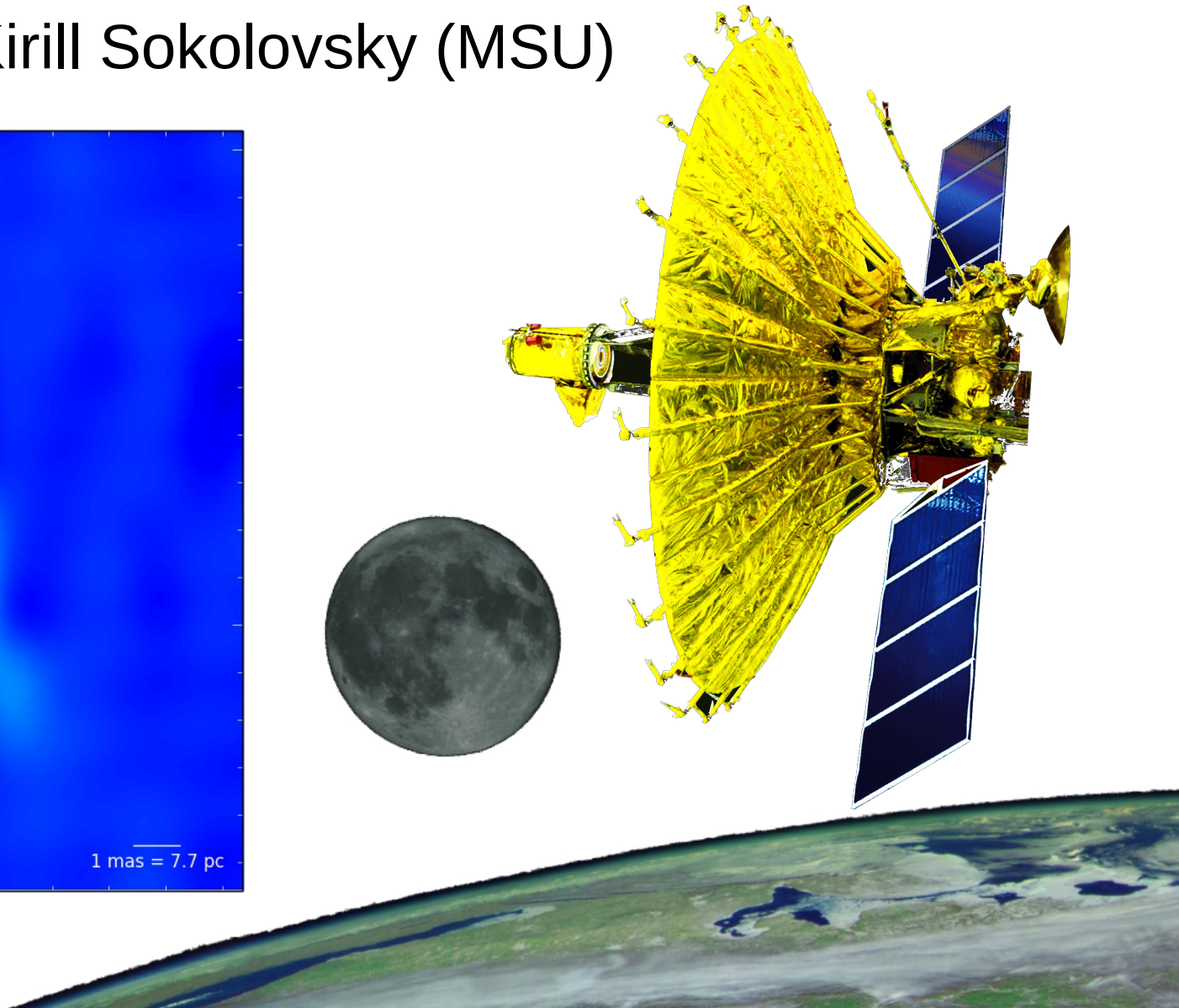
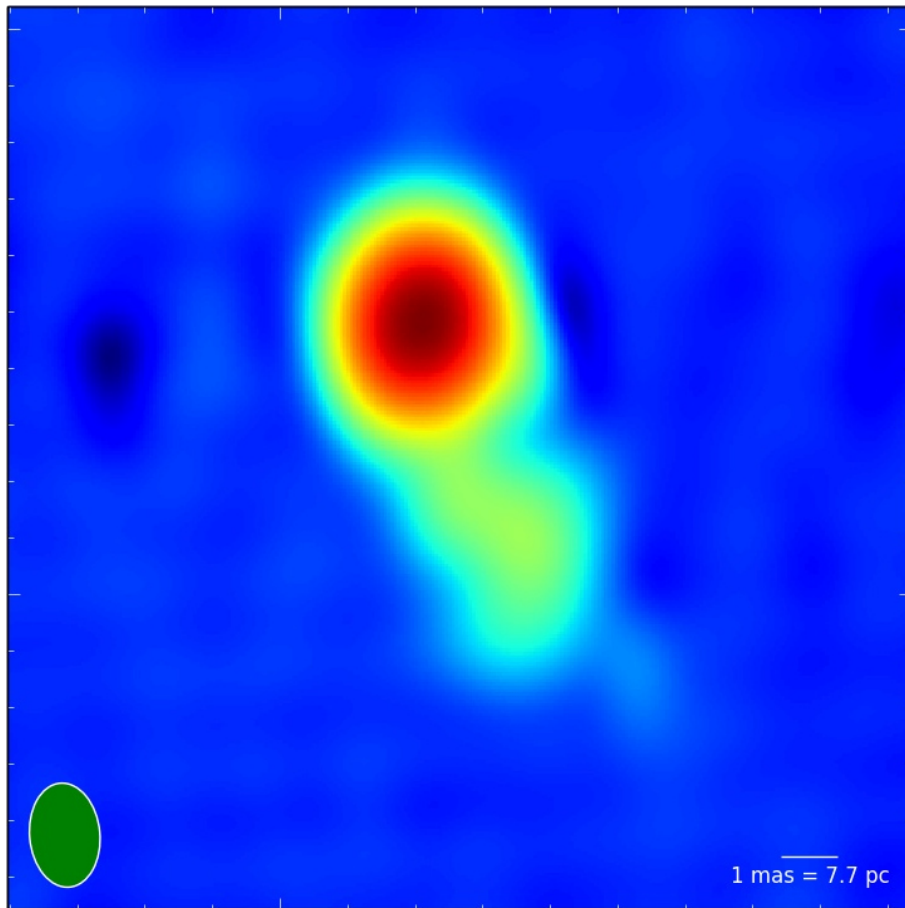


VLBI observations from space with RadioAstron

Kirill Sokolovsky (MSU)



Nikolai Kardashev

April 25, 1932 - August 3, 2019



Nikolai Kardashev

April 25, 1932 - August 3, 2019

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Kardashev scale

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about a measuring method. For the album by Greydon Square, see [The Kardashev Scale \(album\)](#).

The **Kardashev scale** is a method of measuring a [civilization](#)'s level of [technological](#) advancement based on the amount of [energy](#) they are able to use. The measure was proposed by [Soviet astronomer Nikolai Kardashev](#) in 1964.^[1] The scale has three designated categories:

- A Type I civilization, also called a [planetary civilization](#)—can use and store all of the energy available on its [planet](#).
- A Type II civilization, also called a [stellar civilization](#)—can use and control energy at the scale of its [stellar system](#).
- A Type III civilization, also called a [galactic civilization](#)—can control energy at the scale of its entire host [galaxy](#).

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- 2 [Current status of human civilization](#)
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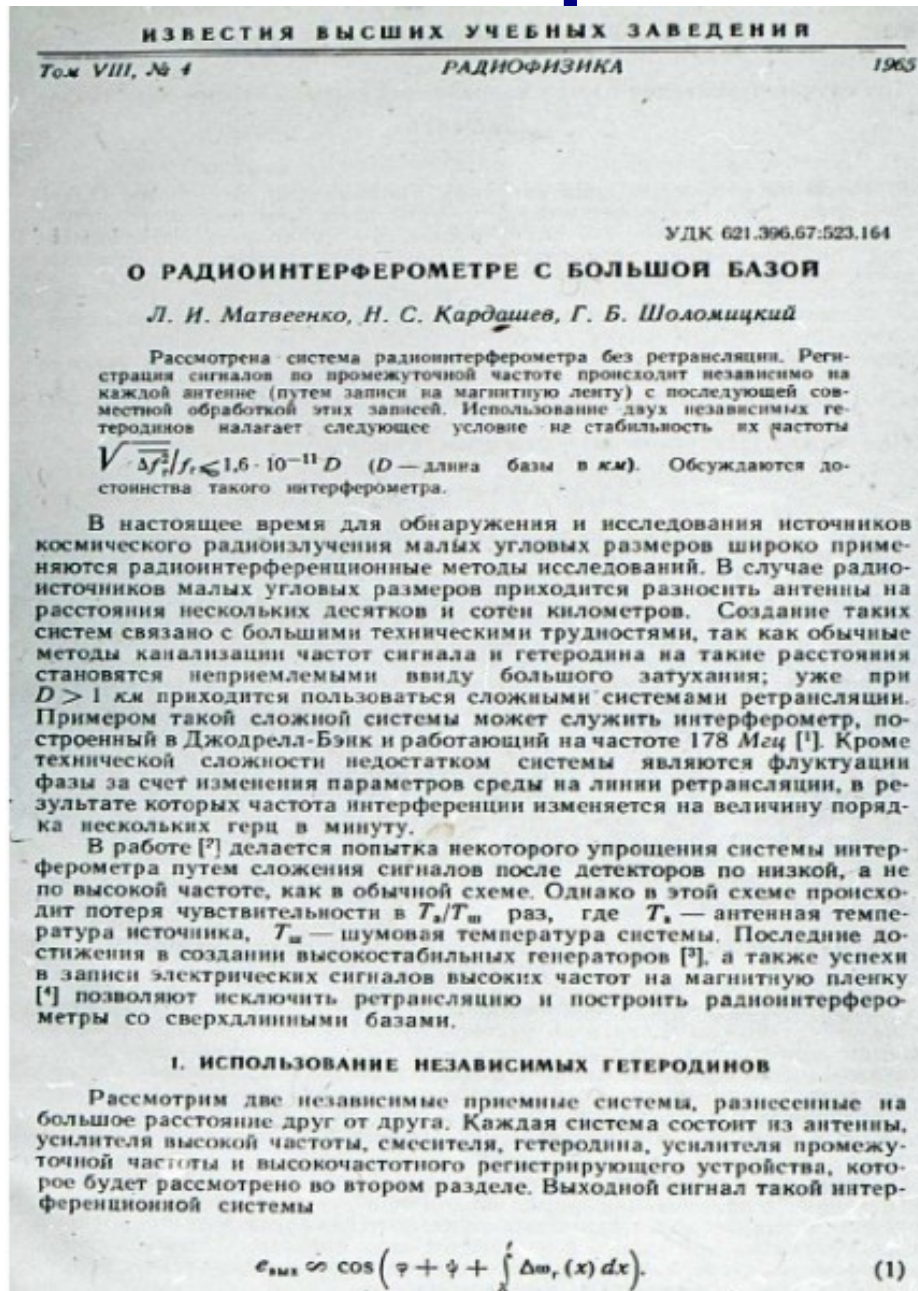
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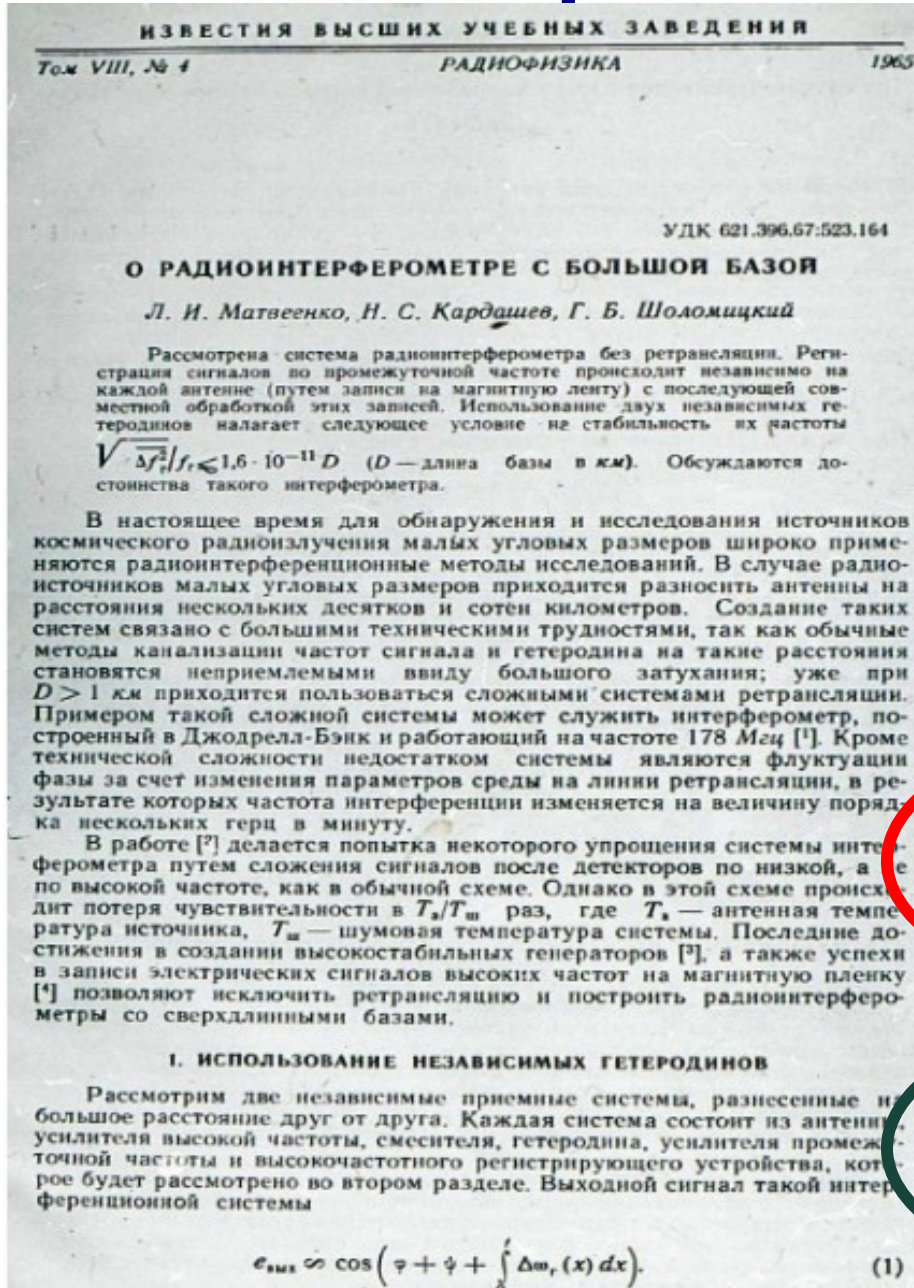
Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) = telescopes have independent clocks



Matveenko, **Kardashev** & Sholomitsky suggested independent recording in their 1965 paper

- frequency
- polarization
- amplitude
- phase

Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) = telescopes have independent clocks



