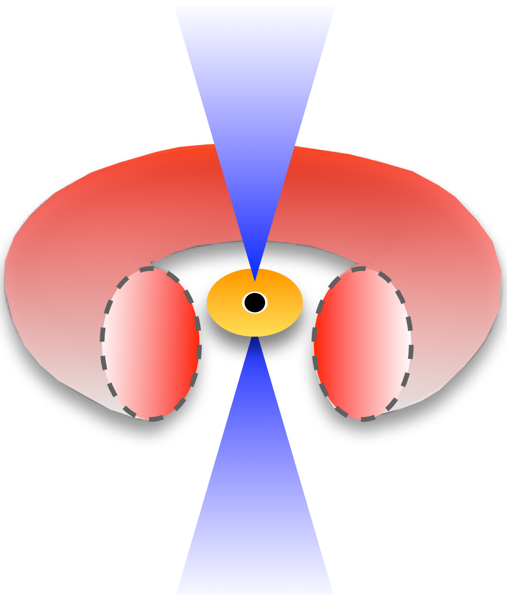
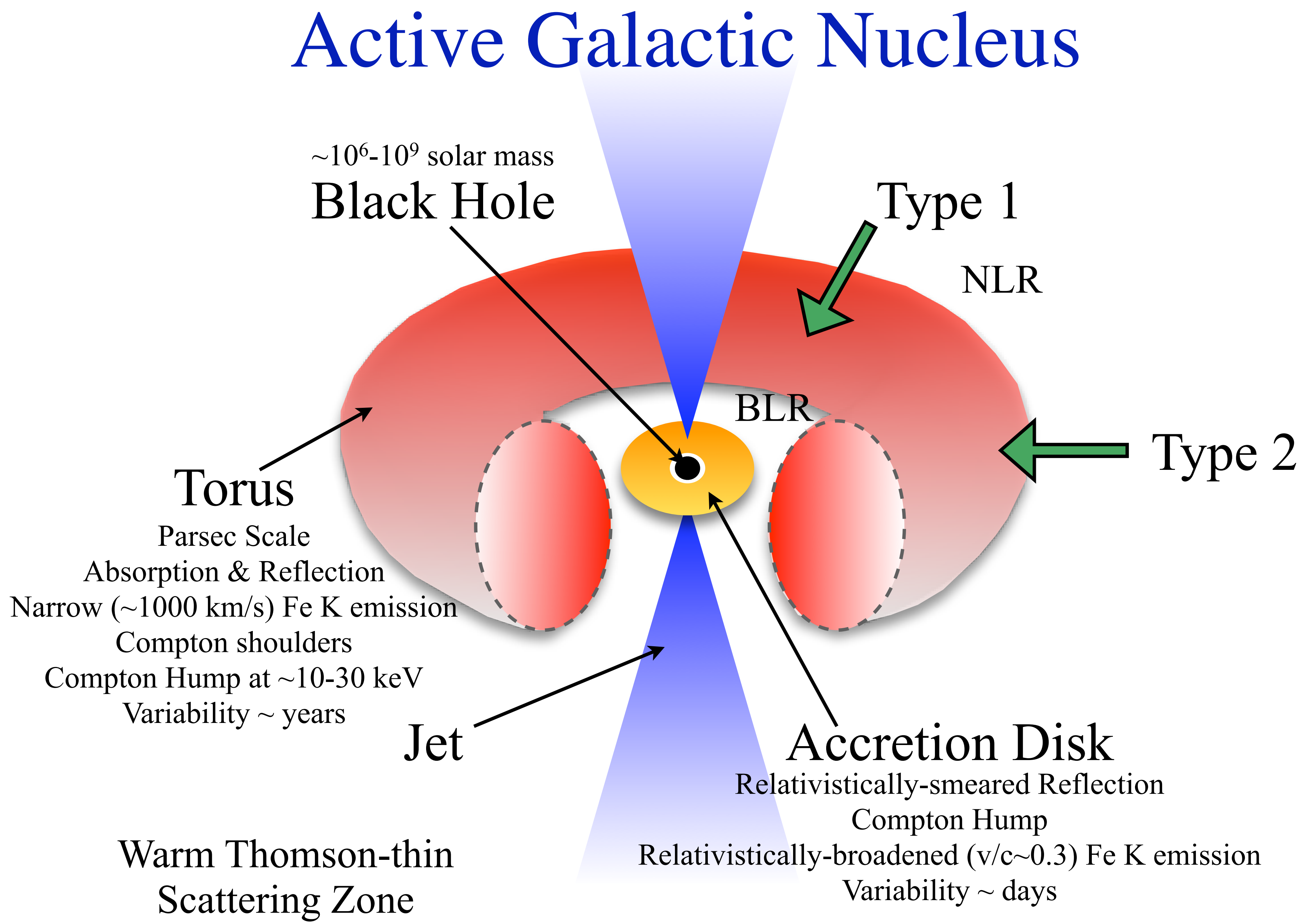
Probing Accretion and Circumnuclear Material in AGN

