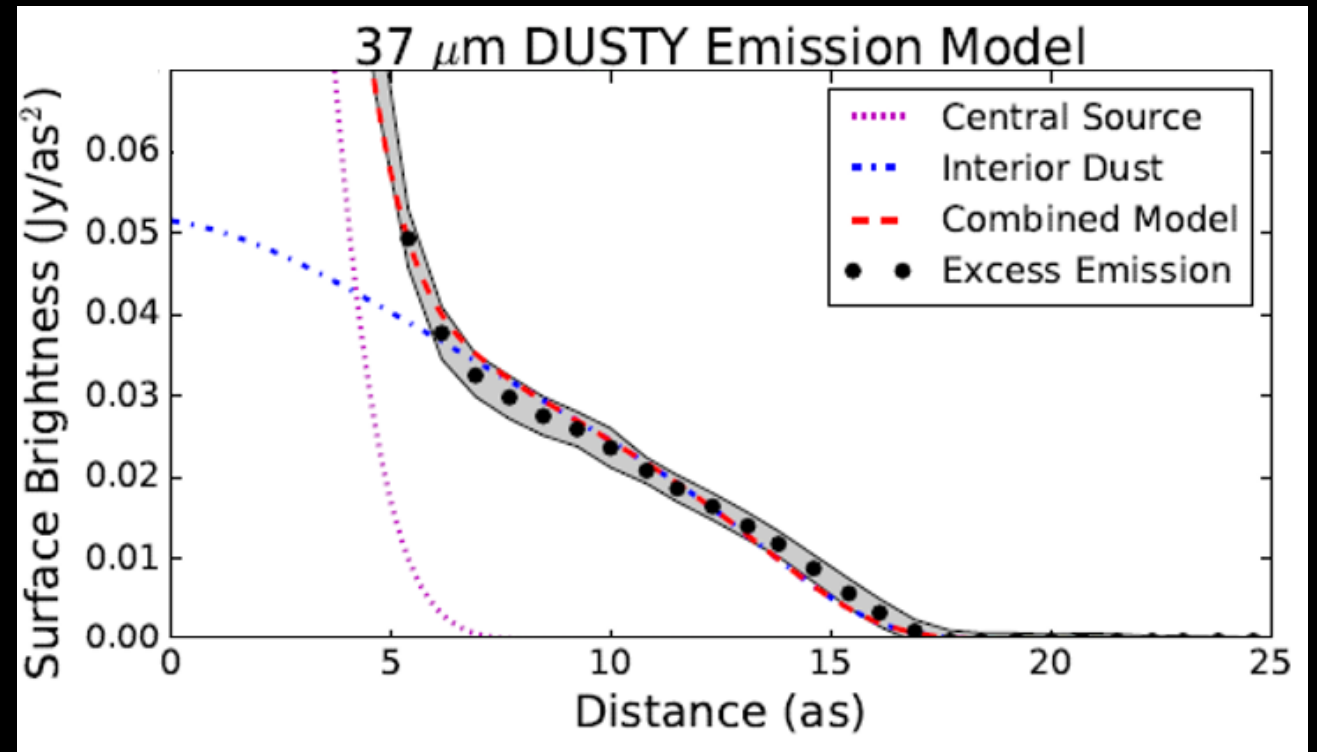
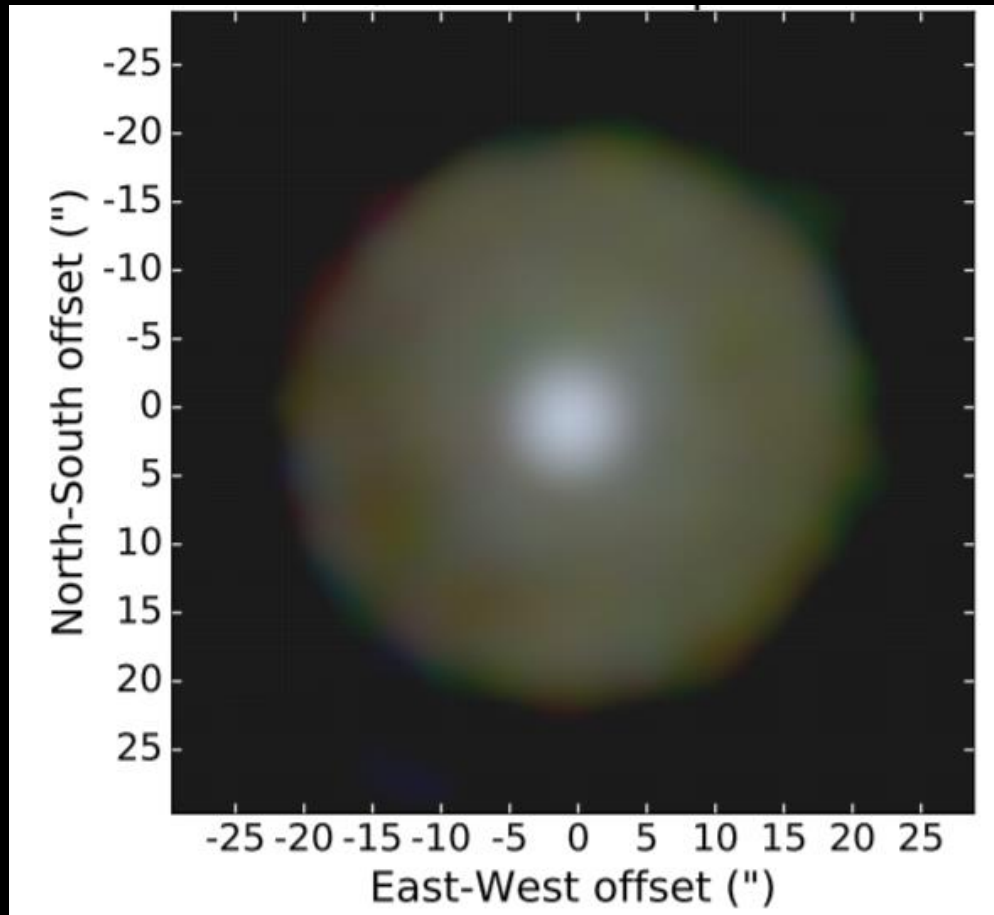
SOFIA/FORCAST 25, 31, 37  $\mu\text{m}$



