

## A premise: the “duties” of X-ray astronomers

- i) Starting point (fundamental!) :  
What is **the** (open) astrophysical question/problem?  
(i.e. read a lot of literature!)
- ii) Best Instrument?
- iii) Best Observation? Archival data?
- iv) Propose, (hopefully) get it approved, and perform the observation
- v) Data reduction:
  - i) Evt
  - ii) S/w and attitude
  - iii) Scientific data
- vi) Extraction of science information (images, Ic, spectra)
- vii) Scientific analysis (xspec, etc...)
- viii) Physical interpretation
- ix) Publish your results
  - i) In english (thus, learn english!)
  - ii) Go through referee peer review
  - iii) And “advertise” with, e.g., PPT at conference + outreach

# (RQ) AGN Astrophysics

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## Plan of this Lecture:

- Paradigm(s) (BH & AGN)
- The “Unknowns” (open issues)
- The “Knowns” (models + basic physics)
- Physics and observations of reflection(s) and absorption(s) features

These lectures are “complementary” to the other two on  
i) AGN general/classification/evolution/formation (by C. Vignali) and,  
ii) (RL) AGN astrophysics (by P. Grandi).

Goal of the lectures: Give introductory informations on general “models” of AGNs,  
With only emphasis here on RQAGNs, and address the reflection(s) vs ejection(s)  
“controversy” and phenomena

## Bibliography:

A. Mueller, PhD Thesis, Heidelberg, 2004

C. Done, Lectures, August 2010, arXiv:1008.2287v1

Give a panorama on theoretical models+spectral physics for AGNs&BHs

# Goal of the lectures: Give introductory informations on general “models” of AGNs, and in particular on reflection vs absorption hypothesis in RQAGNs

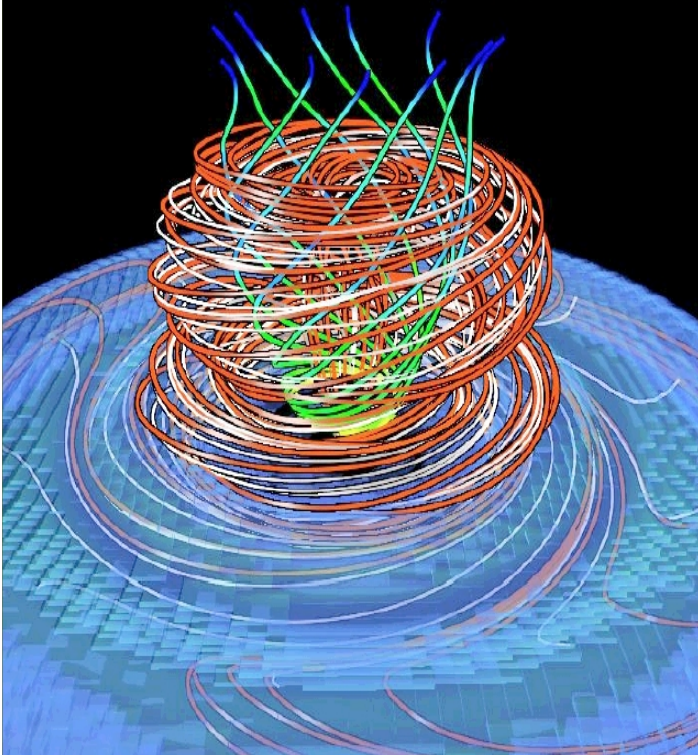
We have reviewed basic physics with basic assumptions for 3 major “models” of AGN

- 1- The 2-Phases model (RQAGNs)
- 2- The Jet model (RLAGNs)
- 3- The Inefficient model (LLAGNs)

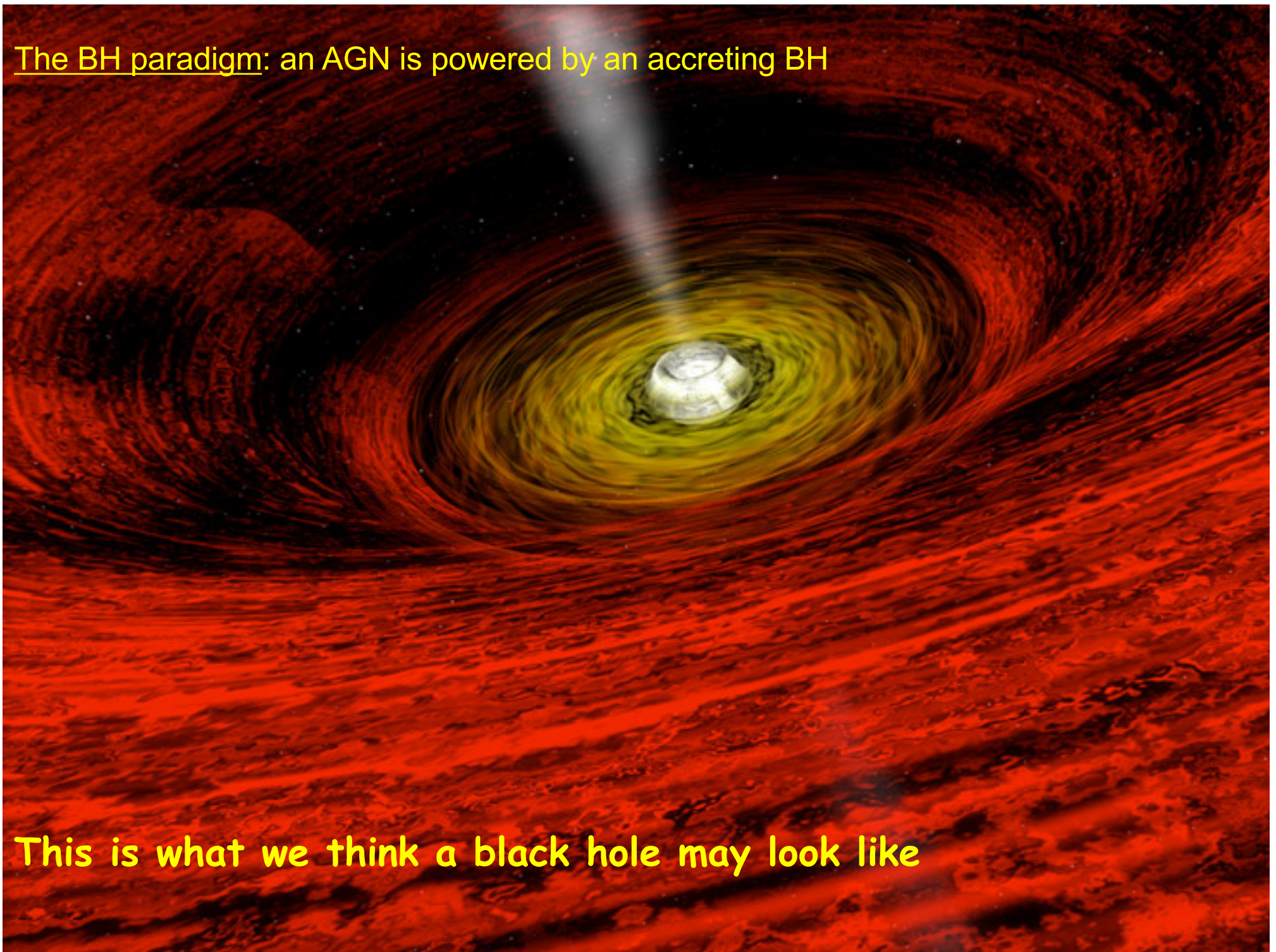
We will focus mostly on 1, and address the reflection vs. absorption hypothesis to explain the X-ray spectra of RQAGNs

Not a “mere” fitting exercise but major physical differences in the two hypothesis:

- ✓ **Relativistic Reflection**: Produced within few ( $<10$ )  $R_g$  and carries information on BH spin and mass
- ✓ **(Very) Complex Absorption**: Produced farther away, at  $>10s R_g$  and carries information on wind/jet base/feedback
- ✓ **But** distinguishing between the two is very difficult



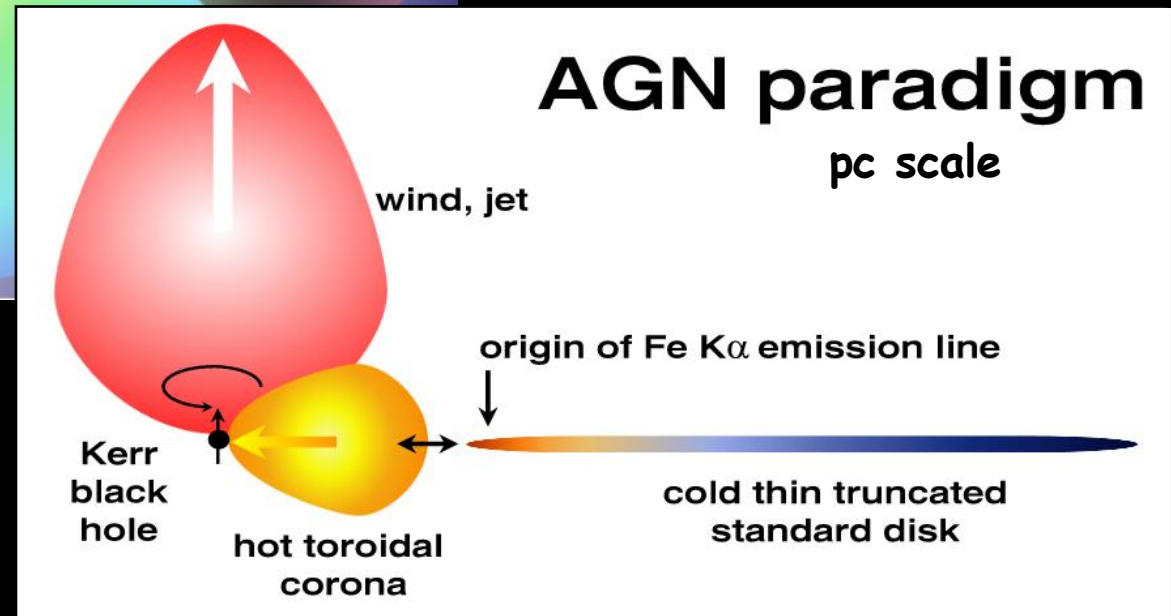
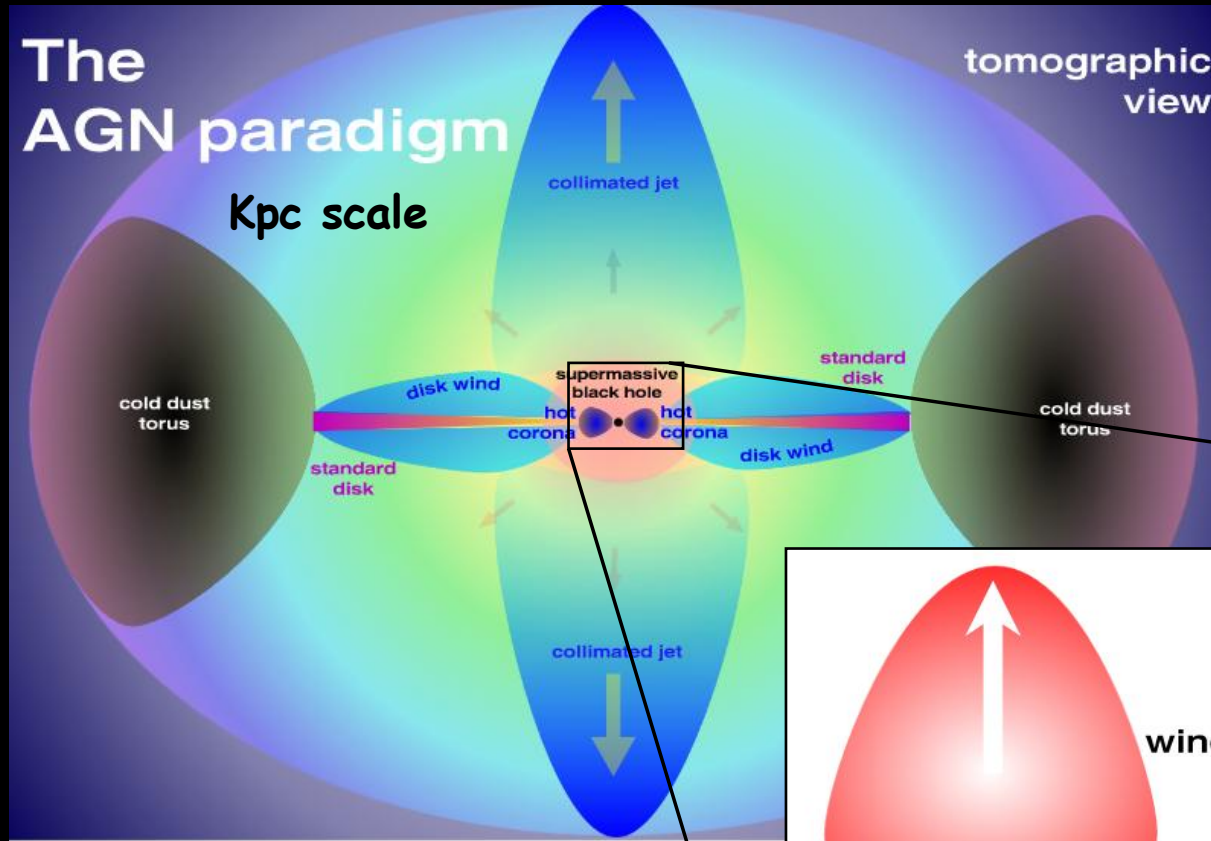
The BH paradigm: an AGN is powered by an accreting BH



This is what we think a black hole may look like

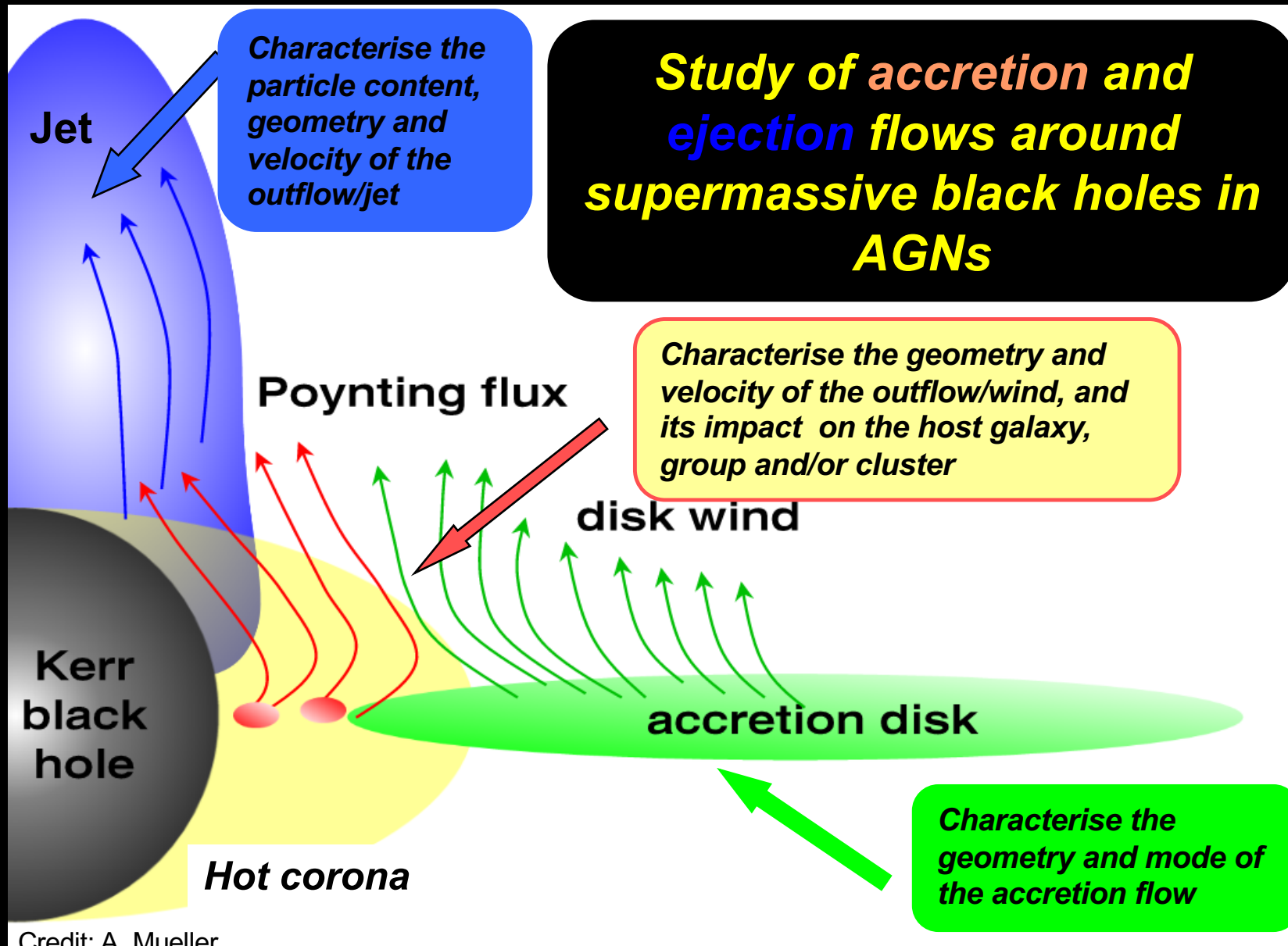
# The AGN paradigm: Accretion onto a SMBH

We know (more or less) the ingredients: The AGN paradigm



Credit: A. Muller

# Open issues/Unknowns



# Why studying AGNs in X-rays?

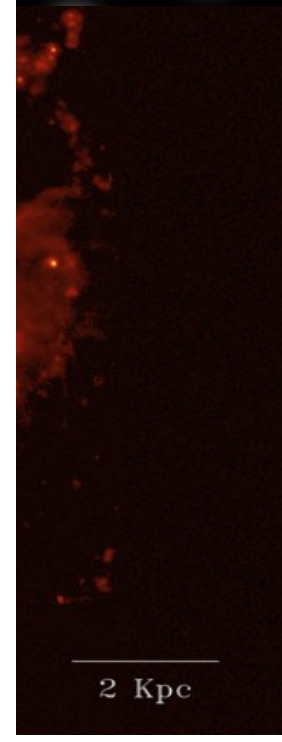
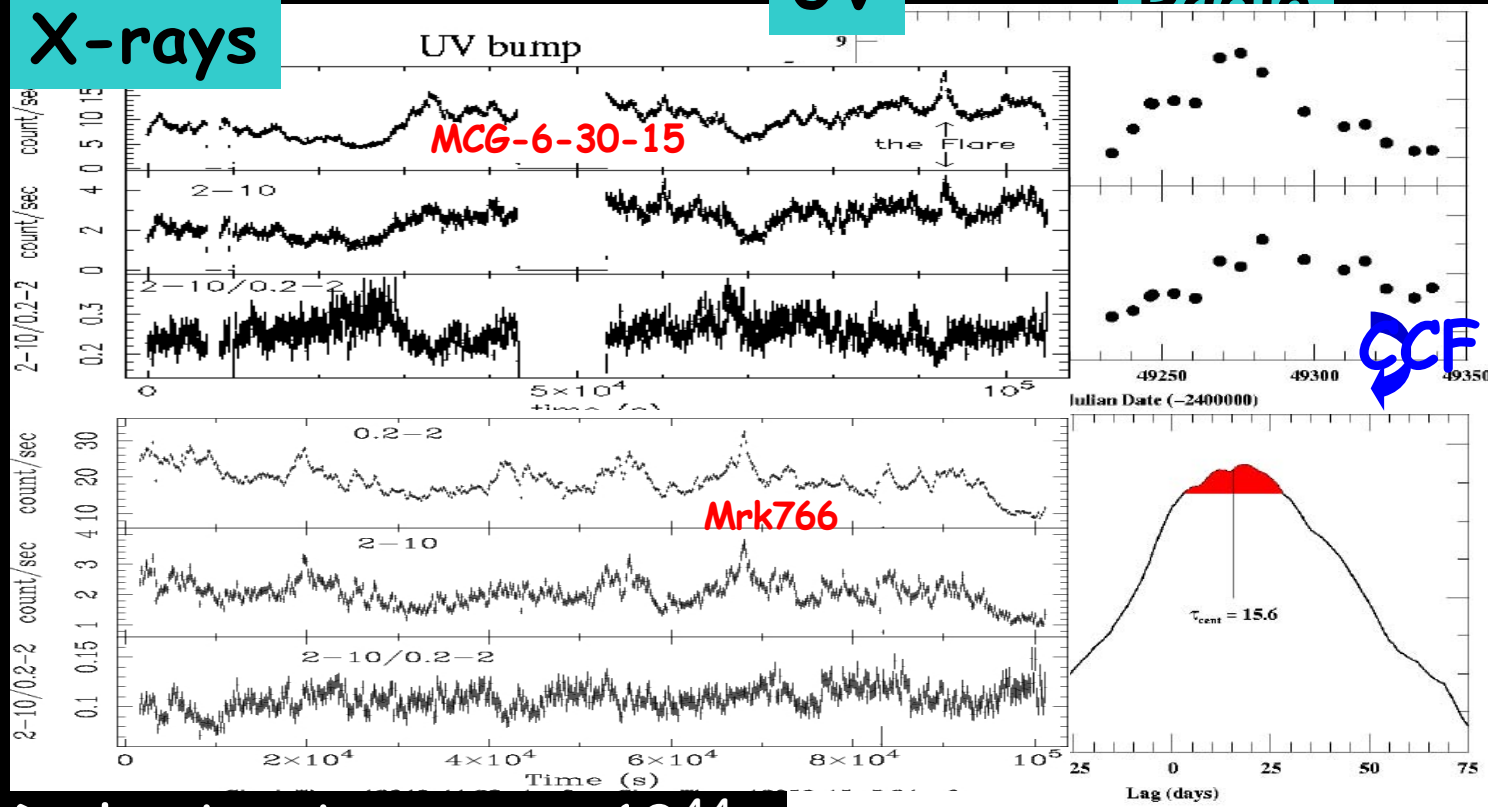
Optical/IR

UV

Radio

1992 10 light days

X-rays



$\Delta L \sim L \sim \text{up to } 10^{44} \text{ erg/s}$



Disklines reverberation mapping (X-rays)



$M_{\bullet} a$   
(Probe GR within 10  $R_s$ ,  
i.e. strong field)

BLR reverberation mapping (optical)  
( $v \sim \text{FWHM} \propto \text{delay} \sim \text{dist.}$ )



$M_{\bullet}$

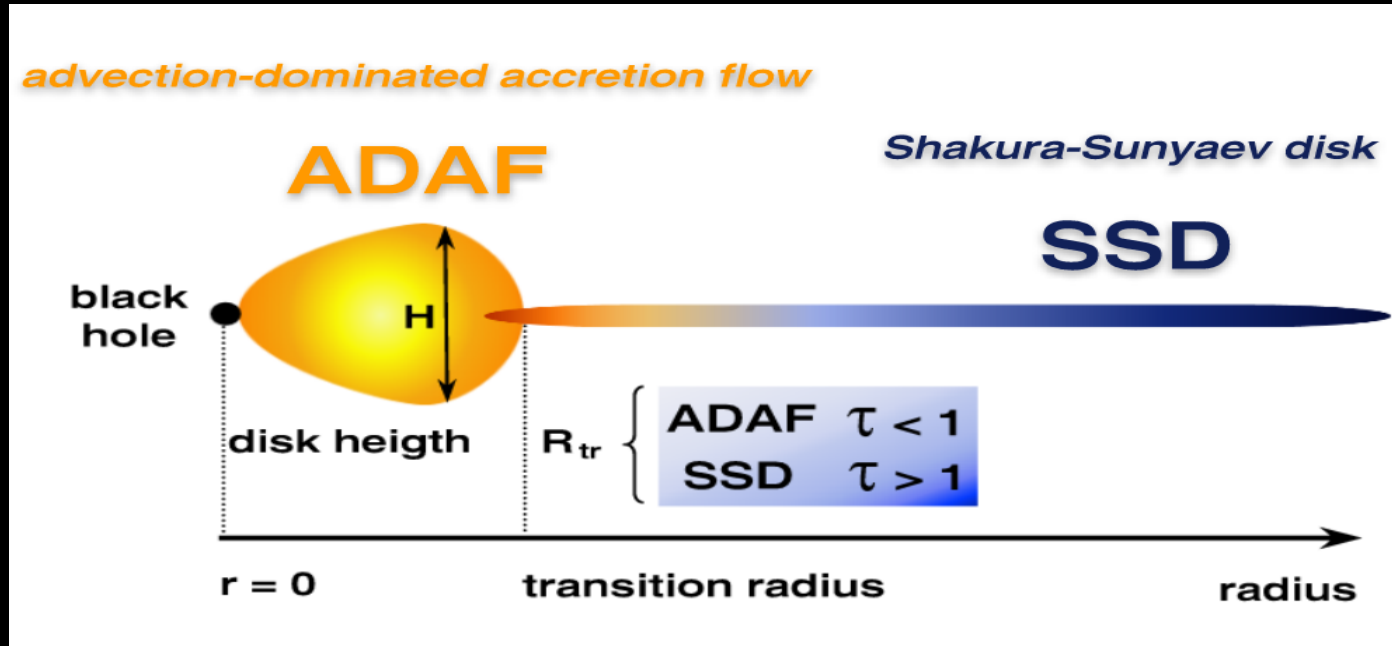
Stellar motions dynamics (rot. Curves) + water masers  
( $v$  and  $\sigma \propto \text{dist.}$ )



$M_{\bullet}$

# Accretion

Still, we don't know exactly the accretion mode/type (SAD, ADAF, RIAF, CDAF, etc.)...



