

$$\Rightarrow t_{\text{cool}} \approx 5 \times 10^{17} \text{ s} = 1.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ yrs} = \underline{\underline{\text{Hubble time!}}}$$

So gas cools very slowly, all  $E_s$  should have hot gas, explains why they not forming stars.

---

## 5. Active galaxies / galactic nuclei

→ Seyfert, 1943, discovered that 1% of nearby  $S_s$  have a bright point source at the centre

→ Seyfert galaxies.

→ Optical spectra show intense broad emission lines  
 ⇒ high velocity ionised gas.

→ Two distinct types

Type I - v. broad lines ( $1000s \text{ km s}^{-1}$ )

Type II - relatively narrow lines ( $100s \text{ km s}^{-1}$ )

→ Also found to be X-ray sources

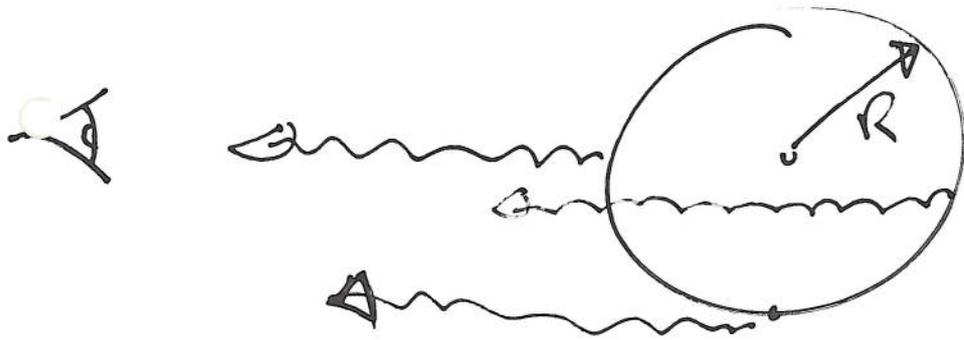
Type I - unabsorbed X-ray spectra

Type II - strongly absorbed X-ray spectra.

# The nature of active galactic nuclei (AGN). <sup>14.16.2</sup>

AGN are observed to vary rapidly, on time scales as short as 1 hour.

Variability to constrain the size of the object.



observe a range of time delays due to light travel time across the object

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{R}{c}$$

So if an object varies on  $\Delta t \sim 1$  hour

$$\Rightarrow R \lesssim 10^{12} \text{ m} = \underline{\underline{7 \text{ AU}}}$$

So AGN emission must arise from a region  $\simeq$  Solar system, much smaller than galactic scales (e.g. nearest stars,  $\sim 1 \text{ pc}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{\sim 10^5 \text{ AU}}}$ ).

14.16.3

2nd constraint, luminosity places a limit on the mass of an object, limited by the Eddington limit,  $L_{\text{Edd}}$ , luminosity at which an object is disrupted by its own radiation pressure.

Radiation pressure from photon momentum:

$$p = \frac{E}{c} \quad \text{--- energy of photon}$$

Energy flux from an object

$$f = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{--- luminosity} \\ \text{--- area of shell} \end{array}$$

$$\text{momentum flux} = \frac{f}{c} = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2 c}$$

The fraction of this flux transferred to material depends on its opacity,

Assume opacity is dominated by  $e^-$  scattering, which is the lowest plausible opacity, and wavelength independent.

Consider average force on each  $e^-$

$$F_{e^-} = \frac{\sigma_T L}{4\pi r^2 c}$$

Thomson cross-section  
for  $e^-$  scattering =  
 $6.65 \times 10^{-29} \text{ m}^2$

For Eddington limit, equate the radiation force with gravity

$$\frac{\sigma_T L_{\text{Edd}}}{4\pi r^2 c} = \frac{G M m_p}{r^2}$$

mass of central object  
mass of a proton.

(note  $e^-$  &  $p^+$  held together by the electric force).

$$\Rightarrow L_{\text{Edd}} = \frac{4\pi G M m_p c}{\sigma_T}$$

$$= 1.5 \times 10^{31} \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \text{ (W)}$$

A powerful AGN can have  $L \sim 5 \times 10^{39} \text{ W}$ .

$$\Rightarrow M > 3.3 \times 10^8 M_{\odot} !$$

So must fit  $\sim 10^8 M_{\odot}$  into a region the size of our Solar system.