Hankins+ 2018

# Modeling the Extended Dust: Interior Emission?

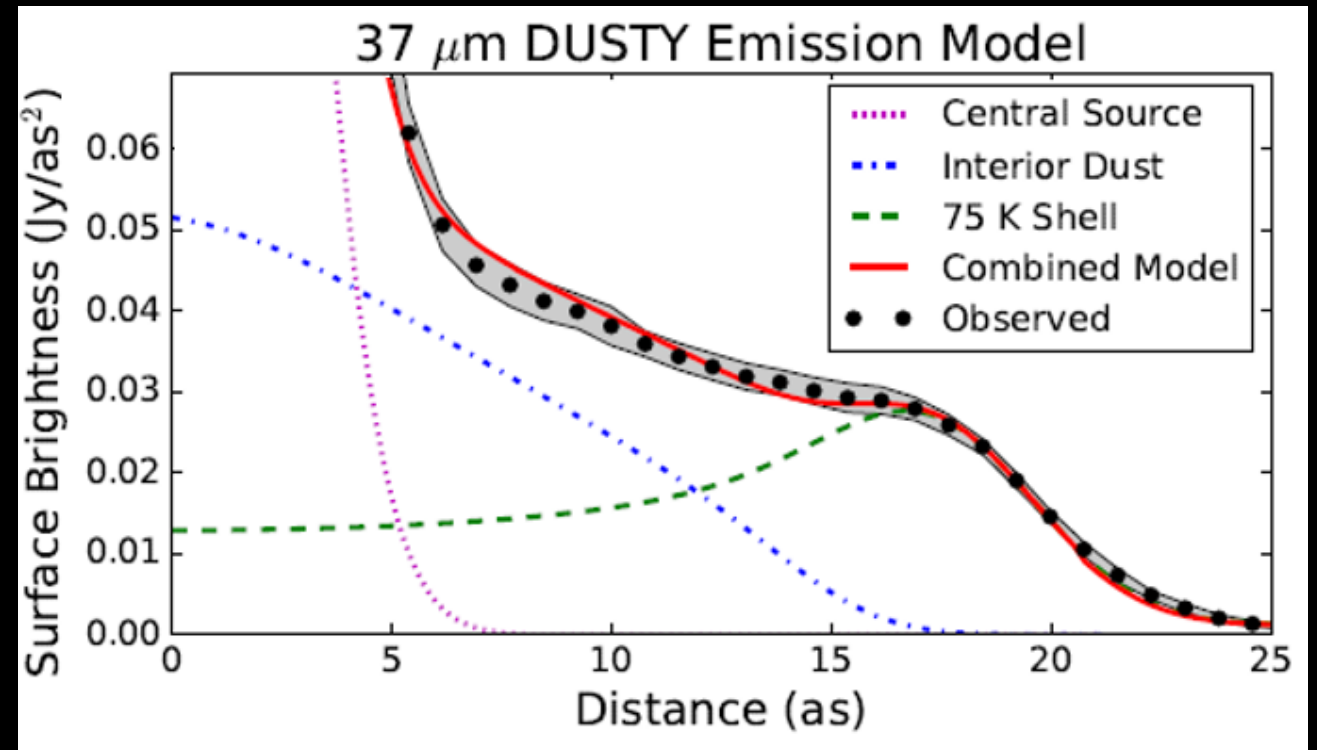
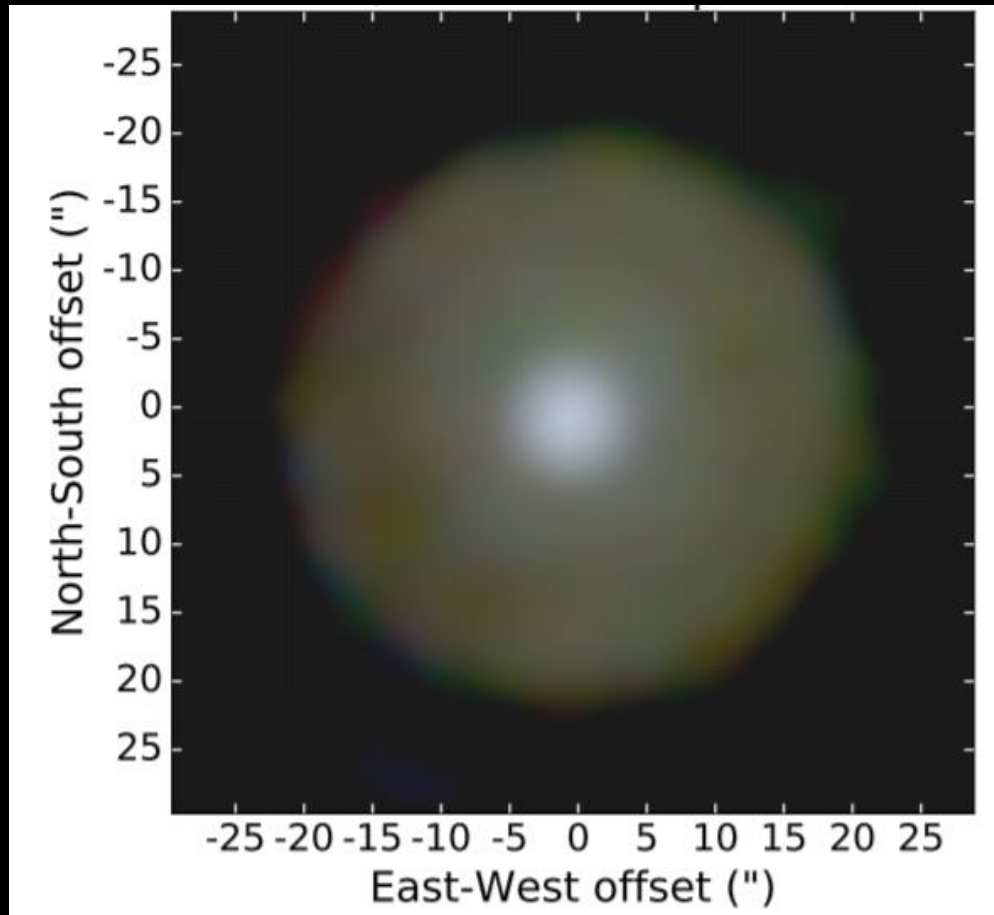
SOFIA/FORCAST 25, 31, 37  $\mu\text{m}$



Hankins+ 2018

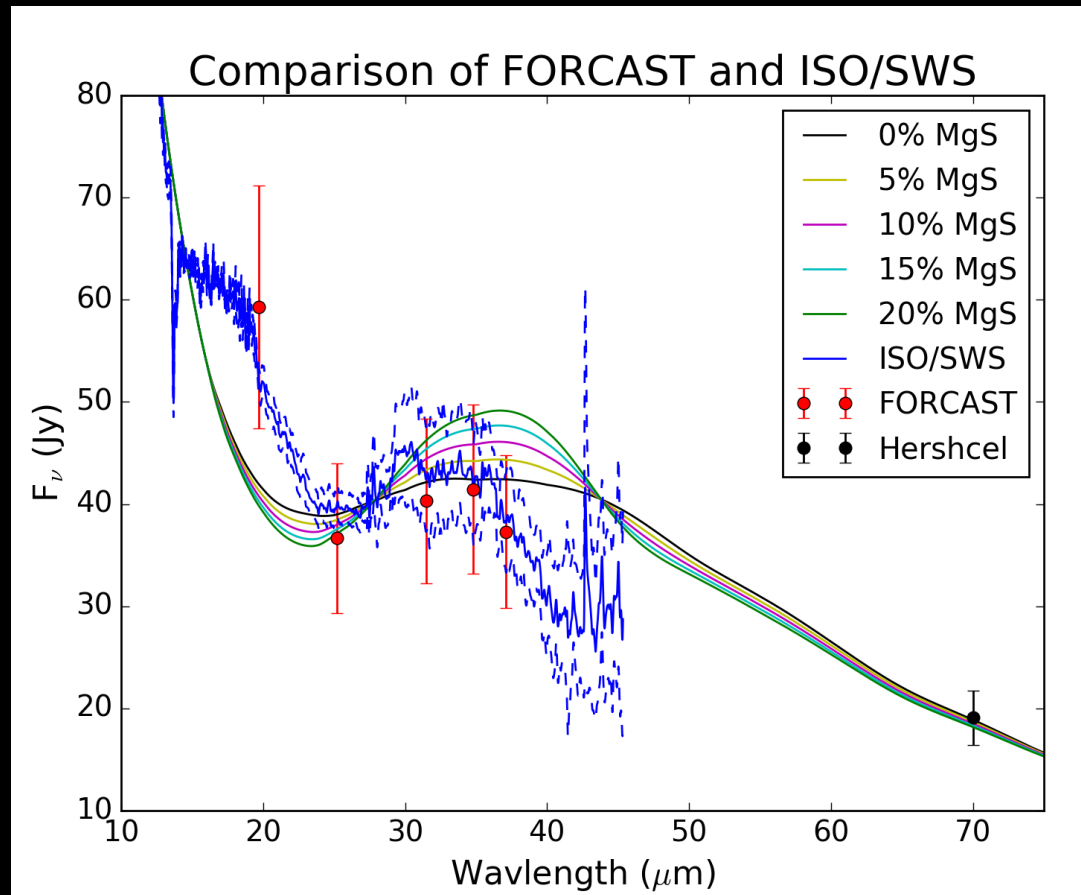
# Modeling the Extended Dust: A Combined Model

