

# High Energy Processes in Protostellar Jets

Rodríguez-Kamenetzky A. R.<sup>1</sup>, Carrasco-González C.<sup>2</sup>,  
Araudo A.<sup>3</sup>, Torrelles J. M.<sup>4</sup>, Anglada G.<sup>5</sup>, Martí J.<sup>6</sup>,  
Rodríguez L. F.<sup>2</sup>, Valotto C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Instituto de Astronomía Teórica y Experimental (IATE-CONICET-UNC)

<sup>2</sup>Instituto de Radioastronomía y Astrofísica (UNAM)

<sup>3</sup>University of Oxford, Department of Physics

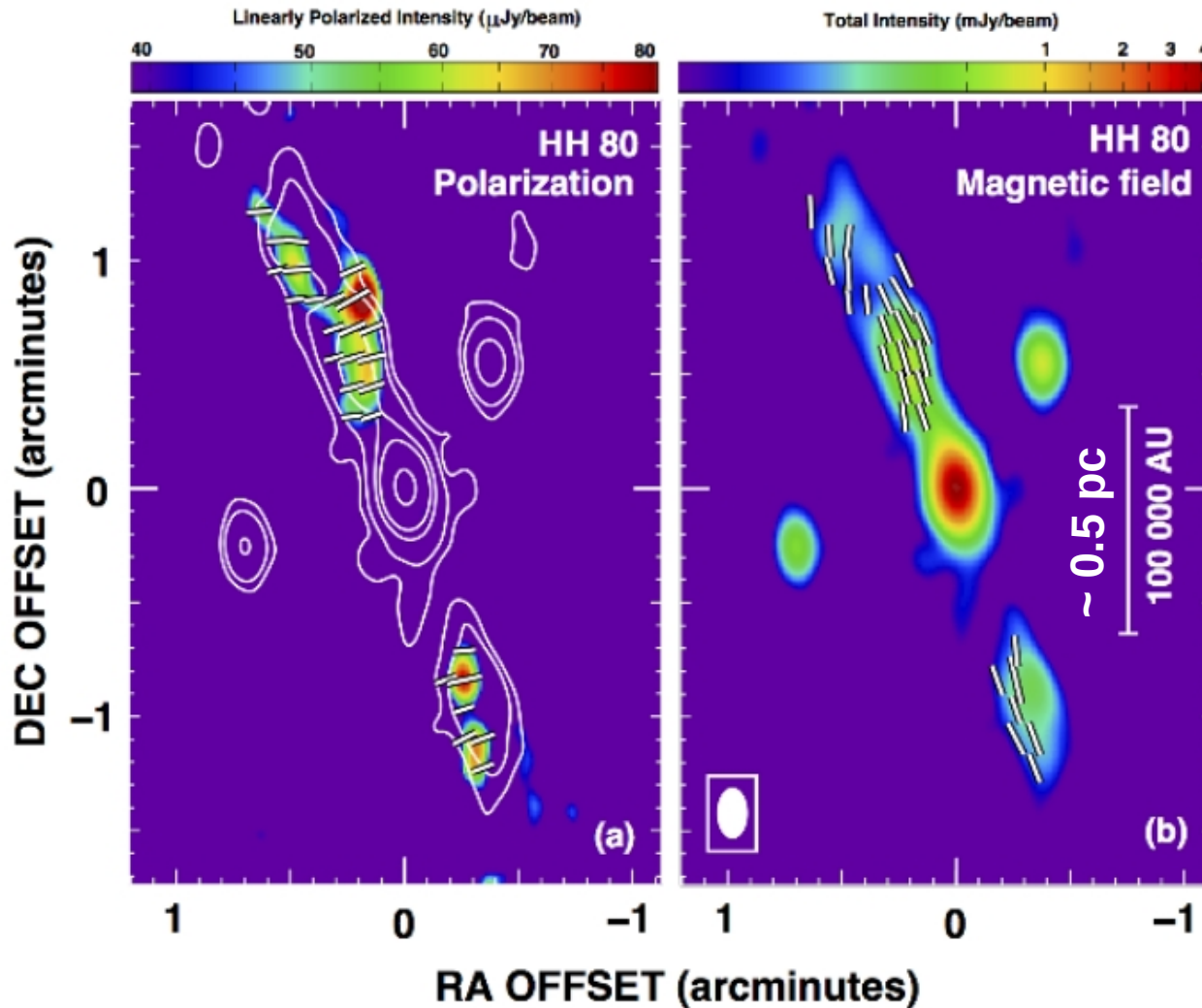
<sup>4</sup>Institut de Ciències de l'Espai (CSIC-IEEC) and Institut de Ciències del Cosmos  
(UB-IEEC)

<sup>5</sup>Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC)

