

# Optical polarimetry of AGN: insights on accretion disk, BLR and dust sublimation

Elena Shablovinskaya

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Mikhail Piotrovich<sup>6</sup>, Stanislava Buliga<sup>6</sup>, Tinatin Natsvlishvili<sup>6</sup>,  
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<sup>5</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Padova

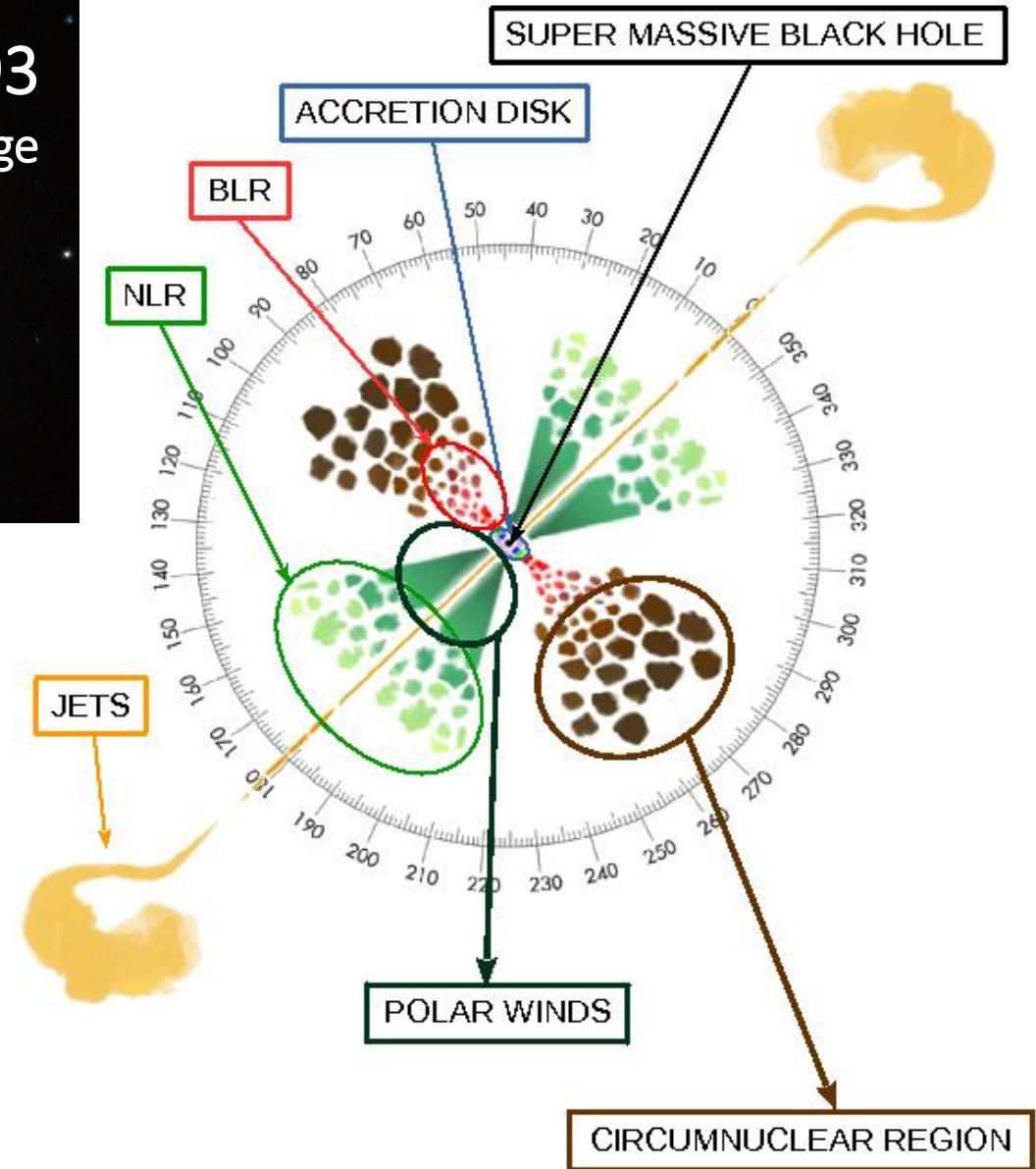
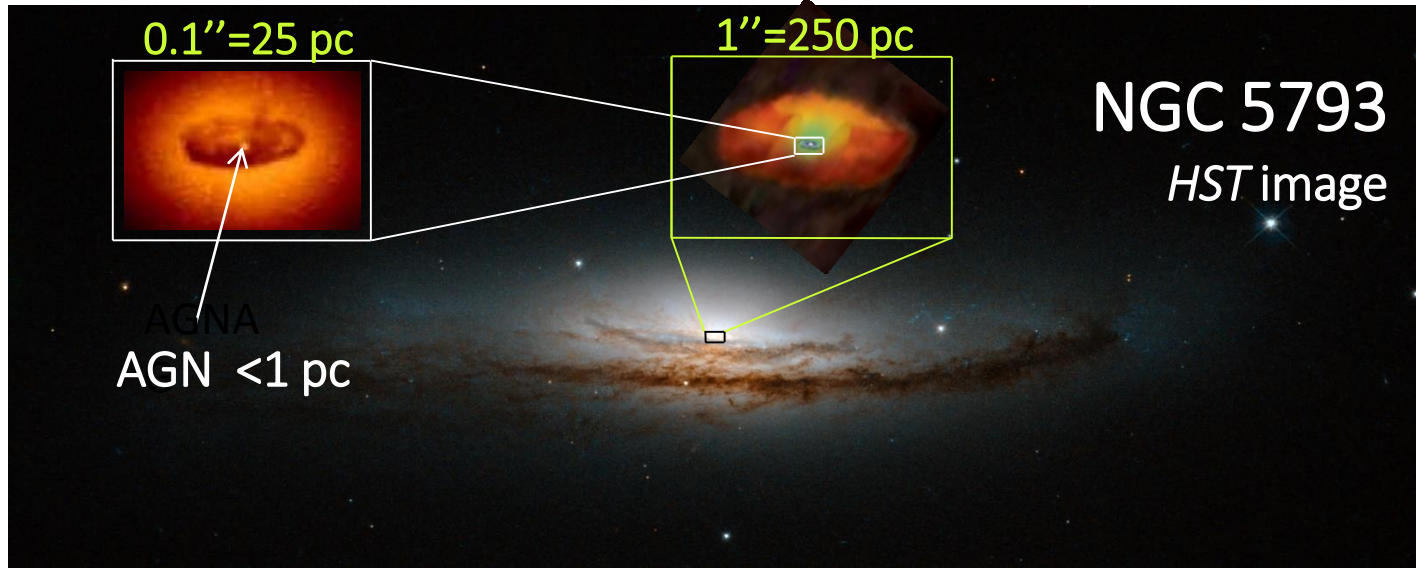
<sup>6</sup>Pulkovo Observatory

<sup>7</sup>Institute of Astronomy and NAO, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

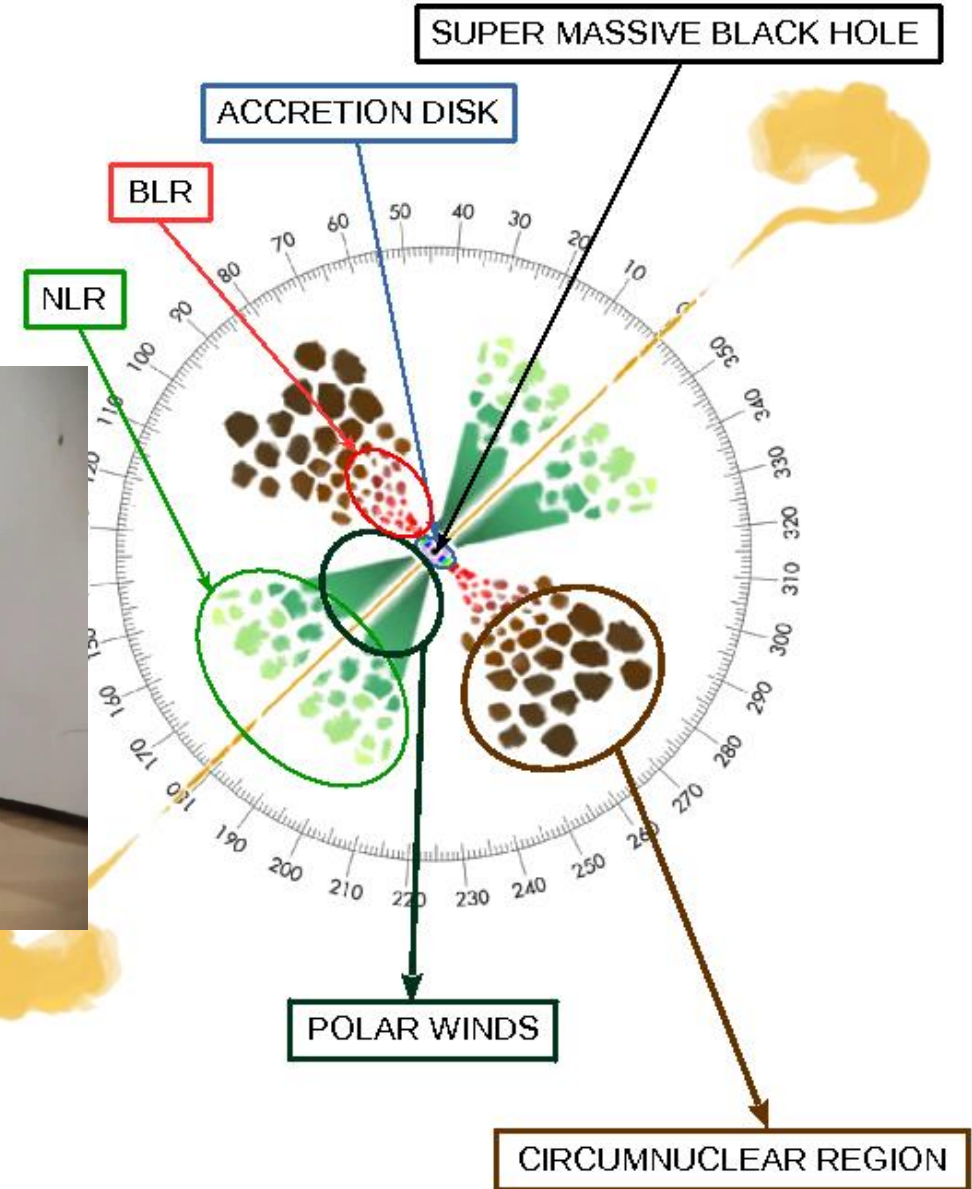
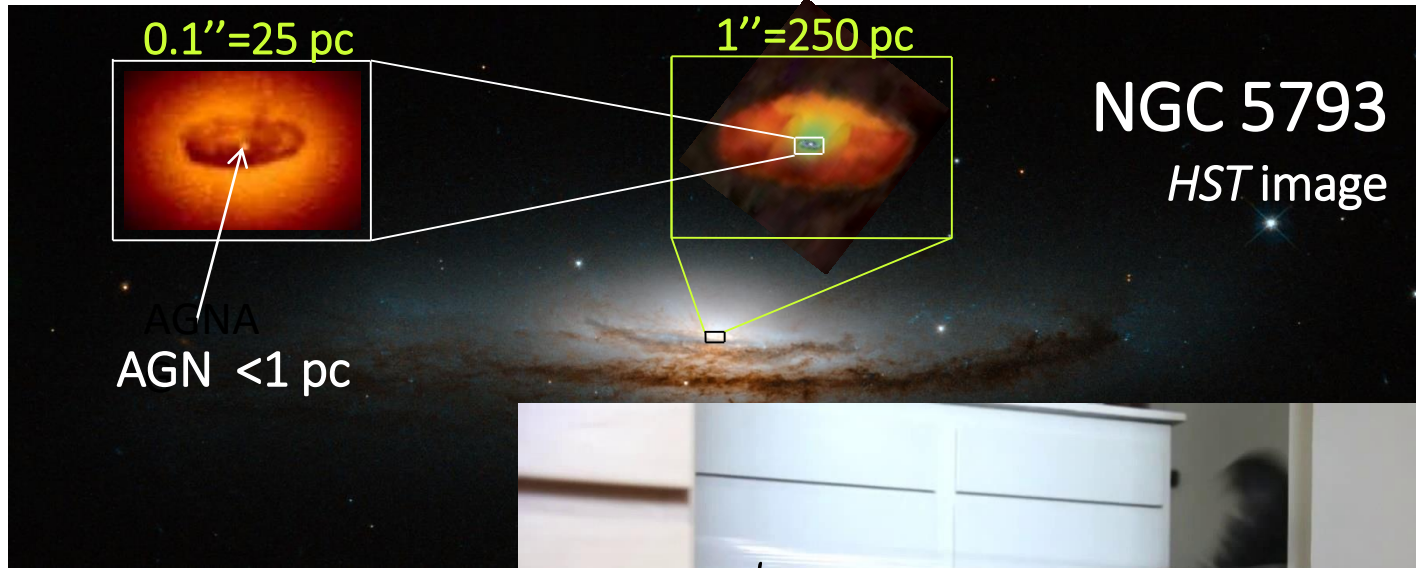


Главная (Пулковская)  
астрономическая  
обсерватория РАН

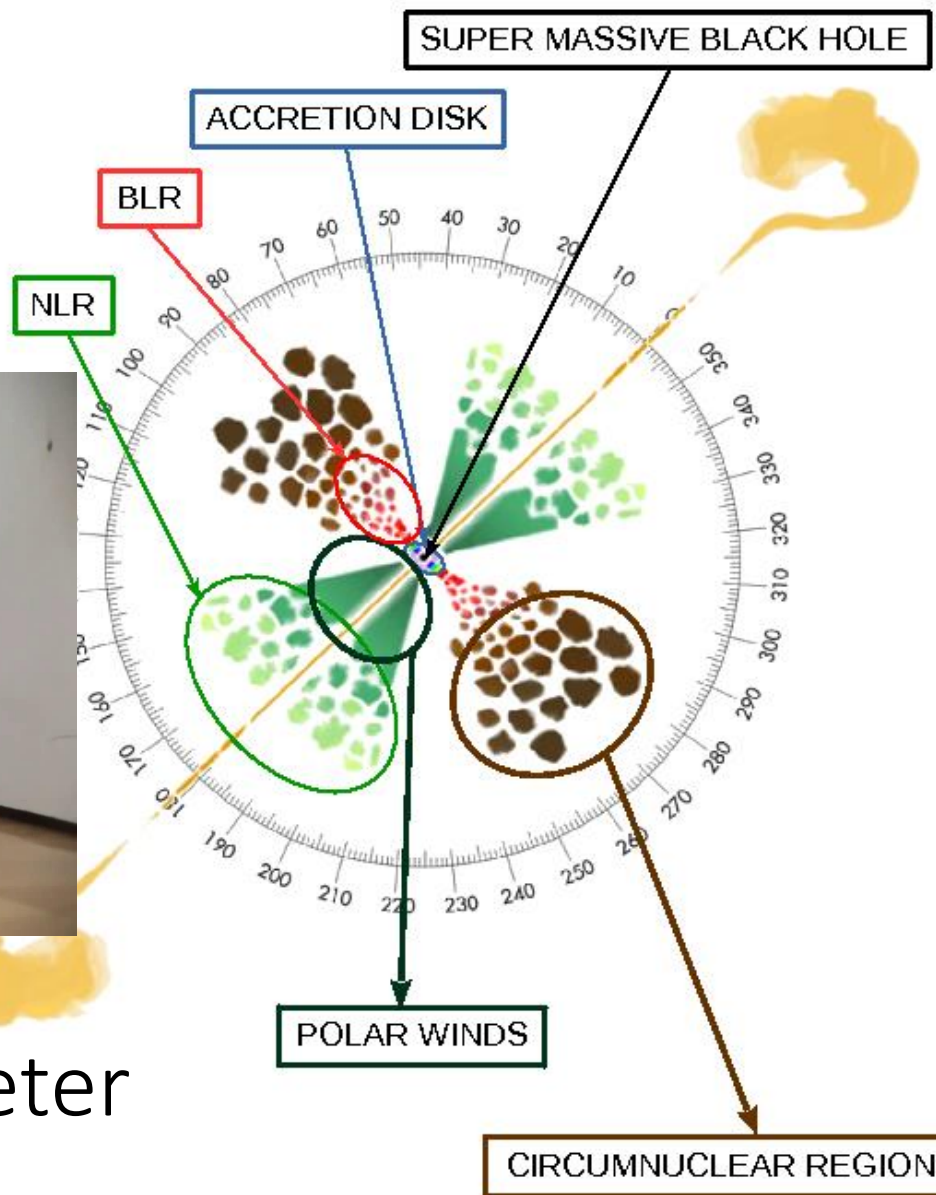
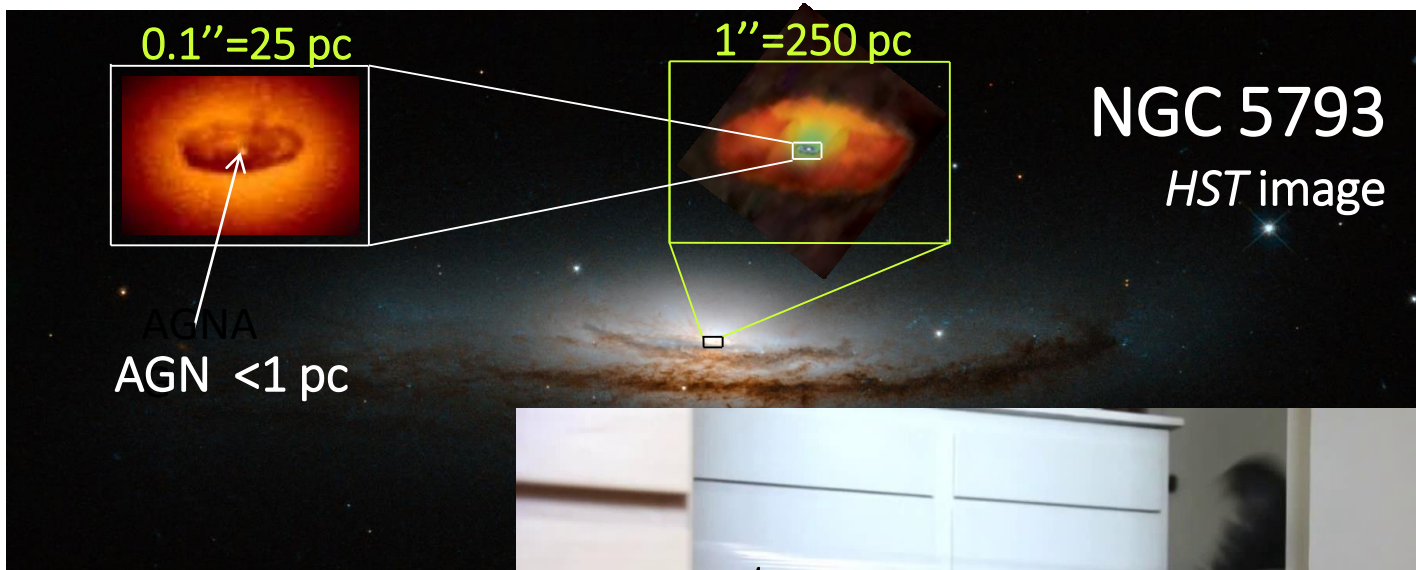
# AGN – general



