

# Black hole mass estimates from high-ionization lines: breaking a taboo?

Paola Marziani<sup>1</sup>

in collaboration with

D. Dultzin<sup>3</sup>, A. Negrete<sup>3</sup>, A. del Olmo<sup>2</sup>, M. A. Martínez-Carballo<sup>2</sup>, M. L. Martínez-Aldama<sup>2</sup>, G. M. Stirpe<sup>4</sup>, E. Bon<sup>5</sup>, N. Bon<sup>5</sup>, M. D'Onofrio<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Padova, Italia*

<sup>2</sup> *Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC), Granada, España*

<sup>3</sup> *Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM, México, D.F., México*

<sup>4</sup> *INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna, Bologna, Italia*

<sup>5</sup> *Astronomska Opseratorija, Beograd, Serbia*

<sup>6</sup> *Dipartimento di Fisica ed Astronomia "Galileo Galilei", U. di Padova, Padova, Italia*

# Summary

Introduction: importance of black hole mass estimates

Black hole mass ( $M_{\text{BH}}$ ) estimates: the virial assumption

The “rehabilitating” power of E1

Virial broadening estimators from:

- a) Low ionization lines (LILs, IP < 15 eV: H $\beta$ , MgII 2800)
- b) High ionization lines (HILs, IP > 40 eV: CIV $\lambda$ 1549)
- c) Intermediate ionization lines (IILs: SiIII] $\lambda$ 1892, Al III $\lambda$ 1860); preliminary results

“Photoionization masses”

Conclusion

## Importance of black hole mass determination

**Feedback to the host galaxy:** massive, fast outflows are affected by the ratio of radiation to gravitational forces, and are invoked to account for the  $M_{\text{BH}}$  - bulge velocity dispersion correlation

Fabian 2012; Kormendy & Richstone 2013; King & Pounds 2015, Ferland et al. 2009; Marziani et al. 2016a,b; 2017 (submitted)

The ratio between radiation and gravitation forces: influences **broad-line region dynamics**; lower column density material may flow out of the emitting region

Ferland et al. 2009; Marziani et al. 2010; Netzer & Marziani 2010; Marziani et al. 2017, submitted.

**Black hole masses of high redshift quasars** provide constraints on primordial black holes collapse

Smith, Broom, Loeb 2017, and references therein; Trakhtenbrot et al. 2015

# Black hole masses: the virial assumption

## $f$ structure factor

if  $\delta v = \text{FWHM}$ , isotropy :  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \text{FWHM} \rightarrow f = 0.75$

geometry dynamics

$$M_{\text{BH}} = \frac{f r (\delta v)^2}{G}$$

$r_{\text{BLR}}$

FWHM  
 $\sigma$   
FWZI

## $\delta v$ : virial broadening

estimators from line width measurements

Key assumption: emission line (or component) symmetric and unshifted with respect to the quasar rest frame

## Emitting region distance $r_{\text{BLR}}$

from central continuum source

Time lag  $\tau$  given by the peak or centroid of the cross-correlation function between line and continuum ( $r_{\text{BLR}} = c \tau$ ); scaling laws, or photoionization estimates

# Virial black hole masses: scaling laws for large samples

**$r_{\text{BLR primary}}$** :  $r_{\text{BLR}} = C \tau_{\text{H}\beta}$

from H $\beta$  reverberation mapping:  
available for  $\sim 100$  mainly low- $z$  ( $< 1$ ),  
type 1 AGN

(e.g., Kaspi et al.,  
Bentz et al. 2009,  
Du et al. 2016)



**$r_{\text{BLR secondary}}$** : scaling laws for  
large samples:  $r \propto L^a$ ,  $a \approx 0.5$

(Kaspi et al. 2000; Bentz et al. 2006)



**Mass scaling laws:**

$$M_{\text{BH}} = M_{\text{BH}}(L, \text{FWHM})$$

$$M_{\text{BH}} = k L^a \text{FWHM}^b$$

$$a \approx 0.5, b \approx 2 \text{ (virial)}$$

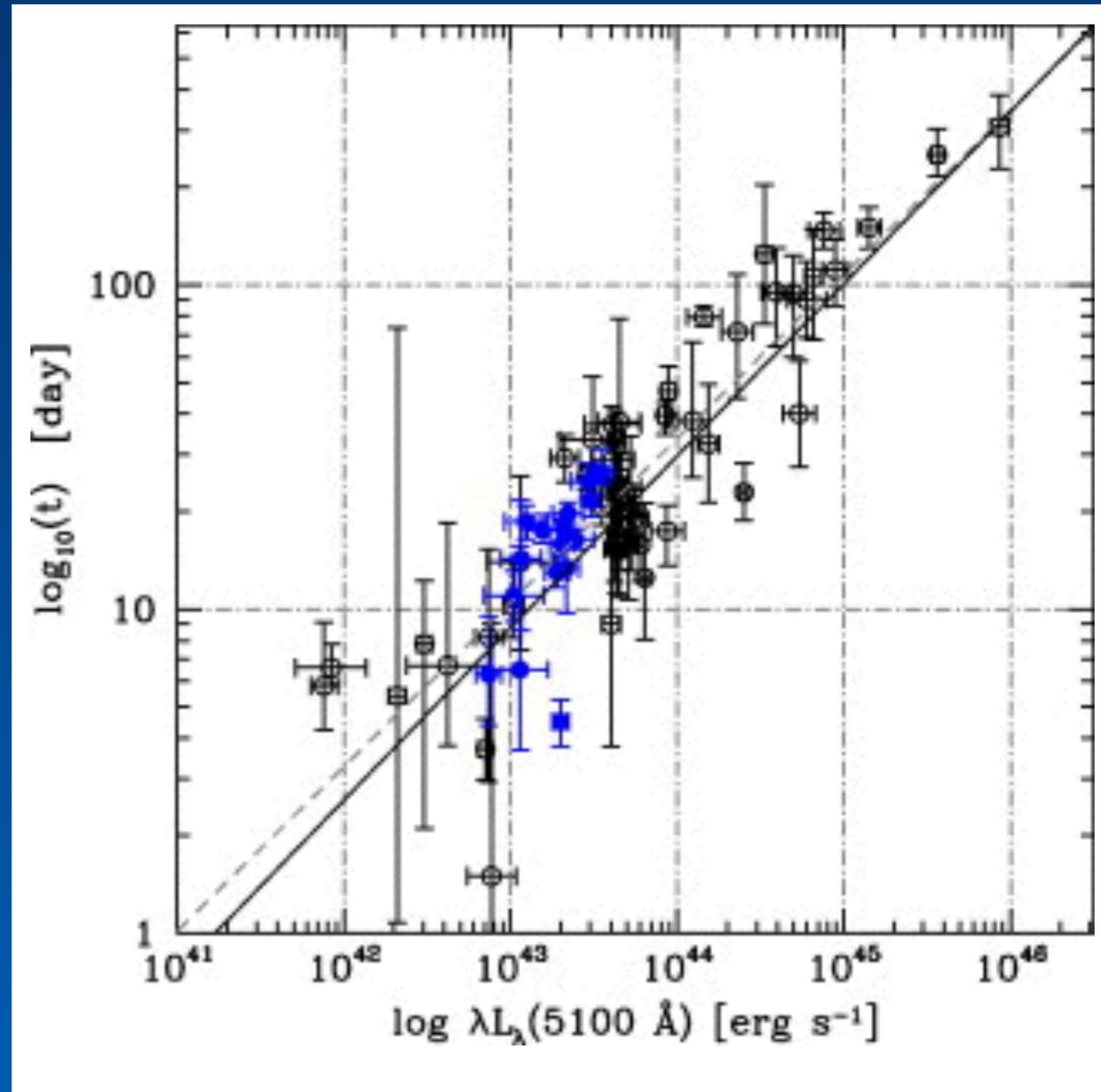
(e.g., Vestergaard & Peterson 2006; Trakhtenbrot & Netzer 2012)

$$a \neq 0.5, b \neq 2$$

(e.g., Shen & Liu 2012; Park et al. 2013; Shen et al 2016)



$$\text{Eddington ratio} = \frac{L_{\text{bol}}}{L_{\text{Edd}}} \propto \frac{\lambda L_{\lambda} \times \text{B.C.}}{M_{\text{BH}}}$$



**The  $M_{\text{BH}}$  scaling laws provides a simple  
recipe usable with single epoch  
spectra**

## Caveats

**Reverberation mapping assumptions** compact continuum source, fairly linear response.

Unpredicted behavior of NGC 5548 in 2014: shielding, optically thin gas, changing size of continuum source?

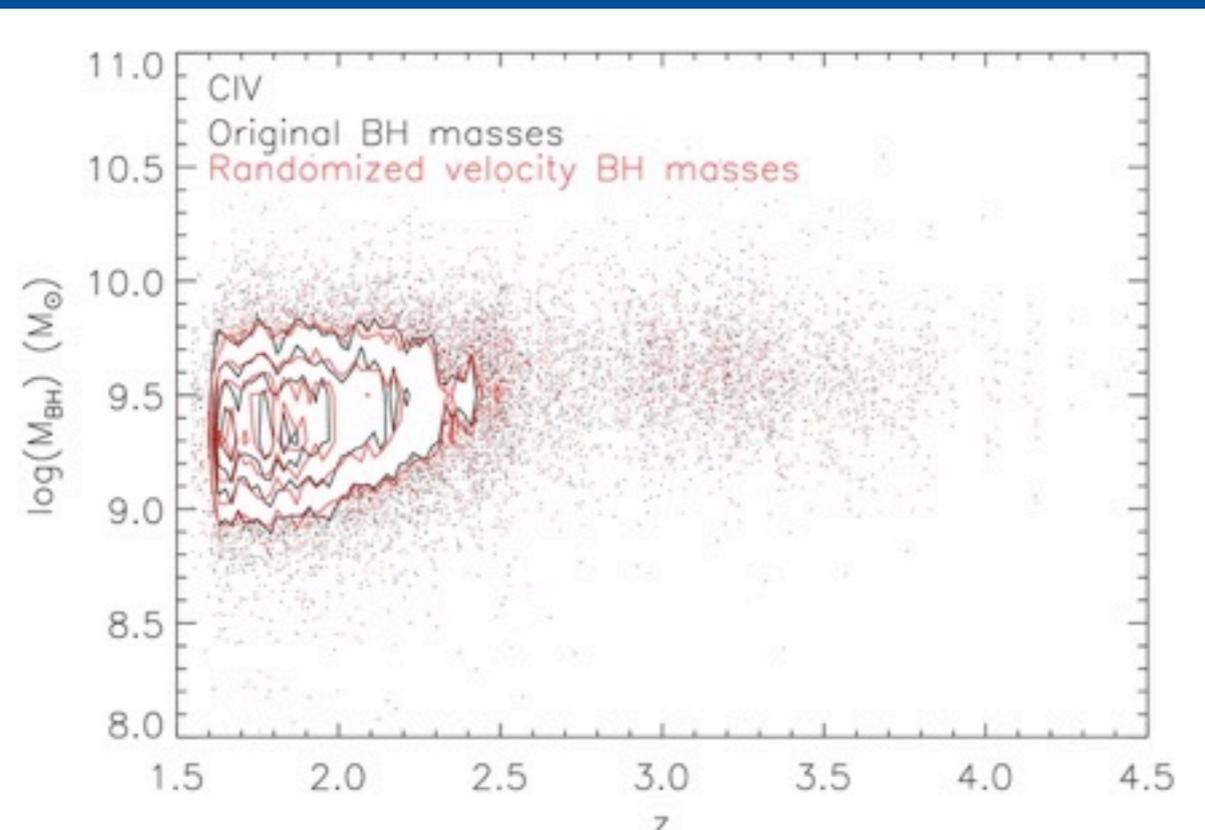
Horne et al. 2017; Pei et al. 2017; Fasnaugh et al 2016

The  **$r_{\text{BLR}} - L$  scaling relation**: has a non-negligible intrinsic dispersion, and  $r_{\text{BLR}}$  depends on dimensionless accretion rate.

Du et al. 2016; 2017

**Line profiles as virial broadening estimators**: errors so large to lead to full loss of information

e.g., Croom 2011



**One value of the structure factor** obtained scaling the  $M_{\text{BH}}$  to agree with the dynamical masses,  $f(\text{FWHM}) \approx 2$  but structure factor likely different for different type-1 quasar populations.

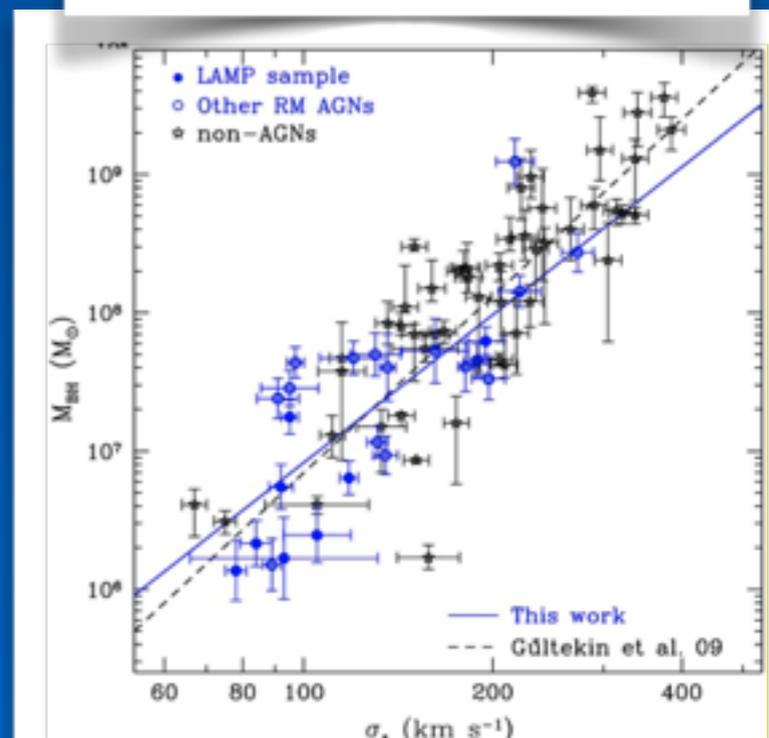
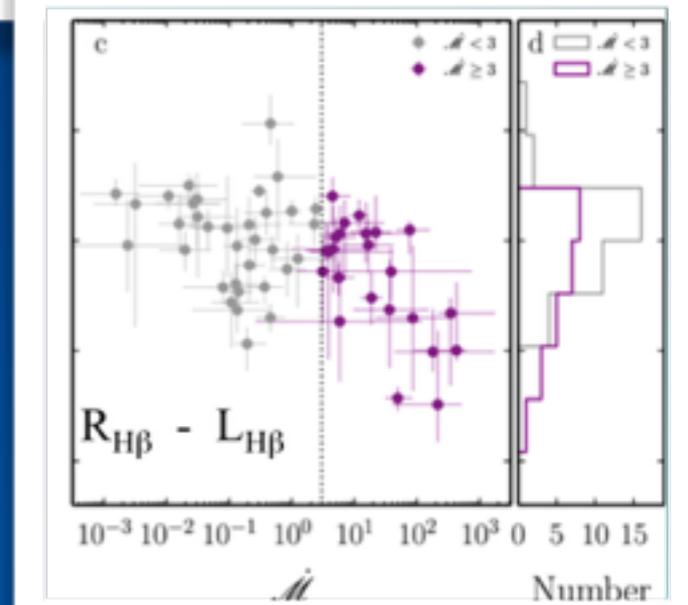
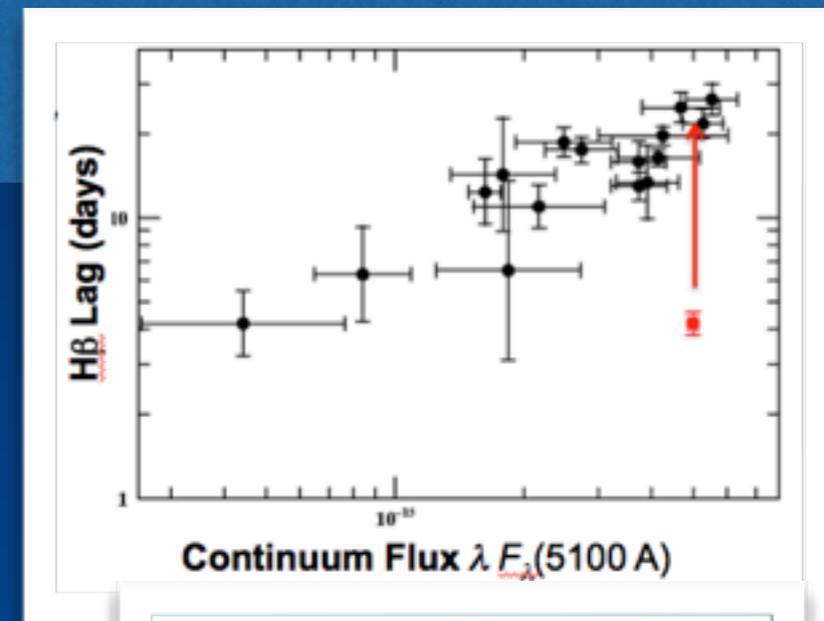
Woo et al. 2010; cf Gültekin et al. 2009;

Onken et al. 2004;

Ferrarere & Merritt 2000;

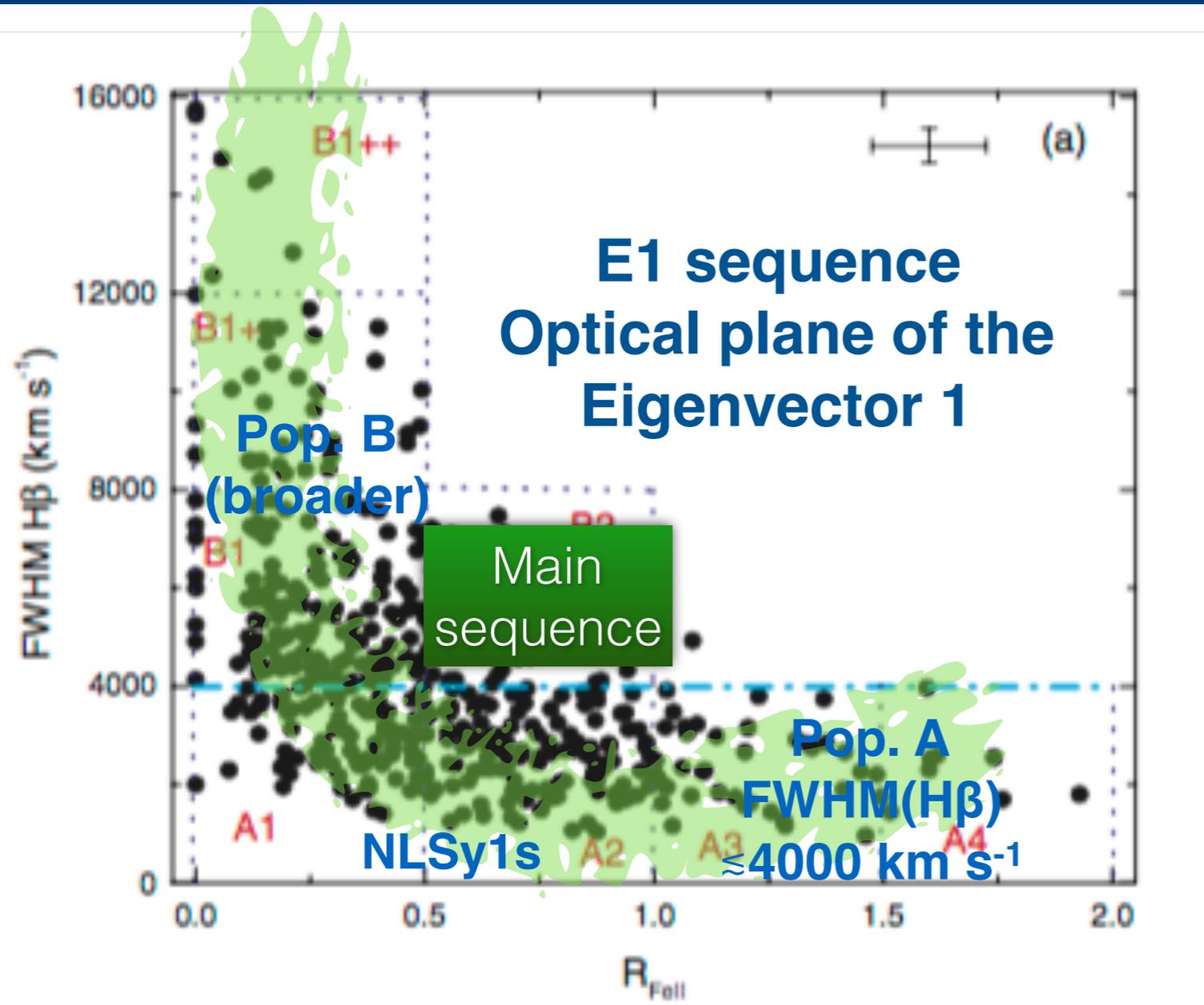
also Graham et al. 2011

6



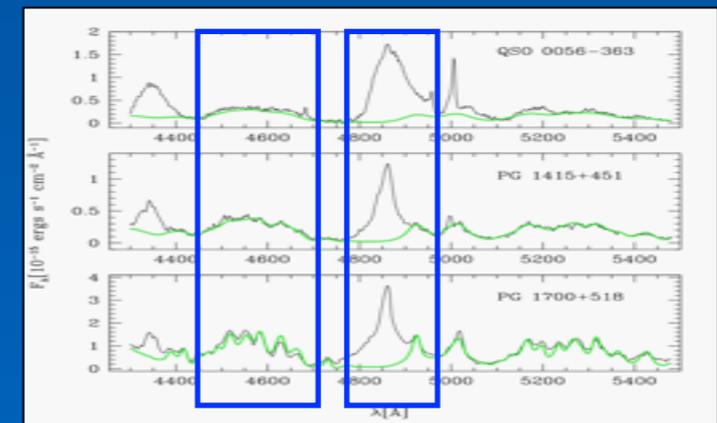
# The “rehabilitating power of Eigenvector 1”: The Quasar Main Sequence

## Eigenvector 1: an useful tool to organize quasar diversity



**Eigenvector 1**: Originally defined by a Principal Component Analysis of PG quasars, and associated with an anti-correlation between strength of FeII $\lambda$ 4570,  $R_{FeII}$  (or [OIII] 5007 peak intensity) and FWHM of H $\beta$ .

The **E1 main sequence (MS) in the optical plane** FWHM(H $\beta$ ) vs  $R_{FeII} = I(\text{FeII}\lambda 4570)/I(\text{H}\beta)$  allows for the **definition of spectral types**.



