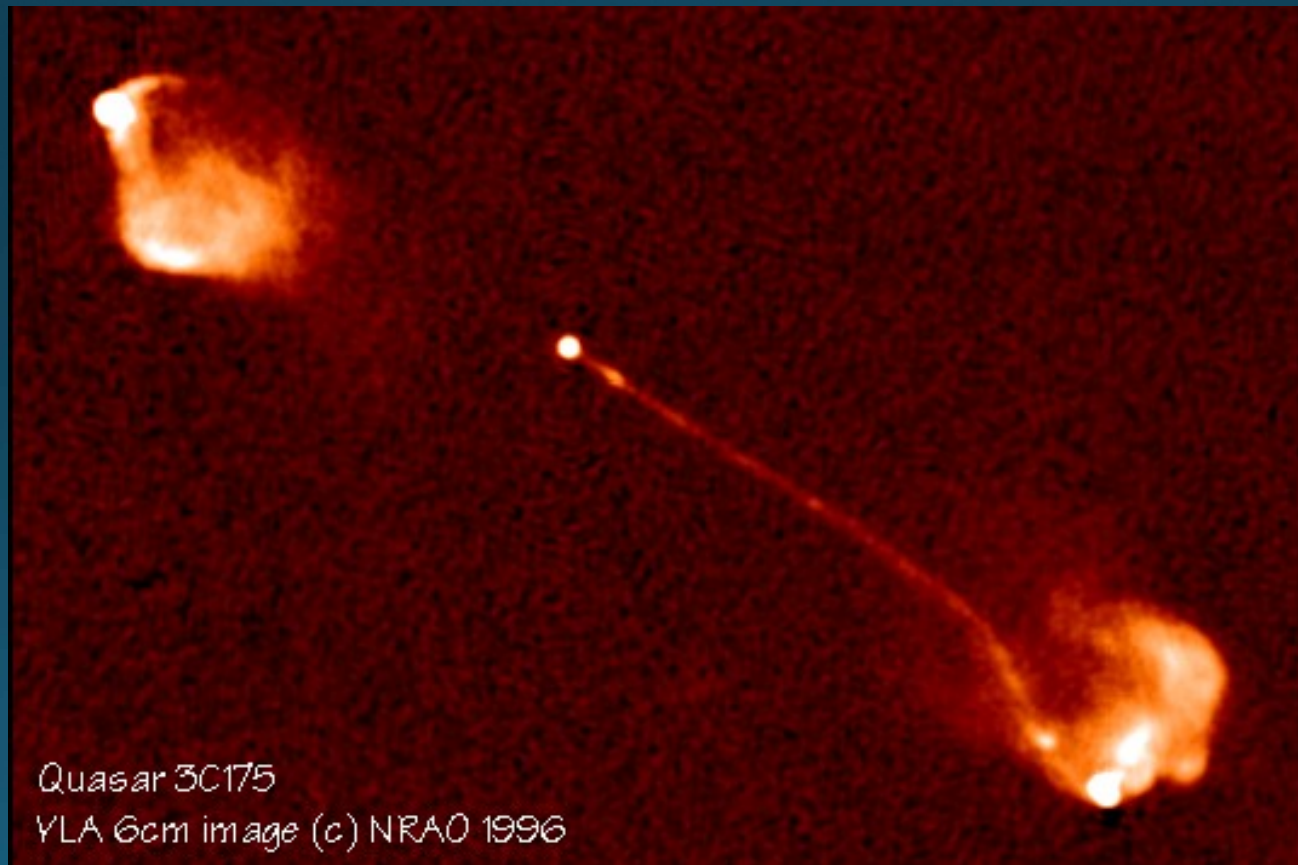


# Physics of Galaxies 2018

10 credits

## Lecture 6: Active galaxies and black holes



# Outline

- Introduction to the database exercise
- Black holes in galaxies
  - How do we find them?
  - Relation between black hole mass and other galaxy properties
- Active galactic nuclei (AGN)
  - Basic AGN anatomy
  - Different types of AGN
  - Unification model
  - Quasar host galaxies
  - Quasar absorption systems

# Database exercise



UPPSALA UNIVERSITET



## **Studying galaxies with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey**

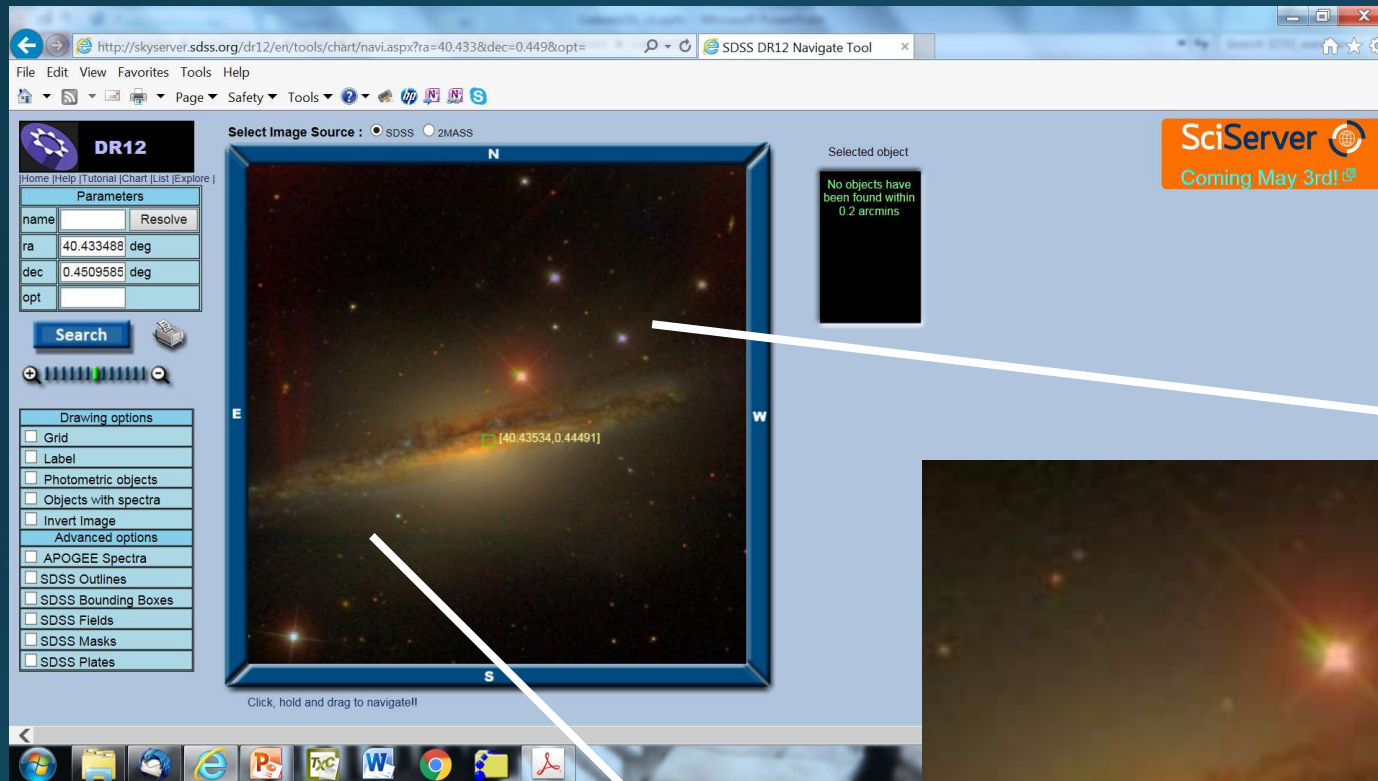
Laboratory exercise, Physics of Galaxies, Spring 2018 (Uppsala Universitet)

by

Beatriz Villarroel

Deadline June 7 – preferably no more than 5 pages

# Obstacles: Astronomical coordinates





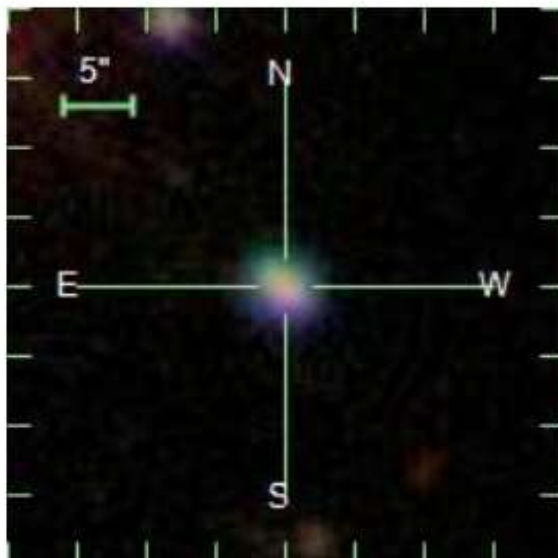
# Obstacles: Bewildering photometric data

**SDSS J113459.47+002509.1**

**GALAXY** ra=173.74782136, dec=0.41921516, ObjId = 588848900446814264

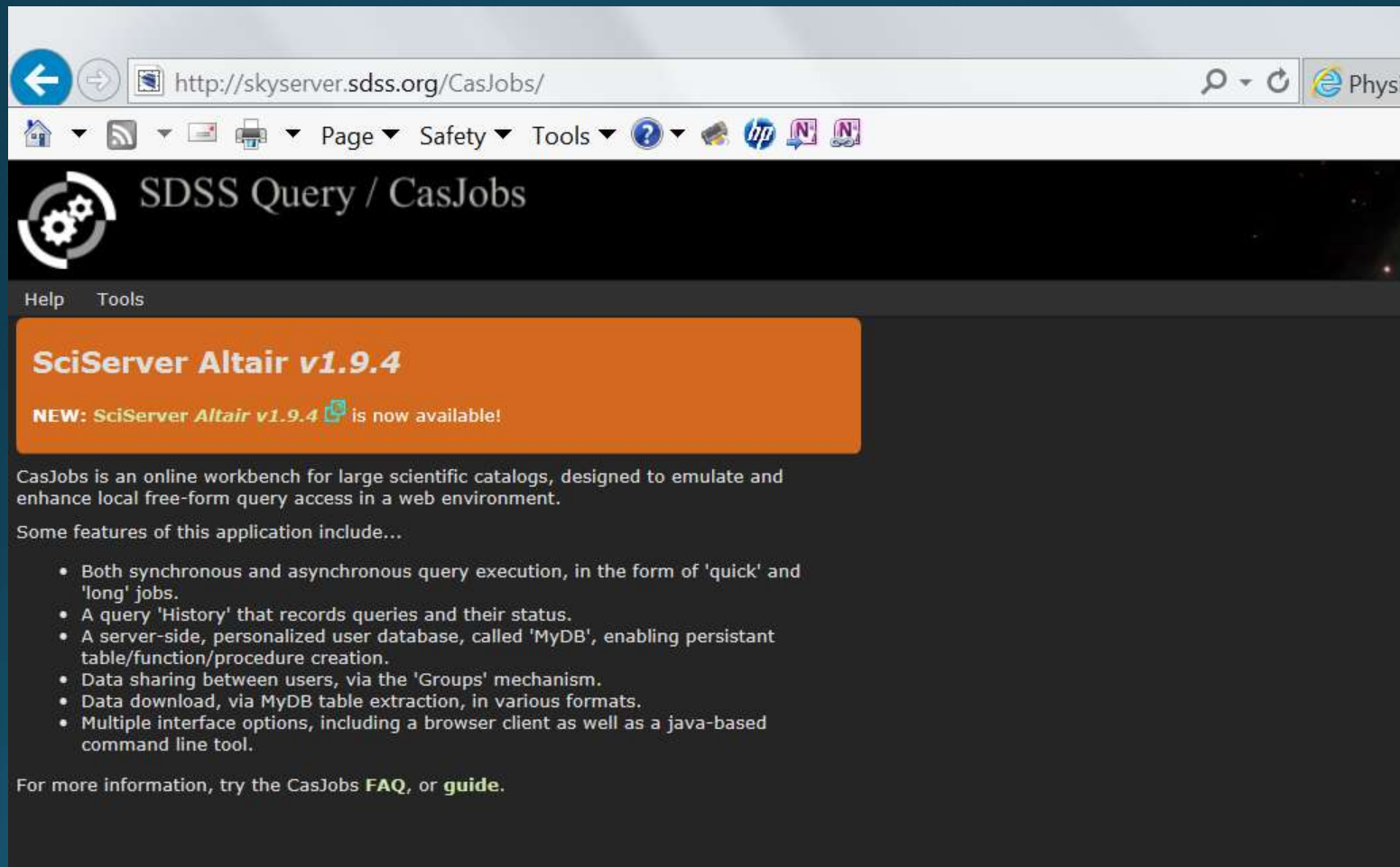
*Column names link to glossary entries. Move mouse over a column name to get its units.*

mode	PRIMARY
status	TARGET PRIMARY OK_STRIPE OK_SCANLINE PSEGMENT RESOLVED OK_RUN GOOD SET
flags	STATIONARY MOVED BINNED1 CHILD
PrimTarget	TARGET_GALAXY
SecTarget	



