# the exoplanet-brown dwarf connection

adam burgasser (ucsd)

this talk is not about stars (see title) it's about brown dwarfs and why its worth paying attention them

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## stars = transducers

pre-main-sequence: gravitational->thermal->radiation



## stars = transducers



main sequence: nuclear->thermal->radiation

pre-main-sequence: gravitational->thermal->radiation



## stars = transducers



main sequence: nuclear->thermal->radiation

pre-main-sequence: gravitational->thermal->radiation degenerate sequence: thermal->radiation (mass < 0.07 M<sub>☉</sub>)



(lack of) fusion has consequences



cushing et al. (2005)

"ultracool dwarfs" are unevolved stars with t<sub>eff</sub> < 3000 K, including late-m, l, t & y dwarfs

"brown dwarfs" are objects that don't sustain h fusion (m < 0.07  $M_{\odot}$ )

"planets" are objects that don't undergo any fusion (m < 0.01  $M_{\odot}$ ), and/or formed in a protoplanetary disk and/or the subject of a nasa funding proposal

## how many plots this week stopped at $t_{eff}$ = 3000 K or m = 0.1 M<sub> $\odot$ </sub>?



## How well are $M_*$ and $R_*$ determined in the literature?

- NASA Exoplanet Archive
  - Many different methods, many different authors



#### Kepler observed thousands of Sun-like stars -1 Surface Gravity (log g) Relative Likelihood 2 3 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 12 10 8 6 4 3 0 5 Rotation Period (days) Temperature (10<sup>3</sup> K) Montet, Tovar, and Foreman-Mackey (2017)

ben



#### Fraction of stars flaring in open clusters

## Rotation periods of field stars



## Let's go brown....



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kepler input catalog





## tess input catalog



a program to look over here

## apogee (aspcap)



## lamost



## gaia dr2 (apsis)



andrae et al. (2018)

## all y'all



## mist isochrones



dotter (2016) choi et al. (2016)



this is unfortunate, because brown dwarfs could be exceptionally productive for exoplanetary science

## there are a lot of brown dwarfs in the galaxy...



mf: kroupa (2001); chabrier (2003) lf: mužic+ (2017); kirkpatrick+ (2019)

\*assuming a mass range 0.01-10  $M_{\odot}$ 



credit: nasa

... we're pretty sure they can make planets...



testi et al. (2016)

## ... maybe a lot of planets...



hardegree-ullman et al. (2019)





## ... less likely to be disturbed by binaries...



#### ... and those planets are relatively easy to find



triaud+ (2013); he+ (2017)

#### ... and those planets are relatively easy to find



triaud+ (2013); he+ (2017)

## ... but most of them are \*really\* cold & faint...



evolutionary models: baraffe et al. (2003)

... but most of them are \*really\* cold & faint...



kirkpatrick et al. (2019)

... maybe too cold & close for habitability



muirhead et al. (astro2020 wp)

## about those hell worlds...



artwork by skwaggeragnerok88

... high energy magnetic emission largely disappears at the end of the M dwarf sequence...



#### ... and the winds seem to disappear...



## a toy model



## a toy model











## an issue of age

## getting ages for young ultracool dwarfs is doable...



allers & liu (2013)

## ... but getting ages for old ultracool dwarfs is hard







cold brown dwarfs are natural clocks



cold brown dwarfs are natural clocks



## exoplanet searches also helps BD physics



hatzes & rauer (2015)

## exoplanet searches also helps BD physics



burgasser & mamajek (2017)

## we won't know if we don't look...





saint-ex (san pedro martir, tars mx)





## take aways:

- don't ignore the brown dwarfs! they are plentiful, potentially planet-rich, and have strong detection signals
- 2. habitable zones will either be fried or frozen, but there is a narrow range of masses  $(0.075-0.085 M_{\odot})$  that may be just right
- 3. habitability aside, brown dwarf evolution can be used to infer system ages and study exoplanet evolution and formation history over the entire age of the galaxy
- 4. searches have begun, but we need help!

## additional slides

## ... but we need to improve nir-rv precisions



## what are the ages of the local bd population?



simulation

- range of ages
- kinematic ages

measurements - kinematic ages

## ... but most of them are \*really\* cold & faint...

