

A Spitzer Survey of Exoplanet Secondary Eclipses

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*I'll be looking for a
grad school next year!*

*I'm looking for a
new grad student!*

Atmospheres and Astrophysics

- Exoplanets combine planetary science and astrophysics observation
- For astrophysics, exoplanet data are awesome!
- For planetary science, quality is **terrible!**
- More info content in *one* Cassini image than all detected exoplanet photons combined
- Must interpret data or it's not science
- What can models do with so few points?
- When should we believe them?
- What can we do without them?

Spitzer Secondary Eclipses

- Emission by planets in bands 1-few μm wide
- 3.6, 4.5, 5.7, 8.0, 16, 24 μm
- **Many dozen** planets accessible
- Access some planets < 1000 K
- No comparable sensitivity at these wavelengths
 - Complements obs. at other wavelengths
- Eclipses can absolutely calibrate spectra
- Demonstrates need for EChO!
 - Purpose-built for stability on exoplanet spectra

UCF's Spitzer Exoplanet Program

- Dozens of Spitzer secondary eclipses
- POET: Photometry of Orbits, Eclipses, Transits
 - Precision centering (~ 0.01 pix)
 - Interpolated aperture photometry (cures pixelation)
 - Try dozens of systematics models per event
 - Statistical rigor: BIC selects/eliminates models
 - BLISS intrapixel mapper (Stevenson *et al.* 2012a)
 - Markov-chain Monte Carlo phase-space exploration
 - Tests: convergence, red noise, unimodality,...
 - Detailed methods descriptions in papers
- *Reliability slows things down and costs more*
- ~ 6 papers / yr, lead $\sim 2+$ / yr, ~ 1 high impact / yr

Why So Careful?

- Reanalyses show problems of simple analyses
- Events often weak, $<4\sigma$, upper limits
- Most analyses have right eclipse depths
 - A few multimodal ones might change
- BUT, many error bars are likely wrong
 - Too low: bad, eliminate valid theory
 - Too high: also bad, accept invalid theory
- Reviewers (*US!*) should be pickier!
 - Many models, show posterior dist., show tests
 - Our papers discuss what to look for & why

Eclipses In Ensemble

- Plot aggregate exoplanet eclipse data
 - ID trends, behavior types
 - Motivate theoretical work
- Model-based comparisons
 - Who has an inversion (at depths probed)?
 - When does disequilibrium chemistry happen?
- Good to do, but depends on 1D models based on too few points

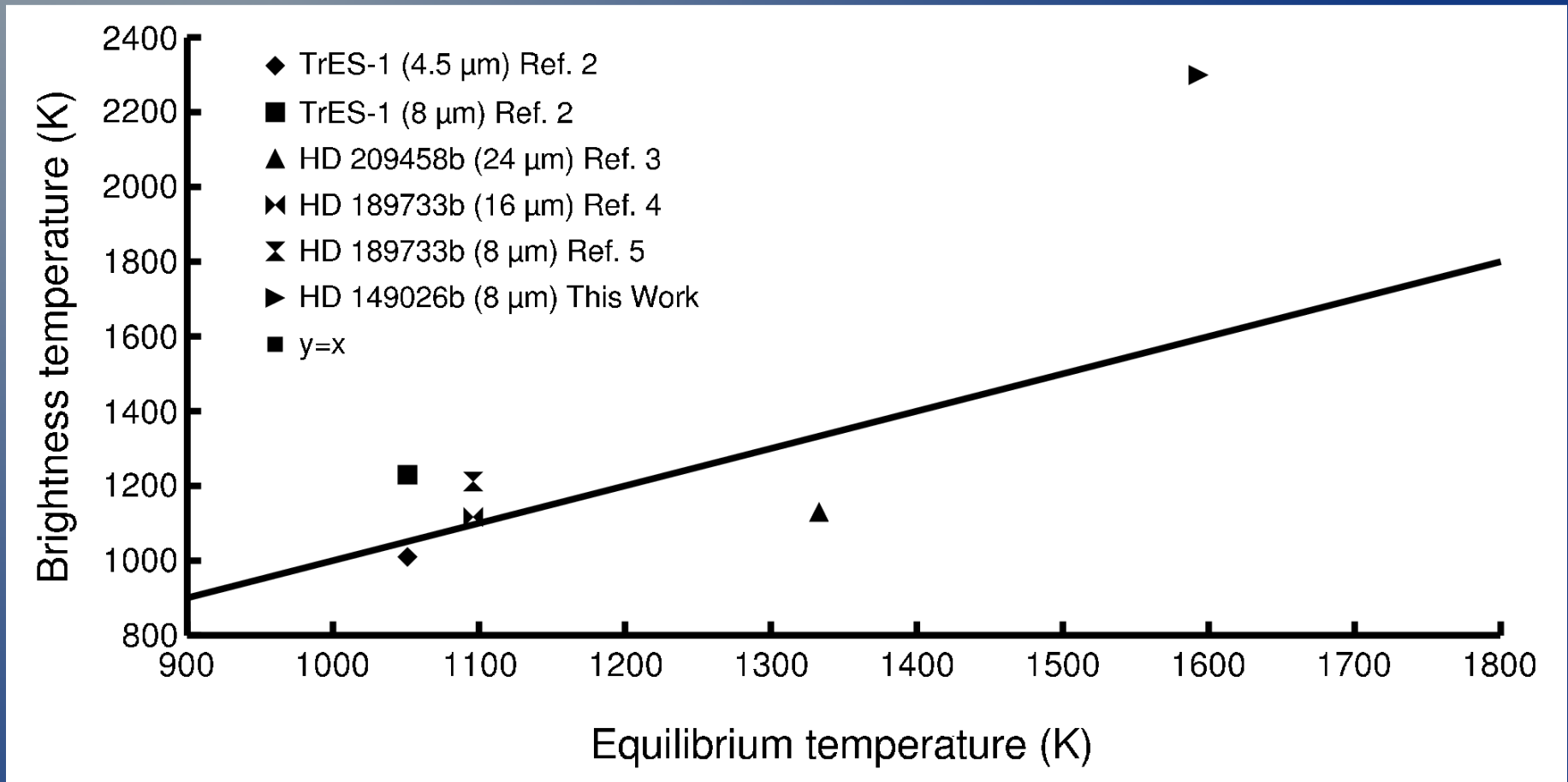
Model-Independent Comparison

- Want model-independent atmospheric statistic
- Compare planetary output to input fluxes
- Compare measured output fluxes to each other
 - Same or different planet
- Intuitive units wrt chemistry, clouds
- Stellar fluxes differ for each planet, not intuitive
- Neither are eclipse depths (depend on star)
- Temperature is usual atmos. energy parameter
- Try brightness (T_b) vs. equilibrium (T_{eq}) temps

Brightness Temperature

- Temperature of a similar blackbody that would give observed flux in that bandpass
- Measure of *flux*, not T , but related to object T
- If object is BB $\rightarrow T_b = T$ in all filters
- T_{eq} is BB temp balancing received radiation
- Can relate T_b to chemical & cloud temps