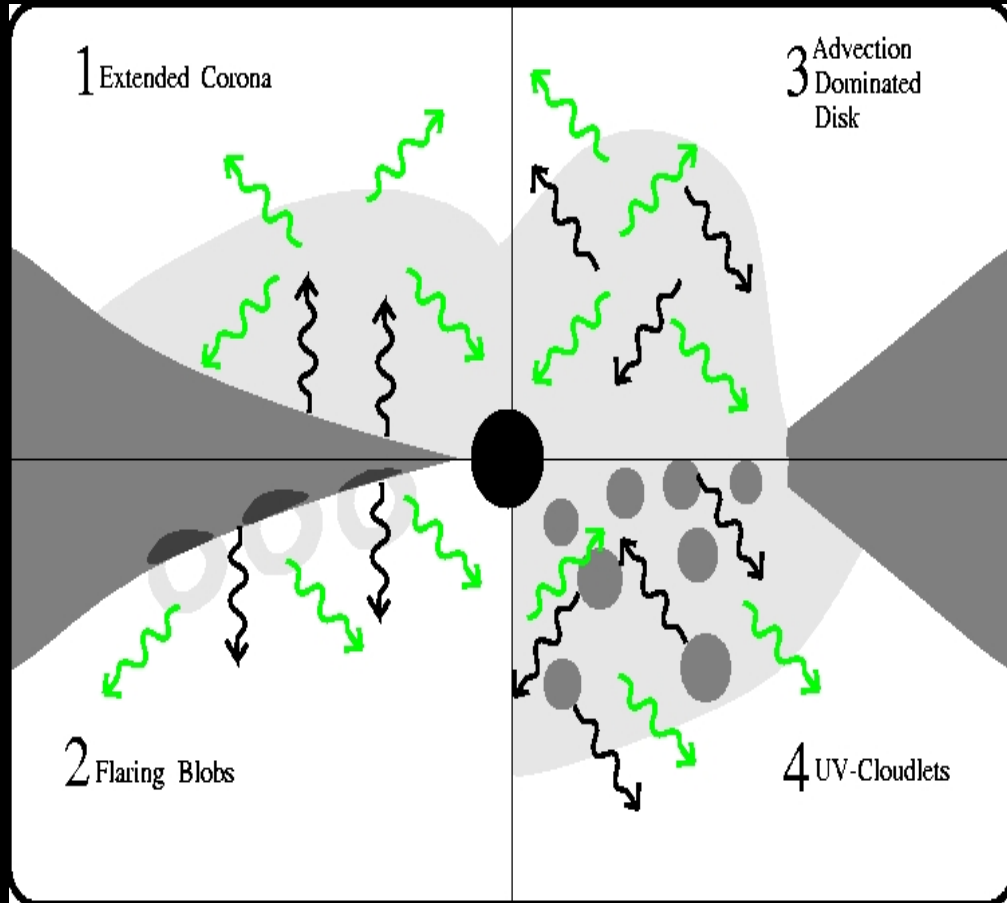
(Müller, '04)

- Shakura–Sunyaev disk (SSD) or equivalently standard accretion disk (SAD)
- advection–dominated accretion flow (ADAF)
- radiatively–inefficient accretion flow (RIAF)
- convection–dominated accretion flow (CDAF)
- slim disk
- truncated disk – advective tori (TDAT)
- non–radiative accretion flow (NRAF)



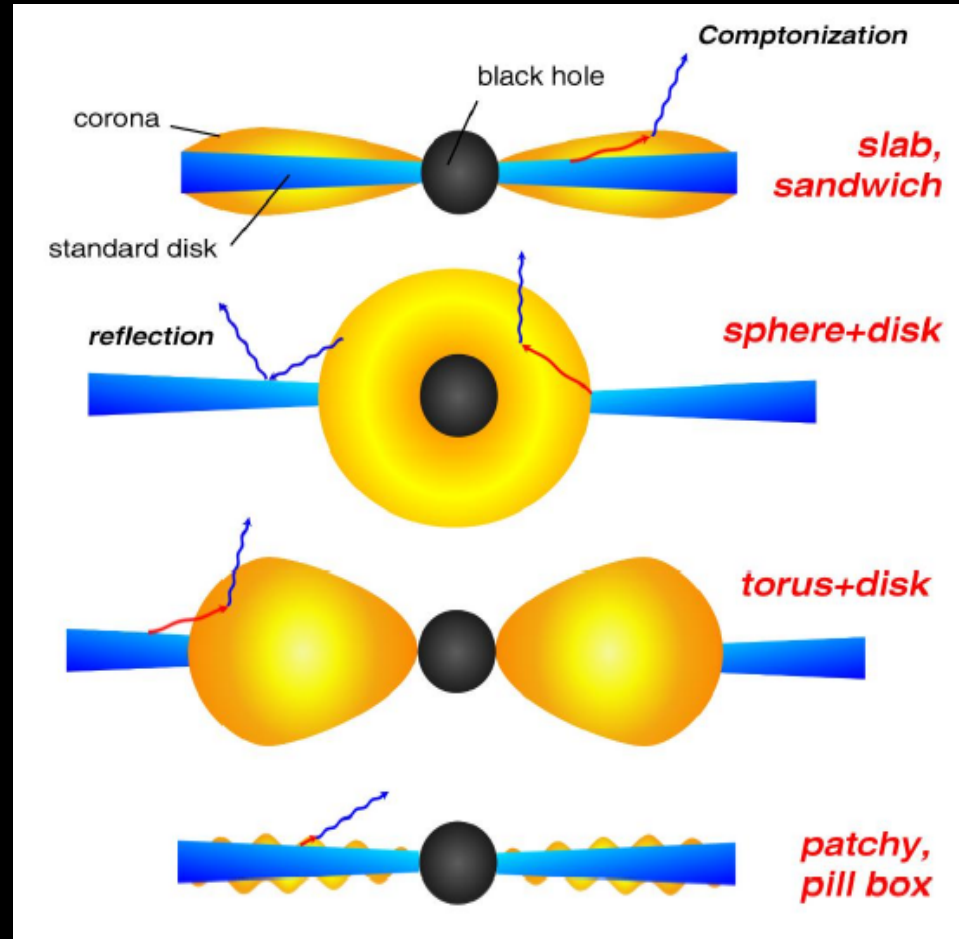
# Accretion

... nor the disk-corona geometry



Lamp-post model

Patchy corona model



(Haardt '96)

## The 3 “Knowns” ...or the AGN “Models”

BH paradigm + assumptions on geometry + emission mechanisms (physics) + Multi- $\nu$  observations  
**= AGN “Model”**

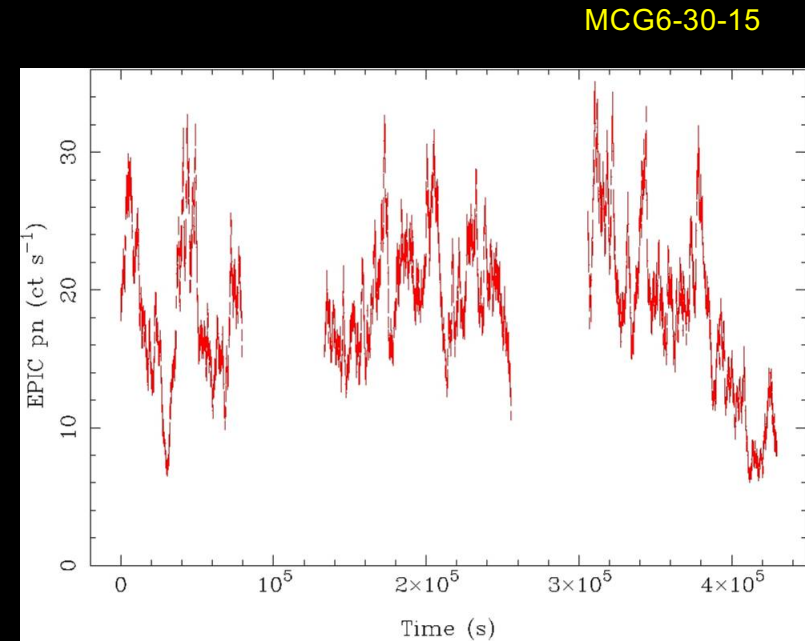
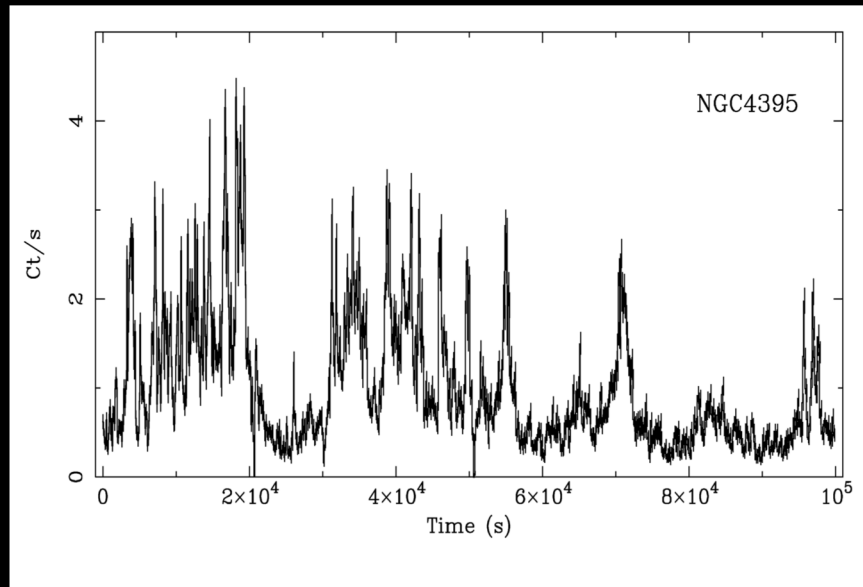
The three major AGN models are:

- 1: **The Two-Phases model** (for Radio-Quiet AGNs)
- 2: **The jet model** (for Radio-Loud AGNs)
- 3: **The “Inefficient” model** (for Low Luminosity AGNs)

# Model 1

The Two-phases (or efficient)  
model, for RQAGNs

## Model I (RQ AGN): X-ray observations - Lightcurves



$\Delta L \sim L \sim \text{up to } 10^{44} \text{ erg/s}$

Light curves

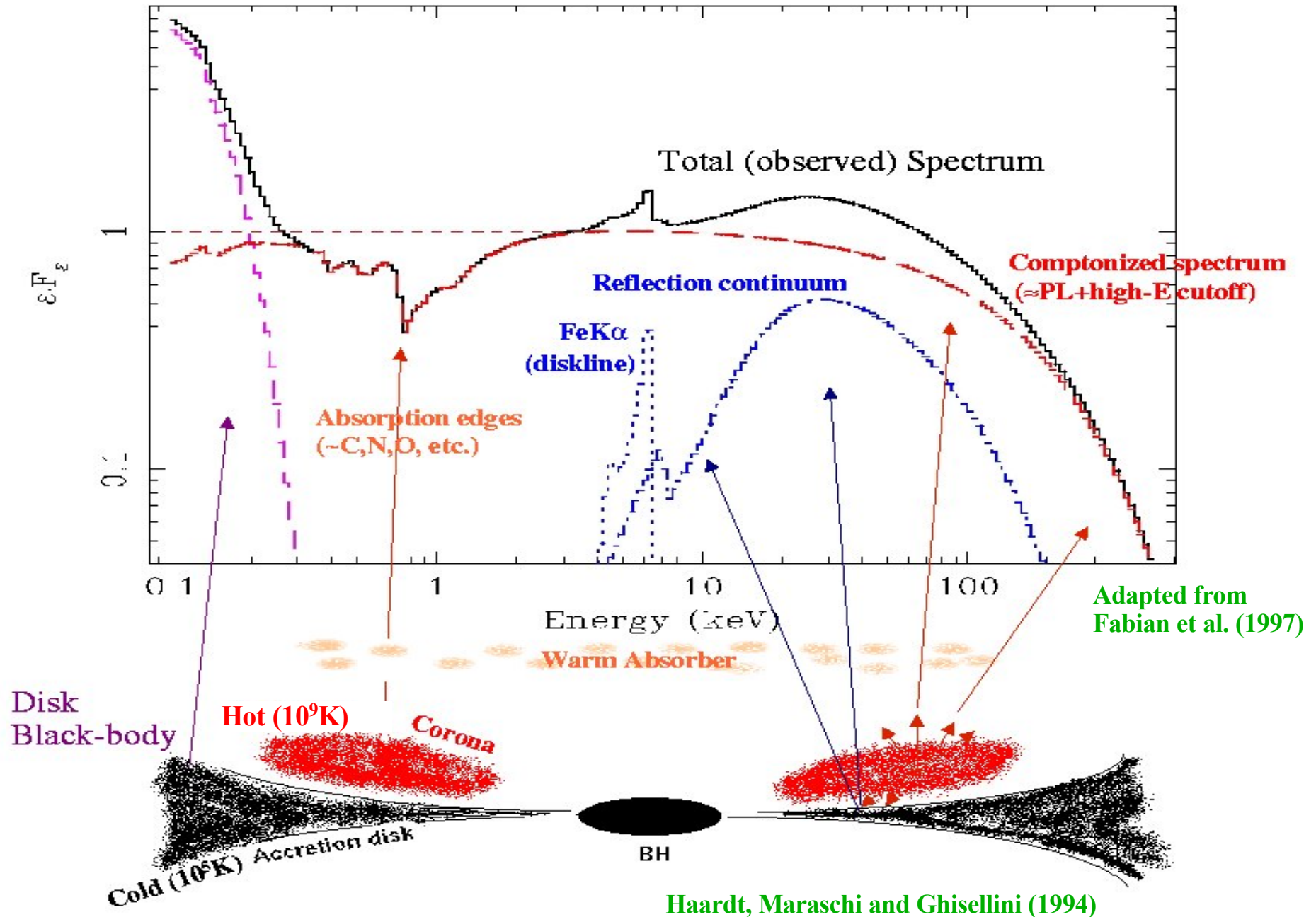


N.B:  $\Delta t \sim 50 \text{ s}$  corresponds to  $1 R_g$  for  $M = 10^7 M_{\text{sol}}$   
( $\tau \sim R_g/c \sim GM/c^3 \sim 50 M_7 \text{ s}$ )

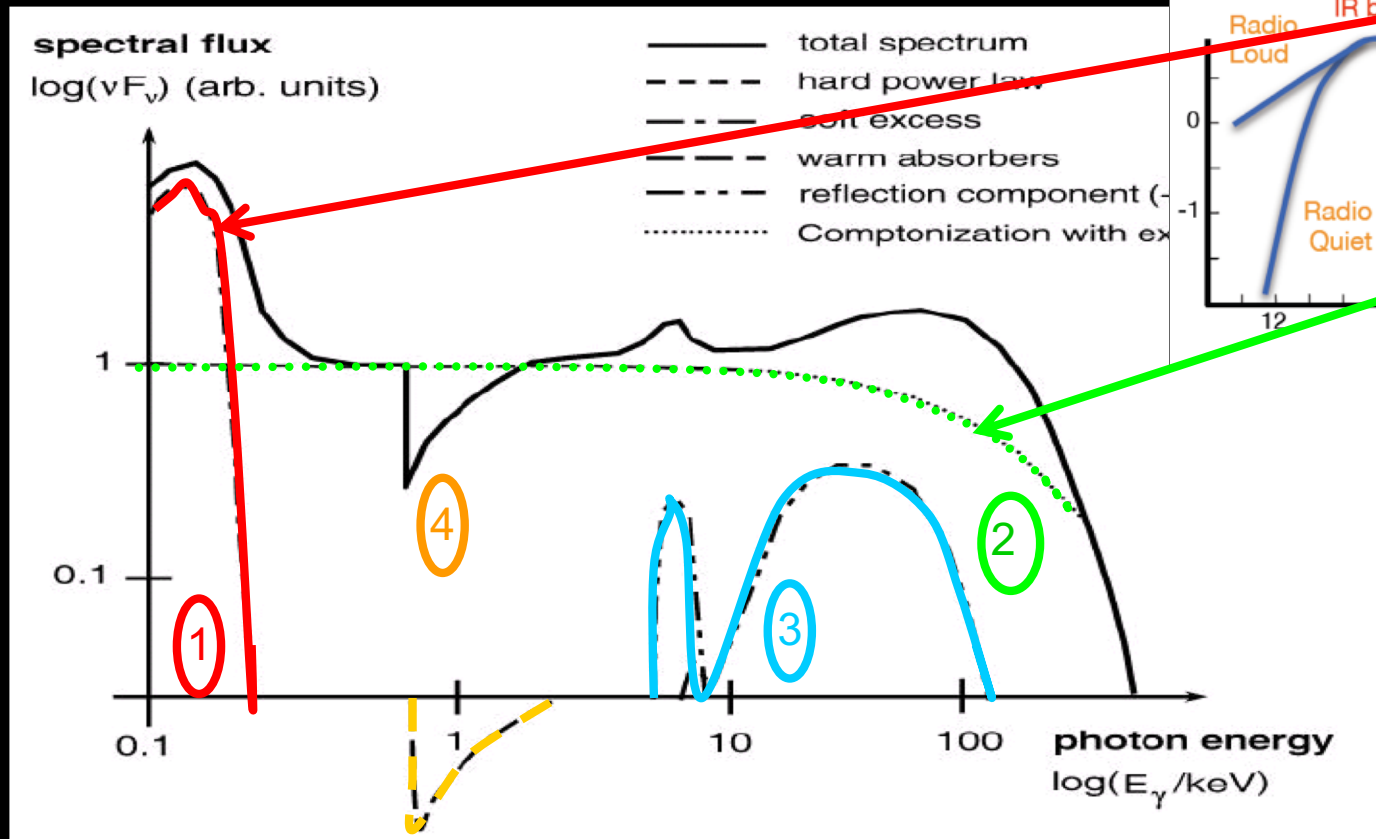
Implies most of radiation from innermost regions

# Typical X-ray Spectrum of a Seyfert 1 Galaxy

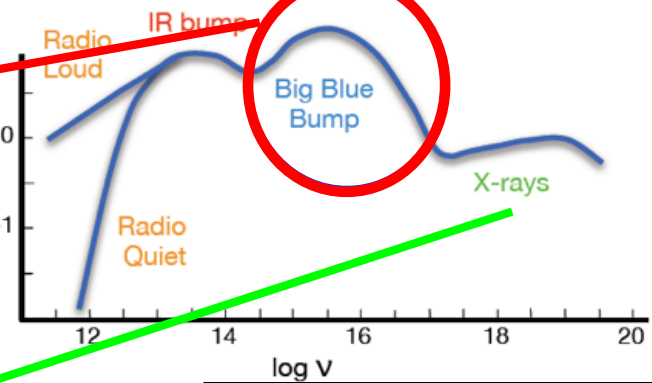
⇔ □ Standard two-phase Comptonization model



## Model I (RQ AGN): X-ray observations - typical spectra



### Spectral Energy Distribution (SED)



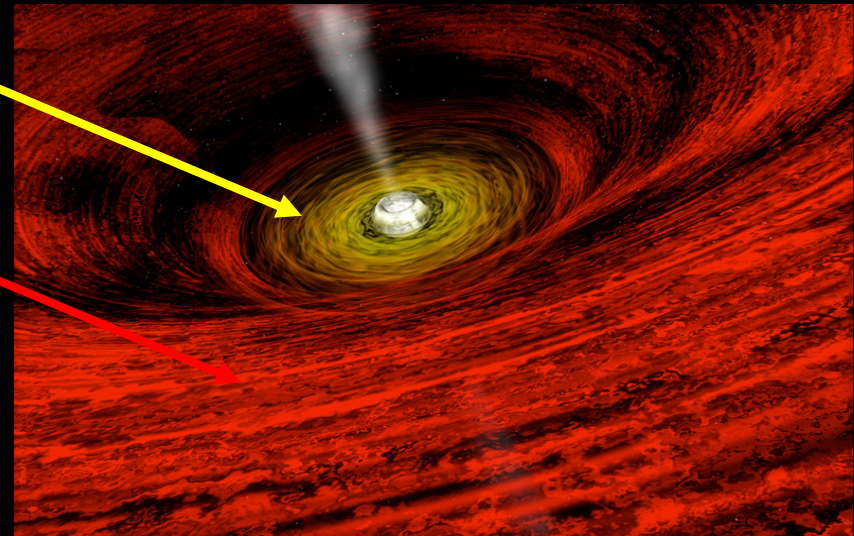
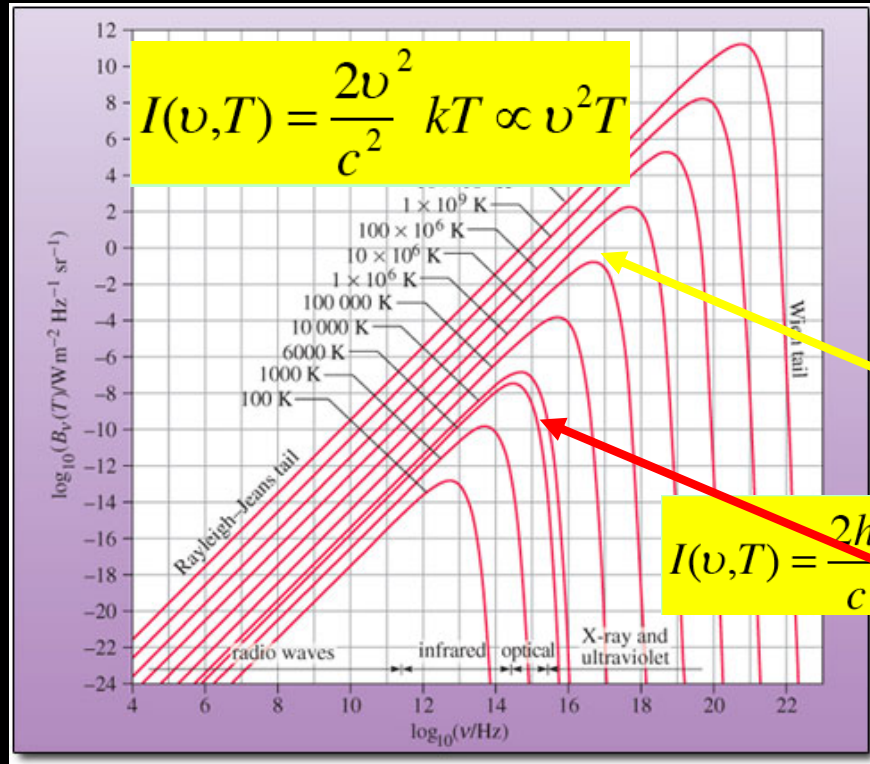
➔ (At least) 4 major spectral components:

1. Soft excess (Black body)
2. Power-law Component (Thermal Comptonization)
3. Reflection component (Fluorescence Lines + Compton hump)
4. Warm absorber (photoelectric absorption)

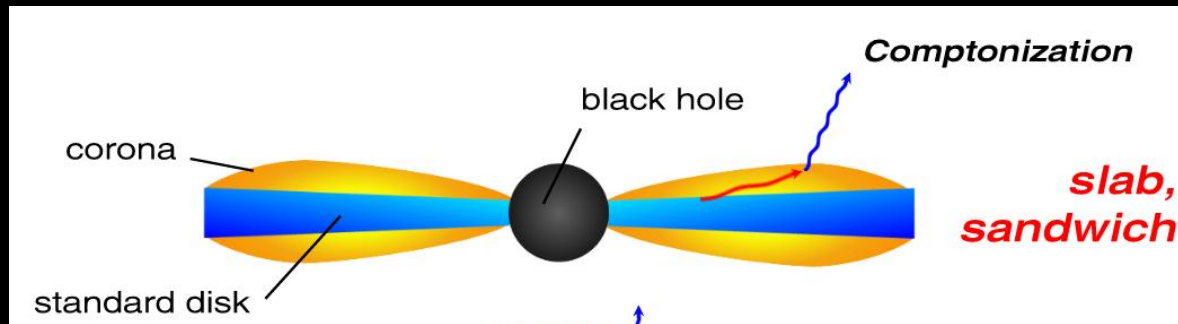
# 1- Black Body emission from accretion disk

Planck radiation law:

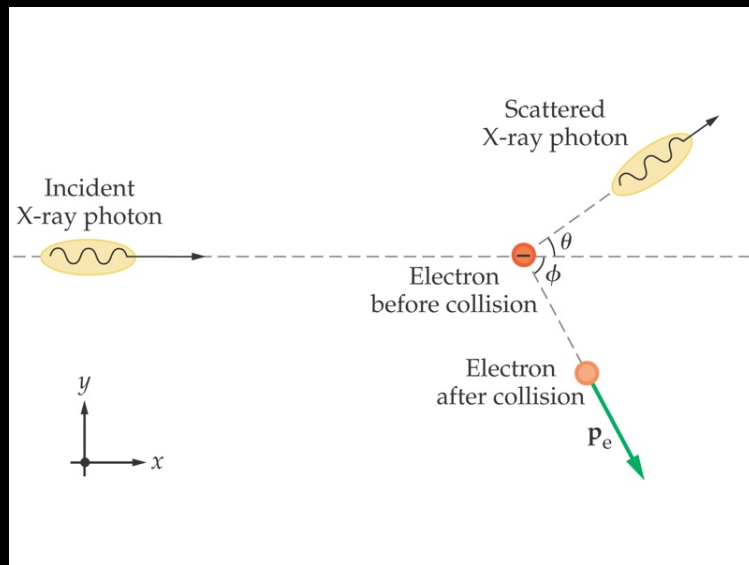
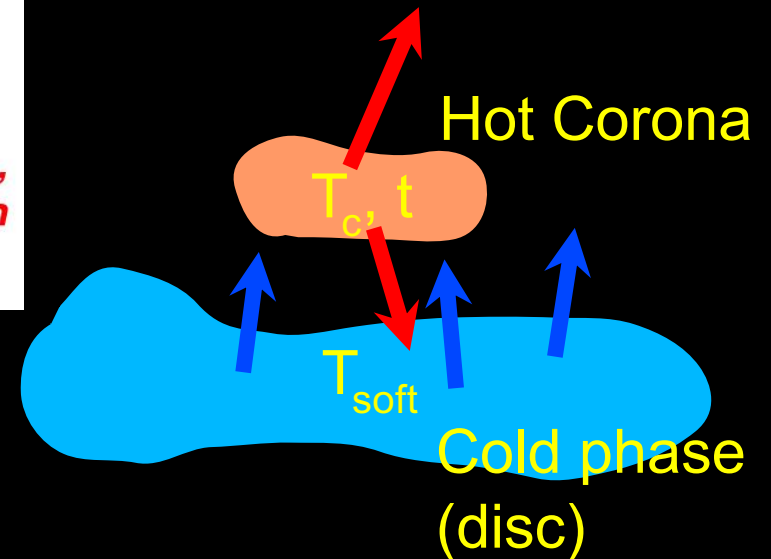
$$I(\nu, T) = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/kT} - 1}$$



## II - Power-law (Thermal Comptonization from the corona)



Thermal comptonization from thermal electrons plasma with  $kT$  and optical depth  $\tau$



If electron at rest:

$$\Delta E = E' - E$$

$$\approx -\frac{E^2}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \theta)$$

For non-stationnary electron:

$$\Delta E < 0 \rightarrow \text{Compton}$$

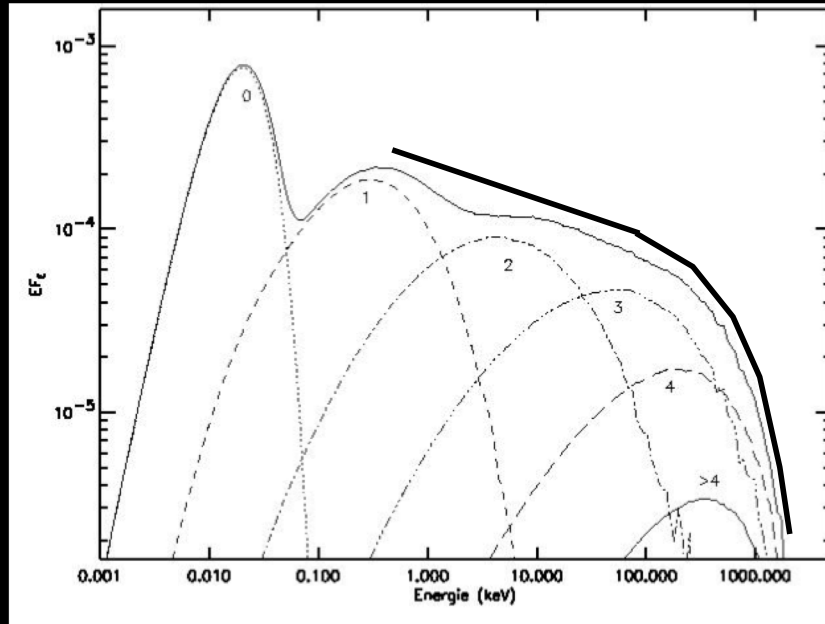
$$\Delta E > 0 \rightarrow \text{Inverse Compton}$$



## II - Power-law (Thermal Comptonization from the corona)

$$f_\epsilon(\epsilon) d\epsilon = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\pi \epsilon kT}} \exp\left[\frac{-\epsilon}{kT}\right] d\epsilon$$

Maxwellian Distribution of electron energies  
 $\Rightarrow$  produce power-law + high energy cut-off



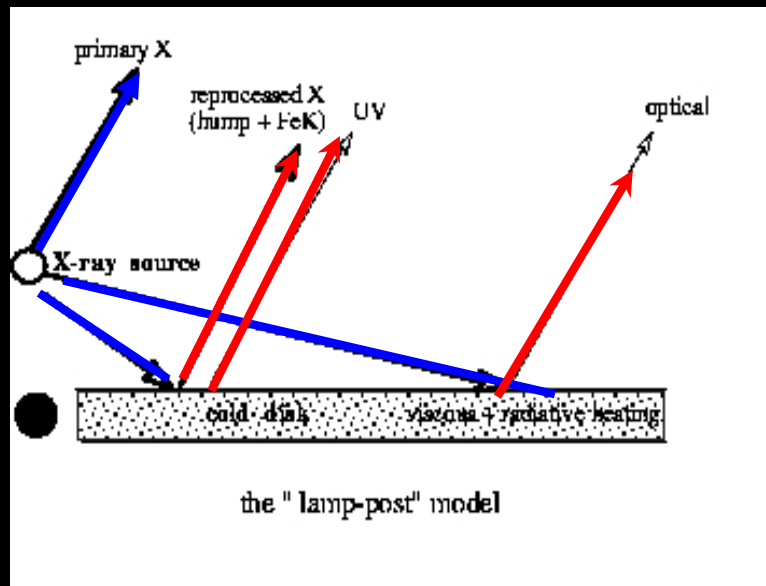
$$F_E \propto E^{-\Gamma(kT, \tau)} \exp\left(-\frac{E}{E_c(kT, \tau)}\right)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Gamma \propto \left(\frac{L_{heat}}{L_{cool}}\right)^{-\delta} \propto f(kT, \tau) \\ E_c \simeq kT \end{array} \right.$$

$\Gamma(kT, \tau) \Rightarrow$  Spectral degeneration since different  $(kT, \tau)$   
 can yield same  $\Gamma$

