

Le Centre Galactique vu par l'instrument GRAVITY du VLTI

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and the GRAVITY Team

The GRAVITY collaboration, Astr. & Astrophys. 2017, 692, 94

The GRAVITY collaboration, Astr. & Astrophys. 2018a, 615, L15

The GRAVITY collaboration, Astr. & Astrophys. 2018b, 618, L10

The GRAVITY collaboration, Astr. & Astrophys. 2018c, submitted



Testing the Massive Black Hole Paradigm from Stellar Orbits in the Galactic Center

8 kpc or $2,5 \cdot 10^{17}$ km
or 26 000 light years

2000

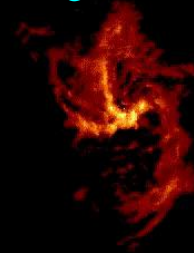
$$M_{\bullet} = 4.1 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$$

$$M_{\text{extended}}/M_{\bullet} < \text{a few } 10^{-2}$$

M_{\bullet} & SgrA* coincident < 1 mas

$$[1 \text{ mas} = 4,86 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ radians}]$$

Image in radio

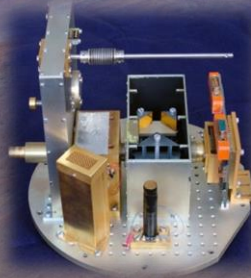


A Quest of 3 Decades

Imaging

NACO

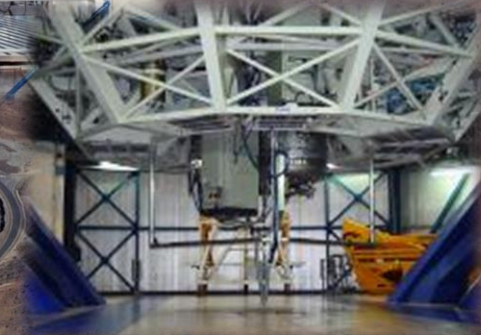
Spectrometry



SHARP @ NTT



SINFONI



PARSEC

$\lambda = [2.0 ; 2.5 \mu\text{m}]$



GRAVITY

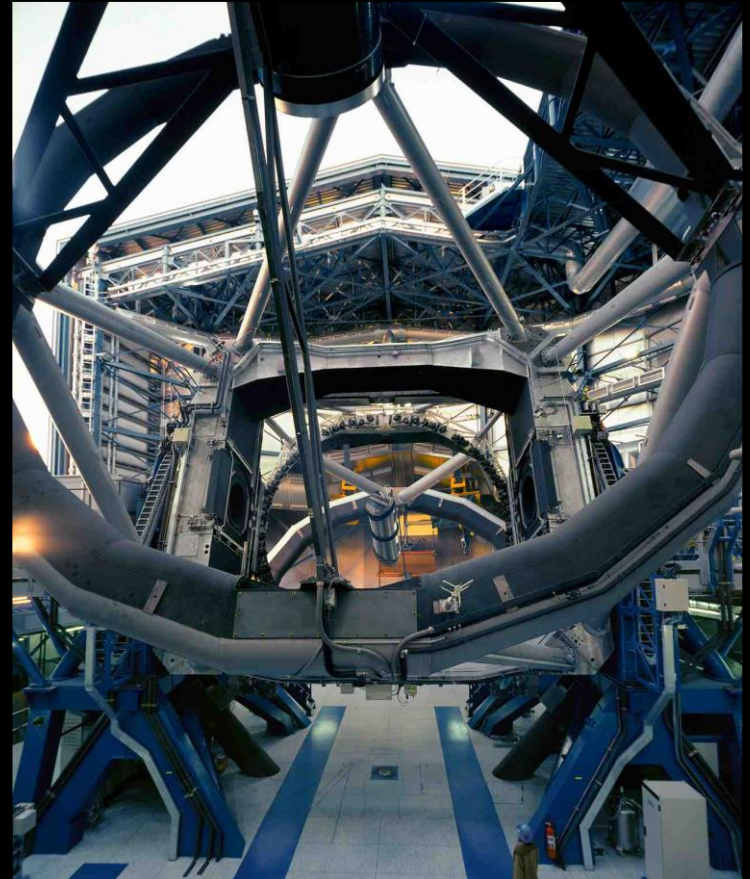
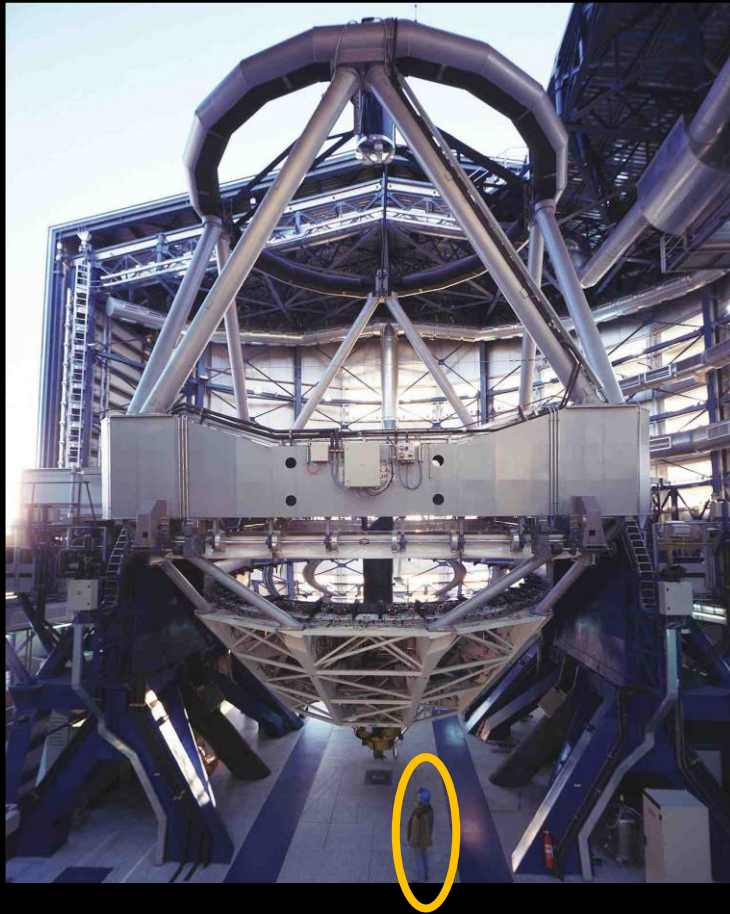


