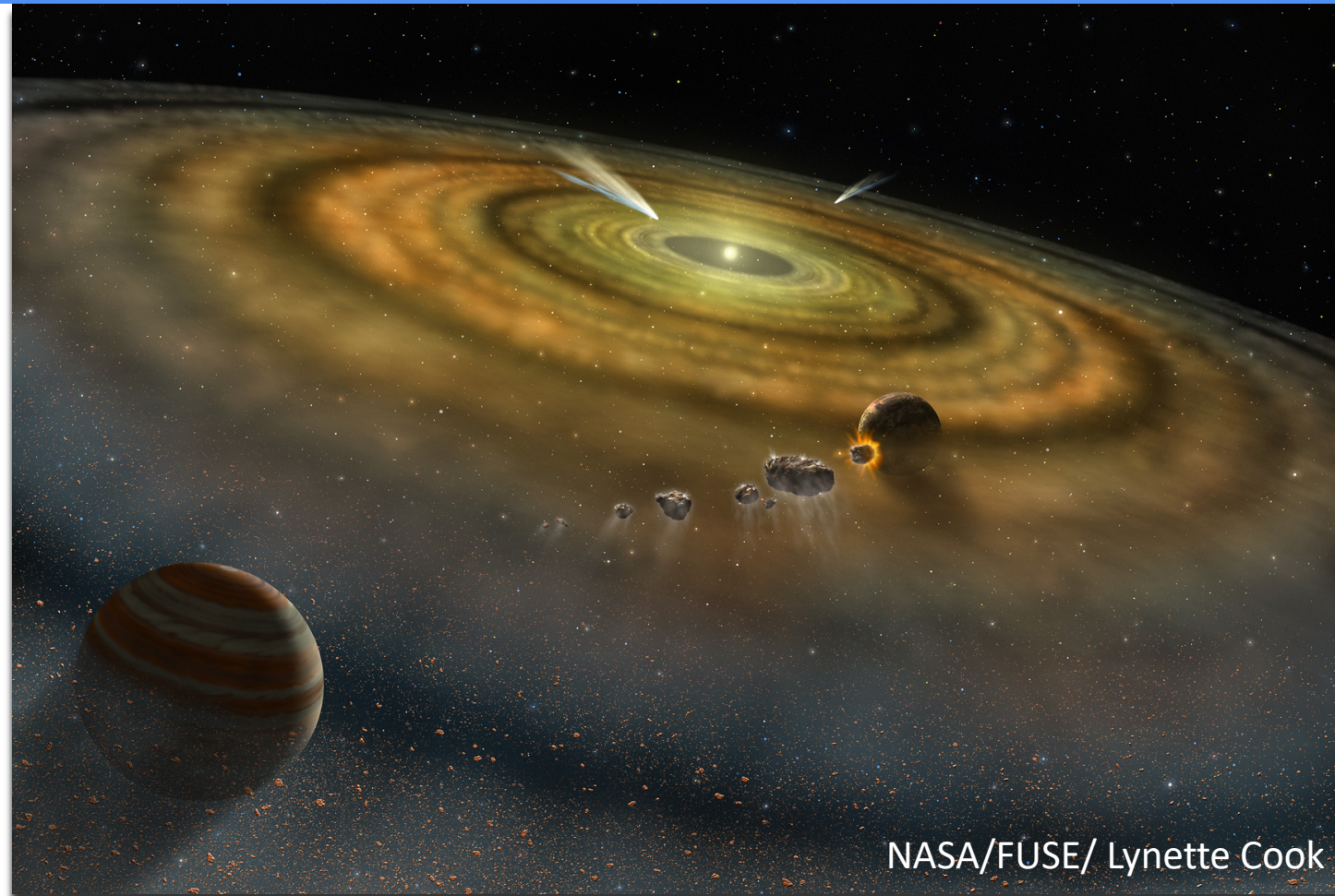
A satellite with solar panels is shown in the foreground on the left. In the background, a large orange planet dominates the right side, with two smaller dark planets visible against its surface. The scene is set against a starry space background.