# AGN – general

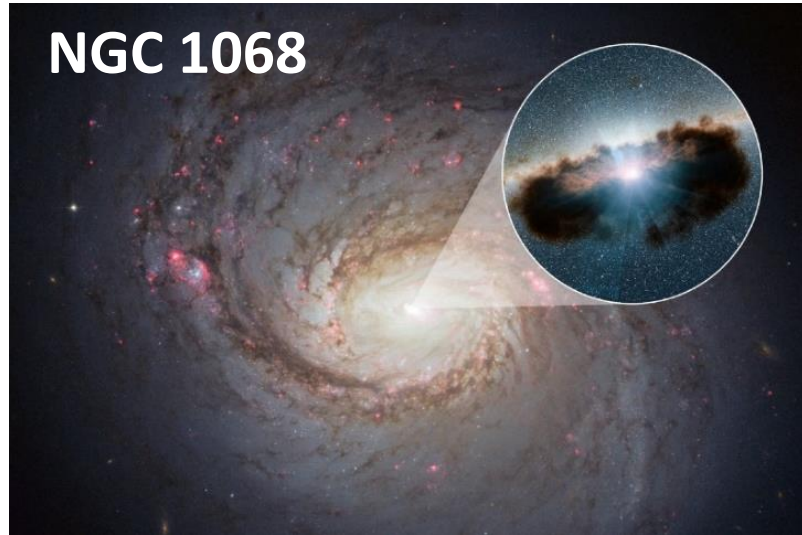


# AGN – general



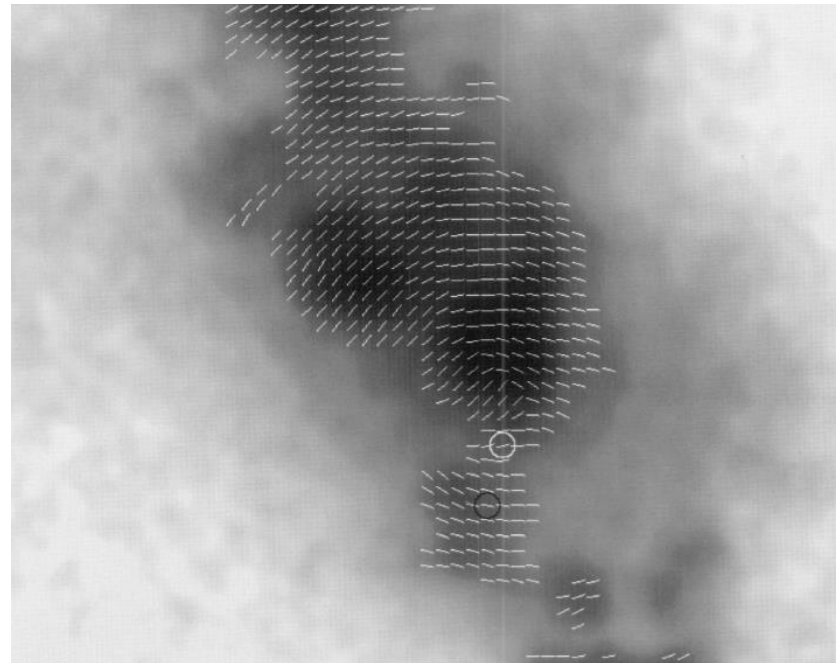
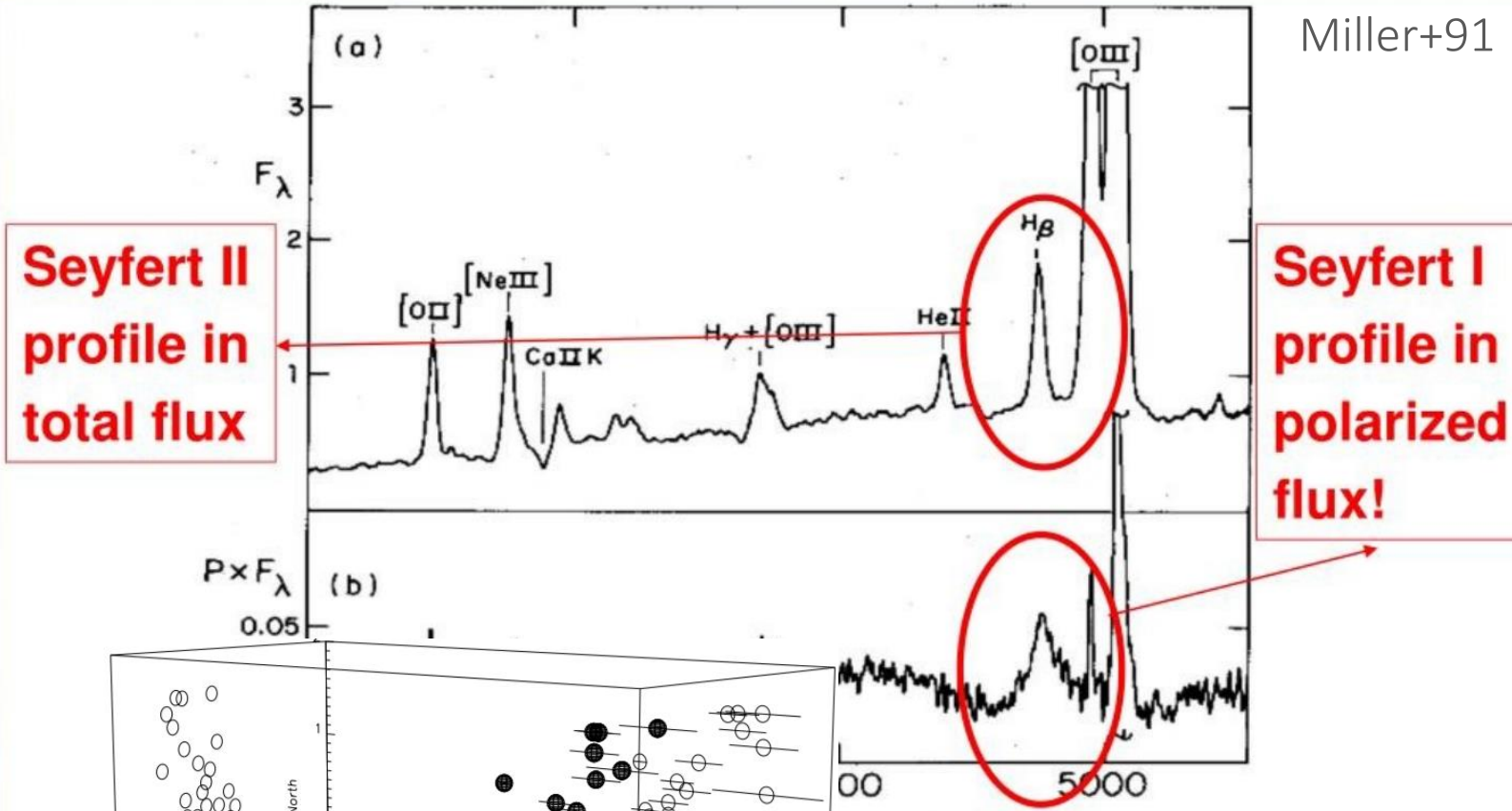
Polarization is an additional parameter

# AGN in polarized light



**Seyfert II profile in total flux**

**Seyfert I profile in polarized flux!**

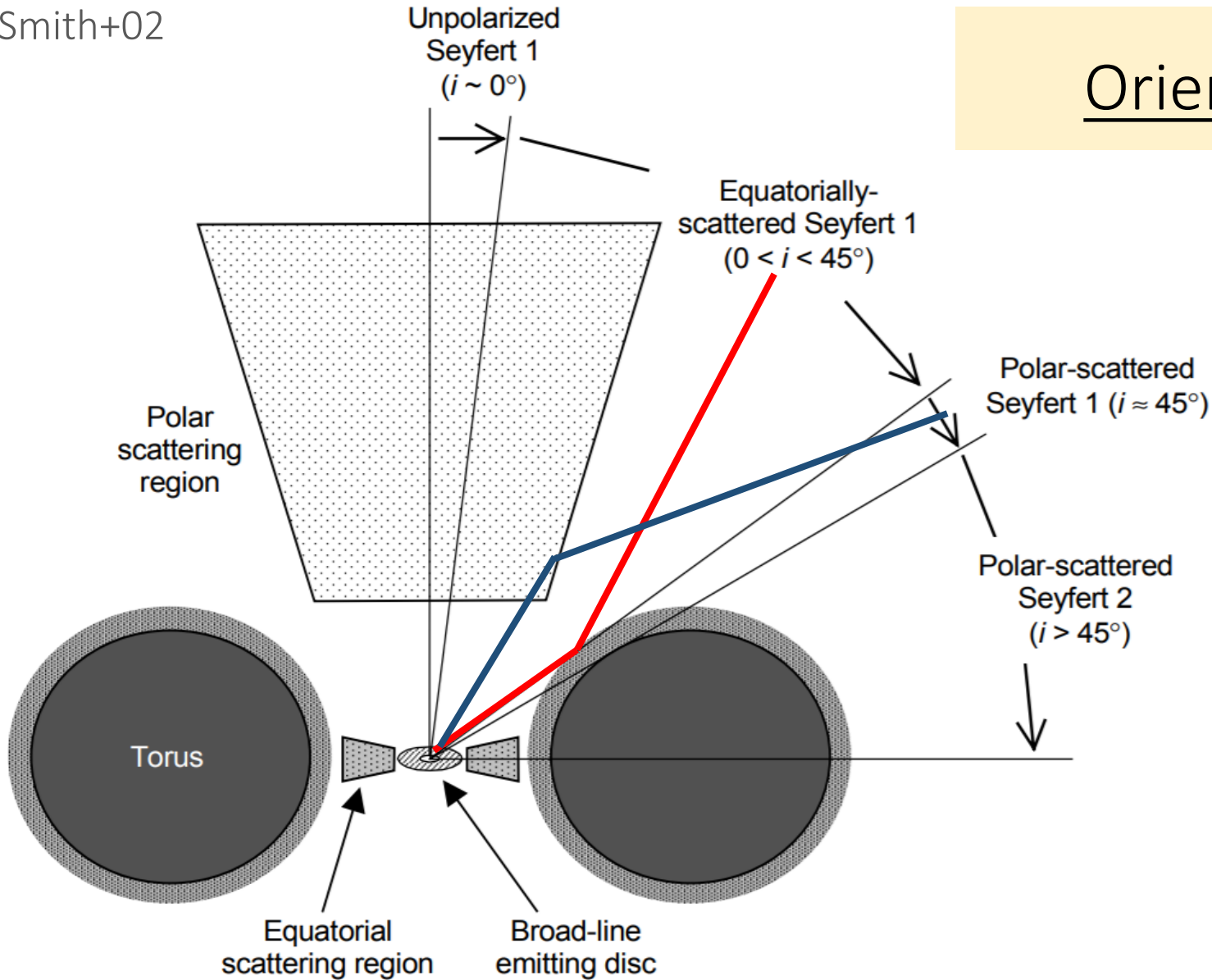


Point-source scattering  
2D distribution  $\rightarrow$   
3D clouds distribution

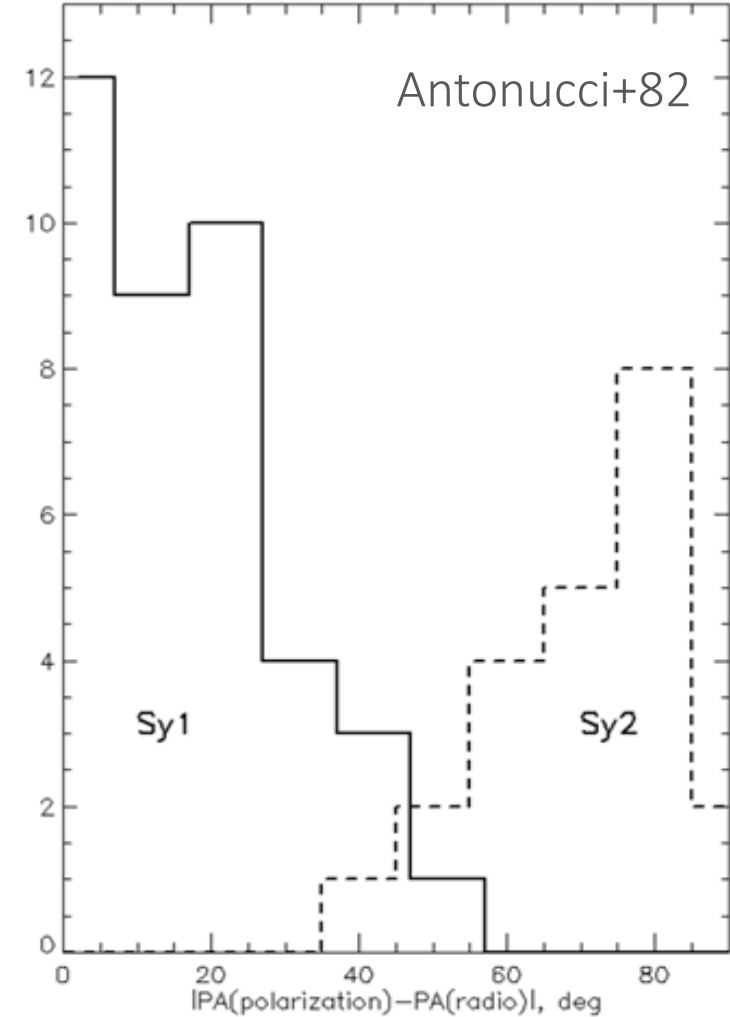
Kishimoto+99

# AGN in polarized light

Smith+02



## Orientation dependent



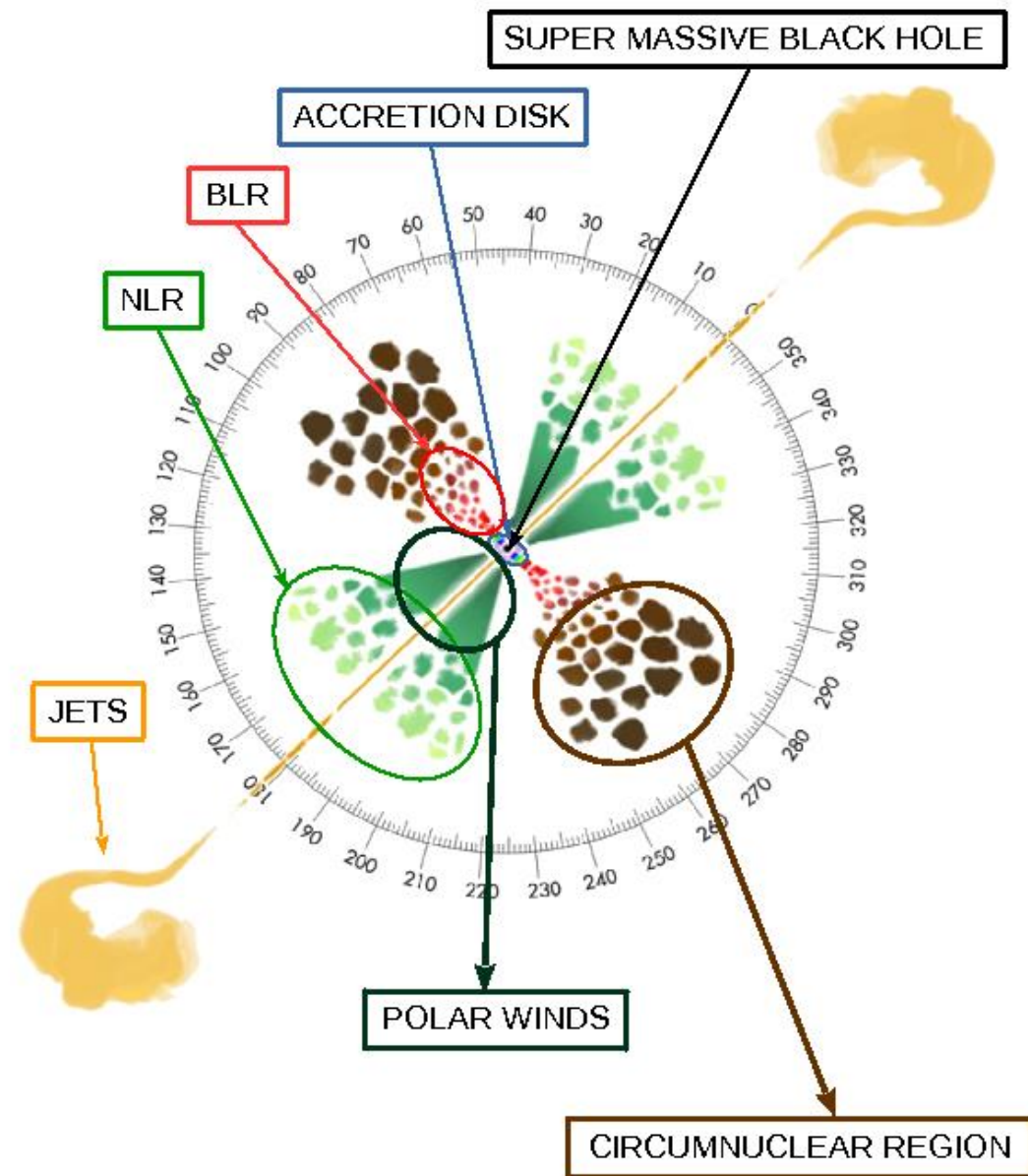
# Polarization mechanisms

## INSIDE

- Scattering – Thomson, Rayleigh, etc.
- Jet synchrotron radiation
- Faraday rotation