<u>u</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>z</u>		
19.55	18.04	17.55	17.35	17.21		
<u>err_u</u>	<u>err_g</u>	<u>err_r</u>	<u>err_i</u>	<u>err_z</u>		
0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02		
<u>run</u>	<u>rerun</u>	<u>camcol</u>	<u>field</u>	<u>obj</u>	<u>rowc</u>	<u>colc</u>
756	44	4	387	56	549.4	1974.6
<u>fiberMag_r</u>	<u>petroMag_r</u>	<u>devMag_r</u>	<u>expMag_r</u>	<u>psfMag_r</u>	<u>modelMag_r</u>	
18.05	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.99	17.55	
<u>extinction_r</u>	<u>petroRad_r</u>	<u>parentId</u>			<u>nChild</u>	
0.06	1.796	588848900446814263			0	

# Register an account!



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `http://skyserver.sdss.org/CasJobs/`. The browser's toolbar includes navigation buttons (back, forward, home, stop), a search icon, and a refresh icon. Below the address bar, there are several icons for social media and other services. The main content area has a dark background with the text "SDSS Query / CasJobs" and a logo consisting of a gear and a circle. Below this, there is a navigation bar with "Help" and "Tools" links. A prominent orange banner reads "SciServer Altair v1.9.4" and "NEW: SciServer Altair v1.9.4 is now available!". The main text describes CasJobs as an online workbench for large scientific catalogs, designed to emulate and enhance local free-form query access in a web environment. It lists several features: both synchronous and asynchronous query execution, a query 'History' that records queries and their status, a server-side, personalized user database called 'MyDB' enabling persistent table/function/procedure creation, data sharing between users via the 'Groups' mechanism, data download via MyDB table extraction in various formats, and multiple interface options including a browser client and a java-based command line tool. At the bottom, it encourages users to try the CasJobs FAQ or guide.

http://skyserver.sdss.org/CasJobs/

SDSS Query / CasJobs

Help Tools

**SciServer Altair v1.9.4**

**NEW:** SciServer Altair v1.9.4 is now available!

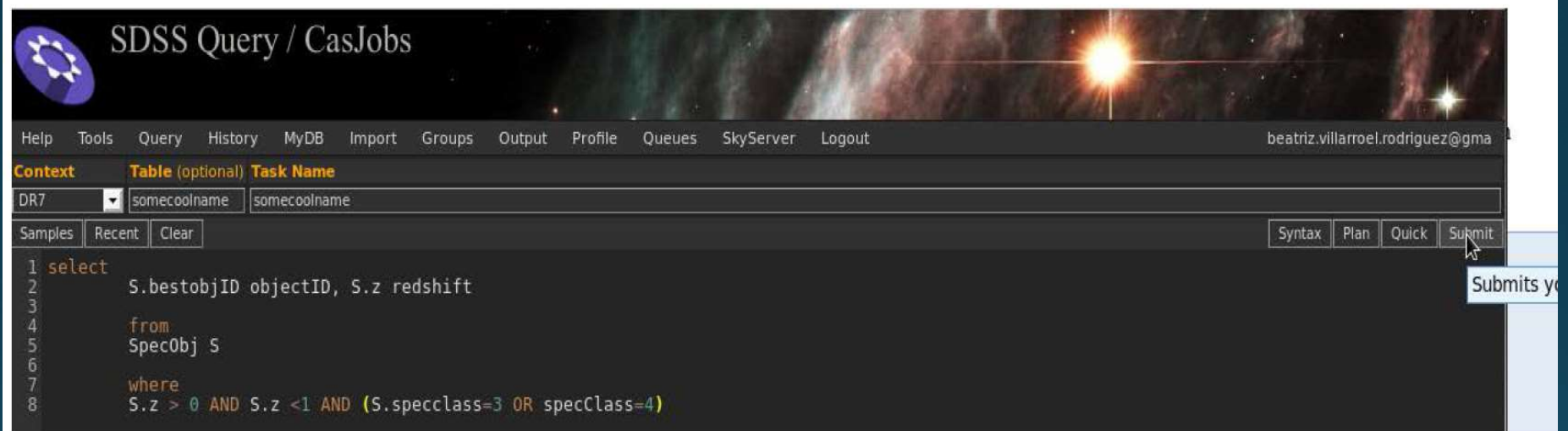
CasJobs is an online workbench for large scientific catalogs, designed to emulate and enhance local free-form query access in a web environment.

Some features of this application include...

- Both synchronous and asynchronous query execution, in the form of 'quick' and 'long' jobs.
- A query 'History' that records queries and their status.
- A server-side, personalized user database, called 'MyDB', enabling persistent table/function/procedure creation.
- Data sharing between users, via the 'Groups' mechanism.
- Data download, via MyDB table extraction, in various formats.
- Multiple interface options, including a browser client as well as a java-based command line tool.

For more information, try the CasJobs **FAQ**, or **guide**.

# SQL (Structured Query Language)



The screenshot shows the SDSS Query / CasJobs web interface. At the top, there's a header with the SDSS logo and the text "SDSS Query / CasJobs". Below this is a navigation bar with links: Help, Tools, Query, History, MyDB, Import, Groups, Output, Profile, Queues, SkyServer, and Logout. The user's email, beatriz.villarroel.rodriguez@gma, is displayed on the right. The main interface has a "Context" section with a dropdown menu set to "DR7" and two input fields for "Table (optional)" and "Task Name", both containing "somecoolname". Below this are buttons for "Samples", "Recent", and "Clear". On the right side of the query area, there are buttons for "Syntax", "Plan", "Quick", and "Submit". A tooltip "Submits yo" is visible over the "Submit" button. The SQL query being entered is as follows:

```
1 select
2   S.bestobjID objectID, S.z redshift
3
4   from
5   SpecObj S
6
7   where
8   S.z > 0 AND S.z <1 AND (S.specclass=3 OR specClass=4)
```

*Fig.6. The Casjobs Query interface. Write your SQL code for selecting your favourite objects here.*

# Connection to your essay

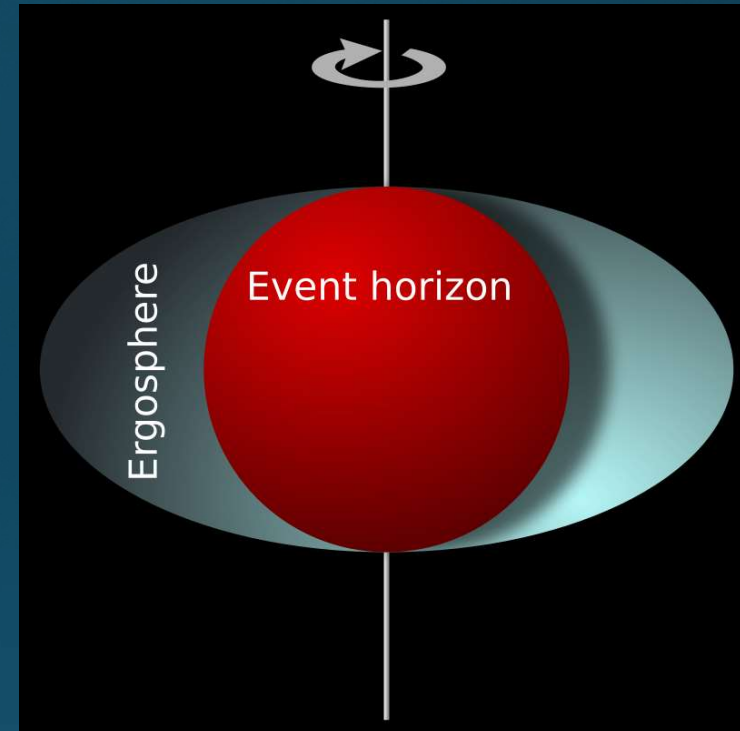
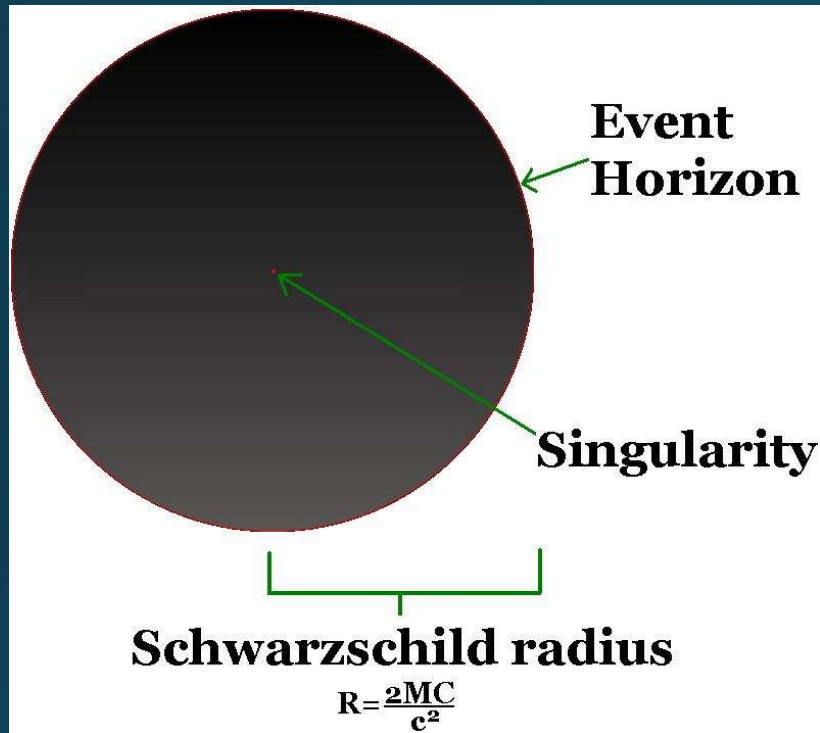
Finally, I'd like you to reconnect this exercise to the **topic of your written essay or a specific research problem described in it**. Many research problems can be solved using the SDSS and sometimes one only has to figure out a clever way to approach them. Other times, even if one cannot solve the problem using the SDSS directly, the survey is helpful for e.g. selecting interesting candidate objects.

Exercise 4: (a) *Describe the most interesting research problem from the essay very briefly.*

(b) *How could you approach this fascinating research problem using the SDSS? If it is not possible to use the SDSS, explain what the solution requires that cannot be met by the SDSS data.*



# Black holes



## Non-rotating black hole

Current observational evidence supports the existence of stellar-mass black holes ( $\sim 10 M_{\odot}$ ) and supermassive black holes ( $\sim 10^6$ - $10^{10} M_{\odot}$ ).