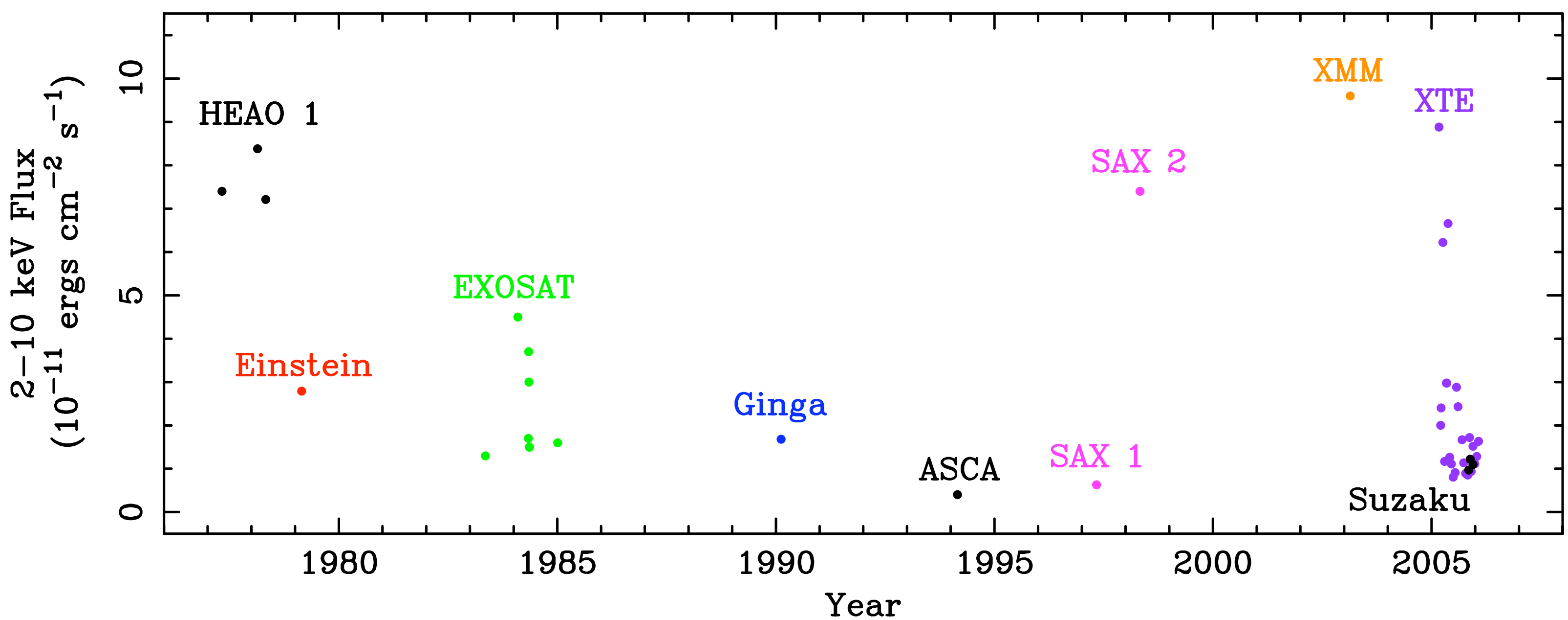
Kendrah D. Murphy
with Tahir Yaqoob
Johns Hopkins University




Active Galactic Nucleus
~10^6-10^9 solar mass
Black Hole
Type 1
NLR
BLR
Type 2
Torus
Parsec Scale
Absorption & Reflection
Narrow (~1000 km/s) Fe K emission
Compton shoulders
Compton Hump at ~10-30 keV
Variability ~ years
Jet
Accretion Disk
Relativistically-smeared Reflection
Compton Hump
Relativistically-broadened (v/c~0.3) Fe K emission
Variability ~ days
Warm Thomson-thin
Scattering Zone

