

Near-IR spectropolarimetry of the strongly accreting T Tauri star RU Lup with SPIRou

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with Jean-François Donati, Hugo Nowacki, Karine Perraut

ANR YRISS

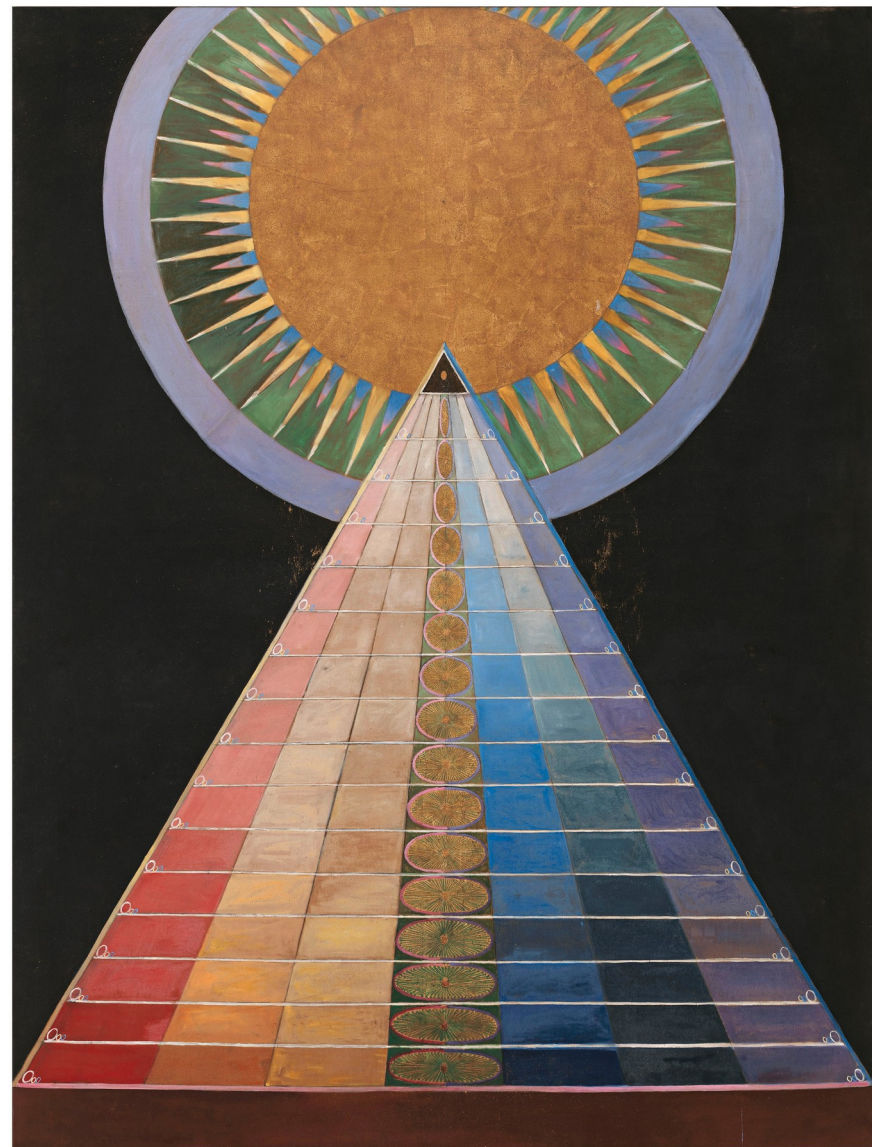
SF2A | Atelier ATPS

2026-06-24

Grenoble

Hilma af Klint

Altarpiece, No. 1, Group X, Altarpieces, 1907



RU Lup – why do we care?

RU LUP

A classical T Tauri star

Age	1-3 Myr
SpT	K7
d	158.9 ± 0.7 pc
M_*	$0.55 \pm 0.13 M_{\odot}$
i_*	$16 \pm 5^{\circ}$
$v \sin i$	$8.6 \pm 1.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$

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strongly accreting

\dot{M}_{acc} **$3 - 17 \times 10^{-8} M_{\text{sun}}/\text{yr}$**

e.g. Herczeg et al. (2005), Alcalá et al. (2014),
Alcalá et al. (2017), Stock et al. (2022), Wojtczak
et al. (2023), Wendeborn et al. (2024)