The evidence for intermediate-mass black holes ( $\sim 10^2$ - $10^5 M_{\odot}$ ) remains scant

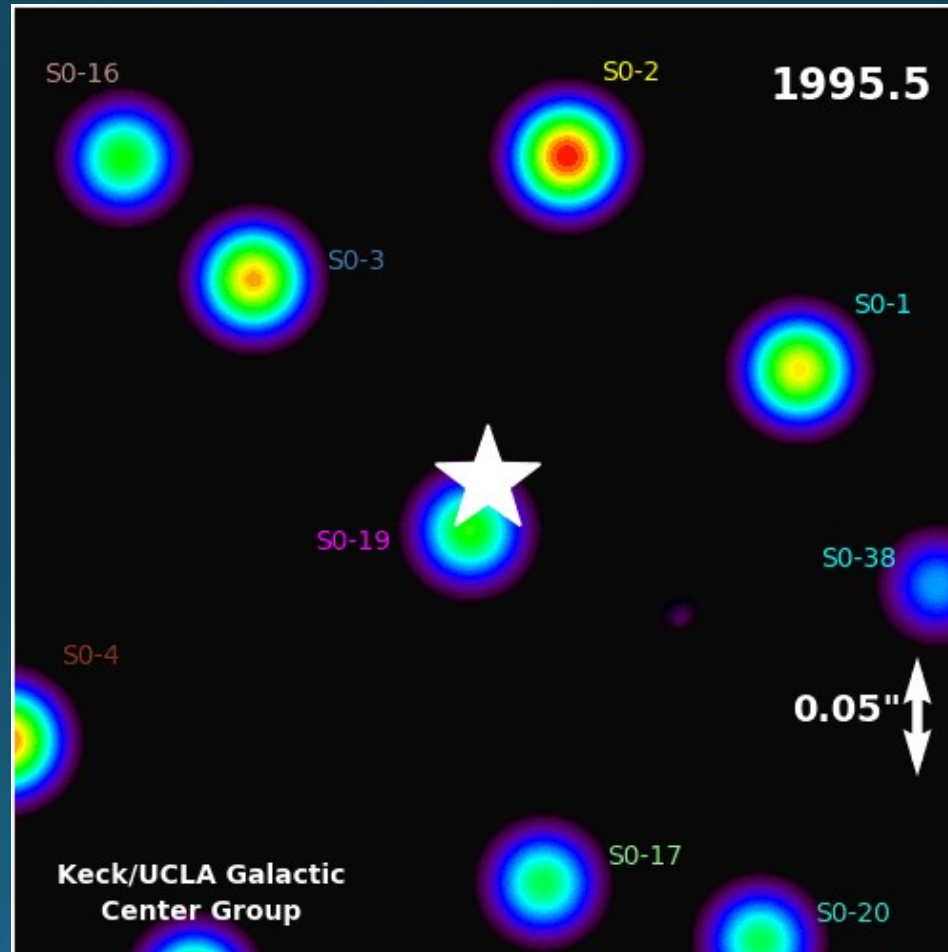
## Rotating black hole

# Hunting down black holes

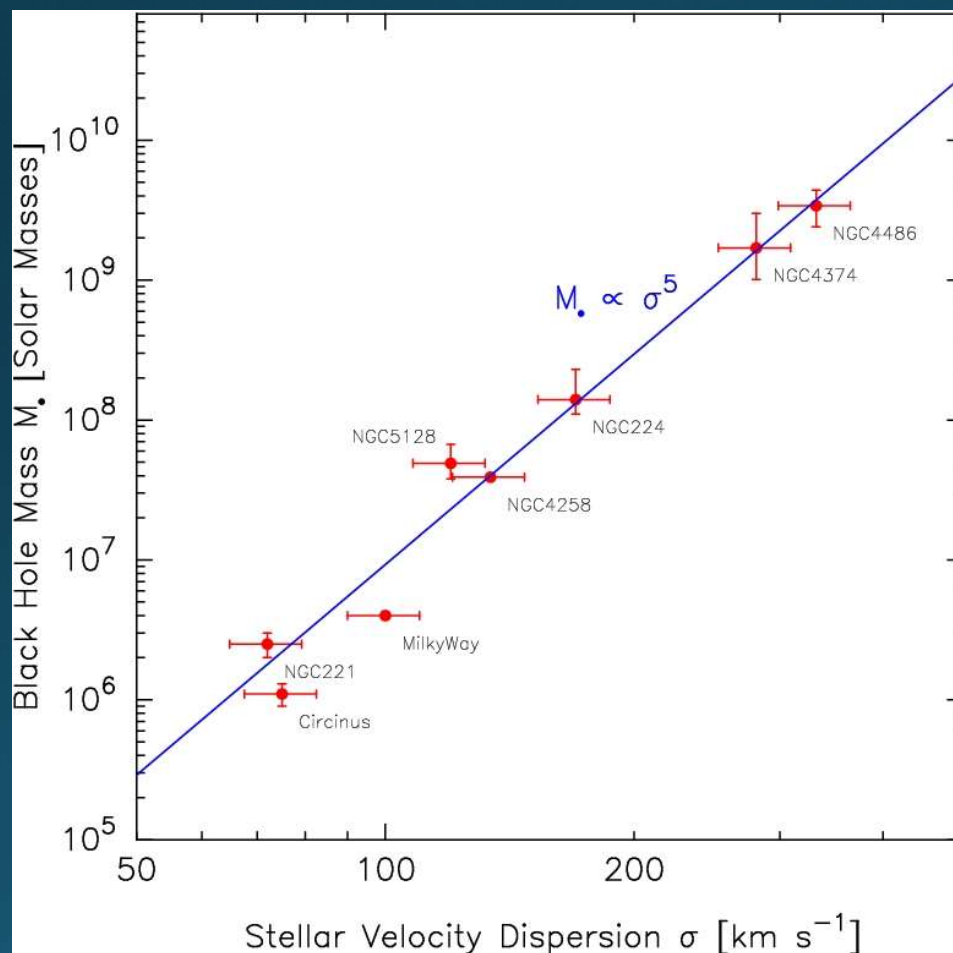
- Motion of stars
  - Milky Way: Proper motion of individual stars
  - Other galaxies – velocity distribution from integrated stellar population spectrum
- Active galactic nuclei
- Gravitational waves
- X-ray binaries
- Ultraluminous X-ray sources
- Gravitational lensing

# The black hole at the centre of the Milky Way

Milky Way:  
 $M_{\text{BH}} \approx 4 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$



# Relation between black hole mass and stellar velocity dispersion (or mass) of bulge



$$\frac{M_{\text{SMBH}}}{M_{\text{Bulge}}} \sim 0.002$$



# Supermassive black holes in AGN

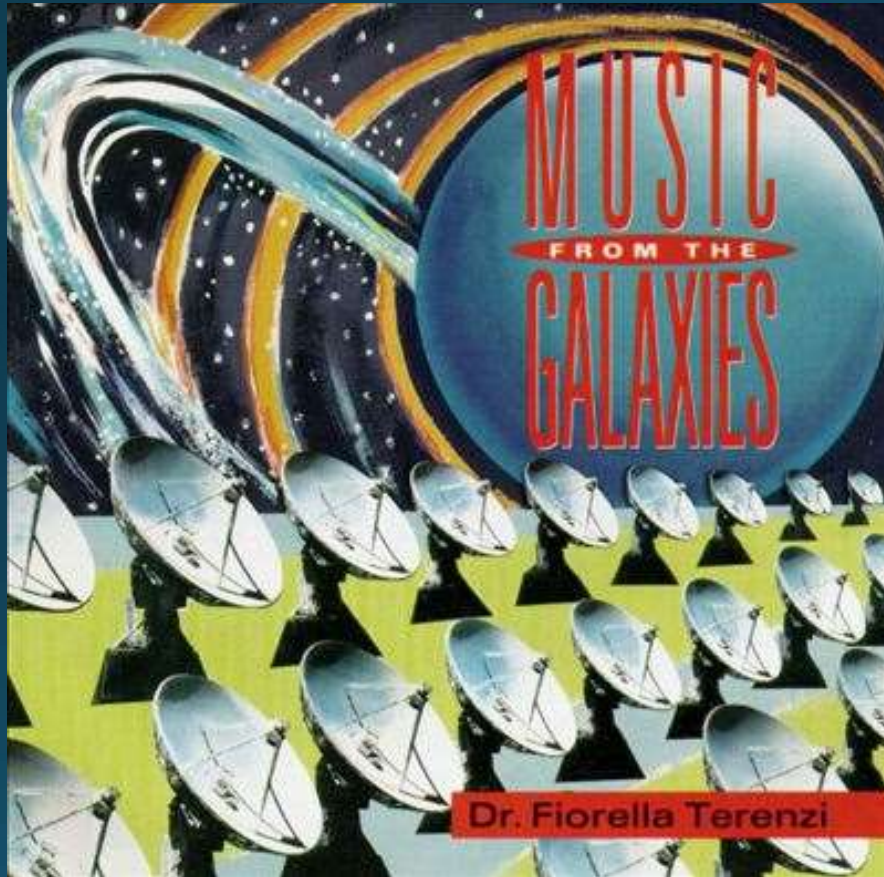
- Doppler broadened emission lines in AGN indicate gas velocities  $\sim 10\,000$  km/s
- Line variability time scale (weeks)  $\rightarrow$  size of line-emitting region
- Velocity & size  $\rightarrow$  Mass(<size) & Density, indicating that the gas orbits a SMBH
- Schwarzschild radius:

$$R_s = \frac{2GM_{\text{BH}}}{c^2} \approx 3 \times \frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_{\text{solar}}} \text{ km}$$

# Characteristics of Active Galactic Nuclei

- High luminosity produced in small region
- Fast variability
- High fraction of polarized light
- Non-thermal spectrum: Not stars!
  - Synchrotron radiation
  - Emission-line ratios → Ionization source more energetic than hottest known stars

# Intermission: Music from AGN



**Dr Fiorella Terenzi**

Music from the Galaxies (1991):  
Radio waves from the active  
galaxy UGC 6697 converted  
into music

# Intermission: Music from AGN



NGC 4151 (1993):

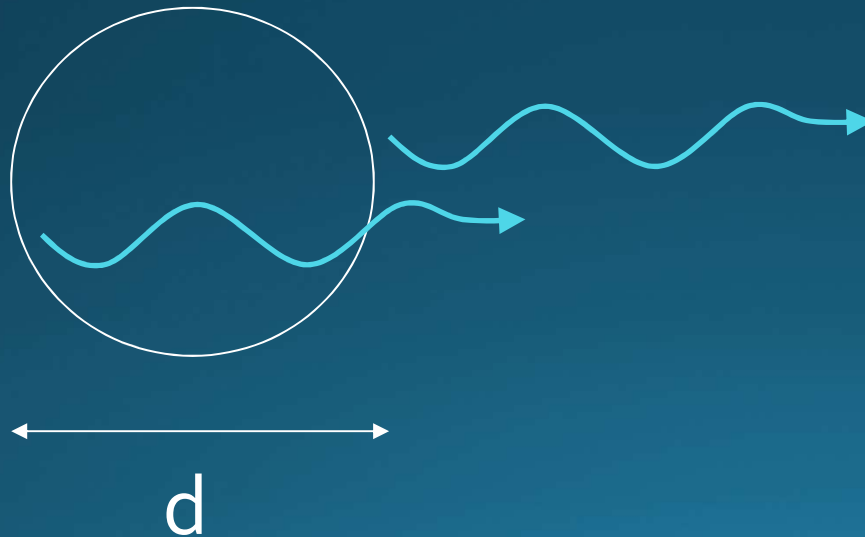
Rest-frame UV emission-line and continuum variability from the Seyfert galaxy NGC 4151 converted into music

