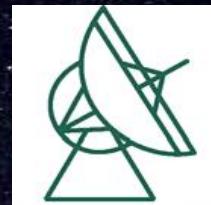


# The Galactic Center : Past and Future - 1

Cologne-Prague-Brno meeting 2022  
Black-hole activity feedback from Bondi-radius  
to galaxy-cluster scales  
2022 June 1-3, Brno, Czech Republic,

## Andreas Eckart

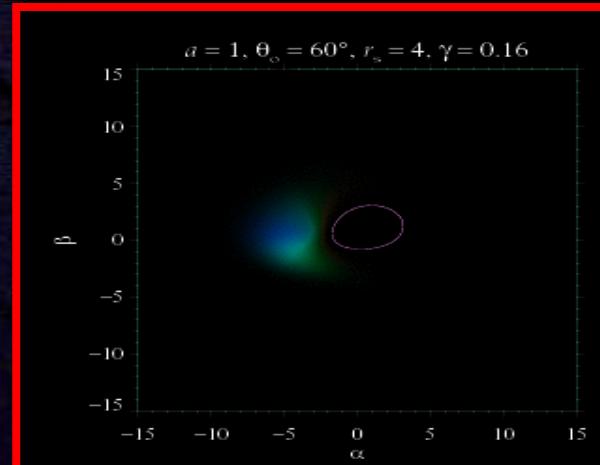
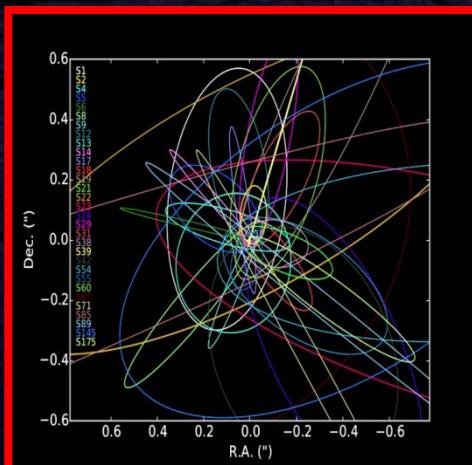
*I.Physikalisches Institut der Universität zu Köln  
Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Bonn*



Max-Planck-Institut  
für Radioastronomie



I. Physikalisches Institut  
Universität zu Köln



# Why does one study super-compact masses?

Physics of extreme states of matter

No laboratory experiment possible  
(for massive black holes)

Test of the laws of physics in the high  
mass regime



The best place to  
detect a super massive black  
hole is the Galactic Center

It is the center of a galaxy closest to us and can  
be studied with high precision

# The Center of the Milky Way

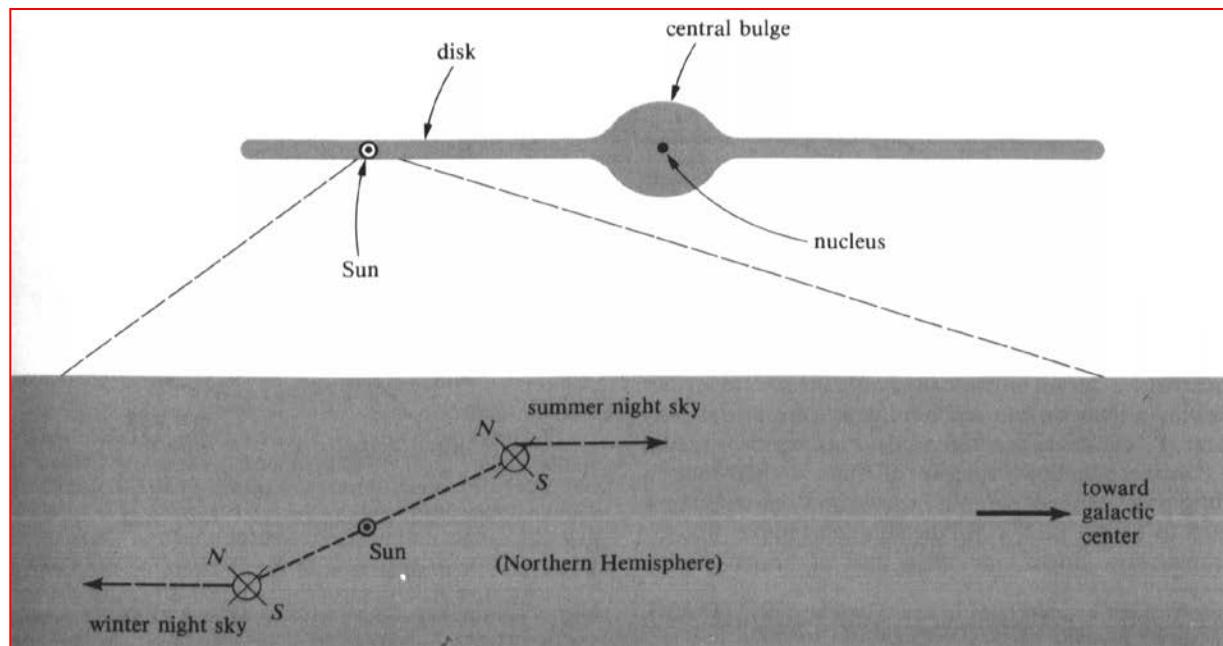
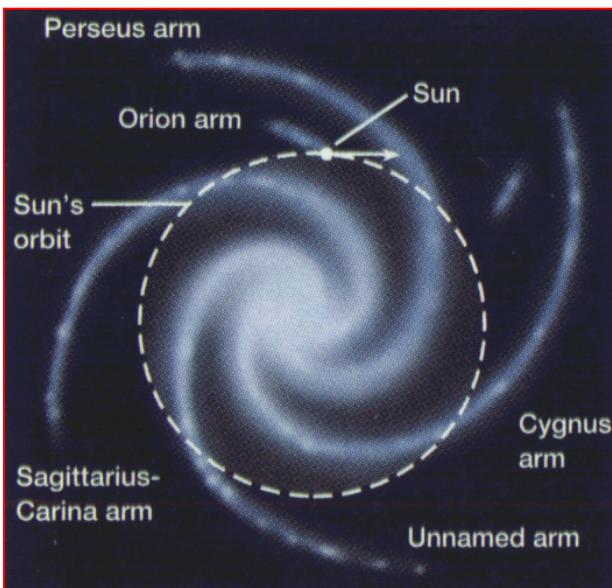
Closest galactic nucleus

8 kpc distance

26.4000 lyrs

Extinction Av=30 Ak=3

Observations only in radio, infrared, X-ray



**View of the  
Galactic Center**

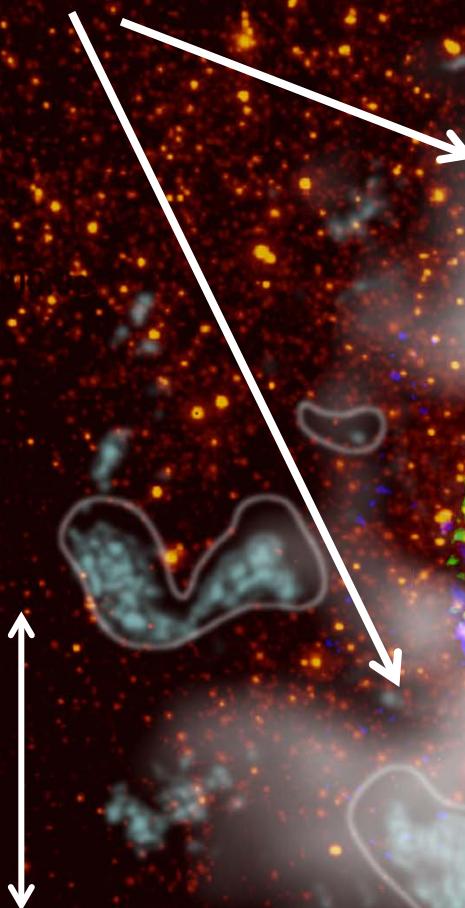
~1.5 arcmin across  
(11 light years)

Eckart et al. 2019  
(UAE Sharjah -  
FISICPAC  
Proceedings)

The Black Hole at the  
Center of the Milky Way  
Eckart, Schödel,  
& C. Straubmeier 2005  
Imperial College Press,  
London

$$\begin{aligned}1 \text{ arcsec} &= 39 \text{ mpc} \\1 \text{ pc} &= 206000 \text{ AU} \\&= 3.086 \cdot 10^{16} \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

Circum Nuclear Ring



1 parsec  
3.26 LJ

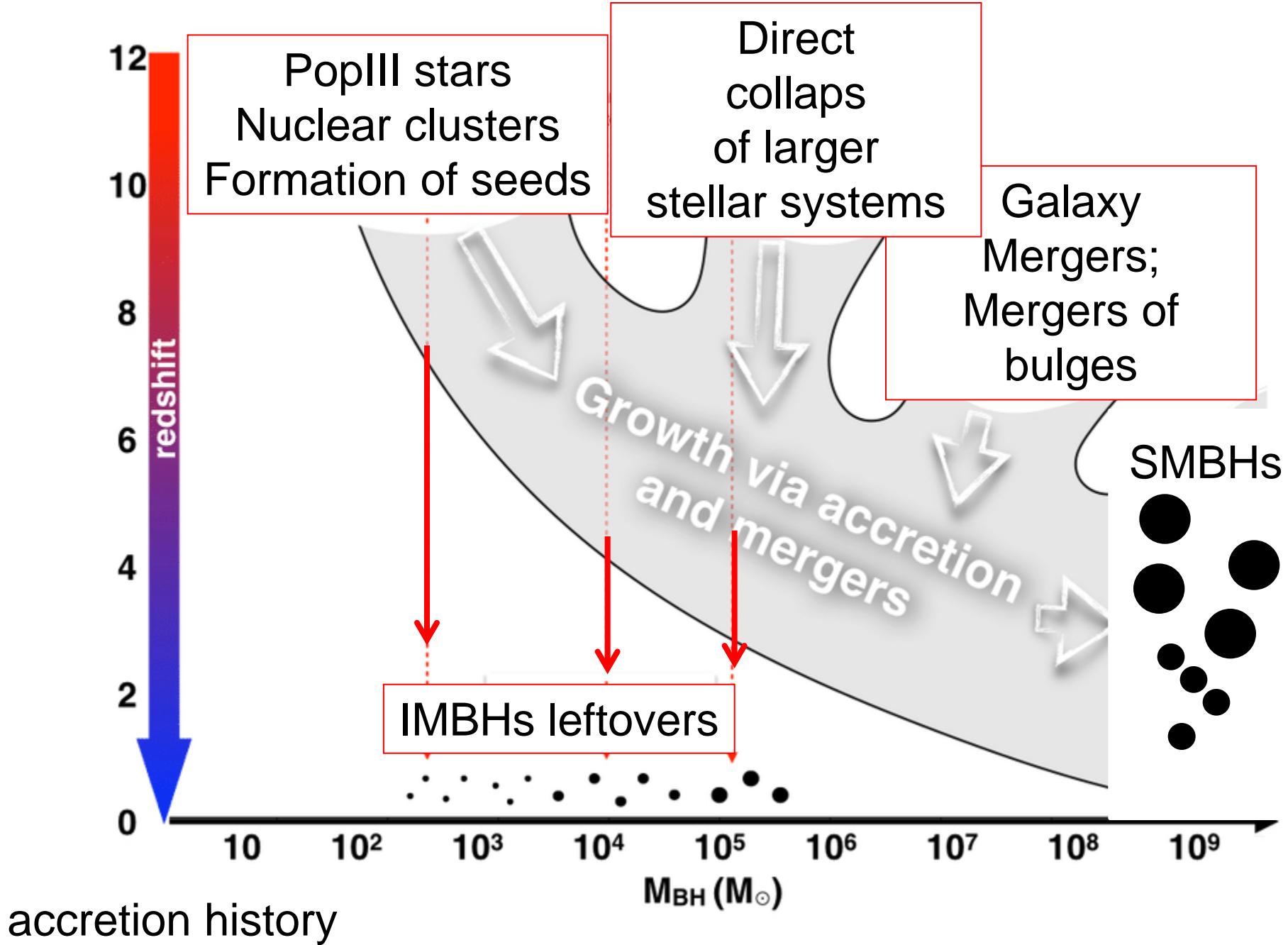




Past and Future Cosmologically

Past and Future Instrumentally

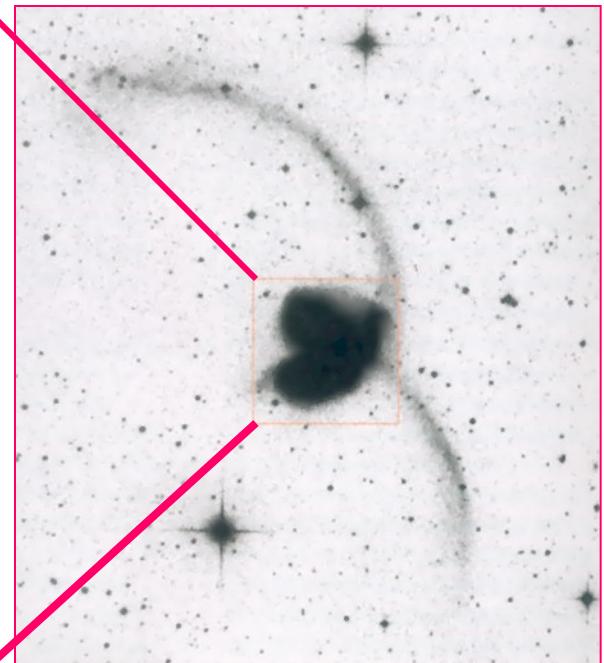
Past and Future Observationally



# Collision of Galaxies



Antennen-Galaxie  
NGC 4038/39



20 Mpc Entfernung  
 $1'' = 140 \text{ pc}$

Agglomeration of BHs, stars, gas



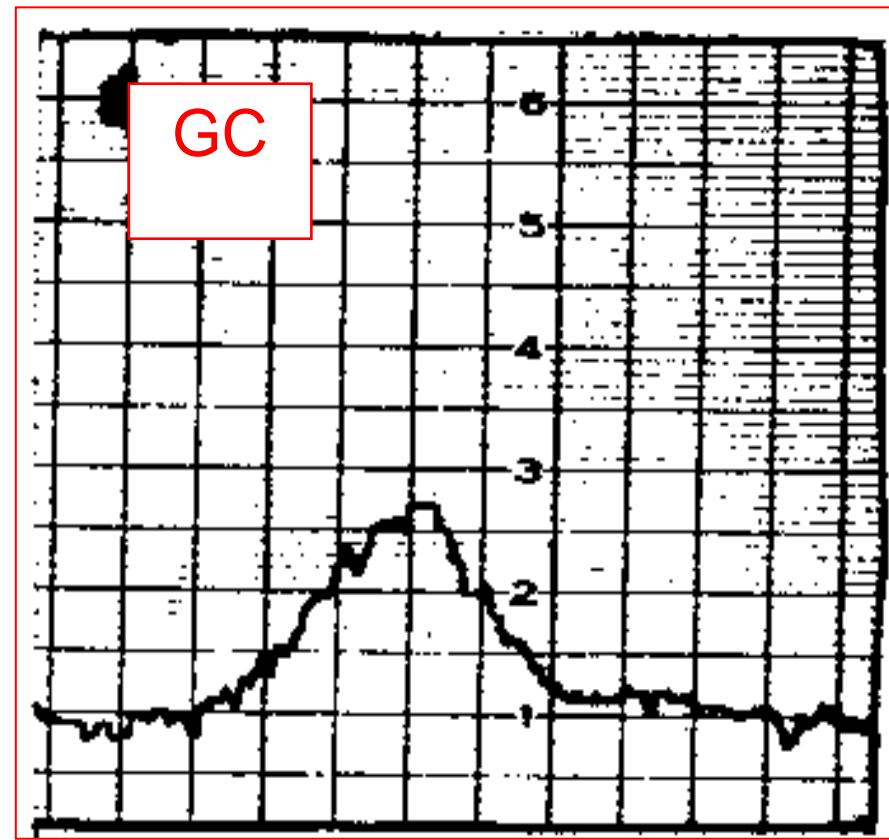
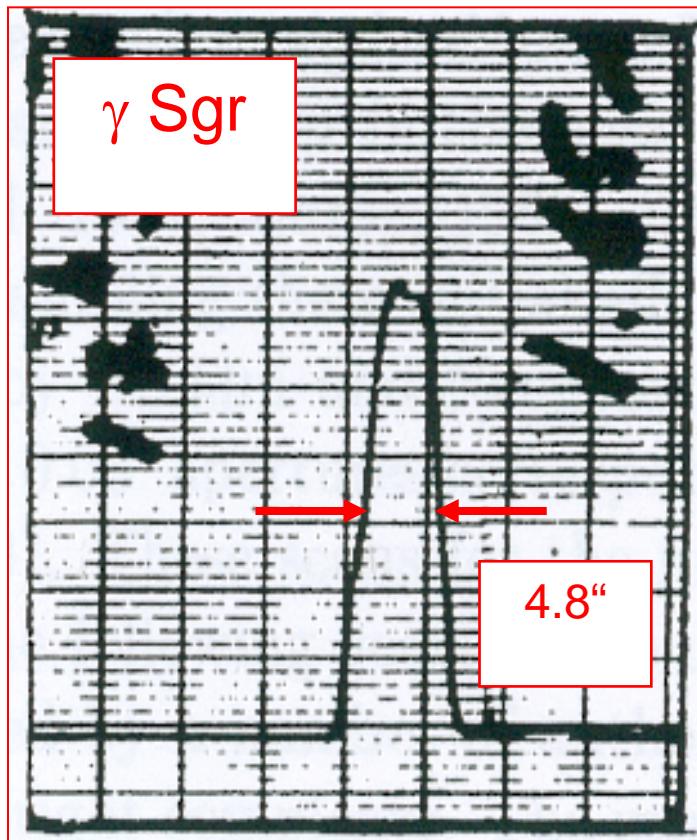
Past and Future Cosmologically