Planet Occurrence as a Function of Metallicity to Probe Planet Formation

Cicero Lu, Kevin Schlaufman & Sihao Cheng (2020)

Johns Hopkins University

Core Accretion Model of Planet Formation

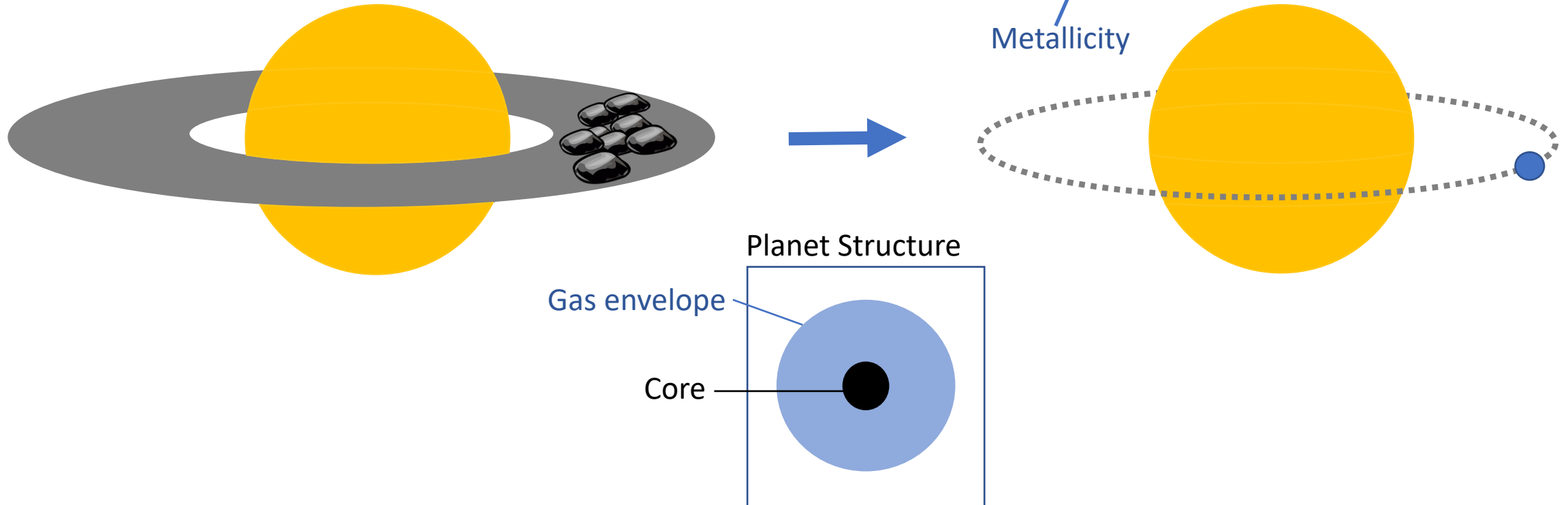


NASA/FUSE/ Lynette Cook

