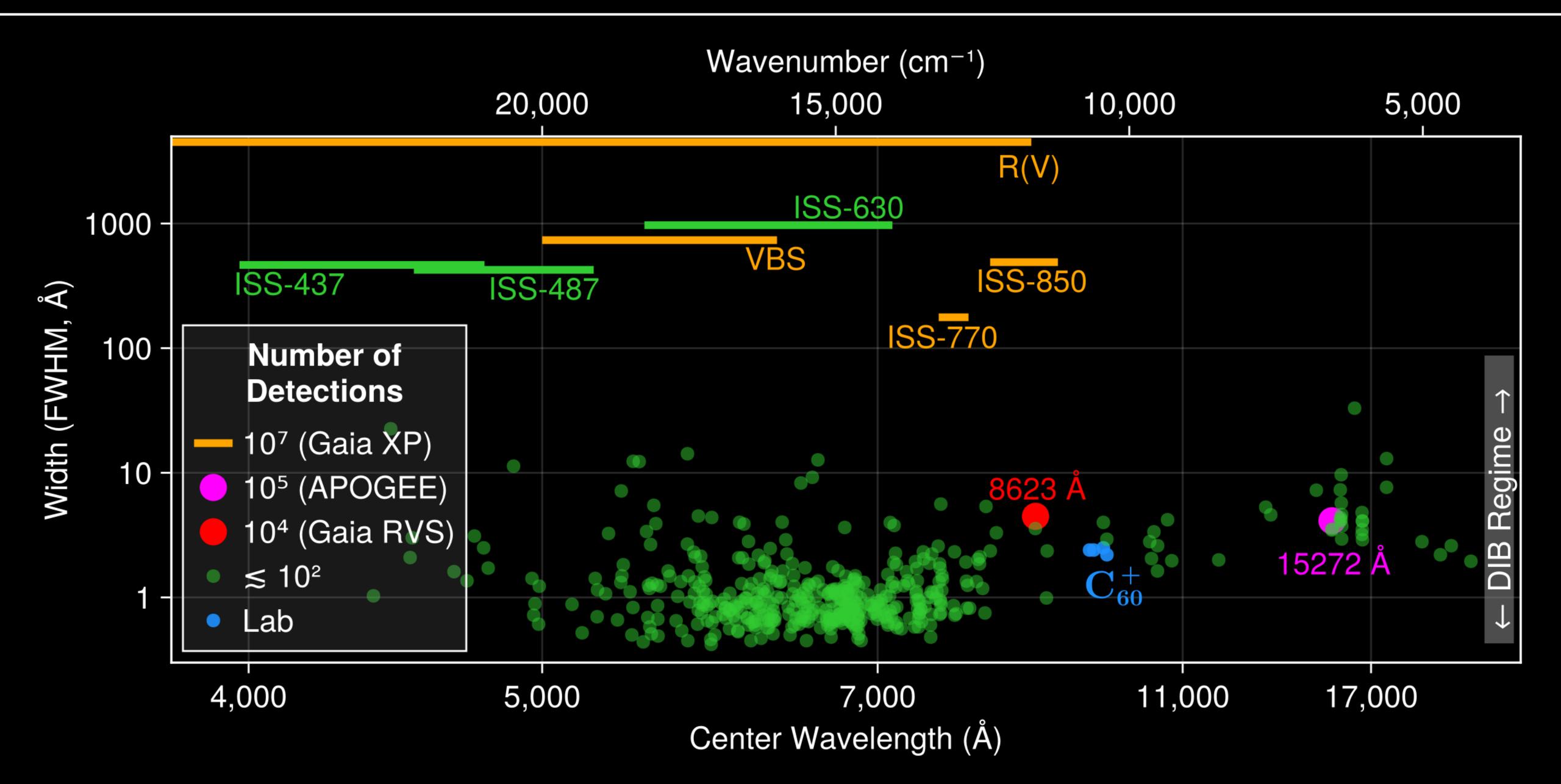
Realizing Diffuse Interstellar Bands as Chemical Tracers

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Hubble Fellow @ Princeton

Does the chemical composition of dust also change with R(V) variation?

Extinction Curve Features: Across all Scales!



Broad Feature Catalog: GaiaXP

Cov-aware PCA

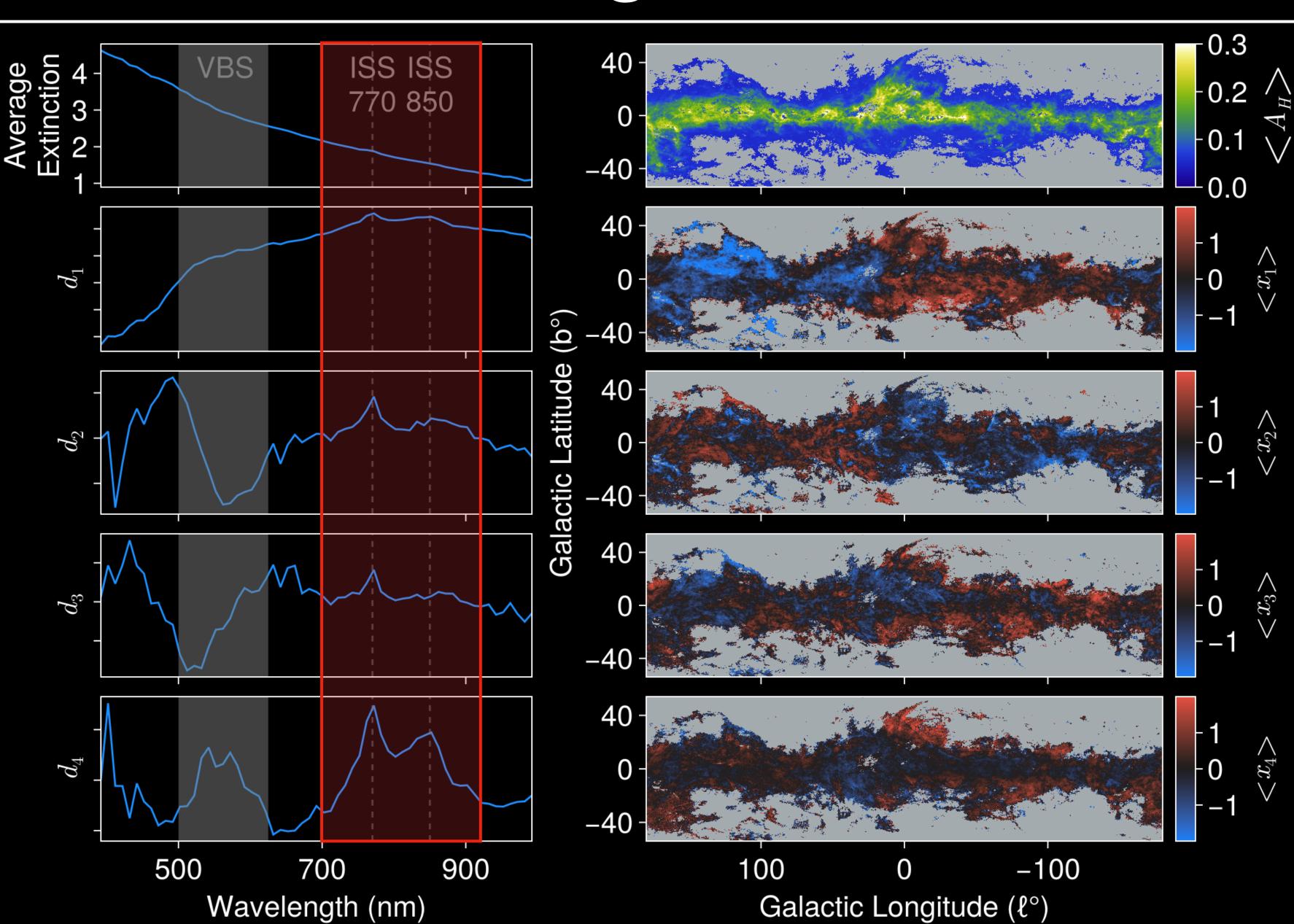
Interpretation:

