

Experimental Indicators of Accretion Processes in AGN (SMBHs)

Andreas Eckart

*I. Physikalisches Institut der Universität zu Köln
Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Bonn*



Max-Planck-Institut
für Radioastronomie



I. Physikalisches Institut

Universität zu Köln



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME



EU FP7-SPACE research project 312789

2013 - 2017

St. Peterburg, Russian Federation, Sept 04-10

St. Petersburg Workshop 2016, Accretion Processes in Cosmic Sources



F. Peissker,
M. Valencia-S.,
M. Parsa,
M. Zajacek,
B. Shahzamanian,
EU FP7-SPACE project:
Strong Gravity
<http://www.stronggravity.eu/>

Experimental Indicators of Accretion Processes in AGN (SMBHs *but not exclusively!*)

**i.e. observable activity indicators that allow
to conclude on the nature of accretion**

*biased and incomplete view
each topic is worth a dedicated talk*

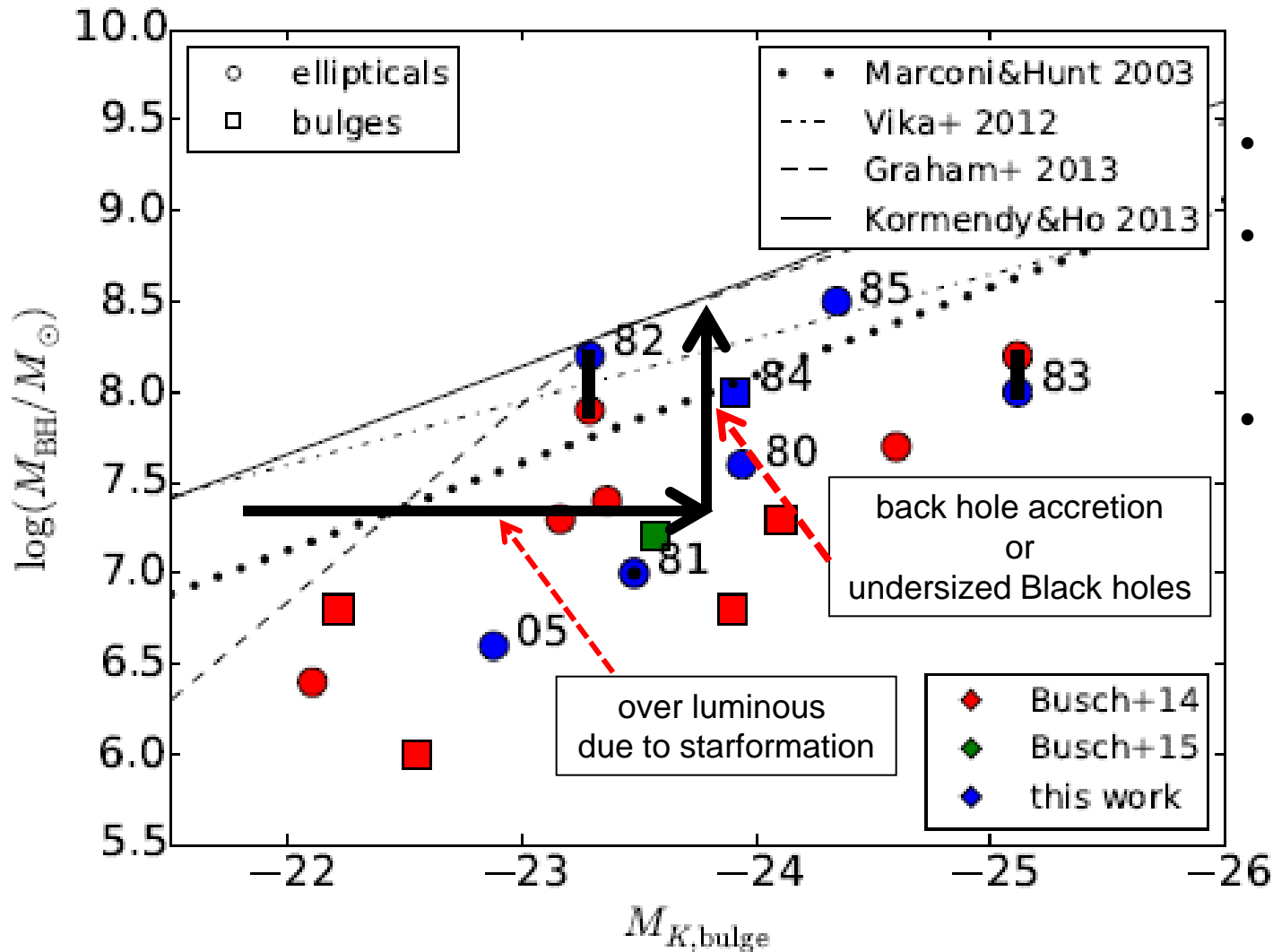
Experimental Indicators of Accretion Processes in AGN

- Starformation and Black Hole Growth
- Relativistic radio jets
- NLR reverberation: response to long term variability
- BLR reverberation: short term response: BLR/size/map
- Variability and time lags: accretion disk size and structure

SgrA* as a special nearby case

- NIR polarization of SgrA* over the past ~10 years
- Radio/sub-mm single dish and VLBA monitoring
- Stability of the SgrA* system
- Monitoring the Dusty S-cluster Object:
an accreting star (DSO alias G2) orbiting SgrA*
- DSO in NIR line emission as well as
- DSO in NIR continuum polarization

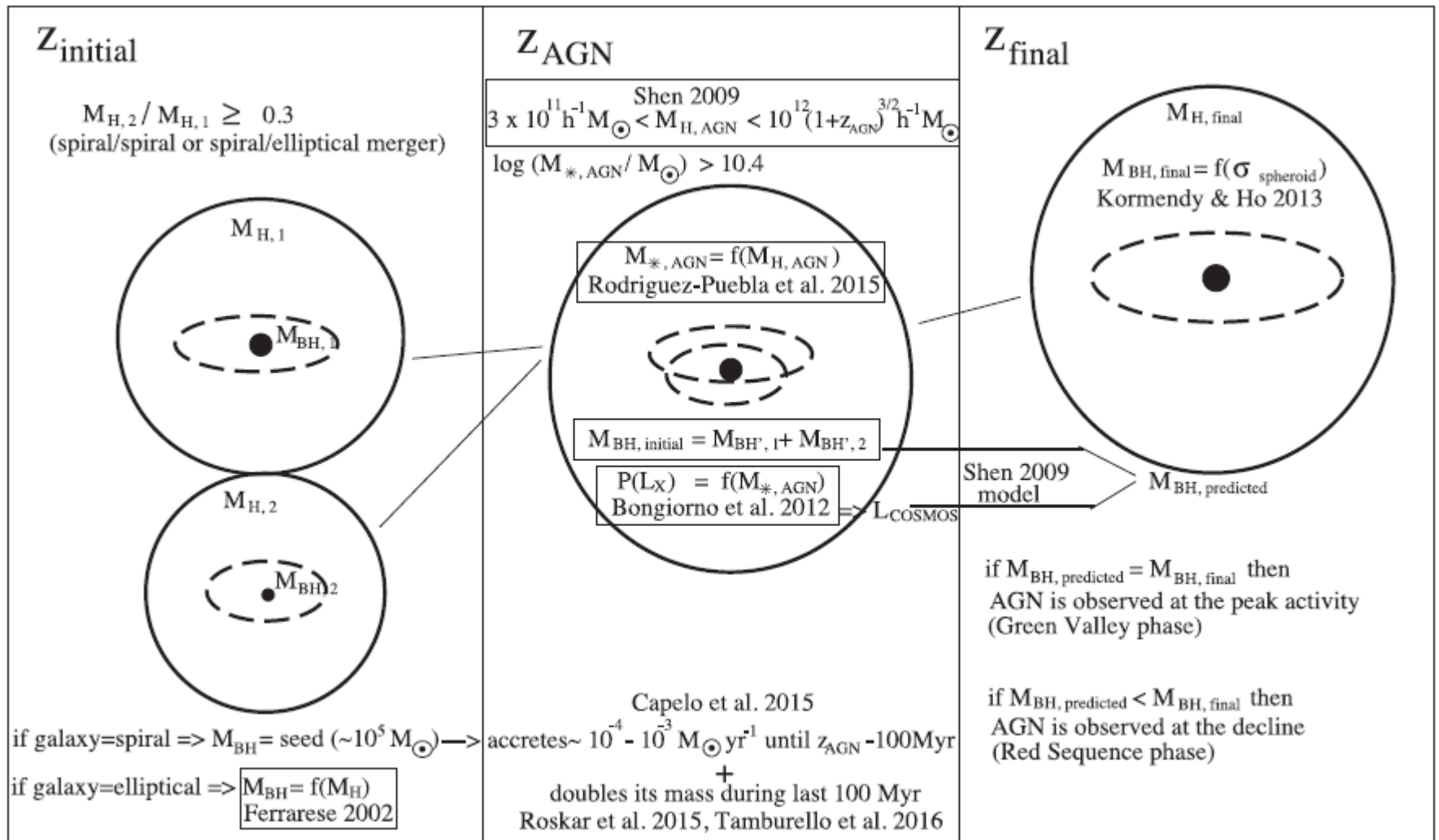
Overluminous host spheroids



- Large H₂ luminosity
- Indications for a large reservoir of molecular gas
- Indications for strong starformation

but:
bulge vs.
pseudobulge
discussion

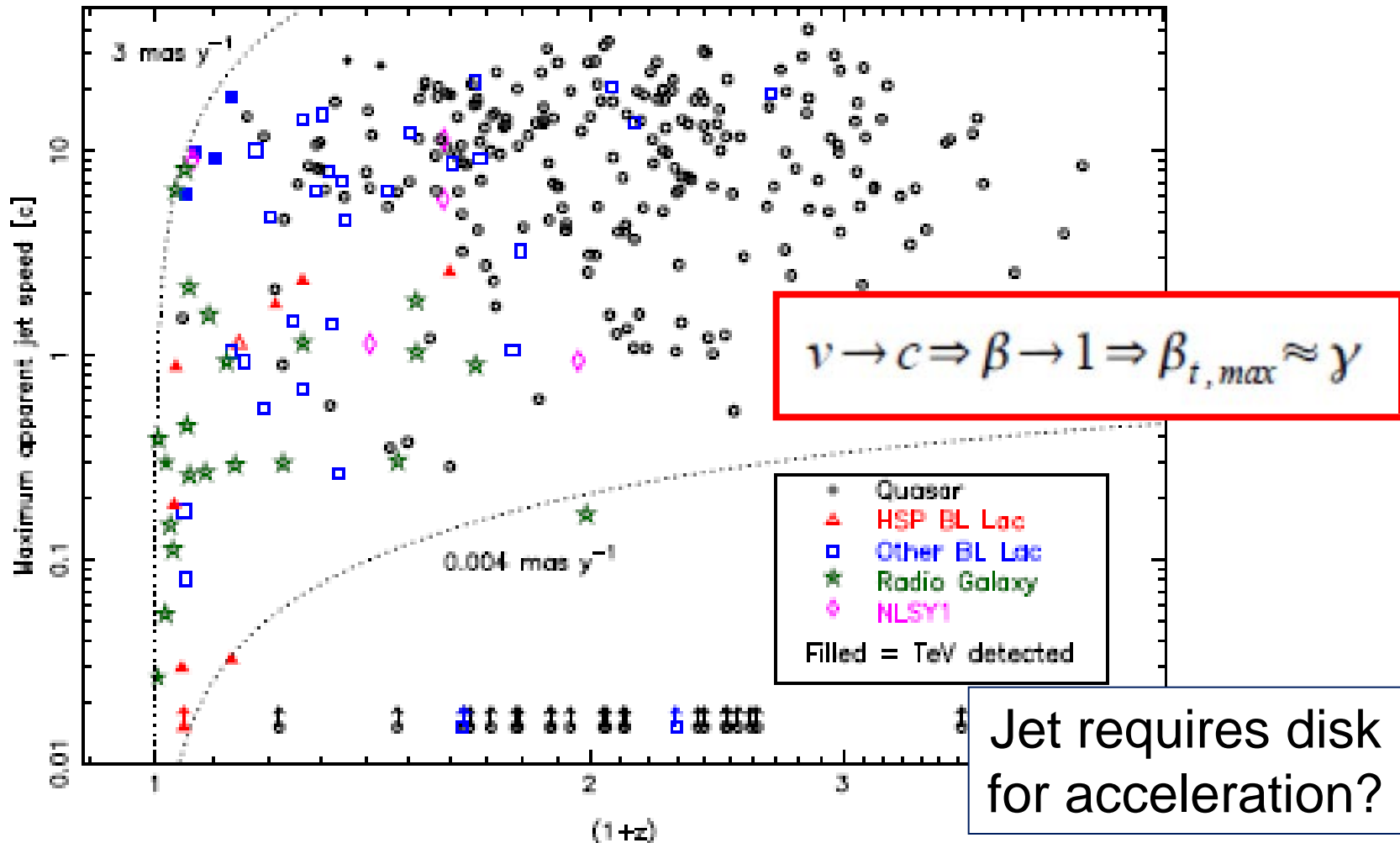
Merging: AGN accretion phases



e.g. Micic et al., 2016, MNRAS 461, 3322
 AGN accretion phases for field galaxies

peak between
 $z=1$ and 2

Jet speed vs. redshift: MOJAVE program

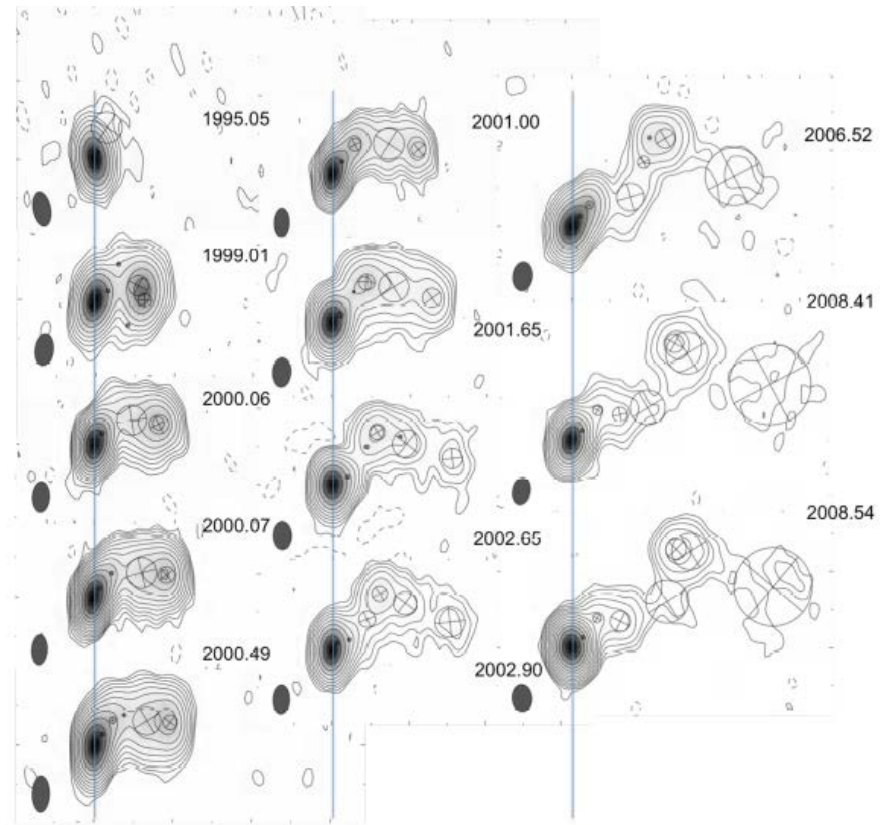
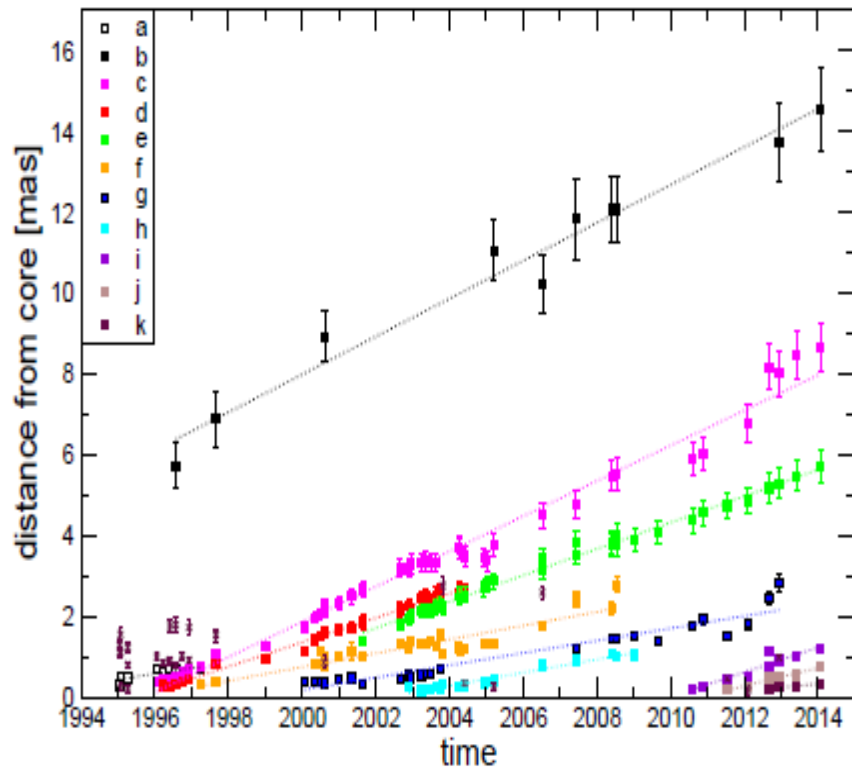


274 AGN with 5 temporally separate measurements.

Swirling Jets: The case of 1308+326

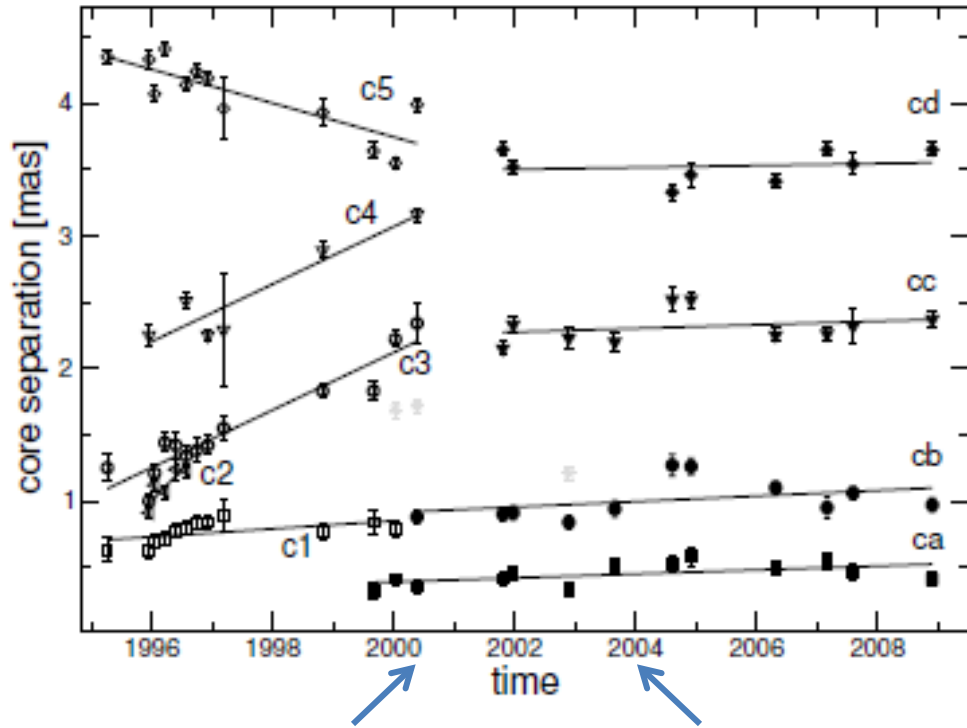
Precessing jets: variable geometry of accretion disk or environment

Britzen et al. 2016 submitted



↔
2 mas

Jet Mode change in 0735+178

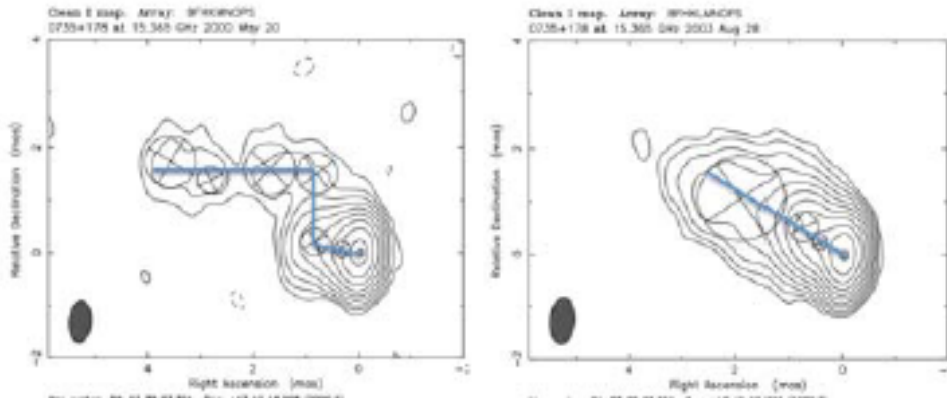


Mode changes jets:
variable geometry of
accretion disk or environment

VLBI jet-morphology and
kinematics are correlated and
switch between two modes
(static – left and straight right).

