

# Gamma-ray astronomy

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Science and Technology

# Program

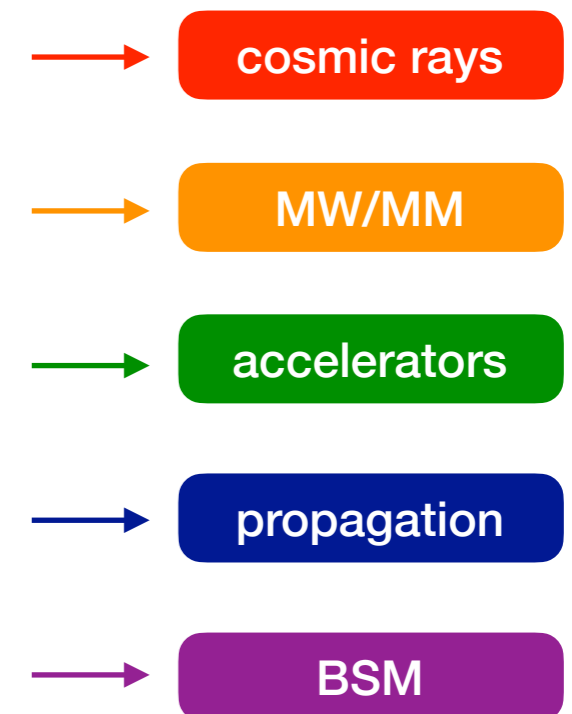
## ★ Introduction

- ◆ Gamma-ray production and detection
- ◆ Scientific objectives

## ★ Selected relevant and/or recent results\*

- ◆ Cosmic-ray acceleration and propagation
- ◆ Multi-wavelength/Multi-messenger astronomy
- ◆ Particle acceleration in extreme environments
- ◆ Propagation effects
- ◆ Physics beyond the Standard Model

Big overlap  
Folders → Labels



## ★ The future

\* of course, with a personal bias...

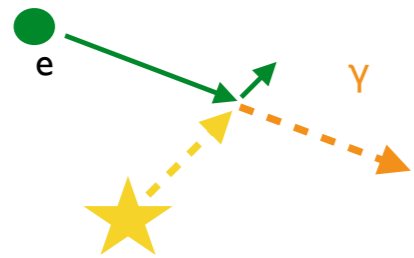
# Introduction

# Gamma-ray production

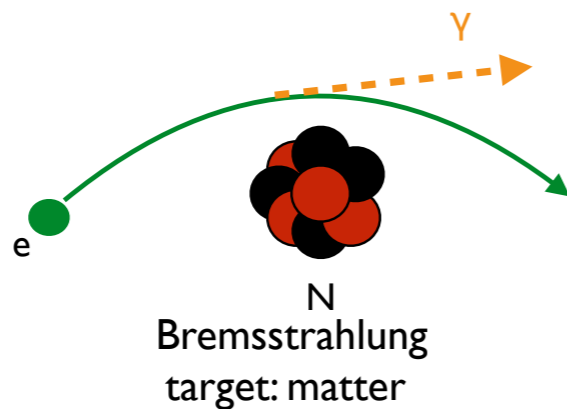
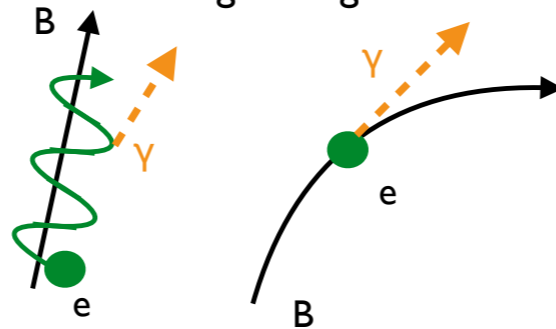
Adapted from L. Tibaldo (ECS2022)

## Particle acceleration + interaction

inverse-Compton scattering  
target: photons

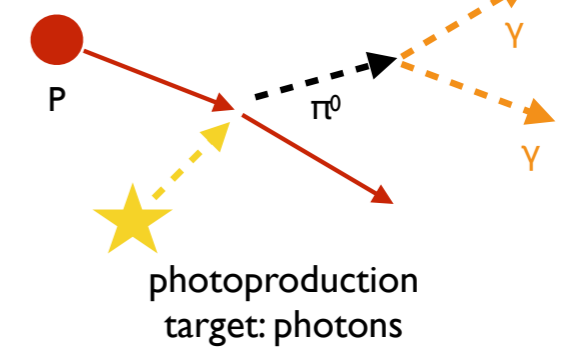
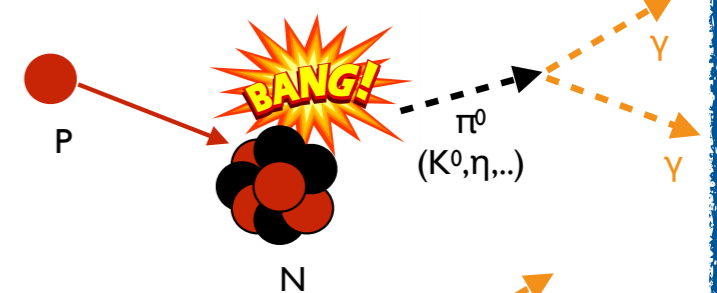


synchrotron/curvature radiation  
target: magnetic fields

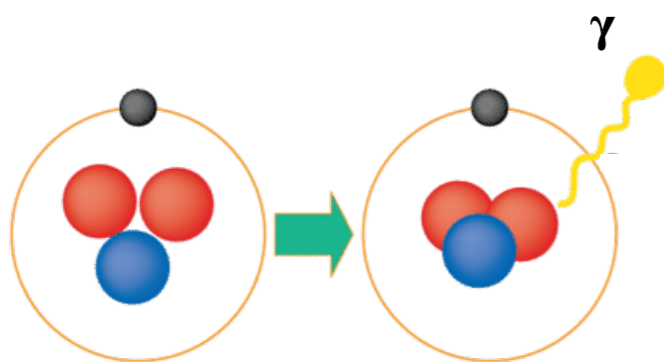


## Particle decay

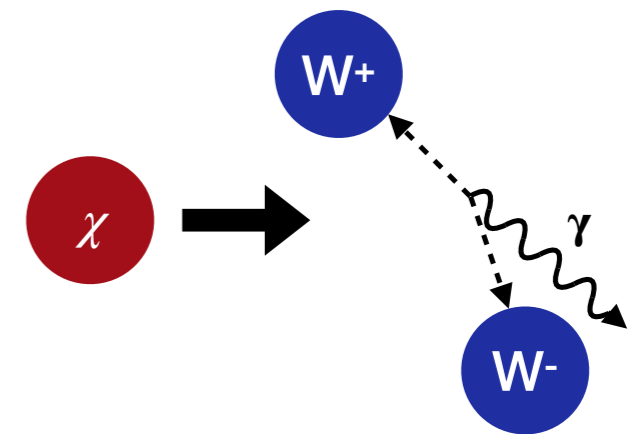
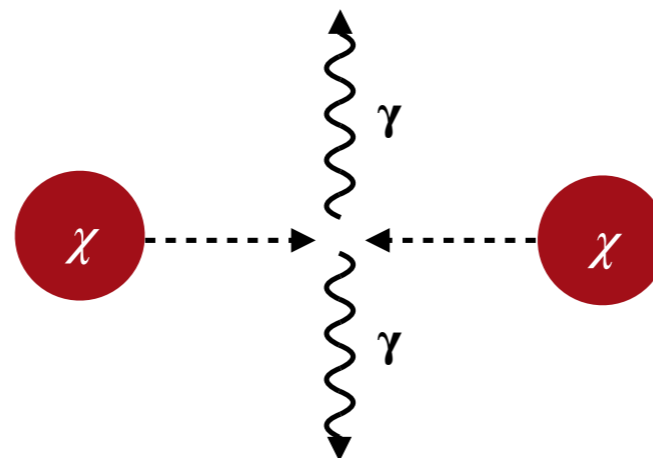
nucleon-nucleon inelastic collisions  
target: matter



## Nuclear decay

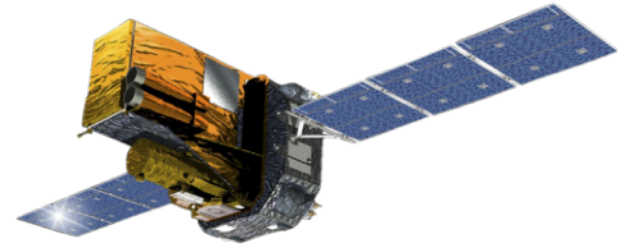


## Particle annihilation



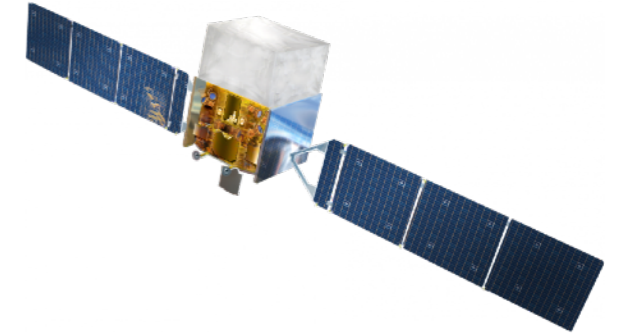
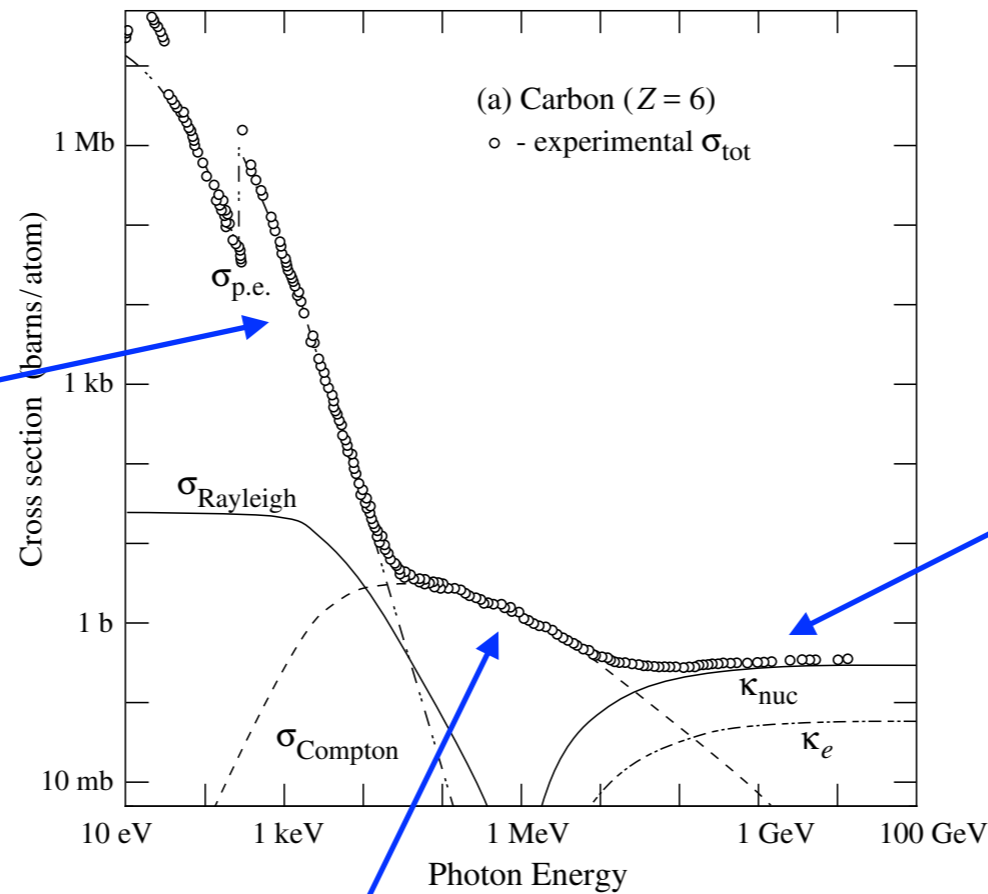
# Direct gamma-ray detection

Workman et al. (PDG) PTEP 2022 (2022) 083C01



## ★ Low energy (LE)

- ◆ 15 keV - 10 MeV
- ◆ Coded masks
- ◆ INTEGRAL (2002)



## ★ High Energy (HE)

- ◆ 100 MeV - 300 GeV
- ◆ Pair conversion tracker + calorimeter
- ◆ Fermi-LAT (2008), Agile (2007), CALET (2015), DAMPE (2015)

## ★ Medium energy (ME)

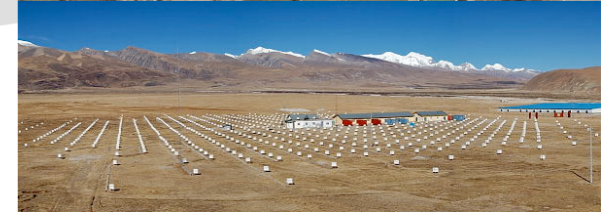
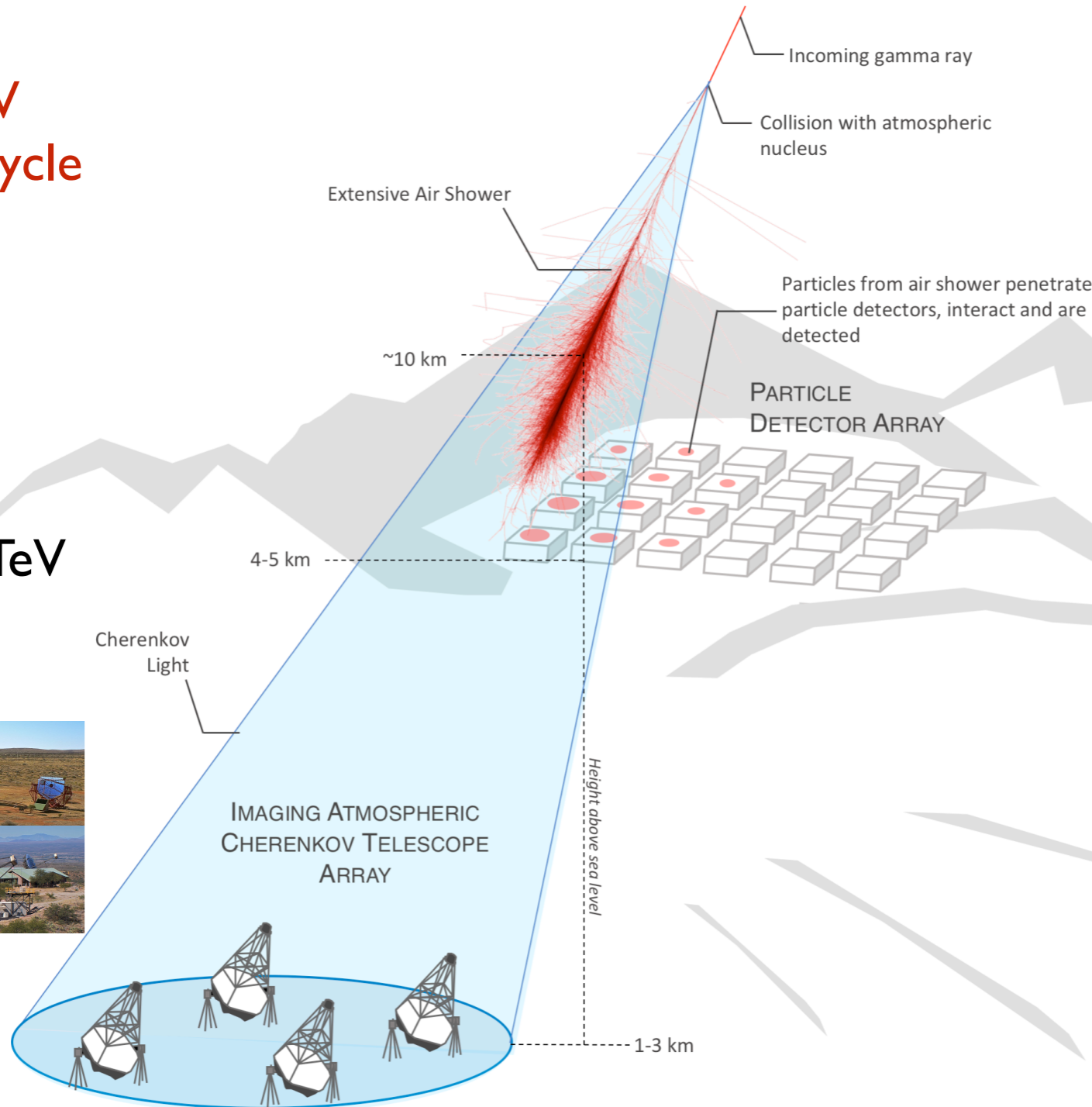
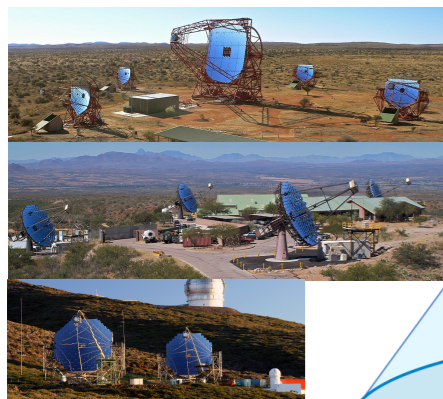
- ◆ 1-30 MeV
- ◆ Compton camera
- ◆ COMPTEL (1991-2000)

# Indirect gamma-ray detection

Better PSF  
Modest FoV  
Low duty cycle

VHE

H.E.S.S.,  
VERITAS,  
MAGIC  
0.03 - 100 TeV  
Early 2000-  
present



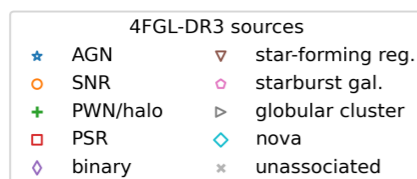
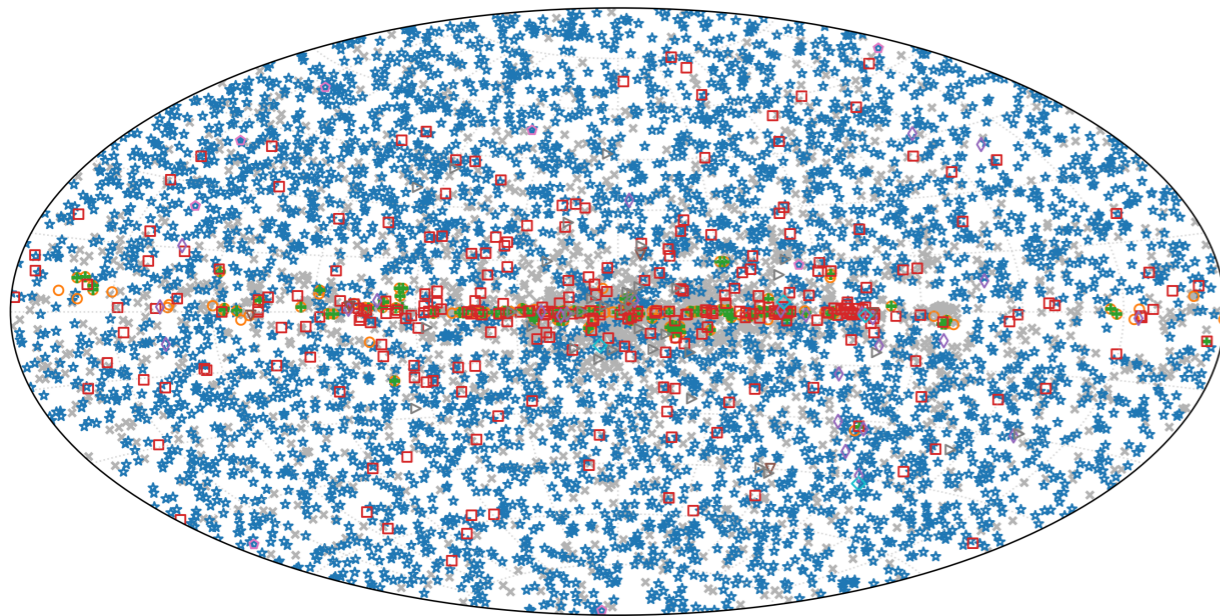
VHE-UHE

HAWC,  
LHAASO,  
Tibet AS Gamma  
1 TeV - 2 PeV  
~2010's - present  
Modest PSF  
Large FoV  
High duty cycle

Credit: R. White

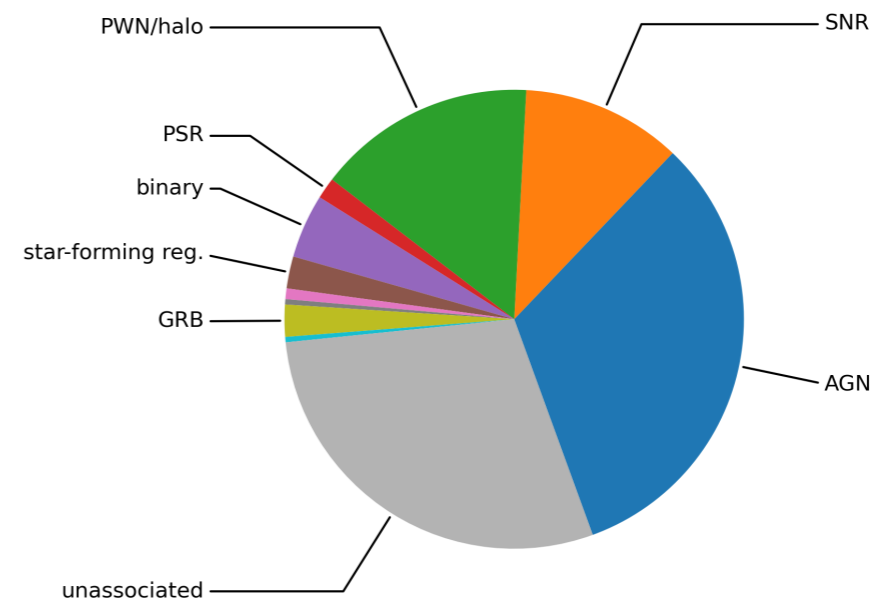
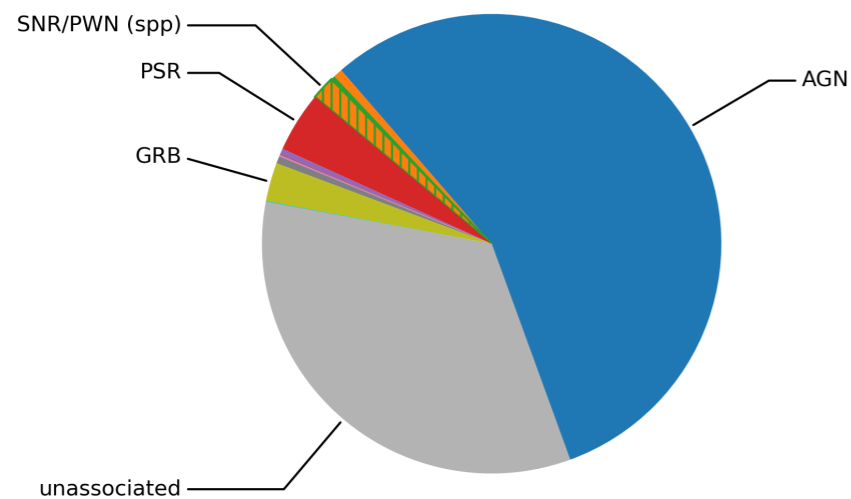
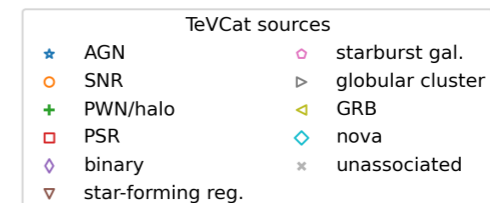
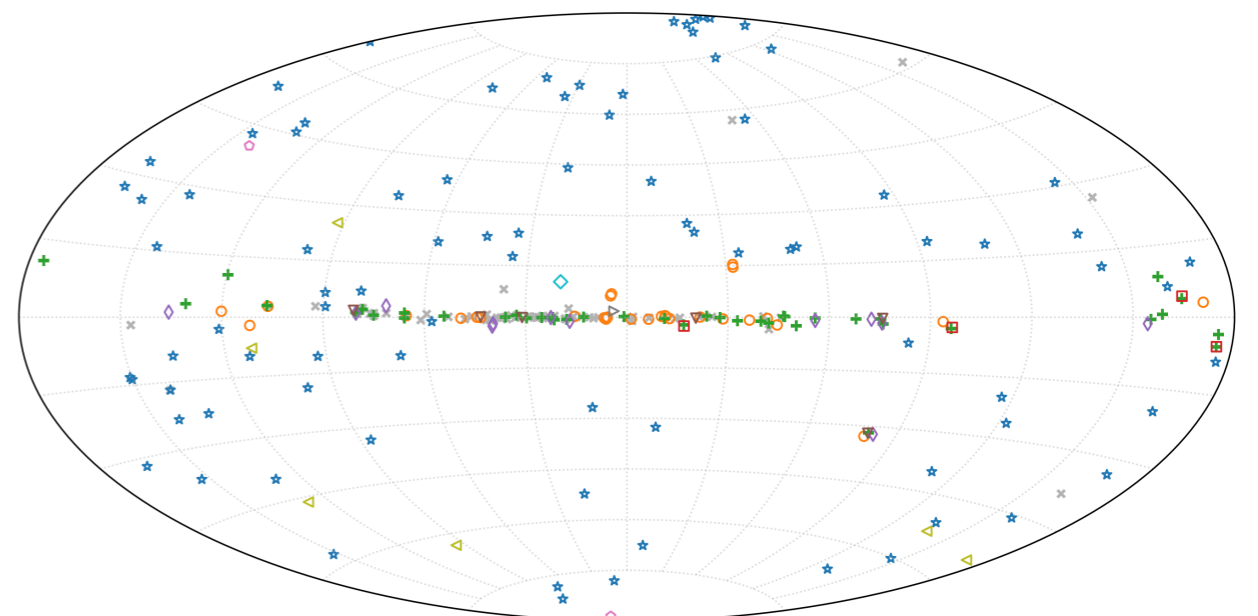
# HE sources

HE



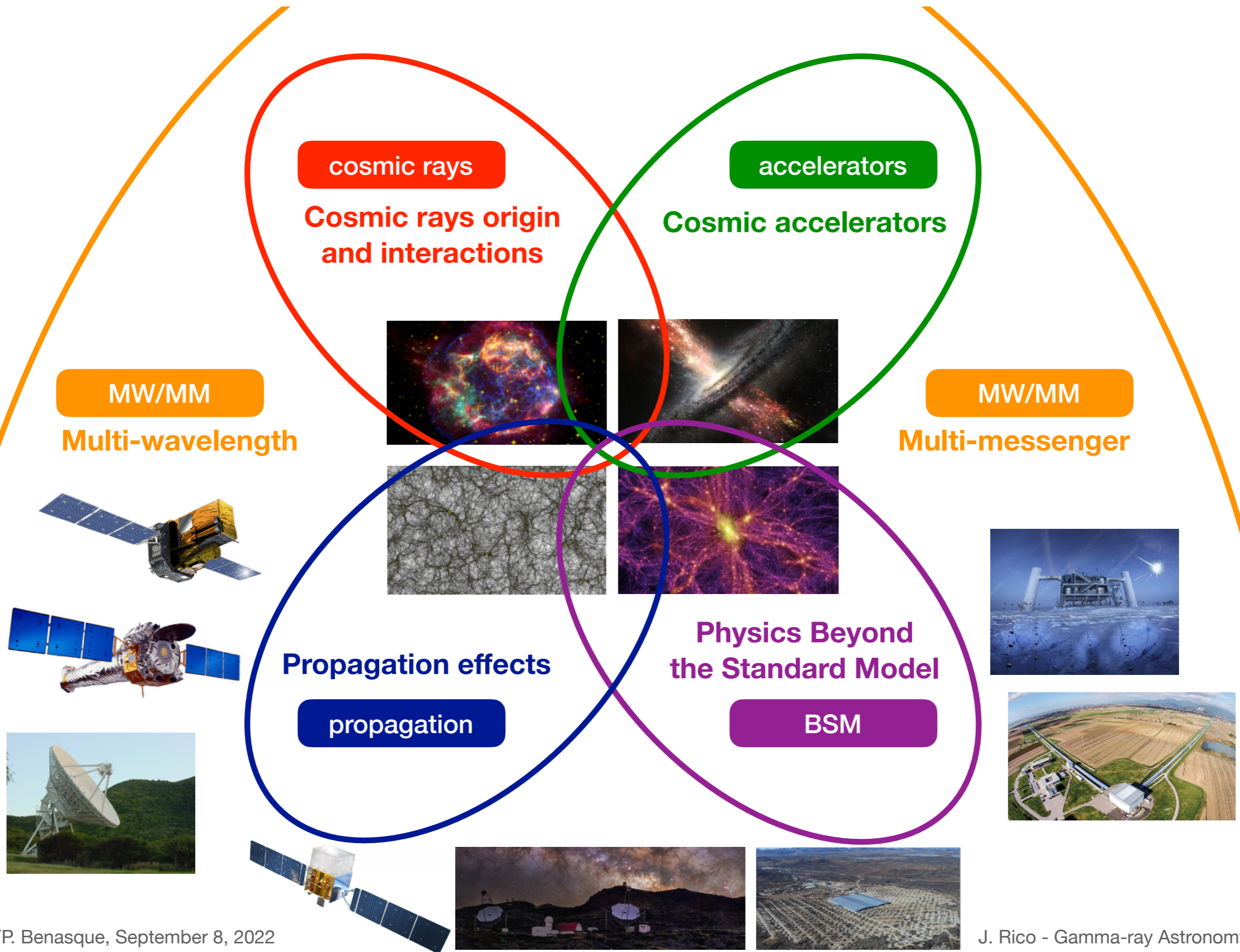
⚠ General LAT catalogs based on long-term significance: transients not included. The second LAT GRB catalog contains 186 GRBs not shown on this map.

VHE



Credit: L. Tibaldo (EGRS2022)

# Science with HE and VHE gamma rays





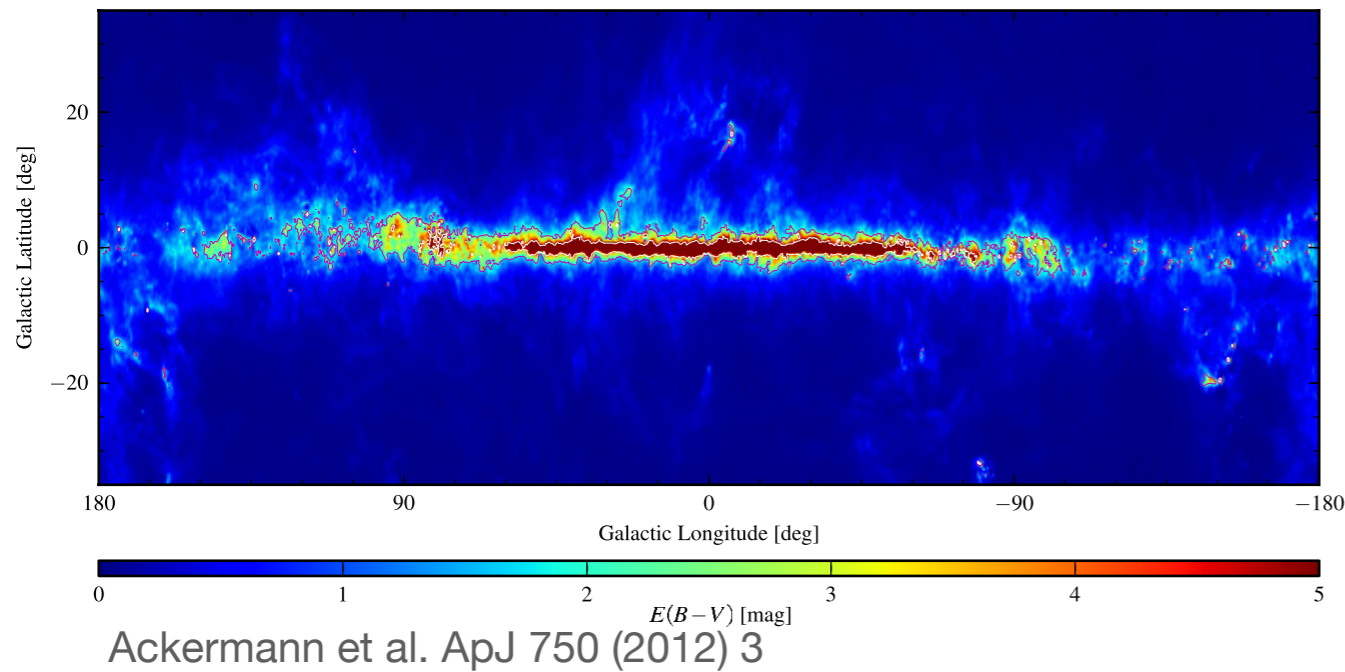
# Cosmic rays origin and interactions

# Galactic diffuse emission

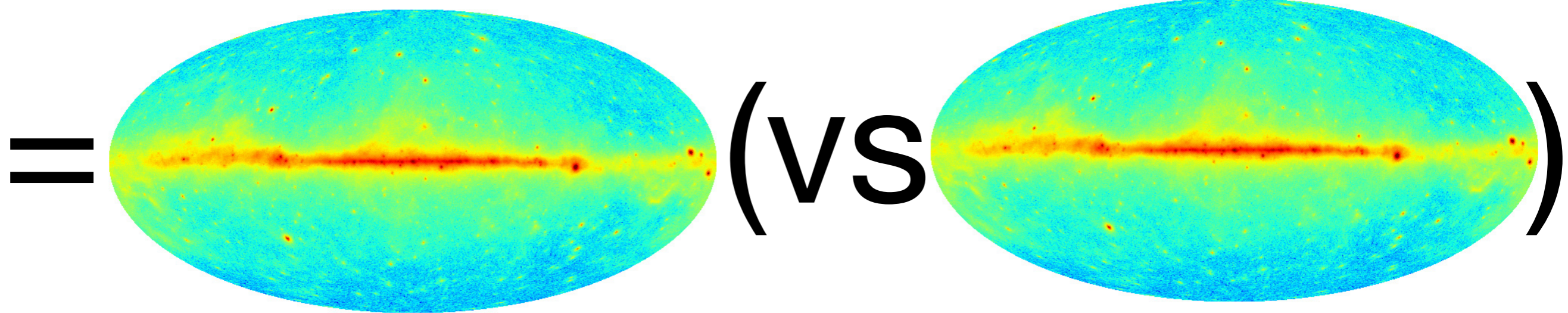
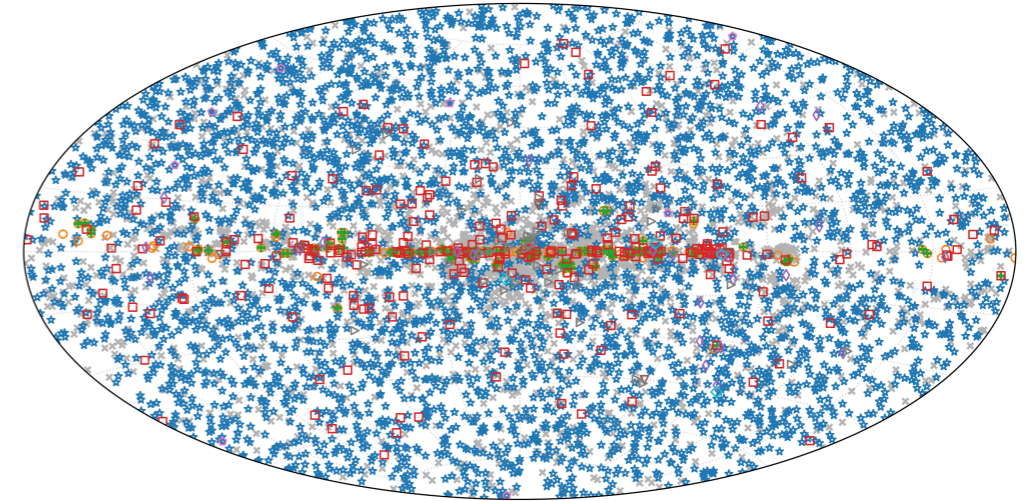
cosmic rays

Interstellar matter tracers ( $H_2$ ,  $H_I$ ,  $H_{II}$ , dust, ...)

Point-like sources



+

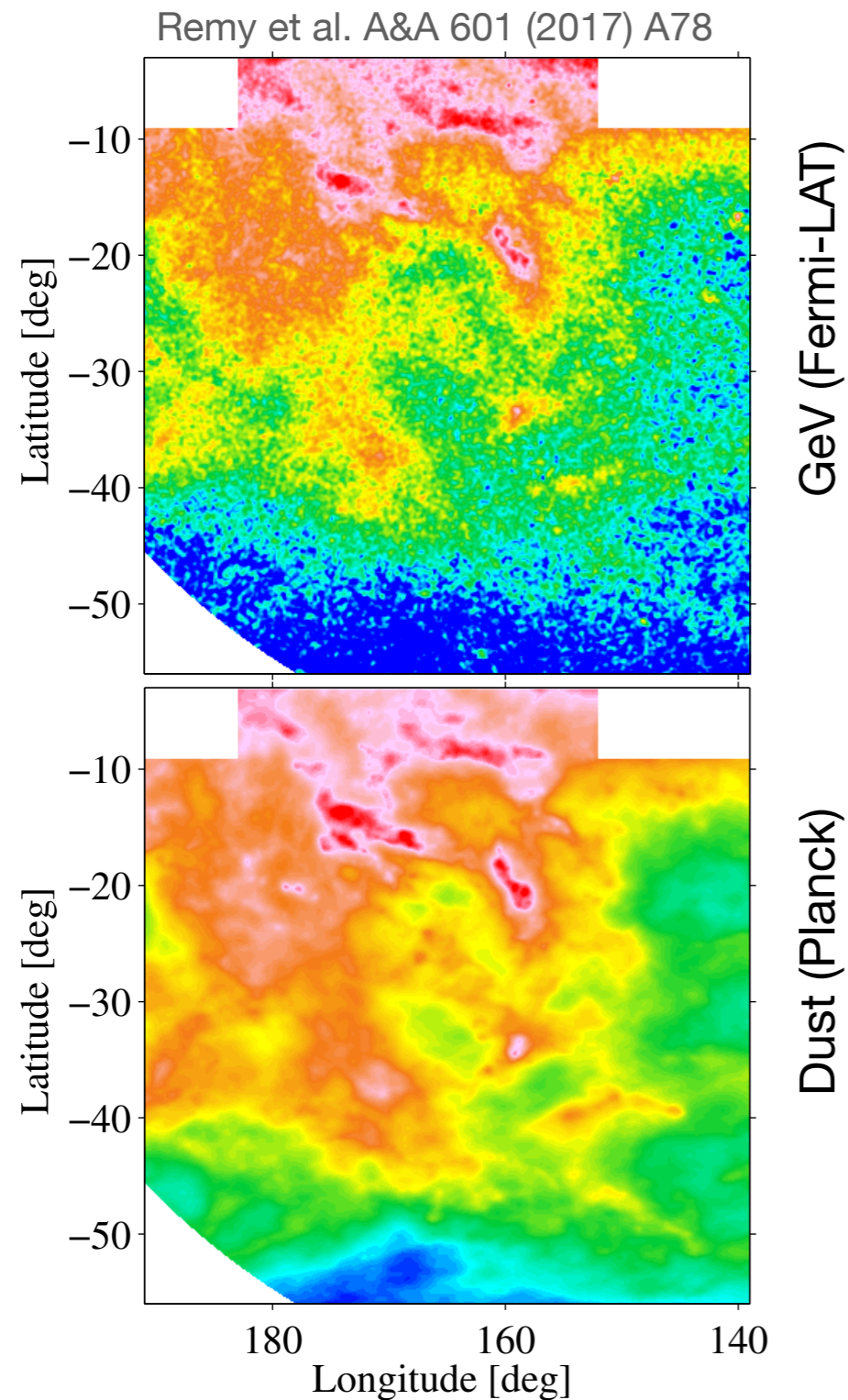


Predicted counts

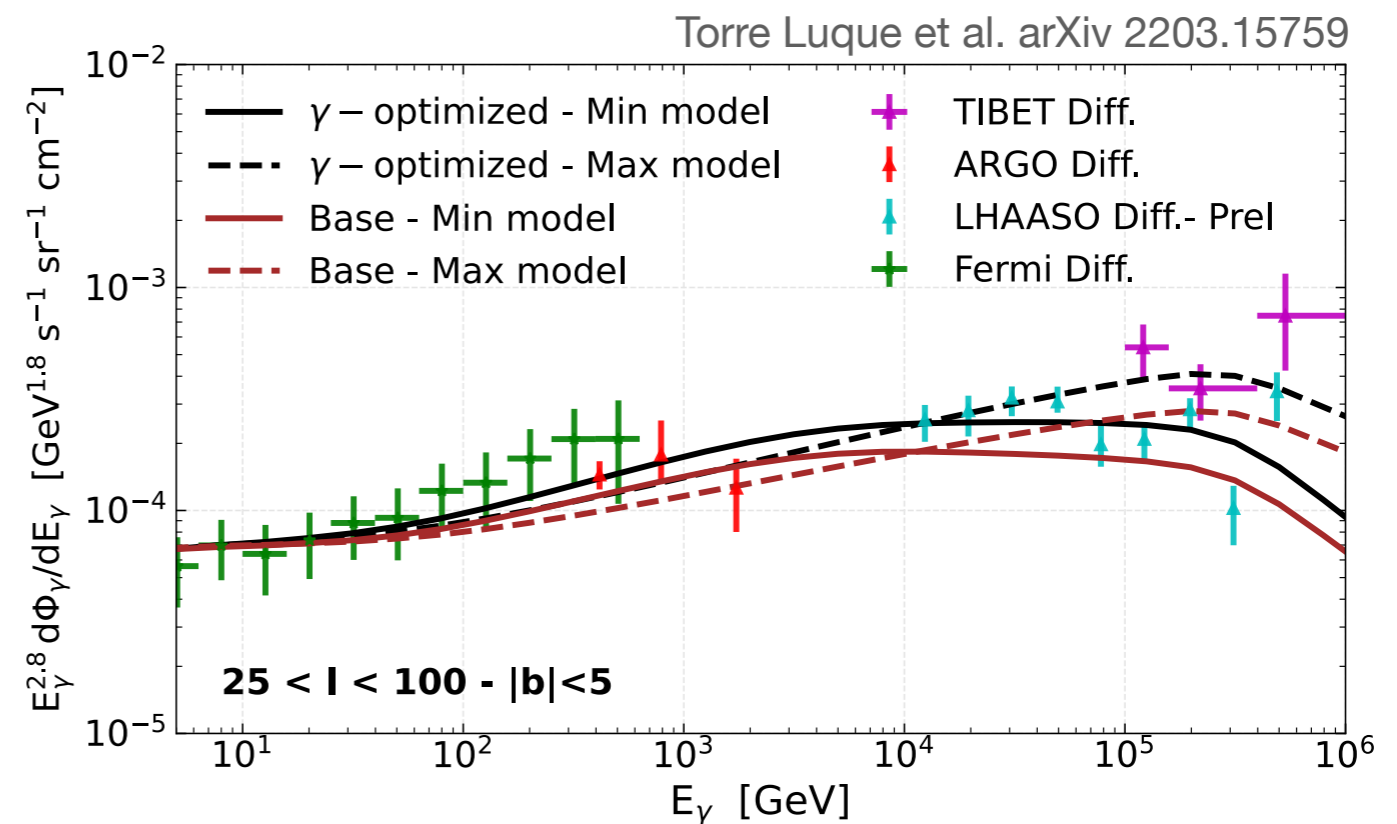
Observed counts

# Diffuse emission

cosmic rays



- ★ GeV/interstellar matter correlation at all scales → CR interactions
- ★ Diffuse emission measured up to PeV (with TeV gap)
- ★ Some excesses over predictions (unresolved sources? exotic origin?)