 $x_1 \propto R(V)$

 x_i parameterize ISS variation

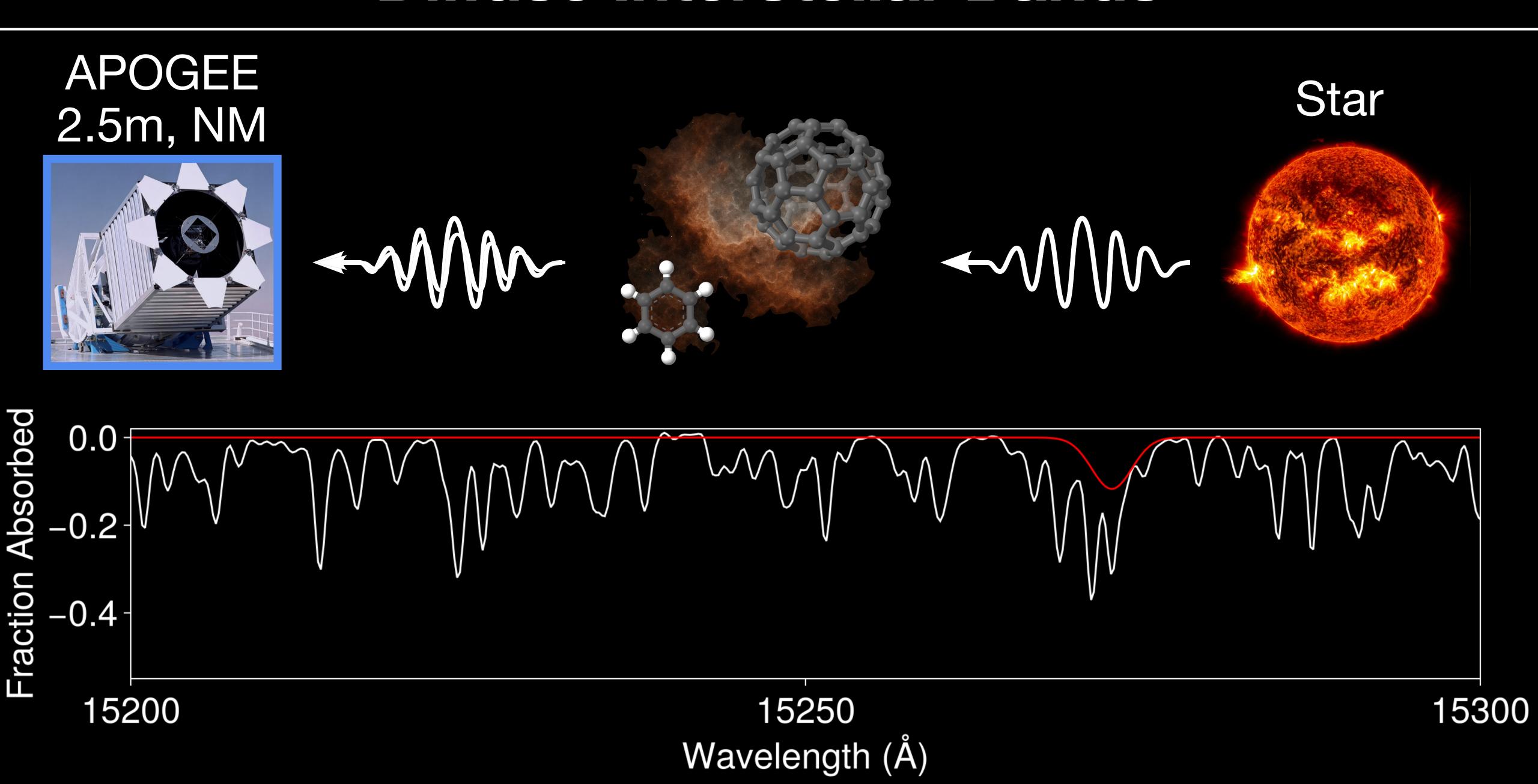
Key Choice:

All of the ISS
Point Up

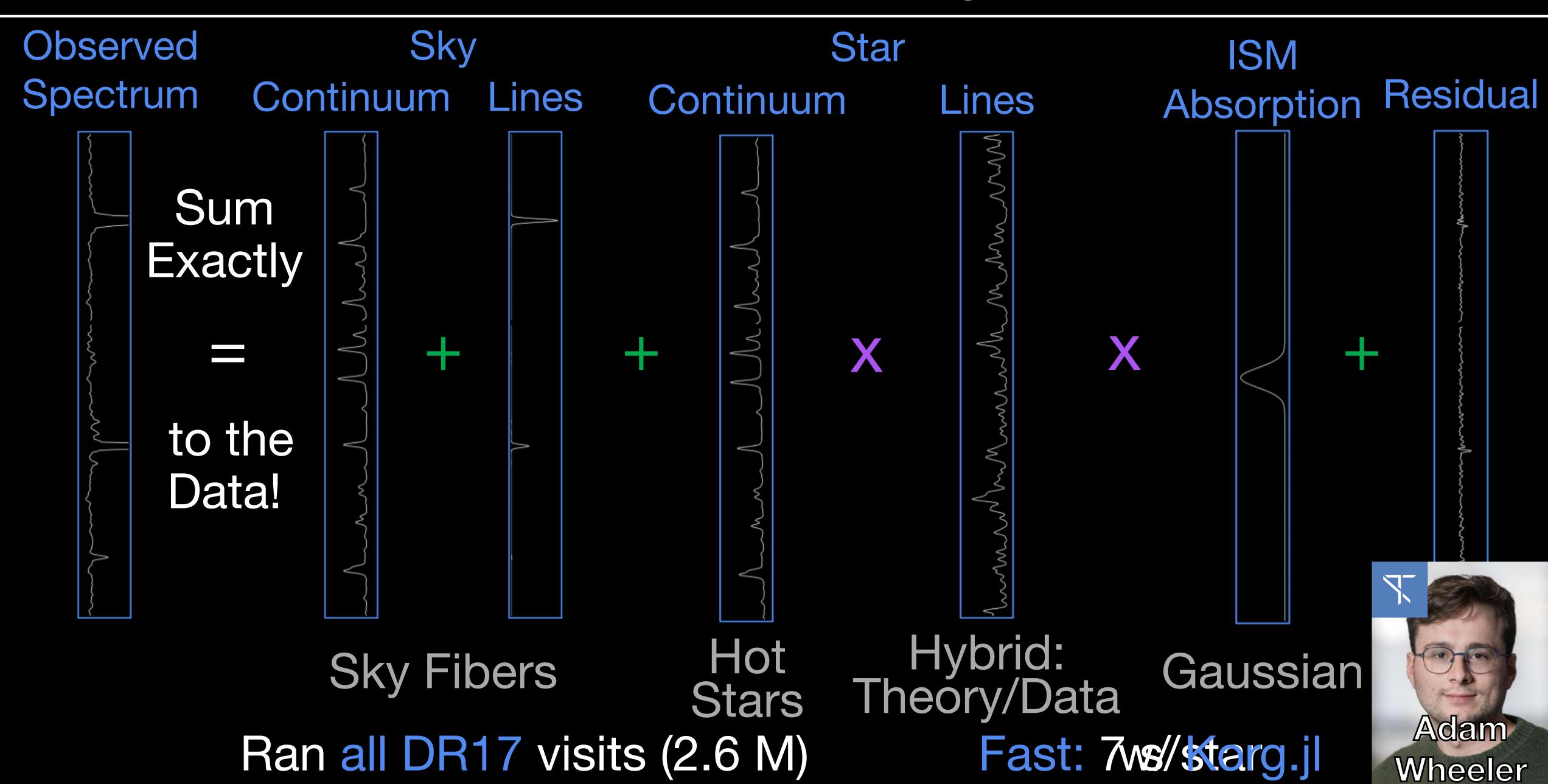


Green+2025

Diffuse Interstellar Bands



Narrow Feature Catalog: APOGEE



Residuals Correlating with Extinction

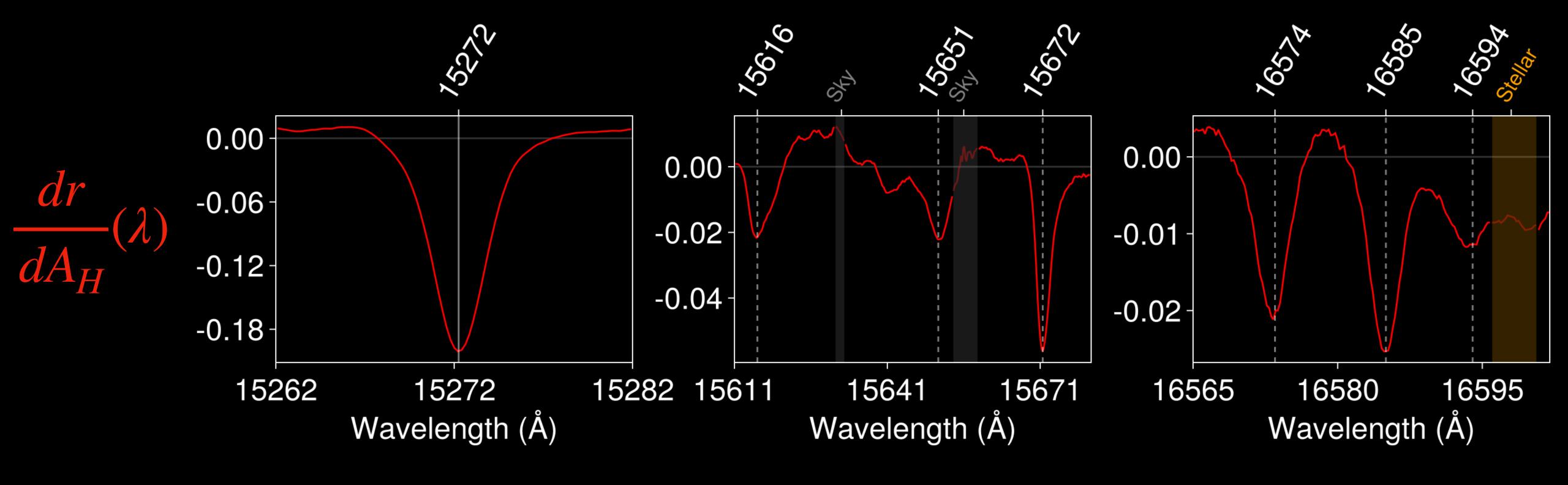
Residuals

Slope

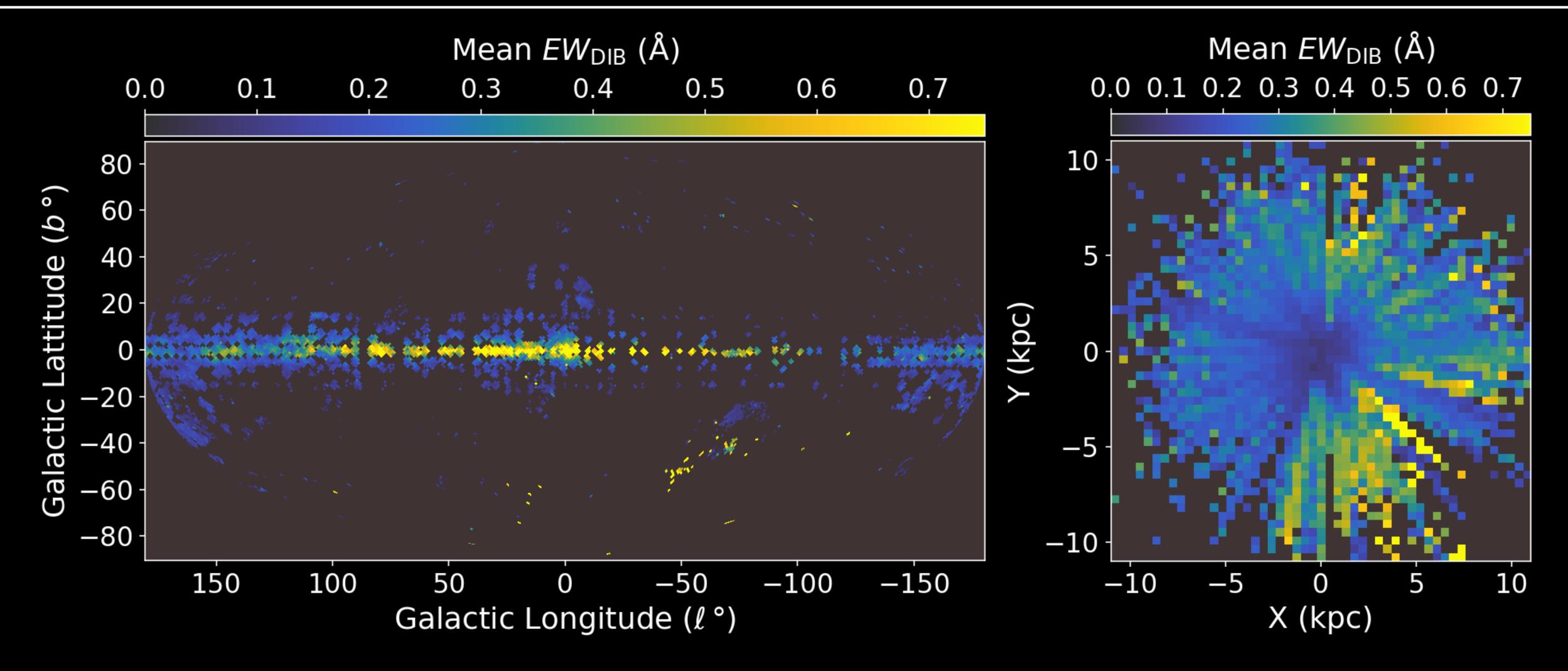
Extinction

Linear Response Model:

$$r(\lambda) \equiv \frac{\delta F}{F}(\lambda) \approx \frac{dr}{dA_H}(\lambda) \times A_H$$



DIB Catalog: Spatial Distribution



Largest DIB Catalog:

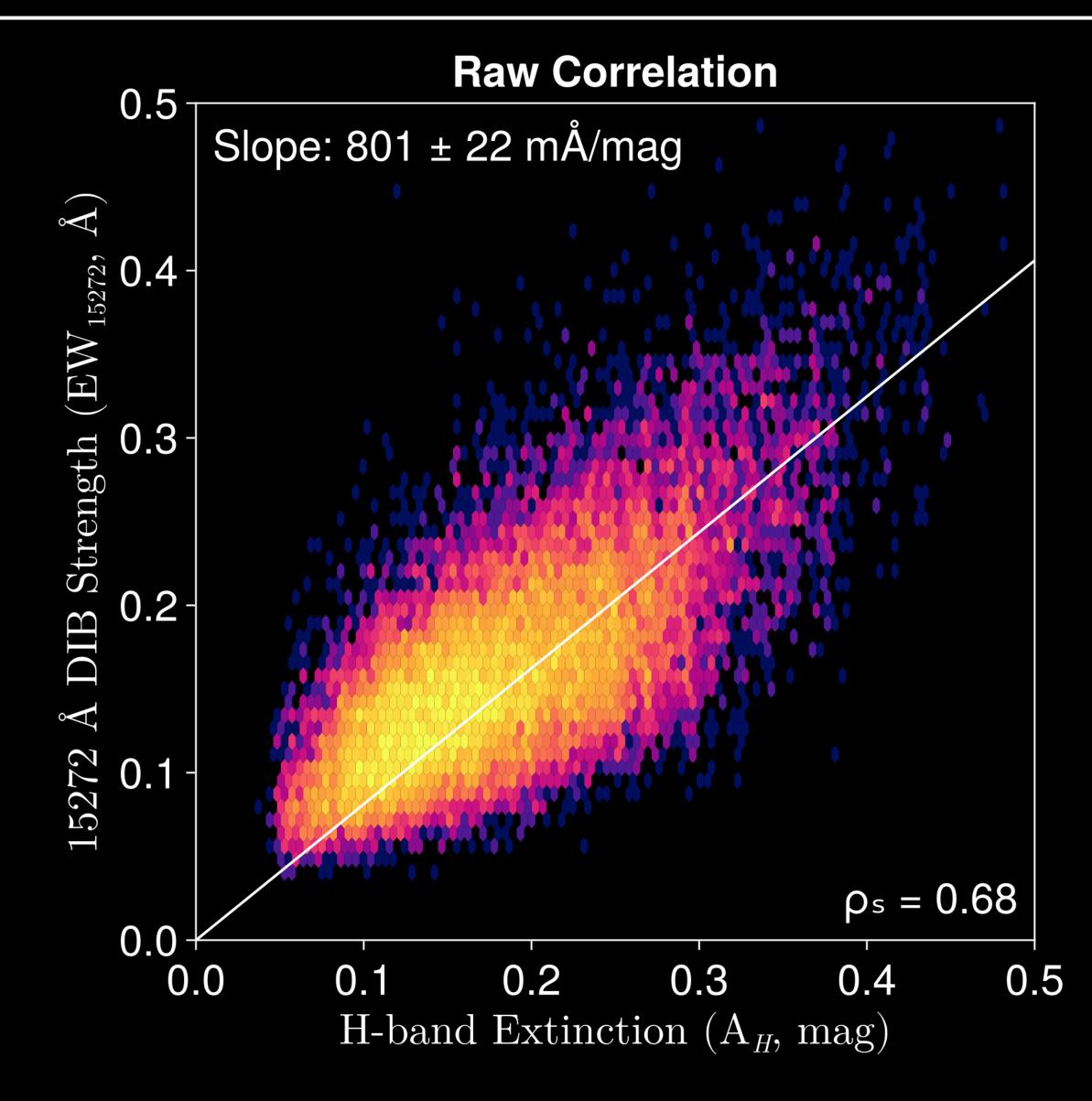
~150 K Detections of 15272 Å DIB

SDSS-V: ~5x Expected!