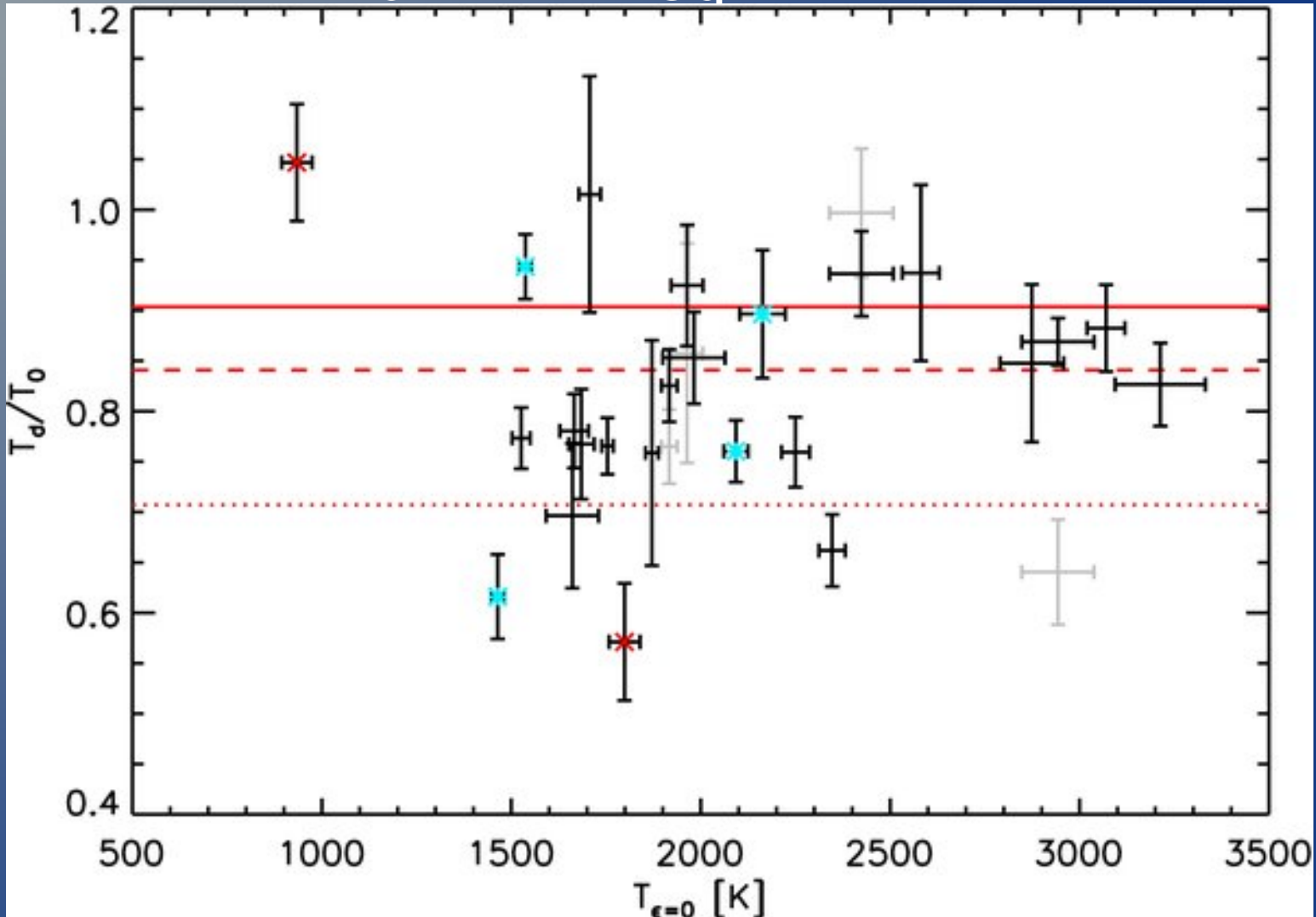
T_b vs. T_{eq} : 2007



Just 6 measurements on 4 planets!

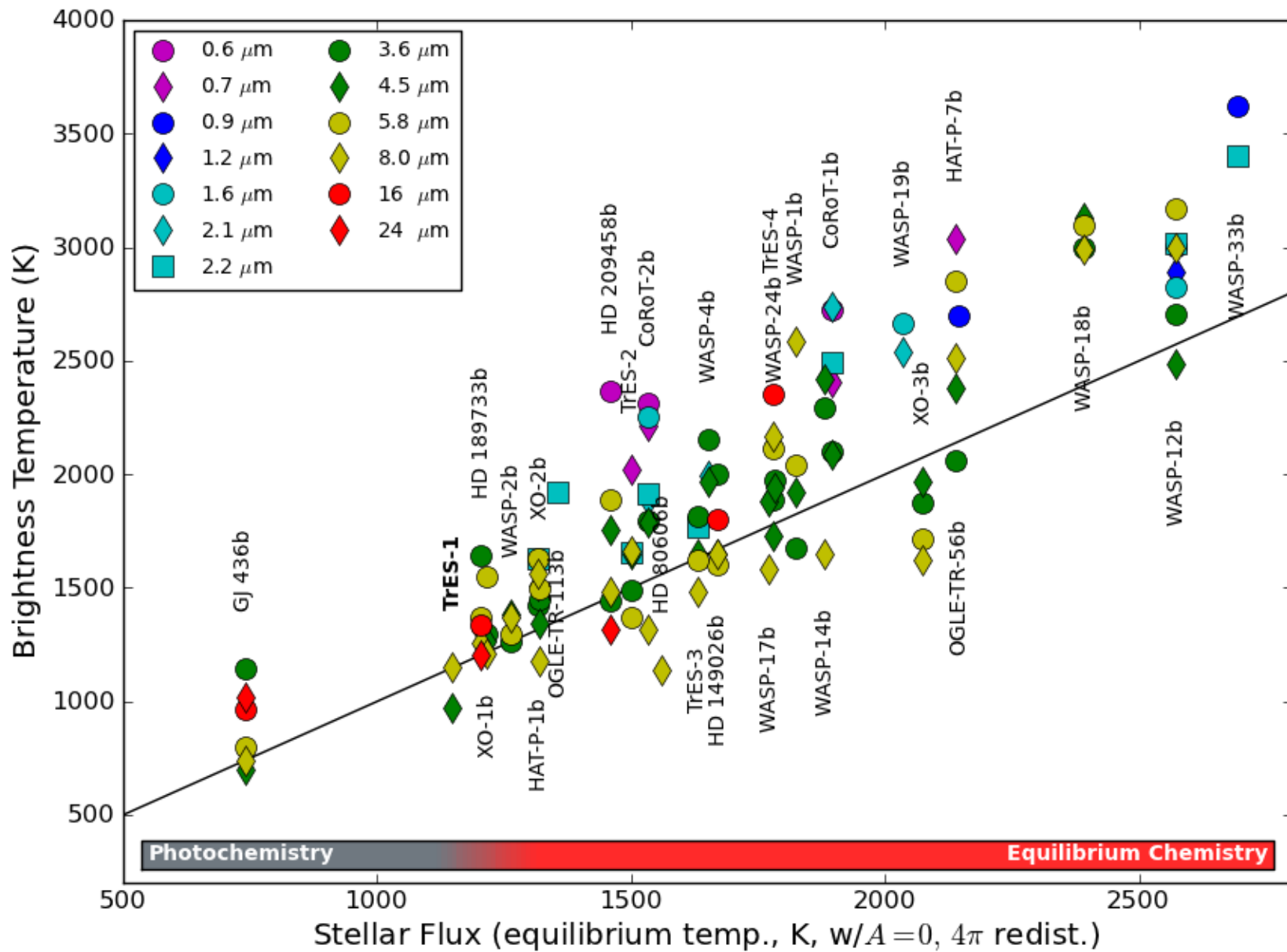
Harrington et al. (2007), *Nature*
Assumes $A=0.3$, uniform emission

T_b vs. T_{eq} : 2011



High temp more consistent than low.

Cowan and Agol (2011), *ApJ*
Assumes $A=0$, substellar



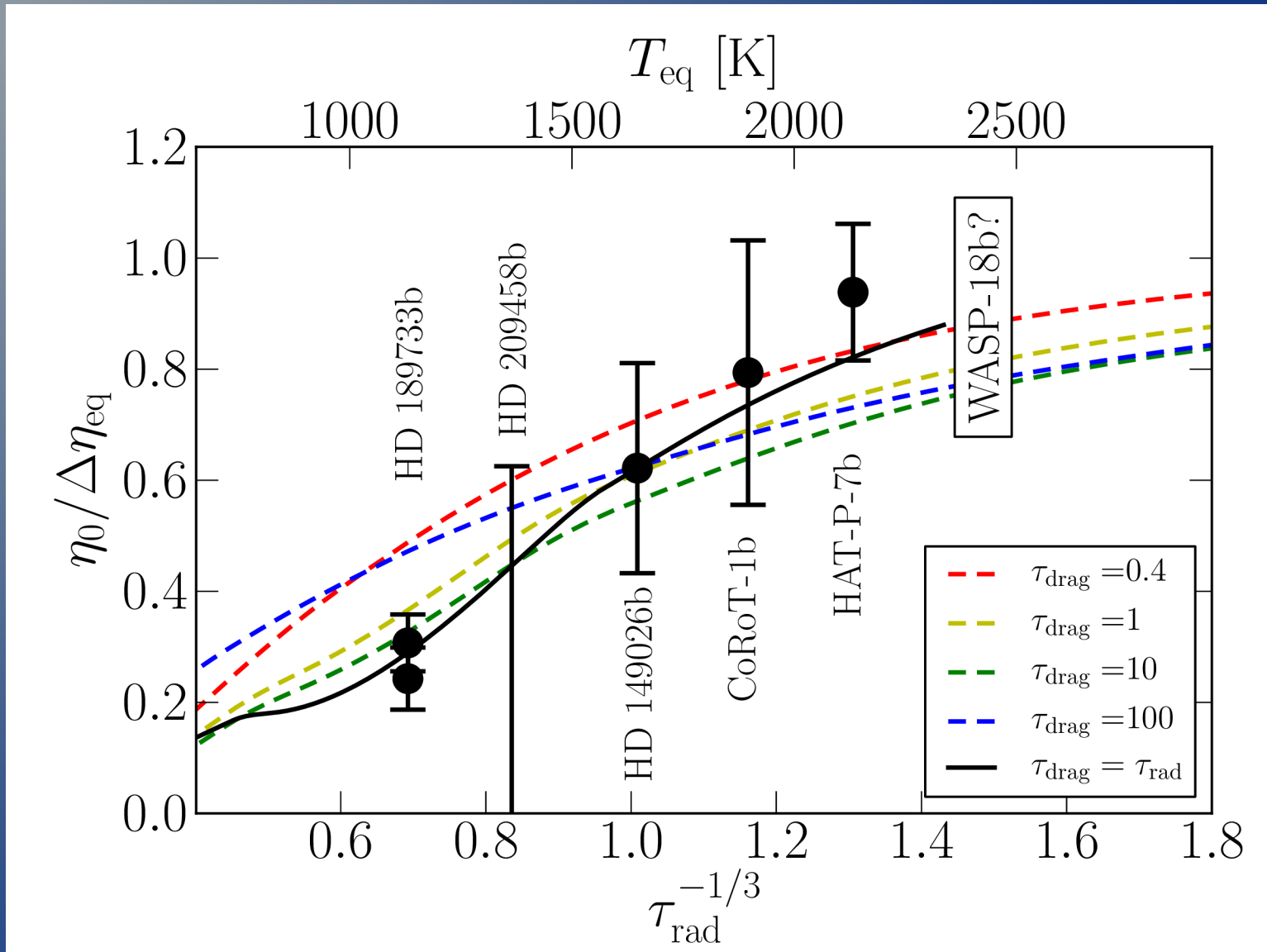
Mechanisms

- Transition cloudy -> cloudless (cf brown dwarfs)
 - But maybe $T(p)$ profiles too steep to have clouds on many planets?
 - Data not yet clear
 - Just a few planets with higher albedo