Jet-Modes may be linked to
accretion/acceleration modes.

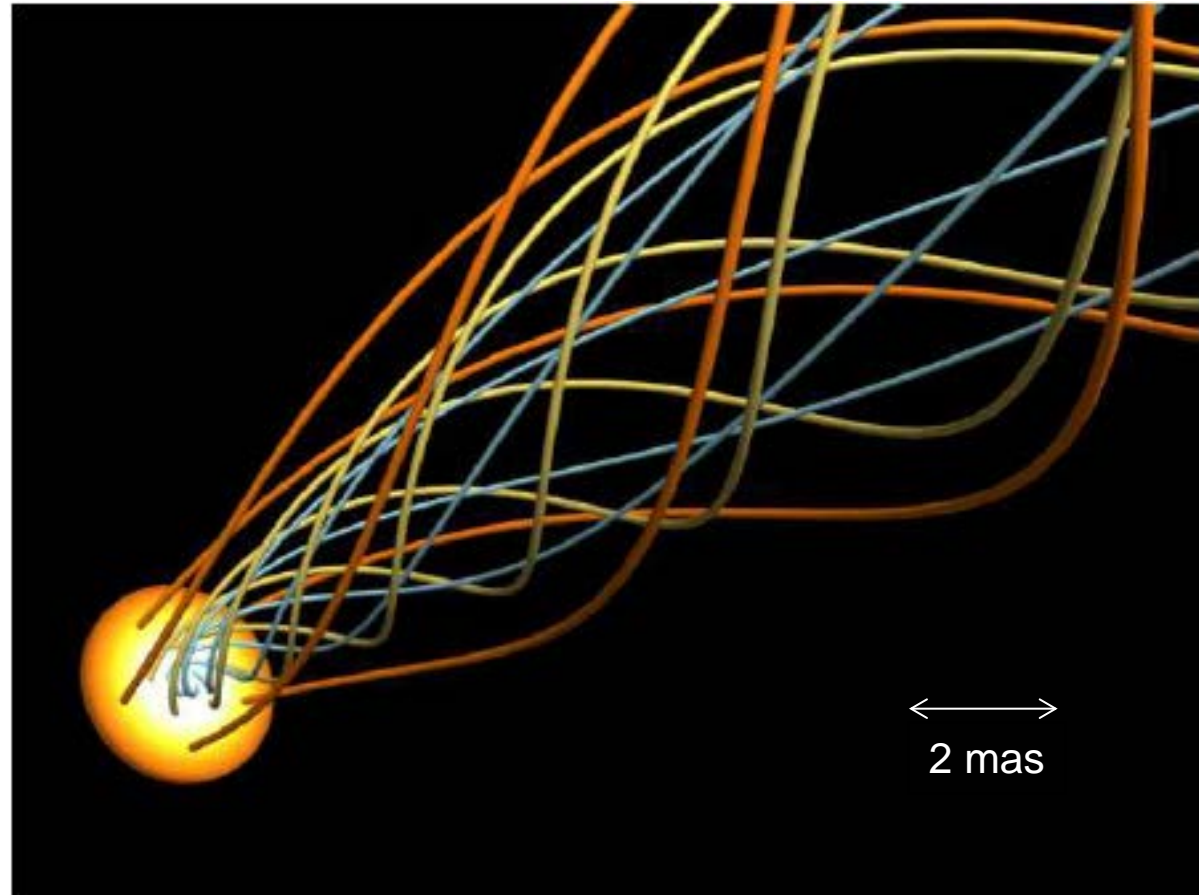
Candidates for double black holes?



Swirling Jets: The case of 1308+326

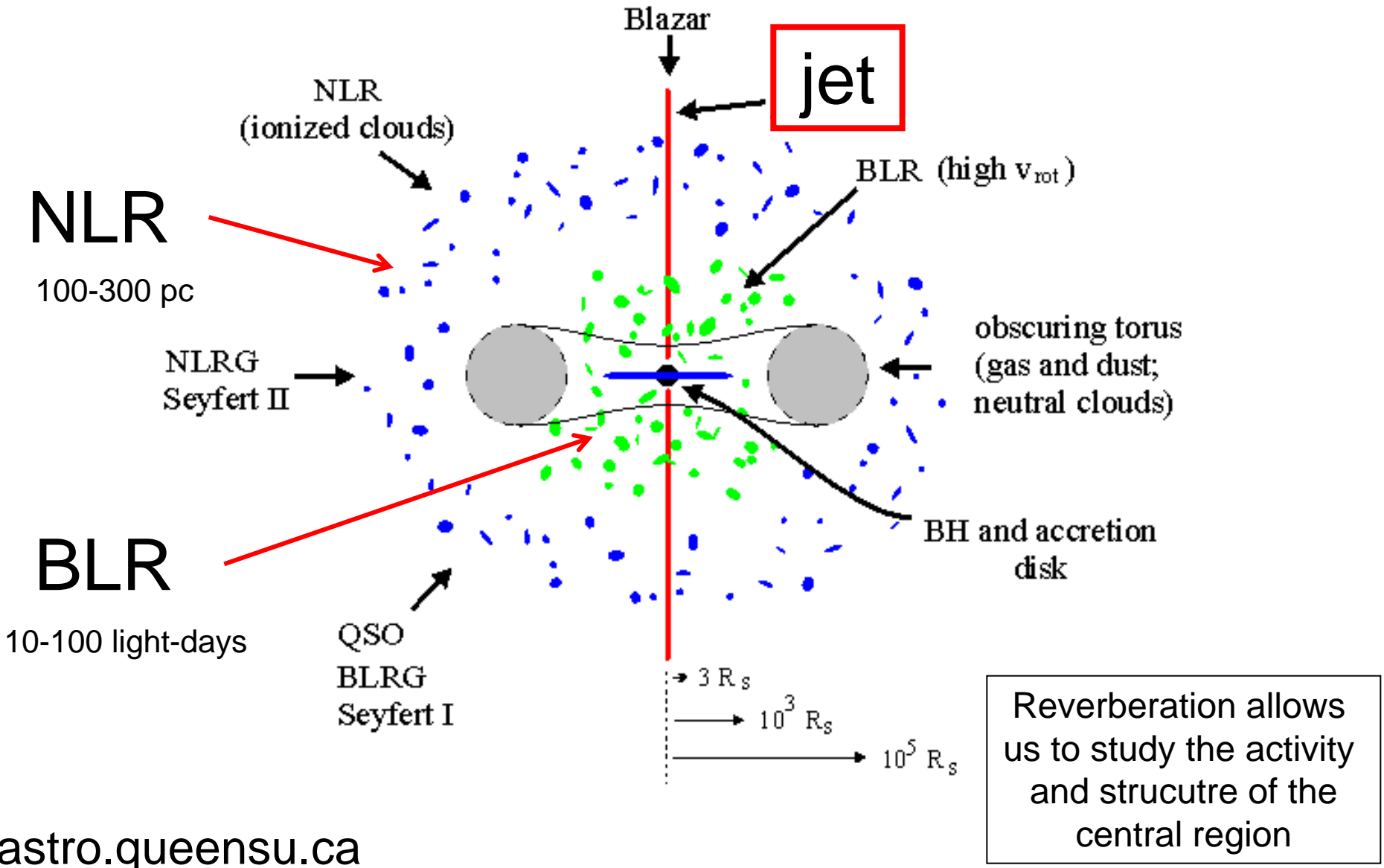
Possible
magnetic
field line
structure

Blandford-Rees vs.
Blandford-Znajek
process for
field i.e jet
origin (production)



To give a better impression of the nature of components in 1308+326 we provide a schematic illustration.

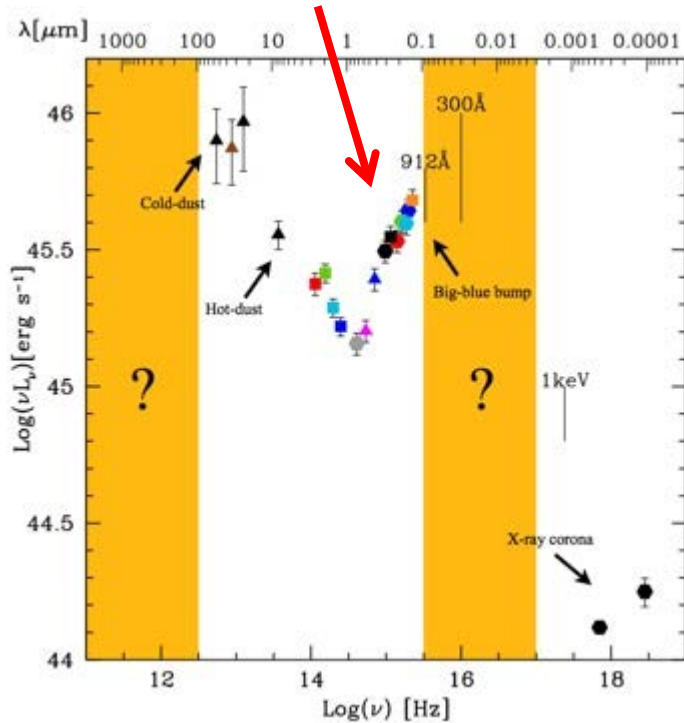
Unified Model



Evidence from QSO spectra

Variability & spectrum : disk properties

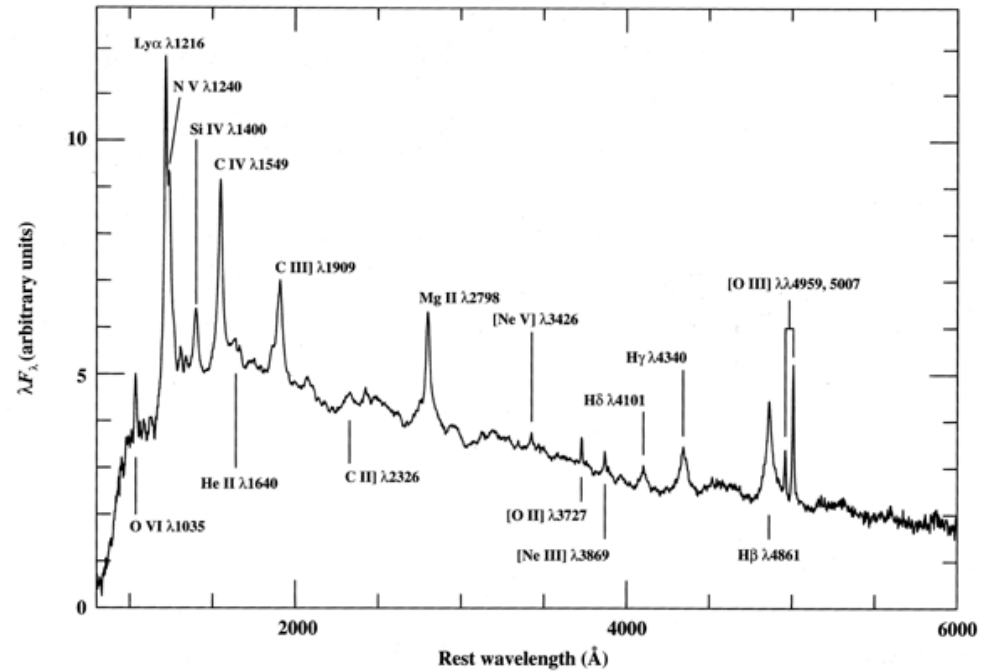
BBB



SED of a spectroscopically identified QSO from COSMOS. Lusso et al. (2011).

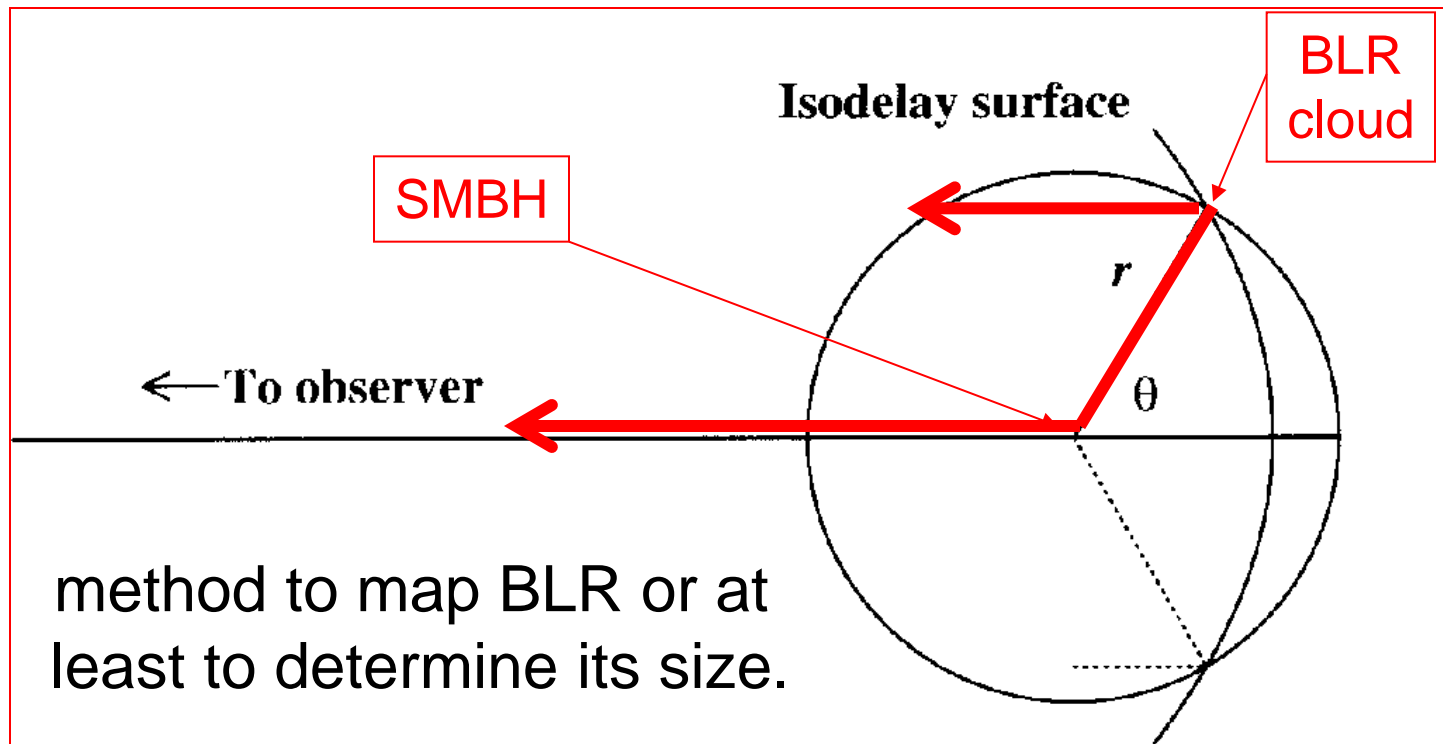
Line variability & spectrum accretion properties

NLR/BLR



Mean QSO (Francis et al. 1991; courtesy of P. J. Francis and C. B. Foltz)

BLR Reverberation



time delay:

$$\tau = (1 + \cos \vartheta) r / c \longrightarrow d\tau = -r / c \sin(\vartheta) d\vartheta$$

response function:
(ζ surface emissivity)

$$\Psi(\tau) d\vartheta = 2\pi\zeta r^2 \sin \vartheta d\vartheta$$

$$\Psi(\tau) d\tau = \Psi(\vartheta) \left| \frac{d\vartheta}{d\tau} \right| d\tau = 2\pi\zeta r c d\tau$$

10-100 light-days

Disk size from opt./UV/X-ray time lags

NGC5548

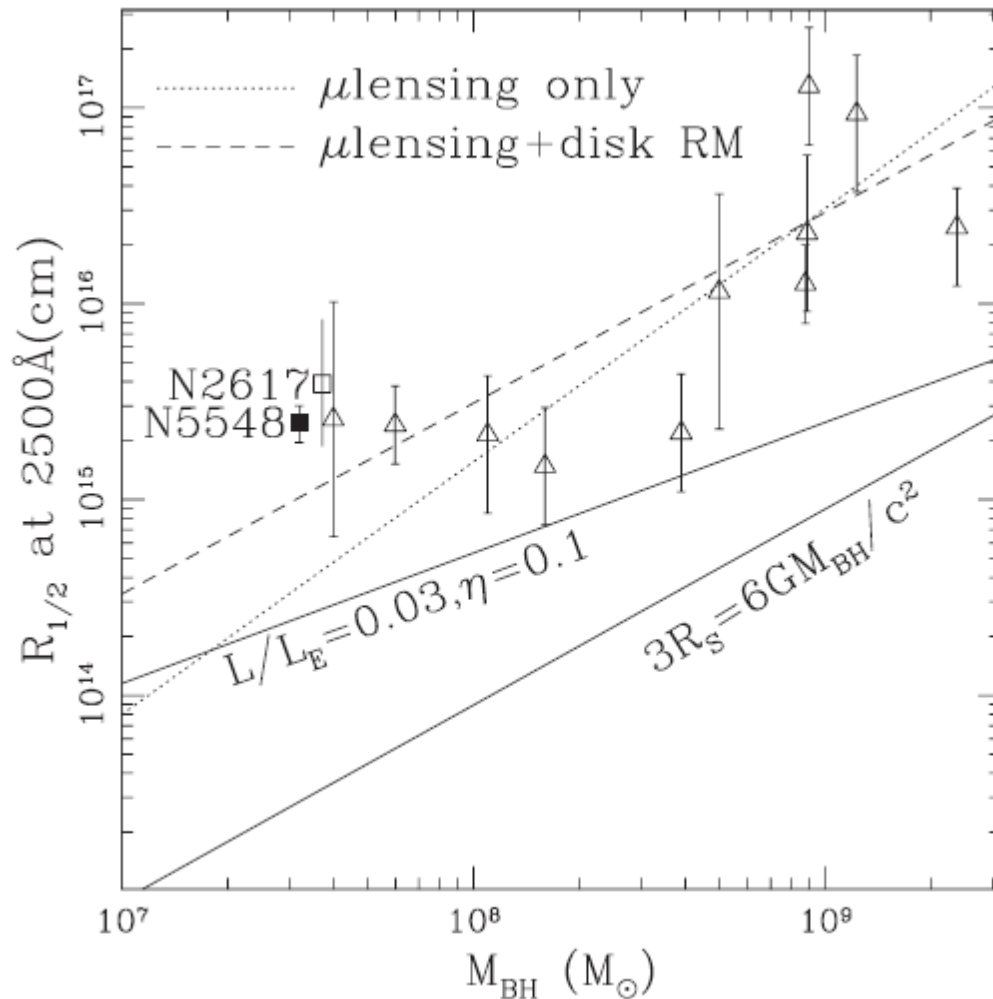
UV/opt lag 1-2 days:

$$\tau \propto \lambda^{4/3}$$

X-ray/UV lags
less pronounced

large disk size
0.35 \pm 0.05 lt-days

(approximately consistent
with steady state
accretion disk theory)



NLR Reverberation

Line and continuum variability in active galaxies

Y. E. Rashed,^{1,2★} A. Eckart,^{1,3★} M. Valencia-S.,¹ M. García-Marín,¹ G. Busch,¹
J. Zuther,¹ M. Horrobin¹ and H. Zhou^{4,5★}

2015, MNRAS 454, 291

18 sources; two to three epochs,
with time intervals of 5 to 10 yr.

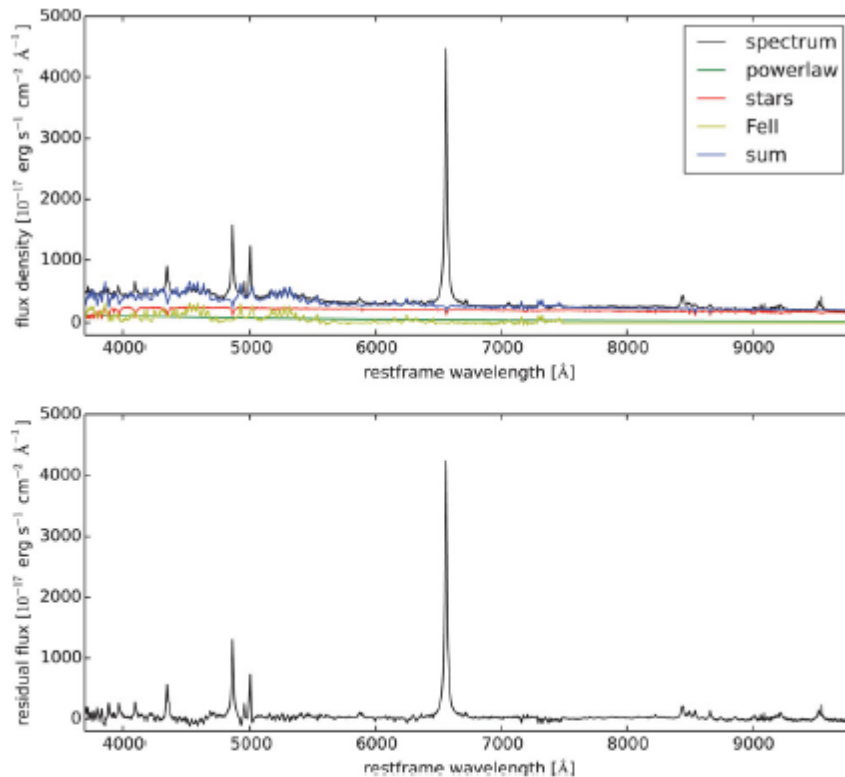


Figure 3. Results from the [Fe II] emission subtraction. The first plot shows the spectrum of J034740.18+010514.0 together with a fit of the [Fe II] emission (yellow). The second plot shows the spectrum after subtraction of the [Fe II] emission.