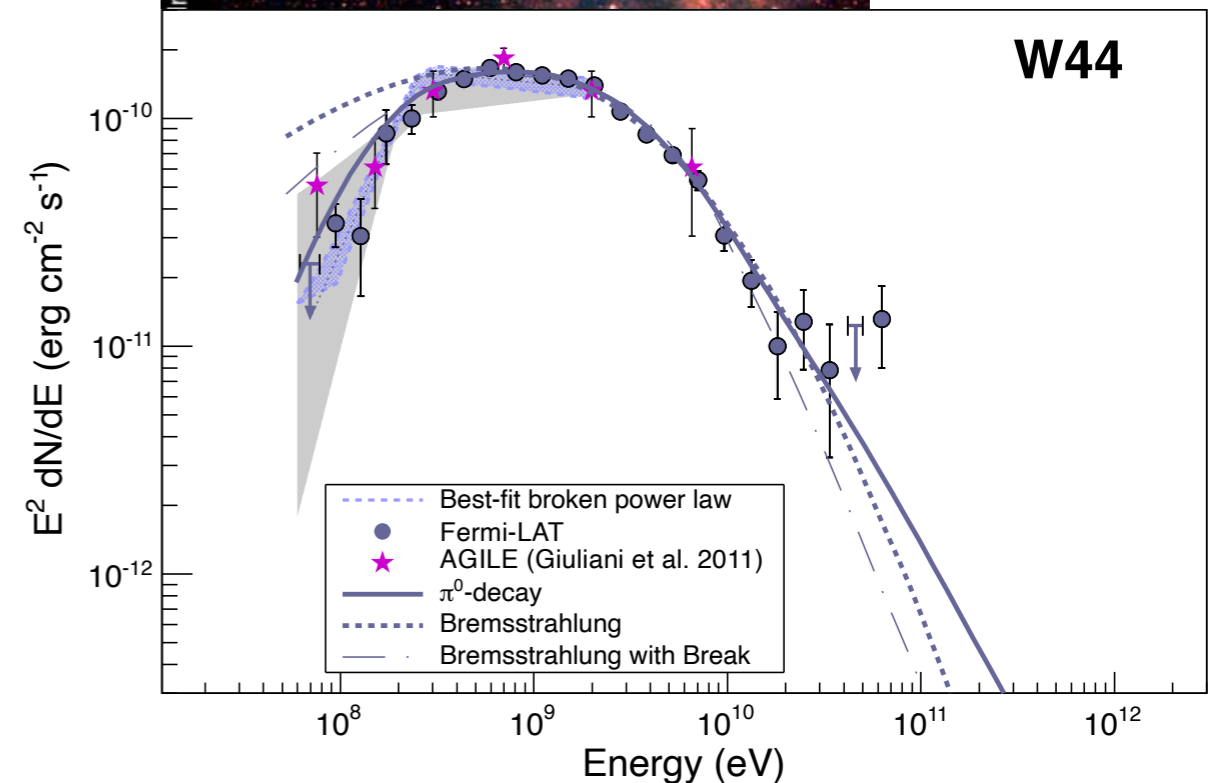
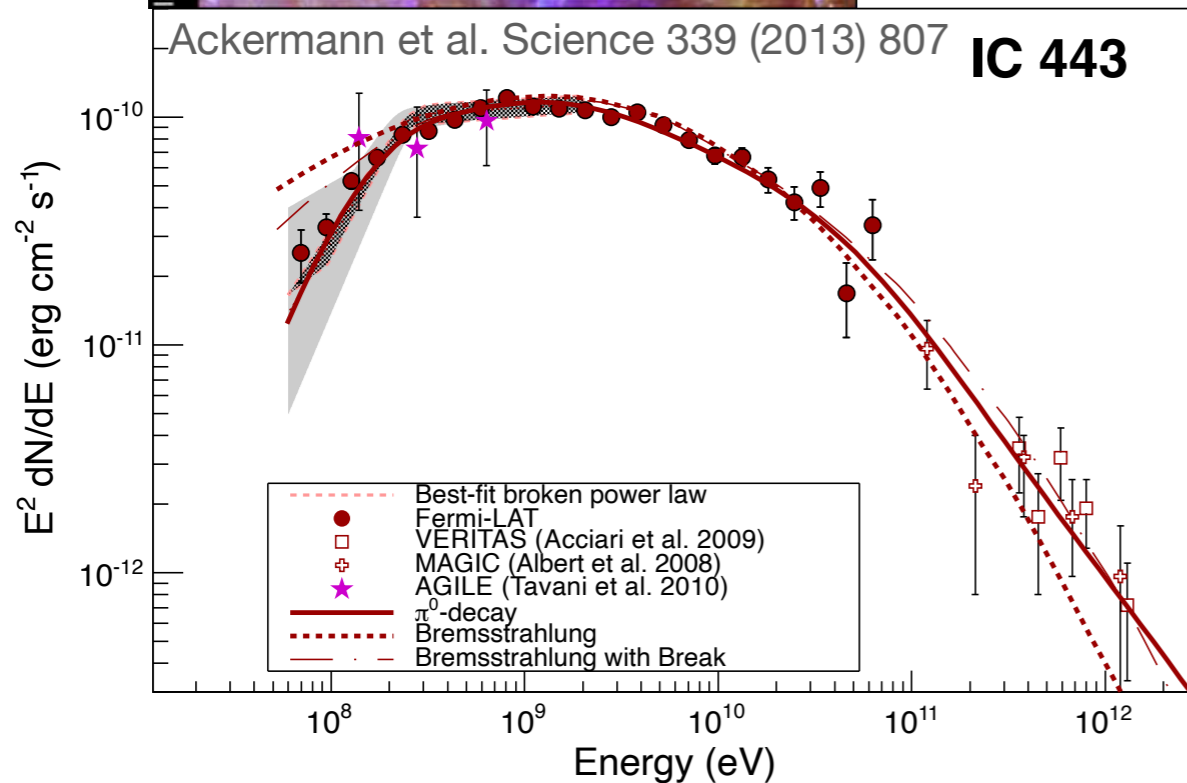
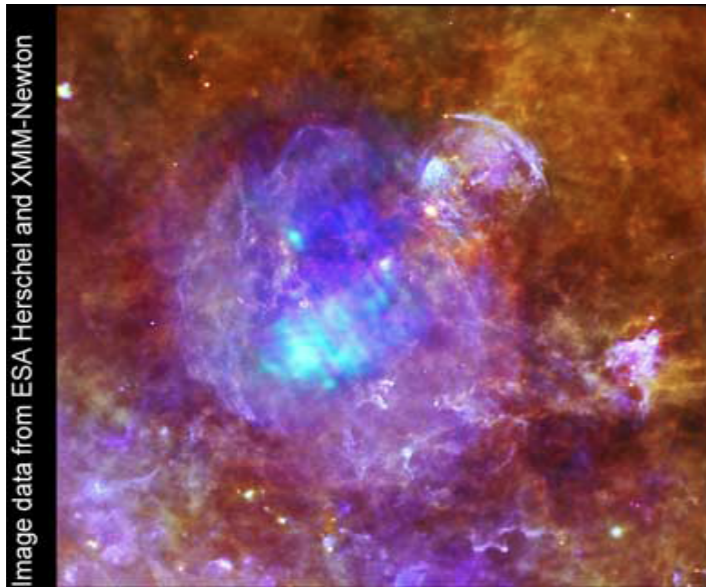


# CR acceleration in SNRs

cosmic rays

accelerators

- ★ First direct evidence of CR acceleration in SNR by observing the characteristic “pion bump”



# New CR accelerator candidates

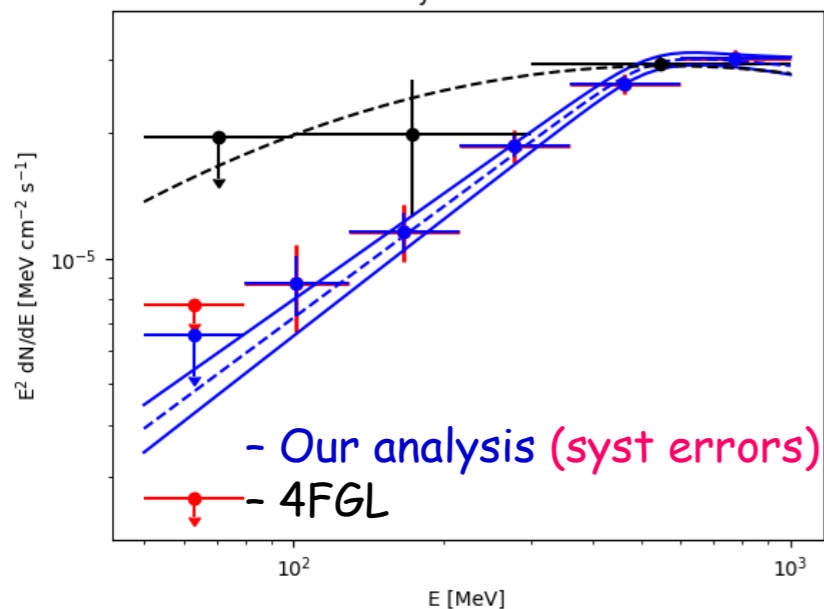
cosmic rays

accelerators

- ★ 8 years Fermi-LAT, better control on systematics → 56 out of 311 candidates are confirmed to have characteristic spectral break

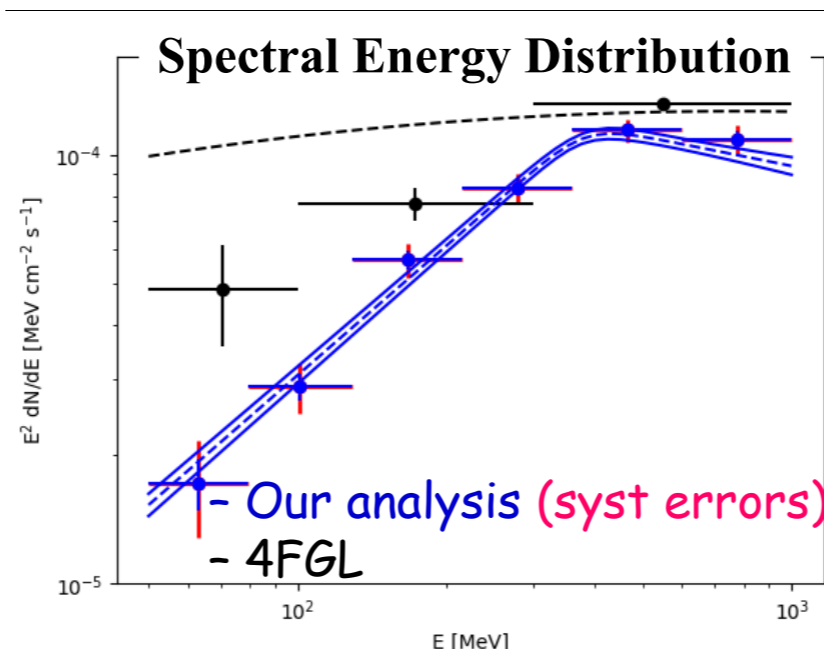
Binary system  $\eta$ -Carinae

4FGL J1045.1-5940



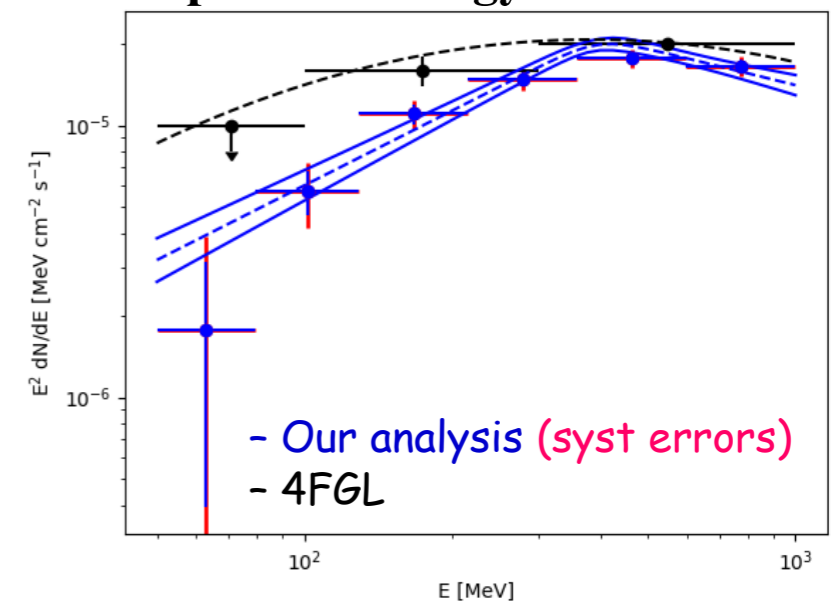
Cygnus star-forming region

Spectral Energy Distribution



SNR HB21

Spectral Energy Distribution



Abdollahi et al. arXiv:2205.03111

- ★ SNRs dominate
- ★ Binaries could also contribute significantly

Source class	Analyzed	Confirmed
Supernova remnant (SNR)	23	13
Pulsar wind nebulae (PWN)	4	2
Supernova remnant / Pulsar wind nebula (SPP)	37	6
Star-forming region (SFR)	1	1
Unknown (UNK)	31	4
Binary/High-mass binary (BIN/HMB)	5	4
Unidentified (UNID)	210	26

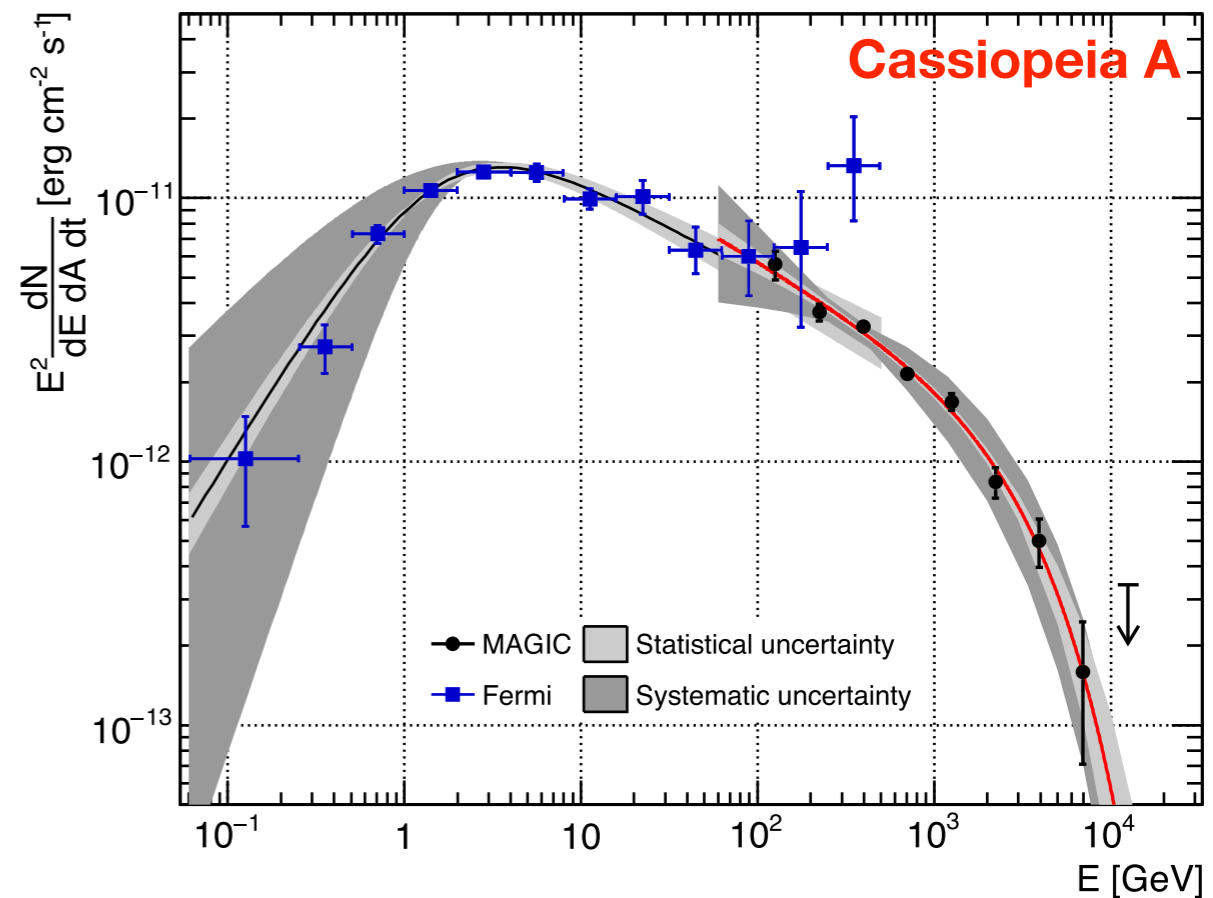
# PeVatrons

cosmic rays

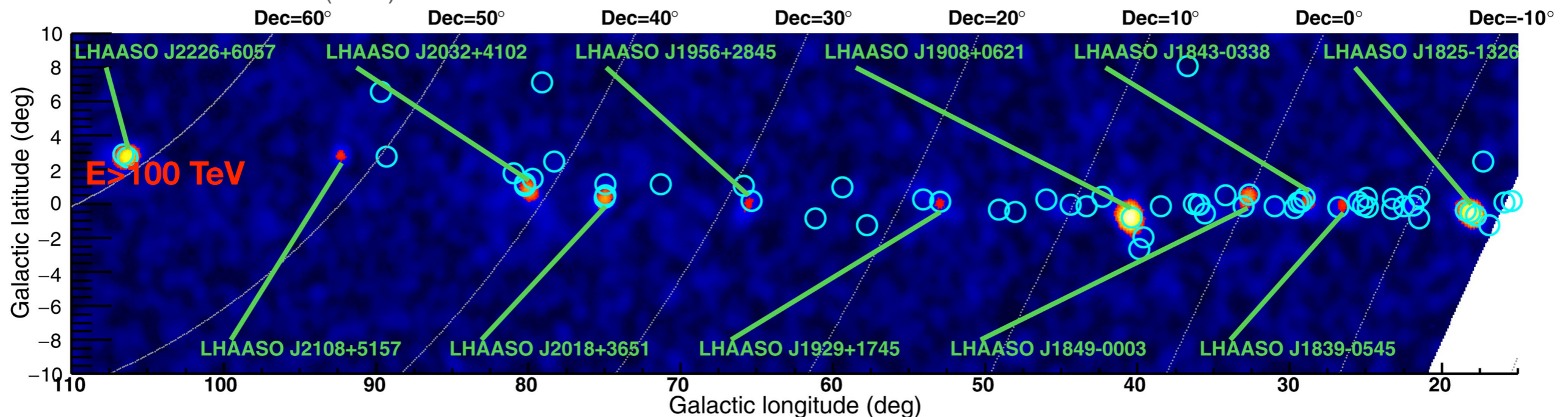
accelerators

- ★ Galactic CR accelerators must reach  $10^{15}$  eV
- ★ Not all SNRs are PeVatrons!
- ★ 12 PeVatrons recently discovered by LHAASO

Ahnen et al. MNRAS 472 (2017) 2956



Cao et al. Nature 594 (2021) 33

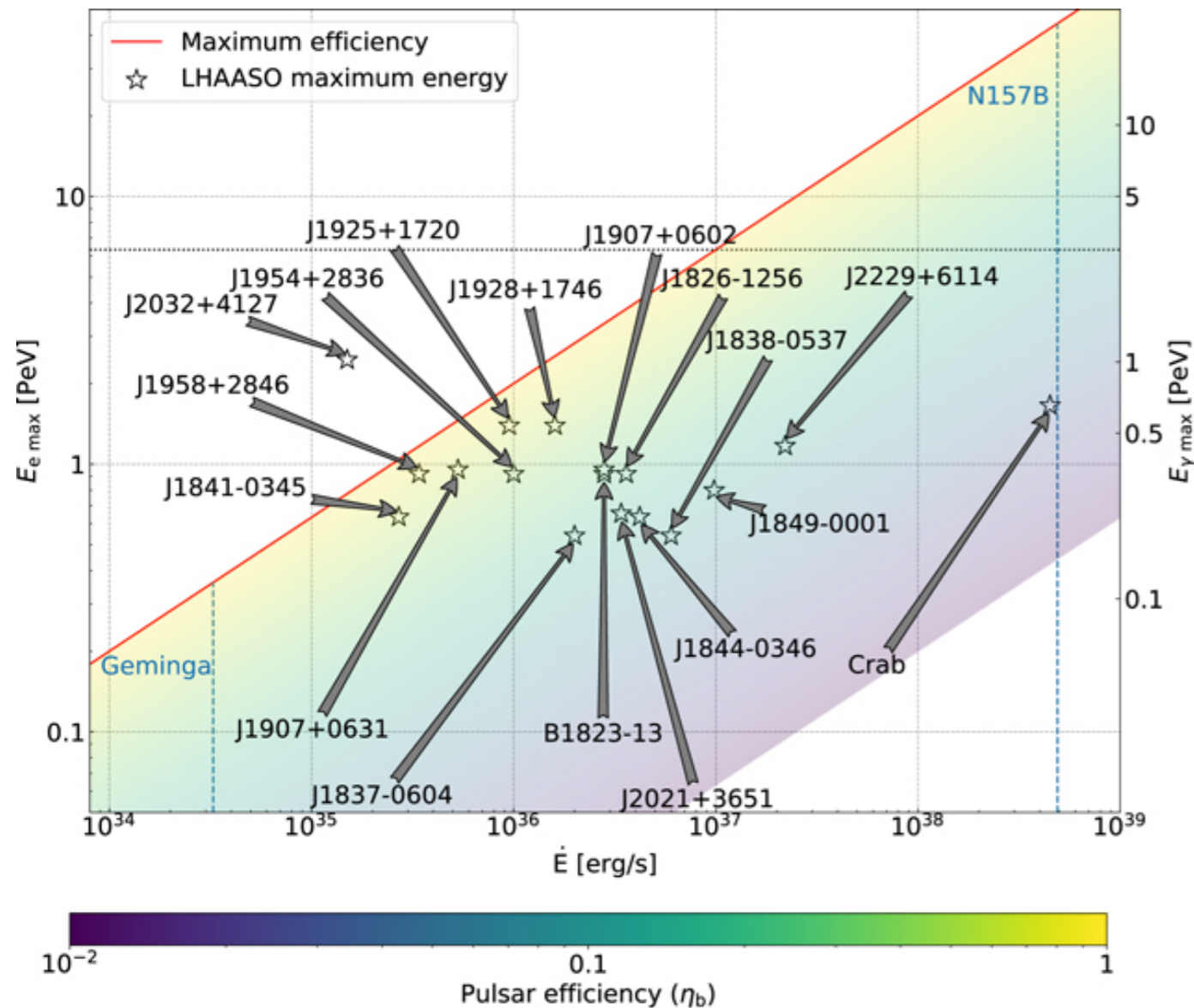


# Leptonic PeVatrons?

cosmic rays

accelerators

Oña Wilhelmi et al. ApJL 930 2022 L2



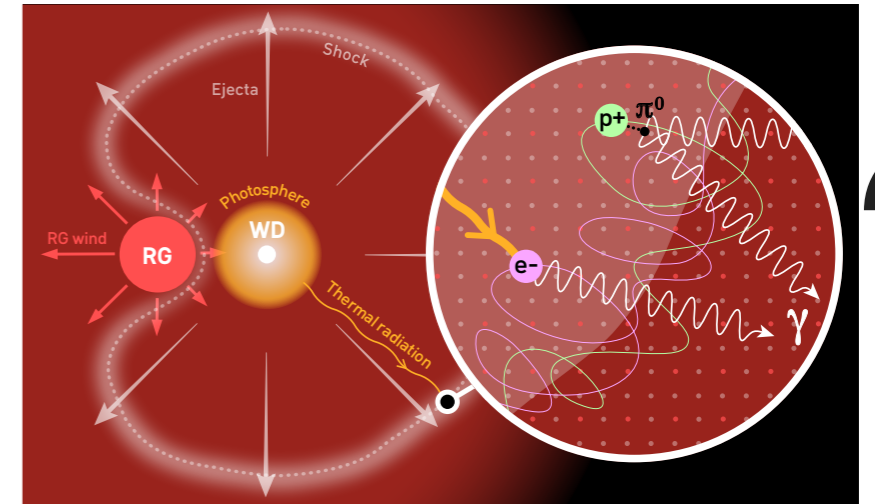
- ★ Many possible associations of LHAASO sources (except for the Crab Nebula)
- ★ Maximum energy detected photons compatible spin-down power from possible associated PWNe
- ★ Other associations are possible (PWN, SNR, SFR...)

# Recurrent nova RS Oph

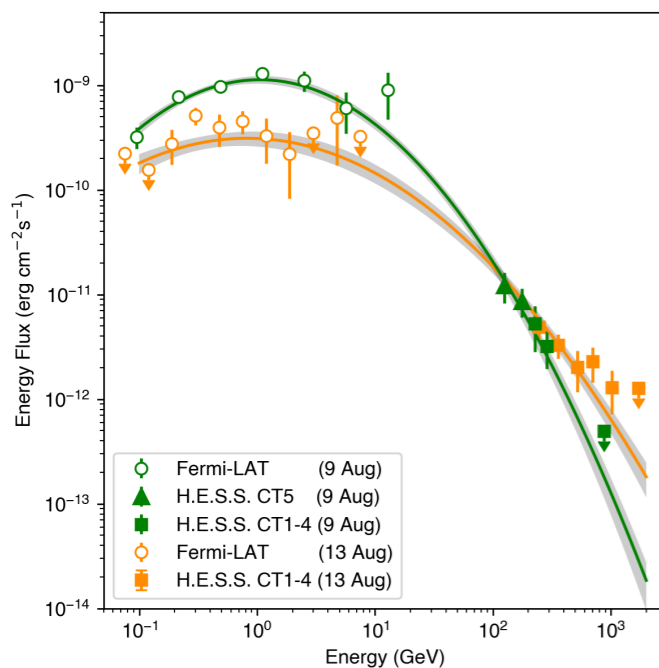
cosmic rays

accelerators

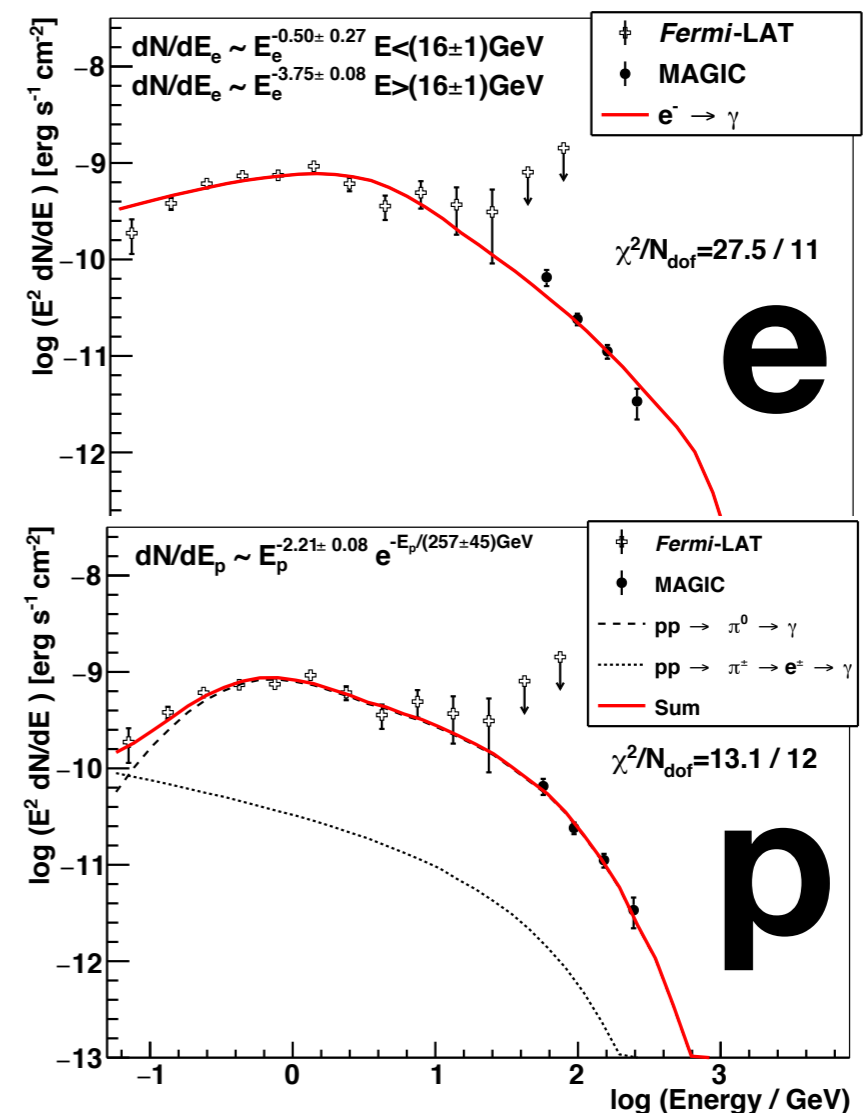
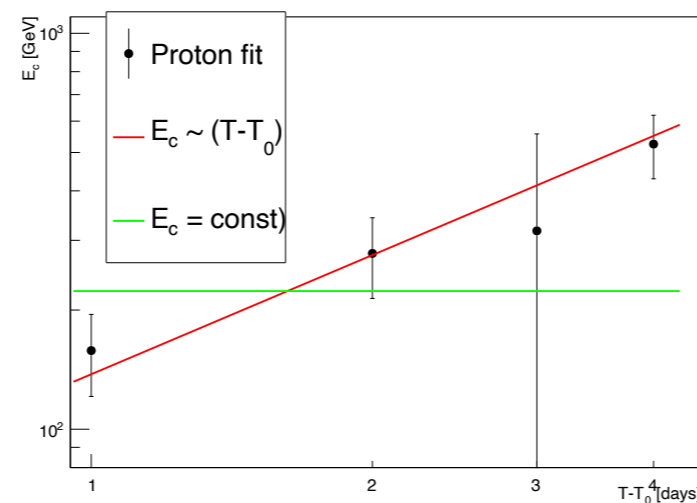
- ★ RS Ophiuchi recurrent symbiotic nova August 2021 outburst detected (among many others) by Fermi-LAT, MAGIC, HESS
- ★ New type of VHE gamma-ray emitter
- ★ Proton acceleration strongly favored by spectrum and cutoff energy increasing with time
- ★ Minor contribution to Galactic cosmic rays & indirect support to bulk CRs from SNRs



HESS Coll. Science 376 (2022) 77



MAGIC Coll. Nat. Astron. 6 (2022) 689





# Multi-wavelength/Multi-messenger astronomy

# TXS 0506+056

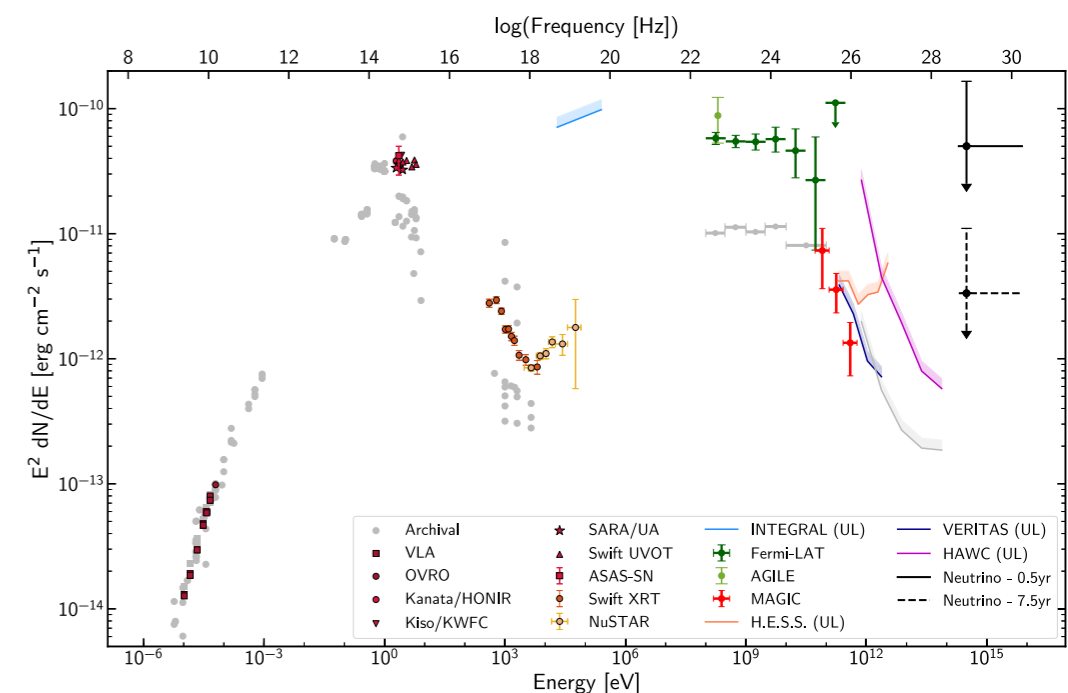
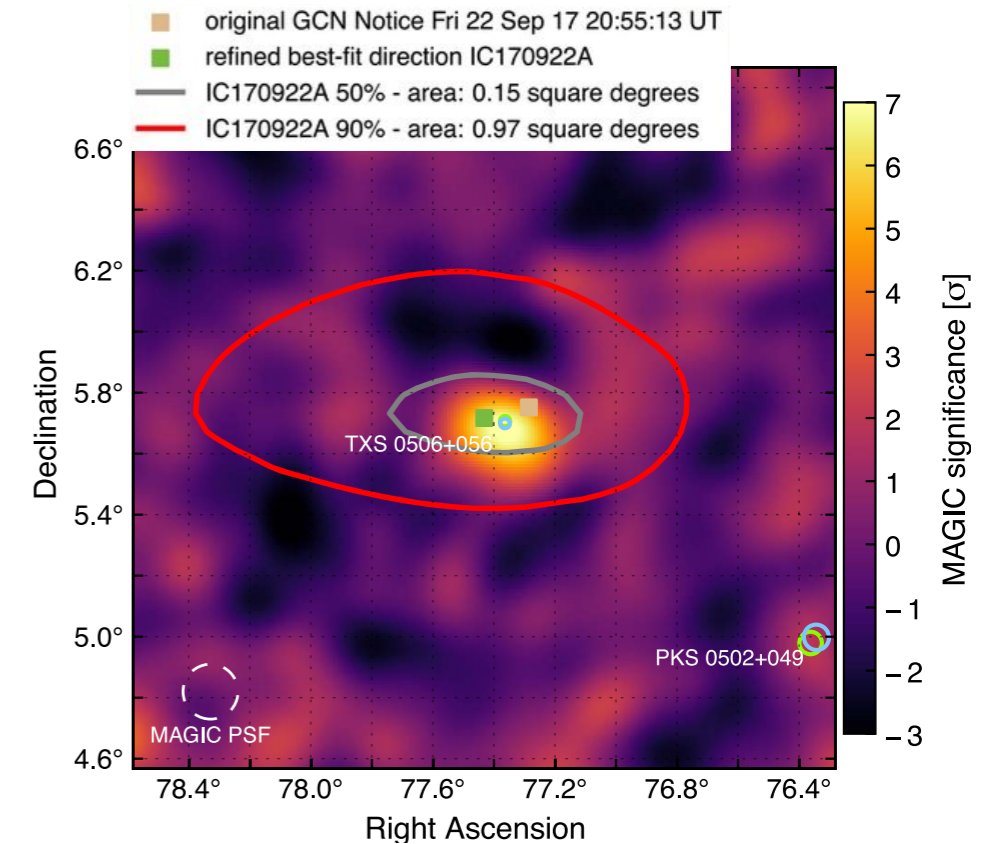
MW/MM

accelerators

cosmic rays

- ★  $3\sigma$  association of a high-energy (290 TeV) neutrino with gamma-ray source (Fermi-LAT+MAGIC)
- ★ First evidence for an electromagnetic counterpart (flaring blazar,  $z=0.34$ ) of a neutrino source
- ★ Multi-messenger SED
- ★ Deep monitoring (120h, 2017-2021) with MAGIC reveals several flares compatible with no further neutrino detection [Acciari et al. *Astroph. J.* 927 (2022) 197]

Aartssen et al. *Science* 361 (2018) eaat1378



# GW170817

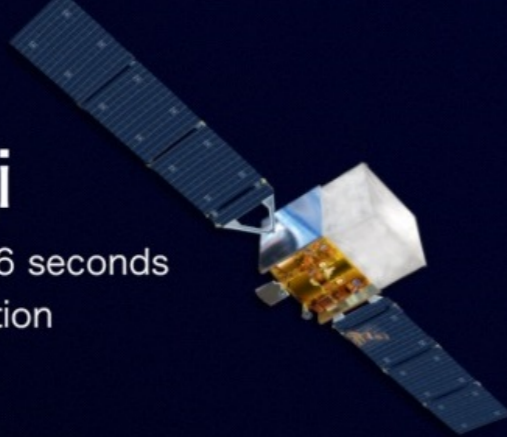
MW/MM

accelerators

<https://francis.naukas.com/2017/10/20/la-alerta-de-las-senales-gw170817-y-sgrb170817/>