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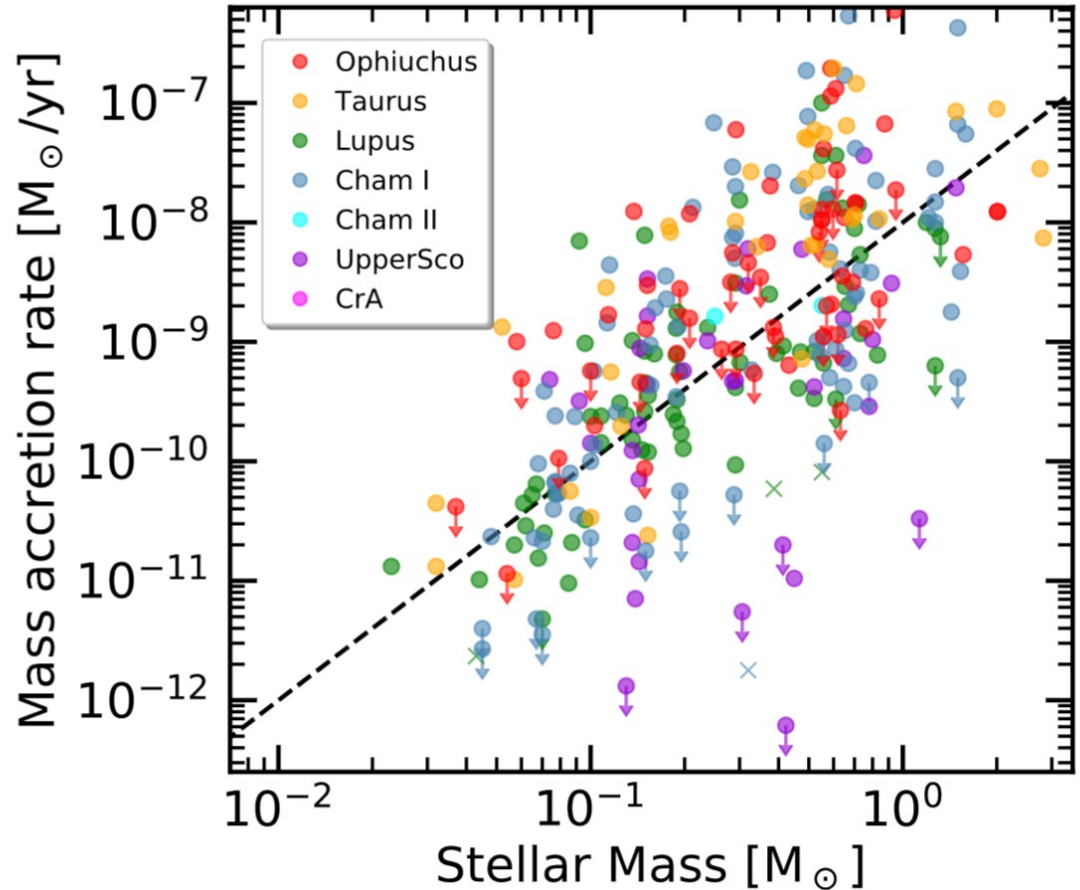
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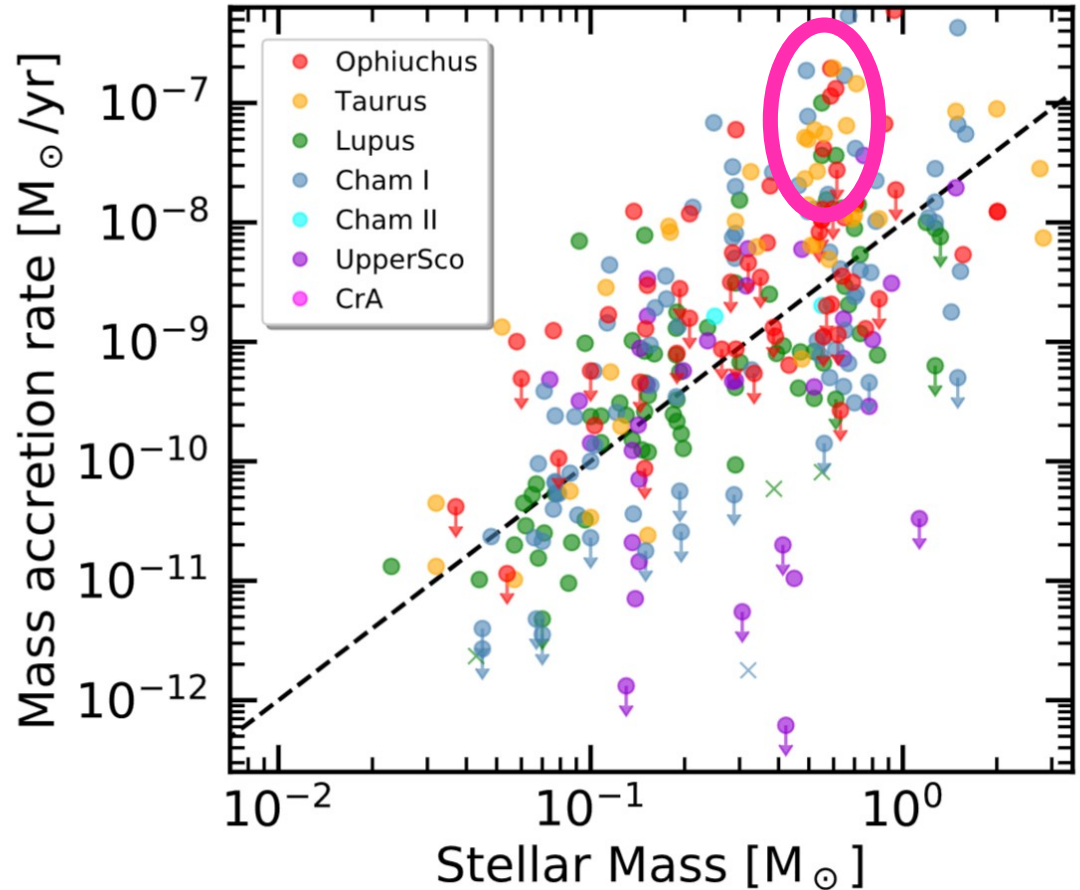
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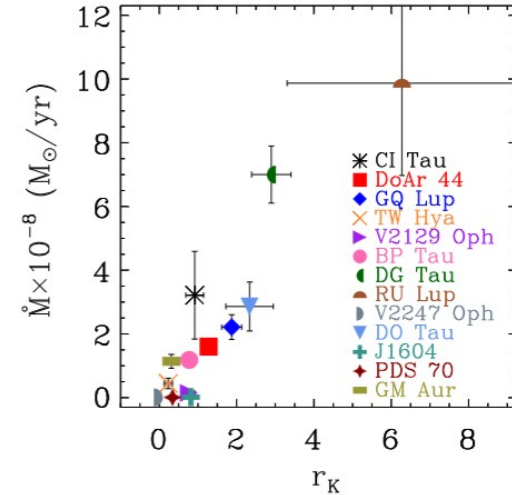
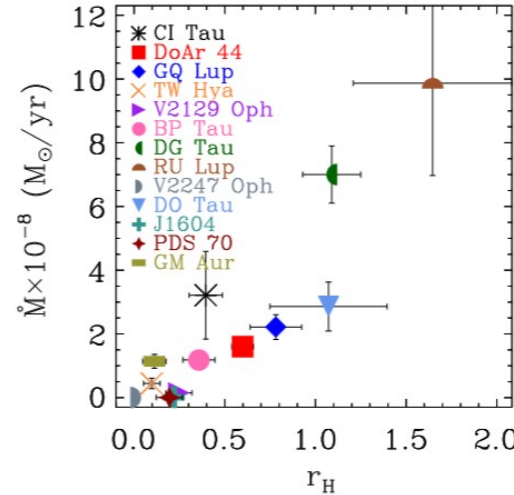
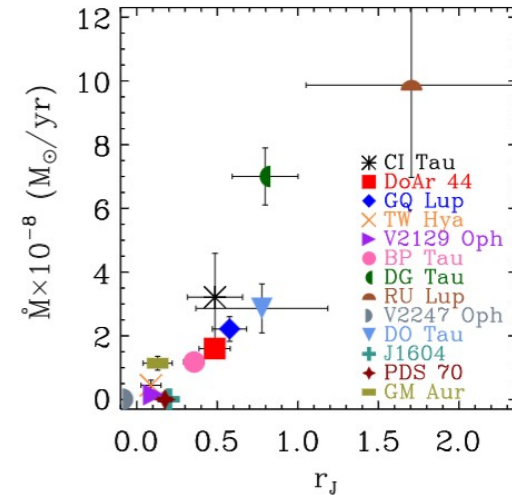
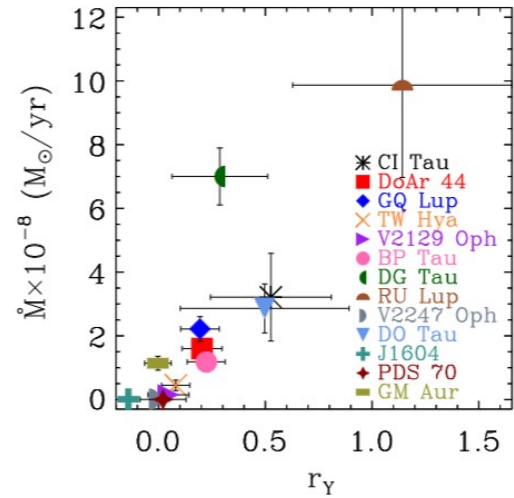
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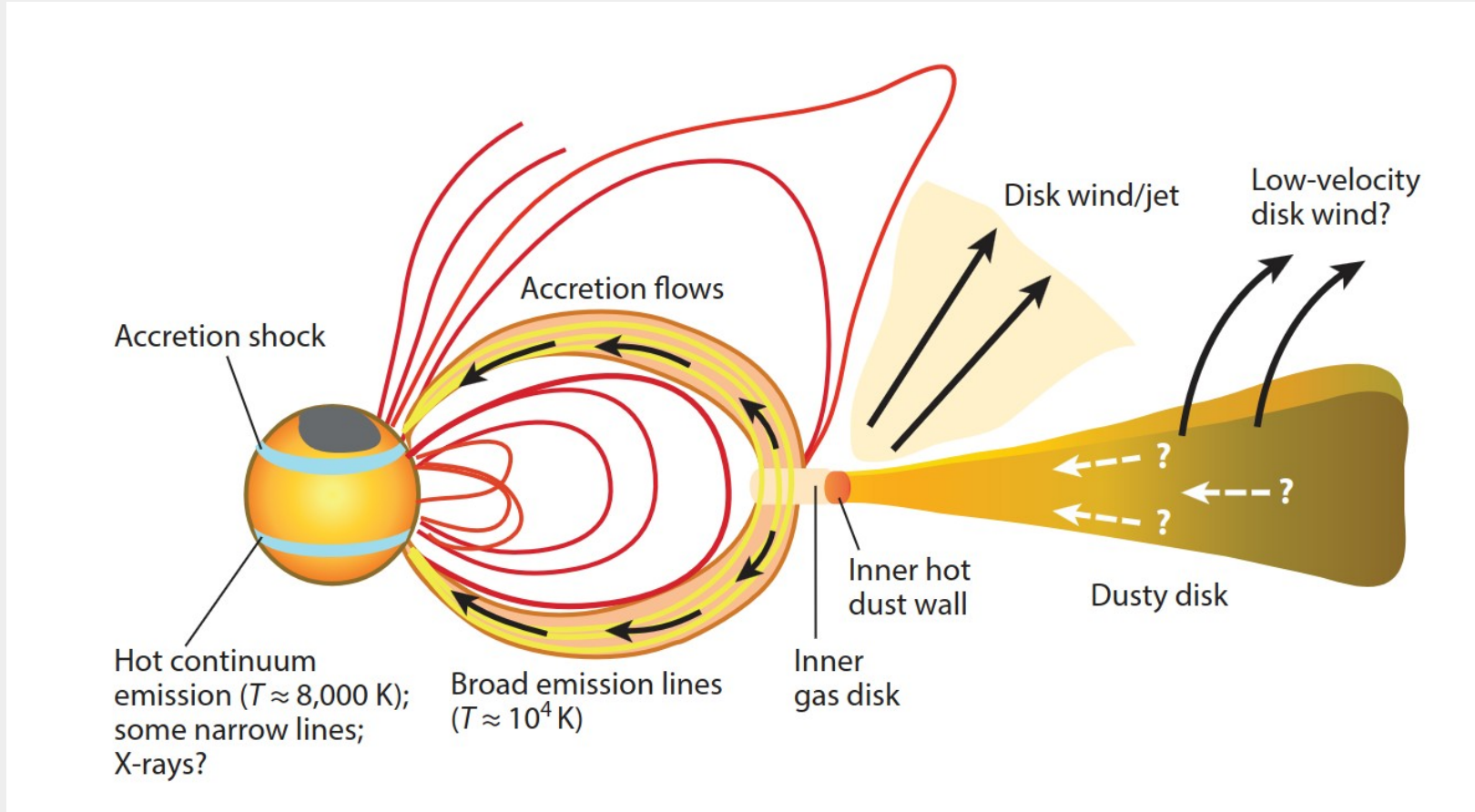
\dot{M}_{acc} $3 - 17 \times 10^{-8} M_{\text{sun}}/\text{yr}$

R_K 6.3 ± 3

Sousa et al. 2024



RU Lup – what about the magnetic field?



Hartmann, Herczeg, and Calvet (2016)

Our SPIRou spectropolarimetric observations

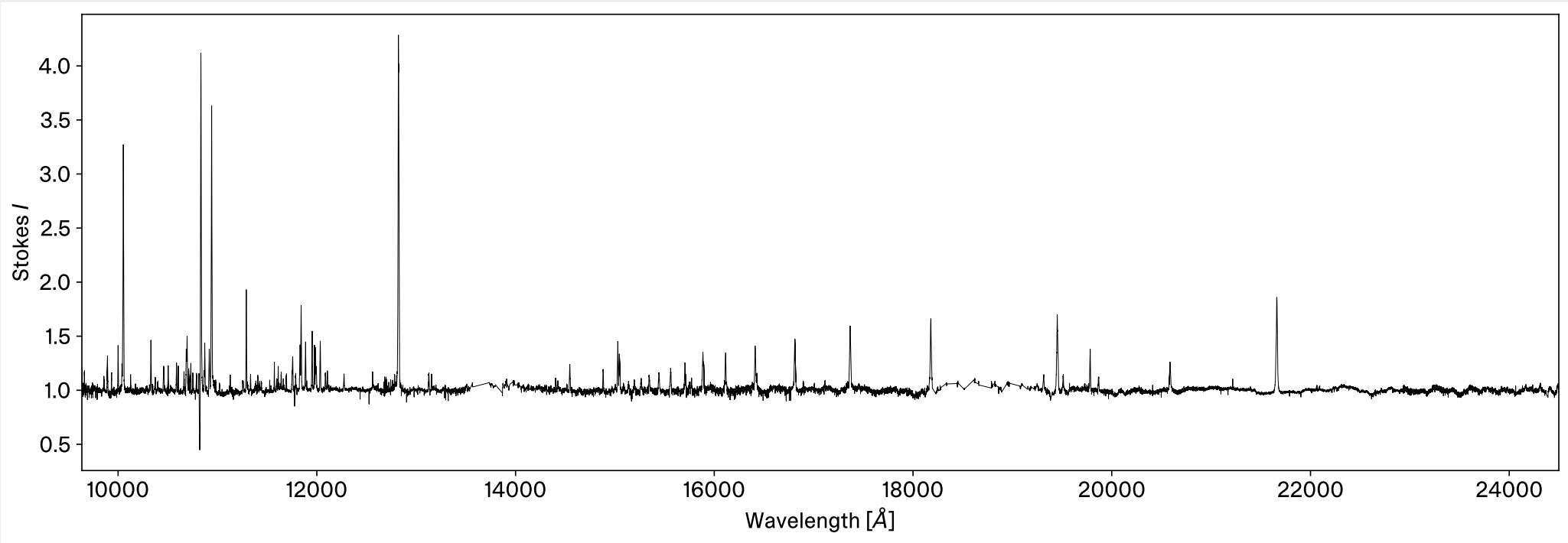
RU Lup was observed with **SPIRou** at CFHT