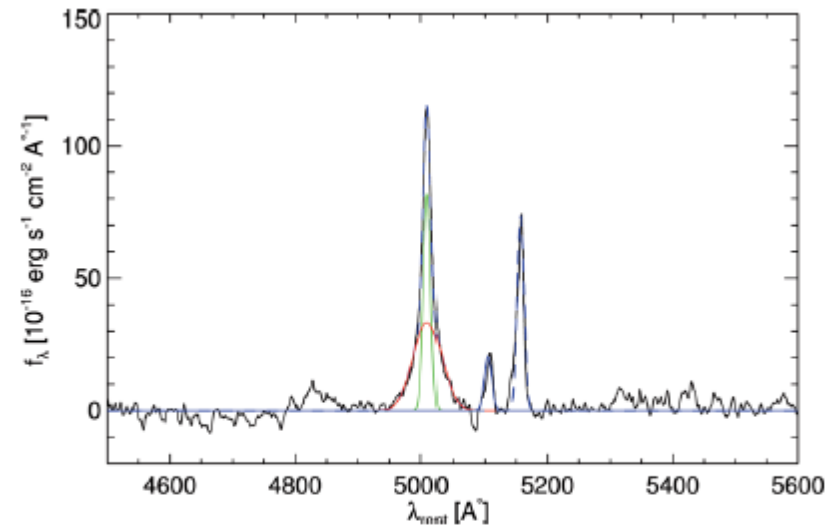
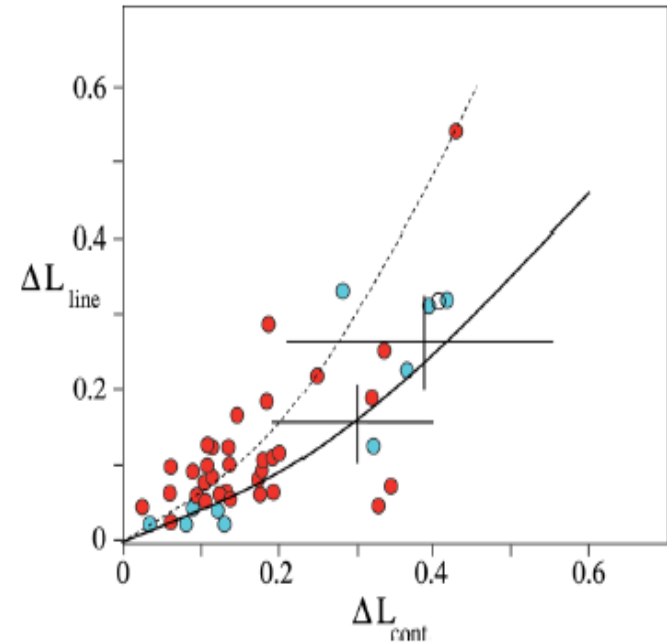
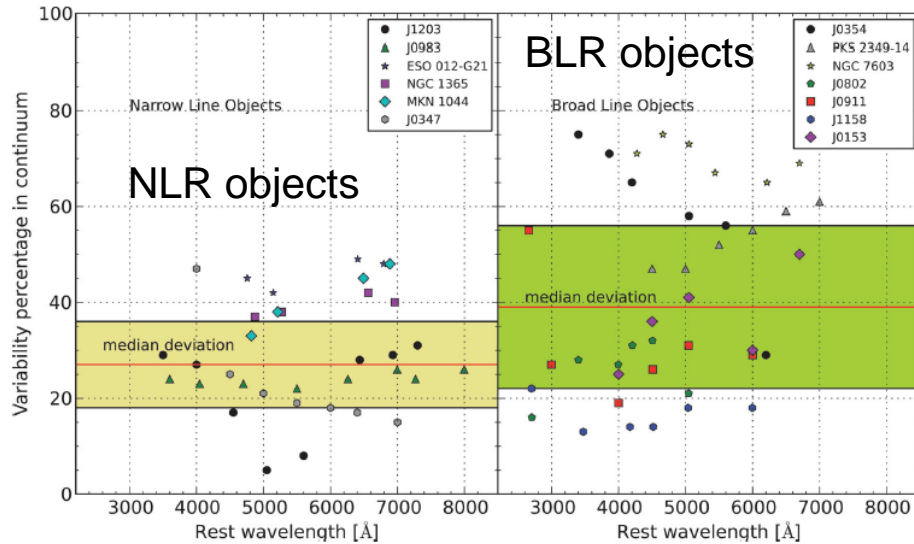


Figure 4. The fit of the H β and [O III] emission line complex with multiple Gaussian functions for J0347.

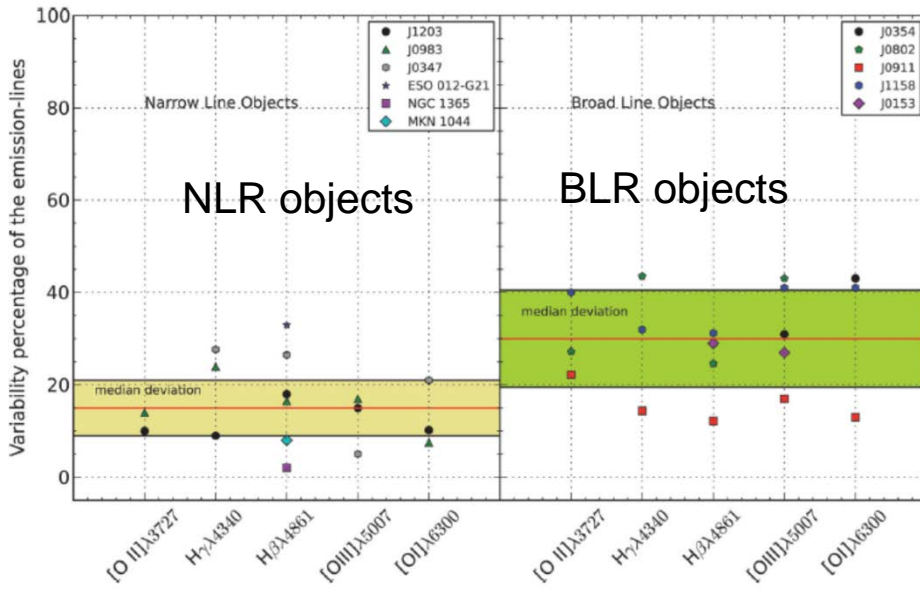
NLR Reverberation

continuum



For otherwise constant accretion rate the total line variability reverberates in a similar way to the continuum variability with

line emission



NLR Reverberation

NLR is large but very compact i.e. brightness centrally peaked

continuum radiation

line radiation

$$\frac{A_c}{V_c} \sim \sqrt{L_{\text{cont}}}$$

$$L_{\text{cont}} \propto M \frac{dM}{dt}$$

$$L_{\text{line}} \propto \sqrt{M} \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{cont}} \propto \Delta M \frac{dM}{dt} + M \Delta \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto \frac{1}{2} M^{-1/2} \Delta M \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2} + M^{1/2} \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{1/2} \left(\Delta \frac{dM}{dt} \right)$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{cont}} \propto \Delta M \frac{dM}{dt} \propto \frac{dM}{dt}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto \Delta M \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2} \propto \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2}$$

const. rate

Typically:
several 10 lyr
10-20 yrs

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto (\Delta L_{\text{cont}})^{3/2}$$

Typically:
NLR large but very
centrally peaked

NLR Reverberation

continuum radiation

line radiation

$$L_{\text{cont}} \propto M \frac{dM}{dt}$$

$$L_{\text{line}} \propto \sqrt{M} \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{cont}} \propto \Delta M \frac{dM}{dt} + M \Delta \frac{dM}{dt}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto \frac{1}{2} M^{-1/2} \Delta M \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2} + M^{1/2} \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{1/2} \left(\Delta \frac{dM}{dt} \right)$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{cont}} \propto \Delta M \frac{dM}{dt} \propto \frac{dM}{dt}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto \Delta M \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2} \propto \left(\frac{dM}{dt} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\Delta L_{\text{line}} \propto (\Delta L_{\text{cont}})^{3/2}$$

Structure of the accretion disk

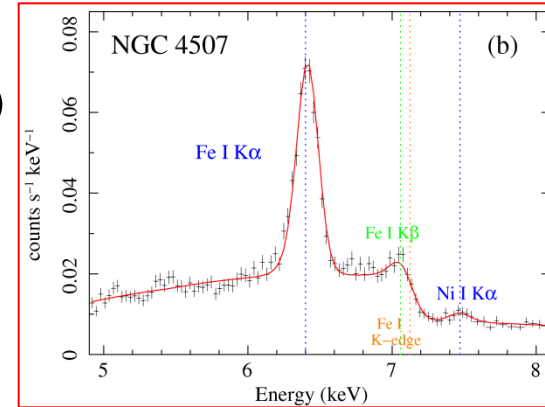
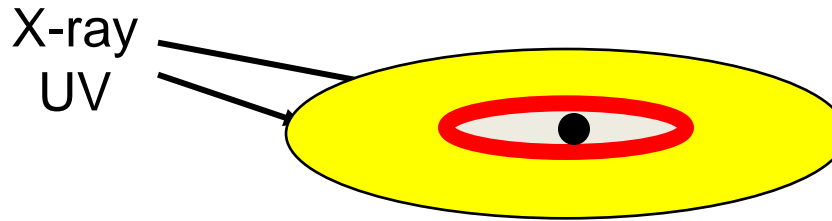
CASE 1: low accretion rate
high opacity

$$\dot{M} / \dot{M}_E \lesssim 0.1$$

thin accretion disk
compared to diameter
efficiency: $\eta \approx 0.1$

plus advection
dominated accretion
for LLAGN

$$\dot{M} \ll \dot{M}_E$$

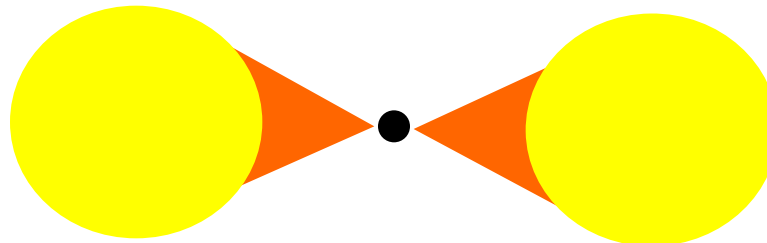


Suzaku data

\gg

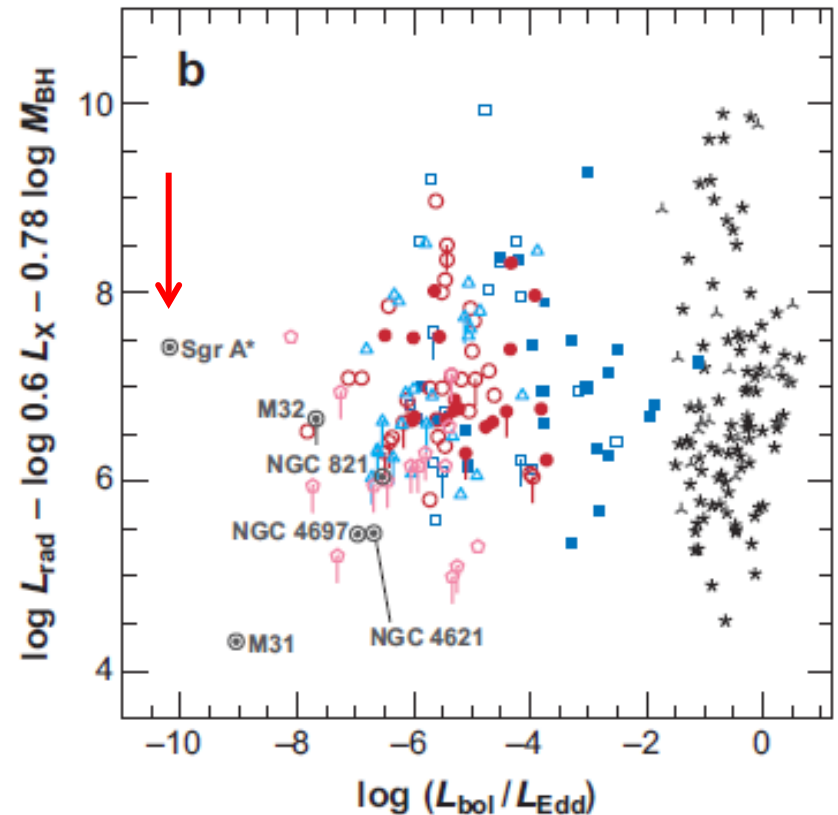
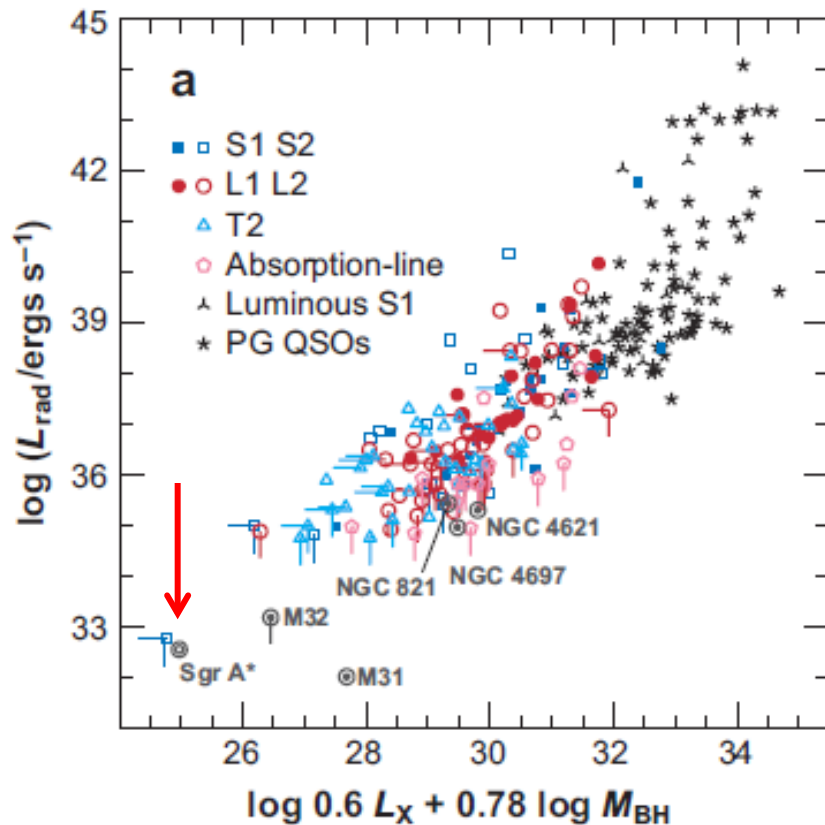
$$\dot{M} / \dot{M}_E \gg 1$$

CASE 2: high accretion rate
radiation heats disk
disk inflates and cools
at larger radii, i.e.
radiation becomes
inefficient.



looks like a
 10^{**4} K
young star

SgrA* as an extreme LLAGN Nucleus



Ho 2008: Fundamental plane correlation among core radio luminosity, X-ray (a) luminosity, and BH mass. (b) Deviations from the fundamental plane as a function of Eddington ratio.

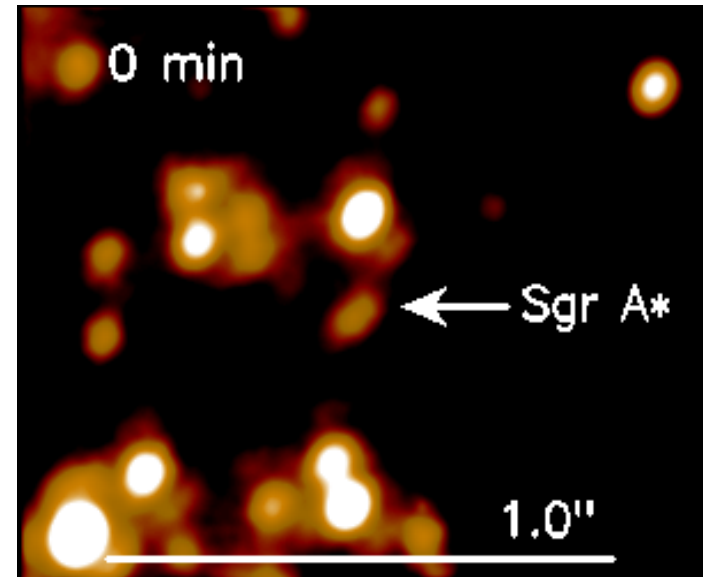
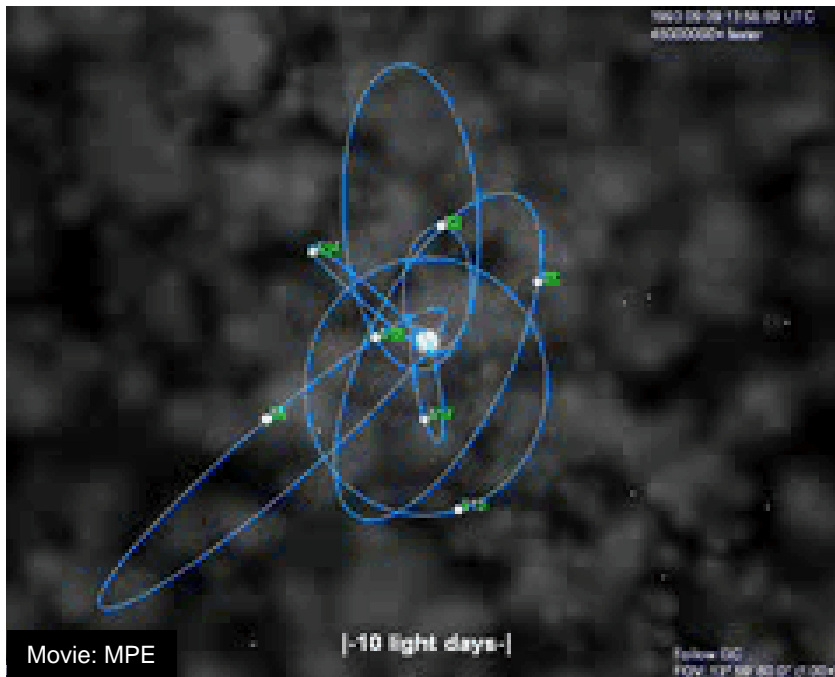
SgrA* is accreting in an advection dominated mode, else its luminosity would be 10^7 times higher

SgrA* as a special nearby case

- NIR polarization of SgrA* over the past ~10 years
- Stability of the SgrA* system
- Radio/sub-mm single dish and VLBA monitoring
- Monitoring the Dusty S-cluster Object:
 an accreting star (DSO alias G2) orbiting SgrA*
- DSO in NIR line emission as well as
- DSO in NIR continuum polarization

