



# Magnetic fields of fully-convective stars: are we observing dynamo bistability?

*Julien Morin*

*Laboratoire Univers et Particules de Montpellier*

*U. Christensen, X. Delfosse, J.-F. Donati, E. Dormy, L. Duarte, T. Forveille,  
T. Gastine, M. Jardine, P. Petit, A. Reiners, M. Schrinner, J. Wicht, R. Yadav*

*Colloque de Prospective du PNPS  
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# Outline

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- 1 Studying magnetic fields of M dwarfs
- 2 Direct methods for magnetic field measurements
- 3 The first spectropolarimetric survey of M dwarfs
- 4 Dynamo bistability among VLMS?
- 5 Summary

# Outline

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## 1 Studying magnetic fields of M dwarfs

- Fully-convective vs solar dynamo
- What magnetic fields may help us to understand ?

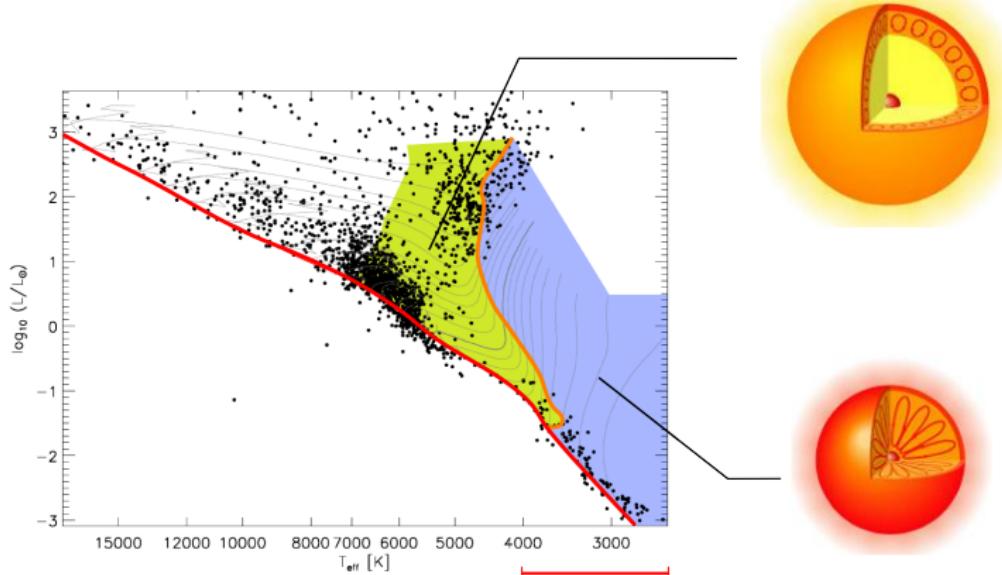
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# Fully-convective vs solar dynamo



Adapted from Reiners (2007)

M dwarfs

## Solar-type dynamo

- $\alpha\Omega$ : cyclonic convection +  $d\Omega$
- Crucial role of the tachocline ?

## M dwarf dynamo

- Importance of aspect ratio ?
- Differential rotation ?  $\alpha^2$  ?

# What magnetic fields may help us to understand ?

## ■ Rotation

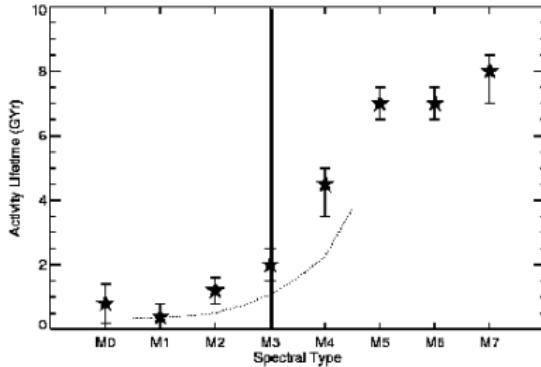
- Why mid-late M dwarfs brake less?
- *Reiners & Mohanty (2012)*?
- *Vidotto et al. (2013)*

## ■ Activity

- FC dynamo → activity ?
- Radio – X-ray correlation
- Radio emission of VLMS and BDs

## ■ Planets

- SPI
- Habitability
- Prevents detection ?



