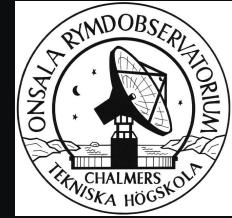


# Misaligned AGN jets from formation to dissipation



Anne-Kathrin Baczko

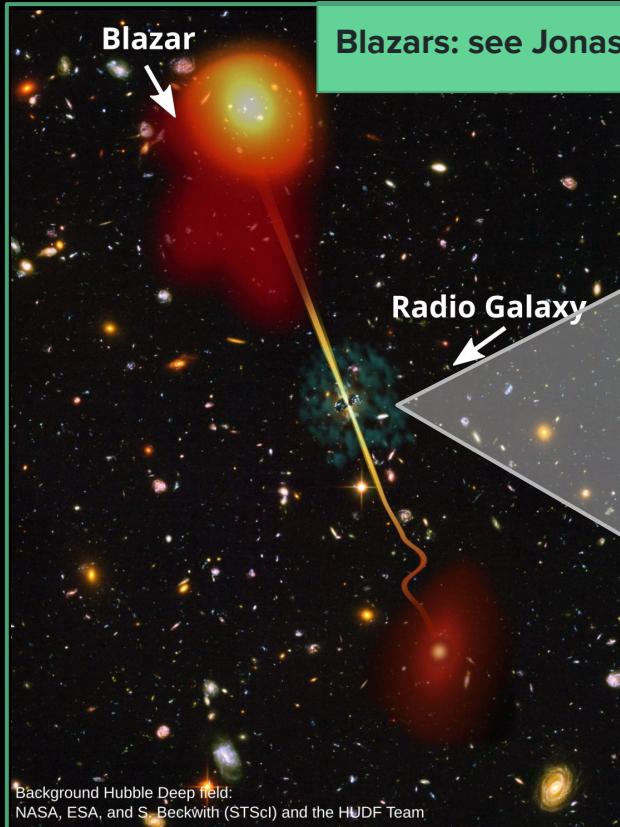
*Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Astronomy and Plasma Physics & Onsala Space Observatory*

Contributors: Dhanya Nair, Dongjin Kim, Eduardo Ros, Matthias Kadler, Manel Perucho, Christian Fromm, Thomas P. Krichbaum, Tuomas Savolainen, Luca Ricci et al.

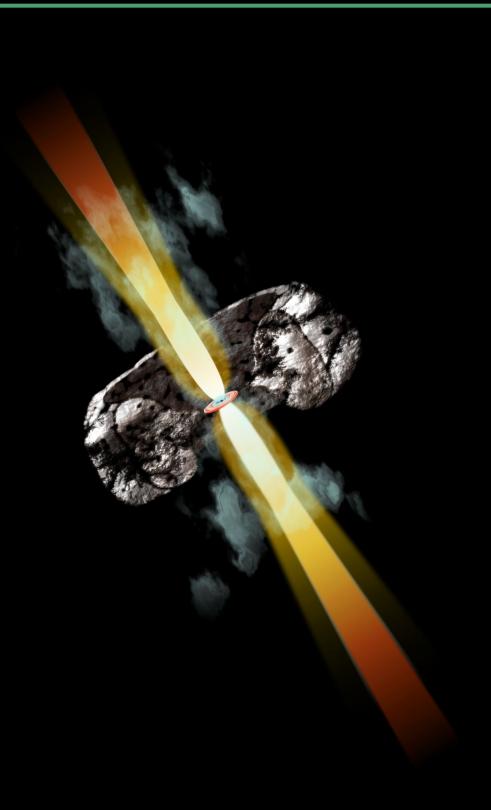


Max-Planck-Institut  
für Radioastronomie

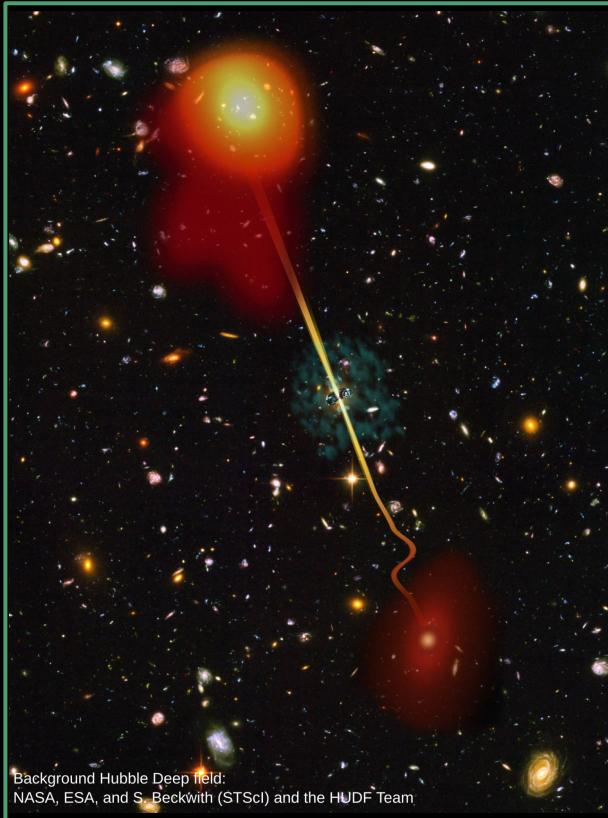
# Active Galactic Nuclei - Setting the stage



large vs small scales



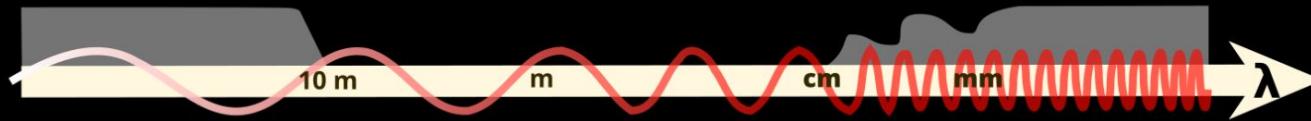
# Active Galactic Nuclei - Open questions



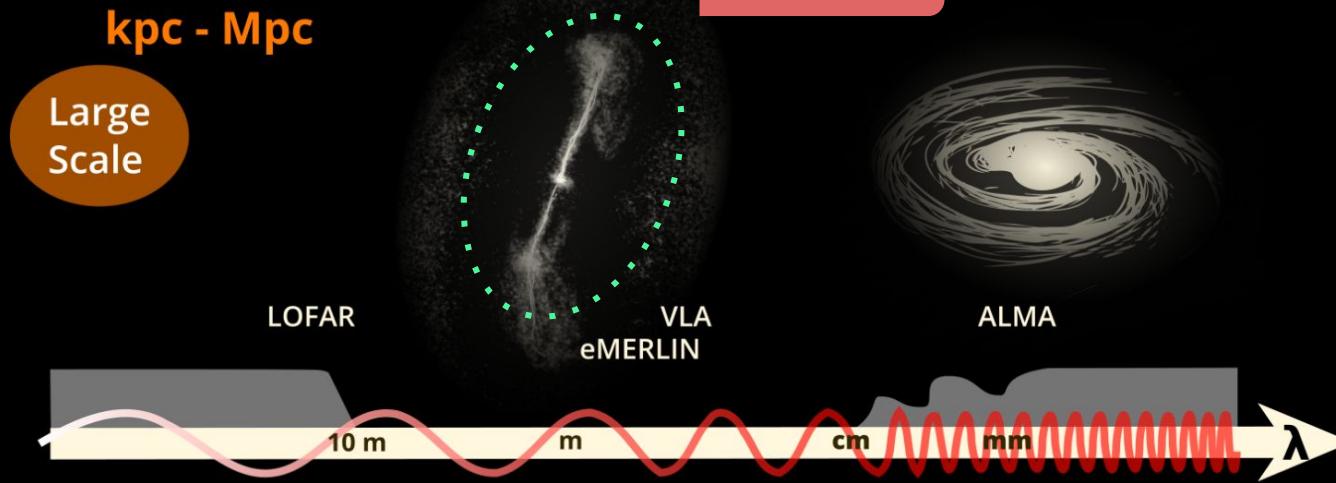
**The physical description of AGN jets and the interaction with the host galaxy are still incomplete:**

- AGN model biased towards bright, strongly Doppler boosted sources
- Physical processes behind jet launching, acceleration, and collimation remains one of the central open questions of extragalactic astronomy
- BH feeding and **AGN feedback**: interactions between central engine, jets, and host galaxy still poorly understood

# RADIO



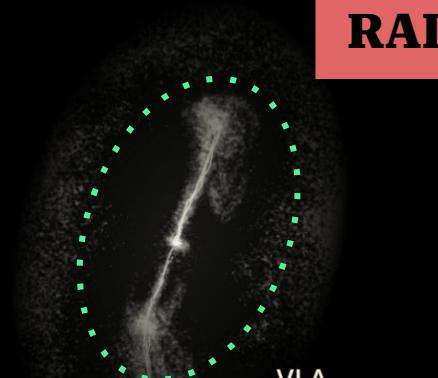
# RADIO



# RADIO

kpc - Mpc

Large Scale



LOFAR

VLA  
eMERLIN

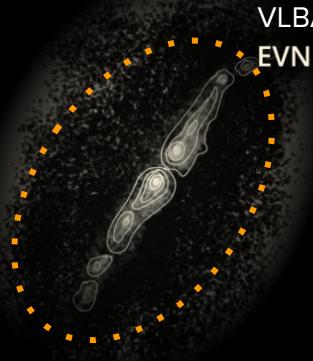


ALMA

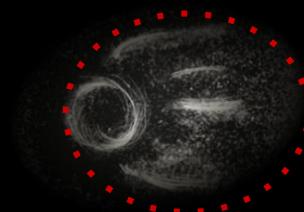


Small Scale

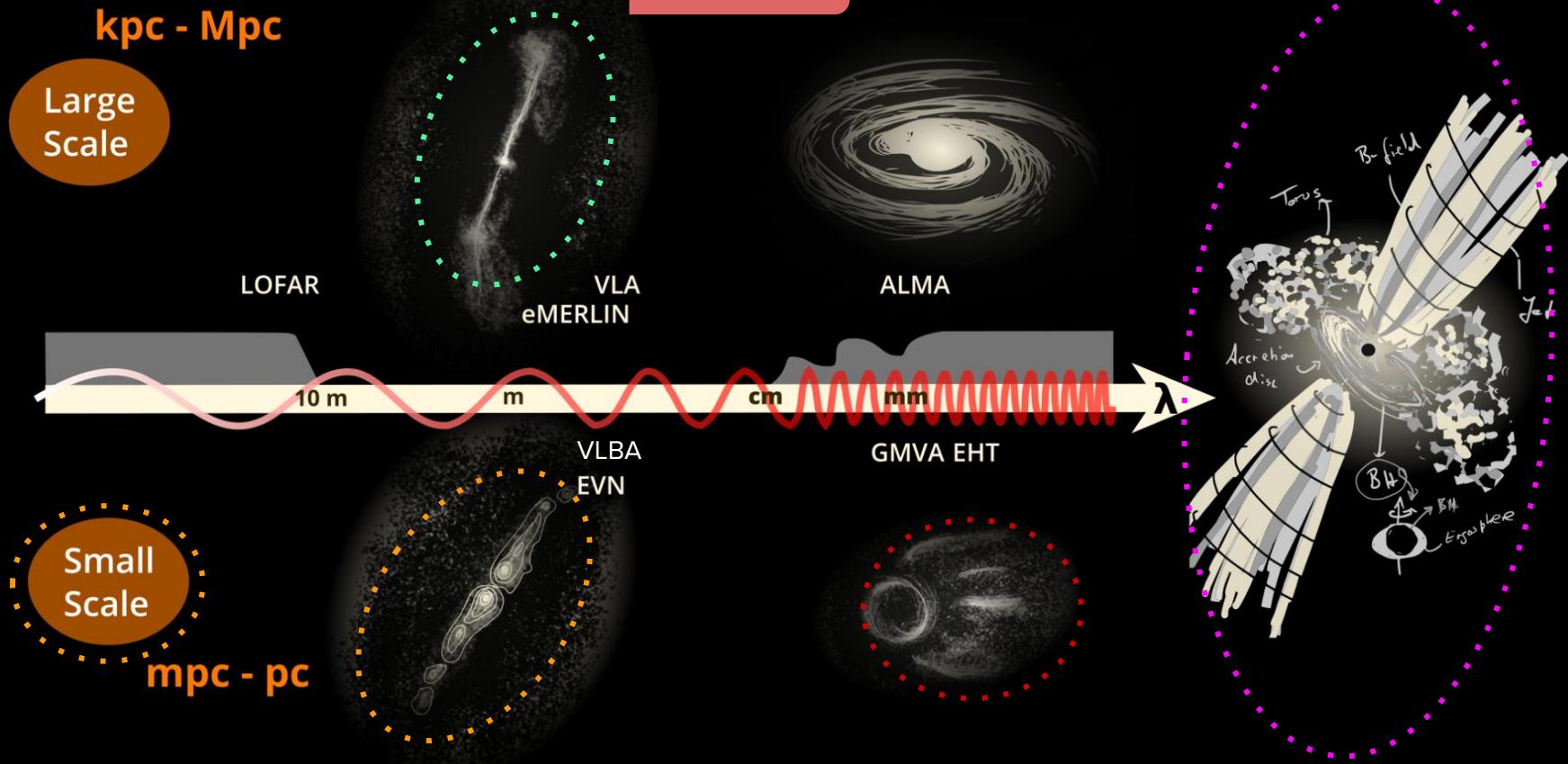
mpc - pc



VLBA  
EVN



# RADIO



# RADIO

kpc - Mpc

Large Scale

FUTURE

LOFAR 2.0

DSA-2000

SKA  
ngVLA  
eMERLIN

10 m

m

cm

mm

$\lambda$

ngVLA

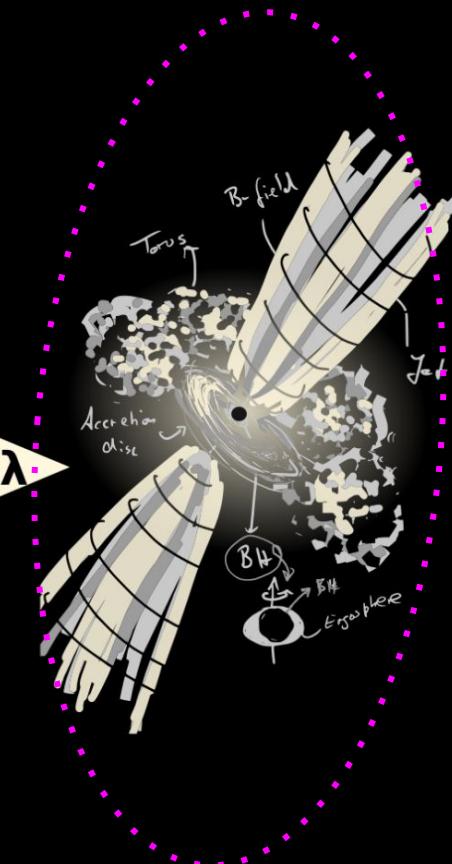
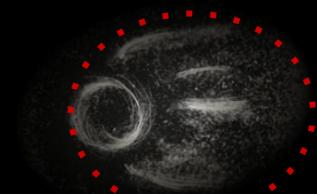
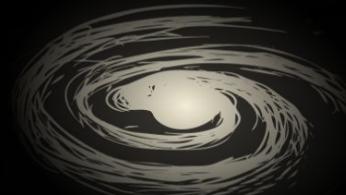
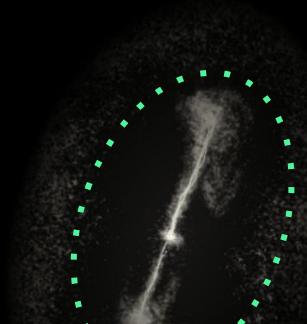
EVN

