

# The GRACE project

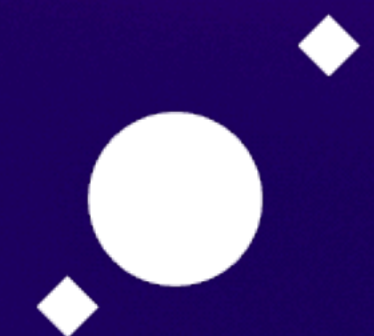
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High energy giant radio galaxies and their duty cycle



**G. Bruni**

INAF - Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology



**INAF**  
ISTITUTO NAZIONALE  
DI ASTROFISICA



# Jets in accreting systems

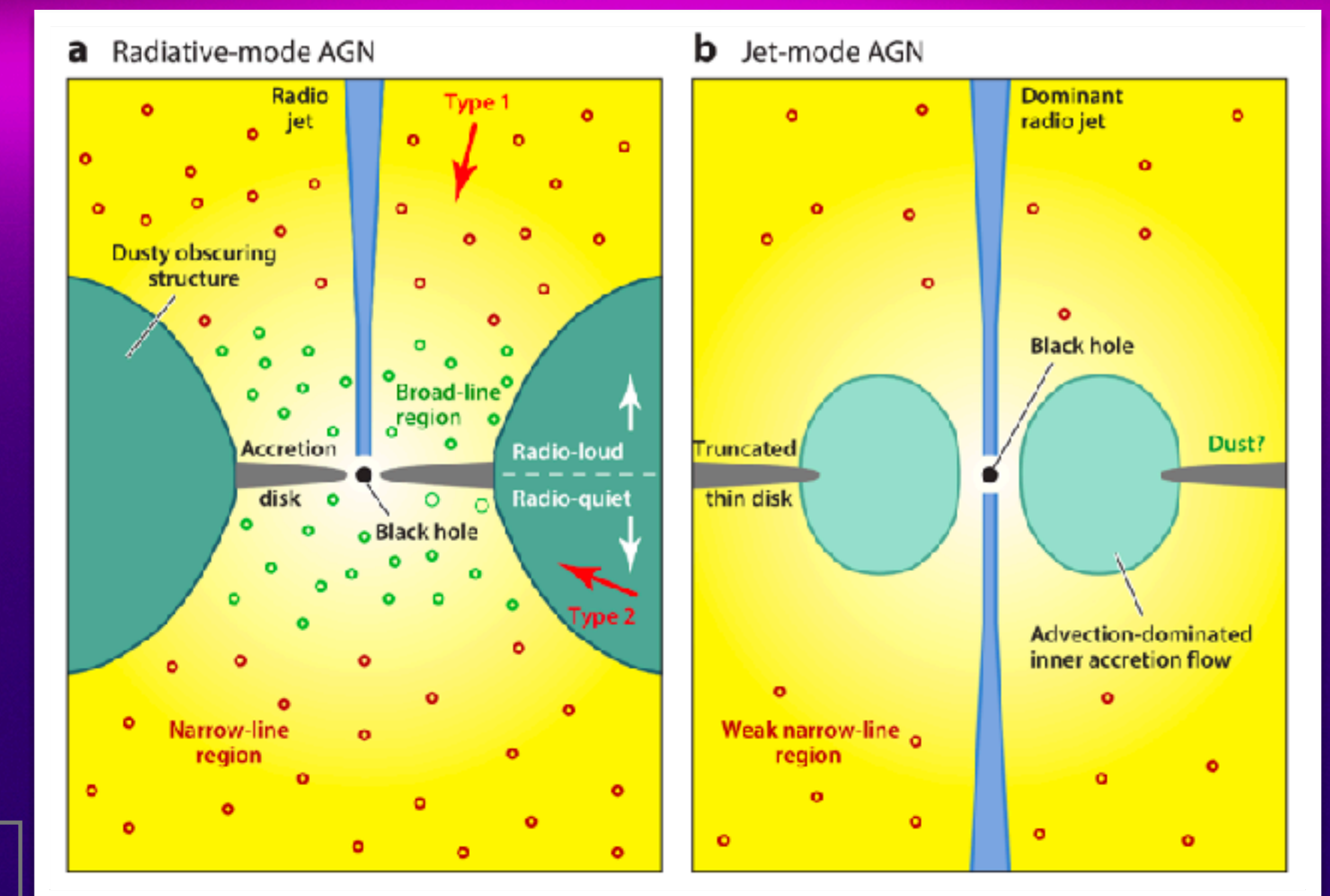
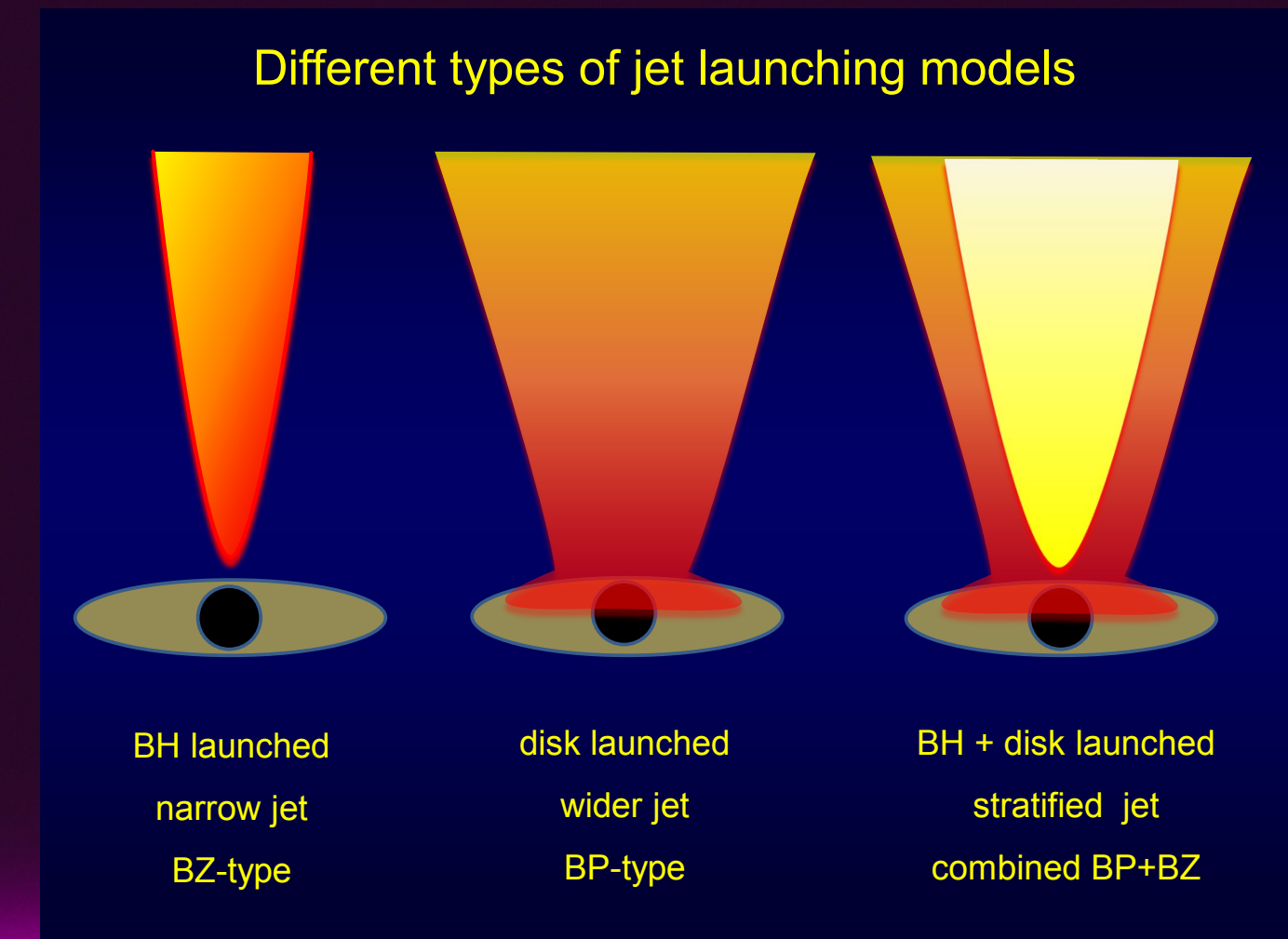
- Jets are ubiquitous: from stellar BH to supermassive ( $10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$ ) BH
- Mainly 3 ingredients: accretion rate,  $B$ , spin
- Low accretion rate ( $<0.01 \text{ Edd}$ ) results in an advection dominated, radiatively inefficient regime (jet-mode), while higher rates ( $>0.01 \text{ Edd}$ ) in a radiatively efficient regime (radiative-mode)



$B$

$E_{\text{dd}}$

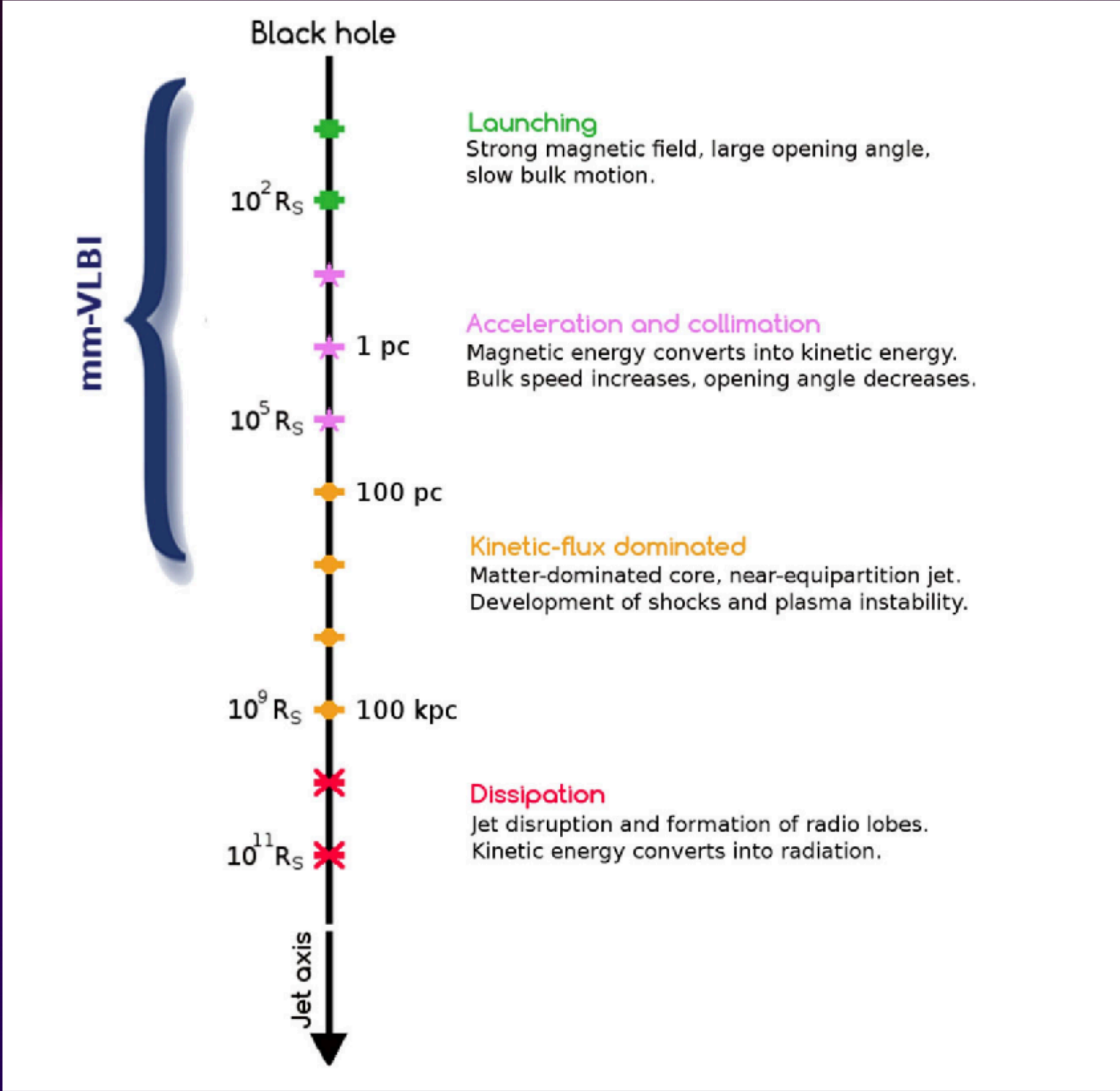
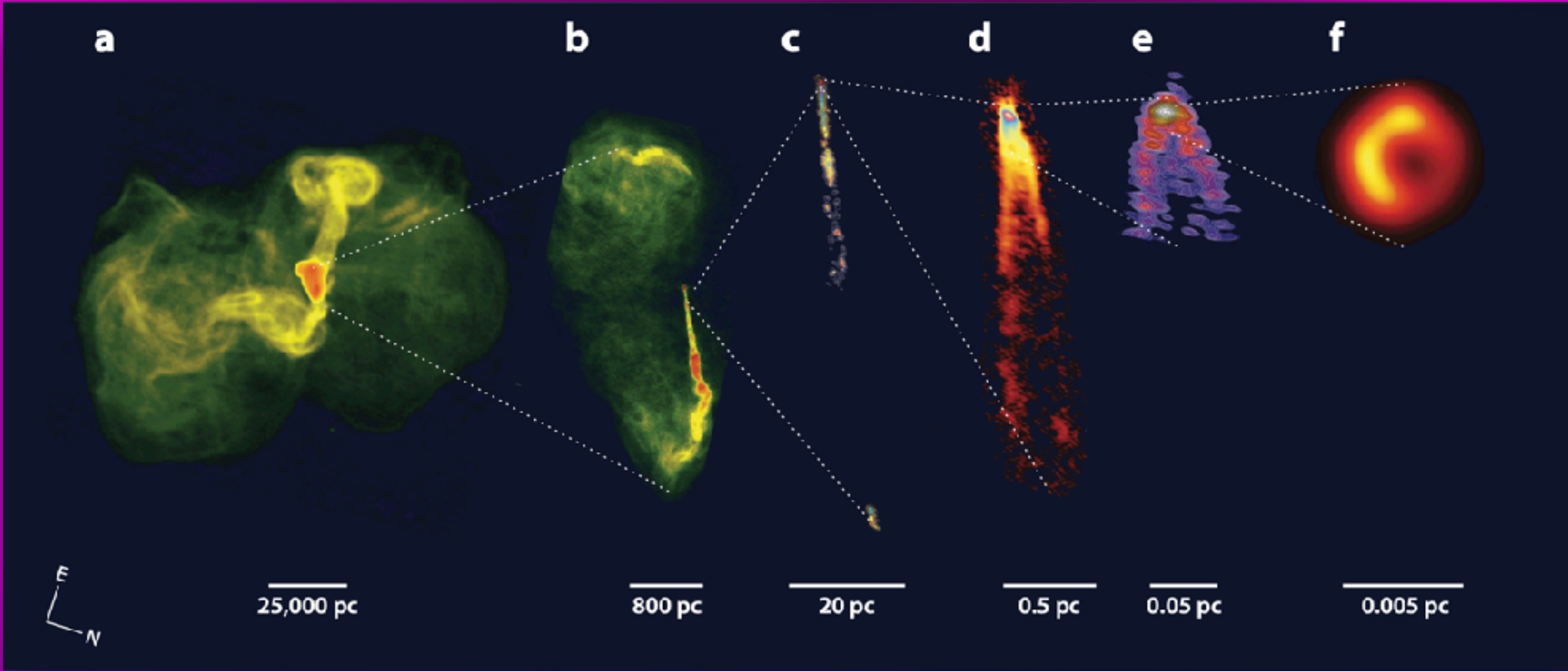
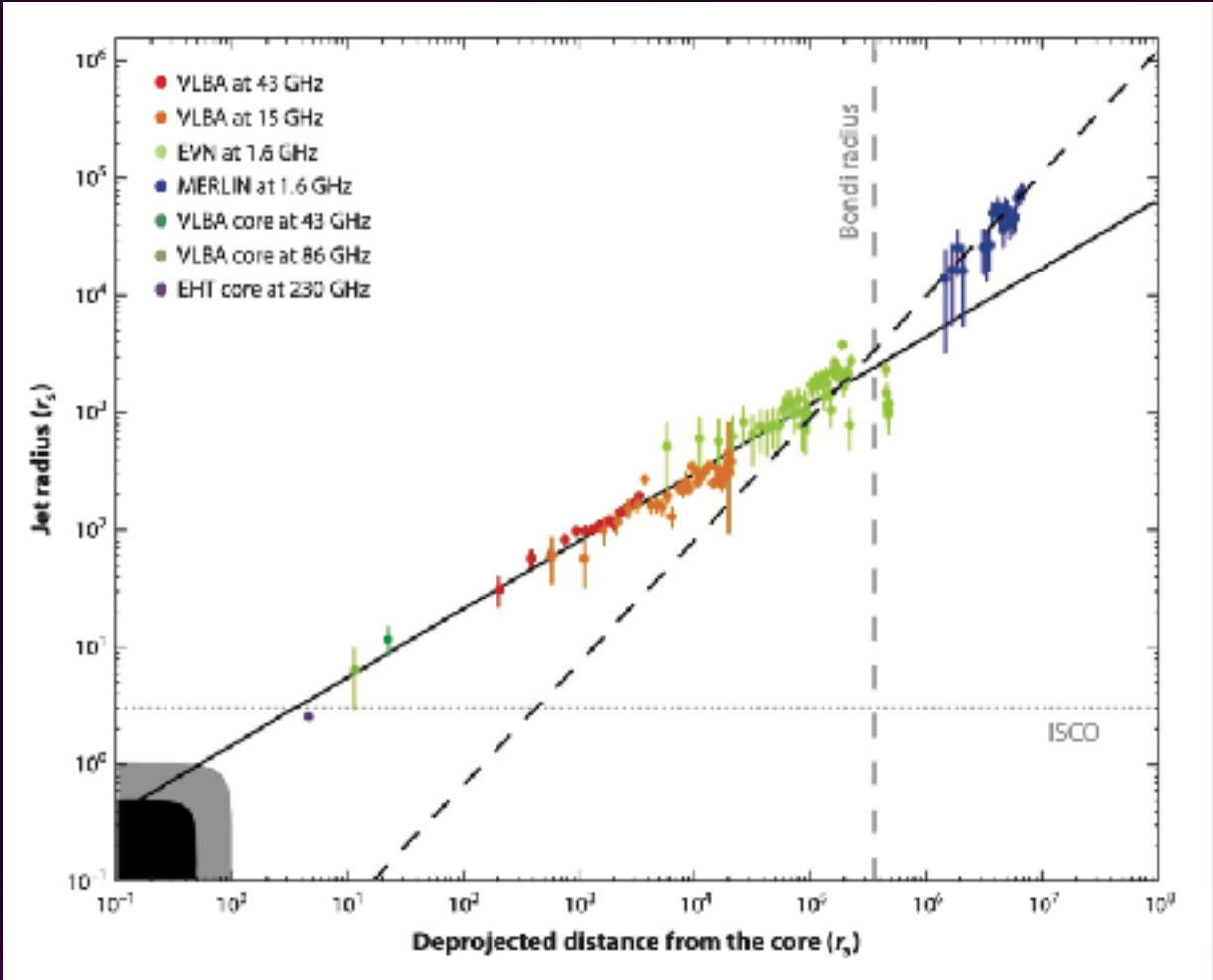
Spin





# Delving into jets structure

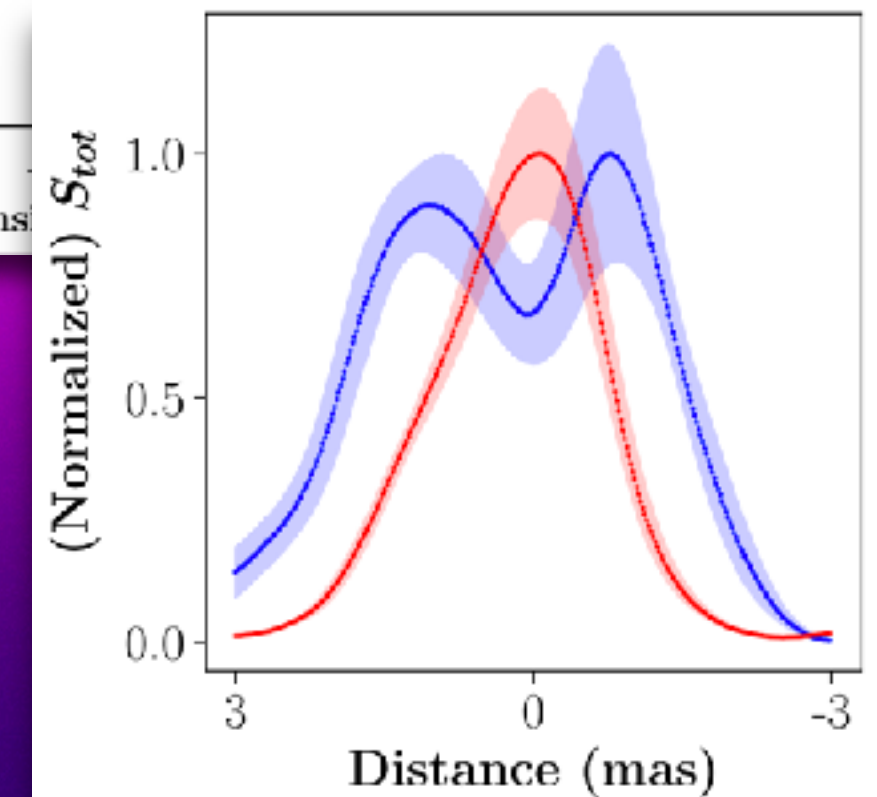
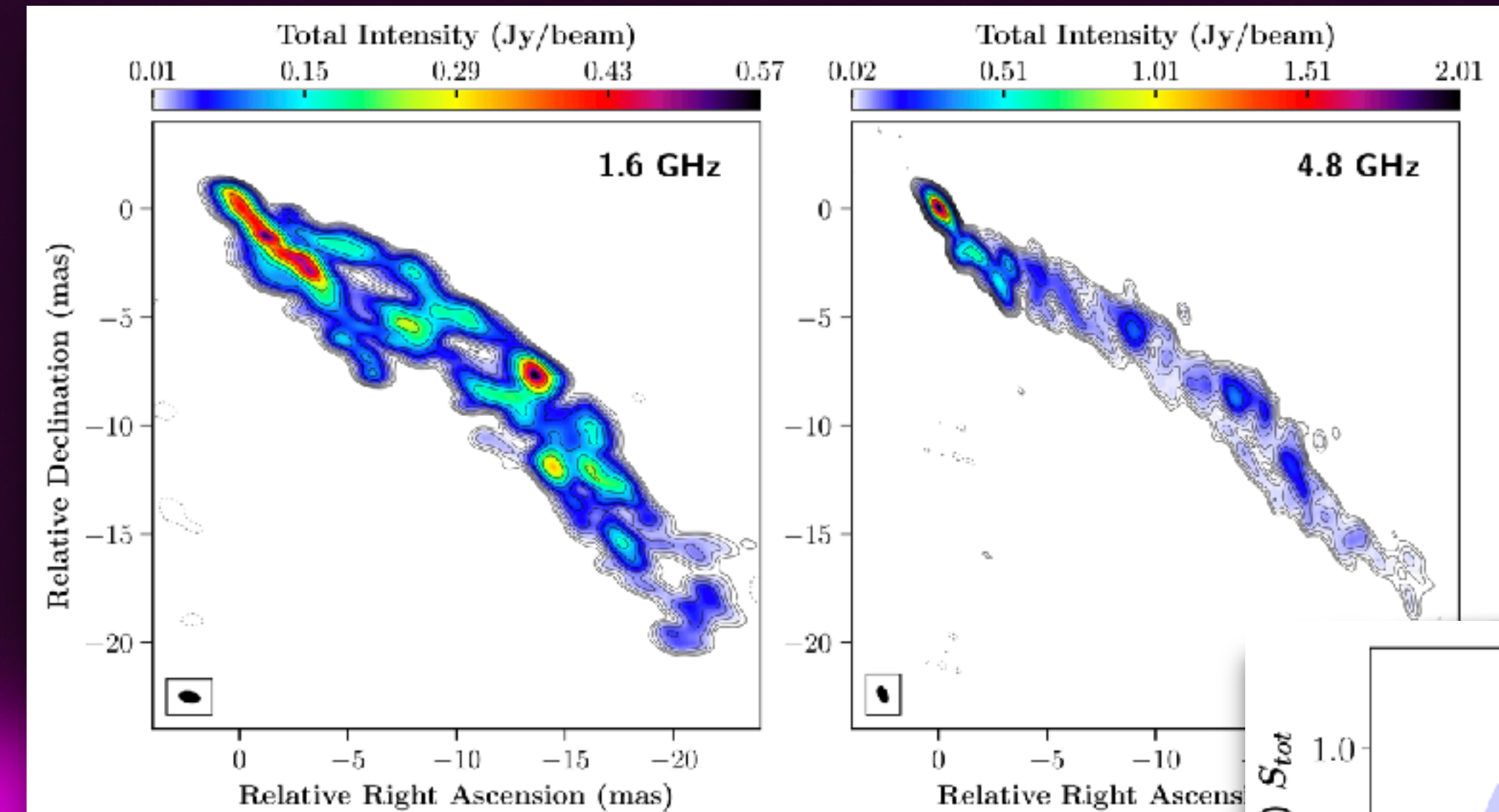
M 87