*West et al. (2008)*

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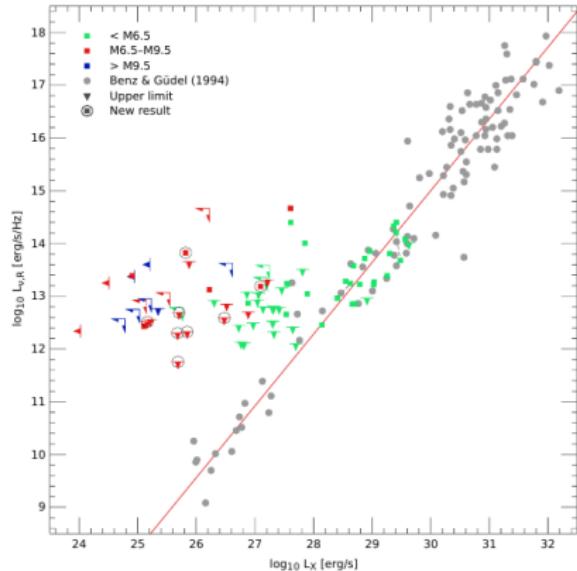
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*Williams, Cook & Berger (2013)*

*Berger et al. (2006) +  
Hallinan et al. (2008) +*

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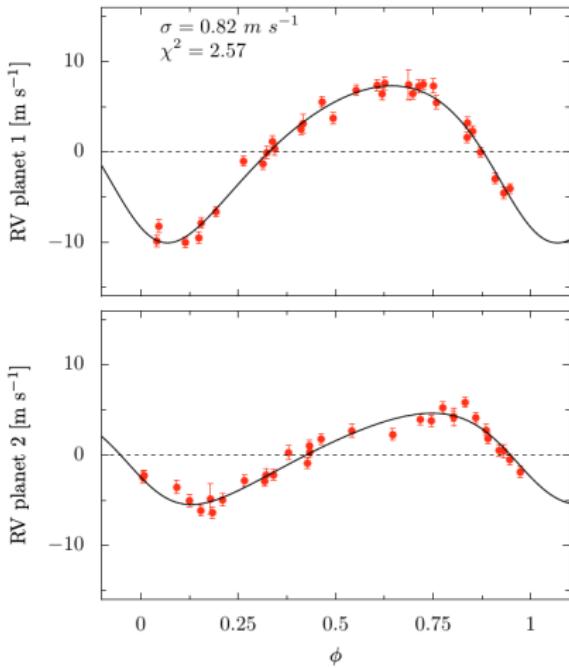
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*GJ 674 Bonfils et al. (2007)*

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# Disk-integrated stellar measurements

## ■ Zeeman effect

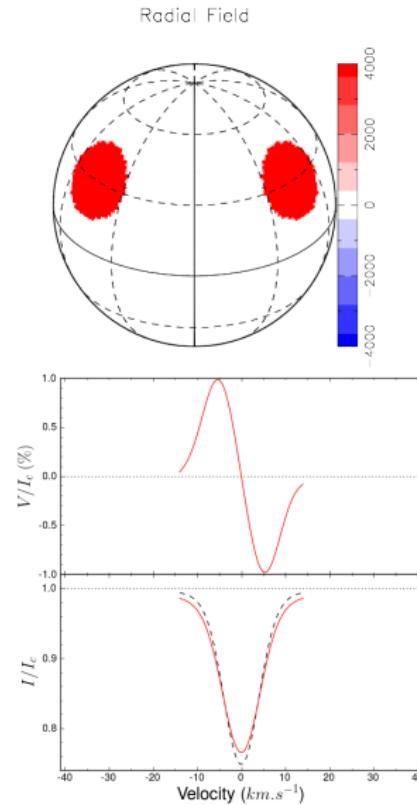
- Zeeman splitting
- $\Delta\lambda_B \propto \lambda_0^2 g_{\text{eff}} B$
- Polarization : vector props of  $\mathbf{B}$