SOFIA/FORCAST 25, 31, 37  $\mu\text{m}$



Hankins+ 2018

# Issues Modeling the MgS Dust



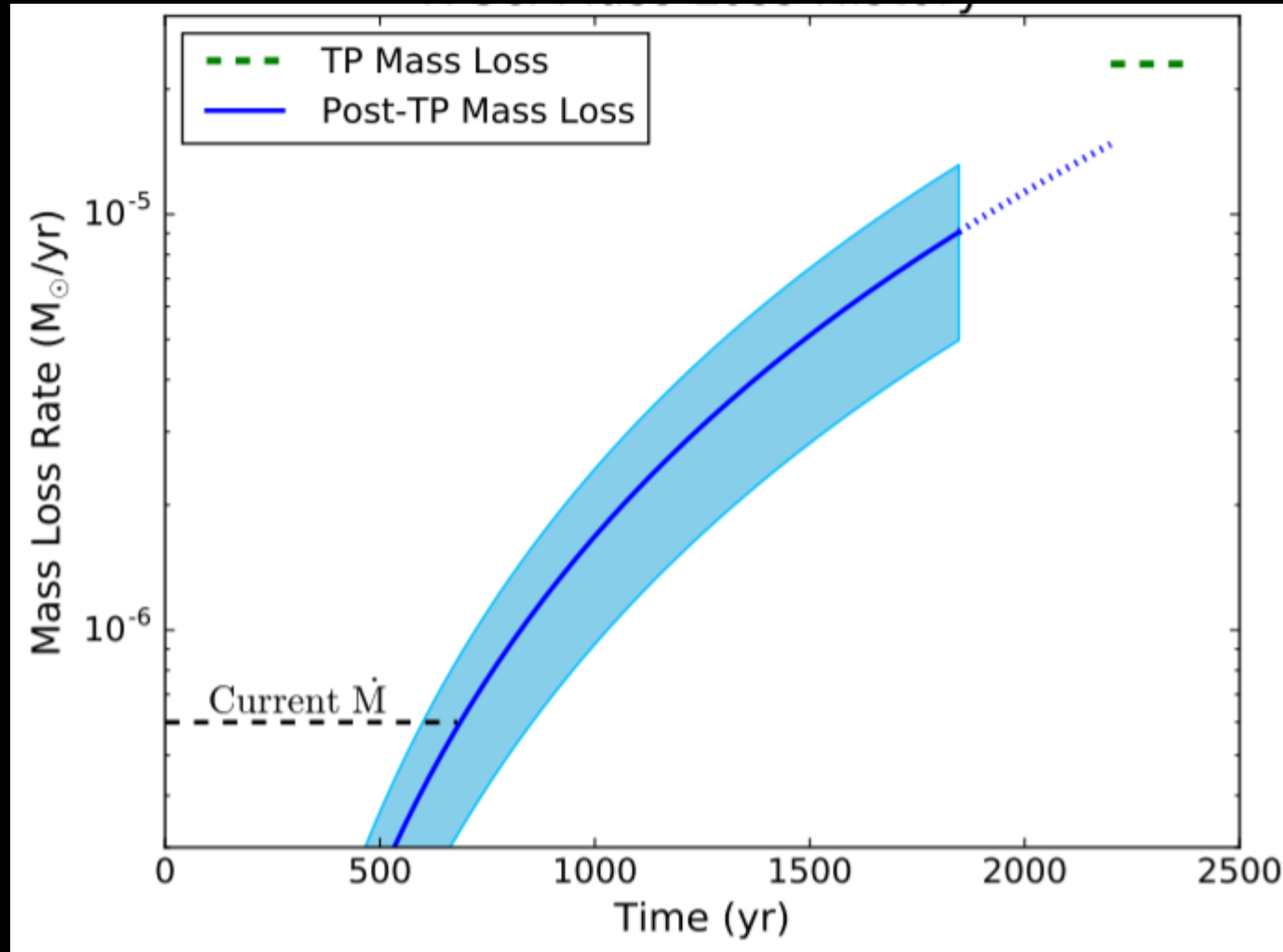
- ISO/SWS has a known issue with hysteresis in the detector at its longer wavelengths
  - 5 observations of R Scl show very different shape & strength of the 30  $\mu\text{m}$  feature
- MgS models are difficult to constrain with photometry alone
  - FORCAST Grisms and/or HERMES may be promising here!

# Best-Fit Parameters from DUSTY

DUSTY MODEL PARAMETERS			
Parameter	Value	Type	Source
Stellar Temperature	2600 K	adopted	<a href="#">Cruzalèbes et al. (2013)</a>
Stellar Luminosity	$10^{4.0 \pm 0.2} L_{\odot}$	fitted	this work
Distance	370 pc	adopted	<a href="#">Maercker et al. (2016)</a>
Dust Size Distribution	$dn/da \propto a^{-3.5}$	adopted	this work
Fractional Dust Composition	0.86 AmC	adopted	this work
	0.10 SiC	adopted	<a href="#">Sacuto et al. (2011)</a>
	0.04 MgS	adopted	<a href="#">Hony &amp; Bouwman (2004)</a>
Shell Dust Temperature ( $T_{shell}$ )	75 K	adopted	<a href="#">Schöier et al. (2005)</a>
Shell Radius	6950 AU (18.8")	fitted	this work
Shell Thickness	0.1	adopted	<a href="#">González Delgado et al. (2003)</a>
Shell Dust Mass	$3.7 \times 10^{-5} M_{\odot}$	adopted*	<a href="#">Schöier et al. (2005)</a>
Interior Dust Temperature ( $T_{in}$ )	1200 K	adopted	<a href="#">Sacuto et al. (2011)</a>
Inner Radius ( $R_{in}$ )	10 AU (27 mas)	adopted	Determined from $T_{in}$
Outer Radius ( $R_{out}$ )	5550 AU (15")	fitted	this work
Relative Thickness (Y)	550	fitted	$Y = R_{out}/R_{in}$
Density Power Law ( $\alpha$ )	$0.75^{+0.45}_{-0.25}$	fitted	this work
Interior Dust Mass	$9.0^{+2.3}_{-4.1} \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot}$	fitted	this work

