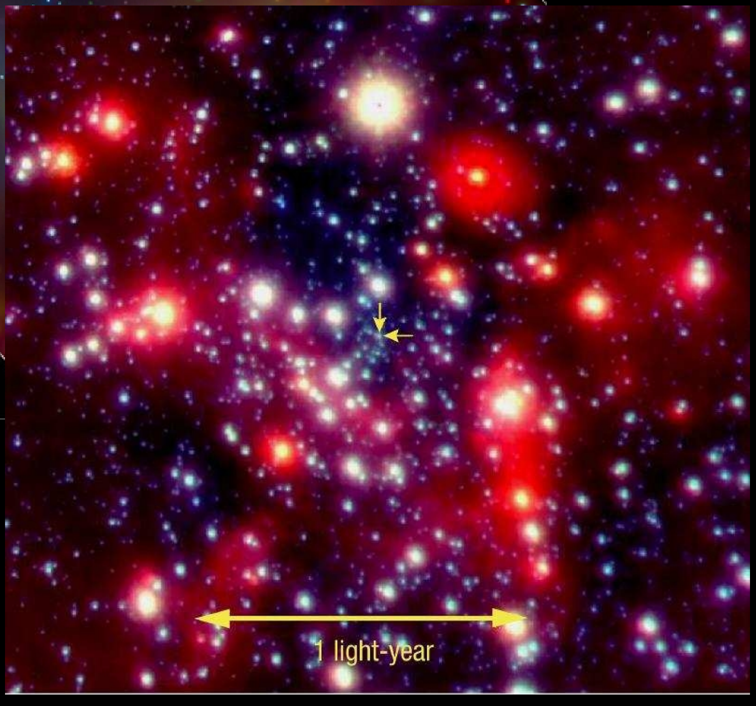
Simulating Accretion Disks and their Emission

Scott C. Noble (JHU)

with

C. F. Gammie, P. K. Leung, L. Book (UIUC)



CAS Seminar, JHU

Dec. 11th, 2007

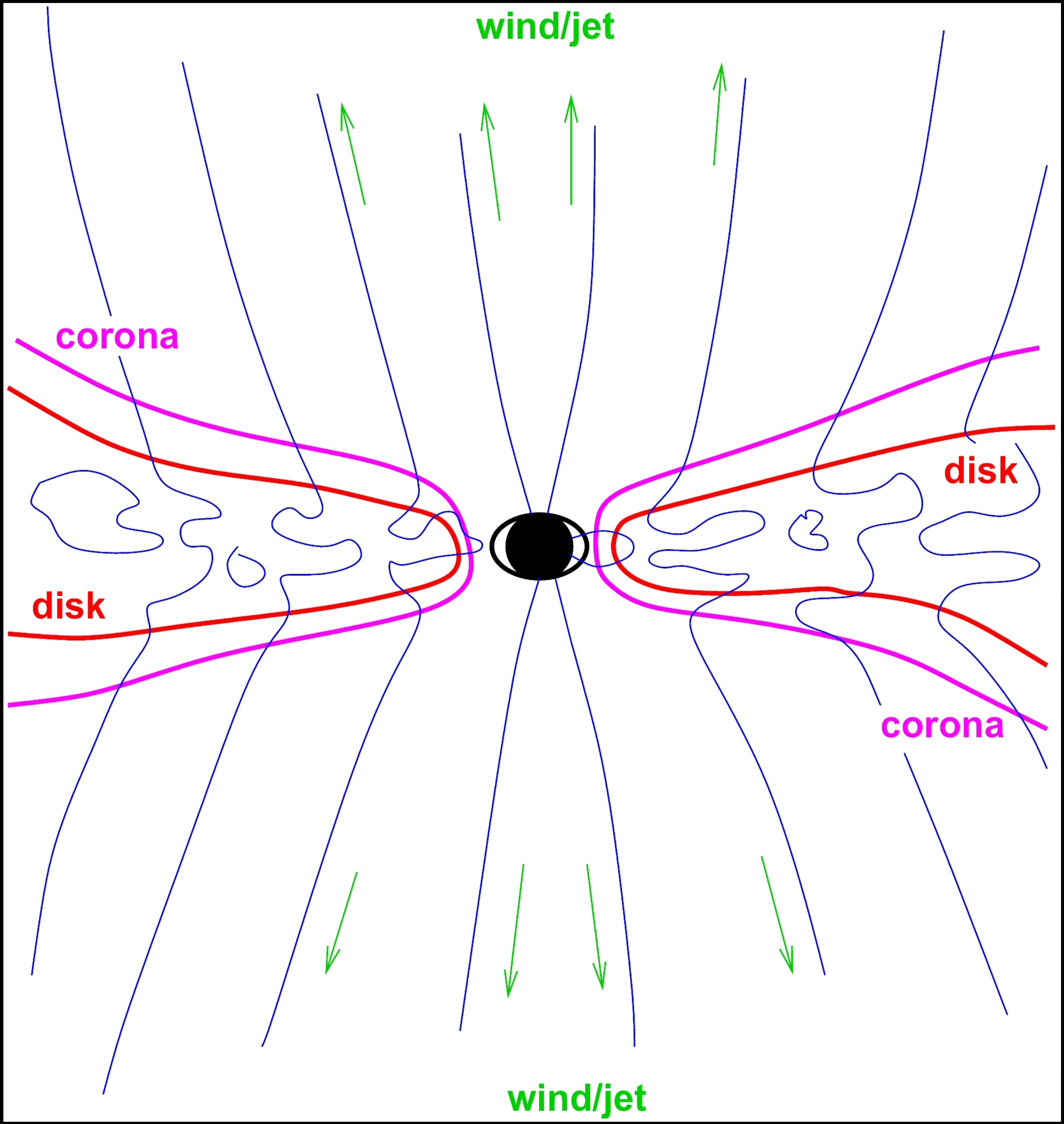
Outline:

- Brief Intro. to Astrophysical Disks
- Disk Simulations, Jets, Matter/Energy Emission
- The Galactic Center: Sagittarius A* (Sgr A*)
  - Observations and Theory
- Our Calculation of Sgr A*'s Emission
- Conclusion

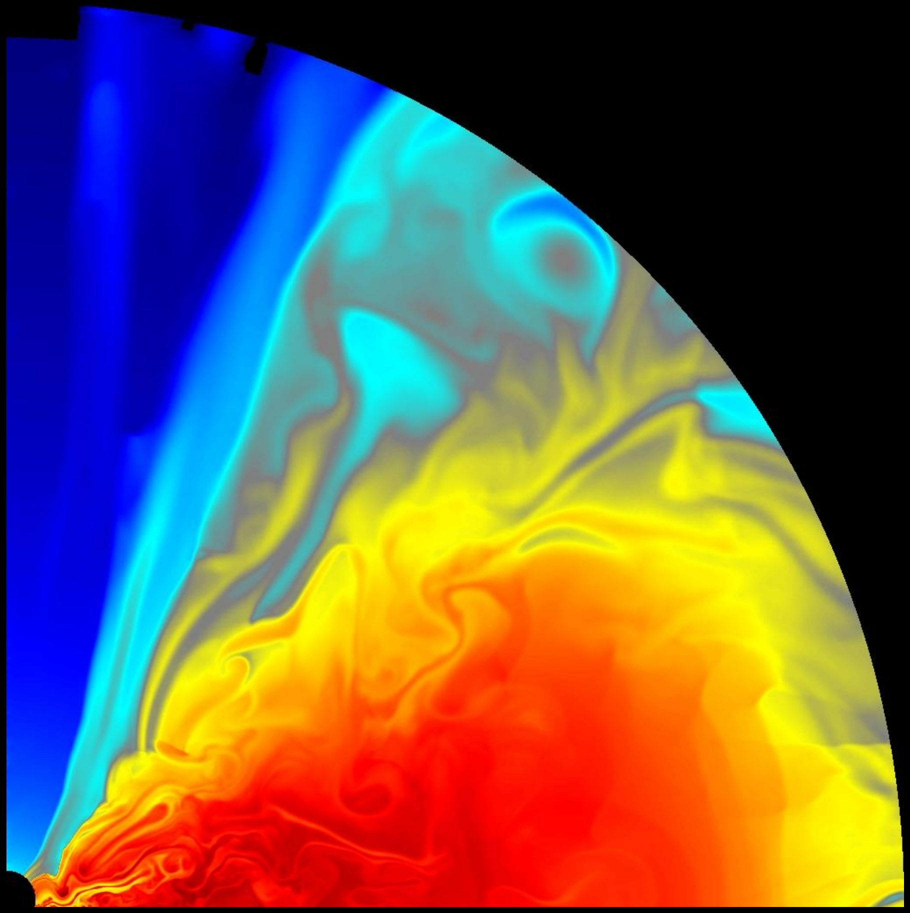
Astrophysical Disks

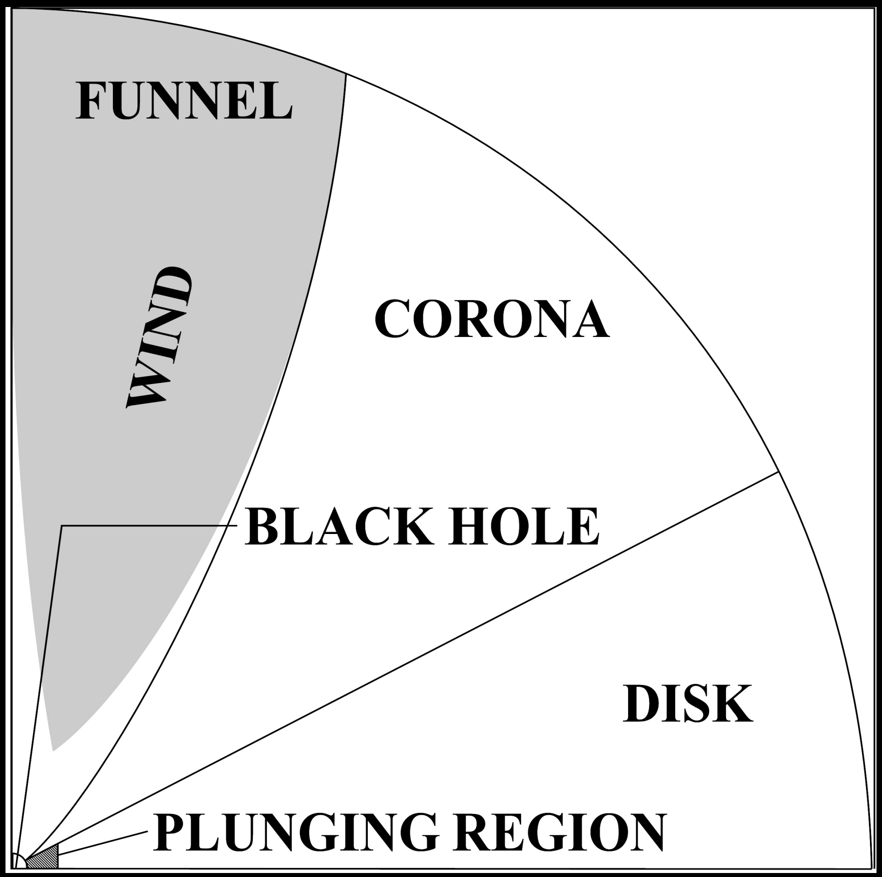
Disk Type	Gravity Model
Galaxies, Stellar Disks, Planetary Disks	Newtonian
X-ray binaries, AGN	Stationary metric
Collapsars, SN fall-back disks	Full GR

- MRI explains ang. mom. transfer whenever the disk is ionized!


wind/jet
corona
disk
disk
corona
wind/jet

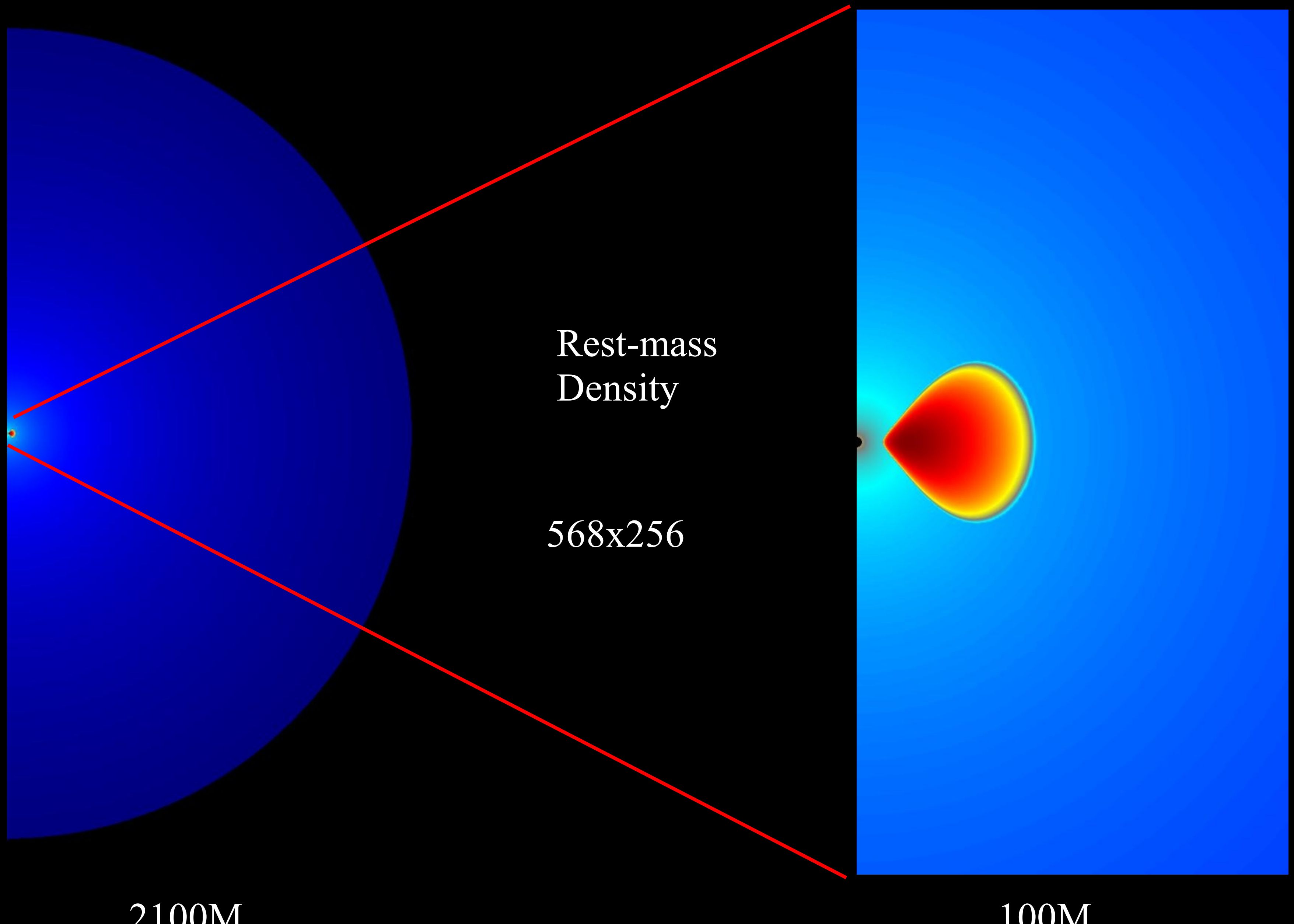
Disk Morphology





McKinney & Gammie (2004)
Hawley, De Villiers, Krolik, Hirose 2003+

Outflows SCN, Leung, Gammie, Book (2007)



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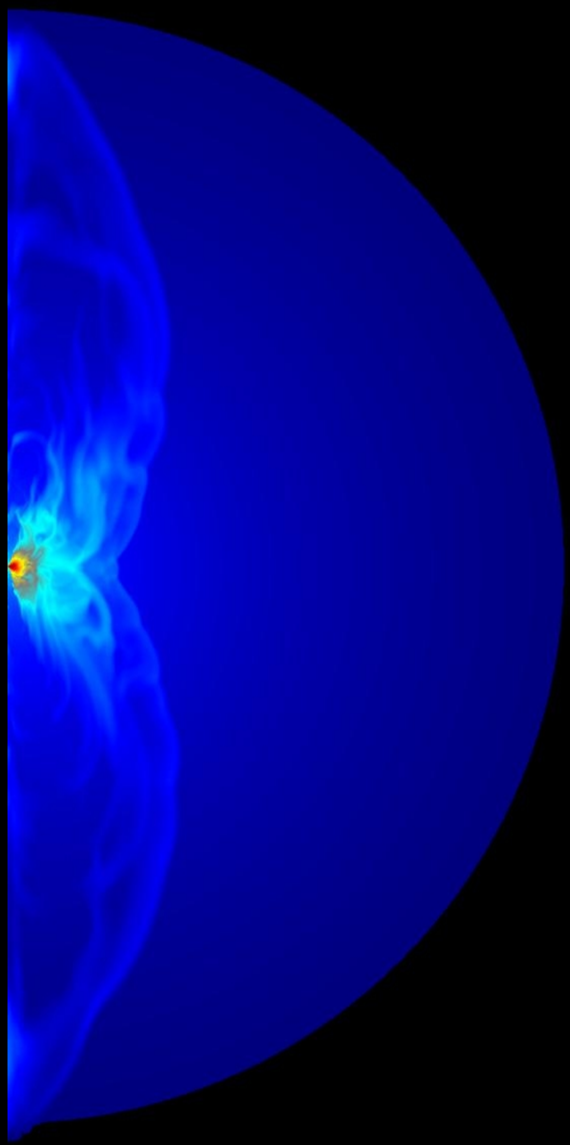
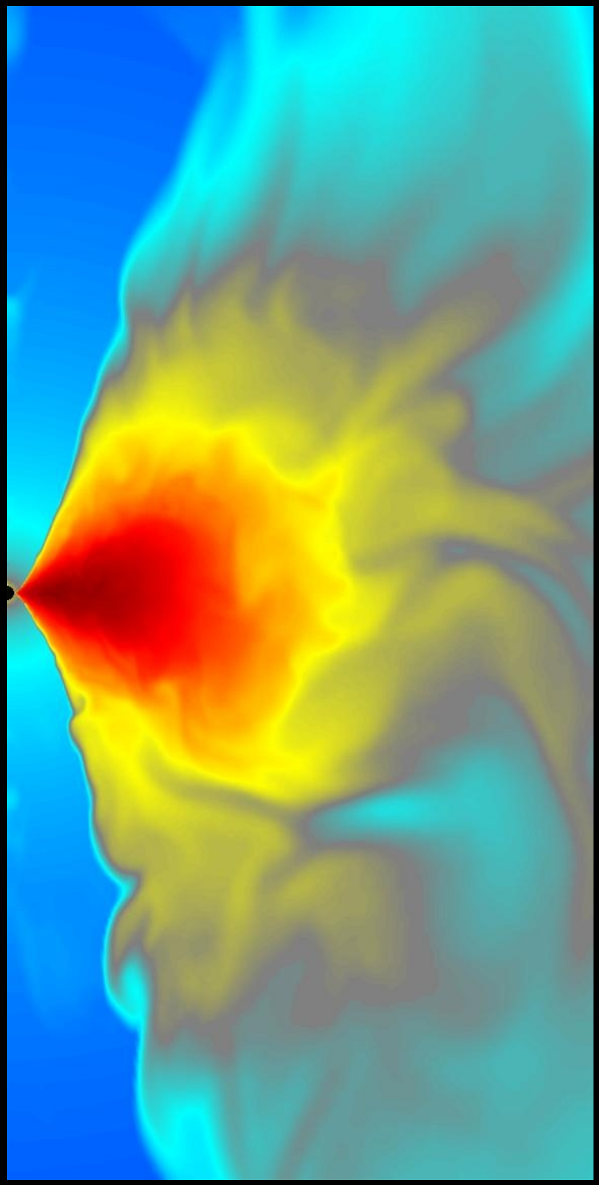


2100M

Rest-mass
Density

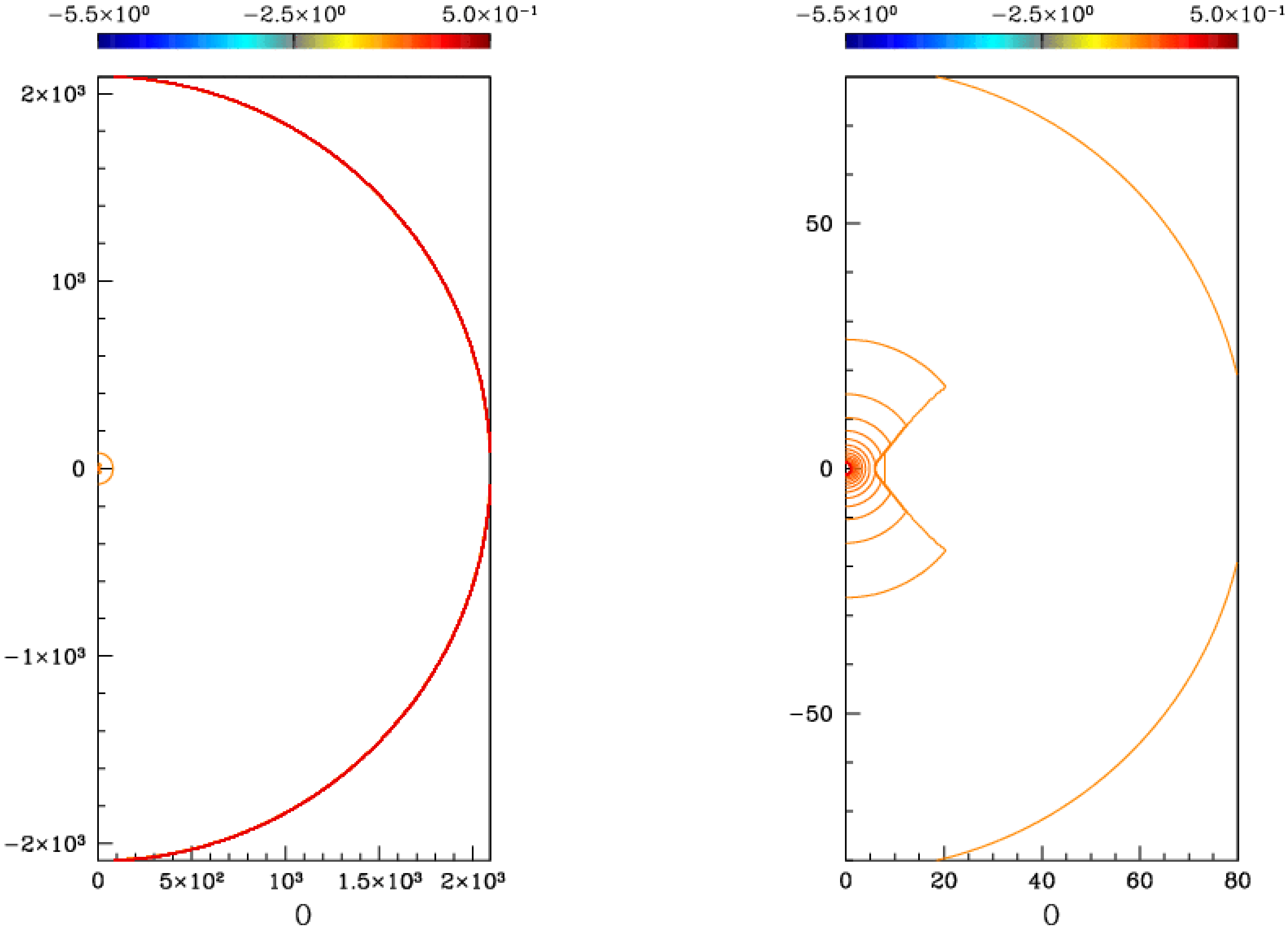
568x256

t=2900M

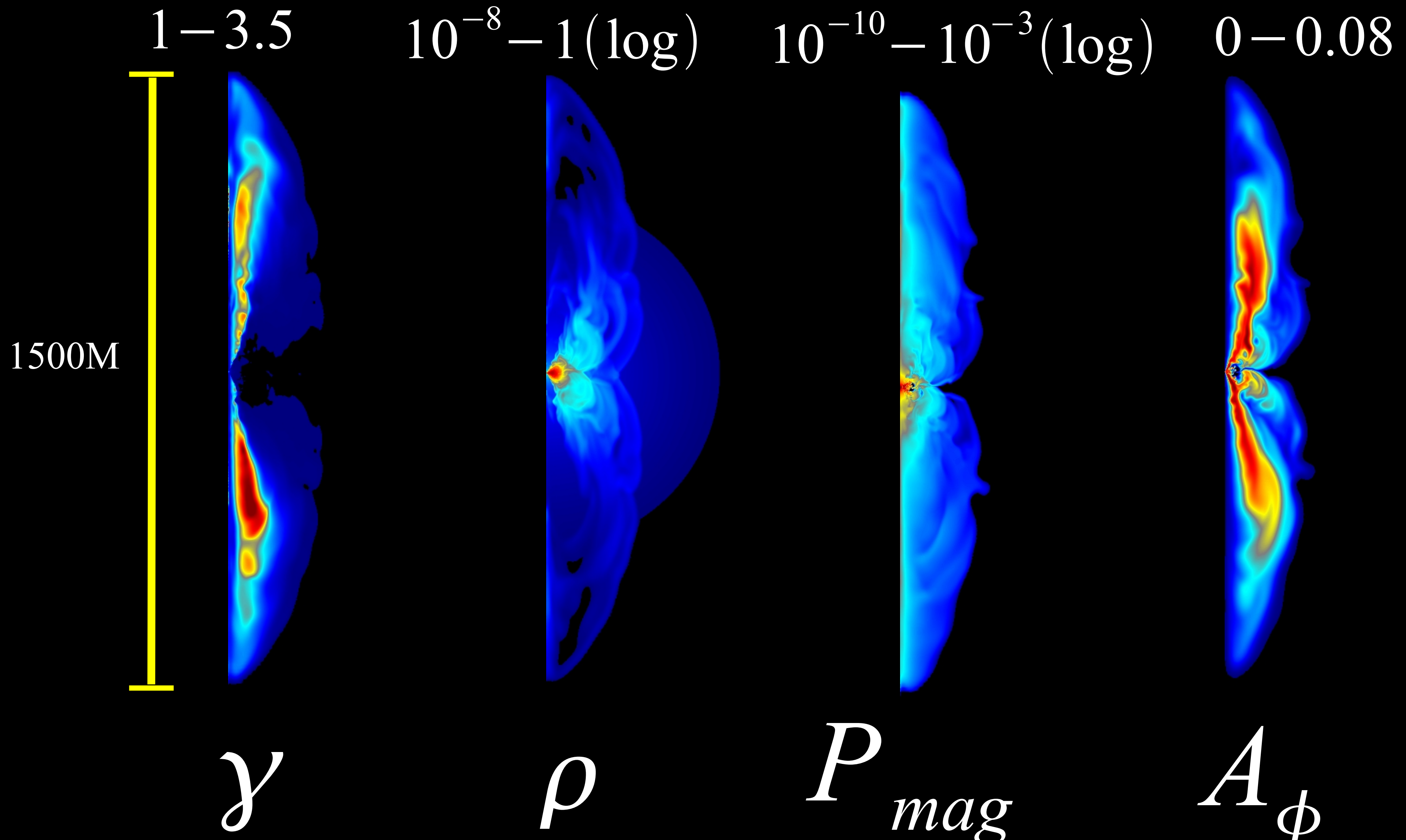


100M

Unbound flow: relativistic Bernoulli parameter $h\,u_t$



Disk Outflows

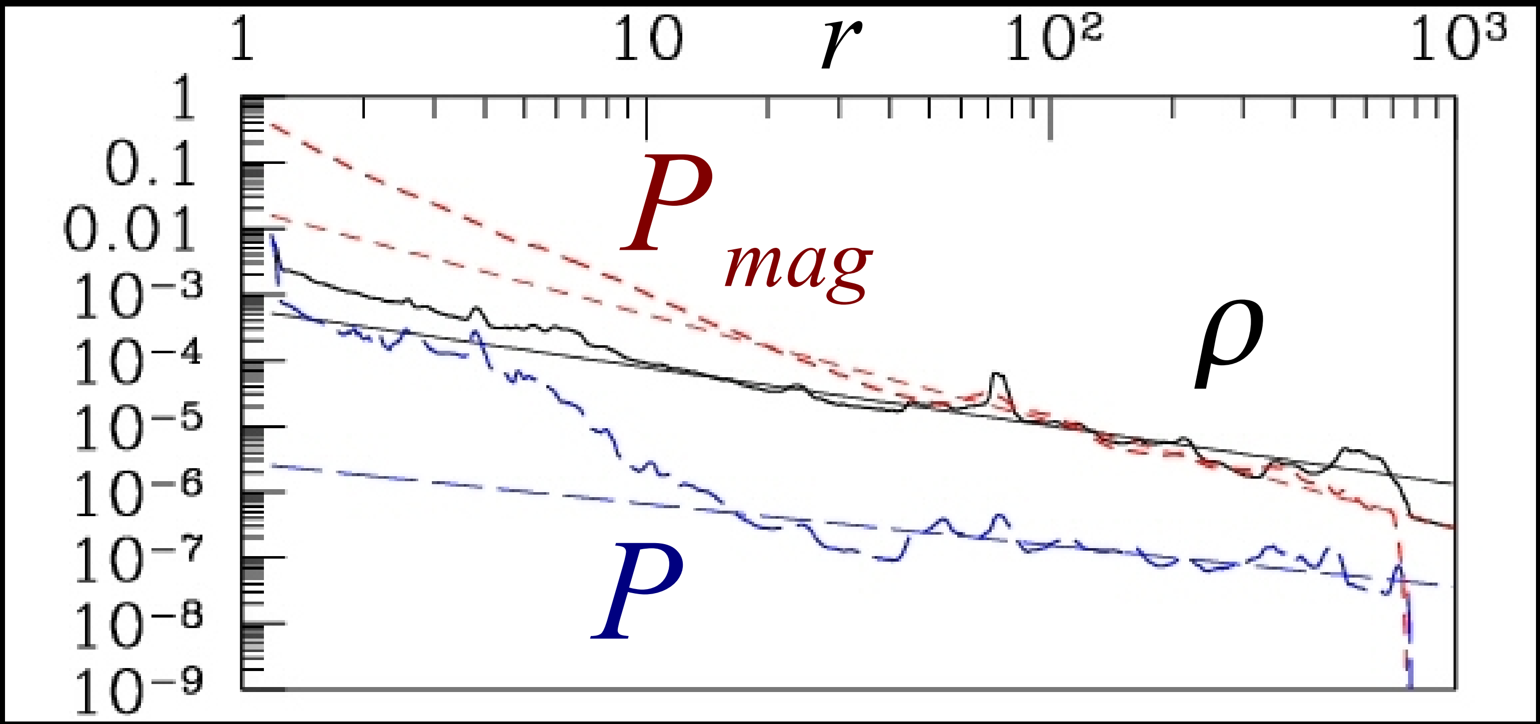


$N = 568\text{x}256$

SCN, Leung, Gammie, Book (2007)