## OUTSIDE

- Polar scattering by ionization cone
- Equatorial scattering by dusty torus



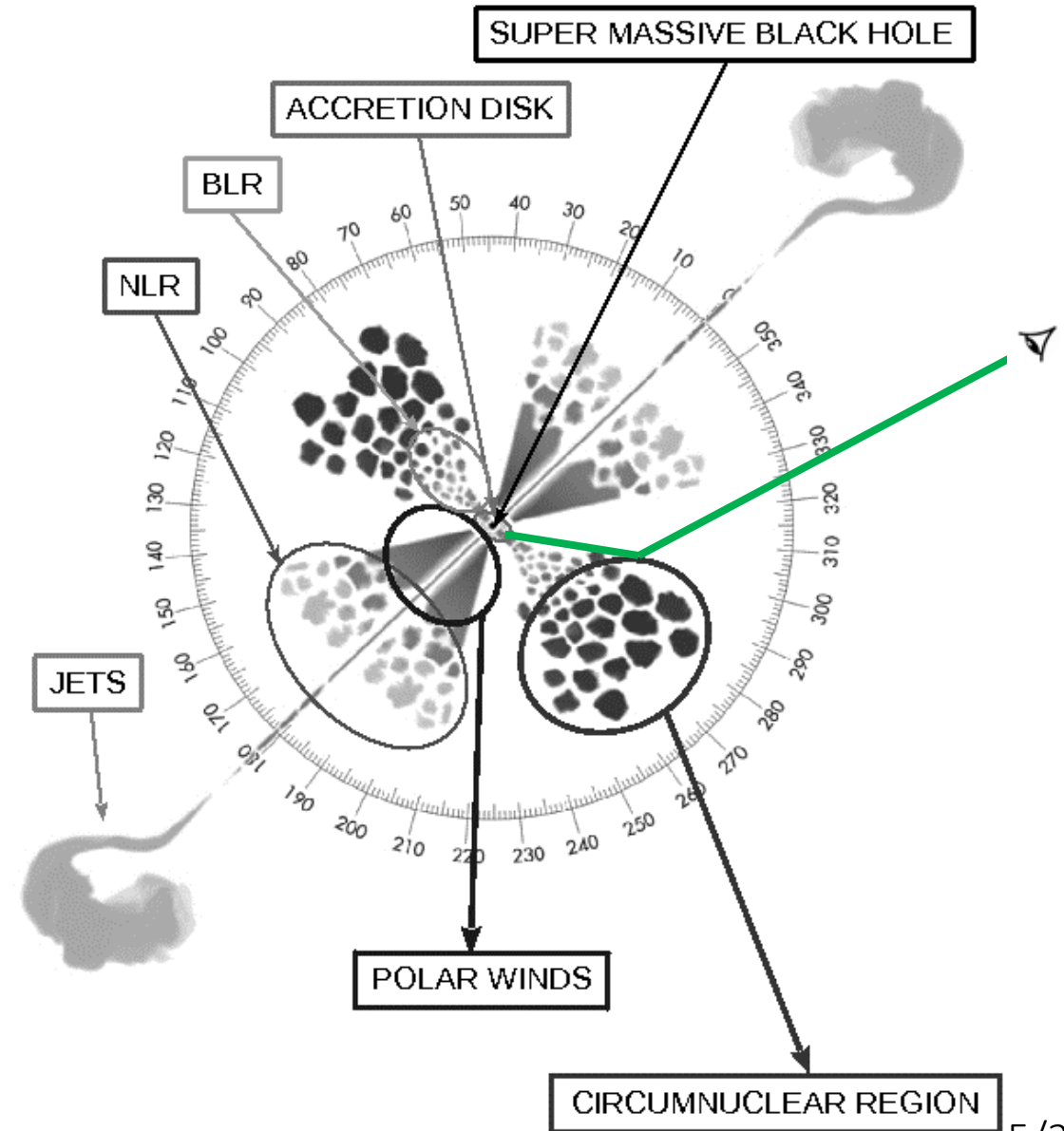
# Polarization mechanisms

## INSIDE

- Scattering – Thomson, Rayleigh, etc.
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## OUTSIDE

- Polar scattering by ionization cone
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# Observational technique

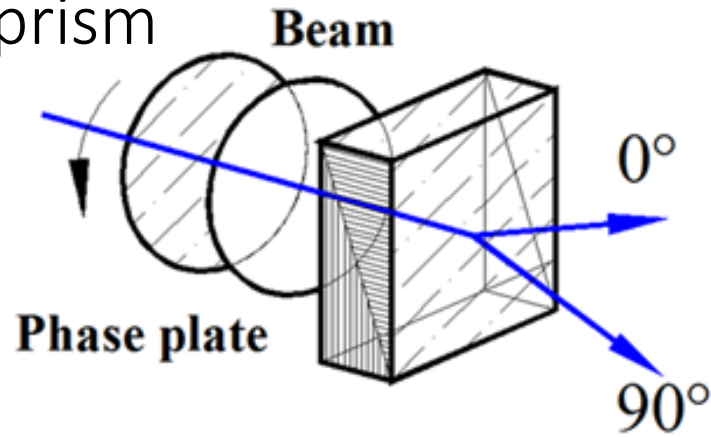
*AGN spectropolarimetry:*

- 6m BTA/SCORPIO-2
- 8.2m VLT/FORS2
- 8.2m Subaru/FOCAS
- 10m SALT/RSS



# Observational technique – basics

Wollaston prism



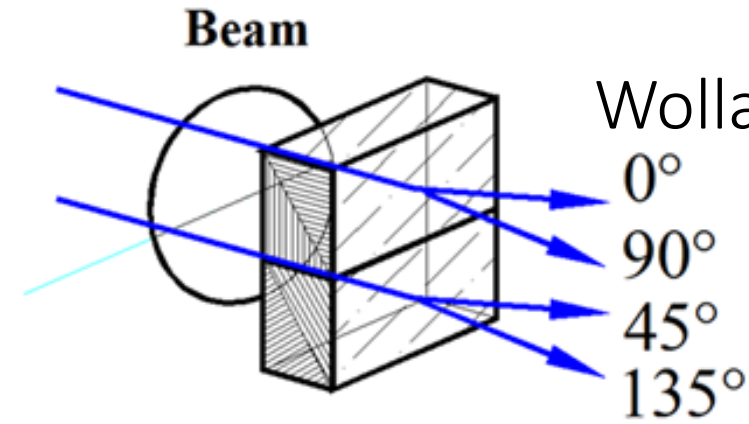
$$Q(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda) - I_{90}(\lambda)}{I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)} \right)_{\phi=0} - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda) - I_{90}(\lambda)}{I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)} \right)_{\phi=22.5},$$

$$U(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda) - I_{90}(\lambda)}{I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)} \right)_{\phi=0} - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda) - I_{90}(\lambda)}{I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)} \right)_{\phi=67.5},$$

$$I(\lambda) = \sum_{\phi} [I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)]_{\phi}, \quad \phi = 0, 45, 22.5, 67.5$$

Double

Wollaston prism



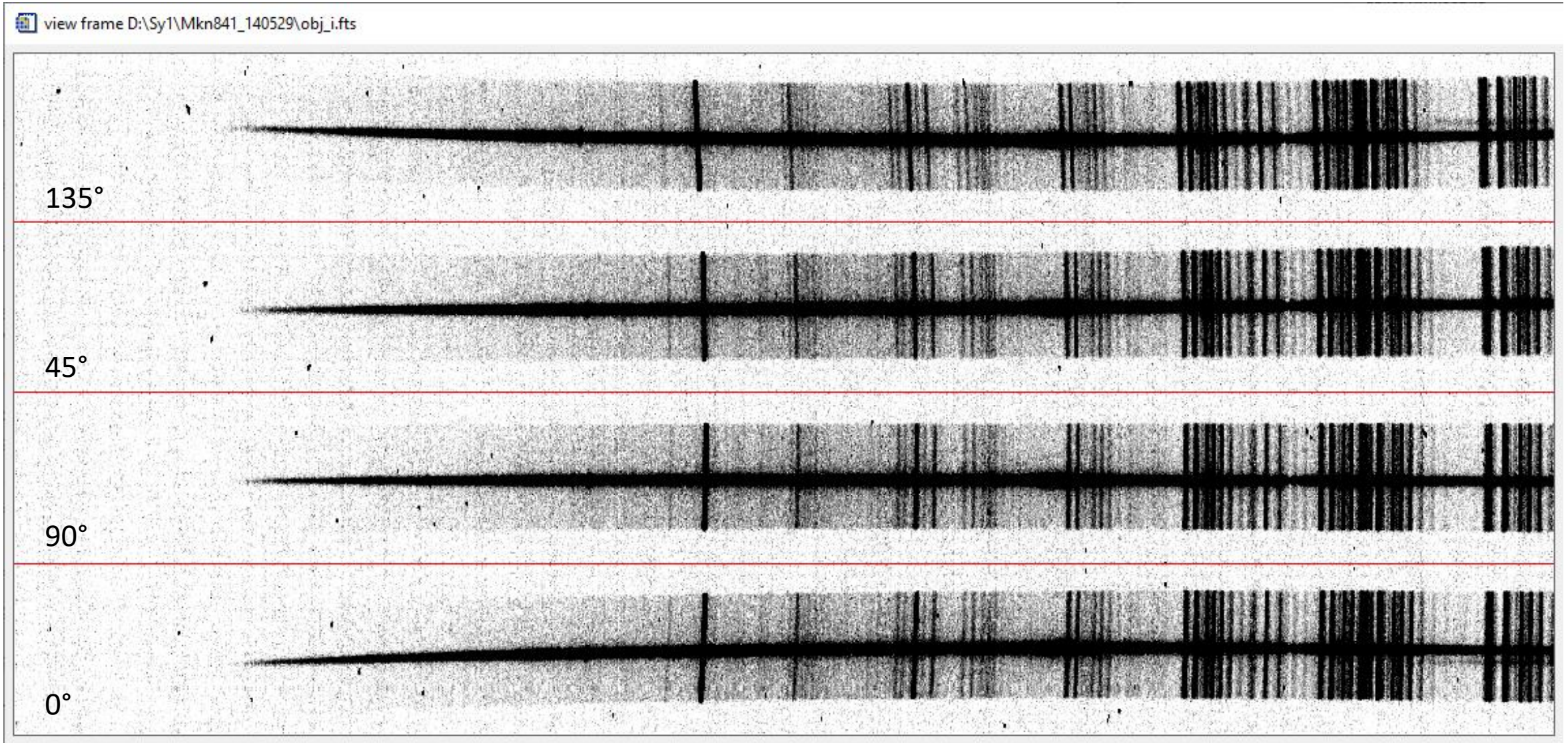
$$Q(\lambda) = \frac{I_0(\lambda) - I_{90}(\lambda)}{I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda)},$$

$$U(\lambda) = \frac{I_{45}(\lambda) - I_{135}(\lambda)}{I_{45}(\lambda) + I_{135}(\lambda)},$$

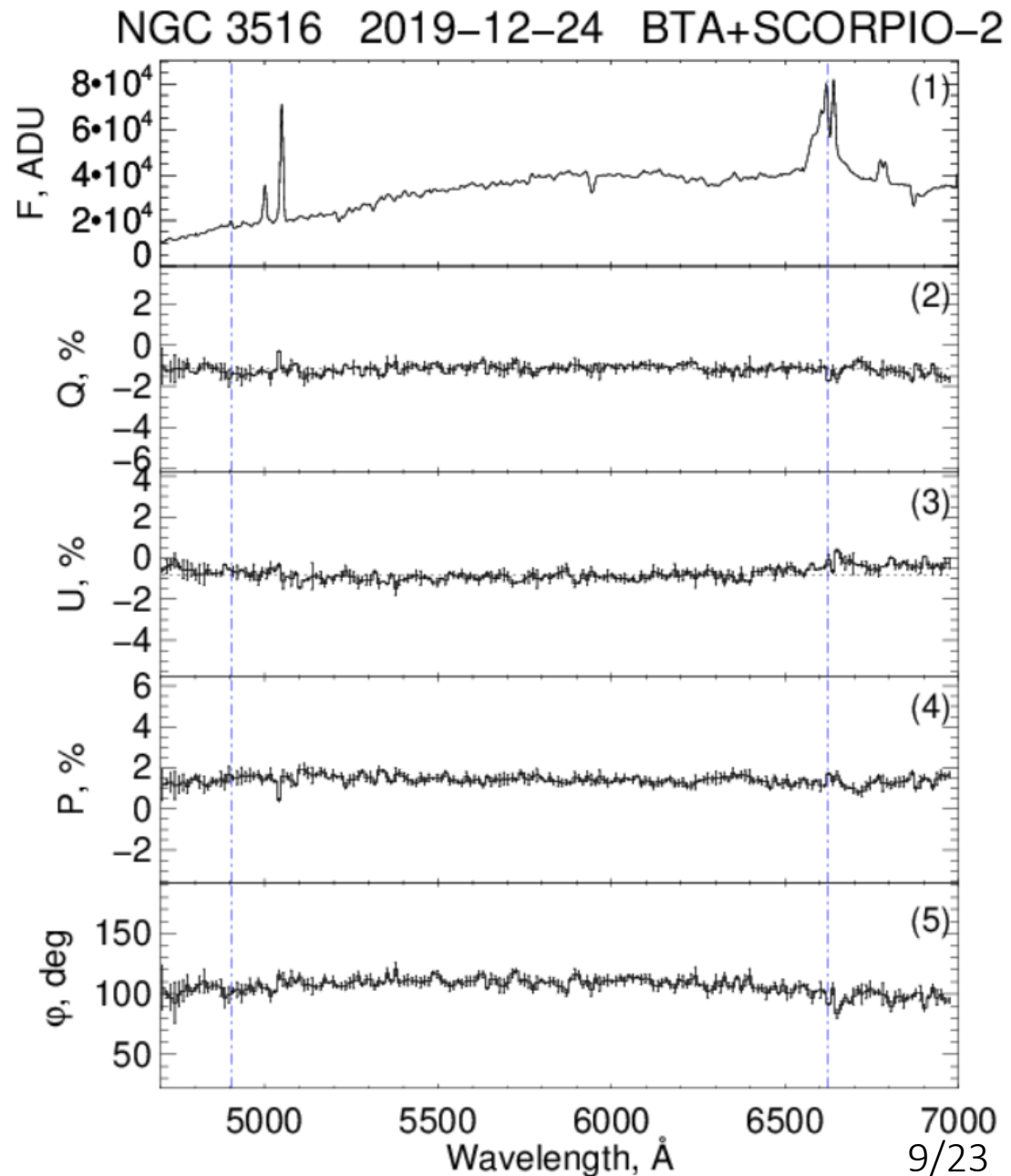
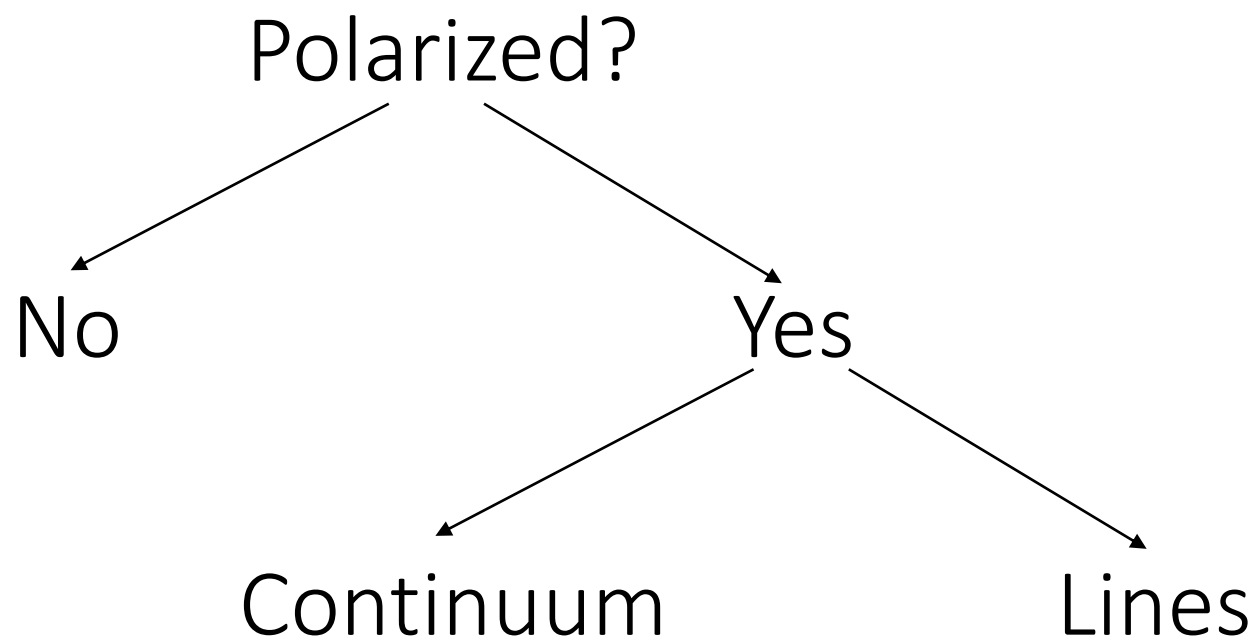
$$I(\lambda) = I_0(\lambda) + I_{90}(\lambda) + I_{45}(\lambda) + I_{135}(\lambda)$$

$$P(\lambda) = \sqrt{Q(\lambda)^2 + U(\lambda)^2} \quad \varphi(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \arctg[U(\lambda)/Q(\lambda)]$$