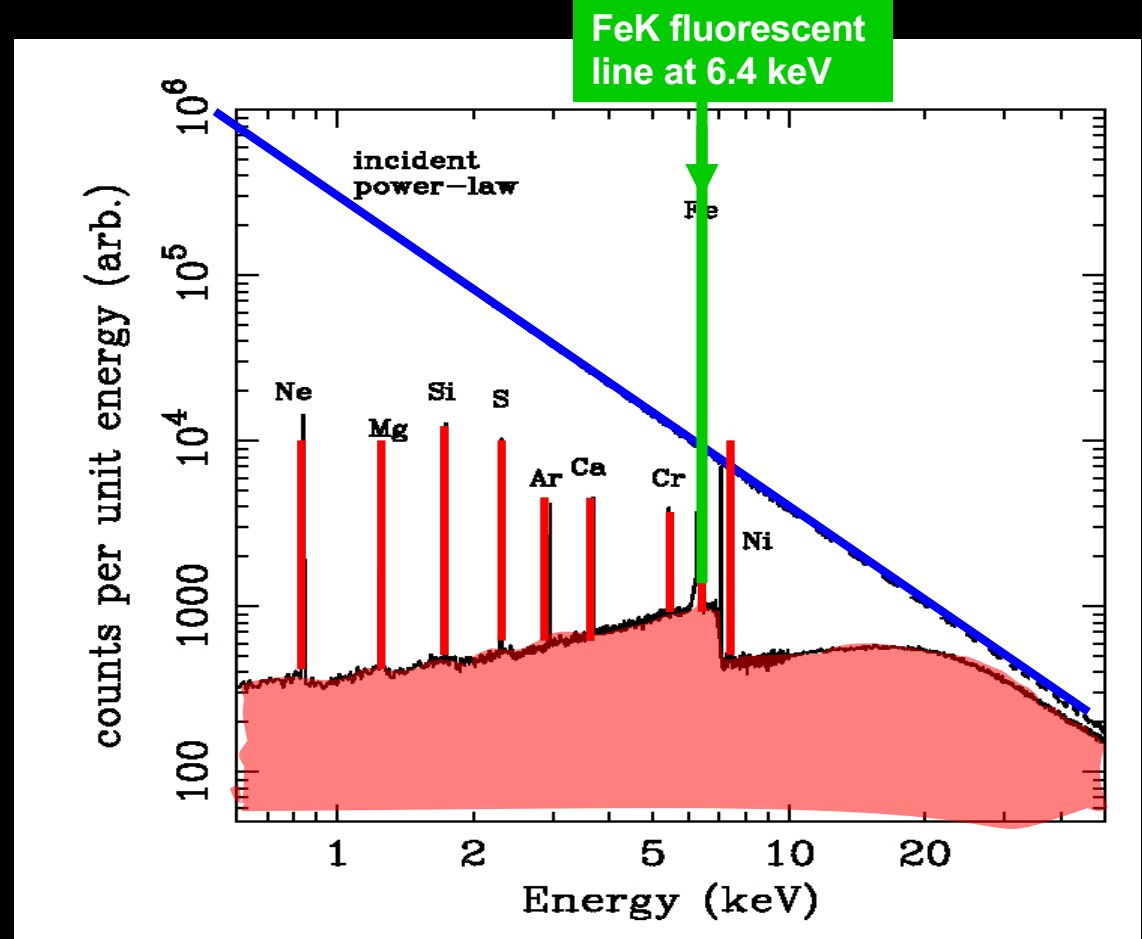
# III - Reflection component (line + continuum)

Photoelectric absorption+fluorescence+Thomson/Rayleigh scattering+Compton down-scattering



(e.g. Reynolds et al. '94; Zycki and Czerny '94)

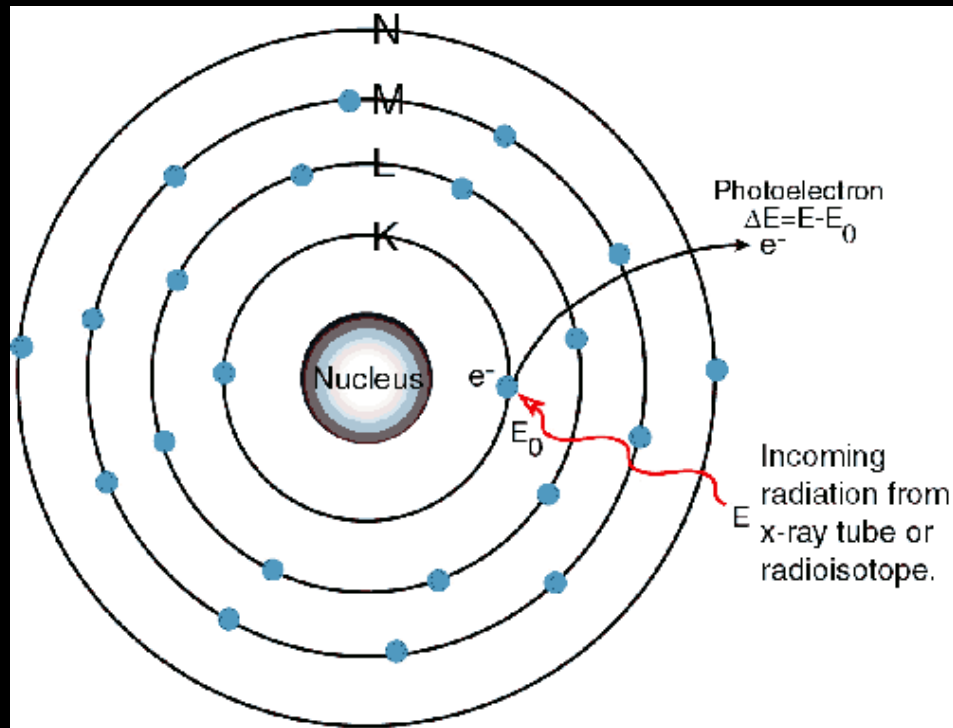
- i) Inclination
- ii)  $\Omega/2\pi$  (coverage, isotropy)
- iii) Ab



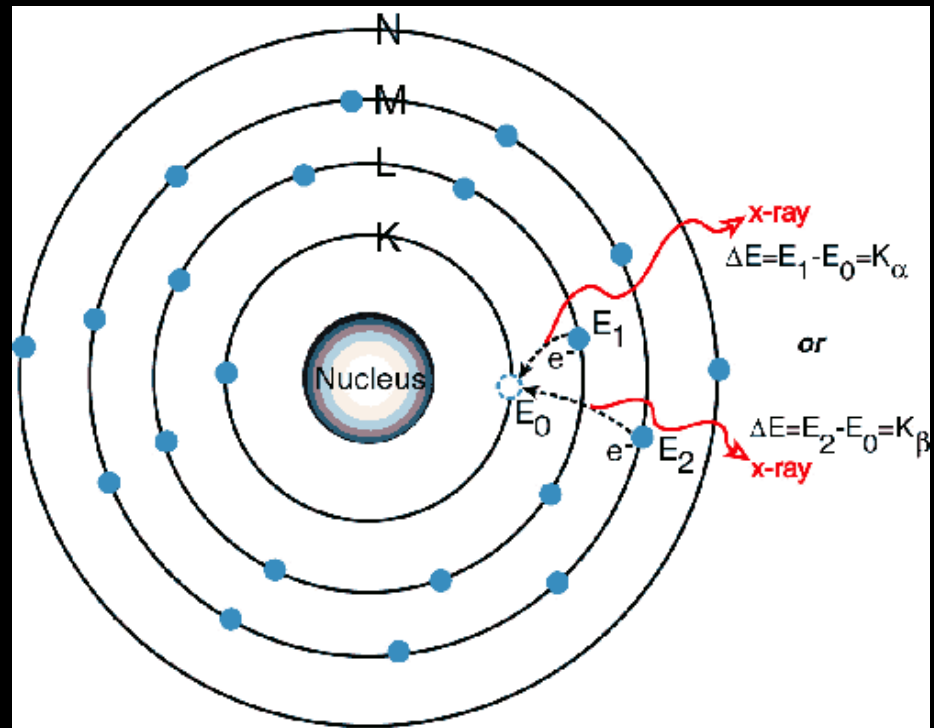
- Major modifications expected:
- a) Ionization effects
  - b) Relativistic effects
- or a combination of both...

# (Fe) Fluorescence Emission Line

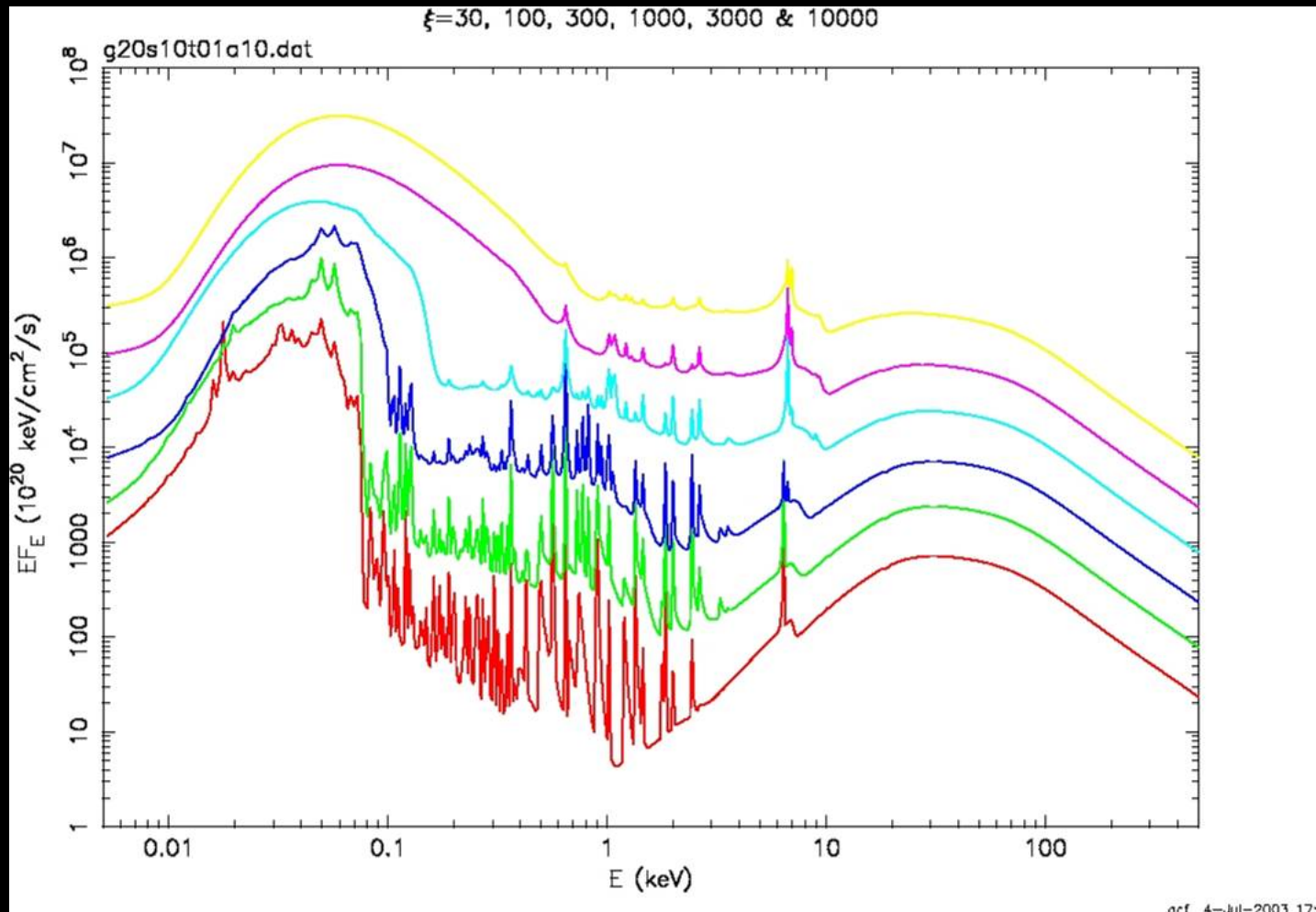
## Photoelectric Absorption



## Fluorescence (+ Auger for 60%)



## A- Ionization effects

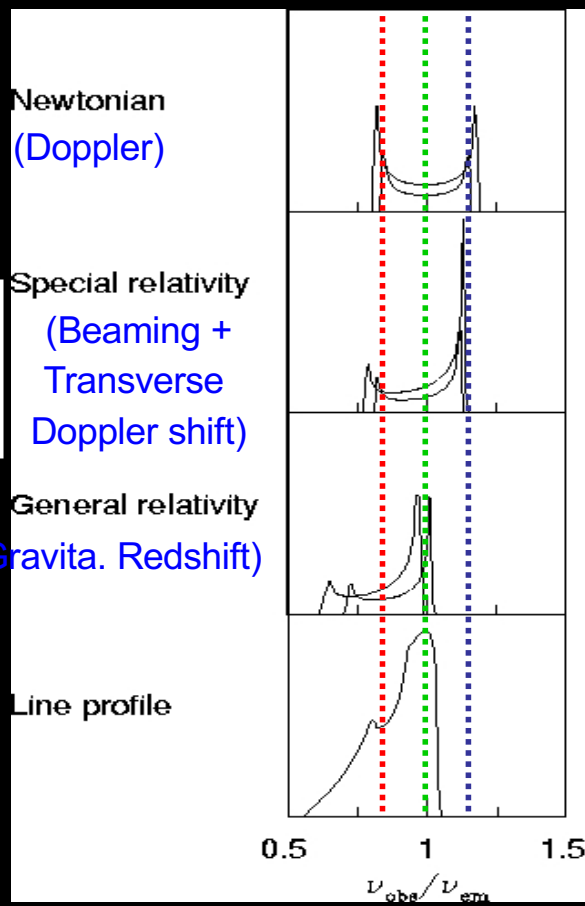
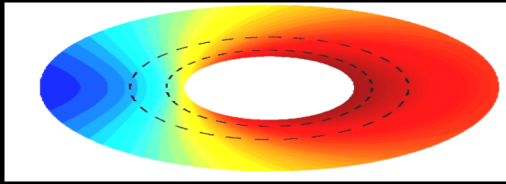


$$\xi=L/nR^2$$

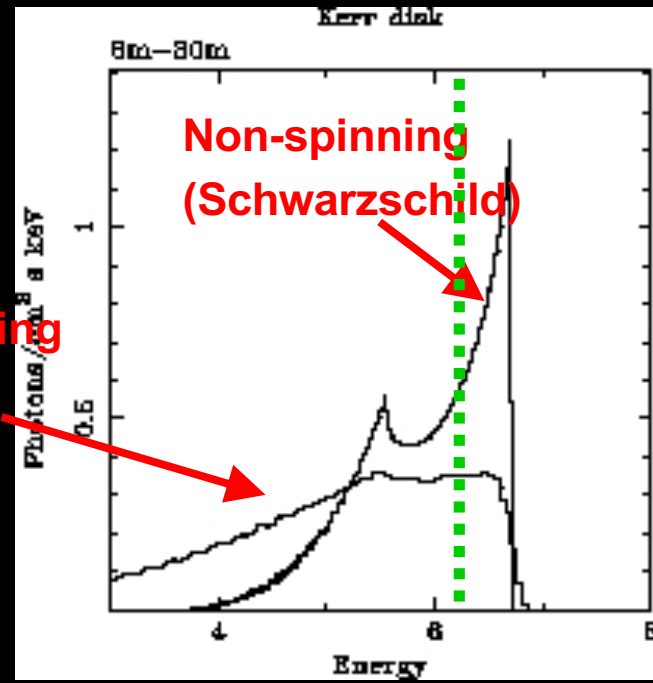
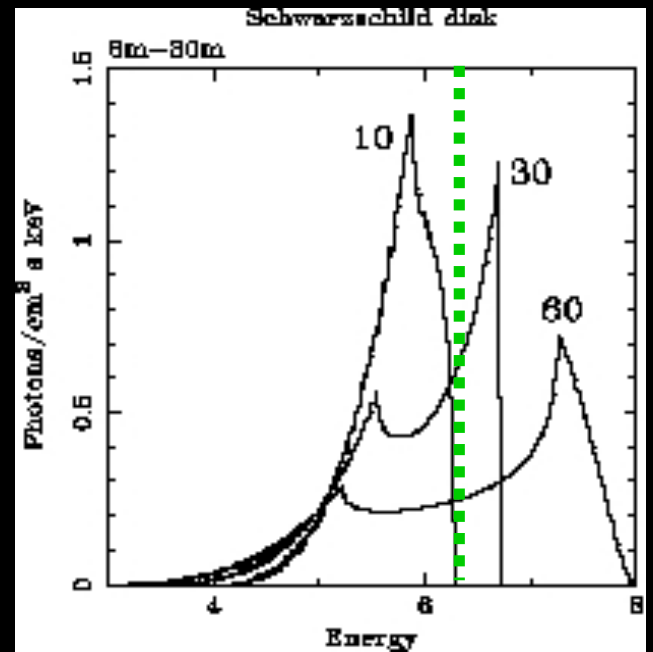
- Major variations:
- 1) FeK energy ( $\uparrow$ )
  - 2) FeK intensity ( $\downarrow, \uparrow, \downarrow$ )
  - 3) Soft lines intensity/energy ( $\uparrow, \downarrow$ )

Ballantyne & Fabian '02, Ross & Fabian '93, '05,  
Young+, Nayakshin+, Ballantyne+, Rozanska+, Dumont+

# B - Relativistic effects



(e.g., Fabian et al. '89)



(Fabian et al. '00)

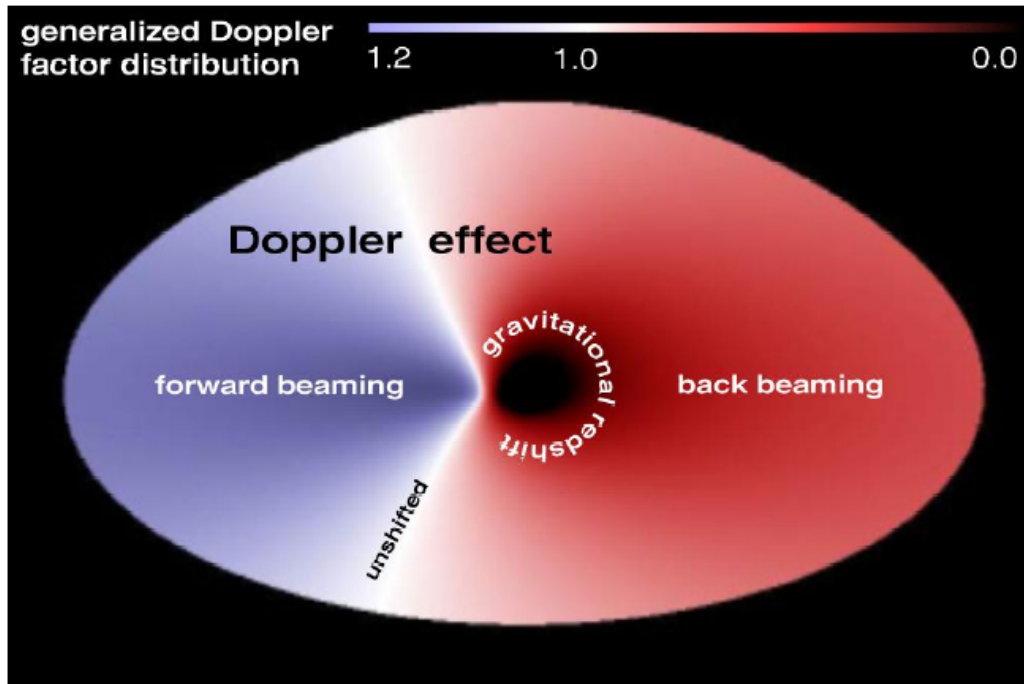


Figure 6.2: Simulated disk image around a central Kerr black hole color-coded in the generalized Doppler factor  $g$ . The distribution illustrates redshift  $g < 1$  (black to red), no shift  $g = 1$  (white) and blueshift  $g > 1$  (blue). Regions of Doppler effect, beaming and gravitational redshift are marked. The inclination angle amounts  $i = 60^\circ$ .

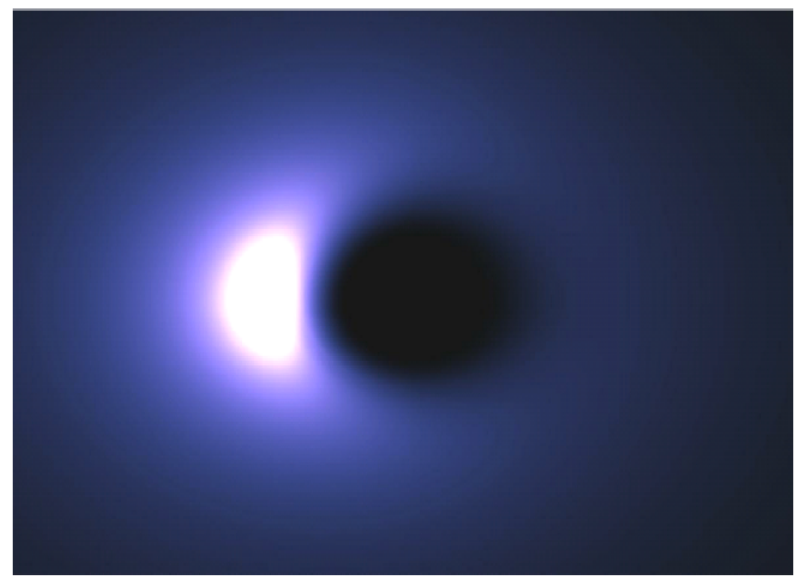
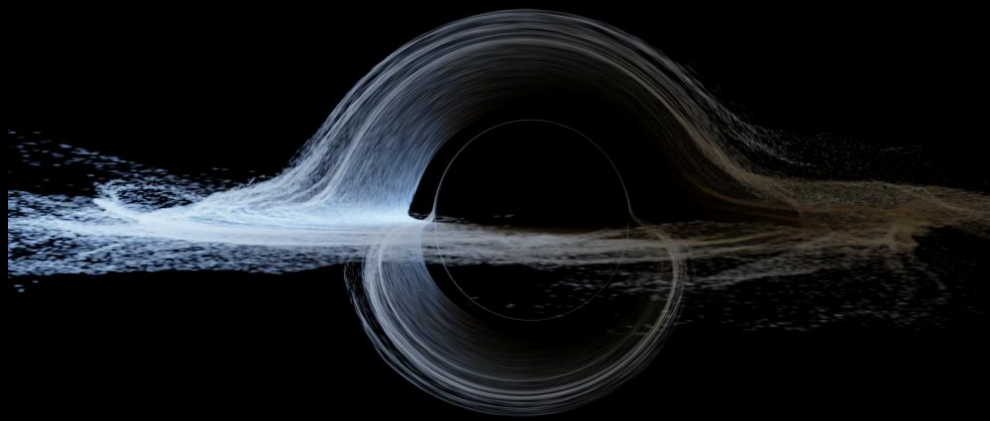
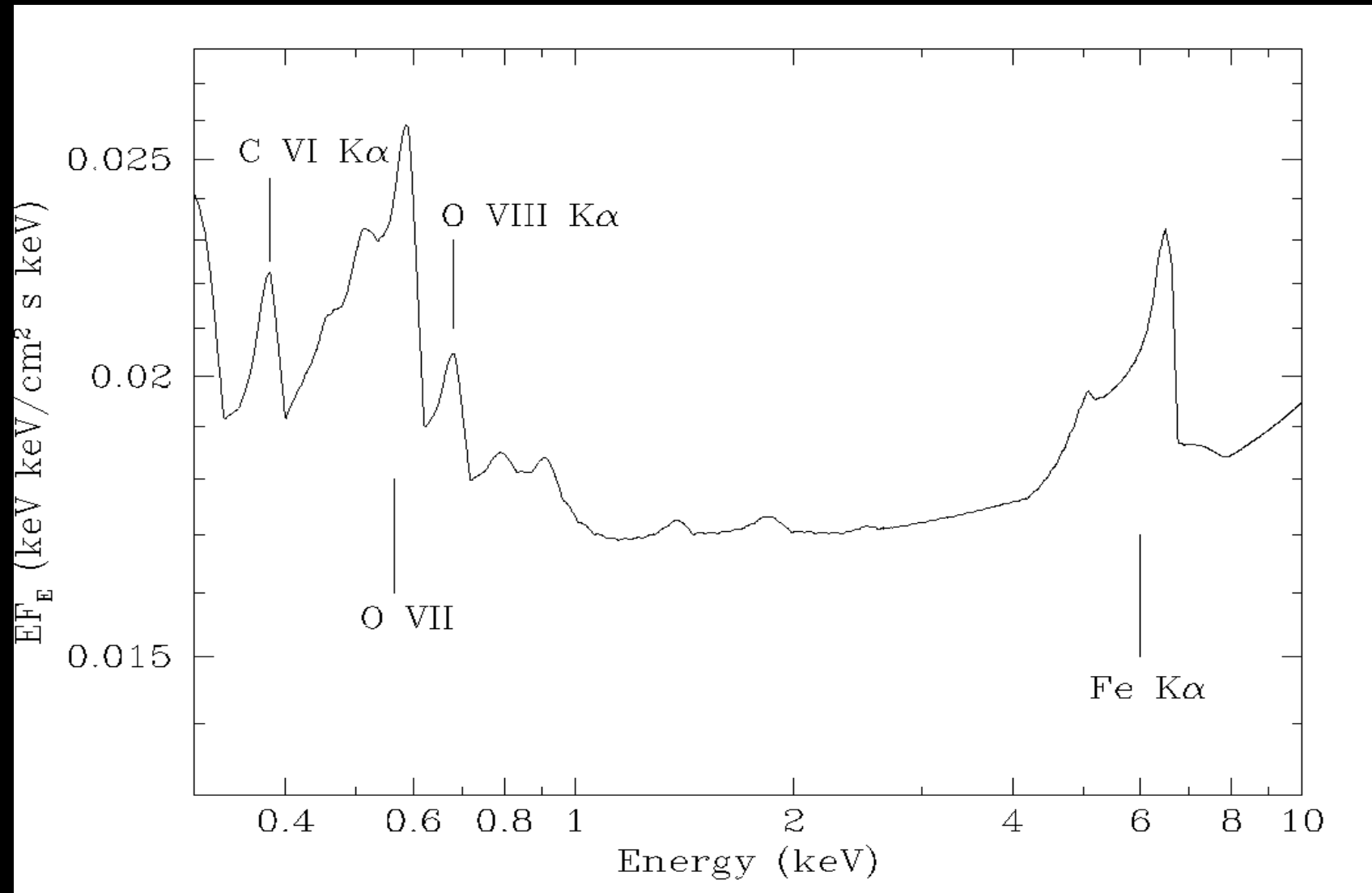


Figure 6.3: Simulated appearance of a uniformly luminous standard disk around a central Kerr black hole,  $a \simeq 1$ . The emission is color-coded and scaled to its maximum value (white). The disk is intermediately inclined to  $i = 40^\circ$ . The forward beaming spot of the counterclockwise rotating disk is clearly seen on the left whereas the right side exhibits suppressed emission due to back beaming. The black hole is hidden at the Great Black Spot in the center of the image.