SgrA* and its Environment

Orbits of High Velocity Stars in the Central Arcsecond

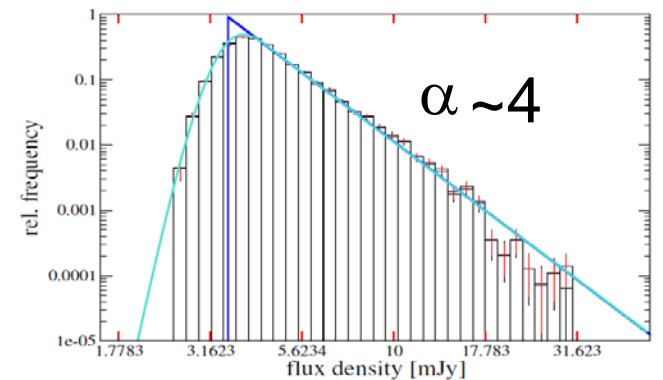
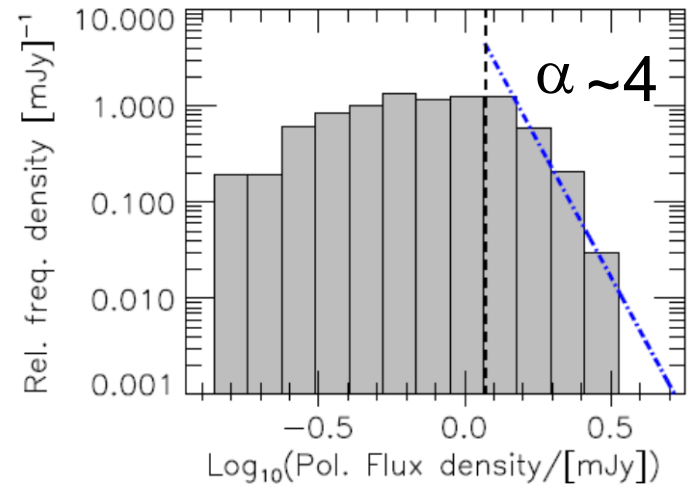
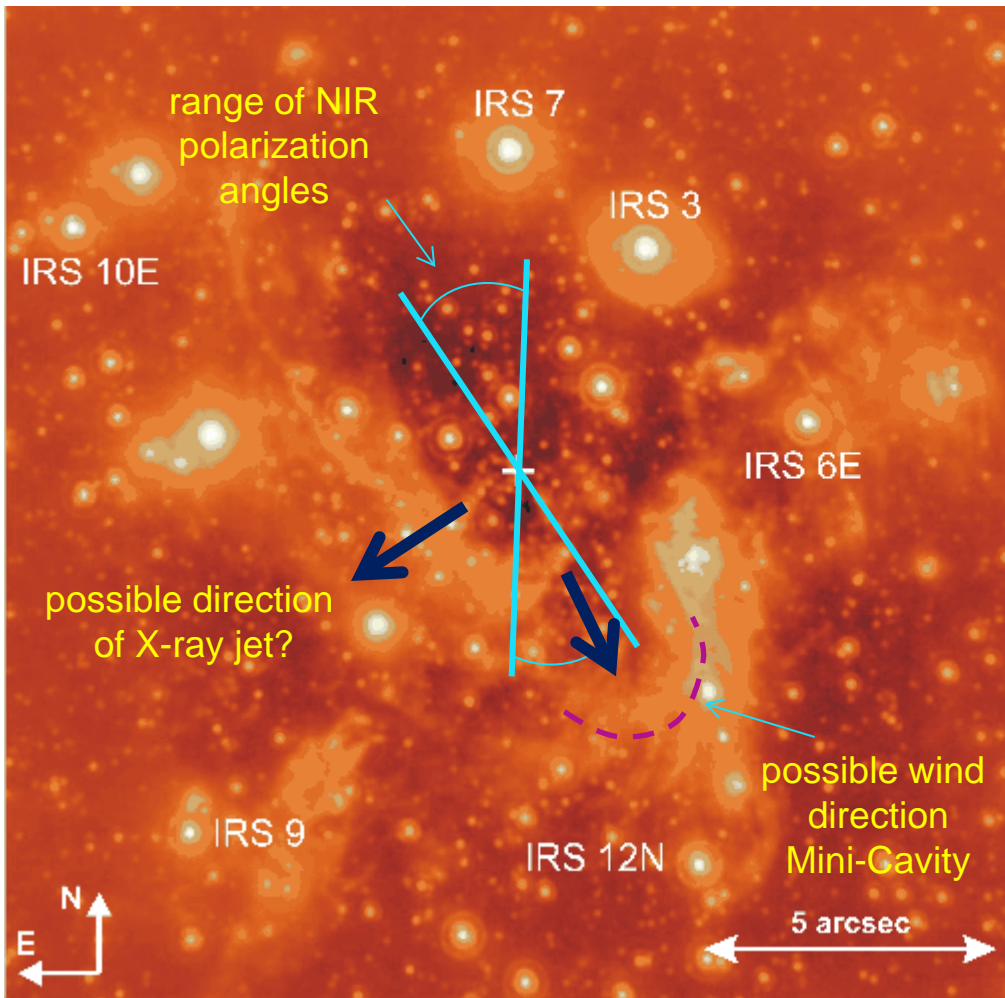


Eckart & Genzel 1996/1997 (first proper motions)
Eckart+2002 (S2 is bound; first elements)
Schödel+ 2002, 2003 (first detailed elements)
Ghez+ 2003 (detailed elements)
Eisenhauer+ 2005, Gillessen+ 2009
(improving orbital elements)
Rubilar & Eckart 2001, Sabha+ 2012, Zucker+2006
(exploring the relativistic character of orbits)

**~4 million solar masses
at a distance of
~8 \pm 0.3 kpc**

SgrA* - Stable Geometry and Accretion

SgrA* is a stable system



SgrA* 345GHz/100GHz variability

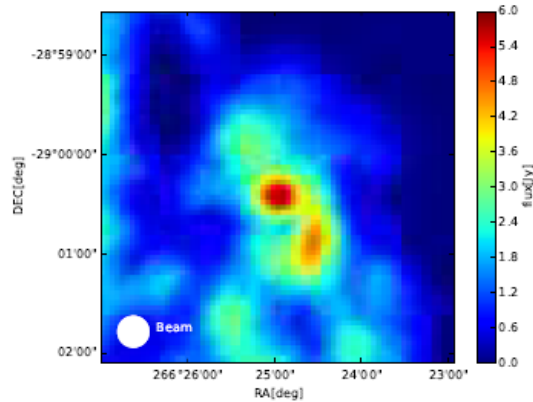


Fig. 1. A single measurement map of the GC from 2009-05-17T04:19:58, the extended submm emission from the surroundings of Sgr A* (CNR and Minispiral) dominate the data.

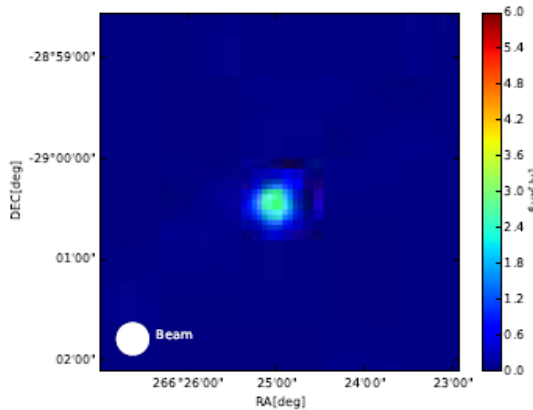


Fig. 2. A single measurement map of the GC from 2009-05-17T04:19:58 with subtracted background. The remaining point-like source represents the submm emission from Sgr A* itself.

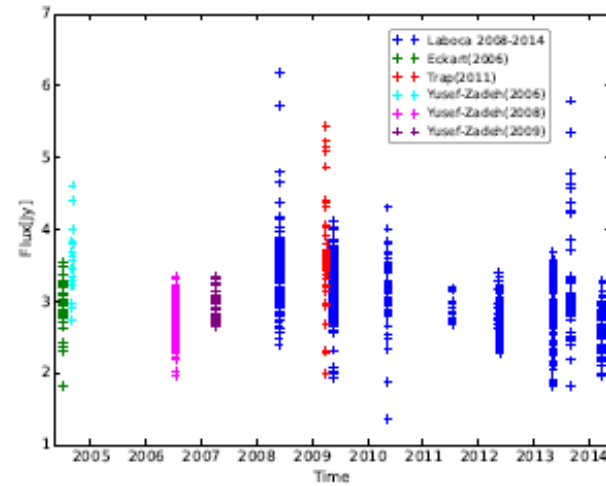
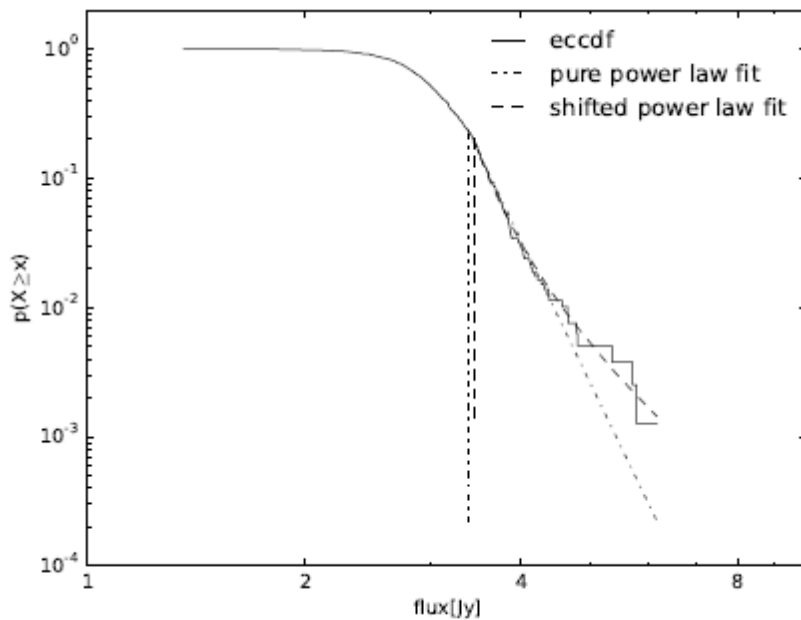


Fig. 3. All light curves obtained between 2004 and 2014. This plot contains both the LABOCA data (blue markers) and the literature data (other colors).

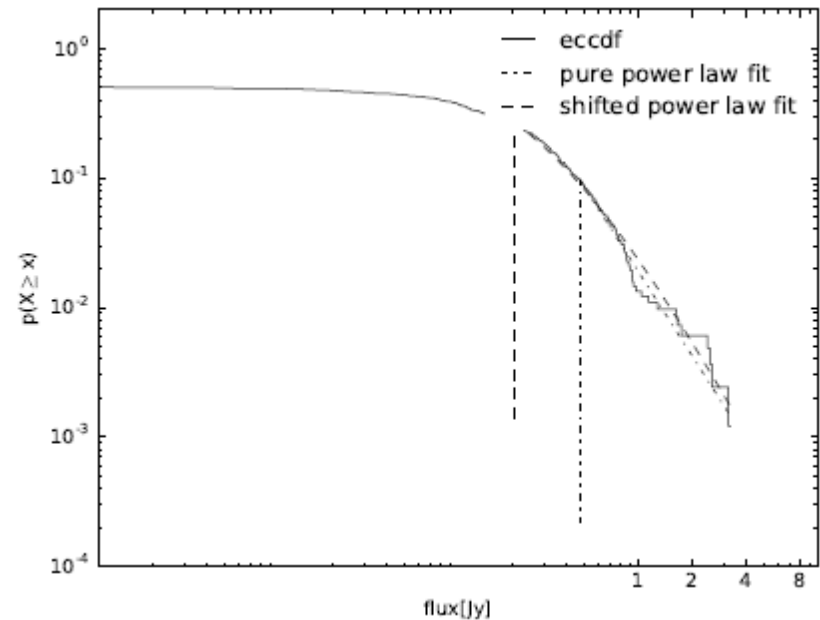
Borkar et al. MNRAS 2016
Subroweit et al. 2016

SgrA* 345GHz/100GHz variability

Borkar et al. MNRAS 2016
Subroweit et al. 2016



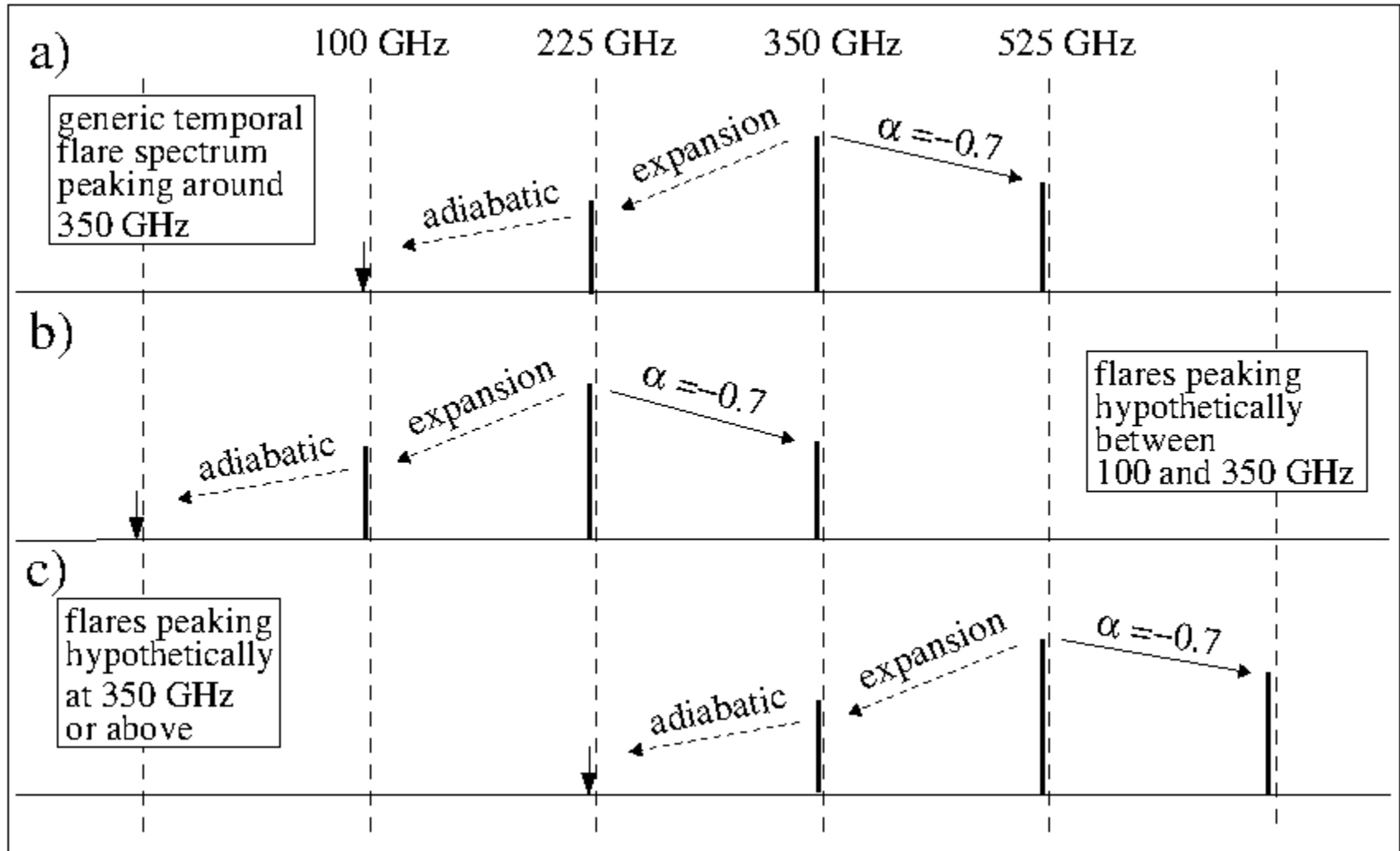
345 GHz LABOCA



100 GHz ATCA

$$S(100 \text{ GHz}, t) \sim S(\nu_0 = 100 \text{ GHz}, t) + S_{\text{adiab}}(\nu_0 > 100 \text{ GHz}, t)$$

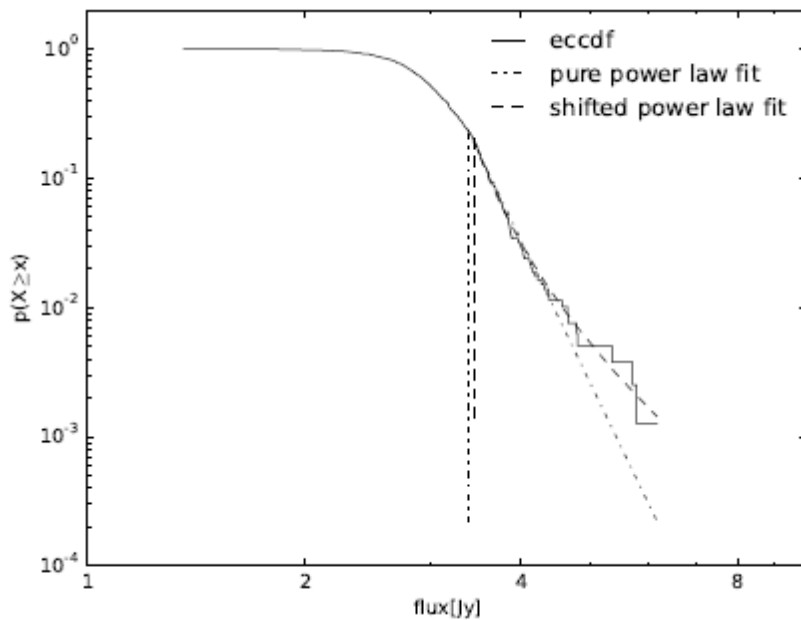
Adiabatic Expansion in SgrA*



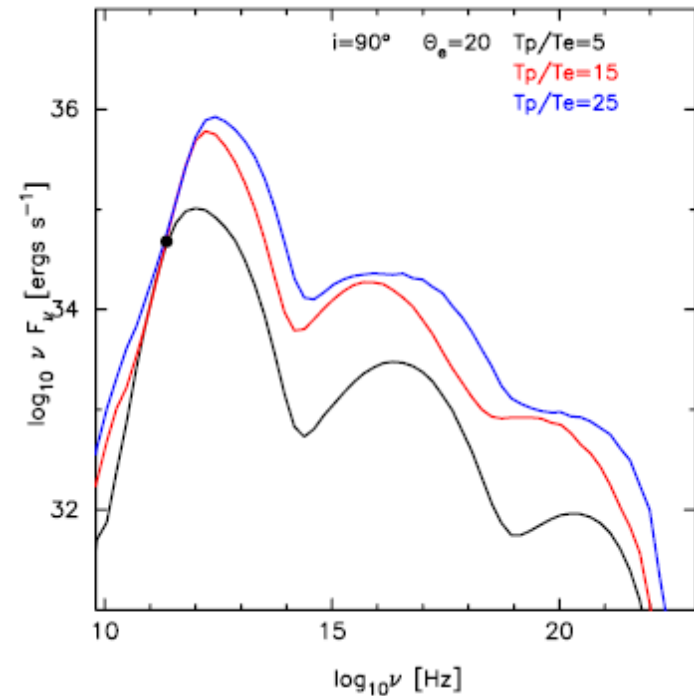
SgrA* 345GHz/100GHz variability

Borkar et al. MNRAS 2016
Subroweit et al. 2016

SgrA* peaks around 350 GHz



345 GHz LABOCA



$$S(100 \text{ GHz}, t) \sim S(\nu_0 = 100 \text{ GHz}, t) + S_{\text{adiab}}(\nu_0 > 100 \text{ GHz}, t)$$

Adiabatic Expansion in SgrA*

$$\nu_m = \nu_{m0} \left(\frac{R(t)}{R_0} \right)^{-(4p+6)/(p+4)}$$

van der Laan (1966)

$$R(t) = v_{\text{exp}} t + R_0$$

$$p = 1 - 2\alpha_{\text{sync}} \sim 2.4,$$

$$\frac{R(t)}{R_0} \sim \left(\frac{\nu_m}{\nu_{m0}} \right)^{-1/2.44} \sim \left(\frac{100 \text{ GHz}}{350 \text{ GHz}} \right)^{-1/2.44} \approx 1.67$$