## Fermi

Reported 16 seconds after detection



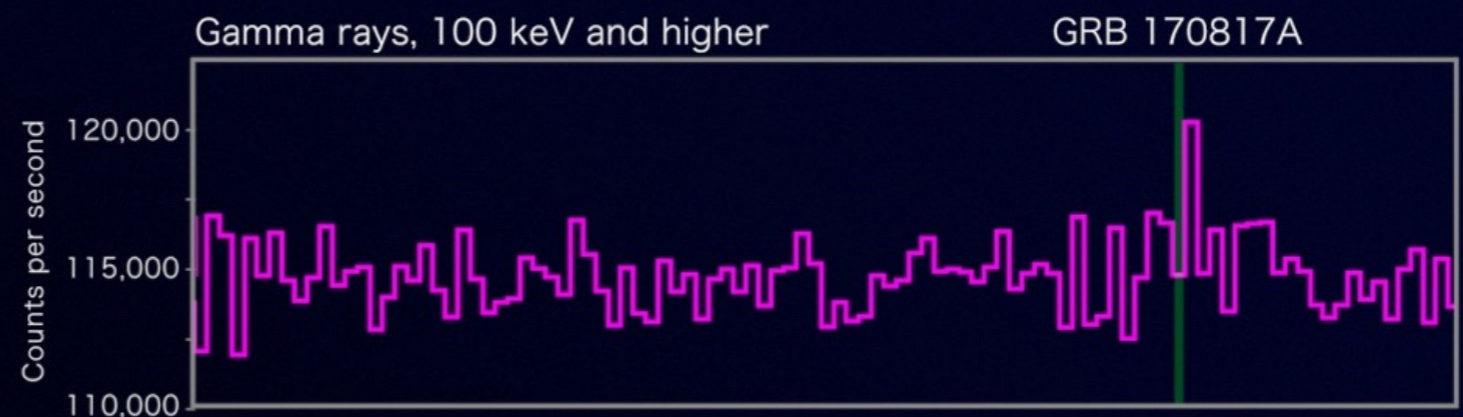
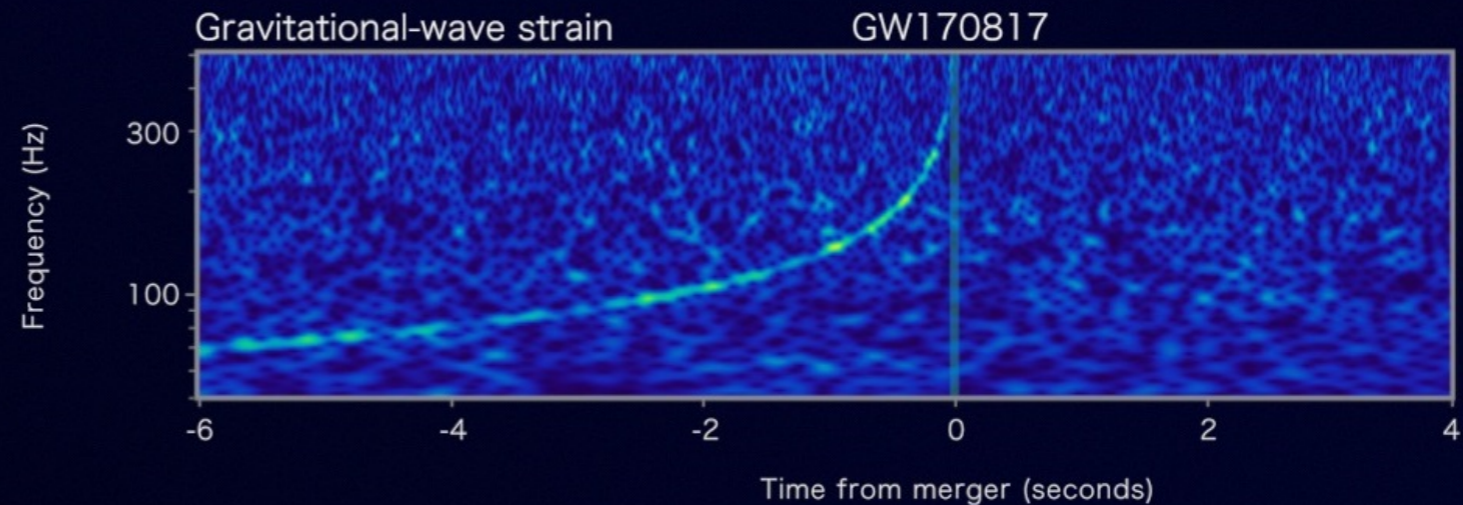
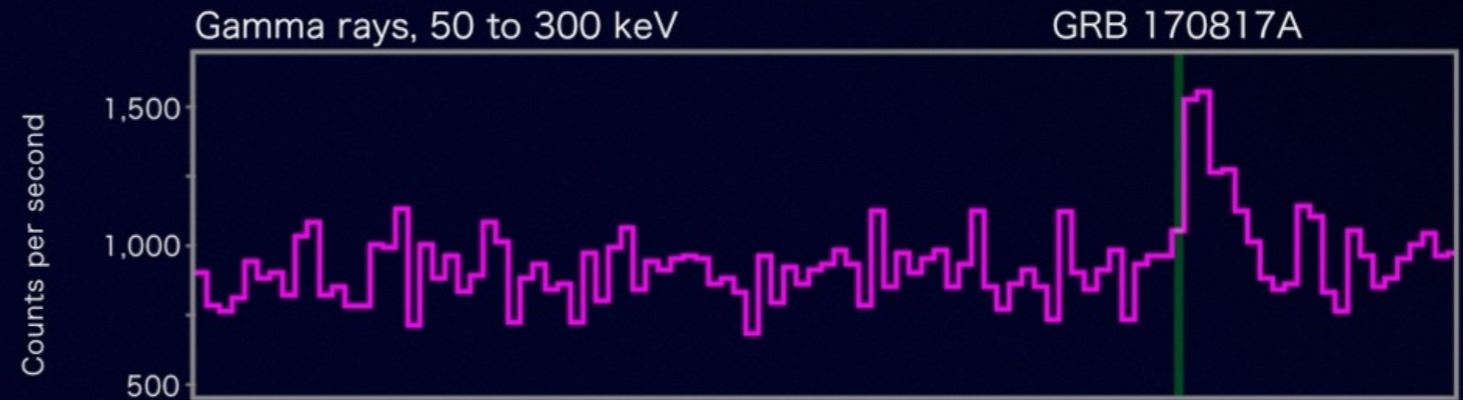
## LIGO-Virgo

Reported 27 minutes after detection



## INTEGRAL

Reported 66 minutes after detection

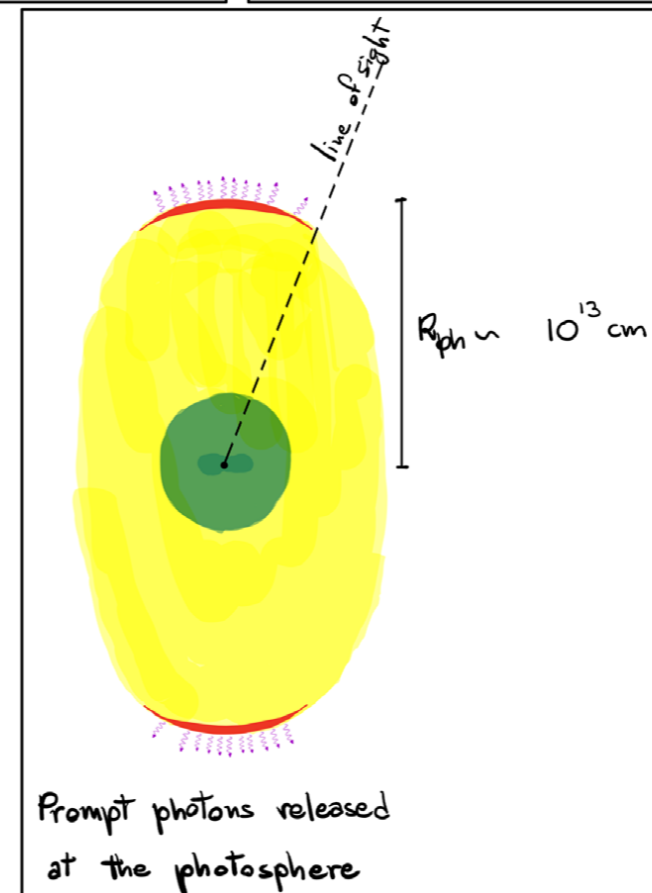
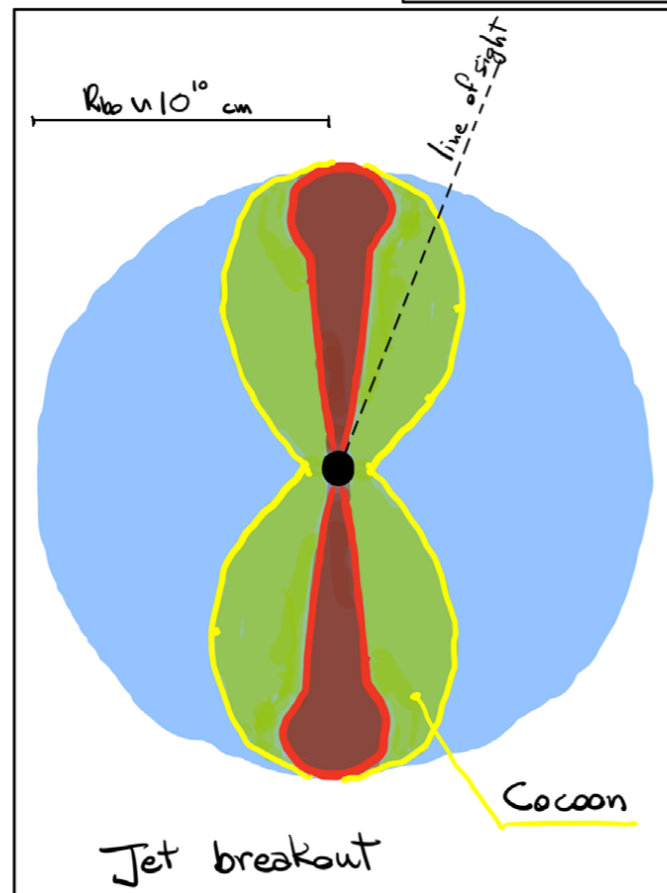
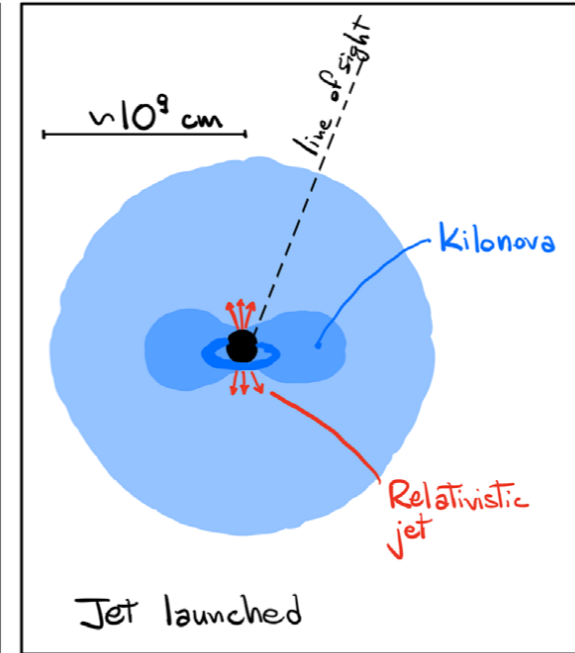
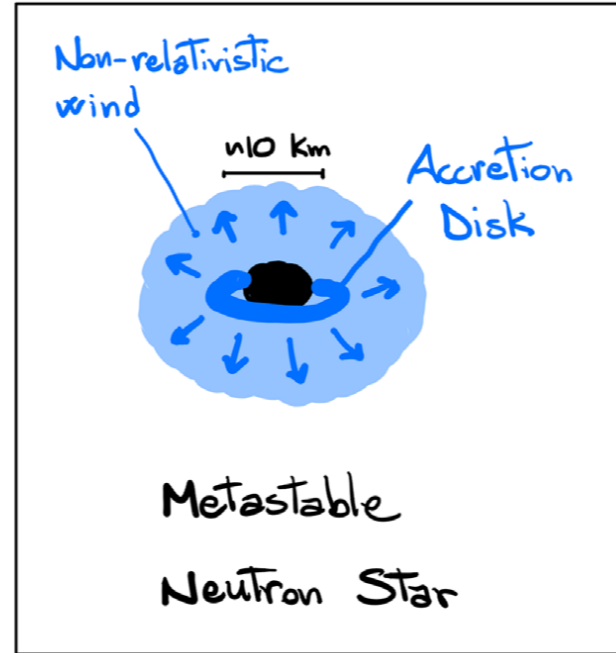
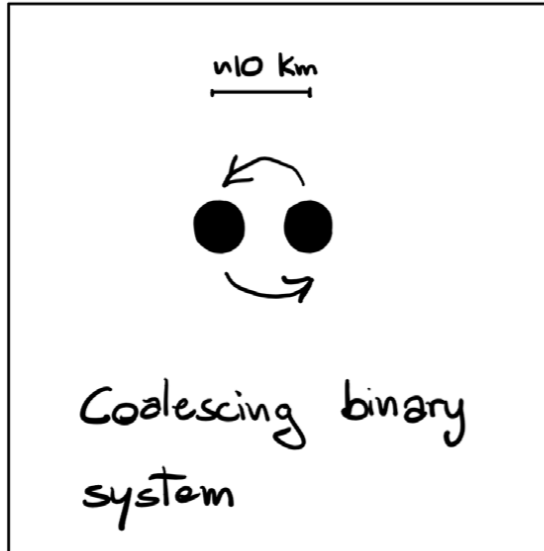


# NSBS/kilonova/short GRB connection

MW/MM

accelerators

Lazzati et al. ApJ 898 (2020) 59

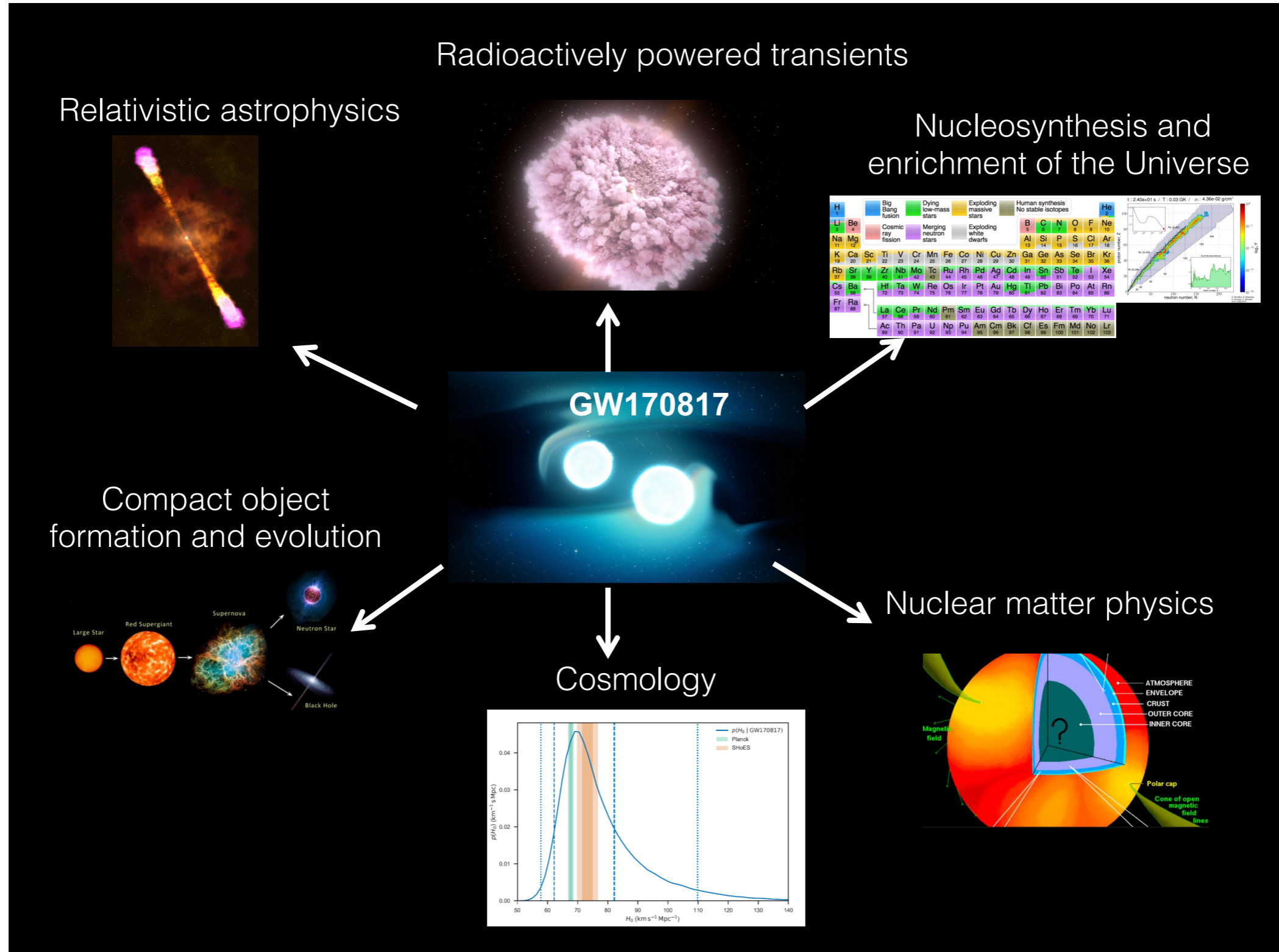


# GW170817: an enlightening event

MW/MM

accelerators

Branchesi @ Gamma2022



# Particle acceleration in extreme environments

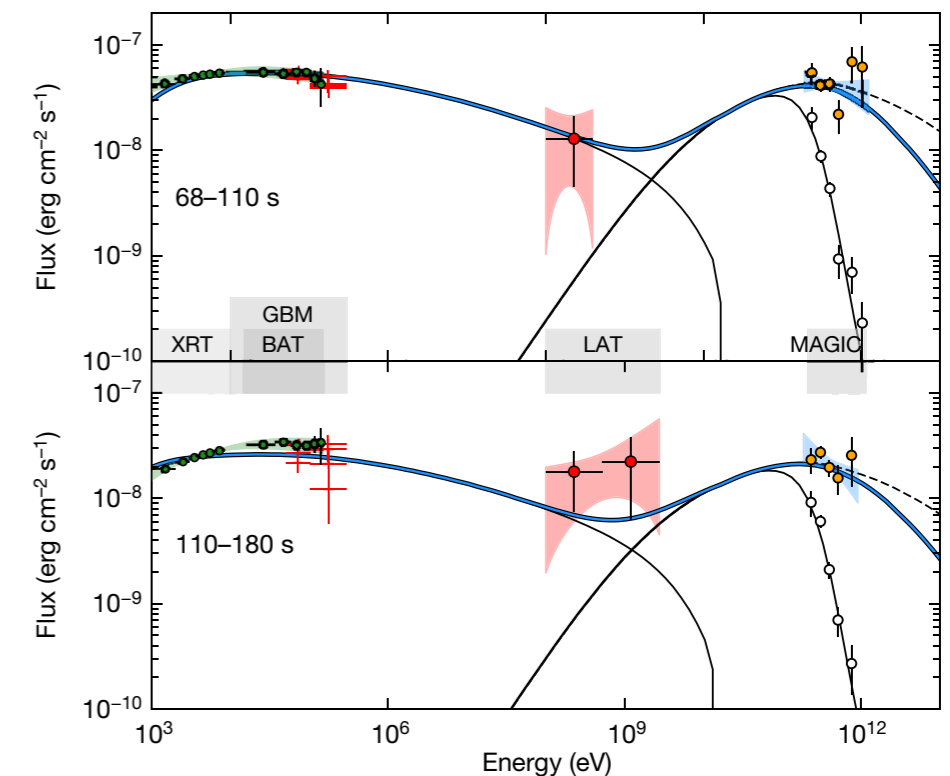
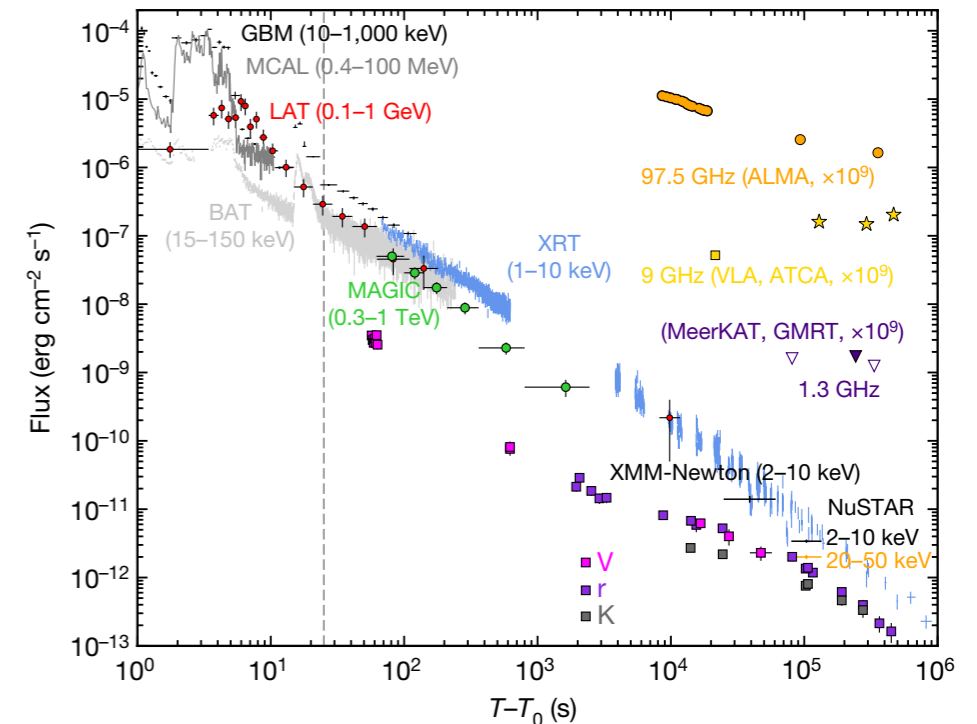
# GRB 190114C

accelerators

MW/MM

- ★ Long gamma-ray burst ( $T_{90} = 361$ s)
- ★ First detection of VHE emission from GRB ( $>50\sigma$ )
  - ◆ MAGIC observation started at  $T_0+50$ s
  - ◆ Brightest VHE source ever  $\rightarrow 100\times$ Crab
  - ◆ Emission above 100 GeV strongly absorbed by interaction with extragalactic background light
- ★ Exhaustive MWL coverage
  - ◆ Afterglow emission produced by jet interaction with surrounding medium
  - ◆ Synchrotron emission excluded, SSC favored

MAGIC Coll. Nature 575 (2019) 455  
MAGIC Coll. et al. Nature 575 (2019) 459

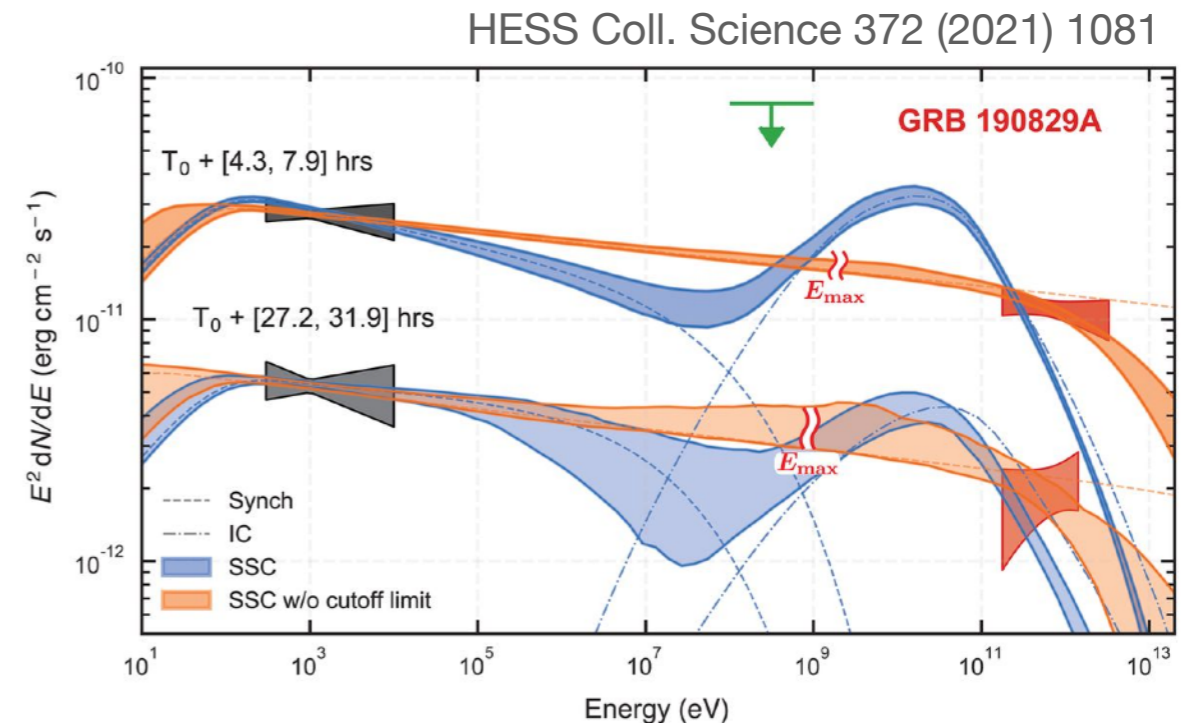
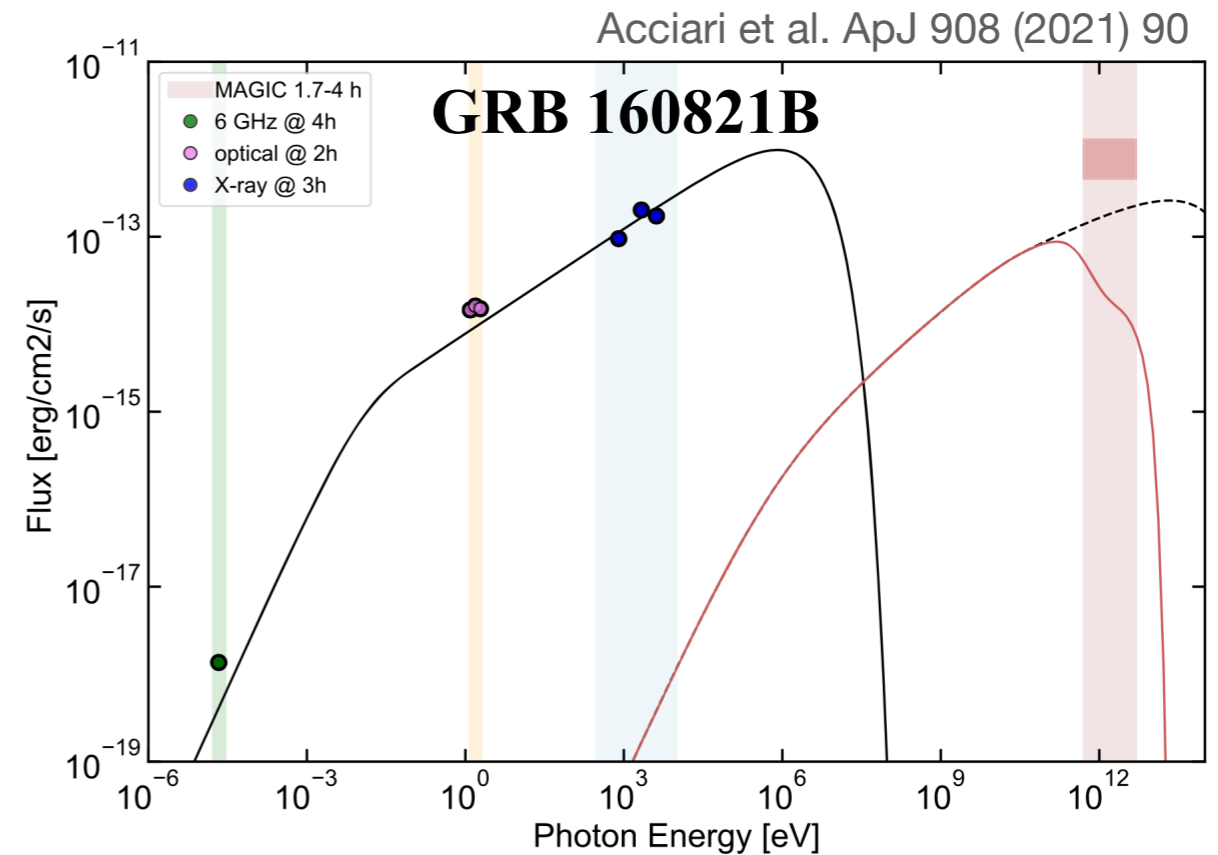


# Other GRB detections

accelerators

MW/MM

- ★ The detection of GRB190114 have opened the can for almost routine GRB detections (4.5 detections so far by MAGIC and HESS)
- ★ Spectra difficult to explain by SSC process
  - ◆ No evidence of two components
  - ◆ No evidence of Klein-Nishina cut-off
  - ◆ Extended synchrotron above the expected maximum energy?

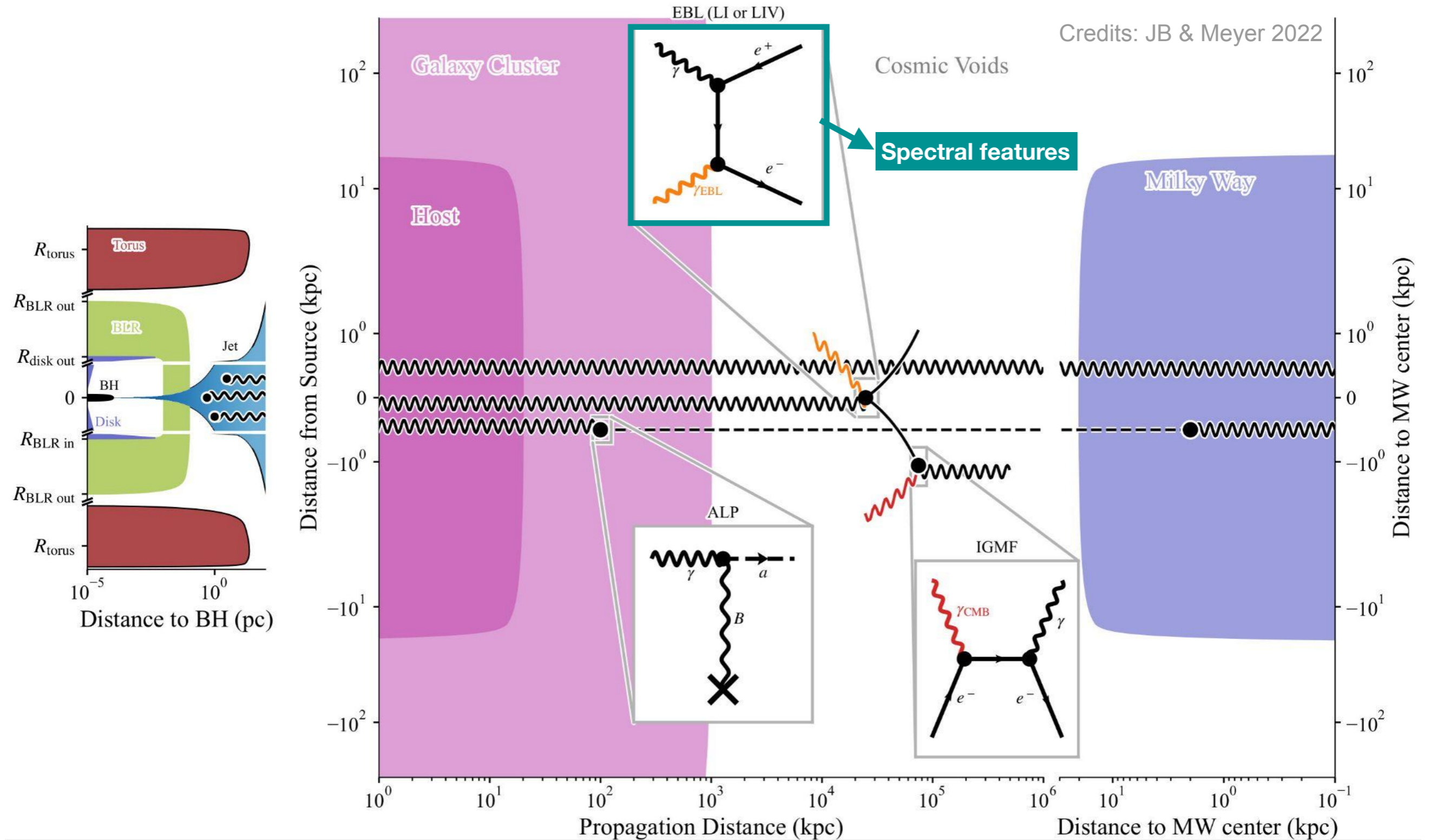




# Propagation effects

# Gamma-ray propagation: EBL

propagation

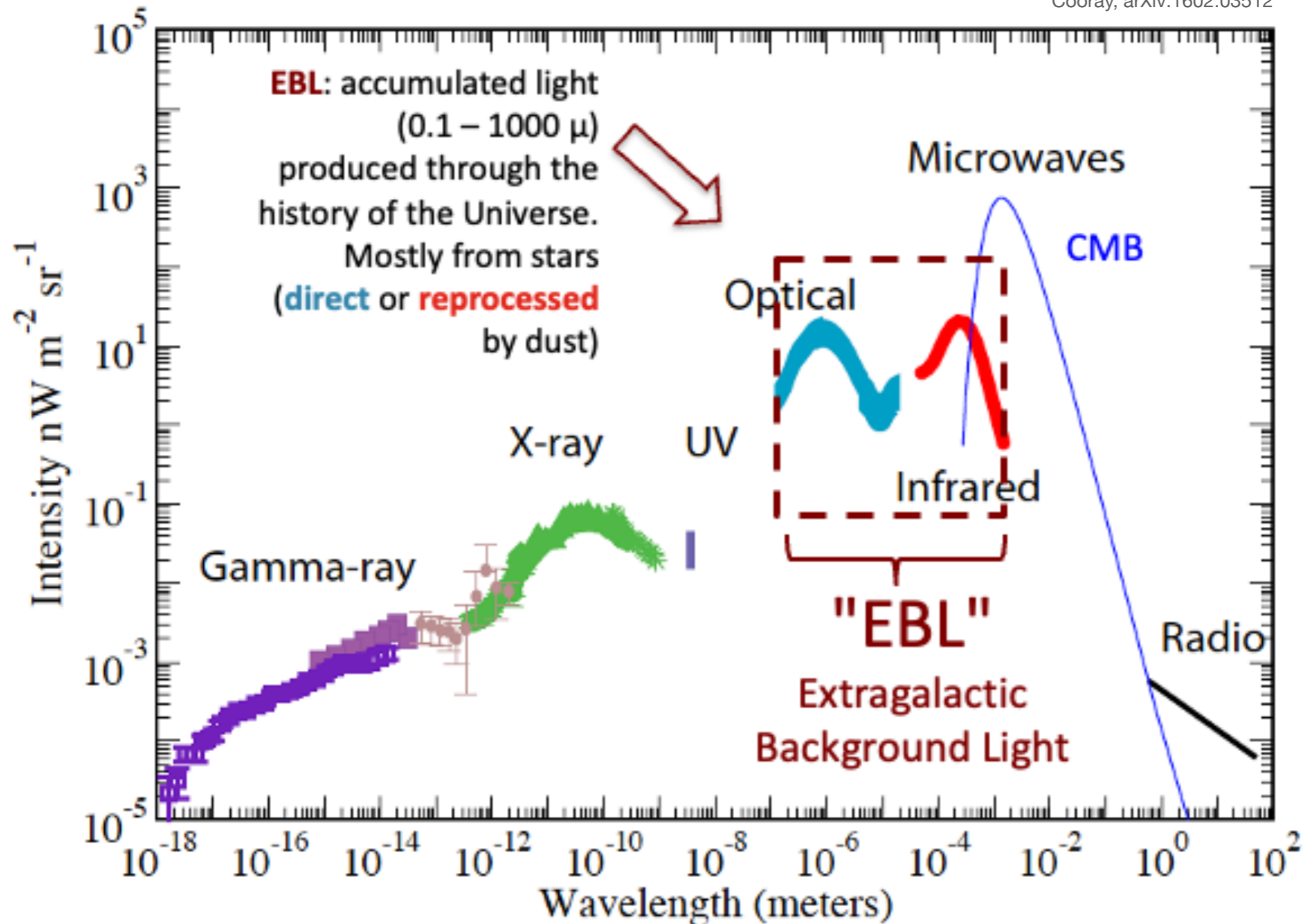


Credits: JB & Meyer 2022

# Extragalactic background radiation

propagation

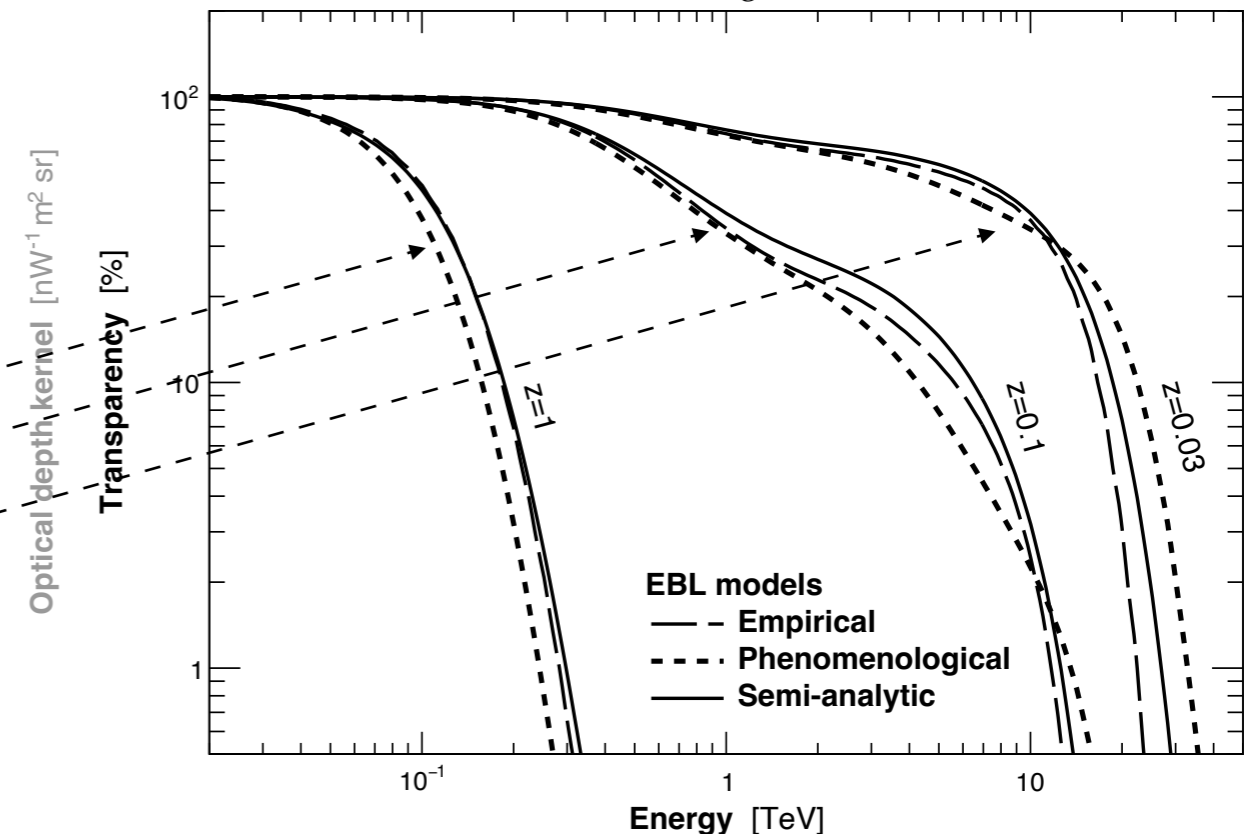
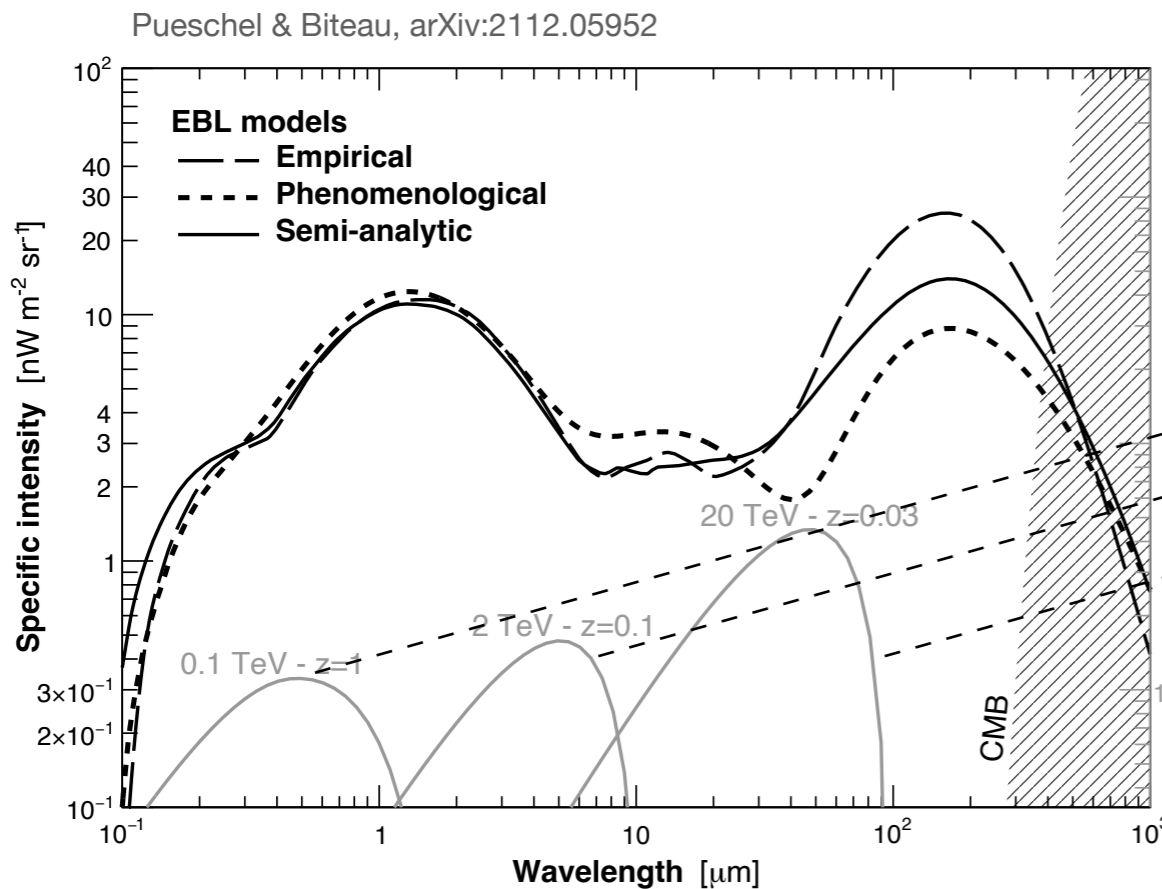
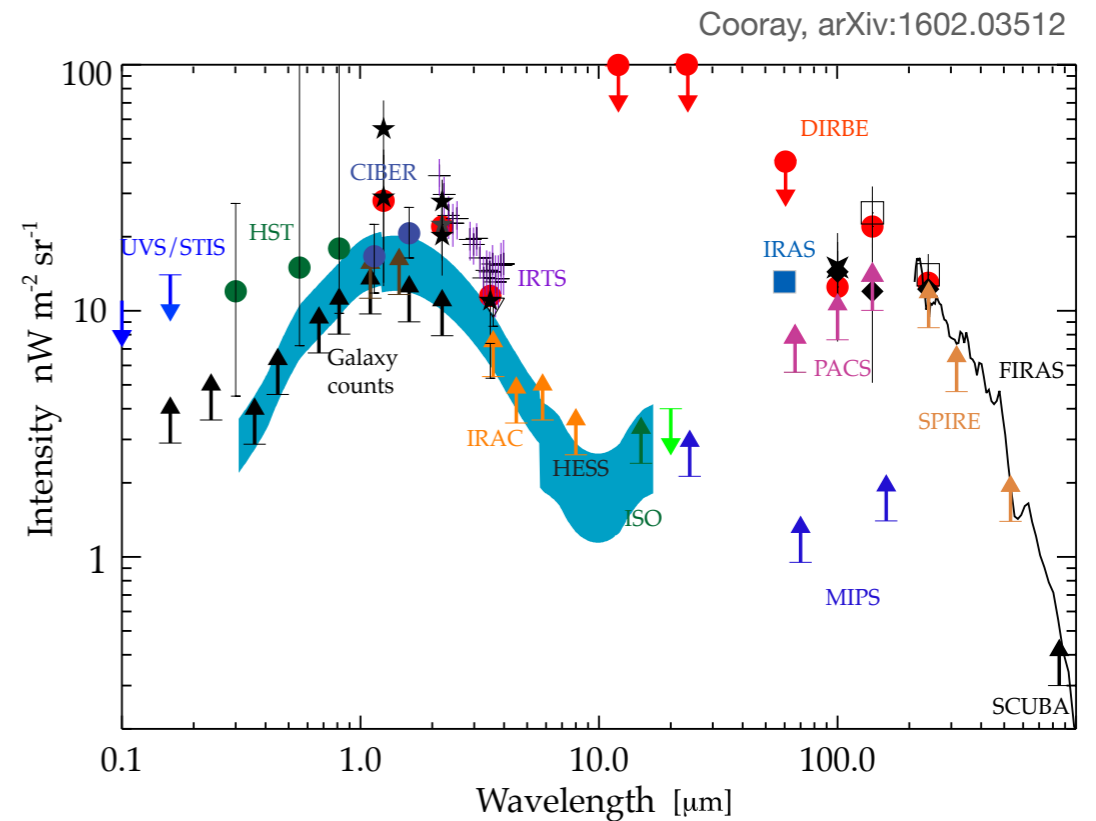
Cooray, arXiv:1602.03512