Does the chemical composition of dust also change with R(V) variation?

Does scatter in DIB strength vs. extinction correlate with R(V)?

How much of this scatter is real?



Conventional Model

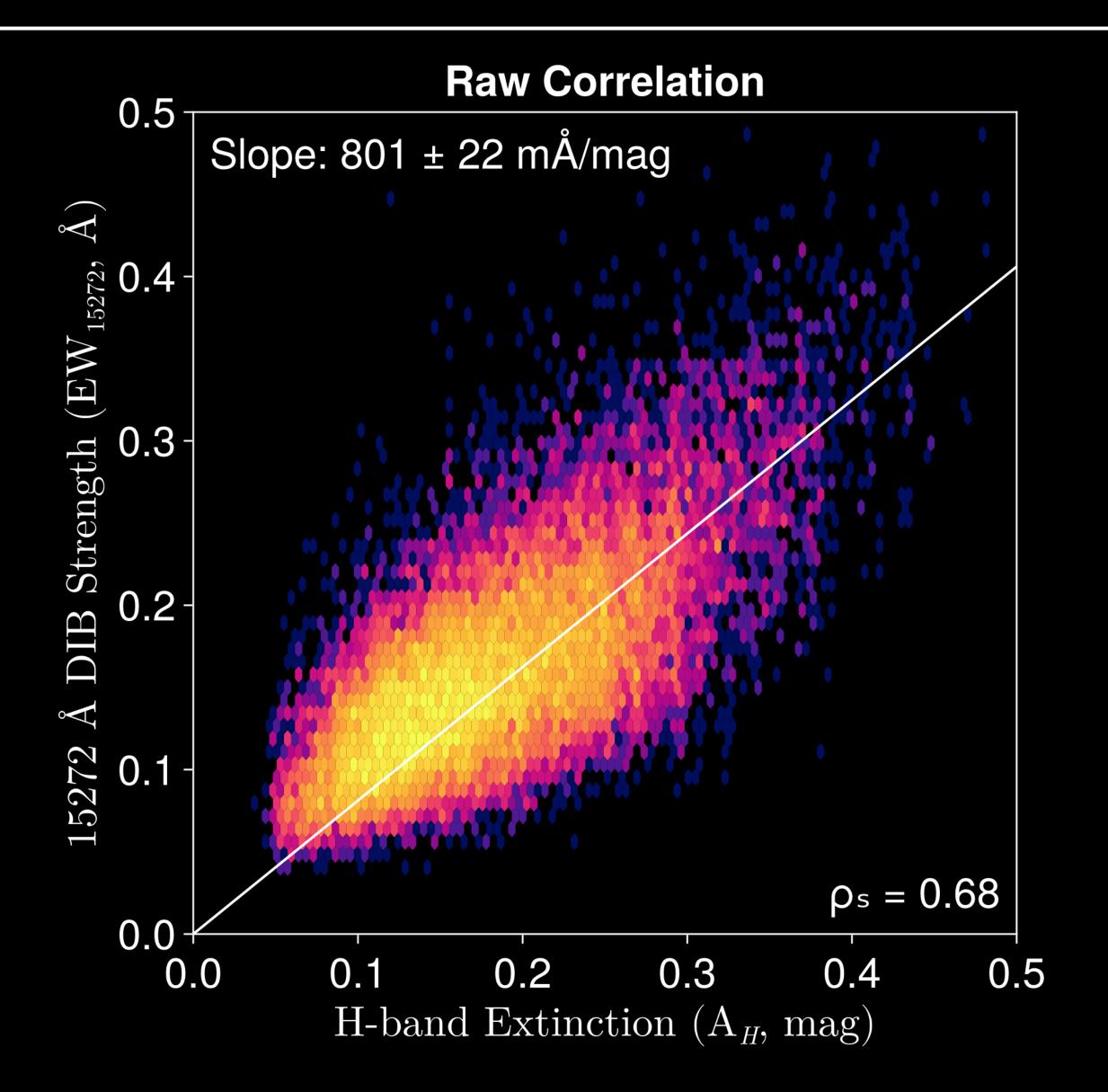
Strength Slope Extinction
$$EW \approx \frac{dEW}{dA_H} \times A_H$$

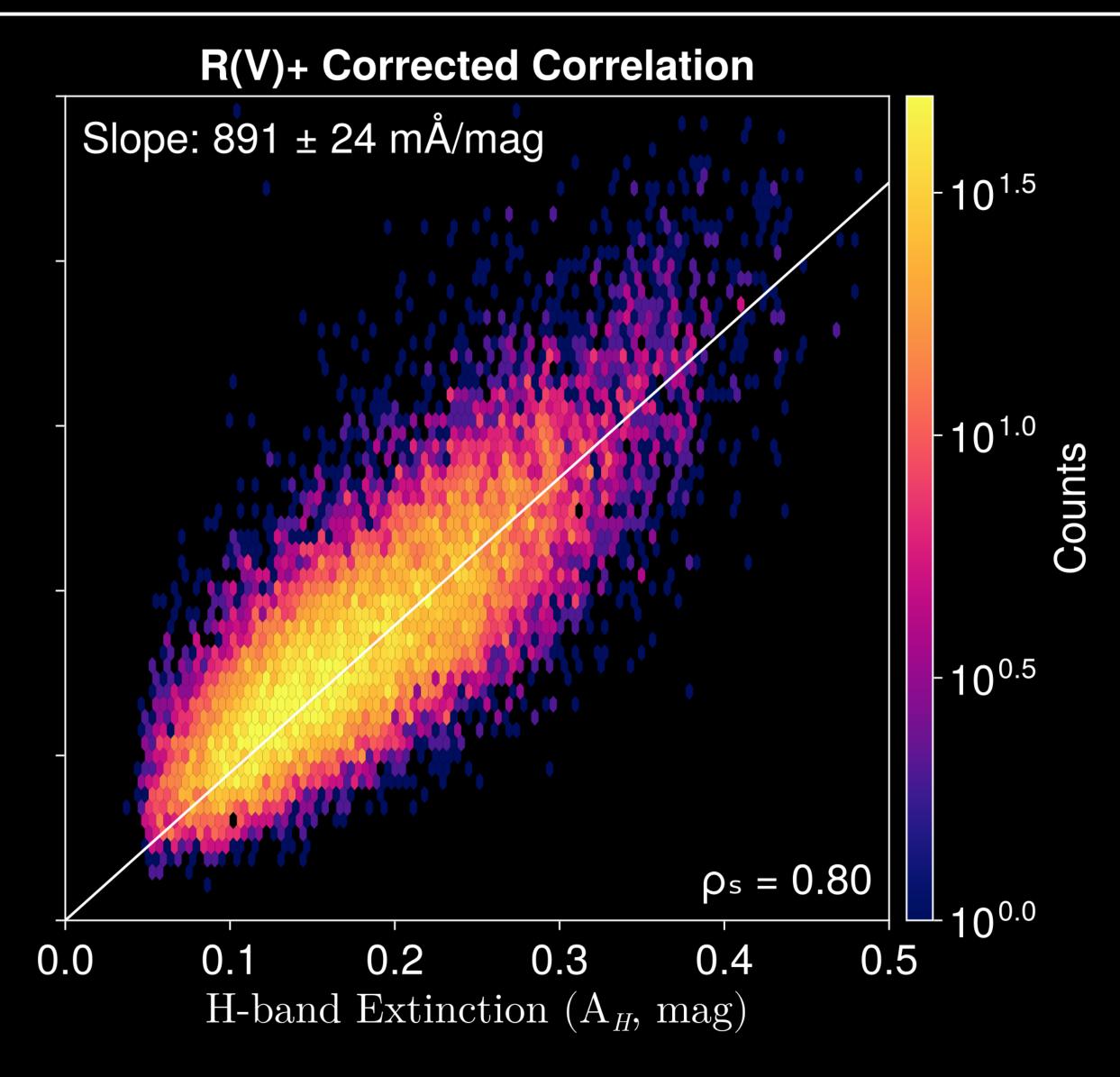
$$+ \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{dEW}{dA_H dx_i} \times x_i A_H$$
 Extinction Slope Curve Parameters

Model Expansion:
What if we include R(V)+?

