

# Clustered and Dispersed Star Formation Across the Serpens Molecular Complex

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*Star Cluster Formation: Mapping the first few Myrs*  
Aug 27-29, Grenoble, France



# What are the Goals of this Study?

## **Measure**

properties of star  
forming regions in  
one complex

- Clustering properties of YSOs
- YSOs evolutionary & dynamical status
- Relationship to gas
- Age and mass segregation

## **Test**

against our  
expectations\* from  
cluster origin  
theories

- Highly dynamic, “rapid”  
Bonnell+ 2003; Bate 2009; Vazquez-Semadeni+ 2017
- Quasi-equilibrium, “slow”  
Elmegreen+ 2000; Tan+2005; [Krumholz+ 2005]

\* But our expectations may have changed based on yesterday’s discussions!

# Expectations from Cluster Models

Feature	Model Prediction	
	Rapid	Slow
Degree of clustering	very high	low
Subcluster shape	elongated	round
Stellar hierarchy	inherited from gas	none
YSO Class content	mixed	segregated

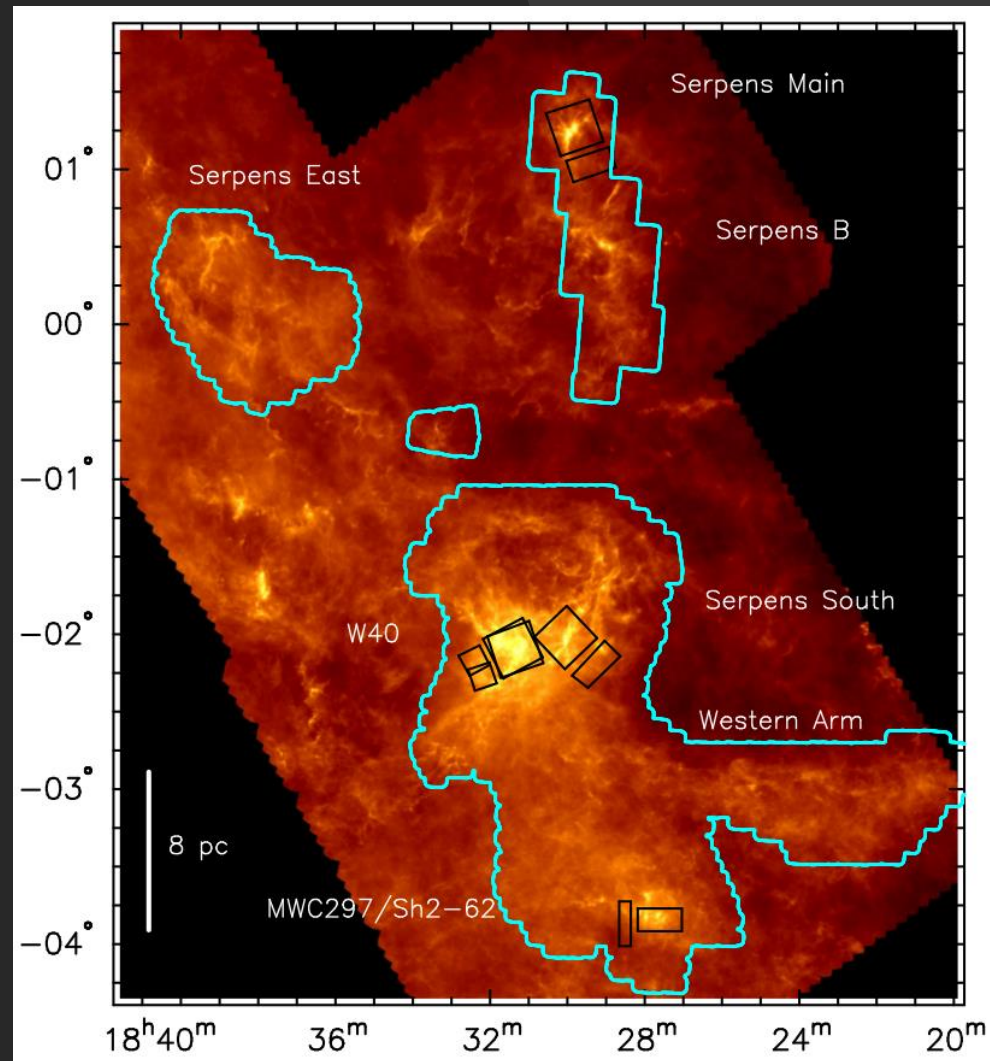
These features can be examined using our methods

# Predictions from Cluster Models

Feature	Technique to be used
Clustering degree	correlation functions, dbscan extraction (FoF)
Subcluster shape	shape analysis
Stellar & gas hierarchies	hierarchical dbscan, dendrograms
YSO Class content	observed & fitted SEDs