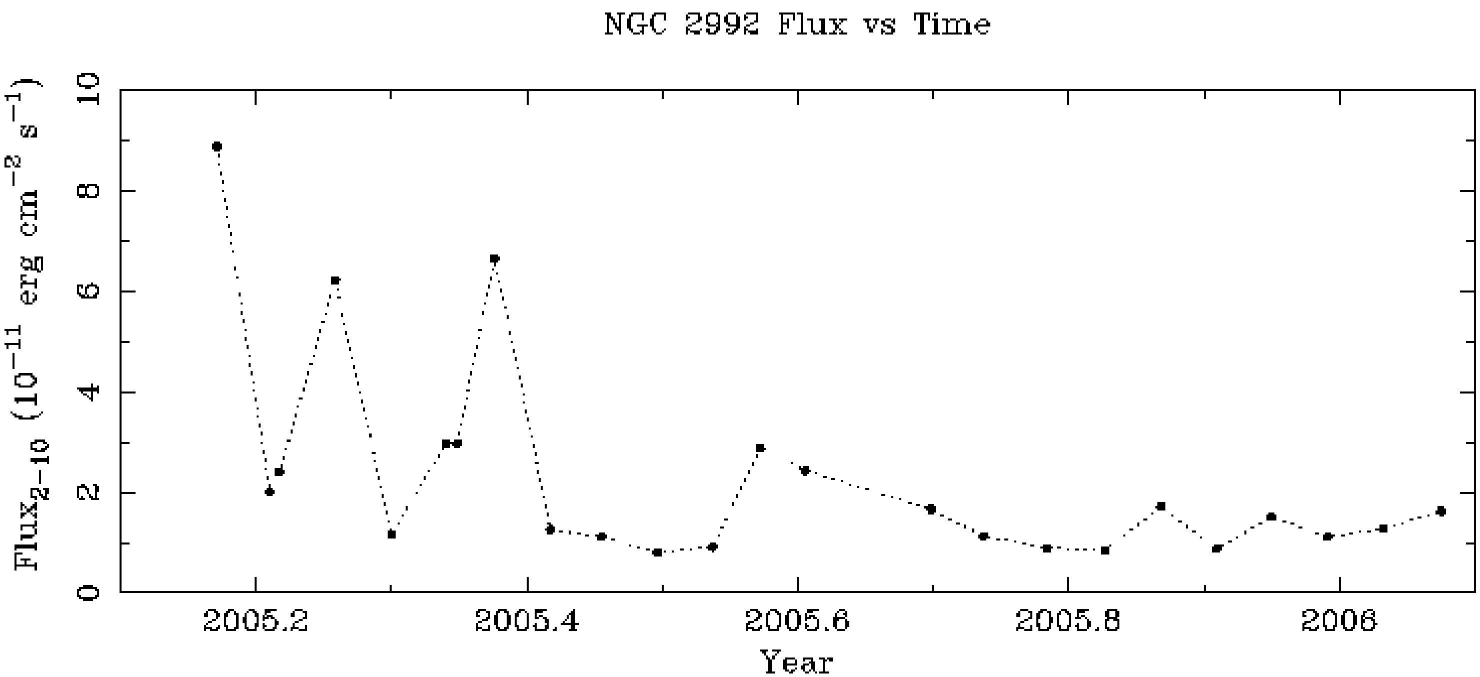
Seyfert Galaxy NGC 2992

- This relatively nearby ($z = 0.00771$) source was first detected by HEAO-1 in 1977 and has subsequently been observed by nearly every X-ray mission to date.
- The continuum flux varied by a factor of ~20 in past 30 years, accompanied by complex variability in the Fe Kα line complex.
  - The variability was believed to be a result of concluded quenching and revival of accretion (Gilli et al. 2000).
  - In the low state, the source exhibited properties of a type 2 AGN; however, in the high state it exhibited properties that are more consistent with a type 1 object.



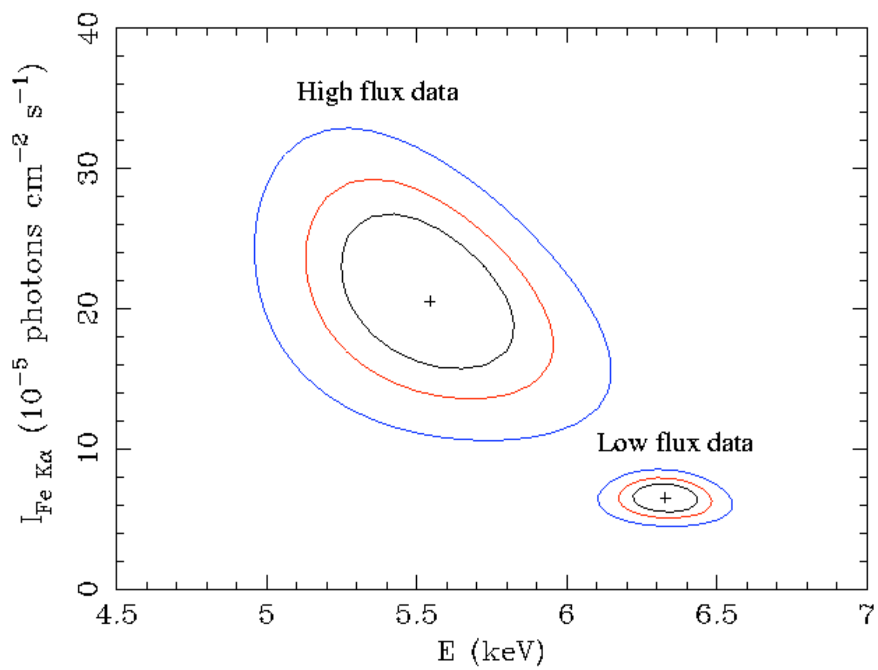
NGC 2992: *RXTE*

- NGC 2992 was monitored for 1 year with the RXTE PCA (March 2005 - January 2006).
- A total of 24 observations were obtained.
- The 2-10 keV continuum flux varied by a factor of ~10 on *short timescales* (on the order of days to weeks).
    - The measured continuum flux covered nearly the entire historical range, making it unlikely that the variation is due to the accretion mechanism switching on and off.