Professor Emeritus Nils Bergvall



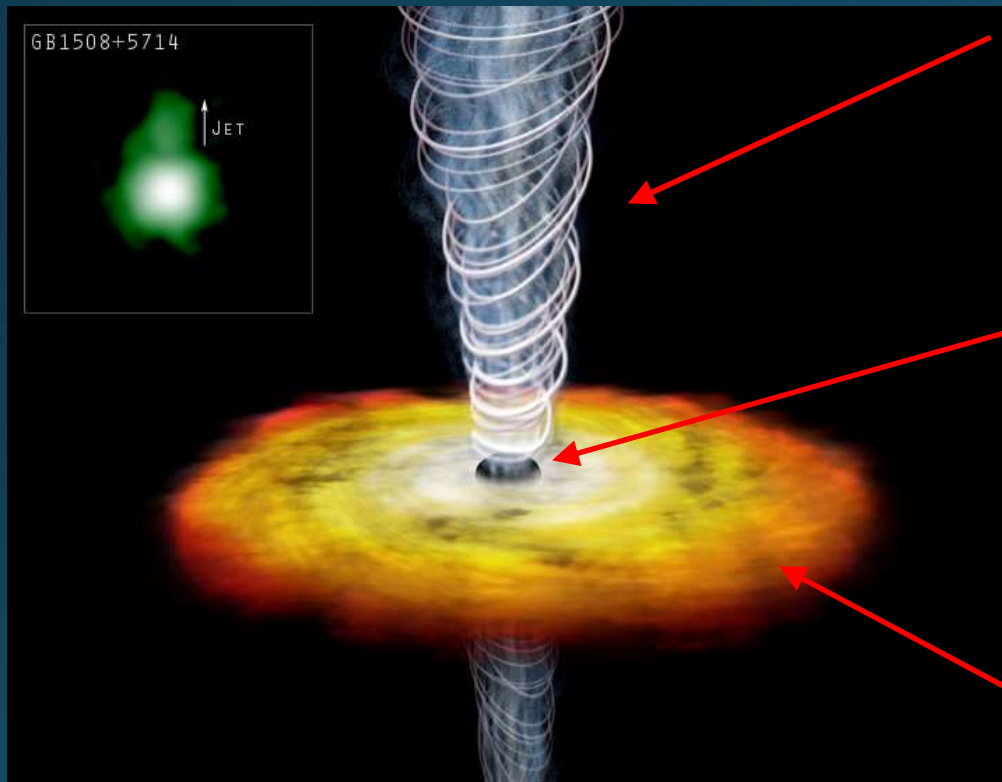
# Variability-Size Relation

- Fast variability indicates that the luminosity is produced inside a small region
- Light variations on scales down to 1 hour → size smaller than the Solar system



$$\frac{d}{c} < \Delta t_{\text{var}}$$

# Accretion Disks



Magnetic field channel  
matter into relativistic  
jets

SMBH

Angular momentum  
of infalling material →  
matter spirals inward  
in an accretion disk

# Eddington Luminosity

Too high radiation pressure of AGN may overcome inward gravitational force → upper limit on AGN luminosity which still allows material to fall inwards

$$L_E \approx 30000 \frac{M}{M_{\text{solar}}} L_{\text{solar}}$$

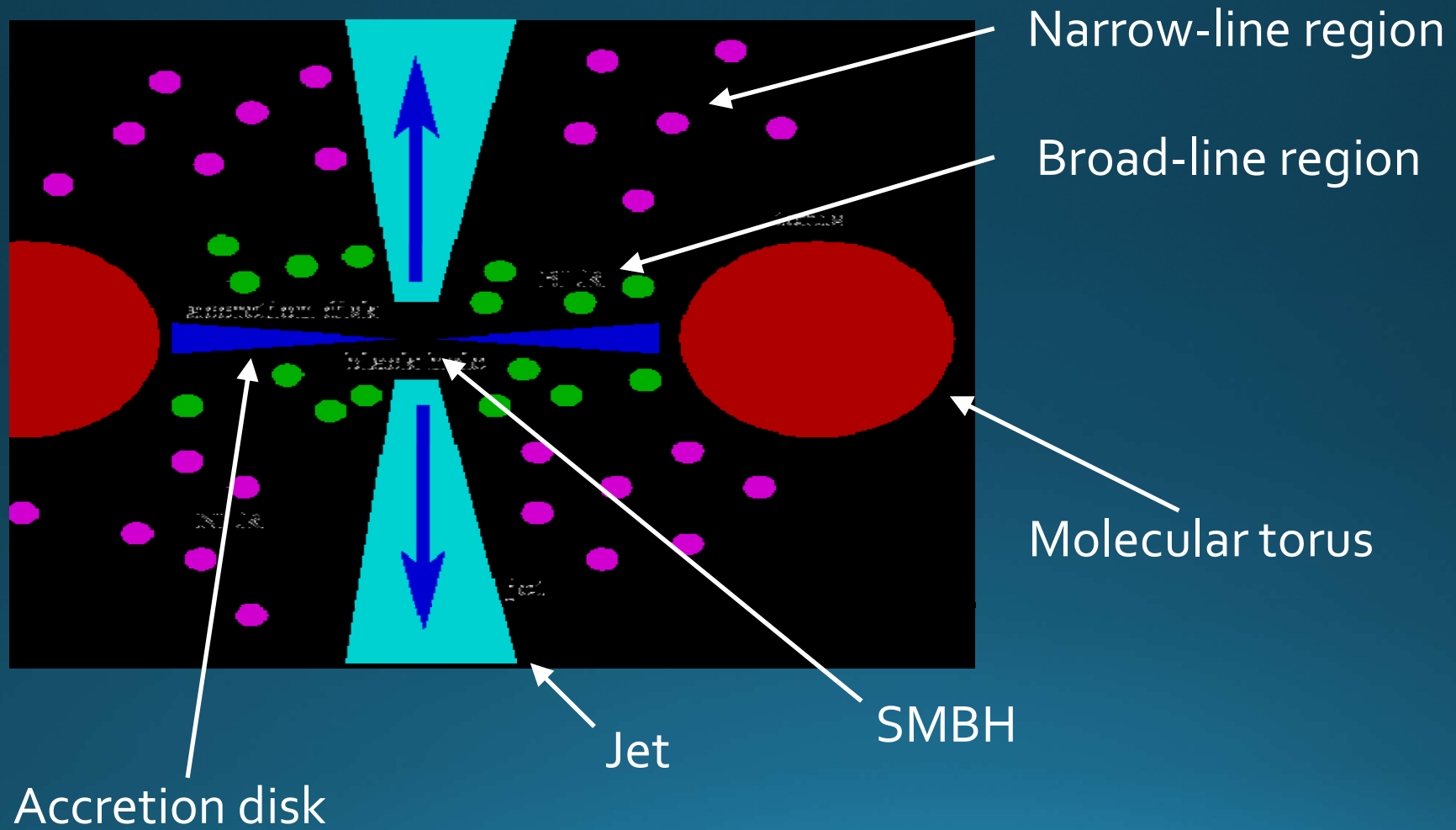
Note:  $L_E$  assumes spherical accretion.  
Super-Eddington luminosities (a few times  $L_E$ )  
can be produced in accretion disks

# Radiation Efficiency

- Mass  $M$  falling into a SMBH  $\rightarrow$   
energy  $Mc^2$  added
- Theoretical maximum:  
42% of  $Mc^2$  is converted into luminosity  
The rest increases the SMBH mass
- But typically,  $\leq 10\%$  of  $Mc^2$  is converted into luminosity
- SMBHs in a typical quasar grows with  $\geq 1 M_{\text{solar}}/\text{yr}$
- Activity is expected to last for  $\sim 100 \text{ Myr} \rightarrow$   
 $M_{\text{SMBH}} \geq 10^8 M_{\text{solar}}$  in faded quasars

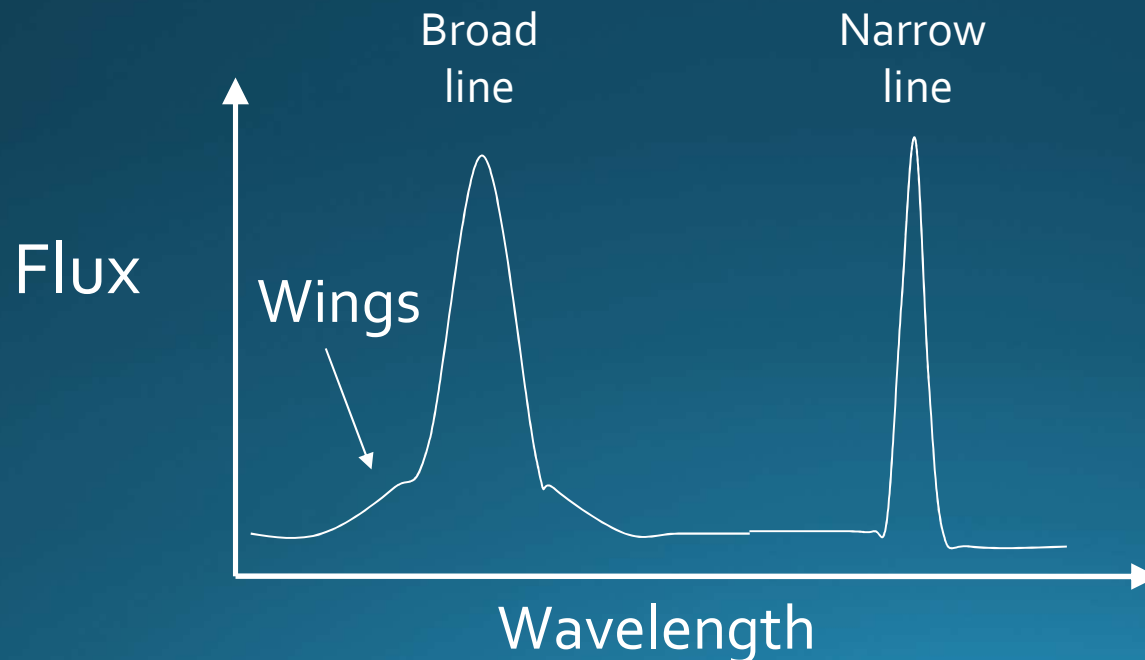


# The Central Power Source

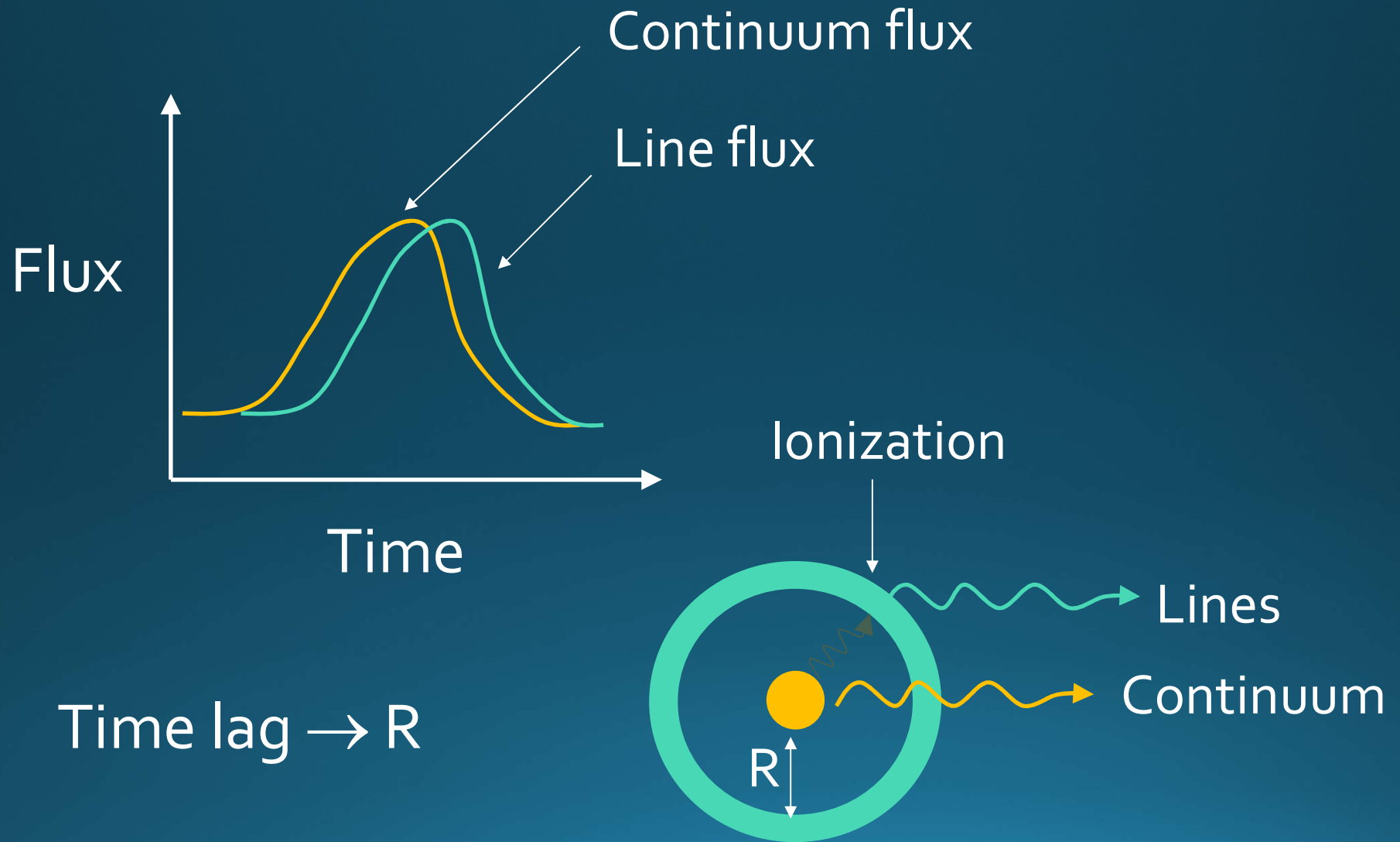


# Transitions and Line Profiles

- Forbidden lines (e.g. [OII]3727Å, [OIII]5007) originate in low-density gas ( $n_H \leq 10^8$  atoms/cm<sup>3</sup>)
- Allowed lines (e.g. H $\alpha$ , H $\beta$ ) can originate in denser gas as well
- Broad lines,  $\Delta v \sim 10000$  km/s – Allowed (originate close to the nucleus, in dense medium)
- Narrow lines,  $\Delta v < 1000$  km/s – Forbidden (originate further out, in less dense medium)