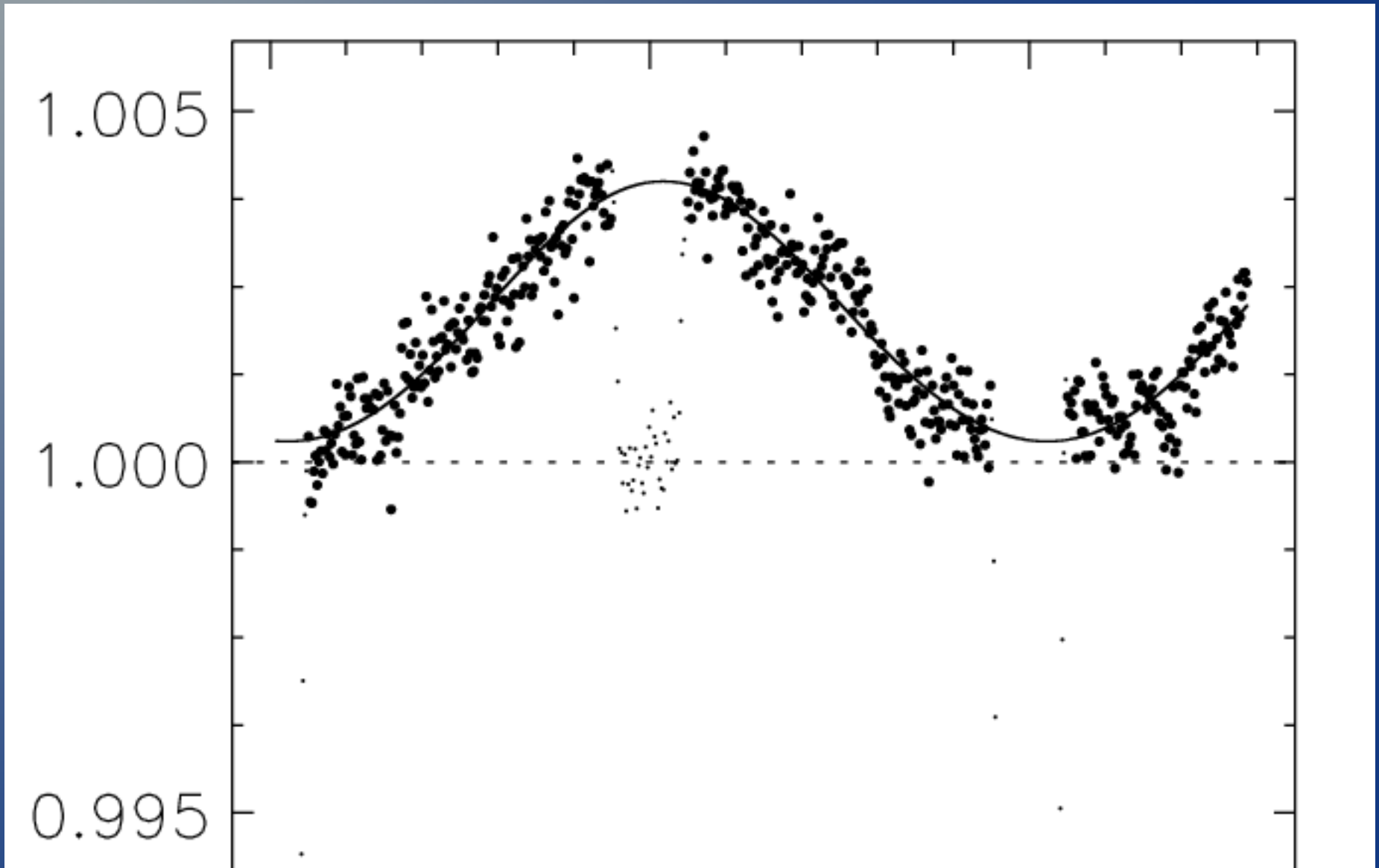
Mechanisms

- Transition cloudy -> cloudless (cf brown dwarfs)
- Breakdown of circulation ($\tau_{\text{rad}} < \tau_{\text{advect}}$)
 - Discussed by Showman & Guillot (2002)
 - τ_{rad} becomes so short that heat leaves fast
 - No time to advect to night side
 - Poor heat redistribution

Prediction for Phase Curves



WASP-18b 4.5- μm Phase Curve



Mechanisms

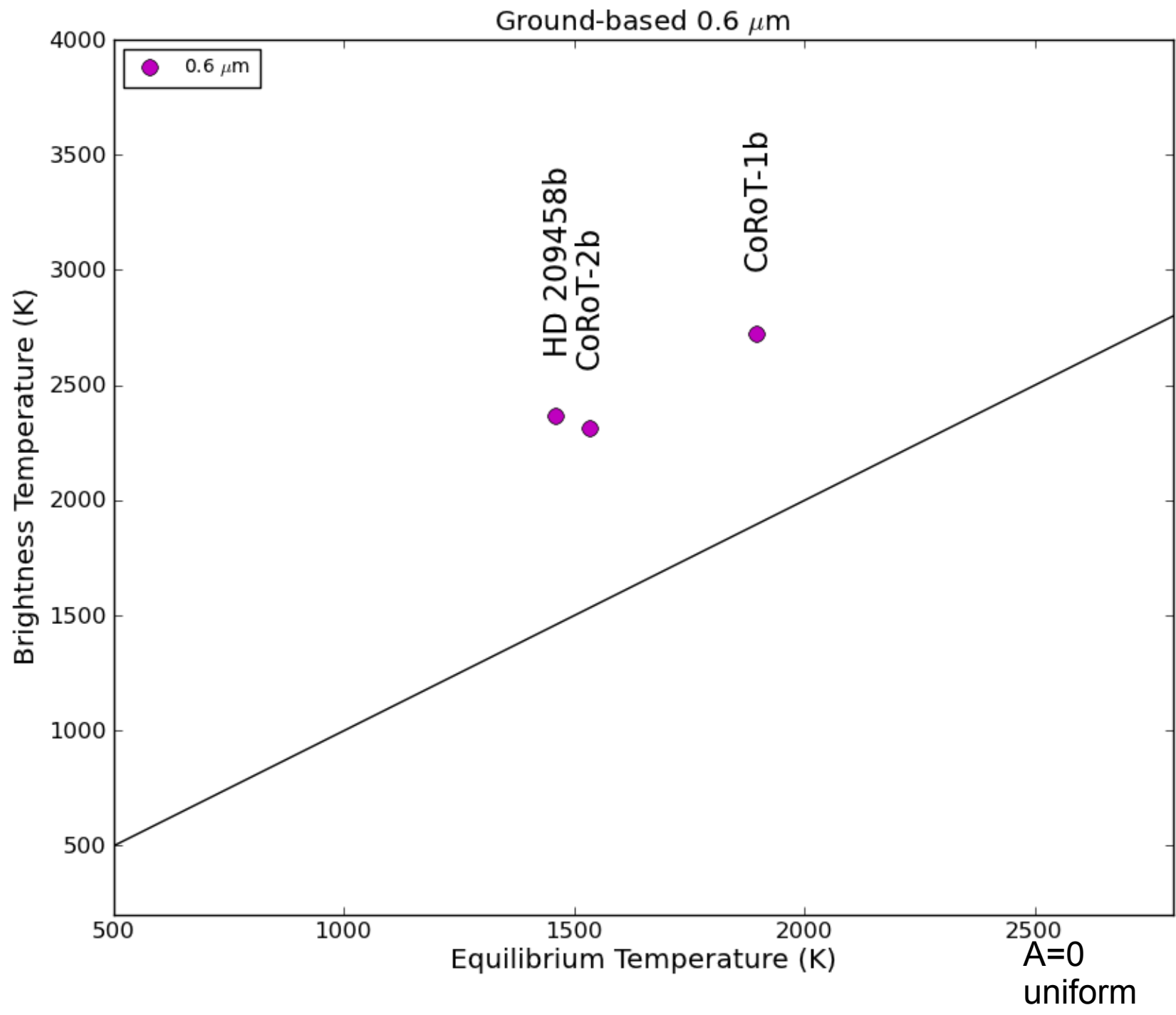
- Transition cloudy -> cloudless (cf brown dwarfs)
- Breakdown of circulation ($\tau_{\text{rad}} < \tau_{\text{advect}}$)
- Lack of TiO cold trap
 - Still not clear when it condenses
 - Should exist...
 - Should be abrupt