## ■ Unpolarised spectrum

- Total magnetic flux\*
- But almost no information on field geometry
- ➡ Dynamo energetics

## ■ Polarized spectrum

- Large-scale component
- Contains info on  $\mathbf{B}$
- ➡ ZDI → topology



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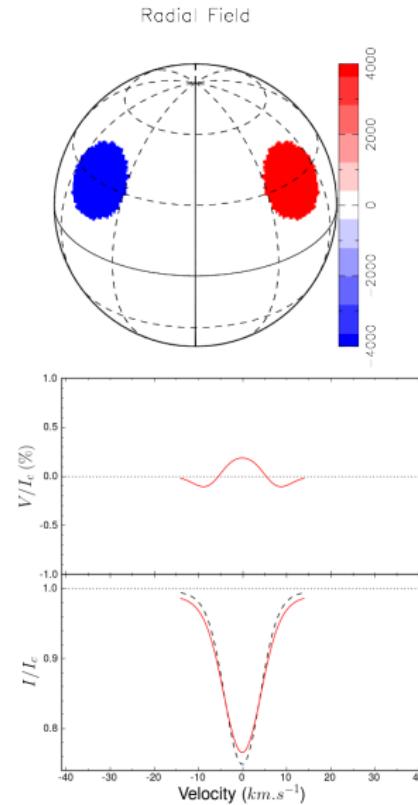
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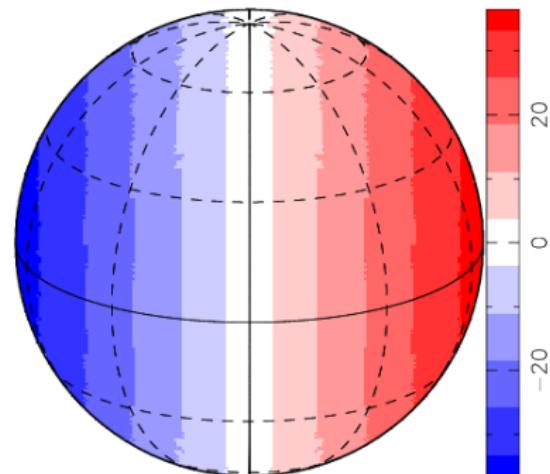
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*Equal RV stripes*

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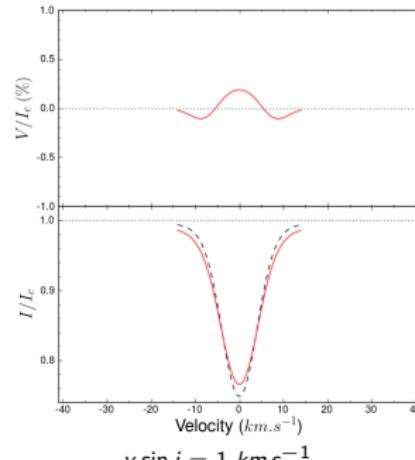
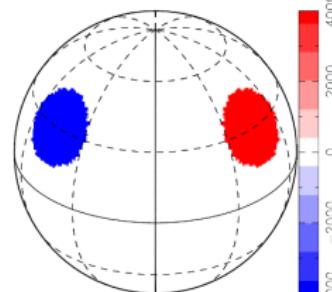
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Radial Field