<sup>6</sup>Universidad de Jaén, Dept. de Física, EPS de Jaén

# Background:

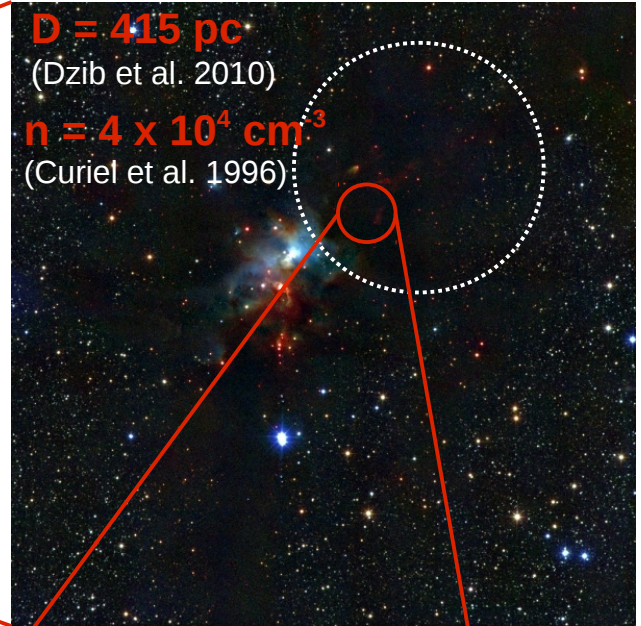
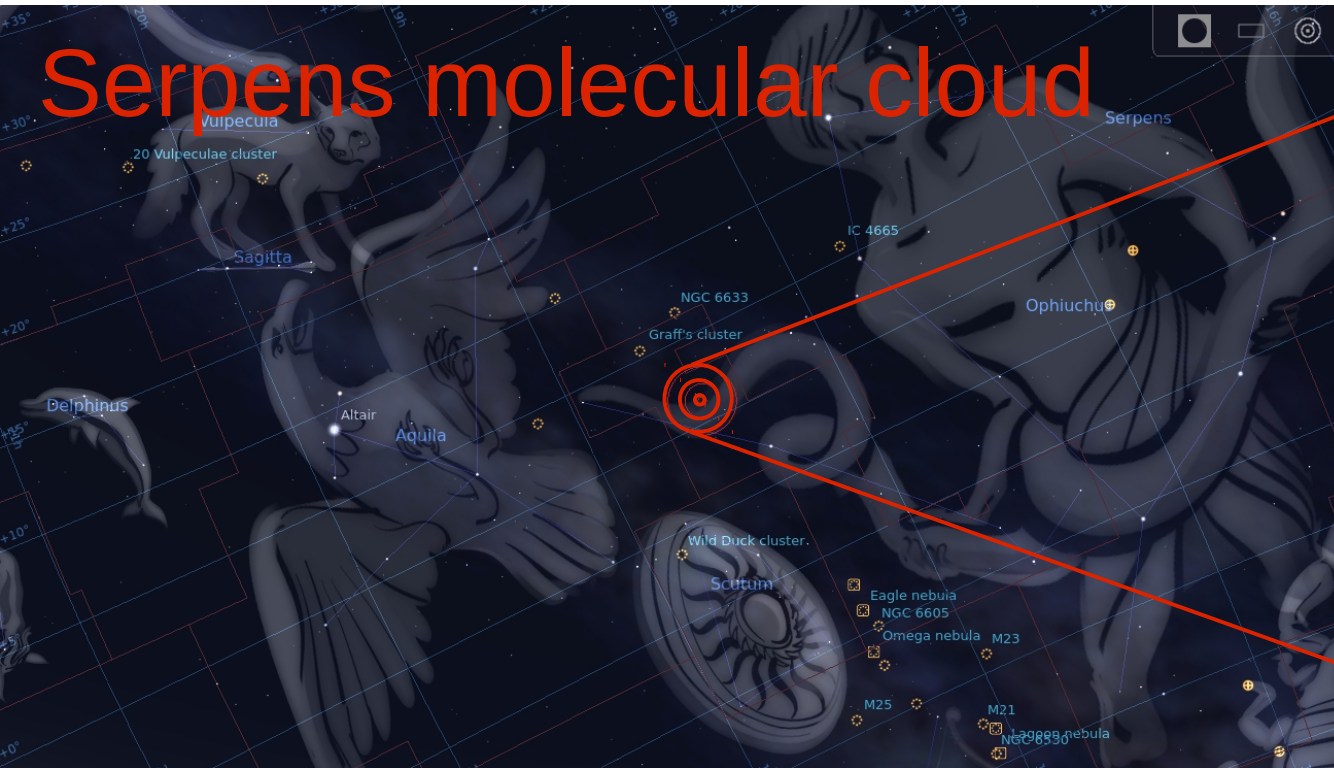
Carrasco-González, C., Rodríguez, L. F., Anglada, G., et al. 2010, *Science*, 330, 1209



- Linearly polarized emission in HH 80, **confirms the synchrotron origin** for the radio emission
- Allows the study of **magnetic fields** in these objects
- There are **relativistic particles** ---> some **particle acceleration mechanism** must be taking place