# Measuring EBL

## propagation

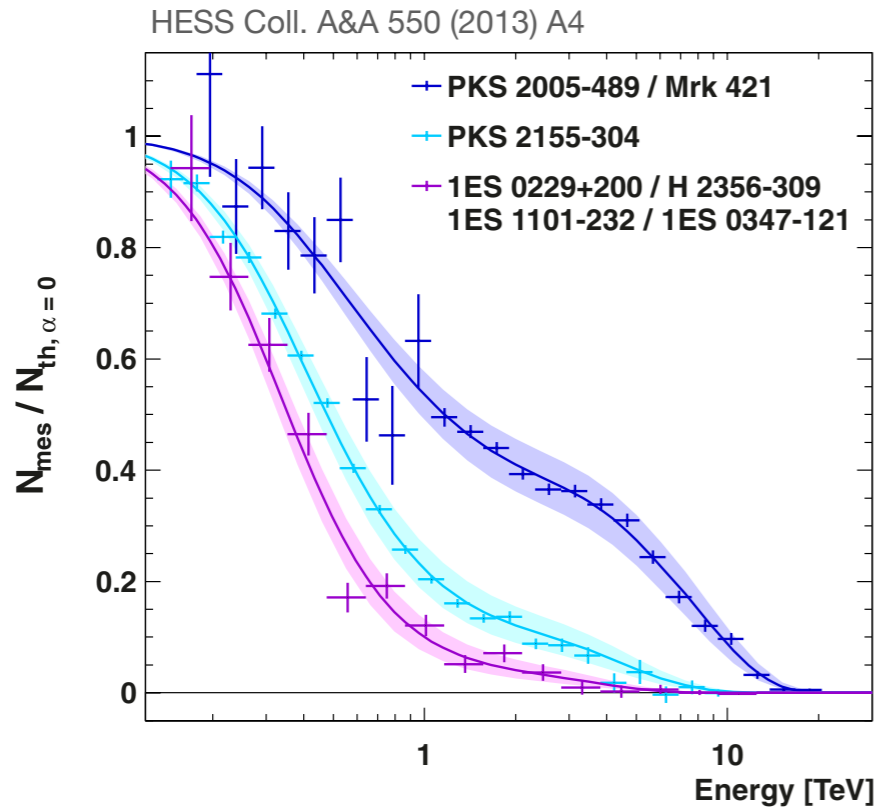
- ★ Directly:
  - ◆ Direct measurements (lots of foregrounds)
  - ◆ Galaxy counts (lower limit)
- ★ Indirectly
  - ◆ Attenuation of gamma rays traveling cosmological distances



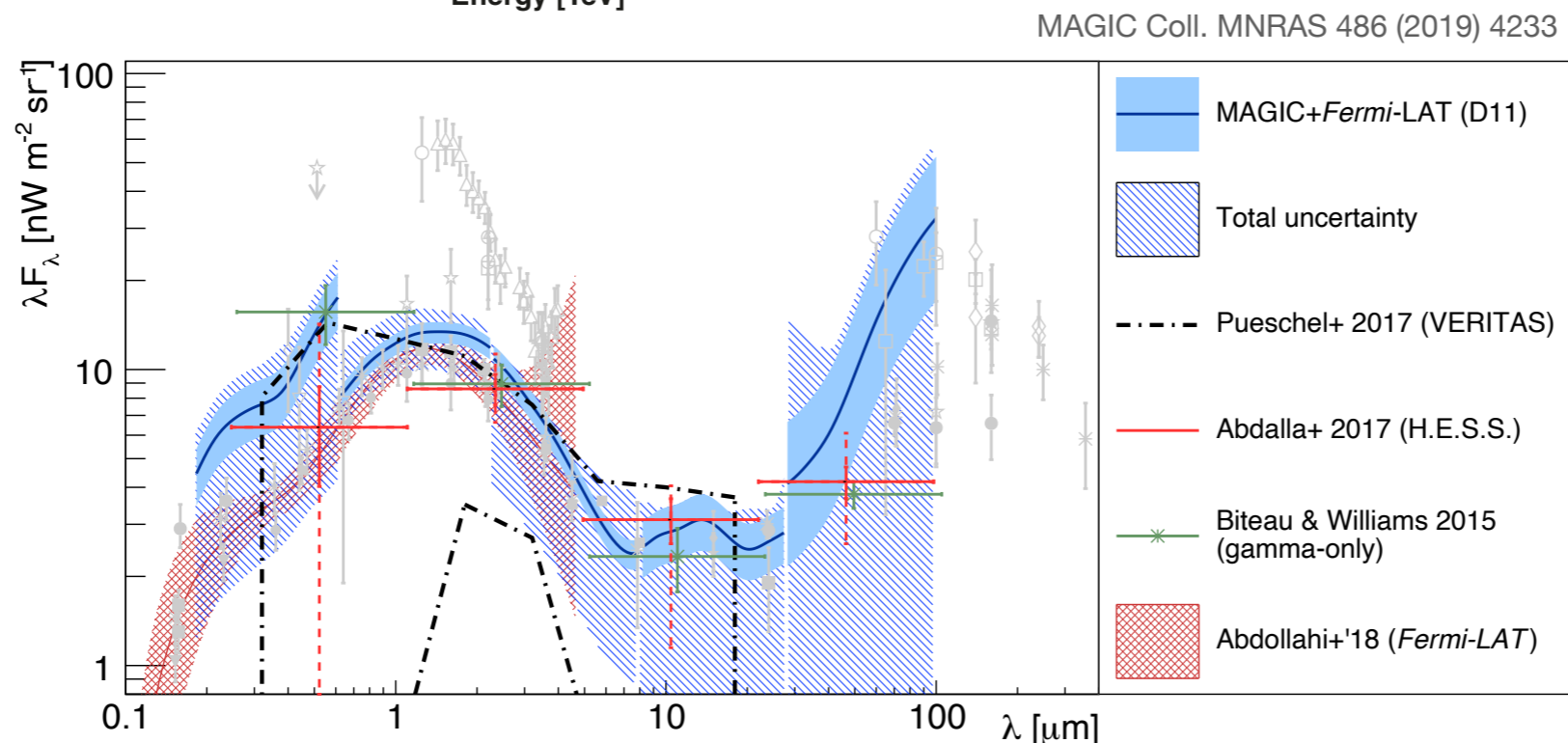
# Measuring the EBL imprint

propagation

accelerators

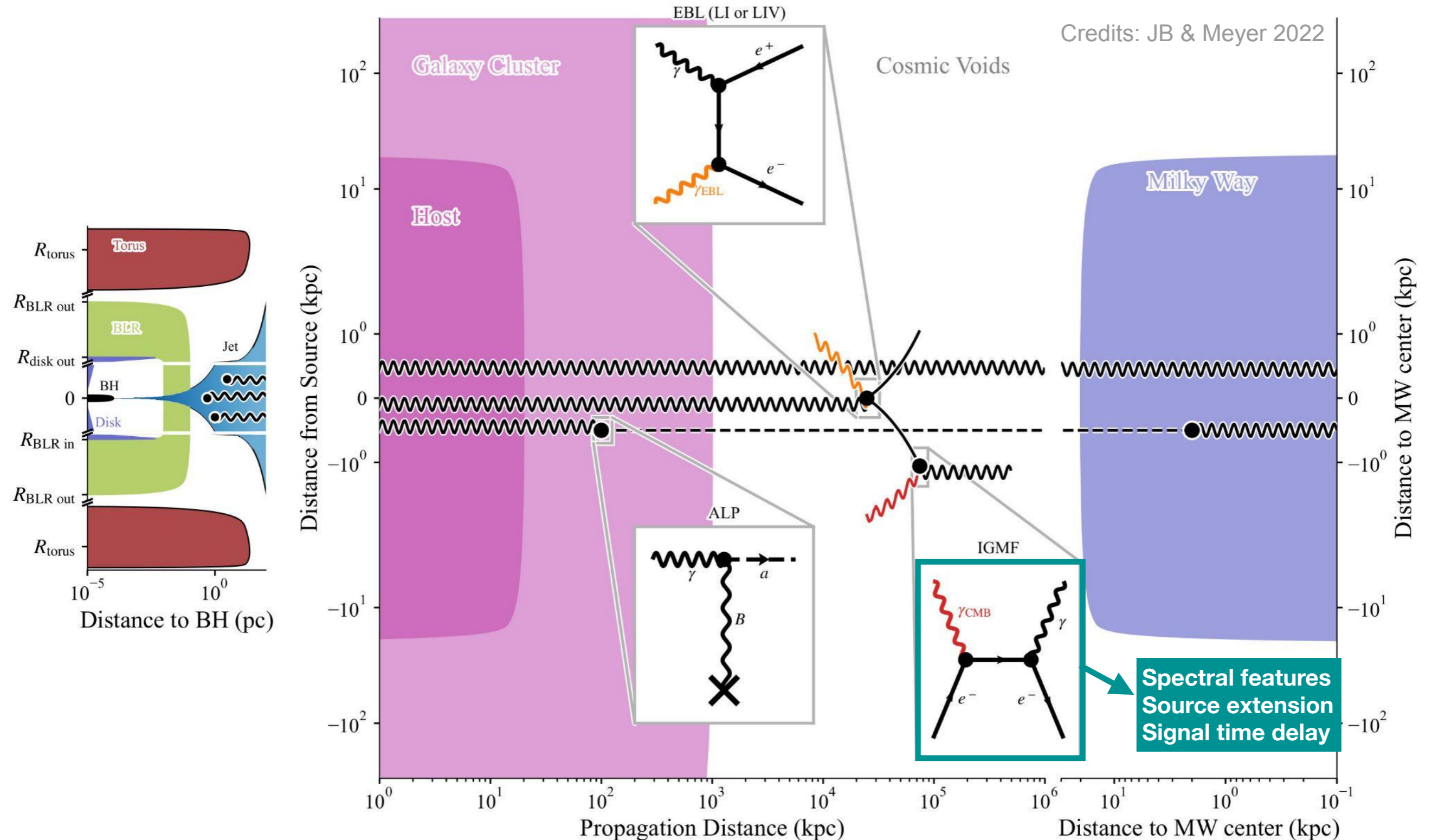


- ★ The measurement is dominated by systematics
- ◆ Energy scale
- ◆ Intrinsic spectra
- ★ Still, useful & constraining upper limits



# Gamma-ray propagation: IGMF

propagation

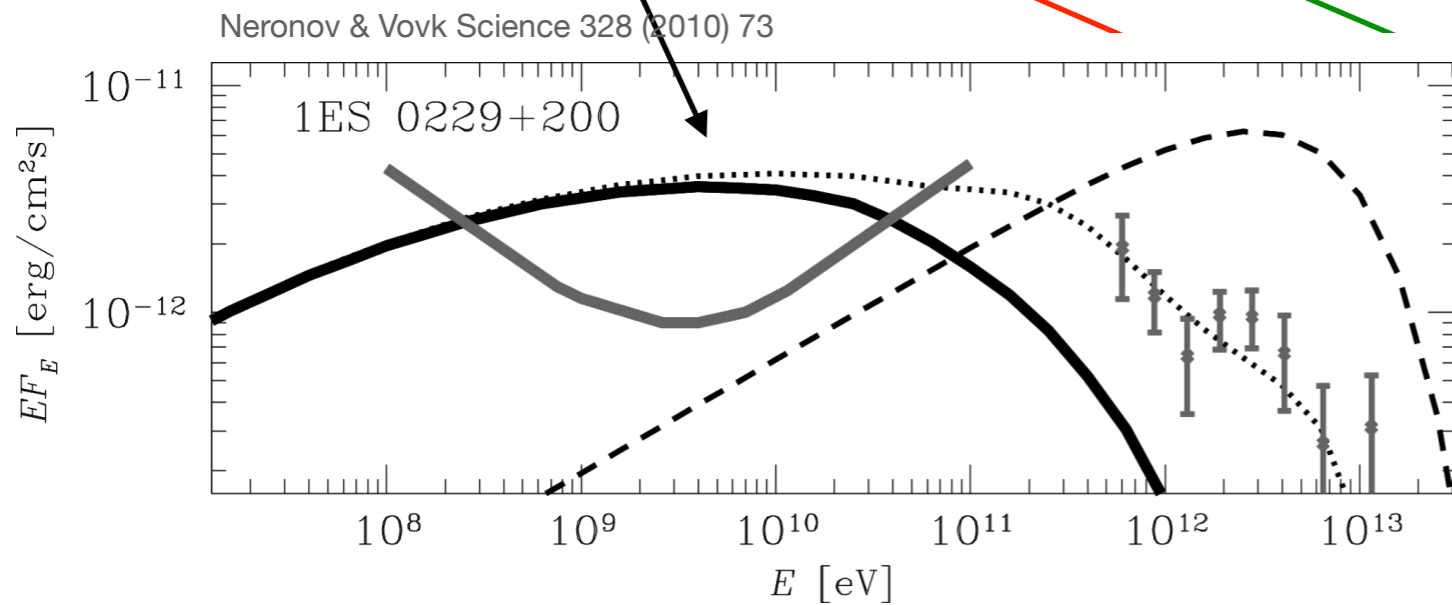


# Intergalactic magnetic fields

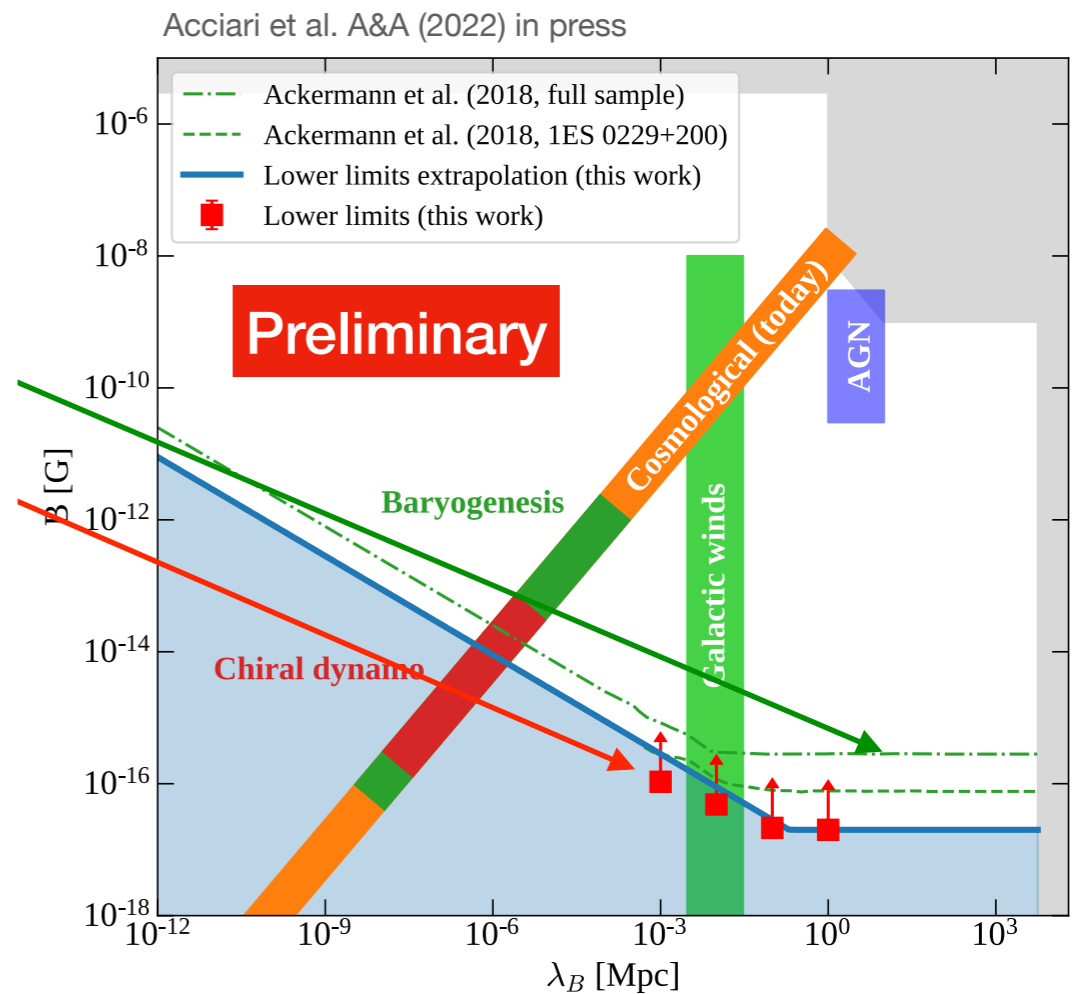
propagation

- ★ TeV + EBL produce  $e^+e^-$  pairs, which lose energy through IC with CMB, producing GeV secondaries
- ★ Depending on IGMF intensity, GeV secondary emission should be:

- ◆ extended
- ◆ delayed
- ◆ inexistent



$B \geq 3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ G}$

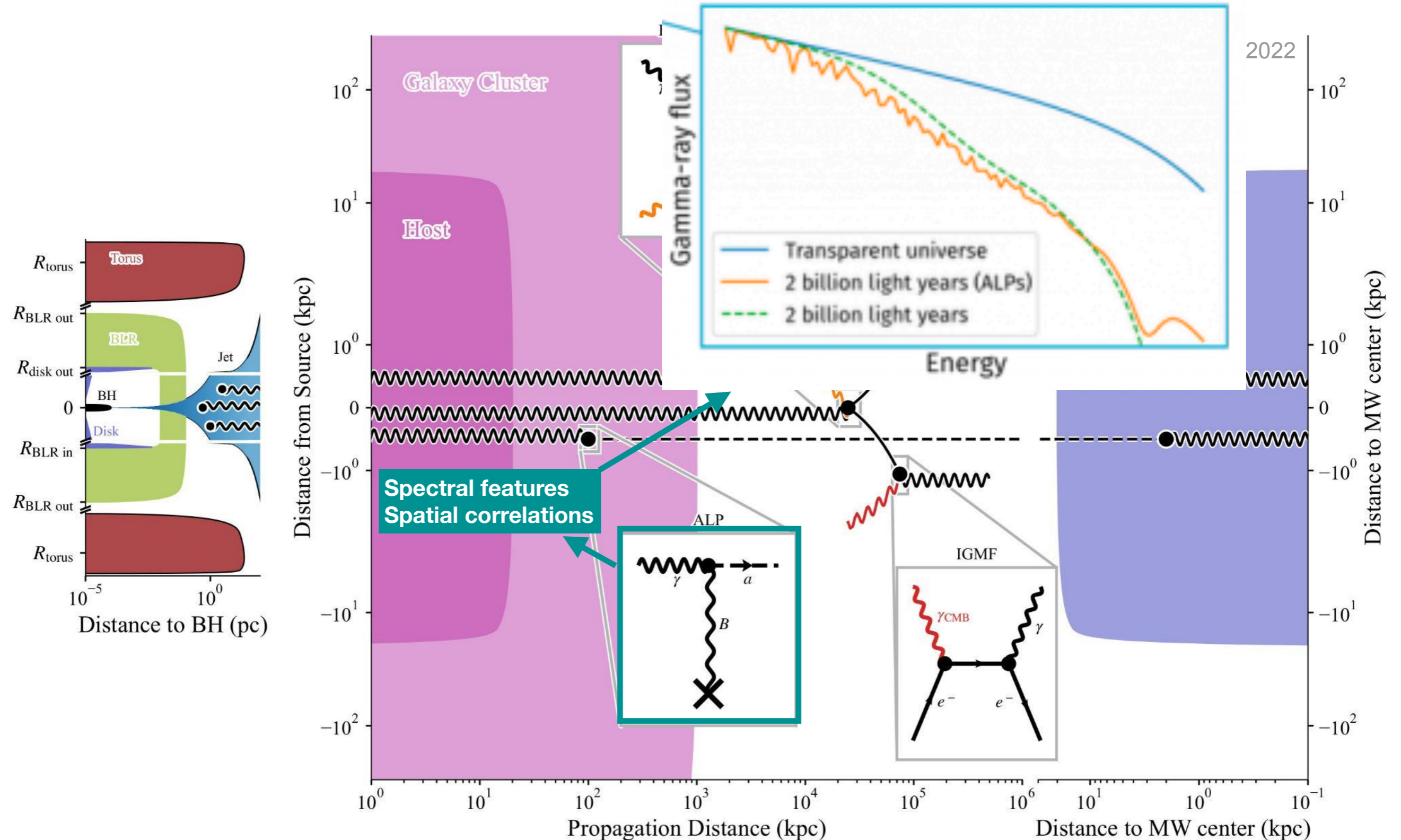


# Physics beyond the Standard Model



# Gamma-ray propagation: ALPs

propagation

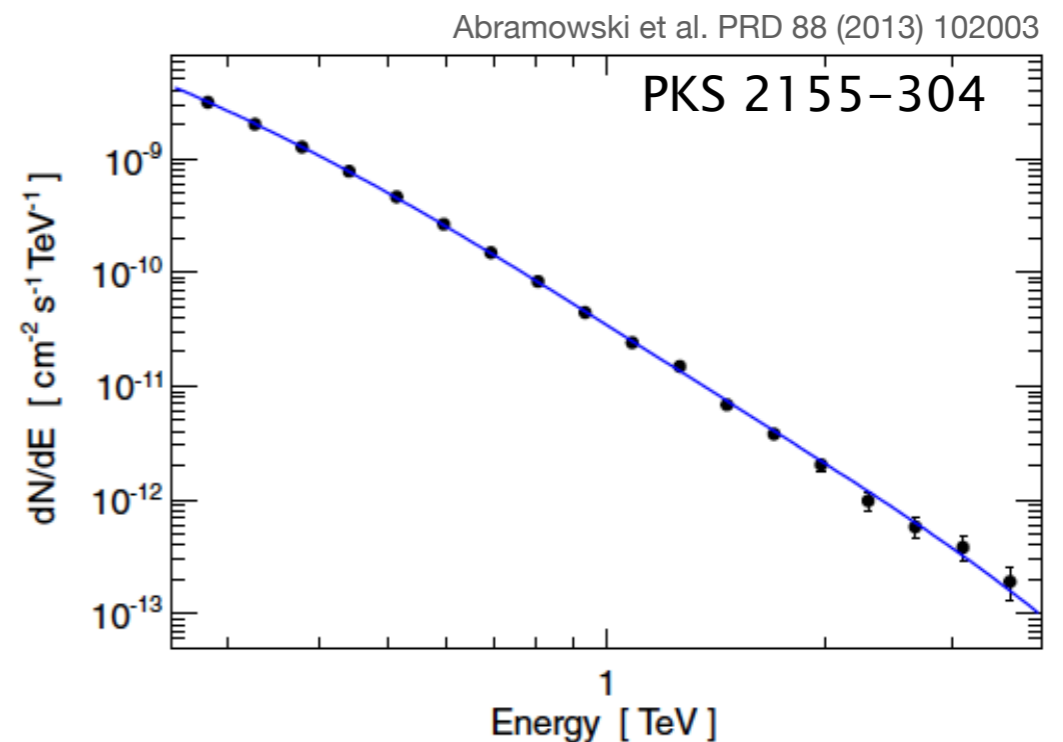
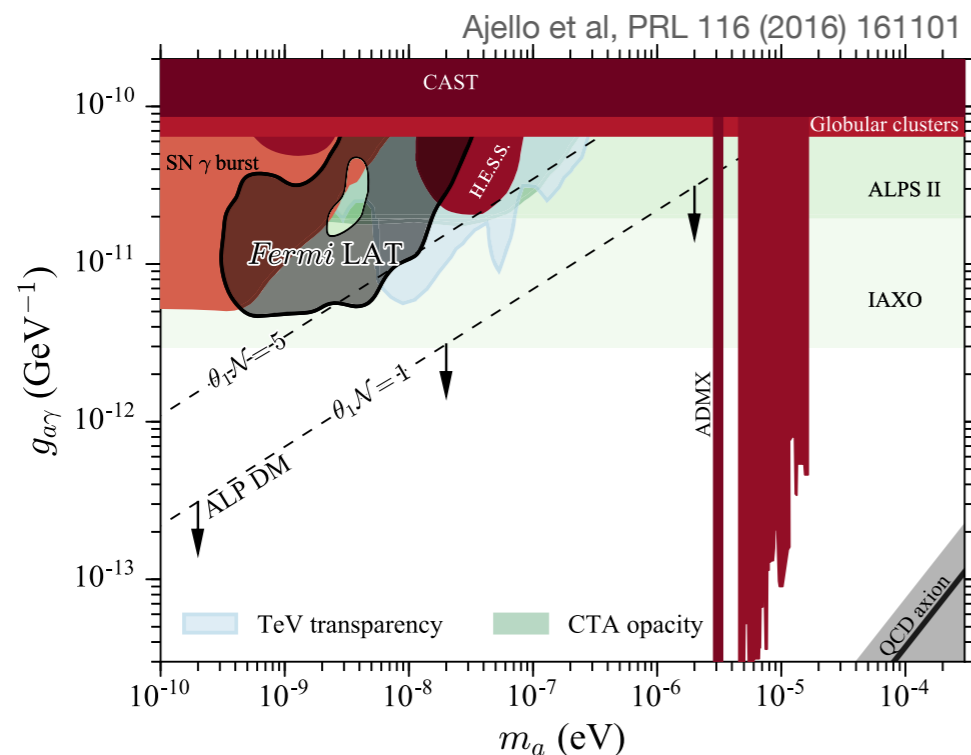
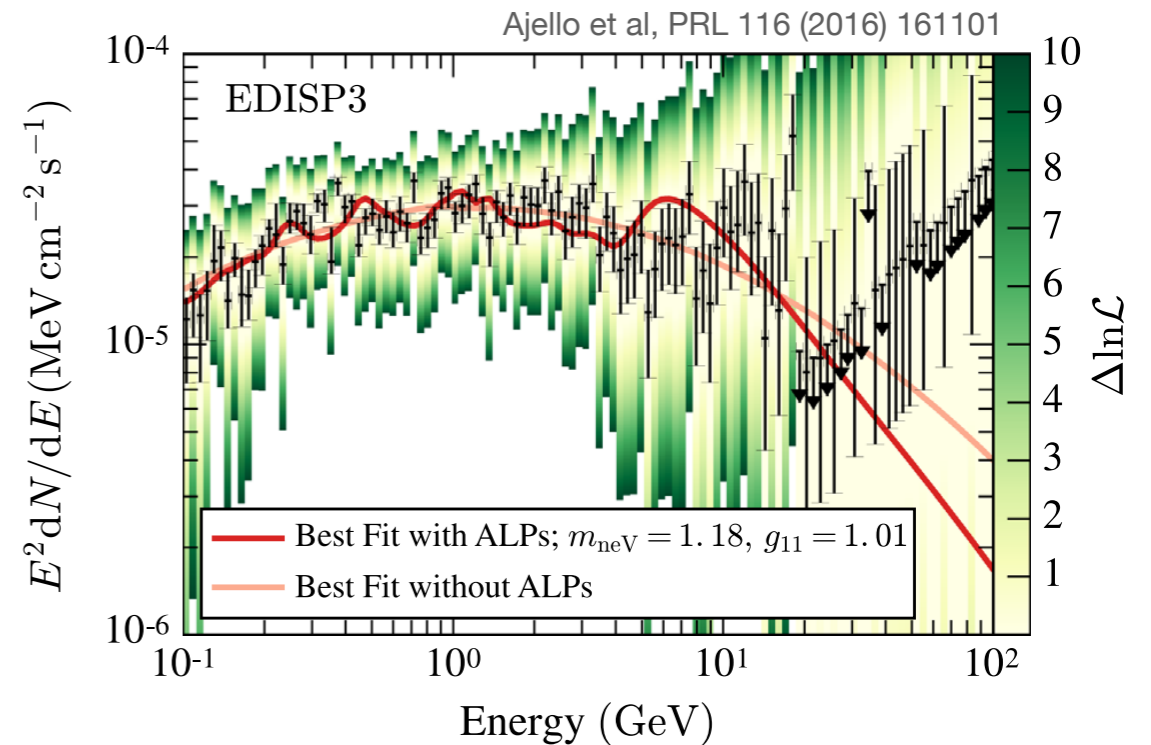


# Search for spectral irregularities

BSM

propagation

- ★ Cause: magnetic field in the source
- ★ Observations:
  - ◆ NGC1275 (6 years with Fermi-LAT)
  - ◆ PKS2155-304 (13 h super flare with HESS)
- ★ No preference for ALP hypothesis found in the data



# Search for high energy boost in flux

BSM

propagation

- ★ Cause: escape EBL while being ALP
- ★ No evidence for ALP-induced high-E flux boost in a large compilation of HE+VHE spectra (106 blazars)

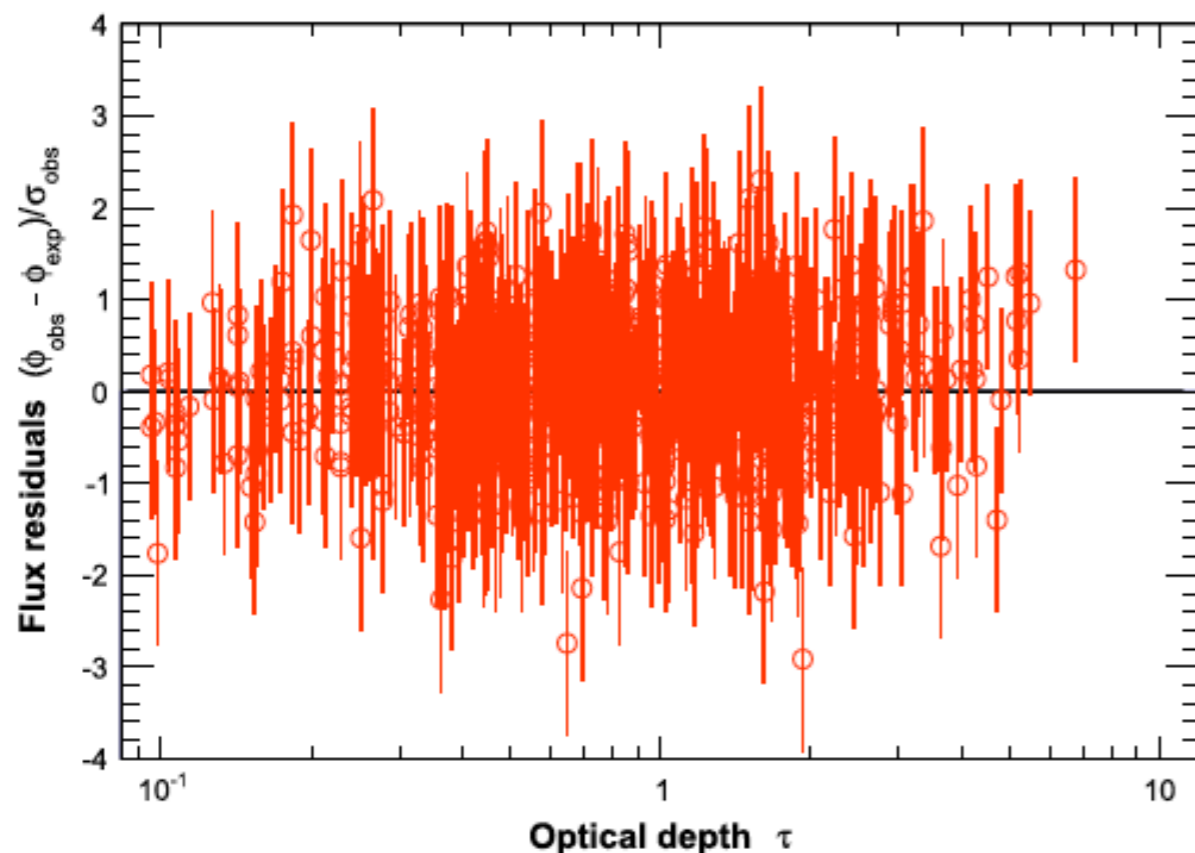


Figure 7. Residuals to the best-fit models for the 106 spectra (737 points) studied in this paper, as a function of optical depth.

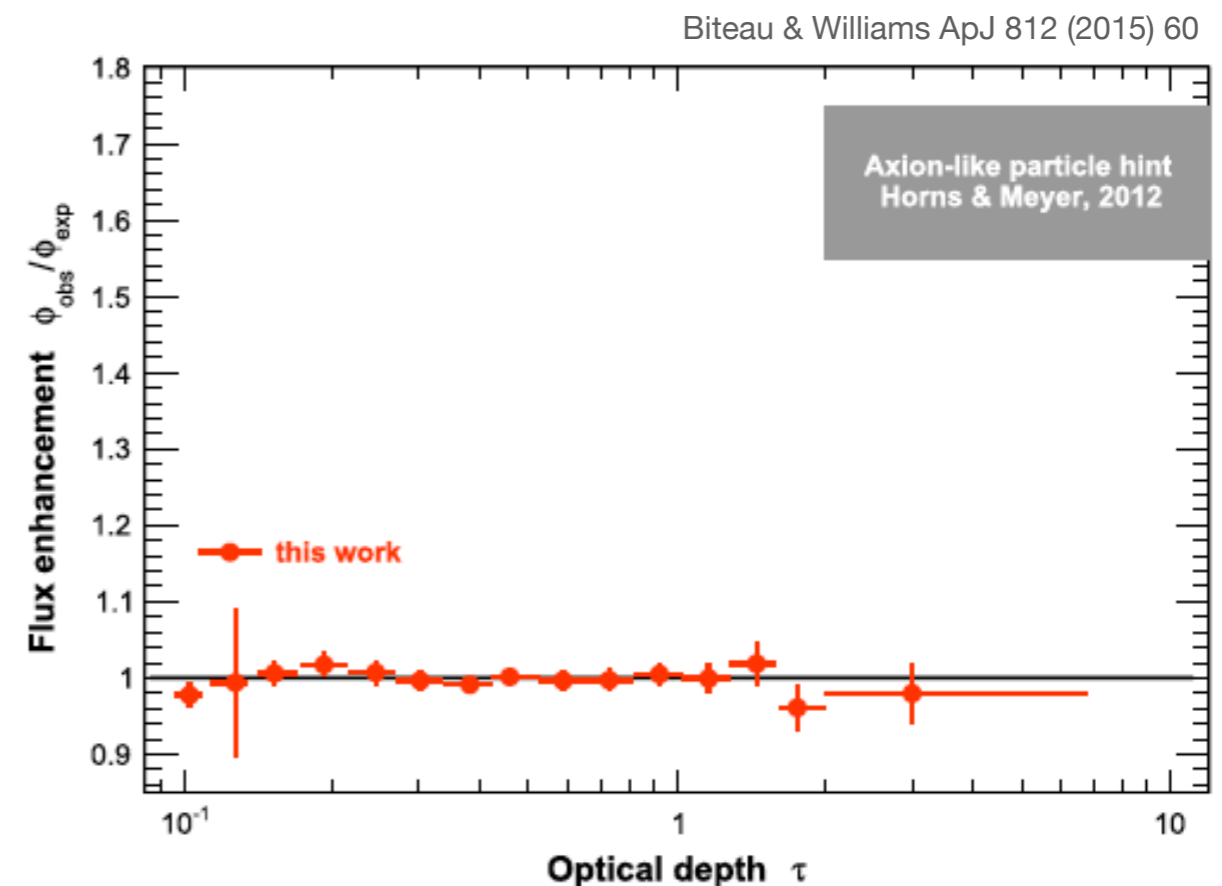
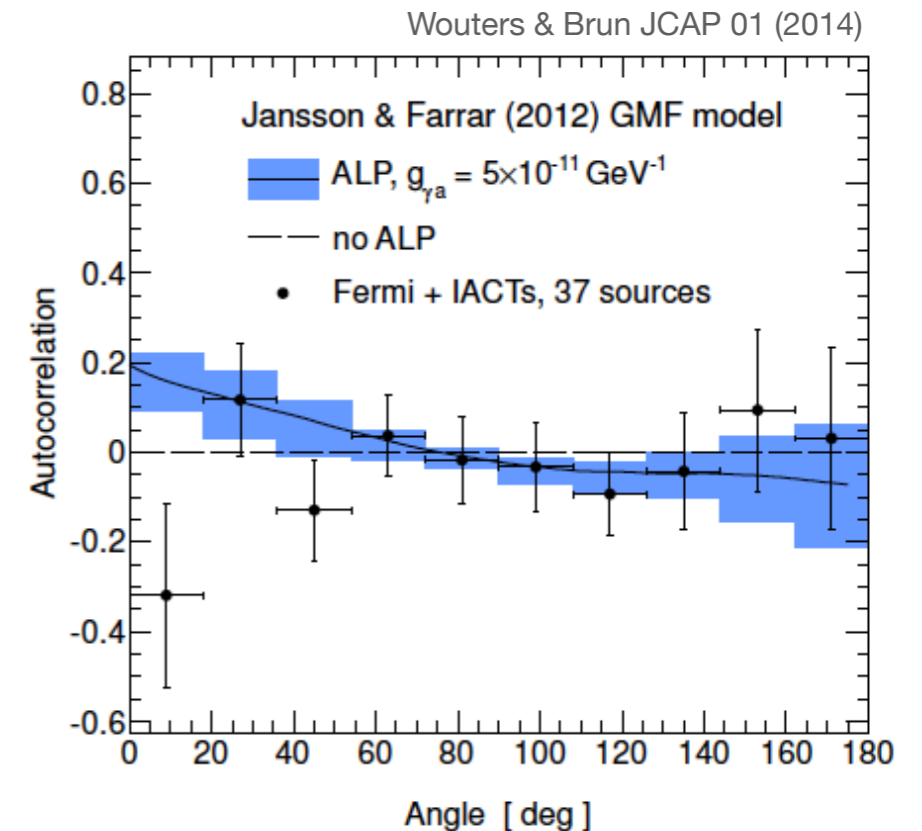
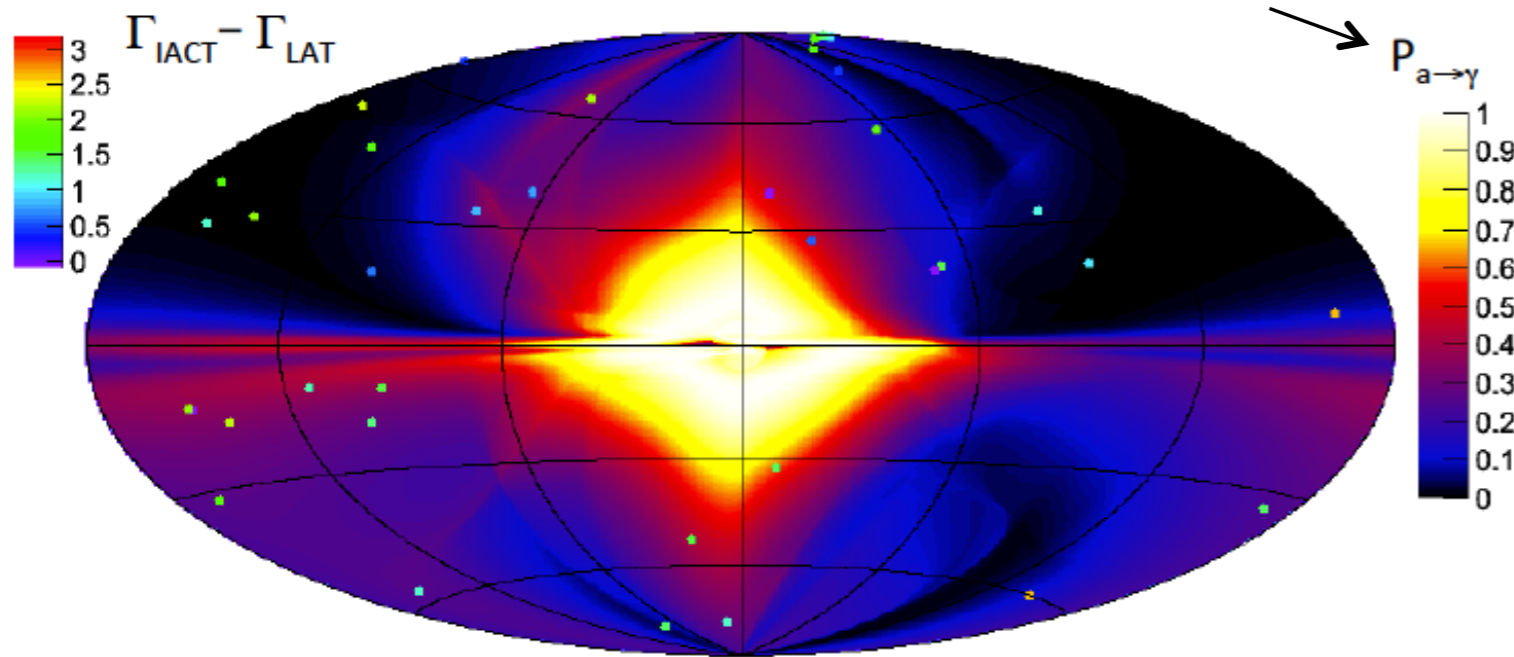


Figure 8. Flux enhancement, defined by the ratio of observed and expected fluxes, as a function optical depth. The shaded gray region is the flux enhancement implied by the results of Horns & Meyer (2012).

