

# Intensity Correlations for Stars

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# Outline

- 1) Optical astrophysical imaging  
and Hanbury-Brown and Twiss experiments**
- 2) Intensity correlations**
- 3) HBT revival : on-sky intensity correlations from  
2017-2023**
- 4) IC4Star project**
  - **Ultrahigh angular resolution : Sirius B**
  - **Quantum optics : random lasing in space**

# Intensity Correlation team in Nice



R.K.



W. Guerin



M. Hugbart



G. Labeyrie

former postdocs and PhD :

A. Siciak

A. Dussaux

N. Matthews

Lagrange



F. Vakili



J.P. Rivet



O. Lai



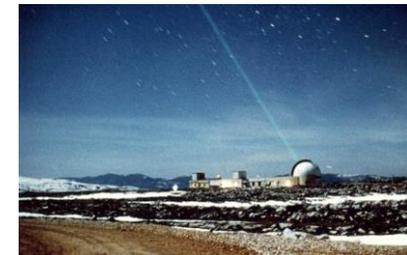
A. Domiciano



C. Courde



J. Chabé



+ external collaborators:

D. Rätzel, C. Pfeiffer (Germany)

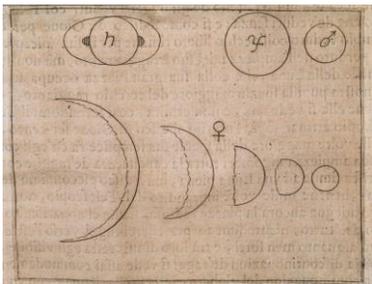
B. Castilho, M. Borges (Brazil)

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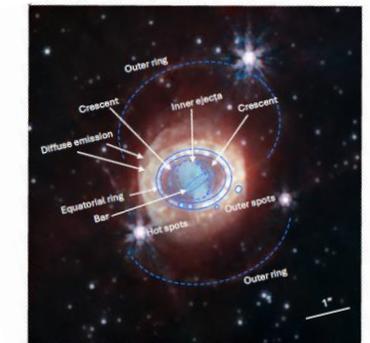
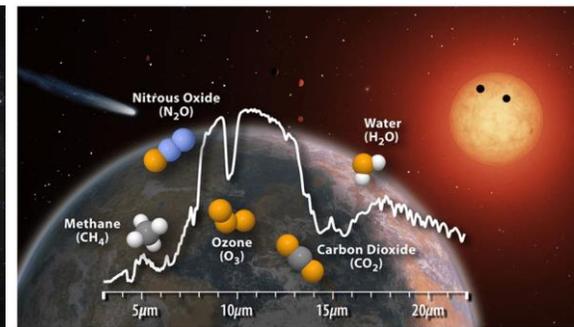
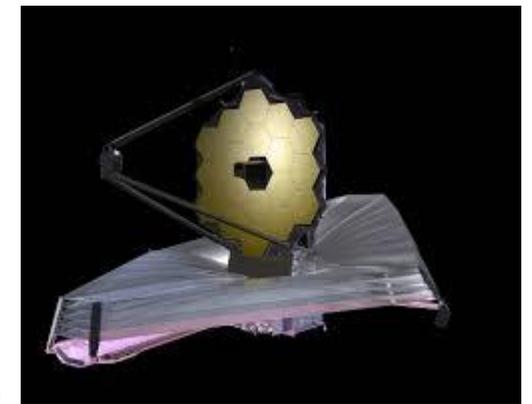
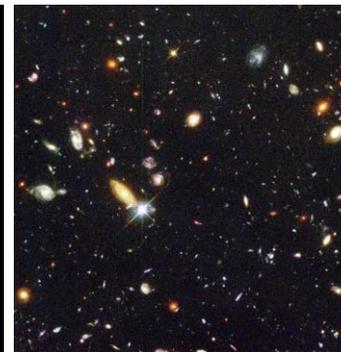
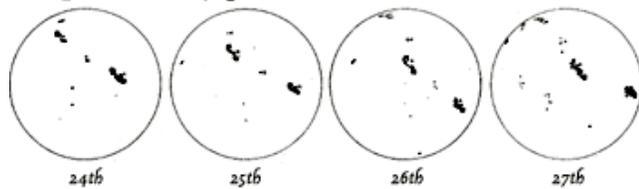
# From Galileo (1564-1642) to Hubble Telescope (1990-2026?) & JWST

## Direct imaging : **large telescopes**

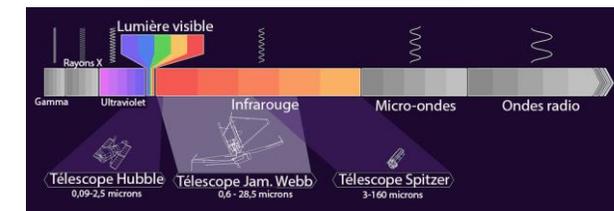


Phases of Venus

Sunspots drawn by Galileo, June 1612



Black holes, dark matter, exoplanets,  
universe expansion, biosignatures ...



# Interferometric imaging: large separation

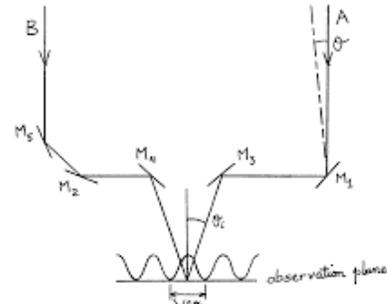
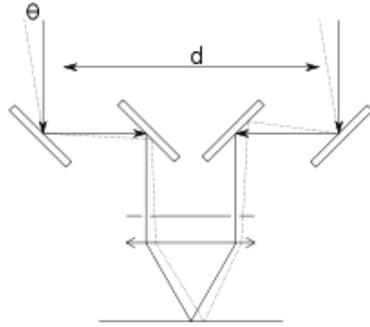
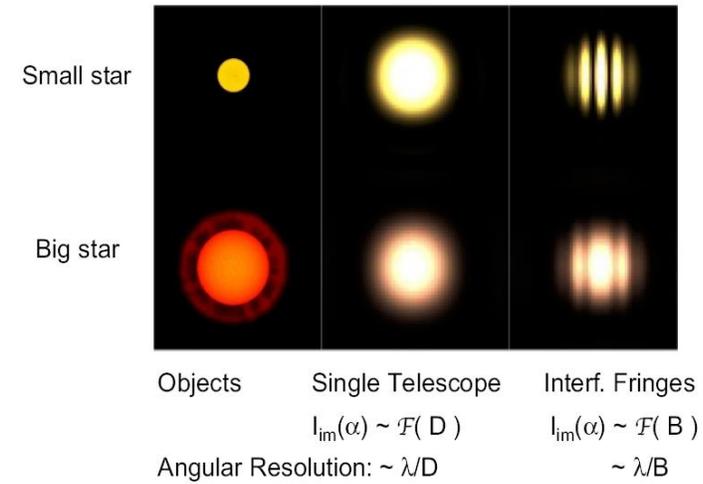
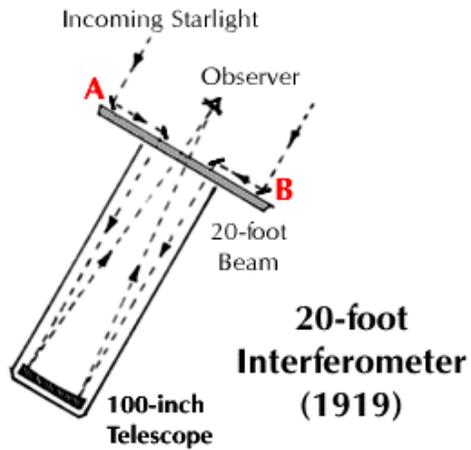
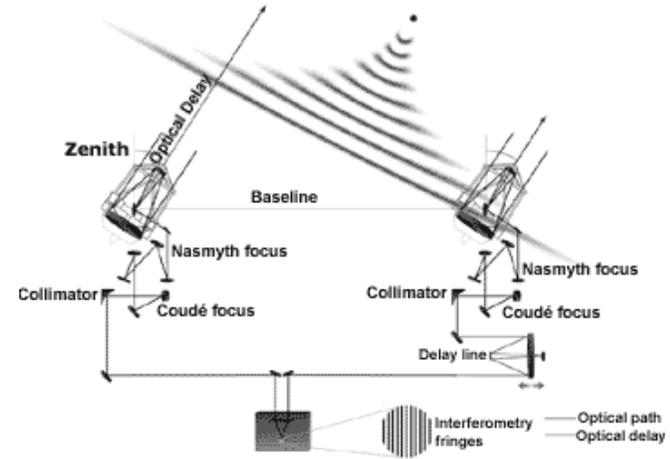
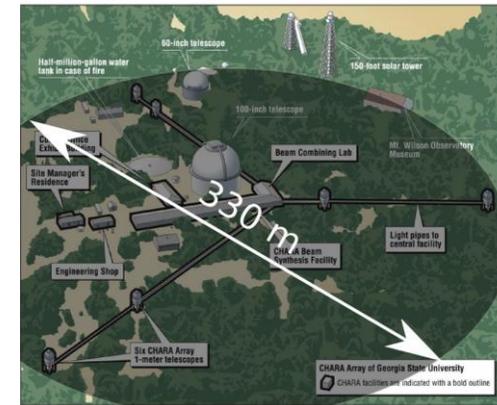
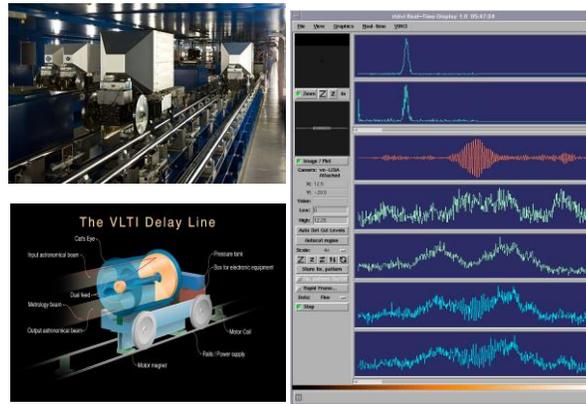
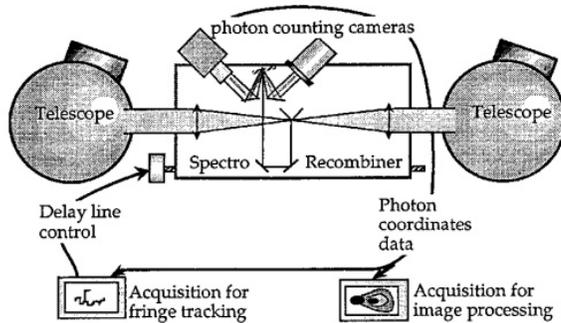


Fig. 3. Inverted Shear Interferometer  
Period of fringes varies with  $\theta$



# Interferometric imaging: large separation

From A. Labeyrie (12m) to VLTI (130-200m) and CHARA (330m)

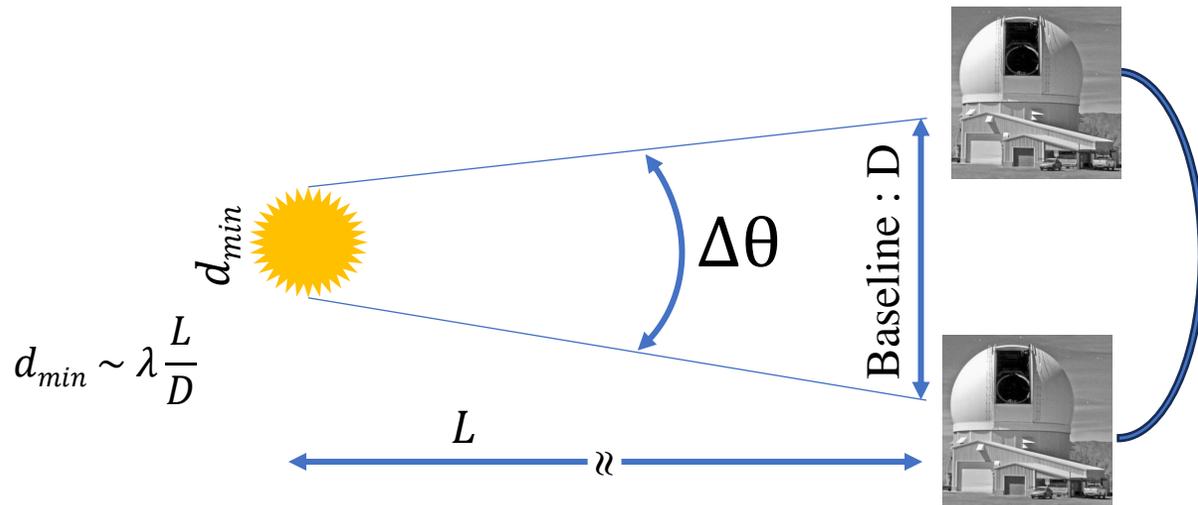


Calern (France)

Chili

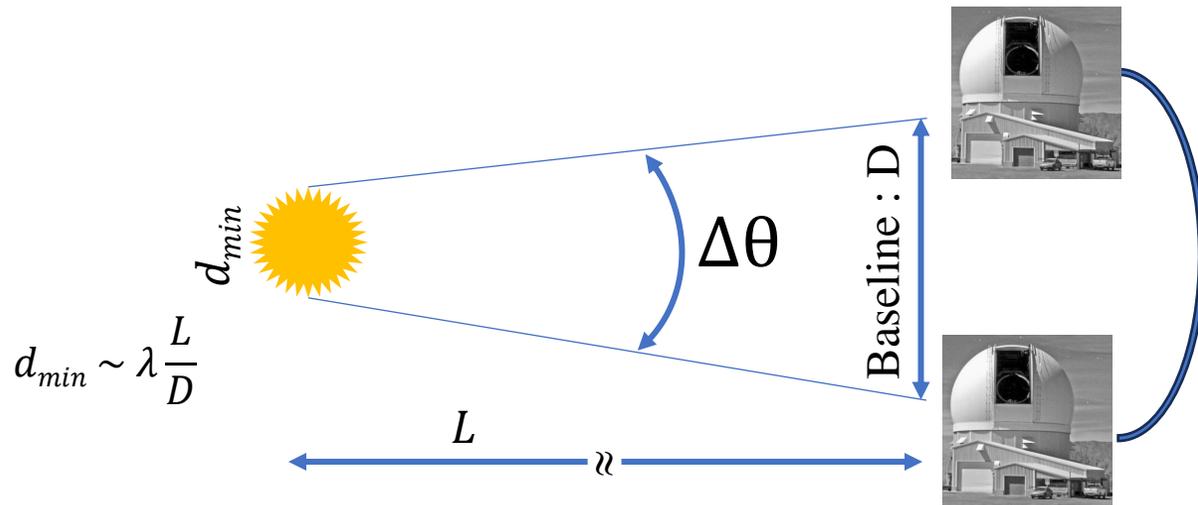
Mt Wilson (USA)

# High angular resolution for stars : $\Delta\theta \sim \frac{\lambda}{D}$



- i. interferometric recombination  
(VLTI, Chara, NPOI < 300m)

# High angular resolution for stars : $\Delta\theta \sim \frac{\lambda}{D}$



- i. interferometric recombination  
(VLTI, Chara, NPOI < 300m)
- ii. **intensity correlations  $g^2(\mathbf{r})$**   
Hanbury Brown & Twiss



**Robert Hanbury Brown**  
radio-astronomer



**Richard Q. Twiss**  
applied mathematician

**1952:** First application of this idea to **radio astronomy**

[Hanbury Brown, Jennison & Das Gupta, *Nature* **170**, 1061 (1952)].

**1954:** The theory behind it [Hanbury Brown & Twiss, *Phil. Mag.* **45**, 663 (1954)].

**1956:** Lab experiment with **light** [Hanbury Brown & Twiss, *Nature* **177**, 27 (Jan. 1956)].

**1956:** Measurements on a **star** [Hanbury Brown & Twiss, *Nature* **178**, 1046 (Nov. 1956)].

# A TEST OF A NEW TYPE OF STELLAR INTERFEROMETER ON SIRIUS

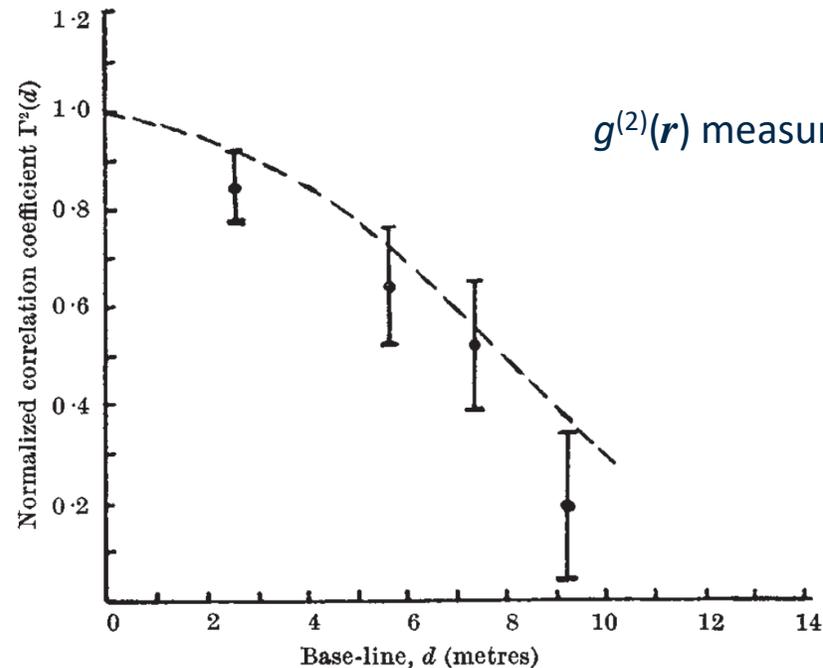
By R. HANBURY BROWN

Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, University of Manchester

AND

DR. R. Q. TWISS

Services Electronics Research Laboratory, Baldock



$g^{(2)}(r)$  measured on **Sirius**, the brightest star in the visible.

Two telescopes of 1.56 m diameter  
Separation up to 9 m

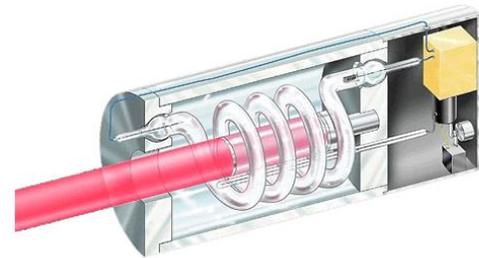
→ First direct measurement of the angular  
diameter:  $6.8 \pm 0.5$  mas

Hanbury Brown & Twiss, *Nature* **178**, 1046 (1956)

## 1956-1957: Some **controversy** on the Hanbury Brown & Twiss effect

- Brannen & Ferguson, *Nature* (Sept. 1956): unsuccessful experiment in the photon counting regime, claim that the HBT effect contradicts quantum mechanics !
- HBT, *Nature* (Dec. 1956): the other experiments were not sensitive enough !
- Purcell, *Nature* (Dec. 1956): no conflict with QM (“clumping” of bosons).