$$v \sin i = 1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

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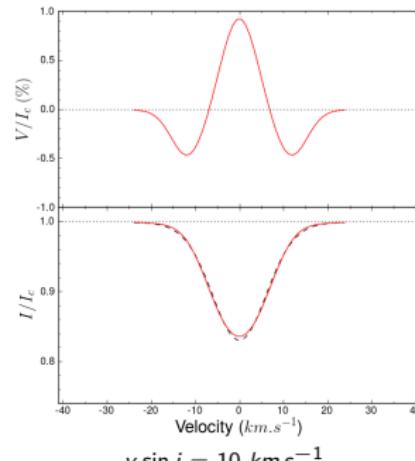
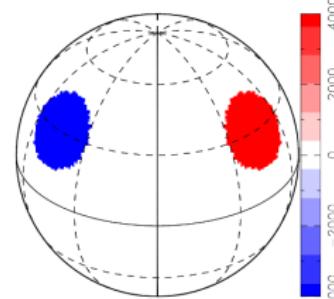
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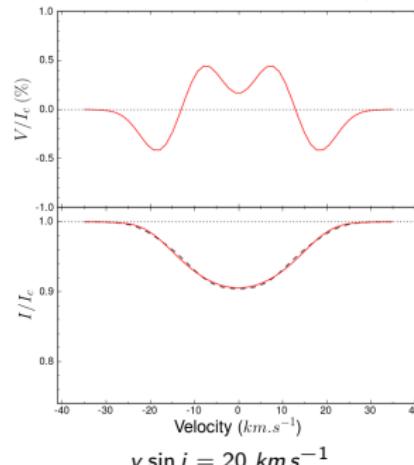
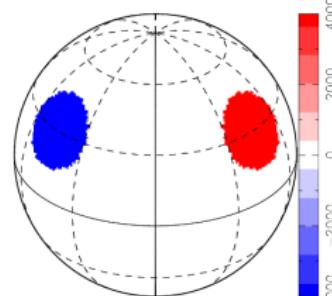
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  - The survey
  - Results : the mass–period diagram
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# The survey

- Multi-line + New generation instruments ESPaDOnS and NARVAL
- ➔ Systematic study of H-R diagram including M dwarfs
- Explore dynamo response to
  - Mass
  - Depth of convective zone
  - Rotation period

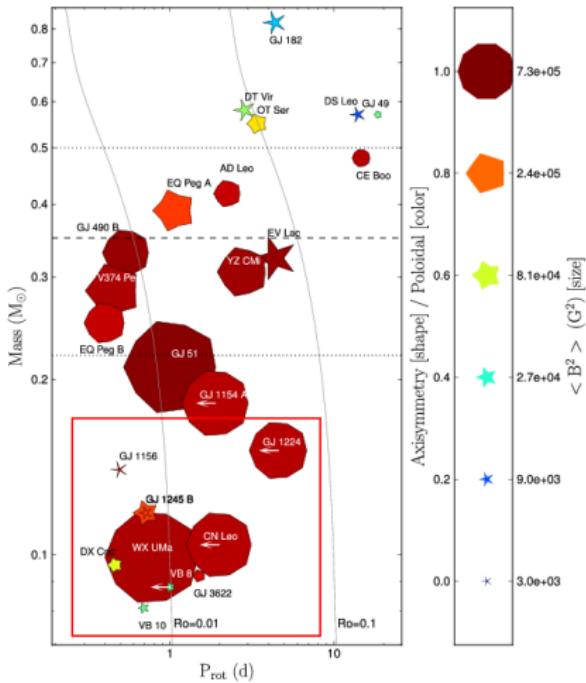
## ■ Measurements

- Stokes V time-series
- $\mathbf{B}$ : pol., tor., axi.
- Differential rotation
- Long-term evolution

## ■ M dwarfs

- 23 stars
- $0.08 < M_* < 0.75 \text{ M}_\odot$
- $0.33 < P_{\text{rot}} < 18.6 \text{ d}$
- Active

# Results : the mass–period diagram



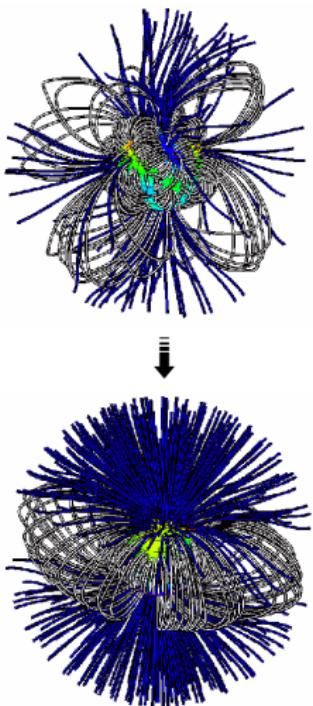
- Sharp transition  $\sim 0.5 M_{\odot}$
- Magnetic topologies
- Differential rotation

