



Max-Planck-Institut  
für Radioastronomie



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



# The Orion Nebula Cluster as seen by VLBI

[Sergio A. Dzib](#)

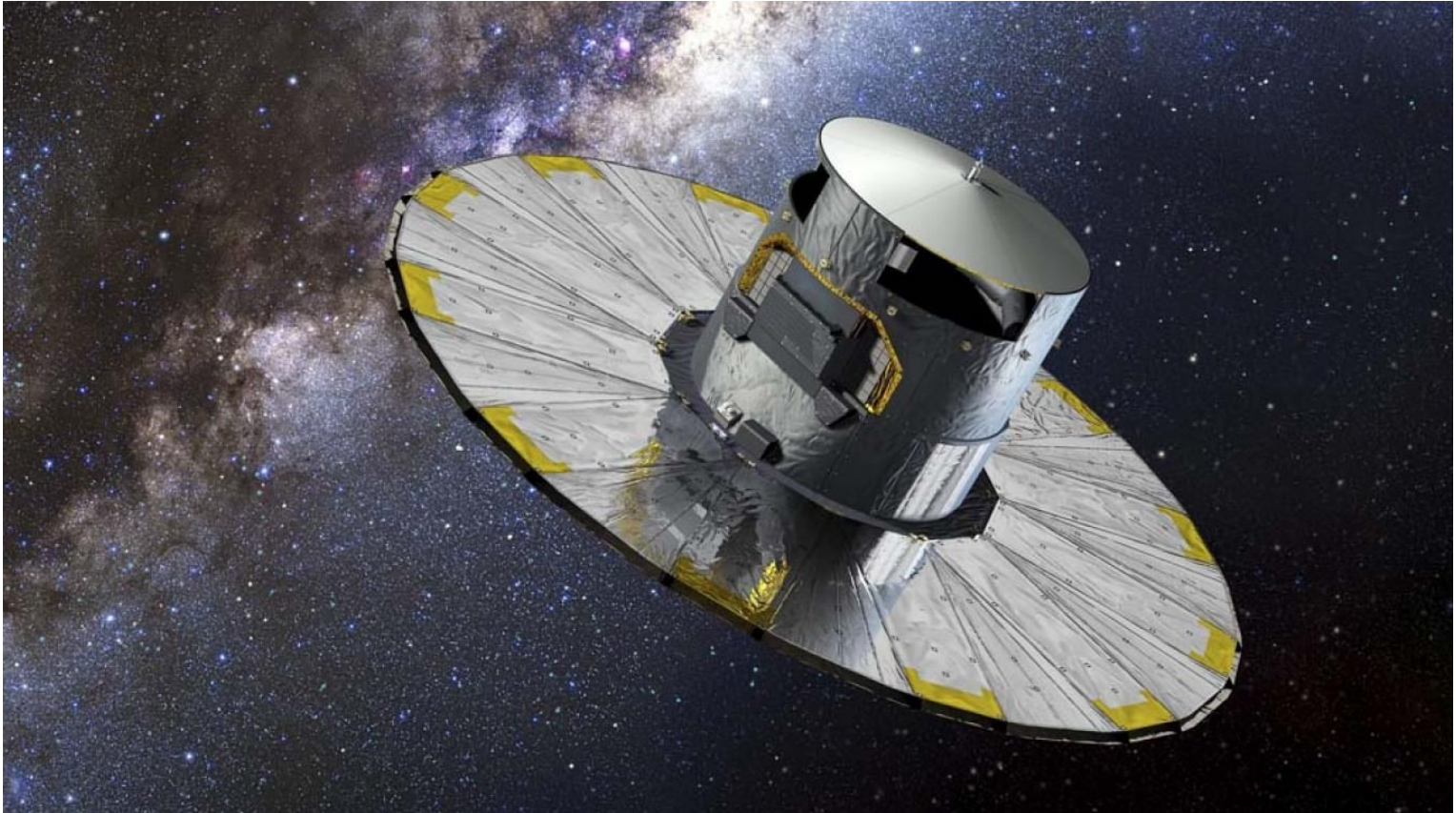
Max-Planck-Institute for Radio Astronomy



