



The future of *FEEDBACK* - Key findings and outlook

Simon Dannhauer on behalf of the **FEEDBACK** consortium



UNIVERSITÄT
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Max-Planck-Institut
für Radioastronomie

SOFIA Legacy Project *FEEDBACK*

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FEEDBACK: a SOFIA Legacy Program to Study Stellar Feedback in Regions of Massive Star Formation

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- Survey of 11 galactic, high-mass star-forming regions in [CII] 158 μ m and [OI] 63 μ m
- covering diverse environments (RCW120, Cygnus X, M17, W43..)
 - spectrally resolved (up-)GREAT: tracing the dynamics of the gas
 - ~100h observing time, 77% done

PI's:



Nicola Schneider



Xander Tielens

FEEDBACK team

PI's: N. Schneider & A. Tielens

I. Physics U. of Cologne:

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S. Kabanovic, E. Keilmann, Y. Okada,
V. Ossenkopf-Okada, M. Roellig, R. Simon, J. Stutzki, ...

MPIfR Bonn:

R. Güsten, S. Neupane, K.Menten, M. Mertens,
O. Ricken, F. Wyrowski, ...

and many more

L. Anderson , J. Bally, S. Bontemps, L. Bonne, H. Beuther,
T. Csengeri, A. Gusdorf, R. Karim, M. Luisi,
M. Pound, D. Russeil, M. Tiwari, M. Wolfire, A. Zavagno,
...

14 papers published + many more in prep.

Name	Topic
Schneider et al. (2020)	FEEDBACK project paper
Luisi et al. (2021)	Expanding CII shells in RCW120
Tiwari et al. (2021)	Wind-driven shells in RCW49
Beuther et al. (2022)	Bubbles in NGC7538
Bonne et al. (2022)	Dynamics and mass ejection in RCW36
Tiwari et al. (2022)	PDR of RCW49
Kabanovic et al. (2022)	Self-absorption in RCW120
Schneider et al. (2023)	CII tracing cloud assembly
Bonne et al. (2023)	CII in DR21
Tiwari et al. (2023)	Gaussian Mixture model
Bonne et al. (2023)	Rapid anisotropic mass ejection in RCW79
Karim et al. (2023)	Pillars of creation in M16 in CII
Bij et al. (2024)	CII and HAWK+ observations in RCW36
Keilmann et al. (2025.)	CII deficit in RCW79
Faerber et al. (subm.)	Expansion signatures in HII regions
Dannhauer et al. (in prep.)	The Diamond Ring in Cygnus X
Dannhauer et al. (in prep.)	The evolutionary sequence of CII bubbles
Keilmann et al. (in prep.)	PDR modelling in RCW79
Bonne et al. (in prep.)	High velocity wings around O starclusters
Karim et al. (in prep.)	The Eagle Nebula in CII and molecular lines
Neupane et al. (in prep.)	NGC6334
Bally et al. (in prep.)	W43
Jacob et al. (in prep.)	W40



Cloud Formation traced by [CII]

Ionized carbon as a tracer of CO-dark gas

Molecular Clouds in Cygnus X formed by mostly (80%) atomic colliding flows

$n_H \sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $T \sim 100 \text{ K}$