Sulentic et al. 2002 ( $z < 1$ ,  $\log L < 47$  [erg/s]); Boroson & Green 1992; Sulentic et al. 2000, 2007; discussed in more than 400 papers: Dultzin-Hacyan et al. 1997; Shang et al. 2003, Yip et al. 2004, Kruzcek et al. 2011; Tang et al. 2012; Kuraszkiwicz et al. 2008; Mao et al. 2009; Grupe 2004, Wang et al. 2006 SDSS data : Richards et al. 2011; Shen & Ho 2014, Sun & Ho 2015, Brotherton et al. 2015

$$R_{FeII} = \frac{I(\text{FeII}\lambda 4570)}{I(\text{H}\beta)} \approx \frac{W(\text{FeII}\lambda 4570)}{W(\text{H}\beta)}$$

# The “rehabilitating power of Eigenvector 1”: two Populations, A and B

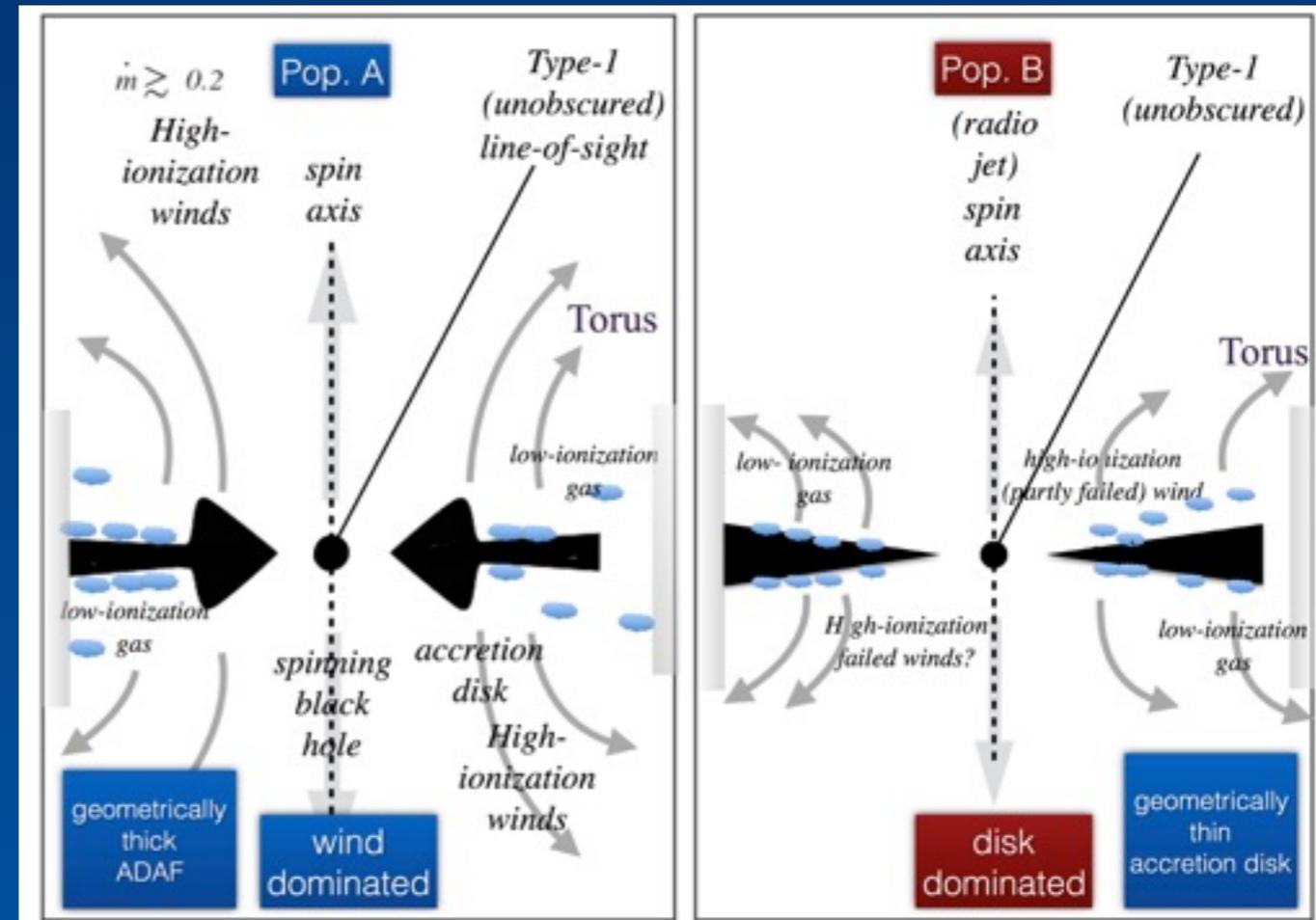
## $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$ is the driver of the E1 MS

Boroson & Green 1992, Marziani et al. 2001, Shen & Ho 2014, Sun & HSen 2015

## Population A (FWHM $H\beta < 4000$ km/s) and Population B (rounder) sources

Pop. A: high  $L/L_{\text{EDD}}$ ; Pop. B: low  $L/L_{\text{EDD}}$ .

More appropriate than the distinction NLSy1-rest of type-1 AGNs; called wind and disk dominated by Richards et al., Population 1 and 2 by Collin et al. 2006.



## Probably due to a change of accretion mode

Marziani et al. 2003b, Marziani et al. 2014

**4DE1:** 2 more “ortogonal” parameters:  $\Gamma_{\text{soft}}$ ,  $c(1/2) \text{ CIV}\lambda 1549$ ;

many more correlates, including line profile shapes

Table 1s of Sulentic et al. 2011 and Fraix-Burnet et al. 2017

The 4D Eigenvector 1 space of quasars

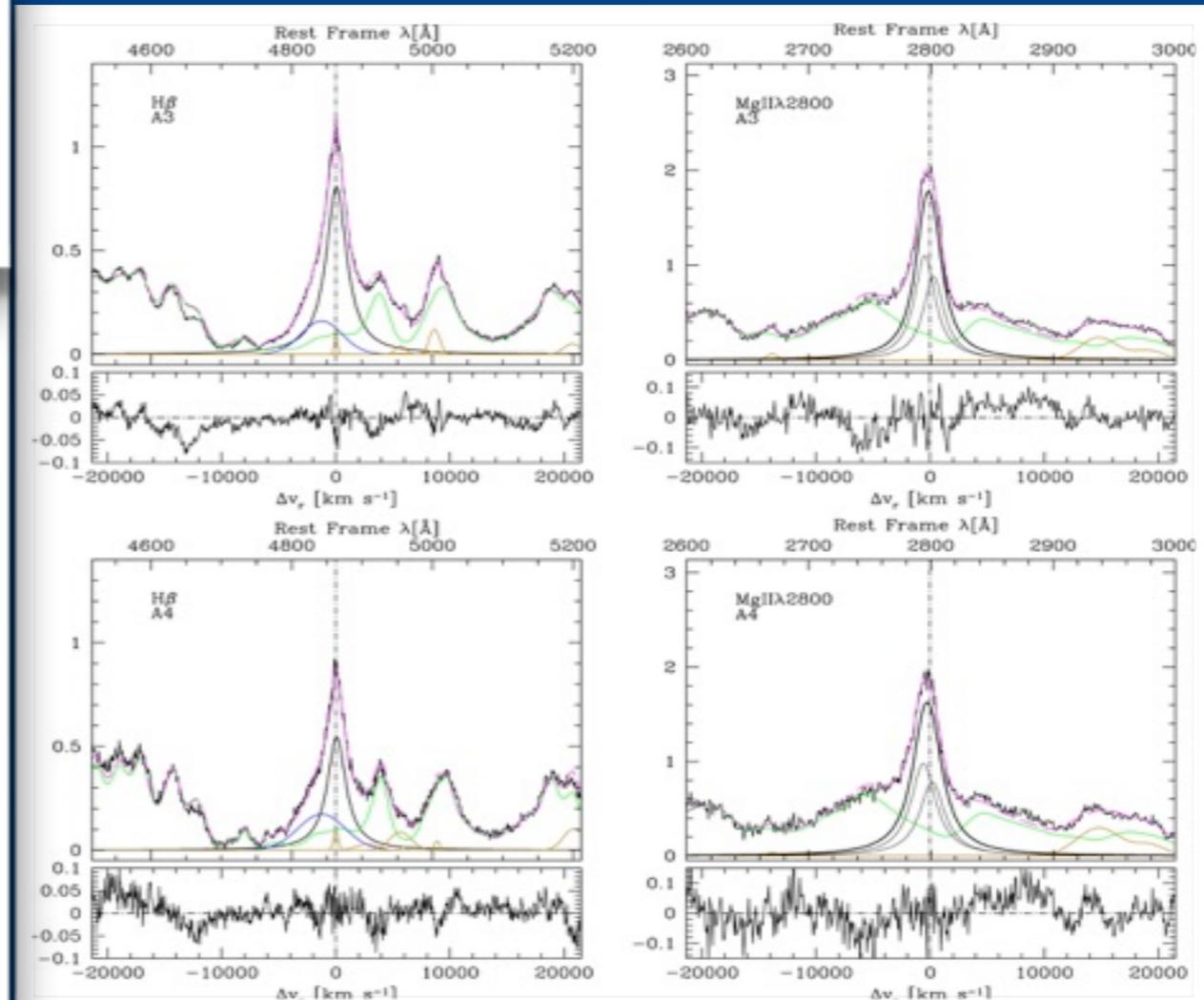
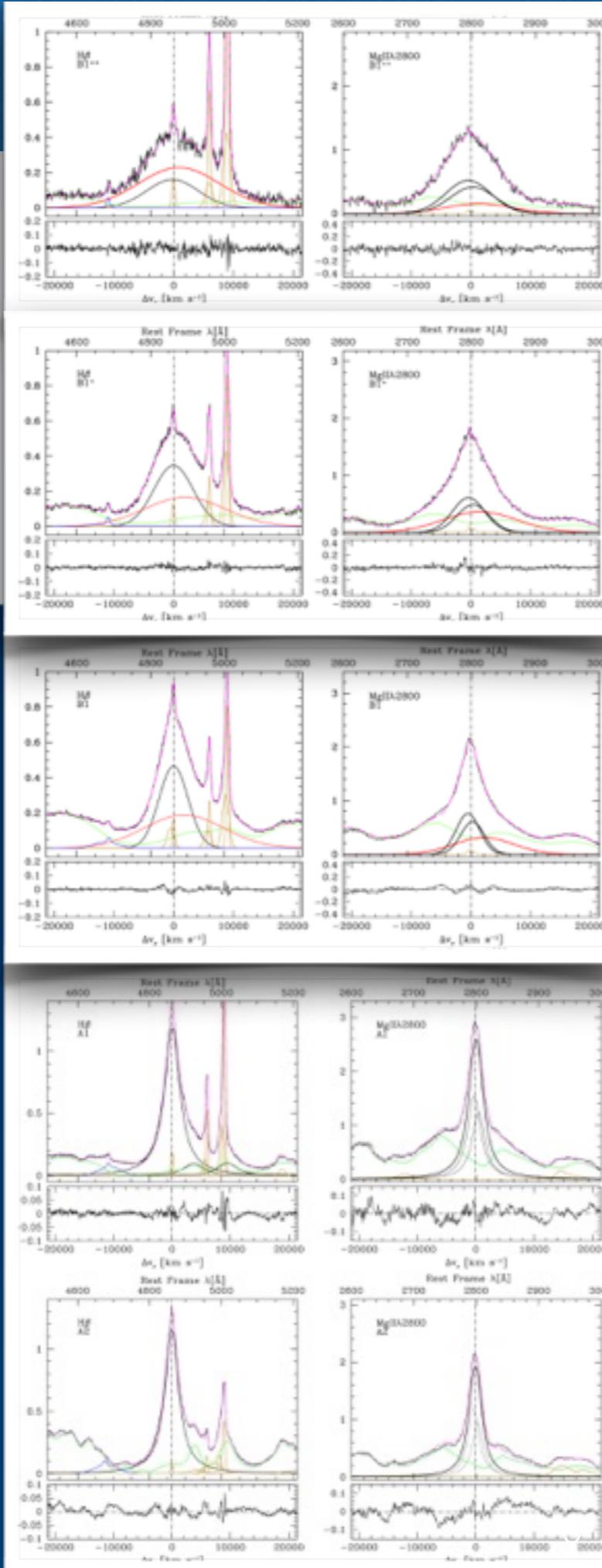
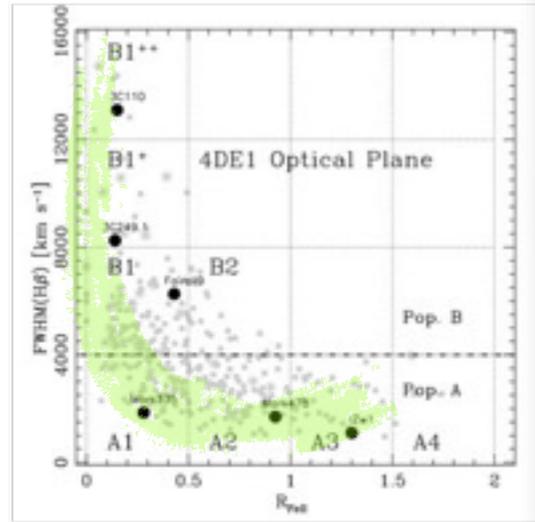
Observed parameter	Physical interpretation
$R_{\text{FeII}} = I(\text{FeII})/I(H\beta)$	ionization degree col. density, $Z$
FWHM( $H\beta$ )	velocity field of low-ionization gas
$\text{CIV}\lambda 1549$ Shift	velocity field of high-ionization gas
$\Gamma_{\text{soft}}$ (0.2-2 KeV)	Compton thick / accretion disk emission?

Optical plane of 4DE1

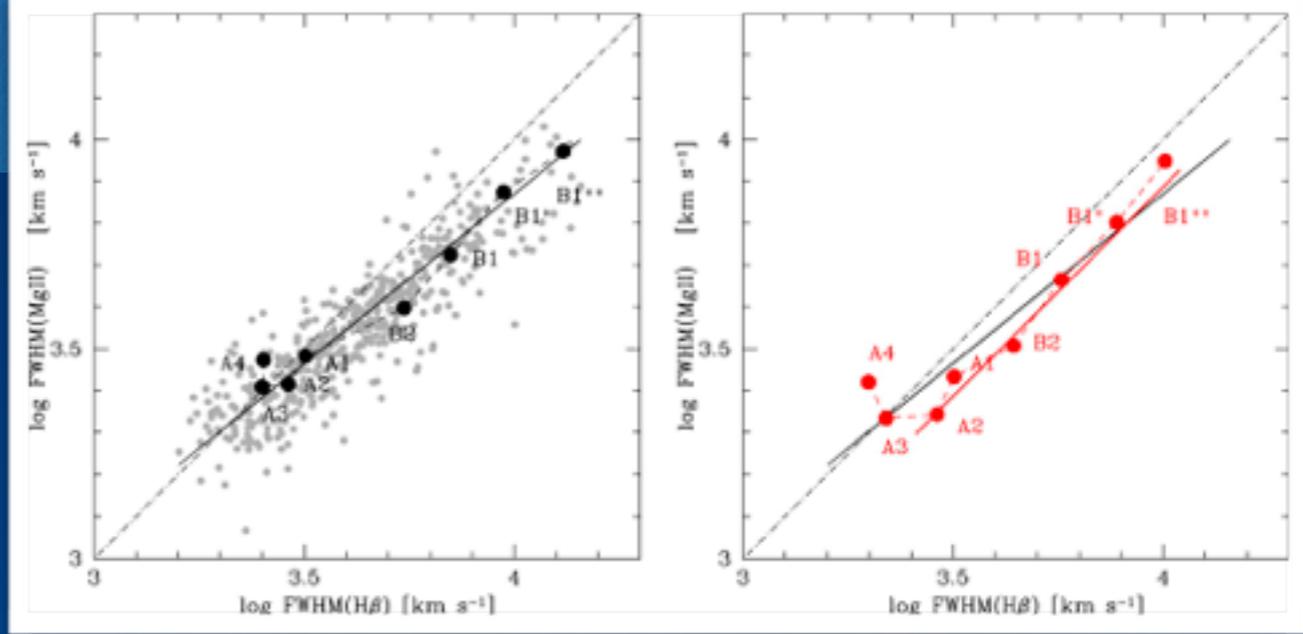
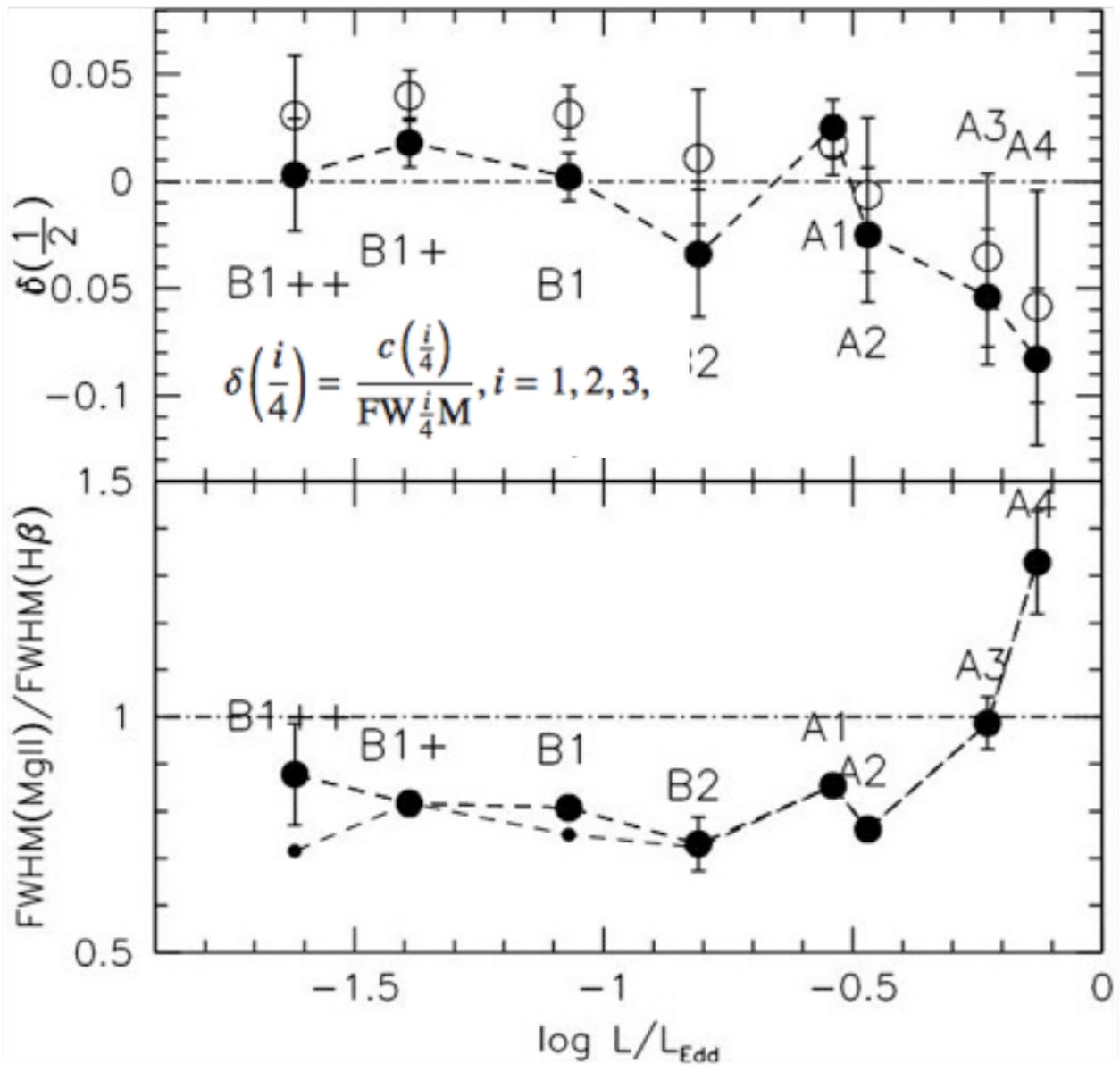
# Virial broadening estimators: LLs along E1 sequence

## H $\beta$ and MgII

from **extreme Pop. B**: low FeII, broad profiles  
redward asymmetric  
Broad component + (redshifted) very-broad component  
to **extreme Pop. A**, narrower, strong FeII,  
slightly blueward asymmetric  
Lorentzian profiles + blueshifted excess



Marziani et al 2013a,b; SDSS sample covering both H $\beta$  and MgII  $0.4 < z < 0.7$



SDSS sample covering both H $\beta$  and MgII 0.4 < z < 0.7; Marziani et al. 2013a,b; Wang et al. 2009; cf. Trakhtenbrot & Netzer 2012; Mejia-Restrepo et al. 2016

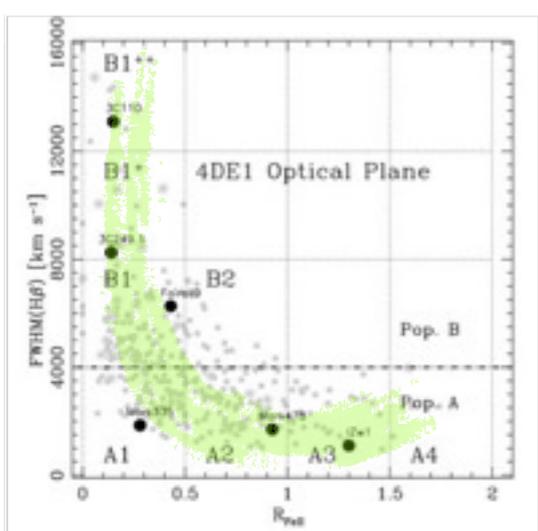
LIL resonance line MgII $\lambda$ 2800: low ionization outflows detected in the extreme Pop. A spectral types

$FWHM(\text{line})_{vir} = \xi FWHM(\text{line})_{obs}$   
 where  
 $\xi = \frac{FWHM(\text{line})_{BC}}{FWHM(\text{line})_{obs}}$

LILs are dominated by a symmetric, “virialized” broad component:  $1 \gtrsim \xi \gtrsim 0.75$ .