# Why Choose Serpens MC?

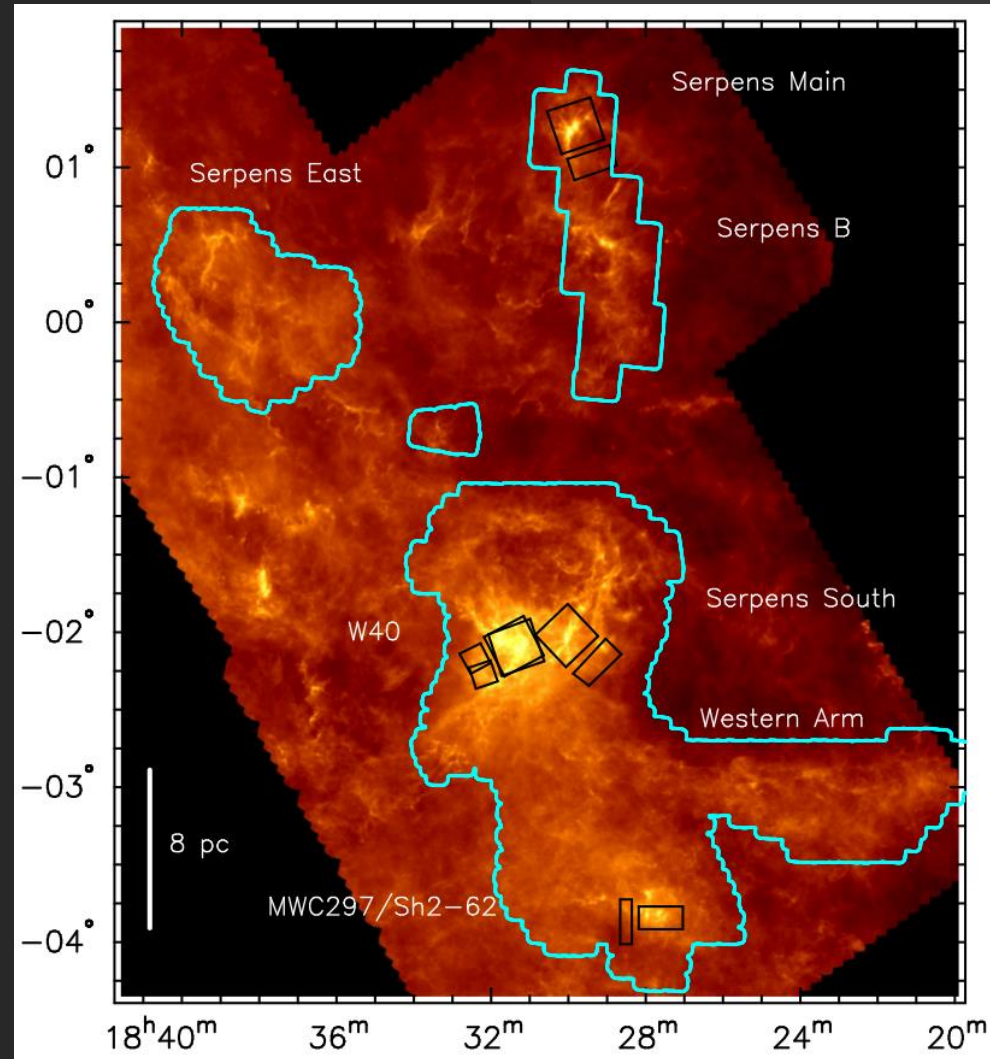
- **Location, size, population**
  - Large (384 sq pc), nearby (436 pc) region with several rich protostellar clusters and distributed star formation
- **Large archival surveys**
  - Spitzer, Herschel, 2MASS, VISTA, WISE, SDSS, CARMA CLASSY, Chandra
- **GAIA now available**
  - Photometry, distances, proper motions



Color: Herschel 350 micron, boxes: Chandra, outline: Spitzer c2d and GB

# Why Is More Study Needed?

- No published uniform study covering entire region
- Existing studies have
  - Limited depth (c2d, GB)
  - Limited area (Getman+)
  - Conflicting YSO classifications
  - Known contamination
  - Have not looked at clustering substructure
  - Did not use photometry from visible bands
- GAIA now available



Color: Herschel 350 micron, boxes: Chandra, outline: Sptizer c2d and GB



# Analysis Tools

## YSO Identification

- Catalog matching: GAIA, c2d/GB, 2MASS, WISE, SDSS
- GAIA distances

## YSO Classification

- Measurement of SED spectral power law  $\alpha$
- YSO models and fitting code (Robitaille 2017)

## Spatial Clustering

- 1pt, 2pt correlation functions, Nearest neighbor statistics
- Hierarchical DBSCAN (Joncour+ 2018)

## Dust Morphology

- Dendrograms – can compare with H-DBSCAN trees

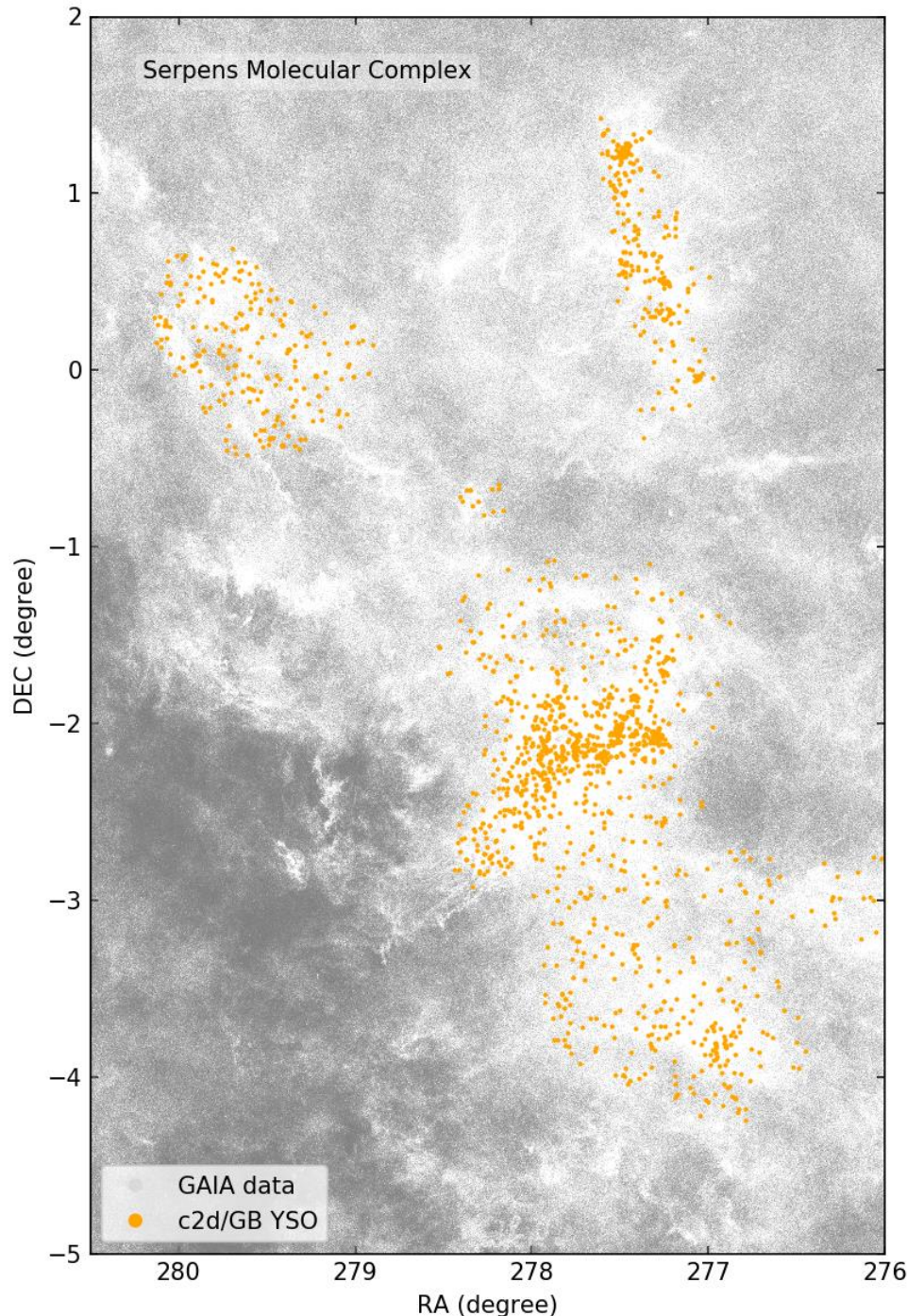
## Kinematics

- GAIA proper motions to help determine YSO membership
- Comparison with motions of local gas