Past and Future Instrumentally

Past and Future Observationally

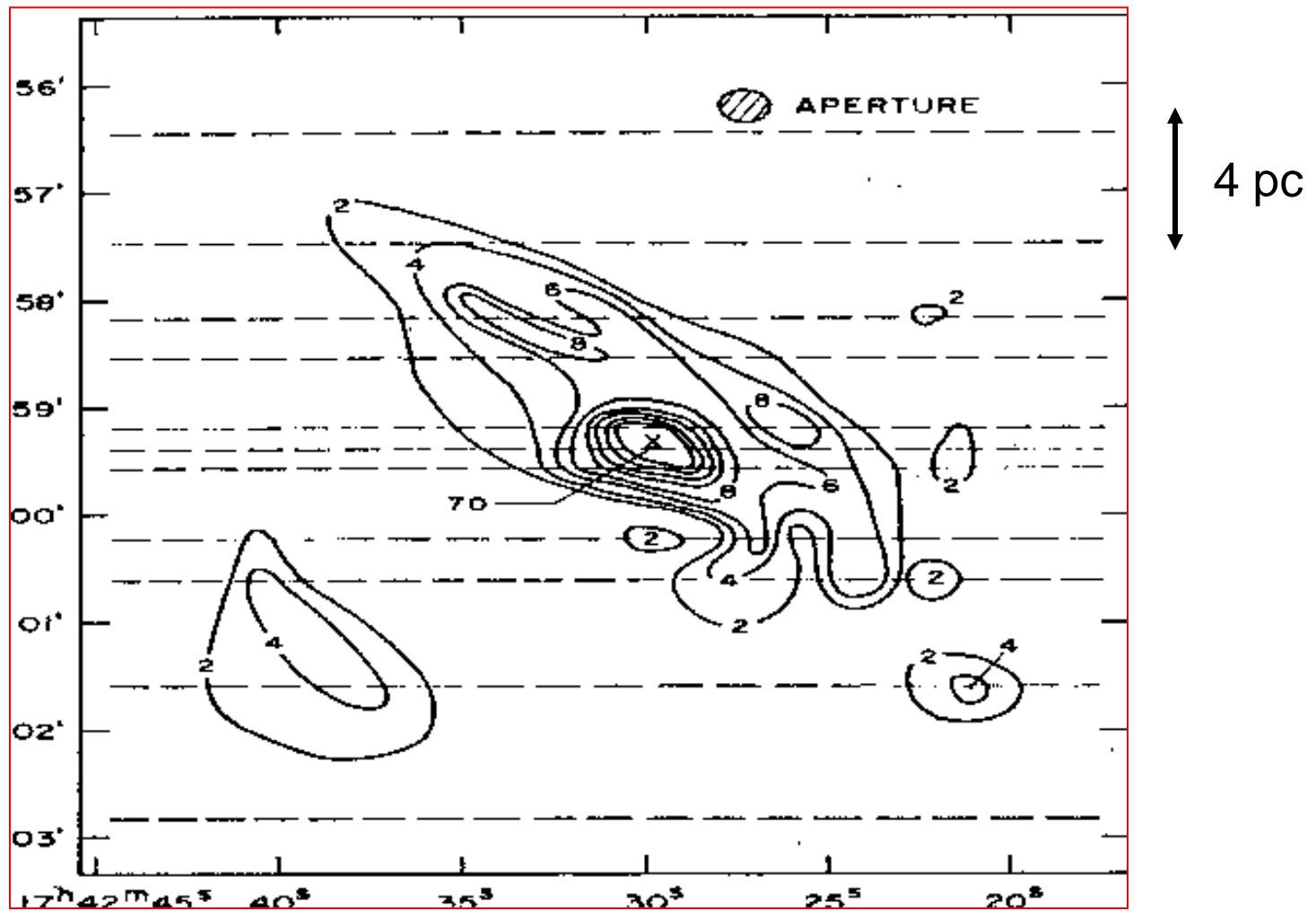
NIR/MIR  
Radio

# The first $2.2\mu\text{m}$ scans through the GC



R.A. scans with a single pixel detector (Becklin & Nugebauer 1968)

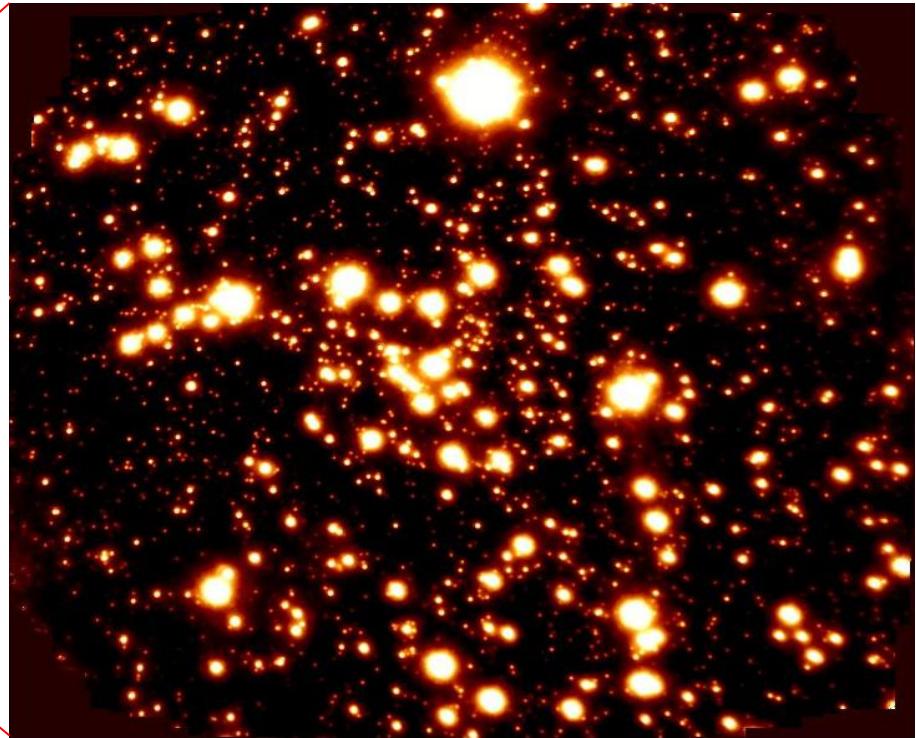
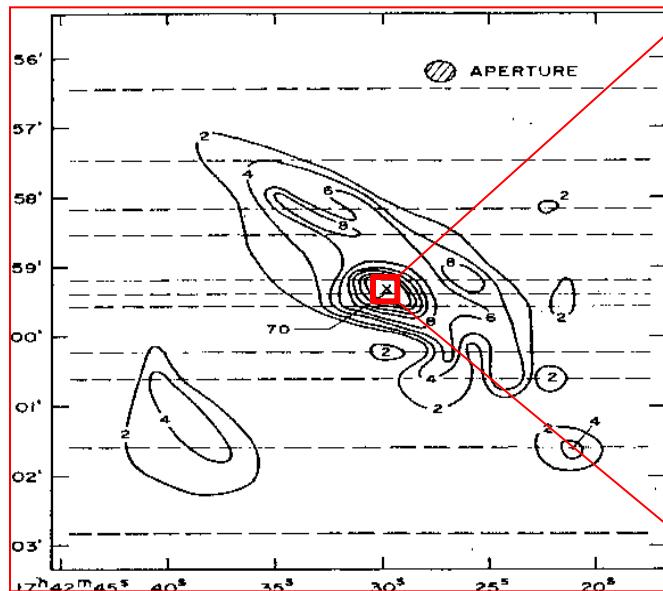
# The first $2.2\mu\text{m}$ scans through the GC



R.A. scans with a single pixel detector (Becklin & Nugebauer 1968)

# The first $2.2\mu\text{m}$ scans through the GC

4 pc  
↔



(Becklin & Naujehauer 1968)

NACO AO NIR  
Observations at the VLT in Chile  
since 1999  
(+7 years NTT)

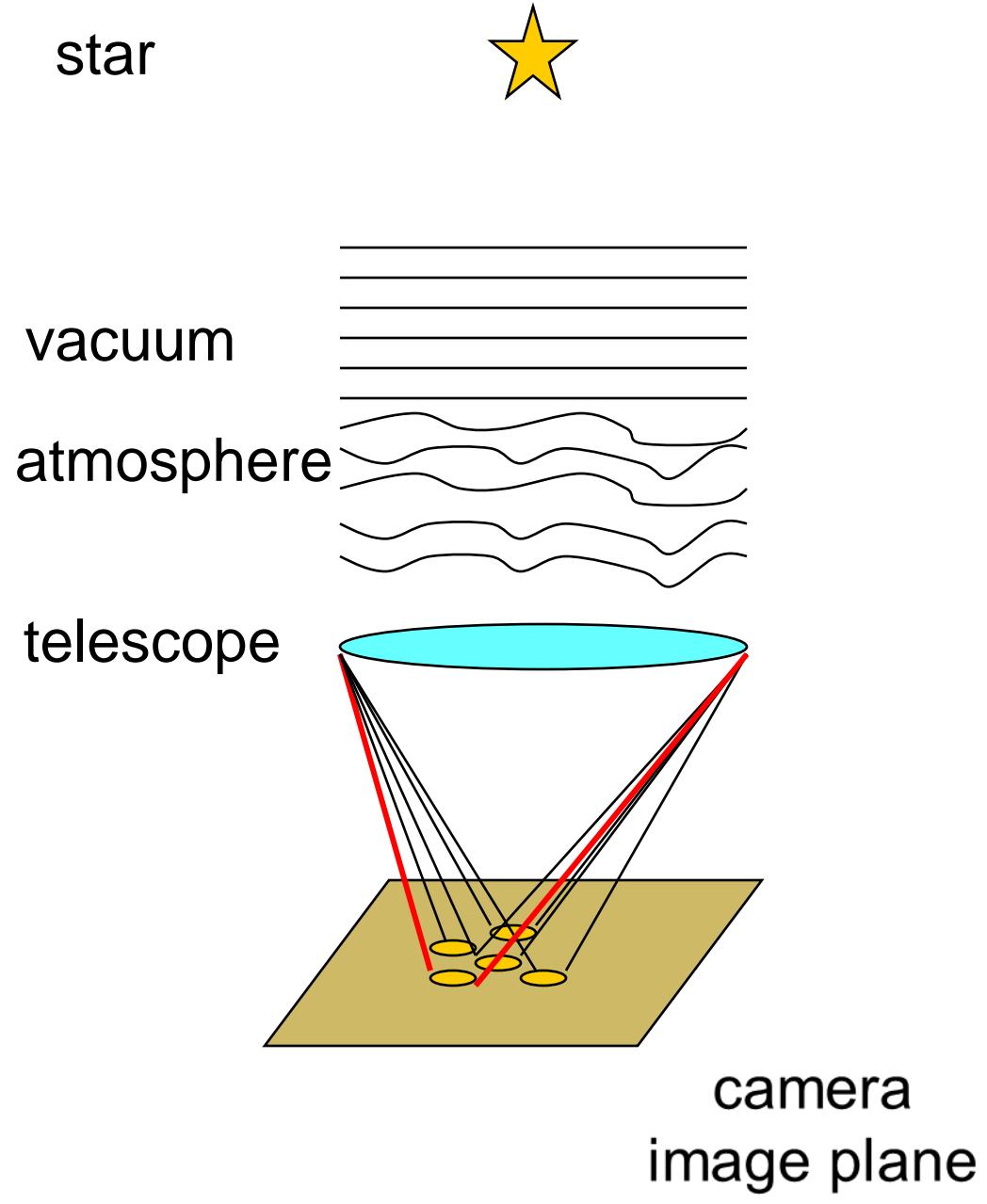
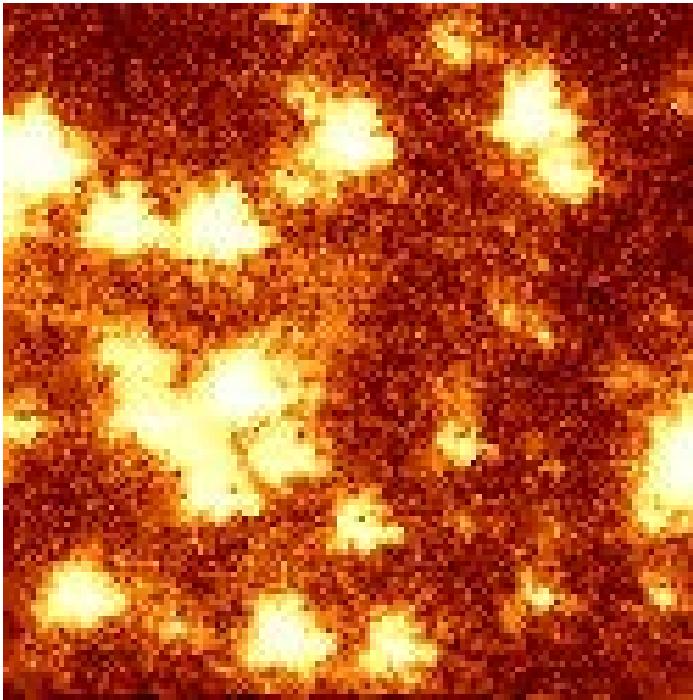
# The MPE SHARP-Camera at the ESO New Technology Telescope (NTT) 1991-2002

Proper Motions from NTT Speckle Interferometry



Observations in the infrared  
at 2 micrometers wavelength

**Speckle interferometry:**  
via short term recordings  
(a few 100 ms) the  
disturbing influence of  
the atmosphere are  
frozen in and recorded.



Short-term recordings from the SHARP  
Camera; Readout time 0.5 seconds

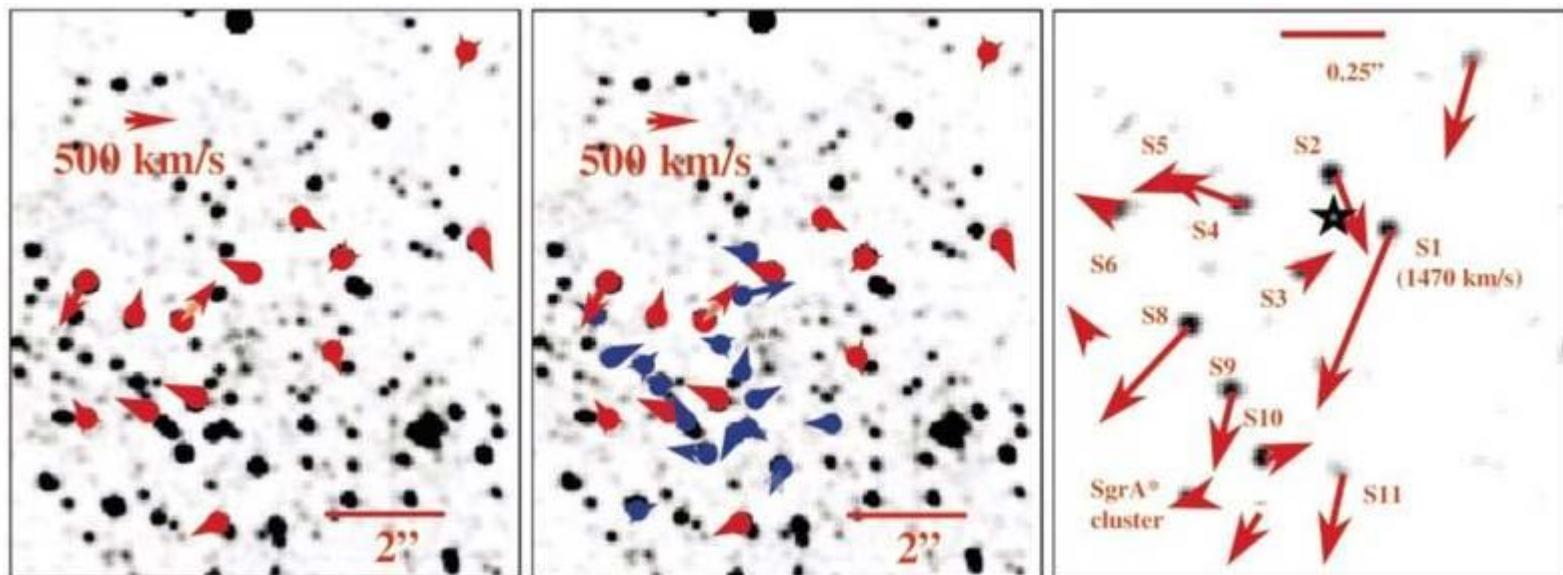
## Proper motions

### Stellar proper motions in the central 0.1 PC of the Galaxy

Eckart, A.; Genzel, R. 1996, Nature 383, 415

### First Conclusive Evidence for a Massive Black Hole in the Center of the Milky Way

Eckart, Andreas; Genzel, Reinhard, 1997, MNRAS 284, 576



## Proper motions

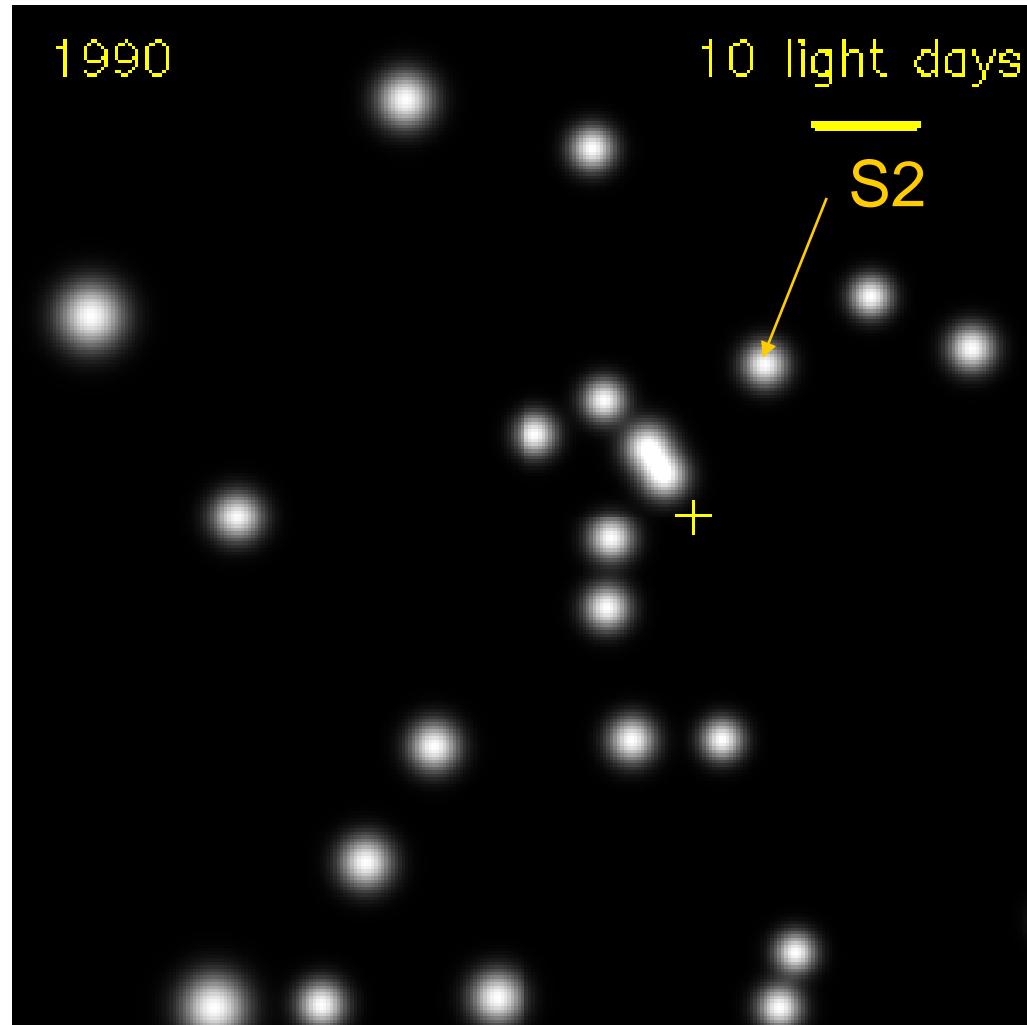
**in the central  
SgrA\* cluster  
1992-2000**

Eckart & Genzel,  
**1996**, Nature 383, 415;

Eckart & Genzel,  
**1997**, MNRAS 284, 576.