	$\xi_{H\beta}$	$\xi_{MgII}$
<b>A3-A4</b>	<b>0.8/0.9</b>	<b>0.75/0.8</b>
<b>A1-A2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>B1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>B1+/B1++</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>

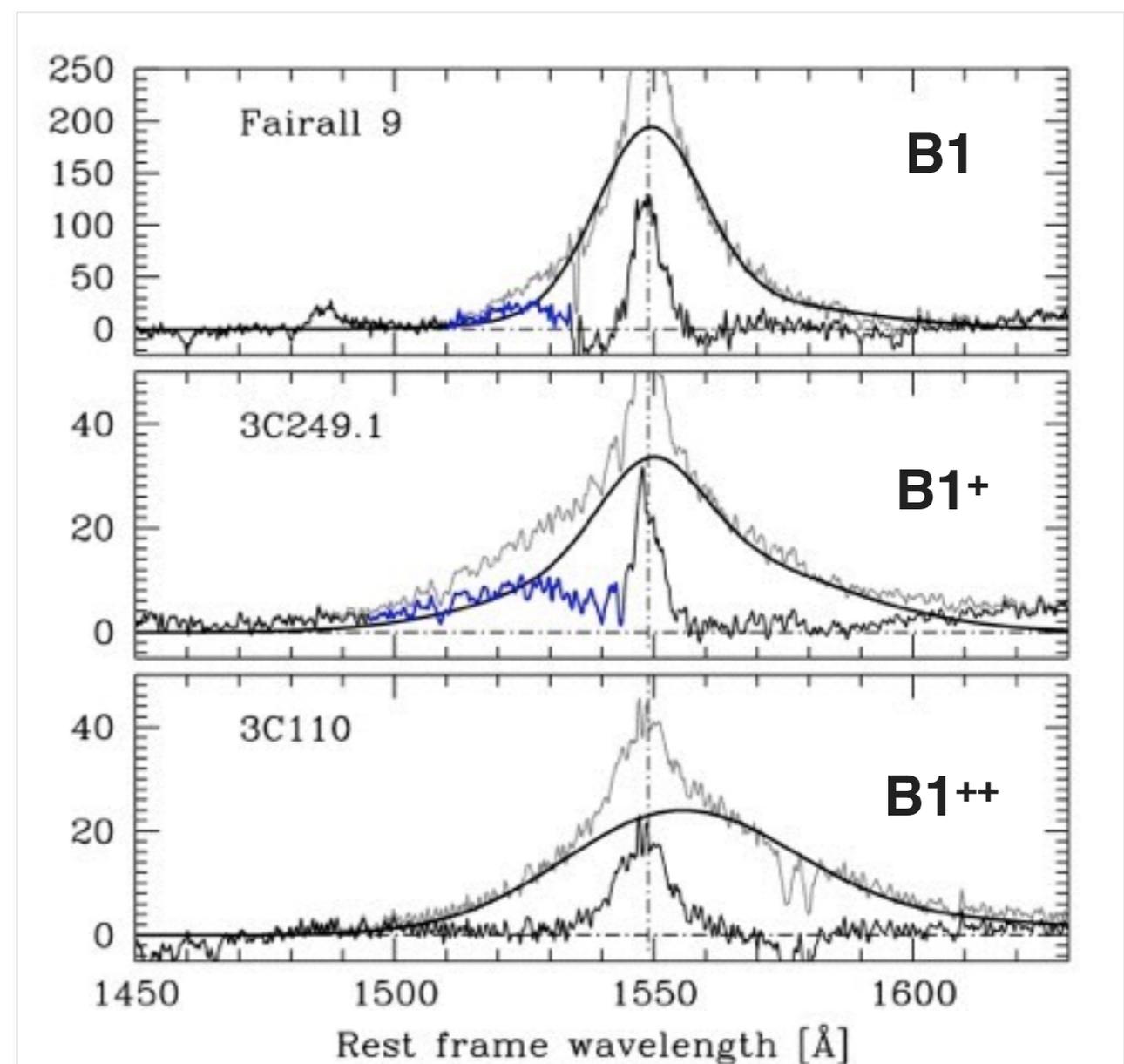
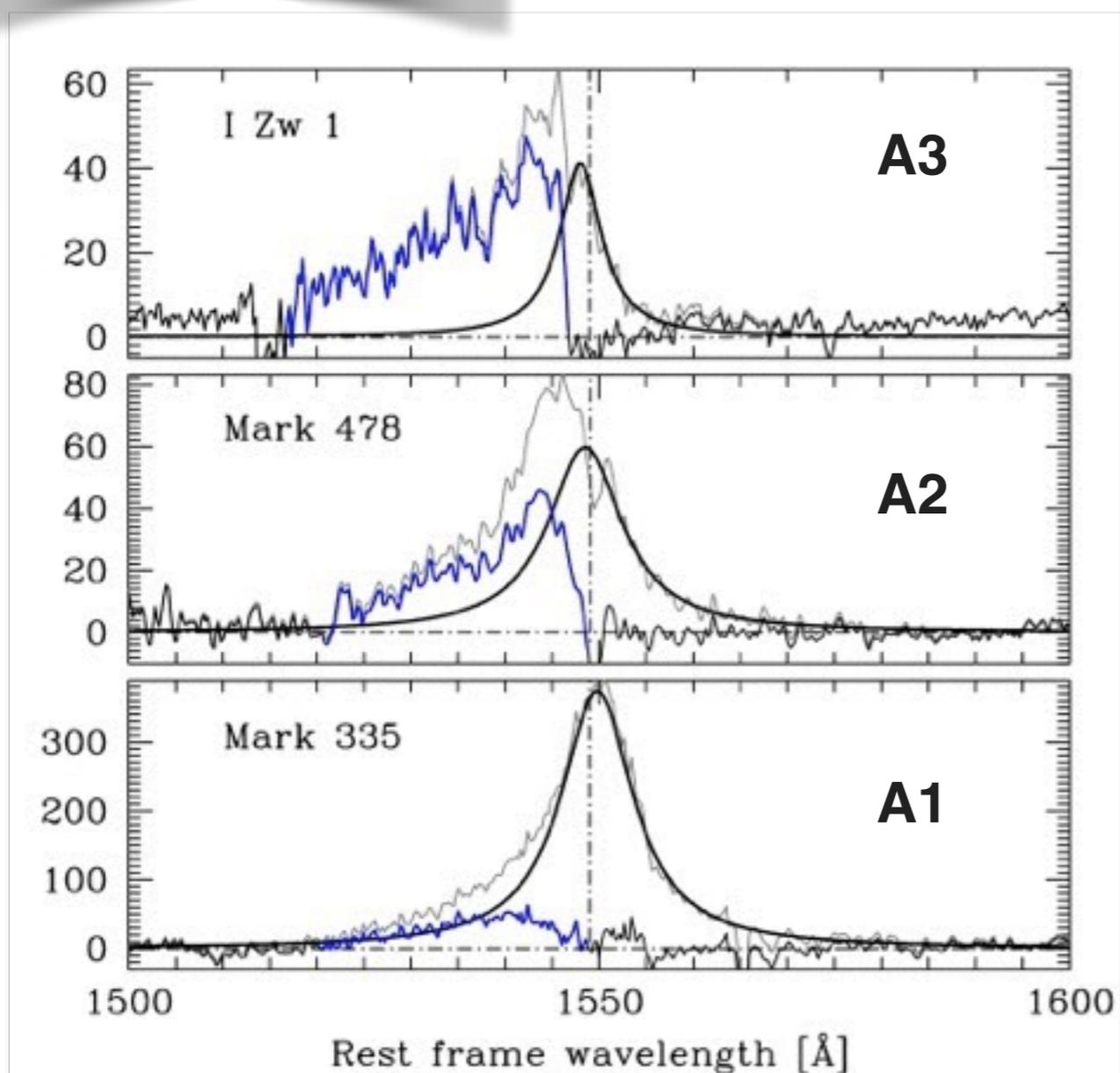
# Virial broadening estimators: the H $\beta$ CIV $\lambda$ 1549 along the E1 sequence



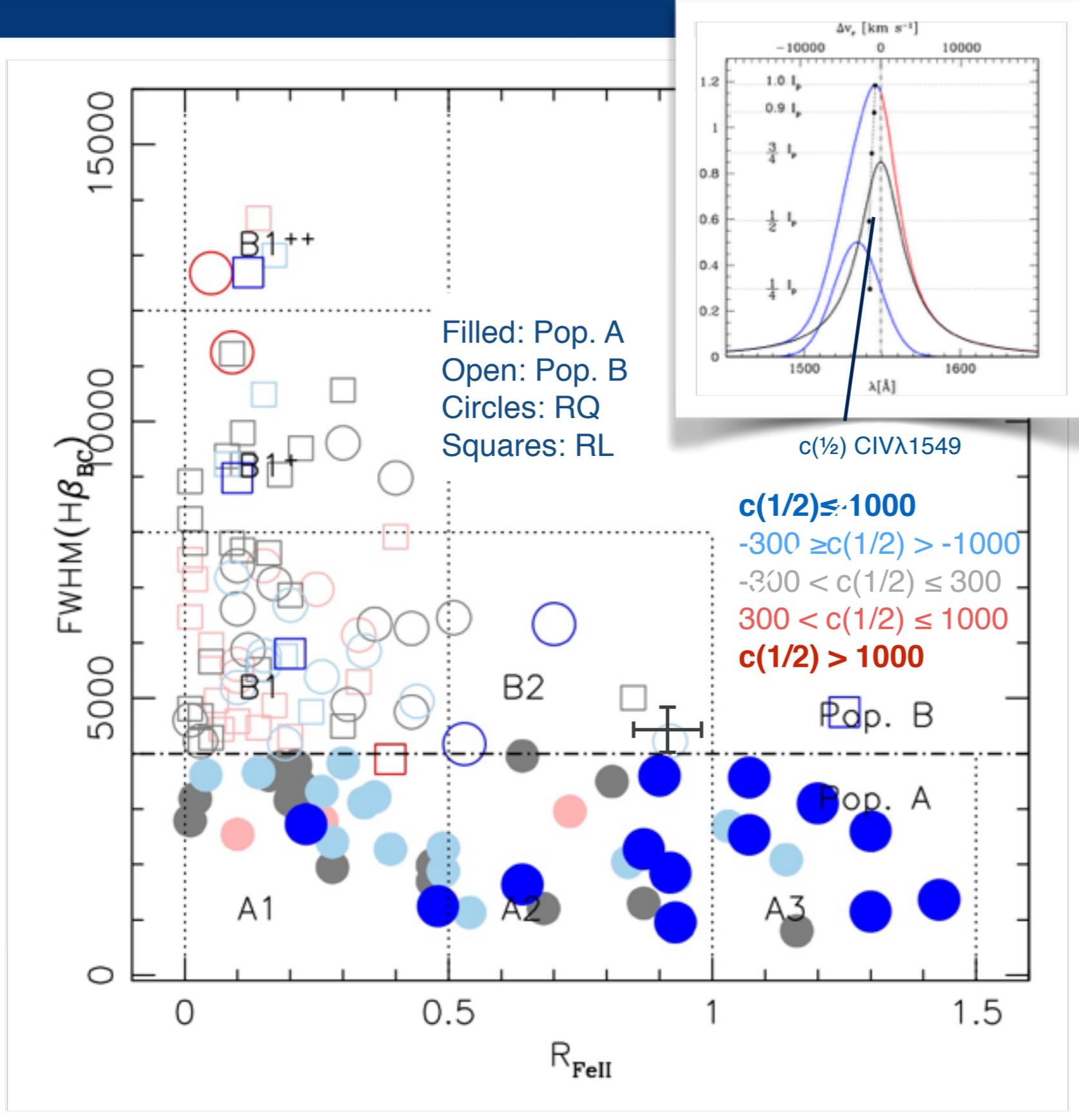
CIV $\lambda$ 1549: scaled H $\beta$  from + excess blueshifted emission increasing from B1++ to A3

almost symmetric, unshifted LIL ( $\Rightarrow$ “virialized” emitting region) + **outflow/wind component that dominates in A3/A4 spectral types**

e.g., Leighly 2000, Bachev et al. 2004, Marziani et al. 2010; Denney et al. 2012



# Virial broadening estimators: the H I CIV $\lambda$ 1549 along the E1 sequence



Large shift of CIV $\lambda$ 1549 centroid at  $1/2$  along the MS are found for FWHM(H $\beta$ ) < 4000 km s<sup>-1</sup> in the E1 optical plane.

This result also reinforces the suggestion of a discontinuity at FWHM(H $\beta$ )  $\approx$  4000 km s<sup>-1</sup> suggested by the H $\beta$  profile shape change.

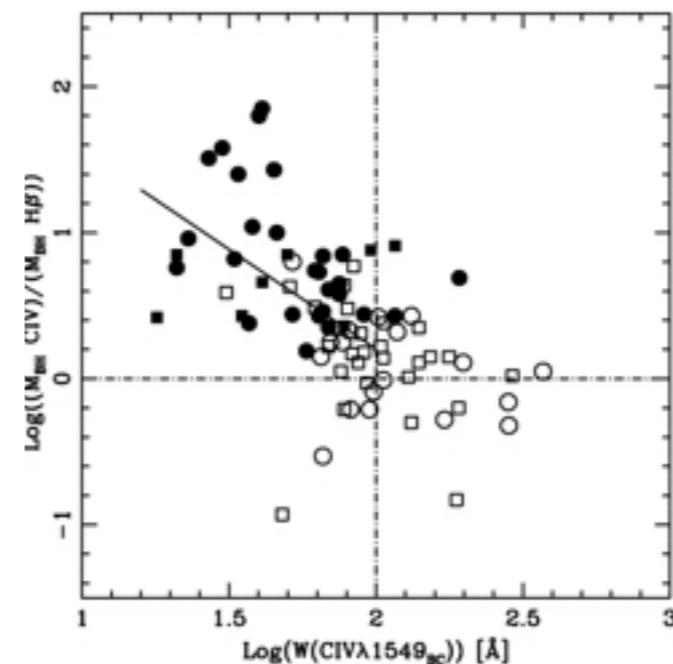
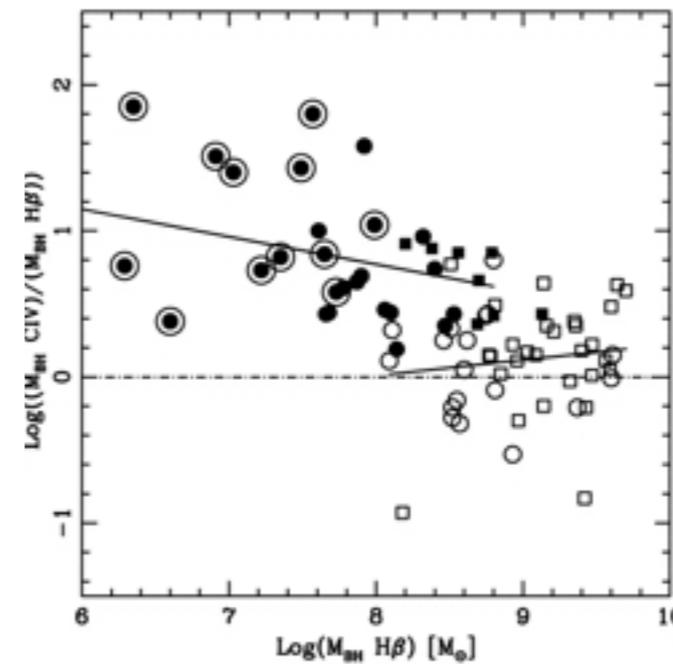
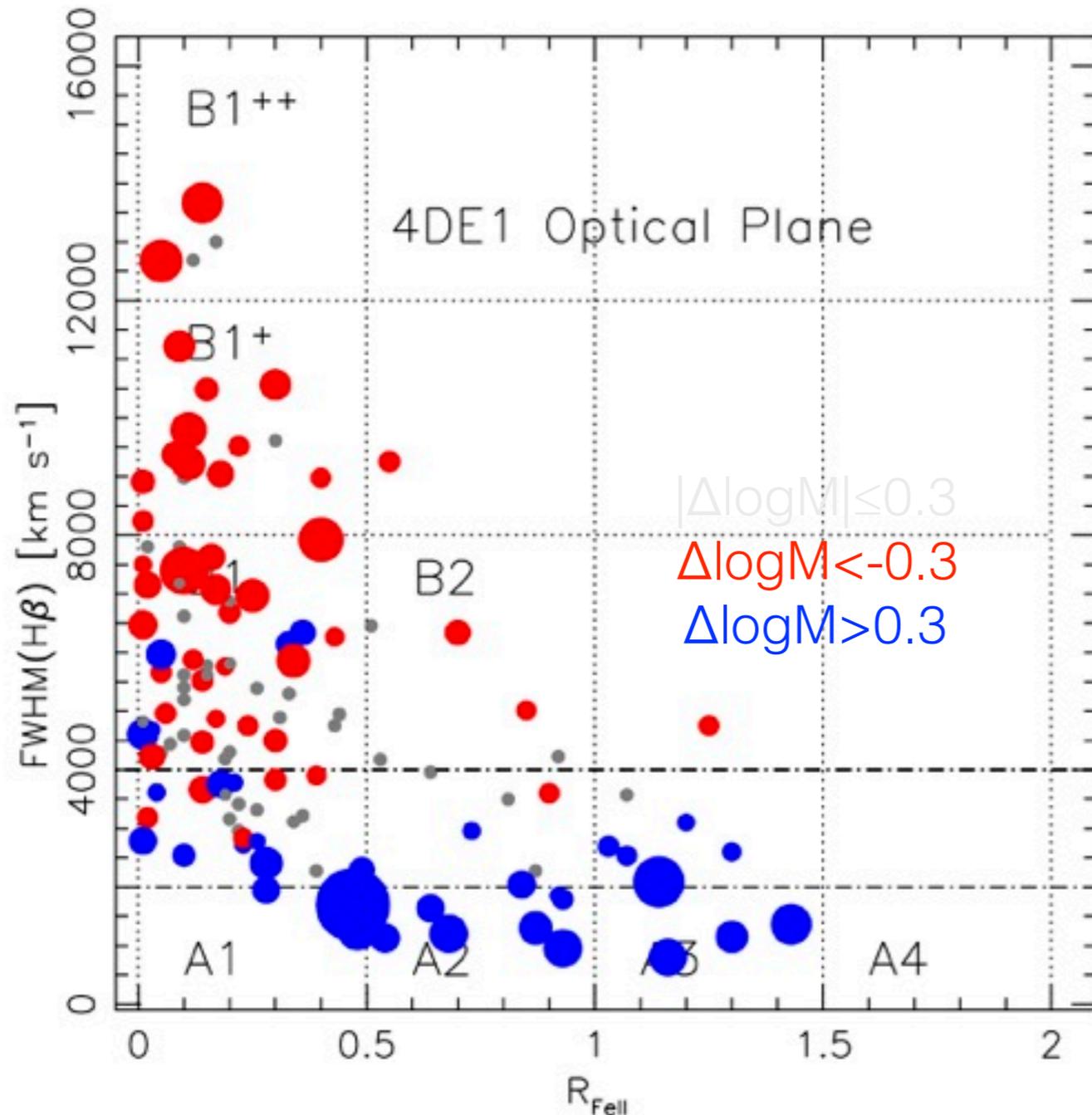
# Virial broadening estimators: the CIV $\lambda$ 1549 “taboo”

1. FWHM(H $\beta$ ) and  $L_{\lambda}(5100 \text{ \AA})$ : For the optical continuum luminosity and FWHM of the H $\beta$  broad component,

$$\log M_{\text{BH}}(\text{H}\beta) = \log \left\{ \left[ \frac{\text{FWHM}(\text{H}\beta)}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right]^2 \left[ \frac{\lambda L_{\lambda}(5100 \text{ \AA})}{10^{44} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}} \right]^{0.50} \right\} + (6.91 \pm 0.02). \quad (5)$$

$$\log M_{\text{BH}}(\text{C IV}) = \log \left\{ \left[ \frac{\text{FWHM}(\text{C IV})}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right]^2 \left[ \frac{\lambda L_{\lambda}(1350 \text{ \AA})}{10^{44} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}} \right]^{0.53} \right\} + (6.66 \pm 0.01). \quad (7)$$

Vestergaard & Peterson 2006; mass “taboo”:  
Sulentic et al. 2007; Netzer et al. 2007



Scaling laws assumed that the width of CIV and H $\beta$  are equivalent



**Bias along the E1 sequence, especially for Pop. A**

errors as large as 2 dex.

Pop. A sources are more frequently selected at high  $z$ , high  $L$

# Virial broadening estimators: LIL H $\beta$ behavior over a wide luminosity range

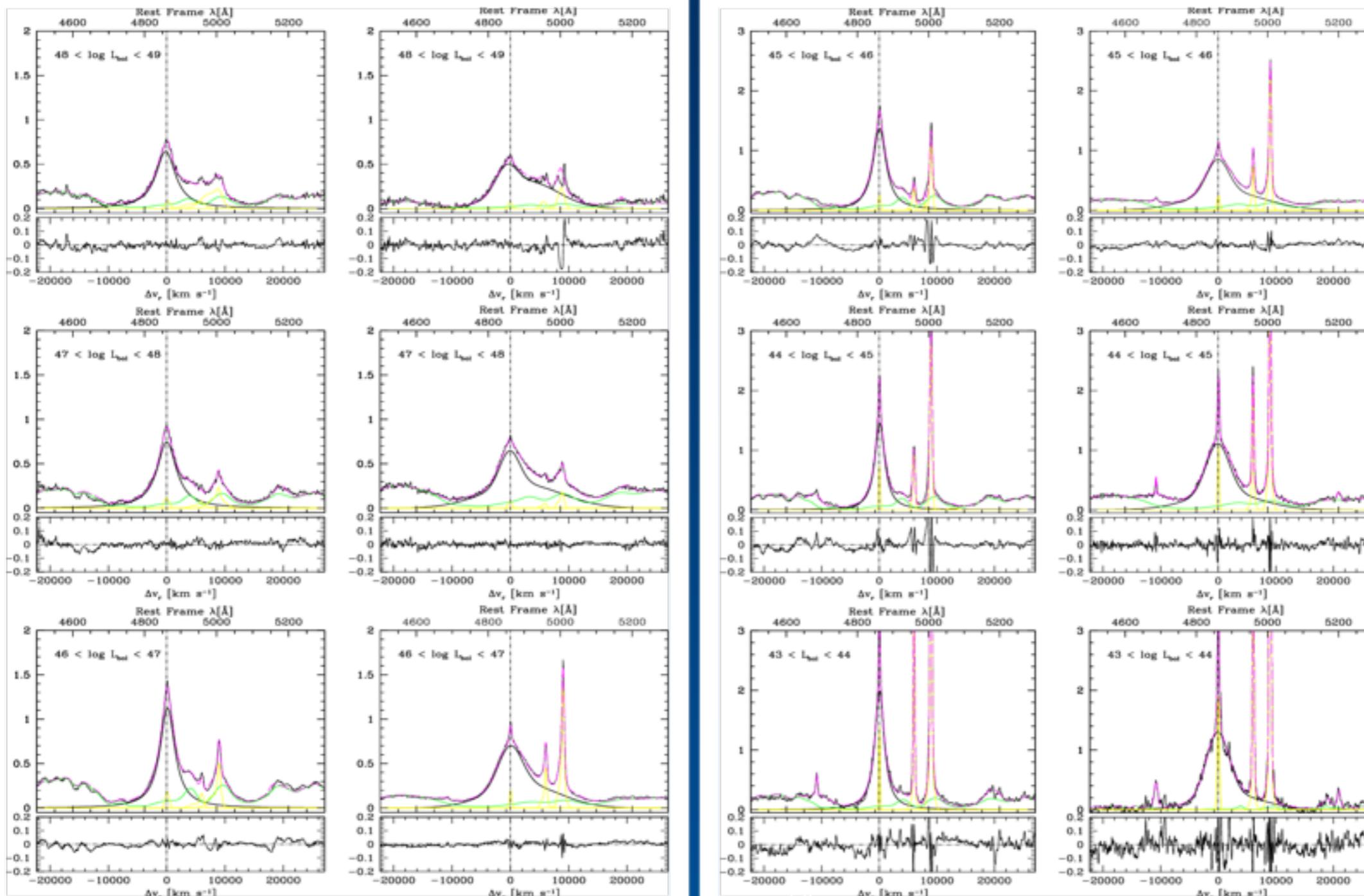
Composite spectra: H $\beta$  becomes broader with increasing  $L$  (over  $43 < \log L < 48.5$  [erg s $^{-1}$ ]) but shapes are similar to the ones at low  $z$

Pop. A

Pop. B

Pop. A

Pop. B



**The Pop. A / Pop. B differences are preserved at high L**

HE/ISAAC high-L sample (52 sources) + SDSS continuum subtracted spectra

Marziani et al. 2009; Zamfir et al. 2010

# Virial broadening estimators: LIL H $\beta$ at high-L

“Symmetrization” methods:

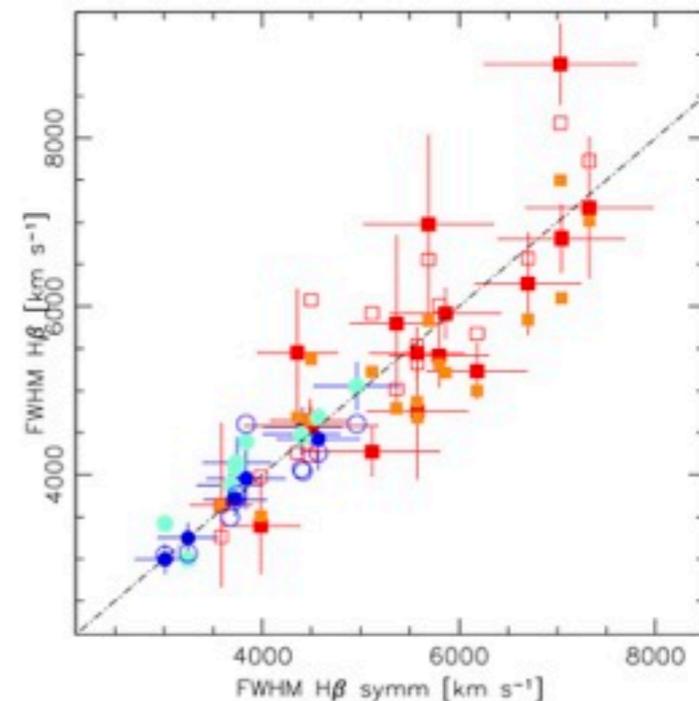
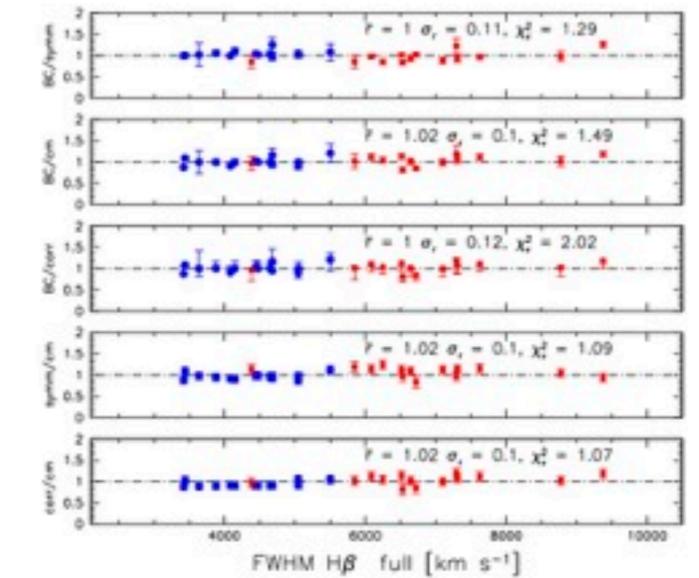
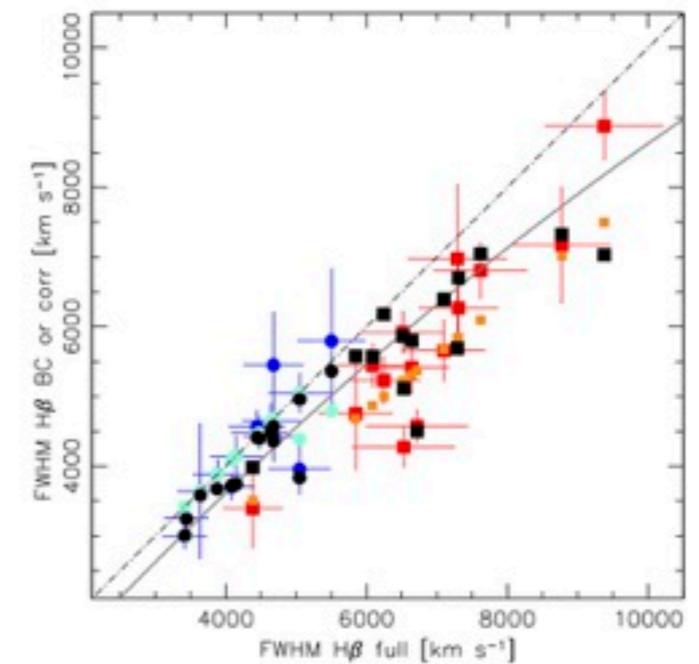
- substitution of the BC extracted through the `specfit` analysis in place of the full H $\beta$  profile.
- symmetrization of the profile:  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{symm}} = \text{FWHM} - 2c(\frac{1}{2})$  (symm in Fig. 2);
- correction based on spectral type, as defined from the analysis of the H $\beta$  profile in a large SDSS-based sample at  $0.4 \lesssim z \lesssim 0.7$  (labeled as cm in Fig. 2), following Marziani et al. (2013a). In practice, this means to correct H $\beta$  for Pop. B sources by a factor  $\xi_{\text{H}\beta} \approx 0.8$ ;
- correction derived by pairing the observed FWHM to the best width estimator from reverberation mapping, following the relation  $\text{FWHM}_c \approx 1.14 \text{FWHM} - 601 - 0.0000217 \text{FWHM}^2$  derived by Sulentic et al. (2006, labeled corr);

All “symmetrization” methods could be considered equivalent at high L.

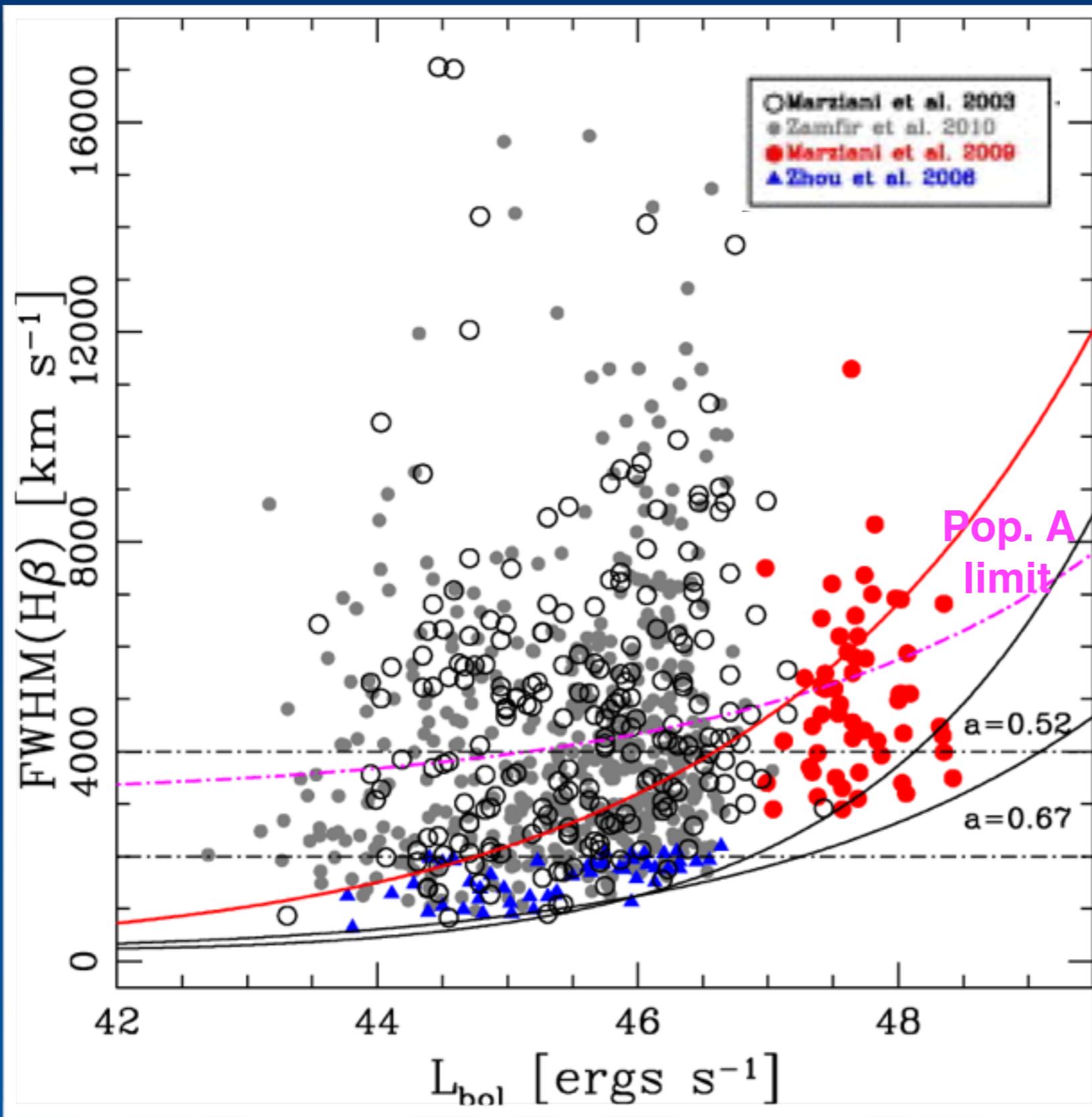
The H $\beta$  profile shapes at high L are consistent with those at low-z, lower L.



**A “virialized system” emitting mainly LILs**



# Virial broadening estimators: LIL H $\beta$ behavior over a wide luminosity range



Minimum  $\text{FWHM}(\text{H}\beta)$  is luminosity-dependent, consistent with virial assumption.

The Pop. A limit is also luminosity dependent.

Curves assume the virial relation and  $r_{\text{BLR}}$  scaling with luminosity:

$$r_{\text{BLR}} \text{FWHM}^2 \propto M$$

$$r_{\text{BLR}} \propto L^a$$

$$\text{FWHM} \propto (L/M)^{-1} L^{((1-2a)/2)}$$

Minimum  $\text{FWHM}$  is obtained for a limiting Eddington ratio  $\sim 1$ .

# Virial broadening estimators: CIV $\lambda$ 1549 at high luminosity

## $L > 10^{47}$ erg s $^{-1}$ : high amplitude CIV 1549 blueshifts in both Pop. A and B

Sulentic et al., 2017

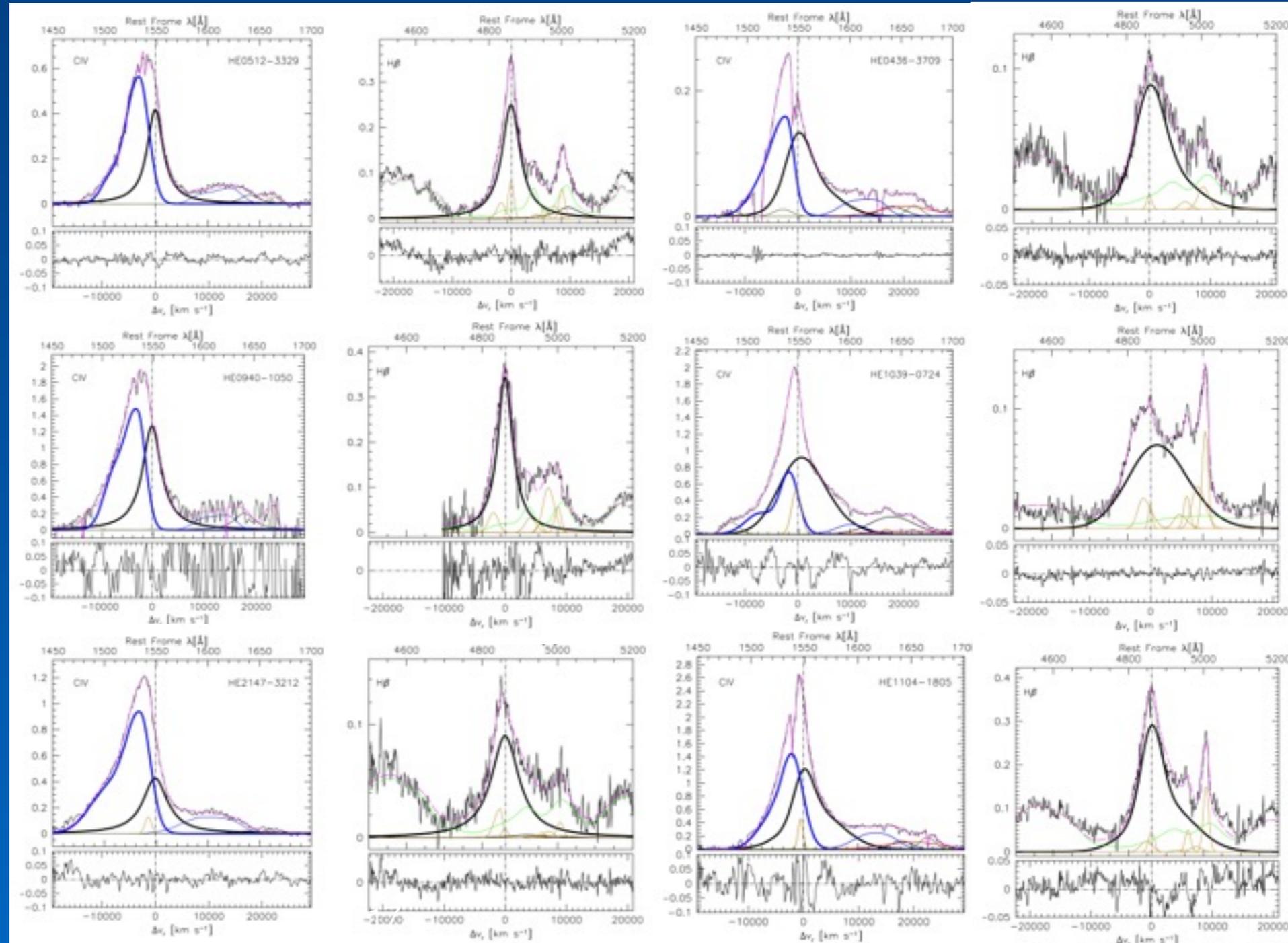
High-L ( $\geq 10^{47}$  erg s $^{-1}$ ,  
 $1 < z < 2$ ):

VLT/FORS HE sample  
(Sulentic et al 2017; CIV,  
28 objects)

VLT/ISAAC HE sample  
(Marziani et al. 2009, 52  
objects)

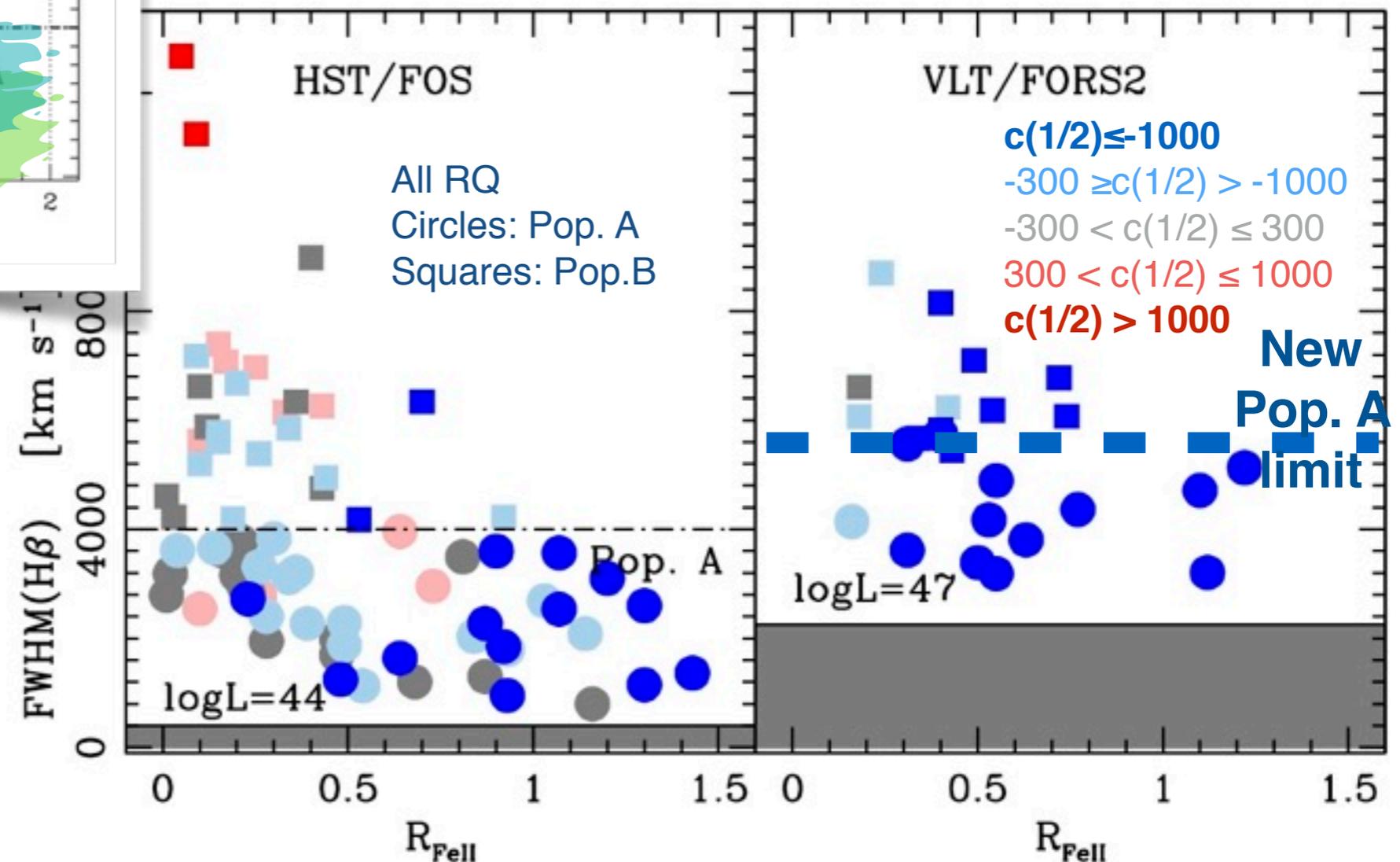
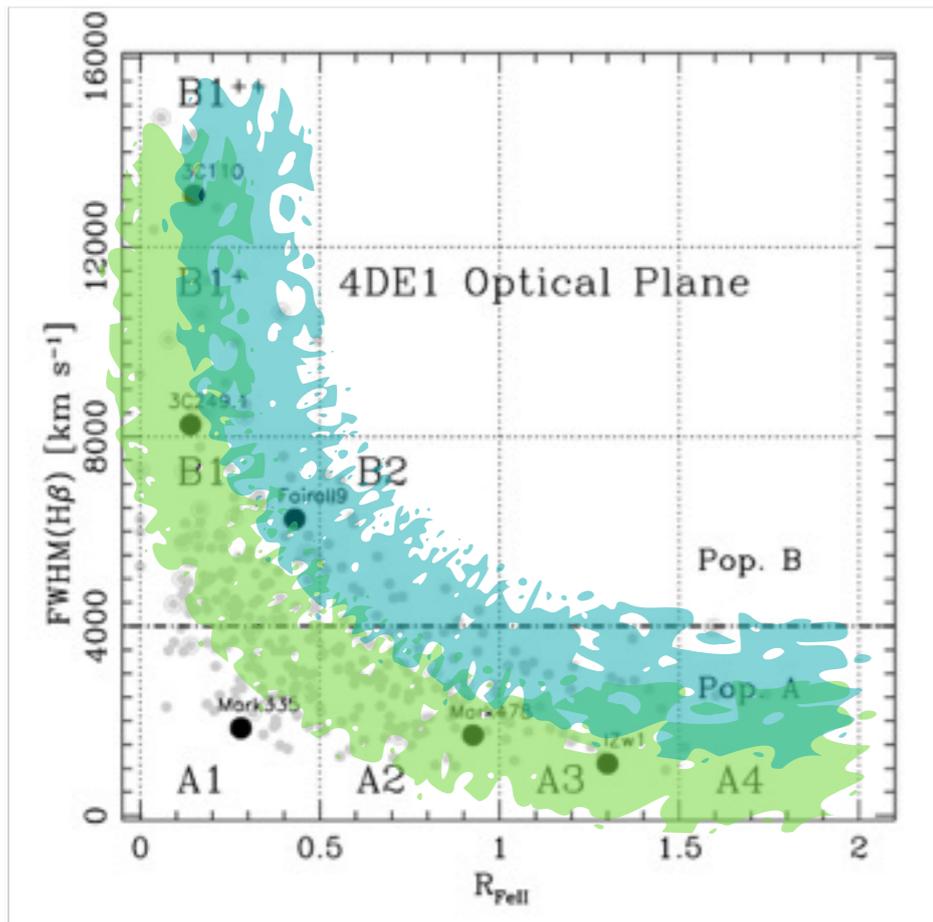
median 3000 km s $^{-1}$  for  
Pop. A; 2 cases with  
CIV c(1/2) blueshift  
amplitude larger than  
5000 km s $^{-1}$

**Widespread  
powerful outflows  
coexisting with a  
virialized low-  
ionization  
component**



# Virial broadening estimators: LIL H $\beta$ at high-L

Higher luminosity implies a **displacement of the MS** toward larger FWHM(H $\beta$ ) i.e., larger masses