Thursday September 5th, 2024

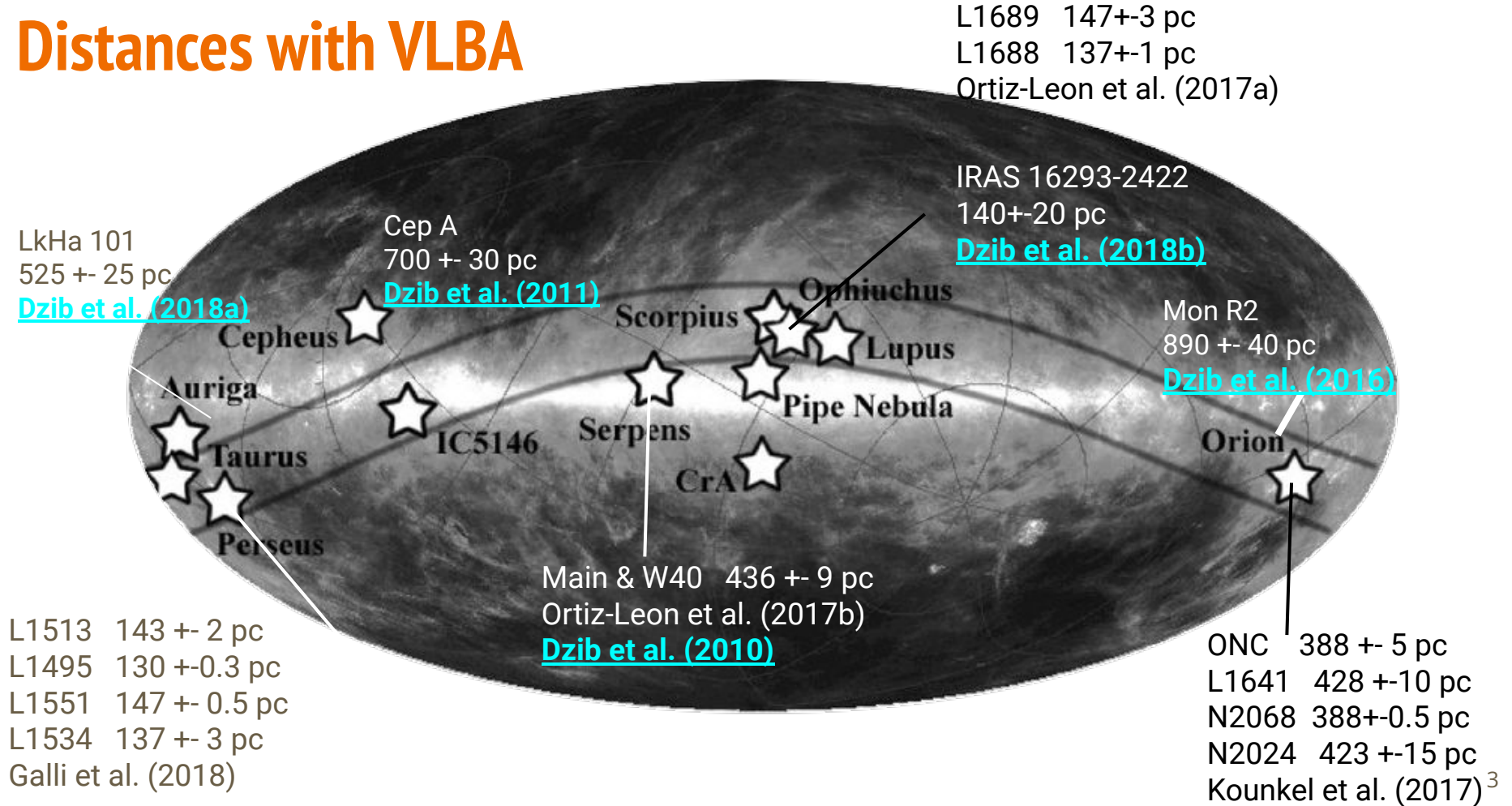
# Gaia mission

Launched in December 2013



Gaia Satellite. Credits: ESA.

# Distances with VLBA

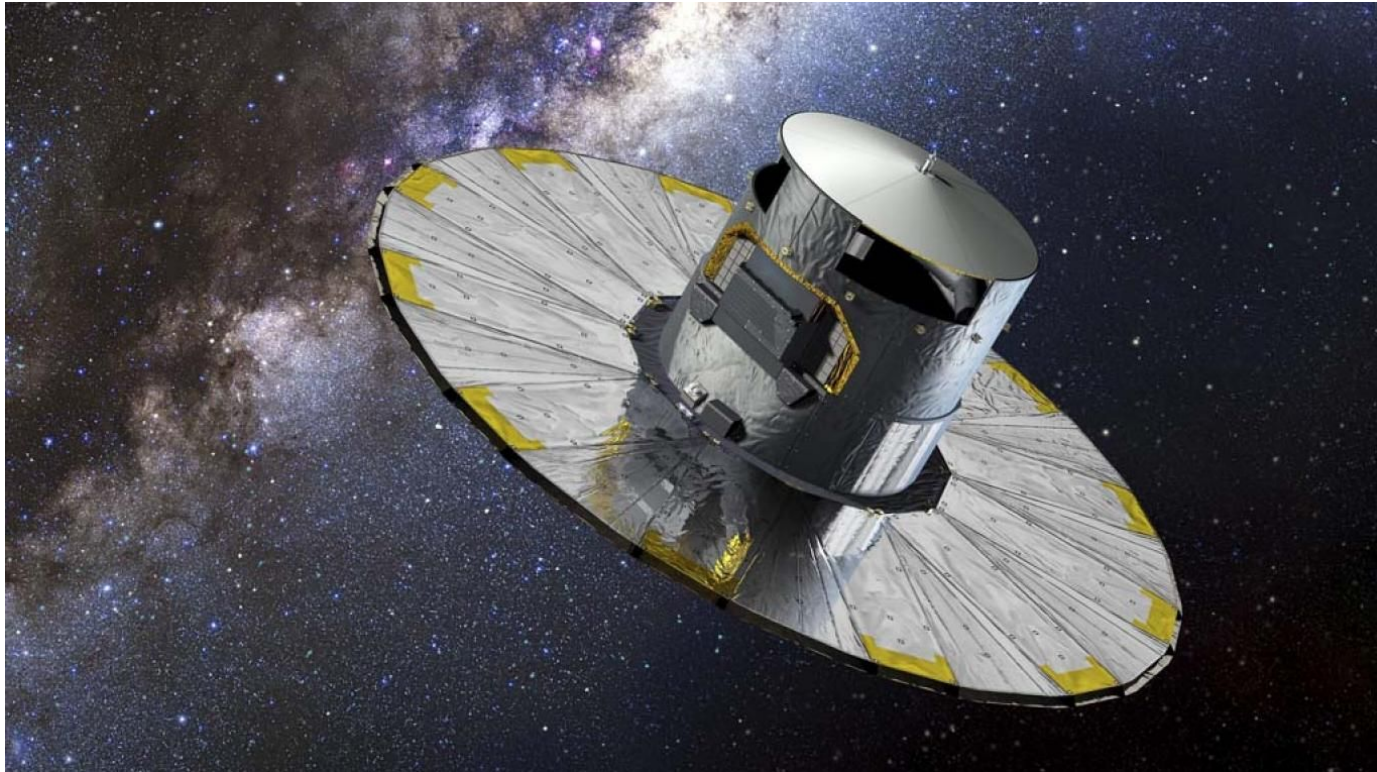




# Gaia mission

Gaia DR2 (2018)

