

# Planet models, tools, science cases, and results from Macintosh SIT

Nikole Lewis, Ryan MacDonald, and  
Brianna Lacy on behalf of the Macintosh  
SIT Exoplanet Atmospheric Modeling Team

# Macintosh SIT Exoplanet Atmospheres Team

Cornell: Nikole Lewis, Ryan MacDonald

Princeton: Adam Burrows, Brianna Lacy

University of Arizona: Mark Marley

NASA Ames: Natasha Batalha, Roxana Lupu

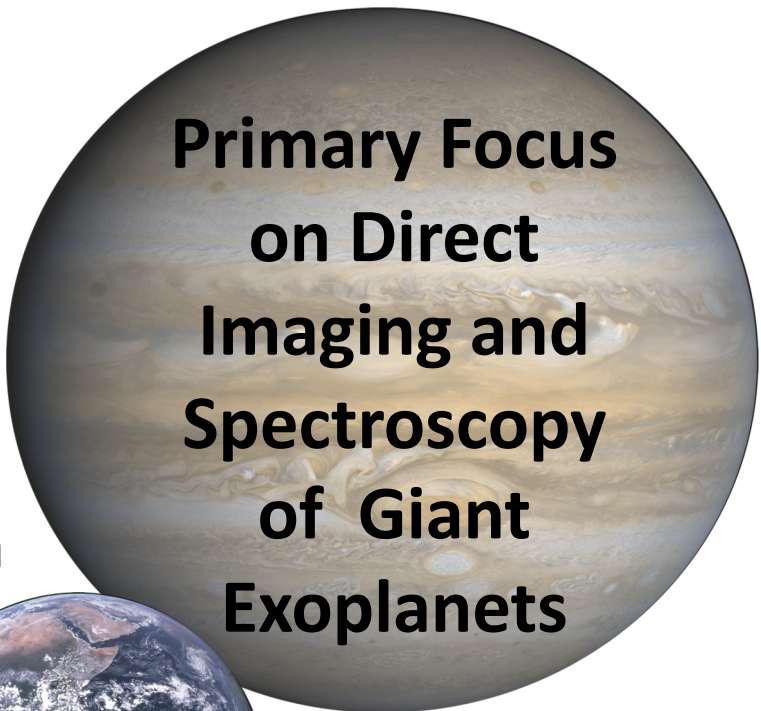
NASA JPL: Renyu Hu, Mario Damiano

Northern Arizona University: Tyler Robinson

UT Austin: Caroline Morley

UC Santa Cruz: Jonathan Fortney

**+Many student researchers!!!!**



**Primary Focus  
on Direct  
Imaging and  
Spectroscopy  
of Giant  
Exoplanets**



Some exploration of  
direct imaging of  
terrestrial exoplanets  
(e.g. Feng et al. 2018)



ROMAN CORONAGRAPH

[Home](#)

[Publications](#)

[Datasets](#)

[Tools](#)

[Team](#)



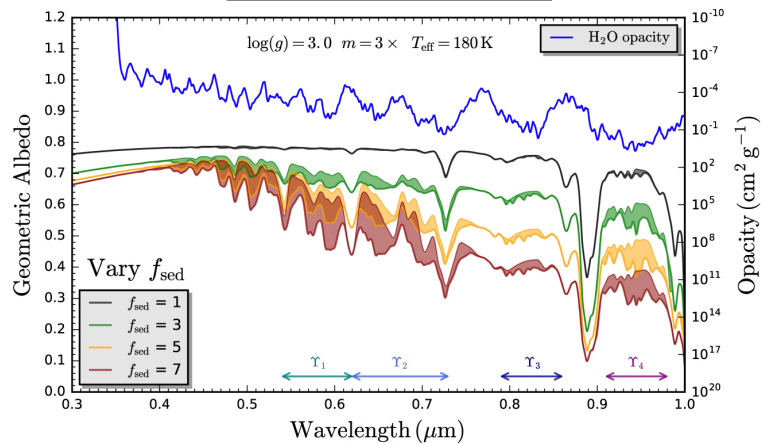
# Roman CGI

Results from the The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Coronagraphic Instrument Science  
Investigation Team

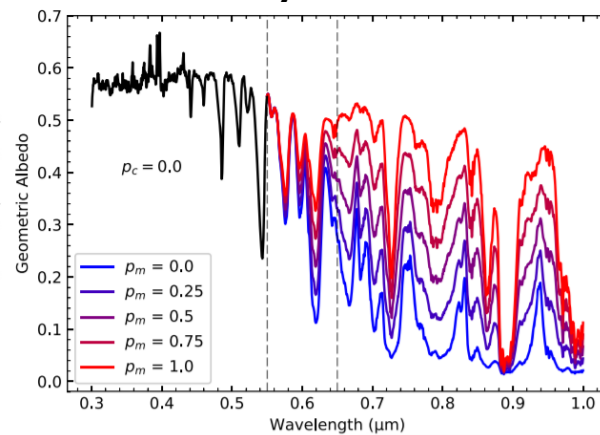
<https://romancgi.sioslab.com>

# OPEN SOURCE MODELS: COOL & SELF-LUMINOUS GIANT PLANETS

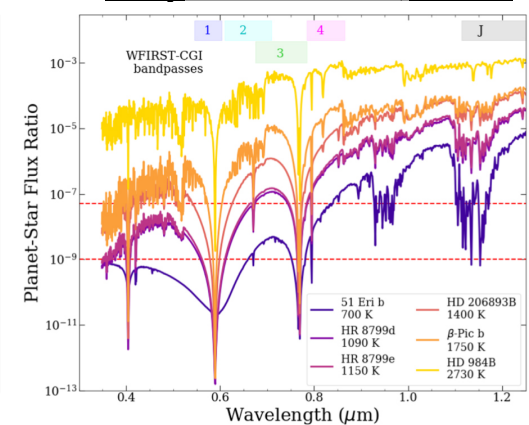
**MacDonald+2018**



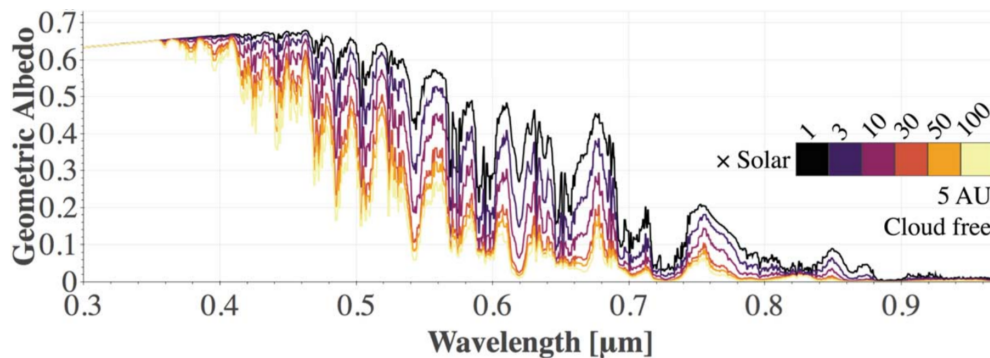
**Lacy+2019**



**Lacy & Burrows (2020)**



**Batalha+2018**



**> 74,000 public models for giant exoplanets**

- Spans metallicity, gravity, effective temperature / orbital distance, cloud properties, orbital phase
- Includes equilibrium models, cloudy or cloud-free, theoretical or empirical

More models will be made public soon!

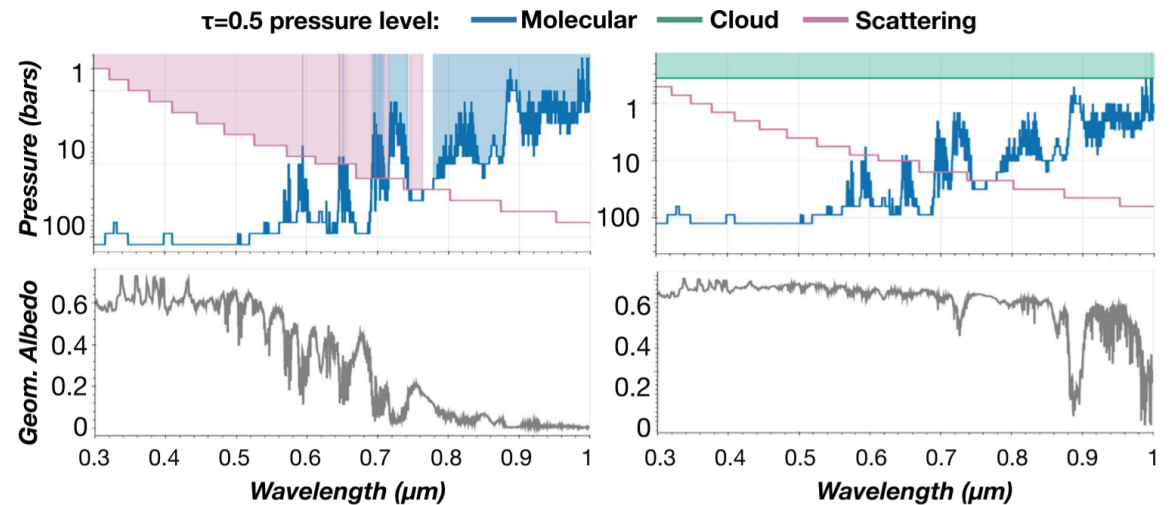
# OPEN SOURCE TOOLS



**PICASO** is an open source radiative transfer code

- Reflection + emission + transmission spectra
- Multiple scattering
- Python (and fast!)