# Initial Results From...

- **YSO Identification**
  - Catalog matching: GAIA, c2d/GB, 2MASS, WISE, SDSS
  - GAIA distances
- **YSO Classification**
  - Measurement of SED spectral power law  $\alpha$
  - YSO models and fitting code (Robitaille 2017)
- **Spatial Clustering**
  - 1pt, 2pt correlation functions, Nearest neighbor statistics
  - Hierarchical DBSCAN (Joncour+ 2018)
- **Dust Morphology**
  - Dendrograms – can compare with HDBSCAN trees
- **Kinematics**
  - GAIA proper motions to help determine YSO membership
  - Comparison with motions of local gas

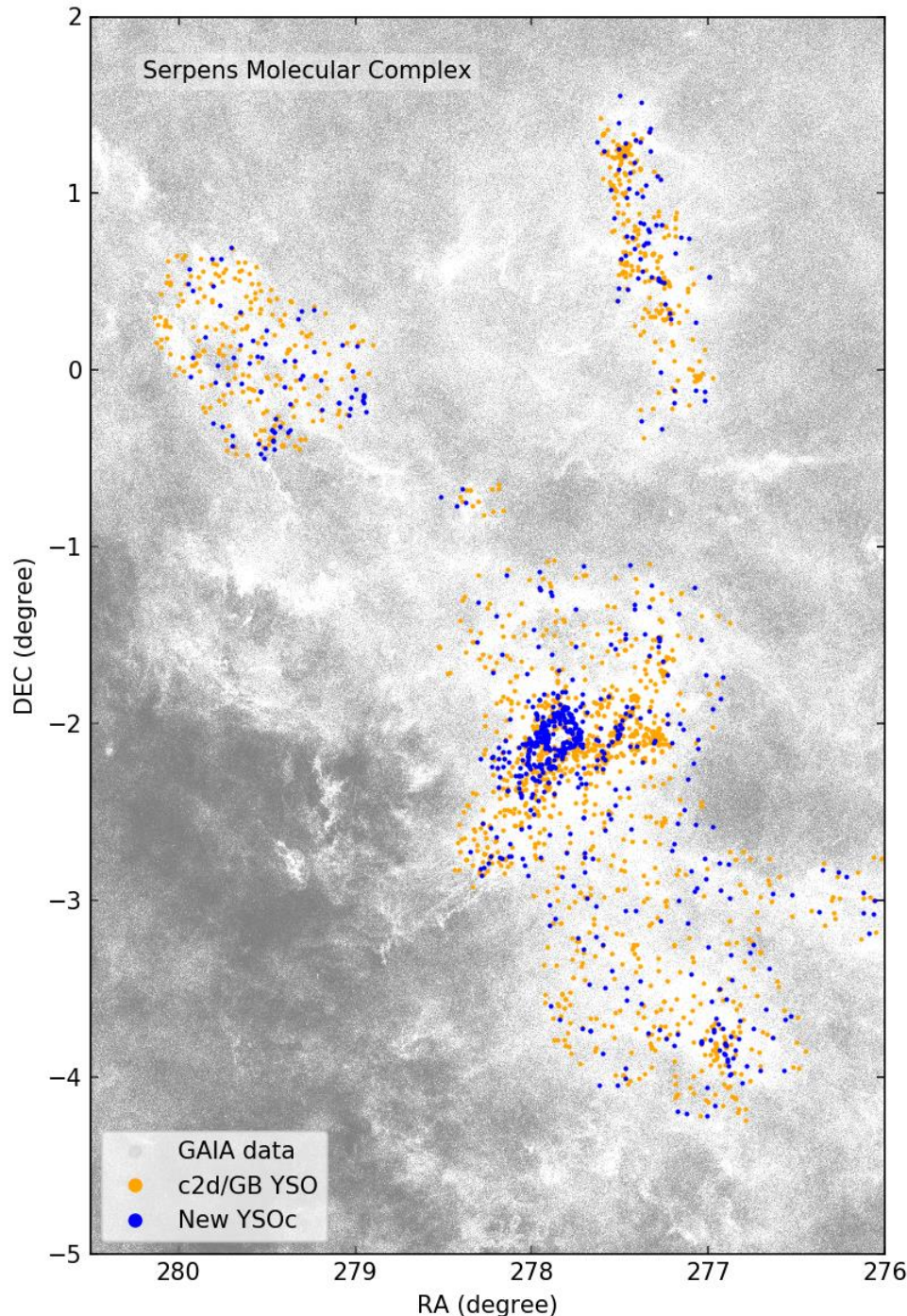




# Buried Treasure!

Relaxing the c2d/GB  
“galaxy probability”  
criterion from 3% to  
25% uncovers many  
**new YSO candidates**  
clustered around  
**catalogued YSO**  
**candidates**





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Perhaps **20%-40%** more

# Revised Cluster Distances from GAIA










Source	# YSOs*	Distance (pc)	Dispersion (pc)
Serpens Main	80	$437 \pm 7$	45
W40 and Serpens South	29	$465 \pm 5$	59
Serpens East	21	$484 \pm 5$	57
Western Arm	1	444	--
MWC 297	12	$434 \pm 4$	8

\* With  $\text{Plx}/\text{ePlx} \geq 7$

Clusters are at varying distances within complex and may have significant depth.