Astrometry to ~1.5 billions stars

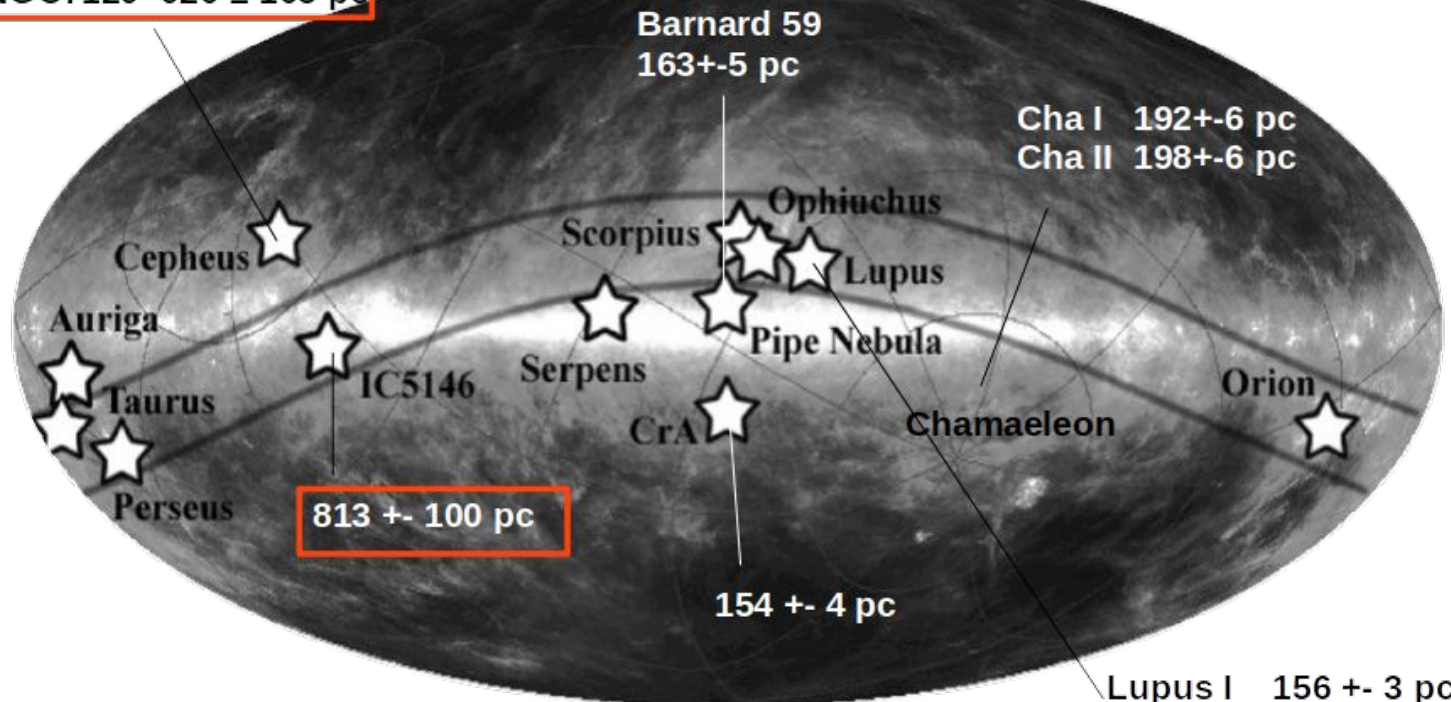


Gaia Satellite. Credits: ESA.

# Distances with Gaia DR2

Cep Flare  $358 \pm 32$  pc

NGC7129  $926 \pm 163$  pc



Cha I  $192+6$  pc

Cha II  $198+6$  pc

Barnard 59

$163+5$  pc

Ophiuchus

Lupus

Pipe Nebula

Orion

Chamaeleon

CrA

Serpens

Scorpius

Cepheus

Auriga

Taurus

Perseus

IC5146

$813 \pm 100$  pc

$154 \pm 4$  pc

Lupus I  $156 \pm 3$  pc

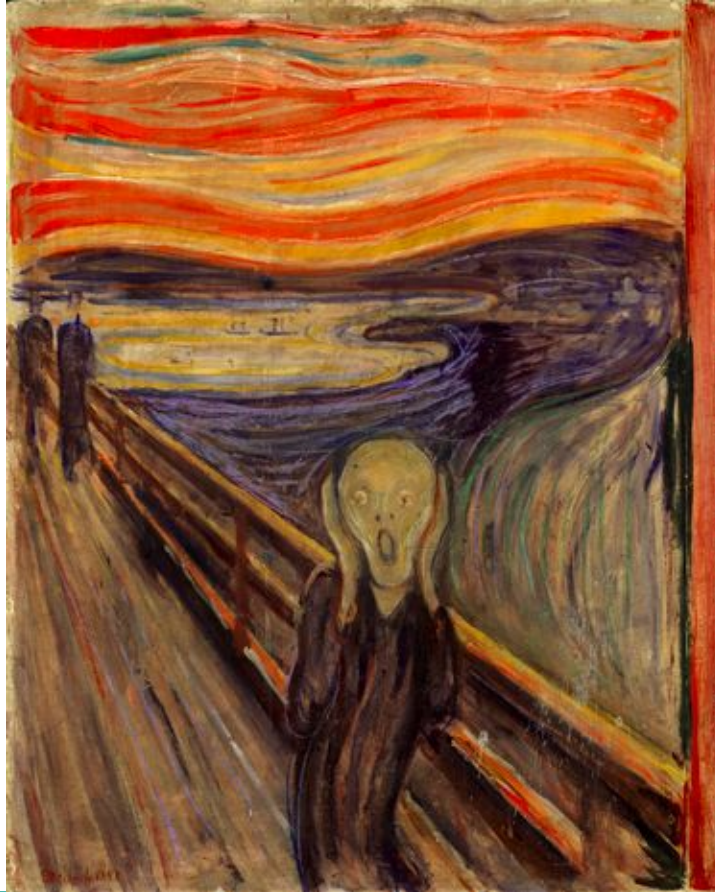
Lupus II  $159 \pm 3$  pc

Lupus III  $162 \pm 3$  pc

Lupus IV  $163 \pm 4$  pc

Dzib et al. (2018c, ApJ...867..151D)