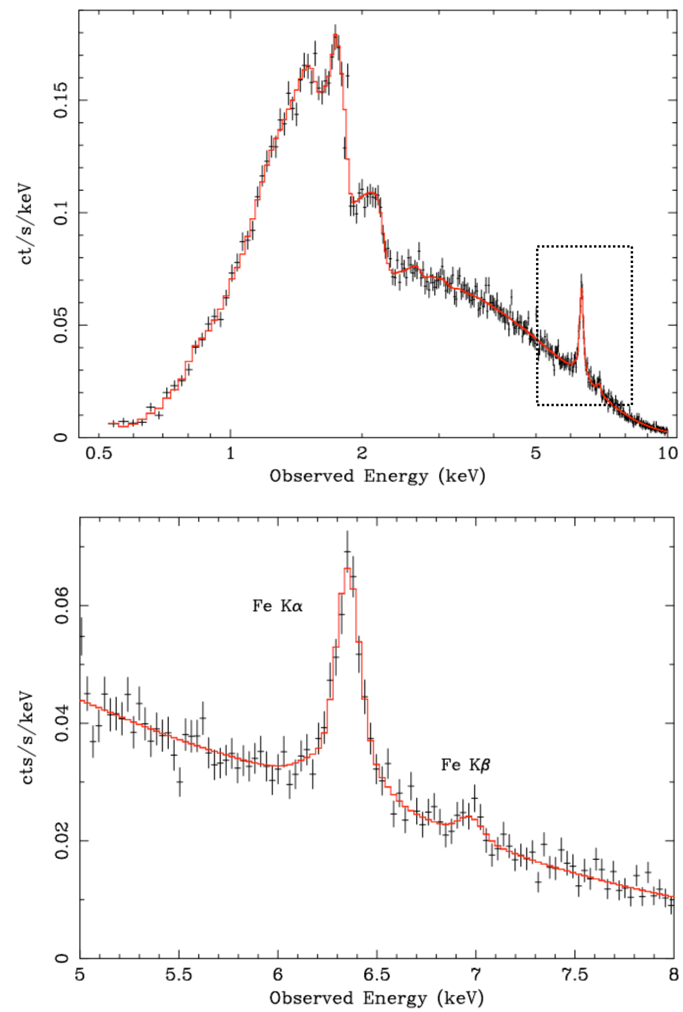
NGC 2992: *RXTE*

- Fe Kα line emission was detected in most of the 24 RXTE observations.
- However, the intensity of the Fe Kα line did not vary as dramatically as the continuum flux.
- During the **non-flaring** periods, the line peaked at ~6.4 keV.
- *But*, while the source was in the **high-flux** state, a highly red-shifted (~5.6 keV), broadened line dominated.
  - This may be evidence that the broad line is due to localized flaring in the inner accretion disk!

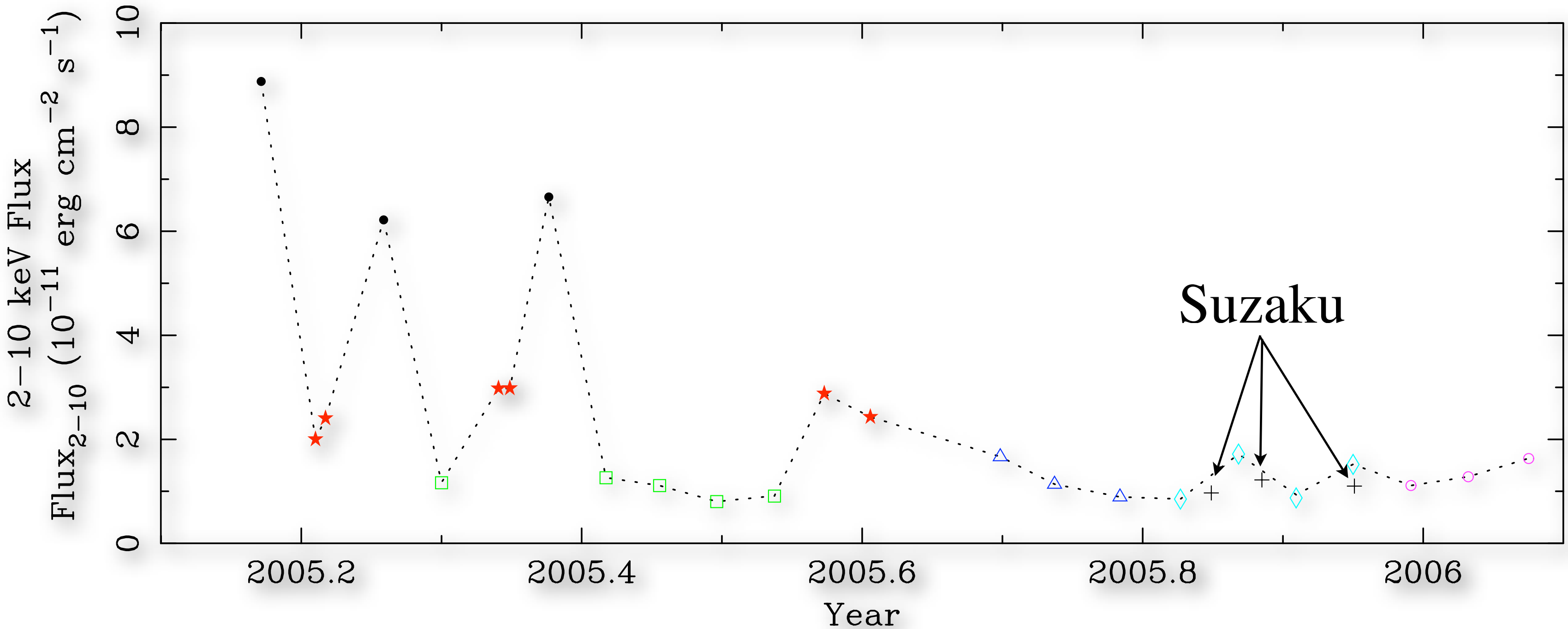


NGC 2992: *Suzaku*

- Three observations of NGC 2992 were made with the Suzaku XIS that were *quasi-simultaneous with the low-state RXTE observations* (November - December 2005).
- Suzaku detected both Fe Kα *and* Fe Kβ emission lines.
  - Kβ is much more sensitive to the ionization state than Kα and **we determined that the predominant ionization state of Fe in the distant matter is less than Fe VIII**.
  - **Both broad and narrow components of the Fe Kα emission line were detected**, implying that there is persistent line emission from both the accretion disk and from more distant matter (i.e. from the putative obscuring torus).