# Virial broadening estimators: CIV vs H $\beta$ FWHM

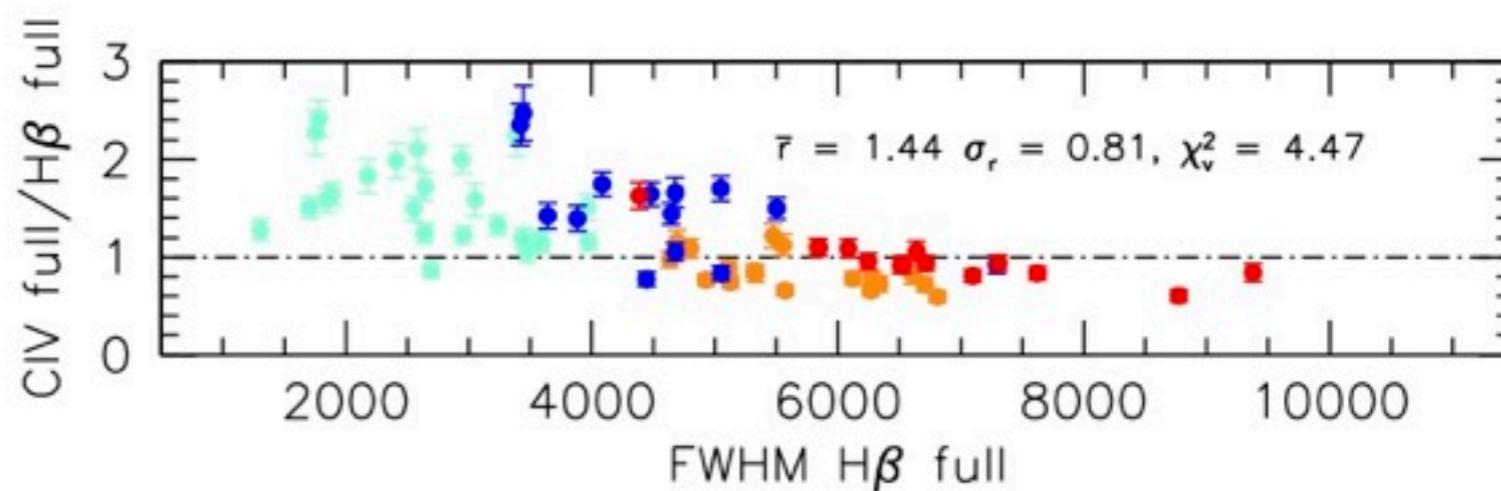
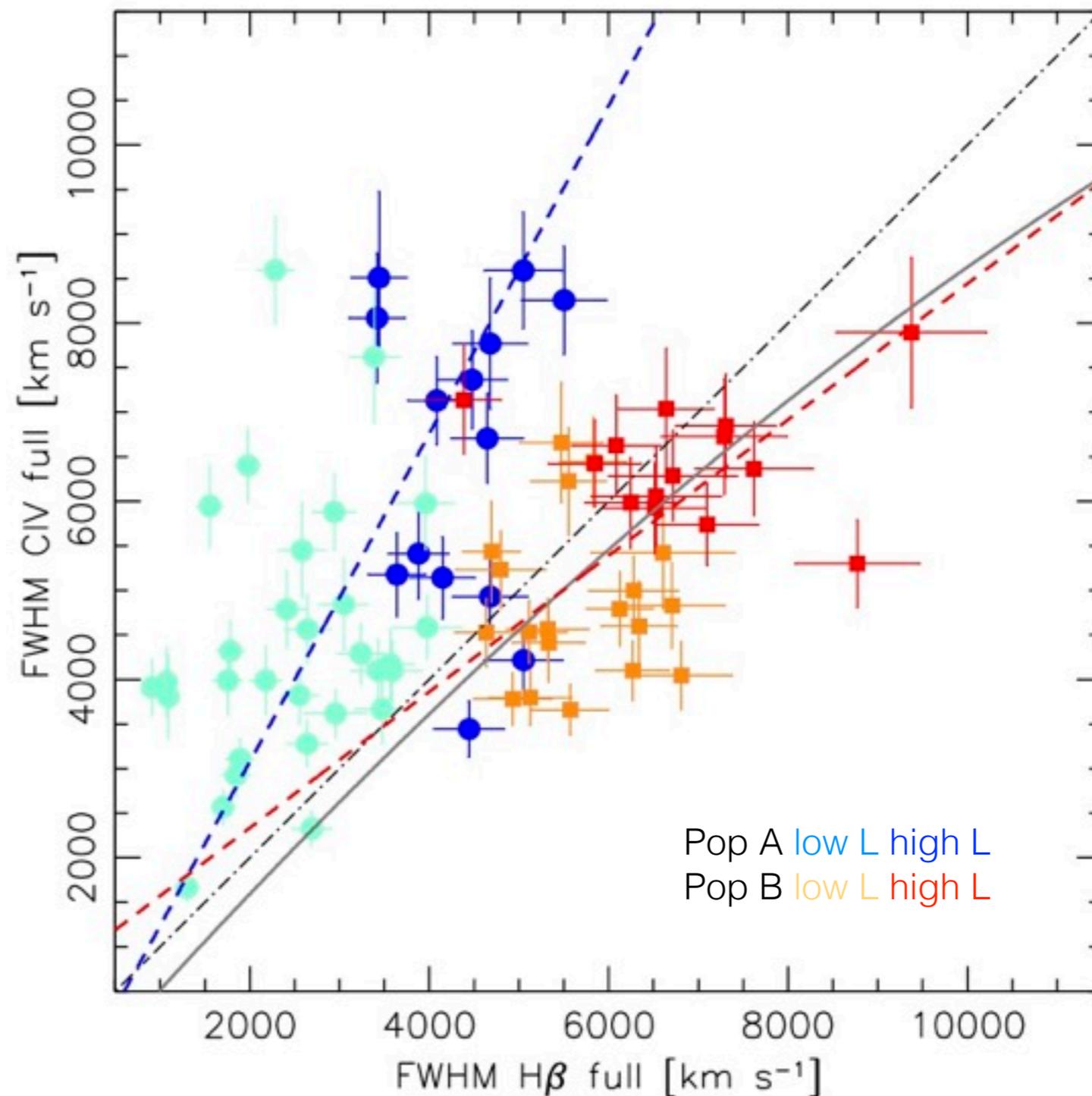
Low-L:  
HST/FOS RQ sample of Sulentic  
et al.  
2007 (CIV, 130 sources)

$n$   
Marziani et al. 2003 (H $\beta$ , 215)  
52 RQ sources

High-L:  
VLT/FORS/ISAAC HE sample  
28 objects

Same trends seen at low-  
 $z$  ( $\approx 1$ ):

**large FWHM CIV/ FWHM  
H $\beta$  for Pop. A;** rough  
consistency with large  
scatter for Pop. B



# Virial broadening estimators: the HIL CIV $\lambda$ 1549

Correlation CIV $\lambda$ 1549  $c(1/2)$  vs. FWHM



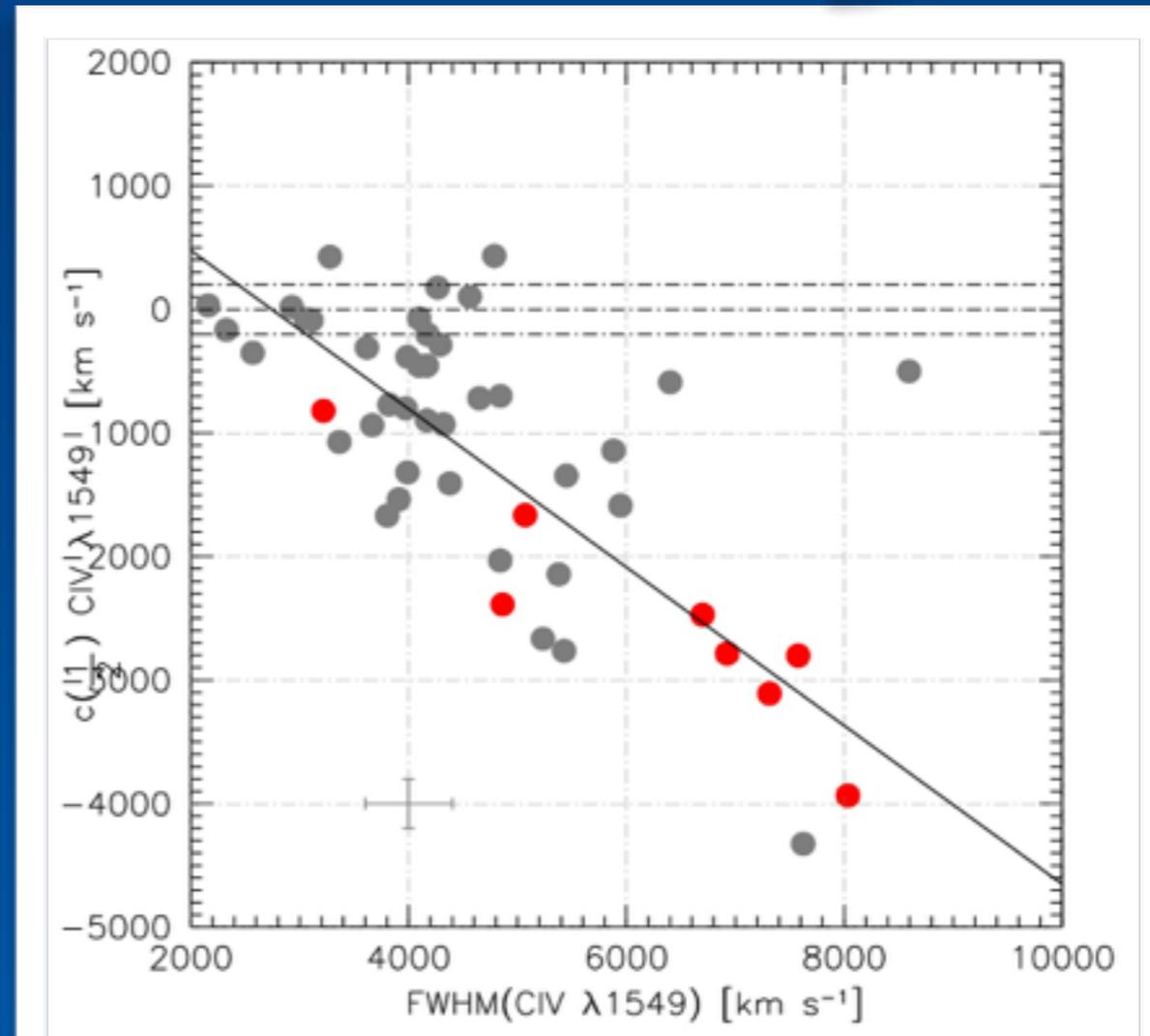
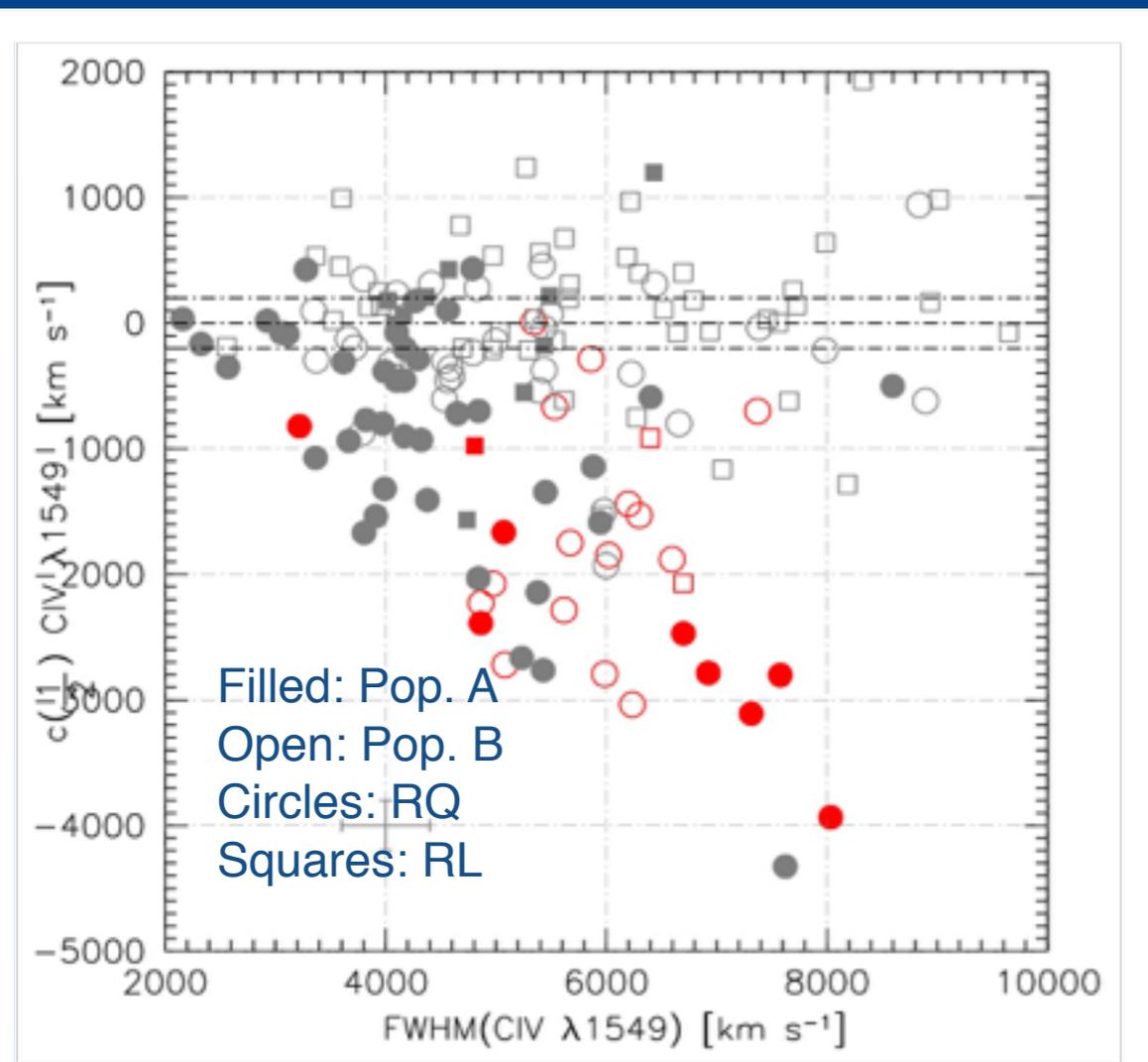
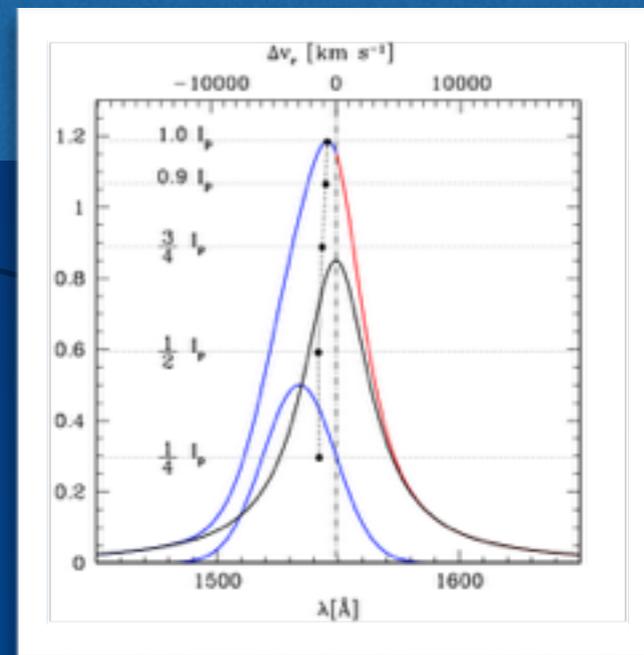
the HIL CIV $\lambda$ 1549 is broadened by a blueshifted excess

low z sample UV FOS data (130) + HE high L sample (28, red)

$c(1/2)$  CIV $\lambda$ 1549

Increase in FWHM(CIV $\lambda$ 1549) associated with a blueshifted component

Pop. A RQ only



Coatman et al. 2017;  
Sulentic et al. 2017,  
Sulentic et al. 2007

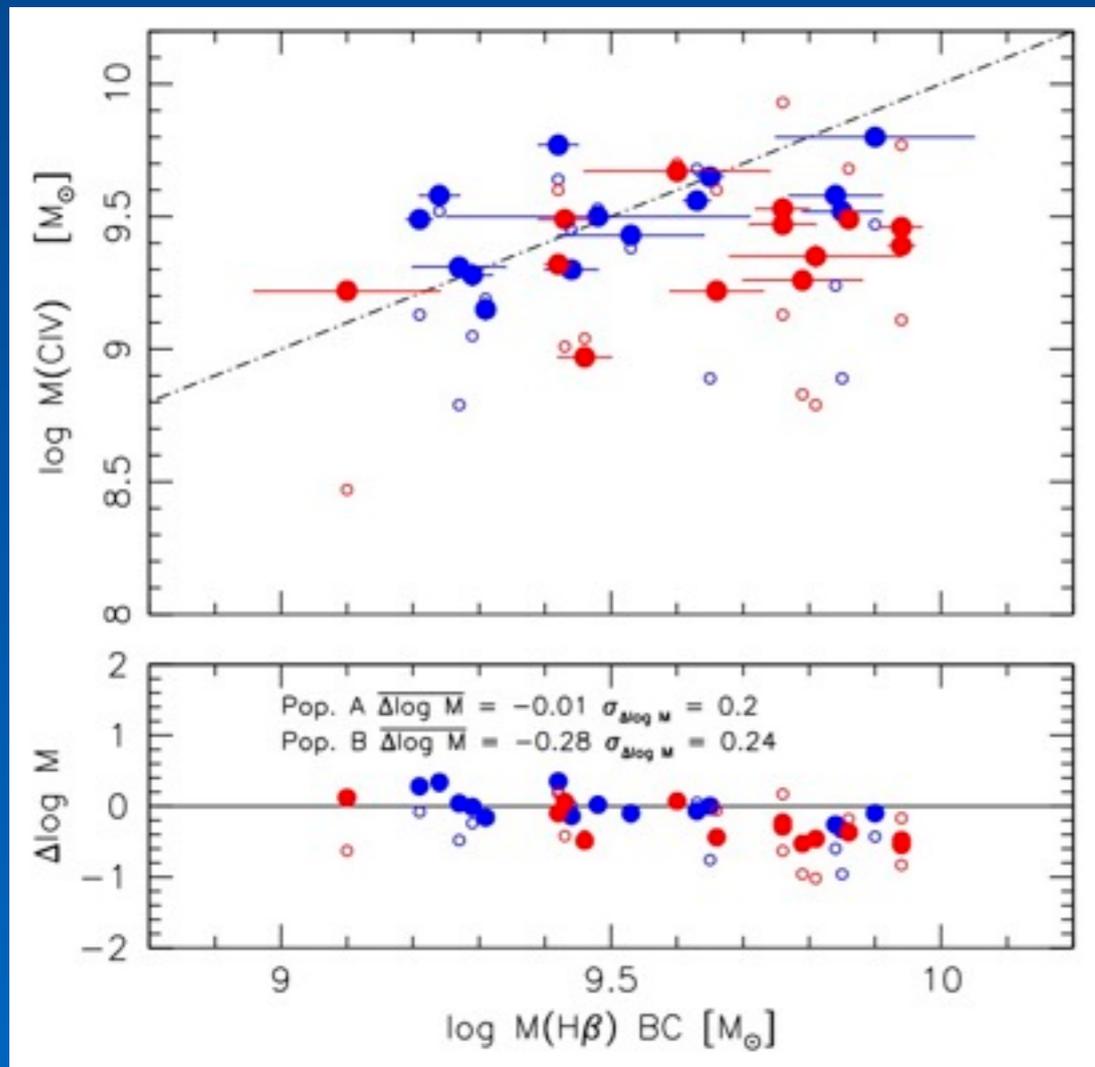
Worrisome implications for  $M_{BH}$  estimates from CIV $\lambda$ 1549 FWHM

# Virial broadening estimators: HIL CIV corrections

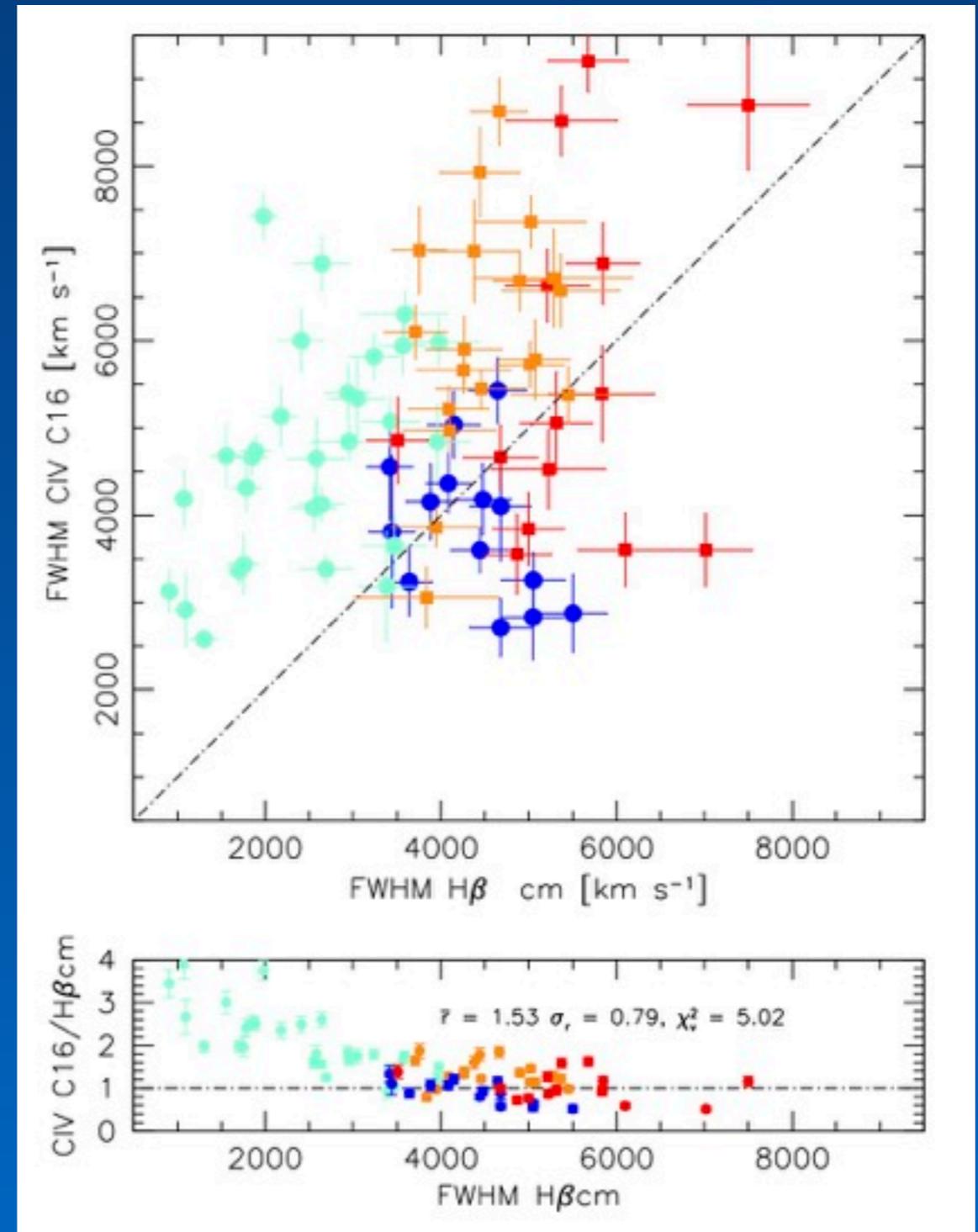
Scaling law that assumes  $M_{\text{BH}} \propto \text{FWHM}^{0.5}$ :  
 accounts for the over-broadening of Pop. A sources,  
 but overcorrects for Pop. B.

Correction dependent on  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  or a proxy such  
 as the SiIV+OIV]1400 blend/CIV 1549 ratio:  
 interesting, but not working well on our sample,  
 especially for Pop. B.

Empirical correction based on CIV  
 blueshift: works fairly well for high L  
 sources *only*. Still Requires  
 knowledge of the rest frame.