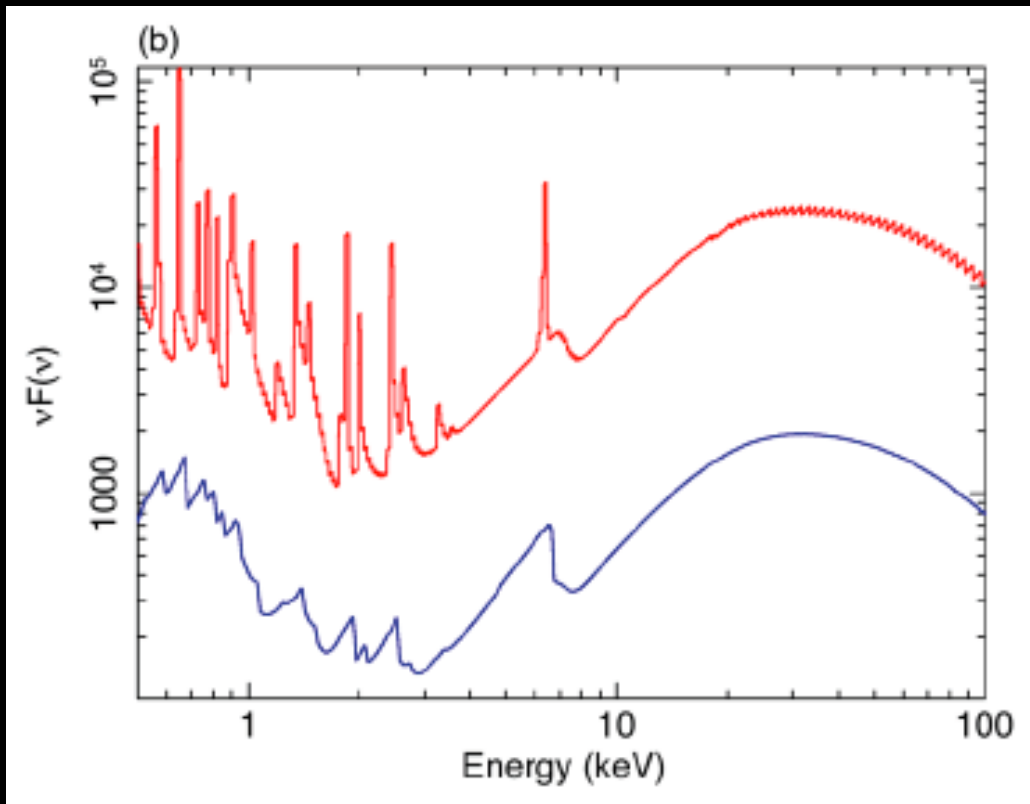
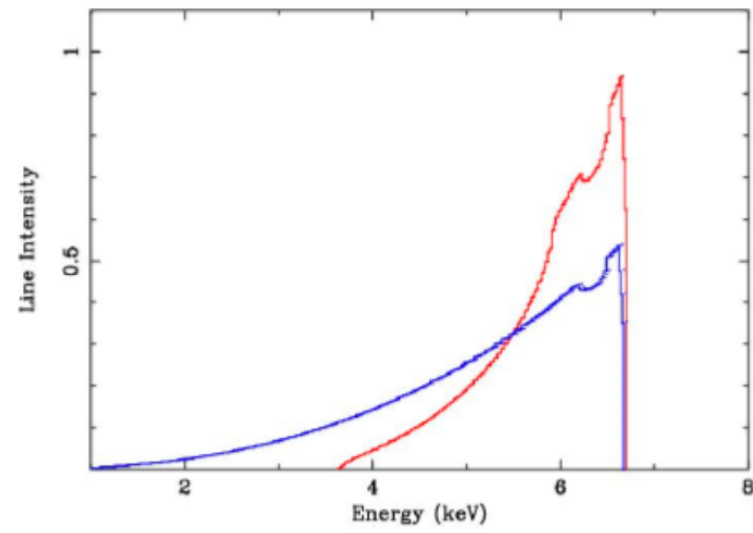
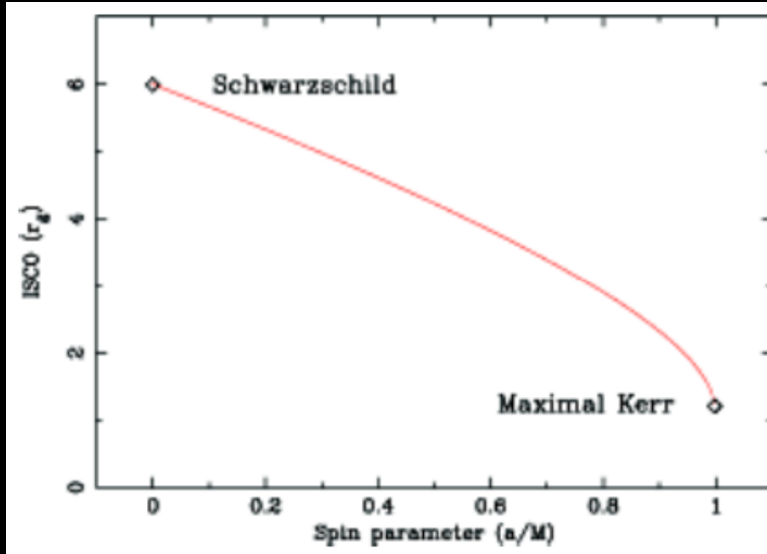
James, Tunzelman, Franlin and Thorne, '95, arXiv:1502.03808  
 Black hole Gargantua in Interstellar

## C - Ionization + relativistic effects



(e.g., Ballantyne & Fabian '02,  
Matt et al. '93)

# C - Ionization + relativistic effects



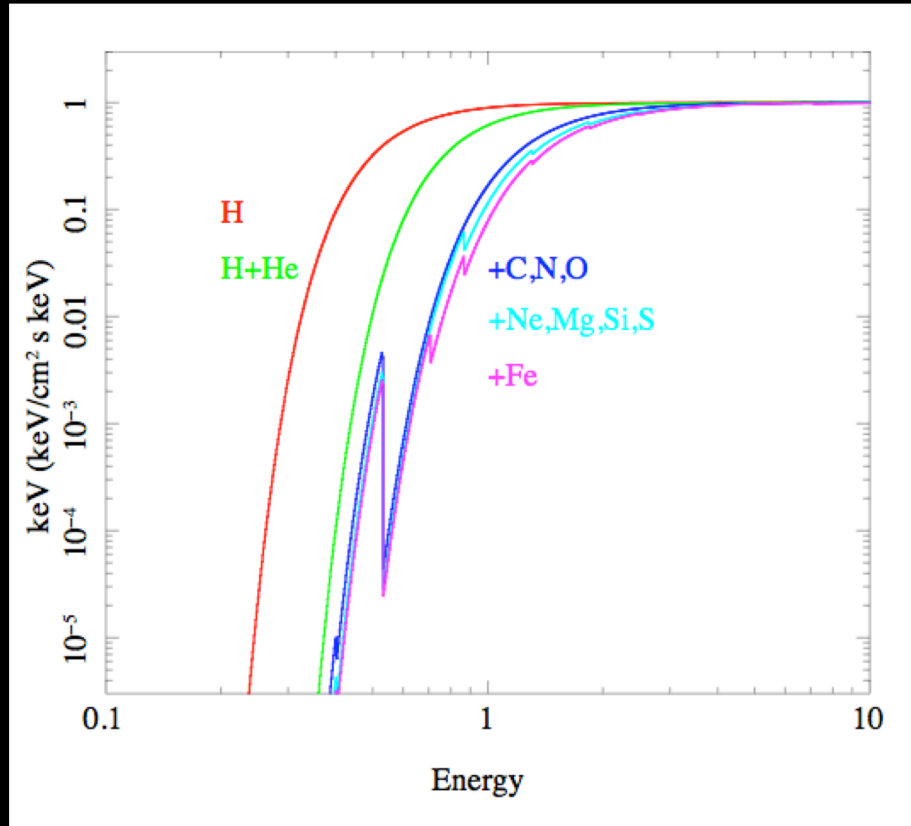
Refionx + kdblur  
Relxill  
??



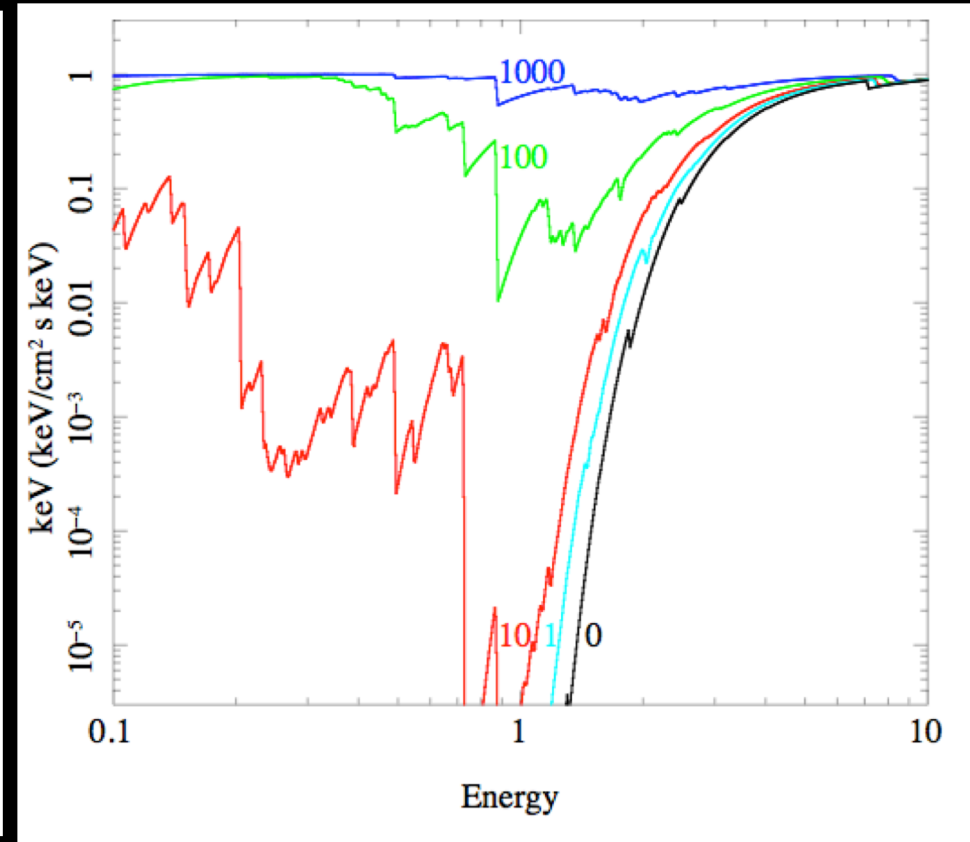
# IV - Ionized absorption along the line of sight

## Photoelectric absorption

Neutral

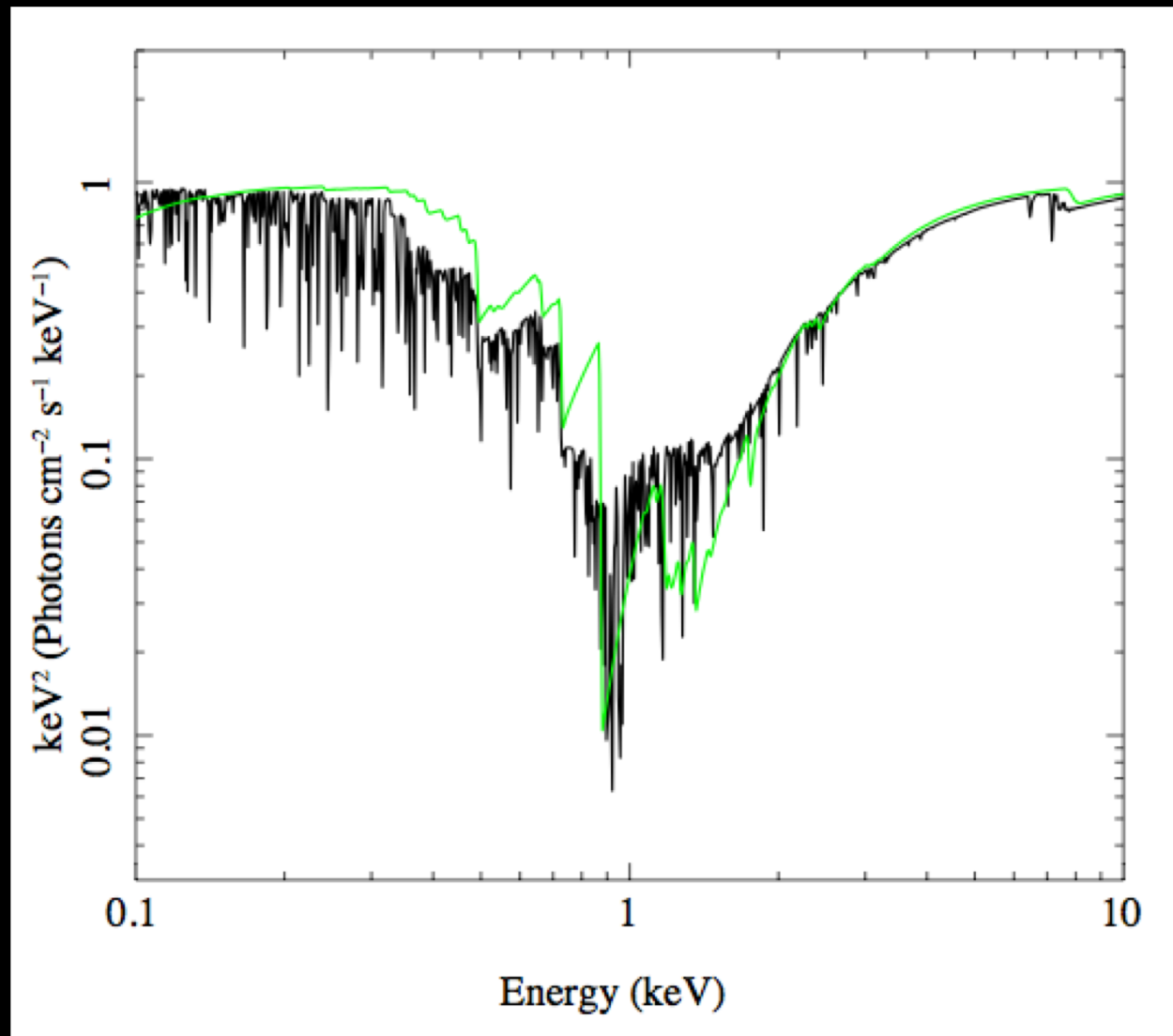


Ionized ( $\xi=L/nR^{**2}$ )



## IV - Ionized absorption along the line of sight

XSTAR warm absorber model



Questions

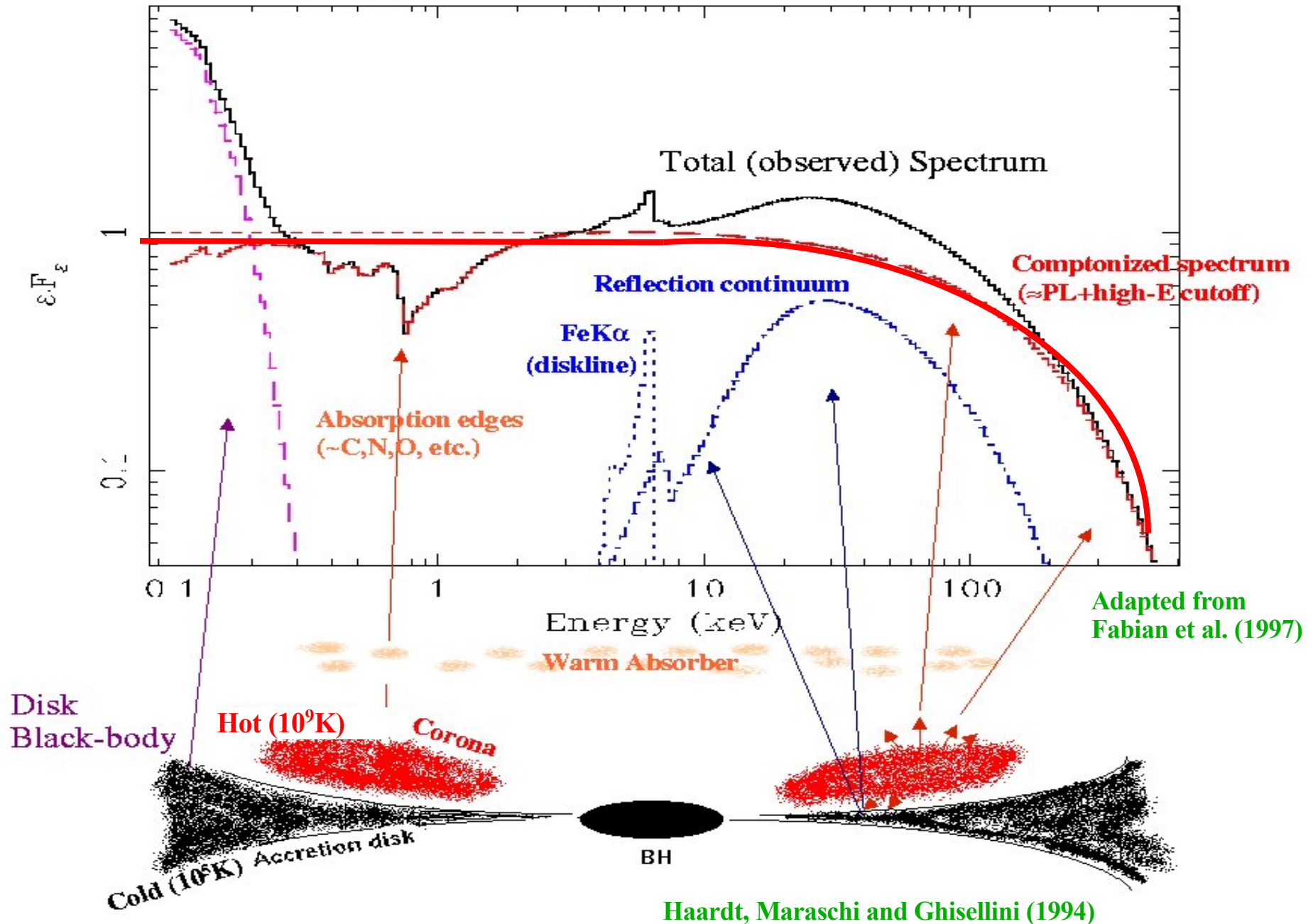


# Reflection(s) VS Ejections(s)



# Typical X-ray Spectrum of a Seyfert 1 Galaxy

⇔ Standard two-phase Comptonization model



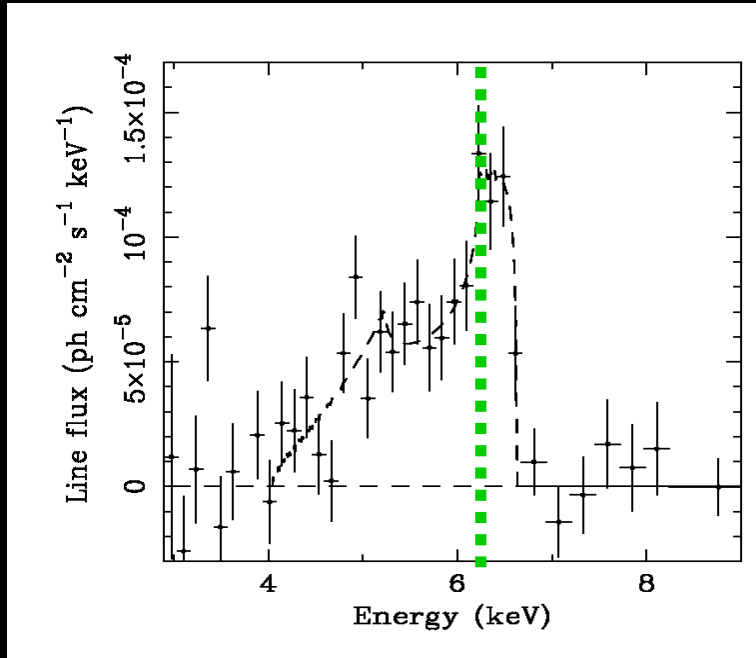
Emission lines...  
i.e. pointing to Reflection(s)  
(i.e. accretion)



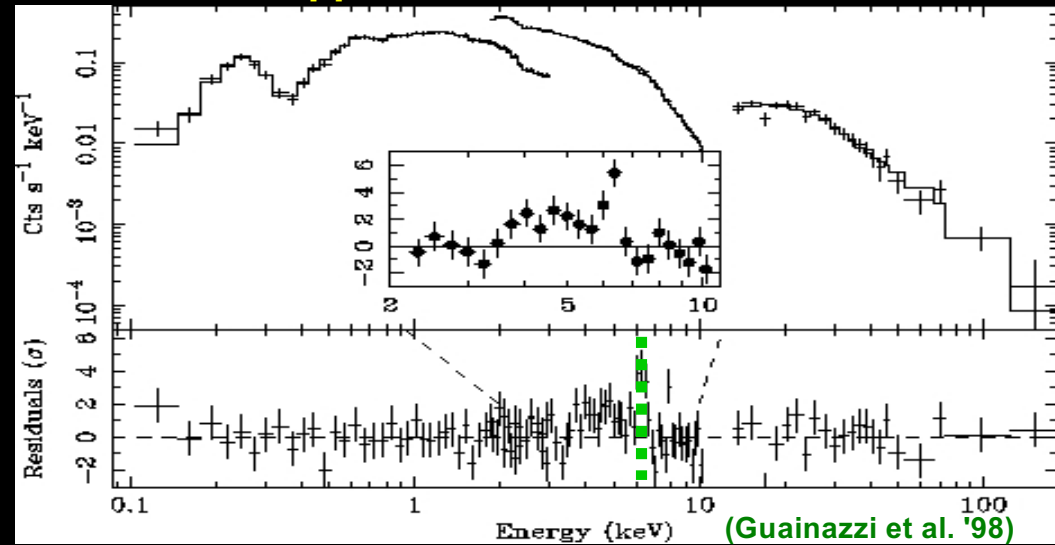
# Reflection: Observations

Pre-Chandra & XMM-Newton

## BeppoSAX obs. of MCG-6-30-15

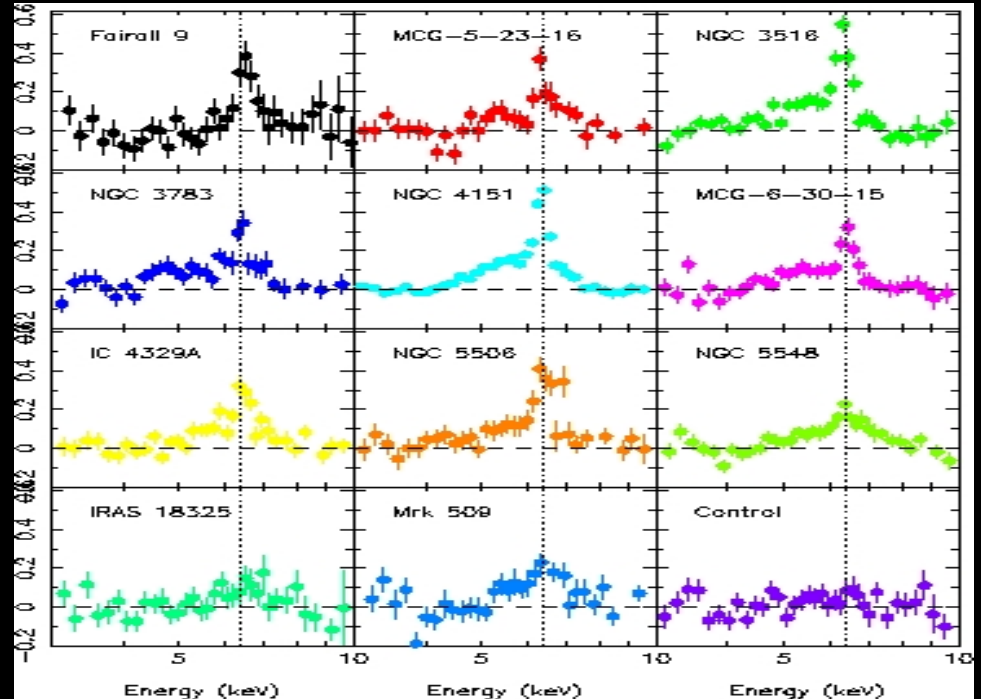


(Tanaka et al. '95)



(Guinazzi et al. '98)

ASCA ---> Broad (relativistic) lines are common, and ubiquitous (?) in Seyfert1s!

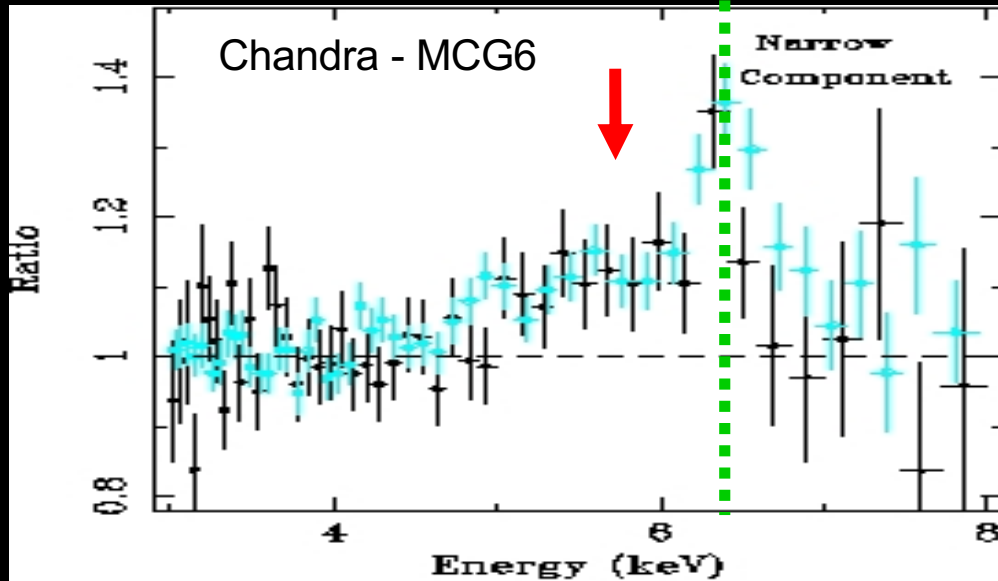


(Nandra et al. '98)

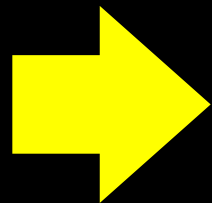
# Reflection: Observations

Post-Chandra & XMM-Newton

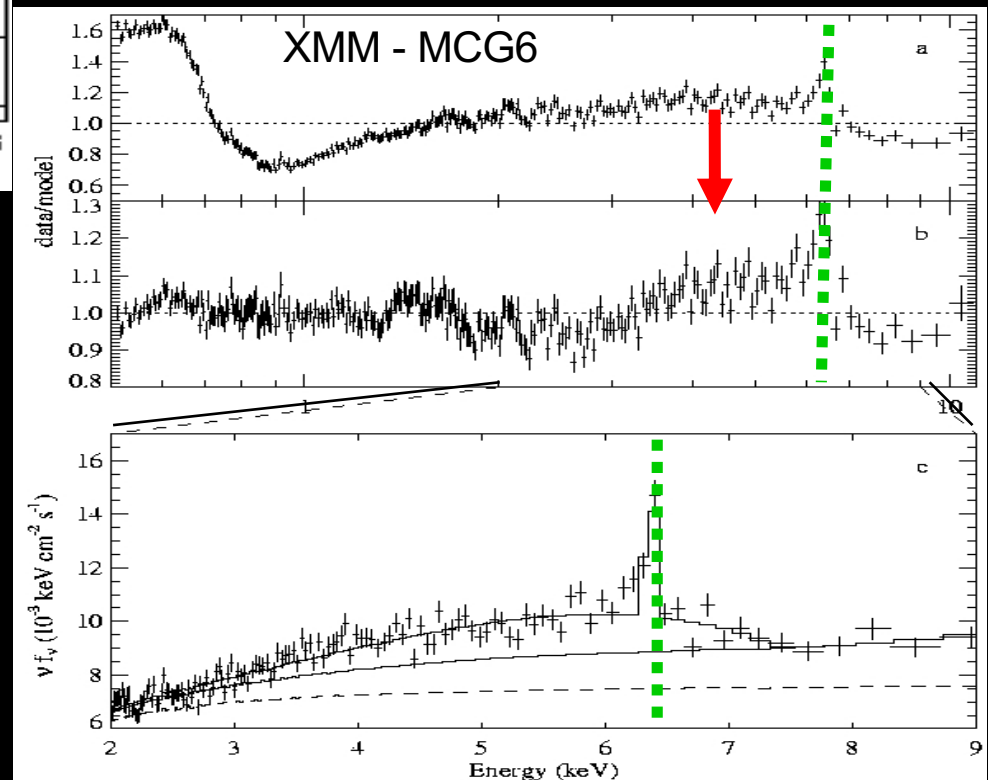
Yes, we see broad lines indeed!