Disk Outflows

SCN, Leung, Gammie, Book (2007)



$$\rho \sim r^{-0.9}$$

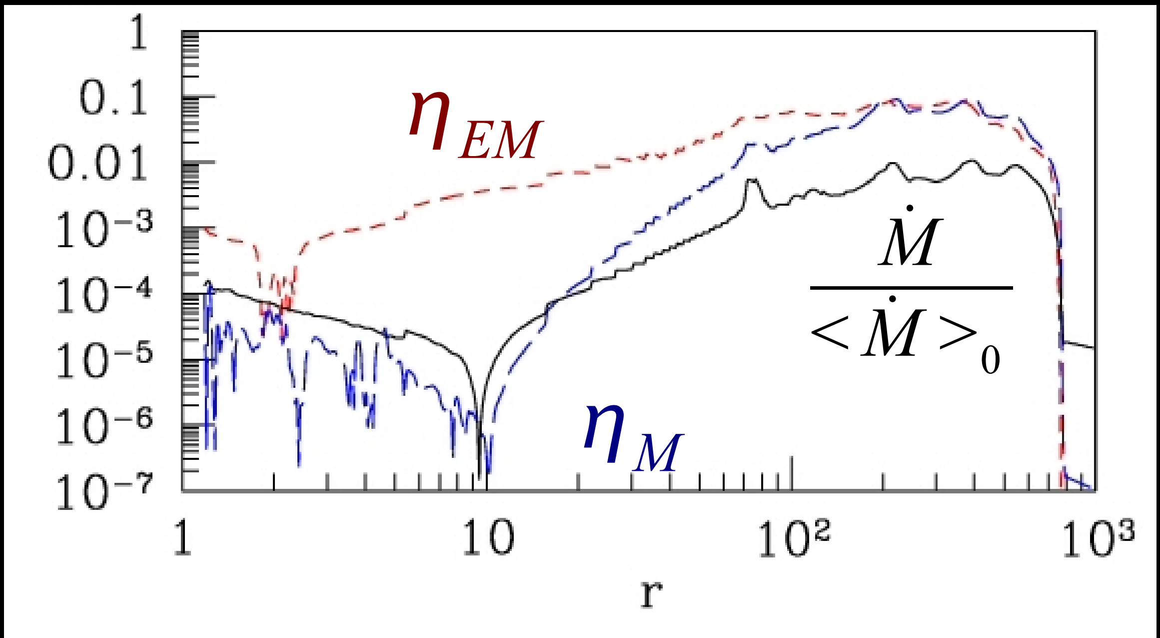
$$P \sim r^{-0.6}$$

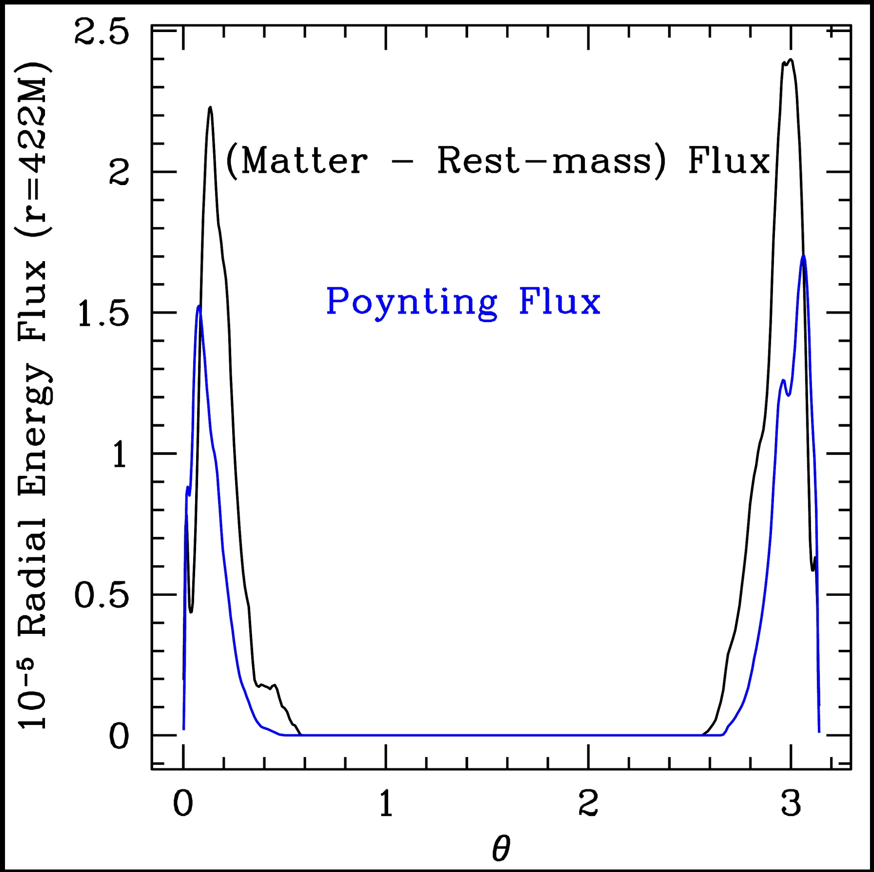
$$P_{mag} \sim r^{-1.6}$$

- Matter dominates energy at large r.
- Jet is not relativistically hot (maybe a floor issue).
- Shallower density profile than McKinney (2006) at r > 100M (floor issue).

Disk Outflows

SCN, Leung, Gammie, Book (2007)





- Fluxes averaged over constant opening angle from axes.
- Efficiencies are normalized by average free energy.
- Matter and EM fluxes asymptotically converge at large radii.

$$L_{jet} = 0.013\, \dot{M}\, c^2$$

Why Study Sagittarius A* (Sgr A*)?

- Biggest black hole on the sky! $(10-60\,\mu as)$
- #5 out of 25 of David Gross' "Future of Physics" questions (tests of GR)
- Test masses orbiting it! (post-Newtonian corrections)
- Luminous plasma orbiting it! (disk theory tests, spacetime tests)

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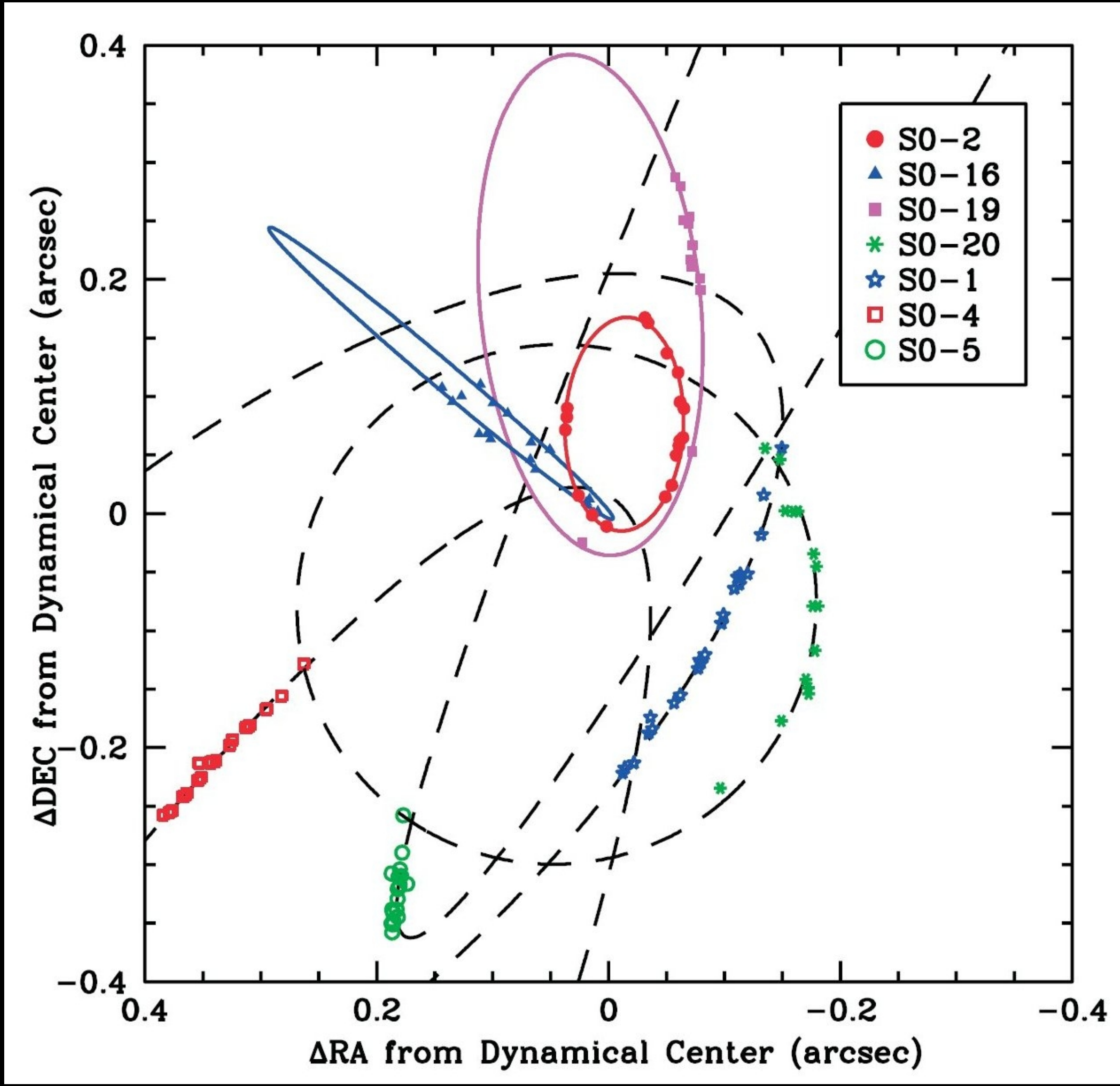
"The black hole at the center of the galaxy is officially On Notice. I don't know where this super massive black hole gets off holding the Milky Way together, nor do I care. It is blatantly challenging The Lord and will be dealt with in time. Does this singularity think God cannot hold our galaxy together on His own? Black hole, you may have swallowed a million suns, but now you're dealing with America! You're On Notice."
-- Stephen Colbert
www.wikiality.com/Black_Hole_At_The_Center_Of_The_Galaxy

Sagittarius A* (Sgr A*)

NASA/UMass/D.Wang et al. (Chandra)
120x48 arcmin or 900x400 light-year

How Big is it?

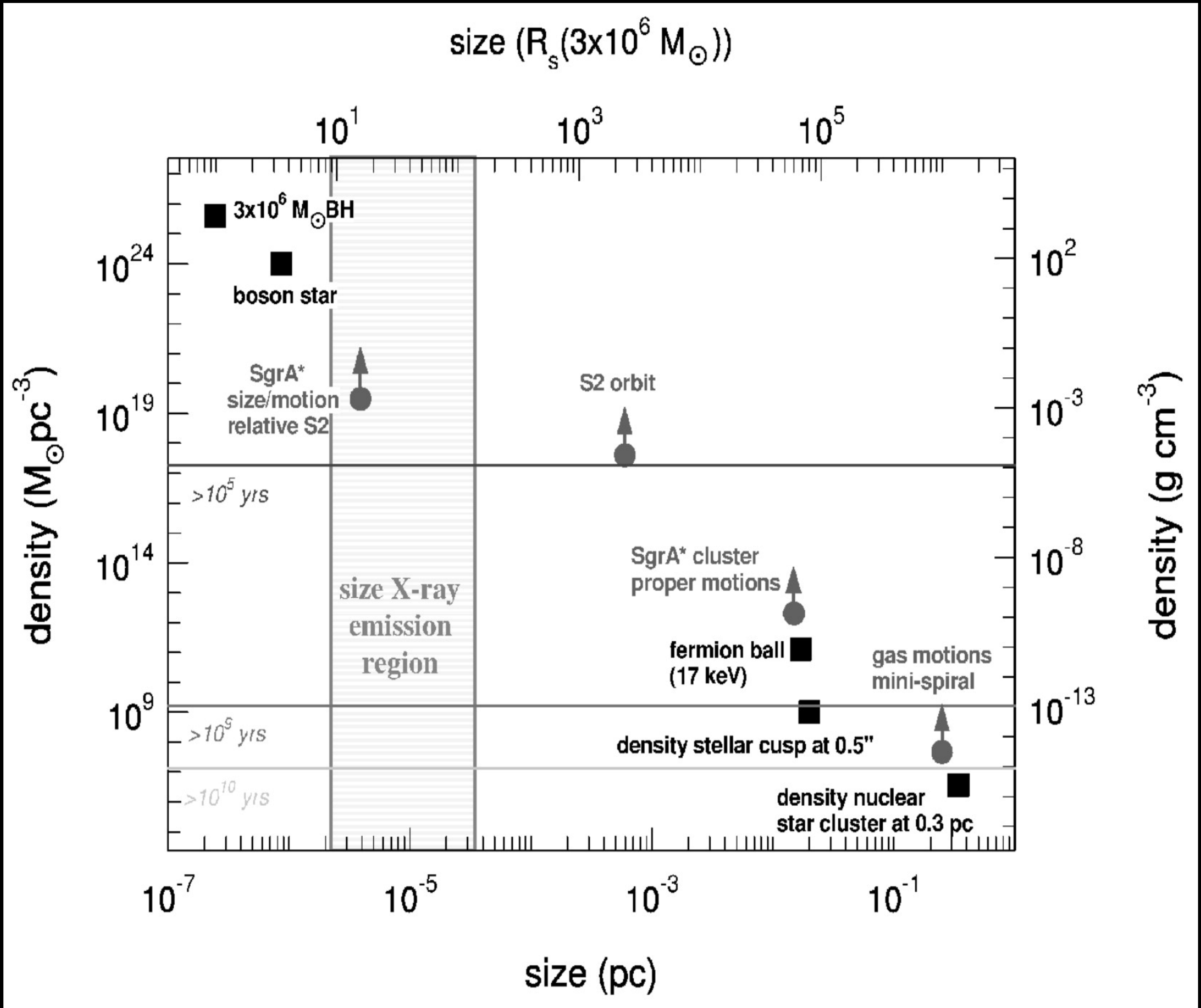
- Ghez et al. 2005 (UCLA)
  - New Keck diffraction limited observation, adaptive optics
  - Simultaneous 6-orbit fit
  - $M_{SgrA*} = 3.7 \pm 0.2 \times 10^6\ M_{Sun}$
- Genzel et al., Nature, 2003
- Eisenhauer et al. 2005 (MPE/UCB)
  - ESO/VLT, adaptive optics
  - $M_{SgrA*} = 3.6 \pm 0.3 \times 10^6\ M_{sun}$
  - $R_o = 7.6 \pm 0.3$ kpc



Ghez et al. 2005

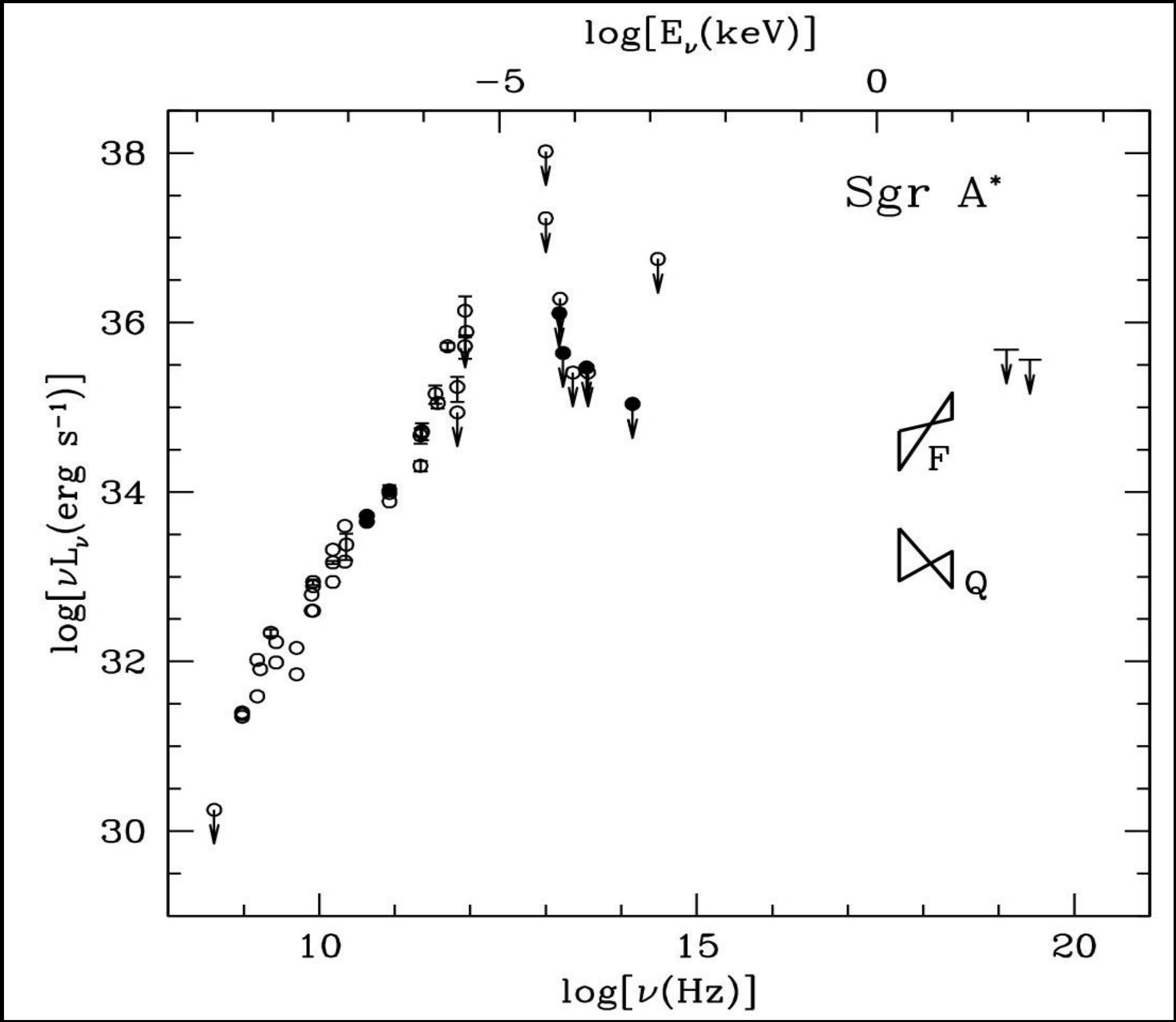
$$r_s = 1\times10^{12}\,cm = 3.6\times10^{-7}\,pc = 0.07\,AU = 10\,\mu as$$

It's (probably) a black hole

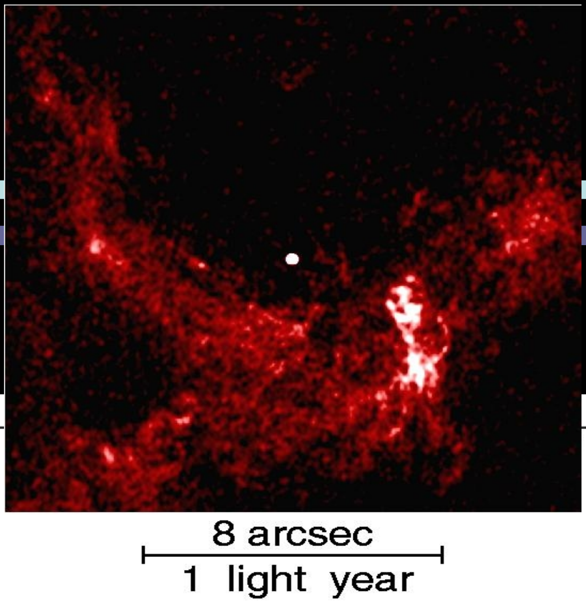


- Very few possible compact sources
- Who's seen a scalar boson anyway?
- Spectra fits well with jet & accretion models
- Some spectra features seem to indicate variability < 10 R_s
- Dark star clusters are short lived

Composite Spectrum



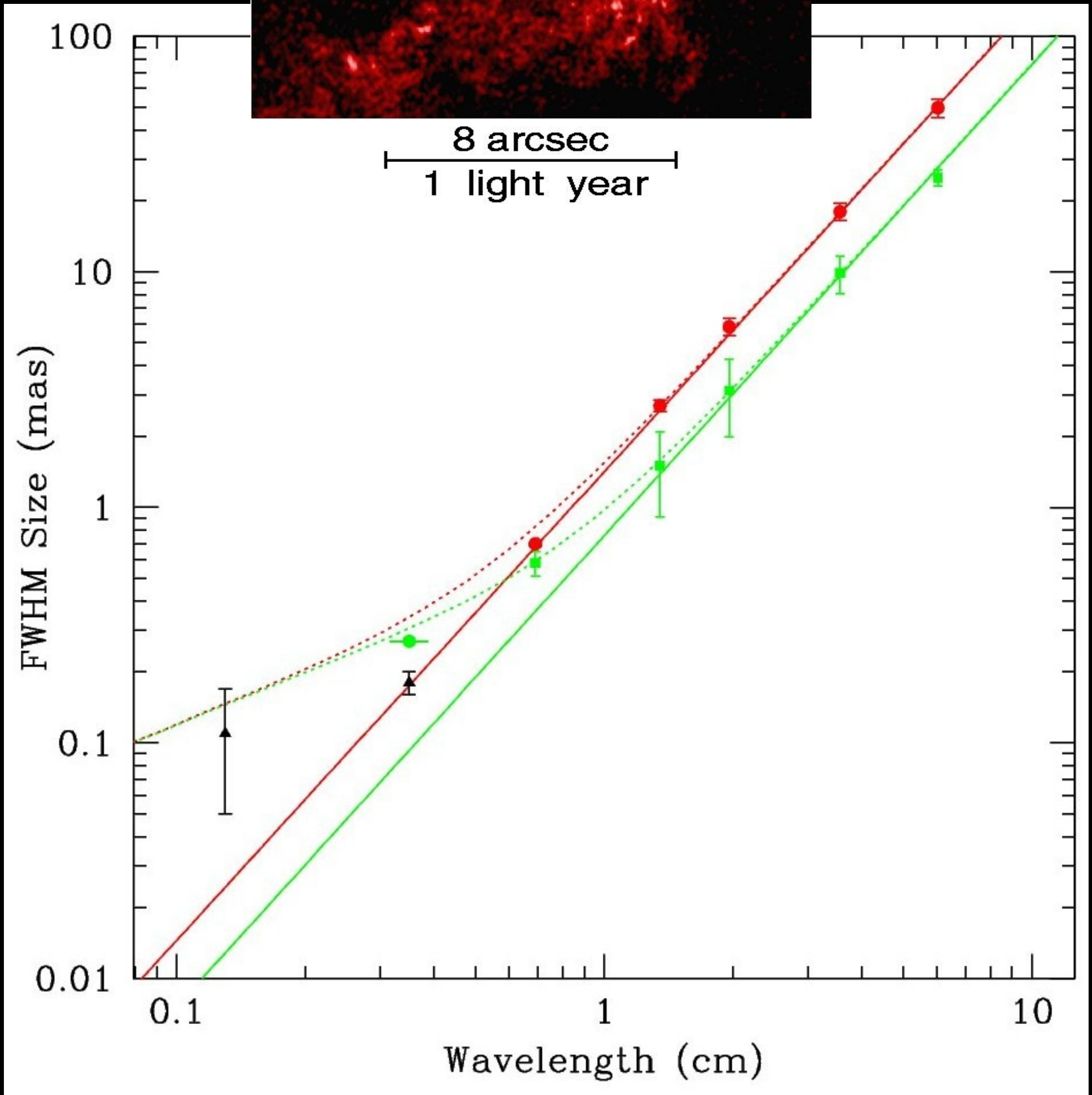
Sgr A* in the Radio



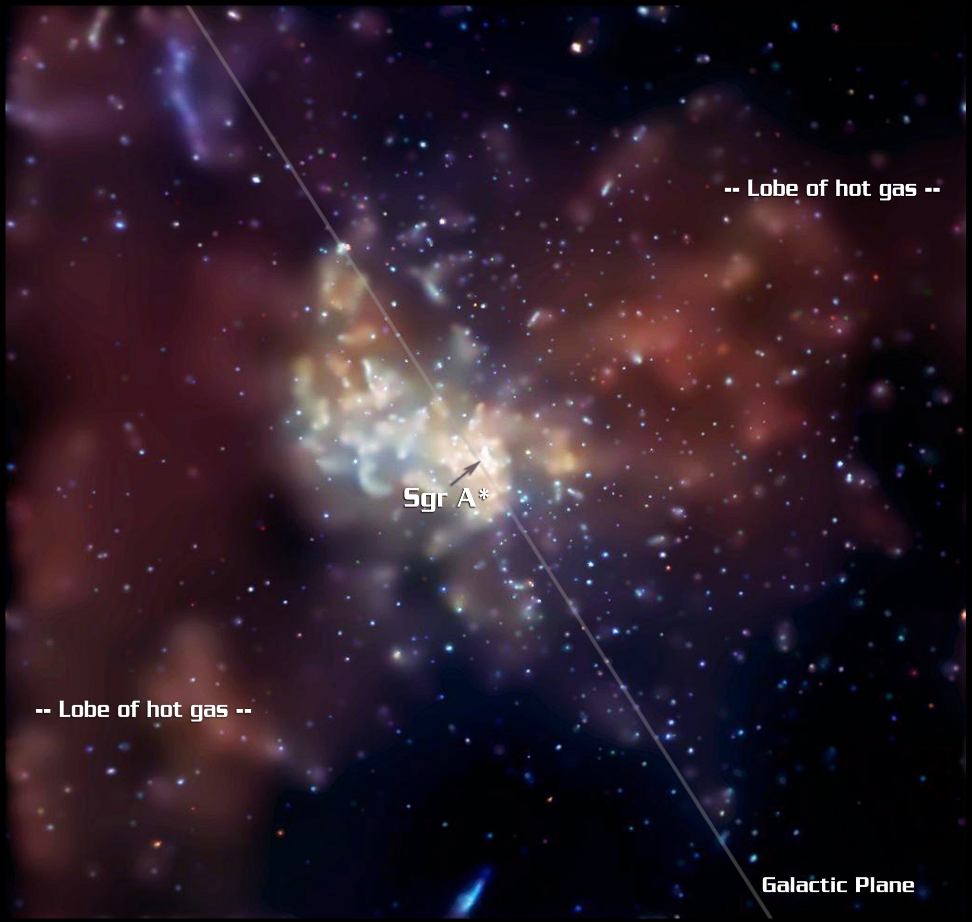
Shen et al. **Nature** (2005)
d < 25 M ~ 2 AU