# Reverberation Mapping

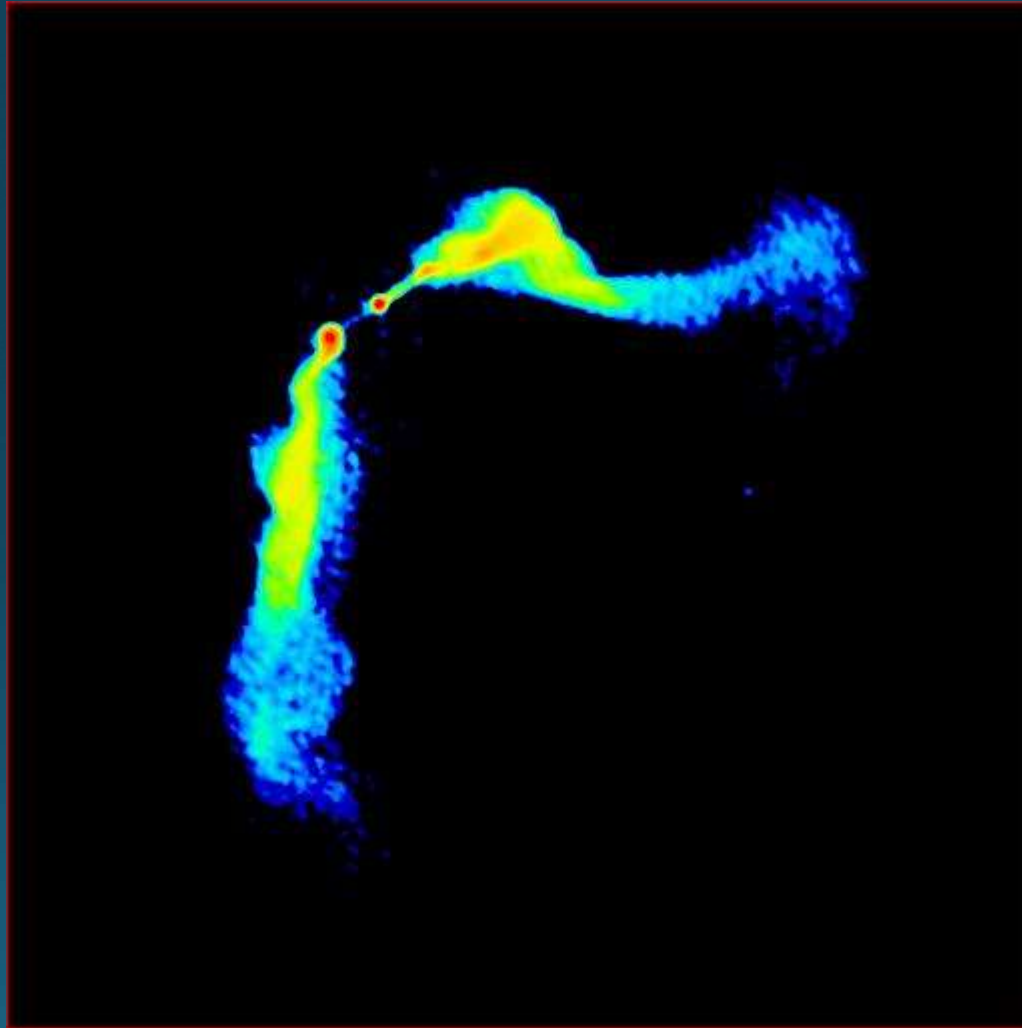


# Jets and Lobes



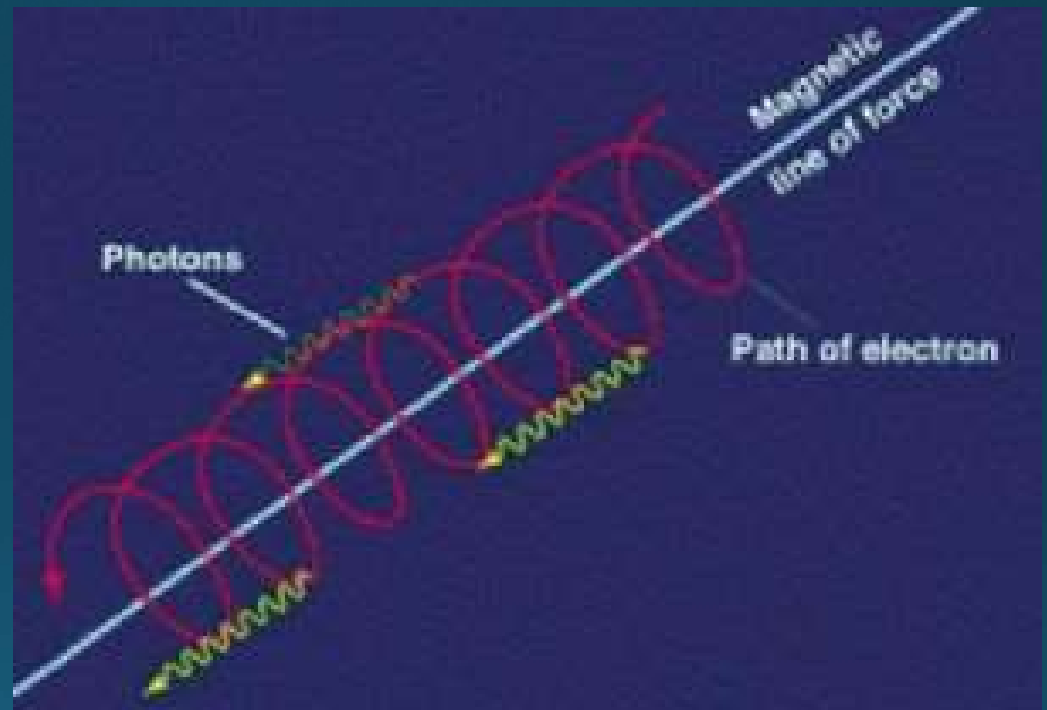


**Intermission: What is happening here?**



# Synchrotron Radiation

- Relativistic electrons spiralling around magnetic field lines
- $B = 1\text{--}10\ \mu\text{G}$  in lobes (same as  $B$  close to the Sun)
- $B = 0.1\ \text{G}$  in active cores



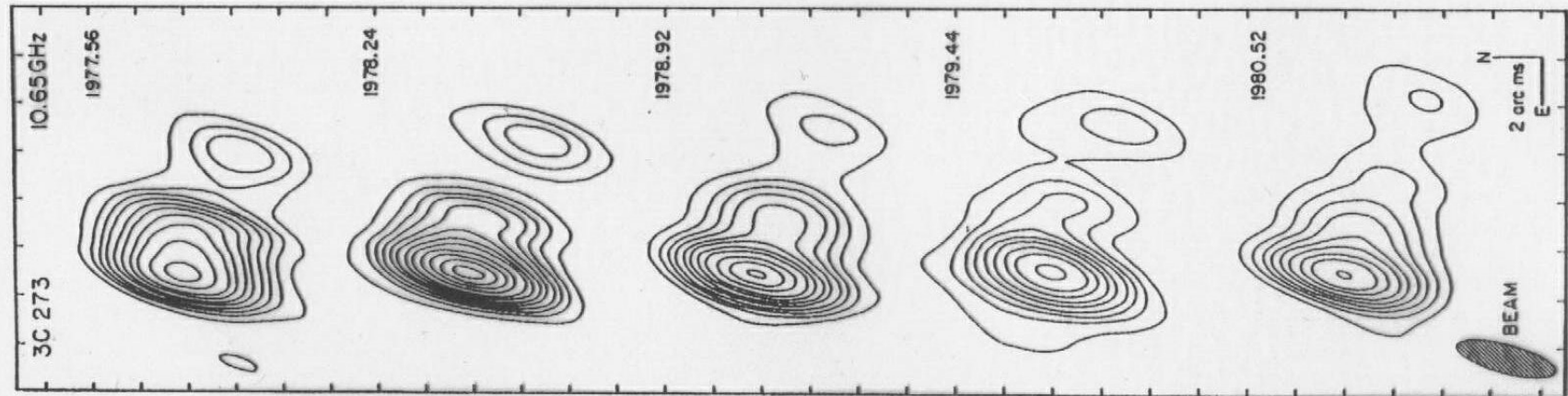
# Power-Law Spectrum

$$f_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$$

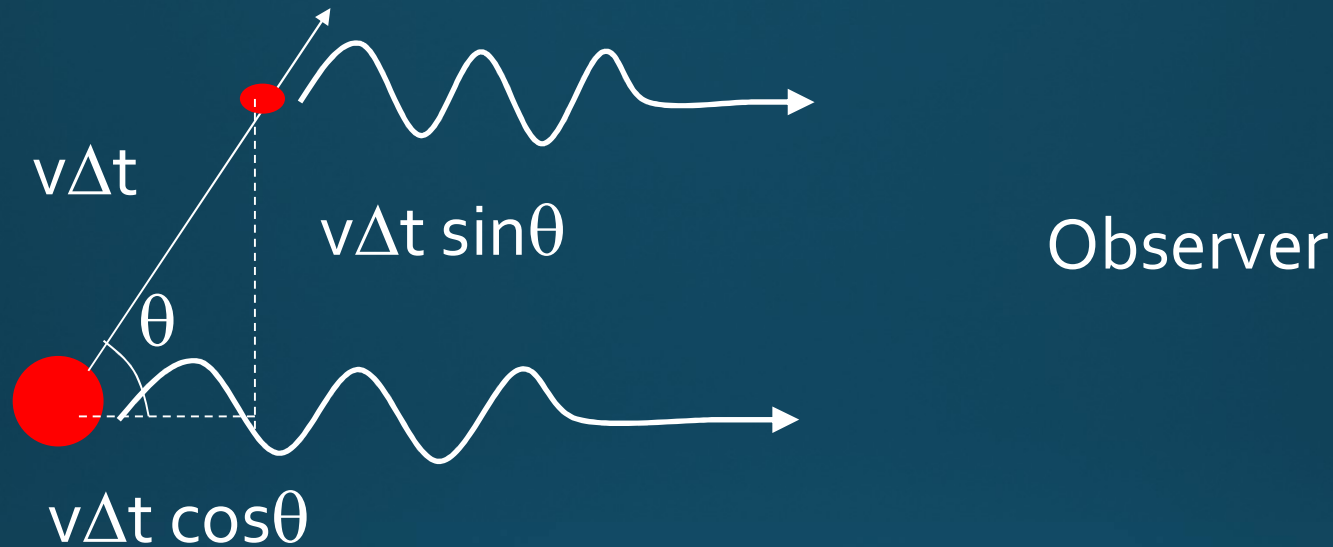
- In radio, due to synchrotron radiation:  
 $\alpha=0.7\text{—}1.2$
- In optical, probably caused by thermal radiation from the accretion disk:  
 $\alpha=0\text{—}2$

# Superluminal motion

Blobs appear to move outwards at 5-50c  
What's going on?