ALMA

GMVA EHT

Small Scale

mpc - pc

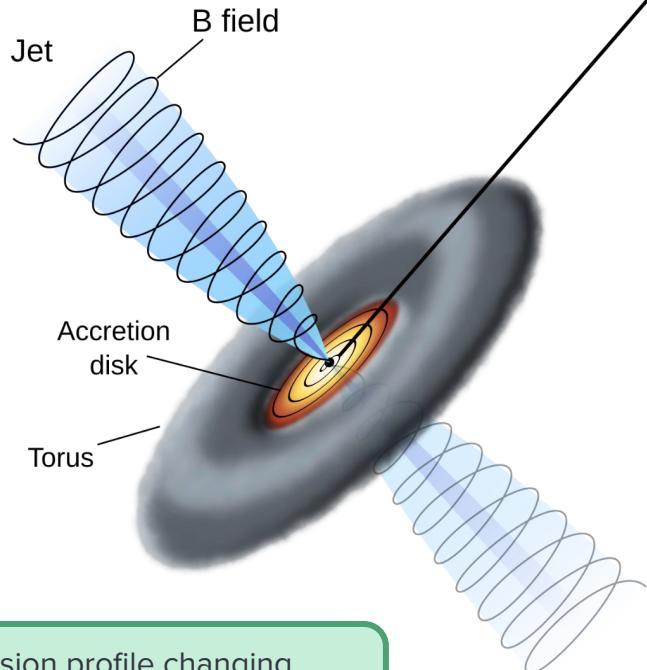


# AGN jets at small scales

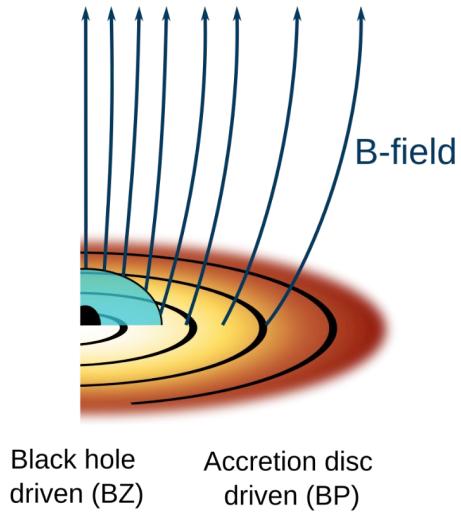
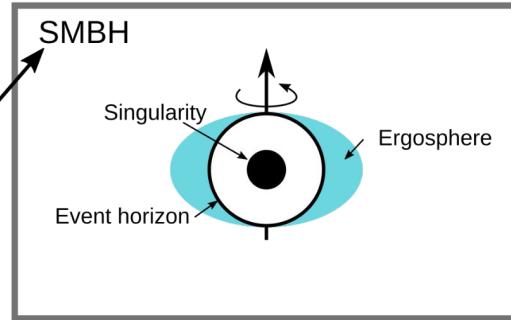
linking observations  
and Physics



# How to model AGN jets

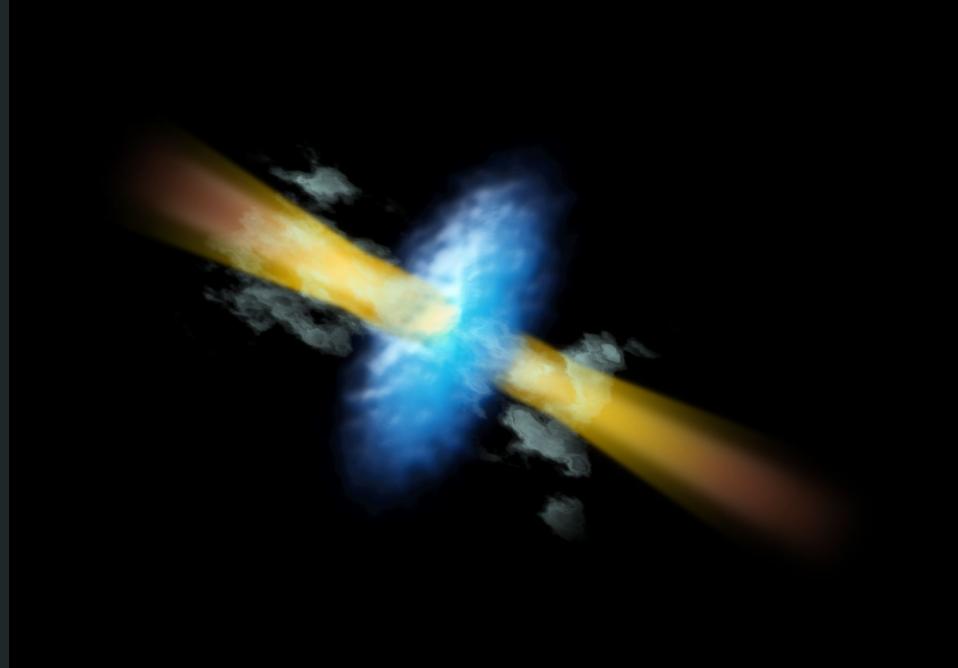


Most jets show an expansion profile changing from **parabolic to conical**



# **NGC 1052:** **Jet collimation** **scales**

Linking observations  
and Physics

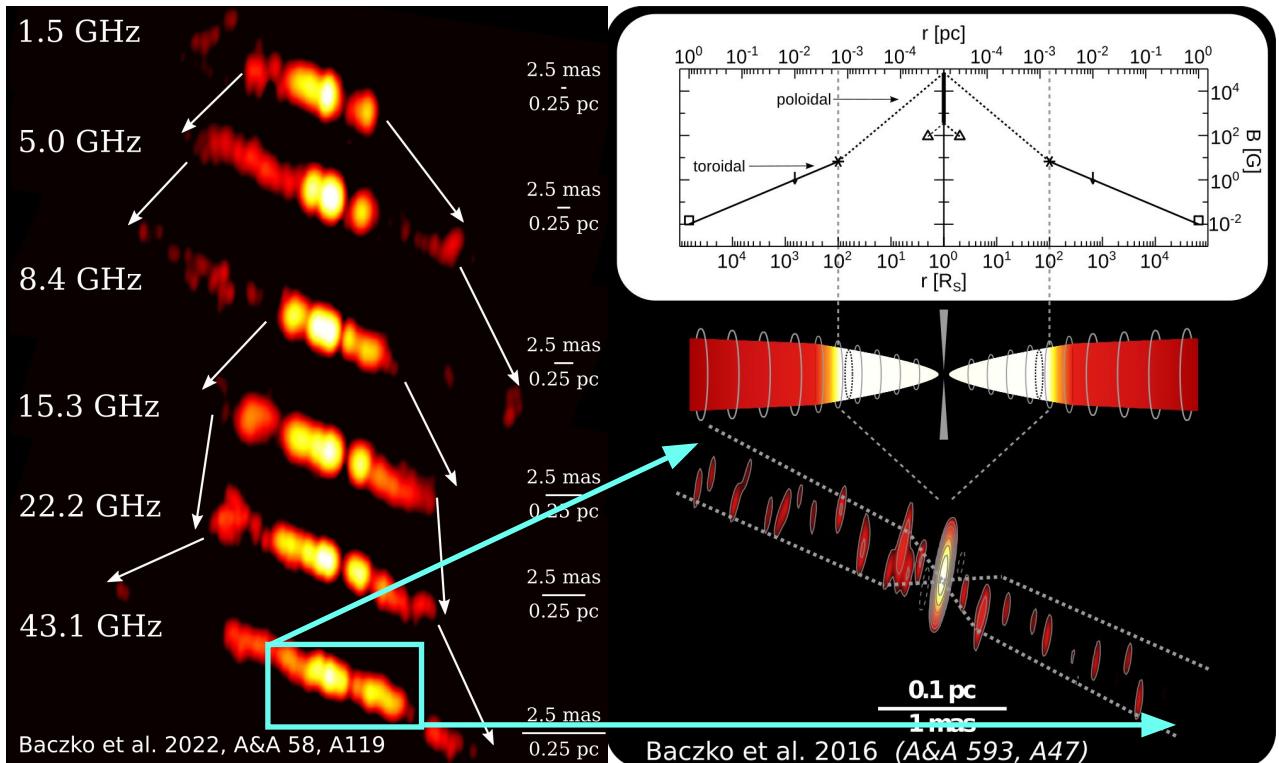


# NGC 1052: A Twin-jet in the plane of the sky

**Distance:** 20 Mpc  
**BH mass:**  $10^{8.2} M_{\odot}$   
**Scale:** 1 mas  $\sim 0.1$  pc  
20  $\mu$ as  $\sim 140 R_S$   
**Inclination:** nearly 90°

Classified as LINER galaxy

At  $1 R_S$ :  $200 \text{ G} < B < 8 \times 10^4 \text{ G}$   
(Baczko et al. 2016 A&A 593 A47)  
**Asymmetric twin jet**  
(Baczko et al. 2019 A&A 623 A27)  
**Non-parabolic Collimation**  
(Baczko et al. 2022 A&A 658 A119)



# NGC 1052: Multi-frequency campaign

(Baczko et al. 2022 A&A 658 A119)

2005-2009 VLBA 22 & 43 GHz  
1995-2012 VLBA (MOJAVE) 15 GHz

2016 Global RadioAstron 22 GHz

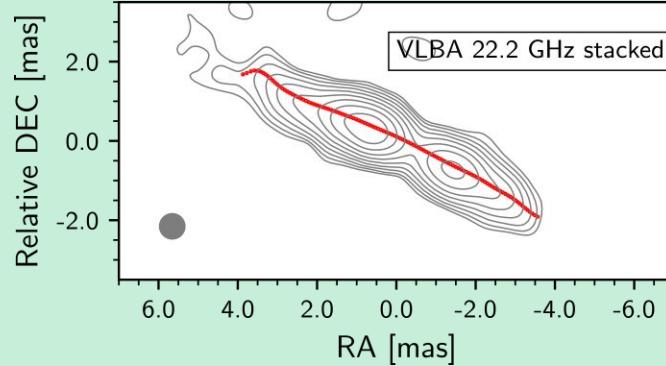
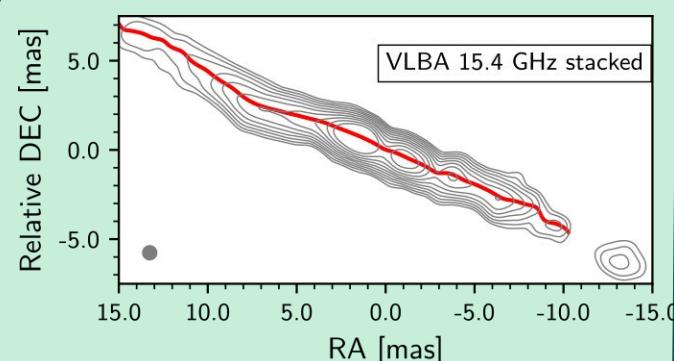
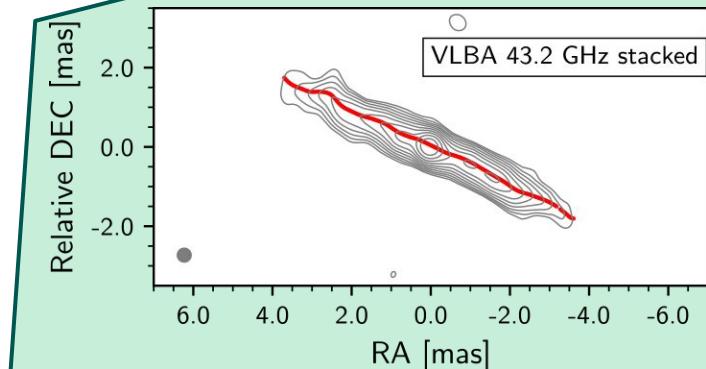
2017

