

Predict, Point, Probe:

Mapping the Orbits of Long-Period Cool Gas Giants



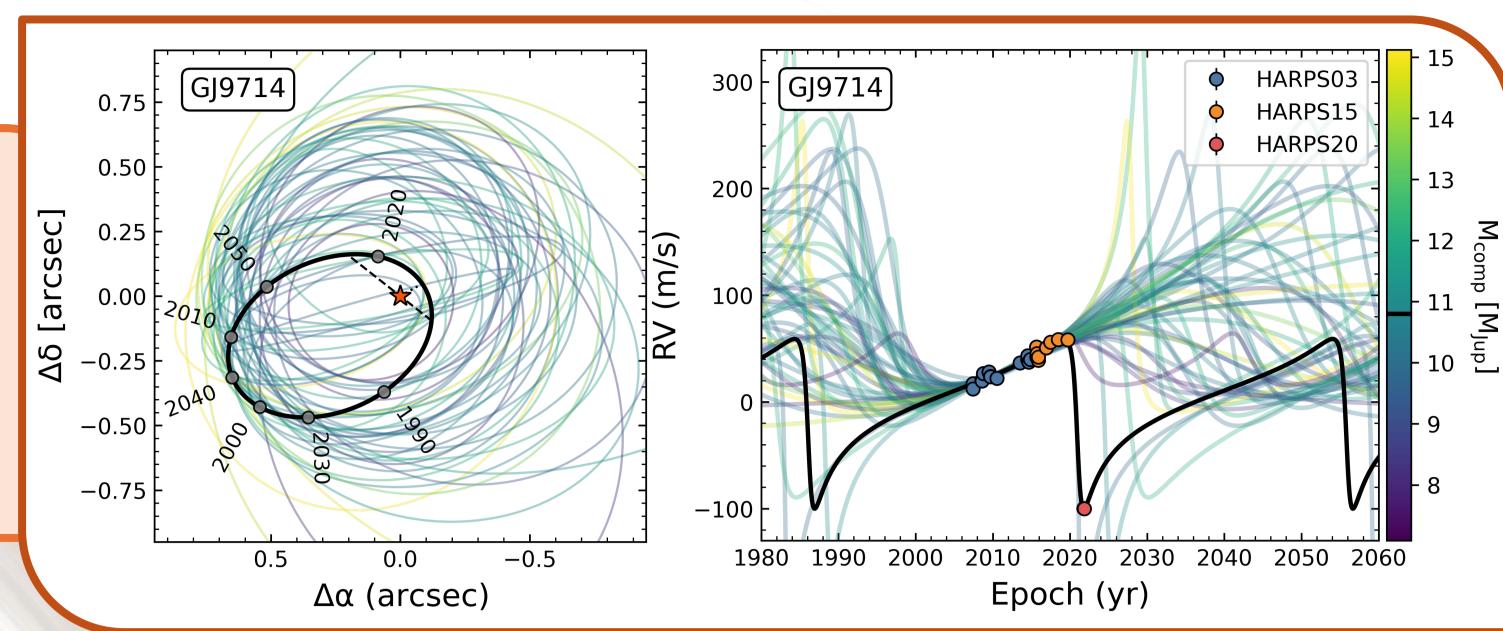


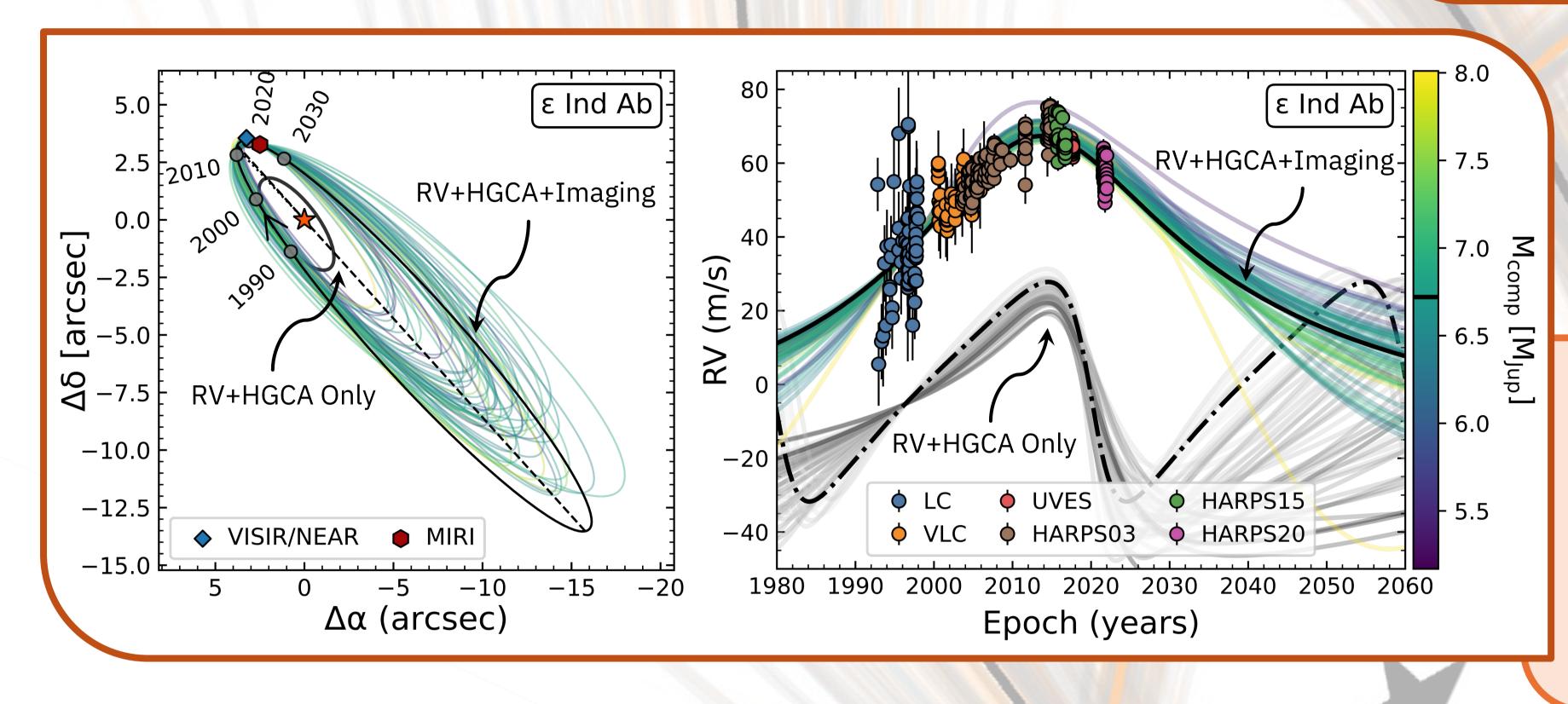
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PREDICT — Why prediction matters?

For very long-period planets, incomplete RV baselines introduce strong degeneracies in mass and orbit — limiting our ability to predict on-sky positions for direct detection and