nature astronomy

Article

Ionized carbon as a tracer of the assembly of interstellar clouds

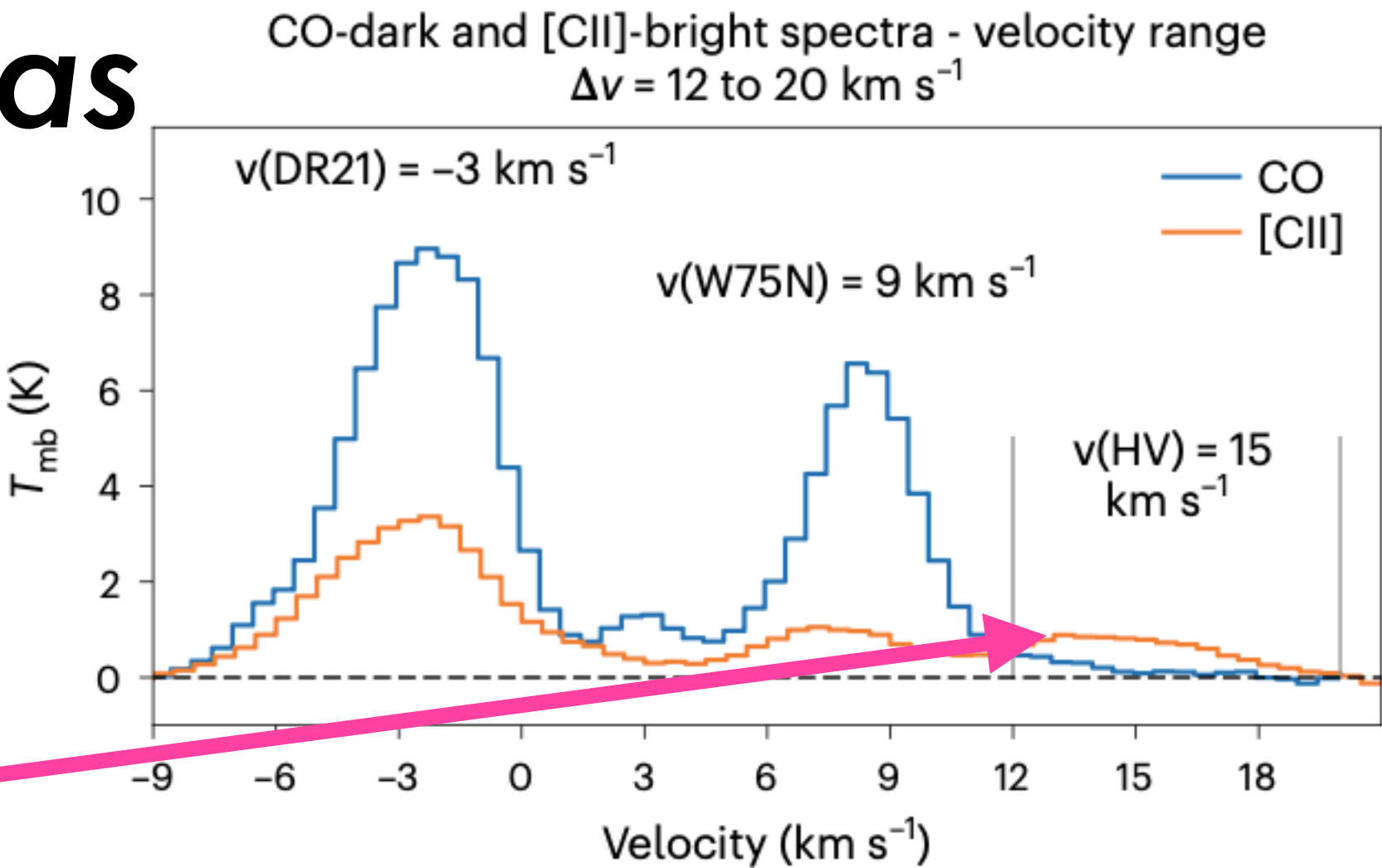
Received: 13 September 2022

Accepted: 20 January 2023

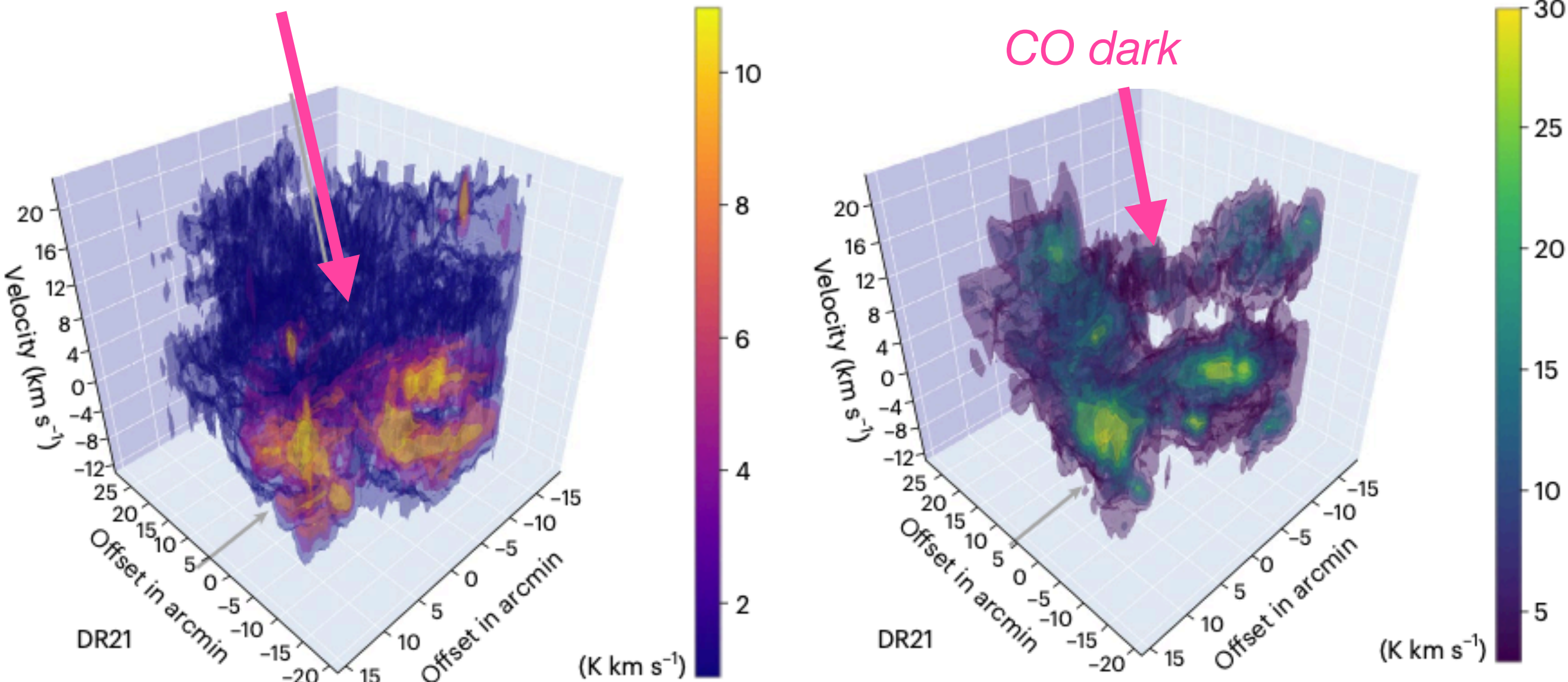
Published online: 16 February 2023

Nicola Schneider¹, Lars Bonne², Sylvain Bontemps³, Slawa Kabanovic¹, Robert Simon¹, Volker Ossenkopf-Okada¹, Christof Buchbender¹, Jürgen Stutzki¹, Marc Mertens¹, Oliver Ricken⁴, Timea Csengeri³ & Alexander G.G.M. Tielens^{5,6}