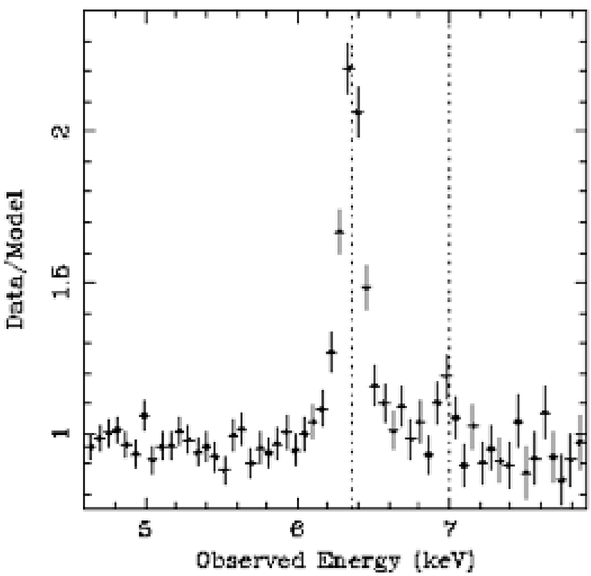
NGC 2992 Lightcurve: *RXTE & Suzaku*



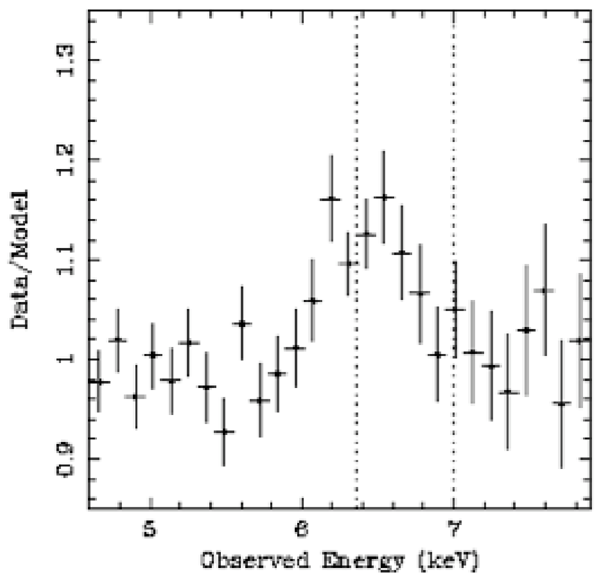
NGC 2992: *Suzaku*

- Modeling the narrow core of the Fe Kα emission revealed a broad base to the line complex.
- *The broad and narrow components of Fe Kα were decoupled* (with a confidence level of > 3σ) in this source *for the first time* with the XIS data.
- Decoupling the line is rarely possible with other sources.