(Lee et al. '02)

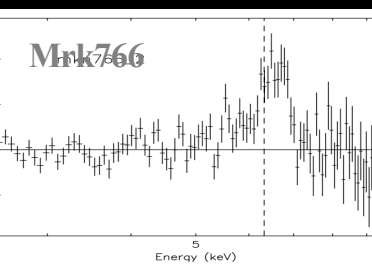
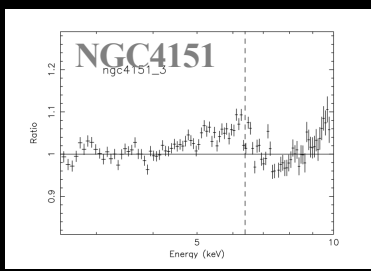
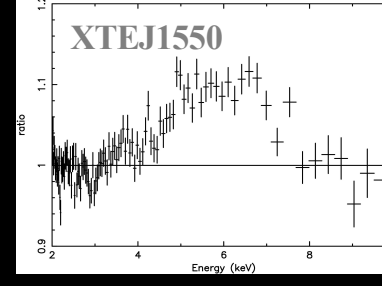
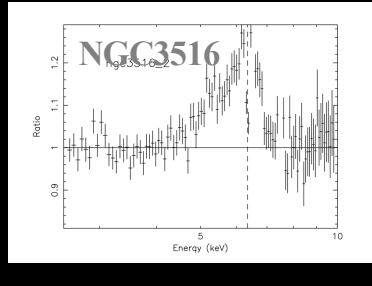
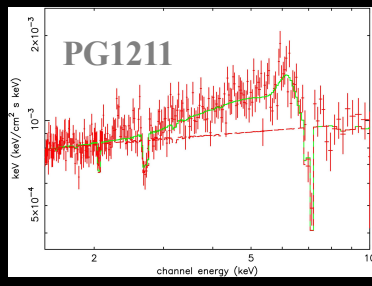
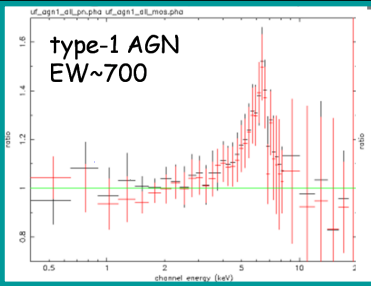
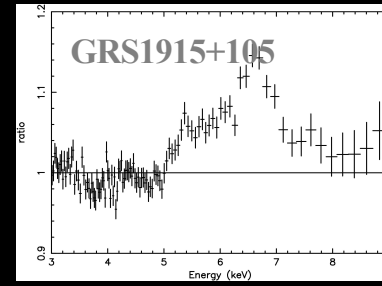
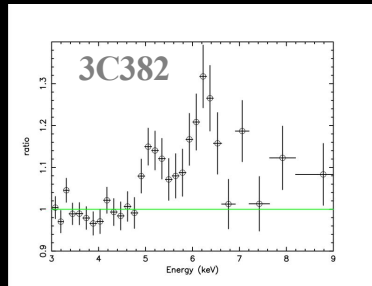
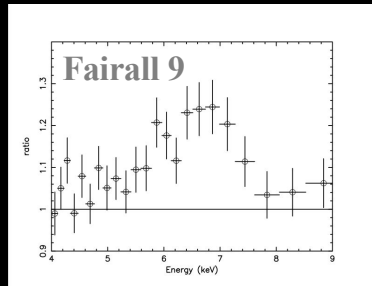
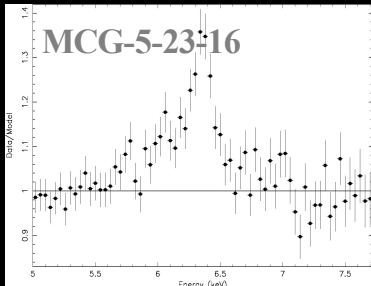
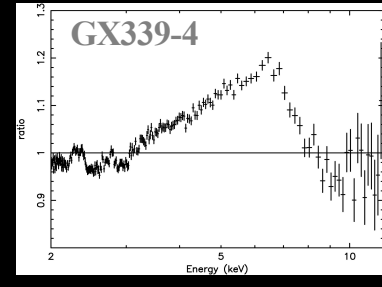
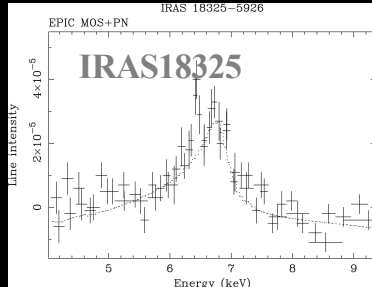
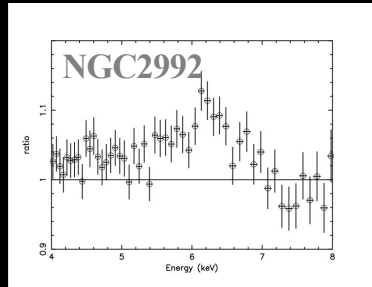
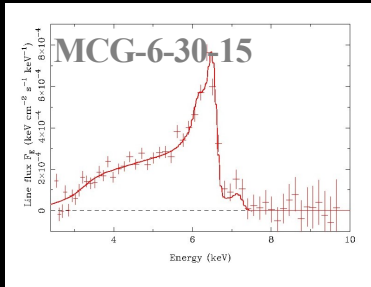


Origin in innermost regions of accretion disk

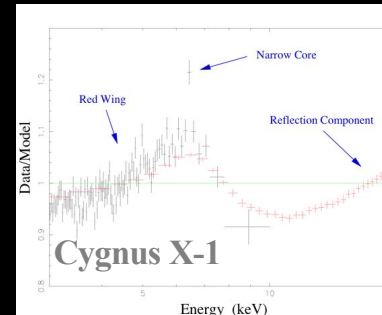




# Reflection: Re-affirmed importance of broad iron lines

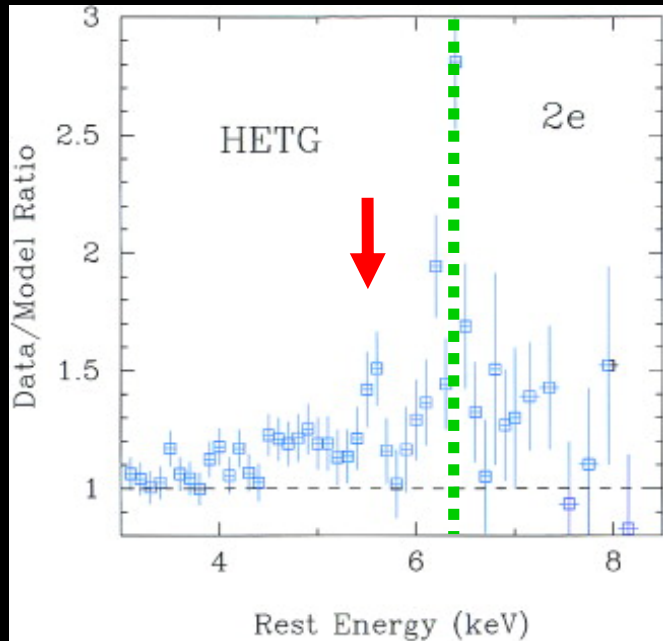


Similar line profiles from stellar-mass and super-massive black hole systems... demonstrates insensitivity of line profile to mass

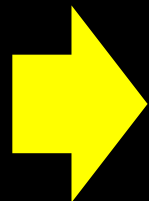


Nandra et al., 2007,  
De La Calle et al., 2010

Also some narrow redshifted lines...

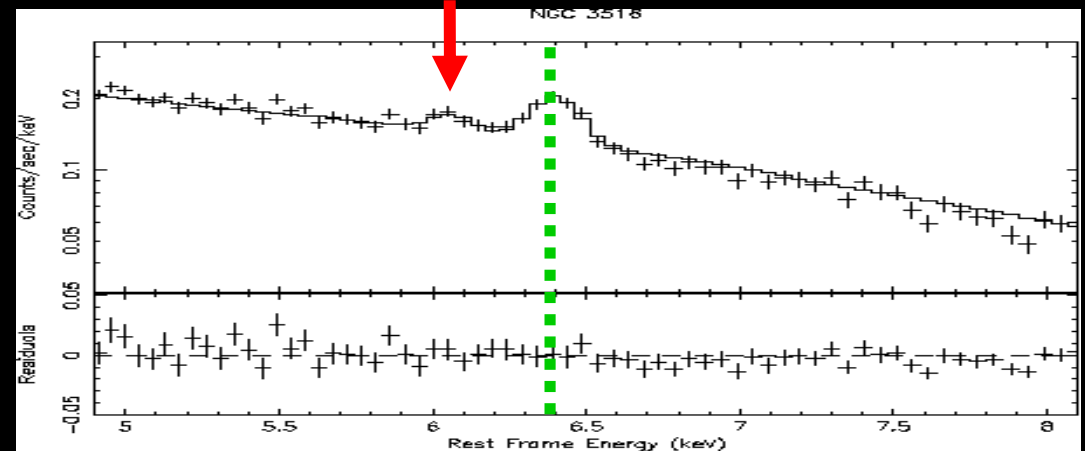


(Turner et al. '02)

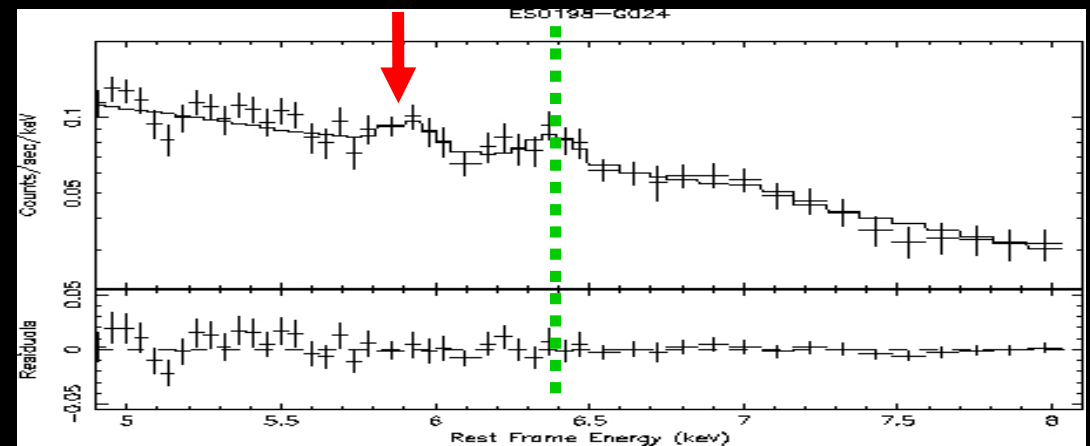


Origin in innermost regions of accretion disk+ blob-like structure (or inflowing blobs?)

Dovciak et al., 2004

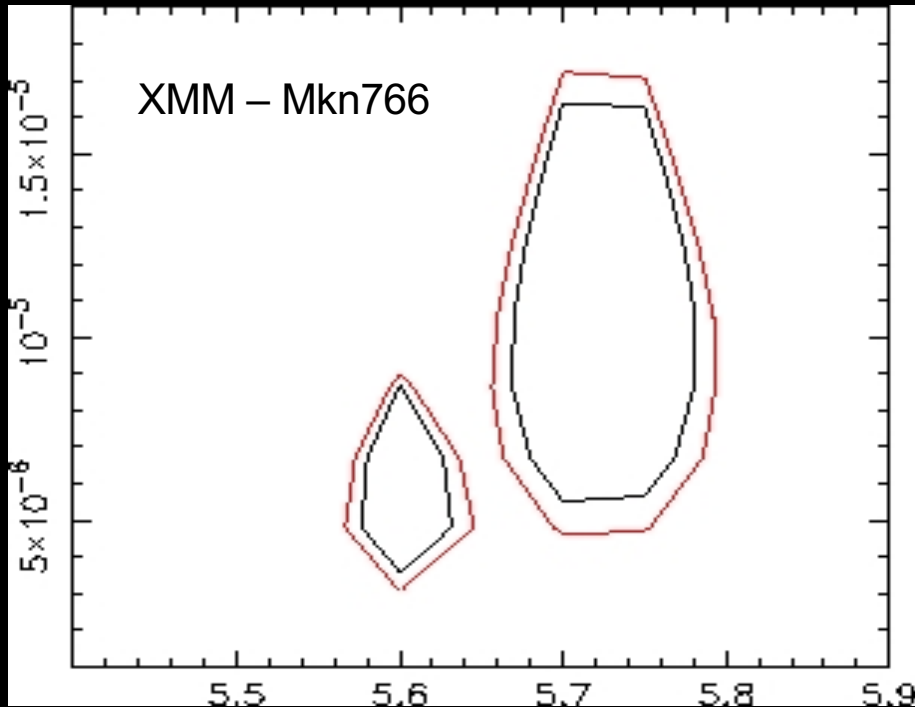


Bianchi et al., 2004

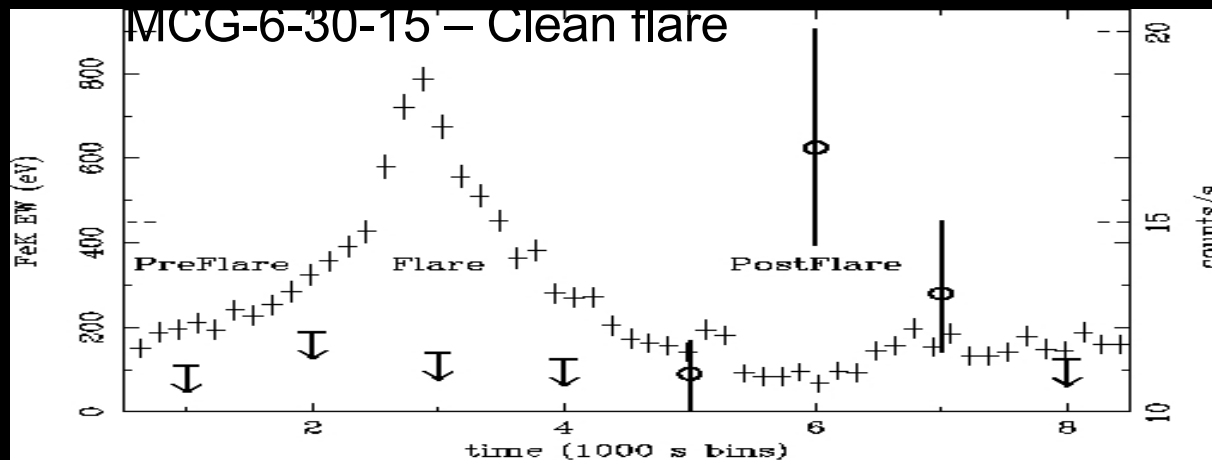
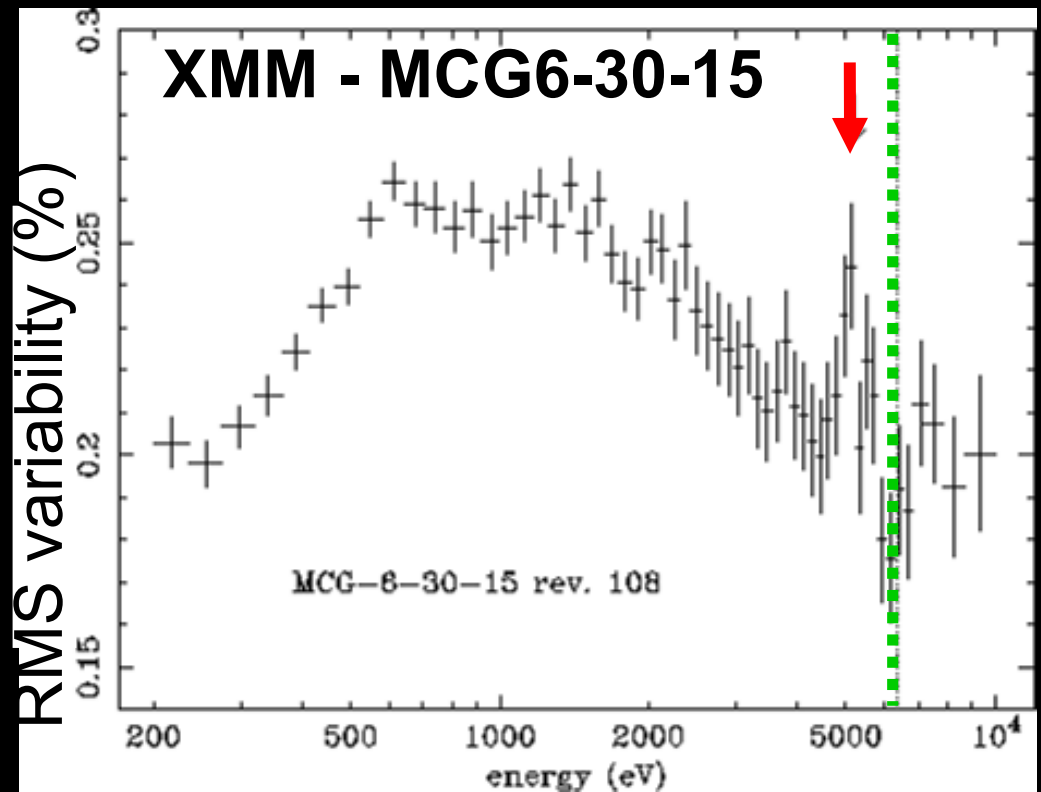


Guinazzi et al., 2003

...other independent evidence of FeK line variability...



Turner et al., 2003



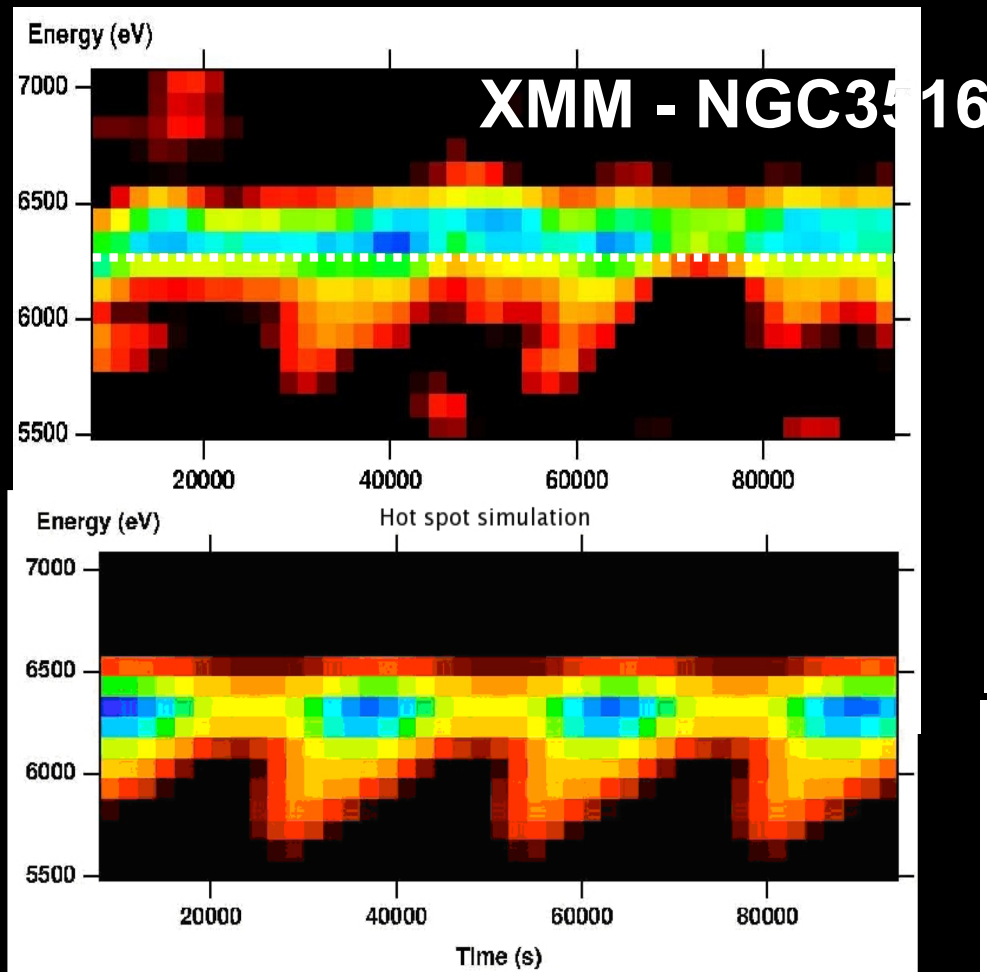
Ponti et al., 2004, (and INAF press-release)

Origin in innermost regions of accretion disk

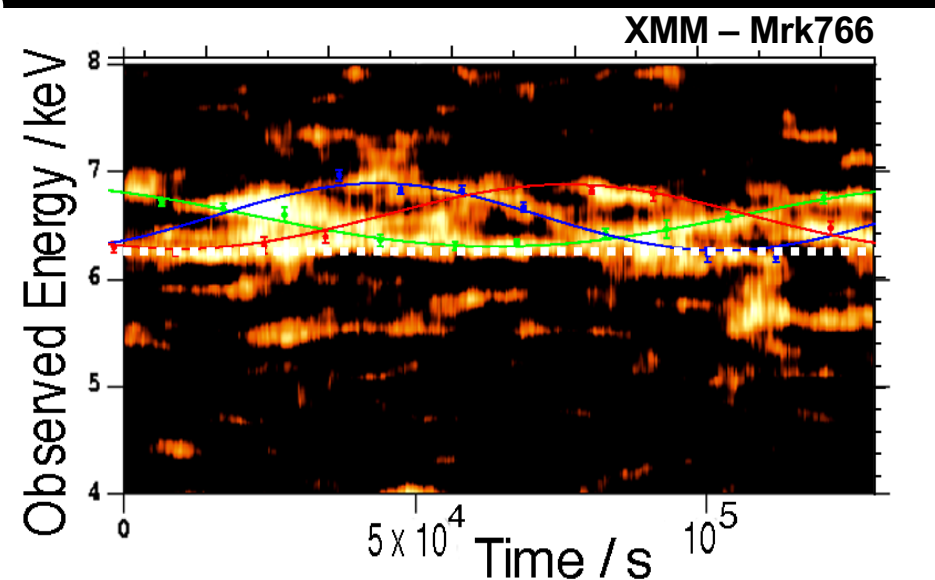
# Reflection: Variability

Post-Chandra & XMM-Newton

Everything is getting more complex, but key point is that Fe lines DO show fast time variations and redshifted energies!!

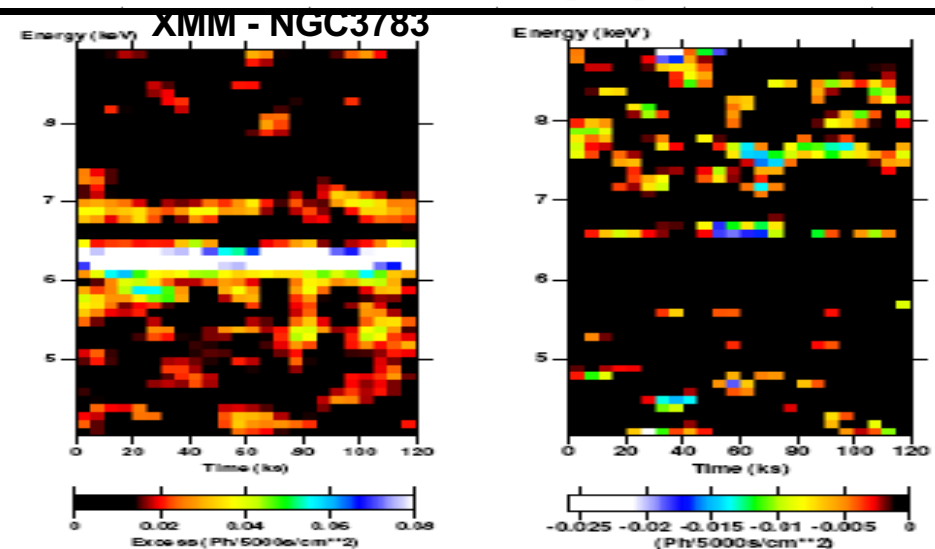


Can fit line maxima by three Keplerian orbits with same inclination & central mass !! (Turner et al. 2005)



Origin from hot spots in innermost regions of accretion disk?

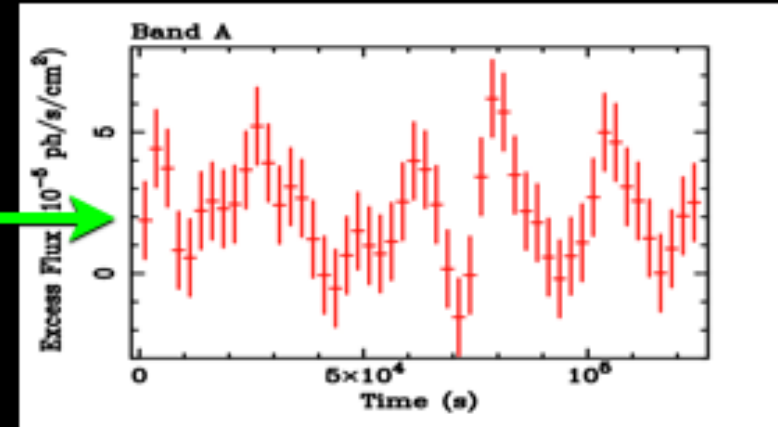
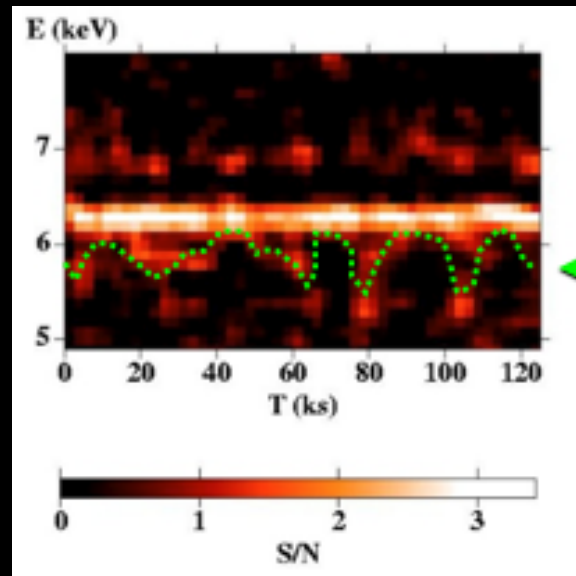
De Marco et al., 2009, PhD Thesis



## Reflection: Variability

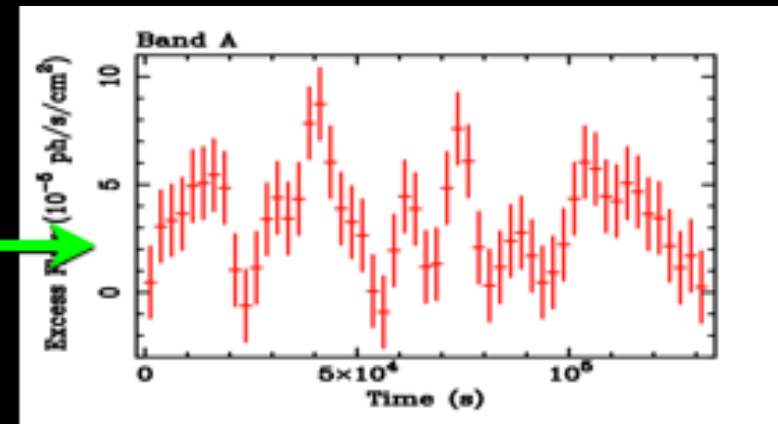
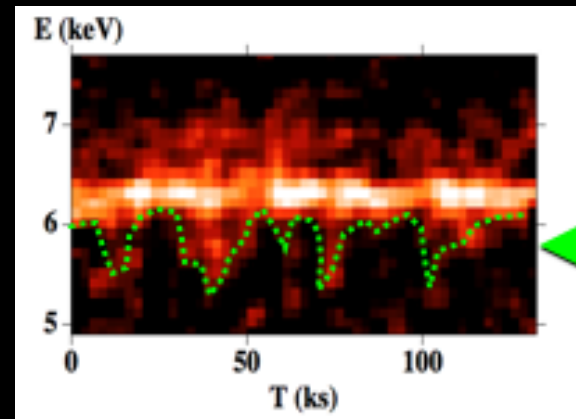
NGC3783

Tombesi et al. 2007



IC4329a

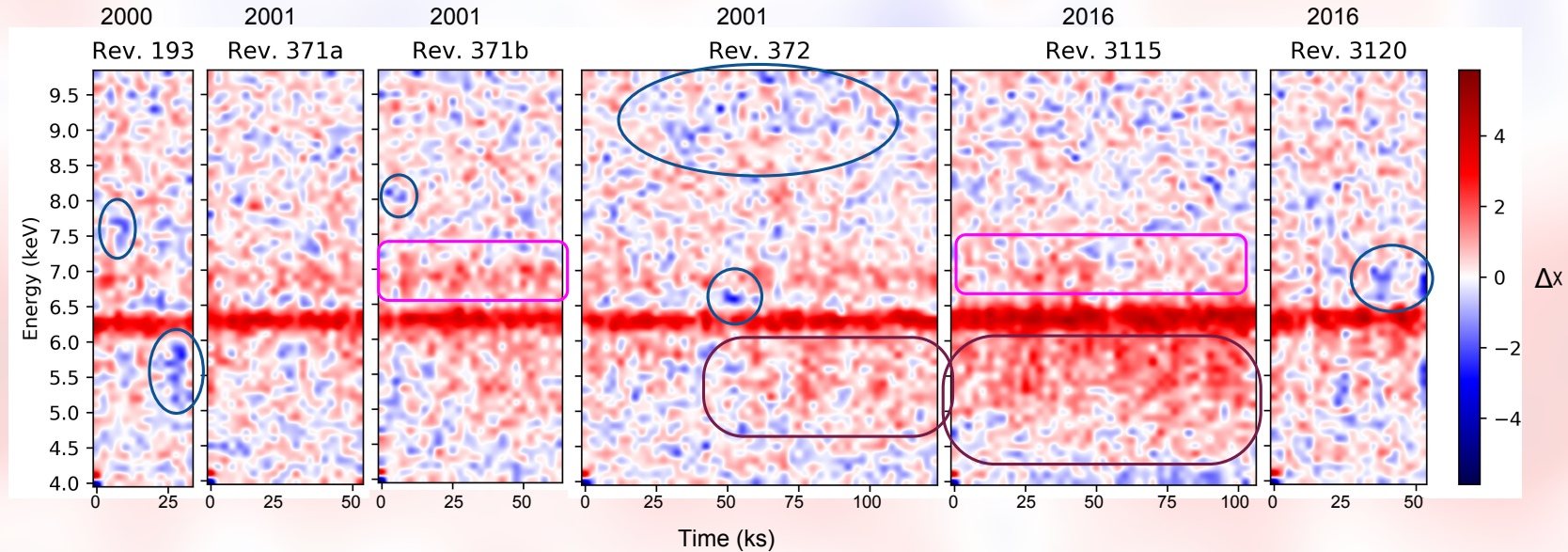
DeMarco et al. 2010b



⇒ Consistent with origin from hot spots, or spiral waves, in inner regions of accretion disk?