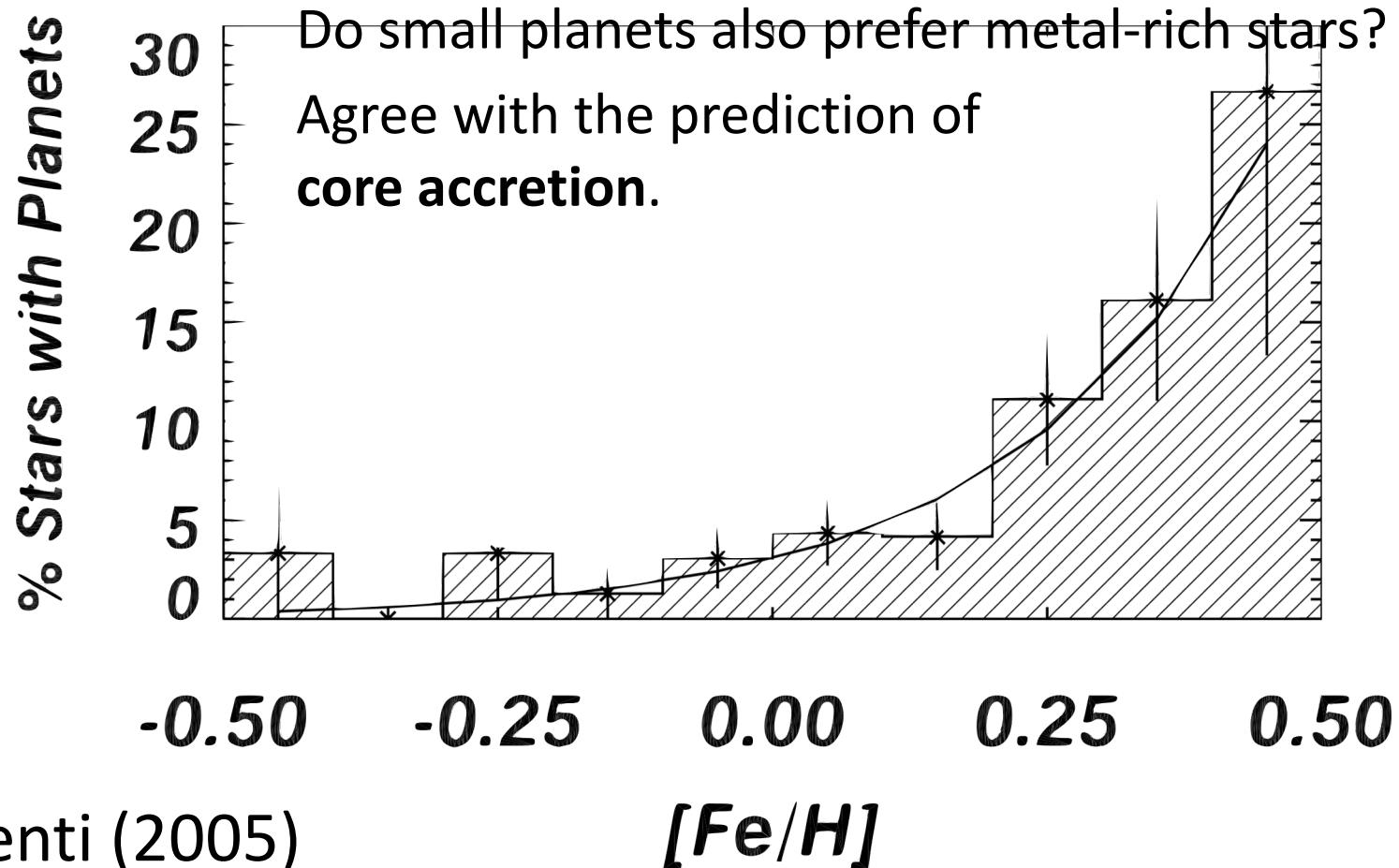
Core accretion

$$\triangleright p(\text{planet}) \sim M_{\text{disk metal}} \propto Z_{\star} M_{\star}$$

Metallicity



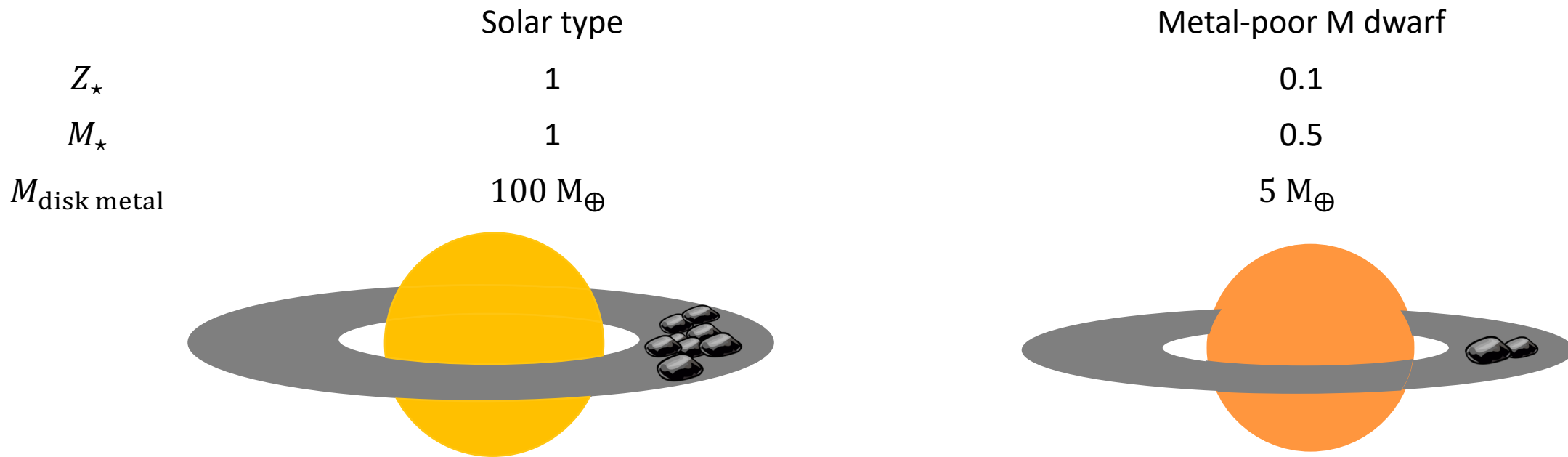
Giant planets prefer metal-rich stars.