*(1960: Invention of the laser, which behaves differently!)*



**1961:** Interpretation in term of interference between paths of indistinguishable particles

[Fano, *Am. J. Phys.* **29**, 539 (1961)].

**1963:** Theory of quantum coherence, based on correlation functions  
[Glauber, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **10**, 84 (1963); *Phys. Rev.* **130**, 2529 (1963)].

**Quantum theory : R. Glauber (1963 => Nobel 2005 )** 

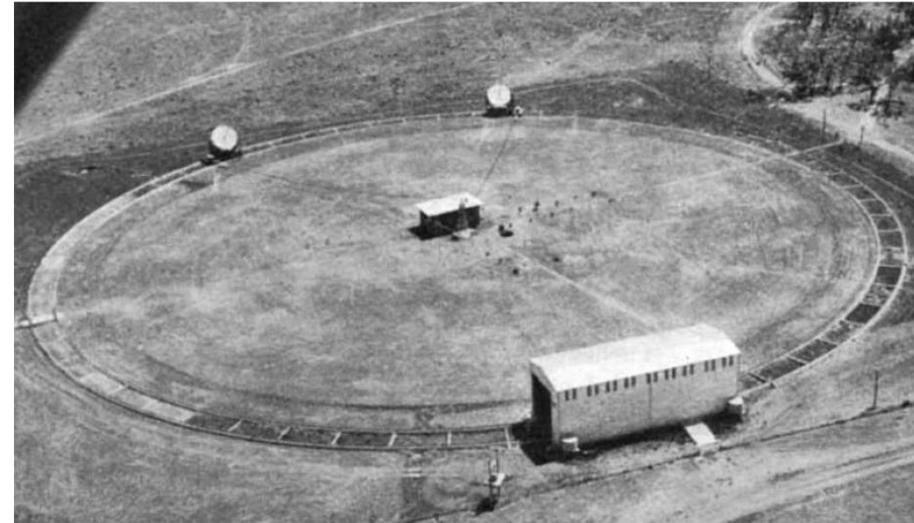
HBT experiment : milestone in the development of quantum optics  
&  
photon correlations are still the daily bread of quantum opticians

# The Narrabri stellar intensity interferometer

**Early 1960s:** Construction of a dedicated observatory at Narrabri, Australia

**1963 – 1972:** Angular diameters of **32 bright stars**  
+ study of several binaries

Two huge collectors (  $\varnothing = 6.7$  m )  
on a circular trail (  $\varnothing = 188$  m )  
→ adjustable baseline size and orientation



Hanbury Brown, Davis & Allen, *MNRAS* **137**, 375 (1967).

Hanbury Brown, Davis, Allen & Rome, *MNRAS* **137**, 396 (1967).

Hanbury Brown, *Nature* **218**, 637 (1968).

Hanbury Brown, Hazard, Davis & Allen, *MNRAS* **148**, 103 (1970).

Herbison-Evans, Hanbury Brown, Davis & Allen, *MNRAS* **151**, 161 (1971).

Hanbury Brown, Davis & Allen, *MNRAS* **167**, 121 (1974).

## 70' : Intensity interferometry stopped !

The big issue of intensity interferometry:

the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is poor ☹

- very long integration time
- limited to brightest stars

Thus, although we can see how the limitations of the existing instrument might be removed, we have no plans at the moment to extend the programme. Until the data on single stars have been analysed and discussed by astronomers and astrophysicists at large, it will be too early to judge whether it would be worthwhile to extend the work. In the meantime, our programmes on peculiar objects have started and we are interested to see what they reveal.

Hanbury Brown, Nature, 1968



Antoine Labeyrie, Calern

After 1975: Competition of direct “amplitude”  
interferometry

→ much better SNR ☺

# Interferometric imaging

- **Stability / atmospheric turbulence (at  $\lambda$ )** ☹️ ☹️
- **Complex delay lines required** €€€ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️
- **Large Baselines** 😊 😊
- **Excellent Signal to Noise Ratio** 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊




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## Intensity correlations

- **Insensitive to atmospheric turbulence** 😊 😊
- **Insensitive to telescope imperfections** 😊
- **No new infrastructure required** €€€ 😊 😊 😊
- **Efficient at short wavelengths (blue)** 😊
- **Very large baselines** 😊 😊 😊 😊
- **Poor Signal to Noise Ratio** ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️



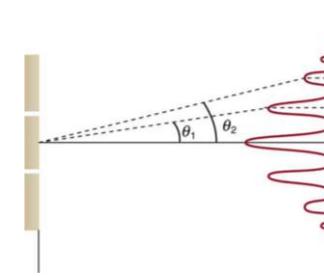
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# Intensity correlations : how does it work ?

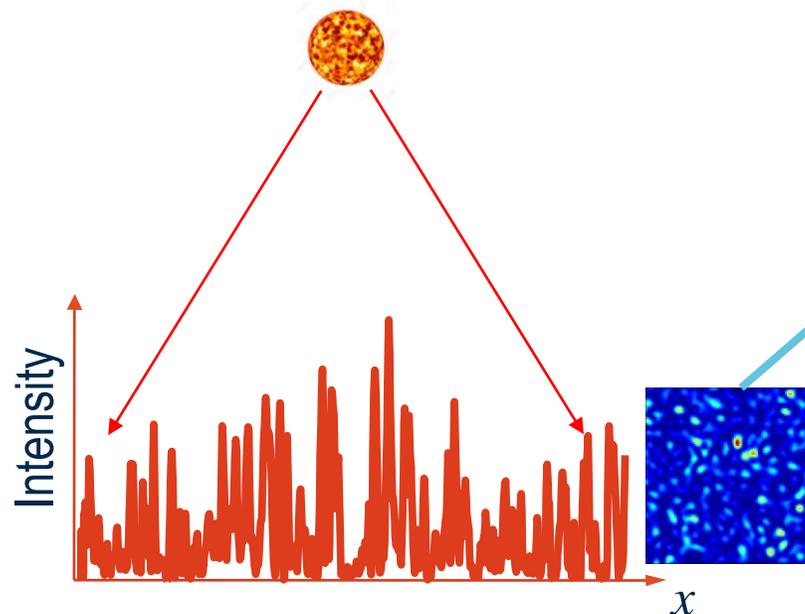
**Spatially incoherent source** (random phases)

Interference between 2 points from the sources: fringes



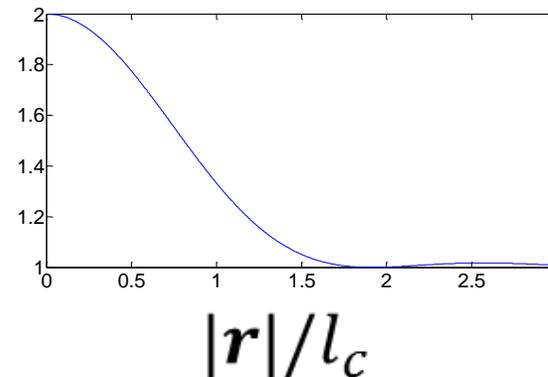
Extended source = many couples of points  $\rightarrow$  complex disordered pattern ('speckle').

$\rightarrow$  Not a white noise ! **Correlation length**  $l_c$  ('size of the speckle grain')

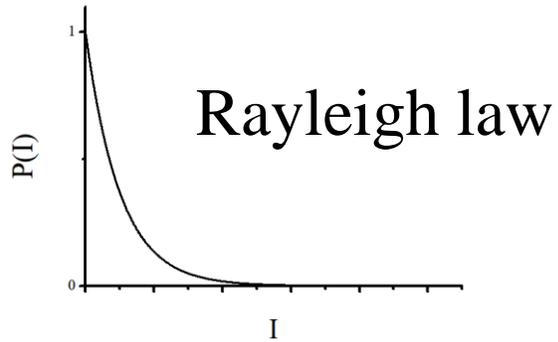


$$g^{(2)}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$l_c \sim \lambda L/D$$



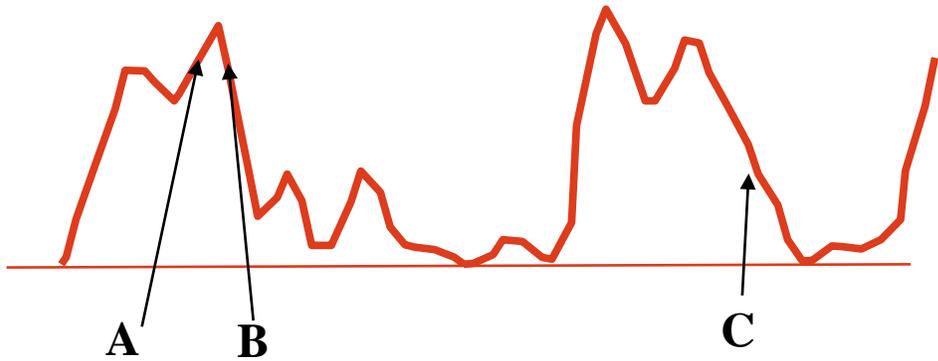
# Speckle statistics



$$P(I) \propto e^{-I}$$

$$\langle I^2 \rangle = 2 \langle I \rangle^2$$

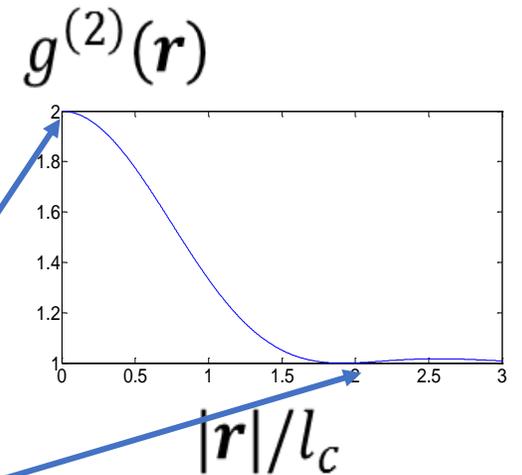
## Photon bunching $g^{(2)}(0)=2$



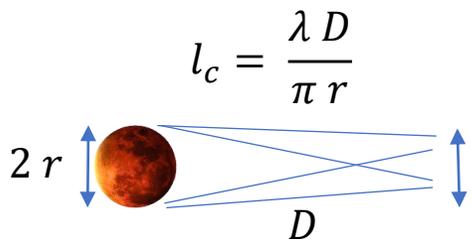
$$I_A \sim I_B \neq I_C \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle I_A I_B \rangle = \langle I_A^2 \rangle = 2 \langle I \rangle^2 \\ \langle I_A I_C \rangle = \langle I_A \rangle \langle I_C \rangle = \langle I \rangle^2 \end{array} \right.$$

$$g_{AB}(2) = \langle I_A I_B \rangle / \langle I_A \rangle \langle I_B \rangle = \mathbf{2}$$

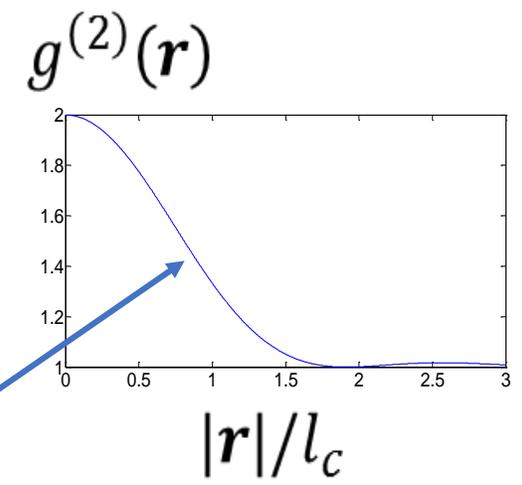
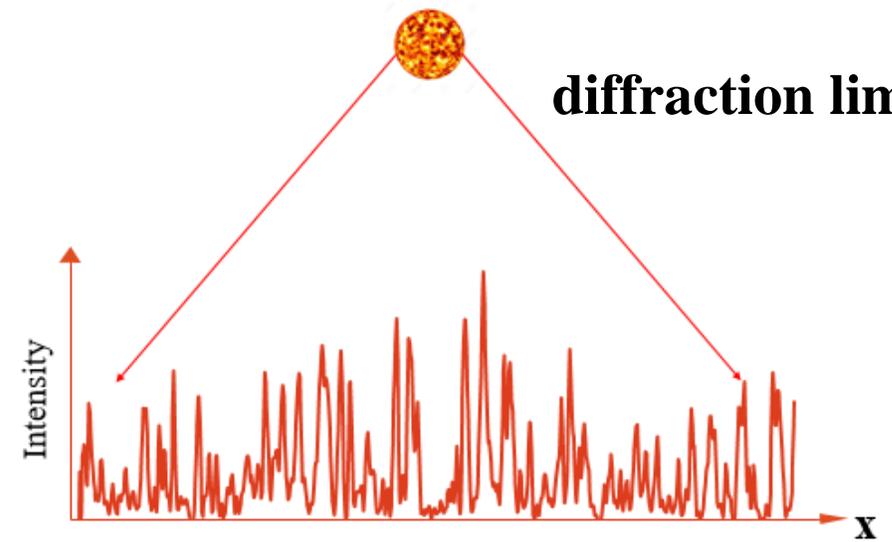
$$g_{AC}(2) = \langle I_A I_C \rangle / \langle I_A \rangle \langle I_C \rangle = \mathbf{1}$$



# Spatial scales

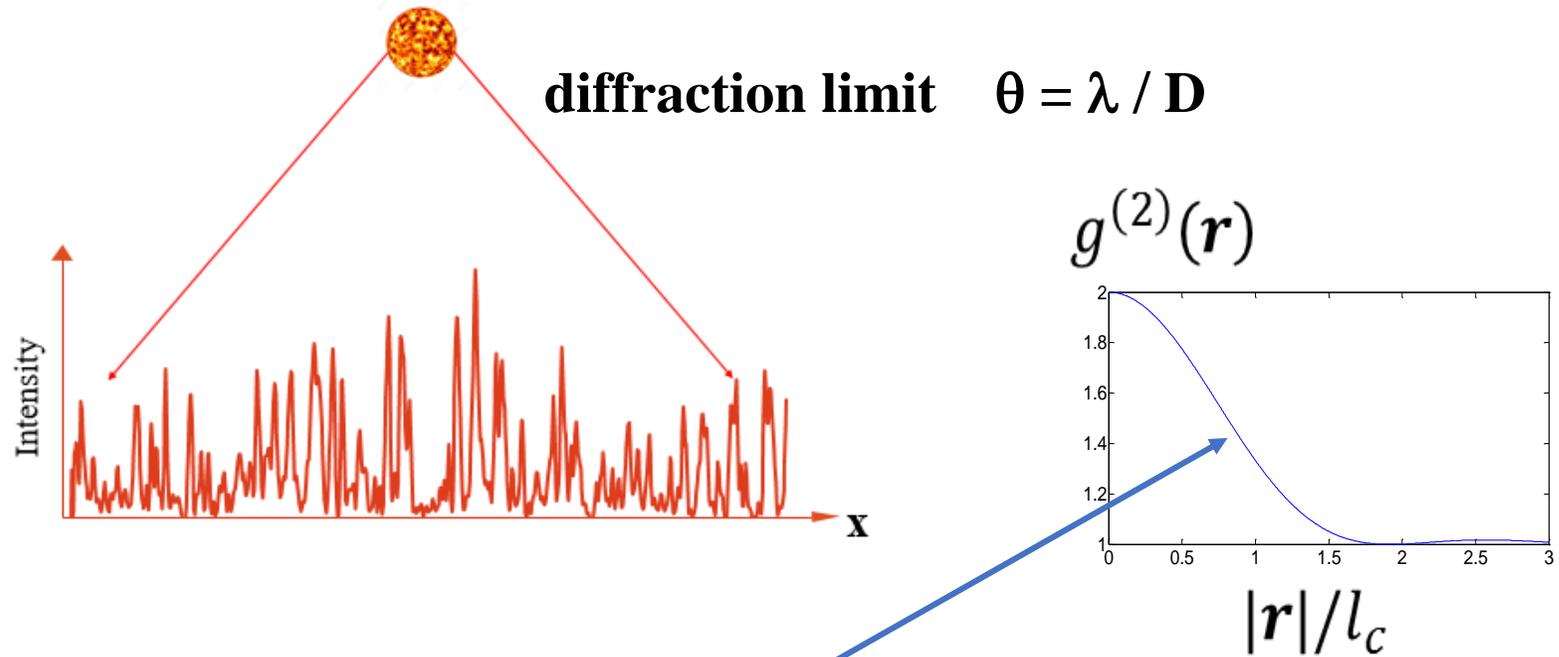
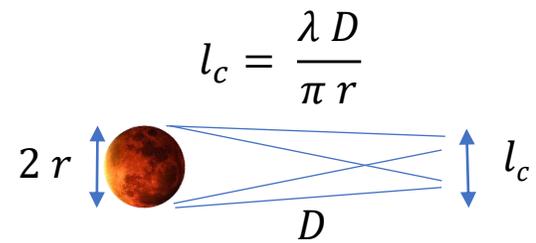


**diffraction limit**  $\theta = \lambda / D$



**Speckle grain size :**  $l_c \sim \theta L \sim L \lambda / D$

# Spatial scales

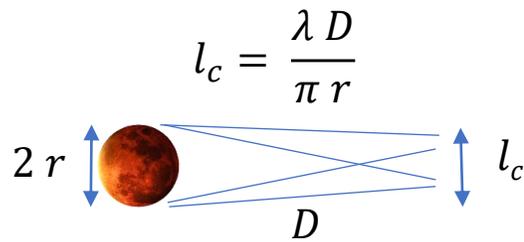
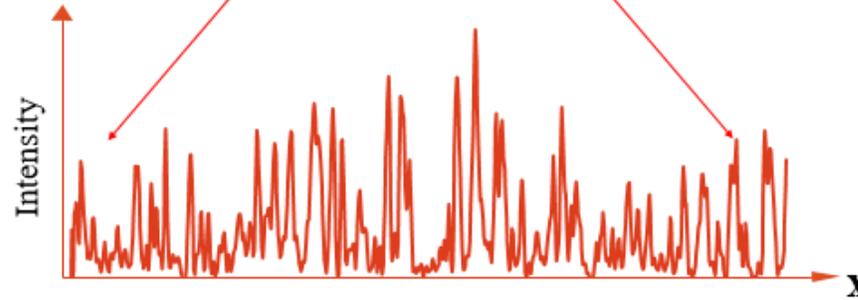