VLBA 1.5 – 43 GHz

GMVA 86 GHz

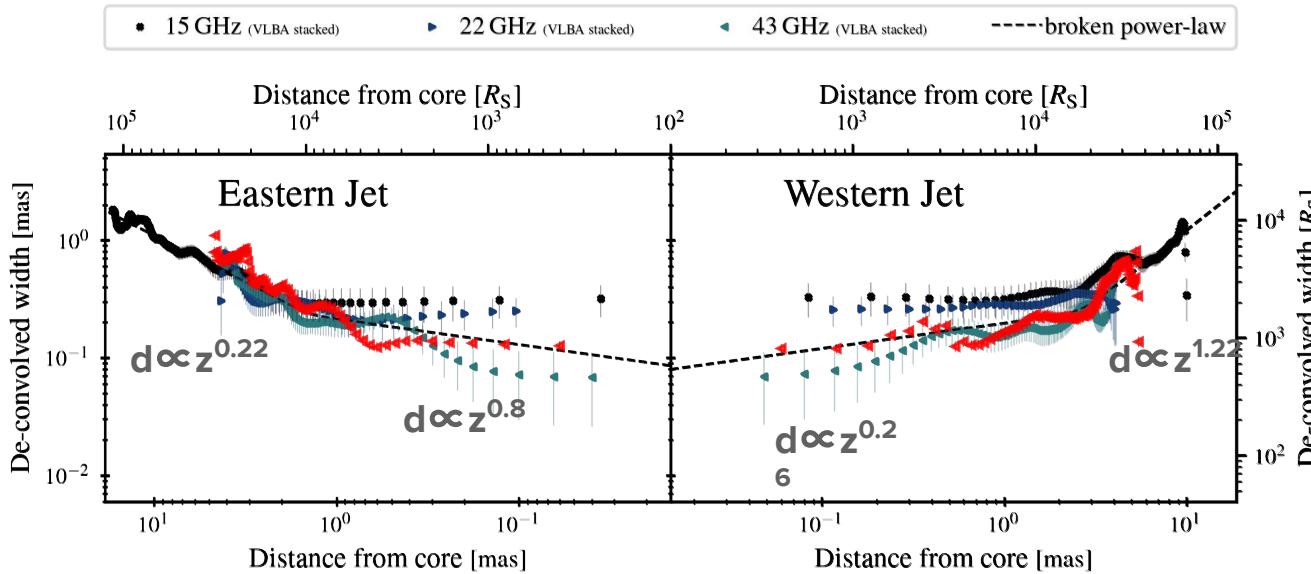
EHT 230 GHz

VLBA stacked images



# NGC 1052: Jet collimation

(Baczko et al. 2022 A&A 658 A119)



**Red:** Newest 43 GHz 3 epoch stacked (Luca Ricci+ in prep)

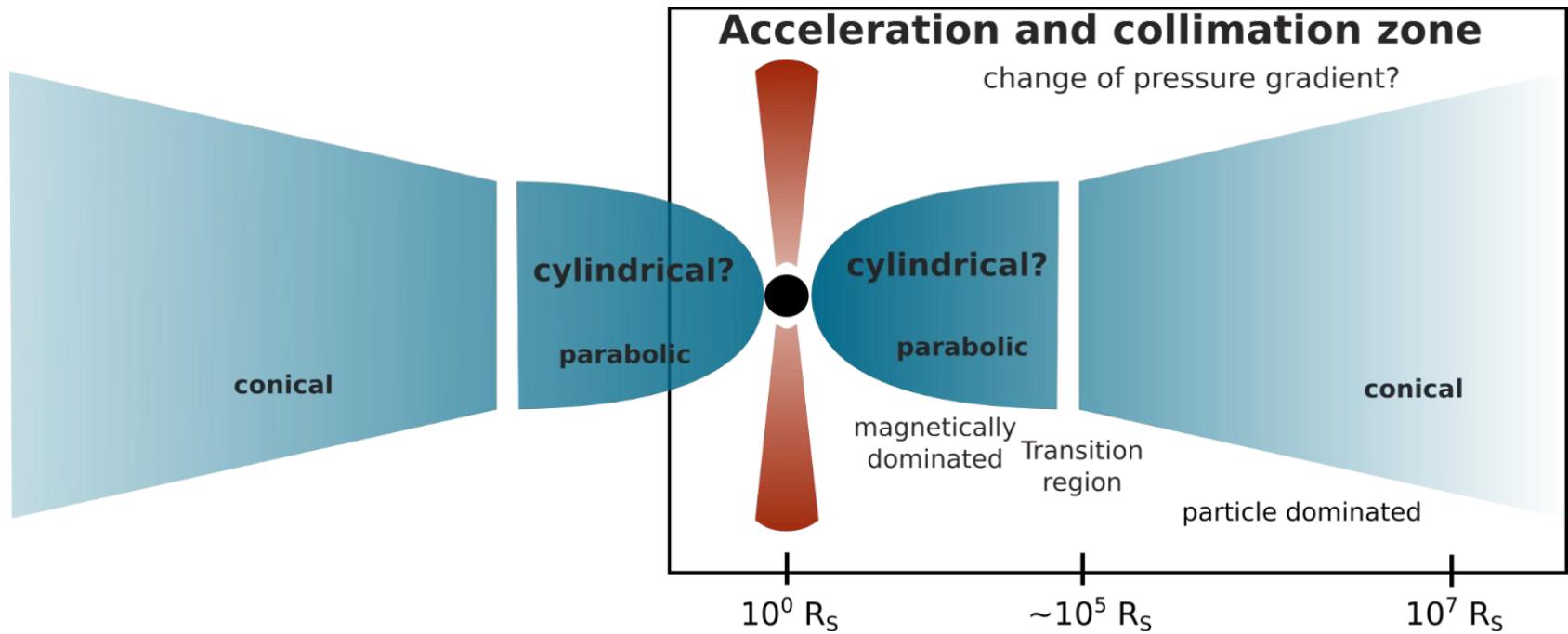
43GHz: Slope steepens  
spine-sheath?

**Supporting this scenario:**  
Inner jet at 43 GHz faster  
with hints off acceleration

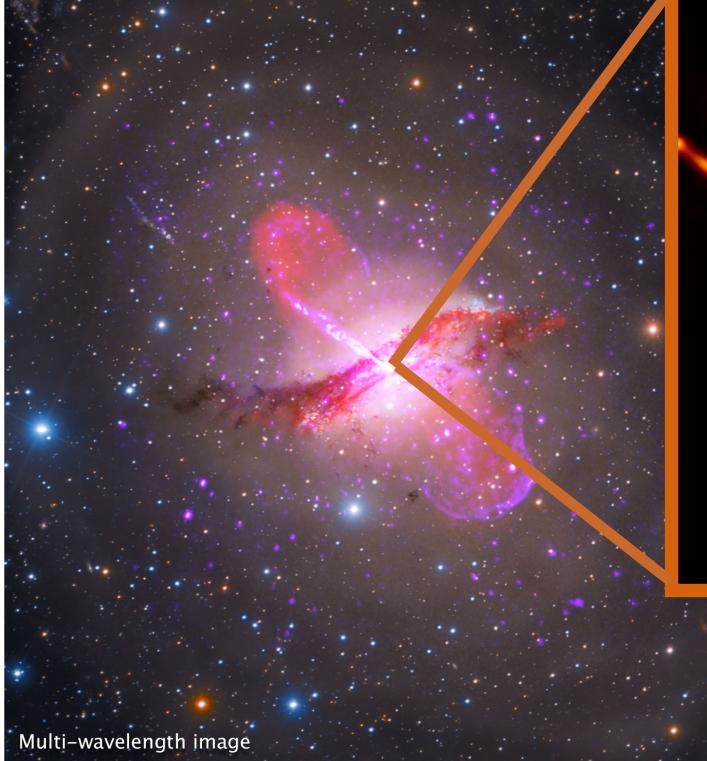
15GHz:  $\beta \simeq 0.25$

43GHz:  $\beta \simeq 0.50$

# The acceleration and collimation zone studied with multi-frequency VLBI



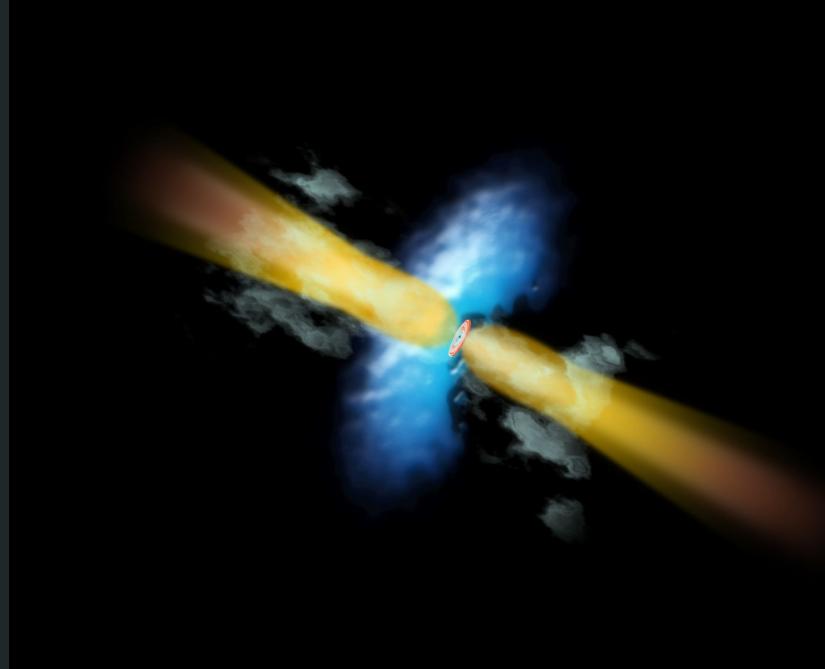
# Centaurus A: edge brightened at EHT scales



Do we just not have high enough resolution to resolve an edge-brightening in NGC 1052?