$\Rightarrow$  supermassive black hole.

Only plausible source of energy is accretion  
 - the release of grav. potential energy from a falling object.

$$E_{\text{acc}} = \frac{GMm}{R_{\text{min}}} - \frac{GMm}{R_{\text{max}}}$$

- max energy release from a compact object (maximising  $\frac{M}{R}$ ).

Radius of a B.H. (event horizon) can be estimated by equating escape velocity to  $c$ .

$$R_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

↑ Schwarzschild radius.

for  $M \sim 10^8 M_{\odot} \Rightarrow R \sim 8 \text{ AU}$ .

subst  $\frac{M}{R}$  for a B.H.

$$\Rightarrow E_{\text{acc}} = \frac{GMm}{2R} = \frac{1}{2} mc^2$$

mass of infalling material.

so half the rest mass energy of infalling material is potentially liberated.

c.f. with  $\sim 1\%$  of rest mass liberated by nuclear fusion <sup>14.17-2</sup>

Can we grow these B.H.s. by accretion?

$$L = \frac{dE}{dt} = \epsilon c^2 \frac{dm}{dt}$$

$\epsilon$  luminosity.  $\frac{dm}{dt}$  accretion rate.

radiative efficiency factor  
(some energy can be advected into the B.H.).

To explain luminosities of A.G.N., need  $\frac{dm}{dt} \sim 1 M_{\odot}/y$   
( $\sim 10^{39}$  W).

Equate  $L$  with  $L_{Edd}$  & rearrange.

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = M \frac{4\pi G m_p}{\epsilon c \sigma_T}$$

Solve by integrating.

$$\int_{M_0}^M \frac{1}{m} \cdot dm = \frac{4\pi G m_p}{\epsilon c \sigma_T} \int_0^t dt$$

initial mass  $\rightarrow M_0$

$$M = M_0 e^{t/\tau}$$

$$\tau = \frac{\epsilon c \sigma_T}{4\pi G m_p}$$

14.17.3

Assume  $M_0 \approx 10 M_\odot$ , which is available from a single supernova, want  $M \approx 10^9 M_\odot$  (maximum seen in AGN)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{M}{M_0} = 10^8 = e^{t/\tau} \Rightarrow t = 8 \times 10^8 \text{ yr} \leq \text{Hubble time } (10^{10} \text{ yr}).$$

---

Two other types of AGN discovered.

### ① Radio galaxies

- brightest radio sources in the sky,
- dual-lobed emission, fed by jets of material from a galactic nucleus.  
e.g. Cygnus A,  $d = 100 \text{ Mpc}$ ,  $L_{\text{radio}} \approx 10 L_{\text{m.w.}}$
- optical spectra of central objects show strong broad emission lines,
- Type I & II objects seen.
- most radio galaxies are Es, thought that recent mergers has stirred up the gas and increased accretion rate onto B.H.

## ② Quasars (quasi-stellar radio source).

- Bright point sources, associated with strong radio emission.

- strong broad emission lines.

e.g. 3C 48  $z = 0.37$

$\Rightarrow d \sim 1500 \text{ Mpc}$

$\Rightarrow L \sim 10^2 - 10^5 L_{\text{M.W.}}$

so look like point sources because the AGN is much more luminous than the galaxy.