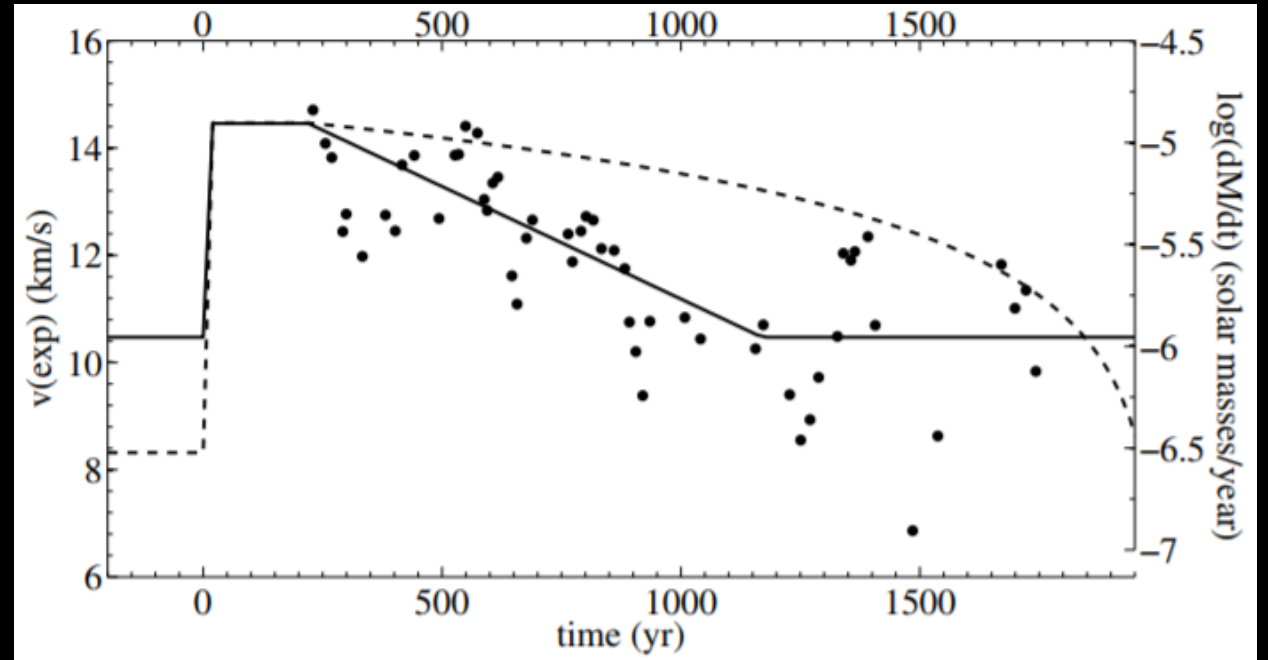
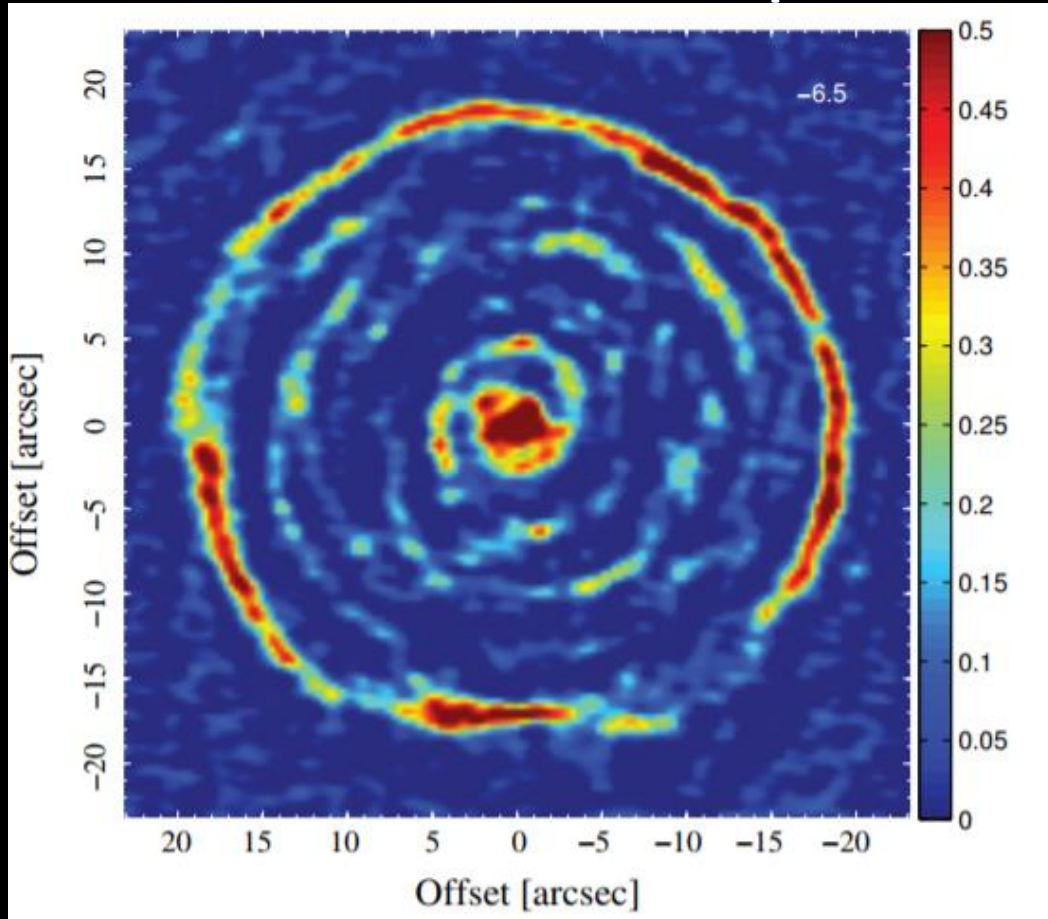
\*For consistency, the dust shell mass has been scaled from the original value quoted in [Schöier et al. \(2005\)](#) to our adopted distance of 370 pc.