- Shrinking with increasing frequency
- Power also increases with frequency to ~1mm
- Suggests disk may be becoming optically thin with freq.
- At limit of VLBI radio, working on mm VLBI (ALMA, SMA,...) and GRAVITY at VLT ;

We w**ant to predict what they'll see!**

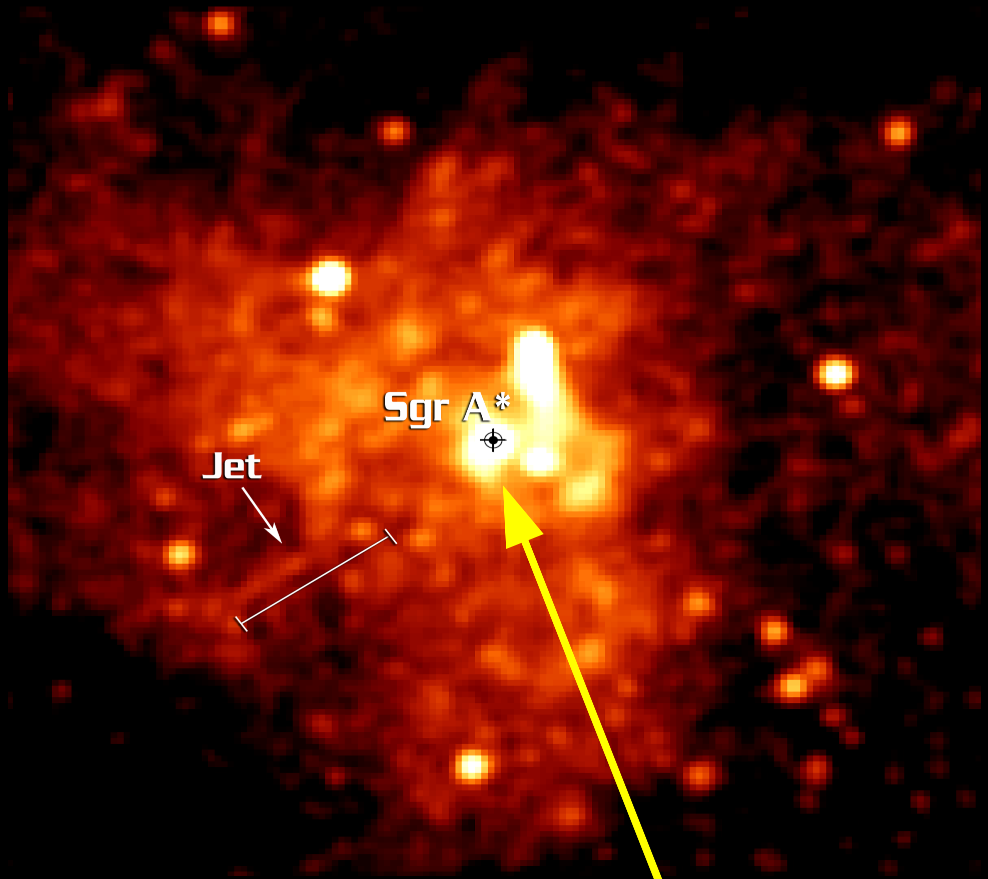


X-Ray Observations



8.4 arcmin

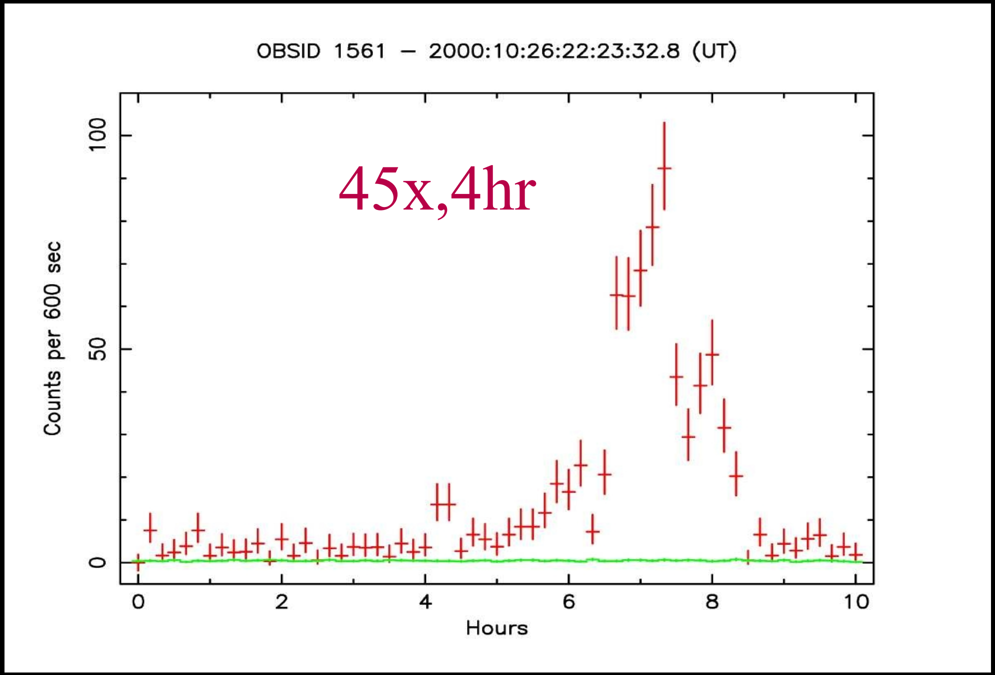
1.23 arcmin

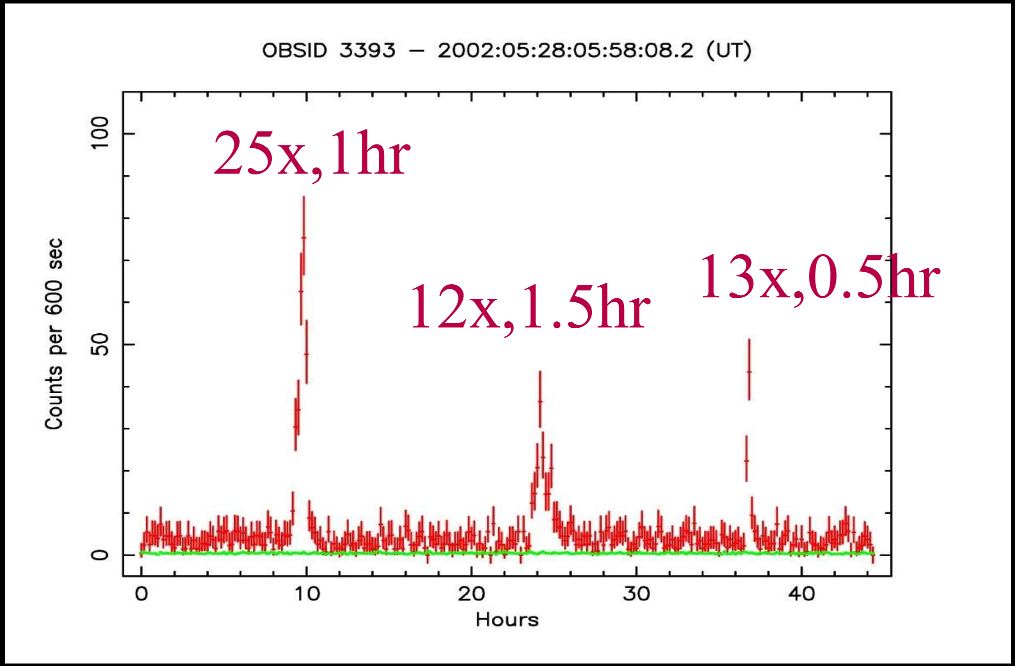


1.4 arcsec

NASA/CXC/MIT/ F.K. Baganoff et al.

X-Ray Variability

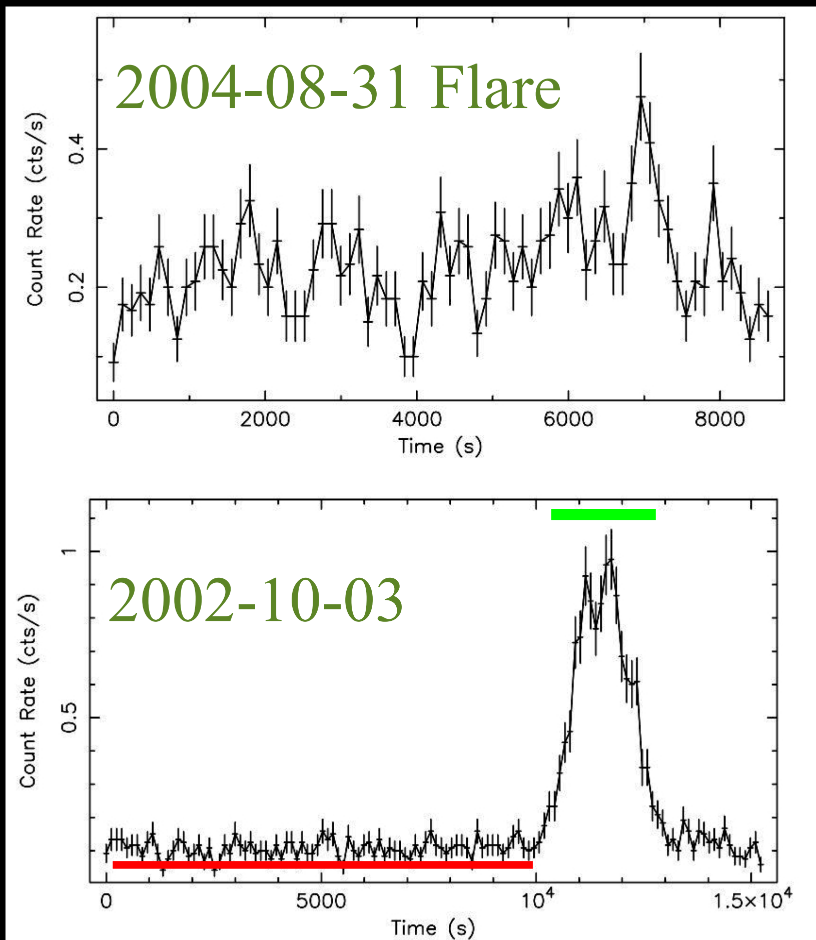


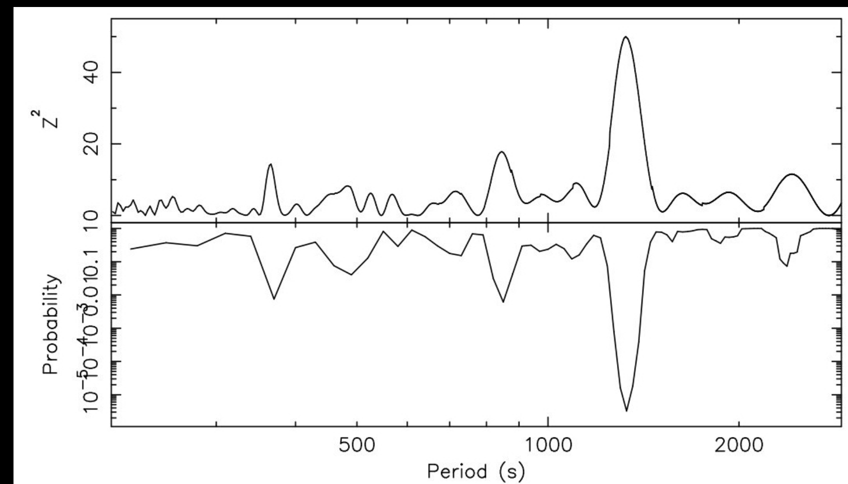


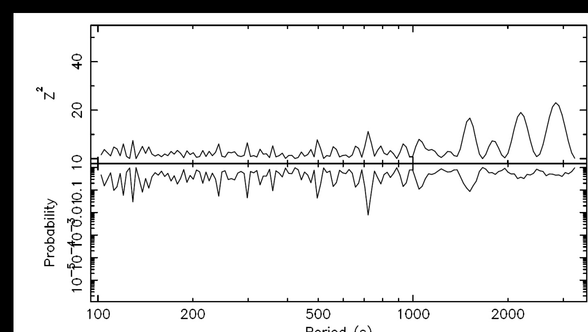
1hr variability --> ~20 R_s

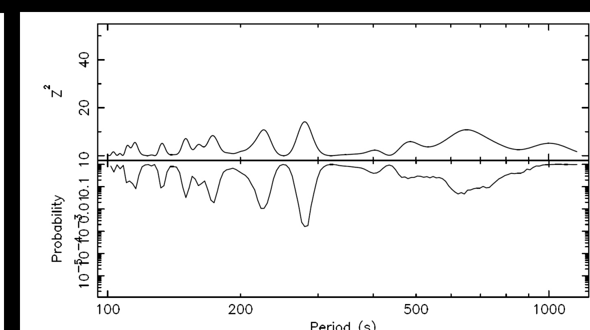
Baganoff et al. (2000-2003) [Chandra]

Sgr A*'s Spin





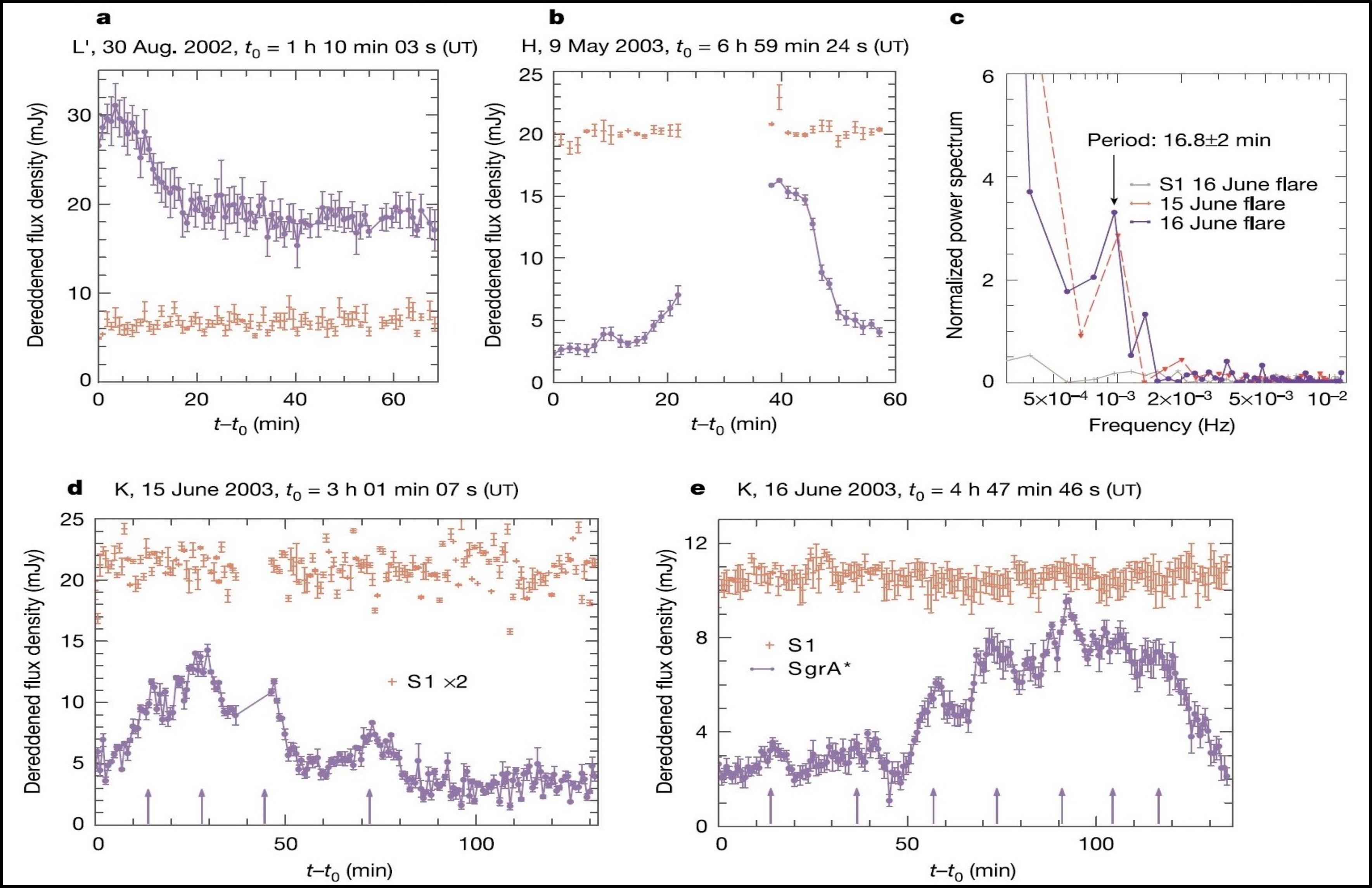




Belanger et al. 2006

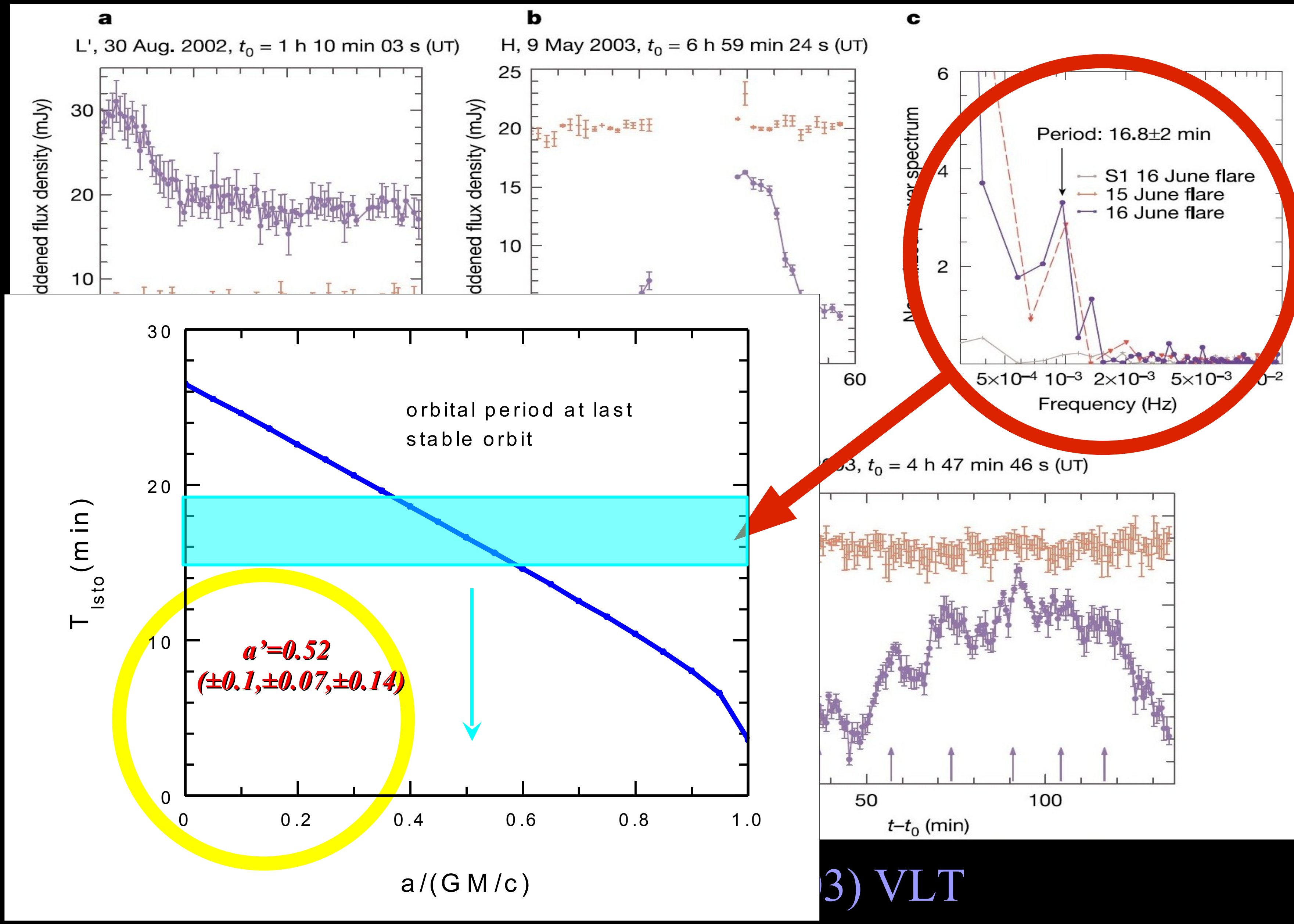
-- Monte Carlo generated events sequences
-- 22min periodicity (X-ray) --> **a > 0.22**
-- 1 in 3 million chance of being random

IR Observations



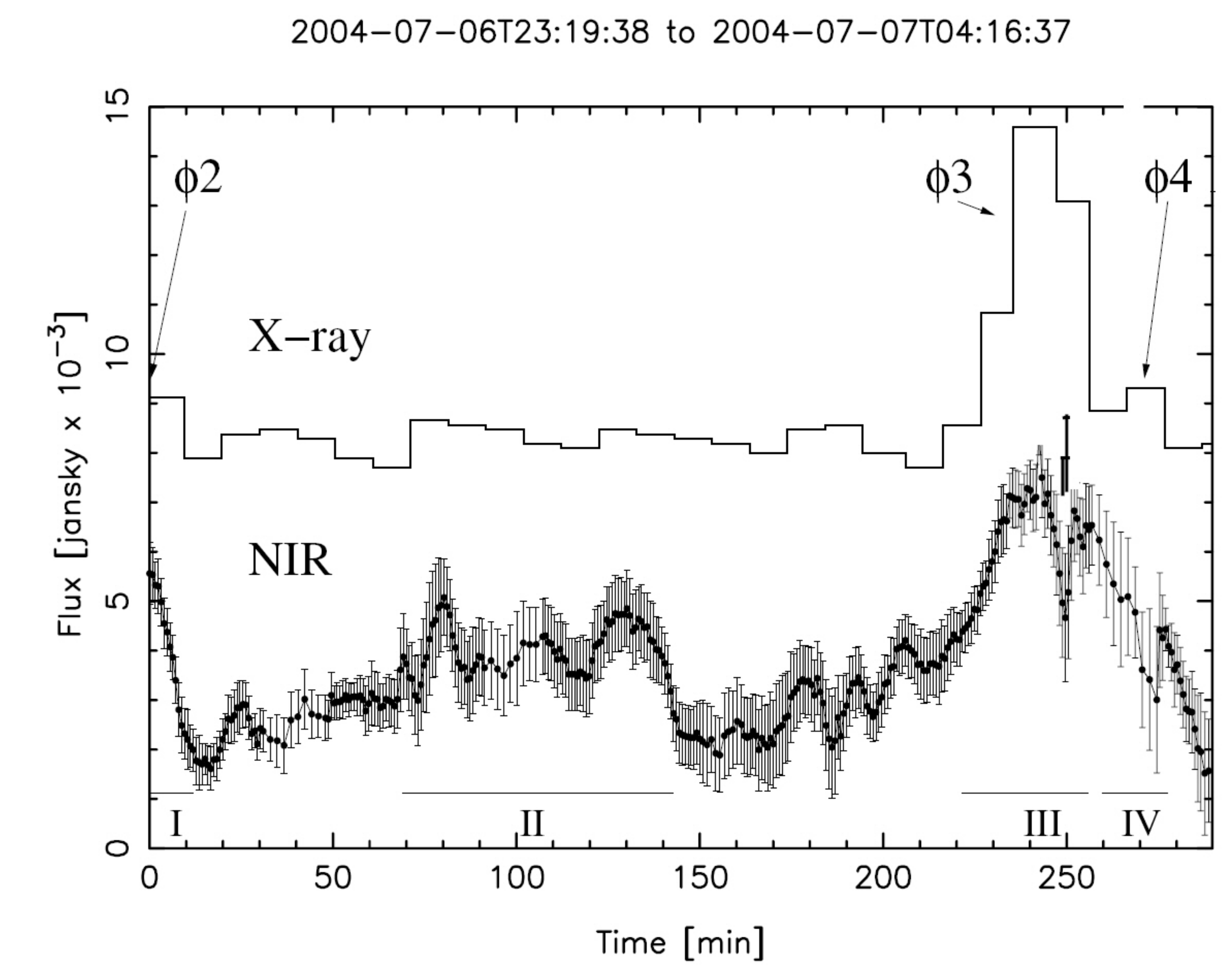
Genzel et al, Nature (2003) VLT

IR Observations



3) VLT

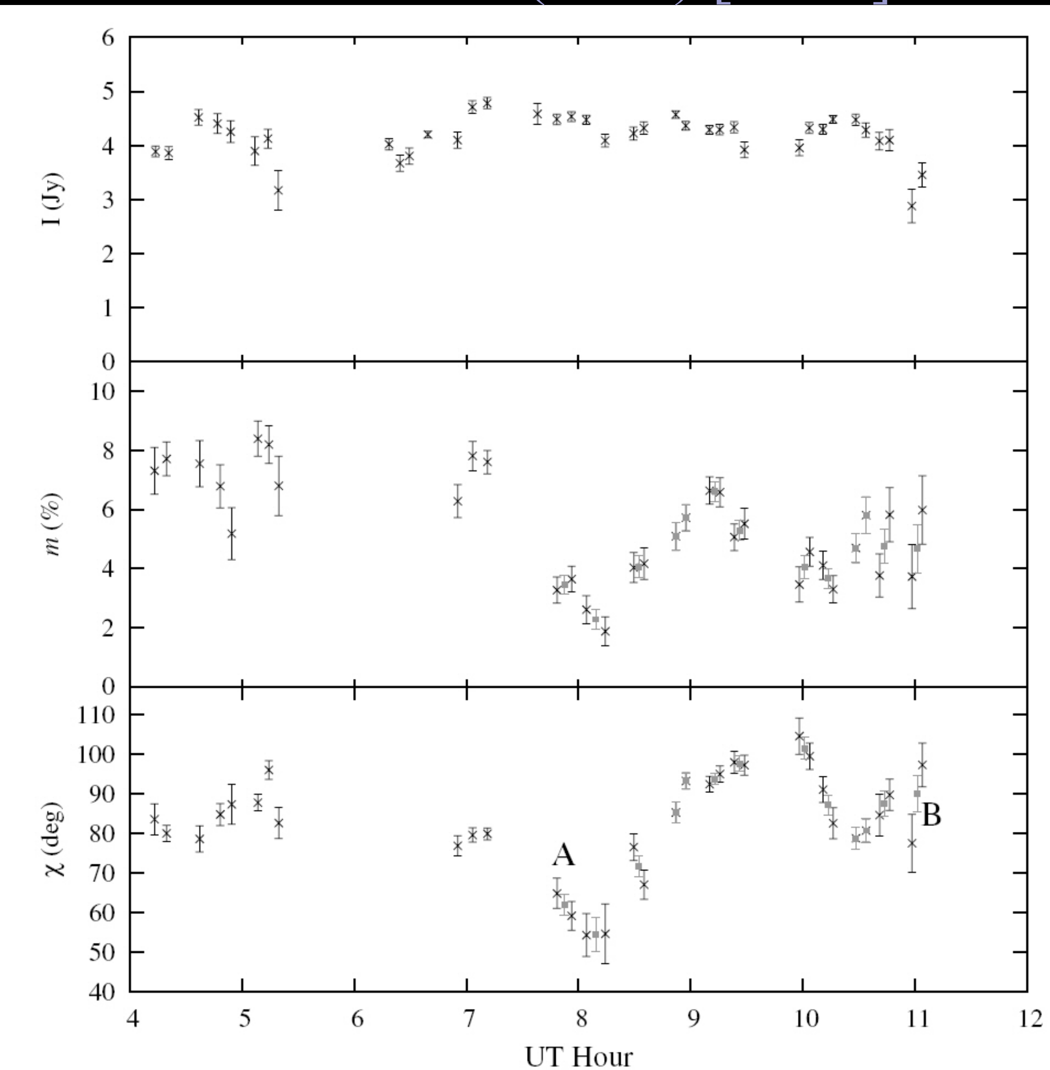
Coincident NIR/X-ray Observations



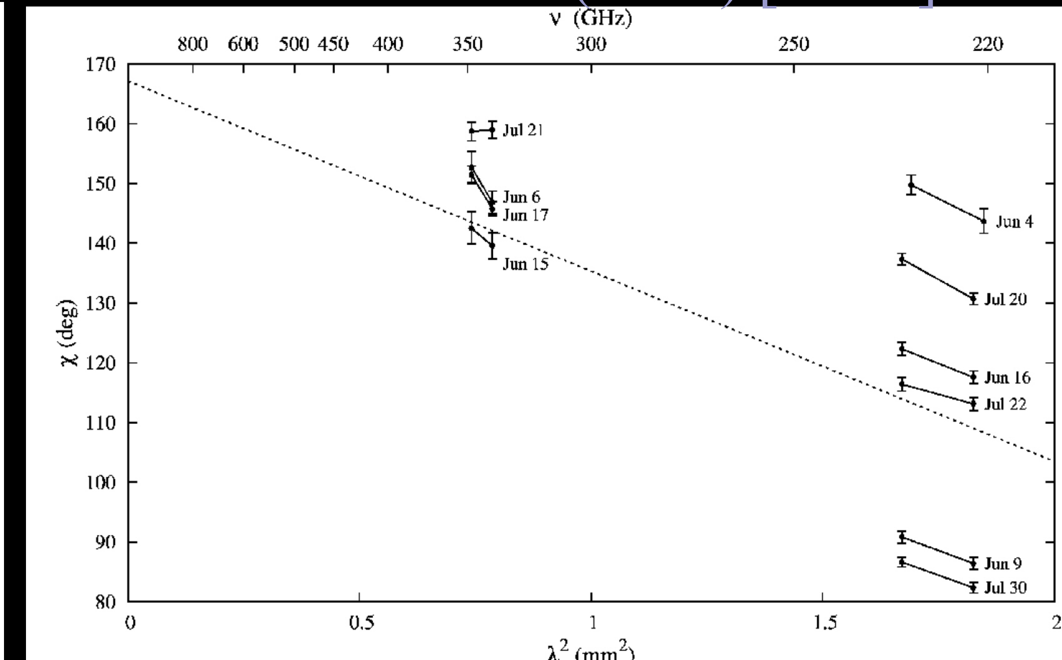
Eckart et al. (2006)