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-023-01901-5>



Low intensity CII emission at high velocities



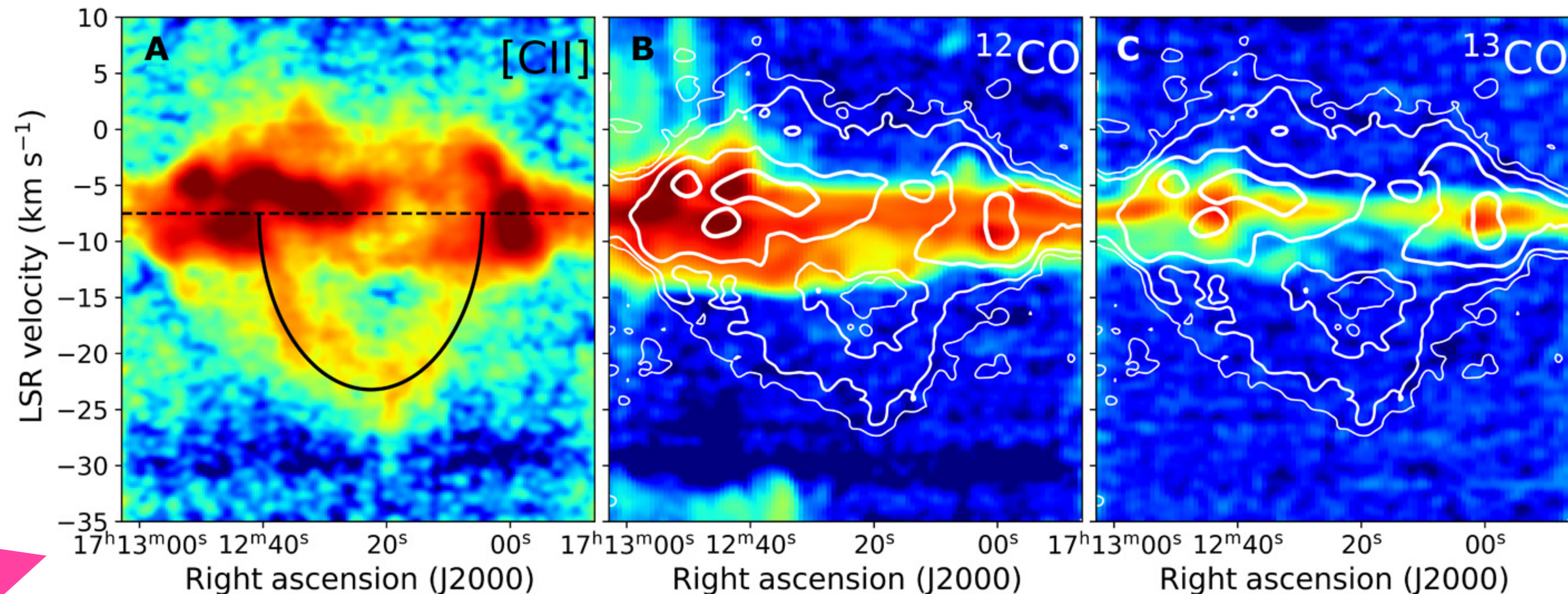
Schneider et al., 2023 (Nature)

Bonne et al., 2023

Fast expanding bubbles

(remember also Cornelia's talk + Pabst et al., 2019, Nature)

Fast ($v > 10 \text{ km/s}$)
expanding [CII] shells
driven by stellar wind a
common feature among
most FEEDBACK sources



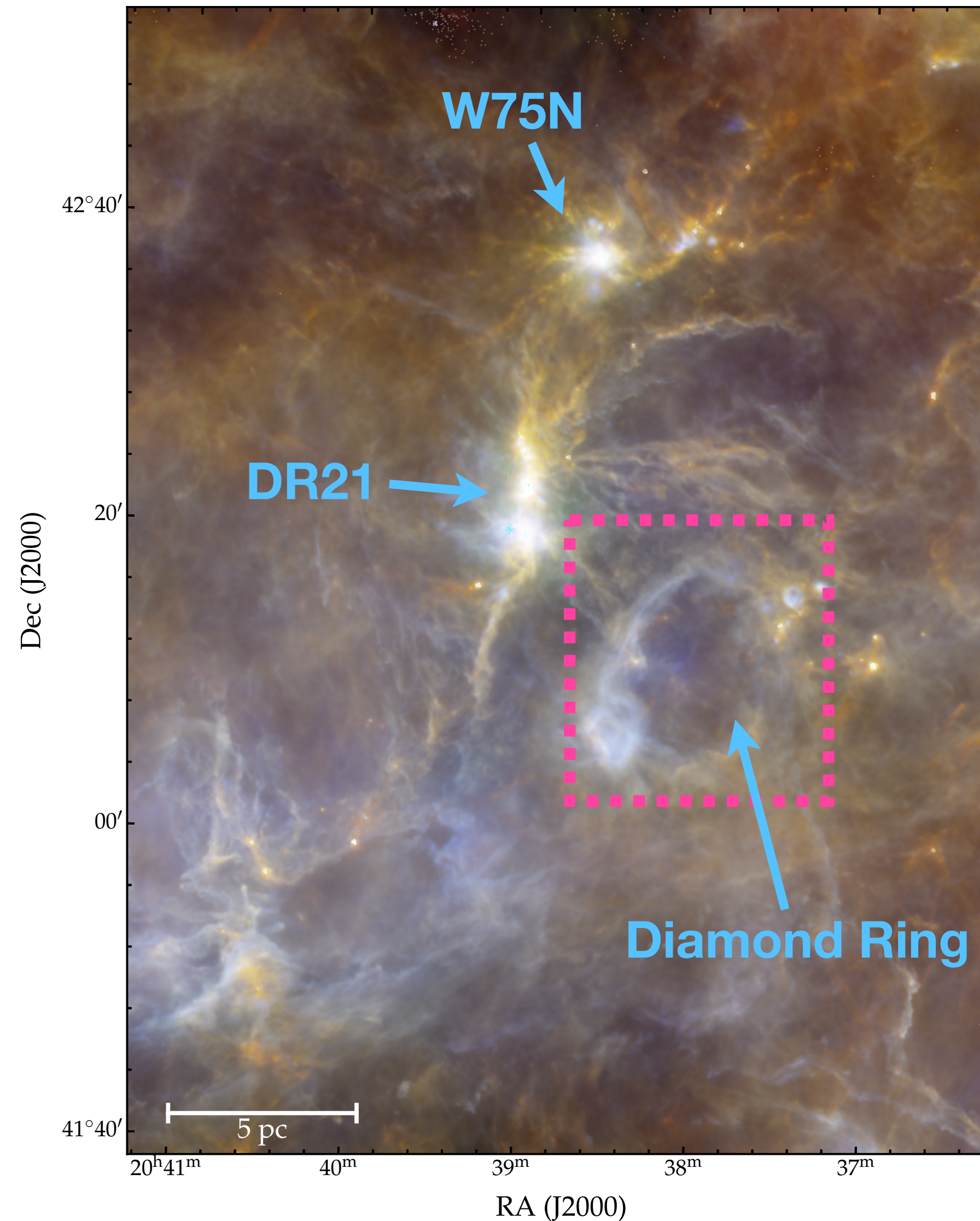
- RCW120 (Luisi et al., 2021)
- RCW49 (Tiwari et al., 2021)
- NGC7538 (Beuther et al., 2022)
- RCW36 (Bonne et al., 2022)
- RCW79 (Bonne et al., 2023)
- ...