The ESO Very Large Telescope

The VLT, *Very Large Telescope* Cerro Paranal, Chile



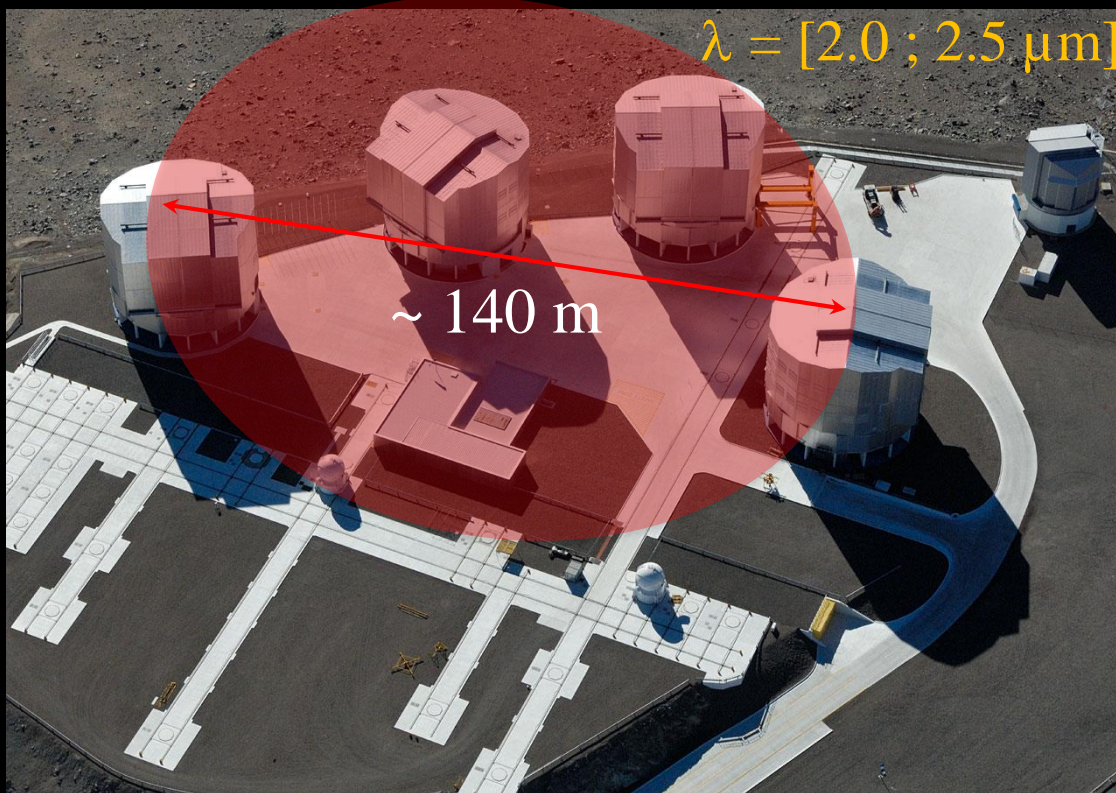
One of the 8.20-m telescopes of the VLT



GRAVITY has combined 4 telescopes since 2016

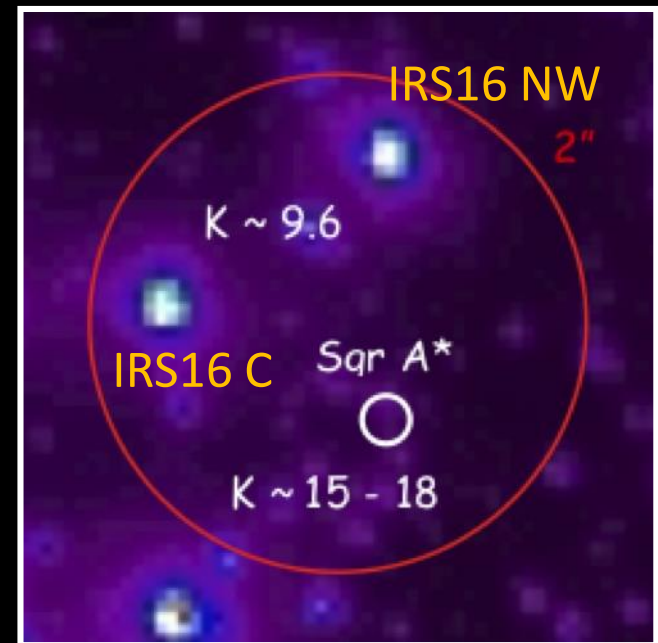
Interferometry

to synthesize a giant mirror of 140 m



Angular resolution of 3.5 mas @ 2.2 μm

Astrometry
with 2 reference stars



Accuracy ~ a few 10 μs



Max-Planck-Institut für
extraterrestrische Physik



Detection of the gravitational redshift in the orbit of the star S2 near the Galactic centre massive black hole

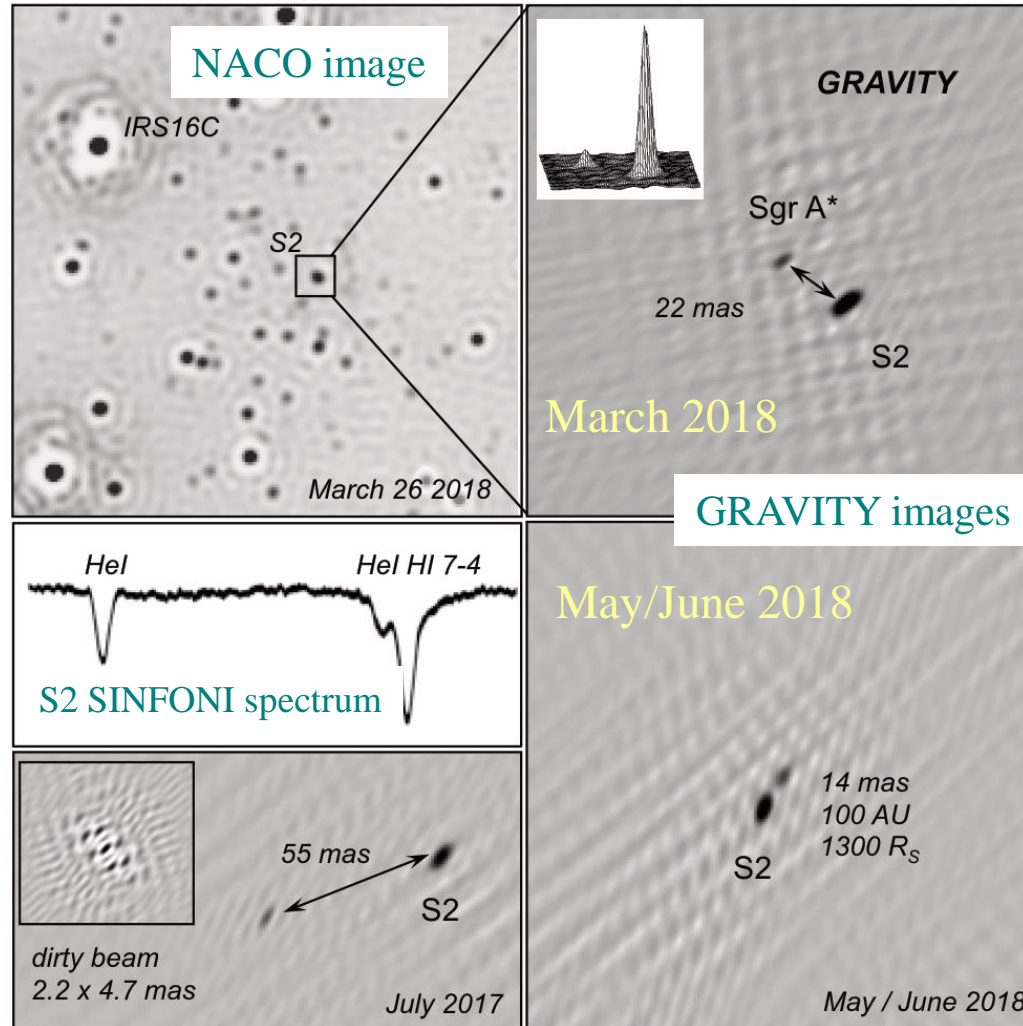
GRAVITY Collaboration*: R. Abuter⁸, A. Amorim^{6,14}, N. Anugu⁷, M. Bauböck¹, M. Benisty⁵, J.P. Berger^{5,8}, N. Blind¹⁰, H. Bonnet⁸, W. Brandner³, A. Buron¹, C. Collin², F. Chapron², Y. Clénet², V. Coudé du Foresto², P.T. de Zeeuw^{12,1}, C. Deen¹, F. Delplancke-Ströbele⁸, R. Dembet^{8,2}, J. Dexter¹, G. Duvert⁵, A. Eckart^{4,11}, F. Eisenhauer¹, G. Finger⁸, N.M. Förster Schreiber¹, P. Fédou², P. Garcia^{7,14}, R. Garcia Lopez³, F. Gao¹, E. Gendron¹, R. Genzel^{1,13}, S. Gillessen¹, P. Gordo^{6,14}, M. Habibi¹, X. Haubois⁹, M. Haug⁸, F. Haußmann¹, Th. Henning³, S. Hippler³, M. Horrobin⁴, Z. Hubert^{2,3}, N. Hubin⁸, A. Jimenez Rosales¹, L. Jochum⁸, L. Jocou⁵, A. Kaufer⁹, S. Kellner¹¹, S. Kendrew³, P. Kervella², Y. Kok¹, M. Kulas³, S. Lacour², V. Lapeyrère², B. Lazareff⁵, J.-B. Le Bouquin⁵, P. Léna², M. Lippa¹, R. Lenzen³, A. Mérand⁸, E. Müller^{8,3}, U. Neumann³, T. Ott¹, L. Palanca⁹, T. Paumard², L. Pasquini⁸, K. Perraut⁵, G. Perrin², O. Pfuhl¹, P.M. Plewa¹, S. Rabien¹, A. Ramírez⁹, J. Ramos³, C. Rau¹, G. Rodríguez-Coira², R.-R. Rohloff³, G. Rousset², J. Sanchez-Bermudez^{9,3}, S. Scheithauer³, M. Schöller⁸, N. Schuler⁹, J. Spyromilio⁸, O. Straub², C. Straubmeier⁴, E. Sturm¹, L.J. Tacconi¹, K.R.W. Tristram⁹, F. Vincent², S. von Fellenberg¹, I. Wank⁴, I. Waisberg¹, F. Widmann¹, E. Wieprecht¹, M. Wiest⁴, E. Wiezorrek¹, J. Woillez⁸, S. Yazici^{1,4}, D. Ziegler², and G. Zins⁹