characterization. Without reliable predictions, direct imaging campaigns risk pointing at the wrong place.



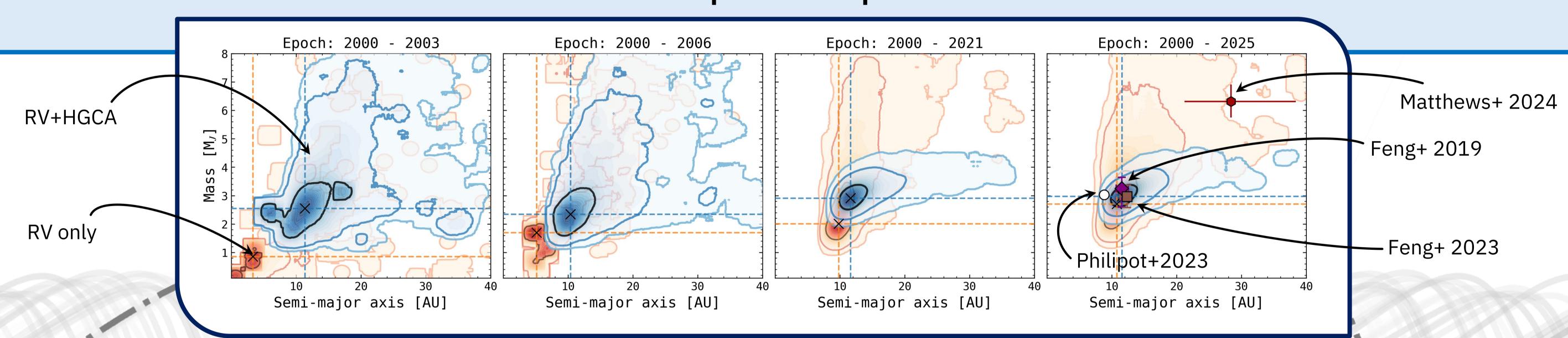


PREDICT in practice — ϵ Ind Ab

ϵ Ind Ab is the first solar-age giant exoplanet to be imaged. Earlier RV+HGCA fits predicted a lighter, closer planet in the wrong quadrant. However, **imaging revealed a heavier, more distant planet**. This shows how **limited data can mislead orbital predictions**.