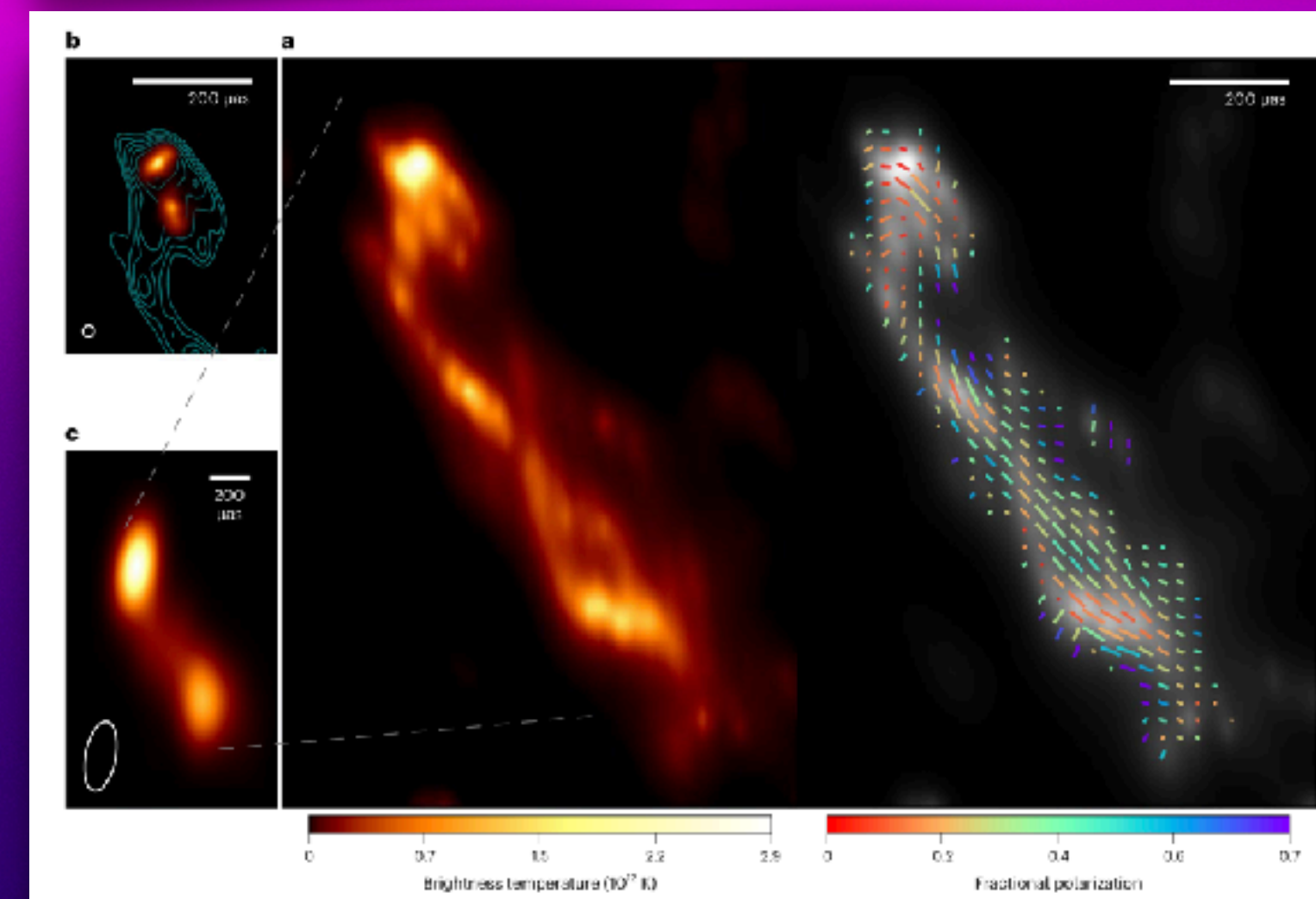


# Delving into jets structure

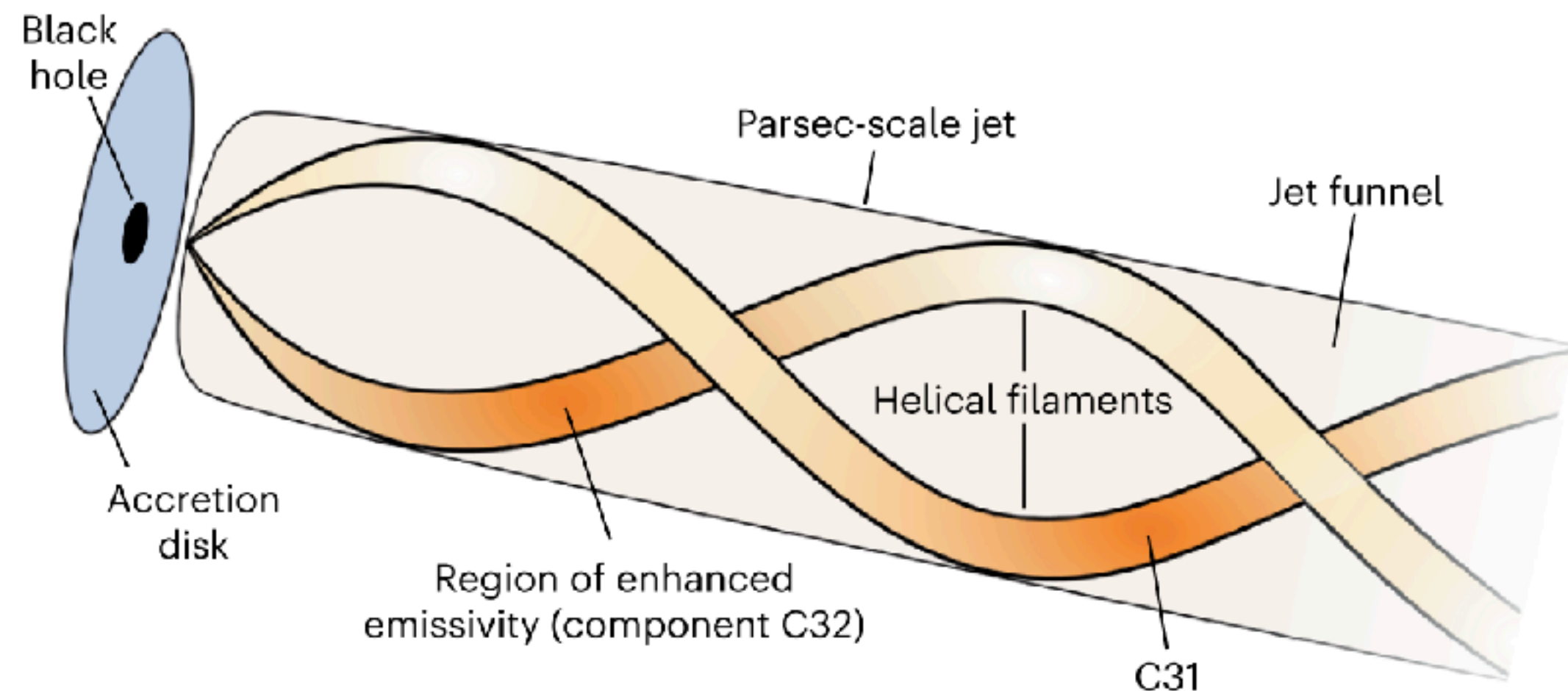
- Recent RadioAstron (Space-VLBI) images at uas resolution revealed internal features in the jet flow
- Helical magnetic field and plasma energy stratification are required



Bruni et al. 2021



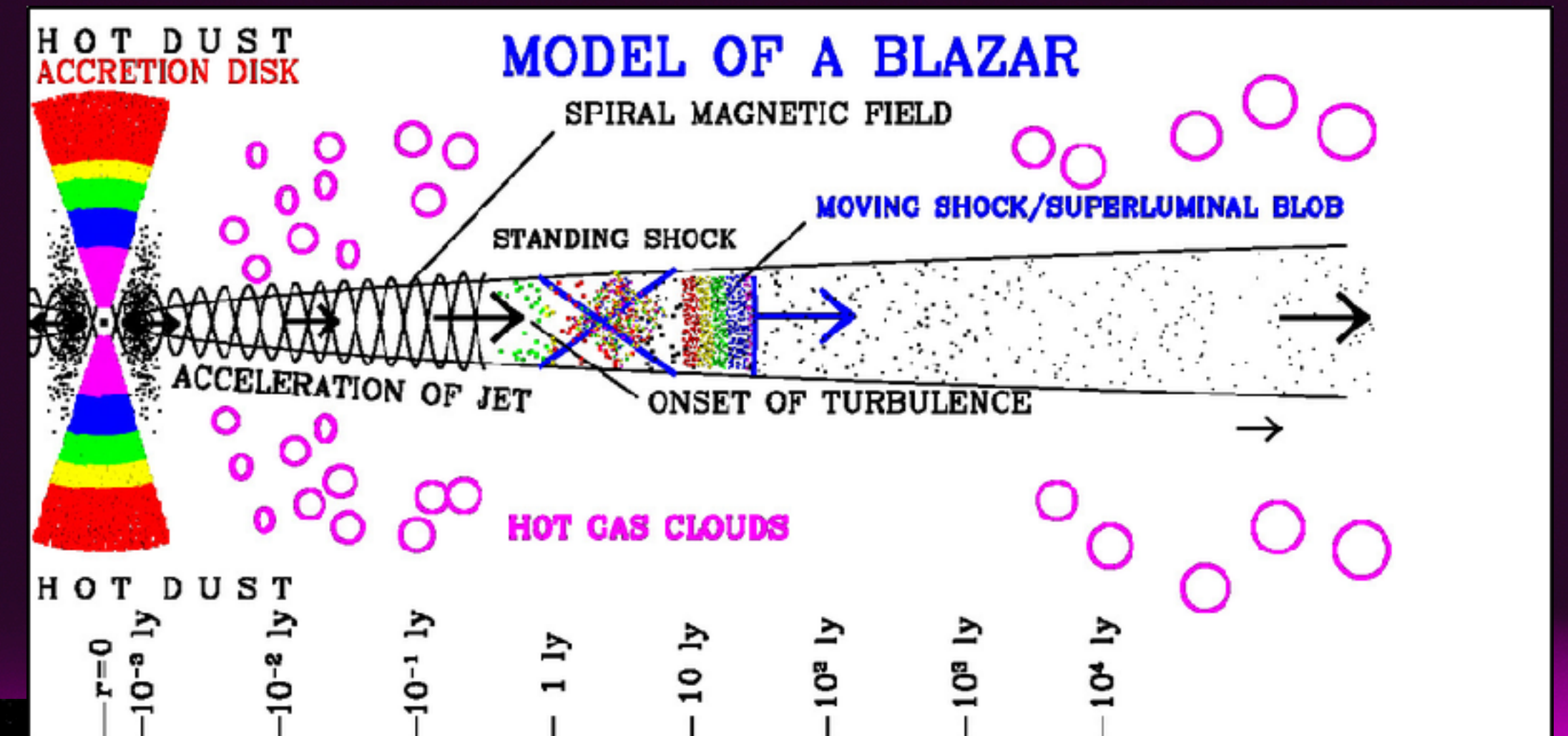
Fuentes et al. 2023



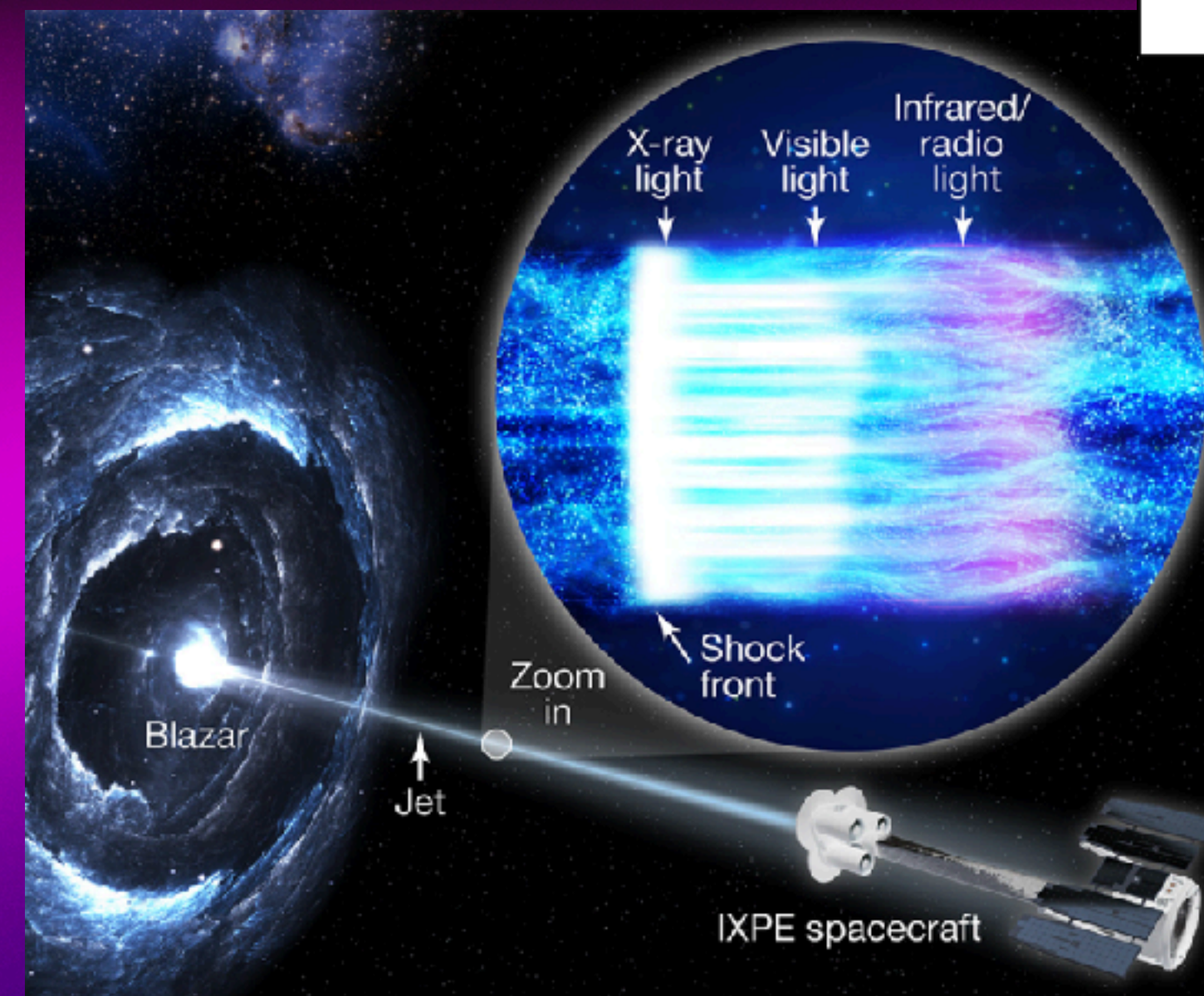


# Delving into jets structure

- Jets are visible at different wavelengths, with shorter ones highlighting more internal regions
- Recent **IXPE** results confirms the shock-in-jet paradigm for particles acceleration



Marsher et al. 2018



Liodakis et al. 2022



# Jets in AGN: open questions

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- How and when jets are triggered/restarted?
  - Study the recently restarted radio phase at pc-scale resolution
- How jets evolve and what's their dynamics?
  - Study the Mpc-scale lobes morphology to recover the information on the evolution and dynamics of these sources on the Mega-years time scale.
  - Spot any hint of jet precession
  - Probe the presence of binary supermassive BH systems in precessing jets
- What is the jets duty cycle?
  - Synchrotron aging

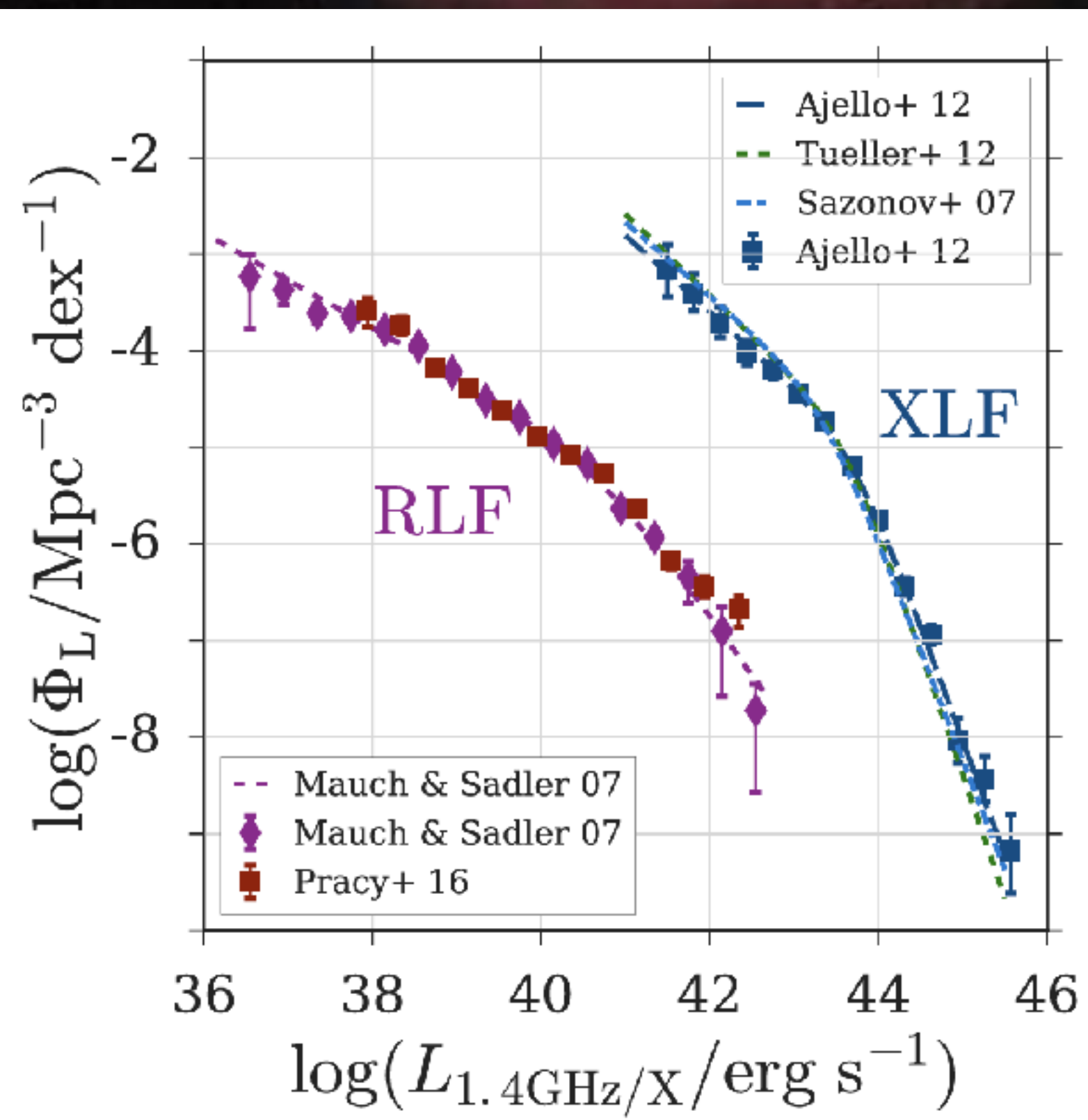
*All of these points are paramount in understanding  
the AGN-host coevolution*



# Radio galaxies at high energies

- **Radio galaxies**, recognised through their core, jets, and lobes radio morphology, constitute only a small fraction of high-energy AGN

Weigel+17



8% in the INTEGRAL/IBIS  
(keV) AGN sample

1% in the Fermi/LAT  
(GeV) AGN sample


- Emerging population of **FRI/FRII** associated with INTEGRAL and Fermi sources in recent works (e.g. Bruni+22, Paliya+23)
- **FR0** as well (Grandi+16, Paliya+21, Pannikkote+23)

*Despite their rarity, they offer the unique possibility to study at the same time jets and accretion processes, and their connections*



# Synergies with new surveys

## HX-GRG

 GRAL group at INAF - IAPS

# GRACE

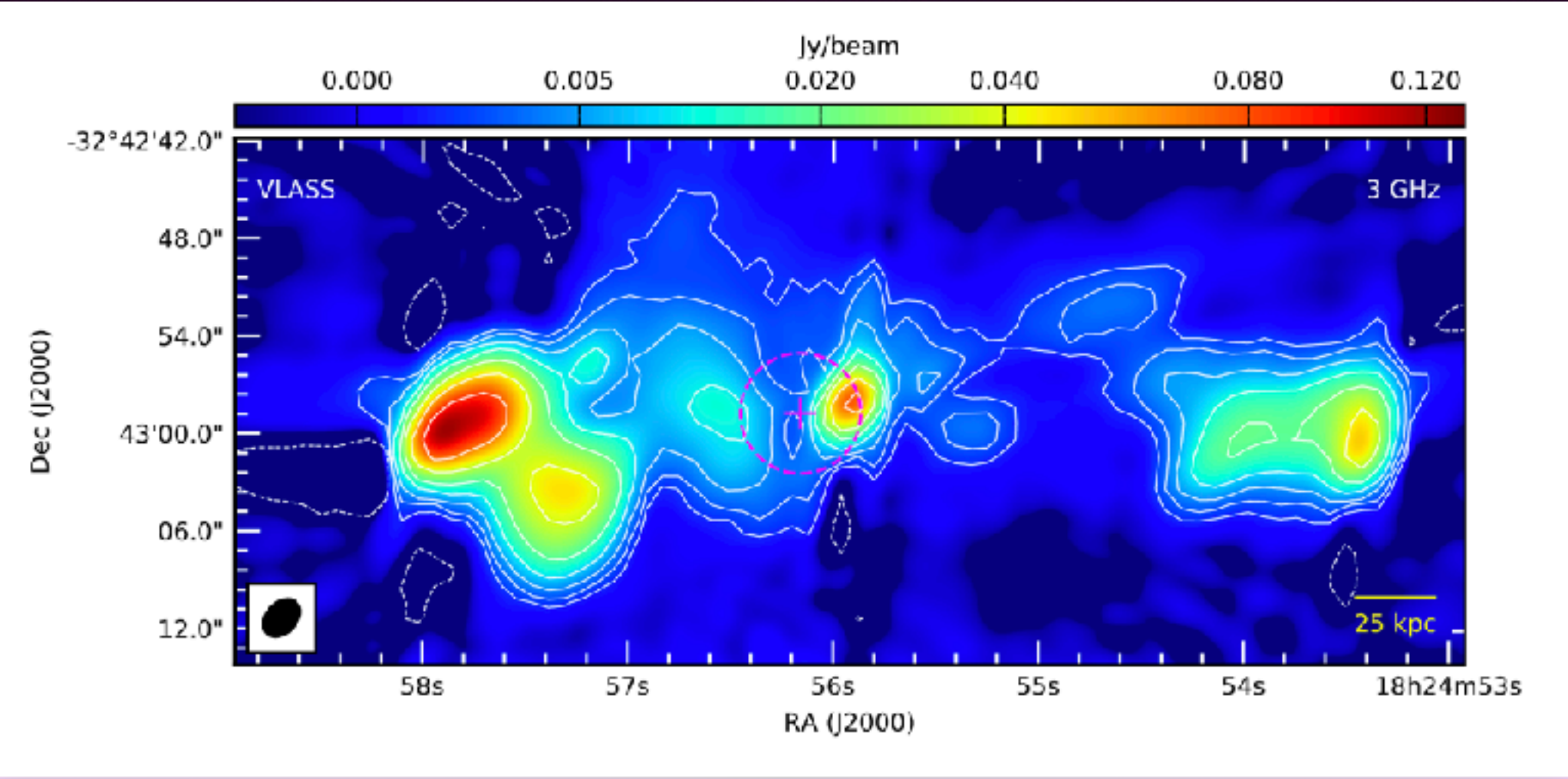
Giant Radio galaxies and their duty cycle

### Giants in the sky

Giant radio galaxies (GRG) are one of the most spectacular manifestation of astrophysical jets, showing plasma ejecta with an extension up to Mpc. However, the conditions allowing such a growth are still unclear, and may be linked to a particularly favourable environment, to peculiar accretion/ejection conditions allowing a very long and continuous radio activity, or to more than one radio cycle. The aim of the GRACE project, carried out by the **GRAL group in Rome**, is to study the radio duty cycle in a sample of giant radio galaxies selected from high energies (hard-X) catalogues produced by the INTEGRAL/IBIS and Swift/BAT space missions.

In this webpage, we collect the information on the GRG sample we are studying since 2016, providing reference works and highlights on our current results.

## GEV-RG



0.150 GHz

0.880 GHz

3 GHz





# Synergies with new generation surveys



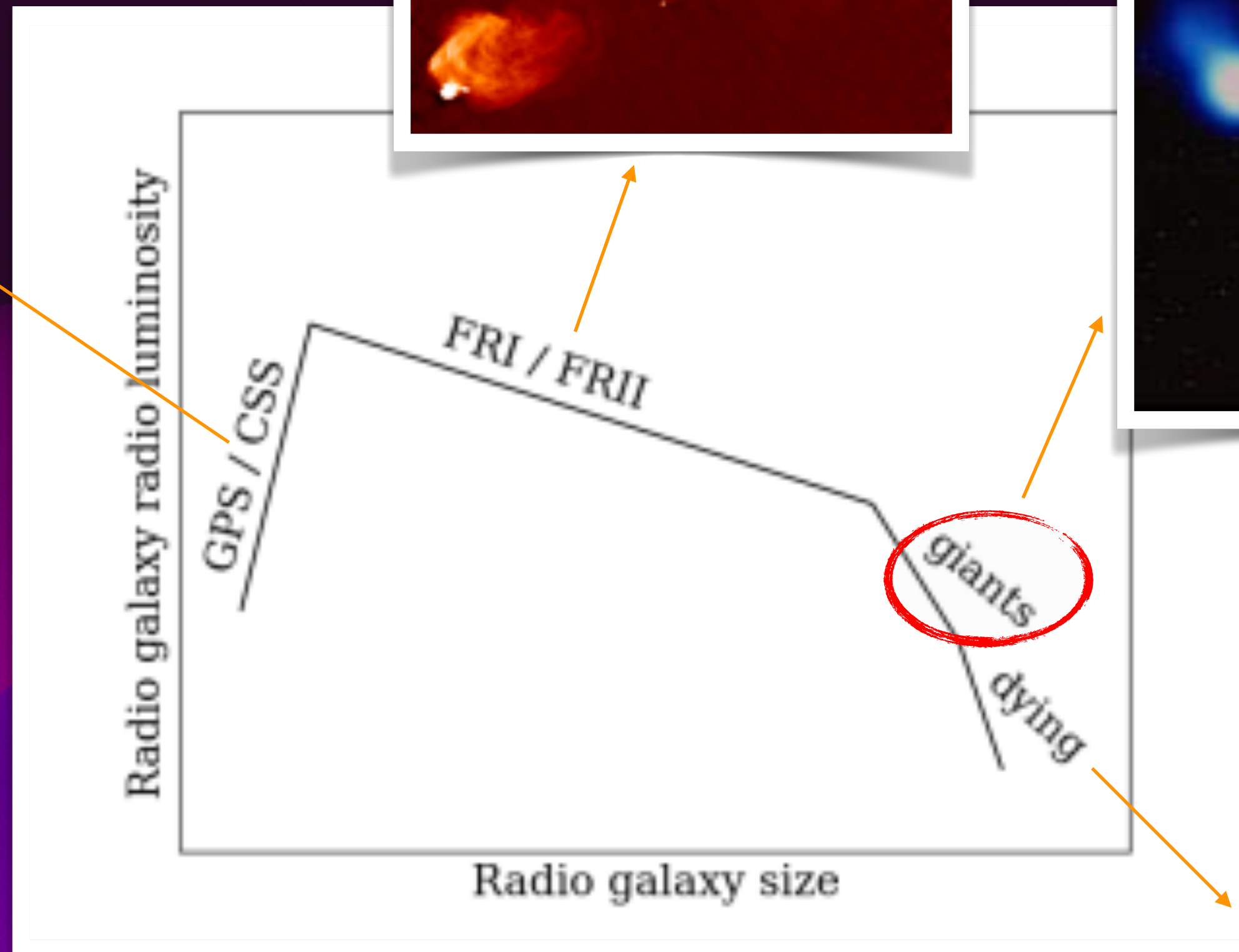
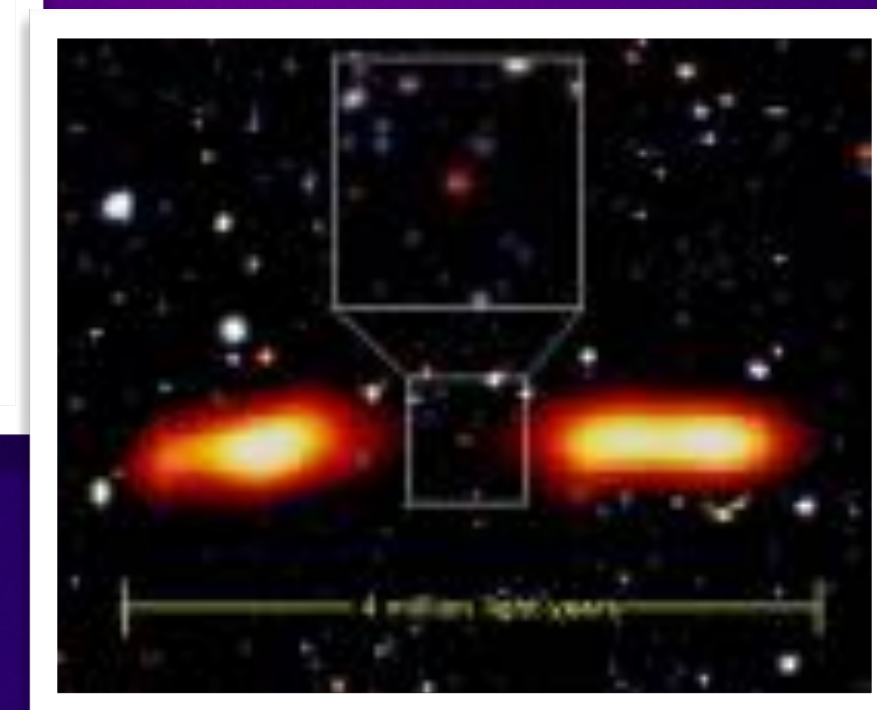
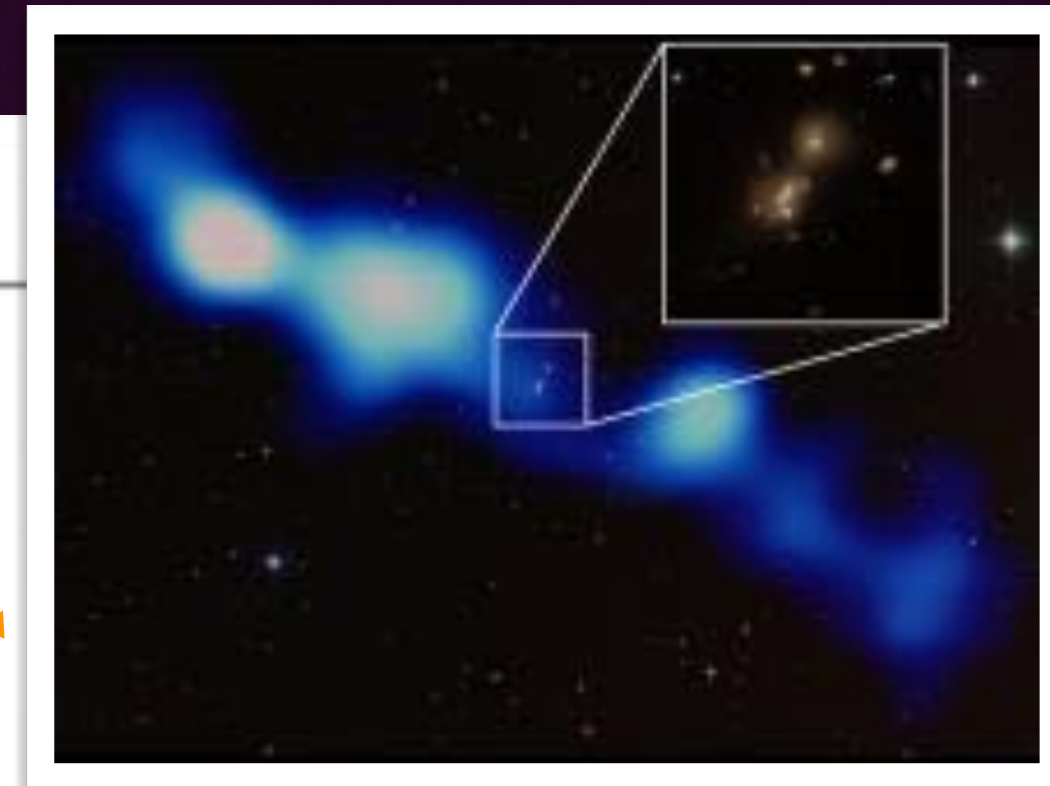
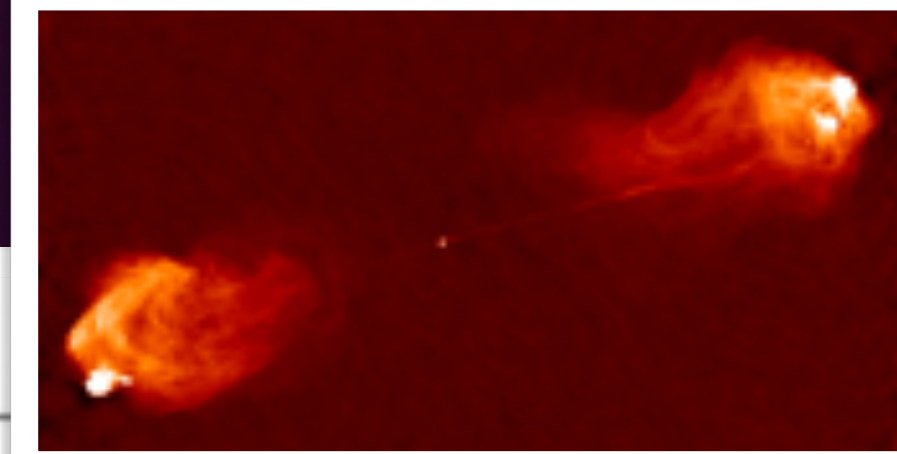
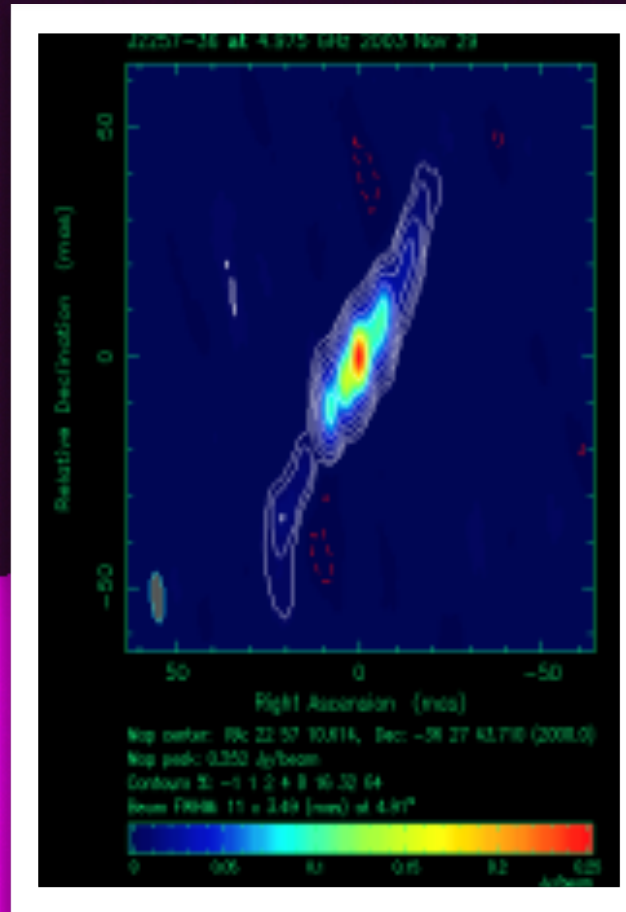
- VLA Sky Survey (VLASS) 2017-2024
- Dec > -40 (80% of the sky)
- 3 GHz, 2.5" resolution, RMS: 70 uJy/beam