# Physical Types of SED models

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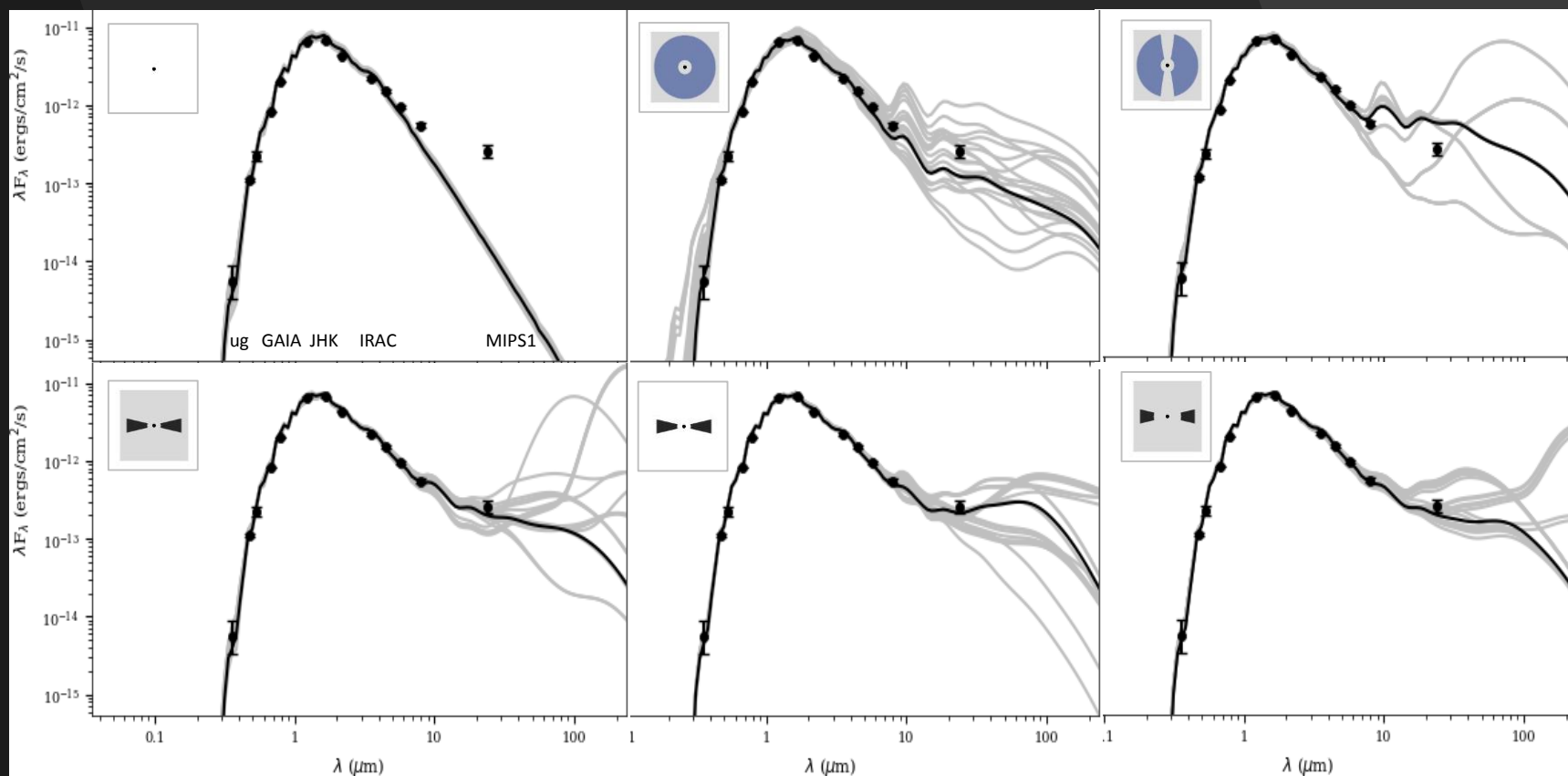
Icon	Star	Disk	Envelope	Cavity	Ambient	Inner radius
•	yes	...	...	...	...	...
	yes	passive	...	...	...	$R_{\text{sub}}$
	yes	passive	...	...	...	variable
	yes	...	...	...	yes	$R_{\text{sub}}$
	yes	passive	...	...	yes	$R_{\text{sub}}$
	yes	passive	...	...	yes	variable
	yes	...	power-law	...	yes	$R_{\text{sub}}$
	yes	...	power-law	...	yes	variable
	yes	...	power-law	yes	yes	$R_{\text{sub}}$
	yes	...	power-law	yes	yes	variable

+8 more

Robitaille (2017)

# SED Fitting of YSO candidates

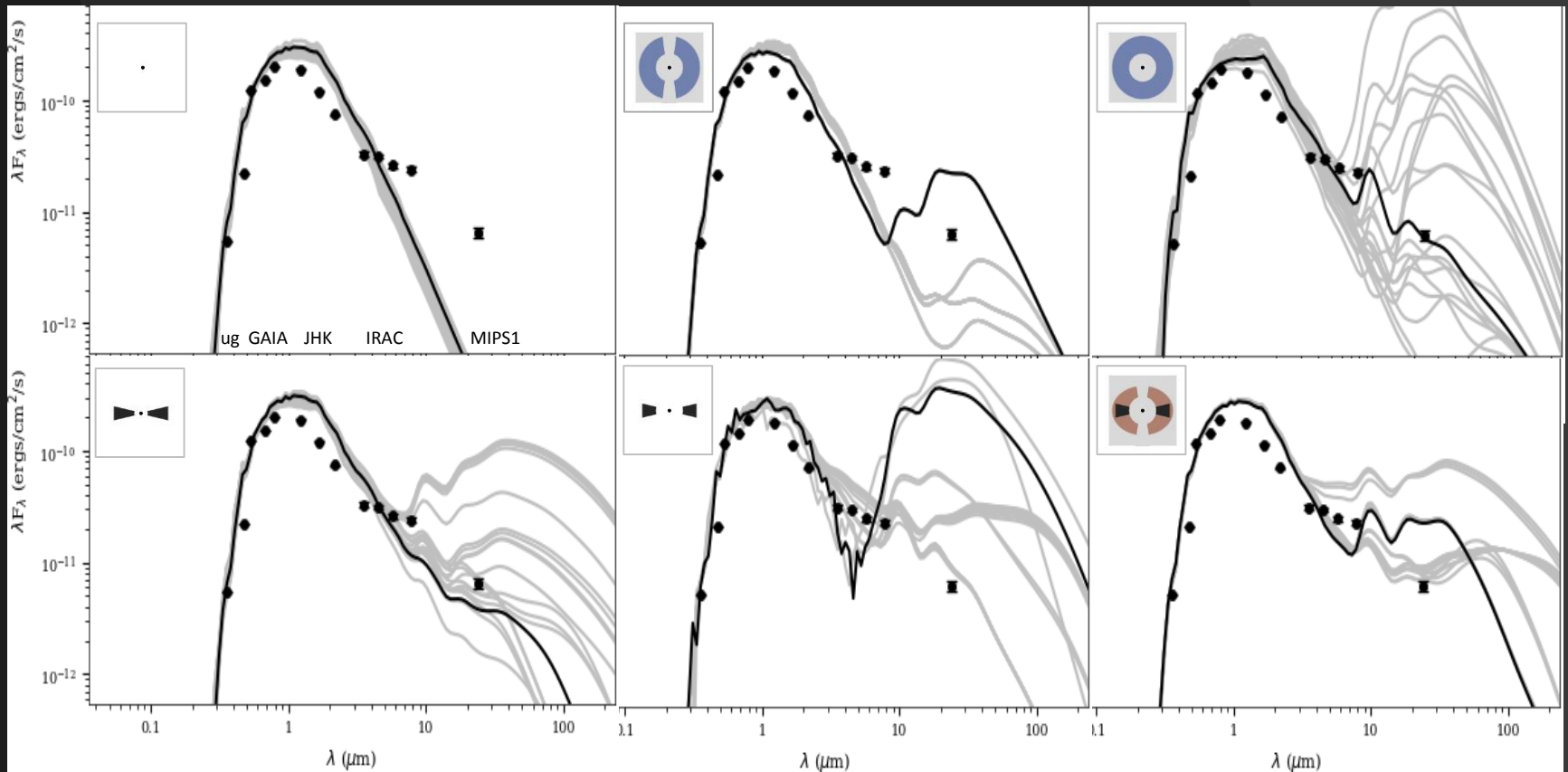
When it goes right....