starting at $\sim 1 R_S$

$$v_{\text{exp}} \times 0.5 \text{ h} \sim 0.67 R_S.$$

$$v_{\text{exp}} \sim 0.01 c$$

Subroweit et al. 2016 submitted

Jet vs. Core Luminosity in SgrA*

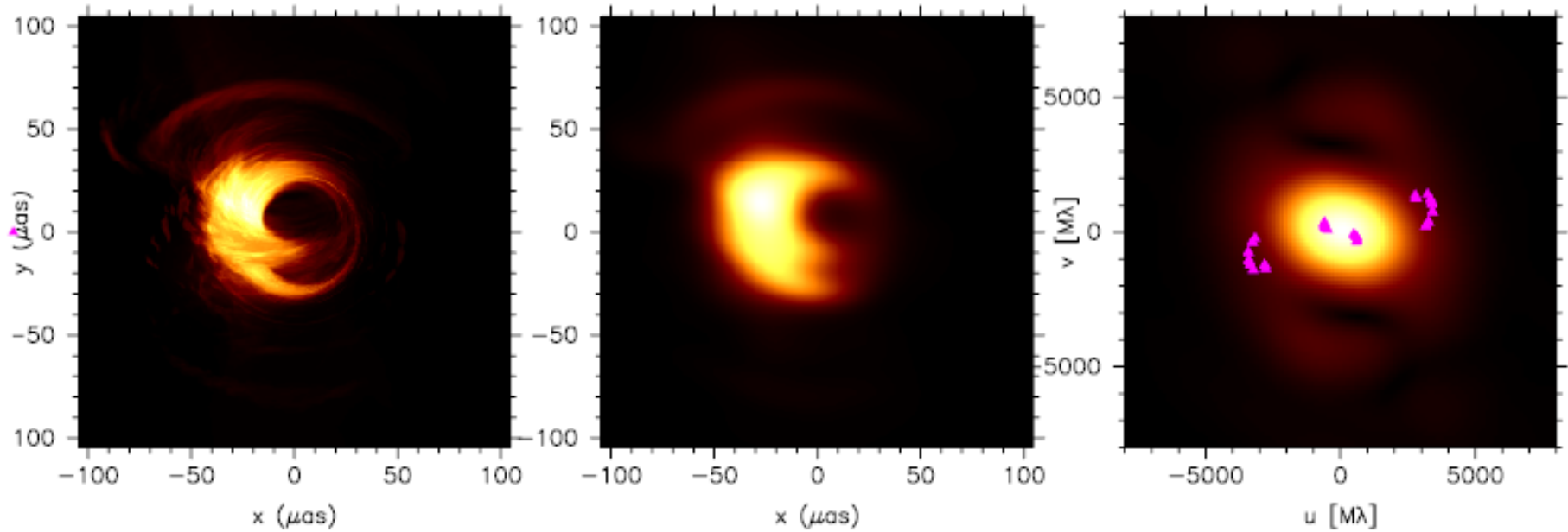
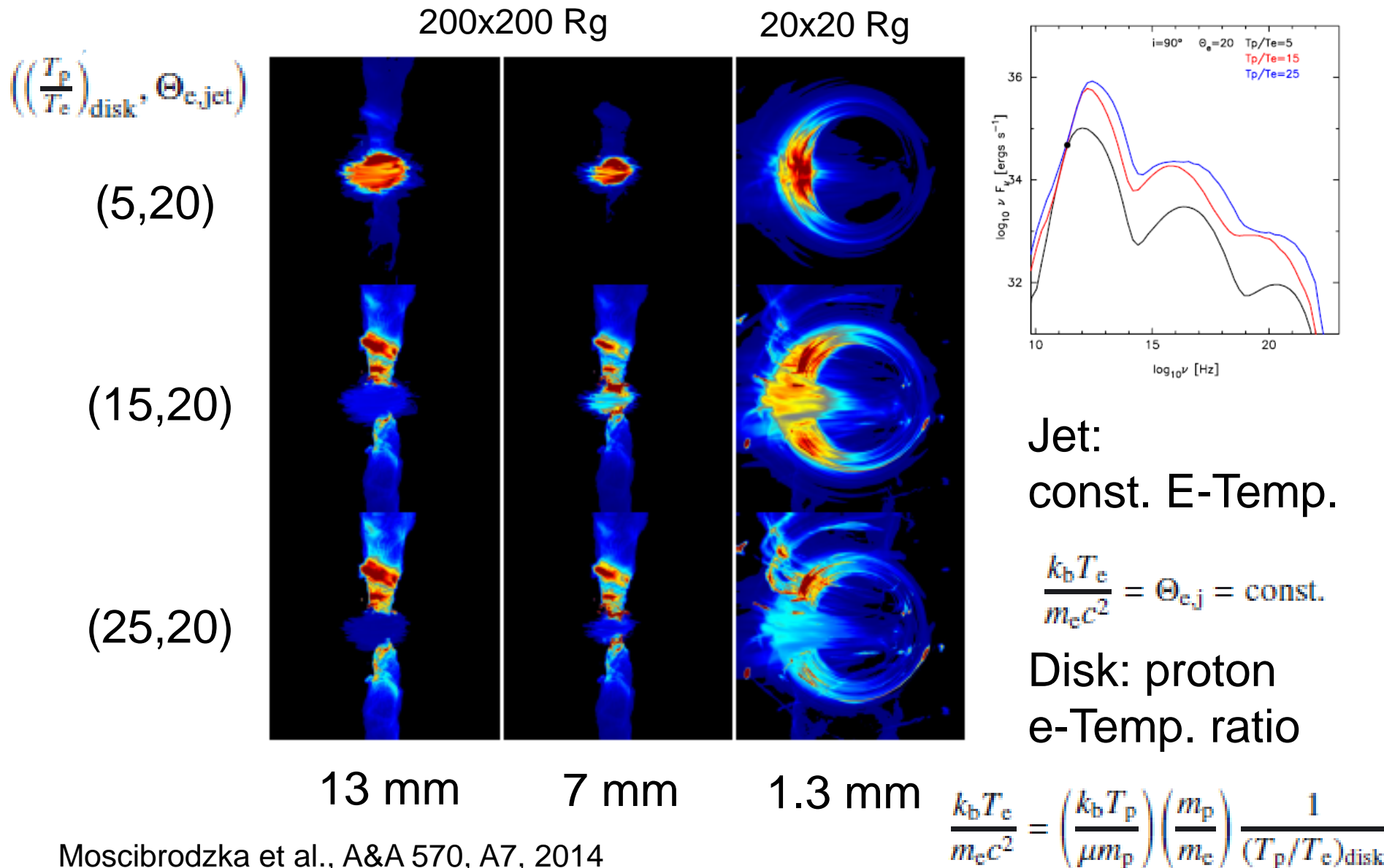
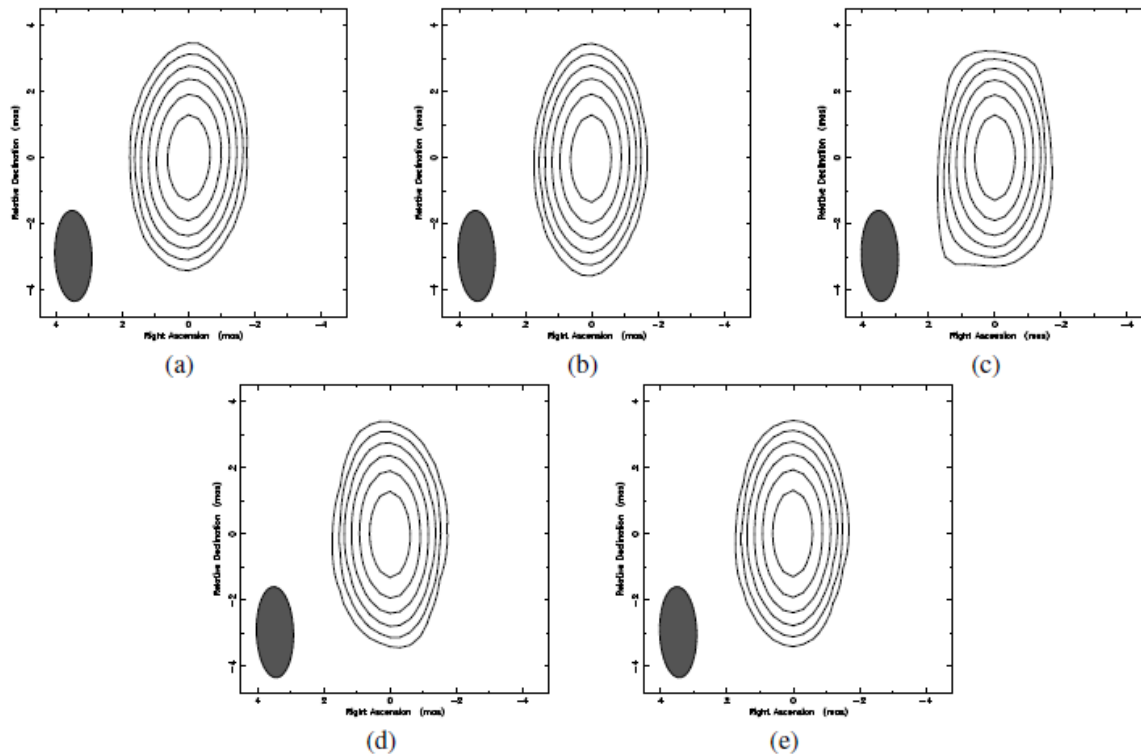


Fig. 8. Intrinsic image, scatter-broadened image, and visibility amplitude distribution for model 24 at $\lambda = 1.3$ mm. Images are time-averaged (over $\Delta t \approx 3$ h) and the color intensity indicates the intensity of radiation normalized to unity (linear scale). The visibility amplitudes are in units of Jansky. The visibility $u - v$ tracks are from [Fish et al. \(2011\)](#).

Jet vs. Core Luminosity in SgrA*



Nature of some SgrA* radio flares



7 mm VLBA

Fig. 5: 2 hour LCP maps of SgrA* observed on May 17 2012. (a) May 17 6-8h. (b) May 17 7-9h. (c) May 17 8-10h. (d) May 17 9-11h. (e) May 17 10-12h. Summarized map parameters can be found in table 2.

Nature of some SgrA* radio flares

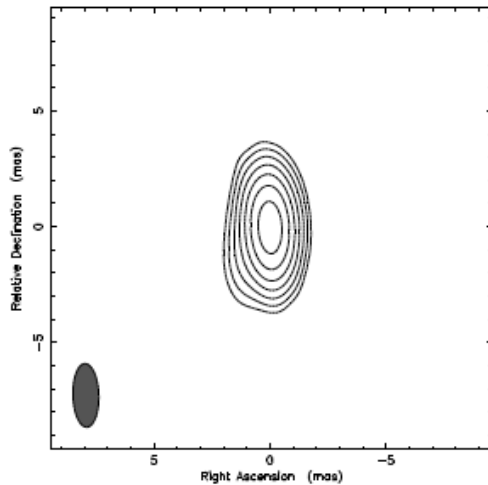


Fig. 7: RCP map of SgrA* on May 17 2012 (8-10h UT). The map was convolved with a beam of 2.74×1.12 at 1.76° . Contour levels are 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 and 64% of the peak flux density of 1.5 Jy/beam.

Central component of 1.55 Jy
secondary component of 0.02 Jy
at 1.5 mas and 140 deg. E-N
with a 4 hour delay relative to the
NIR flare

Rauch et al. 2016

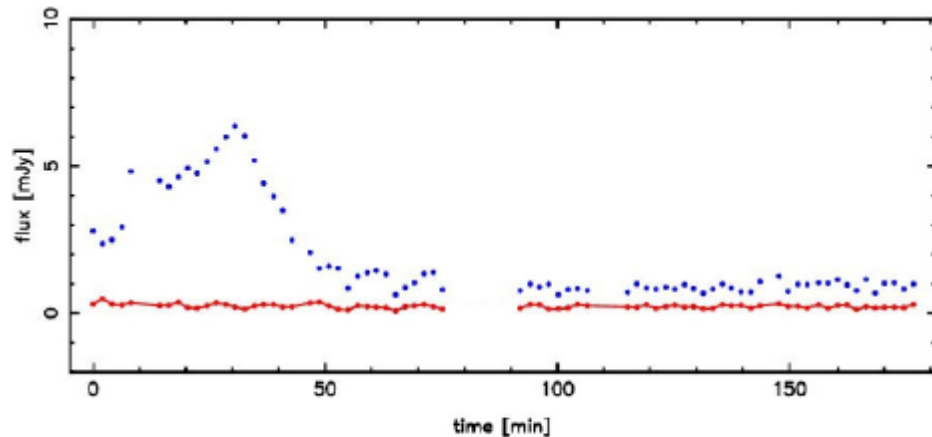


Fig. 3: NIR K_s -band ($2.2 \mu\text{m}$) light curve of Sgr A* observed in polarimetry mode on 17 May 2012. The light curve shown is produced by combining pairs of orthogonal polarization channels: 0° and 90° (taken from Shahzamanian et al. (2015)). Observations started at 4:55 AM UT.

Bower et al. (2014) report major axis sizes of SgrA* as an elliptical Gaussian of $35.4 \times 12.6 R_S$ at a position angle of 95° east of north. Which is much lower than the discussed source morphology due to a secondary component of 0.02 Jy at 1.8 ± 0.4 mas at 140° east of north.

See also 'Asymmetric structure in SgrA* ...'
Brinkerink et al. 2016, MNRAS 462, 1382
'speckle transfer function?'

Monitoring the Orbit of the DSO

Eckart, A., et al., 2014 ATel

Valencia-S., M., et al. 2015, ApJ 800, 125

Zajacek, Karas, Eckart, 2013, A&A 565, 17

Eckart et al. 2013, A&A 551, 18

Peissker et al. 2016 in prep

Accretion of matter
(from ist shell or disk
[or companion]?)
onto a
Galactic Center star?!

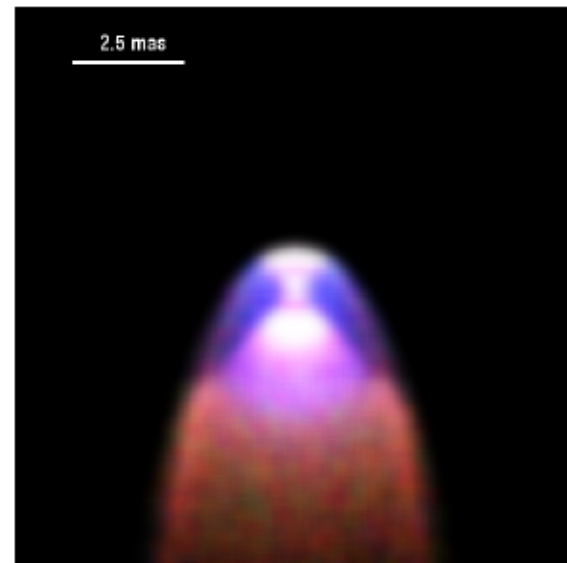
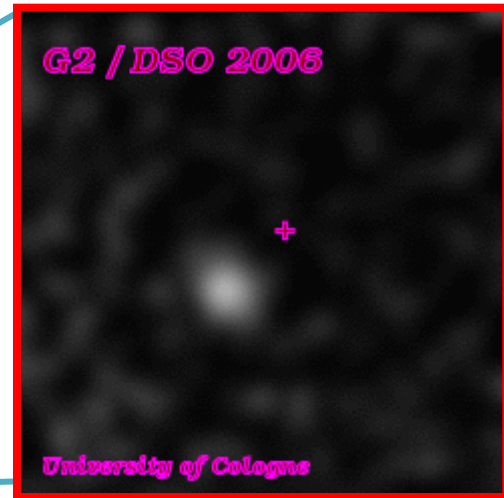
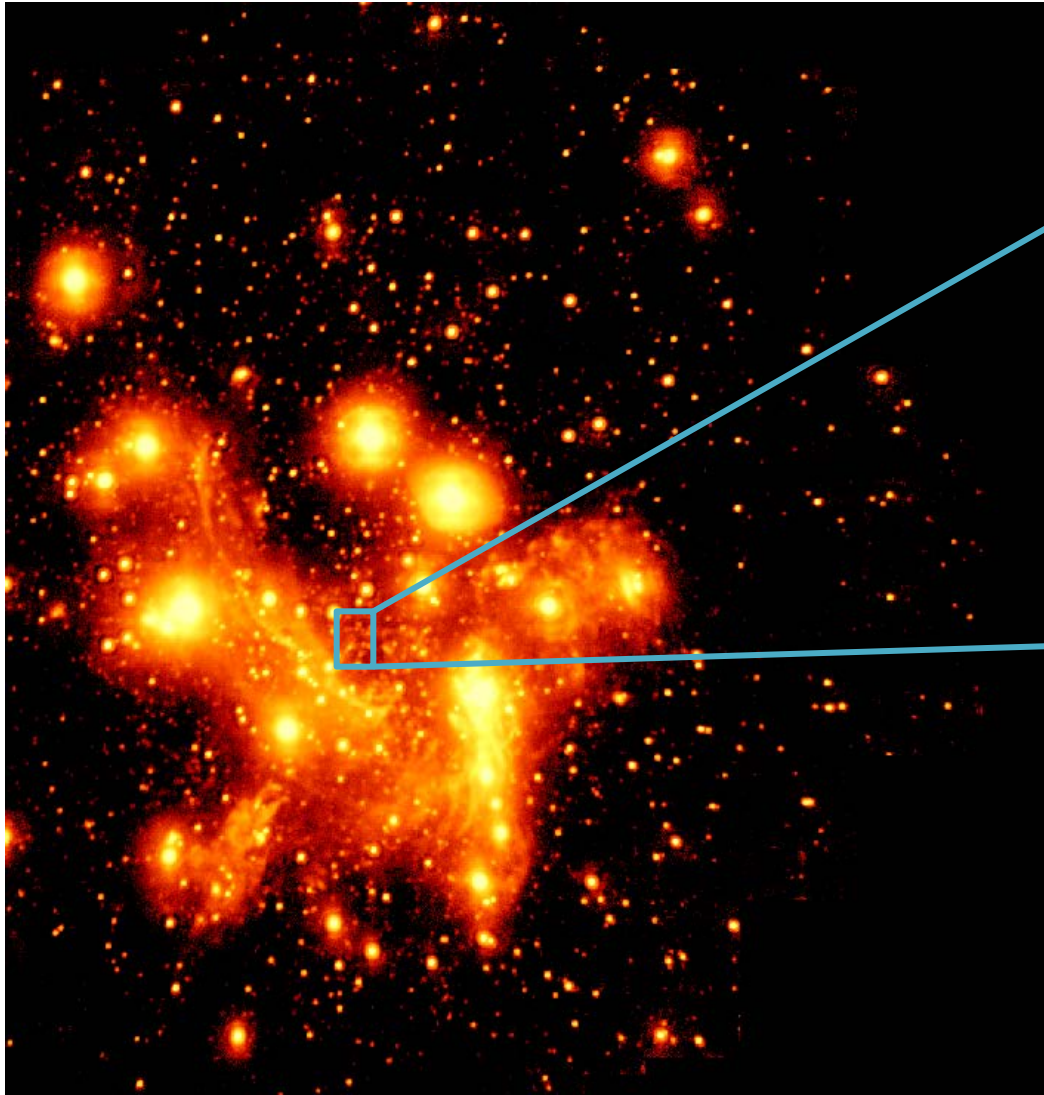


Fig. 9. The RGB image of the source model of the DSO. The explanation is in the text.

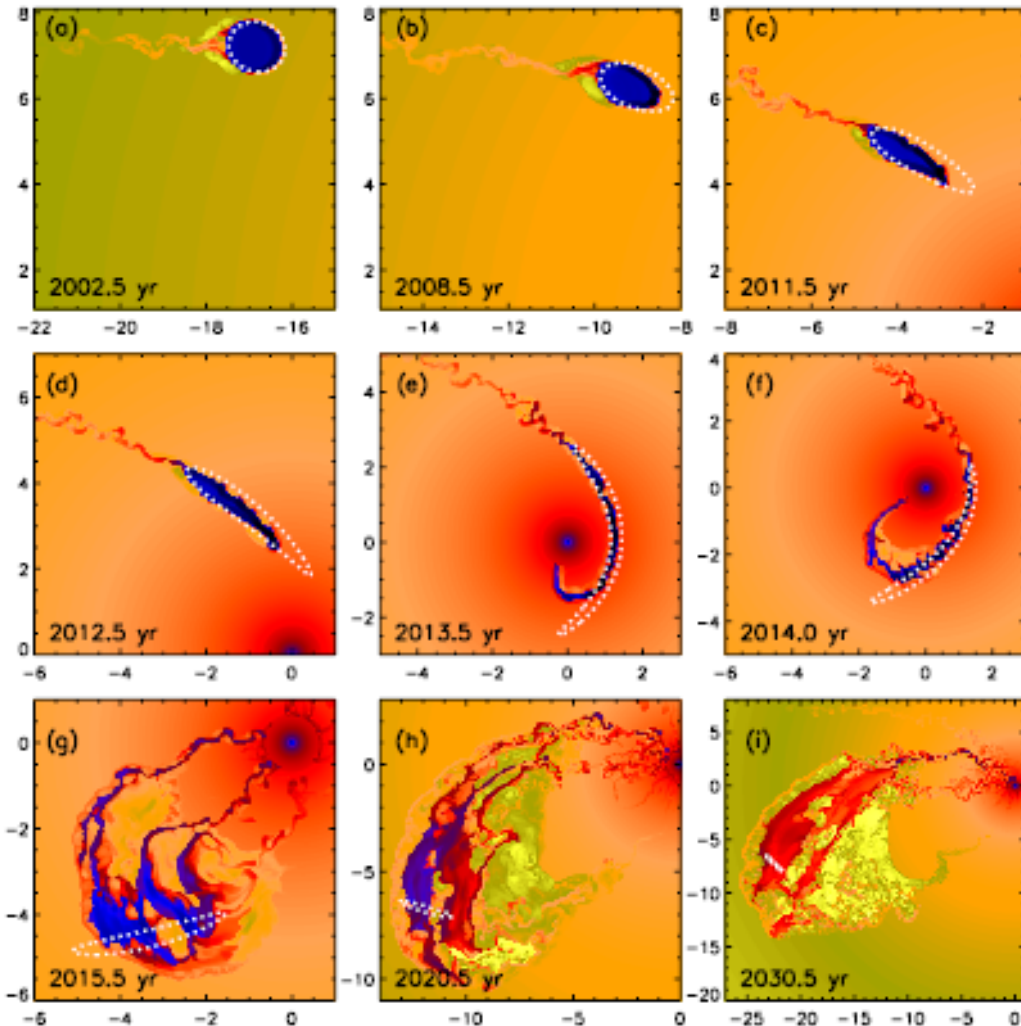
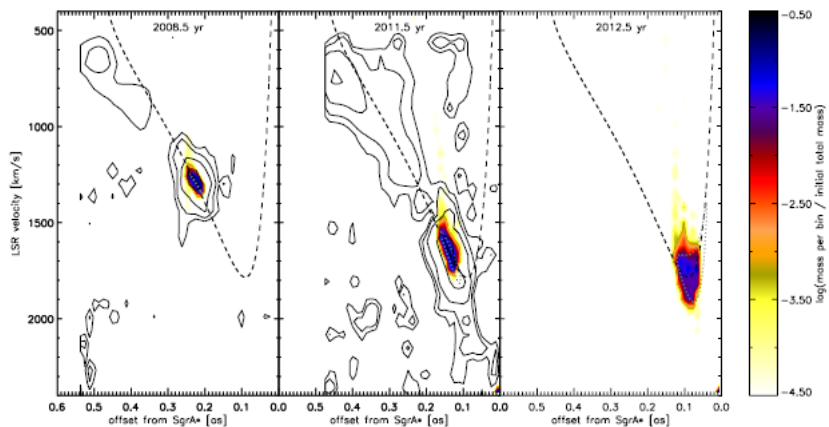
Dusty S-cluster Object(DSO/G2)