# Reflection: Variability

## NGC 3783



- Fe K $\alpha$  always present, variable intensity
- Variable Fe K $\beta$ / ionized K $\alpha$  blend
- Variable broadened line component
- Multiple absorptions

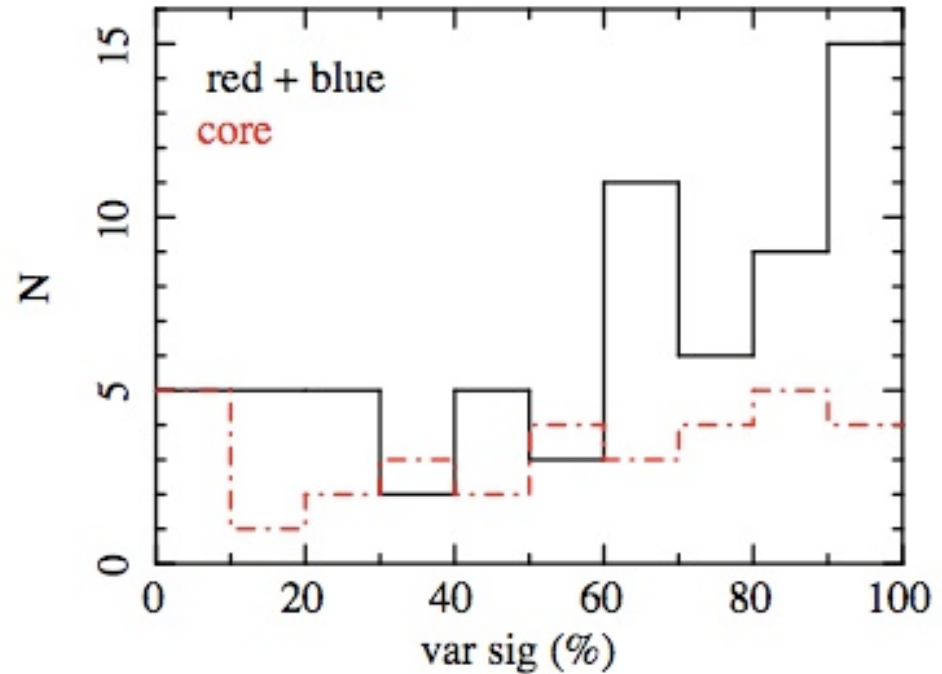
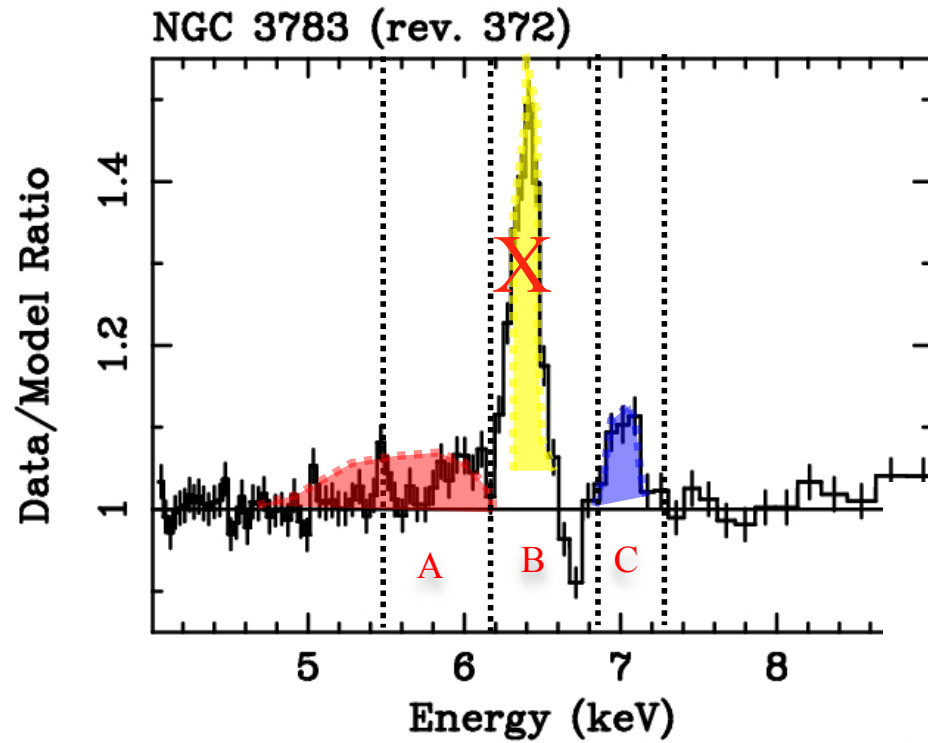
NGC3783

Costanzo et al. 2019,  
Tesi di Laurea, paper in prep

⇒ Consistent with origin from hot spots, or  
spiral waves in inner regions of accretion disk?

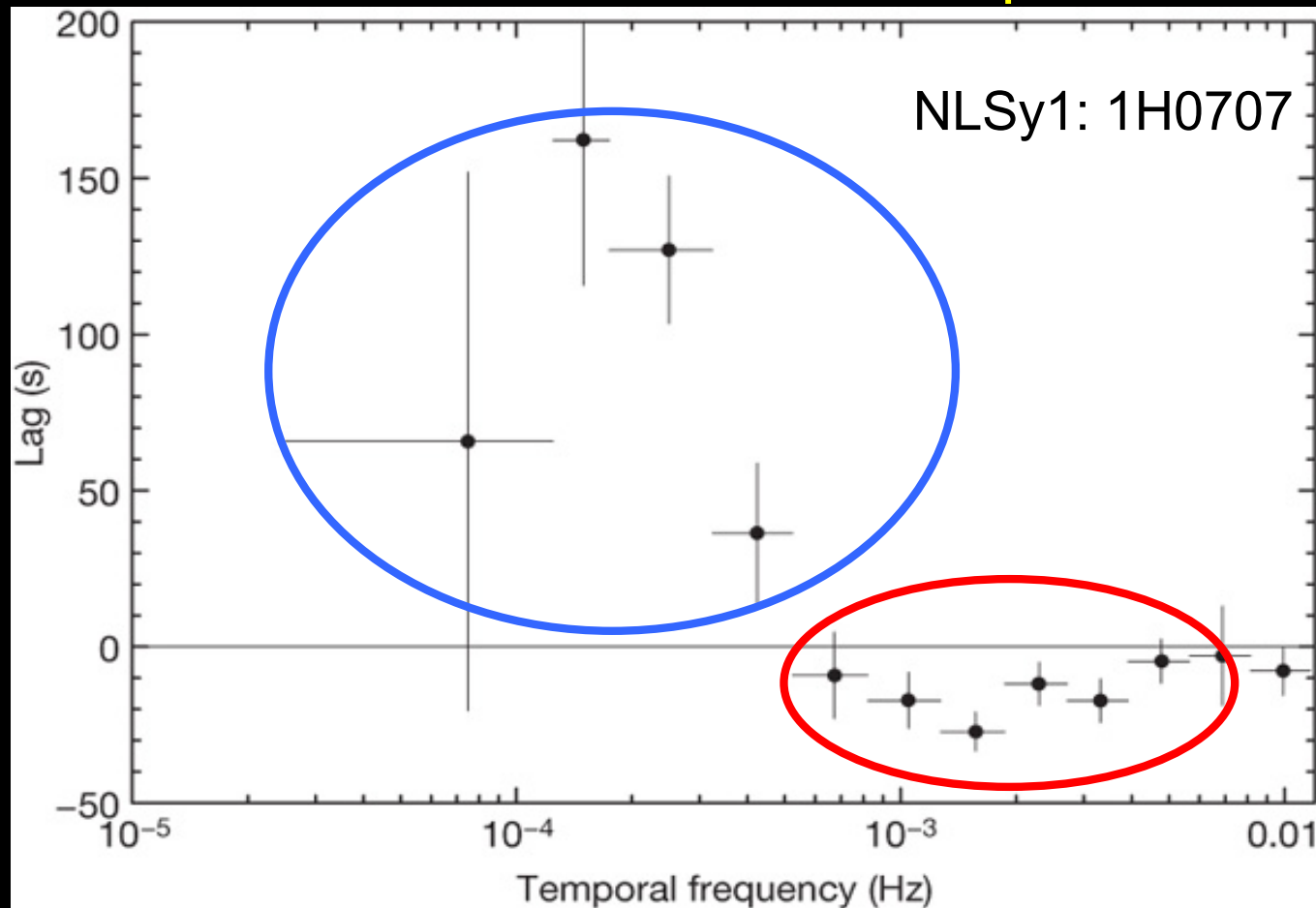
# Reflection: Variability

Systematic analysis on a large, complete, sample of 33 sources (>70 XMM obs.)



DeMarco et al., 2009, PhD Thesis

# Reflection: Variability Time and spectral Lags (in freq. space) → Would require a whole lecture alone



Hard lags on long time-scales

⇒ From fluctuations propagating along the disc or Comptonization

Soft lags on short time-scales

⇒ From FeL reverberation, 25s light travel time corresponds to  $2 R_g$

Fabian *et al.* '09 + Zoghbi *et al.* '10, + n-papers



Questions



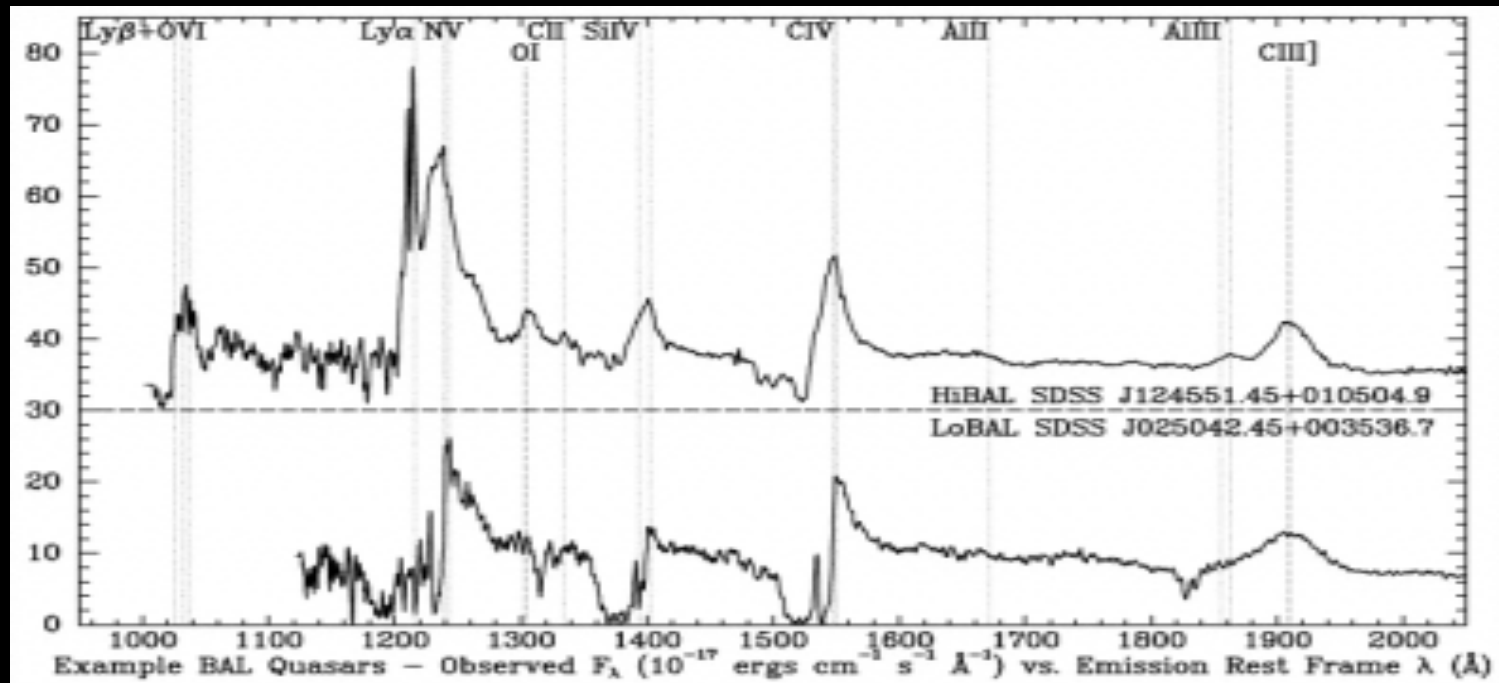
**Absorption lines...**  
**i.e. pointing to absorber(s)**  
**(i.e. ejection(s))**



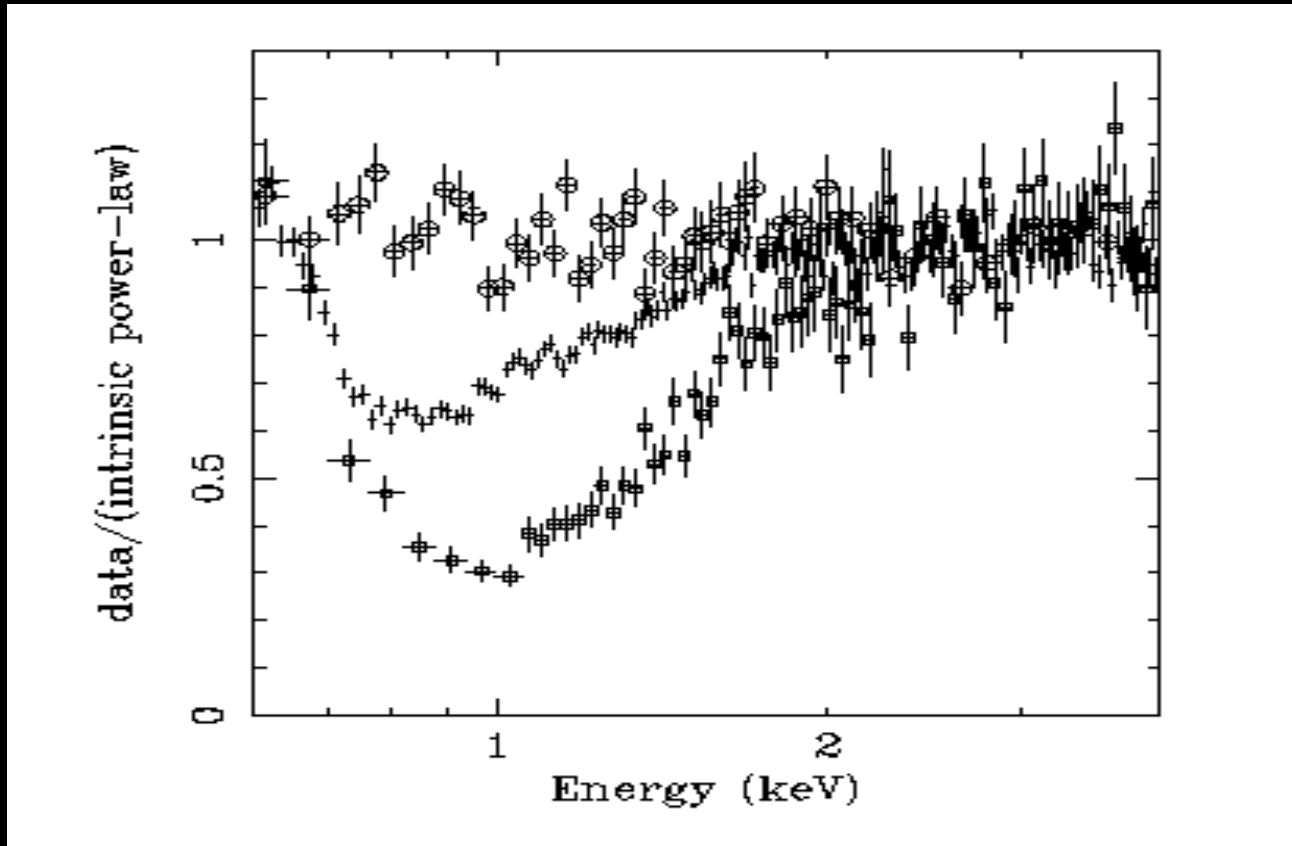
## Absorption: BAL QSOs

...known/seen since long ago

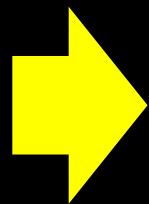
Fast ( $v$  up to  $\sim 50000$  km/s) winds in  
BAL QSOs ( $\sim 20\%$  of all QSOs)



Weymann et al., '91;  
Reichards et al., '03



Reynolds et al. '97  
Georges et al. '97



Clear since years that warm absorbers must be dynamically important (radiatively driven outflow located in BLR and NLR)

Open Problem: Characterisation of warm absorber? (cov. Factor, ion. state, mass/energy outflow, etc. )

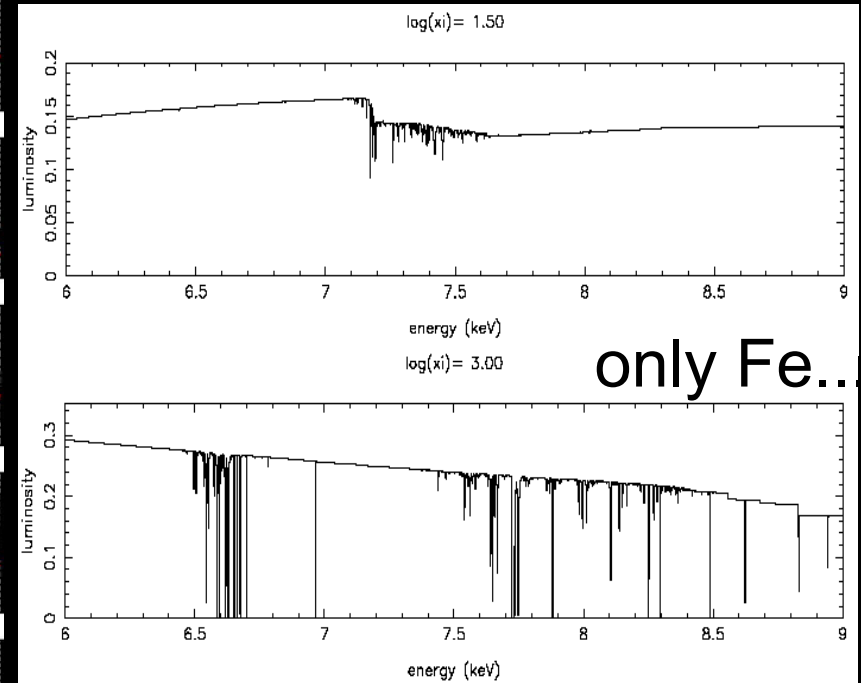
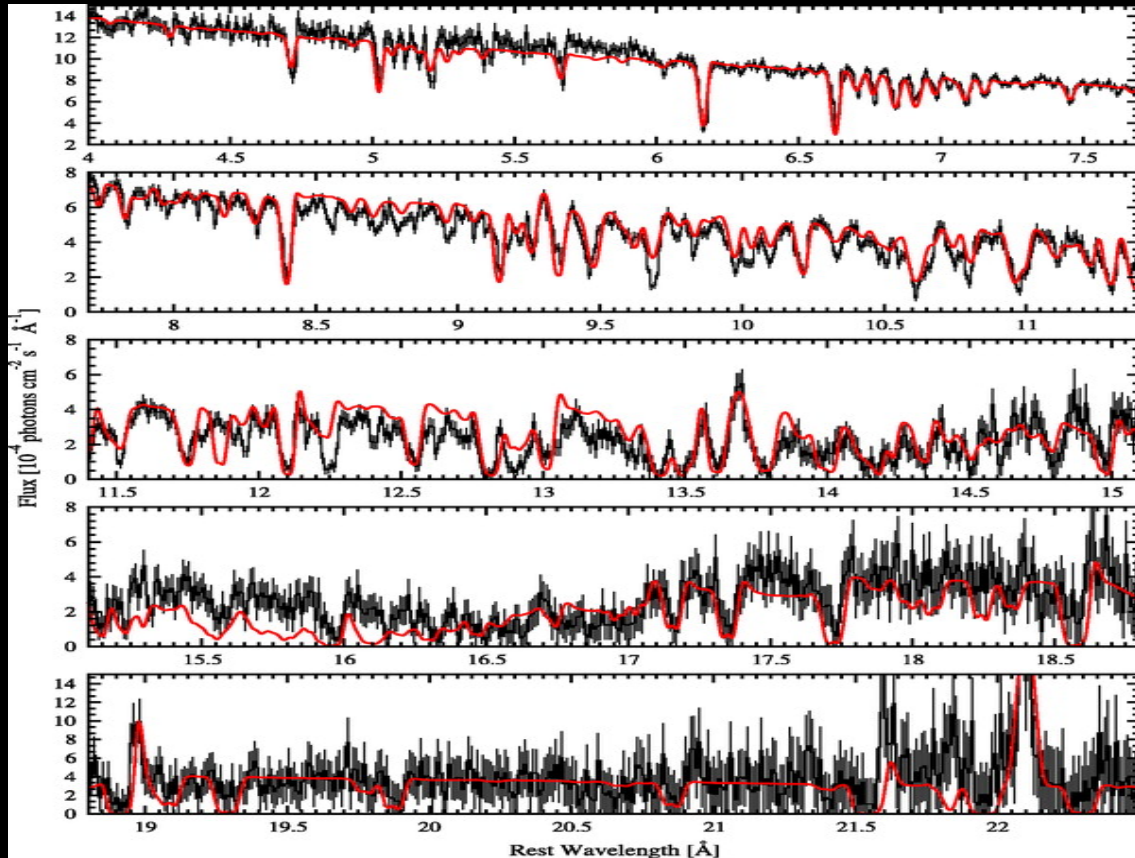
# Absorption: warm absorbers

Post-Chandra & XMM-Newton

Many more details from Chandra gratings

NGC3783 Exp=900 ks

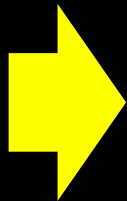
Consistent with models which predict many absorption features



only Fe..

Kallman et al. '05

Kaspi et al. '01  
Netzer et al. '02  
Georges et al. '03

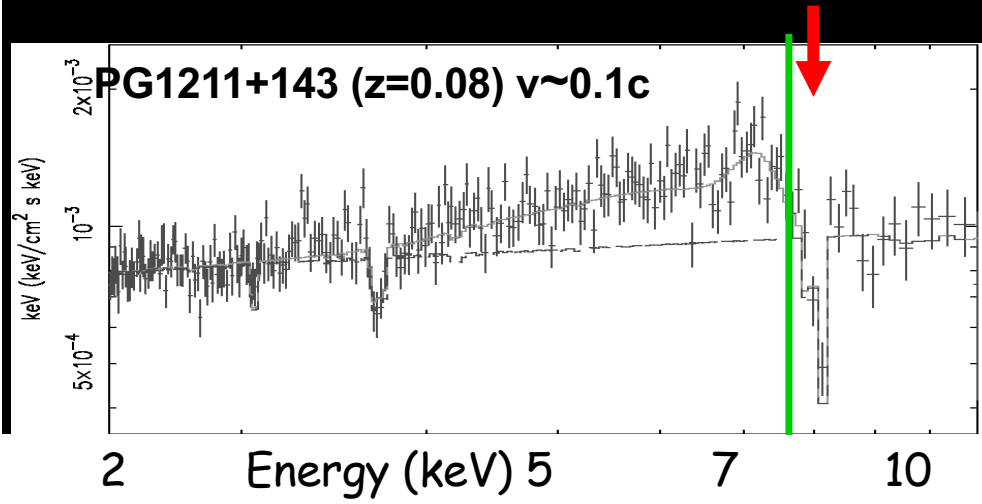


Clear now that often multiple ionization & kinetic components: outflows with ~100-1000 km/s

# Absorption: UFOs

Post-Chandra & XMM-Newton

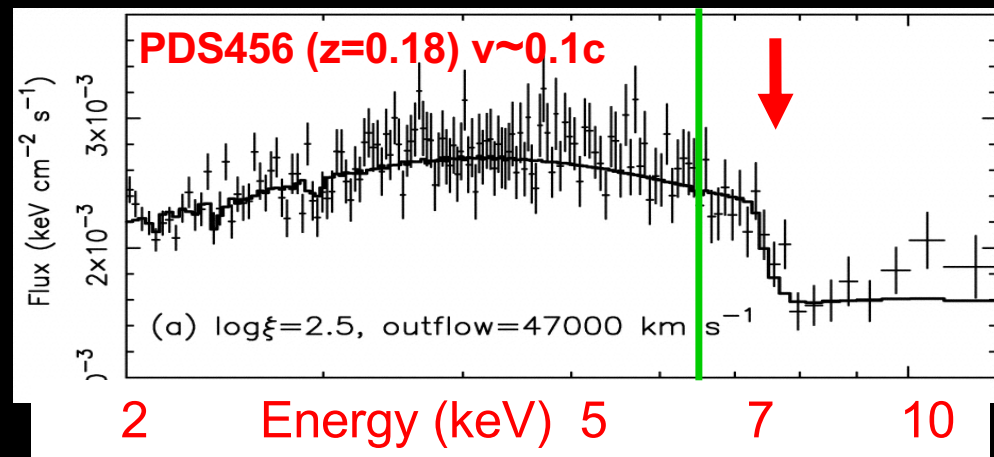
New and unexpected results from Chandra and XMM-Newton observations



Blue-shifted absorption lines/edges – **High- $v$**

## Pounds et al. 2003a,b

(If) interpreted as  $K\alpha$  resonant absorption by Fe XXV (6.70 keV) or FeXXVI (6.96 keV)

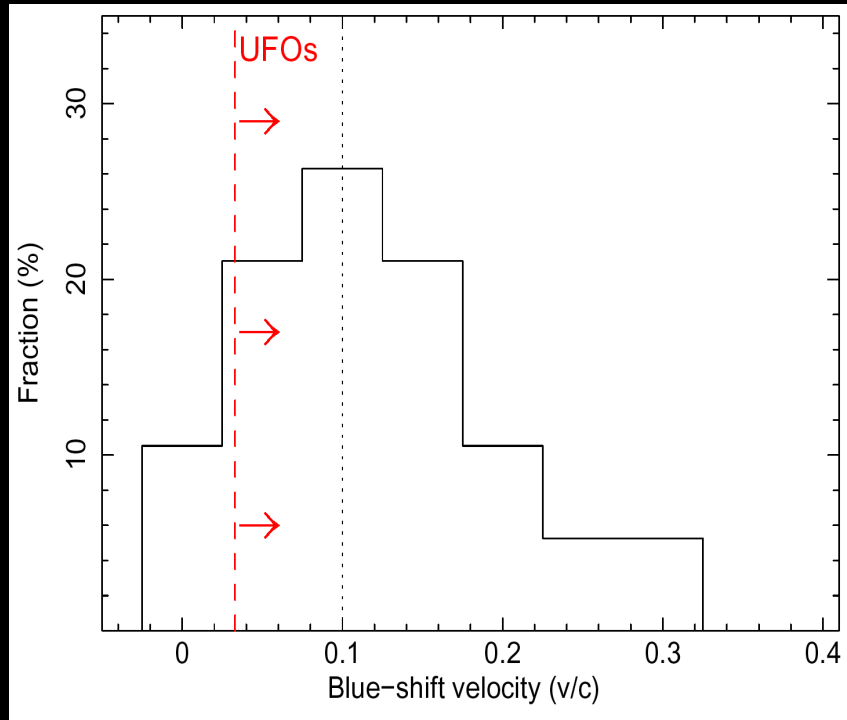


Reeves et al. 2003

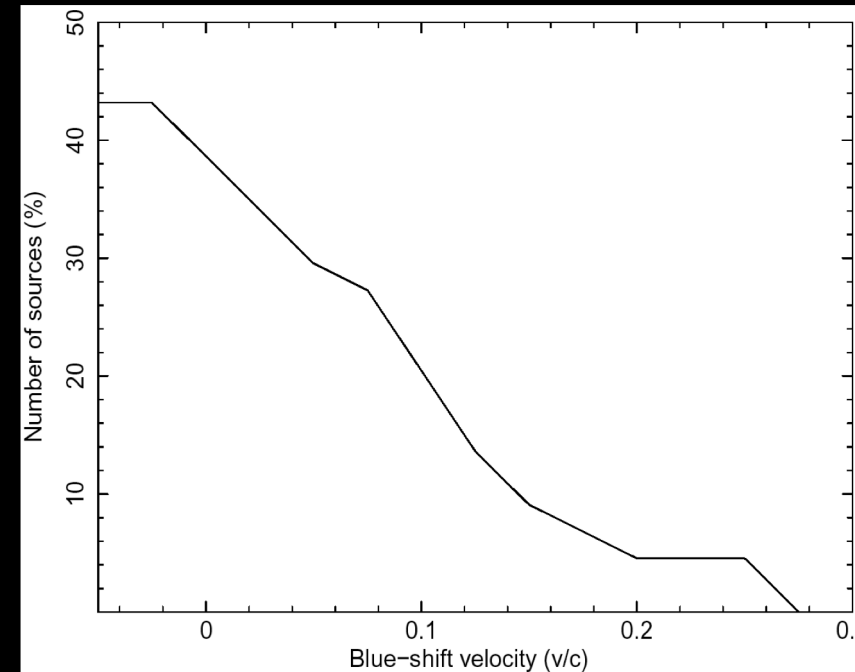
$\Rightarrow$  massive, **high velocity** and highly ionized outflows in several RQ AGNs/QSOs  
Mass outflow rate: comparable to Edd. Acc. rate ( $\sim M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$ ); velocity  $\sim 0.1-0.2 c$