Bare star or star with envelope clearly ruled out (top).  
Star with passive disk fits very well (bottom).

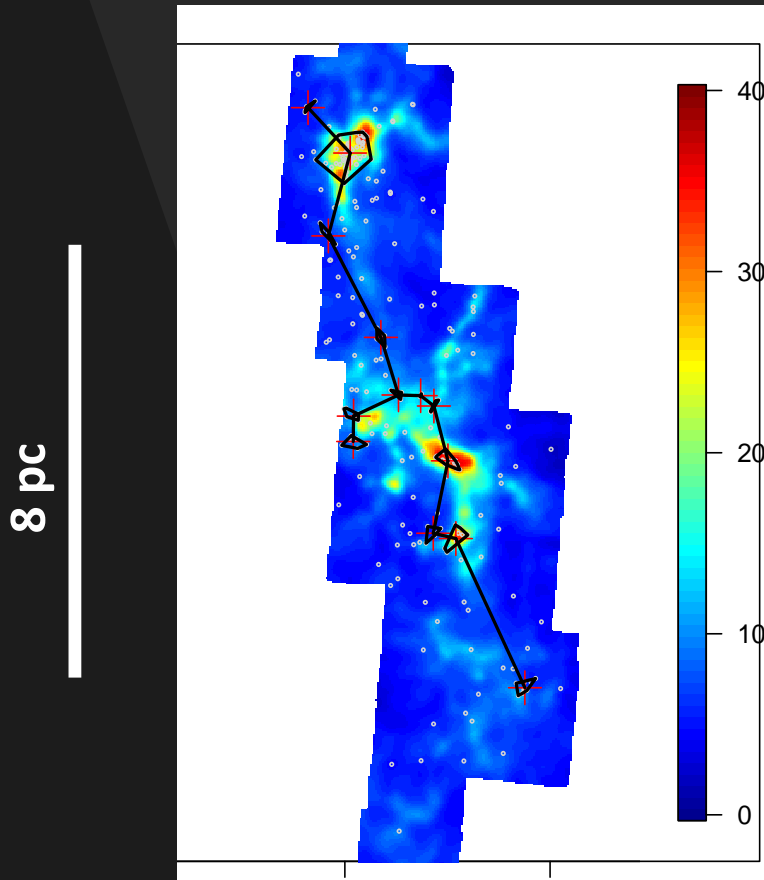
# SED Fitting of YSO candidates

When nothing works...

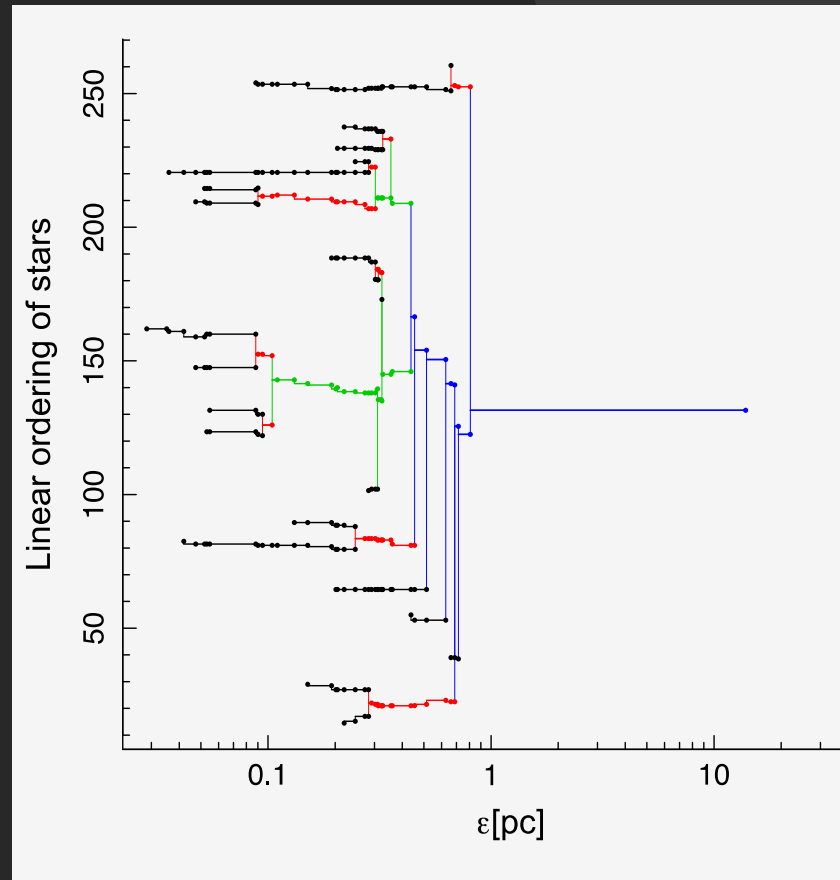


Cannot fit visible and infrared simultaneously.  
Low errors on GAIA photometry challenge models.