(Affiliations can be found after the references)

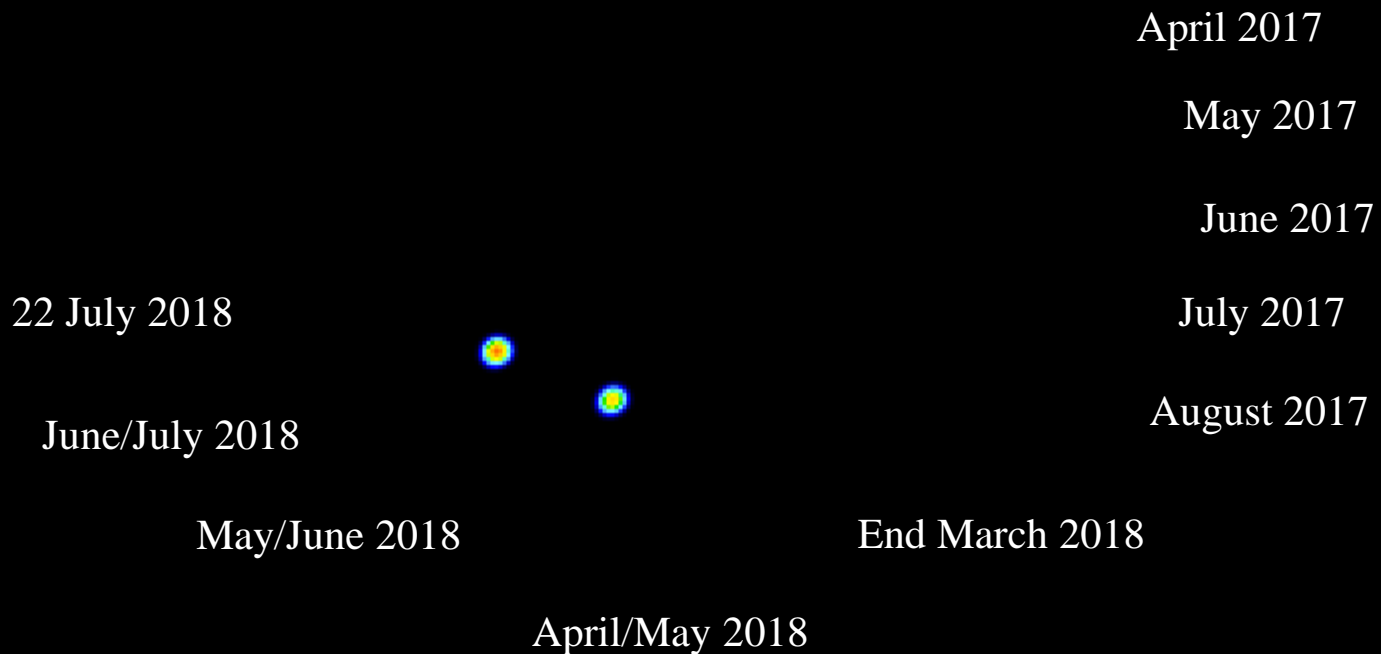
This paper is dedicated to Tal Alexander, who passed away about a week before the pericentre approach of S2

Revised version following feedback from the language editor, July 3, 2018

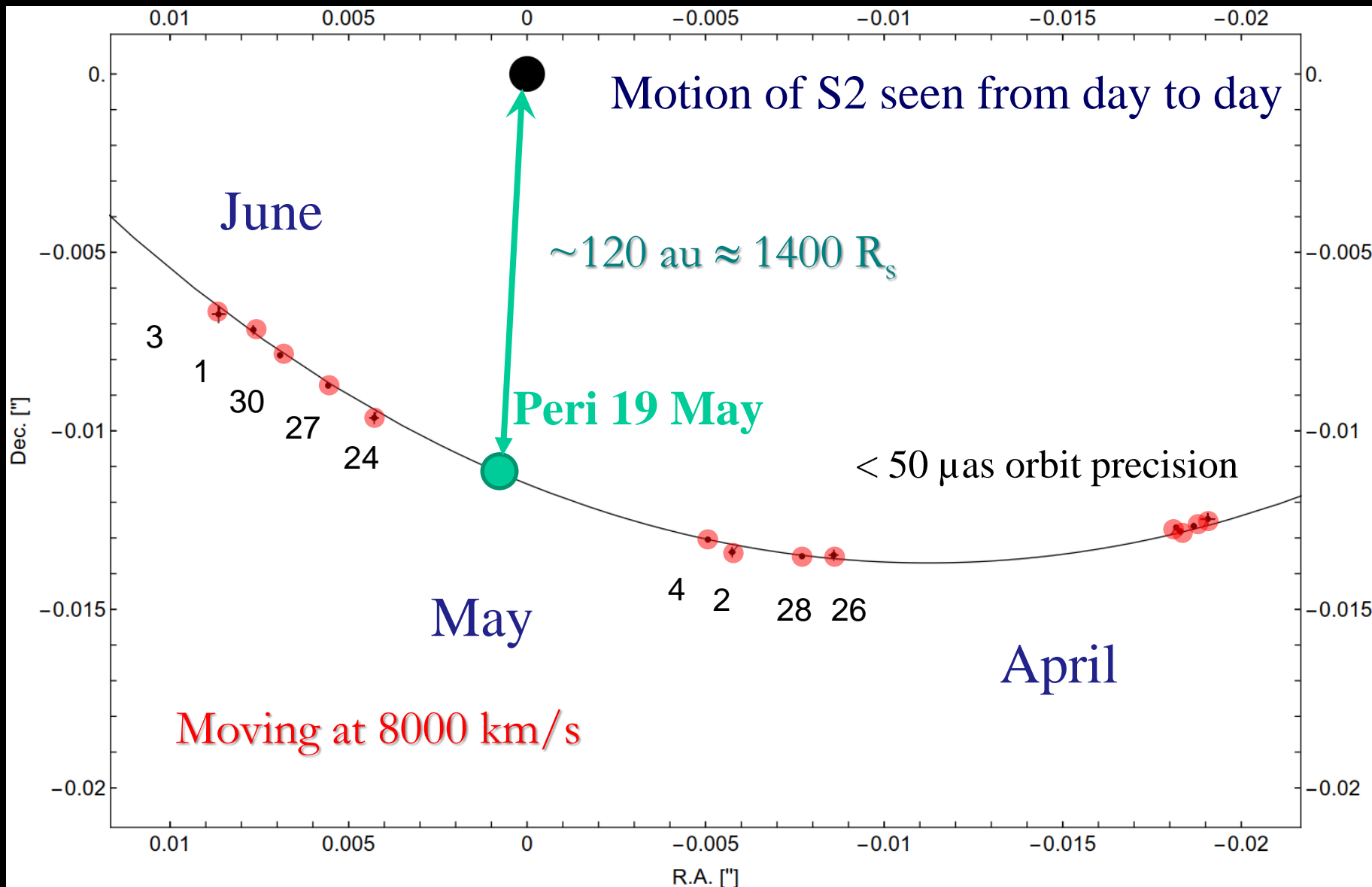
Precision Measurements of S2 Orbit with GRAVITY, SINFONI & NACO