Diverse sources: ‘Bubble in a bubble’, bi-polar shells,... and cloud dispersal (e.g., RCW79 Bonne et al., 2023)

How do they connect? There are some hints: flat clouds e.g., Beaumont & Williams, 2010 and Kabanovic et al., 2022

The 'Diamond Ring' in Cygnus X:

Environment shapes evolution



Herschel: 70 μ m/160 μ m/250 μ m
HOBYS program
(Schneider et al., 2021)

Dannhauer et al., in prep

The 'Diamond Ring' in Cygnus X:

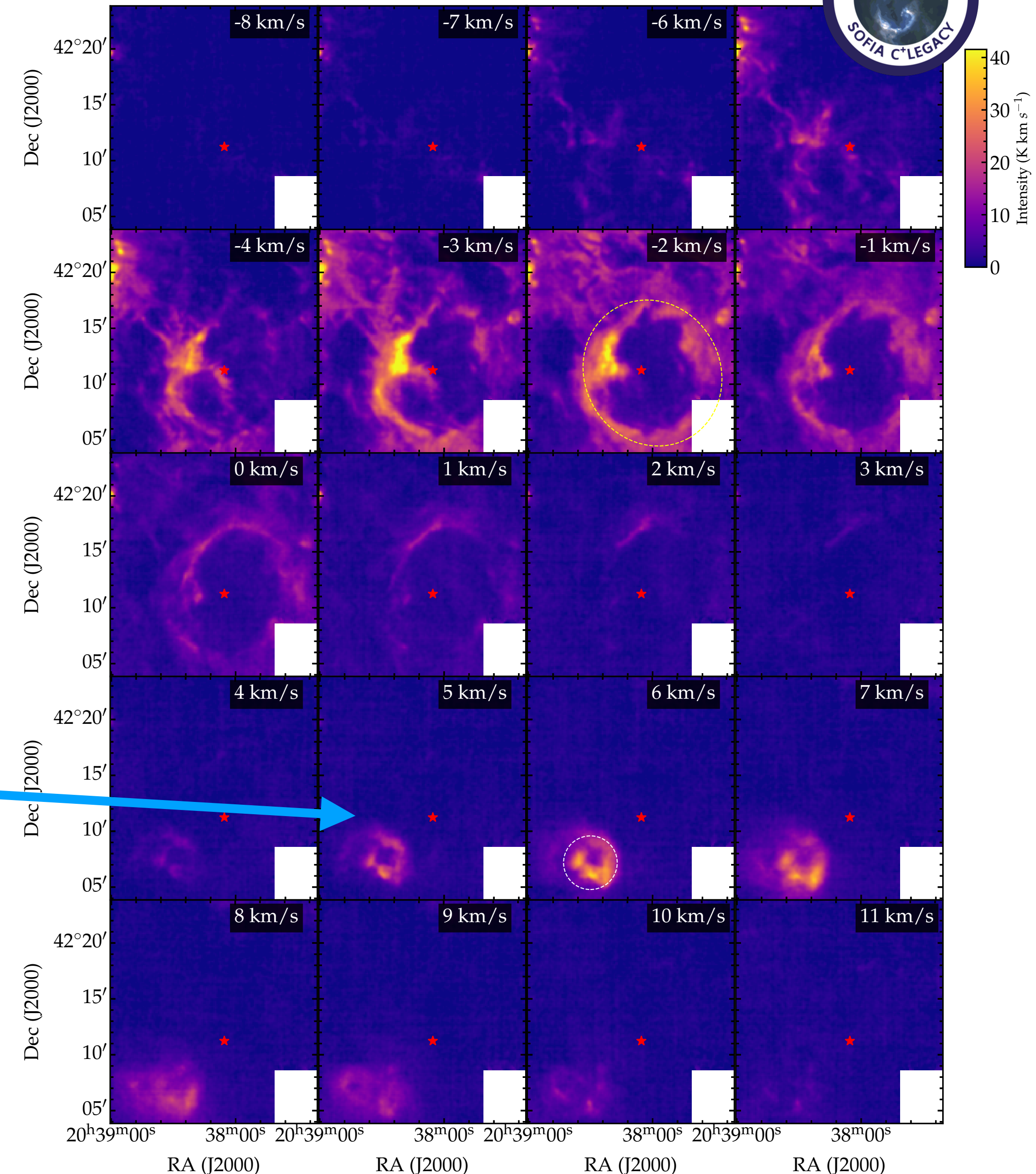
Environment shapes evolution

A ring in [CII] emission, shows only slow radial expansion, no shell structure as typically observed



- Ring mass $\sim 1061 M_{\odot}$, $v_{\text{radial}} \sim 1.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
- Ionising source B0.5Ve star, as determined by our spectroscopy
- Associated HII region
- 'Diamond' (Cluster 13) just a LOS effect
- Final stage of a former bubble

Dannhauer et al., in prep



The 'Diamond Ring' in Cygnus X: *Environment shapes evolution*

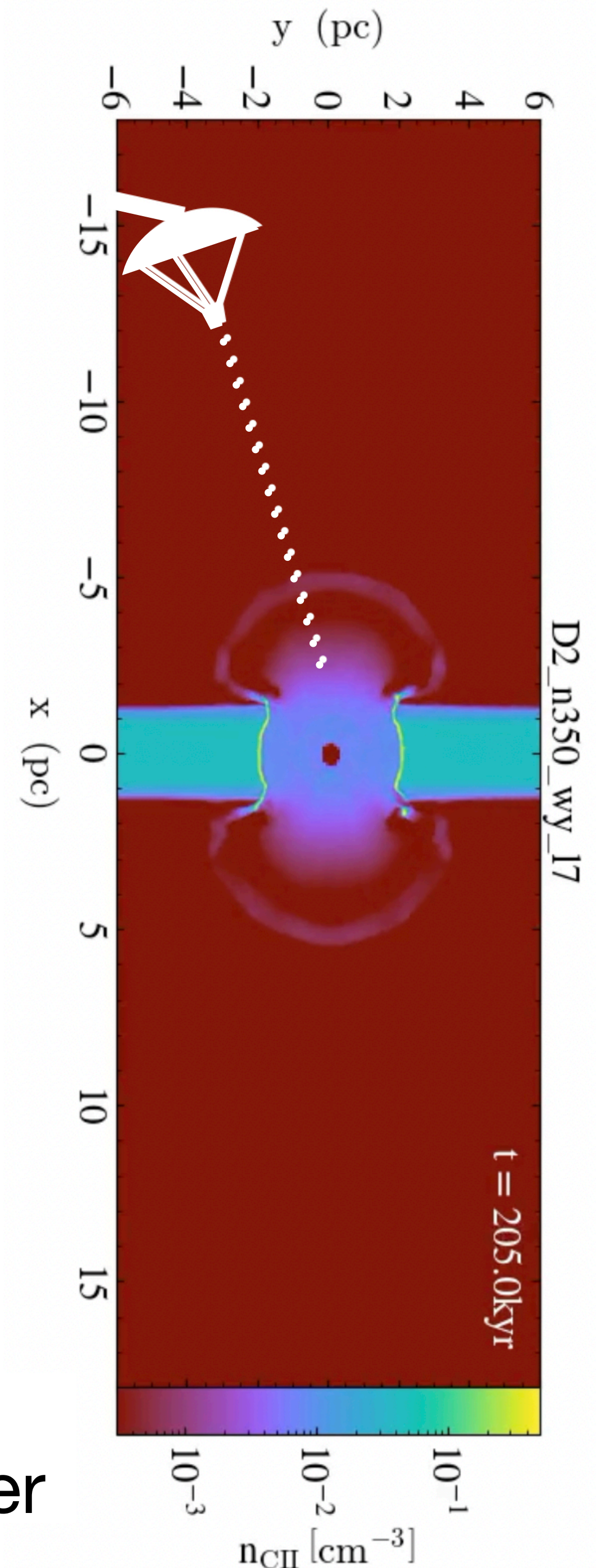
Dynamics, morphology, [CII] intensity and HII region pressure can be reproduced by ionising feedback of a B0.5 star in a molecular *sheet*