# Jet formation scales

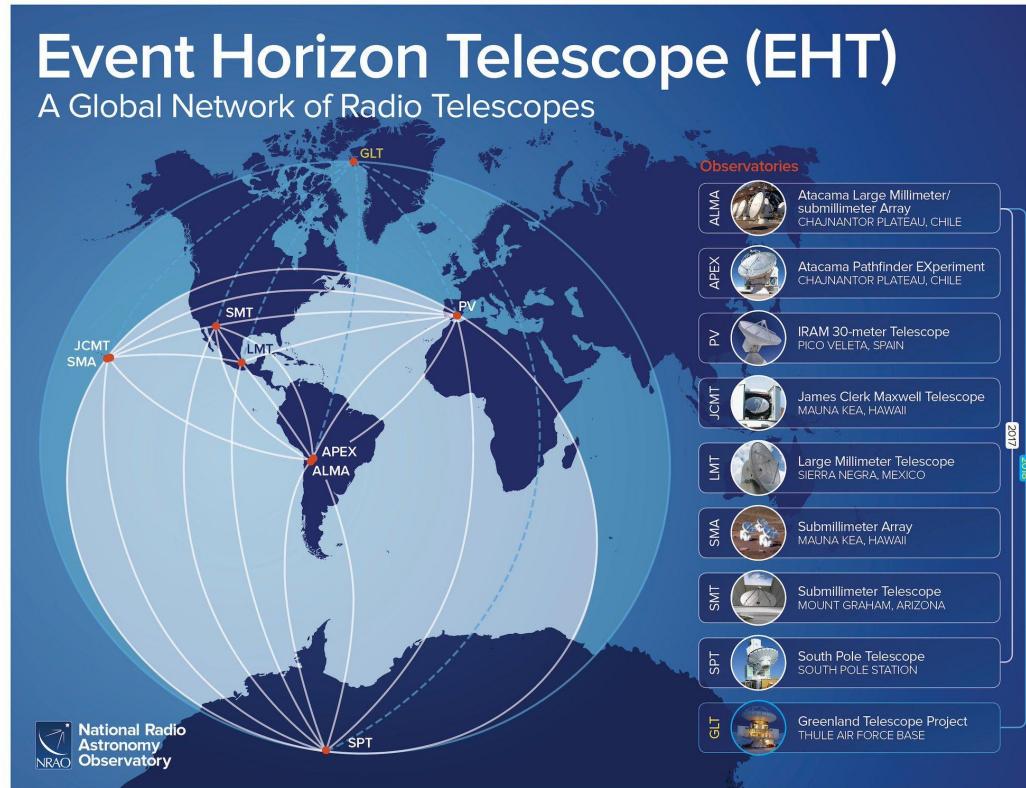
Towards  
the central engine





Event Horizon Telescope

# The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) to study SMBHs



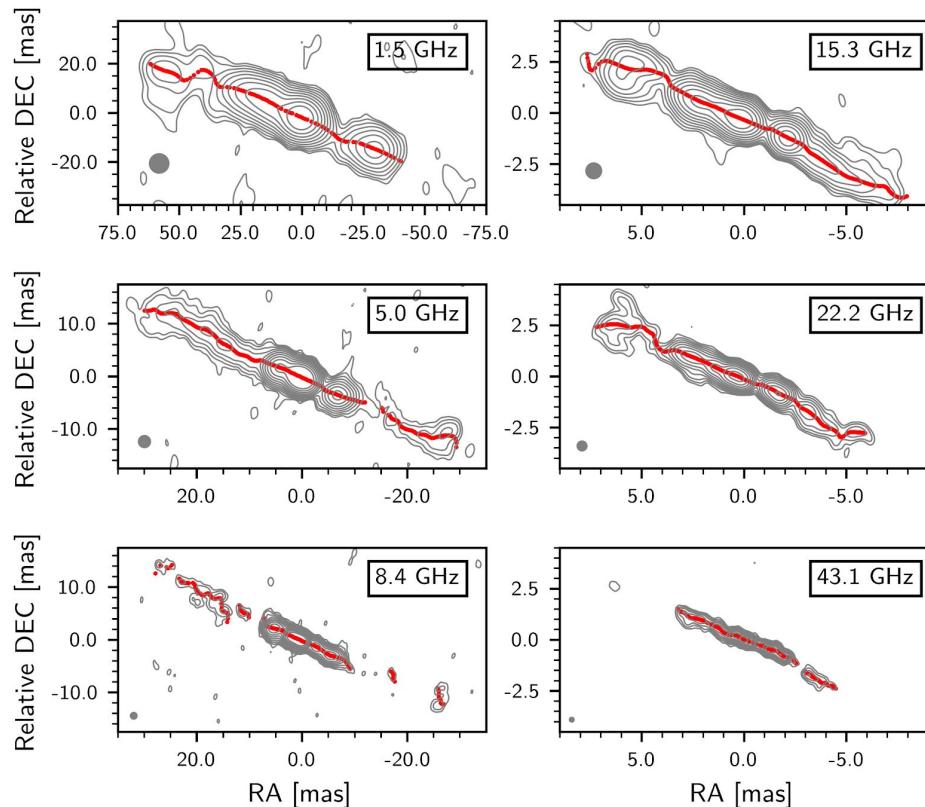
# NGC 1052: observing campaign 2017

**2005-2009 VLBA** 22 & 43 GHz

**1995-2012 VLBA (MOJAVE)** 15 GHz

**2016 Global RadioAstron** 22 GHz

**2017**  
**VLBA** 1.5 – 43 GHz  
**GMVA** 86 GHz  
**EHT** 230 GHz



Baczko et al. 2024 A&A, in press

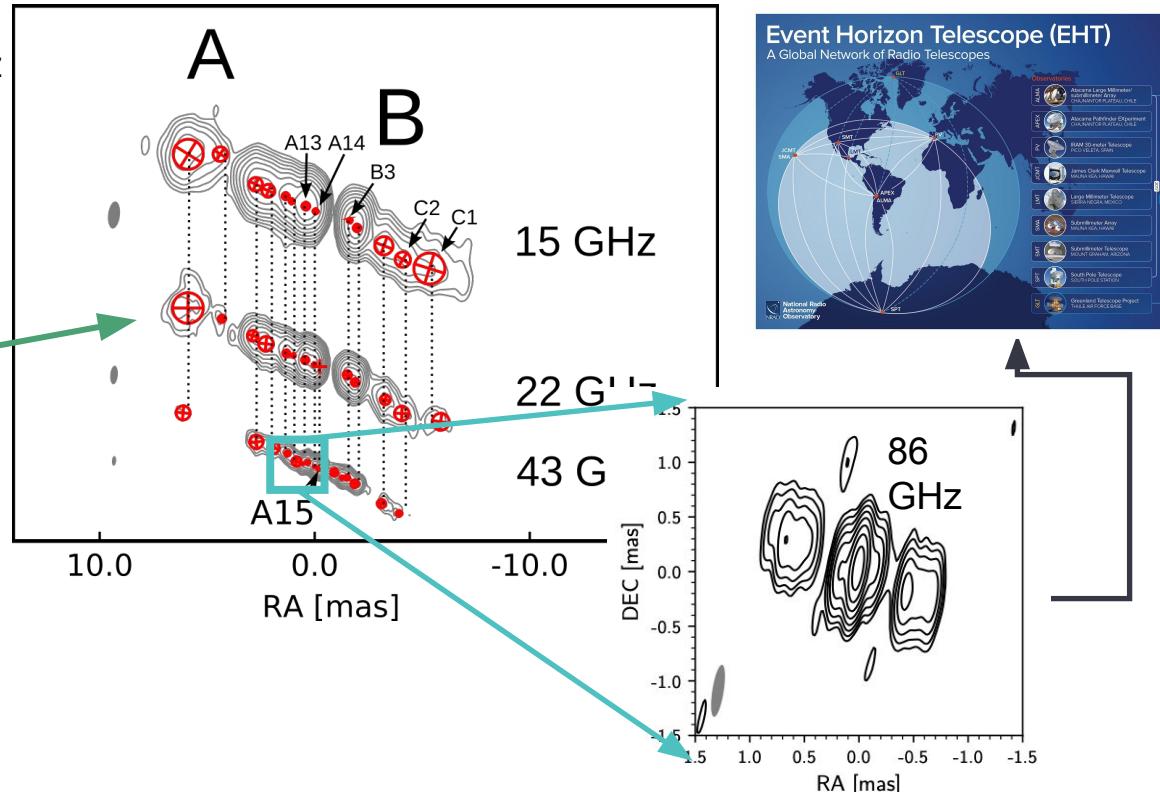
# NGC 1052: observing campaign 2017

**2005-2009 VLBA** 22 & 43 GHz

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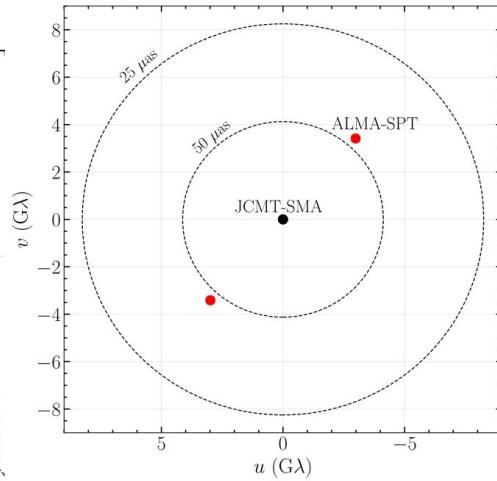
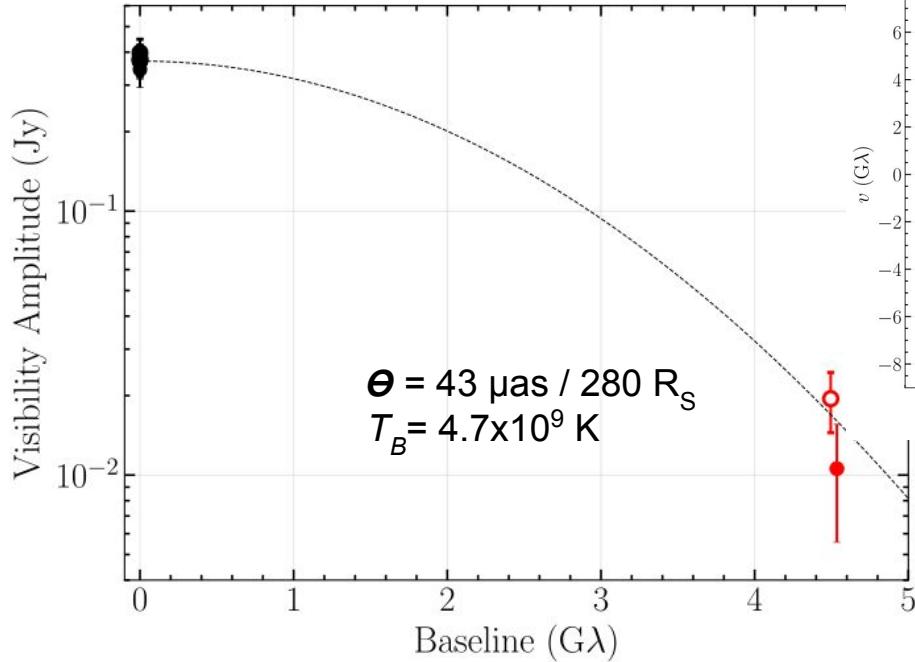
**2016 Global RadioAstron** 22 GHz

**2017**  
**VLBA** 1.5 – 43 GHz  
**GMVA** 86 GHz  
**EHT** 230 GHz



Baczko et al. 2024 A&A, in press

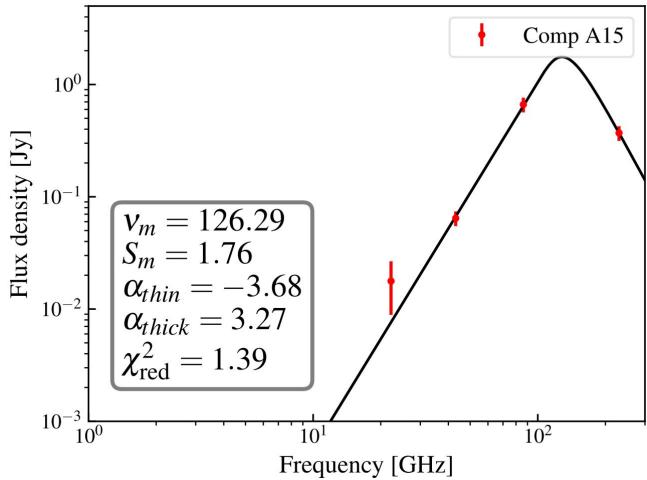
# NGC 1052: 230 GHz EHT 2017



EHT PI: **M. Kadler** (U. Würzburg)

Detection allows estimation of  $T_b$  and comparison with models (Fromm et al. 2019 A&A 629 A4)

# NGC 1052: at mm-wavelengths



Baczko et al. 2024 A&A in press (17.12.2024)

<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202450898>

Turnover at around 130 GHz:  $B_{SSA} = 1.25 \text{ G}$

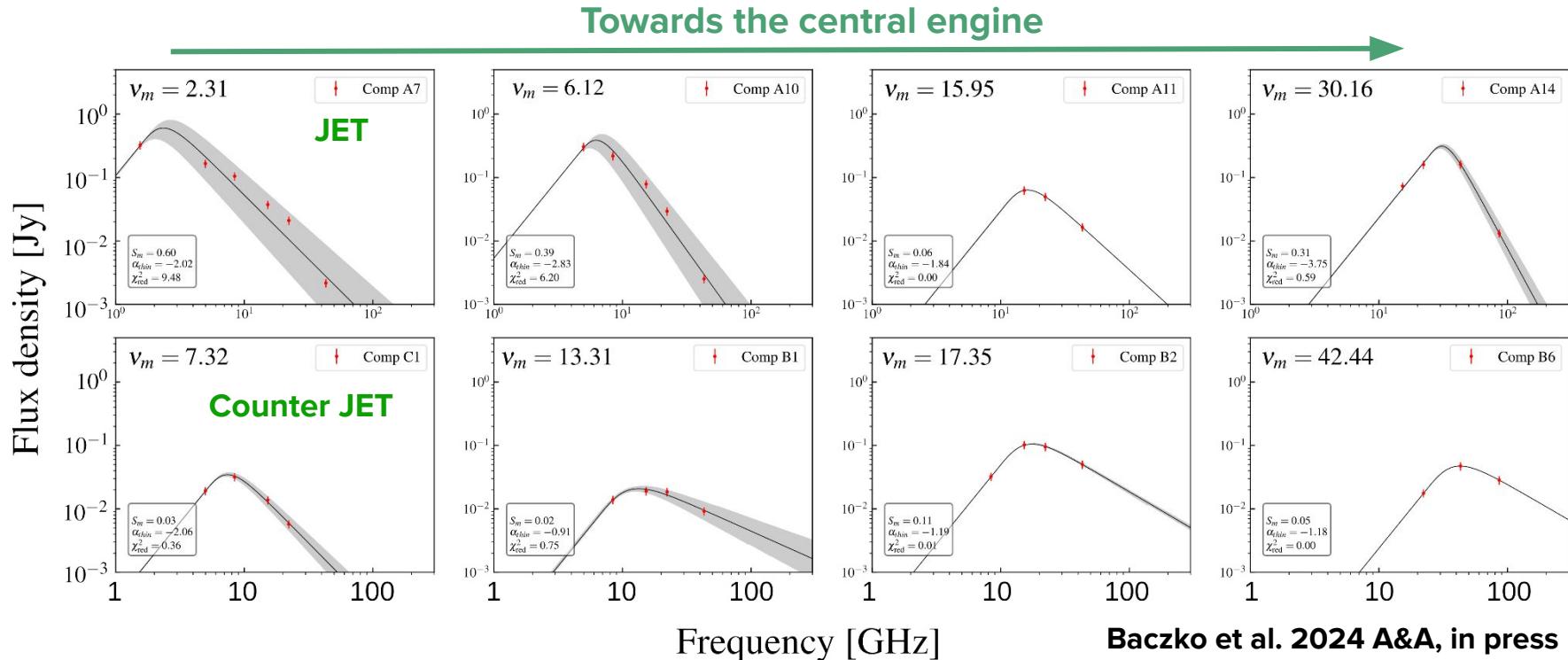
Implies a B-field at  $1 R_s$   $392 \text{ G} < B < 2.6 \cdot 10^4 \text{ G}$   
 depending on the B-field morphology (poloidal/toroidal)