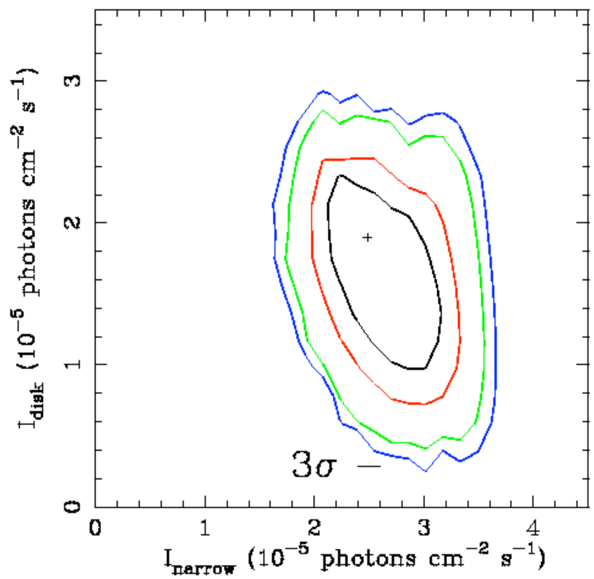
Narrow + Broad Fe Kα and Fe Kβ



Broad Fe Kα residual

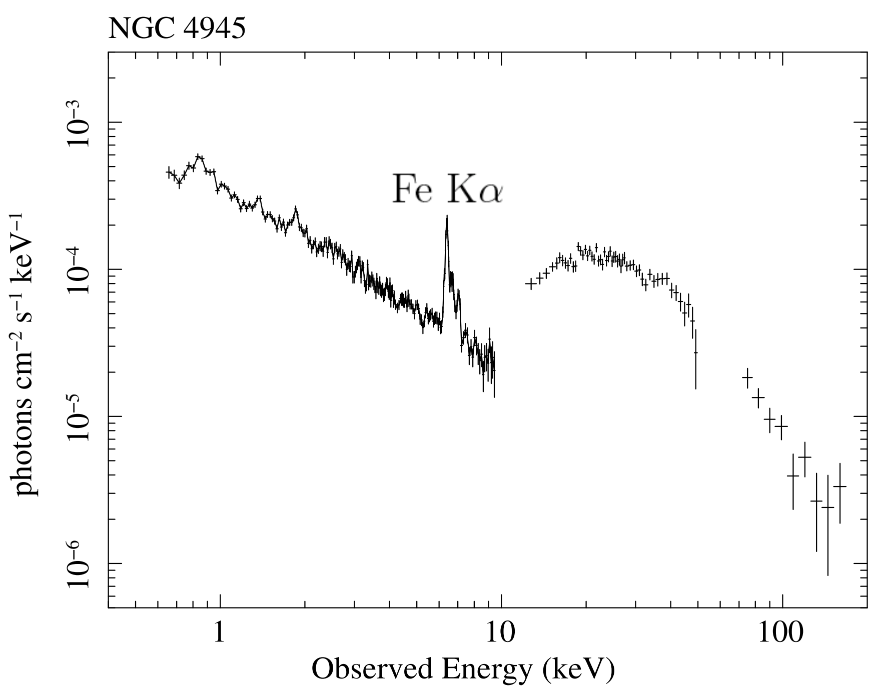


Confidence contours for the broad vs. narrow Fe Kα emission lines

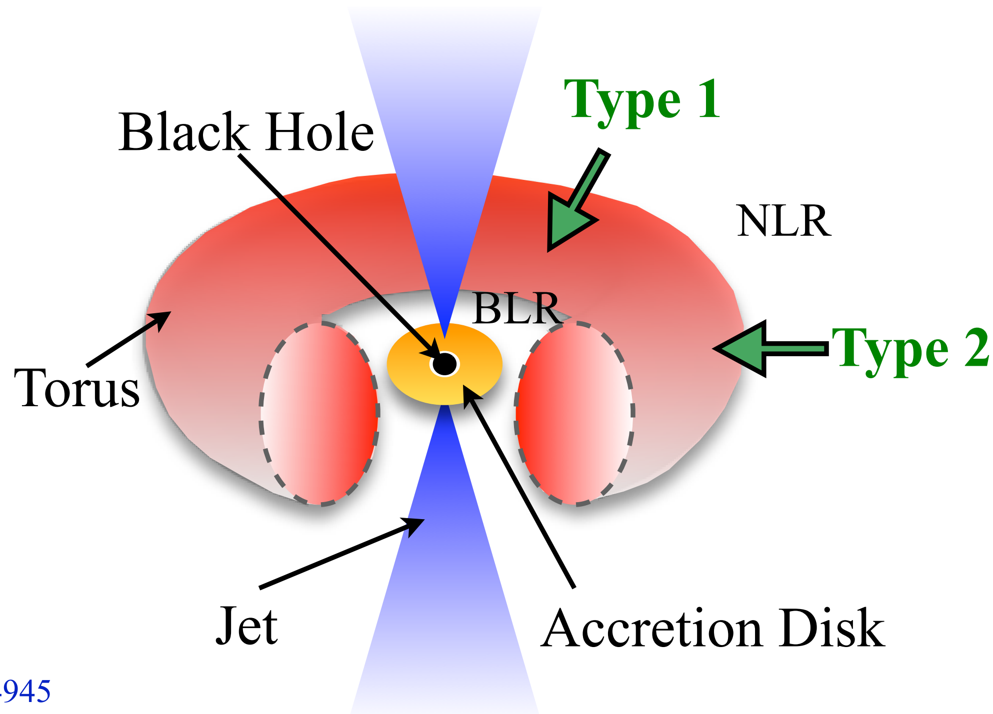


A New Toroidal Reprocessor Model

- The reprocessor (putative torus) absorbs and transmits and/or reflects high energy radiation from the source, affecting the observed spectra of:
  - **Type 2 AGN (Compton-thick *or* -thin)**: line of sight passes through reprocessor and signatures of transmission and scattering are present in the spectrum.
  - **Type 1 AGN**: observed spectrum may have Compton reflection signatures.
- Photoelectric absorption + Compton down-scattering produces the so-called "Compton hump" at ~10-30 keV and Compton shoulders on emission lines.

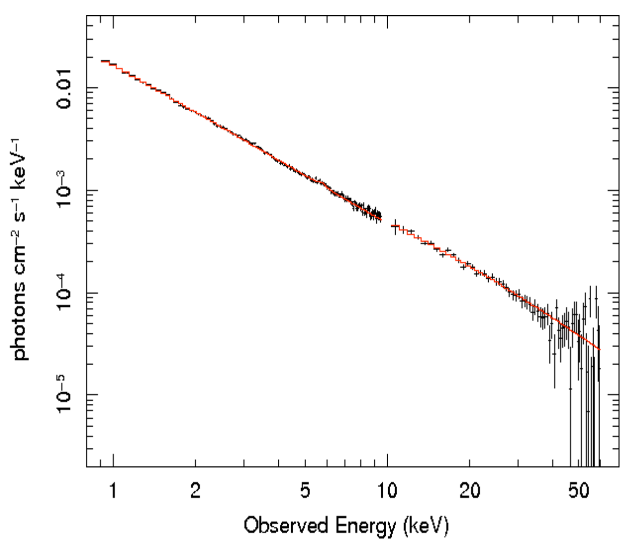


X-ray/γ-ray spectrum of Compton-thick, Type 2 AGN NGC 4945

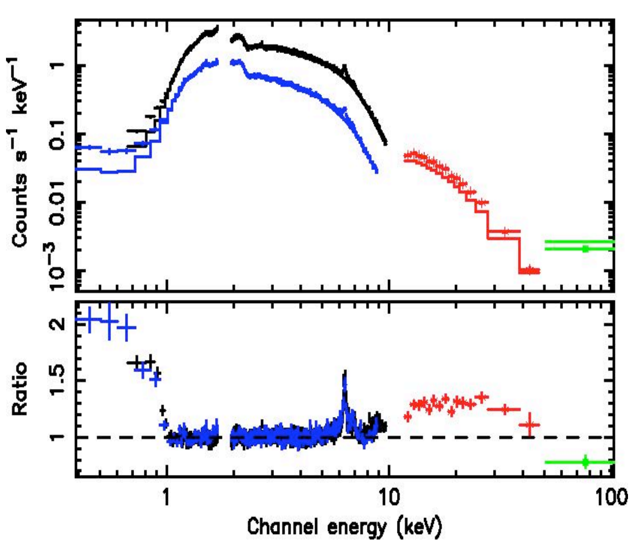


Why Do We Need This Model?