Shen & Liu  
 2012; Park et  
 al. 2013;  
 Coatman et al.  
 2016; 2017;  
 Brotherton et  
 al. 2015



# Virial broadening estimators: HIL CIV corrections

A threshold in CIV shift amplitude ( $c(1/2)$ ) and  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  at  $L/L_{\text{Edd}} \approx 0.2$

Strong correlation with  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  if blueshifts are significant (bottom panels)

Weak but significant correlation with luminosity:

partial CC  $c(1/2) - L$  ( $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  hidden) significant at about  $2\sigma$

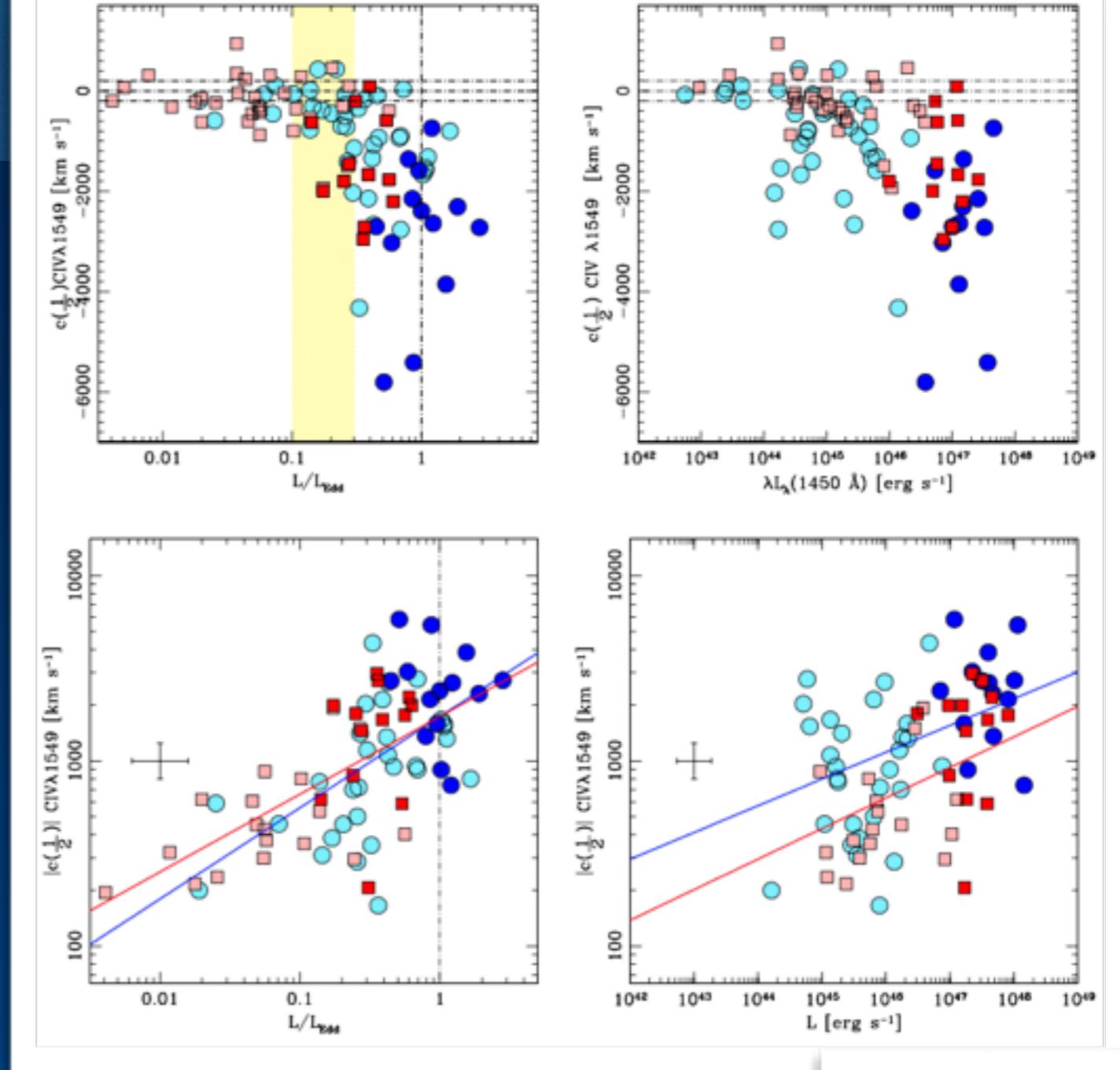
Multivariate analysis confirms dependence on both  $L$  and  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$ .

Blueshift trends are consistent with a radiation-driven outflow

$$v_{\text{term}} \propto v_K \sqrt{\mu \frac{L}{L_{\text{Edd}}}} \propto L^{-\alpha/2} M_{\text{BH}}^{1/2} \sqrt{\mu \frac{L}{L_{\text{Edd}}}}$$

$$\propto L^b \sqrt{\frac{L}{L_{\text{Edd}}}} \text{ if } L^{-\alpha/2} M_{\text{BH}}^{1/2} \mu^{1/2} \propto L^b$$

where  $v_K$  is the Keplerian velocity and  $\mu$  is the force multiplier; Laor & Brandt 2002



slope  $a \approx 0.5$  for  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$

Circles: Pop. A  
Squares: Pop. B

A pure dependence on  $L$  arises for  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  in a small range.

A strong dependence on  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  and a weak dependence on  $L$  can be achieved under a variety of scenarios; strength and form of  $L$  and  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  are sample dependent.

# Virial broadening estimators: HIL CIV corrections

A correction based on L and c(1/2) reduces scatter, but coefficients are different for Pops. A and B.

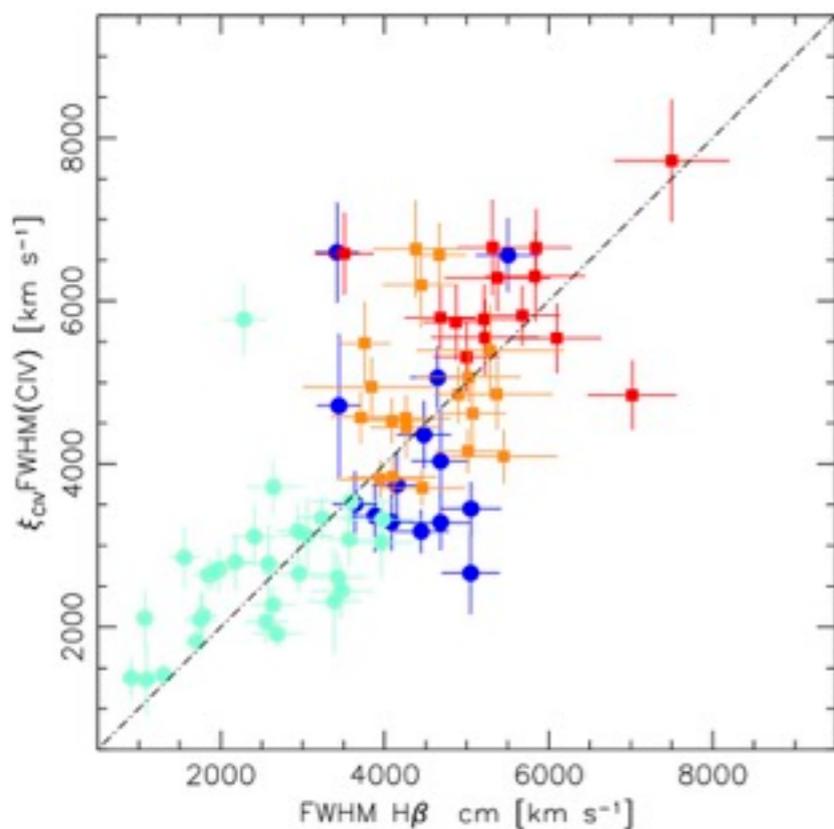
as  $\xi_{\text{CIV}} = \text{FWHM}(\text{H}\beta_{\text{BC}}) / \text{FWHM}(\text{CIV}\lambda 1549)$ , then

$$\xi_{\text{CIV}} = \frac{1}{\beta(\alpha - \log \lambda L_{\lambda}(1450)) \cdot \left(\left|\frac{c(1/2)}{1000}\right|\right) + \gamma}$$

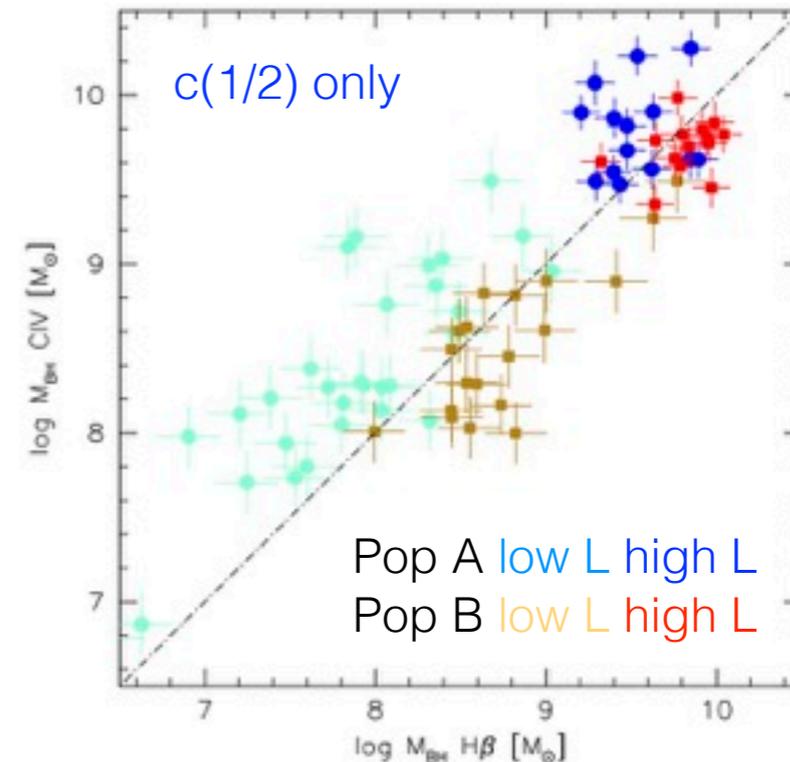
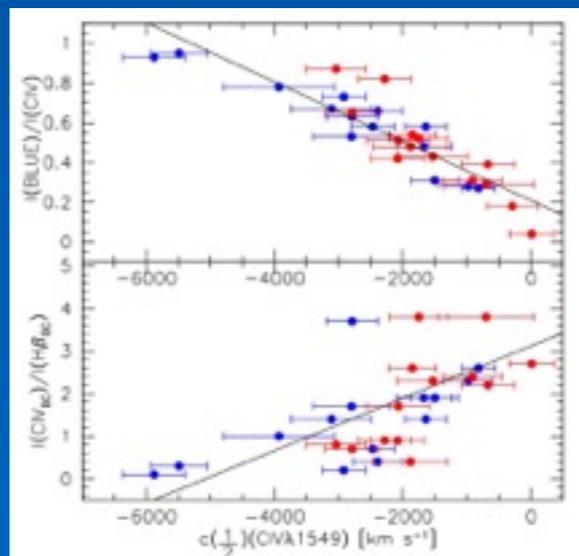
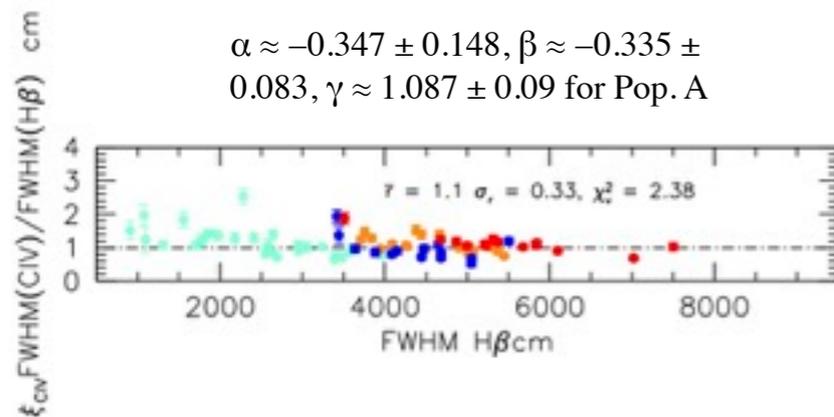
For Pop. B the correction is highly uncertain. A larger sample of Pop. B is needed.

Corrections based on c(1/2) require rest-frame knowledge.

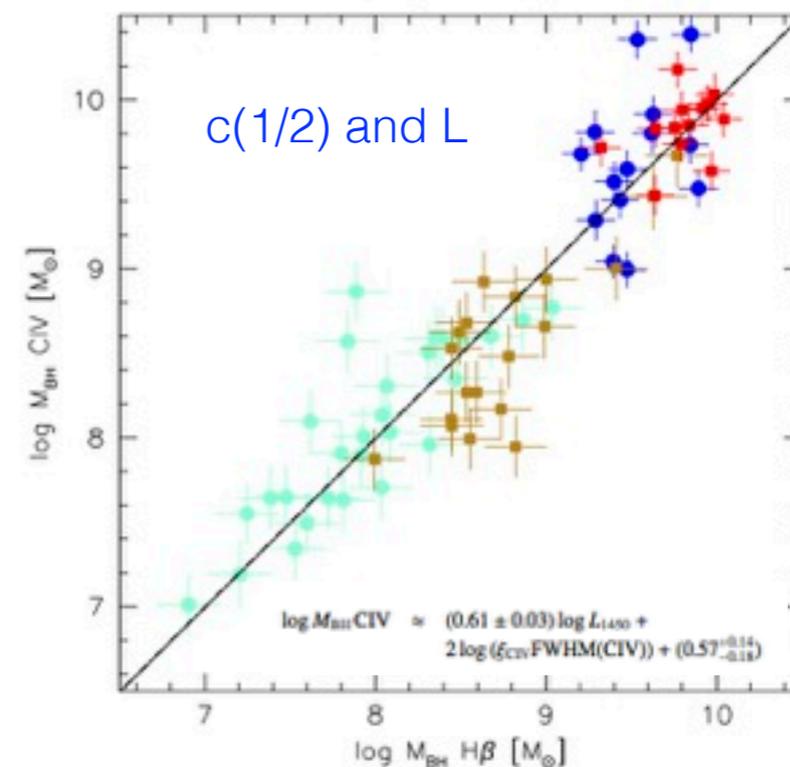
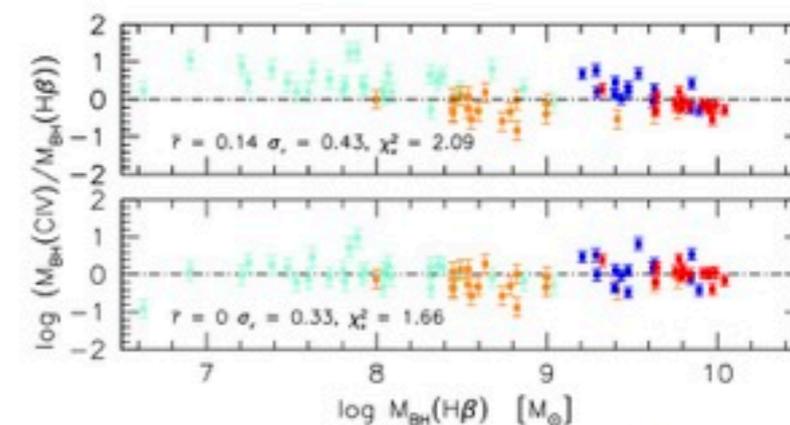
A theoretical correction requires that c(1/2) CIV and ionization conditions are accounted for.



$\alpha \approx -0.347 \pm 0.148, \beta \approx -0.335 \pm 0.083, \gamma \approx 1.087 \pm 0.09$  for Pop. A



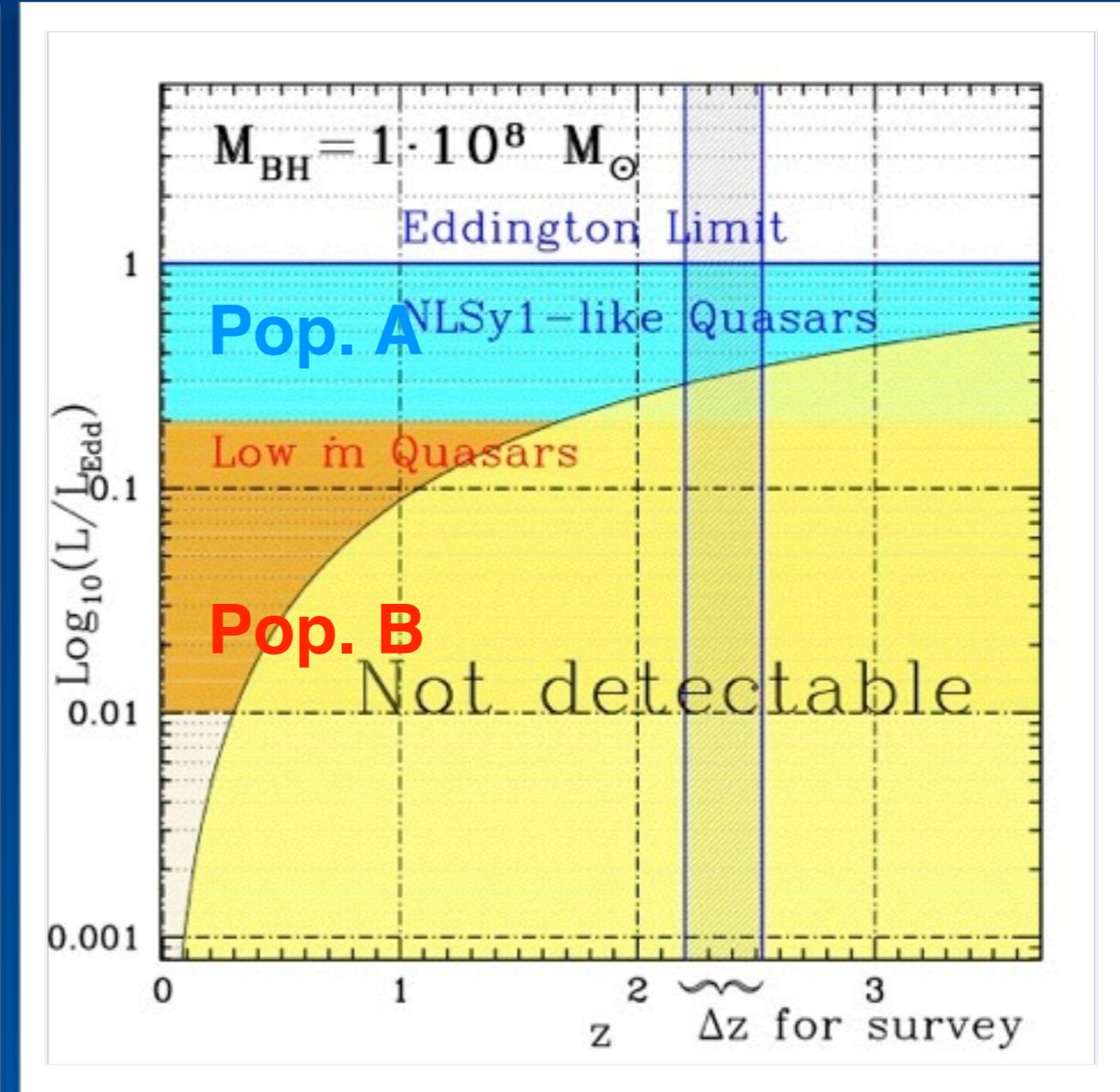
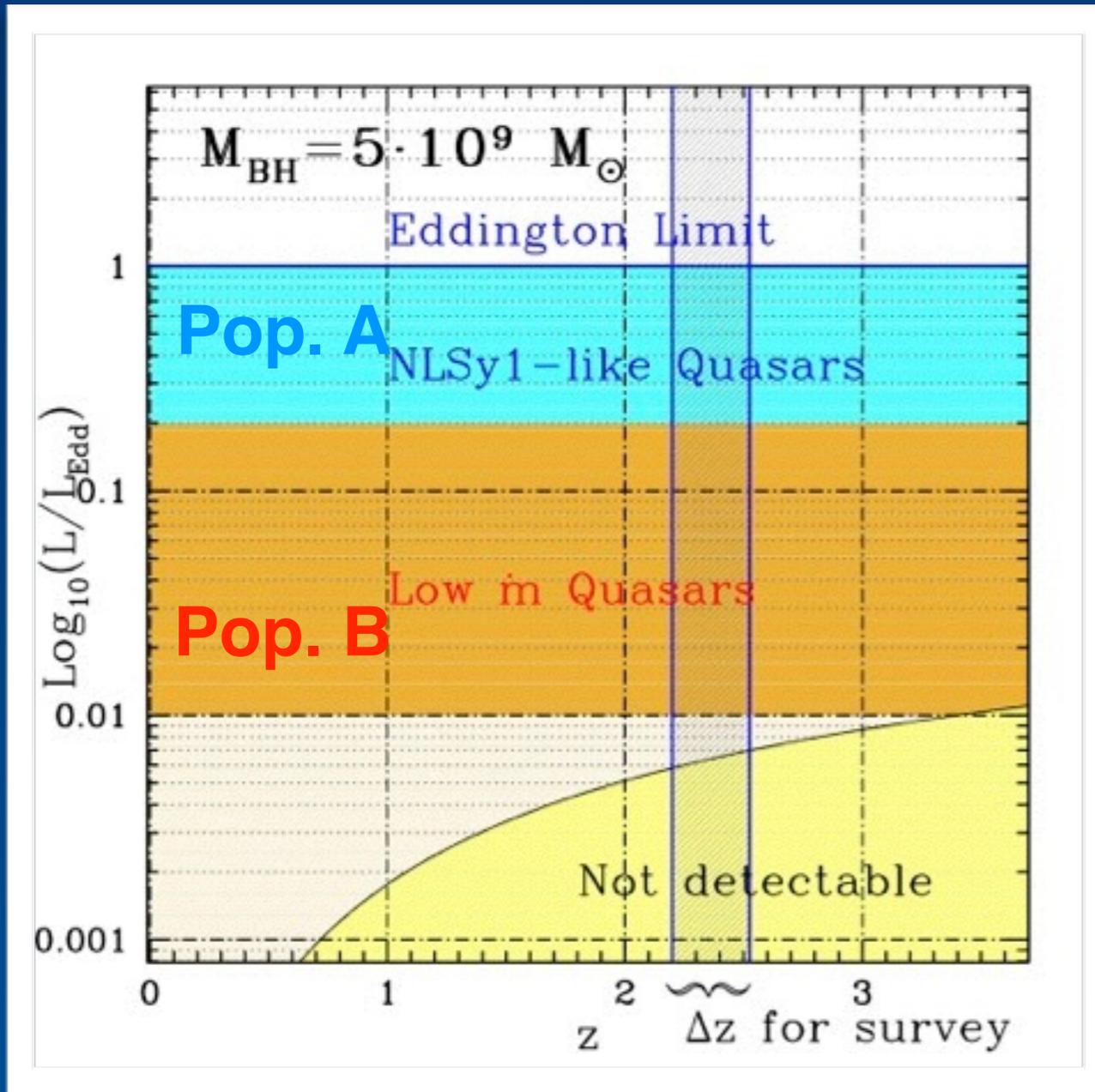
Pop A low L high L  
Pop B low L high L



# Virial broadening estimators: HIL CIV corrections – The “Eddington ratio bias”

Sulentic et al.  
2015

Selection effects on  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  in flux limited samples



Higher  $L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  selected at higher  $z$ : the high frequency of CIV blueshifts associated with an “Eddington ratio” bias.

$L/L_{\text{Edd}}$  (using  $c(1/2)$  as a proxy) and  $L$ -based corrections may remain sample dependent.