## Batalha+2019



Extensive **documentation**, **tutorials**, and **example code** is available for many use cases:

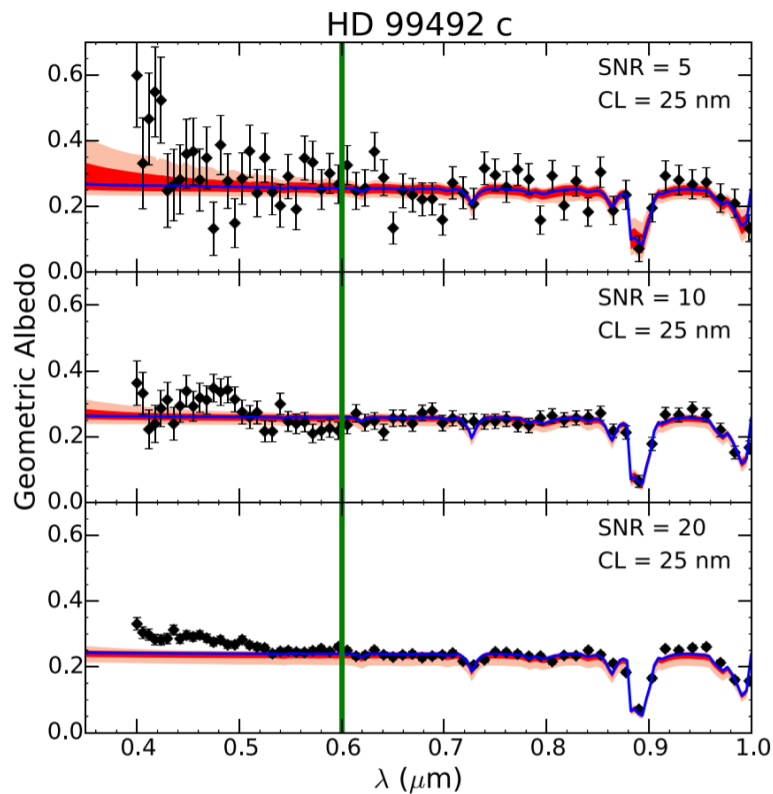
<https://natashabatalha.github.io/picaso/index.html>



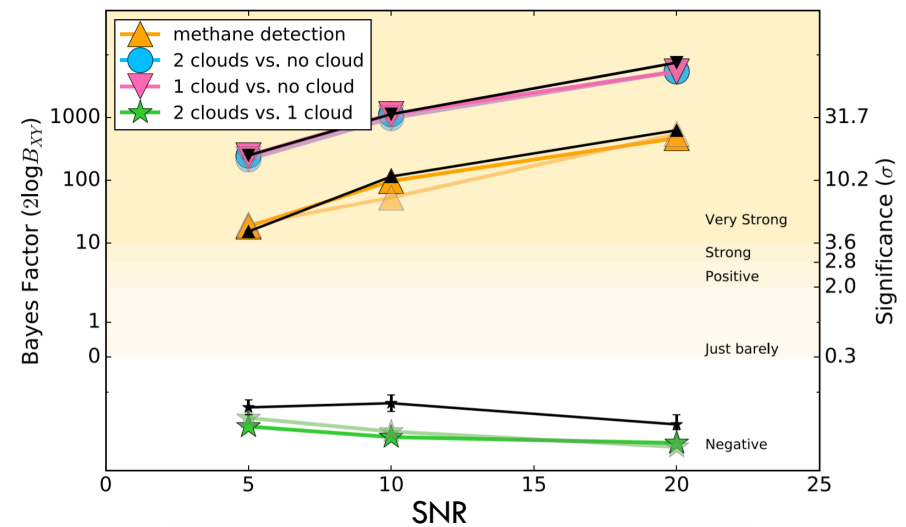
COOL GIANT PLANET CHARACTERIZATION  
WITH ROMAN CGI

# DEVELOPMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC RETRIEVAL TECHNIQUES FOR COOL GIANT REFLECTION SPECTRA

## 1. Exploration of CH<sub>4</sub> and cloud retrievability



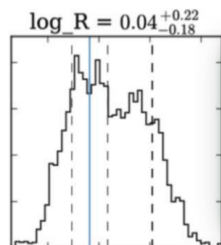
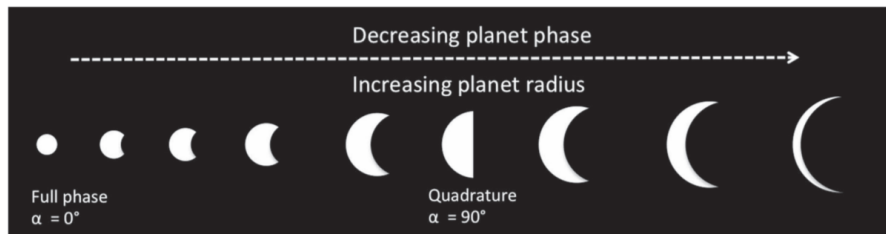
## Lupu+2016



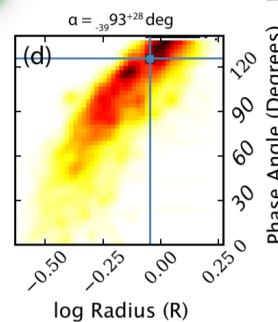
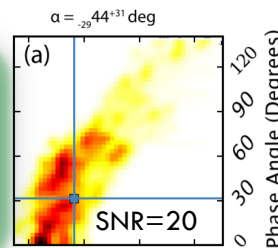
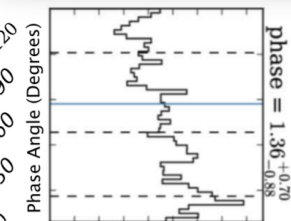
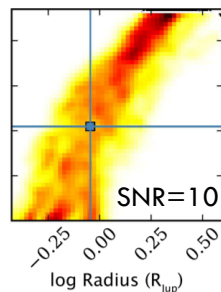
**Predicted detection of clouds and CH<sub>4</sub> to high confidence ( $> 5\sigma$ )**

# DEVELOPMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC RETRIEVAL TECHNIQUES FOR COOL GIANT REFLECTION SPECTRA

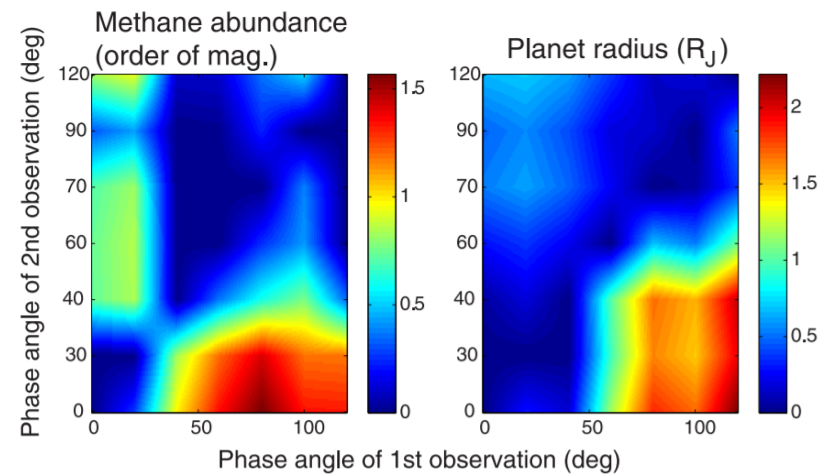
## 2. Retrievals at different phases



**Can constrain  $R_p$  to a factor of 2 even with unknown phase**



**Nayak+2017**

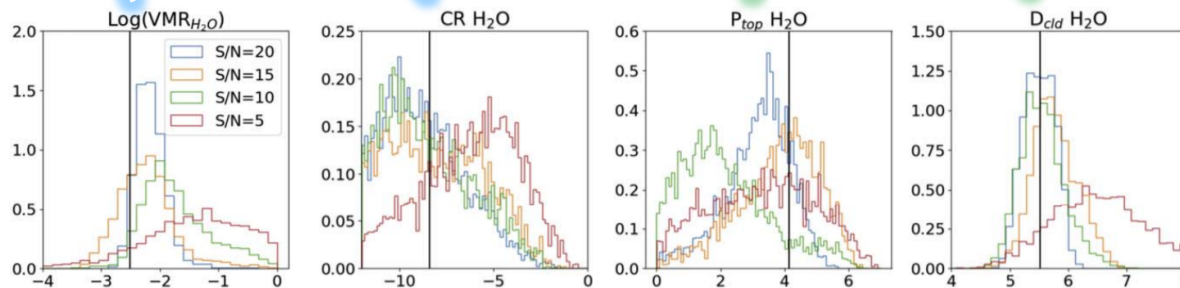
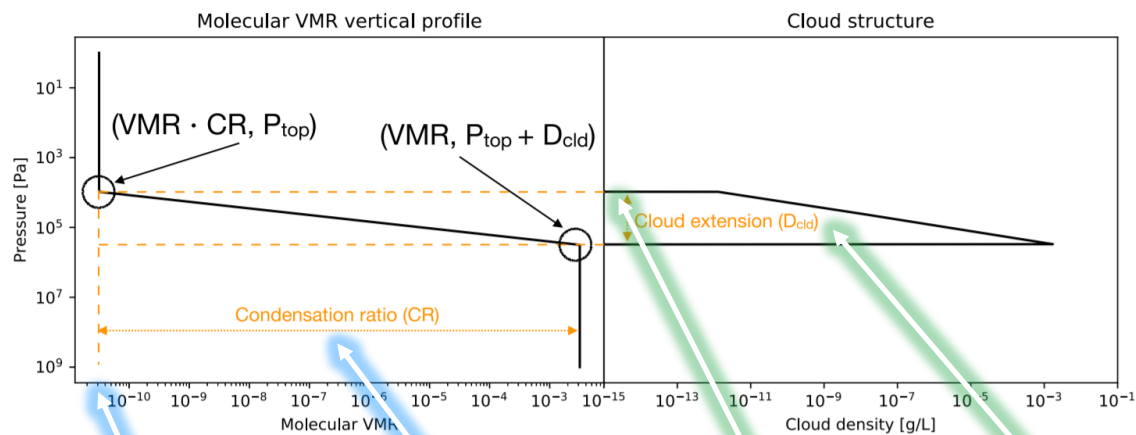


**Combining low and high phases improves derived constraints on  $\text{CH}_4$  abundances and  $R_p$**



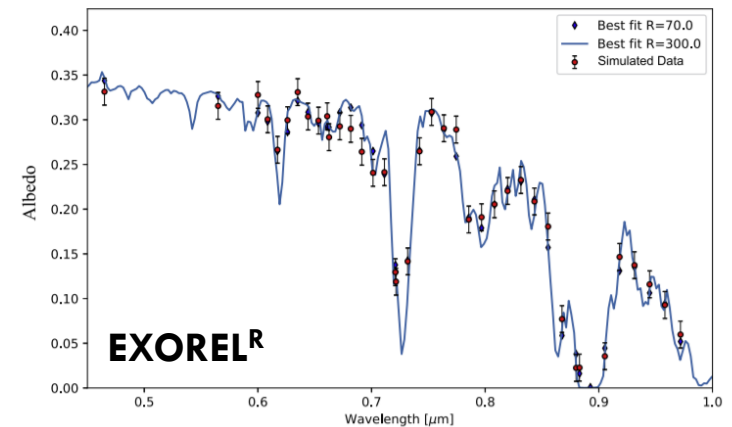
# DEVELOPMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC RETRIEVAL TECHNIQUES FOR COOL GIANT REFLECTION SPECTRA

## 3. Retrievals accounting for H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> condensation



## Damiano & Hu (2020)

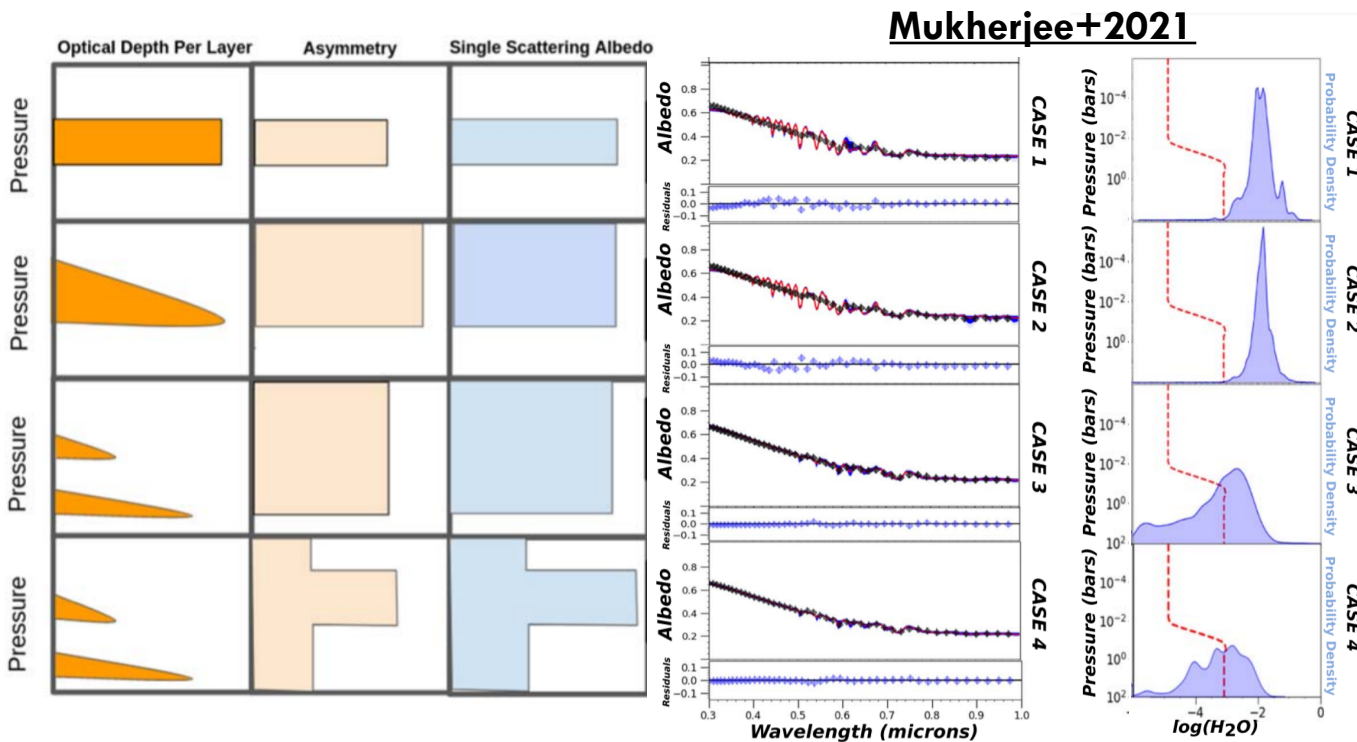
47 Uma b



Including vapor condensation within atmospheric retrievals  
 → cloud composition + deep H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> (SNR ≥ 10)

# DEVELOPMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC RETRIEVAL TECHNIQUES FOR COOL GIANT REFLECTION SPECTRA

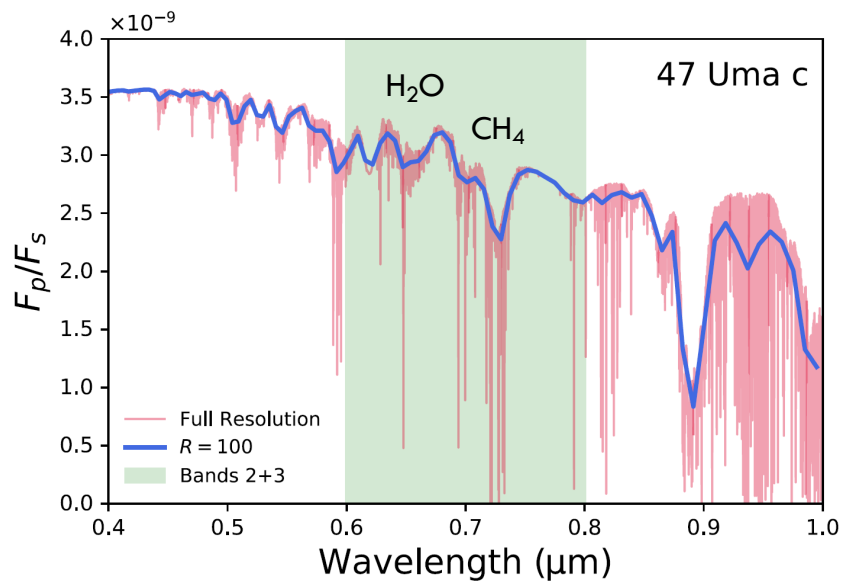
## 4. New cloud parametrizations for reflection spectra retrievals