# Correlation with Galactic magnetic fields

BSM

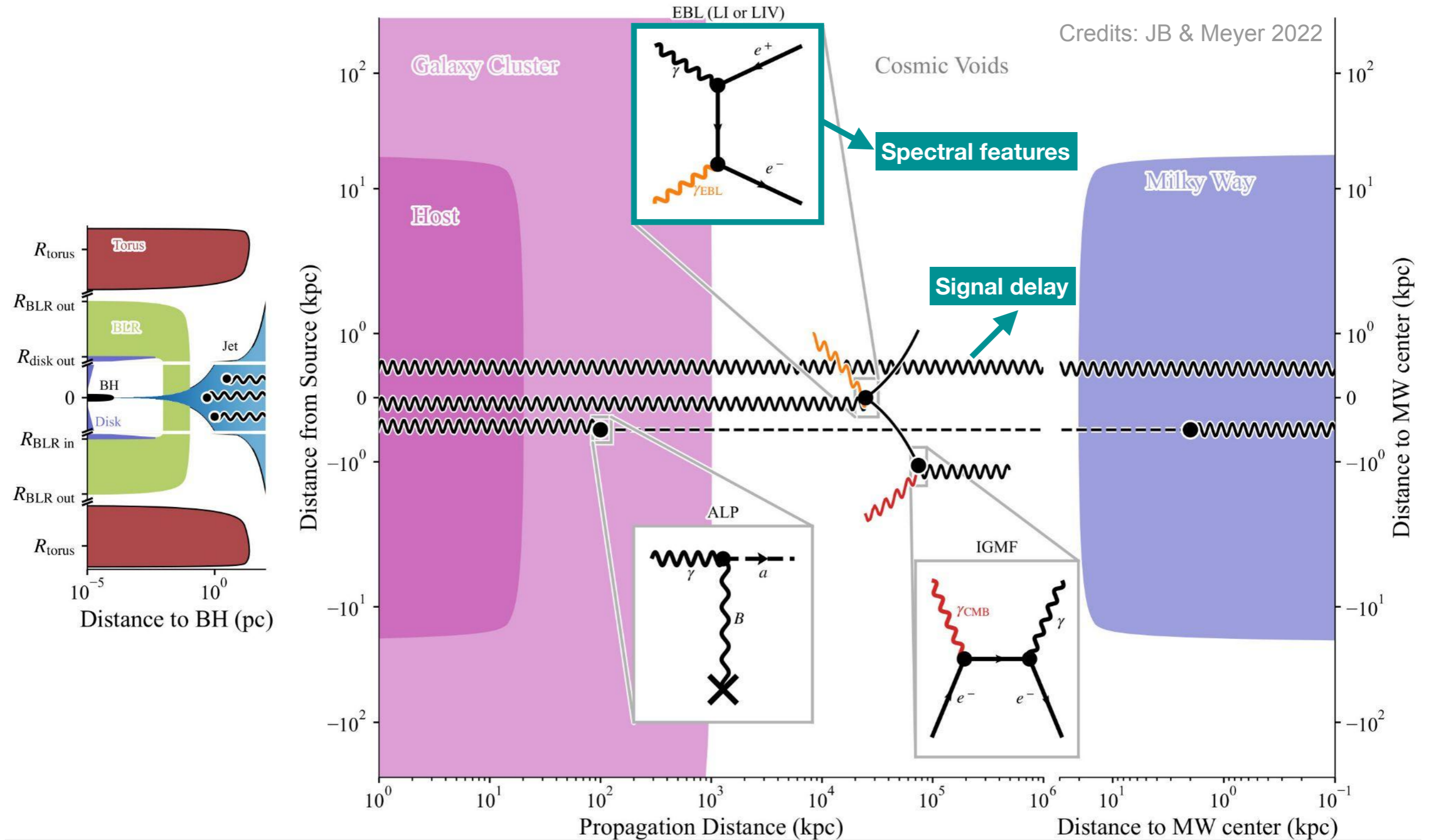
propagation



- ★ Assuming ALP- $\gamma$  conversions only at source and Galaxy
- ★ Simple approach: compare HE and VHE photon indices, look for autocorrelations among sources.
- ★ No correlation observed even compared to expected for  $g_{a\gamma}$  close to CAST limit

# Gamma-ray propagation: LIV

propagation



Credits: JB & Meyer 2022

# Lorentz Invariance Violation

BSM

propagation

- ★ Lorentz Invariance violation (LIV) expressed by Taylor expansion of the dispersion relation:

$$E^2 = p^2c^2 + m^2c^4 \pm E^2 \left( \frac{E}{E_{\text{QG}}} \right)^n$$

- ★  $E_{\text{QG}} \approx E_{\text{Pl}} \approx 10^{28}$  eV, vs:

$$E_{\text{max,CR}} \approx 10^{20}$$
 eV

$$E_{\text{max},\gamma} \approx 10^{15}$$
 eV

+ → “superluminal”  
- → “subluminal”



- ★ LIV Manifestations include:

- ◆ **Energy dependent speed of light in vacuum**
- ◆ **Modification of energy threshold of reactions** (e.g. UHECR with CMB or  $\gamma$  with **EBL**)
- ◆ **Photon decay** ( $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  and/or  $\gamma \rightarrow 3 \gamma$ )
- ◆ Vacuum birefringence
- ◆ Vacuum Cherenkov radiation (by superluminal electrons in vacuum)
- ◆ Suppression of particle interactions/decays
- ◆ ...

# Subluminal LIV anomalous transparency

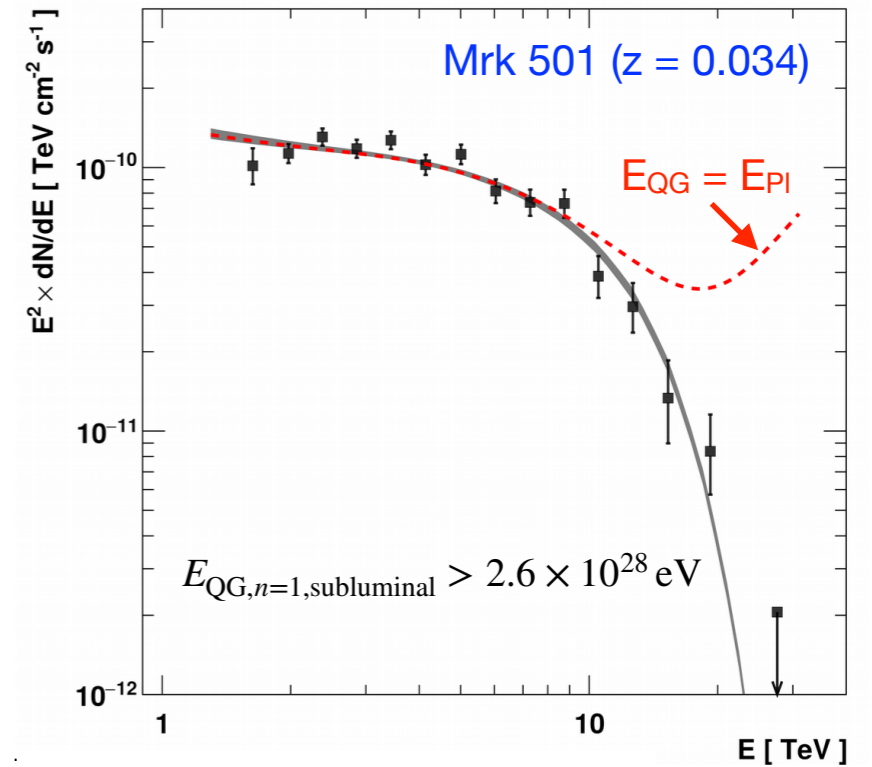
BSM

propagation

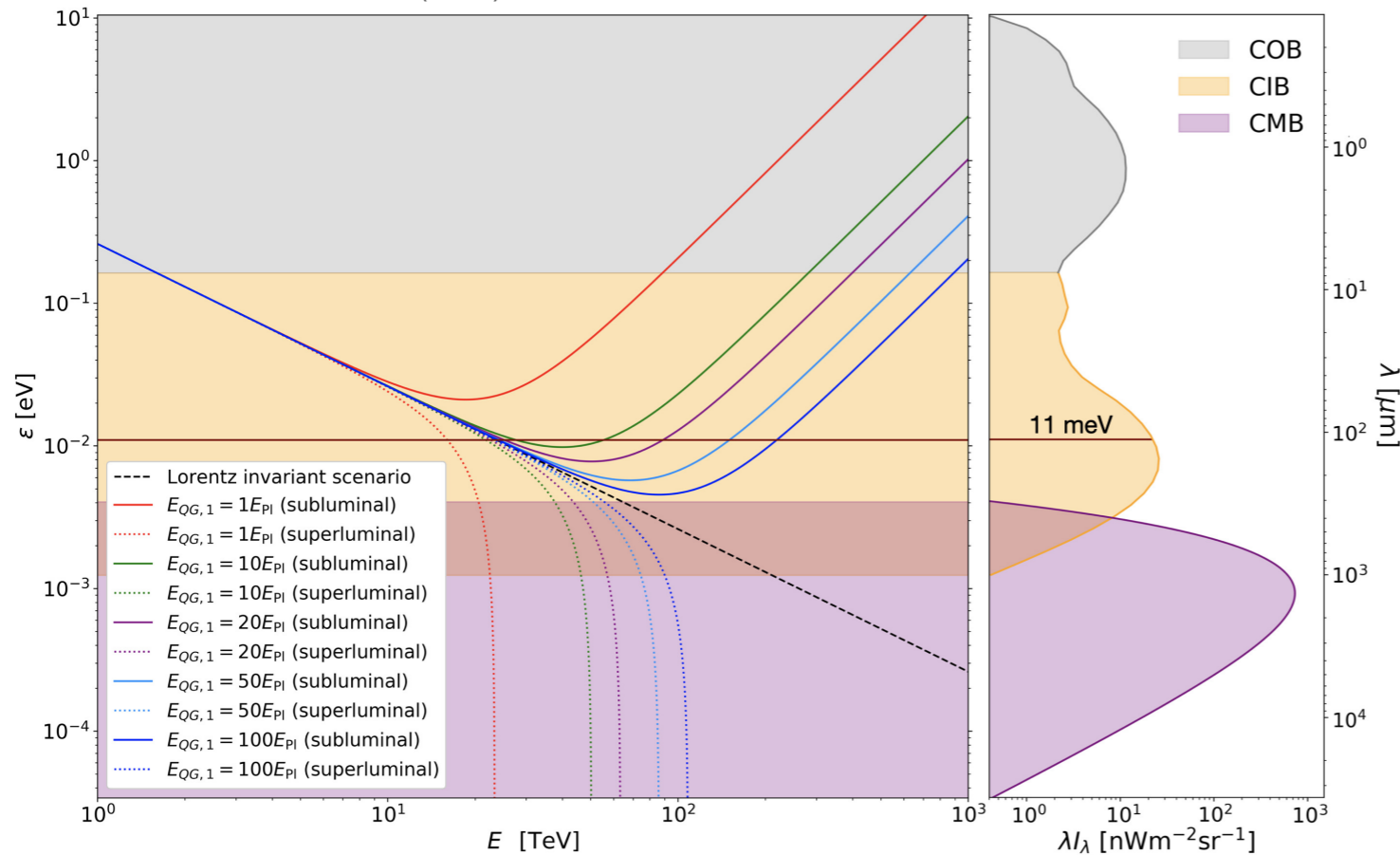
★ Change in the threshold for EBL absorption:

$$\epsilon_{\text{th}} = \frac{m_e^2}{E_\gamma} \rightarrow \frac{m_e^2}{E_\gamma} \mp \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{E_\gamma}{E_{\text{QG},n}} \right)^n E_\gamma$$

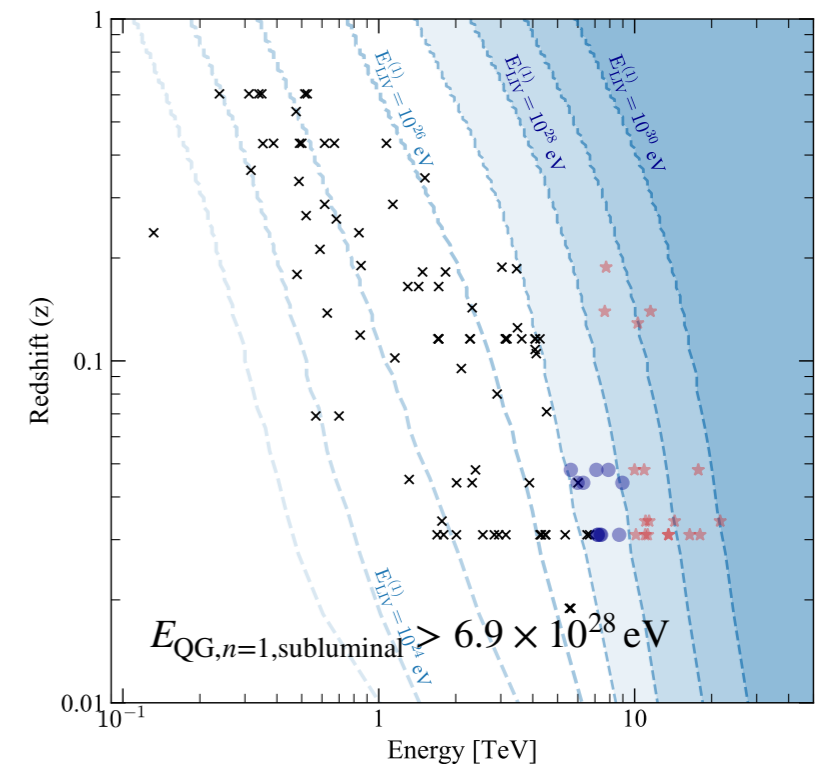
HESS Coll. ApJ 870 (2019) 93



Terzić et al. Universe 7 (2021) 345



Lang et al. PRD 99 (2019) 043015



# Time-of-flight LIV searches

BSM

propagation

★ Energy dependent photon group velocity:

$$v_\gamma = \frac{dE}{dp} \simeq c \left[ 1 \pm \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n+1}{2} \left( \frac{E}{E_{\text{QG}}} \right)^2 \right]$$

★ Difference in time of flight of two photons with energies  $E_h > E_l$

$$\Delta t \simeq \pm \frac{n+1}{2} \frac{E_h^n - E_l^n}{H_0 E_{\text{QG}}^n} \kappa_n(z)$$

Effect accumulates over cosmological distances



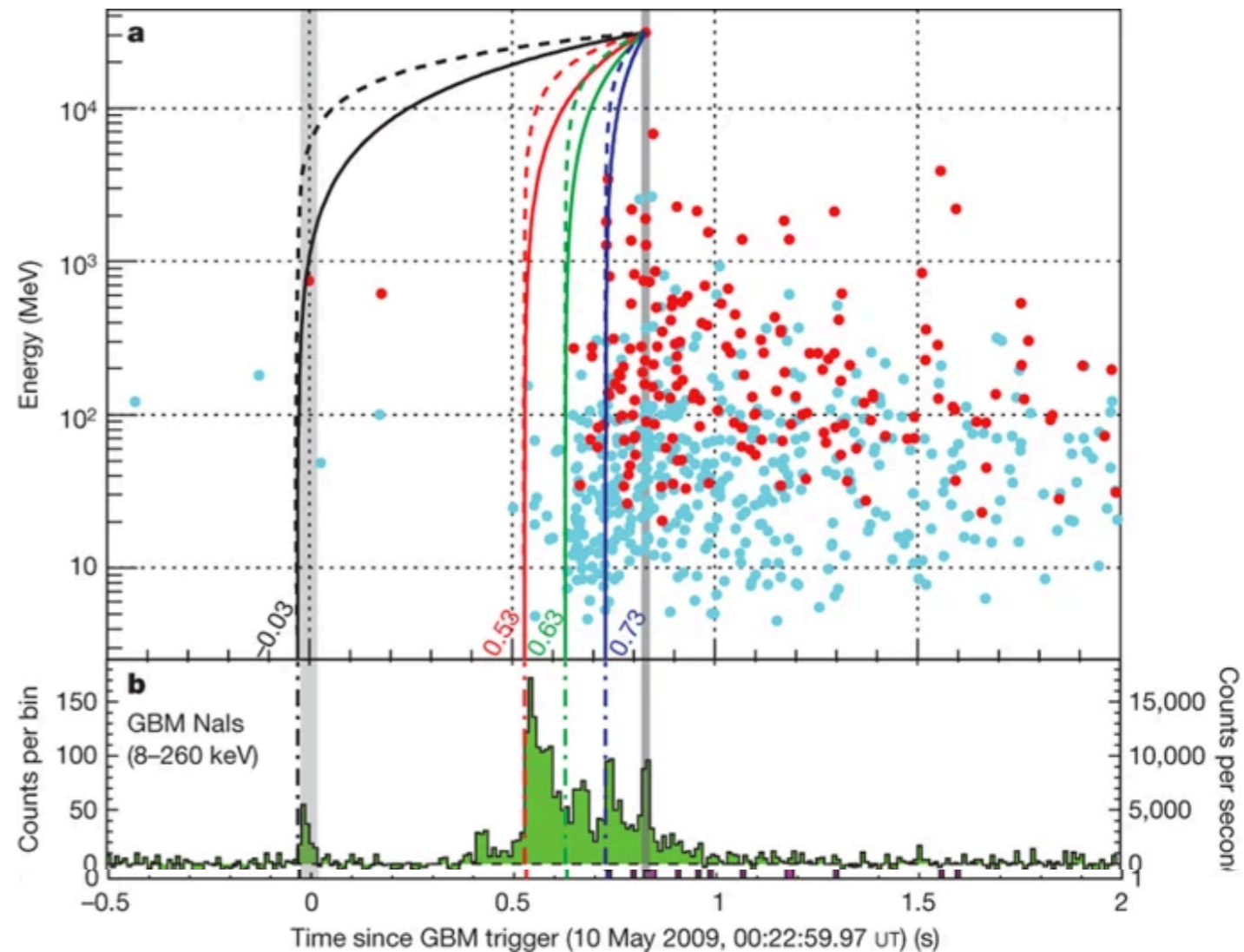
# LIV with GRB090510 at HE

BSM

propagation

- ★ GRB090510 detected by Fermi GBM and LAT
- ★  $z = 0.903$
- ★ GBM provides  $T_0$
- ★ Largest energy photon  $E = 31$  GeV detected 0.8 s after  $T_0$ :
  - ✦ Conservative maximum delay  $\tau \lesssim 26$  s/TeV
- ★ Limits (95% CL):
  - $E_{QG,n=1} > 1.5 \times 10^{28}$  eV
  - $E_{QG,n=2} > 3.0 \times 10^{19}$  eV
- ★ Most constraining limits on time-of-flight LIV up to date

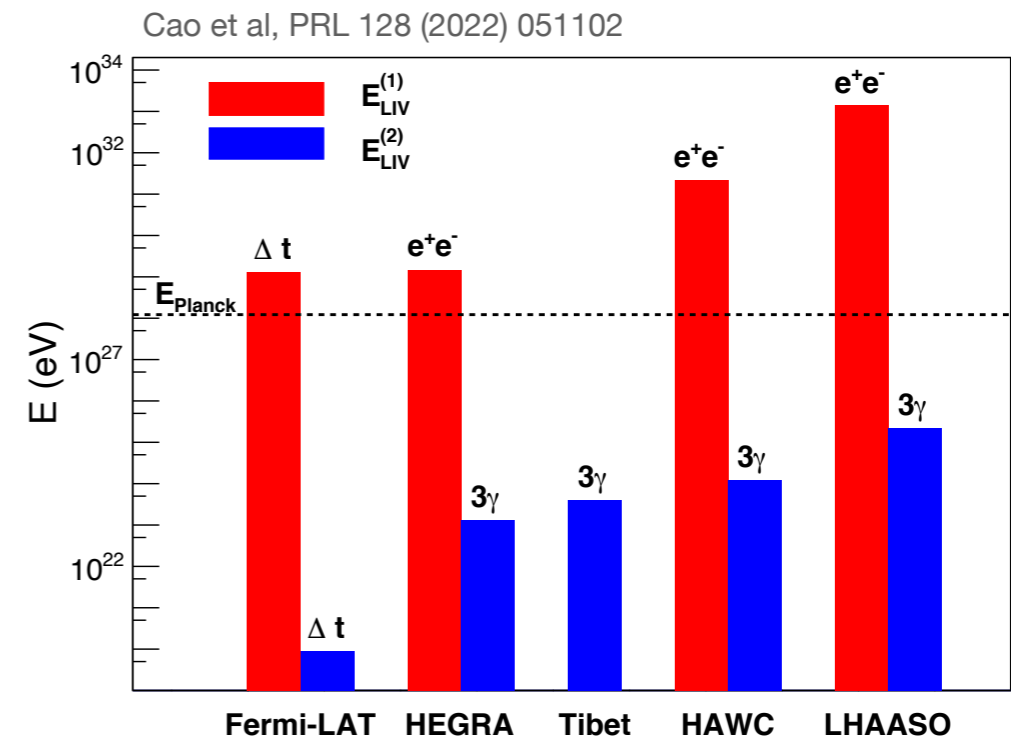
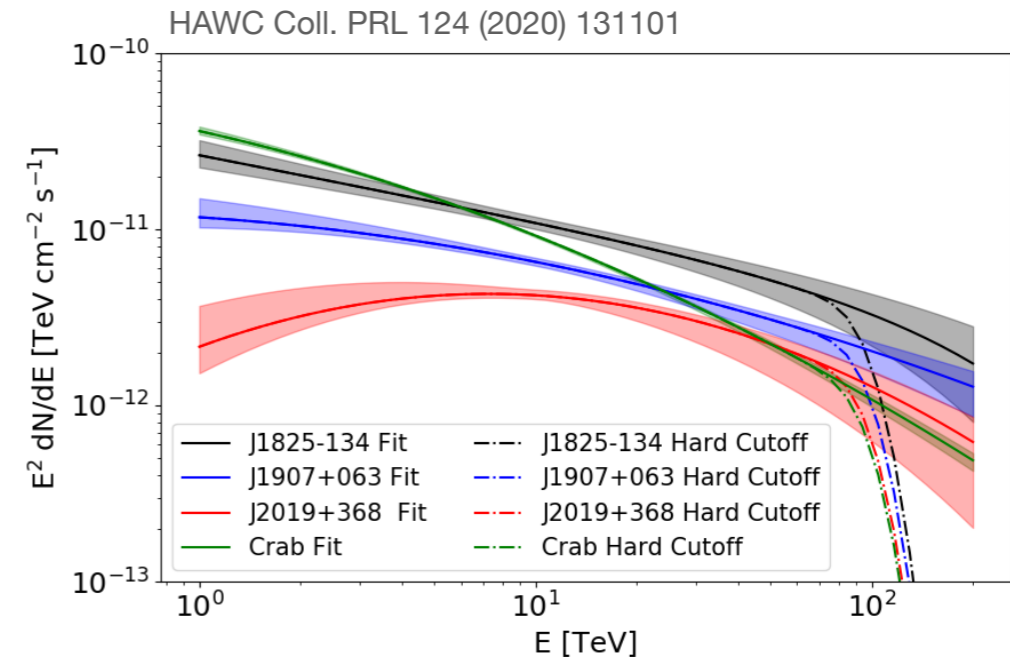
Abdo et al. Nature 462, (2009) 331



# Superluminal LIV gamma decay

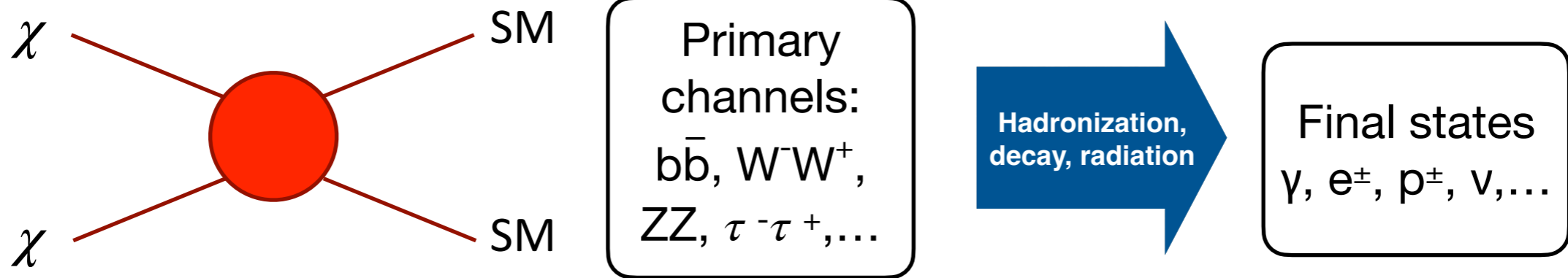
BSM

- ★ Modified dispersion relation (superluminal case) allows the decays  $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  ( $n=1$ ) and  $\gamma \rightarrow 3\gamma$  ( $n=2$ )
- ★ Both reactions lead to hard spectral cutoff at high energies
- ★ No dependence on distance: use Galactic sources, not affected by increase of threshold for interaction with EBL
- ★ HAWC and LHAASO observations of  $\sim$ PeV photons set strong limits to cutoff and hence to LIV effects



# WIMP searches

BSM



★ **Indirect searches:** looking for spectral and spatial signatures of dark matter in the extra-terrestrial fluxes of stable SM particles

★ **HE Messengers:**

- ◆ Gamma-rays
- ◆ Neutrinos
- ◆ Electron/positrons
- ◆ Antiprotons, Antideuterium, Anti-nuclei

★ **Characteristic spectral features:**

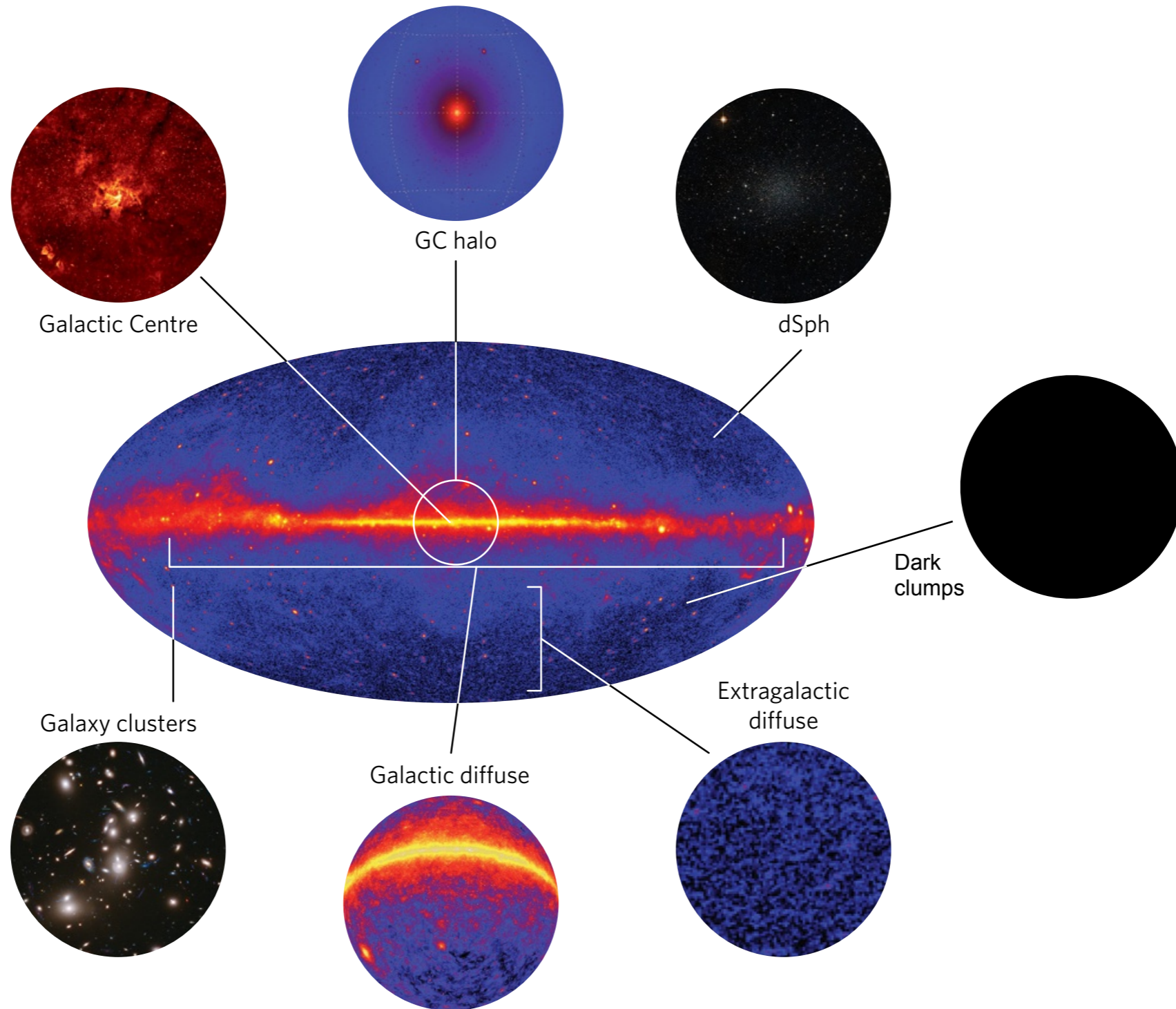
- ◆ Separation from background
- ◆ Can measure basic physical properties: mass, cross-section / lifetime

★ **Gamma-rays or neutrinos do not suffer from propagation effects:**

- ◆ Exploit spatial features known from simulations
- ◆ Can determine DM abundance and distribution in the Universe

# Possible DM gamma-ray sources

BSM

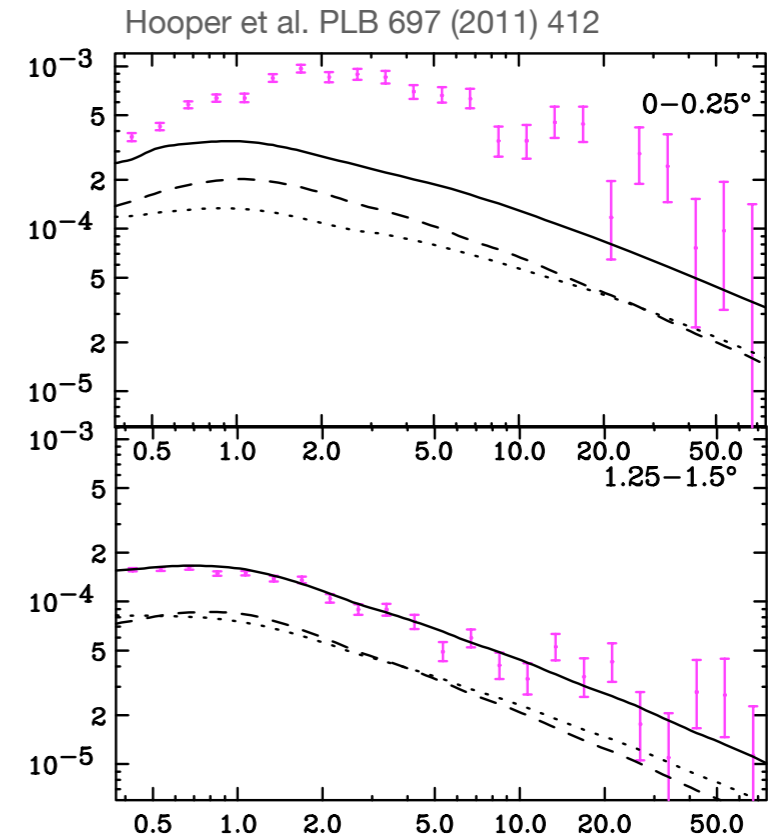


Adapted from Conrad & Reimer, Nat. Phys. 13 (2017) 224

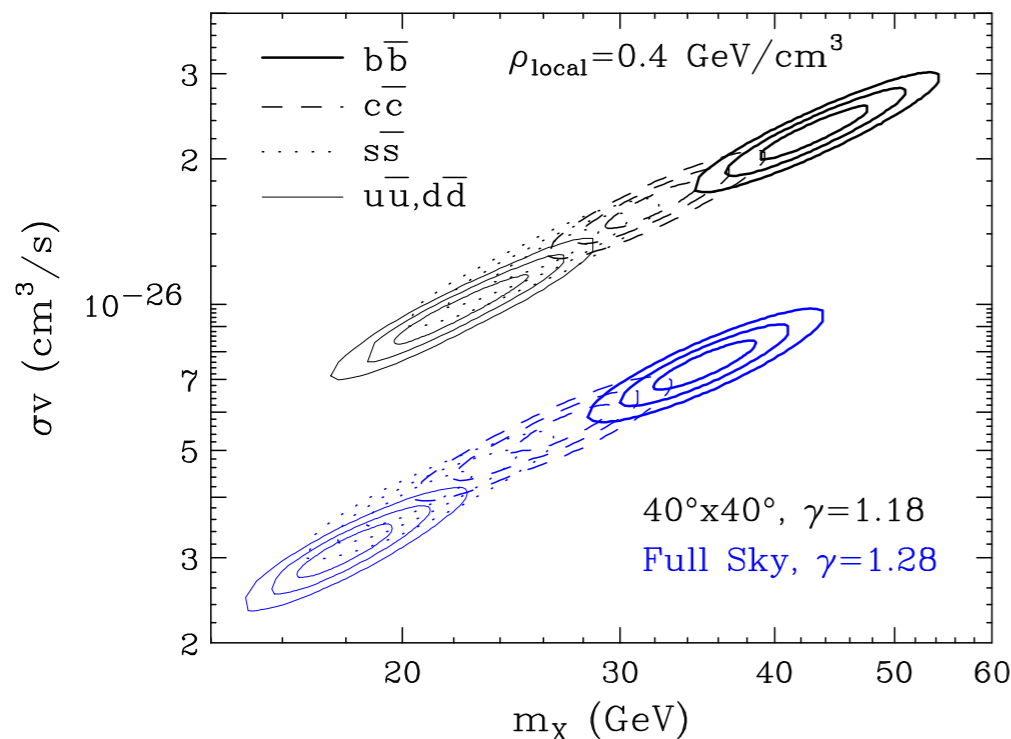
# GeV Galactic Center excess

BSM

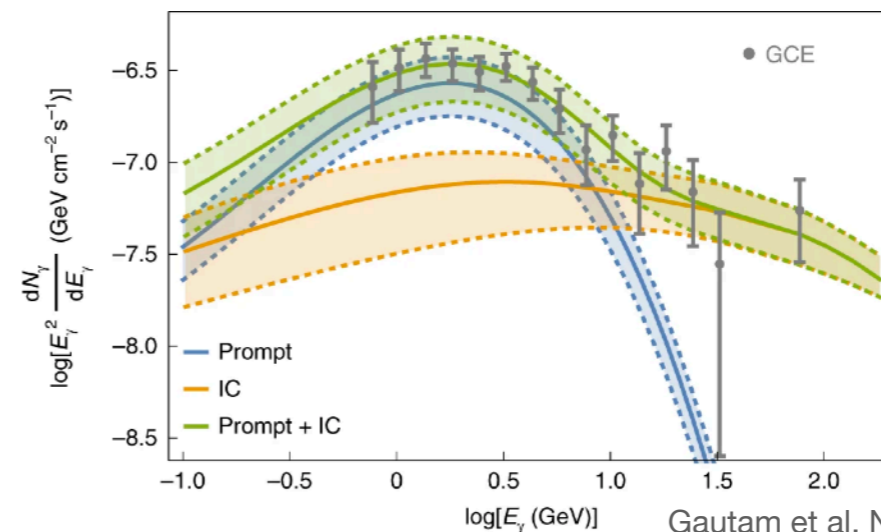
- ★ In Fermi-LAT: removing contributions from known sources and diffuse emission, residuals between 0.3 and 30 GeV have some of the DM properties (radial profile, spectrum)
- ★ Interpretation as annihilation of DM particles with  $m_{\text{DM}} \sim \text{few } 10 \text{ GeV}$  with close to relic cross-section



Daylan et al. Phys. Dark. Univ. 12 (2016) 1



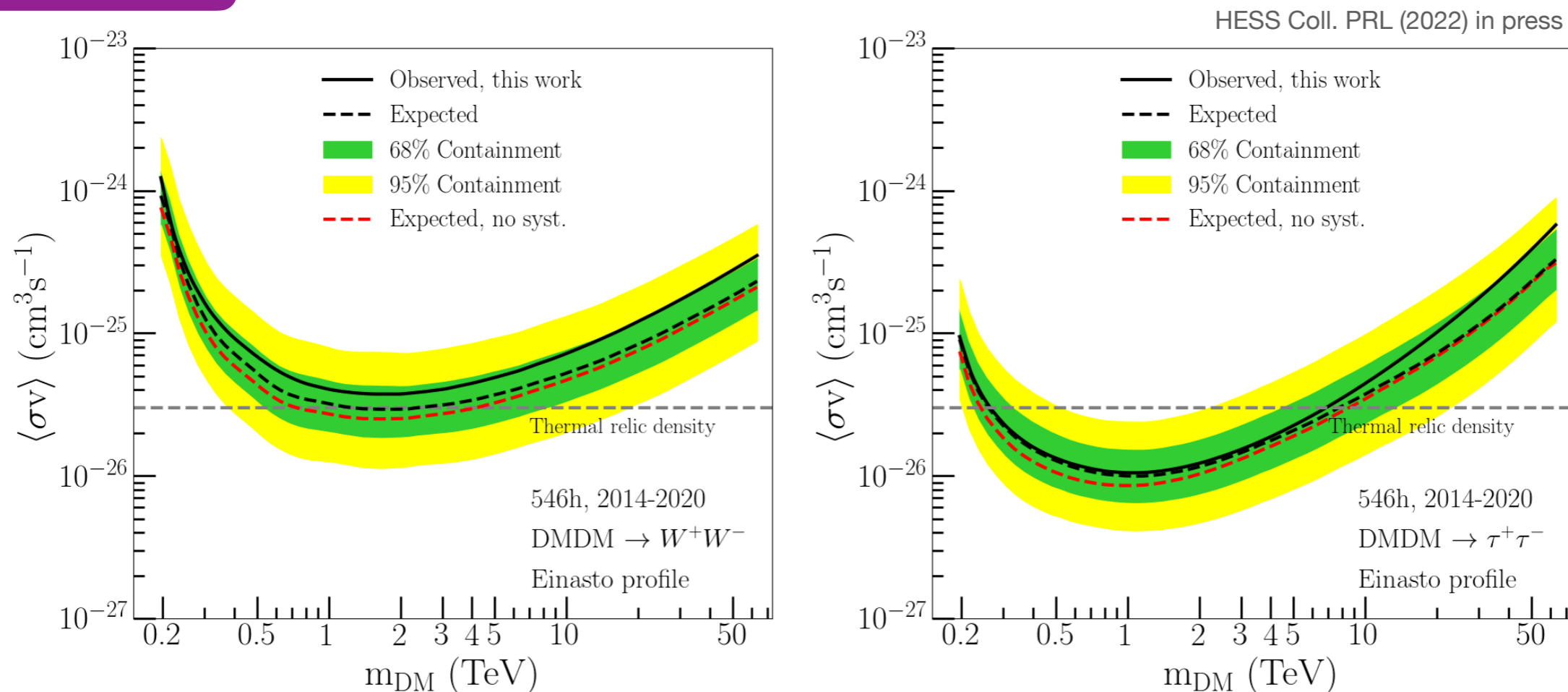
- ★ Favored astrophysical interpretation: unresolved population of millisecond pulsars:



Gautam et al. Nat. Astron. 6 (2022) 703

# Galactic Center at Very High Energy

BSM

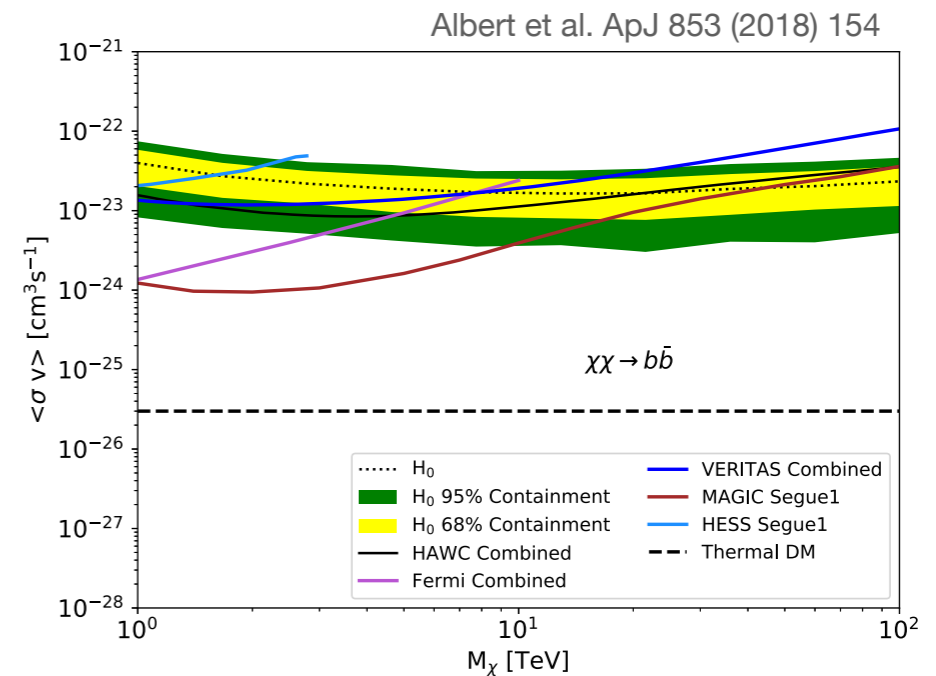
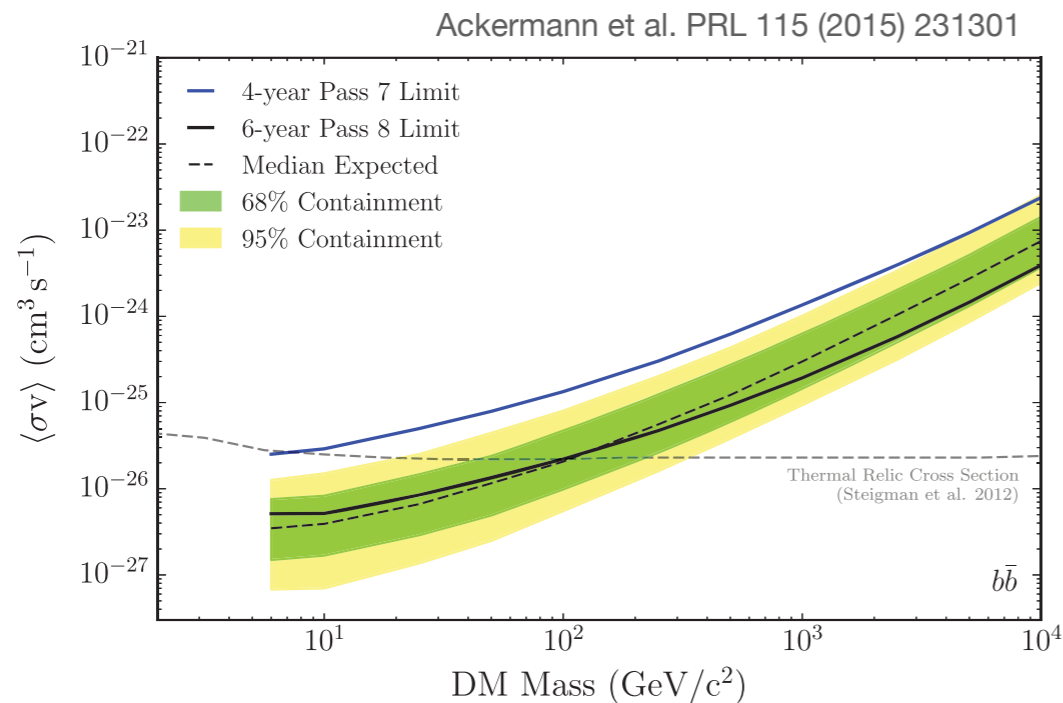
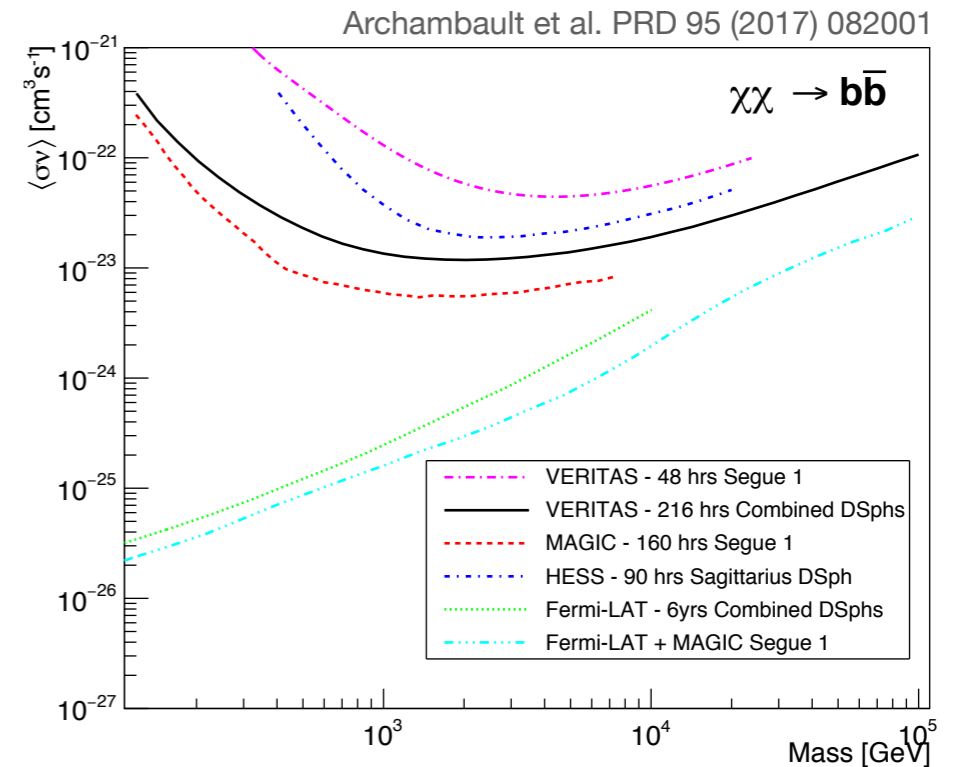


- ★ Galactic Center (halo) observed by HESS for 546h!
- ★ Most intense DM annihilation expected signal as seen from Earth
- ★ Most constraining limits of cross sections, below thermal relic cross section for leptonic channels
- ★ Caveat: assuming a cored density profile limit is O(2-3) times worse

# Observations of dSphs

BSM

- ★ Low luminosity galaxies orbiting the Milky Way
- ★ Kinematics dominated by DM:  $M/L \sim O(1000) M_{\odot}/L_{\odot}$
- ★ Moderate expected intensities, with relatively low uncertainties



# Combining dSph results

BSM

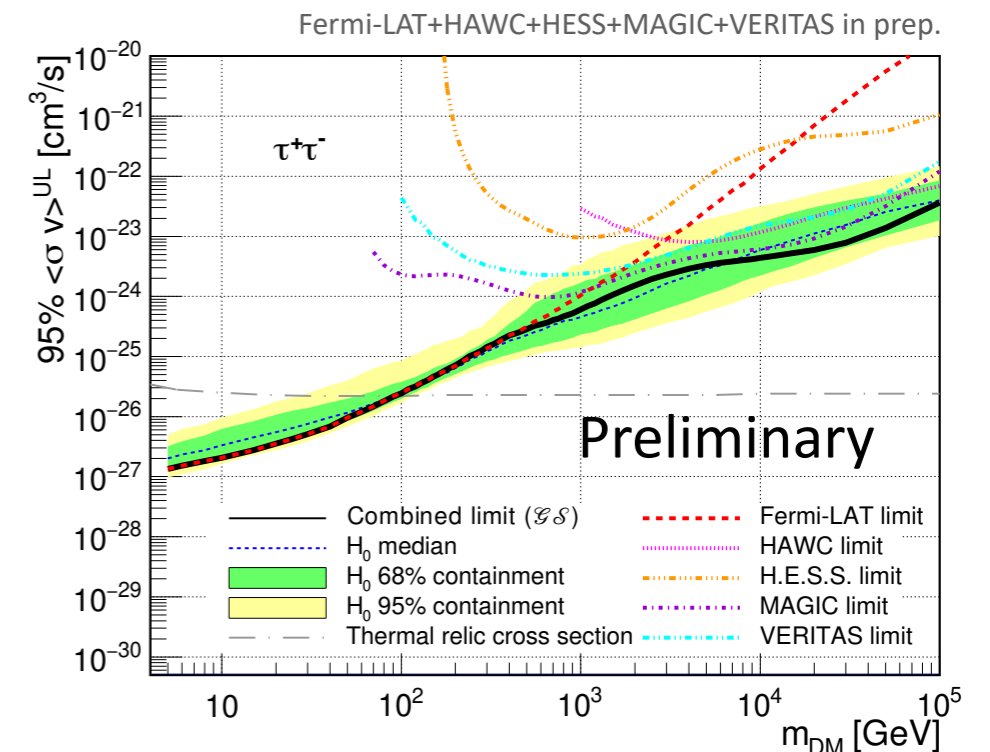
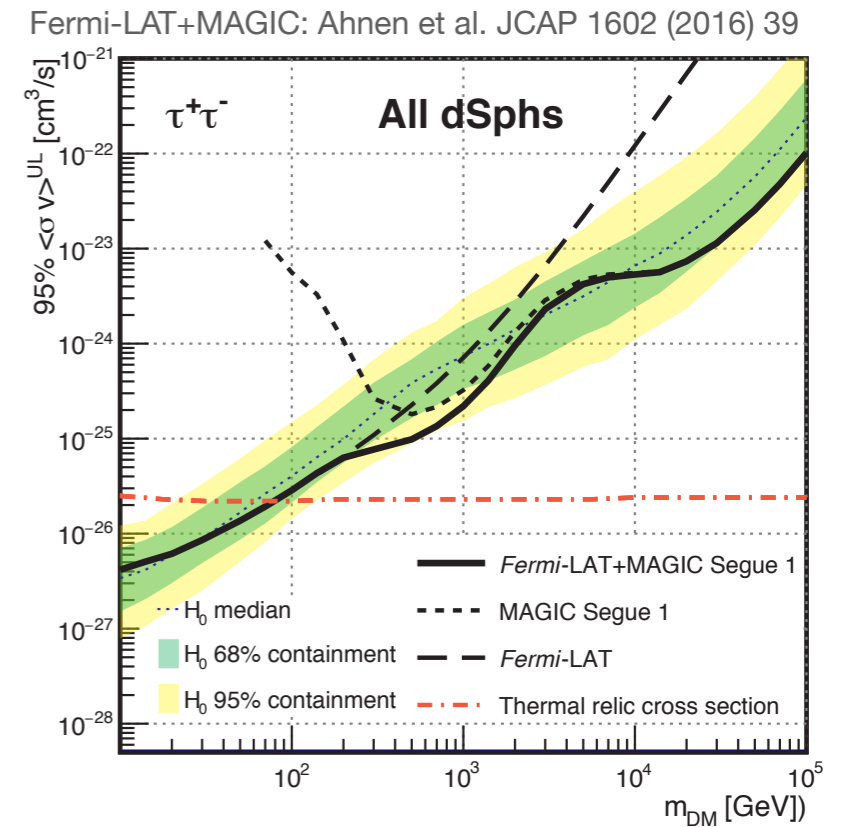
- ★ Stack the likelihoods (not the data!), of different dSphs:
- ◆ with different uncertainties in J-factor

$$\mathcal{L}(\alpha; \nu | \mathcal{D}) = \prod_{l=1}^{N_{\text{dSph}}} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma}(\alpha \bar{J}_l; \mu_l | \mathcal{D}_{\gamma_l}) \cdot \mathcal{L}_J(\bar{J}_l | \mathcal{D}_{J_l})$$

$$\mathcal{L}_J(\bar{J} | \bar{J}_{\text{obs}}, \sigma_J) = \frac{1}{\ln(10) \bar{J}_{\text{obs}} \sqrt{2\pi\sigma_J}} e^{-\left(\log_{10}(\bar{J}) - \log_{10}(\bar{J}_{\text{obs}})\right)^2 / 2\sigma_J^2}$$

- ◆ observed by different instruments

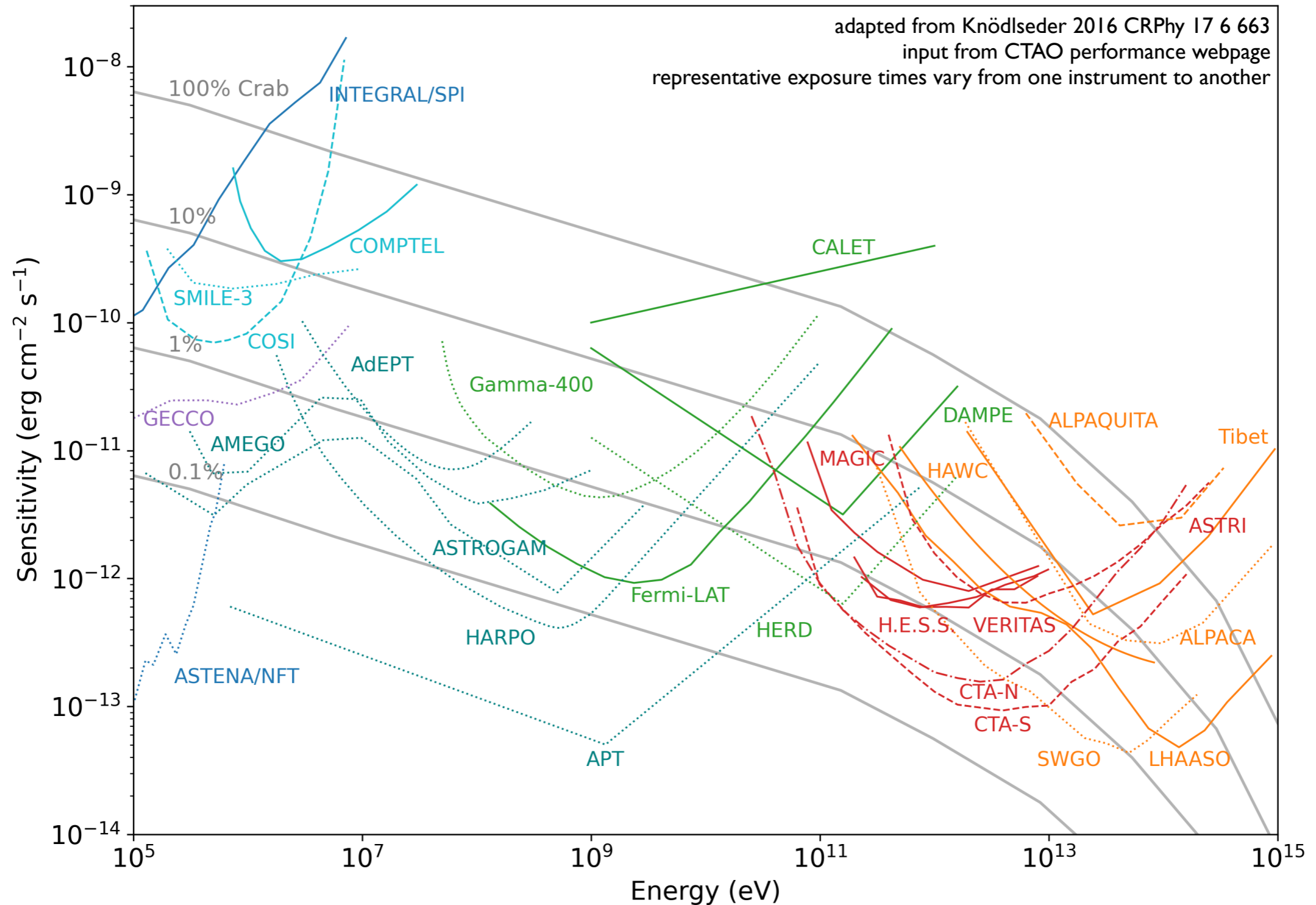
$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}(\alpha \bar{J}; \mu | \mathcal{D}_{\gamma}) = \prod_{k=1}^{N_{\text{meas}}} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma,k}(\alpha \bar{J}; \mu_k | \mathcal{D}_{\gamma,k})$$





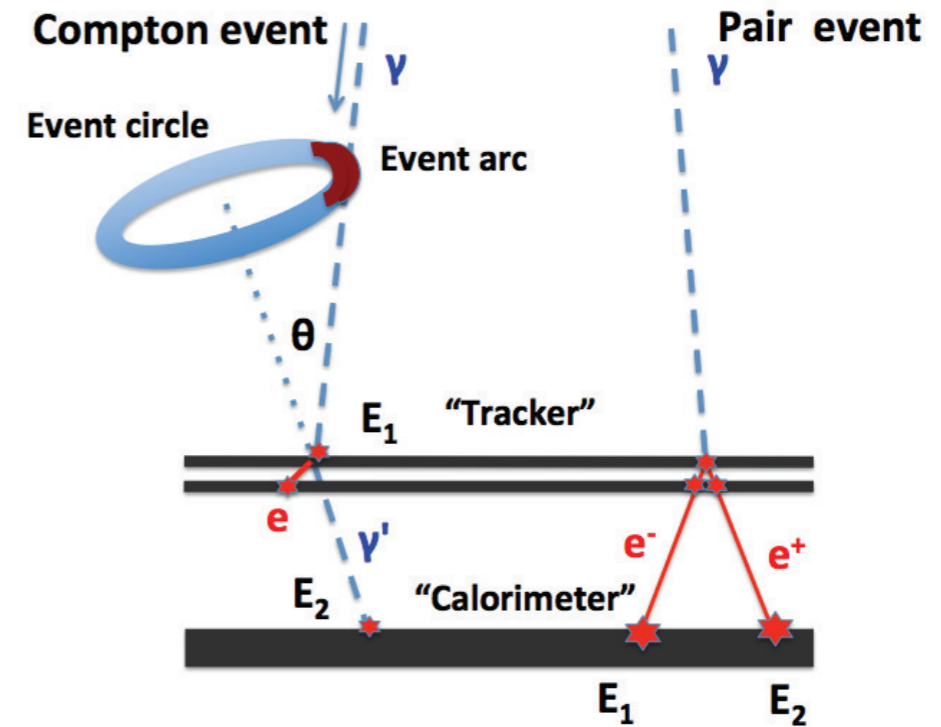
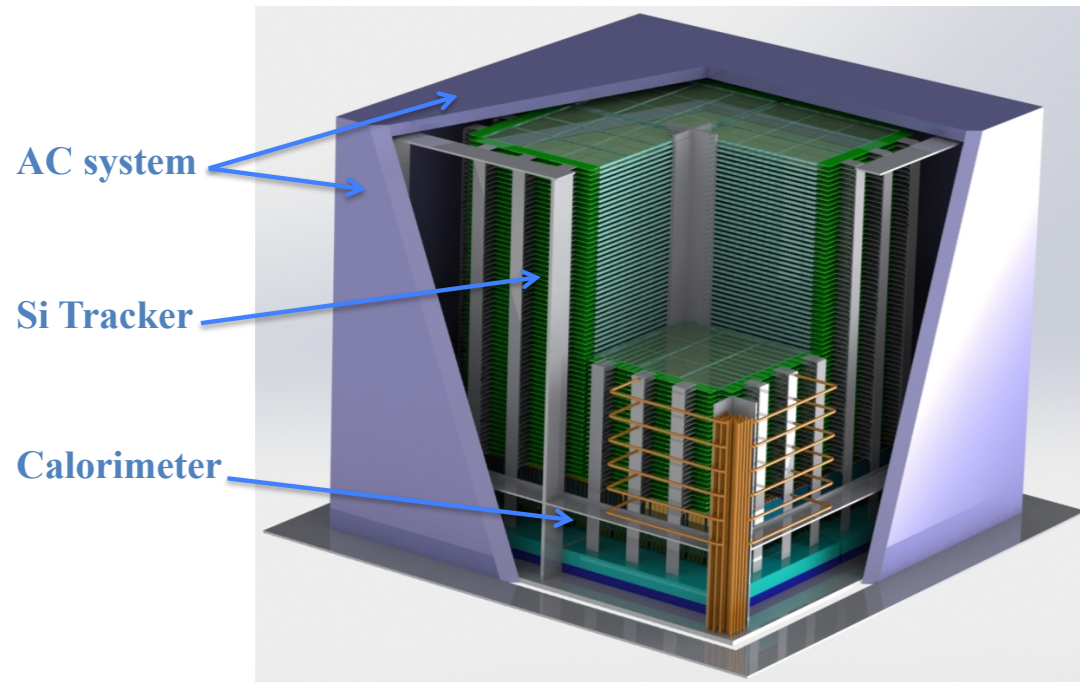
# The future

# Present and future sensitivity

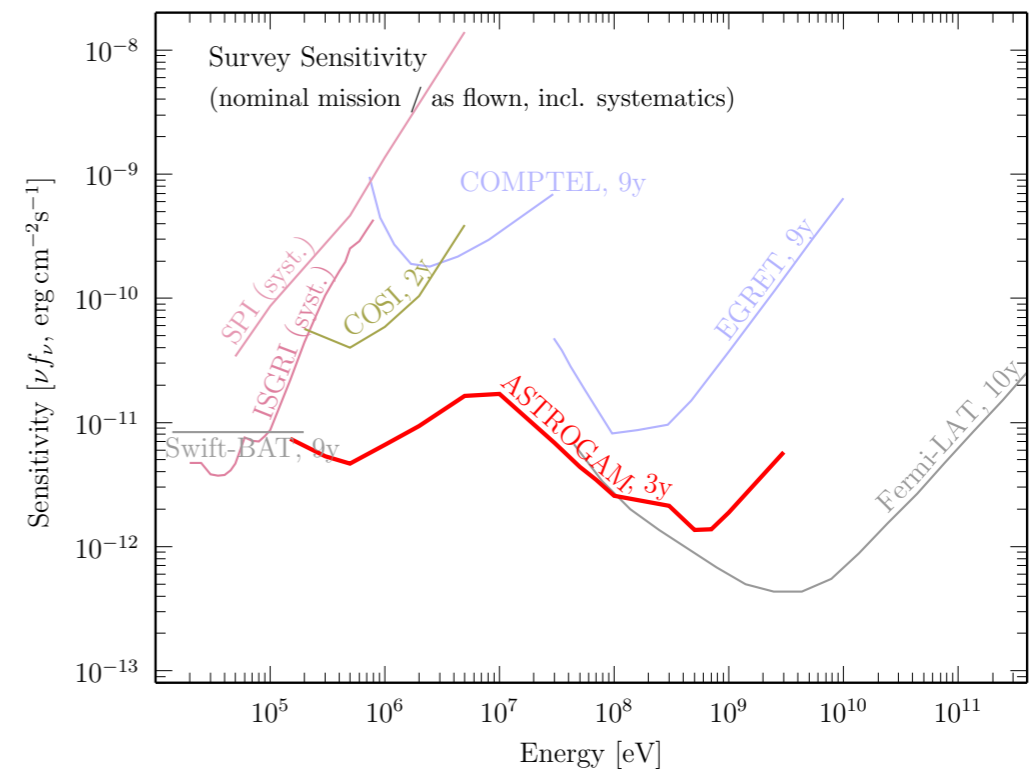


Credit: L. Tibaldo (EGRS2022)

# ASTROGAM



- ★ Proposed to M7 ESA call (launch 2037)
- ★ Cover the “MeV gap”
- ★ Improved angular resolution thanks to measurement of Compton electron track

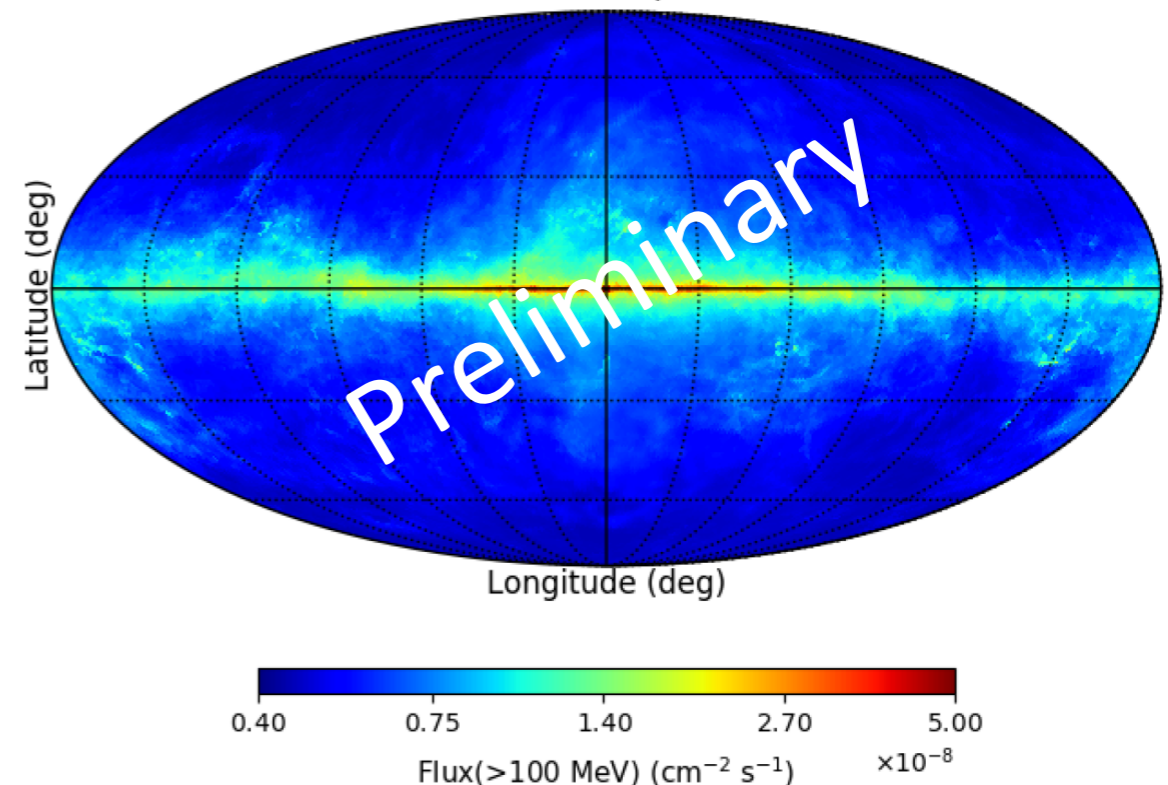


# HERD

- ★ Cosmic-ray/Gamma-ray detector in the Chinese Space Station
- ★ Installation expected in 2027
- ★ 3D, homogeneous, isotropic, finely segmented calorimeter
- ★ Gamma energy coverage: 100 MeV - 1 TeV with superb angular and energy resolutions

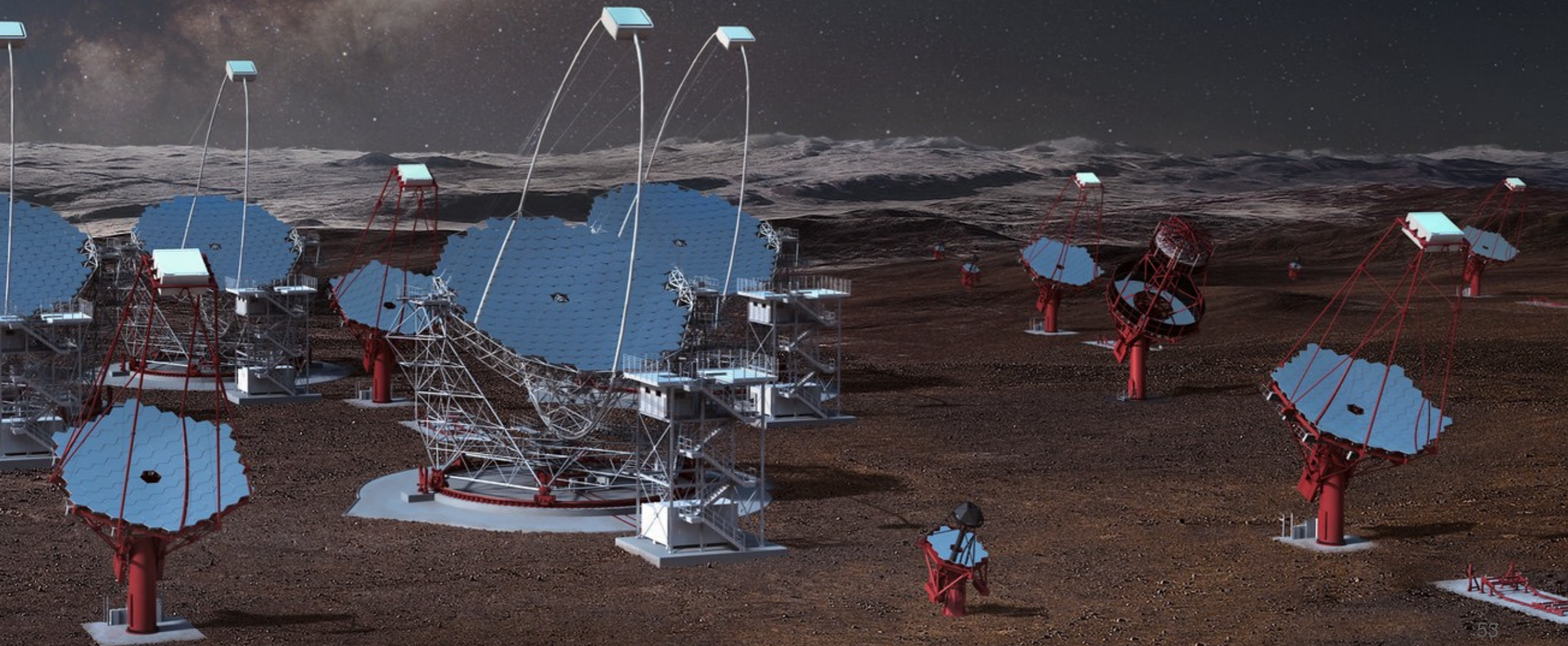
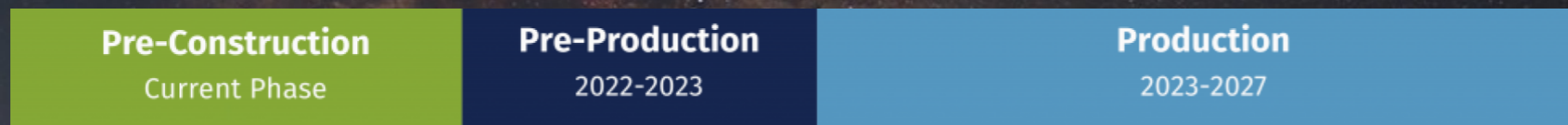


HERD 5 Years, TS=25, > 10 photons/bin, 4 bin/dec

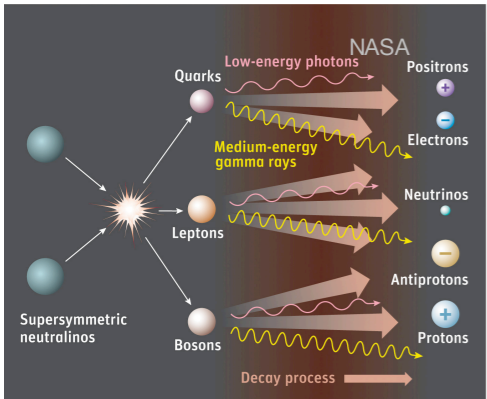
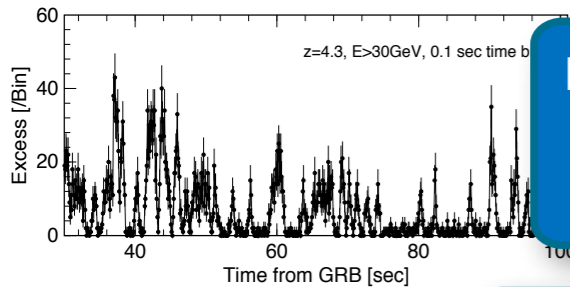
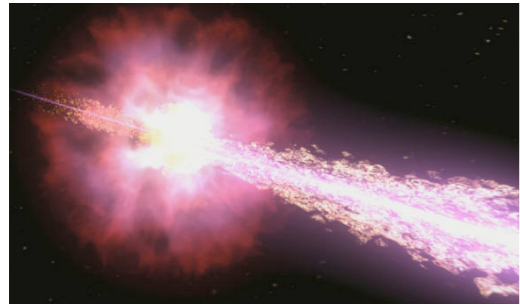
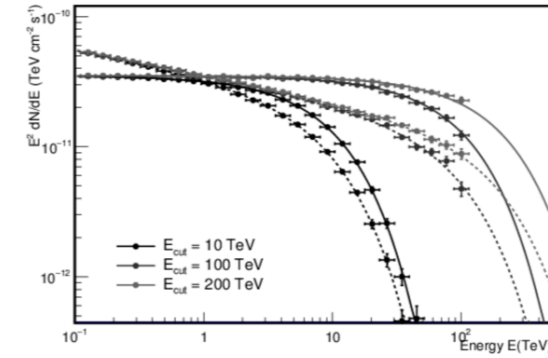
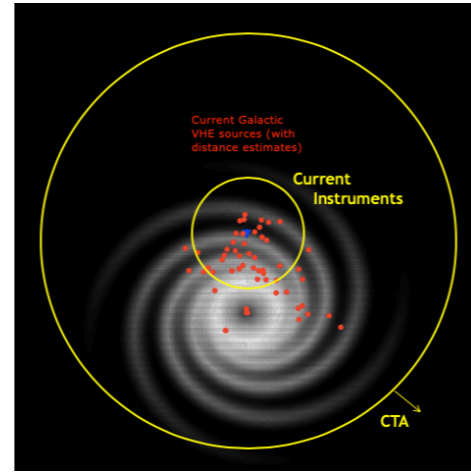
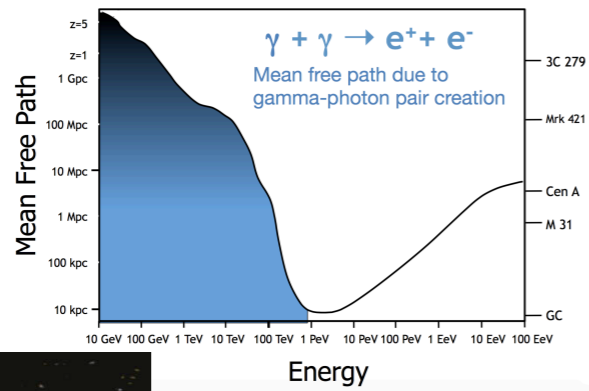


# CTA

- ★ Two sites: La Palma (N) and Paranal, Chile (S)
- ★ 64 (13+51) telescopes of three different sizes
- ★ ERIC should be operative beginning of 2023 when official construction phase will start



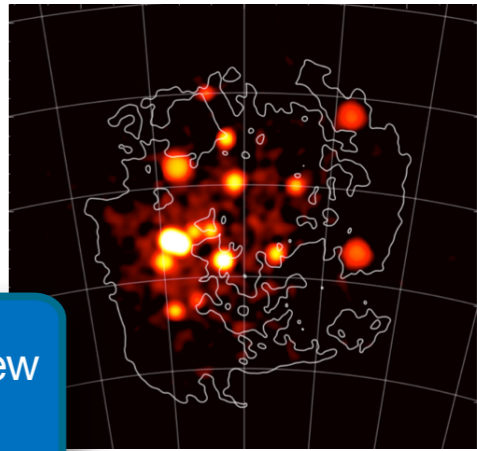
# CTA capabilities



**Energies down to 20 GeV**  
→ Cosmology++

**10 x Sensitivity, Large Collection Area**  
→ all topics

**Energies up to 300 TeV**  
→ Pevatrons

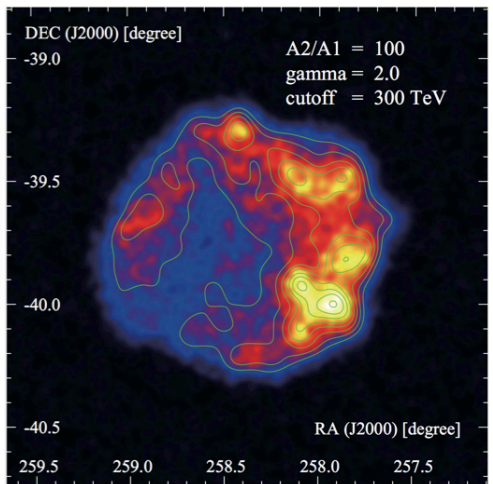


**Rapid Slewing in 20 seconds**  
→ transients

**8° Field of View**  
→ surveys, extended objects

**10% Energy Resolution**  
→ lines, features

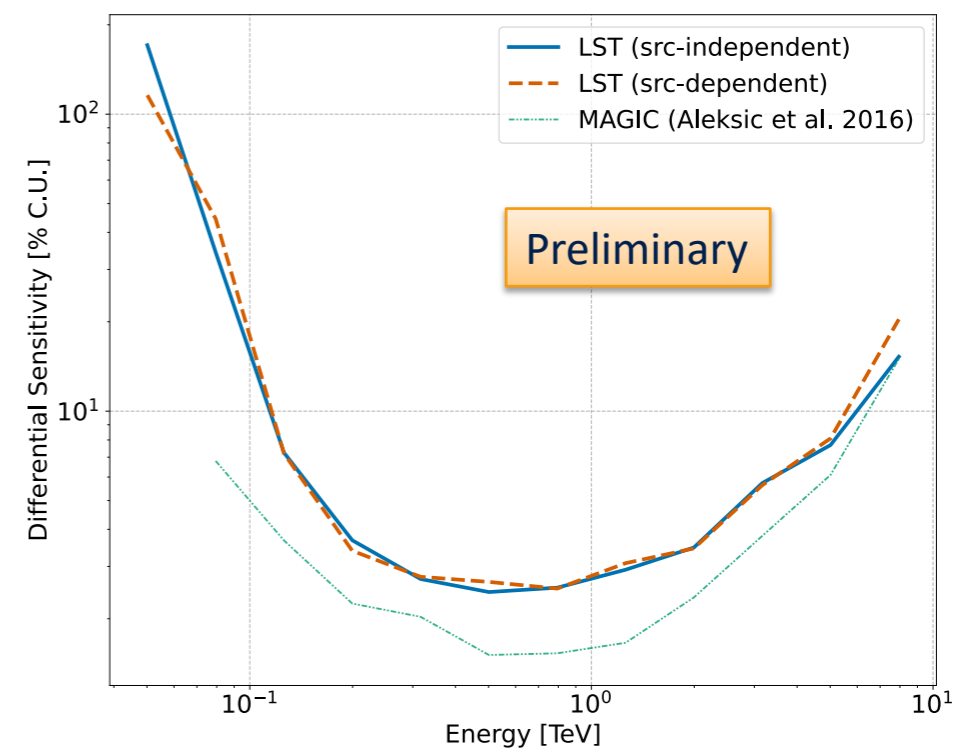
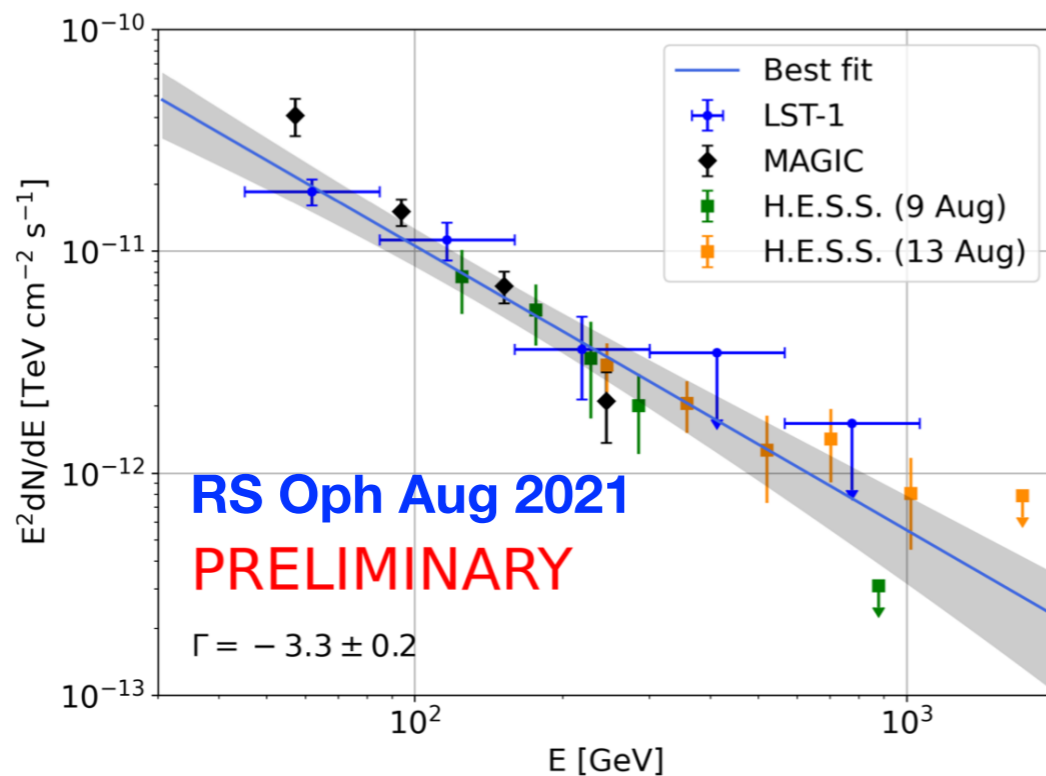
**Few ' Angular Resolution**  
→ morphology