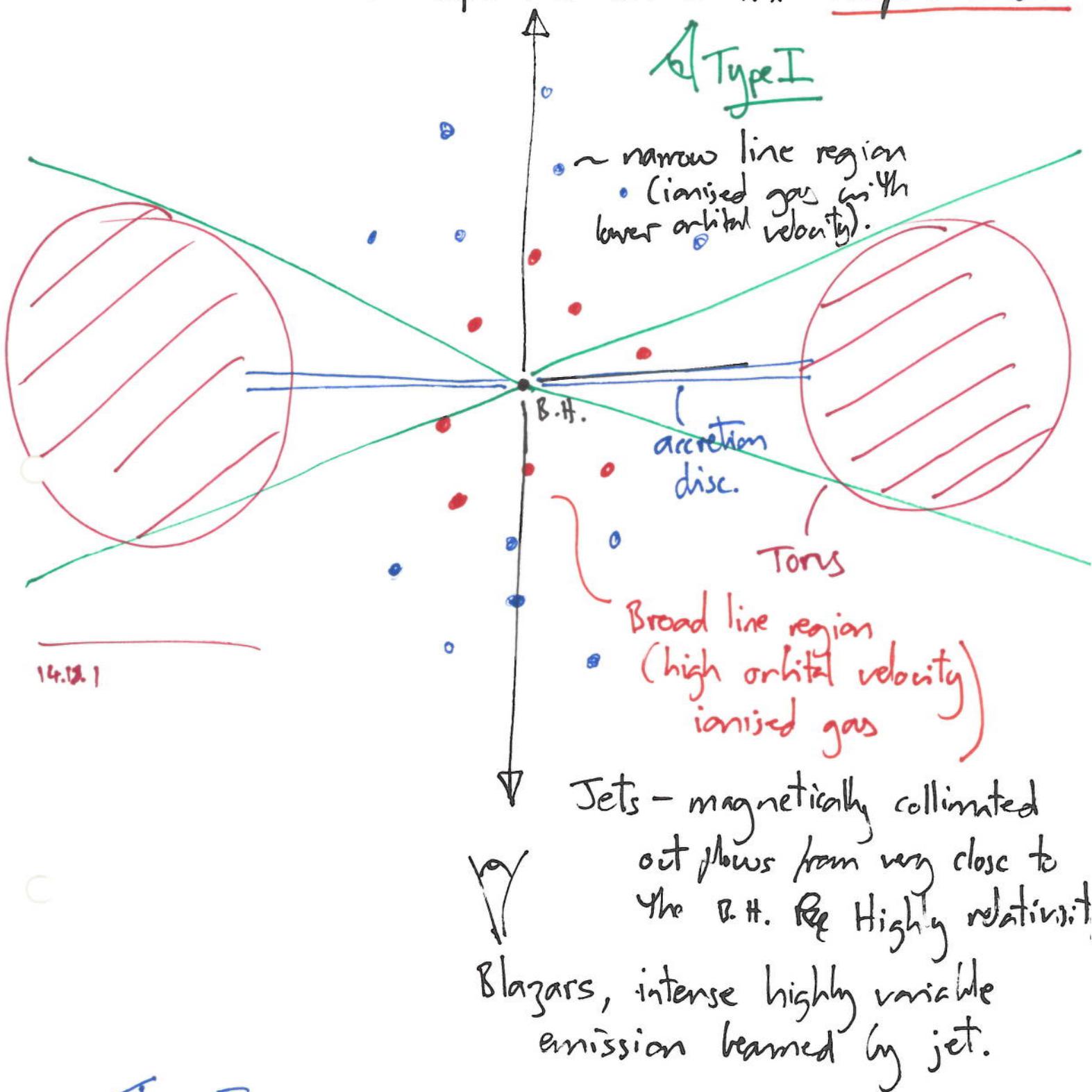
- type I & II objects seen + jets

- non-radio emitting versions "radio quiet"

$\Rightarrow$  QSO (quasi-stellar objects).

All AGN now explained with the Unified model

14.17.5  
+14.18.1



Type I - can see the broad line region, and the X-ray emission from inner accretion disc.

Type II - can only see the narrow line region, and X-rays absorbed by the torus.

A  
Type II /

We see radio loud / quiet versions of type I & II AGN, associated with presence / absence of jet, may be related to ~~local~~ accretion rate.