Speckle grain size :  $l_c = \theta L \sim \lambda L / D$

# Time scales



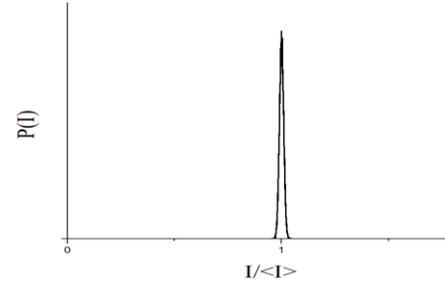
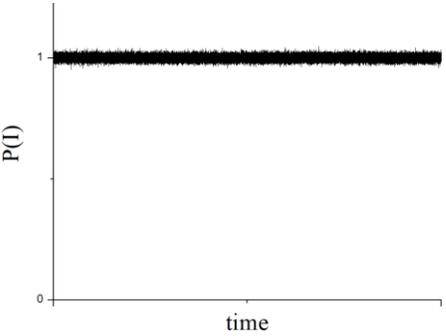
**diffraction limit**  $\theta = \lambda / D$



Speckle grain size :  $l_c = \theta L \sim \lambda L / D$

**Coherence time :  $\tau_c = 1 / \Delta\omega$**

# Laser photon statistics



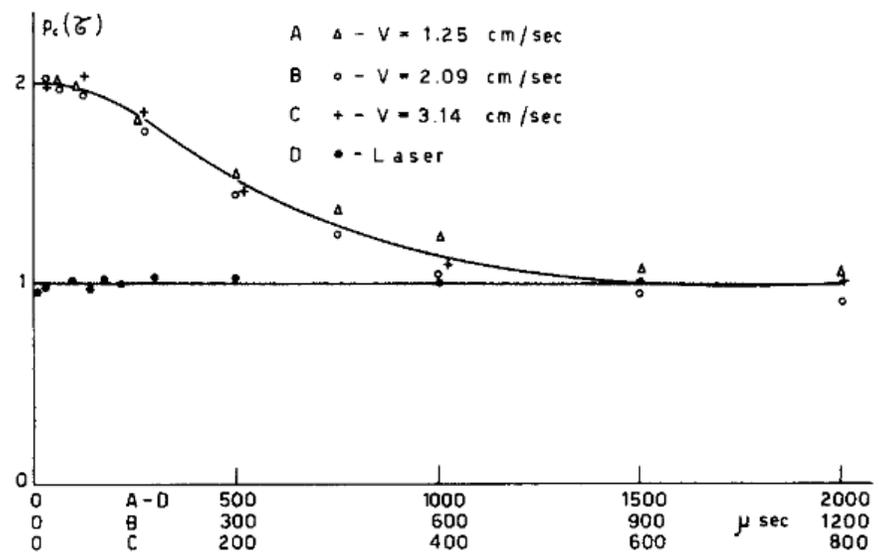
$$P(I) \approx 1 + \delta I$$

$$\langle I^2 \rangle \approx \langle I \rangle^2$$

**No photon bunching**  
 $g^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$

**Poisson statistics of laser  $\Rightarrow g^{(2)}(\tau=0) = 1$**

**Thermal light  $\Rightarrow g^{(2)}(\tau=0) = 2$**



Initial Experiments with lasers: Armstrong 1965

F.T. Arecchi, E. Gatti, A. Sona,  
 Phys. Lett. 20, 27 (1966)

# Intensity correlations vs field correlations

- In the spatial domain:  $g^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \tau = 0)$

van Cittert – Zernike theorem (1934, 1938)

$$g^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}) = 1 + |\text{FT}(\text{Brightness distribution of the source})|^2$$

- In the time domain:  $g^{(2)}(\mathbf{r} = 0, \tau)$

Siegert relation :

$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 + |g^{(1)}(\tau)|^2$$

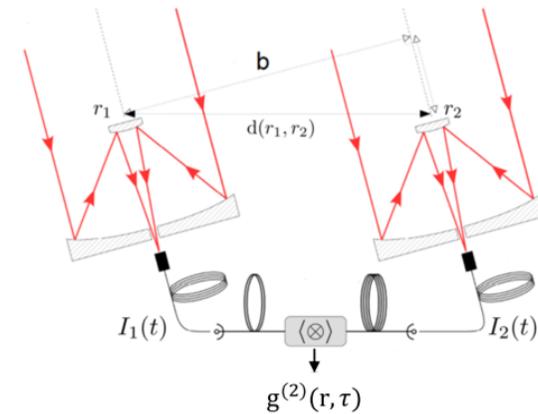
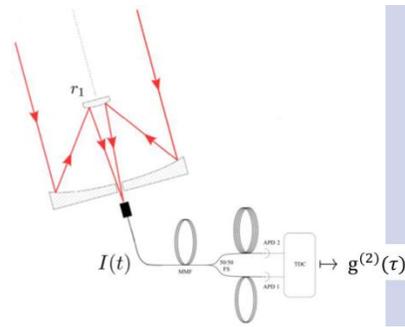
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# Second generation of intensity correlations for astrophysics

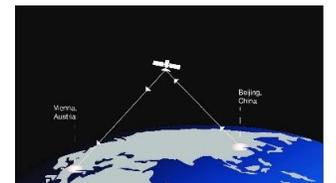
Goal : revive intensity correlation to

- Overcome baseline limitations by amplitude interferometry :  $g^{(2)}(\mathbf{r})$
- Open a quantum optics eye to space observations :  $g^{(2)}(\tau)$



Why now :

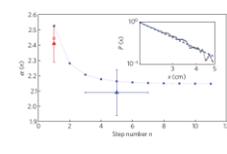
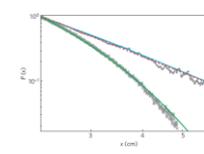
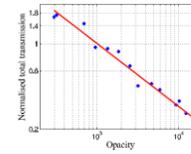
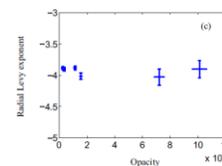
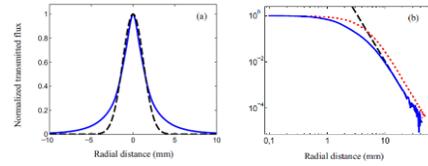
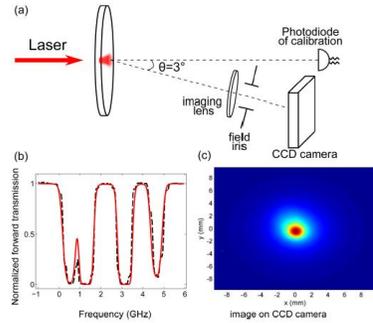
- Take advantage of quantum optics detection toolbox (**fast photon counting**)
- Record **full temporal correlation function**
- **Combined expertise** (astrophysics, atomic and quantum physics) available in **Nice**
- **Maturing astrophysical community (CTA: Veritas / Magic, Asiago, ...)**
- Quantum Optics in Space for quantum communications and Deep Space communication



# Atomic physics laboratory experiments : $g^2(\tau)$

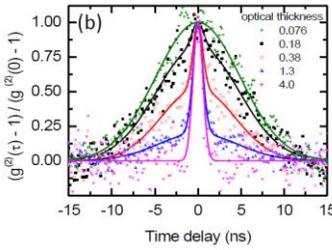
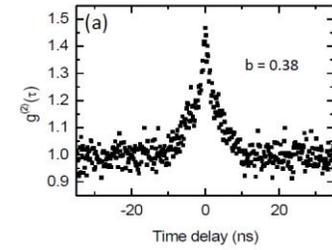
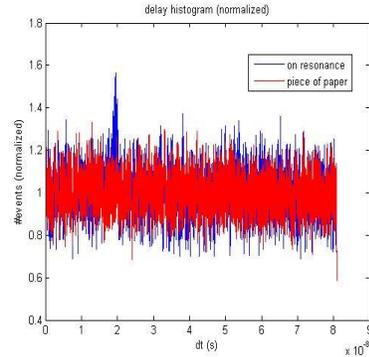
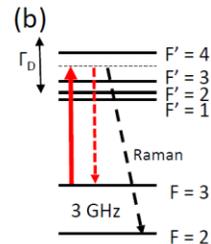
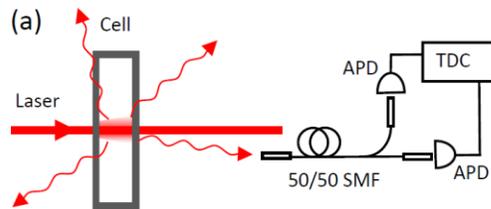
Goal : fast (high bandwidth) correlation

Experimental setup : developed for Levy flight experiments



Nat. Phys. 5, 602 (2009)

Phys. Rev. E 90, 052114 (2014)

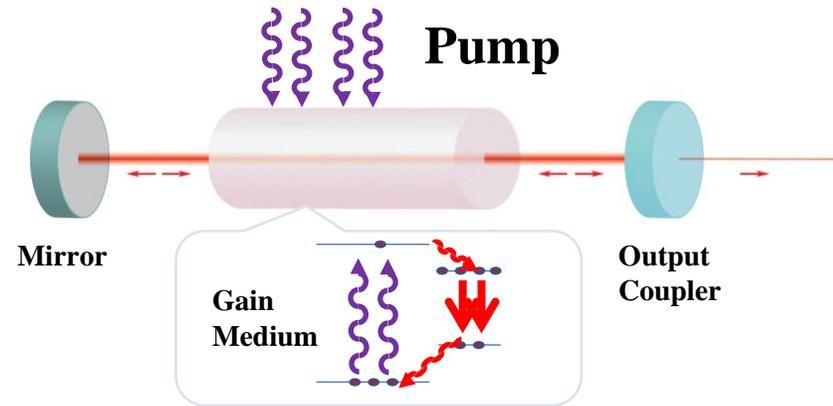


$\tau_e \approx 350$  ps

Temporal intensity correlation of light scattered by a hot atomic vapor  
 A. Dussaux, T. Passerat de Silans, W. Guerin, O. Alibert, S. Tanzilli, F. Vakili, R. K.,  
 Phys. Rev. A 93, 043826 (2016)

# More lab experiments : Random lasers

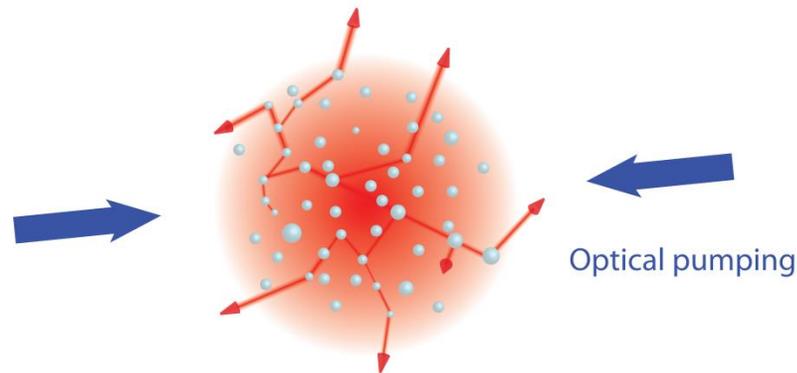
- Cavity Laser



## Ingredients:

- Gain Medium
- Cavity  
→ Feedback & Mode Selection

- Random Laser



- Gain Medium
- **Multiple scattering**

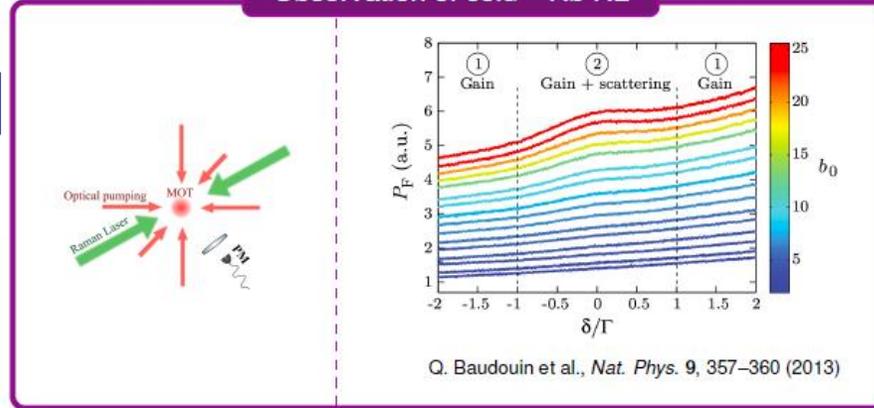
*V.S. Letokhov, Sov. Phys. JETP 26, 835-840 (1968)*



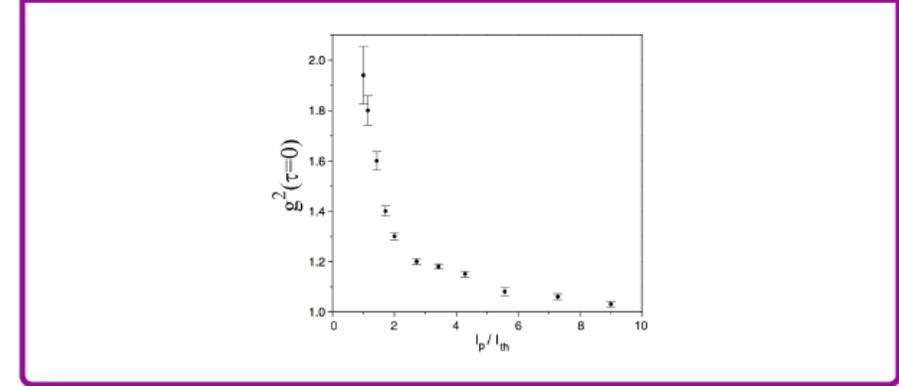
# Atomic physics laboratory experiments

Goal : find spectroscopic signatures of gaseous **random lasing**

Observation of cold  $^{85}\text{Rb}$  RL



H. Cao et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 86, 4524 (2001)



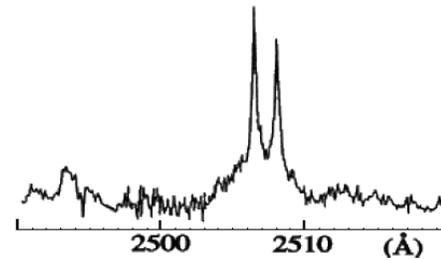
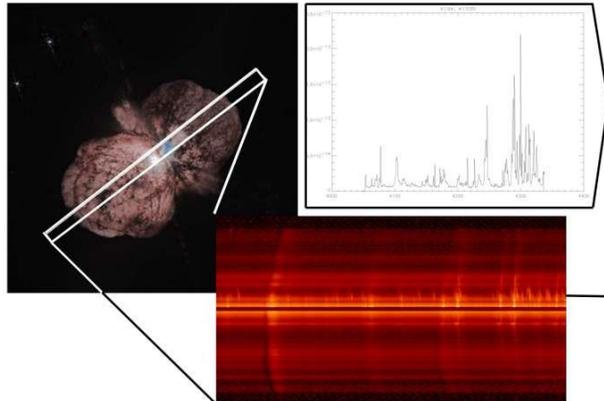
nature physics LETTERS  
PUBLISHED ONLINE: 5 MAY 2013 | DOI:10.1038/NPHYS2614

## A cold-atom random laser

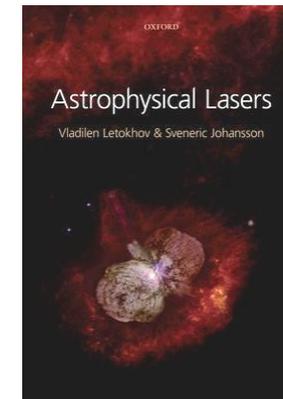
Q. Baudouin, N. Mercadier<sup>1</sup>, V. Guarrera<sup>2</sup>, W. Guerin and R. Kaiser\*

## Eta Carinae

one of the most massive and luminous stars known

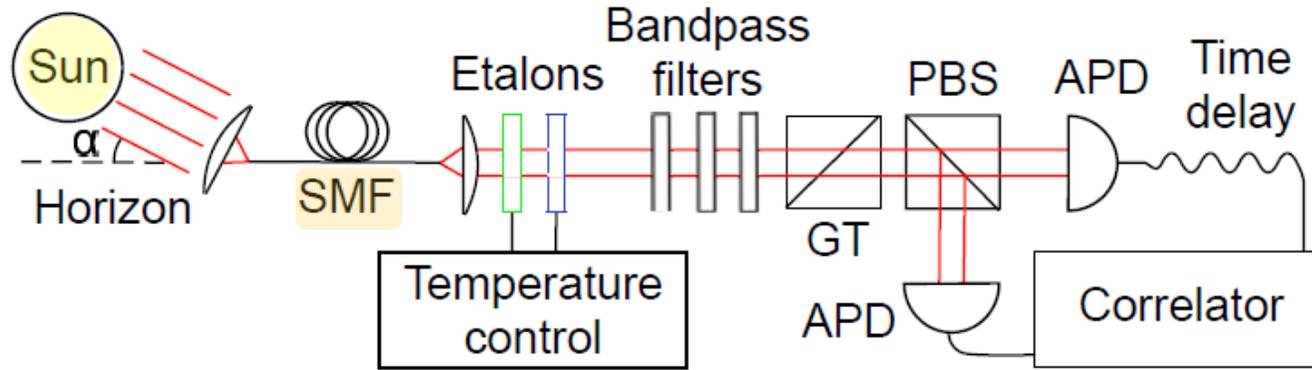


Spectre Ultraviolet d' $\eta$  Carinae observé par l'IUE (International Ultraviolet Explorer)



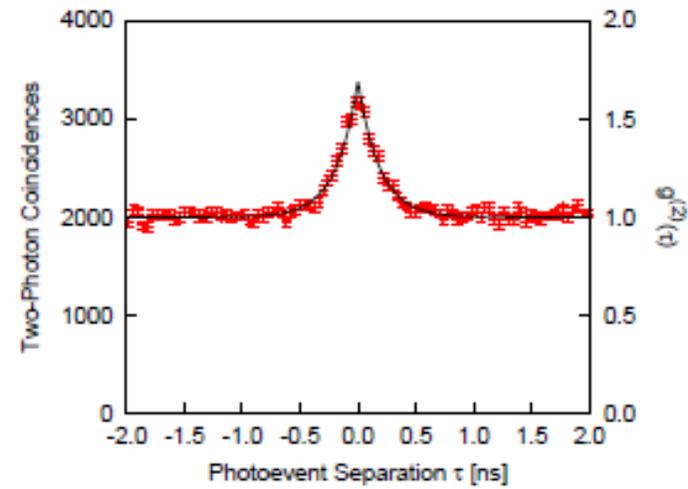
# **From the lab to on sky observations**

