

# Circumbinary planets with *Gaia*

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**European Research Council**  
Established by the European Commission



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**

# Outline

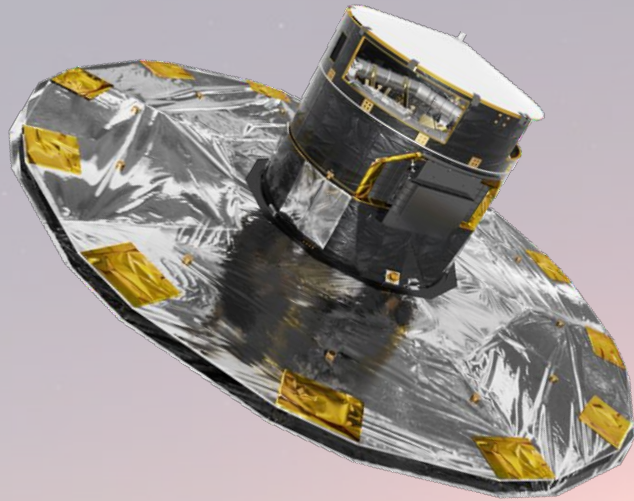
- Overview of *Gaia*
- Predicting *Gaia* yield of circumbinary planets orbiting main-sequence binaries
- *Gaia* and known circumbinary systems
- *Gaia* sensitivity to a circumbinary population around post common-envelope binaries

# *Gaia*

All-sky astrometric ESA mission

Launched December 2013, scientific operations began in July 2014

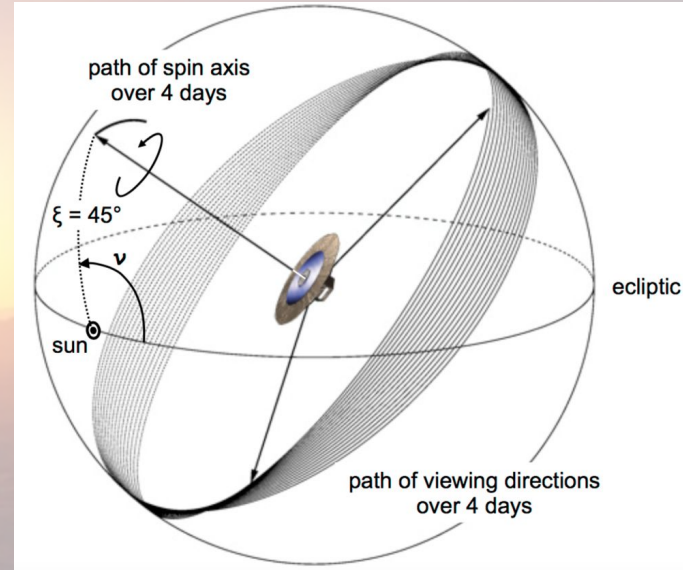
Scientific mission ended: Wednesday



Location: Earth-Sun L2

Scanning mission precessing on its axis

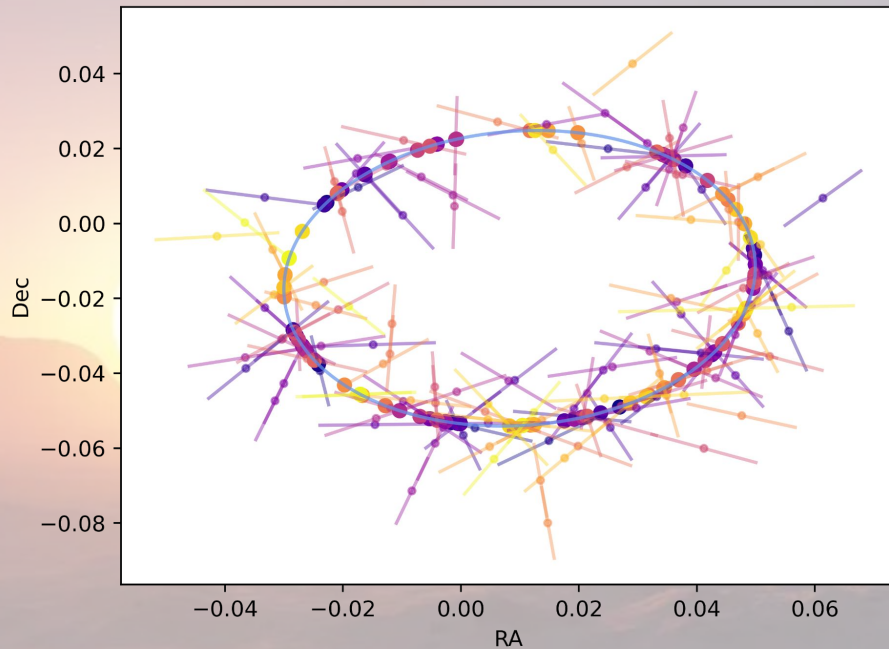
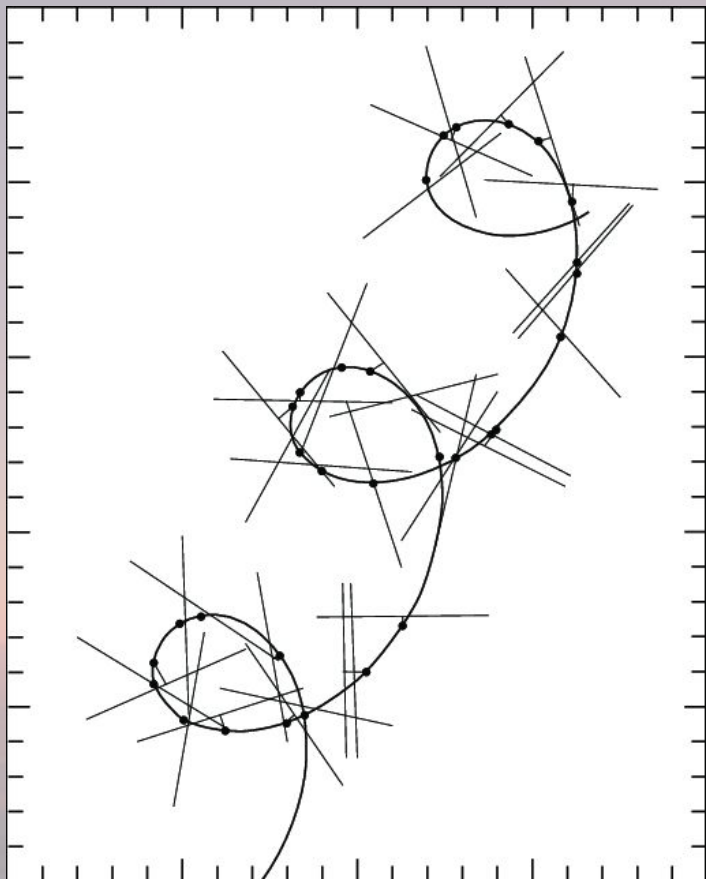
Has taken 2.6 trillion astrometric CCD measurements



# How *Gaia* detects orbits

1D measurements

Parallactic motion (5 parameters) + Orbital motion (7 parameters)



# Predictions for *Gaia* yield of exoplanets

Estimates from [Perryman et al. 2014](#) in range 20,000 - 70,000 exoplanets

*Gaia* mostly sensitive to massive planets at long periods

**DR4** (not before mid 2026) 66 months of data

- Full astrometric, photometric, and radial-velocity catalogues.
- All available variable-star and non-single-star solutions.
- Source classifications (probabilities) plus multiple astrophysical parameters.
- An exoplanet candidate list.
- All epoch and transit data for all sources.

**DR5** (not before end of 2030) Full mission (136 months) data

# Predictions for *Gaia* yield of Circumbinary exoplanets

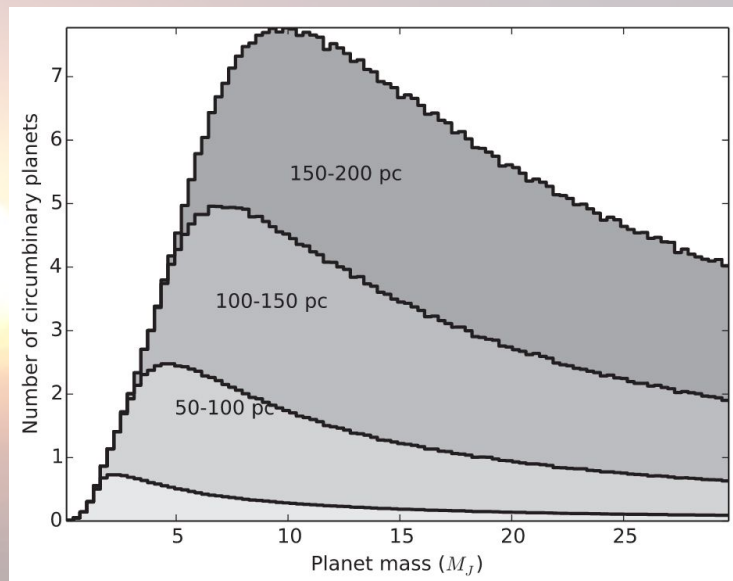
*Sahlmann, Triaud, & Martin 2015* gave a prediction of *Gaia* DR4 yield of circumbinary exoplanets.

Within 200pc they expected  $\sim 500$  planets, majority  $> 5 M_J$

Assumptions:

-Planet mass distribution from single-star population

-All planets piled-up at 6x binary period

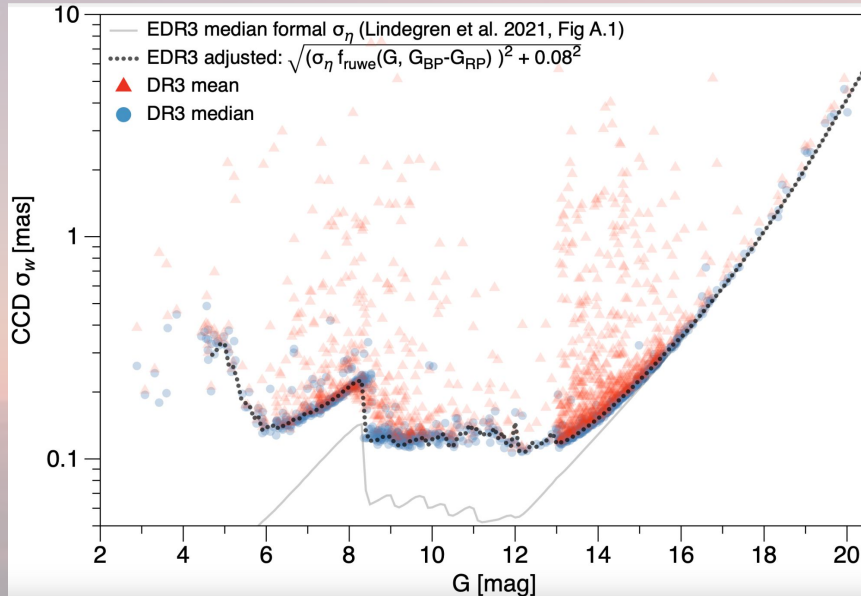




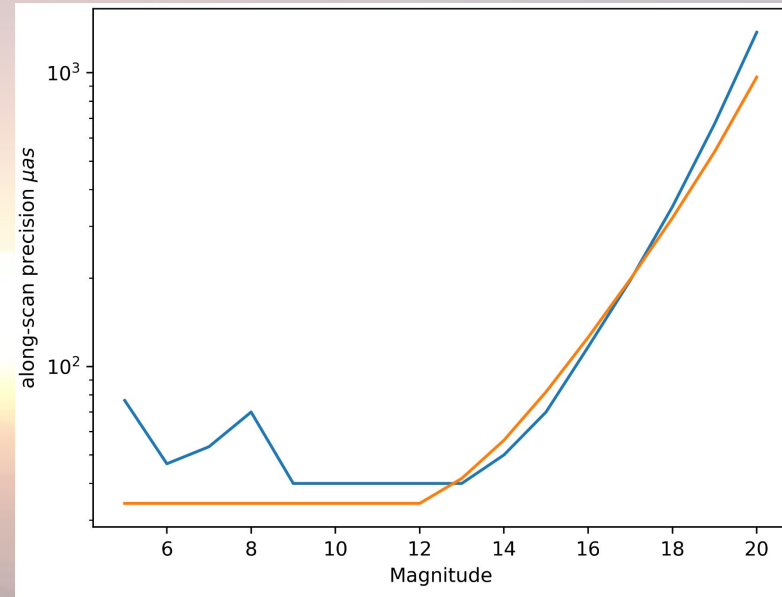
# Revisiting with new knowledge

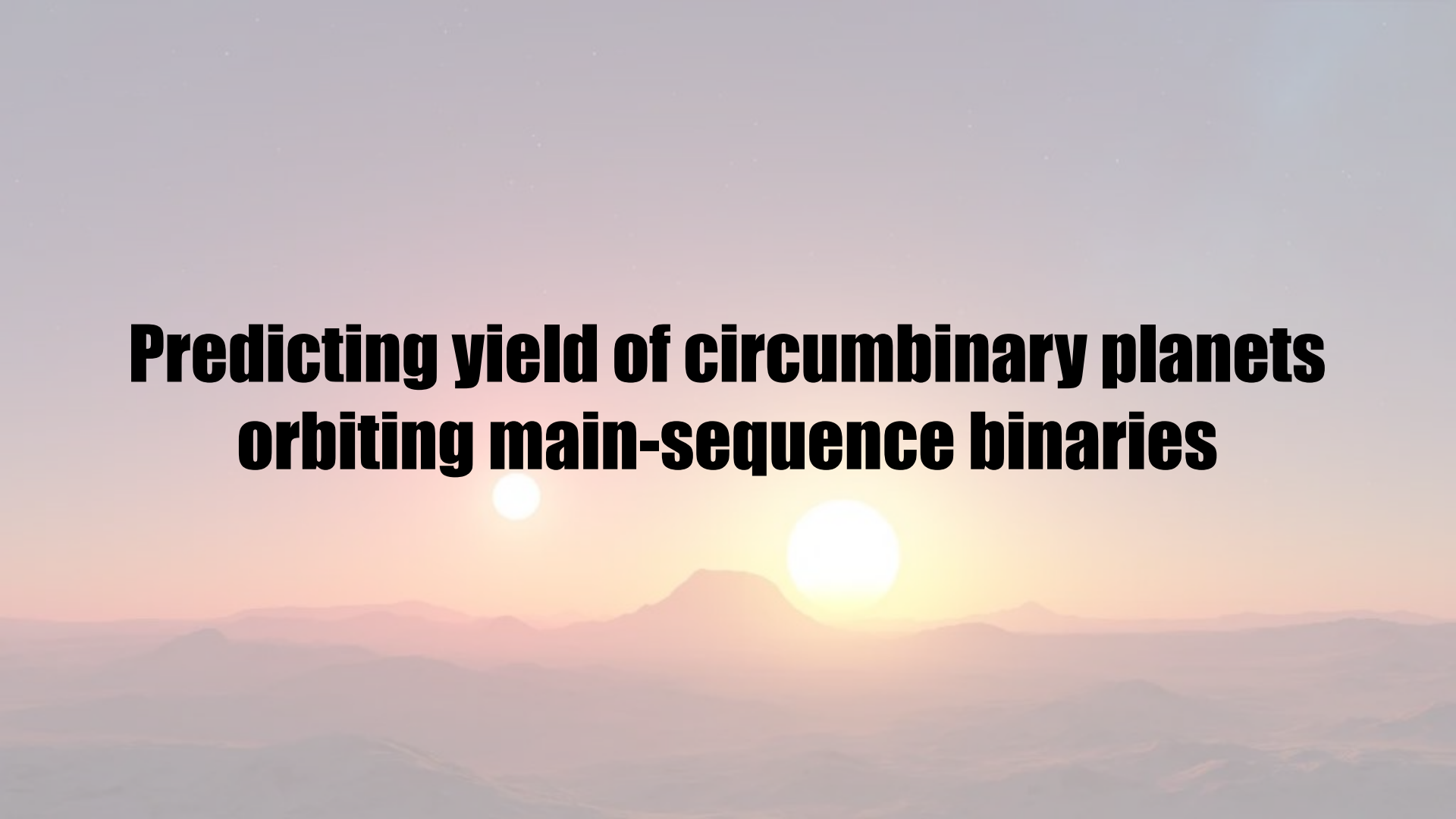
We know *Gaia* precision better, depends on Magnitude (may still improve with DR4 and DR5)

Extended mission to 10.5 years will alter both number of measurements and timespan of data.



Holl et al. 2023



A landscape photograph showing a range of mountains under a sunset sky. Two suns are visible: a large, bright one on the right and a smaller one on the left. The text is overlaid in the center.

# **Predicting yield of circumbinary planets orbiting main-sequence binaries**



# Yield estimate for circumbinary planets

- Create synthetic binary sample
- Inject **synthetic circumbinary planets** around 10% of the binaries
- Calculate *Gaia* SNR of the binaries and the planets
- Select detectable binaries
- Select detectable planets around detectable binaries
- **Obtain yield estimate**

# Synthetic binary population

Gaia sources within 200pc

Binary fraction by spectral type:

B: 75%

A: 70%

F: 50%

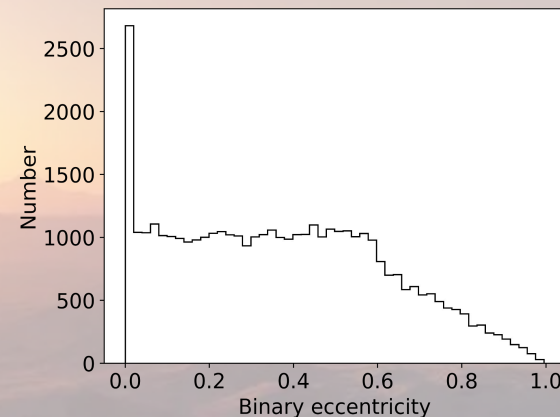
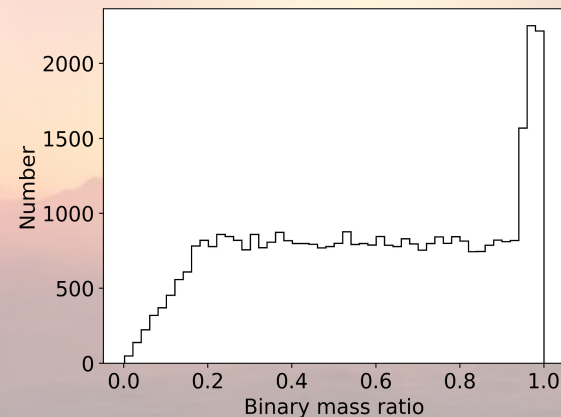
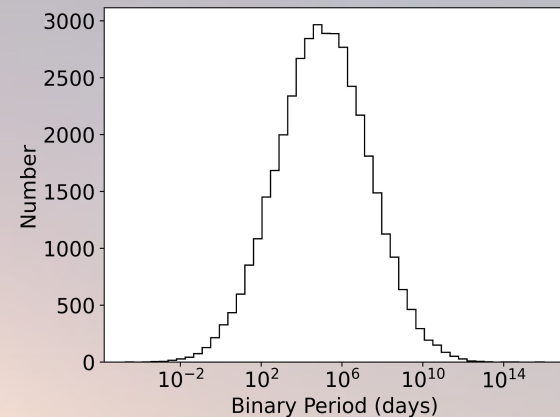
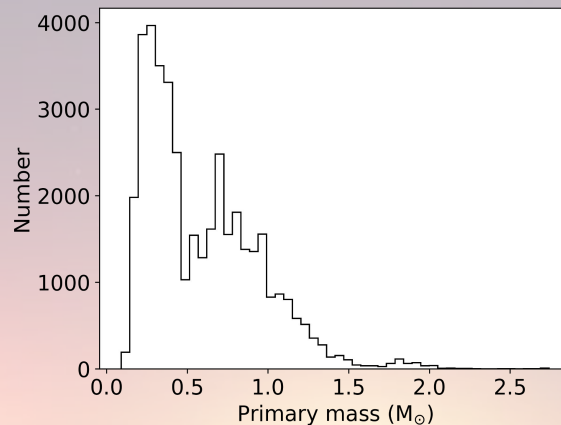
G: 45%

K: 40%

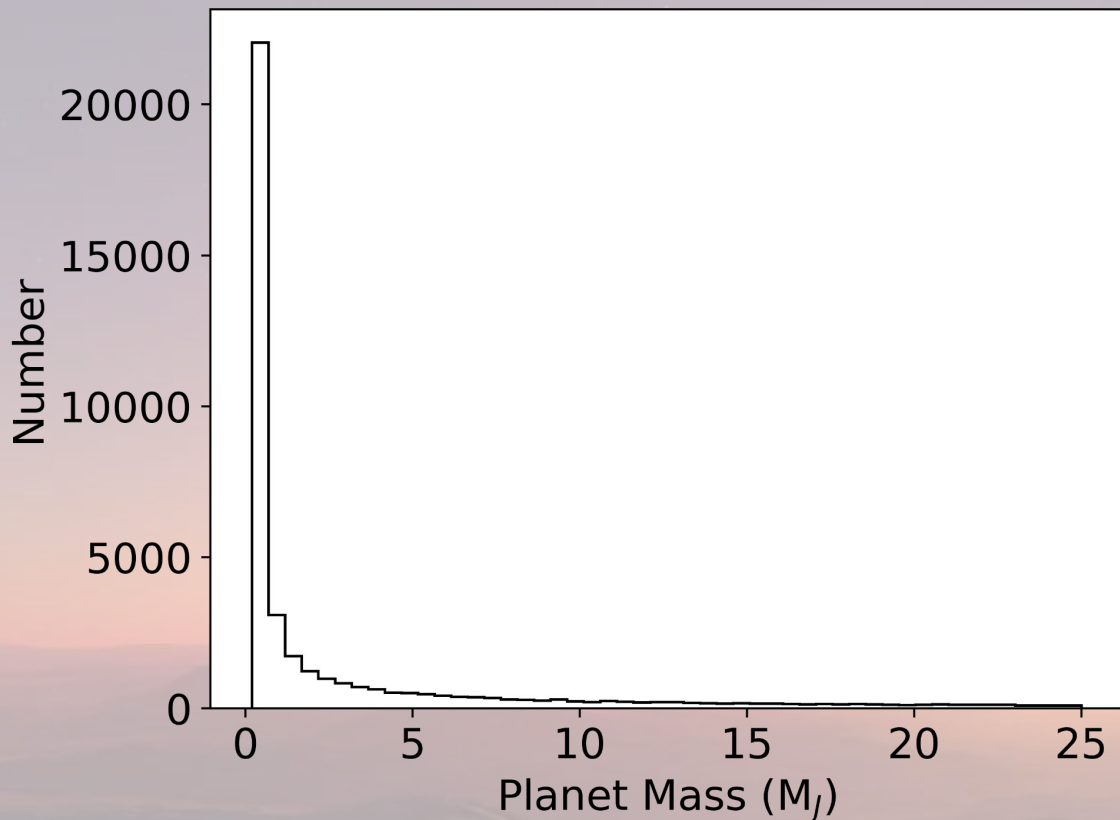
M: 20%

*(Raghavan et al. 2010)*

Period, Mass-ratio, and eccentricity distributions also based on *Raghavan et al. 2010*



# Synthetic circumbinary planets: Mass



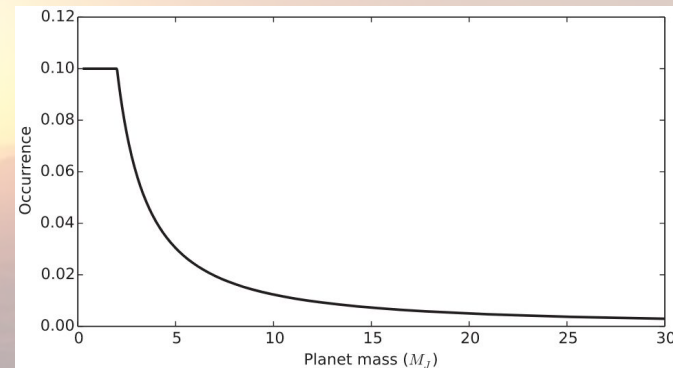
Planet mass distribution:

Equal mixture of:

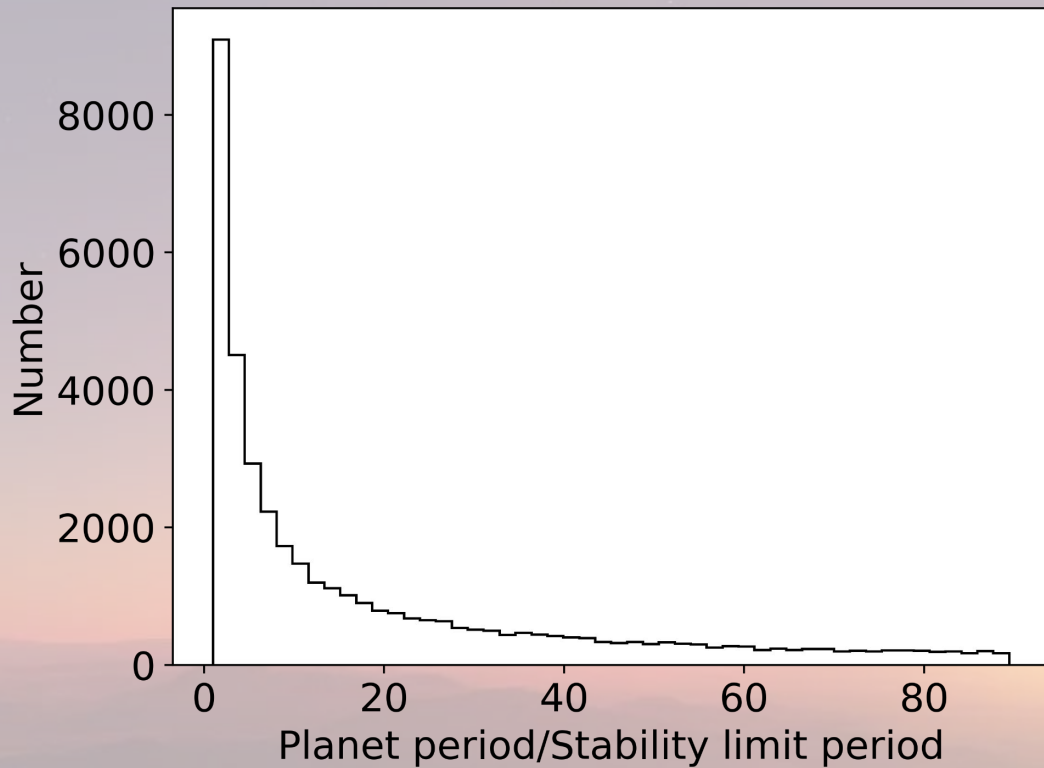
Gaussian around  $M_{\text{sat}}$  and  
LogUniform between  $M_{\text{sat}} - 25 \times M_{\text{jup}}$

Note: Lower-mass than in

*Sahlmann et al. 2015*



# Synthetic circumbinary planets: Periods



Distribution of orbital periods:

Actually distribute in planet semi-major-axis/radius of instability zone.

LogUniform between  $a_{\text{stab}}$  and  $20 \times a_{\text{stab}}$

Note: [Sahlmann et al. 2015](#) only considered pile-up at  $6 \times P_{\text{bin}}$

# Detectability

Select only detectable binaries:

- Gaia* SNR > 100 (Astrometric binaries)
- Gmag < 12 and q > 0.4 (Spectroscopic binaries)
- Eclipsing configuration (Eclipsing binaries)

Planet detection threshold: *Gaia* SNR > 20 and P < dataspan (Astrometric planet)

# Yield estimate for circumbinary planets: DR4 ~ 60 planets

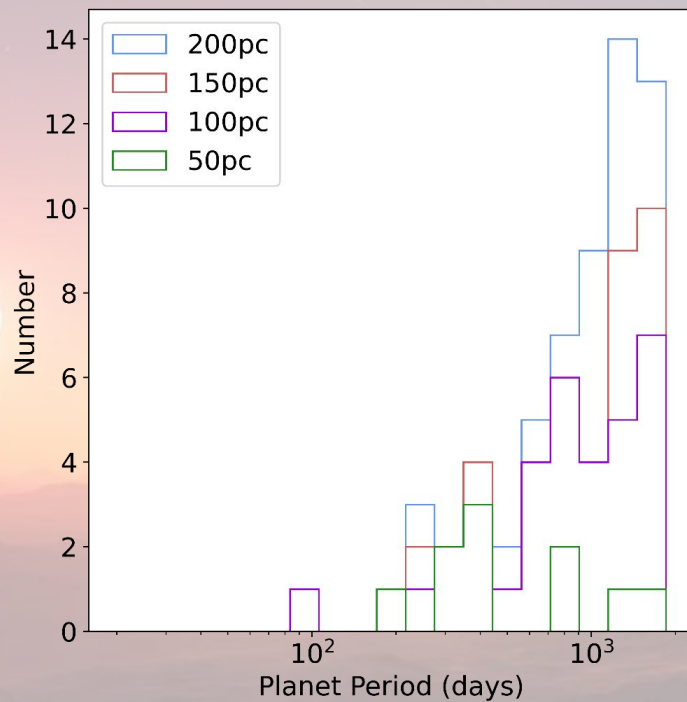
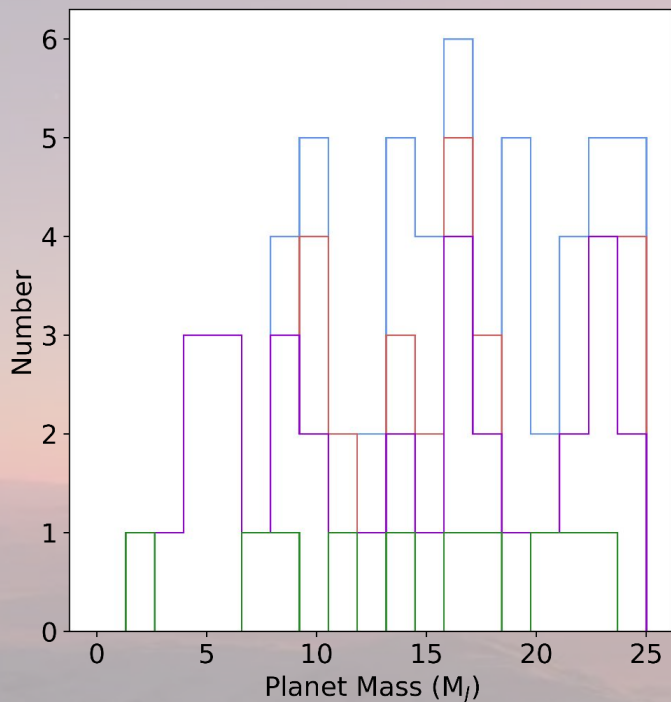
Predicted yield for Gaia DR4

Planets within 200pc = 61

Planets within 150pc = 44

Planets within 100pc = 35

Planets within 50pc = 10



Equivalent numbers  
from *Sahlmann et al. 2015*

200pc: 516

150pc: 297

100pc: 124

50pc: 25

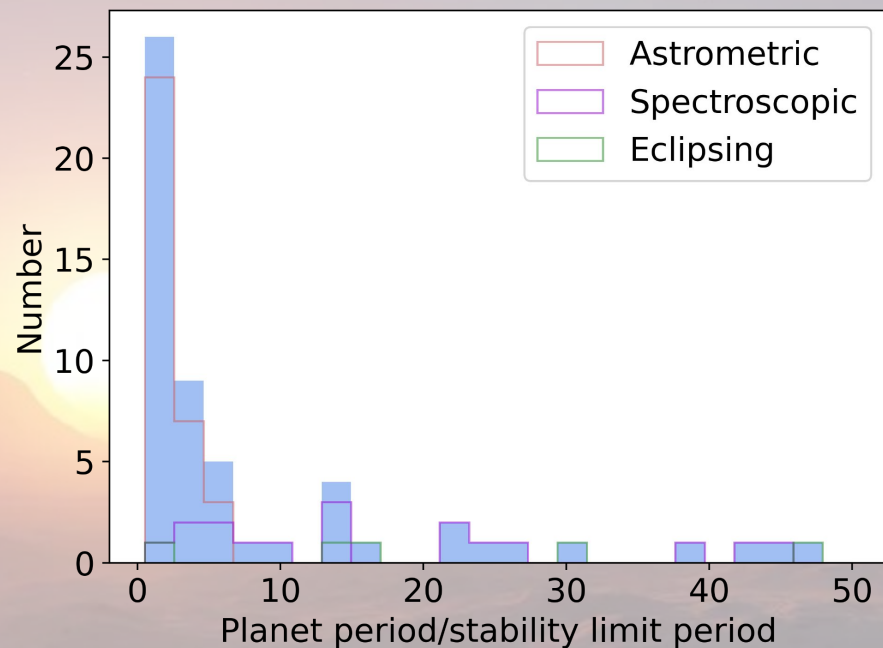
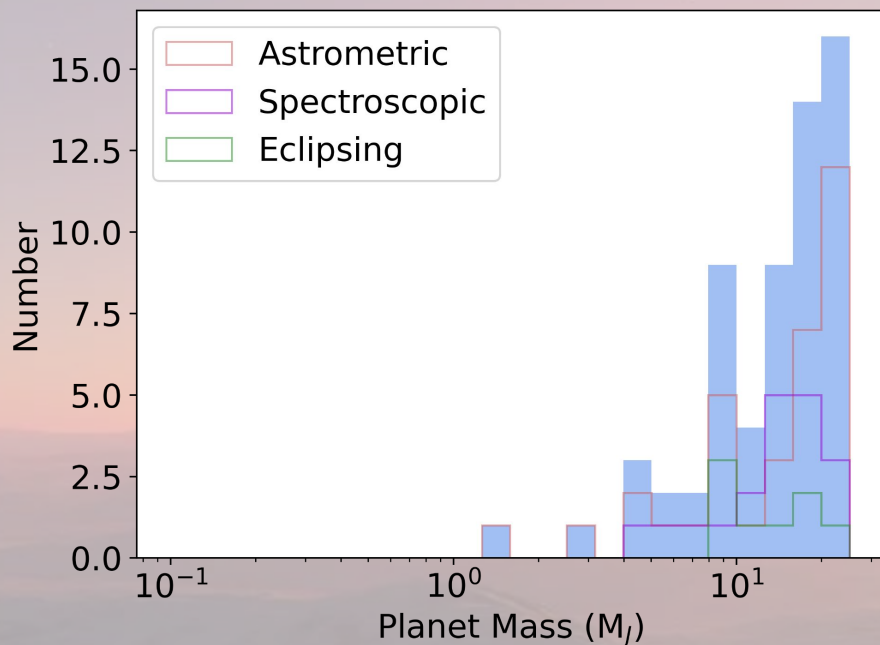