Protostellar jets - - - > low energy limit - - - > particle acceleration

# Serpens molecular cloud



## The triple radio-continuum source:

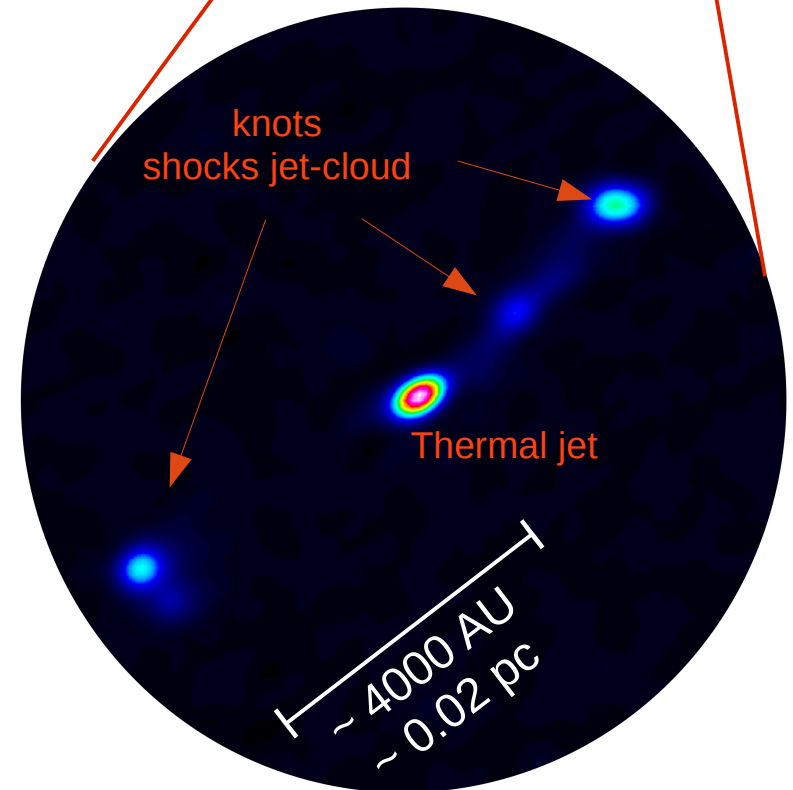
Widely studied since '80

(Rodríguez et al. 1980; Snell and Bally 1986; Curiel S. et al. 1993)

**L. F. Rodríguez (1989)**

Proper motions  $\sim 300 \text{ km/s}$  ( $d \sim 500 \text{ pc}$ )

Knots NW and SE:  $\alpha < 0$  (non-thermal emission)



# Serpens: Data

**Jet kinematics:** proper motions of the knots

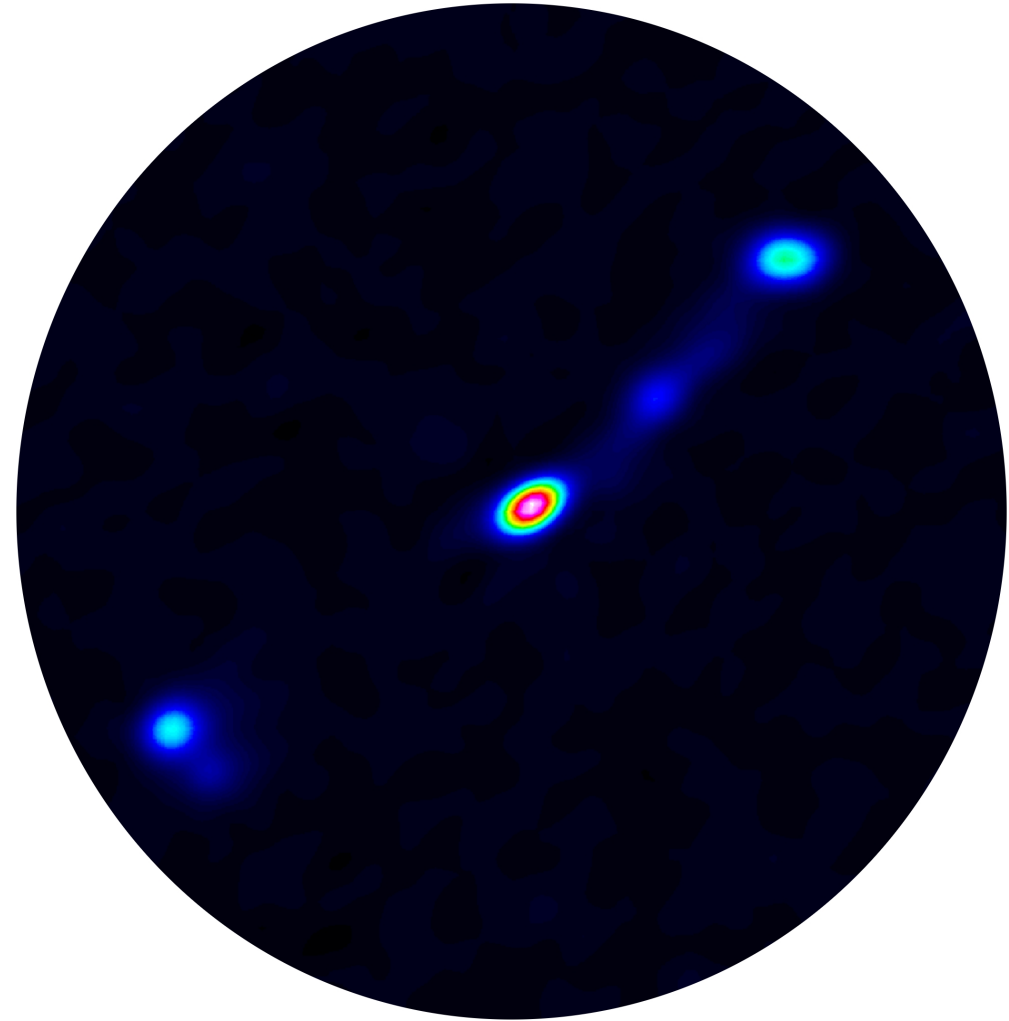
High resolution images (0.47"):  
A configuration – VLA (100 MHz BdW)

C (6 GHz) band, at  
1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2000 y 2011