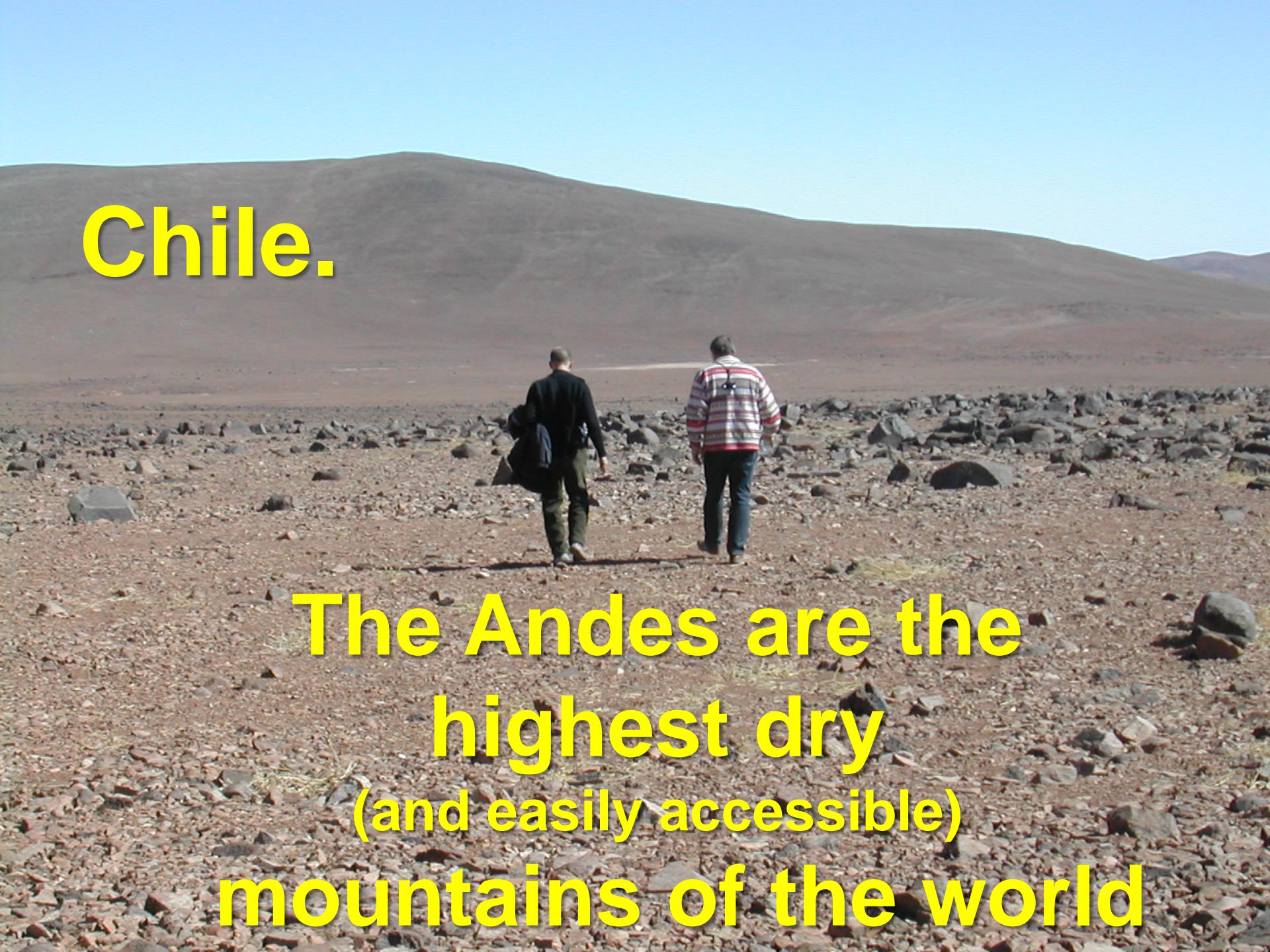
Ghez et al. **1998**,  
ApJ 509, 678.

**0.5 "**  
 **$6 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}$**   
**4000 AU**



# Very Large Telescope (VLT) – Chile - Paranal



A photograph of two people walking away from the camera in a dry, rocky landscape. They are walking towards a large, brown, hilly mountain range under a clear blue sky.

**Chile.**

**The Andes are the  
highest dry  
(and easily accessible)  
mountains of the world**

# Very Large Telescope (VLT) - Chile - Paranal

Proper Motions and Spectroscopy; Adaptive Optics at the VLT UT4



Garden with  
a fire pond  
that provides  
moisture.

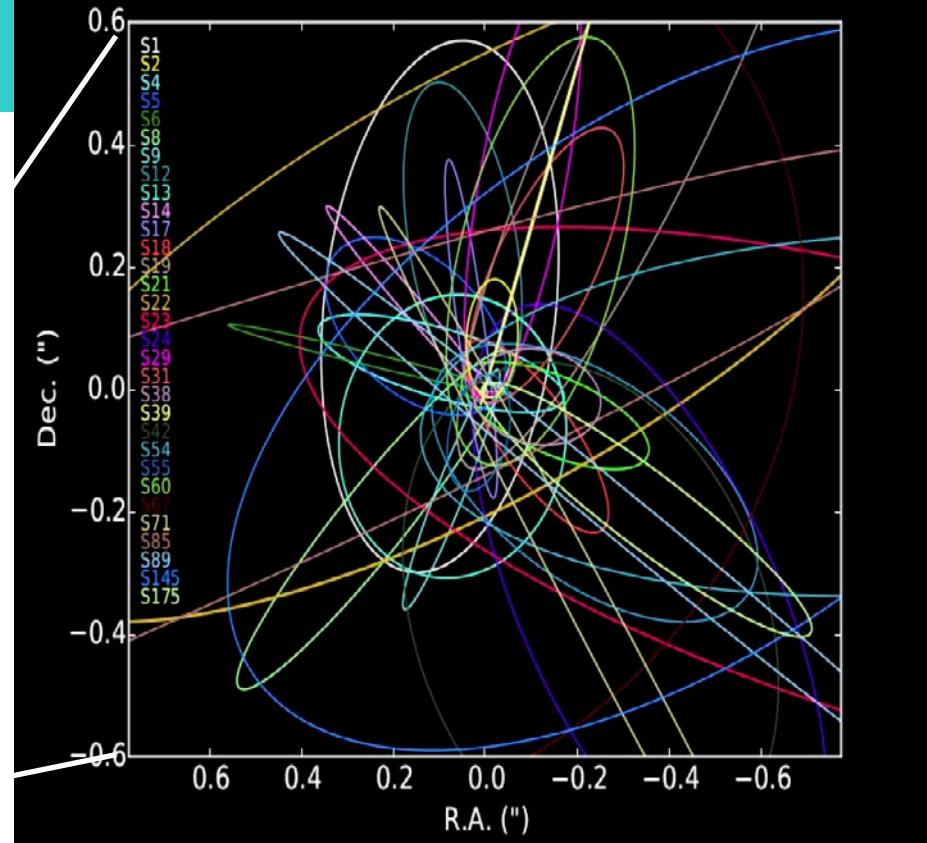
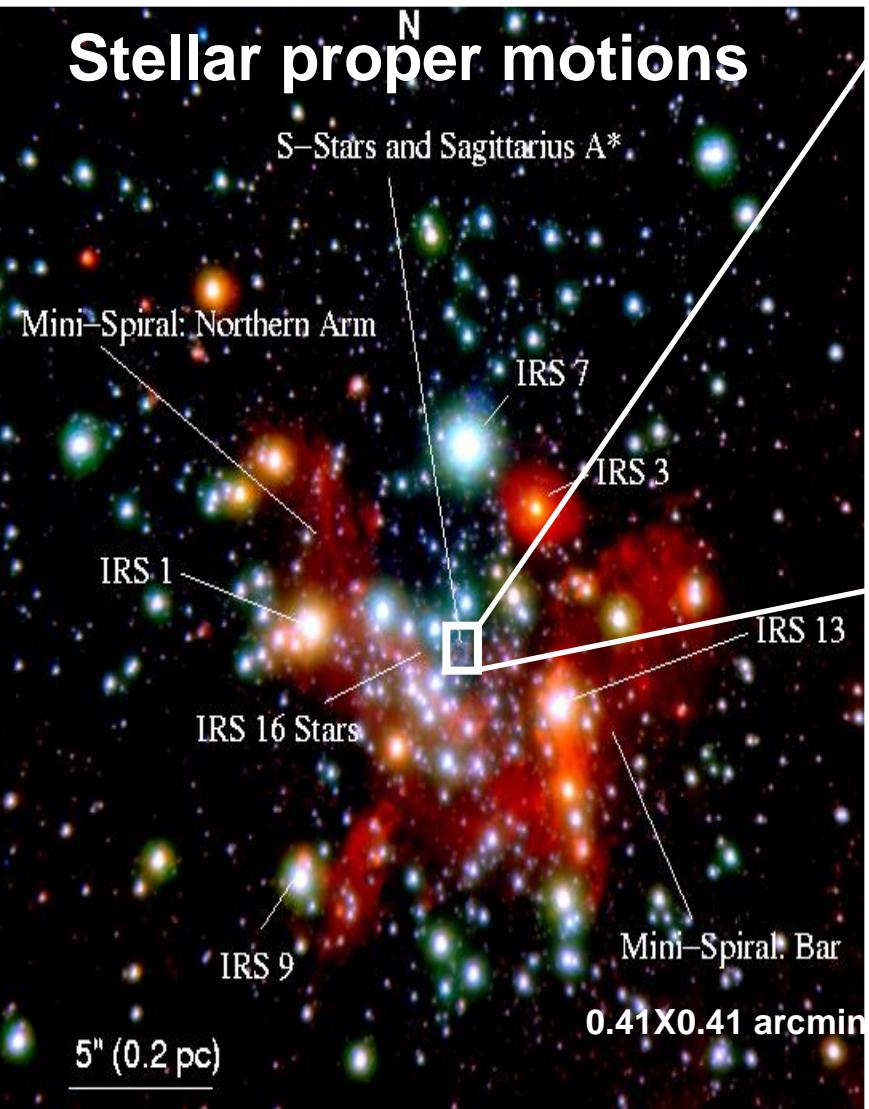
Telescopes



Hier wohnen die Astronomen



# Data Analysis



### First proper motions

- Eckart & Genzel (1996/1997)

Central Mass: 4 Million solar masses

Distance: 8 kpc ~ 27.000 light years



# VLTI : GRAVITY

Principle Investigator: **Frank Eisenhauer (MPE, Garching)**

Builders: The Gravity consortium:

- Max-Planck-Institut für Exterrestrische Physik (Garching),
- LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, Section de Meudon,
- Laboratoire d'Astrophysique, Observatoire de Grenoble,
- Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Heidelberg),
- I. Physikalisches Institut, Universität zu Köln,
- SIM, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa

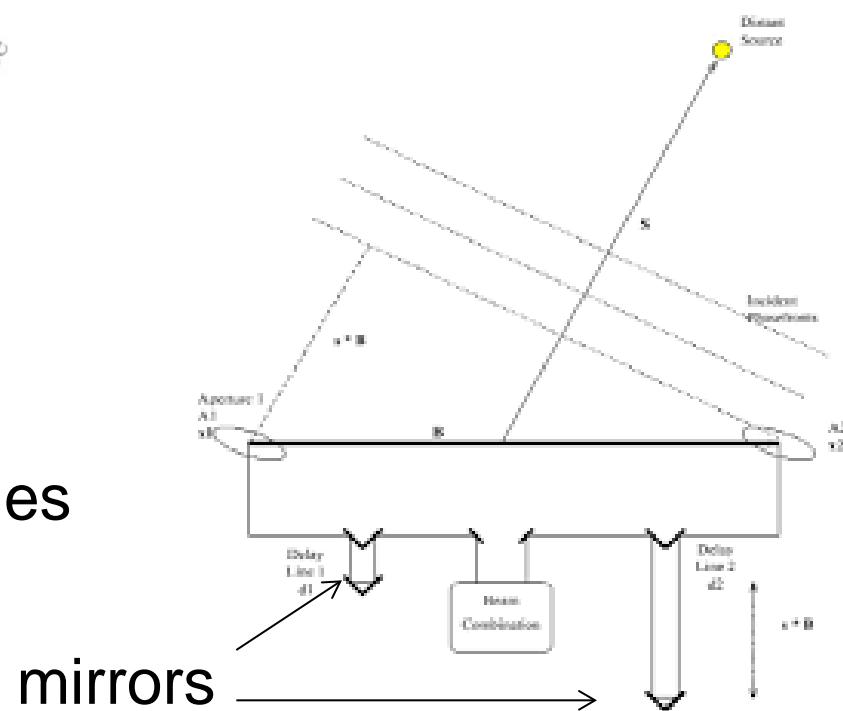
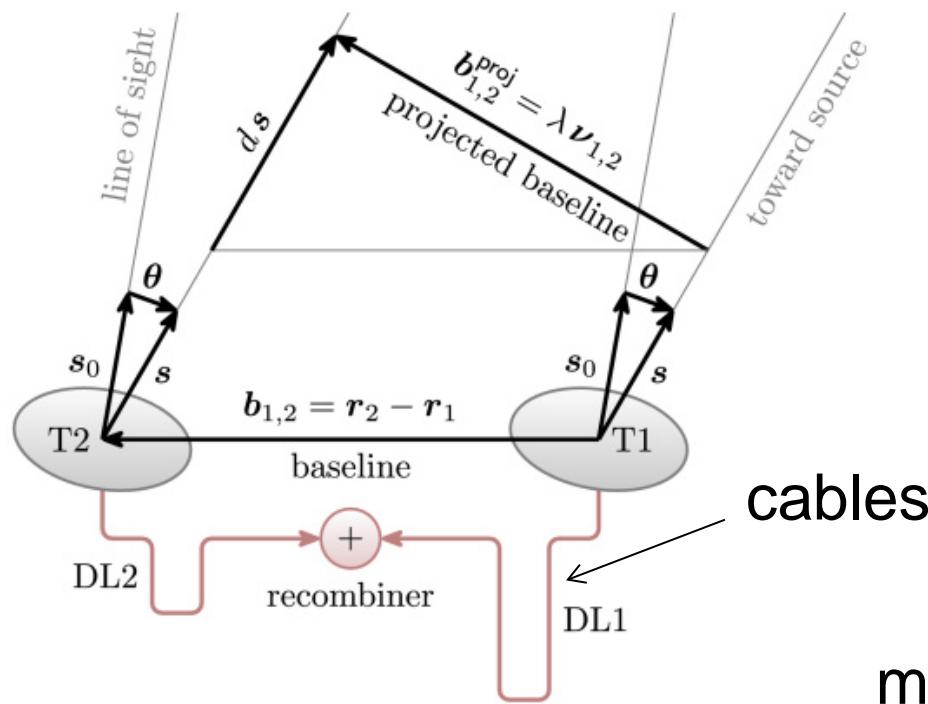
Assistance via the European Southern Observatory



## Difference between radio- and optical/infrared interferometry:

**In the radio** the signal transport and delay compensation is done via at intermediate frequencies via cable, tape and electronically.

**In the optical/IR** you cannot stably and loss free mix down to an intermediate frequency, hence, it is done at sky frequencies via light and mirrors.