SPIRou: high-resolution spectropolarimeter in the near-infrared (950-2500 nm)

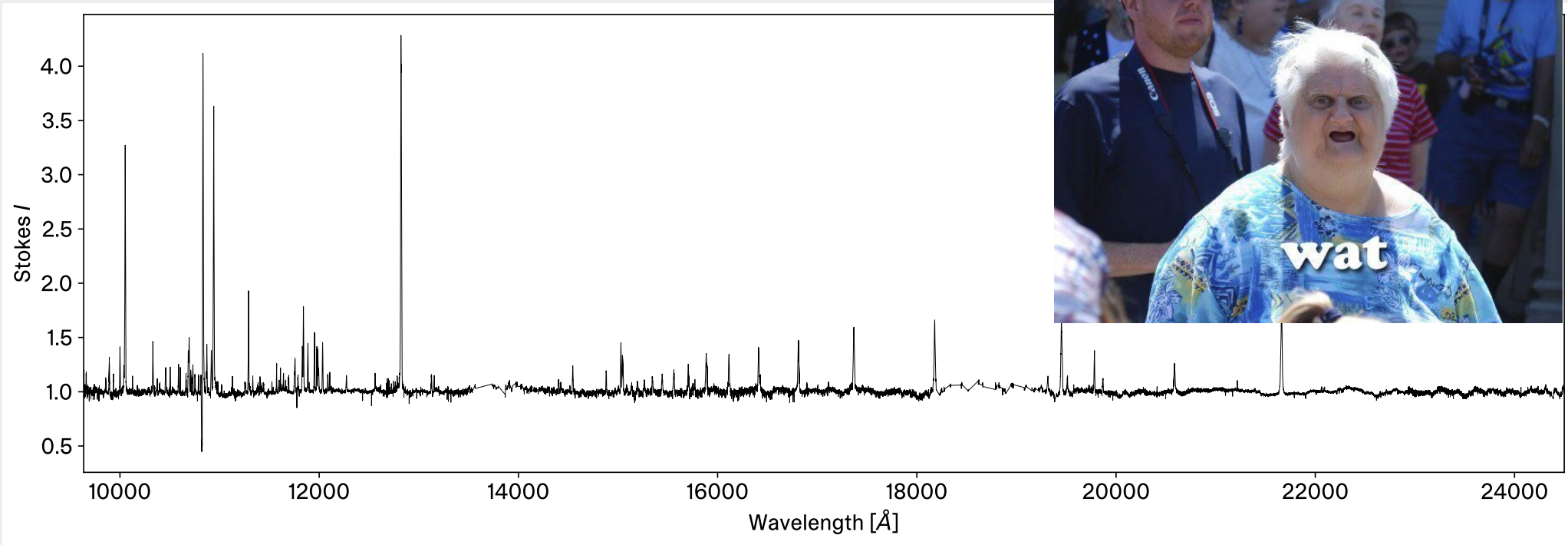
3 observing epochs:

- 2020: **9** visits between May 31 → Jul 10
- 2021: **30** visits between Jun 19 → Aug 26
- 2022: 1 visit on May 15

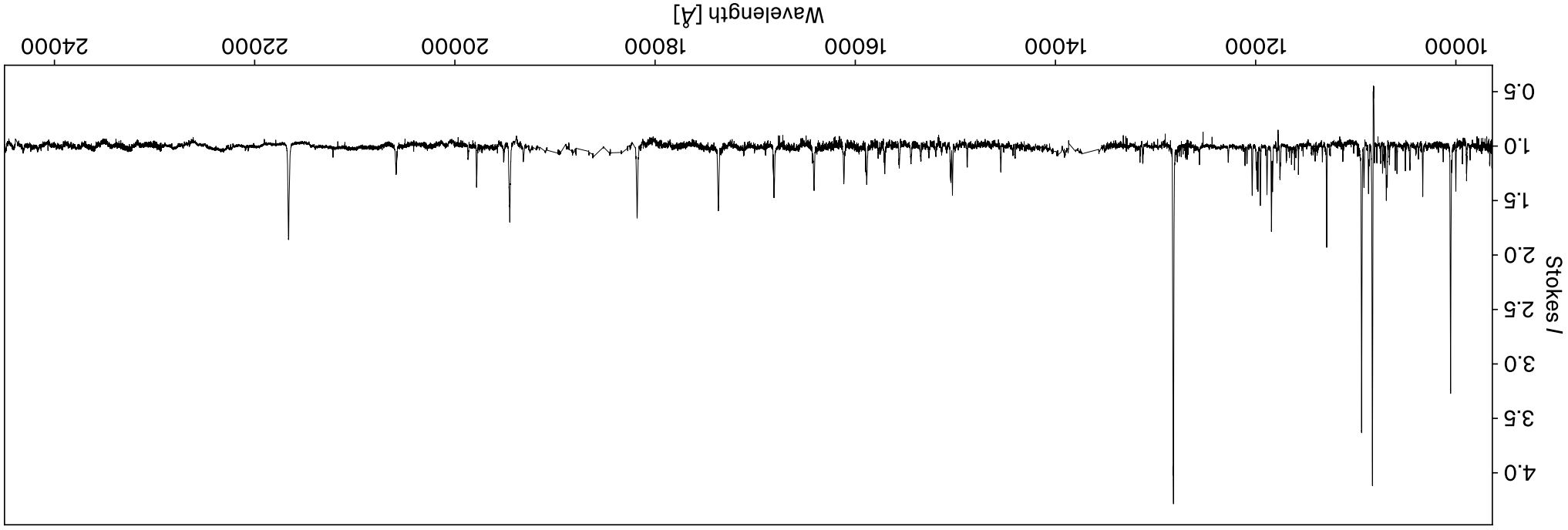
Intensity spectrum



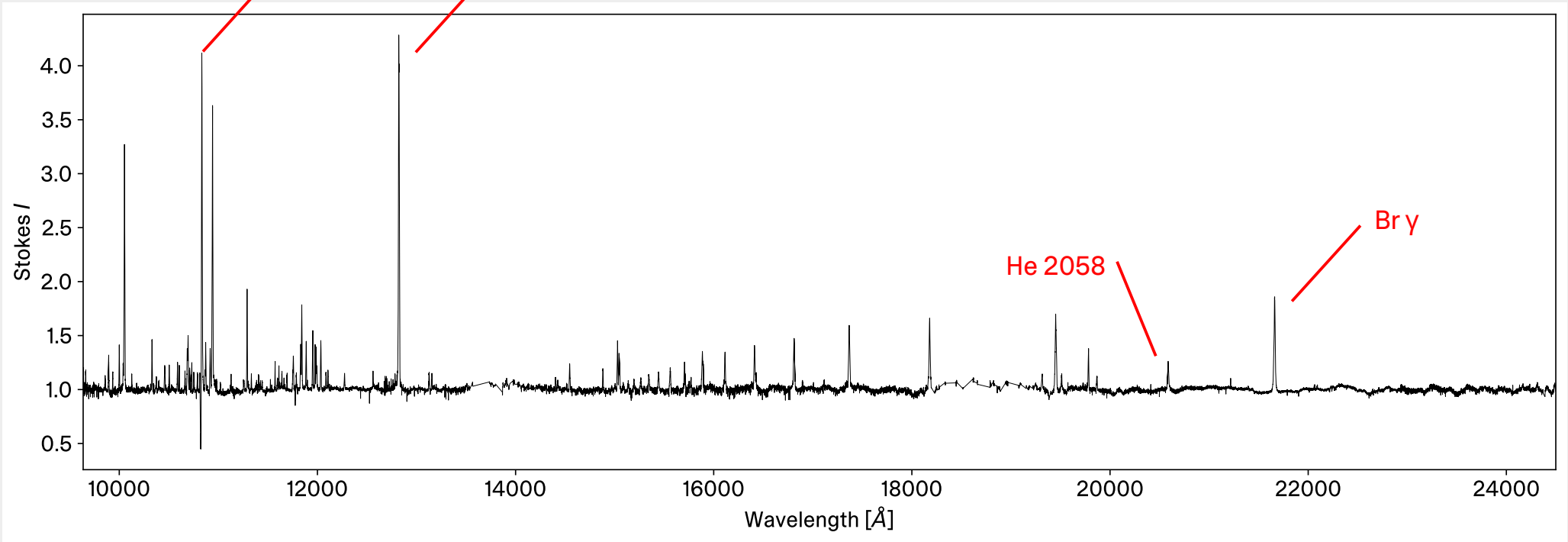
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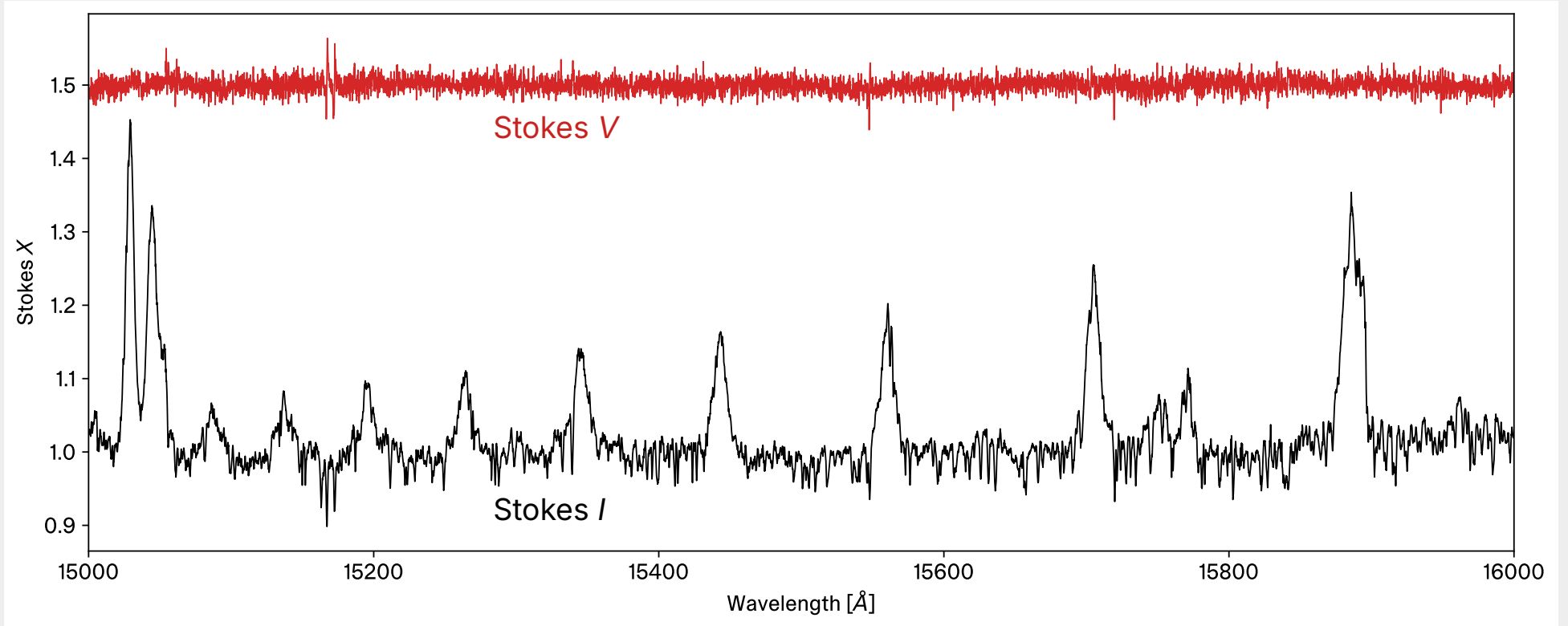
Intensity spectrum