# Observational technique

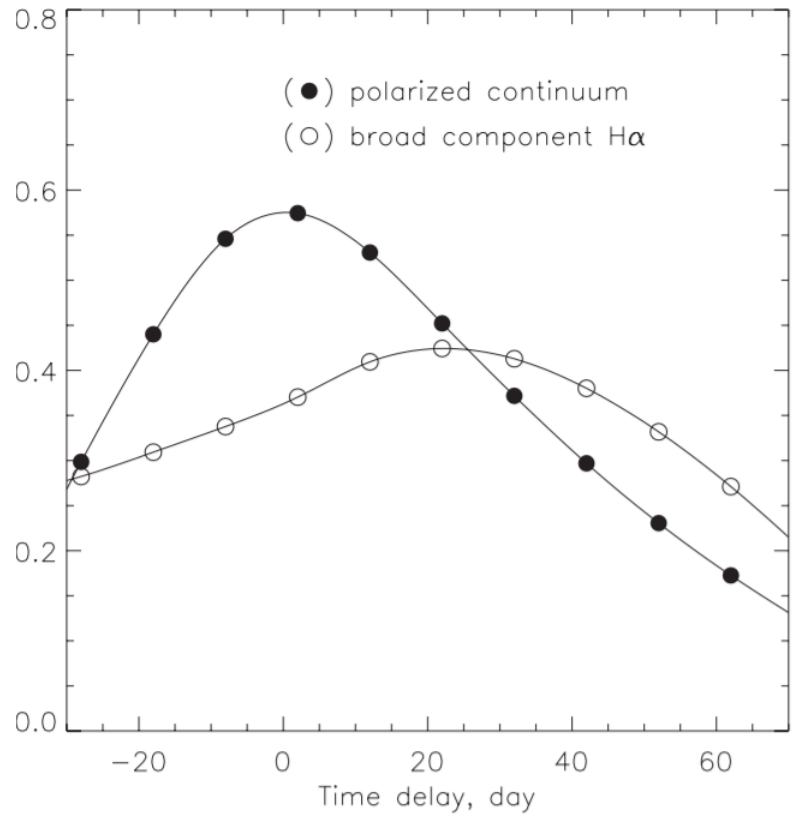
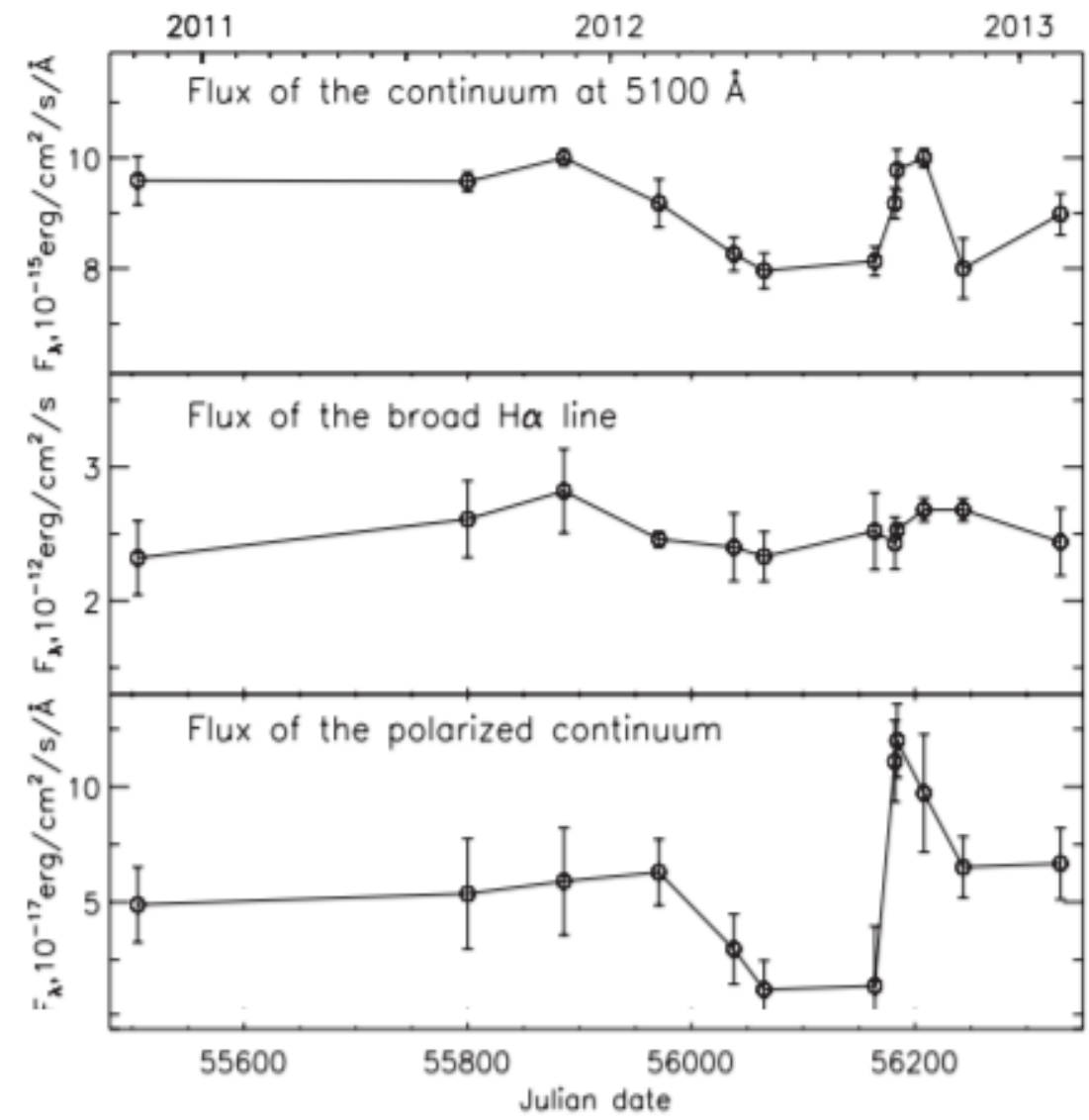


# Polarization – how to interpret



# Polarization in continuum: variability

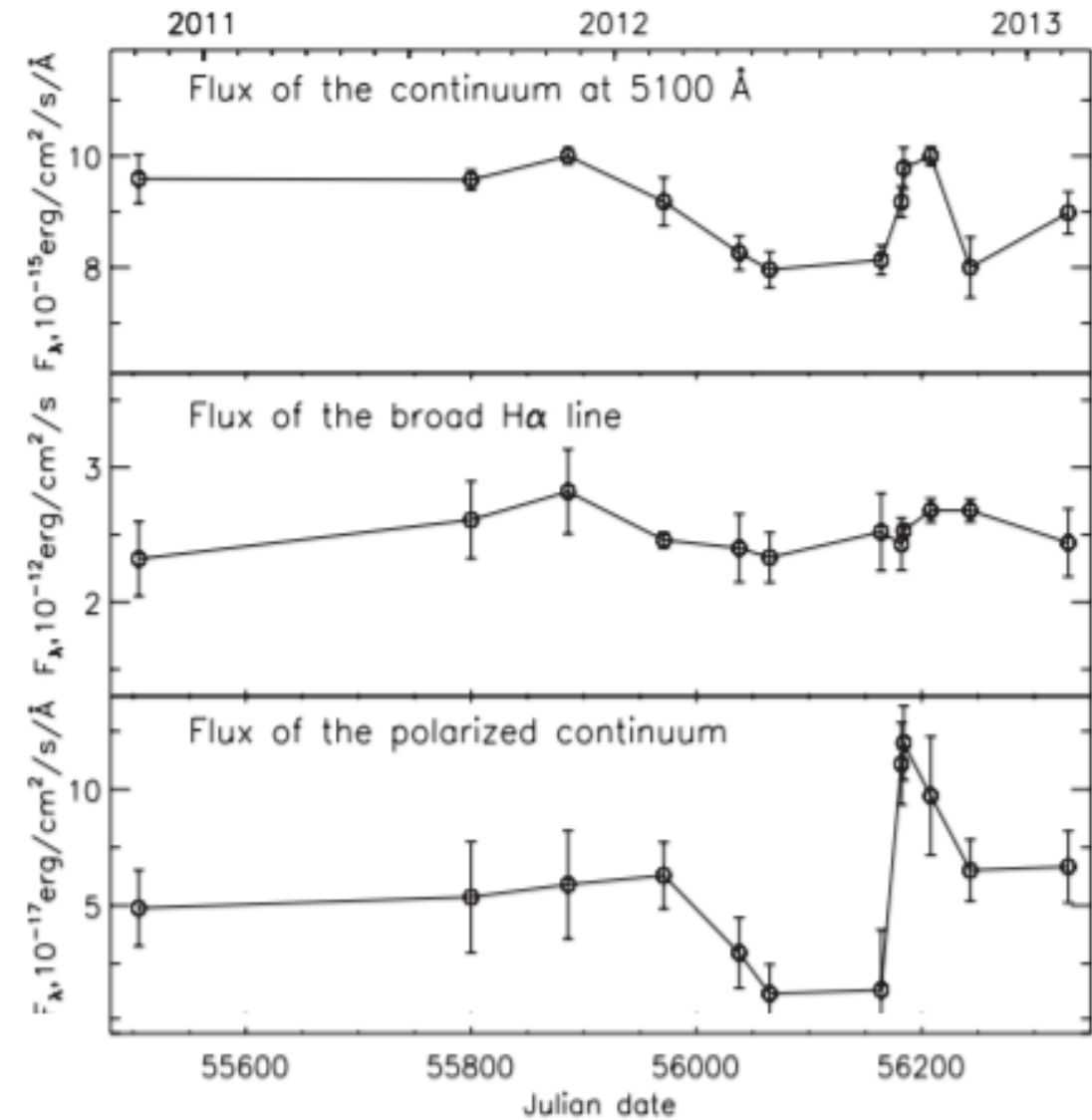
Afanasiev+14,15



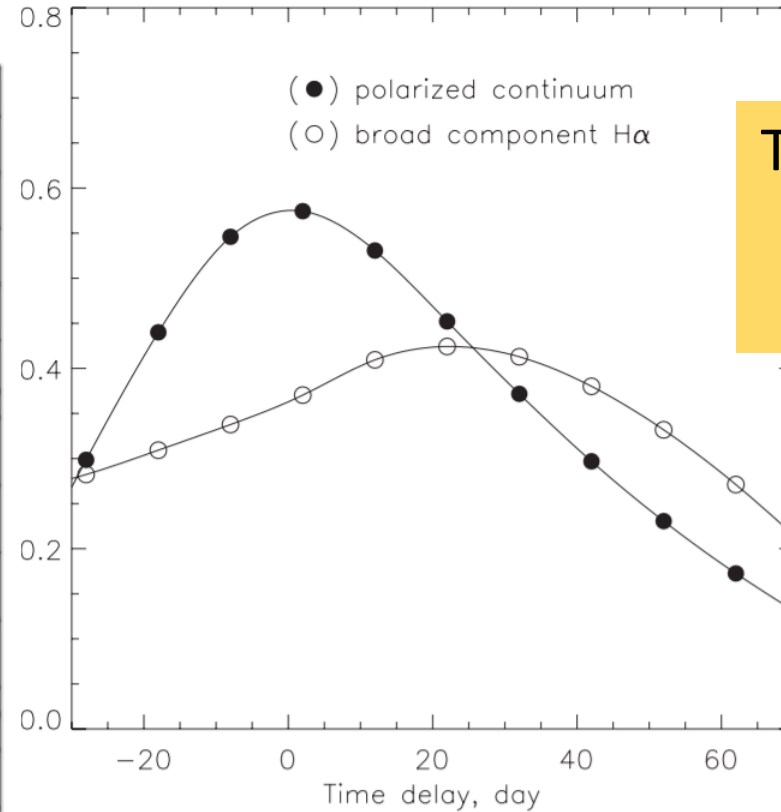
Mrk 6 (Sy 1.5)

- Pol. cont. region – 2 lt days
- BLR H $\alpha$  – 22 lt days

# Polarization in continuum: variability



Afanasiev+14,15



The polarized continuum region is **10 times smaller** than BLR.



Accretion disk

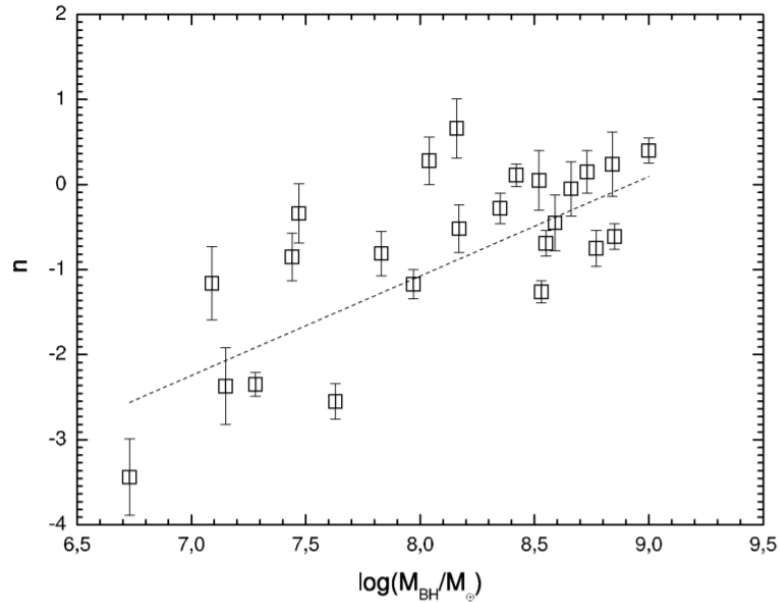
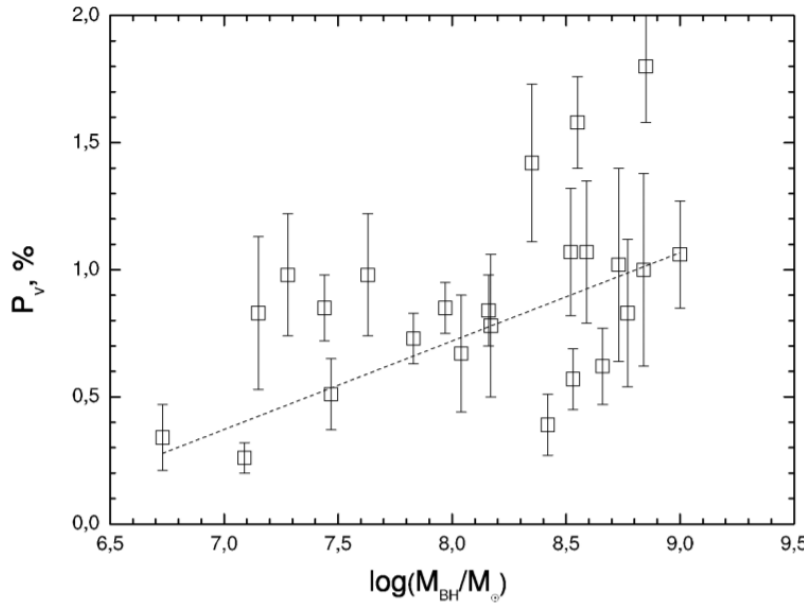
Mrk 6 (Sy 1.5)

- Pol. cont. region – 2 lt days
- BLR H $\alpha$  – 22 lt days

# Polarization in continuum: accretion disk

Afanasiev+11: *if the Faraday rotation on the photon mean free path in the process of scattering by electrons is taken into account, then the polarization and its dependences on the wavelength are completely determined by the magnetic field.*

$$P(\lambda) \sim \lambda^n$$



Object	$p$	$s$	$B(R_\lambda)$ [G]
PG 0007+106	1/2	1	2.43
PG 0026+129	3/4	5/4	1
PG 0049+171	3/4	5/4	13
PG 0157+001	3/4	5/4	98
PG 0804+761	3/4	3/2	3.4
PG 0844+349	3/4	1	37
PG 0953+414	3/4	1	300
PG 1116+215	3/4	3/4	100
PG 2112+059	3/4	2	14.4
PG 2130+099	1/2	1	27
PG 2209+184	1/2	3/4	16
PG 2214+139	1/2	5/4	2.8
PG 2233+134	3/4	3/2	0.37
3C 390.3	3/4	1	6.4

$$T_e(R) \sim R^{-p}$$

$$B(R) \sim B_H (R_H/R)^s$$



$$P_l \sim \frac{P_l(0, \mu)}{B_{z,\perp} \lambda^2} \sim \lambda^{(s/p-2)}$$



Magnetic field  $B(R)$

# Polarization in continuum: SMBH spin

Afanasiev+18: SMBH spins

$$\mu^{3/2} l_E = 0.201 \left( \frac{L_{5100}}{10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{3/2} \frac{\varepsilon(\boldsymbol{a})}{M_8^2}$$

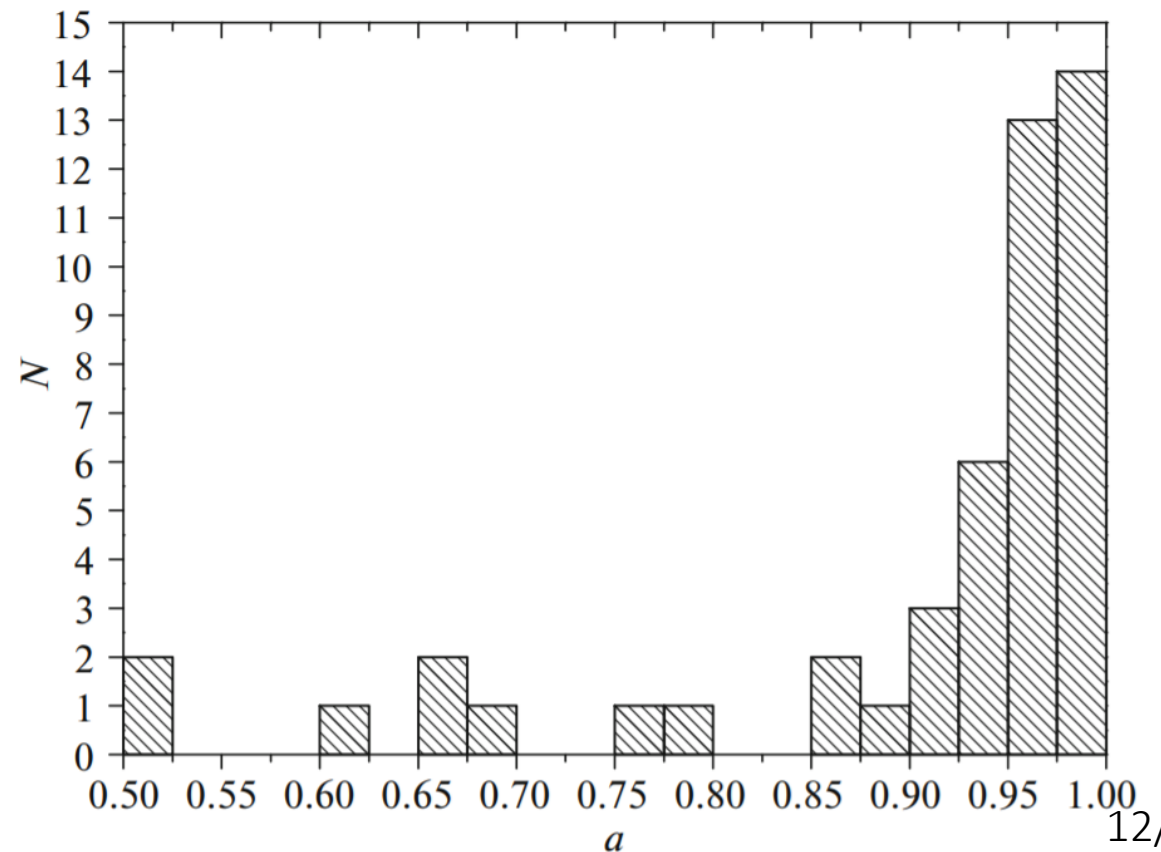
$P_l$ : observations vs. Sobolev-Chandrasekhar theory  $\Rightarrow \mu = \cos^2(i)$