# Superluminal motion



$$\Delta t_{\text{obs}} = \Delta t(1 - (v/c) \cos \theta)$$

In  $\Delta t_{\text{obs}}$ , the blob travels  $v \Delta t \sin \theta$  across the sky,  
With apparent velocity  $v_{\text{obs}}$ :

$$v_{\text{obs}} = \frac{v \sin \theta}{1 - (v/c) \cos \theta}$$

$$v \approx c \rightarrow v_{\text{obs}} > c$$

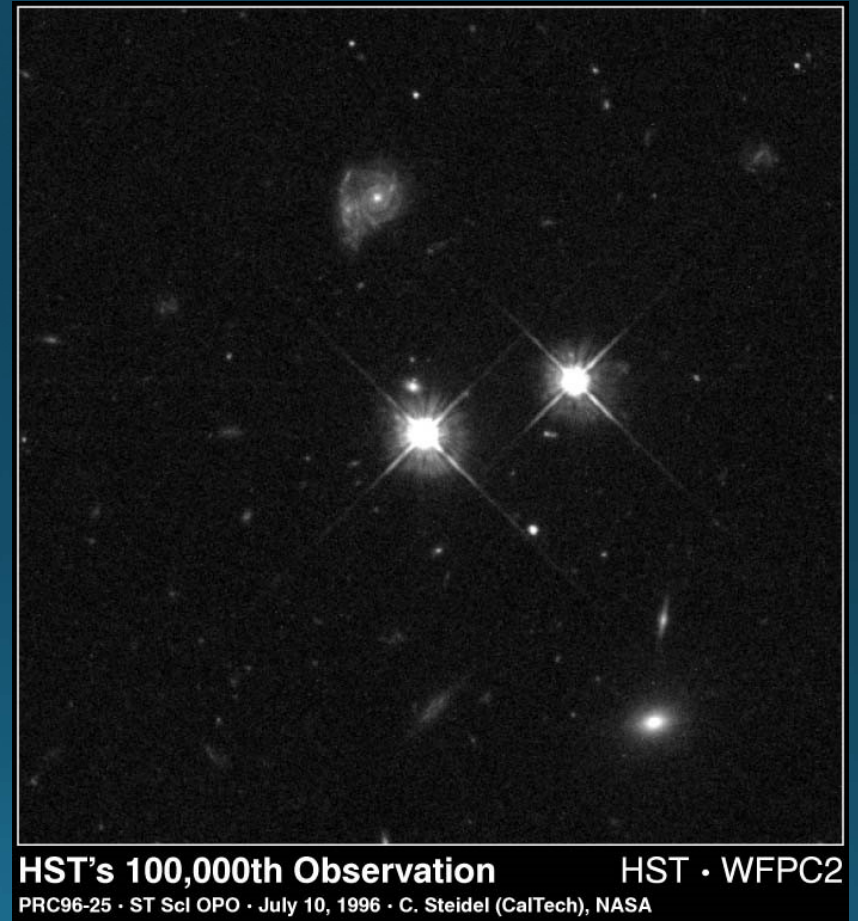
# The number densities of AGN at $z=0$

Type	Number/Gpc <sup>3</sup>
Spiral galaxies	$\sim 5 \times 10^6$
E/So galaxies	$\sim 1 \times 10^6$
Seyfert galaxies	$\sim 1 \times 10^5$
Radio galaxies	$\sim 3 \times 10^3$
Quasars	$\sim 100$
Blazars	$\sim 80$



# Quasars

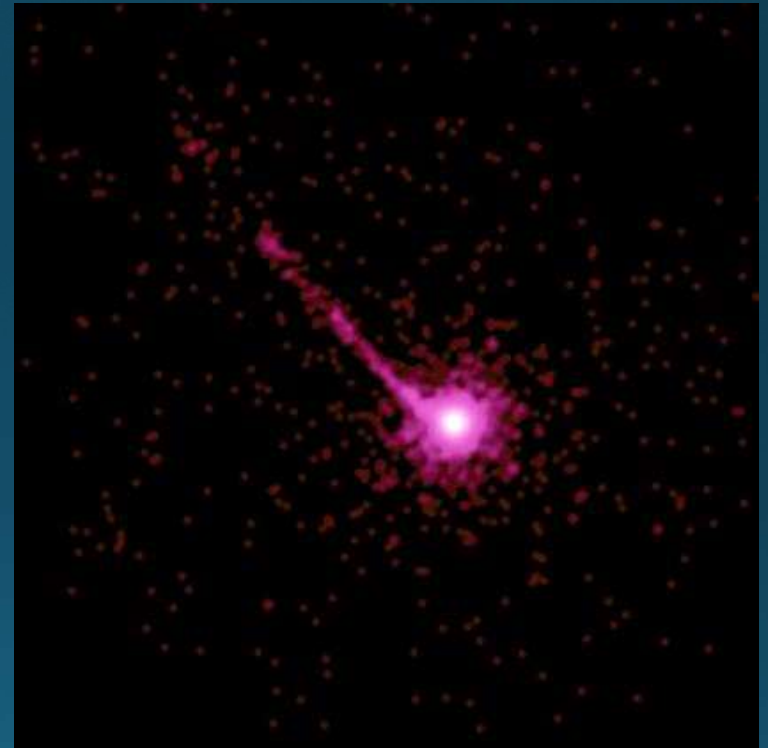
- Originally:
  - Quasar = “Quasi-stellar radio source” (radio-loud)
  - QSO = “Quasi-stellar object” (radio-quiet)
- Today: Quasar = Both types



HST's 100,000th Observation HST · WFPC2  
PRC96-25 · ST ScI OPO · July 10, 1996 · C. Steidel (CalTech), NASA

# Quasars

- Most luminous of the non-transient objects in the Universe:  $M_B < -23$
- Radio-quiet quasars >10 times more common than radio loud ones
- Both broad and narrow lines



X-ray quasar with jet

# Seyfert Galaxies

Galaxy NGC 7742



Hubble  
Heritage

PRC98-28 • Space Telescope Science Institute • Hubble Heritage Team

# Seyfert Galaxies

- “Low-luminosity quasars”
- Almost always in S- or So-galaxies
- Seyfert 1 nuclei
  - Broad lines (allowed) & Narrow lines (forbidden)
  - High optical luminosity
- Seyfert 2 nuclei
  - Narrow lines only, but with wings
  - Low optical luminosity

# LINERs

- LINER = Low Ionization Nuclear Emission Line Region
- Low luminosities (lower than Seyfert 2)
- Exhibit lines which do not require very energetic power sources – hot stars sufficient
- Many LINERs are probably starbursts, not genuine AGN



# Radio Galaxies

- Milky Way:  $10^{30}$  W in radio
- Radio galaxies  $\geq 10^{34}$  W in radio
- Lobes and hot spots
- Always elliptical galaxies





# Blazars

- The most rapid and large variations among AGN
- Originally:
  - BL Lac (very weak emission lines)
  - OVV = Optically violent variable (strong emission lines)
- Today: Blazar = BL Lac & OVVs
- *Appear* to be the most luminous objects in the Universe, but this is due to beaming
- Often completely featureless spectrum
  - Emission-lines weak or absent

# Intermission:

## What sort of AGN is this?



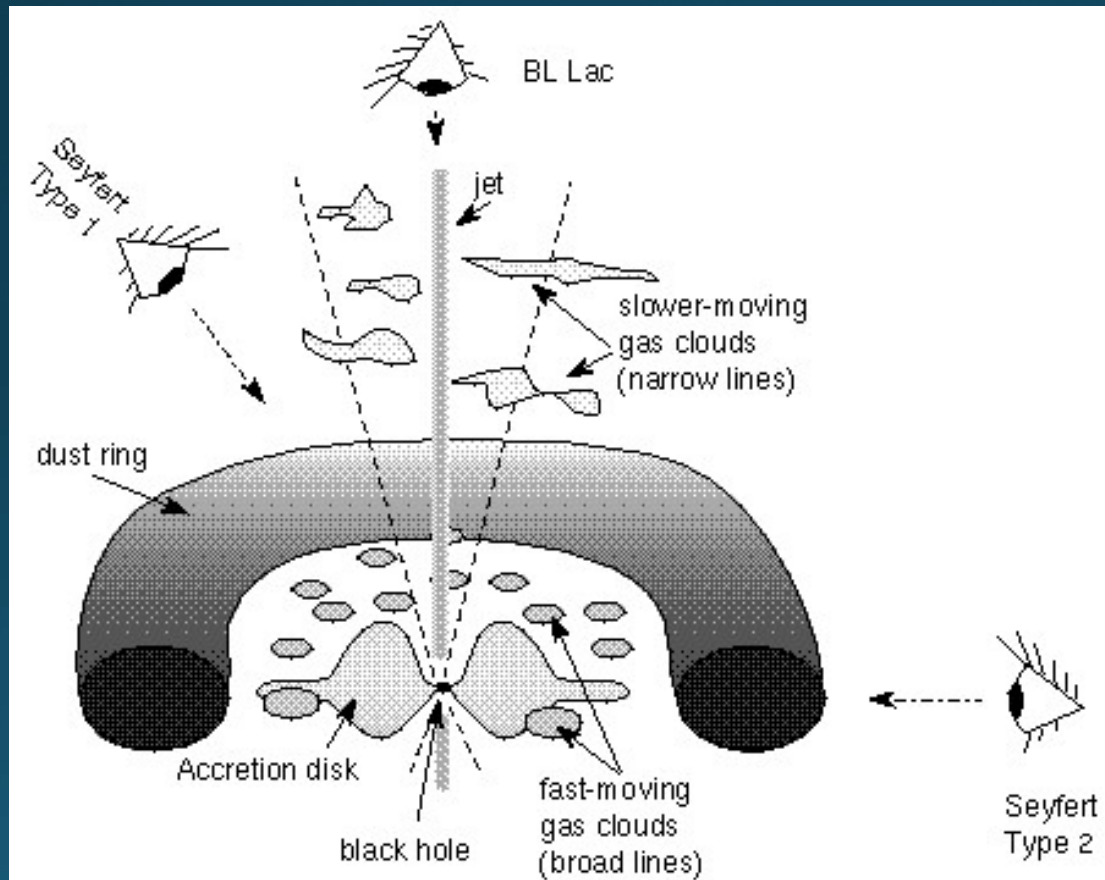
Optical spectrum reveals lots of narrow emission lines