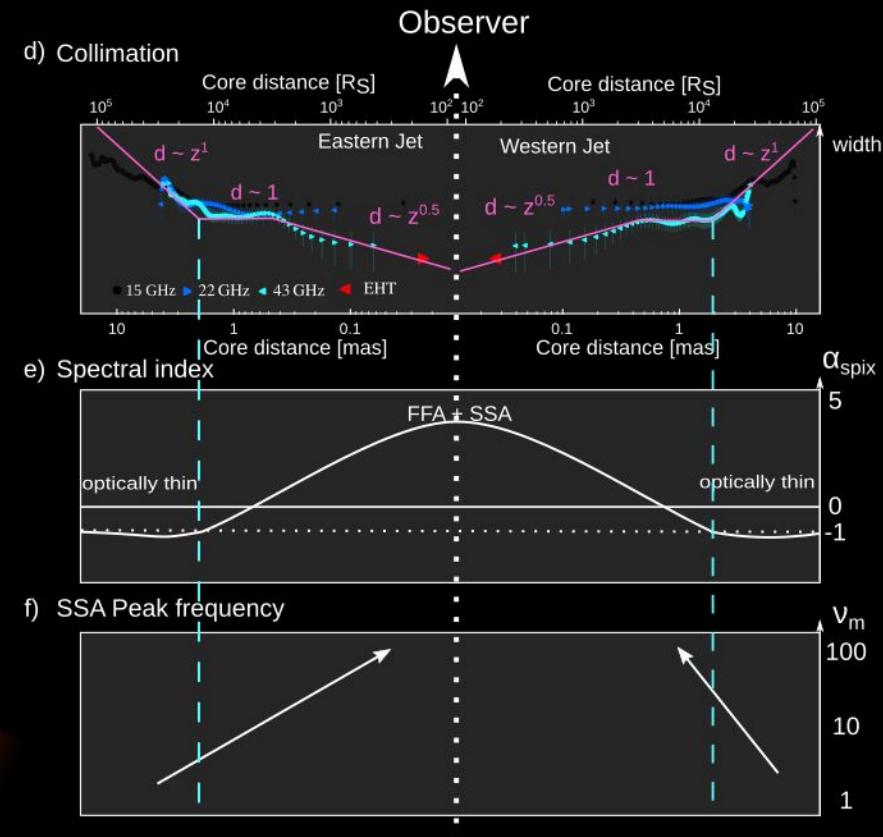
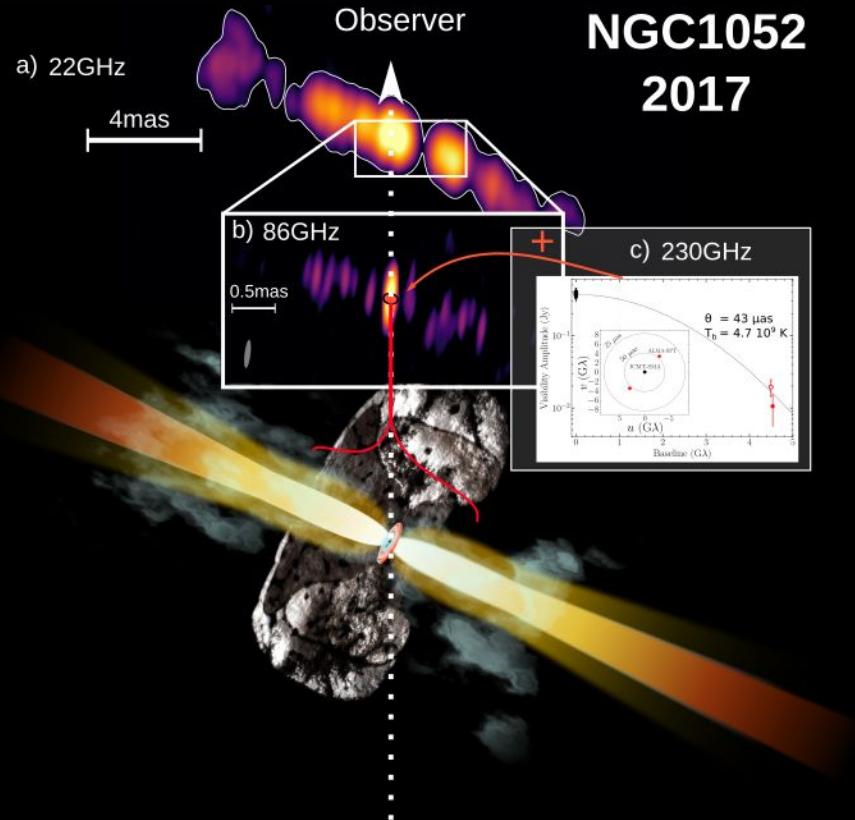


3-epoch 86 GHz GMVA monitoring data reduction in progress (Luca Ricci):

- Time-variability of 43 GHz and 86 GHz structure
- Extent collimation study towards closer distances to the center
- Spectral Index 43 to 86 GHz

# NGC 1052: Peak frequency shifts





Baczko et al. 2024 A&A, in press  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202450898>

# AGN jets at large scales

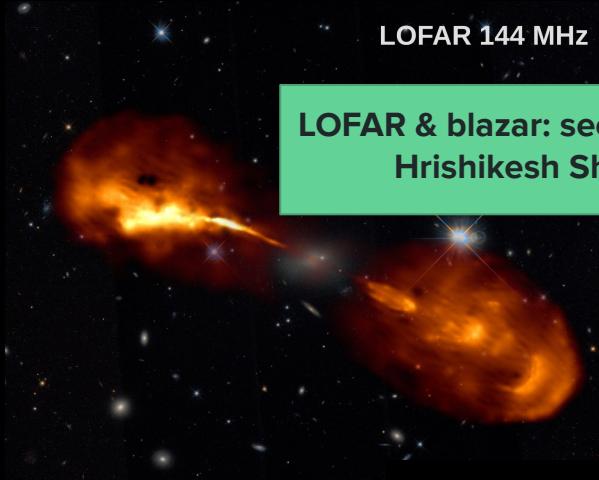
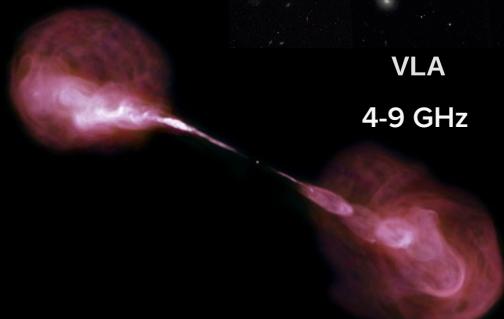
AGN as seen by VLA and LOFAR



Background Hubble Deep field:  
NASA, ESA, and S. Beckwith (STScI) and the Hubble Team

# AGN at large scales with LOFAR

Hercules A



LOFAR & blazar: see  
Hrishikesh Shetgaonkar

Timmerman+ 21

jet grows stronger and  
weaker every few  
hundred thousand  
years

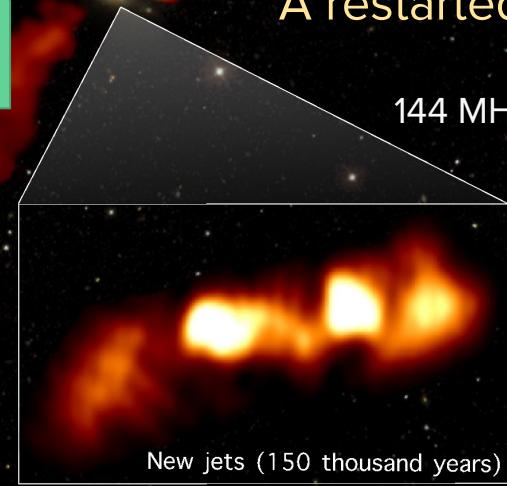
Old Jets (13 million years)

3C293

A restarted jet

144 MHz

New jets (150 thousand years)



Credit: P. Kukreti; LOFAR & Sloan  
Digital Sky Survey

Saxton, Cotton and Perley (NRAO/AUI/NSF)

Anne-Kathrin Bacsko, AGN jets from formation to dissipation

UNDERSTANDING AGN

# The bigger picture

Connecting small VLBI scales  
with large radio scales **today**

Anne-Kathrin Baczko, AGN jets from formation to dissipation



Background Hubble Deep field:  
NASA, ESA, and S. Beckwith (STScI) and the HUDF Team

# Part of a pilot study including HSA and EVN

## Candidate double-sided jets at $z < 0.1$ at 5 GHz (EVN)

M 84

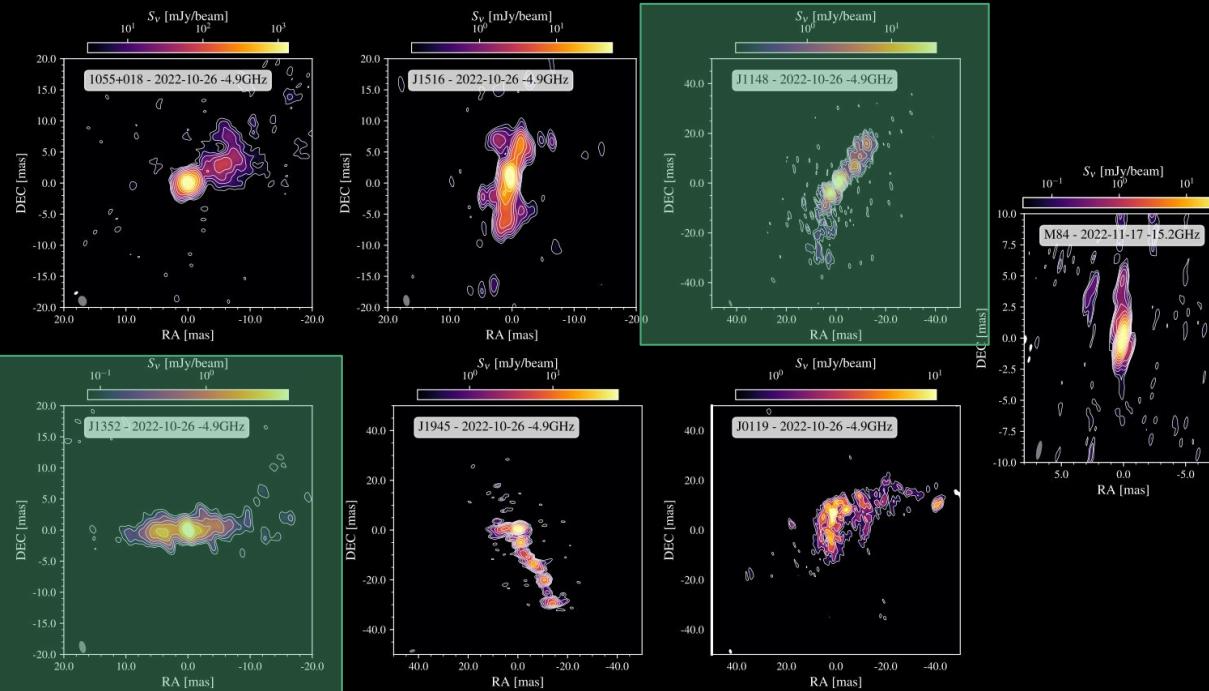
NGC 3894

3C 293

3C 317

4C 31.04

1946+708



44 RG Fermi-LAT

# A restarted jet **3C 293**: large (200 kpc) to small (17 pc) scales

## Background:

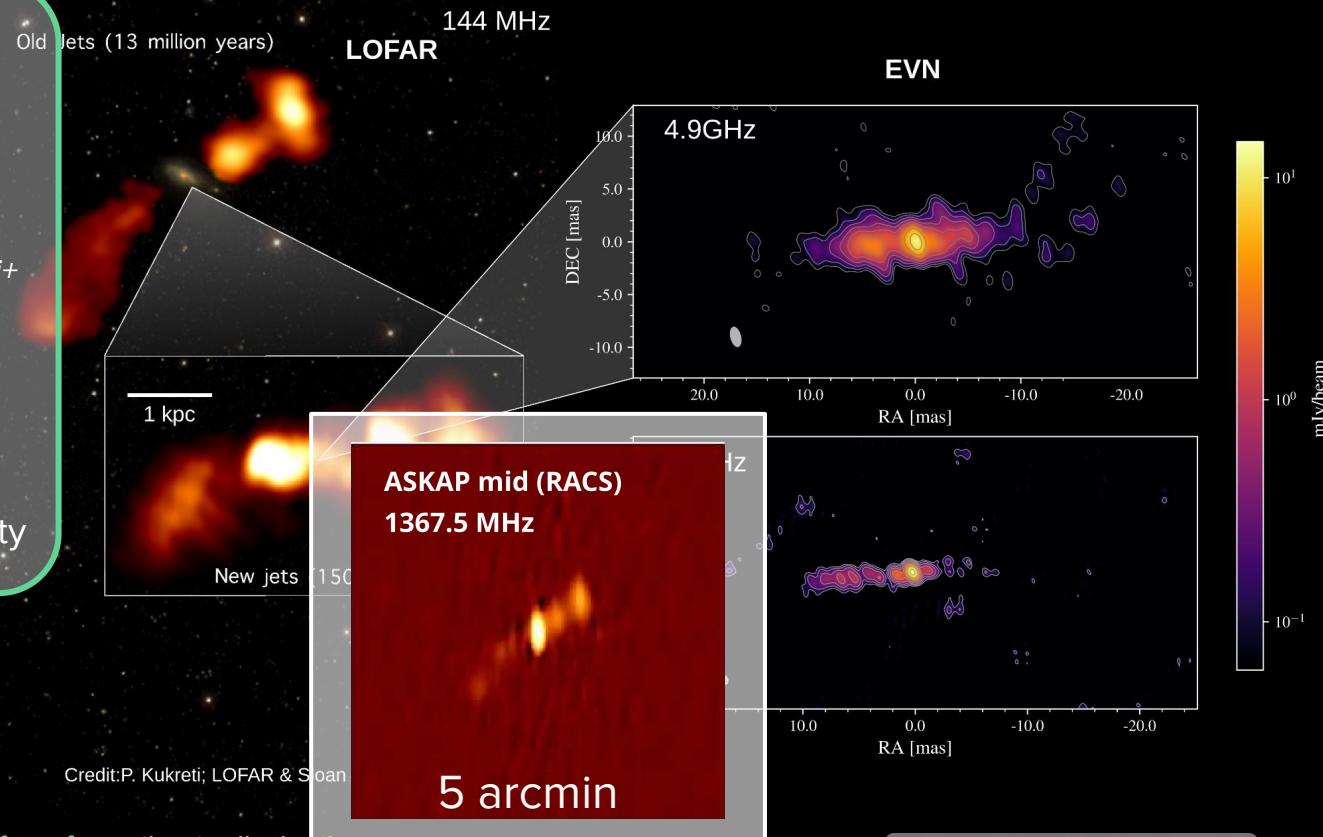
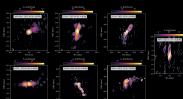
$z = 0.0452$

Observed with **LOFAR**  
at **144 MHz**

with 0.3 asec resolution (*Kukreti et al.  
2021, Astronomische Nachrichten*)

- Probably **young CSS**
- FFA absorption in inner lobes
- At least 2 cycles of activity