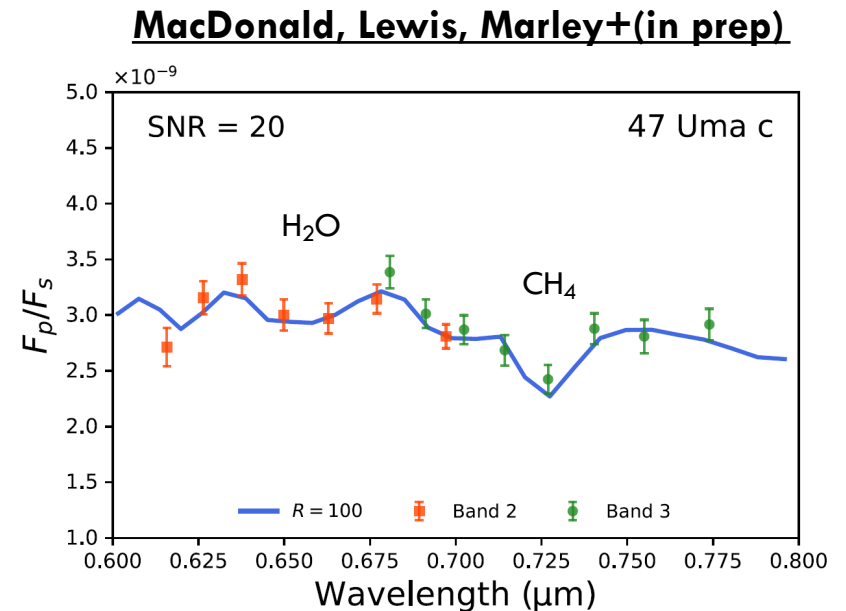
**Precise spectra (SNR  $\sim 20$ ) can distinguish between one or two cloud decks**

**Insufficient cloud model complexity in retrievals  $\rightarrow$  overestimate abundances**

# COOL GIANT CHARACTERIZATION WITH THE FINAL ROMAN CGI CONFIGURATION



Roman simulation  
(GSFC / JPL)



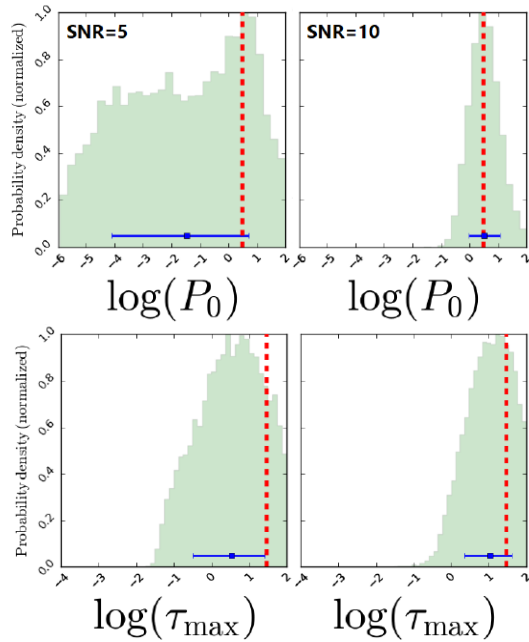
Reflection spectra of cool giant exoplanets are primarily shaped by:

1. Deep, optically thick **clouds**.
2.  **$\text{CH}_4$**  and  **$\text{H}_2\text{O}$**  absorption.

- **Band 3** spectra probe  **$\text{CH}_4$**
- **Band 2** spectra (not baseline) probe  **$\text{H}_2\text{O}$**
- **Both Bands** are sensitive to **clouds**.

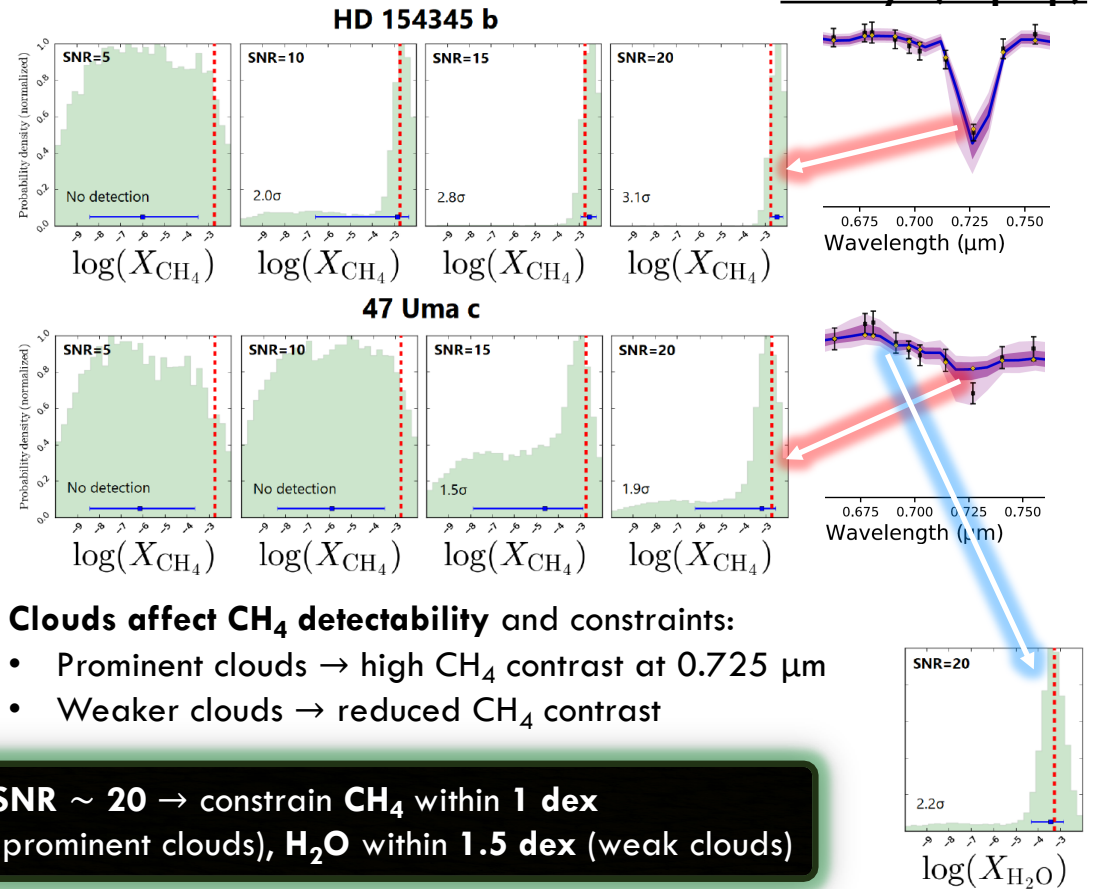
# COOL GIANT CHARACTERIZATION WITH THE FINAL ROMAN CGI CONFIGURATION

**MacDonald, Lewis,  
Marley+(in prep)**



Detection of clouds:	SNR=5	SNR=10
	4.8 $\sigma$	9.2 $\sigma$

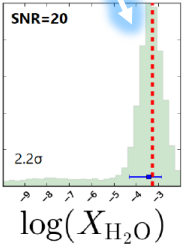
**SNR  $\geq 10$   $\rightarrow$  constrain cloud base pressure and optical depth within an order of magnitude**