# LST

- ★ LST1 installed @ La Palma in 2019
- ★ Finishing commissioning
- ★ LST2-4 under production
- ★ LST for South partially funded
- ★ LST1 producing science and preparing first papers

Cortina, Gamma2022  
Cortina, Gamma2022



# Summary

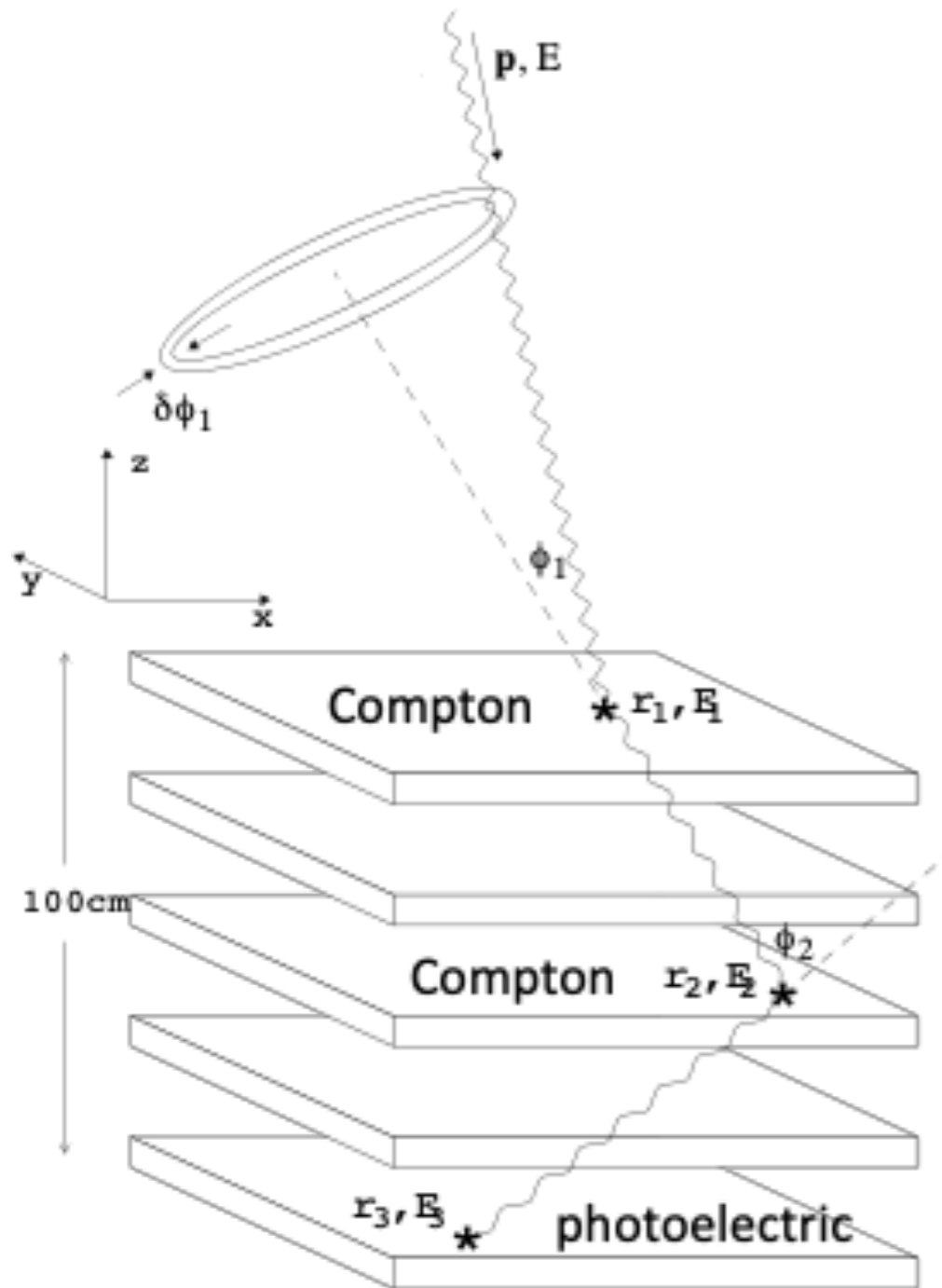
- ★ Gamma-ray Astronomy is a consolidated branch of astronomy
- ★ The current generation of instruments have produced/are producing significant advances in our understanding of:
  - ◆ The origin of Galactic cosmic rays
  - ◆ The origin of cosmic neutrinos and extragalactic cosmic rays
  - ◆ NS-NS mergers
  - ◆ Particle acceleration in known and new source classes
  - ◆ Radiation and magnetic fields in cosmic voids
  - ◆ Physics BSM (DM searches, LIV tests)
- ★ Future observatories such as CTA, HERD and ASTROGAM will improve further our understanding about these and other topics in a fully multi-wavelength/multi-messenger approach to the study of our Universe



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

# Backup

# LE: Compton camera



Boggs & Jean (2000)

$E'$  = outgoing photon energy

$$E = \sum E_i$$

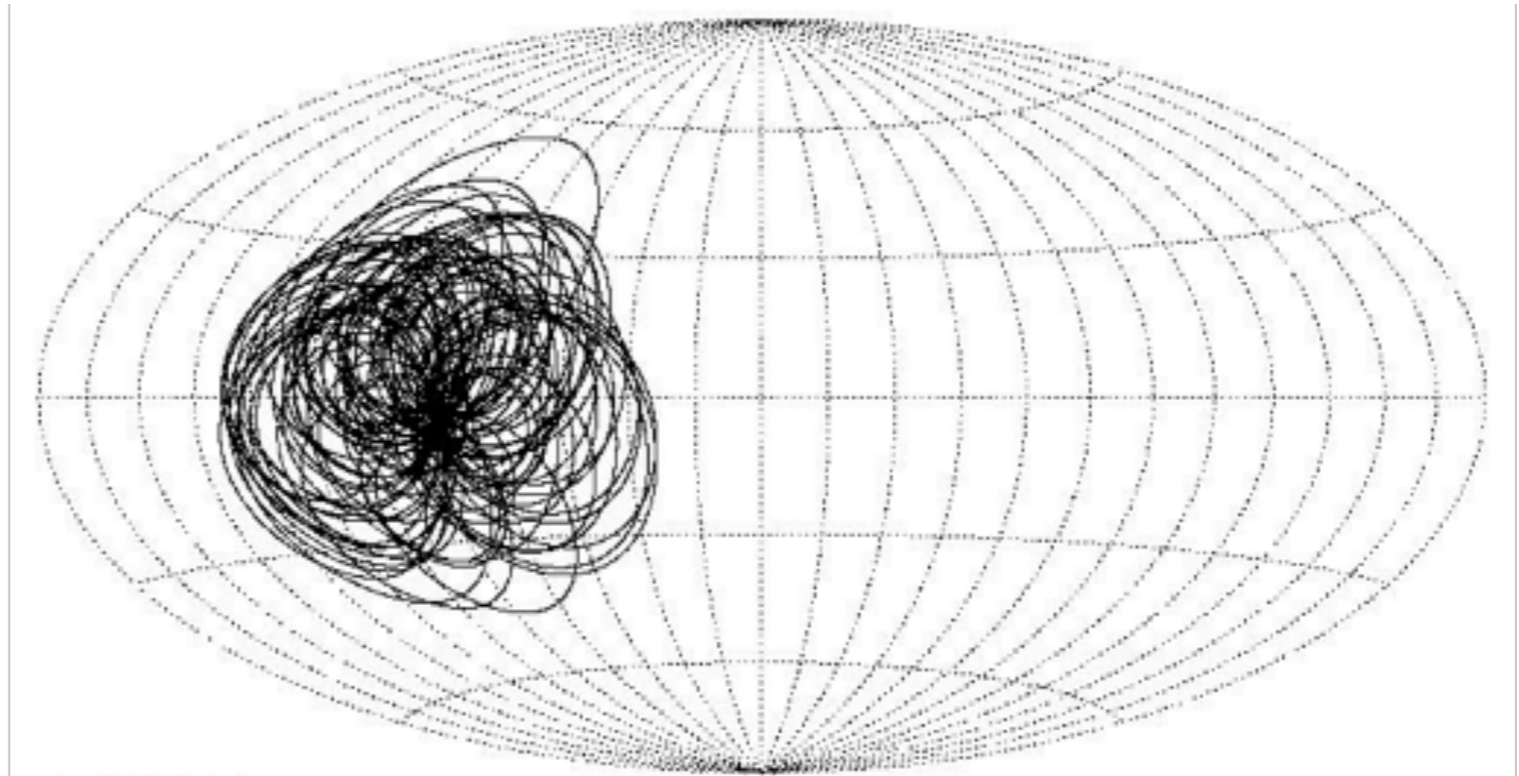
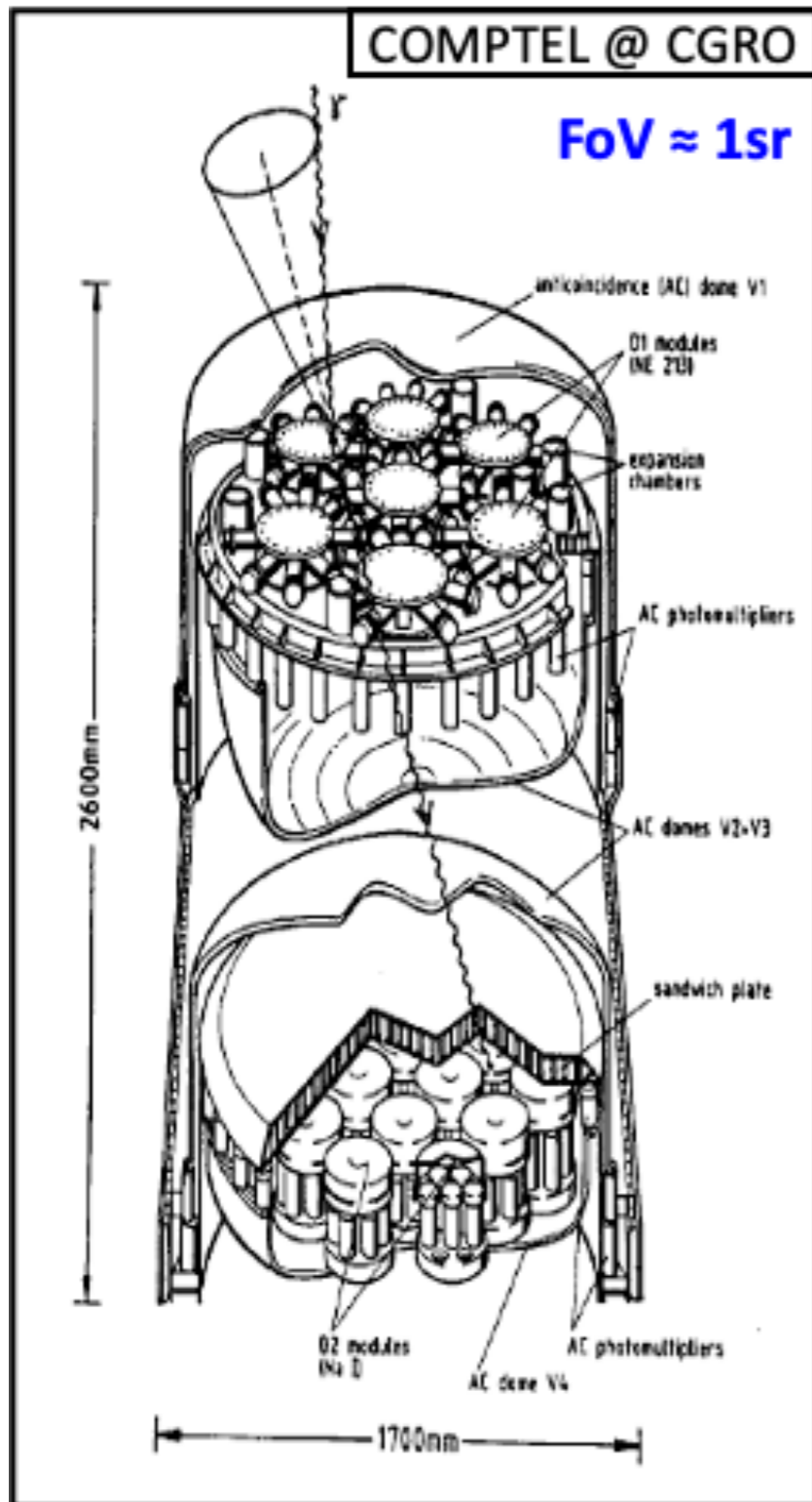
(original photon energy is the sum of all energy deposits)

$$E' = E - E_1$$

$$\frac{1}{E'} - \frac{1}{E} = \frac{1}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \phi)$$

⇒ we can obtain the primary photon  $E$  and a **CONE of possible directions**

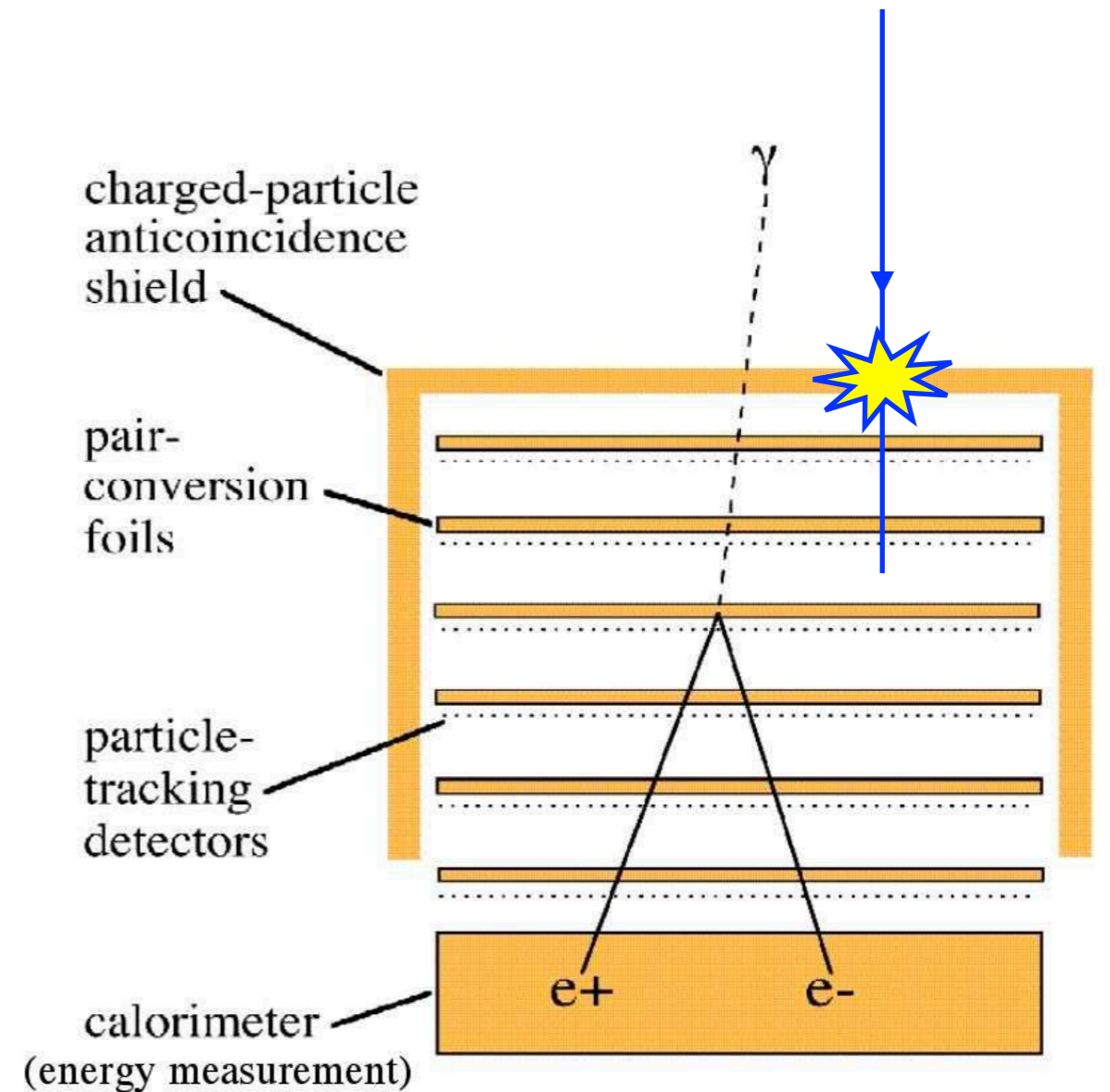
# COMPTEL



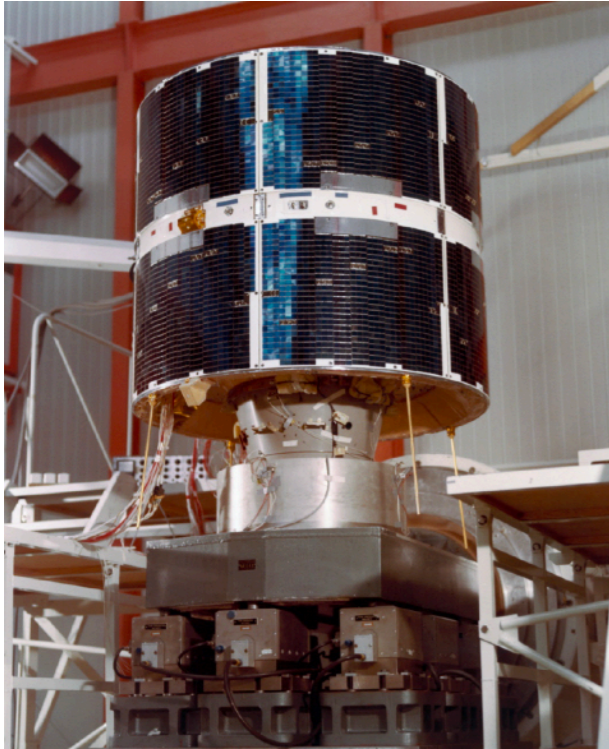
- ★ GRB May 3 1991
- ★ Method works for large S/N data
- ★ COMPTEL onboard CGRO (1991-2000)

# HE: pair conversion camera

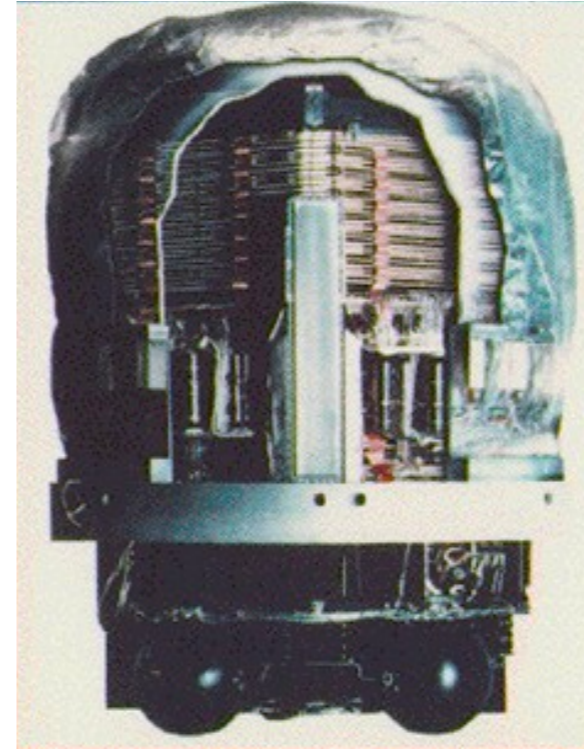
- ★ Pair production dominant above a few MeV
- ★ Anti-coincidence to veto dominant charged CaRs
- ★ High-Z foils before each tracking plane to maximize conversion probability
- ★ Tracker to measure direction
- ★ Calorimeter to measure energy



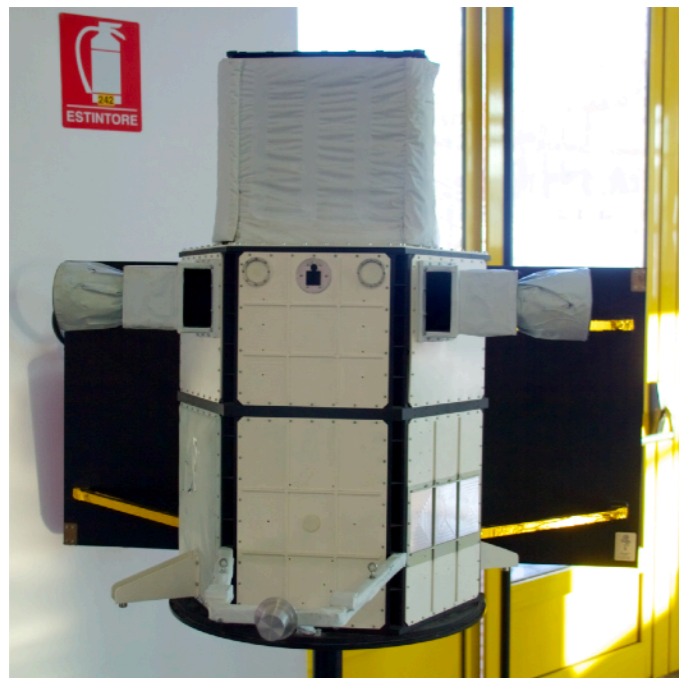
# Pair conversion telescopes



- ★ COS-B (1975-1982)
- ★ ESA (first satellite)
- ★ 25 sources; first galactic map



- CGRO-EGRET (1991-2000)
- NASA
- 271 sources; (LMC, pulsars, blazars, UID)



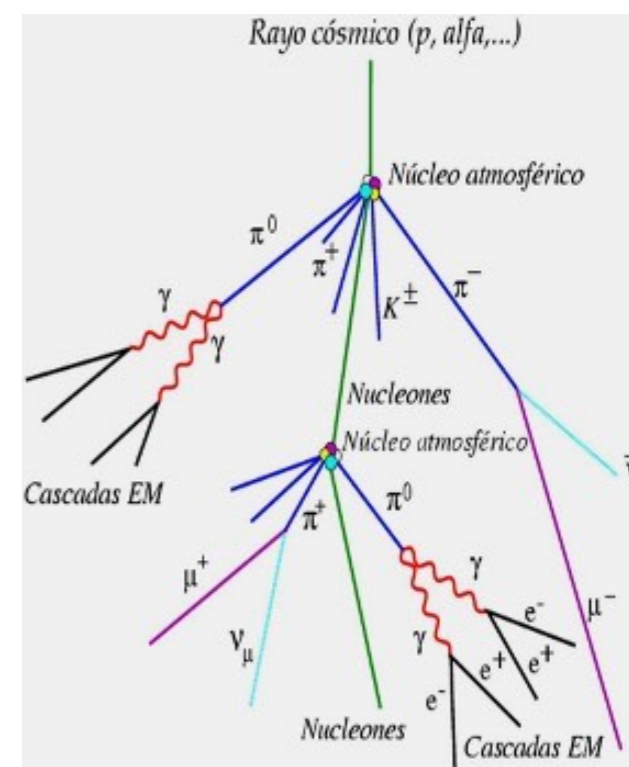
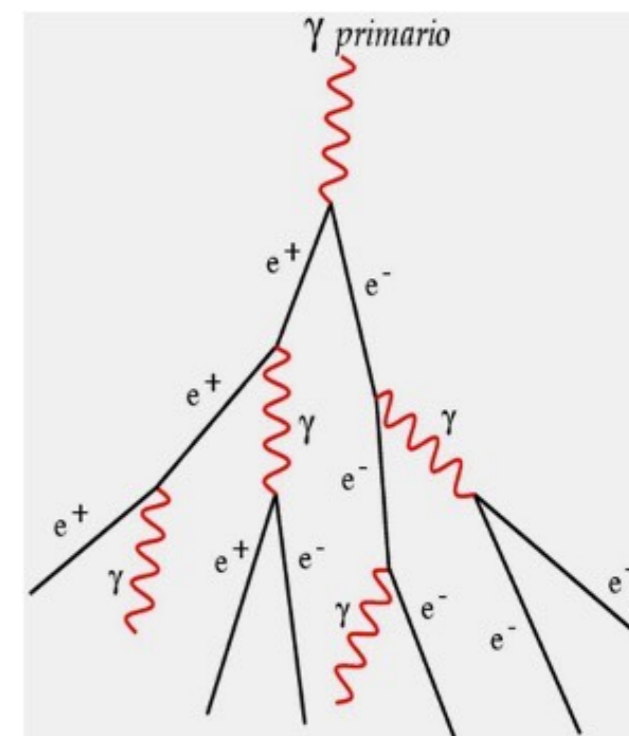
- AGILE (2007)
- ASI
- Crab Nebular variability; Cyg X-3; pion bump in SNR W44;...



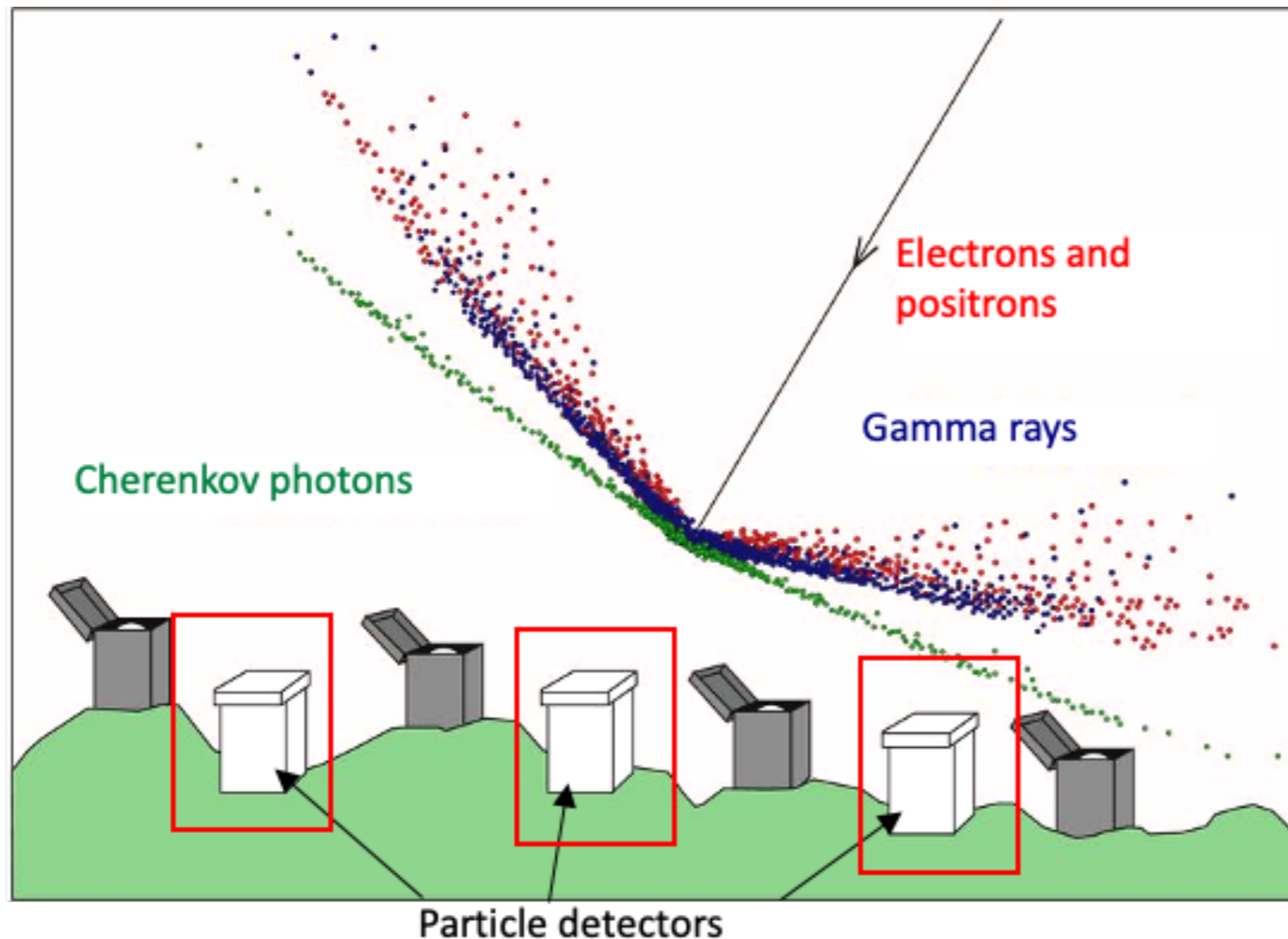
- Fermi-LAT (2008)
- NASA
- 5065 sources; GRBs Fermi bubbles; high resolution map; Galactic center excess; DM searches; constrain QG...

# VHE and UHE: atmospheric showers

- ★ **Small effective area** results in extremely low detection rates at  $E > 100 \text{ GeV}$ , even for strong sources:  
 $\Phi_{\text{Crab}, E > 100 \text{ GeV}} \approx 100 \text{ photons/m}^2/\text{year}$
- ★ Calorimeter depth  $\leq 10$  radiation lengths, which corresponds to  $\approx 1 \text{ ton/m}^2$  (hard to put into orbit)  
 $\Rightarrow$  **VHE showers leak out** of the calorimeter
- ★ Solution: a “pair conversion telescope” in which the **atmosphere is part of the detector**
- ★ Ground-based detectors  $\rightarrow$  geographical location relevant



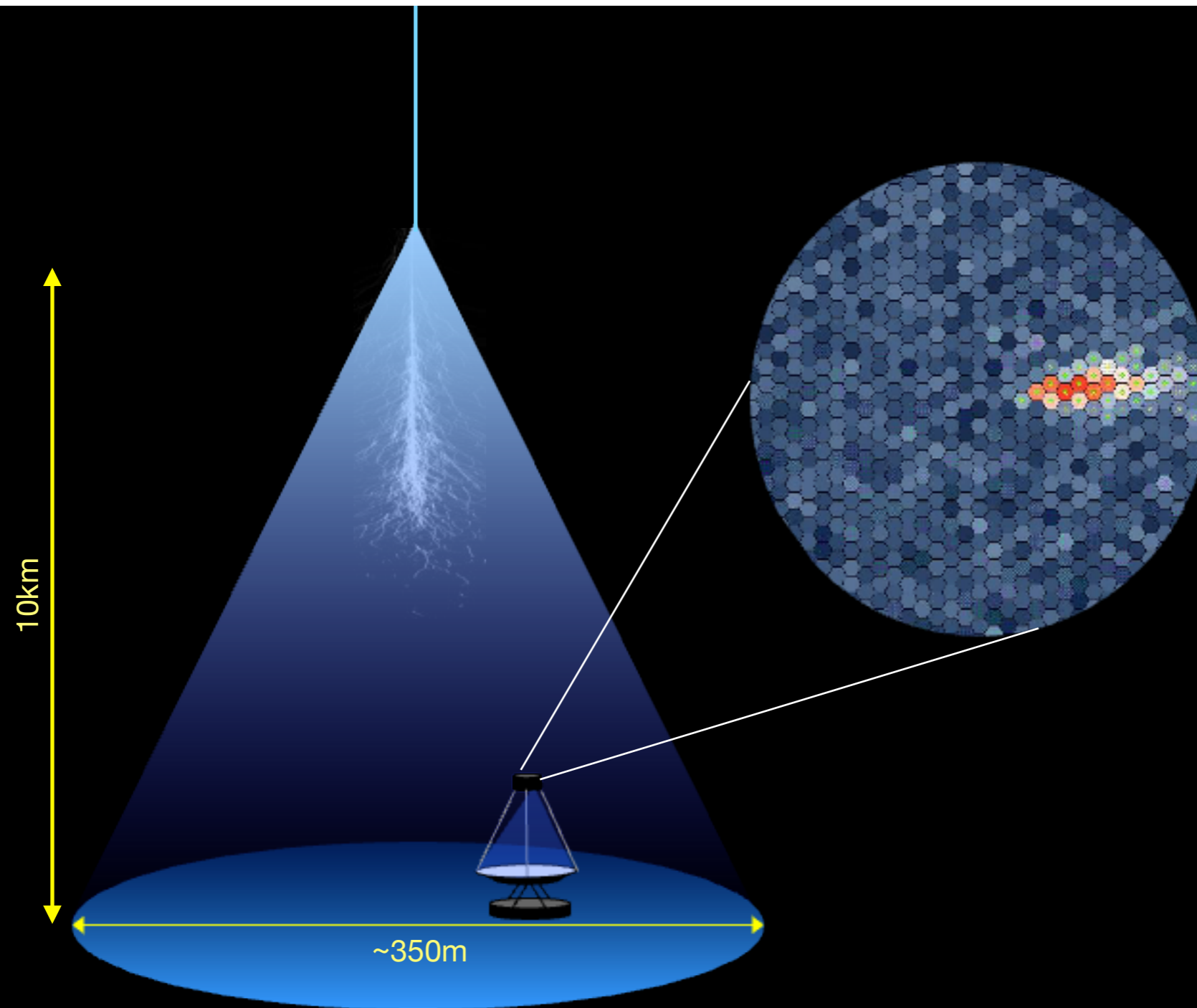
# Air shower detectors



- ★ Detect particles of the shower
- ★ Thin particle fronts
- ★ Particle density proportional to primary energy
- ★ Particle arrival times correlated with primary direction
- ★ Particle spatial distribution related to primary ID

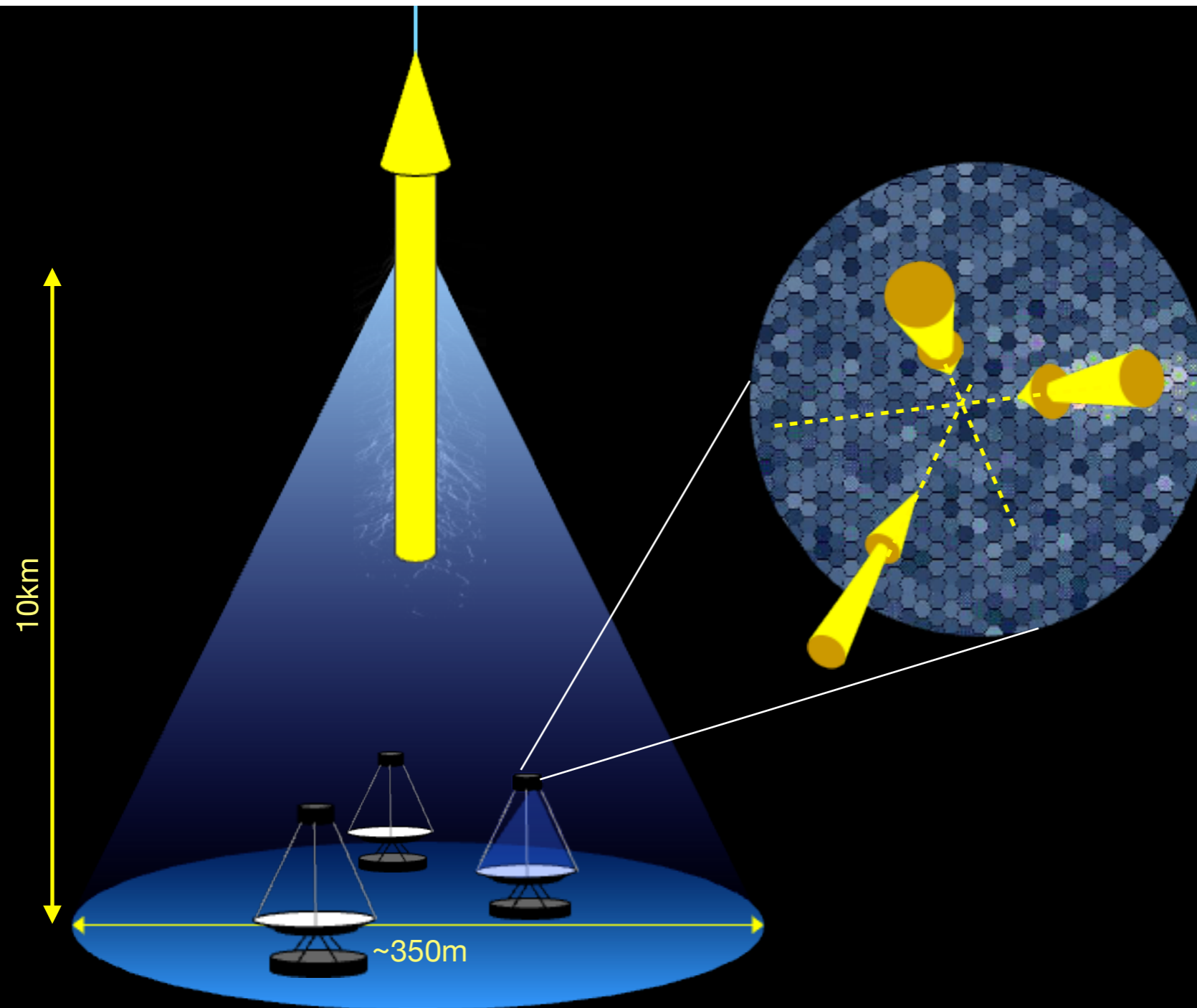


# Cherenkov telescopes



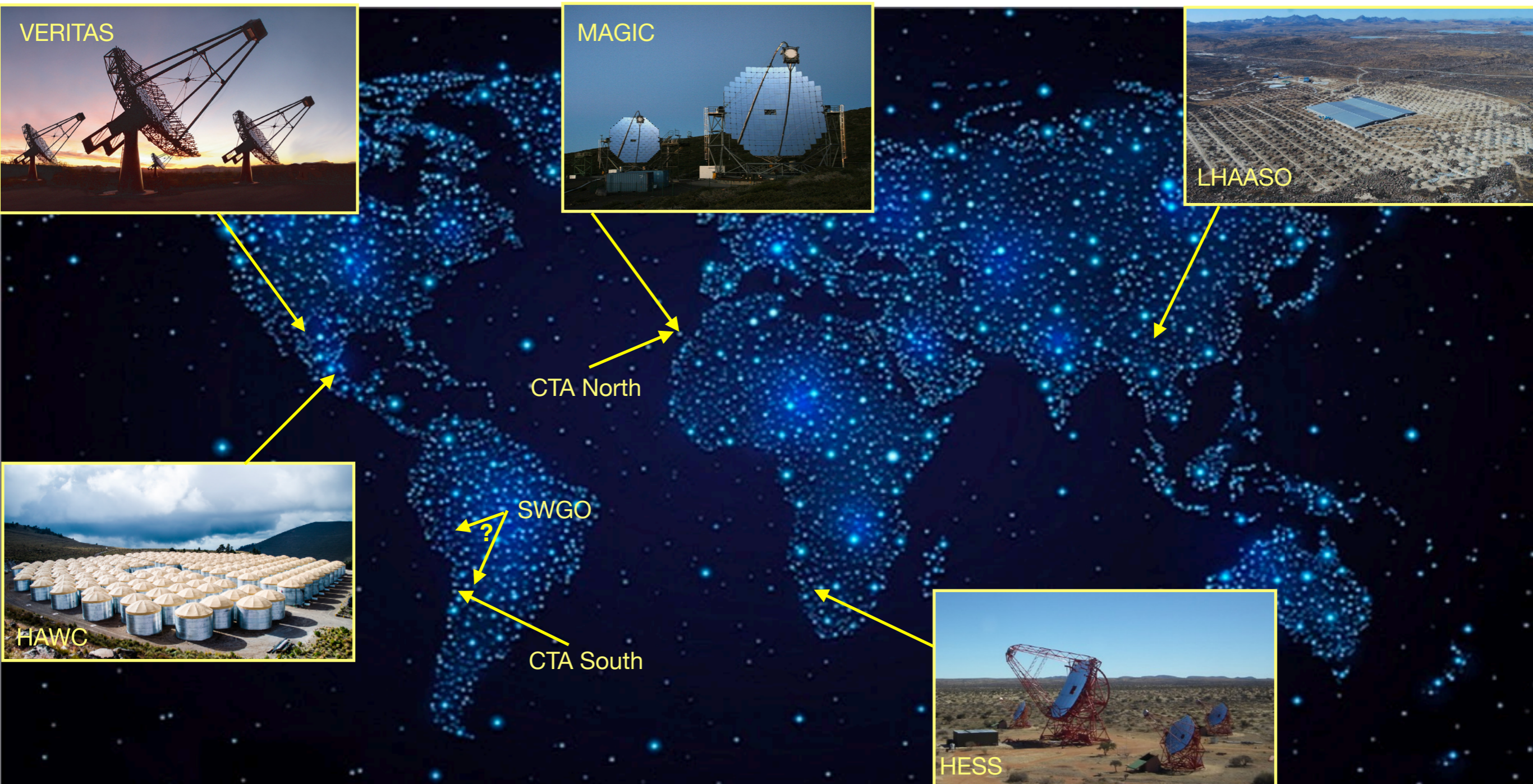
- ★ Huge collection area
- ★ Image intensity  
→  $\gamma$  energy
- ★ Image orientation  
→  $\gamma$  direction
- ★ Image shape  
→ particle ID
- ★ Better determined by redundancy