# Yield estimate for circumbinary planets

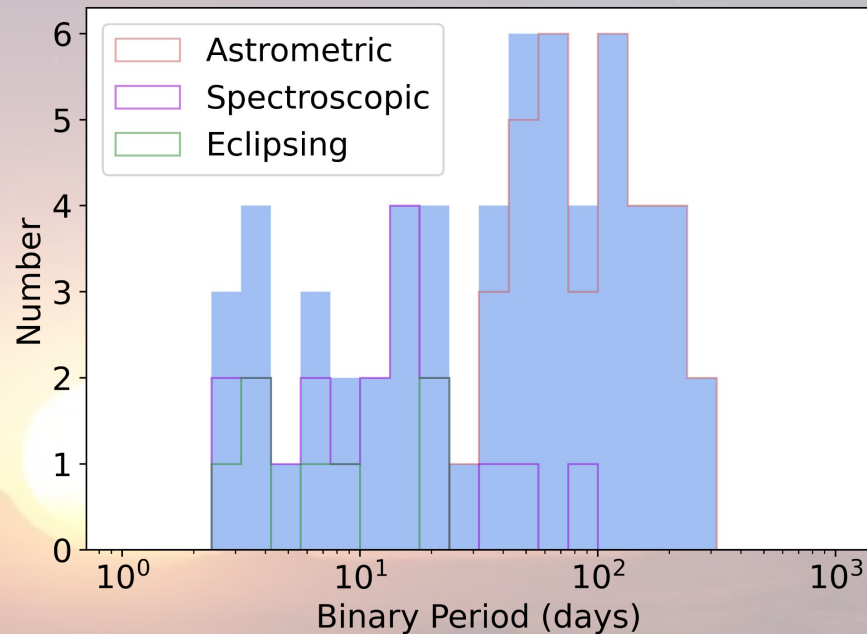
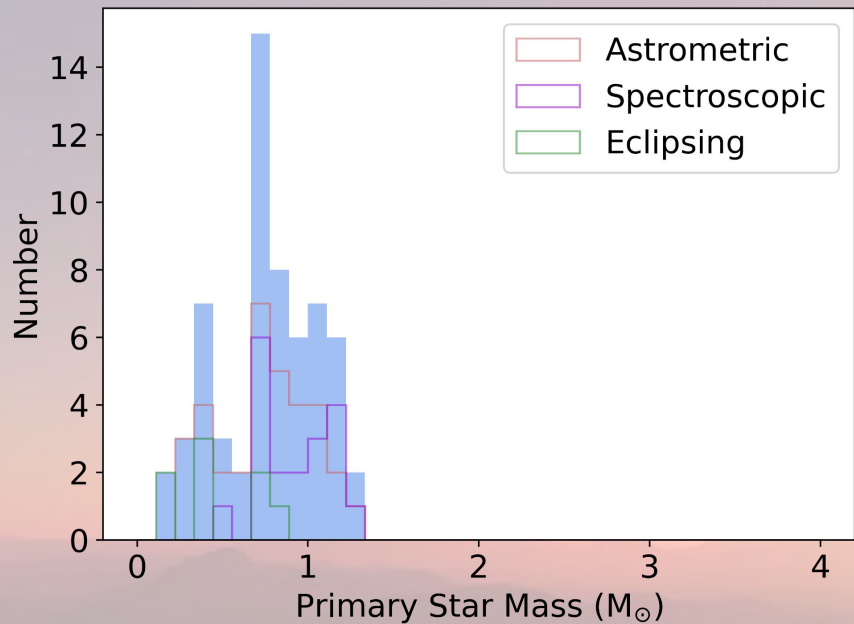
34 around astrometric binaries

19 around spectroscopic binaries

8 around eclipsing binaries



# Yield estimate for circumbinary planets



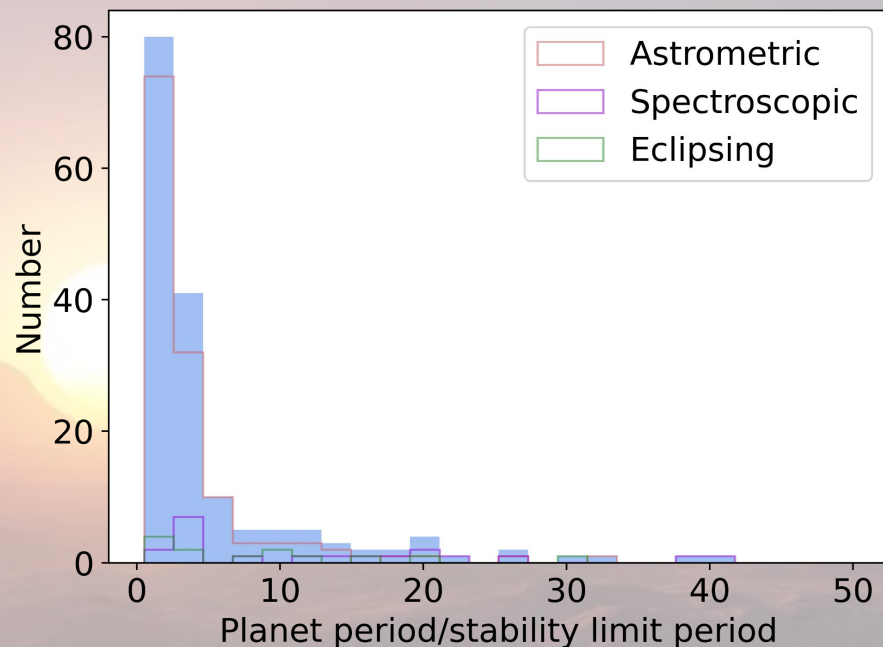
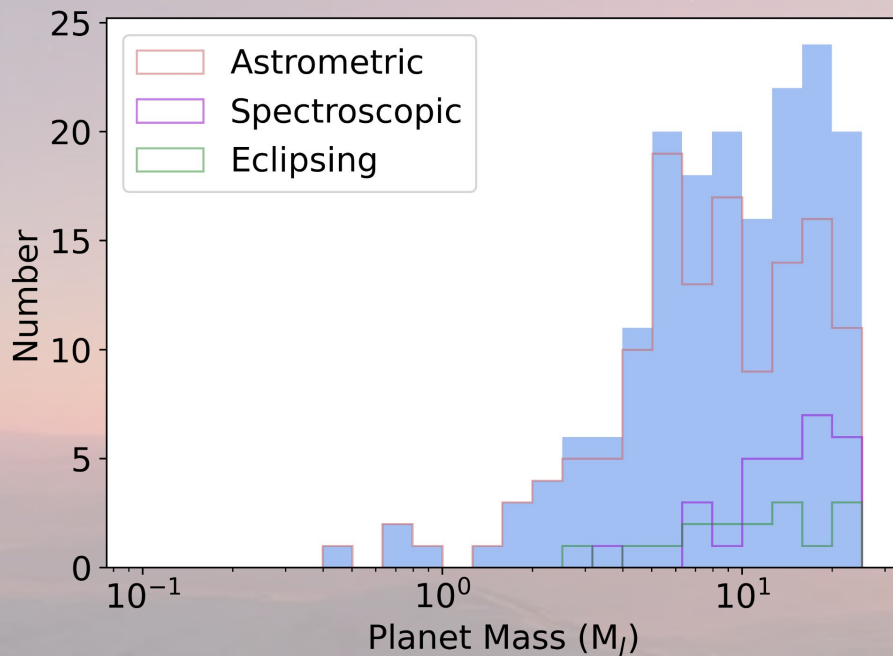


# Extension to DR5

131 around astrometric binaries (up from 34)

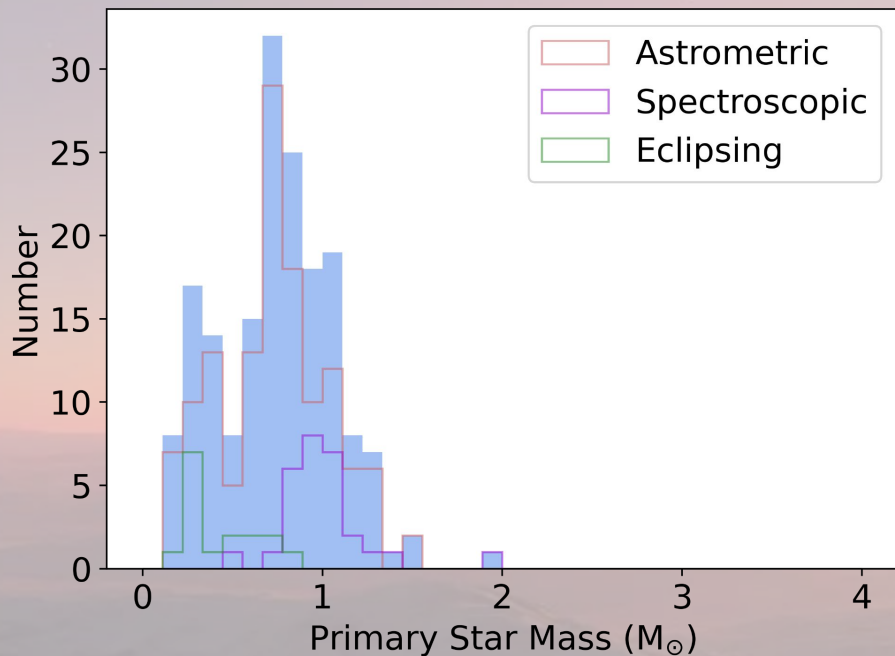
28 around spectroscopic binaries (up from 19)

16 around eclipsing binaries (up from 8)

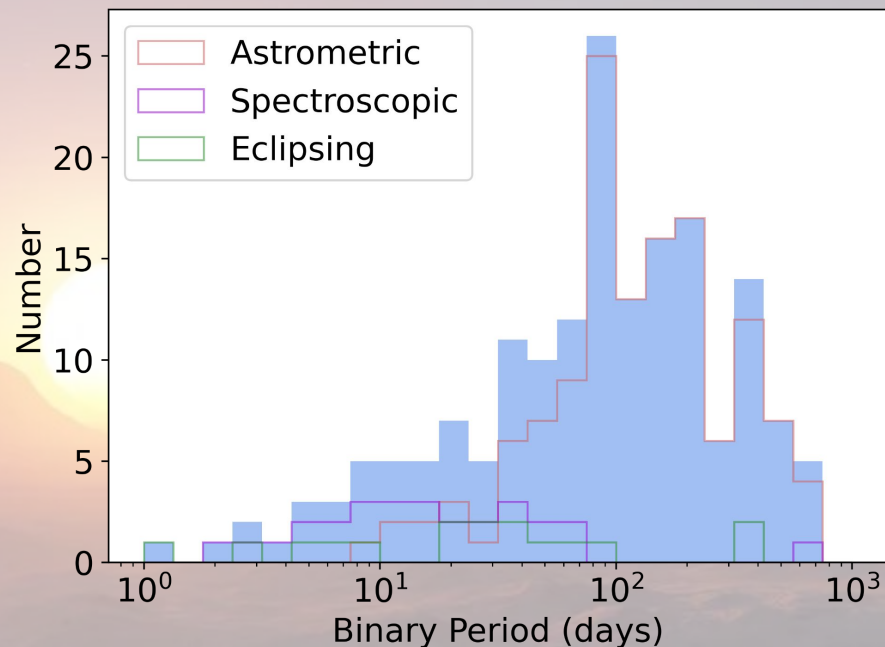


# Extension to DR5

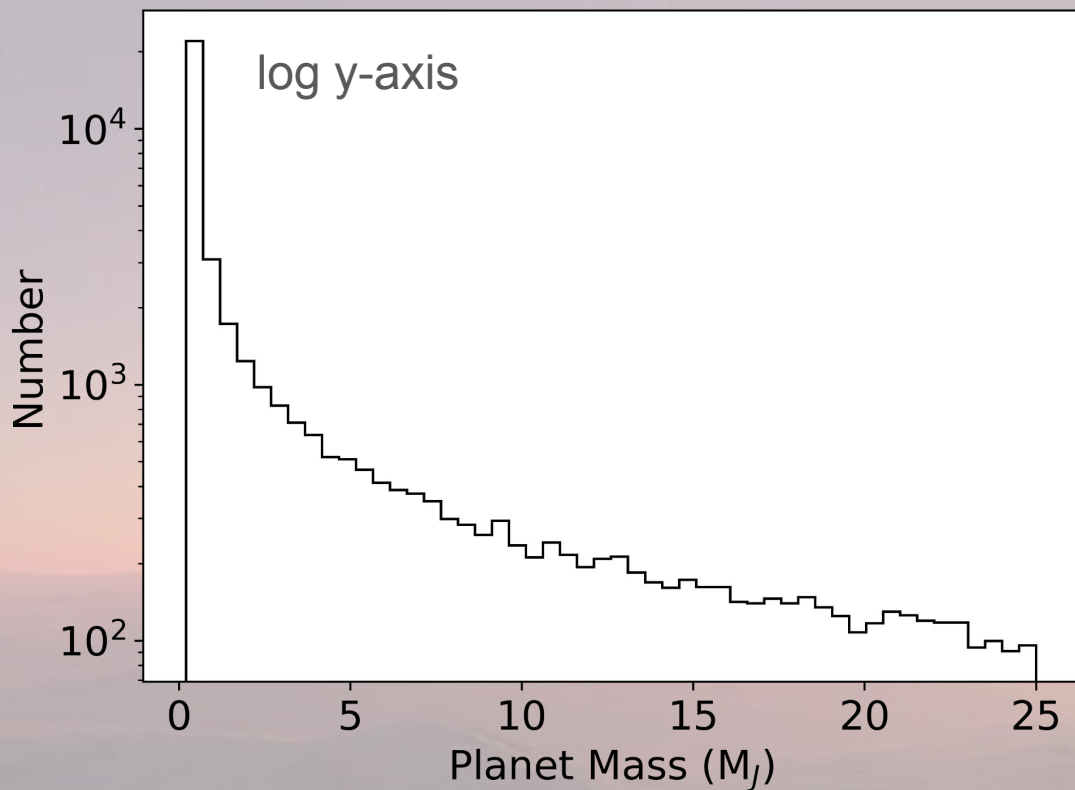
Stellar mass distribution  
remains similar