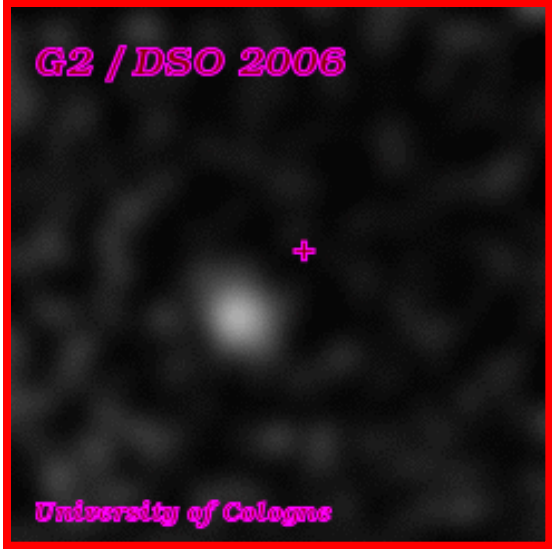
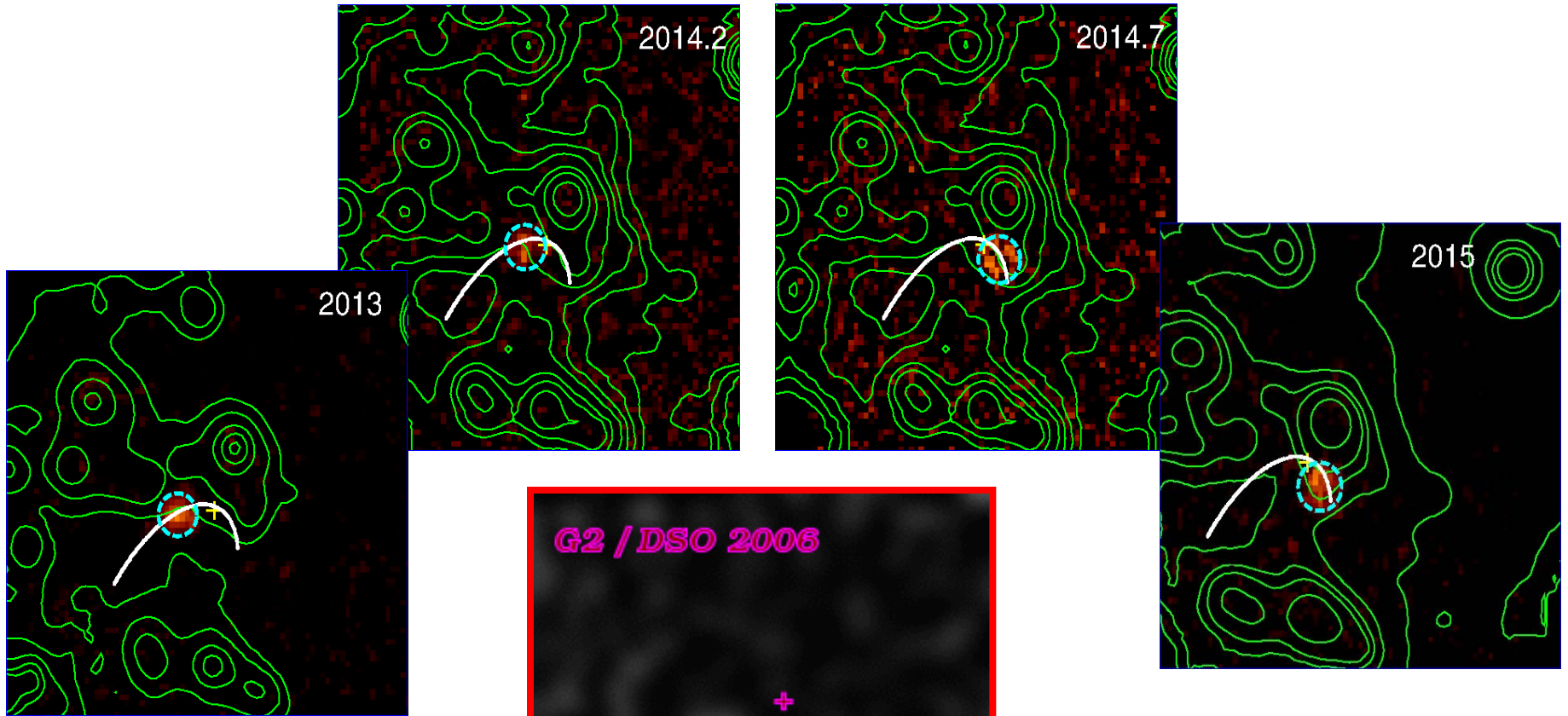
Gillessen et al. 2012,2013a,b;
Eckart et al. 2013a,b; Phifer et al.
2013; Pfuhl et al. 2014; Burkert et
al. 2012; Schartmann et al. 2012;
Witzel et al. 2014; Valencia-S. et
al. 2015; Zajacek, Karas, Eckart
2015... ..

DSO/G2 Approaching SgrA*

Gillessen et al. 2012/13
Burkert et al. 2012,
Schartmann et al. 2012



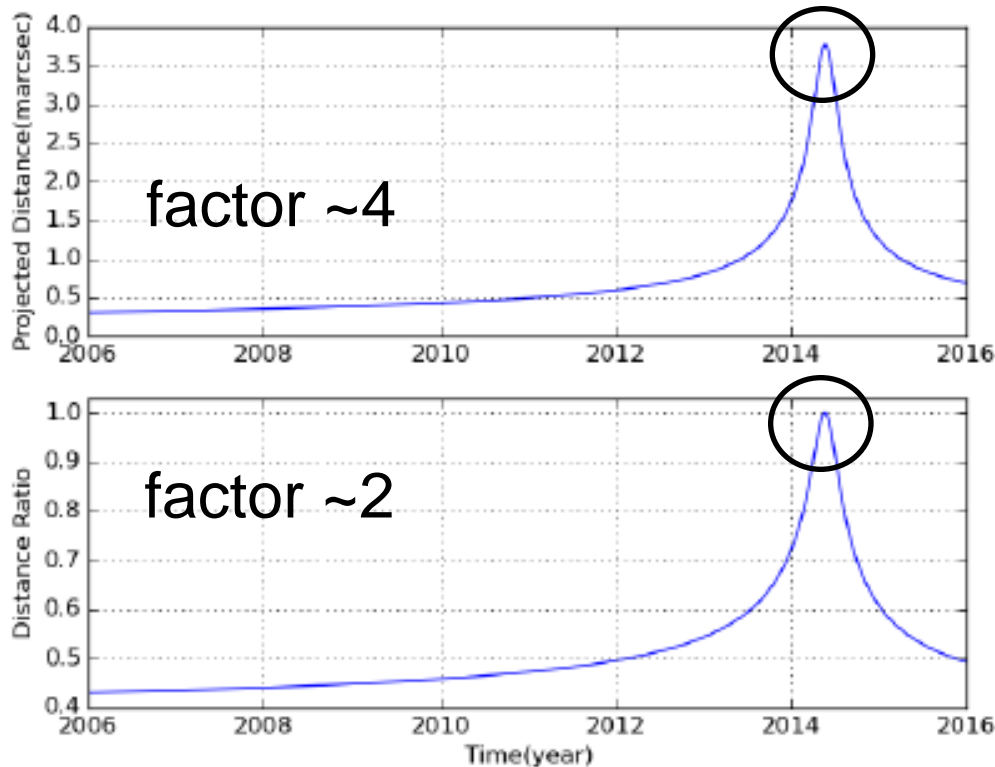
DSO/G2 has survived its closest approach to SgrA*



Valencia-S. et al. 2015, in agreement with Witzel et al. 2014

Peissker et al. (tbs)

B γ line maps of the DSO

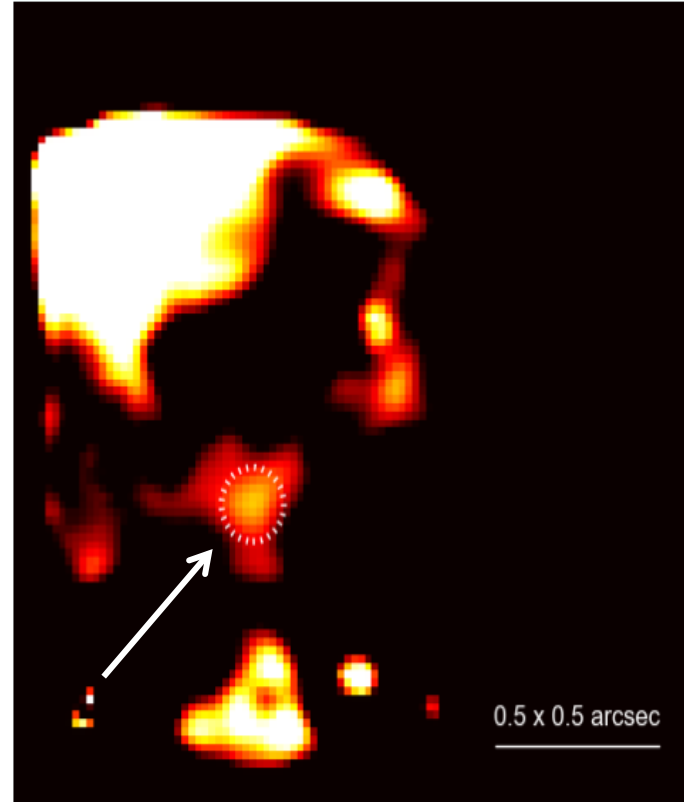
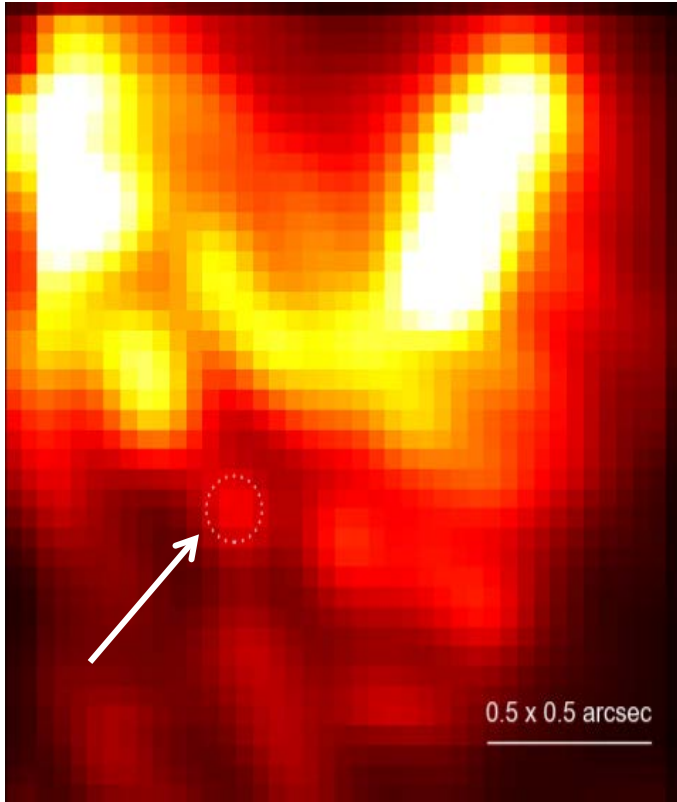


During periaapse the source is seen at its full size

Both B γ and L-band continuum originate from a $<20\text{mas}$ compact source

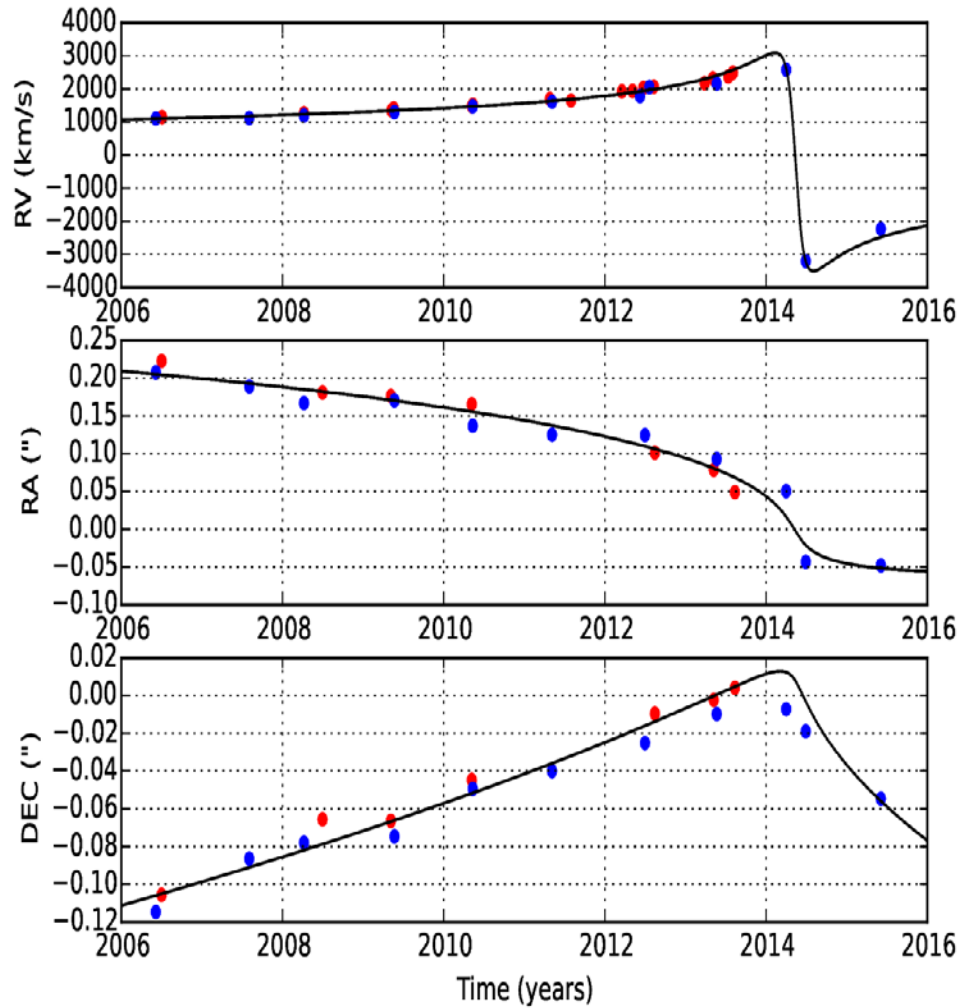
Orbital projection effects: Top: The evolution of the projected separation between two neighboring points of arbitrary 0.5 units in 2011. Bottom: **Foreshortening** factor of any structure along the orbital extent as a function of time.

DSO/G2 emits K-band continuum



2006-2015 recentered at the DSO position and combined

DSO/G2 orbit



● Meyer et al. 2014a,b

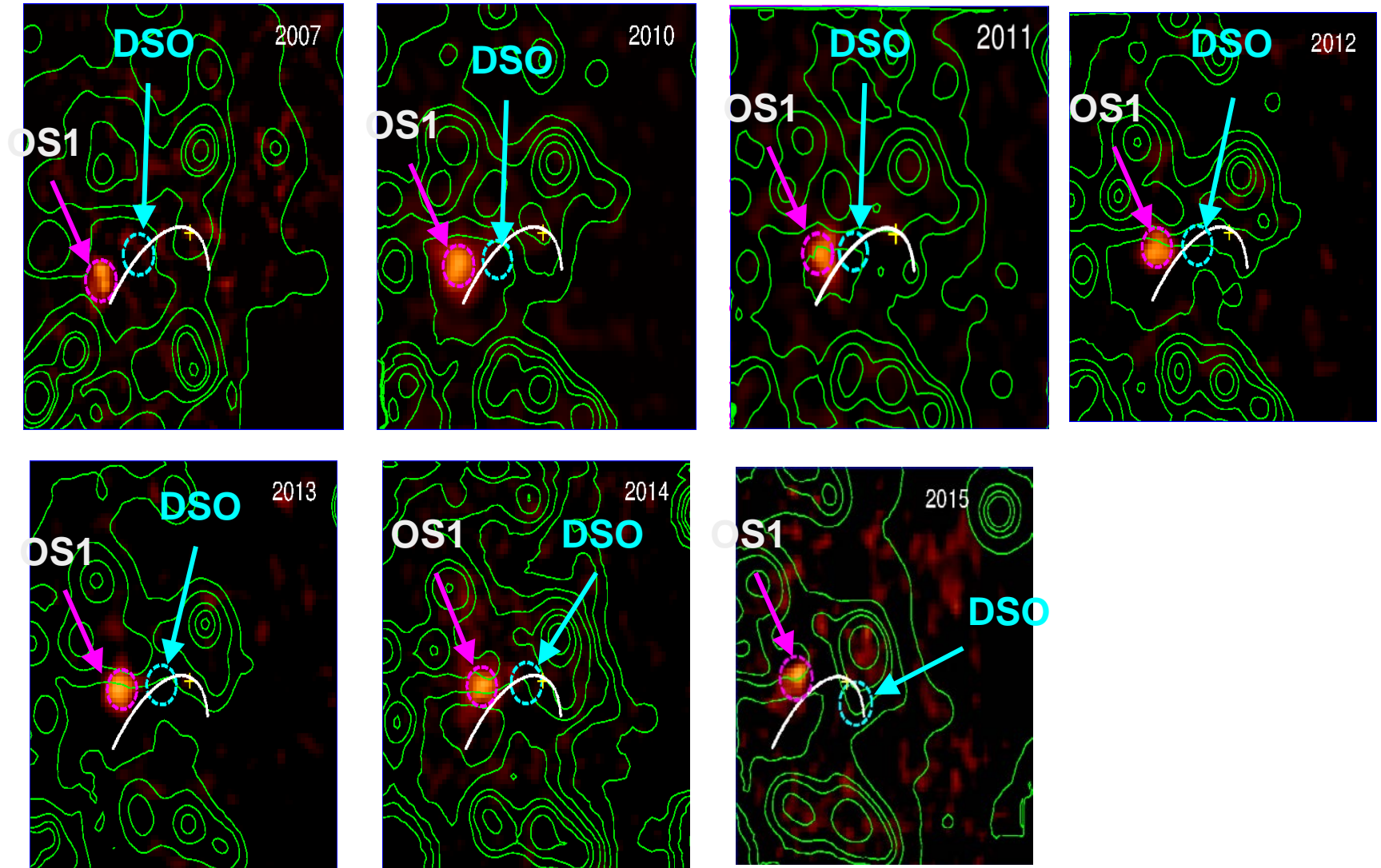
● Valencia-S et al. 2015
● Peisker et al. (tbs)

$e=0.976$

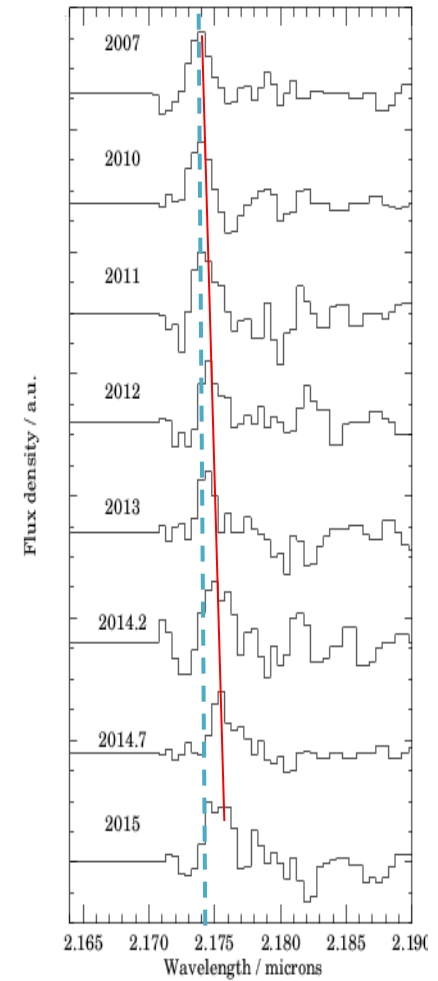
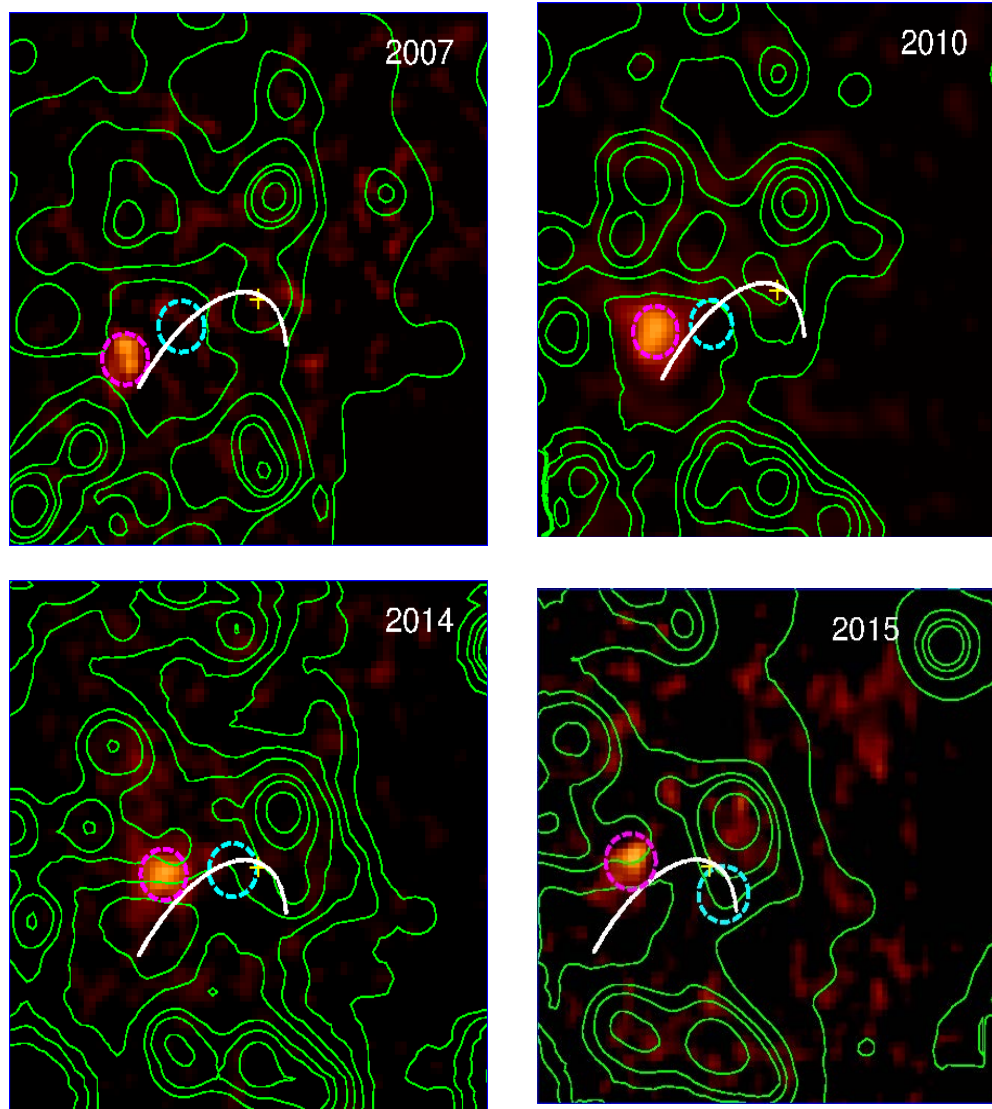
Pericenter distance: 163 AU