# Constraining the Post-TP Mass Loss History of R Scl



# Constraining R Scl's Circumstellar Material

## ALMA CO 3-2 Map

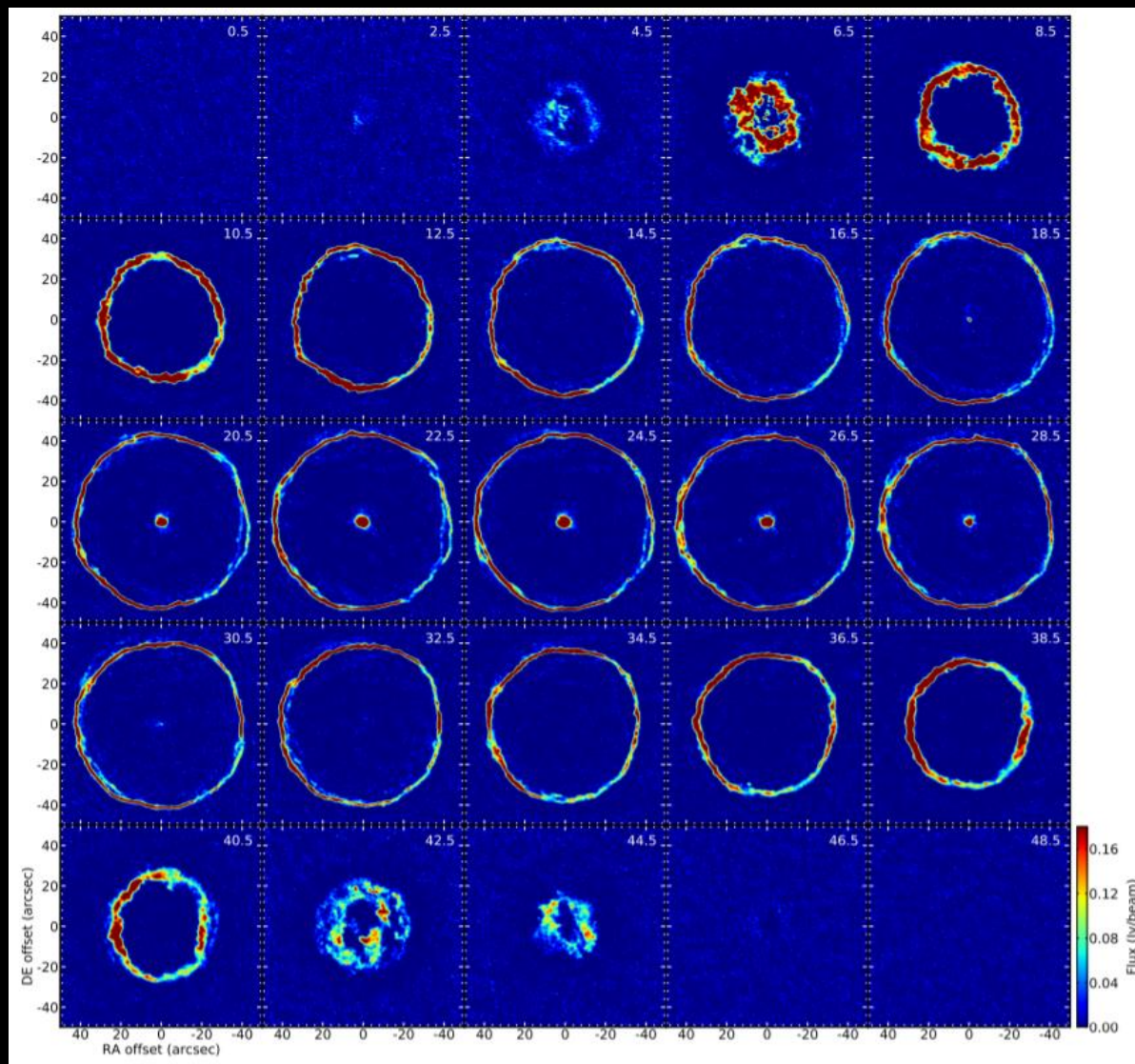
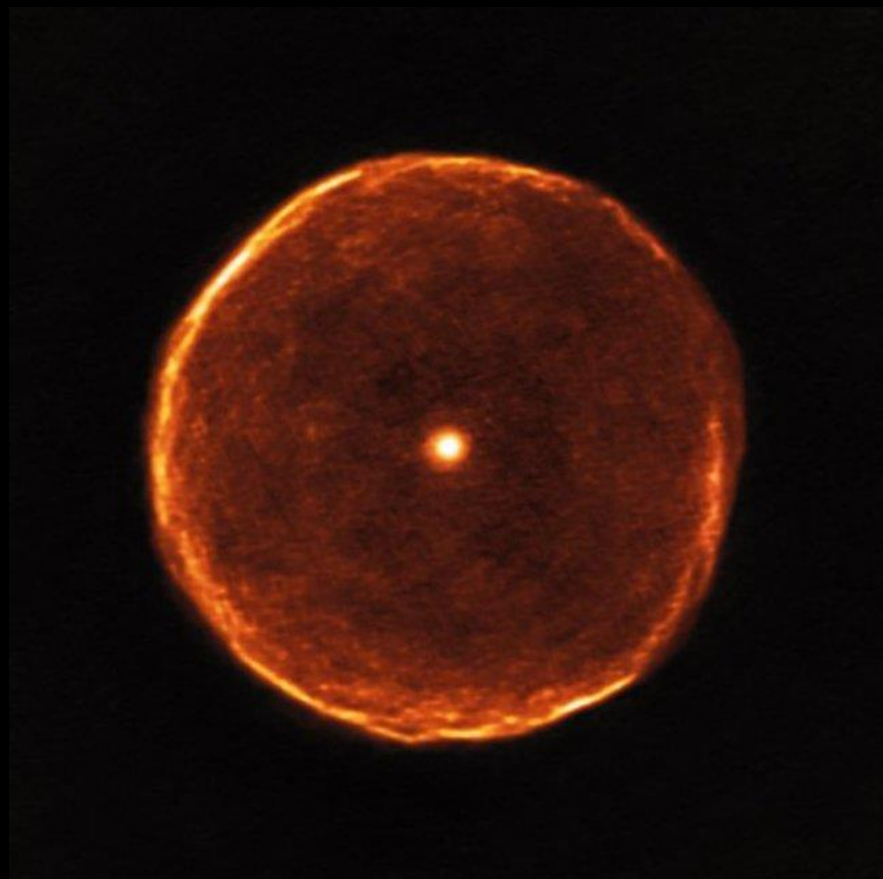


Maercker+2012

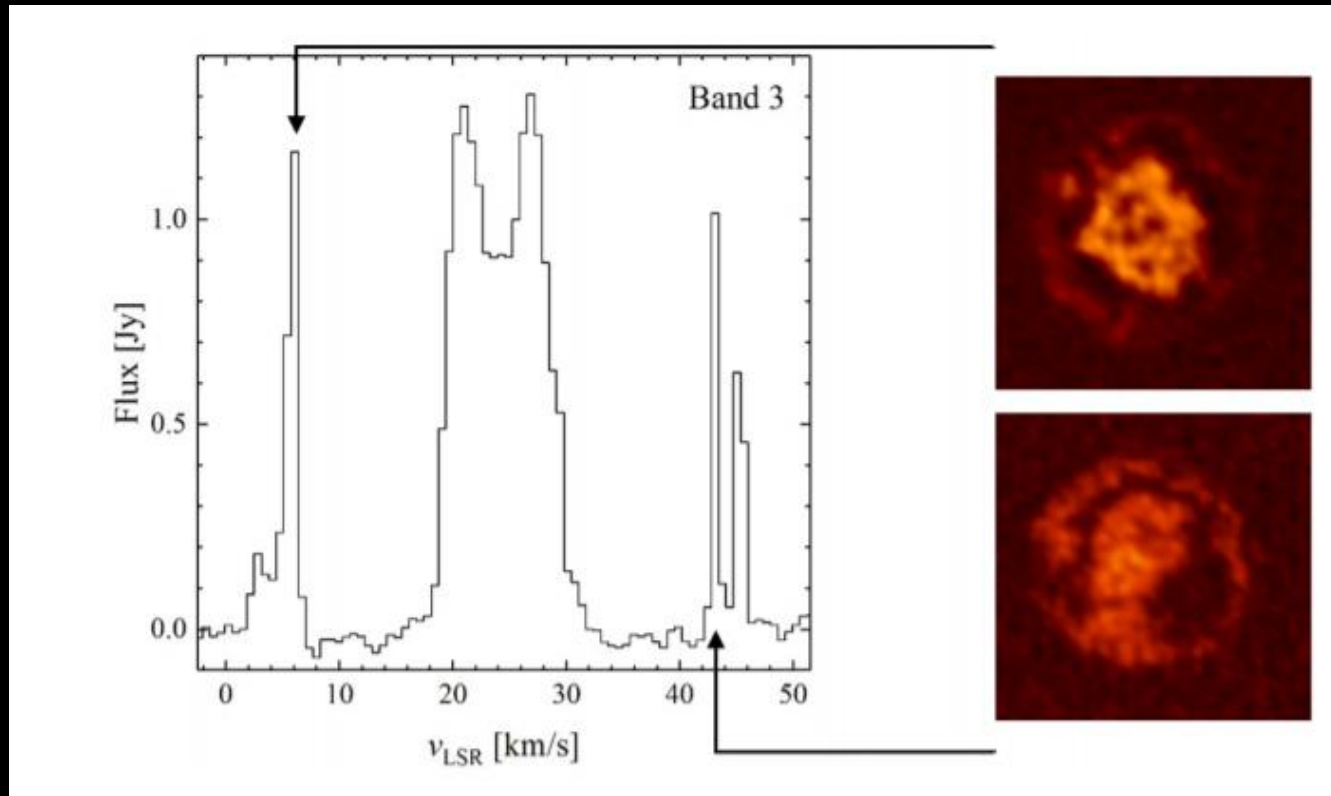
What about other post-TP carbon stars?