$\varepsilon(\boldsymbol{a}) \Rightarrow a$

47 type 1 active galaxies



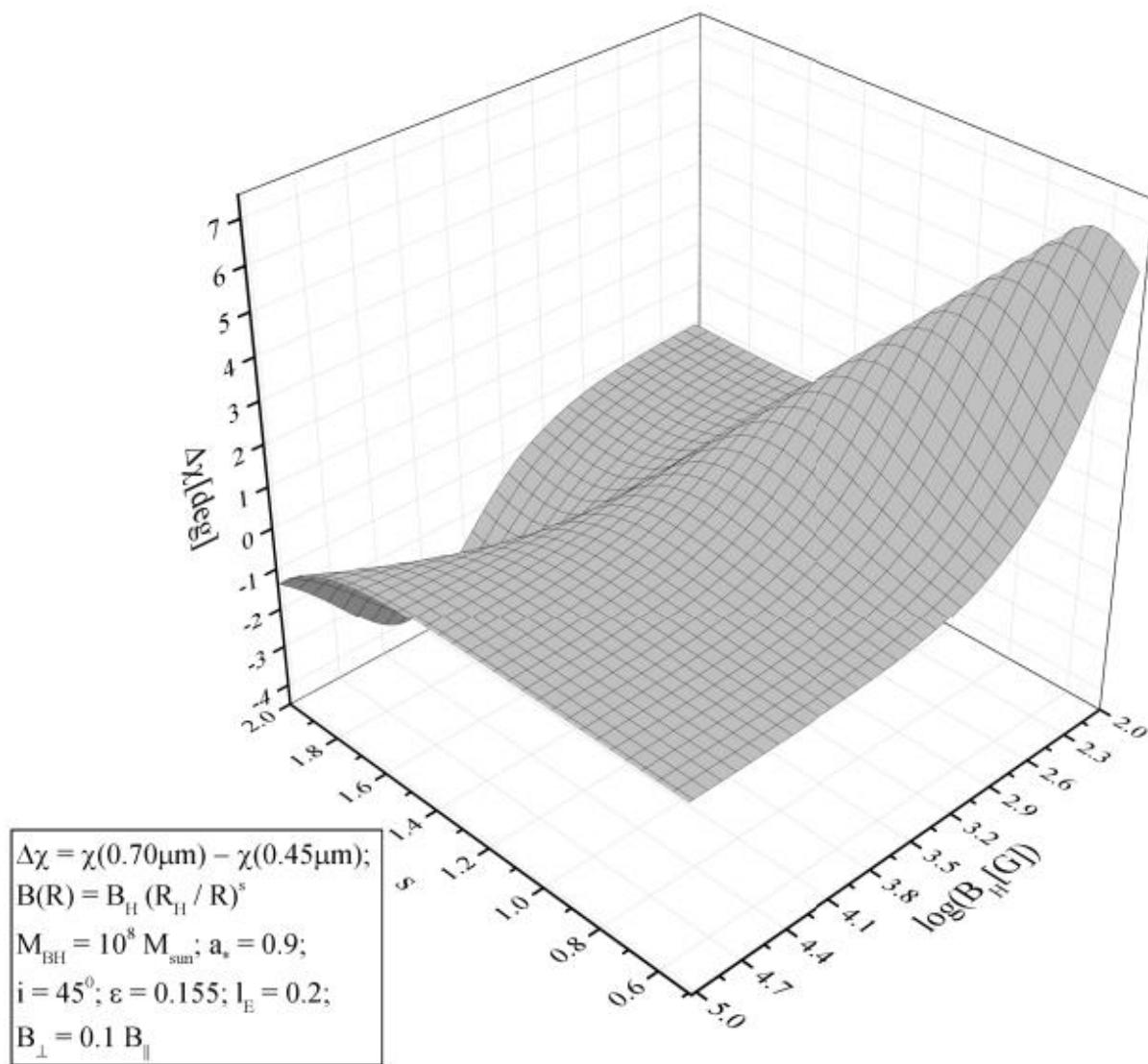
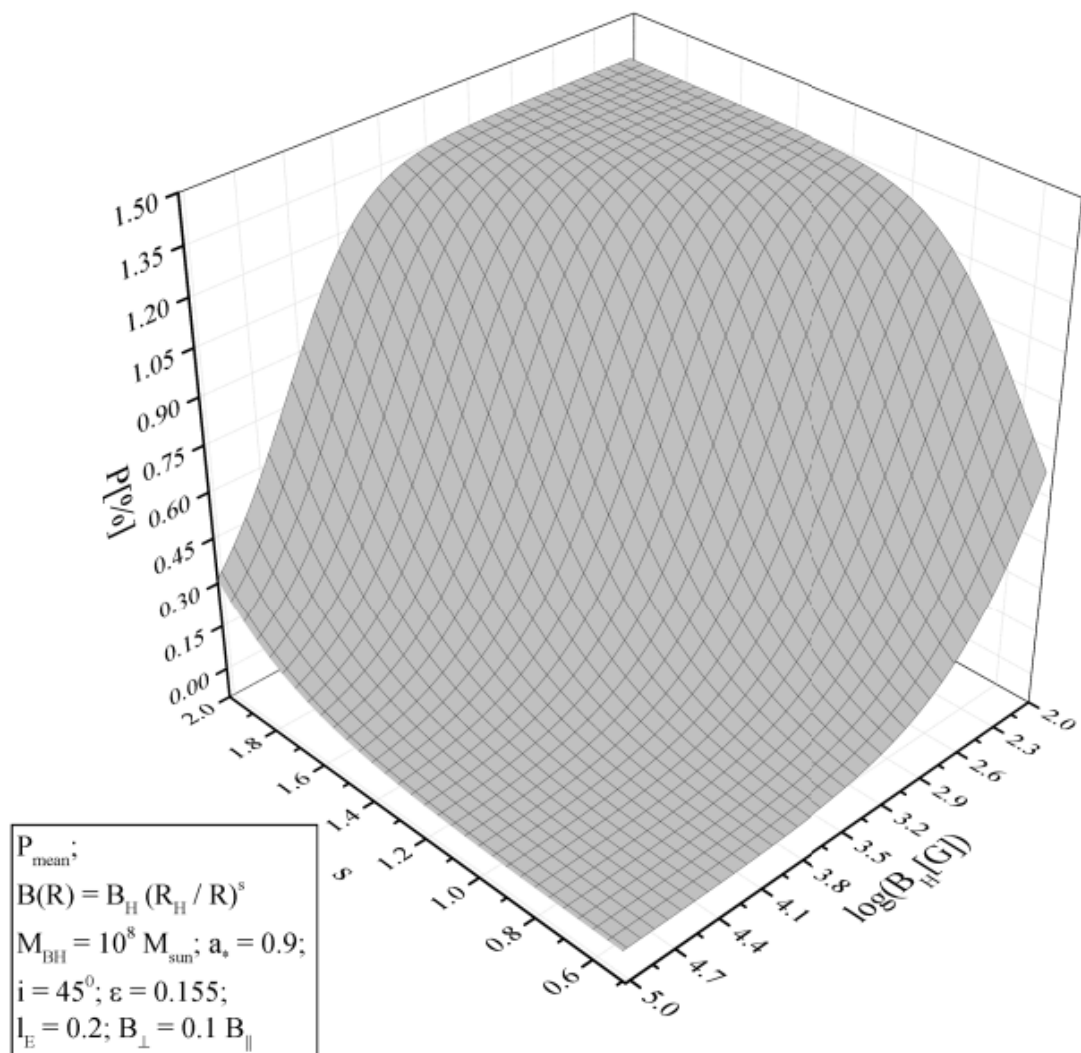
**Kerr supermassive  
black holes**





# Polarization in continuum

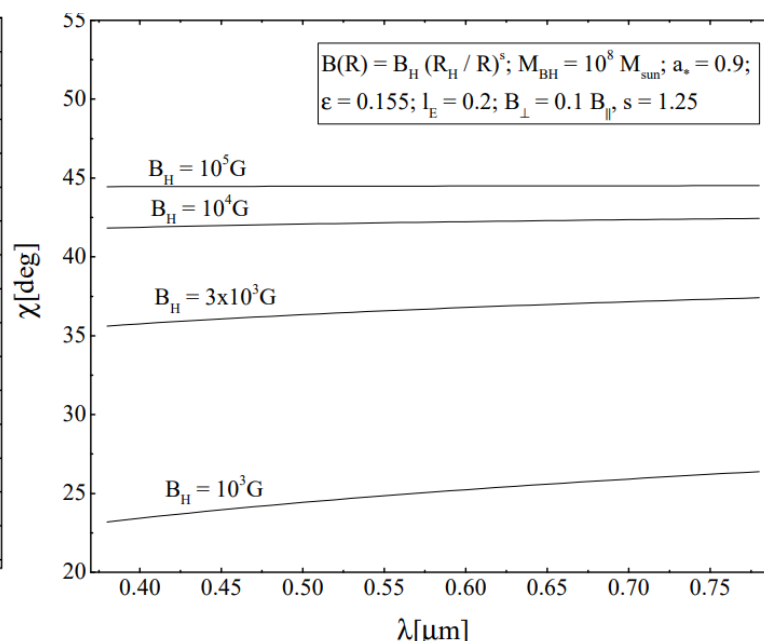
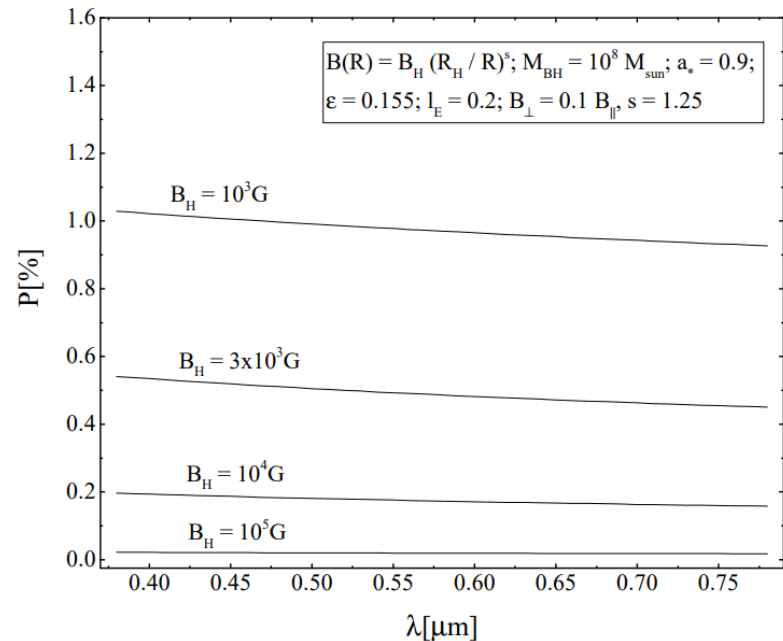
Piotrovich+21



# Polarization in continuum

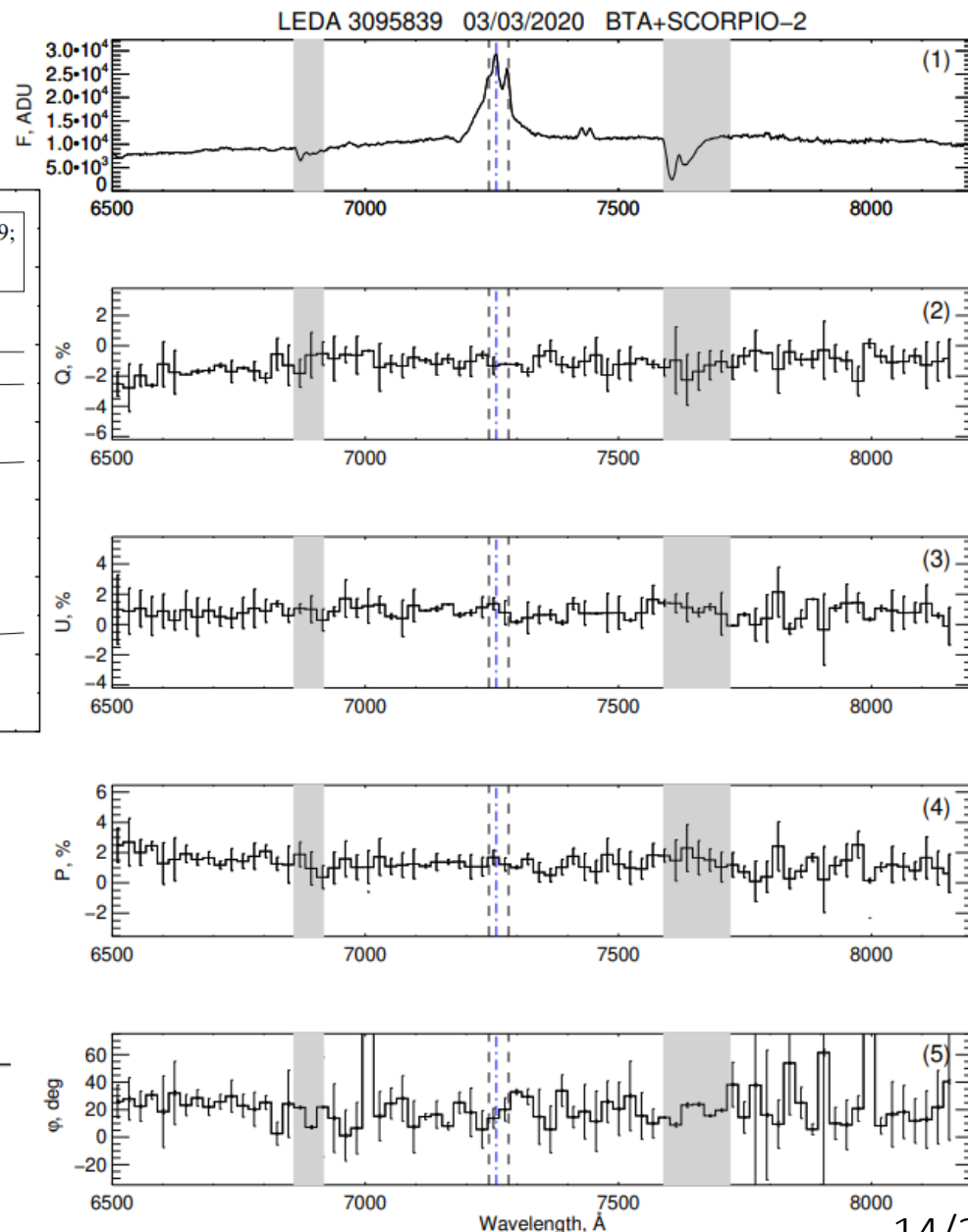
**J0853+77 = LEDA 3095839**

$\langle P \rangle = 0.9 \pm 0.4\%$

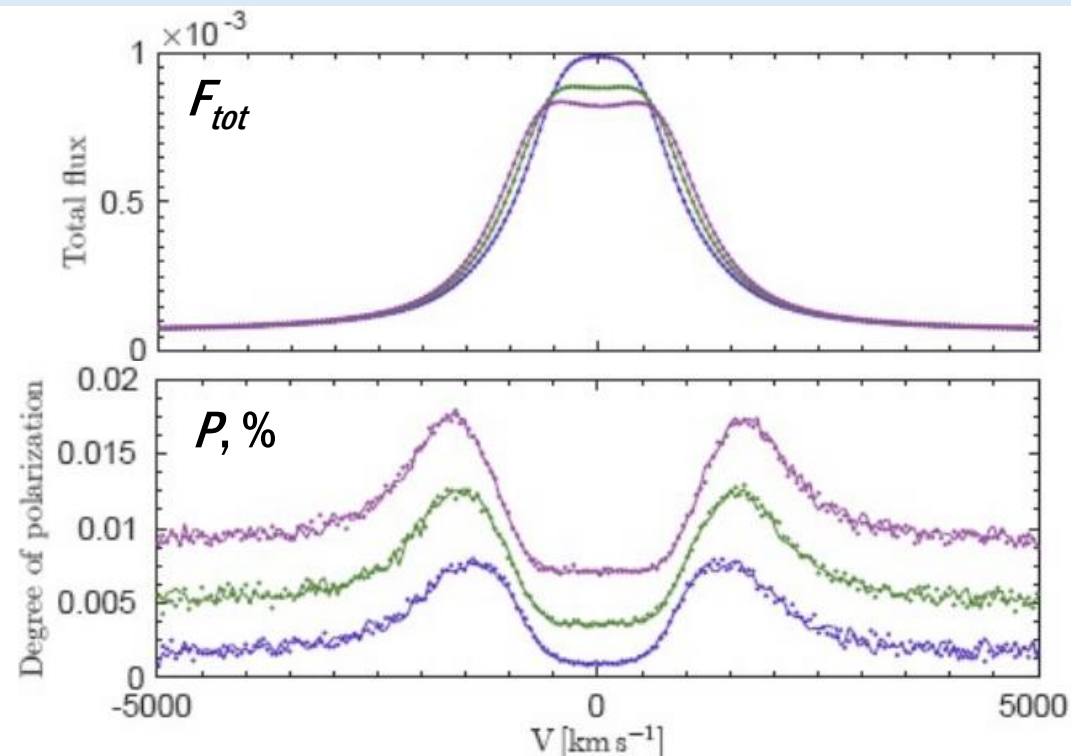
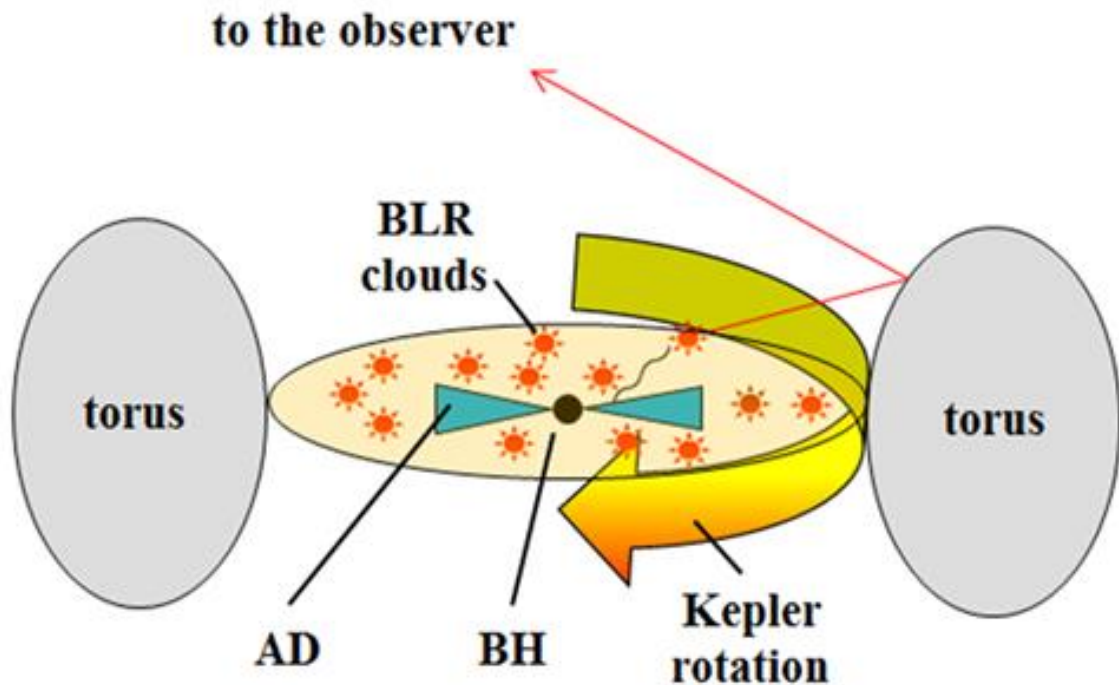


$$\varepsilon(a) = 0.105 \left( \frac{L_{\text{bol}}}{10^{46} \text{ erg/s}} \right) \left( \frac{L_{5100}}{10^{45} \text{ erg/s}} \right)^{-1.5} M_8 \mu^{1.5}.$$