**Intermission:**  
**What sort of AGN is this?**



# The Unification Model

Quasar



Radio galaxy

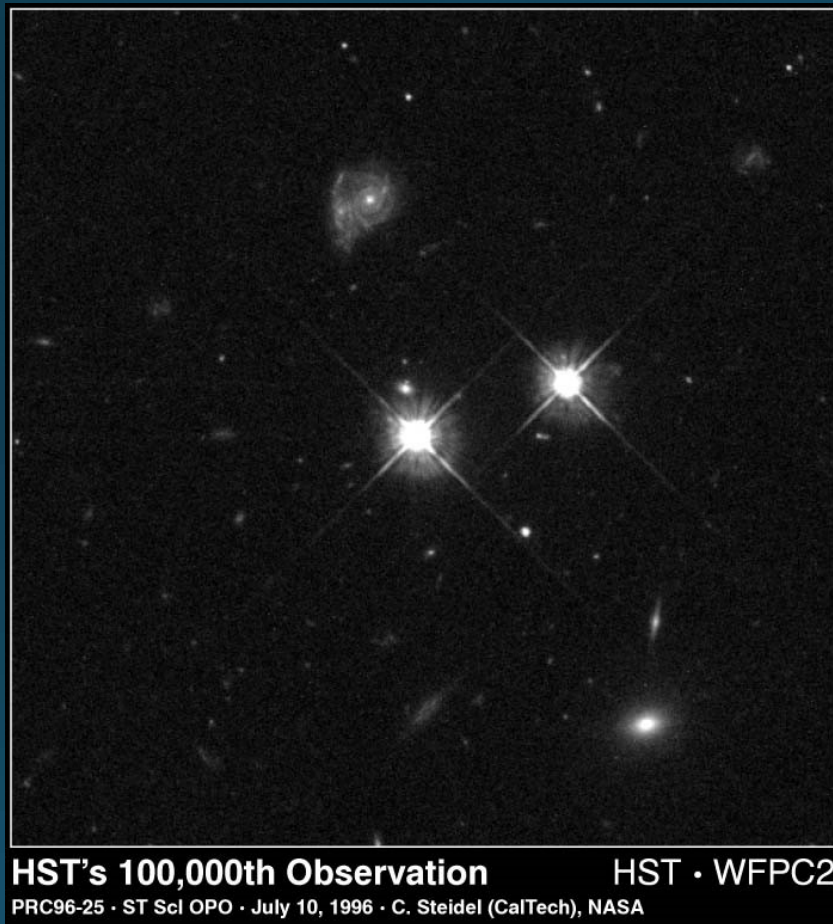


Radio galaxy





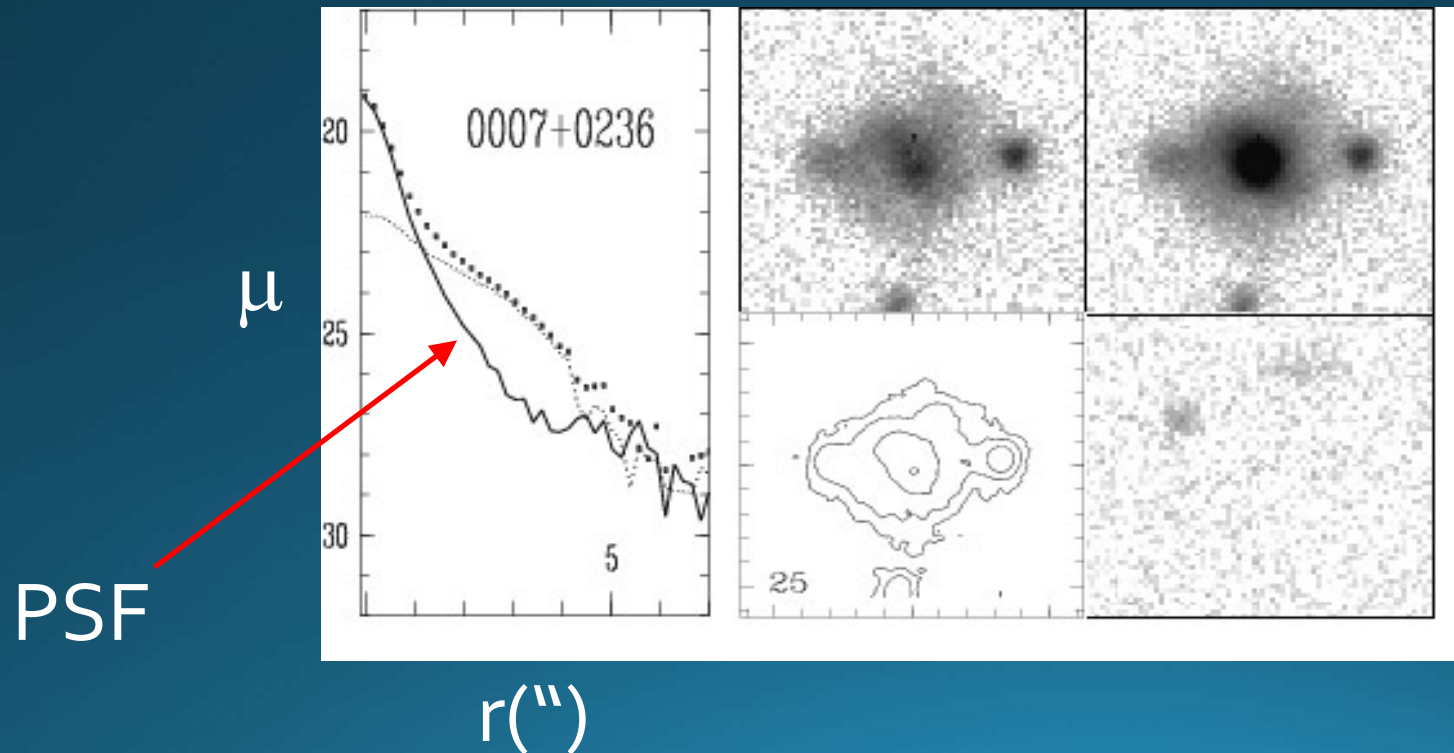
# Quasar Host Galaxies



- The AGN of a quasars typically outshines its host galaxy
- To study the host galaxy, one utilizes the fact that the AGN is a point source whereas the host is an extended object

# Quasar Host Galaxies

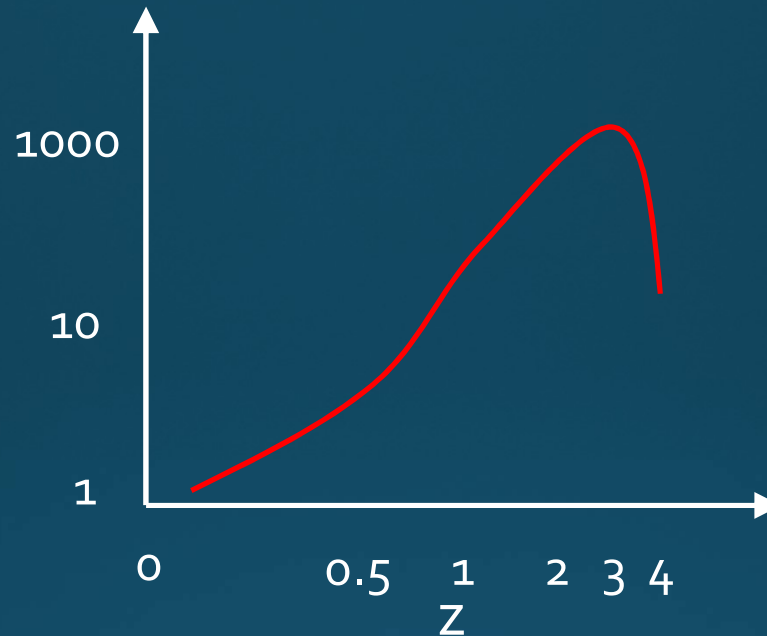
- Point spread function (PSF): Describes how the light of a perfect point source is distributed on the detector (CCD) because of telescope imperfections, diffraction etc.





# Cosmological Evolution

Quasars  $\text{Gpc}^{-3}$



- At  $z \approx 3$ , bright quasars appear  $\sim 1000$  times more common than today
- Quasar activity drops at even higher redshifts
- The highest-redshift quasar detected so far has  $z \approx 7$
- Very challenging to build a SMBH by  $z=7$  (less than 1 Gyr after the Big Bang) – exotic formation channel required?