# ALMA Observations of U Ant (Kershenbaum+2017)

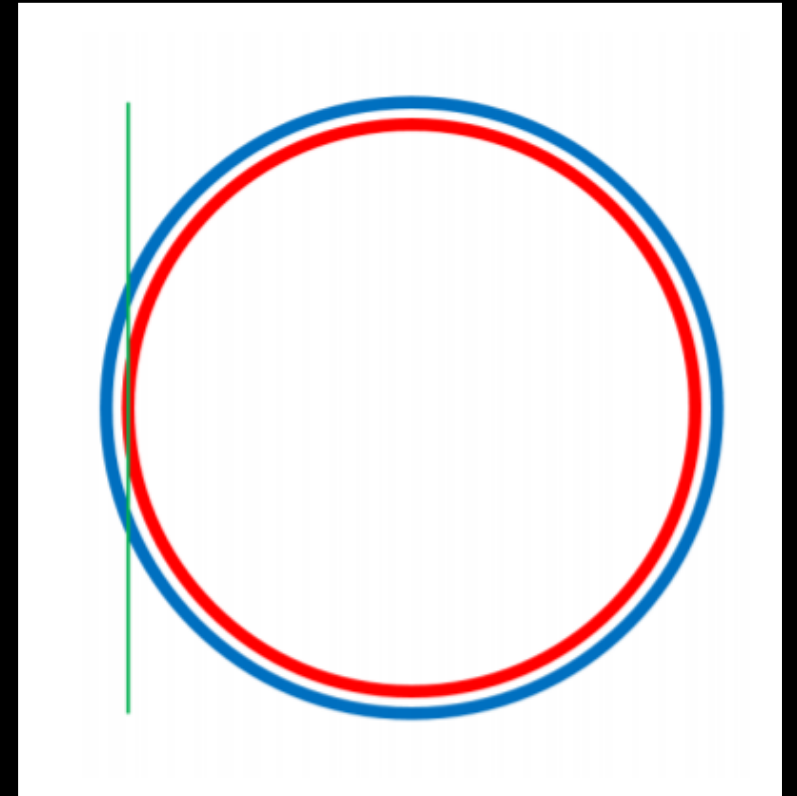


# ALMA Observations of U Ant



Kershenbaum+2017

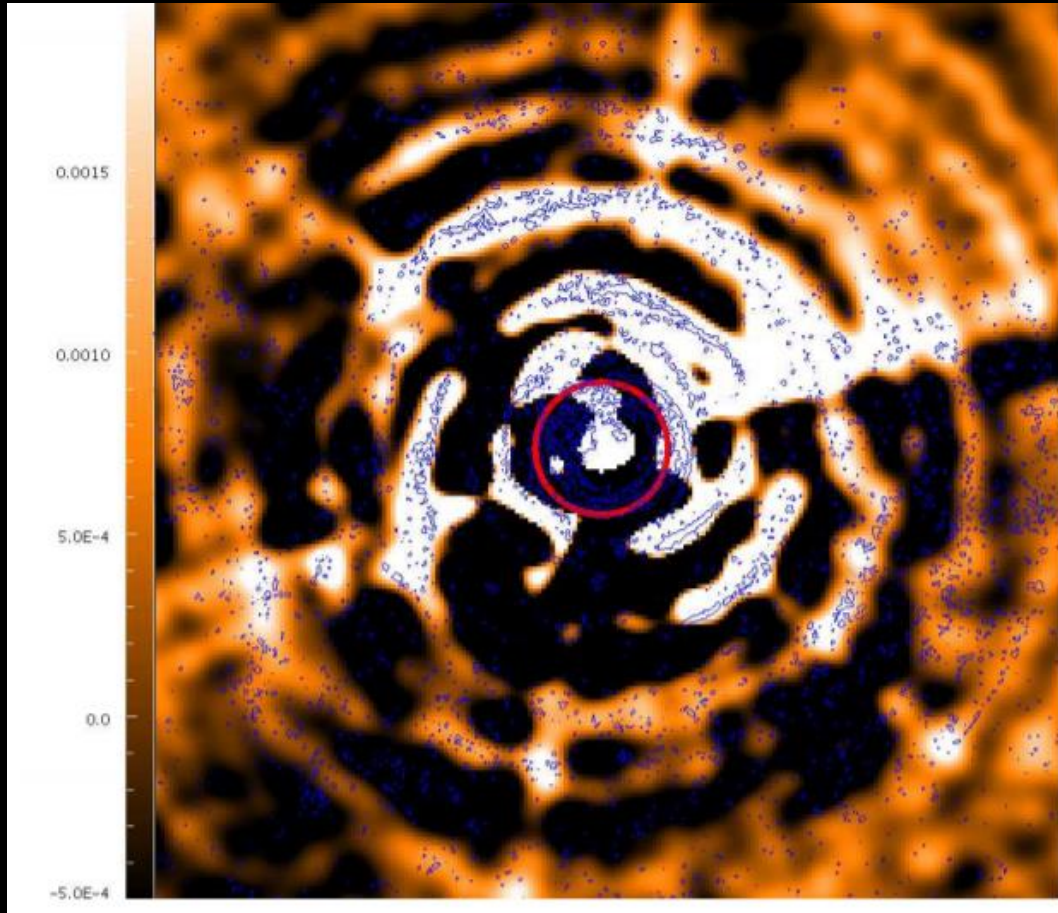
## A Simple Emission Model



Kershenbaum+2017

# What About More Exotic Sources?

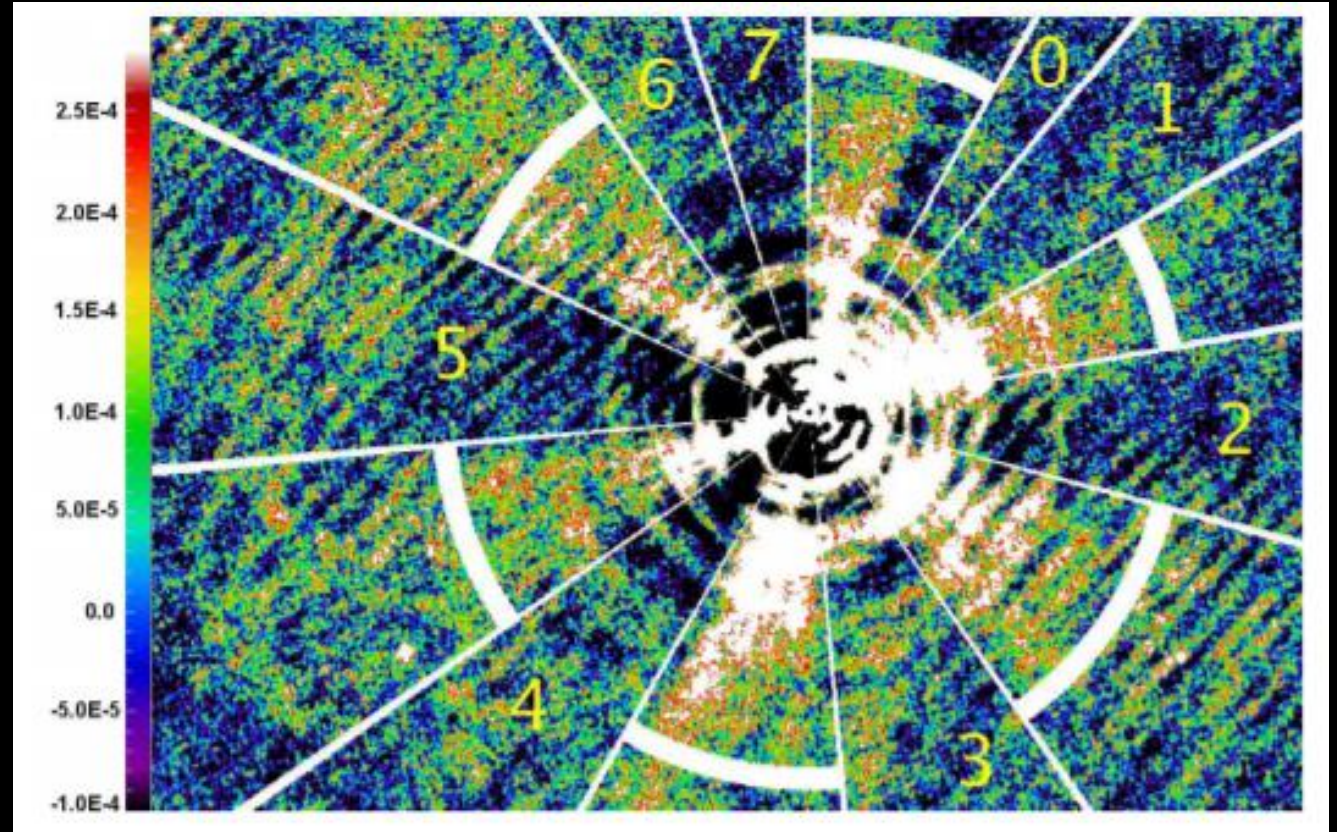
Herschel/PACS 100  $\mu\text{m}$  of IRC+ 10216