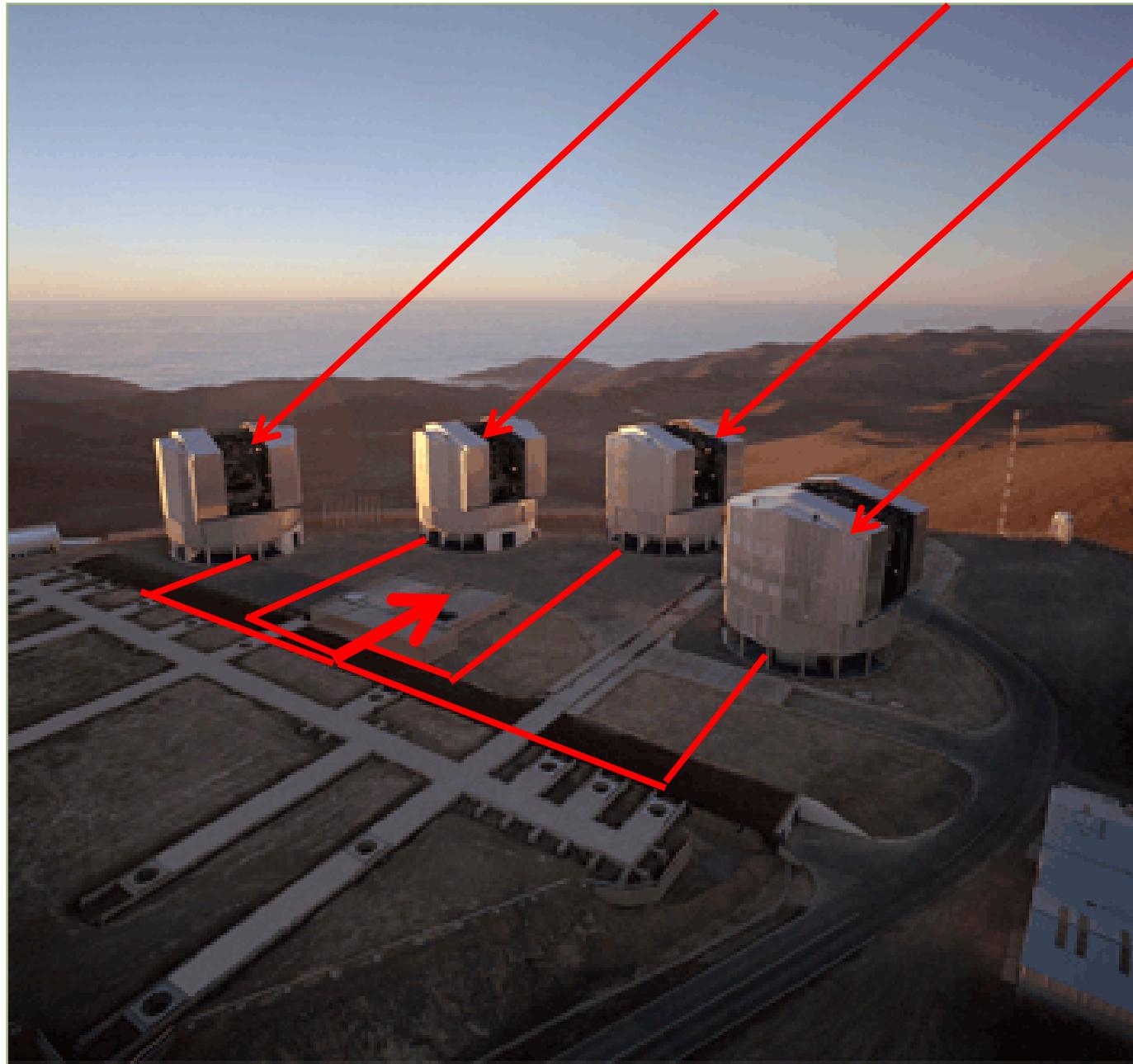


# VLTI: VLT Interferometry with GRAVITY



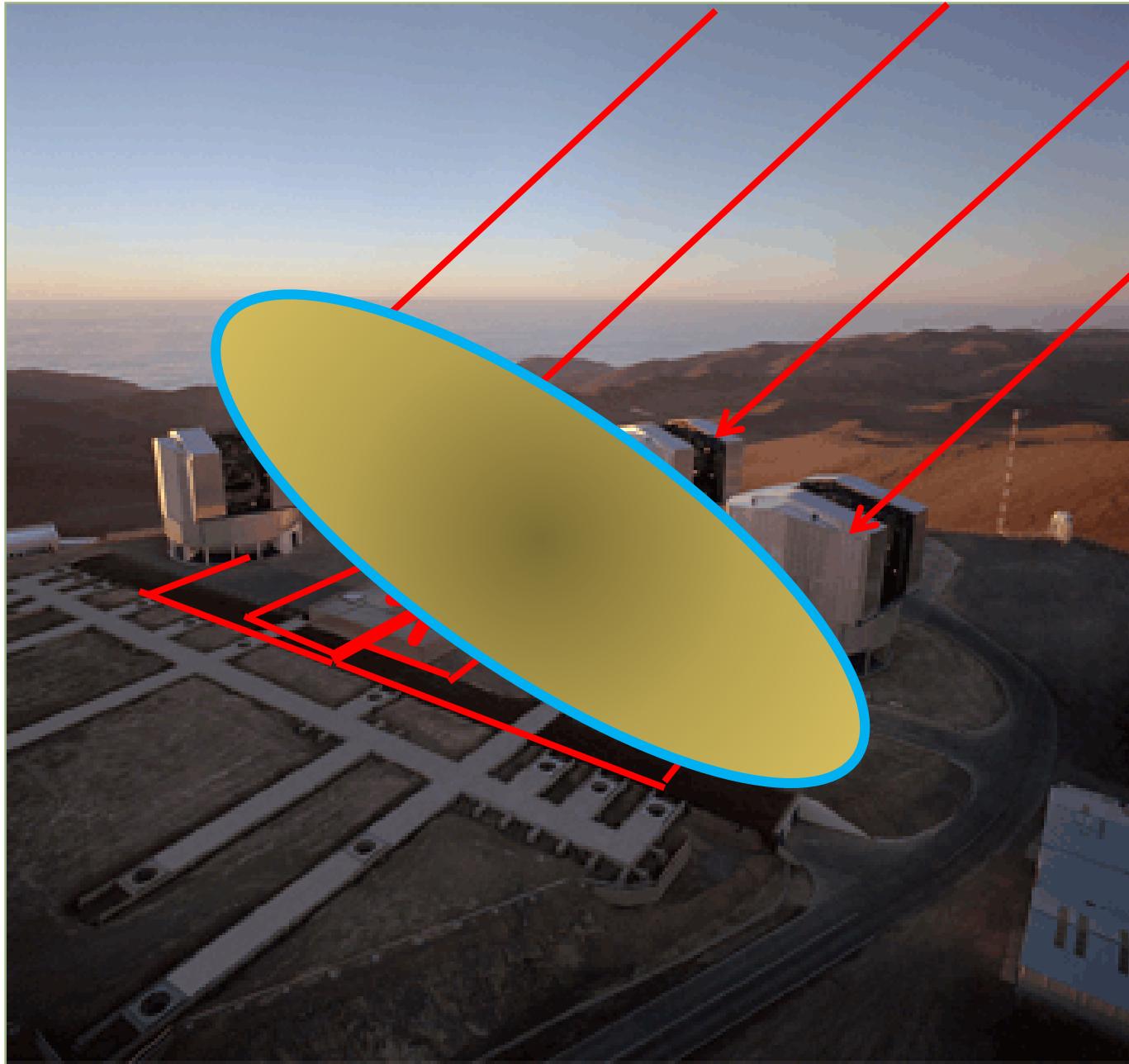
High angular resolution measurements via connecting individual telescope

# VLTI: VLT Interferometry with GRAVITY



High angular resolution measurements via connecting individual telescope

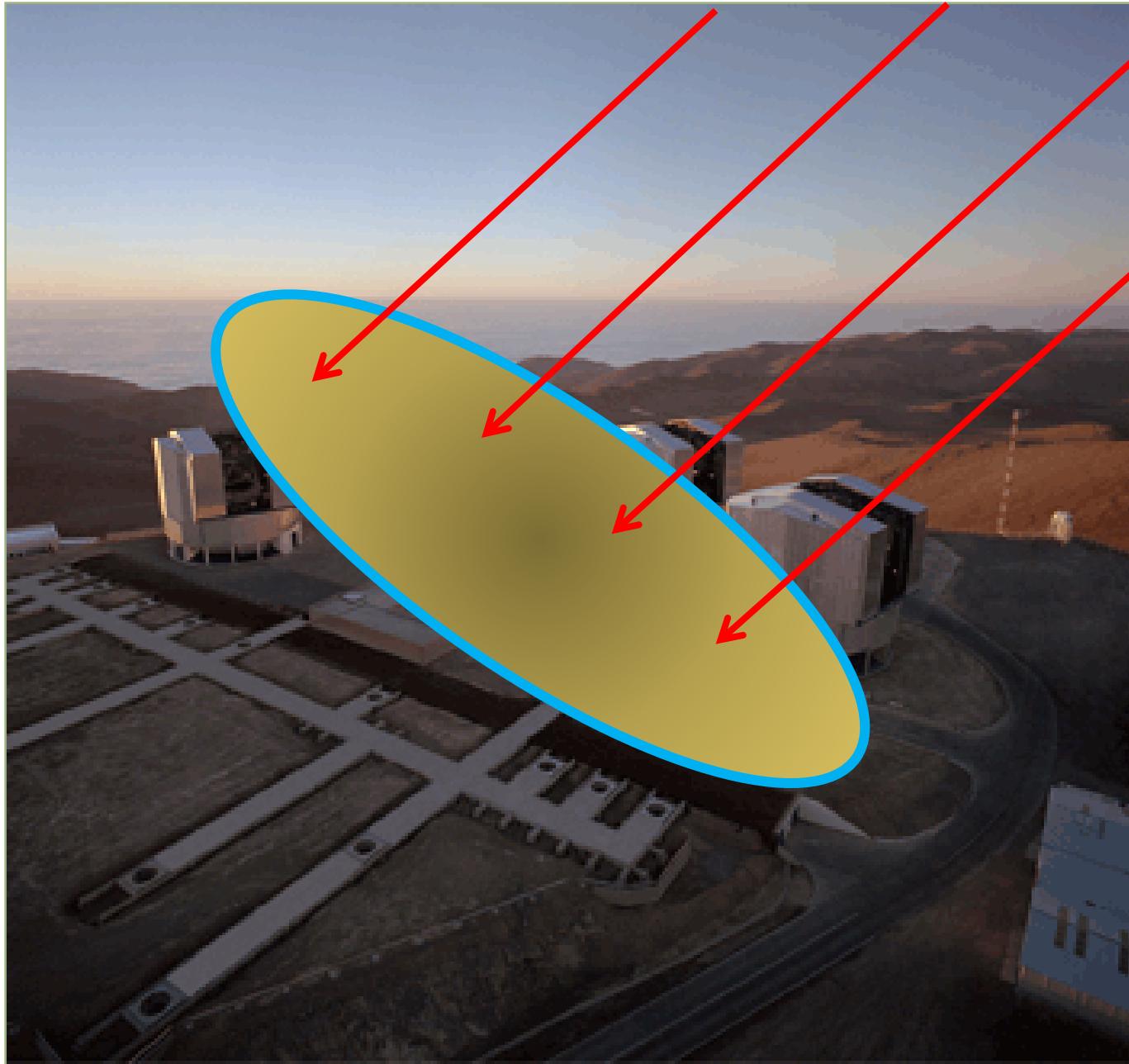
# VLTI: VLT Interferometry with GRAVITY



High angular resolution measurements via connecting individual telescope

This is how a telescope of much larger diameter is simulated

# VLTI: VLT Interferometry with GRAVITY



High angular resolution measurements via connecting individual telescope

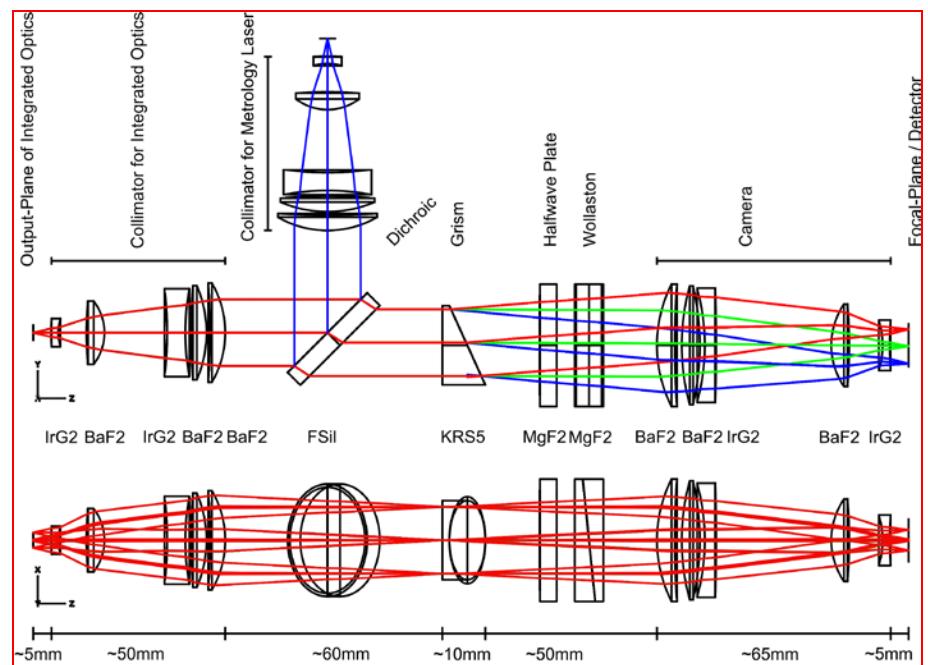
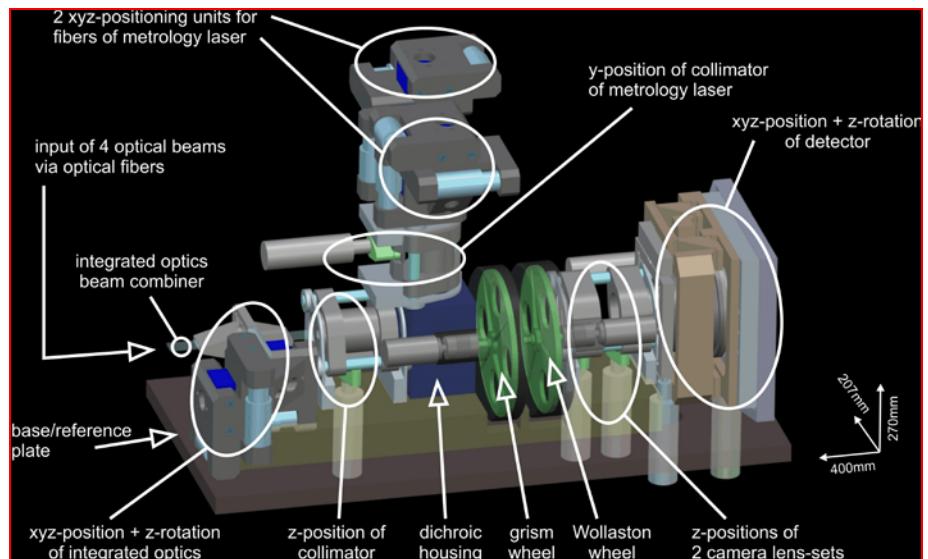
This is how a telescope of much larger diameter is simulated

# VLTI : GRAVITY

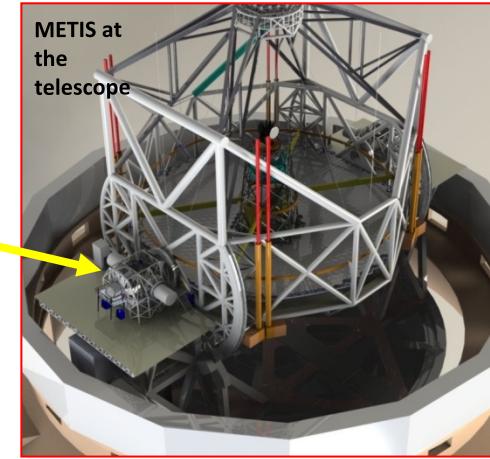
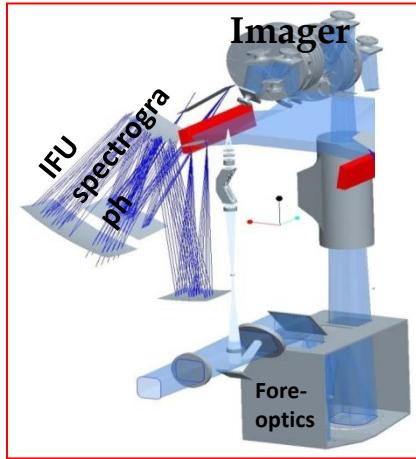
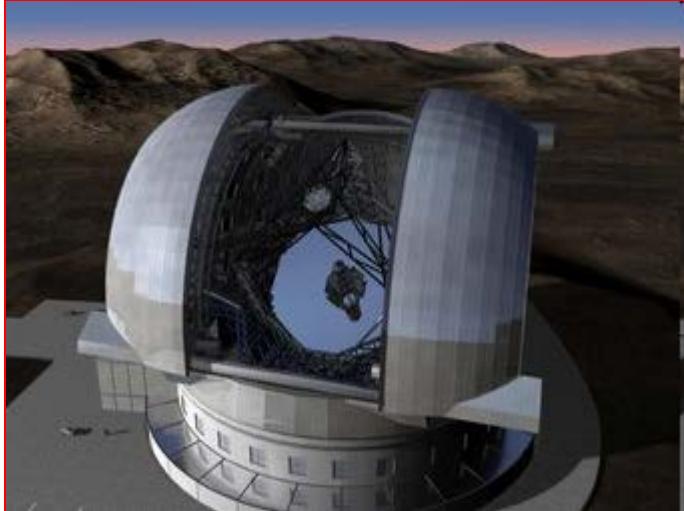