# State of the art in 2017

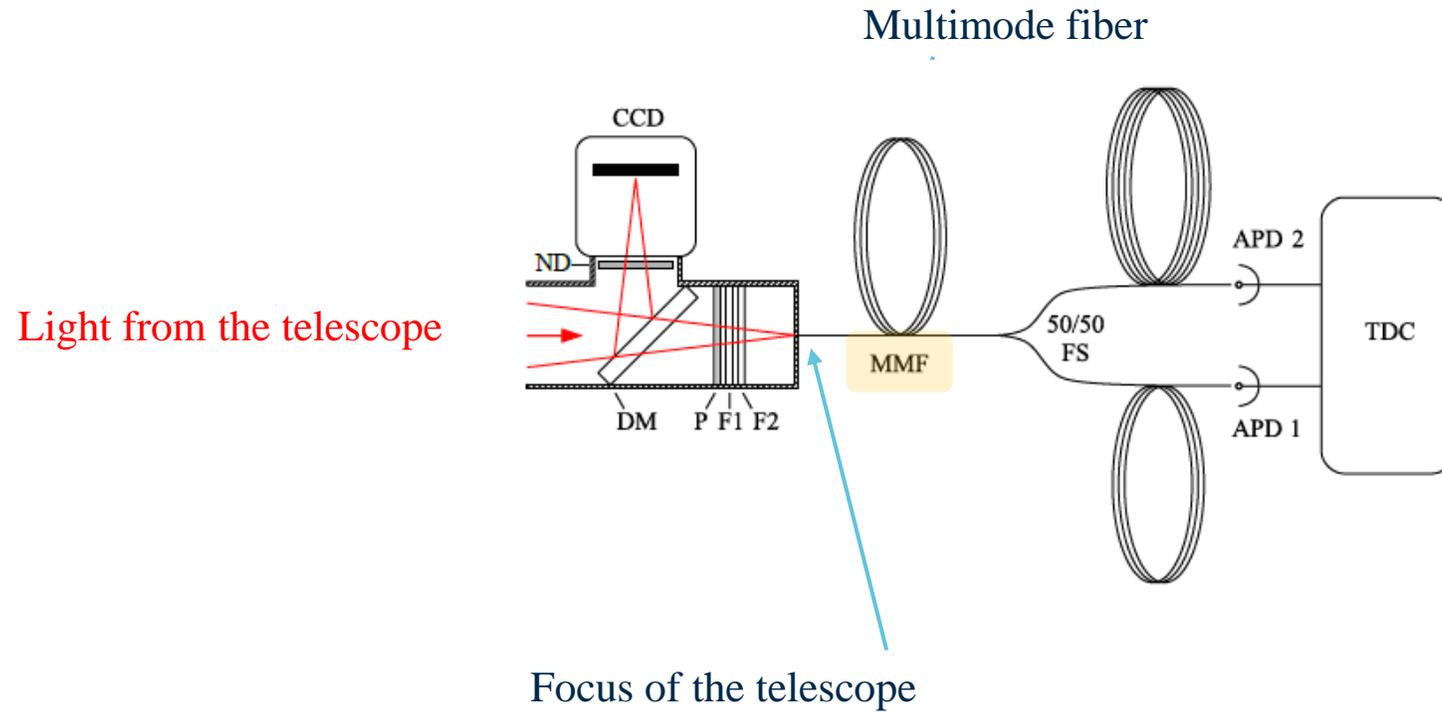


P. Tan et al., ApJ, 789, L10 (2014)

P. Tan, A. Chan, C. Kurtsiefer, MNRAS, 457, 4291 (2016)



# Our telescope correlator



- Robust and transportable
- No moving part

### DM: Dichroic beam splitter

Reflection:  $\lambda < 650$  nm  
to the guiding camera  
Transmission:  $\lambda > 650$  nm  
to the  $g^{(2)}$  measurement

### P: Polarizer

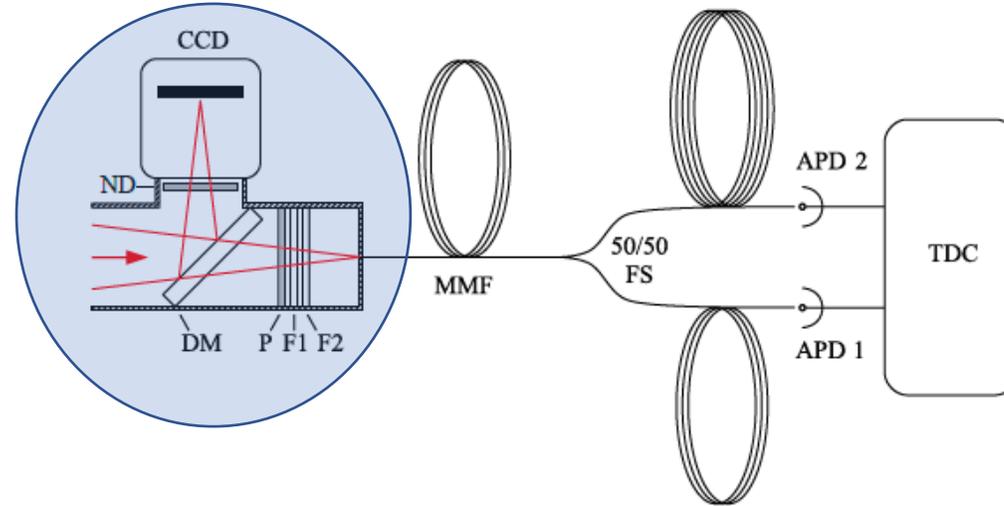
To select one polarization mode

### F2: Filter

$$\lambda_0 = 780 \text{ nm}$$

$$\Delta\lambda = 10 \text{ nm}$$

To remove UV and IR photons



### F1: Filter

$$\lambda_0 = 780 \text{ nm}$$

$$\Delta\lambda = 1 \text{ nm}$$

$$\tau_c \sim \lambda_0^2 / c \Delta\lambda \sim 2 \text{ ps}$$

# Detection setup

50/50 FS: Multimode fiber beamsplitter

To overcome the APD dead time

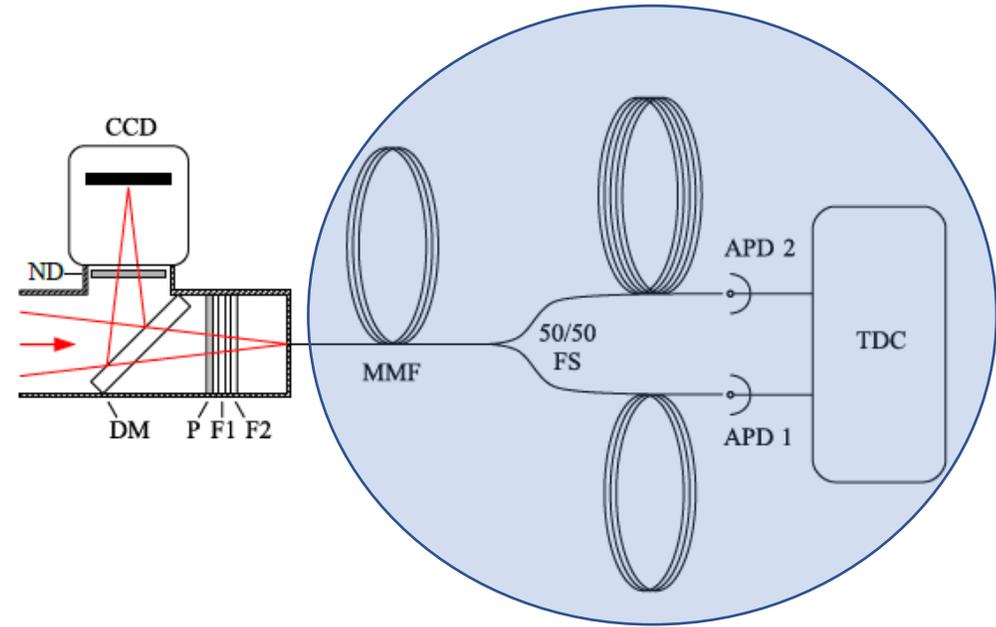
APD: Single photon detector

Excelitas

Quantum efficiency  $\eta \sim 60\%$

Deadtime  $\sim 20\text{ ns}$

Jitter  $\tau_j \sim 350\text{ ps}$



TDC: Time to Digital Converter

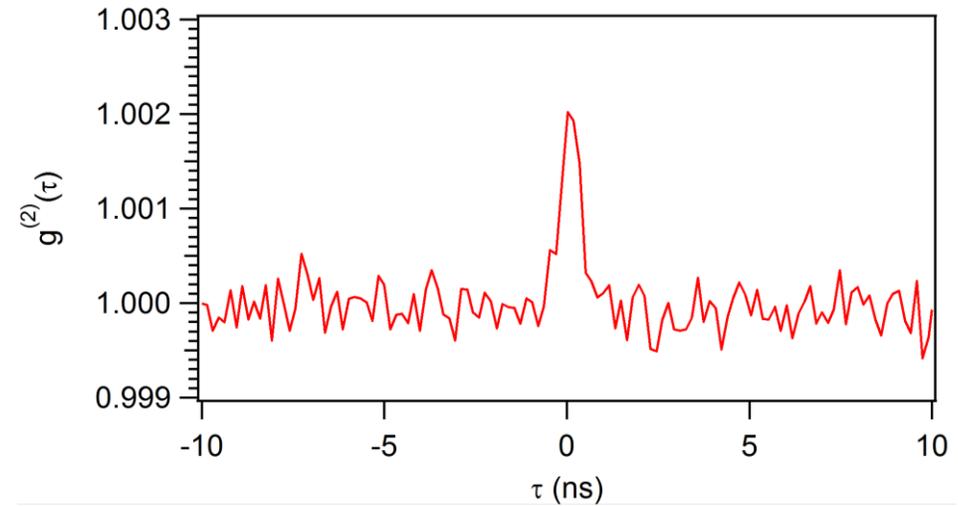
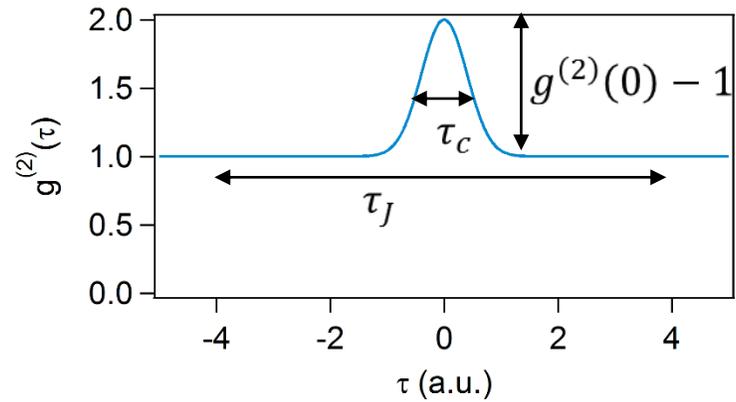
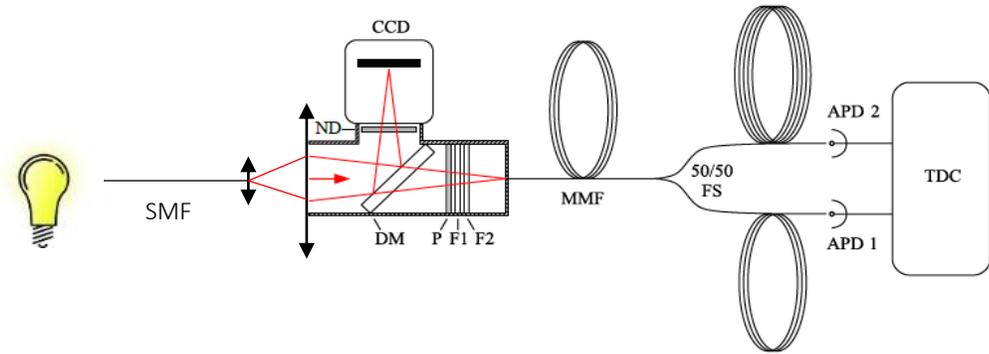
#1: ID Quantique, time resolution = 81 ps

#2: Swabian Instruments, time resolution = 12 ps,  
less spurious correlations, 40 Mcps

## Expected signal

Contras

$$C = g^{(2)}(0) - 1 \sim \frac{\tau_c}{\tau_J} \sim 0.002$$



**spurious correlations !!!**

# C2PU telescopes at Calern



Altitude = 1280 m

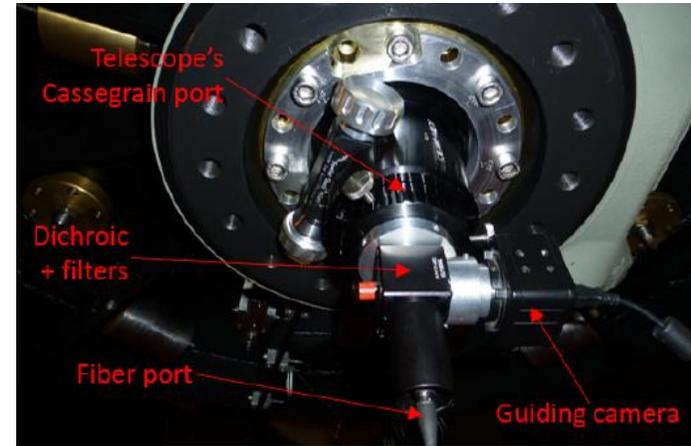
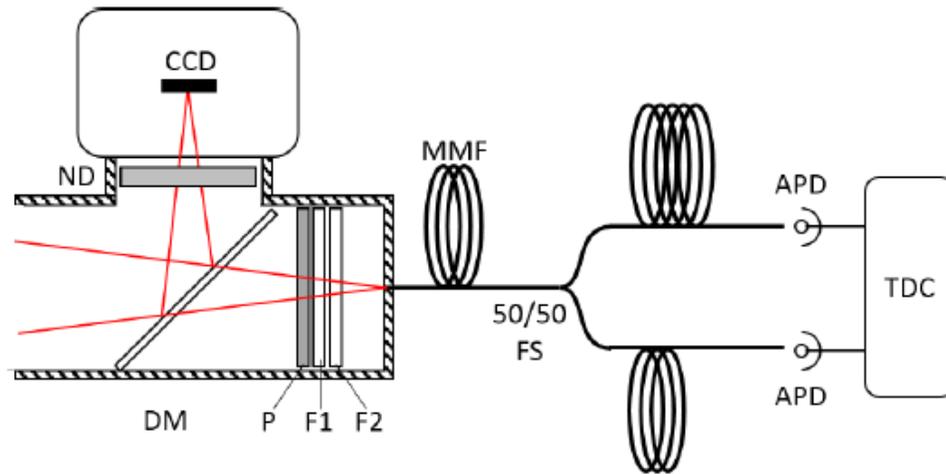


## C2PU telescopes

- $\emptyset = 1$  m
- Cassegrain configuration + focal reducer  $\rightarrow f = 5.6$  m
- NA = 0.09 ; f/5.6
- PSF = 42  $\mu$ m for seeing = 1.5''
- Fiber core = 100  $\mu$ m

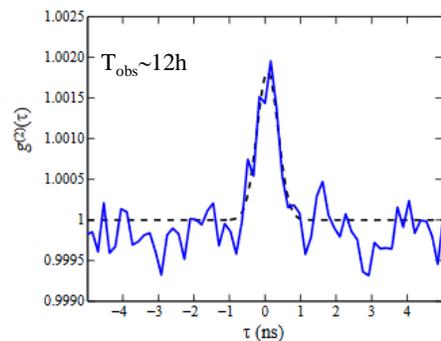
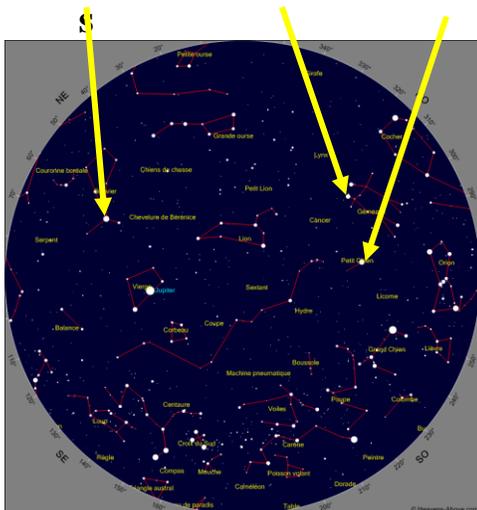


# Experiments at C2PU (Calern, France) on February 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2017

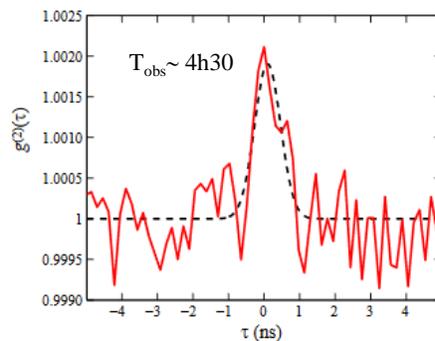


# Results : Feb. 2017 : **time correlation** on 3 bright stars

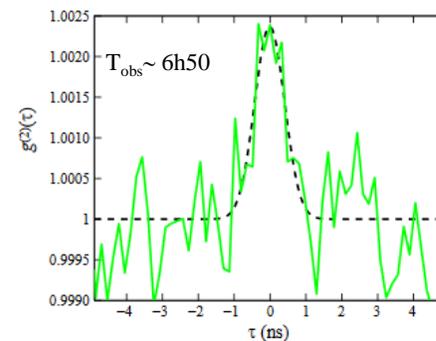
Arcturu Pollux Procyon



(a)  $\alpha$  Boo (Arcturus).

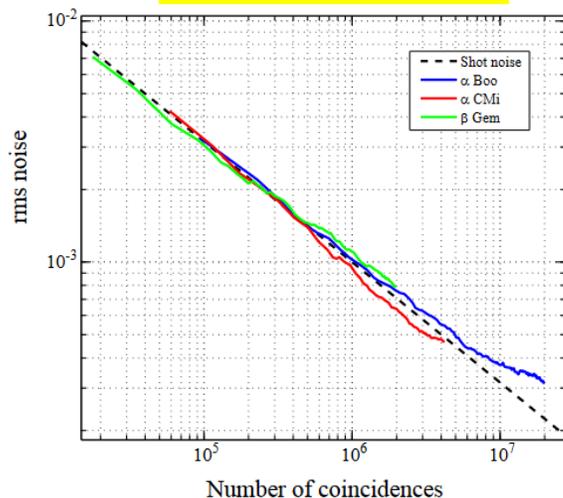


(b)  $\alpha$  CMi (Procyon).



(c)  $\beta$  Gem (Pollux).

