

# Magnetic fields of M dwarfs in the SPIRou context

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*1<sup>st</sup> SPIRou science meeting – Paris, France  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014*



# Outline

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- 1 Why do we care about stellar magnetic fields?
- 2 Detection and characterization of stellar magnetic fields
- 3 A brief overview of M dwarfs' magnetism
- 4 M dwarf studies with SPIRou
- 5 Summary

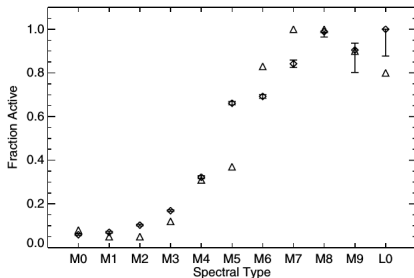
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- 1 Why do we care about stellar magnetic fields?
  - Stellar magnetic fields and planets
  - Advances in stellar physics
- 2 Detection and characterization of stellar magnetic fields
- 3 A brief overview of M dwarfs' magnetism
- 4 M dwarf studies with SPIRou
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# Why do we care about magnetic fields? (1/2)

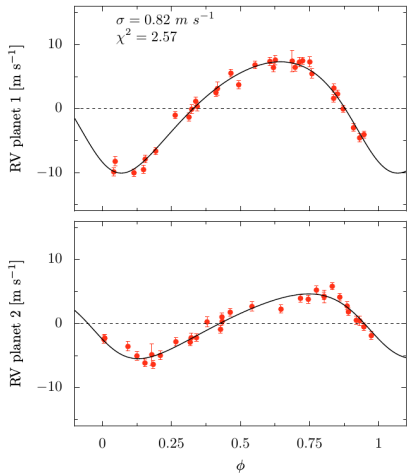
- Magnetic activity is ubiquitous
- Magnetic fields and planets
  - Detection
    - talks by X. Bonfils, X. Dumusque, É. Hébrard
  - Characterization: space weather
    - talks by A. Vidotto, R. Farès, A. Strugarek



*West et al. (2008)*

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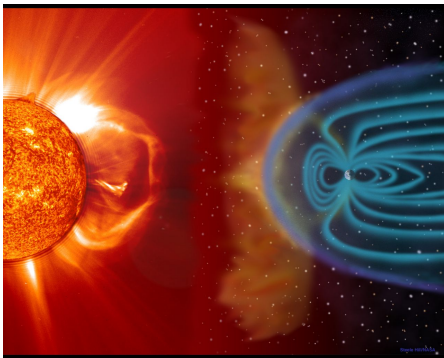


GJ 674 *Bonfils et al. (2007)*

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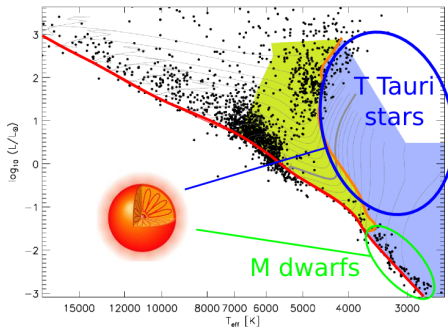


*Credit: NASA / ESA*

# Why do we care about magnetic fields? (2/2)

## ■ Advances in stellar physics

- Dynamo processes  
→ talks by L. Jouve, S. Brun
- Rotational evolution
  - *Irwin et al. (2011)*,  
*Reiners & Mohanty (2013)*
- Activity
  - *Berger et al. (2008)*,  
*Hallinan et al. (2008)*



*PMS and MS fully-convective stars  
in the HRD*

*Adapted from Reiners (2008)*

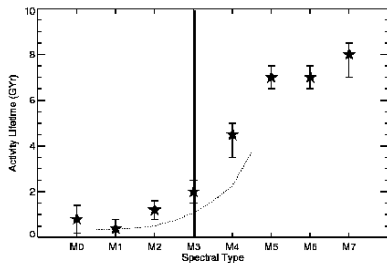
*Evolutionary tracks from*

*Siess et al. (2002)*

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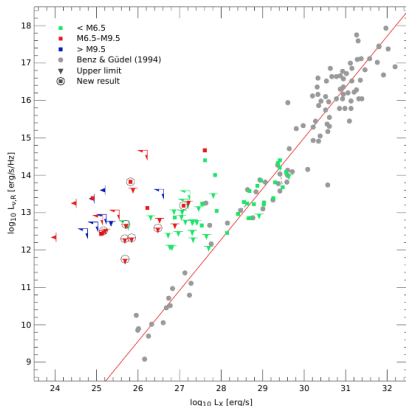
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*Williams, Cook & Berger (2013)*