Polarization (sub-mm/mm)

Marrone et al (2006) [SMA]



Marrone et al (2007) [SMA]



$$\chi(\nu) = \chi_0 + \frac{c^2}{\nu^2}\mathrm{RM}$$

$$\dot{M} \sim 10^{-9} - 10^{-7} M_{sun}\, yr^{-1}$$

$$\chi_o = 167 \pm 7\, deg. \qquad \Delta\chi = 31\, deg.$$

X-Ray and Bondi

Modeling it as kT~1.3keV hot, optically-thin emission:

$$n_e = 30\, cm^{-3}$$

$$c_s^2 = \gamma\, k\, T / \mu\, m = 550\, km/s = v_{wind}$$

$$R_B = 2\, G\, M_{SgrA} / c_s^2 = 0.1\mathrm{pc} = 2.7\, arcsec.$$

$$\rightarrow \quad R_B = 2\, R_{X-rays}$$

The Luminosity Problem

$$L_{SgrA} = 10^{36} erg/s = 10^{3} L_{sun}$$

$$L_{Edd} = 4\pi c G M \mu_e / \sigma_T = 1.51 \times 10^{38} (M / M_{sun}) erg/s$$

$$L_{Edd}(M_{Sgr}) = 5.44 \times 10^{44} erg/s$$

$$\boxed{\rightarrow \quad L_{Sgr} = 10^{-8} L_{Edd}}$$

The Luminosity Problem

X-ray Obs.: $$\dot{M}_{X-rays} = 4\pi R_B^2 \rho c_s = 4\times 10^{-5} M_{sun}/yr$$

Radio Linear Polarization constraints (w/ RIAF models):

$$\boxed{\dot{M}_{inner} \approx 10^{-3} \dot{M}_{X-rays}}$$

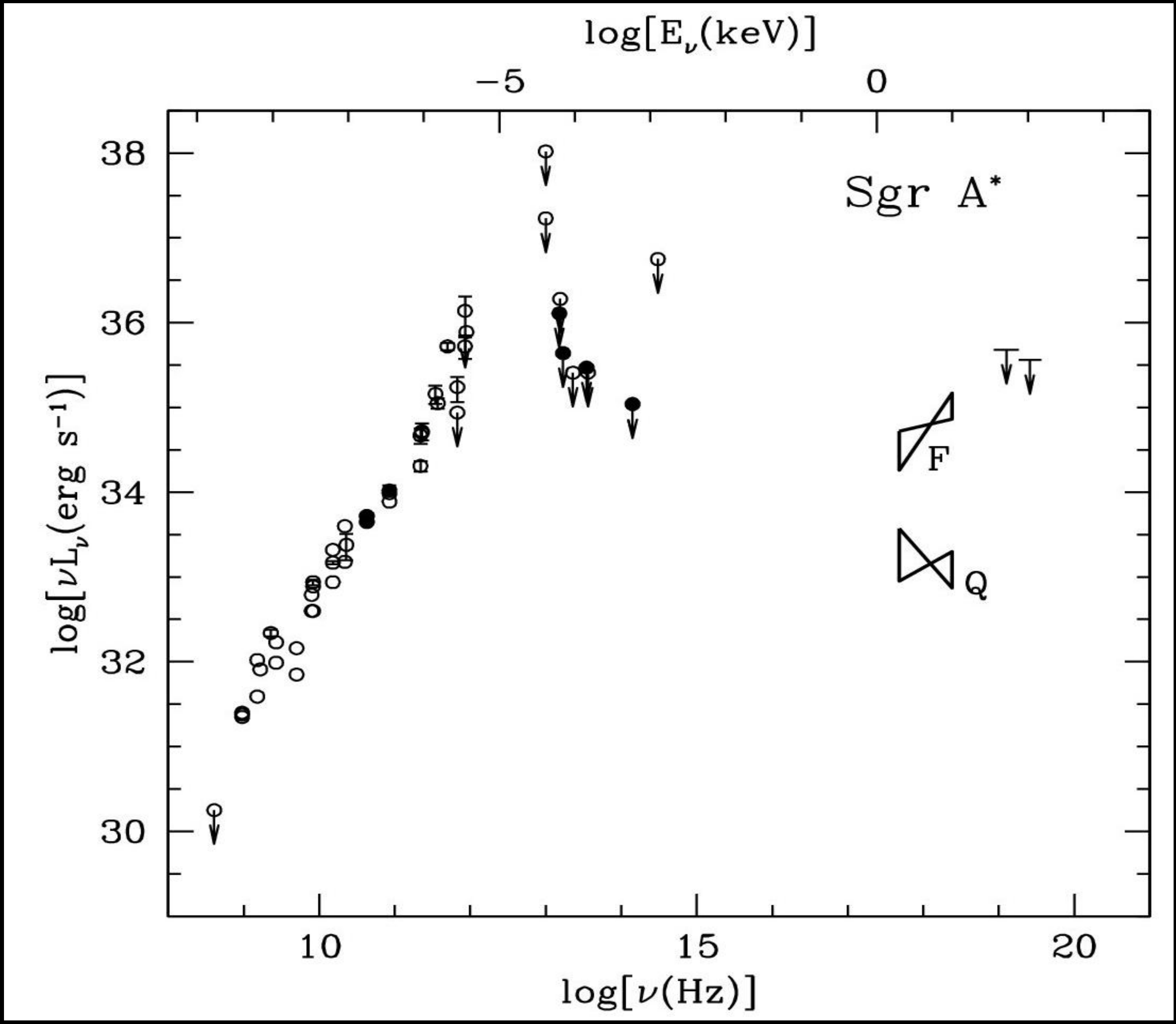
$$L_{Sgr} = 10^{-5}\left(\frac{\eta}{0.1}\right) L_{thin} = 10^{-5}\left(\frac{\eta}{0.1}\right) c^2 \dot{M}_{X-rays}$$

$$L_{Sgr} = 10^{-2}\left(\frac{\eta}{0.1}\right) c^2 \dot{M}_{inner}$$

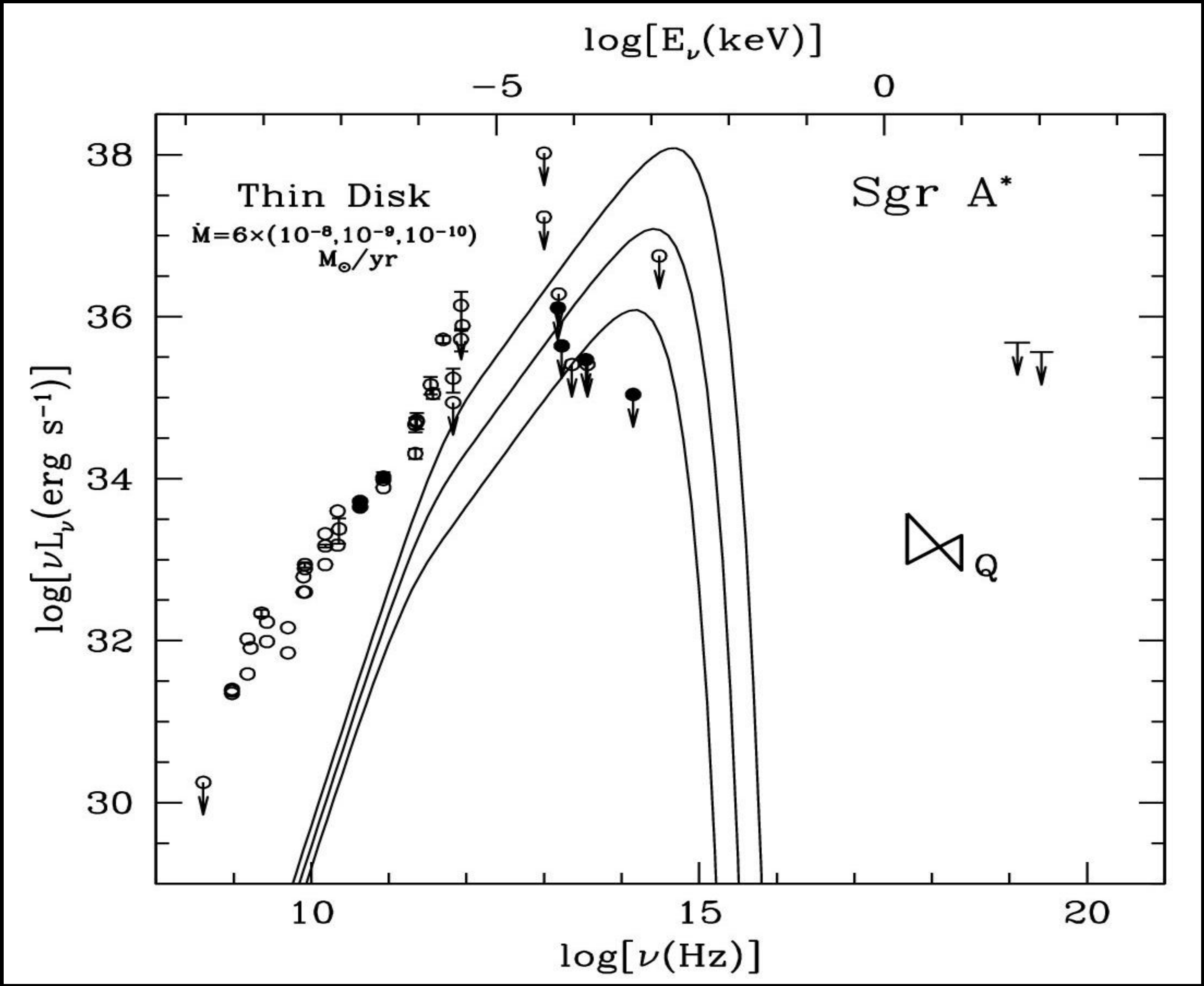
$$\rightarrow \boxed{\eta \sim 10^{-3} \quad or \quad \dot{M} < \dot{M}_{inner}}$$

$$\dot{M}_{inner} \neq \dot{M}_{X-rays}???$$

Composite Spectrum

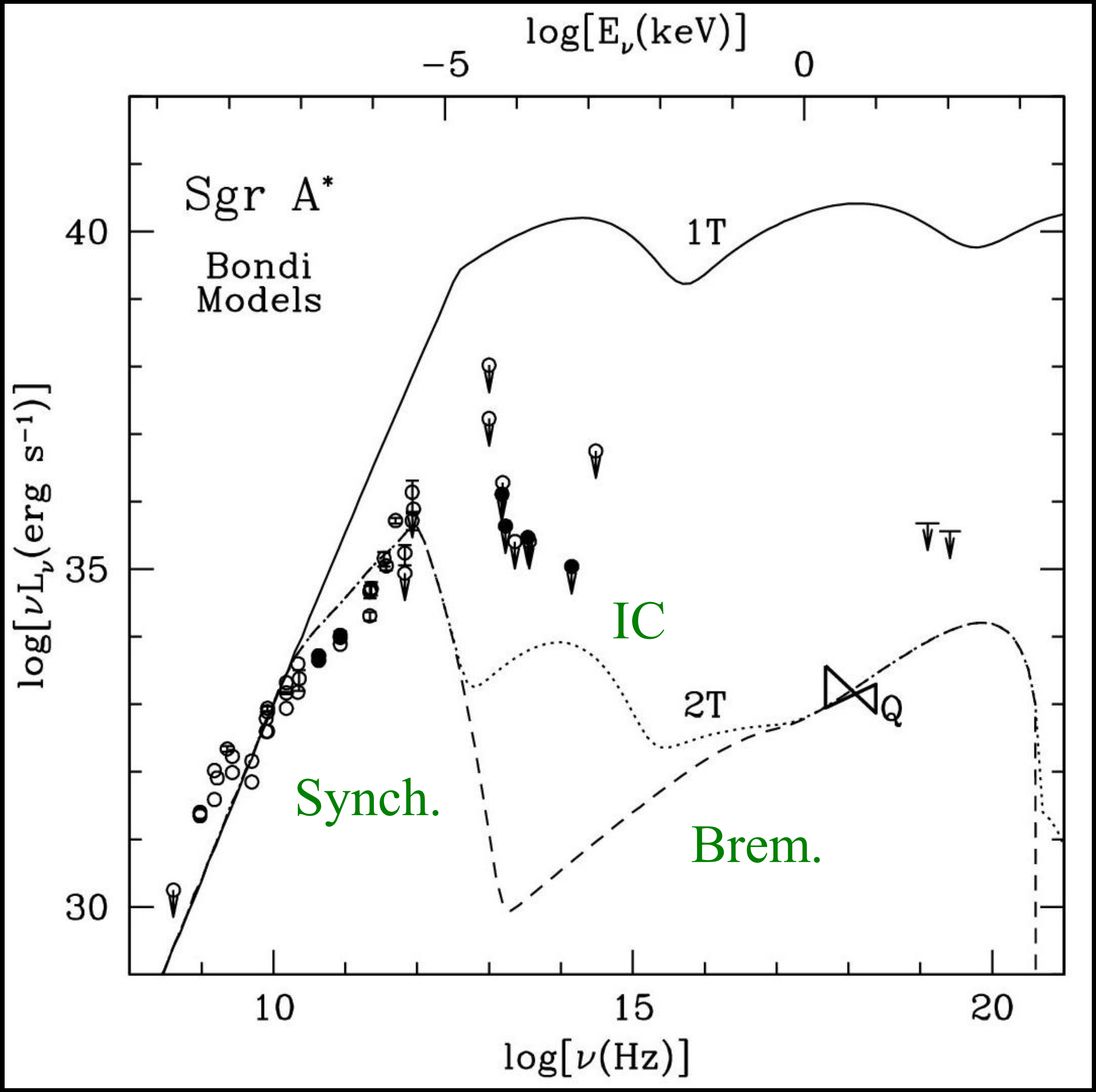


Thermal Thin Disk Spectrum



Narayan astro-ph/0201260

Realistic Bondi Accretion Spectrum



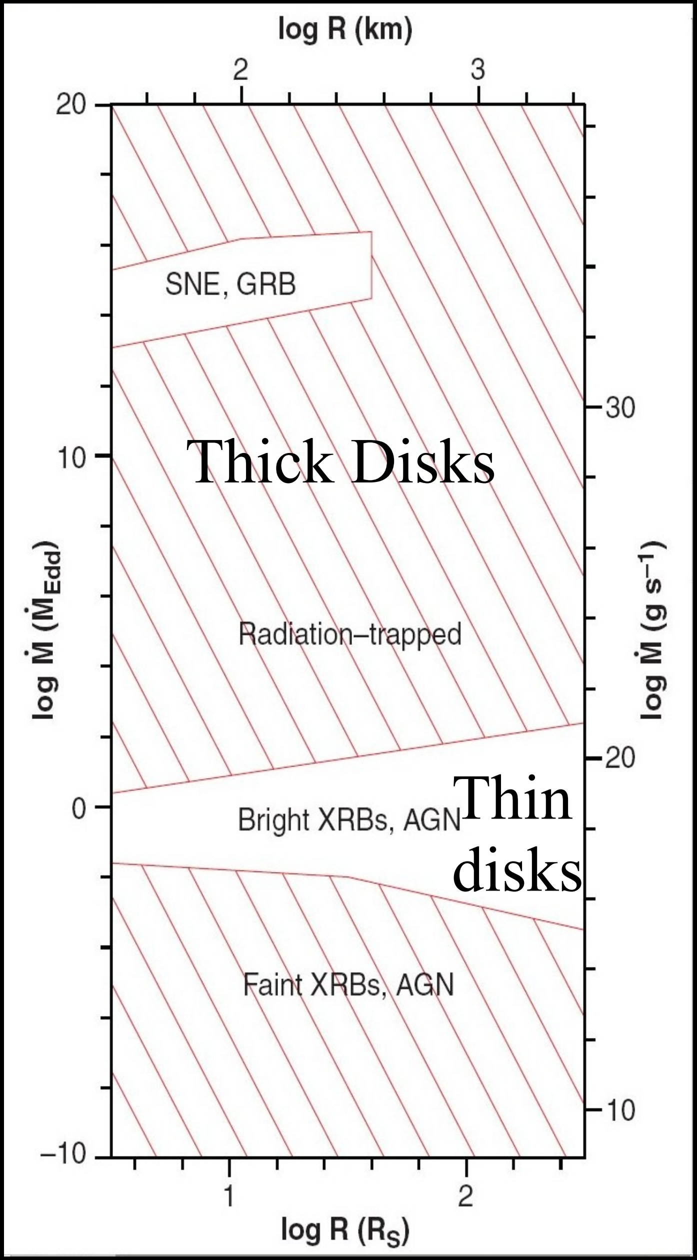
- Spherical accretion
- 2T : Te << Tp
- Including Synch., Bremsstrahlung (+IC)
- At low ρ, e's & ions decouple since

$$t_{Coulomb} > t_{infall}$$

- Shapiro, Lightman, & Eardley (1976)

Narayan astro-ph/0201260

Thick Disks: RIAFs (Radiatively Inefficient Accretion Flows)



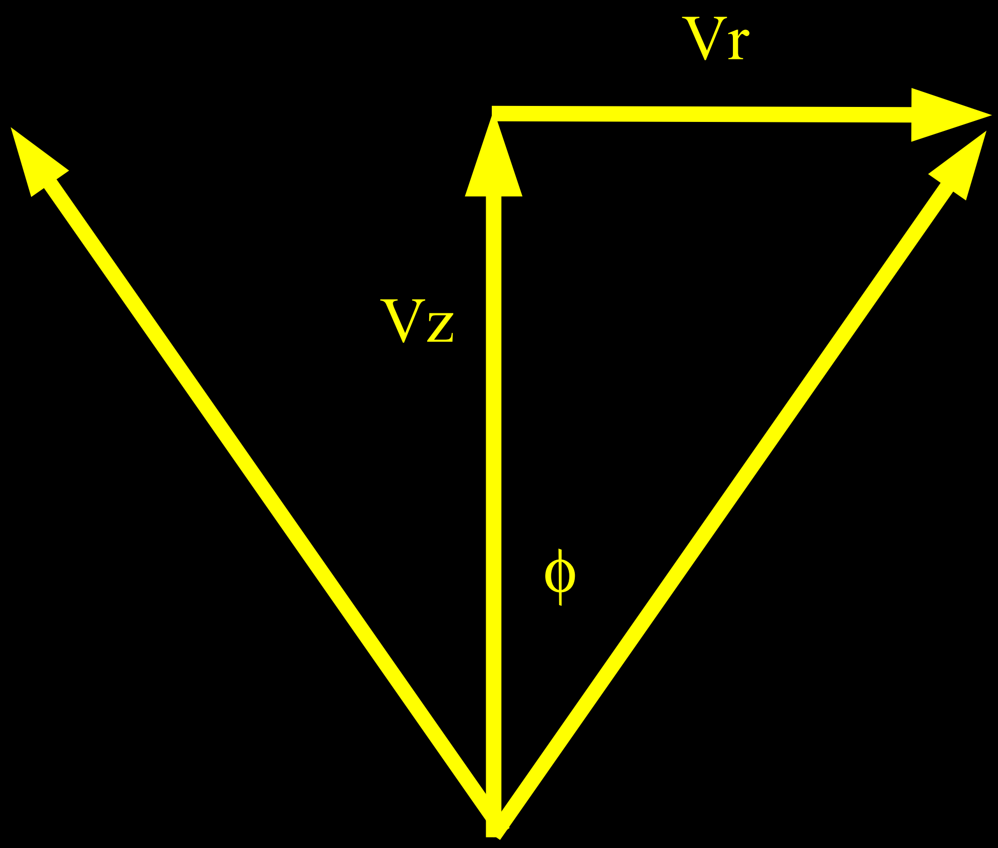
- Narayan & Yi (1994-5), Yuan et al. (2003-4)
- Blandford & Begelman (1999)
- Quataert & Gruzinov (2000)
  - 2-T flows, advection stabilizes
  - Thick disks, ~spherical
  - Energy transported outward via wind
  - Convection helps transport ang. mom. inward
  - Many parameters!!
  - Not dynamical!!

$$Q_{diss} > Q_{rad.}$$

$$\rho \;\alpha\; r^{-3/2+s}$$

$$\dot{M}_{in} = \dot{M}_{out}\left(R_{in}/R_{out}\right)^{s}$$

Jet Models



- Falcke, Melia et al (1995-now)
- Blandford & Konigl (1979)
- Free expanding, rel. jet
- Conical confinement due to rel. vel.
- Jet fed at constant rate
- Not dynamical!!

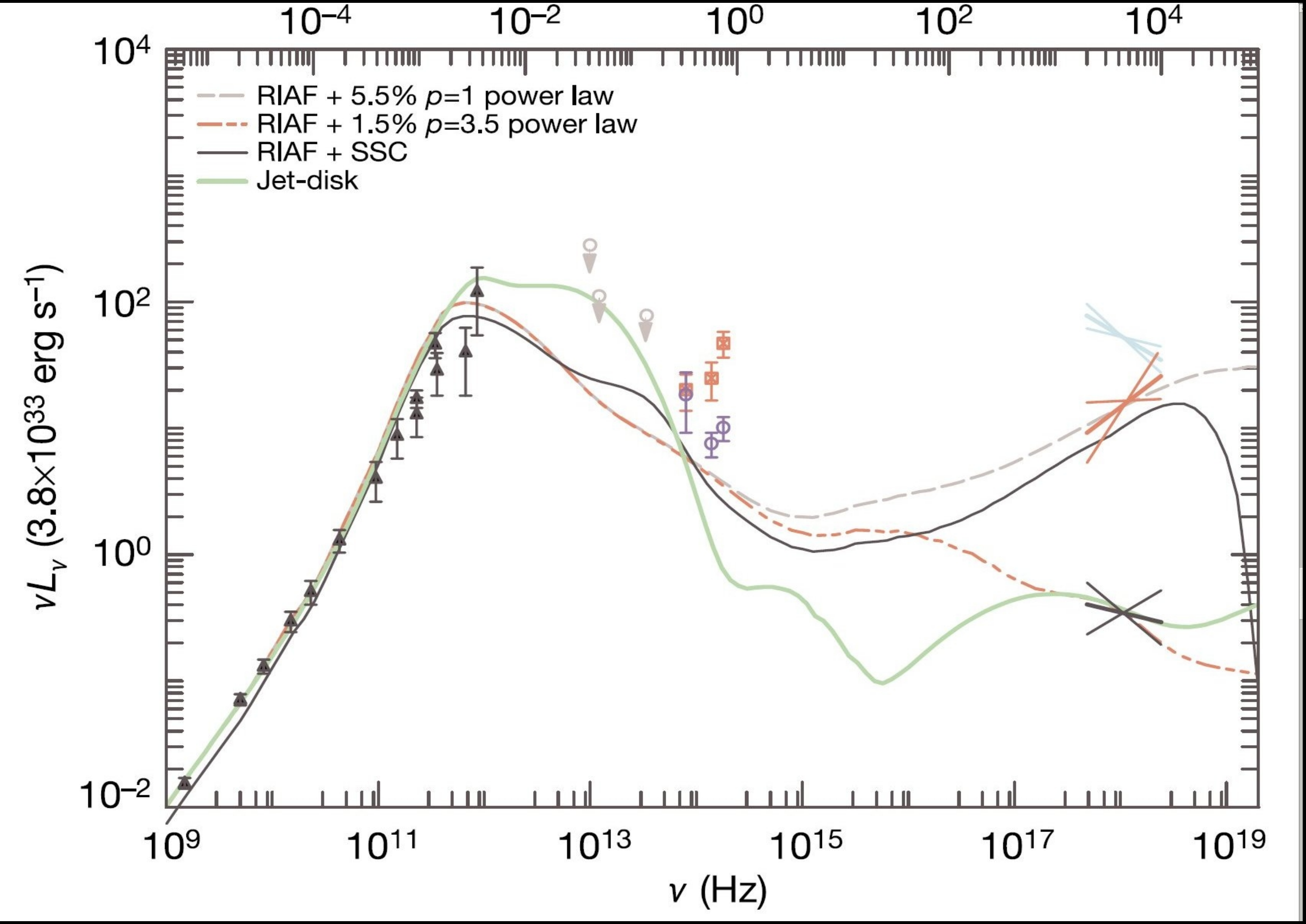
$$v_z = \gamma \beta c \ , \quad v_r = \gamma_s \beta_s c$$

$$\phi = 1/M = v_r / v_z (small)$$

$$\dot{M}_{jet} = \rho v A = m_p n(r) \gamma \beta c \pi r^2 \rightarrow n(r) \alpha 1/r^2$$

$$\dot{E}_{B,jet} = \rho_B v A = B^2(r) \gamma \beta c \pi r^2 \rightarrow B(r) \alpha 1/r$$

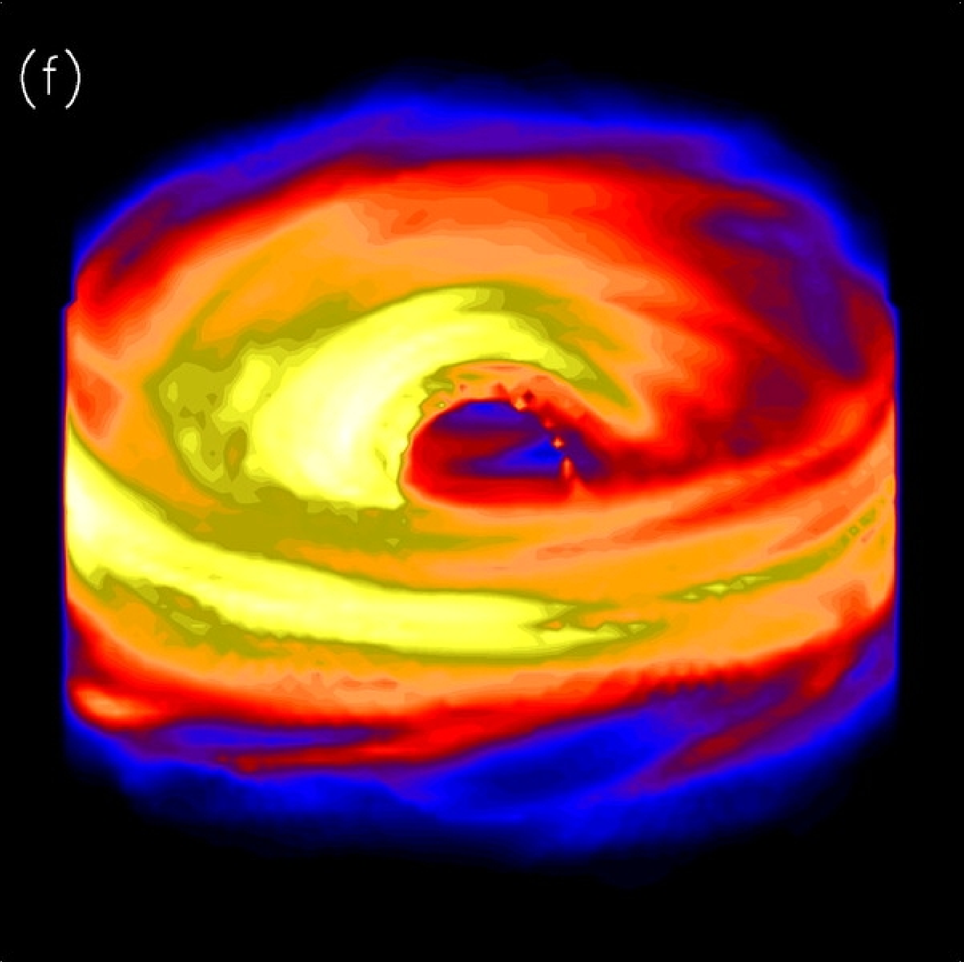
Composite Spectrum (comparison)