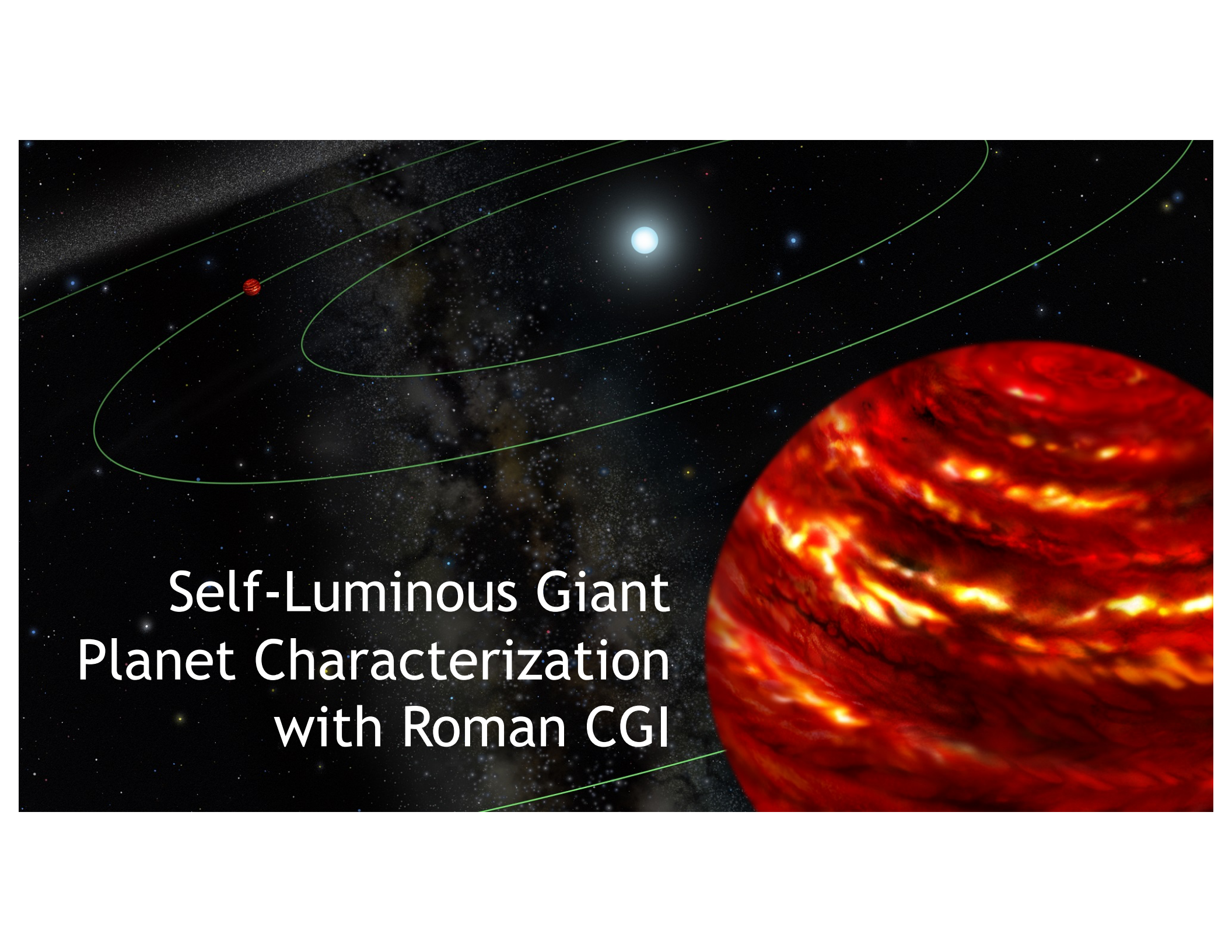


**Clouds affect CH<sub>4</sub> detectability and constraints:**

- Prominent clouds  $\rightarrow$  high CH<sub>4</sub> contrast at 0.725  $\mu\text{m}$
- Weaker clouds  $\rightarrow$  reduced CH<sub>4</sub> contrast

**SNR  $\sim 20$   $\rightarrow$  constrain CH<sub>4</sub> within 1 dex (prominent clouds), H<sub>2</sub>O within 1.5 dex (weak clouds)**

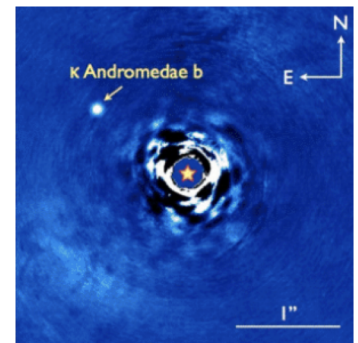
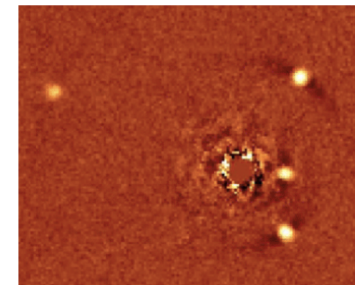
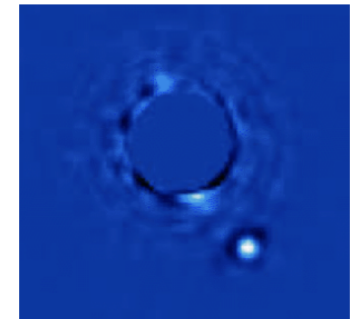
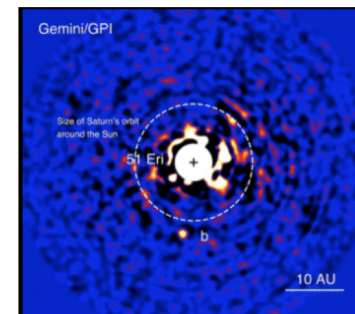