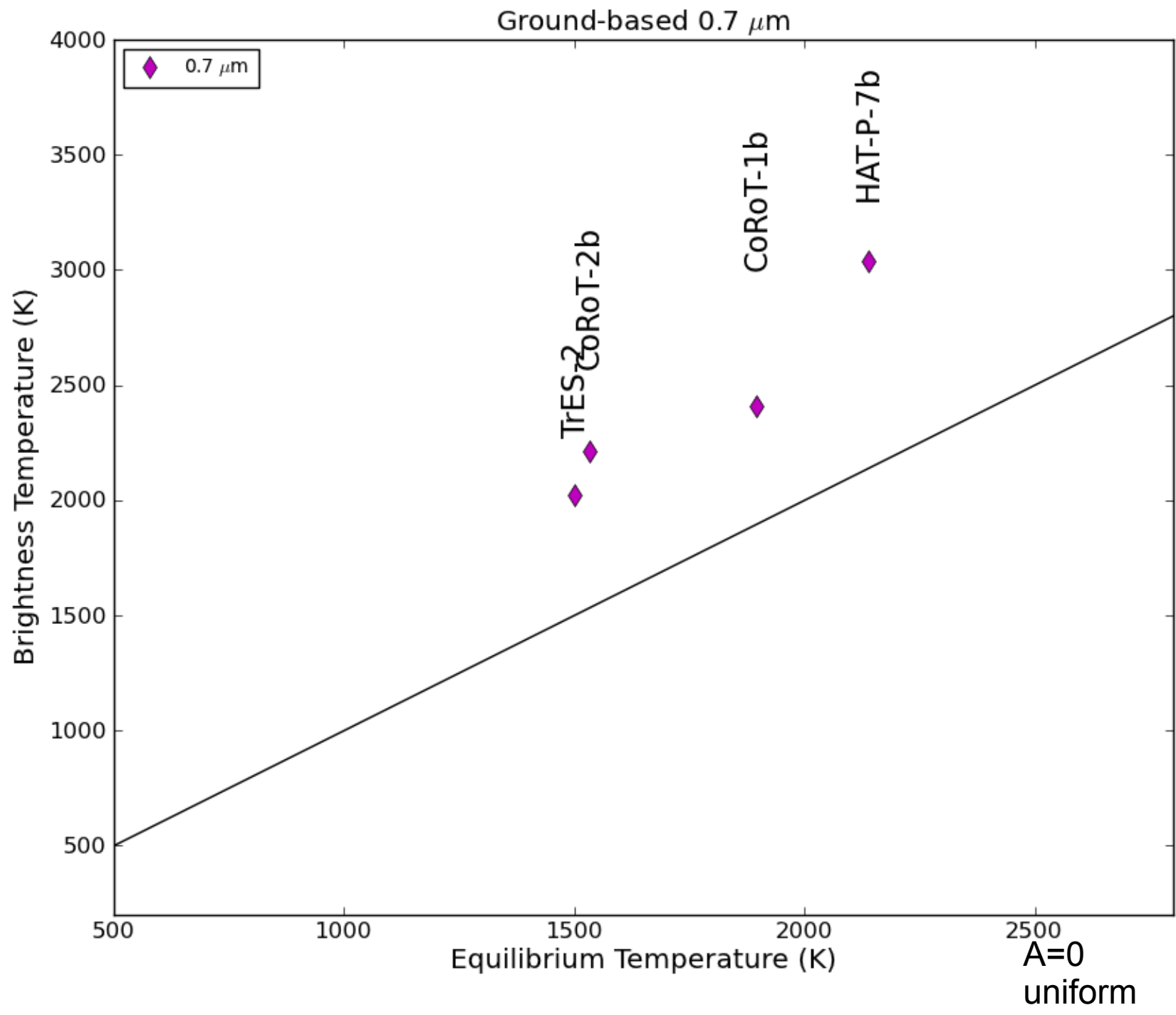
Mechanisms

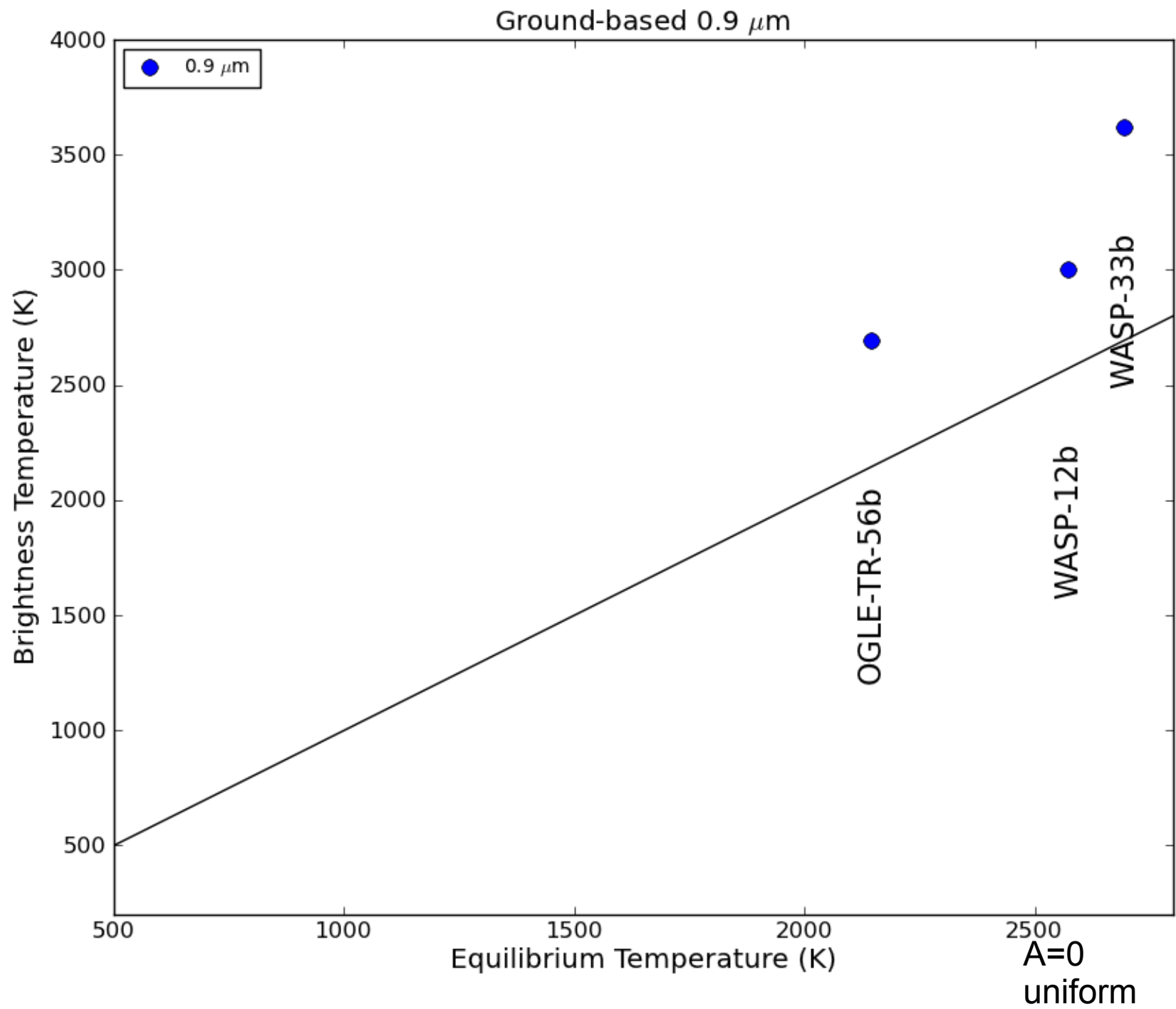
- Transition cloudy -> cloudless (cf brown dwarfs)
- Breakdown of circulation ($T_{\text{rad}} < T_{\text{advect}}$)
- Lack of TiO cold trap
- Other heating mechanisms
 - Mechanical (K_{zz}) greenhouse
 - Ohmic heating
 - High opacity of ions from ohmic heating?
- Onset seems sharp
- Need to fill in gaps & get points ~1800-2000 K