- Rapid ASKAP Continuum Survey (RACS)
- Dec < 40 (80% of the sky)
- 0.8 GHz, 15" resolution, RMS: 250 uJy/beam





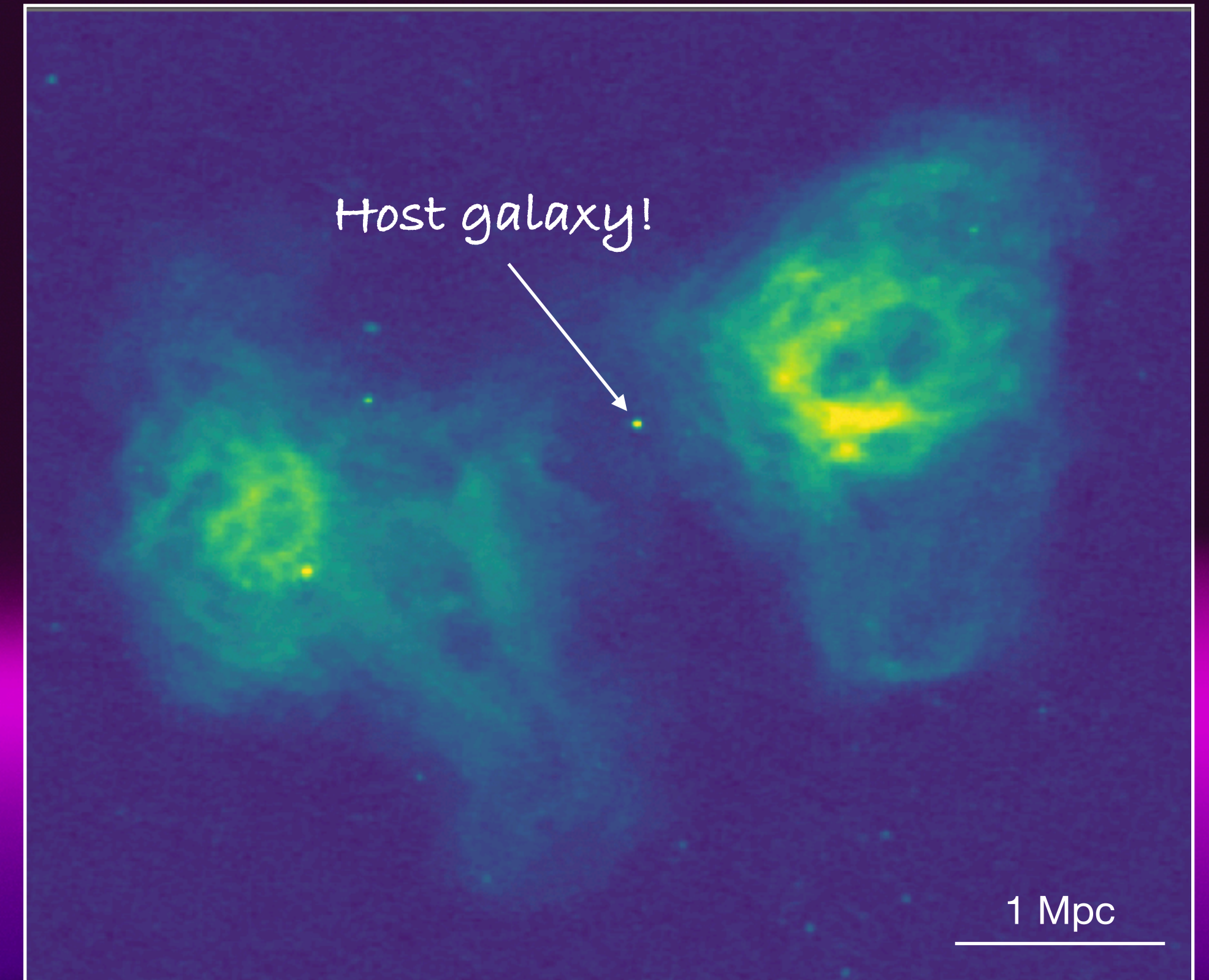
# Radio galaxies life cycle





# Giant Radio Galaxies (GRG)

- GRG are the largest single-entities in the Universe ( $>0.7$  Mpc)
- Low surface brightness, complex morphology, difficult to discover
- In historical radio surveys, only 1-6% of objects are GRG
- Census increased to ~500 GRG thanks to LOFAR
- Size due to environment, or high jet power, or long activity time?



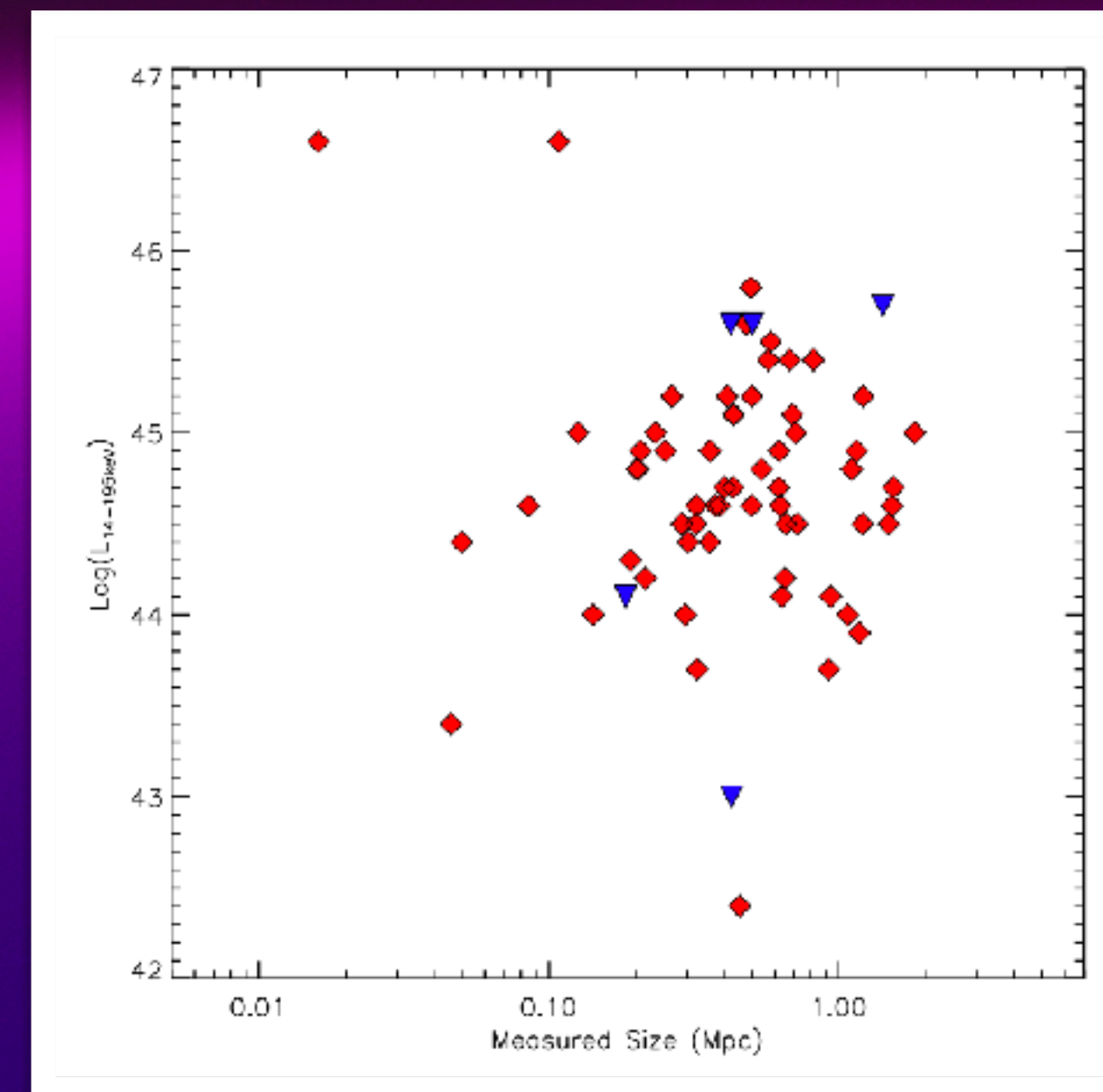
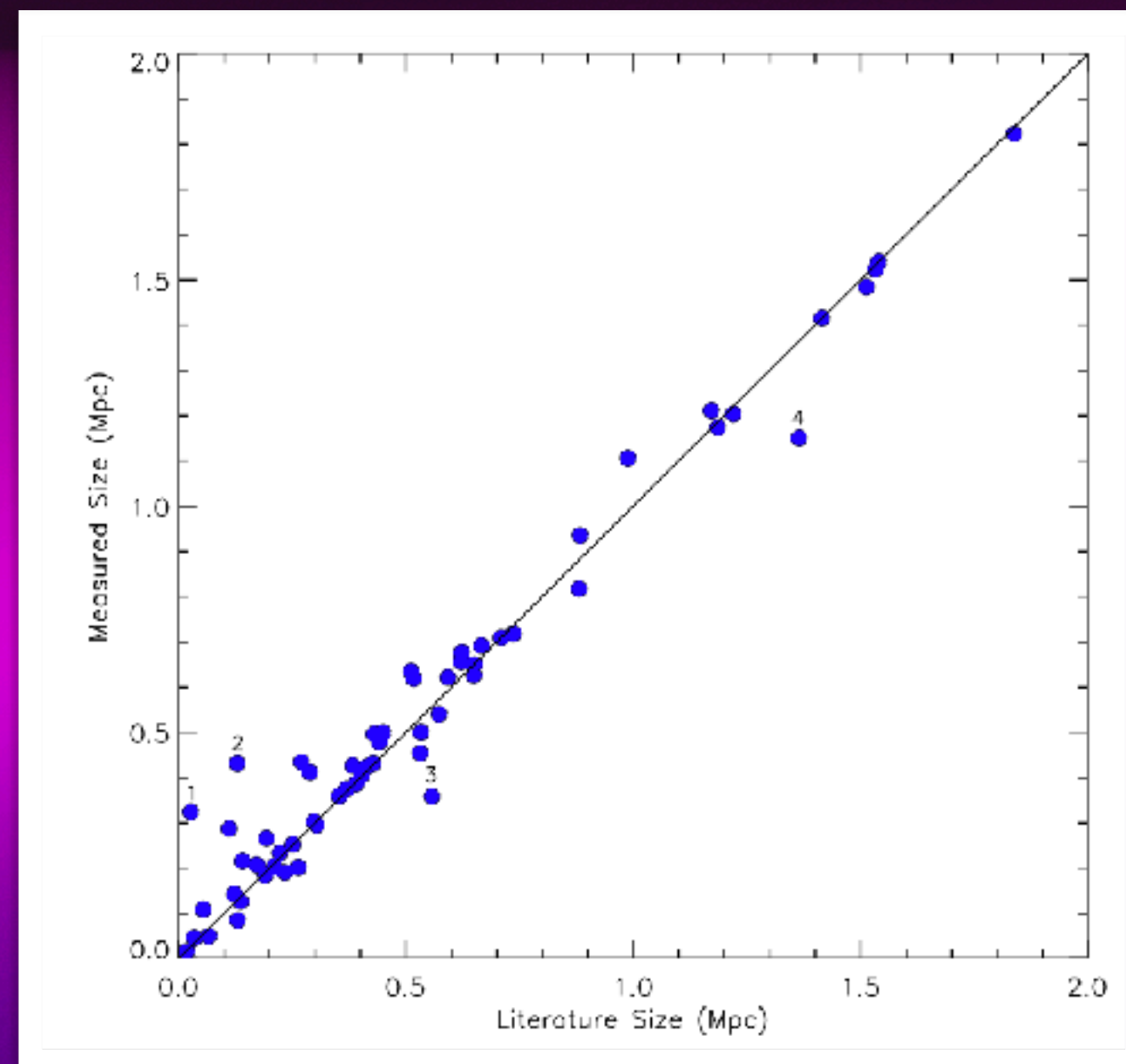
4C40.08, LoTSS DR2 (LOFAR , 150 MHz)

*...Ideal laboratory to study the jet duty cycle*



# Hard X-ray GRG

- Back in 2015, cross-correlation between **INTEGRAL+Swift** catalogues and **NVSS, FIRST, and SUMSS**
- Visual inspection of 1000 images, **searching for extended, symmetrical structures...** (also involving citizen science)
- ...and measuring the largest angular size, and linear size in Mpc



67 radio galaxies  
31 RG with size >0.5 Mpc  
15 GRGs >0.7 Mpc (22%)

Bassani et al. 2016



# Hard X-ray GRG



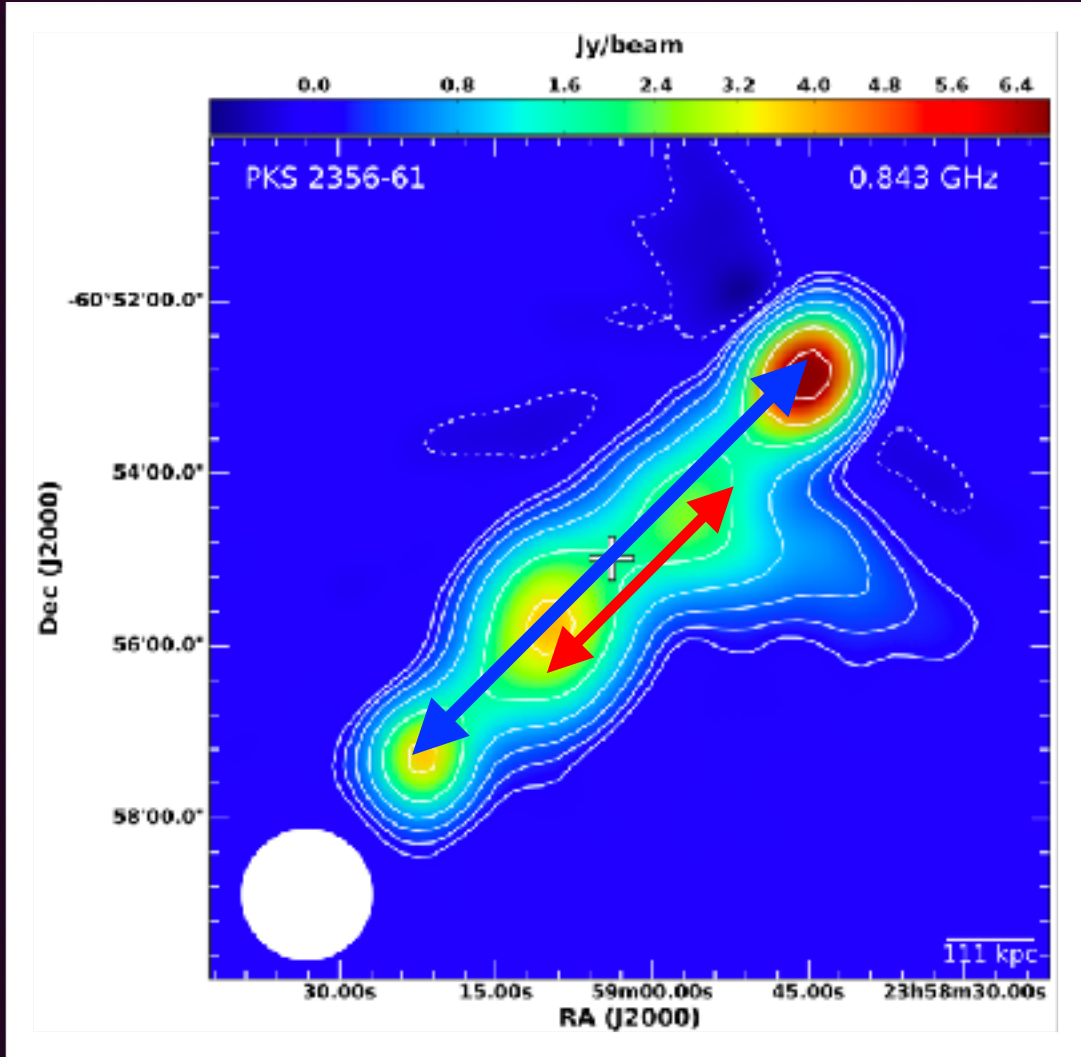
Heckman & Best 2014

- **Hard X-ray** detection picks up AGN with a **radiatively efficient** accretion mode
- Together with the criterium of radio symmetrical structures, this leads to **HERGs** and in particular **FRII**
- This high-energy selection is thus biased towards **high-end of the accretion rate** distribution, while traditional radio-selected samples pick up a mixture of **HERGs** and **LERGs**