Cologne University  
provided the two  
beam combining  
spectrometers

Straubmeier, Eckart



# *METIS is the E-ELT instrument for $\lambda > 2.5\mu\text{m}$*



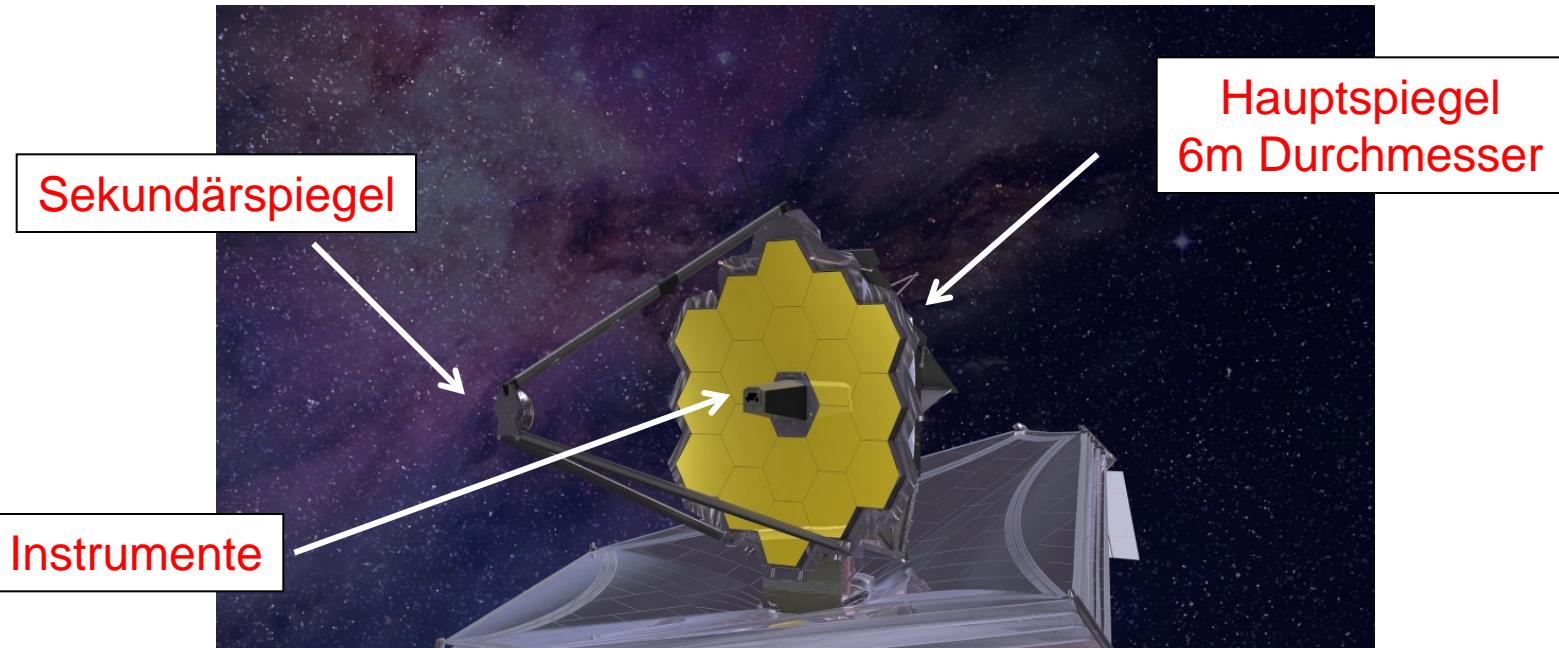
## METIS Baseline:

- Diffraction limited **imager** [ $18'' \times 18''$ ] at **L/M, N**
  - incl. **coronagraphy** (N-band only)
  - incl. low-resolution ( $R \leq 5000$ ) **long-slit**
  - (incl. **polarimeter** (N-band))
- High resolution [ $R \sim 100,000$ ]

**IFU spectrograph** [ $\geq 0.4'' \times 1.6''$ ] for L/M [2.9 – 5.3 $\mu\text{m}$ ] band

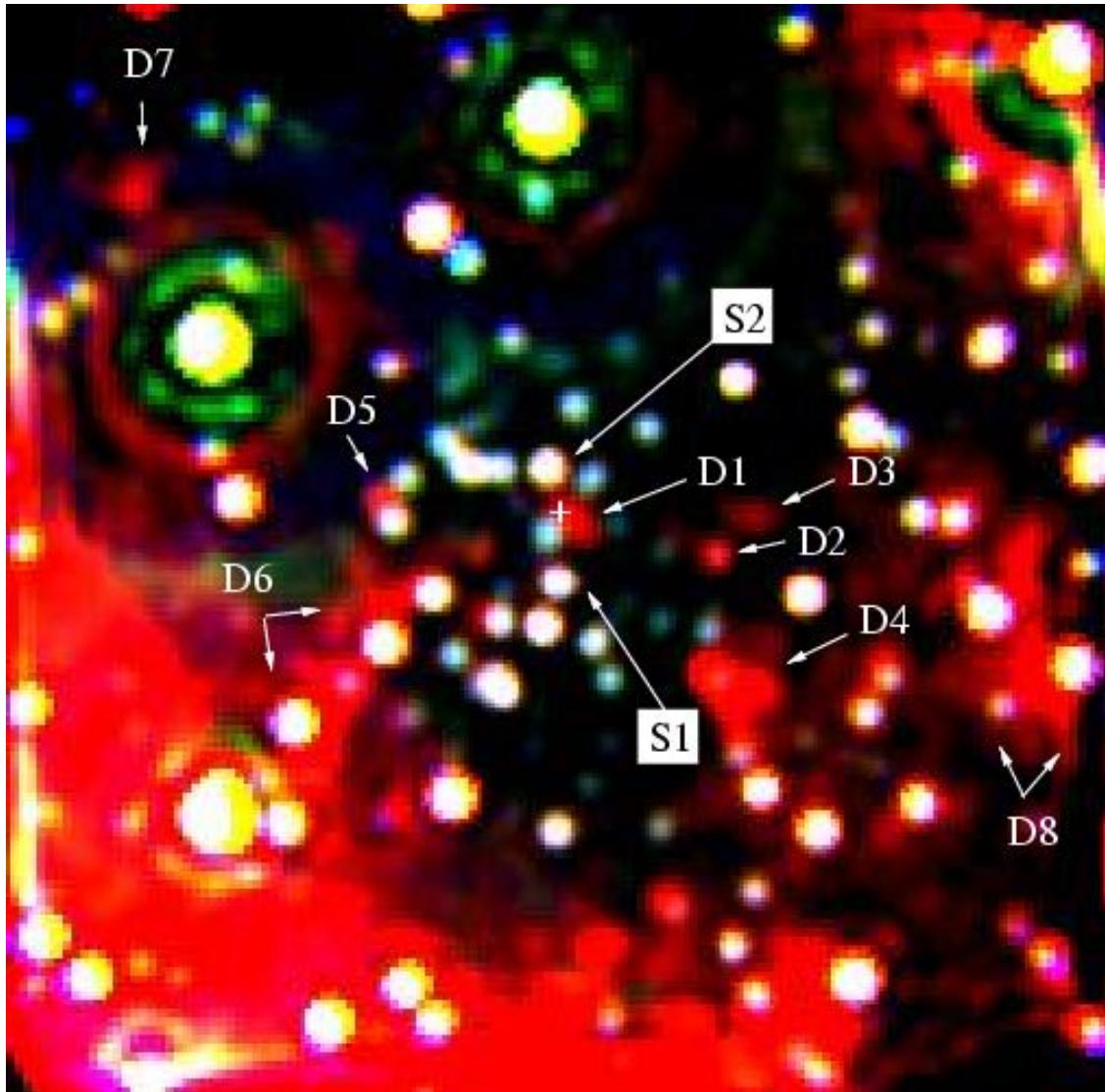


# Der James-Webb-Satellit



Sonnenschild

# Detection of a Dust Component along the Line of Sight towards SgrA\*

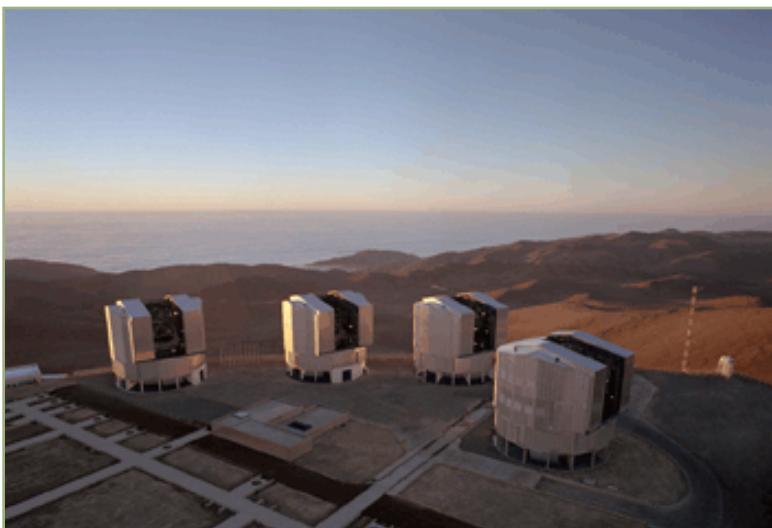


HKL multi-color image of the central 5''x5'' taken with NACO. L-band is in red.

Fore-/Background dust component 26mas west of SgrA\*  
~1000 AU at 8 kpc

High angular resolution required in the MIR!!

Several of those dust blobs are seen across the field



# VLTI : GRAVITY +

Principle Investigator: **Frank Eisenhauer (MPE, Garching)**

Builders: The Gravity consortium:

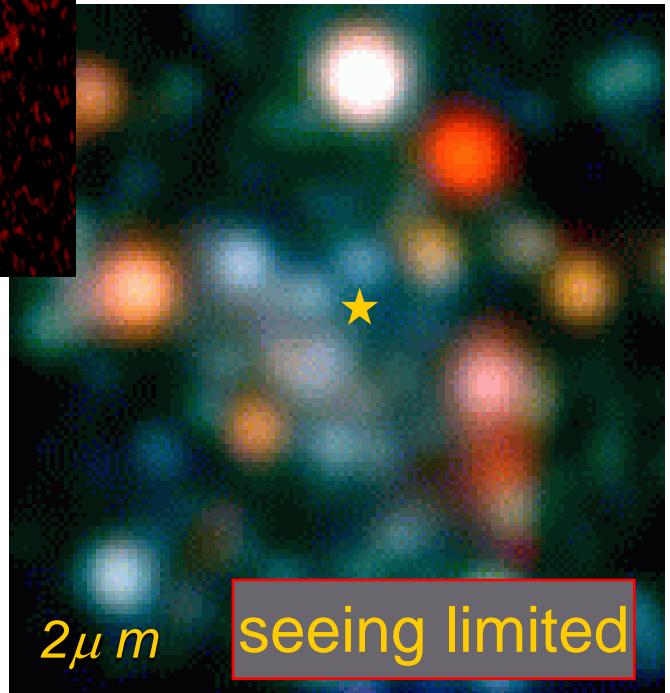
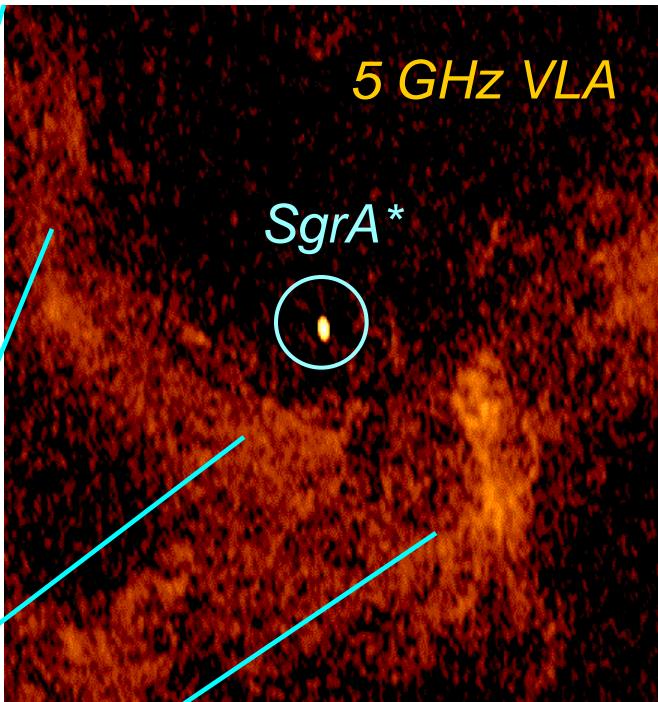
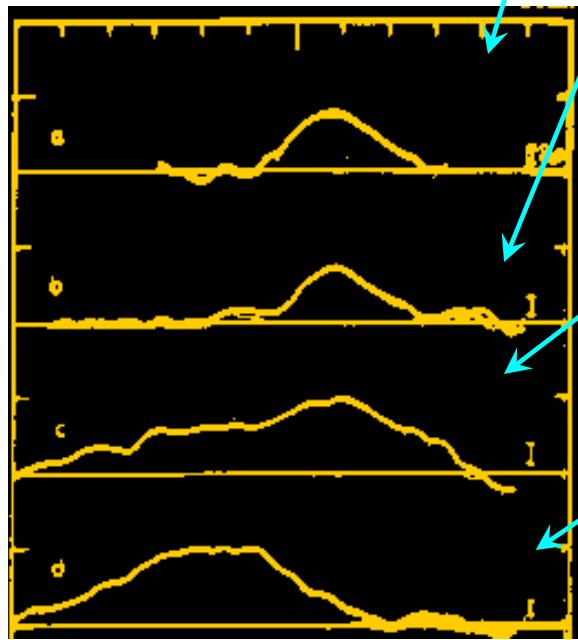
- Max-Planck-Institut für Exterrestrische Physik (Garching),
- LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, Section de Meudon,
- Laboratoire d'Astrophysique, Observatoire de Grenoble,
- Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Heidelberg),
- I. Physikalisches Institut, Universität zu Köln,
- SIM, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa

Assistance via the European Southern Observatory

# Radio

# The Galactic Center

400 km/s



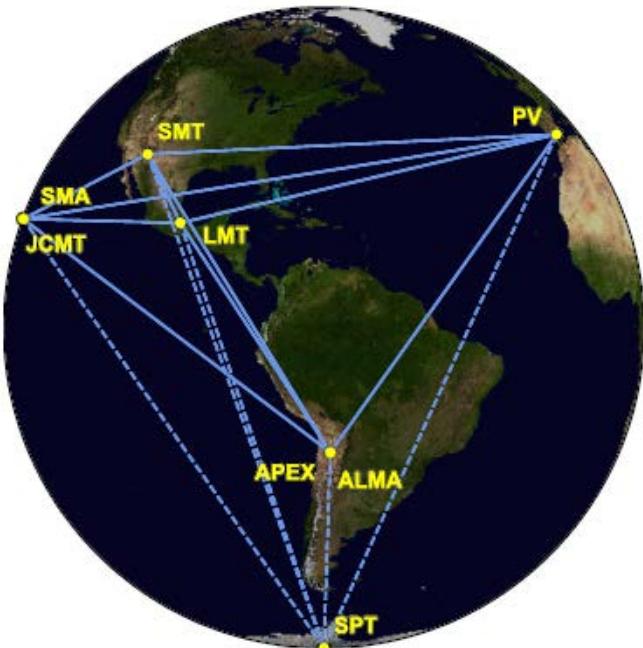
Wollman et al. 1977, Lacy et al. 1979, 1980,  
Lo et al. 1983, DePoy and Sharp 1991

$2\mu m$

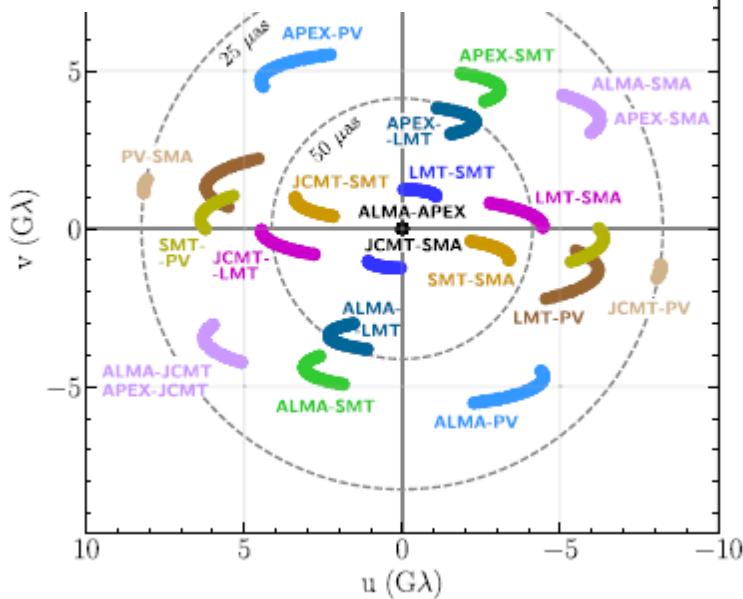
seeing limited

# EVENT HORIZON TELESCOPE

## mm-radio Very Long Baseline interferometry



**Figure 1.** Eight stations of the EHT 2017 campaign over six geographic locations as viewed from the equatorial plane. Solid baselines represent mutual visibility on M87\* ( $+12^\circ$  declination). The dashed baselines were used for the calibration source 3C279 (see Papers III and IV).



# EVENT HORIZON TELESCOPE

## mm-radio Very Long Baseline interferometry

### First M87 Event Horizon Telescope Results. V. Physical Origin of the Asymmetric Ring

The Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration

(See the end matter for the full list of authors.)

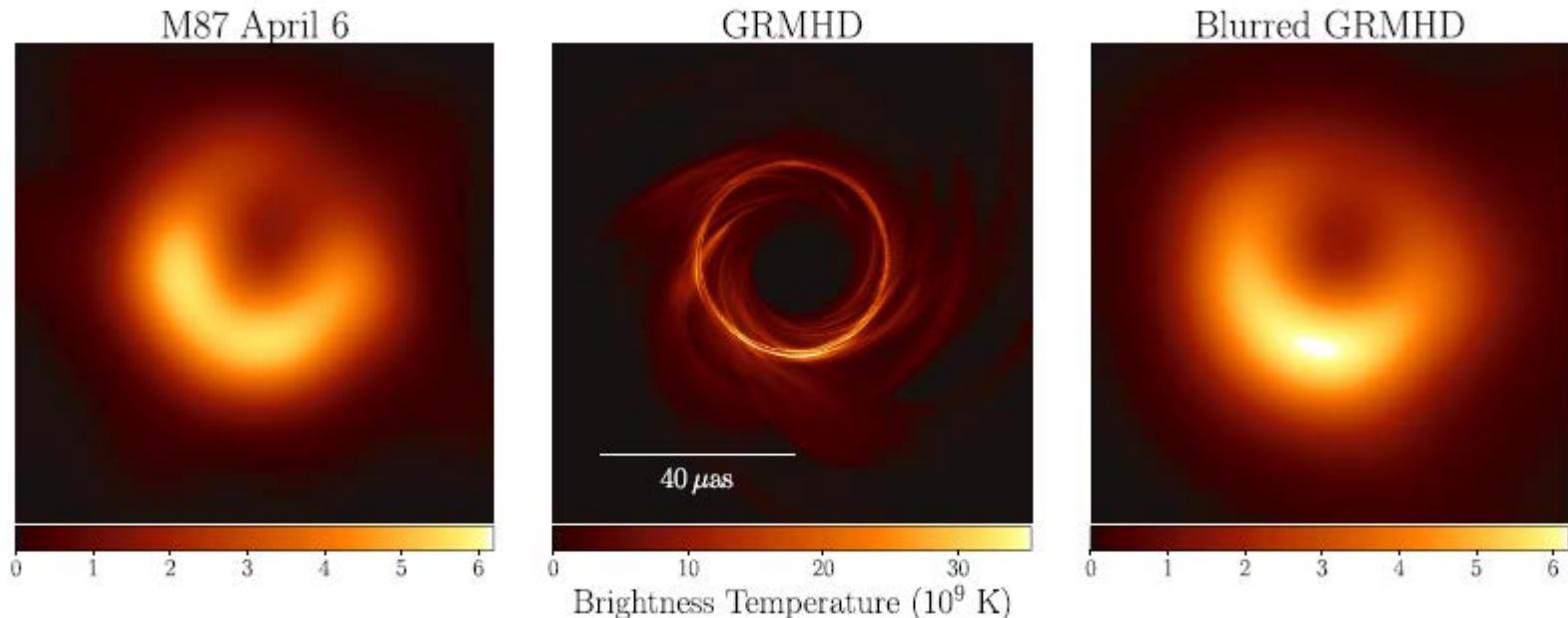
Received 2019 March 4; revised 2019 March 12; accepted 2019 March 12; published 2019 April 10

### First M87 Event Horizon Telescope Results. I. The Shadow of the Supermassive Black Hole

The Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration

(See the end matter for the full list of authors.)