## Absorption: UFOs

**Main result:** UFOs (Ultra-Fast Outflows) are confirmed and are quite common



**Blue-shift velocity distribution**



**Cumulative velocity distribution**

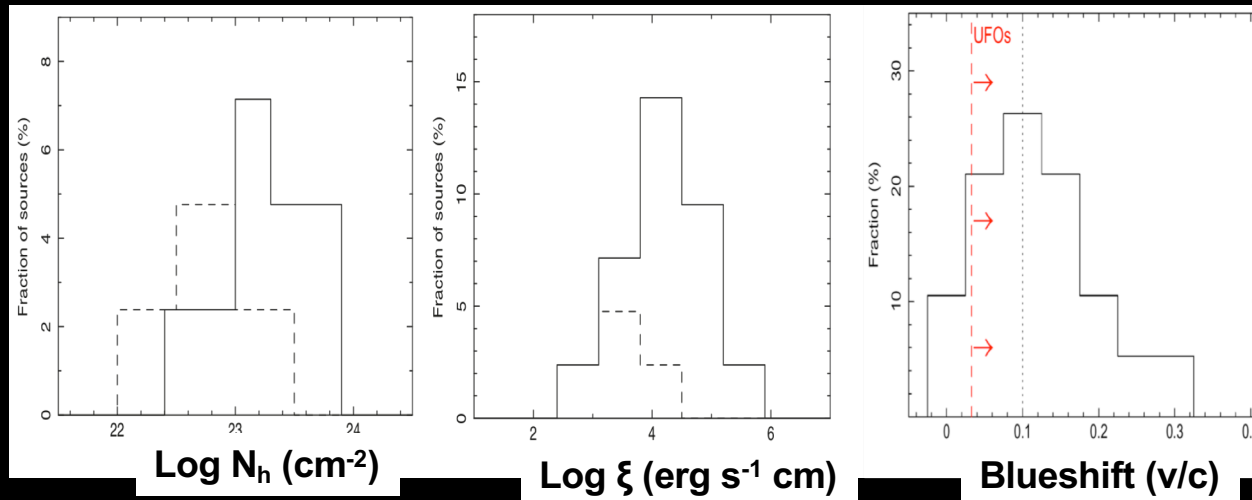
- 36 absorption lines detected in all 104 XMM observations
- Identified with FeXXV and FeXXVI K-shell resonant absorption
- 19/44 objects with absorption lines ( $\approx 43\%$ )
- 17/44 objects with blue-shifted absorption lines (lower limit  $\approx 39\%$ , can reach a maximum of  $\approx 60\%$ )
- 11/44 objects with outflow velocity  $> 0.1c$  ( $\approx 25\%$ )
- Blue-shift velocity distribution  $\sim 0-0.3c$ , peak  $\sim 0.1c$
- Average outflow velocity  $0.110 \pm 0.004 c$

**Tombesi et al. 2010a**  
**(The UFO's hunters**  
**commander in chief)**

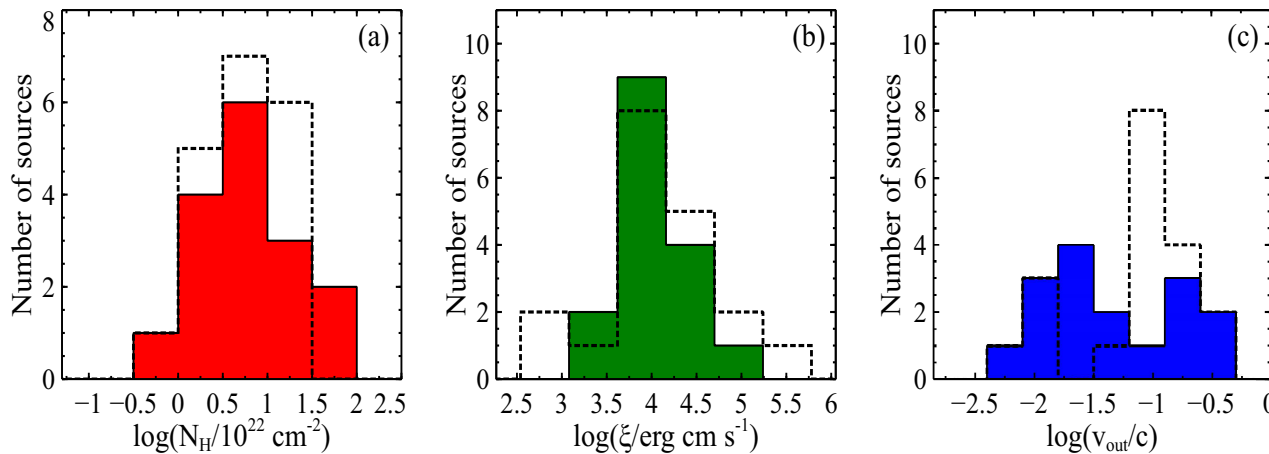


# Absorption: UFOs

UFOs (Ultra-Fast Outflows) confirmed and quite common



Tombesi, MC, et al. 2010, 2011 (A&A, 521, 57; ApJ, 742, 44)



Gofford et al. 2012

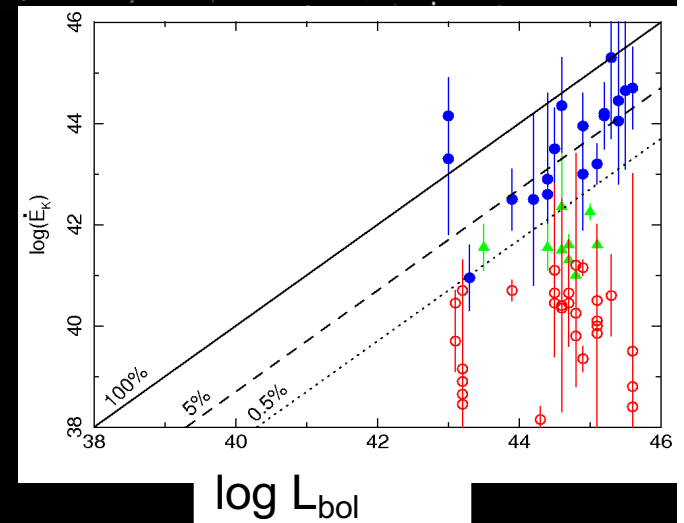
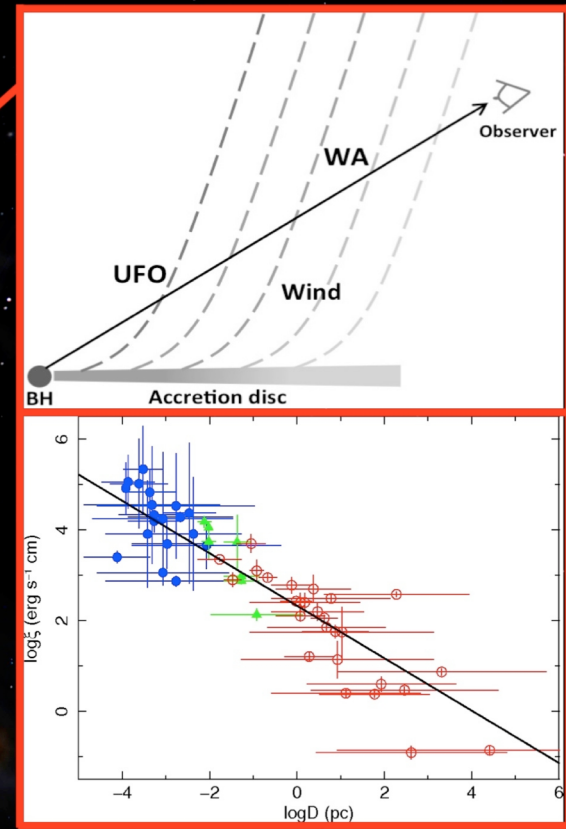
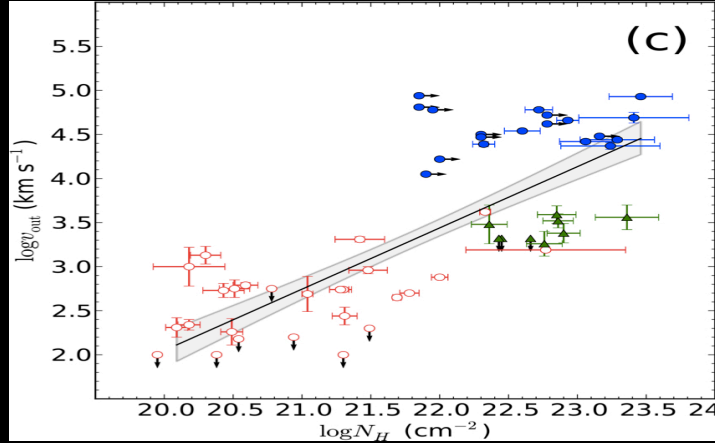
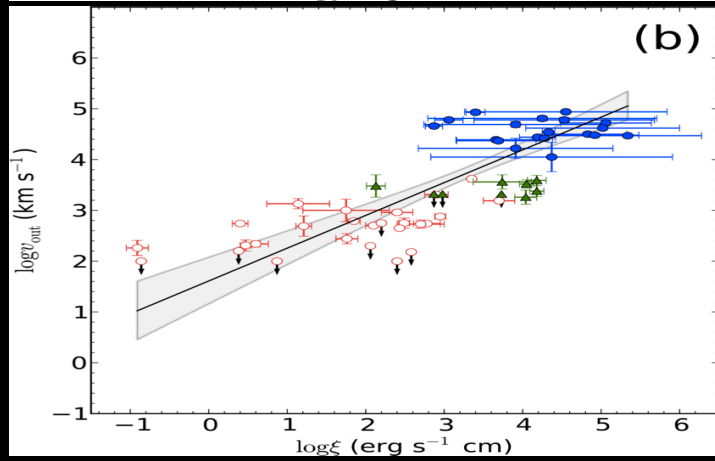
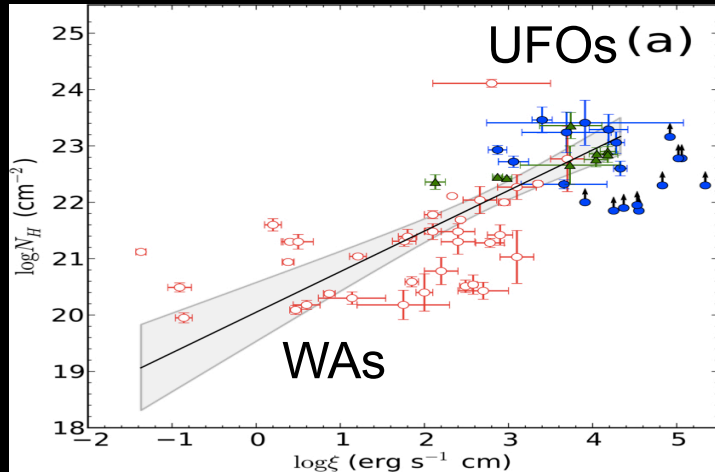
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- Blue-shift velocity distribution  $\sim 0-0.3c$ , peak  $\sim 0.1c$
- Average outflow velocity  $0.110 \pm 0.004 c$

Table 5. Outflow velocity comparison

Velocity ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	<i>Suzaku</i>	<i>XMM-Newton</i>
No outflow	3/20	2/19
$0 < v_{\text{out}} \leq 10,000$	5/20	2/19
$v_{\text{out}} > 10,000$	11/20	15/19
$v_{\text{out}} \geq 30,000 c$	8/20	9/19



# A (unifying) X-ray view of UFOs and non-UFOs (WAs)



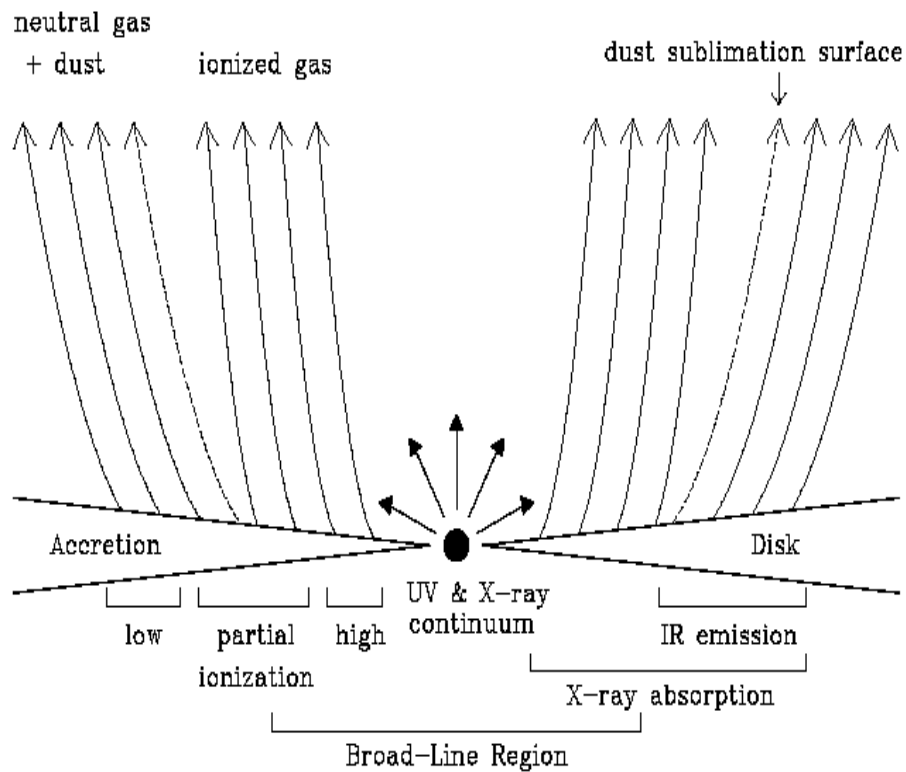
INAF Press releases  
in '10, '12, '13, plus NASA  
and ESA in 2012

Tombesi, MC  
et al., '12a,b, '13

$\log \dot{E}_{\text{out}}$

# Absorption: Interpretation - Three main wind dynamical models

## i) Thermally driven winds from BLR or torus

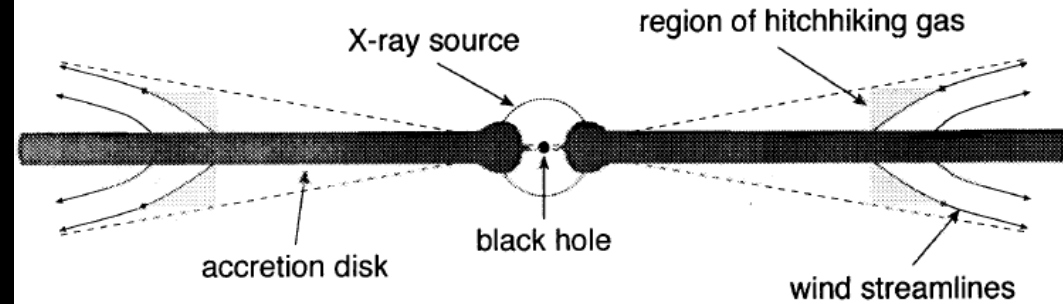


Balsara & Krolik, 93; Woods et al. '96

i)  $\Rightarrow$  Large R, low v

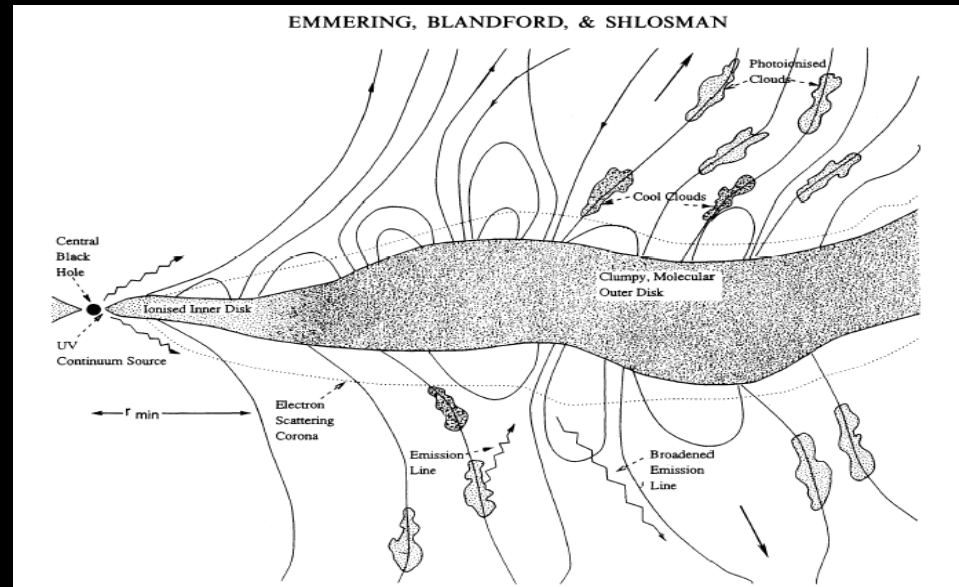
ii) and iii)  $\Rightarrow$  Low R and large v

## ii) Radiative-driven wind from accretion disk



Murray et al. '95, Proga et al. '00

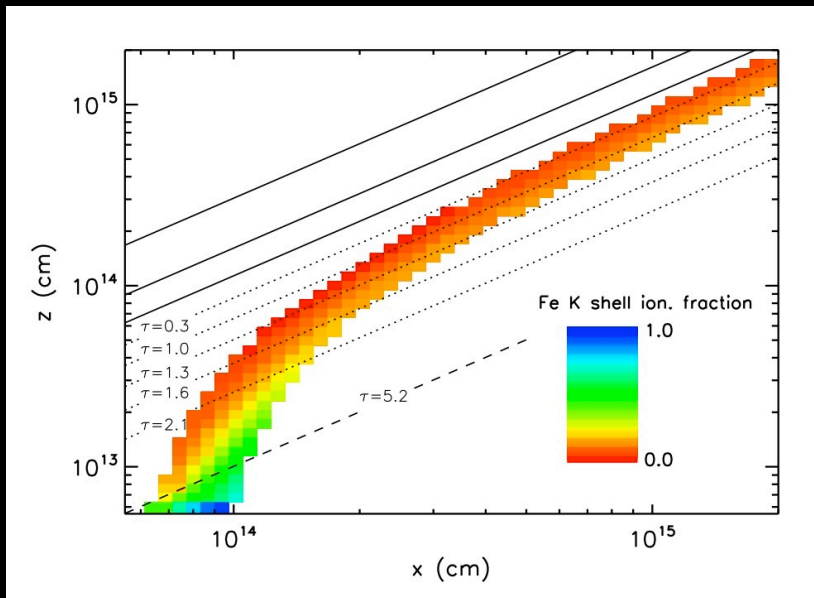
## iii) Magnetically driven winds from accretion disk



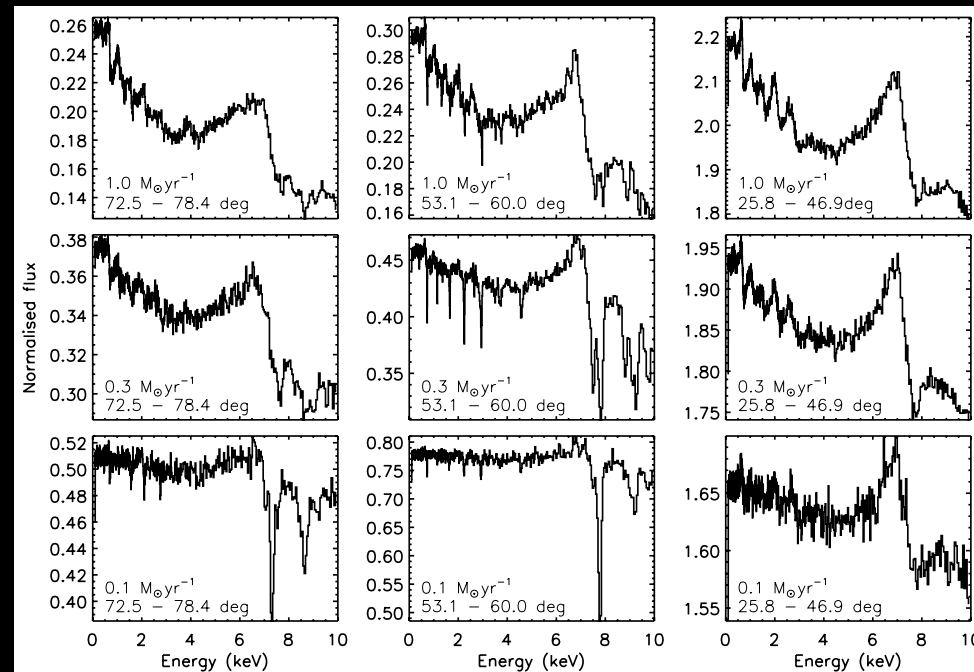
Emmering, Blandford & Shlosman, '92; Kato et al. '03

# UFOs/outflows/winds in AGNs & QSOs: Possible models

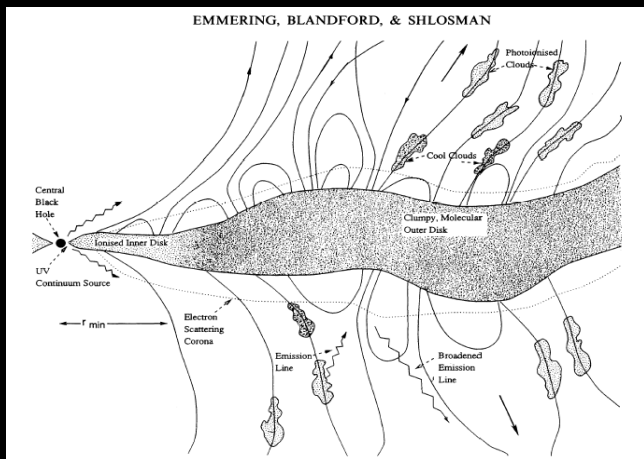
## Radiatively driven accretion disc winds



Sim et al., '08, '10ab Murray et al. '95,



## Magnetically driven winds from accretion disk



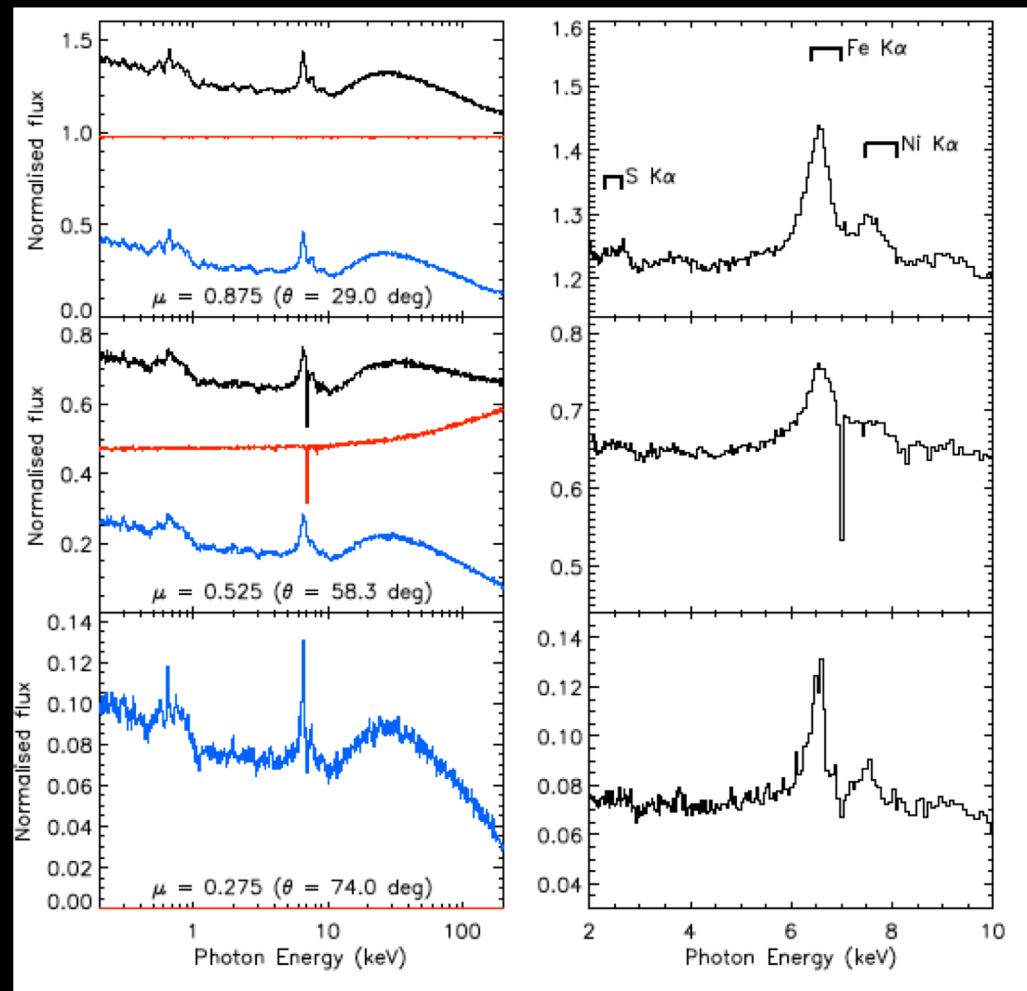
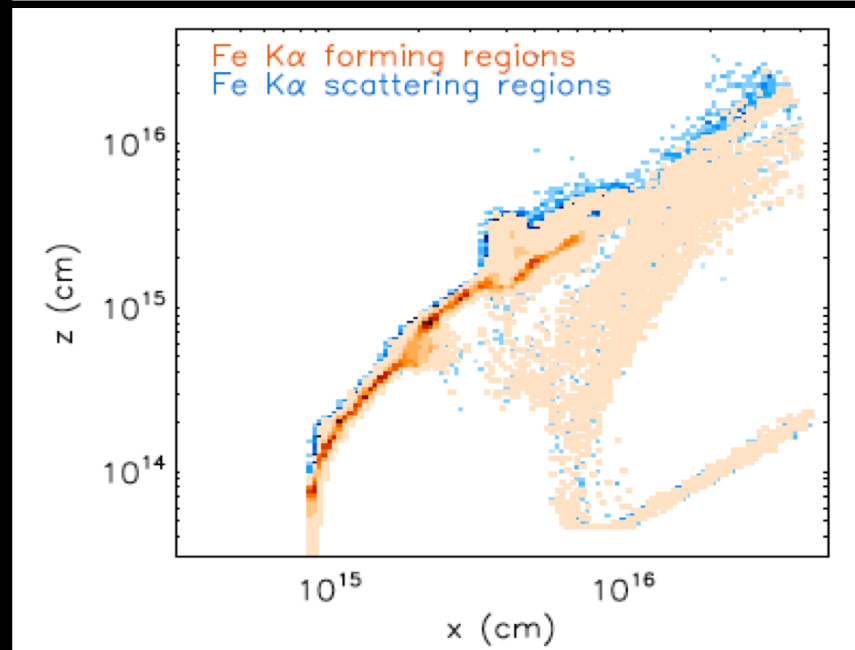
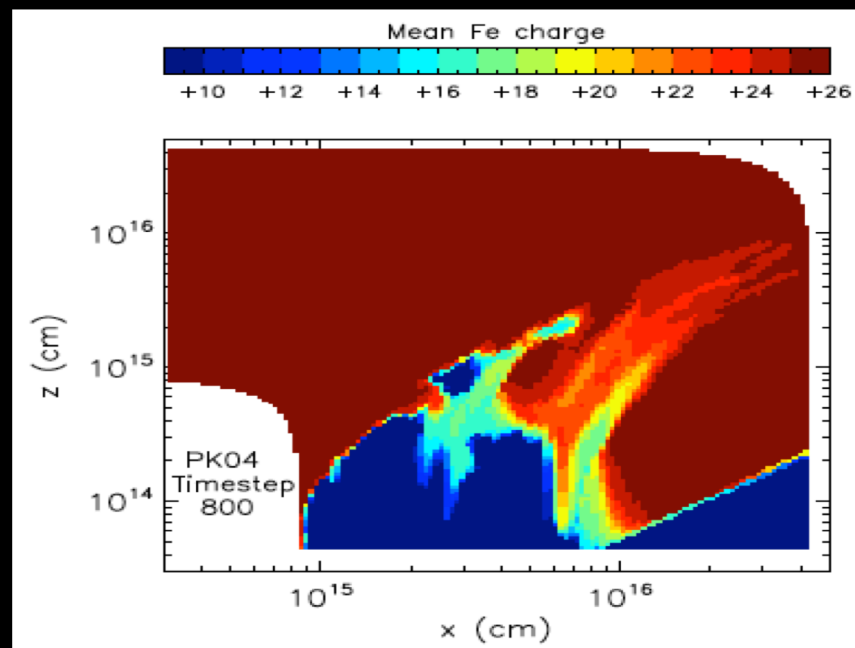
Emmering, Blandford & Shlosman, '92; Kato et al. '03