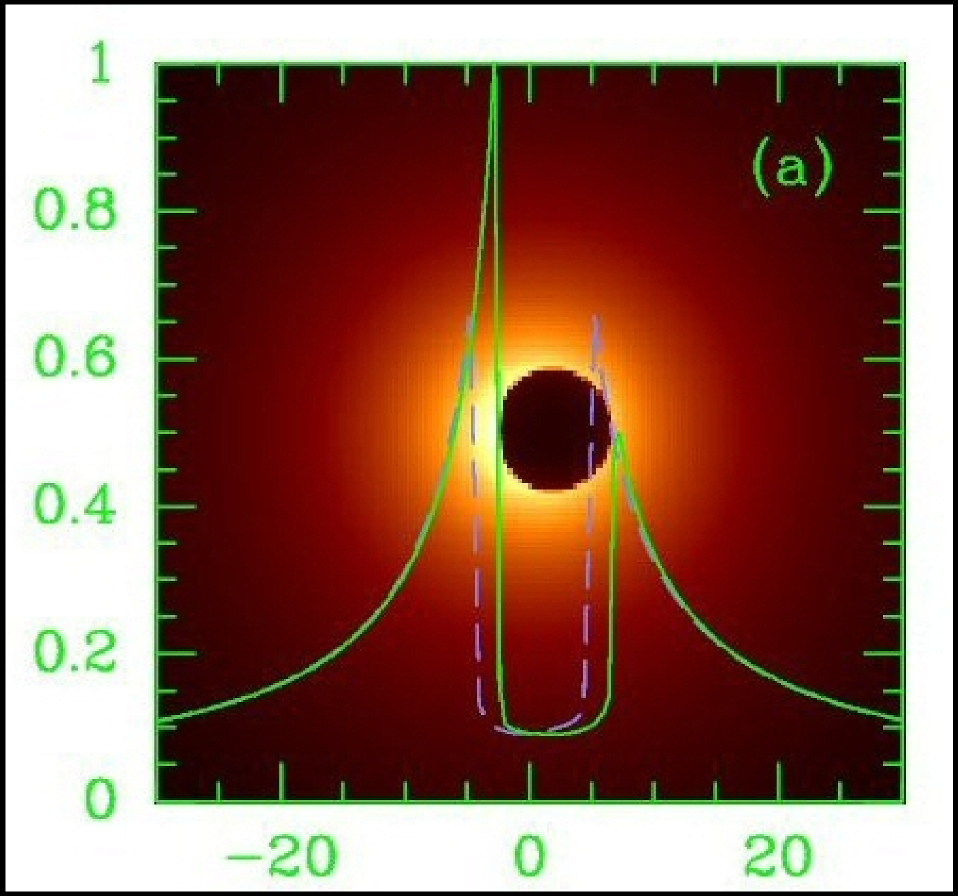
- RIAF's have problem with var. of brem. since $R_{brem} \sim 10^5 R_s$
- Instead, add PL n_e gives hard IC/SSC photons
- Solves Radio under-lum.
- Modern RIAF's have many parameters, need better constraints: simult. wide-freq. survey, submm VLBI

- Jets lack a mechanism, no launching mechanism
- Reliant on a disk model of some type
- Can it predict X-ray flare state?

Example RT Calculations

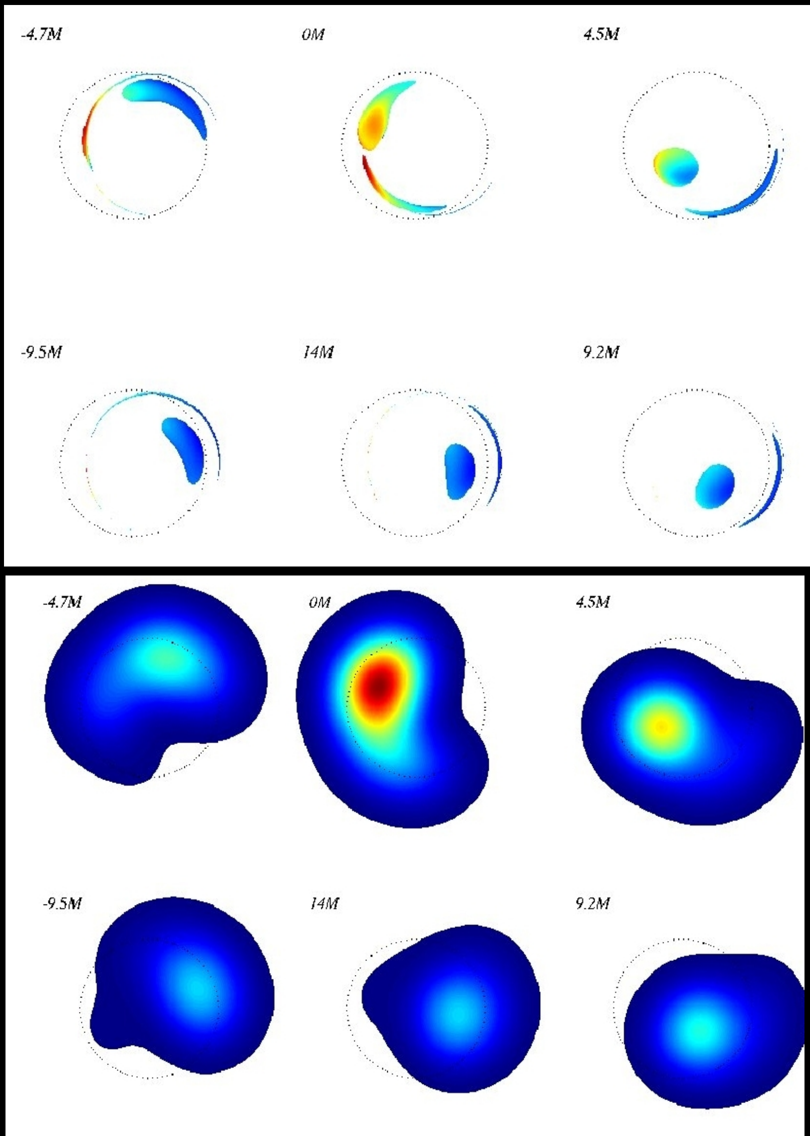


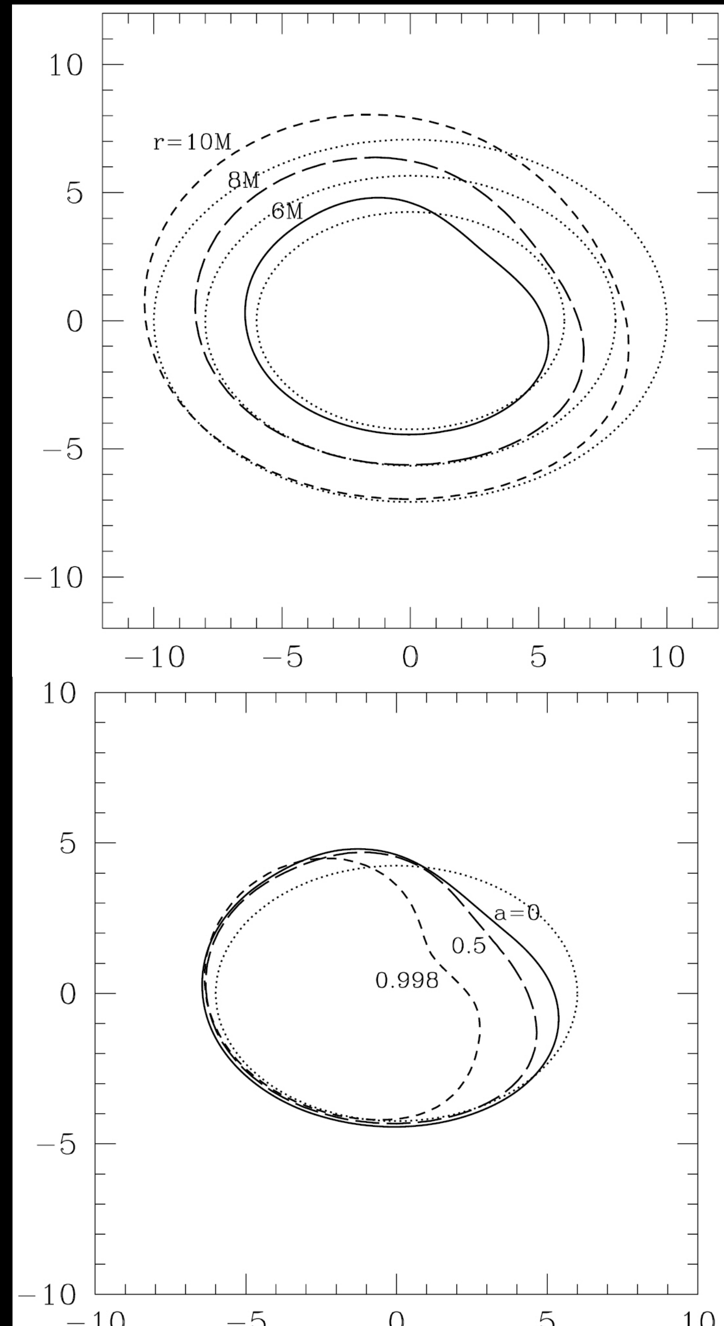
Schnittman, Krolik & Hawley (2006)



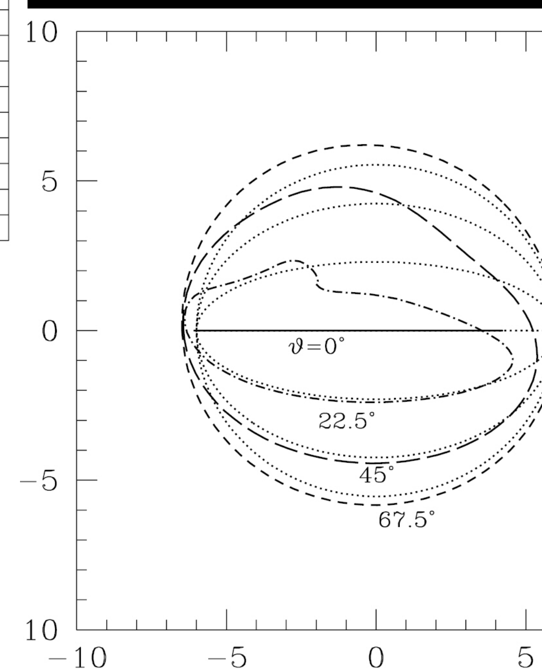
Falcke, Melia, Agol (2000)

Other RT Calculations





Broderick and Loeb (2006)

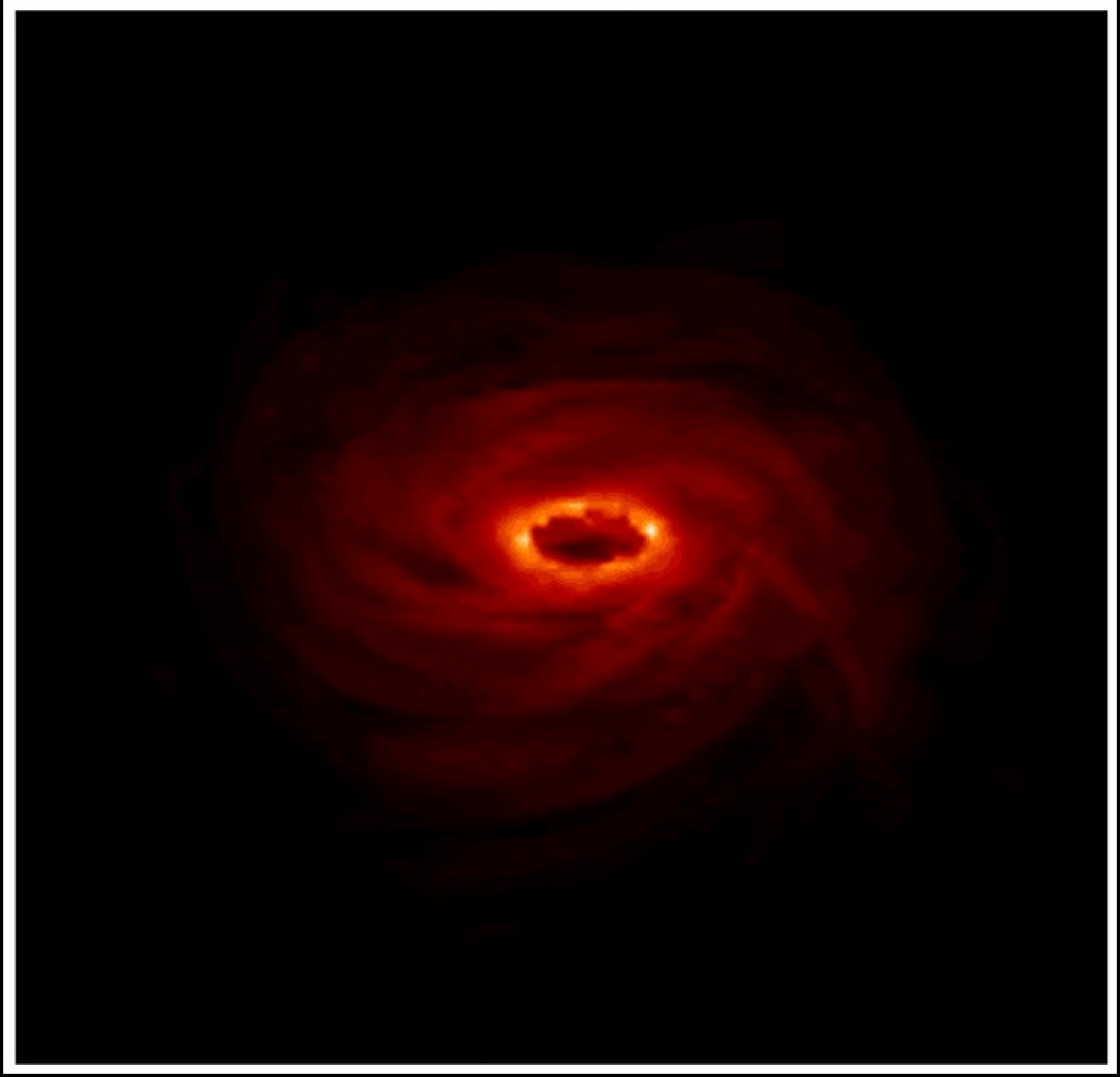


Hots Spots + RIAF

Hots Spots

Broderick and Loeb (2005)

RIAF Simulations



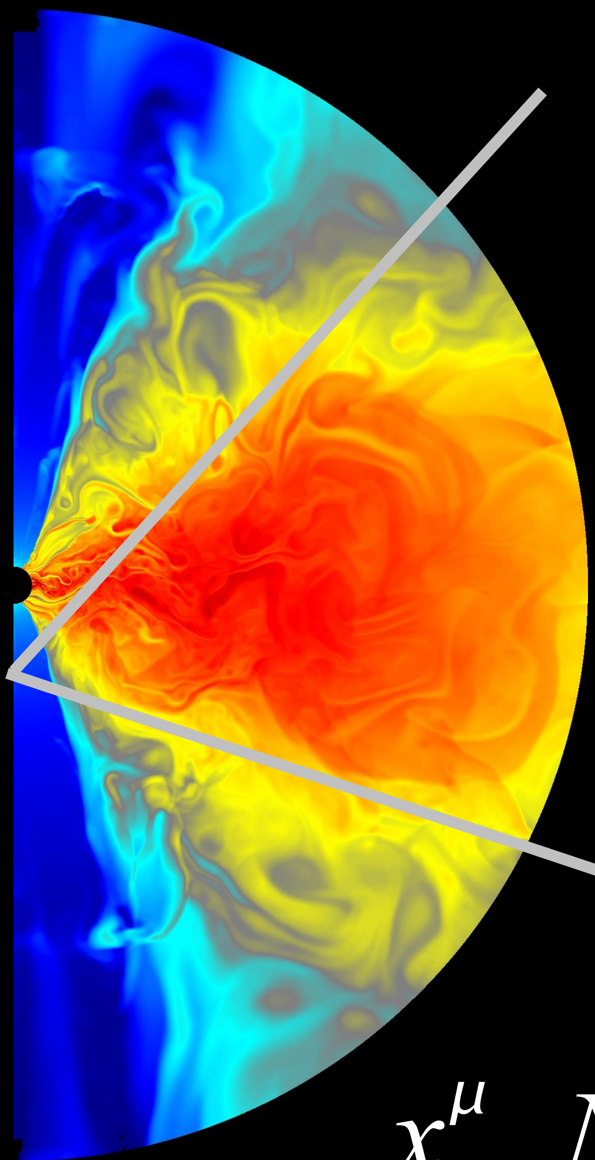
- Goldston, Quataert, Igumenshchev (2005)
- 3D RIAF (Newt. MHD) Simulation
- $T_e = a\, T_{tot}$
- $n_e \sim$ Maxwellian + PLT
- Non-relativistic sim. & radiation

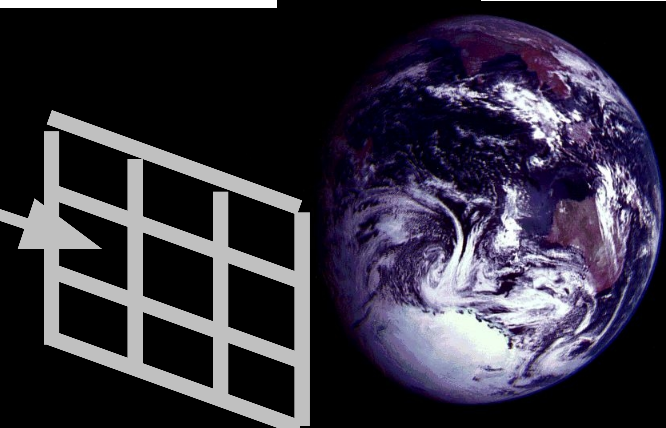
Radiation Transfer in GR: Step #1

- Post-processing calculation
- Assume geodesic motion (no scattering):
- Rays start from Earth;
- Aimed at Earth, integrated toward "SgrA*";
- Integrated back in time;
- A geodesic per image pixel ;
- Camera can be aimed anywhere at any angle;

$$\frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial \lambda} = N^\mu$$

$$\frac{\partial N_\mu}{\partial \lambda} = \Gamma^\nu{}_{\mu\eta} N_\nu N^\eta$$

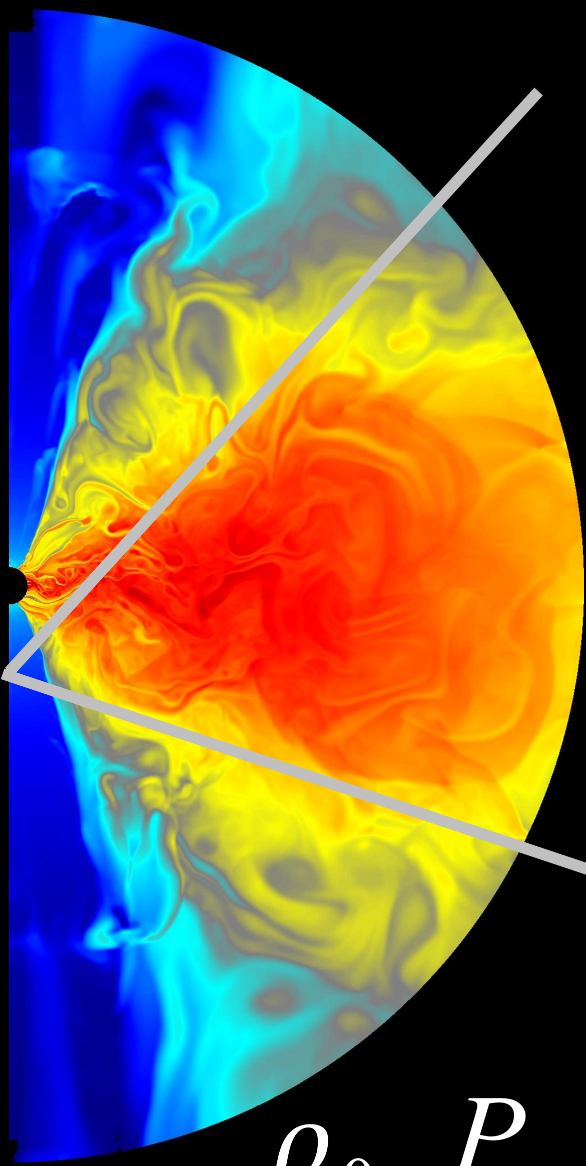


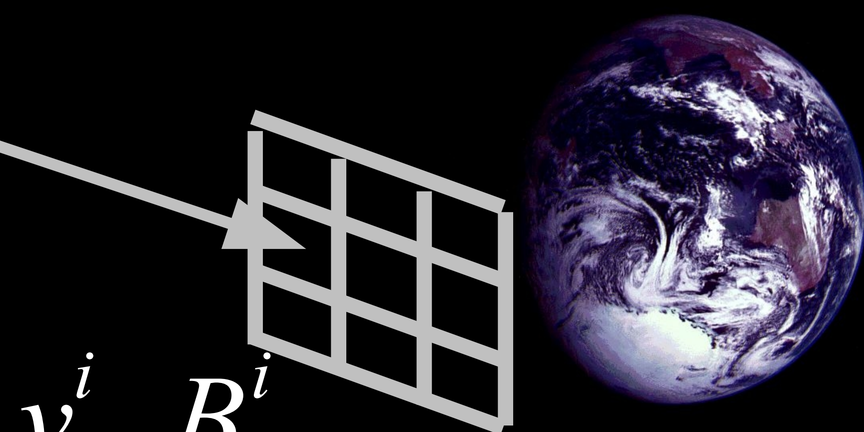


(objects not shown to scale)

Radiation Transfer in GR: Step #2

- Interpolate simulation data along ray
  - 256x256 HARM runs
  - a = 0, 0.5, 0.75, 0.88, 0.93, 0.97
  - R_{out} = 40M, P_{max} at 10-15M
- Spatially interpolate single timeslice per image
  - Assume $t_{dyn} >> t_{crossing}$
- Set units s.t. at 1mm : $Flux_{num} = Flux_{obs}$

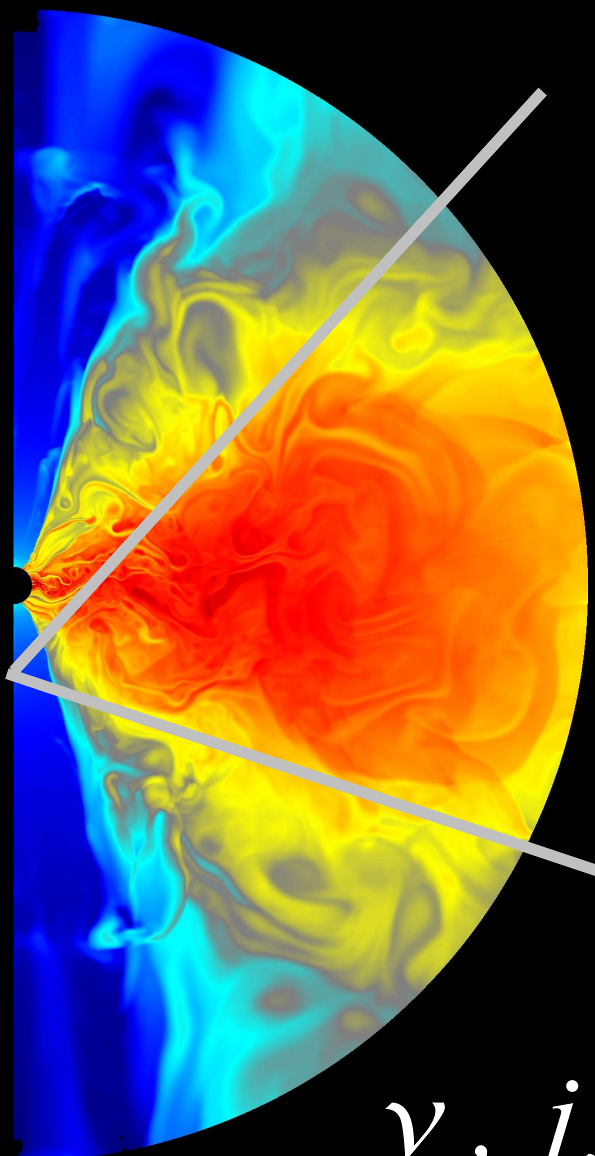




ρ_0, P, v^i, B^i

(objects not shown to scale)

Radiation Transfer in GR: Step #3



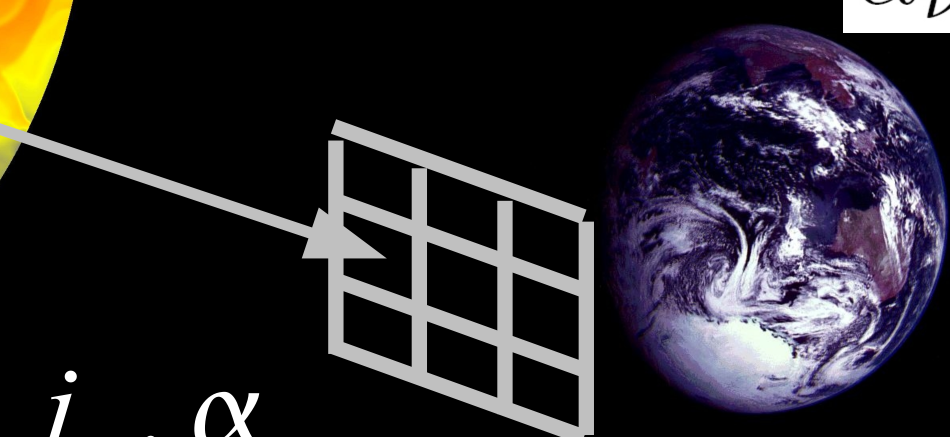
- Transform camera's freq. to fluid frame: ν
- In local fluid frame, RT eq. :

$$\frac{dI_\nu}{ds} = j_\nu - \alpha_\nu I_\nu$$

- Calculate j_ν

- Assuming thermal distribution of electrons:

$$\alpha_\nu = j_\nu / B_\nu$$



$\nu\ ,\ j_\nu\ ,\ \alpha_\nu$

(objects not shown to scale)