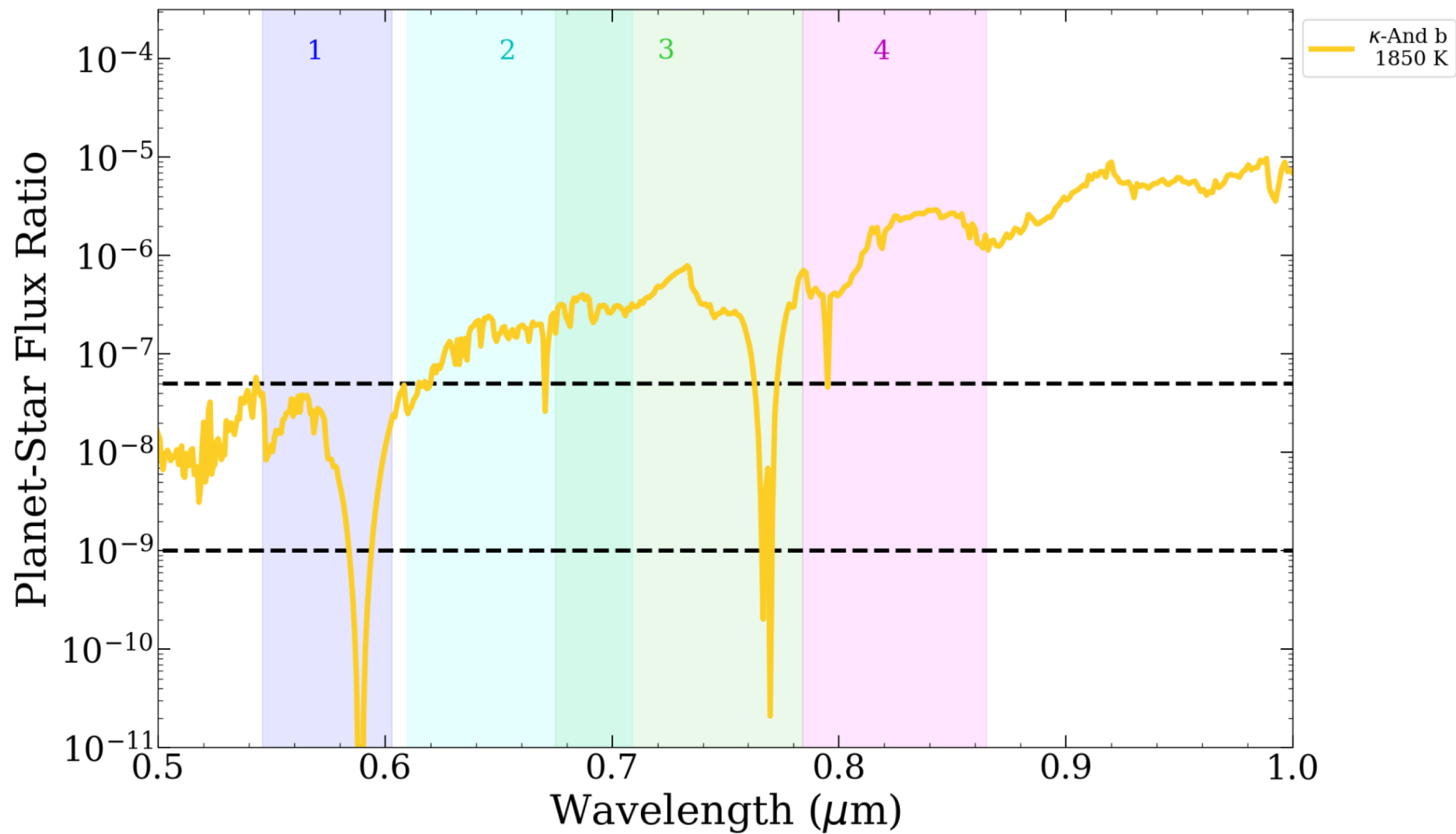


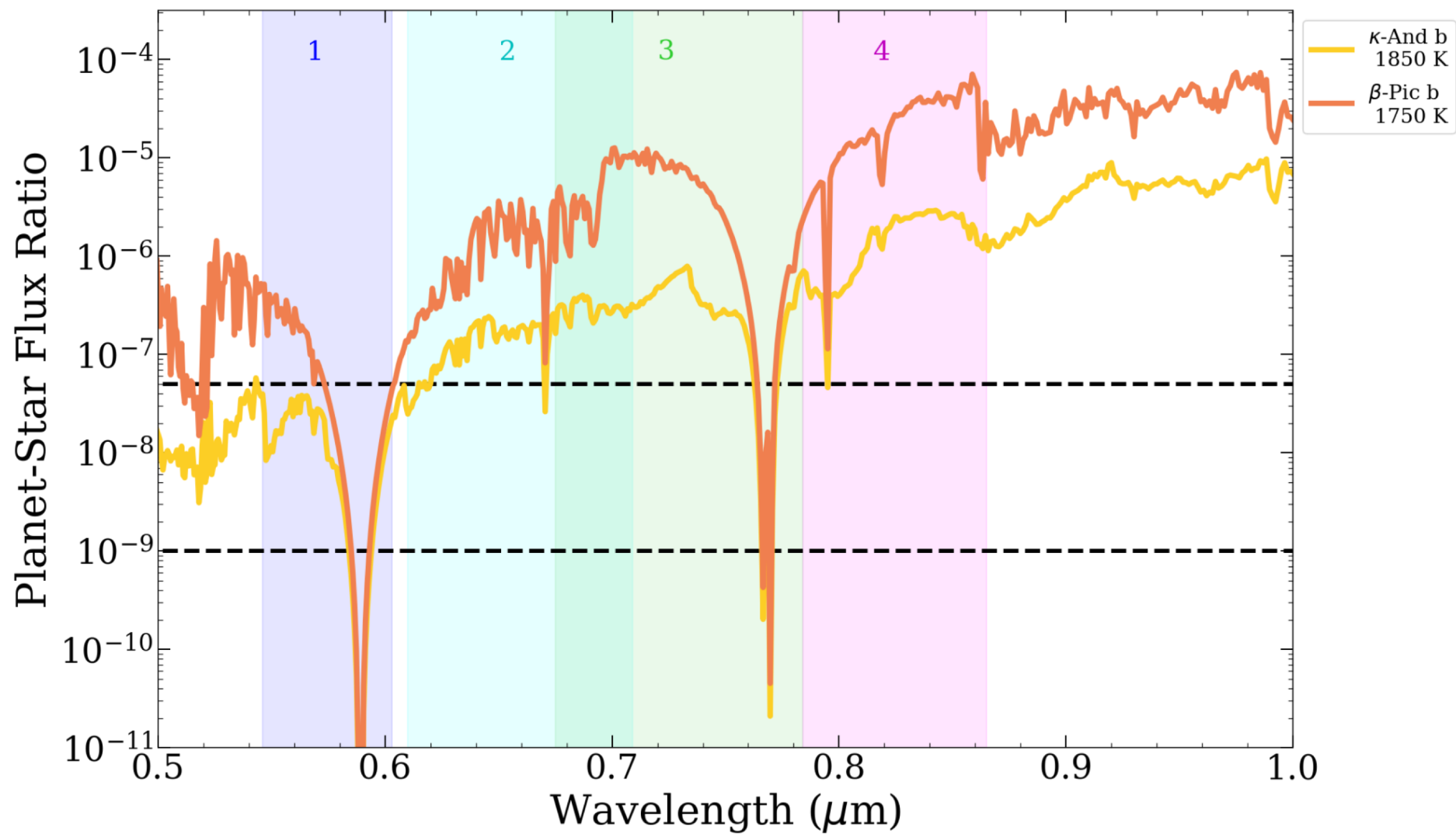
Self-Luminous Giant  
Planet Characterization  
with Roman CGI

# Possible science questions for self-luminous targets:

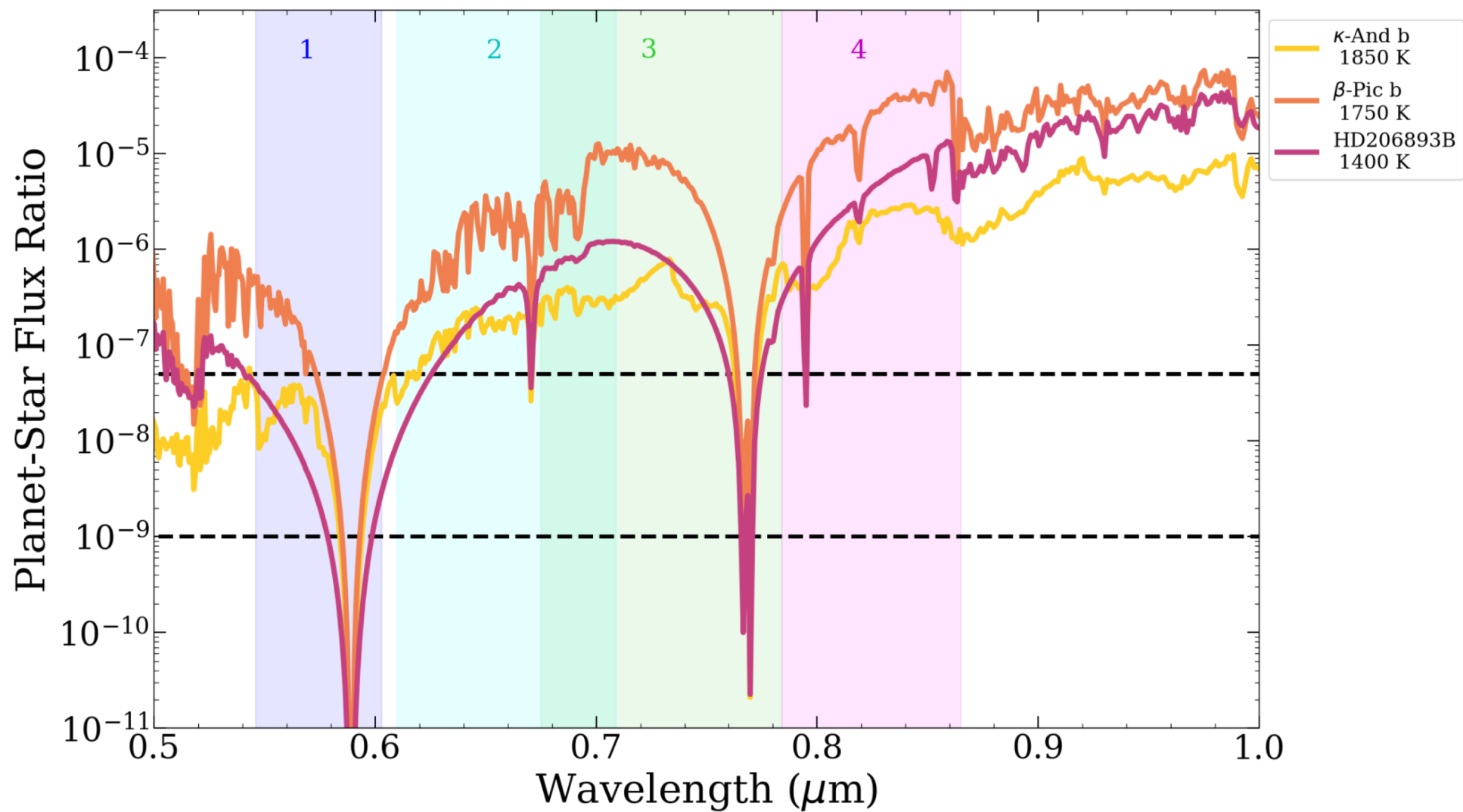
- Do spectra of planetary mass companions follow the optical sequence seen in brown dwarfs?
- Can we improve constraints on basic properties: effective temperature, surface gravity, metallicity?
- Can we leverage the additional wavelength coverage to learn more details about the clouds/dust present in these atmospheres?