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# VHE/UHE gamma-ray detectors



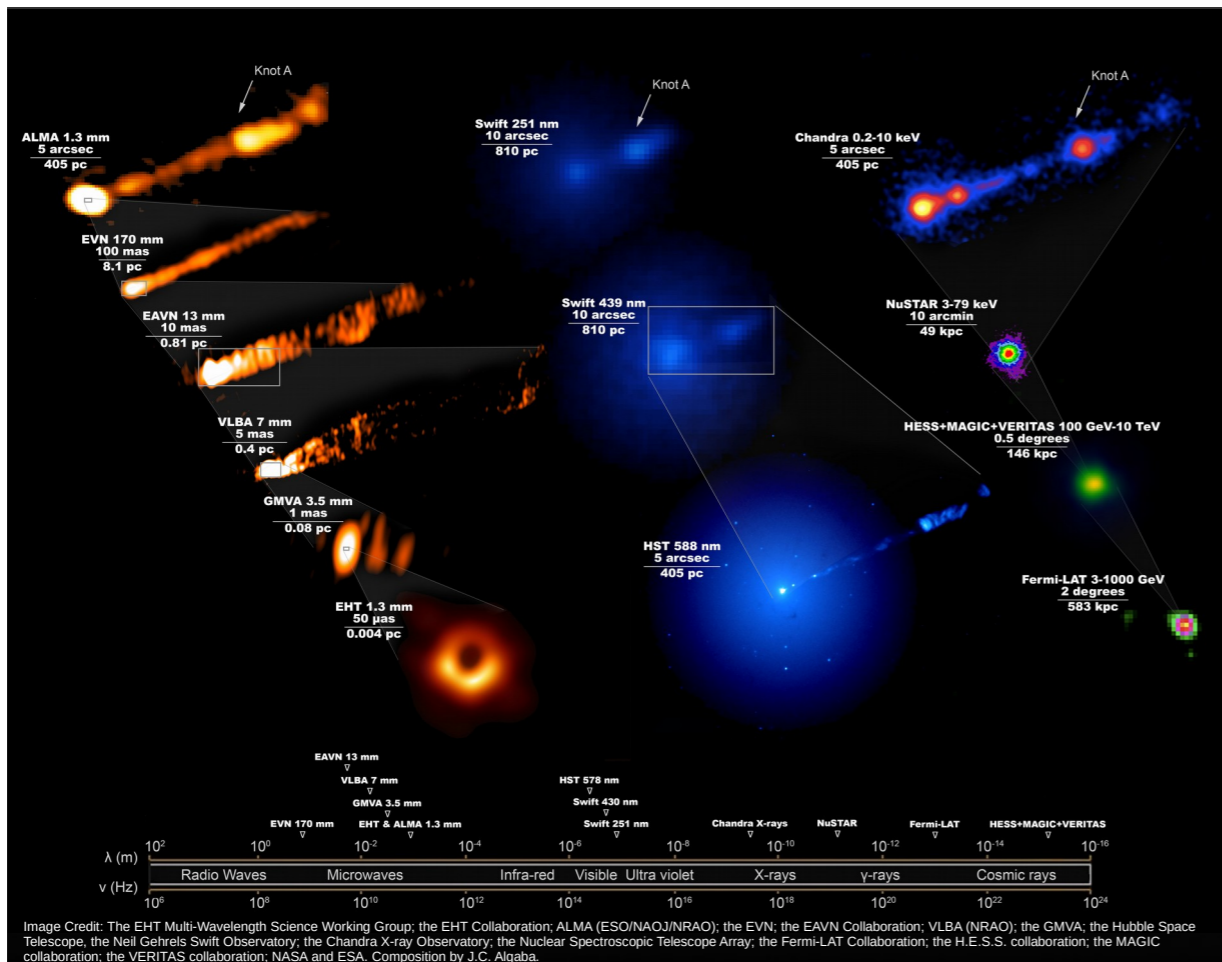
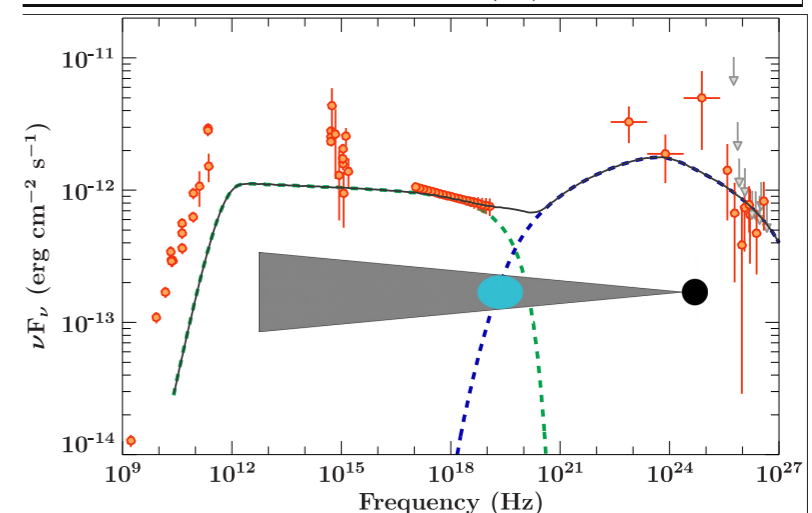
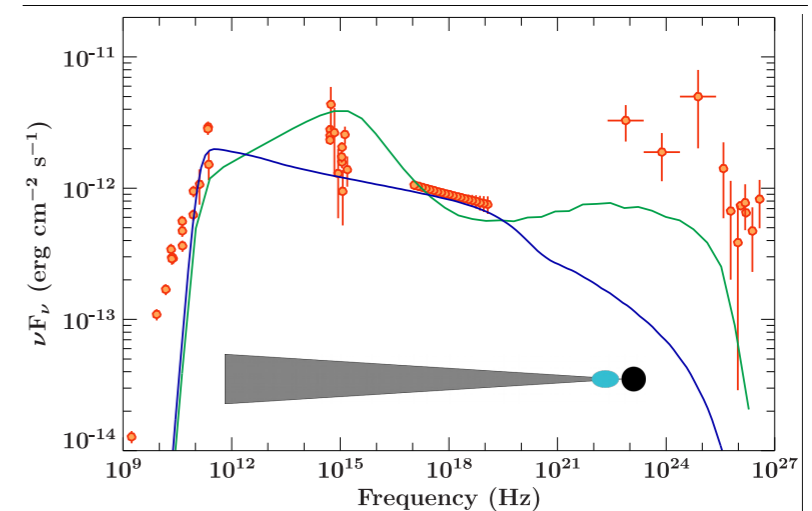
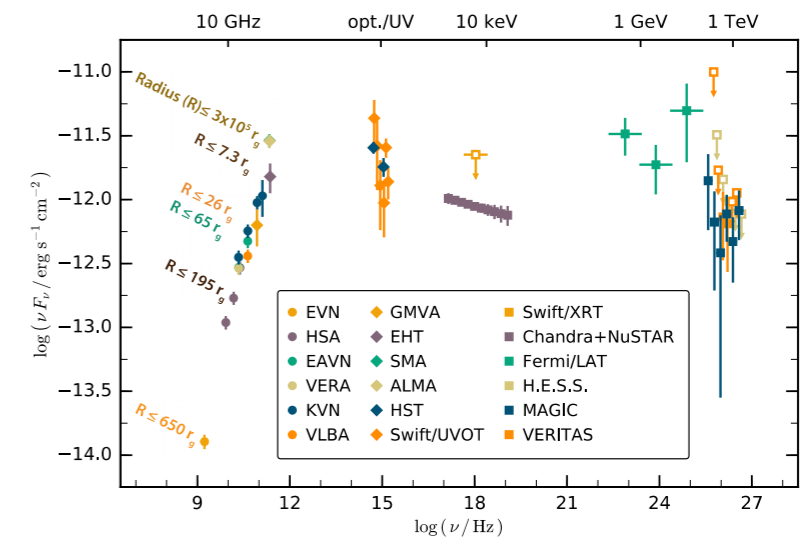
# M87: a broad MWL view

accelerators

MW/MM

- ★ Broadband coordinated observations in 2017 during quiescent state (19 facilities in 15 decades of energy)
- ★ Cannot be modeled by single zone
- ★ Structured jet and time dependence are key

Alagaba et al. ApJ Lett. 911 (2021) L11



# Searches in gamma rays

★ Gammas do not interact from nearby production sites to Earth:

- ◆ Keep direction information: allow measure DM distribution
- ◆ No need to use complicate transport equations

★ Expected fluxes:

Pythia

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{dEd\Omega}(E, \hat{\mathbf{p}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{dN_\gamma}{dE}(E) \int_{\text{los}(\hat{\mathbf{p}})} dl n_\chi(\hat{\mathbf{p}}, l) \Gamma_\chi$$

Annihilation:

$$\Gamma_\chi = \frac{1}{k} n_\chi \langle \sigma v \rangle$$

Decay:

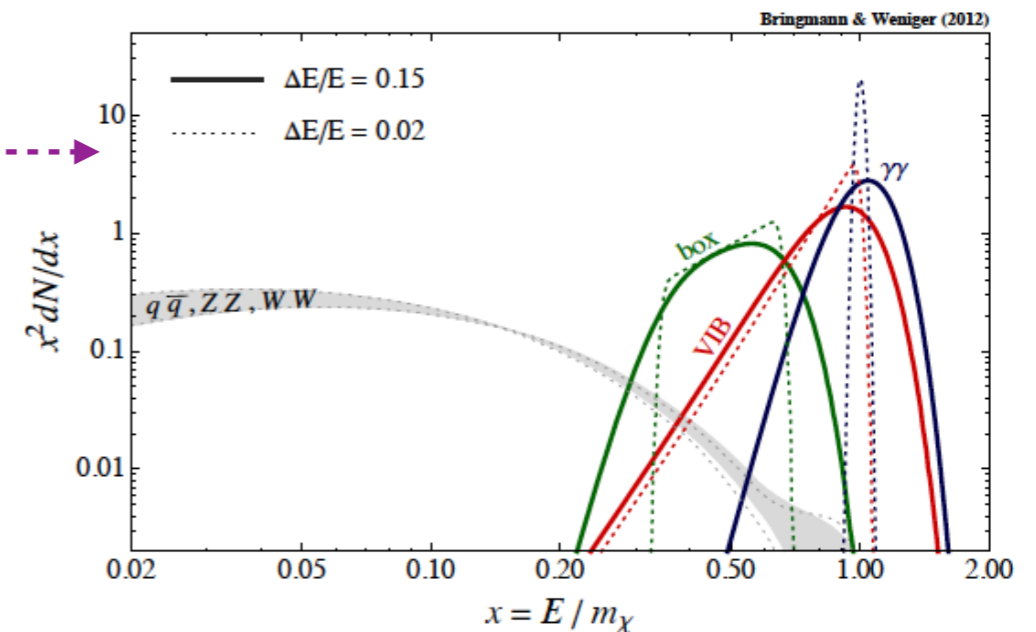
$$\Gamma_\chi = \frac{1}{\tau_\chi}$$

$$\frac{d^2\Phi_{\text{ann}}}{d\Omega dE}(E, \hat{\mathbf{p}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle}{k m_\chi^2} \frac{dJ_{\text{ann}}}{d\Omega}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \frac{dN_\gamma}{dE}(E)$$

$$\frac{d^2\Phi_{\text{dec}}}{d\Omega dE}(E, \hat{\mathbf{p}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\tau_\chi m_\chi} \frac{dJ_{\text{dec}}}{d\Omega}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) \frac{dN_\gamma}{dE}(E)$$

$$\frac{dJ_{\text{ann}}}{d\Omega}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) = \int_{\text{los}(\hat{\mathbf{p}})} dl \rho^2(\hat{\mathbf{p}}, l) \propto \text{mass \& concentration}$$

$$\frac{dJ_{\text{dec}}}{d\Omega}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) = \int_{\text{los}(\hat{\mathbf{p}})} dl \rho(\hat{\mathbf{p}}, l) \propto \text{mass}$$



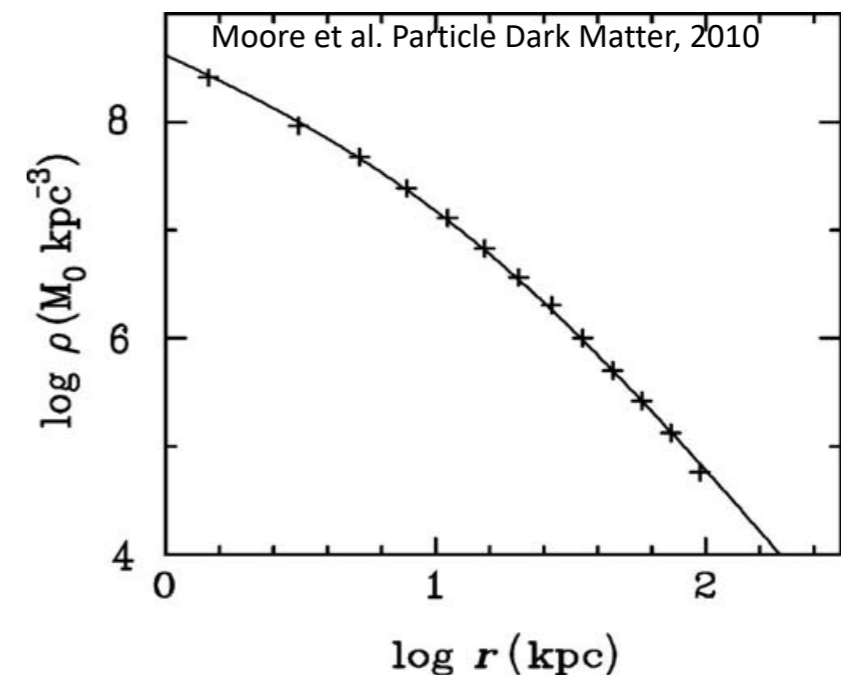
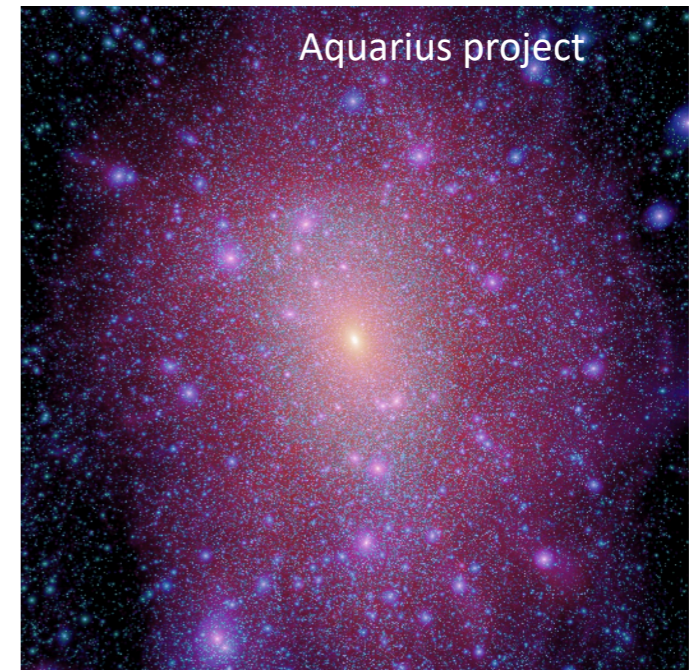
# Density profiles

- ★ DM distributes in quasi-spherical halos of gravitationally bound matter
- ★ From N-body simulations we know:
  - ◆ Hierarchical: DM halos contain sub-halos
  - ◆ Density profile for all halo size described by:

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_s}{(r/r_s)^\gamma (1 + r/r_s)^{3-\gamma}}$$

(Navarro-Frenck-White profile)

- ◆ Free parameters determined by fitting to measured kinematics of visible mass probes (stars and galaxies) - Jeans equation
- ★ This does not include baryon-DM interplay, relevant at the centre of halos, normally baryon dominated
  - ◆ Disagreements at the smaller scales



# Estimating measured DM fluxes

- ★ Gamma-ray instruments measure number of counts coming from promising DM targets, as a function of measured energy and direction, and compare with background expectations, with a likelihood function:

$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma(\alpha\bar{J}; \mu | \mathcal{D}_\gamma) = \prod_{i=1}^{N_{E'}} \prod_{j=1}^{N_{\hat{p}'}} P(s_{ij}(\alpha\bar{J}; \mu) + b_{ij}(\mu) | N_{ij}) \cdot \mathcal{L}_\mu(\mu | \mathcal{D}_\mu)$$

$$\alpha = \langle \sigma v \rangle \text{ or } \tau^{-1}$$

$$s_{ij} = \text{expected \# of gamma events}$$

$$\bar{J} = J(\Delta\Omega_{\text{tot}})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_\gamma = \text{data}$$

$$b_{ij} = \text{expected \# of background events}$$

$$J(\Delta\Omega) = \int_{\Delta\Omega} d\Omega \frac{dJ}{d\Omega}$$

$$\mu = \text{nuisance parameters} \quad N_{ij} = \text{observed counts}$$

- ★ The number of expected measured gamma-ray counts is:

$$s_{ij}(\alpha\bar{J}) = \int_{\Delta E'_i} dE' \int_{\Delta \hat{p}'_j} d\Omega' \int_0^\infty dE \int_{\Delta\Omega_{\text{tot}}} d\Omega \int_0^{T_{\text{obs}}} dt \frac{d^2\Phi(\alpha\bar{J})}{dE d\Omega} \text{IRF}(E', \hat{p}' | E, \hat{p}, t)$$

with IRF the Instrument Response Function, which can be factored in effective area times PDFs for energy and direction estimators

$$\text{IRF}(E', \hat{p}' | E, \hat{p}, t) = A_{\text{eff}}(E, \hat{p}, t) \cdot f_E(E' | E, t) \cdot f_{\hat{p}}(\hat{p}' | E, \hat{p}, t)$$

# Axion and axion-like particles

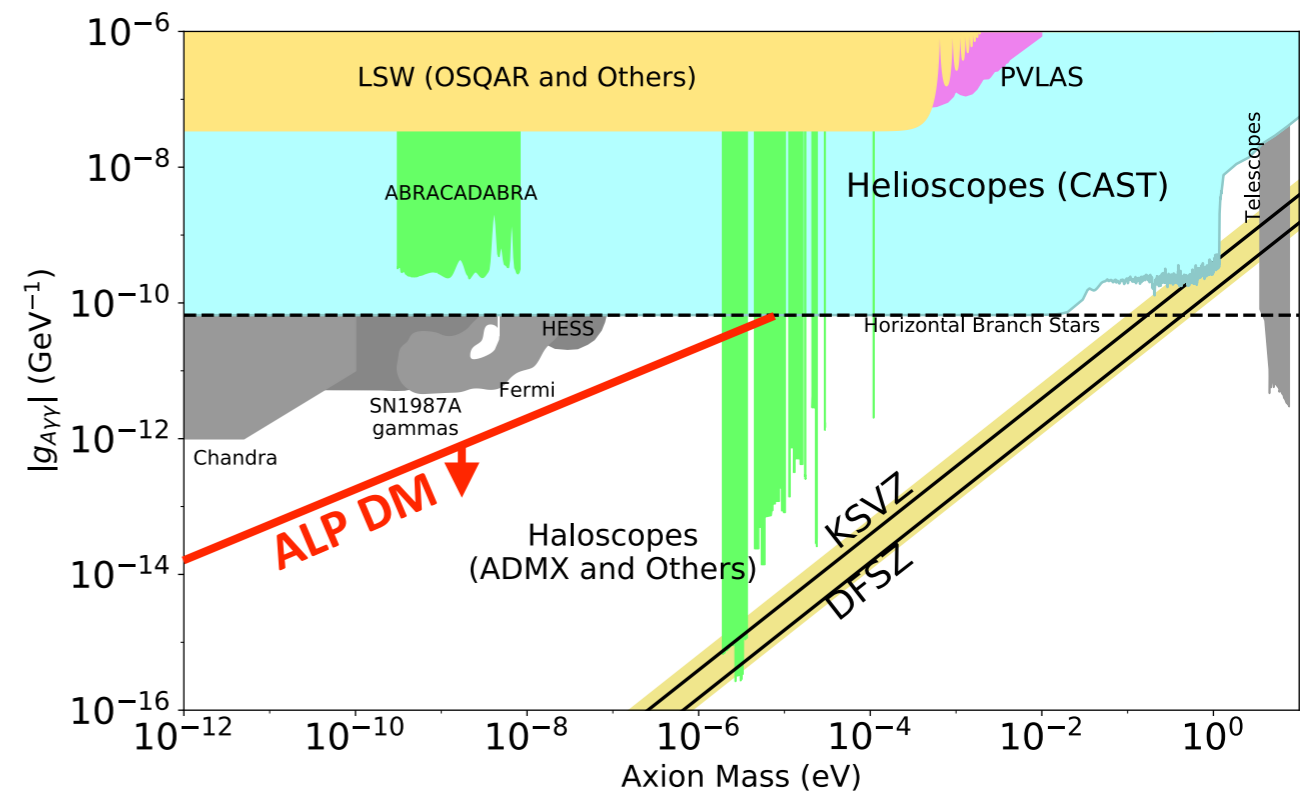
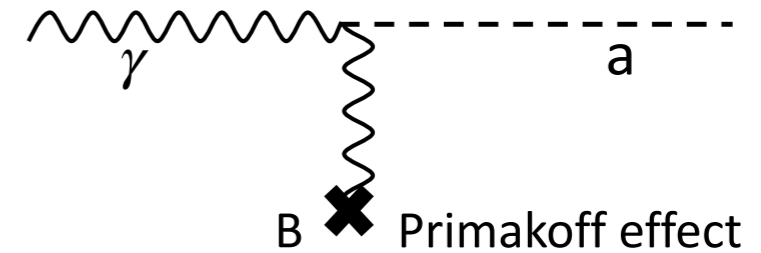
★ **Axion**: Hypothetical spin-0 boson produced by spontaneous breaking of new symmetry introduced in the QCD Lagrangian to solve the “strong CP problem”

◆ 2-photon vertex with weak coupling, proportional to their mass

★ Generalized to **Axion-like particles (ALPs)**: hypothetical spin-0 particles with 2-photon vertex

◆ ALPs are very light and are not viable as thermal relic

◆ Produced as a zero-momentum Bose-Einstein condensate when the temperature falls below the QCD scale → **Cold** dark matter!

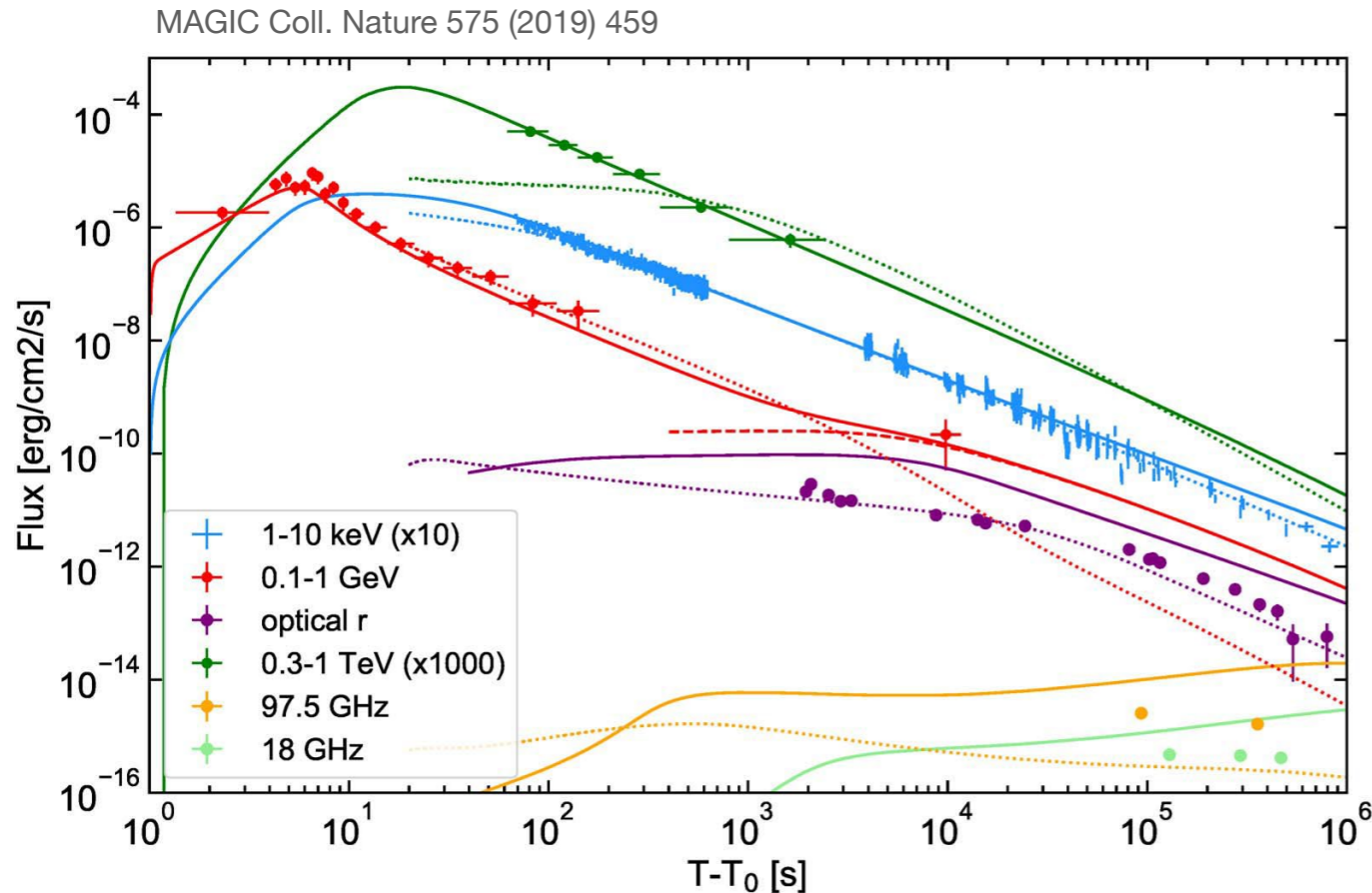




# LIV with GRB190114C at VHE

BSM

propagation



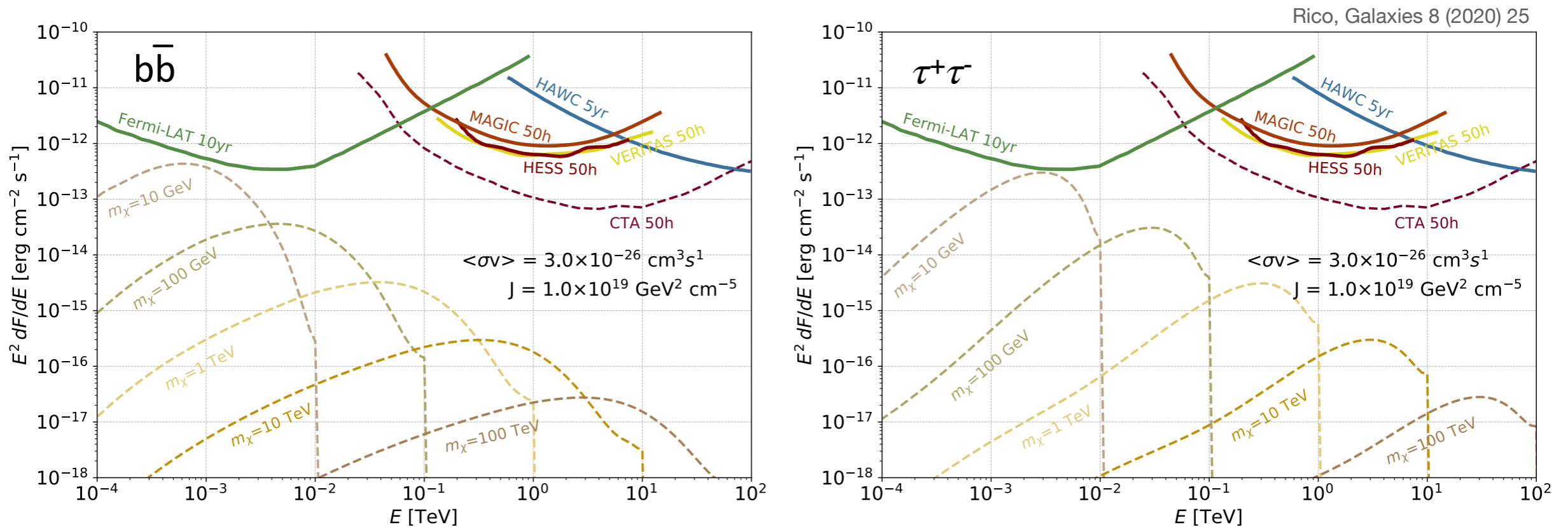
Acciari et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 021301

LC model	Minimal (step function)	Theoretical ([19])		
		$\eta^{LL}$	$\eta^{BF}$	$\eta^{UL}$
$\eta_1$	4.4	-2.2	0.3	2.1
$\eta_2$	2.8	-4.8	1.3	3.7
	subl.	superl.		subl.
$E_{QG,1}$ [ $10^{19}$ GeV]	0.28	0.55		0.58
$E_{QG,2}$ [ $10^{10}$ GeV]	7.3	5.6		6.3

- ★ No dependence of observed light curve on energy for VHE gamma rays
- ★ No correlation of photon arrival time with gamma-ray energy
- ★ Derive limits to quantum gravity scale
  - ◆ Competitive for the quadratic leading order even for a featureless light curve

# Fluxes vs sensitivity

BSM

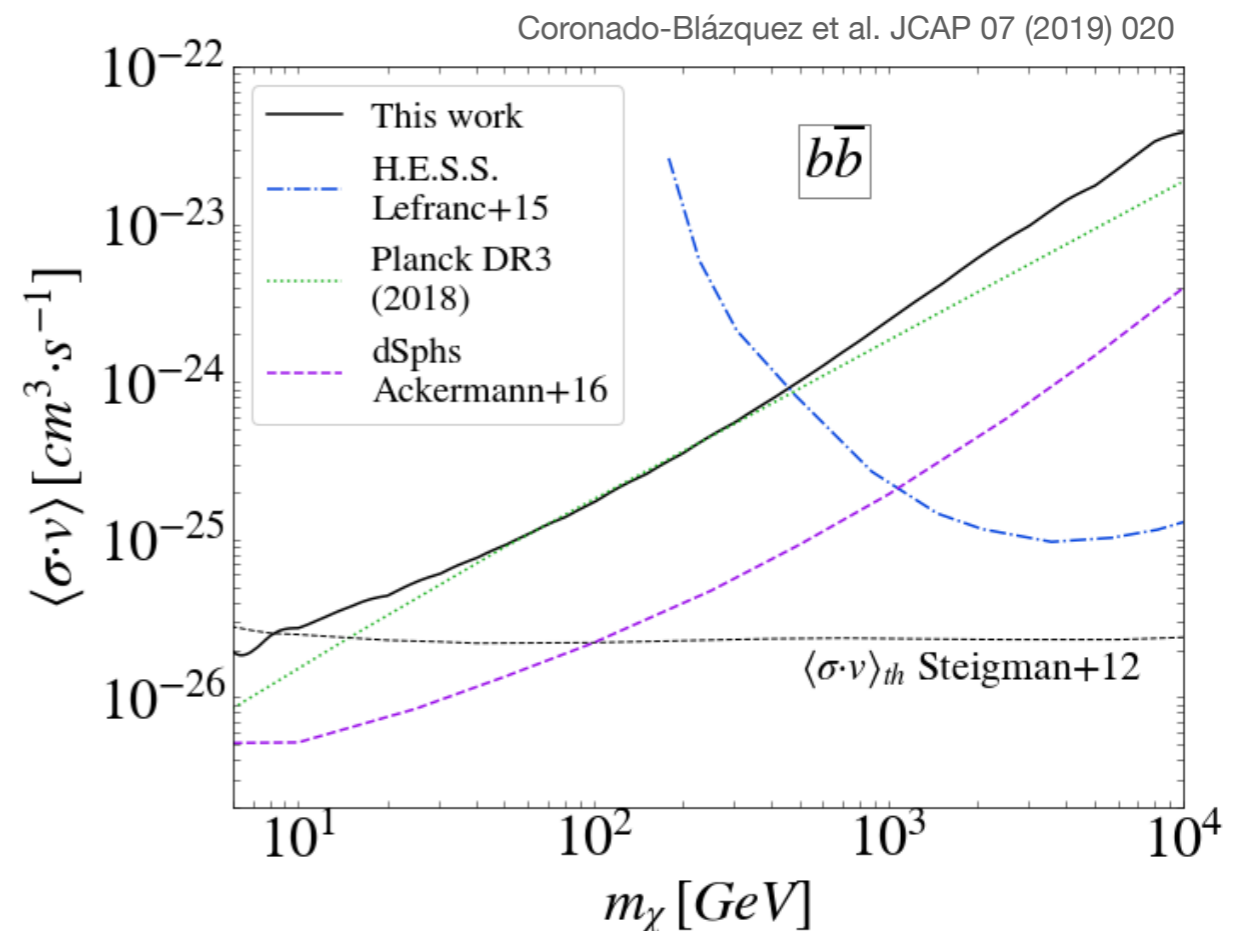


- ★ Fermi-LAT dominates searches up to  $m_{\text{DM}} \sim 1 \text{ TeV}$  (100 GeV) for  $b\bar{b}$  ( $\tau^+\tau^-$ ) channel
- ★ Fermi-LAT is sensitive to the thermal relic density for  $m_{\text{DM}} \sim 10 \text{ GeV}$  and the typical DM-dominated dSph (see later)
- ★ For higher masses sensitivity of Cherenkov telescopes and HAWC still not enough

# Dark matter clumps

## BSM

- ★ DM galactic satellites (sub-halos) that have not triggered any stellar activity (they shine only in DM-related signals)
- ★ Can only be found serendipitously or in unbiased surveys (Fermi-LAT, HAWC)
- ★ DM clump selection criteria generally based on:
  - ✦ No association with astrophysical source/ no emission in other wavelengths
  - ✦ Steady sources
  - ✦ Spectrum compatible with DM emission
- ★ Selection:
  - ✦ 1235 unidentified sources in Fermi-LAT catalogue
  - ✦ 44 survive criteria but no preference of DM spectrum over other astrophysical explanations



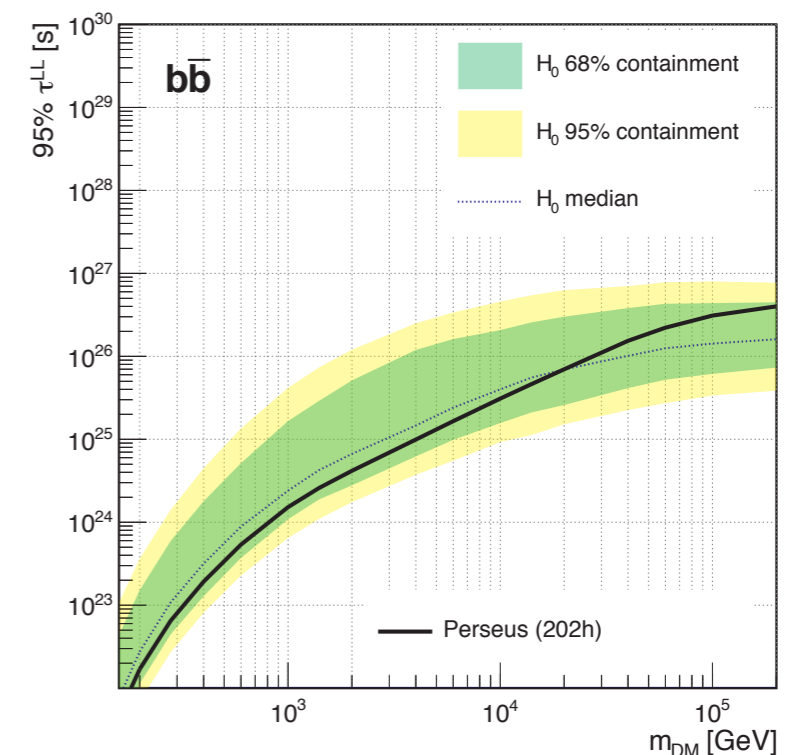
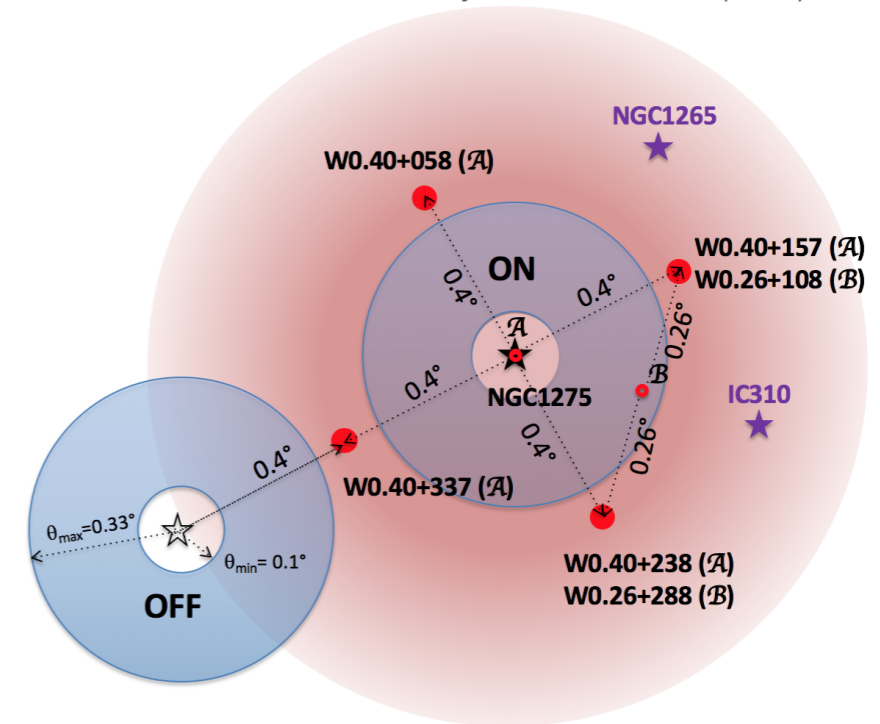
- ★ Limits obtained assuming survivors are actually DM clumps and comparing with clumps from N-body simulations

# Galaxy clusters

## BSM

- ★ Group of gravitationally bound galaxies
- ★ Largest and youngest (i.e. closest) structures in the Universe
- ★ Huge amounts of dark matter ( $M \sim 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ ), but not highly concentrated (except for sub-halos)
  - ✦ good candidates to look for DM decay
  - ✦ (only hard constraint: DM lifetime should be larger than Hubble time:  $10^{17}$ s)
- ★ Complex fields of view with possible foregrounds
- ★ Limits from Perseus cluster (MAGIC, 220h):  
 $\tau_{\text{DM}} > 10^{26} - 10^{27} \text{ s}$
- ★ Other investigated clusters:  
 Fornax (HESS),  
 Coma (VERITAS+Fermi-LAT),  
 Virgo (Fermi-LAT)

Acciari et al. Phys. Dark. Univ. 22 (2018) 38



# Isotropic gamma-ray background

BSM

- ★ All-sky diffuse gamma-ray emission measured by EGRET, Fermi-LAT
- ★ Sources:
  - ✦ Unresolved members of extragalactic/high-latitude galactic sources:
    - ✦ AGNs
    - ✦ Star-forming galaxies
    - ✦ Millisecond pulsars
  - ✦ Dark matter?
- ★ DM signal searched for in the auto-correlation power spectrum or cross-correlation with catalogues of astronomical objects
  - ✦ DM leaves imprints at different angular scales than other sources
  - ✦ Degeneracies broken by investigating in different energy windows and different catalogues