Fukumura, et al. 2010 Kazanas et al. 2012

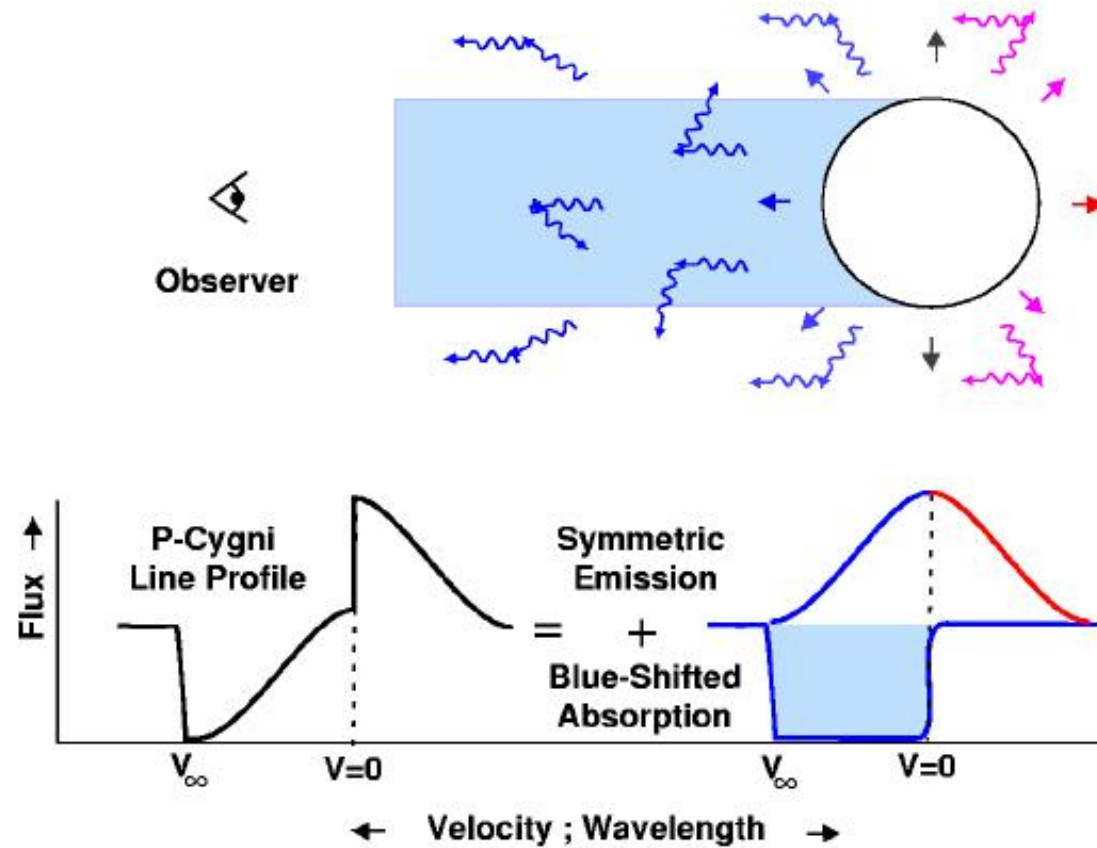
Proga et al. '00; '10

# Absorption: Data Interpretation



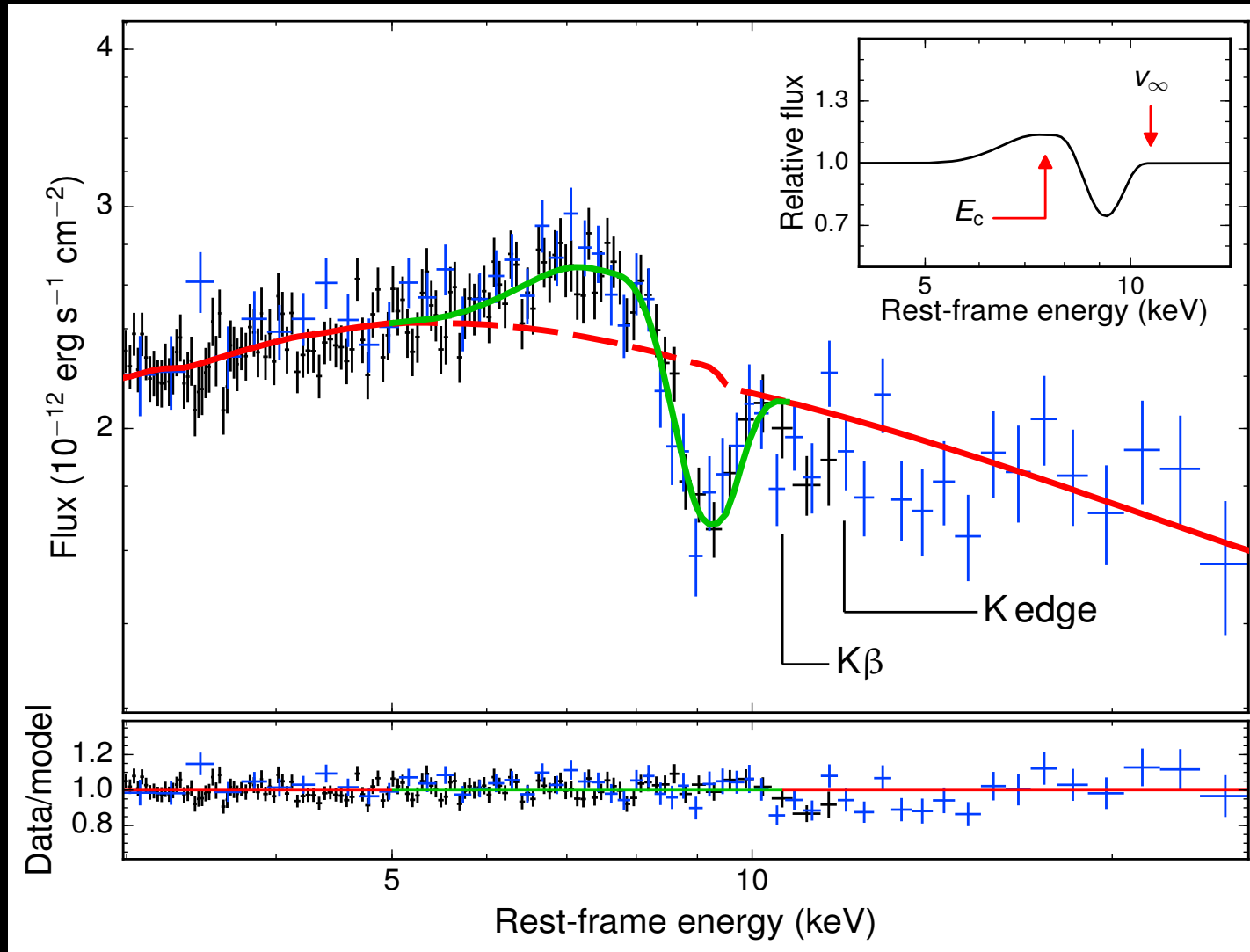
# X-ray spectra of winds/outflows

## Formation of a P-Cygni Line- Profile



# Covering factor measured DIRECTLY from P-Cygni profile

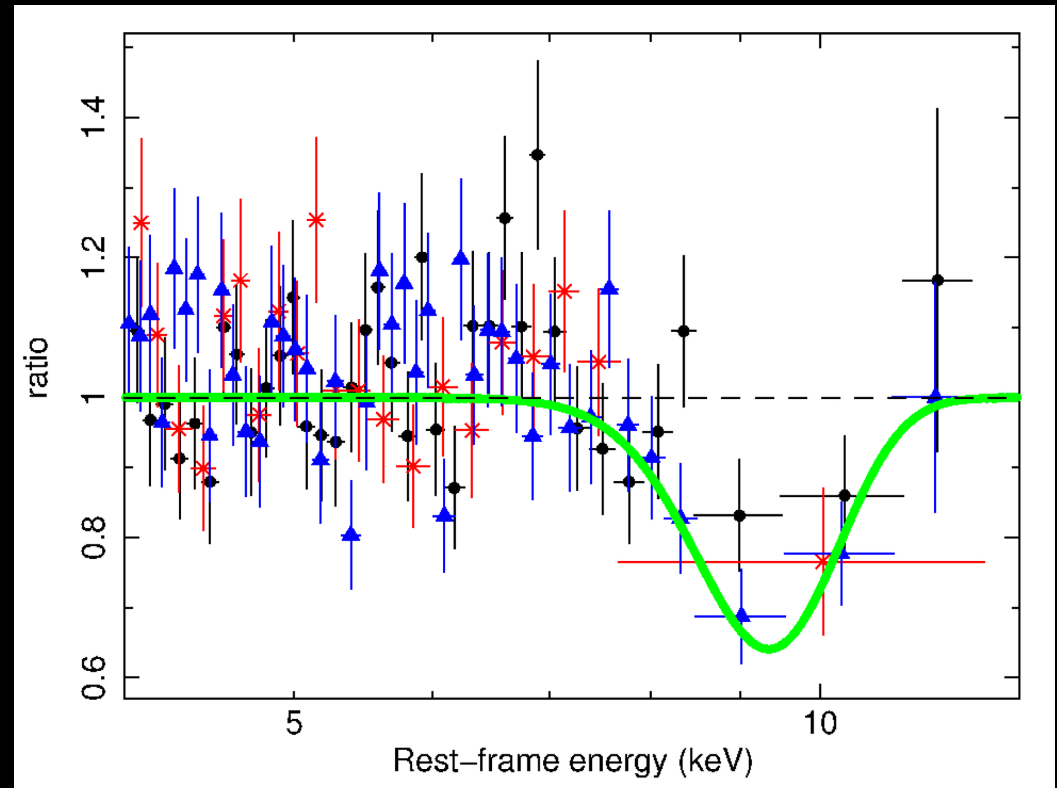
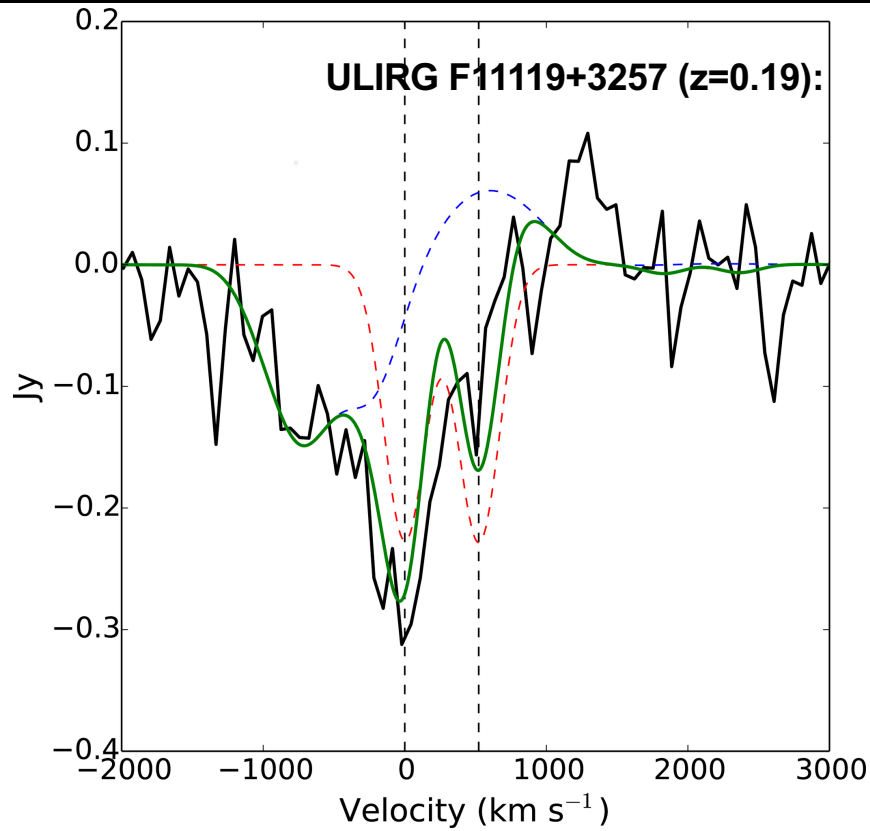
PDS456 ( $z=0.18$ )



$v_{out} \sim 0.3c$  and  $\Omega > 2\pi$  sr

Nardini, Reeves et al., Science '15

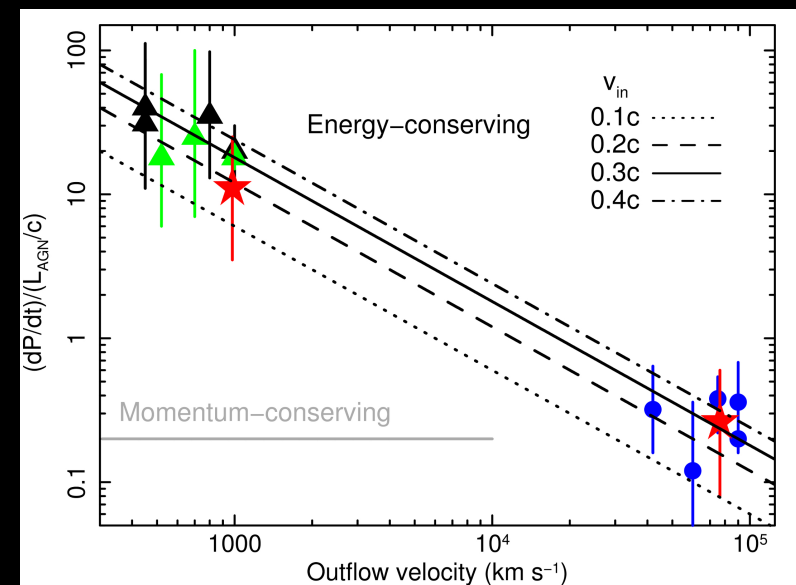
# Are galaxy-scale massive molecular outflows energized by UFOs?



Veilleux et al. 2013

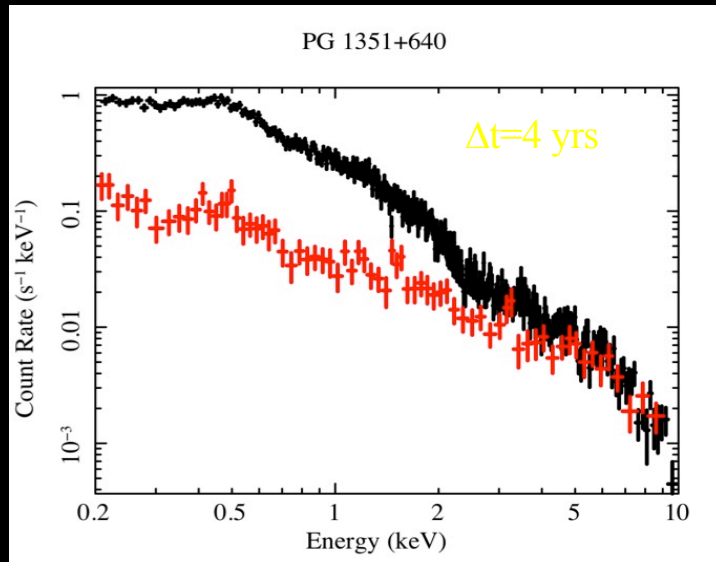
UFO detection ( $v \sim 0.3c$ ) consistent with energy-conserving outflow from Inner X-rays to outer molecular outflow

Tombesi et al. 2015, Nature

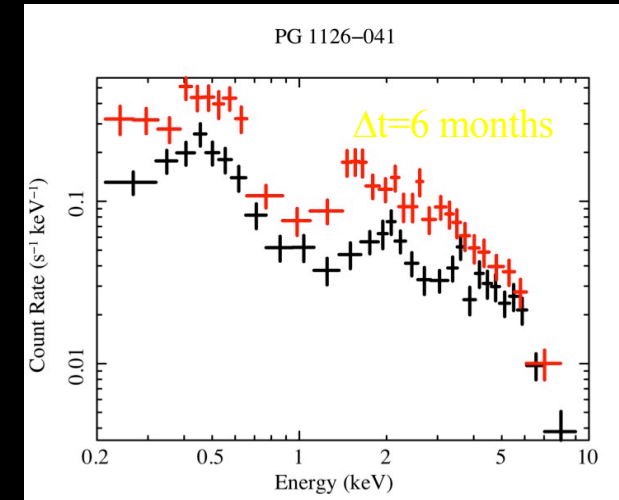


# The "new" X-ray view: Variability in (nearby) PG QSOs

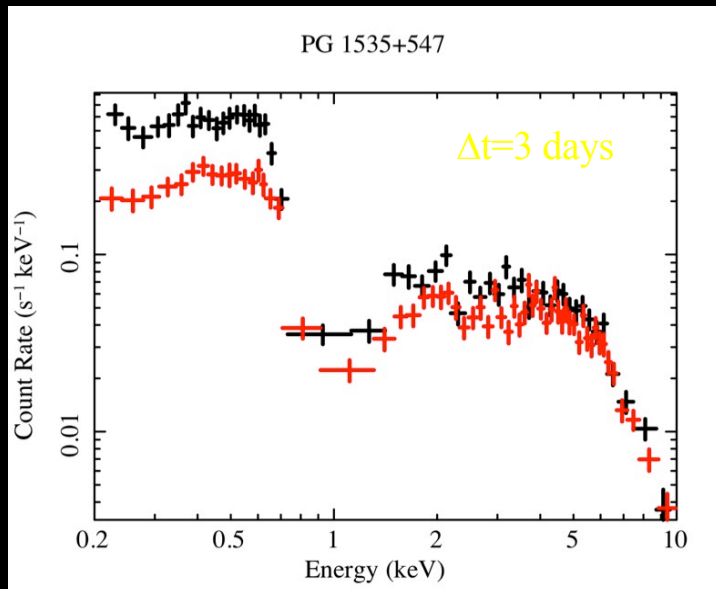
Sample: 15 UV \*AL QSOs with 32 XMM exposures



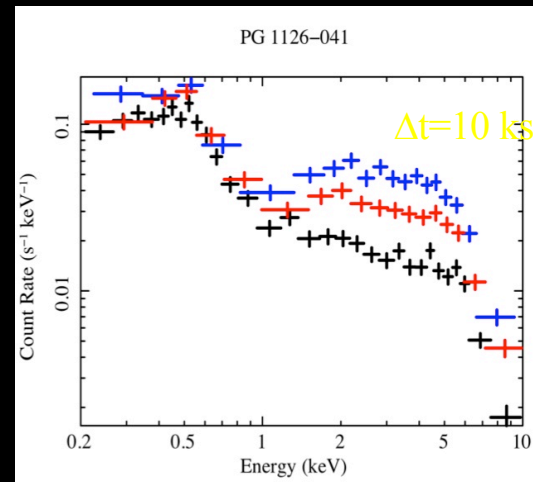
on time scales of years



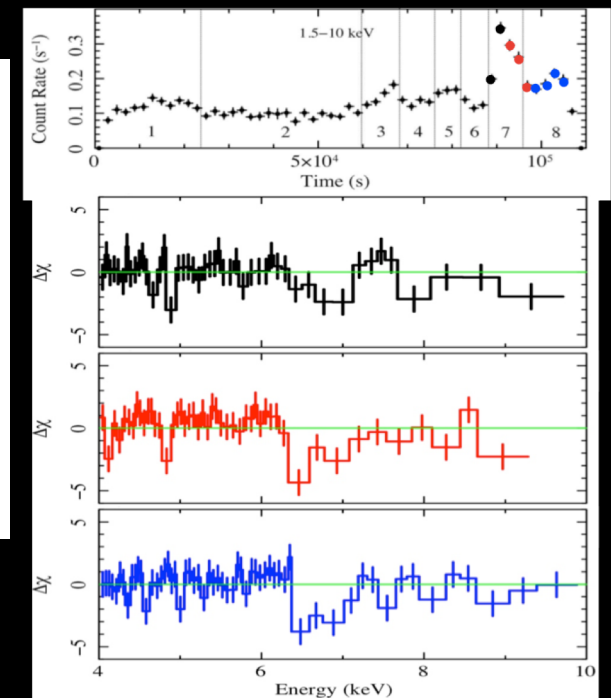
on time scales of months



on time scales of days



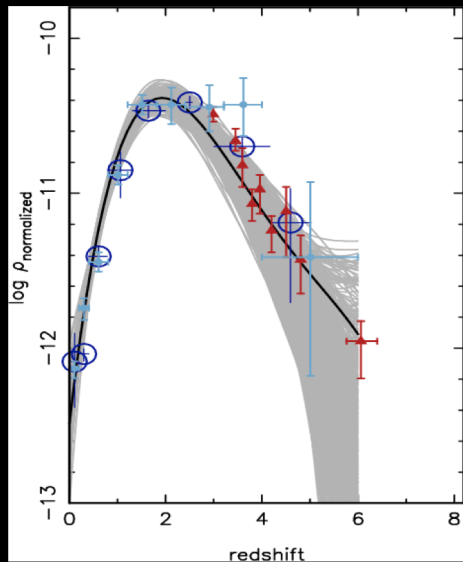
on time scales of hours



Giustini, MC, et al. 2012

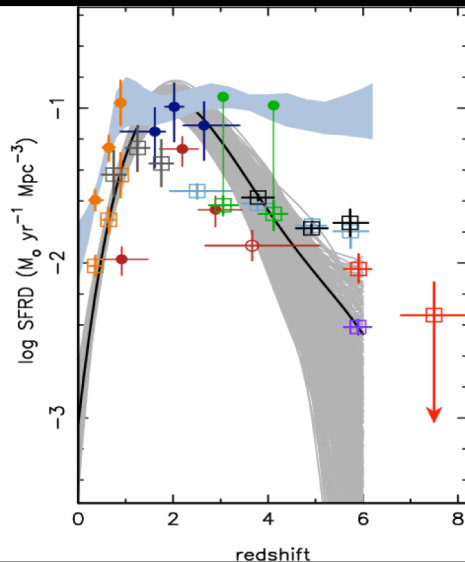


# UFOs and/or FeK complex features seen also (no, always!) in lensed high-z QSOs



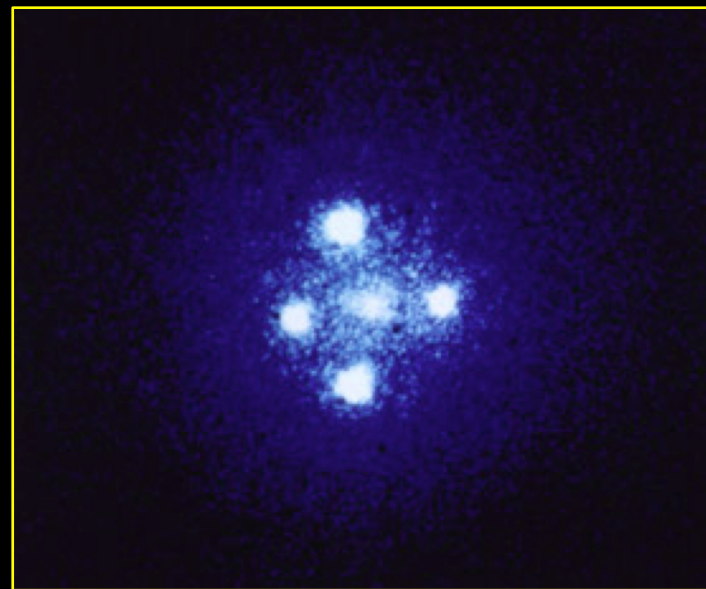
QSO space density

Madau et al. '96;



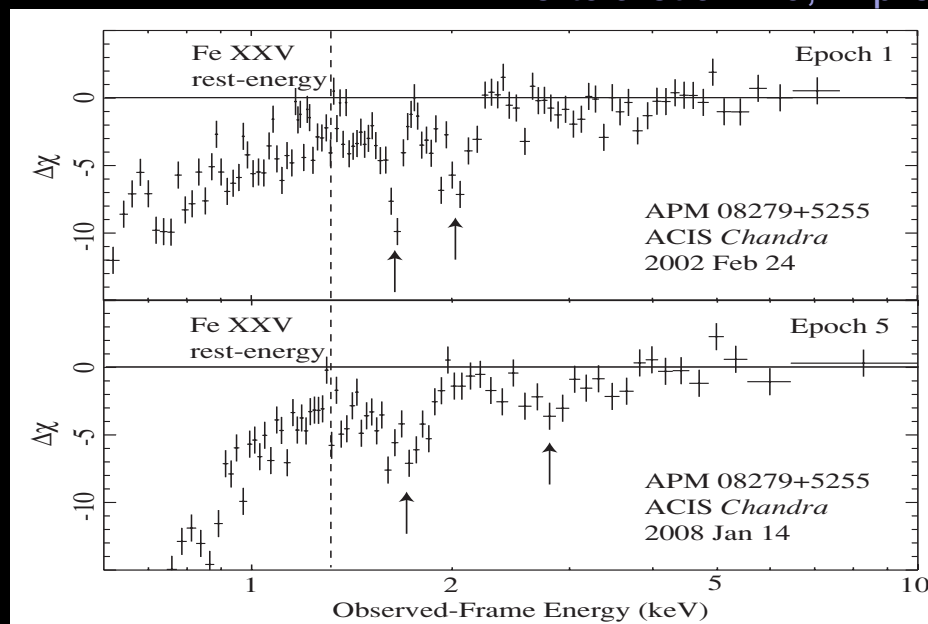
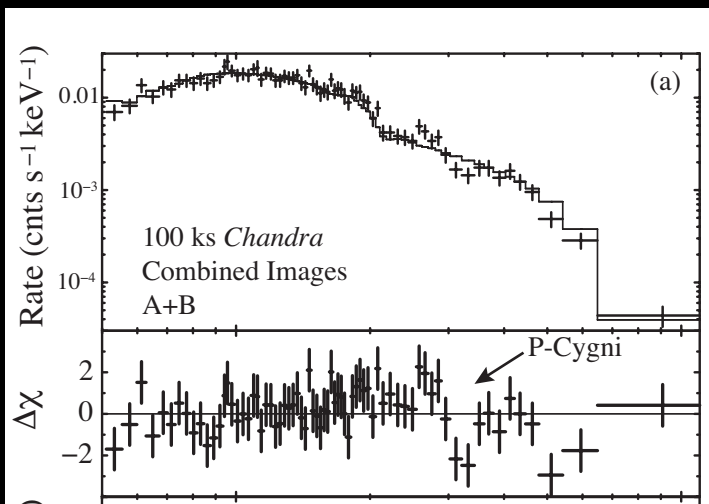
SFR space density

Wall et al. '05



$V_{out} \sim 0.2-0.76 c$  Chartas et al. 2009  
Bertola et al. '19, in prep

Chartas et al. 2014



# Summary - part I

After introducing the BH and AGN paradigm, we have reviewed 3 major “models” of AGN:

## Model I: 2-phase model (radio-quiet AGNs)

1. Multi-T black-body emission (soft-excess)
2. Thermal Comptonization (power-law)
3. Reflection (FeK line + Compton hump)
4. Absorption (ionized, partially covering, etc.)

## Model II: Jet Model (radio-loud AGNs)

1. Synchrotron
2. Inverse Compton (non-thermal)

## Model III: Inefficient model (LLAGNs)

1. Synchrotron
2. Bremsstrahlung (thermal)

See  
Paola  
Grandi's  
lesson

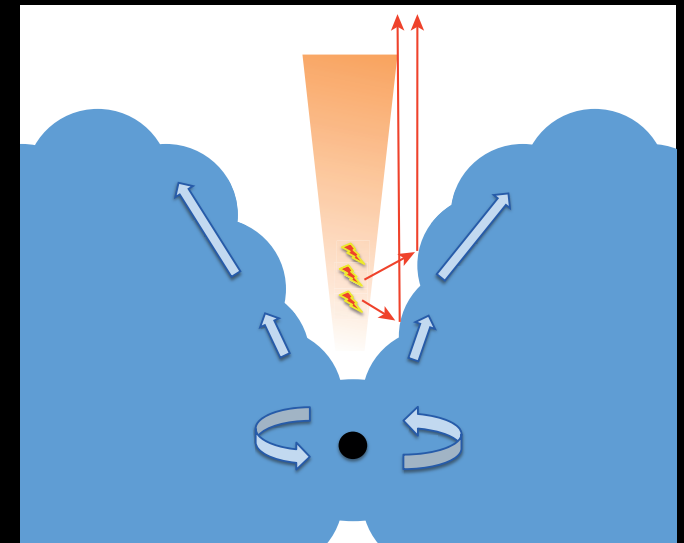
## Summary - part II

Goal of the lectures: Give introductory information on the two-phases model of RQAGNs, and in particular on reflection vs absorption phenomena

N.B: This is not a “mere” fitting exercise but major physical differences in the two hypothesis:

- ✓ **Relativistic Reflection:** Produced within few ( $<10$ )  $R_g$  and carries information on BH spin and mass
- ✓ **(Very) Complex Absorption:** Produced farther at 100s  $R_g$  and carries information on wind/jet base/feedback
- ✓ **Very difficult to distinguish**, case by case, between the two hypotheses. Maybe interlinked phenomena!?

**A unified view? within  $100R_g$ ?:**  
**A relativistic, outflowing, accretion disc?**



Kara et al. '16  
Super-Edd. discs

Thank you for your  
attention

Questions