- Idealised (no B-field, no turbulence) simulations
- Observations best explained by ~ 2 pc thick slab, $n_{\text{H}}=350 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- Cloud dispersion taking over after ~ 100 kyr
- High velocity shell remains below our detection limit (synthetic observations)

Dannhauer et al., in prep

Simon Dannhauer, 27/05/25 @Ballyfest

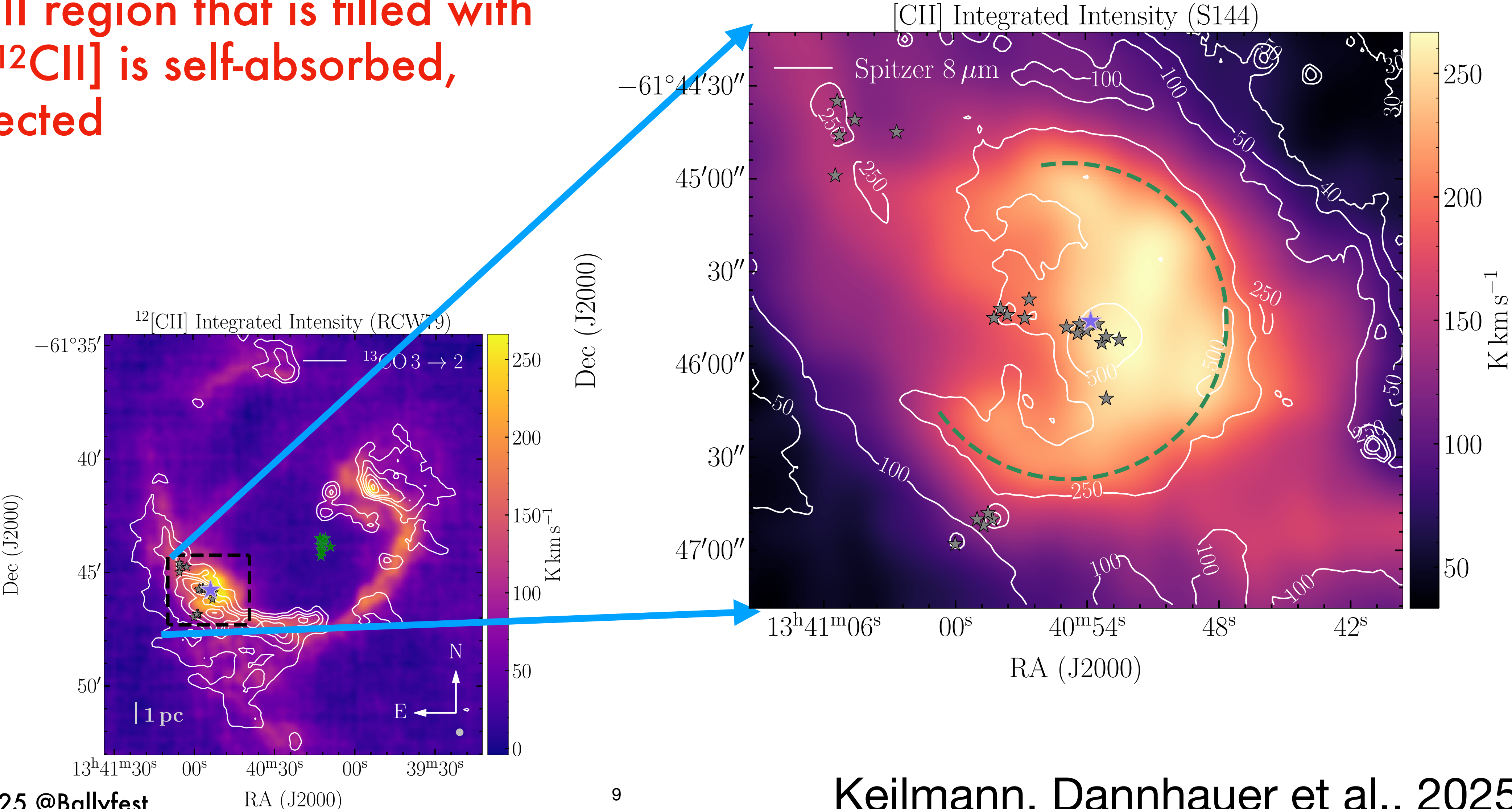
Simulations by Sebastian Vider,
group of Stefanie Walch-Gassner



[CII]/FIR deficit by [CII] self-absorption

A bubble (S144) in a bubble (RCW79)