Need robust uncertainties to answer!

How much of this scatter is real?





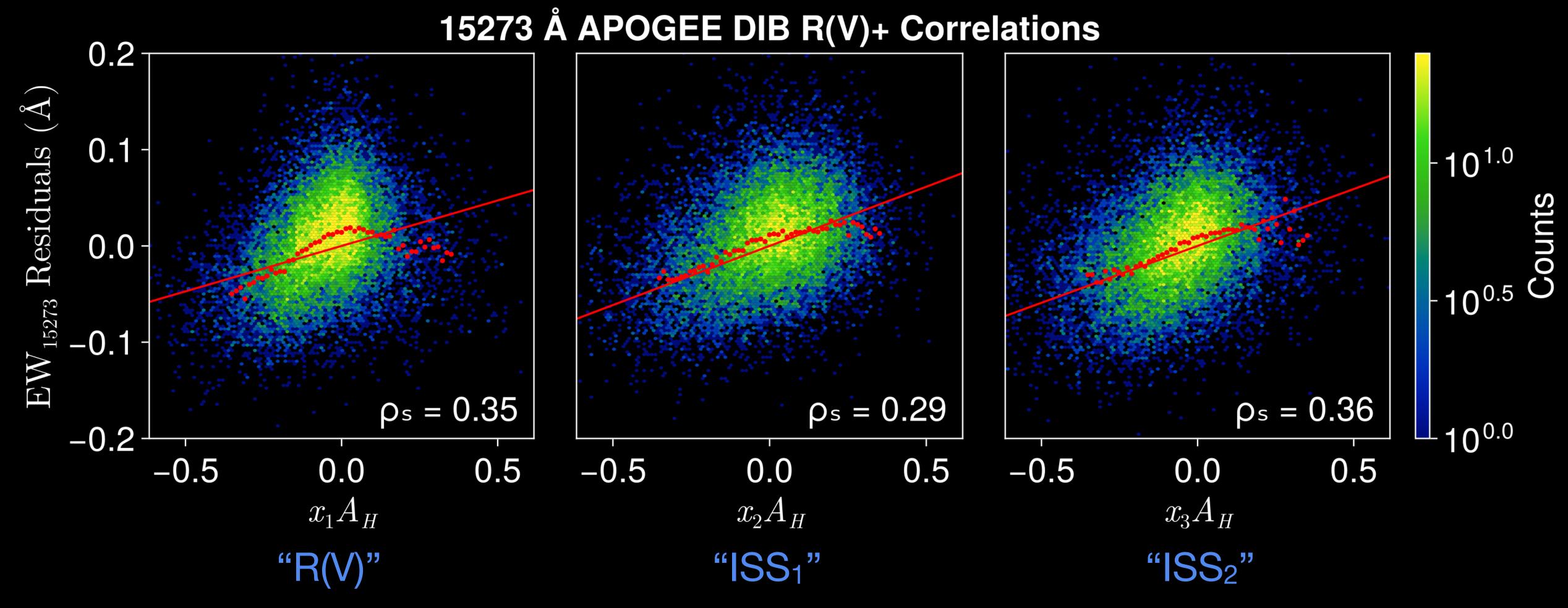
Need robust uncertainties to answer!

~20% Change in Predicted EW!

Extinction Features Correlate Across all Scales!

$$EW \approx \frac{dEW}{dA_H} \times A_H + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{dEW}{dA_H dx_i} \times x_i A_H$$

DIB strengthens as ISS strengthens!