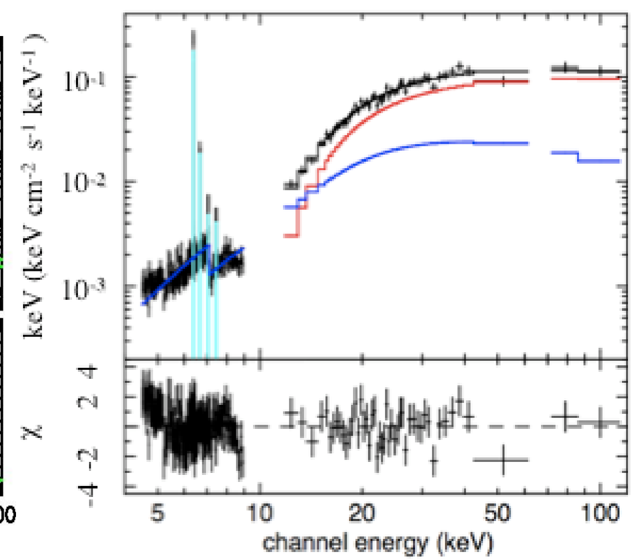
- Currently no generalized tool is available for *direct fitting* of an observed spectrum for AGNs with Compton-thick reprocessors with an *arbitrary input spectral shape.*
  - It is common practice to use disk reflection to model the reprocessor (wrong geometry, no emission lines, cannot constrain N_H).
  - In addition to fitting obscured (type 1.5-2) AGNs spectra, the model will allow us to derive upper limits on the column density and opening angle of a possible reprocessor (out of the line-of-sight) in type 1 AGNs.



Type 1 AGN
3C 273



Reeves *et al.* (2007)
Compton-Thin, Type 2 AGN
MCG -5-23-16



Itoh *et al.* (2007)
Compton-Thick, Type 2 AGN
NGC 4945

A New Model for Compton-Thick Reprocessors

- Previous reprocessor models assume a ***fixed*** input spectrum - this does not allow for direct fitting of the observed spectrum.

- Our model does not assume an input spectrum - our model will enable the user to determine the best-fit input parameters from the observed data (e.g. it may be used with any other model in XSPEC).

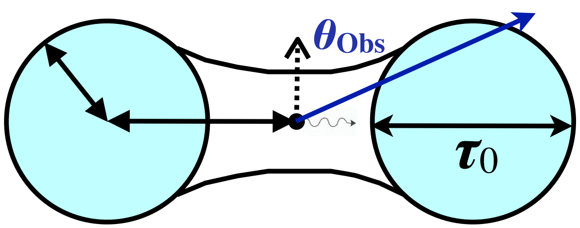
  - Employ grids of ***pre-calculated Green's functions*** (response to a mono-energetic input) instead of grids of pre-calculated spectra.

- The resolution in *both* the lines and continuum will be sufficient for use with observed data from both current and planned future missions.

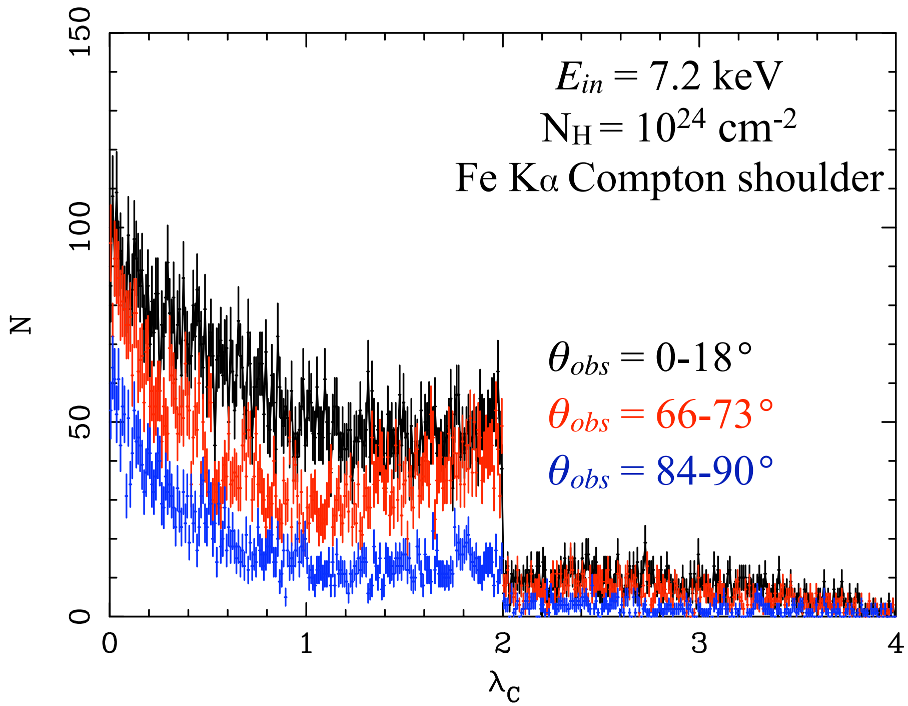
  - The model will make use of recent work on atomic data in order to more accurately model the Fe Kα, Fe Kβ, and Ni Kα emission lines and their Compton shoulders.