Extend to longer binary periods

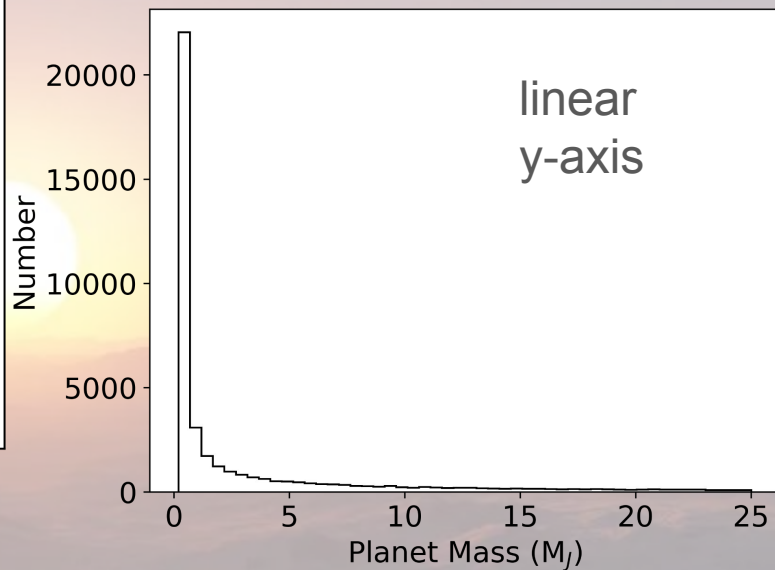


# Varying the planet mass distributions



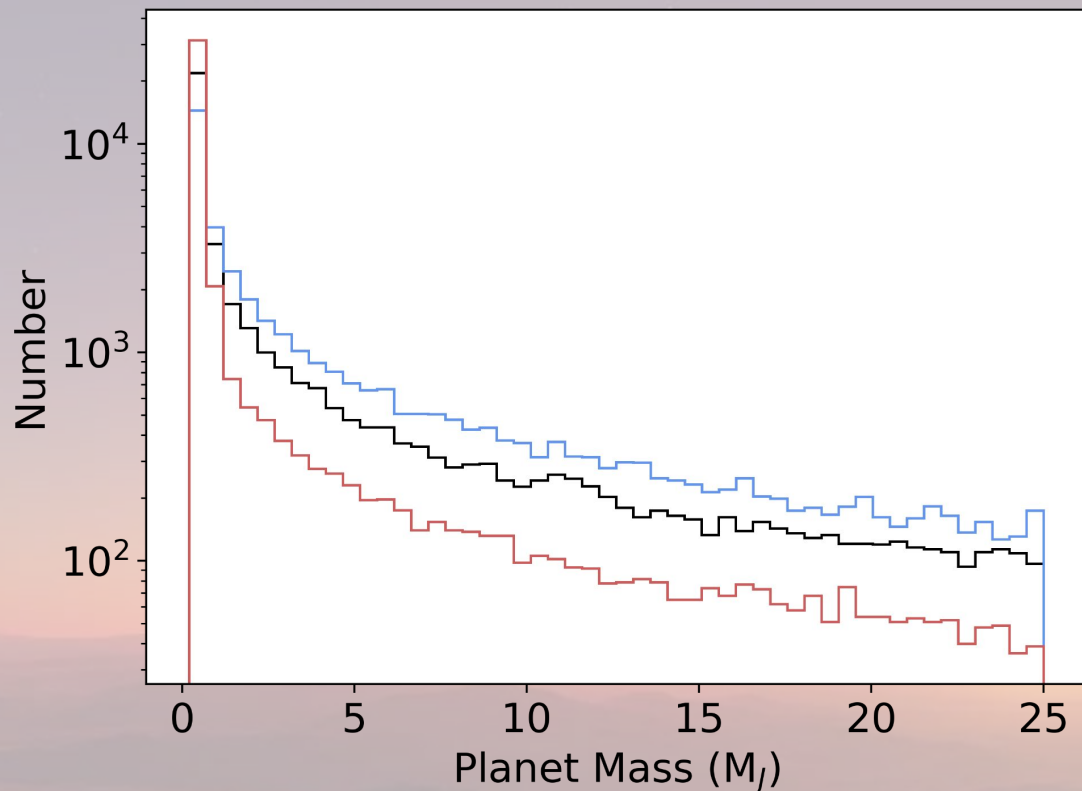
Main mass distribution used so far.

Gaussian + LogUniform





# Varying the planet mass distributions



Planet mass distributions:

Mixture of:

Gaussian around  $M_{\text{sat}}$  and  
LogUniform between  $M_{\text{sat}} - 25M_{\text{jup}}$

**Main:** equal mixture

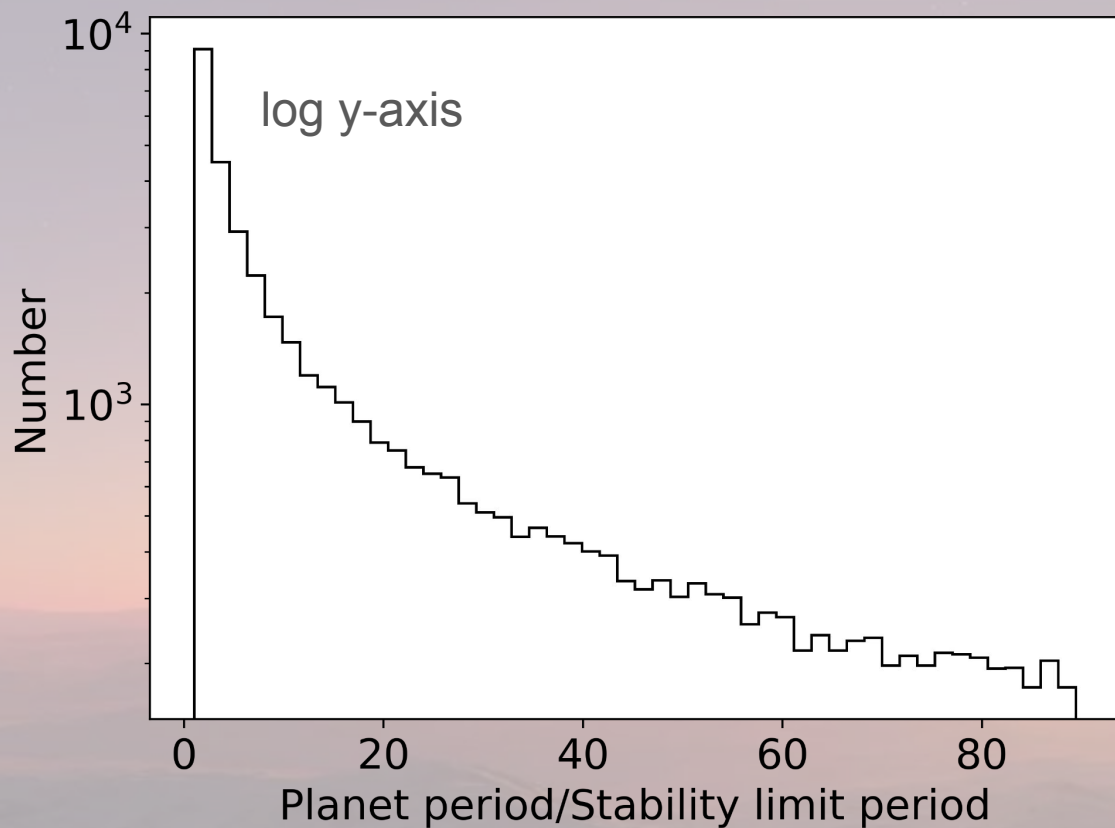
Alternatives:

**Red:** 2:1 mixture

**Blue:** 1:2 mixture

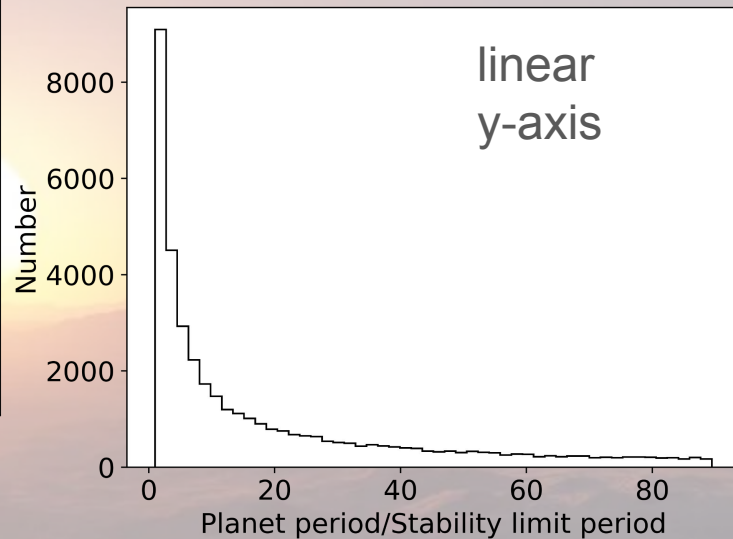
Other alternative: as in Main but  
scaled by total mass of the binary

# Varying the planet period distributions

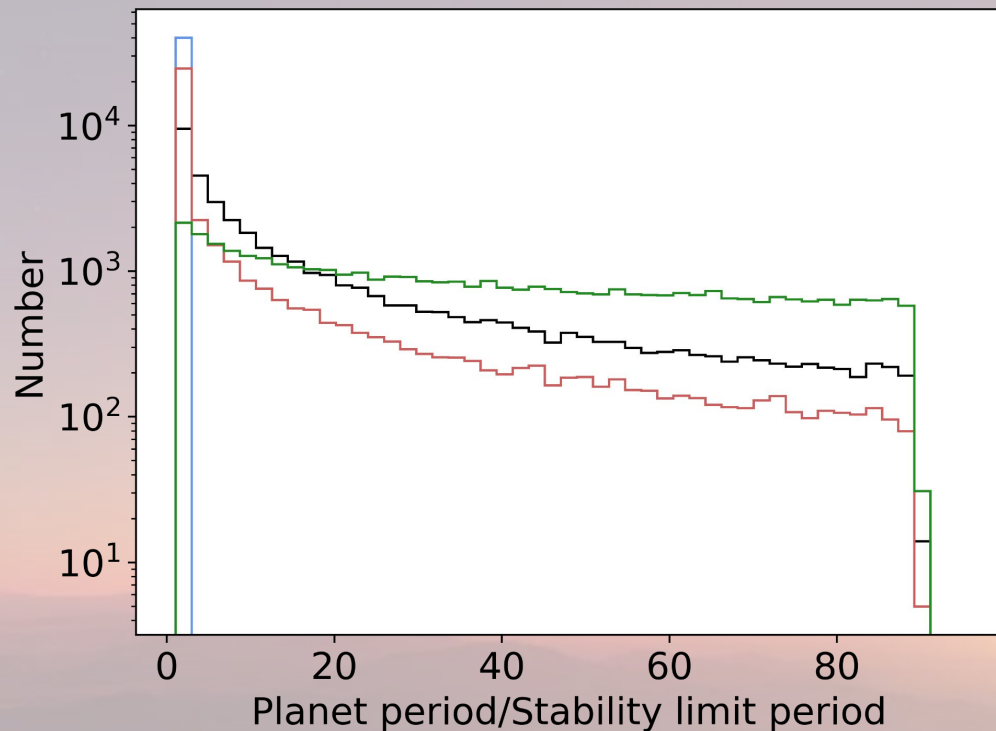


Main period distribution  
used so far.