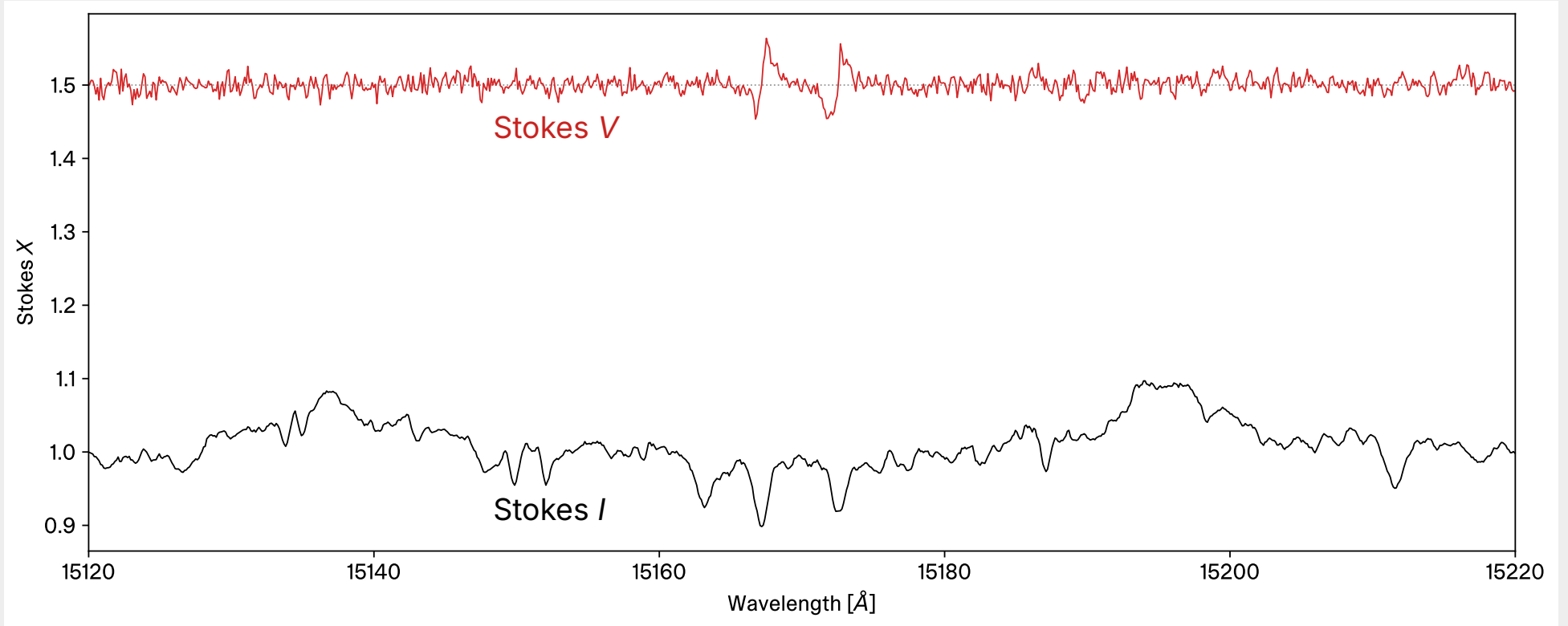
Intensity spectrum – emission lines



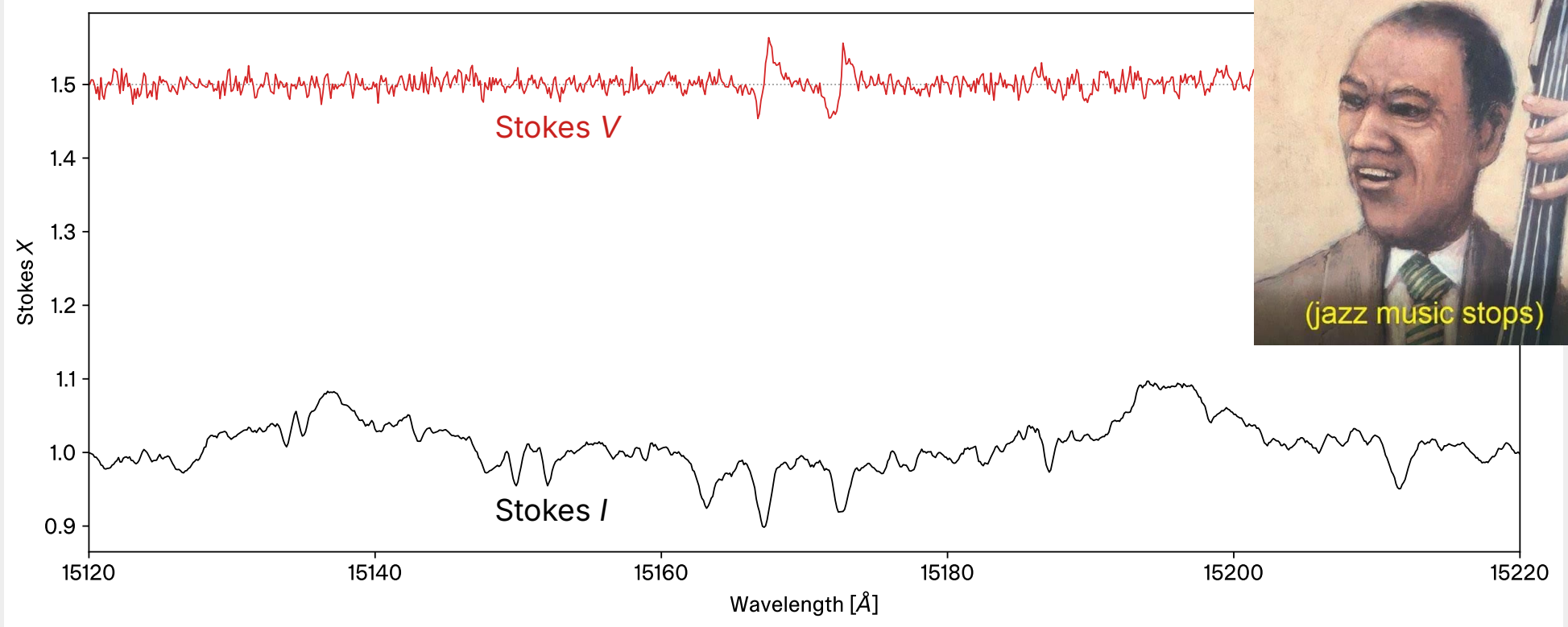
Polarized spectrum



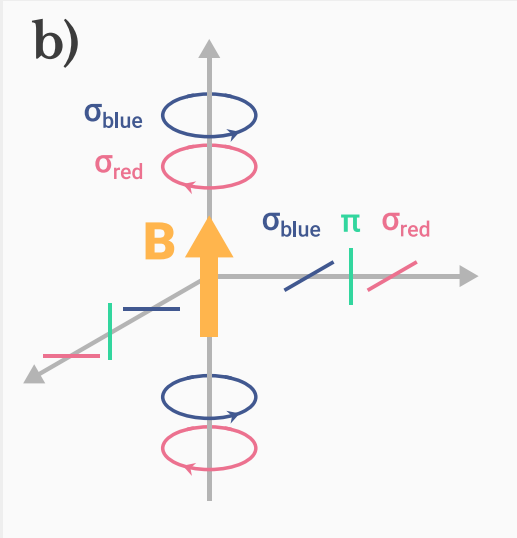
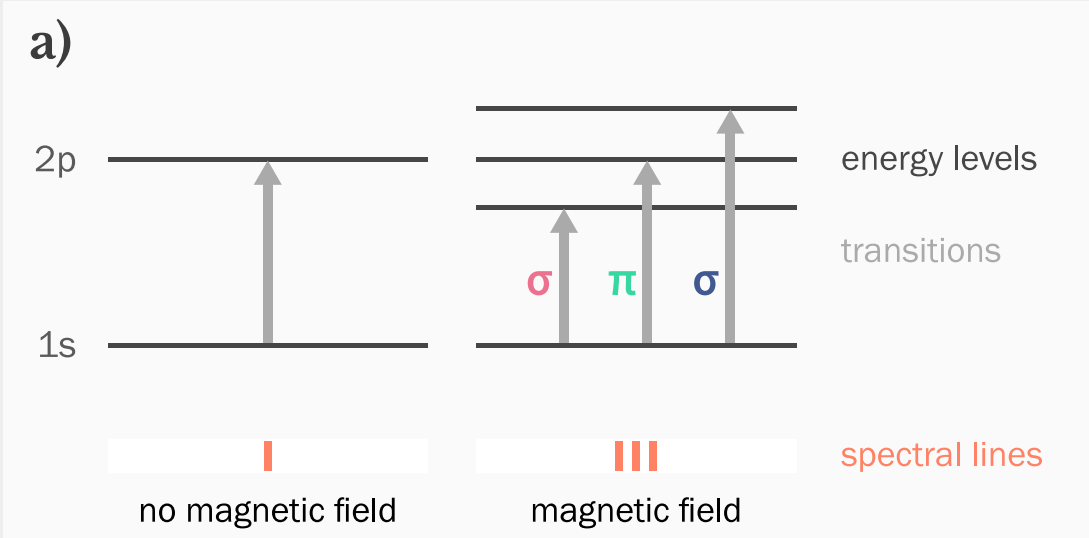
Polarized spectrum