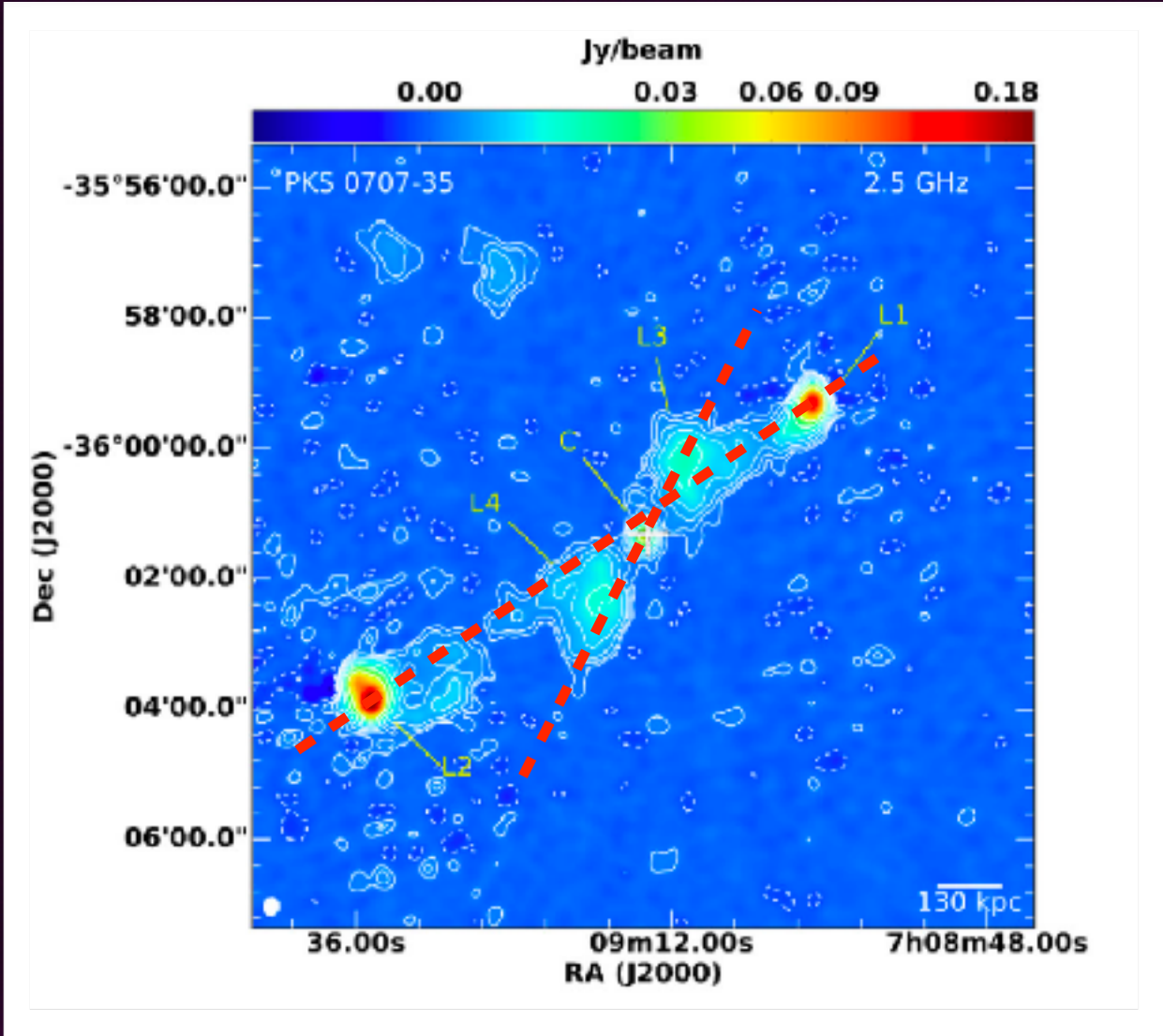


# SIGNS OF RESTARTING ACTIVITY

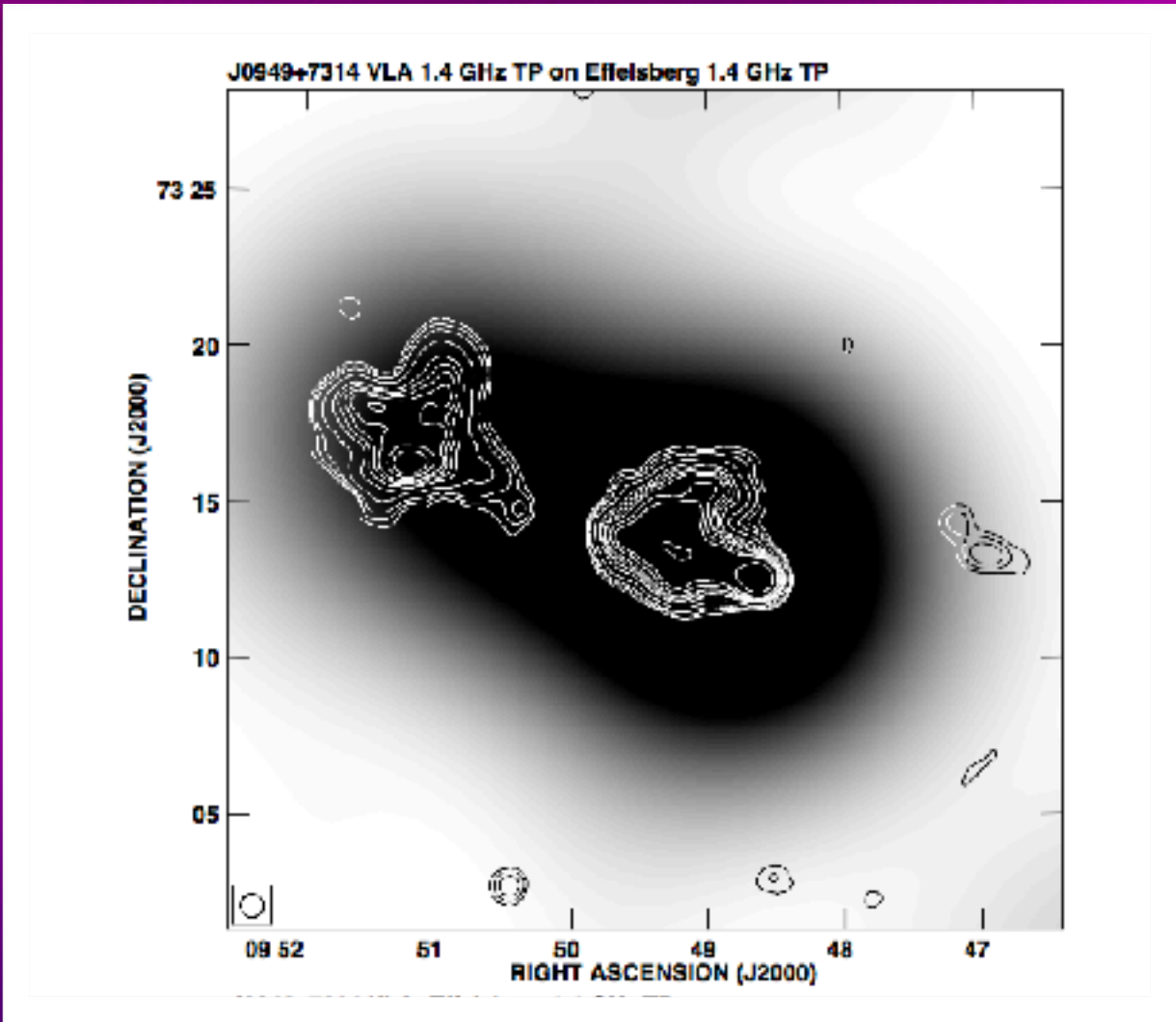
Double-Double RG



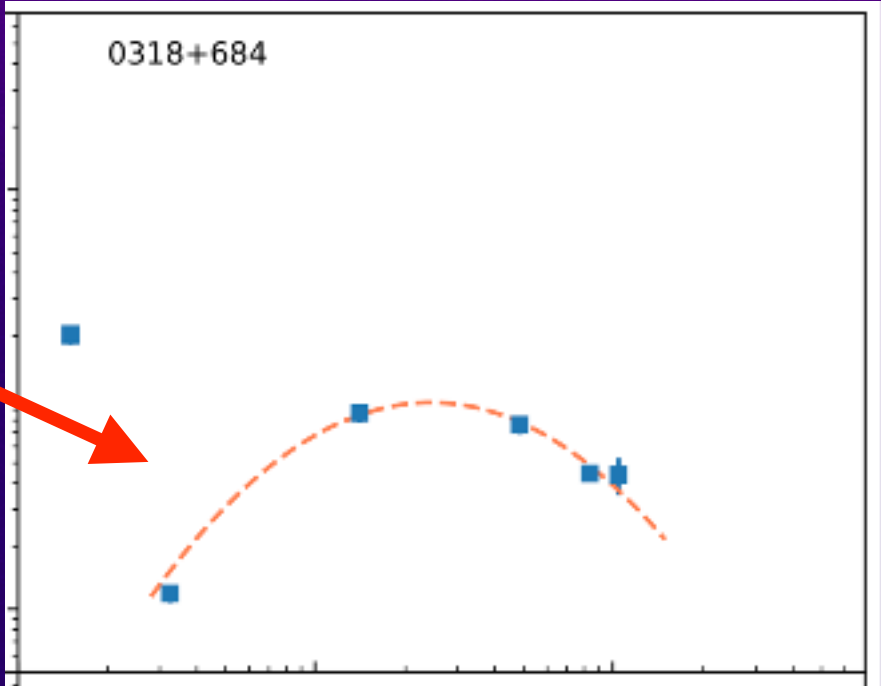
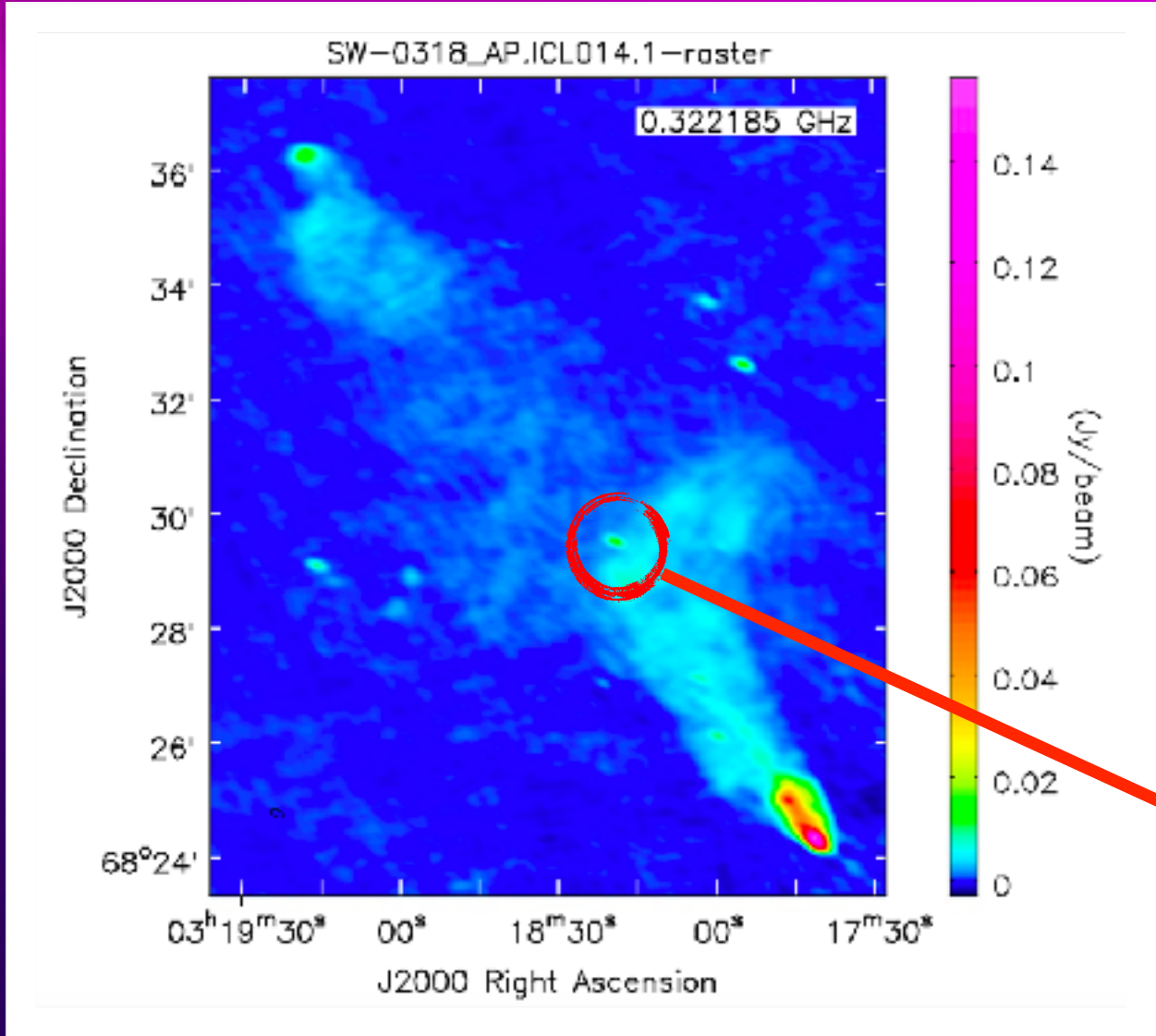
X-shaped RG



Radio cocoon



GPS-like core

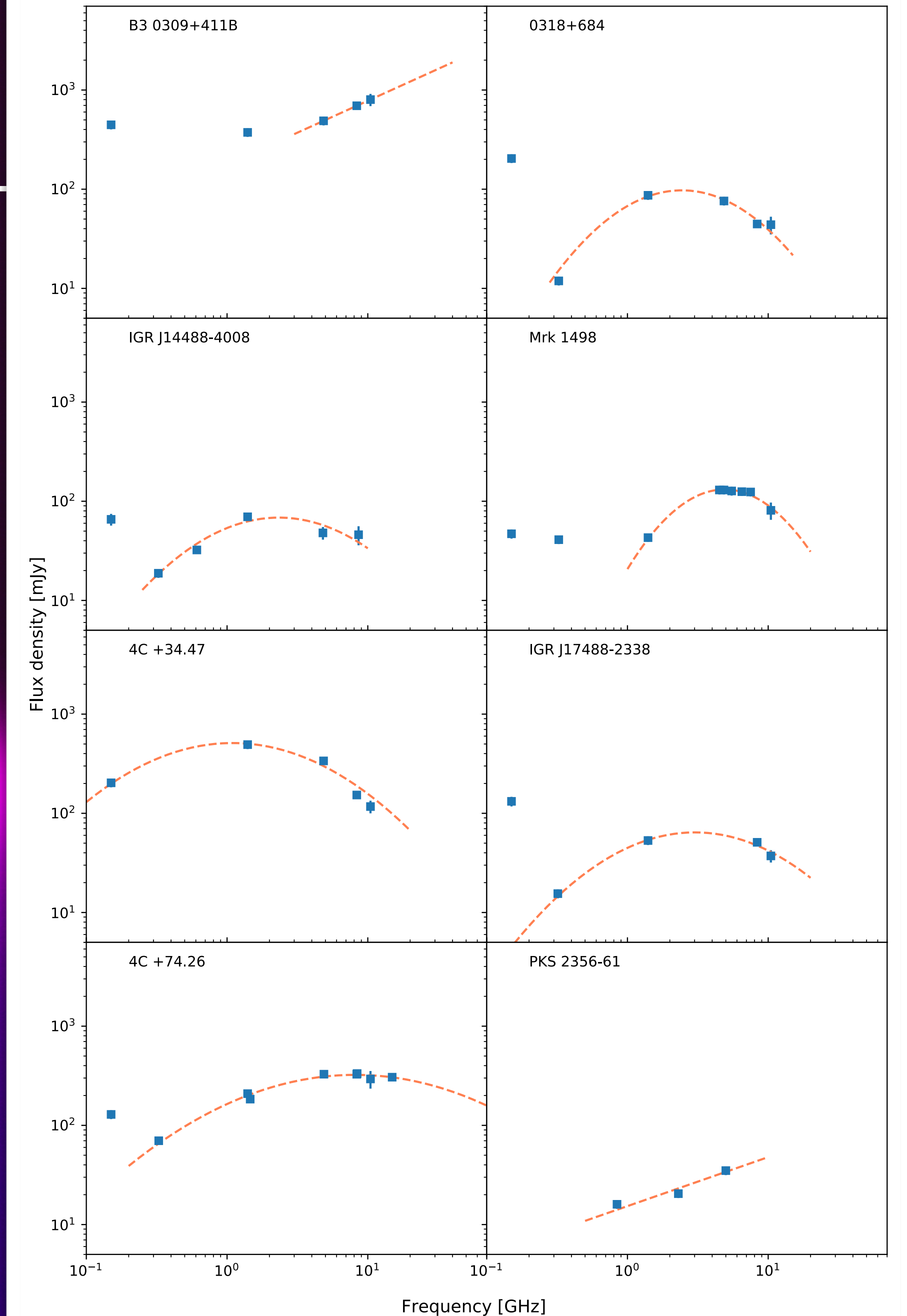




# Restarted jets fraction

## GPS fraction

- Collecting data from archive in the MHz-GHz range for all sources
- A GPS fraction of  $61(+30 -21)\%$  is found
- Cores are often young radio sources





# The LOFAR view



## Number of operational stations:

The number of operational stations in January 2020 are:

- 24 Core Stations (which can be split into 48 substations when using HBA Dual mode)
- 14 Remote Stations
- 14 International Stations
- Number of stations available for LBA observations: 52
- Number of stations available for HBA Dual observations: 76

## Frequency Ranges:

Observers can choose between the following frequency ranges:

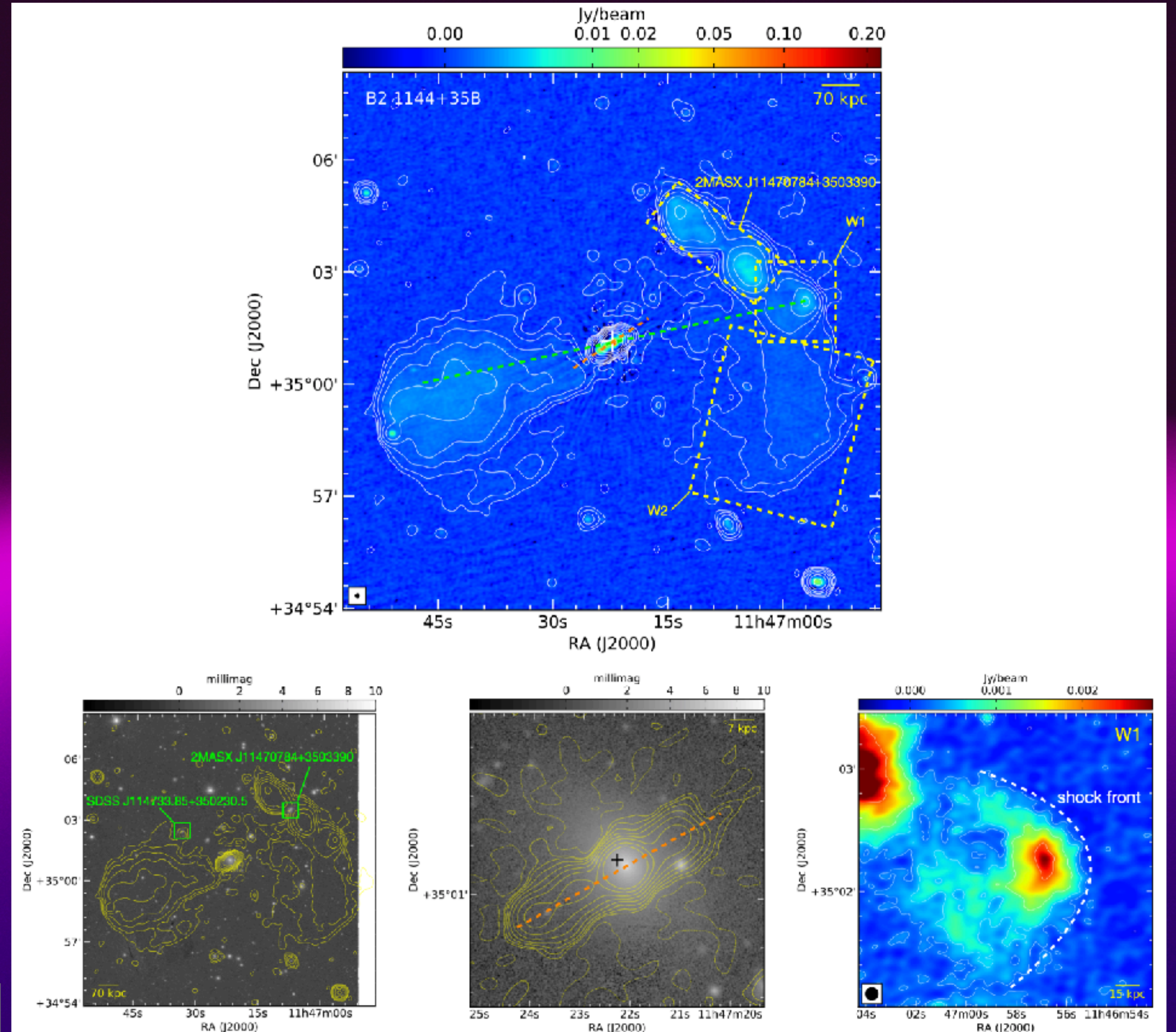
- LBA: 10-90 MHz (200 MHz clock)
- LBA: 30-90 MHz (200 MHz clock)
- HBA: 110-190 MHz (200 MHz clock)





# The LOFAR view

- Faint, diffuse emission on the SW sector restored, possible “fat-double” classification
- Inner-jet axis differs by  $\sim 30$  deg from lobes one
- Possible gravitational perturbation by associated cluster, producing jet reorientation on Myr time scale.

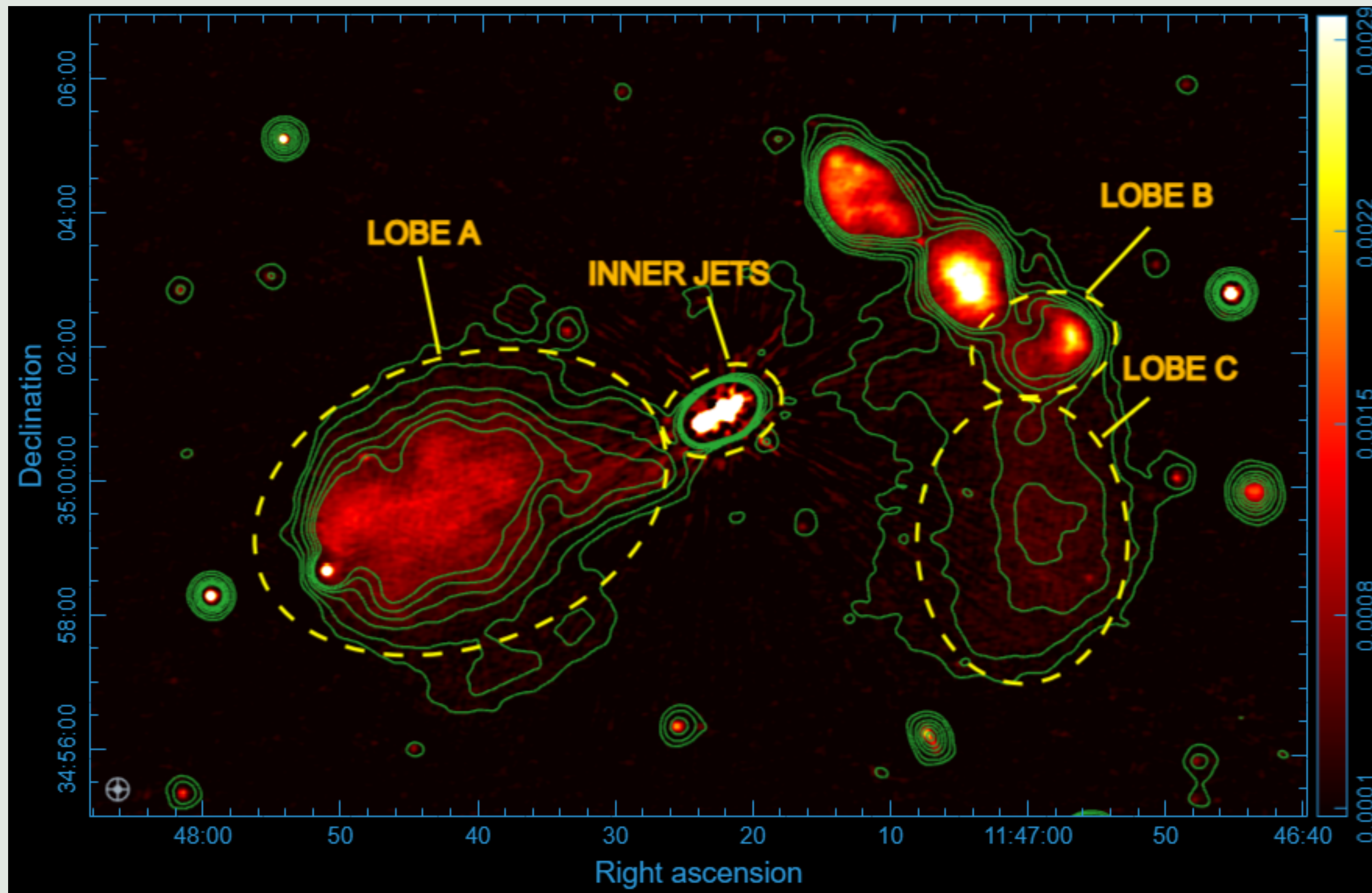




# B2 1144+35B: ZONES DIVISION



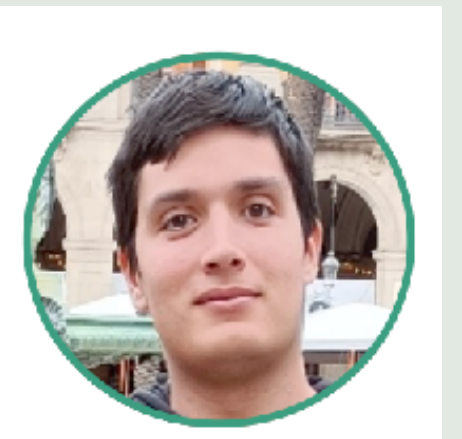
M. Fanelli  
Master thesis



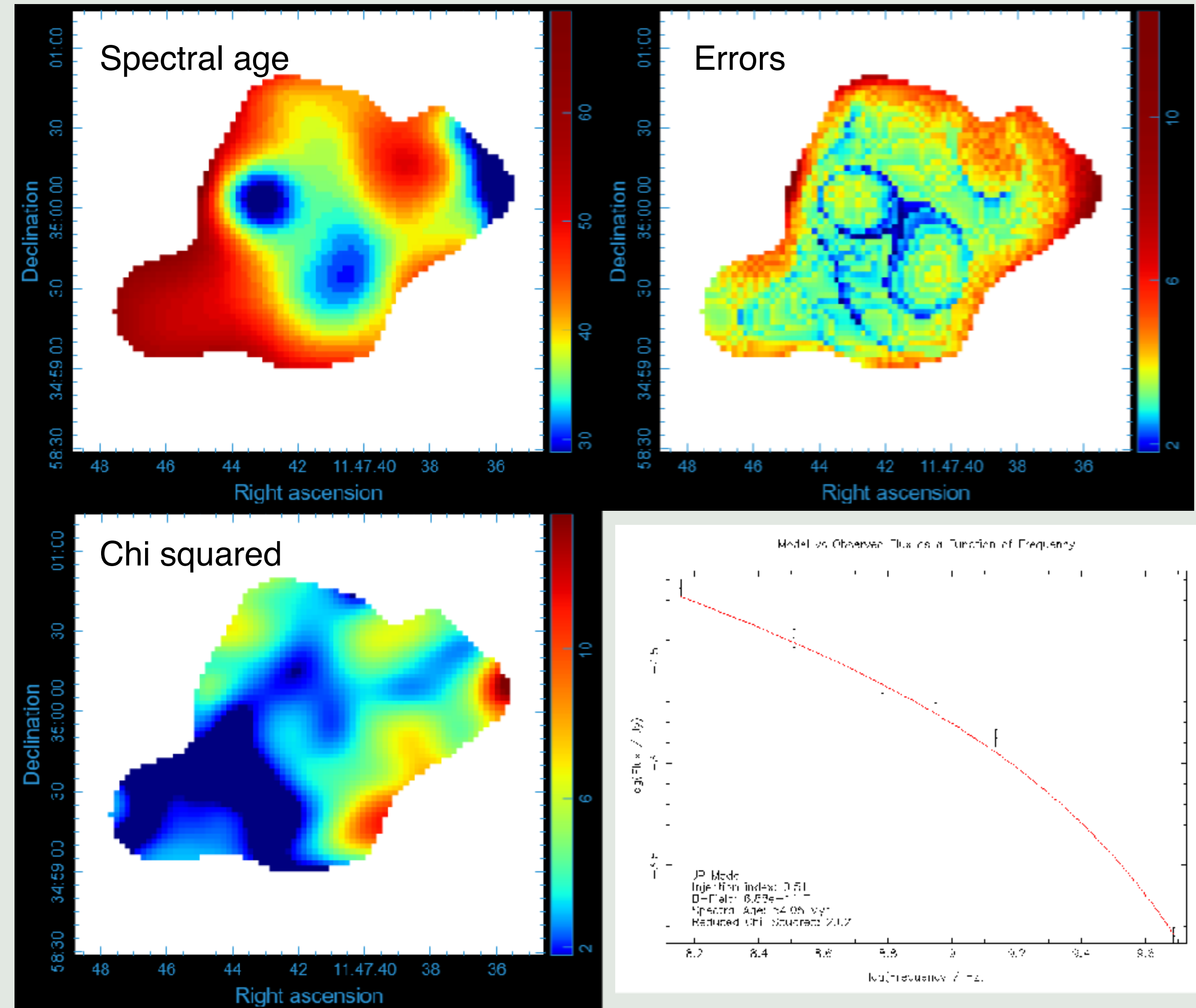
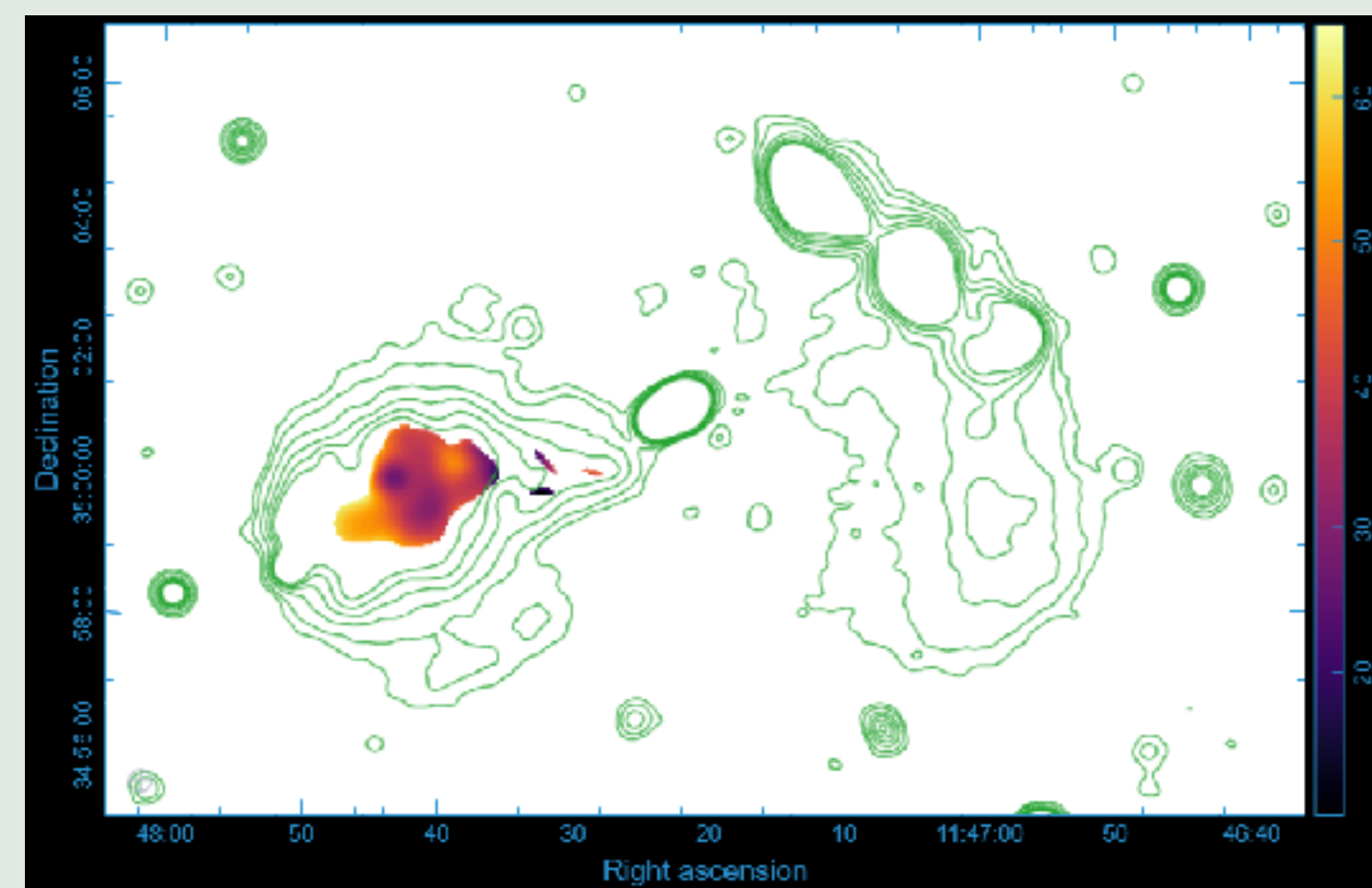


# B2 1144+35B: LOBE A

M. Fanelli  
Master thesis



- Age rises as far as we get away from the core
- Central shock, older “tail” at the left side
- Minimum age:  $\sim 40$  Myr
- Maximum age:  $\sim 70$  Myr