in agreement with Pfuhl et al. 2015;
Phifer et al. 2013; Meyer et al.
2014b

Discovery of a new faint Dusty S-cluster member: OS1

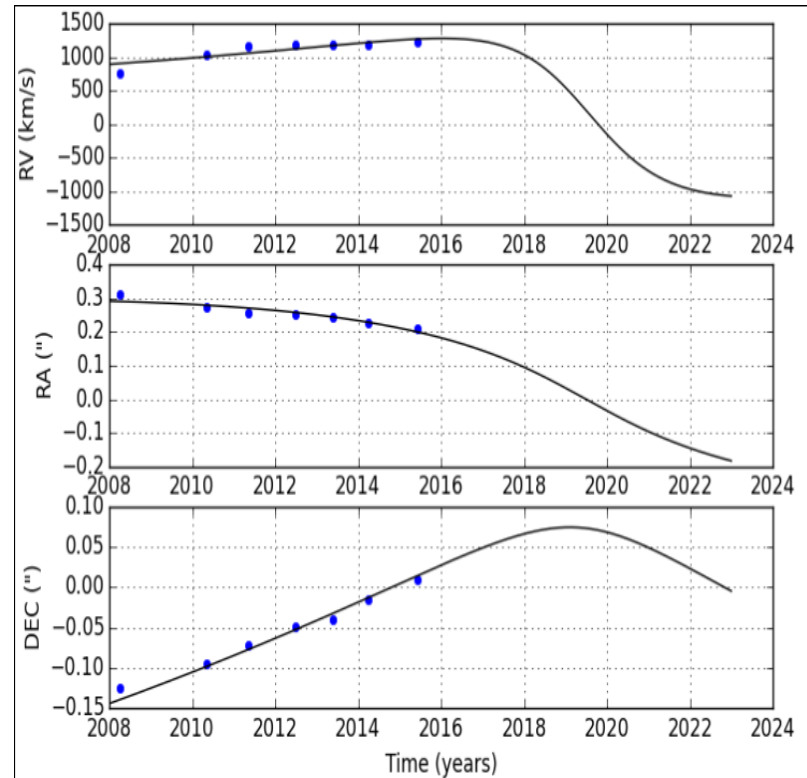
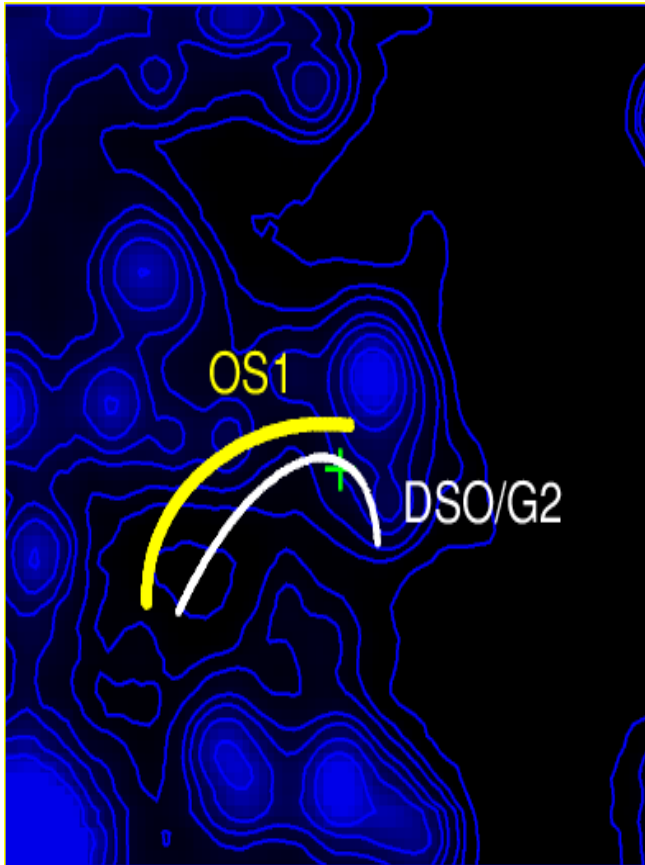


OS1 does not follow the DSO trajectory



Peissker, Eckart, Valencia-S et al. (tbs)

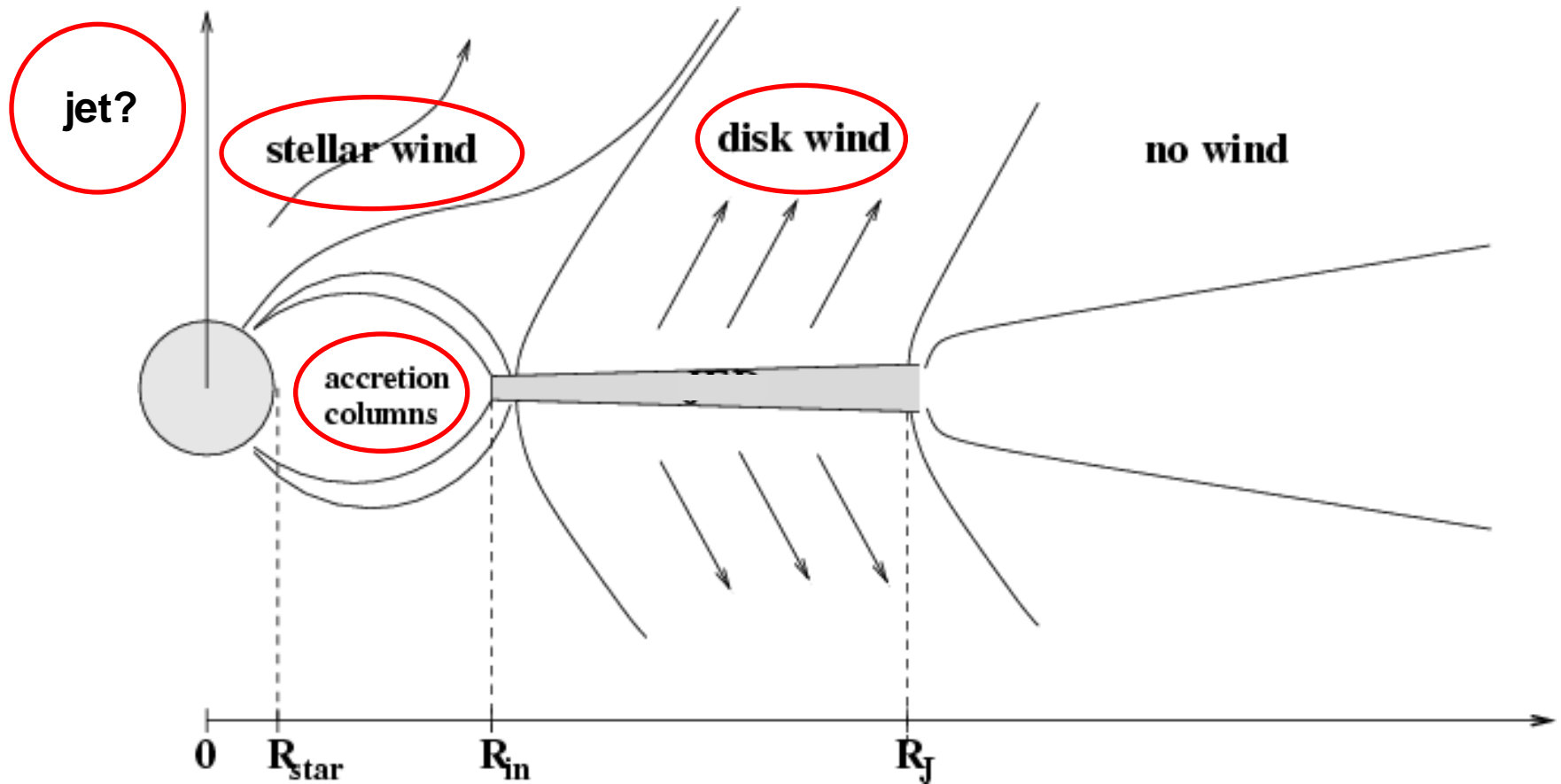
OS1 does not follow the DSO trajectory



Periapse distance: 750 AU

Potential reasons for having a large line width

Plus interaction with ambient medium

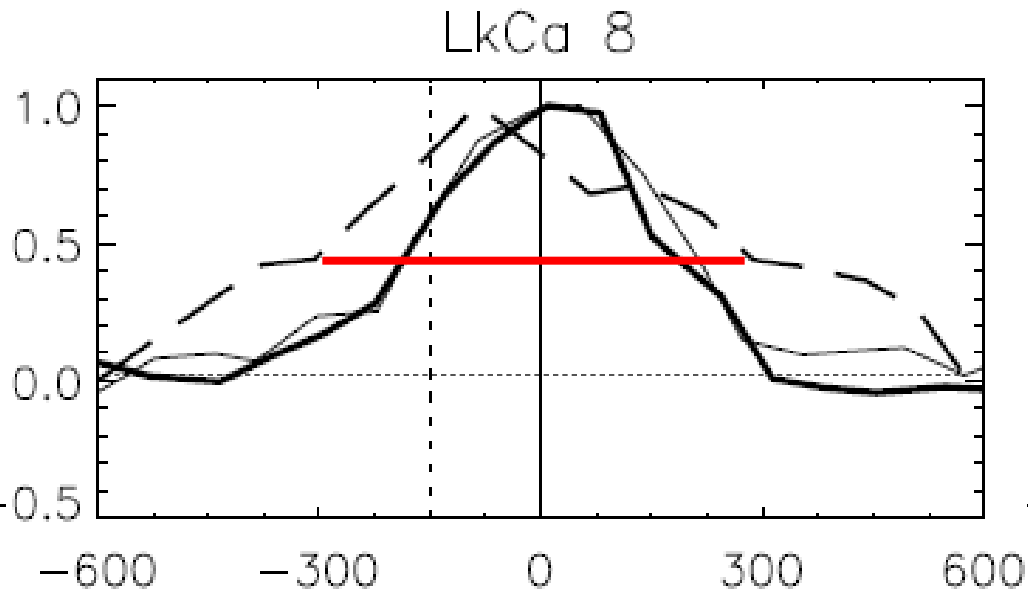


A&A 479, 481-491 (2008)

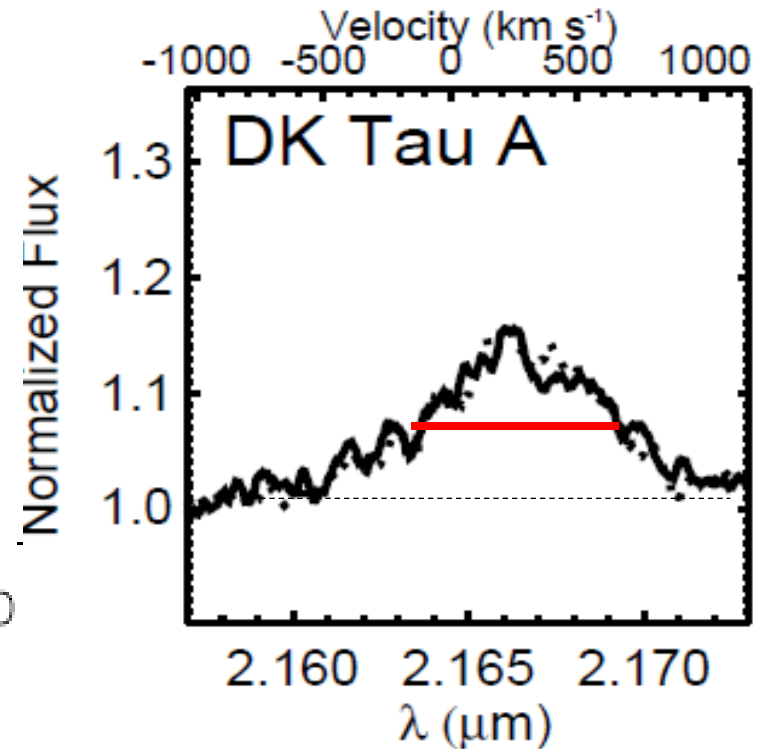
The radial structure of protostellar accretion disks

C. Combet and J. Ferreira

Pre-main sequence stars with large line widths

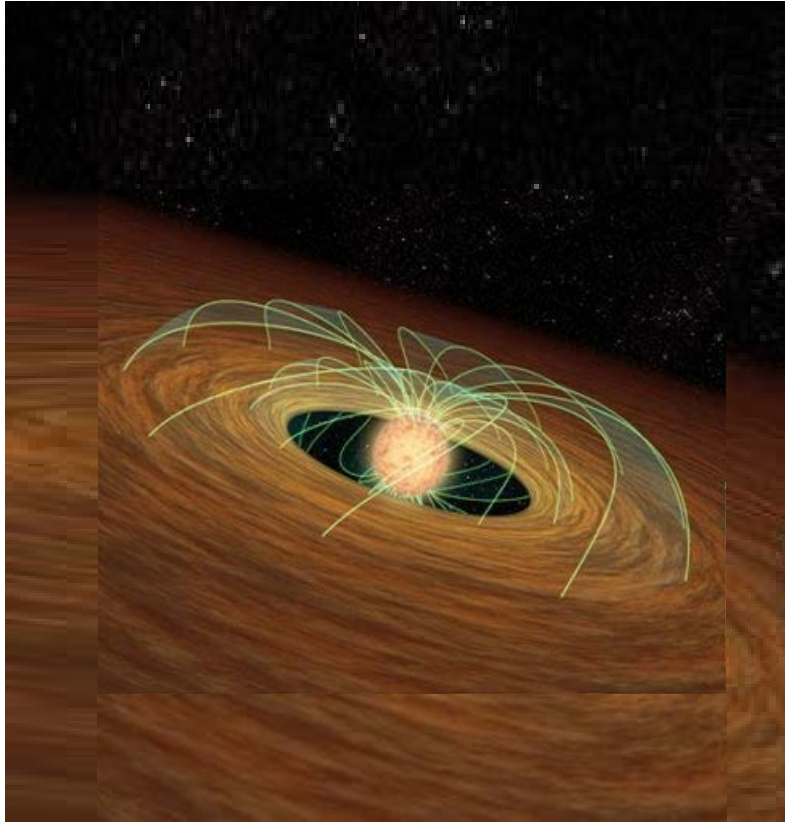


Edwards et al. 2013
M0V ; **T Tauri** ; around 2 solar masses
600-700 km/s in Br γ



Eisner et al. 2007
Herczeg & Hillenbrand 2014
K8.5 ; **0.68 solar masses**
800 km/s in Br γ

DSO/G2 as a young stellar object

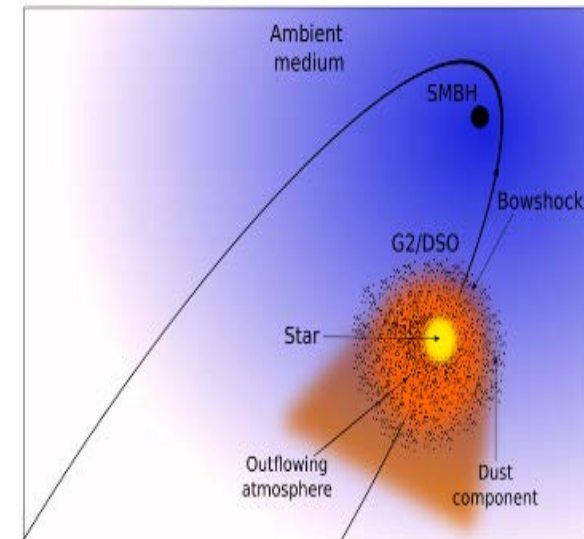


B γ production mechanisms:

Ionized winds, accretion funnel flows, the jet base, bow shock layer

B γ broadening:

Inclination of the system
magnetospheric accretion model (200-700 km/s)



Zajacek, Karas, Eckart 2014

Davies et al. 2011; Rosen, Krumholz, Ramirez-Ruiz, 2012, Eckart et al. 2014

The DSO is polarized in the NIR

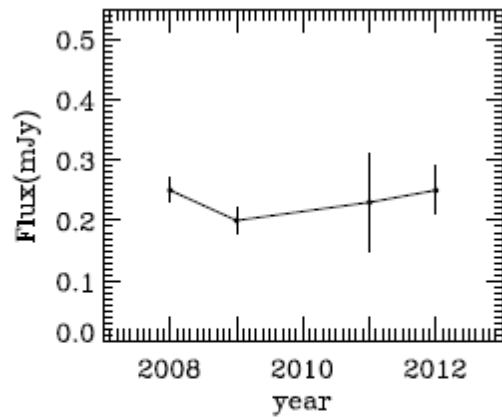


Fig. 2. NIR K_s -band light curve of the DSO observed in polarimetry mode in different years of 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2012.

Shahzamanian et al. 2016

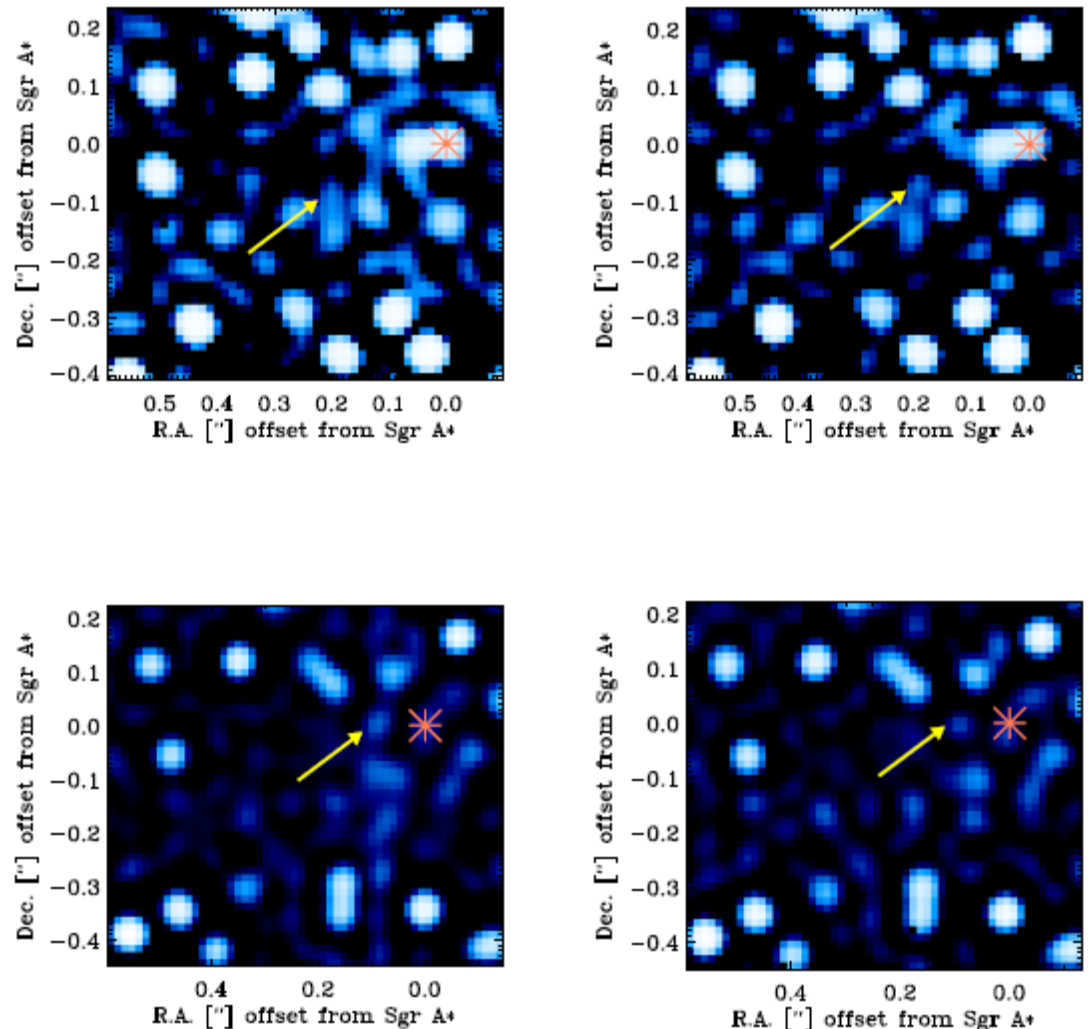


Fig. 1. The final K_s -band deconvolved median images of the central arcsecond at the GC in polarimetry mode (left: 0° , right: 90°) in the years 2008 (top) and 2012 (bottom). The arrow points to the position of the DSO and the asterisk indicates Sgr A* position. In all the images North is up and East is left.