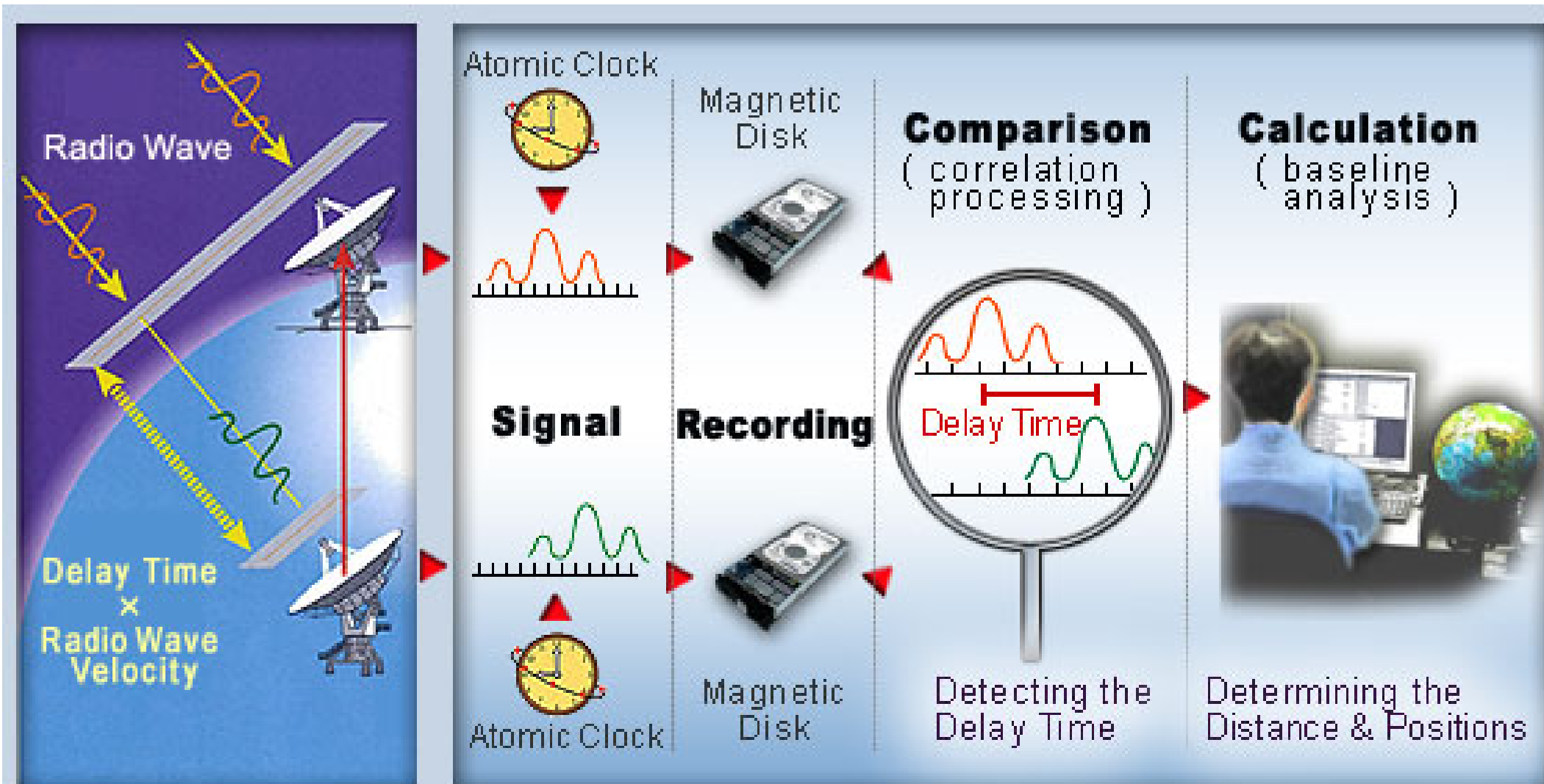
Matveenko, Kardashev & Sholomitsky suggested independent recording in their 1965 paper

Easy to filter

- frequency
- polarization
- amplitude
- phase

Easy to record
(in radio)

Very Long Baseline Interferometry



Filtering & amplification → down-conversion → digitization → time-stamping → recording (?) → correlation → amplitude calibration (correlation coefficient to Jy) → imaging (?)

Two ways to lower the diffraction limit:

$$\theta_{\text{lim}} \sim \lambda/D$$

- Observe at a **shorter** wavelength λ
- Increase D (telescope diameter / interferometer baseline)

Ways to lower diffraction limit

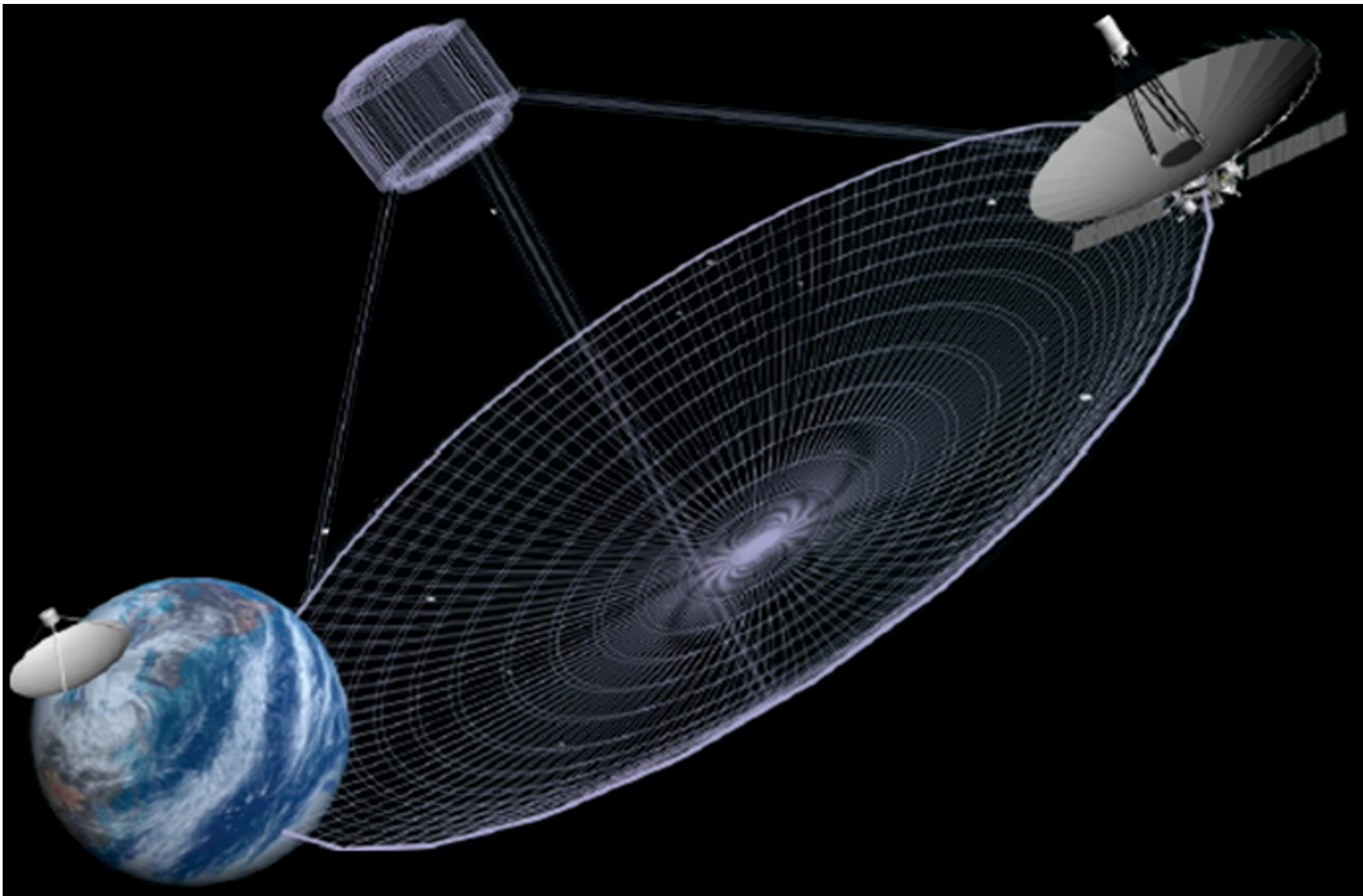
Observe at a **shorter** wavelength λ
mm-VLBI (Event Horizon Telescope)

- Atmospheric opacity
- Short coherence time
- Faint sources
- Small antennas (except ALMA)

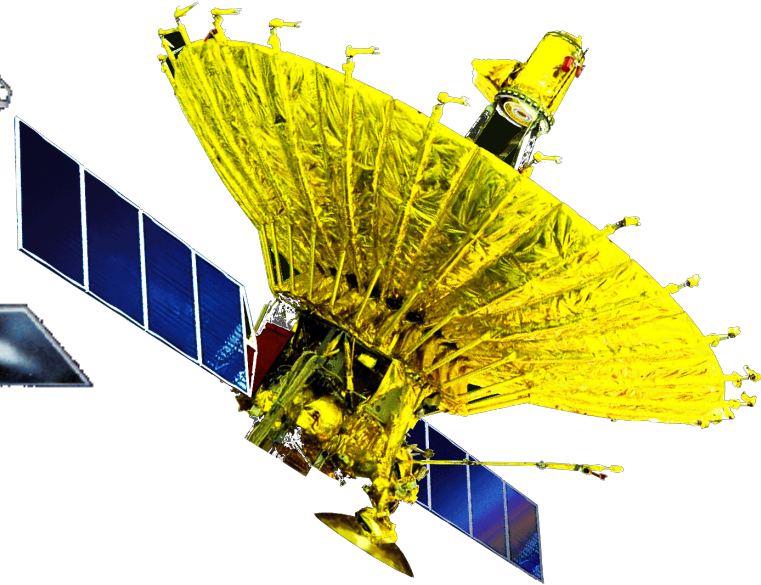
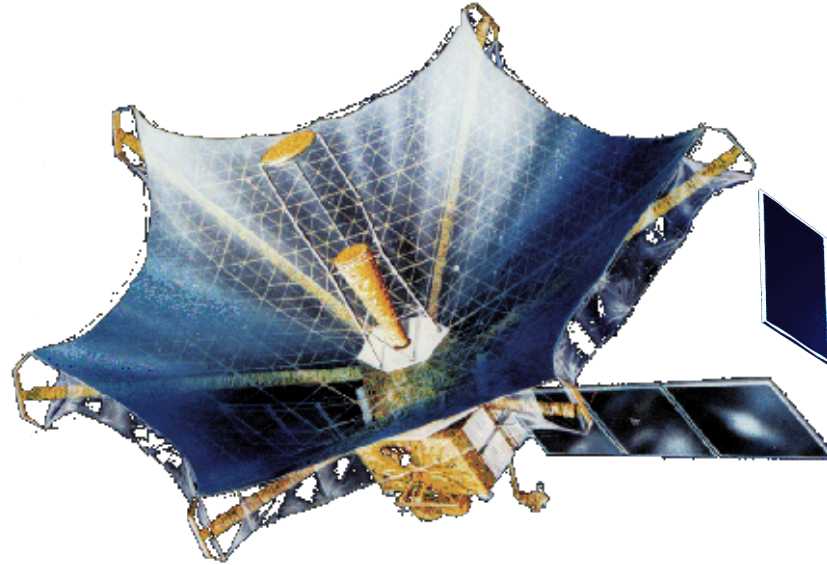
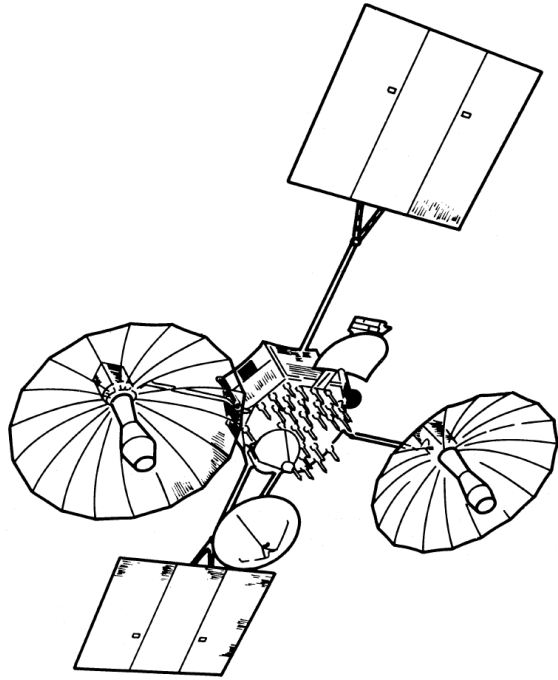
Increase D *Space-VLBI*

- Small antenna flying fast (uncertain distance/speed/acceleration)
- Intrinsic opacity and Interstellar scattering