# What will happen with VLBI stellar astrometry to YSO?



*Skrik*  
*Edvard Munch*  
[National Museum](#) and [Munch Museum](#), Oslo,  
Norway

# What will happen with VLBI stellar astrometry to YSO?

- DYNAMO VLBA (**Jazmin's talk**)
- Increase the number of star with VLBI and Gaia astrometries to determine Gaia systematic errors [**Poster #30** ]
- Learn other VLBI observation modes
  - M2FINDERS [**Poster #11**]
- Kinematic studies of young clusters.
  - Orion is the perfect target

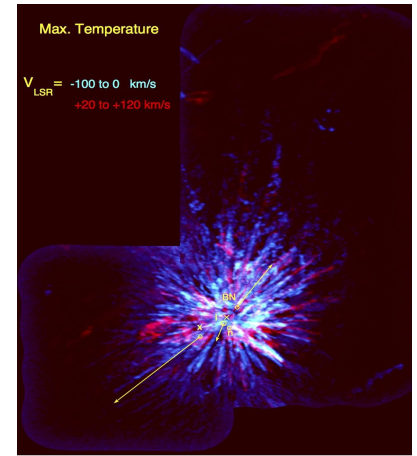
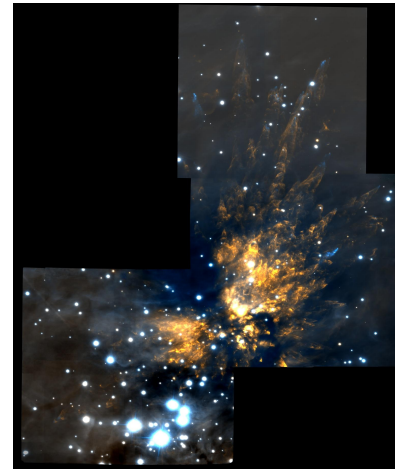
# Motivation

- How stellar clusters evolve?
  - Expanding, contracting, rotating?
  - Bulk motion
- Are there runaway stars?

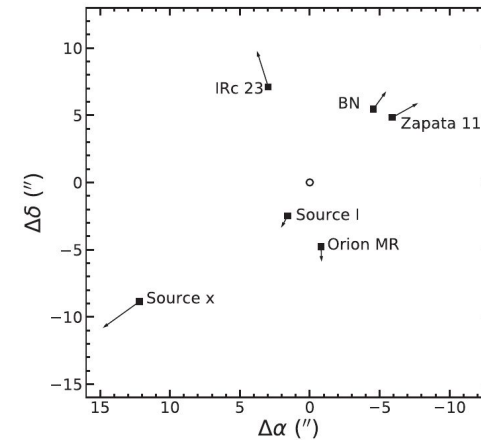


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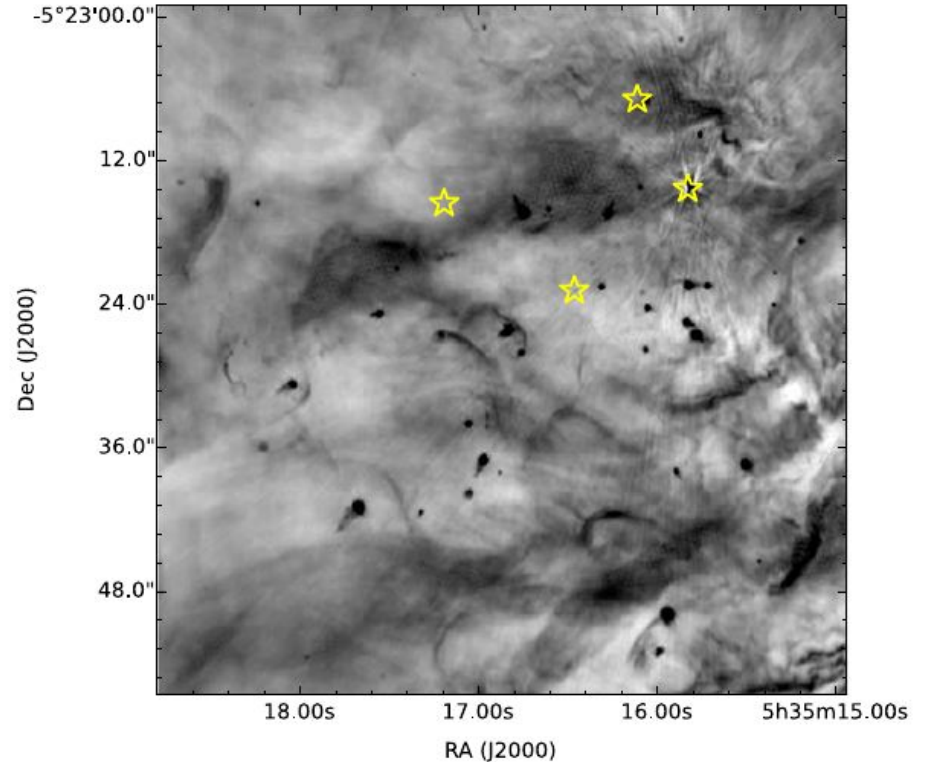
Bally et al. (2011); Zapata et al. (2011)