3/7/2018

FOV 200"x200"

Same data, different stretch



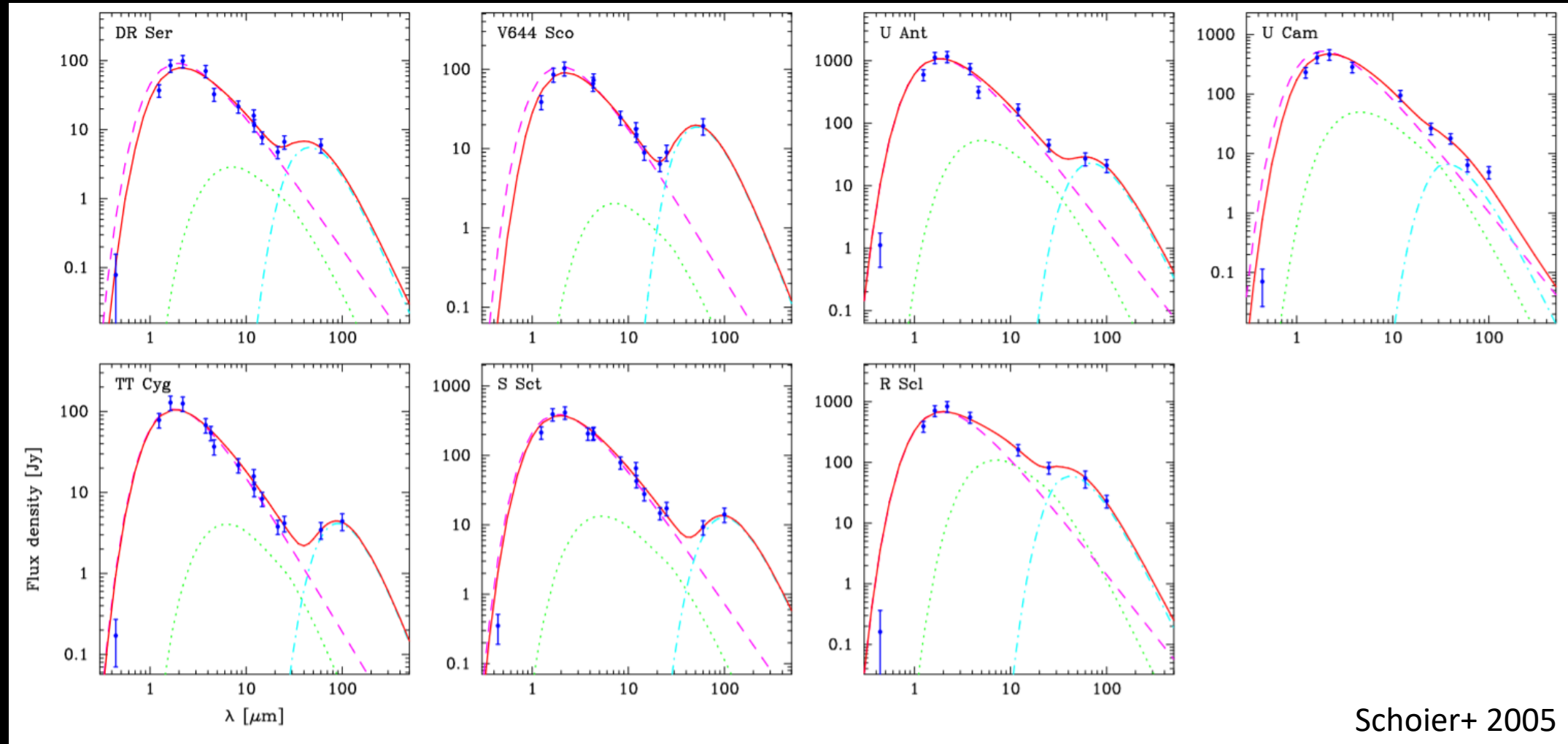
Decin+ 2011

# Considering TP & Post-TP Behavior Further

So there are a few odd objects out there, why does it matter?

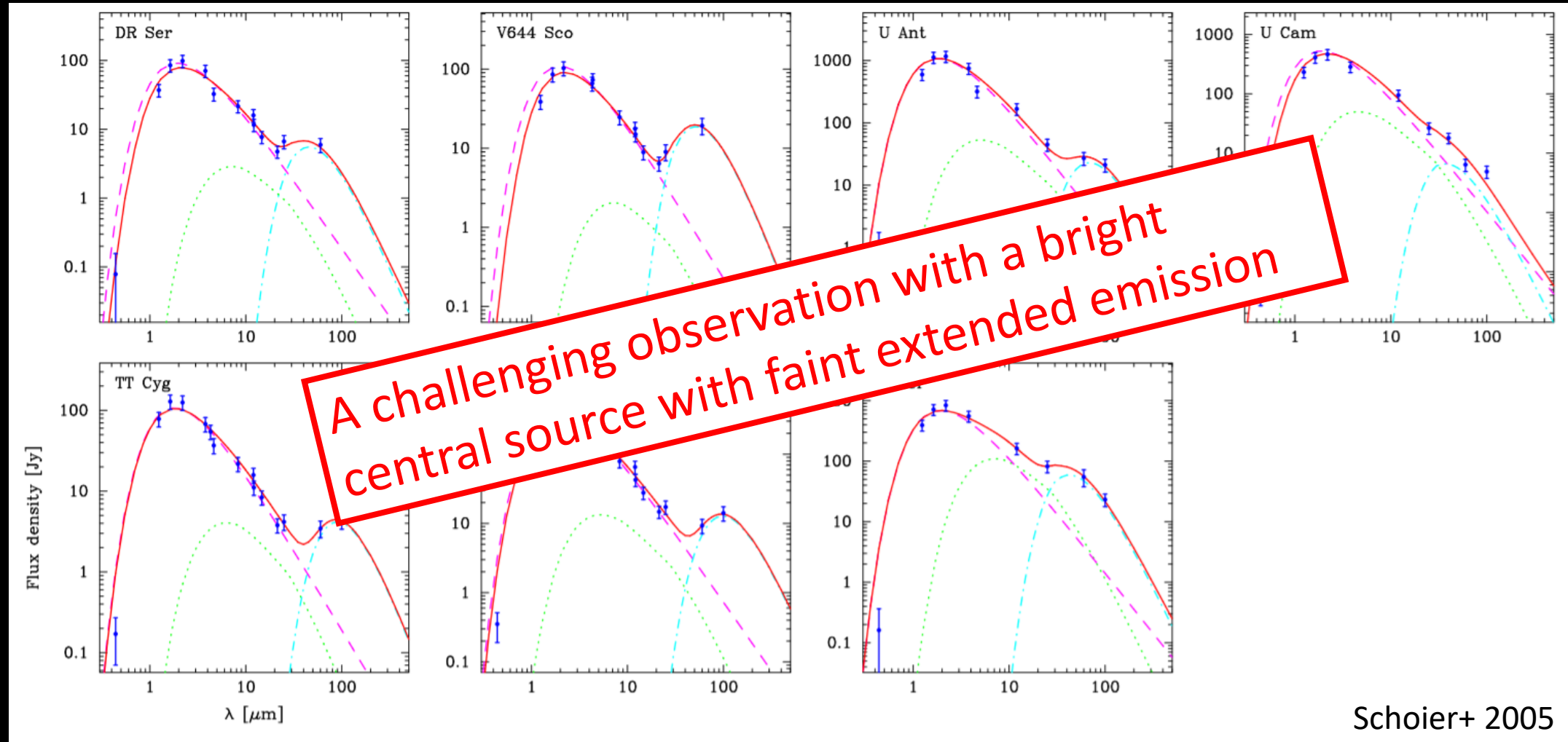
- Mass loss also sets a star's lifetime of the AGB
  - More mass-loss, fewer TP's, shorter lifetime on the AGB
- AGBs are also important sources of dust in the ISM
  - Issues with dust in the local universe like the LMC Dust Budget (Matsuura+ 2009)