*Morin et al.(2008a,b),  
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Phan-Bao et al.(2009)*

- $M_{\star} < 0.2 M_{\odot}$ ;  $P_{\text{rot}} \sim d$
- 2 types of  $\mathbf{B}$
- Similar stellar parameters

*Morin et al.(2010)*

# Results : the mass–period diagram



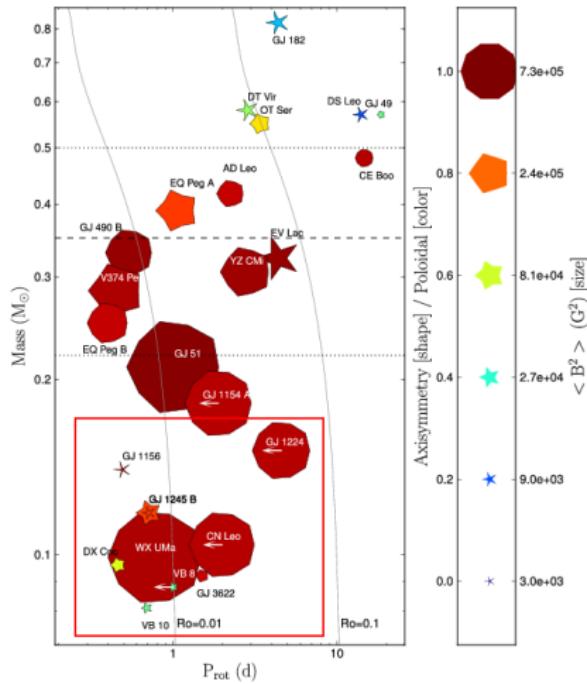
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- Two possible dynamo modes ?
- Switch between two states ?
- Influence of age ?

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  - Dynamo bistability: the idea
  - Dynamo bistability: observational tests
- 5 Summary

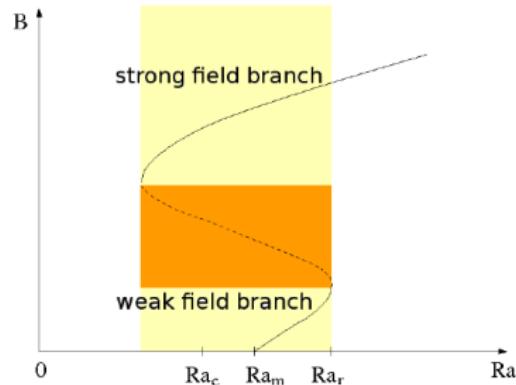
# Dynamo bistability: the idea

## ■ Dynamo bistability

- cf *Simeitev & Busse (2009)*
- $2 \neq$  dynamo types
- Depend on initial conditions/history
- *Morin et al. (2011), Gastine et al. (2013)*

## ■ Comparison w/ DNS

- Similar phenomenology
- Predictions
  - Extent of bistable domain
  - Differential rotation



*Morin et al. (2011),  
adapted from Roberts (1988)*

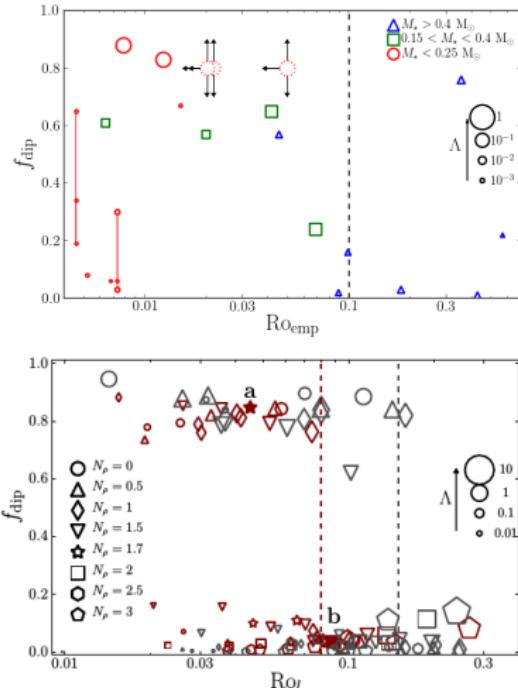
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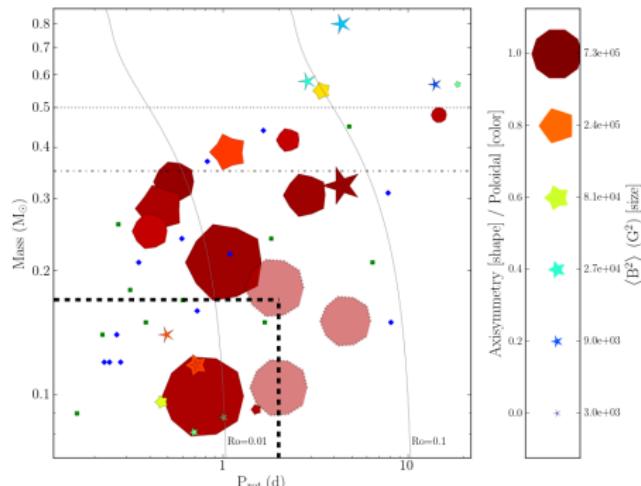
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*Gastine et al. (2013)*