# Clustering Hierarchy – Serpens Main



Extinction map & Cluster sizes and locations



Clustering as a function of size scale

We find 19 subclusters and 4 levels of clustering hierarchy



# Challenges

## Data

### **Gould's Belt Catalog not as clean as c2d**

- and even c2d has some false sources

### **SDSS Photometry**

- *riz* is suspect, often o.o.m. off GAIA/UBV
- *ug* usually ok
- magnitude errors often extremely optimistic

## Tools

### **Robitaille models**

- defacto standard but BE CAREFUL!
- sensitive to total extinction & extinction law
- some underlying stellar models are “unphysical” (his word!)

# We Will...

## Create

A high-fidelity, uniform catalog of YSOs in Serpens

- Cross-matched with major catalogs
- Photometry from 0.25 to 70 micron.

## Classify

- YSOs according to standard SED Classes
- YSO disk and envelope properties from model fits

## Correlate

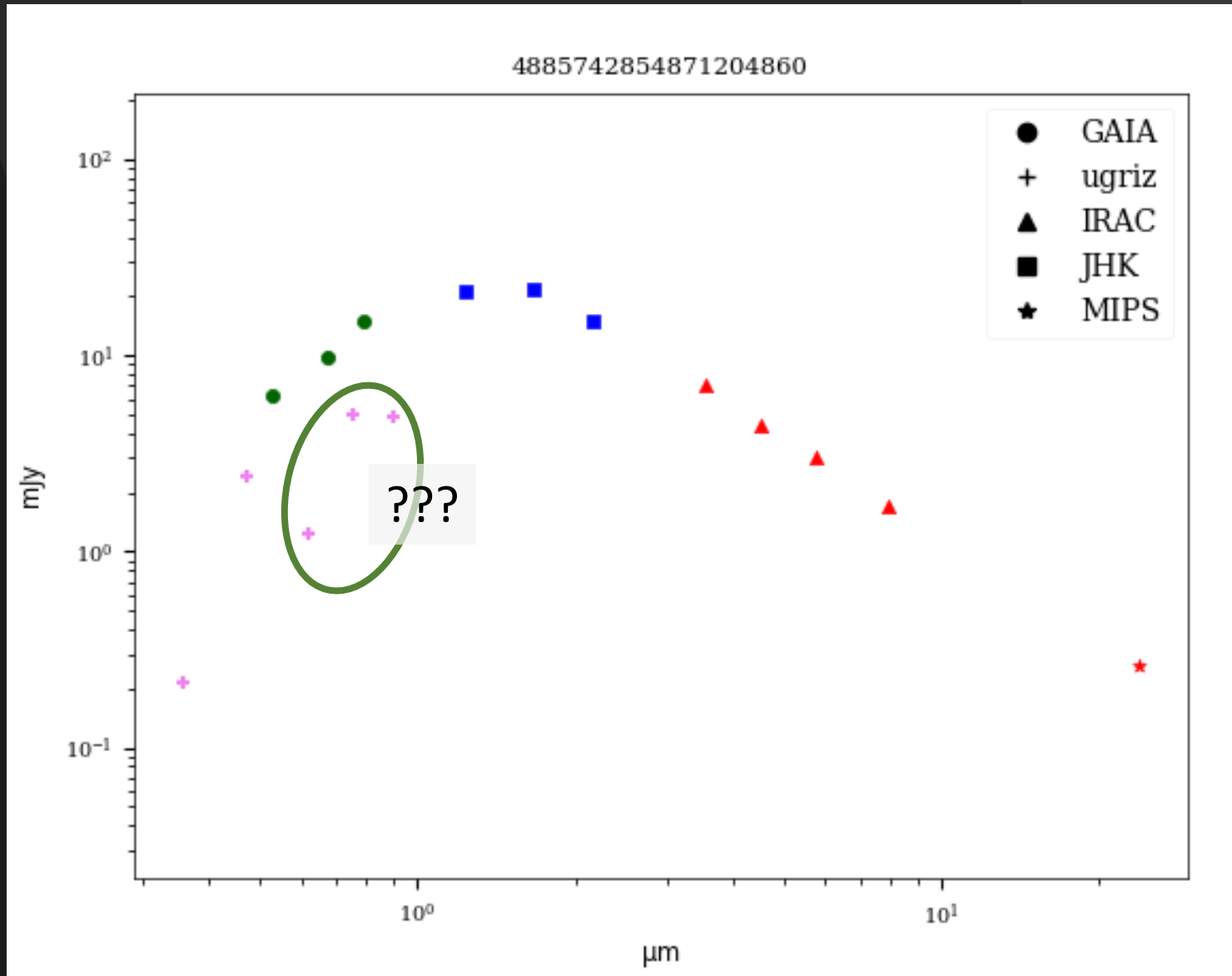
- YSO spatial clustering with individual properties
- YSO spatial clustering with dust morphology