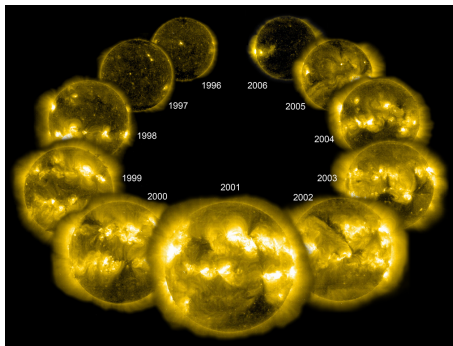
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- 1 Why do we care about stellar magnetic fields?
- 2 **Detection and characterization of stellar magnetic fields**
  - Indirect measurements: stellar activity
  - Direct measurements of photospheric magnetic fields
- 3 A brief overview of M dwarfs' magnetism
- 4 M dwarf studies with SPIRou
- 5 Summary

# Indirect measurements: stellar activity

- Interaction  $\vec{B} \leftrightarrow$  atmosphere
  - Spots, plages
    - Vis. photometry/spectroscopy
  - Chromosphere, TR, corona
    - Radio  $\rightarrow$  X-rays
- Usual proxies for stellar  $\vec{B}$ 
  - CaII H&K,  $H\alpha$  emission
  - Coronal X-ray emission



SOHO, EUV

# Direct measurements of $\vec{B}$ : unpolarised light

- Direct  $\vec{B}_{\text{photosph}}$  measurements
- ➔ Zeeman effect

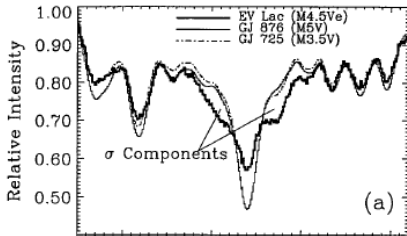
- Measure “magnetic flux”:  $\langle \|\vec{B}\| \rangle$

- Atomic lines
- Molecular lines

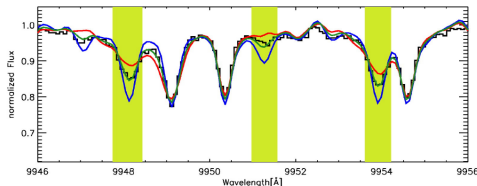
- Weakly sensitive to  $\vec{B}$  orientation

- Almost no information
- Equally sensitive to any geometry

- Low to moderate  $v \sin i$



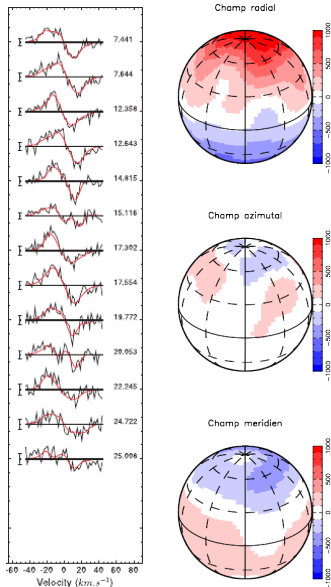
*Johns-Krull & Valenti (1996)*



*GJ 729, FeH Wing-Ford band  
Reiners & Basri (2006)*

# Direct measurements of $\vec{B}$ : spectropolarimetry

- Sensitive to vector properties
- Partial cancellation
  - Blind to small-scale field
- Differential measurement / weakly affected by modelling error
- Requires high S/N ( $\sim 10^4$ )
- Multi-line techniques (LSD)  
*Donati et al. (1997)*
- Interpretation/modelling
  - Zeeman-Doppler Imaging  
*Semel (1989)*  
*Donati & Brown (1997)*