Space-VLBI



Space-VLBI history



TDRSS

1986-1988

λ (cm) = 13, 2

D_{\max} (D_{\oplus}) ~2.4

fringe tracking

VSOP

1997-2003

18, 6, ~~1.3~~

~2.4

imaging

RadioAstron

2011-2019

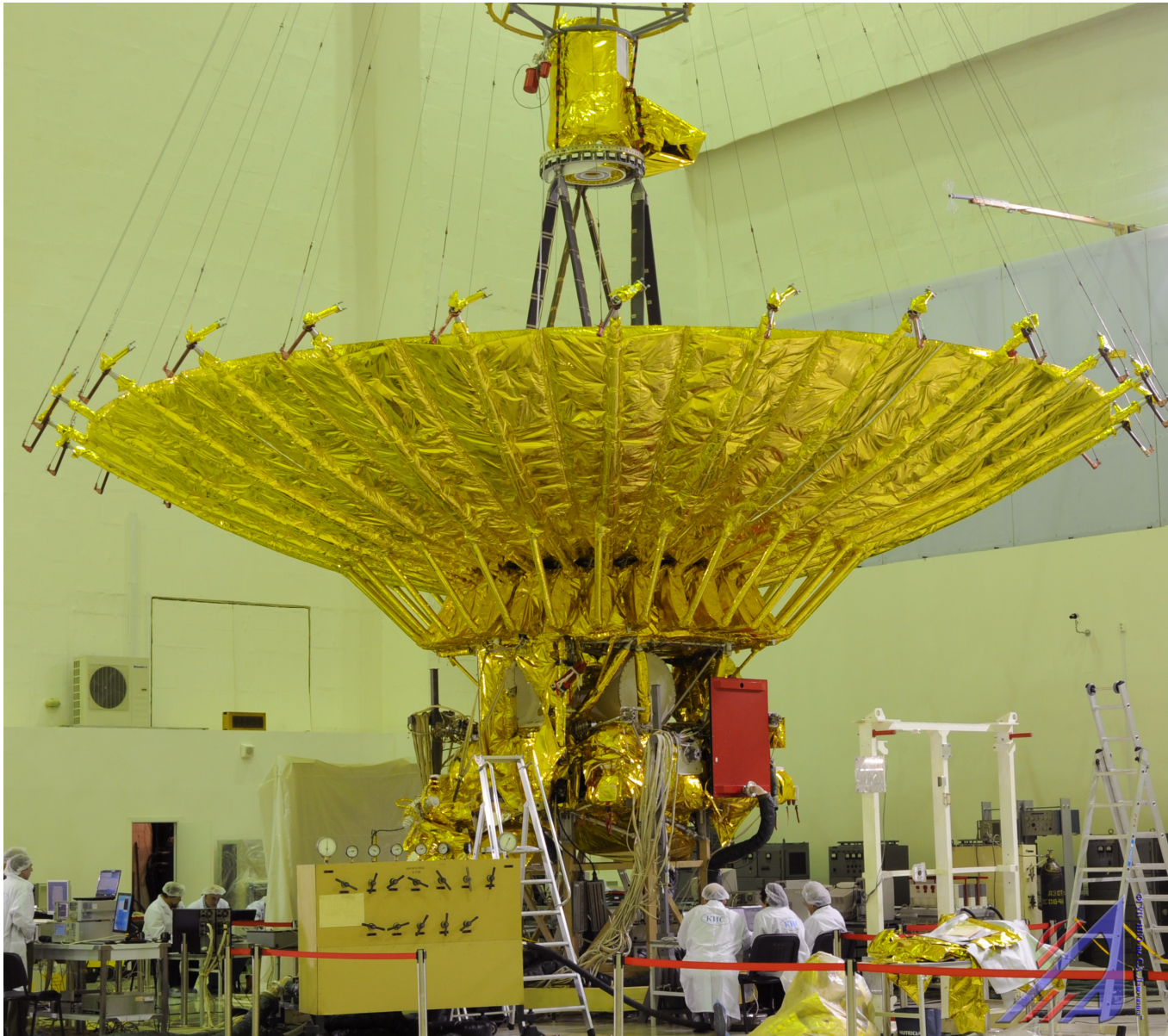
92, 18, 6, 1.3

27

both

Space radio telescope

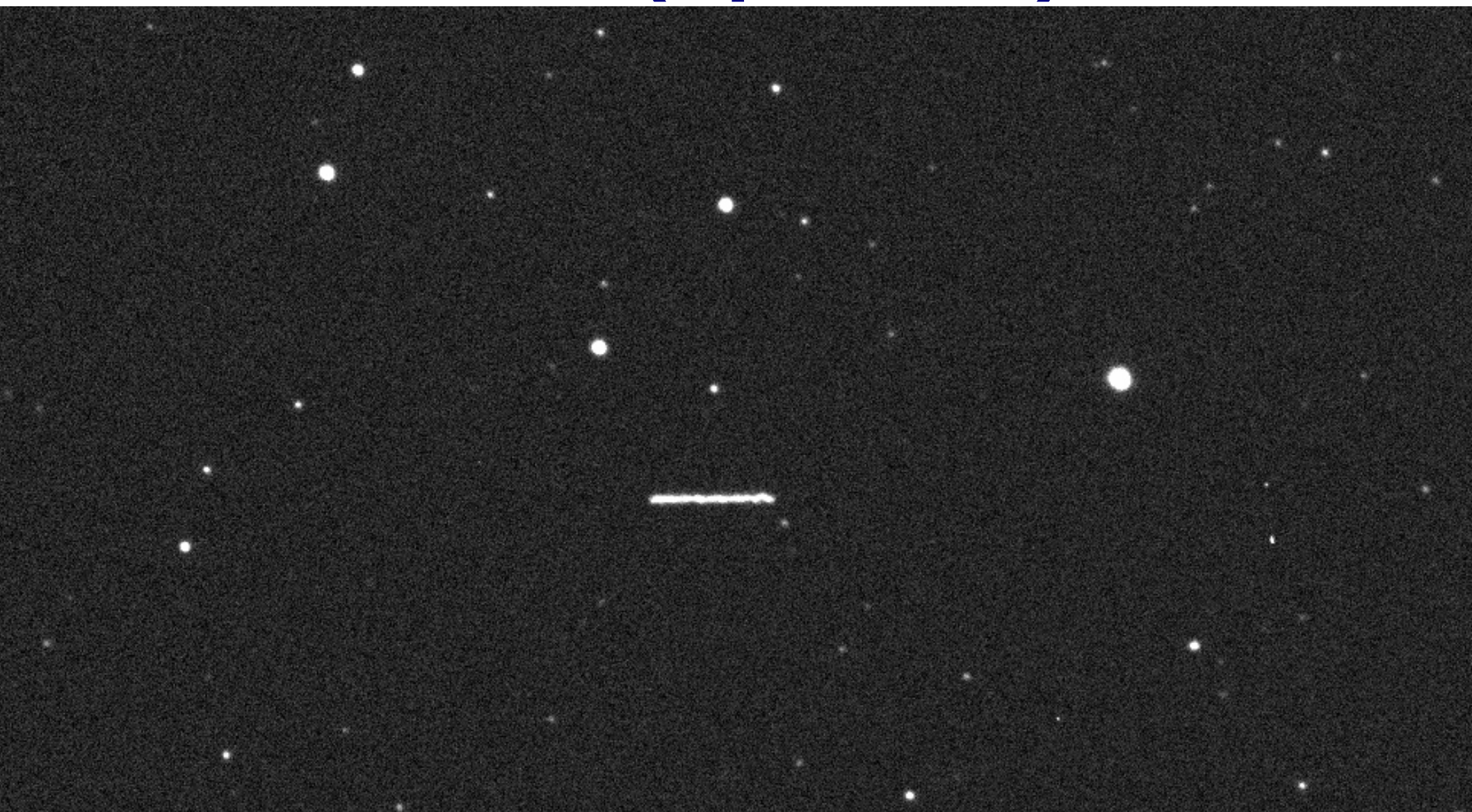
is installed on the dedicated spacecraft Spektr-R constructed by the Lavochkin association



Launched from Baikonur July 18, 2011



RadioAstron (Spektr-R) in orbit



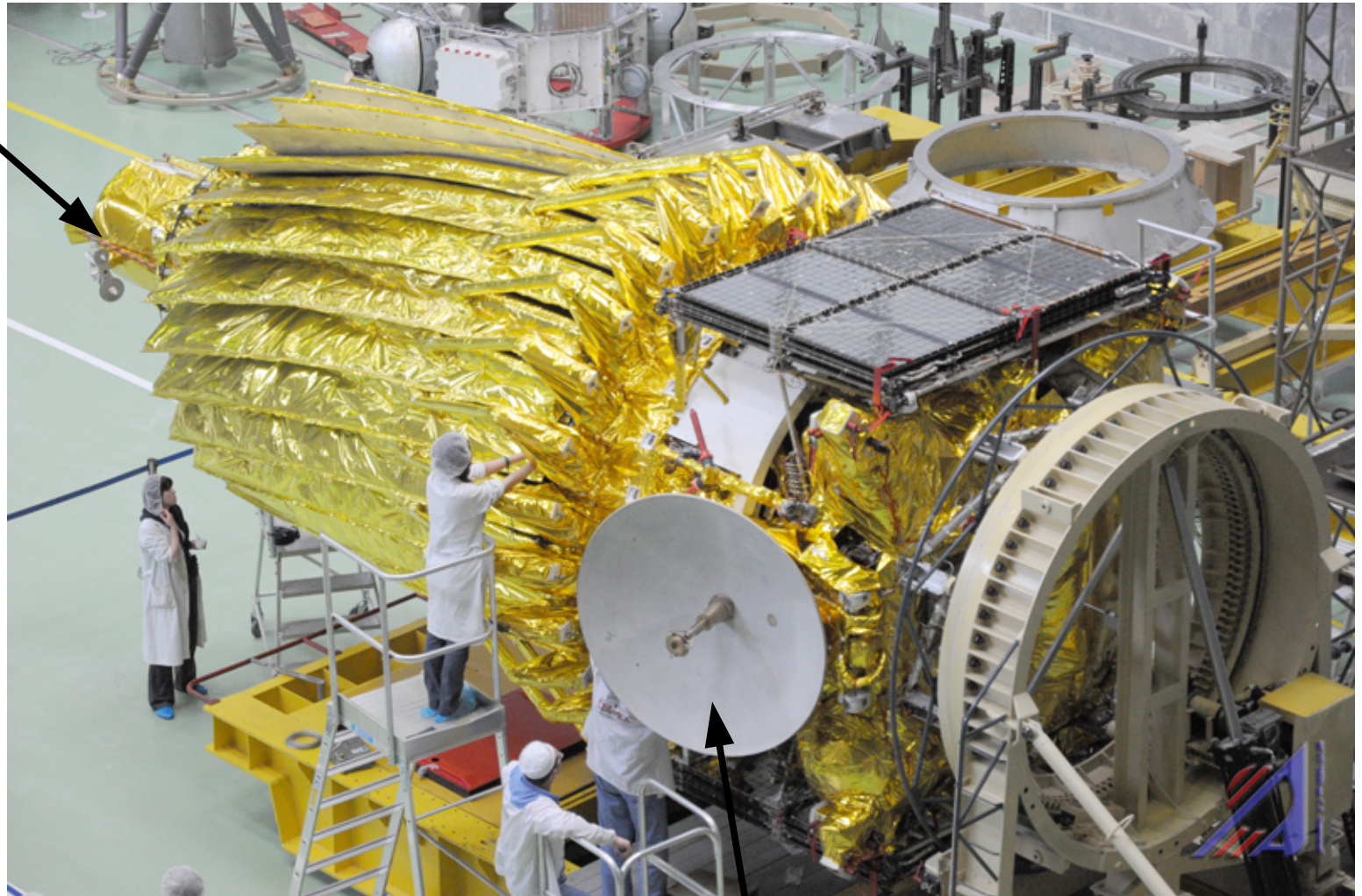
D=43cm, F=292cm telescope

R~10.1^m

Exposure: 5 sec started at 2014-01-27 04:36:56 UTC

Communication with Spektr-R

Omnidirectional antenna for commands/telemetry (1 of 3)



High-gain antenna for VLBI data downlink (144 Mbit/sec)

Communication with Spektr-R

Command & control stations near Moscow and Ussuriysk

+ VLBI data receiving stations:

- 22m telescope in Puschino, Russia
- 43m telescope in Green Bank, WV, USA



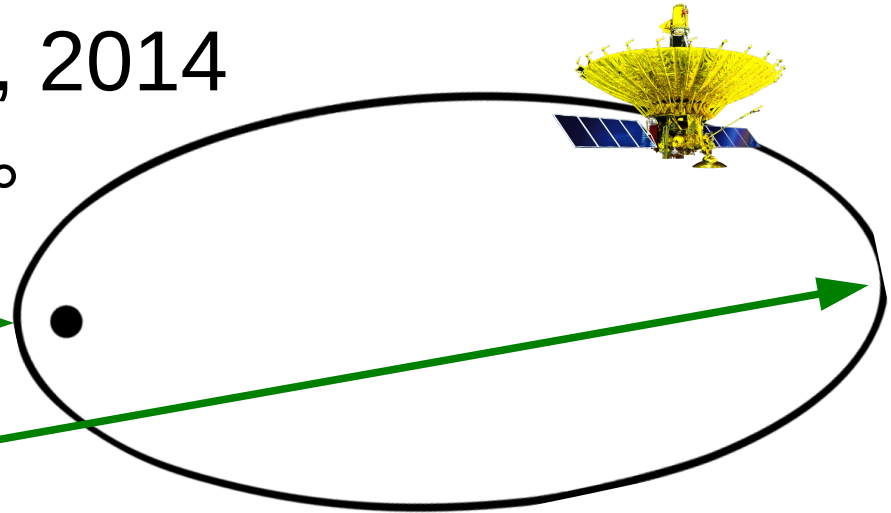
RadioAstron (Spektr-R) orbit

Orbit parameters as of May 9, 2014

$P = 8.8 \text{ d}$ $e = 0.88$ $i = 33^\circ$

Perigee height: 14 000 km

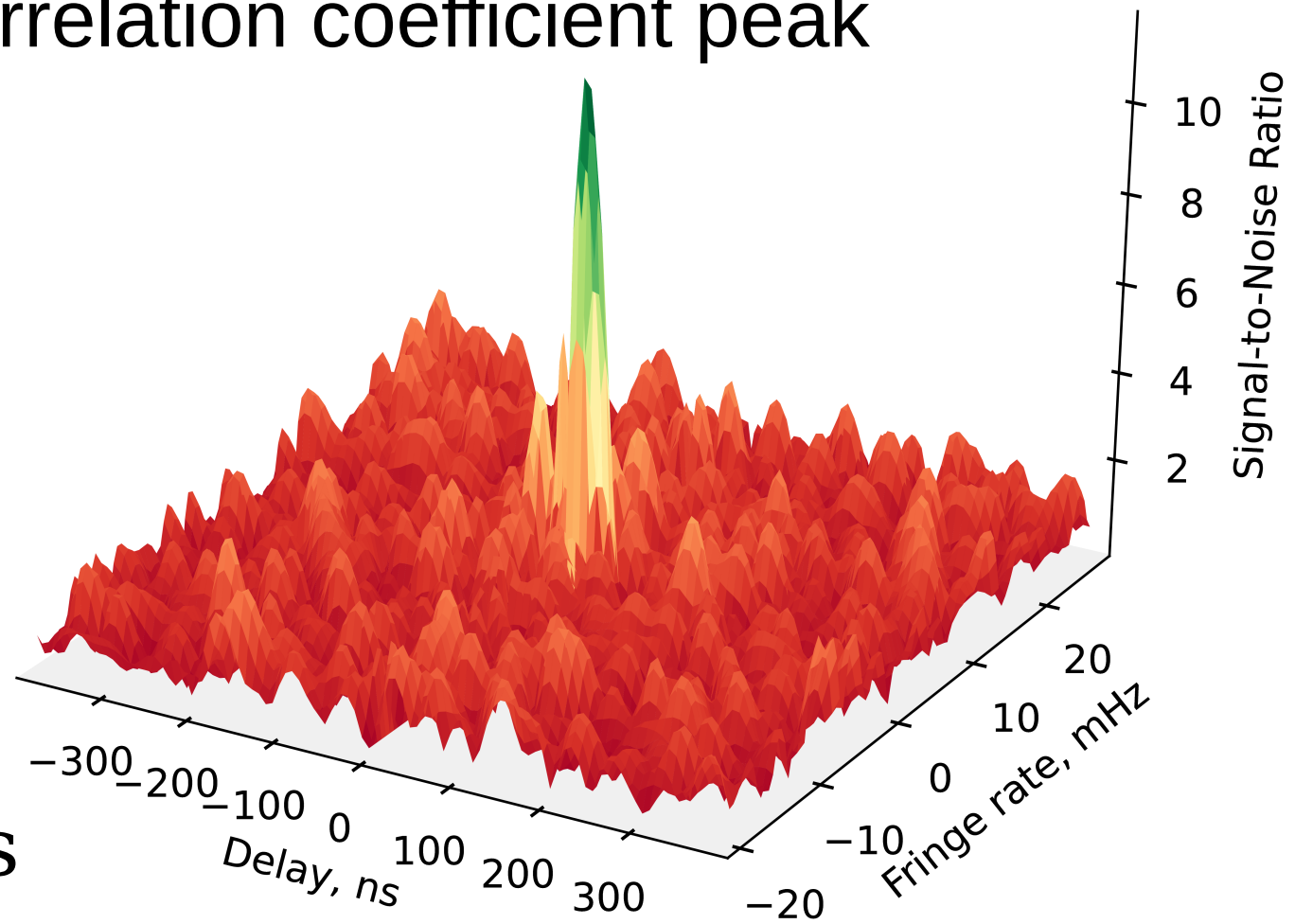
Apogee height: 330 000 km



- Orbit is **quickly evolving** thanks to the Moon
- Significant solar **radiation pressure** (10m mirror)
- **Reaction wheel unloading** by firing thrusters

To find VLBI fringes

- 1) Apply a priori **delay model**
- 2) Search the **residual delay, rate, acceleration** (?) space for the correlation coefficient peak



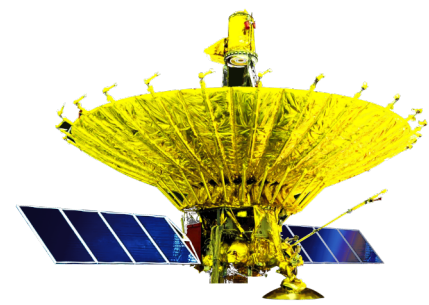
$$\lambda / D = 0.1 \text{ mas}$$

OJ 287 $D = 10 \times D_{\oplus}$ $\lambda = 6 \text{ cm}$ RadioAstron-Arecibo

Ground VLBI delay model includes

- Station / Source positions: different frames (ITRF, ICRF), motions
- Times: UTC; TAI, TT; UT1; TDB/TCB/TCG
- Orientation: Precession ($50''/\text{yr}$), Nutation ($9.6''$, 18yr), Polar Motion ($0.6''$, 1yr)
- Diurnal Spin: Oceanic friction ($2\text{ms}/\text{cy}$), CMB (5ms , dc/ds), AAM (2ms , yrs)
- Tides: Solid-earth (30cm), Pole (2cm)
- Loading: Ocean (2cm), Hydrologic (8mm), Atmospheric (2cm), PGR ($\text{mm}'\text{s}/\text{yr}$)
- Antennas: Axis offset, Tilt, Thermal expansion
- Propagation: Troposphere (dry [7ns], wet [0.3ns]), Ionosphere
- Relativistic $\tau(t)$ calculation: Gravitational delay, Frame choice/consistency

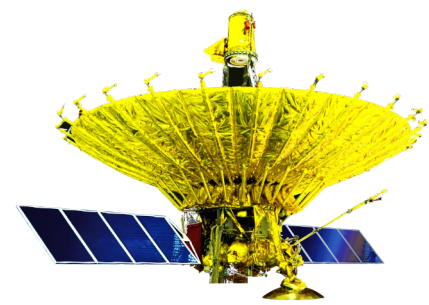
slide by Bob Campbell (JIVE)