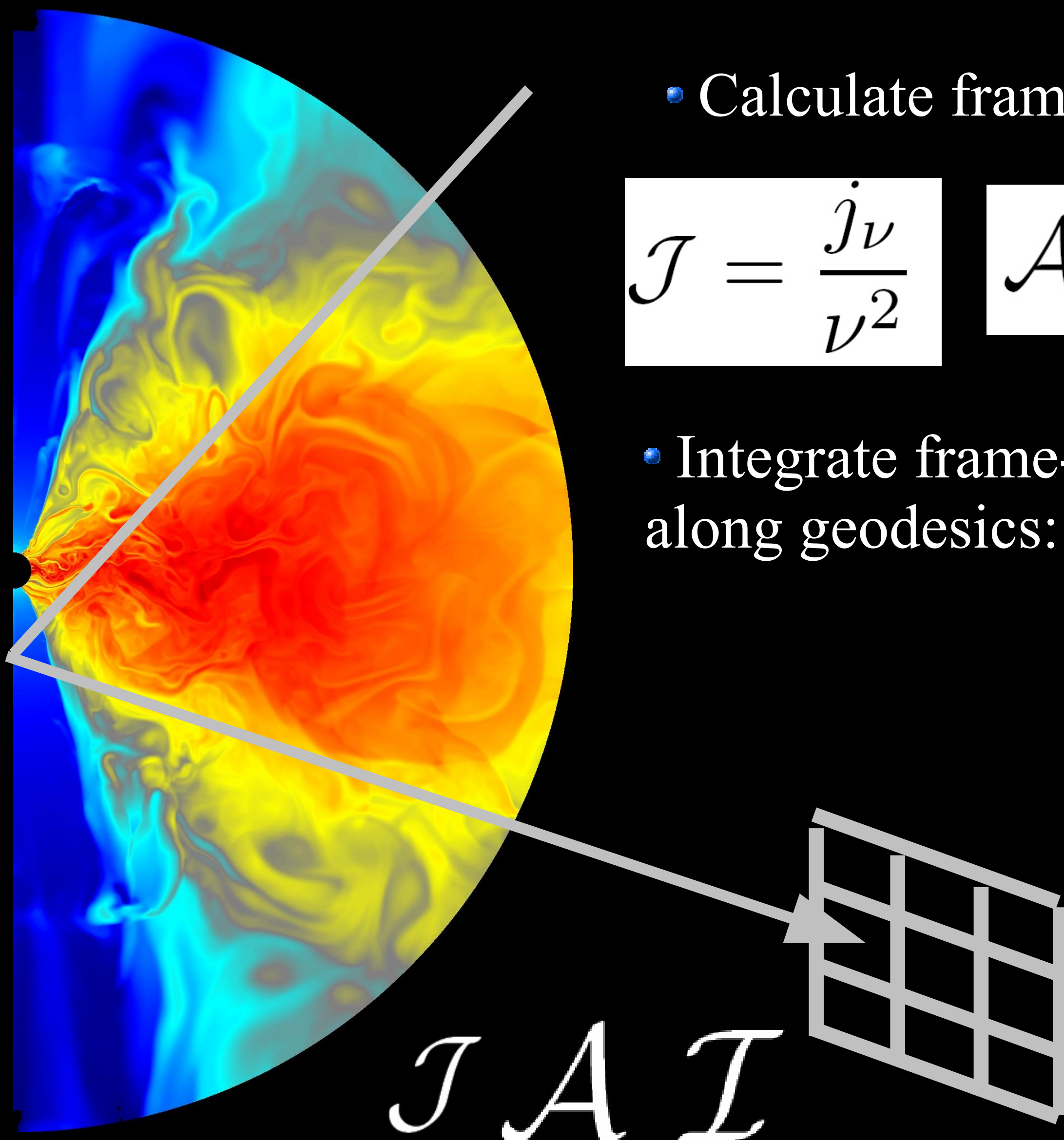
Radiation Transfer in GR: Step #4

- Calculate frame-independent quantities:

$$\mathcal{J} = \frac{j_\nu}{\nu^2} \qquad \mathcal{A} = \nu \alpha_\nu \qquad \mathcal{I} = I_\nu / \nu^3$$

- Integrate frame-independent RT equation along geodesics:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{I}}{d\lambda} = \mathcal{J} - \mathcal{A}\mathcal{I}$$

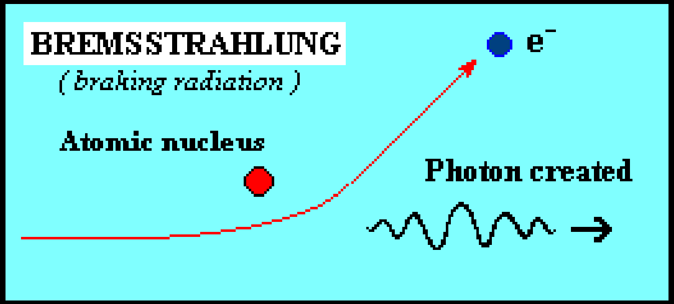


(objects not shown to scale)

Radiation from Plasmas j_ν

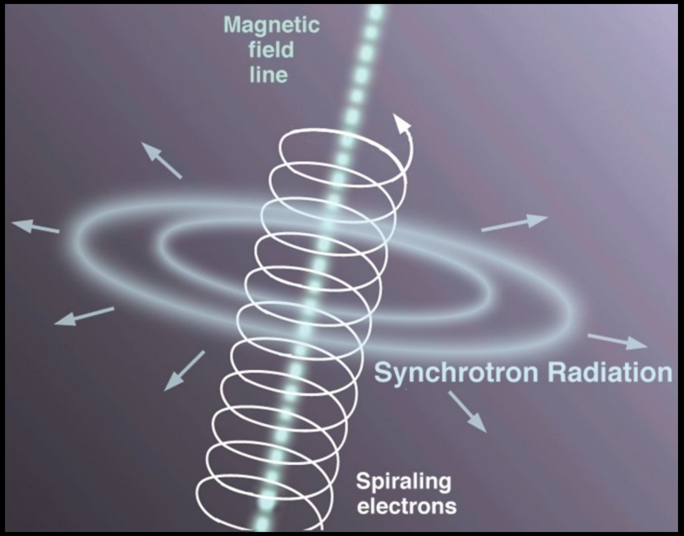
Bremsstrahlung:

- Isotropic in fluid frame
- Easy to calculate from ρ, u^μ, T_e



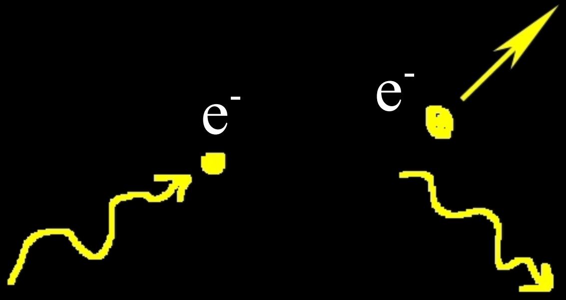
Synchrotron:

- Highly anisotropic
- Hard to calculate exactly
- Approximate methods work well
- Most use angle-averaged equations
- Need: $B^i, \rho, u^\mu, T_e, N^\mu$

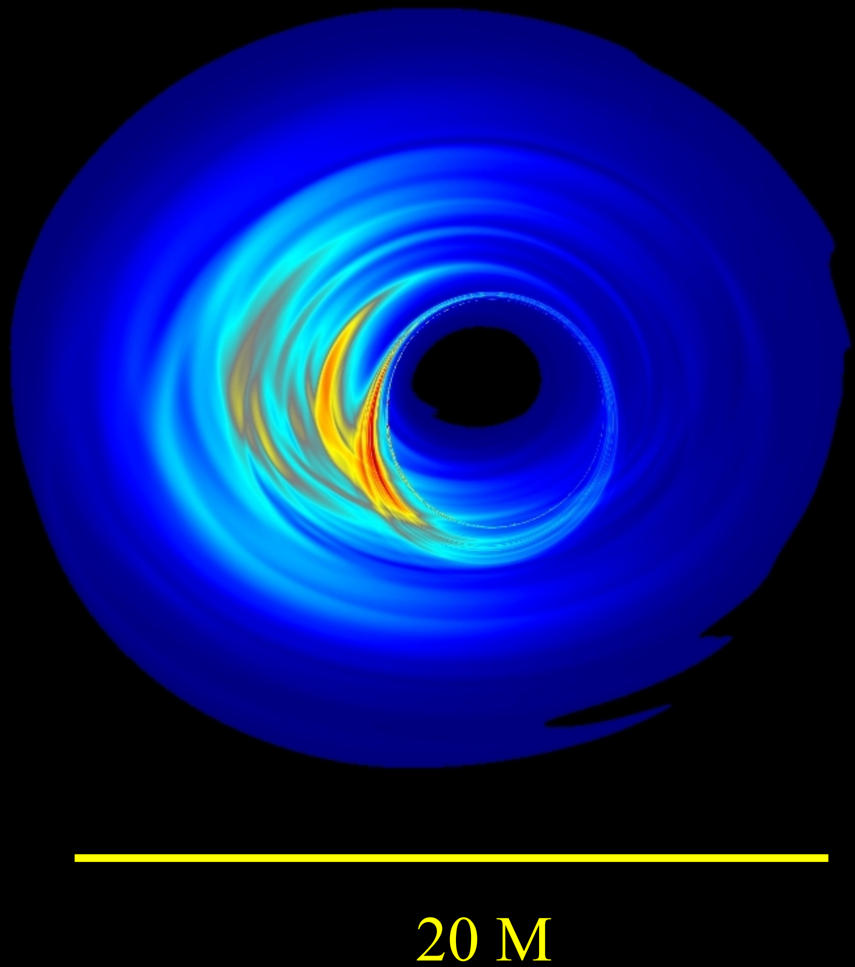


Compton Scattering (inverse):

- Anisotropic, up-scatters incident light
- Harder to calculate in general (Monte Carlo)



Default Model



$$\boxed{\nu_{obs}\,,\,\dot{M}\,,\,a\,,\,\theta_{inc}}$$

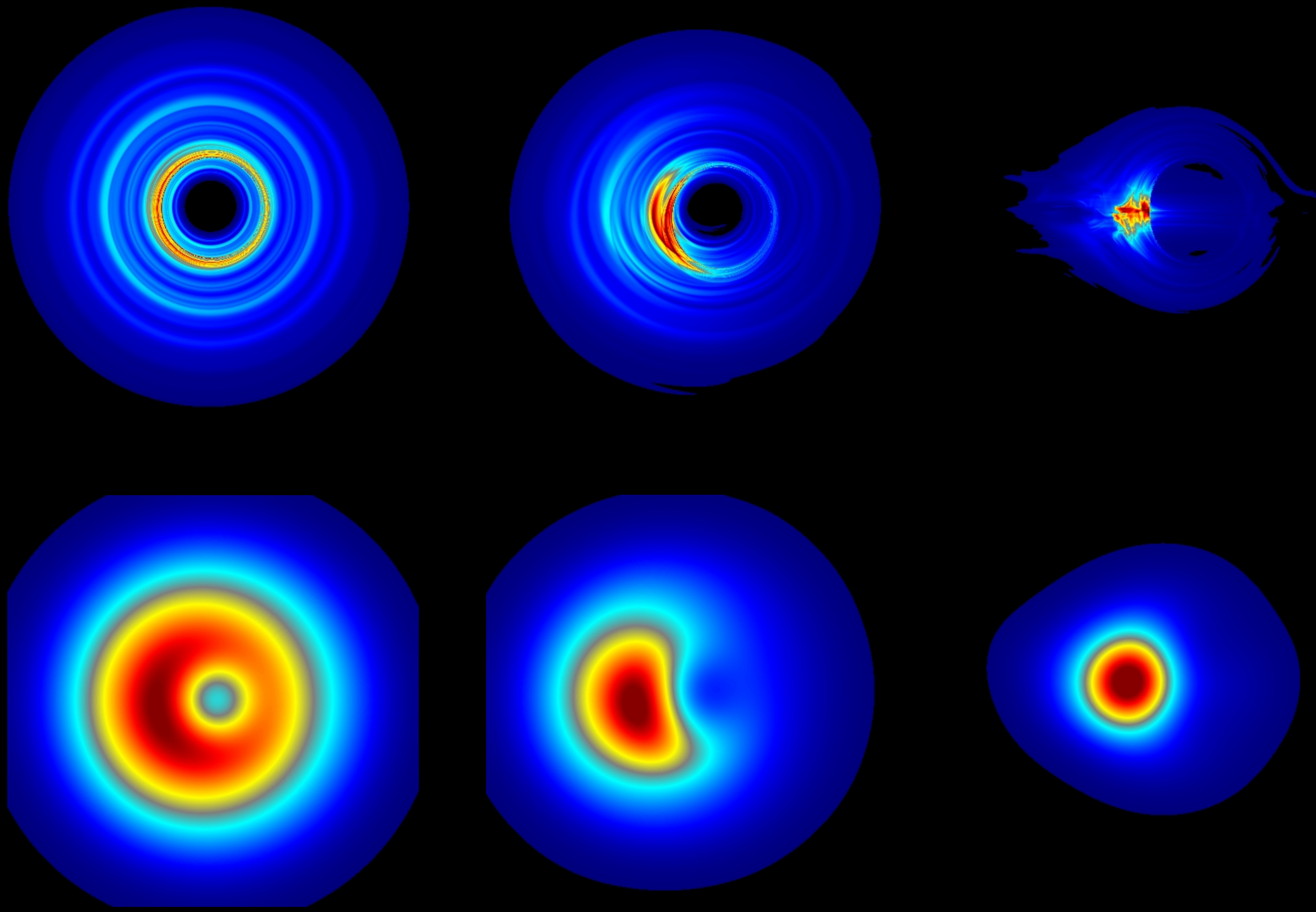
$$\nu_{obs} = 3\text{x}10^{11}\,Hz\,(1\text{mm})$$

$$\dot{M} = 5\text{x}10^{-9}\,M_{sun}\,yr^{-1}$$

$$a = 0.94$$

$$i = 30^{o}$$

Inclination Survey

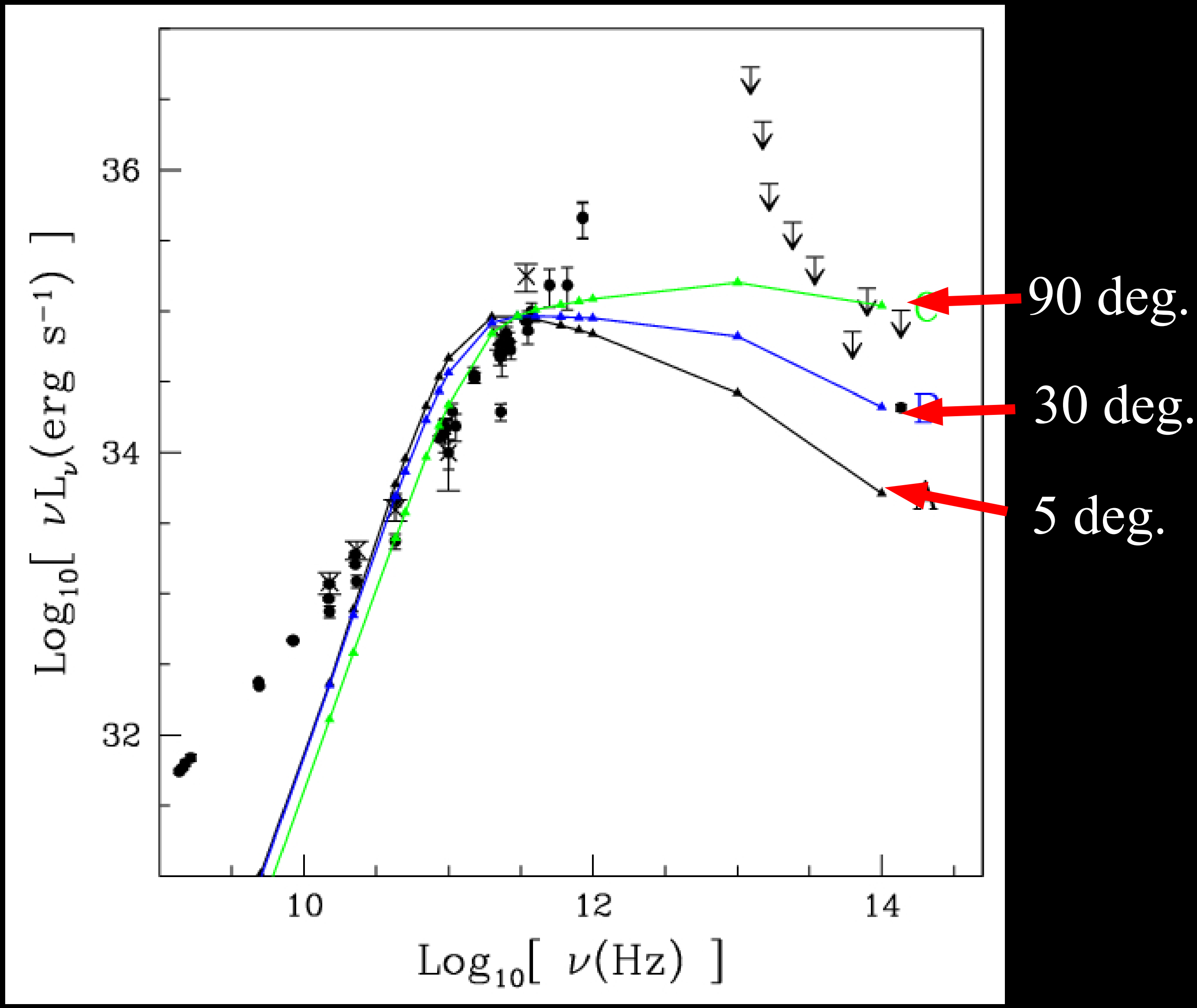


“Infinite” Resolution

Earth-based VLBI Resolution

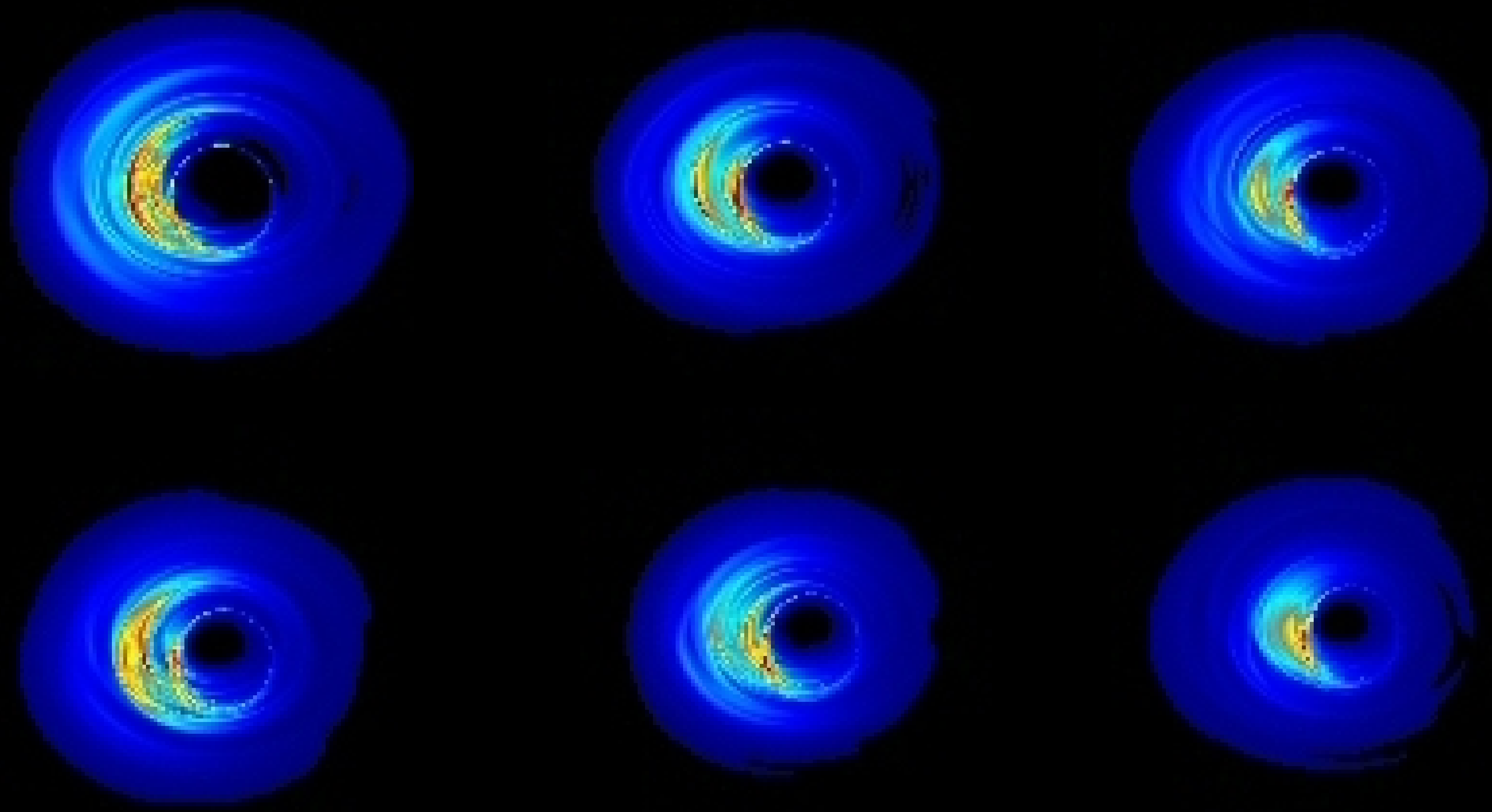
$i = 5^o$ 30^o 90^o

Inclination Survey



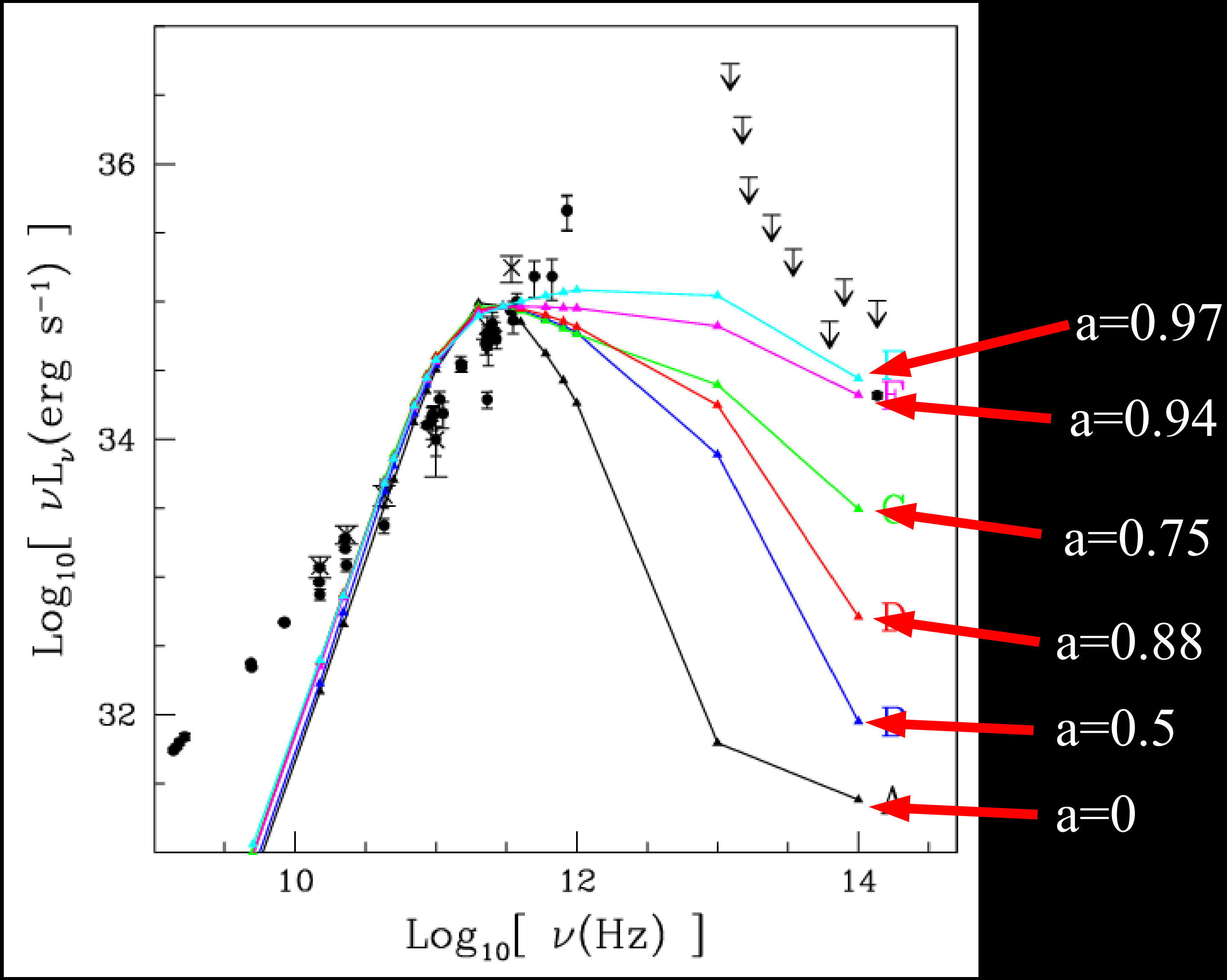
Spin Survey

0 0.5 0.75



0.88 0.94 0.97

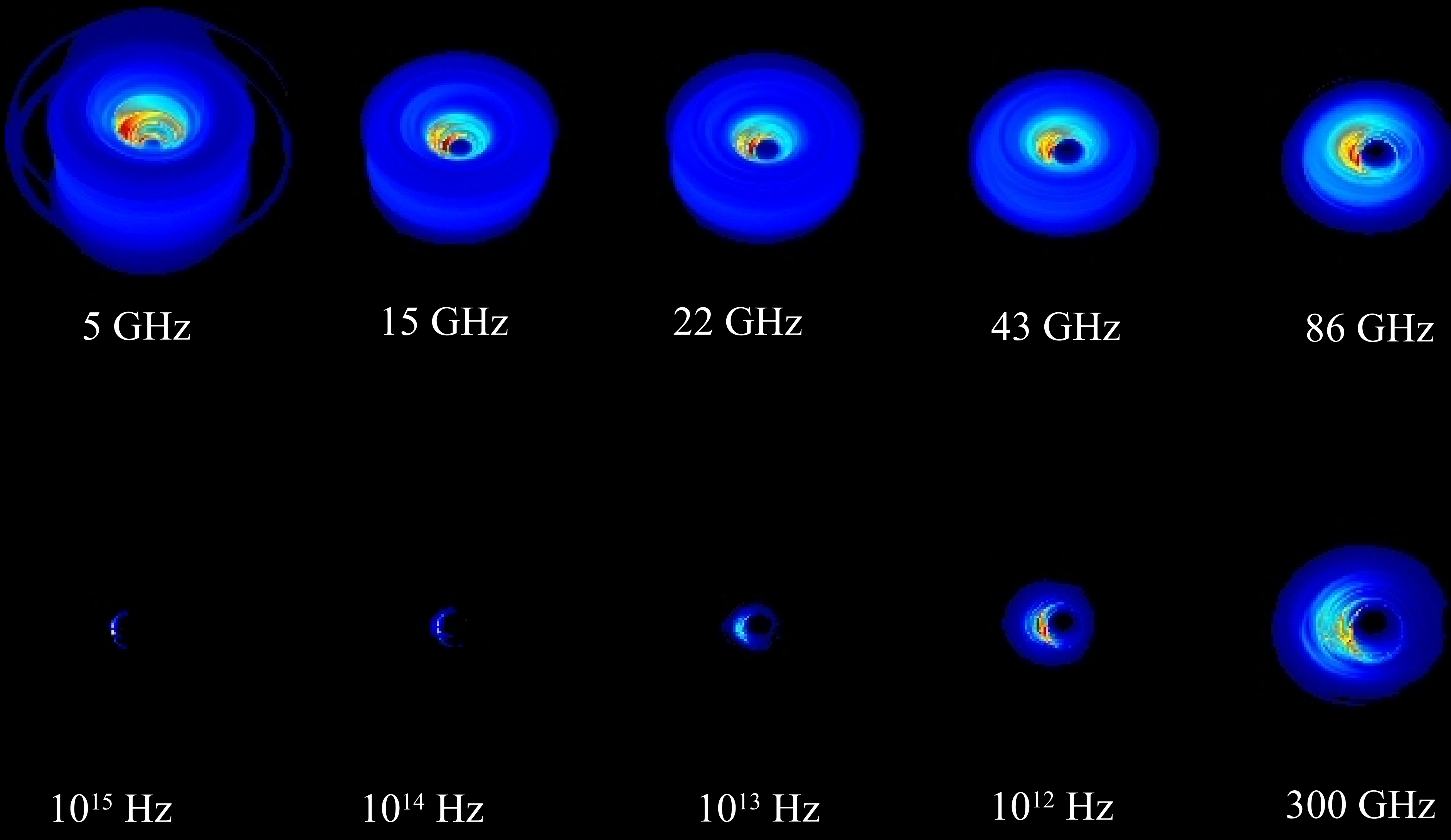
Spin Survey



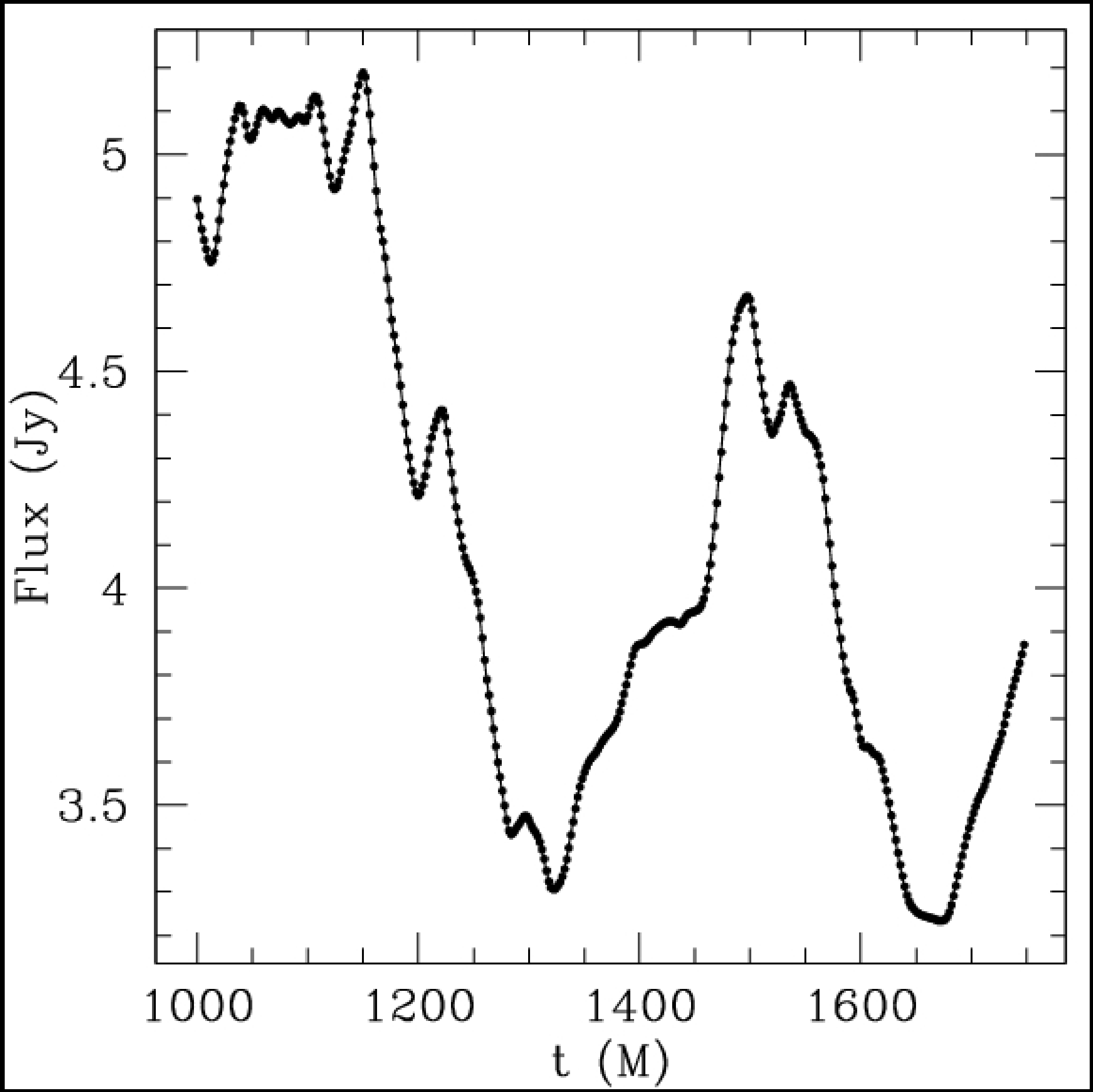
36
34
32
10
12
14
$Log_{10}[\ \nu L_\nu (erg\ s^{-1})\ ]$
$Log_{10}[\ \nu(Hz)\ ]$
a=0.97
a=0.94
a=0.75
a=0.88
a=0.5
a=0