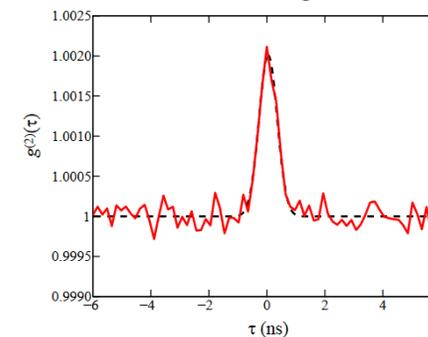
**Shot noise limited**



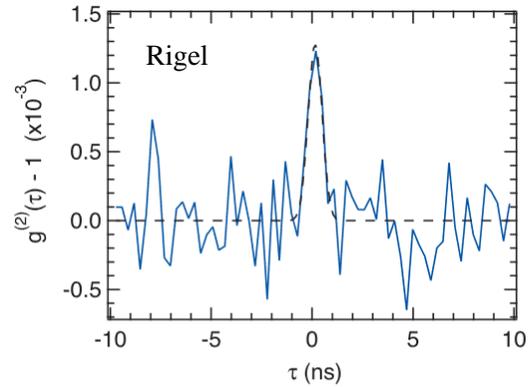
$$SNR = \alpha N_{ph}(\lambda) A \sqrt{\frac{T_{obs}}{\tau_{el}}}$$

$\alpha$ : detection efficiency  
 $N_{ph}(\lambda)$ : photon spectral flux (ph/m<sup>2</sup>/s/Hz)  
 $A$ : collecting area

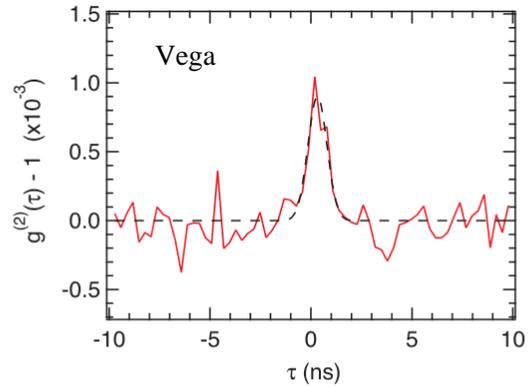
Laboratory calibration:  
 Convoluted  $g^{(2)}(\tau)$



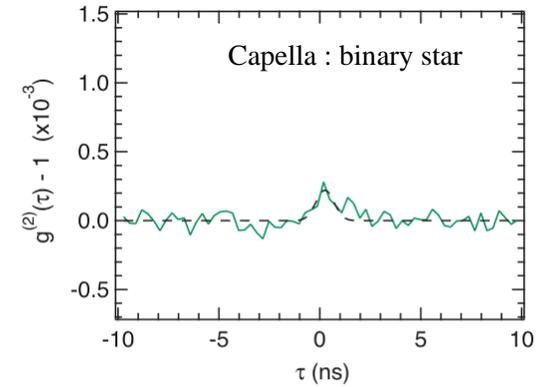
# Results : fall 2017 : spatial correlation on 3 bright stars



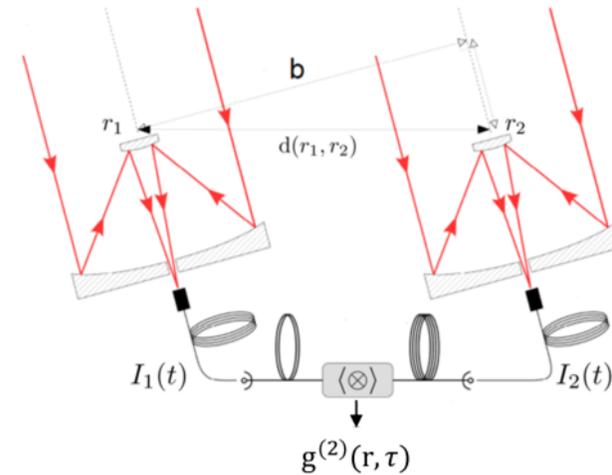
(a)  $\beta$  Ori.



(b)  $\alpha$  Lyr.

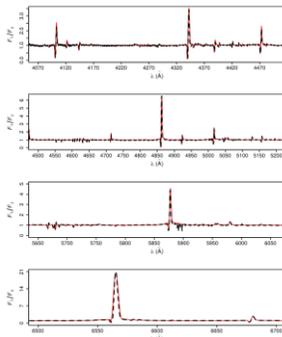
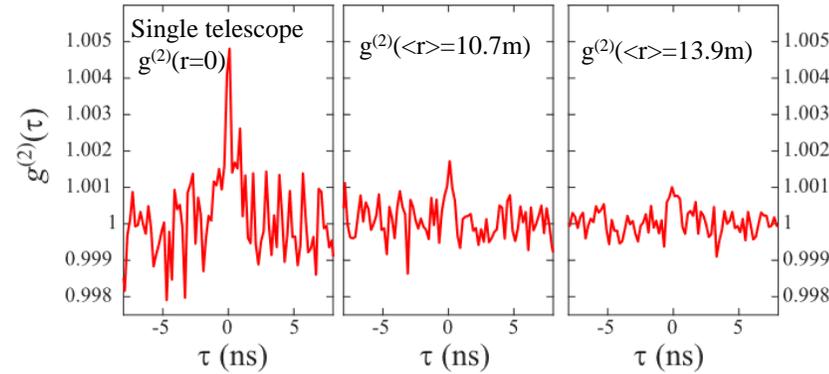
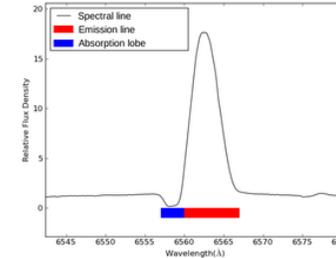
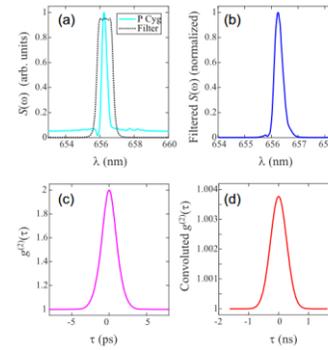
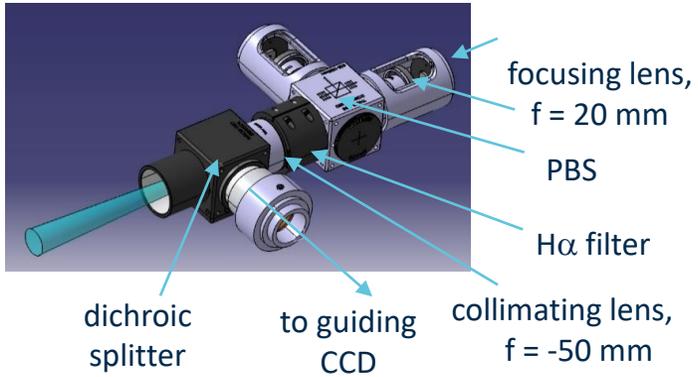


(c)  $\alpha$  Aur.

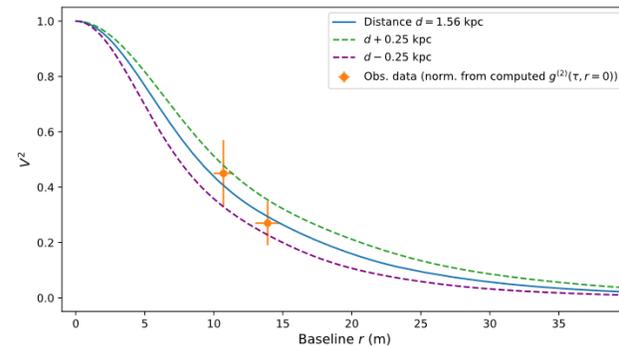


**First angular measurement of stars since HBT !!!**

# Results : Summer 2018 : spatial correlation on H $\alpha$ emission line of P Cygni



non-LTE  
 radiative transfer code  
 CMFGEN



$d = 1.56 \pm 0.258$  kpc

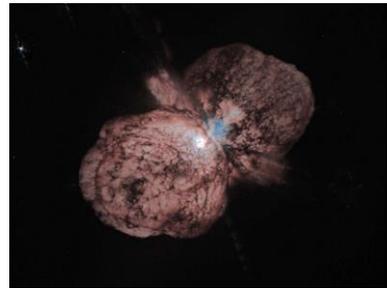
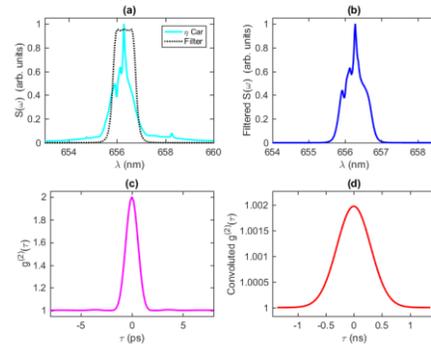
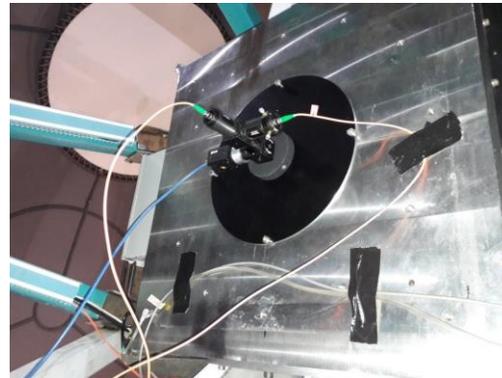
$d = 1.36 \pm 0.24$  kpc

*Gaia DR2 catalogue*

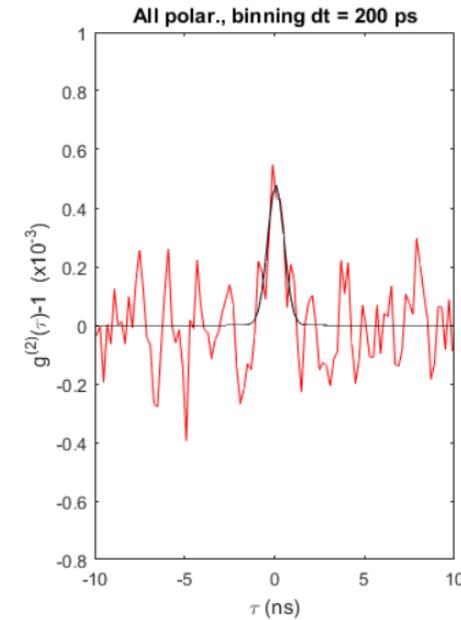
$d = 1.8 \pm 0.1$  kpc

*Usually adopted in the literature*

# April 2019 : SOAR correlation on H $\alpha$ emission line of $\eta$ Carinae



$\eta$  Carinae



1 night trial

Bad night 😞 : turbulence, clouds : only 4 hours of observation

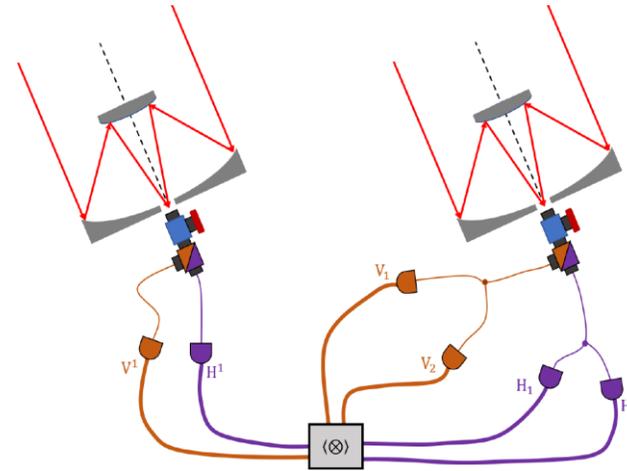
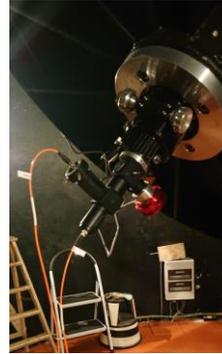
However : fast implementation on SOAR !

**Bunching observed on  $\eta$  Car H $\alpha$  line** 😊 😊

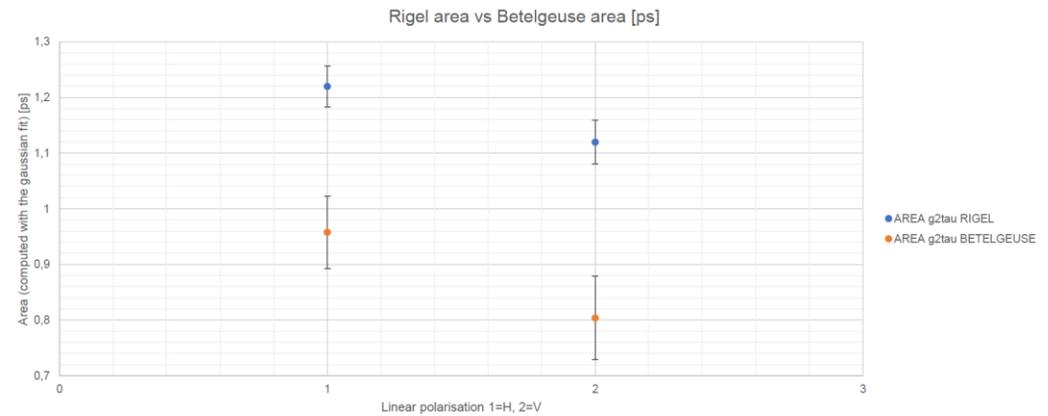
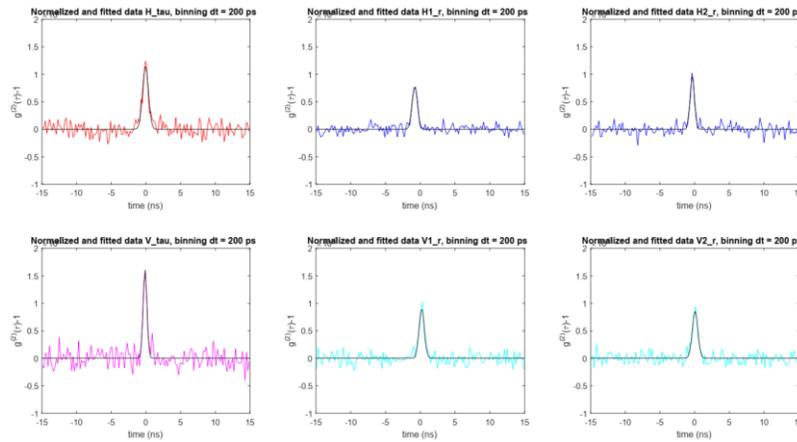
# January 2020 : Spatial Correlation on H $\alpha$ line of Rigel , Betelgeuse

Novel technical improvement :

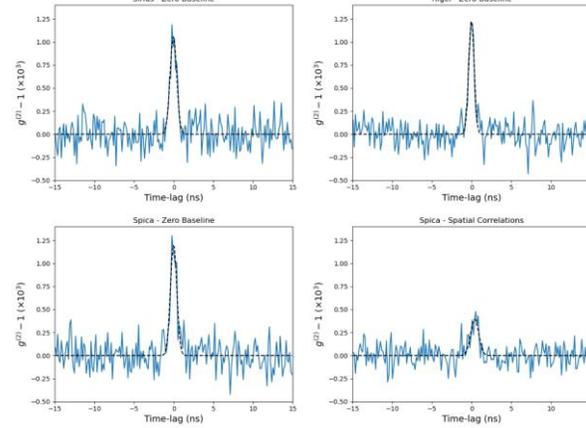
- 1) dual polarization channel
- 2) **Auto calibrating** setup :  $g^{(2)}(0) + g^{(2)}(r)$



## Rigel

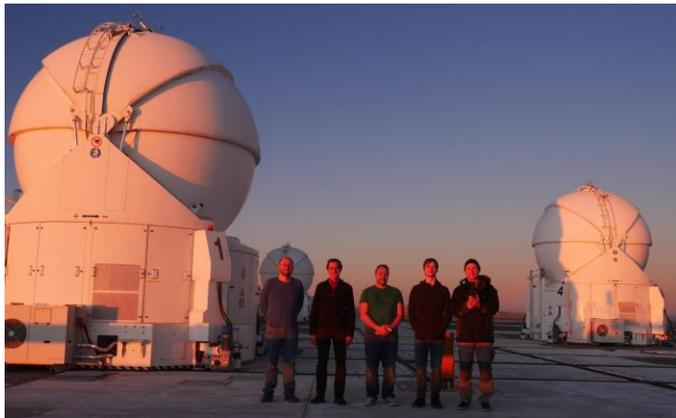


# March 2022: Successful interferometric observation at Paranal (VLT)!



N. Matthews, J.-P. Rivet, M. Hugbart, G. Labeyrie, R. K., O. Lai, F. Vakili, D. Vernet, J. Chabe, C. Courde, N. Schuhler, P. Bourget, W. Guerin, [Proc. SPIE 12183, Optical and Infrared Interferometry and Imaging VIII, 121830G \(2022\)](#),

# May 2023: Successful interferometric observation with 3 telescopes at Paranal!

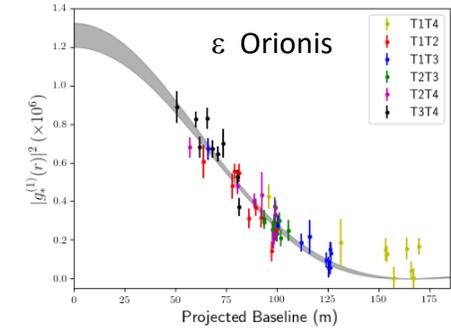
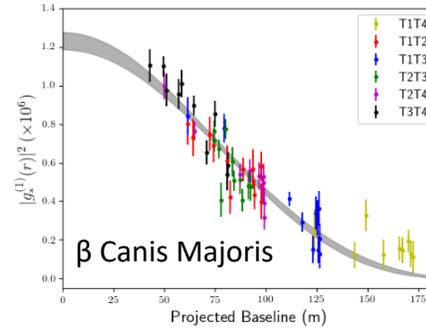


# State of the art in 2024

- Demonstration of stellar intensity interferometry with the four **VERITAS** telescopes, A. Abeysekara, et al., Nat, Astronomy 4, 1164 (2020)

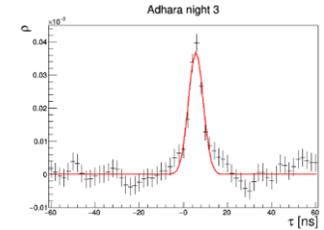


$\lambda=416\text{nm}$



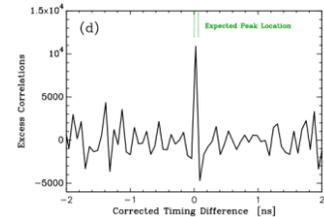
- V. Acciari, et al., Optical intensity interferometry observations using the **MAGIC** imaging atmospheric cherenkov telescopes, MNRAS 491, 1540 (2020)

$\lambda=430\text{nm}$ , 3 stars, 2 telescopes (diameter 17m)

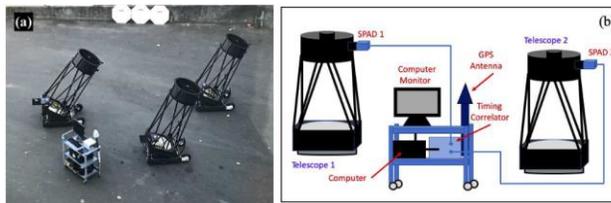


- Zampieri, L., Naletto, G., Burtovoi, A., Fiori, M., & Barbieri, C., 2021. Stellar intensity interferometry of Vega in photon counting mode, MNRAS, 506(2), 1585. **ASIAGO**

- Observations with the **Southern Connecticut Stellar Interferometer**. I. Instrument Description and First Results E. P. Horch et al 2022 AJ 163 92



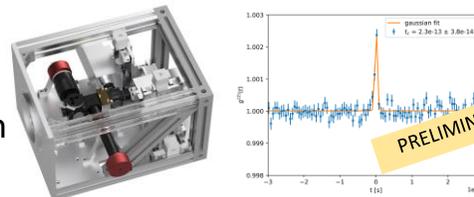
+ **Hess** Namibia (S. Funk et al.) : 2023



$\lambda=532\text{nm}$ , 3 stars, 2 telescopes (diameter 0.6m)

+ **Erlangen** + **C2PU** (J. v. Zanthier et al.) : 2024

$\lambda=405\text{nm}$



Courtesy S.Richter et al.