# Virial broadening estimators from IILs: the 1900 Å blend

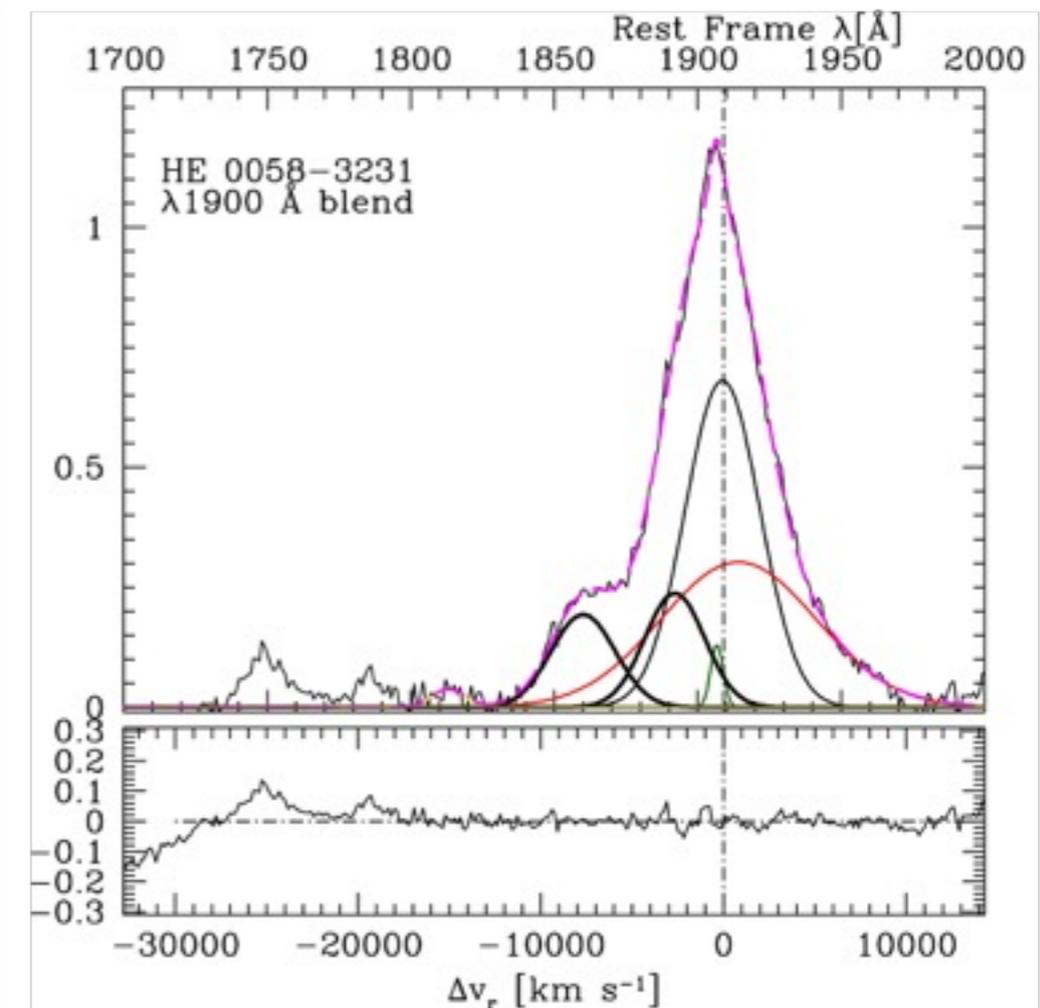
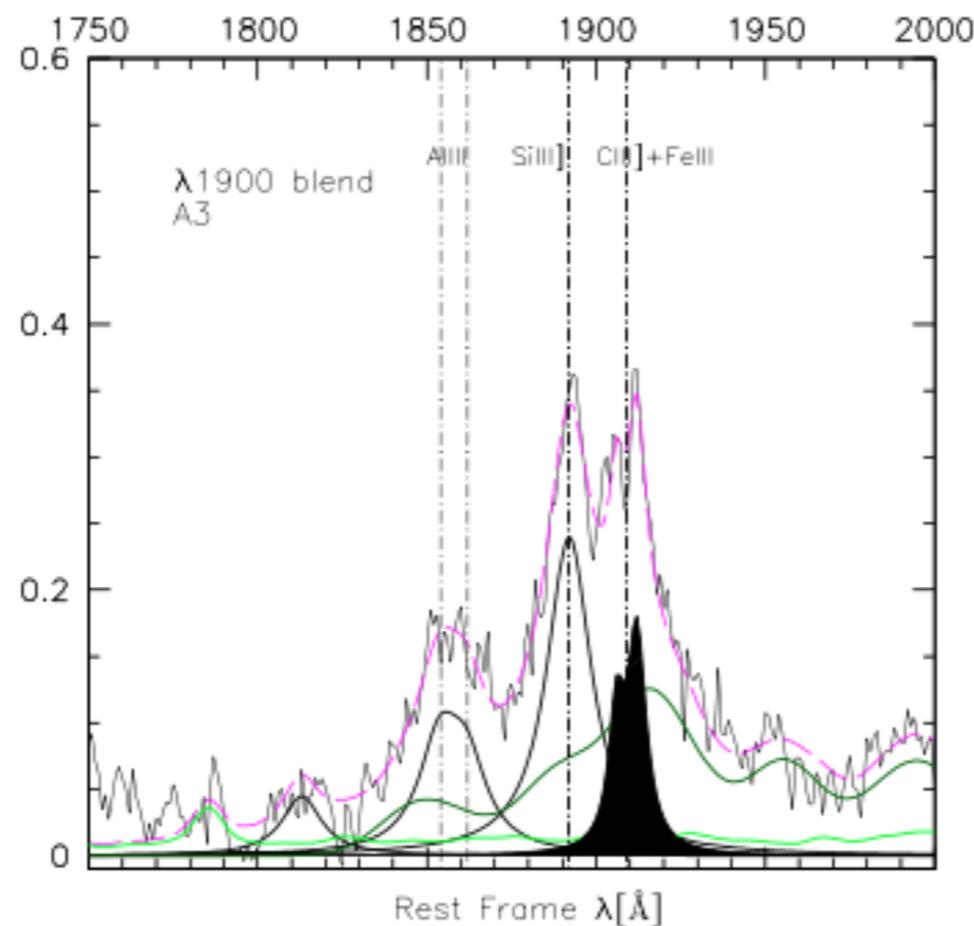
CIII] measurements have serious problems:  
 in Pop. A; CIII] faint, blended with FeIII  
 in Pop. B: affected by VBC.

$$\text{FWHM AlIII}\lambda 1860 = \text{FWHM SiIII}\lambda 1892$$

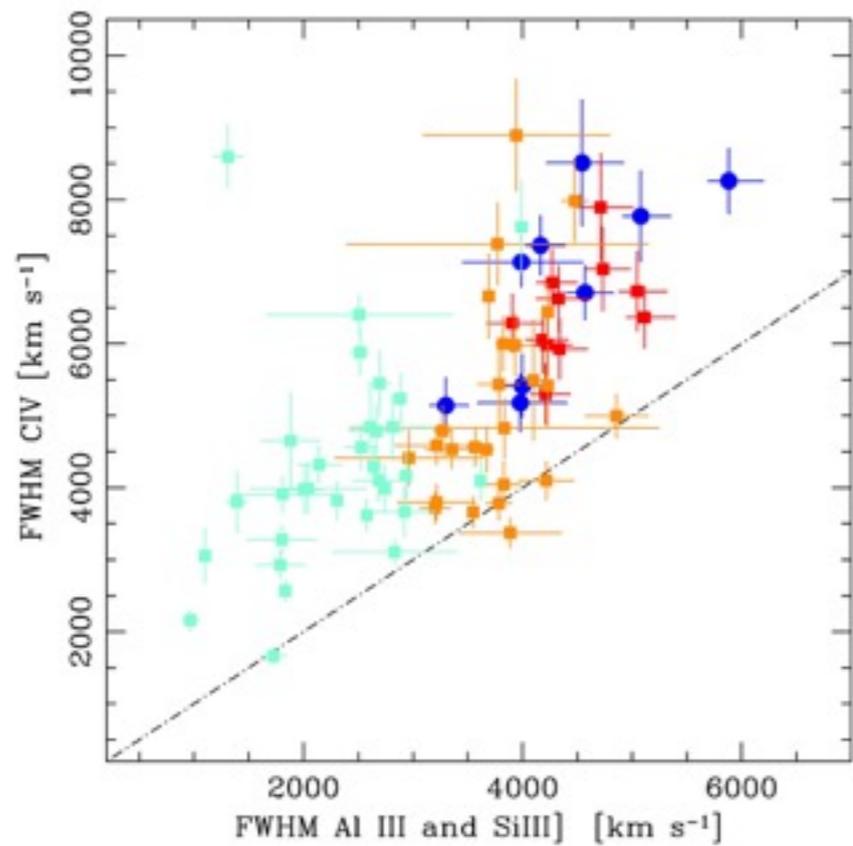
**FWHM AlIII**  
 (anchored to **FWHM SiIII**)  
 provides a **virial broadening estimator**  
 (but AlIII is a resonant line).

**Table 1**  
 Line Components in the  $\lambda 1900$  Blend

Ion	$\lambda$ (Å)	$X$ (eV)	$E_l - E_u$ (eV)	Transition	$A_{ki}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$n_c$ (cm <sup>-3</sup> )
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Si II	1808.00	8.15	0.000–6.857	$2D_{3/2}^o \rightarrow 2P_{1/2}$	$2.54 \times 10^6$	...
Si II	1816.92	8.15	0.036–6.859	$2D_{5/2}^o \rightarrow 2P_{3/2}$	$2.65 \times 10^6$	...
Al III	1854.716	18.83	0.000–6.685	$2P_{3/2}^o \rightarrow 2S_{1/2}$	$5.40 \times 10^8$	...
Al III	1862.790	18.83	0.000–6.656	$2P_{1/2}^o \rightarrow 2S_{1/2}$	$5.33 \times 10^8$	...
[Si III]	1882.7	16.34	0.000–6.585	$3P_2^o \rightarrow 1S_0$	0.012	$6.4 \times 10^4$
Si III]	1892.03	16.34	0.000–6.553	$3P_1^o \rightarrow 1S_0$	16700	$2.1 \times 10^{11}$
[C III]	1906.7	24.38	0.000–6.502	$3P_2^o \rightarrow 1S_0$	0.0052	$7.7 \times 10^4$
C III]	1908.734	24.38	0.000–6.495	$3P_1^o \rightarrow 1S_0$	114	$1.4 \times 10^{10}$
Fe III	1914.066	16.18	3.727–10.200	$z^7 P_3^o \rightarrow a^7 S_3$	$6.6 \times 10^8$	...

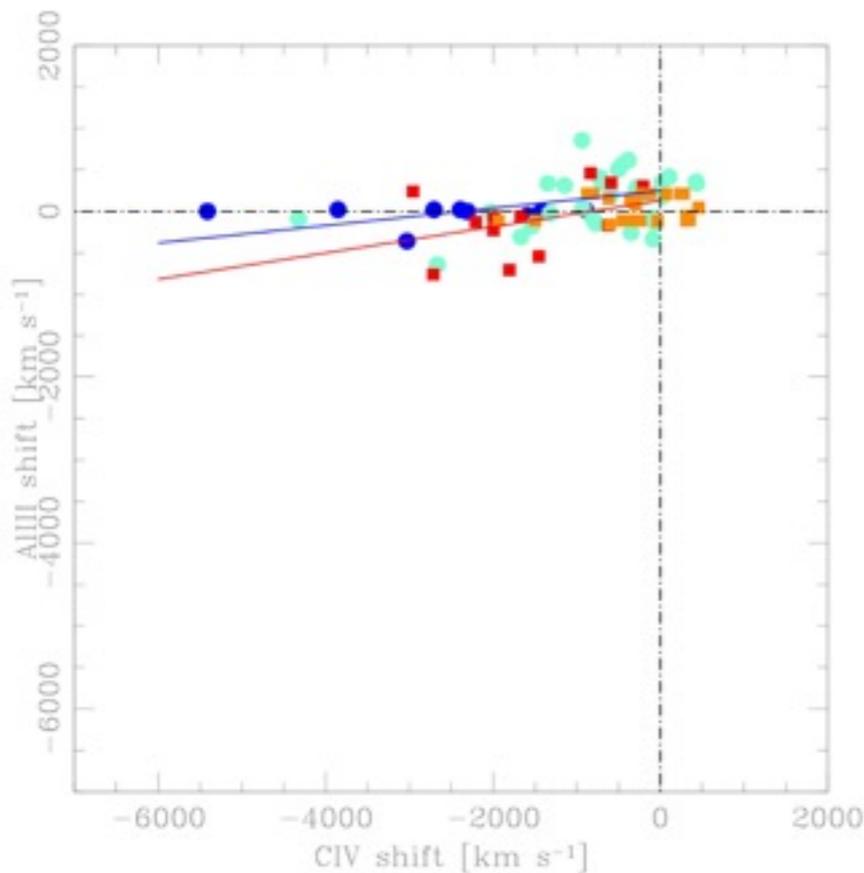


# Virial broadening estimators from IILs: the 1900 Å blend

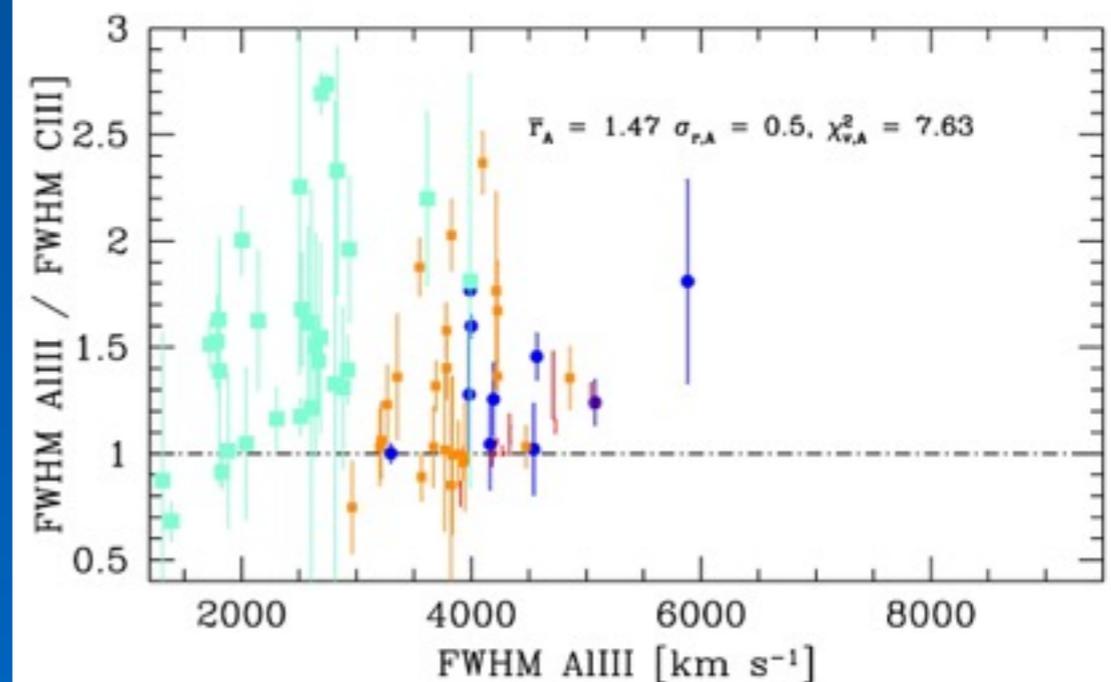
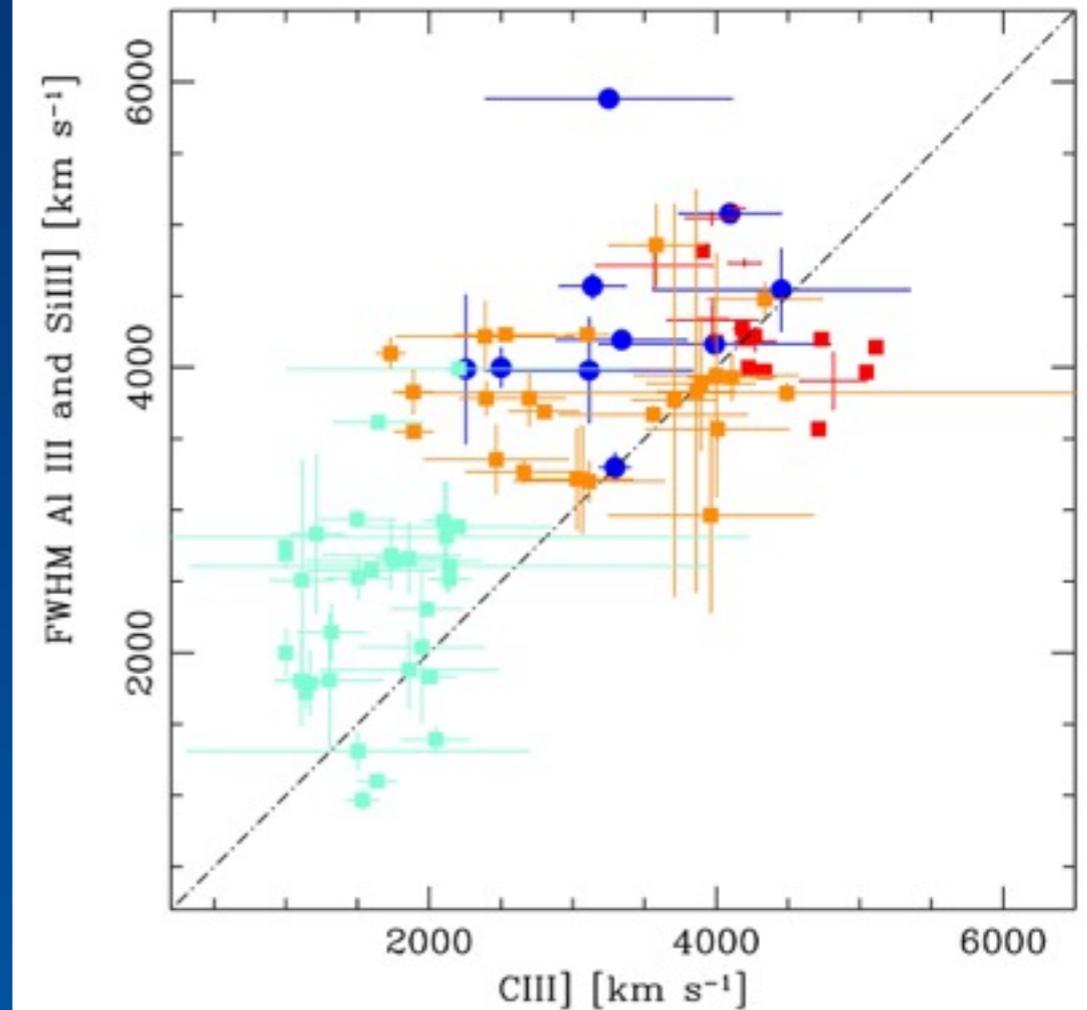


AlIII - SiIII]  
narrower than  
CIV, but no clear  
trend

AlIII shifts < 0.2  
CIV shifts; profile  
is symmetric and  
(almost)  
unshifted  
in most sources.