Routine Faint Milli-arcsec Imaging with GRAVITY

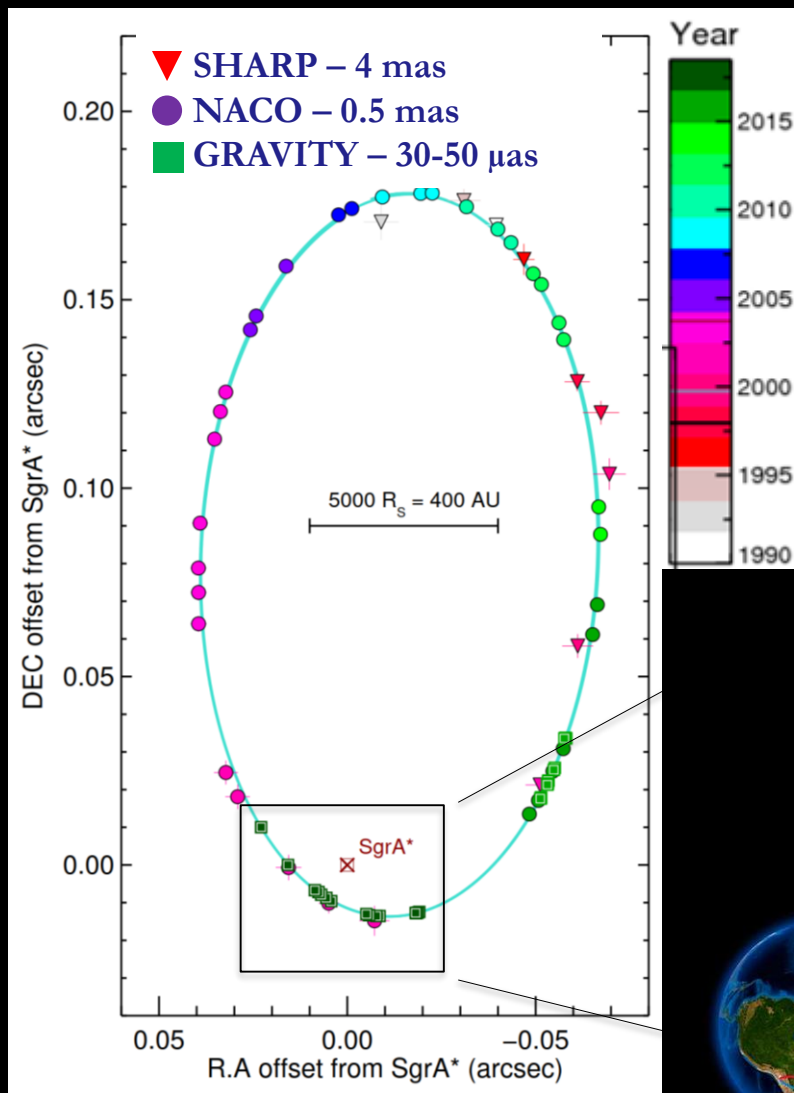


S2 Passing Peri – 19 May 2018

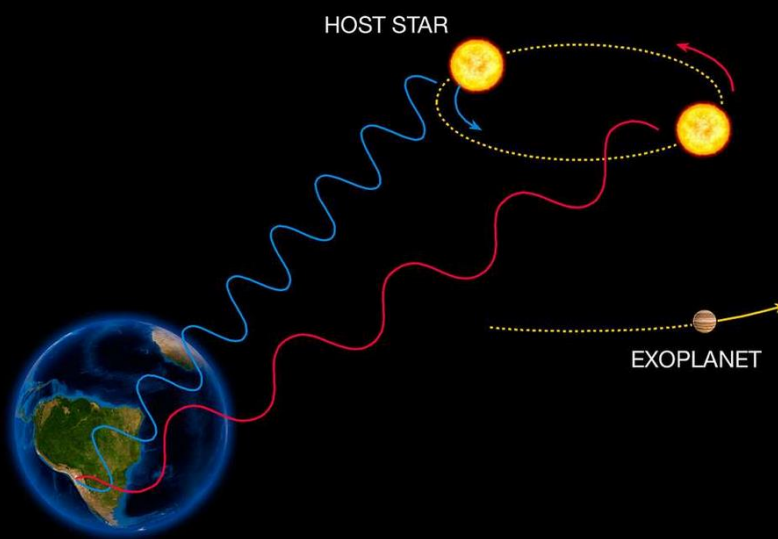
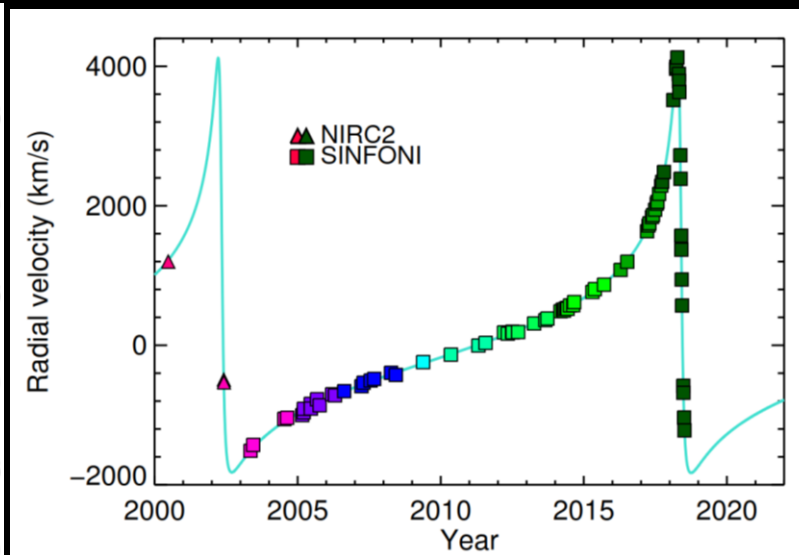