## Test

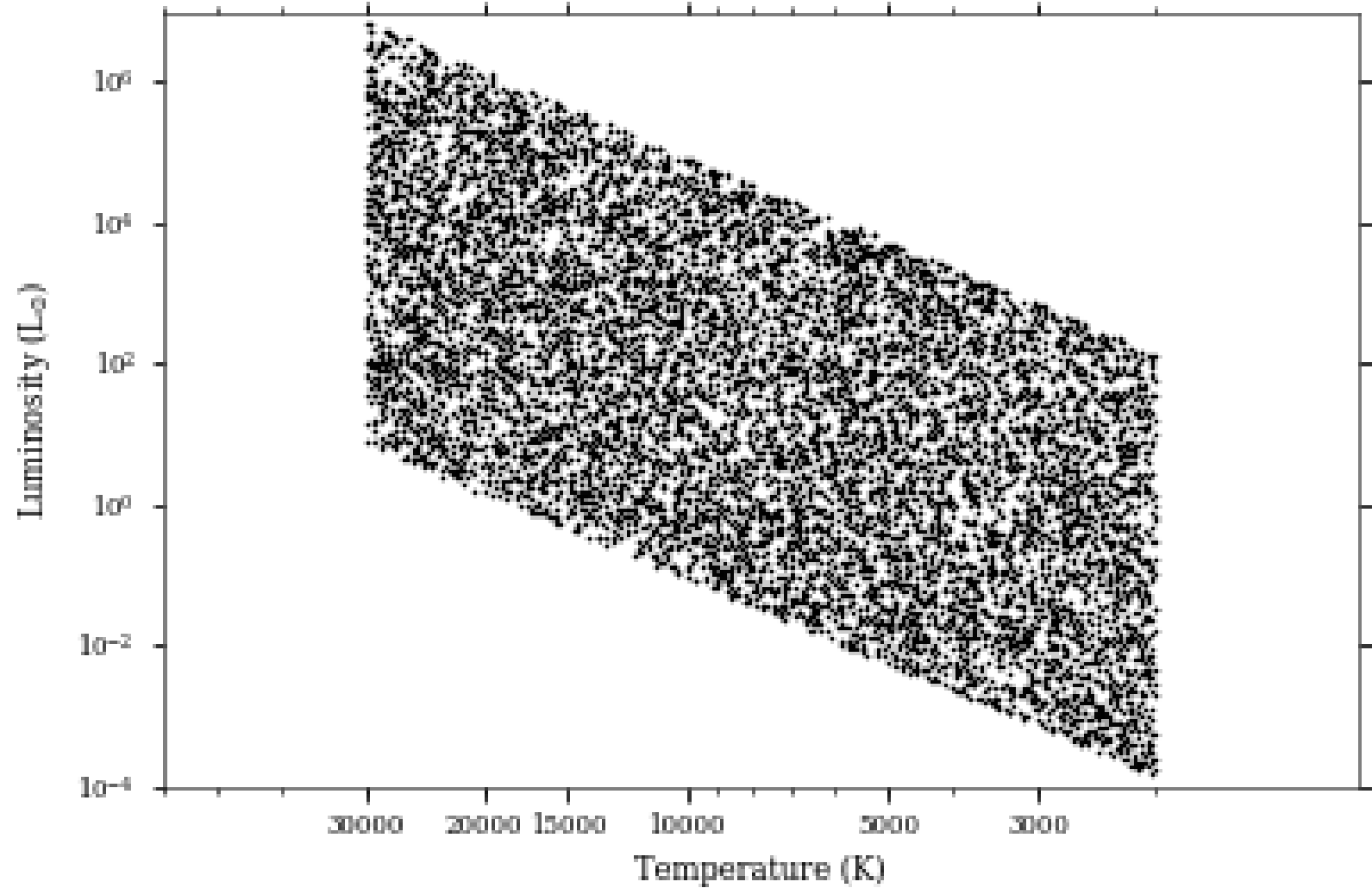
Measured properties against cluster formation models