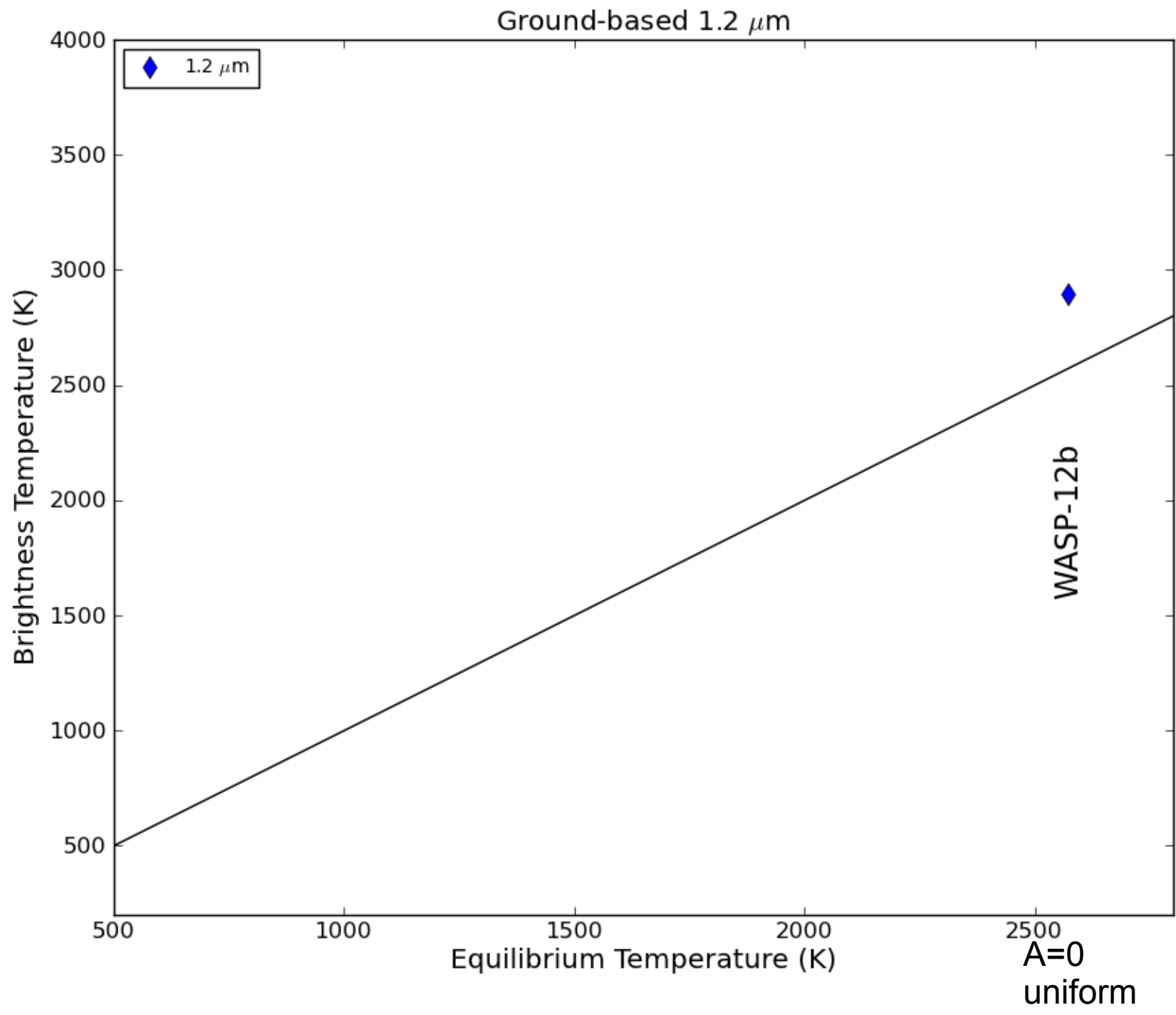
Conclusions

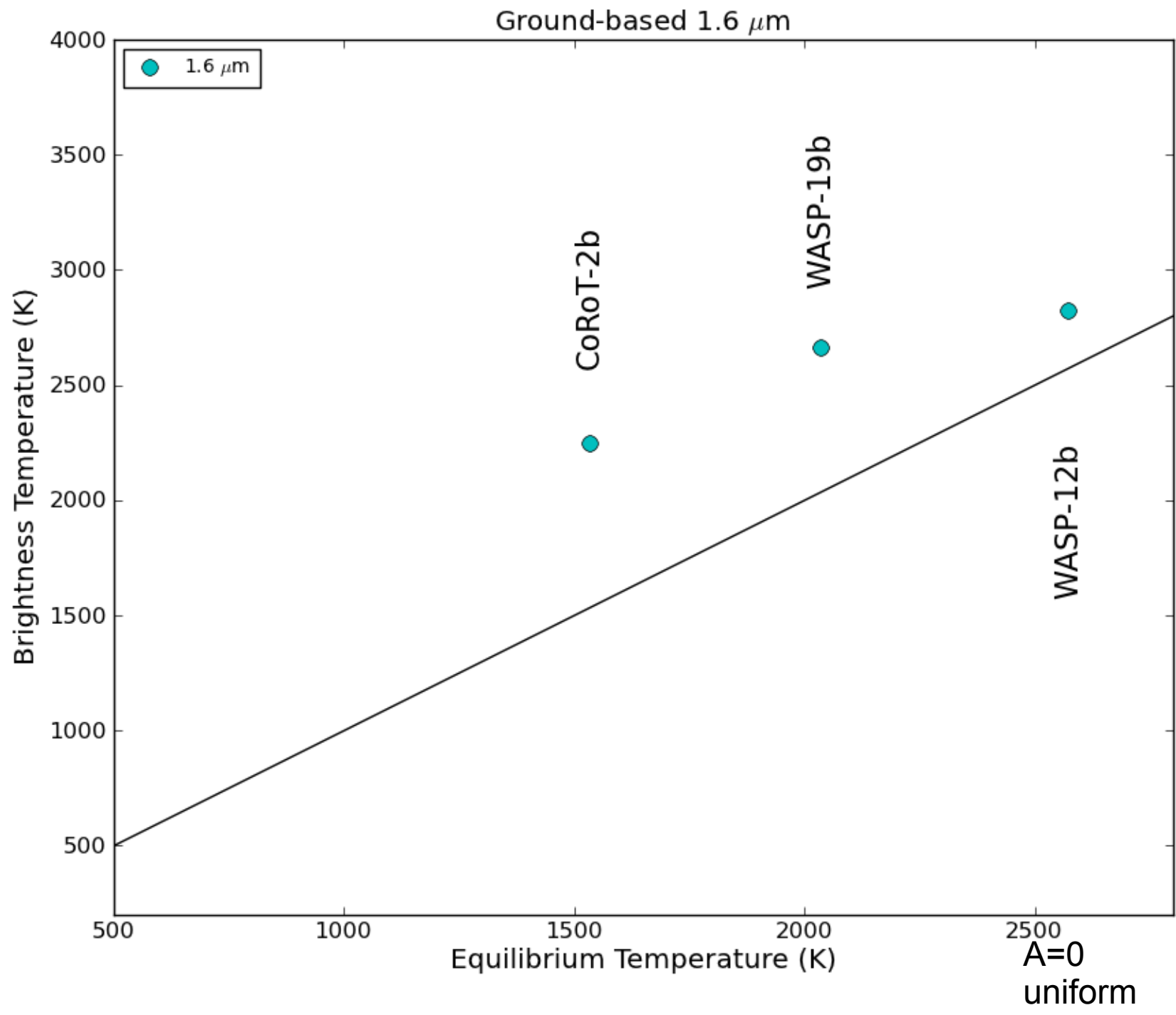
- Model-independent T_b vs. T_{eq} plot shows
 - Clear difference between $T_{eq} \leftrightarrow \sim 2000$ K
 - Promising: breakdown of circulation
 - Need more $T_{eq} < 1200$ K obs (hard!)
 - $T_{eq} > 2000$ K possible from ground!