Angular Size with Frequency

$$i \ = \ 45^o \qquad a = 0.94\,M$$

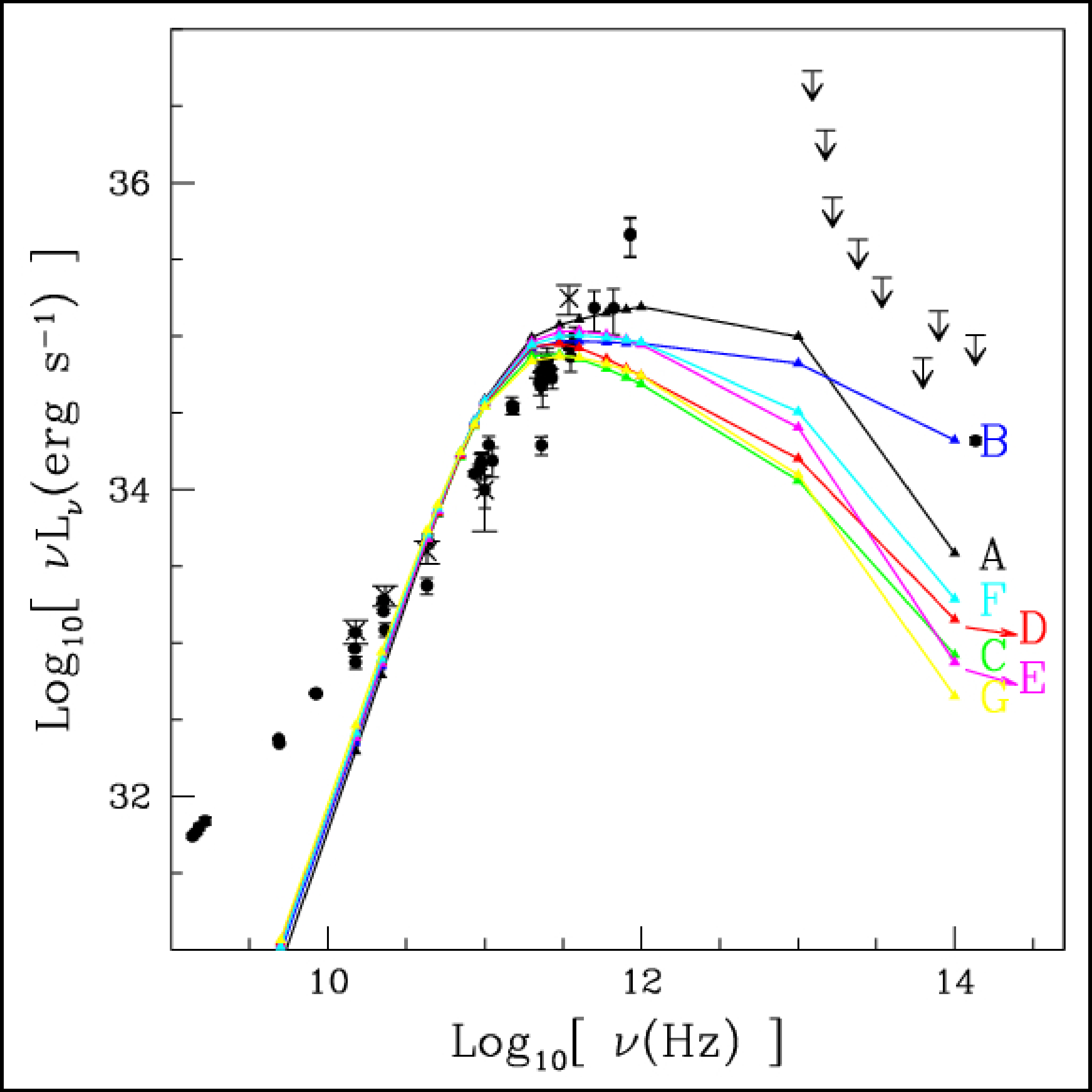


Time Variation



(t = 1150M, 1250M, 1326M, 1434M, 1500M, 1666M)

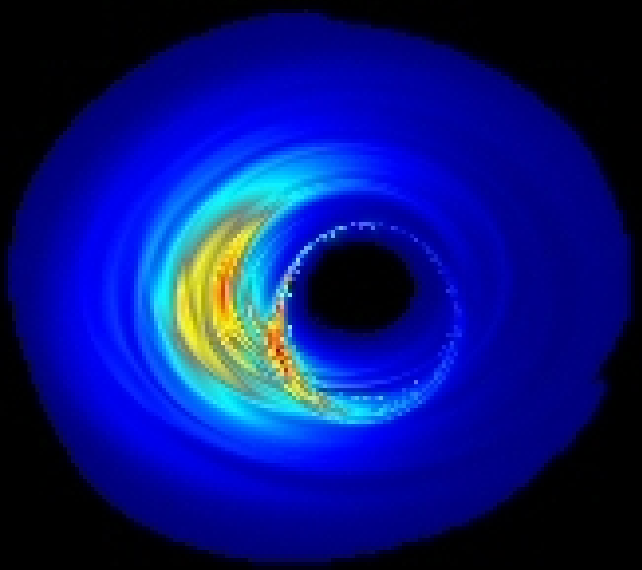
Time Variation

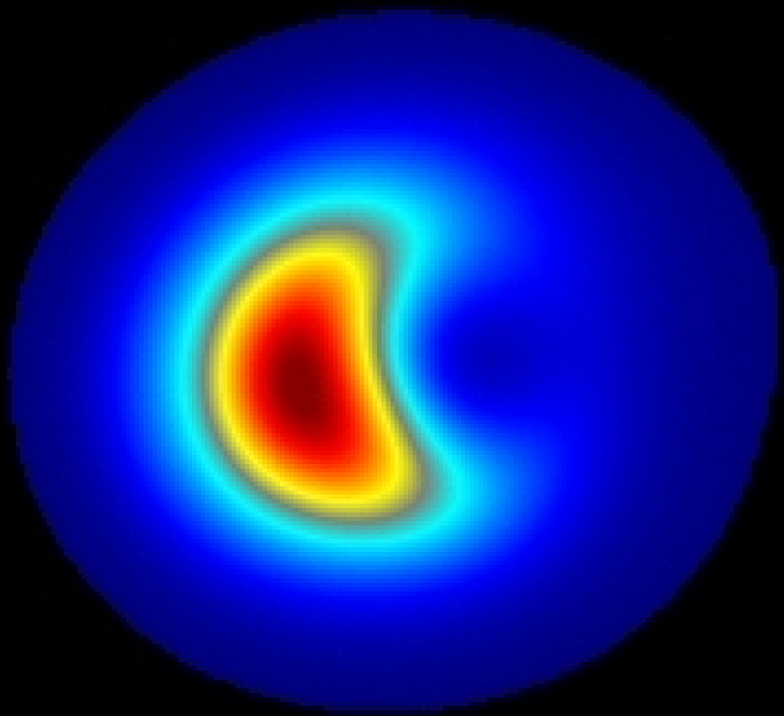


t = 1150M, 1250M, 1326M, 1434M, 1500M, 1666M

Time Variation

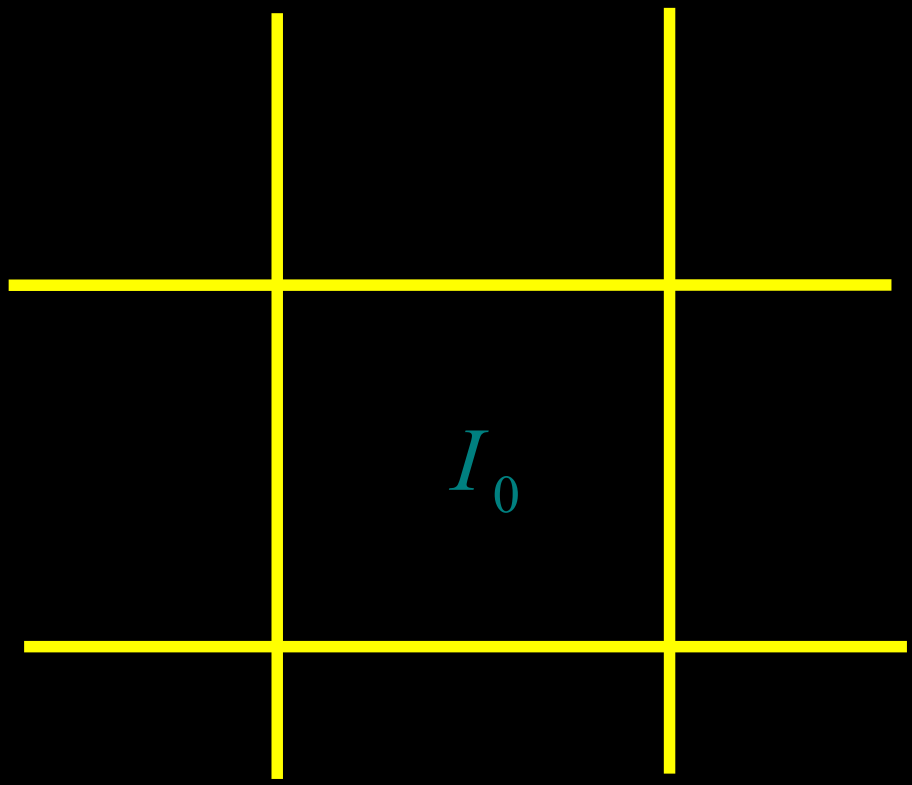
t = 1000M - 1700M





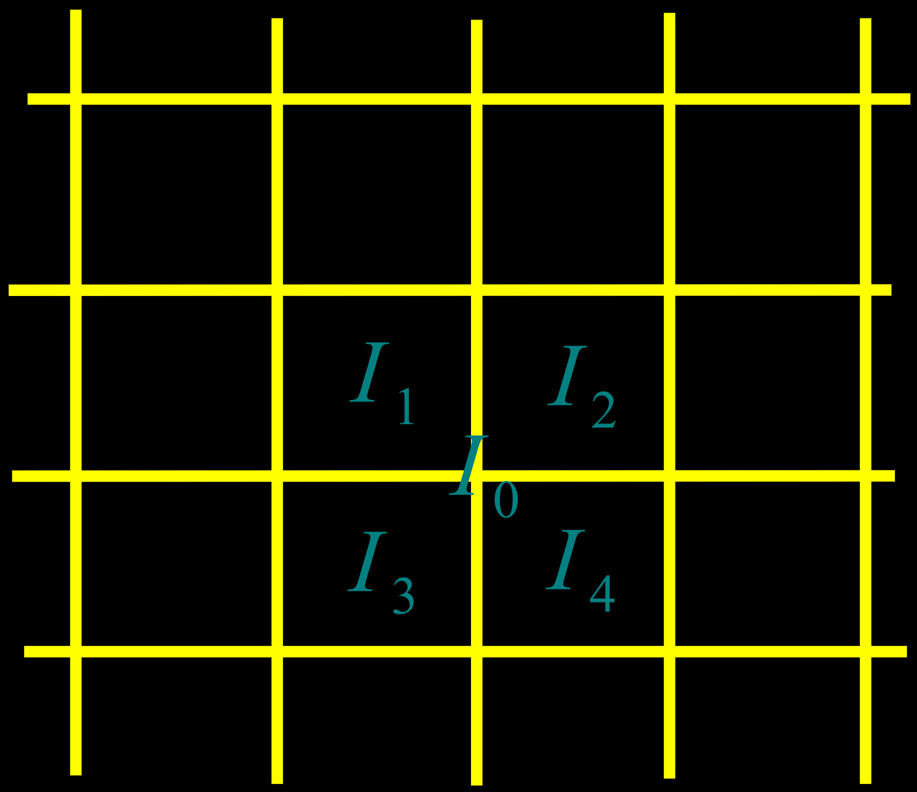
Adaptive Pixel Refinement

$$I_{ray} A_{pixel} \simeq \int_{pixel} I_\nu \, dA$$



Adaptive Pixel Refinement

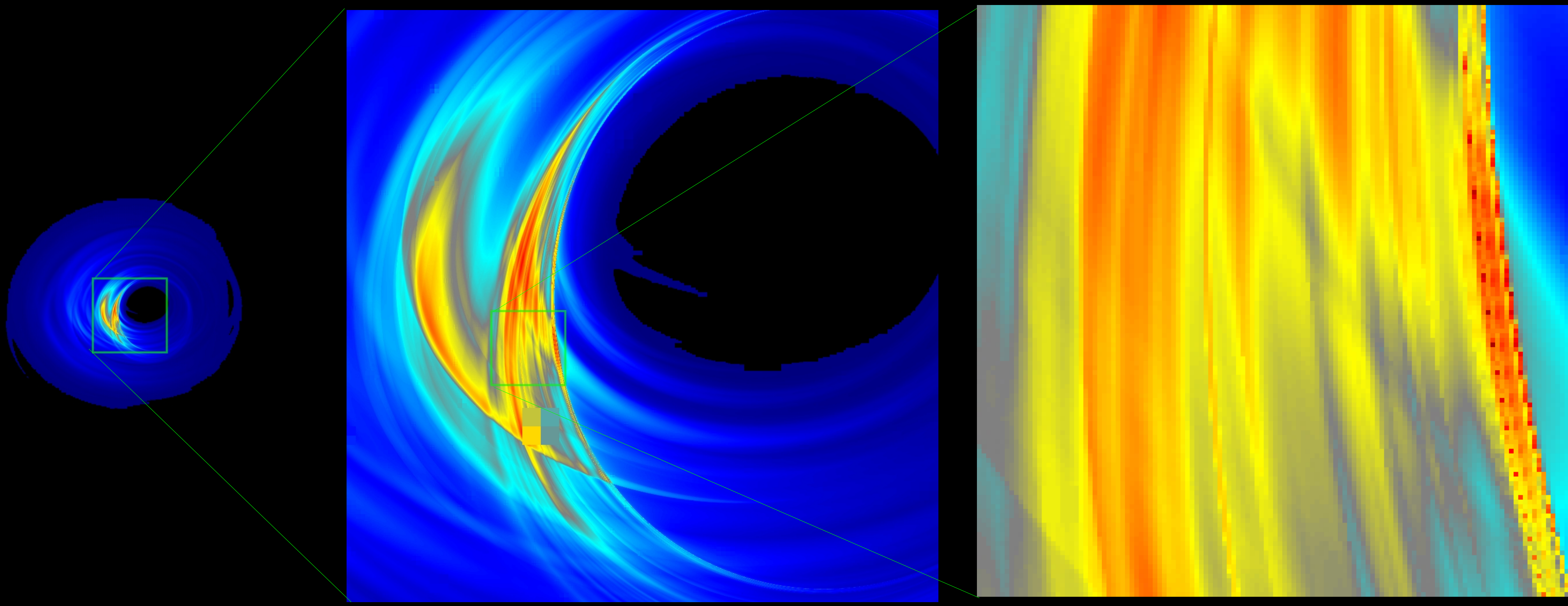
$$I_{ray} A_{pixel} \simeq \int_{pixel} I_\nu \, dA$$



$$I_0 = \frac{1}{4}(I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4)$$

Adaptive Pixel Refinement

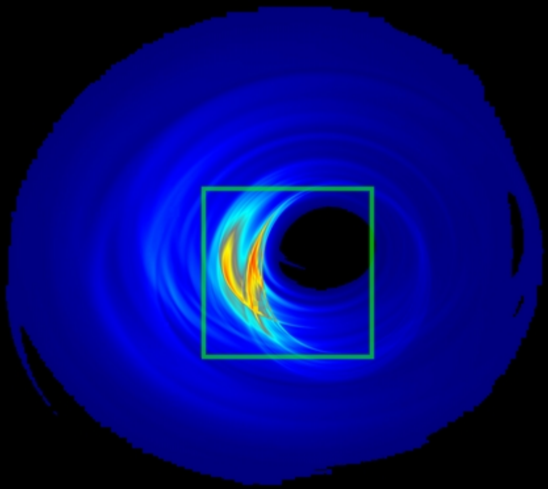
Base Resolution = 128x128 , 6 levels of refinement

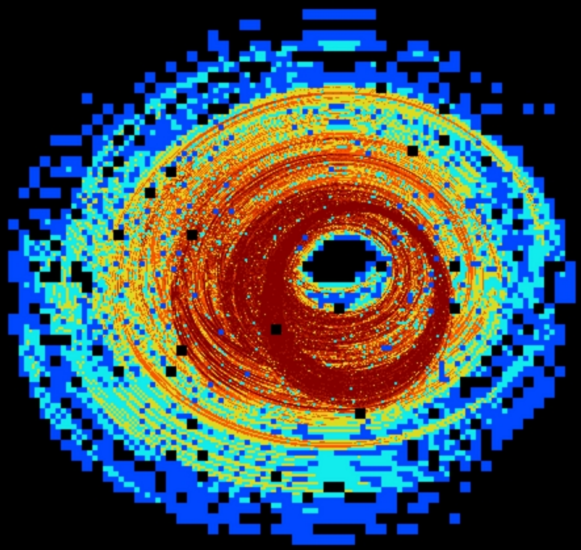


Effective Resolution = 8192x8192 = 2^13^2 = 67 Megapixel

Adaptive Pixel Refinement

Base Resolution = 128x128 , 6 levels of refinement





Effective Resolution = 8192x8192 = 2^13^2 = 67 Megapixel

Summary

- Observable shadow for $\theta_{inc} < 30\, deg.$
- Spectral dependence on all degrees of freedom
- Greatest variability seen between disks of different spin
- Greatest variability seen at larger frequencies (ala relativistic beaming near horizon)
- Spatial/temporal variability important --- need dynamic models
- Amenable for identifying characteristics of SgrA*'s spacetime
- $\dot{M}_{num} \sim \dot{M}_{obs}$

Future Work

- Interpolate simulation data in TIME & space
- Temporal variability --> Need to time average images/spectra
- Calculate polarized emission.... (in the works: P. K. Leung)
- Add non-thermal distribution of electrons to model
    - Requires evolution of electron energy eq. in simulations
- Finish adaptive pixel refinement algorithm
- Compton scattering
    - Needs Monte Carlo (C. Gammie)
- Use 3D simulation data (HARM3D in the works...)

EXTRA SLIDES

Synchrotron Calculation: Exact

$$j_\nu(\vartheta) = \int_1^\infty \mathrm{d}\gamma \frac{1}{2} n_\mathrm{e}(\gamma) \int_{-1}^{1} \mathrm{d}\mu\, \eta_\nu(\vartheta, \mu, \gamma)$$

$$\eta_\nu \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}W}{\mathrm{d}\nu\, \mathrm{d}\Omega\, \mathrm{d}t}(\vartheta, \xi, \gamma) = \frac{2\pi e^2 \nu^2}{c} \times \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \delta(y_n) \left[\left(\frac{\cos\vartheta - \beta\cos\xi}{\sin\vartheta} \right)^2 J_n^2(z) + \beta^2 \sin^2 \xi J_n'^2(z) \right]$$

$$z \equiv \frac{\nu\gamma\beta \sin\vartheta \sin\xi}{\nu_\mathrm{c}}$$

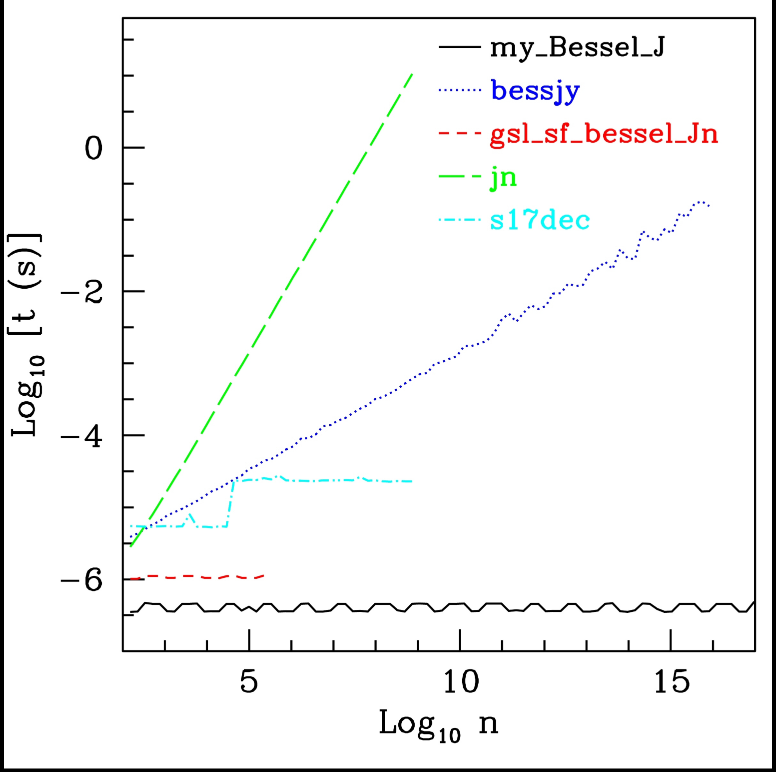
$$y_n \equiv \frac{n\nu_\mathrm{c}}{\gamma} - \nu(1 - \beta\cos\xi\cos\vartheta)$$

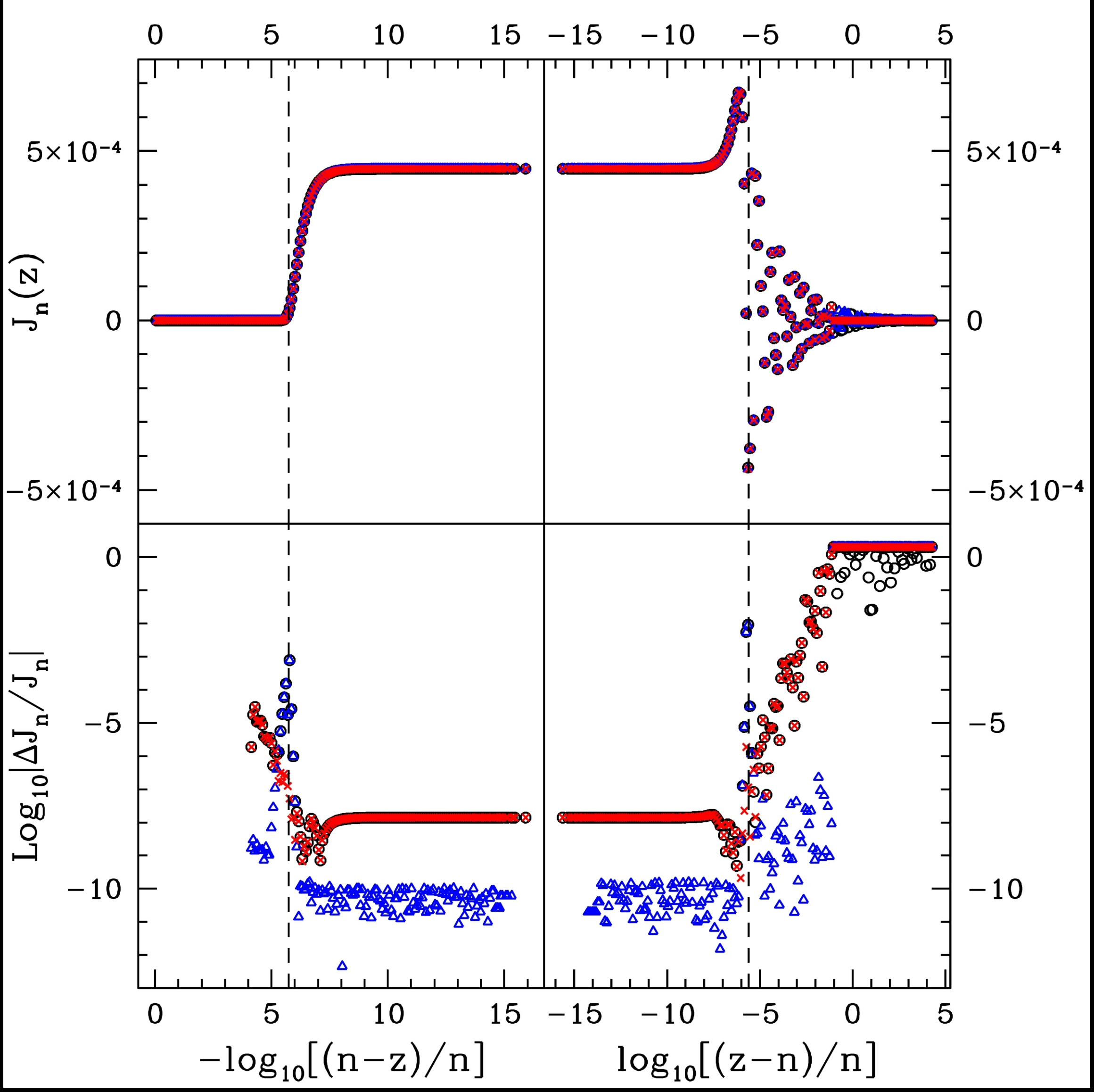
$$\nu_\mathrm{c} \equiv eB/2\pi m_\mathrm{e} c$$

Faster Bessel Function of First Kind J_n

$$\left[z^2\frac{d^2}{dz^2} + z\frac{d}{dz} + (z^2 - n^2)\right] J_n = 0$$

$$J_n(z) = \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{2k}}{k!\,\Gamma(n+k+1)}$$





Leung, SCN, Gammie 2008

Synchrotron Calculation: Approx.