Polarized spectrum

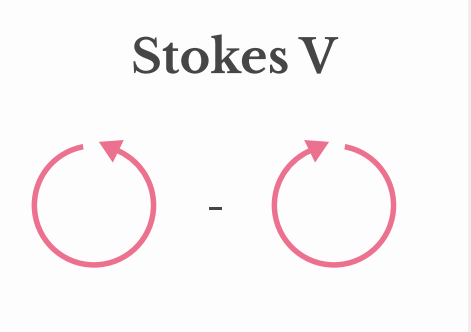
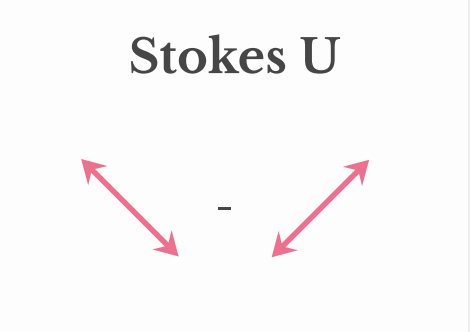
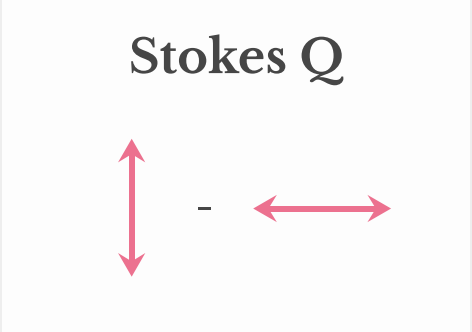