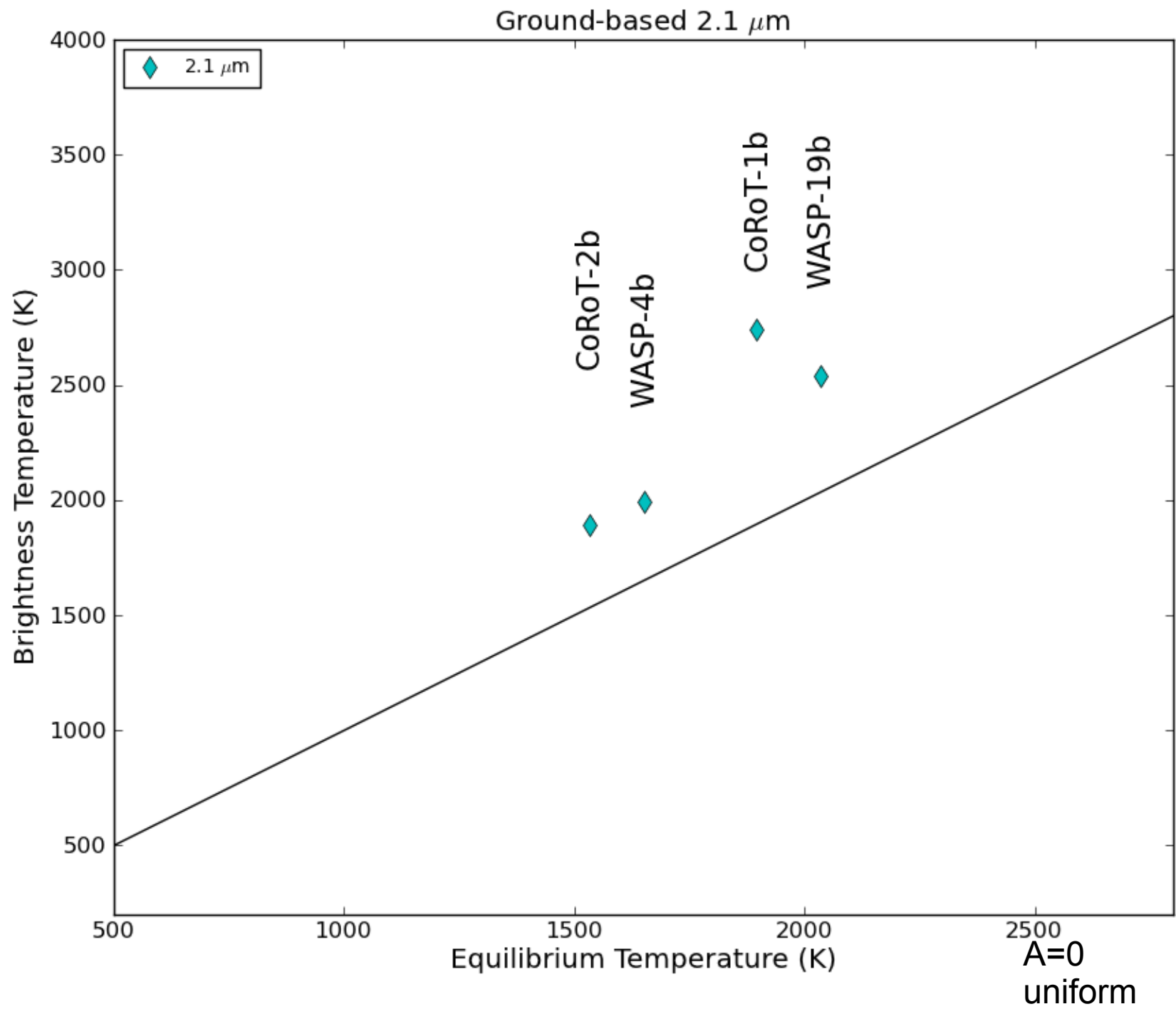


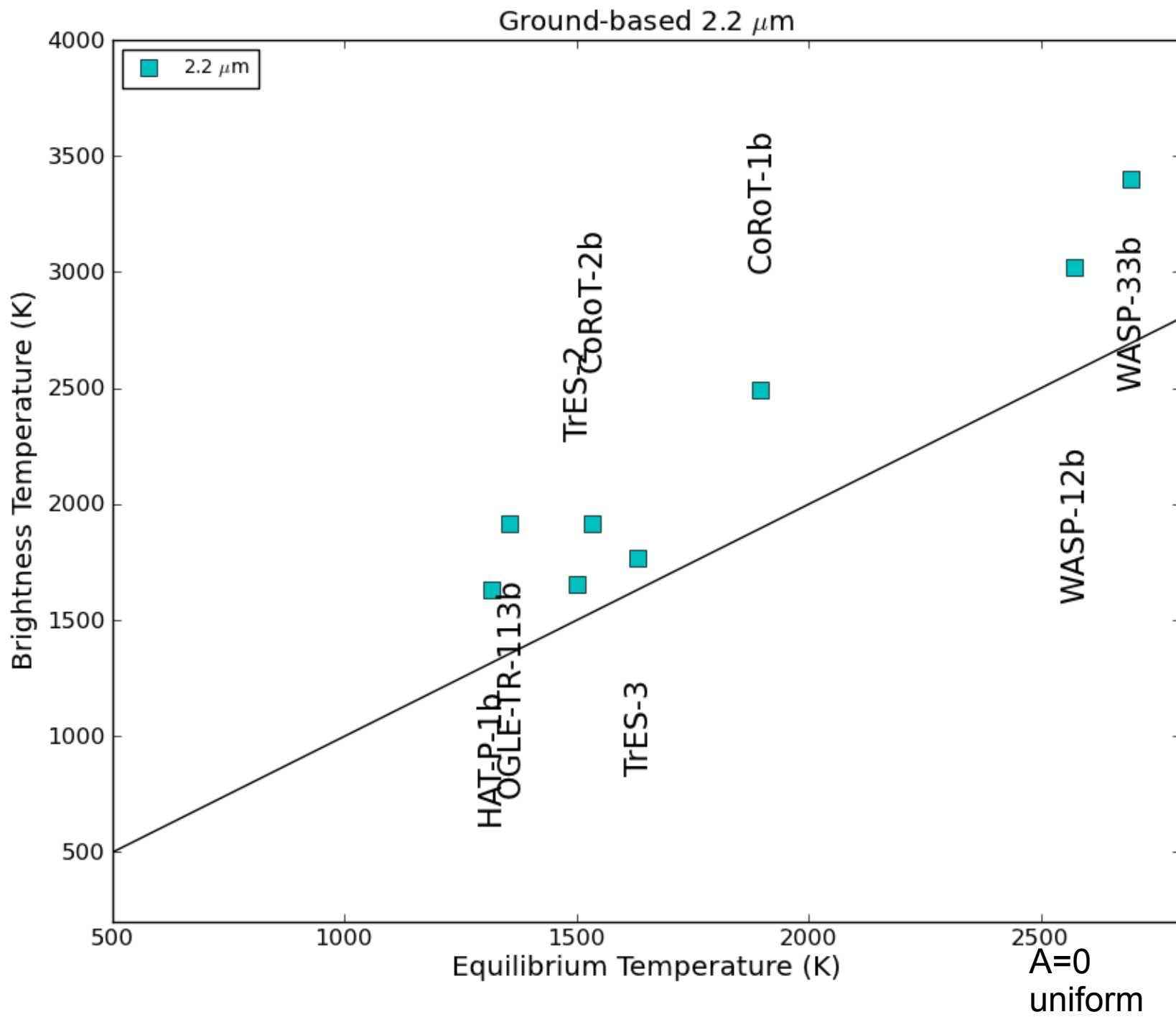


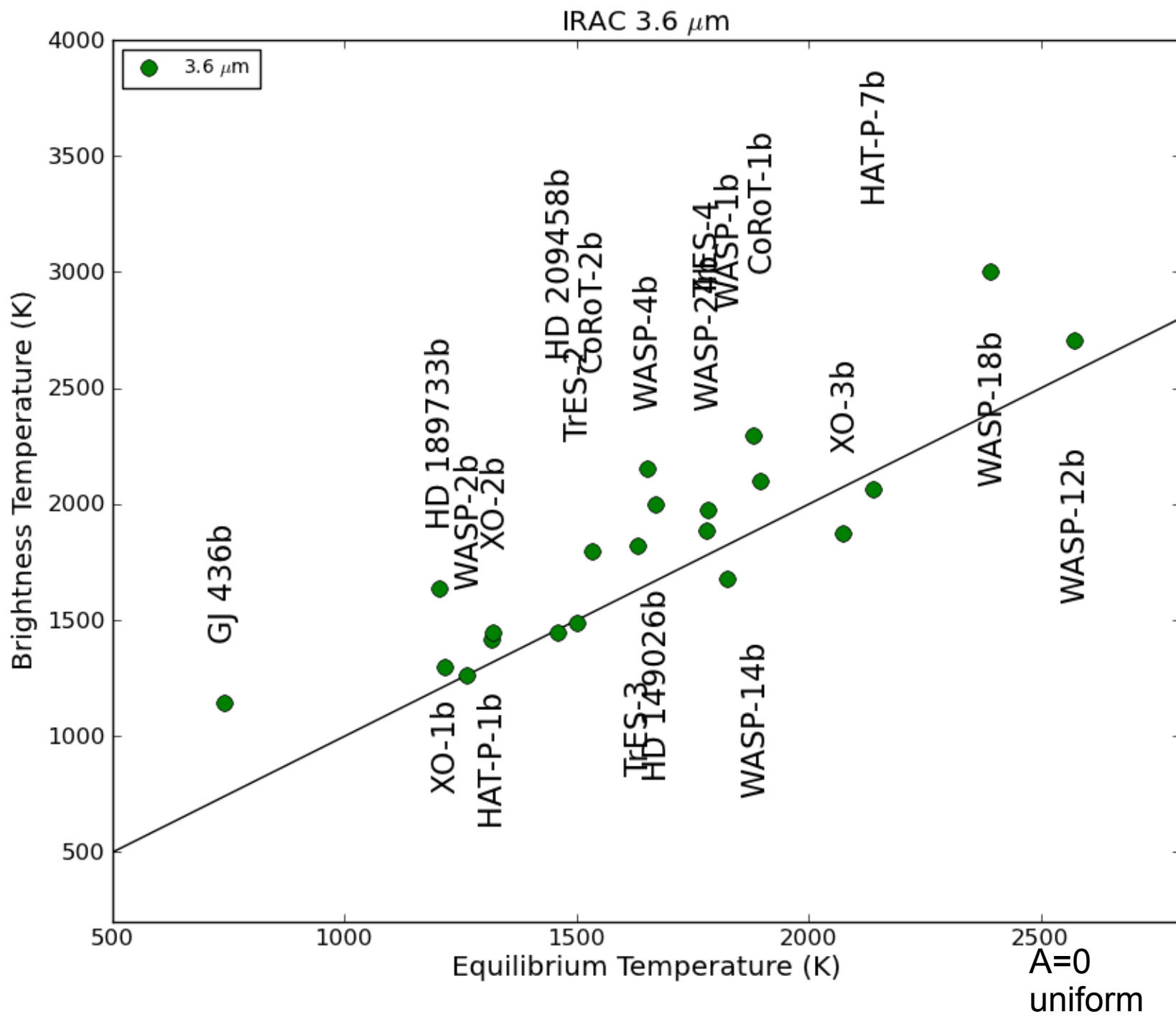


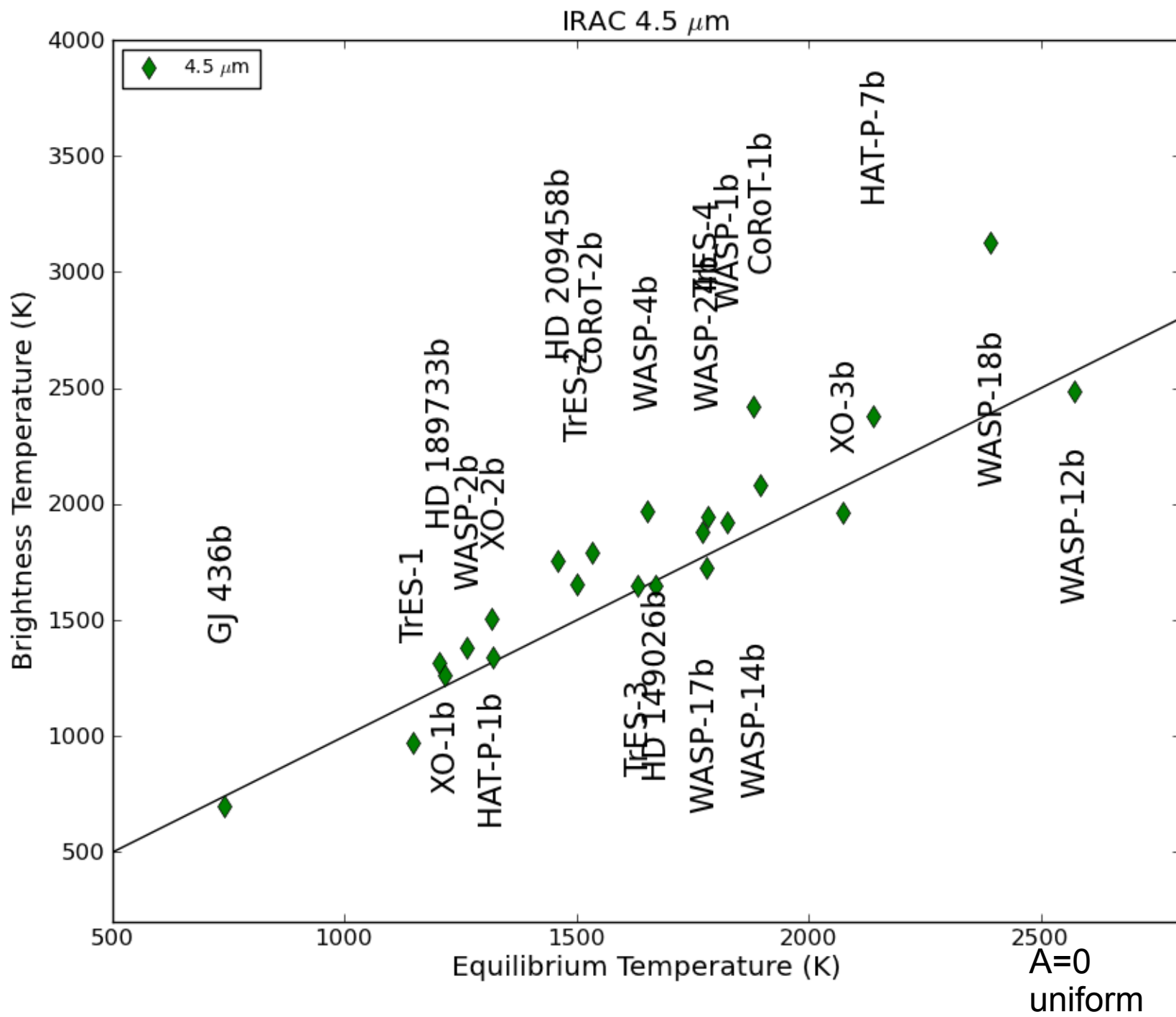


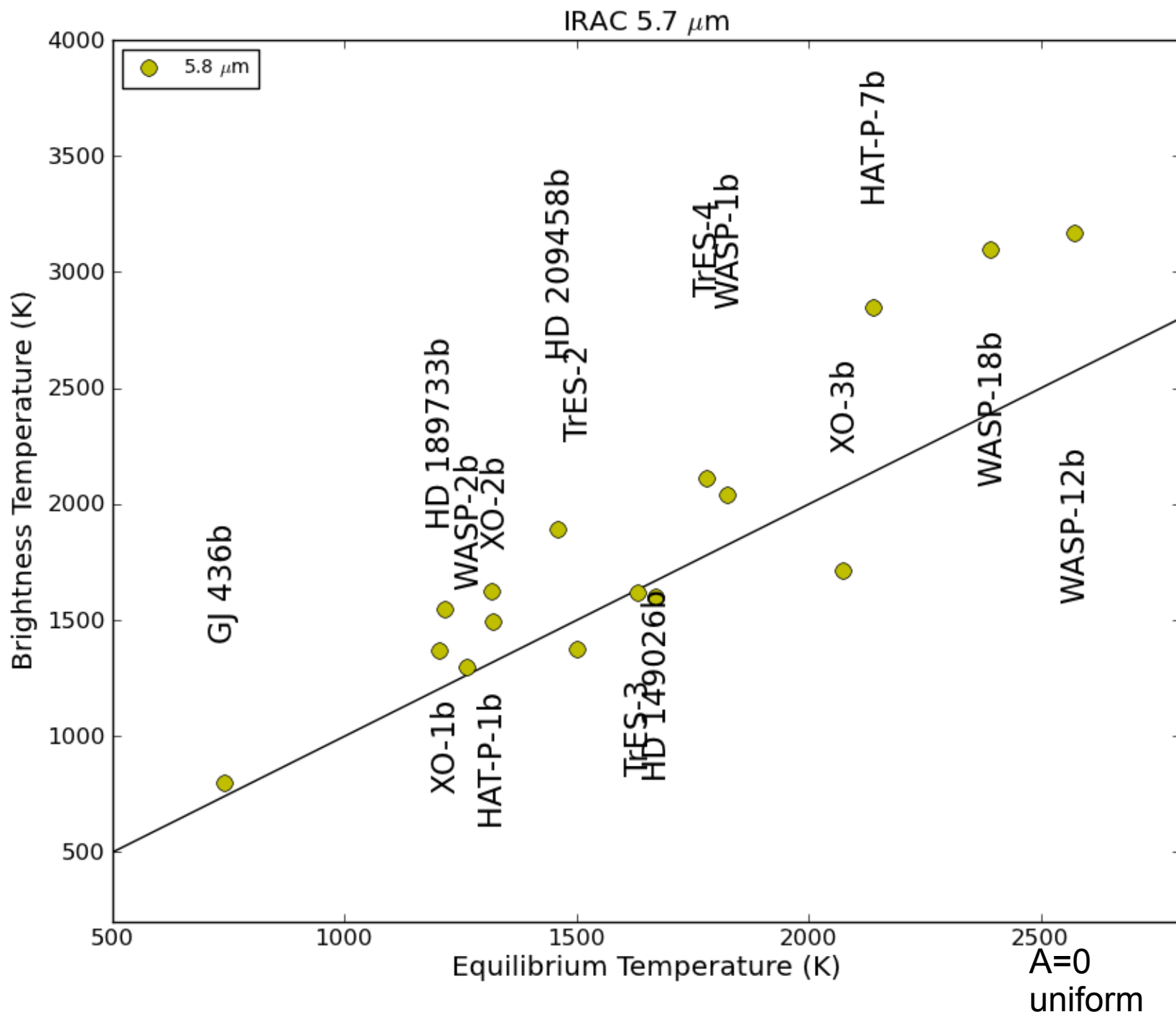


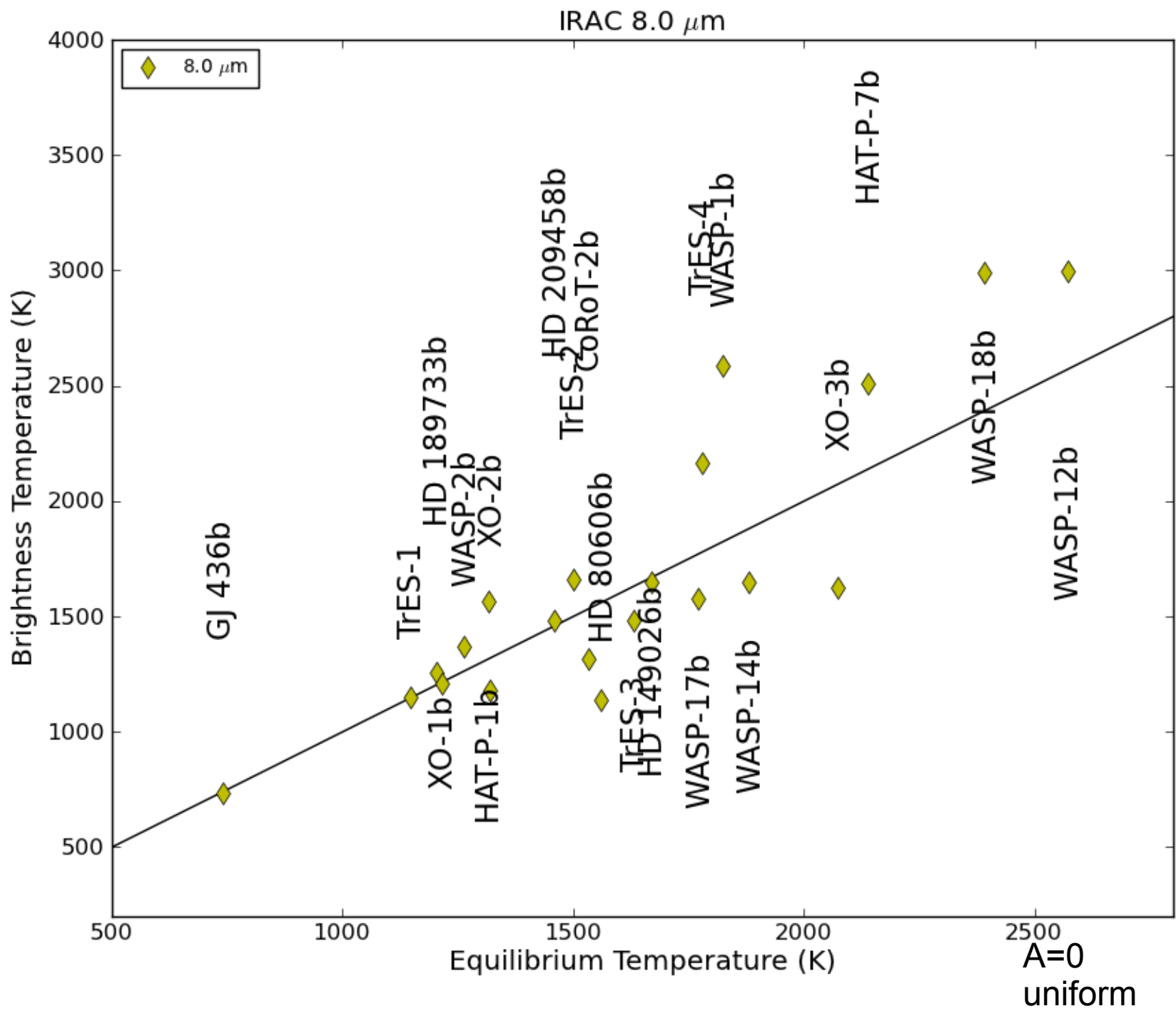