Orbit reconstruction

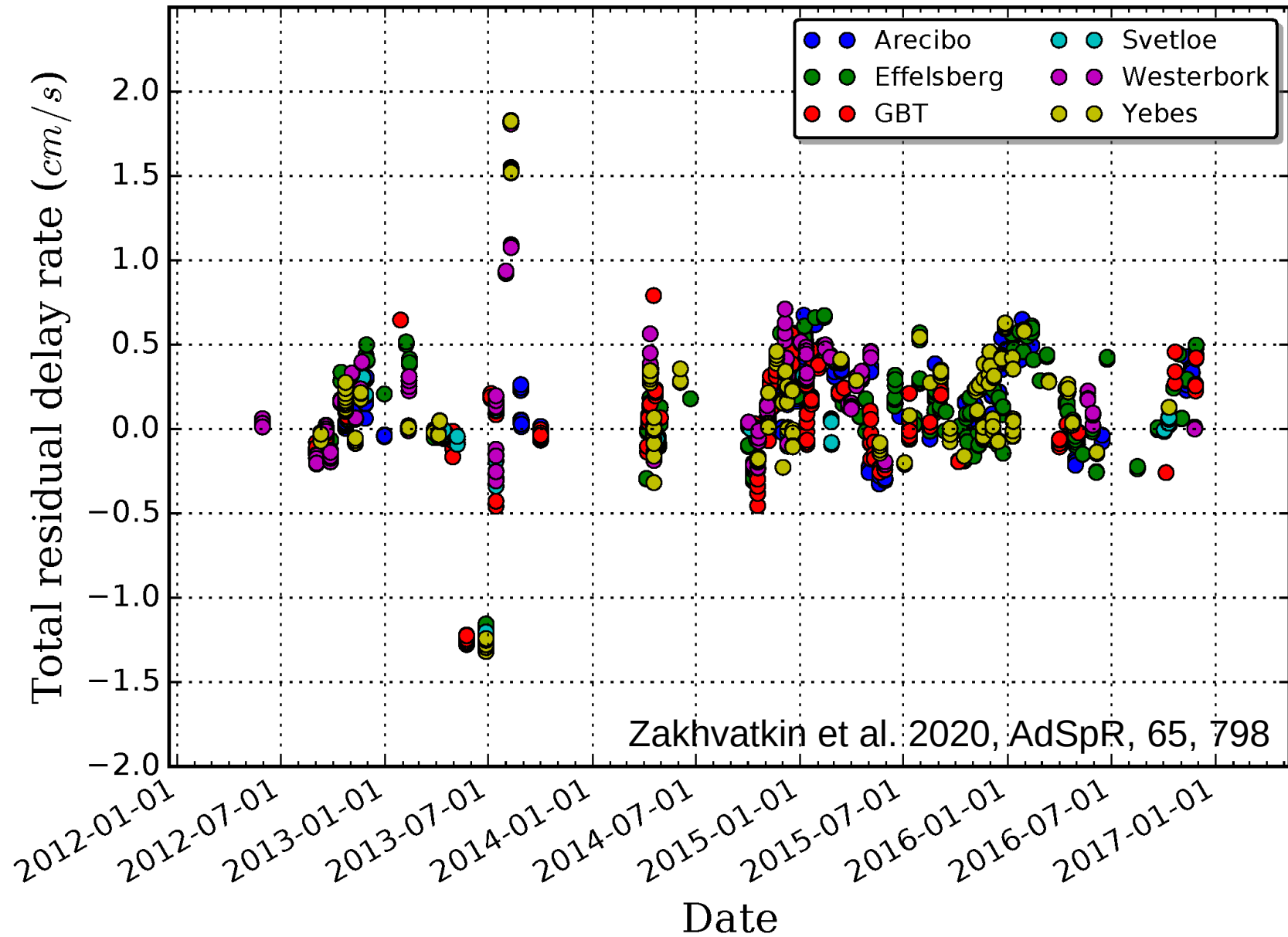
performed by Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics

- **Radiometric ranging** during command sessions
- **Doppler measurements** during VLBI sessions
- **Satellite laser ranging**
- **Optical astrometry** (R.A. Dec. from imaging)
- **VLBI observations of the spacecraft** itself
(experimental)



Orbit reconstruction

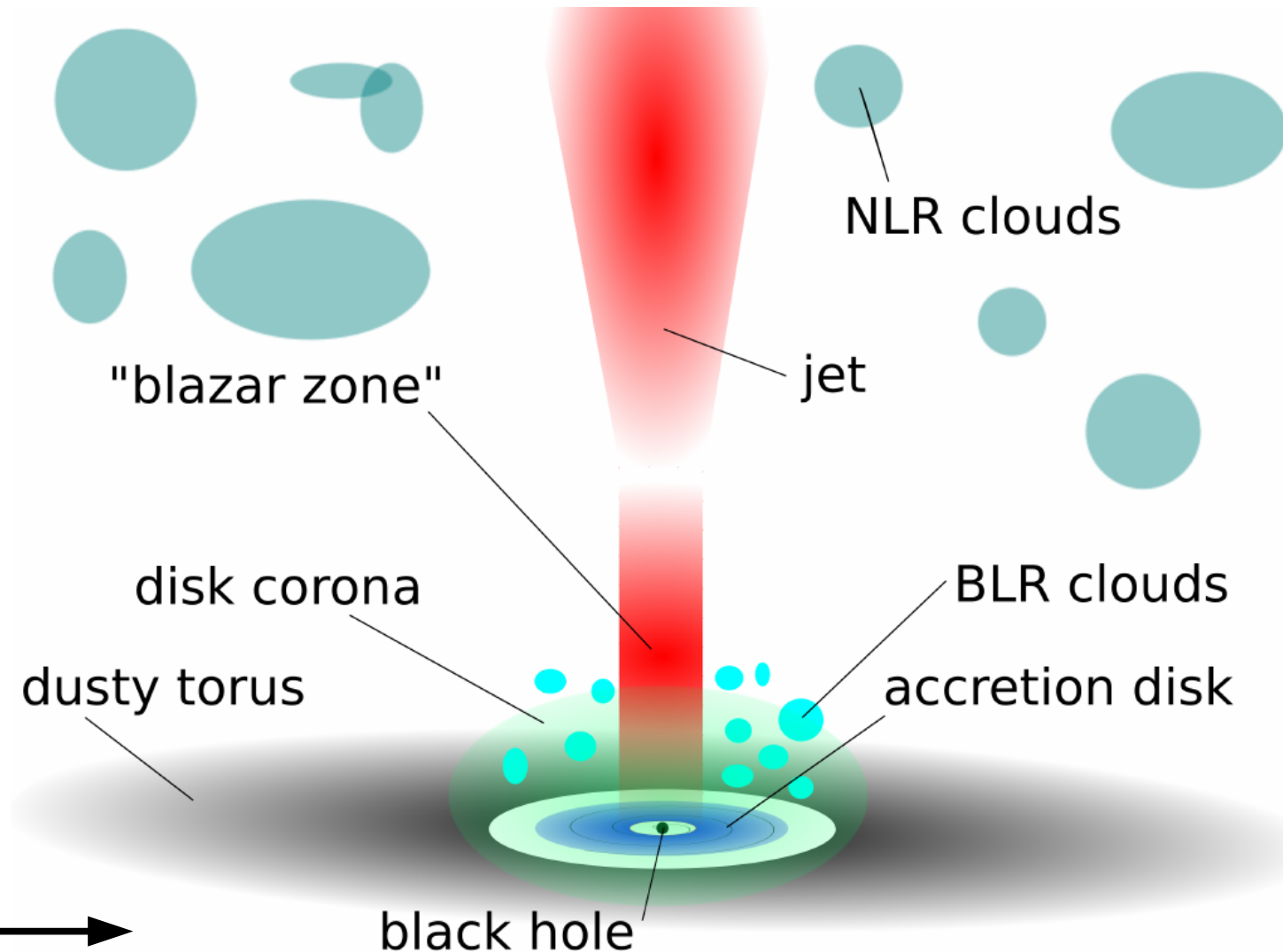
typically accurate to $\sim 1\text{km}$ and $< 1\text{cm/s}$



RadioAstron can observe only exceptionally bright things

(in terms of surface brightness)

- **Pulsars**
- **Masers**
- **AGN jets**



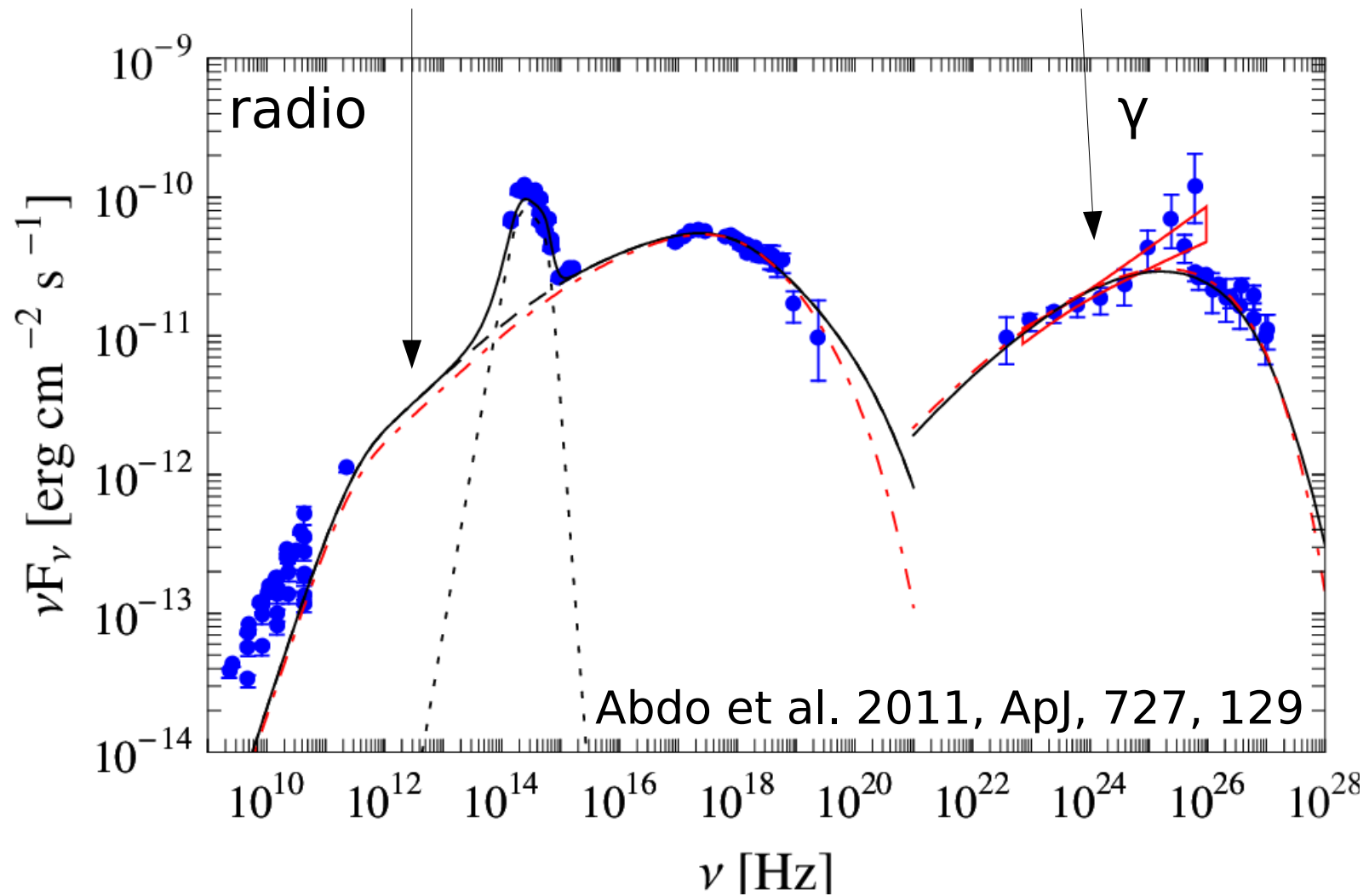
AGN sketch



Jet radiation mechanism

The “standard” view

Incoherent synchrotron radiation + Inverse Compton scattering
by leptons (e^+/e^-)



RadioAstron AGN survey goals

- **Test the incoherent synchrotron radiation model** as the mechanism of pc-scale core radio emission
- **Resolve the “Doppler factor crisis”** (short-timescale variability and SED modeling require *large δ* while VLBI measurements of jet feature speeds imply *small δ*)

Brightness temperature (T_b)

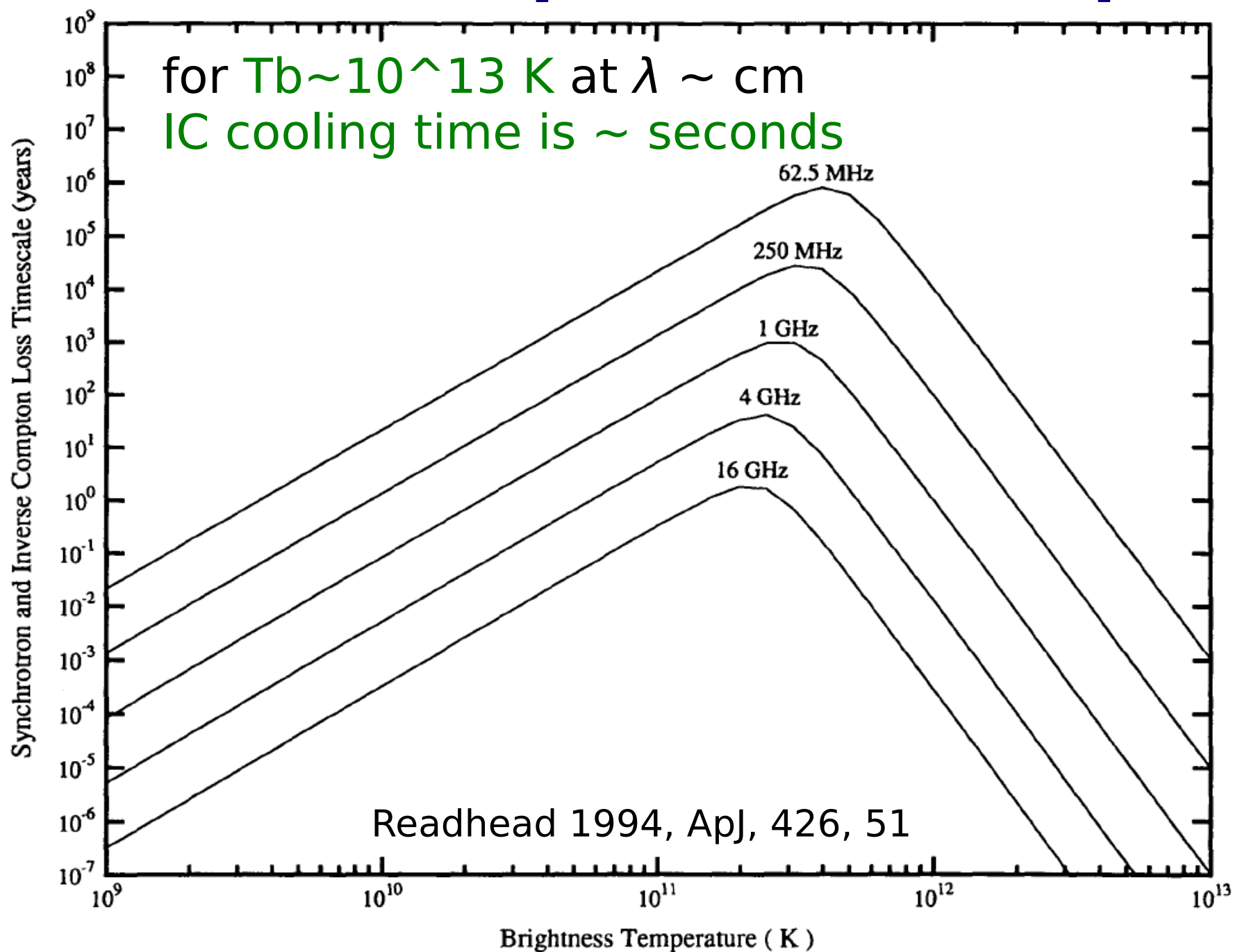
T_b is a measure of surface brightness

$$T_b = \frac{S}{2k} \frac{\lambda^2}{\theta^2} \delta(1+z)$$

$$\theta_{\text{lim}} \sim \lambda/D$$

- Maximum *measurable* T_b depends on D , not λ
- Observed $T_b \sim \delta$ for a given intrinsic T_b

“Inverse-Compton catastrophe”



RadioAstron AGN survey

The most bright and compact AGN according to ground-based VLBI (249 objects, 3000 RA experiments)