Zeeman effect

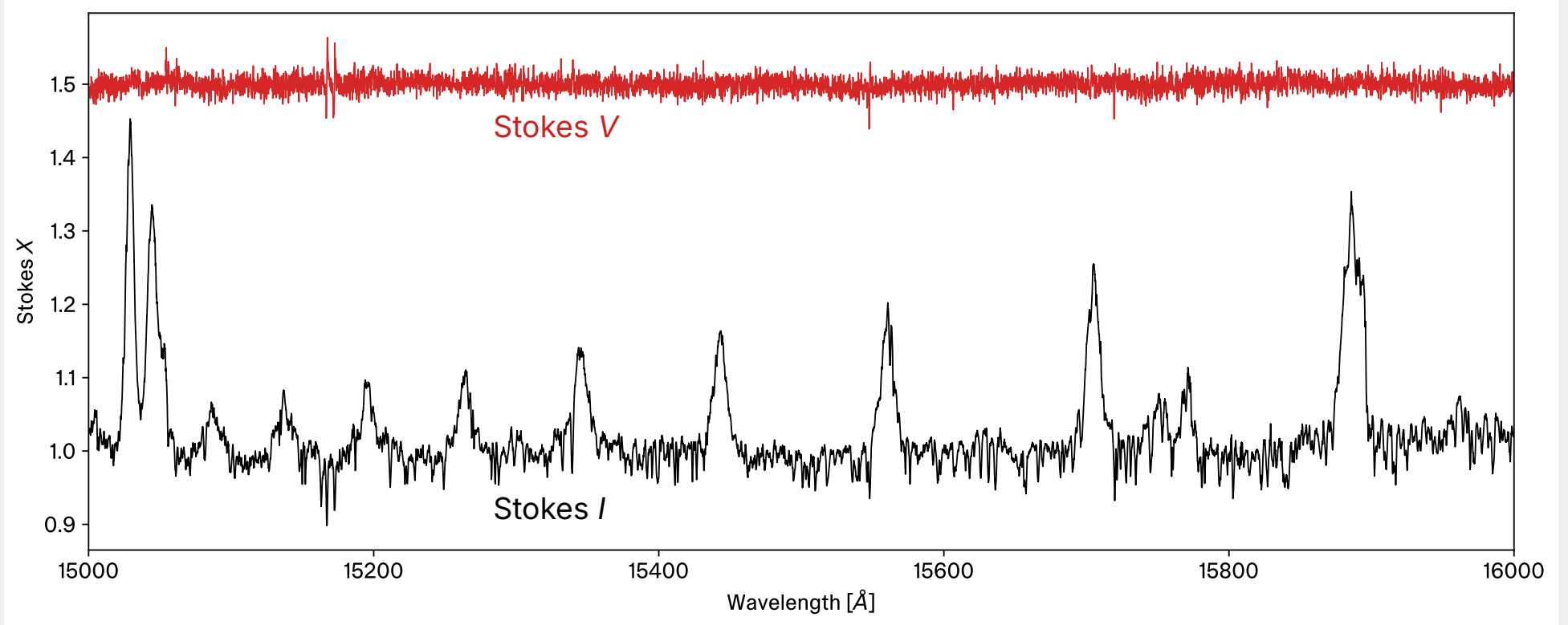


SMALL SCALES

LARGE SCALES



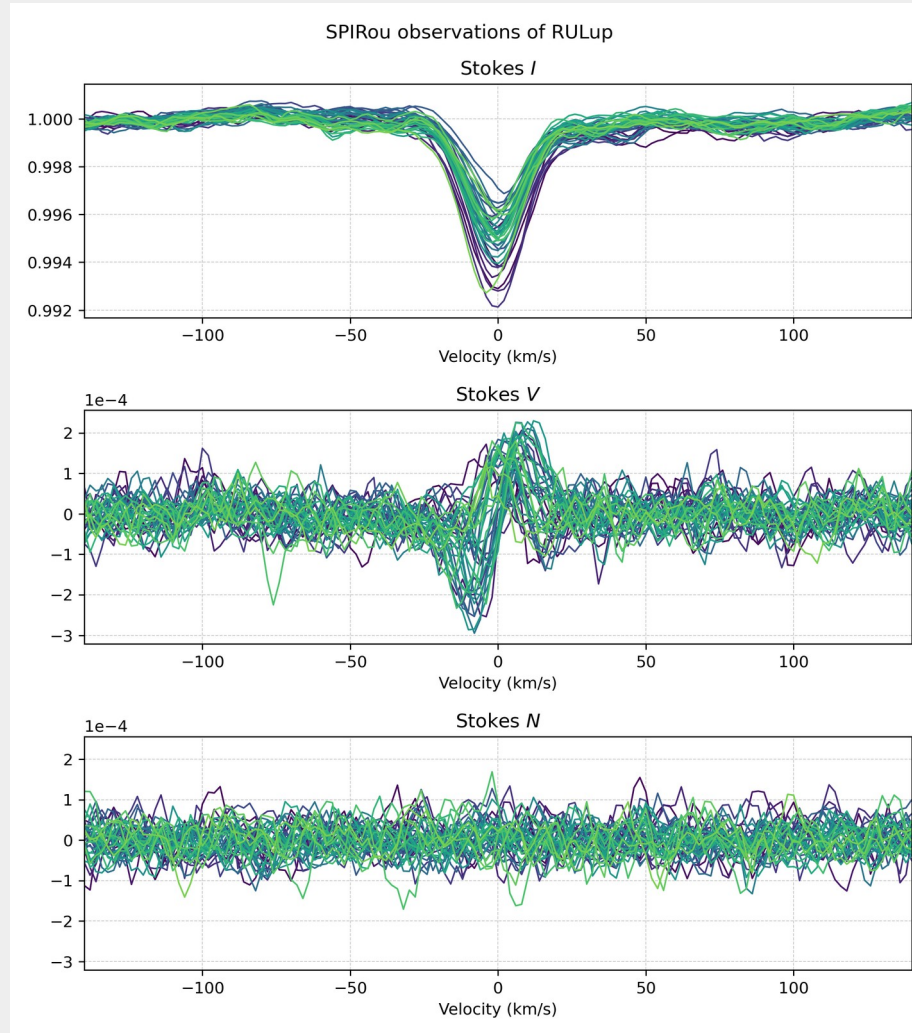
Our spectropolarimetric observations



Least squares deconvolution

Clear magnetic field detection for most epochs

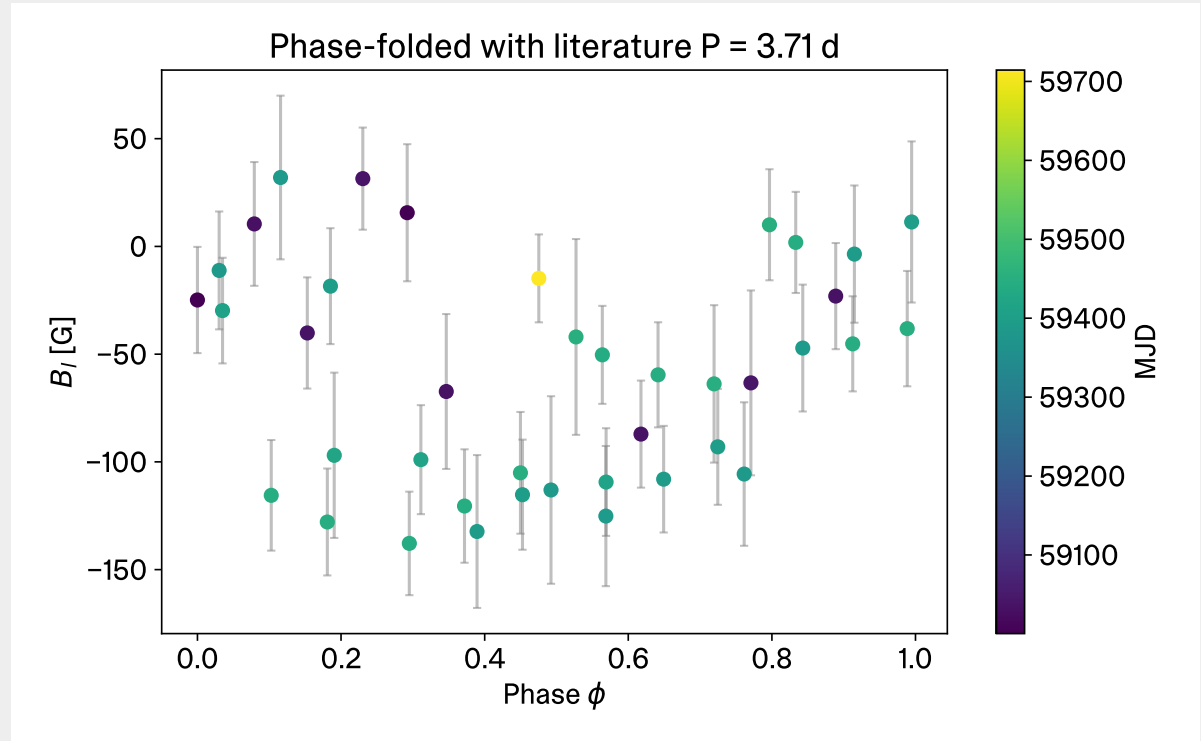
~1400 atomic lines deeper than 10% of the continuum



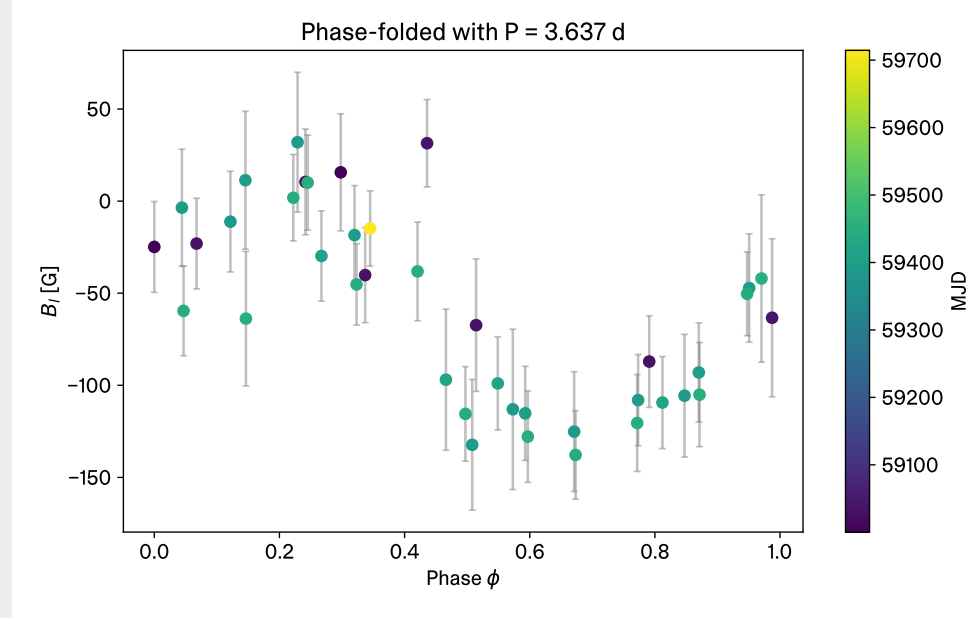
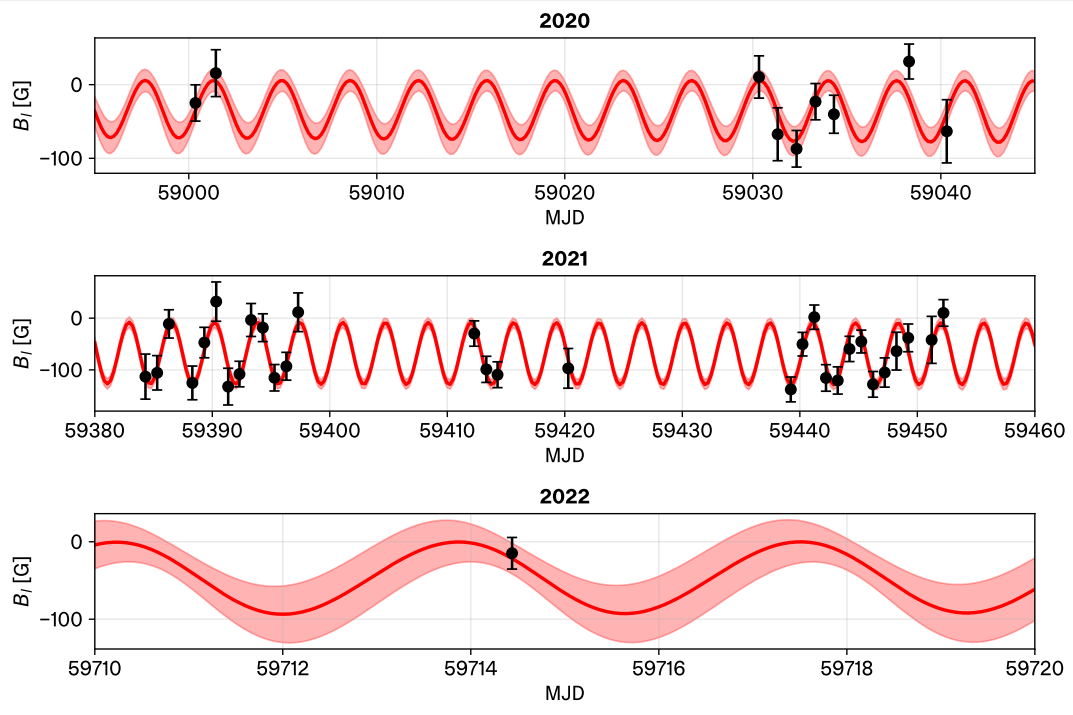
Mean longitudinal magnetic field

Integrating Stokes V and Stokes I, we can compute the **mean longitudinal magnetic field**

Folding with period from the literature, $P = 3.71058 \pm 0.0004$ days (Stempels et al. 2007), is not great

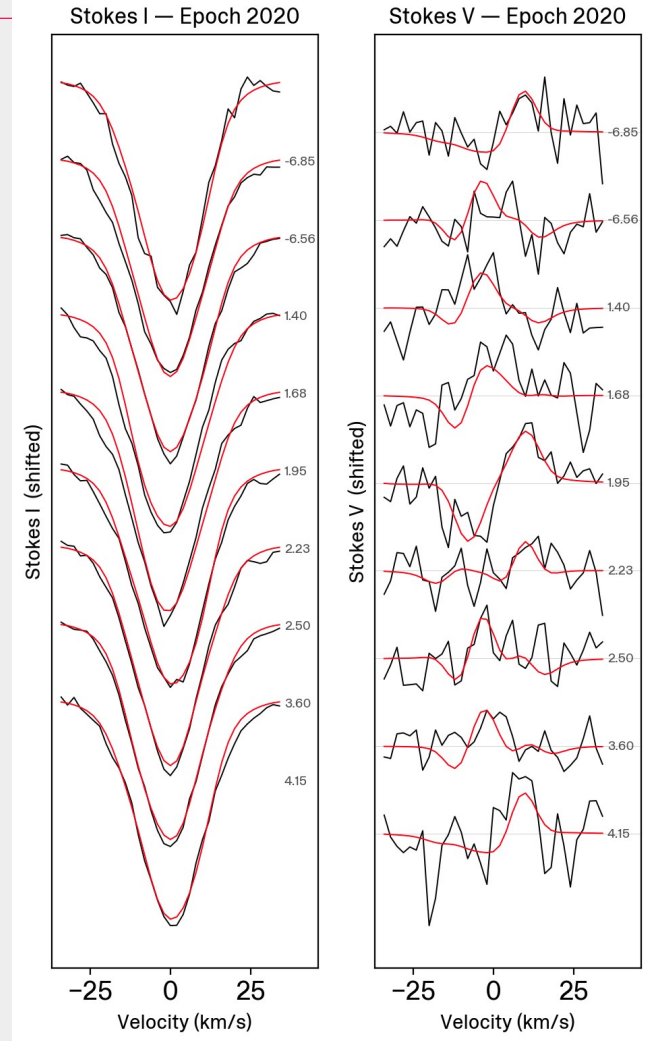
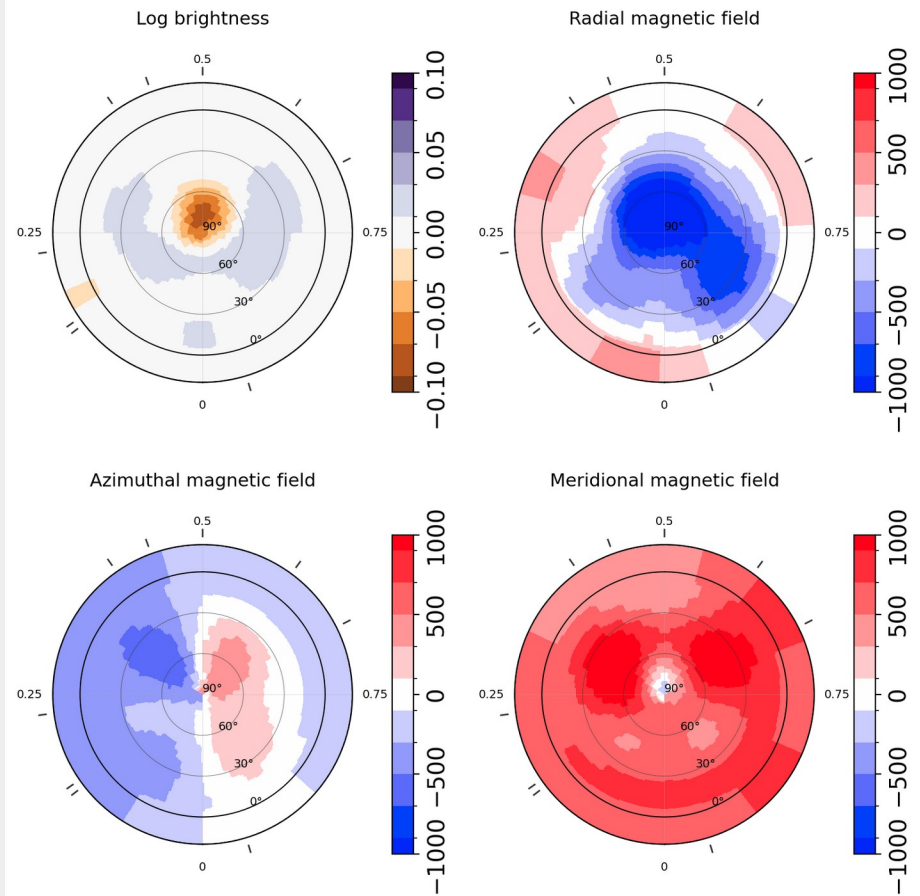