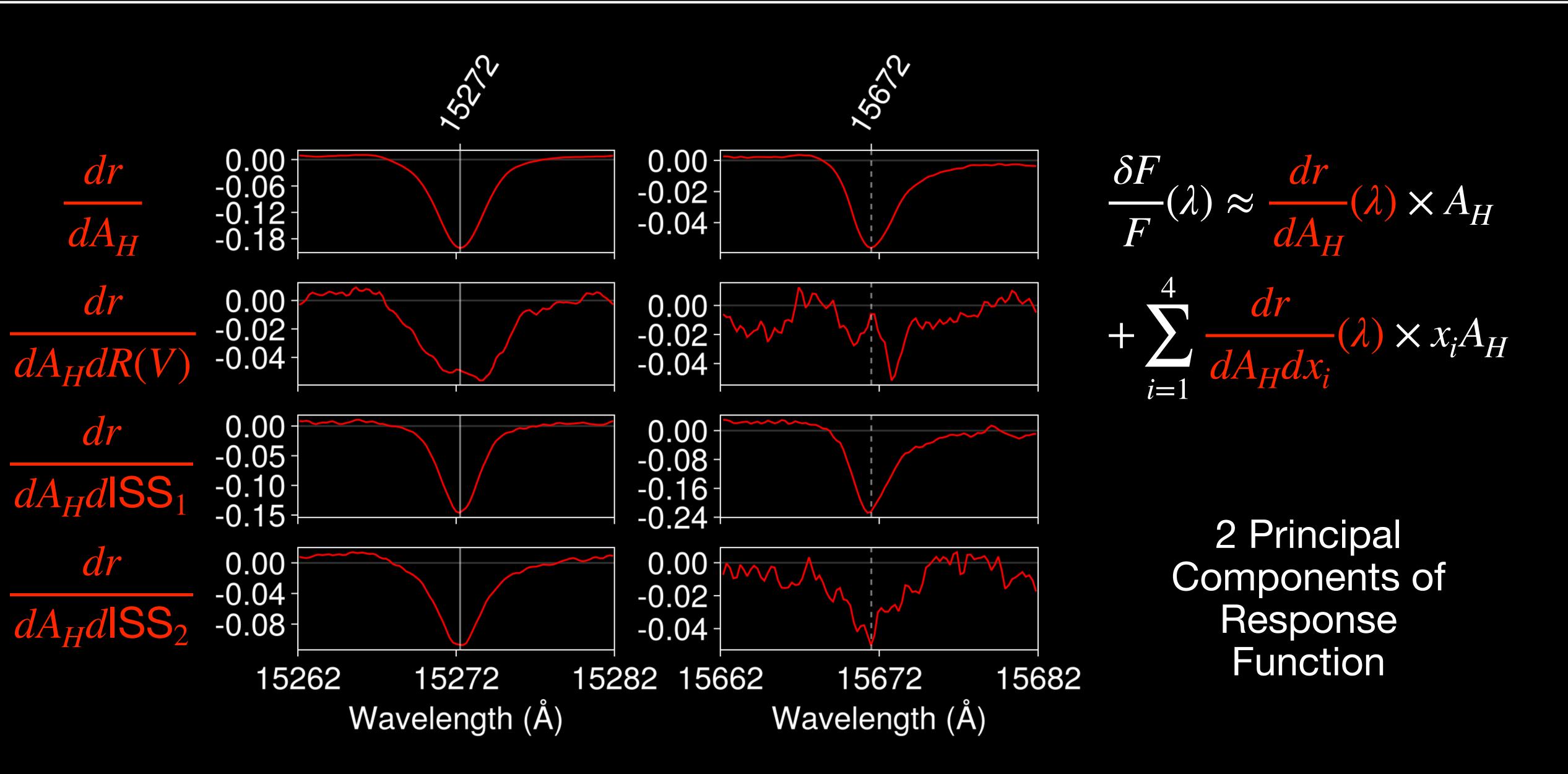


Significantly Reduces Spatial Structure

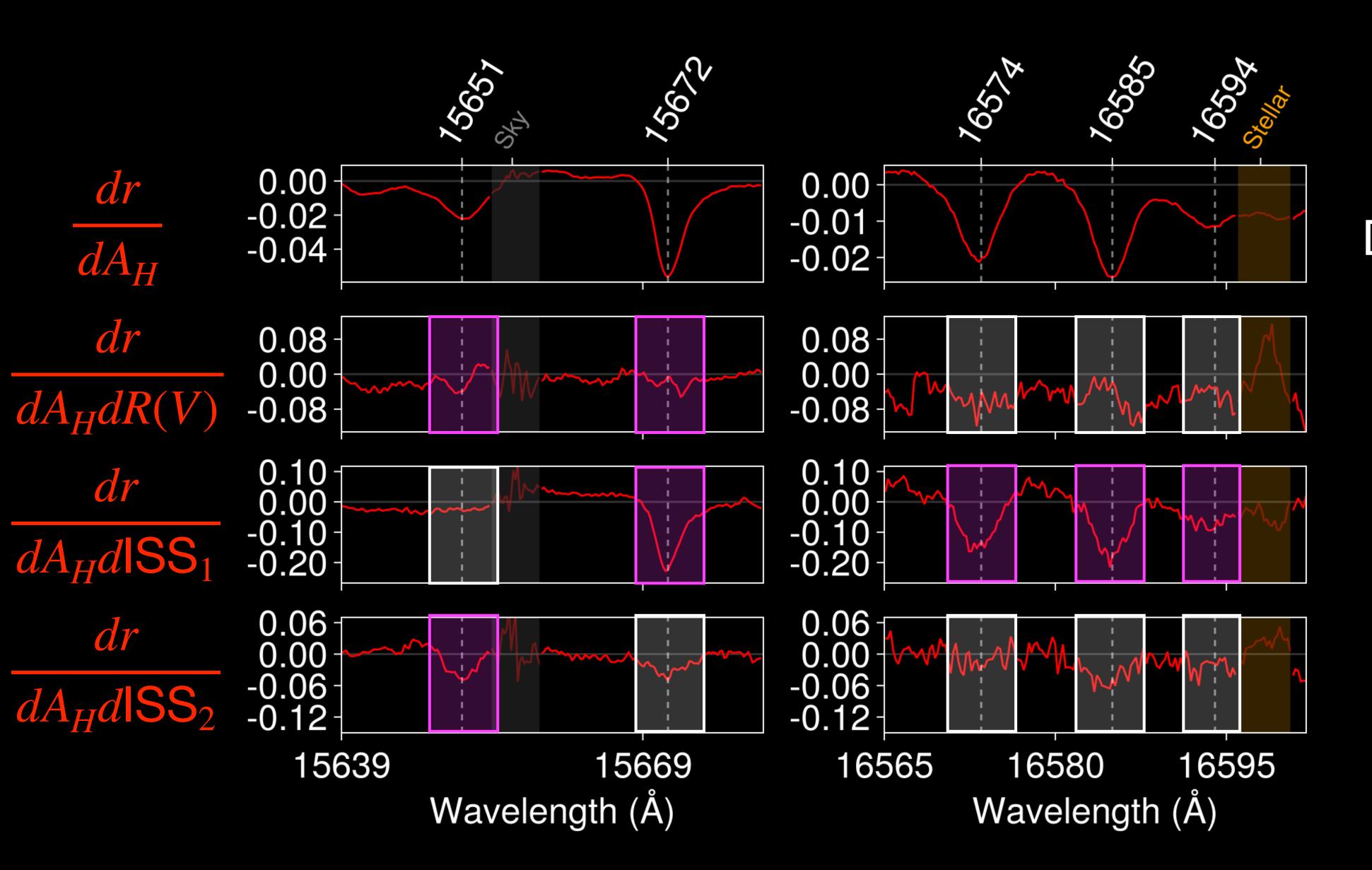
$$EW \approx \frac{dEW}{dA_H} \times A_H + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{dEW}{dA_H dA_i} \times x_i A_H$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{R(V)} + \\ \text{R(V$$

Response Function of Spectral Residuals



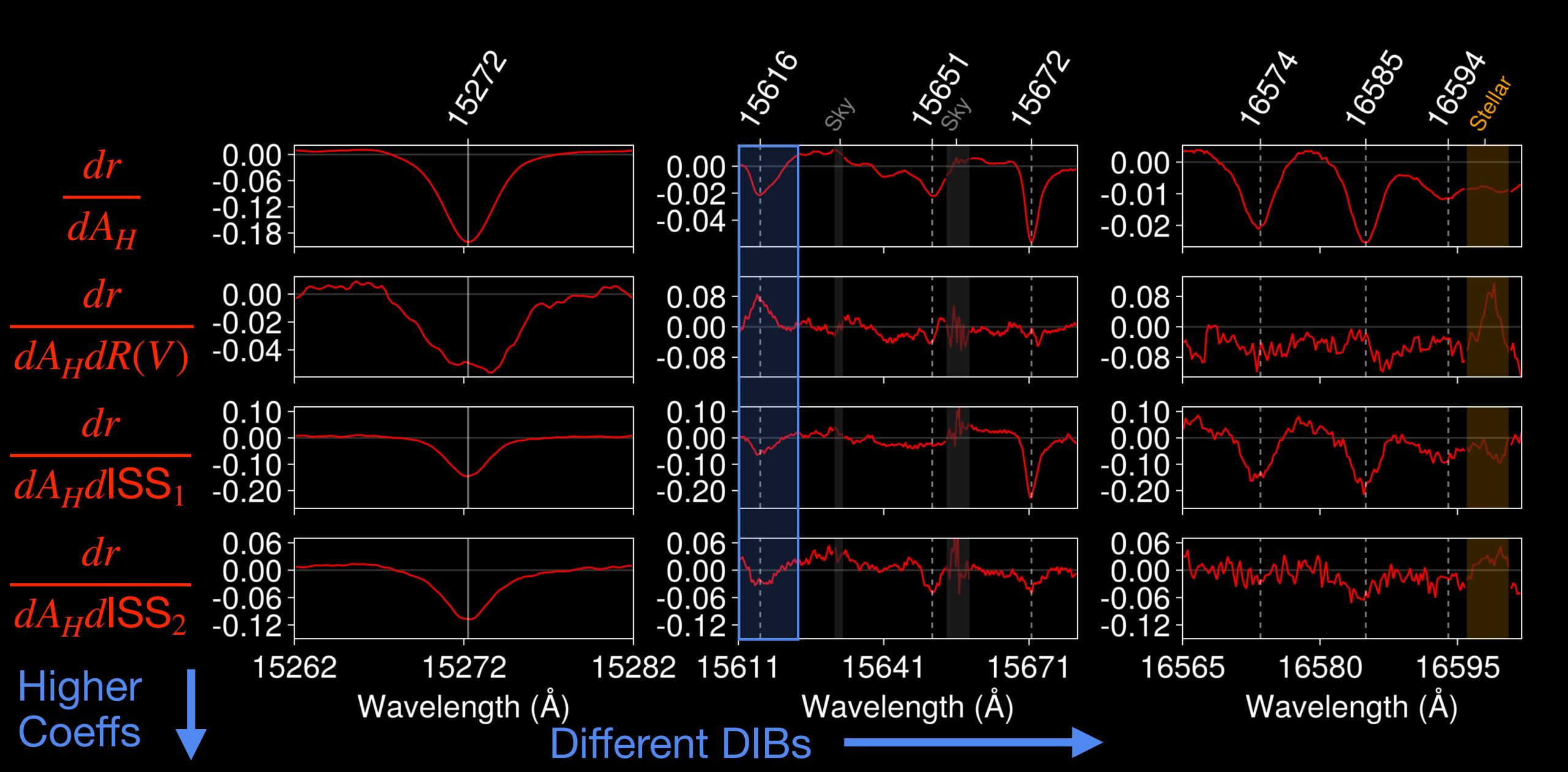
Different DIB Response "Signatures"