Look for Gravitational Redshift in S2's Orbit

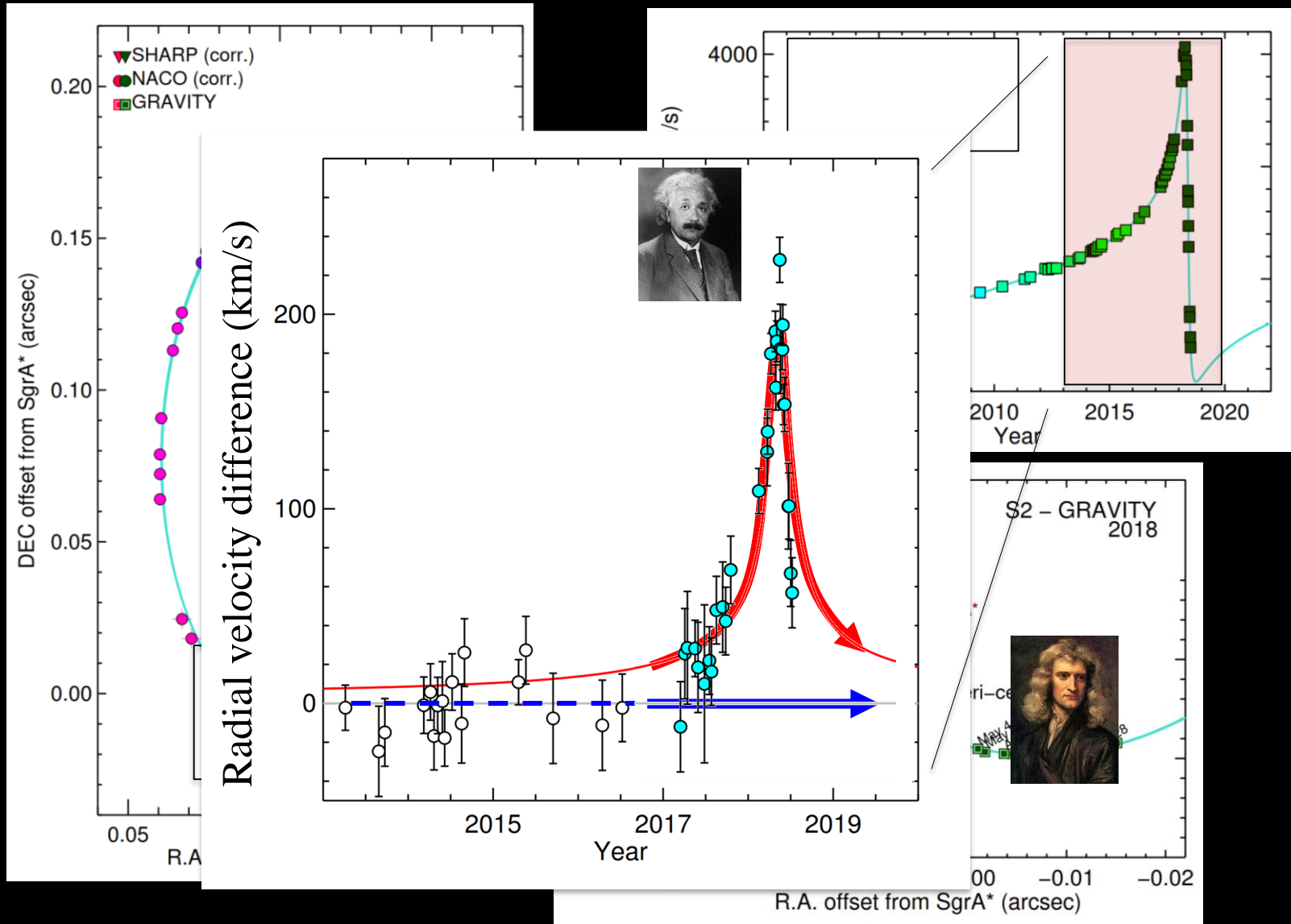
Orbit



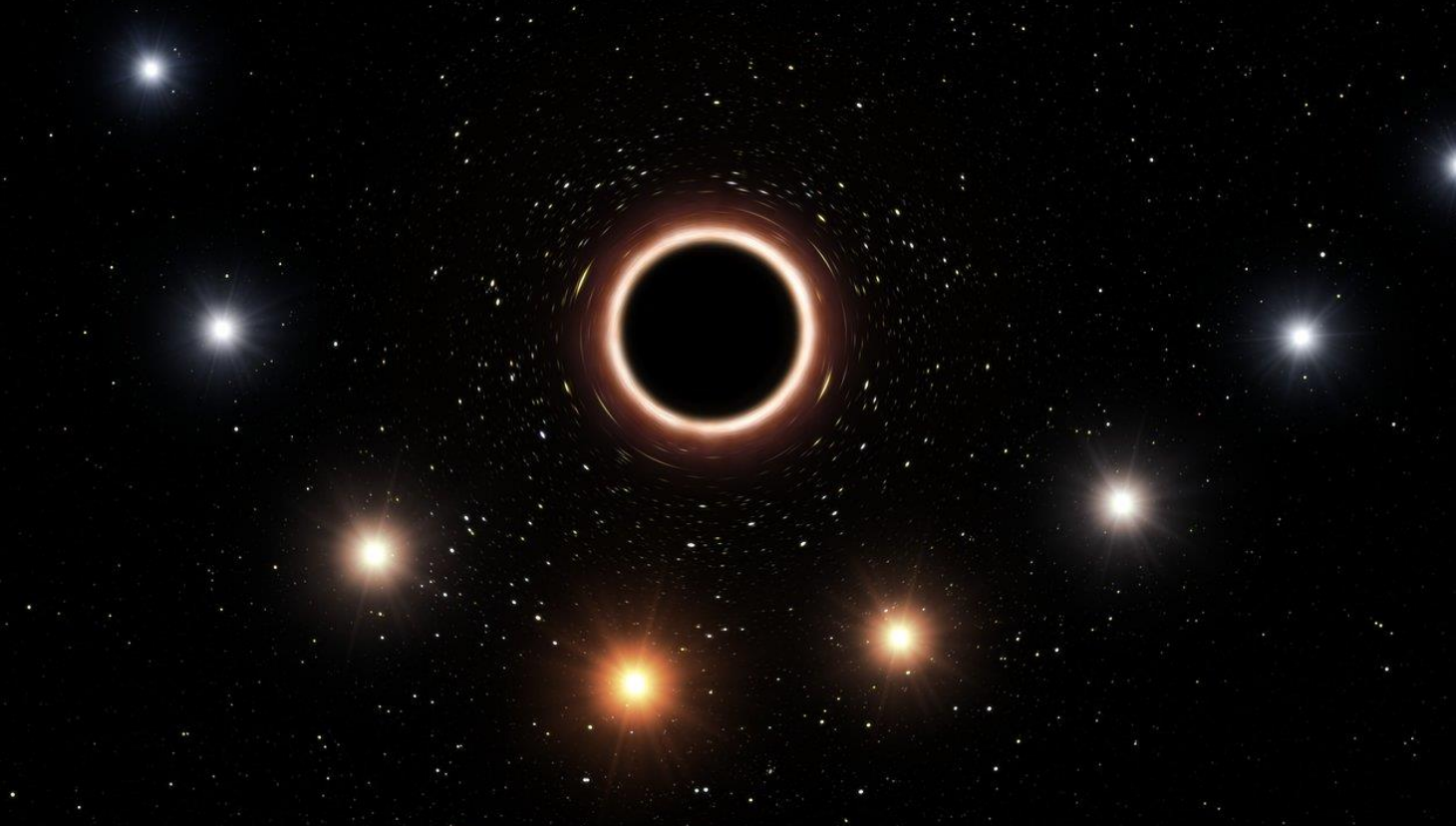
Radial velocities



Look for Gravitational Redshift in S2's Orbit



Gravitational Redshift in S2's Orbit



Light stretched to **longer wavelengths** by the very strong gravitational field of the black hole.

Change in wavelength agrees precisely with that predicted by Einstein's GR theory.

First observation of this deviation in the motion of a star around a supermassive black hole.

Detection of orbital motions near SgrA*s ISCO

Detection of Orbital Motions Near the Last Stable Circular Orbit of the Massive Black Hole SgrA*