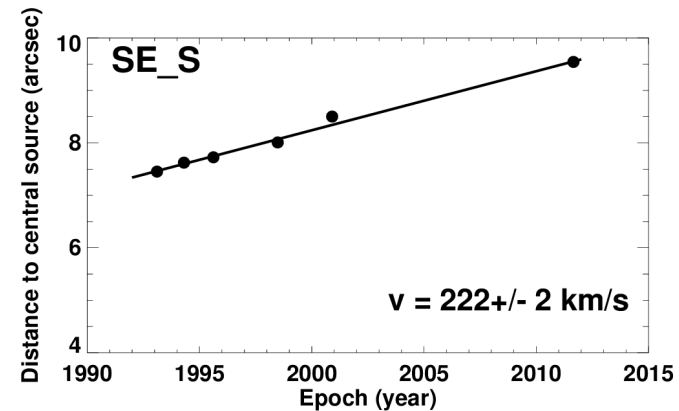
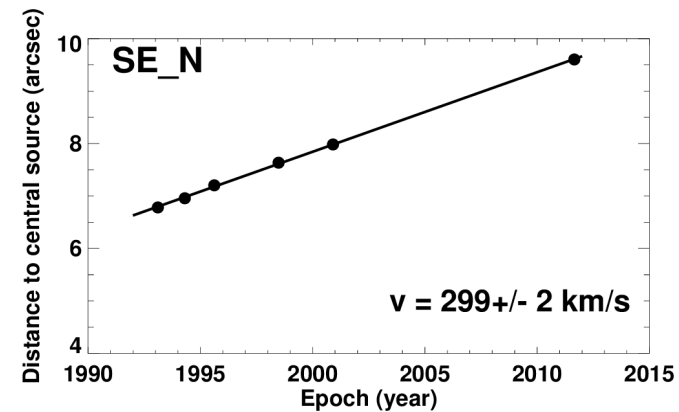
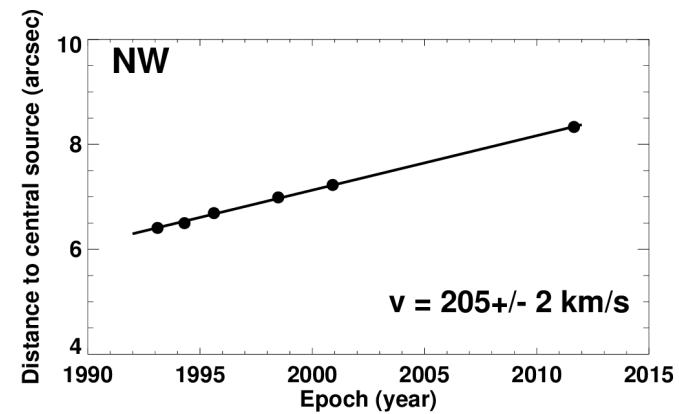
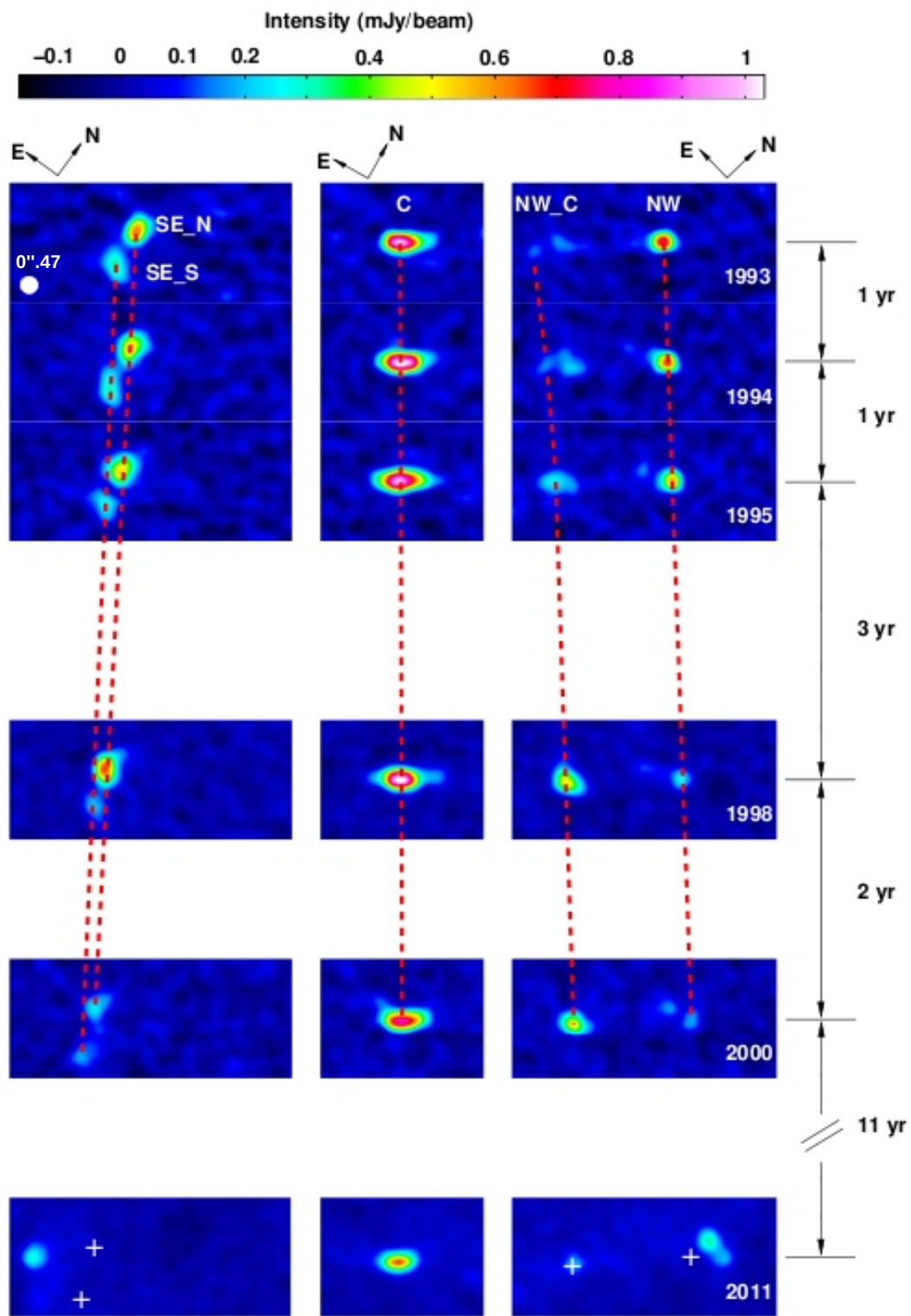
**Emission nature:**  
Spectral Indices. SEDs. Linear polarization.