POINT — Targeting planets with precision

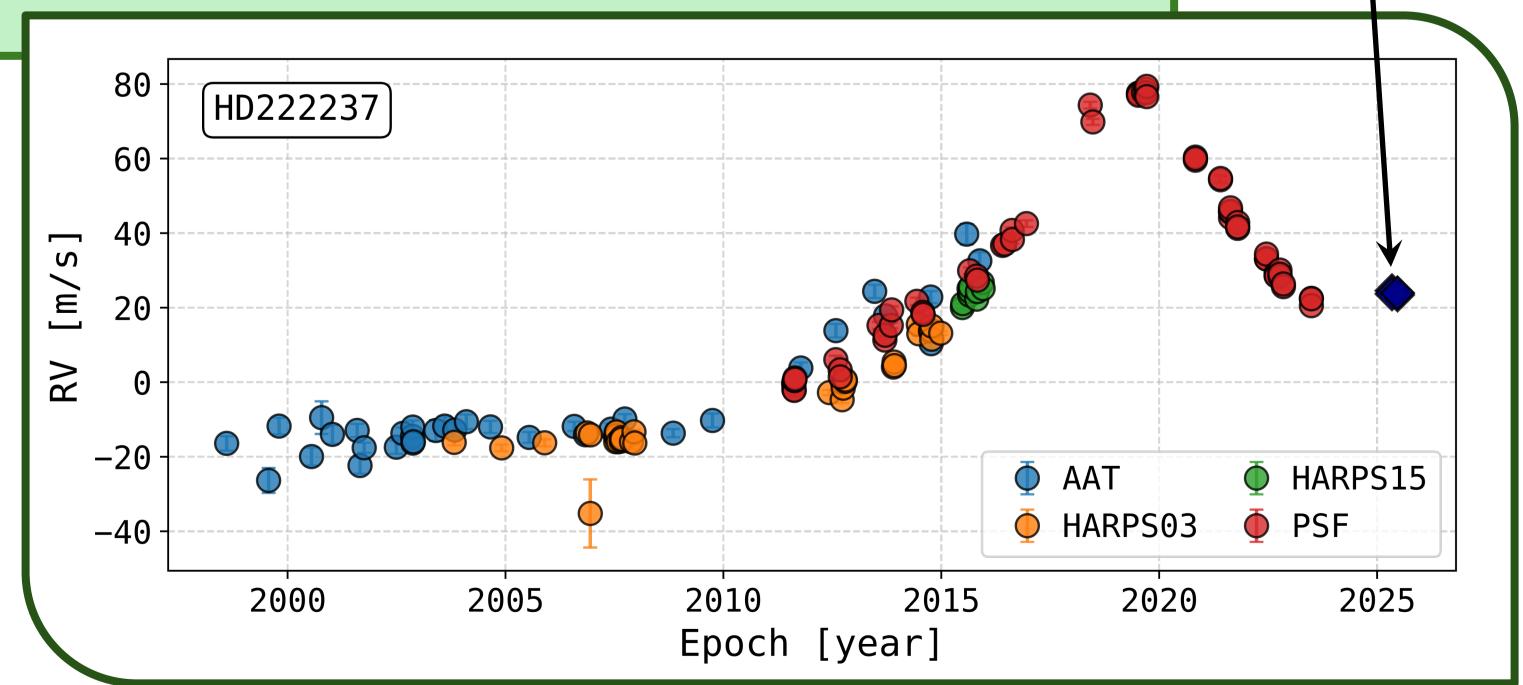
To point future imagers correctly, we jointly model RV + long-baseline astrometric anomaly, to refines our predictions of where planets truly are. Using ϵ Ind Ab as a test case, we fit different subsets of RV data across different epochs and observe how posterior solutions shift — and how the inversion in RV curve shrinks the allowed parameter space.



PROBE — HARPS program

To reduce degeneracies and improve orbit predictions for future imaging campaigns, I am leading a HARPS program to extend the RV baselines eight nearby long-period giants.