Fit example



# B2 1144+35B: DUTY CYCLE



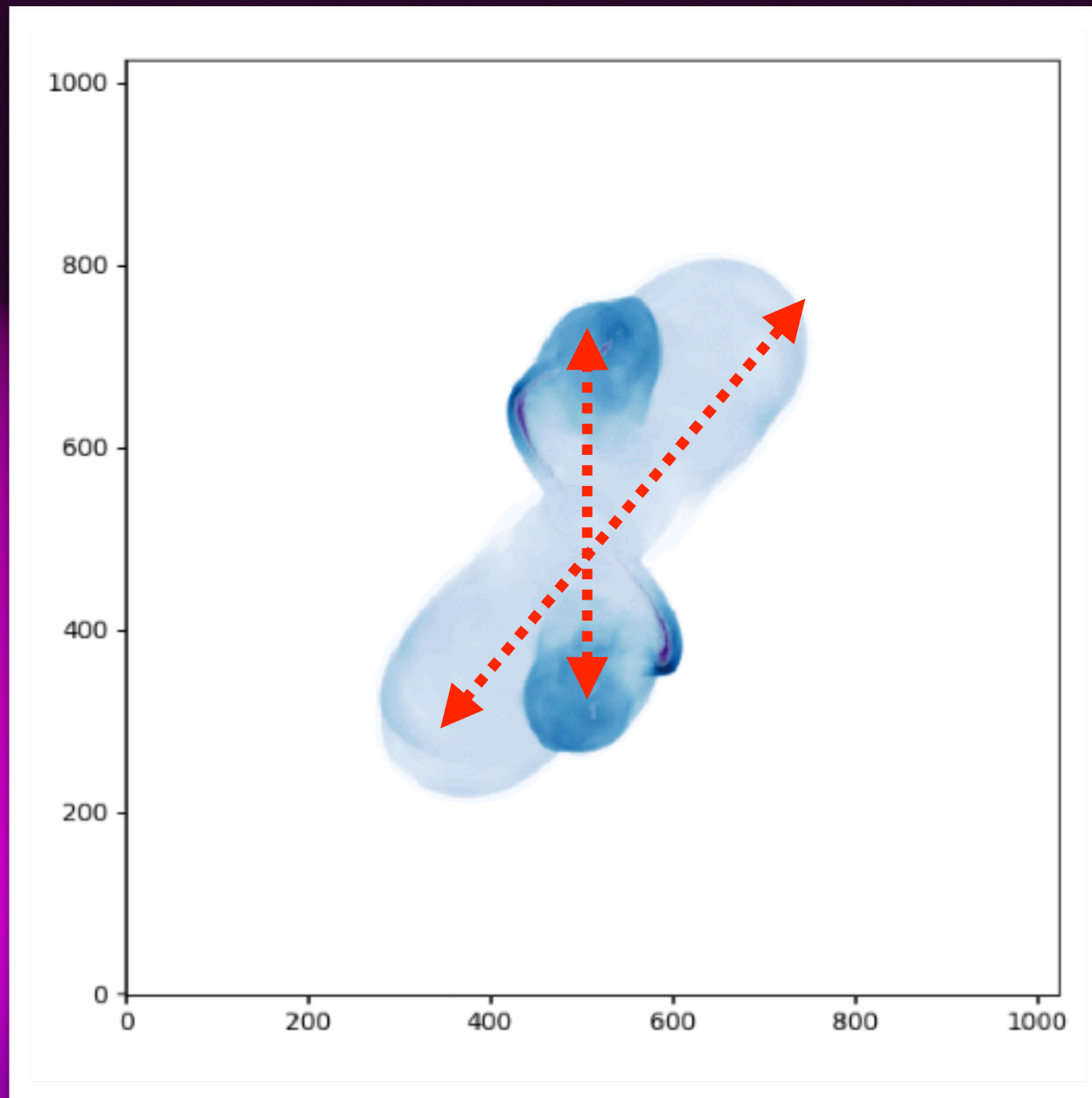
M. Fanelli  
Master thesis

Total lifetime	70 Myr
Young radio phase	12.5 Myr
Quiescence phase	27.5 Myr
Ancient radio phase	$\geq 30$ Myr
Duty cycle (active time /total time)	$\sim 60\%$

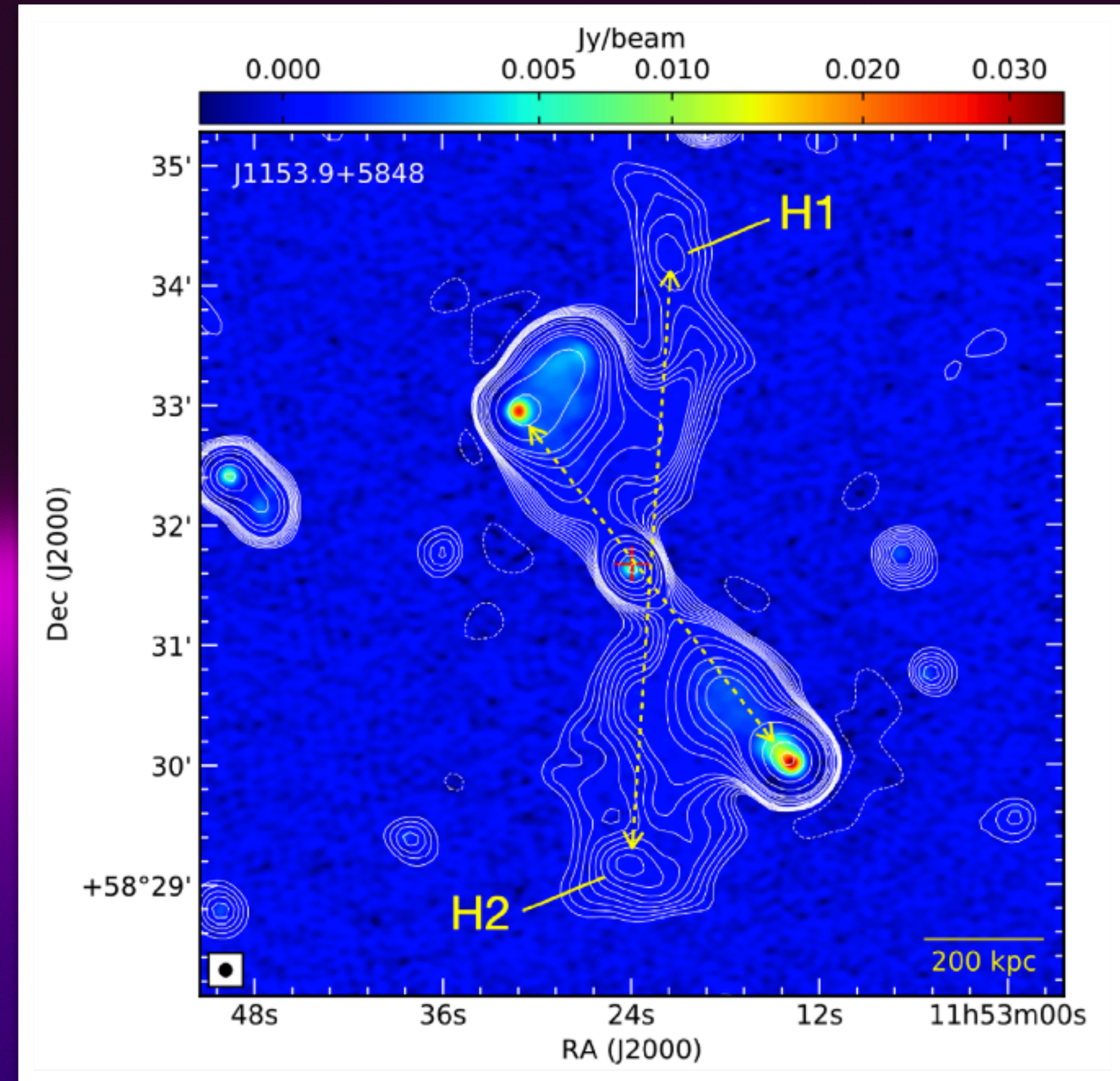


# Zooming into the newborn jets

- LOFAR discovery of possible relic lobes, on an axis ~45 deg away from the known lobes (X-shaped)
- Candidate for **jet precession/reorientation**, following simulations results. Dual BH?



Horton et al. 2020



Bruni et al. 2021

New VLBA observations



# Zooming into newborn jets

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EVN+LBA large program



# Jets in AGN: open questions

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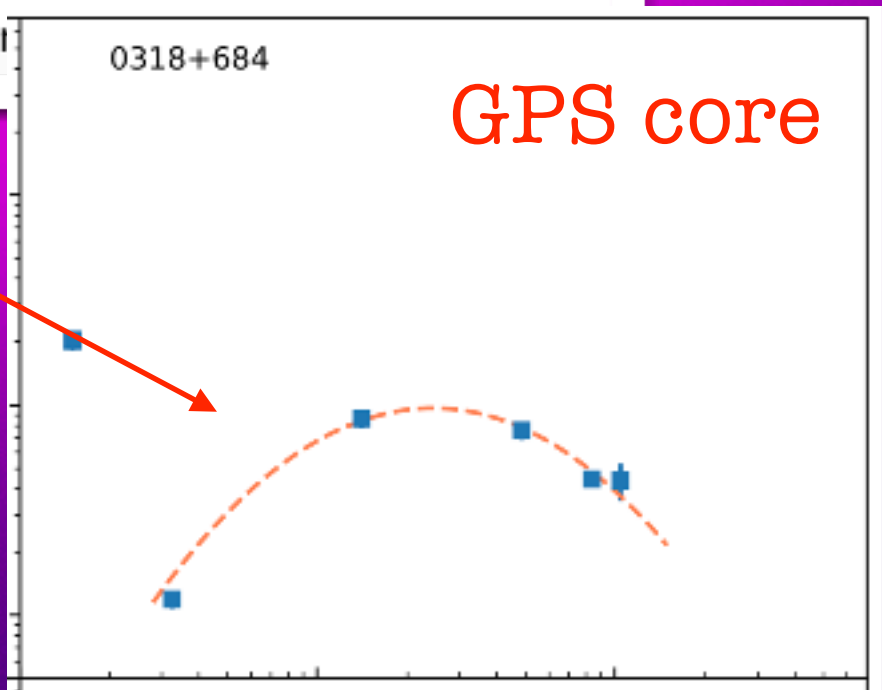
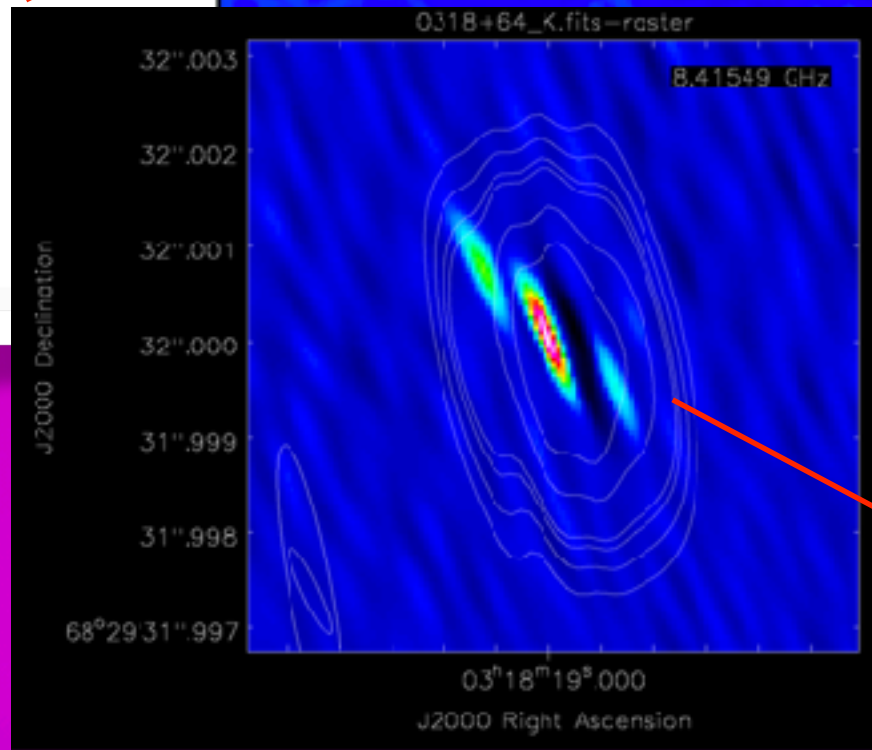
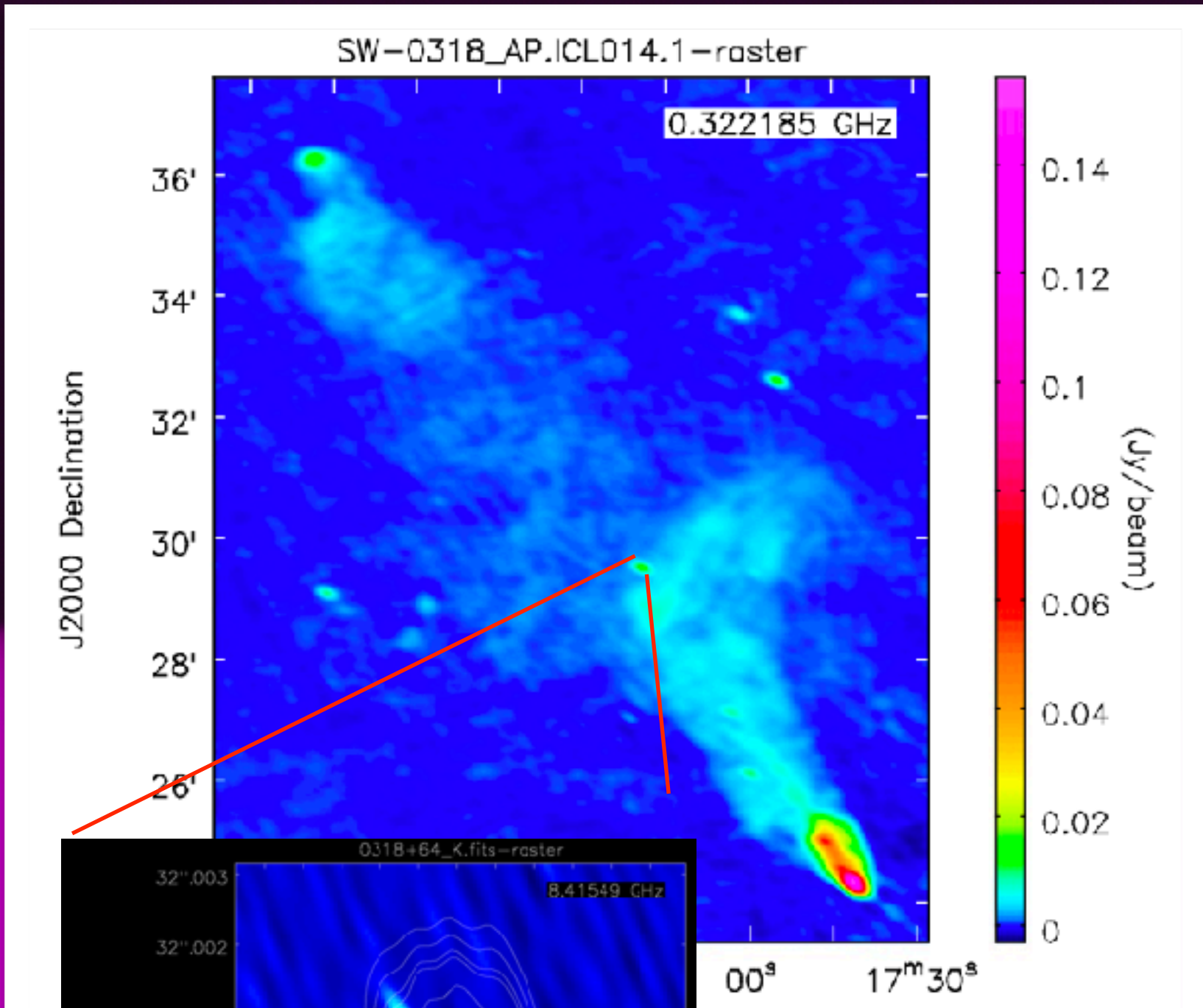
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*All of these points are paramount in understanding the AGN-host coevolution*

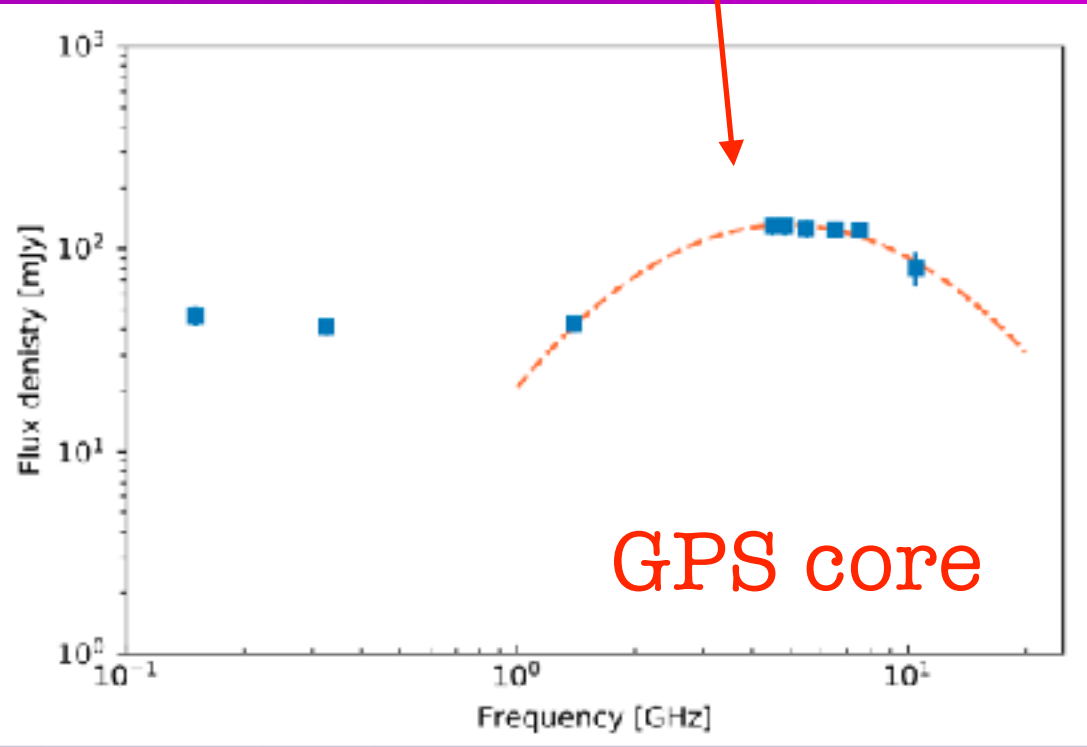
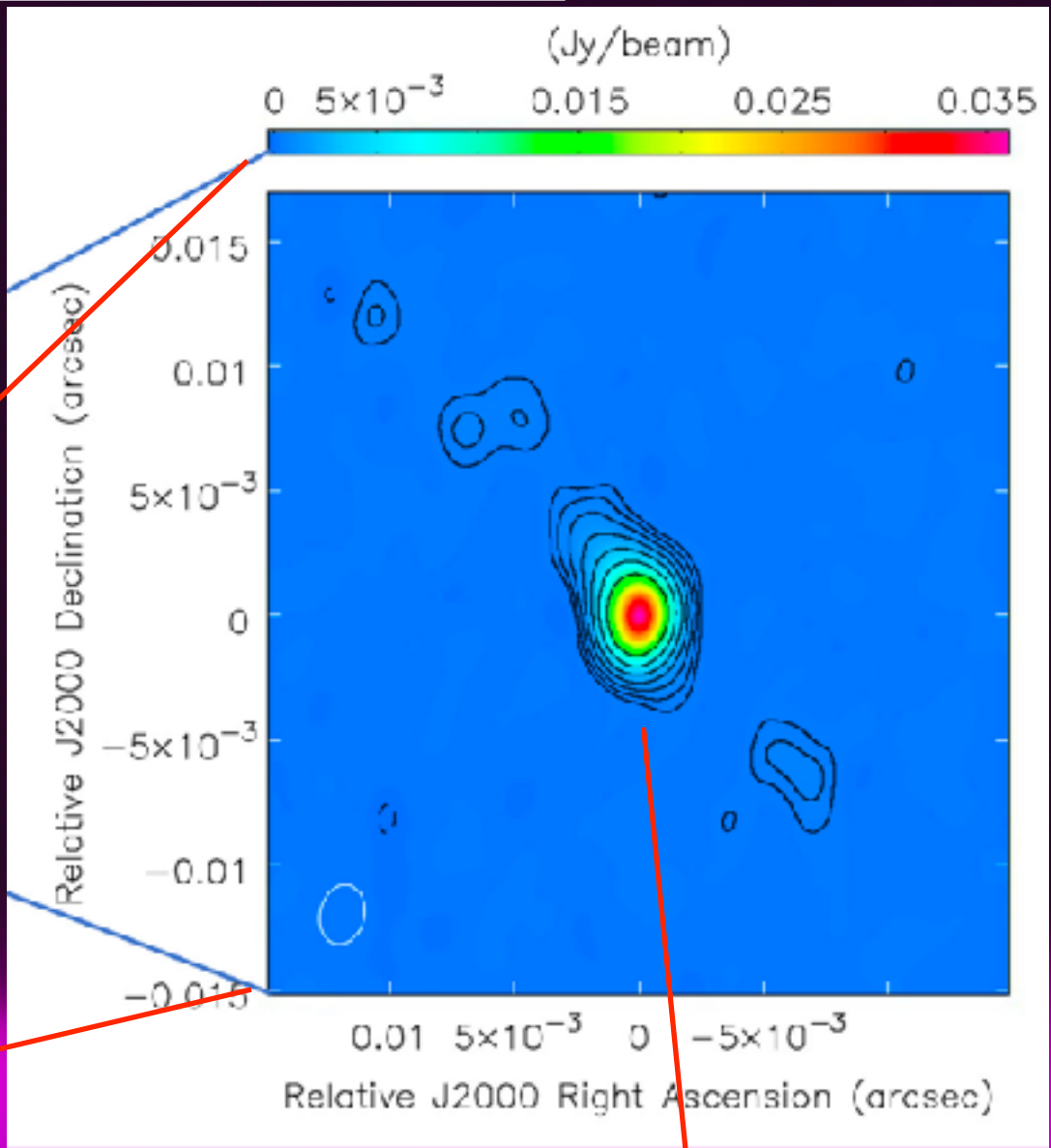
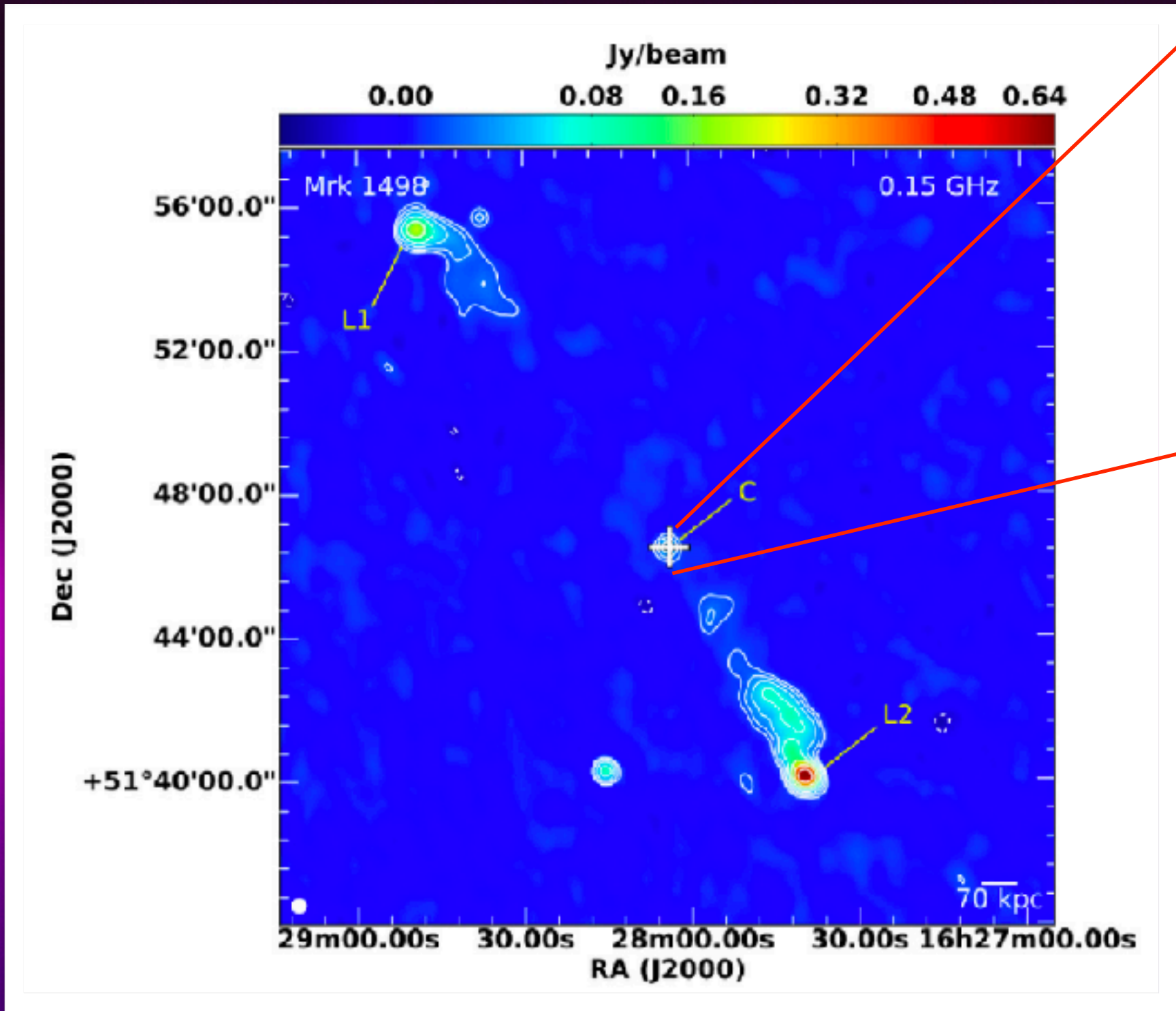


# Zooming into the newborn jets

SW-0318+68



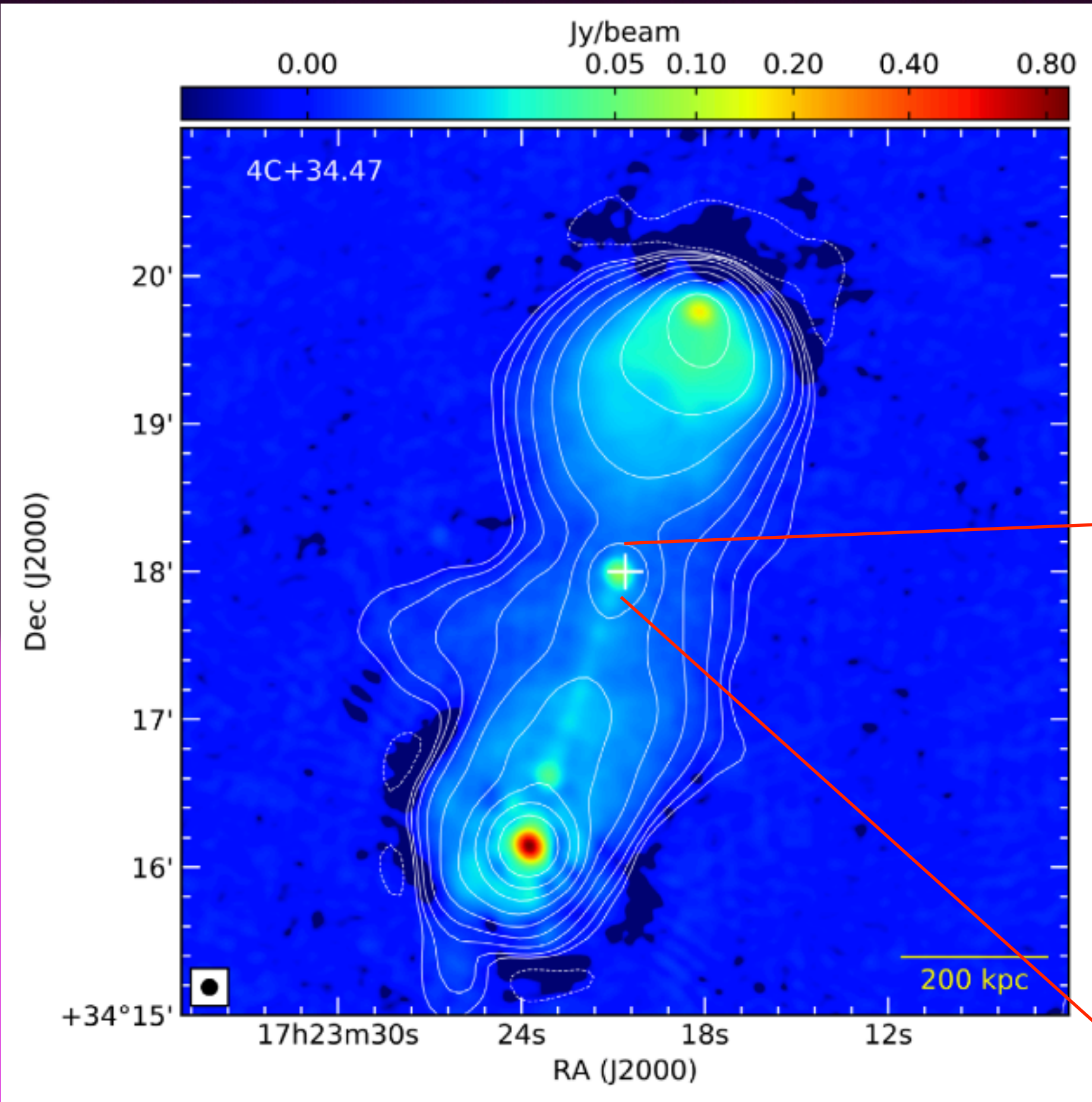
Mrk 1498



Bruni et al. 2020  
Hernandez-Garcia et al. 2019  
Bruni et al. In prep.