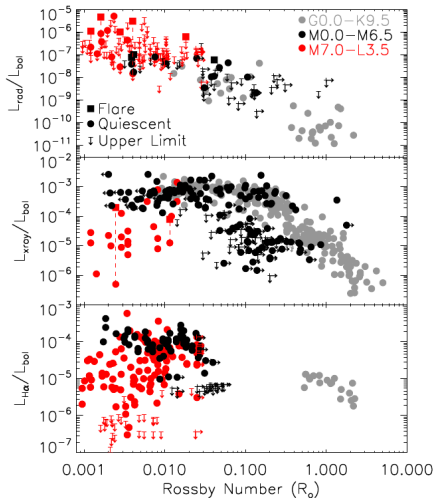
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- 2 Detection and characterization of stellar magnetic fields
- 3 A brief overview of M dwarfs' magnetism**
  - Activity of M dwarfs
  - Magnetic fields of M dwarfs in unpolarised light
  - The first spectropolarimetric survey
- 4 M dwarf studies with SPIRou
- 5 Summary

# Activity of M dwarfs

- Rotation–activity relation
  - Early-mid M dwarfs: similar G-K
    - High  $R_o$ : anti-correlated
    - Low  $R_o$ : plateau
    - No break at FCL
  - Late M dwarfs
    - $\exists$  low activity at low  $R_o$
    - No  $L_{rad}/L_{bol}$  saturation
- Activity cycles
  - Evidence for long-term variability
  - Hints of cycles



*McLean et al. (2011)*

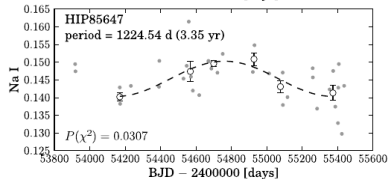
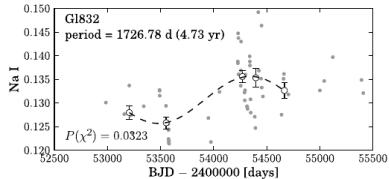
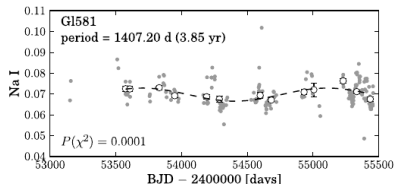
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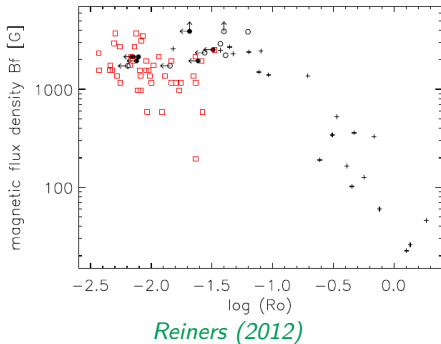
*Gomes da Silva et al. (2012)*



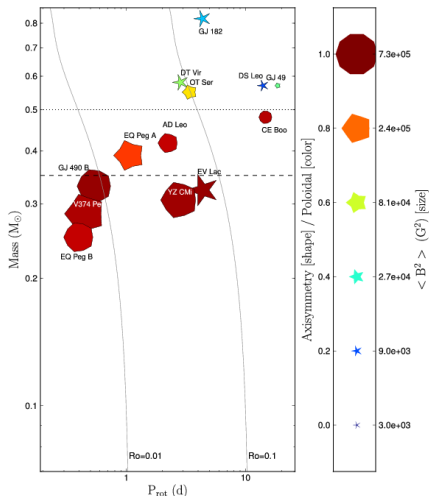
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# Spectropolarimetric survey: fully convective stars

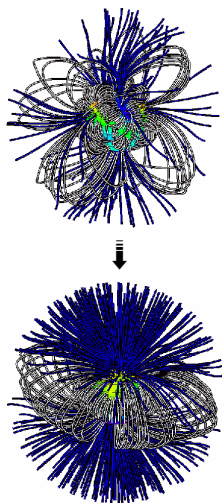


## Fully convective boundary

- Sharp transition  $\sim 0.5 M_{\odot}$
- Magnetic topology
- Differential rotation
- Partial agreement with DNS  
*Browning (2008)*
- *Morin et al. (2008a,b)*  
*Donati et al. (2008)*  
*Phan-Bao et al. (2009)*

- Similar transition among TTS
- MaPP Large Program
- *Gregory et al. (2012)*

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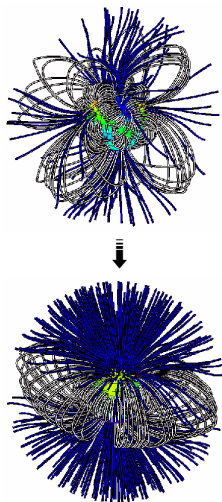