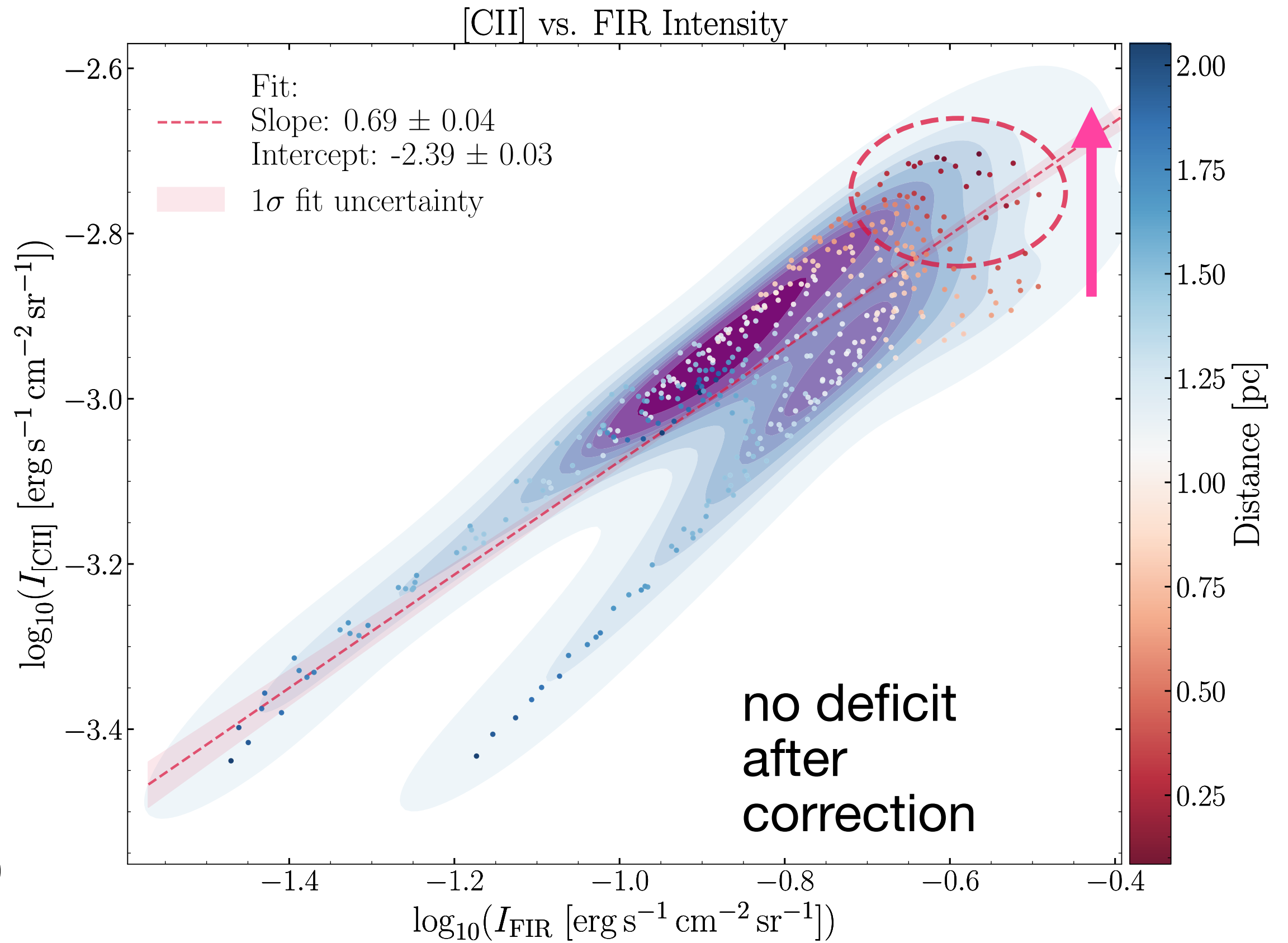
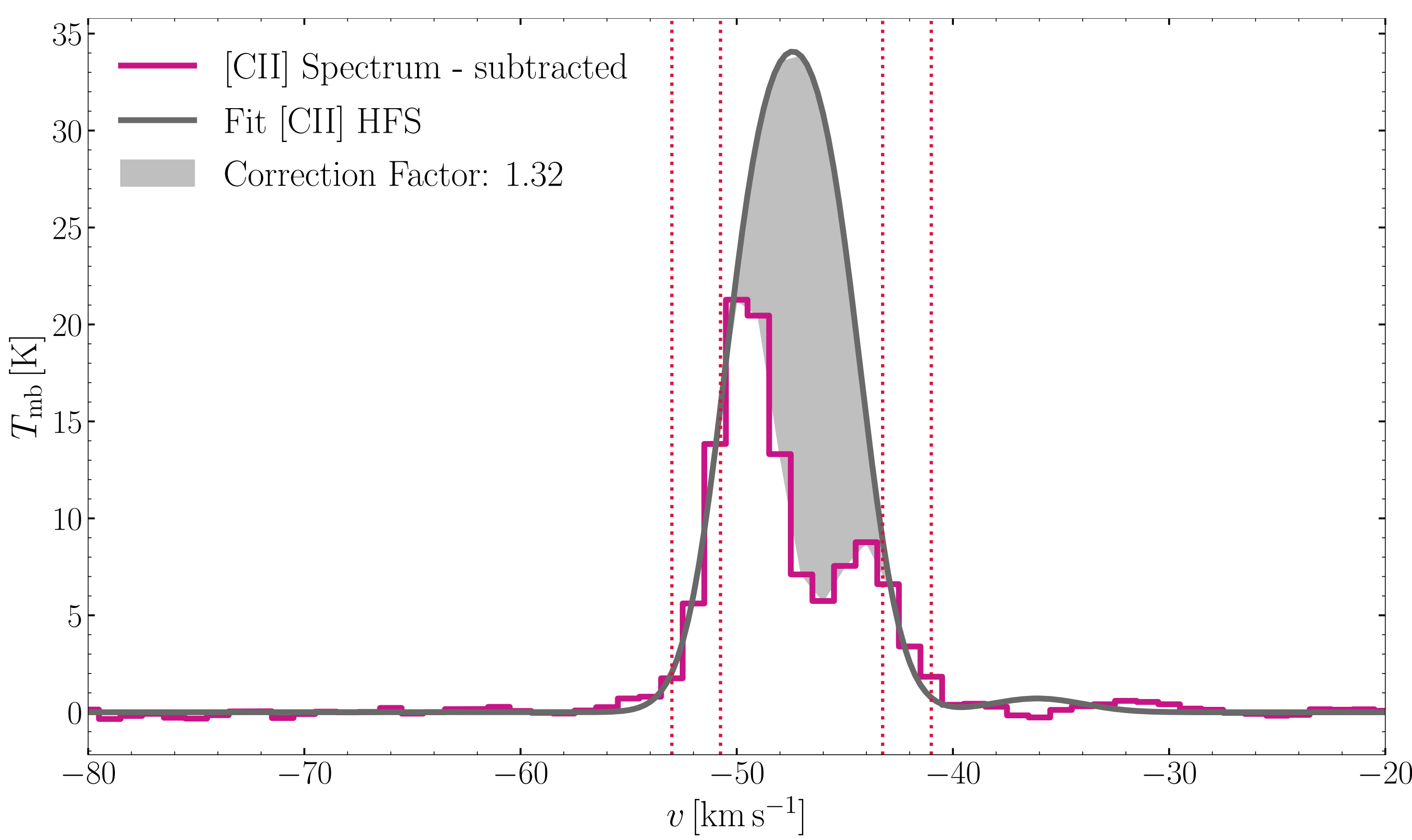
S144 is a cHII region that is filled with C^+ and the $[^{12}\text{CII}]$ is self-absorbed, $[^{13}\text{CII}]$ is detected