Received 2019 March 1; revised 2019 March 12; accepted 2019 March 12; published 2019 April 10

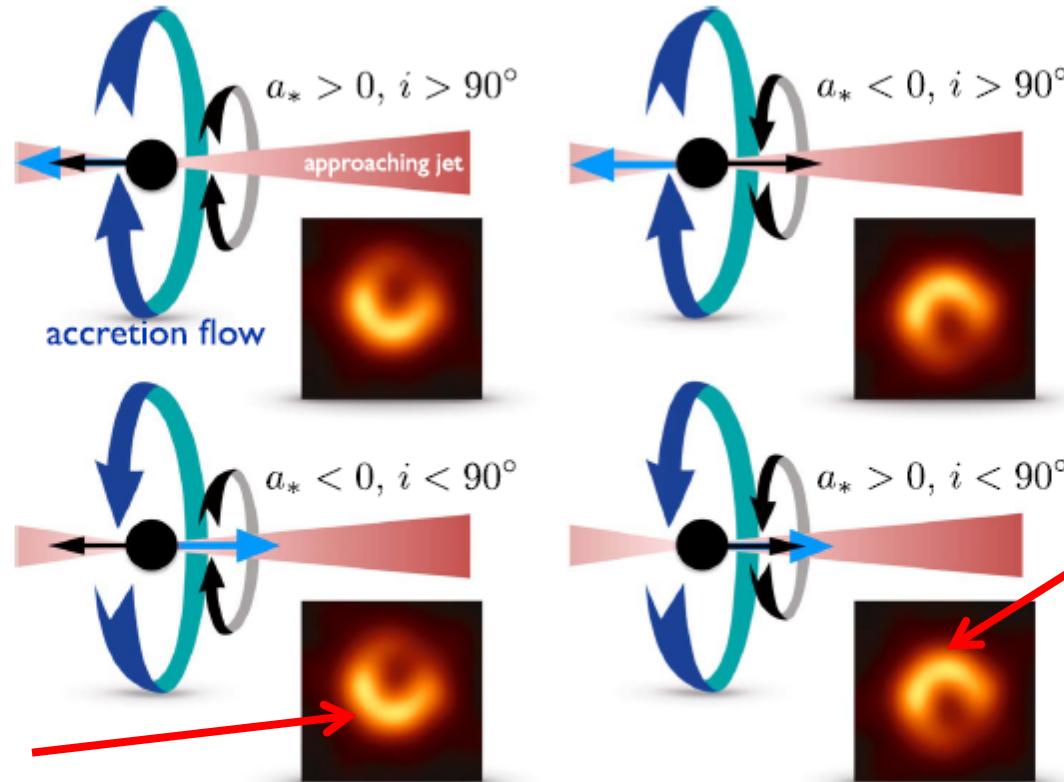


**Figure 1.** Left panel: an EHT2017 image of M87 from Paper IV of this series (see their Figure 15). Middle panel: a simulated image based on a GRMHD model. Right panel: the model image convolved with a  $20 \mu\text{as}$  FWHM Gaussian beam. Although the most evident features of the model and data are similar, fine features in the model are not resolved by EHT.

# EVENT HORIZON TELESCOPE

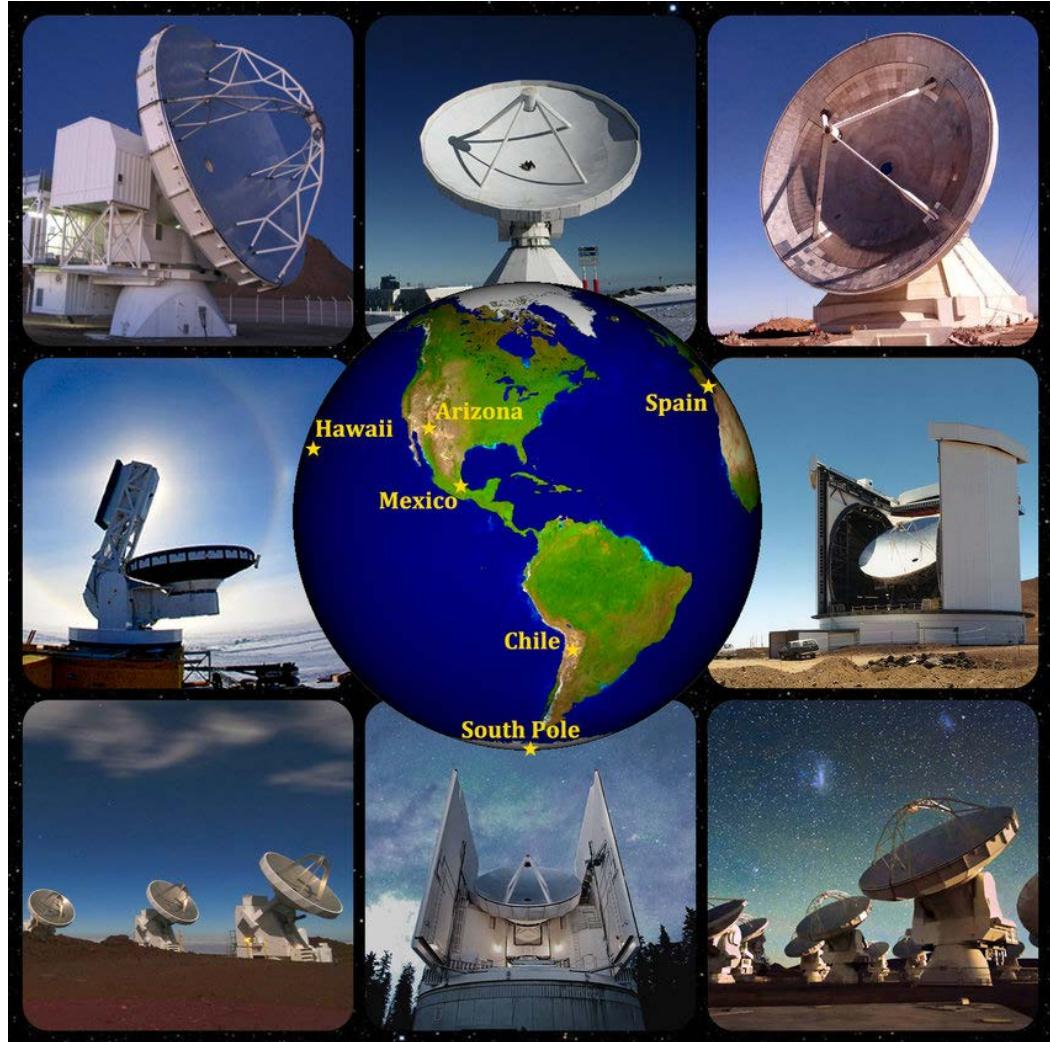
## mm-radio Very Long Baseline interferometry

boosted side is brightended by aberration



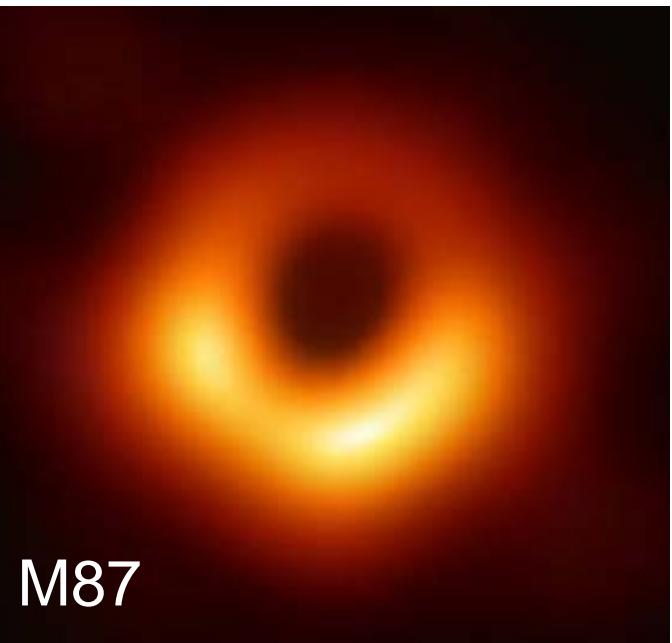
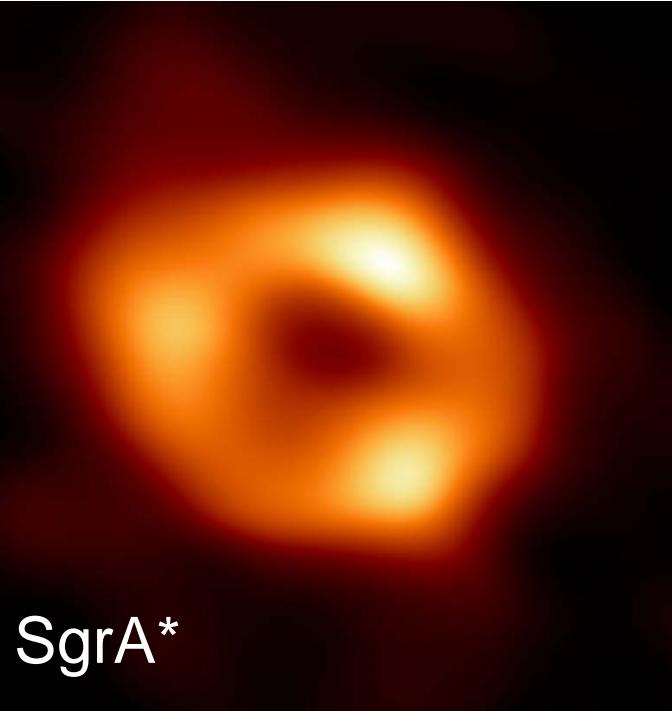
boosted side is brightended by aberration

**Figure 5.** Illustration of the effect of black hole and disk angular momentum on ring asymmetry. The asymmetry is produced primarily by Doppler beaming: the bright region corresponds to the approaching side. In GRMHD models that fit the data comparatively well, the asymmetry arises in emission generated in the funnel wall. The sense of rotation of both the jet and funnel wall are controlled by the black hole spin. If the black hole spin axis is aligned with the large-scale jet, which points to the right, then the asymmetry implies that the black hole spin is pointing away from Earth (rotation of the black hole is clockwise as viewed from Earth). The blue ribbon arrow shows the sense of disk rotation, and the black ribbon arrow shows black hole spin. Inclination  $i$  is defined as the angle between the disk angular momentum vector and the line of sight.



## Event Horizon Telescope 2019/22

Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics awarded to the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration





Past and Future Cosmologically

Past and Future Instrumentally

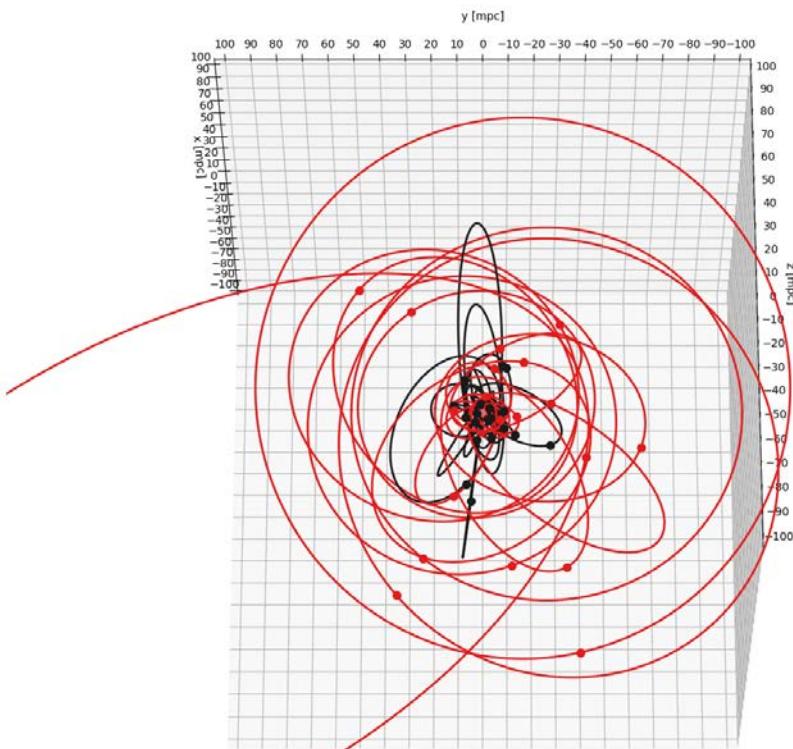
Past and Future Observationally



All orbits: disks

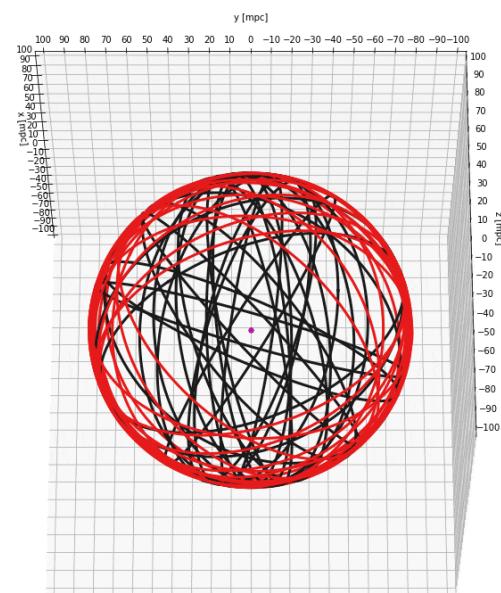
$t = 1980.0 \text{ y}$

azim =  $0^\circ$ ; elev =  $-25^\circ$  Red face on



All orbits: disks (modified orbits)

azim =  $0^\circ$ ; elev =  $-25^\circ$  Red face on



## 2020, ApJ 896, 100 , Kinematic Structure of the Galactic Center S Cluster

Ali, Basel; Paul, Daria; Eckart, Andreas;  
Parsa, Marzieh; Zajacek, Michal; Peißker,  
Florian; Subroweit, Matthias; Valencia-S.,  
Monica; Thomkins, Lauritz; Witzel, Gunther

Kinematic structure of  
the S-cluster:  
Two orthogonal thick  
disks  
Ali et al. 2020

# Visualization of Results



**ESO press announcement 9 August 2017: ann17051:**  
Hint of Relativity Effects in Stars Orbiting the  
Supermassive Black Hole at Centre of Galaxy

# Results

- The best estimates for the mass and the distance to Sgr A\* are:

$$M_{BH} = (4.15 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.57) \times 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$$

$$R_0 = 8.19 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.34 \text{ kpc}$$