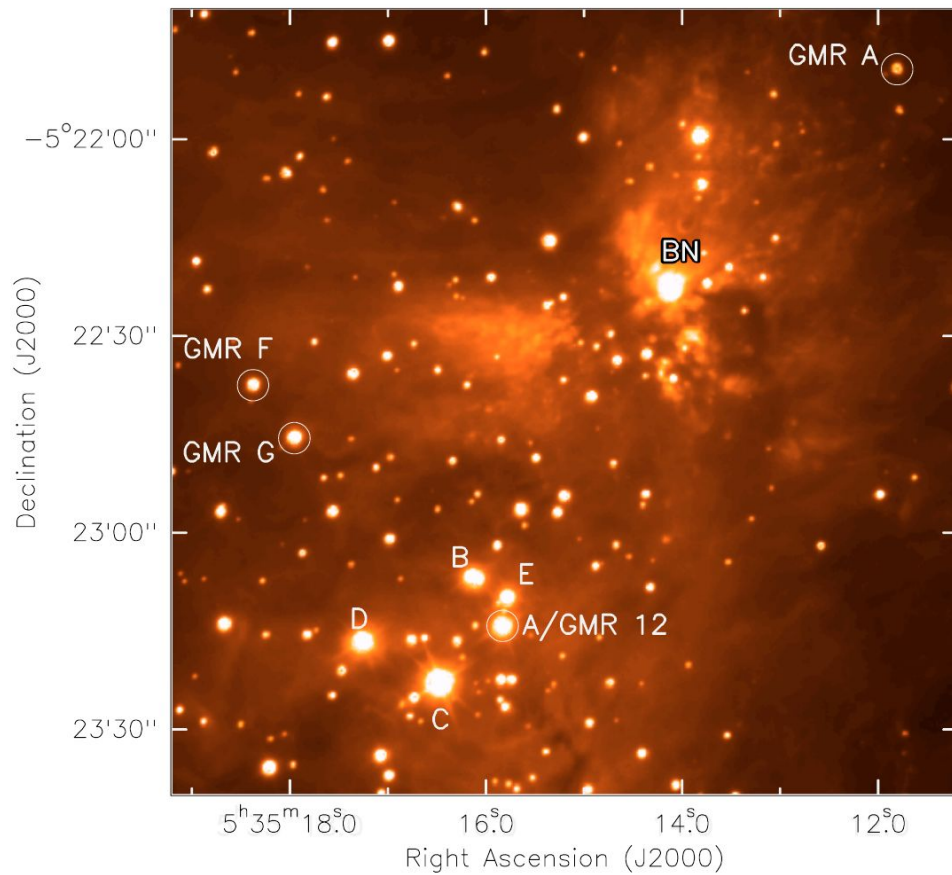
Rodriguez, Dzib et al. (2020)

# Orion Nebula Cluster (ONC)

- Nearest (390 pc; Kounkel et al. 2017) region in which recently ( $<2$  Myr) massive stars have formed.
- $\sim 3500$  members, and it is the most studied young cluster
- About 600 YSO with radio emission (Forbrich et al 2016, Vargas-Gonzalez et al. 2022)



ONC VLA image from Forbrich et al. (2016)



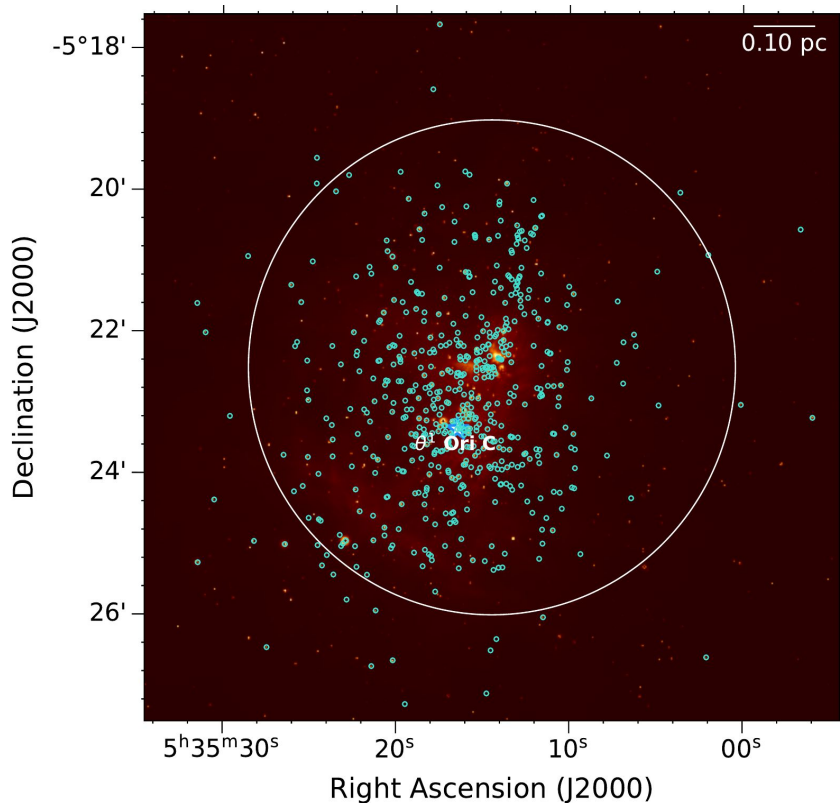
Menten et al. (2007)