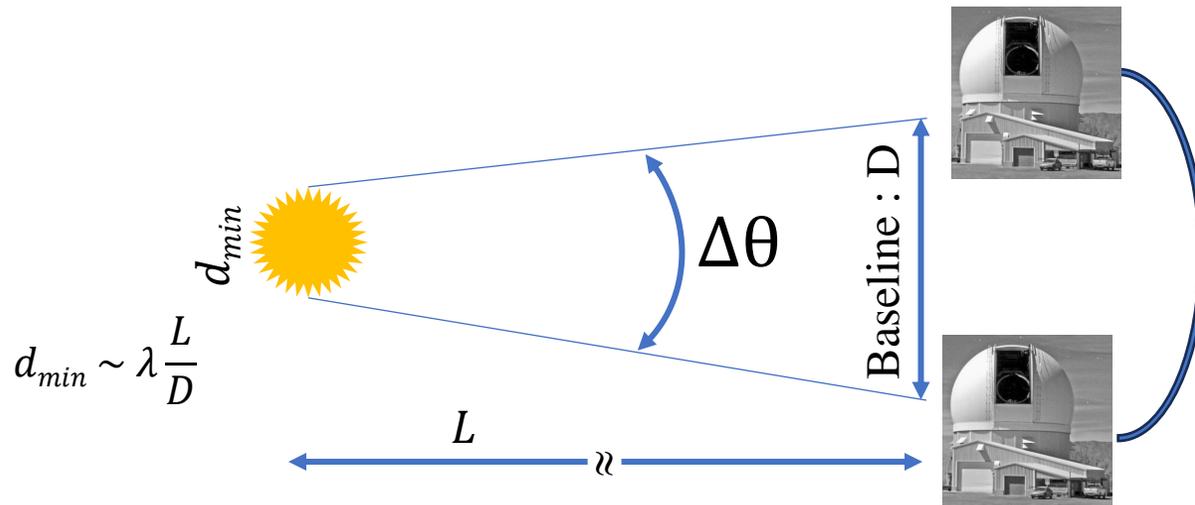
# Outline

- 1) Optical astrophysical imaging  
and Hanbury-Brown and Twiss experiments
- 2) Intensity correlations
- 3) HBT revival : on-sky intensity correlations from  
2017-2023
- 4) **IC4Star project**
  - **Ultrahigh angular resolution : Sirius B**
  - **Quantum optics : random lasing in space**

# What next : IC4Stars



High angular resolution for stars :  $\Delta\theta \sim \frac{\lambda}{D}$

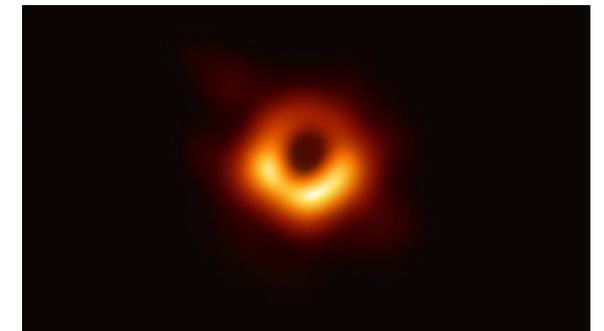


- i. interferometric recombination  
(VLTI, Chara, NPOI < 300m)
- ii. **intensity correlations  $g^2(\mathbf{r})$**   
Hanbury Brown & Twiss

- 👍 Resilient to atmospheric turbulence (+ no adaptative optics required)
- 👍 Scalable to larger distances (ELT/VLT and beyond)
- 👍 Use of existing infrastructure
- 👍  **$\mu''$  resolution** : similar to Event Horizon Telescope

$\lambda \sim 420\text{nm}, D \sim \text{km}$

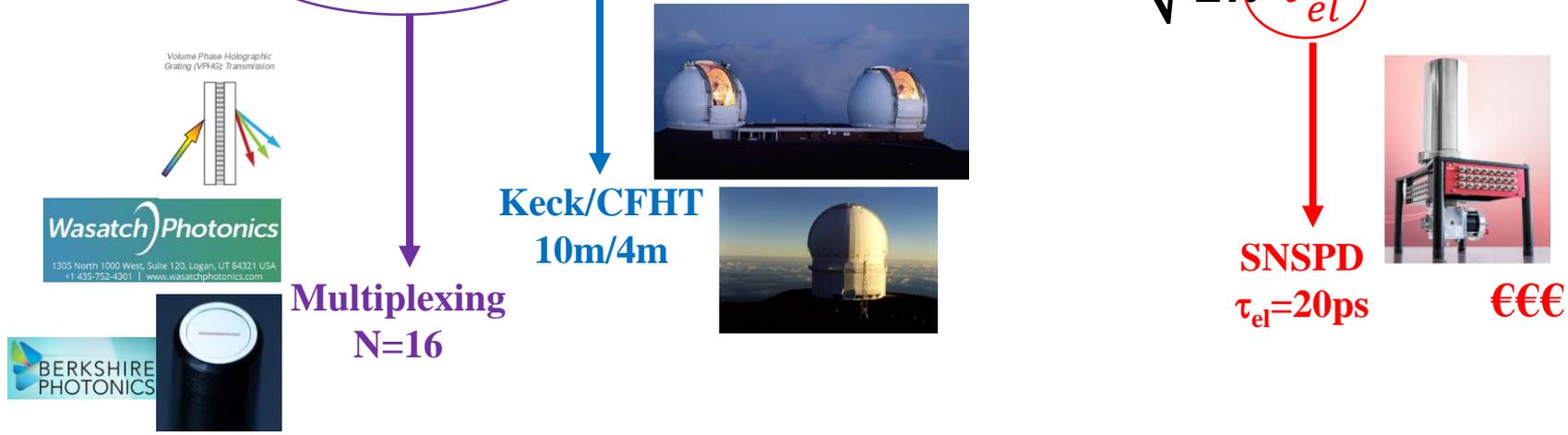
$\lambda \sim \text{mm}$   
 $D = 12000 \text{ km}$



- The price to pay : low signal to noise ratio



$$SNR = \sqrt{N_{channel}} A \eta F(\nu) |V(r)|^2 \sqrt{\frac{T_{obs}}{2\pi \tau_{el}}}$$

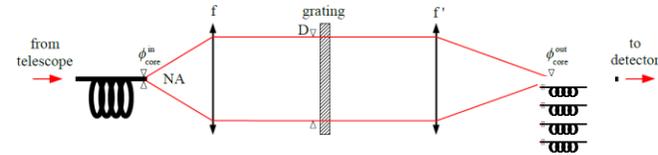


$$SNR : \quad \times 4 \quad \times 40 \quad \times 4 \Rightarrow \times 640$$

$$T_{obs} \div 400\,000$$

# Multiplexing

- Option 1 : Fiber coupling



grating angular dispersion :  $disp = d\theta / d\lambda = 1.42 \text{ mrad/nm}$

effective spectral width :  $\Delta\lambda = \phi_{core}^{out} / (f' \cdot disp)$  if  $\phi_{core}^{in} \cdot (f / f') \ll \phi_{core}^{out}$

constraints :  $\begin{cases} f < D / NA & \text{no photon loss from input fiber to spectrograph} \\ f' \ll f \cdot (\phi_{core}^{out} / \phi_{core}^{in}) & \text{negligible effect of input "slit" on spectrum} \end{cases}$

example :  $\phi_{core}^{in} = \phi_{core}^{out} = 100 \mu\text{m}$  ;  $NA = 0.29$  ;  $D = 10 \text{ cm}$

$f = 40 \text{ cm} \rightarrow f = 1.16 \cdot (D / NA)$

$f' = 10 \text{ cm} \rightarrow \Delta\lambda = 0.7 \text{ nm}$

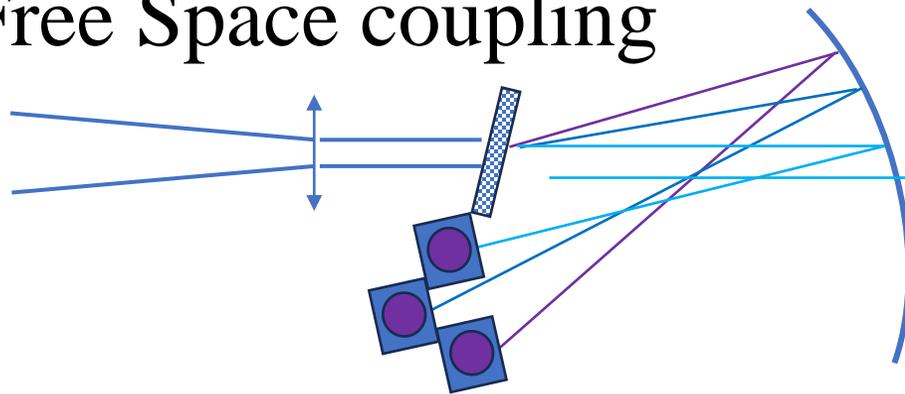
$f' / f = 0.25 \ll 1$

## To be done

- double system,
- **Efficiency** ☹️
- calibration
- Stability
- **Compact** 😊

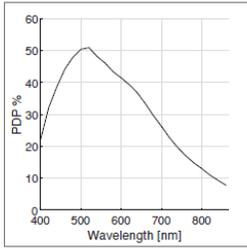
## To be done

- Option 2 : Free Space coupling

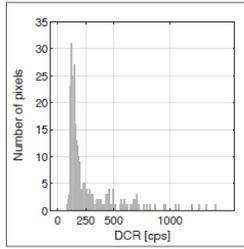


- Dispersion to be adapted on detectors
- calibration
- Stability
- **Efficiency** 😊
- **Bulky** ☹️

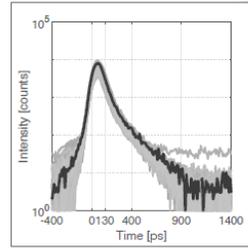
# Pi Imaging : $\eta < 40\%$



Photon detection probability.



Typical distribution of dark count rate over the SPAD array.



Timing jitter over all the pixels, with an average of 130 ps FWHM.

pi imaging  
ENABLING INNOVATION

## SPAD $\lambda$

### Description

SPAD $\lambda$  is a photon-counting linear array with time gating and time tagging. The core of the detector is a SPAD array with  $320 \times 1$  pixels. Photon counting with up to 555,000 frames per second and zero readout noise is achieved. Nanosecond time gating is coupled with 17 ps gate phase shift. Time tagging with 20 ps resolution and 130 ps FWHM precision is available.



Typical technical specifications	
SPAD $\lambda$	LINEAR SPAD ARRAY
Image array	$320 \times 1$
Pixel pitch	29 $\mu\text{m}$
Sensor wavelength range	400 to 900 nm
Peak photon detection probability	50% @ 520 nm
Fill factor with microlenses	>80 % for collimated light
Median dark count rate at room temperature	<250 cps
Percentage of pixels with >10k cps	5%
Frame rate (max.)	555,000 fps
Dead time	10 ns
Timing jitter	130 ps FWHM
Time-tagging resolution	20 ps
Minimum exposure/gate width	2 ns
Minimum exposure/gate shift	17 ps
Crosstalk	2%
Connection type	C-mount

**HAMAMATSU**  
PHOTON IS OUR BUSINESS

### SPAD modules

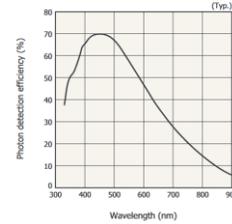
C11202 series

**1 ch SPAD module (for VIS region)**

The C11202 series is a photon counting module that can detect low-level light. It consists of a thermoelectric cooled single photon avalanche diode (SPAD), an amplifier, a comparator, a SPAD bias circuit, and a temperature controller. The photosensitive area is available in two sizes of  $\phi 50 \mu\text{m}$  and  $\phi 100 \mu\text{m}$ , and such small photosensitive areas offer a low dark count. Modules operate by simply connecting to an external power supply ( $\pm 5 \text{ V}$ ).

# Hamamatsu : C11202 : $\eta = 60\%$ , $\tau > 400\text{ps}$ , dark counts ☹

Photon detection efficiency vs. wavelength



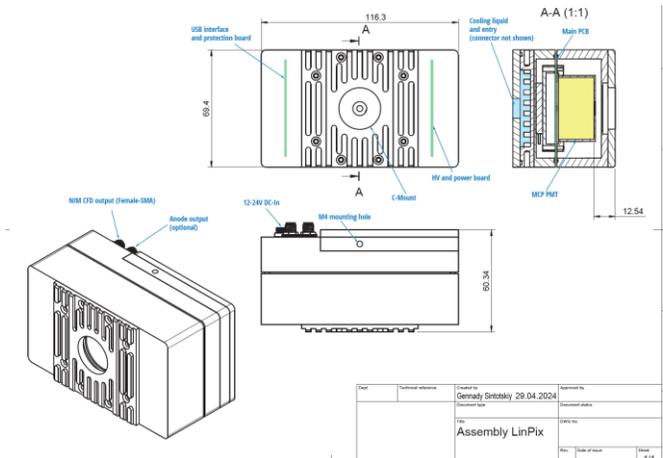
### Electrical and optical characteristics (Typ. $T_a = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , $\lambda = \lambda_p$ , $V_s = \pm 5 \text{ V}$ , unless otherwise noted)

Parameter	Symbol	Condition	C11202-050			C11202-100			Unit
			Min.	Typ.	Max.	Min.	Typ.	Max.	
Spectral response range	$\lambda$		320 to 900			320 to 900			nm
Peak sensitivity wavelength	$\lambda_p$		-	450	-	-	450	-	nm
Chip temperature (setting temperature) <sup>2) *3)</sup>	Tchip		-	-20	-	-	-20	-	$^\circ\text{C}$
Photon detection efficiency	PDE		60	70	-	60	70	-	%
Dark count	-		-	7	25	-	30	100	cps
Afterpulse probability	-	100 ns to 500 ns	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	%
Comparator output	-		TTL compatible			TTL compatible			-
Maximum count rate	-		-	30	-	-	20	-	Mcps
Current consumption	Positive power supply	$V_s = +5 \text{ V}$	-	+200	+1000	-	+200	+1000	mA
	Negative power supply	$V_s = -5 \text{ V}$	-	-20	-40	-	-20	-40	

# Photonscore : 2 x 16 LINPix

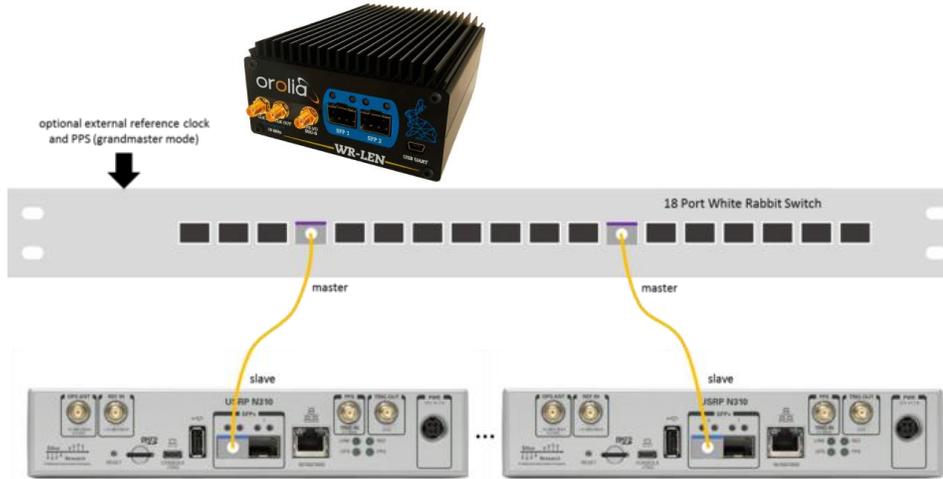
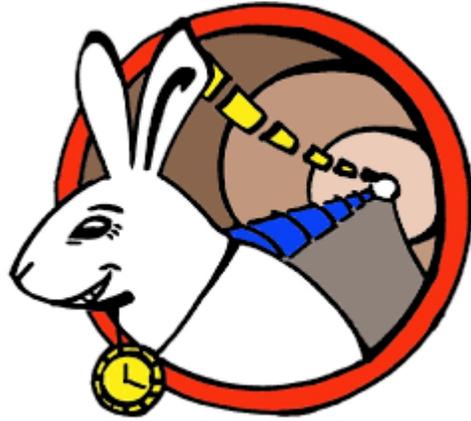


Max. recommended count rate, MHz	100
Shutdown count rate, MHz	110
Discrimination	Integrated CFD
Dark count rate, Hz	< 15 (Blue, Aqua), < 50 (Green), < 200 (Red)
Timing jitter, ps (FWHM)	< 35 (1MHz), < 45 (10MHz), < 75ps (100MHz)
Active area, mm	$\phi 8$
Dead time, ns	< 2



# Synchronisation @ ps over 1km

1)



16 ps

2)

	Synchro White Rabbit Orolia COTS	Datation Swabian	Custom Sigmaworks Datation et Synchro
RMS timing PPS	< 40ps	42ps (100ps Test Géoazur)	< 1ps
RMS timing 10 MHz	15ps		< 1ps
Stabilité @ 1s	10ps	X	< 1ps
Stabilité @ long terme	20-45ps ?	X	<30fs
Cadence		70 Mhz	Min: 5 Mhz
Remarque			USB3
Canaux			2 x 16 canaux différentiel ou single ended
Coûts	~25k€ (5 switch)	80 k€ ?	~200k€
Développement	OTS	OTS	2 ans