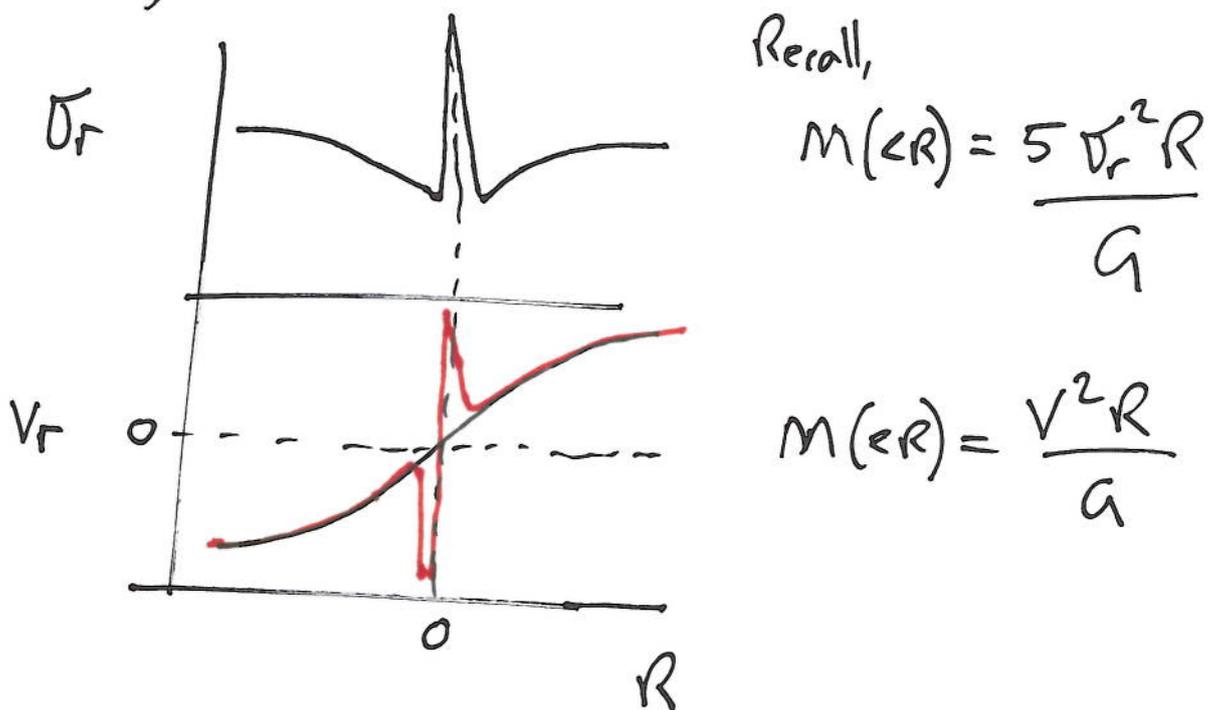
Crucial supporting evidence:

- Type I spectra hidden in the polarised (scattered) light of Type II objects.
- NGC 4151 transitioned from Type I to Type II.

## Supermassive BHs in normal galaxies.

→ SMBHs were thought to be rare, until the discovery of many in normal galaxies.

→ e.g. M31



⇒ compact mass at the centre of M31

$$M = 3 \times 10^7 M_{\odot}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{M}{L} \geq 300.$$

→ many more examples discovered with HST

→ implies all giant galaxies were once active galaxies.

Also, in M.W.?!  
 ○

→ observations in the infra-red (to avoid dust extinctions) with adaptive optics (to reach high spatial resolution),  
 have ~~reve~~ revealed high velocity stars, very close to Galactic centre.

→ orbit of each star constrains enclosed mass

→ Best example, S2

$$P_{\text{orb}} = 15.2 \text{ yrs}$$

$$a = 0.119''$$

(semi-major axis)

use Kepler's 3<sup>rd</sup> law,

$$P^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM} a^3$$

$$R_{\odot} = 8 \text{ kpc}$$

$$\Rightarrow M(< r) = 3.74 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$$