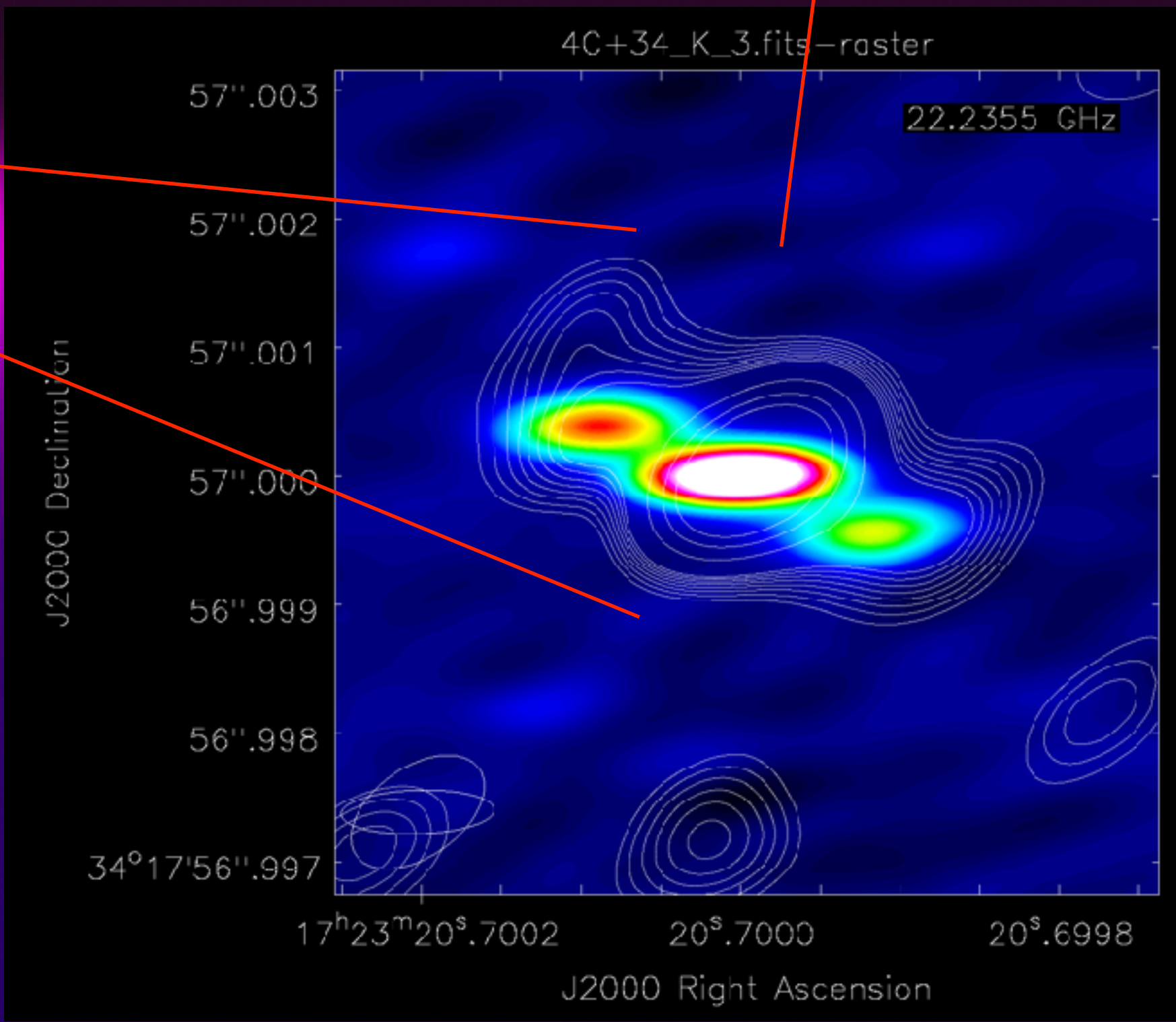
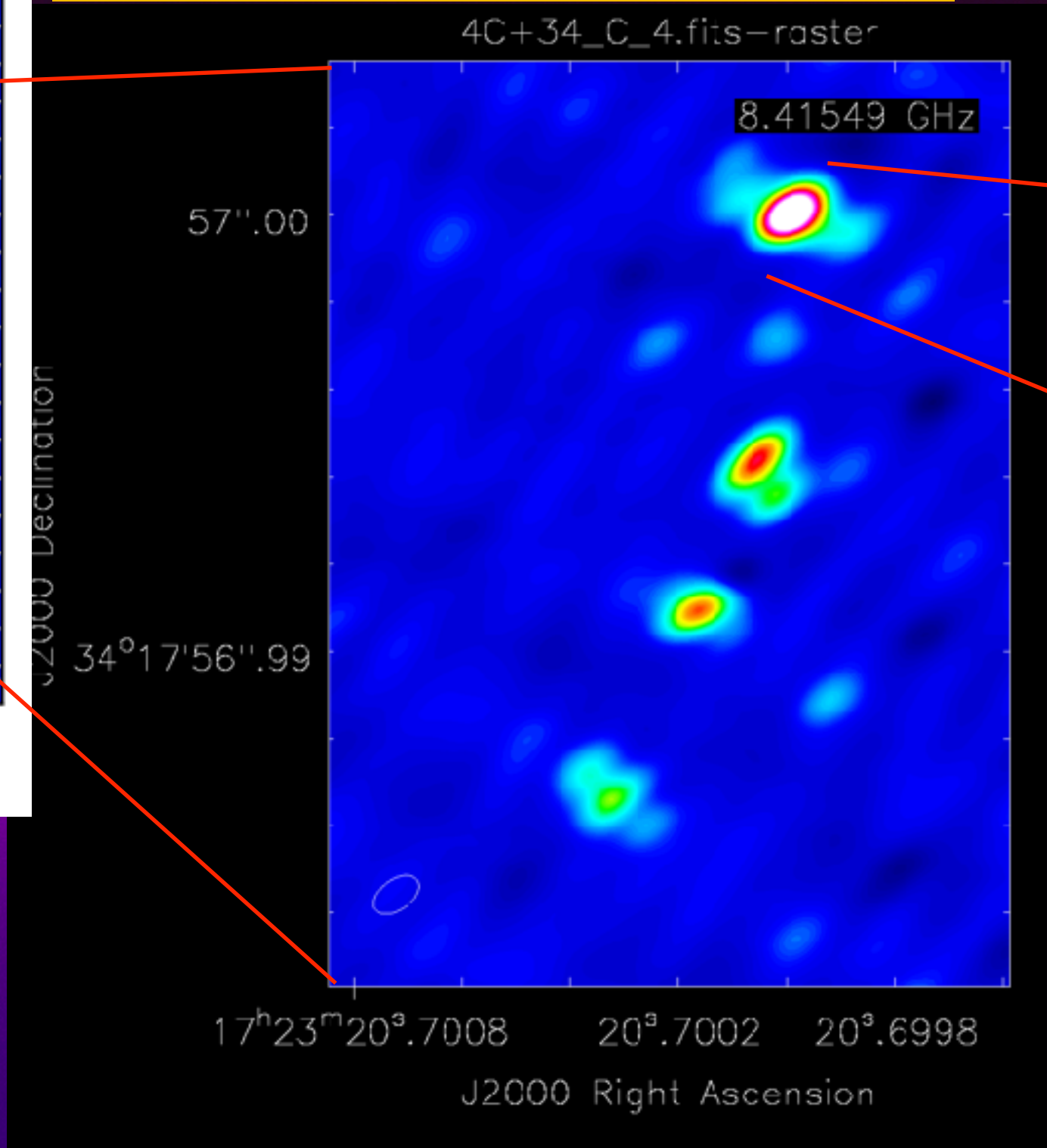
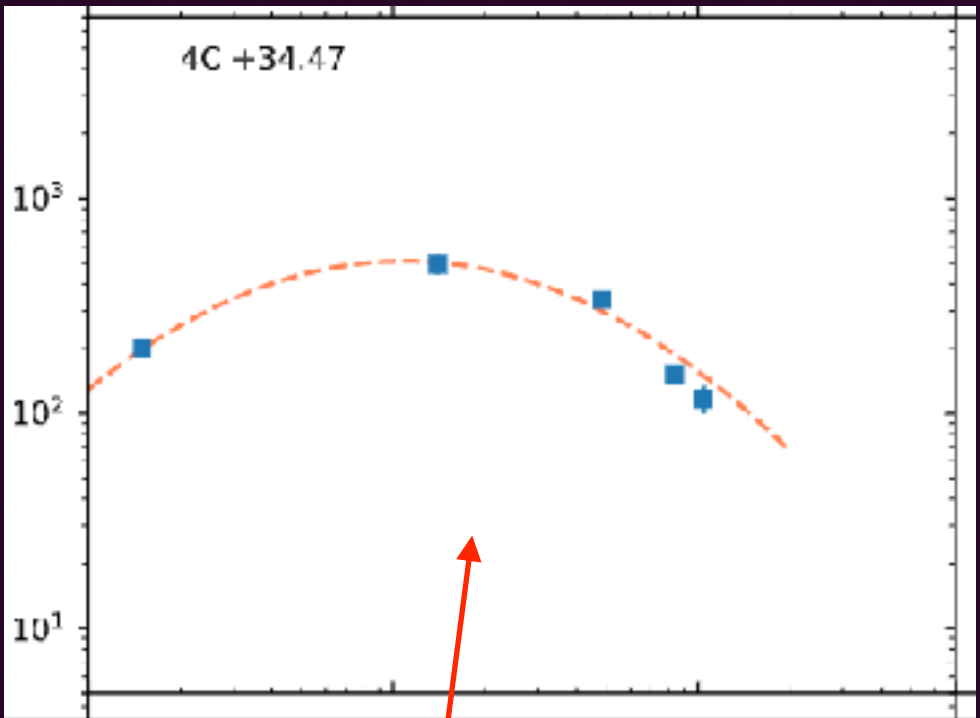


# Zooming into the newborn jets



Reorientation of the new jet?

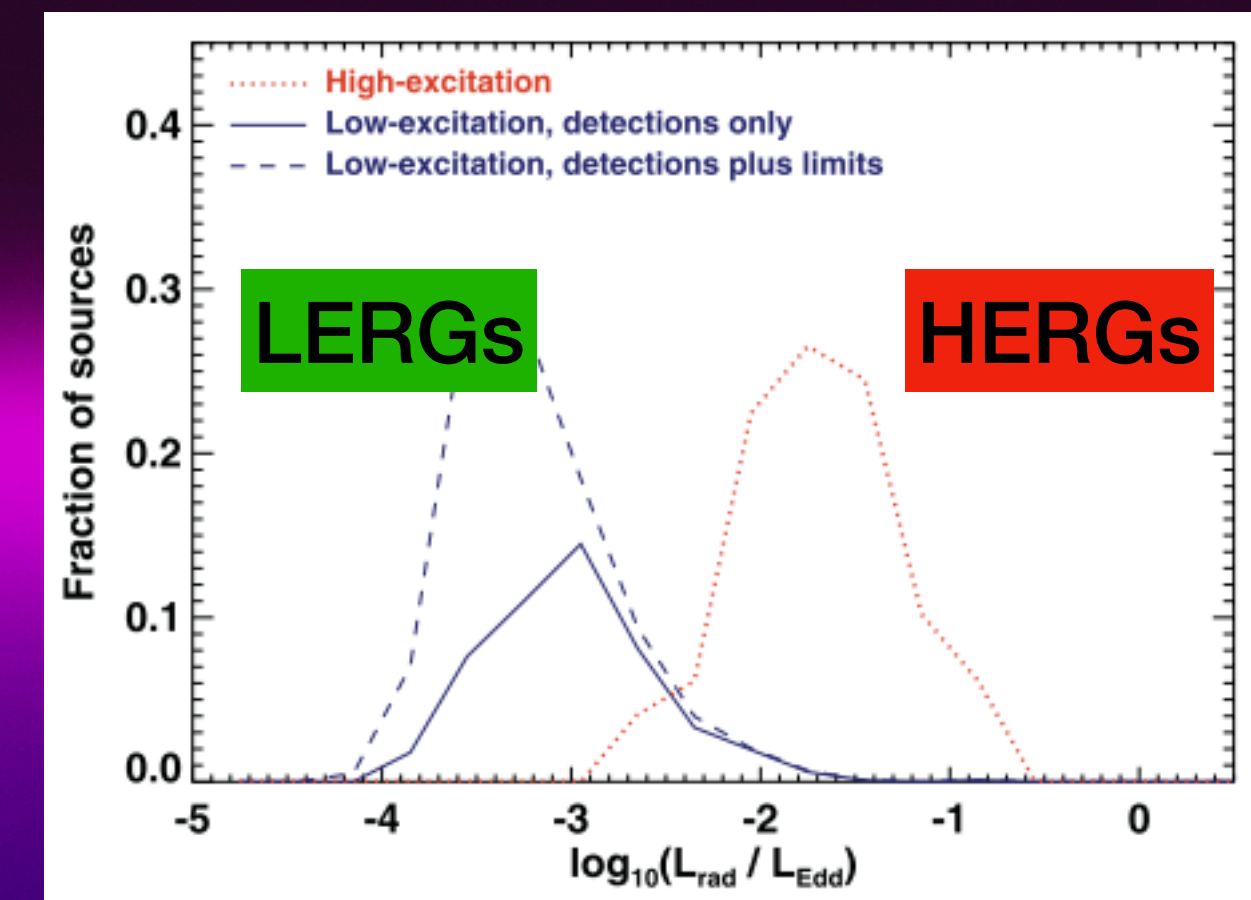
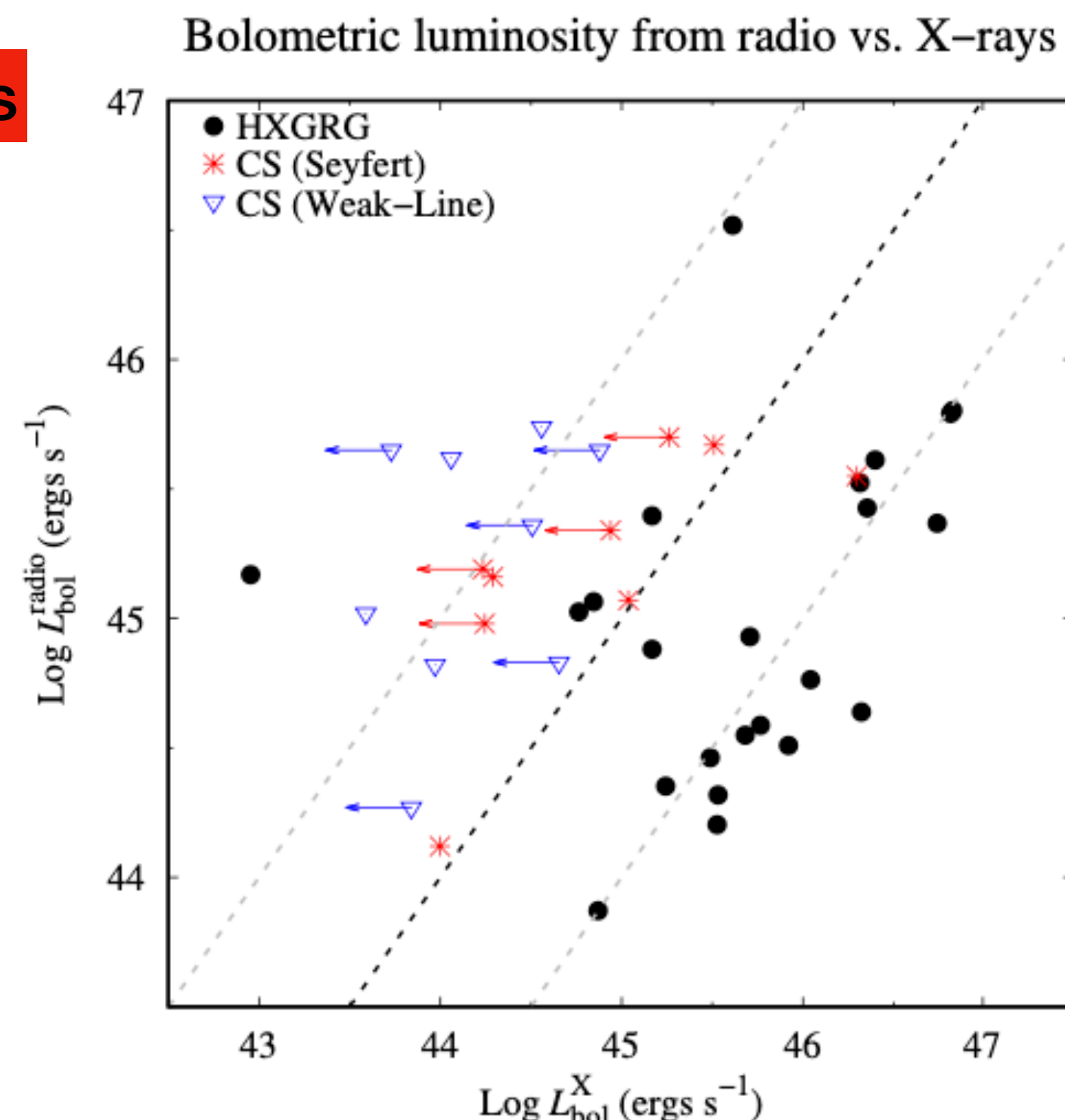
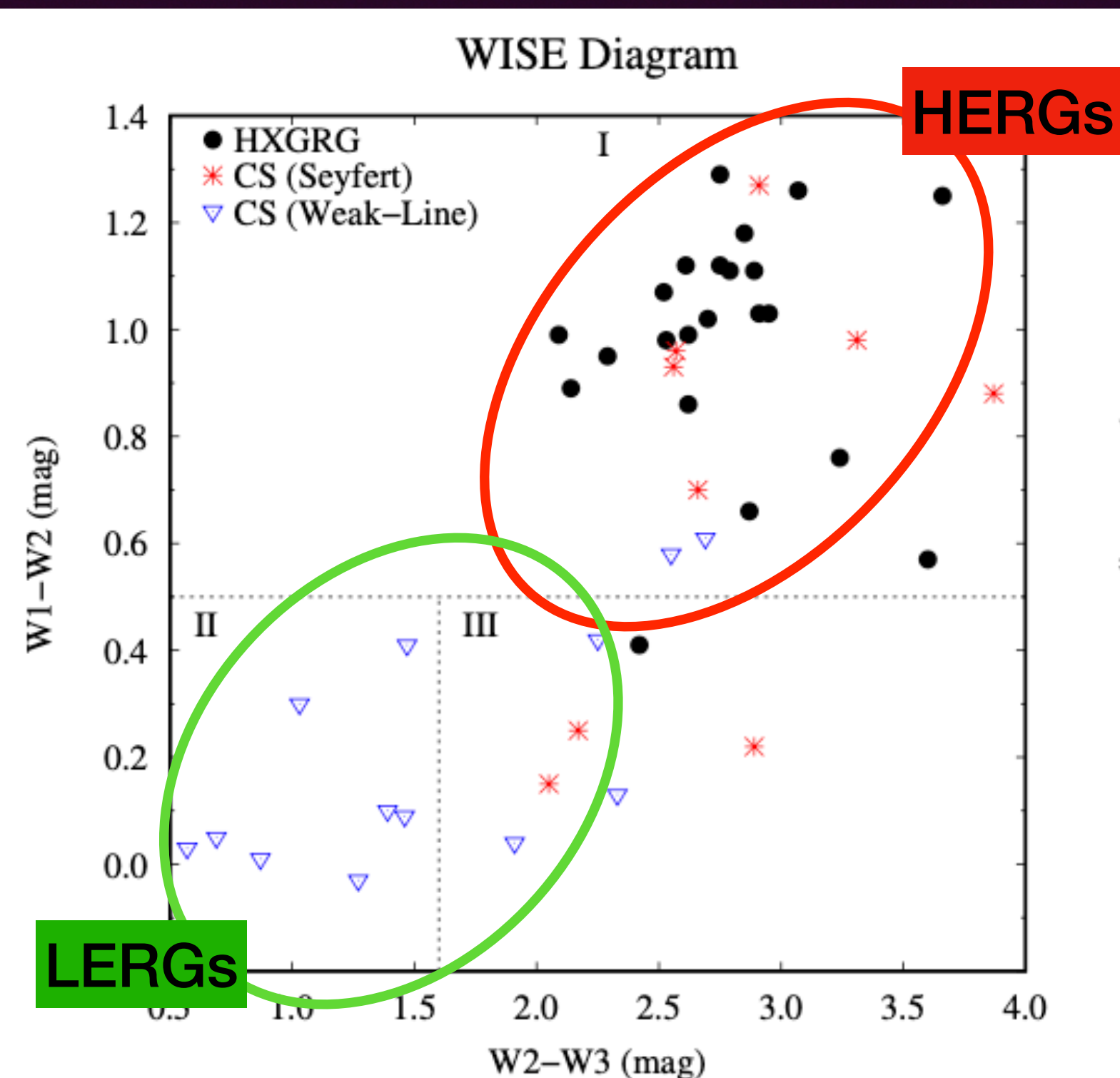
Bruni et al. in prep.





# HERGs vs LERGs

- Comparison with Hard-X “quiet” GRG (LERGs) from Schoenmakers+2000
- Consistent fraction of restarted activity (from morphology+GPS/CSS)
- Different accretion modes does not seems to influence jet evolution or duty cycle



Best & Heckman 2012

Bruni et al. in prep.

Preliminary



# GeV Radio Galaxies

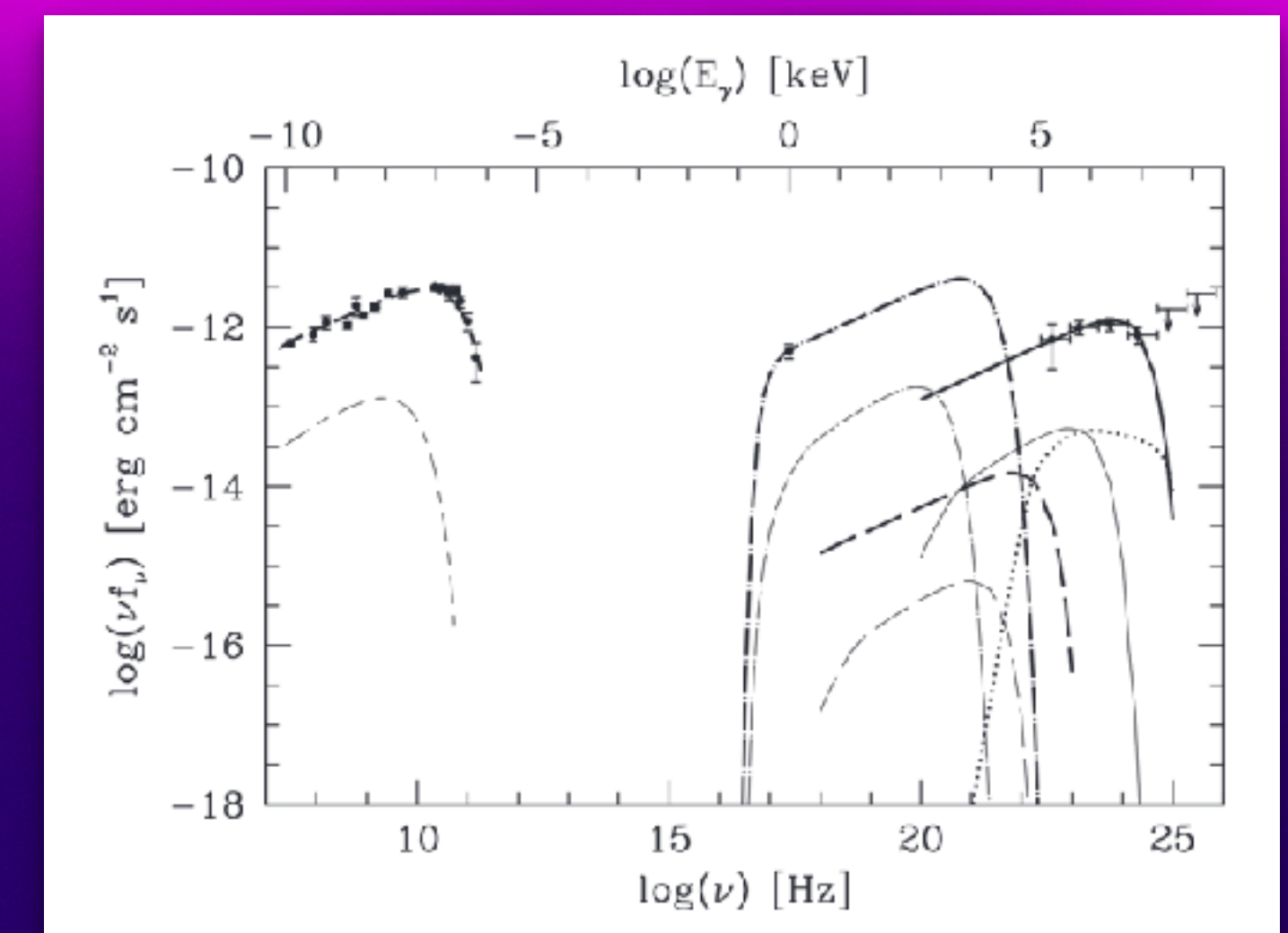
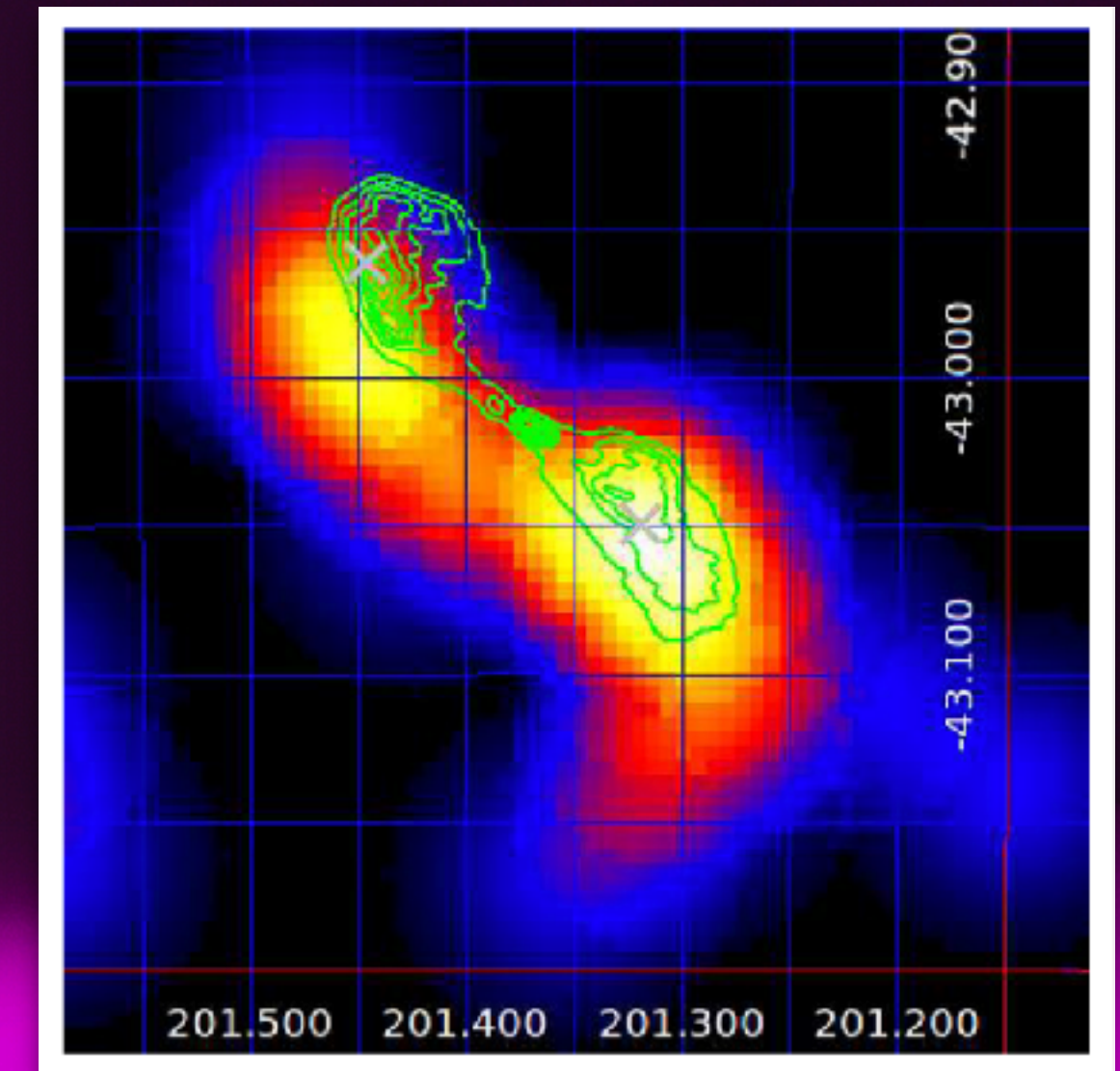
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# GeV emission from radio galaxies lobes