1 observation

3 correlation passes

3x more time in correlator  
than telescope time

# VLBA observations of Orion Nebula Cluster



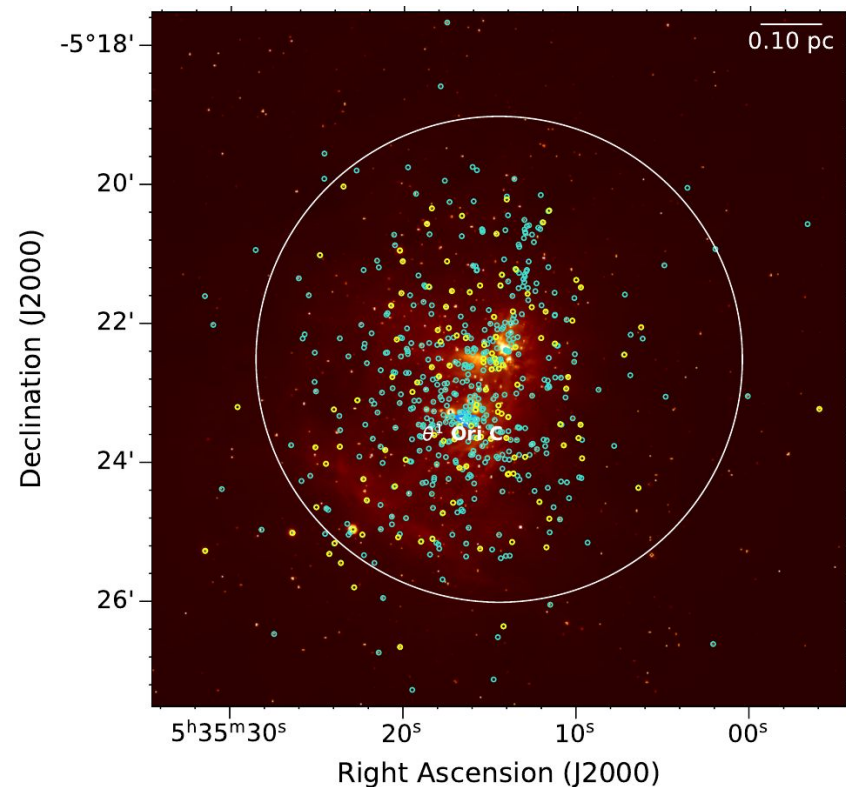
Frequency 7.0 GHz in four epochs

Correlate the position of the 557 radio sources known in the ONC.

- **~2200 independent images**



# VLBA observations of Orion Nebula Cluster



Frequency 7.0 GHz in four epochs

Correlate the position of the 557 radio sources known in the ONC.

- ~2200 independent images

Detected 123 (22%) of the radio sources with  $S/N > 6.5$

Detection results: Forbrich, Dzib, et al. (2021)

First astrometric results: Dzib, Forbrich et al. (2021)

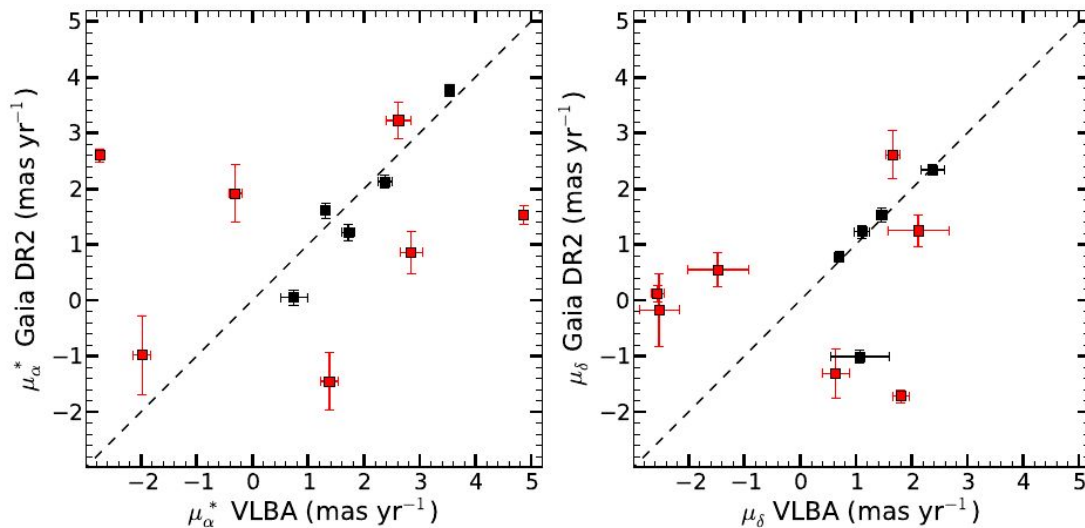
# Precise position measurements

We look for counterparts in the Gaia DR2 catalog and found 34.

Correcting for astrometry (parallax and proper motions), only 9 sources have separations  $< 1.5$  mas with its Gaia associated source.

The remaining 25 source have separations larger than  $4.5 \text{ mas} = 1.8 \text{ AU}$  (Binaries?).

# Proper motions



**Figure 3.** Comparison between VLBA and *Gaia* astrometry. *Left:* Proper motion in right ascension. *Right:* Proper motions in declination. Black symbols indicate sources where the difference in positions between VLBA and Gaia DR2 is less than 1.5 mas, otherwise the symbols are red.

# Kinematics of the ONC

**Table 5.** Kinematics of the Trapezium.

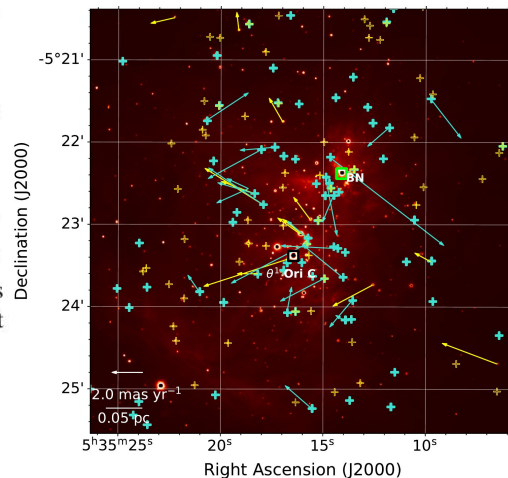
Data set	$\overline{\mu_\alpha^*}$ (mas yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{\mu_\delta}$ (mas yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{\mu_\alpha}$ (mas yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{\mu_\delta}$ (mas yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{v_\alpha}$ <sup>a</sup> (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{v_\delta}$ <sup>a</sup> (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{\mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}}$ (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{\mathbf{v} \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}$ (km s <sup>-1</sup> )
VLA <sup>b</sup>	1.0 ± 0.1	-0.8 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.2	2.1 ± 0.2	2.5 ± 0.4	0.7 ± 0.3	-0.1 ± 0.3
VLBA	1.2 ± 0.1	-0.3 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.3	2.9 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 0.4	-0.5 ± 1.0	1.7 ± 0.9
<i>Gaia</i>	1.1 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 2.3	0.8 ± 1.9
VLBA+ <i>Gaia</i> <sup>c</sup>	1.15 ± 0.07	0.15 ± 0.10	1.09 ± 0.07	1.29 ± 0.10	2.10 ± 0.14	2.56 ± 0.18	-0.39 ± 0.92	1.54 ± 0.81