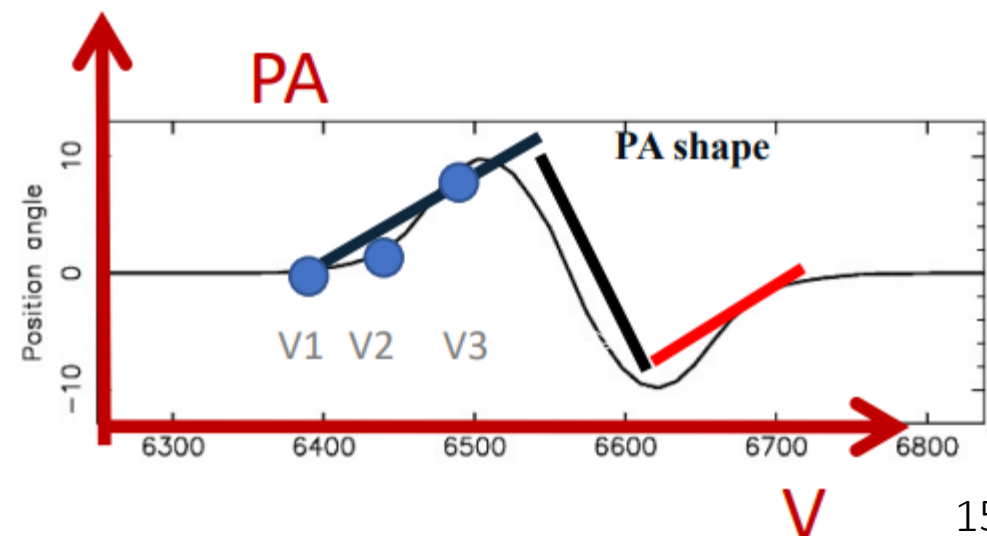
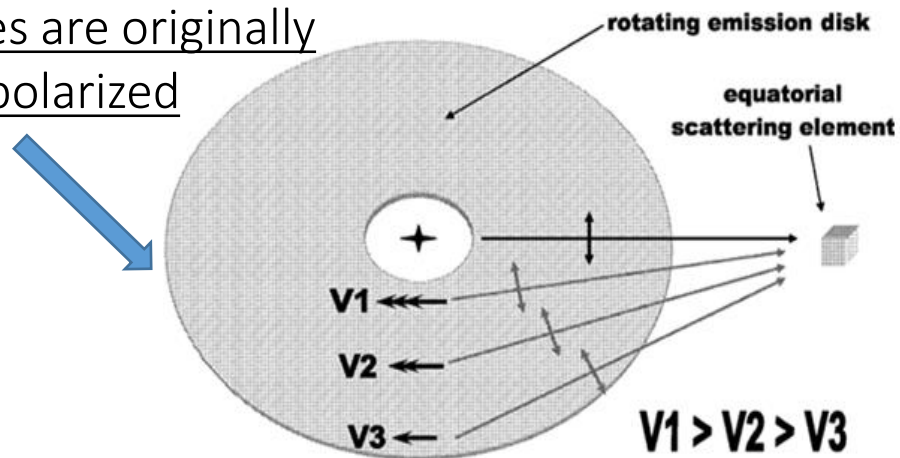
$\log(M_{\text{BH}}/M_{\odot})$	$\log(L_{\text{bol}})$	$i$	$a$	$\log(B_{\text{H}})$	$\log(B_{\text{H}}^*)$	$s$
$7.881^{+0.153}_{-0.171}$	44.95	35	$0.966^{+0.030}_{-0.106}$	$4.06^{+0.24}_{-0.24}$	$3.53^{+0.26}_{-0.53}$	$1.77 \pm 0.18$
$7.699^{+0.153}_{-0.171}$	44.95	45	$0.736^{+0.226}_{-0.368}$	$4.00^{+0.56}_{-0.34}$	$4.08^{+0.30}_{-1.08}$	$1.63 \pm 0.23$



# Polarization in broad lines



Broad lines are originally unpolarized



# Polarization in broad lines

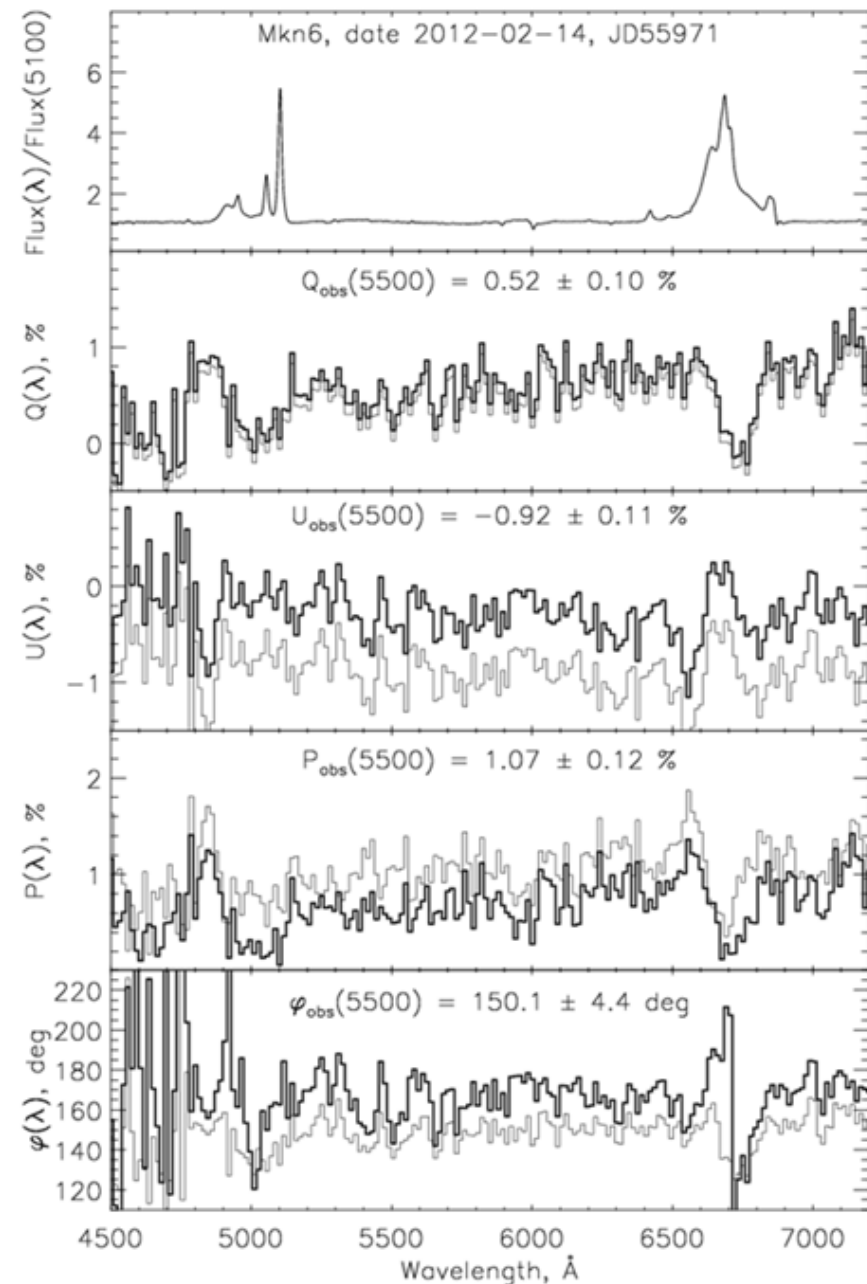
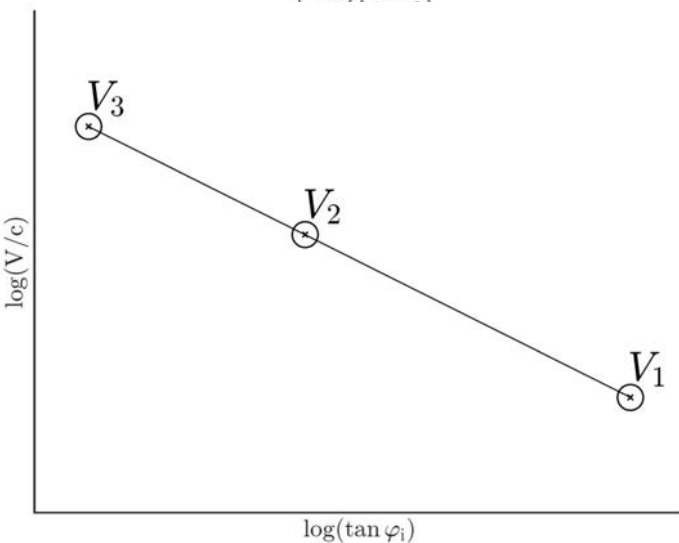
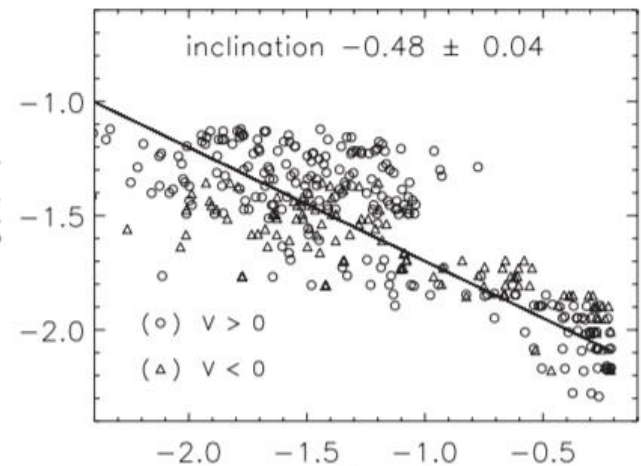
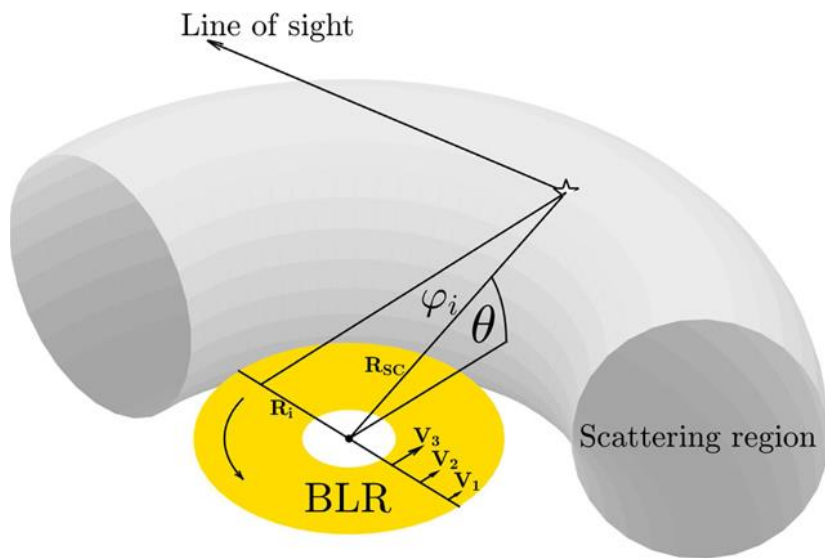
In case of Keplerian-like motion:

$$V_i = V_i^{rot} \cos(\theta) = \sqrt{\frac{GM_{BH}}{R_i}} \cos(\theta), \quad R_i = R_{sc} \tan(\varphi_i)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{V_i}{c}\right) = a - b \cdot \log(\tan(\varphi_i)), \quad a = 0.5 \log\left(\frac{GM_{BH} \cos^2(\theta)}{c^2 R_{sc}}\right)$$

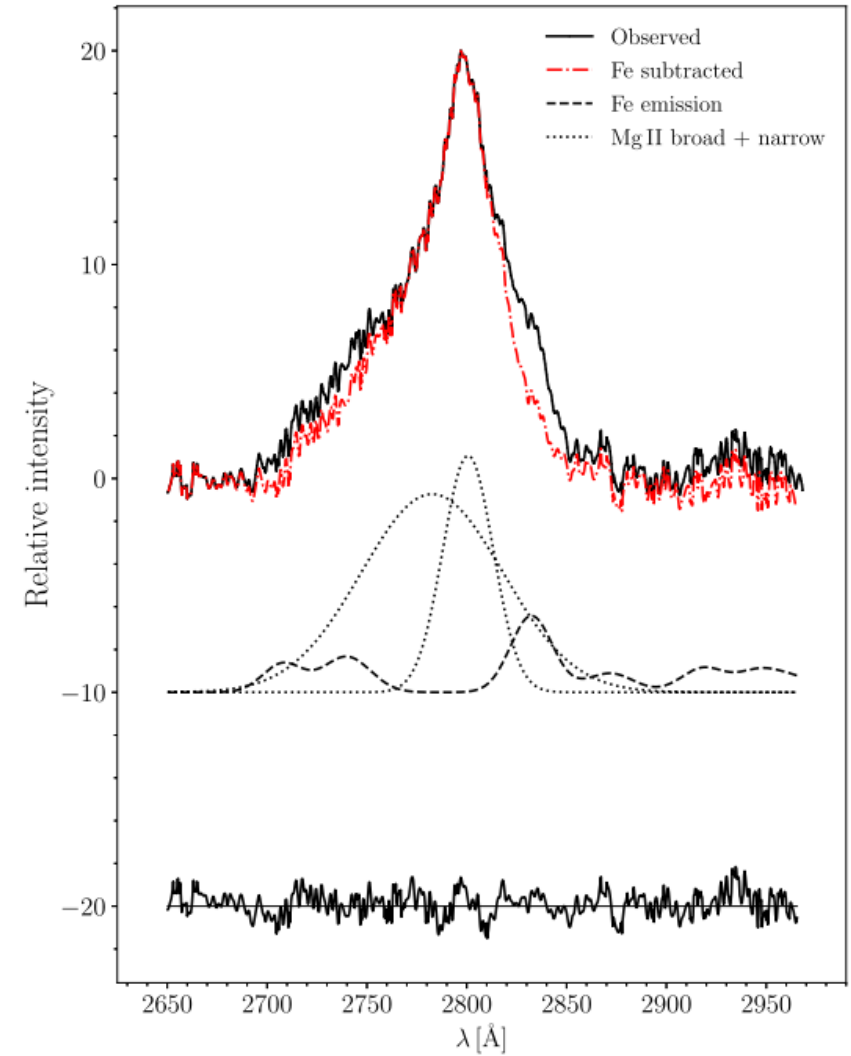
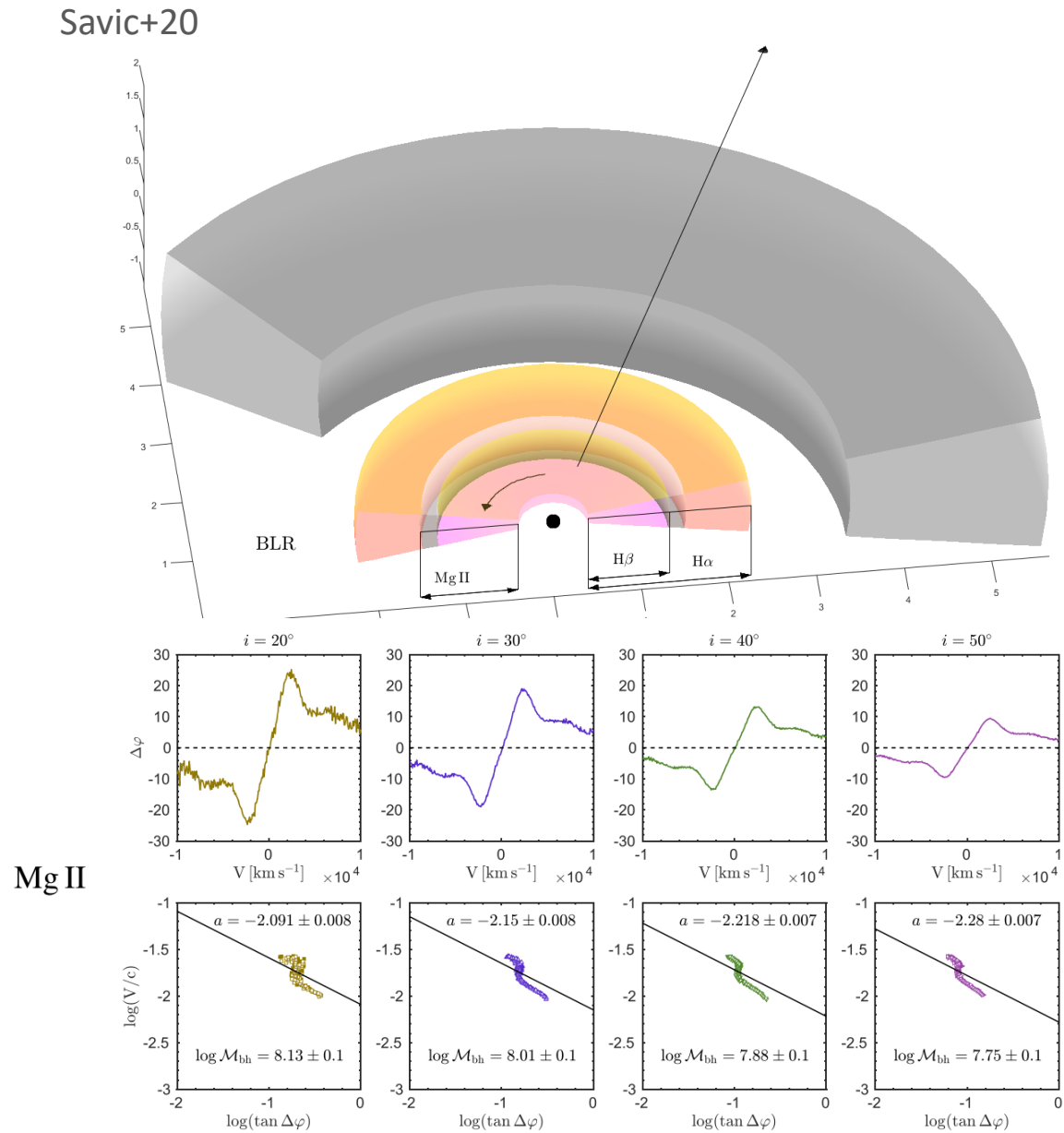
Afanasiev&Popovic15

Afanasiev,Popovic&Shapovalova19



$$M_{BH-kep} = 10^{2a} \frac{c^2 R_{sc}}{G \cdot \cos^2(\theta)} = 1.78 \cdot 10^{2a+10} \frac{R_{sc}}{\cos^2(\theta)} M_{\odot}$$