# Quasar Absorption Systems

Quasar

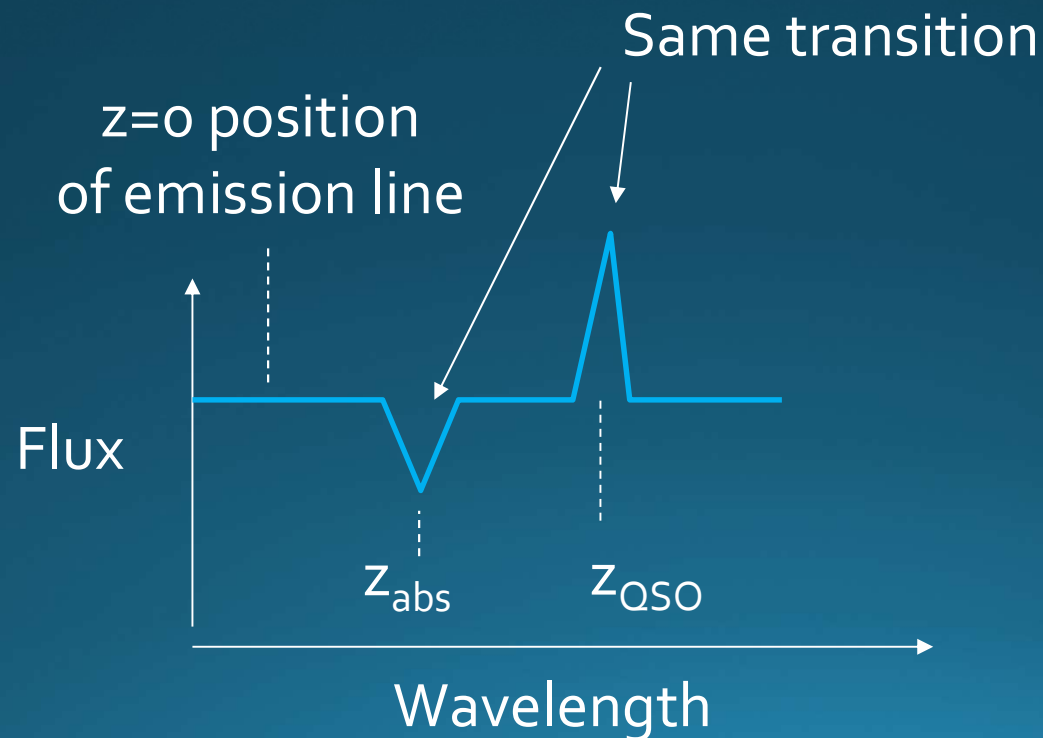


$z_{\text{QSO}}$



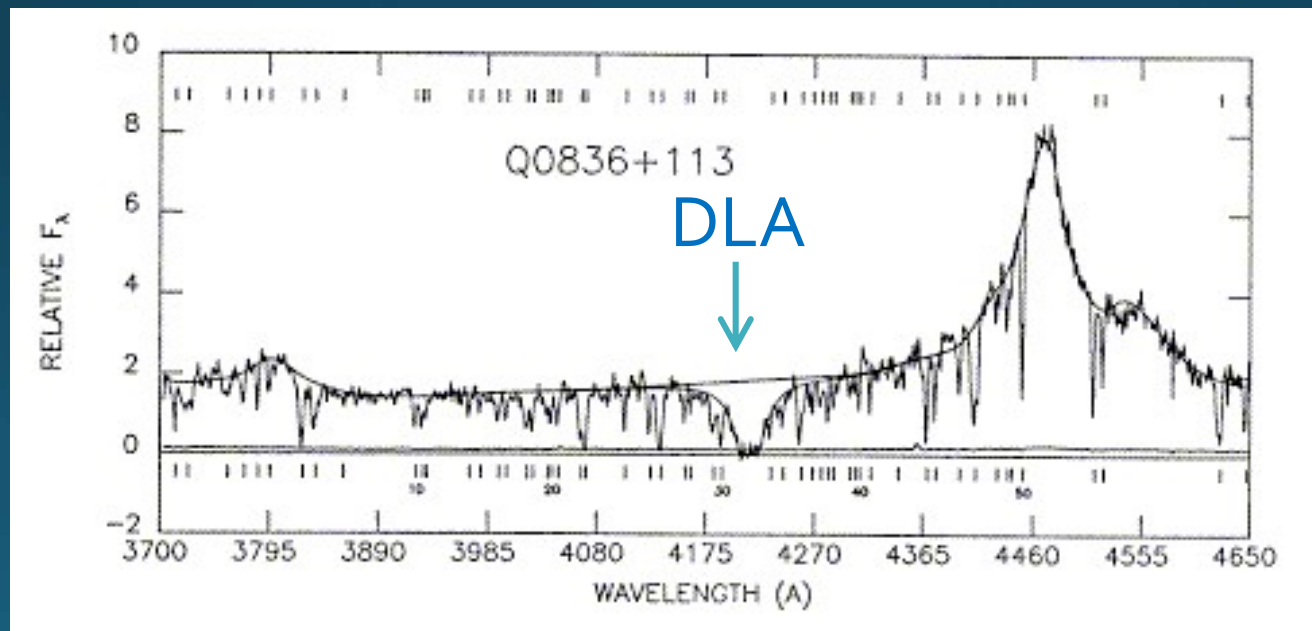
$z_{\text{Abs}}$

Observer



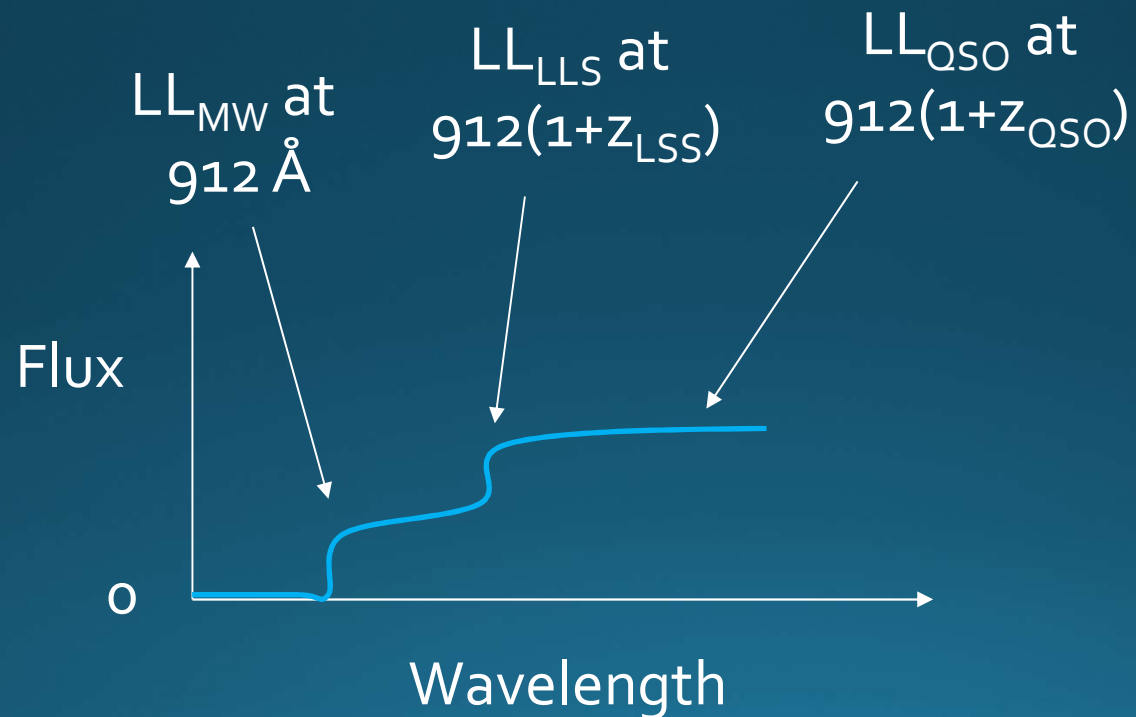
# Damped Lyman-Alpha Clouds

- Dense, neutral gas  $N(\text{HI}) \approx 2 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
- Often interpreted as gas associated with intervening galaxies
- Many DLAs are also Lyman-limit systems

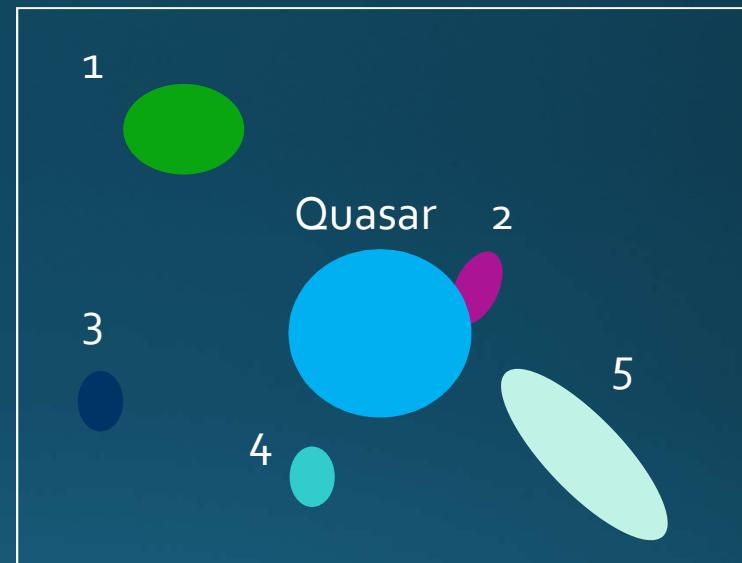
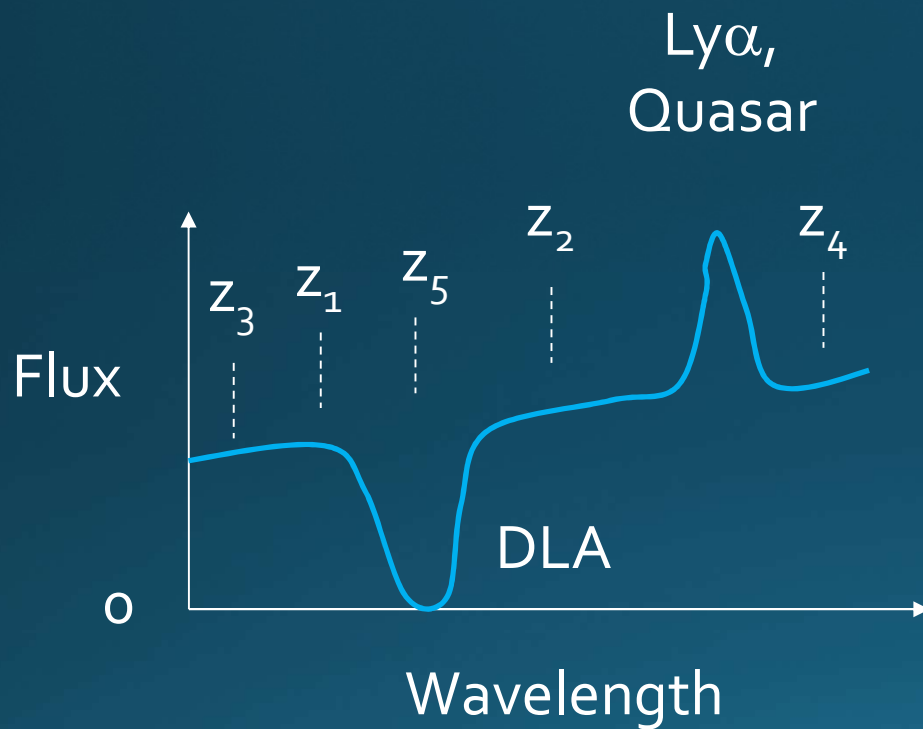


# Lyman-Limit Systems

- Dense, neutral gas
- Absorbs hydrogen-ionizing radiation at  $\lambda < 912(1+z_{\text{LLS}}) \text{ \AA}$

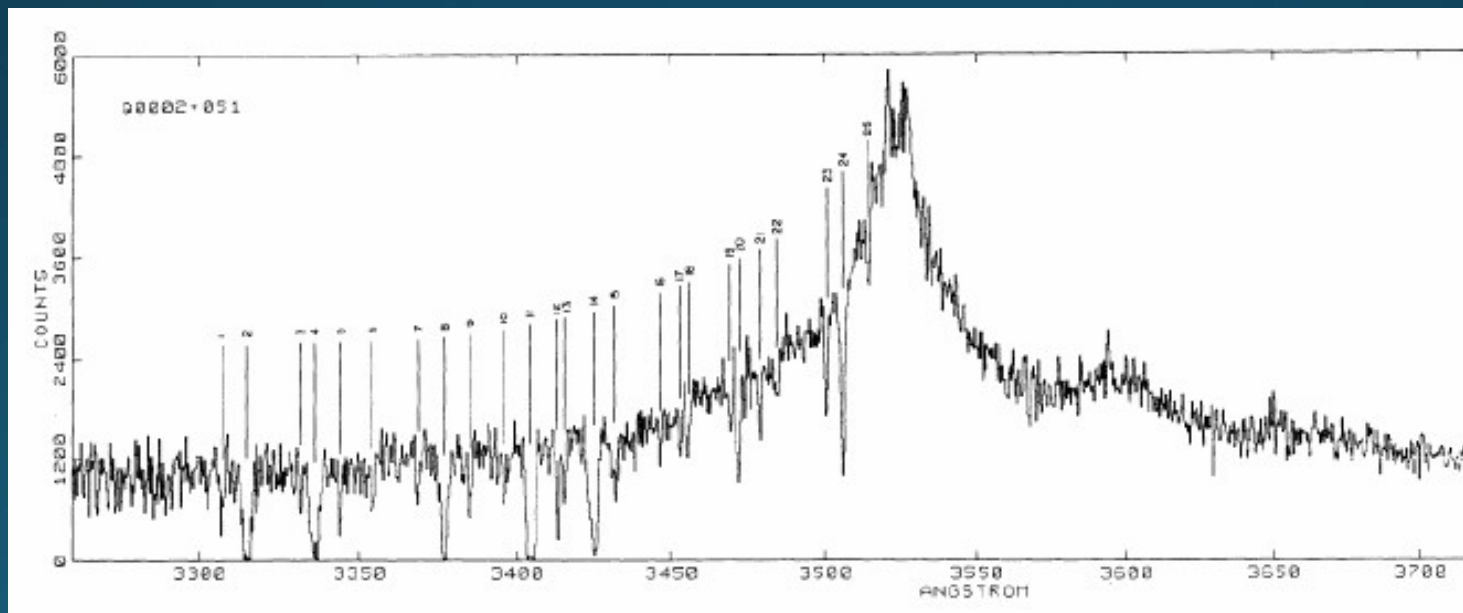


# Identifying the Absorber



# The Lyman-Alpha Forest

- Low-density, very extended clouds in the intergalactic medium
- Proximity effect:
  - Ly $\alpha$ -forest thinner at  $z_{\text{abs}} \approx z_{\text{QSO}}$
  - Indicates that clouds close to the quasar are photoionized by it

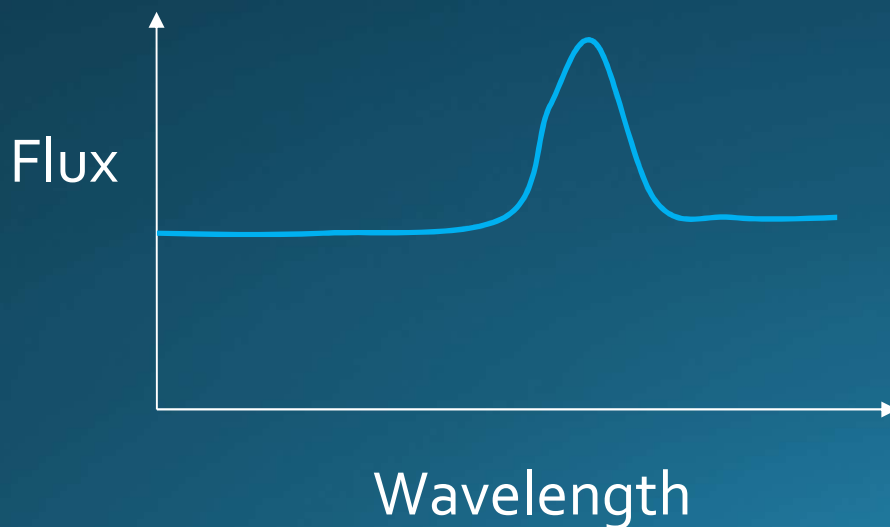




# The Gunn-Peterson Test

- If the Universe (the intergalactic medium, IGM) is neutral at  $z_{\text{QSO}}$ , then a strong absorption feature blueward of  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  in quasars should appear – *the Gunn-Peterson trough*.
- This does indeed appear – at  $z_{\text{QSO}} \approx 6$ , indicating that the transition from an neutral to ionized IGM takes place at around this redshift

Universe ionized at  $z_{\text{QSO}}$



Universe neutral at  $z_{\text{QSO}}$