Peri closest separation =  $0.0155''$

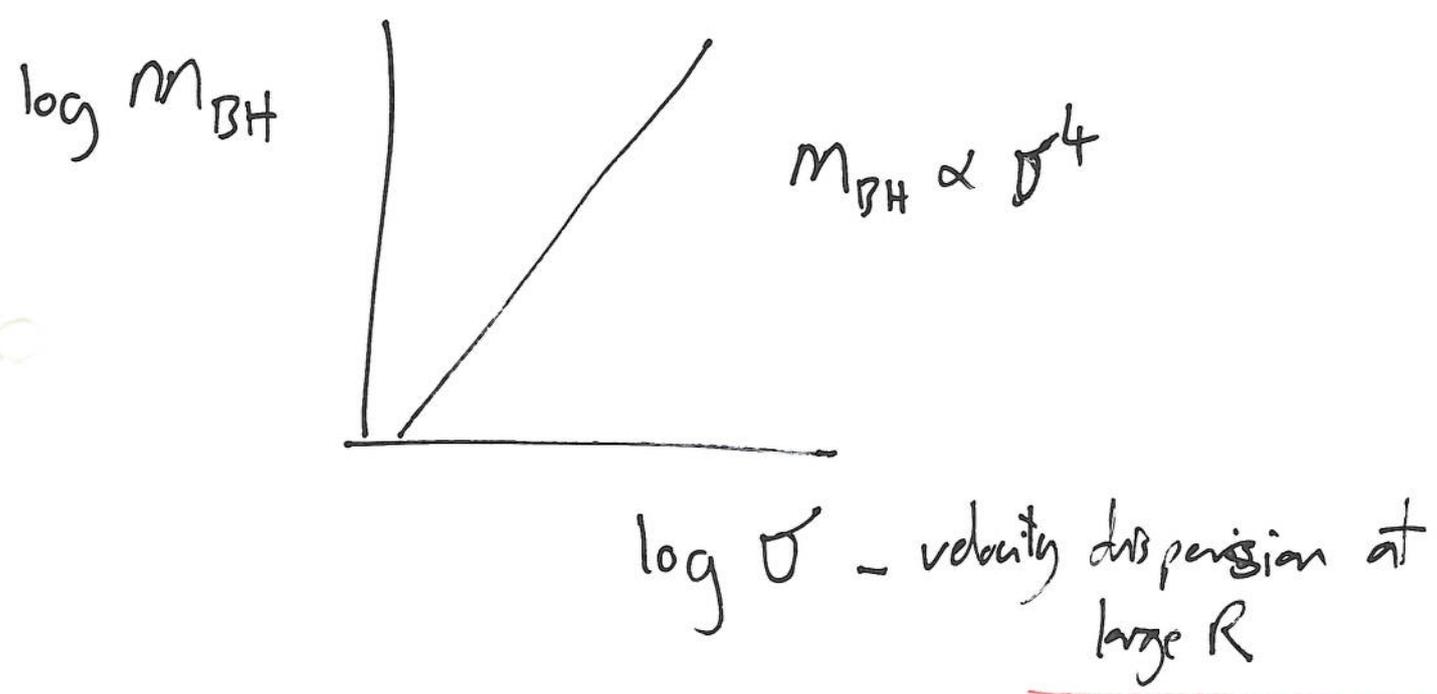
$$\Rightarrow R_{\text{B.H.}} \leq 124 \text{ AU}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho_{\text{B.H.}} \geq 4.1 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot} \text{ pc}^{-3}$$

⇒ must be a B.H. !

14.18.6  
+  
14.19.1

→ The mass of BHs has be found to correlate with properties of the galaxy, tightest correlation is the  $M-\sigma$  relation,



14.19.1

How can these properties know about each other? (The  $M_{BH}$  is negligible on the scale of the galaxy).

Most interpretations based AGN feedback.

Recall,  $L_{acc} \leq L_{Edd} \propto M_{BH}$   
at Eddington limited accretion rates we expect much of  $L_{acc}$  in K.E. of outflowing winds (driven by radiation pressure).

Eventually K.E. of wind can overcame grav. binding energy of gas in the galaxy  $\Rightarrow$  clear gas from galaxy  $\Rightarrow$  stop star formation  $\Rightarrow$  stop B.H. growth.

Recall,  $U = -\frac{3}{5} \frac{GM_{gal}^2}{R}$  and  $\sigma^2 = \frac{3}{5} \frac{GM_{gal}}{R}$   
 $\uparrow$  binding energy of uniform sphere

$\Rightarrow U \propto \sigma^4$

Balancing  $U$  & K.E. of outflow

$\Rightarrow M_{BH} \propto \sigma^4.$