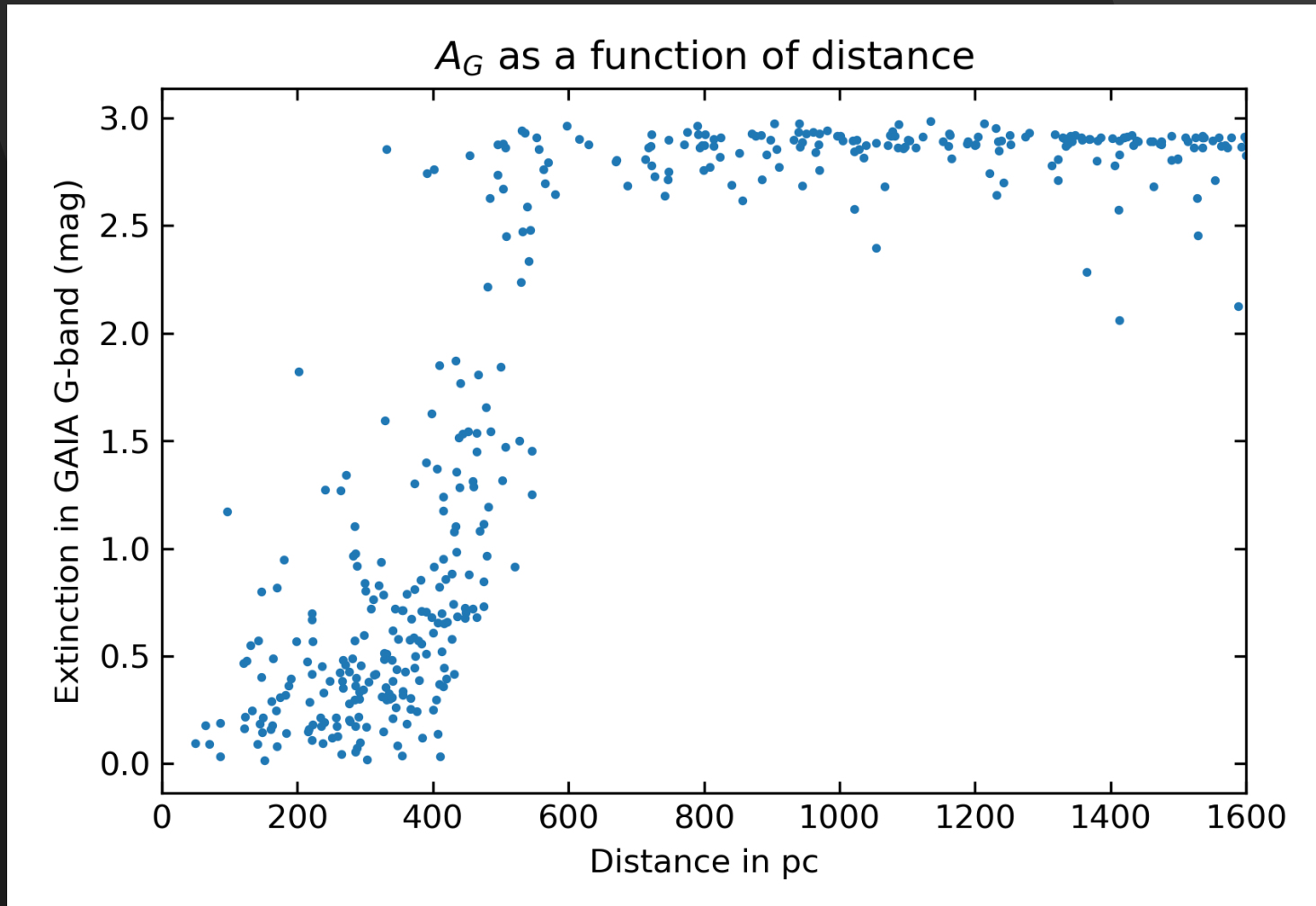
# Example of SDSS photometry of a star



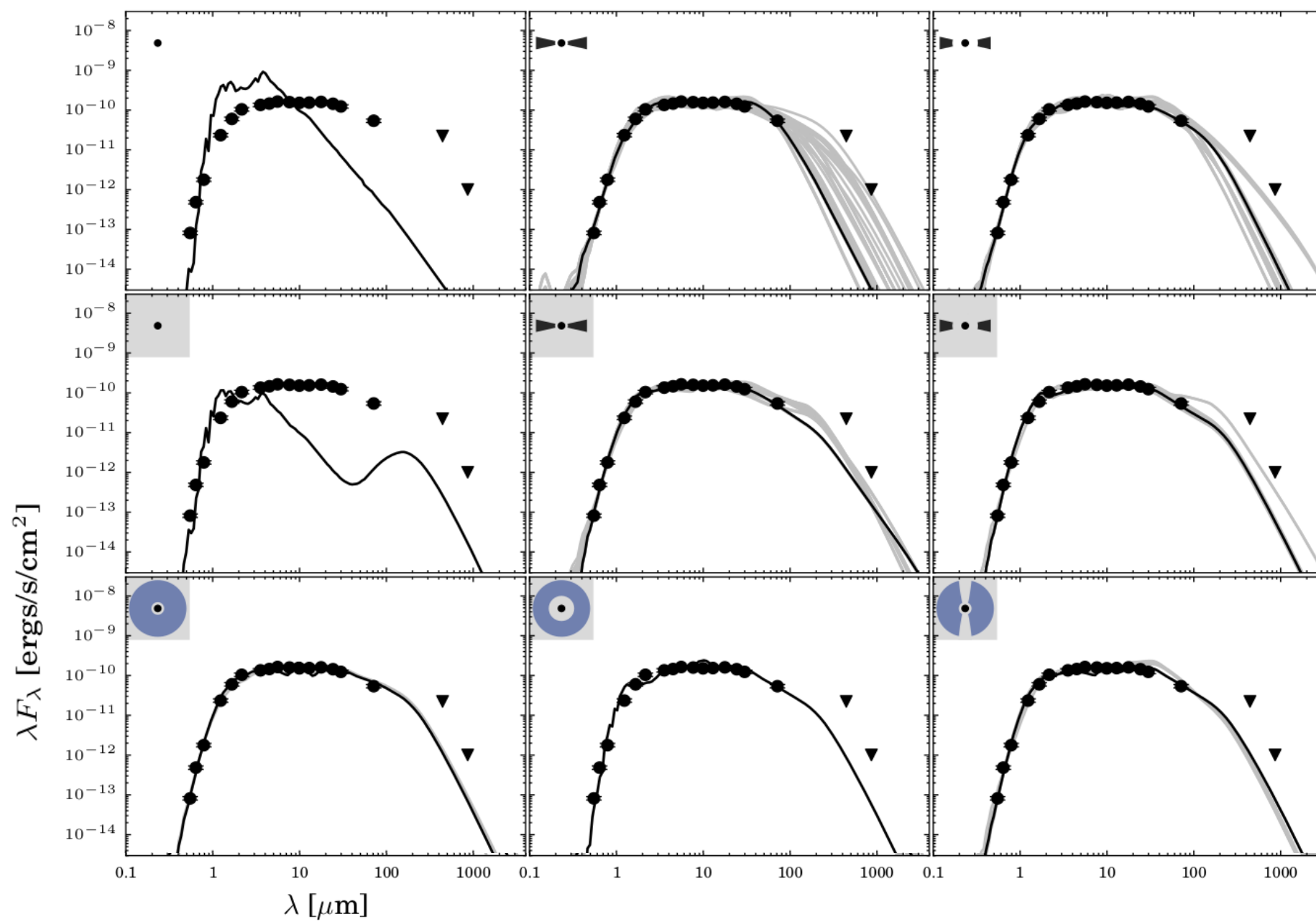
HR Diagram for Robitaille stellar models



# Rough Distances from $A_G$



Serpens East: 400 – 500 pc . But we can do better...





## DBSCAN algorithm

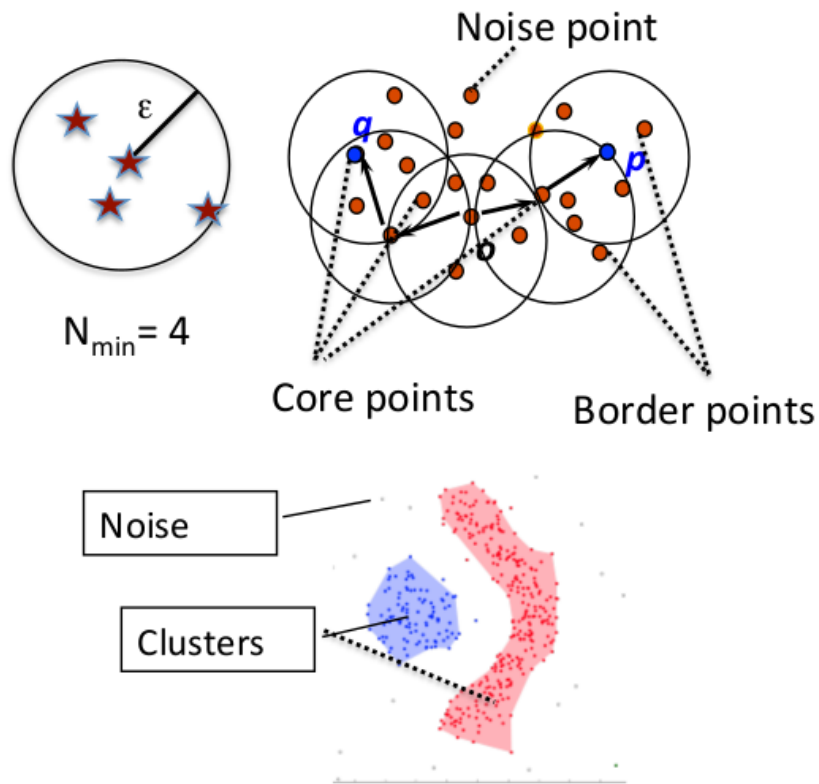


Figure 1 The DBSCAN algorithm (Ester et al. 1996). Two points are said to be *directly reachable* if they are separated by less than a given distance  $\epsilon$  and they have at least the number of points  $N_{min}$  within a sphere of radius  $\epsilon$  centered on them (upper left). Two points  $p$  and  $q$  are said to be *density-reachable* and belong to cluster if there is a path between these 2 points where each point along the path is directly reachable from the previous point. A point that is not reachable from any other point is called a *noise point*.