New **EVN+eMERLIN**  
at **5/8.5/22 GHz** in 2022



# NGC 3894: A young radio galaxy on large scales (16 kpc)

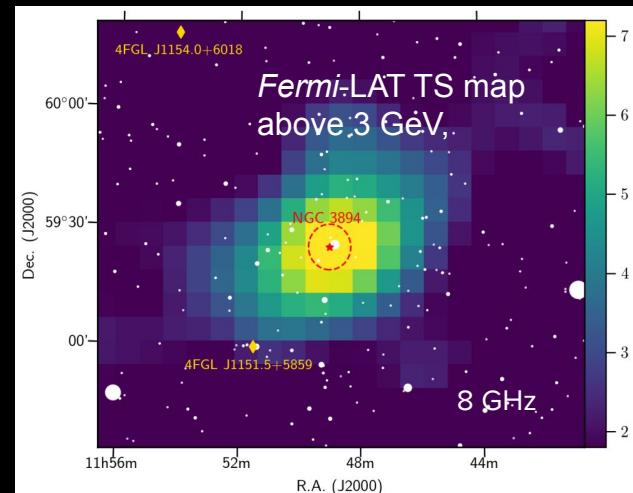
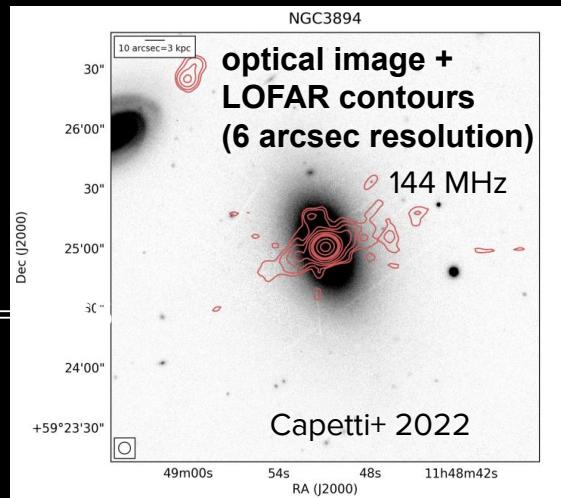
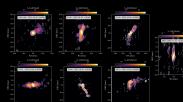
## Background:

CSO at  $z = 0.0108$

Principe+ 2020:

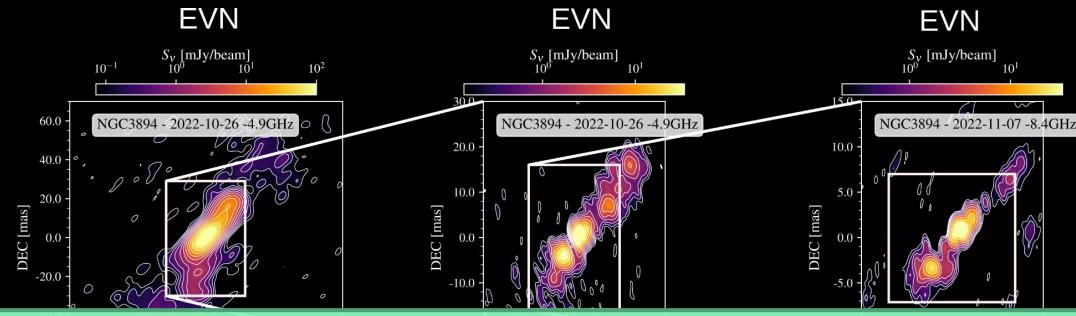
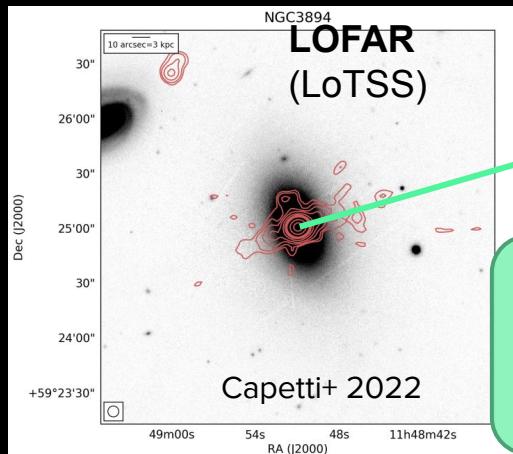
- $\gamma$ -rays detected by Fermi-LAT
- X-Ray detections
- VLBA (8 epochs at 8GHz)  
 $\beta_{\text{app, NW}} = 0.132 \pm 0.004 \beta_{\text{app, SE}}$   
 $\pm 0.003$

→ suggesting a **young radio source of  $59 \pm 5$  years.**



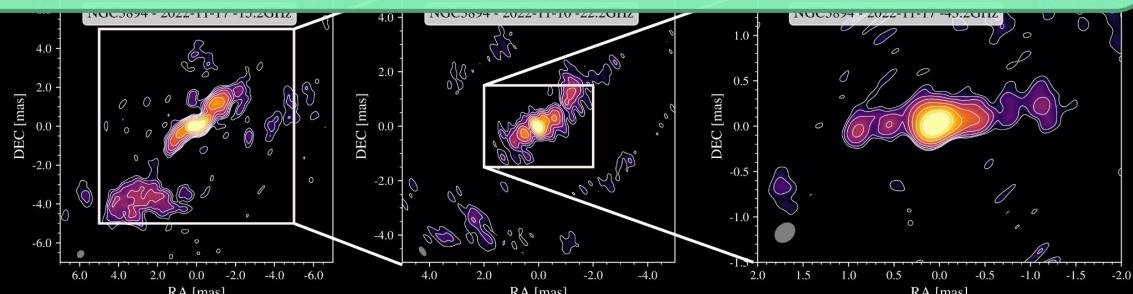
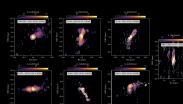
# NGC 3894: large (16 kpc) to small (<25 pc) scales

LOFAR resolution: 6 arcsec



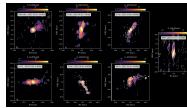
There are 44 radio galaxies detected by Fermi-LAT, most have extended radio structure.

New EVN+eMERLIN & HSA  
at 5/8.5/15/22/43 GHz in 2022



# The bigger picture case: 3C 120

Connecting small VLBI scales  
with large radio scales **today**

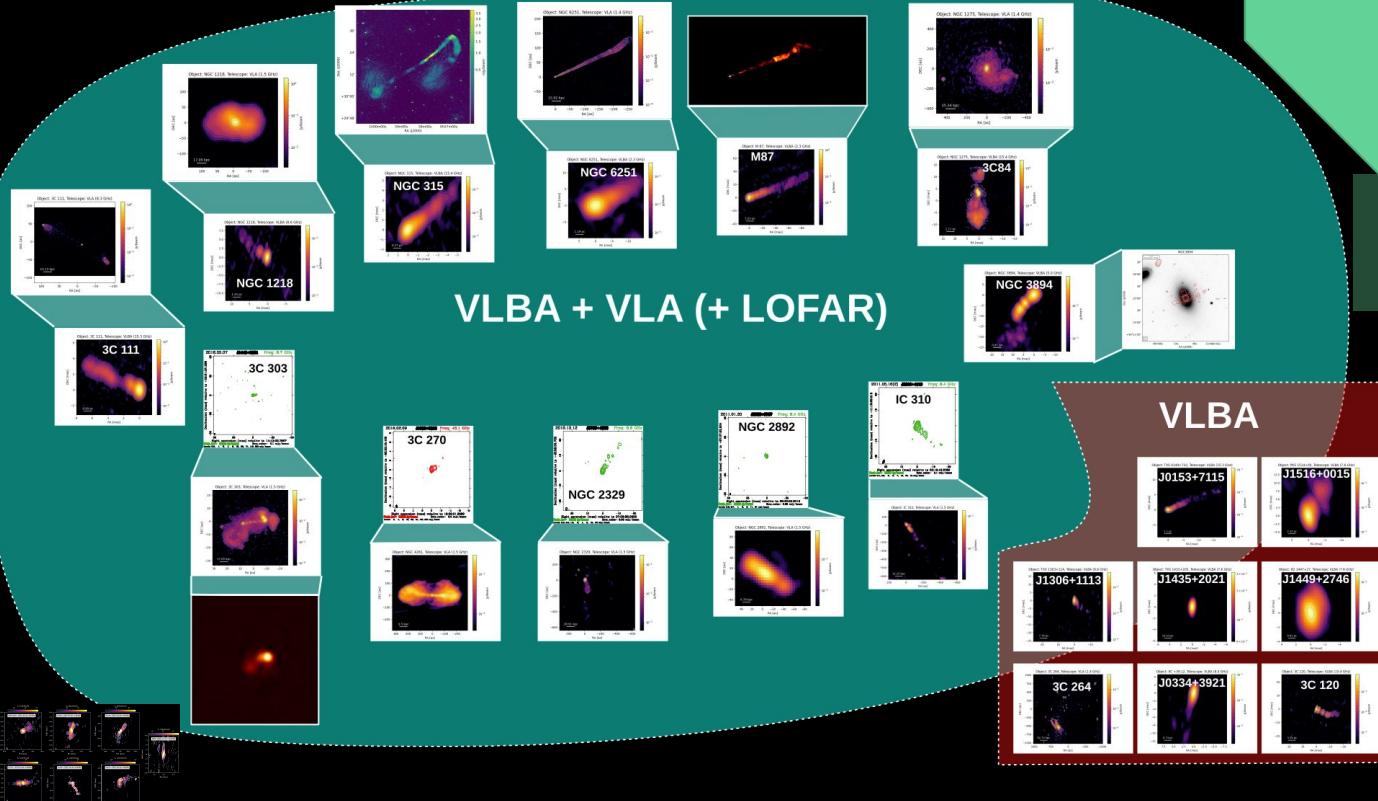


Anne-Kathrin Baczko, AGN jets from formation to dissipation



Background Hubble Deep field:  
NASA, ESA, and S. Beckwith (STScI) and the HUDF Team

# Radio Galaxies detected by Fermi-LAT



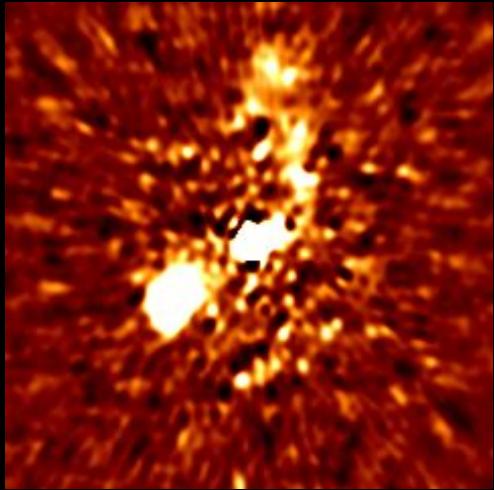
BSc Project:

Nicklas Brodin  
Linnea Lövenholm  
Daniel Larsson  
Emma El-Helou

## Radio VLBA - VLA

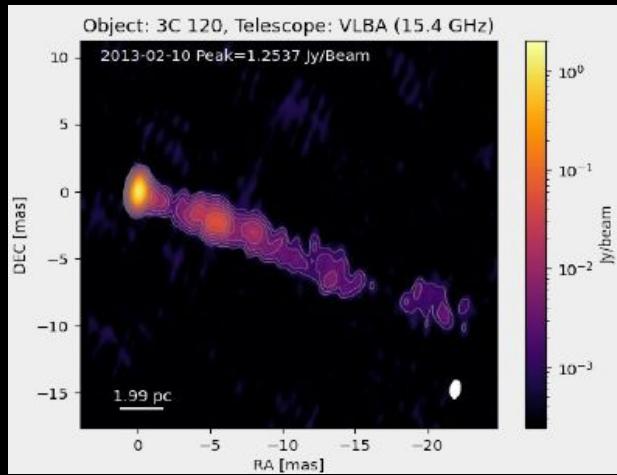
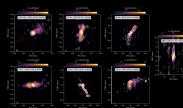
compare large  
and small scales

# Radio Galaxies detected by Fermi - 3C 120



ASKAP 1.4 GHz 8 x 8 arcsec

VLBA 15 GHz 25 x 25 mas

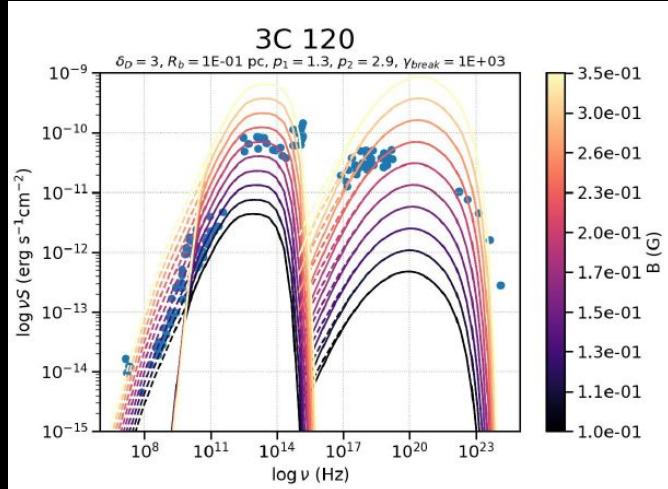


BSc Project:  
Nicklas Brodin  
Linnea Lövenholm  
Daniel Larsson  
Emma El-Helou

## Scale comparison

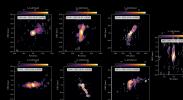
Comparing **ASKAP 1.4 GHz**  
(top)  
and **VLBA (MOJAVE) 15 GHz**  
(bottom)