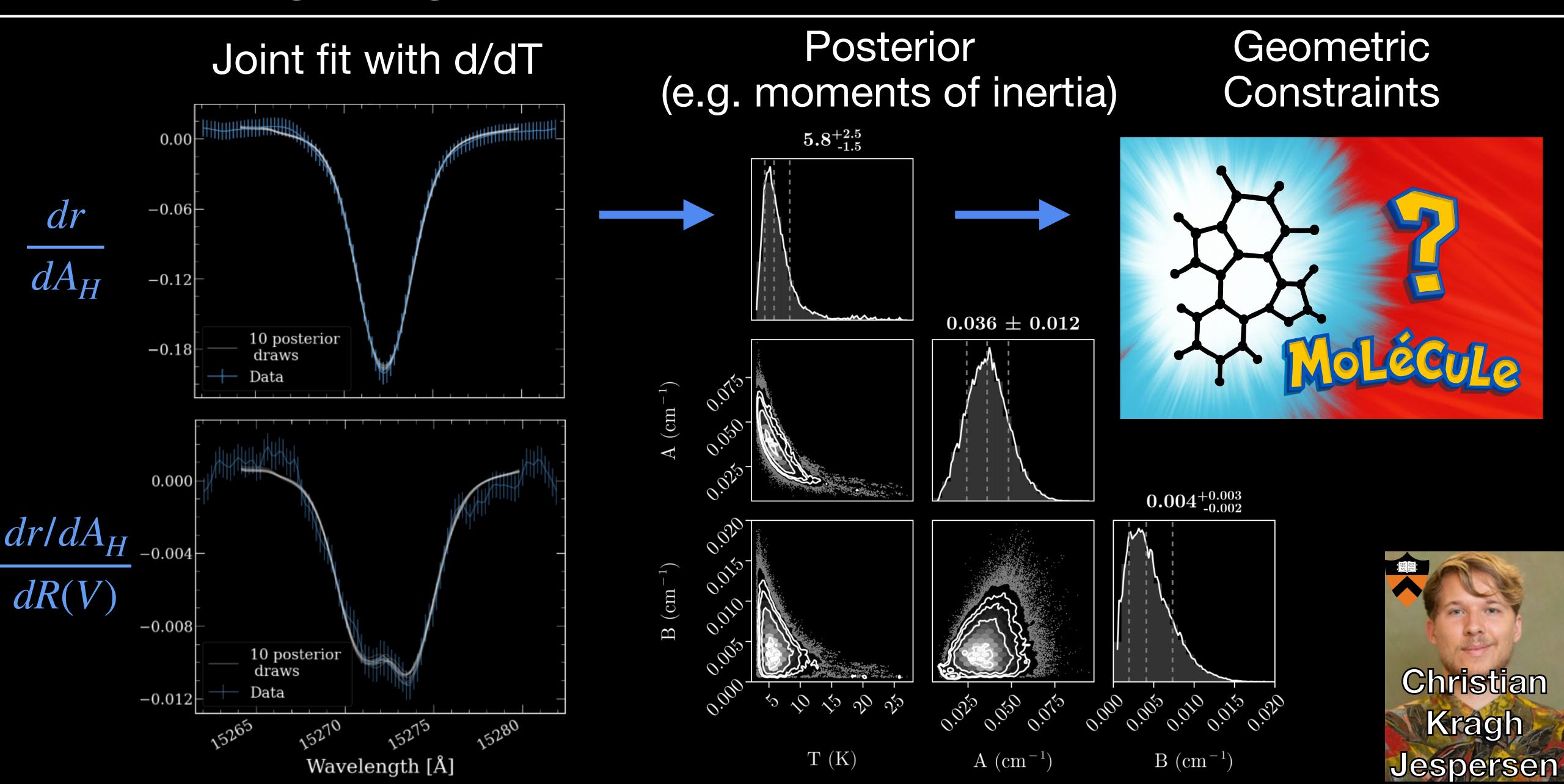
DIBs are separated by the "signature" of their responses

Different signatures imply different chemistries or ionizations

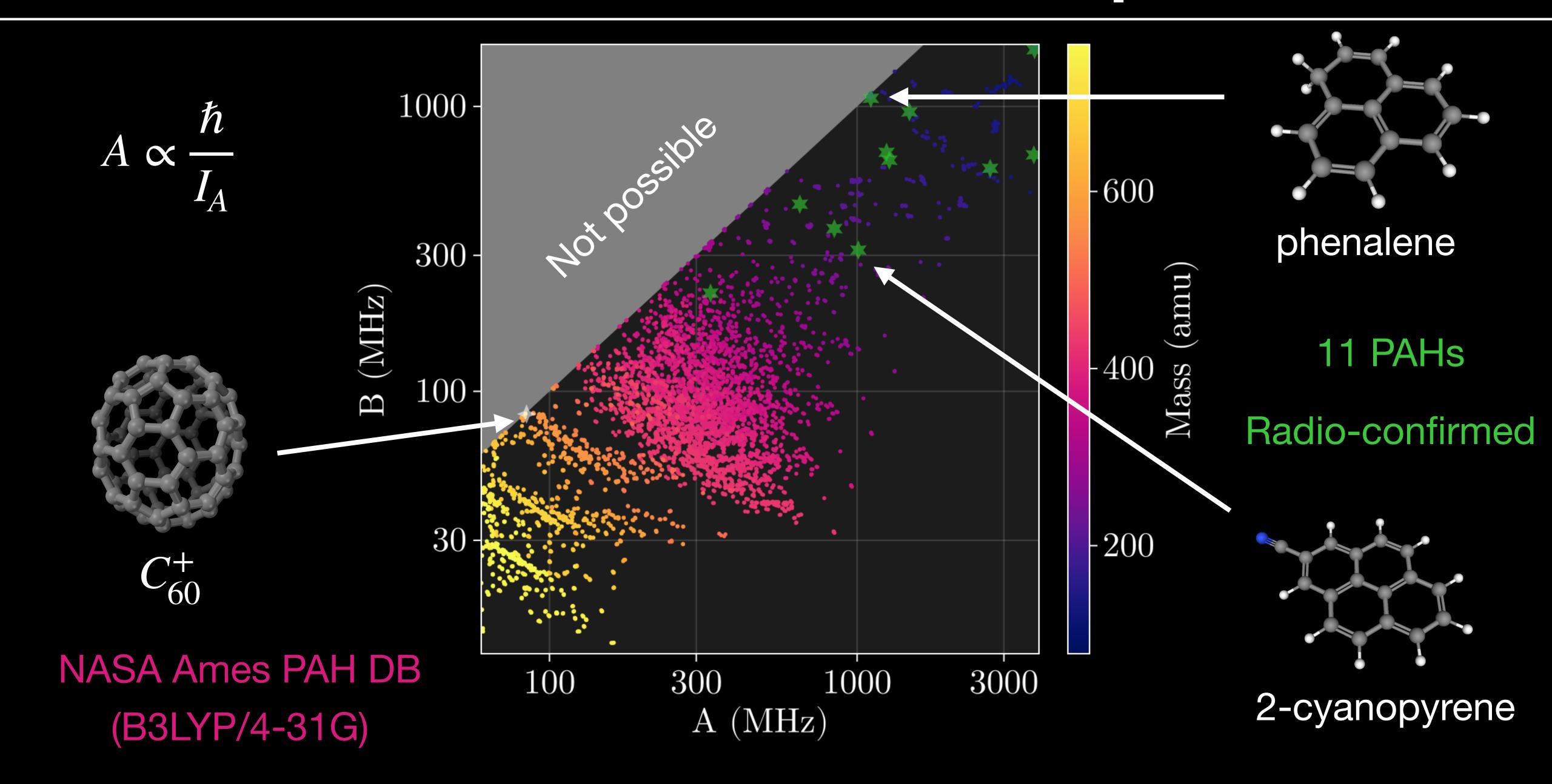
Chemical Composition Variation!