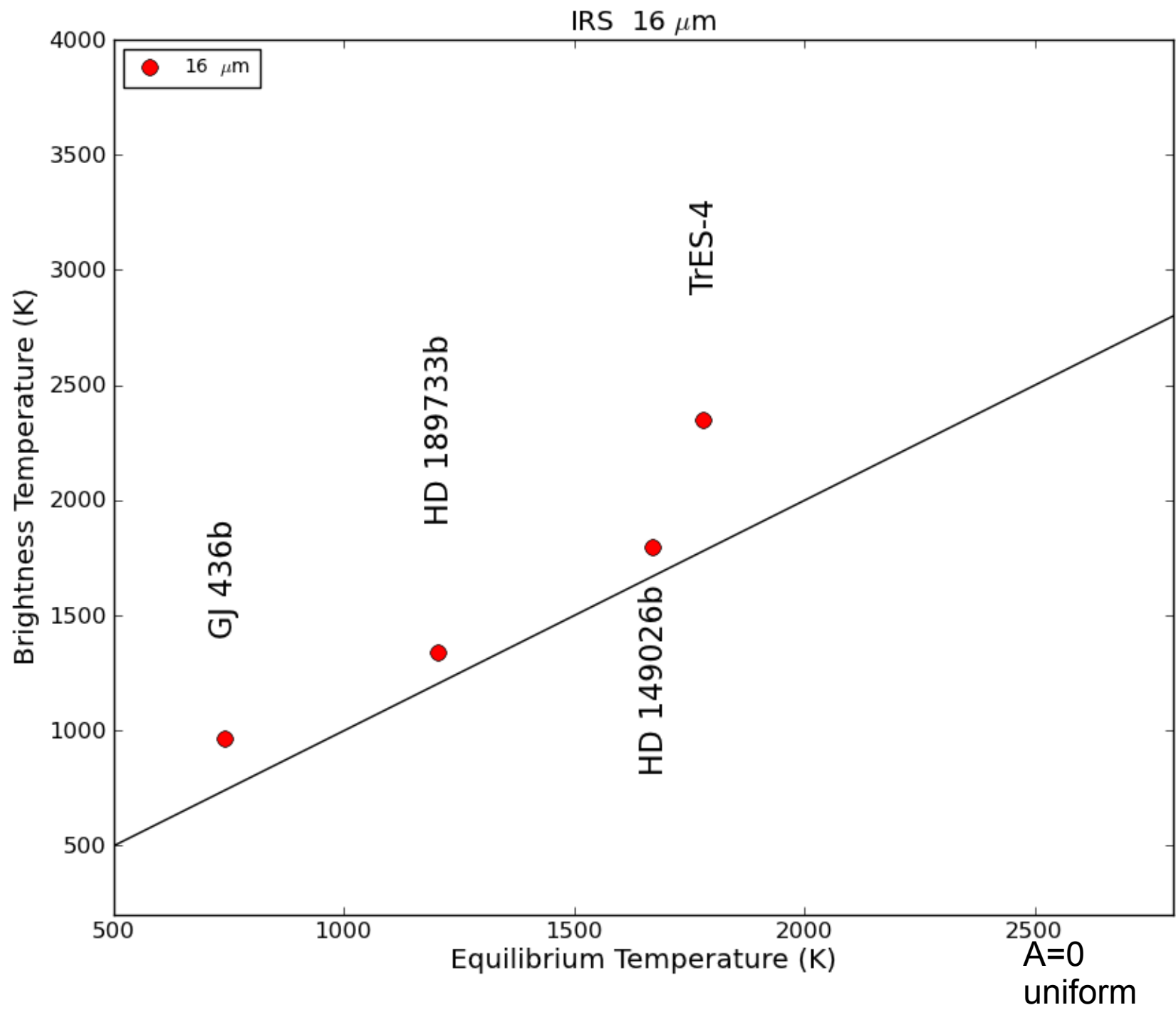


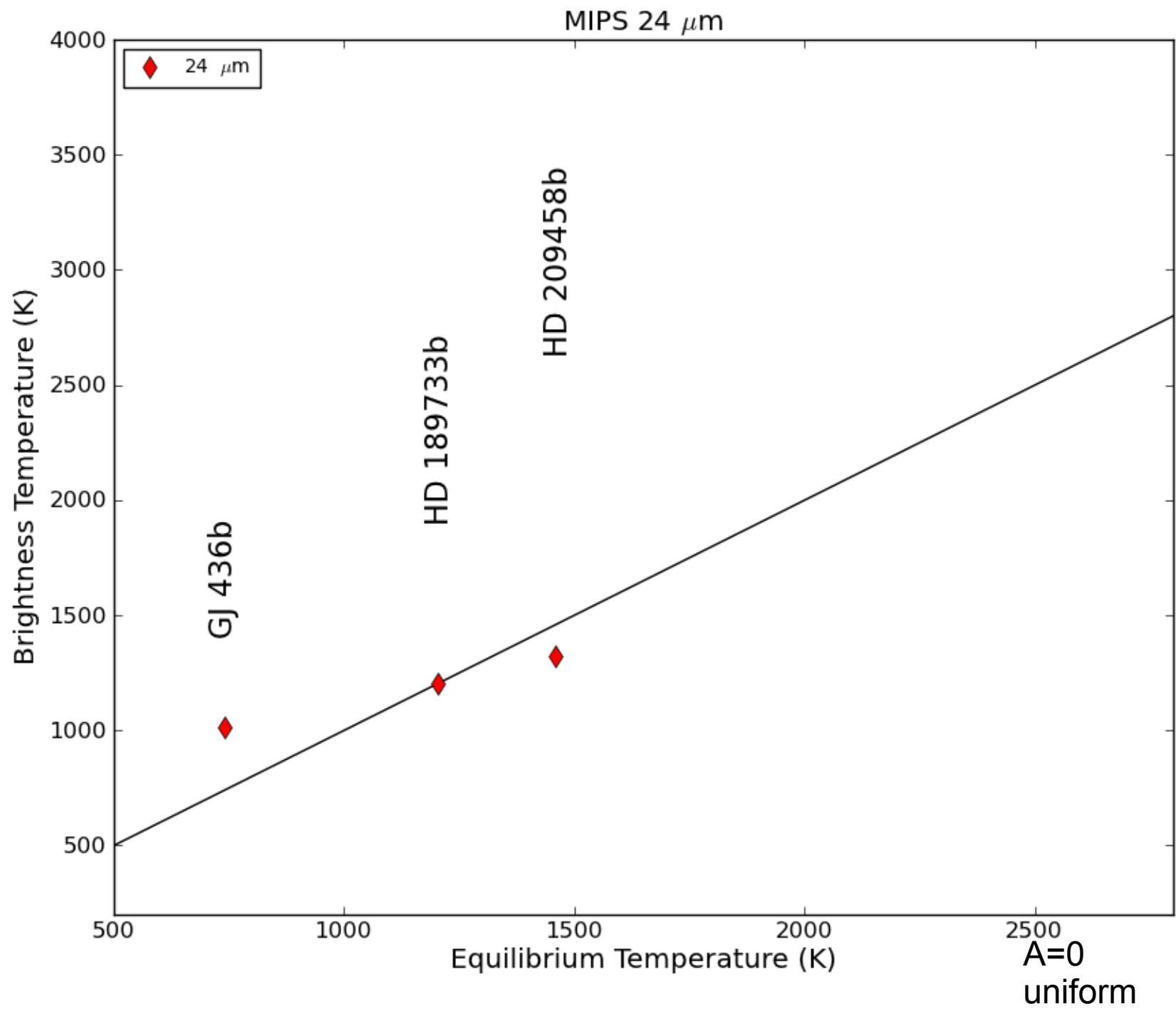












Spitzer Analysis Checklist

- Just because model fits does not mean it's right
- Eclipses require 10^{-4} accuracy!
- Worry about 2nd- & 3rd-order effects
- Observe in a flat pixel, 3 hours before, 2 after
- Try many apertures, centering methods
- Use subpixel photometry
- Try many intrapixel and ramp functions
- Run variations in all reasonable combinations
- Use SDNR, BIC, AIC to choose best, report ties
- Atmos: Report $T(p)$ and contribution functions