LogUniform



# Varying the planet period distributions



Distributions of orbital periods:

Actually distribute in planet semi-major-axis/radius of instability zone.

Use combinations of piled-up at  $1.2 \times a_{\text{stab}}$  and distributions between  $a_{\text{stab}}$  and  $20 \times a_{\text{stab}}$

**Main:** LogUniform between limits

Alternatives:

**Blue:** all piled-up (similar to [Sahlmann+ 2015](#))

**Red:** half piled-up and half LogUniform between limits

**Green:** Uniform between limits

# 7 different setups

## Main setup

Keep period distribution as in main then:

- 2 different mass distributions
- 1 binary-dependent mass distribution

Keep mass distribution as in main then:

- 3 different period distributions

Across the 7 different setups number of detected CBPs ranges

40 to 140 in DR4

75 to 450 in DR5

# Changing the mass distribution

Main

DR4: 64

DR5: 175

Mixture 2:1

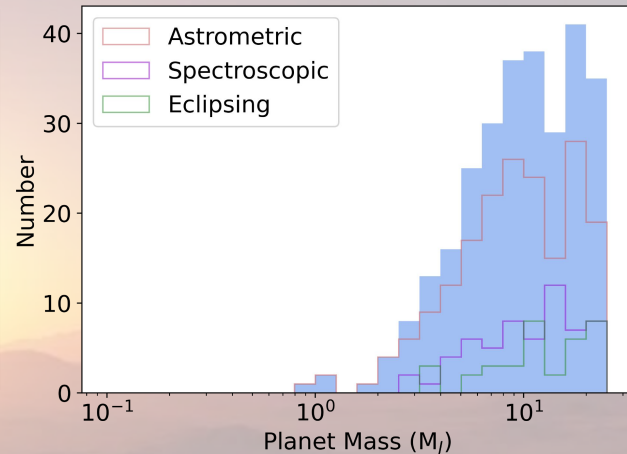
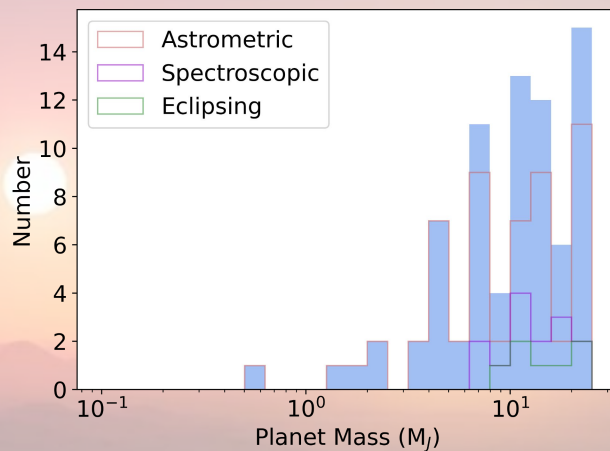
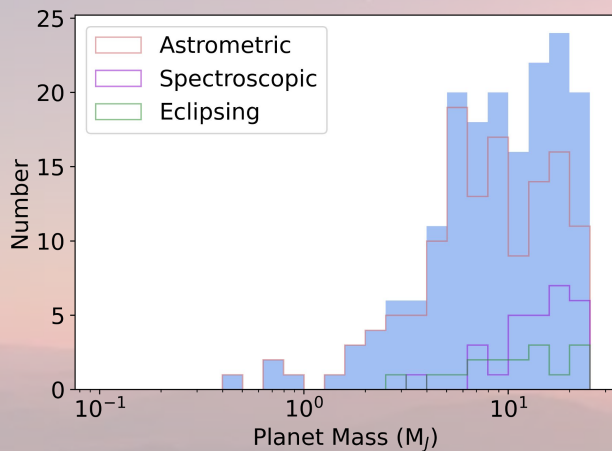
DR4: 25

DR5: 77

Mixture 1:2

DR4: 91

DR5: 280



# Changing the mass distribution

Mass distribution affects numbers around all types of binaries similarly.

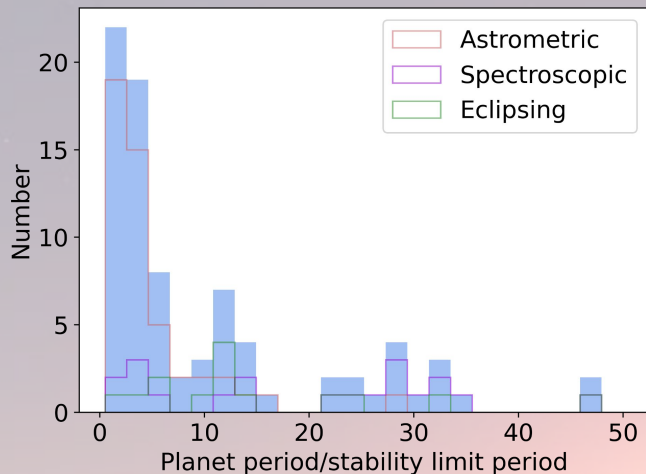
For Astrometric Binaries (DR5): 56 - 131 - 186

For Spectroscopic Binaries (DR5): 14 - 28 - 59

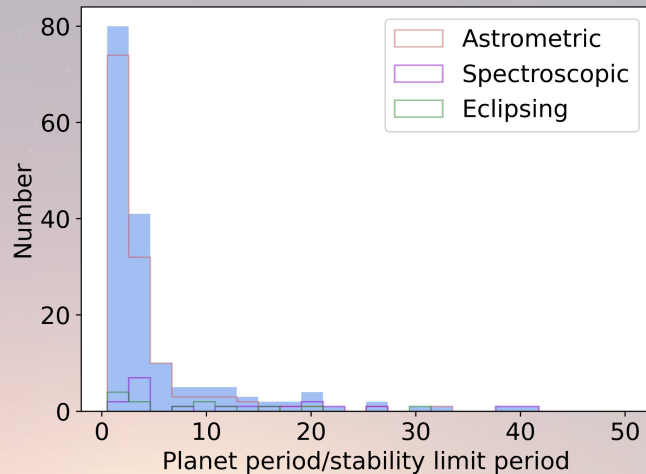
For Eclipsing Binaries (DR5): 7 - 16 - 35



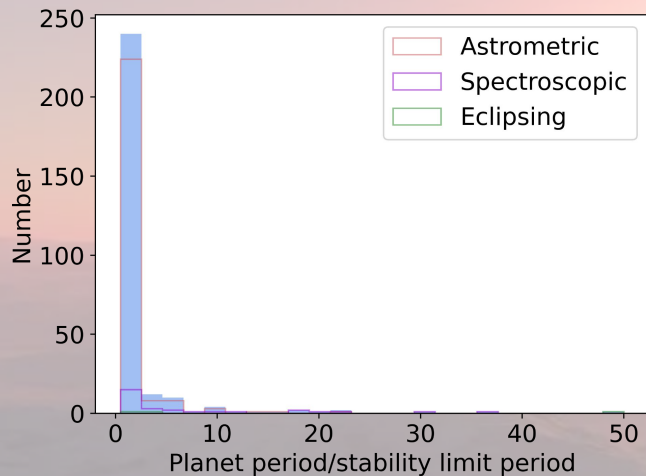
# Changing the Period distribution



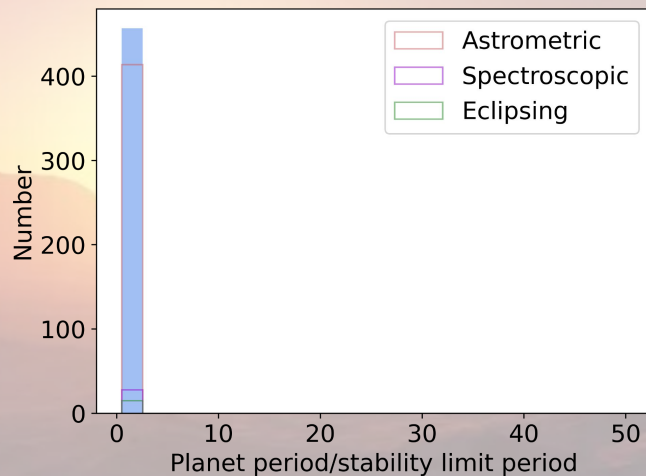
Uniform  
DR4: 26  
DR5: 102



Main  
DR4: 64  
DR5: 175



Mixed  
DR4: 95  
DR5: 282



Piled-up  
DR4: 137  
DR5: 457

# Period bias towards pile-up

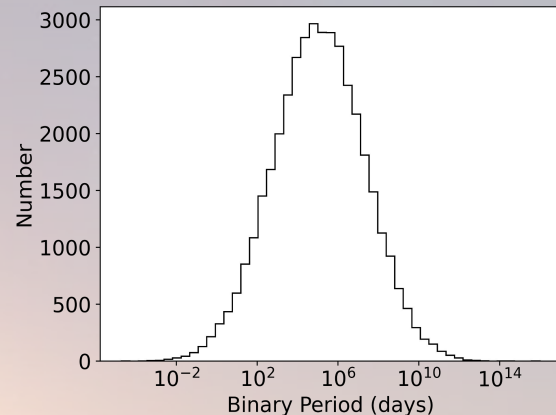
More binaries are long-period

Planets easiest to detect are near the *Gaia* integration time (i.e. 5-10 years)

More of these will therefore be around long-period binaries

Leads to a bias of detecting planets near the stability limit

Longer period binaries also easier to detect astrometrically



Assumptions: Full orbit required to detect planet, binary SNR > 100

# Changing the Period distribution

Period distribution affects the number around  
astrometric binaries, but much less the others.

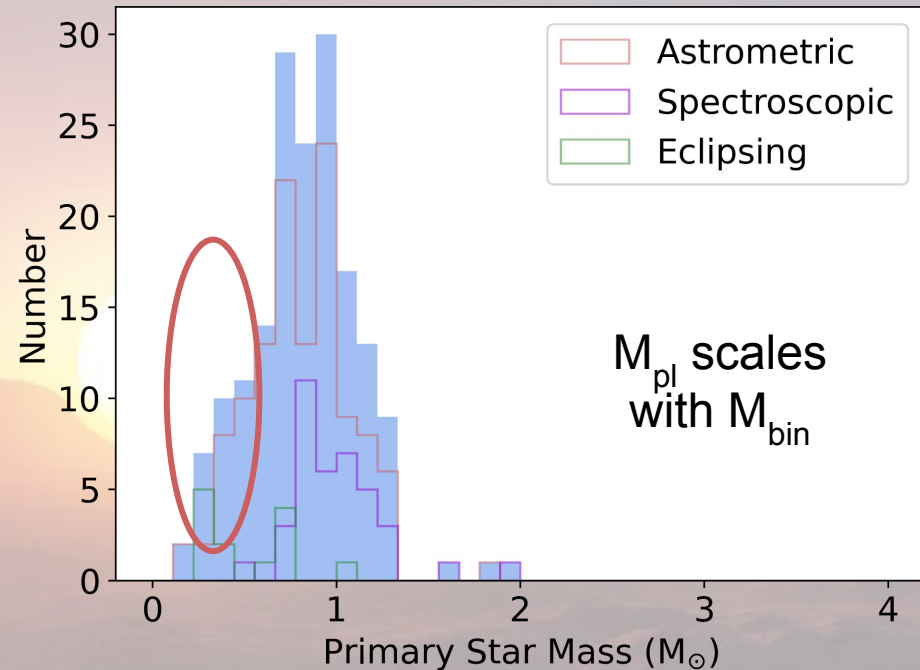
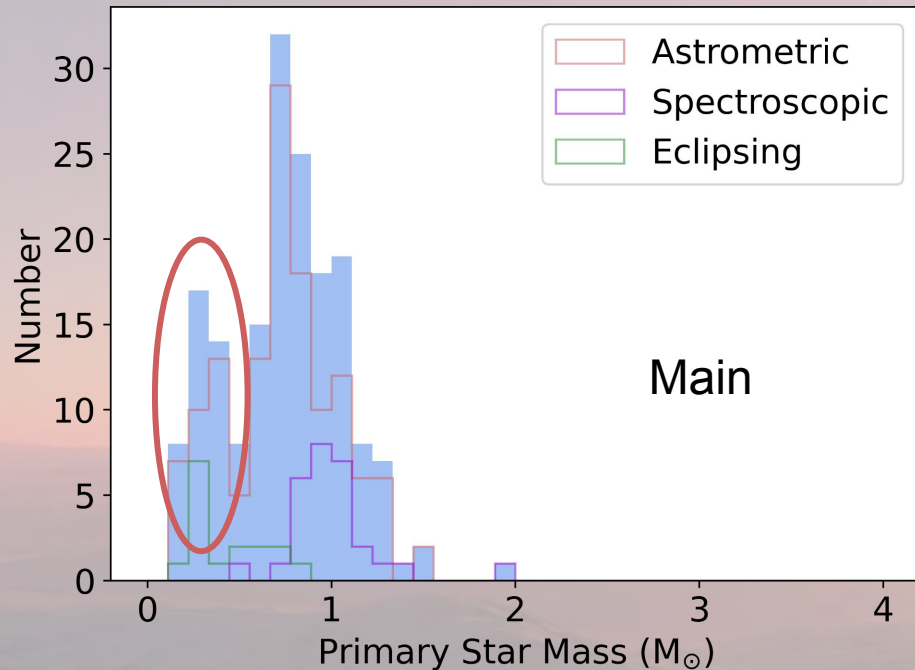
For Astrometric Binaries (DR5): 46 - 140 - 241 - 378