Fischer & Valenti (2005)

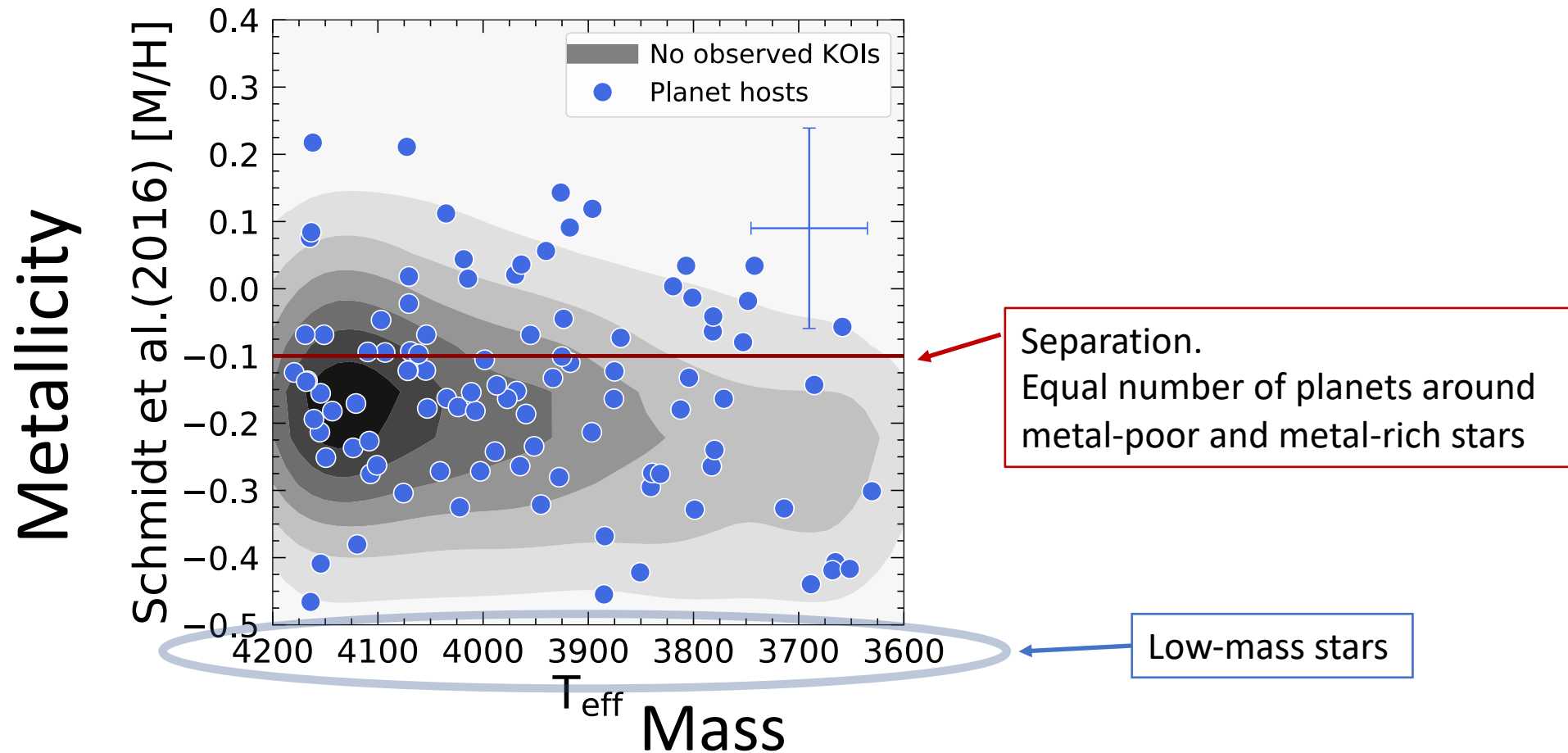
Do small planets also prefer metal-rich stars?

$$\triangleright p(\text{planet}) \sim M_{\text{disk metal}} \propto Z_{\star} M_{\star}$$