Wardzinski & Zdziarski (2000):

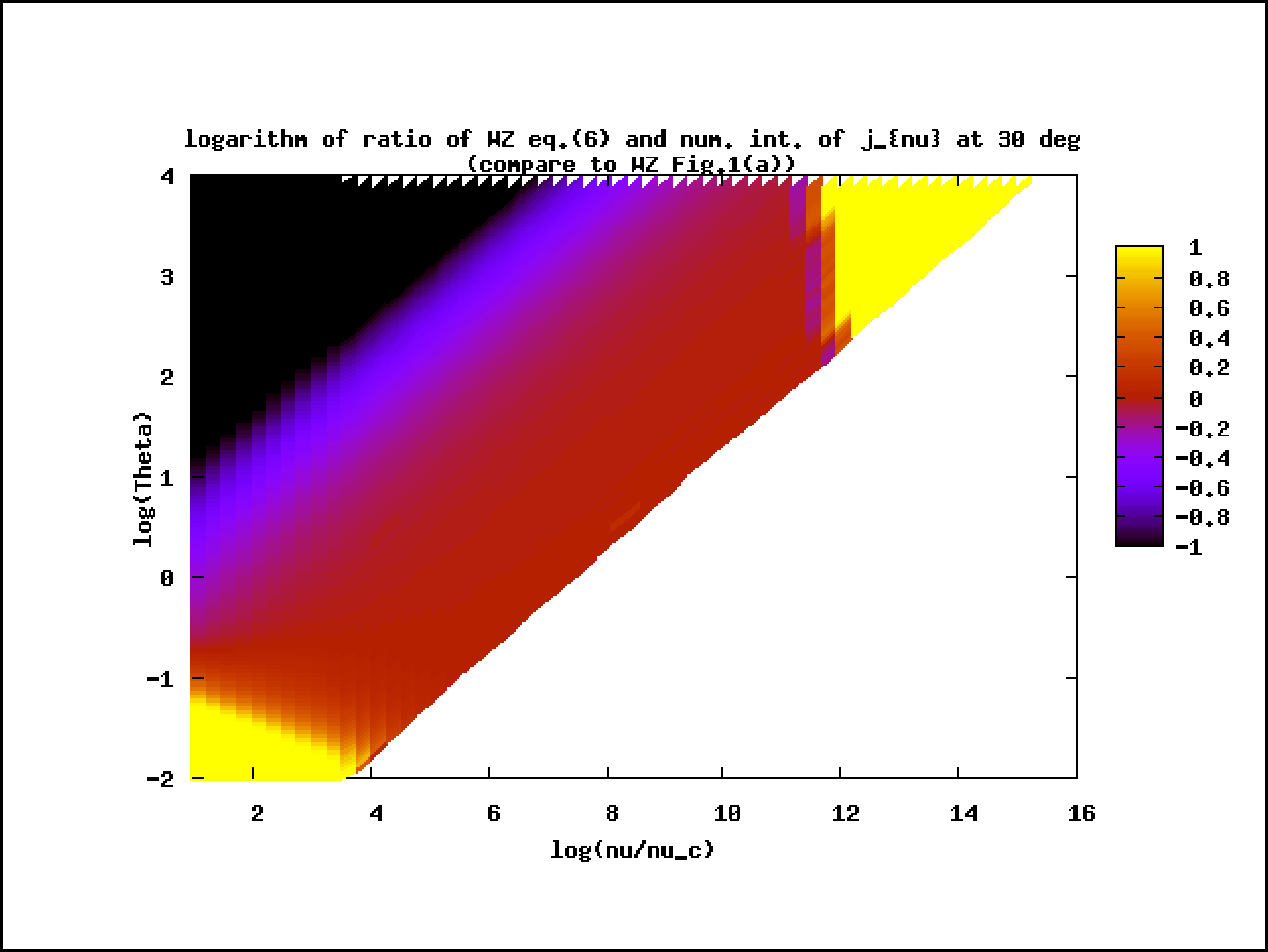
$$j_\nu(\vartheta) = \frac{2^{1/2}\pi e^2 n_{\rm e}\nu}{3cK_2(1/\Theta)}\exp\left[-\left(\frac{9v}{2\sin\vartheta}\right)^{1/3}\right]$$

$$\Theta \equiv kT/m_{\rm e}c^2 \qquad v \equiv \nu/\nu_{\rm c}\Theta^2$$

- Also use an approximate equation by Baring (1988)

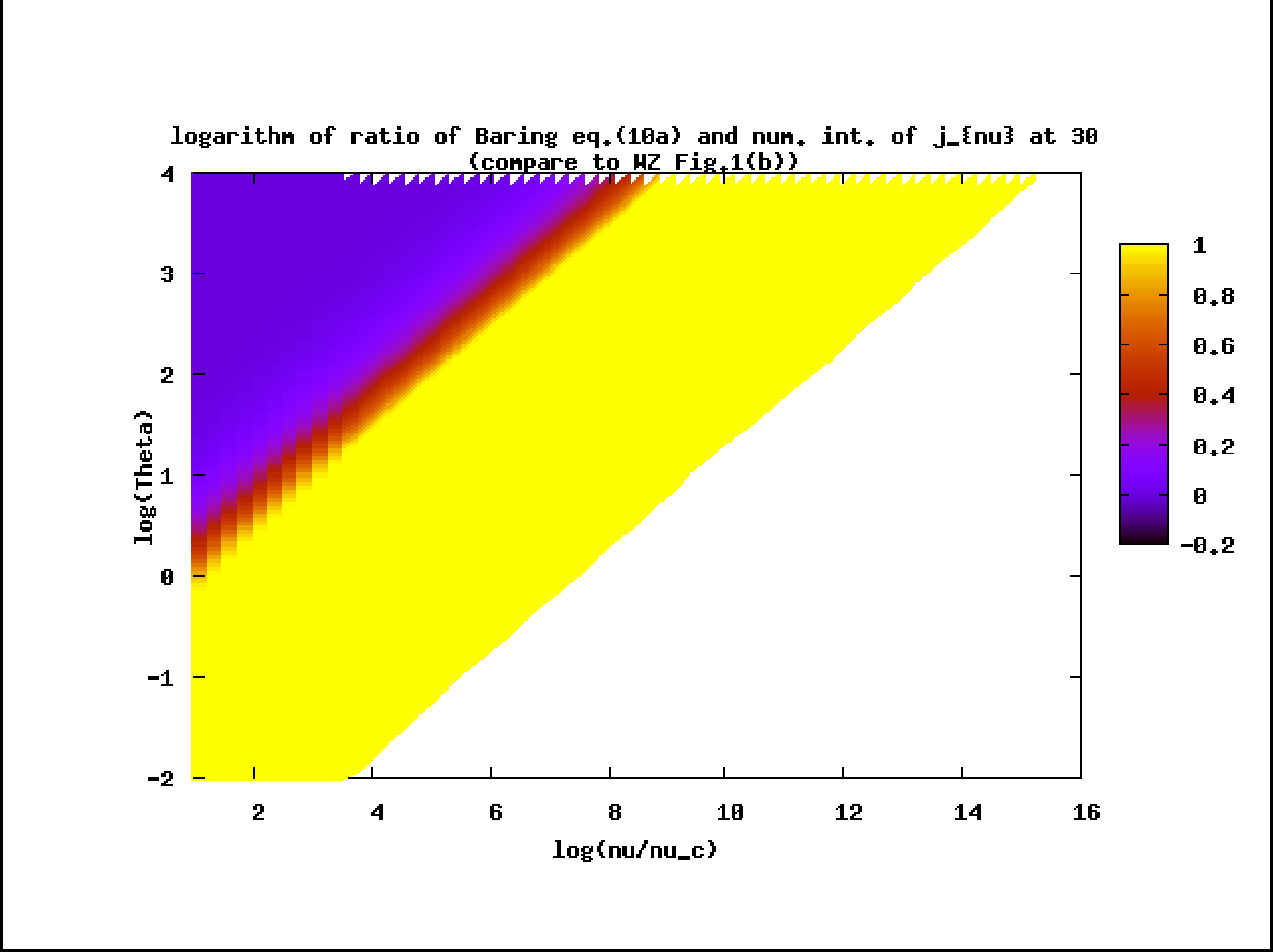
Synchrotron Calculation: Approx.

Wardzinski & Zdziarski (2000)



Synchrotron Calculation: Approx.

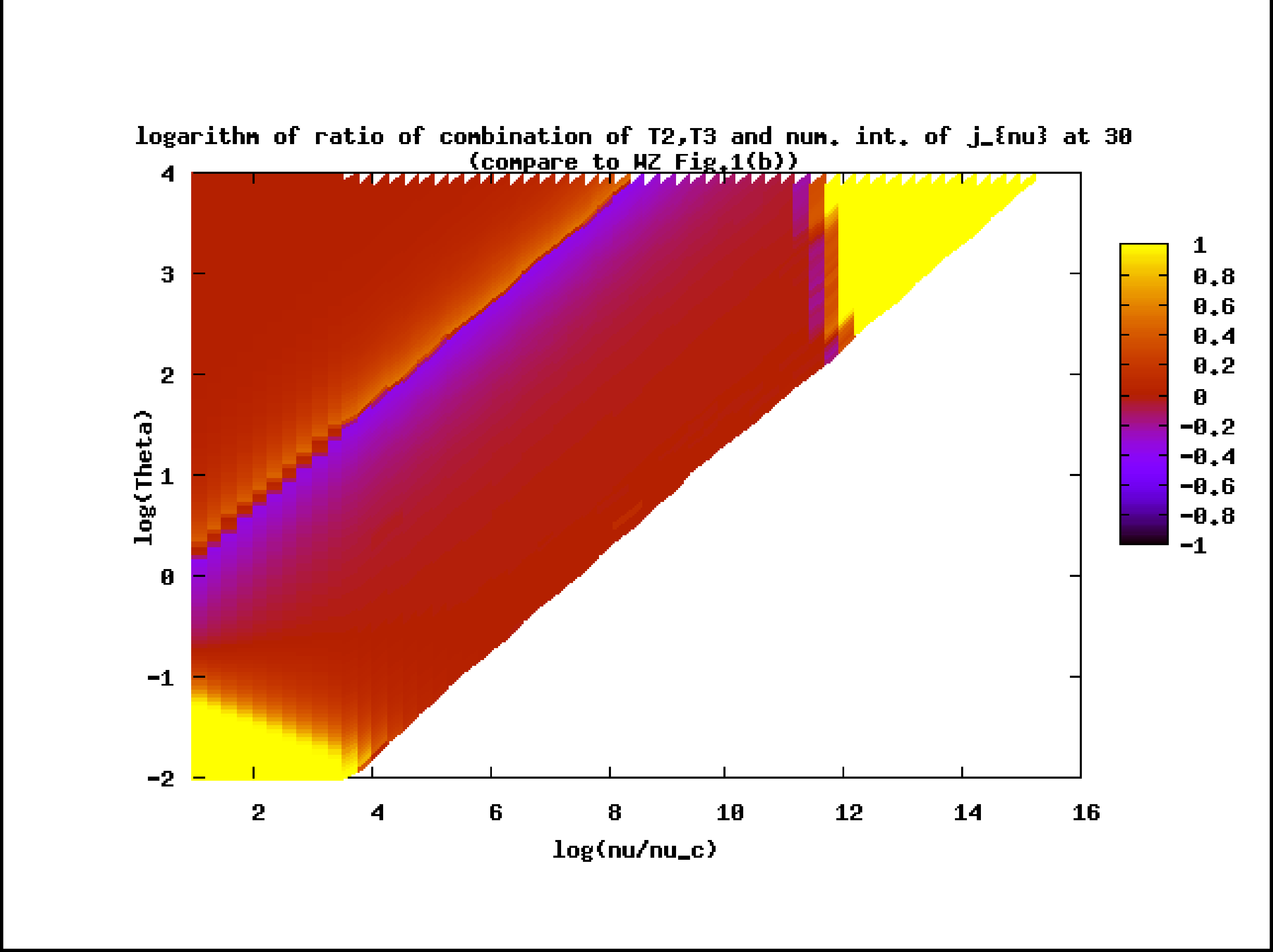
Baring (1988)



Synchrotron Calculation: Approx.

Wardzinski & Zdziarski (2000)

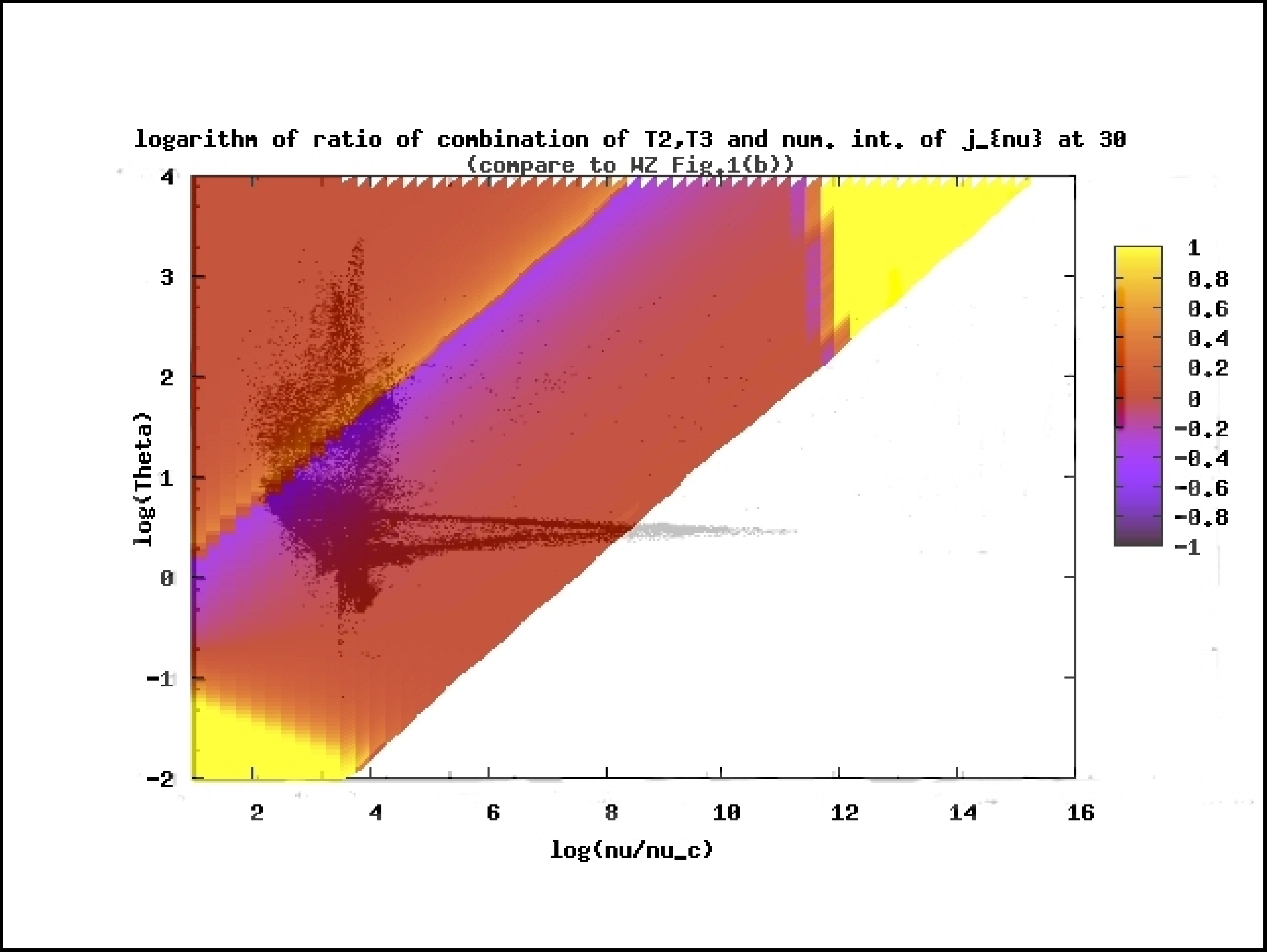
Baring (1988)



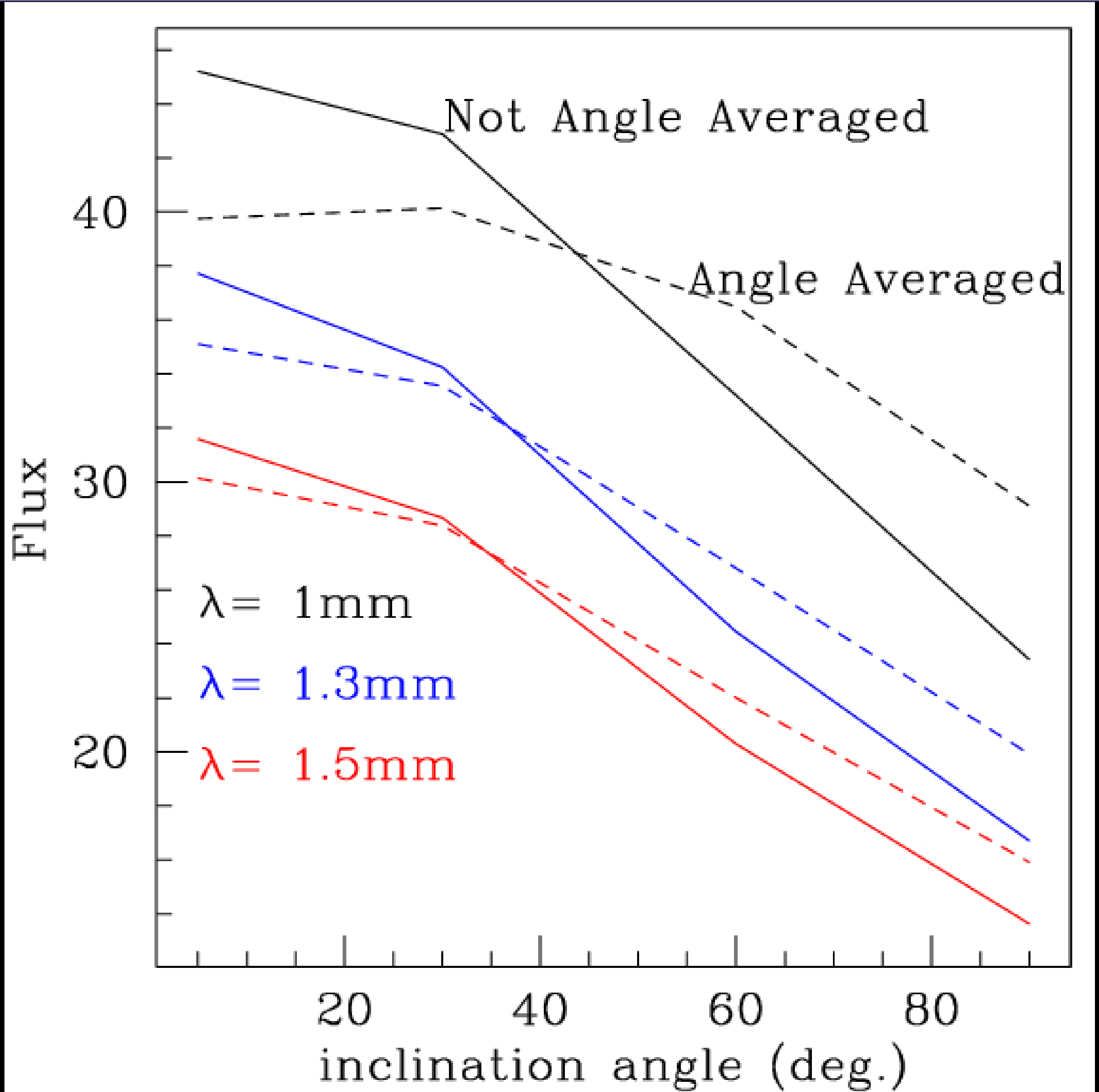
Synchrotron Calculation: Approx.

Wardzinski & Zdziarski (2000)

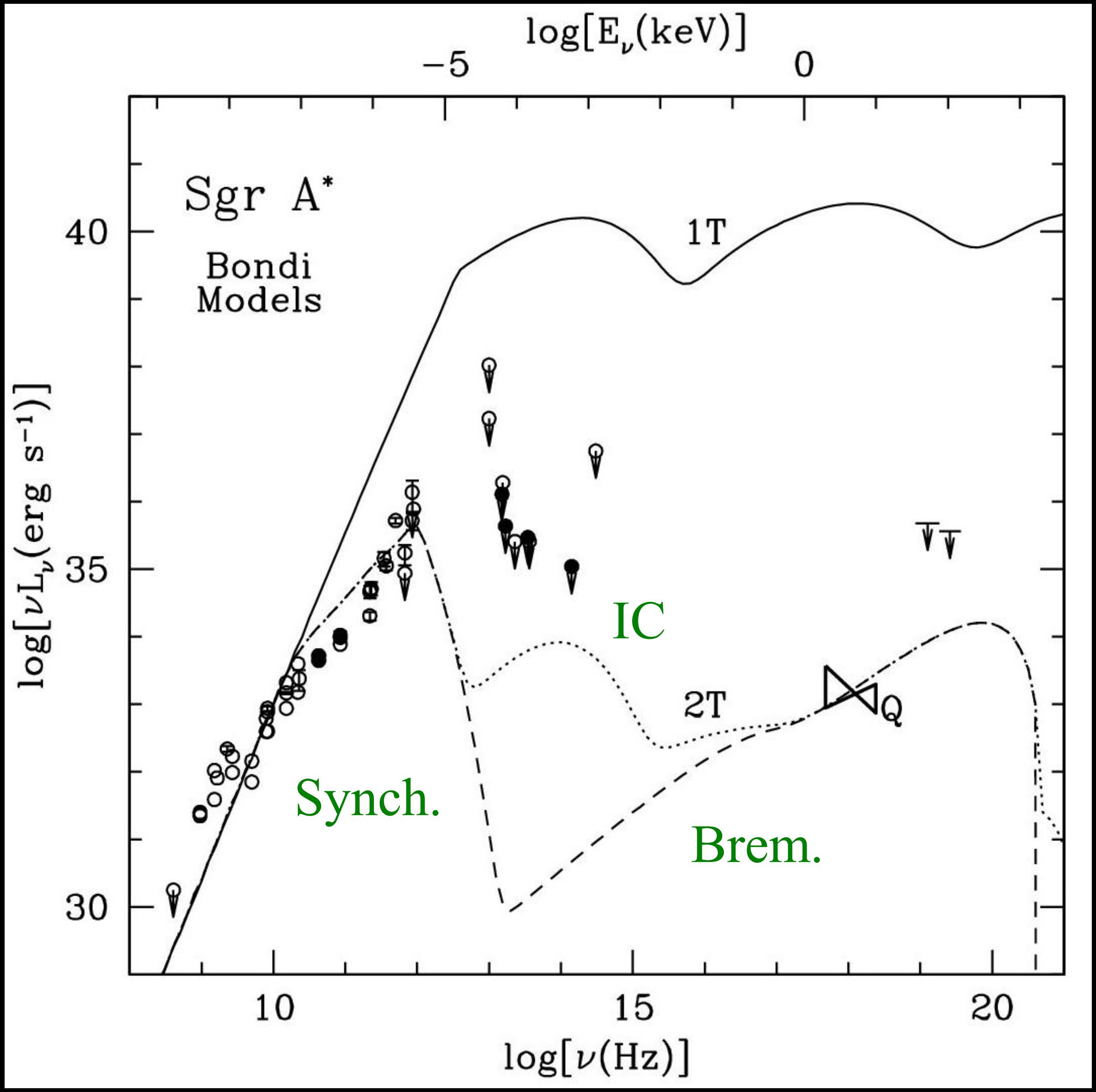
Baring (1988)



Synchrotron Calculation: Angle Avg.?



Realistic Bondi Accretion Spectrum



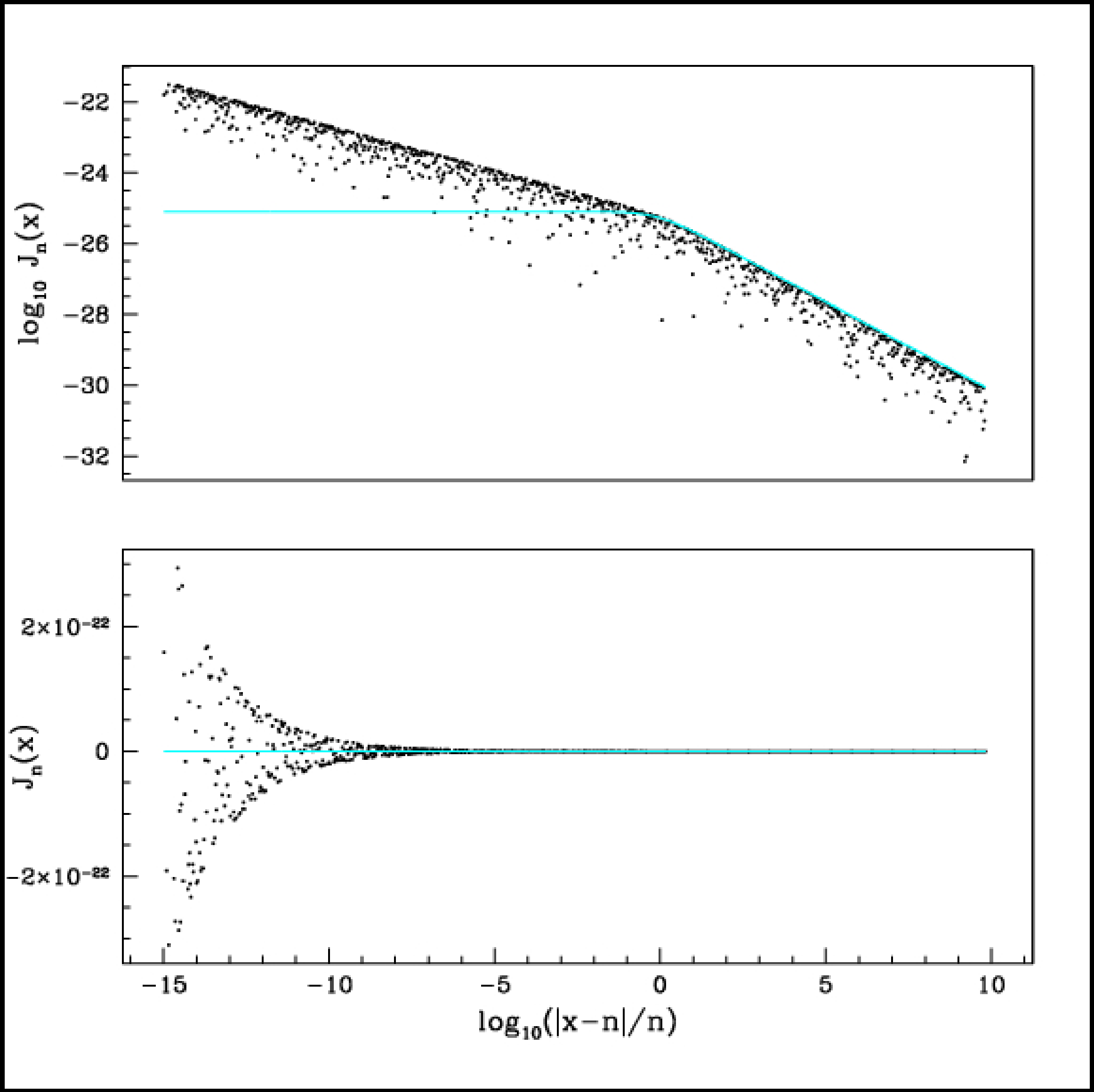
- Spherical accretion
- 2T : Te << Tp
- Including Synch., Bremsstrahlung (+IC)
- At low ρ, e's & ions decouple since

$$t_{Coulomb} > t_{infall}$$

- Shapiro, Lightman, & Eardley (1976)

Narayan astro-ph/0201260

Synchrotron Calculation: Exact



$$n = 10^{50}$$

Chishtie et al. (2005)

- Asymptotic expansions to calculate Jn(x) for pulsar grav. waves
- Found matching conditions empirically
- n = 1e50 possible