For Spectroscopic Binaries (DR5): 32 - 34 - 31 - 16

For Eclipsing Binaries (DR5): 25 - 14 - 13 - 6

# Mass dependence on disc mass

Will be visible in the comparative rate of CPBs orbiting M-dwarf binaries



# General outlook for Main-sequence binaries

- *Gaia* will detect CBPs (detecting none would be unlikely but would be very informative).
- Most of these planets will be  $>5M_J$  with almost all  $>1M_J$
- Predictions of detection rates depend heavily on the assumed planet population, this means that *Gaia* will be able to constrain the population of giant exoplanets orbiting main-sequence binaries.

# **Known circumbinary systems**



# Transiting circumbinary planets

Gaia will not be able to detect any of the Kepler circumbinary planets.

For the very nearest it may be able to constrain potential massive outer companions but these would have to have:  $P \sim 10$  years,  $M \sim 5$  Jupiter

Similarly TESS transiting circumbinary planets will not be detected



# RV circumbinary planets

Of the BEBOP circumbinary planets (see talk by *Amaury Triaud*), *Gaia* will only have constraining power on 1 of them (BEBOP-4b:  $M \approx 15 M_{\text{Jup}}$   $P \approx 1500$  days).

For BEBOP-4b *Gaia* SNR  $\approx 50$

HD 202206: circumbinary brown dwarf  $M \approx 17 M_{\text{Jup}}$  will have *Gaia* SNR  $\approx 250$

Even in lowest mass case of  $\sin i = 1$  and  $M \approx 2.5 M_{\text{Jup}}$  then *Gaia* SNR  $\approx 70$

*Gaia* can help constrain inclination of non-eclipsing binaries for RV circumbinary planet searches.



# **Post common-envelope binaries**



# Claimed planets

Most of the claimed planets around post common-envelope binaries are high mass and long period, ideal for *Gaia* (actually some are a bit too long period...)

There are 31 circumbinary planets claimed orbiting 23 post common-envelope binaries (that I could find).

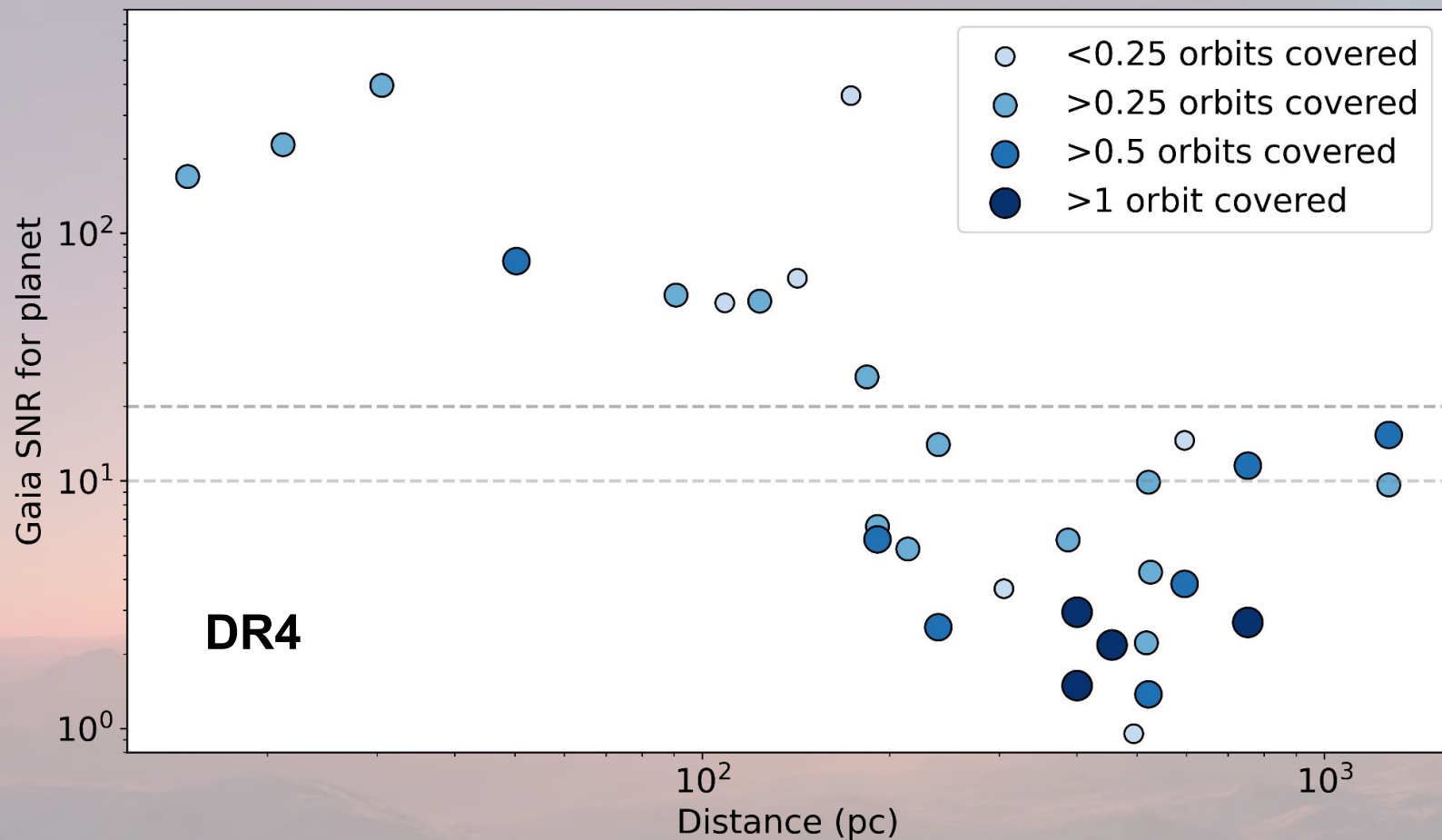
Some have been refuted (e.g. V471 Tau [Hardy et al. 2015](#))

There is some doubt that all are real (e.g. [Pulley et al. 2021](#))

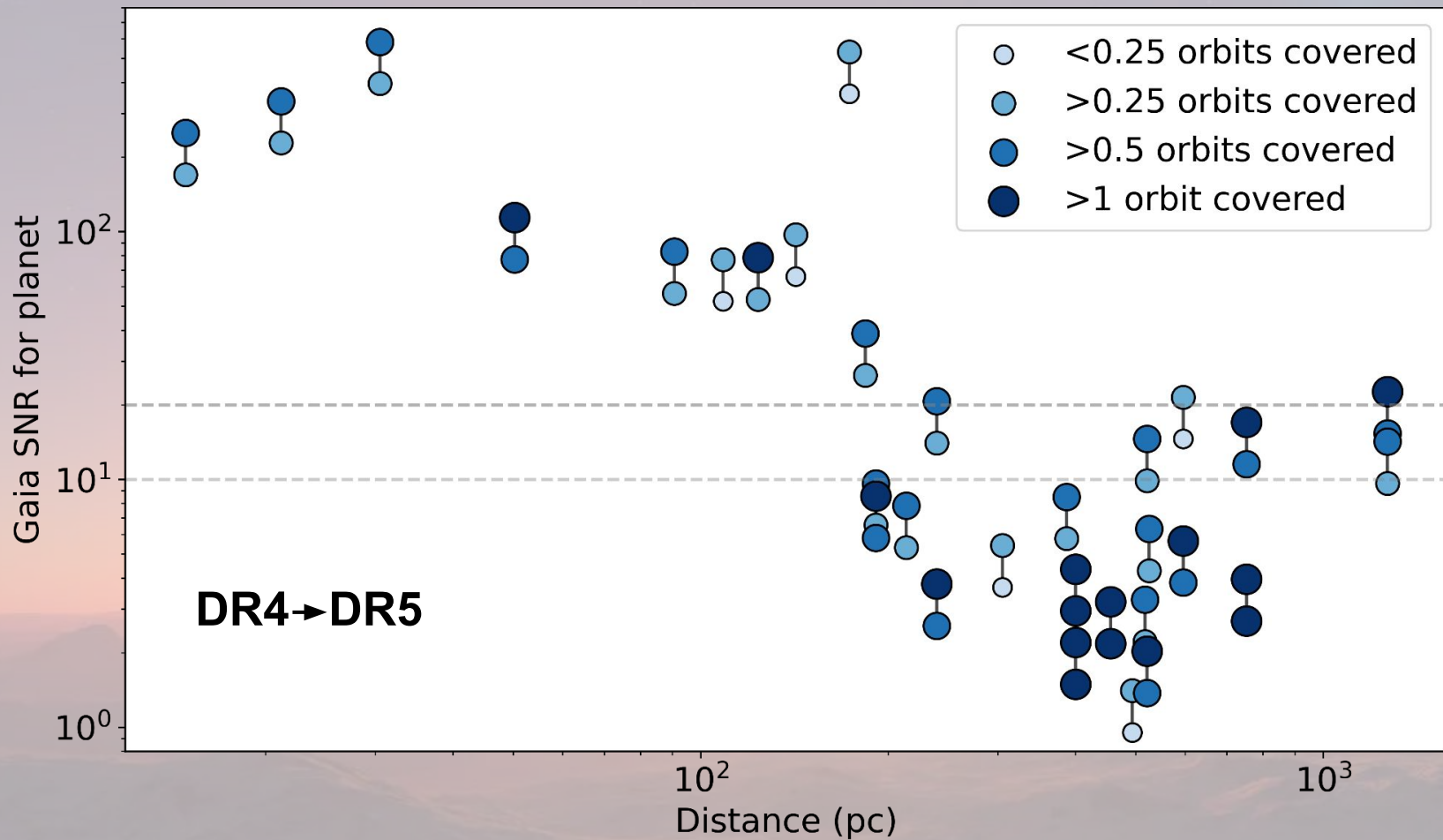
Evidence from *Gaia-Hipparcos* astrometry that there may be a planet orbiting HW Vir ([Baycroft et al. 2023](#))

Planets are expected to exist around post-common envelope binaries but we don't know which to trust.