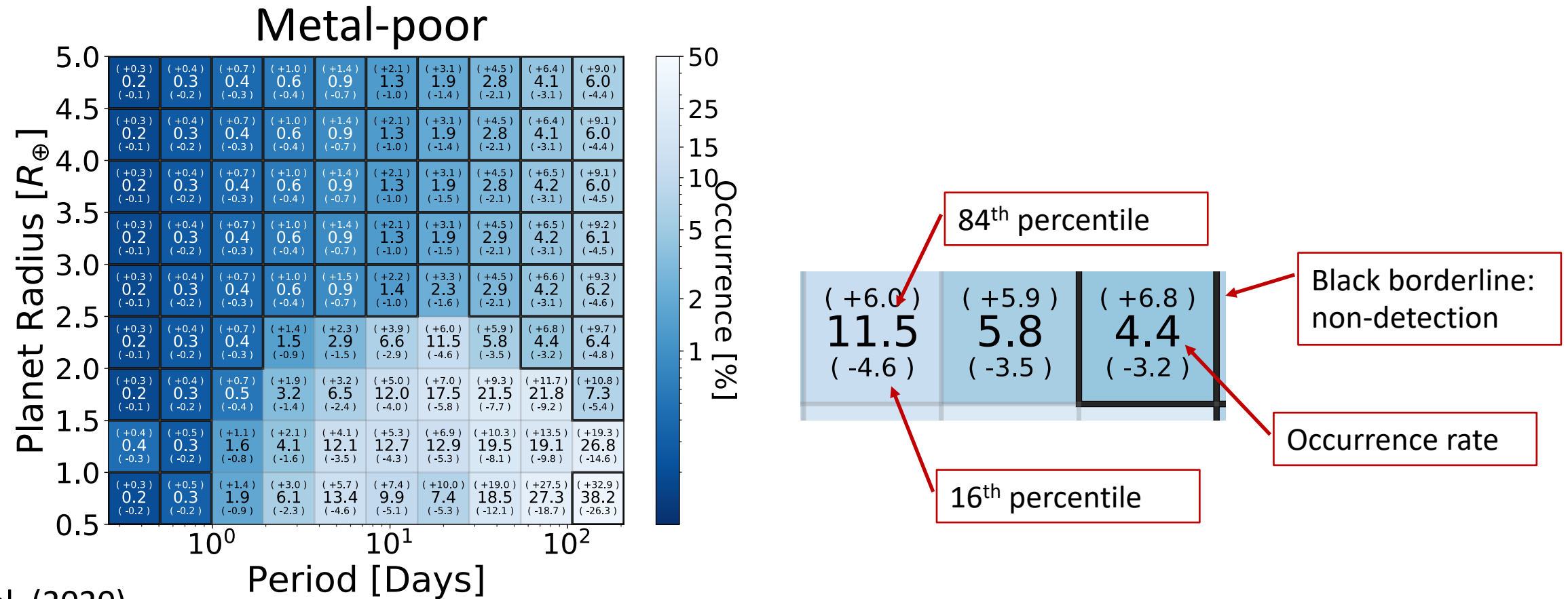
Scaling relations: Andrews et al. (2013, 2018); Gordon et al. (2003)

Separating metal-rich and metal-poor stars



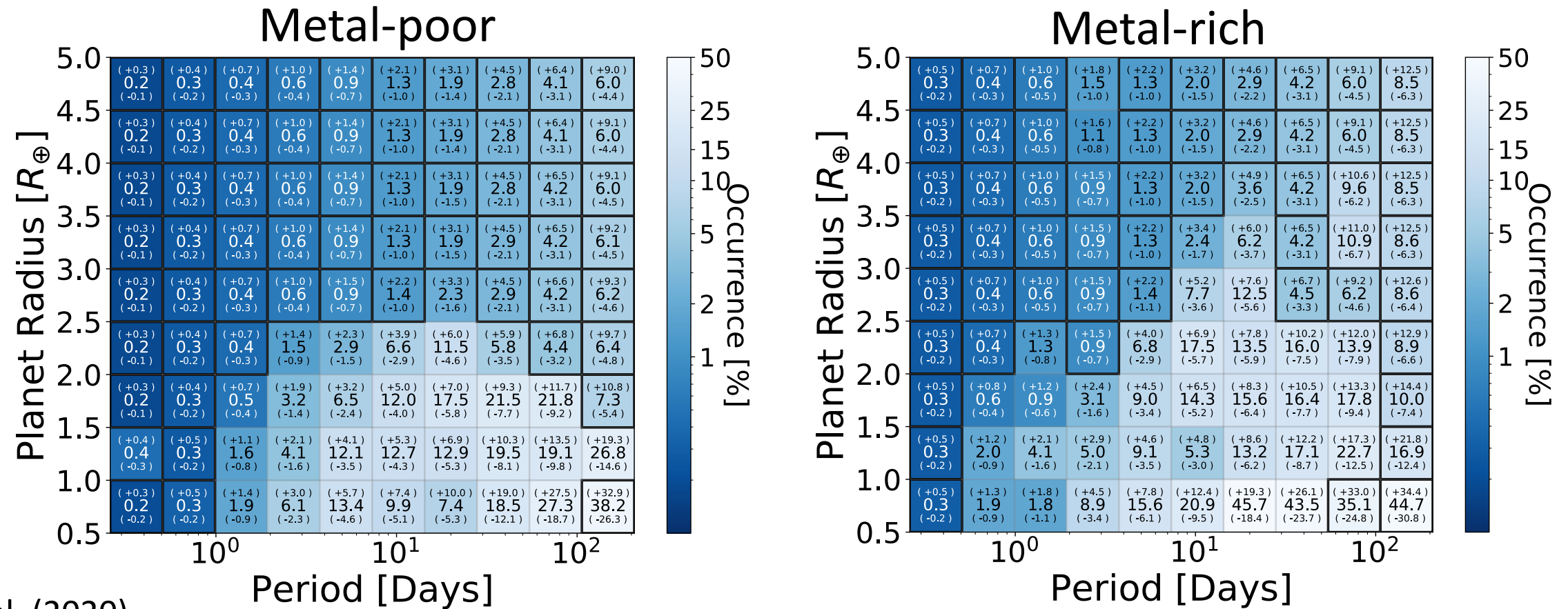
Lu et al. (2020)