- The change in the argument of periapse of S2 is

$$\Delta\omega_{\text{obs}} = 14' \pm 3'$$

$$\Delta\omega_{\text{expected}} = 11'$$

- The changes in the orbital elements of S2 imply relativistic parameter of:

$$Y_{\text{obs}} = 0.00088 \pm 0.00065$$

Eckart et al. 2018

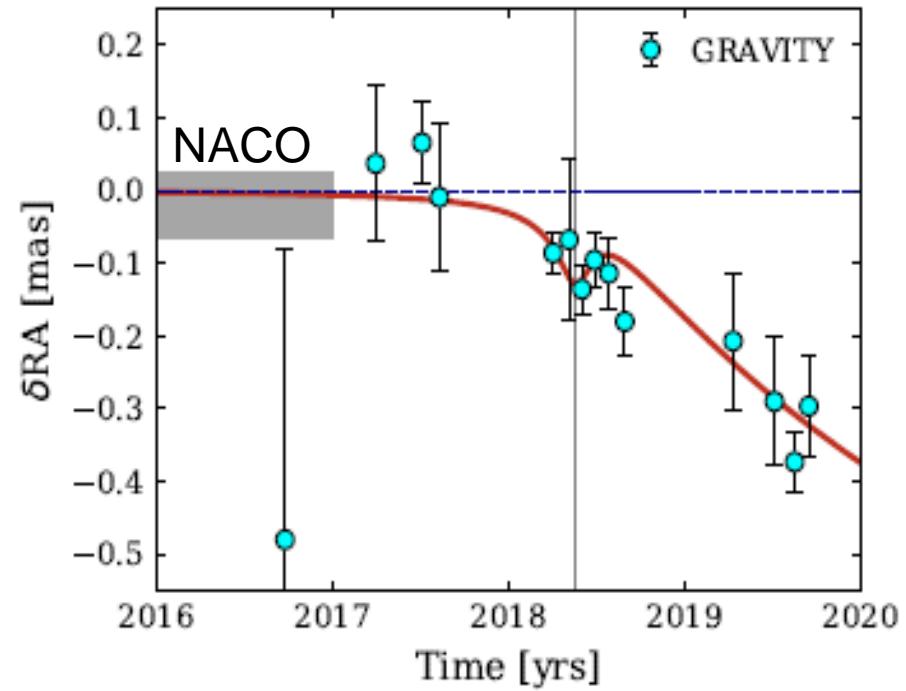
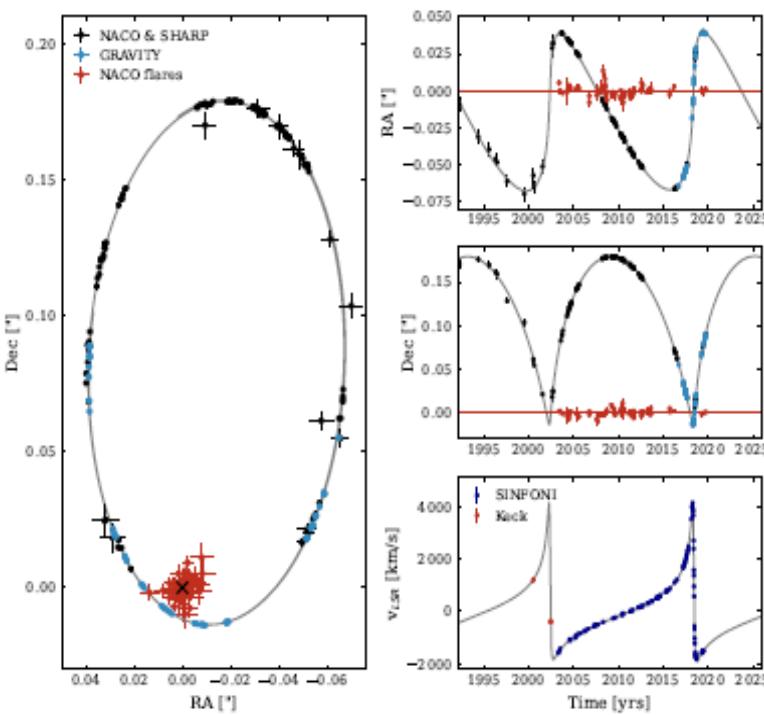
Parsa et al. 2017

$$Y_{\text{expected}} = 0.00065$$

Relativistic Parameter Y:  
Zucker et al. 2006

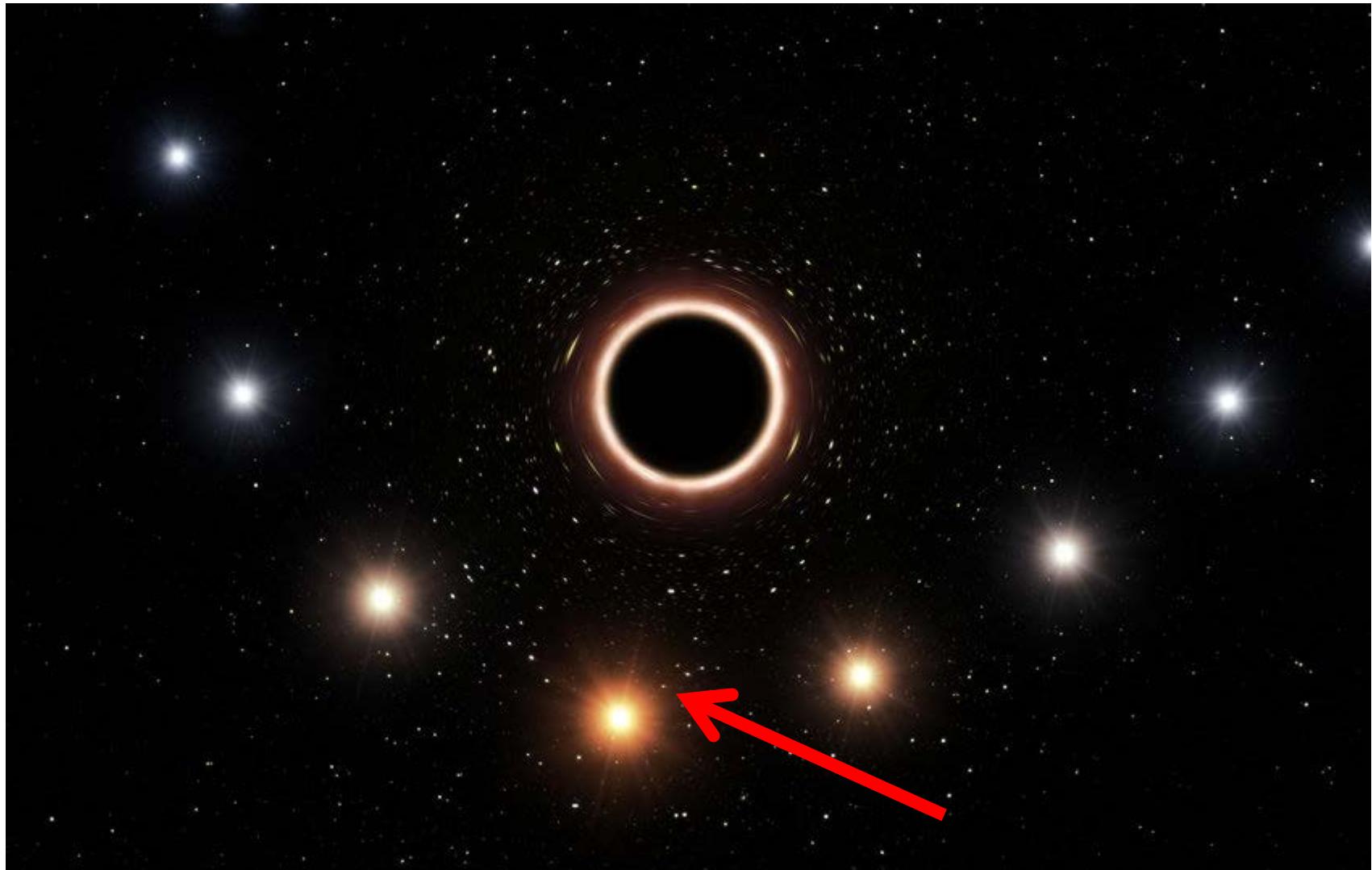
$$Y = \frac{r_s}{r_p}$$

# Schwarzschild Precession



**Detection of the Schwarzschild precession in the orbit of the star S2 near the Galactic centre massive black hole**  
Gravity Collaboration; 2020, A&A 636, L5

# Gravitational Redshift



# Observed redshift as a function of the 3 dimensional velocity $\beta$

$$z = \Delta\lambda / \lambda = B_0 + B_1\beta + B_2\beta^2 + O(\beta^3)$$

Relativistic Redshift

$$B_2 = B_{2,D} + B_{2,G} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$B_{2,G}$  : gravitational redshift effect

$$z_G \equiv r_s / 4a + \frac{1}{2}\beta^2 = B_{0,G} + B_{2,G}\beta^2$$

$B_{2,D}$  : special relativistic transverse Doppler effect

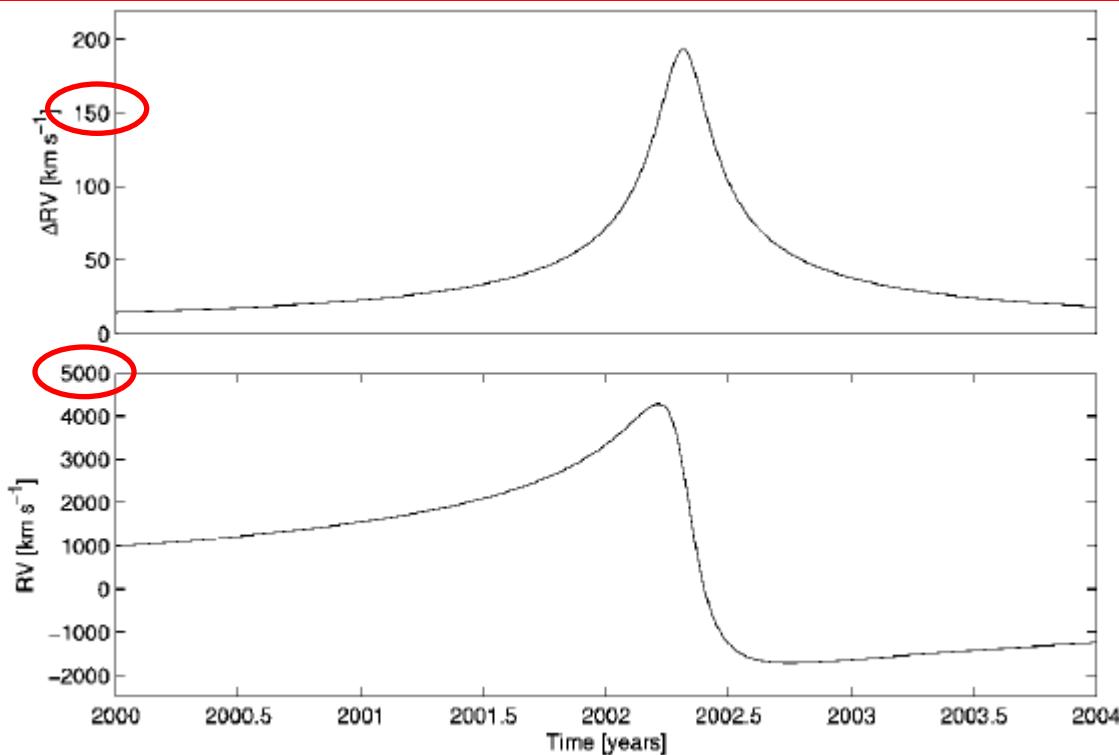
$$z_D \equiv (1 + \beta \cos \vartheta)(1 - \beta^2)^{-1/2} - 1$$

$$z_D \equiv z_{Newton} + z_{transverse} = \beta \cos \vartheta + \beta^2 / 2 = B_1\beta + B_{2,D}\beta^2$$

$O(\beta^2)$  – effects should be observable with today's instrumentation:

$$(B_{2,D} + B_{2,G})\beta_P^2 \sim 10^{-3} > \frac{\delta\lambda}{\lambda} \sim 10^{-4}$$

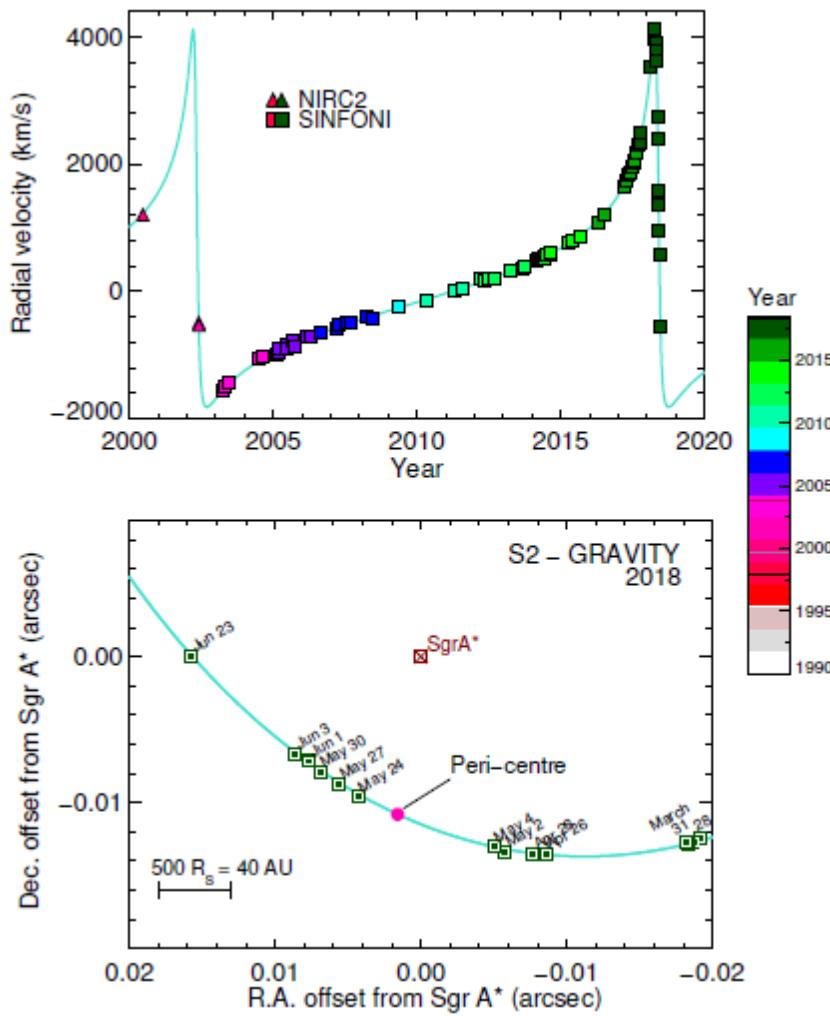
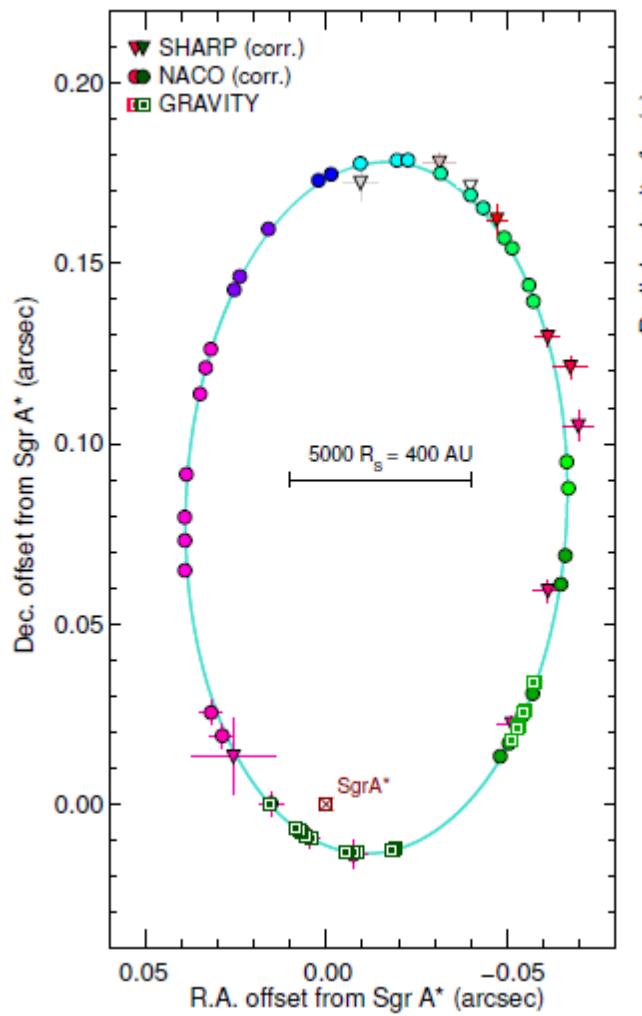
$$\beta_P \sim \frac{v_{Peri}}{c}$$



Contribution of the  
 $O(\beta^2)$  – effects

full relativistic radial velocity  
of S2 near periaps

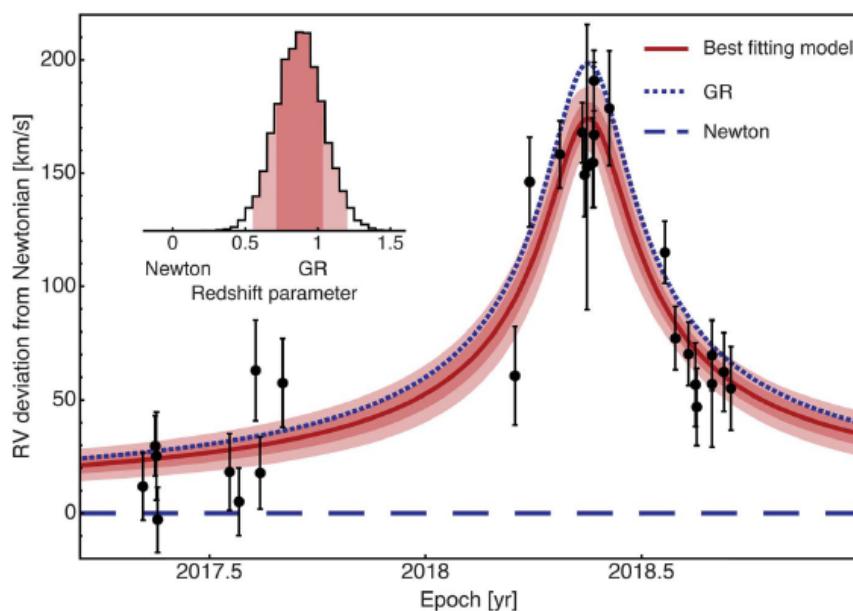
S2  $e=0.88, r = 1500$  rs  
S14  $e=0.94, r = 1400$  rs



The S2 orbit from 1992 to 2018.