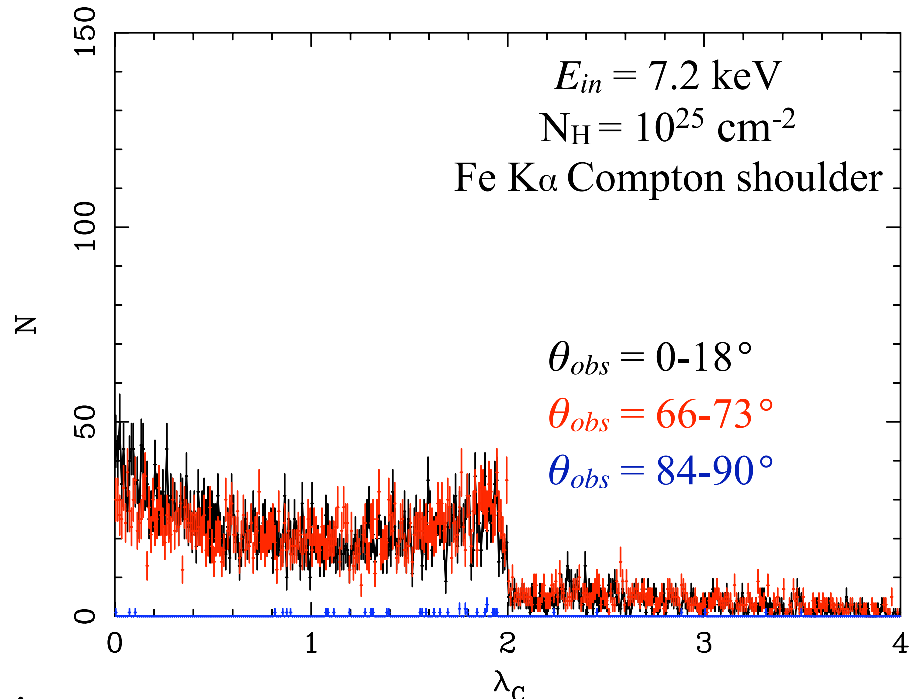
- **Free parameters will include**: column density of the reprocessor, Fe abundance, inclination angle of the observer, torus opening angle, as well as an arbitrary number of input continuum parameters

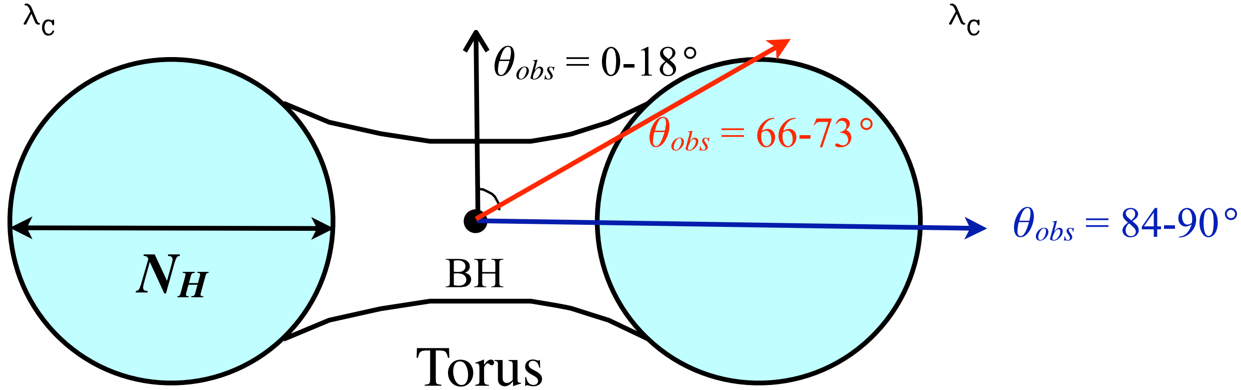
This methodology will be applied to several geometries; the first set of models will be toroidal.



Sample Green's Functions: Fe Kα Compton Shoulder







Summary

- Collectively, the X-ray data for NGC 2992 present a picture of both persistent Fe K line emission from the disk (broad base) and distant matter (narrow core) and short-term flaring emission (variable broad line) from the disk.
  - This type of complexity in the Fe K emission, as well as complexity in the continuum due to multiple reflection continua, is typical for many AGN.
  - The narrow Fe K line probes matter out of the line-of-sight and this material may be Compton-thick, even if the line-of-sight absorption is Compton-thin.
- We are creating an X-ray spectral model for Compton-thick toroidal reprocessors in AGNs (for arbitrary input spectra).
  - Initially we focus on a torus geometry, but we plan to extend this work to include other appropriate geometries (i.e., wedge, clumpy configurations).
  - Emission lines and reflection continuum are treated self-consistently.
  - The Green's function grids will allow the column density, Fe abundance, inclination angle and opening angle to be fitted, in addition to the arbitrary spectral input parameters.
  - It will allow us to fit observed spectra with energies out to ~200 keV.