Small Planet Occurrence Increases with Host Star Metallicity



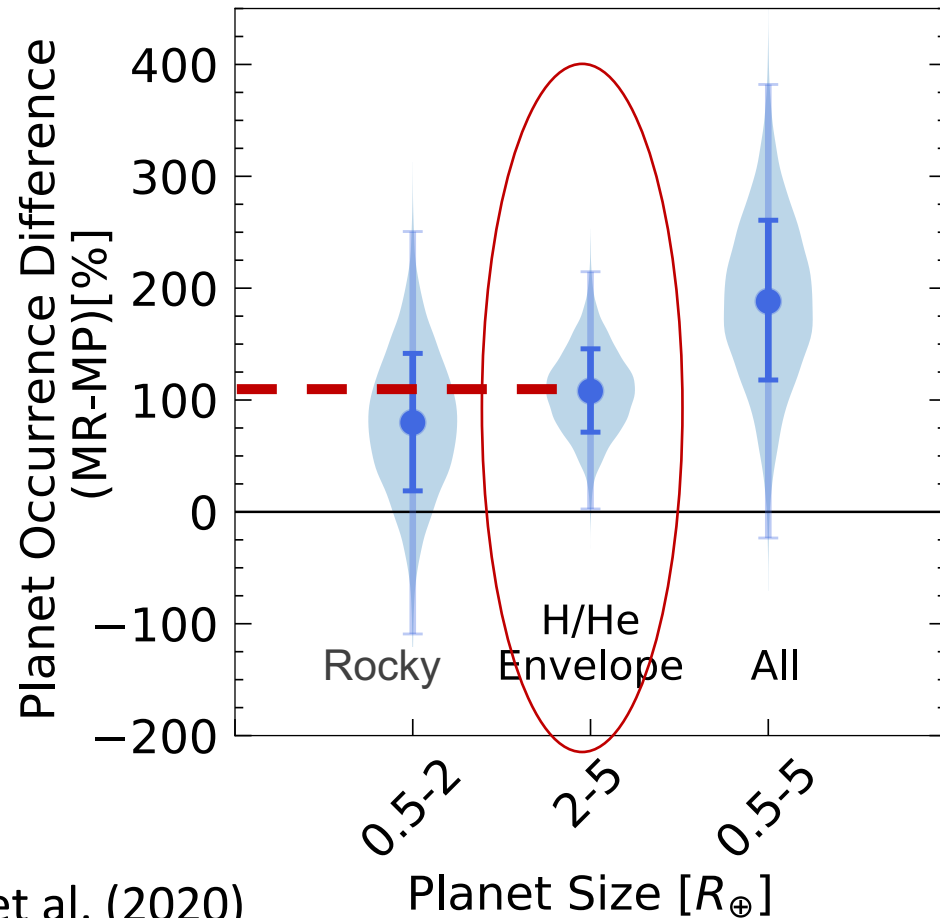
Lu et al. (2020)