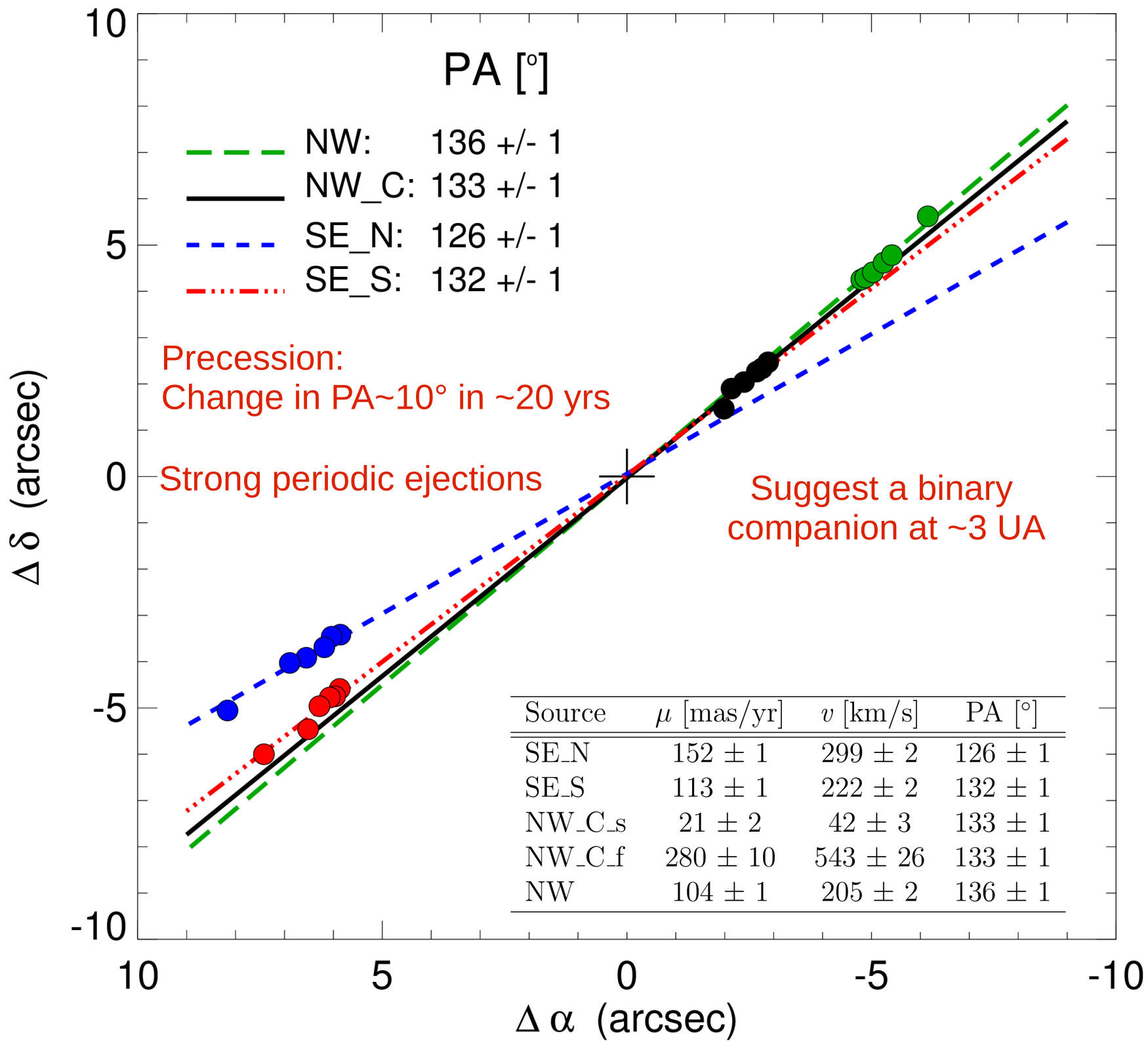
High sensitivity images:  
B Configuration – expanded VLA (2GHz BdW)