Bands: 18, 6 and 1.3 cm

sensitivity ←

resolution →

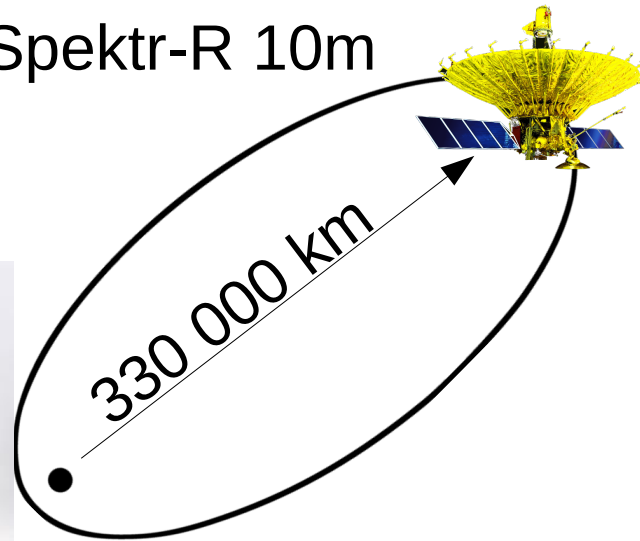
ISM scattering ←

The sources are observed at a few baselines starting from 2-3 D_{\oplus} (VSOP/TDRSS scale) up to $>10 D_{\oplus}$
(uncharted territory)

AGN survey observations

Visibility tracking with space telescope + large ground telescope + small ground telescope

Spektr-R 10m



Effelsberg 100m



Zelenchuk 32m



Arecibo 300m



Green Bank 100m

Ground telescopes observing

with RA: Svetloe, Badary, Zelencuk, Kalyazin (*Russia*)
Evpatoriya (*Ukraine*); Shanghai 25 & 64, Urumqi (*China*)
Effelsberg (*Germany*); WSRT (*Netherlands*); Torun (*Poland*)
Medicina, Noto, Sardinia (*Italy*); Jodrell Bank 1 & 2 (*UK*)
Yebes, Robledo (*Spain*); GBT, Arecibo, VLA (*USA*)
Usuda (*Japan*)
HartRAO (*South Africa*)

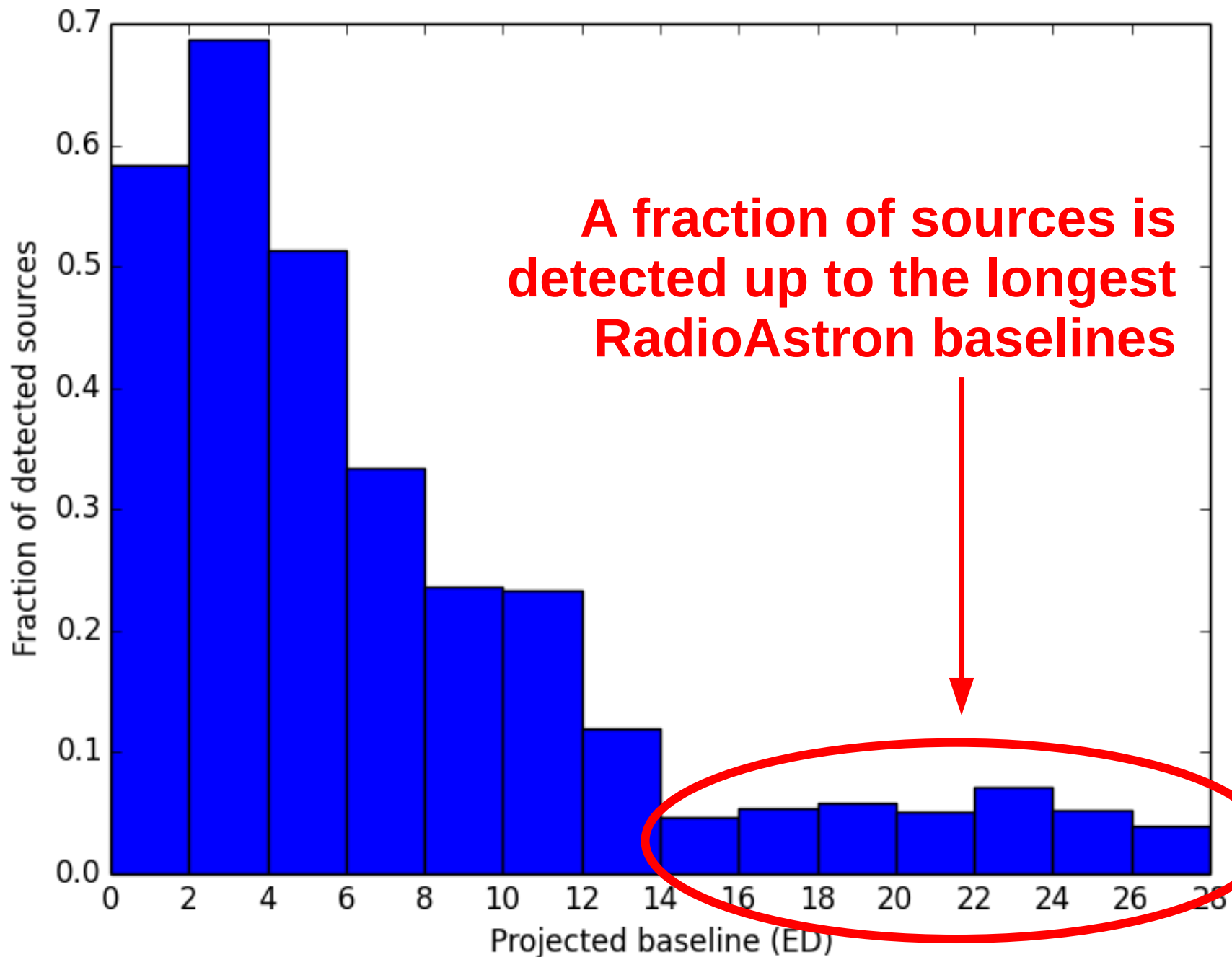
Networks:

- EVN
- LBA+Tid
- KVN
- VLBA
- Global Array



Kalyazin 64m

18 cm fringe detection statistics



6/18 cm detections at $>14 D_{\oplus}$

0048-097

0119+115

0235+164

0529+483

0716+714

0814+425

OJ 248

OJ 287

1005+066

1040+244

1044+719

1055+018

3C 279

1642+690

BL Lac

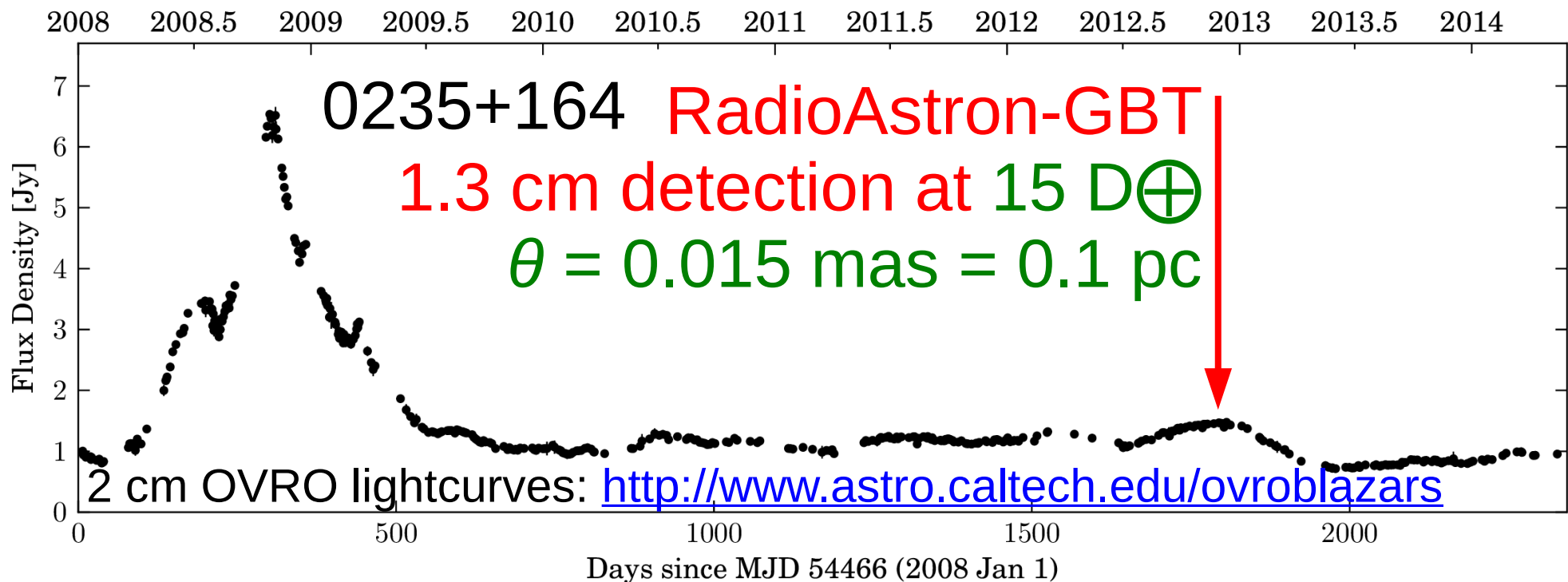
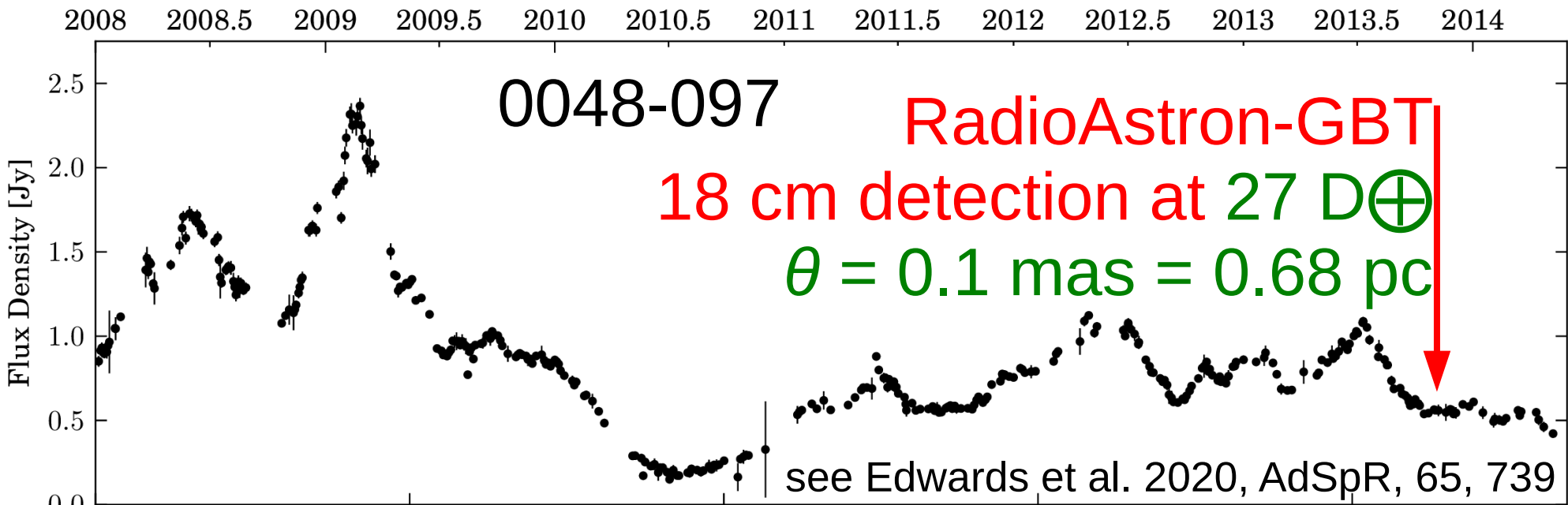
CTA102

3C 454.3

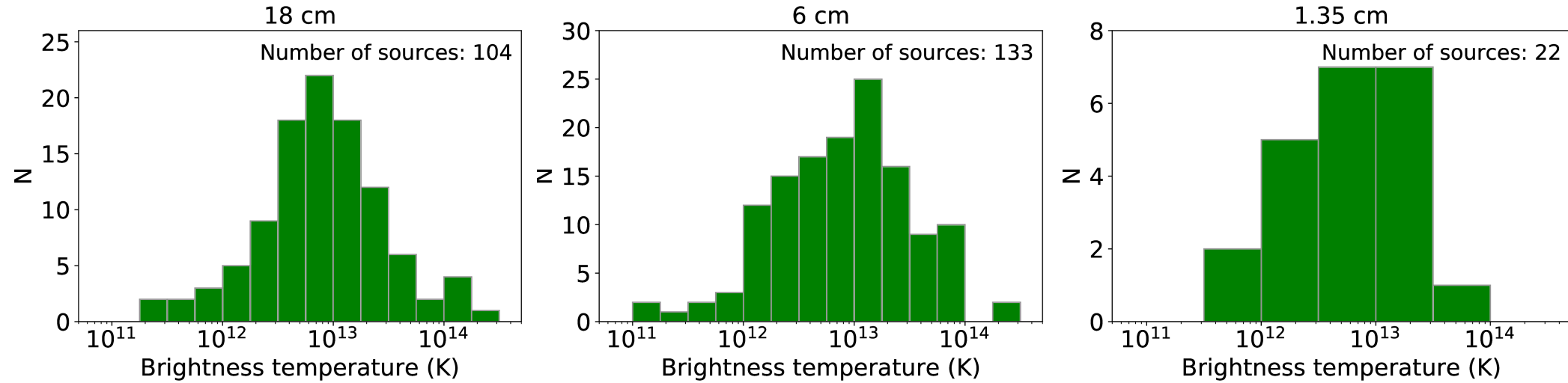
What is special about these sources?

- Most are GeV-bright while the same is true for only half of the non-detected sources (*large δ ?*)
- No radio-galaxies detected at long baselines, only blazars (*large δ ?*)
- Larger app. speeds? (*large δ ?*)
- A mixture of FSRQs and BL Lacs in both sub-samples
- No difference in Gal. latitude (*scattering is not the issue*)

Active state?