- Centaurus A and Fornax A are extended enough (several deg) to be resolved by Fermi/LAT, **lobes were detected in gamma-rays**
- First modelling of lobes emission considered p-p collisions and subsequent pionic decay as possible origin (McKinley+15, Ackermann+16), implying a **very high proton energy density in the lobes**
- A recent series of papers re-model lobes emission of several Fermi/LAT detected lobes, explaining that as **IC off the ambient photon field** (CMB+host galaxy starlight, Persic & Rephaeli 19a, 19b, 20)

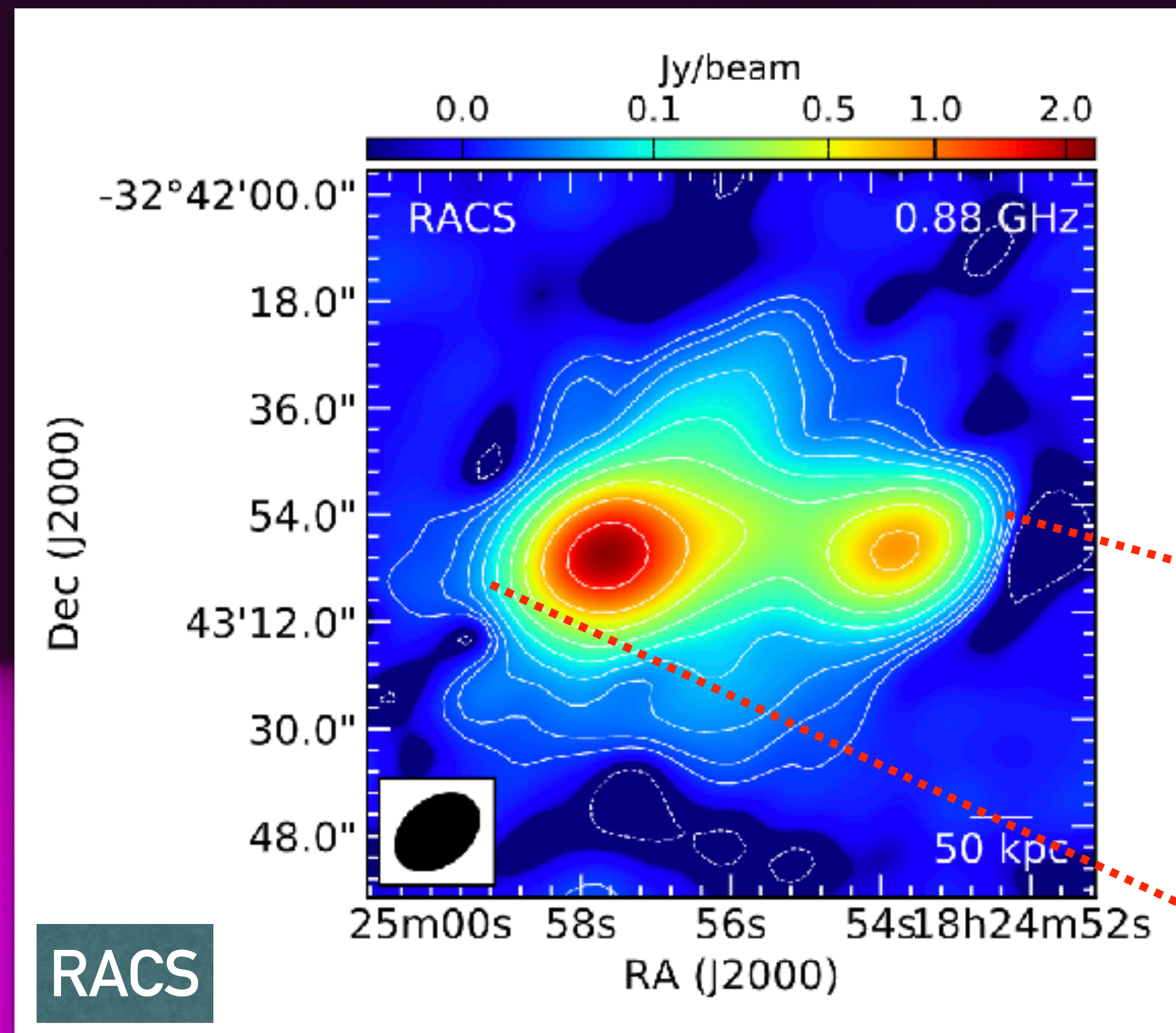
*...more radio galaxies could be present among unresolved Fermi/LAT gamma-ray sources...*



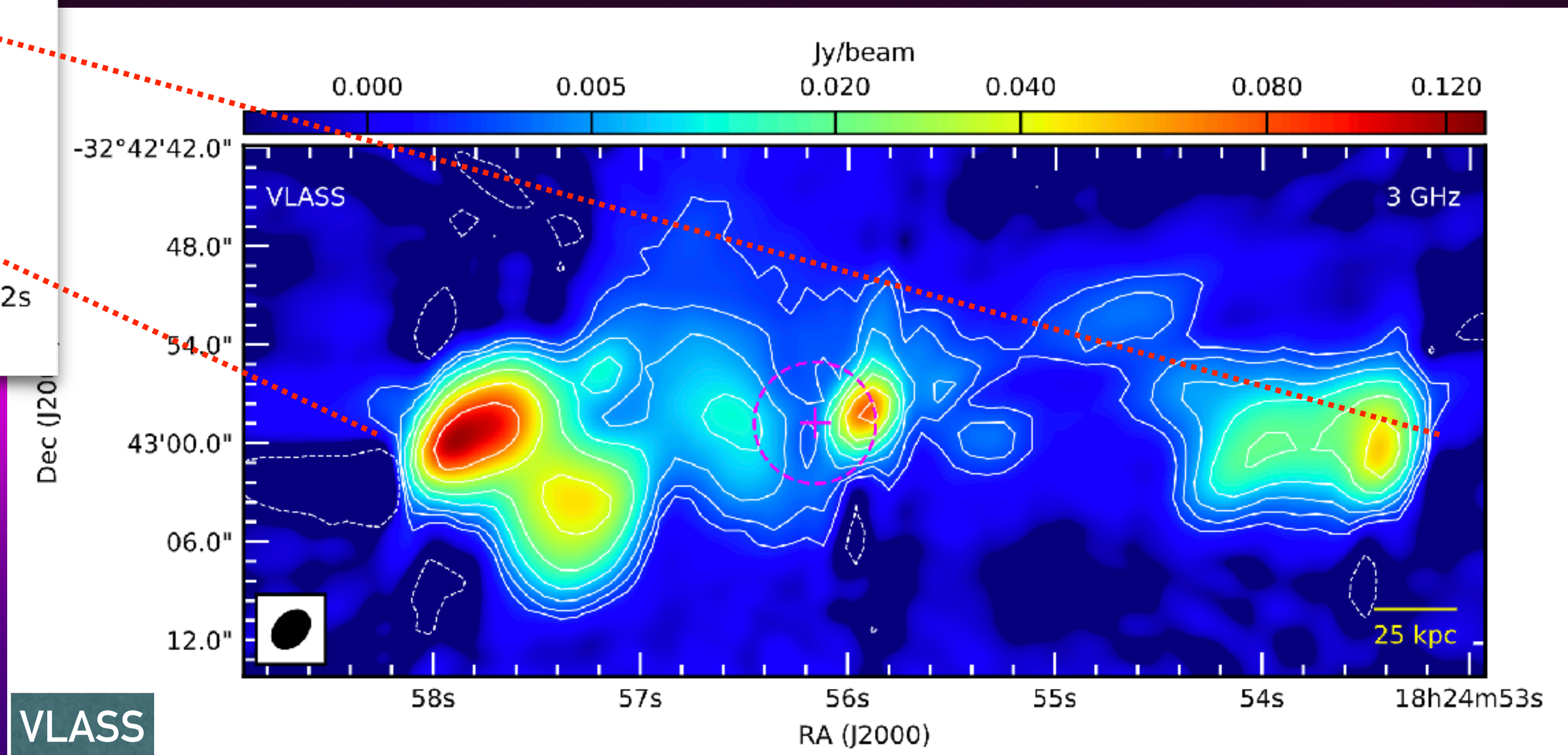


# The case of IGR J18249-3243

- Recent discovery of an INTEGRAL radio galaxy detected at GeV energies by Fermi/LAT
- Morphology was resolved thanks to recent radio surveys



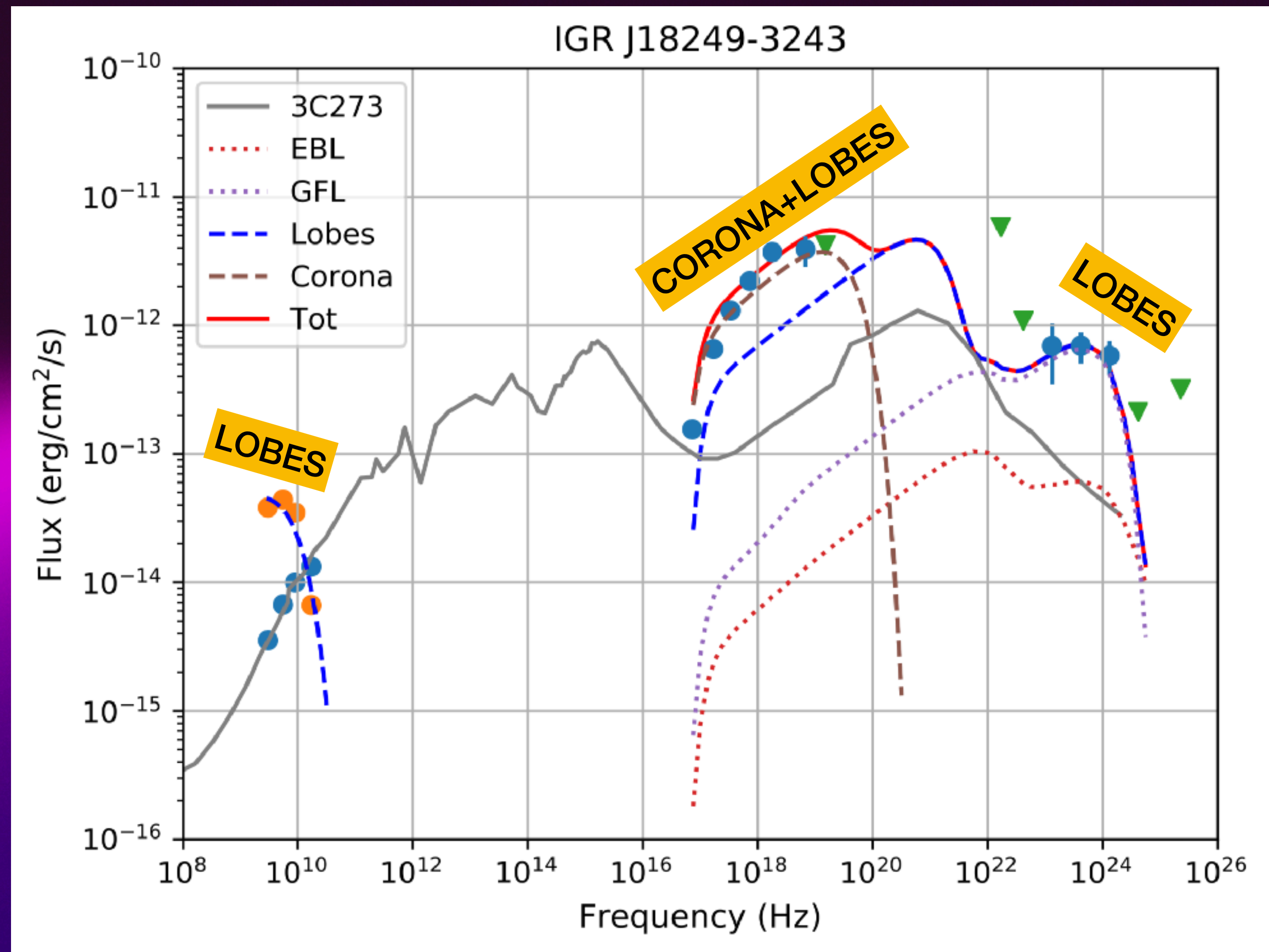
Bruni et al. 2022



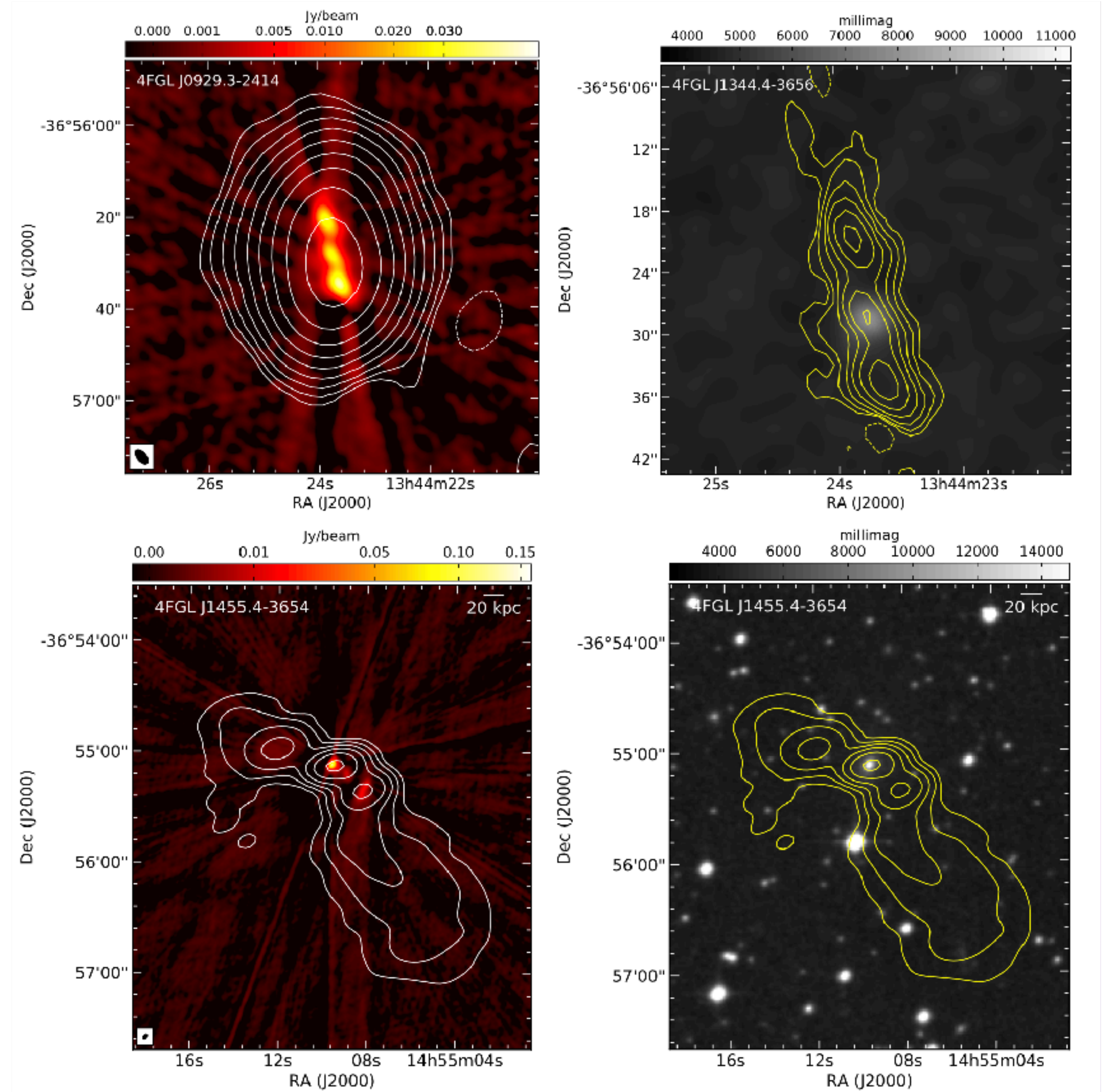
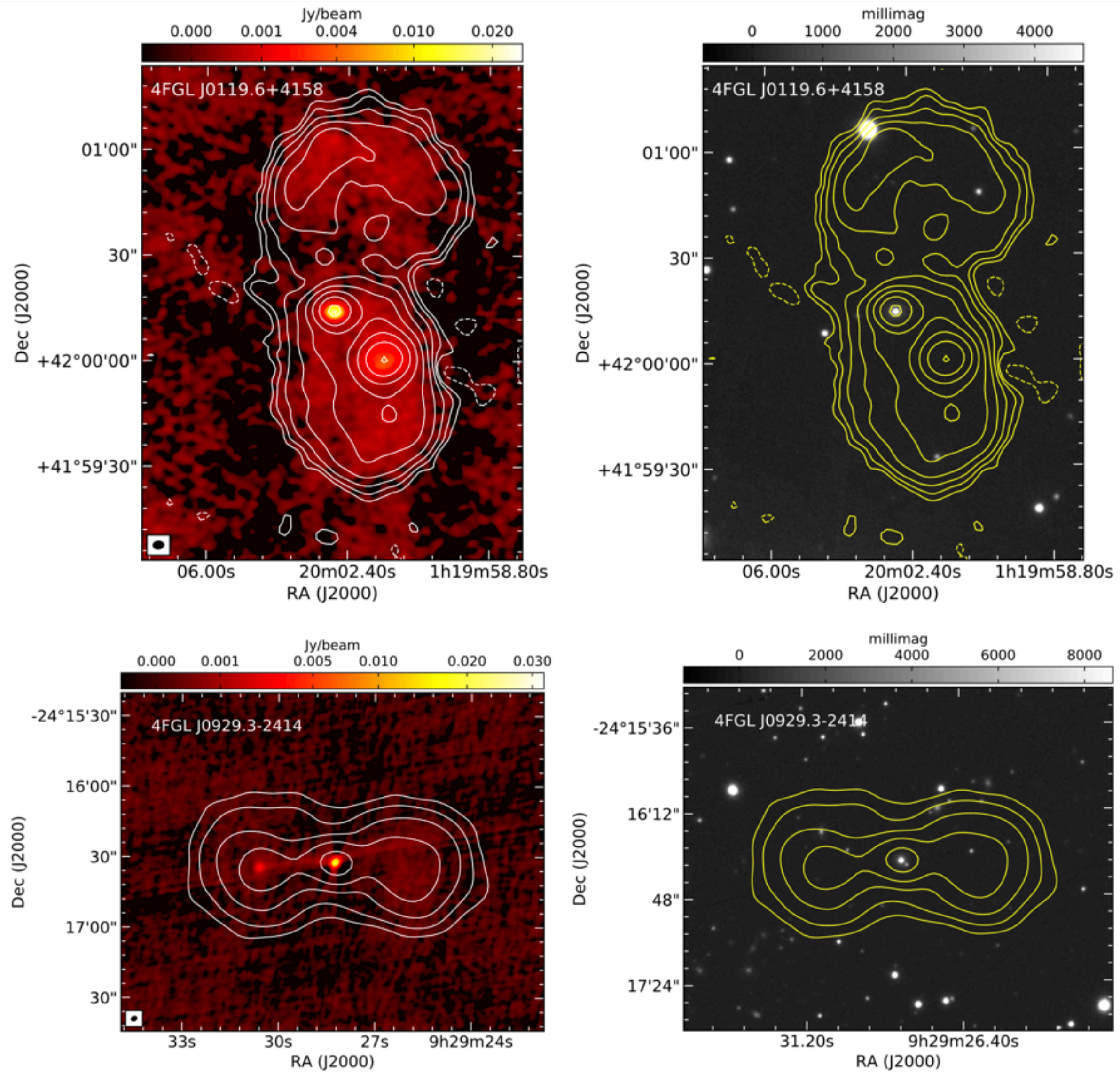


# The case of IGR J18249-3243

- GeV emission from the core is 10 times larger than expected
- SED modelling suggests substantial lobes contribution via IC on ambient photon fields
- Further GeV RG will be identified thanks to SKA precursors









# MeerKAT+ survey

- More radio galaxy counterparts of high-energy sources from MeerKAT+ survey (SKA precursor, starting in 2024)
- Privileged access to data through INAF participation



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## INAF joins the MeerKAT+ Project

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft welcome the Italian Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica as partner on the MeerKAT extension project

The National Research Foundation, through its national facility the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), and the Max Planck Gesellschaft (MPG) welcome the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF) as an additional partner on the MeerKAT extension project (MeerKAT+).

The MeerKAT+ extension founded by SARAO and MPG will increase both, sensitivity and spatial resolution of the existing MeerKAT telescope array and thus provide a powerful instrument to study the formation and evolution of galaxies throughout the history of the universe.

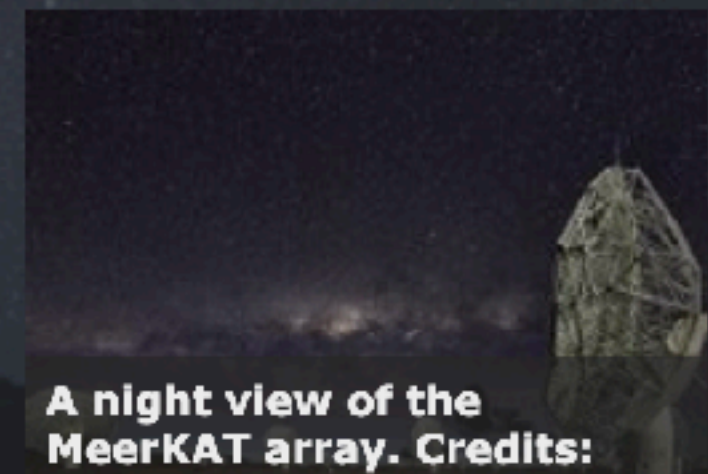
"INAF and the Italian community are eager to contribute to the MeerKAT+ scientific program and to participate in the technological advance related to its development" says the INAF President, **Marco Tavani**. "MeerKAT+ is an important step towards the SKA Telescope that will open great "unexplored windows" of our Universe".

MeerKAT+ will see **20 new dishes** being added to the existing array of **64 dishes**, a joint project initiated and funded by SARAO and the MPG.

INAF will support MeerKAT+ with an additional financial investment of €6-million. As a result, MeerKAT+ will not only see improved scientific capability, but will also benefit through the scientific participation of INAF.

scientific participation of INAF.

MeerKAT+ will not only see improved scientific capability, but will also benefit through the INAF will support MeerKAT+ with an additional financial investment of €6-million. As a result,



A night view of the MeerKAT array. Credits: INAF/E. Sacchetti



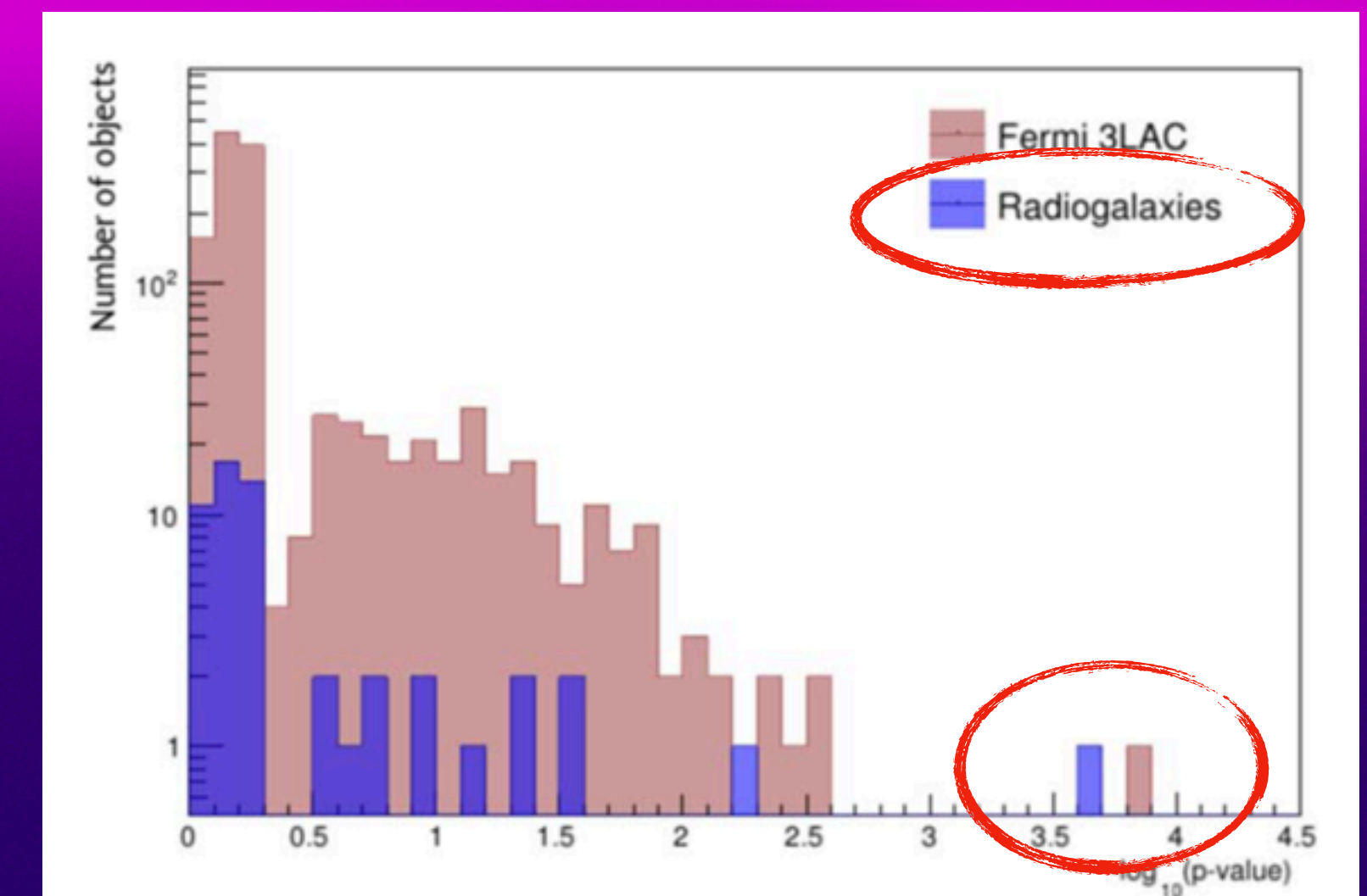
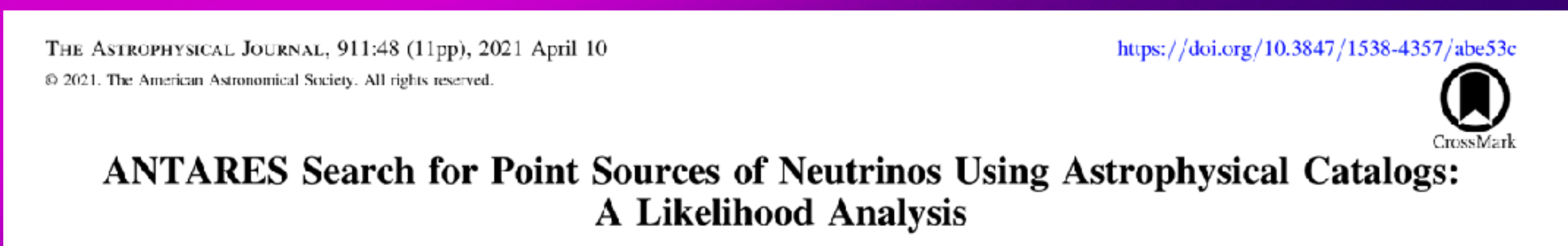
# Neutrinos from Radio Galaxies ?