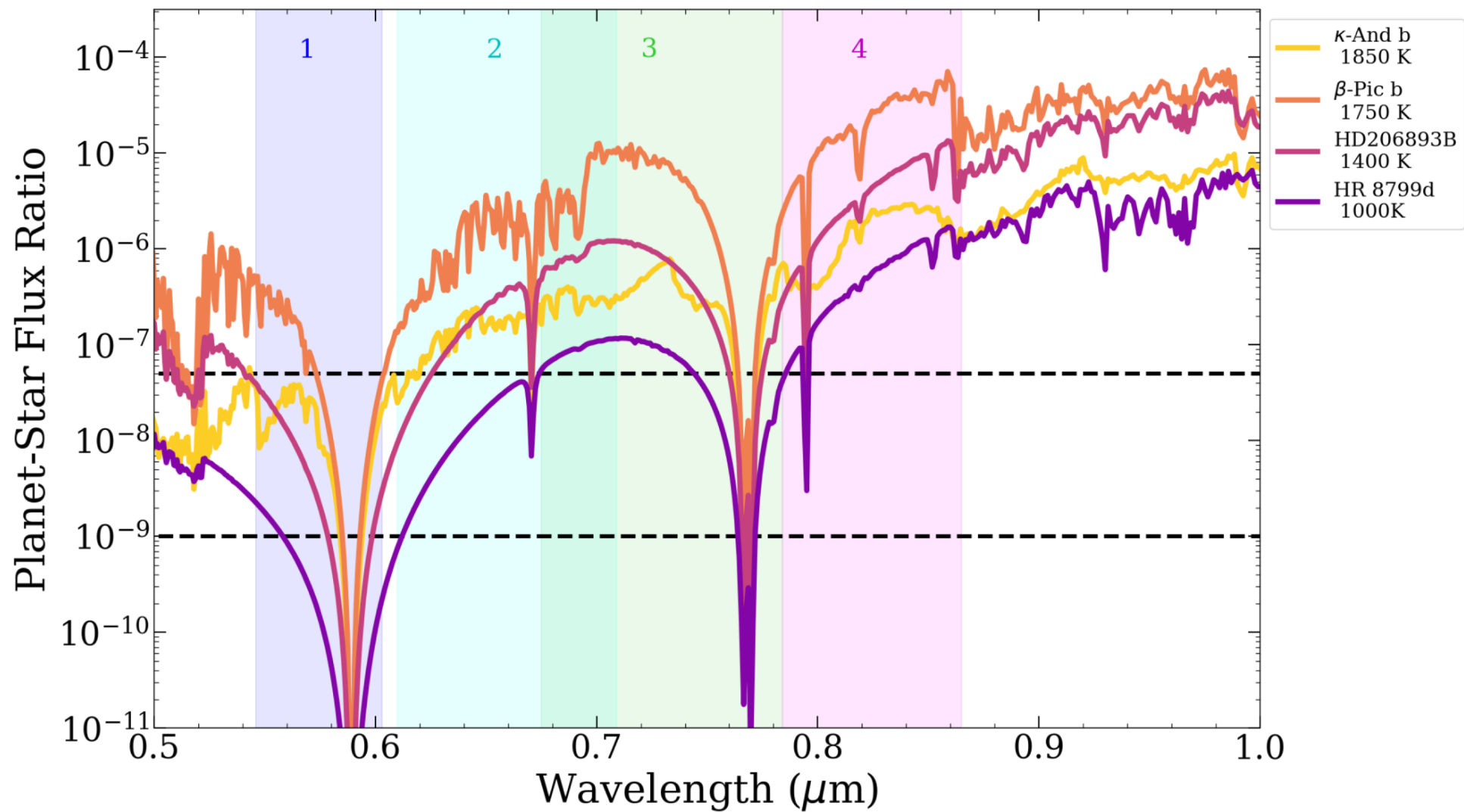


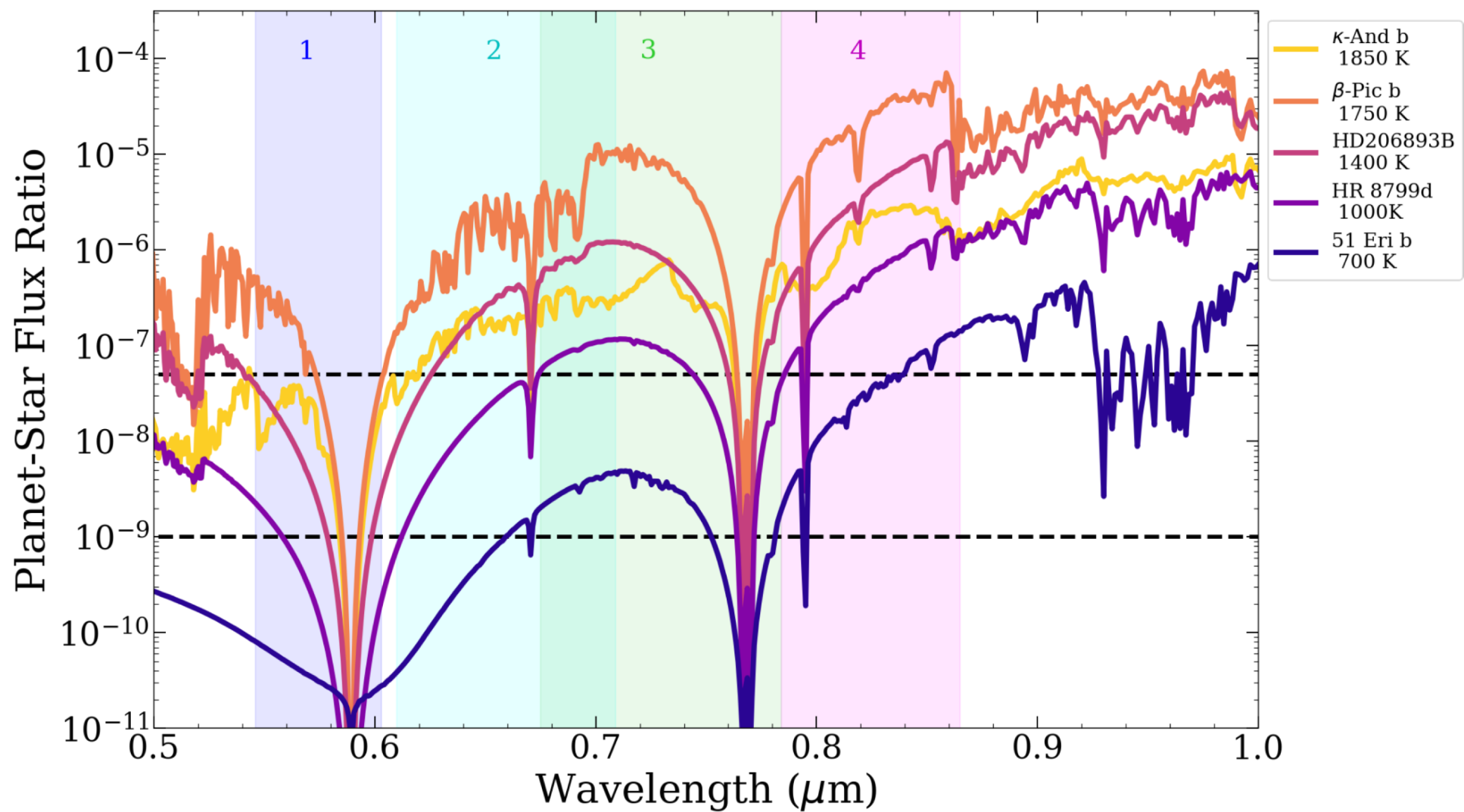


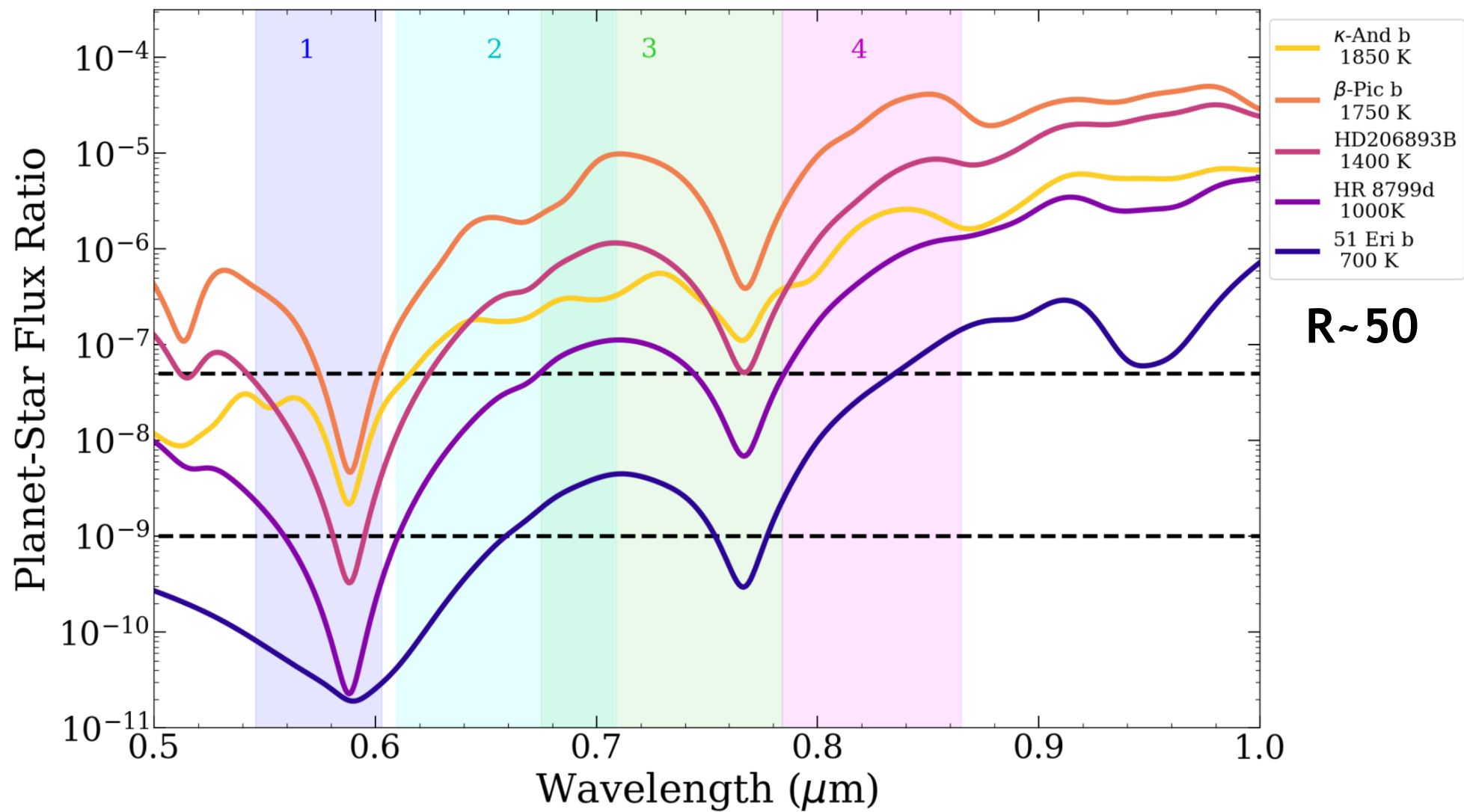




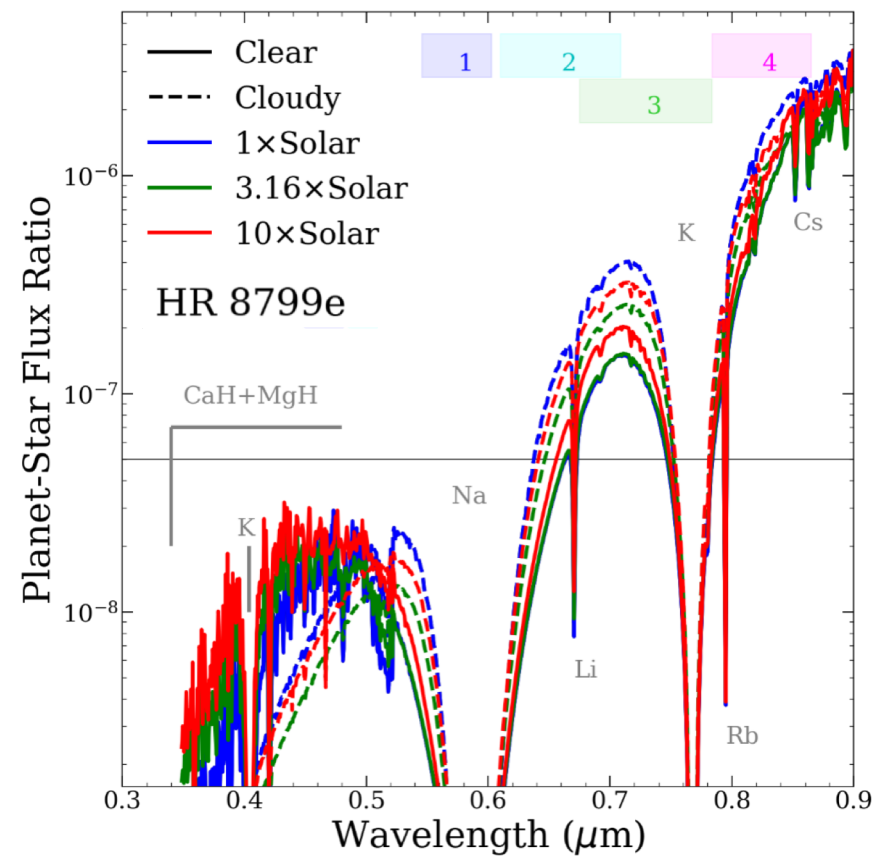
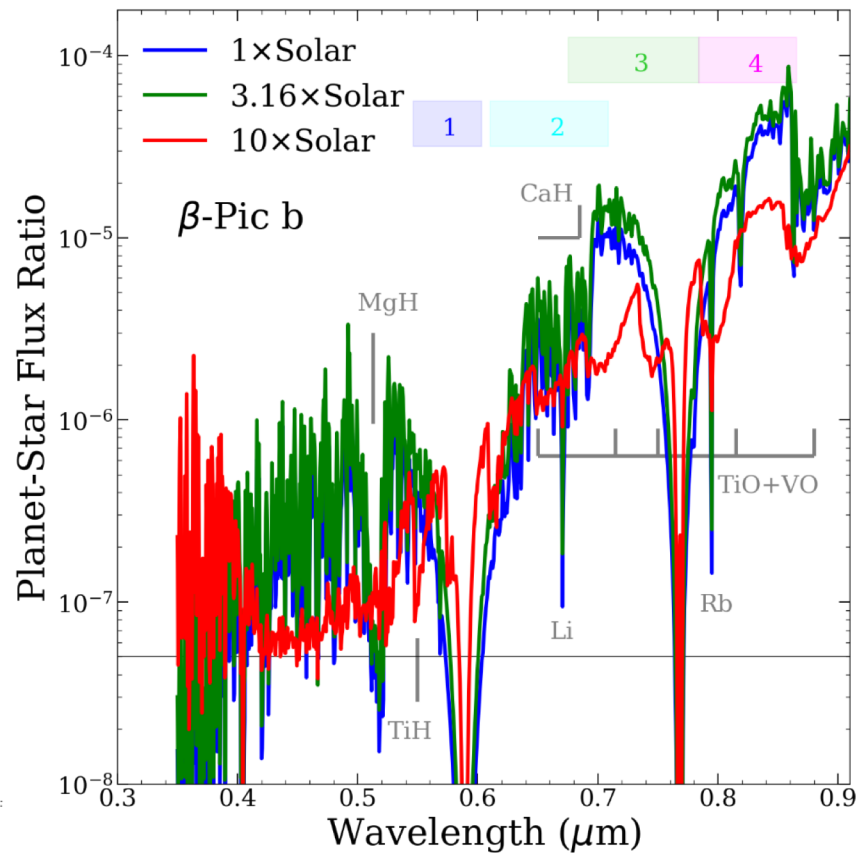








Lacy & Burrows 2020 showed optical wavelengths are sensitive to *metallicity* and *clouds* :



**Two projects are following up to quantify constraining power for self-luminous planets on properties of interest:**

- *Ryan MacDonald* at Cornell, using free retrievals
- *Arlene Alemán* at Stanford, using a grid-based fit for gravity, metallicity



# Simulated Roman CGI spectrum:

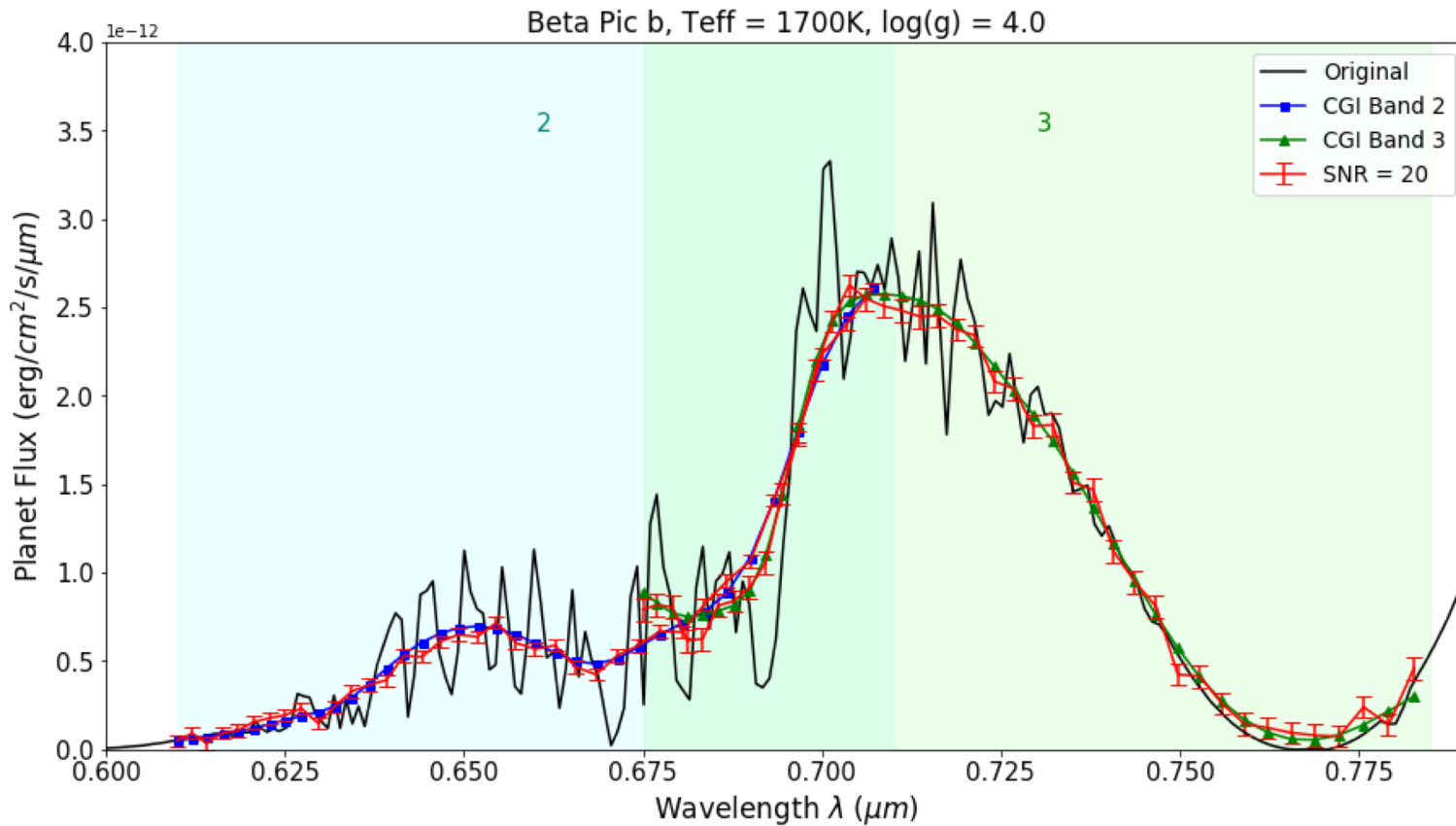


Fig. courtesy of Arlene Alemán

# Ideas for future work:

## Self-Luminous planets

- Take a more detailed look at clouds+dust
- Consider deviations from a solar C:O ratio
- Explore how the presence of debris disks can complicate matters
- Account for patchiness, quantify optical variability
- Models for additional objects
- Models for the youngest planets with active accretion signatures

## Cool giants

- Utility of Band 1+2 photometry for atmospheric characterization
- Impact of hazes on retrievals of bluest data
- Revisit multi-phase retrievals with final CGI configuration