# Dynamo bistability: observational tests

- Ongoing studies
- ESPaDOnS snapshot program 2013AB
  - Disentangle w/ age hyp
  - 1st results : more multipolar stars!
- Differential rotation
  - Systematic relation Topology  $\iff$  DR?



CFHT 13AB

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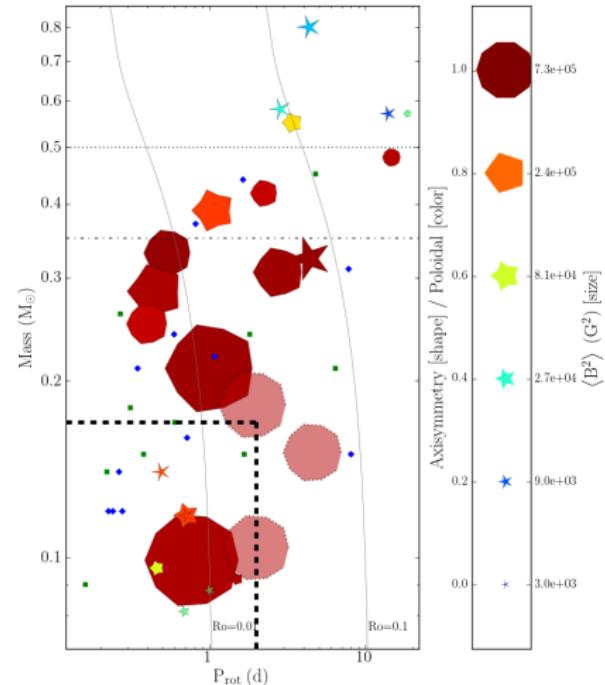
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## Dynamo bistability?

- ▶ Obs tests ongoing
- Alternative explanations?
  - Stellar age / kinematic pop.
  - Cyclic dynamo → *Kitchatinov+ (2014)*
  - Binaries : Binamics CFHT/TBL LP
- Implications
  - Origin of  $\neq$  fields?
  - $\Omega$  evolution? Activity BDs?
  - *Williams+ (2013); Cook+ (2013)*
  - bistability in DR?
  - *Gastine+ (2014); Käpylä+ (2014)*

## SPIRou

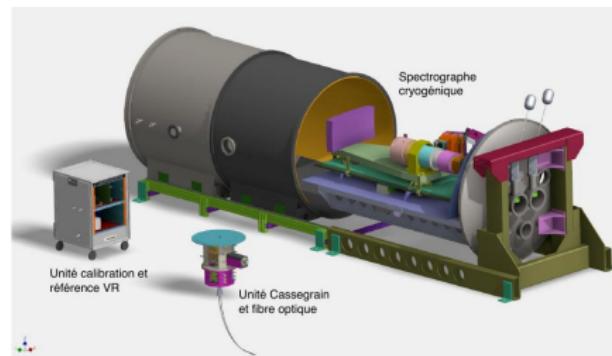
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  - Next big step forward
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