# Polarization in broad lines: SBS 1419+538

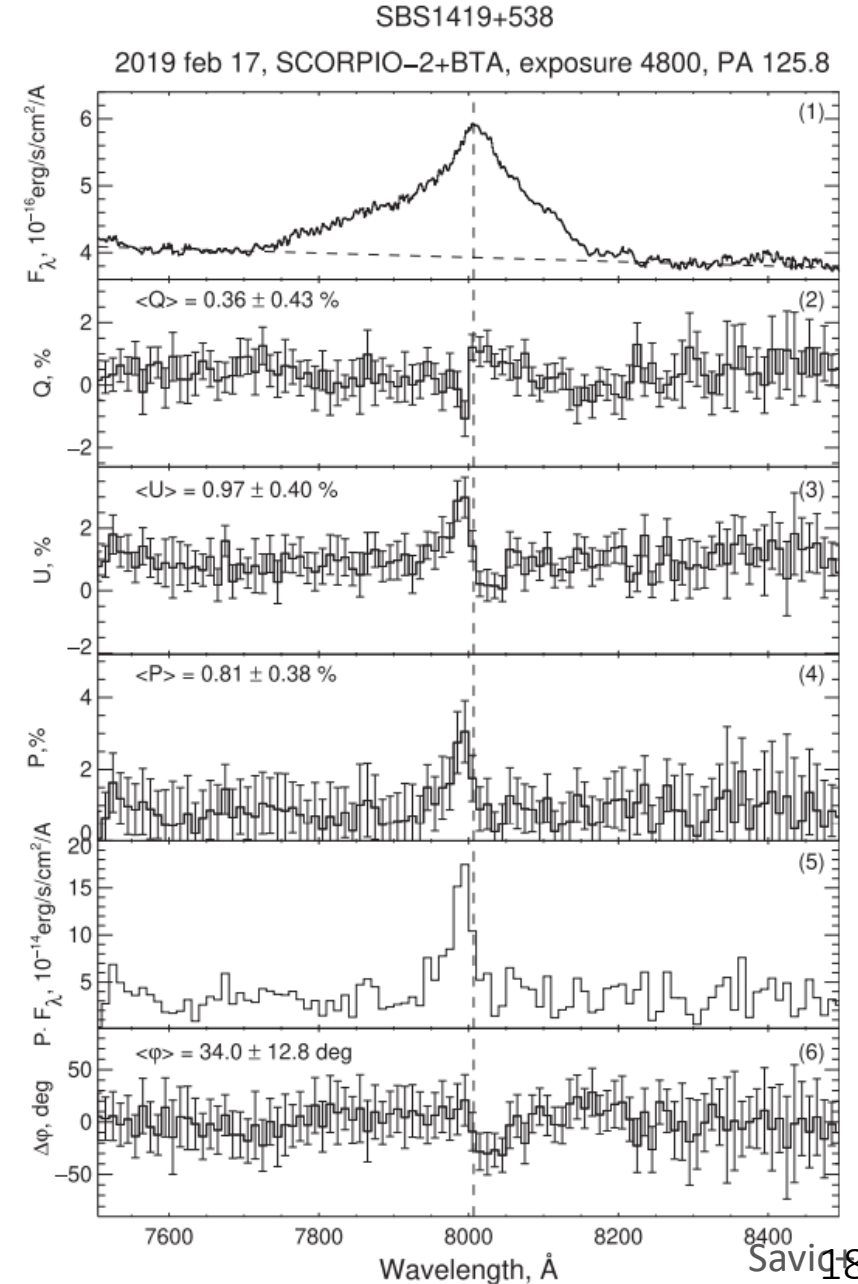
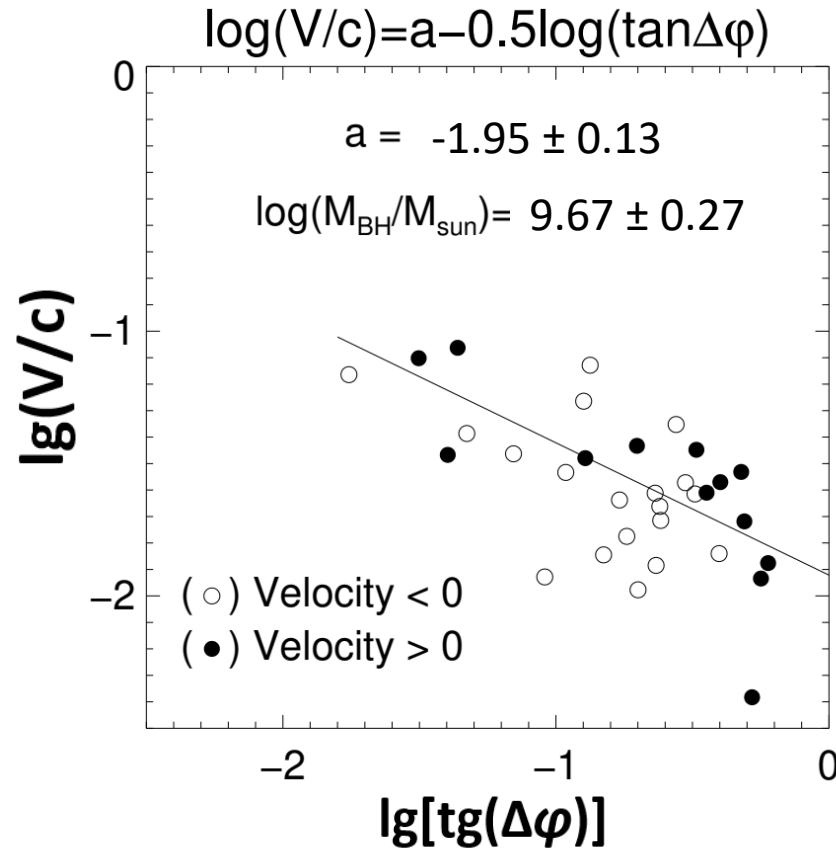
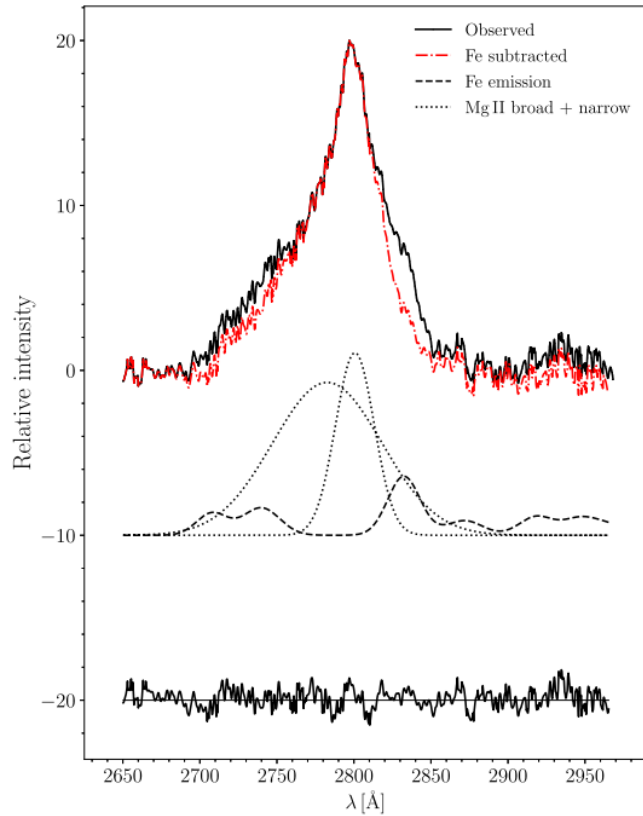


**Figure 2.** Decomposition of Mg II line emission. Top: solid black line denotes the observed spectrum; dashed red line is the Mg II profile after Fe II subtraction. Middle: broad and narrow Gaussian components of the Mg II line (dotted line) with the contribution of the total UV Fe II emission (dashed black line). Residuals are shown on the bottom.

# Polarization in broad lines: SBS 1419+538

$$z = 1.862$$

$$R_{sc} = 2041 \pm 683 \text{ lt days}$$



# Polarization in broad lines: SMBH mass & inclination

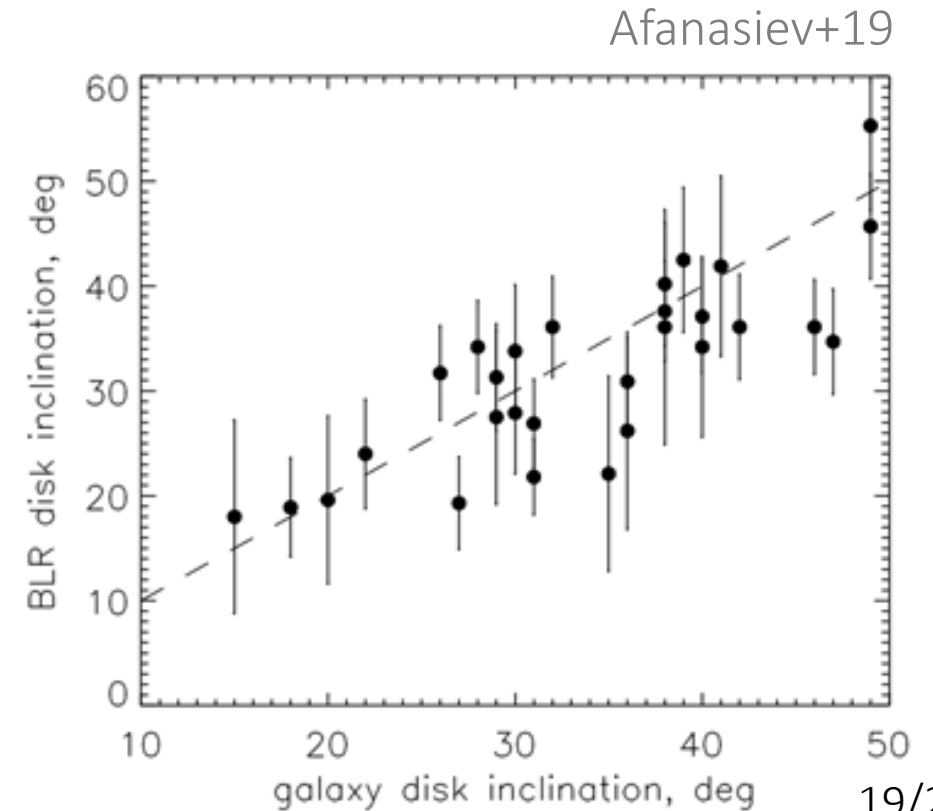
## SMBH mass – spectropolarimetry

- Only geometrical effects
- Only 1 epoch is needed

Independent from the inclination!

$$\sin^2(i) = \frac{R_{BLR} v^2}{GM_{SMBH}^{pol}}$$

The dependence between BLR inclination angle and galaxy inclination

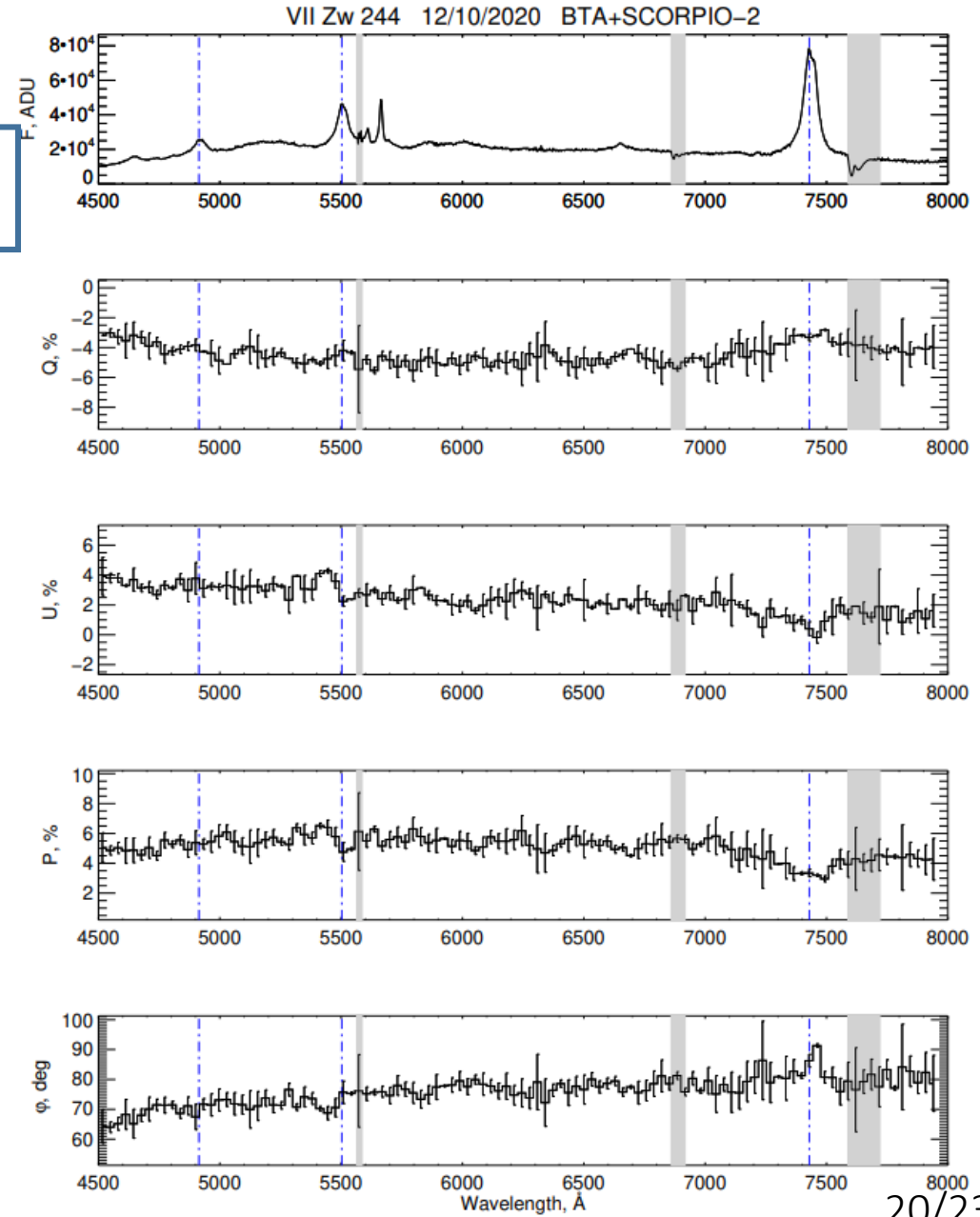
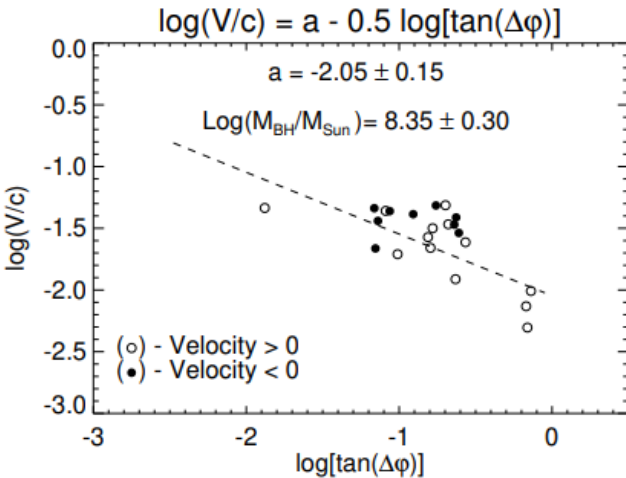
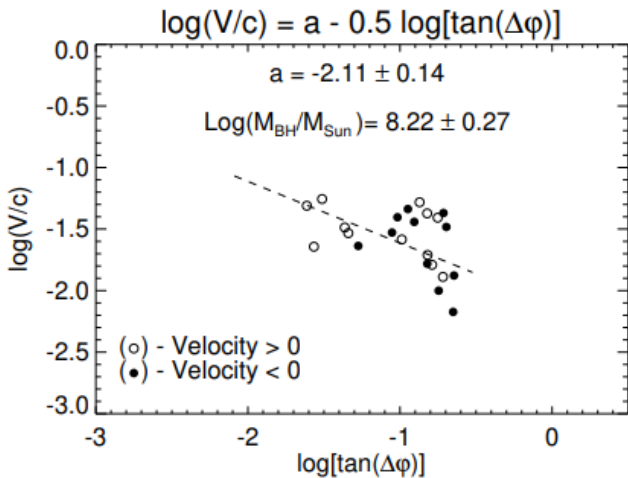
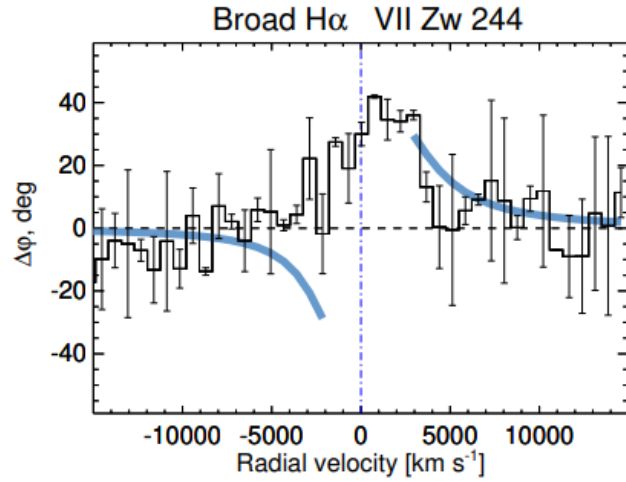
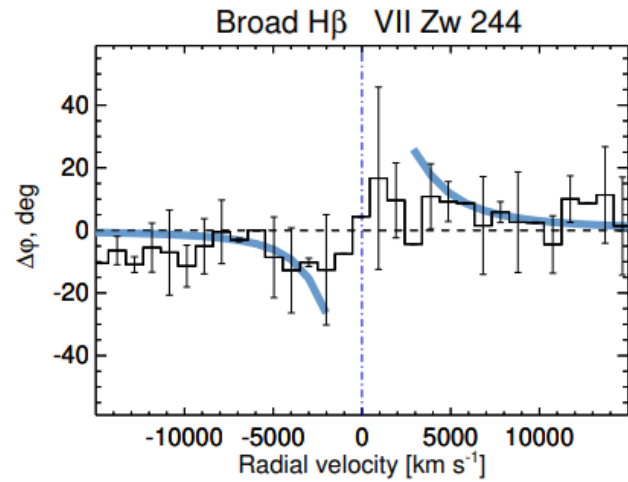


# Polarization in broad lines: VII Zw 244

Equatorial scattering in both(!) H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  lines, but not in H $\gamma$  line.