# What's next?- Several Sources for JWST



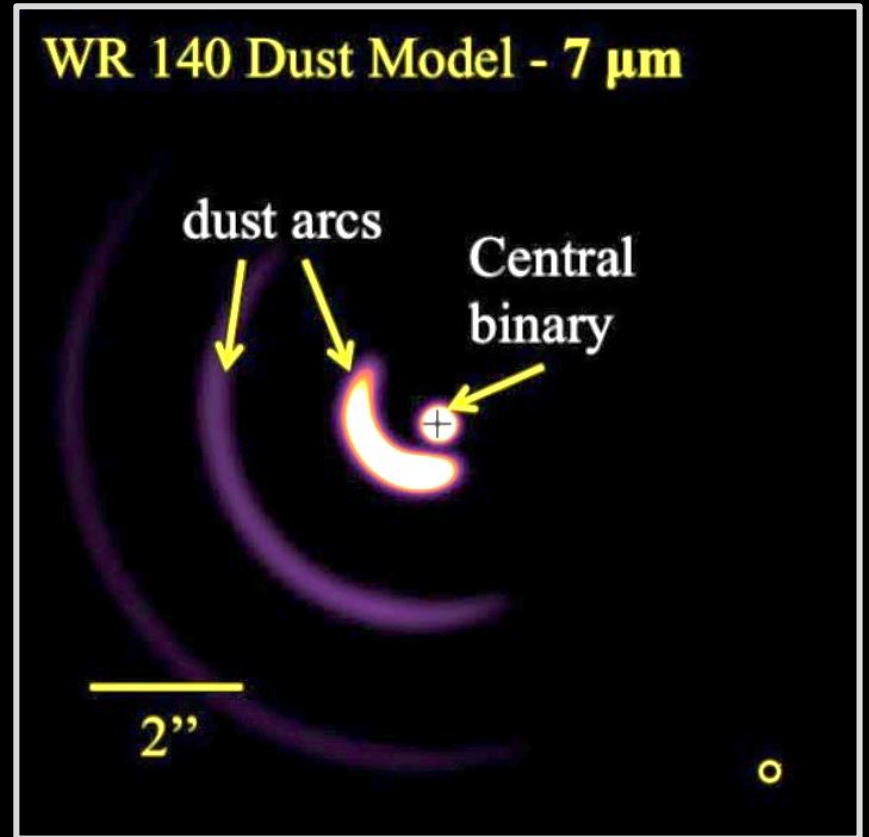
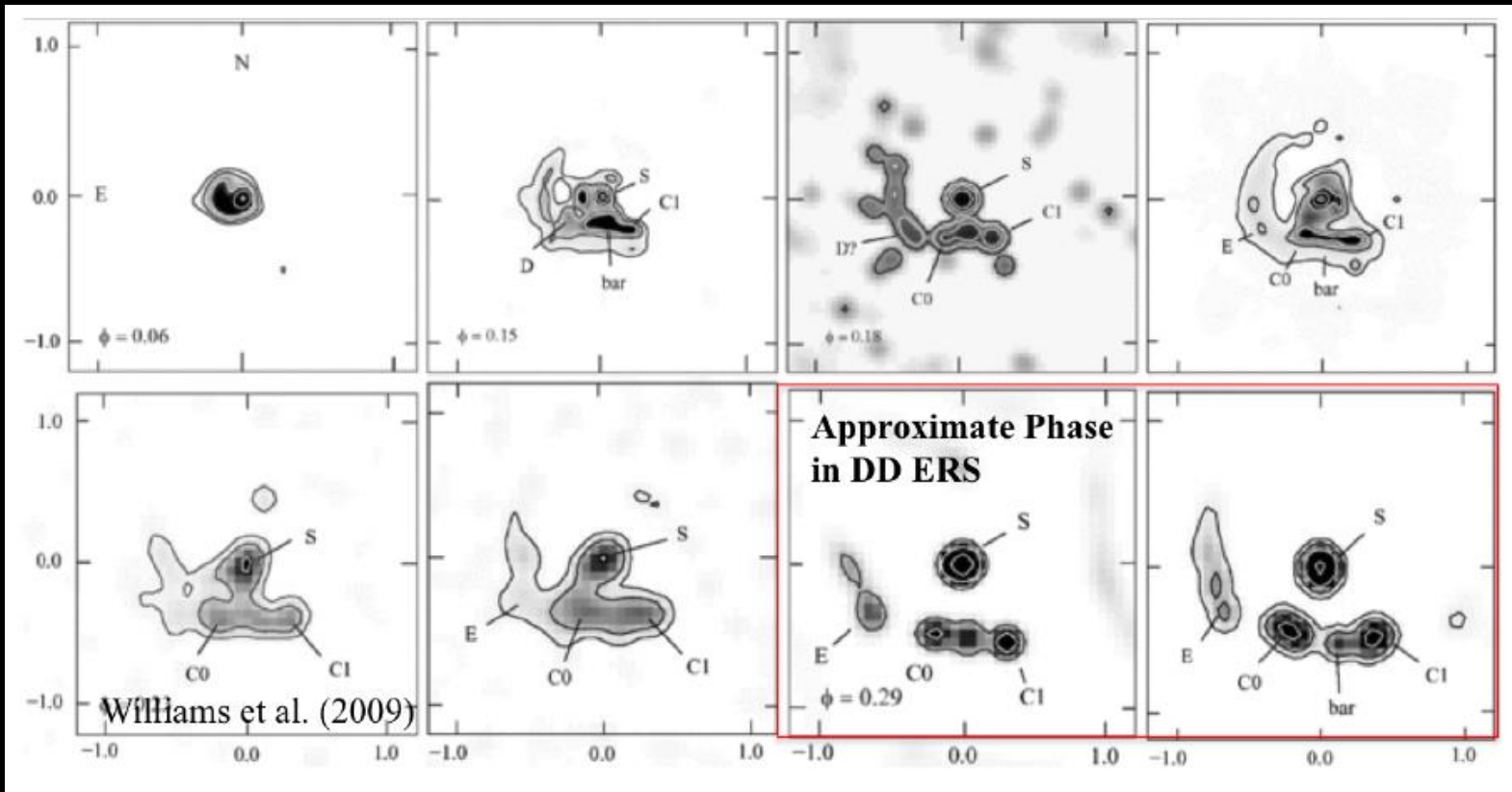
Schoier+ 2005

# What's next?- Several Sources for JWST



Schoier+ 2005

# JWST Early Release Science Program: WR 140



PI: R. Lau, Co-I: M. Hankins

# Summary

- R Scl is an intriguing carbon star with interesting circumstellar material
  - Provides evidence for a slow decline in post-TP mass loss history
  - Still work to be done understanding the dust composition
- Examine other carbon stars with circumstellar shells
  - Is R Scl unusual or do more objects also show a slow decline in mass loss?



# Thanks for Joining!

## Questions?

**Collaborators:** Terry Herter (Cornell), Matthias Maercker (Chalmers University), Ryan Lau (Caltech), Greg Sloan (UNC/STSci)