NOTE—Columns are (left to right): Proper motions data set, mean of proper motions, proper motion dispersions, velocity dispersions (all these three parameter in right ascension and declination and with their uncertainties), mean of dot and cross products of the unit vector and velocity vectors, both with their uncertainties.

<sup>a</sup> At a distance of 400 pc: 1.0 mas yr<sup>-1</sup> ≡ 1.9 km s<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> Values from Dzib et al. (2017).

<sup>c</sup> Values are the variance weighted average from the independent results of VLBA and *Gaia* data sets.



Dzib et al. (2021)



**And now?**

# And now?

- Four new observations
  - Include 20 more positions for correlation
  - Now using the 4 gbps recording

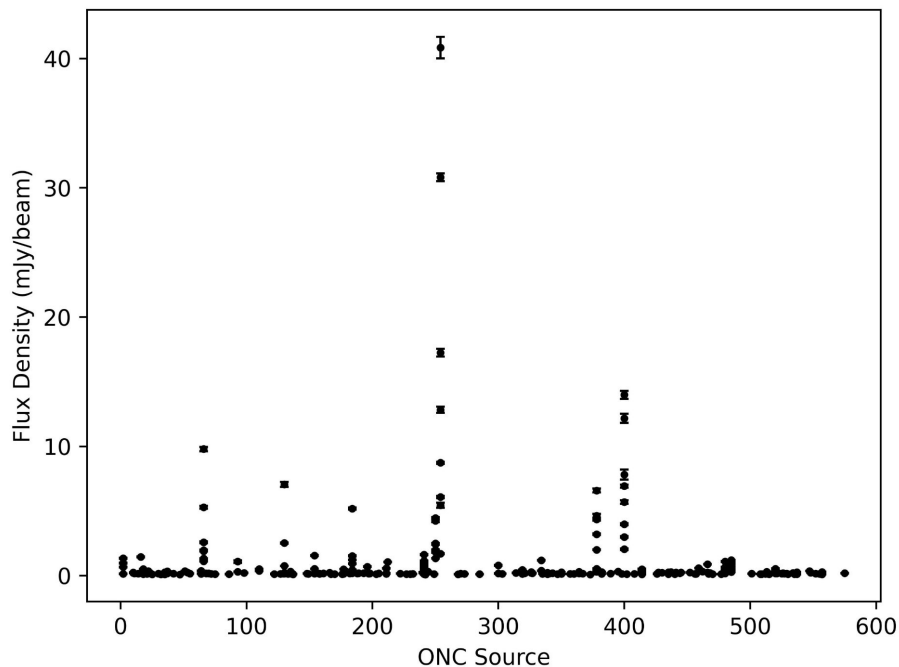
# Ongoing work



Eoin O'Kelly Ph. D. student  
University of Hertfordshire

# VLBA detections

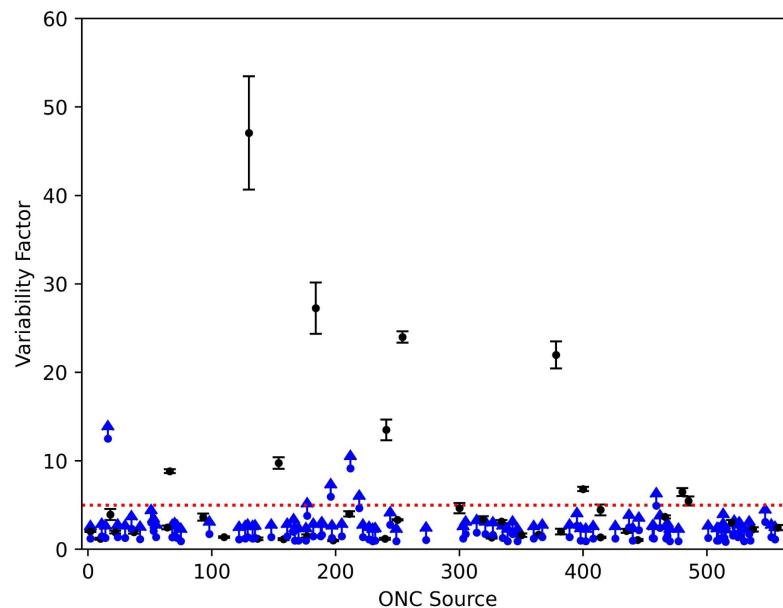
- 182 unique sources detected; ~32% of the 575 sources imaged.
- The brightest source is ONC254 ( $\Theta^1$  Ori A2) which varies in flux density from 1.7 to 40.8 mJy.
- 