Rotation period determination



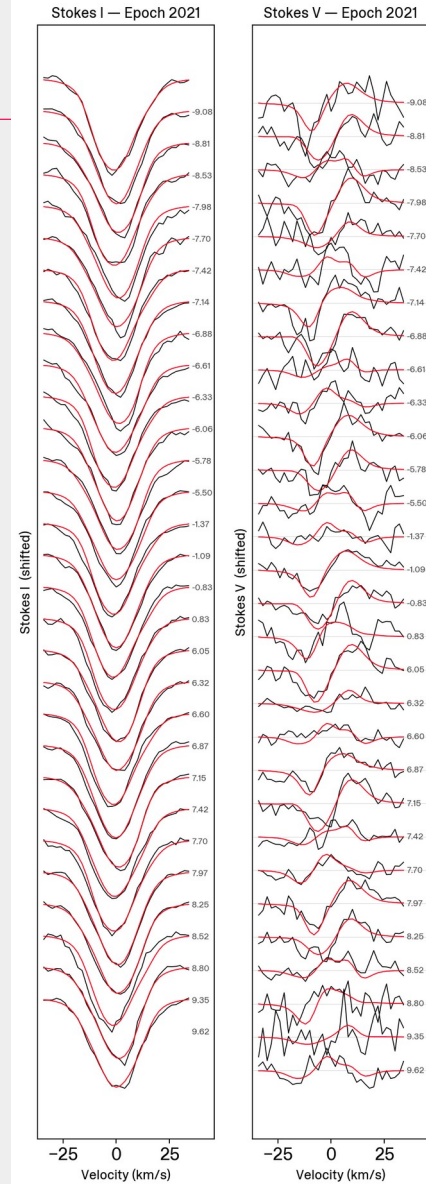
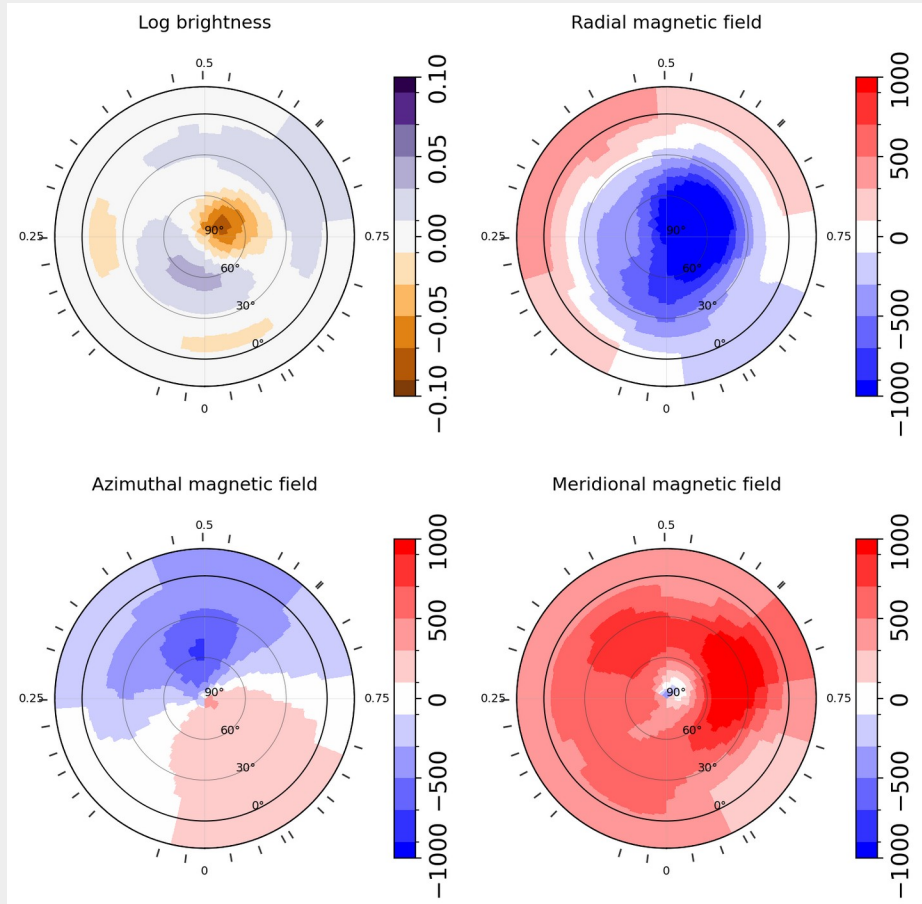
Zeeman Doppler Imaging

2020



Zeeman Doppler Imaging

2021



Zeeman Doppler Imaging

Epoch 2020

Poloidal/Toroidal split:

Poloidal: 80%

Toroidal: 20%

Axisymmetric/Non-axisymmetric:

Axisymmetric (m=0): 69%

Non-axisymmetric (m>0): 31%

Energy per l (% of total):

l=1 76.1% (pol 64.7%, tor 11.4%)

l=2 10.4% (pol 6.8%, tor 3.6%)

L=3 6.4% (pol 3.3%, tor 3.1%)

l=4 3.8% (pol 2.4%, tor 1.4%)

l=5 3.3% (pol 2.8%, tor 0.5%)

Dipole properties:

Polar strength: 1729 G

Tilt angle: 16 deg from rotation axis

Epoch 2021

Poloidal/Toroidal split:

Poloidal: 87%

Toroidal: 13%

Axisymmetric/Non-axisymmetric:

Axisymmetric (m=0): 65%

Non-axisymmetric (m>0): 35%

Energy per l (% of total):

l=1 73.5% (pol 69.5%, tor 4.0%)

L=2 13.9% (pol 9.0%, tor 4.9%)

l=3 7.3% (pol 4.3%, tor 3.0%)

l=4 3.3% (pol 2.5%, tor 0.8%)

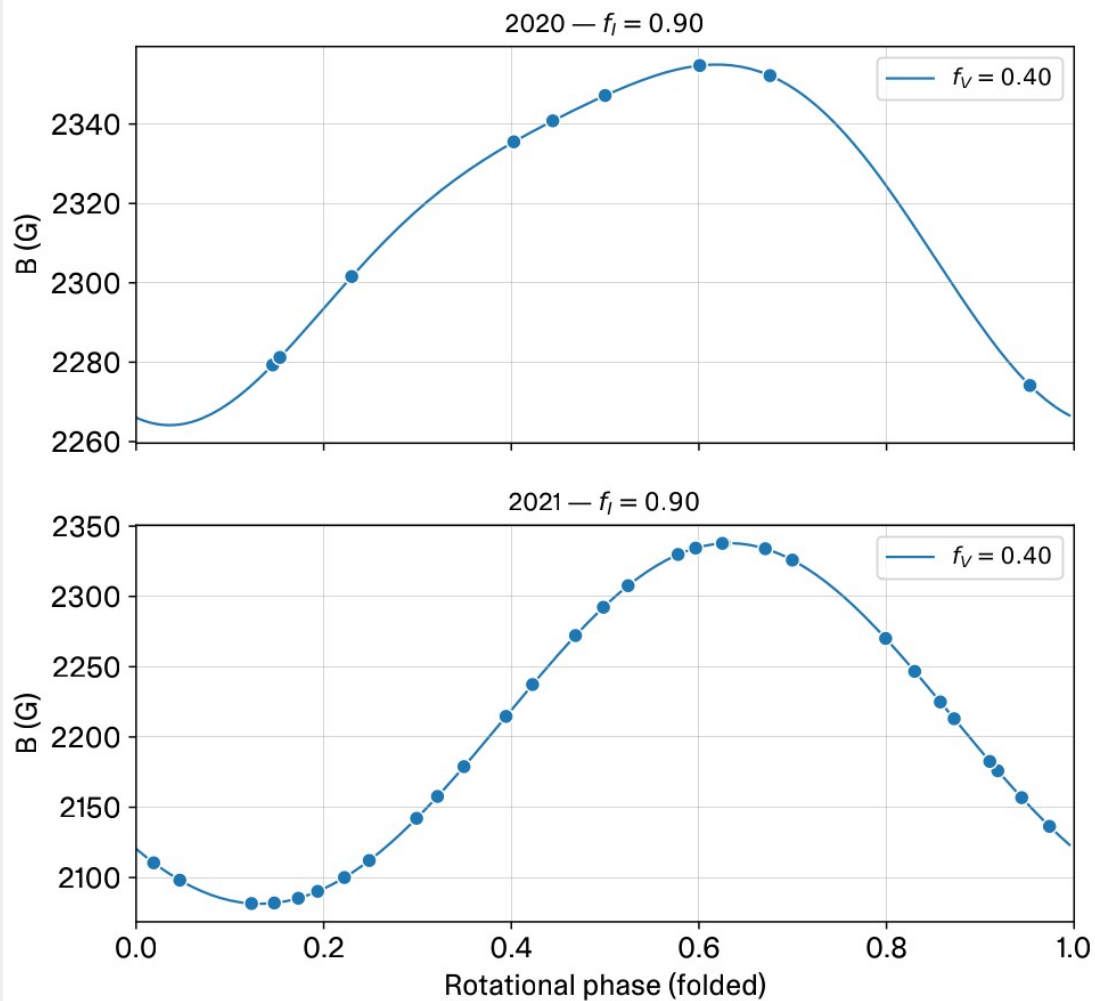
l=5 2.0% (pol 1.7%, tor 0.3%)