S (3 GHz), C (6 GHz), and X (10 GHz)  
bands at 2012



# PROPER MOTIONS





Spectral Indices

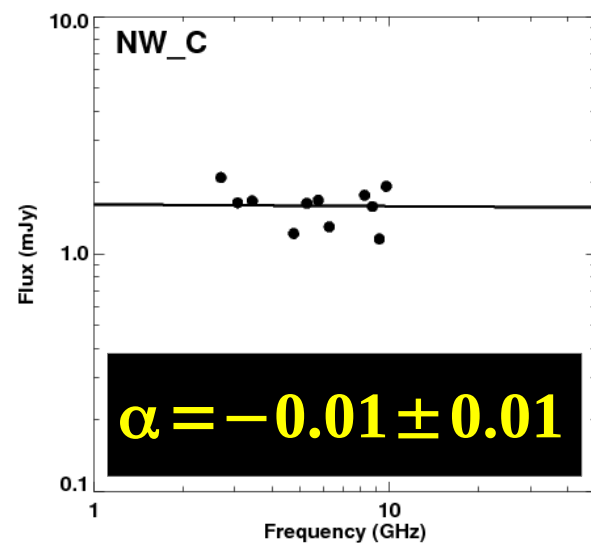
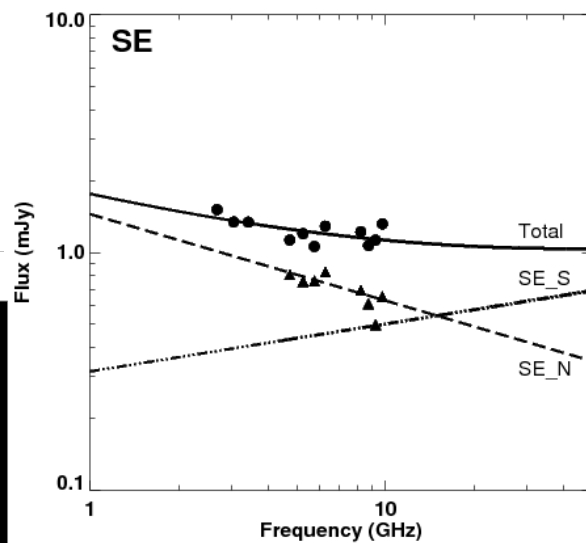
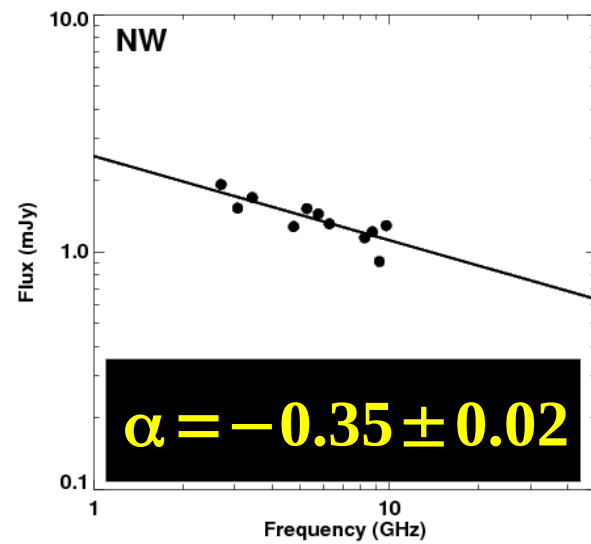
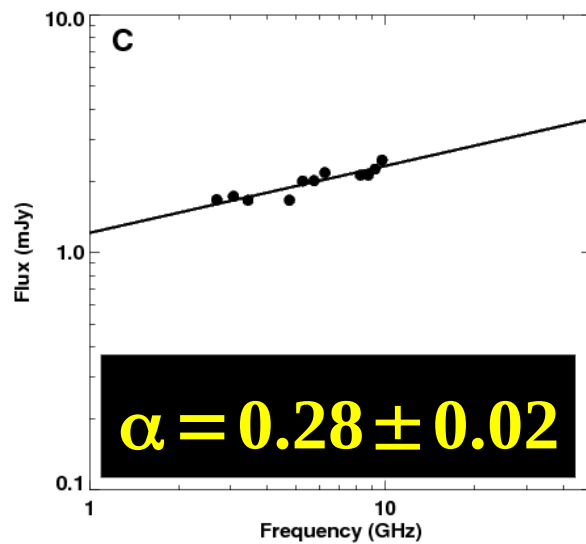
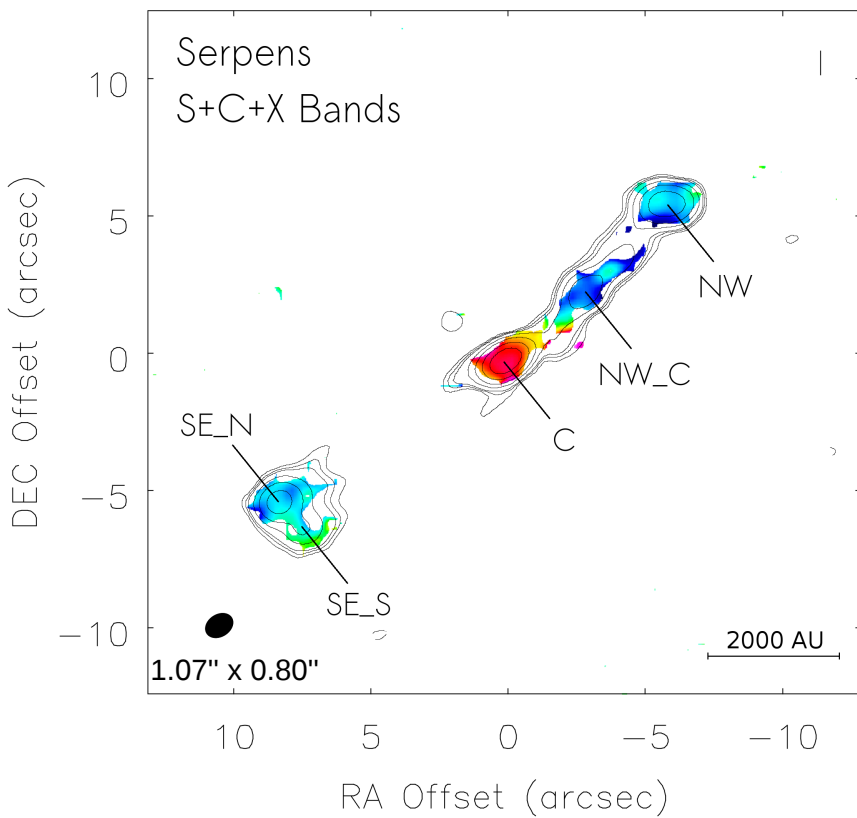
and