$R_{sc} = 157$  lt days  
 $i = 14.3 \pm 3.6^\circ$

$$M_{BH-kep} = 10^{2a} \frac{c^2 R_{sc}}{G \cdot \cos^2(\theta)} = 1.78 \cdot 10^{2a+10} \frac{R_{sc}}{\cos^2(\theta)} M_\odot,$$



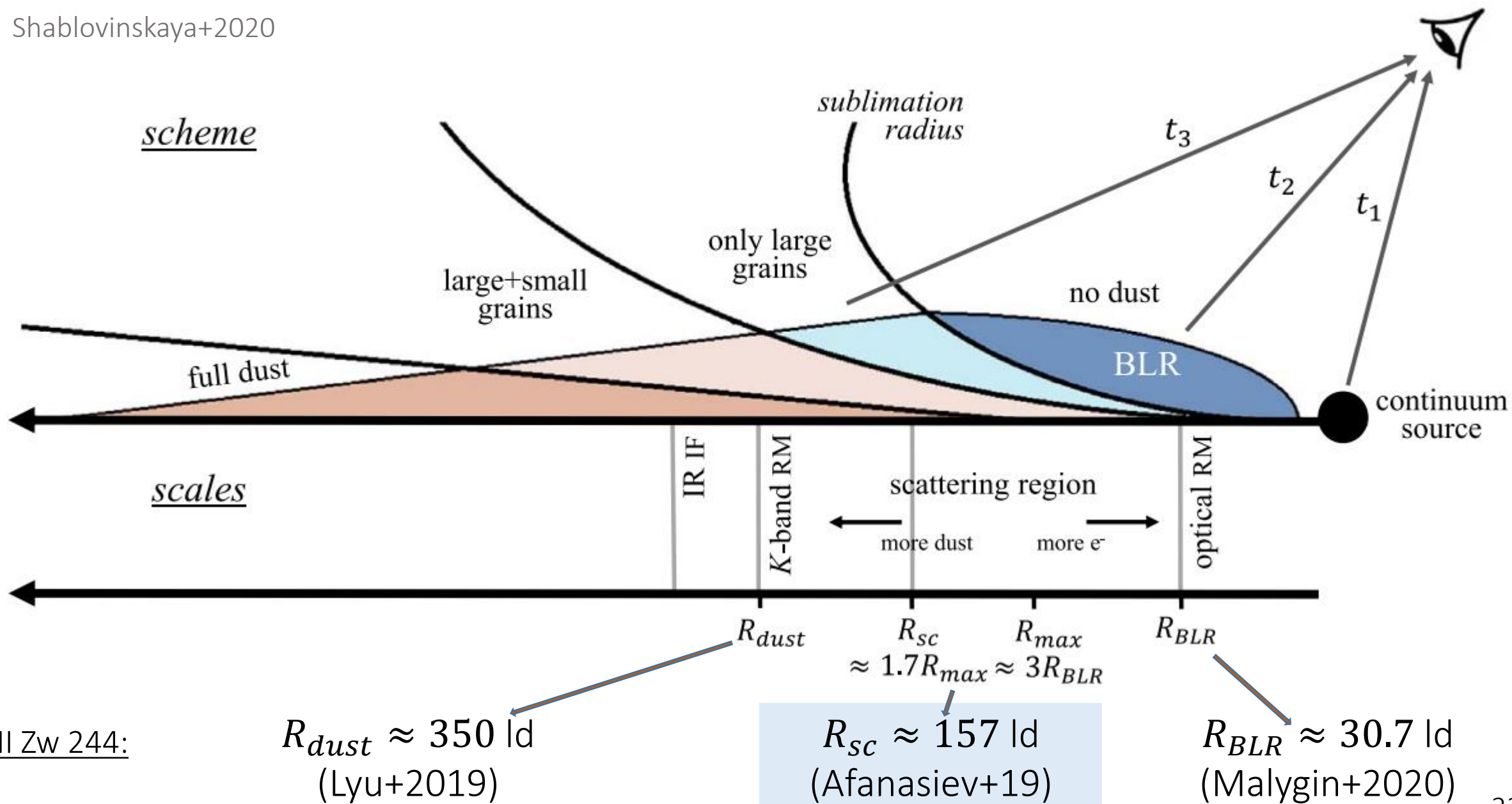


$$M_{BH-kep} = 10^{2a} \frac{c^2 R_{sc}}{G \cdot \cos^2(\theta)} = 1.78 \cdot 10^{2a+10} \frac{R_{sc}}{\cos^2(\theta)} M_{\odot},$$

$$M_{BH-kep} = 10^{2a} \frac{c^2 R_{sc}}{G \cdot \cos^2(\theta)} = 1.78 \cdot 10^{2a+10} \frac{R_{sc}}{\cos^2(\theta)} M_{\odot},$$

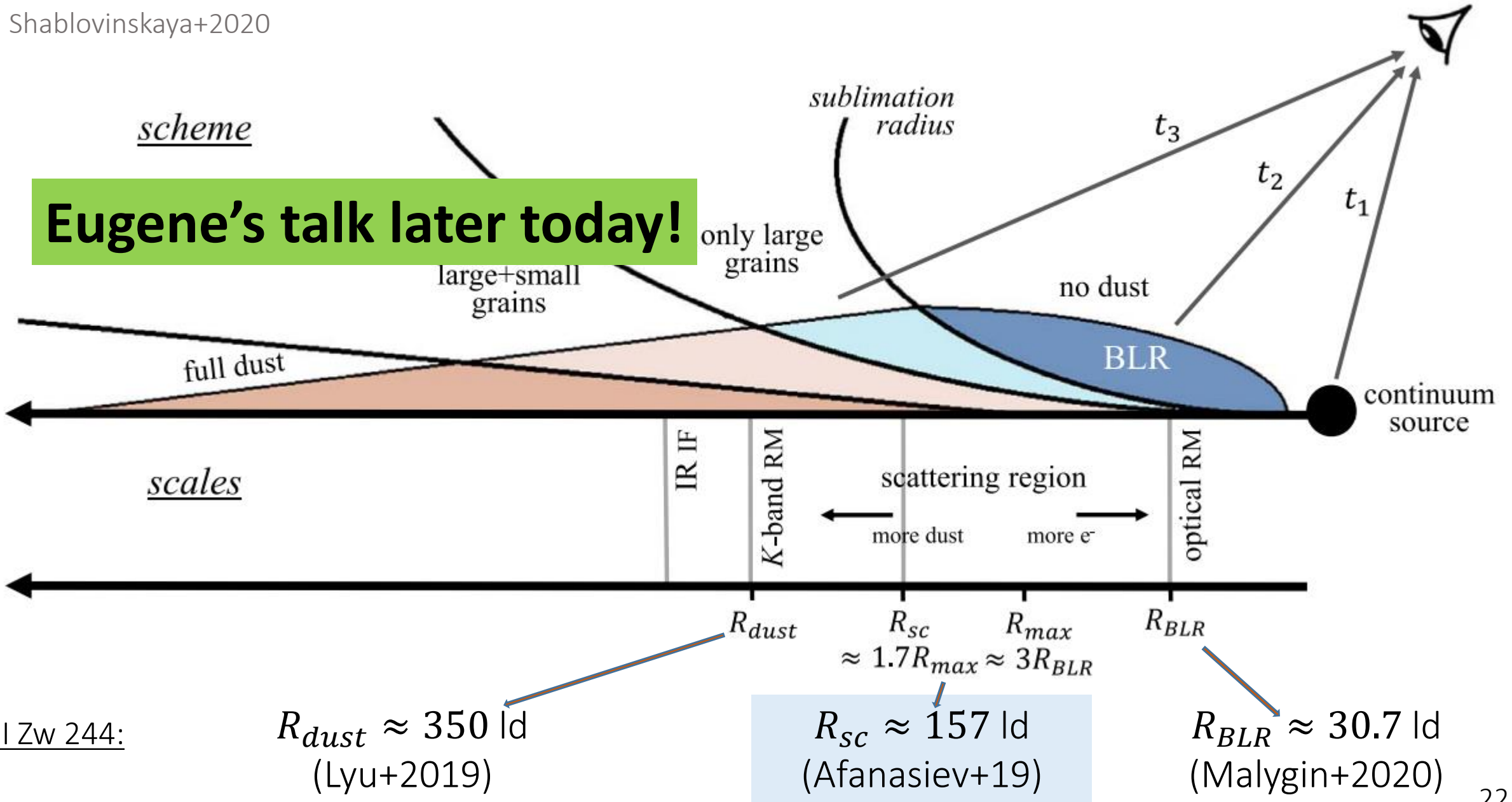
# Polarization in broad lines: $R_{sc}$

Shablovinskaya+2020



# Polarization in broad lines: $R_{sc}$

Shablovinskaya+2020



# Summary

## 1. Polarization in continuum



MF in AD  $B(R)$ , BH spin and AD size

Silant'ev+07, Afanasiev+11, Afanasiev+18, Piotrovich+21, Shablovinskaya+22

## 2. Spectropolarimetry in lines



gas kinematics and  $M_{SMBH}$  independent from the inclination angle

Smith+05; Afanasiev&Popovic+15; Afanasiev+19; Savic+19 etc.

## 3. RM in polarized light



inner radius of the scattering region  $R_{sc}$

Shablovinskaya+20, Shablovinskaya+22

**Eugene's talk later today!**

## 4. Rapid polarization variability in BL Lac objects



jet MF configuration and size

Shablovinskaya&Afanasiev19, Shablovinskaya+23

**My talk on Thursday!**

e.shablie@yandex.com

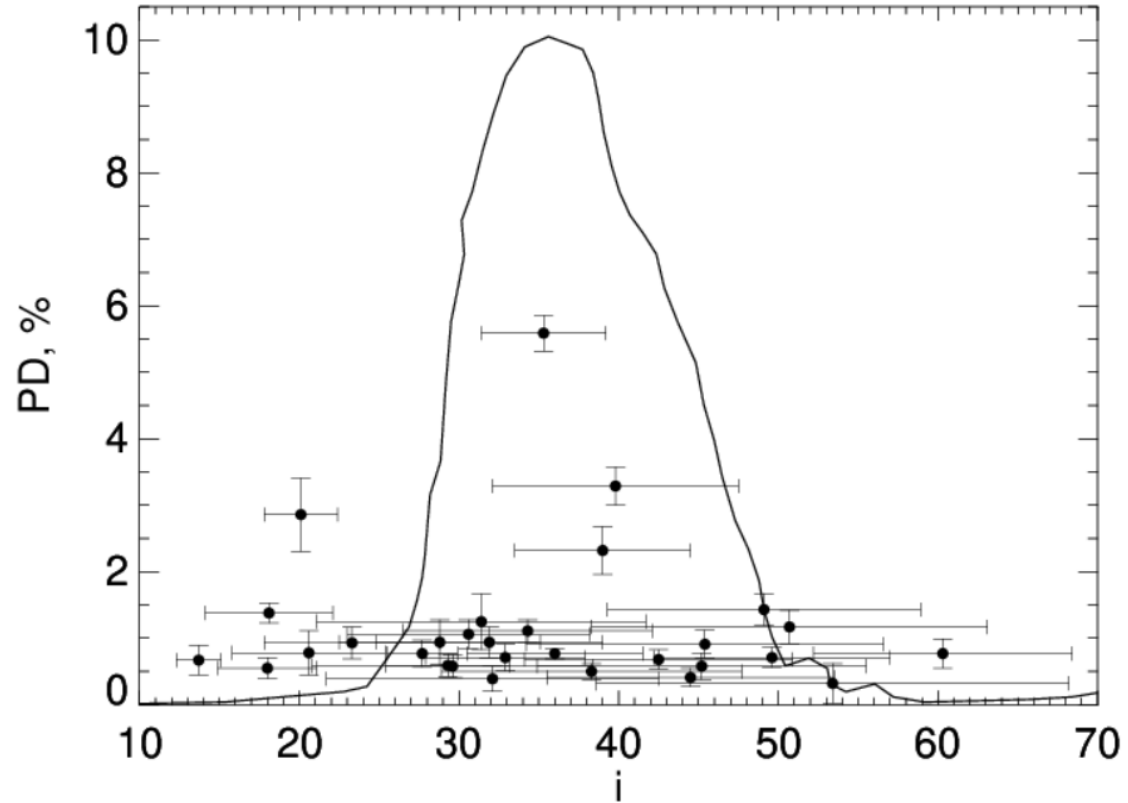
Shablovinskaya, Afanasiev, Popović *Measuring the AGN Sublimation Radius with a New Approach: Reverberation Mapping of Broad Line Polarization*, 2020, ApJ, [10.3847/1538-4357/ab7849](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab7849)

Popović, Afanasiev, Shablovinskaya, Ardilanov, Savić *Spectroscopy and polarimetry of the gravitationally lensed quasar Q0957+561*, 2021, A&A, [10.1051/0004-6361/202039914](https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202039914)

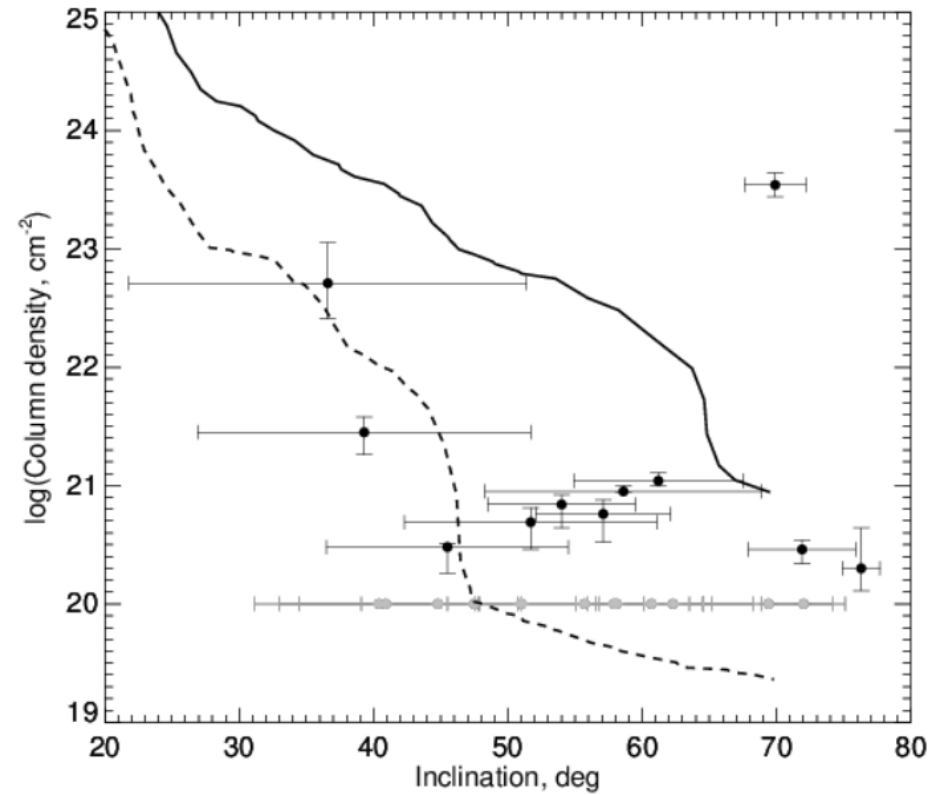
Savić, Popović, Shablovinskaya *The First Supermassive Black Hole Mass Measurement in Active Galactic Nuclei Using the Polarization of Broad Emission Line Mg II*, 2021, ApJL, [10.3847/2041-8213/ac2d30](https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/ac2d30)

Shablovinskaya, Piotrovich, Malygin, Buliga, Natsvlshvili *Determination of the physical parameters of AGNs in Seyfert 1 galaxies LEDA 3095839 and VII Zw 244 based on spectropolarimetric observations*, 2022, Universe, [10.3390/universe8070383](https://doi.org/10.3390/universe8070383)

# Future perspectives

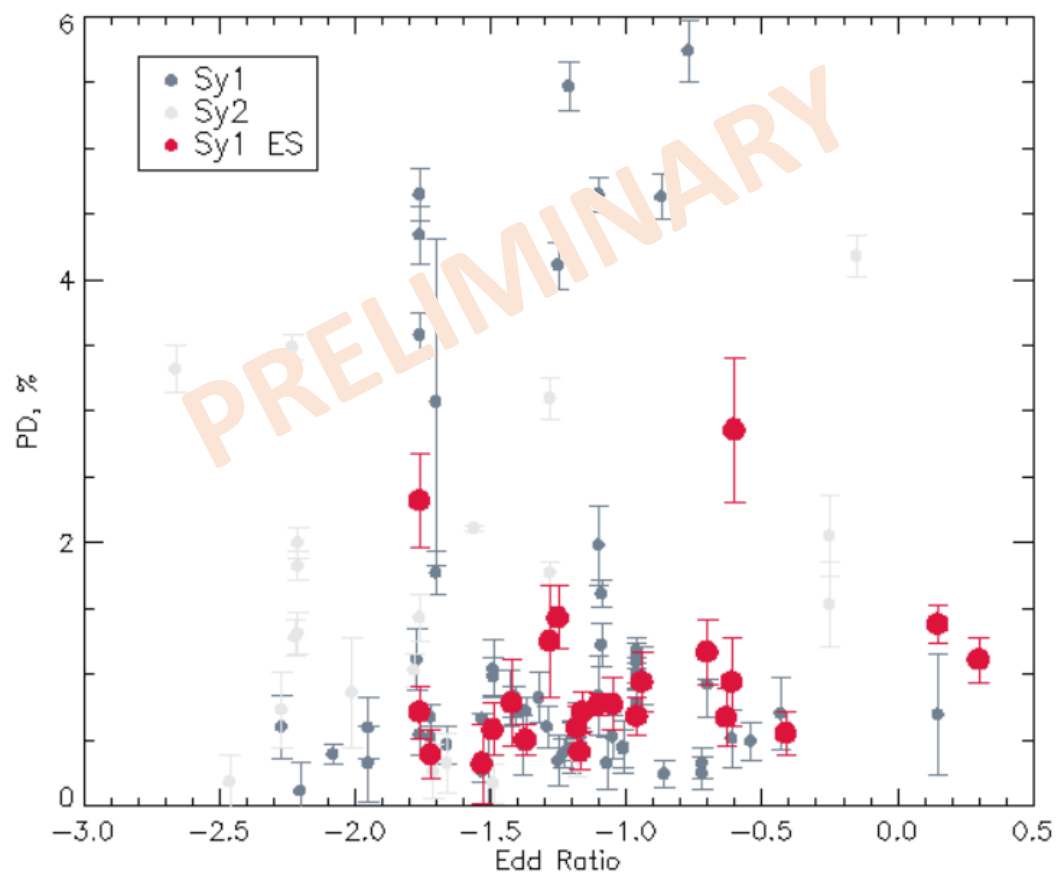


(Marin & Stalevski 2015)



(Kudoh et al. 2023)

# Future perspectives



The BAT AGN Spectroscopic Survey

An all-sky study of the brightest and most powerful  
hard X-ray detected AGN