# Radio Galaxies detected by Fermi - 3C 120

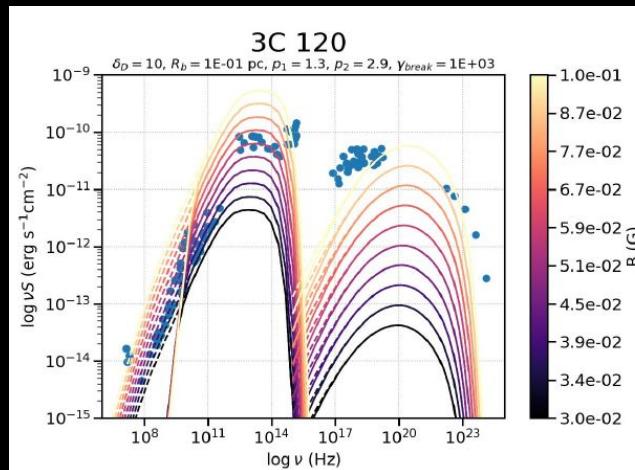


$B = 201 \text{ mG}$

\_blob radius  $r = 0.1 \text{ pc}$



Anne-Kathrin Baczko, AGN jets from formation to dissipation



$B = 58 \text{ mG}$

blob radius  $r = 0.1 \text{ pc}$

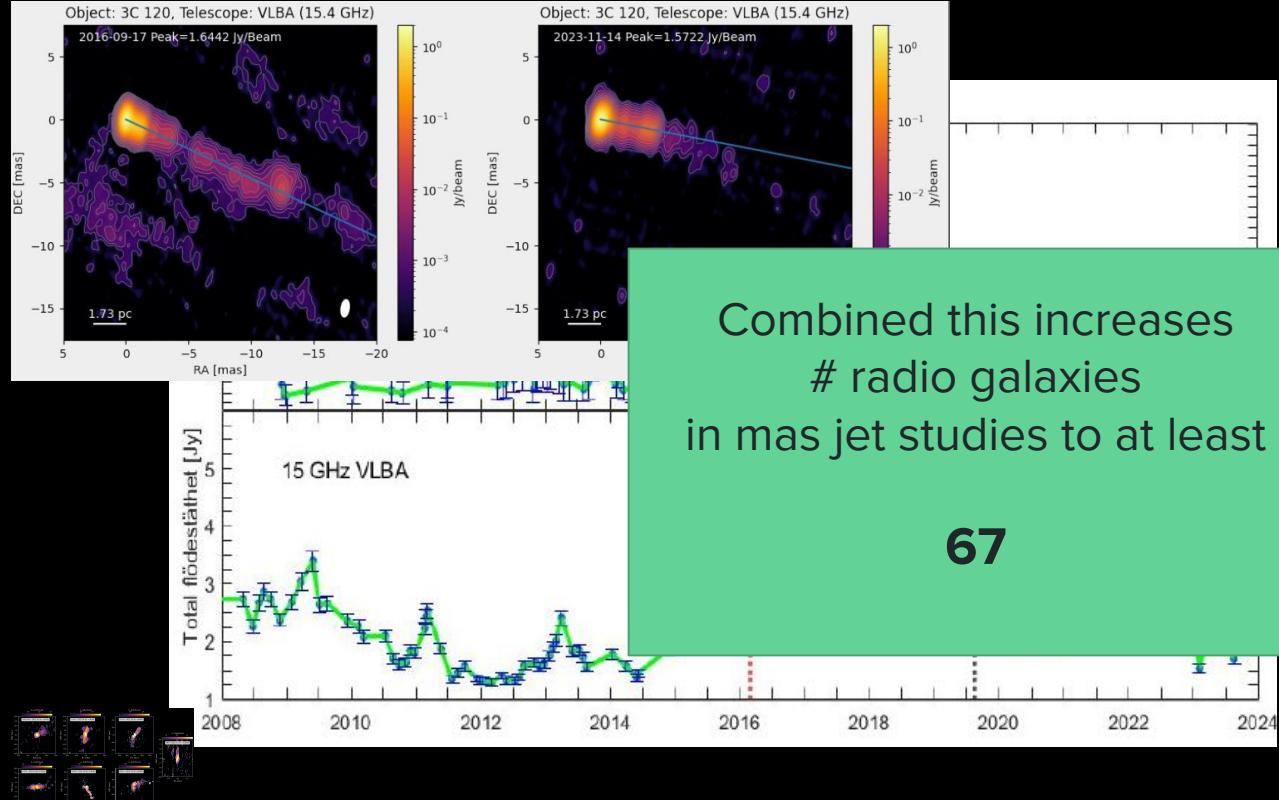
**BSc Project:**  
Nicklas Brodin  
Linnea Lövenholm  
Daniel Larsson  
Emma El-Helou

## SED - modelling

Fit SSA & SSC model  
using:  
AGNpy

(<https://github.com/cosimoNigro/agnpy>)

# Radio Galaxies detected by Fermi - 3C 120



Combined this increases  
# radio galaxies  
in mas jet studies to at least

BSc Project:  
Nicklas Brodin  
Linnea Lövenholm  
Daniel Larsson  
Emma El-Helou

## Lightcurves

Compare Gamma  
to Radio

Delay about 390 days

## **Challenge:**

Still low number statistics for misaligned jets,  
even more so for double sided ones

# Challenge:

## Still low number statistics for misaligned jets

**The way to go:** Using big surveys with high sensitivity

**Example:** LoTSS ( DR1 5805 extended radio-loud sources )

**Collaboration with Judith Croston (Open University)**

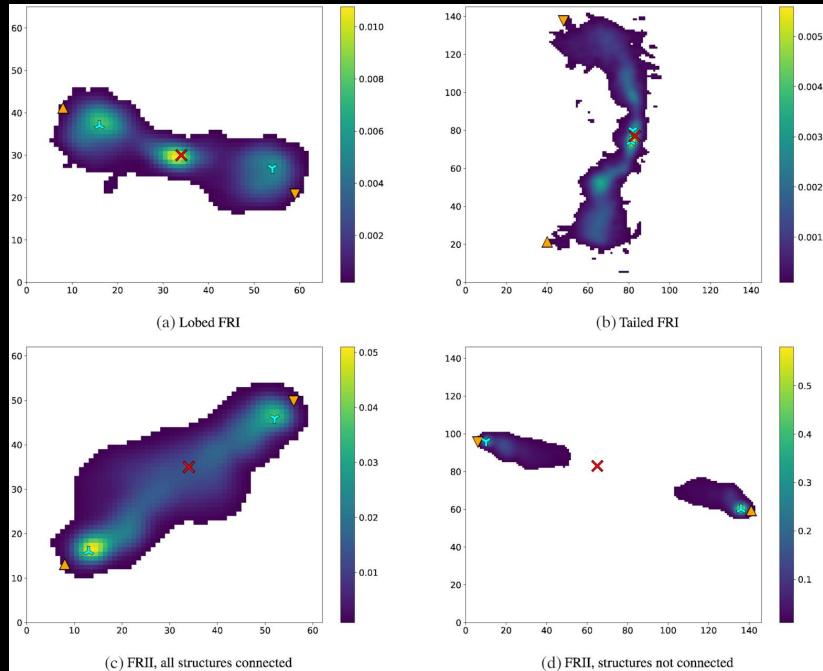
*Mingo+* 2019: Classification using LoMorph python code into FR I, FR II and hybrid morphology

**Now happening:** Filter out compact, misaligned jet structures, observable with EVN+eMERLIN



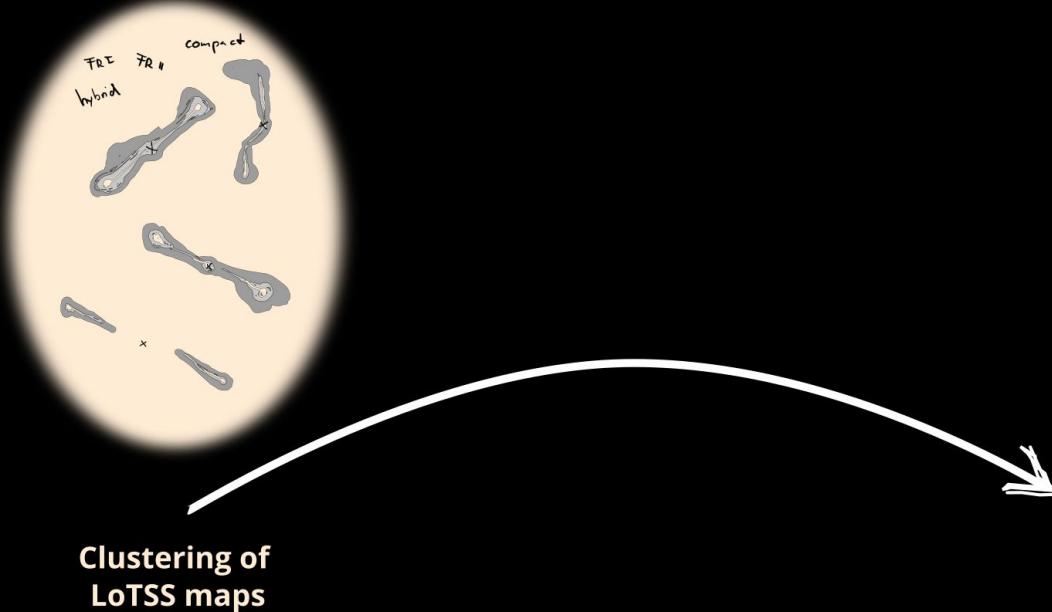
compile a more complete sample of misaligned jets.

Other approaches: Astronomaly (*Lochner and Bassett 2021*)

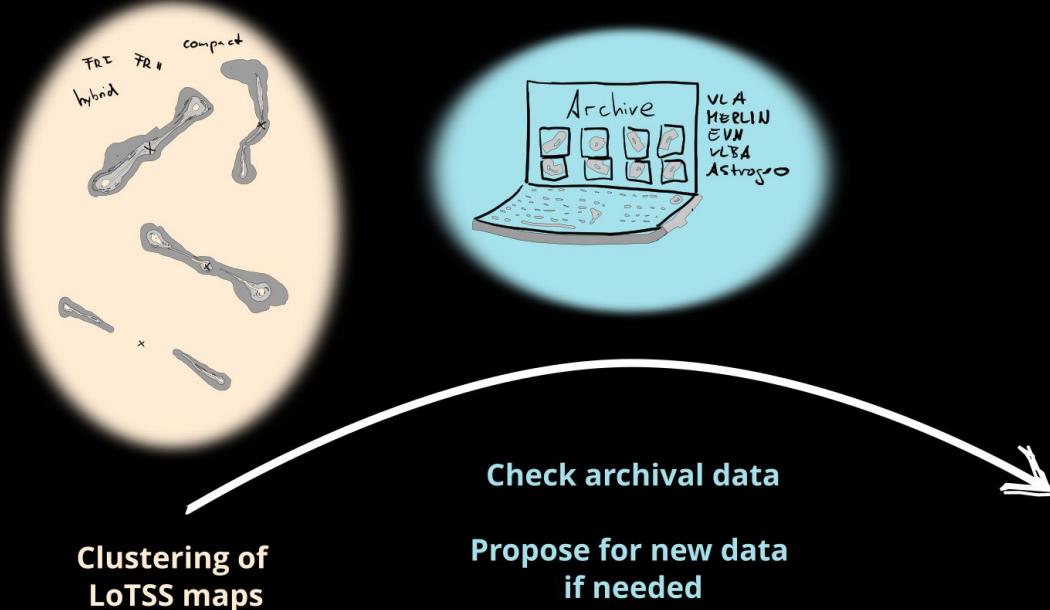


*Mingo+ 2019*

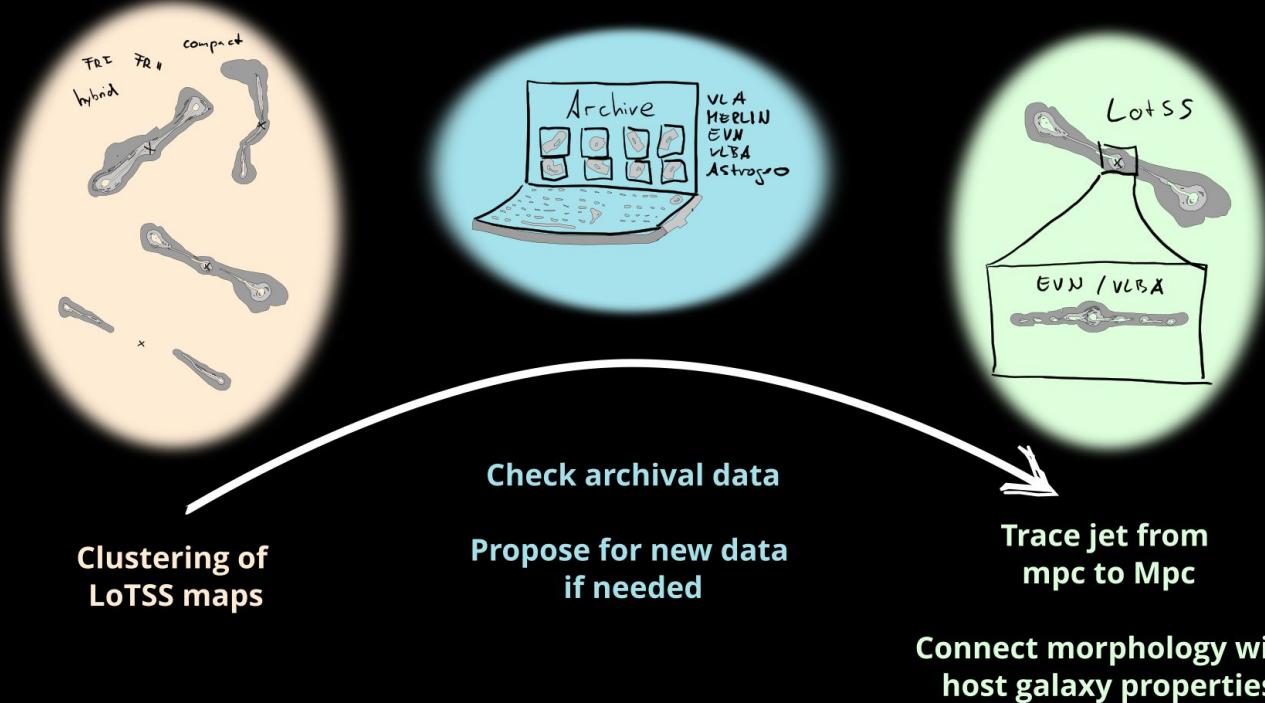
# Obtain higher number statistics: start with low frequency