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# 3C403 A wobbling jet with neutrino association

- Recent ANTARES work on data collected from 2007 to 2017
- Cross correlation analysis show a possible association with an INTEGRAL source: 3C403
- 3C403 is one of the hard X-ray selected radio galaxy from the sample of Bassani et. al. 2016



Albert et al. 2021



# 3C403 A wobbling jet with neutrino association

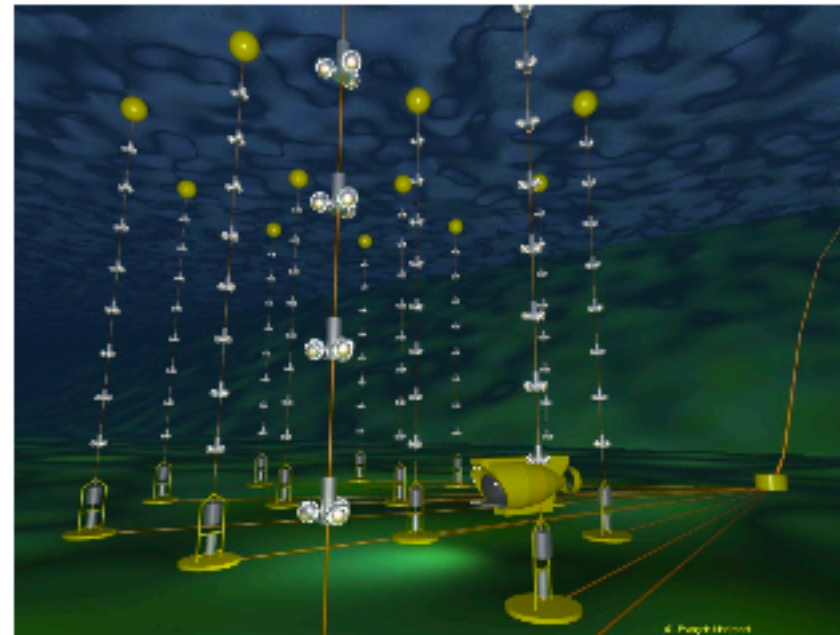
## ANTARES Telescope and Data Set

### ANTARES telescope:

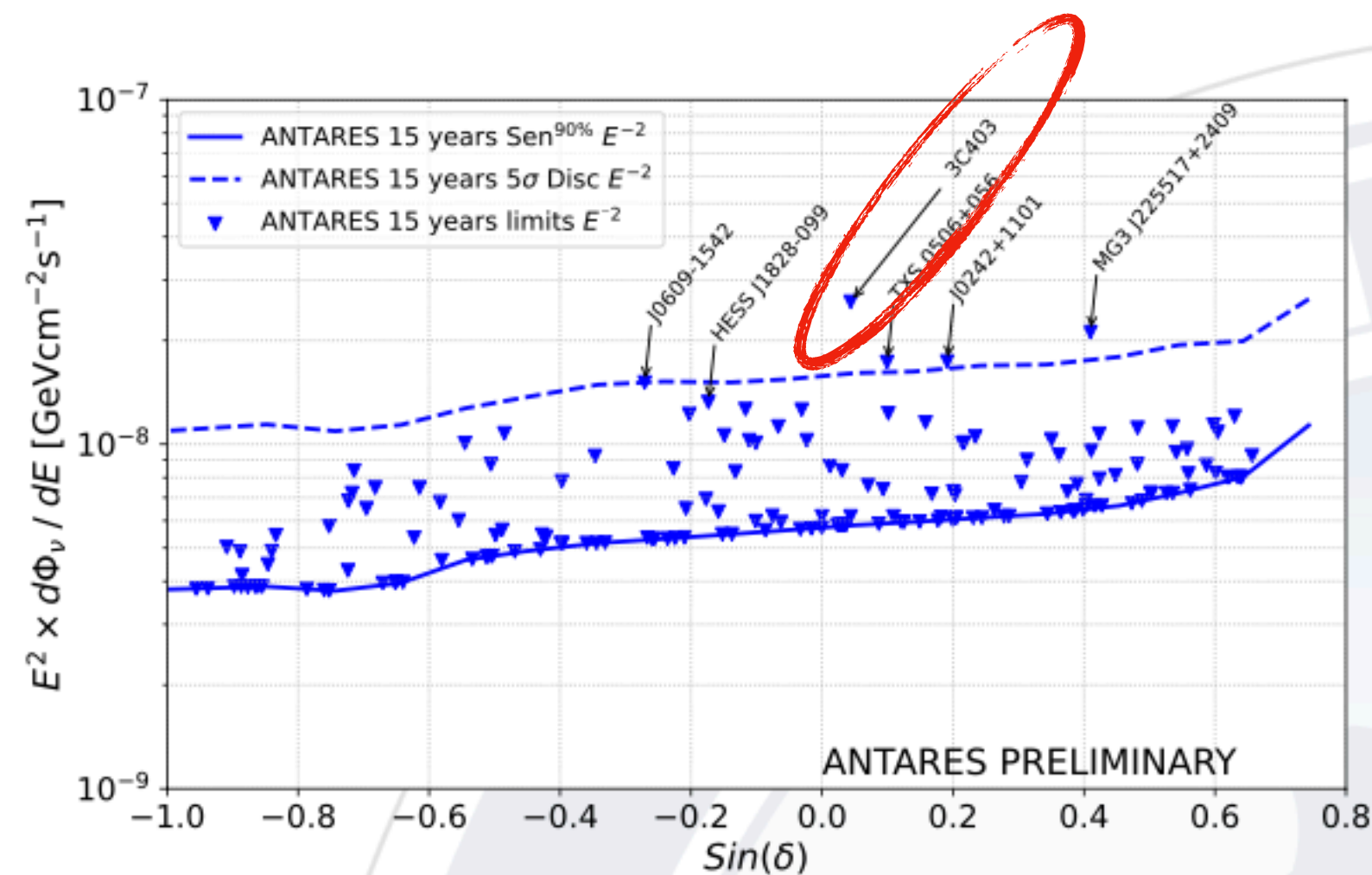
- Three-dimensional array of **885 photomultiplier tubes**.
- 2500 m below the surface of the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- Completed in 2008, decommissioned in 2022.

### Data set:

- **Complete coverage:** from January 29, 2007 to February 13, 2022 (4541 days of lifetime).
- **11029 track** and **239 shower** good-quality events.
- Tracks:  $\sim 0.4^\circ$  median angular resolution.
- Showers:  $\sim 3^\circ$  median angular resolution.



## Candidate-List Search



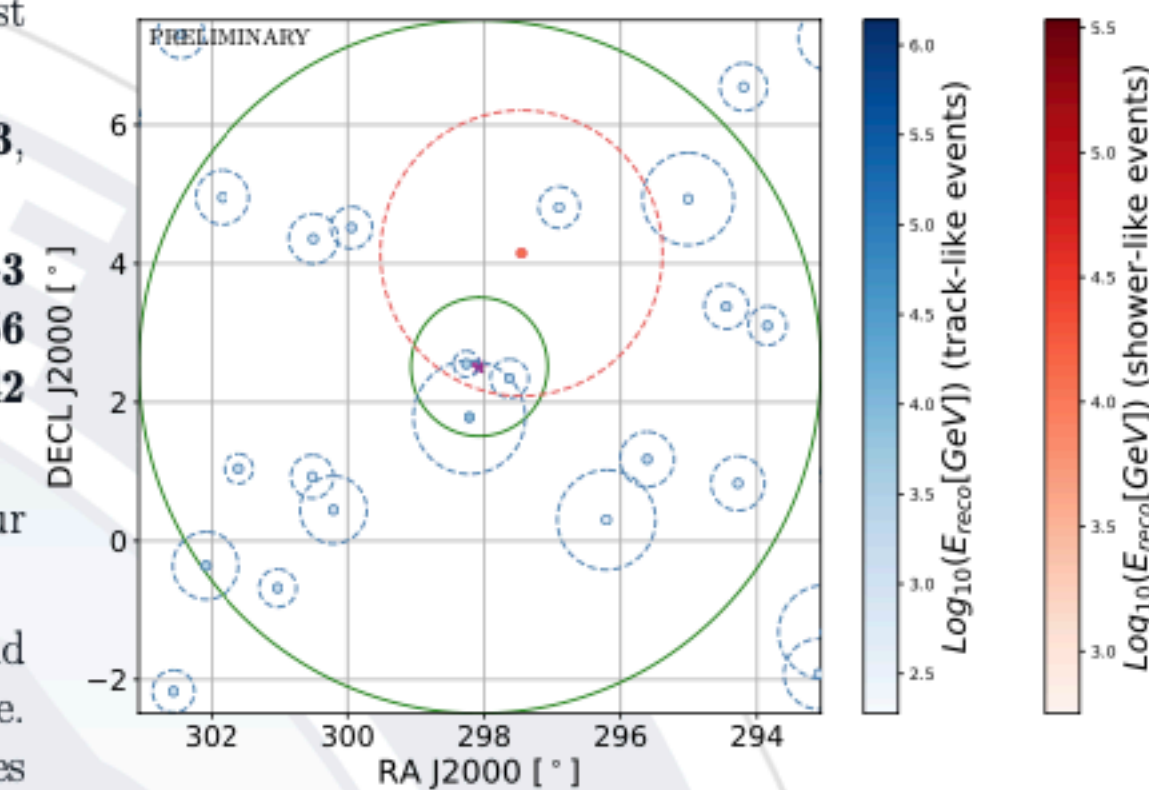
- **167 sources investigated.** No significant evidence of cosmic neutrino sources found (list available at contribution proceeding).

- **Highest significant source: AGN 3C403,** 4.1 $\sigma$  pre-trial (2.7 $\sigma$  post-trial) significance.

- **Other significant sources:** MG3 J225517+2409 (2.9 $\sigma$ ), TXS 0506+056 (2.6 $\sigma$ ), J0242+1101 (2.6 $\sigma$ ), J0609-1542 (2.5 $\sigma$ ) and HESS J1828-099 (2 $\sigma$ ).

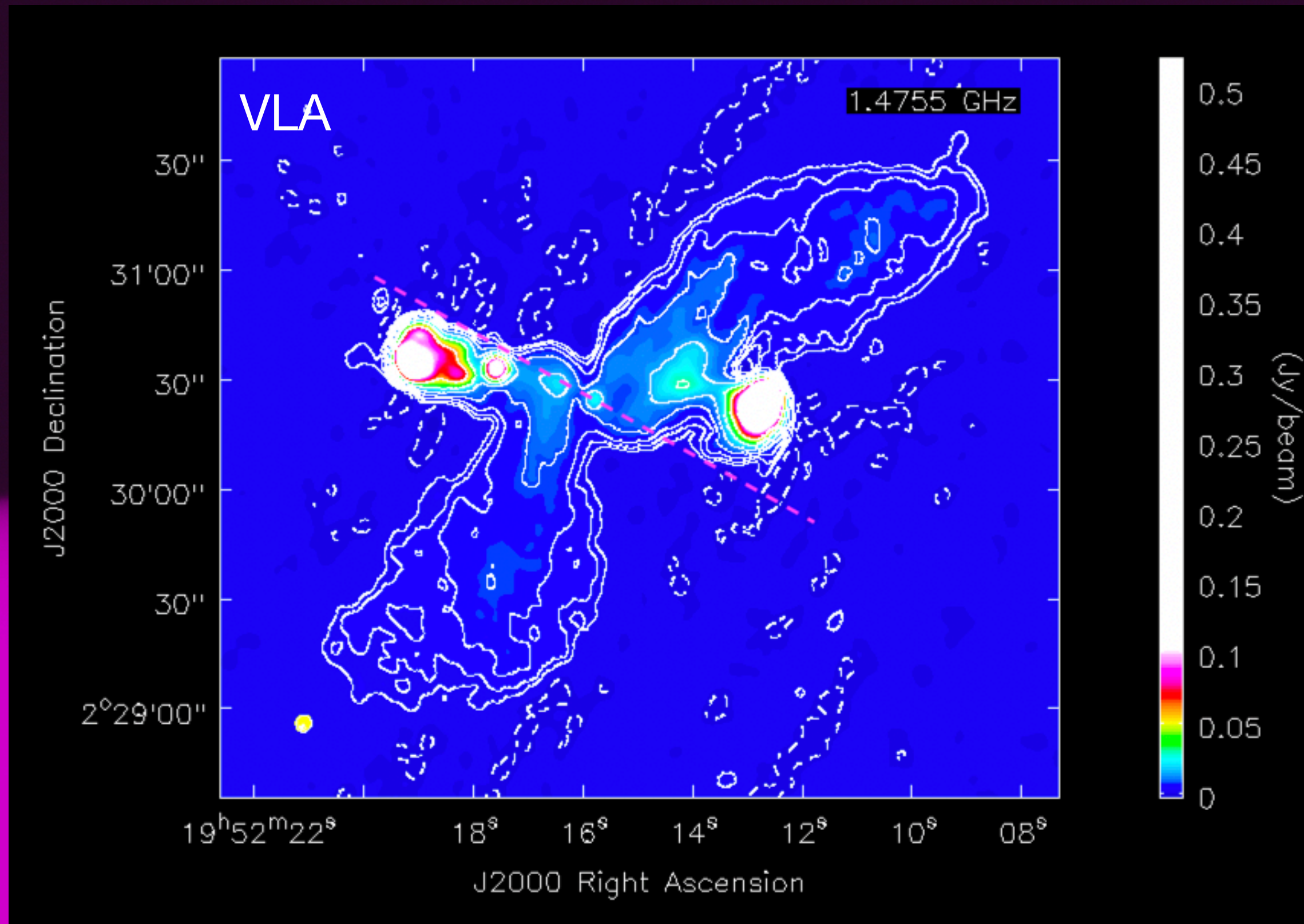
- **Left: 90% C.L. limits** on the one-flavour neutrino flux normalization.

- **Right: Skymap** of the events found around the direction of the most promising source. Color indicates the energy and dashed ellipses the angular uncertainty. Green ellipses show the 1 $\sigma$  and 5 $\sigma$  distances to the source.

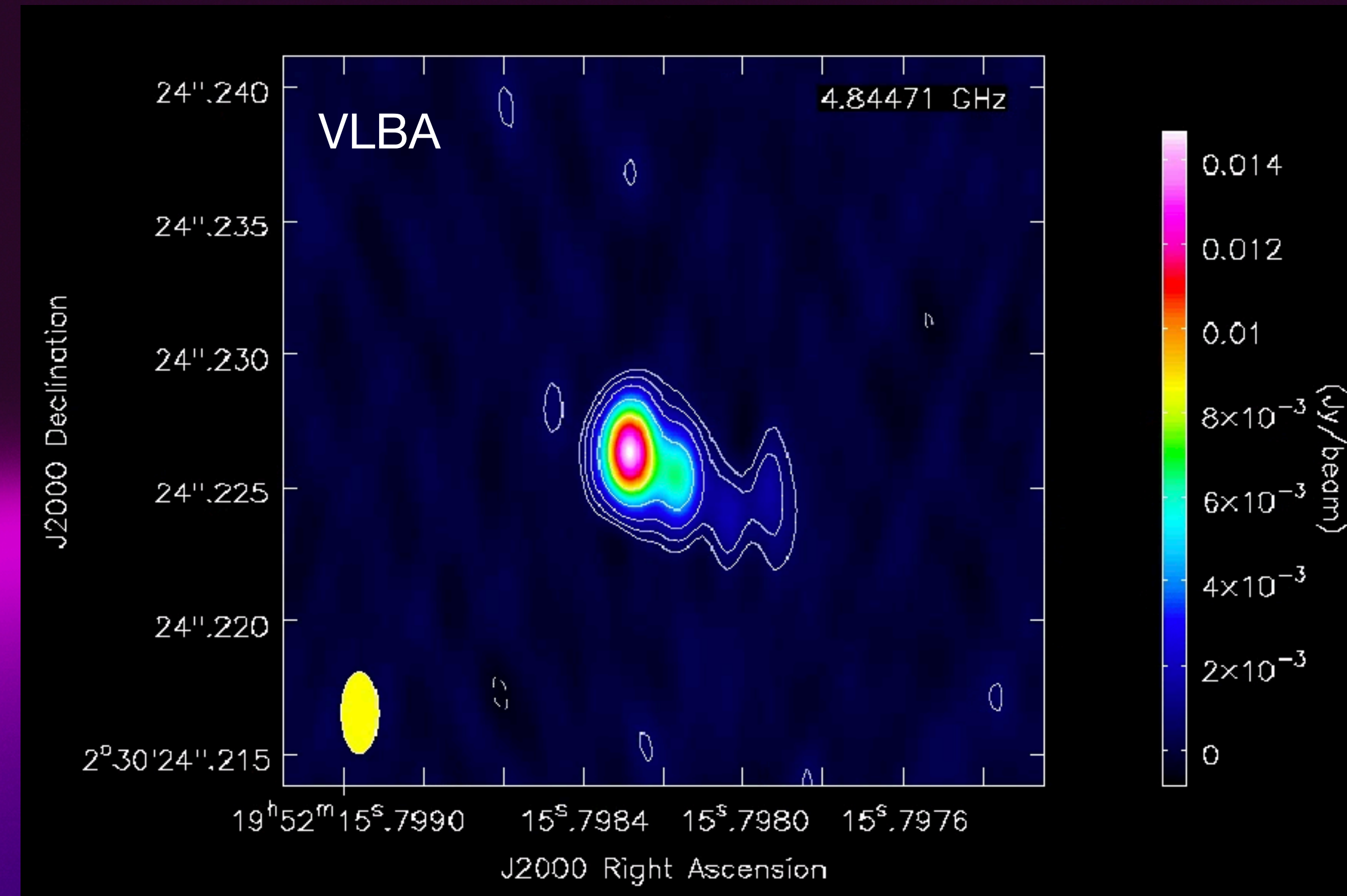




# 3C403 A wobbling jet with neutrino association



- 1.49 GHz, B-conf., June 1994
- beam=4.6x4.2 arcsec
- RMS=6 mJy

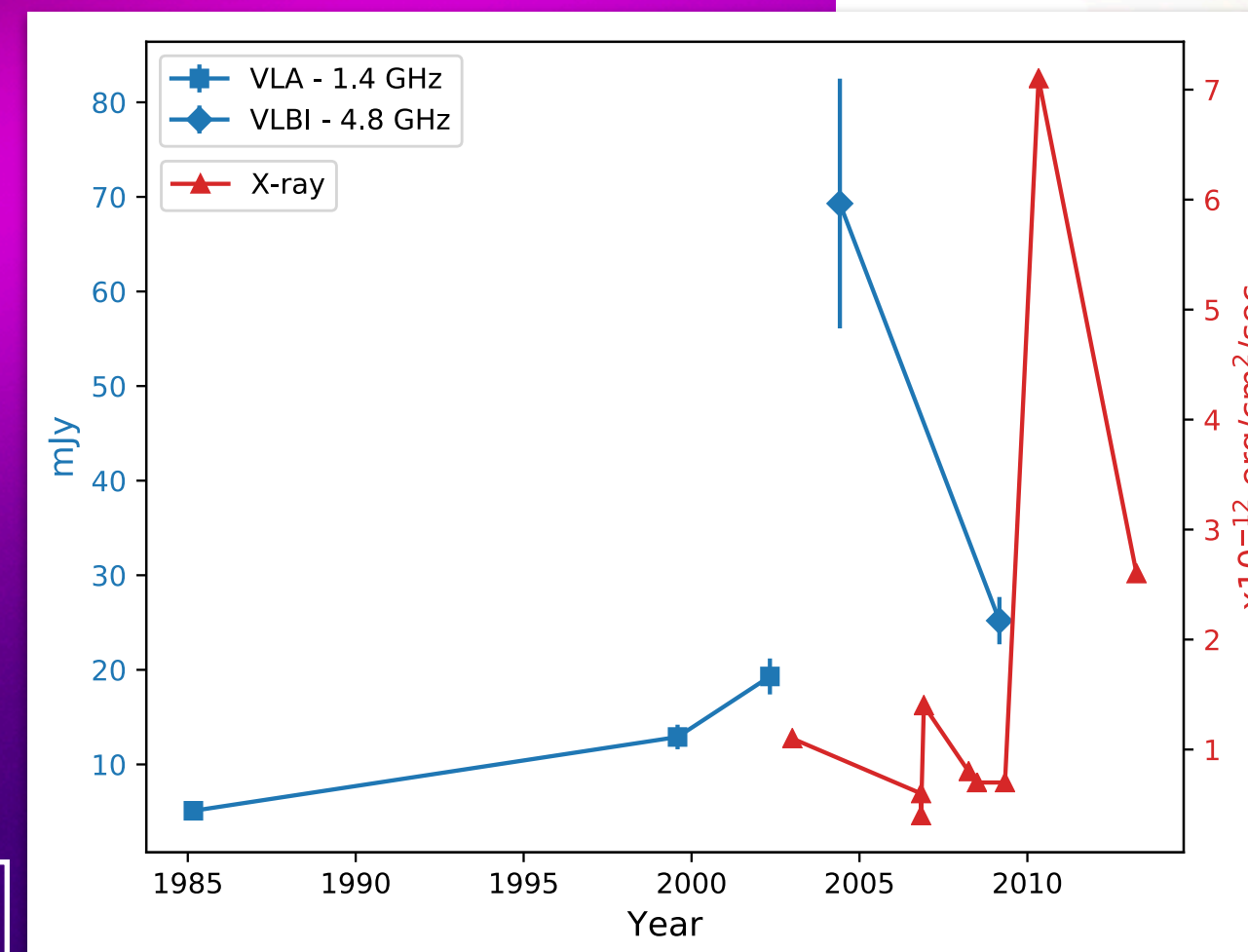
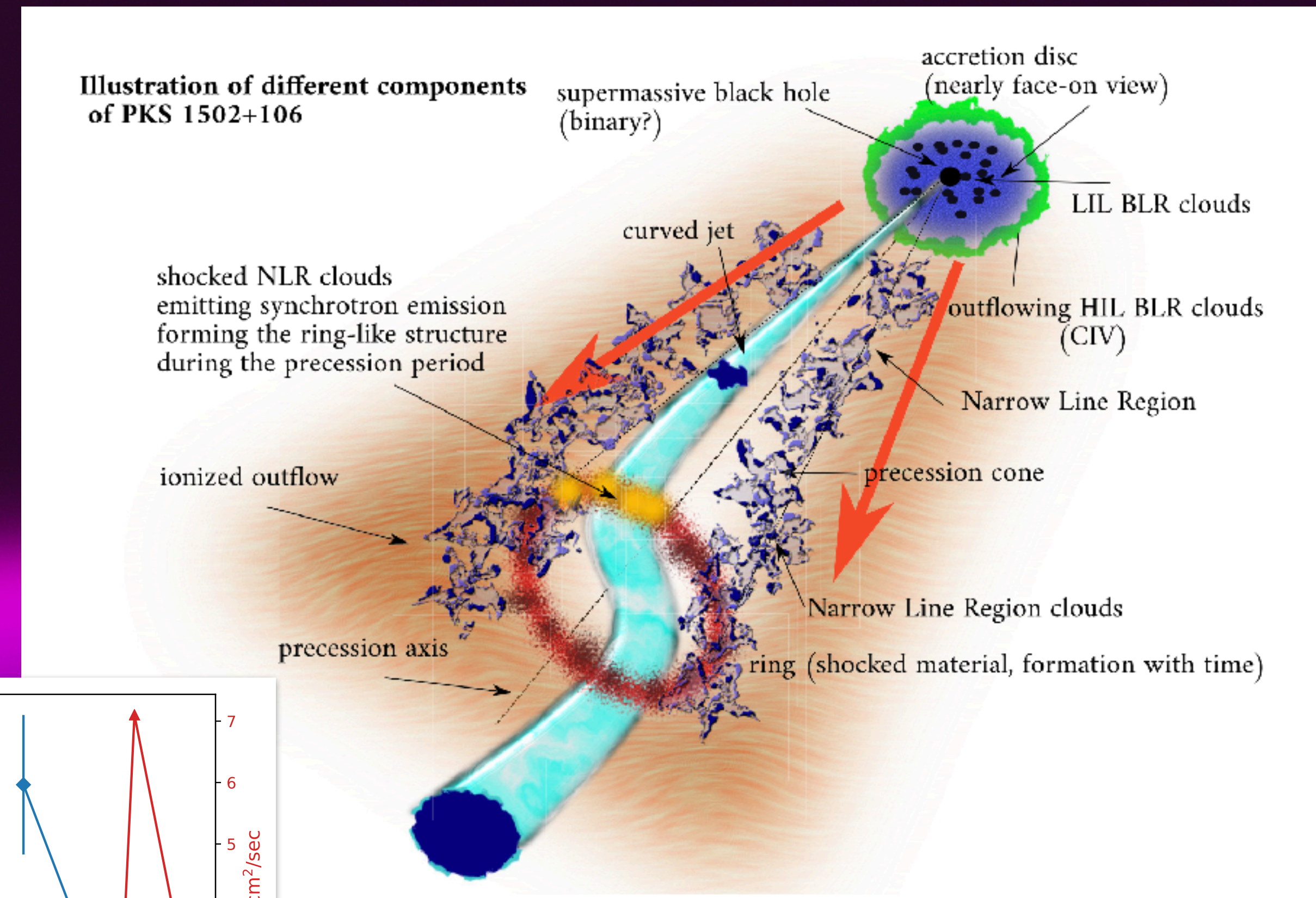


- 4.8 GHz, Feb 2009
- beam=3x1 milli-arcsec
- RMS=0.16 mJy



# 3C403 A wobbling jet with neutrino association

- Precessing jets are possible neutrino emitters, as proposed for the IceCube candidate PKS 1502+106
- The strong radio and X-ray variability found for 3C403 seems to favour the precessing jet scenario
- More radio data obtained (e-MERLIN) to zoom into the central region...
- ...more news in the next months



Bruni et al. In prep.

Britzen et al. 2021





# GRACE project: next steps

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- Comparison of HERG vs LERG: how accretion mode influence jet **duty cycle**?
- **Synchrotron aging** of a pilot sample of 3 Hard X-rays GRG to date the different radio phases
- **VLBI (pc-scale) investigation** of recently restarted jets
- **Archives mining** to study possible X-ray flickering of the core, and correlated jet activity

## Side quests

- Search for **GeV radio galaxies** with ongoing and future deep radio surveys (MeerKAT+, RACS, VLASS, looking forward to SKA and ngVLA)
- Improving our understanding of **neutrino-emitting processes** in misaligned AGN