[CII]/FIR deficit by [CII] self-absorption

A bubble (S144) in a bubble (RCW79)

If we correct for the missing [CII] flux, the deficit vanishes in *this* early Galactic bubble



Keilmann, Dannhauer et al., 2025

for the details see poster by Eduard Keilmann!

Next steps

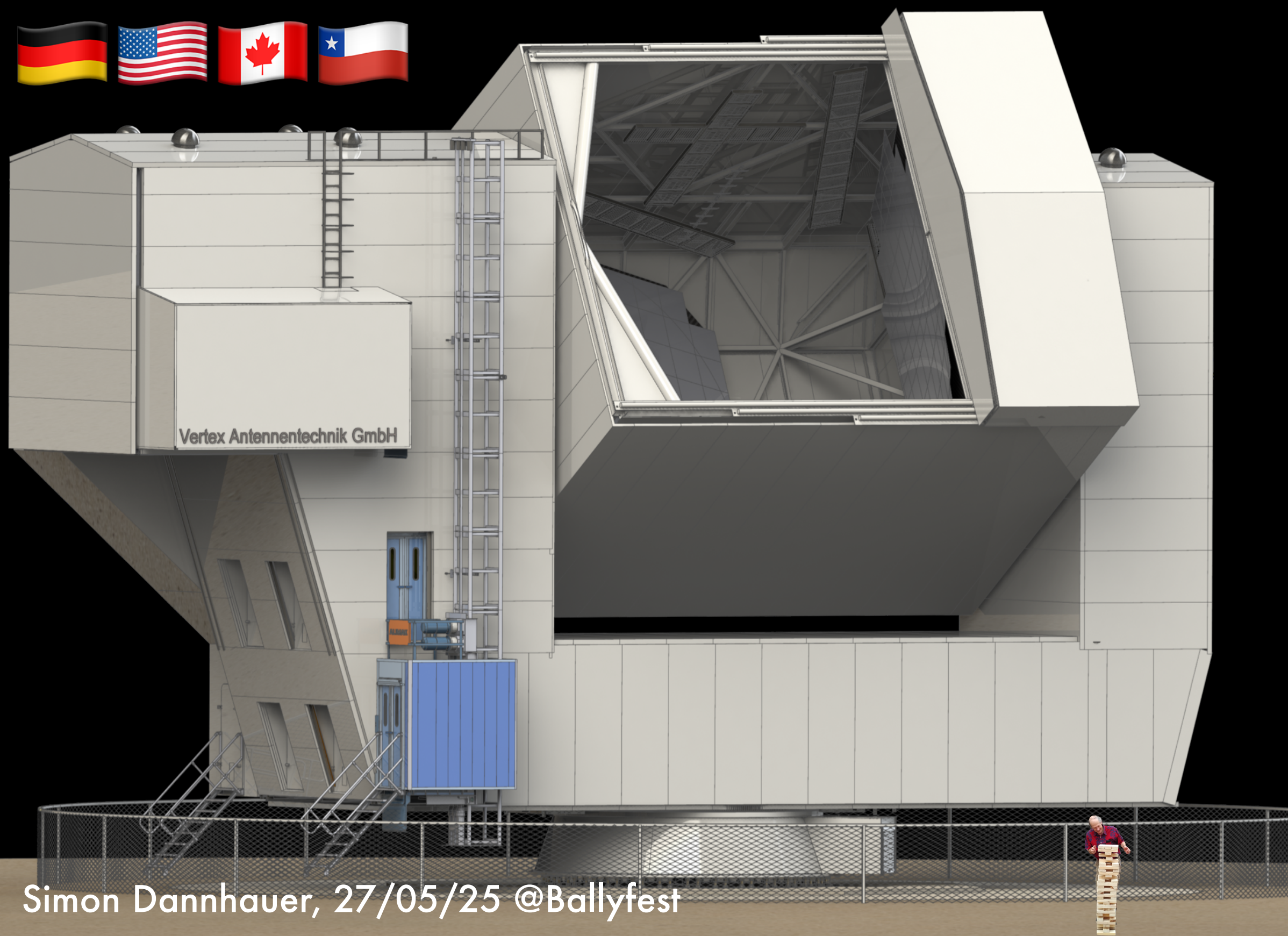
- Establish an **evolutionary sequence** of [CII] bubbles
- Quantify the coupling of FUV radiation to interstellar gas, determine the **photoelectric heating efficiency** of atomic and molecular carbon
- Investigate **[CII]-FIR deficit** in further bubbles
- How good is [CII] as a **star-formation tracer**?
- ‘**Triggered star-formation**’, CO, [CII] linewidths and velocity gradients
- **[OI] 63 μ m**, at 6” it allows connection to smaller scales
- **[CII] vs CRRLs** (SKAO pathfinder)
- **[CII] vs [CI]** (CCAT/FYST synergies)



CCAT/FYST Galactic Ecology* (GEco)

*a term coined by John Bally

PI: R. Simon



- Fred Young Submillimeter Telescope
- Summit of Cerro Chajnantor (5600m, Chile)
- Large FOV, survey instrument
- First light in Q1 2026
- One of the Key Science Projects: *GEco survey*
- CO (4-3), [CI] (1-0) @~26" and CO (7-6), [CI] (2-1) @~15"
- Highly complementary to *FEEDBACK*