Small Planet Occurrence Increases with Host Star Metallicity

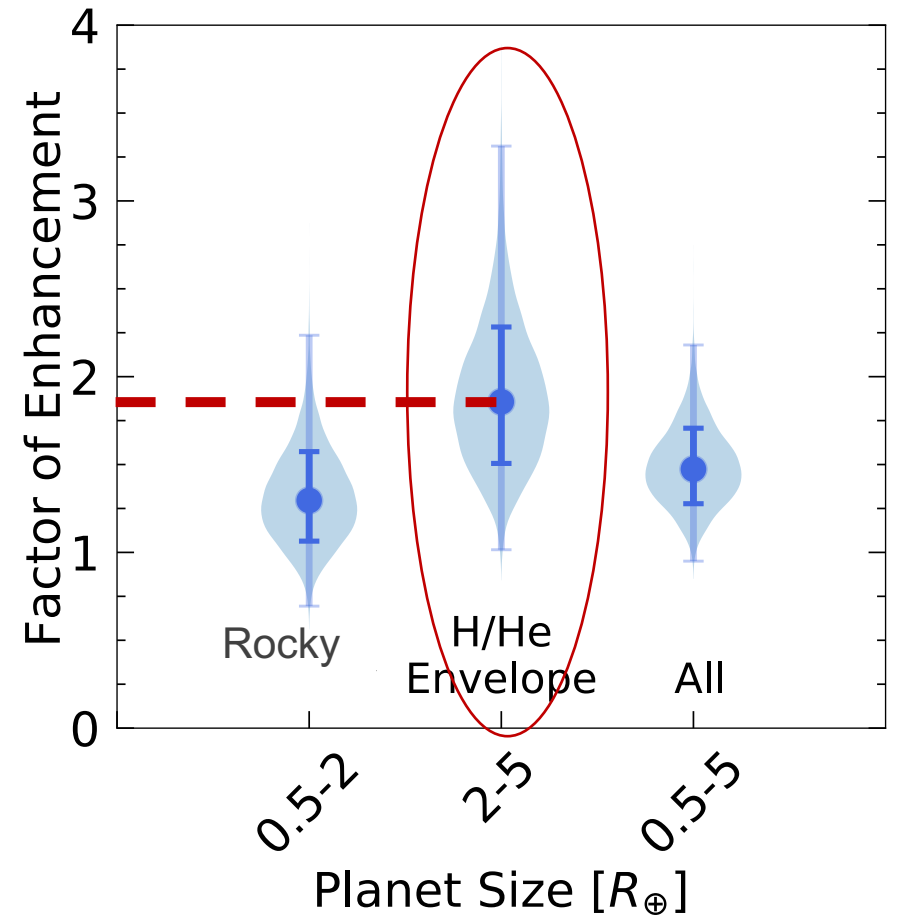


Lu et al. (2020)

Small planet occurrence rises linearly with metallicity



Lu et al. (2020)



Using planet occurrence to distinguish models of planet formation

Planetesimal accretion:

- slow
- uses ~30% of all solids

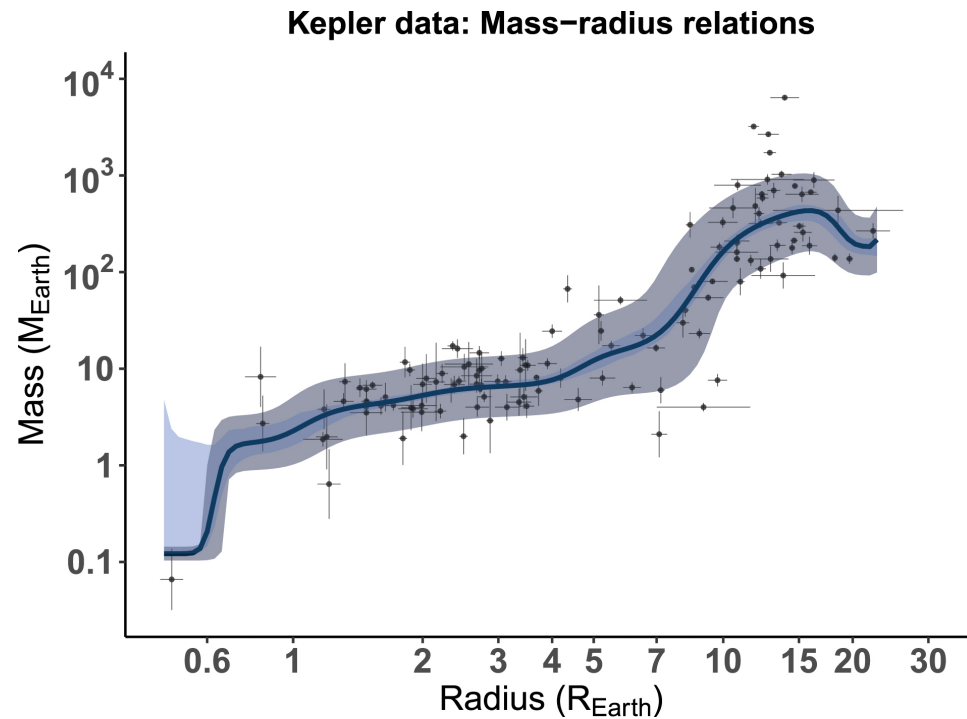
Pebble accretion:

- Fast but wasteful
- uses ~10% of all solids

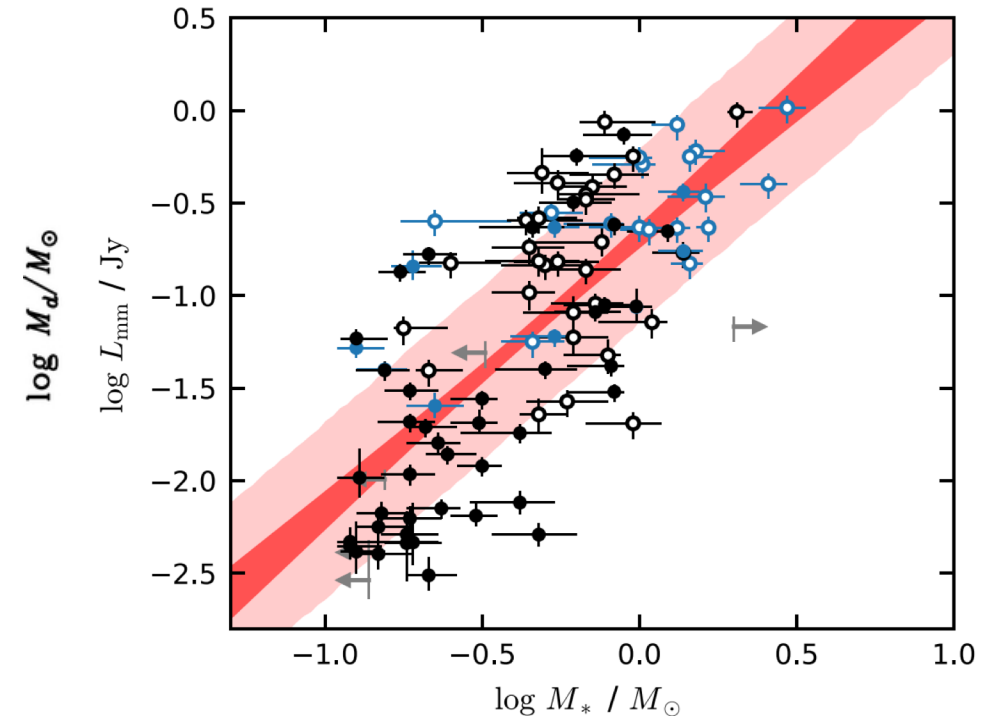
(Lin et al. 2019)

Estimate planet formation efficiency from Kepler data

Planet formation efficiency = Mass in planets/ Solids mass in the Disk



We convert sizes of planets into masses using Mass-radius relation (Ning et al. 2018 ; Kanodia et al. 2019) with MRE_{xo} .



Andrews et al. (2013, 2018) shows that the disk mass to is linear, with a typical disk-to-star mass ratio of $\sim 0.5\%$, with which we obtain the disk mass from. We estimate the mass of solids in the disk with stellar metallicity, because metallicity is a proxy of fraction of solids in the disk.

The small planets in the Kepler field favor the planetesimal accretion model.

Sample	Expected Mass in Planets (M_{\oplus})	Expected Mass in Disks (M_{\oplus})
Metal-poor	$16.5^{+0.6}_{-1.8}$	14
Metal-rich	$24.5^{+0.9}_{-2.5}$	28
Complete	$13.9^{+0.5}_{-1.2}$	20

Our results shows that planet formation efficiency exceeds 50%. Therefore, we favor planetesimal accretion model.

Alternatively, the disks in the Kepler field can be more massive than that of the solar neighborhood.

Caveats:

Kepler data is limited to planets with periods less than 200 days.

If more long-period planets exist, then the planet formation efficiency can change.

Summary

- We found that for small planets with radii between 2 to 5 Earth radii, their occurrence increases linearly with stellar metallicity.
- We investigated the planet formation efficiency to constrain planet formation model. We found that the small planets in the Kepler field favors the planetesimal accretion.