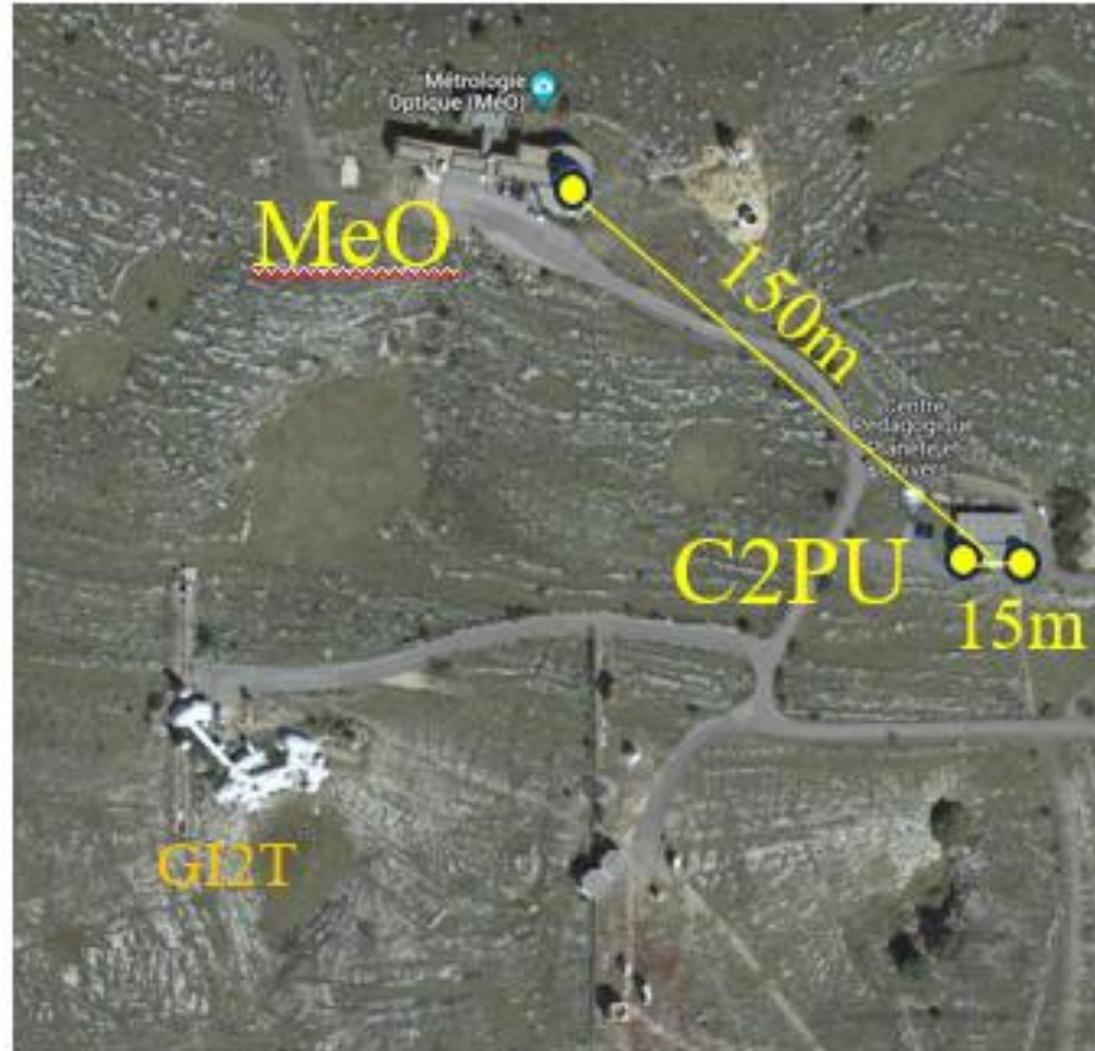
1 ps

# Benchmarking @ Calern

- WP2.1 :  $g^2(r)$

yellow hypergiant :  $\gamma$  Cas : M4.5, 2.4 m''

O-type star : 10Lac : M4.88 0.11 m''



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 869:37 (13pp), 2018 December 10  
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aae04>



## Angular Sizes and Effective Temperatures of O-type Stars from Optical Interferometry with the CHARA Array

Kathryn D. Gordon<sup>1</sup>, Douglas R. Gies<sup>1</sup>, Gail H. Schaefer<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Huber<sup>3</sup>, Michael Ireland<sup>4</sup>, and D. John Hillier<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Georgia State University, P. O. Box 5060, Atlanta, GA 30302-5060, USA; kgordon@astro.gsu.edu

<sup>2</sup>The CHARA Array of Georgia State University, Mount Wilson Observatory, Mount Wilson, CA 91023, USA

<sup>3</sup>Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, 2680 Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA

<sup>4</sup>Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2611, Australia

<sup>5</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy and Pittsburgh Particle Physics, Astrophysics, and Cosmology Center (PITT PACCC), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

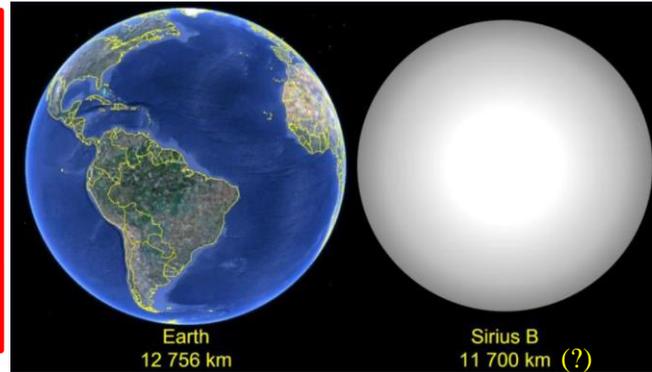
Received 2018 August 20; revised 2018 October 22; accepted 2018 October 22; published 2018 December 10

Identifier	Star Name	HD Number	Spectral Classification	$V$ (mag)	$B - V$ (mag)	$V - K$ (mag)	$T_{\text{eff}}$ (kK)	$\theta_{\text{LD}}$ (mas)
<i>a</i>	$\xi$ Per	24912	O7.5 III(n)(f)	4.06	0.02	0.11	$34.3 \pm 0.8$	$0.216 \pm 0.016$
<i>b</i>	$\alpha$ Cam	30614	O9 Ia	4.29	0.05	0.05	$29.4 \pm 1.0$	$0.250 \pm 0.014$
<i>c</i>	$\lambda$ Ori A	36861	O8 III(f)	3.47	0.01	-0.56	$34.5 \pm 0.8$	$0.219 \pm 0.015$
<i>d</i>	$\zeta$ Ori A	37742	O9.2 Ib	1.88	-0.11	-0.44	$29.5 \pm 1.0$	$0.546 \pm 0.029$
<i>e</i>	$\zeta$ Oph	149757	O9.2 IVnn	2.56	0.02	-0.06	$32.1 \pm 1.3$	$0.532 \pm 0.010$
<i>f</i>	10 Lac	214680	O9 V	4.88	-0.21	-0.62	$35.5 \pm 0.5$	$0.11 \pm 0.02$

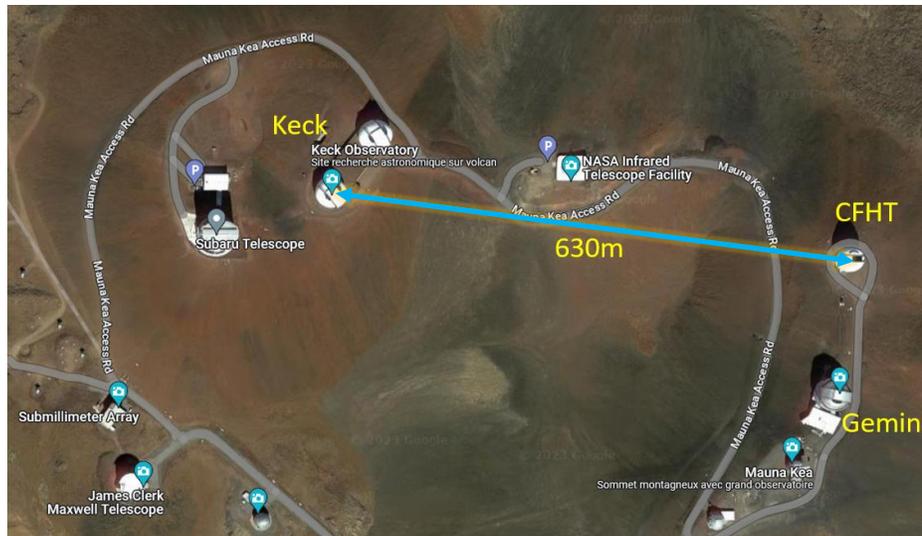
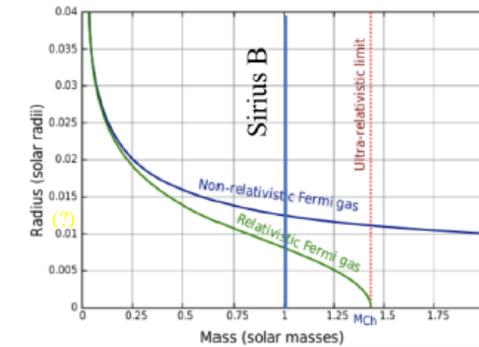
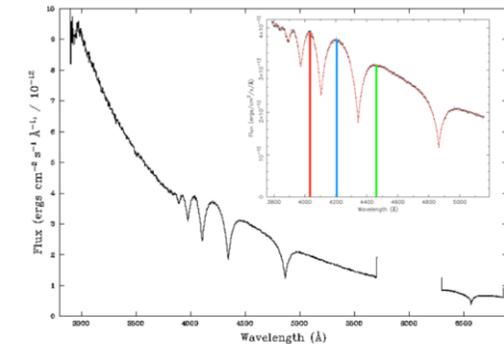
# Path-opening on **Sirius B** (white dwarf) : quantum degenerate Fermi gas of electrons

SNR  $\approx 6$   
in 1 hour  
observation time !!!!

Beyond reach of present instruments

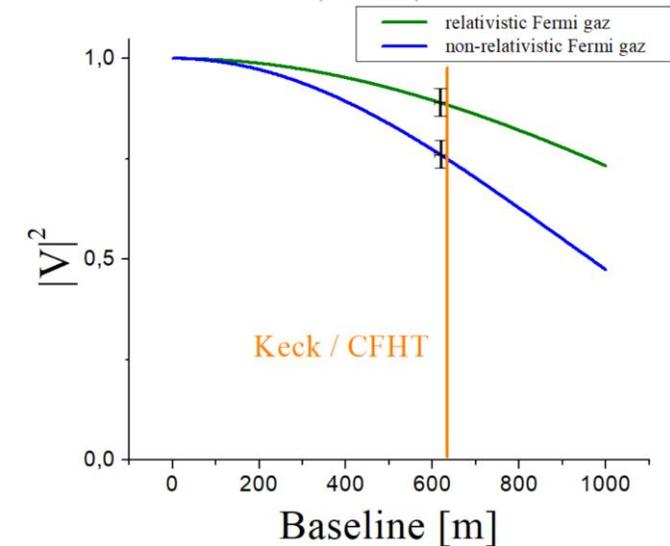


Magnitude=8.4



## Photon Bunching

- @  $\lambda = 420\text{nm}$
- $D=630\text{m}$



Mauna Kea @ Hawaii

Sincerely,

*John O'Meara*  
John O'Meara, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist and Deputy Director  
jomeara@keck.hawaii.edu  
+1 808 881-3855

*Peter L. Wizinowich*  
Peter L. Wizinowich, Ph.D.  
Chief of Technical Development  
peterw@keck.hawaii.edu  
+1 808 238 6648

Sincerely,

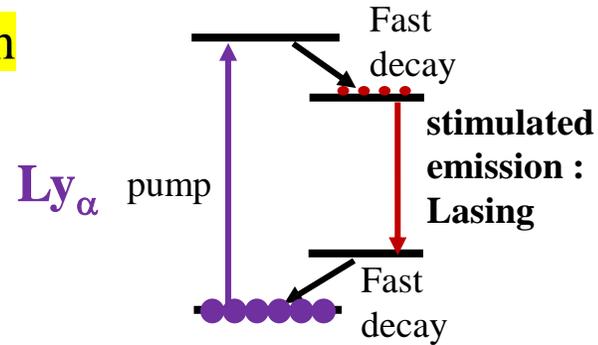
*Jean-Gabriel Cuby*  
Jean-Gabriel Cuby  
Executive Director  
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope

Mahalo,

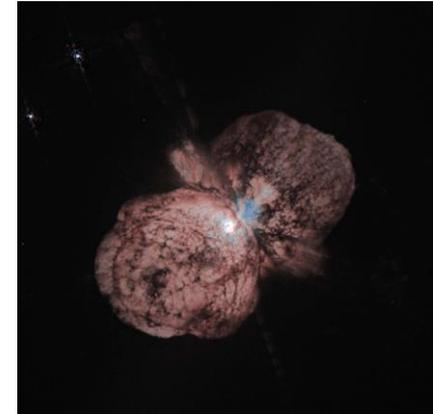
*Doug Simons*  
Doug Simons  
Director  
University of Hawaii, Institute for Astronomy

# Bonus : quantum astro-optics : coherent light sources

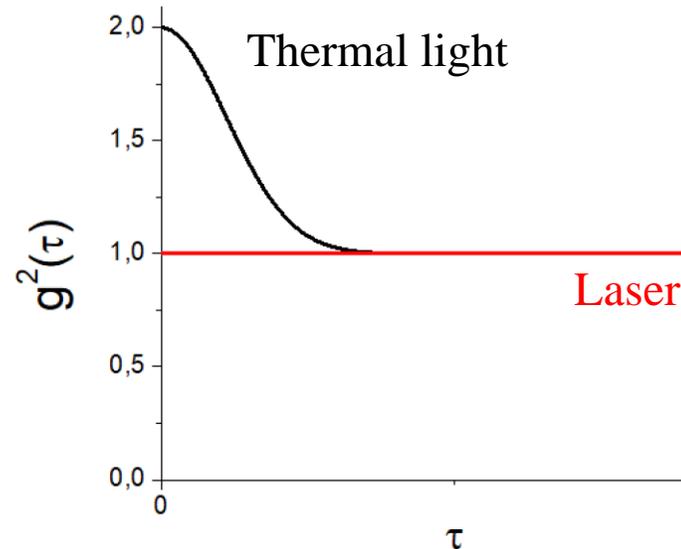
- Random laser with 4 level scheme



Eta Car  
**Fe II:**  
population inversion at  
0.99 / 1.6 / 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$



- Lasing signature :  $g^2(\tau)$  on a single telescope





# SNSPD technology

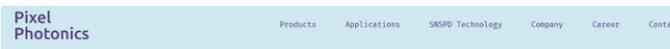


## The SNSPD technology

Photon detection with efficiency and time resolution

The Single Quantum multi channel SNSPD system combines high detection efficiency, high time resolution, low dark count rate, and a high count rate. It can detect single photons with higher than 90% efficiency over a broad spectral range and an ultra-high timing resolution of less than 35 ps.

The detection principle is based on the transition of a nanowire from the superconductive to the resistive state upon the absorption of a single photon. The detectors are pigtailed with an optical fiber and operated in a closed cycle cryostat at 2.5 kelvin. The design enables continuous operation for up to 10,000 hours and requires no liquid helium consumption. This makes it a turn-key solution for optical measurements.



**We got one goal:** detect and count single photons. Therefore, we developed a waveguide-integrated superconducting nanowire single photon detector (W-SNSPD) - enhancing the variability, scalability and robustness of the photonic integrated circuits and excelling in photon detection. Want to find out why our detector is the best? Keep reading.



## Table top detector

For those who value versatility

The table top version of our single photon detector comes with a separated helium compressor and therefore produces less heat, noise and vibrations, that could interfere with the detection.



## Rack detector

For those who value mobility

Rack compatible, this version integrates a cryostat, vacuum system, compressor and electronics into a single housing, immensely reduces the complexity and size of the detector.

## Broad capability

From the visible wavelength range of 400 nm up to the NIR wavelength range of 2,000 nm, our detectors ensure high system detection efficiency without the need to change the module.

## High scalability

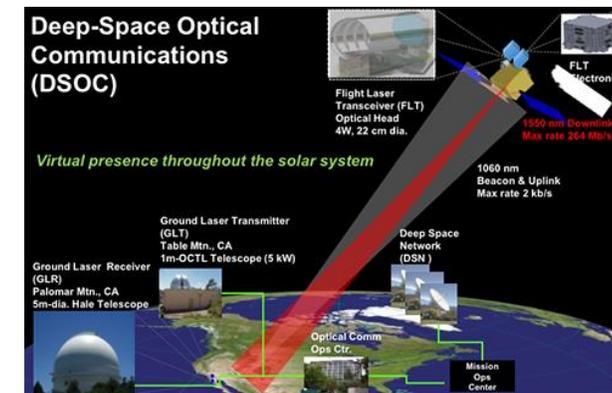
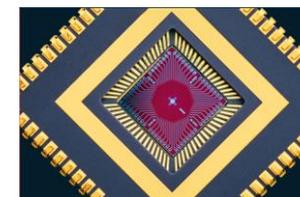
Due to the waveguide-integrated approach, our technology is highly scalable. This means that hundreds of detectors can be implemented in one single system, consuming only a small amount of space.

## Top efficiency

Due to our unique waveguide-integration approach, the internal quantum efficiency can be engineered to always be 100 % for any wavelength.

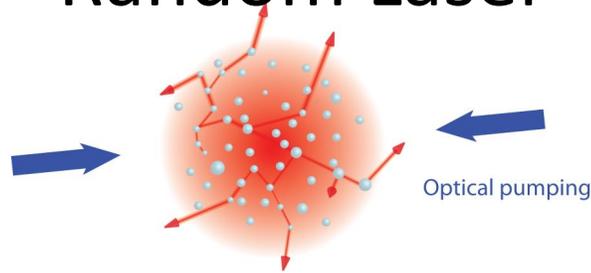
## Timing resolution

Our detectors have an excellent timing resolution with timing jitter typically on the order of tens of picoseconds. Even jitter below 30 ps is possible.