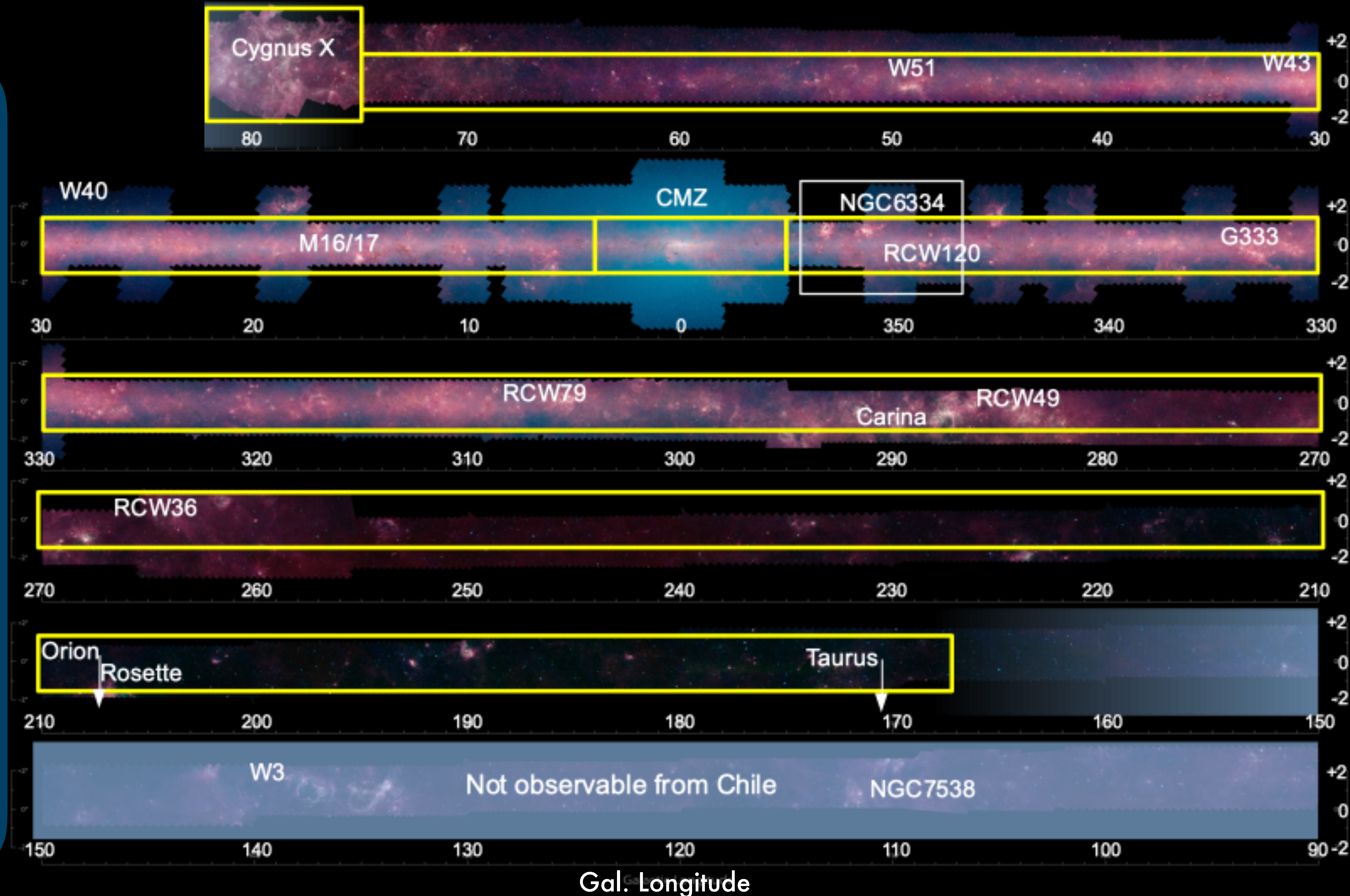
FYST Galactic Ecology* (GEco)

**a term coined by John Bally*

PI: R. Simon

Science Topics:

- cloud and dense structure formation
- stellar feedback
- carbon budget, CO-dark gas
- extended to nearby galaxies (low Z), gal. low-mass SF regions

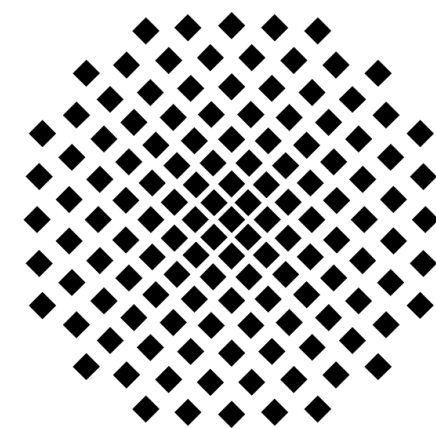


A place for Legacy: SOFIA Data Center

- 5 year DLR funding @UoStuttgart to provide *science-ready* data products to the community
- HAWC+, FORCAST, EXES, FIFI-LS
- ~5300h of observing time
- Long-term plan to merge with the DZA in Görlitz



... and don't forget GREAT support at UoC!



Universität Stuttgart

Simon Dannhauer, 27/05/25 @Ballyfest

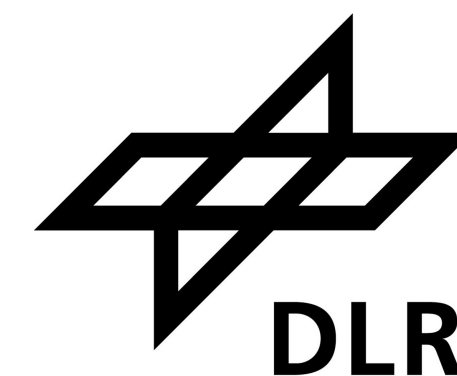


Image Credit: Greg Perryman/USRA

Take-home messages

- stellar feedback and cloud formation must be understood together
- still lots of work to be done!
- current efforts aimed at providing science-ready [CII] data to the community, bridging the gap until new instruments come available
- CCAT/FYST will provide additional complementary lines for large regions



Thank you for your attention.

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