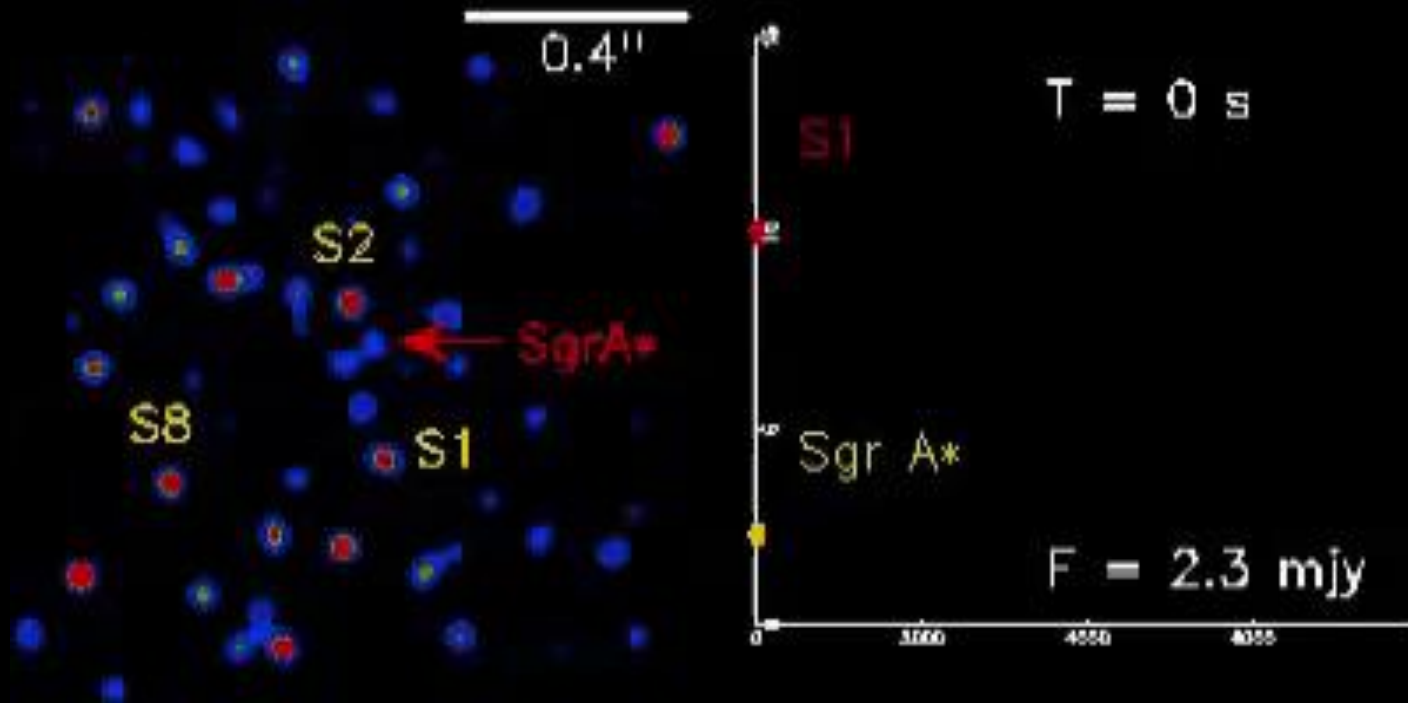
GRAVITY Collaboration*: R. Abuter⁸, A. Amorim^{6,14}, M. Bauböck¹, J.P. Berger⁵, H. Bonnet⁸, W. Brandner³, Y. Clénet², V. Coudé du Foresto², P.T. de Zeeuw^{10,1}, C. Deen¹, F. Delplancke-Ströbele⁸, J. Dexter¹, G. Duvert⁵, A. Eckart^{4,13}, F. Eisenhauer¹, N.M. Förster Schreiber¹, P. Garcia^{7,14}, F. Gao¹, E. Gendron², R. Genzel^{1,11}, S. Gillessen¹, M. Habibi¹, X. Haubois⁹, Th. Henning³, S. Hippler³, M. Horrobin⁴, A. Huber³, N. Hubin⁸, A. Jimenez Rosales¹, L. Jochum⁸, L. Jocou⁵, A. Kaufer⁹, P. Kervella², S. Lacour^{2,1}, V. Lapeyrère², B. Lazareff⁵, J.-B. Le Bouquin⁵, P. Léna², M. Lippa¹, T. Ott¹, J. Panduro³, L. Pasquini⁸, T. Paumard², K. Perraut⁵, G. Perrin², O. Pfuhl¹, P.M. Plewa¹, S. Rabien¹, G. Rodrigues-Coira², G. Rousset², M. Schöller⁸, J. Spyromilio⁸, A. Sternberg¹², O. Straub², C. Straubmeier⁴, E. Sturm¹, L.J. Tacconi¹, K.R.W. Tristram⁹, F. Vincent², S. von Fellenberg¹, I. Waisberg¹, F. Widmann¹, E. Wieprecht¹, E. Wiezorrek¹, J. Woillez⁸, and S. Yazici^{1,4}

(Affiliations can be found after the references)

Draft Sept 19, 2018 (sgr_20180918_v07)

Baganoff +2001, Genzel et al. 2003, Ghez et al. 2004, Do et al. 2008, Dodds-Eden et al. 2009, 2010, Ponti et al. 2017, Witzel et al. 2018, Broderick & Loeb 2006, Hamaus et al. 2009, Markoff et al. 2001, Yuan et al. 2004, Moscibrodzka et al. 2015, Dexter et al. 2013, Doeleman et al. 2008, Broderick et al. 2011, Johnson et al. 2017

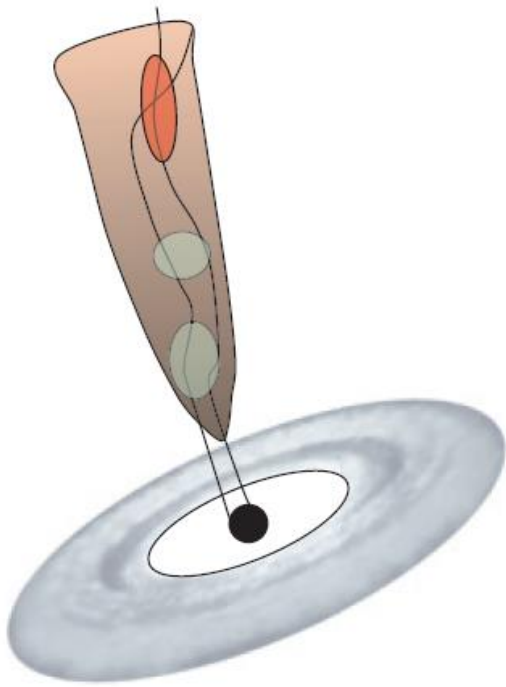
Looking at the flares in the near-infrared



In addition to the radio emission, variable X and infrared emission appears as « flares » several times per day during 1-2 hours.

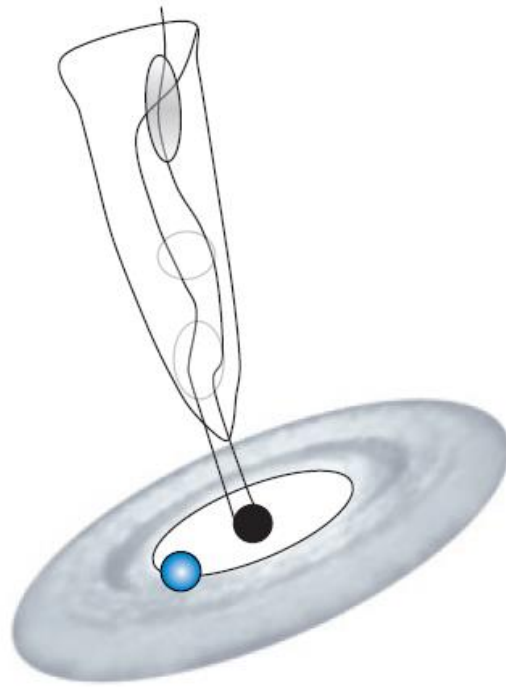
The flares originate from transiently heated electrons of the inner accretion and outflow region but their origin is still matter of debate.