# Random lasing

- Random Laser



Pioneer in Laser physics : Basov  
(Nobel prize 1964, with C. Townes , Prokhorov)

- Gain Medium
- **Multiple scattering**

*V.S. Letokhov, Sov. Phys. JETP* **26**, 835-840  
(1968)



1939–2009

Letter | Published: 05 May 2013

## A cold-atom random laser

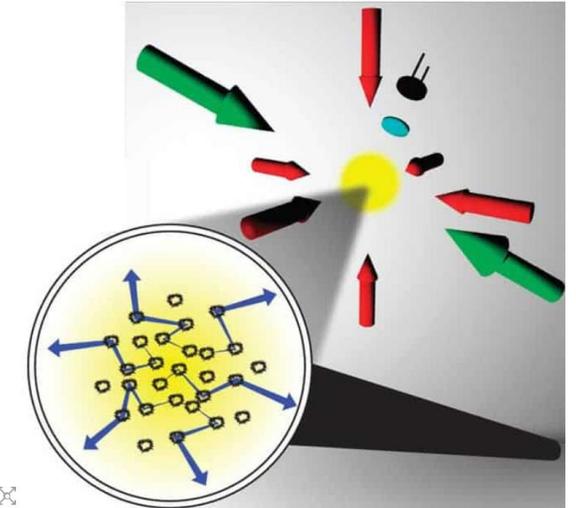
[Q. Baudouin](#), [N. Mercadier](#), [V. Guarrera](#), [W. Guerin](#) & [R. Kaiser](#)

*Nature Physics* **9**, 357–360 (2013) | [Cite this article](#)

STARS AND SOLAR PHYSICS | RESEARCH UPDATE

Cold-atom random laser simulates stellar clouds

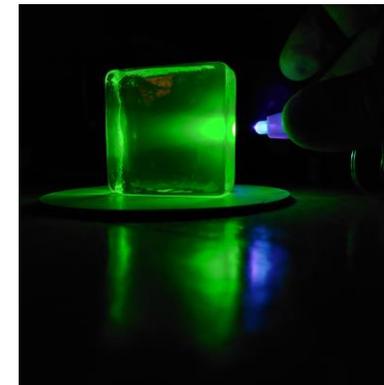
09 May 2013



Stimulating and scattering: an atomic random laser in action. (Courtesy: Q Baudouin et al./Nature Physics)

Intensity  $g^{(2)}$  correlations in random fiber lasers: A random-matrix-theory approach

Ernesto P. Raposo, Iván R. R. González, Edwin D. Coronel, Antônio M. S. Macêdo, Leonardo de S. Menezes, Raman Kashyap, Anderson S. L. Gomes, and Robin Kaiser  
*Phys. Rev. A* **105**, L031502 – Published 23 March 2022



Bunching	$g^2(0)=2$	
Superbunching	$g^2(0) > 2$	
No bunching	$g^2(0)=1$	?

# Benchmarking @ Calern

- WP3.1 :  $g^2(\tau)$

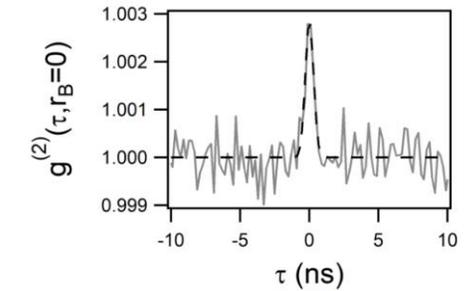
P-Cygni : M4.82  
( $\eta$ -Car of the north )

Combined spectroscopy and intensity  
interferometry to determine the distances of the  
blue supergiants P Cygni and Rigel 

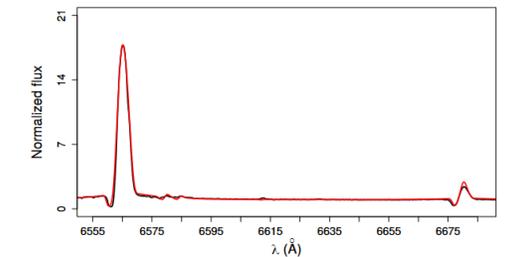
E S G de Almeida , M Hugbart , A Domiciano de Souza, J-P Rivet, F Vakili, A Siciak,  
G Labeyrie, O Garde, N Matthews, O Lai, D Vernet, R Kaiser, W Guerin

[Author Notes](#)

*Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Volume 515, Issue 1, September 2022,  
Pages 1–12, <https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stac1617>



$H_{\alpha}$   $\lambda=656.3$  nm

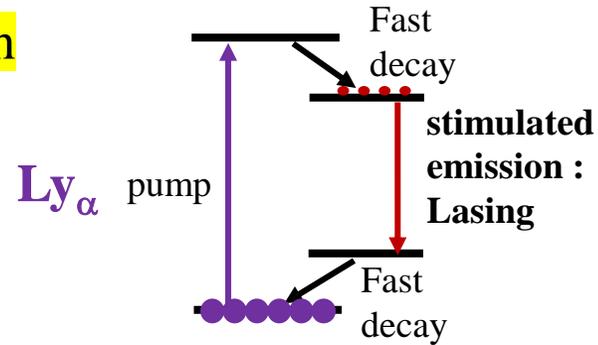


**Photon correlations  $g^2(\tau)$  around  
0.99 / 1.6 / 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$**

**With SNSPDs**

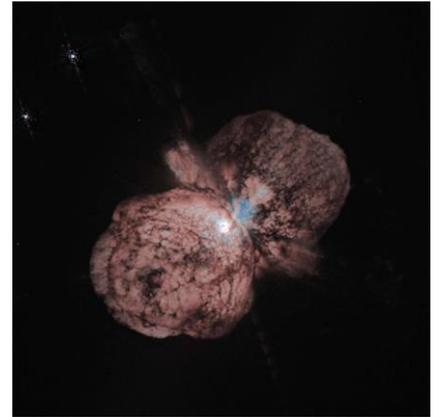
# Intensity correlations at SOAR

- Random laser with 4 level scheme

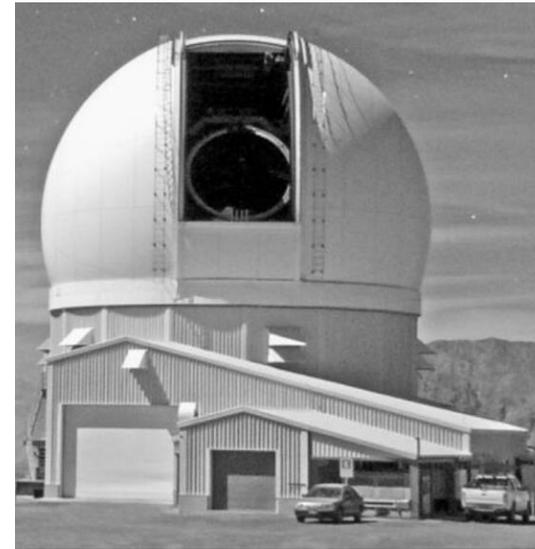
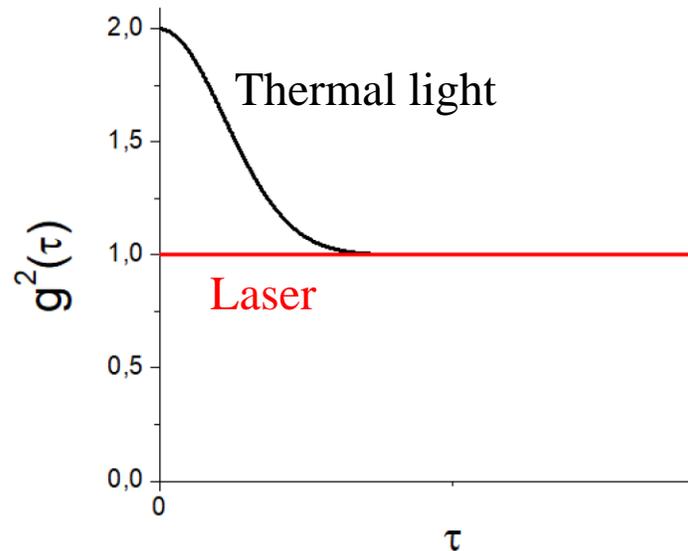


**Fe II:**  
population inversion at  
0.99 / 1.6 / 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$

**Eta Car**  
 $M_H=2.51$



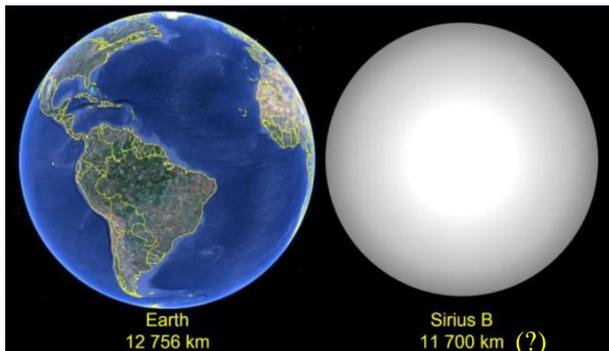
- Lasing signature :  $g^2(\tau)$  on a single telescope



**SOAR**  
(Chile, southern hemisphere)

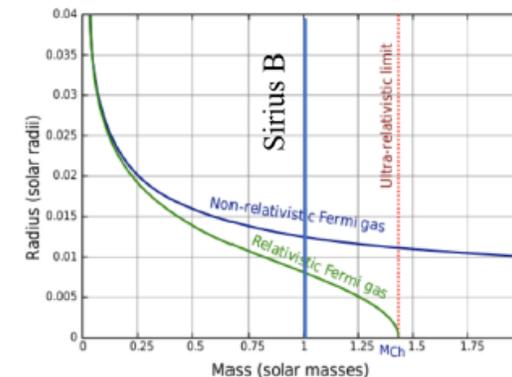
# Main expected result of IC4Stars

- High angular resolution in astrophysics :  $g^2(r) \quad \tau=0$

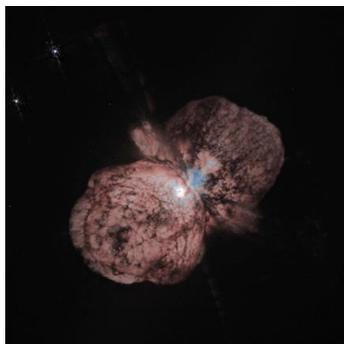


Magnitude=8.4  $\Delta\theta=30\mu''$

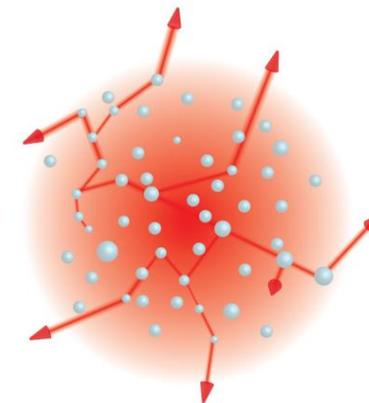
Validate white dwarf model



- Quantum optics in astrophysics :  $g^2(\tau) \quad r=0$

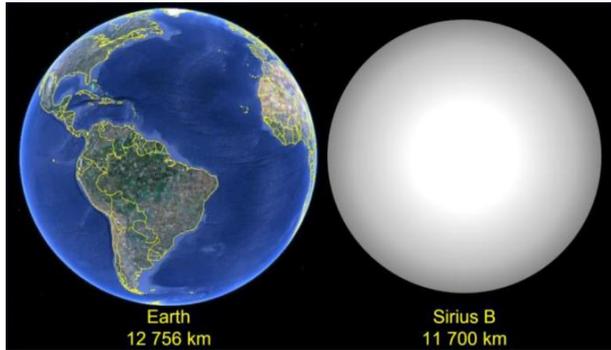


Detection of coherent light sources in astrophysics

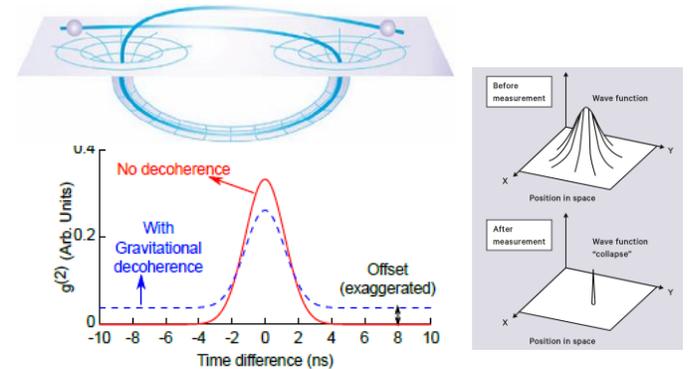
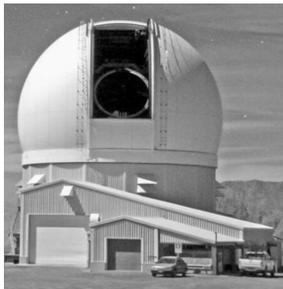


# Beyond IC4Stars

- Ultra-high angular resolution in astrophysics :  $g^2(r)$



- Quantum eye on astrophysics :  $g^2(\tau)$



New J. Phys. 20, 063016 (2018)

# Exciting targets for ultrahigh angular resolution in astrophysics :

- Wolf Rayet Stars  
(before Supernovae type II explosion)



WR 124

M12 / 20  $\mu$ "

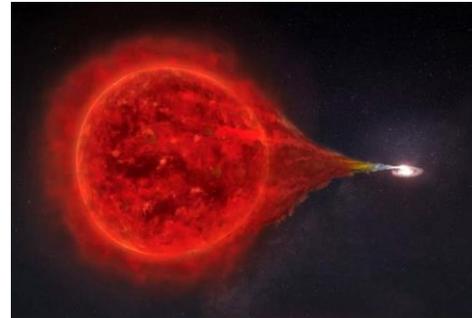
THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT SERIES, 187:275-373, 2010 April  
© 2010. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

doi:10.1088/0067-0049/187/2/275

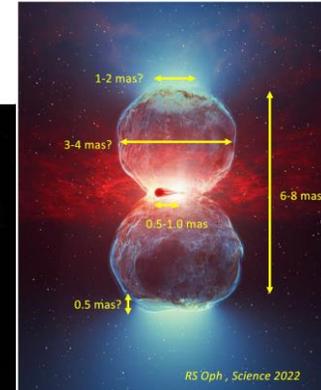
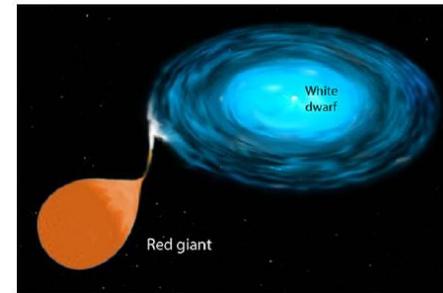
COMPREHENSIVE PHOTOMETRIC HISTORIES OF ALL KNOWN GALACTIC RECURRENT NOVAE

BRADLEY E. SCHAEFER  
Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA; schaefer@lsu.edu  
Received 2009 April 6; accepted 2010 January 20; published 2010 March 17

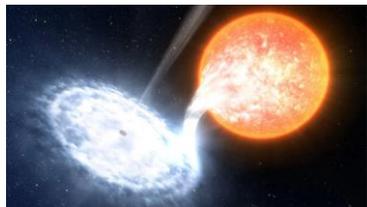
- Binary White Dwarfs  
(before Supernovae type I explosion)



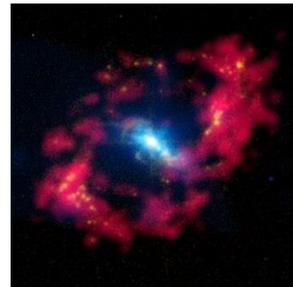
T Cor Bor: recurrent nova?  
M10



- Black hole accretion disks

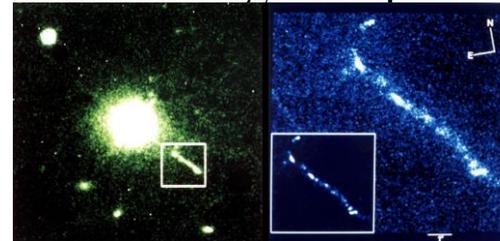


NGC4151



M11.5 / 100  $\mu$ "

3C 273 brightest quasar



(supermassive black hole)

M12.9

0.55-0.9 mas

# Exciting targets for ultrahigh angular resolution in astrophysics :

- Wolf Rayet Stars  
(before Supernovae type II explosion)



WR 124

M12 / 20  $\mu$ "

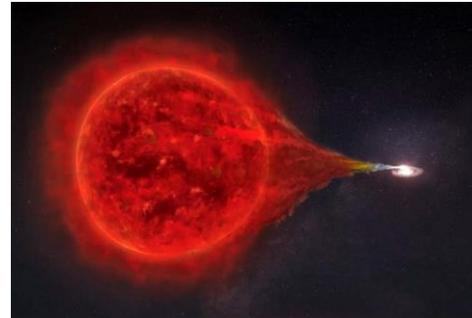
THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT SERIES, 187:275-373, 2010 April  
© 2010. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

doi:10.1088/0067-0049/187/2/275

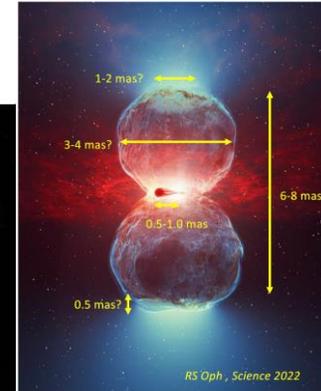
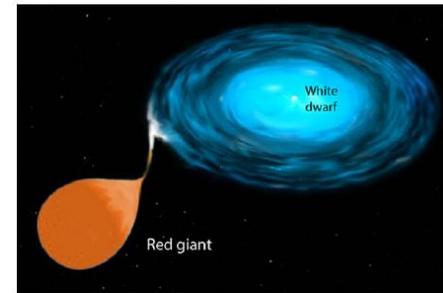
COMPREHENSIVE PHOTOMETRIC HISTORIES OF ALL KNOWN GALACTIC RECURRENT NOVAE

BRADLEY E. SCHAEFER  
Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA; schaefer@lsu.edu  
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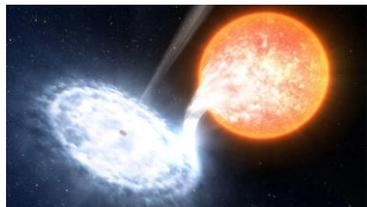
- Binary White Dwarfs  
(before Supernovae type I explosion)



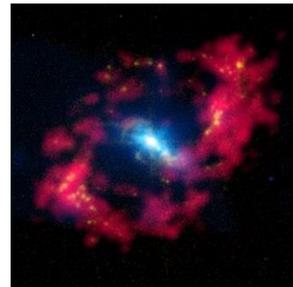
T Cor Bor: recurrent nova?  
M10



- Black hole accretion disks

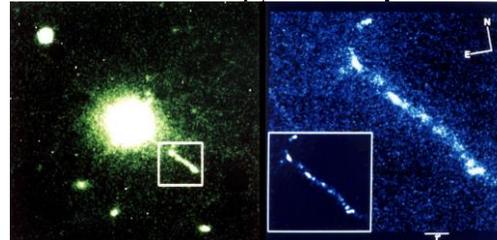


NGC4151



M11.5 / 100  $\mu$ "

3C 273 brightest quasar



(supermassive black hole)

M12.9

0.55-0.9 mas

**Thank you for your attention**