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Coronal extrapolations by M. Jardine from surface magnetic fields reconstructed by *Donati et al. (2008)*, *Morin et al. (2008a)*

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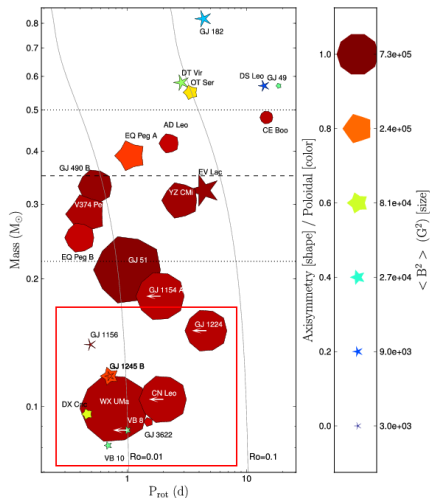


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# Spectropolarimetric survey: very low mass stars



## VLM rapidly rotating stars

- 2 groups of stars  $\lesssim 0.2 M_{\odot}$
- Similar stellar params
- Radically  $\neq$  magnetisms
- Morin et al. (2010)*

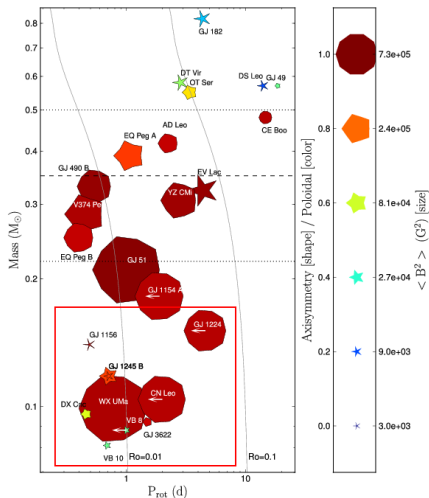
## Explanation

- Variability / cycles?
- No switch in 3 yr
- Effect of age?
- Dynamo bistability?

## Ongoing studies

- Further explore bistability
- M dwarf binaries

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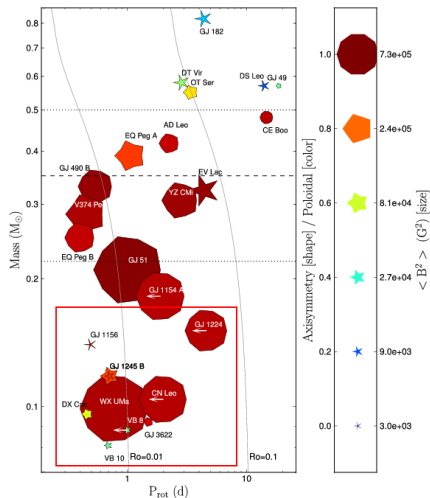
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  - Activity level classes
  - M dwarfs' magnetism studies within SLS
  - M dwarfs' magnetism studies outside SLS
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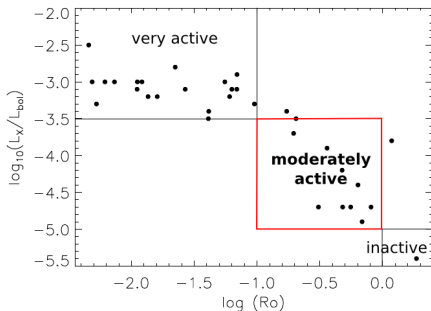


# Activity level classes

- Input catalog ESPaDOnS observations

→ L. Malo's talk

- Very active stars
  - Not suitable for planet searches
- Inactive stars
  - Magnetism characterization not possible/needed
- Moderately active stars
  - Planet search
  - Coupled with activity/magnetism study



Adapted from *Reiners et al. (2009)*

# M dwarfs' magnetism studies within SLS

- Moderately active stars
  - charact. of  $\vec{B}$ /activity required
    - Planet detection
    - Planet characterization
  - Studies of M dwarf magnetism
- Come for free!
- Extend spectropolarimetric survey to intermediate activity
  - Rotation-activity-magnetic field relations at intermediate rotation
  - Magnetic cycles on M dwarfs?



# M dwarfs' magnetism studies outside SLS

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- Very active stars
- Late SpT (Ultracool dwarfs)
- Complement SLS
  - volume-limited sample
- Improve statistics on M0-M6
  - Bistability?
  - Connection w/ TTS?
- M7-M9
  - relation w/ other obs?



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