Spectral Energy Distributions



Spectral Index

-0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6



**We detect  $SI < 0$  in the knots**

**- - - > particle acceleration takes place in shocks against the molecular cloud**

# POLARIZATION

- We searched for linear polarization in high sensitivity data obtained with VLA at S, C, and X bands.
- We give an upper limit for the detected PD of the non-thermal knots

---

---

Knot	S Band (%)	C Band (%)	X Band (%)
SE	< 6	< 5	< 7
NW_C	< 6	< 9	< 12
NW	< 5	< 4	< 6

---

- Very low PD (< 10 %)
  - **Turbulence in the shocks** (real effect)
  - **Faraday depolarization** (instrumental effect)  
(implying high electronic densities in the jet)

# Conditions for particle acceleration in Serpens

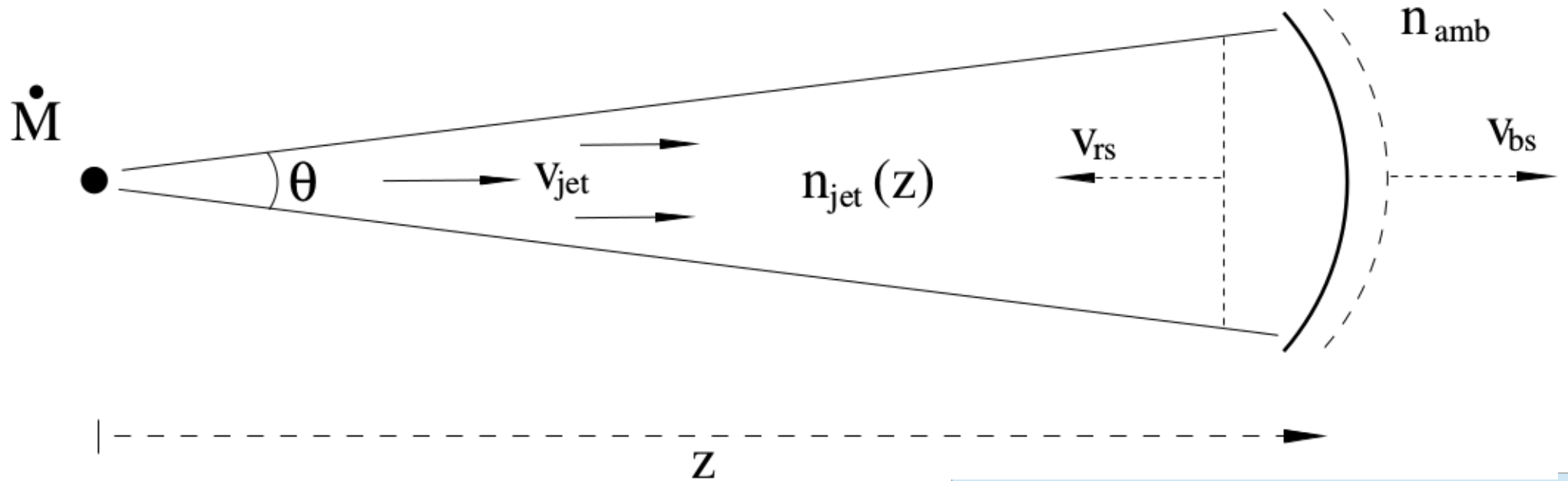
- Efficient particle acceleration takes place at adiabatic shocks (Blondin et al. 1989)

$$\frac{d_{cool}}{r_j} > 1$$

- $d_{cool}$  (thermal), distance to which the shocked material returns to its temperature before the shock

$$d_{cool} \sim 2 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm} \left( \frac{n_{amb}}{10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{v_{bs}}{100 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{4.43}$$