New HARPS Observations!

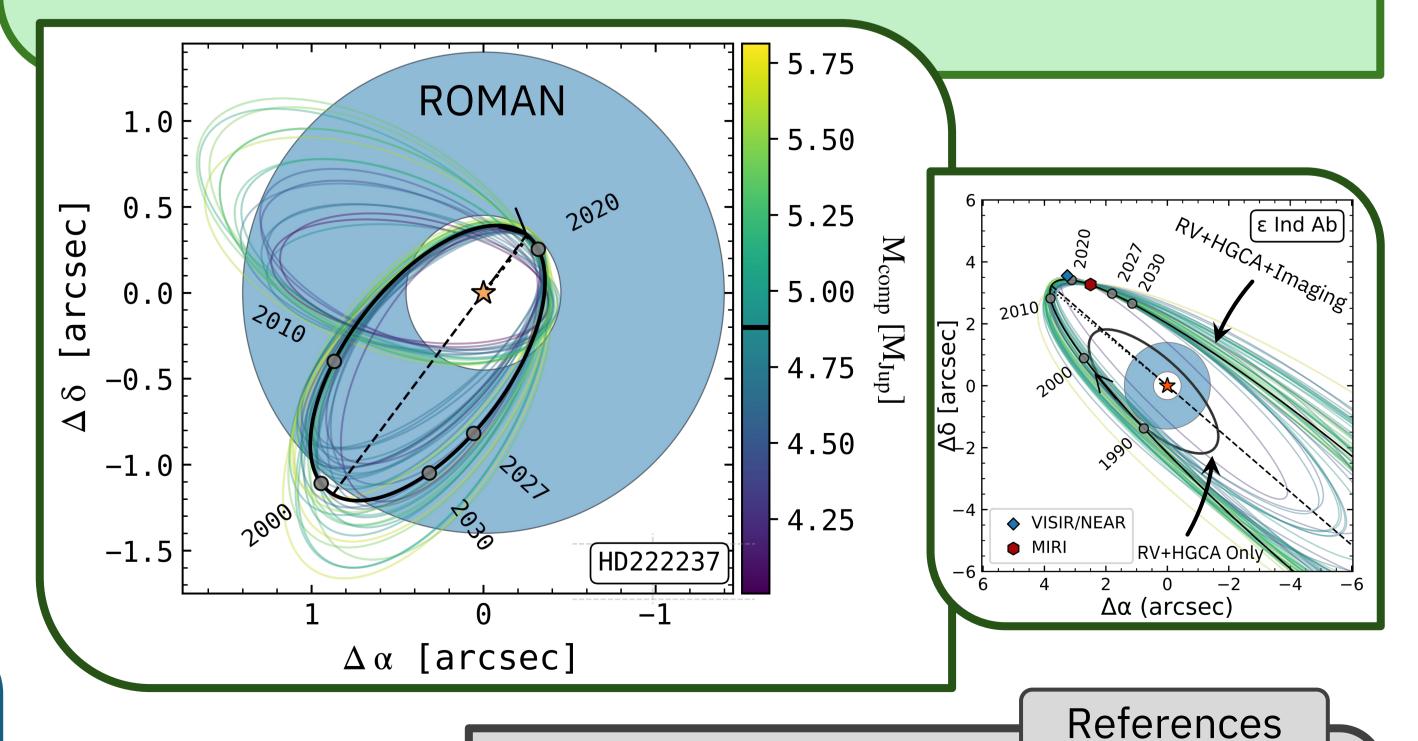


TAKE HOME!

For very long period exoplanets, predicting on-sky location from RV + HGCA is challenging, but incorrect predictions are dangerous as we attempt to image these planets. Continual RV monitoring can help mitigate this issue.

PROBE—THE FUTURE

Improved orbital predictions are essential for targeting upcoming facilities such as JWST, Roman, and the ELTs. Our program will deliver benchmark systems where dynamical masses and luminosities can be directly compared — critical for calibrating planet formation and evolution models.



- Matthews et al. (2024): Nature, 633 (8031), 789–792
- Matthews et al. (2024): Nature, 633 (80
 Brandt et al. (2021): AJ, 162 (5), 186
- Feng et al. (2019): MNRAS, 490 (4), 5002–5016
 Feng et al. (2023): MNRAS, 525 (1), 607-619
- Philipot et al. (2023): A&A, 670, A65