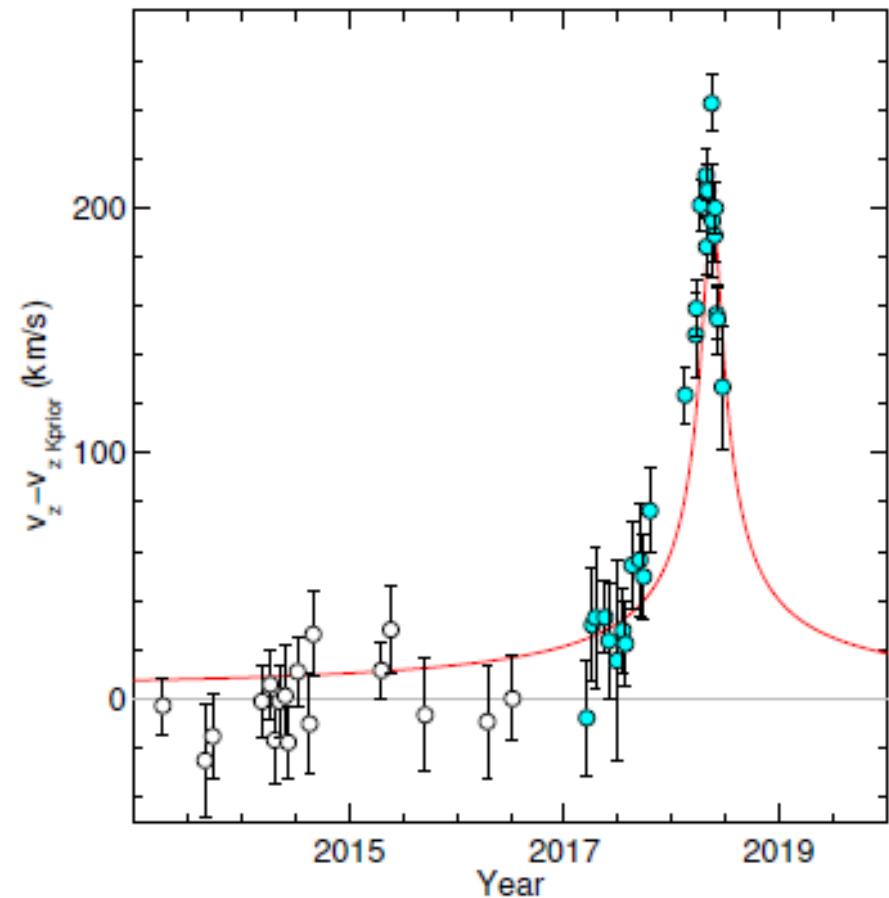
SHARP @ NTT – NACO & SINFONI @ VLT – GRAVITY @ VLTI

# Observed Gravitational Redshift



**Do, Hees, Ghez et al.  
2019, Sci 365, 664**

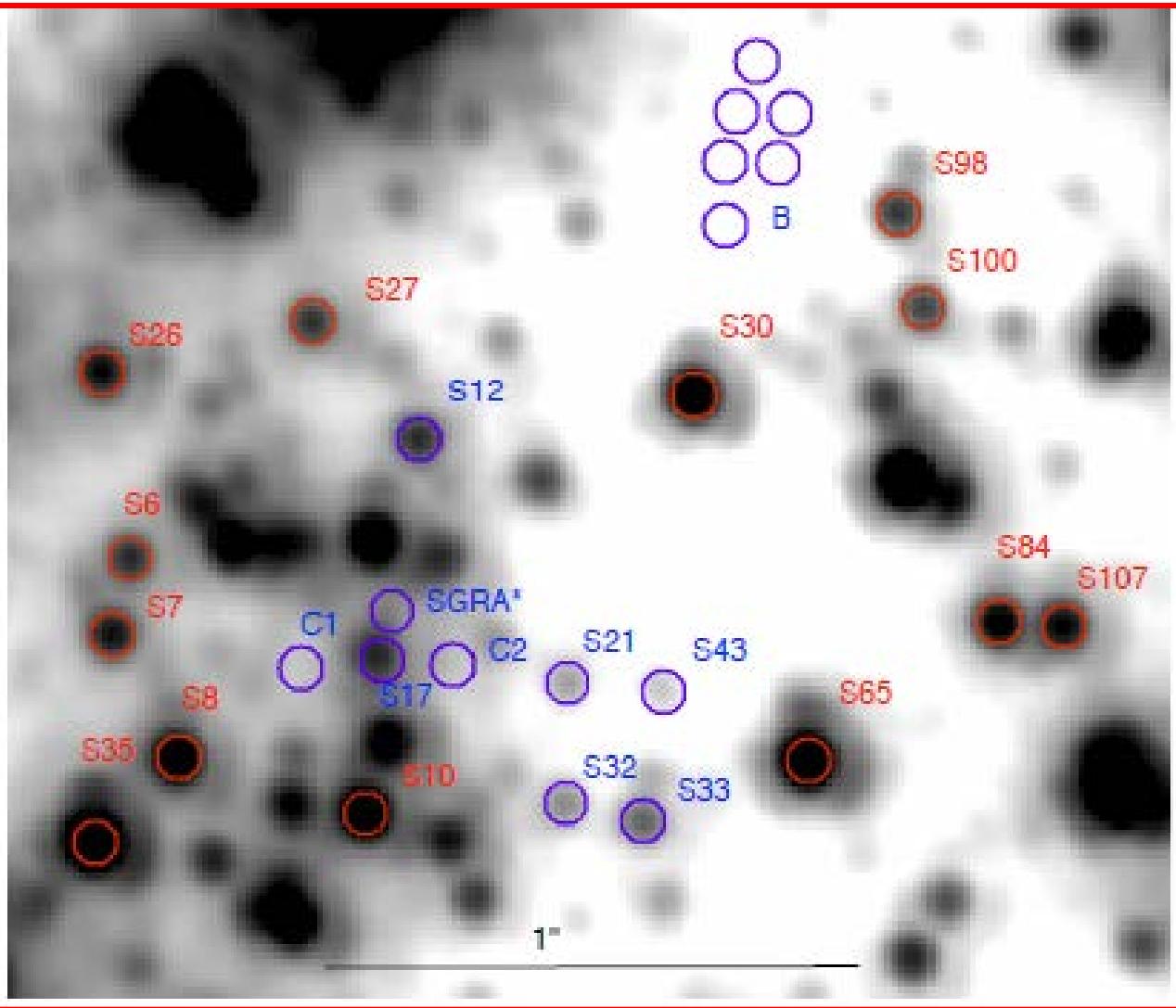
Residual velocity  
for the best fitting  
Keplerian and  
relativistic orbit



**Gravity collaboration  
2018, A&A 615, L15**

# Measurements at 2 $\mu$ m

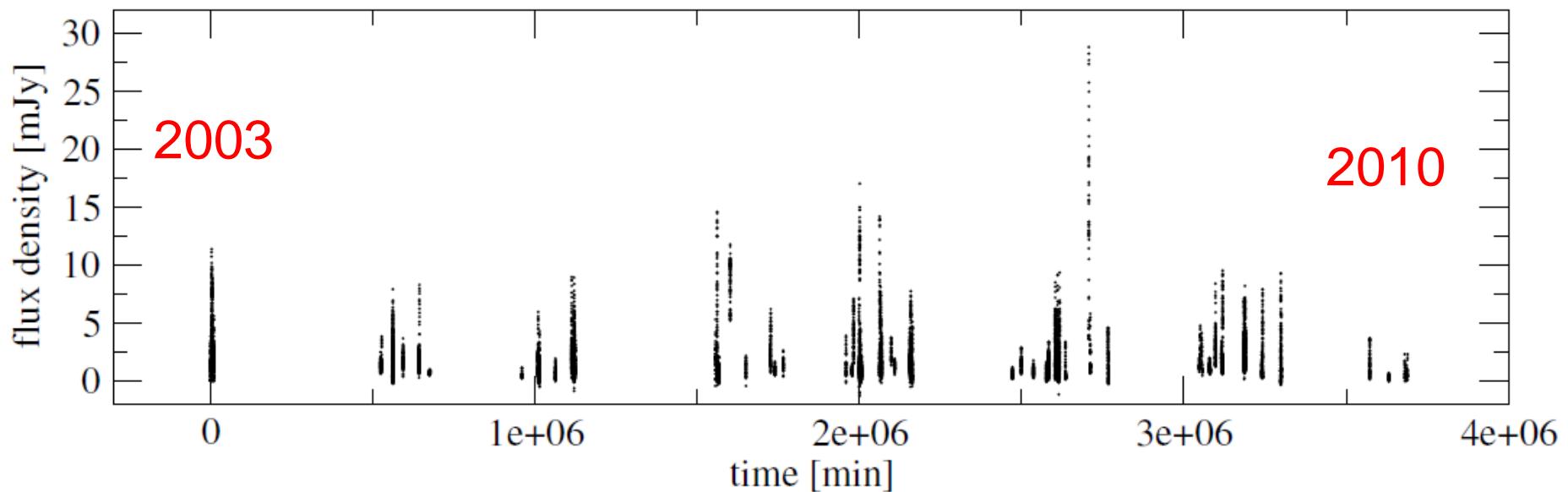
Apertures on  
(1) SgrA\*.  
(2) reference stars,  
(3) and off-positions



Ks-band mosaic from 2004 September 30. The red circles mark the constant stars (Rafelski et al. 2007) which have been used as calibrators, blue the position of photometric measurements of Sgr A\*, comparison stars and comparison apertures for background estimation (Witzel et al. 2012).

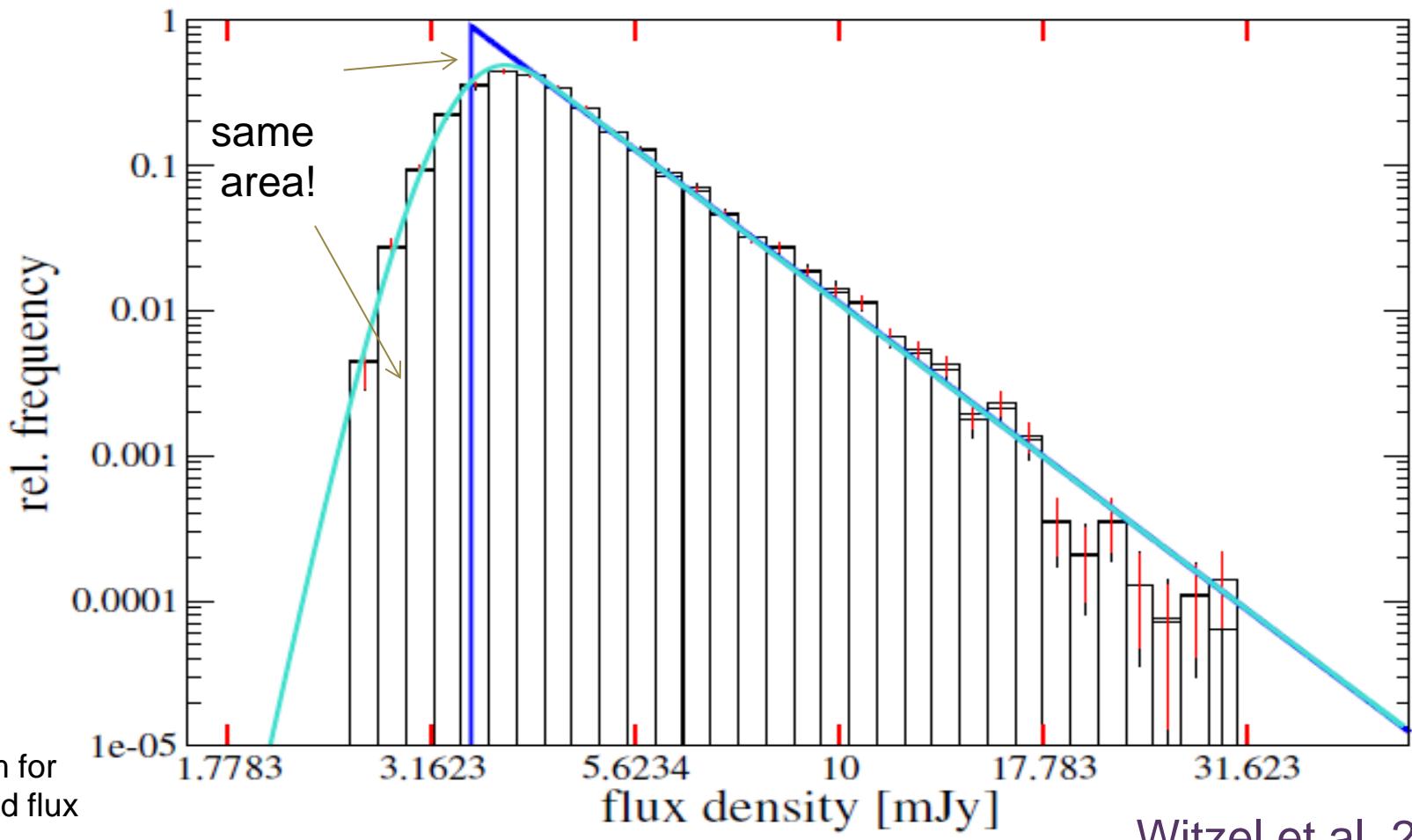
Witzel et al. 2012

# NIR light curve of SgrA\* over 7 years



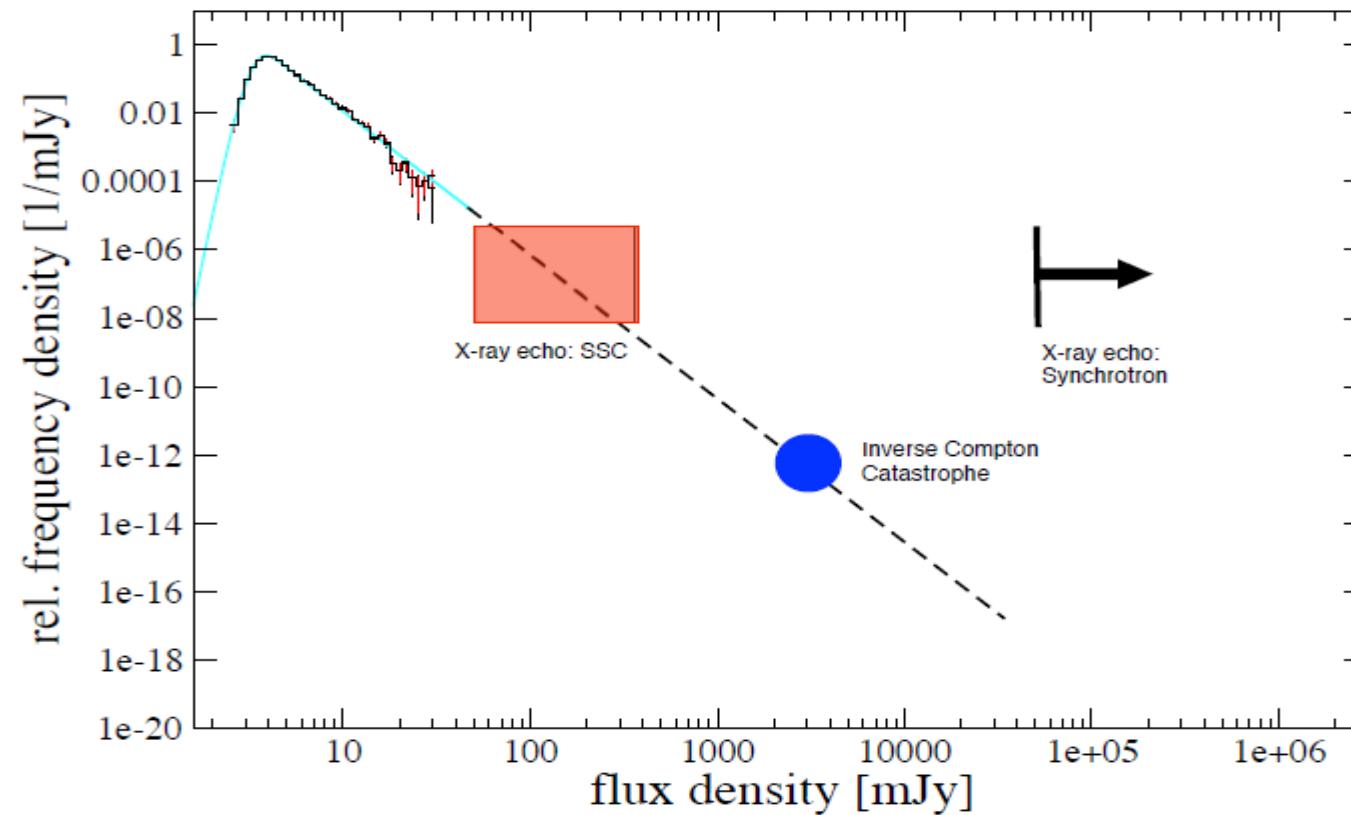
Light curve of Sgr A\*. Here no time gaps have been removed, the data is shown in its true time coverage. A comparison of both plots shows: only about 0.4% of the 7 years have been covered by observations.

# Flux density histogram for SgrA\*



The brown line shows the extrapolation of the best power-law fit, the cyan line the power-law convolved with a Gaussian distribution with 0.32 mJy width.

The statistics allows to explain the event 400 years ago that results in the observed X-ray light echo



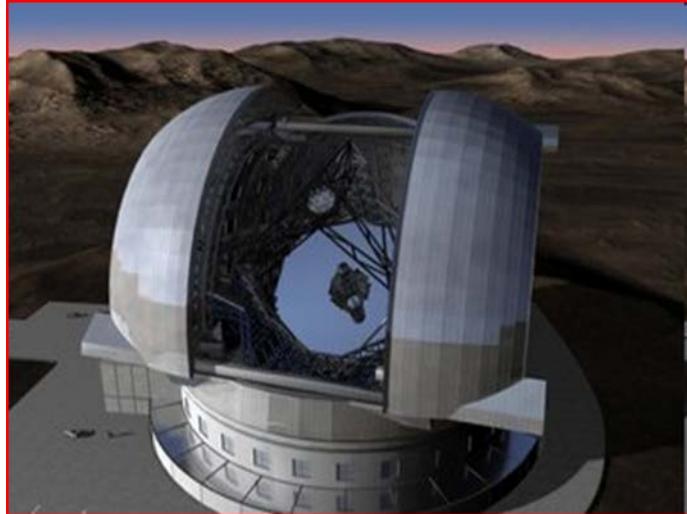
Fluorescent back-scatter from molecular clouds surrounding the GC:

Revnivtsev et al. 2004,  
Sunyaev & Churazov 1998,  
Terrier et al. 2010

and

Witzel et al. 2012

Illustration of a flux density histogram extrapolated from the statistics of the observed variability. The expected maximum flux density given by the inverse Compton catastrophe and a estimation of its uncertainty is shown as the magenta circle, the SSC infrared flux density for a bright X-ray outburst as expected from the observed X-ray echo is depicted as the red rectangular.



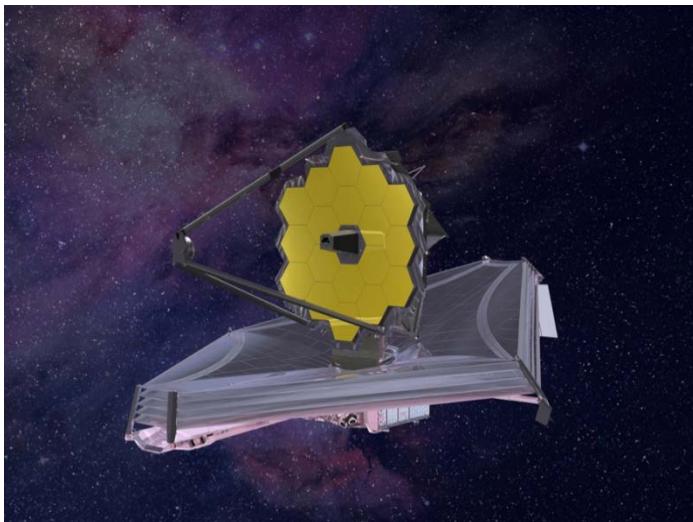
ELT: deeper star count  
till main sequence  
(stellar population studies)

Larger number of more precise  
proper motions and orbits.

Stellar dynamics of central cluster

More high velocity stars  
Better probes of relativity

Faint flux density variability of  
stars and SgrA\*



End