# Reverse shocks



$$\frac{v_{jet}}{v_s} = \frac{(1+\beta)}{\beta}, \beta = \sqrt{\frac{n_{jet}}{n_{amb}}} \quad \text{Raga et al. 1998}$$

$$\frac{n_{jet}}{cm^{-3}} = \frac{3.95 \times 10^7}{4\pi(1-\cos\theta/2)} \frac{\dot{M}}{M_{sun} yr^{-1}} \left(\frac{v_{jet}}{km s^{-1}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{z}{pc}\right)^{-2}$$

Reynolds 1986

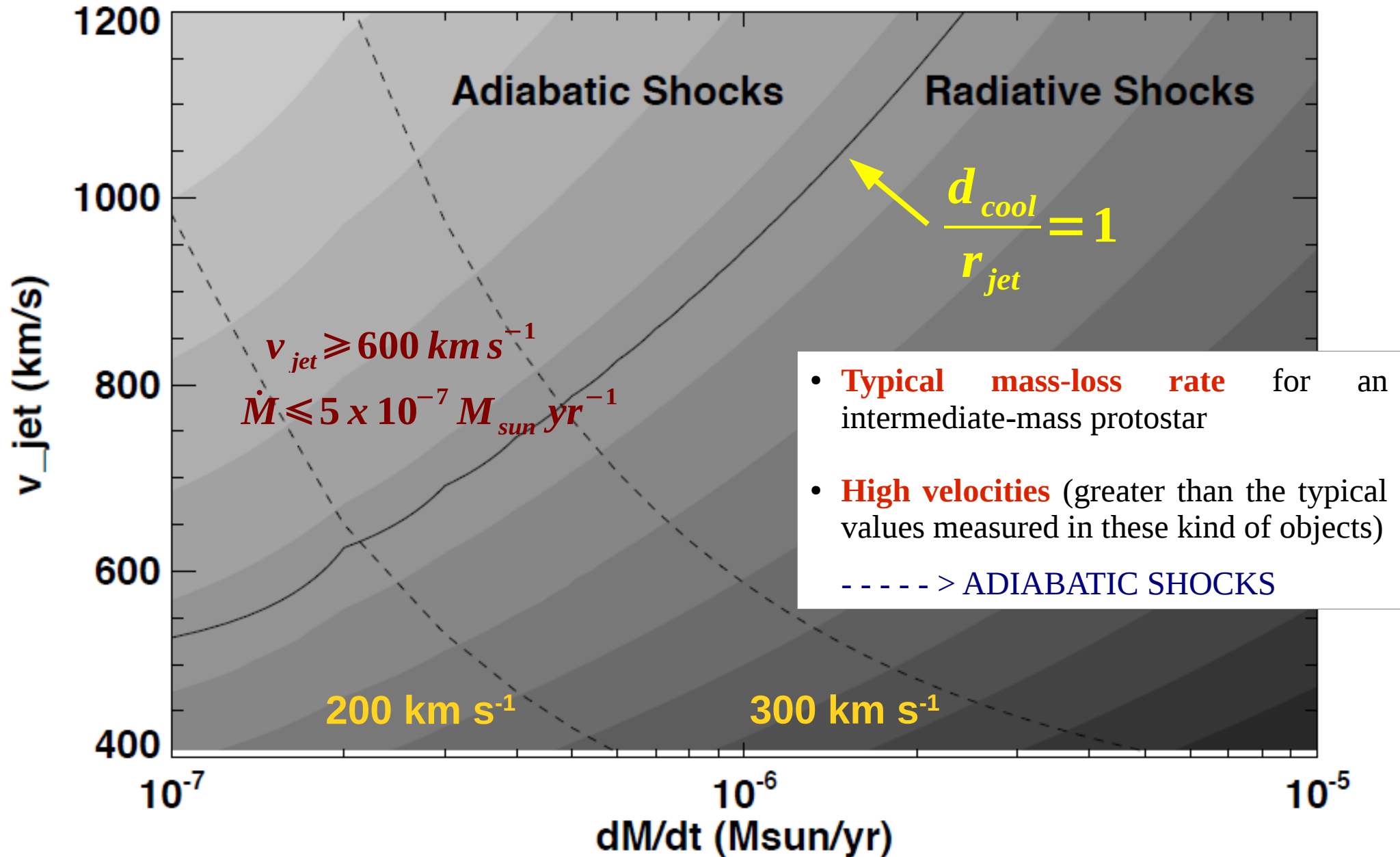
We explore different combinations of

$$\dot{M}, v_{jet}$$

We solve this two equation system for

$$n_{jet}, v_{bs}$$

# Reverse shocks



# Summary

- ✓ We studied the **radio emission** and **kinematics** of the Triple Source in Serpens
- ✓ We found **high proper motions for the knots** (tracing shocks), implying jet velocities higher than typical values
- ✓ We measured **negative spectral indices** where the jet impacts against the cloud, **suggesting non-thermal emission**
- ✓ We did not find linearly polarized emission: 1) disordered magnetic fields. 2) Faraday depolarization
- ✓ **Particle acceleration** seems to be efficient in the reverse shock, and no extreme conditions seem to be needed

**Mass-loss rate  $\sim$  typical value,**

**but**

**A fast jet moving in a dense medium**

The image features a dark, starry space background. A large, semi-transparent black rectangle is centered on the page, containing the word "Thanks!" in a white, sans-serif font. The background is filled with numerous small, bright stars of various colors, including white, yellow, and blue. Some stars have prominent diffraction spikes, giving them a sparkling appearance. The overall effect is a clean, minimalist design set against a cosmic backdrop.

Thanks!