The DSO is polarized in the NIR

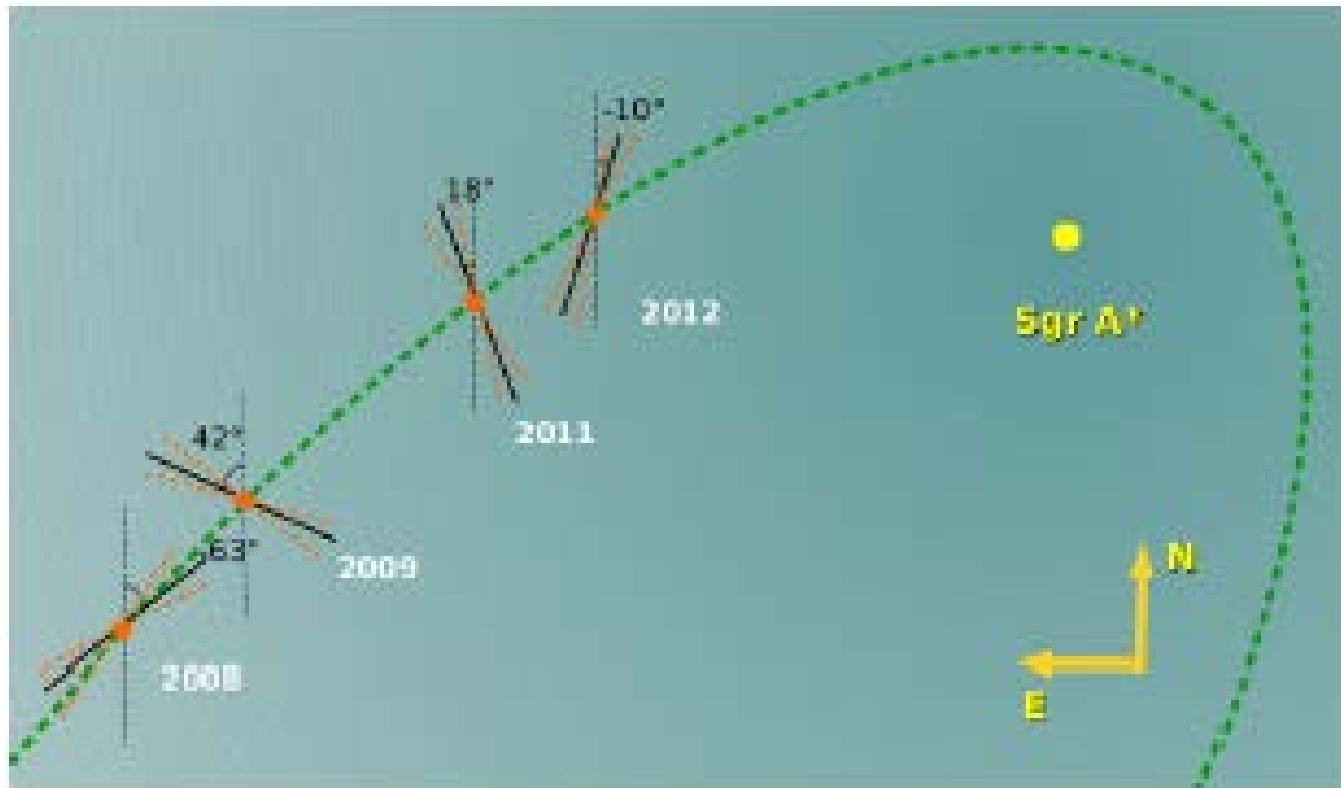


Fig. 3. Sketch of the DSO polarization angle variation when it moves on its eccentric orbit around Sgr A* position for four different years. : this part will change: The orange shaded areas show the range of possible values of polarization angle based on our observation and simulation results.

The DSO is polarized in the NIR

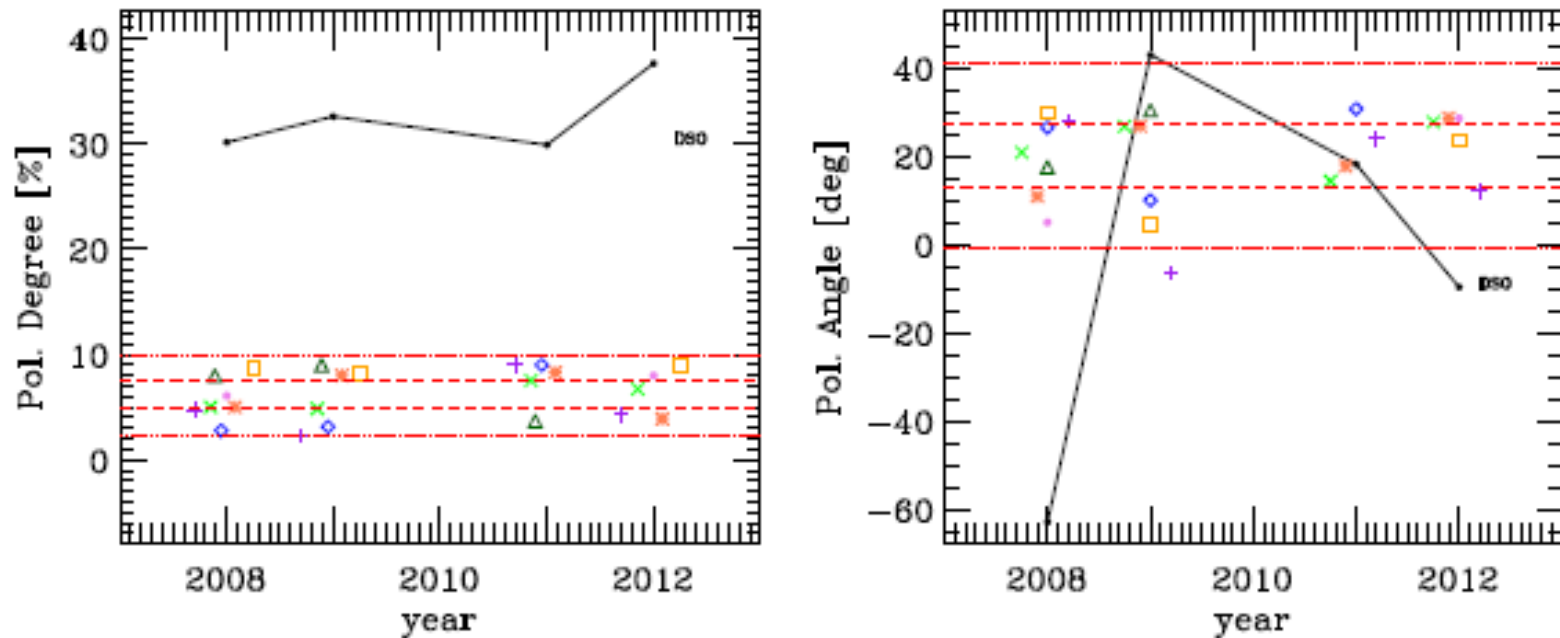


Fig. 4. Left: Comparison of the polarization degree of the DSO (black dots) with the ones of GC S-stars located close to the DSO position (S7, S57, S19, S20, S40, S23, S63). Right: Comparison of the polarization angle of the DSO (black dots) with the ones of the S-stars similar to the left panel. In both panels: Some of the considered stars are not isolated in some years in which it is difficult to calculate their polarization parameters, therefore we did not show them as data points. The regions between two dashed red lines and dotted lines present the 1 and 3 σ confidence intervals of the K_s -band polarization degree and angle distributions of the stars reported in Buchholz et al. (2013), respectively.

DSO model: shocked stellar wind

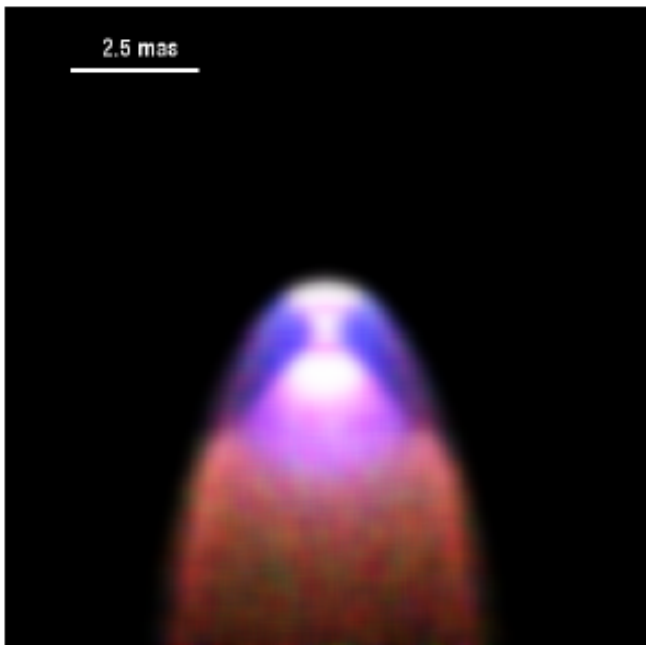


Fig. 9. The RGB image of the source model of the DSO. The explanation is in the text.

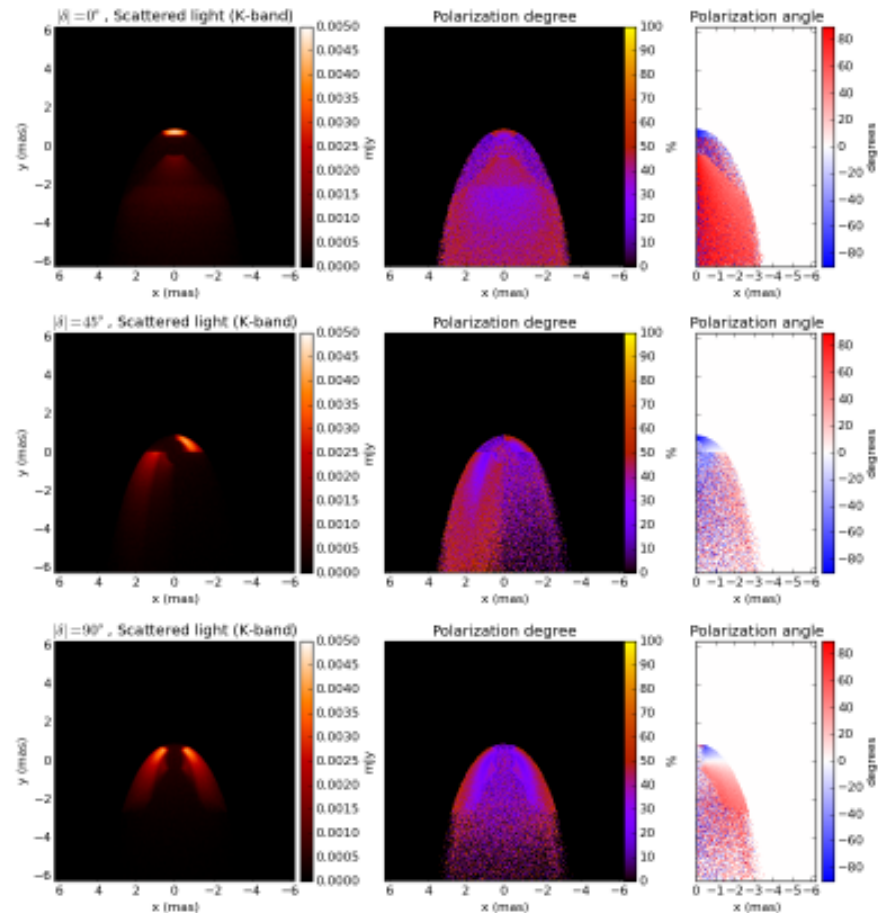


Fig. 8. The emission map of scattered light in K_s band, the distribution of the polarization degree and the angle in the left, middle, and the right panels, respectively for three different configurations of the star-outflow system: $\delta = 0^\circ$, 45° , 90° from the top to the bottom panels.

General Summary

Experimental Indicators of Accretion Processes in AGN

Starformation and Black Hole Growth jet formation as well as NLR and BLR reverberation indicate compactness and activity of the region around the Black Hole

SgrA* as a special nearby case

NIR polarization of SgrA* over the past ~10 years, as well as radio monitoring indicate that SgrA* is a stably accreting system
Monitoring the Dusty S-cluster Object

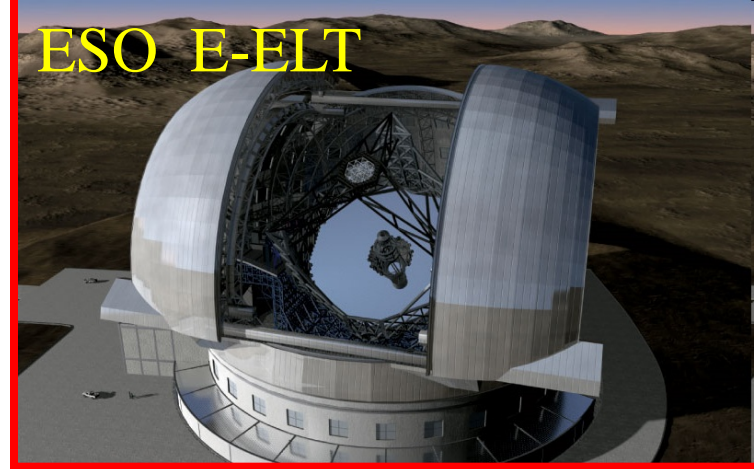
Summary for the DSO

1. DSO/G2 line emission remains compact through the years. DSO/G2 emits K-band continuum emission (18 mag) and has survived the closest approach to SgrA*.
 2. DSO/G2 PV diagrams can also capture emission from the fore/background and other line-emitting sources.
 3. Discovery of OS1 → Existence of a population of faint, dusty objects.
 4. The NIR continuum of the DSO is polarized
- DSO might be a YSO (T Tauri $M=0.8-2.0M_{\odot}$, $\sim 0.1\text{Myr}$)



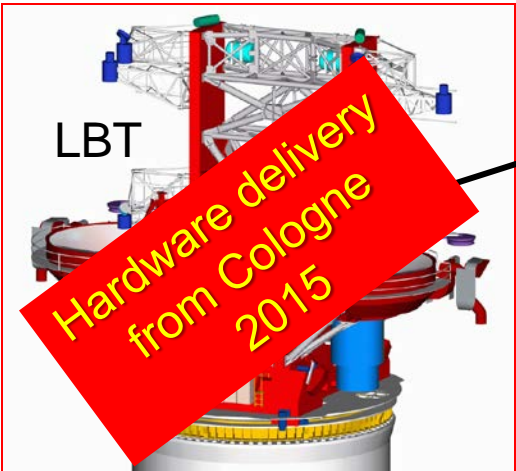
ESO

NL leads Euro-Team
University of Cologne
studies for
METIS @ E-ELT



MPE, MPIA, Paris, SIM
University of Cologne
participation
GRAVITY @ VLT

The Galactic Center is a unique
laboratory in which one can study
signatures of strong gravity with
GRAVITY

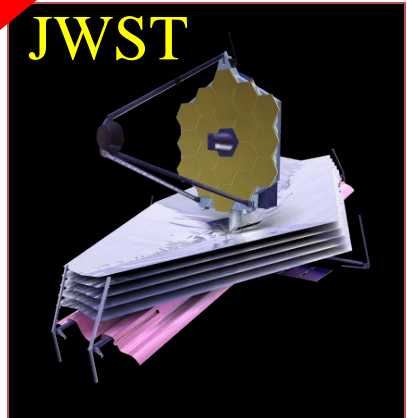


LBT

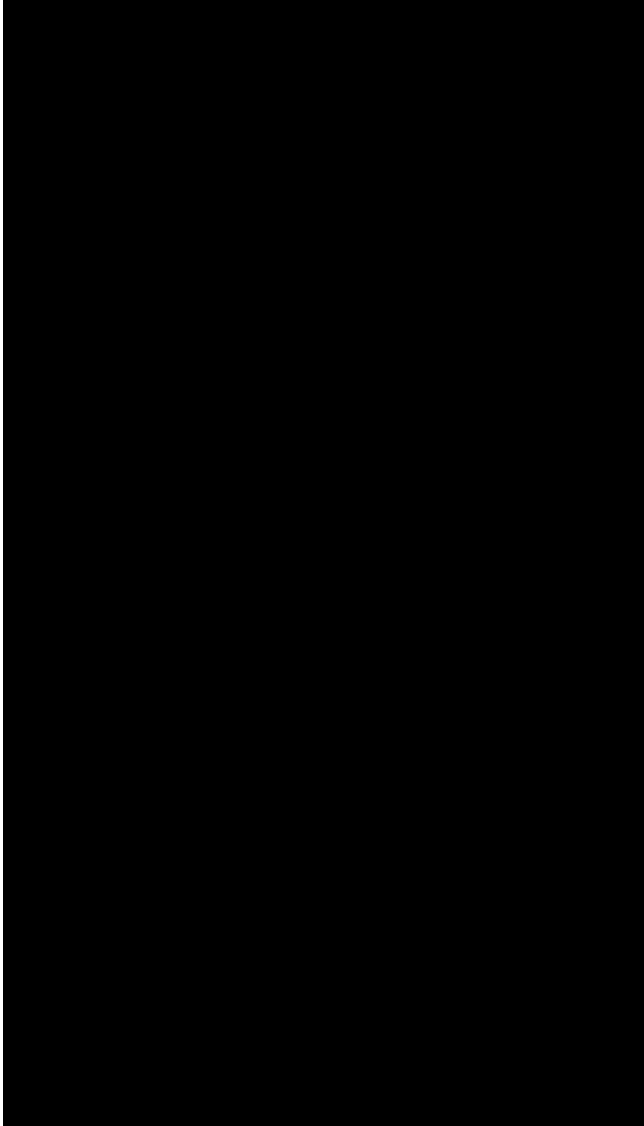
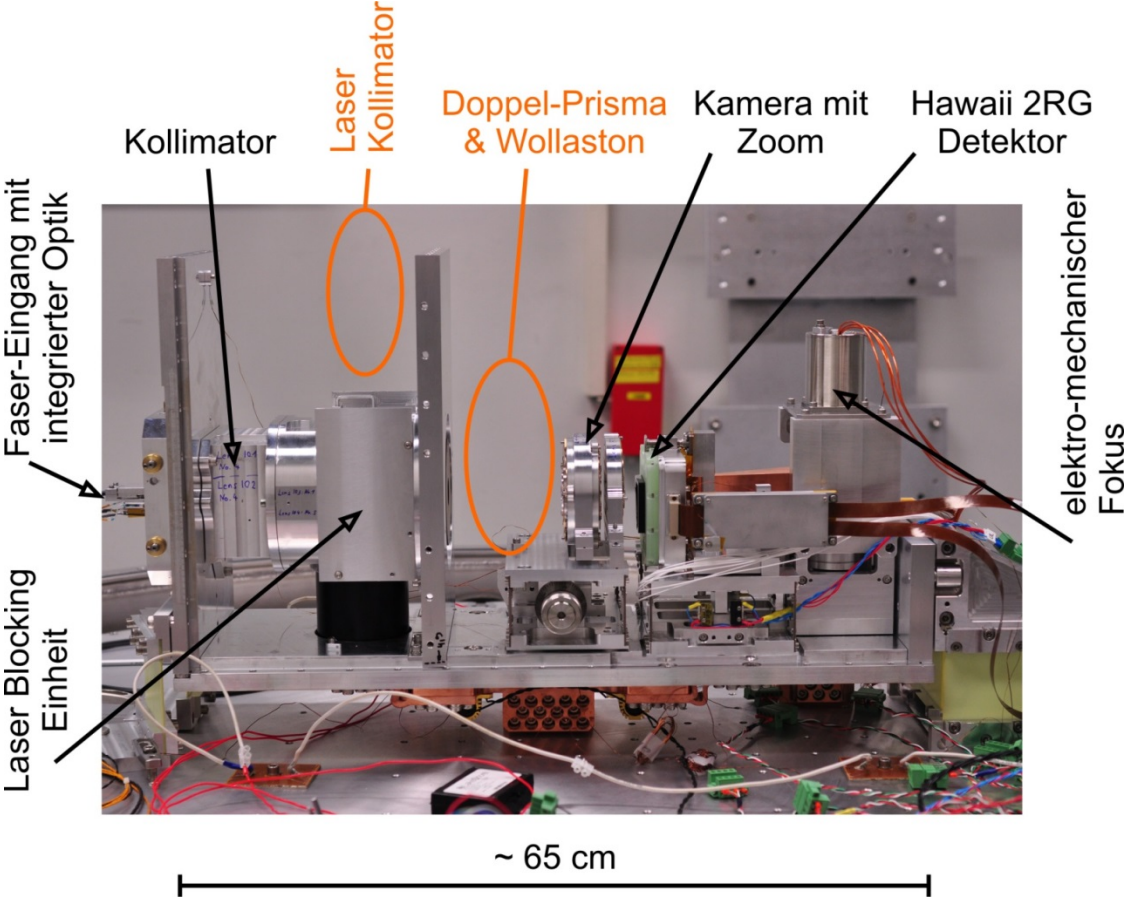
NIR Beam Combiner:
University of Cologne
MPIA, Heidelberg
Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri
MPIfR Bonn



Cologne
contribution to
MIRI on JWST



Cologne built Fringe Tracking Spectrometer for GRAVITY



End