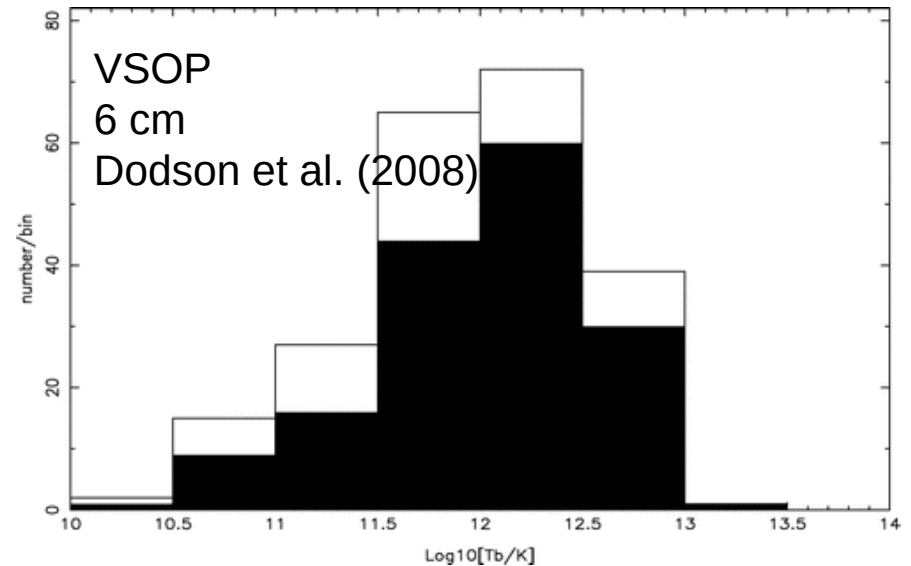
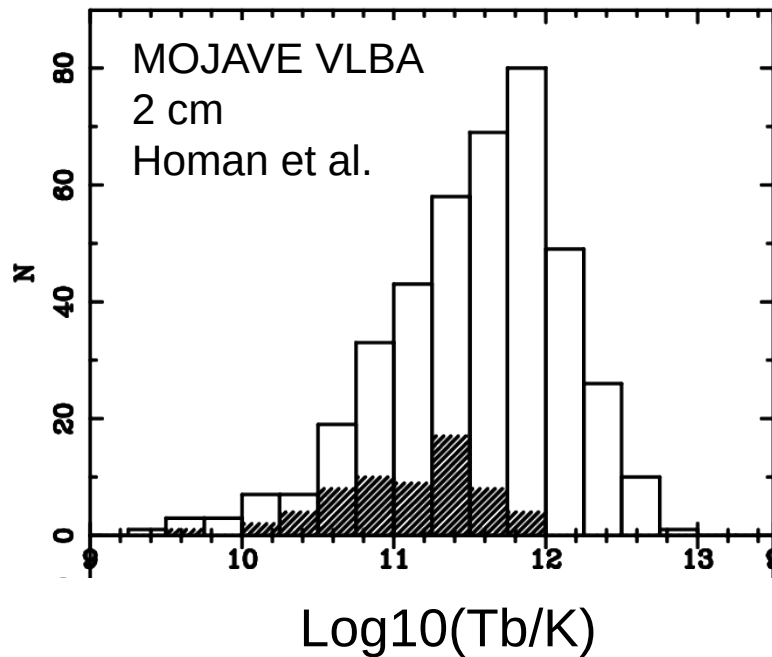


RadioAstron Tb distributions



initial RAAGN survey results presented by Kovalev et al. 2020, AdSpR, 65, 705

Previous Tb measurements



Apparent $T_b \propto \delta$

RadioAstron observes **T_b up to $\sim 10^{14}$ K**

implying that either **$\delta \sim 100$**

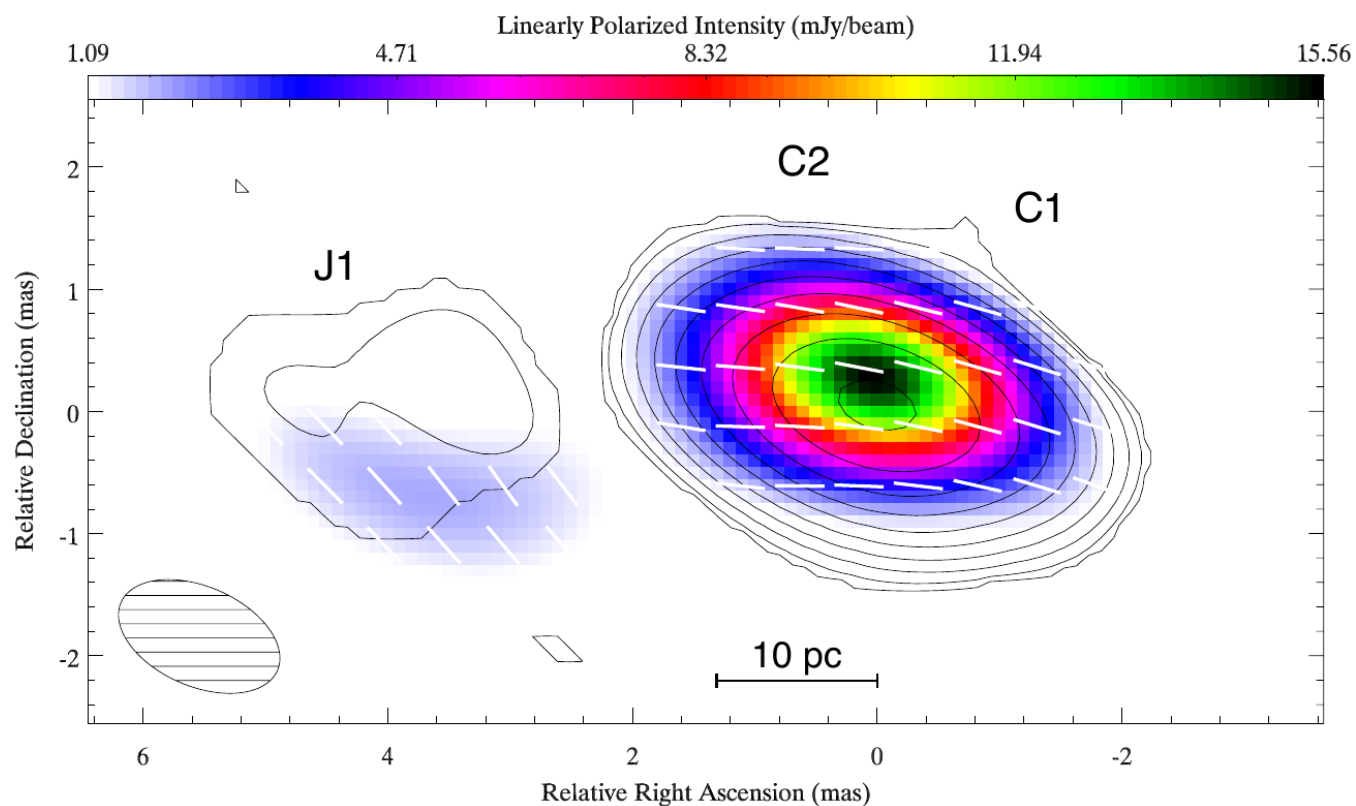
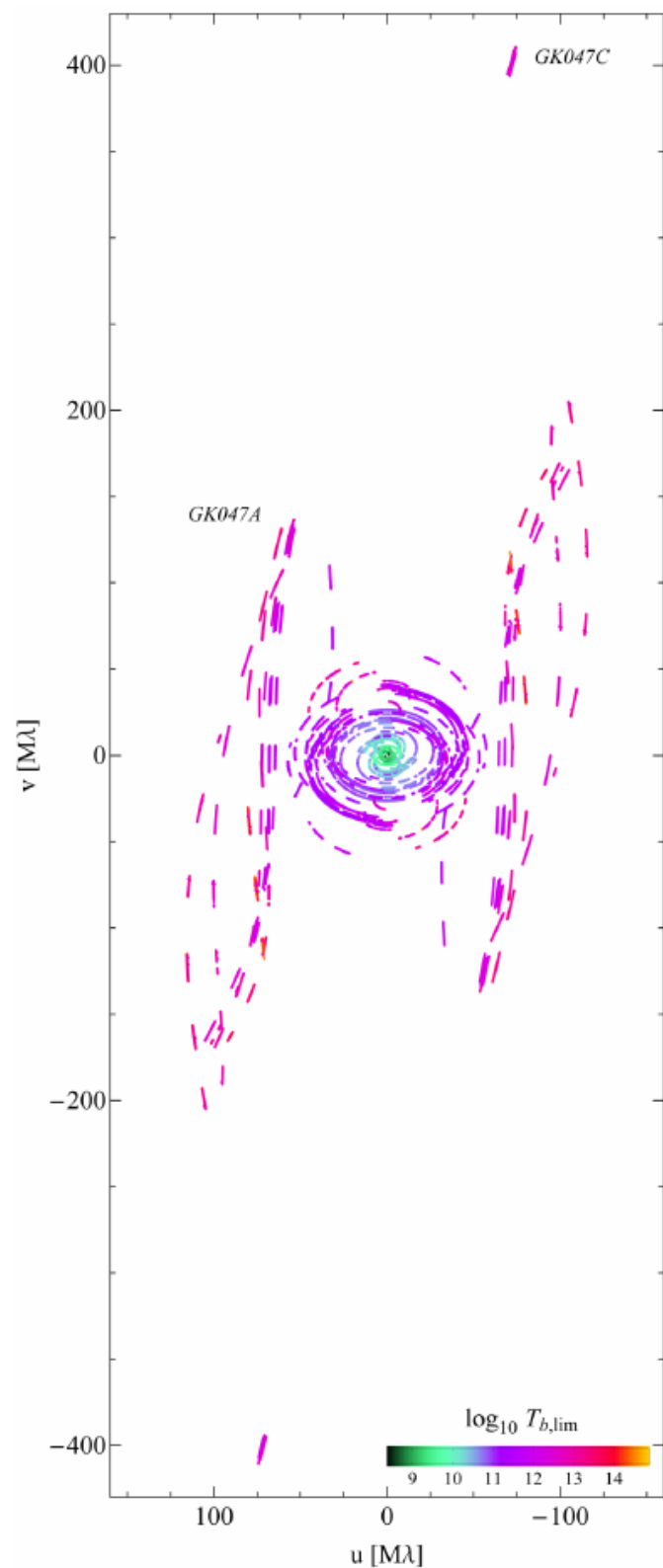
or **intrinsic T_b is not $\sim 10^{12}$ K**

Possibilities to avoid IC limit of 10^{12} K:

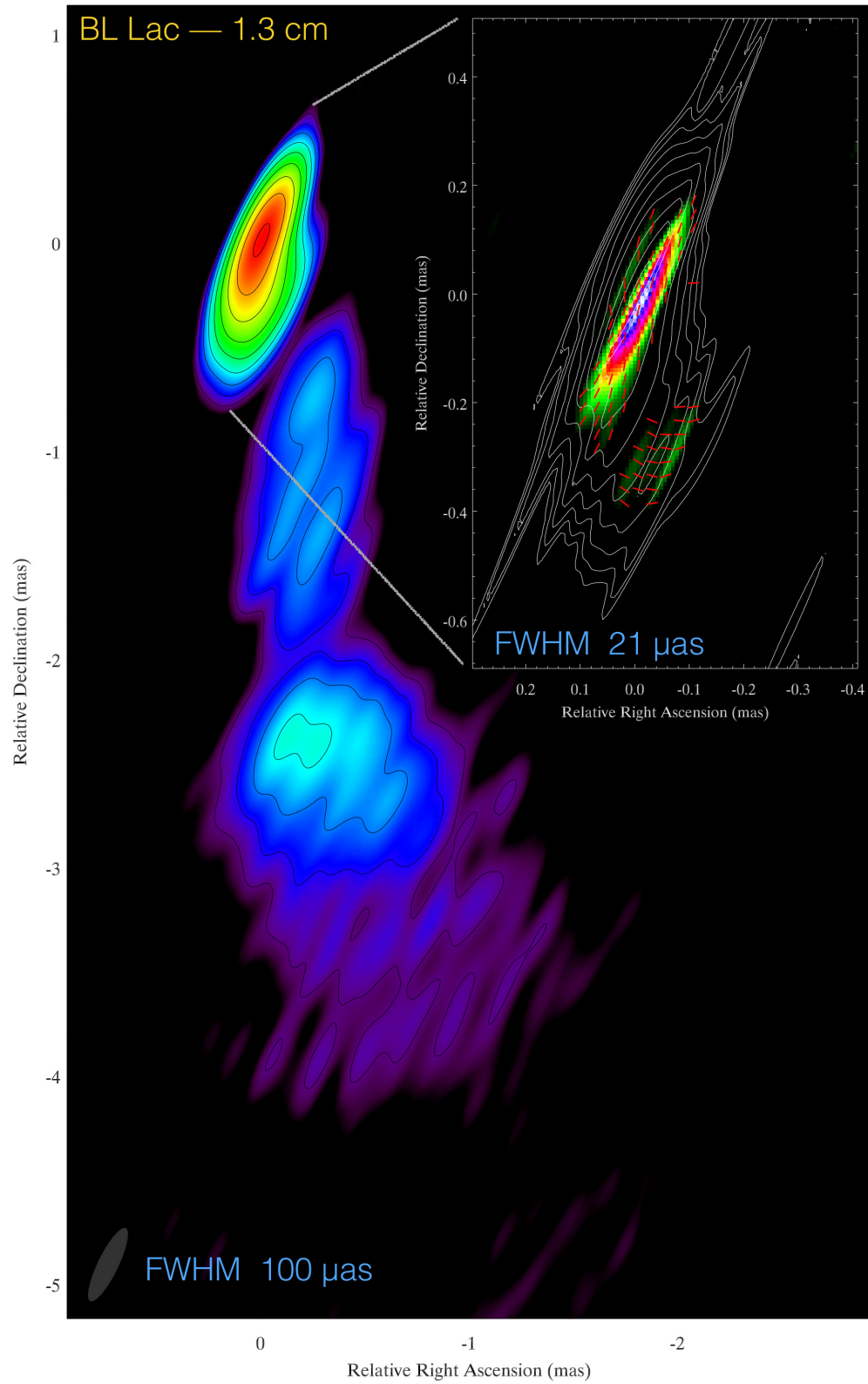
- Constant particle re-acceleration
- Proton synchrotron emission
- “Funny” particle energy distribution
- Coherent emission (*like in pulsars???*)

Perigee imaging with RadioAstron

0642+449 at 18 cm



Lobanov et al. 2015, A&A, 583, A100

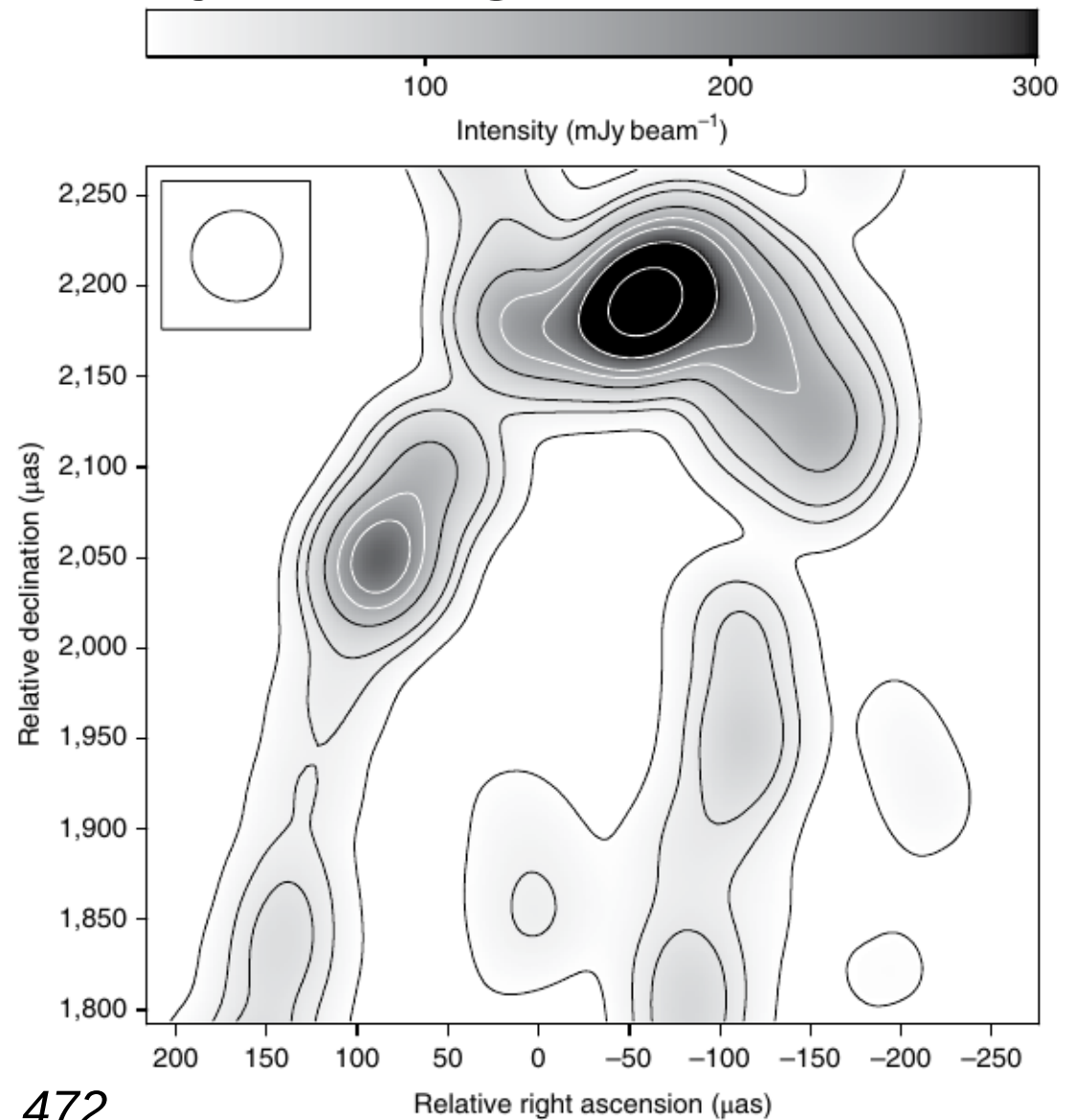
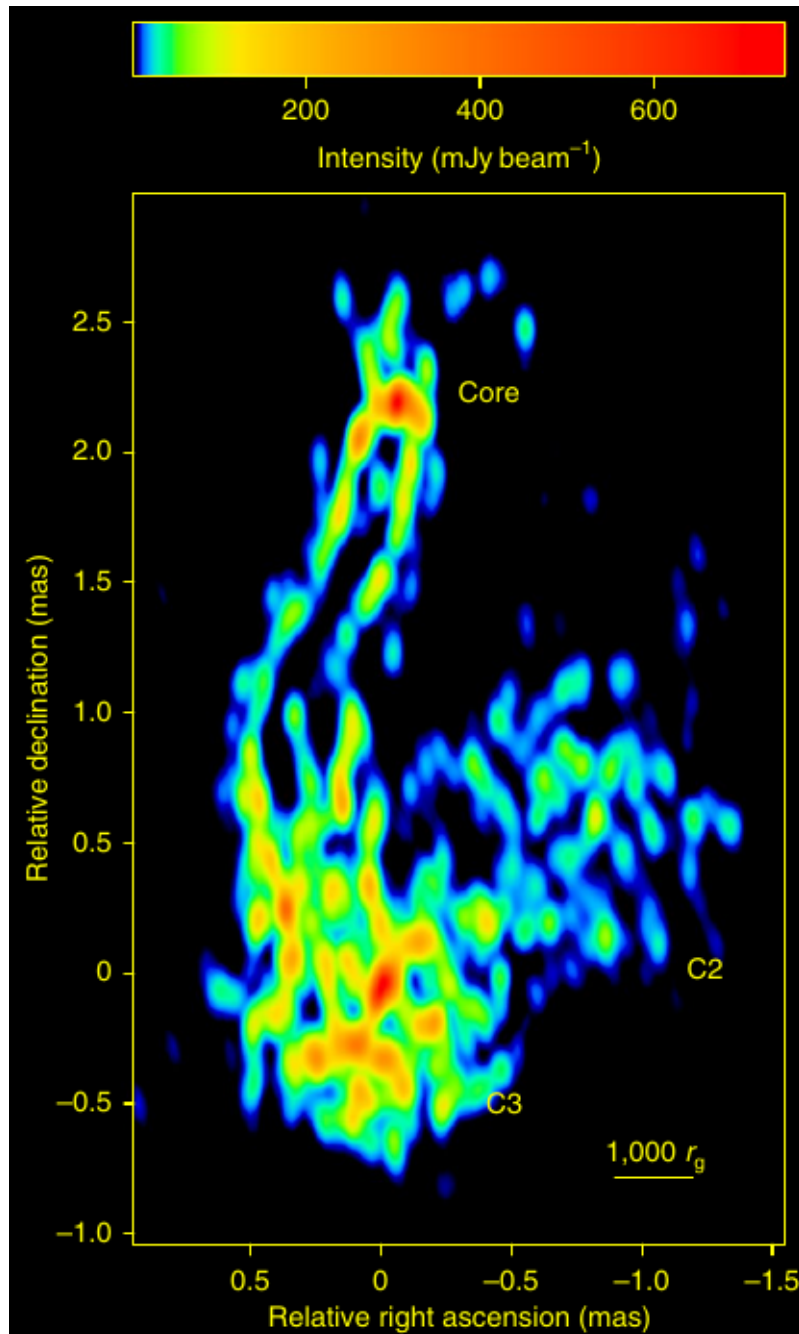