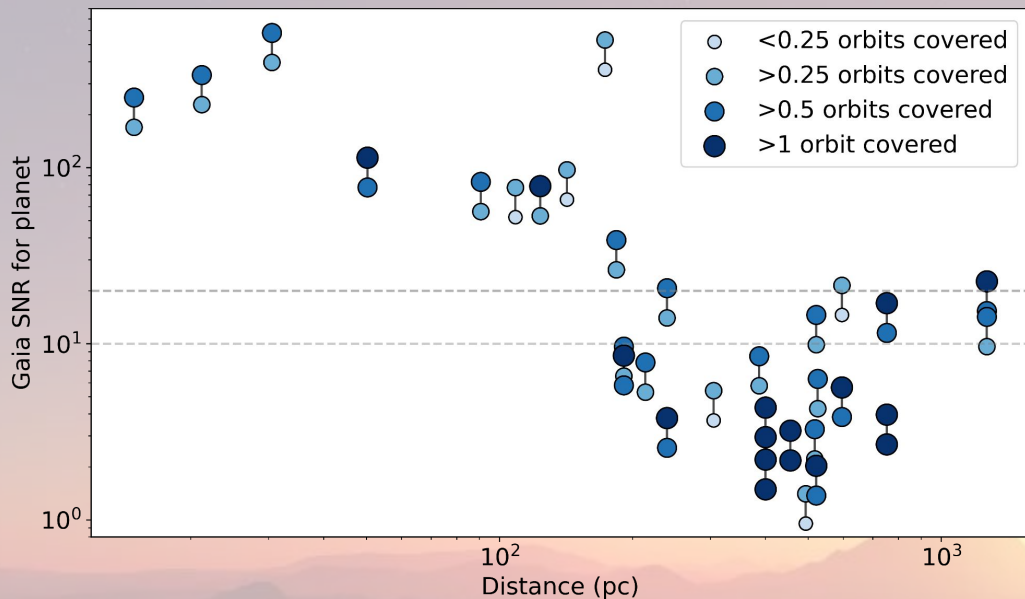
# *Gaia* on the claimed planets



# *Gaia* on the claimed planets



# ***Gaia*** on the claimed planets



>1 orbit and SNR>20: 3 planets

>1/2 an orbit and SNR>20: 9 planets

>1/2 an orbit and SNR>10: 12 planets

# Post common-envelope binaries

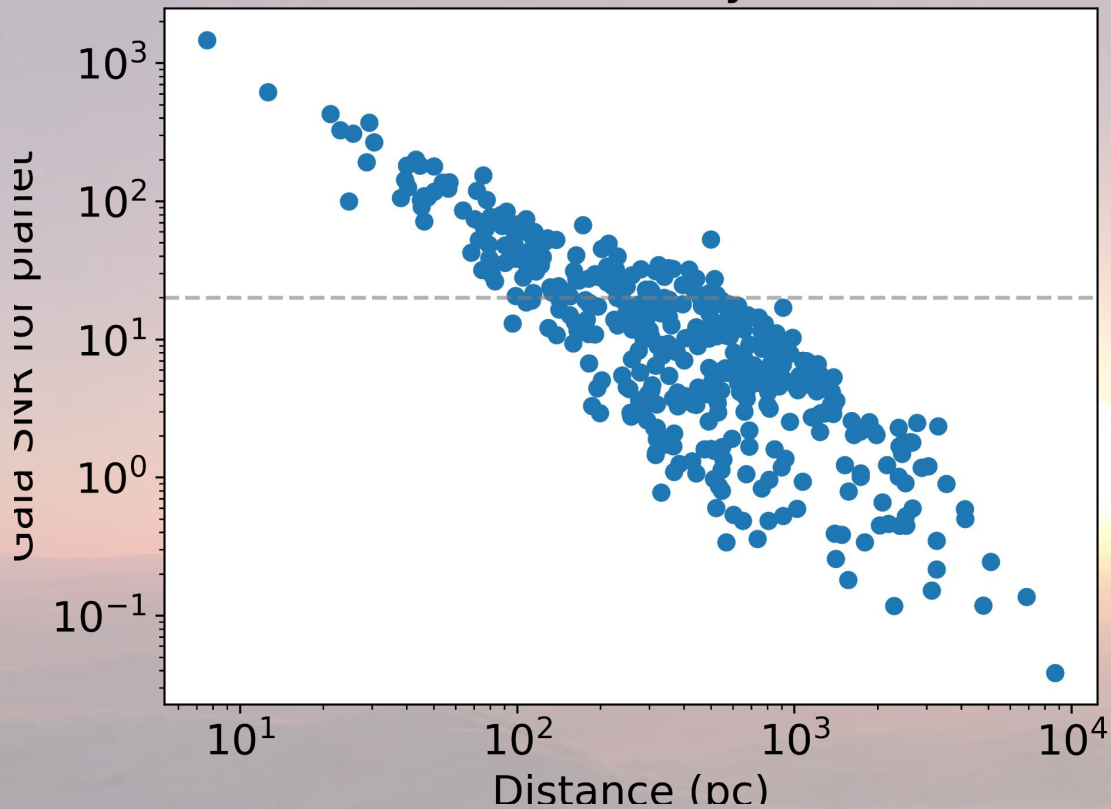
Catalogue of post common envelope binary candidates ([Kruckow et al. 2021](#))

Test sensitivity *Gaia* will have to circumbinary planets around these

Catalogue contains 432 suitable entries (magnitude limits, distance limits, mass measurements)

# Post common-envelope binaries

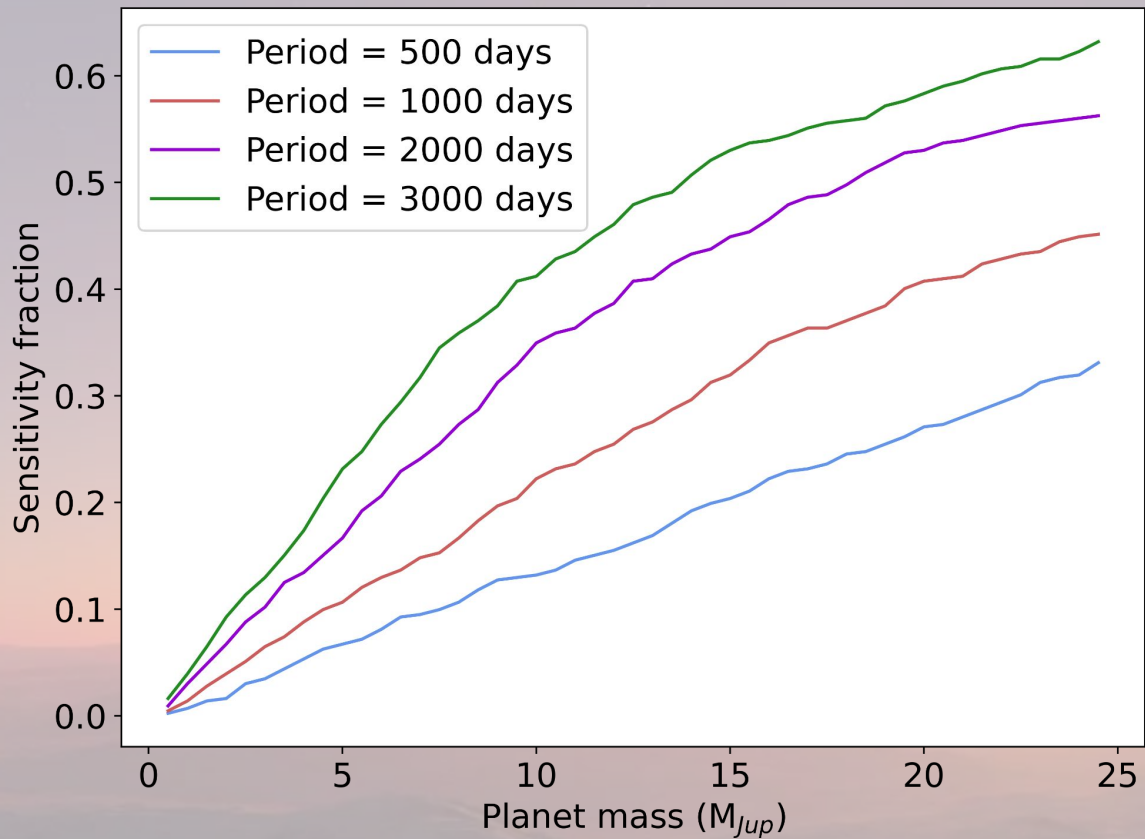
Planet: Period = 3000 days, Mass = 6.5 M<sub>J</sub>



Inject a QS Vir type planet around all of these.

127 (30%) are detected

# Sensitivity around post common-envelope binaries

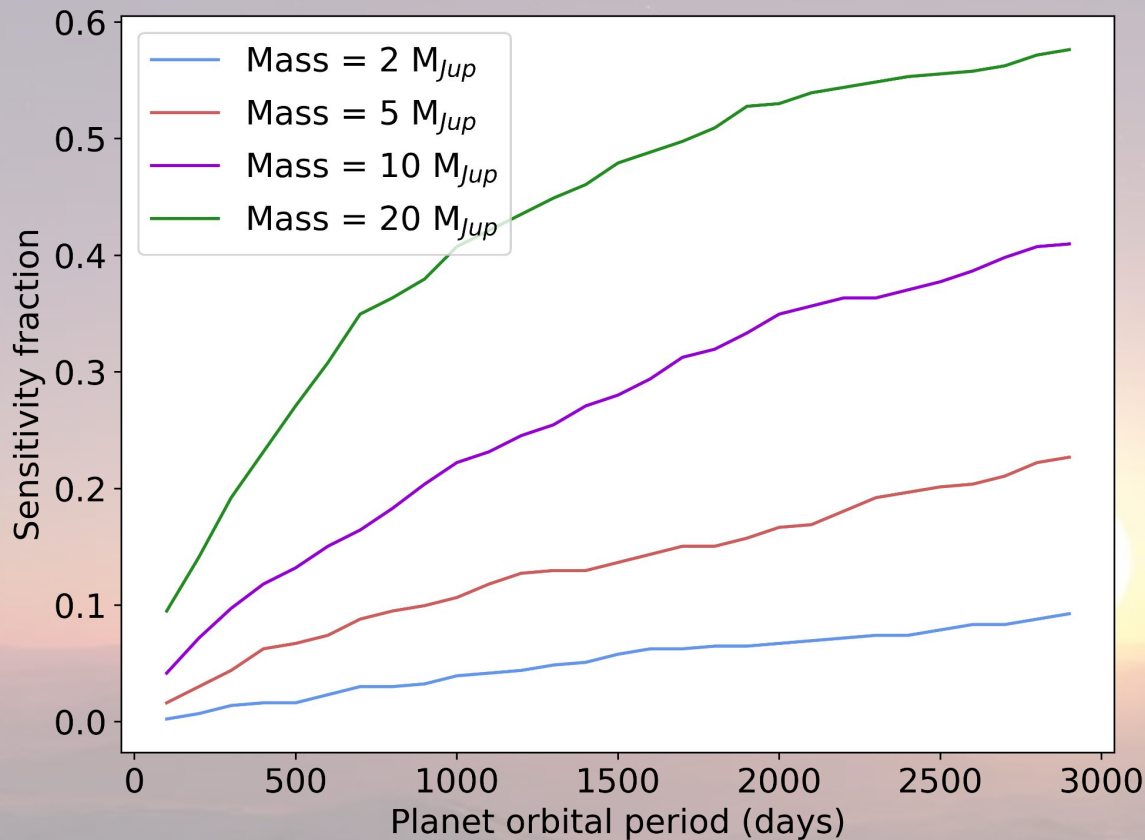


Fraction of systems to which *Gaia* (DR5) would be sensitive to certain planets.

4 different orbital periods, range of masses



# Sensitivity around post common-envelope binaries



Fraction of systems to which *Gaia* (DR5) would be sensitive to certain planets.

4 different masses, range of orbital periods

# What should be done when DR4 comes out

- Investigate known systems
- *Gaia* binary catalogue, take consortium one and/or create your own and search for planets around them
- Search around known binaries not identified Astrometrically (e.g. TESS EB catalogue, post common-envelope binary catalogue,...)
- Search for close inner binaries to “single star” planets identified by *Gaia*

# Conclusions

- *Gaia* will make valuable contributions to circumbinary science
- Many new planets detected, 10s to 100s
- It will be able to constrain the distributions of masses and periods around main sequence binaries
- Currently known planets will gain additional information and be put to the test, in particular planets around post common-envelope binaries
- A population of giant planets orbiting post common-envelope binaries is attainable

Thank you for listening, happy to take questions now, later today, or by email