Different flare models



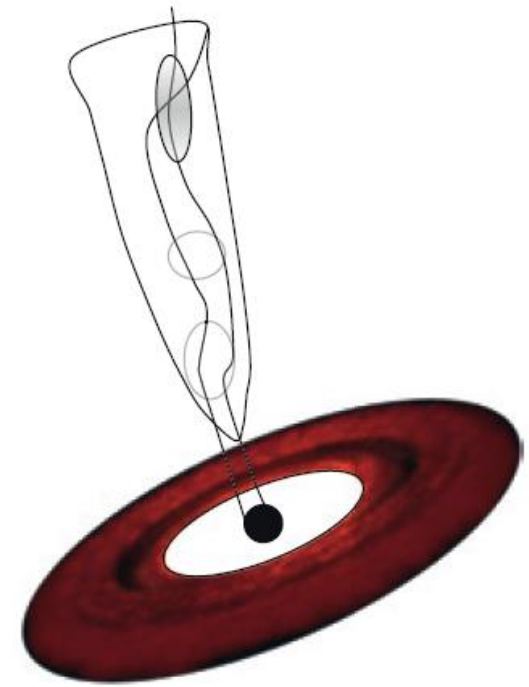
Material blobs
ejected in a jet

Similar to AGN jets



Hot spot on the
closest stable orbit

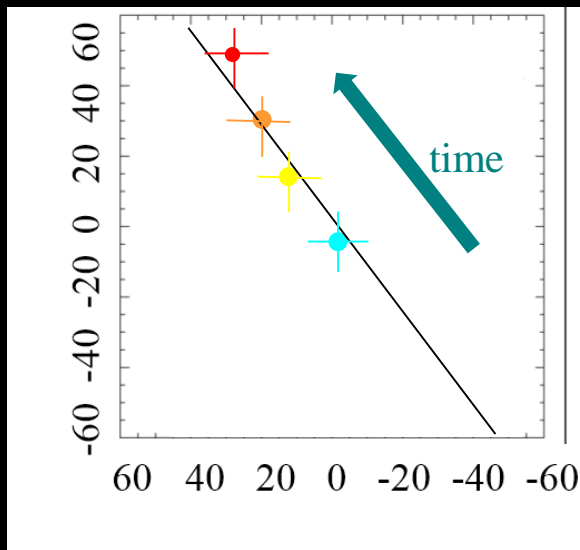
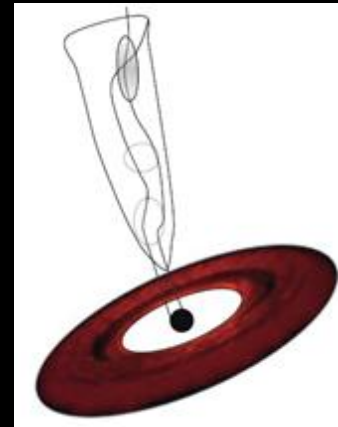
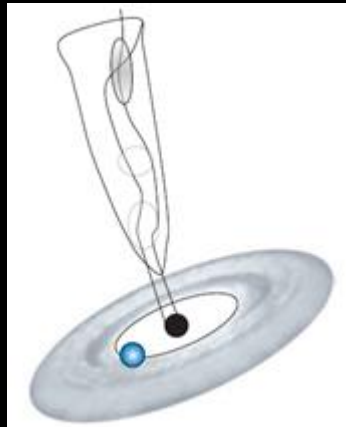
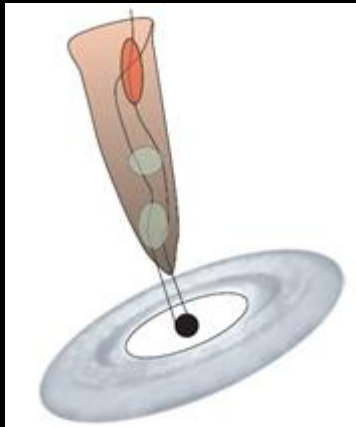
Consistent with the light
curve in the near-infrared and
the polarization changes



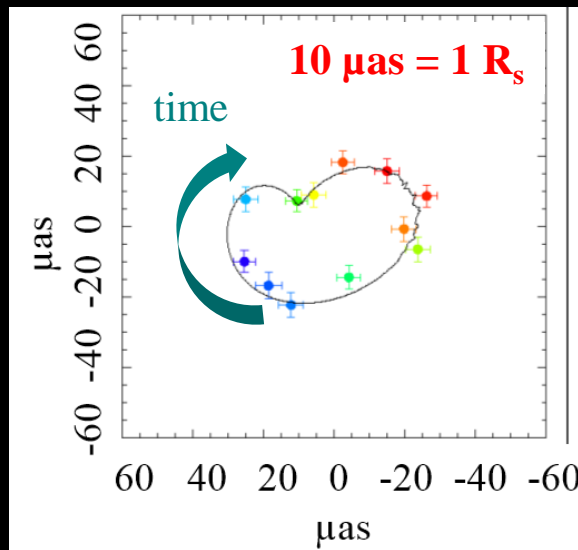
Statistical fluctuations
in the accretion flow

Consistent with the
long-term variations
of the light curve

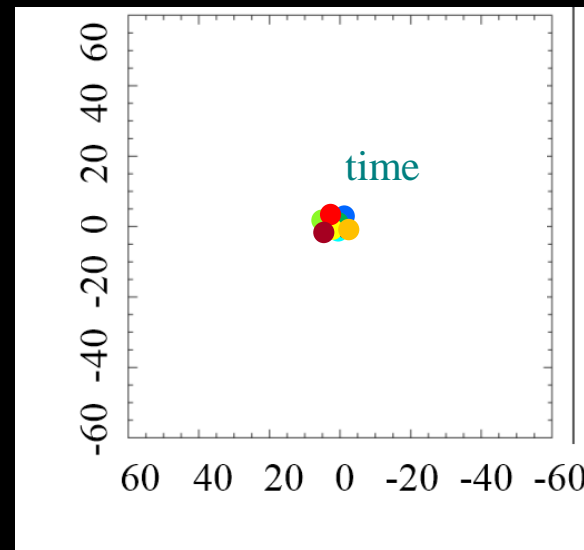
On-sky centroid positions



Jet



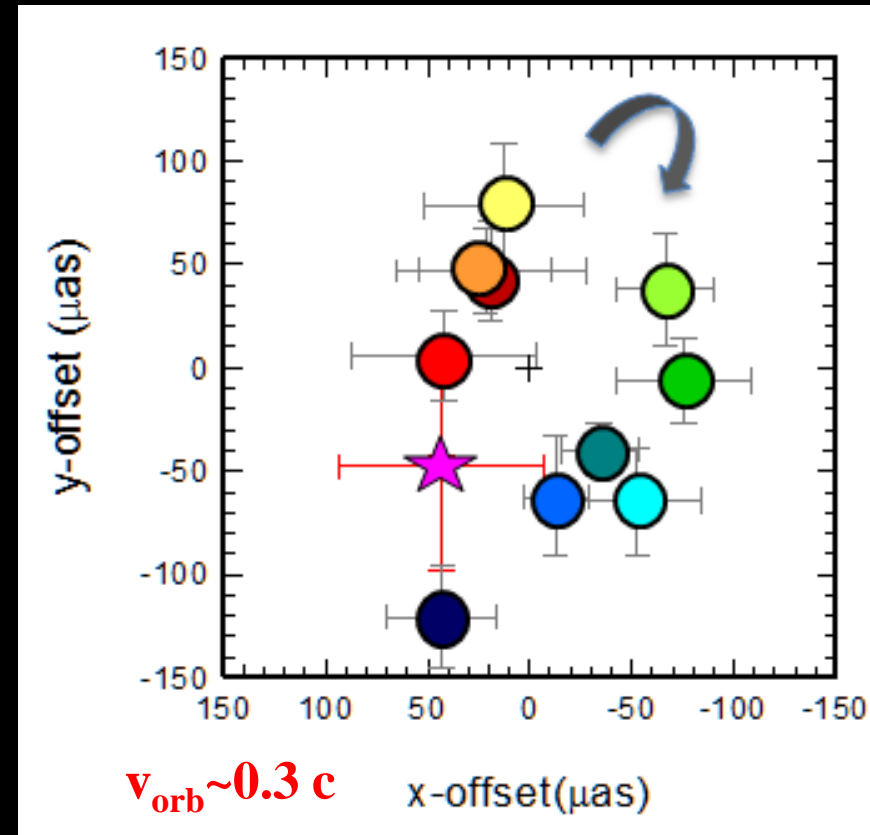
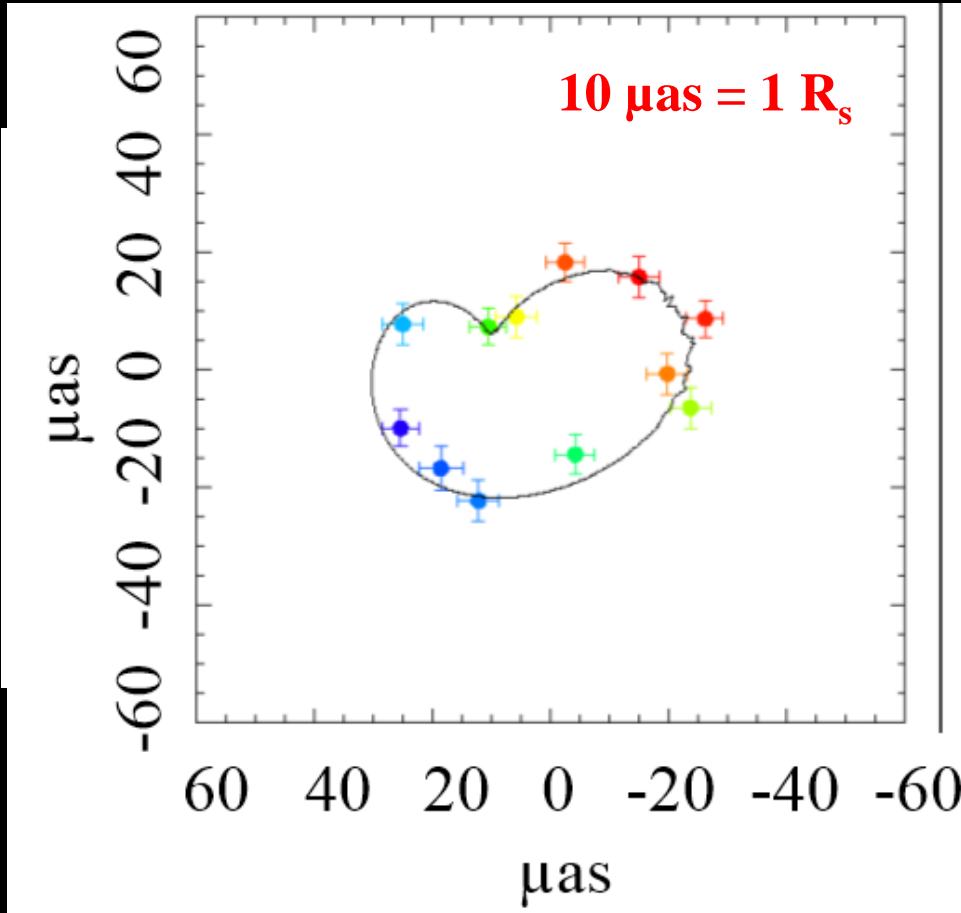
Hot spot model