0.65 pc

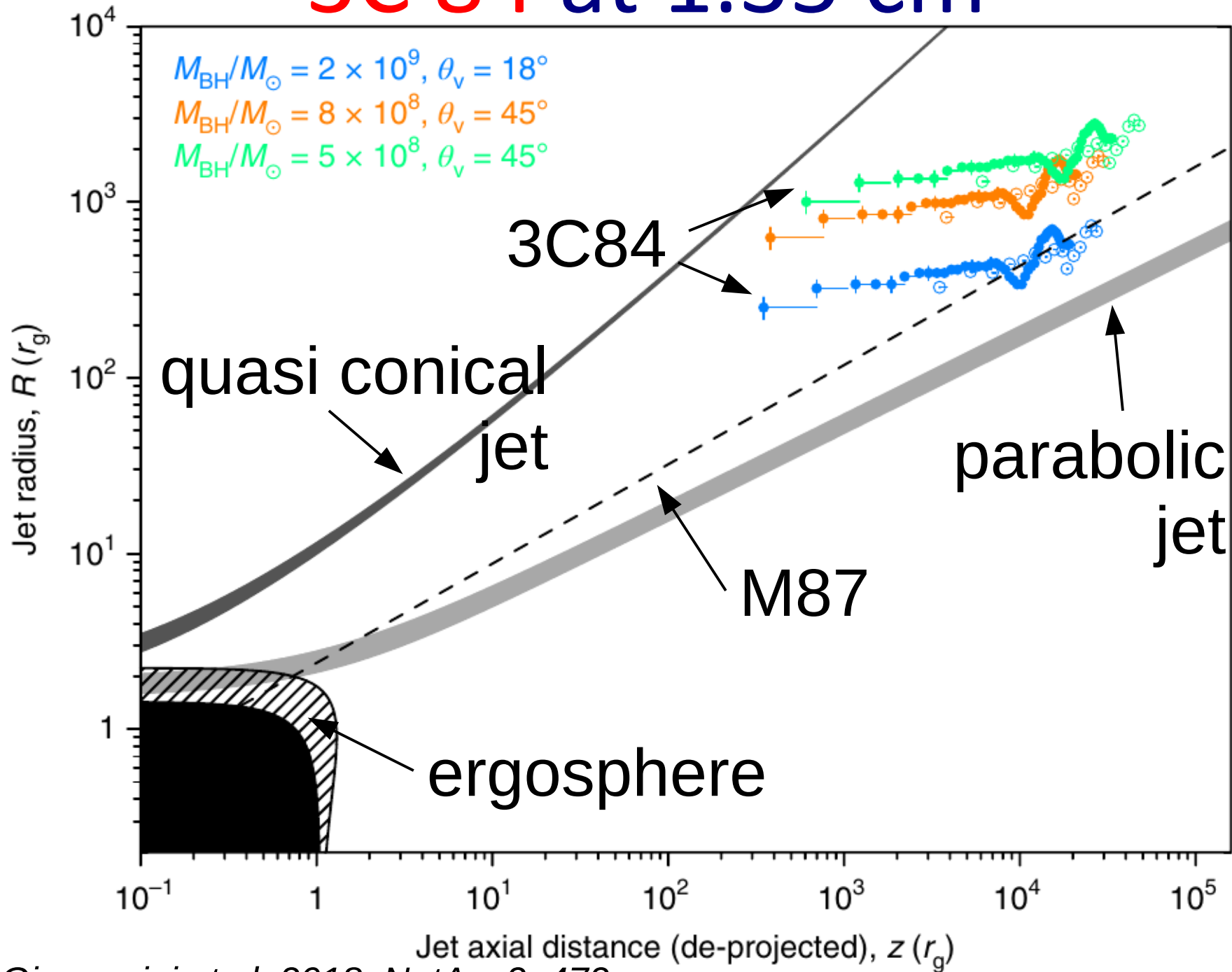
Polarization image of BL Lac at 1.3 cm

3C 84 at 1.35 cm

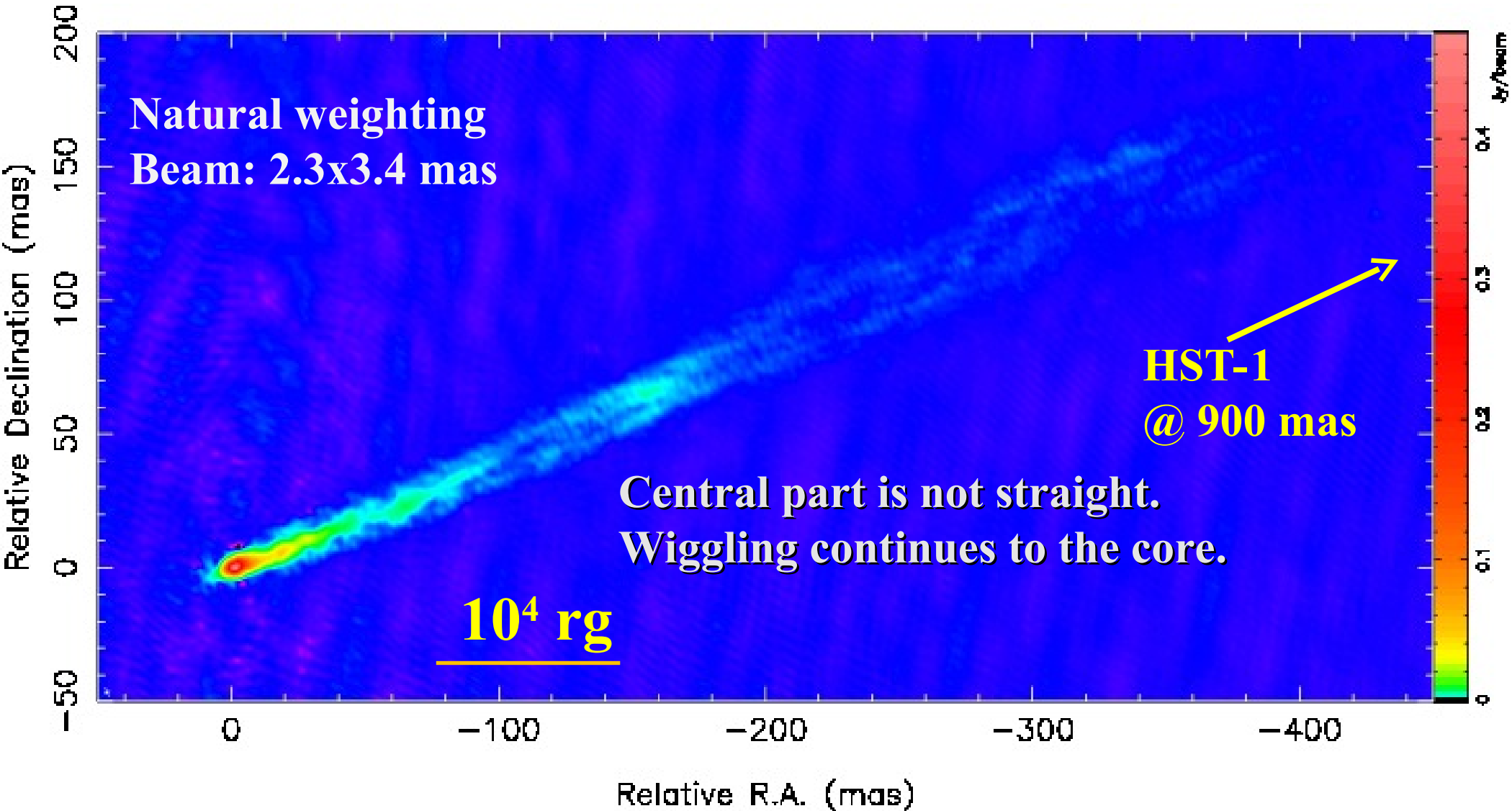
The jet is 250 r_g wide
only 350 r_g from the BH