# Obtain higher number statistics: start with low frequency



# Obtain higher number statistics: start with low frequency

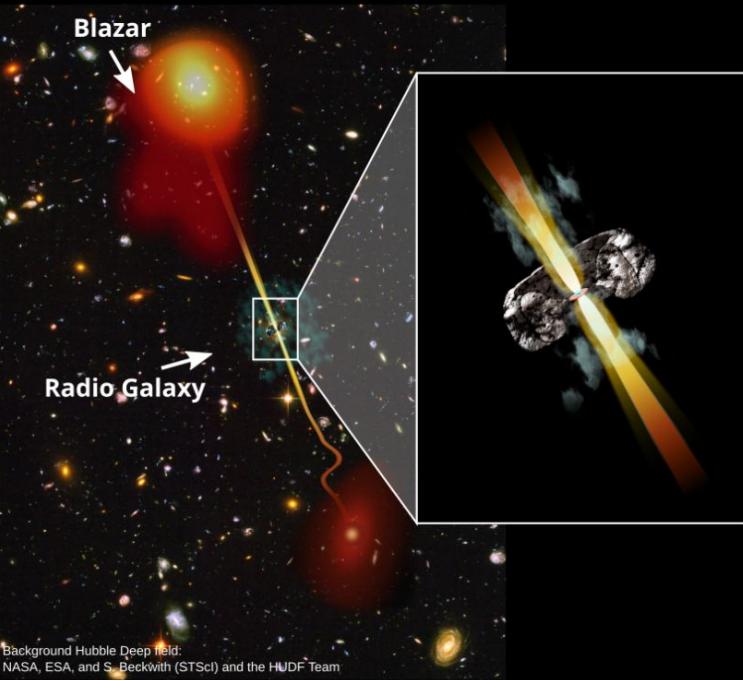
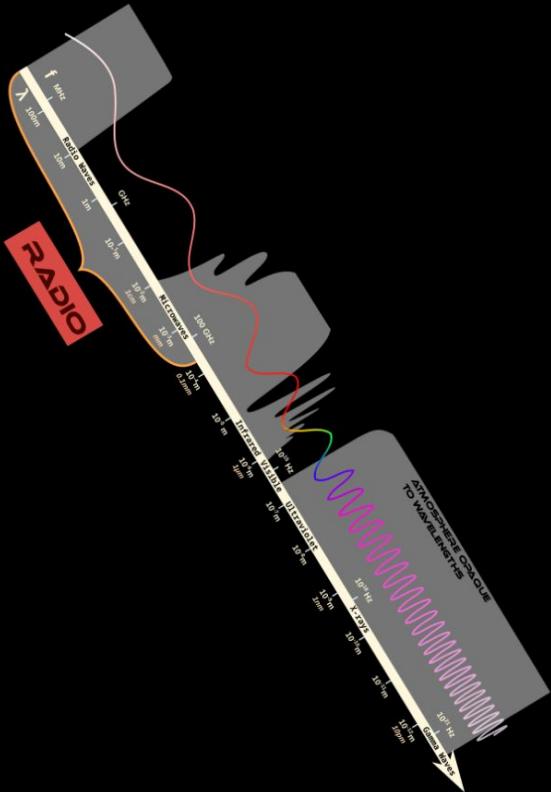
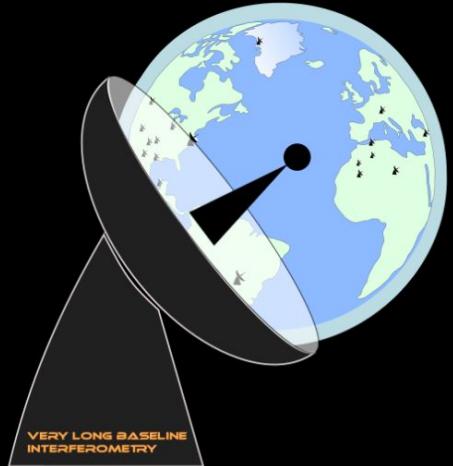


# UNDERSTANDING AGN

## TELESCOPES



SARAO

South African Radio  
Astronomy ObservatoryTHE EAST-ASIA  
VLBI NETWORK

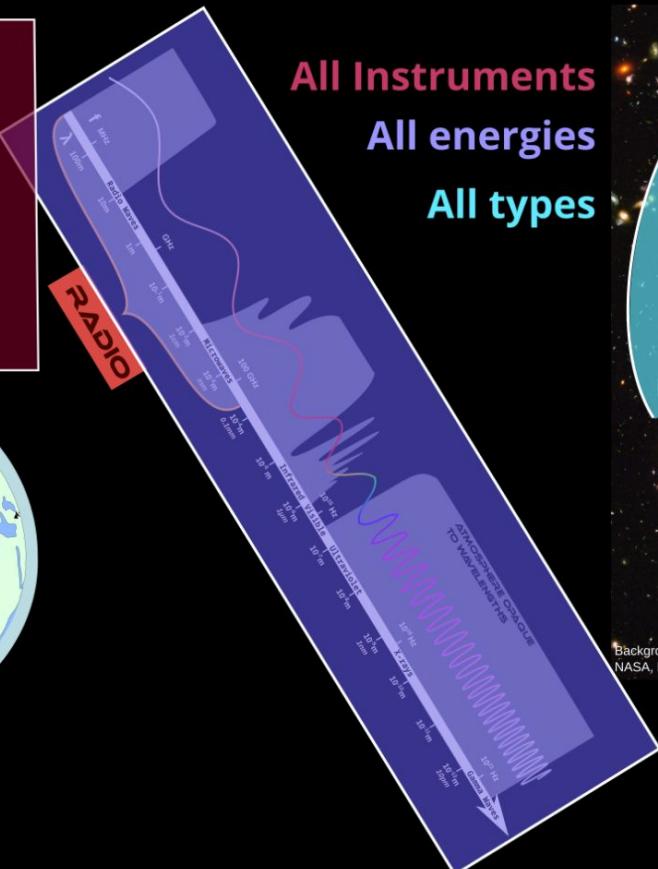
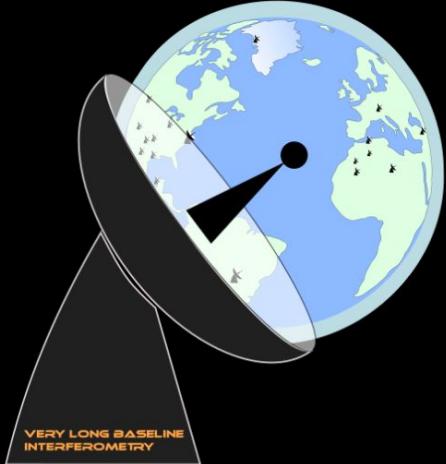
# UNDERSTANDING AGN

## TELESCOPES

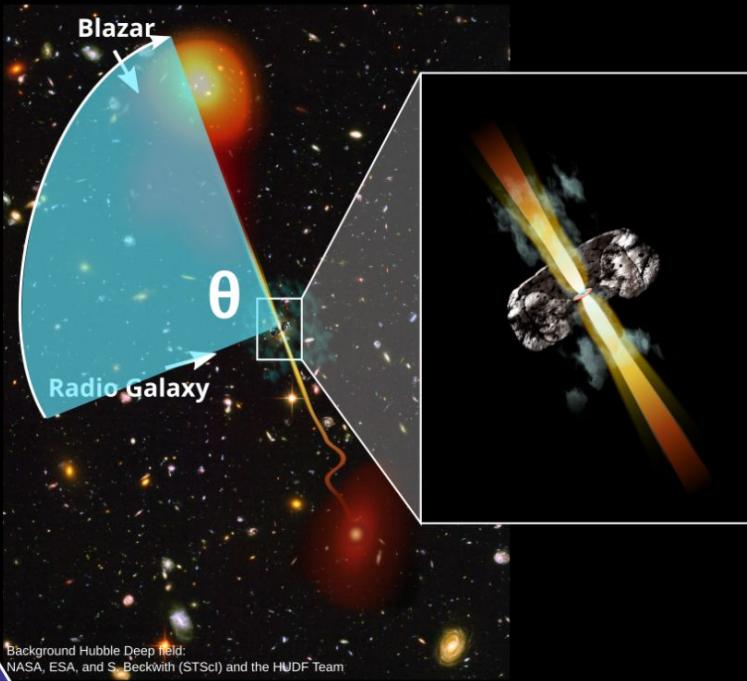


SARAO

South African Radio Observatory

THE EAST-ASIA  
VLBI NETWORK

All Instruments  
All energies  
All types

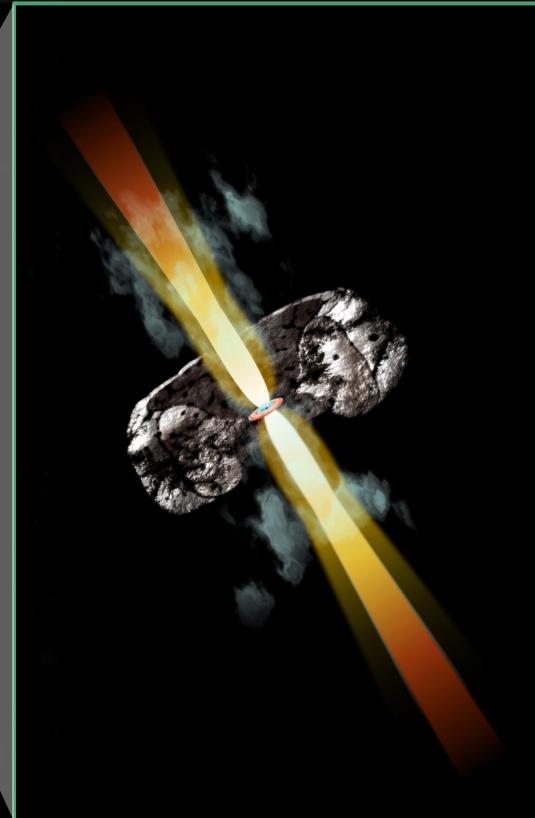


Background Hubble Deep Field:  
NASA, ESA, and S. Beckwith (STScI) and the HUDF Team

# AGN at all scales - The future towards SKA and ngVLA



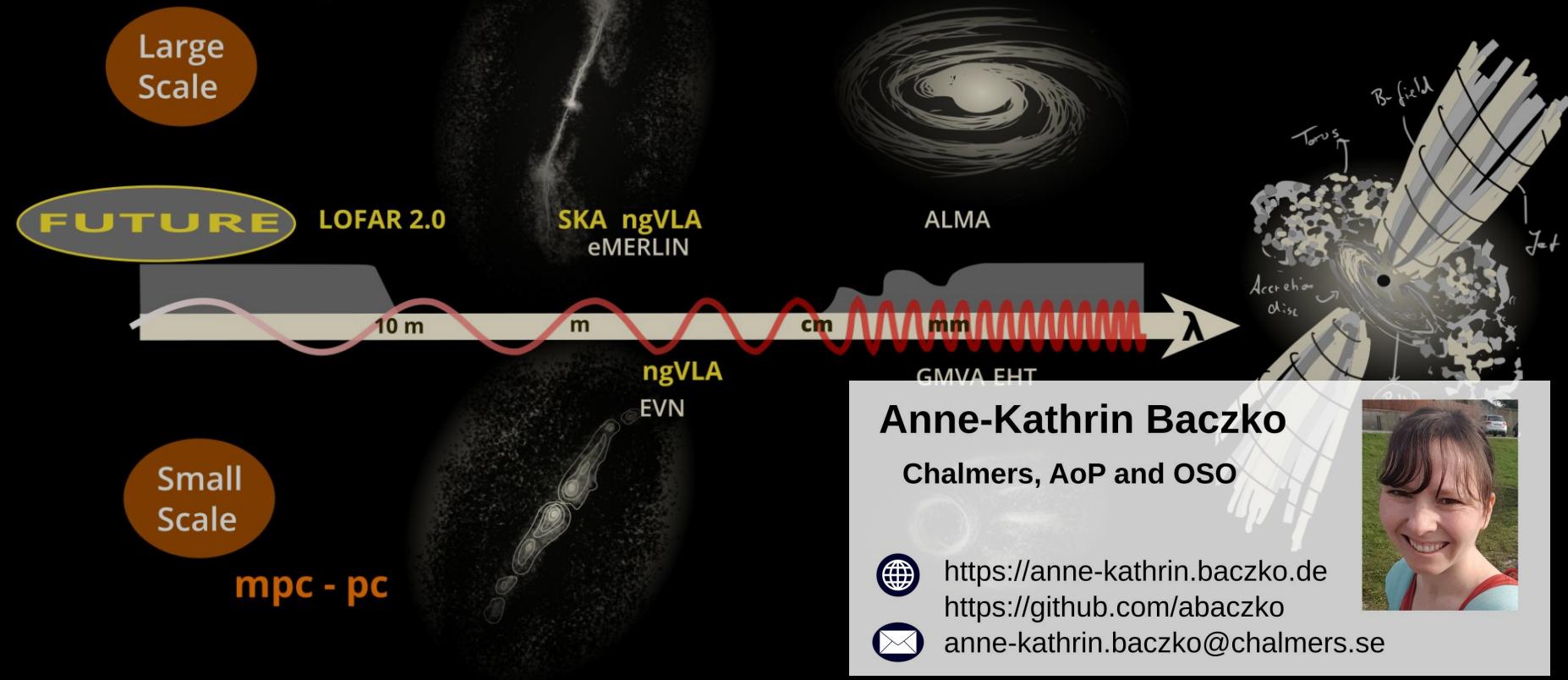
Background Hubble Deep field:  
NASA, ESA, and S. Beckwith (STScI) and the HUDF Team



Combining present VLBI arrays with **SKA and ngVLA** will allow us to study the interplay between AGN jets and their hosts better than ever before.

- Synergies with other radio observatories (ngEHT, LOFAR, MeerKAT, global VLBI, LEVERAGE)
- SKA-VLBI: bridging between low LOFAR frequencies and high ngVLA/GMVA/(ng)EHT
- High sensitivity and large FOV of ngVLA will allow to observe a larger number of double-sided jets to reform the AGN unification scheme

# Summary: AGN from mpc to Mpc



# Part of a pilot study including HSA and EVN

## Candidate double-sided jets at z<0.1 at 5 GHz (EVN)

M 84

NGC 3894

3C 293

3C 317

4C 31.04

1946+708