Statistical fluctuations

Centroid positions measured with GRAVITY

Positions recorded with GRAVITY

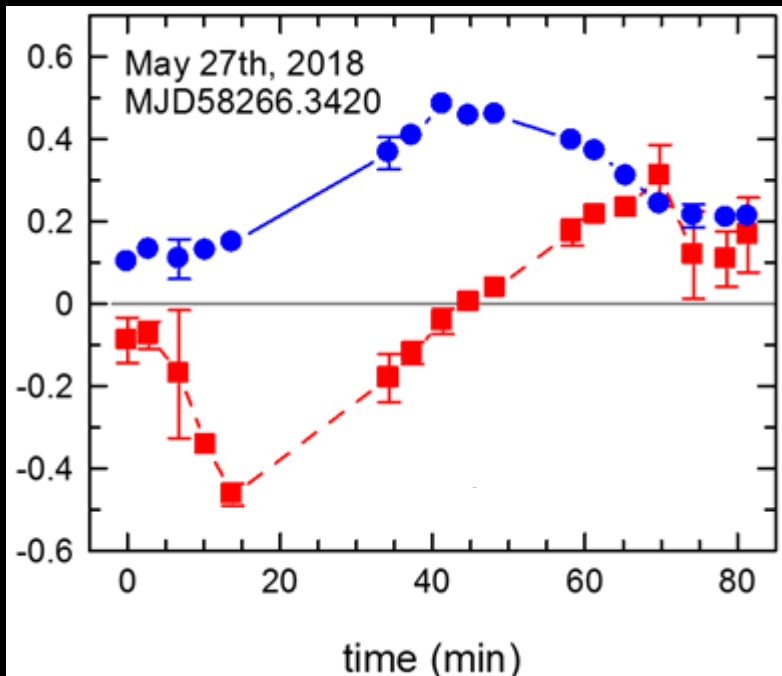


⇒ Consistent with the hot spot model

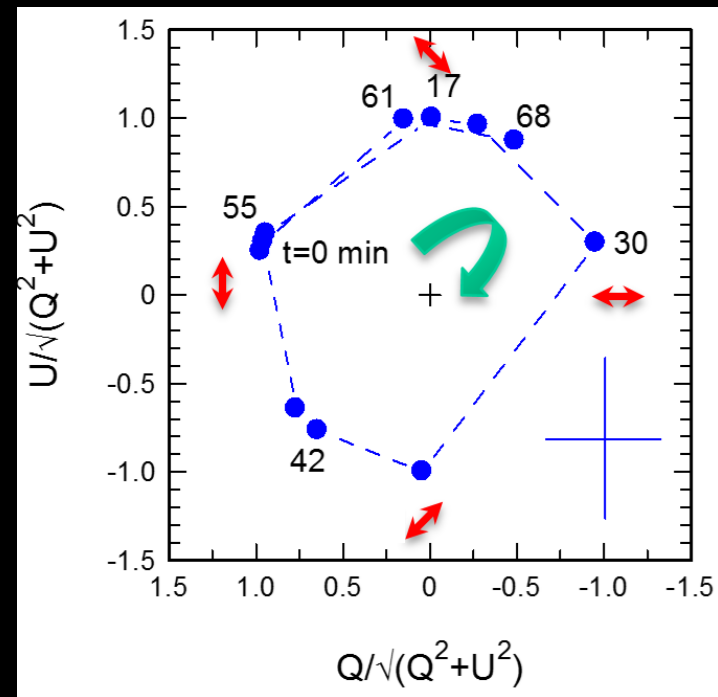
GRAVITY measurements
July 22nd, 2018

GRAVITY detection of polarization loops

Total flux **Flux in linear polarization**
(normalized to S2 flux)



Polarization loop with time

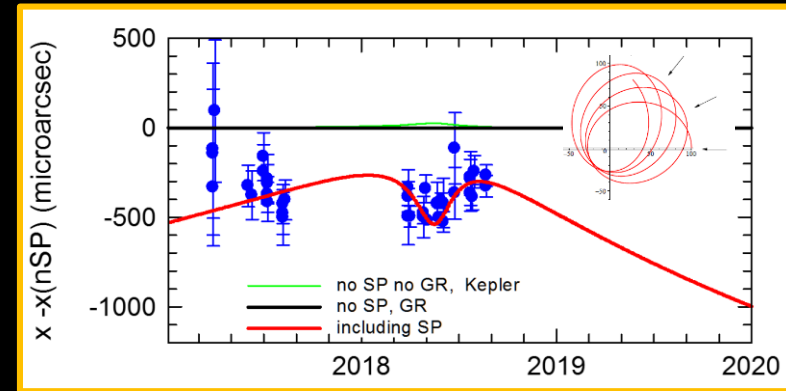


Several flare observations are consistent with the same parameters

⇒ Provide information on inclination (low), magnetic field (poloidal), ...

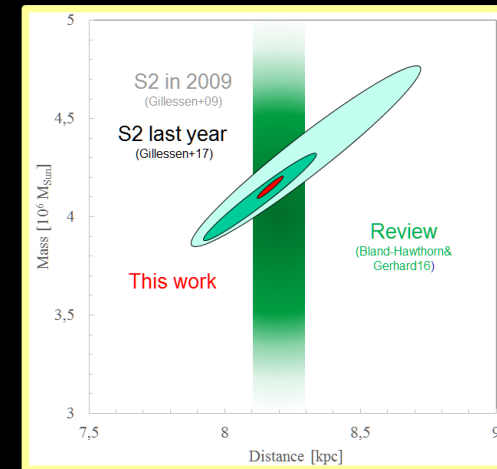
Conclusion and perspectives

- Sgr A*:
 - The « largest » black hole we can study
 - A unique lab to study GR
- GRAVITY:
 - Fantastic instrument to do that
 - Very complementary to other diagnosis
 - Application to AGN



Next steps starting in March 2019:

- Look for other stars around SgrA*, closest than S2
- Look at new flares
- Look for higher order effects (**Schwarzschild precession**, Lense-Thirring effects) to better constrain the black hole parameters and physics



$$\text{Mass} = 4.144_{0.023} \times 10^6 \text{ (} 6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ precision)}$$

$$\text{Distance} = 8174_{20} \text{ pc (} 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{)}$$