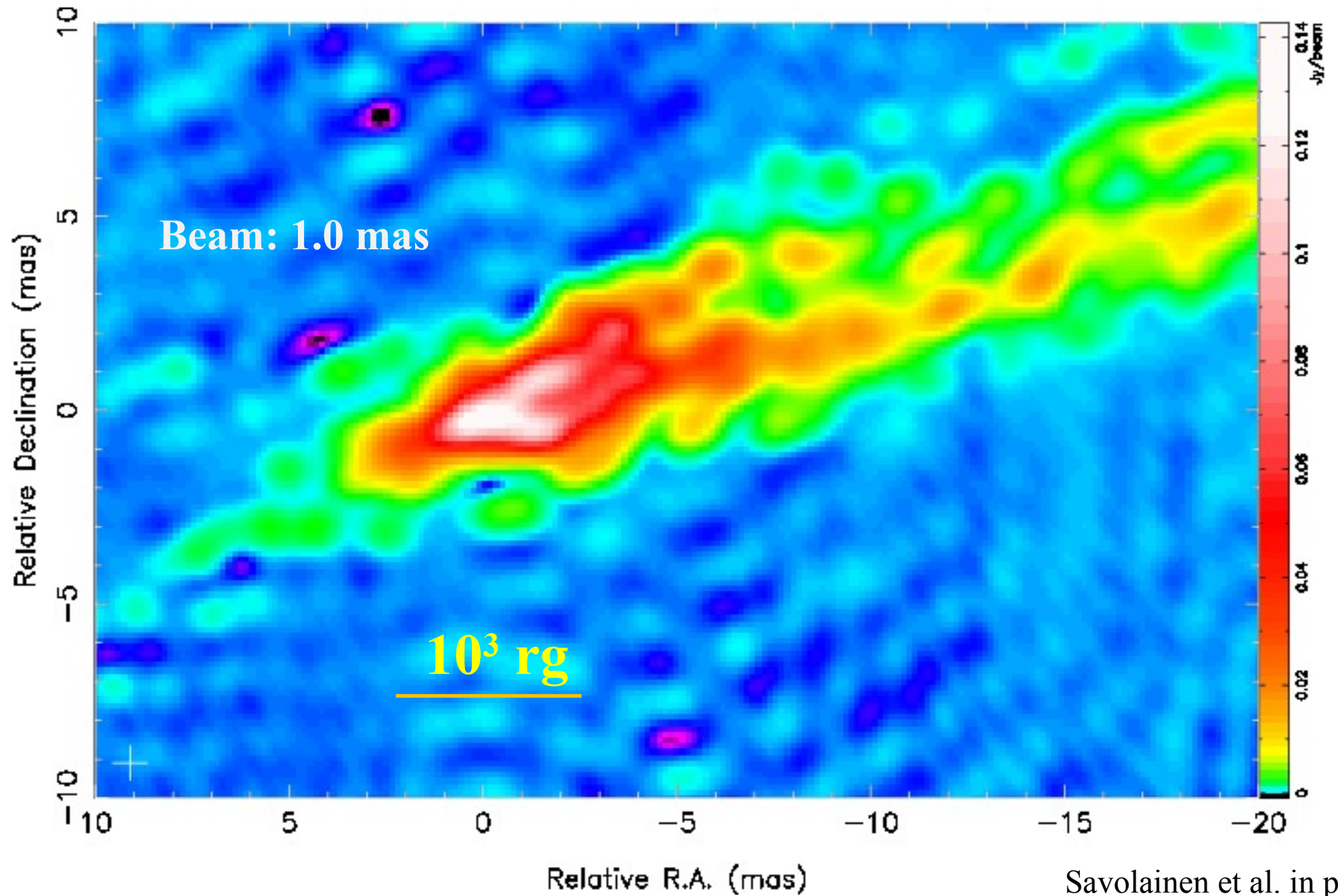
3C 84 at 1.35 cm



Jet in M87 at 18cm

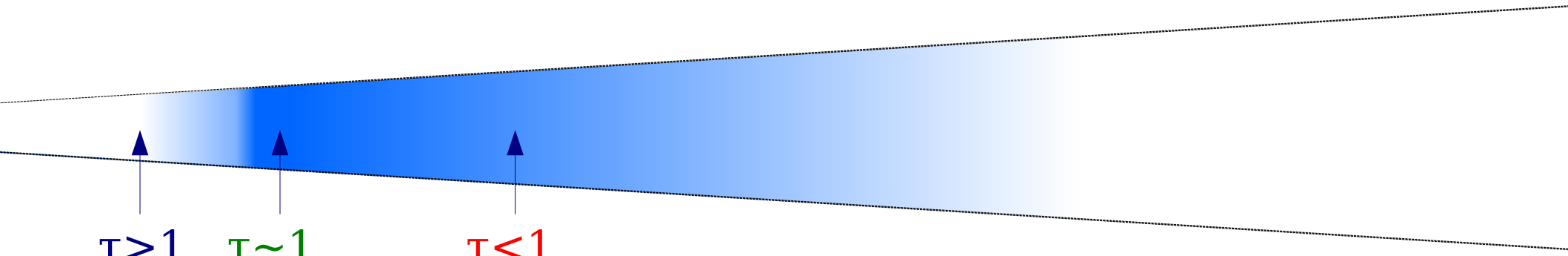


Jet in M87 at 18cm



Core is the $\tau=1$ region in the jet

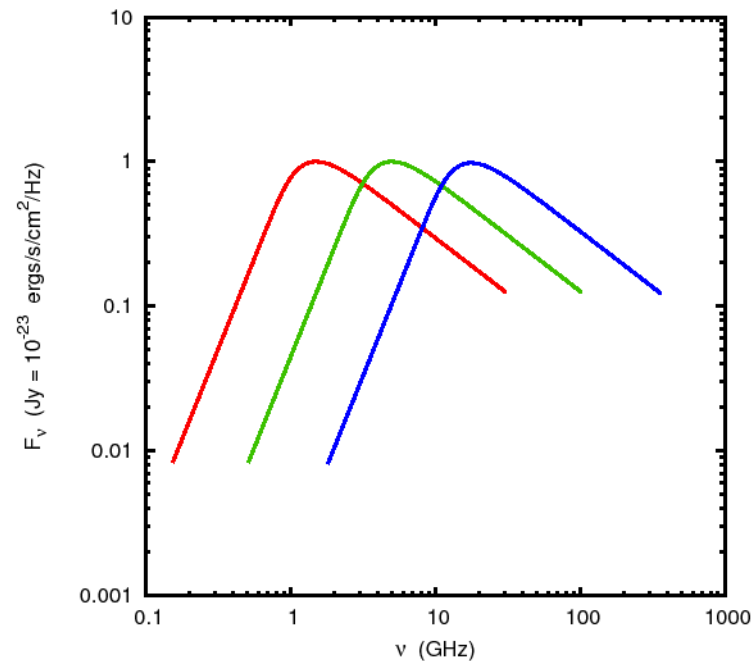
Central engine is there



$\tau > 1$

$\tau \sim 1$

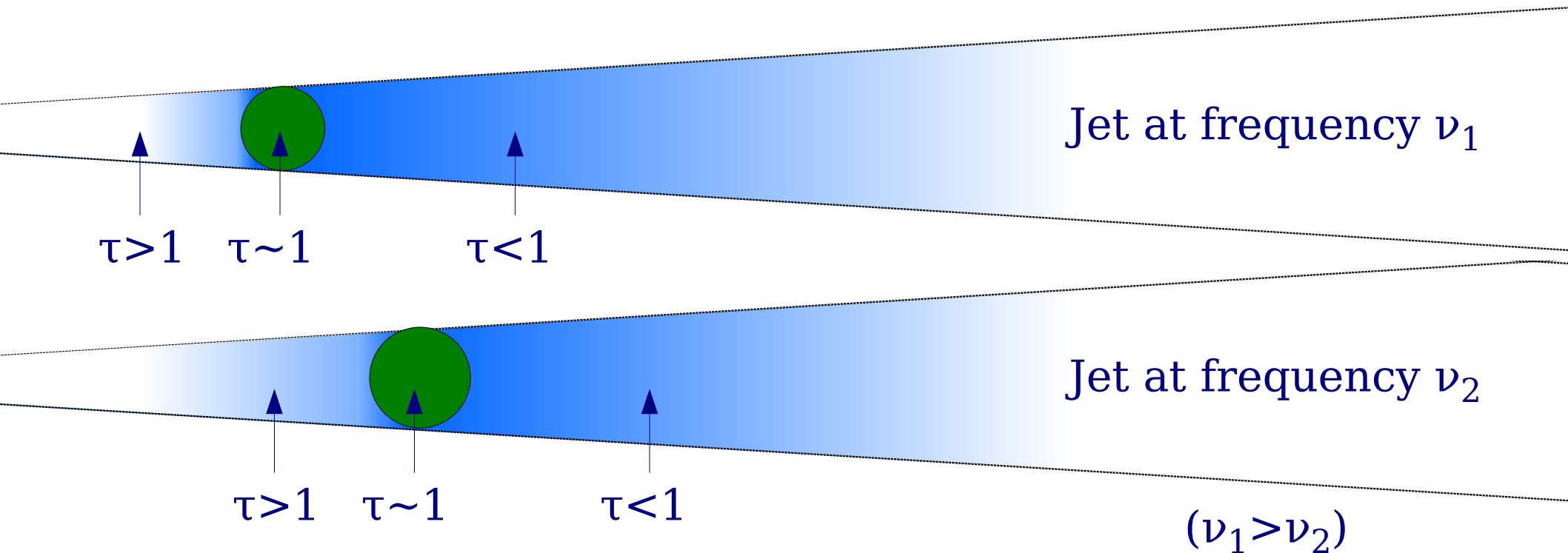
$\tau < 1$



- Optical depth (τ) at a given observing frequency (ν) varies with distance from the central engine.
- Most of the emission comes from $\tau \sim 1$ region (photosphere).

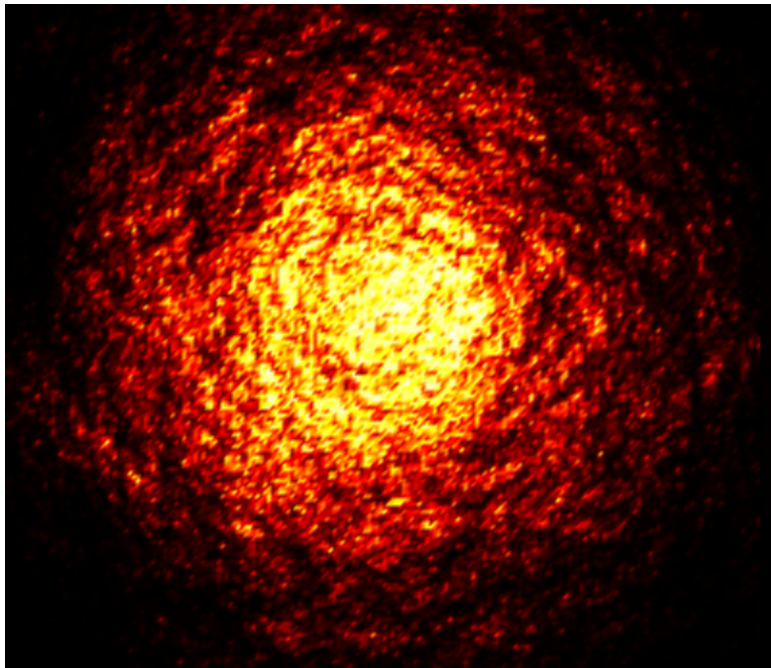
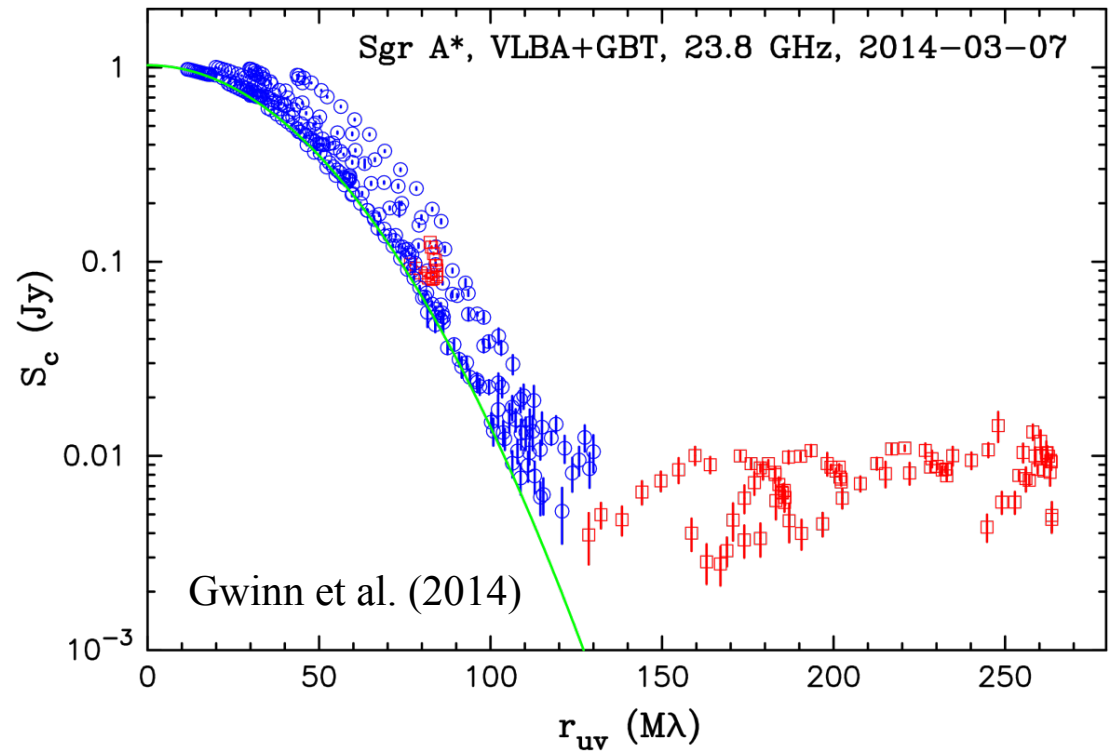
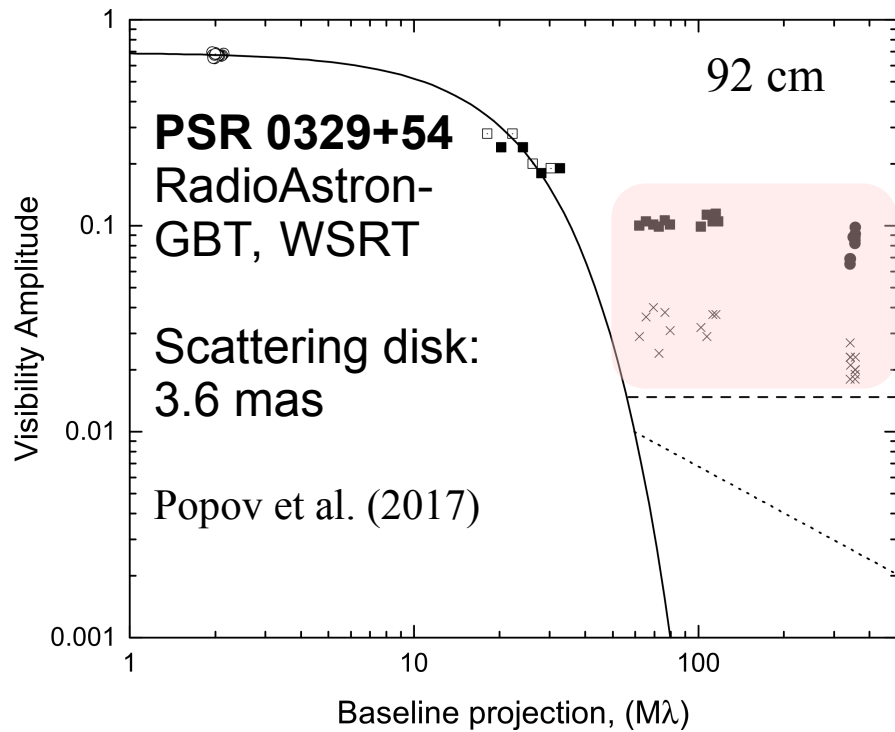
Core position and size change with ν

Central engine is there
←



Core size \sim jet cross-section \rightarrow depends on ν

Discovery of the scattering sub-structure



← scattering model by
Johnson 2016, ApJ, 833, 74

slide by Yuri Kovalev (ASC)

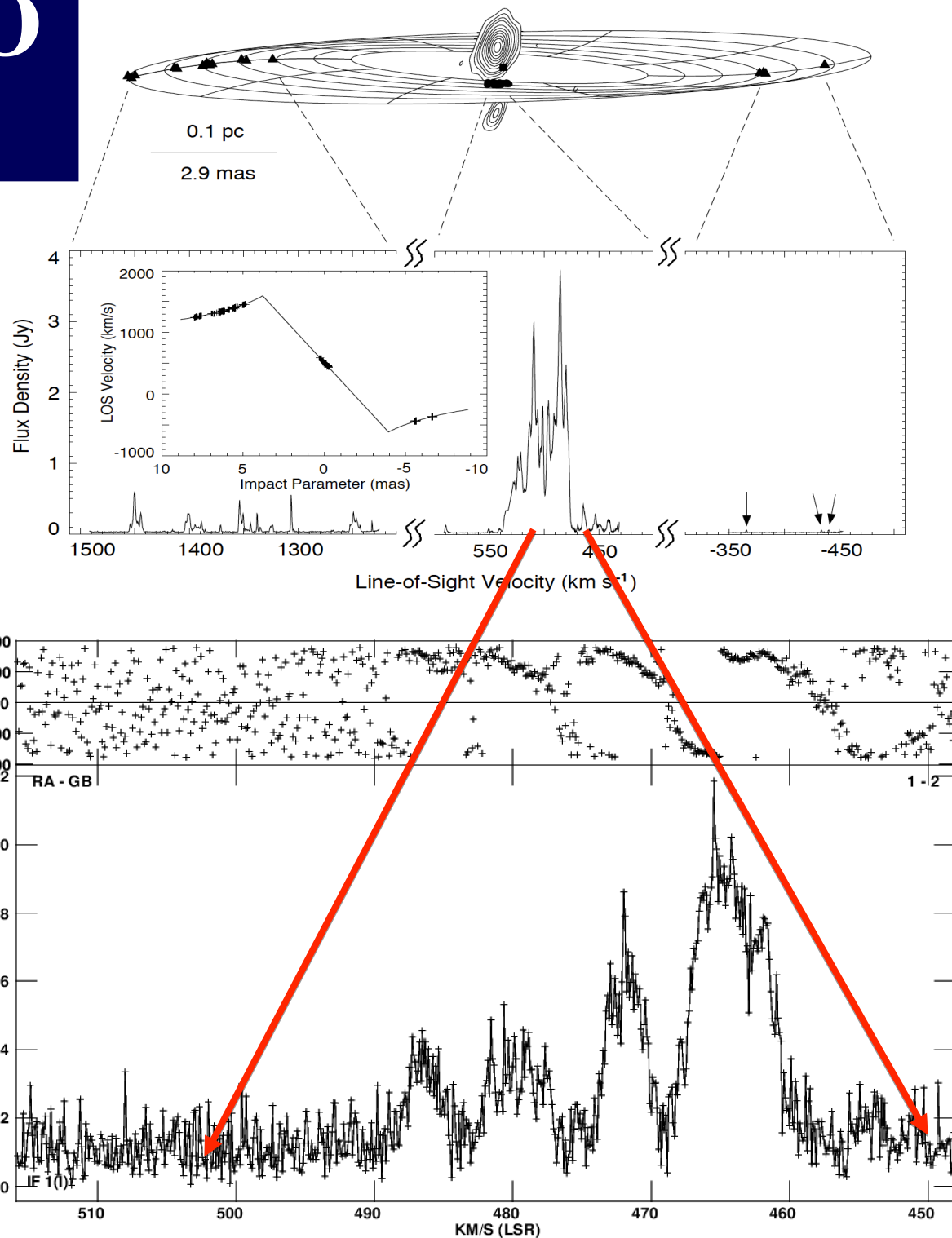
Extragalactic H₂O maser (1.3 cm)

RadioAstron has found ultra-compact regions of maser emission in the accretion disk of the galaxy **NGC4258**: detection at projected baseline of **26 D \oplus , 8 μ as**.

Individual components probably unresolved ($\leq 3 \mu$ as)
Thickness of accretion disk is $\sim 10 \mu$ as.
Constraints kinematics and dynamics of the disk

Alakoz et al. in prep.

slide by Yuri Kovalev (ASC)



Summary

- RadioAstron was working in both **imaging** and **fringe tracking** (longest baselines) modes
- Fringe tracking at **8 μ as** (1.3 cm) for H₂O maser in NGC4258
- Resolves **>90%** of the brightest radio-loud AGNs down to tens of mJy level
- **Tb ~ a few $\times 10^{13}$ K** found in a number of AGNs
- First Space-VLBI polarization images at 18 and 1.3cm
- Wide edge brightened jet in 3C84
- First observation of scattering substructure