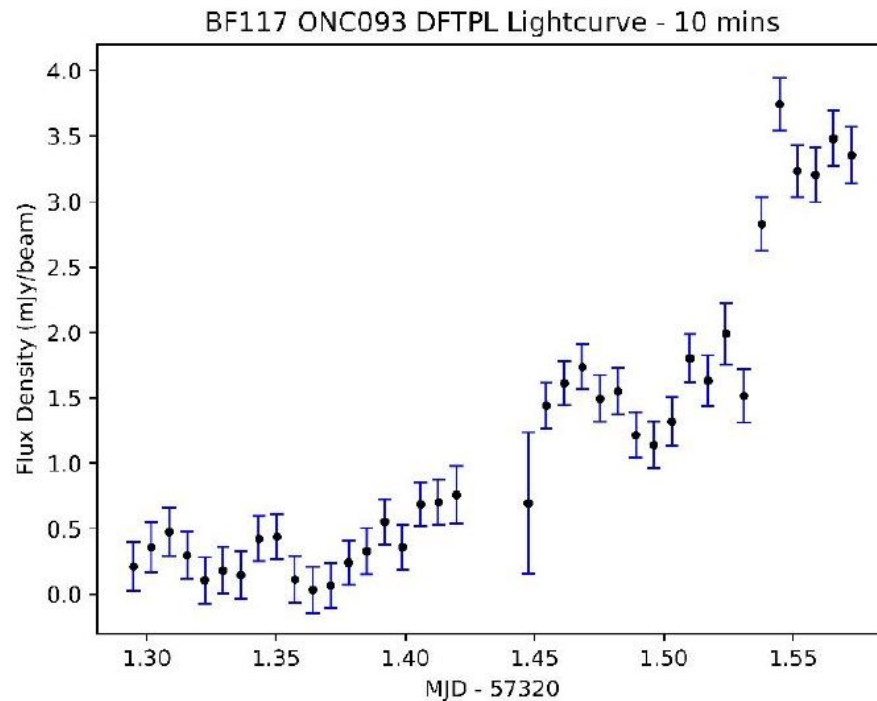


# VLBA detections

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- The brightest source is ONC254 ( $\Theta^1$  Ori A2) which varies in flux density from 1.7 to 40.8 mJy.
- Ten sources have a variability factor ( $S_{\nu, \max} / S_{\nu, \min}$ )  $> 5$ .
- ONC130 VF=47.1  $\pm$  6.4. It is an X-ray flare source (Getman et al 2008).



# Light curves



# Future work

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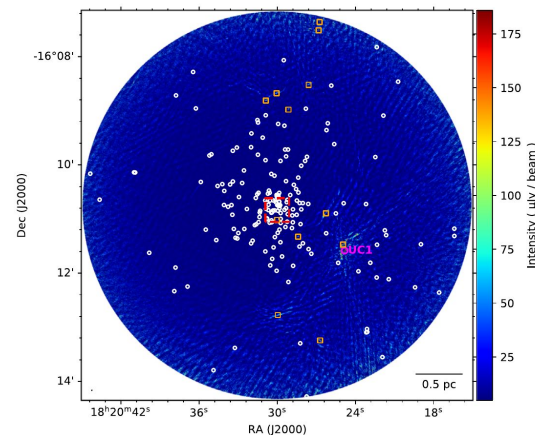
- Astrometric results with new epochs
  - Comparison with Gaia current and future data releases

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- Multi-wavelength campaign on December 2023 to study Young stellar energetic flares (Getman et al. submitted)
  - Chandra [X-rays flares]
  - VLBA [Particle ejections]
  - ALMA [disk ionization]
  - HET-HPF [Stellar surface magnetic fields]

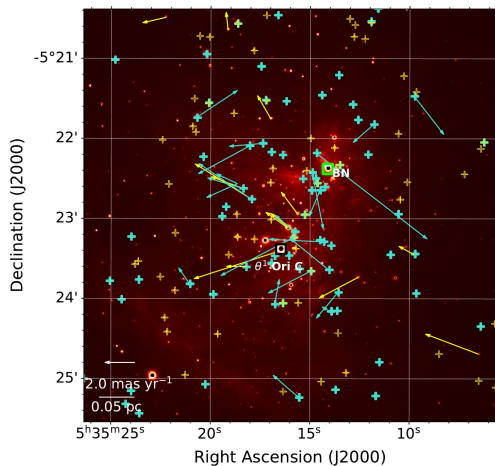
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- Other regions

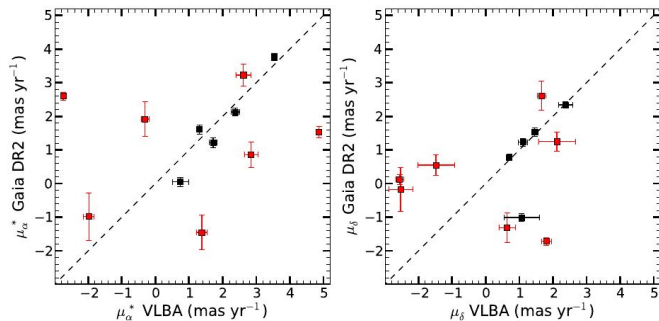


Vanessa Yanza

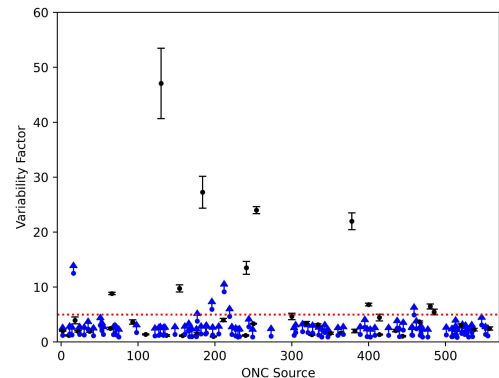
# CONCLUSIONS



~200 YSO with nonthermal radio emission (Forbrich et al. 2021; O'Kelly et al. in prep)



Uncovered a population of tight binaries in the ONC (Dzib et al. 2021)



YSOs with non-thermal radio emission show very strong variability

Stellar VLBI astrometry still playing a key role on star formation studies