Dipole properties:

Polar strength: 1787 G

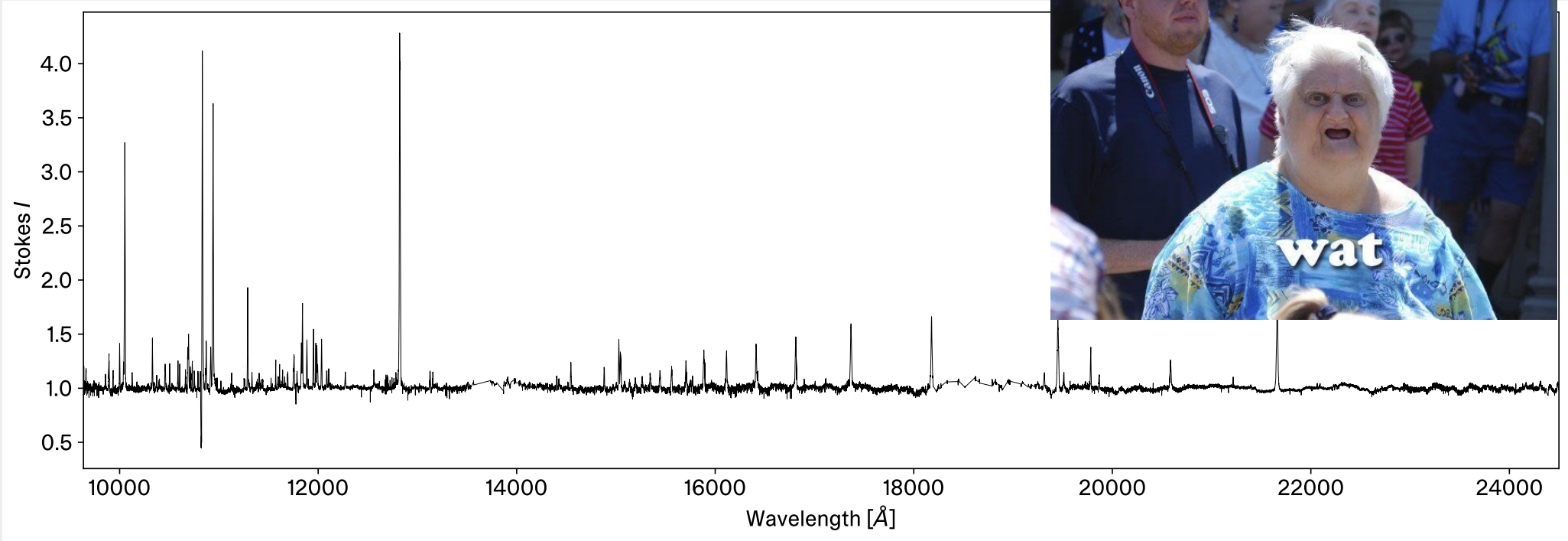
Tilt angle: 24 deg from rotation axis

Zeeman Doppler Imaging

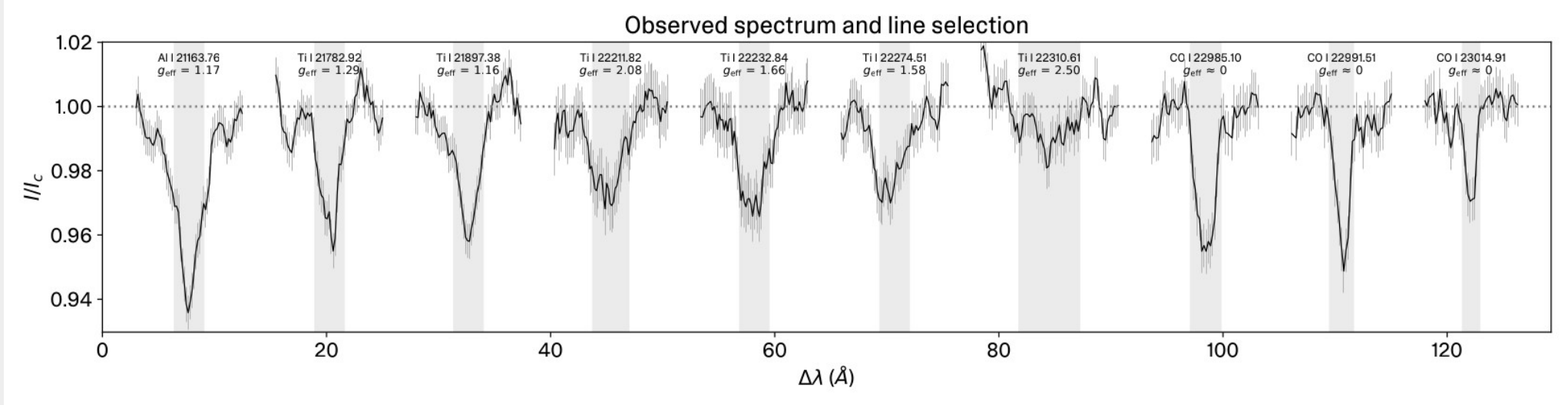


From our ZDI map, we can predict the small-scale field recoverable from Zeeman broadening.

Zeeman broadening

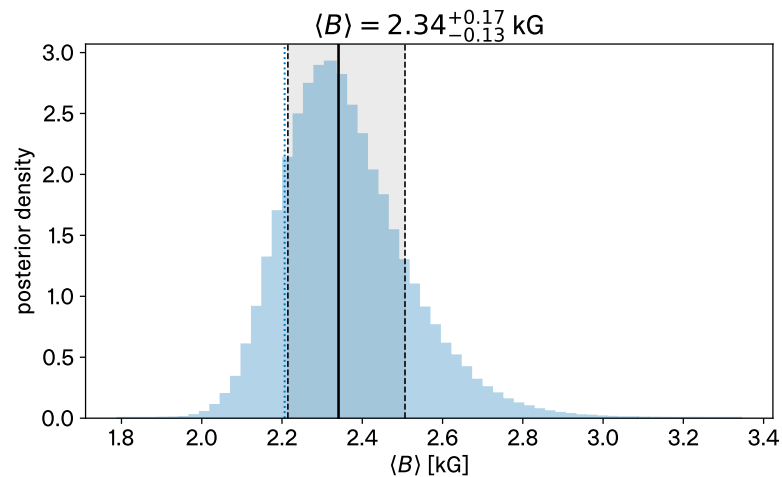
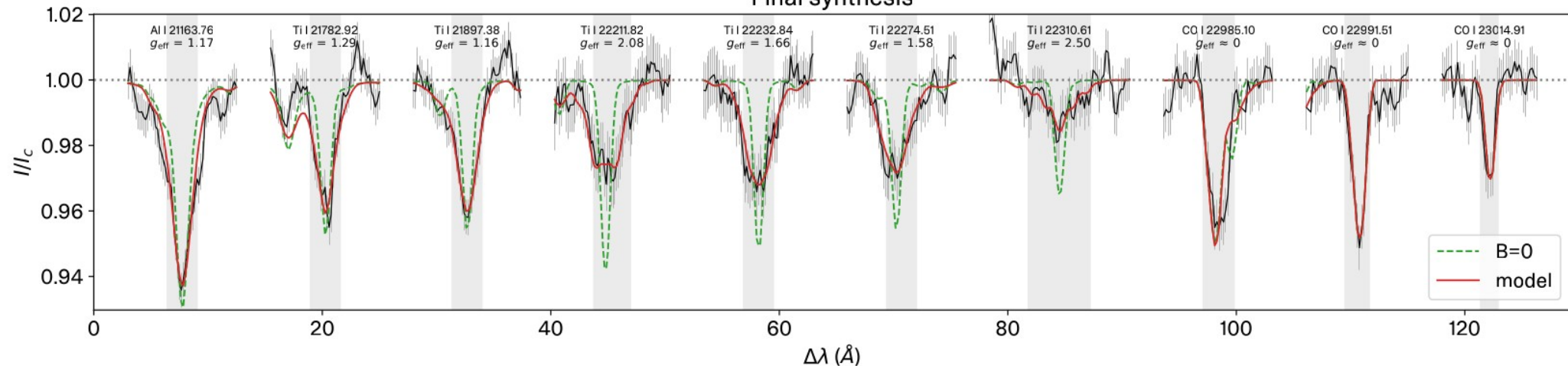


Zeeman broadening



Zeeman broadening

Final synthesis



Conclusion

RU Lup (**strongly accreting** cTTS): 3 seasons of **SPIRou** spectropolarimetry (2020-2022)

- Clear Zeeman detections
- Rotation period refined to **$P = 3.637$ d**
- Large-scale field (ZDI): mainly **poloidal** (80-87%) and **axisymmetric** (~65-70%), **dipole-dominated**
- Field topology **stable** between the 2020 and 2021 epochs
- Total (small-scale) field from Zeeman broadening **~2.3 kG** (Zeeman broadening)

Outlook

- Connect field topology to accretion; link with GRAVITY observations ([Hugo Nowacki](#))
- Extend to more epochs / cTTS