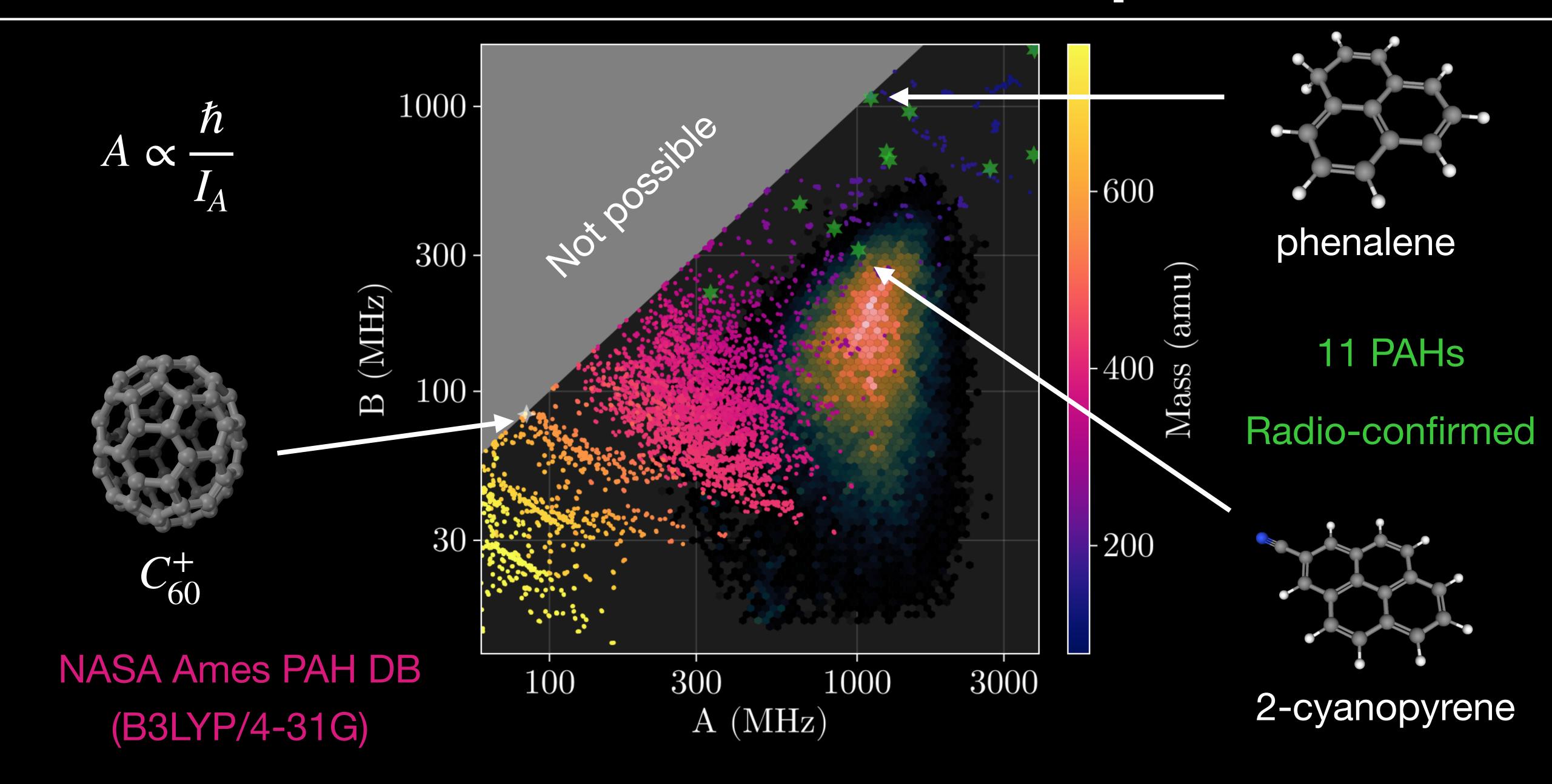
Ongoing: Rotational Lineshape Model



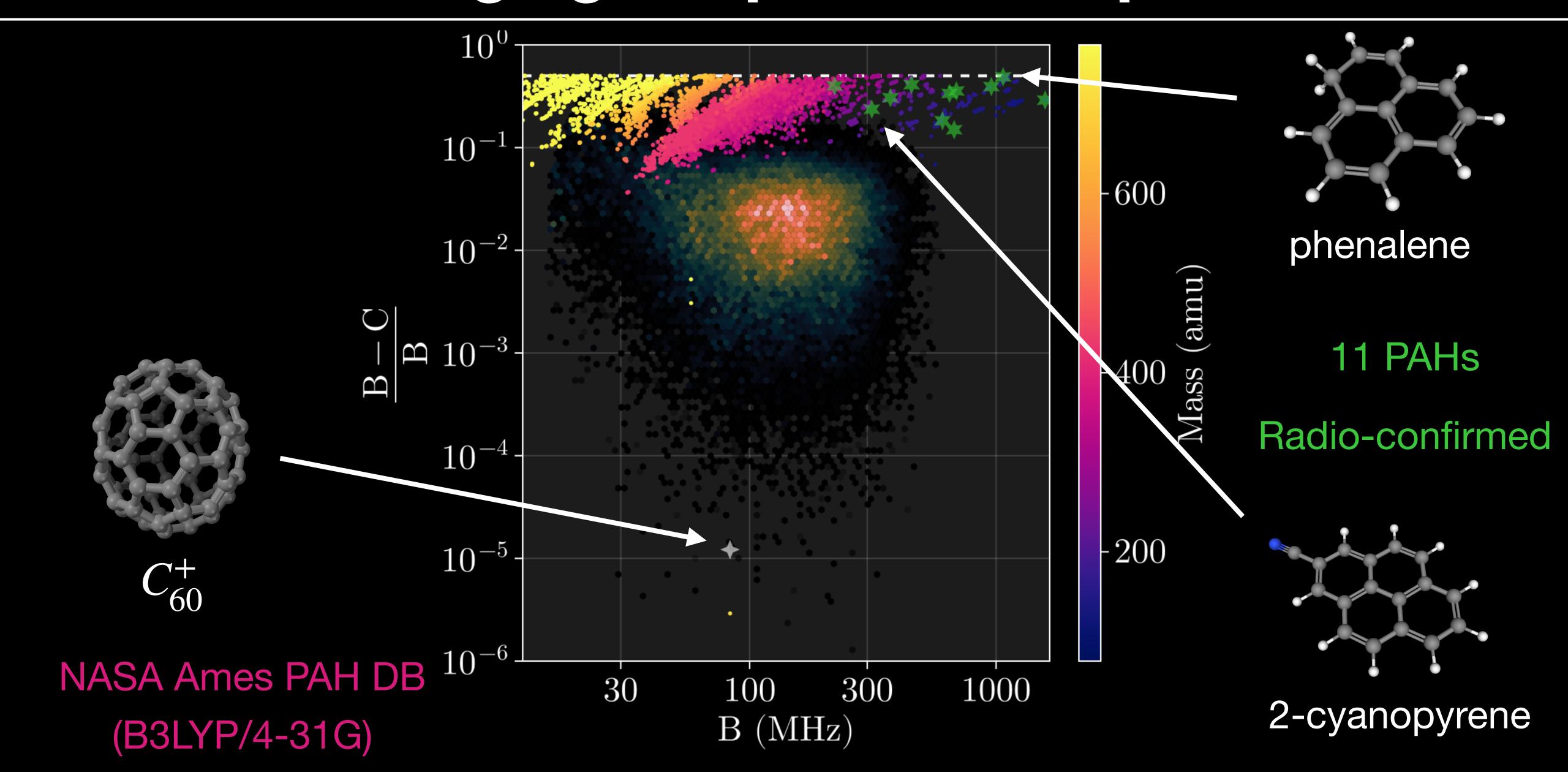
Where are we in chemical space?



Where are we in chemical space?



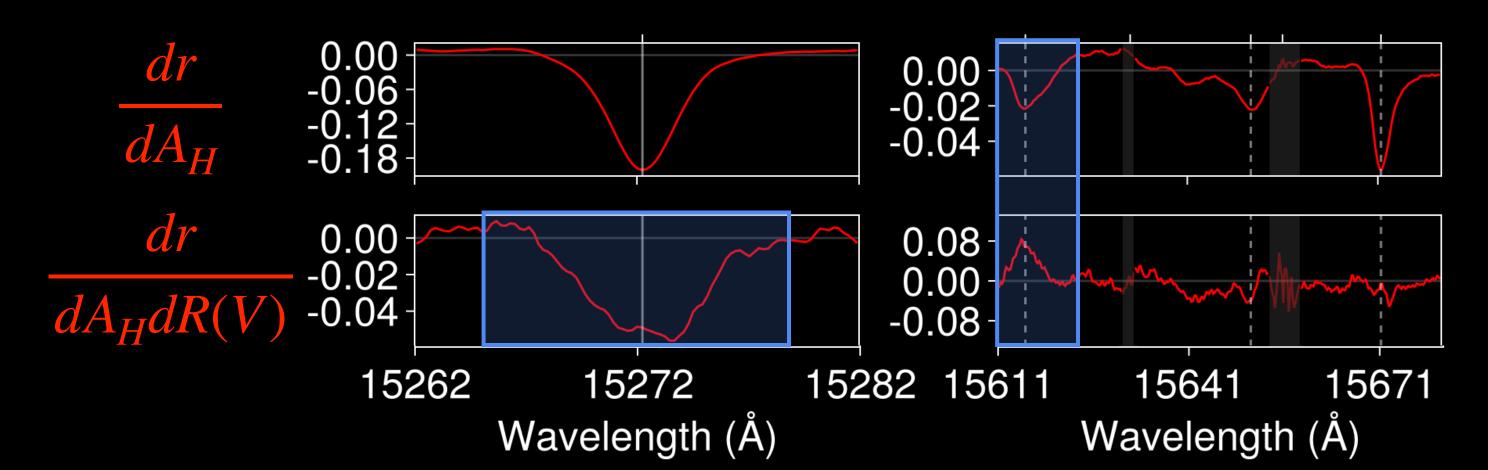
Challenging the planar PAH picture



Chemical Complexity of Interstellar Dust

Summary

- Yes! Chemical variation with R(V)
- Correlation between all scales of extinction curve features
- R(V)+ has 20% Effect on EW
- Anomalous 15616 Å Line shape variations



Paper



Future