AlIII - SiIII]  
relation to CIII]:  
AlIII broader, but  
with large scatter



# Virial broadening estimators from IILs: the 1900 Å blend

**Pop. A: very good agreement with Hβ:**

$$\xi_{\text{AIII}} = 1.0 \text{ (Pop. A)}$$

**Pop. B: lines are narrower than Hβ:**

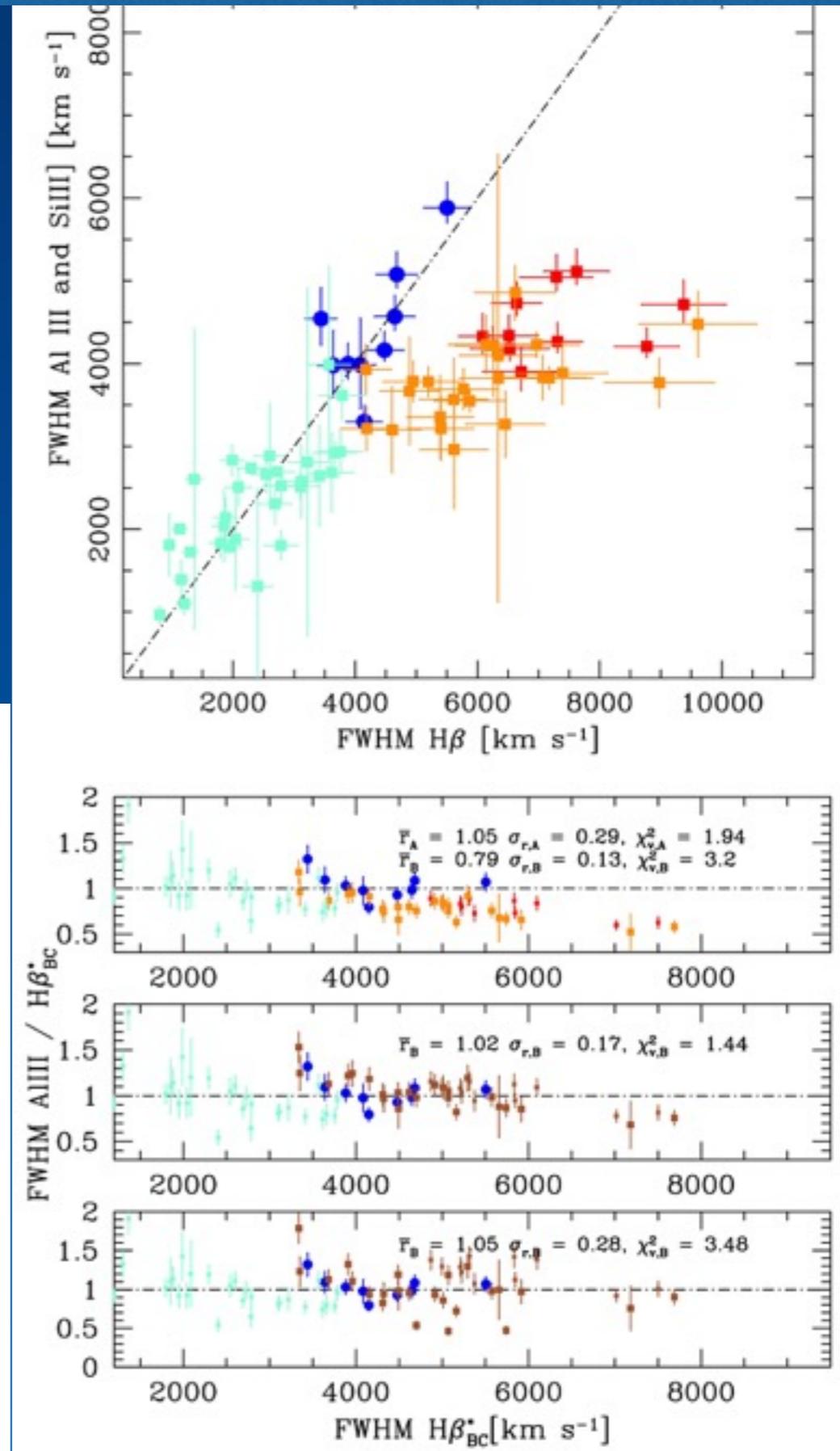
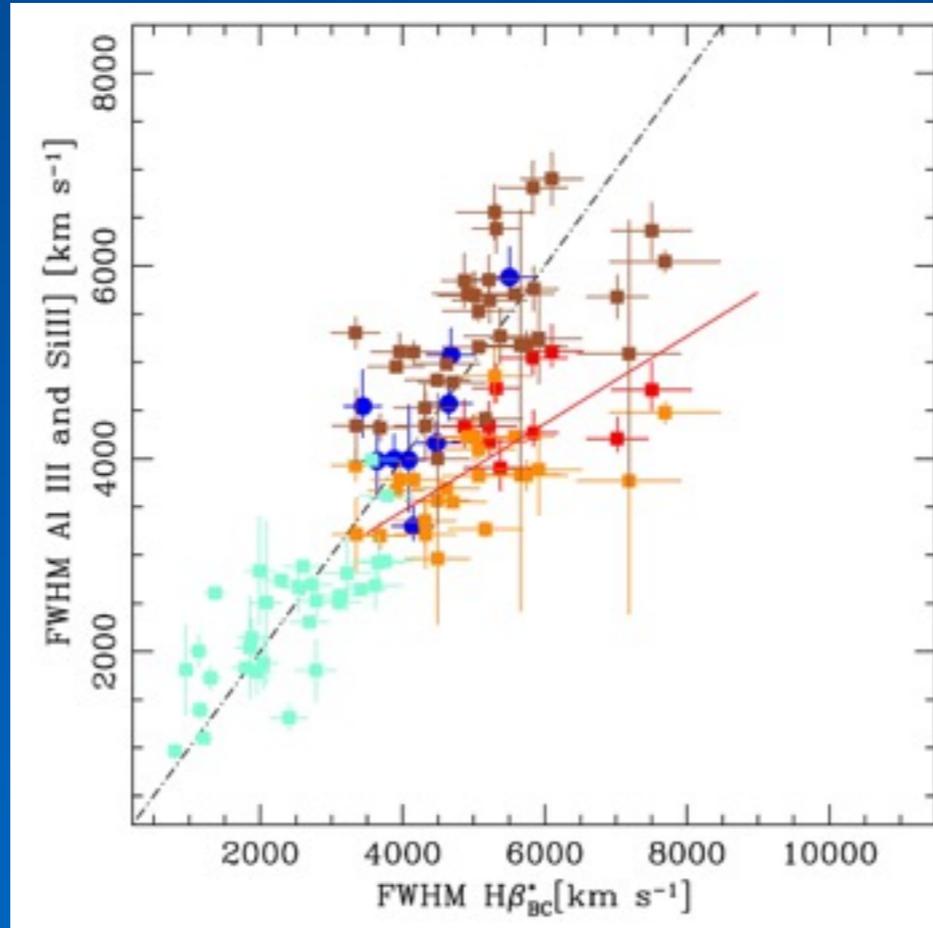
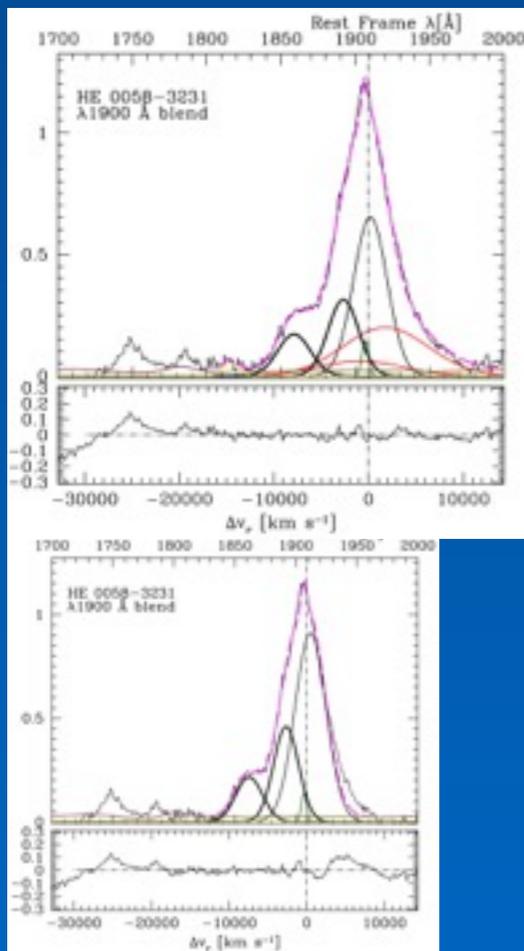
$$\xi_{\text{AIII}} = 1.35 \text{ (Pop. B)}$$

$$\text{FWHM}_{\text{vir}} = \text{FWHM H}\beta_{\text{BC}} = 1.35 \text{ FWHM}_{\text{AIII}}$$

VBC/BC decomposition choices  
creating a small bias

3VBC: med 0.97 SIQR 0.14;

NOVBC (wrong) med 1.05 SIQR 0.13



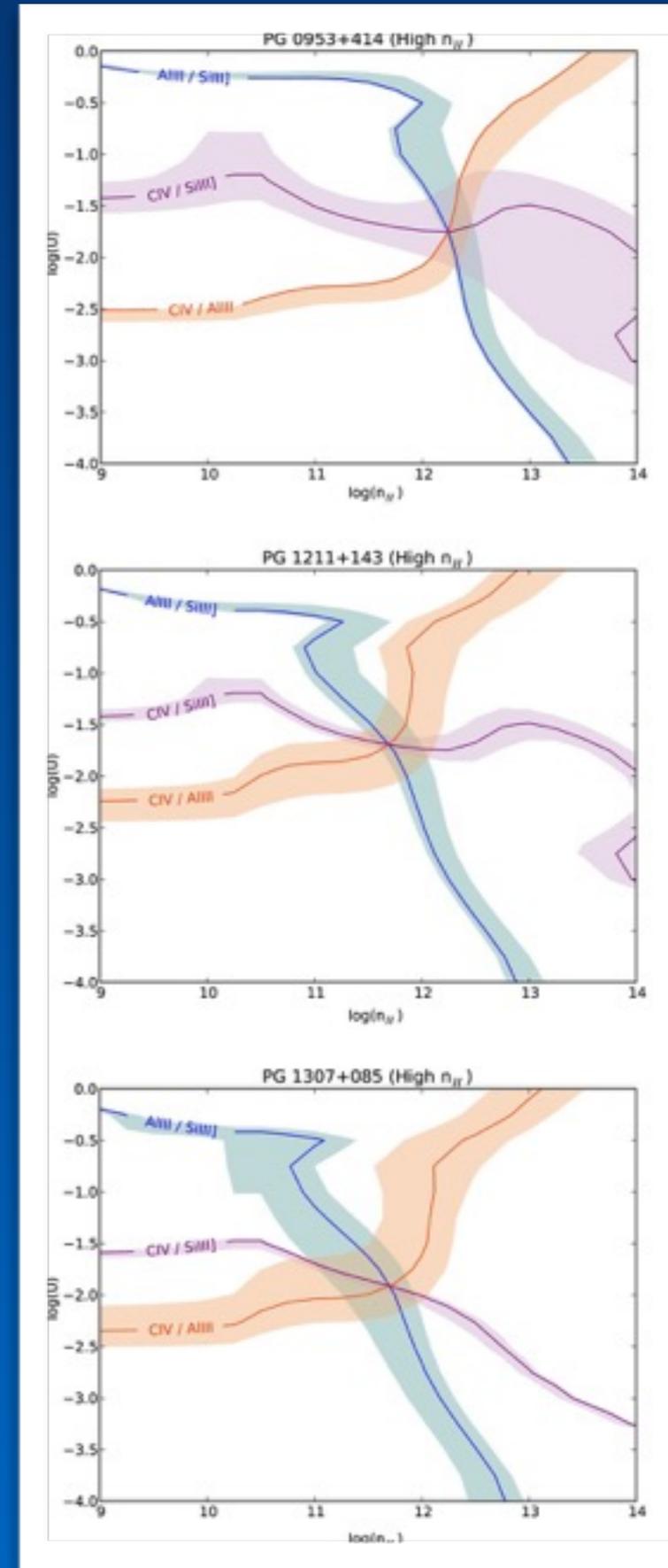
# “Photoionization” Masses

$$U = \frac{\int_{\nu_0}^{+\infty} \frac{L_{\nu}}{h\nu} d\nu}{4\pi r_{\text{BLR}}^2 n_e c}$$

$$r_{\text{BLR}} = \left( \frac{\int_{\nu_0}^{+\infty} \frac{L_{\nu}}{h\nu} d\nu}{4\pi U n_e c} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

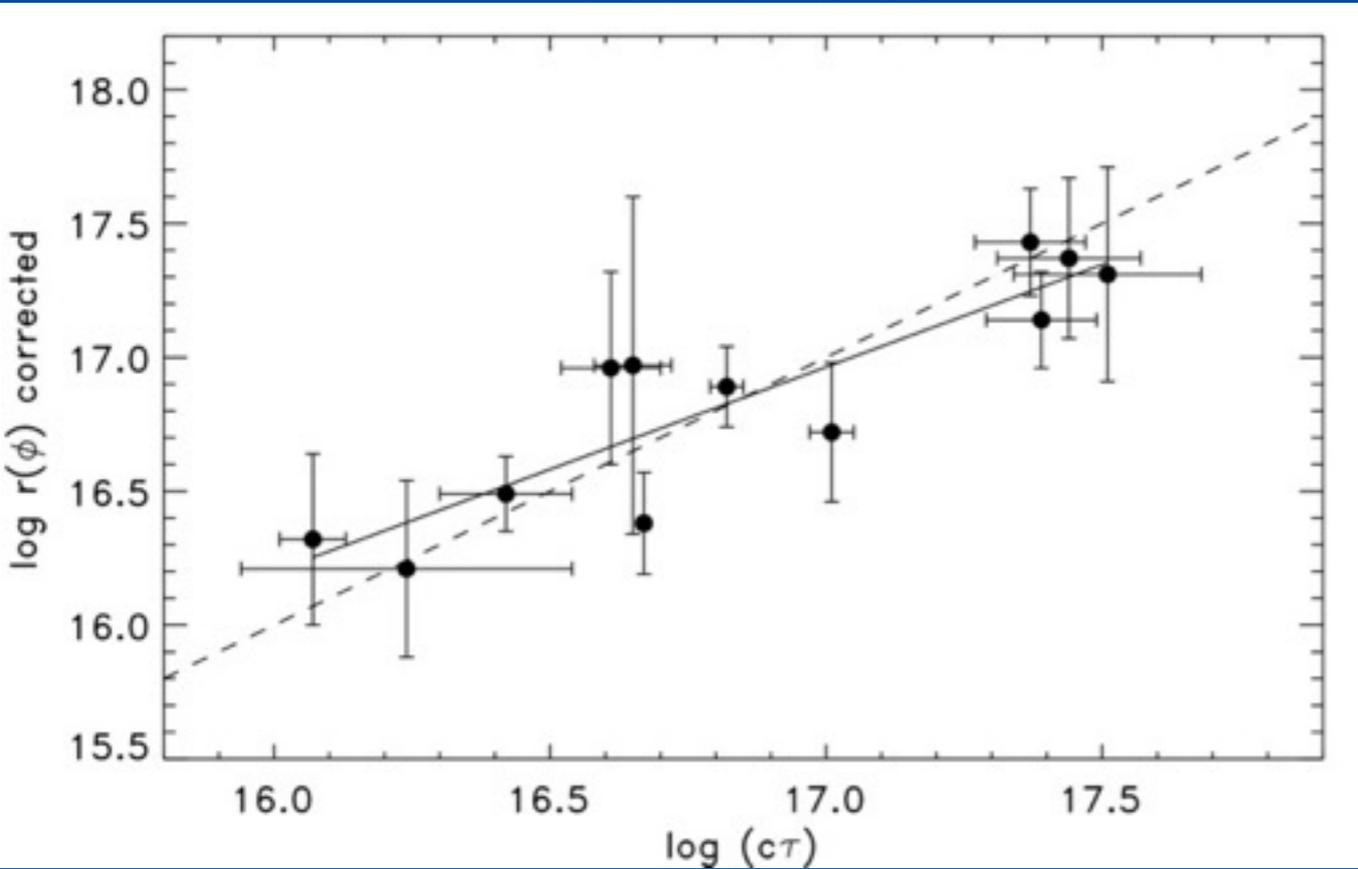
$$r_{\text{BLR}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{(4\pi c)^{\frac{1}{2}}}}_{\text{const.}} \underbrace{(U n_e)^{-\frac{1}{2}}}_{\text{diagnostics}} \left( \underbrace{\int_{\nu_0}^{+\infty} \frac{L_{\nu}}{h\nu} d\nu}_{\# \text{ ionizing photons}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

The photon flux  $Un_e$  is estimated using diagnostic ratios involving AlIII 1860, SiIII] 1892, SiI 1816, CIV 1549, SiIV +OIV] 1400



**$r_{\text{BLR}}$  estimates from photo-ionization agree with  $c\tau$  from RM**

(sample of 12 sources, Negrete et al. 2013)



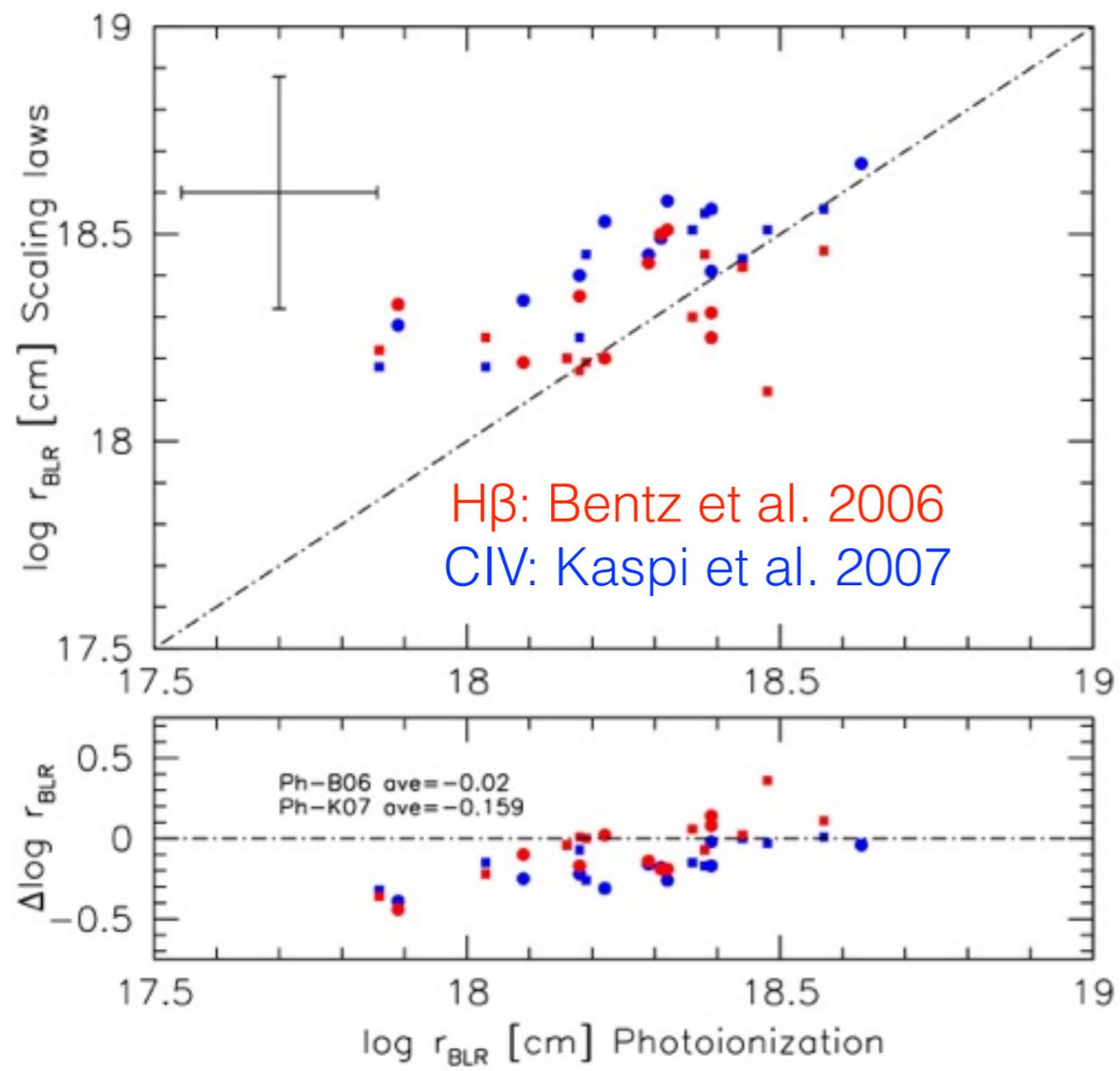
# “Photoionization” Masses

The photoionization method provides an unbiased estimator of  $r_{\text{BLR}}$

Both  $r_{\text{BLR}}$  and  $M_{\text{BH}}$  estimates at high L remains largely untested

Collin et al. 2006

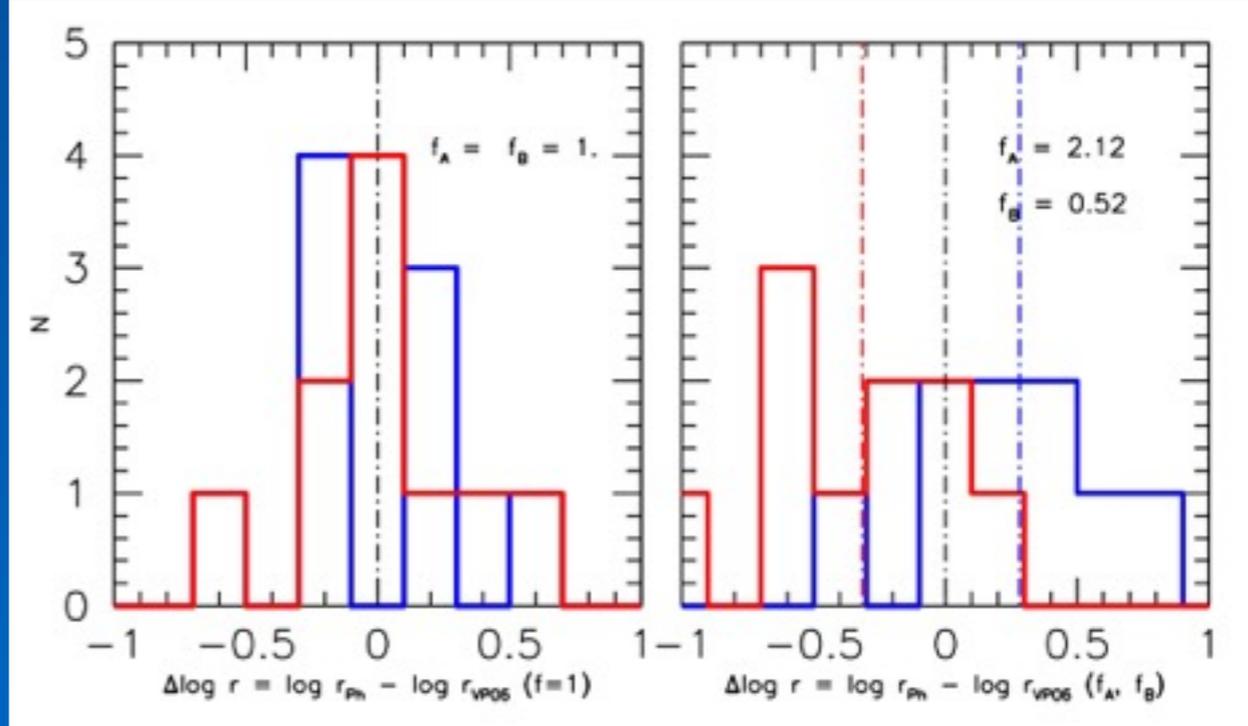
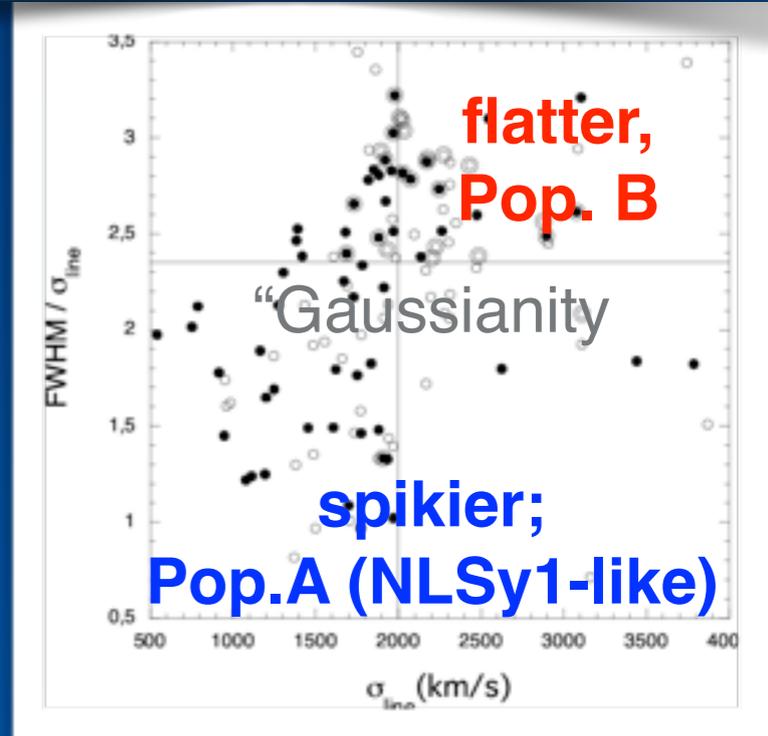
	$f(\sigma_{\text{line}})$	$df(\sigma_{\text{line}})$	$f(\text{FWHM})$	$df(\text{FWHM})$
MEAN SPECTRUM				
total	3.85	1.15	1.17	0.50
Pop1	4.20	2.09	1.81	1.38
Pop2	3.48	1.09	0.69	0.19
PopA	3.93	1.97	2.12	1.47
PopB	3.75	1.13	0.52	0.13



H $\beta$ : Bentz et al. 2006  
 CIV: Kaspi et al. 2007

$f=1$  or different  $f$ : which is right? We do not know.

$M_{\text{BH}}$ : the bias emphasizes the role of  $f$



## Conclusion

**Low-ionization lines ( $H\beta$ ,  $MgII\lambda 2800$ ) provide reliable virial broadening estimators** by applying corrections to the observed line width. The corrections depend on the spectral type along the E1 MS, but they are relatively small (less than 20%), and work up to the highest  $L$  of quasars.

The **HIL  $CIV\lambda 1549$  is not immediately providing a reliable virial broadening estimator.** The profile is broadened by an excess emission on its blue side. The shift amplitude depends on both  $L/L_{Edd}$ , and  $L$ . Large shifts are observed in Pop. A, with Eddington ratio above a critical  $L/L_{Edd} \sim 0.2$ .

**Corrections applied to the observed CIV broadening** remain cumbersome even for Pop. A. **Pop. B sources at low Eddington ratio require a different correction** (ill defined by the present analysis). They require rest frame determination.

Preliminary result on the 1900 blend indicate that the **ILs lines could provide a better virial broadening estimator than CIV**, even if more data are needed to assess their reliability.

The solution may be to abandon scaling laws altogether and to attempt  $M_{BH}$  estimates on an individual basis, considering  $r_{BLR}$  from photoionization and  $f=f(L/L_{Edd}, a, \theta)$  along the E1 sequence.

